

DORCHESTER COUNTY
2017 LAND PRESERVATION
PARK AND RECREATION PLAN



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Chapter I Executive Summary

I. The Character of Dorchester

History

The physical characteristics of Dorchester are some of Maryland's most beautiful; but to know Dorchester and its citizens is to learn of its heritage. Native Americans called this area home long before explorers or traders from England and Spain landed on these shores. Settlers from England began to claim lands in the mid-1600s under land grants from Lord Baltimore, and by 1669 the region was recognized as Dorchester County. It is called "The Heart of the Eastern Shore" because of its mid-shore location, and heart-shaped geographic configuration.

The proud heritage of Dorchester County is intimately connected to the Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the United States. Before the region was known to the world as the United States, and prior to the establishment of Maryland as a state, the Chesapeake Bay was a region that provided ample resources for a sustainable life.

As populations grew, and both trade and industry began to flourish, the roots of the Dorchester region were built around the water – moving by it, and living off of it. These industries remain today, not in the capacity as they once had, but they are integral to the pride the County feels for its heritage, and provide a direct link to the beautiful ecology that is Dorchester County's home.

Along with the boom in trade, the industrial growth of the 19th century brought the regrettable history of slavery. Yet, Dorchester County can celebrate one of the Country's most beloved heroines, of not only her time, but all time – Harriet Tubman. The history of the Underground Railroad and her work to free many slaves provides historical travel opportunities for locals as well as regional visitors. We proudly celebrated the Grand Opening of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park in March of 2017.

Location and Geography

Dorchester County is easily accessible by way of U.S. Route 50 from Baltimore and Washington D.C. The County is further accessible by way of U.S. Route 13 from the New England states, New York, Philadelphia, and areas to the south. Served by the Maryland and Delaware Railroad, the area is ideal

for the location of businesses serving multiple locations. The area is also served by the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport.

Bordered by the Chesapeake Bay and the Choptank River, Dorchester County enjoys waterways which are navigable by barge and heavily used by sailing and yachting enthusiasts. Living here, it is sometimes easy to take the location for granted. Some of the Country's finest seafood, most challenging wildfowl hunting opportunities, and breath-taking natural areas are located here in our own back yard. Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, along with several Wildlife Management Areas, and open spaces, offer excellent opportunities to observe wildlife in their natural habitat, and enjoy the serenity of nature. The Dorchester County Department of Tourism can provide visitors with up-to-date information regarding the events and points of interest that make Dorchester County a prime destination for travelers to the Eastern Shore.

Demographic Characteristics

The population of Dorchester County has been fairly steady for several decades with a small decline of 261 people between 1960 and 1970, and again by 387 people between 1980 and 1990. Even with these declines, the population has increased by 11% since 1930, when the population was only 26,813. The 1970 and 1990 decline may be attributed to economic growth occurring in other areas that drew young people out of the County in their search for employment. In addition, another trend is a decline in the number of children or births since 1950.

II. Recreation & Parks Department

As a County department, Recreation and Parks functions under the day to day leadership of its Director, appointed by the County Council. Other full time staff include two program coordinators, and two maintenance staff. The department also employs nearly one hundred part-time (seasonal) employees, and benefits from a team of dedicated volunteers each year.

Advisory leadership is provided by a ten-person volunteer panel entitled the Recreation and Parks Board. This Board is pivotal in identifying goals and objectives based on the needs of the County. Additionally, the Board seeks support through volunteer efforts to deliver programs.

III. Purpose of the Plan

Dorchester County's public parks, recreational areas, and open space amenities are key to the robust and comprehensive development of the Quality of Life (QOL) of its citizens. Additionally, the stewardship of the natural resources and environmental beauty within in the County is imperative to providing recreational activities as well as building smart conservation efforts. Together, these priorities: QOL through open space and recreation; and promotion and protection of the natural habitat, are the pillars of the Land Preservation Park and Recreation Plan. The process, which included collective input from citizens, stakeholders and staff, developed suggestions necessary for informed decision making to develop the parks, programs, and recreational activities that meet citizen's needs, while capitalizing on the natural beauty of the region.

As part and parcel of the overall State goal to provide these opportunities throughout Maryland, Dorchester County is mandated to develop and submit the Land Preservation Park and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) every five years. The 2017 LPPRP was developed through a collaborative effort facilitated by the Recreation and Parks Department, and included the Recreation and Parks Board, the Planning & Zoning Department, County Council staff, and input from citizens, partner organizations, and stakeholders. These participants were identified as having unique insight and interest in the improvement, and conservation of, overall land use plans. This approach was necessary to balance Dorchester County's big picture goals for Agriculture, Conservation, and Recreation and Parks efforts.

In an attempt to develop the best plans for the future growth of recreational facilities, assets and programs, along with conservation and agricultural goals set forth by the County Comprehensive Plan, outreach was accomplished through a citizen survey, staff input, and stake holder meetings. Although the County's Comprehensive Plan was last revised in 1996 (and currently beginning an update), the framework for the future of agriculture, and conservation have both timely and accurate goals and expectations.

The Dorchester County LPPRP will, therefore, guide local government policies and procedures to move forward with goals outlined within. The planning process allowed for collaboration between the County, municipalities, and Representatives from the State Delegation. The LPPRP was prepared pursuant to Program Open Space Law under Title 5, Subtitle 9 of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

The LPPRP also assists the state in maintaining eligibility in the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, and meets the requirements of Program Open Space, and the State's Consolidated

Land Preservation Act. The Maryland Departments of Planning and Natural Resources developed new guidelines for the 2017 LPPRP with input from the Maryland Association of Counties Recreation Directors affiliate.

Following the guidelines, Dorchester County's planning process produced up-to-date information on current assets within Recreation and Parks, as well as potential goals for growth and development of recreational activities, and acquisition of land for Program Open Space.

It identified prior goals that were met, in addition to modifications needed to achieve the needs of the community. The adoption of this plan by the County Council fulfills the mandate from the Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to Program Open Space specifications under Title 5, Subtitle 9 of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Planning Process

The facilitation of the plan, led by County Council staff and the Department of Recreation and Parks, included:

- A thorough review of the 2012 LPPRP to identify goals that were met, as well as gaps that needed to be filled;
- 500 surveys sent to a randomized selection of citizens;
- Two stakeholder meetings, facilitated by County Council staff, included elected officials (State, County, and Municipality), Recreation and Parks Board and Planning Commission Members, County Executive staff, Local Management Board members, local non-profit organizations, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, law enforcement, and DCPS;
- Proximity analysis provided by the GIS Specialist within Dorchester County Planning and Zoning Department to determine locations where more resources may be needed;
- Use of the Park Equity Mapper tool, provided by the Department of Natural Resources, to analyze layered data sets to identify areas with barriers to parks, and the need for more equitable distribution of County resources to meet those needs;

The collaborative effort directed by the updated 2015 guidelines provided a broader collection of data and ideas than in previous LPPRPs. Using proximity and equity analysis tools in conjunction with public input from surveys, and ideas from subject matter experts in Conservation, Agriculture, and

Recreation & Parks was pivotal in building a five-year plan that – with all intents and purposes – represents the demands and needs of local citizens, for sport, leisure, recreation, and nature.

This process truly tapped into an abundance of interest from stakeholders, staff, and citizens to aide in the improvement of the Recreation and Parks plan for the future of Dorchester County. The majority of feedback was both positive and geared to moving forward with realistic and attainable goals.

Chapter II – The Land Preservation Park and Recreation Plan

I. Purpose of the Plan

The submittal of a Land Preservation Park and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) to Maryland's Department of Natural Resources offers Dorchester County an opportunity to reassess the assets available to its citizenry and either shift, and/or build upon programs and park assets necessary to remain relevant. Many factors are evaluated – including demographic and geographic – to make impactful decisions that empower the County, and its Recreation and Parks Department, and to improve the overall Quality of Life (QOL) for all citizens.

Dorchester County offers its citizens obvious delights due to its geographic location, weather, rich cultural heritage, and pace of life. Additionally, the County has a vast selection of parks, natural conservation areas, indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities, sports, and leisure activities provided by both the County and other private and non-profit organizations.

As the County revisits new opportunities through the LPPRP process, factors such as population, demand, natural resources, development, agriculture, and conservation efforts are taken into consideration. This broader look at resources and demands developed a reflective and balanced plan to meet the needs of Recreation and Parks, Agricultural Land Preservation, Natural Resource Conservation, and the local citizenry.

The wants and needs of our citizens are vital factors, and help to identify valid goals based on gaps identified through their input. In general, several determinants aid in the selection of the community one chooses to live in. Arguably, at the top of the list, is QOL. Measuring social qualities of happiness

is not an easy task; yet it is well understood that baseline public health and general satisfaction improve when communities have opportunities for work-life balance; beginning with basic access to recreational and leisure activities.

Although QOL factors are high on the list for selecting a community to live in, more than likely, many people are driven by the reality of the economy and job market. The economic engine that undergirds communities, municipalities and counties throughout Maryland - and the Country - differs depending on geographic location and natural resources. Yet similarities within communities exist regardless of geographic location or job opportunities. There exists, for the vast majority of us, the basic human need for community living.

The Recreation and Parks Department is fundamental to community building and the facilitation of activities between citizens of all ages. People have been ‘playing together’ for millennia; they have also been enjoying nature through activities such as hiking, sailing, biking, bird watching, and camping.

The citizens of Dorchester County are no different from those living in other localities in their need for work-life balance that include opportunities listed above for relaxation, sport and activity. The Recreation and Parks Department takes pride in its work to provide these opportunities. Additionally, the Department strives to improve any opportunity to build the best possible programs, services, and open space available; in part by working with partner organizations and municipalities.

Vision, Mission, Goals & Objectives

The Vision of Dorchester County’s Recreation and Parks Department is to provide sustainable opportunities for enjoyment and relaxation; and to provide an integrated resource for information regarding enrichment programs that enhance the QOL of each and every citizen regardless of age, income, or location with the County.

The Mission is to provide safe athletic facilities, clean parks, and programmatic support, or leadership, for myriad activities for citizens. This is done by gauging the needs of its citizens and developing appropriate spaces, and times, for recreation and leisure, both in the natural setting and in various developed facilities.

When a Recreation and Parks Department is well designed to function within the structure of a Mission, and specific Goals and Objectives are developed, they are more likely to be successful. With that in mind, the goals of Dorchester County Recreation and Parks have been, and will continue to

be, the provision of quality programs, attractive recreational facilities, and a sufficient quantity of open space to encourage outdoor activities for a wide variety of interests of the people of Dorchester County.

Our objectives, following the LPPRP planning process, have been updated to more specific and timely needs as identified through several processes.

The Planning Process

The Dorchester County Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) is the tool used to set five year Goals and Objectives for recreational programming, asset acquisition, land preservation, and agricultural land use.

The LPPRP was prepared pursuant to Program Open Space Law under Title 5, Subtitle 9 of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. It provides the State with information and guidance for maintaining eligibility in the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program; it meets the requirements of the State's Consolidated Land Preservation Act, and Program Open Space.

In 2015, the Maryland Departments of Planning and Natural Resources updated guidelines for the 2017 LPPRP with input from the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Recreation Directors affiliate. The purpose and objectives of the LPPRP include:

- A review of goals and objectives of both the State and local programs for the three elements: parks and recreation, natural resources conservation, and agriculture land preservation;
- Identification of whether the goals and objectives are the same, complimentary, or different – and in need of adjustment;
- Evaluation of the implementation and funding sources for each element and whether, and where, gaps exist preventing the achievement of the goals and objectives;
- Identification of potential improvements to policies, plans, and funding strategies, to better achieve goals and improve return on public investment;
- Recommendations to the State and local legislatures, governing bodies, and agencies of changes needed to overcome shortcomings, achieve goals, and ultimately ensure good return on public investment;

- Identification of the needs and priorities of the current, and future, State and local population for outdoor recreation;
- A framework to achieve legislative goals of State and local land preservation programs;
- Confirmation that the LPPRP is supported by the local comprehensive plans, associated implementation programs, State planning policy, and State and local programs that influence land use and development;
- An analysis of both proximity and park equity guidelines that more accurately pinpoint the locations for parks and recreation, and for identifying populations lacking access to parks and recreational facilities.

With these guidelines in mind, Dorchester County collaboratively developed the LPPRP by building a core team that included the Acting Director of Recreation and Parks, the Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning, the Director of Tourism, and County Council Staff. Additionally, the Recreation and Parks Board, County Executive staff, community stakeholders, and subject matter experts were involved in the plan development.

After reviewing the elements related to Program Open Space, agricultural land preservation, and natural resource conservation, the team developed the 2017 LPPRP based on the following:

- Meetings between the Recreation and Parks Board, and representatives from all municipalities to discuss specific needs for their communities;
- Public input collected via a random survey to a sample of 500 home owners;
- Two public meetings (Hurlock, and Cambridge);
- Review of the State Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan;
- Review of the population projections by the US Census to identify an accurate population to serve;
- Review of the plan by the Recreation and Parks Board, and County Council;

The Plan will be submitted for final approval and adoption by the Dorchester County Council, and will focus on the visions incorporated by the Governor's Commission listed below:

- Development is concentrated in suitable locations;
- Sensitive areas are protected;
- In rural areas, growth is directed to existing population centers and resource areas are protected;
- Stewardship of the Bay and the land is a universal ethic;

- Conservation of resources, including reduction in resource consumption is practiced through the region;
- Funding mechanisms are in place to achieve all other visions.

II. The Comprehensive Plan

As the roadmap for the County, the Comprehensive Plan is the broader document the LPPRP must fall within. The update to the plan, beginning FY2018, will benefit from new insight, taking into account factors, such as solar farming and broadband access, not pertinent in 1996 when the Comprehensive Plan was last updated. This new guidance and, potentially, new direction for certain aspects of County growth will be used to pursue long term, realistic plans with smart growth as a central tenet.

Sections of the current Comprehensive Plan clearly define limitations to development; while simultaneously providing guidance in developing relevant goals and objectives. Based on population centers, the City of Cambridge – Dorchester County’s largest municipality – has continually worked closely with County staff and the Recreation and Parks Department to discuss many activities, opens space acquisitions, and entertainment venue opportunities. These discussions helped illustrate the need for urban Open Space, as well as determine the potential partnership and Conceptual Plan for the urban set multi-use trails.

As the Comprehensive Plan provides guidance for Recreation and Parks, it also guides the Agricultural Land Preservation, and Natural Resource Conservation sections of the LPPRP. The guidance has the potential to mitigate conflicts between competing interests by restricting strip development in rural areas, creating predictability for landowners in agricultural areas, and by applying a consistent approach to conservation easements.

Additionally, the discussion within the Comprehensive Plan on environmentally sensitive areas suggests goals and strategies for stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay, smart growth, forest conservation, and a role for conservation easements in protecting and preserving the County’s critical, and agricultural areas. Within the discussion on economics, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, is the identification of important industries in the County; highlighting the need for a balanced approach to economic growth and conservation. Several factors within the Comprehensive Plan are discussed below.

Directing Growth to Existing Population Centers in Rural Areas

The density in the Agricultural District has been reduced from 1 dwelling unit per 40,000 sq. ft. to 3 dwelling units plus 1 dwelling unit per 15 acres, or 1 dwelling unit per 10 acres if clustered. This reduction in density, along with the County's new road classification system - limiting access on major and minor collectors - will hopefully reduce suburban sprawl. This deterrence to misguided development will steer new development to more appropriate regions of Dorchester County with existing population areas.

Accordingly, the County will:

- Plan for facility locations to complement existing population centers;
- Provide recreation programs easily accessible to residents where feasible, by continuing to partner with Dorchester County Public Schools (DCPS), and other organizations within the population centers;
- Select and design recreation and park sites that are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan; and
- Provide a wide range of uses or activities in developed areas so that all population age groups benefit.

Prioritizing Stewardship of the Bay & Land

Dorchester County will endeavor to provide information at recreational sites regarding aquatic life, wildlife, heritage, and archaeological sites, etc. Additionally, the Visitor's Center, at Sailwinds, houses an environmental education center for the public. Likewise, the University of Maryland at Horn Point, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation have sites that emphasize environmental education for students.

Implementation of forestry programs under the Forest Conservation Act and Critical Area Program will continue; and water related facilities will follow the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Program guidelines for public access adopted by Dorchester County.

Resource Conservation

A clear priority for Dorchester County is resource conservation. With a concerted effort to use best practices to reduce consumption, the County:

- will continue to encourage the location of park and recreation facilities and Open Spaces within walking distance of residential areas in municipalities, while simultaneously planning bikeways for use within the rural areas – where possible. This will potentially help to reduce auto use, while providing easier access to a wider range of citizens – such as youth, non-drivers, and dog-walkers;
- will continue to prioritize the protection of historic and cultural resources, as well as the promotion of social and cultural heritage of the community through Heritage Tourism.

Identification of Natural Resource Areas

The County will collaborate with State, Federal and Municipal Governments to identify desirable natural resource features that: fit within the County Comprehensive Plan, attempt to meet State Program Open Space goals, and reflect smart land use in regard to environmental stewardship and the realities of sea level rise.

Address Funding Mechanisms to Achieve the Vision of Recreation and Parks

Dorchester County's capital and operational budgets are the primary funding streams for acquisition and development and will continue to be used in conjunction with the State's Program Open Space funding. The Council, along with recommendations from the Recreation and Parks Board, provides guidance and budgetary structure for activities regarding recreation, as well as the improvement, or acquisition, of parks.

The Recreation and Parks Department, and the County Grants Administrator, will continue to work with local land trusts, such as Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, to facilitate acquisition of easements, or properties, in need of protection. Additionally, Dorchester County staff will continue to seek out partnerships with organizations and governments – municipal, state, and federal – to find funding streams for land acquisition, and facilities development. Examples of successful funding streams which will continue are:

- Coordination with the Department of Natural Resources Program Open Space, and heritage resource preservation programs;
- Applications to the Rural Legacy Program funds to aid in conservation of agricultural, environmental and cultural resources; and
- Grants from national organizations and programs geared to recreational and leisure activities.

