

CAROLINE COUNTY

# RECREATION and PARKS

Land Preservation,  
Parks, and  
Recreation Plan 2017



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## Chapter I.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## INTRODUCTION

An updated Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) is required to be submitted by each County to the State of Maryland every five years. This 2017 round of LPPRPs is intended to provide a common benchmark to assist the State's evaluation of each County's land preservation and recreation programs and thereby ensure good return on public investment. LPPRPs qualify local governments for State Program Open Space (POS) grants and include three elements:

- Parks, Recreation and Open Space
- Agricultural Land Preservation
- Natural Resource Conservation

Upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners, this LPPRP becomes an amendment to the Caroline County Comprehensive Plan. The LPPRP also serves as a guide for park development, program improvements and land preservation in Caroline County as well as in the incorporated municipalities. The LPPRP was prepared by the Departments of Parks and Recreation and Planning and Zoning.

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Caroline County forms the geographic center of the Delmarva Peninsula. The Choptank River and Tuckahoe Creek separate Caroline County from Talbot County to the southwest; Tuckahoe Creek separates Caroline County from Queen Anne's County to the northwest. Caroline County borders Dorchester County to the south, and the State of Delaware to the east. The Marshyhope Creek and the Upper Choptank River are the major tributaries within the County's borders.

The County's area of approximately 205,000 acres is primarily in resource lands: in 2010, land cover data showed that 87 percent of the County was in resource land and 13 percent was developed for residential or business use. Of the resource land cover, agricultural land accounted for about 117,500 acres, or 57 percent of the County, while forests occupied over 59,000 acres, 29 percent of the County.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### What is the County population?

As of 2015, Caroline County's population is estimated at 32,579. This represents a ten percent increase since 2000, when the population was 29,772, but a slight decrease in population since the 2010 Census, which showed the County's population to be 33,066. In 2010, 37 percent of County residents lived in one of the County's ten incorporated towns, while 63 percent lived in unincorporated areas.

### Is the population expected to grow?

Despite the recent population decline, the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) projects that Caroline County's population will grow by over 30 percent over the next 20 years (2015-2035), to 42,750 in 2035.

### Are they healthy?

Per the Caroline County Annual Health Update and Report Card 2016, Caroline County ranks 23 of 24 jurisdictions in Maryland for Overall Health Outcomes.



## Where do most of them work and live?

Per the US Census on the Map, in 2011 only 21.7% of Caroline workers were employed in the County. The remainder travelled outside the County for employment, with nearly one-third (28.9%) travelling across the Bay Bridge to work, including nearly 15% travelling as far as Washington DC and Baltimore City. The largest portion of the population live in the Denton area (21629) followed by Federalsburg (21632) and Preston (21655). The commute from Denton to the Bay Bridge is 30 miles, to Baltimore City 51 miles and to Washington DC 65 miles.

## Are they getting older and wiser?

By 2035, per the US Census and Maryland Department of Planning, nearly one-third (32%) will be 55 years and older compared to 23% in 2007 and 27% in 2014. The 18 and under population is expected to continue to shrink as a percentage of the population and will make up two percent less than it did in 2007. In terms of educational attainment as a gauge of “wiser,” the population hasn’t changed perceptibly: 17% of the population has no high school diploma as compared with 11% for the State, and only 16% has a bachelor’s or higher degree as compared to 38% for the State.

## Are they struggling financially in single parent homes?

Per the Maryland Alliance for the Poor, 44% of female headed households live below the poverty line of \$23,850 for a family of four. Additionally, of those individuals living in poverty nearly half (49%) live in deep poverty or \$5,835 for an individual in 2014.

## Are there safe, affordable places for them to live?

Also, per the Maryland Alliance for the Poor, a worker in Caroline County needs to make \$16.17/hour to afford the fair market rent and utilities of a two-bedroom apartment without spending more than 30% of his or her income on housing. This translates to two people working full-time at minimum wage jobs. The average rental is \$841/month.



## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

**The Comprehensive Plan land use goals direct development to growth centers while seeking to preserve the rural character of the surrounding landscape. The Comprehensive Plan identifies the five largest towns (Denton, Federalsburg, Greensboro, Preston and Ridgely) as “growth centers”; areas where future industrial, residential, and commercial growth should be concentrated. It also identifies fifteen villages and small towns where limited amounts of “infill” residential and commercial development are encouraged, both within and on the periphery of existing municipal boundaries.**

## RECREATION AND PARKS

**Caroline County, the County’s ten municipalities, and the Board of Education provide approximately 510 acres of public park, recreation, and open space land. This acreage includes one regional park, five community parks, 18 neighborhood parks, nine school recreation parks, two mini-parks, and thirteen special use areas, including a marina, 4H camp, and boat ramps. The County has purchased a site for a second regional park.**

State park land available for recreational use totals approximately 1,487 acres in Tuckahoe and Martinak State Parks. Quasi-public and private organizations provide an additional 311 acres of land open to the public for recreation.

Land with a primary objective of natural resource protection is counted in the natural resource lands rather than in the park and recreation land; however, large areas of natural resource lands owned by the State are available for limited public recreation, such as hiking, hunting and fishing.

There are twenty sites in the County that provide public access to streams and ramps; these are on County, municipal, State and privately owned land and include piers, boat ramps, and areas that simply provide public access to the shoreline.

Future needs for recreation and parks were evaluated using several methods, including a public survey, stakeholder focus groups, review of State surveys, national publications and County participation data, and analyses of the distribution of park land throughout the County and its location in relation to areas of higher population density and greater levels of poverty.



The analysis shows a County park system that is geographically well distributed. Parks are available within walking distance for most town residents, and key facilities—multipurpose fields, trails/pathways and water access locations—are convenient to all County residents. The deficits that were found are minor in scope, but will increase if the County’s population grows as projected. Primary deficits are trails and multipurpose fields for team sports; secondary deficits are for water access sites for fishing and boating; indoor recreation space (gymnasiums); outdoor basketball courts; dog parks; and swimming pools.

Beyond these specific deficits, the plan noted two overarching concerns: the need for adequate organizational capacity (staff) to manage park facilities and programs; and needs for maintenance, repair and upgrades. Funding constraints since 2008 have put the

County’s repair and replacement schedule of equipment, facilities and infrastructure significantly behind. Staff resources are stretched, and capital projects for new parks and facilities must be balanced with the resources to manage them.

- Beyond these types of facilities, the following facility needs were identified as priorities:
- Retaining and enhancing park areas for unstructured, outdoor activities such as walking, picnicking and nature appreciation.
  - Developing and improving multi-purpose fields with associated service buildings (restrooms, equipment storage, maintenance shop).
  - Continuing to emphasize public access to waterfront locations in development of public lands.
  - Seeking partnerships that would allow expansion of the indoor gymnasium capacity.
  - Continued partnership and investment in rehabilitation and expansion of park assets in municipalities.
  - Addressing present and future park needs for Denton and Federalsburg.

The LPPRP lists the County’s Parks and Recreation priority projects for meeting its rehabilitation, facility development and land acquisition needs through 2025. The capital project priorities focus first on rehabilitation and improvements that enable existing facilities to be used to their full potential; secondly, on fully developing park land owned by the County and suitable for recreation; and thirdly, on a few focused land acquisitions for new facilities. These priorities ensure that the County will make full use of existing park resources.

The State’s evaluation of each County’s land preservation and recreation programs includes determining if the County has met its land acquisition goals. Based on a multi-layered analysis of the land available for parks, recreation and open space as well as preservation and conservation, Caroline County has met and exceeds this threshold. This is discussed in more detail in Chapter III, Section F on page 46.



The County's capital project priorities include 37 projects at a total cost of \$9.4 million. A total of 23 projects are for rehabilitation of existing facilities, with a total cost of \$2.4 million. The largest share of the cost, \$6.4 million, is for new facility development, most on park land that the County already owns.

#### Highlights of new facilities within the priorities listing includes:

- Development of the new North County Regional Park, a 200-acre site purchased in 2016 that will provide ball fields, multi-purpose fields, trails, playgrounds, and picnic areas.
- New multipurpose fields within five other parks or school sites.
- New trails and pathways within existing parks and school facilities.
- Ten projects addressing water access, including improvements to boat ramps, new trails, piers, and parking areas, river clearing and wetland restoration.
- Development of an indoor recreation center/gymnasium in partnership with a school or nonprofit organization.



In addition to park facility development, operational development of the Department of Recreation and Parks is crucial. The Department has begun to formalize many of the partnerships it developed over the past two decades. In 2015 the Department updated its Joint Use Agreement with Caroline County Public Schools. Memoranda of Understanding have also been signed with local nonprofits such as the YMCA of the Chesapeake and the Ridgely Lions Club. Continuing to formalize relationships and create systems of delivery and implementation are critical to the internal work of the Department.

The Department should also take on an increasingly strong leadership role with respect to recreation in Caroline County, coordinating with the State, towns, Board of Education, regional social service agencies and private nonprofit groups (such as the YMCA) to synchronize program and facility needs and to disseminate information on recreational facilities and programs.

## AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION

**The County has 42,754 acres of preserved farmland or forestry lands as of September, 2016. Permanent easements protect most of this acreage—easements established by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, Rural Legacy program and private land trusts or conservancies. To achieve the County's goal of permanently preserving 135,000 acres of agricultural land, an additional 92,246 acres would need to be protected through the implementation programs described in this section.**

The primary easement acquisition mechanisms operating in the County are the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), the Rural Legacy Program, and land trusts.

As of September, 2016, Caroline County had 31,790 acres permanently preserved through MALPF. Caroline County has participated in the MALPF Program since 1980 and ranks second in the State for number of acres preserved under the program.

The County and State have designated two rural legacy areas (RLA) in Caroline County: the Marshyhope and the Tuckahoe areas. As of September, 2016, 3,224 acres have been preserved under easement in the County Rural Legacy Areas.

The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) holds approximately 1,748 acres in easements in Caroline County. Most are co-held with the Maryland Environmental Trust. The remaining preserved farmland, 2,571 acres, is within





“sending parcels,” preserved through recorded subdivision plats as required by the County’s Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program.

In all years since 1995 the number of easement applications has greatly exceeded the number of easement offers. In the past ten years, the interest has been greater than ever, with generally more than 50 applications per two-year cycle, while the number of easement purchase offers has been less than at any point during the program’s history, with only one or two easements purchased per year, due to funding constraints.

The County’s key land use management tools for agricultural land preservation are the Rural zoning district and the Transfer of Development Rights program. The Rural District comprises approximately 185,000 acres, 96 percent of the County.

Caroline County’s Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program preserves a “sending” parcel by allowing the landowners to sever the right to develop the land and then sell that development right to a “receiving” area. This TDR program, created in 1989 and refined several times since, has resulted in the removal of subdivision rights on 2,571 acres. Further subdivision on the sending parcel is prohibited by the recorded subdivision plat and the County’s zoning ordinances.

Receiving areas encompass 4,640 acres located primarily between the towns of Denton and Greensboro. This area already had several large subdivisions at the time the TDR

program was developed. The receiving area is bisected by the Choptank River. Protection of the river corridor when subdivision occurs is accomplished through the Critical Area 100-foot buffer along the river. The Comprehensive Plan recommends that the County enact low impact subdivision requirements for receiving areas.

The Rural zoning district does not permit major subdivision except in designated TDR receiving areas, limiting subdivision elsewhere to no more than four lots from each original parcel.

The County’s Priority Preservation Area encompasses 178,192 acres. This PPA includes all areas zoned R (Rural) except TDR Receiving Areas. To achieve the County’s goal of preserving 135,000 acres, a total of 76 percent of the PPA would need to be preserved. The 42,754 acres already preserved, all located in the PPA, represent 24 percent of the PPA and almost a third of the County’s 135,000-acre goal.

Caroline County’s healthy farm economy, low development pressure and protective zoning regulations are limiting loss of farmland to development. The amount of actively farmed land reported by landowners to the Census of Agriculture increased steadily between 1997 and 2012. To continue to protect its agricultural land base and farm industry, the County must maintain its growth management tools—rural zoning, TDR program, and policies that direct most new growth to towns and village. In addition, the County must continue to use available funds for easement purchase.



Caroline County's program development strategy for agricultural land preservation includes the following actions:

- Develop an interjurisdictional TDR/PDR program in conjunction with the municipalities.
- As part of the Comprehensive Plan update, examine the balance between TDR sending and receiving areas.
- As fiscal constraints allow, increase County funding of agricultural land preservation.
- Continue to efficiently administer the easement application program to use available funds from the MALPF and Rural Legacy programs, supplemented where possible by County funds.

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

**A total of 7,686 acres of natural resource land in the County is protected by ownership for purposes of natural resource conservation. Most is State land: Maryland DNR owns 5,843 acres. The County and towns own 376 acres; some of this land is designated for future park development and will not be permanent natural resource conservation land. Private and quasi-public conservation organizations own 1,467 acres.**

The County supports watershed planning and tributary strategies for the Choptank, Tuckahoe and Marshyhope Rivers. In 2012, the County completed its local Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), which identifies best management practices (BMPs) to reduce nutrient pollution in surface waters in each watershed in the County. Development of the Phase III WIP will begin in 2017. Since 2012, the WIP has been implemented through agricultural BMPs and preserved stream buffers, managed by the Soil Conservation District and the Maryland Department of Agriculture.



County requirements that support goals for natural resource protection include:

- Limits on subdivision in the Rural Zoning District.
- Chesapeake Bay Critical Area: The County's Critical Area regulations, enacted in accordance with the State's Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Law, protect surface water quality and habitat within 1,000 feet of the tidal high water line. Natural buffers are required within 100 feet of the tidal high water line.
- Streams: The zoning regulations require 100 foot and 25 foot buffers from all perennial and intermittent streams, respectively.
- Floodplain Ordinance: The floodplain regulations are primarily intended to guard against loss of life and property, but have the added benefit of protecting sensitive riparian forest and riverine wetlands.
- Forest Conservation Ordinance: Adopted in compliance with Maryland's Forest Conservation Act, this ordinance requires conservation of high-value forest resources when development occurs.
- Wetlands: Federal and State regulations protecting wetlands are implemented through the County's development review process.
- Habitats of Threatened/Endangered Species: Development projects within habitat areas designated by the DNR are submitted by County reviewers to the State; comments received are addressed during the County's review process.
- Stormwater Management and Erosion and Sediment Control regulations: Caroline County's ordinances follow current Maryland standards, which require use of environmentally sensitive design.

Caroline County contains portions of the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area; the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Scenic Byway; and the Michener's Chesapeake Country Scenic Byway, developed in partnership with Queen Anne's, Talbot and Dorchester Counties. The planning, publicity and financial resources provided through these programs help to protect the County's rural and scenic character, provide access to financial assistance for preserving historic resources, promote tourism and draw visitors that benefit County businesses.

Strategies for the County's natural resource conservation goals are listed below:

1. Pursue specific park development projects that will achieve natural resource conservation goals.
2. Initiate development of a forest management plan to map and evaluate strategies to protect forested corridors and large tracts of forest land.
3. Work with partners in the Maryland DNR and MDE to develop the Phase III WIP for waterways in Caroline County.
4. Improve database capacity and information: add Critical Area and stream buffers, forest conservation easements and private (subdivision) open space to the County GIS system.
5. Develop Low Impact Subdivision Standards to provide for environmentally sensitive design for site plans and subdivisions.
6. Support Heritage Area and Scenic Byway Designations. Improve and update the County's historical data and inventory by including them in the County's geographic information systems (GIS) database.
7. Continue to work with the initiatives found in the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area Management Plan and the Chesapeake Country (Mid-Shore) Corridor Management Plan.

## Chapter II Framework

### A. Purposes of the Plan

An updated Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) is required to be submitted by each county to the State of Maryland every five years. This 2017 round of LPPRPs is intended to provide a common benchmark to assist the State's evaluation of each county's land preservation and recreation programs and thereby ensure good return on public investment. LPPRPs qualify local governments for State Program Open Space (POS) grants and include three elements:

- Parks, Recreation and Open Space
- Agricultural Land Preservation
- Natural Resource Conservation

The Maryland Department of Planning will develop a Statewide plan incorporating all county plans within one year after county plans are due.

The LPPRP planning process:

- Evaluates State and county land preservation goals and objectives for the three land resource elements and identifies where they are complementary or different;
- Evaluates the ability of implementation, programs and funding sources to achieve goals and objectives for each element;
- Recommends changes to policies, plans and funding strategies to better implement goals and leverage return on public investment in the three land preservation elements;
- Identifies the needs and priorities of current and future county residents for recreation;
- Ensures that public investment in land preservation and recreation supports the County's Comprehensive Plan, State goals,

and State and local programs that influence land use and development.

Upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners, this 2017 LPPRP becomes an amendment to the Caroline County Comprehensive Plan and replaces the prior, 2012 LPPRP.

The 2017 LPPRP for Caroline County was prepared in accordance with guidelines developed in 2015 by the Maryland Departments of Planning and Natural Resources. Caroline County government is responsible for the preparation of the LPPRP. The effort was led by the Department of Parks and Recreation, with assistance by the Department of Planning and Codes. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as well as the Caroline County Planning Commission provided oversight and direction.

### B. Physical Characteristics

#### 1. Location

Caroline County forms the geographic center of the Delmarva Peninsula. The Choptank River and Tuckahoe Creek separate Caroline County from Talbot County to the southwest; Tuckahoe Creek separates Caroline County from Queen Anne's County to the northwest. Caroline County borders Dorchester County to the south, and the State of Delaware to the east (Map II-1).

MD Route 404 is the major east-west artery through the County, connecting US 50 in Wye Mills, Maryland with US 13 in Bridgeville, Delaware. MD Route 313 is the major north-south artery, connecting Caroline County with most of the other counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore. MD Route 313 intersects MD Route 404 in Denton.

## 2. Land Cover

Table II-1 summarizes trends in land cover and development from 1997 to 2010. During this period development lands (high, medium, and low-density residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional uses) increased by a little more than 11,000 acres, or 73 percent; most of this increase occurred between 1997 and 2002.

Resource lands declined by about 10,000 acres; approximately 6,500 acres of forest land and 4,300 acres of agricultural land were converted to development. Caroline County's land cover is primarily resource-based, with approximately 87% of land cover defined as either agriculture, forest, wetland, or extractive/barren. Map II-2 shows land cover in 2010.

## 3. Natural Resources

Environmentally sensitive areas occur throughout Caroline County, including flood plains, streams and their buffers, the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, wetlands, and prime agricultural soils.

Caroline County is unique among the Eastern Shore counties in that it does not have frontage on the Chesapeake Bay or the Atlantic Ocean. The upper Choptank River, Tuckahoe Creek, and Marshyhope Creek drain the County's 325 square mile land area.

### a. Topography

Caroline County lies entirely within the Atlantic Coastal Plain, a physiographic province characterized by flat topography, low elevation, low gradient streams and rivers, unconsolidated sedimentary soils, and abundant wetlands. Most of the county is between 40 feet and 70 feet above sea level. Elevations generally increase from south to north, from a low elevation of approximately five feet above sea level in the village of Choptank at the county's south westernmost point, to a maximum of 77 feet above sea level north of Mount Zion near the northern county boundary. Most of the county has less than 5% percent slopes. Less than 2% percent of the county has slopes greater than 10%, and these steeper areas are typically located adjacent to eroding streambanks and river shorelines.

### b. Forest Land

Forested land is an important component of the county's landscape, comprising about 30 percent of the County's land cover in 2010 (Table II-1). Forested areas occur throughout the County. The two largest contiguous forested tracts are in the Idylwild Wildlife Management Area (WMA) north of Federalsburg, and Tuckahoe State Park and Adkins Arboretum north of Hillsboro.

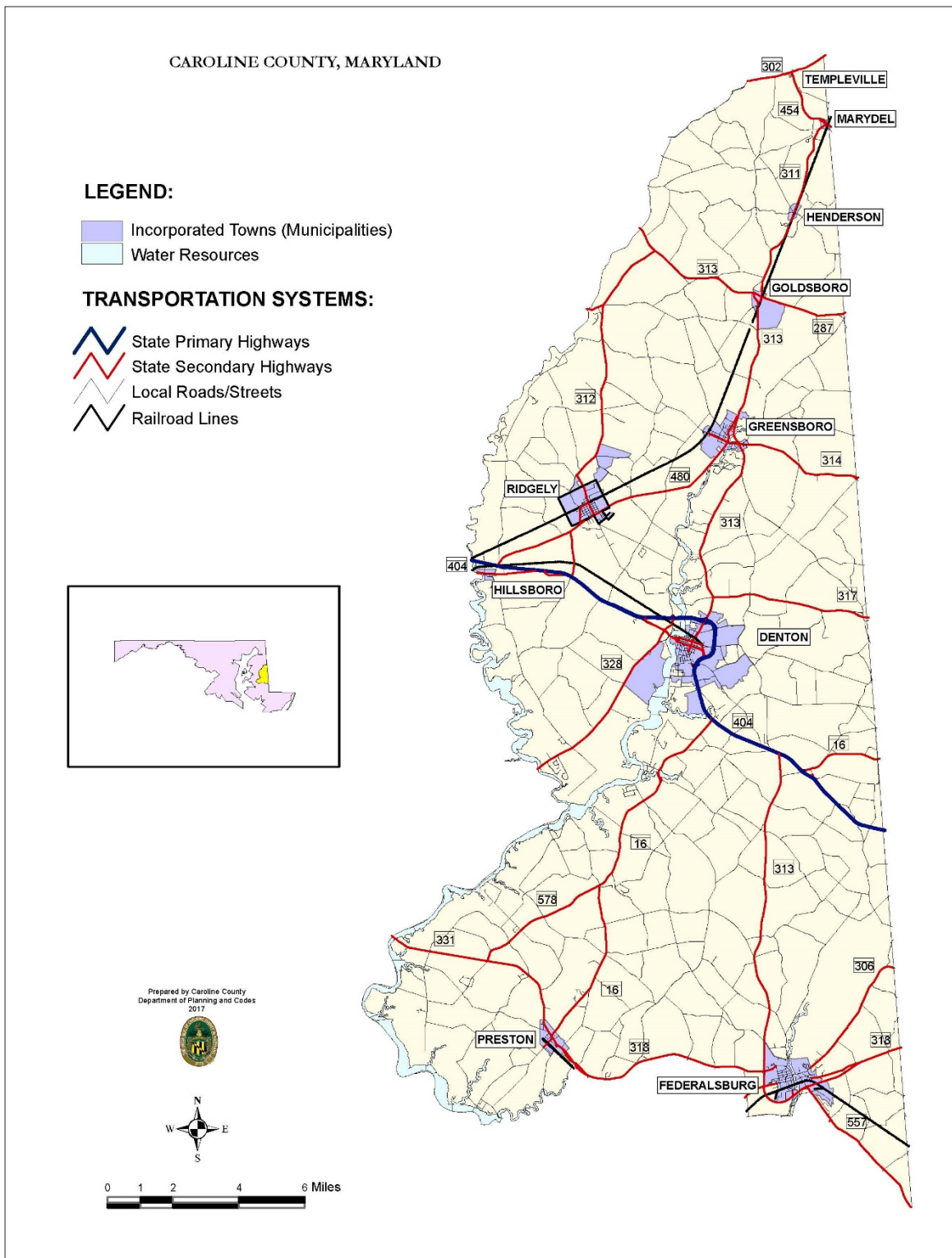
**Table II-1. Caroline County Land Cover, 1997-2010**

Land Cover Type	1997		2002		2010		Change, 1997-2010	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>Resource Lands</i>	189,401	93%	181,195	88%	178,564	87%	-10,837	-6%
Agriculture	120,094	59%	117,471	57%	115,748	56%	-4,346	-4%
Forest	65,695	32%	60,162	29%	59,122	29%	-6,573	-10%
Extractive/Barren	352	<1%	66	<1%	209	<1%	-143	-41%
Wetland	3,260	2%	3,497	2%	3,485	2%	225	7%
<i>Development Lands</i>	15,335	7%	23,858	12%	26,490	13%	11,155	73%
Residential	12,776	6%	21,029	10%	23,253	11%	10,477	82%
Non-residential	2,559	1%	2,829	1%	3,237	2%	678	26%

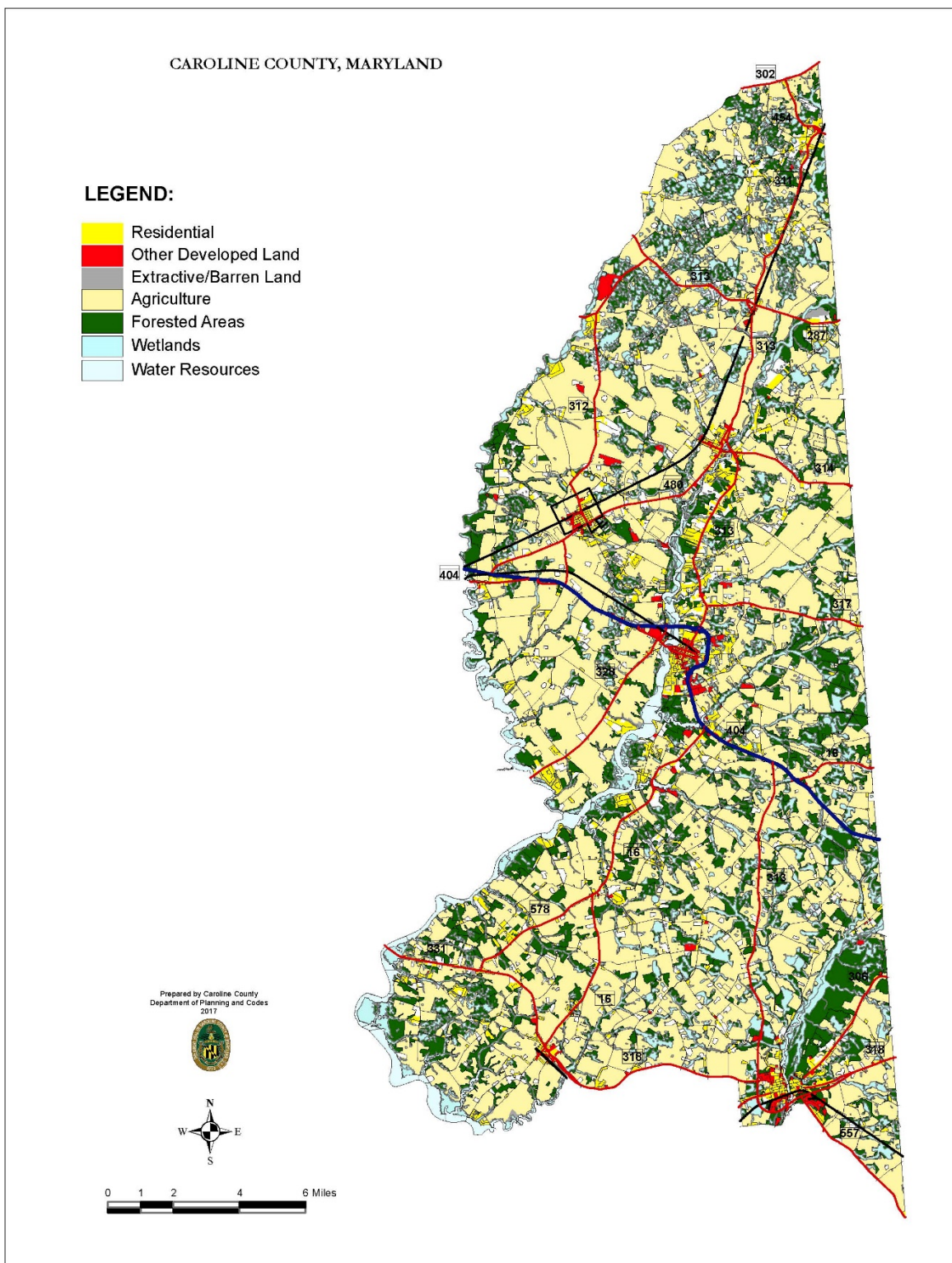
Source: 2005 MD PropertyView



## Map II-1. Location and Major Features



## Map II-2. Land Cover 2010



### ***c. Watersheds and Streams***

The Choptank River, Tuckahoe Creek, Marshyhope Creek, and their major tributaries are the most significant water-bodies in the County. Portions of each water-body are in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, which adjoins the shorelines generally to the head of tide. There are 6 major (8 digit) watersheds in the county (Table II-2 and Map II-3).

### ***d. Floodplains and Flooding Impacts***

Floodplains are areas subject to periodic flooding. Caroline County has both tidal and non-tidal floodplains. Non-tidal flooding may occur at any time of the year, but it is most common in spring, due to a combination of precipitation and low evapotranspiration rates, and in late summer because of high intensity rainfall from hurricanes, tropical storms, and severe thunderstorms. Most tidal flooding is attributed to tidal surges and high coastal waters, due to strong winds also associated with such storms.

Map II-3 identifies as “Special Flood Hazard Area” the 100-year floodplains that have been delineated along the County’s major rivers and tributaries. Many smaller tributaries also have floodplain areas that are not shown.

The Maryland Coastal Atlas, a GIS compilation from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), provides datasets that show the potential for changes in shorelines, wetlands, floodplains, and watershed due to land subsidence and sea level rise. The information can assist the county in understanding the potential impacts of these phenomena on land use and public recreation assets. A sample of the information available from this atlas is shown in Map II-4; this map shows areas of potential impact from the storm surges that could result from hurricanes of various strength.

The areas that could experience flooding from stronger hurricanes (Categories 2 through 4) are more extensive than mapped floodplains along the Upper Choptank River and Tuckahoe and Marshyhope Creeks.

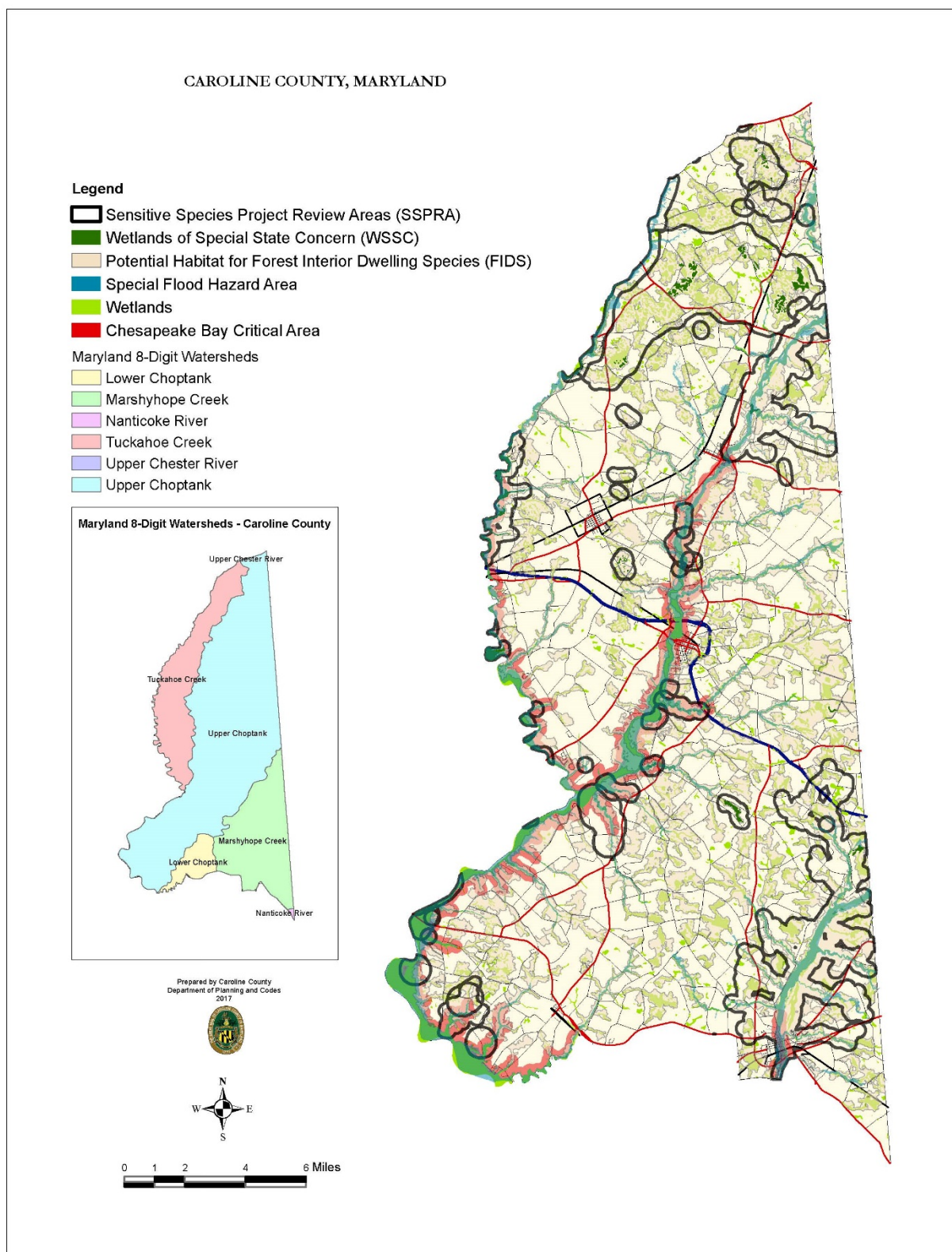
**Table II-2 Major Watersheds in Caroline County**

<b>Watershed name and number</b>	<b>Watershed Number</b>	<b>Total watershed acreage</b>	<b>Acres in Caroline County</b>	<b>Percentage of County</b>
Upper Choptank River	02130404	158,731	117,900	58.5%
Tuckahoe Creek	02130405	97,364	35,287	17.5%
Marshyhope Creek	02130306	77,477	40,034	19.9%
Lower Choptank River	02130403	114,801	8,092	4.0%
Nanticoke River	02130305	110,464	196	0.1%
Upper Chester River	02130510	86,110	26	0.01%

*Source: 2005 MD PropertyView*



## Map II-3. Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Major Watersheds



The impact of coastal changes and potential increased storm surges in the county are not specifically discussed in this plan, but will instead be broadly addressed in the next County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Future updates of the LPPRP will have more evaluation of the public recreation properties that could be impacted by tidal storm surges. In the interim, this LPPRP includes the following implementation strategy: The County will exercise prudence by considering potential storm surges as shown in the Coastal Atlas when planning improvements to parks along the Choptank, Tuckahoe and Marshyhope.

#### ***e. Significant Habitat Areas***

The Maryland DNR maintains a database of significant habitat areas for sensitive species. These areas, called Sensitive Species Project Review Areas, or SSPRAs, incorporate areas that have been identified by the State as Natural Heritage Areas, Listed Species Sites, Locally Significant Habitat Areas, Colonial Waterbird Sites, Waterfowl Staging and Concentration Areas, Nontidal Wetlands of Special State Concern, and Geographic Areas of Particular Concern. In Caroline County, SSPRAs are concentrated along the three major tributaries (the Tuckahoe, Marshyhope and Upper Choptank) and in the northern part of the county, which has numerous wetlands and extensive forests (Map II-3). New subdivisions and development projects are reviewed for opportunities to minimize impacts on the SSPRAs.

#### ***f. Wetlands***

Caroline County has a diverse assemblage of non-tidal and tidal wetlands, including freshwater and brackish emergent, scrub-shrub, and forested wetland communities (Map II-3).

The County's tidal wetlands are located along major rivers and streams upstream to the head of tide. Non-tidal wetlands include those that

border rivers and streams upstream from the limit of tidal influence, as well as isolated "pothole" wetlands throughout the County.

Wetlands and other naturally vegetated buffers along streams and rivers serve as flood and water storage and pollution filtration areas. Wetlands also sustain aquatic biological resources by functioning as reproductive habitat and foraging habitat for fish, water birds, aquatic mammals, and other wildlife. They also provide recreational and educational opportunities.

#### ***g. Prime Agricultural Soils***

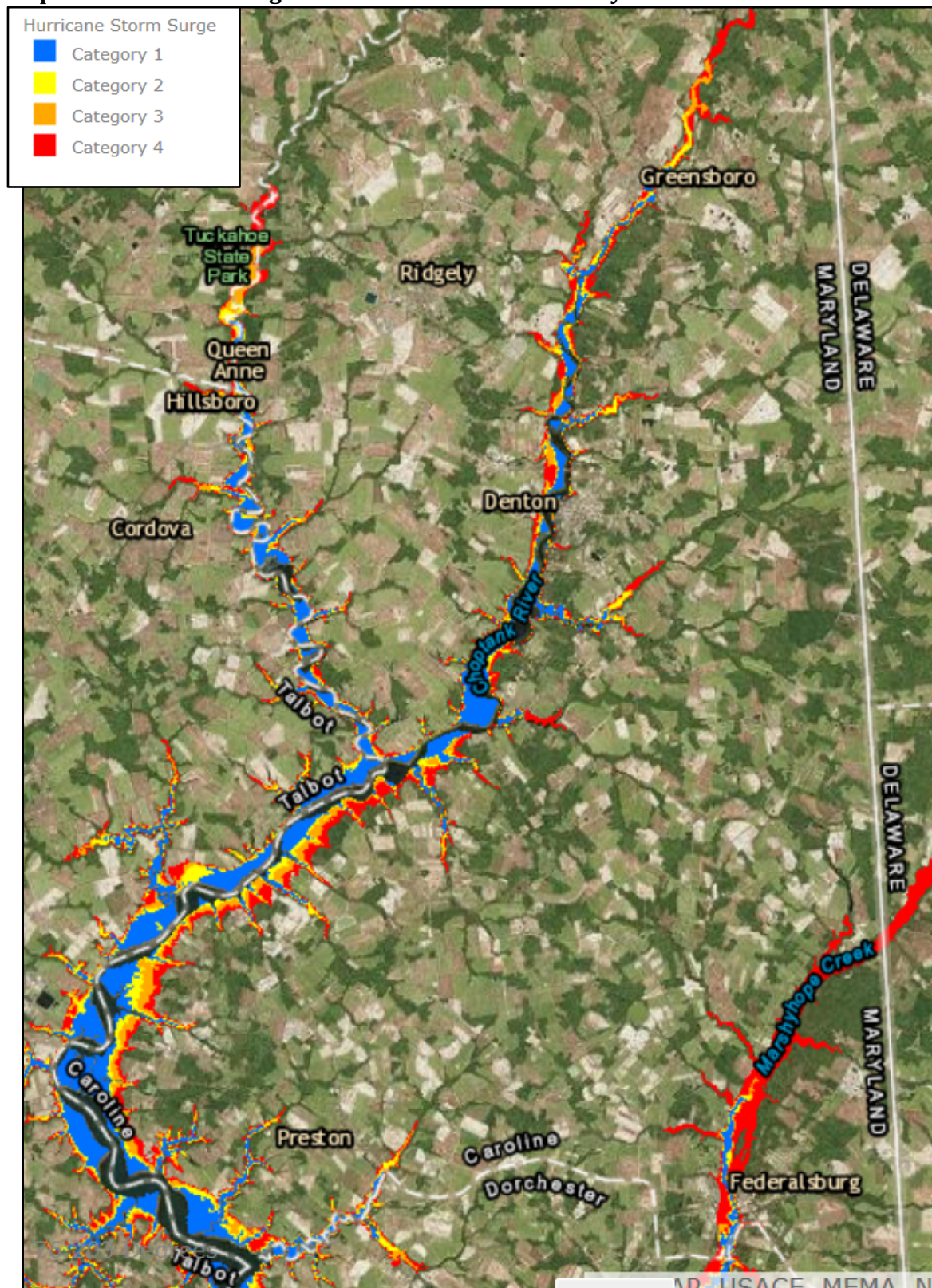
Agriculture has long been the dominant land use in the rural portions of Caroline County, and together with forests constitutes the bulk of the County's land area. The County has over 70 different soil types, grouped into four major soil associations:

- Sassafras-Galestown-Fallsington,
- Sassafras-Fallsington-Woodstown,
- Fallsington-Woodstown-Sassafras, and
- Pocomoke-Fallsington.

Of the County's soils, the Sassafras-Fallsington-Woodstown Association's capacity to retain moisture and nutrients make them the best soils in the County for agricultural production. This soil association forms most of the central-western portion of the County between Tuckahoe Creek and the Choptank River, from their confluence north to Bridgetown, DE and Greensboro, MD.



**Map II-4. Hurricane Surge Estimates in Caroline County 1**



<sup>1</sup> From DNR Coastal Atlas: This data reflects areas with a risk of storm tide flooding from hurricanes, based on potential storm tide heights calculated by the National Weather Service's SLOSH (Sea, Lake and Overland Surge from Hurricanes) Model.



## C. Demographic Characteristics

### 1. Population Growth

Caroline County's population was approximately 32,580 in 2015, representing a growth of nine percent since 2000. All of this population growth occurred between 2000 and 2010. U.S. Census data indicates that the County experienced a slight population decrease between 2010 and 2015 (Table II-3).

The County's population growth since 2000 has been lower than both the State of Maryland, which grew by 13.5 percent during this period, and the Upper Eastern Shore region (Caroline County, Kent County, Queen Anne's County, and Talbot County), which grew by 18.1 percent.

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) projects that Caroline County's population will grow by over 30 percent over the next 20 years (2015-2035), despite recent population loss. The State's projections (prepared in July 2014) do not consider the decrease in population between 2010 and 2015, and thus may overestimate Caroline County's actual potential for population growth.

**Table II-3. Caroline County Population, 2000-2035**

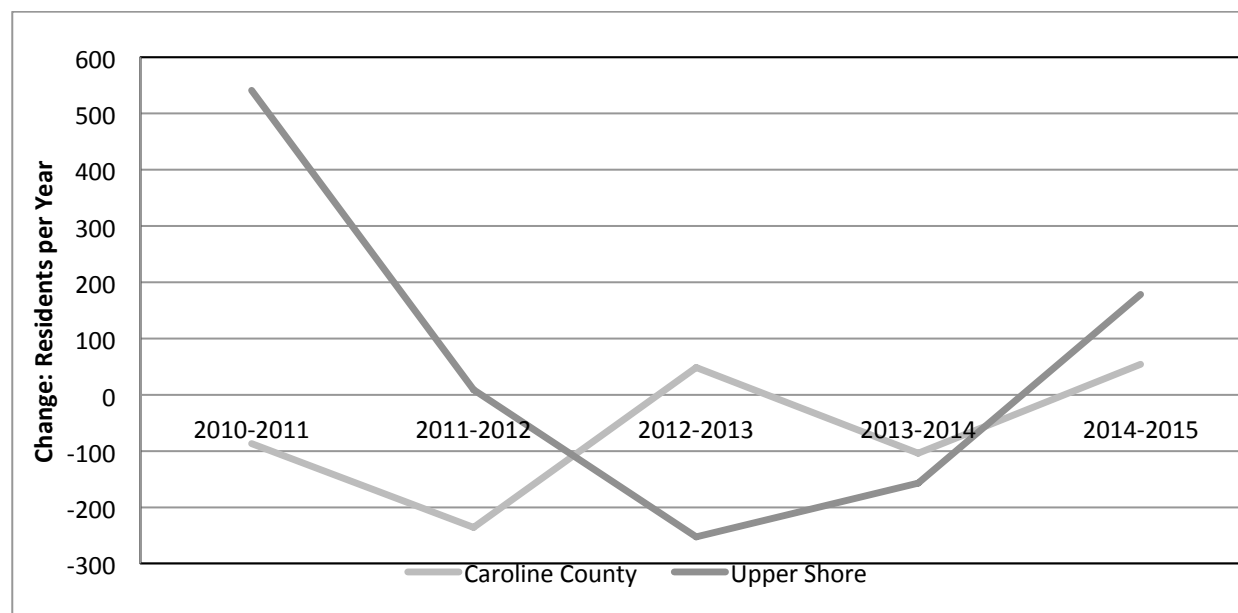
Year	Population	Percent change in population	
		Since 2000	Since 2010
2000	29,772	NA	NA
2010	33,066	11.1%	NA
2015	32,579	9.7%	(1.2)
2020*	36,050	21.1%	9.0%
2025*	38,250	28.5%	15.7%
2030*	40,450	35.9%	34.4%
2035*	42,750	43.6%	29.3%

*Source: US Census 2010, 2016; Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)*

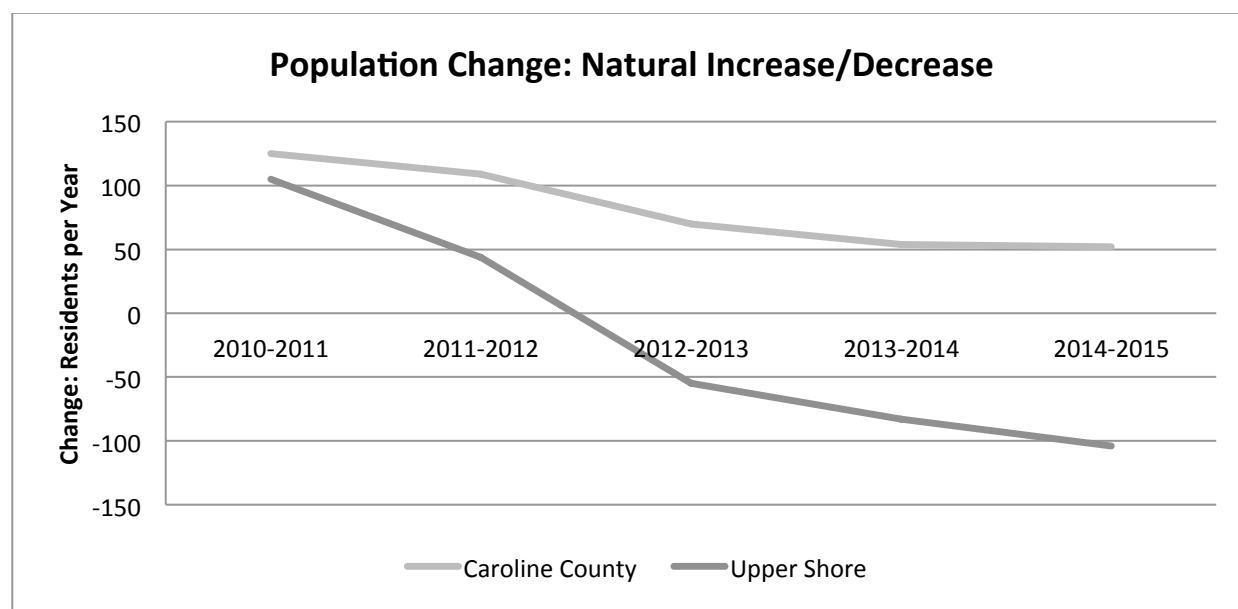
*\* Indicates MDP projections published July 2014*

Since 2010, Caroline County's population decline has been modest, while the Upper Eastern Shore's population has begun to recover from a brief population decrease that ended in 2012-13 (see Figure II-1). Figure II-2 shows the population change component linked to natural increase (or decrease) —i.e., the number of births minus deaths. Caroline County has had a natural population increase since 2010, implying that its overall population decrease is due to outmigration of residents. By comparison, the Upper Eastern Shore has experienced natural decrease since 2012-13, implying that its growth since that year has been due to immigration of residents.

**Figure II-1. Total Population Change 2010-2015, Caroline County and Upper Eastern Shore**



**Figure II-2. Population Change from Natural Increase/Decrease, 2010-2015**



## 2. Population Distribution

In 2010, 37 percent of Caroline County residents lived in one of the County's 10 incorporated municipalities, while 63 percent of County residents lived in unincorporated areas. Through the County's comprehensive planning policies, a large percentage of the future growth in population will be directed to the incorporated towns (see Section II-C, Comprehensive Plan Framework).

As indicated in Table II-4, nearly half of the County population in 2015 lived in the 21629 (Denton and surrounding areas) and 21632 (Federalsburg and surrounding areas) zip codes (see Map II-5).

**Table II-4. Caroline County Population by Zip Code, 2015**

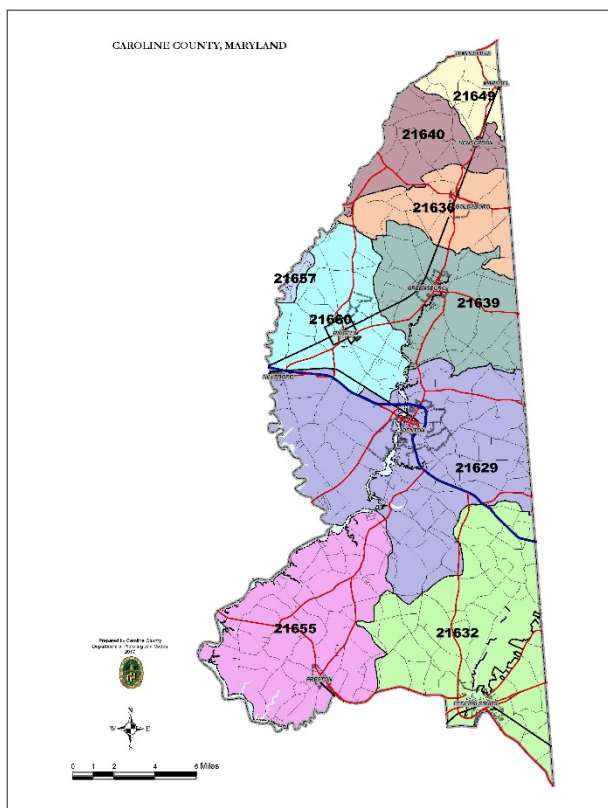
Zip Code	Population	Percent of Total**
21629	9,544	29%
21632*	6,001	18%
21636	1,106	3%
21639	4,482	14%
21640*	1,434	4%
21641*	84	<1%
21649	1,847	6%
21655	5,170	16%
21660	4,054	12%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

\* Includes some areas outside of Caroline County

\*\* Reflects approximate total based on Caroline County's population. Because some zip code areas extend beyond Caroline County's borders, the total population and percentage add up to more than the County total.

**Map II-5. Zip Code Areas**





### 3. Age and Race

The County, State, and Upper Eastern Shore region are all experiencing an aging of the population, as demonstrated by growth in the number of residents aged 55 or older and a decline in the number of younger residents (Table II-5). Caroline County has a younger population than the Upper Eastern Shore: 73 percent of Caroline County residents are under age 55, while only 65 percent of Upper Shore residents are under age 55. However, Caroline County's population is still slightly older than that of the State (75 percent of residents under age 55).

Over the next 20 years, the County's age distribution is projected to gradually continue this aging trend: the population age 55 and over is projected to increase from 27 to 32 percent of the population by 2035.

The County's population is projected to become more racially and ethnically diverse. In 2015, 81 percent of the County's population identified itself as being white alone (U.S. Census

Bureau); a figure projected to decrease to 76% by 2020 (MDP, July 2014). The percentage of the population that identifies itself as Hispanic or Latino (of any race) is projected to increase from 6 to 9 percent between 2015 and 2021.

### 4. Income and Poverty

Table II-6 presents selected income characteristics for Caroline County, other Eastern Shore Counties, and the State. The estimated median household income in Caroline County in 2015 was \$52,645, a decrease from the \$58,799 median household income reported in the 2010 Census. Caroline County's household income is significantly lower than the median household income in the State of Maryland (\$74,551 in 2015). The median household income in Caroline County is also lower than Queen Anne's, Talbot and Kent Counties.

Caroline County's mean per capita income also lags behind Maryland and other Upper Eastern Shore counties. From 2010 through 2015, the mean per capita income, as reported by the Census Bureau, shows a small increase.

**Table II-5. Population Estimates and Projections by Age**

	Caroline			Maryland		
	2007	2014	2035	2007	2014	2035
<b>Under 19 years</b>	28%	27%	26%	27%	26%	24%
<b>20 to 34 years</b>	20%	18%	17%	19%	20%	19%
<b>35 to 54 years</b>	29%	28%	25%	31%	28%	26%
<b>55 years and over</b>	23%	27%	32%	22%	25%	31%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Maryland Department of Planning

**Table II-6. Selected Income Characteristics**

	Median Household Income			Mean Per Capita Income			Percent of Residents with Income Below the Poverty Level		
	2010	2015	Change	2010	2015	Change	2010	2015	Change
Caroline County	\$58,799	\$52,645	-10%	\$24,294	\$24,943	3%	11.5%	15.8%	11.5%
Kent County	\$50,141	\$58,147	16%	\$29,536	\$30,081	2%	12.2%	11.2%	12.2%
Queen Anne's County	\$81,096	\$85,963	6%	\$35,964	\$38,733	8%	5.5%	7.5%	5.5%
Talbot County	\$63,017	\$58,228	-8%	\$37,958	\$38,317	1%	6.1%	7.8%	6.1%
Maryland	\$70,647	\$74,551	6%	\$34,849	\$36,897	6%	8.6%	10.0%	8.6%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2015 American Community Survey

**Table II-7. Percent of Students Receiving Free and Reduced-Price Meals in Public Schools**

	2007-2008	2010-2011	2011-2012	2015-2016	Change, 2008-2016
Maryland	33%	40%	42%	45%	12%
Caroline	45%	53%	56%	57%	12%
Kent	40%	49%	52%	55%	15%
Queen Anne's	15%	23%	25%	26%	11%
Talbot	29%	35%	38%	44%	14%

*Source: Maryland Department of Education*

In 2015, nearly 16 percent of the people living in Caroline County had income below the poverty level within the past 12 months (Table II-6). The estimated poverty rate is consistent with the household income estimates, with a poverty rate in Caroline County higher than that of Maryland and the other Upper Eastern Shore counties.<sup>2</sup>

A similar pattern can be seen among the percent of students that receive Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FaRM) in public schools (Table II-7).

The percent of students on the FaRM program in Caroline County (57%) is higher than that of the State and the Upper Eastern Shore counties. The FaRM population increased sharply between 2007 and 2011, and has changed little since the 2011 school year.

Low income individuals and households are distributed evenly throughout the County, with some exceptions. As shown in Table II-8, zip code areas 21636, 21640 and 21649, which comprise the northern portion of the County, have relatively high proportions of poverty (also see Map II-5). Higher proportions of poverty are also found in zip code 21632, the southeastern corner of the County which contains Federalsburg, and 21641, the town of Hillsboro. Areas with lower poverty levels, 21629 and

21639 and 21655, cross the middle and southwest portions of the County, encompassing the more densely populated areas of the County, and including the municipalities of Preston, Denton and Greensboro.

These data provide only a broad generalization of the distribution of individuals and households below the poverty level. As shown in the park equity analysis in Chapter III, Section F.5, awareness of the distribution of poverty at the sub-zip code level is an important consideration for park planning.

## 5. Characteristics of Population Below the Poverty Level

Per the Maryland Alliance for the Poor, 44% of female headed households in Caroline County live below the poverty line of \$23,850 for a family of four. Additionally, of those individuals living in poverty nearly half (49%) live in deep poverty or \$5,835 for an individual in 2014.

<sup>2</sup> A Poverty Threshold (PT) is defined by federal agencies as- a specific dollar amount that represents the dividing line between non-poor and poor. There is no single PT that is used for all persons, but rather annually revised sets of poverty threshold tables. Because of the annually changing PT numbers, its rate of change is independent of the rate of change of Per Capita Income.

**Table II-8. Individuals and Households Below the Poverty Level by Zip Code**

<b>Zip Code</b>	<b>Percentage of individuals below poverty level in the past 12 months</b>	<b>Percentage of households below poverty level in the past 12 months</b>	<b>Percentage of County population residing in area</b>
21629 (Denton area)	12.5%	9.8%	29%
21632 (Federalsburg area)	22.4%	15.5%	18%
21636	19.4%	18.0%	3%
21639 (Greensboro area)	5.9%	6.2%	14%
21640	20.6%	18.4%	4%
21641 (Hillsboro)	19.0%	27.8%	<1%
21649 (Marydel area)	35.6%	29.4%	6%
21655 (Preston area)	10.3%	6.1%	16%
21660	14.9%	12.5%	12%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014*

Based on U.S. Census, 2014, the population living below poverty level in Caroline County have the following characteristics:

- The population is nearly equally split between male and female residents.
- Approximately 68 percent of children under 18 years live in families with only one parent.
- Nearly 86 percent of those age 5 years and over for whom poverty status is determined speak only English while approximately 10 percent speak only Spanish and the remaining 4 percent speak other languages.
- Nearly 70 percent of the individuals in poverty are white alone and approximately 24 percent are black or African American alone with the remaining 6 percent represented by all other races and individuals of two or more races.

## 6. Employment

There were approximately 9,200 jobs in Caroline County in 2015, including approximately 5,200 service sector jobs (see Table II-9). The top four industries in terms of

jobs were: trade, transportation, and utilities (28 percent); local government (16 percent); manufacturing (12 percent); and education and health services (12 percent). Industries paying relatively high wages (information, business and professional services) are a small portion of the local employment base.

According to the US Census On the Map, in 2011 only 21.7% of Caroline workers were employed in the County; the remainder travelled outside the County for employment, with nearly one-third (28.9%) travelling across the Bay Bridge to work, including nearly 15% travelling as far as Washington DC and Baltimore City.

Consistent with national trends, unemployment rates in both the County and State increased through 2013, and have begun to fall again through 2015 (Table II-10). The County's unemployment rate has been higher than Maryland's rate since 2011.

Per the Maryland Alliance for the Poor, a household in Caroline County needs to make \$16.17/hour to afford the fair market rent and utilities of a two-bedroom apartment without spending more than 30% of his or her income on housing. The average rental is \$841/month.

**Table II-9. Employment by Industry, Caroline County, 2014**

Industry	Average Number of Reporting Units	Annual Average Employment	Percent of Total Employment	Total Wages	Average Weekly Wage
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	674	9,185	100%	\$366,253,749	\$767
GOVERNMENT SECTOR -- TOTAL	47	1,698	18%	\$72,594,466	\$822
Federal Government	14	70	1%	\$3,409,509	\$937
State Government	6	199	2%	\$8,117,917	\$785
Local Government	27	1,429	16%	\$61,067,040	\$822
PRIVATE SECTOR TOTAL	627	7,487	82%	\$293,659,283	\$754
GOODS-PRODUCING	176	2,220	24%	\$88,836,162	\$770
Natural Resources and Mining	33	438	5%	\$14,949,421	\$656
Construction	118	664	7%	\$27,634,266	\$800
Manufacturing	25	1,118	12%	\$46,252,475	\$796
SERVICE PROVIDING	451	5,267	57%	\$204,823,121	\$748
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	169	2,617	28%	\$100,301,562	\$737
Information	4	212	2%	\$17,667,454	\$1,603
Financial Activities	36	184	2%	\$8,342,063	\$872
Professional and Business Services	90	427	5%	\$26,377,324	\$1,188
Education and Health Services	53	1,137	12%	\$38,702,513	\$655
Leisure and Hospitality	41	438	5%	\$5,591,075	\$245
Other Services	58	252	3%	\$7,841,130	\$59

Source: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation-County Industry Series - Maryland's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) – OWIP

**Table II-10. Caroline County Unemployment Rate for Population 16 Years and Over**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Caroline County</b>	5.3%	6.4%	7.6%	8.9%	10.3%	9.2%	8.8%
<b>Maryland</b>	6.0%	6.6%	7.3%	7.8%	8.2%	8.0%	7.4%

Source: US Census, American Community Survey

**Table II-11. Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over**

	Caroline County		Maryland
	2010	2015	2015
<b>Population 25 years and over</b>	21,563	21,961	4,018,459
No high school diploma	18%	17%	11%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	40%	41%	26%
Some college, no degree	19%	20%	20%
Associate's degree	7%	7%	6%
Bachelor's degree	10%	10%	21%
Graduate or professional degree	5%	6%	17%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey



## 7. Educational Attainment

In 2015, 41 percent of the Caroline County population (25 years and older) held a high school degree with no college, while 43 percent of the population (25 years and older) had completed at least some college—including 16 percent who had obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher (Table II-11). About 17% of the population held no high school diploma. The County lags behind the State of Maryland in attainment of post-secondary education (associate’s or bachelor’s degree or beyond). Over the past five years, the educational attainment in the County has been relatively stable.

## D. Comprehensive Planning Framework

Caroline County’s current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2010. It is amended periodically, most recently in 2015 to revise the priority preservation area as discussed in Chapter IV of this plan.

### 1. General Planning Strategy

The Comprehensive Plan provides the County’s policy framework for land use management. Plan elements address land use, water resources, resource conservation, priority preservation areas, community facilities, transportation, economic development, and housing.

The land use goals direct development to growth centers while seeking to preserve the rural character of the surrounding landscape. The Comprehensive Plan identifies the five largest towns (Denton, Federalsburg, Greensboro, Preston and Ridgely) as “growth centers”; areas where future industrial, residential, and commercial growth should be concentrated. It also identifies fifteen villages and small towns where limited amounts of “infill” residential and

commercial development are encouraged, both within and on the periphery of existing municipal boundaries (see Map II-6).

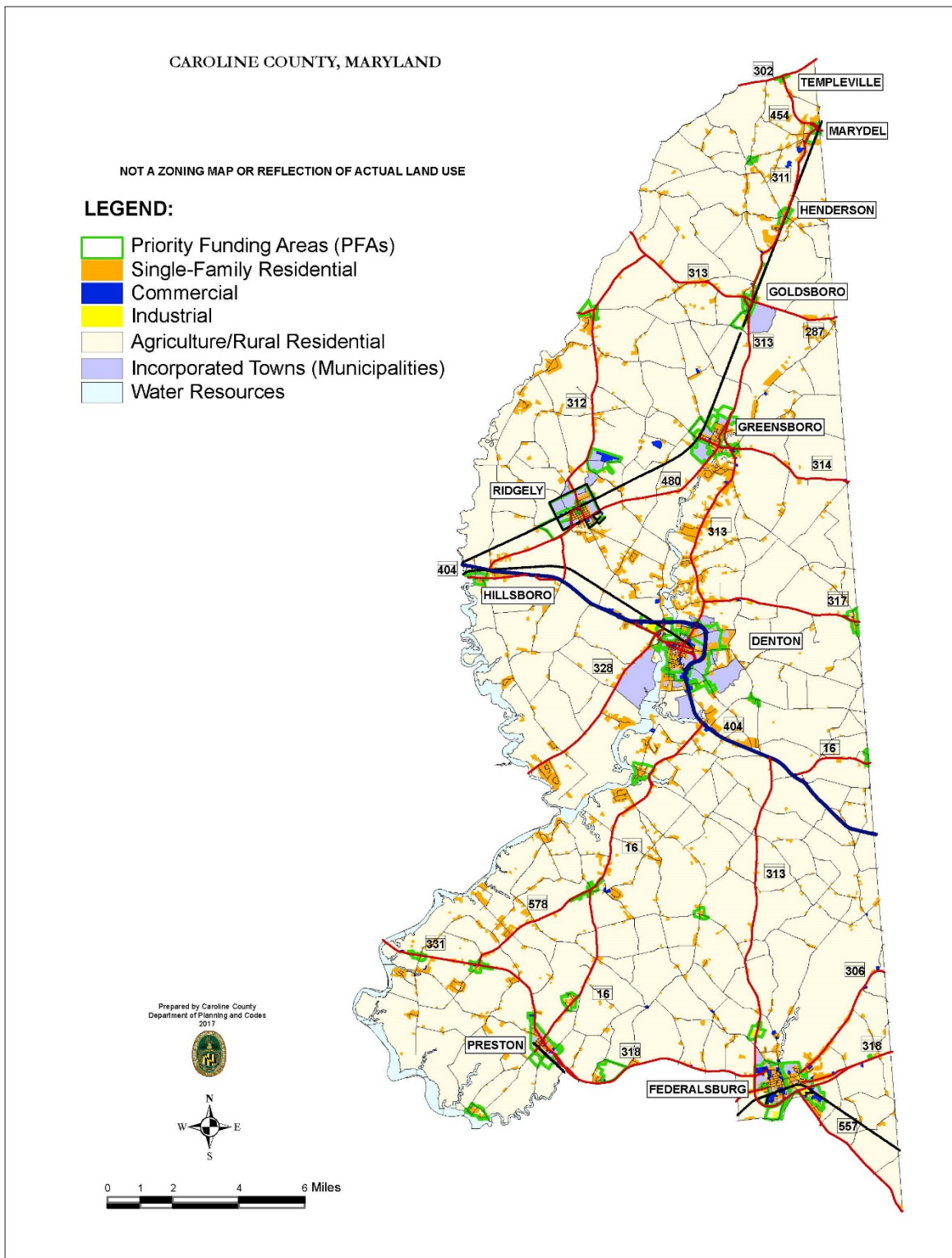
The Comprehensive Plan recognizes the importance of public services, especially water and sewer, in determining the extent and type of growth the County will experience. Policies support expansion of public water and sewer systems in the towns to accommodate future development.

The County completed a major comprehensive zoning update in 2013 that implemented Comprehensive Plan policies to strengthen the County’s land preservation program. The zoning added rural village zones to recognize small rural communities, increased the land area of the R-Rural zoning district and reduced the land in the R-1 Single Family Residential zoning district.

Key goals, objectives, and actions related to facilities, from the Community Facilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan, include:

- Review the Adequate Public Facilities regulations.
- Ensure adequate park and open space land and facilities to meet current and projected demands.
- Coordinate planning and programming of community facilities with the appropriate Municipal, County, and State agencies and entities.
- Review the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance and explore the appropriateness of impact fees to address demand on public facilities and services created by new development.
- Coordinate planning between the County, municipalities, and Board of Education to provide adequate public infrastructure to areas in need.

## Map II-6. Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map



## 2. Town Comprehensive Plans

The Comprehensive Plans for Caroline County's towns were prepared in 2009, except for Denton and Greensboro (2010) and Preston (2012). All town plans are due to be reviewed and updated between 2022 and 2024.

## D. Implications for Land Preservation and Recreation

The County's physical features, demographics, and planning framework have implications for land preservation and recreation policies.

Some major characteristics of the County that impact this plan are as follows:

### Natural Resources and Planning Framework

- Caroline County is rural. Population densities are low; automobile travel is expected and essential for most of the population.
- Farming is a stable, healthy and dominant industry.
- Rivers and streams, both tidal and non-tidal, are very important environmental and recreational resources.
- The municipalities provide services, varied housing, and opportunity for limited new growth for the County.
- The area of greatest residential growth potential is in the Denton-Ridgley-Greensboro triangle.

### Demographic Characteristics

- County population is stable, although official State projections anticipate substantial population growth.
- Average household incomes in the County are lower than in the State and region. Poverty levels are correspondingly higher.
- The proportion of the population over 55 is expected to increase at a moderate rate, while the 35-54 population is expected to decline. The proportion of younger age groups is expected to change little.

- Education levels are modest; 60 percent of residents have no more than a high school diploma.
- Racial and ethnic diversity is expected to increase at a modest rate.
- Individuals with income below the poverty level are more likely to be either unemployed or not in the labor force; children are more likely to be in single parent households; a significant proportion, ten percent, speak only Spanish.

The implications for land preservation and provision of parks and recreation are detailed in the remainder of this LPPRP. Overarching concepts are as follows:

1. The County intends to provide parks and recreation services that are distributed through the County and accessible for all County residents.
2. The towns play a major role in the provision of recreation facilities and services in the County. Pedestrian access to parks in the towns is important in the towns.
3. The projected age distribution in the County will result in stable demand for recreation services from all age groups, with increasing demand from the 55 and older age group.
4. Public recreation programs and parks are important resources for lower-income residents who cannot easily afford private or fee-based recreation.
5. Farmland is interspersed with forests and water resources (streams, rivers and wetlands). This land use pattern requires a coordinated approach to land preservation that addresses both agriculture and environmental resources.
6. Waterways contribute greatly to the sense of place in the County, and are a significant recreational and natural resource asset.
7. Continued commitment to the preservation of agricultural and natural resource lands is important to maintaining the County's quality of life and environmental quality, which are closely linked.



## Chapter III Recreation, Parks, and Open Space

### A. Overview

This chapter identifies Caroline County's goals and objectives for parks and recreation, and evaluates them in the context of the future needs and priorities for parks and open space acquisition, facility development, and programming. The County's goals and priorities are established based on:

- National Recreation & Parks Association goals;
- State goals for recreation and parks;
- Caroline County's comprehensive planning program;
- The Caroline County Department of Recreation and Parks mission, goals and strategies; and
- A supply and demand needs analysis of recreational facilities and activities based on (1) the inventory of existing facilities, (2) demand factors obtained from community input, State surveys, national trends, and review of the location of facilities relative to population, and (3) the formula of 30 acres per 1,000 residents used in prior versions of this Plan.

### B. County Goals

#### 1. Mission

The Department of Recreation and Parks has adopted the following mission Statement:

*To improve and enrich citizen well-being and community life through the provision of affordable, high quality activities and parks and facilities for Caroline County families and individuals.*

The Department has identified two visions for achieving its mission:

- Develop services that challenge, engage, and respond to the needs of Caroline Countians and their families.
- Provide safe, attractive, and functional facilities and open spaces for the delivery of community recreation and individual leisure pursuits.

#### 2. Alignment with National Goals

In pursuing its mission, the Department is guided by the National Recreation and Parks Association's three pillars:

***Health & Wellness:*** *Leading the nation to improved health and wellness through parks and recreation.*

According to the Caroline County Annual Health Update and Report Card 2016, Caroline County ranks 23 of 24 jurisdictions in Maryland for Overall Health Outcomes. Caroline County has some of the highest rates of Type II Diabetes and certain cancers in the State.

Parks and recreation facilities promote health and wellness in the County's population in many ways. Recreation and Parks can play a crucial role in providing its citizens with opportunities to move more. The State Parks system is currently working with the County Health Department and local medical providers to develop a ParksRx program. The County will be joining this effort to help educate people about benefits of getting out into the parks, as well as how to access the parks.

***Conservation:*** *Protecting open space, connecting children to nature, and engaging communities in conservation practices.*

Caroline County is committed to developing its parks and recreation system in a manner that supports and reinforces the rural nature of the County, as established in the policies of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan. This includes a commitment to good environmental stewardship practices.

Environmental stewardship is important for natural resource conservation and for the County's economic well-being. In 2014 the Sage Policy Group completed a needs assessment and recommendations for the Caroline County Economic Development Corporation on where the County should focus its future efforts. It's first recommendation was that, "Emphasis should be placed on public access (to the water) rather than private development....the idea of creating a haven for bicyclists, hikers, canoers, and others was intensely supported...." The needs assessment also emphasized the opportunities to expand visitation to Caroline County through its outdoor recreation opportunities.

***Social Equity:*** *Ensuring all people have access to the benefits of local parks and recreation.*

The County seeks to provide a network of recreation facilities and parks distributed through the County so that all residents have convenient access. Given the County's rural character, "convenient access" generally refers to facilities within a short driving distance. Within the municipalities, "convenient access" also includes neighborhood parks and other recreation facilities within walking distance.

### 3. Goals and Objectives

The Caroline County 2010 Comprehensive Plan does not include specific goals for recreation, but refers to the goals and strategies of the 2006 LPPRP. This 2017 LPPRP has been adopted as an updated element of the Comprehensive Plan

and establishes the County's planning goals for recreation and parks.

The goals and objectives for recreation and parks programming and facilities, described below, support the Department's Mission Statement. Many of these are important to guide the ongoing work of the Recreation and Parks Department (rather than one-time accomplishments) and have been carried forward, with refinements, from the 2012 LPPRP. These differ from the operational strategies at the end of this chapter, in Section H.5, which are more specific actions to be accomplished.

***Goal 1:*** *Retain public recreation land and facilities in Caroline County necessary to meet current and anticipated needs. Work with incorporated towns and the Caroline County Planning and Codes Department to locate future park facilities in a way that supports designated growth centers, as well as the County's land preservation efforts.*

#### Objectives

1. Prioritize goals for new facilities based on cost, proximity to similar facilities, and potential for partnership to share capital development and operating costs.
2. Maintain the strong partnership with the Caroline County Public Schools, as reflected in the adopted Joint Use Agreement, to more effectively use school facilities for recreation programs and as community centers, and to meet demand for recreation space in the County.
3. Meet regularly with municipal leadership to collaborate on future land use planning related to public recreation needs and opportunities.
4. Provide public access to waterways wherever feasible and practical.

***Goal 2: Provide recreation programs for all residents.***

Objectives

1. Prioritize established core services, program operating standards, fiscal sustainability and community partnerships, while broadening, when possible, the diversity and increasing the quality and availability of the recreation programs and opportunities in the County.
2. Recognize and facilitate recreation programs that provide opportunity to promote health and wellness.
3. Explore opportunities to expand recreation programming services for teens and seniors.

***Goal 3: Provide adequate financial resources and effective planning to support recreation and parks facilities and programs.***

Objectives

1. Maintain the County funding level for recreation and parks within the next 3 years at 3 percent of the non-education budget; in future years, increase this share to 6 percent.
2. Leverage State funding sources with local tax revenues generated at the County and municipal level to collaboratively meet the public priorities for recreation and parks within the municipal growth areas. Ensure that County priorities meet the goals of Program Open Space (POS), the Waterway Improvement Program and other State funding programs.
3. Extend collaborative partnerships to non-profit user groups (i.e. youth sport leagues) to enhance and improve parks; pursue opportunities for funding and in-kind support for rehabilitation or maintenance of park facilities.

4. Increase the quantity of self-sustaining recreation programs, through full cost recovery budgeting to meet increasing program service demands.
5. Complete a cost/benefit analysis on expanding facility use fees to include athletic field reservations for league and tournament programming.
6. Aggressively seek recreation program operating and capital development funds from foundations, corporations, and other outside entities.
7. Actively participate in the subdivision review and planning processes at the County and municipal level, to pursue in-kind opportunities for park land acquisition.
8. Work with the Planning and Codes Department to strengthen existing mandatory dedication regulations within the County's land development codes, including a fee-in-lieu provision for minor subdivisions.

***Goal 4. Provide attractive, well-maintained, safe and secure recreation and open space facilities.***

Objectives

1. Maintain the existing parks maintenance program to correct safety hazards, improve the condition of athletic fields, and establish a preventative maintenance and operations program at high-use areas (e.g. playgrounds).
2. Collaborate with municipal leadership to support their efforts to maintain their existing parks and to develop existing open spaces.
3. Cultivate partnerships with local sports leagues, nonprofit organizations, and other



providers and users to identify and address facility and program needs.

**Goal 5:** *Effectively communicate the Department's mission and vision to improve citizen well-being through access to parks and recreation facilities and programs.*

#### Objectives

1. Using a variety of sources, publish information to maintain strong public awareness of available recreation opportunities and parks in Caroline County.
2. Maintain regular contact with the towns and nonprofit providers to support and strengthen the broader network of parks and recreation opportunities available to County residents.
3. Promote increased use of State parks and facilities in Caroline County, including Tuckahoe and Martinak State Parks, Idylwild WMA, and Adkins Arboretum.
4. Seek opportunities to work collaboratively with other county, State, municipal and non-profit organizations on efforts to increase awareness of the health benefits of parks and recreation.

## 4. Progress Towards Goals

The 2012 LPPRP had the following specific recommendations for land, facility and funding needs:

**Land acquisition:** 144 acres of recreation land towards a needs-based goal of 96 acres.

#### **Facility Development and Rehabilitation**

- Two regional parks;
- Multiple community and neighborhood parks;
- School recreation park improvement program;

- Three to four indoor fitness and community centers;
- New water access points and rehabilitation of existing;
- New trail development and existing trail enhancement.

While the County is recovering from the recession that began in 2008, it remains difficult to secure additional County general funds for parks and programming. Traditional State and federal funding sources for core elements of government service (roads, security, and education) have a high degree of uncertainty, making the funding for other services such as recreation programs more uncertain. The County has continued to pursue its policy of making the most of existing resources: maintaining existing parks and program infrastructure, ensuring the safety of the public at County facilities, and promoting cooperative use of facilities. This approach contains public recreation costs without a significant loss in quality.

Despite these constraints, the County over the past five years has worked towards the goals of the 2012 plan and significantly expanded the inventory of public recreation land and facilities. Accomplishments since 2012 include:

- Exceeded the 2012 goal of adding 144 acres of County park land:
  - Purchased the 199-acre North County Park property, located in the growth area for the Town of Greensboro and within walking distance of Greensboro Elementary School. The property was purchased in 2016 through support from DNR through Program Open Space (POS) funds and federal Land Water Conservation Funds (LWCF). This property will become the flagship park of the Department over the next 10 to 15 years, and will provide both active and passive recreational opportunities.

- Purchased 11 acres in the Town of Greensboro to extend public waterfront access, using POS and County matching funds. Subsequently, the County transferred the deed of this property along with the Greensboro Boat Ramp to the Town of Greensboro, which is now preparing a plan to further develop this area as a municipal park.
  - Purchased 12 acres on Poplar Neck Creek to develop a dredge disposal site for County use in keeping waterway access open at County-owned boat ramps, as well as boat ramps owned by municipalities; to potentially expand public waterfront access; and to create the Choptank Nature Park.
  - Purchased 0.4 acres adjacent to the Hillsboro Boat Ramp to extend waterfront access and create a soft landing for kayaks and canoes.
  - Invested in park land development and improvements using fees and grant funds:
    - Assisted the Town of Marydel with annexation of the Marydel Community Park property; assisted the Town in beginning to develop the property (athletic field, playground, picnic facilities) using grant funds from the State under the Community Parks & Playground and Program Open Space grant programs.
    - Enhanced water access by reinvesting local revenues generated through a Boat Ramp Permit fee in combination with Waterway Improvement funds for all boat ramp locations, resulting in rehabilitation and improvements at Choptank Marina, Greensboro Boat Ramp, Gilpin's Point, Hillsboro Boat Ramp, and Ganey's Wharf.
    - Utilized DNR funds to keep long sections of the Choptank River between Red Bridges and Denton clear of snags to maintain recreational use by kayakers and canoeists.
  - Maintained staff and operational capacity:
    - Reorganized the Department and shifted resources from Program Services to the Parks Division to add a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Parks Technician I.
    - Cross-trained both the Parks Technician I position and the Division Supervisor as Corrections Officers, allowing the Department to exponentially increase its maintenance capacity by utilizing the Department of Corrections CARE program which makes work release inmates available to the Parks Division for general maintenance of the parks.
    - Implemented a GIS asset inventory system to better track and manage the County's land and facilities. This database of park land and recreation sites in the County (including State, County, municipal and quasi-public sites) was created for the County in 2016 by the Geographic Technologies Group, Inc. For County-managed parks, the database provides a detailed inventory of each site, including condition and existing facilities. The addition of municipal park data will be included in the Department's action plan within the next 12-18 months.
- The database provides an ongoing management tool that will help the Department to track maintenance and manage its sites. Eventually it will also improve public information regarding park location and recreation

opportunities for interested public regardless of park facility ownership.

- Continued to successfully acquire grant funding to support afterschool and summer learning opportunities for more than 400 Caroline County youth.
- Continued to provide a wide variety of recreation program offerings and special events despite a general operating budget that has not kept pace with inflation since 2007, froze merit staff increases for seven years, and deferred capital investment for a five-year period for all County departments.
- During years of fiscal constraints, maintained a consistent share of the County's operating budget, demonstrating the value accorded to recreation and parks by County decision makers.

## C. State Goals

The State's goals for recreation, parks, and open space complement and provide guidance to the County's recreation goals. The State's goals primarily address consistency with broad land use goals. The County's goals and strategies are more detailed and address the effective operation of a county recreation and parks program.

The State goals are listed on the following page, along with a description of each goal's relationship to County goals.

## D. Park land and Recreation Inventory

The County has updated its inventory of parks and recreation land based upon:

- The GIS database of park land and recreation sites in the County (including State, County, municipal and quasi-public sites) created for the County in 2016 by the Geographic Technologies Group, Inc.
- Consultation with the Maryland DNR staff to categorize acreage within the State parks as either recreation or natural resource land.

The inventory of park and recreation sites is presented in Appendix B. Maps III-1a through III-1d show the location of these sites.

As of 2017, Caroline County contains a total of 10,086 acres of recreation and resource land that is owned by State or local government or private organizations. Table III-2 summarizes this land by owner. There are no federal recreation lands in Caroline County.

Land in the inventory is classified as recreation, resource, or "other" based on the following definitions:

**County and Municipal Land:** Recreation land is actively developed for public use; resource land is currently unimproved, but is reserved to be developed and used in the future for public recreation.

**Board of Education Land:** Recreation land includes outdoor area that is available and developed for public education and outdoor community use. This includes outdoor playing fields, playgrounds, grass areas, paths, parking areas, etc.



**Table III-1. State Goals and Complementary County Goals**

<b>State Goal</b>	<b>Complementary County Goals and Strategies</b>
1. Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily available to all its citizens and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.	Goal 2 and supporting strategies: facilities and programming for all residents; emphasis on opportunities to promote health and wellness.
2. Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the State more desirable places to live, work, play and visit.	All the County goals will support this State goal, especially Goals 1, 4 and 5, which address the need for a well-planned recreation and parks program, the condition and security of parks, and the priorities for publicizing the County's parks and recreation programs.
3. Use State investment in parks, recreation and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive/master plans.	Goal 1 and supporting strategies, which call for locating parks in ways that support designated growth centers, as well as the County's land preservation efforts. Goal 3, which calls for leveraging State investments with County and other funds to collaboratively meet public priorities.
4. To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile, and help to protect natural open spaces and resources.	Goal 1, locating parks in support of growth centers; Goal 2, providing programs for all residents; strategies under Goal 3 that address coordination with municipalities and with the subdivision process.
5. Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities.	Goals 1 and 3, locating parks to support growth centers and towns, in coordination with municipalities and subdivision review; also, giving priority to maintaining the partnership with public schools; Goal 4, cultivating partnerships with nonprofit organizations and other providers.
6. Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a Statewide level.	Goal 3 and supporting strategies: provision of funds for park acquisition; coordination with and dedication through the subdivision process. (This LPPRP emphasizes park development rather than land acquisition, based on analysis of County needs; however, protection of resource lands is addressed in Chapters IV and V.)

**Table III-2. Recreation and Resource Land by Owner (acres)**

Owner	Recreation	Resource	Other	Total
<b>Local Recreation and Resource Lands</b>				
Board of Education	155	0	68 <sup>(1)</sup>	223
Caroline County	138	334		472
Town of Denton	66	24		90
Town of Federalsburg	58	18		76
Town of Ridgely	56	0		56
Town of Preston	9	0		9
Town of Greensboro	22	0		22
Town of Hillsboro	4	0		4
Town of Templeville	1	0		1
Town of Goldsboro	1	0		1
<b>Subtotal, Local Land</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>954</b>
<b>State and Federal Recreation and Resource Lands</b>				
State	1,487	5,786		7,273
Federal	-			-
<b>Subtotal, State and Federal</b>	<b>1,487</b>	<b>5,786</b>		<b>7,273</b>
<b>Private/ quasi-public recreation and resource lands</b>				
Private/ quasi-public organizations	311	1,467		1,778
<b>Grand Total, all Recreation and Resource Lands</b>	<b>2,307</b>	<b>7,628</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>10,003</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Refers to the footprint of buildings on school sites subject to a Joint Use Agreement with the Department of Recreation and Parks.

#### **State and Private/Quasi-public Land:**

Recreation lands are State parks and lands owned by private organizations with a primary function of providing public access to the land. Resource lands are lands whose primary objective is natural resource protection. Although there is public recreation value to these properties, that use is secondary to the needs of wildlife and natural resources that the land protects. (For example, the Idylwild Wildlife Management Area, encompassing over 3,500 acres, is classified as resource land, although it is open to the public for hunting, fishing, and hiking.)

State and quasi-public resource land is shown in Table III-1 but is described in more detail in Chapter V, Natural Resources. This chapter focuses on recreation land.

### **1. County and Town Land**

Caroline County maintains 138 acres of land developed for recreational use. This includes all developed County parks. The County also has 334 acres of undeveloped County park land (land designated or intended for future parks), which is counted as resource land.

The County's 2012 LPPRP listed 172 acres of recreation land. The difference is due only to a change in classification. Some of the land previously counted as recreation land is undeveloped, and is now counted as resource land.

Board of Education property accounts for an additional 155 acres of recreational land, 30 percent of the County's locally-owned recreation land. The incorporated towns provide the remaining 217 acres, 43 percent of local recreation land. The towns of Denton and Federalsburg also own undeveloped park land, listed as resource land.

#### ***a. Regional parks.***

The 73-acre South County Regional Park, completed prior to the 2012 LPPRP, provides three irrigated multi-purpose fields, a playground, parking, and stormwater management areas. Phase 2 of the development of this park will include ½-mile of paved perimeter walking trail and two shade structures. These improvements are in the final design phase with anticipated construction in early Spring 2017. Future includes a multipurpose building for concessions, meeting/trainings, and storage.

A 199-acre site for the County's second regional park was acquired in March 2016, as described above in Section III.B.4. Located in the northern part of the County, this site is a good balance to the southern regional park. This park is currently listed as resource land because development is still in the planning phase, and active use is limited to mowed walking trails.

#### ***b. Community and Neighborhood Parks.***

Community and neighborhood parks provide ball fields (baseball, soccer, and multi-purpose), basketball and tennis courts, picnic tables, concessions, and restrooms. The five community parks are generally larger than the neighborhood

parks and provide facilities that serve a larger area. These parks include:

- Sharp Road Park, a 24-acre facility in the town of Denton, with a multipurpose field, basketball court, and parking.
- Marydel Community Park, a 25-acre park in the town of Marydel in northern Caroline County, with a multipurpose field, playground, picnic tables, and trails. Part of the site is preserved via a forest conservation easement.
- Ridgely Athletic Field Complex, a 32-acre site in Ridgely (western Caroline County) with two ball fields and a temporary concession stand.
- Martin Sutton Park, a 17-acre park in Ridgely with baseball and multipurpose fields, a skate park, playgrounds, picnic tables and pavilions and tennis courts.
- Chambers Park, a 16-acre site in the town of Federalsburg (southern Caroline County) with a multipurpose field, baseball fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, picnic tables, picnic pavilions, a skate park, concessions, and a community center.

There are 18 neighborhood parks located throughout the County, ranging in size from 0.1 to about 5 acres.

#### ***c. School Recreation Parks & Facility Access.***

The County has nine school recreation parks—recreation facilities on school grounds that are available for public use, for programs operated or coordinated by the Department of Recreation and Parks, at times when they are not needed by the schools. School recreation parks are widely distributed and contribute significantly to recreation opportunities in the County, particularly elementary school ball fields and multipurpose fields. The facilities include the grounds of the County's two high schools, two middle schools, and five elementary schools.

The continuing partnership between the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Caroline County Public Schools (CCPS) plays a key role in the County's ability to meet the user demand for indoor recreation programming, since the County does not have the indoor space necessary to meet the demand itself. In 2012 and again in 2015 the County renegotiated its Joint Use Agreement with CCPS, clarifying in the Agreement that access to indoor spaces would be provided at no cost, in exchange for the Department continuing to manage the scheduling and maintenance of specified properties purchased or developed with POS funds. This includes fields at all five of the County's elementary schools, as well as at Lockerman Middle School.

#### ***d. Other recreation sites.***

Other recreation sites include two mini-parks located in towns and thirteen County- or municipal-owned special use areas, including:

- 4H Youth Park: the only agricultural-focused recreational resource in the County. It contains unique facilities, including show barns, an equestrian hall, and agricultural museum. The 4H Youth Park also provides the only publicly-owned shooting ranges in the County. It is County-owned, managed by a County Commissioner-appointed Citizen Advisory Board with support by the University of Maryland Extension Service, and open to the public.
- Choptank Marina: a 72-slip marina with electrical and water hook-up, septic pump-out, restrooms, and a small beach area with picnic tables.
- The Health and Public Services multipurpose field: an interim use of undeveloped land that will be used for a future County-owned facility.
- Nine sites that provide access to the water, and that are not part of a larger park. Two of these provide only a right-of-way to access

the water, while the remainder provide fishing piers, beaches, and six of the County's public boat ramps.

## **2. State Land**

State-owned recreation land accounts for 1,487 acres, or 65 percent of the recreation land in Caroline County. This State recreation land consists of two State parks: Tuckahoe State Park and Martinak State Park. Both parks are primarily intended for passive or individual recreation activities, although there is one ball field at Tuckahoe State Park.

Martinak State Park is a 105-acre park on the Choptank River with hiking trails, camping areas, picnic pavilions, an amphitheater, a boat ramp, and a ball field.

Tuckahoe State Park consists of nearly 1,963 acres of natural resource-oriented recreation land, centered on the Tuckahoe Creek and its watershed. Of that total, 1,382 acres are included in the County's inventory of recreation land. (The Adkins Arboretum, within Tuckahoe State Park, is counted as resource land.) The park contains a lake, hiking trails, campsites, and a boat ramp with access to the lake and upper Tuckahoe Creek. Since the 2012 LPPRP, the State completed expansion of the trail system at Adkins Arboretum and Tuckahoe State Park to create a system that spans 1.5 miles to a nearby State highway along Caroline County's Eveland Road.

Both Tuckahoe and Martinak State Parks contribute significantly to public access to local waterways. These parks also provide a network of trails.

## **3. Private Quasi-Public land and Facilities**

Private recreation land that is managed as quasi-public is an important component of the County's overall recreation land inventory. The



311 acres of private recreation land accounts for 13 percent of the recreation land in the County, and includes facilities operated by non-profit organizations (church-based, Girl Scouts, local Lions Clubs, Caroline Historical Society). These include:

- Camp Todd and Camp Mardela, which provide group camping, cabin, and conference facilities;
- Lions Club sites in three towns (Preston Lions Club, Denton Lions Club and Greensboro Lions Club Park), providing carnival grounds, ball fields, clubhouses, picnic tables and river frontage;

#### 4. Water Access Facilities

Public access to rivers and lakes for boating and fishing is an important component of the County's recreation facilities. The network of public water access sites includes land owned by State, County and municipal government, as well as private conservation organizations. Table III-3 summarizes water access areas. These include:

- Ten sites with publicly-owned boat ramps, where fishing from piers or bulkheads is also typically allowed;
- Two small swimming beaches; and
- Several public locations where shoreline access to the water is available with no piers or ramps.