III. Dorchester County In Detail

With the use of more accurate measurement tools (proximity and equity analysis) designed to determine a clear picture of the need for open space and recreational areas, a look at all of Dorchester County is necessary to comprehensively compare insight gathered through these analysis tools, against stakeholder, staff and citizen input.

Physical Characteristics

Dorchester County, the largest Eastern Shore County, extends into the Chesapeake Bay as a broad peninsula surrounded by the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, the Choptank, and Nanticoke Rivers. Talbot County lies to the north across the Choptank River and Caroline County to the east; southeast across the Nanticoke River is Wicomico County. The eastern edge of Dorchester County borders the state of Delaware for almost five miles. The County consists of approximately 357,000 acres of land marked by many bays, creeks, and rivers that constitute approximately 83,000 acres.

General Topography

Dorchester County lies entirely within the Atlantic Coastal Plain. There is a range in altitude from sea level, to 53 feet above sea level at its highest elevation in the northeastern part of the county. A large portion of south Dorchester County - approximately two-thirds - is marshland with altitudes of two feet or less above sea level.

The drainage of Dorchester County is controlled by two large tidal rivers - the Choptank and the Nanticoke – with many small rivers and creeks as tributaries to the aforementioned. As a result, approximately 58% of the Dorchester County contains tidal and non-tidal wetlands evidenced in the Hydric Soils map (Appendix A). The majority of wetlands are in south Dorchester; yet a few are located along the Marshyhope Creek and Choptank River, as well as their respective tributaries.

Soils

The soils of Dorchester County are loams, loamy sands, sandy loams, silt loams and clay loams. Overall these soils are remarkably permeable, however the salt marsh area within the County would require adequate drainage and removal of salt to be rendered useful.

Due to the gentle slopes and profusion of oval shaped depressions, a high water table exists in many areas. These depressions have an important effect upon the capture of rainfall and its retention in the soil to provide optimal opportunity for infiltration, retardation of runoff, and discharge of soil moisture and ground water in large amounts by evaporation and transpiration.

The depressions are a significant factor in the ground water recharge and discharge in the County; yet the high water table due to slopes and depressions, in combination with the close proximity to sea level in the southern portion of the County, makes drainage almost impossible. Conversely, the soils in north Dorchester are very permeable and well drained and constitute the majority of prime agricultural soils in the county per the soils map provided by the Dorchester County Soil Conservation District (Appendix B).

Woodland

According to the Maryland Department of Planning, Dorchester County has 146,135 acres of woodland. A large portion of those acres make up the Chesapeake State Forest. Otherwise, the majority of woodlands are privately owned on farms or owned by other commercial timber companies such as Spicer's Lumber, Dorchester Lumber, or Glatfelter Pulpwood, Co.

The Loblolly Pine is the most common species grown commercially in Dorchester County, as is the case for all of the Atlantic Coastal Plain of Maryland. Other species of Sweet Gum, Poplar, and Oak Woodlands are important for wildlife habitat and as such should be replanted as soon as timbering is complete. This is true in Dorchester because of the many indigenous species found here, such as the eagle and the Delmarva fox squirrel. The Critical Area Law limits the cutting of trees in the buffer and requires afforestation where no trees exist, while the State's Forest Conservation Act regulates the areas outside of the Critical Area. The combination of these two laws provides for better management and preservation of woodland for recreation, wildlife, and aesthetic purposes.

Wetlands

Dorchester County contains 39% of the State's wetlands. The majority of wetlands are in the southern part of the County. According to the Natural Resource Conservation Service there are approximately 82,000 acres of tidal wetlands as well as 125,000 acres of non-tidal wetlands covering 58% of the County.

A great number of these wetlands are already protected as natural areas, such as: Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (BNR), and the Taylors Island, Tar Bay, LeCompte and Fishing Bay Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).

BNR started as only a few thousand acres, and is now in excess of 28,000. A large portion of the land surrounding these protected natural areas are wetland and forest lands used for hunting. In recent years, there has been a steady increase in real estate purchases for hunting groups. Lastly, as expected, the large percentage of wetlands create natural limitations on development within the County.

The preservation of open space in the County's FEMA designated floodplains is critical to the protection of natural resources and habitats. The County does benefit from having the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge that provides a large area for not only habitat but also open space that acts as a buffer for more developed areas during a storm surge and increased levels of chronic inundation. The County has been looking for ways to increase the amount of open space not only through current easements but also with acquisition of properties adjacent to preserved lands. Deed restrictions of acquired properties will be utilized to ensure no future development. Preserving land in the floodplain is a concerted effort by the County to become more coastal resilient and limit development in these areas with increased risk. A more detail approach to these issues should be addressed in the updated Comprehensive Plan that is currently going through an RFP process.

Chesapeake Bay

Dorchester County is fortunate to have hundreds of miles of shoreline along the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Access to the Bay is important for Dorchester citizens: watermen, boaters, and sightseers alike. Activities include – but are not limited to - boating, swimming, water-skiing, paddle boarding, and sport fishing. The county has 1004 boat slips, 28 boat ramps listed in Resource A, offering ample water access, yet limited access in North Dorchester County – in particular along the Marshyhope Creek and the Nanticoke River – was mentioned by stakeholders and community members during two work sessions.

On the economic front, the Chesapeake Bay is an important resource for many local fishermen and commercial businesses within Dorchester County. The Bay and its tributaries produce large quantities of seafood for use locally and worldwide. Many restaurants such as Suicide Bridge in Secretary, and Old Salty's on Hooper's Island feature local seafood and are very popular among visiting groups. In fact, many tour buses include a stop at Old Salty's Restaurant. Additionally, the Bay, and local wetlands

are both spawning and nursery grounds for fin and shellfish. Stewardship of these resources is important both economically and environmentally.

Critical Area

The Natural Resources Annotated Code of Maryland limits development activities within 1,000 feet of the Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries, and tidal waterways. The Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Law was passed by the General Assembly in 1984 and took effect in January 1986.

Because Dorchester County is 58% wetland and has hundreds of miles of shoreline, implementation of this legislation affected approximately 178,176 acres of land within the County where wetlands are very plentiful and shoreline development is at a premium. At 48%, roughly half of Dorchester County is in the critical area, as evident on the Critical Area Map. (Appendix C). The regulations were designed to improve water quality, protect forests and habitat, and restrict poorly planned development which was adversely affecting the Chesapeake Bay.

Development was restricted by establishing three categories to describe the current land use in the Critical Area. The three classifications were: Intensely Developed Area (IDA), Limited Development Area (LDA), and Resource Conservation Area (RCA).

There are several IDAs, in Dorchester County which include the Vienna Power Plant on the Nanticoke River, and Spicer Lumber outside of Church Creek. Most of the County's early subdivisions were small lots and old fishing communities, like Hoopers Island and Madison, and were given the LDA classification. The bulk of the land was designated an RCA which allows a density of 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres.

Along with limiting development in designated areas, the Critical Area Law also promotes public water access. The law encourages natural parks, government sponsored research facilities, other non-profit organizations, and water dependent structures (such as aquaculture activities that can contribute to improvements in water quality) to be located in the Tidewater buffer – the first 100 feet from tidal water and wetlands.

Climate

Dorchester County lies in a region midway between the intense climate of the north and mild climate of the south. Located in the middle latitudes, where the general atmospheric flow is from West to East

across North America, Dorchester County enjoys four seasons. The Chesapeake Bay with its rivers and tributaries, and the Atlantic Ocean, to a lesser degree, have a considerable modifying control on Dorchester County's climate with regard to temperature. Temperature and precipitation data are collected by the National Weather Service Cooperative Stations located outside Cambridge, at BNR, and Vienna, in the Southwest region of the County.

Generally, the coldest period of the year is late January and early February, while the warmest period is the last half of July through August. The highest official temperature on record in the County is 106 degrees Fahrenheit at Cambridge in July of 1930 and the lowest on record was -14 degrees Fahrenheit at BNR in January of 1942. Precipitation is rather evenly distributed through the year; with long term averages that indicate August is the wettest, and February the driest months. The heaviest precipitation during the colder half of the year is generally the result of low pressure systems moving northeastward along the Atlantic Coast. The greatest one-day precipitation was 10.3 inches at Cambridge on September 6, 1935. Thunderstorms occur on an average of 30 days per year, usually between May and August.

Prevailing surface winds are from West to Northwest except during the summer months when they become more southerly. The windiest period is from late winter to early spring. Dangerous and damaging storms, such as tornadoes, hurricanes and blizzards are rare.

Analysis of Natural Resources

Dorchester County is the largest County on the Eastern Shore and contains 440,230 acres, or 688 square miles of total area. Of the total acreage, 83,238 acres are represented by water, and 356,992 acres are land. Water is Dorchester County's most impressive physical feature with the County virtually surrounded by the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The County motto, *Water Moves Us*, is spot on. The County has approximately 1,700 miles of shoreline and of the 333 miles of boundary, only 20 consist of land. The Chesapeake Bay, and the Choptank and Nanticoke Rivers, are the major waterways for commerce and recreation in the County; while many small rivers and streams provide access for other water-based recreational opportunities.

Water-oriented recreational activities are particularly popular with residents and visitors from neighboring Counties and other States with ample boat launches, soft launches, marinas, and two small beaches. Many of the bridges have soft launch areas next to them, in addition to fishing and crabbing facilities. It is also important to clarify that much of Dorchester County water access property

is privately owned – therefore it is important that the County (or State/Federal governments) continue to provide access to water for the majority of citizens that do not own waterfront property. A perfect example of this is the old Choptank River Bridge. Residents, and visitors alike, enjoy fishing and crabbing on the pier.

Adjacent to the County waterways are wetlands. Wetlands are areas where the water table is usually at, or near, the surface of the soil or substrate, and covered by shallow water. These wetlands are referred to as marsh, marshland, salt marsh, and swamp. The importance of wetlands and their continued existence is recognized by increasingly stringent Federal and State laws regulating this resource.

Dorchester County contains 82,000 acres of tidal wetlands and 125,000 acres of non-tidal wetlands that represent 58% of the total county area. These wetlands account for approximately 39% of all existing State wetlands. Most, but not all, of Dorchester's wetlands are found in the southern part of the county where the altitude is between 0 to 2 feet above sea level. The State and Federal governments are attempting to preserve these lands through acquisition. Combined, the State and Federal government have acquired at least 50,480 acres, approximately 20% of the land in South Dorchester - comprised mostly of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (BNR), Tar Bay, LeCompte and Fishing Bay Wildlife Management Areas (see Protected Lands and Greenway Map-Appendix D).

Additionally, the Priority Preservation Area will continue to be a focus through the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program and Rural Legacy Program for Dorchester County. The upcoming update of the Comprehensive Plan will determine whether the 100,000 acres designated for agricultural preservation remains an appropriate or realistic goal.

IV. Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics

The People of Dorchester

Other than minor fluctuations in population, Dorchester County has essentially seen a steady population for the past several decades. In fact, the population of Dorchester County declined by 261 people from 1960 to 1970 and from 1980 to 1990 it again declined by 387 people. Between 1990 and 2000 the population remained level; but the County saw a nearly 2000 person increase between the years 2000 and 2010. Between 2010 and 2015 was less dramatic at roughly 600. Essentially, the population growth has been continual, but slight, with only an 11% increase over an 80 year span. The 1970 and 1990 decline may be attributed to economic growth occurring in other areas that drew people

out of Dorchester County in their search for employment. Additionally, the number of children, or births, has steadily declined since 1950. A 2010 population density map can be found in appendix O.

Although the overall increase in population was modest over the decades, it brought some diversity – particularly in the most recent decade. The Hispanic or Latino population has nearly tripled from 385 to 1,130 between the years 2000 and 2010, and as the US Bureau of Census reports in the table below, all minority populations have increased.

Population Characteristics	Census 2000			Census 2010		
	Total	In PFA	Out PFA	Total	In PFA	Out PFA
Total Population:	30,674	17,061	13,613	32,618	18,313	14,305
Population of One Race:	30,402	16,878	13,524	31,992	17,895	14,097
White Alone	21,302	10,073	11,229	22,065	10,414	11,651
Black or African American Alone	8,708	6,580	2,128	9,042	6,857	2,185
American Indian & Alaska Native Alone	70	27	43	112	75	37
Asian Alone	202	111	91	301	185	116
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander Alone	1	1	0	9	9	0
Some Other Race Alone	119	86	33	463	355	108
Population of Two or More Races	272	183	89	626	418	208
Hispanic or Latino	385	287	98	1,130	831	299
Not Hispanic or Latino	30,289	16,774	13,515	31,488	17,482	14,006

Table 1 Source: U.S. Census Bureau

As the population becomes more diverse, the Recreation and Parks Department understands the need to consider interests from a wider range of cultures when developing programs and services.

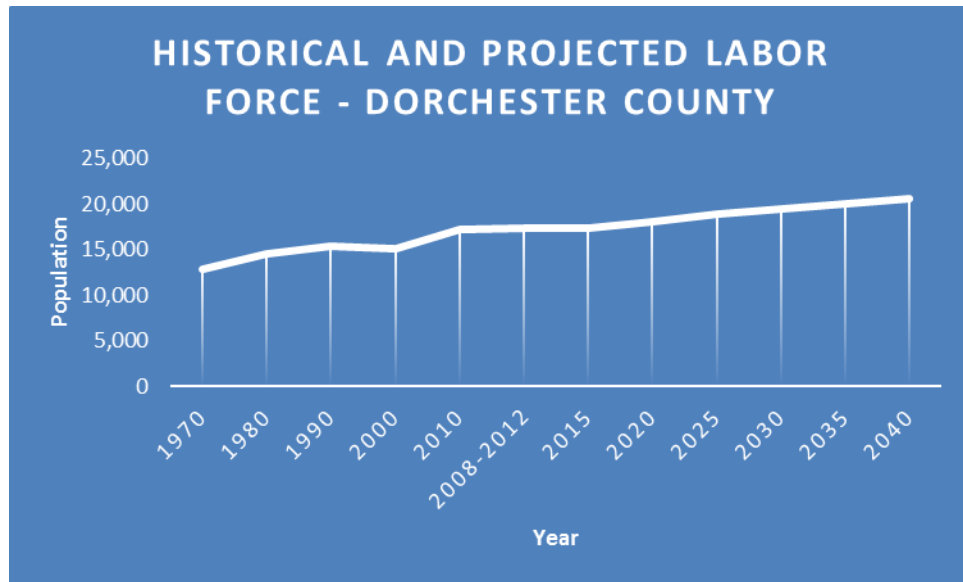
In addition to the growth in minority populations, the urban and suburban population centers have continued to increase as evidenced by the population figures for East New Market, Secretary, Hurlock, the Neck, and Linkwood Election Districts. This population trend has continued with building permits showing growth primarily in these five election districts. The greatest number of permits, issued over this period, were for Hurlock, Fork, Williamsburg, Linkwood, and East New Market Election Districts. These election districts are primarily within the Cambridge or North Dorchester area.

Municipality	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Brookview	--	--	83	95	78	64	65	60
Cambridge	10,102	10,351	12,239	11,595	11,703	11,514	10,911 (10,976)*	12,326
Church Creek	--	187	146	130	124	113	85	125
East New Market	267	264	225	251	230	153	167	400
Eldorado	--	79	80	99	93	49	60	59
Galestown	--	--	151	123	142	123	101	138
Hurlock	800	944	1,035	1,056	1,690	1,706	1,874	2,092
Secretary	344	344	351	352	487	528	503	535
Vienna	385	414	420	358	300	264	280	271

*Indicates that U.S. Census Bureau corrected count for Cambridge on December 12, 2001 due to error discovered by Dorchester County Planning and Zoning (32 units for 65 people incorrectly recorded). However, all census data use the original 10,911 count for statistical information contained within. *Source: MD Department of Planning*

Population Projections

The Maryland Department of Planning data identified steady population levels from 1980 through 2000; followed by steady growth between 2000 and 2010 with a population increase of 1,944 people for a total of 32,618. Although the population rate for 2010 through 2015 was projected to increase to 34,050, in reality, the population hit 33,250 for that year. This increase included higher proportions of retirees and females; a trend since 1950.



Clearly, the actual amount of growth that occurs will be driven by a combination of economic and social factors, yet Dorchester County has continually seen an increase in the over 55 population, which is projected to continue to increase before beginning to flatten out. The number of second, and retirement homes, has increased in recent years as well and may be reflective of the population increase and/or shift.

Yet, considering the expected growth rate, it is reasonable to assume that current facilities, and available housing should be relatively adequate. However, the Maryland Department of Planning population projections provide information to consider as the growth may create the need for additional facilities in North Dorchester, or the towns such as Cambridge, where population increases are expected.

Finally, in response to population increases of seniors and women, the Recreation and Parks Department will adjust the type, and potentially the location, of recreational opportunities to remain relevant to the true diversity of the population.

Income

The median household income for the County in 1989 was \$24,922; by 2015, that number had risen to \$47,093. Twenty six years ago, the percent of households living below the poverty rate was 14%. Of the 4,215 residents below the poverty level, 1,321 of them were under the age of eighteen. In 1999, the median family income moved up to \$34,077, and the poverty rate dropped slightly to 12.9%. A considerable decrease, but 629 of those below poverty level were children under the age of eighteen.

In 2015, 16.5% of the population in Dorchester County, MD live below the poverty level, which is higher than the national average or 14.7%. The largest group living in poverty is female between the ages of 18 – 24, followed by males aged 6 – 11. Awareness of this population is imperative to building better outreach for support across the board, and in particular, within the Recreation and Parks Department. This knowledge empowers the department to build services and programs that minimize barriers to access beginning with the location of programs, and through the development of a standardized scholarship program.

Chapter III - Recreation and Parks

I. Overview

This chapter attempts to paint a picture of the County's Recreation and Parks Department. The discussion will include:

- A short overview and history of Dorchester County, to include the role of Recreation and Parks;
- A complete inventory of the programs currently provided;
- Gaps as identified through public outreach, stakeholder input, and staff evaluation;
- Solutions to meet the demands of the identified gaps; and
- Specific goals as outlined in a Capital Improvement Plan.

An evaluation of the programs and services provided by the Recreation and Parks Department was conducted based on information gathered through surveys, public meetings, stakeholder input and staff interviews. This evaluation is the basis for decisions on future programs, services, and asset location choices that best fit the needs of the citizens.

The Recreation and Parks System in Dorchester County

Dorchester County's Recreation and Parks Department, established in 1963, is a small but effective department led by a Director appointed by the County Council, with guidance from the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board. Although small in number, the staff is passionate about Recreation and Parks, and its ability to provide the very best for citizens of Dorchester County. The mission of the department is to provide residents of the County safe and attractive recreational facilities, parks,

programs, athletic fields, and other venues for general enjoyment. The Recreation and Parks Department relishes the opportunity to continually improve the mission, goals, and objectives with the submittal of the Land Preservation Park and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) of 2017.

The Recreation and Parks Department functions under the day to day leadership of its Director, with a full time staff including two program coordinators, and two maintenance staff. The department also employs nearly one hundred part-time (seasonal) employees, and benefits from a team of very dedicated volunteers throughout the year.

The Recreation and Parks Board is a ten-person group of volunteers which play a central role in identifying goals and objectives based on the needs of the County. Additionally, the Board provides support through volunteer efforts and the development of volunteer staff to deliver programs.

As appointed by the County Council, the Board strives to ensure all areas of the County are being served. They advocate for a comprehensive set of assets to meet the needs of the different geographic, and demographic subsets of the County. The current code stipulates that one member must be a Council member, and that another must be the Superintendent of the Schools, or his/her designee.

Along with Board leadership, the Recreation and Parks Department benefits from our relationship with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Since the inception of Local Program Open Space (POS) in the 1969, Dorchester County has leveraged State support that has provided both acquisition of land, and development of parks and recreation areas. Without this support, the County would not be able to provide the level of park inventory to our citizens. This support allows the County Council to set aside the local share of acquisition and park/program development – generally 10-25% - within the capital budget for approved projects.

Following the submittal of the 2012 LPPRP, and the receipt of the State allotted funding to the approved projects, the County provided upgrades and maintenance to a small number of facilities, added playground equipment to Sailwinds (Visitors Center) Park, made several improvement to the County pool, and resurfaced ten tennis courts.

The extensive project of tennis court resurfacing is an example of the county partnering not only with the State, but with the James G. Busick Tennis Foundation, a local non-profit organization that provided the funding for the County's cost-share portion of the project. The opportunity to work with private businesses, and local non-profits to help build community assets is a process the

Recreation and Parks Department looks forward to expanding in the future. The outcome of the partnership with the James G. Busick Tennis Foundation to resurface the Glasgow Tennis Courts adjacent to the School Street Athletic Complex is one example of effective collaboration. It is exciting for tennis players in our County, and provides the opportunity for these courts to become a destination location for regional tennis tournaments. Additionally, two of the tennis courts have been painted with four pickleball courts in response to a new demand for that sport within the community.

Continued collaboration between both high school teams, and the local YMCA, provides an opportunity to expand a regional tennis program located in Cambridge, MD. Expanding the use of facilities and partnering with more citizens is an example of how Dorchester County would like to improve upon an already successful department.

Our Community

Recreation can be defined in many ways. For those that need to escape the bustle of their daily life on a tranquil path, or re-energize, and work off the stress of their day by playing a quick game of pick-up basketball – Dorchester County offers those options.

Recreation and Parks offers team sports, recreational activities, fishing, ornithology, hunting, boating, and more. Different organizations offer historic walking tours of the City of Cambridge, music and art festivals, haunted walking tours, paddle boarding, kayaking, and many other opportunities for recreational activities.

Additionally, Heritage tourism is vital. In March of 2017, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park opened to much festivity. Both domestic and international coverage highlighted the life, times, and places of an American hero known for her daring exodus of slaves from the surrounding areas and beyond.

One of Dorchester County's most storied pieces of history is the industrial past of Phillips Packing House, and the canning boon it brought to Cambridge. According to the Maryland Historic Trust, the Phillips Packing Company was established in 1902 with a height of nearly 10,000 employees at its peak. The pivotal role it played in food packing during World Wars I, and II is formidable – at one point employing 25% of the Cambridge's population. It was sold, in the 1950s to Consolidated Foods, and in 1965 much of it was destroyed by fire. Yet the nostalgia this provides for the urban center of Cambridge is palpable and current plans to revitalize the remaining structure and smoke stacks

involves collaboration between the City of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and Cross Street Partners.

The Packing House is the last remaining building of the original Phillips Packing Company and is owned by Baltimore based developer Cross Street Partners (CSP). CSP has a plan to redevelop the building as a “Food and Farming exchange” which will consist of an event space, commercial kitchen business incubator, and office space. The venue will also have space for retail outlets and a local food market.

The Packing House is adjacent to a park that is owned by the City of Cambridge. The parkland once was the headwaters of the Cambridge Creek, before Cedar Street was developed. The City of Cambridge received funding to conduct a storm water restoration project (currently in progress) on the northern section of the property. Recognizing the symbiotic relationship of the park to the building, Dorchester County, the City of Cambridge, and Eastern Shore Land Conservancy are collaborating on design efforts to develop an urban community park with various amenities.

Taking the lead on one component of the park, the County’s Recreation and Parks Department, with assistance from Tourism and Economic Development, are currently contracting with a local firm to design the Rail to Trail (RtT) portion of the urban park – the discontinued rail-bed between the Packing House and Cannery Park. The path will run from Washington Street to Cedar Street. Once the designs are completed the County will pursue Maryland Bikeway Funds to implement the plan.

The Heart of the Chesapeake Heritage Area (HCCHA) views the RtT conversion between Washington and Cedar Street in Cambridge as a necessary first step in a more comprehensive effort to create increased pedestrian access to the broader community. Additionally, this smaller project is seen as the first stage of a County-wide bike/pedestrian RtT to both the Dorchester County Airport and the waterfront at Sailwinds Park.

Smart Planning

With such diverse needs and opportunities with the County, smart land planning with complimentary parks and recreational programming is crucial. The basic goals of Recreation and Parks are to continue providing all the recreational programs currently available for all age groups, maintaining upkeep of sports facilities, developing design plans for new and/or established parks, and building natural resource area assets that complement sustainability goals. Essentially, the County does not want to

lose ground; in addition to developing new ideas which complement our natural resources, while building the recreational opportunities based on the interest of citizens.

In recent years – primarily since 2005 – the County concentrated on the revitalization of facilities that needed repair, or replacement. This seemed an appropriate response to aging facilities; and over this time there have been many improvements such as upgrades to the County pool, that make it safer and more enjoyable for all visitors.

As expected, continued improvements of the structures and facilities are clearly necessary as facilities need constant care and refurbishment in order to remain in good use for the community they serve. Likewise, it is important for the County to remain responsive to the demands of citizens for the support they might need for recreational activities. It is vital to provide the right mix of recreational space, as well as recreational services and guidance. Dorchester County Recreation and Parks prides itself on its service to the community; yet the department and County leadership understand the need for improvements.

These improvements can be as simple as increased volunteers at recreational locations or activities, staffing more effectively such as lifeguards at public beaches, or docents at community concerts and movie nights at the Sailwinds (Visitor's Center) Park. These visible improvements can make the relaxation and recreation of our citizens more enjoyable.

More specifically, the Recreation and Parks Department, in conjunction with other County Departments, will improve the:

- Facilitation of continual collaboration with municipalities and their respective departments of Planning and Zoning;
- Creation of a clearinghouse for comprehensive information offering 'one stop shopping' for citizens and tourists alike, so that information and messaging is consistent in regards to recreational programming, facilities, parks, historical information, and more;
- Collaboration with the City of Cambridge to develop a trail(s) system within the city of, on its waterfront, and as a RtT system within the urban setting and beyond;
- Provision of updated signage for water access as needed; and
- Current soccer, lacrosse, and football fields to provide hosting opportunities for competitive tournaments.

II. Our Current Parks and Land Resources

Dorchester County has a natural beauty due to the geographic location and ecological make up. The Recreation and Parks Department will continue to leverage the natural assets it already has, while developing parks, playgrounds, and open spaces for recreation based on need. With approximately 700 hundreds miles of shoreline, and steeped in waterman heritage, the County Council adopted the *Water Moves Us* brand to illustrate the unique physical characteristics of the community.

But the statement *Water Moves Us* goes well beyond the physical characteristics, it penetrates into the very fabric of Dorchester County, serving as a catalyst for both traditional watermen and emerging sporting industries, as well as providing some of the best outdoor recreational opportunities in the country. Water is also one of the biggest challenges, offering Dorchester County both compelling and unique obstacles in planning for our future – yet with that, the water that surrounds the County still remains the gem of Dorchester.

One example of a visible asset on our water is Sailwinds Park adjacent to the Visitor’s Center. It is one of Cambridge’s most unique, beautiful and valuable assets. Stretching from the fishing pier adjacent to Route 50 along the Choptank River to Yacht Maintenance Company and the Richardson Maritime Heritage Center along Cambridge Creek, Sailwinds Park is a jewel in Dorchester County’s parks portfolio. With the relocation of Shore Health to the Cambridge Marketplace on Route 50, an opportunity now exists to create a waterfront destination of improved open space within walking distance for many Cambridge residents.

The Sailwinds Park area assets currently include the Bill Burton Fishing Pier (old Choptank River Bridge), an Amphitheater used for summer concerts, the Visitor Center with the Heritage exhibit, a beach, a playground, and a waterfront walk. Capital improvement projects include the design and fabrication of an upgraded walkway to include directional bike and pedestrian lanes, exercise stations, mile markers, life safety stations and lighting. In addition to the Bill Burton Fishing Pier, there are a multitude of state recreational facilities within the county listed in the table below.

Name	Type	Acreage
Bill Burton Fishing Pier	State Park - General	26
Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad	State Park - General	17

Fred W Besley Demonstration Forest	State Forest- Demonstration Forest	1043
Chesapeake Forest Lands	State Forest - Chesapeake Forest Lands	12,946
Church Creek	State Forest - Fire Tower	4
Shiloh	State Forest - Fire Tower	1
Chicone Creek	Wildlife Management Area	234
Fishing Bay	Wildlife Management Area	30,019
LeCompte	Wildlife Management Area	485
Linkwood	Wildlife Management Area	313
Nanticoke River	Wildlife Management Area	470
South Marsh Island	Wildlife Management Area	1
Tar Bay	Wildlife Management Area	12
Taylor's Island	Wildlife Management Area	1,114
Cambridge Marine Terminal	Marine/Communications Facilities	0.86
Total:		46,685.86

Source: Maryland DNR - <http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Documents/Stewardship/CurrentAcreageReport.pdf>

Within the same area of Cambridge, the Heart of the Chesapeake Heritage Area has indicated an interest to improve the properties that visitors encounter as they arrive in Dorchester County over the Malkus Bridge. In particular, significant improvements have already been made on the property that housed a vacant Burger King. The old structure, the adjacent parking lot, and a second building have been demolished and turned into green space. Although not ideal recreational or traditional park space, it provides an opportunity to present the very best of Dorchester through public art and/or interesting landscaping. In July 2017, one of the Chesapeake Country roadside murals was installed on the building facing Route 50 featuring African American history of Dorchester County, including Harriet Tubman and Civil Rights leader Gloria Richardson Dandridge.

This past March, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center opened its doors to the public after many years of planning and preparation. This park is operated as a partnership park between the Maryland Park Service and the National Park Service. The National Park Service Network to Freedom program is also headquartered out of the Visitor Center. Park visitation is averaging 10,000 people a month. Many of these people are extending their stay by dining, and shopping in our

communities. In the future, we would like to explore opportunities to provide enhanced programming at the Visitor Center. This programming could include immersive experiences or recreational themed side trips including hiking, biking or kayaking.

Another gem in the portfolio of Dorchester County's Open Spaces is Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (BNR). Working in tandem with the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, the BNR is a mecca for outdoor recreational opportunities. With a little less than 30,000 acres of wetland, forest land, marshland and open water BNR has the largest population of nesting bald eagles on the east coast anywhere north of Florida. The Refuge sees approximately 250,000 visitors a year who travel to Dorchester County for hiking, kayaking, hunting, biking, bird-watching and photography. BNR and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Park are the only two federal recreational facilities in Dorchester County.

Name	Type	Acreage
Blackwater	National Wildlife Refuge	28,894.35
Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad	National Historical Park	480
Total:		29,374.35

Highlighted above are only a few of Dorchester County's park assets. Below is a more expansive list of the types of resources available in the County is below.

Community Park – Larger and broader in purpose than neighborhood parks, their focus is on meeting the recreational needs of several neighborhoods or larger sections of the community, as well as preserving unique landscapes, open spaces, and natural resources. (e.g. Secretary Park)

Historical/Cultural Area Site – Land on which the primary recreational activities depend on the presence of one or more cultural, historical, or archaeological sites, structures, or resources which are of a type, or quality, that is designated as important for protection or preservation. (e.g. Hurlock Veterans Park)

Mini-Park - The smallest park classification used to address limited or isolated recreational needs. In residential areas they serve as pocket parks and tot lots. They can also address unique recreational

needs because of their location in commercial areas, public areas, and scenic spots. (e.g. Cannery Way Park)

National Wildlife Refuge – Areas designated for the protection and propagation of fish and wildlife, within which certain outdoor recreational facilities and activities are permitted as long as they do not interfere with the primary purpose of the refuge. (e.g. BNR)

Natural Resource Area – Areas where natural processes are not significantly influenced by either deliberate manipulation or accidental interference by man. These areas may offer limited recreational uses to the extent compatible with the natural values of the site.

Neighborhood Park – The recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. These parks are developed for both passive and active activities, accommodating a wide variety of age groups within the service area. (e.g. Cornish Park)

Regional Park – Parks designated to serve the needs of multiple communities. Like the community park, the focus is on recreation as well as preserving unique landscapes, open spaces, and natural resources. (e.g. Great Marsh)

School Park – The portion of local public schools, or other local public educational facilities, that are available for general public recreation under POS joint use, or similar agreements. They often serve the same function as neighborhood or community parks.

Special Use Area – Areas oriented toward single purpose use, such as camps, golf courses, marinas, etc. (e.g. Long Wharf)

Sports Complex – A consolidation of heavily programmed, community-wide athletic fields and associated facilities. (e.g. Hurlock Athletic Complex)

State Forest – Tracts where the dominant forms of vegetation are trees, shrubs, and associated plants, which are managed and used to promote the coordinated use of varied natural resources and provide opportunity for recreation, wild lands experience, and other uses. (e.g. Chesapeake Forest)

State Natural Resource Management Area – Areas where multiple-use management practices are employed for the maximum use of the natural resources of the area. These areas are not committed to specific uses until they have been studied, and management plans are developed. A variety of interim

uses may be allowed, including recreational, that do not conflict with the protection or management of the area's natural resources.

State Natural Heritage Area – Sites that contain one or more threatened or endangered species (plant or wildlife) in need of conservation, and have a unique blend of geological, hydrological, climatological, or biological features that are among the best statewide examples of their kind.

State Wildlife Management Area – Areas with the primary objective of protecting, propagating, and managing wildlife populations. They may provide recreational opportunities for sportsmen and other wildlife enthusiasts, or may be an undisturbed refuge for the wildlife. (e.g. Tar Bay)

As the list of varied parks above indicates, Dorchester County's natural beauty lends itself to the enjoyment of the outdoors. There are many ways to experience enjoyment such as birdwatching, biking, hunting and watersports. Yet in the world of Recreation and Parks, it is easy to confine the definition of "recreation" as synonymous with programs. In reality, this is simply not the case, and our citizen feedback, as well as stakeholder meetings, found that recreation, to many, simply means a manicured path in the middle of nature, a green space with seating to enjoy the view, or a picnic area.

The demand for different public spaces, programs, and development ideas will be addressed later in this chapter; however, below is a narrative inventory of the specific areas designated as parks, playgrounds, and sports fields already in existence in Dorchester County.

North Dorchester Region

Secretary Park –This site has tennis courts, a spot for fishing, a park pavilion, youth playground, picnic tables and outdoor grill.

Secretary Veterans Park – This site is a visual memorial dedicated to those veterans from Secretary, MD. The park includes a walking area and, adjacent pavilion, and benches.

East New Market Park –This facility provides a tennis court, basketball court, pavilion, tot lot, ball diamond, and picnic tables, and a parking lot.

Friendship Park – Small pocket park in East New Market with a walking path.

Hurlock Town Park – Located between Heights Avenue and Hurlock Avenue, providing the surrounding neighborhood with park benches, a little over an acre of lawn for relaxing, and tot lot play equipment.

Prospect Heights Community Park – A local park that offers a full court basketball court, bleachers, play equipment and pavilion.

North Main Community Park – This park contains play equipment for area youth, benches and a picnic table. A parking area is located next to play equipment.

Hurlock Athletic Complex – A popular location for all baseball and softball players with two lighted diamonds, two unlighted diamonds, three multipurpose fields, three tennis courts, pavilion, concession stands, and rest rooms.

Cambridge Area

J. Edward Walter Park – This site currently houses the Recreation and Parks Office and provides a central location for program registration. Additionally, this facility has one lighted ball diamond, two multipurpose fields, picnic tables, and restrooms.

Great Marsh Park – Approximately 6 acres along the shoreline of the Choptank River which provides an excellent opportunity for residents to enjoy the gorgeous waterfront. There is a boat ramp, fishing, pavilions and picnic tables, tot lots, a beach, a multipurpose field, a stone dust walking path, benches, and swings. This park hosts events such as the Eagleman and is involved in the Ironman triathlon.

Egypt Road Regional Park – (Snows Turn Park) – A 96 acre parcel that allows fishing, and offers a Retriever training area. Improvements on the site include a nature trail that was constructed early on and picnic tables for relaxation. This site also includes a Cross Country course for Cambridge South Dorchester High School.