#### 5. Historic Sites

Caroline County has numerous sites with recognized historic significance, including two

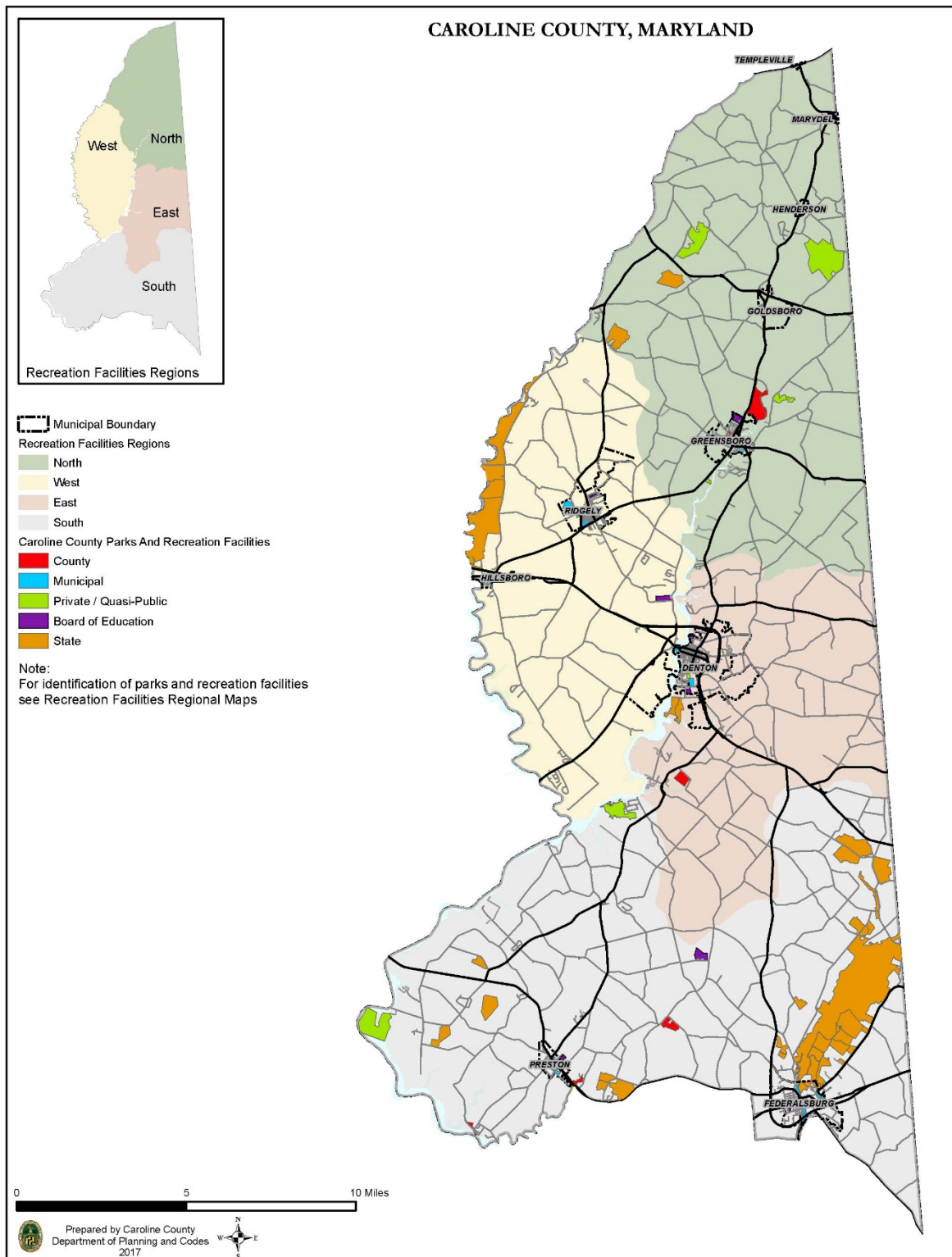
National Historic Districts, 17 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and 366 inventoried historic sites (structures built before 1900). The following historic sites are owned by the County or a nonprofit organization and provide open space and tourism opportunities:

- **General James F. Fretterd Community Center:** Also, known as the Denton Armory, serves as the Department of Recreation and Parks headquarters and a community center with a gymnasium and three multipurpose rooms. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was originally built for the 104th Quartermaster's Company of the Maryland National Guard.
- **Medford House:** The County is working in partnership with the Caroline Historical Society to move this structure to and use this as a historic interpretive center within the County-owned Choptank Nature Preserve.
- **Caroline County Courthouse:** The grounds of the Courthouse provide public space for a wide variety of community programs and public assemblies, often produced or coordinated by Recreation and Parks. Events held on the Courthouse grounds include Shakespeare in the Park, the annual holiday Lighting of the Green and Summerfest. The grounds also include wayfinding signs associated with the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad trail, a Tourism Information Kiosk open 24-7 and shaded picnic tables.

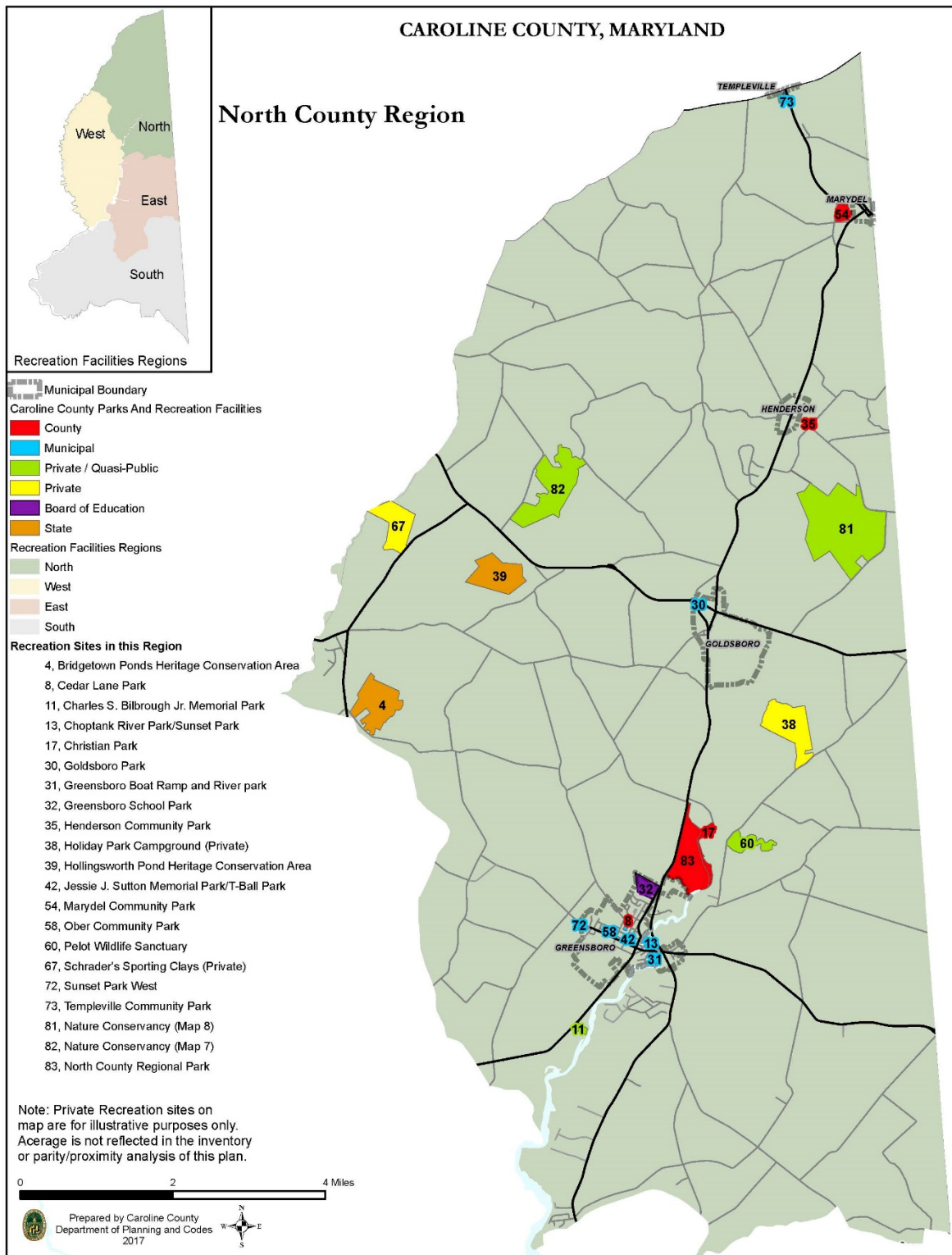
**Table III-3. Water Access**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
<i>Boat Ramps</i>		
<b>Daniel Crouse Memorial Park</b>	Denton	One boat ramp
<b>Federalsburg Marina Park</b>	Federalsburg	Two boat ramps
<b>VFW Ramp: Marshyhope Greenway South</b>	Federalsburg	Two boat ramps
<b>Choptank Marina</b>	County	72 slips, one boat ramp, small swimming beach
<b>Ganey's Wharf</b>	County	One boat ramp
<b>Greensboro Boat Ramp</b>	Greensboro	One boat ramp
<b>Hillsboro Boat Ramp</b>	County	One boat ramp
<b>Martinak State Park</b>	Maryland DNR	One boat ramp
<b>Smithville Community Lake</b>	Maryland DNR	One boat ramp
<b>Tuckahoe State Park</b>	Maryland DNR	One boat ramp
<i>Water Access, No Boat Ramp</i>		
<b>Greensboro Lions Club Park</b>	Private (Lion's Club)	Shoreline access
<b>Choptank River Park</b>	Greensboro	Shoreline access
<b>Camp Mardela</b>	Private	Fishing from piers
<b>Camp Todd</b>	Private	Shoreline access, small swimming beach
<b>Christian Park</b>	County	Shoreline access, pier, picnic tables
<b>Stoney Point Landing</b>	County	Shoreline access
<b>Two Johns Landing</b>	County	Shoreline access
<b>Wheeler Park</b>	Denton	Shoreline access
<b>Idylwild WMA</b>	Maryland DNR	Shoreline access
<b>Pelot Wildlife Sanctuary</b>	MD Ornithological Society	Shoreline access, pier
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>James E Webb cabin:</b> A hand-hewn log cabin built by a free African American farmer in 1852.</li> <li>• <b>Linchester Mill Park and Mill Pond area:</b> The site contains the historic Linchester Mill and two other historic buildings, as well as a</li> </ul>		<p>Braille Nature Trail. Docent-led tours of the buildings are available. Operated by the Friends of Linchester in association with the Caroline Historical Society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Colonel Richardson Tomb:</b> Open space with historic marker, adjacent to a public access point to the Choptank river.</li> </ul>

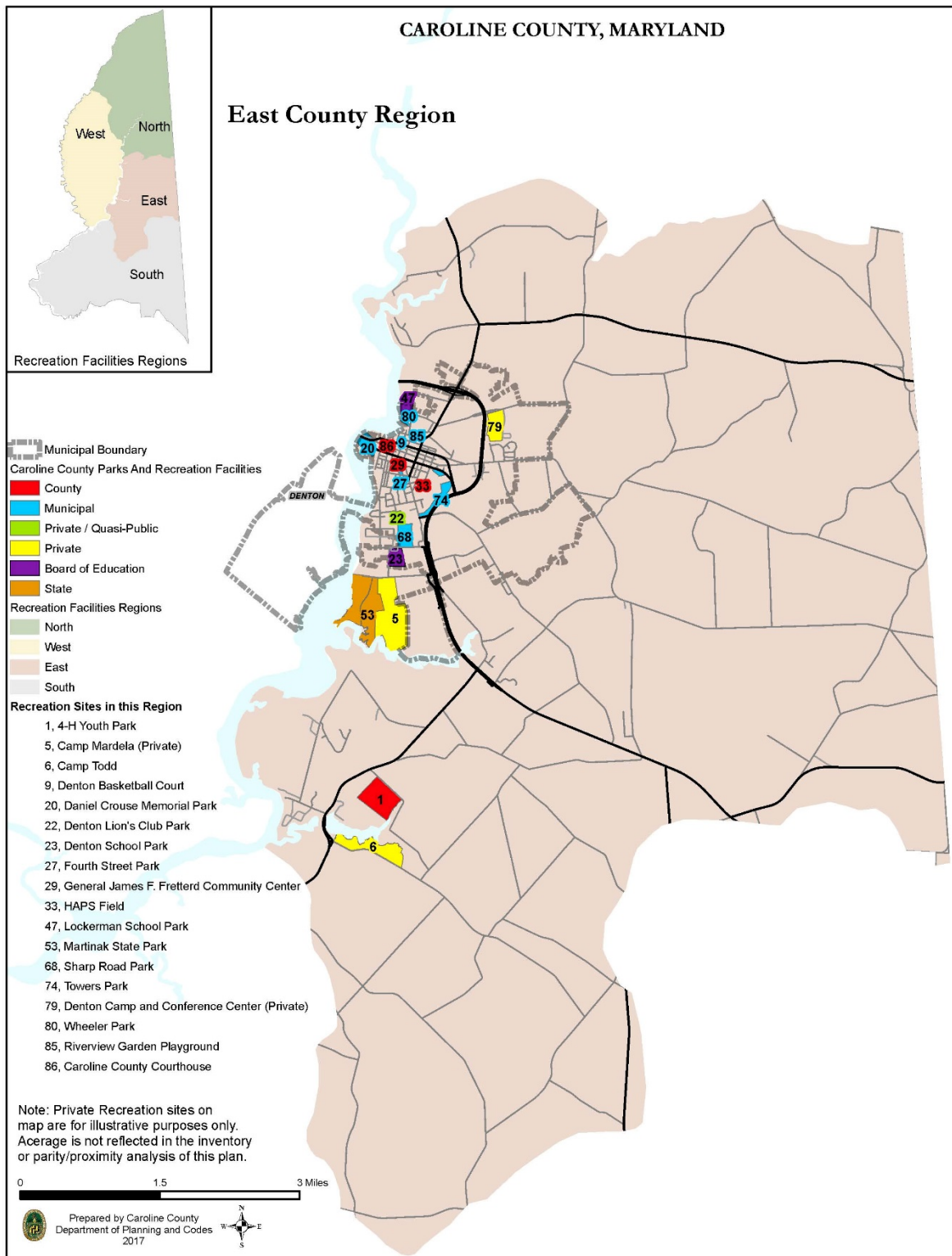
**Map III-1 Parks and Recreation Sites in Caroline County**



**Map III-1a. Parks and Recreation Sites in Northern Caroline County**

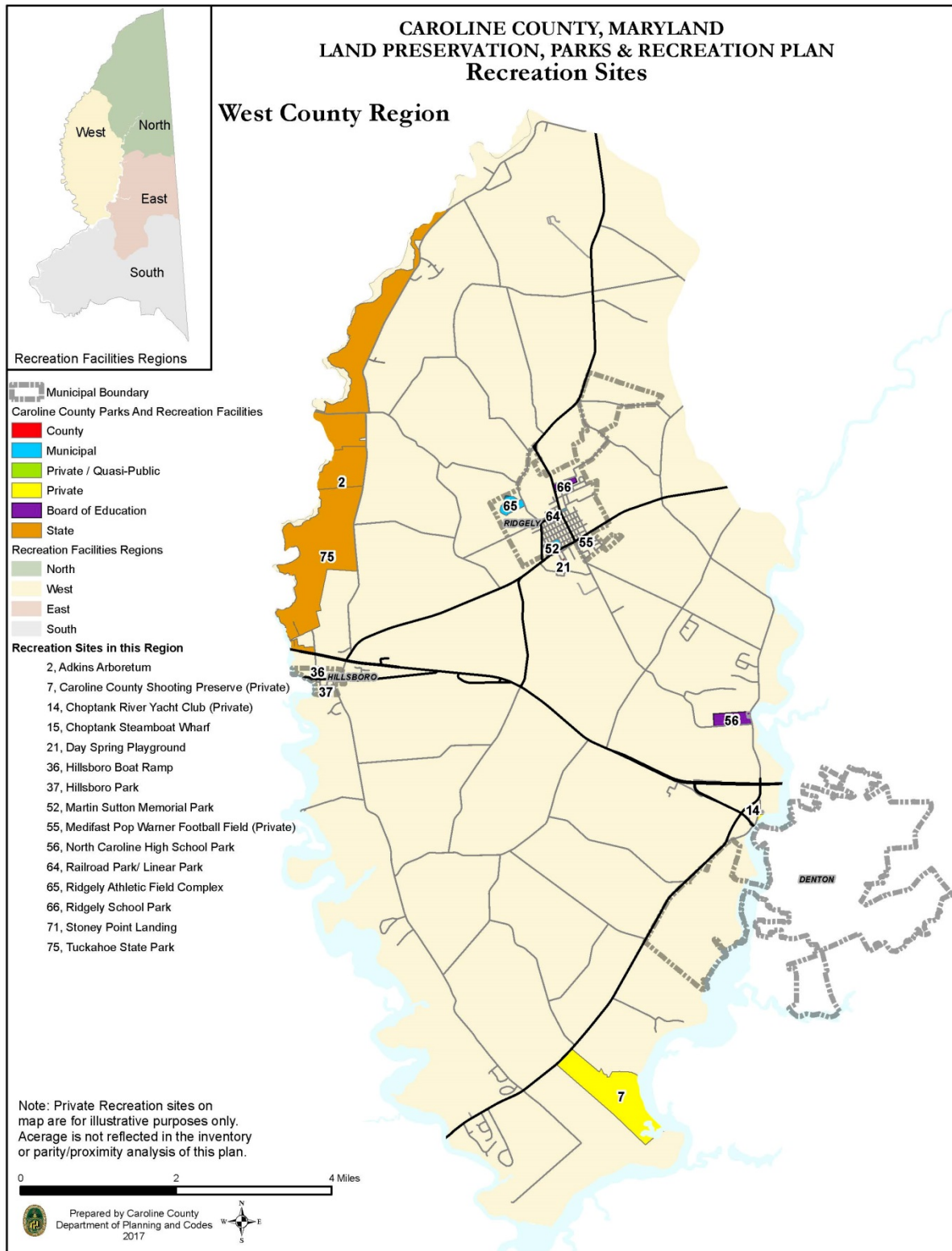


**Map III-1b. Parks and Recreation Sites in Eastern Caroline County**

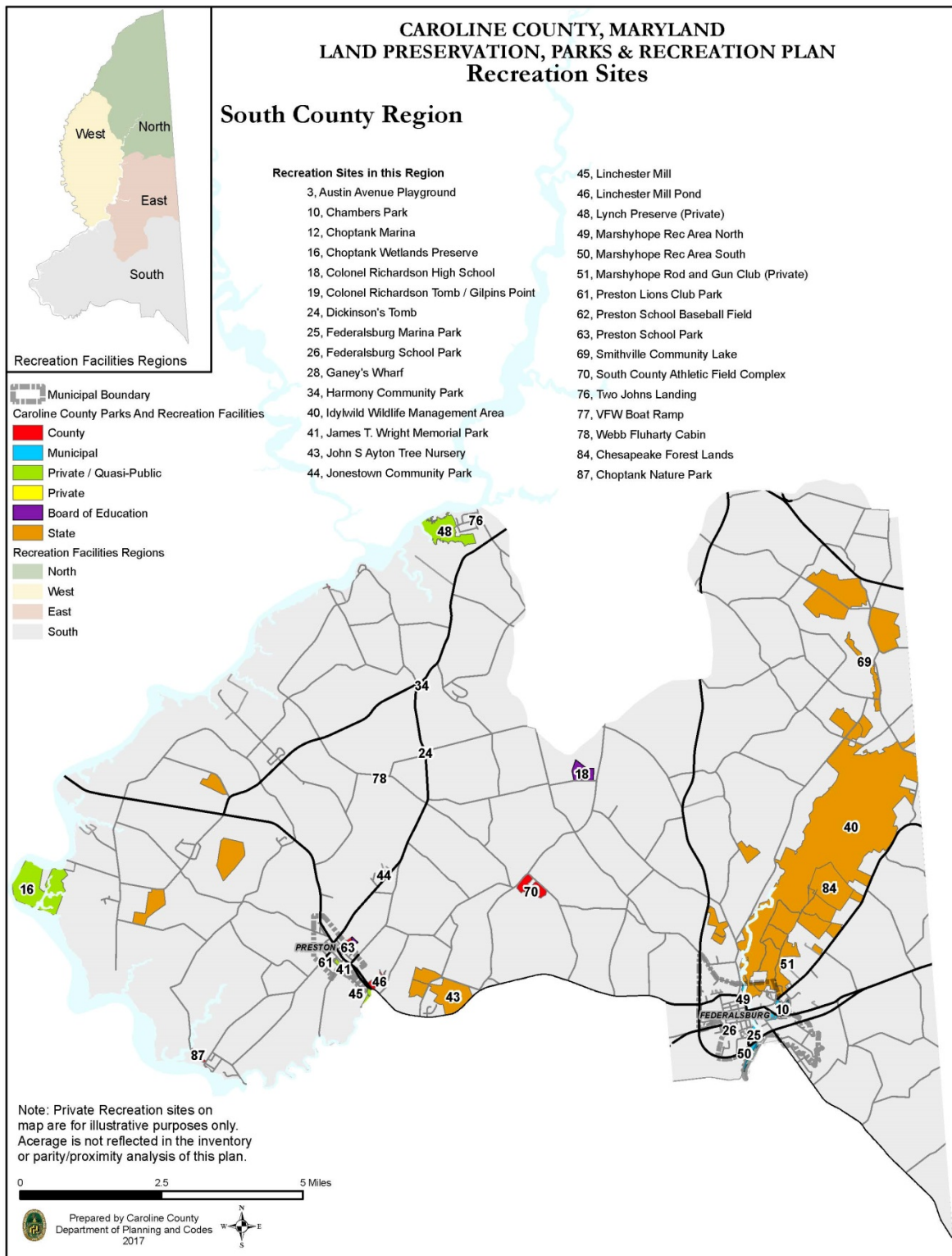




**Map III-1c. Parks and Recreation Sites in Western Caroline County**



Map III-1d. Parks and Recreation Sites in Southern Caroline County



## **E. County Implementation Program**

This section describes the framework in which Caroline County plans, acquires, develops, and operates recreation and parks facilities and open space, including sources of funding.

### **1. Organizational Structure**

#### ***a. Recreation and Parks Advisory Board***

The Caroline County Board of Commissioners appoints a 14-member board to work in an advisory role with the Department of Recreation and Parks on recreation and park-related issues in the County. The Advisory Board provides policy recommendations and serves as a community advocate for the Department.

#### ***b. Department of Recreation and Parks***

The Caroline County Department of Recreation and Parks is the largest parks and recreation provider and coordinator in the County. The Department has ten full-time employees, and is divided into three divisions: (1) Program Services, (2) Parks and Capital Projects, and (3) Administration.

The Director of Recreation and Parks oversees the Department and functions as the liaison between the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, the County Commissioners, and Department staff.

The Parks and Capital Projects Division manages the diverse system of County parks, public grounds, and community centers: playgrounds, a marina, public boat ramps, irrigated athletic fields and related facilities, historic sites, and natural resource areas. Division efforts are synchronized with the Department of Public Works for capital projects and emergency weather response, and with the Department of Corrections for maintenance

labor via inmate work-release programs. The Division Chief coordinates capital projects for the Department and serves as a professional resource for park management issues for local municipalities and non-profit groups.

The Program Services Division operates recreation, special event, and enrichment activities and programs. The services are often produced in partnership with other local government and non-profit organizations. The overwhelming demographic focus of these services is children, youth, and families. Services delivered annually include more than 200 distinct programs, equivalent to 160 hours of programming each week.

Programs include a comprehensive afterschool program called the Lifelong Learning Center, delivered 25 weeks each year at four of the eleven public schools. Delivered in partnership with Caroline County Public Schools, the Lifelong Learning Center relies extensively on outside grant funding. In FY 2017, these programs are projected to serve more than 300 students each day. The Department also provides annual summer learning opportunities to more than 400 elementary age youth.

Division services also include sports, wellness, and general interest programs for youth and adults. Examples include sports leagues, club level sports (gymnastics, wrestling, and karate), art classes and dance programs. The Division's special event component includes County-wide events (i.e. Caroline Summerfest) and smaller events with a more local appeal (Fun Runs, Trips & Tours, holiday-themed events, etc.). In addition, the Division offers music, theatre, and other entertainment performances in collaboration with a local arts council and library system. Collectively, these services attract approximately 19,000 attendees each year.

The Department's web site (<http://www.carolinerecreation.org/>) and publications provide information about the activities offered and the inventory of facilities. The Department produces a program guide that describes upcoming events and programs three times per year. The program guide includes program service offerings from organizational partners such as the Caroline County Public Library, Caroline County Council of Arts, and County-based State Parks, thereby serving as a comprehensive seasonal resource for recreation programs.

A significant portion of the Program Services Division's programs are self-sustaining, and do not rely on County general funds. Funding sources for these services include registration fees, sponsorships, competitive grants, and donations. Many of the programs rely heavily on volunteer leaders.

### ***c. Incorporated Towns***

Incorporated towns play an important role in providing recreation services for County residents. Approximately 40 percent of the publicly-owned recreation land in the County lies within the incorporated towns. The towns serve as the point of contact for the public for seven municipal parks in Federalsburg, Denton, Ridgely, Greensboro, and Preston. The larger towns generally perform maintenance on parks within their boundaries, while smaller towns maintain parks through volunteer work or contractors. The Department provides maintenance services for a limited number of facilities that were originally developed by the County and that are now within incorporated town limits, including the Henderson Community Park and Cedar Lane Park.

### ***d. Other County, State, and Non-Governmental Organizations***

The Department works closely with other County agencies, private organizations,

individuals and State agencies to provide recreation programs and maintain facilities. Key partnerships that the Department must coordinate are:

- Collaboration with the County Department of Public Works on capital reconstruction projects at established parks and facilities.
- Utilization of gym and classroom facilities inside the County's public schools, as well as athletic fields on school grounds, per the terms of a formal Joint Use Agreement between the Board of Education and the Department.
- Partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to offer recreational programs at Martinak State Park and Tuckahoe State Park.
- Partnership with local community organizations such as the Greensboro and Preston Lions' Club to improve and expand existing park facilities, and with local churches to provide space for indoor programs.
- Coordination with many residents who serve as volunteer mentors, coaches, and instructors in youth-oriented programs.
- Partnership to provide several programs for YMCA members and the general public, through the YMCA of the Chesapeake, which operates a family wellness and fitness facility in the Town of Denton.

## **2. Funding**

There are two aspects of funding for recreation and parks: the operating budget and the capital budget.

The Department of Recreation and Parks' Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Operating Budget is approximately \$930,460, equivalent to 3% of the County's non-educational budget. The Department manages an additional \$877,686 in enterprise accounts, which includes fees

generated from programs and services, as well as grants.

Funding for capital improvements is less predictable. County general fund “pay-go” appropriations for capital projects in parks varies from year to year. In FY17, the appropriation was only \$17,000. The County leverages these very limited funds from its general tax revenues by combining these with State grant sources consistent with a comprehensive five-year capital plan.

Program Open Space (POS) and the Waterway Improvement Program are the primary funding sources for acquisition and development of recreation space for the County. Table III-4 shows the County’s annual POS and Waterway Improvement Program apportionments since 2006. The Department of Recreation and Parks Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for FY16 to FY22 includes 31 projects at a cost of approximately \$4.7 M, or an average of \$783,000 per year. These funds are budgeted to come from POS (approximately 50% of the funding), the Waterway Improvement Program (30%), and County general funds and grants (the remaining 20% of funding).

The County assists its municipalities in applying for funds from the Community Parks and Playgrounds program, a competitive State grant program that provides funds for development, improvement, or expansion of municipal parks. The towns of Marydel, Goldsboro, Ridgely, Greensboro, Denton, Preston and Federalsburg have received grants through this program in the past five years.

The County has also leveraged local POS funds directly in support of specific municipal park projects. Recent examples include the Sharp Road multipurpose field in Denton, Marydel Community Park, and Ober Park playground renovation in Greensboro.

The County’s (CIP), guided by the LPPRP, establishes priorities for spending, guiding decision-makers in utilizing available funds and preparing grant applications. However, the County and State funds combined are clearly not approaching the level needed for full implementation. County revenues are limited by the rural character that is prized by County residents. The County is rich in agricultural and forest lands that do not generate the tax revenue of developed land, while the generally modest income levels of County households (relative to other jurisdictions and the State) limit income tax revenues.

In addition to the limited County revenues, the POS and Waterway Improvement Program funds are uncertain. The County must submit an Annual Program Plan to the State each year. Although the level of funding is set in Maryland Law, the real estate transfer taxes that fund POS have been deferred in previous Maryland Legislative sessions to address State budget shortfalls. POS allocations have not followed the allocation formula established in the law for 10 years. Waterway Improvement Funds are sourced to boating excise tax revenues; as the market economy for boat construction and sales industry shifts in and out of Maryland, the revenue levels available for grants vary.

Since 2008, the Recreation and Parks Department has worked at “doing more with less,” finding operational efficiencies wherever possible. While this method of operating will continue, added efficiencies are unlikely to be found. New parks cannot be added without staff capacity to maintain, repair and manage. New programs may use the invaluable resources of volunteer teachers and coaches, but they still require staff to organize, publicize, recruit, train and maintain quality.

A key emphasis of this LPPRP is the need to ensure adequate organizational capacity (staff) to manage park facilities and programs.



**Table III-4. Caroline County POS and Waterway Improvement Program Apportionments, FY 2006-2017**

Year	POS Apportionment	Waterway Improvement Fund Apportionment
2006	\$220,257	\$112,000
2007	\$555,846	\$99,000
2008	\$369,031	\$588,000
2009	\$86,697	\$124,000
2010	\$32,558	\$50,000
2011	\$196,323	\$50,000
2012	\$92,446	0
2013	\$171,137	\$10,000
2014	\$88,438	\$50,000
2015	\$111,438	\$50,000
2016	\$175,050	0
2017	\$112,145	\$96,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,099,928</b>	<b>1,239,000</b>

### 3. Land Use Management Authority

Under the County's subdivision regulations (§ 162-36), major subdivisions (those creating five or more lots) must provide recreational or open space area equal to five percent of the subdivision, in lots or areas of not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre. The Planning Commission may require the dedication of a reasonable recreational or open space area beyond the minimum requirements based on the character of the site, surrounding area, or the nature of the proposed development. If the County does not accept dedication of this land, it is owned by a homeowner's association. A fee in lieu of dedication may be paid if both the County and the subdivider agree. Also, if the County and subdivider agree, the subdivider may provide to the County in-kind services and/or products at least equal in dollar value to the required fee in lieu, at a site determined by the County.

These requirements provide some limited funds (through the fee-in-lieu option) but are not likely to result in significant contributions to public recreation in the County. The Department's experience indicates that the acreage requirements described above often lead to dedication of land areas that are too small to

provide usable open space, or are in areas where potential to develop public recreation facilities is limited. Subdivision activity in the County is also very limited.

Greater potential to add to park land exists in the towns, the areas designated to receive most of the anticipated residential growth. If the County can collaborate with the towns to improve municipal subdivision regulations governing provision of municipal park land and pedestrian pathways, these standards could increase the supply and distribution of park land throughout the County.

## F. Analysis of Need

This section examines park land and recreational facility needs in the County using seven sources of information:

- Community input: survey and focus groups.
- Recreation and Parks staff input.
- State surveys and priorities.
- National trends.
- Proximity analysis: determining whether parks and recreation facilities are distributed throughout the County so that all residents have reasonably convenient access.
- Park equity analysis. Closely related to the proximity analysis, an evaluation of the availability of parks and recreation facilities in geographic areas with higher concentrations of population, children, seniors and low income residents.
- The recreation and open space acreage goal of 30 acres per 1,000 residents historically used by Maryland Department of Planning.

## 1. County Trends and Surveys

Caroline County conducted a local survey and focus group meetings to understand public opinions and ideas related to recreational programs and facilities.

Additional information on recreation and park demand was provided through the 2017 LPPRP public participation process, including input from the County staff, Recreation and Parks Advisory Board members, and recreation providers regarding the supply, acreage, location, and need for facilities. Refer to Appendix for a complete description of these meetings.

### *a. Local Survey*

In August, 2016, the County conducted an online survey about recreation programs and parks using the SurveyMonkey website. The link to the survey was distributed through Recreation and Parks and Caroline County Government Facebook pages. There were many additional shares of the link.

The survey received 653 total responses, including 560 from Caroline County zip codes and 93 from zip codes outside the County. The largest number of responses, 37 percent of the total, were from the 21629 zip code (Denton area), followed by 21639 (Greensboro area) and 21655 (Preston area). Ridgely and Federalsburg also had a significant number of responses.

Noteworthy results include:

- The proportion of responders using certain facilities or programs:
  - Parks (70%);
  - Special Events (57%);
  - Youth Programs (45%); and
  - Public landings and marinas (36%).
- Smaller proportions reported using preschool programs and adult recreation programs.
- The top uses for parks were (in order of popularity): Walking, Youth Sports, and Family Picnics/Activities. Quiet relaxation and exercise were also selected frequently.
- 87 percent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of programming offered by the Department, while 77 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the variety of programming offered.
- 70 percent of respondents use the printed Program and Activities Guide for news of County Recreation and Parks programs. Other top methods were word of mouth (47%); Facebook (36%), and the Recreation and Parks website (30%).
- In contrast, the internet is more important for registration. 51 percent of respondents registered for programs online, while 33 percent registered by phone or in person (walk-in).
- 79 percent of respondents reported that the condition of County parks was excellent or good. Similarly, 78 percent of those who use public marinas or landings reported that the condition was excellent or good. Most of the remaining respondents put the condition as “fair” with only a few selecting “poor.”

The most common responses to the open-ended question, “Please provide suggestions for new recreation programs you would like to see offered” included (in order of frequency):

1. Adult Programs: Exercise, team sports/leagues (i.e. kickball, dodgeball), dance classes, cooking classes, crafts/hobby classes.
2. Programs for middle school-age youth: sports, camps, drama, music, and dance.
3. Trips and Tours: biking, kayaking, and bus.

There were also multiple requests for more programming in the southern part of the County.

The most common responses to the open-ended question, “What additional facilities/amenities would you like to see in our parks?” included:

1. Walking/hiking/biking paths & trails.
2. Swimming pools.
3. Dog parks.
4. Multipurpose fields.
5. Recreation center/facility with gymnasium.

### ***b. Resident Focus Groups***

In April, 2016, BEACON<sup>3</sup> conducted two stakeholder focus groups on behalf of the Department with a total of 21 participants.

Broad program ideas generated by the focus groups included increasing visibility and outreach, maximizing the use of existing assets, improving public health, incorporating technology, and reaching all population groups.

Specific program ideas included hosting youth sports tournaments, adding revenue-producing events (bicycle races and 5k foot races), developing a more robust website with online registration/payment, a “Pay it Forward” initiative—where individuals attend programs for free but volunteer in the future—and additional craft/hobby programs.

Out of the five listed priorities, the groups ranked “Increase utilization” as the top priority for the next five years. The second priority was split between improving the quality of facilities and adding new programs. Slightly lower priority was given to adding new facilities and organizing new events.

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<sup>3</sup> BEACON is the Business Economic and Community Outreach Network of the Franklin P. Perdue School of Business at Salisbury University

### ***c. Advisory Board***

The LPPRP has been an agenda feature of the County Commissioner-appointed citizen Advisory Board for Recreation and Parks starting in September 2015 and in all subsequent meetings in 2016. These work sessions and general meeting discussions yielded similar themes and objectives reflected in previous sections, but they also noted:

- Need to ensure that the date the County is using to reflect current public demand is current. (Specifically, the Board recommended that the plan not use the 2003 study of recreational activity participation rates that was key to the needs analysis in the 2012 LPPRP.)
- Paved court surfaces, particularly for basketball, were perceived by several Board members as a popular and unmet outdoor recreation need, in addition to indoor gymnasiums. The Board recommended that the quality and distribution of basketball courts be investigated, rather than the overall quantity.

### ***c. Staff Observations***

To add a different perspective on priorities for recreation and parks, a focus group consisting of Department staff was held by BEACON on November 2, 2016.

Improving the quality of facilities was given highest priority by this group, while “increase utilization” was given the lowest priority. Other priorities were ranked almost equally.

The apparent contradiction between the residents (prioritizing “increase utilization”) and staff (ranking this as a low priority) is due to a different perspective. The community stakeholders, aware of budget constraints, want to ensure that existing resources are used well. The staff focused on their experience with scheduling indoor space, where a shortage of rooms sometimes limits programs. Staff is also more aware of current shortages of resources -

they noted deficiencies in space available for programs, space available for equipment storage, and staff resources.

Opportunities were seen in continuing to develop partnerships within the community.

Following the focus group, County staff provided their observations and insights during the development of this plan. Their observations include:

- Demand for baseball/softball fields is stable or declining; the supply of fields is adequate.
- Demand for multipurpose fields is strong and growing. Clusters of fields for league play and tournaments are desired. However, staff also noted that a team will reserve a field for many more time slots than they use it, for their convenience. If an actual shortage of fields develops, the County could address it by more rigorous scheduling.
- County staff has observed increased interest in and use of paths and trails in County and municipal parks. Pathways are used as soon as they are completed.
- Demand for boat ramps is strong. These sites are used steadily.
- At times, additional indoor facilities for sports and recreation programs would allow an increase in program offerings. Staff is unable to provide space for all the potential programs or space requests that it receives.
- Program expansion is also limited by the number of staff within the Department. There are facilities not being fully used, but if the Department of Recreation and Parks is to drive the development and partnerships necessary to expand programs, then they need professional staff to plan, recruit and train volunteers.
- Increased travel among competitive youth sports leagues in softball, lacrosse and soccer expose citizens to other public

recreation and park facilities that are larger and more fully developed than in Caroline County. The comparisons that result can be an opportunity for positive change or a destructive judgment of lack and inferiority. As noted above in the discussion on funding, Caroline's rural character does limit the scale of public facilities that are feasible or reasonable.

#### ***d. Trends in County Recreation Program and Facility Utilization***

The County does not compile data on park usage, or on total participants in recreation programs. However, the Department does have data on registrations at certain locations. Many of the recreation programs are held either at schools (after school programs) or at the Armory where the Department's offices are housed. Between 2012 and 2015, even though the County population did not grow, these primarily indoor programs grew significantly, as shown by Table III-5.

## **2. State Surveys**

### ***a. Parks and Programming Survey***

In August, 2014, Goucher College conducted a statewide telephone survey about state parks and programming.

One question asked Marylanders to rate—on a scale of 1 (very unlikely) to 5 (very likely)—how likely they would be to participate in activities offered at the various parks across the State. The percent of respondents likely to participate (a 4 or 5 rating) in various activities was:

- Relaxing: 79 percent
- Visiting Historic Sites: 68 percent
- Hiking or Walking: 67 percent
- Picnicking: 64 percent
- Swimming: 40 percent
- Biking: 36 percent

- Camping: 32 percent
- Fishing: 32 percent
- Canoeing or Kayaking: 30 percent

***b. Economic Impact Study***

A 2010 Maryland State Park Economic Impact Study surveyed approximately 3,400 Maryland

State park visitors, including visitors to Tuckahoe and Martinak State Parks. Respondents at the time ranked hiking/walking as the most popular activity in the State parks, followed by general relaxation, swimming, sightseeing, and picnicking/cooking out.

**Table III-5. Participation in County Recreation Programs, 2012-2015**

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of recreation programs	150	208	205	224
Number of programs at the Armory	27	58	76	59
Number of registered participants at the Armory	470	585	721	800
Number of programs at schools	74	78	71	90
Number of registered participants at schools	1567	1619	1802	2288



The study demonstrated the substantial economic benefit of state parks by gathering data on spending by park visitors within the communities outside the park. Seventy percent of spending impacts were found to be concentrated within a 20-minute drive of parks. Statewide, the average daily spending outside of the park was \$37 per person for day visitors and \$53 per person for overnight visitors. Although County-specific information was not provided, some of the data are reported by region: eastern (including Caroline County), western, central and southern. The eastern region survey results indicated the highest daily spending levels there of the four regions: \$82 per person for day visitors and \$61 per person for overnight spending.

### ***c. Children in Nature***

The State's "Children in Nature" initiative began in 2008, through a partnership of several State and private agencies, including the Maryland Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Natural Resources. The goals of the initiative are to connect children, families and communities with nature, and to achieve these goals within underserved communities. The partnership's 2016-17 Action Plan includes objectives of strengthening the partnerships between schools, educators, and parks; increasing the number of State and local park visits by students and school groups; and ensuring that parks provide the opportunity for informal play and interaction with natural elements.

Through its afterschool program, CCRP provides a variety of opportunities for students to engage with nature in parks and open space throughout the County. Students participate in tree plantings, creation of bio retention area and water quality project in the parks. Both CCRP and the State Parks provide camps and other programming opportunities for children to interact with nature while they socialize and learn. Municipal parks developed in the past

several years with Community Parks and Playground funds incorporate natural play areas.

### **3. National Trends in Organized Sports**

The Sports and Fitness Industry Association reported that nationwide, from 2009 through 2014, there was a 9 percent drop in the number of children and youth participating in sports<sup>4</sup>. Sports showing declines included field hockey, football, wrestling, soccer, track-and-field, court volleyball, and slow pitch softball. Some sports saw increased participation, including gymnastics, lacrosse, rugby, beach volleyball, fast pitch softball, and ice hockey. Basketball remains the most popular team sport.

Citing the same report from SFIA, the 2016 report "State of Play" from the Aspen Institute notes that declines in participation were lower among youth from families with higher income. Children from higher income families are more likely to be active in sports, especially for youth ages 13-17. The report states that, "In today's youth sports landscape, those who have the greatest opportunity to continue playing into adolescence are those who can afford the club teams, training, and equipment required to advance through the system or even play in high school, many of which provide sport opportunities for only the better athletes."

Echoing this finding, a 2004 study cited in Social Issues in Sports<sup>5</sup> found that team sport participation peaks at age 11, and many participants drop out of the sports programs before high school. Possible causes cited include the stress on high performance that translates into longer hours of practice and greater

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<sup>4</sup> Sports and Fitness Industry Association, Sports, Leisure and Fitness Activities Topline Participation Report, 2015, cited at [www.engagesports.com](http://www.engagesports.com)

<sup>5</sup> Ronald B. Woods, PhD, *Social Issues in Sport*, Third Edition, 2016

specialization in one sport; expenses for training, traveling teams, sports camps, and equipment; injuries; lack of training for youth coaches; and earlier starts in youth sports, leading to boredom with a sport after several years.

The strategies espoused by the Aspen Institute report, including “Encourage sport sampling,” and “Revitalize in-town leagues,” are relevant to the County Recreation and Parks program. Local recreational sports leagues can be a strong asset in raising healthy, fit children and youth. The report cites and encourages partnerships to strengthen local leagues, including partnerships with schools and organizations such as the YMCA, as well as professional sports industries investing in local recreation facilities.

#### 4. Proximity Analysis

This section evaluates the extent to which residents in all areas of Caroline County have access to parks and recreation facilities. It examines whether parks and recreation facilities are concentrated in a few areas of the County or in a few towns, and whether the facilities support the County’s land use policies.

Maps III-2, III-3 and III-4 show the location of three types of park facilities that are popular within the County and that are important in providing access to nature and access to recreational sports leagues. A ten-mile radius is shown around each location. Maps III-2 and III-3 show multipurpose fields and trails, the amenities that per the August 2016 survey are the most frequently used. Map III-4 shows locations of shoreline access or boat ramps, features that are important to enhance appreciation of nature and of the County’s natural environment. These maps, in conjunction with Maps III-1a-d above, illustrate that the County has a well-distributed system of park land.

In Caroline County, most residents expect to drive to parks and recreation facilities, including many facilities in towns. Maps III-2, 3, and 4 indicate that all areas of the County are within ten miles (approximately a 15-minute drive) of these facilities. This is a more reasonable distance to use for Caroline County, given its very low density rural areas and uncongested roads, than the five-mile radius sometimes recommended for community parks.

The maps also show how important recent park acquisitions and development are. The northern portion of the County would not be conveniently close to athletic fields or trails without Marydel Park, developed since the 2012 LPPRP, and the North County Regional Park, purchased but not yet developed. Water access is, by its nature, less evenly distributed, but readily available.

Pedestrian access to local parks is very important within the municipalities. Maps III-1a-through III-1d show that each town has neighborhood parks - and often community parks - accessible by walking. Access within Denton and Federalsburg is addressed in more detail in the next section on Park Equity.

Maps III-1a through III-1d, which show park and recreation facilities by type, lead to the following observations:

- Regional facilities: The recently acquired 200-acre northern regional park site will provide an important addition to the County’s park system. It will provide a northern location for athletic leagues and recreation to complement the South County Regional Park.
- Community parks: The five community parks are well-distributed: Marydel is in northern Caroline County; Chambers Park is in Federalsburg in southeastern Caroline County; Sharp Road Park is centrally located in Denton; and two parks are in

Ridgely in western Caroline County (the Ridgely Athletic Field Complex and Martin Sutton Park). Martin Sutton Park provides varied recreational opportunities, while Ridgely provides athletic fields in a location convenient for western County residents.

- Neighborhood parks are located throughout the County. Water access points are also well distributed along the County's major waterways, providing access to Tuckahoe Creek, Tuckahoe Lake, the Choptank River, Marshyhope Creek and smaller streams.
- Parks are appropriately concentrated within the incorporated municipalities, in proximity to the largest share of population. The four community parks and 14 out of 18 neighborhood parks are located within the municipal boundaries. The new North County Regional Park is adjacent to Greensboro. This concentration within or near municipalities also corresponds to the County's growth policies, which call for public services to be provided in these centers of population. Park land outside of the towns is suitable for rural areas and approximately equally accessible by all County residents: large state parks and privately preserved resource areas, water access locations, privately-owned camps, and the 4H agricultural park.