County Swimming Pool – A popular spot for pool hops and pool parties due to 15,500 sq. ft. pool with waterslide, diving board, and lap lanes. Additionally, there is a concession stand, restrooms, tot lot, pavilions and picnic tables.

McCarter Park – A two acre site with a large picnic pavilion, tot lot, and multipurpose field.

Meadows Park – A small pocket park providing a tot lot and basketball court for the neighborhood.

Sailwinds (Visitor's Center) Park – Located on the Choptank River at the south end of Frederick C. Malkus Bridge this site is home to the Tourism Office and Visitor Center. Residents and visitors alike may also enjoy the youth playground (ages 2-12), shade structures, picnic tables, swings, and

beach adjacent to the center. Bike rentals, a Heritage Museum, Amphitheatre, and Summer movie nights are offered.

School Street Athletic Complex – This community complex provides one full basketball court, ten newly resurfaced tennis courts (Glasgow Street tennis courts), four ball diamonds, and three multipurpose fields.

Christ Rock Park – A ten-acre site containing two basketball courts, two ball diamonds, restrooms, and one multipurpose field.

Cornish Park – Located on Douglas Street this site has two basketball courts, a tot lot, picnic tables, and a pavilion.

Long Wharf Park – Located near High and Water Streets, and home to the Choptank River Lighthouse, a replica of a six-sided screwpile lighthouse, and the Skipjack Nathan (offering cruises, and educational programs), the park provides picnic tables, beautiful views of the Choptank, bathrooms and fishing.

South Dorchester Area

Church Creek Park – A neighborhood park of approximately two acres that serves the community with multipurpose field, pavilion, picnic tables, a recently resurfaced tot lot, and a gazebo.

Crapo Community Center – A retired school facility that has been maintained and used as a recreation center for activities with one adjacent multipurpose field.

Vienna Town Park – Located on a six-acre site this facility contains a concession stand, basketball court, ball diamond, multipurpose field, tennis court, pavilion, picnic tables, tot lot, and restrooms.

Gay Street Town Park – Located in Vienna, this park offers a peaceful walking area in the center of town.

Vienna Nature Walk – A long waterfront wooden “boardwalk” structure, wrapping around the town of Vienna overlooking the Nanticoke River. The nature walk offers benches, as well as access to the river for boats and kayaks.

All of these locations, whether small urban parks, waterfront recreational areas, or nature trails in the more rural areas of the county, provide Dorchester County citizens, as well as visitors, with facilities for recreation.

III. Analysis of Use

The Recreation and Parks Department set out to clearly understand if the provisions offered by the County met the needs of the citizens through a survey, two public hearings, stakeholder input and staff interviews. An evaluation of the results from this input allowed the County to determine whether the location and quantity of services is adequate. This evaluation helped to identify potential gaps to address, and move forward with goals and objectives to satisfy unmet needs.

Taking a look at commonalities between the four different inputs identified issues that were thought to be consistent throughout the County.

Commonalities included the need for improved multi/single-use trails, increased programs (and the organizational management of them), an improved process for sharing general information, community partnerships, campgrounds, scholarship programs, skate parks, and better water access information/signage.

The one factor that received a high level of interest from all four input categories was programmatic offerings. Not only did the gathered information point to a need for a more diverse selection and timing of programs, but also the marketing of those programs. This dovetails nicely into the second factor that received interest: information. It seems, across the board, that information is not effectively shared within the community. Three other factors that received interest from three out of the four categories were trails, better water access signage, and a need for better partnerships within the community. Lastly, three factors that had two categories showing interest in them were skate parks, camp grounds, and a scholarship program.

The results are listed in the table below.

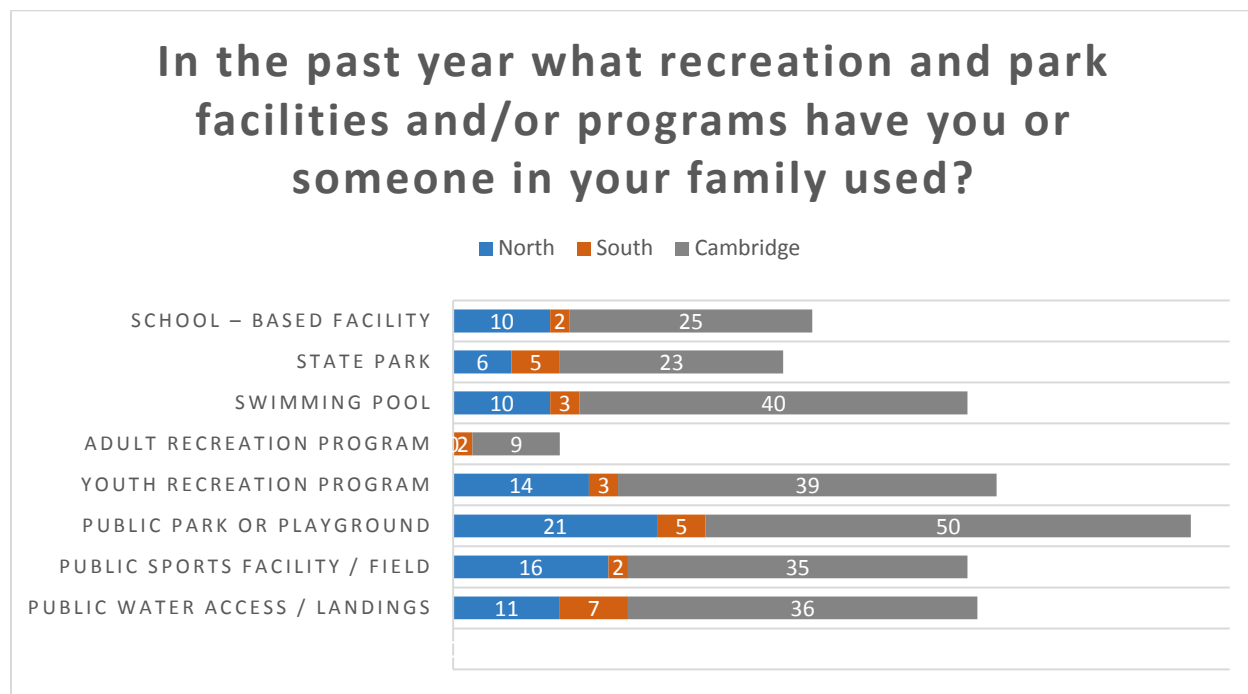
	Public Meetings	Survey Responses	Stakeholder meetings	Staff
Programs	X	X	X	X
Multi-use/improved Trails	X	X	X	
Information/Marketing of R&P Offerings	X		X	X
Need for Partnerships	X		X	X
Improved signage of established water access	X		X	X
Scholarship program			X	X
Skate Park	X	X		
Campground			X	X

When using public input alone, the priority for improvement is programmatic expansion along with the marketing and outreach of those programs; followed by three factors of equal ranking: improved trails, water access signage, and more effective organizational partnerships.

User Demand

The survey (Resource B) sent to 500 randomly selected home owners, provided insight on what amenities were used the most. We received 144 returned surveys – a 29% response rate. The information garnered from these surveys illustrated that citizens are pleased with our inventory to a large extent, but want to see more programmatic choices. The usage data showed a great majority, 72%, using parks and playgrounds, while 46% used recreational programs. Some of the open comments we received from the North Dorchester region identified a lack of programming, and therefore, the use of neighboring Caroline County Recreation and Parks for certain sports. The survey results are provided in Resource C.

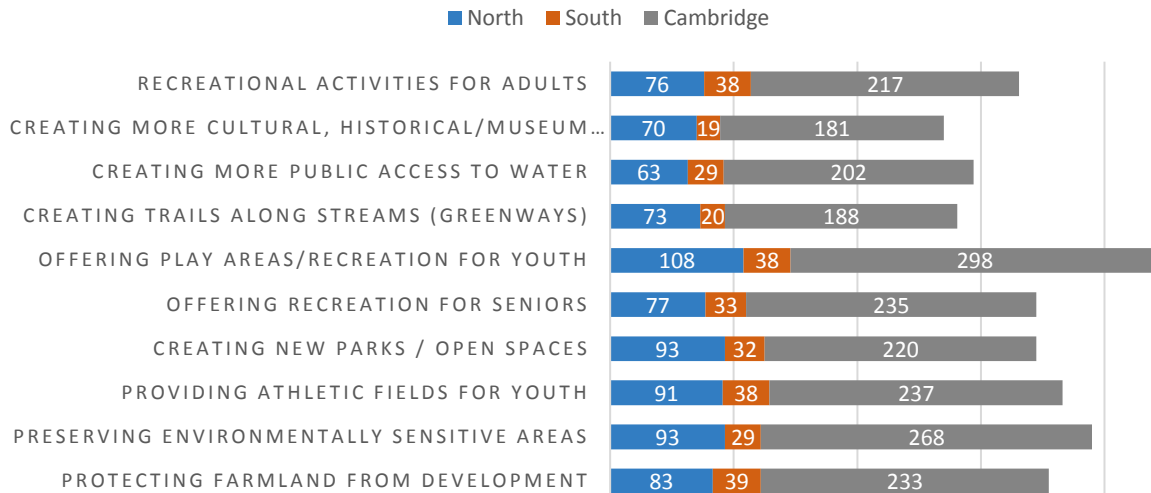
The chart below illustrates the responses to question three of the survey, which provided Recreation and Parks information regarding actual usage of facilities throughout the County.



Approximately 45% of those surveyed used the Dorchester County Pool, located in the City of Cambridge. It is clear that nearly half (45%) of respondents have used parks, playgrounds, or enrolled in a youth recreation program. As demand suggests, keeping these facilities in safe and attractive order, while ensuring programmatic opportunities continue for the youth in the County is a top concern.

Three quarters of the respondents that use the County pool are located within the Cambridge zip code. This data may support the notion that an impediment to pool access is transportation. It is assumed that the distance citizens from South and North Dorchester would have to drive is an impediment. Mentioned through stakeholder meetings and the public meeting in Hurlock, was the idea of splash pads and water fountain activity areas for North Dorchester. This would provide a water activity without the expense or maintenance necessary with a pool.

**Please indicate the importance of the
following statements about Recreation and
Parks open space goals, (5 most important; 1
least important)**



As illustrated in the chart above, when ranked in importance, “offering play areas for youth” received top billing with a 444 points, a 65 point advantage over the next ranked priority. The next four goals ranked more equally (with a point range of 34 points between 2nd and 5th ranks) in importance are: “preserving environmentally sensitive areas” (390) “providing athletic fields for youth” (366), “protecting farmland from development” (355), and “creating new parks/open spaces” (345).

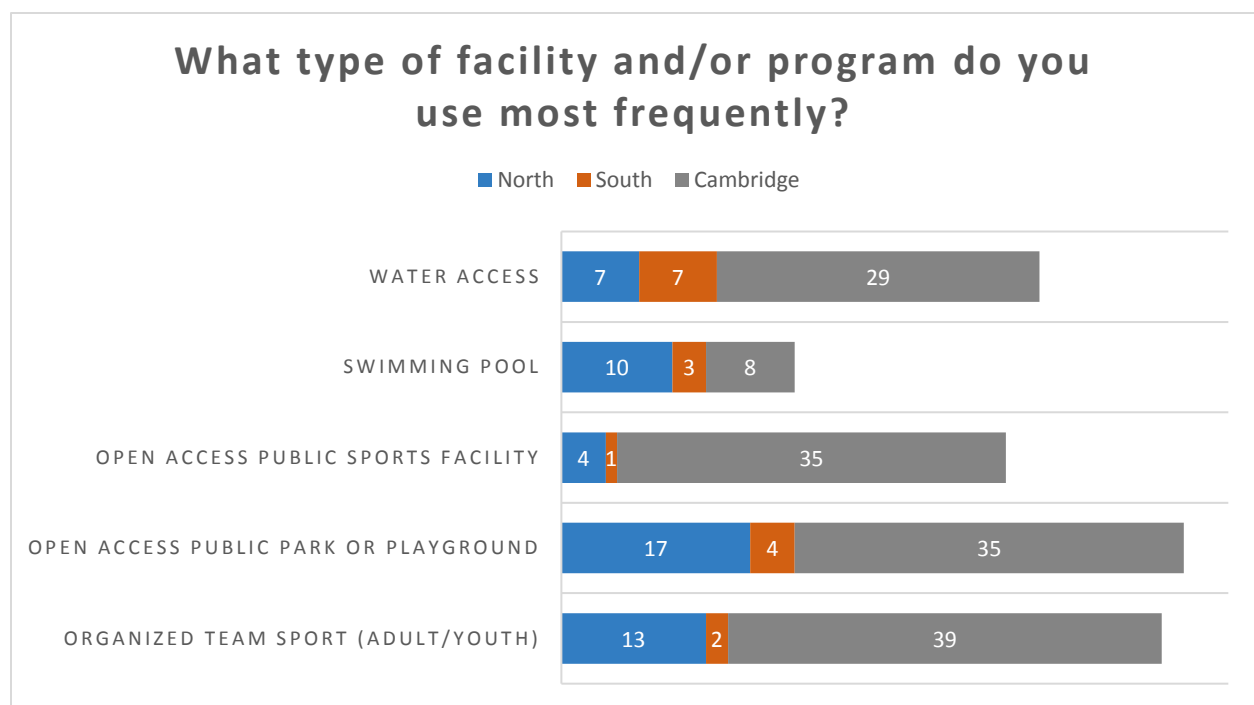
The Cambridge zip code saw a slightly different response – but not altogether out of line with Dorchester County, as a whole. The first priority is “offering play areas for youth”, followed by a reduction of 30 points with “preserving environmentally sensitive areas”; and then in third place by a 31 point decline is “providing athletic fields for youth”, closely followed by “offering recreation for seniors.”

This illustrated an interest in environmental stewardship that had not been quantified earlier. The County has several local and regional organizations that work toward environmental goals, so, although not surprising that citizens feel compelled to preserve the natural beauty surrounding them, Dorchester County now has information to support decisions that will benefit land conservation and preservation, and where to concentrate Recreation and Parks planning in the future.

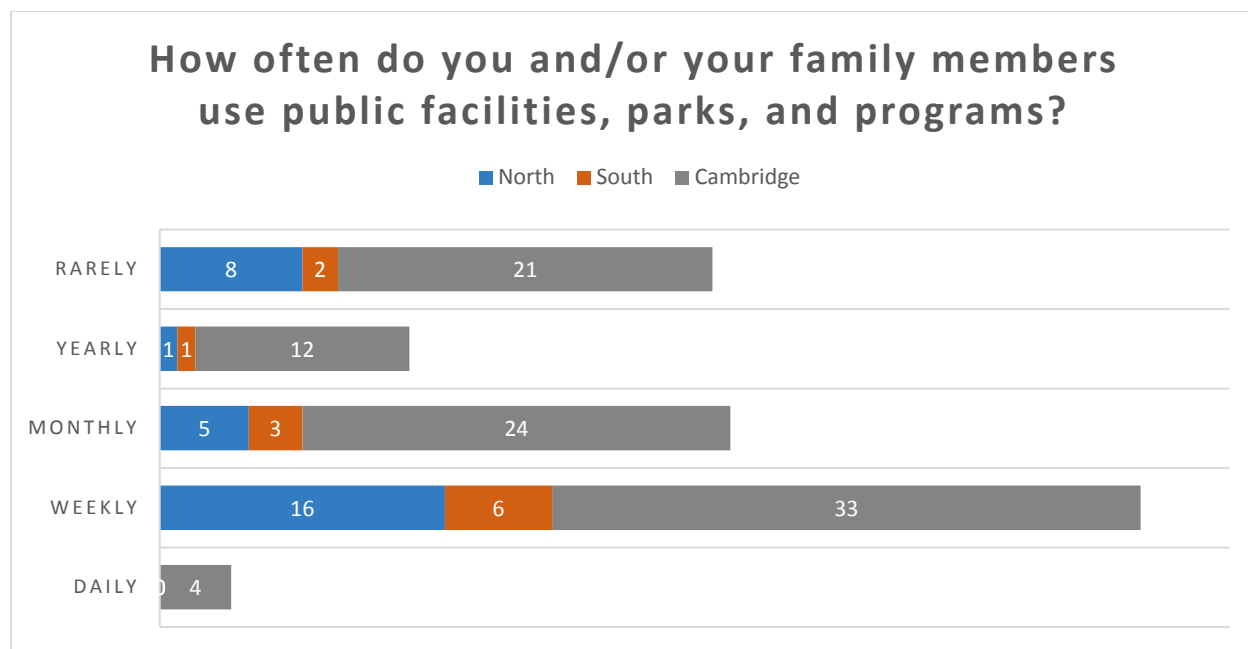
Enrollment data collected by the Recreation and Parks Program Manager between 2013 and 2017, the activities/sports with the highest level of participation are Pee-Wee T-Ball, American Youth Football, and Youth Soccer. A second tier of participant usage includes the indoor soccer clinic and American Youth Cheer. Other activities and sports are without consistent data collection. Enrollment information can be found in Resource D.

Overall, the survey, staff interviews, and public meetings, however, identify other interests within the larger category of programs.

When asked what facility they used within the last year, 63% stated park/playground; followed by 46% using youth recreation programs. Water access followed at 45%, and closely behind was a public sports field at 44% - tied with the swimming pool. Only 9% stated the use of an adult recreation program. Frequency of use peaks at 62% of respondents using an open access park/playground.



And although there are varying degrees of usage throughout the survey respondents, it is clear a majority use the facilities often as evidenced in the data below.



As mentioned above, survey respondents prioritized a list of goals for POS goals within Recreation and Parks as, “offering play areas and recreation for youth” first, followed closely with “preserving environmentally sensitive areas”, and third was “providing athletic fields for youth.” Two of the top three priorities line-up with input from staff interviews, such as citizens asking for increased availability of supervised/coached practice times for basketball, and better schedule coordination with school facilities. County residents also mentioned the need for after school and weekend ‘open time’ at gymnasiums, activities such as: volleyball, karate, kickball, dance, yoga and wrestling. Staff also reported public interest in more sports camps and clinics for children to gain basic knowledge of different sports; this also extends to an interest in summer camps and programs for children while out of school.

Although the staff feedback is parallel to many of the written comments provided by survey respondents, indicating programs for youth as a priority, it is important to meet the needs of the whole County population where possible. The two word cloud graphics below illustrate written comments included in the returned surveys.

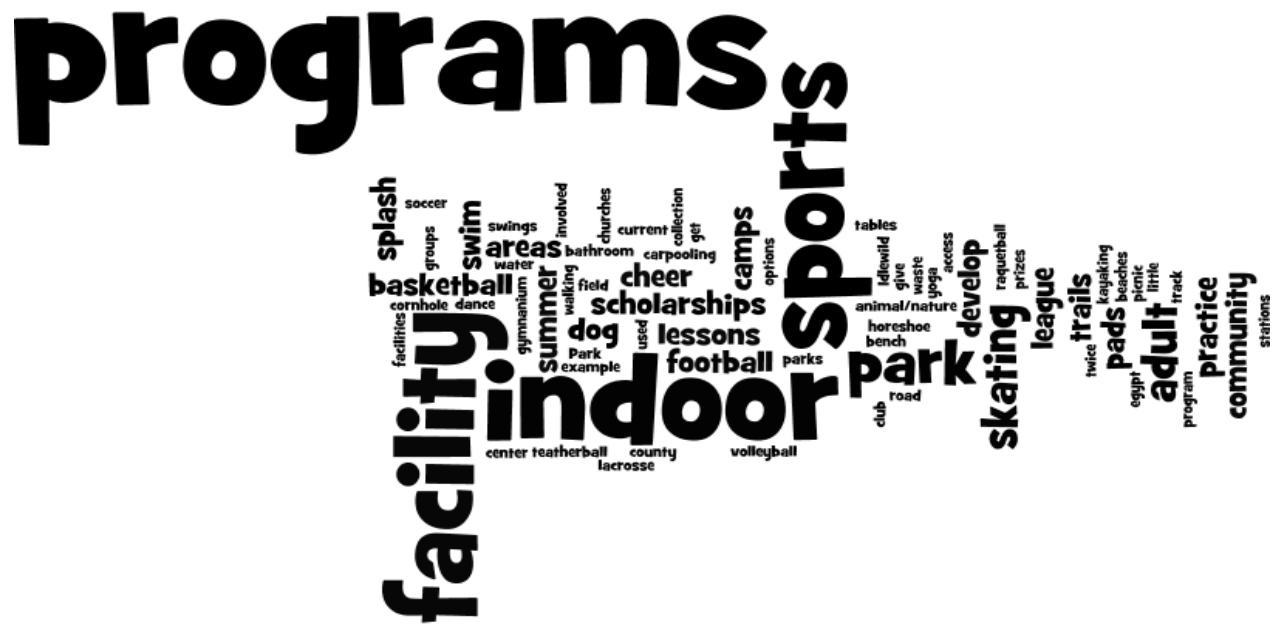


Figure 1 Written comment word cloud from Cambridge residents



Figure 2 Written comment word cloud from North Dorchester region residents

Justification exists to invest in more programs for youth because of public feedback; and through operational improvements, such as improved partnerships with Dorchester County Schools, the YMCA, and other organizations, the broader needs of the community will be met. Additionally, the projected demographics provide Recreation and Parks, the County Council, and the Recreation and Parks Board justification for Capital investments in the types of amenities that will improve the enjoyment of current assets by a large portion of the population in the plus 45 years old category.

Demographics

In addition to public input and usage data, demographics are a factor and guiding principal in smart planning for the future of Recreation and Parks amenities. In Dorchester County, according to projections by the Maryland Department of Planning, 49% of the population will be 45 years and older by the year 2020. Projections for the aging demographic continue to rise, minimally, until reaching 51% in 2040.

This projection provides Dorchester County's Recreation and Parks Department with a valid reason to look beyond the survey results which, in many cases, supported the need for programs primarily for school aged children. Taking this projection into consideration means providing amenities that benefit an aging population. These shifts in facilities could be as simple as more benches, multi-use trails, and bathroom facilities or programs that are more popular with aging populations such as pickleball, yoga, or bus trips to out of town locations for shows and museums. Additionally, encouraging the growth of walking clubs by promoting them within Recreation and Parks could help develop health-wise activities.

Although usage and demand responses through the survey prioritize youth athletic fields and play areas; it is important to apply demographic projection data to provide ample opportunities for all age groups. Additionally, creating play areas for children does not preclude the County from adding amenities that benefit the aging population within the design of either new spaces, or the upgrading of existing assets. Decisions to improve amenities for the increased proportion of the aging population runs parallel with the written input from the survey. Suggestions from written comments include multi-use trails, benches, swings, and bathrooms – amenities beneficial and fun for all ages.

Proximity and Equity Analysis

In addition to using survey responses, public input, and demographics, both park equity and proximity analysis tools provided important insight into identifying localities that may be in need of resources.

Proximity

Using DNRs suggested catchment area for the proximity analysis, resources were mapped with a 5 mile buffer throughout most of the County, while a half mile buffer was used for the City of Cambridge. When using a five mile proximity buffer, nearly 100% of the County is ‘covered’ by a Recreation and Parks facility and/or program. This is not to claim that each and every citizen is within a short driving distance of the facility or program that is their top interest – it is only to say, that we are meeting the needs of most of the citizens across the board.

When using State data, it is clear the high-density area of need within the County is primarily the urban area of Cambridge. Yet, with a ½ mile buffer applied to the municipality, citizens within a large portion of that area are provided an adequate inventory of varying parks, playgrounds, and sports facilities when only proximity is taken into account.

Cambridge

Using a ½ mile buffer within this district, there is one area that is predominantly without a Dorchester County provided recreational or park location. South of Washington Street, between Pine and Race Streets, continuing down and expanding between Race Street and Bayly Road until the Cambridge Beltway. Mace’s Lane Middle School, and Choptank Elementary Schools are west of the district, and technically within walking distance, but with minimal, if any, sidewalks, the walkability is limited.

It is a specific goal of the Recreation and Parks Department, working with our Finance Department Grant’s Administrator as the lead, to work with the Cambridge Revitalization Plan, a collaborative attempt between Riverkeepers, Cambridge Main Street, DPW, Habitat for Humanity, and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, to address the vacant lots and convert them into usable green spaces that meet the needs of the nearby community. In hopes of securing funding through the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the collaborative is hoping to develop these vacant lots with an emphasis on green space and urban agriculture.

Secondarily, if there are partnerships to build with locations/land owners such as the Little League Park, or a church organization in that above mentioned Pine Street district, the Recreation and Parks Department, with assistance from the Recreation and Parks Board, will pursue collaborative efforts to provide programs and services for a wide range of age groups.

These goals parallel survey results from the 21613 zip code. When asked to rank the importance of Program Open Space goals, Cambridge respondents prioritized “offering play areas and recreation for youth.”

South Dorchester County

Dorchester County’s southern area is the least densely populated because the natural habitat and ecology do not promote development. Using a five mile buffer for the proximity analysis mapping of sports and recreation facilities, as well as athletic fields, the whole of the southern part of the County is without these facilities. When proximity mapping is used for a comprehensive inventory of State, Federal, County, School, and private facilities, a much smaller portion of the southern region of the County is without facilities because of the location of BNR, local WMAs, and several boat ramps providing water access.

At first glance this would cause concern, yet the County is well aware of the environmental impact that sea level rise will have on much of the Southern portion of Dorchester County and the investment in facility development is, therefore, not a top priority. Additionally, the current inventory of recreational facilities (trails, water access) and activities complement the natural landscape. Much of the southern part of the County falls within the Resource Conservation area of the Critical Area Map, and a portion of this southeastern corner contains the State owned LeCompte Wildlife Management Area.

As a goal of the Critical Area Law to promote water access, this region is home to 9 out of the 28 water access points within the County. Development within the southern portion of the County is not a priority since the choice to do so would not fall in line with the Comprehensive Plan goals of steering development to population centers. Additionally, when the Priority Preservation Area Map (Appendix E) is taken into consideration, much of south Dorchester County – not already in State or Federal ownership – falls within this category.

Essentially, the County Council, the Recreation and Parks Department, and Recreation and Parks Board believe that current assets in that part of the County are appropriate in relation to the environmental limitations placed on development, and line up with the second priority set forth by survey respondents to “preserve environmentally sensitive areas.”

North Dorchester County

Applying a five mile buffer to sports and/or athletic fields throughout the northern part of the County, the eastern end of the County is not provided a field for athletic use. When the analysis includes parks, however, only a small section of the far northeastern corner of the County is not served by any open space or park facility. (As shown in the Recreation Facilities and Water Access Locations Map (Appendix F), and the Recreation and Parks Proximity Analysis Map (Appendix G).

Similar to the southern portion of the County, the rural nature of the location does creates obstacles and limitations for the citizens; yet, the limited survey response from that zip code prioritized trails along streams as a goal for POS, through Recreation and Parks investments. The regional meeting in Hurlock, along with surveys from that zip code, and the zip code of Secretary, prioritize “providing athletic fields for youth”, and “offering play areas for youth.”

Accordingly, the Recreation and Parks Department will use this insight to steer acquisition goals for more parks, playground, and/or athletic fields in the northern section of the County in order to address limited facilities in the northern section of the County as illustrated by the Sports and Recreation Proximity Map (Appendix H), and the Athletic Fields Proximity Map (Appendix I).

Equity Analysis

By analyzing local, state, and national datasets, DNR computed an equity score using four parameters, and illustrated that score within a census tract. The four data parameters are poverty, ration of children, population density, and distance to parks. This information, in the form of the MD Park Equity Mapper, identified underserved populations in need of easier access to parks, playgrounds and natural areas. These identified gaps are listed below by region.

South County

The combined score of the five separate census tract block groups in southern Dorchester presents a low need for more park space. When taken into consideration, the factors of poverty, ratio of children,

population density, distance to parks, and distance to trees this suggests a low need for an increase in those areas.

Census Tract	Block Group	Combined Score	Rated need for Parks
9708.04	1	9.46	low
9708.04	2	11.59	low
9709	1	10.46	low
9709	2	11.00	low

North County

In survey responses, East New Market residents (9703, group 2 – highlighted in red in the table below) identified “offering play areas for youth” as the number one goal for Recreation and Parks Open Space goals. The equity mapper data reflects what was presented through survey respondents.

Hurlock identified the greatest need with a combined score of 24.06. A large majority of the census tract data from North Dorchester illustrates a med/low need for park of green space, but the MD Equity Park Mapper tool provides the County with information to plan accordingly for future acquisition goals that must attempt to alleviate both the lack of fields within the 5 mile proximity buffer, and the identified inequity of park assets in North Dorchester.

Census Tract	Block Group	Combined Score	Rated need for Parks
9701	1	14.66	medium / low
9701	2	16.09	medium / low
9701	3	14.14	medium / low
9702	1	13.77	medium / low
9702	2	10.19	low
9702 (Hurlock)	3	24.06	medium / high
9702	4	17.81	medium
9703	1	16.05	medium / low
9703 (E. New Market)	2	17.82	medium
9703	3	21.56	medium
9703	4	16.58	medium

Cambridge Area

Cambridge, MD which falls within MD election district 37A, has the highest combined score pursuant to the four metrics used in the Park Equity Mapper tool. The specific locations of Census Tract 9704, Block 3; 9705, Blocks 1, 2, and 3; as well as Census Tract 9706, Block 2 clearly indicate a need for easier access and/or more open space. The highest need is located within the Census Tract 9705.

There are no other segments within Dorchester County that reflect such a high level of need for parks and recreation facilities as evidenced in the Park Equity Analysis Maps for 65 and older, as well as 17 and younger (Appendices K and L).

Additionally, the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2011 – 2015) supports the notion that Dorchester County, in support of the City of Cambridge, should prioritize certain efforts to create a better QOL for these very specific locations. Within the State legislative district of 37A, 23.8% of people live below the poverty level, 46.6% of renters are spending more than 35% of their income on lodging, and 14.6% of the population is without a vehicle. All of these factors create barriers to an improved QOL, and decreases the ability of these individuals and families to partake in recreational activities.

Census Tract	Block Group	Combined Score	Rated need for Parks
9704	1	24.59	Medium / high
9704	2	24.05	Medium / high
9704	3	31.07	High
9704	4	24.42	Medium / high
9705	1	92.20	High
9705	2	28.96	High
9705	3	67.49	High
9706	1	26.09	Medium / high
9706	2	34.23	High
9706	3	26.89	Medium / high
9707.02	1	20.75	Medium
9707.02	2	12.61	Medium / low
9707.02	4	19.70	Medium

In reaching the needs of different population segments, the County Council is dedicated to ongoing collaborative solutions for both urban and rural areas of the County. Current work with the Cambridge Pine Street Revitalization project, as well as collaboration to develop Cannery Park in the downtown Cambridge area are necessary to meet the needs of that local community. Other partnerships throughout the County include a Memorandum of Understanding with DCPS, cross-programmatic improvements with the YMCA, and the Tourism Departments efforts to build educational and recreational programs with the Harriet Tubman UGRR State Park, and BNR.

IV. Solutions, Goals & Objectives

The plans we have designated for the next five years are representative of the goals of the state, county and municipalities, as well as the community at large. The Recreation and Parks Department also believe these goals to be realistic, sustainable, and nimble enough to be altered if, and as, necessary.

Following the process of inventorying all of Recreation and Parks assets, natural conservation goals, and agricultural lands, the County Council understands the need for a comprehensive approach to improve QOL opportunities through tools already in existence. The public health of the County is an important factor that plays into decision making for myriad factors, and the necessity to tie POS goals into that discussion is abundantly clear. Eliminating barriers to recreation, leisure, sport, art, and historical assets within the County is a surmountable goal.

State Goals for Program Open Space

According to the National Recreation and Park Association, there are certain trends leading the way to help define the role of local Recreation and Parks Departments. People happen to live a better life if they are close to a park and/or recreation area. Within Dorchester County, the driver behind what investment decisions are made in regard to location and type of park and recreational development is the data. The County recognizes that the following State goals, along with the trends identified across the nation, are natural fits for the County. In that vein, the Recreation and Parks Department will continue to implement the goals for recreation, parks and open space by incorporating them in the comprehensive planning and management within the department's programmatic goals.

In short, the following guidelines will be followed:

- Make a variety of environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of our citizens – in order to contribute to their overall physical and mental wellbeing (S-1);
- Recognize the importance to strategically develop amenities to make our communities desirable places to live, work and play (S-2);
- Use Program Open Space (POS) funding to complement the larger statewide goals (S-3);
- Select, as feasible, locations for open space and facilities that are conveniently located, while helping to protect our natural resources (S-4);
- Use appropriate land-use plans to complement existing infrastructure and other public investments (S-5); and
- Protect open space and land resources at a rate greater than or equal to statewide goals (S-6).

A table of Dorchester County goals that reflect the State goals listed above is available in Resource E. And, because the Statewide goals are valued as part and parcel of Dorchester County's own, the following goals have been established accordingly.

Dorchester County Recreation and Parks will:

- Continue to work with local municipalities to plan for future development, and land acquisition, as well as renovate or repair current facilities; (L-1)
- Build upon the partnership with DCPS to maximize further use of both school and County owned properties; (L-2)
- Strengthen partnerships with non-profit and private organizations to aide in identifying community needs, and build resources and services accordingly; (L-3)
- Maintain an up-to-date inventory of public land, recreational facilities, and programmatic resources to inform both the development process for future plans and the general public for scheduling purposes; (L-4) and
- Continually review assets and programs against the input of citizens in order to build opportunities and spaces that are not currently available, or eliminate those that have lost their relevance. (L-5)

Goals identified by the State, the County Comprehensive Plan, and the Department of Recreation and Parks – with consultation from the public, stakeholders and other County departments – have a common thread. Some examples of how the County is trying to prioritize the impact of State goals are: increasing accessibility to several facilities by repairing and/or including sidewalks in design work; investing in facilities in population centers, such as improvements to the basketball courts at Cornish

Park; starting a RtT project within the urban center of Cambridge, with long term goals to extend to the waterfront and the airport; and identifying land acceptable for acquisition to protect resource land, as well as developing parks and/or facilities in areas that lack them. A complete list of projects that meet the goals of both State and Dorchester County can be found in Resource F.

Challenges & Accomplishments

Dorchester County's 2012 LPPRP goals were realistic for the budgetary constraints the County experienced at the time. The continued improvement of the local economy, in addition to the improved housing market throughout the State, has created a sense of optimism. Moving forward Recreation and Parks is building a future with sustainability in mind. By building public-private partnerships and developing recreational programs and services that entice tourism, the County hopes to expand funding streams.

In the recent past, the County has concentrated POS funding on the large project of resurfacing the Glasgow Street tennis courts in partnership with the James Busick Tennis Foundation. This priority was valid, but limited funds for other projects. Regardless, the County met other specific goals listed in the table below, ranging from pool improvements, playground renovation, and land acquisition.

DATE		LOCATION	DEVELOPMENT OR ACQUISITION	
Feb	2012	McCarter Park Playground	Dinosaur replacement - playground equipment	Cambridge
Jan	2013	Pool	Cover Replacement	Cambridge
Jan	2013	Pool	Tile Deck Replacement	Cambridge
Jan	2013	Pool	Tube Slide Replacement	Cambridge
Jan	2013	Fitness Course	Development	Cambridge
Dec	2013	Friendship Park	Development	E. New Market
Jan	2015	Cannery Park	Acquisition	Cambridge
Dec	2014	Busick Tennis Court	Renovation Phase I	Cambridge
Jan	2016	Busick Tennis Court	Renovation Phase II	Cambridge
Dec	2016	Busick Tennis Court	Renovation Phase III (with 4 pickleball courts)	Cambridge
Dec	2014	Sailwinds Park East	Renovation Phase III	Cambridge
Dec	2013	Sailwinds	Playground Renovation	Cambridge

The accomplishments listed above, highlight actions taken to improve a small cross-section of the parks available for recreation and leisure. A full inventory of parks available throughout the County is listed in Resource G.