The County's joint use of County school sites for recreation provides well-distributed athletic fields and indoor space for recreation programs throughout the County.

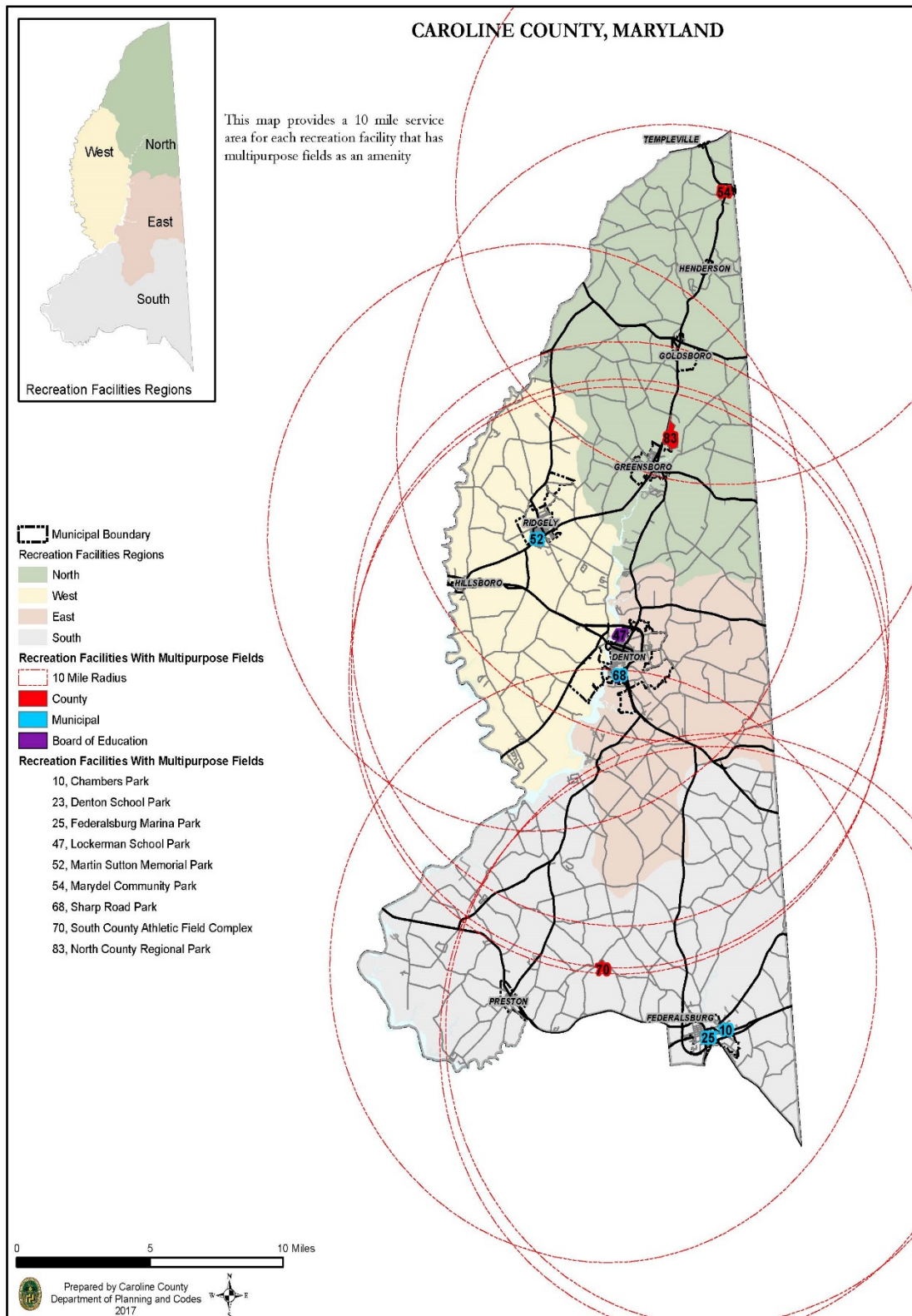
### **Proximity Analysis Maps**

Maps III-2, III-3 and III-4 on the next 3 pages visually represent the proximity analysis performed for this LPPRP. The maps show a 10-mile radius around each park in the County that provides multipurpose fields (Map III-2), trails (Map III-3) and water access (Map III-4).

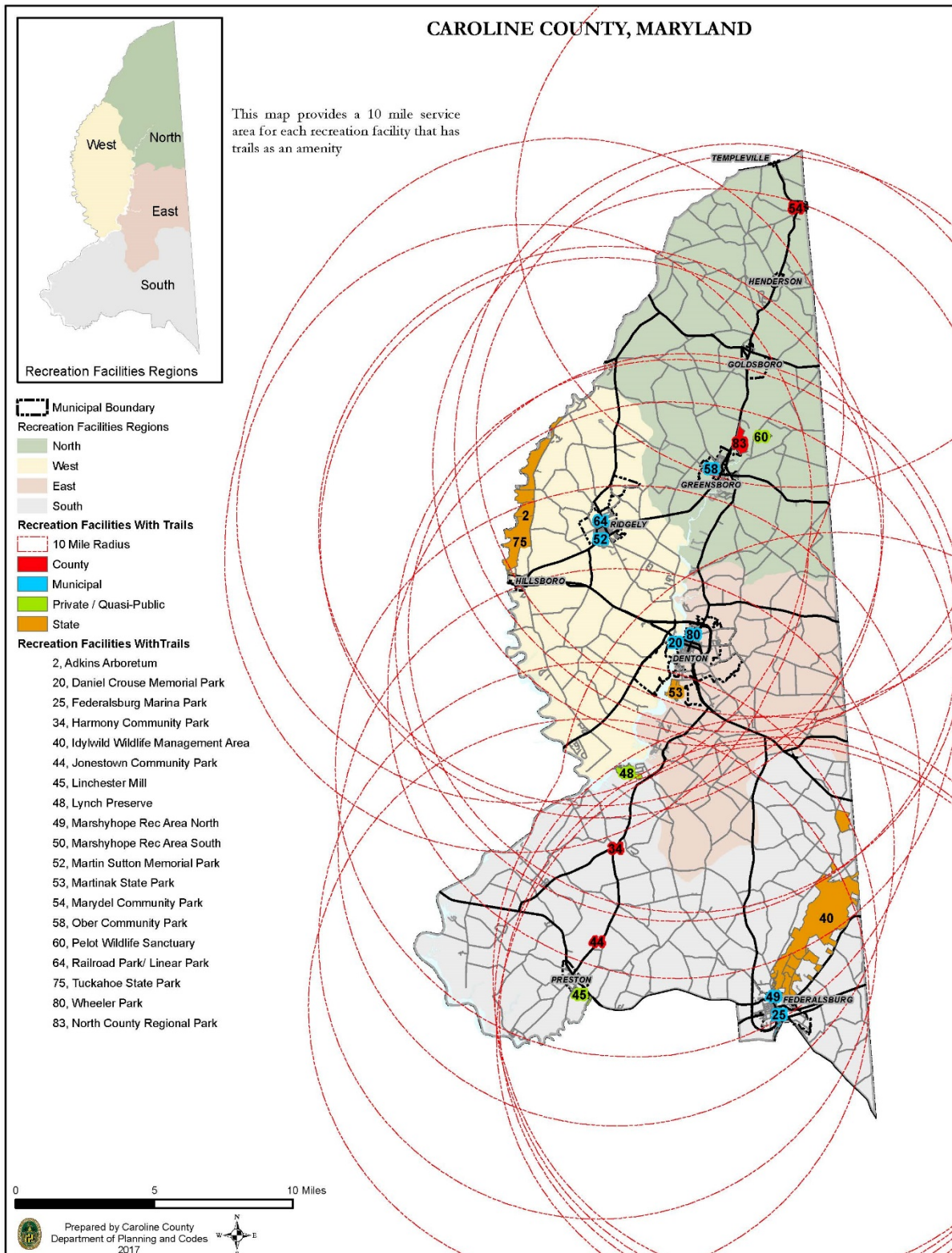
The 10-mile radius was chosen based on a recent national survey of consumers that demonstrated people in general will drive up to 20 minutes for their everyday purchases and that time is a better indicator than distance of accessibility. "Travel time is a more universal metric, and allows for fair comparison of urban, suburban and rural retail environment. ([www2.accessdevelopment.com/consumer+\\_proximity\\_study](http://www2.accessdevelopment.com/consumer+_proximity_study))

These are working maps produced for analysis of the County's recreation and open space network. The maps demonstrate that the three types of facilities, selected due to their high demand, are reasonably accessible to all county residents based on the distance criterion.

**Map III-2. Areas within Ten Miles of Recreation Facilities with Multipurpose Fields**

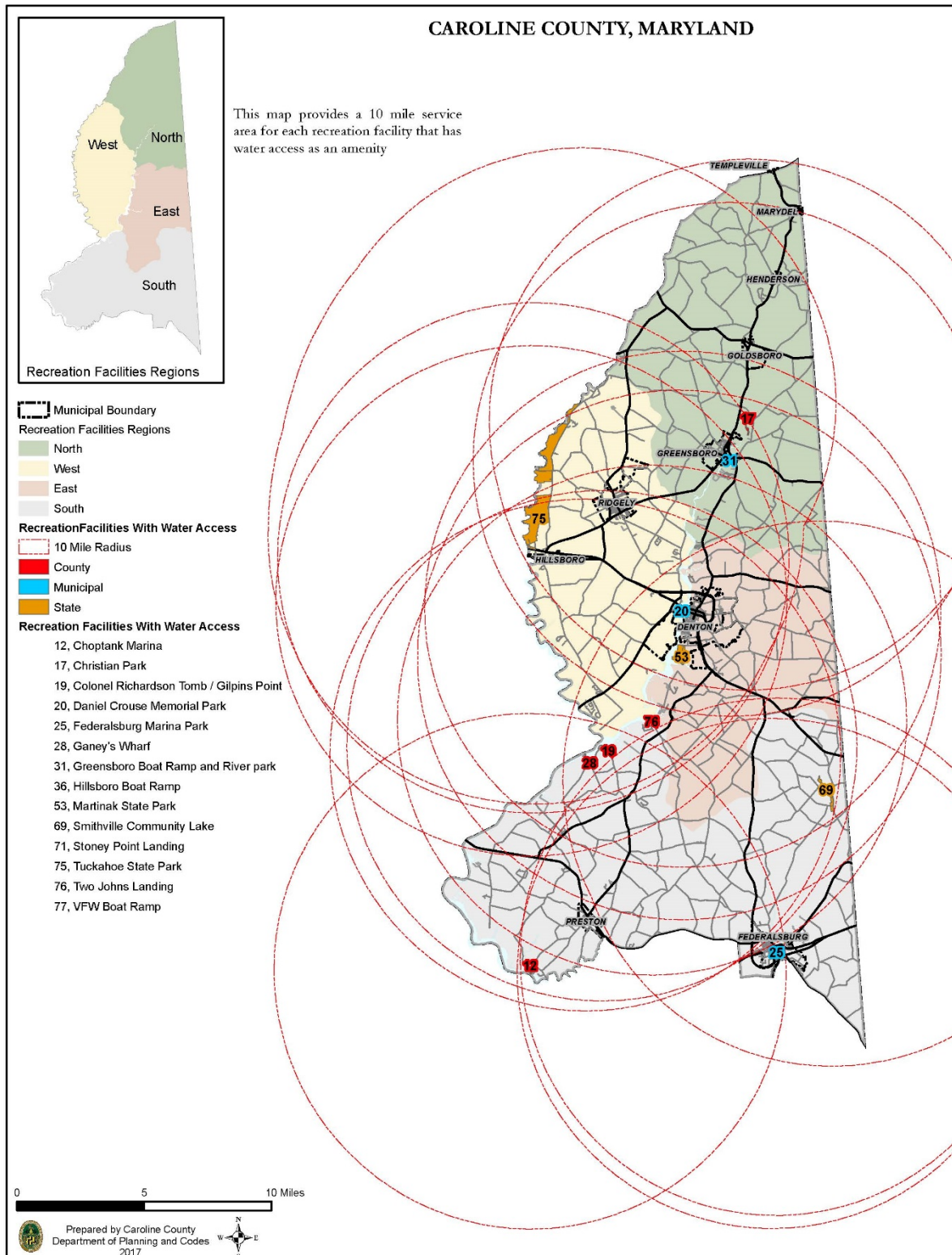


**Map III-3. Areas within Ten Miles of Recreation Facilities with Trails**





**Map III-4. Areas within Ten Miles of Recreation Facilities with Water Access**



## 5. Park Equity Analysis

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has provided a tool to assist in the evaluation of park land needs. The “Park Equity Analysis” uses Census data in conjunction with mapped GIS layers showing state and local parks to prioritize park land needs based on four factors:

- Concentration of children under age 17;
- Concentration of older adults;
- Concentration of the population with incomes below the poverty threshold; and
- Population density.

The results of the analysis draw attention to Denton and Federalsburg, which are listed as “High Need Areas” for recreation facilities.

Attention needs to be given to the location of parks in these two towns and their accessibility to residents on foot. On Maps III-5 and III-6, a half-mile radius is shown around the parks in these two towns as a means of measuring pedestrian accessibility. Observations based on this analysis are given below.

### ***a. Denton***

Denton lacks public parks in the growth area on the east side of MD Route 404; however, the subdivisions in northeast Denton have community open space and recreation areas.

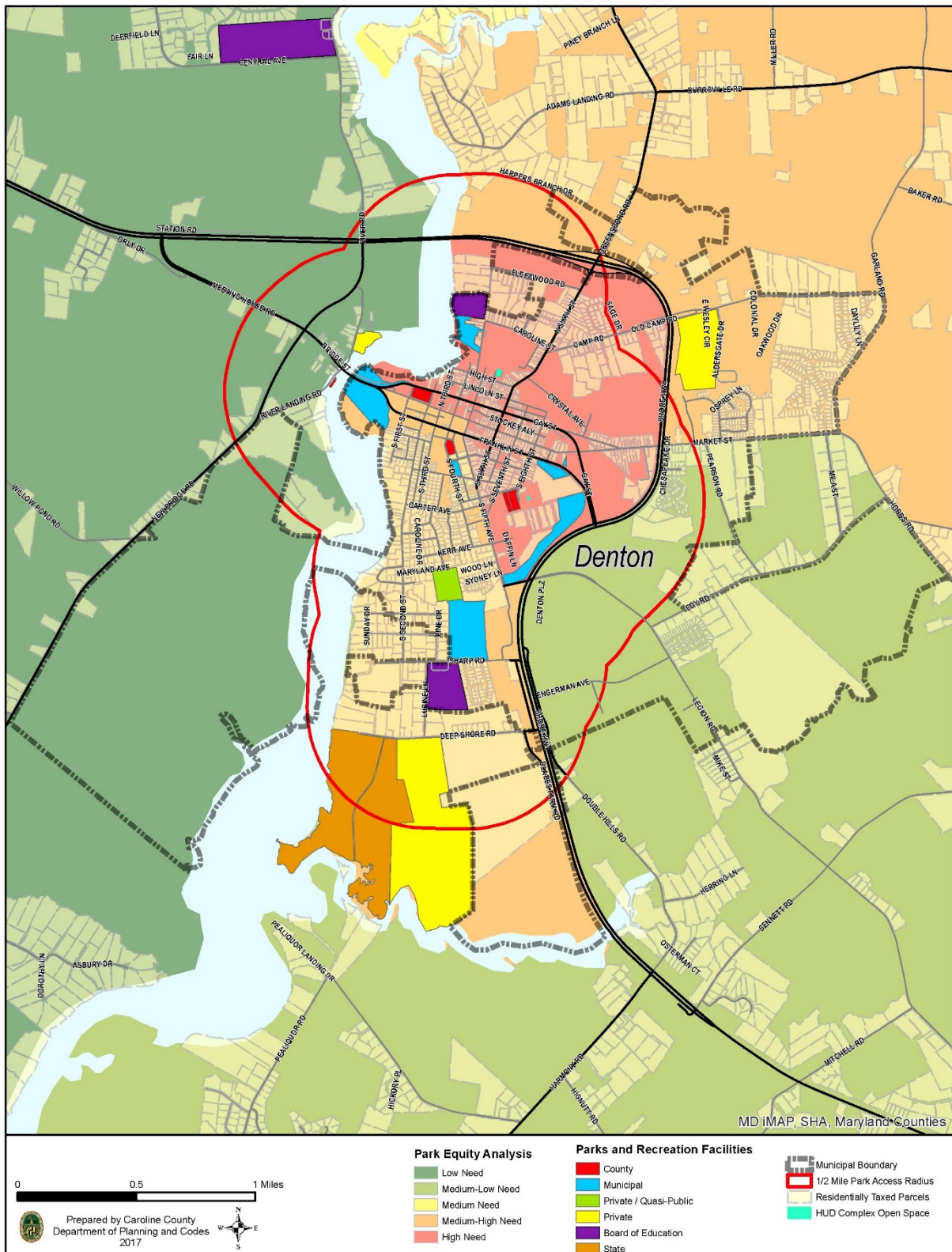
Should additional subdivisions develop east of Route 404, a neighborhood park would be

beneficial in this area. Effective use of subdivision open space could address the need. Current trends in new residential development do not indicate that there will be a large growth in the need in this area over the next 5 – 10 years.

Public recreation facilities in northwest Denton are limited in scope. The density of population and presence of subsidized housing make pedestrian access to recreation facilities important for this area.

- Wheeler Park provides convenient public access for northwest Denton, but includes only very limited facilities - tennis courts and perimeter trails. Although it has river views, the steep banks here preclude river access.
- Adjacent to Wheeler Park is Lockerman Middle School. Outdoor facilities include a multipurpose field, a cinder ¼ mile track, and lighted senior league baseball field.
- A small public site with an outdoor basketball court next to the Denton Police Department receives heavy use.
- A heavily used neighborhood park near the County’s Fretterd Community Center is the Fourth Street Park with a playground and tennis court facilities. The two large subsidized housing developments, one in northeast Denton and one in northwest Denton also have small open spaces/playgrounds.

**Map III-5. DNR Park Equity Results for Denton** Replace map with workforce housing and private subdivision park asset amenity locations.



- Park land with more varied facilities - playgrounds, baseball fields and trails - are in southern Denton and include the Sharp Road Park, Lions Club Park and Denton Elementary complex. Pedestrian access from the north Denton neighborhoods is possible but not convenient.

Crouse Memorial Park in west-central Denton provides a significant waterfront park with pedestrian access across the Upper Choptank River. Plans for this key resource include an indoor meeting facility suitable for small events with a tourism welcome center.

The County should work with the town on recreation needs for Denton. Particular attention should be given to the growth areas east of MD 404 and the need for more varied, pedestrian-accessible facilities in northwest Denton.

#### ***b. Federalsburg***

Federalsburg has a well-developed system of parks and open space with excellent pedestrian access throughout the town. The key natural feature, Marshyhope Creek, divides the town but is spanned by a pedestrian bridge at the Marina Park (southern Federalsburg) and sidewalks along MD Route 306 (Central Avenue).

Federalsburg Marina Park is a full service, well-used community park. The town's other major park, Chambers Park in eastern Federalsburg, also has varied facilities but needs comprehensive rehabilitation, as reflected in the priority project listing in Section III.G.

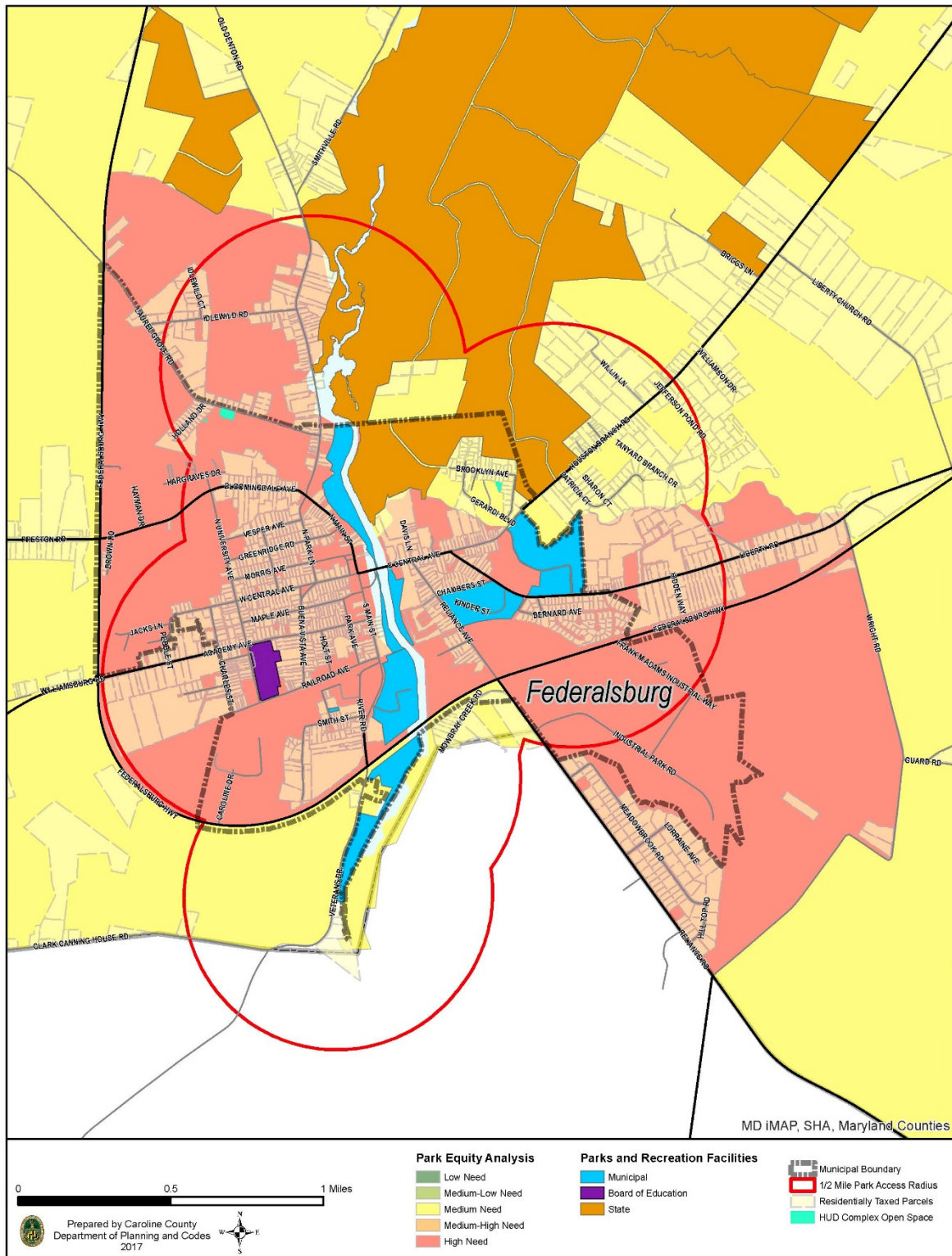
The greenway along the Marshyhope is well developed, with portions owned and maintained by the town and the State. Pathways are available along much of the shoreline within Federalsburg and nearby. Although Federalsburg is a high need area based on the DNR Equity Model, the town has a well-developed park and greenway system with convenient pedestrian access for town residents. Continued priority should be given to maintaining the parks, moving forward with the improvements to Chambers Park and completing the trail system within public lands along Marshyhope Creek.

In addition, the high need area in the northeast part of Federalsburg is the location of a subsidized housing complex with its own open space and playground. There is also a subsidized housing complex in the central/northwest part of the town identified as high need. It has its own open space/playground area as well.



### Map III-6. DNR Park Equity Results for Federalsburg

Replace map with Workforce Housing open space dedication and park assets.





## 6. Analysis of Acreage per Population

For many years, the state applied a benchmark of one acre per 1,000 residents to determine whether jurisdictions throughout the state were reaching the goal for recreation/open space land acquisition. Caroline County in past LPPRPs found that this goal as applied to strictly recreational land was excessive for the County's needs. While this goal is no longer given the weight it had in the past, it remains a useful comparison to other jurisdictions in the State.

Table III-6 illustrates that the County has reached the goal of 30 acres per 1,000 residents and is projected to continue to meet that goal for the next 10 years without acquiring additional land.

In determining that the County has met this acreage goal, the analysis in Table III-6 is conservative, only including County and municipal parks and private nonprofit parks that are open to the public. One-third of the County's resource land is also included in the formula as it is partially developed and the public can utilize it for walking, hiking, birding and so forth. In addition, one-third of the parkland at Martinak and Tuckahoe State Parks is included in the acreage. Although all of the land in these state parks is recreation land, it was not deemed reasonable to include such a large acreage of land limited to passive recreation in this analysis.

**Table III-6. Analysis of Caroline County Recreation and Open Space Acreage Goal**

Year	Current/ Projected Population	Recreation and Open Space Acreage Goal (30 acres per 1,000 population)	County and Town Recreation Land (1)	County and Town Natural Resources Land (2)	Applicable State and Federal Land (3)	Total	Acreage Required to Meet Goal
2015	32,579	977	536	125	496	1,157	(180)
2020	36,050	1,082	536	125	496	1,157	(75)
2025	38,250	1,148	536	125	496	1,157	(9)
2030	40,450	1,214	536	125	496	1,157	56

(1): See Table III-2.

(2): See Table III-2. Acreage listed is 1/3 of local resource land (376 acres).

(3): See Table III-2. Acreage listed is 1/3 of state recreation land (1,487 acres).

## 7. Needs Assessment and Discussion

The following key points emerge from the analyses of need and demand provided in this section.

### *a. User Satisfaction*

County parks and programs are well-used, receive generally high marks from the public, and are an important asset to Caroline County.

Although there are no user surveys specific to state parks in Caroline County, state parks also receive high marks state-wide and are well-used. They benefit County businesses as well as

providing valuable recreational and environmental resources.

### ***b. Land Acquisition Needs***

As shown in Table III-2, the County and towns currently have about 376 acres of “resource land,” undeveloped park land, some of which is suitable for active recreational facilities. The County does not have a current or foreseeable deficit of park land, based on acreage needs for facilities. Where land acquisition needs are evident, as described in Section G, Capital Improvement and Acquisition Priorities, they are based on particular needs or opportunities at specific locations.

Parks and recreation sites are well distributed through the County and towns. The County should focus on facility development and improvement within its existing properties.

### ***c. Program Priorities***

The County, in concert with the towns, should focus on:

- Developing additional adult programs with health and wellness outcomes, and craft/hobby-related programs.
- Promoting healthy activity through programming that engages residents, both children and adults, in activities that get them outside and moving.
- Retaining its elementary youth programs and expanding programs for middle school youth; supporting newer sports that are growing in popularity (such as volleyball, lacrosse and gymnastics), while continuing to support existing, stable programs (baseball, football, soccer)
- Exploring opportunities to host tournaments and travel teams, while continuing to provide affordable recreational leagues available to all youth.

- Seeking opportunities to provide swimming lessons and water safety instructions using available privately-owned swimming pools.

### ***d. Facility Needs***

The County’s recreational facility needs can be separated into primary and secondary priorities. Primary priorities include deficits of specific types of facilities that can be provided within existing park land. Secondary deficits represent longer-term or lower-magnitude deficits, or facilities that are more difficult for the County to fund. The County’s current deficits are:

#### **Primary Deficits**

- Multipurpose fields for team sports; and;
- Walking, hiking, biking trails.

#### **Secondary Deficits**

- Fishing;
- Boating (boat ramps);
- Indoor fitness (gymnasiums);
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Dog Parks; and
- Swimming

Beyond these particular types of facilities, the following facility needs have been identified as priorities:

- Retaining and enhancing park areas for unstructured, outdoor activities such as walking, picnicking and nature appreciation.
- Developing and improving multi-purpose fields with associated service buildings (restrooms, equipment storage, maintenance shop).
- Continuing to emphasize public access to waterfront locations in development of public lands. Long-term projects should include additional boat ramps and locations accessible for fishing. Address both the

interest in pathways and the goal of public access to water by seeking opportunities for paths or boardwalks along publicly owned shorelines.

- Seeking opportunities and partnerships that would allow expansion of the indoor gymnasium capacity and addition of a dog park.
- Continued partnership and investment in rehabilitation and expansion of park assets in municipalities, in response to current and anticipated recreation activity demands.
- Working with the town of Denton on addressing present and future park needs for northwestern Denton and for the eastern growth area.
- Placing high priority on the planned rehabilitation of Chambers Park in Federalsburg.

## **G. Capital Improvement and Acquisition Priorities**

### **1. Capital Projects**

Table III-6 outlines a program for development of parks and recreation facilities, including estimated costs and time frames. A nine-year time frame is included in the listing, with projects identified as short term (2017-2019), mid-range (2020-2022) and long range (2023-2025) and beyond.

The following section of this plan (Section H, Operational Priorities) addresses the capacity of the Department to effectively maintain and operate the park system. These two sections are equally important; capital expansion must be balanced with the capacity to maintain operational, condition and safety standards at all County parks.

### **a. Overview**

In developing the project priorities in Table III-6, consideration was given to:

- County's needs, as discussed above.
- County land use policies. Developing the parks and recreation system in a manner that respects the rural nature of the County, incorporates good environmental stewardship practices and reflects the distinction between growth areas and rural/resource lands.
- Efficiency of recreation service delivery: emphasizing multi-use parks (e.g., adding picnic facilities and pathways to athletic field complexes), providing maintenance and storage facilities for staff; continued joint use of recreation facilities at County schools; expansion of joint use of indoor space (school gymnasiums).

The Parks and Recreation component of the County's CIP lists the County's anticipated recreation-related capital projects through 2023. Where Table III-6 differs from the CIP, based on the analysis completed for this LPPRP, it is anticipated that the LPPRP will guide future CIPs.

The capital project priorities listed in Table III-6 respond to the needs identified in this plan. The list affords the County some flexibility in the number and type of facilities that would be developed, but would directly address the County's recreation facility needs.

The capital project priorities focus first on rehabilitation and improvements that enable existing facilities to be used to their full potential; secondly, on fully developing park land owned by the County and suitable for recreation; and thirdly, on a few focused land acquisitions for new facilities. These priorities

ensure that the County will make full use of existing park resources.

### ***b. Regional Parks***

Phase one of the South County Regional Park has been accomplished. Further development in the short-term includes support and maintenance facilities and expanded ballfields. Development of the new North County Regional Park is the highest priority for master planning and development.

These two parks will satisfy several of the County's specific recreational needs. Specifically, the parks will provide ball fields, multi-purpose fields, trails, playgrounds, and picnic areas. The South County Park provides excellent opportunity for athletic league play. The future North County Park is near Greensboro and provides Choptank River frontage. The County expects the regional parks to become focal points for recreation by their convenient locations relative to the towns and the variety of amenities provided.

### ***b. Trails***

The proposed capital priorities would increase the number of pathways, trails and paths with fitness stations within County regional and community parks.

The list of projects also identifies the opportunity to connect State Parks with nearby population centers through trail systems independent of local roads. Specifically, development of approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of rail right-of-way as a trail could link the Town of Ridgely to the recently expanded trail system in Tuckahoe State Park.

This type of trail development has raised controversy within the County. The County has been unwilling to promote this type of trail development in areas outside of towns and parks.

In the meantime, improving access to and awareness of existing trail networks is an important focus of public resources. The Idylwild WMA has an estimated 17 miles of trails that are currently in useable condition, in addition to several more miles of trails that are in various states of disrepair. The WMA is in a relatively undisturbed river valley that is attractive for nature hiking, bird watching, and other passive recreation, but it lacks adequate signage and parking. Coordination with the DNR would be needed to clear brush or other obstructions from the trails. Improving access to even a fraction of these trails would greatly enhance the value of this resource to County residents.

Consideration should be given to trail connections in and around the towns where most of the parks and recreation facilities are and will be located. The subdivision and land development regulations should be used to ensure that every opportunity is taken to develop trails (or enhanced sidewalks) that connect existing park and recreational resources.

### ***c. School Recreation Parks and Indoor Fitness and Community Centers***

School recreation parks continue to be essential to the supply of athletic fields, and schools will continue to be indispensable community anchors for outdoor *and* indoor activities.

Four projects on the project list (Table III-6) are at schools: upgrading the support facilities for athletic fields at Federalsburg and Preston Elementary Schools, expansion of the athletic fields at North Caroline High School and a perimeter trail at the Colonel Richardson High School perimeter trail, a new planned trail with outdoor fitness equipment on a regional school campus.

Although a specific site is not identified, the capital priorities also identifies the need to locate

one or two indoor recreation facilities in the County. An important opportunity at schools is to address the deficit of indoor community centers. Leveraging the expansion of buildings to meet education goals with community recreation needs leverages capital resources and economizes on operation costs. By building larger gymnasiums with separate access that can be used without going through the school, these spaces can play an important role in meeting local recreation demand.

In 2016, a new regulation size gymnasium with an independent public entrance, HVAC system and restroom facilities opened at Preston Elementary, to facilitate public access outside of the school day. This indoor infrastructure provides the Department of Recreation & Parks and non-profit organizations with a new location to offer basketball, soccer, adult fitness and other programming.

The County Public Schools 2016 Education Facilities Master Plan indicates the need for major renovations or additions at elementary schools as two of the next three priorities. The schools to have major renovations are Greensboro Elementary (FY 18/19) and Denton Elementary (FY 20/21). Although these projects are not yet on the project list for this LPPRP, the Department will participate in the planning and advocate for a design like the successful improvements at Preston Elementary.

#### ***d. Swimming Pools***

The County lacks a public swimming pool. A pool in the Holiday Park campground, in the northern part of the County, is open to the public for a daily admission or seasonal membership fee. The needs analysis shows a demand for swimming pools, but the priorities program does not include a capital appropriation for the construction of any swimming facility. This is not a rejection of public demand, but it is recognition that satisfying the public demand for

swimming opportunities through the construction of public pools is not likely to be addressed through general tax dollars.

Programming to address the public demand for swimming lessons and water safety instruction is an important element of Department of Recreation & Parks services, given the proximity to rivers, irrigation ponds and other potential drowning hazards. Swimming lessons and water safety instruction should be maintained as a fee-based service and offered through partnerships with local private schools and businesses and, potentially, in the future, housing developments with community pools.

The Department should continue to partner with YMCA of the Chesapeake on the “Begin to Swim” program that introduces 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Federalsburg Elementary to water safety and swimming basics. The long-term plan is to expand this program to all elementary schools in the County.

#### ***e. Water Access***

Water access benefits the County and the public by providing access to nature; attracting visitors to the County; and providing benefits to local businesses that serve visitors and water-related activities.

In keeping with the demand for water access, the priorities list in Table III-6 includes ten projects addressing water access, including improvements to boat ramps, new water access for small boats, new trails, piers, parking areas, river clearing and wetland restoration. In addition, the North County Regional Park has Choptank River waterfront and water access will be a part of the master planning process for this property.

#### ***f. Sports Facilities***

In response to the demand for multipurpose fields if County population grows, the priorities



list includes new fields within the North County Regional Park, Jonestown Community Park, the Ridgely Athletic Complex, the Sharp Road Athletic Field Complex, Marydel Community Park and North Caroline High School.

New outdoor basketball courts can be accommodated within three of the parks through addition and renovation of paved court areas (Goldsboro, Jonestown and Martin Sutton Parks and can also be considered in the master planning for the North County Regional Parks.

No deficit is apparent now for baseball/softball fields, but the priority list provides potential to add fields if leagues expand as the population grows. In addition to the new regional park, fields can be added at the Ridgely Athletic Complex and the South County Regional Park.

#### ***g. Dog Park***

The priorities list includes location of a fenced, one to two-acre dog park within an existing County park, within one mile of a population center.

## **2. Funding**

### ***a. Cost Estimates***

The program priorities through 2025 (Table III-6) comprise approximately 37 projects that would cost approximately \$9.5 million. Of this total, only \$640,000 would be for acquisition. The County has recently completed major purchases and has most of the land it needs to work with between now and 2025. Most of the expense, a total of \$6.4 million, will be needed for new facility development, and \$2.4 million for rehabilitation projects. Approximately \$1.05 million per year would be needed over the next nine years to implement the program.

Cost estimates are approximate and based on recent land acquisitions, real estate values, and facility development and rehabilitation costs.

### ***b. County and State Funds***

The County expects to rely heavily on existing funding sources to pay for recreation facility needs, especially POS, Waterway Improvement Program funds, and County capital budget funds. However, these sources are gravely insufficient to meet all program needs given the current economic conditions. The total program cost through 2025 of approximately \$9.5 million would require an average of \$1.05 million per year.

The Department of Recreation and Parks CIP appropriation in FY14 was \$882,000 with a less than 2% allocation of local general funds. More than 65% of the capital budget was derived from grant fund awards from previous fiscal years that were “working their way” through the project development and procurement process. This might appear to approach the annual funding targets previously mentioned, but it is not sustainable. Grant funding losses at Program Open Space and Waterway Improvement have resulted in annual allocations at a fraction of the levels forecast in 2012 and this current plan.

The State’s slow recovery from the 2008 recession and the resultant ongoing limits on local government’s general revenue sources has put the County’s repair and replacement schedule of equipment, facilities and infrastructure significantly behind. Although important for quality of life of County residents, the recreation and parks system has difficulty competing for limited funds with road system repair, law enforcement funding and similar needs. This lower priority will stretch the timeline to satisfy community recreation demands.

Unless new funding and facility development sources are developed, the County must accept these constraints. As funding becomes available, capital projects for new parks and facilities must

be balanced with the staff resources to manage them.

### ***c. Funding for Town Projects***

County collaboration on municipal projects is a vital part of implementing capital projects. The Department of Recreation and Parks will continue to work closely with the incorporated towns to secure funding through the Community Parks and Playground and County Program Open Space funds to support rehabilitation of existing parks and open spaces within towns. This is important to the County goals, as the parks inside town limits are often the most easily accessible, most used and meeting the largest need. In Table III-6, municipal projects with County assistance are listed under, *“Facility/Resource Rehabilitation Projects: Municipal Projects with County Collaboration.”* This is the largest category of projects within Table III-6, a total of 13 projects. Rehabilitation on County-owned or school sites (of which four are within towns) has 10 projects.

Potential land acquisition for new parks within town limits is identified in two locations and would need to occur only as (and if) residential development occurs.

### ***d. Diversifying Funding***

Program Open Space and Community Parks and Playground funding will likely remain the primary source for park development and rehabilitation on both County and municipally owned land. However, the Department of Recreation and Parks will evaluate several other means for providing funds to complete projects. These include exploring the implementation of:

- **A system of user fees** to recover some maintenance and upkeep costs. Research shows that other communities and organizations charge a \$5 or \$10 program participation fee with the clearly stated purpose that the fees will be used for land

acquisition or facility development. Public acceptance of such fees is generally high provided the purpose of the fee is clearly explained. Over the years these funds build up in an enterprise fund until the fund is large enough to be used.

- **Establishment of a “Friends of the Parks” fund/nonprofit organization** to support the development and maintenance of the County’s parks system both through direct volunteer service and fundraising.
- **A fee-based field reservation system** where field users pay to reserve the County managed fields. This will require further collaboration with the Board of Education and the municipalities to implement a universal fee and reservation system for all fields within the County and the towns.

## **3. Summary of Capital Priorities**

In summary, the capital project priorities identified by this plan include:

### ***a. Regional Parks***

Begin development of North County Regional Park; continue development of the South County Regional Park with support facilities and ballfield expansion.

### ***b. Water Access***

Rehabilitation, facility upgrade, new access and parking, pedestrian trails, soft boat landings and fishing piers at eleven locations:

- Rehabilitation of the piers at Choptank Marina.
- Six other County-owned sites.
- Four municipal sites to be completed in collaboration with County in the towns of Denton, Federalsburg, and Greensboro.

### ***c. Trails***

- New perimeter trails at one high school and five County or municipal parks; some to include fitness stations.
- New trail system at Choptank Nature Park.
- Paved trail development to connect State Parks with towns (long term would require easement acquisition).

### ***d. Sports Fields and Courts***

The following numbers are tentative; flexibility is provided in the list of priorities.

- New multipurpose fields at three or four parks and one high school.
- New baseball/softball fields at two parks.
- Paved courts (basketball or tennis) at two or three parks.
- Facilities at North County Regional Park to be determined through master planning process.

### ***c. Park Rehabilitation and Improvement***

County and municipal parks and two school recreation parks: Replacing, upgrading and resurfacing; adding support facilities.

- Chambers Park in Federalsburg: complete rehabilitation with planning process.

### ***d. New Facilities***

- One to two indoor fitness/community centers, located in a municipality and developed using joint public-private-non-profit funding; could be within a school.
- New community park in Denton.
- New neighborhood park in Henderson.

## **H. Operational Strategies**

### **1. Department of Recreation and Parks**

The Department of Recreation and Parks has evolved, beginning in 1980, from a small office into a department that plays an increasingly important role in recreation facility development and service delivery Countywide. The department has grown from three full-time staff to a multidivisional department with 10 full-time staff supporting three divisions. The Program Services Division currently operates more than 200 programs and special events that serve over 19,000 individuals annually. The Parks Division maintains 138 developed acres of parks and open space and will coordinate the capital development of an additional 55 acres of park land.

Over the past five years the Department has begun the process to formalize many of the partnerships it developed over the past two decades. As an example, in 2015 the Department updated its Joint Use Agreement with Caroline County Public Schools, negotiating a waiver of facility usage fees in exchange for reservation management of all school fields acquired and/or developed with Program Open Space funds. Memoranda of Understanding have also been signed with the YMCA of the Chesapeake and the Ridgely Lions Club for joint delivery of programs including Pickleball, kayaking and several 5K Run/Walks.

Since the 2012 LPPRP was drafted, the Parks Division has added a full-time Parks Technician to its staff and by this change has taken on more County park maintenance tasks, reducing its reliance on the Department of Public Works. The Parks Division does not have the staff resources to provide maintenance of municipal parks.

Continuing to formalize relationships and create systems of delivery and implementation are critical to the internal work of the Department over the next five years as it prepares for the retirement of its director of 30+ years.

The capacity to fully implement this plan, including the priority project list and the operational strategies outlined in this section, is dependent upon the County having both the financial and human capital necessary to implement these recommendations. Increased general fund allocations for additional staff, particularly in the parks division, will be necessary to progress through the proposed short, mid-range and long-term capital projects listed in Table III-6. The additional staff are necessary both to coordinate the capital project process and to administer and maintain a larger system of parks and recreation facilities.

## 2. Coordination

Because of the large number of towns in the County and the dispersed nature of recreation facility provision between the County, towns, and non-governmental entities, the County should take on an increasingly strong leadership role with respect to recreation in Caroline County. The continued development of County-municipal partnerships will be integral to meeting the future needs of the County's residents – both those inside municipal boundaries and without. However, important partnerships have a broader scope:

- Coordination with the State, the towns, the Board of Education, and regional social service agencies such as Upper Shore Aging to synchronize program and facility needs.
- Promoting increased use of State Parks and Wildlands resources.

- Recreational program development, scheduling, and promotion that recovers direct operating costs.
- Dissemination of information to people living and working in Caroline County.

Because coordination is needed Countywide, a County government is the only body that can truly fulfill this role. The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board is a broad-based and well-respected board that already, for example, has a County Commissioner and Board of Education representation.

## 3. Towns

As noted in Chapter II, the County's planning program envisions County and municipal inter-governmental agreements (IGAs), that allow the County and municipalities to negotiate land preservation and growth management. Recreation needs should also be included in the IGAs addressing matters such as:

- Shared use of funding for capital development of facilities in the County used by town residents and vice versa.
- Responsibilities for maintenance and upkeep.
- Joint review of development projects from the recreation needs perspective

## 4. Non-Governmental Sector

Private, quasi-public, and non-profit entities play an important role in meeting recreation demand and, thereby, free up public resources to meet other needs. While the Department of Recreation and Parks has built strong informal relationships with many of these organizations to assist in meeting the recreational demands of County residents, these informal relationships need to be formalized and strengthened to ensure that the collaborations remain in place into the future.

The Department must continue to create formal, renewable Memoranda of Agreement with organizations that co-sponsor programs and events including the YMCA of the Chesapeake, the Ridgely and Denton Lions Club, Caroline County Council of the Arts and the Caroline County Library.

In addition, the Department must seek out opportunities to create relationships with newly identified organizations and individuals with specific interest in emerging County needs as identified in this plan. This will include investigating the potential of creating “Friends of” groups to support various projects including: development and maintenance of the trail system at North County Park; development of and maintenance of a dog park on an existing County or town owned property; more consistent implementation of the “Sponsor a field” program for the maintenance of existing and new multipurpose and baseball/softball fields throughout the County.

## 5. Summary of Action Items

The planning process for this LPPRP has resulted in the development of a series of operational action items that can be undertaken by the Department of Recreation & Parks to enhance access to parks, open spaces and recreational services in Caroline County and better serve its citizenry.

These action items are:

- a. Evaluate the impact of new parks or improvements on Department staffing needs in the development of the Recreation and Parks component of the County’s CIP. Ensure that the parks system does not grow beyond the County’s capacity to operate and maintain.
- b. In partnership with Caroline County Public Schools and the larger municipalities, complete a cost/benefit analysis of a potential fee structure for athletic field reservations/use for league and tournament programming to determine if implementation of a fee structure could provide 1) better field reservation management; 2) a source of funds for maintenance of fields; and 3) a source of funds that support the required match for local POS funding for further capital improvements.
- c. Expand the GIS park inventory application to include municipal and state park resources. Release the public Park Locator feature of the GIS program to provide the public with a resource to locate parks and explore the amenities each includes.
- d. Align County parks and recreation services with other local and State efforts to better support the health and wellness of the County citizenry through programming that engages residents in activities that get them outside and moving. This could include implementation of a ParksRx program, Kids in the Parks, Children in Nature opportunities, etc. and would expand upon efforts already in place in afterschool and summer programs to align with the HOST (Healthy Out of School Time) framework.
- e. Refine the Department’s enterprise funds to effectively manage full cost recovery for the programs and services provided through the Department.
- f. Implement an annual process to reflect on and refine this plan as it relates to current conditions. Implement data tracking measures for both program services and park use to increase understanding of participation and park usage, the needs of the citizenry and the department’s ability to best meet these needs. Include integration of an annual public satisfaction and needs assessment survey.



- g. Strengthen existing partnerships and forge new partnerships with citizen groups and with private and quasi-public organizations.
- h. Establish Inter- Governmental Agreements (IGAs) with the incorporated municipalities that formally define the working relationships between the County and the municipality as it relates to parks and open space development and management.
- i. Create procedures for the formal consideration of public recreation and open space needs in the residential subdivision process both at the County level and the municipal level.
- j. Exercise leadership in coordinating and promoting parks and recreation programs offered within the County by public and nonprofit providers.
- k. For capital projects along the Upper Choptank, Tuckahoe Creek or Marshyhope Creek, consider the potential impact of storm surges on public investment when planning new improvements, using the Maryland Coastal Atlas and other available information.

**Table III-6. Priorities for Rehabilitation, Development and Land Acquisition, 2017-2025**

NOTE: Project listing is in alphabetical order; it does not imply priority. Budget values reflect a combination of capital grant funds and general tax funds													
Projects	Location (area)	Description of Land Preservation and Recreation Recommendations	Estimated Total Cost (\$1,000's)	Acres to be Acquired	Estimated Short-Range (2017-2019) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Mid-Range (2020-2022) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Long-Range (2023-2025) Cost (\$1,000)		
					Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehab	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehab	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehab
FACILITY/RESOURCE REHABILITATION PROJECTS: County Jurisdiction													
Choptank Marina	Village of Choptank, South of Preston	Rehabilitate existing marina facility; secure public fishing access either through provision of new facilities or retrofit of existing footprint	\$ 1,125				\$ 125	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 650
		Current FY17 county capital budget reserve and/or current state funding encumbrance or request for this project	\$ 196	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 196	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	
Federalsburg Elementary	Town of Federalsburg	Upgrade athletic field support facilities	\$ 25				\$ 25						
Ganey's Warf	County, west of Harmony	Existing facility upgrade including boat ramp channel dredging, replacement/expansion of existing fishing pier, storm water run-off improvements for boat ramp structure.											
		Undeveloped adjoining lots reflected as future acquisition opportunity to expand waterfront park footprint referenced in the 2030 projection	\$ 75		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75	\$ -	\$ -
General James F. Fretterd Community Center	County, within Town of Denton	Preventative building maintenance of mechanical systems and preservation of building's historic brick exterior	\$ 100	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50
Henderson Community Park	County, within Town of Henderson	Upgrade existing park site to reflect community need	\$ 60		\$ -	\$ -	20	\$ -	\$ -	40		\$ -	\$ -
Jonestown Community Park	County, north of Preston	Establish multipurpose playfield or paved court playing surface, expand perimeter walking trail, reconstruct existing playground	\$ 85		\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ 35	\$ 25
		Support and maintenance facilities improvements of existing fields; tennis court resurfacing and expanded paved court surface for basketball											
Preston Elementary/Harrison Memorial Park	County/BOE, within Town of Preston		\$ 110					\$ 75	\$ 35				\$ -
		Current FY17 county capital budget reserve and/or current state funding encumbrance or request for this project	\$ 28		\$ -		\$ 28	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4-H Park Buildings and Land	County, south of Denton	Expansion of park amenities according to developed master plan in partnership with Commissioner-Appointed Park Board of Directors	\$ 195		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45	\$ -		\$ 75	\$ -	\$ 75	\$ -
Stoney Point Landing	County, south of Hillsboro	Entry road improvements, parking and public access definition and improvements, site security of this river access point; requires land easement or land acquisition to meet proposed goals: estimated Acreage: 3.5	\$ 85	3.5	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65	\$ -	\$ 20
		Creating 8-10 passageways through the fallen trees to allow paddlers and small fishing boats to access river; maintenance of existing pathway.	\$ 45		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15
SUB Total County Projects			\$ 2,129	4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 479	\$ -	\$ 325	\$ 390	\$ 65	\$ 110	\$ 760

# Caroline County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Final Draft, 2017

NOTE: Project listing is in alphabetical order; it does not imply priority. Budget values reflect a combination of capital grant funds and general tax funds

NOTE: Project listing is in alphabetical order; it does not imply priority. Budget values reflect a combination of capital grant funds and general tax funds				Estimated Short-Range (2017-2019) Cost (\$1,000s)												Estimated Mid-Range (2020-2022) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Long-Range (2023-2025) Cost (\$1,000)		
Projects	Location (area)	Description of Land Preservation and Recreation Recommendations	Estimated Total Cost (\$1,000's)	Acres to be Acquired	Estimated Short-Range (2017-2019) Cost (\$1,000s)				Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehab	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehab	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehab				
					Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehab	Acquisition										Capital Development	Rehab		
FACILITY/RESOURCE REHABILITATION PROJECTS: Municipal Projects with County Collaboration																					
Chambers Park	Town of Federalsburg	Rehabilitate existing community park facility; expand public access to fishing pier	\$ 265		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20		\$ -	\$ 75	\$ 120		\$ -	\$ 50	\$ -						
Crouse Park	Town of Denton	Rehabilitation of parking and boat ramp access amenities as a part of the new waterfront Tourism Information Center	\$ 15		\$ -		\$ 5		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5					
Cow Barn - Ridgely Athletic Complex	Town of Ridgely	Multi-purpose field and baseball field expansion according to Master Plan	\$ 160							\$ 80			\$ 80								
		Current state funding encumbrance of POS for this project	\$ 23		\$ -	\$ 23	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -				
Federalsburg Canoe & Kayak Floating Pier	Town of Federalsburg	Install canoe & kayak floating pier for access to upper part of Marshyhope Creek Current state funding encumbrance of POS Town of Federalsburg to support this project	\$ 26			\$ 26															
Goldsboro Community Park	Town of Goldsboro	Reconstruct paved court playing areas, improve storm water run off water quality and improve pedestrian access to park.	\$ 120				\$ 120														
Greensboro Boat Ramp & Community Park	Town of Greensboro	Environmental restoration of public open space to include wetlands restoration and maintain public access to shoreline public trail and fishing access.	\$ 45						\$ -	\$ 10	\$ 10			\$ 25							
Greensboro Lion's Club Athletic Fields	Quasi Public; near Greensboro	Adult softball and little league field improvements to stadium seating and field lighting	\$ 100		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75					
James T. Wright Memorial Park	Town of Preston	Installation of fitness stations along existing trail; future improvements to playground	\$ -																		
		Current FY17 state funding encumbrance for Town of Preston to support this project	\$ 75		\$ 75																
Martin Sutton Park	Town of Ridgely	Replacement of existing restroom, storage and concession facilities; expansion of existing paved court surfaces (tennis/basketball)	\$ 275		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50		\$ -	\$ 175	\$ 50						
Ober Community Park	Town of Greensboro:	Rehabilitation of paved courts	\$ 75	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -					
Railroad Park	Town of Ridgely	Trail expansion on railroad right-of-way to town limits; future connection outside of town limits to Tuckahoe State Park	\$ 300		\$ -	\$ 10	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 50	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 240	\$ -						
Sharp Road Athletic Field Complex	Town of Denton	Increase community athletic field for league and community play according to Master Plan and establish perimeter trails	\$ 400						\$	250			\$		150						
		Current FY17 county capital budget reserve and/or current-state funding encumbrance for the Town of Denton to support this project	\$ 418		\$ -	\$ 418	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -				

# Caroline County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Final Draft, 2017

NOTE: Project listing is in alphabetical order; it does not imply priority. Budget values reflect a combination of capital grant funds and general tax funds

Projects	Location (area)	Description of Land Preservation and Recreation Recommendations	Estimated Total Cost (\$1,000's)	Acres to be Acquired	Estimated Short-Range (2017-2019) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Mid-Range (2020-2022) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Long-Range (2023-2025) Cost (\$1,000)		
					Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehab	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehab	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehab
Templeville Community Park	Town of Templeville	Future upgrade of existing park to reflect community need.  <i>Current FY17 county capital budget reserve and state funding encumbrance for Town of Templeville to support this project.</i>	\$ 50			\$ -				\$ 25			\$ 25
			\$ 20		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	
<b>SUB Total Municipal/County Projects</b>			<b>\$ 2,366</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 551</b>	<b>\$ 165</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 465</b>	<b>\$ 310</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 720</b>	<b>\$ 155</b>

## New County Park FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Dog Park Facility	County or Municipal Facility	Fenced pet area of 1-2 acres likely established on existing parkland in partnership with municipality or within the boundaries of regional or community parks within 1 mile of population centers.	\$ 195			\$ 50	\$ 10		\$ 40	\$ 20		\$ 75	
Choptank Nature Park	County, south of Preston	Improve existing conditions of the auxiliary parking for nearby Choptank Marina; locate historic structure on property for future historic interpretive center; establish network of pedestrian trails. Park include established dredge disposal area to contain sediment from county and municipal boating access points.	\$ 190			\$ 30	\$ 25		\$ 50			\$ 85	
Linchester Mill Pond	County, south of Preston	Establish public access (small parking, trail head) for future low-impact trail development to stream valley for passive recreation.	\$ 65		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40	\$ -
Marshhope River Water trail	County, Town of Federalsburg	Creating 8-10' passageways through the fallen trees to allow paddlers and small fishing boats to access river through State Wildlands area; increase soft landing locations for water trail access.	\$ 90		\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -
Marydel Community Park	County, Town of Maryland	Create second multipurpose field and expand perimeter trail and disc gold opportunities at new community park (Phase 2 of park development)  <i>Current FY17 county capital budget reserve and/or current state funding encumbrance or request for this project</i>	\$ 225						\$ 150			\$ 75	
			\$ 85			\$ 85			\$ -				
North County Regional Park/ Christian Park	County, north of Greensboro	Entry road improvements, parking and public access definition and improvements; phased construction of proposed master plan for regional park acquisition	\$ 840		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50		\$ 300	\$ 40		\$ 400	\$ 50

# Caroline County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Final Draft, 2017

NOTE: Project listing is in alphabetical order; it does not imply priority. Budget values reflect a combination of capital grant funds and general tax funds

Projects	Location (area)	Description of Land Preservation and Recreation Recommendations	Estimated Short-Range (2017-2019) Cost (\$1,000s)		Acres to be Acquired	Estimated Mid-Range (2020-2022) Cost (\$1,000s)				Estimated Long-Range (2023-2025) Cost (\$1,000)		
			Estimated Total Cost (\$1,000's)	Capital Development		Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehab	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehab	
North Caroline High School Athletic Complex	County, east of Ridgely	Develop athletic fields and support facilities to support expanded community use	\$ 75	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75	\$ -	
South County Regional Park	South County	Support and maintenance facility improvements to include parking areas, landscaping, and irrigation system upgrades; Expand athletic field facilities on existing parkland to accommodate baseball league play	\$ 375				\$ 175			\$ 200		
		Current FY17 county capital budget reserve and/or current state funding encumbrance or request for this project	\$ 200	\$ 200	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Wellness Trail: CRHS	South County Region	Create new community access opportunity via pedestrian trails and outdoor fitness equipment within regional school campus	\$ 125	\$ 10		\$ -	\$ 65	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ -	
<b>SUB Total New Facility/ Park Development Projects</b>			<b>\$ 2,465</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 845</b>	<b>\$ 60</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,025</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>	

## LAND ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Community Park	Town of Denton	Acquire and develop up to 20 acres for a community/neighborhood park near or within the eastern growth area of Denton	\$ -	\$ 12		\$ -		\$ -			\$ -	
Neighborhood Park	Town of Henderson	Acquire and develop a 1-2 acre parcel on the west side major highway to improve pedestrian access reflected in the 2030 target	\$ -	\$ 2								
North County Regional Park	North County	Acquire adjoining 20 acre + along existing Christian Park access road as a 2030 projection	\$ -	\$ 20				\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Indoor fitness/community centers	Countywide	1-2 additional centers to supplement supply. Possible locations include Federalsburg, Denton, or Greensboro. Joint public-private-non profit funding anticipated.	\$ 2,000				\$ 250	\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ 1,000		
Trails	Countywide	Paved trail development to connect State park hubs with towns. Trails would be on easements (existing or to be acquired). Adjoining landowner concerns must be addressed.	\$ 575	\$ 25		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	
<b>SUB Total Land Acquisition &amp; Future Development Projects</b>			<b>\$ 2,575</b>	<b>\$ 69</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 250</b>	<b>\$ 500</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>TOTAL Cost All Categories</b>			<b>\$ 9,460</b>	<b>\$ 72</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 951</b>	<b>\$ 729</b>	<b>\$ 250</b>	<b>\$ 2,060</b>	<b>\$ 390</b>	<b>\$ 3,355</b>

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## Chapter IV Agricultural Land Preservation

This chapter reviews Caroline County's implementation strategies to achieve State and County agricultural land preservation goals. Caroline County is among the 16 counties statewide with MDP and MALPF certified agriculture land preservation programs.

### A. Agricultural Industry

Blessed with productive land and a rich cultural farming heritage, Caroline County has been an agricultural community for over 300 years. Agriculture is a vital component of the local economy and a defining aspect of the County's landscape and character.

The reported number of farms and acreage of farmland in Caroline County increased from 1997-2012 (Table IV-1). The USDA Census of Agriculture definition of a farm, which has not changed during this time, is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, in the census year." The 2012 Census reported 150,357 acres of farmland, an increase of 35 percent since 1997. Leading crops in terms of acreage are soybeans, corn, and wheat.

Some key points from Table IV-1 are:

- Average farm size, 229 acres in 2012, changed little from 1997-2012.
- Acreage and value of products increased in major sectors: crops, poultry, and other livestock.
- In 2012, crops generated 33 percent of the market value of production and livestock generated 67 percent.
- Poultry is the leading agricultural product, accounting for \$158 million, 92 percent of the livestock market value.

The 150,400 acres in farms reported by the 2012 Census is higher than the 116,000 acres shown as "agriculture" in Table II-2, which is based on interpretation of satellite imagery. The Census of Agriculture is based on a census of farm operators, and would include other land categories (forest, barren and wetland acreages) located within working farms.

### B. Inventory of Preserved Agricultural Land

Caroline County uses easement acquisition and land use regulations to achieve farmland preservation goals. In addition, Caroline County recognizes the importance of maintaining agriculture as an economically viable industry. A healthy farm economy is the foundation of a successful agricultural land preservation program.

As indicated by Table IV-2, the County has 42,754 preserved acres as of September, 2016. Permanent easements protect most of this acreage - easements established by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, Rural Legacy program and private land trusts or conservancies. The managed forest lands are owned by or preserved through conservation easements held by DNR and used for forestry.

Table IV-2 and Map IV-1 summarize these organizations' accomplishments in permanently protecting private lands with conservation easements.

Caroline County borders Kent and Sussex Counties, Delaware. Map IV-2 shows the agricultural preservation program in these counties. A concentration of agricultural districts and easements east of Caroline County's eastern

border, roughly between MD 404 and MD 287                      swath.

(DE 10), forms the potential for an interstate

**Table IV-1. Selected Agricultural Statistics, Caroline County, 1997-2012**

	1997		2007		2012		Change 1997 to 2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent change
Land in County (acres)	204,744		204,744		204,744			
<b>Number and Acreage of Farms</b>								
Number of Farms	556		574		658		102	
Land in farms (acres)	111,316	54%	131,277	64%	150,357	74%	39,041	35%
Average farm size	212		229		229		17	8%
<b>Land in farms by land use (acres)</b>								
Cropland	94,605	85%	107,137	82%	121,386	81%	26,781	28%
Woodland	12,714	11%	16,573	13%	18,616	12%	5,902	46%
Other <sup>1</sup>	3,997	4%	7,567	5%	10,355	7%	6,358	160%
Total	111,316	100%	131,277	100%	150,357	100%	39,041	
<b>Market Value of Production \$ millions</b>								
Crops (including nursery & greenhouse)	\$28.7	30%	\$ 48.9	26%	\$85.5	33%	\$56.8	198%
Livestock (including poultry)	\$66.4	70%	\$137.0	74%	\$172.4	67%	\$106.0	160%
Total	\$95.1	100%	\$185.9	100%	\$257.9	100%	\$162.8	
Poultry, eggs (subcategory of livestock)	\$61.0		\$126.7		\$157.8		\$96.8	159%
<b>Selected products</b>								
Grain (acres)	55,471		69,993		77,603		22,132	40%
Vegetables (acres)	6,756		6,687		6,897		141	2%
Poultry (broiler sales, thousands)	40,533		50,524		62,703		22,170	55%

<sup>1</sup> Permanent pasture, homesteads, buildings, lanes

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1997, 2007, 2012

**Table IV-2. Agricultural Lands Preserved by Easements, September 2016**

<b>Agricultural Lands</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	31,790
Rural Legacy - Marshyhope	1,390
Rural Legacy - Tuckahoe	1,924
Maryland Environmental Trust/Eastern Shore Land Conservancy	1,748
Managed forest lands	3,331
TDR's Sent (Development Rights Lifted)	2,571
<b>Total Preserved Agricultural lands</b>	<b>42,754</b>

## 1. Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)

As of September, 2016, Caroline County had 31,790 acres permanently preserved through MALPF. Caroline County has participated in the MALPF Program since 1980 and ranks second in the State for number of acres preserved under the program.<sup>6</sup> MALPF easements and districts are located throughout the County but with concentrations in the southern part of the County between Denton and Federalsburg, and in an arc, west of Denton extending clockwise from MD 328 to Goldsboro and Henderson (Map IV-1).

## 2. Rural Legacy Areas

The County and State have designated two rural legacy areas (RLA) in Caroline County: the Marshyhope and the Tuckahoe areas. The Rural Legacy Program, run by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, delineates a geographic area of a County in need of focused land conservation efforts, and, acquires easements from willing landowners within that area.

Caroline County's portion of the Tuckahoe RLA totals approximately 8,250 acres between Denton and Hillsboro south of MD 404. Caroline County's portion of the Marshyhope RLA totals approximately 3,100 acres north of Federalsburg and west of Marshyhope Creek. (Map IV-1).

As of September, 2016, 3,224 acres have been preserved under easement in the County Rural Legacy Areas.

Both RLAs were established in 1998 as part of a roughly 400,000-acre area known as the "Agricultural Security Corridor"<sup>7</sup>. This area of

the mid-eastern shore involves portions of five counties, and is defined by the presence of high quality agricultural soils, a concentration of agricultural infrastructure, and extensive agricultural easements.

## 3. Managed Forest Lands

More than 3,300 acres in the County are owned by and/or subject to conservation easements held by DNR and managed for timber harvesting and sustainable forestry.

These include Caroline County's portion of the Chesapeake Forest Lands, totaling approximately 1,280 acres. This is a fraction of the entire Chesapeake Forest Lands, more than 58,000 acres of timber harvesting area in five eastern shore Counties, now owned and managed by the State as sustainable forest. In addition to maintaining a forestry industry, these lands provide natural resource benefits by preserving forest, wetlands, and Forest Interior Dwelling Bird Habitat. They serve as a model for sustainable forestry practices that could be implemented at other managed forests. These lands are available to the public for hunting.

## 4. Land Trusts

The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC), based in Queen Anne's County, holds approximately 1,700 acres in easements in Caroline County. Most are co-held with the Maryland Environmental Trust. The ESLC helped sponsor the Marshyhope and Tuckahoe Rural Legacy Areas and has engaged in broader land preservation activities including the development of *Eastern Shore 2010: A Regional Vision*.

The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET), a statewide land trust, holds the easements on some of the Rural Legacy areas and co-holds easements with the ESLC.

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<sup>6</sup> Source: MD Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, FY2015 Annual Report. Carroll County is the leading County.

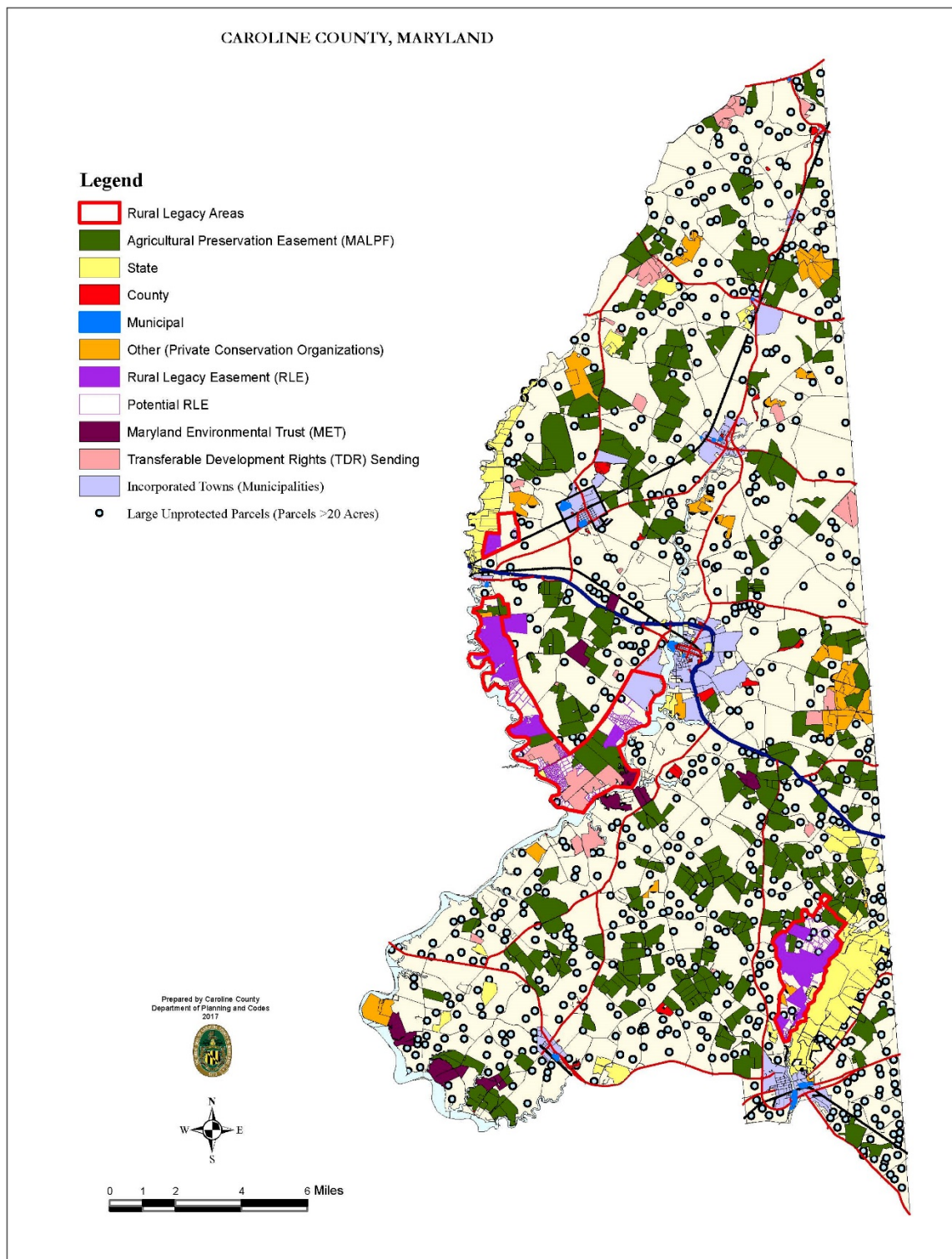
<sup>7</sup> The Agricultural Security Corridor concept was developed by the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.

## 5. TDR Sending Areas

The remaining acreage is preserved not by easements, but through recorded subdivision plats as required by the County's Transfer of

Development Rights (TDR) program, described below in the section on Implementation.

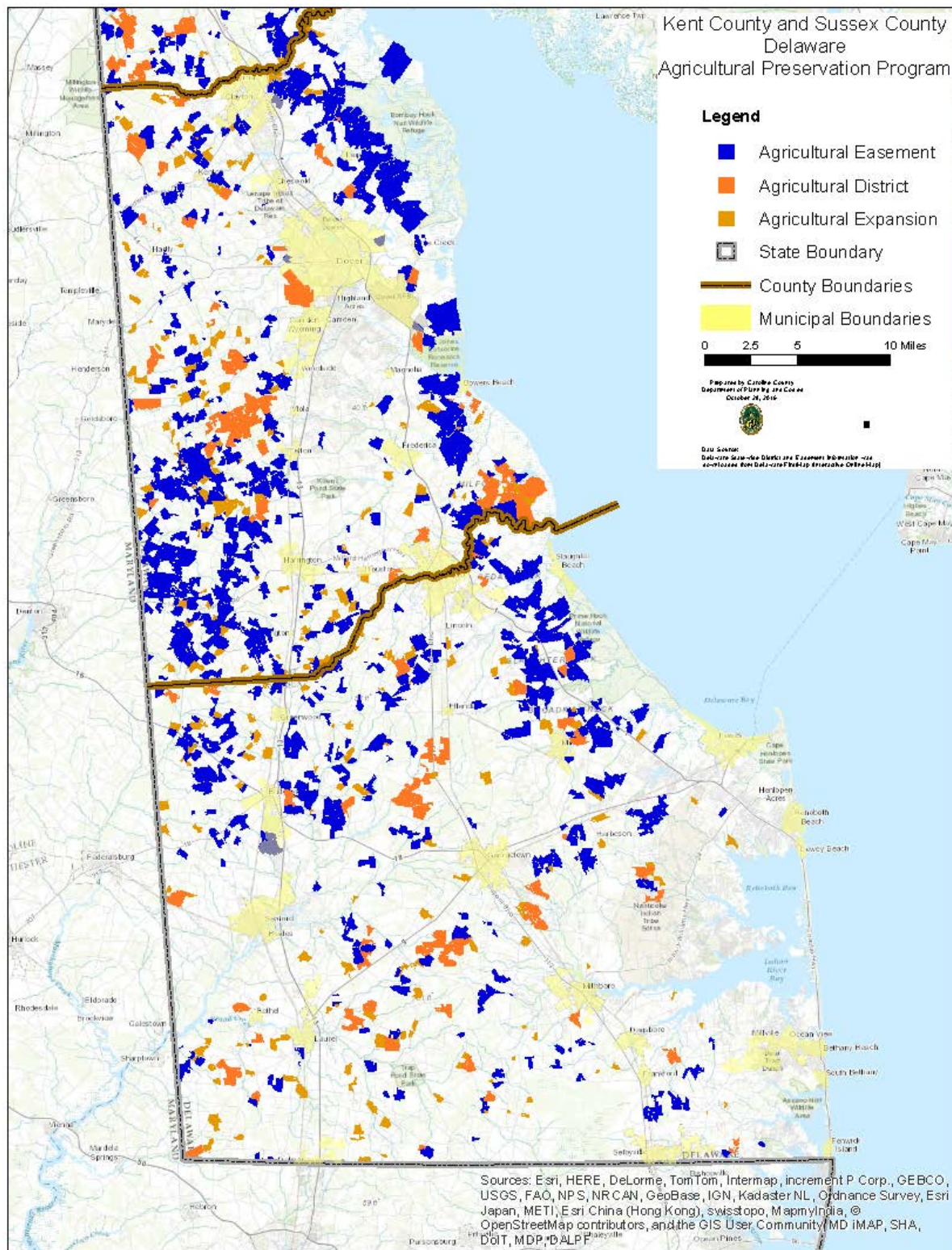
**Map IV-1. Caroline County Preserved Agricultural Land and Large Unprotected Parcels**



*Source: Caroline County Department of Planning and Codes*



**Map IV-2. Regional Land Preservation, Kent and Sussex Counties, Delaware**



Source: Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation

## C. County Implementation Program

To achieve the County's goal of permanently preserving 135,000 acres of agricultural land, an additional 92,246 acres would need to be protected through the implementation programs described in this section.

### 1. Priority Preservation Areas and Growth Tiers

A Priority Preservation Area (PPA) is an area delineated by the County and certified by the State as "can support agricultural activities", governed by local policies that limit development, and suitable to be the focus of the County's efforts to preserve farmland.

The 2015 update to the County's Comprehensive Plan designates a PPA encompassing 178,192 acres (Map IV-3). This PPA was defined after the County completed its comprehensive zoning process in 2013 and includes all areas zoned R (Rural) except parcels that the County Commissioners have designated as TDR Receiving Areas; these are portions of the R zone more suitable for residential development.

In 2014, the County Commissioners adopted the Growth Tiers Map required for compliance with Maryland's Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012 (Map IV-4). Within the Tier 4 area, only minor subdivisions (up to four lots) are permitted. The Tier 4 areas include all land in the R zoning district, except the receiving area for the TDR program.

In the R zoning district, major subdivisions are permitted only in TDR "receiving areas" (Map IV-5). Major subdivisions can only occur by transferring development rights off land in the

predominant, "sending" portions of the Rural district.

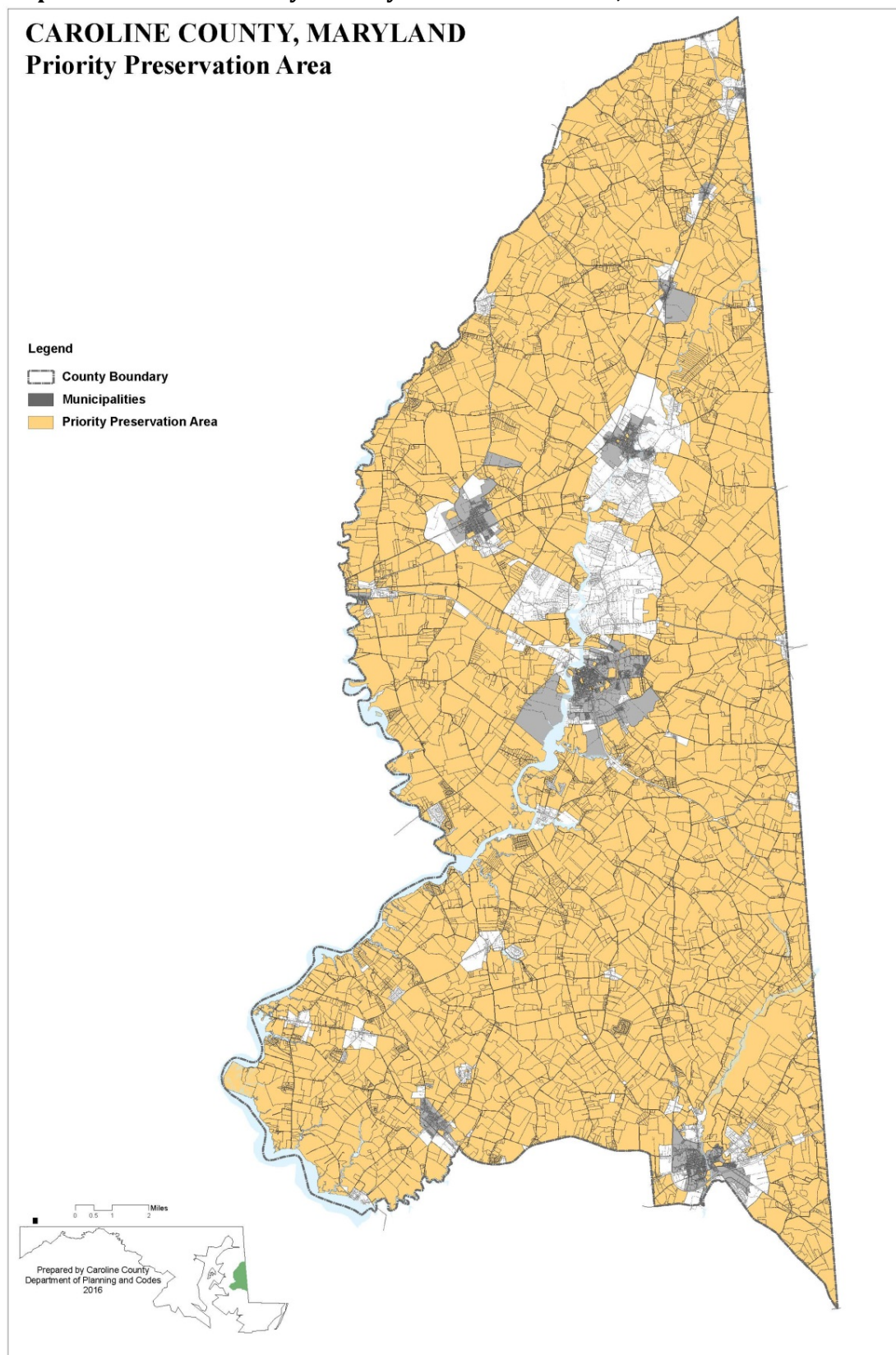
The County's PPA, Tiers map and TDR program together focus farmland preservation efforts in areas of the County where preservation will most effectively support the long-term sustainability of farming. To achieve the County's goal of preserving 135,000 acres, a total of 76 percent of the PPA would need to be preserved. The 42,754 acres already preserved (Table IV-2), all located in the PPA, represent 24 percent of the PPA and almost a third of the County's 135,000-acre goal.

The 178,192-acre PPA is an increase from the 176,760 acres identified as the PPA in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan. The 2010 PPA included all areas not within a municipal growth area or priority funding area, or designated to be TDR receiving areas. The 2015 PPA update reflected changes to County zoning adopted in 2013, including the following major changes:

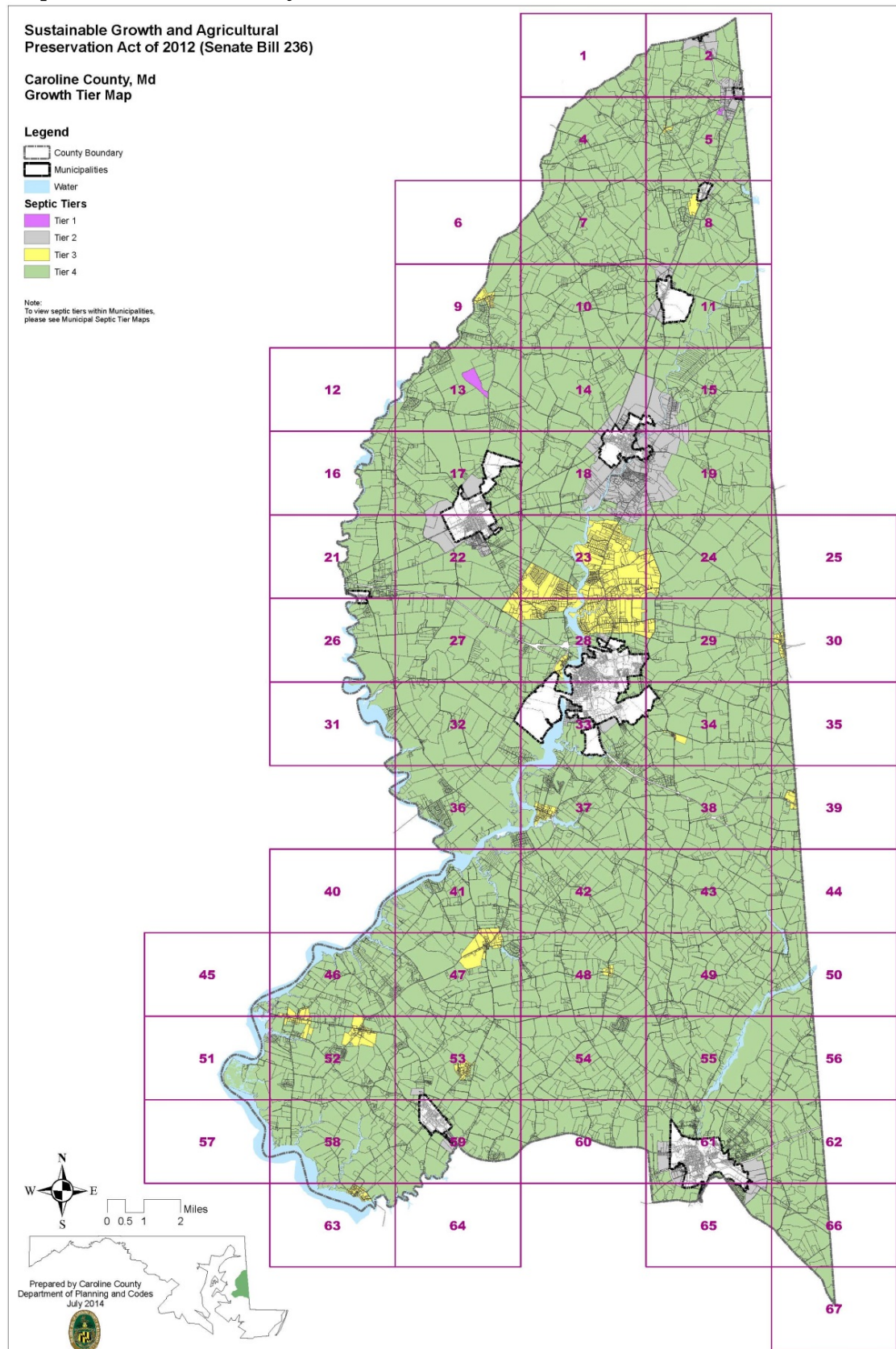
- Adding to the PPA land that was rezoned from R-1 (Residential) to R (Rural) and removing from the PPA any land in the R-1 zoning district.
- Removing land within small rural villages that was rezoned to Village Center or Village Neighborhood.
- Removing land around the Towns of Denton, Greensboro and Marydel identified as future growth areas.
- Removing land around the Towns of Denton, Greensboro and Marydel identified as future growth areas.



**Map IV-3. Caroline County Priority Preservation Area, 2015**

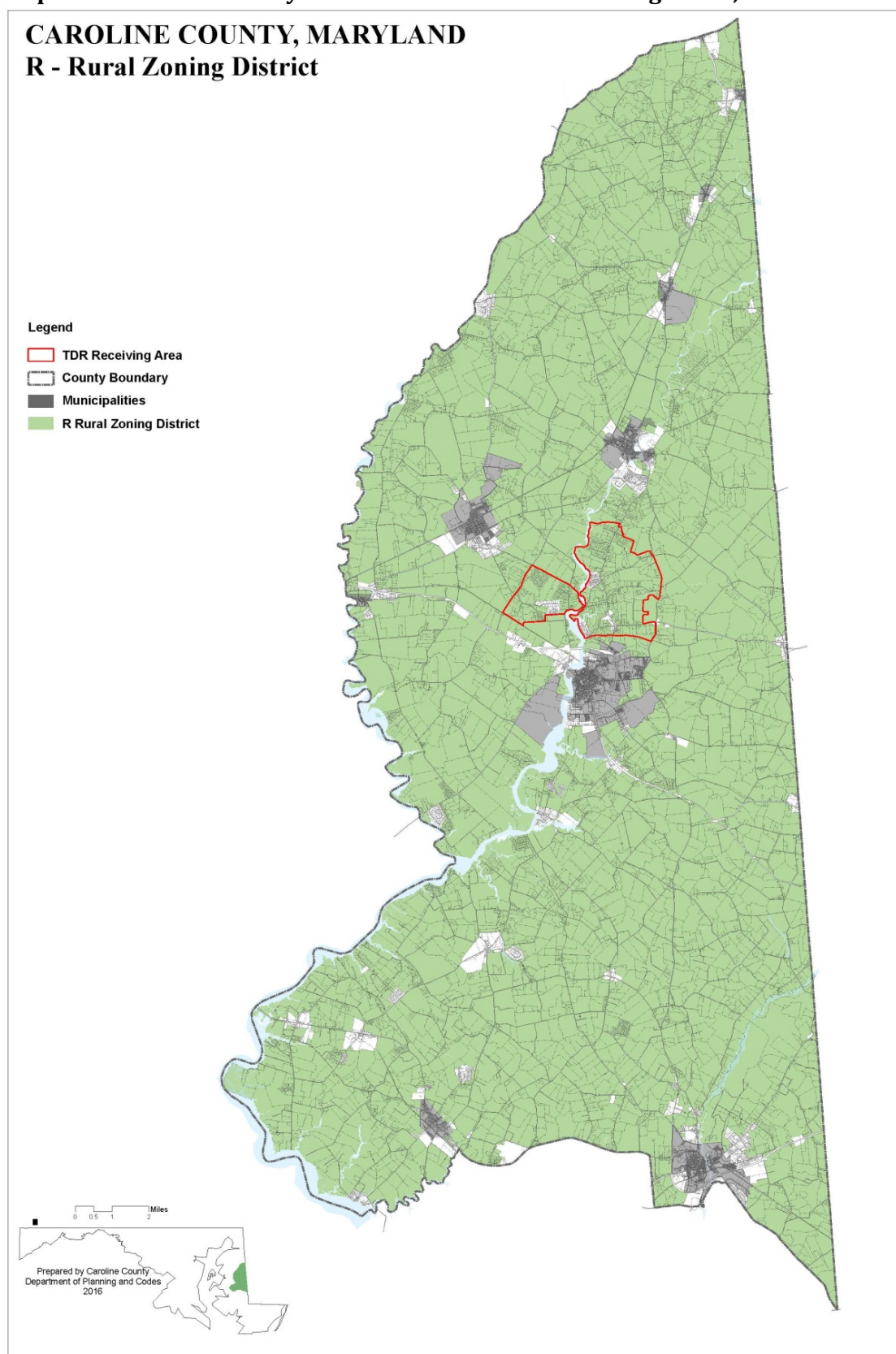


**Map IV-4. Caroline County Growth Tiers, 2014**





**Map IV-5. Caroline County Rural District and TDR Sending Areas, 2016**



## 2. Funding for Easement Acquisition

The State of Maryland has provided most of the easement purchase funding in Caroline County, supplemented by local and federal funds. The County has used a variety of funding sources to supplement the MALPF program funds, including its portion of the County's agricultural transfer tax and a County excise tax.

Table IV-3 summarizes this funding since 1994.

### ***a. Agricultural Transfer Tax***

When agricultural land in Maryland is sold for development, a small percentage of the transaction value, known as transfer taxes, is paid to recapture, in part, the preferential taxation rate the land has enjoyed due to its previous agricultural use.

In FY 2011, the County's Land Preservation Program obtained certification by the State. Thus, the County retains 75% of agricultural transfer taxes. The remainder of the transfer taxes is forwarded to the State for use on statewide agricultural land preservation.

### ***b. Rural Legacy***

Since 1998 the State has awarded almost \$4 million in Rural Legacy funds for easement acquisitions in the Tuckahoe and Marshyhope Rural Legacy Areas (Table IV-3).

### ***c. Federal Funds***

The Federal government has provided relatively small amounts of funding for the purchase of development rights through the Farmland Preservation Program of the Natural Resource Conservation Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is a competitive process in which Caroline County has joined forces with other Maryland counties and the State to win funding. Since 1998, Caroline County has received approximately \$1,164,000 which was applied to the MALPF matching funds program.

### ***d. County Funds***

Since 1994 Caroline County has levied an agricultural preservation excise tax of \$750 per lot on agricultural land (land in the R-district) that is converted to development. The excise tax collected was applied to the MALPF matching funds program.

Caroline County made a \$1 million general fund commitment each year for FY 2006, 2007, and 2008 to be used as matching funds for land preservation through the MALPF program. County general funds have not been provided since 2008.

## 3. Land Use Management Authority

### ***a. Zoning and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program***

The R-Rural zoning district, in conjunction with the TDR program, is protective of farmland and the rural landscape. The Rural District comprises approximately 185,000 acres, 96 percent of the County.

The County's 2013 Comprehensive Zoning strengthened the protection of the rural landscape by increasing the area covered by the R-Rural zoning district from about 130,000 acres to 185,000 acres. Most of area rezoned was previously in the R-1 (Single-Family Residential) zoning district. Future residential subdivision in the County will be directed to the growth areas around the municipalities (generally after annexation), infill within rural villages, and infill within the R-1 areas.