The Local Picture – Factors for Decision Making

To achieve a well-balanced system of POS funding on a countywide basis, the (Acting) Recreation and Parks Director met with municipalities and took into consideration the priorities brought forth by the leadership. Additionally, input from the Recreation and Parks Board, community, and staff were considered.

Proximity of Recreation Land and Facilities - Dorchester County is a very large county – the second largest by land mass in the state. With the City of Cambridge as the urban center of the County it draws businesses and tourists alike. This densely populated area has a high demand for parks and recreational areas. Yet, just as important to the Recreation and Parks departmental goals is to meet the needs of smaller municipalities, and the rural areas. With these diverse needs the County goal is to continue offering green space, developed parks, recreation areas and programs as best applied to each region. Although a concentration of assets within Cambridge – due to population - makes sense, the County takes seriously the goal to provide both equitably dispersed recreational and open space areas so the burden of transportation is minimized.

Acquisition of land, or the development of County owned land, within municipalities and countywide are considered priorities within the State guidelines of the MD Planning Act of 1992. The Recreation and Parks Department works in tandem with the Planning and Zoning Department to ensure that new sites selected meet the goals and strategies of both above-mentioned requirements.

Program Fees and Financial Assistance – Simply offering programs is inadequate to meet the needs of all Dorchester County residents. 16.5% are living in poverty; to this segment of the population, programmatic recreational activities are not feasible. True opportunity, or access, is not assumed simply because an asset exists in the County; providing access includes assisting citizens in overcoming financial hurdles to enroll in programs. Therefore, the Recreation and Parks Department, along with input from both the Board, and the Finance Department, is in the process of creating a procedure for awarding scholarships. This new procedure will be standardized, and will be designed to breakdown tangible barriers for citizens with limited income to enjoy the programs and services provided throughout Recreation and Parks.

Joint Use Agreement – The Recreation & Parks Department has a long-standing Joint Use Agreement / Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with DCPS to use their facilities, apparatus, and play areas. These areas are available at the end of the school day, and on weekends. The partnership between the County and DCPS is tantamount to providing indoor recreation as a majority of these programs take place in school facilities. The importance of this partnership is not to be underestimated as Dorchester County does not have dedicated community centers around the County.

The two parties recently updated the MOU for more precise procedures of use and partnership, and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of both organizations.

Current Programs

The programs offered by the Dorchester County Recreation and Parks Department, or the affiliate organizations with MOUs, range from adult softball to drama classes. A complete list of current programs from the 2016 year is listed in Resource H, and below is a short overview of what we offer.

Youth Programs – Many activities are provided for different age groups, such as football, cheerleading, baseball, softball, swimming, and drama/theater. Depending on the activity, the age range differs; but some opportunities begin as young as 4 years of age, and extend through high school.

Adult Programs – Activities offered include: square dancing, co-ed softball, slow-pitch softball, women's fitness and exercise, and lap swimming.

Senior Adult Programs – The senior population is served by Pleasant Day Adult Day Care and by the MAC centers in Cambridge and Hurlock under direction of Delmarva Community Services. These agencies offer transportation, activities, crafts, educational speakers, meals and more. The Recreation and Parks Department offers a summer program at Pleasant Day once a week in the summer and the County pool for picnic outings during the summer months. Recreation and Parks supports both agencies as requested. The pool is also open for lap swim and water activities on weekdays from 11 AM to noon, for seniors, free of charge.

Special Events –The Department of Recreation and Parks works with many groups to supplement programs with special activities for youth throughout the County. The department also supplies and transports portable bleachers to public events such as boat races, boat docking competitions, and Cub Scout events to assist with spectator seating.

V. Gaps in Facilities and/or Services

Following the park and program inventory process, Recreation and Parks, in collaboration with executive staff, and the Recreation and Parks Board, identified gaps in both parks and programs throughout the County. Once the gaps were analyzed, and confirmed to be accurate, feasible solutions were created.

The table below highlights gaps that were either repeatedly identified by more than one input source, or were identified through the park equity and proximity analysis.

The table is divided into three categories of gaps: programming, communication/marketing, and facilities and park assets.

<u>Gaps</u>	<u>Solutions</u>
<u>Programming</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A lack of sports programing for kids, and programs for high schoolers;○ A standardized scholarship program does not exist;	<u>Programming</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ In 2018, conduct more thorough public outreach to match demand of specific sports with locations within the County; use existing assets to meet that demand; leverage school locations accordingly to create indoor sports facilities: pickleball, open gym, karate, tennis, soccer, cheer, dance, basketball; offer more swimming lessons;○ Develop a sustainable and standardized scholarship program to guarantee access to all programs and/or facilities for low income families;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The basketball program does not have enough teams, and age brackets are too broad; ○ Group travel deals to amusement parks, and/or regional cities do not exist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enlist more volunteers to expand the basketball program offerings; ○ Provide recreational travel opportunities, and scheduling for local park facilities (such as gazebos)
<p><u>Communication / Marketing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A lack of coordination/communication between organizations throughout the County ○ Information is scattered and not thorough ○ A complete resource guide is not available / A complete list of assets is not available to the public 	<p><u>Communication / Marketing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish MOUs with the Department of Health, YMCA, Dorchester Center for the Arts, and continue partnering with DCPS to clearly identify roles, responsibilities, and programming offerings to prevent redundancy and ‘scale’ resources; partner with the YMCA as necessary to train lifeguards and swim instructors; collaborate with organizations to provide summer activities/camps; joint grant applications for programs and development; ○ Create a ‘one stop’ resource on a new Recreation and Parks department website; ○ Work with the Local Management Board staff to accurately build a comprehensive list of organizations, and resources for indoor/outdoor recreation, sport, and leisure; create and maintain a comprehensive calendar – facilitating ease of field

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a basic lack of communication through social media, local papers, etc.; 	<p>sharing/collaboration between partner organizations; implement the use of a quarterly catalog</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach to the community through local publications, social media and an updated website;
<p><u>Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current asset and facility usage is not maximized; ○ A lighted girls softball diamond does not exist; ○ Signage for existing park, playground, water access, trails, sports facility assets is minimal; ○ Only one transient campground exists; ○ Lack of greenspace in the urban center of Cambridge; 	<p><u>Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collaborate with DCPS, the YMCA, and other private companies/organizations to maximize use and coordination of fields; ○ FY2018 plans include the addition of lights for the Hurlock girls softball diamond; ○ Include signage for new developments along rail to trail projects slated for through FY202; ○ Determine feasibility and marketability of a tourist style family campground; ○ Continue collaborating with the City of Cambridge on the design and development of Cannery Park (and specifically the R&T portion); ○ Partnering with Cambridge Pine Street Revitalization project to identify vacant lots to convert to green/open space;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limited park, playground, and athletic field inventory in the North Dorchester region ○ A lack of skate parks in the County ○ North Dorchester is without water access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collaborate with all parties involved with the Cambridge Revitalization of Pine and High Streets to secure funding for acquisition of blighted properties to convert into open space for local citizens; ○ Determine, with input from the Advisory Board, and local municipalities, feasible location(s) for land acquisition, or the development of county/municipal owned land, for athletic facilities and/or parks; ○ Evaluate surveys and public meeting input to determine, more specifically, where the best location for this asset is; ○ Collaborate with DNR and organizations such as Friends of the Nanticoke to identify a location (or two) for soft launches within the region.
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Programming

A general theme that thread through the public meetings and written comments from survey responses was the lack of overall programming. In order to fill this gap, it is imperative to identify with more detail the types of programs that residents are interested in having available. Staff interviews highlighted basketball as a specific issue that arises each season. To alleviate the shortage of basketball program volunteers, the Recreation and Parks Department in collaboration with the Board, and DCPS will recruit more volunteers for coaching and refereeing. Space is not an issue, but manpower is. This recruitment will expand the program.

The other programs, either mentioned in meetings or written comments, vary (as shown in the graphic word cloud on page 39). Therefore, it is the intention of Recreation and Parks to clarify the need through more public outreach. Investing in programming solutions, much like land acquisition, will be deliberate. Understanding, to the degree possible, where, specifically, to locate certain programs will allow decision-making that provides the best solution. The same approach will be taken in regard to building out of town recreational travel. According to program management staff, interest in father-son day trips, amusement parks and city destinations is of interest to the citizens they regularly encounter. And finally, making these programs accessible to all citizens will include a standardized scholarship program.

Communication / Marketing

An overall improvement in communication and outreach is warranted as indicated through, primarily, the stakeholder and public meetings. Currently, there exists a general sense that it is not possible to find recreational and programmatic information easily. Therefore, a robust effort in expanding outreach is a goal of Recreation and Parks in order to overcome this gap.

Clarified MOUs between partnering organizations is a first step. Understanding the specific roles and responsibilities of each partner, in addition to maximizing collaboration for ‘economy of scale’ is just the beginning. Once these agreements are solidified, a ‘one stop’ resource will be developed with the assistance of the Local Management Board staff. This resource will provide comprehensive information covering recreation, sports, arts and the like, for residents of all ages. Additionally, a concerted effort to use local and social media platforms to market and inform programs and park assets will be made.

Facilities & Park Assets

A larger lift for the County is the improvement and expansion of recreational facilities and park assets. The input from surveys, public and stakeholder meetings, as well as staff interviews did not highlight a great need for more facilities. In fact, when residents were asked to prioritize ten Program Open Space goals, “creating new parks/open spaces” was ranked fifth amongst them. Yet, using proximity and equity mapping tools, a more comprehensive picture of the County identifies the need for more green space in the urban center of Cambridge, while also illustrating the lack of any sports fields in the far northeast corner of the County.

With that in mind, facility and park asset improvement goals includes:

- maximized partnerships with DCPS and the local YMCA to coordinate field usage;
- the use of school gymnasium for sports and recreation throughout the year;
- updated signage for park assets throughout the County;
- determining whether and where a family campground may be impactful; and
- lighting of the girls' softball field at the Hurlock Athletic Complex.

VI. Capital Improvement Plan

Having specific goals that reflect the identified solutions makes it possible to design the roadmap necessary to achieve those goals. Development and acquisition goals as outlined in the table below are spread out over fifteen years. The short term goals, through the year 2022, are predominantly refurbishment projects for existing assets, or capital investments, again, within existing assets. An acquisition goal listed within the short term is for park or facility space in North Dorchester. The location is not specified as the process to identify the best location will begin in 2018; but as shown through proximity, and to a lesser degree, the equity mapping tool, North Dorchester is in need of a sports field. This acquisition will alleviate that gap.

DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION GOALS ESTIMATED TIME AND COST											
		SHORT RANGE GOALS (2017-2022)			MID-RANGE GOALS (2022-2027)			LONG-RANGE GOALS (2027-2032)			
PROJECT / LOCATION	RECOMMENDATIONS	Acquisition	Capital	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital	Rehabilitation	
CAMBRIDGE											
County Pool	Repair Pool Deck - as needed			X							
	Chlorinator			X							
	Renovate Concession Stand			X							
	Replace Mushroom Fountain		X								
	Repair Waterslide			X							
	Renovate Restrooms			X							
	Plaster Pool Interior			X							
McCarter Park	Playground resurfacing						X				
	New play equipment (2-5)					X					
	Resurface sidewalk						X				
J. Edward Walter Park	Renovate concession / Restrooms						X				
	Press Box Renovation						X				
	Develop adjacent property					X					
Christ Rock Park	Park development plan		X								
Busick Tennis Courts	Add Pickleball lines		X								
School Street Athletic Complex	Basketball Courts (2 full)					X					
	Design/Pave Parking lot					X					
	Main Field Lighting					X					
	Bleachers/Scoreboard					X					
Cornish Park	Repair Fencing			X							
	Refurbish basketball equipment			X							
Maple Dam Property	Plan for site development				X	X					
Cannery Park	Development of Rail to Trail		X								
Sailwinds	Beach development			X							
	Ampitheatre development			X							
	Signage		X								
	Development of Rail to Trail connector to Cannery Park			X							
CHURCH CREEK											
Church Creek Park	Refurbish play equipment			X							
	Additional Playground surfacing					X					
	Plantings					X					
	Expand Parking					X					
MADISON											
Campground	Development plans		X	X							
NORTH DORCHESTER											
	Land acquisition for green space	X									
HURLOCK											
Athletic Complex	Lighting for softball field		X								
	Add benches and picnic tables					X					
	Apply pickleball lines to court		X								
	Add batting cages									X	
Town Park	New benches & amenities					X					
	Update play equipment					X					
SECRETARY											
Town Park	Resurface Tennis courts						X				
	Pavillion Renovation								X		
	Park entry signage		X								
EAST NEW MARKET											
Town Park	Park signage		X								
VIENNA											
Community Park	Resurface Tennis Courts					X					
	New fencing around courts					X					
	Repave Parking					X					
Waterway / Greenway	Development Plan	X									

In addition to the short, mid-range, and long term development and acquisition goals listed above, the Capital Improvement Plan is a necessary planning document to guarantee smart growth and planning. Beginning with FY2018, the plan extends through FY2023. Understanding the need for enhanced programming, marketing, and communication were constant threads received from the public, the County is also well aware that capital investments are necessary for the continual provision of safe and relevant parks and facility assets, even without public input prioritization. Listed in the table below are investments the County has prioritized to meet the needs of capital improvements over the next several years.

PROJECT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	COUNTY FUNDING	STATE/OTHER FUNDING	TOTAL PROJECT COST
FY2018				
¾ Ton Pickup	Replacement of 1998 Dodge Ram	\$32,000.00	\$0.00	\$32,000.00
Pool Renovation	Replacement of all 26 skimmers and the surrounding	\$10,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$40,000.00
Cannery Park	Rail to Trail design	\$2,500.00	\$22,500.00	\$25,000.00
FY2019				
General Equipment	Hustler – 104 in. Zero Turn Mower	\$24,000	\$0.00	\$24,000.00
Softball Field Improvements – Hurlock	Lighting of the Girls Softball Field	\$11,500.00	\$103,500.00	\$115,000.00
Park Development	E. New Market / Friendship Park – circuit training equipment & signage	\$450.00	\$4,050.00	\$4,500.00
Visitor's Center Park	Park and Beach improvements & signage	\$2,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$20,000.00

Cannery Park	Rails to Trails Construction – Phase 1	\$5,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$50,000.00
Cornish Park	Basketball Court Improvements	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
FY2020				
Christ Rock Property	Development Plan	\$3,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$30,000.00
Madison	Public water access development plans	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Dorchester Pool	Ice Machine			
	Mushroom Fountain	\$700.00	\$6,300.00	\$7,000.00
	Concession Stand Fryer	\$12,000.00		\$12,000.00
Christ Rock Property	Development – Phase 1	\$2,500.00	\$22,500.00	\$25,000.00
Cannery Park	Rails to Trails – Phase 2	\$7,000.00	\$63,000.00	\$70,000.00
Visitor's Center Park	Development Plans	\$5,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$50,000.00
North Dorchester	Land Acquisition for Park/Facility	\$4,400.00	\$44,000.00	\$48,400.00
FY2021				
Christ Rock	Development – Phase 2	\$4,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$40,000.00
Madison	Water access park/development – Phase 1	\$7,500.00	\$67,500.00	\$75,000.00
J. Edward Walter Park	Park and adjacent property development plans	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00

Visitor's Center Park	Development – Phase 1	\$7,500.00	\$67,500.00	\$75,000.00
Cornish Park	Fencing, and basketball court repair	\$1,500.00	13,5000.00	\$15,000.00
FY2022				
Dorchester County Pool	Development / Engineering Plan	\$70,000.00	\$0.00	\$70,000.00
J. Edward Walter Park	Development / Renovation	\$15,000.00	\$135,000.00	\$150,000.00
FY2023				
Hurlock Tennis Court Resurfacing	P.O.S. – resurface 3 tennis courts	\$31,250.00	\$93,750.00	\$125,000.00

After thorough review of public input, proximity and equity analysis tools, the Recreation and Parks Department – in conjunction with County Executive staff, and the Recreation and Parks Board – identified gaps that became apparent, and chose solutions best suited for Dorchester County, while meeting the goals outlined by the State of Maryland.

Chapter IV - Natural Resource Land Conservation

I. Overview

Protecting Dorchester County's beautiful landscape and natural resources is of great importance to the County leadership and its citizens. This outcome is only guaranteed by the identification of realistic goals, the funding availability to implement these goals, and continued collaboration with regional groups and state programs. Additionally, ongoing review of goals and objectives is vital to sustainable practices that create the right balance between land use and development within the larger perspective of land conservation efforts.

Pressure to develop open lands is a reality faced by regions around the United States, and in Maryland. This issue fluctuates with market variations, and other factors. Currently, Dorchester County is not experiencing substantial growth in the housing or industrial markets. That said, the county understands the imperative to have smart growth and development in mind, and continually applies staff expertise to assess the comprehensive needs of the county with the vitality of the natural resources in order to plan for the future.

It would be short-sighted to deny a potential for development as economic factors improve both regionally, and nationally. Preparing for this demand must be part of the overarching goal of conservation.

Land use and growth management plans, zoning, development regulations, and procedures that conserve resource lands and minimize impacts to those lands are paramount to the success of conservation efforts. These efforts begin with:

- An updated and complete inventory of natural resource and environmentally sensitive lands;
- The creation of measurable objectives for implementation of programs that encourage the protection of these lands;
- Application of the Hazard and Flood Mitigation Plans to identify public lands suited for acquisition;
- Growth of public programs and funds to acquire easements, and financial incentives for stewardship of resources;
- The restoration of priority lands for ecological function, habitat, and water quality; and
- Continued progress toward Chesapeake 2000 Agreement goals.

II. Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation

County Goals

While the County Comprehensive Plan and Heritage Tourism Plan include, and identify, all of the state goals on some level, the following natural resource objectives are prioritized in the 1996 Comprehensive Plan:

- Support stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay and surrounding lands;

- Protect groundwater resources, streams, and their buffers, floodplains, and habitats of threatened and endangered species;
- Develop watershed management plans;
- Direct growth to towns and development districts, and set aside growth allocation for growth area;
- Enhance shorelines against erosion through construction of stabilization projects; and the application of tax incentives for private homeowners to improve their shorelines;
- Support forest industries, by exploring ways to link forest and forest industry with economic development strategies that promote the industry as well as the conservation efforts;
- Focus efforts of agricultural preservation in Agricultural District;
- Expand and encourage use of conservation easements in support of agricultural preservation;
- Preserve and enhance the County's historic and cultural resources, natural landscape and heritage;
- Support efforts of Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, the Nature Conservancy, the Conservation Fund, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, and other groups;
- Promote Dorchester County's Heritage Area known as "Heart of Chesapeake Country". Major components of the Plan involve implementation of programs to preserve historic and cultural heritage by improving public access, development of canoe trails, private protection, and a system of walking, biking, boating and driving tours;
- Promote eco-tourism due to wide variety of natural resources that exist in the County.

State Goals

Maryland State's goals for conservation of natural resource lands are as stated below:

- Identify, protect and restore lands and waterways in Maryland that support resources and ecological functions;
- Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas within the states green infrastructure;
- Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas to assist state and local implementation programs by synthesizing local inventories with state inventories;
- Access the combined ability of State and local programs to:
 - Expand and connect forests, farmlands and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure;

- Protect critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats, biological communities, and populations;
- 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;
- Support a productive forestland base and forest resource industry, emphasizing economic viability of privately owned forestland;
- Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation, and an integrated state/local strategy to achieve them through collaborative programs;
- Preserve the cultural and economic value of natural resource lands; and
- Encourage private and public economic activities, such as eco-tourism and natural resource-based outdoor recreation, to support long-term conservation objectives.

III. Inventory

Designated Conservation Areas

As stated previously Dorchester County has not conducted a “Green Infrastructure” study. However, the maps compiled in this plan assist us in noting areas of significance such as wetlands identified as hydric soils on the soil map. The soils map also identifies the prime agricultural soils for the agricultural industry that need to be protected from development. These lands are also identified on the priority preservation area map. Also included in the plan in the “green Infrastructure” map prepared by the Waterway and Greenways Division of the Department of Natural Resources in August 2000.

The green infrastructure map coincides well with the Protected Lands and Greenway Corridors Map. There are six potential greenway corridors shown on the map as referenced in the Maryland Greenways Atlas. However, there are seven greenways shown on the Protected Lands and Greenway Corridors Map. They are: 1) Cambridge and Blackwater Refuge; 2) Cambridge Waterfront; 3) Choptank River Greenway; 4) East New Market-Secretary-Hurlock Rail Trail; 5) Fishing Bay; 6) Hurlock Rail Trail; 7) Marshyhope Creek; and 8) Nanticoke River. Two of these (Fishing Bay and Nanticoke River) are existing greenways.

The Land Use Map adopted in 1996 reflects the general land use designations. The development areas are indicated as towns (incorporated), towns (adjoining areas), villages, and development districts on

the map. The natural resource area includes many recreational sites such as marinas, parks, boat ramps, state and federal areas purchased for natural resource, and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). These natural areas, again, coincide well with the Greenways shown on the Protected Lands and Greenway Corridors map.

IV. Implementation of Programs

Current Implementation Program for Natural Resource Land Conservation

The implementation program is comprised of all programs currently in effect within Dorchester County to achieve local and state natural resource land preservation goals.

The Comprehensive Planning Process

The Comprehensive Plan, which is currently being updated, provides the framework and foundation for natural resource conservation. The plan is a broad document with a long term perspective. This “big picture” incorporates smart growth ideas that best fit the goals of development, agriculture, and conservation – among other factors. It attempts to reduce sprawl development and protect sensitive areas, while simultaneously supporting agricultural and industrial growth.

The plan generally supports stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay, conservation of forest resources and industry, preservation of cultural and historical resources, the creation of agricultural districts where agriculture is primary use, and the encouragement and expansion of conservation easement programs. It is the blueprint the county uses for smart growth.

Planning and Land Use Management Authority

In addition to the programs mentioned under easement acquisition, Dorchester County updated zoning regulations in 1999. The county also implements the Critical Area Program along with best management practices (BMPs) for approximately 48% of the land. Other regulations enforced by the county are floodplain and wetland regulations, as well as the protection of threatened and endangered species.

Additionally, the Planning and Zoning staff have prepared several documents to assist surveyors and land owners; and the Planning and Zoning Commission adopted a Development Design Manual in

1996 to assist developers and landowners when developing property. Drawings within the document show standard versus preferred designs for the same property.

The county also produced three documents regarding the Dorchester County Critical Area Program to address:

- general questions and answers,
- buffer management, and
- development within the Critical Area - explaining the process and indicating preferred design techniques.

In addition, the county forester developed a pamphlet on the Forest Conservation Program.

Other Regulatory or Management Programs

Other programs that are essential in protecting natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas include sediment and erosion controls, and storm water management and are administered by the Dorchester County Soil Conservation District and Dorchester County Highway Department. New developments or projects disturbing over 5,000 square feet, or 100 cubic yards or more, are obligated to develop a sediment and erosion control plan for review and approval. Likewise, storm water regulations follow the State manual for runoff.

The Dorchester County Soil Conservation District and U.S. Department of Agriculture provide many programs that assist with protection of natural resources. They include: the Wetland Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Forest Land Enhancement Program, and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

The Maryland Environmental Trust also provides an important role by protecting forest and agricultural lands as well as environmentally sensitive areas.

The goal of projects funded by the Waterway Improvement Program attempt to improve and promote recreational and commercial capabilities, overall conditions, and the safety of Maryland's waterways. The program is administered by Program Open Space and funds the following types of projects: marking channels and harbors, clearing of debris and vegetation from navigable waters, dredging, construction of jetties and breakwaters, installation of pump-out stations, improvement and reconstruction of bridges, evaluation of water oriented recreation needs, boating information and education and structured and non-structured shore erosion control projects.

Easement Acquisition and Assistance Programs

Dorchester County will continue efforts to protect natural resources by supporting public land acquisition, preservation of conservation lands, and stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay. The county currently participates in the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program, Rural Legacy Program, as well as other state stewardship programs through state, federal and local programs.

Funding for Easement and Acquisition and Assistance

The Council does not currently budget funds for agricultural land preservation. However, the county does occasionally participate in the matching funds program through the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program and other state and federal programs.

The county also supports the forest-based industry as stated in the 1996 Comprehensive Plan in addition to conservation of the county's forest resources.

Economic Development in Eco-Tourism and Resource-based Recreation

The Dorchester County Council and Office of Tourism initiated a public process to prepare a plan for Heritage Preservation and Tourism which was adopted June 1997. The major components or recommendations of the Dorchester County Heritage Tourism Plan were to appoint a County Heritage Advisory Council, implement a number of projects regarding Dorchester's heritage, leverage outside public and private funds to carry out the plan, establish community level heritage workshops to work with leaders on projects, and hire technical staff to assist leaders in preservation and promotion of Dorchester County's heritage.

Dorchester's Heritage Area is known as "Heart of Chesapeake Country" and was recognized by the state. The plan promotes assisting existing community based efforts on the Nanticoke Greenway, to improve public access, develop canoe trails, encourage private protection, and develop inn-to-inn tours. In addition, it promotes establishing a system of driving, walking, biking, and boating tours, and recommends a visitor center in South Dorchester and East New Market. The Comprehensive Plan also noted that Dorchester was located along the heavily traveled Atlantic Coast and should take advantage of the ecotourism and cultural tourism markets.

Heritage Area

Formed in 2002 with the creation of the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area Management Plan, HCCHA is one of Maryland's 13 heritage areas throughout the state. HCCHA is operated under the direction of the Dorchester County Tourism Department and focuses on the development of heritage related assets primarily focused on driving economic development through heritage tourism. Many of the goals and objectives set forth in HCCHA's 5 year and subsequent 1 year plans overlap with the goals of the County's Parks and Recreation plans.

V. Evaluating the Natural Resource Land Conservation Program

State and Local Maps

The Dorchester County GIS Program disseminates geospatial information including property parcels, critical area boundaries, and FEMA floodplain information. All geospatial information is provided by State and Federal agencies and is used in Dorchester County's Internal and Public GIS Applications. These GIS applications allow Dorchester County Planning and Zoning staff to make efficient decisions regarding land use and environmental planning, the building permit process, zoning violations and much more.

The goals of the Dorchester County GIS program are to increase the availability of geospatial information to the public as new information becomes available and to upgrade and maintain the internal and public GIS applications.

Measuring Effectiveness of Natural Resource Goal

The current state goal for land protection, as well as goals set by other programs such as MALPF, Rural Legacy, and the "Eastern Shore 2010" initiative are specific and measurable enough to serve as a basis for effective implementation.

Contiguous Network of Green Infrastructure

Dorchester has the ability through state and local programs to protect and preserve contiguous resource lands. However, the combination of state and local programs relies on another dynamic which is regional cooperation between jurisdictions. Since natural resource areas do not stop at county

lines the local jurisdictions need to work together regionally to be effective in creating conservation efforts that apply to regions regardless of ‘borders’. One attempt to do this is through the Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Program facilitated by the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, with representation from all of the Eastern shore counties, several conservation organizations, and the University of Maryland Extension.

Critical Habitats, Communities and Populations

In 2017, Dorchester County updated its Critical Area Program and unified it under a single ordinance. The Critical Area Commission is currently in the process of updating the County’s Critical Area maps and are in the groundtruthing phase. The County anticipates an increase in the acreage of habitat protection areas as defined by the Critical Area Program. The Planning and Zoning Office seeks comments from the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Heritage Service when subdivision applications are received, and reviews existing data on threatened or endangered species and habitat during the subdivision and building permit review process. This data is acquired through the State’s Data Portal and existing Federal data.

Management of Watersheds

To date the county has not prepared any watershed management plans, therefore, current regulations are the only protection provided to local watersheds in the county. However, with limited resources, current regulations are difficult to enforce due to staffing shortages.

Economic Viability of Forest Resources

Dorchester County is committed to protecting forest resources for the timber industry. The largest public acquisition of forest land occurred in 1998 with the creation of Chesapeake State Forest covering over 11,476 acres in the County. This State purchase supported local conservation of the forest industry while providing public access to resource lands. Additionally, many private landowners manage woodlands for timbering and hunting purposes and the State’s Forest Service provides assistance to landowners regarding forestry management.

The State of Maryland’s Forest Conservation Program and Critical Area Program are administered by the Planning and Zoning Office and require afforestation and reforestation. Through these programs and other efforts the goal is to preserve contiguous forest lands.

Zoning, Subdivision, and Development Regulations

The current update to the Comprehensive Plan will assess the effectiveness of current regulations and recommend changes to better protect agricultural lands and resource lands. Many of the regulations adopted in 1999, such as the agricultural down zoning, road classification system, and reservation of Critical Area growth allocation, has limited development within the county's resource areas and critical areas.

However, future growth must be expected as the economy recovers, and procedures must be in place to guarantee smart growth and planning occur. Other incentives can be used in conjunction with the current agricultural transfer taxes to aide with the important work of the preservation of the county's limited and natural resources.

Current regulations are effective for site specific situations, however they likely fall short of expectations when considered cumulatively for larger ecosystems. The cumulative effect of development projects can be detrimental to an environmentally sensitive area because resources are looked at for impact within property lines and do not consider whole biological commitments. Therefore, it is important to stay vigilant.

Cultural and Economic Value of Natural Resource Lands

Dorchester County is well known for its wildlife and attracts many visitors each year to Blackwater Wildlife Refuge. Many birders enjoy the area as well as hunters, kayakers, and nature enthusiasts – all whom contribute to the local economy. In addition, there are also several bike routes popular with tourists in the South Dorchester area and visitors may also view wildlife by bike if they wish. These areas meet the recreational needs of both residents and visitor. Both state and federally owned lands offer opportunities for the locals, as well as visitors, to enjoy nature and history at its best.

Summary of Needed Improvements in the Implementation Program

The county's implementation program is designed to achieve state and local goals with the following improvements:

- Encourage regional cooperation and planning between jurisdictions throughout the State of Maryland;

- Evaluate resources more holistically, and factor in cumulative effects of development on a resource or its community, which may extend outside property lines of a project; and
- Provide as much data as possible for protection of critical habitats and communities to local jurisdictions so it may be effectively used in review of development projects.

VI. Goals for Natural Resource Conservation

Based upon this evaluation, Dorchester County recommends the following with regard to local and state preservation goals:

- The State should continue to provide assistance to jurisdictions by providing available data and other services. Accurate data is of primary importance in developing tools to protect critical habitats.
- Taking a cumulative look at the effects of development on a resource or community that may extend outside property lines for a project.
- Adequate funds are needed from the State to provide staffing for the enforcement of existing regulations.
- Dorchester County must use the opportunity during the Comprehensive Plan update to identify accurate and feasible acreage goals, and develop specific and strategies to meet them.
- A review of incentives to mitigate the loss of agricultural lands in the county.
- Increase local funding, when feasible, for park improvement projects, maintenance and programs.
- The county will continue to apply for grants and Program Open Space funds to provide needed recreational facility improvements.
- County must work with other municipalities to create connections between parks and other facilities as designated in the Plan.
- Prioritizing public access to waterfront, particularly along the Nanticoke River.
- Continued outreach to citizens for input on conservation efforts, and ideas.
- Development of a Transfer of Development Rights and Purchase of Development Rights Program should be established if feasible for Dorchester County.
- Collaboration between the Economic Development Office to develop programs that assist the agricultural industry.
- County must consider stronger agricultural zoning or consider other methods to ensure that development does not supersede land protection.

- Consider ways to strengthen agricultural zoning.
- Work with MD Extension to educate citizens about financial benefits and tools available for easements.
- The county should review the foreclosure list routinely in effort to acquire land through fee simple ownership.
- The county should determine if certification through the Maryland Office of Planning for Agricultural Land Preservation is feasible.
- Encourage, and assist, all farm owners to have Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans; and
- Continue to build upon, and establish new greenways along the waterfront and abandoned railroad lines as shown on Protect Land and Greenway Corridor Map.

Chapter V – Agricultural Land Preservation

I. Overview of Agricultural Land Preservation

Within the Maryland Department of Natural Resources several programs exist for land preservation. The flexibility of these programs allow local governments to develop best practices within their own regions. Collaborative programs such as Program Open Space, the Maryland Environmental Trust, Rural Legacy, and Forest Legacy encourage local jurisdictions to ensure land use and preservation goals are being met. In addition to State programs, the US Department of Agriculture Environmental Quality Incentive, and Wetlands Reserve Programs are helpful in designating lands for protection as well.

Agriculture, as a primary economic resource, is pivotal to many aspects of day to day life in the County. Understanding, supporting, and developing the industry is a priority; therefore resources and programs geared toward supporting and preserving this way of life is a County priority, and a determinant with regard to deliberate growth.

The program with the direct impact on agricultural land preservation is the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF). Developed in 1977 by the General Assembly, as part of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the MALPF's goals are: "to preserve productive farmland and woodland for the continued production of food and fiber for all of Maryland's citizens; to curb the

expansion of random urban development; to protect wildlife habitat; and to enhance the environmental quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.”

These State goals complement Dorchester County’s agricultural heritage and goals for the future. Creating opportunities for farmers and fisheries to thrive, while promoting smart growth and development, is key to building a sustainable land and water-use business models as part of the sustainable economic goals. Additionally, the viability of an agricultural based economy builds a strong secondary market, with farm equipment and supply stores serving the industry.

Supporting the agriculture industry in the ever-evolving market economy is no small task. Balancing the correct acreage for agriculture with other forms of economic and real estate development is difficult. Exactly how many acres of farm land does it take to support local farm supply businesses? Is the answer to that in business-to-business communication and collaboration within the County and region? Are there better forms of agricultural land preservation that adapt more nimbly to future land use progress that farm economies are currently moving toward, such as boutique farming, or solar “farms”?

Identifying priority protection areas within a County is only one part of the equation; understanding the growth of business, and the best location for farming in association with that decision, is the other factor. In short, predicting the outcome, while choosing that specific path is somewhat difficult to do. That obstacle can be seen in the need for updated Comprehensive Planning. If goals for agriculture, fisheries, tourism, real estate development, and much more were static, the promotion of ideas to build sustainability would be simple.

That said, the County will begin the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan to be more relevant to current needs; with an eye to the future and sustainability. The plan will help determine new goals for development, in addition to solutions for new technology and land-use competition - such as solar power.

Other forms of land-use that can, and have, detracted from the preservation of agriculture are hunting, as well as State and National Land purchases. Hunting - a fantastic sport, past-time, way of life, and form of recreation for so many locals and tourists - is an activity that directly impacts agriculture. To strike a balance with the hunters’ need for wildlife to flourish, and the farmers’ need for crop growth safe from wildlife is a discussion with many pitfalls - making solutions difficult at times. Competing

interests – many, if not all, valid – will continue to offer complexities to Dorchester County’s land-use planning.

At times, choices of preservation, recreation, and development areas within the County are heavily driven by geographic realities. Our soil is immensely diverse, and land in North Dorchester is vastly different than that in South Dorchester. Unless monumental infrastructure and engineering projects were undertaken, development will remain in the North, and preservation will remain in the South.

Of course, to describe preservation in such simple terms as above would be to the detriment of the County; and it would not reflect the possibility for exceptions that can and should be made.

Following is a description of the goals designated in the Comprehensive Plan to preserve agricultural lands and waterways for fisheries, while balancing goals for Recreation and Parks, and overall smart growth; and a discussion of programs we have implemented to reach those goals.

County Goals

Dorchester County supports the State of Maryland’s goals for farmland protection, and has consistently relied upon the most recent Comprehensive Plan (1996) to prioritize development in designated areas - away from agricultural lands.