**Table IV-3. Agricultural Preservation Funding Summary**

	County funding: Agricultural Transfer Tax (1)	County funding: Excise Tax	MALPF (2)	Federal Farmland Protection Program	Tuckahoe Rural Legacy -	Marshyhope Rural Legacy -	Total
1994	\$ 51,363	\$ 450	\$ 165,929				\$ 217,742
1995	\$ 25,281	\$ 1,600	\$ 73,333				\$ 100,214
1996	\$ 32,784	\$ 4,500	\$ 157,902				\$ 195,186
1997	\$ 41,606	\$ 5,850	\$ 330,097				\$ 377,553
1998	\$ 42,781	\$ 4,850	\$ 576,059	\$ 77,777	\$ 539,808		\$1,241,275
1999	\$ 51,711	\$ 8,750	\$ 492,252				\$ 552,713
2000	\$ 78,336	\$ 11,250	\$1,186,898		\$ 530,280	\$ 130,235	\$1,936,999
2001	\$ 54,645	\$ 17,500	\$ 319,833		\$ 109,994	\$ 209,896	\$ 711,868
2002	\$ 84,330	\$ 16,950	\$ 631,006	\$ 108,720	\$1,299,539	\$1,127,429	\$3,267,974
2003	\$ 122,313	\$ 16,050	\$ 469,181	\$ 217,400			\$ 824,944
2004	\$ 338,262	\$ 31,150		\$ 370,000			\$ 739,412
2005	\$ 201,007	\$ 45,750	\$ 530,834				\$ 777,591
2006	\$ 361,345	\$ 19,750	\$2,032,151				\$2,413,246
2007	\$ 154,345	\$ 21,500	\$3,173,893				\$3,349,738
2008	\$ 67,814	\$ 24,850	\$2,499,096				\$2,591,760
2009	\$ 12,758	\$ 9,850	\$ 668,172	\$ 390,000	\$ 285,235		\$1,366,015
2010	\$ 112,399	\$ 13,700					\$ 126,099
2011	\$ 212,139	\$ 14,450	\$ 507,157				\$ 733,746
2012	\$ 17,272		\$ 546,587				\$ 563,859
2013	\$ 7,818						\$ 9,831
2014	\$ 17,043				\$ 70,000		\$ 87,043
2015	\$ (830)		\$1,229,320		\$ 544,040		\$1,772,530
2016	\$ 1,320		\$ 707,399				\$ 708,719
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,087,842</b>	<b>\$ 268,750</b>	<b>\$16,297,099</b>	<b>\$1,163,897</b>	<b>\$3,093,662</b>	<b>\$1,752,795</b>	<b>\$24,666,058</b>
Annual Average							
\$ 1,072,437							

(1) Before FY2011, the County retained one third of this amount for use on agricultural land preservation activities. As of FY2011, due to becoming a Certified County, 75% is retained.

(2) Years 2003-2004, 2009-2010, 2011-2012, 2013-2014 and 2015-2016 were combined due to funding constraints.

Caroline County's Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program preserves a "sending" parcel by allowing the landowners there to sever the right to develop the land and then sell that development right to a "receiving" area where development is desired. This TDR program, created in 1989 and refined several times since, has resulted in the removal of subdivision rights on 2,571 acres. Further subdivision on the sending parcel is prohibited by the recorded subdivision plat and the County's zoning ordinances.

Receiving areas for the TDR program are evaluated and defined each year by the County Commissioners and currently encompass 4,640 acres. The receiving areas are portions of the Rural district located primarily between the towns of Denton and Greensboro. This area already had several large subdivisions at the time the TDR program was developed. State Highway 313 connects the two towns and bisects the receiving area.

The receiving area is also bisected by the Choptank River. Protection of the river corridor is important when subdivision occurs, and is accomplished through the Critical Area 100-foot buffer along the river. The Comprehensive Plan recommends that the County enact compact subdivision guidelines or standards for receiving areas.

The Rural zoning district does not permit major subdivision except in designated TDR receiving areas, limiting subdivision elsewhere to no more than four lots from each original parcel.

#### ***b. Right to Farm***

Caroline County adopted a right to farm ordinance in 1997 to encourage the protection of the County's agricultural lands by preventing nuisance lawsuits, that could arise from residential growth in agricultural areas. These

provisions thus help to protect the economic viability of farming in Caroline County.

## **4. Evaluation of the Land Preservation Program**

### ***a. Funding***

Since 1982, Caroline County has used State and local funding to place permanent easements on over 40,000 acres of agricultural land.

Caroline County relies primarily on the MALPF program for permanent preservation of agricultural land. Although the number of applications varies, interest in the program is still substantial. Table IV-4 shows that in all the years since 1995 the number of easement applications has greatly exceeded the number of easement offers. In the past ten years, the interest has been greater than ever, with generally more than 50 applications per two-year cycle, while the number of easement purchase offers has been less than at any point during the program's history, with only one or two easements purchased per year.

Working with the ESLC, the County has made effective use of the Rural Legacy funds, although funding for this program has varied greatly over the years. Due to the uncertainty of annual funding, the County cannot place great weight on this program to achieve its land preservation goals, but will continue to use it to supplement other land preservation efforts.

### ***b. Land Use Management Tools***

Caroline County's zoning is very protective of agricultural land. In combination with relatively low development pressure, this zoning has been effective in helping protect the County's agricultural land base. However, the County has an imbalance of sending and receiving areas. If growth pressures increase and more land owners wanted to sell development rights from the sending areas, there would eventually be

insufficient receiving areas to accommodate the development.

The County has sought to reach agreements with the towns to establish receiving areas. The towns have been responsive to these discussions but no concrete results have been achieved. Such a program would require carefully calibrated zoning in the towns, with two density levels depending upon whether transferrable development rights were used.

While coordination with the towns is a worthwhile goal that can be pursued over the long term, the County must also seek solutions within its own zoning districts to establish additional receiving areas to balance its TDR program. Current low development pressure provides a window of opportunity for this important planning effort.

**Table IV-4. Caroline County Easement Applications under MALPF**

Fiscal Year	# of Easement Applications	Applications Appraised	Easement Offers
2015/2016	52	8	1
2013/2014	53	8	2
2011/2012	37	16	1
2009/2010	55	16	4
2008	55	55	6
2007	41	41	12
2006	12	12	9
2005	17	13	13*
2003/2004	37	37	5
2002	35	28	13
2001	20	16	2
2000	39	31	16
1999	36	30	6
1998	39	31	7
1997	28	22	6
1996	25	20	2
1995	21	11	2

*\*Eleven of these were rejected reflecting a significant increase in fair market values.*

*Source: Caroline County Department of Planning and Codes*

### ***c. Combined Performance of Preservation Tools***

Since 1980 over 42,700 acres of farmland have been protected in Caroline County, and the rate of farmland loss has been less than in some other counties. In recent years, only minor subdivisions proposed (four or fewer lots) have been proposed in the County. No major subdivisions, Critical Area growth applications or municipal annexations are pending.

The healthy farm economy, low development pressure and protective zoning regulations are limiting loss of farmland to development. The amount of actively farmed land reported by landowners to the Census of Agriculture increased steadily between 1997 and 2012 (Table IV-1), pointing to the health of the farm industry. Demand for new homes has been met through minor subdivisions and some growth in the towns.

## D. Strategy for Agricultural Land Preservation

### 1. Progress toward goals

Table IV-5 compares the strategies established in the 2012 LPPRP for continuing and improving the agricultural land preservation program with information on County progress since 2012.

### 2. Strategies for Agricultural Land Preservation

To continue to protect its agricultural land base and farm industry, the County must maintain its growth management tools - rural zoning, TDR program, and policies that direct most new growth to towns and villages where infrastructure and services are planned to serve the new homes and businesses. In addition, the County must continue to use available funds for easement purchase.

This LPPRP establishes the following strategies to achieve its agricultural preservation goals.

- a. Develop an interjurisdictional TDR/PDR program in conjunction with the municipalities.
- b. As part of the Comprehensive Plan update, examine the balance between TDR sending and receiving areas and establish policies and procedures that balance TDR supply and demand.
- c. Develop and enact in the Subdivision Ordinance low impact subdivision standards that enhance the TDR program by encouraging or requiring receiving areas to use compact subdivision plans that retain some farmland or natural resource lands.
- d. As fiscal constraints allow, increase County funding of agricultural land preservation,

especially if the amount of subdivision activity increases.

- e. Continue to efficiently administer the easement application program to use available funds from the MALPF and Rural Legacy programs, supplemented where possible by County funds, to purchase easements from willing sellers in the County.

### 3. State Goals for Agricultural Preservation

Local strategies are consistent with the State Program Objectives listed in the text box below.

- Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting a reasonable diversity of agricultural production;
- Protect natural, forestry and historic resources and the rural character of the landscape associated with Maryland's farmland;
- To the greatest degree possible, concentrate Preserved land in large, relatively contiguous blocks to effectively support long-term protection of resources and resource-based industries;
- Limit the intrusion of development and its impacts on rural resources and resource-based industries;
- Ensure good return on public investment by concentrating state agricultural land preservation funds in areas where the investment is reasonably well supported by both local investment and land use management programs;
- Work with local governments to achieve the following:
  - Establish preservation areas, goals and strategies through local comprehensive planning processes that address and complement state goals;
  - In each area designated for reservation, develop a shared understanding of goals and the strategy to achieve them among rural and owners, the public-at-large and state and local government officials;
  - Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by ensuring sufficient public commitment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs;
  - Use local land use management authority effectively to protect public investment in preservation by managing development in rural preservation areas;
  - Establish effective measures to support profitable agriculture, including assistance in production, marketing and the practice of stewardship, so that farming remains a desirable way of life for both the farmer and public-at-large.

**Table IV-5. Implementation Progress**

<b>Caroline County 2012 LPPRP: Strategies for Agricultural Land Preservation</b>	<b>Implementation since 2012</b>
1. Implement comprehensive plan recommendations:	See individual entries below.
a. Working with the Agricultural Advisory Board to rate properties requesting MALPF Easements higher if they are in the PPA	This has been accomplished. Properties are rated higher if they are in the PPA.
b. Working with ESLC and other preservation programs to concentrate their efforts in the County on properties located in the PPA	The ESLC is aware of the PPA and will concentrate their efforts within this area, as it also includes much of the County's Targeted Ecological Areas (discussed further in Chapter V).
c. Protecting more farmland, forestland and open space by rezoning the R-1 district or including it in the TDR program	Accomplished in the 2013 Comprehensive Rezoning as described above.
d. Work with municipalities on interjurisdictional TDR/PDR programs that will fund the preservation of farmland in the PPA	Not yet accomplished. This is a strategy that the County intends to pursue.
e. Investigate the potential to increase the agricultural excise tax in Caroline County from \$750 to \$5000	Not accomplished due to fiscal constraints. This strategy will not be pursued now.
f. Propose low impact development design regulations that would encourage compact subdivisions, thereby preserving the remainder for active farming and open space	Not yet accomplished. This is still a goal for the County and is included as a strategy both in this chapter and in Chapter V, Natural Resource Conservation.
g. Work to increase our average annual preservation acreage to 3000 acres through inter-jurisdictional TDR/PDR programs and an increase in the agricultural excise tax.	Annual preservation acreage has been low due to funding constraints and low development pressure. Absent a large County funding commitment, which is not realistic now, the County government has little control over the two factors that influence the rate of agricultural land preservation - the amount of subdivision activity in the County (which would result in more use of the TDR program) and State funding levels.
2. Continue efforts to coordinate County preservation planning with growth in the Towns by developing an inter-jurisdictional TDR Program.	Not accomplished. This is a strategy that the County intends to pursue.
3. Continue to support agricultural land preservation with local funding.  To the extent possible, considering fiscal constraints, the County should make every effort to continue the annual \$1 million fund, by making additional contributions in future years from the general fund or from other sources such as an expanded agricultural preservation excise tax program.	Not accomplished due to fiscal constraints.
4. Continue to support and work with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy	The County continues to work with the ESLC.



## Chapter V - Natural Resource Conservation

### A. Overview

This chapter reviews Caroline County's strategies to protect and conserve natural resource lands. Caroline County has an abundance of natural resources, including forested and estuarine habitats, mineral resources, and productive agricultural land. Natural resource lands addressed in this Chapter include forests, wetlands, streams and rivers, floodplains and other natural features. These abundant natural resources, particularly those associated with the County's waterways, contribute significantly to residents' quality of life.

Natural resource lands provide innumerable benefits. They provide wildlife habitat, natural filtration for air and water pollutants, and opportunities for resource-based recreation. Properly managed, they form the natural framework around which the built environment is planned and developed, providing essential natural controls against flooding, erosion, and soil loss. They are an integral part of the County's rural character and beauty. Natural resource lands require few government services, provide opportunities for eco-tourism, and help enhance property values in developed areas.

The health and social benefits of public access to natural resources is substantiated by a growing body of social science and behavior economics research that connects public access to safe, well-maintained parks and trails to increased rates of physical activity.

### B. County Goals

This section lists County policies related to natural resource conservation and provide a

summary of progress towards these goals since 2012.

#### 1. Comprehensive Plan Goals

Several chapters of the Caroline County 2010 Comprehensive Plan address natural resources. Because the County's natural resource and agricultural policies complement each other, the plan's objectives often address both. These goals and objectives are listed by chapter.

##### **Chapter 1, Land Use and Growth Management.**

**Goal:** Preserve agriculture, natural resources and the rural character of the County by continuing to direct future growth to existing population centers.

Objectives:

- Providing adequate planning and regulatory mechanisms for rural land use and growth management.
- Preserving valuable natural, historical, cultural, archeological and scenic resources.

##### **Chapter 3, Water Resources.**

**Goal:** Identify suitable strategies for nutrient reduction to reduce point source and non-point source impacts to receiving waters now and in the future.

##### **Chapter 4, Priority Preservation Areas.**

**Goal:** Preserve agriculture and forestry in rural areas as the dominant land use in Caroline County.

Objectives:

- Balance agricultural land use with environmental best management practices;

- Supporting public and private preservation and conservation programs and initiatives;
- Enhancing County programs for preservation and conservation;

## **Chapter 5, Natural Resources.**

**Goal:** Manage, protect and conserve natural resources.

### ***Objectives:***

- Enacting appropriate protection measures for environmentally sensitive areas;
- Responsibly managing forest resources;
- Improving surface water quality, specifically by reducing loads of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediments into County waterways;
- Conserving groundwater resources and the integrity of those sources of water;
- Enhancing County programs for natural resource protection/conservation.

## **2. Zoning Ordinance goals**

The Zoning Ordinance reinforces the mutually complementary roles of agricultural land preservation and natural resource conservation. Specifically, Section 175-12 states that the Rural District, in addition to providing for agriculture,

*“...is also intended for purposes of protecting watersheds and water supplies; to provide for spacious development; to protect forest, wetland and scenic areas; to conserve fish and wildlife; to promote forestry, the growing of crops and grazing; and to prevent untimely scattering of more dense urban development.”*

## **3. Progress Towards Goals**

### ***a. Strategies in 2012 LPPRP***

The 2012 LPPRP included the following recommended strategies:

1. Incorporate the State’s Green Infrastructure more fully into the comprehensive planning program by targeting agricultural properties that could link gaps between hubs and

corridors to create habitat and maintain corridors.

2. Increase the pace of natural resource land conservation.
3. Focus attention to areas that are ecologically rich.
4. Use available and new sources of funding to conserve natural resource lands.
5. Improve and update inventory.
6. Pursue opportunities to develop eco-tourism and resource-based recreation in the County.

Fiscal constraints have hindered the goal of increasing the pace of land conservation. However, the County has made progress in preserving its natural resources through its compliance with state policies, particularly the legal requirements for sensitive natural resource area protection. Important accomplishments since 2012 include the following:

### ***b. Comprehensive Zoning***

Described in more detail in Chapter IV, the 2013 comprehensive revision of the Zoning Ordinance limits potential subdivision in or near natural resource areas by rezoning some areas from R-1 to R-Rural.

### ***c. MALPF Easements***

Since 2012 the MALPF program has purchased three agricultural easements. One of these is immediately adjacent to a Green Infrastructure corridor, helping to protect the corridor.

### ***d. County Recreation and Parks system.***

The purchases and improvements below are described in more detail in Chapter III, but are mentioned briefly here in relation to their natural resource value and opportunities for people to connect with nature:

- 11 acres in the Town of Greensboro to extend public waterfront access.
- 12 acres on Poplar Neck Creek to develop a dredge disposal site for County use in keeping waterway access open and to create the Choptank Nature Park which will provide nature trails and natural areas.
- Enhanced water access provided through improvements at five boat ramp locations.
- Used Waterway Improvement funds to keep sections of the Choptank River clear of snags to maintain recreational use by kayakers and canoeists.

#### ***e. State and Land Conservancy purchases***

The following acquisitions by State agencies and private land conservancies since the 2012 LPPRP also enhance natural resource protection in Caroline County.

- 2013: 49-acre purchase by the Maryland Environmental Trust purchased 49 acres.
- 2014: 35 acres of resource land protected by the Maryland DNR and Eastern Shore Land Conservancy of 35 acres.

- 2016: A portion of the County's new North County Regional Park will be permanent forested natural resource land under an easement.

#### ***f. Other Easements***

Since 2012, an additional 44.3 acres have been placed under Forest Conservation easement through the subdivision and site plan process.

#### ***g. Heritage Resources***

The County's Office of Tourism and Heritage Development continues to work with neighboring jurisdictions and the County's Historical Society to promote and protect the resources within the County's scenic byways and the Stories of Chesapeake Heritage Area.

## **C. State Goals**

The State goals for conservation of natural resource lands, and County goals and programs that complement and support these policies, are discussed in Table V-1.

**Table V-1. 2017 State Goals for Natural Resource Preservation**

<b>State Goal 1</b>	<p><b>Identify, protect and restore lands and waterways in Maryland that support important aquatic and terrestrial natural resources and ecological functions through combined use of the following techniques:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public land acquisition and stewardship</li> <li>• Private land conservation easements</li> <li>• Local land use management plans to conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas/minimize impacts to resource lands</li> <li>• Support incentives for resource-based economies that increase the retention of forest, wetlands or agricultural lands</li> <li>• Avoidance of impacts on natural resources by publicly funded infrastructure development projects</li> <li>• Appropriate mitigation response, commensurate with the value of the affected resource.</li> </ul>
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County policies and programs	<p>2010 Comprehensive Plan Land Use chapter: directing growth to existing population centers, while enhancing the conservation of resource lands as part of a region-wide rural conservation area that protects both farmland <u>and</u> natural resources.</p> <p>Comprehensive Plan objectives in Chapters 1 and 4: provide mechanisms for rural land use and growth management; preserving natural resources; support public and private preservation and conservation programs and initiatives.</p> <p>The County has cooperated with, and will continue to work with, the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) and other private land conservation organizations that obtain easements on priority lands.</p> <p>The 2013 Comprehensive Rezoning resulted in a greater acreage of R- Rural zoned lands, where only minor subdivisions are permitted, while also providing adequate land for development near the existing towns. The adopted Septic Tiers Map allows only minor subdivisions in most of the County.</p> <p>In 2015, the County established a more accurately and precisely defined Priority Preservation Area to focus limited funds for easement purchases.</p> <p>The County’s Critical Area: Forest Conservation and Stormwater Management regulations provide for mitigation when sensitive environmental areas are disturbed.</p>
<b>State Goal 2:</b>	Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas such as the Targeted Ecological Areas.
County policies and programs	<p>The goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan in Chapter 3, Water Resources, and Chapter V, Natural Resources, establish the County’s intent to address surface and groundwater quality and impacts and to protect environmentally sensitive areas.</p> <p>As part of the MALPF easement application process, the County ranks properties higher if they are in the PPA. The two Rural Legacy areas support creation of riparian buffers along Tuckahoe and Marshyhope Creeks.</p>
<b>State Goal 3:</b>	Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that may fall outside of designated green infrastructure (examples include: rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shale barren communities, grasslands, shoreline beach and dune systems, mud flats, non-forested islands, etc.)
County policies and programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development proposals are reviewed for impacts on State-identified habitat areas.</li> <li>• Forest Conservation requirements provide for protection of forested areas.</li> <li>• Chapter V of the Comprehensive Plan addresses the presence in the County of Delmarva Bays (a unique, freshwater wetland feature) and the need for project review for threatened and endangered species habitats.</li> </ul>

<b>State Goal 4:</b>	Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas to assist State and local implementation programs.
County policies and programs	<p>The implementation strategies in Chapter 5 of the Comprehensive Plan establish the County's need to develop improved mapping of natural resources and sensitive areas</p> <p>The State database of sensitive lands is incorporated into the County GIS database and consulted in the land use application review process for property development to minimize the resource impacts. The SSPRA's database resources consistently consulted by the County include: Natural Heritage Areas, Listed Species Sites, Locally Significant Habitat Areas, Colonial Waterbird Sites, Waterfowl Staging and Concentration Areas, Nontidal Wetlands of Special State Concern, and Geographic Areas of Particular Concern.</p>
<b>State Goal 5:</b>	Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated state/local strategy to achieve them through State and local implementation programs.
County policies and programs	<p>Caroline County integrates State policies and regulations into County programs and regulations.</p> <p>Chapter 3 (Water Resources) of the Comprehensive Plan commits the County to supporting and participating in strategies to reduce point and non-point-source pollution of water resources.</p>
<b>State Goal 6:</b>	<p>Assess combined ability of State and local programs to achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand and connect forests, farmland and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure.</li> <li>• Protect critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats, biological communities and populations.</li> <li>• Manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands, floodplains and aquifer recharge areas and their associated hydrologic and water quality functions.</li> <li>• Adopt coordinated land and watershed management strategies that recognize the critical links between growth management and aquatic biodiversity and fisheries production.</li> <li>• Support a productive forestland base and forest resource industry, emphasizing the economic viability of privately owned forestland.</li> </ul>
County policies and programs	<p>MALPF and Rural Legacy programs will continue to expand green infrastructure. The County is committed to working with land conservancies, municipalities and other partners to create green infrastructure network.</p> <p>The WIP stream buffers have been used to expand existing green corridors.</p> <p>Critical Area requirements protect water quality and habitat and the Critical Area buffers maintain and expand green corridors.</p> <p>Forest Conservation regulations require no net loss of forest cover.</p> <p>Habitats and biological communities are protected through the State and County requirements for SSPRAs, perennial stream buffers, floodplains and non-tidal wetland regulations.</p> <p>Most of the County is zoned R-Rural, which permits only minor subdivisions and supports natural resource conservation as well as farmland. Sensitive areas are separated from new subdivision lots.</p>



## D. Inventory of Natural Resource Lands

A total of 6,406 acres of natural resource land (Table V-2) in the County is protected by ownership for purposes of natural resource conservation. Compared with the State and private conservation efforts, the County and Towns have preserved relatively little natural resource land. Most of the currently protected natural resource land in the County has been preserved by the State or through private quasi-public easements or purchases. The Maryland DNR is the major owner of natural resource land. The location of these lands is shown on Map V-1. This represents approximately 3.2% of the total land mass (205,054 acres)

**Table V-2. Natural Resource Lands by Ownership**

Ownership Category	Acres
County	334
Towns	42
State (including forest conservation)	4,563
Private/Quasi Public	1,467
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,406</b>

*Source: Department of Planning and Codes*

### 1. Parks and Preserves

Natural resource lands that are owned and maintained for resource protection and recreation include the following:

**Adkins Arboretum** is a 288-acre State-owned public garden dedicated to the preservation of natural vegetated landscapes and the cultivation of native plant species within Tuckahoe State Park. The Arboretum sustains a successful outreach program that educates amateur arborists and gardeners on sustainable landscaping techniques. It also preserves a large stand of intact riparian woodland along Tuckahoe Creek.

**Idylwild Wildlife Management Area**, owned by the State, contains nearly 3,600 acres of forested area in the headwaters of the Marshyhope Creek. It is managed by the State as wildlife habitat and as a public hunting area. It protects sensitive riparian forest and wetlands and constitutes one of the largest interior forested tracts in the County.

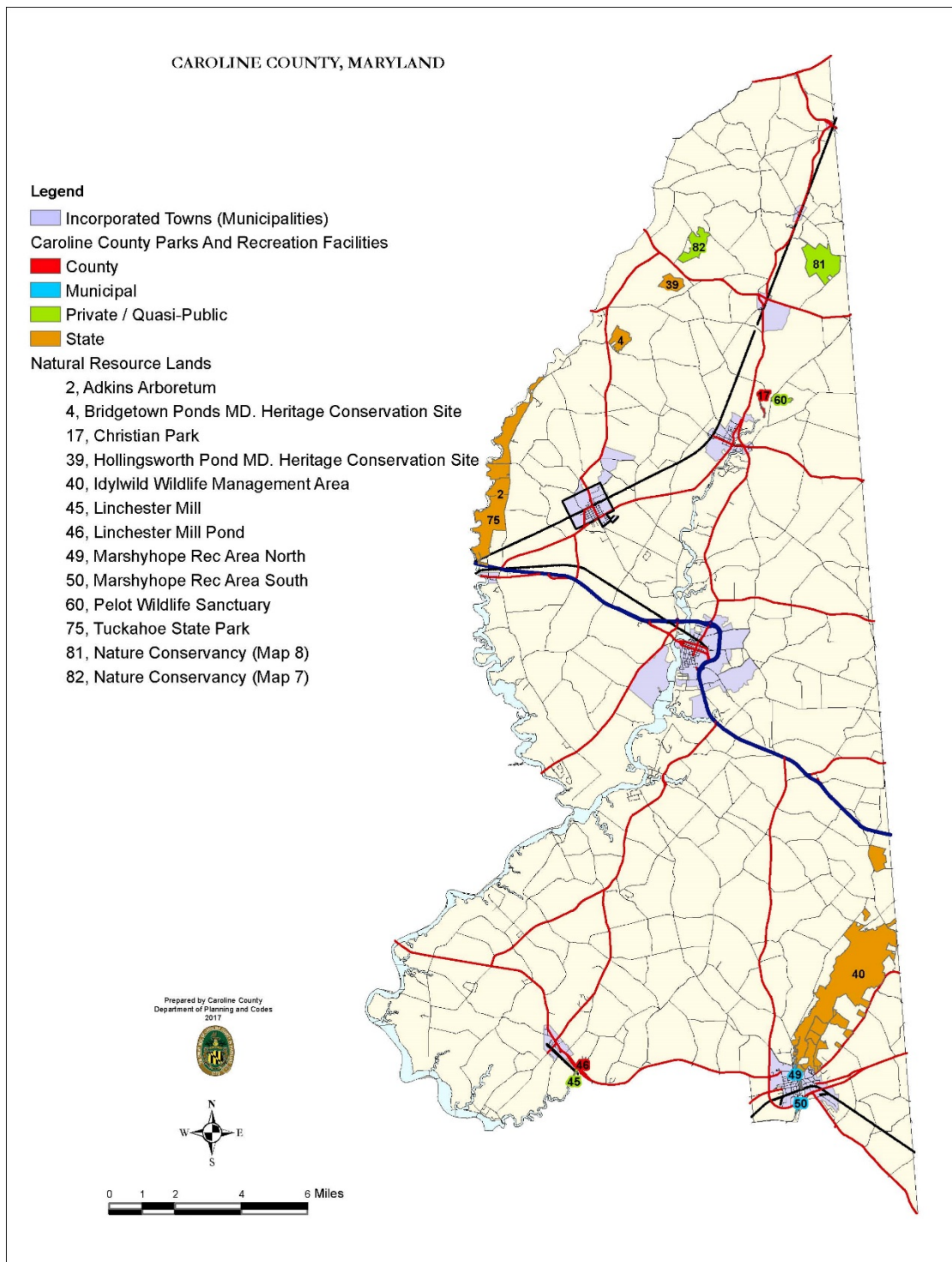
**Bridgetown and Hollingsworth Ponds** are preserved by the State, and consist of approximately 290 acres of natural land. These areas contain sensitive wetland communities and rare geologic formations that are unique to freshwater wetlands on the Delmarva Peninsula.

**Lynch Preserve at Robbins Creek**, a 206-acre riverside preserve south of Denton that was donated to the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy in 1999. Bordered by both the Choptank River and Robbins Creek, the preserve includes forest and unpaved walking trails that opened to the public in 2012.

**The Nature Conservancy** owns approximately 800 acres of land in the northern portion of the County. This acreage includes an area of seasonally flooded wetlands, unique to the Delmarva Peninsula, known as Delmarva Bays. These are an unusual type of shallow, irregularly inundated, freshwater depression wetland considered to be significant because they are uncommon and their features provide irreplaceable habitat for rare species. The sites support academic researchers and have received planning or financial support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maryland Department of the Environment, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Nature Conservancy also owns the Choptank Wetlands Preserve, approximately 275 acres of tidal wetland habitat by the Choptank River in the southwest corner of the County.

## Map V-1. Natural Resource Lands by Ownership



**Pelot Wildlife Sanctuary** is a 50-acre wildlife sanctuary near Greensboro. It is owned by the Maryland Ornithological Society.

**Locally owned natural resource lands** include the County-owned Christian Park and Linchester Mill and Mill Pond, and the Marshyhope Recreation Area, owned by the Town of Federalsburg.

## 2. Natural Resource Land Protected by Easement

The County's easement acquisitions protect both farmland and natural resource land. Although the easement acquisition programs are geared primarily to agricultural land preservation, portions of the easement lands are non-agricultural resource lands, especially woodlands and wetlands. As described in the previous chapter, the County has various easement lands held by different easement holders (MALPF, Rural Legacy, ESLC, and the Maryland Environmental Trust –MET). All the acreage protected by these easements is listed in Chapter IV, Agricultural Land Preservation.

**The Tuckahoe and Marshyhope Rural Legacy Areas** were established with the goal of protecting large contiguous areas of riparian buffer along Tuckahoe and Marshyhope Creeks as well as preserving swaths of farmland. The 3,314 acres of purchased easements within the Rural Legacy Areas have successfully protected riparian buffers along these creeks. (Because these waterways are within the Critical Area, these buffers are also protected by Critical Area stream buffer requirements.) This acreage is privately owned and therefore not included in the acreage listed in Table V-2, but the acreage is listed in the protected easement acreage in Chapter IV, Agricultural Land Preservation.

## 3. Natural Resource Land Protected through the Development Process

The County's development process requires protection of Critical Area buffers, stream buffers, wetlands, floodplains and certain forests. Because the rate of development within the County is slow, the total acreage protected through development is not large. Nevertheless, these areas, shown on subdivision plats and site development plans and protected from disturbance, are an important element of the County's program to protect natural resources.

## E. County Implementation Program

This section discusses components of the County's implementation program for natural resource land conservation.

### 1. Comprehensive Planning Context

The County's Comprehensive Planning program provides the framework for integrating natural resource conservation and land use. The framework has three basic elements, as described below.

#### ***a. Encourage development to locate in designated growth areas.***

The County's land use strategy directs growth to the municipalities and discourages diffuse growth elsewhere in the County. This approach focuses growth in and around towns, and away from environmentally sensitive or resource-rich lands outside of towns.

#### ***b. Maintain the agricultural land base, thereby also conserving natural resource lands.***

Preserving agricultural lands is essential to the County's natural resource conservation strategy because much of the County's sensitive natural area, including wetlands, forests, and natural

stream buffers, are located on privately owned farmland. Preservation of the County's agrarian economy combats sprawl and discourages development of environmentally sensitive land.

***c. Protect valuable natural resources through federal, state and local regulations and special programs.***

Sensitive resources are protected through a range of regulations and programs, including zoning and subdivision regulations and watershed protection strategies. A summary of local regulations is provided in Section V.B.3.a below.

## **2. Watershed Planning and Tributary Strategies**

The Maryland DNR has divided Maryland into 138 large (8-Digit) watersheds. Six of these are wholly or partially located in Caroline County; most of the County falls within either the Upper Choptank, Tuckahoe Creek or Marshyhope Creek watershed (Figure II-3). State and County environmental planning focuses around watersheds, as described in this section.

***a. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)***

TMDLs are regulatory mechanisms used to identify and implement controls on both point and non-point-source discharges into water bodies.

On December 31, 2010 EPA promulgated a TMDL for the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, specifically for nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) and sediment. The TMDL is designed to ensure that all pollution control measures needed to fully restore the Bay watershed are in place by 2025. The TMDL is supported by rigorous accountability measures to ensure cleanup commitments are met, including short and long term benchmarks, a tracking and accountability system for jurisdiction activities, and federal contingency

actions that can be employed if necessary to make progress. Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) detail how and when Maryland and its local governments will meet pollution allocations.

Aside from the nutrient and sediment limits imposed by the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and its resultant WIPs (see below), no TMDLs for other pollutants have been established for the Choptank and Tuckahoe Rivers. The County is complying with a phosphorus TMDL issued for the lower half of the Marshyhope River prior to establishment of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.

***b. Watershed Implementation Plan***

Caroline County's watersheds exhibit a range of health characteristics per Maryland's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan.

All the 8-digit watersheds in the County are listed as Category 1 Priority (Restoration) watersheds. Category 1 Watersheds are those watersheds that are on the EPA's list of impaired waterways (known as the "303(d)" list, reflecting the section of the Clean Water Act that establishes the list), or that are not on the 303(d) list, but require restoration to meet other (two or more) natural resource goals.

In Caroline County, all but the Lower Choptank Watershed are also listed as Category 3 Priority (Protection) watersheds, which indicates that these watersheds are biologically significant in such a way that requires the prioritization of high-quality water quality, natural resource, and/or landscape conditions. Despite varying degrees of impairment, Caroline County's waterways retain desirable natural characteristics and possess attributes that merit protection.

Statewide Phase II (WIP) Goals include river-specific cleanup strategies to reduce the nutrients and sediments flowing into the Chesapeake Bay. These strategies outline how

local efforts will develop and implement “best management practices” (BMPs) to minimize pollution.

Since 2002, Caroline County has engaged in various watershed characterizations and planning efforts. The County has completed numerous watershed plans that address nutrient pollution and strategies to reduce them. In 2012, the County completed its local Phase II WIP, which identifies best management practices (BMPs) to reduce nutrient pollution in surface waters in each watershed in the County. Development of the Phase III WIP will begin in 2017.

Since 2012, the WIP has been implemented through agricultural BMPs and preserved stream buffers, managed by the Soil Conservation District and the Maryland Department of Agriculture. County policies support the creation of stream buffers and protection of water quality through the BMPs, but this implementation is accomplished by State agencies. The County does not receive records on where the buffers are delineated or protected.

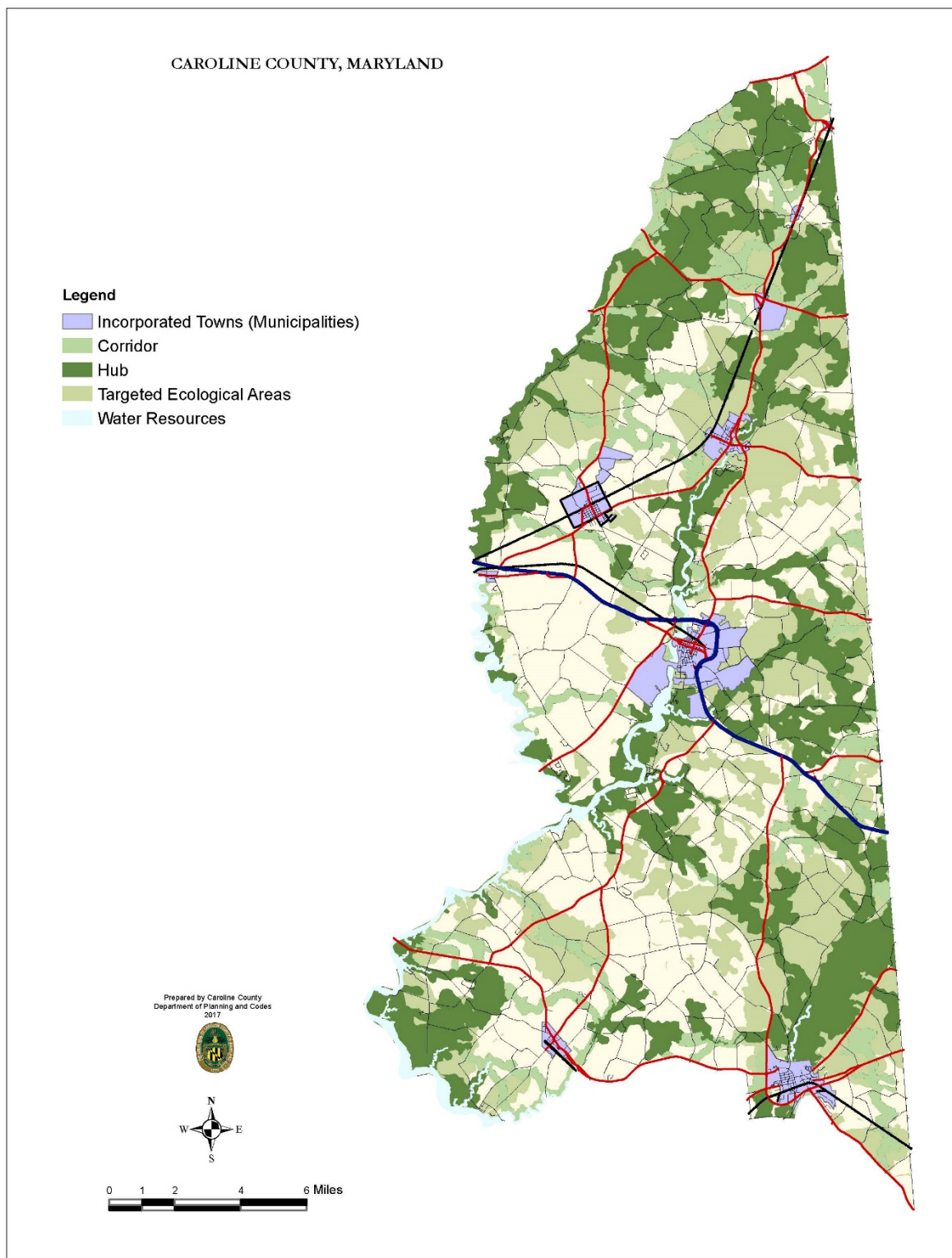
### 3. Green Infrastructure

Maryland’s Green Infrastructure initiative is a DNR-led State-wide effort to identify large, contiguous blocks of ecologically significant natural areas (hubs) and to link them with natural corridors to create an interconnected network of natural resource lands across the State.

Since its establishment in the 1990s, the Green Infrastructure initiative has evolved over the years into a program called Maryland GreenPrint, which identifies Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) that are preferred for Statewide Program Open Space funding based on their high ecological value.

Map V-2 shows the TEAs in Caroline County. These include major hubs along Marshyhope Creek and in the northern portion of the County, as well as smaller hubs and corridors that follow the County’s major stream valleys.

## Map V-2. Targeted Ecological Areas





#### 4. Land Development Regulations

State and federal requirements for the protection of environmental features are incorporated into the County's subdivision and zoning regulations and implemented through the development review process. The incorporated towns have their own regulations.

County requirements that support goals for natural resource protection include:

- Limits on subdivision in the Rural Zoning District. Only minor subdivisions are permitted (up to four lots), except in receiving areas which have been selected through the comprehensive planning process for rural residential development. Lots must be located in a manner that provides for compliance with environmental standards.
- Chesapeake Bay Critical Area: The County's Critical Area regulations, incorporated into the Zoning Regulations and enacted in accordance with the State's Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Law, protect surface water quality and habitat within 1,000 feet of the tidal high water line. Natural buffers are required within 100 feet of the tidal high water line.
- Streams: The local zoning regulations require 100 foot and 25 foot buffers from all perennial and intermittent streams, respectively. Agriculture and timbering within the stream buffers are governed by appropriate management plans and subject to approval by the Natural Resource Conservation Service or the County. Clearing of stream buffers for other purposes is discouraged and strictly managed to achieve no net loss of vegetated cover within riparian areas.
- Floodplain Ordinance (Chapter 108 of the County Code): The floodplain regulations are primarily intended to guard against loss of life and property, but have the added benefit of protecting sensitive riparian forest and riverine wetlands by restricting new construction within the 100-year floodplain. Federal and State floodplain standards are implemented through the Floodplain Overlay District.
- Forest Conservation Ordinance (Chapter 109 of the County Code): This ordinance, adopted in compliance with Maryland's Forest Conservation Act, requires conservation of high-value forest resources when development occurs. The requirements are implemented through the County's subdivision review process.
- Wetlands: Federal and State regulations protecting wetlands are implemented through the County's development review process.
- Habitats of Threatened/Endangered Species: As described in Section II.3.e, SSPRAs are designated by the DNR. Projects located within a SSPRA are submitted by County reviewers to the State; comments received are addressed during the County's review process. Areas identified by DNR as containing Forest Interior Dwelling Species are also addressed during the County's project review and, if in the Critical Area are sent to the Critical Area Commission for review.
- Stormwater Management (County Code Chapter 158) and Erosion and Sediment Control regulations (County Code Chapter 103): These requirements are essential for protected water quality when development occurs. Caroline County's ordinances follow current Maryland standards, which require use of environmentally sensitive design.

Map V-3 shows environmentally sensitive areas of the County that are specifically protected by

development regulations that address water quality, habitat and flood capacity. Map V-4 shows habitat areas identified by the State that must be considered in the County's review of development proposals. The County's development regulations support the Maryland green infrastructure goals.

The data contained in these maps are separated to facilitate the reader's understanding of the depth of natural resource protection policy applied in the land development process. Map V-3 protection areas (Critical Areas, Flood Hazard Zones and Wetlands) are protected in federal or state law with prescriptive policy that limits the scope and density of development. The FIDS and SSPRA areas reflected in MAP V-4 require consideration, but state and federal laws do not restrict development in these areas as in the areas reflected in Map V-3.

## 5. Heritage Areas and Scenic Byways

In addition to its parks and recreation facilities, Caroline County's landscape contains views, historic resources and natural settings that evoke its history and heritage. These resources have been recognized through two State programs: Heritage Areas and Scenic Byways. The planning, publicity and financial resources provided through these programs help to protect the County's rural and scenic character, provide access to financial assistance for preserving historic resources, promote tourism and draw visitors that benefit County businesses.

### ***a. Caroline Economic Development Corporation***

The Caroline Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), a private non-profit corporation that has operated Caroline County's economic development program since 2001, is a key partner in the programs described below. The CEDC also runs Caroline County's Office of Tourism and Heritage Development, which

works to preserve features, structures, and landscapes relating to Caroline County's history, and to promote the County's historic assets to increase the economic benefits associated with tourism.

### ***b. Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area***

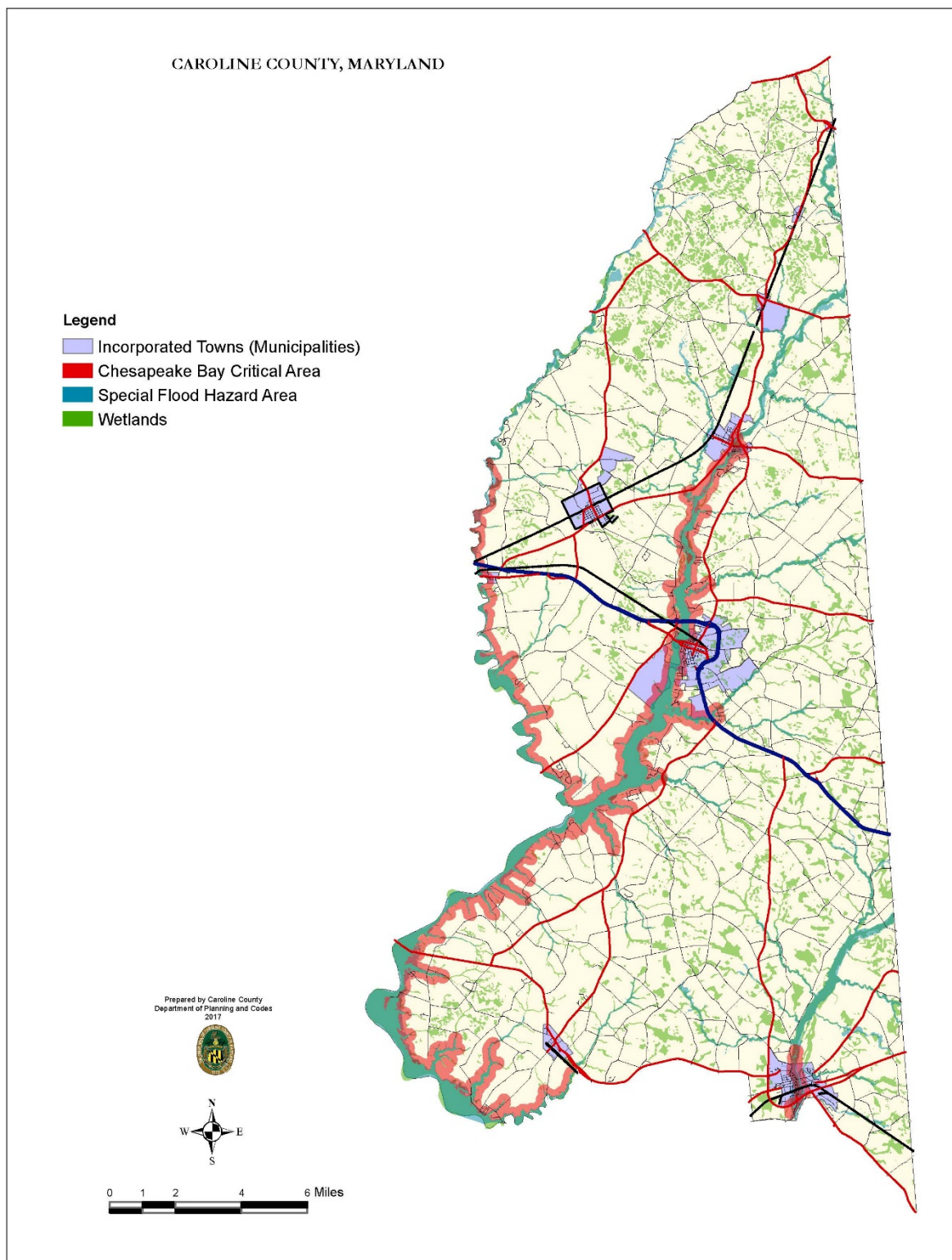
Maryland's Heritage Areas Program consists of State -certified regions where public and private partners make commitments to preserve cultural, historical and natural resources for sustainable economic development. Heritage Areas focus attention on the history, living culture, and distinctive natural areas of the local region. The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) administers the Program to target State financial and technical assistance to "Certified Heritage Areas."

The Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties partnered with Eastern Shore Heritage Incorporated (ESHI)<sup>8</sup> and 21 municipalities to create the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area. ESHI was tasked to develop a Heritage Area Management Plan. In 2005, the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area program was "Certified" by the MHAA and has since been adopted into local policy through an amendment to the Caroline County Comprehensive Plan. The certification of the heritage area has helped foster grant funding for local projects, as well as historic rehabilitation tax credits for property owners.

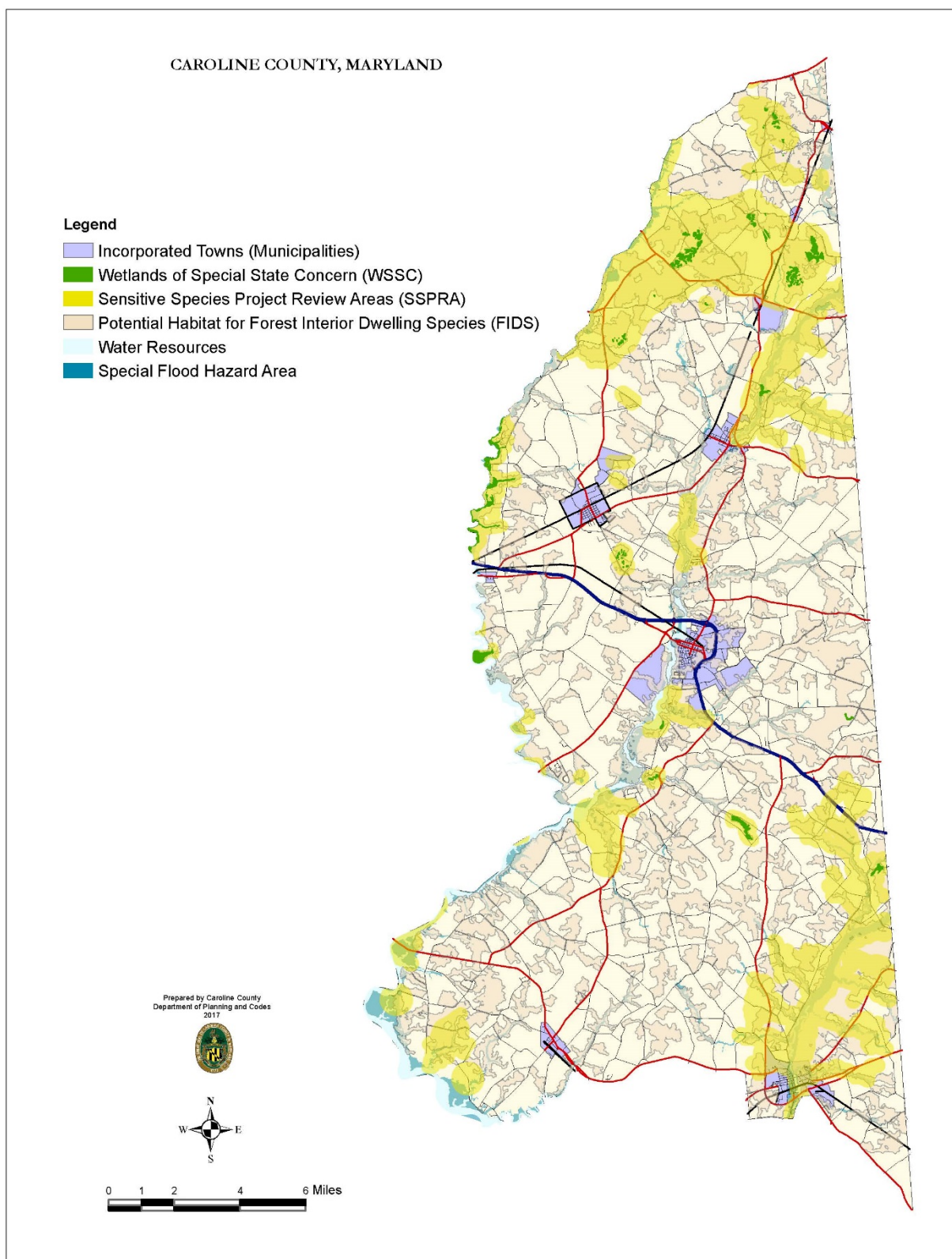
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<sup>8</sup> Eastern Shore Heritage, Inc. is a private nonprofit educational organization that works to promote Maryland's Eastern Shore with economic enhancement and development, through heritage tourism and stewardship of the natural, cultural, and historic resources

**Map V-3. Sensitive Areas Protected by Development Regulations**



**Map V-4. Habitat Areas**



### ***c. Scenic Byways***

The Scenic Byway program recognizes State highway corridors that are outstanding examples of scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, and/or natural qualities and provide special benefits, including the promotion of heritage tourism.

The Maryland State Highway Administration operates the Maryland Scenic Byway Program. Once a State Scenic Byway has been designated, it becomes eligible for technical assistance for preparation of a Corridor Management Plan (CMP) as well as prioritized funding from various State grant programs.

Caroline County contains portions of two State Scenic Byways:

- The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Scenic Byway follows the roads, waterways, trails, and hiding places used by enslaved people to find their way to freedom before the Civil War. This Byway has a website (<http://harriettubmanbyway.org/>), a self-directed, 125-mile long driving tour with more than 30 sites in Dorchester and Caroline Counties, and a visitor center in the town of Church Creek in Dorchester County. The visitor center is part of the Harriet Tubman National Historic Park.
- The Michener's Chesapeake Country Scenic Byway, developed in partnership with Queen Anne's, Talbot and Dorchester Counties, highlights the region's maritime, agricultural and natural resources. The byway was inspired by *Chesapeake* by James Michener, which tells the tales of Eastern Shore families throughout centuries of history. The Byway's "Chesapeake Country (Mid-Shore) Corridor Management Plan" proposes strategies for integration into the nationally designated portion of the Chesapeake Country Scenic Byway to the north and the Blue Crab State Scenic Byway

to the south. The Byway route overlaps with the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway in several locations, and travels through the Stories of the Chesapeake heritage area.

## **6. Data and Inventories**

For County planning and review of development proposals, data on natural resources lands and protected areas are essential. The programs and requirements discussed above generate information on natural resources. The County has data on land cover, natural resource lands, protected lands, and other features that impact development options. This includes GIS data from the State and aerial photographs.

The Department of Planning and Codes maintains information on resource land and preserved land resulting from subdivision and site plan approvals. The development process results in open space, forest reserve areas, stream buffers, critical area buffers, easements and similar features. These records are available primarily in paper files.

A limited amount of the available data is integrated into a GIS database.

In 2016, the County contracted with the Geographic Technologies Group, Inc. to create a more detailed GIS database on parks and recreation sites owned by the County, State and municipalities. The database has detailed information on County-owned sites, and more limited information on municipal and State park land. Additional material will be added to this database.

## **F. Strategy for Natural Resource Conservation**

This section describes Caroline County's program development strategy for natural



resource conservation based on the background in this chapter.

The County has the physical resources and planning framework in place to achieve County and State goals for natural resource land conservation. The large State parks, County parks, Rural Legacy Areas, and private conservation areas provide a base of preserved land. The County's zoning, subdivision, stormwater management, Critical Area and floodplain regulations provide the regulatory framework to implement State and federal requirements that protect water quality, streams buffers, habitat and forests.

Fiscal constraints are an unavoidable reality. In concert with State, federal, municipal and private conservation partners, the County needs to use limited funds wisely, following policies established by the Comprehensive Plan and State programs.

Strategies for the County's natural resource conservation goals are listed below:

### 1. Pursue park development related to natural resource conservation.

The priorities established in this Plan for Rehabilitation, Development and Land Acquisition, in (Table III- 6) include several land acquisition and park development projects that will achieve natural resource conservation goals. These projects include development of the Choptank Nature Park, stormwater improvements at Ganey's Wharf, development of the Upper Choptank River Water Trail and Marshyhope River Water Trail through selective clearing of downed trees; and wetland restoration at Greensboro Community Park.

### 2. Initiate development of a forest management plan.

The 2010 Comprehensive Plan notes the importance of forests that are contiguous or

connected with stream buffers throughout the County. The plan recommends that the County consider development of a Forest Management Plan:

A Forest Management Plan would map and evaluate strategies to protect forested corridors and large tracts of forest land. Forest management goals and strategies could be coordinated with municipalities in the form of urban tree planting programs.

### 3. Develop the Phase III WIP.

The County will work with partners in the Maryland DNR and MDE to develop the Phase III WIP for waterways in Caroline County.

### 4. Improve database capacity and information.

- Although the County includes the state GIS layer of sensitive lands in its project review process (i.e. Critical Area, Flood Hazard, wetlands, etc), the Department of Planning and Codes is navigating a software transition that will improve the granular level of the data collection at the point of issue for land use permits. Include forest conservation easements and private (subdivision) open space.
- Explore making County GIS data available to the public.

### 5. Develop Low Impact Subdivision Standards.

The Comprehensive Plan recommends that the County enact low impact standards within its zoning, subdivision, and sediment and erosion control regulations. Such guidelines could provide for environmentally sensitive designs for site plans and for larger subdivisions within receiving areas or within the R-1 Residential zoning district.

## 6. Support Heritage Area and Scenic Byway Designations.

The certified Heritage Area and Scenic Byways provide opportunity to coordinate County land preservation, economic development, historic preservation and park development goals. The following strategies will build on the accomplishments in designating these areas.

- Improve and update the County's historical data and inventory by including them in the County's geographic information systems (GIS) database. Create geo-spatial references for historic assets to aide in the County's preservation and planning programs.
- Continue to work with the initiatives found in the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area Management Plan and the Chesapeake Country (Mid-Shore) Corridor Management Plan, including focusing on the development of the Choptank Nature Park and the Medford House Interpretive Center in the Village of Choptank, which is on a branch of Michener's Chesapeake County Scenic By-Way and less than ¼ mile from the Choptank Marina.

# Appendix A. Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Resource Conservation Parcel Inventory

table of the Parks and Recreation Facilities amenities follow.

Per email correspondence with Ingrid Brofman, Natural resources Planner for MD-DNR, the GIS shape file data for county, municipal and private non-profit parcels were transmitted to Rodney Vese, Jr., Mapping Specialist/GIS Analyst, MD-DNR in October 2016.

Caroline County also has established a web-based GIS inventory of its County-owned facilities as referenced in the Chapter III narrative. The level of detail and the condition rating for the GIS inventory far exceeds the table summary attached. Web reference is <http://demo4.geotg.net/carolineribbon>





## Caroline County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Draft March 1, 2017

[illegible]



SUMMARY TABLE								
	Owner	Recreation	Resource	other	Total			
	Board of Education	155.4	0.0	68.0	223			
	Caroline County	137.5	334.1		472			
	Town of Denton	66.1	23.7		90			
	Town of Federalburg	57.6	18.1		76			
	Town of Ridgely	55.7	0.0		56			
	Town of Preston	8.5	0.0		8			
	Town of Greensboro	21.6	0.0		22			
	Town of Hillsboro	4.0	0.0		4			
	Town of Templeville	0.8	0.0		1			
	Town of Goldsboro	1.3	0.0		1			
	<b>Total Local</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>952</b>			
	State	1,487	5,785		7,272			
	Federal	-			-			
	<b>State &amp; Federal Subtotal</b>	<b>1,487</b>	<b>5,785</b>		<b>7,272</b>			
	Private/ quasi-public	278	1,467		1,746			
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,274</b>	<b>7,628</b>		<b>9,970</b>			
	55%	215.5						
	12%	1,995.7						
		0.7	1,908.9					

Owner	Recreation Land	Resource Land	Total Acres
Caroline County	137	334.1	471.6
Board of Education	155	0.0	155.4
Town of Ridgely	56	0.0	55.7
Town of Denton	66	23.7	89.8
Town of Federalburg	58	18.1	75.7
Town of Preston	8	0.0	8.5
Town of Greensboro	22	0.0	21.6
Town of Hillsboro	4	0.0	4.0
Town of Templeville	1	0.0	0.8
Town of Goldsboro	1	0.0	1.3
<b>Total Local</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>375.9</b>	<b>884.3</b>
State	1,487	5,785	7272.0
Federal	-	-	0.0
<b>State/Federal</b>	<b>1,487</b>	<b>5,785</b>	<b>7272.0</b>
Private/ quasi-public	278	1,467	1745.6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,274</b>	<b>7,628</b>	<b>9,902</b>

Park Proximity Table Framework Draft 1/10/17 SCS

Park Type	Typical size	Proximity or service reach	
		In Town	Unincorporated Area
1	Neighborhood Park/ Mini Park	under 2 acres	1/2 mile
2	Community Park	3-20 acres	1/2 mile
3	School Recreation Park	3-20 acres	10 miles
4	Regional Park	21 - 100+ acres	10 miles
5	State Park	21 - 100+ acres	15 miles
6	Special Use areas	21 - 100+ acres	20 miles
	Boat ramps		<i>Various</i>
	4-H park		10 miles
	Choptank Marina		20 miles
	Historic (Linchester, Webb Cabin, Etc.)		15 miles

# Appendix B. Agricultural Land Preservation Parcel Inventory

The following table represents the Caroline County Agricultural Land Preservation Parcel Inventory provided by CC Planning and Codes.

FILE_NUMBER	MAP	GRID	PARCEL	SETTLEMENT ACREAGE	SETTLEMENT PYMT	TAX_ID	SETTLEMENT DATE
05-87-40e	13	17	13	260.904	232046.73	0607002491	4/16/2003
05-87-28e	10		56	147.9336	102118.85	0602014793	12/4/1989
05-86-16e	34		9	190.502	36563	0603008347	1/7/1988
05-85-02ex1	10		15	176.69	77394.78	0602017571	12/19/1986
05-86-08e	32		40	112.003	78586	0606008747	12/5/1988
05-86-18Ae	53		74	124.802	77376.25	0604007018	4/2/2002
05-86-18Be	53		75	105.0989	65875	0604006984	1/4/2001
05-87-26e	48		41	146.68	106343	0608009317	4/15/2003
05-87-37e	46		43	109.34	81255	0604005465	10/23/1989
05-86-12e	54		21	118.597	49320.53	0605009154	3/31/1988
05-87-43e	36		12	363.991	467768.61	0606002889	4/19/2004
05-95-01Ae	7		28	81.66	55762	0601009052	8/27/1997
05-95-02e	14		43	157.363	90900	0602006316	3/30/1998
05-05-02	48		111	203.8443	405688.6	0608001693	12/19/2006
05-05-02	48		103		405688.6	0608007616	12/19/2006
05-97-16Ae	38		28	97.012	48506	0603023516	10/17/2001
05-97-10e	17		4	185.397	139047.75	0607007116	10/18/2000
05-97-11e	17		4	195.1	160299	0607007116	3/12/1999
05-97-12e	17		4	163.98	122235	0607007116	4/3/2000
05-00-02e	38		1	144.339	86003.4	0603014762	4/30/2003
05-00-01e	32		123	282.941	281940	0606014941	11/12/2001
05-96-02Ae	49		5	78.85	54670	0605020646	11/12/1999
05-96-01e	17		7	233.799	161795.31	0607006977	10/28/1998
05-98-02e	46		67	105.014	84760	0604013352	5/14/2001
05-98-03	29		10	187.22	283116.8	0603008495	4/24/2008
05-98-01e	53		27	103.956	62499.02	0604003799	2/14/2001
05-97-09e	17		4	218.07	167693.07	0607007116	3/12/1999
05-97-07Ae	13		29	55.322	54234.3	0607002505	6/2/2003
05-95-05e	61		17	397.9095	167870.63	0605019745	5/16/2000
05-97-02	11		16	250.31	504340	0601004638	2/21/2007
05-97-03	10		27	88.7	252795	0602008548	1/11/2008
05-97-05e	17		53	126.258	106469.3	0607002246	5/7/2001
05-99-01e	43		24	185.426	123477.76	0608009945	9/23/2002
05-95-04e	10		17	156.368	99237.56	0602001411	6/15/1998
05-99-05	7		4	166.9	294539.94	0601005553	4/22/2007
05-84-10Aes1	29		100	62.516	45855	0603033473	6/3/1986
05-94-03Ae	49		2	73.244	43346.4	0608007292	5/15/1998
05-94-02Ae	49		1	59.62	24742.3	0608001294	5/9/2000
05-94-01e	38		44	140.56	65571	0603015327	9/12/1995
05-91-25A	43		23	36.342	102450	0608001081	3/20/2009
05-91-19Ae	38		31	92.653	41400	0603015319	11/20/2001
05-05-01	37		24	194.01	501826	0608008876	10/10/2006
05-89-14Ae	49		67	59	41300	0608004226	2/13/1991
05-89-16e	49		5	104.63	83000	0608000956	12/19/1990
05-89-09ce	36		1	140.954	212000	0606006914	1/2/1991

05-89-10e	41		10	114.931	79702.71	0604015924	10/24/1990
05-89-11ce	42		37	202.105	140073.5	0608008302	10/13/1993
05-88-08Ae	18		200	24.866	20286.1	0607004753	9/18/1989
05-88-09Ae	53		207	73.068	47424.35	0604011996	11/21/1989
05-82-02Aex1	36		25	333.7	237200	0606007783	2/4/1985
05-89-30Ae	62		27	88.07	62000	0605009898	10/10/1990
05-89-05e	8		26	351.73	174865	0601008692	12/6/1990
05-89-22e	44		5	109.758	76130.6	0608007306	12/26/1990
05-89-06Ae	10		18	57.951	34770.6	0602011735	3/16/1998
05-89-07Ae	26		3	95.01	199521	0606002811	12/6/1990
05-87-02Ase	49		71	59.2	35520	0608007039	11/17/1988
05-80-02e	27		54	261.5	296970	0606008526	3/26/1986
05-99-03e	52		62	102.726	76294.5	0604002857	8/13/2002
05-99-04Ae	46		68	87.2087	64192	0604004116	3/16/2004
05-91-20e	43		62	203.36	94552.39	0608006407	1/31/1997
05-91-15e	38		54	100.207	50103.5	0603002438	2/22/1999
05-89-08Aex2	27		31	49.86	34915.97	0606005829	8/15/1990
05-91-06Ax2	54		7	95.042	87360	0608009767	4/24/2006
05-99-10e	48		8	200.9567	149217.53	0608005508	10/24/2002
05-99-11e	18		280	147.414	93163.39	0607017863	8/12/2002
05-99-12Ae	8		129	47.034	29909.3	0601007114	8/7/2001
05-92-16e	27		19	112.68	89580.6	0606000118	6/5/1998
05-94-06e	38		27	154.07	77035	0603013545	10/14/2001
05-94-07Ae	53		18	99.07	51718.28	0604011244	6/30/1999
05-86-05e	38		7	134.753	58000	0603013219	4/28/1988
05-90-11e	32		58	154.644	136303.45	0606006639	3/28/1991
05-05-02	48		104		405688.6	0608001685	12/19/2006
05-92-10e	54		37	111.93	73777.5	0608004439	4/1/2003
05-92-12e	49		68	191.12	94220.38	0608003297	6/8/2001
05-92-13e	58		31	117.5	87375	0604002288	6/6/1996
05-92-05e	27		24	145.257	107925	0606006604	11/24/1998
05-92-06e	27		20	92.061	73188.5	0606001548	7/25/2002
05-94-05Ae	43		12	95.609	38180	0608008744	12/11/2000
05-94-04Ae	54		12	73.7147	39265.94	0608006393	3/2/1998
05-92-08e	38		34	161.05	100985.69	0603023486	9/6/2002
05-92-01Ae	8		169	202.134	121419.6	0601015249	11/22/2000
05-92-02e	17		24	138.16	109728	0607003579	3/9/2001
05-05-04	38		22	113.014	414451.8	0603008134	9/20/2007
05-87-33e	49		58	143.777	68725.41	0608003491	2/2/1989
05-87-38Ae	47		140	93.9414	53526	0604022092	1/6/1989
05-86-03e	8		14	139.454	51504.25	0601007505	7/1/1988
05-86-01e	5		34	253.457	99552	0601000209	6/8/1988
05-86-02e	8		23	573.932	212557.77	0601007815	7/1/1988
05-87-21e	14		12	173.542	104415.51	0602006634	6/26/1995
05-87-22Ae	53		223	44.45	22275	608012407	1/22/1989
05-89-26A	53		80	84.654	437970.9	0604005821	6/24/2009
05-86-04Ae	53		1	10	2880	0604011252	3/16/1988

05-89-31Ae	62		60	13.6315	12971.19	0605021669	8/23/1990
05-87-04Ase	49		10	29.164	16412.88	0608007101	10/17/1989
05-90-12e	53		1	183.245	182245	0608007586	11/18/2003
05-86-17ce	27		33	200.55	55151.25	0606009441	1/7/1988
05-86-07e	60		45	183.6607	82660	0605014522	6/23/1988
05-01-01e	15		21	109.616	80250	0602001152	9/16/2003
05-99-10e	48		12		149217.53	0608008671	10/24/2002
05-00-04e	38		15	125.39	74586	0603013235	9/5/2002
05-02-03	54		35	60.537	53100	0605012244	4/25/2006
05-02-04	48		142	80.27	118905	0608005699	1/9/2007
05-02-06e	32		44	190.233	226440	0606009093	10/30/2003
05-02-05	48		149	88.23	132345	0608010889	1/9/2007
05-89-20e	43		17	170.02	101433.97	0608007276	10/29/1990
05-89-21e	44		3	104.62	73234	0608007314	9/17/1990
05-89-23e	50		59	113.84	78988	0608012598	9/17/1990
05-89-17ex1	43		108	162.55	113758.99	0608015090	10/19/1990
05-89-18e	43		84	193.326	115357.13	0608010625	10/15/1990
05-89-19Ae	43		20	55.142	32986.6	0608007357	7/11/1990
05-89-12e	42		7	330.359	199234.13	0608007322	10/29/1990
05-88-10e	56		24	349.429	195680.24	0605022096	12/7/1989
05-88-05Ae	26		4	70.03	44869.5	0606007546	8/9/1989
05-88-06e	66		1	223.284	132877	0605024285	11/15/1989
05-88-07Aex1	18		83	45.751	29738.15	0607003749	1/5/1990
05-84-01A, Be	5		51	108.823	41803.23	0601006312	6/29/1988
05-84-02e	29		57	138.582	68791	0603024547	12/19/1988
05-84-03e	10		64	266.3	148568	0602009749	12/19/1986
05-83-01e	34		46	263.657	113899.82	0603020207	12/9/1986
05-83-02	13		50	148.78	713578.66	0607005857	1/22/2009
05-83-03A1ex2	63		1	145	90000	0604016688	3/26/1986
05-83-03A2e	63		75	104.84	68459.95	0604024893	1/24/1985
05-83-03Be	63		91	7.112	5332	0604016645	1/24/1985
05-82-04ex1	108		271	103.2	51100	0603010023	4/28/1987
05-82-01e	10		24	138.4	64600	0602008548	6/8/1984
05-82-02Bex1	36		26	86.1	68080	0606001238	8/15/1984
05-80-09e	59		63	113.46	62333.6	0604013794	5/3/1984
05-81-01Ae	58		10	82.59	47902.2	0604013786	5/2/1983
05-81-02e	13		11	107.5	68900	0607001045	5/17/1984
05-81-03e	38		137	111.6	71240	0603036731	12/2/1983
05-80-06A	48		101	135.7117	439911.49	0608006253	5/28/2008
05-80-06A1se	48		110	169.2907	84500	0608006245	6/3/1986
05-80-03Aex1	19		7	108.25	75075	0602018284	2/24/1984
05-80-03Bcex1	19		35	291.67	172307.7	0602014211	2/24/1984
05-80-04e	17		8	332.867	164933.5	0607001983	8/30/1983
05-06-18	18		233	140.834	499448.95	0602021439	12/2/2008
05-06-07	14		3	361.822	1019127.91	0602006308	9/11/2008
05-06-08	13		26	117.41	371835.45	0607009305	8/31/2007
05-06-09	47		19	414.74	1430853	0604006437	6/16/2008

05-06-10	47		168	149.45	515602.5	0604024907	3/10/2008
05-06-25	42		77	131.56	259820	0608004072	8/8/2008
05-85-07e	11		40	123.875	86198	0602005395	7/10/2002
05-87-15e	19		66	304.83	130500	0602014092	12/23/1988
05-87-16	18		4	96.911	287733	0602006618	5/1/2007
05-87-17ex3	17		97	167.148	82074	0607003234	1/5/1989
05-87-18Aex2	17		52	43.46	20730	0607002971	12/20/1988
05-87-19es	07		96	341.723	169680.05	0602021765	12/7/1988
05-87-11e	27		1	157.65	69917.98	0606007015	5/9/1996
05-87-12e	27		10	123.55	61275	0606004008	4/11/1989
05-87-13ex1	27		17	147.776	73388	0606004016	10/3/1988
05-87-14ce	24		2	284.1368	139689	0602015684	12/27/1988
05-87-07Ae	54		14	83.254	49352.4	0608006679	11/29/1988
05-87-07Be	54		13	67.28	28169.67	0608001405	12/20/1988
05-87-08Ae	54		21	82.15	45183	0608006342	3/29/1989
05-87-02sex2	49		9	118.8	71280	0608006768	11/21/1988
05-87-03sAe	50		24	63.37	38020.8	0608007144	9/25/1989
05-87-05e	54		33	143.73	72792	0608005427	11/22/1988
05-87-06e	39		10	167.8	83400	0603019179	11/25/1988
05-87-01e	54		15	143.3624	84817.44	0608006369	9/17/1990
05-85-08Ae, Be	39		78	115.523	49000	0603031624	12/31/1986
05-85-10e	10		18	322.7375	74000	0602011735	12/23/1986
05-87-32e	2		4	117.544	46267.97	0601008714	10/17/1988
05-87-31e	2		2	175	86839	0601006029	3/21/1989
05-87-35e	49		35	136.431	67215.5	0608009708	12/19/1988
05-86-13Ae	39		14	77.633	32569	0603004295	4/18/1988
05-87-27e	54		3	122.689	75030	0604006186	2/13/1989
05-87-36e	53		85	146.182	84000	0604005546	12/20/1988
05-86-04e	47		34	195.105	75399	0604002776	1/6/1989
05-86-09ex4	43		33	214	106000	0608009309	10/15/1987
05-86-06e	10		128	175.177	53547	0602021218	2/10/1988
05-02-04	48		92		118905	0608001472	1/9/2007
05-97-02	11		55		504340	0601004611	2/21/2007
05-00-03e	17		3	106.023	71562.52	0607004265	8/12/2002
05-00-04e	38		14		74586	0603013227	9/5/2002
05-00-08A	54		6	67	211200	0608010021	2/14/2008
05-01-02	27		32	232.08	929693.91	0606000746	3/3/2009
05-01-07e	43		2	100.317	64965.36	0603000168	3/17/2003
05-01-10Ae	54		17	80.364	57737.5	0605020735	7/23/2003
05-90-37	66		33	128.616	428004.03	0605006058	2/3/2009
05-90-32e	53		101	163.5139	104137.28	0604012771	9/8/1993
05-90-33Ae	54		23	72.114	49890.4	0605017718	4/26/2001
05-87-04As1e	49		120	18.901	15389.2	0608015252	7/8/2002
05-90-19e	1		1	102.354	64419.51	0601001647	8/28/1993
05-89-02e	55		4	153.44	75708.44	0605017998	11/27/1990
05-90-28A	49		34	65.714	203968	0608003513	2/5/2008
05-90-29	49		7	112.82	76251.18	0605006902	12/12/1993



05-90-26	42		61	133.63	353187	0608005966	1/17/2007
05-89-31Ae	61		521		12971.19	0605013488	8/23/1990
05-89-20e	43		18		101433.97	0608007284	10/29/1990
05-89-13	48		34	158.123	98000	0608009333	12/19/1990
05-89-11ce	42		36		140073.5	0608008353	10/13/1993
05-89-11ce	42		119		140073.5	608008345	10/13/1993
05-90-17Ae	43		99	62.478	63000	0608012768	1/28/1991
05-90-14Ae	53		17	32.0867	22537.85	0604012712	10/28/1991
05-90-13Ae	54		34	89.033	70354.12	0608005613	1/17/1991
05-90-12e	54		35		182245	0608007578	11/18/2003
05-90-18Ae	55		22	92.79	64253	0605014492	2/7/1991
05-90-06Ae	29		21	63.3	48273	0603002691	9/4/1991
05-90-07e	29		20	131.14	107843.09	0603017184	9/27/1991
05-90-02e	42		9	119.92	95999.85	0608007691	2/8/1991
05-90-03e	38		3	114.105	90484	0608004374	1/15/1991
05-90-04e	30		45	112.3	108257	0603007162	9/27/1991
05-87-03s1e	50		23	100.738	60442.8	0608007136	4/6/1989
05-90-05Ae	29		84	44.02	35348	0603028879	10/11/1991
05-89-01Ae	58		39	96.5	86850	0604016661	11/23/1993
05-89-01Be	58		38	87.3	87090.48	0604001524	9/30/1993
05-87-11e	27		2		69917.98	0606007023	5/9/1996
05-87-11e	27		3		69917.98	0606007031	5/9/1996
05-90-02e	43		49		95999.85	0608009511	2/8/1991
05-87-01e	54		24		84817.44	0605014557	9/17/1990
05-86-07e	54		37		82660	0605014514	6/23/1988
05-86-06e	10		54		53547	0602009285	2/10/1988
05-86-12e	54		22		49320.53	0605009162	3/31/1988
05-86-02e	8		149		212557.77	0601013602	7/1/1988
05-89-05e	8		27		174865	0601008684	12/6/1990
05-89-16e	49		81		83000	0608000964	12/19/1990
05-89-16e	49		8		83000	0608000948	12/19/1990
05-88-10e	56		5		195680.24	0605007739	12/7/1989
05-87-07Ae	54		41		49352.4	0608006377	11/29/1988
05-86-16e	34		10		36563	0603008339	1/7/1988
05-86-19e	54		78	102.885	81647.48	0608012849	9/9/1993
05-86-19e	54		79		81647.48	0608012865	9/9/1993
05-92-08e	38		35		100985.69	0603023494	9/6/2002
05-92-08e	38		36		100985.69	0603023508	9/6/2002
05-98-02e	46		71		84760	0604013336	5/14/2001
05-92-01Ae	8		170		121419.6	0601015230	11/22/2000
05-92-12e	49		69		94220.38	0608009163	6/8/2001
05-86-18Be	47		59		65875	0604007034	1/4/2001
05-91-20e	43		77		94552.39	0608003823	1/31/1997
05-94-03Ae	49		6		43346.4	0608007349	5/15/1998
05-87-35e	49		37		67215.5	0608009538	12/19/1988
05-87-17ex3	18		74		82074	0607003242	1/5/1989
05-87-19es	7		108		169680.05	0602029685	12/7/1988

05-87-12e	27		34		61275	0606004024	4/11/1989
05-86-22e	7		5	185.8	81312	0601009885	12/13/1988
05-85-09e	35		3	308.81	202539.13	0603005275	9/26/1989
05-85-04e	23		96	422.38	343240	0607003102	4/17/1987
05-85-05ex2	32		35	101.02	49664	0606009204	12/23/1986
05-85-06e	15		15	149.227	73000	0602007908	11/28/1986
05-86-19e	54		20		81647.48	0605014948	9/9/1993
05-86-20	42		106	141.72	404381.5	0608003548	3/9/2007
05-84-12e	58		6	127.9868	76182	0604006305	11/10/1986
05-84-12Ae	58		4	71.4	42990	0604013808	11/17/1986
05-84-15Ae	58		69	7.0314	4000	0604022041	12/11/1987
05-84-08Ae	18		93	66.84	33420	0607004311	11/10/1986
05-84-10Be	29		61	38.78	26446	0603007898	5/8/1986
05-84-11e	24		16	188.69	118775.54	0602009684	1/14/1987
05-84-04ex1	58		5	188.5	129965	0604008057	4/11/1986
05-84-05e	54		10	113.36	57308.7	0608005257	11/7/1986
05-84-06e	48		67	102.607	51819.57	0608007454	4/27/1987
05-84-08e	23		187	135.51	83670.75	0607011695	3/23/1987
05-90-23	11		11	135.4	343285.8	0602004399	10/26/2007
05-81-02B	13		12	292.45	188537	0607001029	12/26/1984
05-82-01e	9		21		64600	0602005859	6/8/1984
05-84-04ex1	58		68		129965	0604009118	4/11/1986
05-84-05e	48		65		57308.7	0608009414	11/7/1986
05-84-06e	48		183		51819.57	0608015325	4/27/1987
05-84-10Aes1	29		101		45855	0603033481	6/3/1986
05-06-25	42		78		259820	0608004102	8/8/2008
05-06-25	42		80		259820	0608004099	8/8/2008
05-06-25	42		136		259820	0608015384	8/8/2008
05-81-03e	38		9		71240	0603013251	12/2/1983
05-84-01A, Be	5		31		41803.23	0601006339	6/29/1988
05-85-04e	23		95		343240	0607003137	4/17/1987
05-85-05ex2	32		122		49664	0606014542	12/23/1986
05-85-08Ae, Be	39		15		49000	0603017265	12/31/1986
05-80-03Bcex1	19		158		172307.7	0602031213	2/24/1984
05-80-04e	17		48		164933.5	0607001991	8/30/1983
05-80-04e	17		49		164933.5	0607001975	8/30/1983
05-80-04e	17		50		164933.5	0607001959	8/30/1983
05-80-04e	17		51		164933.5	0607001967	8/30/1983
05-85-09e	35		11		202539.13	0603005259	9/26/1989
05-85-10e	10		80		74000	0602011743	12/23/1986
05-85-10e	14		164		74000	0602033313	12/23/1986
05-07-04	65	6	38	22.1		0605013356	12/2/2009
05-07-08	42	21	40	265.49		0608009228	10/7/2010
05-07-08	42	22	41			0608009236	10/7/2010
05-07-08	48	4	38			0608009198	10/7/2010
05-07-08	48	4	40			0608009279	10/7/2010
05-07-08	48	4	39			0608009252	10/7/2010

05-08-06	37	18	3	289.3		0608001596	7/26/2010
05-07-14	38	20	33	232.1		0603023451	2/26/2012
05-87-28e	9		79		102118.85	0602024519	12/4/1989
05-15-08	47	18	1	333.34	707399	0608003483	8/10/2016
COU.CAR.03	58	17	9	174.63		0604003306	2003
DOW.CAR.01	21	17	4	174.57		0606003648	2001
FAU.CAR.99	27	12	41	90.36		0606002919	1999
SAA.CAR.00	26	18	5	417.32		0606007007	2000
HUD.CAR.93A	32	5	59	211.59		0606002498	1993
MOR.CAR.98	38	13	32	148.55		0603014711	1998
ESL.CAR.99	37	19	27	206.08		0608007888	1998
GAR.CAR.00	49	21	8	133.48		0605012554	2000
GAR.CAR.01	55	3	47	145.80		0605001986	2001
GAR.CAR.95	51	24	4	275.80		0604000471	1995
BLA.CAR.94	58	14	37	378.81		0604000927	1994
WRI.CAR.02A	55	4	51	334.11		0605023963	2002
WRI.CAR.02A	55	5	52			0605023971	2002
SWA.CAR.02	36	6	63	145.86		0606014585	2002
WRI.CAR.02D	49	16	32	76.80		0608009953	2002
GRO.CAR.01	49	23	21	40.64		0608003432	2001
WRI.CAR.02A	55	5	50			0605023955	2002
WRI.CAR.02C	55	10	55	129.85		0605021022	2002
HUB.CAR.02A	55	21	34	91.99		0605005477	2002
THO.CAR.02	49	15	33	63.76		0608005362	2002
HUB.CAR.02B	55	16	61	188.91		0605017866	2002
HUB.CAR.02B	55	22	69			0605012961	2002
CAR.CAR.02	26	24	9	566.02		0606000673	2002
WRI.CAR.02B	49	23	16	82.20		0608004544	2002
ELL.CAR.02	31	6	2	268.20		0606006272	2002
WOO.CAR.02	32	20	31	164.06		0606009085	2002
HUD.CAR.93B	37	19	25	119.88		0608001936	1993
MAR.CAR.07	36	18	19	93.00		0606007384	2007
FIF.CAR.09	55	9	45	102.67		0605012627	2009
FRA.CAR.13	48	13	98	48.75		0608007594	2013
JON.CAR.14	26	11	10	34.59		0606007651	2014
MOB.CAR.15	32	19	32	153.36		0606000487	2015
MAL.CAR.94	60	4	28	33.20	40636.8	0605011922	2004
CHR.CAR.11	60	5	44	61.2	137240	0605016894	2011
CO-01-01	42	1	62	18.6		0608015201	10/1/2001
CO-01-02	5	19	33	11.83		0601009397	5/1/2001
CO-01-03	24	13	55/67	27.62		0602005522	11/21/2001
CO-01-04	8	15	141	43.2		0601016571	1/25/2002
CO-01-05	18	14	75/87	14.56		0607005962	10/12/2005
CO-01-06	5	14	19/30	10.42		0601005987	9/11/2001
CO-01-07	61	11/17	54	13.27		0605008948	6/13/2002
CO-01-09	14	19	163	5.4		0602031612	7/30/2003
CO-01-11	14	20	56/59	14.7		0602011395	6/27/2003

CO-01-12	53	7	247	2.4			10/5/2001
CO-01-13	41	24	30	11.28		0608015287	11/21/2001
CO-01-14	42	14	83/111	12.7		0608015147	10/16/2001
CO-01-15	37		37	1.6		0603036715	1/8/2002
CO-01-16	14		140	49.25		0602019493	4/9/2002
CO-01-17	48		91	0.5		0608008612	1/8/2002
CO-01-18	37	6	4	9.59		0603010589	1/30/2002
CO-01-19	53	19	53	4.79		0604014901	1/8/2002
CO-01-20	48		91	1		0608008612	1/8/2002
CO-01-21	18	17	225	1.91		0602020602	3/29/2004
CO-01-22	23	23	267	0.94		0602031353	1/29/2002
CO-02-04	52	23	22	1.23		0604014944	9/20/2004
CO-02-05	5	23	37	0.955		0601011065	7/18/2002
CO-02-06	14	19	163	17.18		0602031612	8/13/2002
CO-02-07	61	1	5	7.4		0605005183	10/9/2002
CO-03-01	23	21	108	0.937		0602014556	10/27/2003
CO-03-04	37	8	75	2.18		0603015971	9/11/2003
CO-03-05	36	9	9	10.1		0606015875	7/19/2004
CO-03-06	14	13	48	20.9		0607017944	7/30/2003
CO-03-08	28	5	105/512	4.49		0603006743	6/29/2004
CO-03-09	5	19	33	11.83		0601009397	10/21/2003
CO-03-10	18	14	75	5.98		0607005962	9/11/2003
CO-03-11	33	23	128/39	9.86		0603012085	12/17/2003
CO-03-12	17	18	18	13.19		0607008228	5/12/2004
CO-03-13	37	9	53	4.74		0603019136	7/25/2003
CO-03-14	36	9	9	2.03		0606015875	10/21/2003
CO-03-15	53		41	12.45		0604004171	10/14/2003
CO-03-17	19	1	4	1.95		0602004933	1/5/2004
CO-03-19	4	15	92	2.88		0601015729	7/2/2004
CO-03-20	37	6	6	12.4		0603015335	3/29/2004
CO-04-01	22	18	18	0.86		0607004826	4/2/2004
CO-04-02	27	5	44	0.5		0606002714	8/19/2004
CO-04-03	23	18	17	5.5		0602005492	4/15/2004
CO-04-04	29	18	12	2.87		0603041875	9/20/2004
CO-04-05	5	4	65	6.91		0601003461	4/27/2004
CO-04-06	62	8	32	1.24		0605024994	8/13/2004
CO-04-07	13	13	39/52	3.58		0607005547	7/20/2004
CO-04-09	17	7	47	13		0607029683	6/23/2004
CO-04-12	36	9	9	6.89		0606015875	7/13/2005
CO-04-13	55	8	46	7.05		0605018331	2/18/2005
CO-04-14	23	3	189	0.75		0607030428	10/25/2004
CO-04-15	14	23	77	1.36		0602021358	9/17/2004
CO-04-16	21	24	133	0.57		0606011047	10/12/2004
CO-04-17	27	5	175	6.78			12/3/2004
CO-04-18	4	15	92	1.46		0601015729	3/1/2005
CO-04-21	4	12	71 Lot 3A	7.86		0601008889	1/4/2005
CO-04-22	13	22	50	0.2		0607005857	4/7/2005

CO-05-05	59	17	20	9.11		0604011961	7/19/2005
CO-05-06	47	6	16	1.6		0608001421	12/14/2005
CO-05-07	61	12	78	13.19		605036240	4/11/2008
CO-05-08	47	10	31	11.02		0604002695	3/10/2006
CO-05-09	61	11	488	0.86			11/3/2005
CO-05-10	55	10	56	0.16		0605020794	9/20/2005
CO-05-11	18	23	89	11.67		0602004992	4/26/2006
CO-05-12	23	3	189	0.21		0607030428	2/2/2005
CO-05-13	52		230	0.83		0604001419	12/19/2008
CO-05-15	23	11	51	7.49		0602015854	3/10/2006
CO-05-16	27	8	15	4.2		0606015522	9/23/2008
CO-05-17	54	22	42	0.62		0605009111	1/31/2006
CO-05-18	4	16	5	1.9		0601003143	2/28/2006
CO-05-19	28	1	373	4.67		0607031394	10/3/2006
CO-06-02	2	16	41	1.51		0601010018	7/3/2006
CO-06-03	49	13	13/110	2		0608001855	4/24/2007
CO-06-04	13	20	19	0.4		0607009046	4/19/2006
CO-06-06	28	5	11/471	1.51		0602003104	7/2/2007
CO-06-07	5	13	17	29.02		0601017314	8/16/2007
CO-06-08	23	11	83	5.98		0602010399	8/25/2006
CO-06-09	21	18	16	0.4		0606000762	4/19/2006
CO-06-10	18	23	45	12.35		0602004461	11/1/2005
CO-06-11	10	14	76	24.73		0602010526	5/22/2006
CO-06-12	23	19	105	22.38		0607032102	5/4/2007
CO-06-13	1	23	2	0.8		0601001639	5/19/2006
CO-06-15	55	7	5	0.3		0605012597	7/5/2006
CO-06-16	27	4	15	6.27		0606015522	8/25/2006
CO-06-17	18	23	89	11.67		0607009186	12/6/2006
CO-06-18	23	20	107	18.05		0607031823	1/25/2007
CO-06-19	1	23	27	70.76		0601016687	10/3/2006
CO-06-20	53	1	195	1.24		0604011171	1/18/2007
CO-06-21	53	22	248/215	5.52		0604009126	3/14/2007
CO-06-22	39	1	3	9.42		0603042367	8/31/2006
CO-06-23	61	11	54	8.22		0605008948	7/20/2006
CO-06-24	18	23	90	1.17		0607002785	9/13/2007
CO-06-25	55	14	12	0.66		0605010403	8/4/2006
CO-06-26	8	5	161	2.44		0601015125	1/12/2007
CO-06-27	34	3	15	2.54		0603034356	1/12/2007
CO-06-28	37	17	234	0.73		0603020681	9/19/2006
CO-06-29	37	16	9	2.4		0603008827	9/27/2007
CO-06-30	55	14	141	2.64		0605030528	5/16/2007
CO-06-31	29	7	522	26.45			7/5/2007
CO-06-32	7	14	120	4.32		0601016814	2/6/2007
CO-06-33	23	5	65	0.78		0602013789	3/14/2007
CO-06-34	19	8	33	1.29		0602015439	5/2/2007
CO-06-35	28	11	129	1.88		0603044904	7/11/2007
CO-06-36	23	21	109	3.81		0602010747	11/7/2007

CO-06-37	42	21	97	0.6		0608008841	6/26/2007
CO-07-01	49	19	121	0.67		0605036151	2/5/2007
CO-07-02	5	4	65	1.01		0601003461	4/24/2007
CO-07-06	15	14	36	13.15		0602005506	10/20/2008
CO-07-07	7	14	30	2.52		0601001698	7/17/2007
CO-07-08	42	6	11	2.06		0608003599	9/24/2007
CO-07-09	41	6	3	23.62		0604012445	6/26/2007
CO-07-10	49	19	126	2			9/13/2007
CO-07-11	13	8	25	3.81		0607000502	2/13/2008
CO-07-12	52	7	64	11.25		0604005759	2/20/2008
CO-07-13	23	22	7	1.5		0602009315	11/8/2007
CO-07-14	59	6	4	1.19		0604005538	10/30/2007
CO-07-15	38	16	11	2.14		0603004775	11/8/2007
CO-07-16	38	2	43	0.22		0603007995	3/26/2008
CO-07-17	41	22	72	0.53		0608005001	10/30/2007
CO-07-18	33	21	55	2.08		0603015807	4/14/2009
CO-08-01	46	21	91	1.71		0604001656	4/30/2008
CO-08-02	4	15	5	1.75		0601003143	6/17/2008
CO-08-03	53	9	71	1.23		0604015746	4/28/2008
CO-08-04	47	2	4	5		0604016033	5/20/2008
CO-08-06	42	19/20	77	0.8		0608004072	7/30/2008
CO-08-08	30	13	43	1.06		0603008398	5/13/2009
CO-08-09	37	16	256	0.6		0603035492	12/16/2008
CO-08-17	61	17	238	0.63		0605020581	2/12/2009
CO-08-19	13	8	25	6.96		0607000502	2/24/2009
CO-09-03	1	23	27	2.53		0601016687	1/26/2010
CO-09-04	46	16	77	5.51		0604010728	7/27/2009
CO-10-04	4	11	29	7.41		0601017594	12/3/2010
CO-10-04						0601017586	12/3/2010
CO-10-04						0601009028	12/3/2010
CO-10-06	18	24	42	11.74		0602011867	9/24/2010
CO-10-09	15	9	29	2.62		0602034379	12/10/2010
CO-10-09						0602005573	12/10/2010
CO-10-09						0602034395	12/10/2010
CO-10-10	42	15	103R	1.01		0608007764	5/16/2011
CO-11-01	17	20	55	7.78		0607083251	1/27/2012
CO-11-01						0607045640	1/27/2012
CO-11-01						0607045641	1/27/2012
CO-11-01						0607045642	1/27/2012
CO-11-03	10	4	80	0.93		0601017519	1/17/2012
CO-12-01	60	8	19	4.16		0605003954	1/18/2012
CO-12-02	7	14	27	0.02		0601008838	2/4/2013
CO-12-03	48	22	66	14.16		0608010218	9/11/2012
CO-13-01	108	23	28	1.01		0603045680	12/20/2013
CO-13-02	48	4	36	3.664		0608000301	9/12/2014
CO-13-04	48	4	37	5.493		0608000298	9/12/2014
CO-14-01	108	13	64	11.4465		0603006409	



CO-14-02	28	11	109	0.3		0603004228	9/24/2014
CO-15-01	52	16	31	2.48		0604014677	8/6/2015
CO-15-02	60	8	20	0.18		0605007771	11/10/2015
CO-15-03	59	8	82	1		0604015169	10/29/2015
CO-16-01	48	7	96	0.39		0608006296	8/30/2016

MALPF
ESLC/MET/Rural Legacy
CREP
Forest Conservation

31790.1839
5478.95
94.40
988.7155

UPDATED 1.26.17

# Appendix C

## Caroline County Recreation and Parks Stakeholder Focus Group

In the beginning of April, two focus groups were conducted by BEACON on behalf of the Caroline County Recreation and Parks Department. The first focus group, held on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Preston Elementary School, had thirteen local community members participate and the second focus group, held on April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Ridgely Town Hall, had eight participants. BEACON is working with the Caroline County Recreation and Parks department to develop, compile, and visualize key performance indicators associated with their long-range planning needs. This report is a summary of the findings from the focus groups and a compilation of answers from various community members.

### Current Practices:

In order to assess the opinion of the community members in attendance about the Caroline County Recreation and Parks department, BEACON asked the focus groups to finish the following sentence, "Caroline County Recreation & Parks is... "

The first group discussed the department supplying fields and facilities for recreation and fun for all ages. This includes a department that develops, manages, and implements recreational and leisure activities for all members of the county. Participants described a central area for county events where both areas of the county (North and South) could try new things and think outside the box.

The second group said the recreation and parks department is a community driven organization that supports organized sports, provides programs and events, and focuses on providing youth development, and recreational activities for all citizens of the county. A department that maintains the parks, secures open space for recreation and parks, and one that is heavily involved in partnerships with community organizations.

### Ideas for the Future:

After discussing the department's current efforts, BEACON asked how the focus group sees the recreation & parks department in three to five years. The second group focused on broad subjects such as the department staying relevant, incorporating safety and technology, visibility, outreach, improving public health, and becoming more present in communities with increasing population numbers.

Additionally, the first group focused on more specific characteristics such as the department being the facilitator of youth sports tournaments, new revenue producing events such as bike races and 5ks, maximizing the use of existing assets, developing a more robust website with online registrations/payment options, a "Pay it Forward" initiative where individuals can attend programs and events for free but volunteer in the future, and expansion of current programs and development of new programs such as a swimming pool, YMCA facility, golf, mental and emotional activities, and parks in Northern Greensboro.

### Priorities in the Next Five years:

BEACON asked the community members to rank the priorities of the recreation & parks department for the next five years. Each focus group was divided into three groups and two groups. The ranking system was based on a one to five scale (one being the most important), and consisted of the following categories: *Improve quality of facilities*, *Increase Utilization*, *Add new facilities*, *Add new programs*, *Organize new events*, and *Other* where the groups could write in responses. Of the five sub-groups, four ranked *Increase utilization* as the most important priority. One group ranked *Add facilities* at their most important priority. Two groups ranked *Improve quality of facilities* as their second most important priority, and 2 groups ranked *Add new programs* as their second-most important priority. The additional rankings can be seen below:

- Improve quality of facilities- 4, 4, 2, 2, 3
- Increase utilization- 1, 1, 1, 3, 1
- Add new facilities- 5, 1, 4
- Add new programs- 2, 3, 3, 4, 2
- Organize new events- 2, 3, 5
- Other
  - Building on existing and creating new partnerships- 3
  - Listen to the community- 5

#### Planning Scenarios

##### *Financial Donation:*

BEACON provided the two focus groups with a hypothetical situation in which the Caroline County Recreation & Parks Department was granted with a donation of \$1million. The scenario BEACON asked is how the sub-groups would divide up the money (in \$250,000 increments) to the following options: *Maintenance*, *Repair*, *Enhance*, *Build New*, and/or *Buy Equipment*. Of the five sub-groups; four of them placed \$250,000 a piece into *Maintenance*; three placed \$250,000 a piece into *Repair*; four groups placed \$250,000 a piece into *Enhance*, and one group placed \$500,000; one group placed \$250,000 into *Build new*, and one group placed \$500,000; and four groups placed \$250,000 a piece into *Buy equipment*.

##### *Land Donation:*

The next scenario that BEACON provided was a farm property (150 acres) was donated to the Caroline County Recreation & Parks department. The sub-groups had to develop a plan with this gift and provide first and second priorities to the solution. In the first focus group, the first sub-group provided their first priority was to construct a golf course, and their second priority was a multi-purpose building. The second sub-group provided only one plan and that was a multi-purpose field for activities. The third sub-group provided their solution was to leave the land as is, and provide natural amenities on the property such as access to trails, fishing, hiking, etc. In the second focus group, the first sub-group only had one solution that was to construct an outdoor recreational complex with an indoor facility. The second sub-group provided the solution of developing a pool facility, and a sports and recreational complex, while preserving some of the land to generate revenue such as rental opportunities.

##### *Planning Decision Process:*

In the final activity for the donations provided, BEACON asked the focus groups what the decision process should be for a situation such as the above scenario. The first focus group decided on

establishing an advisory board, then use social media for citizen input, as well as a public poll, then inform the commissioners and the state, and finally speak with partners to ensure no duplication of services. The second focus group agreed that a public survey is necessary, then a volunteer representative group with community leaders form a partnership with the Caroline County government and a recently developed recreation & parks advisory board. Finally, hold focus groups with the Board of Education, local government members, parent groups, youth, sports organizations, and local business leaders.

#### Utilization of Amenities

BEACON asked the focus groups how they think the recreation & parks department should collect information on whether or not activities and/or facilities are being used. The answers included parking lot vacancies, waiting lists, participation rates, observation, and condition of facility, facility use request forms, and finally asking citizens.

#### Obstacles:

When asked what are perceived to be the biggest obstacles from achieving the priorities previously listed, the two focus groups had very similar answers: money, manpower (volunteers), transportation, politics, personal agendas by citizens, time restraints, and priorities.

#### Outreach:

Finally, BEACON asked what ways the Caroline County Recreation & Parks department could get information out to the community, and once again, both focus groups had similar answers: social media, online newsletters, program book, through the school system, billboards, signage, and different organizations such as faith based, sports, businesses, etc.

## **Proceedings of Focus Group April 4, 2016 @ 4:30pm**

Attendees: Gary Waltemeyer, Jim Newcomb Jr., Kim Hopkins, James Henning, Michael (Rico) Gestole, James Jackson, Angela Visintainer, Derek Simmons, Barton Johnson, Peter Smith, Wanda Molock, Harley Speir, Robert Jester

### Activity 1

Finish the sentence:

Caroline County Recreation and Parks is:

- Supply fields and facilities
- Recreation for all ages
- Fun
- Try new things-they think outside of the box
- Fun for all (ages)- Recreation
- All areas of the county (north to south)
  - Younger ages to the south
  - Older ages to the north
- Central area for events require a facility (i.e. open gym)
- The development, management, and implementation of recreational and leisure activities for all member of our county.

In 3 years, Caroline County Recreations and Parks will be:

- Facilitator of tournaments for youth sports (small business driver)
- Facilitator of new events- like criterion bike race (adults as well as kids)
- Swimming pool
- Maximize use of existing assets-i.e. tennis courts, walking trails- promote these assets and maintain them
- More robust website with online registrations/payment (promote)
- “Pay it forward”- attend for free but volunteer in the future
- Opening more activities Kindergarten through 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- Incorporate middle school basketball which is currently run through South Caroline Basketball Association
- Golf?? May be discounted based on course
- Responding to community wishes as opposed to initiating sports (volunteers) (if there are volunteers stepping forward for certain sports/activities, push these forward before offering programs that do not have willing volunteers already identified)
- Increase coordination
- Sustainability
- Maintain existing

- Expand new
- Development of community “Friends of... Groups” (I.e. affinity groups)

In 5 years, Caroline County Recreation and Parks will be:

- Swimming pool
- Upgrade/expand YMCA facility-partnership opportunity
- Improvements in access and transportation to activities throughout the county
- Programs that serve the very young and the older population-maybe intergenerational programs
- Add programs beyond physical- mental and emotional- creativity, crafts, etc.
- Parks in northern Greensboro
- Improvement of Junior NBA

Priorities in the next 5 Years (ranked by each of the three groups)

- Improve quality of facilities- 4, 4, 2
- Increase utilization- 1, 1, 1
- Add new facilities- 5
- Add new programs- 2, 3, 3(tied with next)
- Organize new events- 2, 3(tied with above)
- Other
  - Building on existing and creating new partnerships- 3
  - Listen to the community- 5

Scenario- Caroline County Recreation and Parks received a windfall (one-time) grant/gift/etc. of \$100,000. How would you divide that gift in \$25,000 increments among the following options:

- 1. Maintenance ● ●
- 2. Repair ● ●
- 3. Enhance ● ● ● ●
- 4. Build new ●
- 5. Buy equipment ● ● ●

● = \$25,000

Scenario- we have a farm property that is being gifted to Parks and Recreation (150 acres).

What do we do with this property (over the next few years)? 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> priorities

- Group 1:
  - 1. Golf course
  - 2. Multi-purpose building
- Group 2:



- 1. Multi-purpose fields/activities
  - 2.
- **Group 3:**
  - 1. Leave as it (immediate) and provide natural amenities on the property-inexpensive (i.e. access to trails, fishing, hiking)
  - 2. Find out what's most appropriate for the community (longer-term)

How do we decide what to do next with the property?

- Advisory board
  - Present idea to the advisory board
- Social media (reach wide audience)
- Public poll/input (engage all citizens)
- Inform the commissioners and the state (they will both be involved in the funding aspect)
- Talk to partners to ensure no duplication of services
  - Partners include all stakeholder groups, such as: economic development, YMCA, schools, tourism, faith-based organizations, towns, 4-H, sports leagues, business community, etc.

How do we know our a) activities and b) facilities are getting the utilization they should be?

- Can't find parking at events/facilities
- Waiting list
- Participation rates
- If extra accommodations are needed (equipment, etc.)
- Condition of facility and equipment (are they getting so much use they need to be repaired/replaced)

How do we know our a) activities and b) facilities are being woefully under-utilized?

- Lack of awareness
- Low participation rates
- Repeat cancellations of events/activities
- Lack of repeat customers/participants

What do you perceive the largest obstacles are for achieving the priorities that we see for the next 3 to 5 years?

- Money- Capital versus operations
- Manpower- staffing/management
- Politics
- Echo chambers- loud naysayers among a generally supportive majority, social media can exacerbate this
- Priorities- strategic action
- Efficiency and effectiveness

How should we get information out to the community?

- Social media- facebook, twitter, (or whatever the younger crowd is using nowadays)
- Online newsletters
- Quarterly program book
- Personal contact with stakeholder groups
- Billboards (ex. Registration)
- Signage
- Faith-based organizations
- Cable
- PTA and schools (newsletter, flyers, after-school program handouts, automated phone system)

When you found out you were participating tonight-what question(s) did you expect to be asked that you were not?

- Under-utilization of facilities
- Marketing
- Perceptions/public awareness as to the success of Recreation and Parks
- Public awareness regarding accessibility

## Proceedings of Focus Group April 7, 2016 @ 5:30pm

Attendees: Kevin Reichart, Ross Harper, Chrissy Bartz, Tara Hill-Coursey, Nicole N. Fisher, Beth Brewster, Monique Rich, Anthony Casey

### Activity 1

Finish the Sentence: Caroline County Recreation & Parks is:

- A community driven organization
- Supporting organized sports
- Increased partnership with major organizations
- Comprehensive plan for all activates
- Focused on providing:
  - Youth development
  - Recreational activities for all of the citizens in Caroline County
- To provide affordable public recreation opportunities for Caroline County residents
  - Throughout the entire county
  - For all ages
- Maintaining parks
- Securing open space for recreation and parks
- Programs and events
- Community partnership
- Partnering with other community organizations




In 3-5 years, Caroline County Recreation and Parks will be:

- Relevant
- Incorporates safety and technology/cutting edge
- Incorporates visibility and outreach
- Improving public health
- Decreasing obesity and other health indicators
- Diverse in programs for all cultures
- Present in areas of the community with increasing size/numbers

Priorities in the next 5 Years (ranked by each group)

- Improve quality of facilities: 2 , 3
- Increase utilization: 3 , 1
- Add new facilities: 1 , 4
- Add new programs: 4 , 2
- Organize new events: 5

Scenario- Caroline County Recreation and Parks received a windfall (one-time) grant/gift/etc. of \$1,000,000. How would you divide that gift in \$250,000 increments among the following options:

- Maintenance  
- Repair 

- Enhance      ● ●
- Build New      ● ●
- Buy Equipment ●
- • = \$250,000

Scenario- we have a farm property that is being gifted to Parks and Recreation (150 acres).

What do we do with this property (over the next few years)? 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> priorities

Group 1:

- Outdoor recreational complex with indoor facility (field house)
- Group 2:
  - Pool Facility
  - \*\*While preserving some land to generate revenue\*\*
    - Rental opportunities for income
  - Sports and recreational complex

Decision process for the gifted property

Group 1:

- Public survey
- Round table with community leaders to make recommendations to
- Caroline County Government (No town hall meeting)
- Focus groups:
  - Board of Education
  - Local government members
  - Parent groups
  - Youth
  - Sports organizations
  - Local business leaders

Group 2:

- Representative group that is volunteer
  - Citizens
  - Public
- Recreation and Parks advisory board
  - County
  - Town
  - Police
  - Public works
- Representatives from the town that the land is in

How do we know our a) activities and b) facilities are getting the utilization they should be?

- Asking people (kids) what programs they do or do not use
- Registration Lists
- Parking Lot
- Facility use request

How do we know our a) activities and b) facilities are being woefully under-utilized?

- Observation
- Not bringing in funds

What do you perceive the largest obstacles are for achieving the priorities that we see for the next 3 to 5 years?

- Funding
- Transportation
- Volunteers
- Staff/Manpower
- Mindset/Culture
- Opportunities for all
  - Access issues
- Politics/Leadership
- Blurry Vision
- Personal Agendas
  - Priority/Time
  - Education/lack of
- “The Echo Chamber”
- Fast Food society
  - Affordability/availability
  - lifestyle

How should we get information out to the community?

- Social media
- Grassroots campaign
- Door-to-door
- Newspaper/Radio advertisement
- Recreation & Parks Program Guide
- School system
  - Back pack advertising
- Signage
  - Yard signs
- Moving ads
  - Bike
  - Taxi
  - Ice Cream truck

When you found out you were participating tonight-what question(s) did you expect to be asked that you were not?

- In what way can Recreation & Parks improve community enhancement?
- Opinion of existing
- More specific issues

# Appendix D

## Parks and Recreation Staff Focus Group

### Staff Focus Group Outline November 2, 2016

10:30 – 10:45 Why are we doing this? (5 minutes)

What do you think the department will look operations will look like in 3 to 5 years?

10:45 – 11:15 Focus Group Questions aligned with Beacon Focus Group questions – Sticker Exercise

What are the priorities for the department over the next 5 years?

Improve quality of facilities/parks

Improve Program Quality

Increase Utilization

Add new facilities

Add new programs

11:15-11:30 Discuss Results of Sticker Exercise – Why?

11:30-11:50 SWOT Share

11:55-12:00 Wrap-Up/Next Steps

### Results from the Staff Focus Group

All of the operations staff (11) participated

Sticker activity: Each staff person was given 5 stickers to place on where they felt the priorities were for the department over the next 3 to 5 years. They could do anything they wanted with their stickers: place them all in one area or spread them out.

Results were:

Improve quality of facilities/parks: 13

Add new facilities: 11

Add new programs: 10.5

Improve program quality: 10

Increase Utilization: 4.5

#### Notes from discussion of where we will be in 3-5 years:

- Growth is slow – likely similar size
- Parks operation grow – Larger focus
- If 4H Park, then could expand scope of office operations
- Still great customer service



- Increased % of active adult programming in Program Services menu
- Increase in fees & charges
- Adding more facilities – “build out” on exiting acreage
- Increased Parks-based services/activities
- Increased need to be more strategic in program funding (especially Afterschool)
- On-line form completion for participant info/forms associated with program registration
- More reliance on independent contractors for Recreation programming
- Energy Savings/utility innovations (LED, etc.)
- New Department leadership/succession planning for the retirement of director

### **Ranking Discussion**

- Why is improving quality of facilities/parks the top priority?
- Benchmark in relation to other counties facilities
- Adding infrastructure
- Update park features at existing facilities & existing open space
- Improving & innovating existing services and parks before constructing new
- County need for indoor court facilities is a priority for future
- YMCA is working on a plan to build a facility but it is a member organization, does it eliminate the need for a Rec Center?
- Does adding new program require additional staff?
- How do we review/access current program registration levels/participation rates to determine if there is capacity to add new programs (at expense of existing?)

## **RESULTS OF SWOT ANALYSIS**

### **Strengths**

- Strong staff team: cohesive, invested in each other and the organization. This is precious & unique (sadly)
- Flexible
- Trusted
- High moral
- Passionate/committed team
- We work at our jobs well
- Good customer service
- Well known in community
- Good problem solvers
- Strong Registration Program System
- Partner well with others
- Large Park/vison in acquisition
- Reasonable pricing and financial assistance provided
- Summerfest/Special Event management
- Internet presence – website/Facebook
- Records maintenance
- Excellent job of professional & team development
- Historical knowledge & community investment of individual employees
- Good leadership
- Diversity of viewpoints/talents valued

### **Weaknesses**

- Saying “No” – taking on more and more
- Unable to evenly distribute staff time – have to focus on problems (reactive) at the expense/detriment of what’s working

- Finite capacity resources
- Quantity versus quality
- Lack of space for programming, storage
- Too much stuff
- Responding to change can be/is hard
- Sometimes lack efficiency of operations & communications
- Ill-defined authority/hierarchy
- Reliance on grant funding
- Need more investment in PT staff development

### **Opportunities**

- Community partnerships
- Providing unique program based on survey
- People like to play close to home on a regular basis
- Level of respect & awareness of the department locally and statewide
- Diverse training/development opportunities for staff

### **Threats**

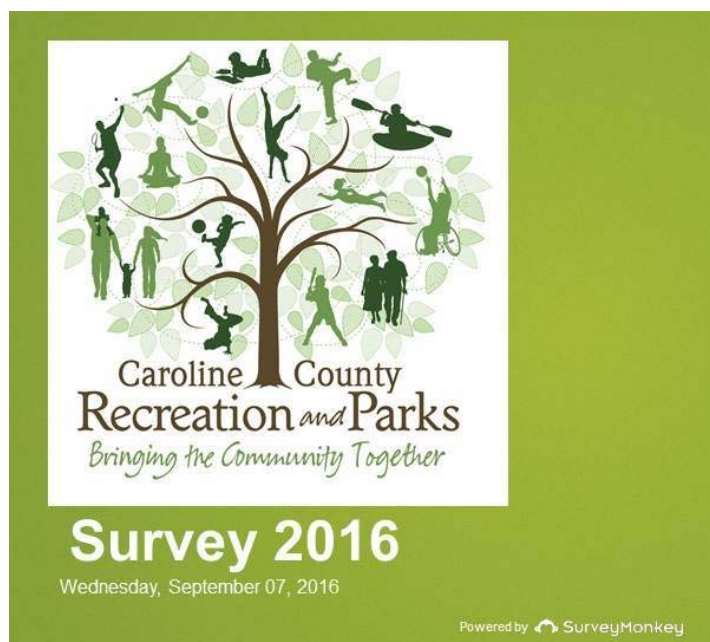
- Outside organization providing similar services
- Funding cuts: we are valued but discretionary, reliance on grant funding
- Social Media: can't keep up
- Too Much work/too little time
- Changing political and leadership climate
- Community referrals to other service providers that provide services that we don't
- Positive change in unemployment rate has reduced the labor pool for quality part-time staff (afterschool programming impacted the most)

- Instructor staff – dependability, culture
- Familiarity hiring vs skills/talents hiring – warm bodies because they are known
- Lack of volunteer program coordinator
- Lack of dedicated staff for marketing/communication
- Limited indoor physical program space – gym access
- Lack of time for long term planning – we're always on a hamster wheel

- Executive Leadership change
- Partners for fee based programming opportunities
- Diversification of park facilities
- Responsiveness to community need/demand
- Visibility in the community

- Executive leadership change
- Automation – lose the personal touch we have for great customer service
- Work/Life balance in a culture that blurs the line constantly
- Respect from program field staff for central office authority
- Soloing within divisions
- Direction/acceptance of feedback from central office staff
- North County – South County competition.

# Appendix E Survey



**653**

Total Responses

Date Created: Thursday, August 04, 2016

Complete Responses: 591

Powered by SurveyMonkey

## Q1 Survey Responders by Location (question: what is your zip code?)

651 Skipped 2

Caroline County – 561 – 85.7%

Denton	241
Greensboro	94
Preston	80
Ridgely	63
Federalsburg	49
Goldsboro	11
Henderson	10
Marydel	9
Hillsboro	3

Mid-Shore: 41      Wicomico: 3      Western Shore/Western MD: 36  
 Delaware: 8      Out-of-State: 5



Powered by SurveyMonkey

## Q2: In the past year have you, or your immediate family, utilized one of Caroline County Recreation and Parks' \_\_\_\_\_. (Please Check All That Apply)

Answer Choices	Responses
Parks	<b>70.06%</b> 433
Public Landings/Marinas	<b>36.41%</b> 225
Preschool Recreation Programs (ex. Dance, Tumblebunnies, Tiger Cubs, etc.)	<b>7.44%</b> 46
Youth Recreation Programs (ex. Soccer, Basketball, Karate, Dance, Summer Camp, etc.)	<b>44.66%</b> 276
Adult Recreation Program (ex. Karate, Dance, Yoga, Pickleball, etc.)	<b>11.65%</b> 72
Special Events (ex. Turkey Trot, Summerfest, Rivah Run, etc.)	<b>57.12%</b> 353
<b>Total Respondents: 618</b>	

Answered: 618    Skipped: 35

### Q3: How do you usually hear about Caroline County Recreation and Parks' Programs? (Please Check All That Apply)

Answered: 642 Skipped: 11

Answer Choices	Responses
Printed Program & Activities Guide	69.78% 448
Online Program Guide/Recreation and Parks Website	30.06% 193
Facebook	35.83% 230
Printed Flyers	24.45% 157
Printed or Radio Announcements	9.81% 63
Word of Mouth	46.73% 300
<b>Total Respondents: 642</b>	

### Q4: If you, or an immediate family member, participated in a Recreation program, how satisfied were with the quality of the program?

Answered: 613 Skipped: 40

Answer Choices	Responses
Very Satisfied	42.74% 262
Satisfied	30.18% 185
Somewhat Satisfied	7.99% 49
Dissatisfied	1.79% 11
Very Dissatisfied	1.47% 9
N/A	15.82% 97
<b>Total</b>	<b>613</b>

## Q5: How satisfied are you with the variety of programs offered by Caroline County Recreation and Parks?

Answered: 608 Skipped: 45

Answer Choices	Responses	
Very Satisfied	33.22%	202
Satisfied	44.24%	269
Somewhat Satisfied	17.76%	108
Dissatisfied	3.62%	22
Very Dissatisfied	1.15%	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>608</b>

## Q6 Please provide suggestions for new Recreation programs you would like to see offered:

Answered: 229 Skipped: 424

Nice Self Defense Making Field Hockey  
 Swimming Lessons Tumble Bunnies Camp  
 Middle School Dance Opportunities Children  
 Biking Adult Groups Programs Golf  
 County Think Park Public Pool Activities  
 Bus Trips Youth Flag Football Gymnastics Walking Trails  
 Outdoor Cooking Classes





### Q7: Have you or your family ever received financial assistance to participate in one of Caroline County's Recreation Programs?

Answered: 611 Skipped: 42

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	7.69%	47
No	91.33%	558
Unsure	0.98%	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>611</b>

### Q8: How do you typically register to participate in a program?

Answered: 608 Skipped: 45

Answer Choices	Responses	
Online	51.32%	312
By Phone	12.99%	79
Walk-in	20.23%	123
N/A	15.46%	94
<b>Total</b>		<b>608</b>

### Q9: If you or your immediate family uses a Caroline County Public Landing or Marina, how would you rate the condition?

Answered: 578 Skipped: 75

Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	10.21%	59
Good	29.58%	171
Fair	9.34%	54
Poor	1.56%	9
N/A	49.31%	285
<b>Total</b>		<b>578</b>

### Q10: How often do you visit our county parks and multipurpose fields (ex. South County Regional Park on Seippes Rd., Harmony Park, Preston Ballfields)?

Answered: 586 Skipped: 67

Answer Choices	Responses	
Daily	1.37%	8
Weekly	11.77%	69
Monthly	11.43%	67
Occasionally	37.20%	218
Rarely	38.23%	224
<b>Total</b>		<b>586</b>

## Q11: How would you rate the condition of county parks?

Answered: 587 Skipped: 66

Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	13.29%	78
Good	48.38%	284
Fair	15.16%	89
Poor	0.85%	5
N/A	22.32%	131
<b>Total</b>		<b>587</b>

## Q12: Please indicate the recreational activities you or your family uses the county parks for (Please Check All That Apply)

Answered: 558 Skipped: 95

Answer Choices	Responses	
Youth Sports Leagues (Soccer, Lacrosse, etc)	37.81%	211
Exercise	30.11%	168
Walking	44.09%	246
Family Picnics/Activities	36.56%	204
Quiet Relaxation	30.11%	168
N/A	16.85%	94
<b>Total Respondents: 558</b>		

**Q13 What additional facilities/amenities  
would you like to see in our parks?**

Answered: 176 Skipped: 477

Splash Pads Ball Playground Equipment  
Hammocks Tennis Courts YMCA Fields Trash Cans  
Walking Golf Course Facilities  
Water Fountains Pool Pavilion Park Swings  
Trails Better Playground Bathrooms  
Soccer and Lacrosse Restrooms Experience  
Activities Marinas Lights Hiking Kayaks Adult

# Appendix F MEETINGS of the Advisory Board

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met to discuss the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan on the following dates:

Date: 9/2/2015

Topics/Discussion: Introduction of LPPRP Master Plan Development Timeline, FY2017.

Date: 11/4/2015

Topics/Discussion: Shared LPPRP Development Plan; invited participation from Advisory Board. Planning Team to include following Advisory Board members: Harley Speir, Samantha Parker, Eugene Broadwater, Sue Segar, Derek Simmons, as well as Kevin Reichart (Caroline Youth Soccer), a State Parks Representative, Planning and Codes staff and CCRP Staff. Partial Planning Calendar through January 2016 shared.

Date: 1/6/2016

Topics/Discussion: LPPRP Update – Staff progress since 11/04/2015 and overview of Next Steps;

Date: 4/6/2016

Topics/Discussion: Update on LPPRP Progress to date including update on focus groups with Beacon School at Salisbury University; beginning work on Parks Inventory.

Date: 9/7/2016

Topics/Discussion: Staff progress report since 6/1/2016 with overview of the approach taken using Beacon of Salisbury for Trends and Indicators as well as demographics; presentation of results of public survey using Survey Monkey tool distributed through social media; work with GreenCitysGIS on Park Inventory work

Date: 11/9/2016

Topics/Discussion: Update on GreenCitysGis work on Park Inventory; work with Planning & Zoning on Ag Land Preservation and Natural Resources Land Conservation; internal work with staff on department needs; shared results of meetings with DNR on Park Equity Analysis and incorporation of it into the LPPRP process. Set date of Advisory Board Work Session. Shared that staff will request and extension on submission of Draft Plan.

Date: 1/18/2017

Topics/Discussion: Reviewed draft of Plan to date including Chapter III – Recreation, Parks, and Open Space in particular the Park and Recreation Inventory and the Capital Improvement and Acquisition Priorities. Elicited feedback and direction.

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Date: 2/1/2017

Topics/Discussion: Reviewed continued progress on the plan draft including the work on the Needs Analysis (Parity and Proximity Models) that has been done with Planning and Codes. Shared tentative production schedule and approval process through Planning Commission and County Commissioners. Draft Plan will be presented to full Planning Commission on 3/8/2017. Public Hearing will be set for 4/12/2017. The target date for Commissioner public hearing and vote to approve Plan and amend to County Comprehensive Plan will be June 2017.

Date: 3/1/2017

Topics/Discussion: Shared “Goals, Strategies and Milestones” Table, a synthesis of the policy, program and capital initiatives targeted for Board and staff action in the next 5 years as a result of the LPPRP process. (Included as here as Appendix G) Final draft chapters distributed to LPPRP Planning Committee members for final review and comments.



# Appendix G Goals, Objectives, Milestones table: County Implementation Plan of 2017 LPPRP Recommendations

The following table represents the Goals, Milestones, and Actions that were developed as a part of the LPPRP development process and will be used as working guidance for implementation of the plan.

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<p><i>GOAL 1: Retain public recreation land and facilities in Caroline County necessary to meet current and anticipated needs. Work with incorporated towns and the Caroline County Planning and Codes Department to locate future park facilities in a way that supports designated growth centers, as well as the County's land preservation efforts.</i></p> <p><i>LPPRP Ref. pp. 27</i></p>	<p>a. Meet regularly with municipal leadership to collaborate on future land use planning related to public recreation needs and opportunities.</p>	<p>1. Contribute directly to the capital rehabilitation and planning for three specific municipal projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goldsboro Community Basketball Court Surfaces,</li> <li>• Templeville Community Park and</li> <li>• Ridgely Athletic Field Complex</li> </ul>	<p>CCRP Executive Team, Parks Division in partnership with Mayor and Councils Respective Municipalities</p>	<p>FY 2018</p>
		<p>2. Contribute directly to the capital rehabilitation and planning for three specific municipal projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federalsburg Chambers Park Renovation</li> <li>• Railroad Neighborhood Park</li> <li>• Crouse Memorial Park boat ramp improvements, Denton</li> </ul>	<p>CCRP Executive Team, Parks Division in partnership with Mayor and Councils Respective Municipalities</p>	<p>FY2019</p>
		<p>3. As reflected in the capital budget plan, forecast the municipal park project priorities for FY2020-2022 for Preston, Greensboro and Henderson</p>	<p>CCRP Executive Team, Parks Division in partnership with Mayor and Councils for respective municipalities</p>	<p>FY2019</p>
		<p>4. Establish the first sustainable dog park facility within an existing municipal park</p>	<p>CCRP Executive Team, Parks Division in partnership with local park boards and their Town Councils</p>	<p>FY2019-2022</p>
	<p>b. Meet regularly with county Planning and Codes leadership to collaborate on land use policy and</p>	<p>1. Establish Inter Governmental Agreements (IGAs) with the incorporated municipalities that formally define the working relationships between the County</p>	<p>CCRP Executive Team, Caroline County Planning</p>	<p>FY2019</p>

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<p>GOAL 1: Retain public recreation land and facilities in Caroline County necessary to meet current and anticipated needs. Work with incorporated towns and the Caroline County Planning and Codes Department to locate future park facilities in a way that supports designated growth centers, as well as the County's land preservation efforts.</p> <p>LPPRP Ref. pp. 27</p>	environmental conservation opportunities on public open space	and the municipality as it relates to parks and open space development and management	and Codes, Towns of Federalsburg and Denton	
		2. Create procedures for the formal consideration of public recreation and open space needs in the residential subdivision process both at the County level and the municipal level	CCRP Executive Team & Caroline County Planning and Codes	FY2020
	c. Secure partnerships and financial support to execute the park construction priorities for county park – both new construction and rehab to meet the regional and community park needs	1. Establish the master plan development process for the North County Regional Park; implement preliminary pedestrian access trails	CCRP Advisory Board oversight, CCRP Executive and Parks Team, Ad Hoc Community based Steering Committee	FY2018
		2. Complete South County Athletic Complex field amenities for trail walking, league and tournament operations and playground features.	CCRP Executive and Parks Team, Community Athletic Leagues	FY2018
		3. Complete school community park improvements in Federalsburg and Preston in partnership with league users and the BOE to improve athletic field play and safety, and to increased paved court surfaces	CCRP Executive and Parks Team, Community Athletic Leagues, BOE, School Site principals	FY2018-2019
		4. Phased design and construction of Choptank Nature Park: trail and resource	CCRP Executive and Parks Team, Caroline Historical	FY2018-22

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		interpretation of historic and natural features	Society, Choptank Village residents	
		5. Complete second multipurpose field, expand perimeter trails and maintenance support facilities at Marydel Community Park	CCRP Executive and Parks Team, Town of Marydel,	FY2021
		6. Expand public access and community use potential at 4-H & Youth Park; establish capital master plan for special use facility	4-H Park Advisory Board, CCRP Parks, Maryland Extension Service- Caroline County	FY2019
	d. Maintain partnerships with Caroline County Public Schools as reflected in the Joint Use Agreement to more effectively use school facilities for recreation and community centers and to meet the demand for recreation space in the county	1. Contribute to the school design process for Greensboro Elementary School (GES) to include public recreation areas for youth and adult services in the construction program.	CCRP Executive and Parks Team, BOE, GES	
		2. Expand recreation trail and fitness access on the campus of Colonel Richardson (CR) to benefit the small-town equivalent of 1,300 staff and students, and expand community access on campus during non-school hours.	CCRP Executive and Parks Team, BOE, CRHS &MS	
		3. Facilitate organized league interests to modify existing multi purpose field facilities at North Caroline High School (NCHS) (outside of the stadium complex) to increase community league use	CCRP Executive and Parks Team, Caroline County Youth Soccer, Lacrosse and Football leagues, BOE, NCHS	

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<p>GOAL 1: Retain public recreation land and facilities in Caroline County necessary to meet current and anticipated needs. Work with incorporated towns and the Caroline County Planning and Codes Department to locate future park facilities in a way that supports designated growth centers, as well as the County's land preservation efforts.</p> <p>LPPRP Ref. pp. 27</p>		4. Create opportunities annually to report formally to the BOE Re; the operation of the Joint Use Agreements for the delivery of community rec programs, the stewardship of public recreation facilities on BOE property and the organizational partnership that produces need-based youth enrichment programs during out-of-school periods.	CCRP Executive Management Team – Parks and Program Services, BOE, CCRP Advisory Board	FY2017 and on-going
	e. Provide public access to waterways wherever feasible and practical	1. Complete access pier and boat ramp repairs to address public safety concerns at Choptank Marina	CCRP Executive and Parks Team	FY2018
		2. Facilitate State, non-profit and volunteer efforts to maintain a clear path for small boat traffic on the Choptank and Tuckahoe Rivers annually, as funds and weather events allow.	CCRP Executive and Parks Team, Maryland State Parks- DNR,	FY2018 and on-going
	e. Provide public access to waterways wherever feasible and practical	3. Investigate water trail access on the Marshyhope within the Idylwild Wildlife Resource Management Area	CCRP Executive and Parks Team, MD-DNR, Town of Federalsburg	FY2020/21
		4. Increase net revenue performance of Choptank Marina and the boat ramp permit fees.	CCRP Executive and Parks Team, Caroline County Advisory Board, Caroline County Commissioners	FY2019

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<p>GOAL 1: Retain public recreation land and facilities in Caroline County necessary to meet current and anticipated needs. Work with incorporated towns and the Caroline County Planning and Codes Department to locate future park facilities in a way that supports designated growth centers, as well as the County's land preservation efforts.</p> <p>LPPRP Ref. pp. 27</p>		<p>5. Investigate new water trail access to Marsh Creek (Choptank river tributary) from poplar Neck Road at Choptank Nature Park</p>	<p>CCRP Executive and Parks Team and Caroline County Public Works.</p>	<p>FY2020</p>
		<p>6. Apply revenues generated through the fees associated with waterfront facility operations toward the capital renovation of Choptank Marina.</p>	<p>CCRP Executive and Parks Team, Caroline County Commissioners</p>	<p>FY2020/21</p>
		<p>7. Assess the fee-simple acquisition of easements required to improve access to the Tuckahoe river at Stoney Point.</p>	<p>CCRP Executive and Parks Team, Caroline County Advisory Board, Caroline County Commissioners</p>	<p>FY2022/23</p>



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<p>Goal 2: Provide recreation programs for all residents.</p> <p>LPPRP Ref. pp. 27</p> <p>Prioritize established core services, program operating standards, fiscal sustainability and community partnerships, while broadening when possible, the diversity and increasing quality and availability of the recreation programs and opportunities in the county</p>	a. Implement an annual process to reflect on and refine this plan as it relates to current conditions	1. Implement data tracking measures for both program services and park use to increase understanding of participation and park usage, the needs of the citizenry and the department's ability to best meet these needs.	CCRP Executive and Parks Team, Caroline County Advisory Board	FY2018 and on going
		2. Establish and integrate a periodic public satisfaction and needs assessment survey.	CCRP Executive and Parks Team, Caroline County Advisory Board	FY2018, 2020 & 2022
		3. Update park amenity conditions annually as reflected in the GreenCities GIS park inventory to maintain date accuracy.	County Parks leadership	FY2018 and ongoing
	b. Recognize and facilitate recreation programs that provide opportunity to promote health and wellness.	1. Align county parks and recreation services with other local and state efforts to support the health of the County citizenry through the planned implementation of programming to get them outside and moving. Evaluate the partnership capacity to apply the ParksRx, Kids in Parks, and Children in Nature initiatives into established afterschool and summer programs to align with the HOST (Healthy Out of School Time) framework.	CCRP Executive Team, CCRP Program Services Division, Maryland State Parks, Caroline County Health Department and other interested public and non-profit organization	FY2018 and on-going
	c. Explore opportunities to expand recreation programming services for teens and seniors	2. Exercise leadership in coordinating and promoting parks and recreation programs offered within the County by public and nonprofit providers	CCRP Executive Team, Y of the Chesapeake, Maryland State Parks, Youth Athletic Leagues,	FY2018 & on going

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		3. Strengthen existing partnerships and forge new partnerships with citizen groups and with private and quasi-public organizations	Caroline County Advisory Board, Chamber of Commerce, Active Lions Clubs and other civic organizations	
		4. Refine the Department's enterprise funds to effectively manage full cost recovery for the programs and services provided through the Department.	CCRP Executive team and County Office of Finance	FY2018 & Ongoing
Goal 3: Provide adequate financial resources and effective planning to support recreation and parks facilities and programs	a. Maintain the County funding level for recreation and parks within the next 3 years at 3 percent of the non-education budget; in future years, increase this share to 6 percent.			
	b. Leverage state funding sources with local tax revenues generated at the county and municipal level to collaboratively meet the public priorities for recreation and parks within the municipal growth areas. Ensure that County priorities meet the goals of Program Open Space (POS), the Waterway Improvement Program and	This objective more specifically addressed in Goal 1, Strategy b.	See page b of this document for agent and timeline	

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	other State funding programs			
	c. Extend collaborative partnerships to non-profit user groups (i.e. youth sport leagues) to enhance and improve parks; pursue opportunities for funding and in-kind support for rehabilitation or maintenance of park facilities.	1. Meet annually with county-wide and regional league representatives to document league needs and review field use policy on county-managed athletic field facilities.	CCRP Executive Team	FY2017 and ongoing
		2. Establish a public recognition program to honor volunteer and organizational performance of youth and adult leagues and R&P youth sport programs that meet certain standards.	CCRP Executive and Parks Team, Caroline County Advisory Board	FY2018
		3. Collect data on league registration statistics and service delivery annually to assess athletic facility demand.	CCRP Executive Team	FY 2017 and Ongoing
	d. Complete a cost/benefit analysis on expanding facility use fees to include athletic field reservations for league and tournament programming.	1. Benchmark policy, field maintenance service and fee structure with park Departments in the mid-shore area.	CCRP Executive Team	FY2018/19
		2. Prepare a policy and budget recommendation for county athletic fields and partner organization fields	CCRP Executive Team	FY2019/2020
	e. Aggressively seek recreation program operating and capital development funds from foundations, corporations, and other outside entities.	1. Identify two new funding sources to support action on projects reflected in the 2017 LPPRP Project plan and consistent with national service goals (pp.26,27), i.e. CRMS/HS campus walking trail, paved court surface facilities with creative storm	CCRP Executive Team, Caroline County Planning & Codes Environmental Planning, specific project partners	FY2019

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Goal 3: Provide adequate financial resources and effective planning to support recreation and parks facilities and programs		water management application (examples illustrative not definitive).		
	f. Actively participate in the subdivision review and planning processes at the County and municipal level, to pursue in-kind opportunities for parkland acquisition	Syncs with Goal 1, strategy b on pp. i of this document; issue addressed with capital improvement plans		
	g. Work with the Planning and Codes Department to strengthen existing mandatory dedication regulations within the County's land development codes, including a fee-in-lieu provision for minor subdivisions	Document the results of interdepartmental study group to evaluate the legal and economic implications of mandatory dedication policy revisions	CCRP Executive team, CCP&C, Office of Law	FY2020
Goal 4. Provide attractive, well-maintained, safe and secure recreation and open space facilities	a. Maintain the existing parks maintenance program to correct safety hazards, improve the condition of athletic fields, and establish a preventative maintenance and operations program at high-use areas (e.g. playgrounds).	(Kat?)		FY2017 & Ongoing
	b. Collaborate with municipal leadership to	Syncs with Goal 1, strategy a. on pp. i of this document		

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	support their efforts to maintain their existing parks and to develop existing open spaces			
	c. Cultivate partnerships with local sports leagues, nonprofit organizations, and other providers and users to identify and address facility and program needs	Syncs with Goal 3, strategy c. on pp. vi of this document		
Goal 5: Effectively communicate the Department's mission and vision to improve citizen well-being through access to parks and recreation facilities and programs.	a. Using a variety of sources, publish information to maintain strong public awareness of available recreation opportunities and parks in Caroline County	(Kat?)		
	b. Maintain regular contact with the towns and nonprofit providers to support and strengthen the broader network of parks and recreation opportunities available to County residents.	Syncs with Goal 1, strategy a. on pp. i of this document		
	c. Promote increased use of state parks and facilities in Caroline County, including	Syncs with Goal 5, strategy c. on pp. X of this document		

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	Tuckahoe and Martinak State Parks, Idyllwild WMA, and Adkins Arboretum			
	d. Seek opportunities to work collaboratively with other county, state, municipal and non-profit organizations on efforts to increase awareness of the health benefits of parks and recreation.	Syncs with Goal 3, strategy e. on pp. x of this document		
	e. Expand the GIS park inventory application to include municipal and state park resources and release the public Park Locator feature of the GreenCities GIS program to provide the public with a resource to locate parks and explore the amenities each offers.	1. Establish a park planning/GIS intern position and work plan to update and expand the park asset inventory and integrate property data for municipal and county park sites.	CCRP Executive Team, Parks Division and Planning and Codes GIS leads	FY2018-FY2020
	e. Expand the GIS park inventory application to include municipal and state park resources and release the public Park Locator feature of the GreenCities	2. Launch the web-based Park Locator application (GIS Park Asset Software) into public website applications	CCRP Executive Team, Administrative Division	FY2019
	e. Expand the GIS park inventory application to include municipal and state park resources and release the public Park Locator feature of the GreenCities	3. Promote increased use of state parks and facilities in Caroline County, including Tuckahoe and Martinak State Parks,	CCRP Executive Team, Parks Division and	FY2021
	GIS program to provide the public with a resource to locate parks and explore the amenities each offers.	Idyllwild WMA and Adkins Arboretum; integrate their assets on Park Locator App	Planning and Codes GIS leads; State Park leadership	