The County goal of 100,000 acres of farmland is lofty, and will be examined while updating the Comprehensive Plan. The overall acreage of protected lands in Dorchester currently stand at about 98,244, however a large portion of that is Blackwater Refuge and Fishing Bay which, together constitute, approximately 50,000 acres. Therefore, to reach the County goal of 100,000 acres, we need to protect an additional 50,000 acres of agricultural land by 2020. In order to meet this goal the County would need to preserve approximately 9,600 acres per year over the next five years.

Reassessing this goal is imperative. Collaboration with State and Federal departments to build continuity in plans, ideas and goals is also necessary to accurately set objectives and build partnerships to meet them.

State Goals

The Maryland General Assembly passed a resolution in 2002 establishing a statewide goal to preserve approximately 1,030,000 acres of productive agricultural land by the year 2020. This was based on MALPF Task Force recommendation that 1.1 million acres be preserved to support a reasonable

diversity of agricultural production in the State of Maryland. The expectation being that the Counties will formulate their own acreage goal based on the State goal.

The overall State goals are as follows:

- Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting diversity;
- Protect natural resources, forest, and historic resources; as well as the rural character of the landscape;
- Concentrate preserved land in large contiguous blocks as much as possible to support resource based industries;
- Limit the intrusion of development and its impacts on rural resources and resource based industries;
- Preserve approximately 1,030,000 acres of productive agricultural land by 2020;
- Ensure good return on public investment by concentrating land preservation funds where the investment is reasonably well supported by local investment and land use management;
- Work with local governments to:
 - Establish preservation areas, and strategies through local plans to complement State goals;
 - Designate areas for preservation so that land owners, the public and government officials understand the goals and strategy to preserve the area;
 - Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by allowing sufficient public comment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs;
 - Use local land use management authority to protect public investment by managing development in rural preservation areas; and
 - Establish measures to support profitable agriculture, including assistance in production, marketing, and stewardship, to keep farming desirable.

Public Commitment to Investment in Land Preservation

Agriculture is a primary industry in Dorchester County as our rural land in the northern region of the County is a natural setting for farmland. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Census of Agriculture, Dorchester County's total market value of agricultural products sold was \$187,057,000 in 2012. Furthermore, the income from farm related sources that year (the most

recent data available), at \$4,304,000, was a dramatic rise from the 2007 rate of \$2,652,000. With 423 total farms in the County, totaling 126,420 acres of land, and total retail sales in the County of \$288,746,000, agriculture constitutes nearly 65% of our sales, produced by 35% of our land. Therefore, it is no surprise that maintaining the industry is a priority.

With limited funding, the County attempts to prioritize these economic drivers while capitalizing on collaborative programs the State has to offer.

II. Programs:

Dorchester County Agricultural Land Preservation

The Dorchester County Agricultural Land Preservation Program was established in January 1979 under the State's Agricultural Land Preservation Program. The local Planning and Zoning Office and a five member board appointed by the County Council oversee the local program. The program is voluntary and was established in order to preserve agricultural land and woodland in order to:

- provide sources of agricultural products within the state for citizens,
- control urban expansion,
- curb urban blight and deterioration, and
- protect agricultural land and woodland open space.

The program is open to any owner with eligible farmland. The basic eligibility requirements are 50 contiguous acres, 50% of soils Class I, II, and III, and a current Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan. The owner is then eligible to offer for sale a development rights easement to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF). Currently, under easement, there are 80 farms that total 13,063 acres of farmland in the county which are in the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program, and identified in the Agricultural Easement Map. (Appendix J)

Dorchester County does not actively recruit farmers to join the program and does not purchase easements except through the State program. However, this program is encouraged as a tool to protect farming - especially in Northern Dorchester where many farms are being turned into residential developments. The Dorchester County Agricultural Land Preservation Board has designated the area between Federalsburg and Vienna; south of Rt. 50 between Maple Dam Road and Linkwood; and along the Rt. 50 corridor to Vienna for future easement acquisition. In addition, the Neck district,

west of Cambridge, is ideal for easement acquisition due to the number of farms under Conservation Easements with the Maryland Environmental Trust. These areas are shown on the Priority Preservation Areas Map. (Appendix E)

Green Infrastructure Program

The ecosystem of Green Infrastructure is vital to the environmental health of the State, County, and region. The comprehensive outlook, available from DNR is helpful in promoting conservation.

The program was established to help protect the green infrastructure identified as forests, parks, greenways, and wetlands under pressure from development. The main objectives of the program are to identify the most important unprotected lands in the State, link or connect these lands with corridors or connectors, and save lands identified through acquisitions and easements. Many easements have been purchased in Dorchester County with funds from Greenprint through the MD Agricultural Land Preservation Program. The significance of these lands can be seen on the Green Infrastructure Map (Appendix M) prepared through the Chesapeake and Coastal Watershed Service, Waterway and Greenways Commission for the Department of Natural Resources, identifying areas that may potentially serve as contiguous greenspace.

Maryland Environmental Trust-Conservation Easements

There are many groups besides MALPF that have developed programs to preserve open space or farmland. The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) has established conservation easements for many farms in the Neck District of Dorchester County. A conservation easement entitles the owner to certain tax breaks if they voluntarily limit the development on their property in a recorded. There are currently sixteen properties in the MET Conservation Easement Program, and an additional property under a Conservation Easement established through the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Inc. The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy located in Easton, MD, and MET in Annapolis, will assist landowners by answering questions or aid them with preparation of a conservation easement.

Nanticoke Watershed Alliance

The mission of the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance (NWA) is to conserve the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Nanticoke River Watershed for the benefit of present and future generations. Membership is diverse and composed of representatives from groups such as, Friends of

the Nanticoke River, Wicomico Environmental Trust, and Nanticoke River Watershed Conservancy. They work toward accomplishing their mission by fostering public support through education, outreach and advocacy. They develop partnerships between landowners, private organizations, businesses and all levels of government in Maryland and Delaware. They promote the protection of wildlife and recreational greenways on both sides of the Nanticoke River, and seek to improve river water quality and encourage appropriate development and land use patterns throughout the watershed. They develop activities that emphasize the rivers cultural history, and by doing so, insure that future generations will respect and enjoy the Nanticoke River and its watershed.

Friends of the Nanticoke River

An organization of concerned landowners and citizens who wish to protect the Nanticoke River and its surrounding lands, and in doing so, preserve the unique quality of life enjoyed in this area. Their goals include the improvement of agricultural preservation programs, the enforcement of existing land use regulations, and the encouragement of recreational, educational, and low impact activities on, and around the river. Friends of the Nanticoke River work with communities to develop land use policies that preserve and protect precious natural resources. They work with all levels of government to maintain the natural beauty, solitude, peace of mind and sense of community the Nanticoke River provides.

The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC)

A private, nonprofit organization started by eastern shore conservationists and farmers out of a concern that the unique beauty, productivity, and character of the eastern shore were being lost to sprawling, unplanned development. The conservancy's offices are located in Easton, MD. To achieve its land preservation mission, the Conservancy works with willing landowners to help find ways to preserve their land. In addition, ESLC conducts estate planning workshops and educational programs for attorneys and farm families. In Dorchester County, the Conservancy has preserved farms and has focused its efforts on preserving land in the Nanticoke and Marshyhope River watersheds and within the prime farming regions of central northern Dorchester County.

Rural Legacy Program

The State of Maryland adopted this program in an effort to protect agriculture, forest, natural, and cultural resources. Protection of these resources promotes resource based economies, protects green belts and greenways, and maintains rural life. Protection is provided through acquisition of easements from willing landowners. The Protected Lands and Greenways Corridors Map identifies several categories of protected lands. (Appendix D)

Local Plans, Zoning, and Regulations

The 1996 Dorchester County Comprehensive Plan was critical to the preservation of agricultural land, through down zoning of the agricultural area before sporadic development dotted the landscape. Growth was encouraged in the municipalities, adjacent to municipalities and in three designated growth areas as established by the Growth Act. The density of development in the Agricultural District was reduced from 1 dwelling unit per 40,000 sq. ft. to 3 dwelling units + 1 dwelling unit per 15 acres, or 1 dwelling unit per 10 acres if clustered. This reduction in density, along with the County's new road classification system, limiting access on major and minor collectors, appears to have succeeded as a deterrent to sprawl development.

Support for the Preservation Strategy

The Dorchester County Council recognizes the importance of agriculture to the local economy and the rural character of the landscape it provides throughout the County. Therefore, the goals for protection of agriculture adopted in the 1996 Comprehensive Plan included:

- permanently preserve 100,000 acres of farmland to ensure the viability of agriculture in the county;
- create an agricultural district where farming is the primary use;
- using down zoning to prevent misguided development, and promote agriculture where best suited;
- expand and encourage conservation easements in the agricultural district;
- require growth allocation under the Critical Area Program to discourage development within rural areas;
- adopt a continual review of a road classification system to reduce strip development;
- create both a transfer and purchase of development rights programs to strengthen affordable housing policies;

- develop stronger policies and strategies for the protection of prime agricultural, and sensitive areas; and
- designate Priority Preservation Areas.

The Benefits of Agricultural Preservation

The importance of agriculture has several facets. The element of heritage is pivotal to the culture of the County; but, additionally, it is a primary economic engine providing jobs and opportunities to many residents. In short, it is a job creator. Therefore, protecting the economic base of the agricultural industry, while simultaneously protecting woodlands, and forests which provide habitat for wildlife strengthens the overall health of the agricultural industry, eco-tourism, and habitat.

III. Implementation of Agricultural Land Preservation

The programs and mechanisms currently used in the County to achieve local and State agricultural land preservation goals are as follows:

Designated Preservation Areas – Areas identified for agricultural land preservation by the County and established in the Comprehensive Plan. The County focuses on preservation of land in the Marshyhope Rural Legacy Area, Nanticoke Rural Legacy Area, and generally the agricultural and conservation districts within the County through MALPF and the Maryland Environmental Trust program. Other programs that have been successful are the Forest Legacy Program and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Easement Acquisition Mechanisms – Programs the County uses to purchase and/or transfer development rights (or providing other forms of financial incentives to landowners) from agricultural land in designated areas to preserve their land. Farmland preservation is designated for the Agricultural Conservation District (AC and AC-RCA), Resource Conservation District (RC), and Rural Residential Conservation District (RR-C). These districts are all outside of the growth area and designated on the Priority Preservation Area Map. (Appendix E)

Land Use Management Authority – Used by the County to protect agricultural land from subdivision and conversion; refers to land use management tools, Comprehensive and other plans, zoning, subdivision, and development ordinances, and their related guidelines and procedures.

Farming Assistance Programs – Programs designed to support productive agriculture, alternative production, marketing, sales and other activities needed to realize success for farmers and the agricultural industry. The County primarily relies on State programs such as the Rural Legacy Program, Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, and Agriculture Transfer Tax revenue funds, held locally, for preservation efforts.

Farming Assistance Programs

The Wye Research and Education Center (WREC) of the University of Maryland serves the State of Maryland through its work as an innovative research, extension, and education center focusing on cattle breeding and genetics, integrated pest management, plant breeding and genetics, energy development, usage and conservation, and interaction of land and water agriculture/aquaculture.

The Maryland Cooperative Extension also serves the eastern shore of Maryland providing education and outreach services regarding water quality and agronomy, commercial horticulture, forestry and wildlife management and fruit/vegetable crops.

The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy has been working on developing a program to aid young farmers expanding their operation or getting started in the industry. For example, the Conservancy was instrumental in providing assistance garnering funds for a farm family in Dorchester County enabling them to purchase additional land to expand their operation.

Land Use Management

The 1996 Dorchester County Comprehensive Plan emphasized the importance of cooperation between the City of Cambridge and the County, establishing Cambridge as the County's residential, commercial and governmental center. Cambridge was forecasted to absorb 30 to 40 percent of the County's projected future growth and North Dorchester was projected to absorb 50 to 70 percent of future growth. Theoretically, this growth should be served by water and sewer and adjoin the towns where possible. The plan clearly designated growth and development areas on the Land Use Concept Plan Map. The development areas are indicated as towns (incorporated), towns (adjoining areas), villages, and development districts on the map. The natural resource areas include many recreational sites such as marinas, parks, boat ramps, and State and Federal areas purchased for natural resource and wildlife management areas. These natural areas coincide well with the Greenways shown on the Protected Lands and Greenway Corridors Map (Appendix D).

The agricultural district indicated in the 1996 Comprehensive Plan depicts areas with prime and productive agricultural soils. These areas are a majority of the Rural Legacy Area and coincide with the Priority Preservation Areas Map (Appendix E). The Council has also adopted a right to farm ordinance, as well as adopted legislation for property tax credit for easement properties and conservation lands. In addition to discouraging strip development, the County may explore a Transfer of Development rights program during the next Comprehensive Plan update.

IV. Evaluation of the Agricultural Land Preservation Program

The purpose of this section is to evaluate the degree in which the County's implementation program is likely to achieve its goals. The County evaluations will be combined with State wide evaluations to develop strategies for State programs, revenue sources, and expenditures.

The County has focused preservation efforts in the Marshyhope and Nanticoke Rural Legacy Areas within the County and the MALPF Program is focused in the Agricultural and Conservation Districts. The number of properties placed into the aforementioned and the Greenprint Program has rapidly grown over the past 10 years.

Whether the public at-large supports and understands the strategy is unknown. However, the County Council has continually encouraged public dialogue. In fact, the region or mid and upper shore counties (Talbot, Caroline, Queen Anne's, Kent, Dorchester and Cecil) have been working together with ESLC before the conception of the Rural Legacy Program to preserve the Agricultural Security Corridor which is the economic backbone of the region. In addition, staff works with the Nature Conservancy, the Conservation Fund, and ESLC to hold regional meetings with landowners to discuss preservation options and benefits.

Funding

Dorchester County relies primarily on State and Federal funds to preserve designated preservation areas.

Land Use Management Tools

While local agricultural zoning may not be the most protective in the State, the subdivision moratorium in 1994 and 1995 greatly reduced the number of lots being subdivided in the County. Furthermore, the County Council's adoption of a road classification system in conjunction with the

new subdivision regulations, and down zoning in agricultural and conservation areas to 1 dwelling unit per 15 acres and 1 per 20, respectively, further reduced the number of lots being developed in rural areas after 1999.

The Dorchester County Council also adopted a Right to Farm Ordinance on May 5, 1998 which limits the conditions under which agricultural and forestry operations may be deemed a nuisance. The law establishes an Agricultural Reconciliation Committee to arbitrate and mediate disputes. A real estate transfer disclosure is also required upon any transfer of real property using a Real Estate Transfer Disclosure Statement as prescribed by the Dorchester County Council advising the purchaser of the existence of the Right to Farm Ordinance.

The Dorchester County Planning Commission instituted a Development Design Manual in 1996 to provide examples of preferred subdivision designs to developers. This document addressed buffers in the design of subdivisions, and encouraged clustering. The Planning Commission may need to provide more incentives to developers to use these methods as well as others to preserve the rural countryside.

Clustering was encouraged when updating the subdivision regulations by providing a bonus density for subdivisions which used cluster design. However, the County has not seen more than one or two cluster subdivisions. Staff will need to consider further incentives to encourage clustering and preservation of remaining parcels that protect the agricultural industry.

Under the next Comprehensive Plan update the County may explore or examine transfer and purchase of development rights programs as well as other measures to protect the rural landscape.

Combined Performance of Preservation Tools

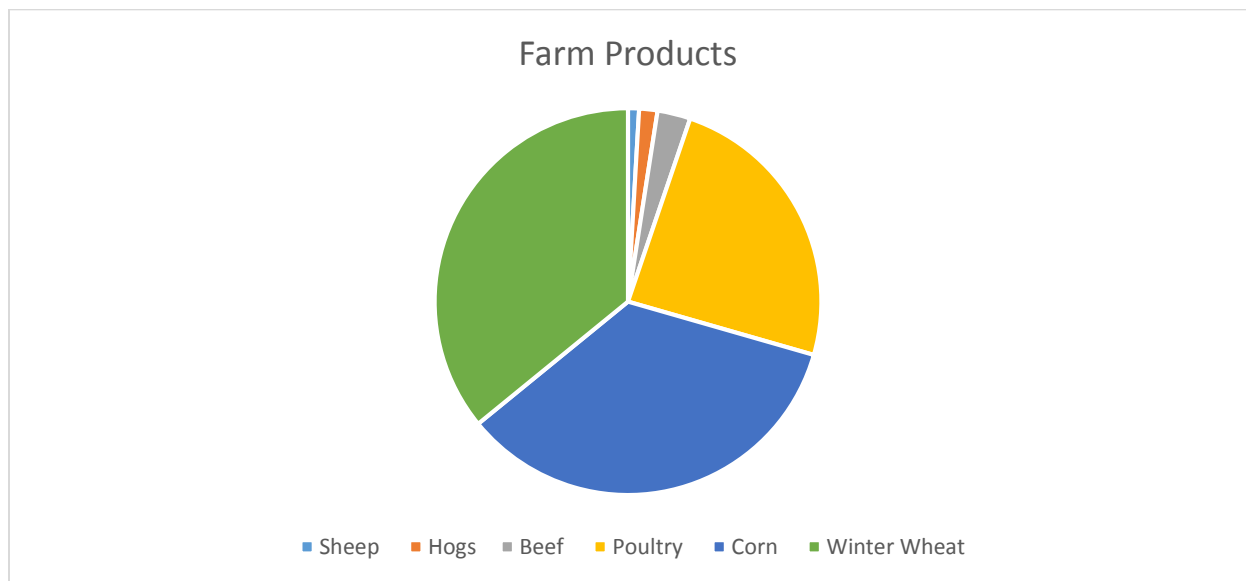
In order to evaluate the performance of preservation tools, an assessment of available data would have to be conducted. Currently, the Planning and Zoning Office keeps a limited database for subdivisions, a table of building permits for residences by Election District, lots created by subdivision and election district within the Critical Area – as well as outside of the Critical Area. Although data exists for a review; limited resources prohibits staff from tabulating the number of lots lost per zoning category per year and comparing them to average loss of land due to subdivision development.

Effects of Potential Development on Land Markets

The cost of easement acquisition is also steadily rising making it harder to protect farmland and resources lands. Additionally a unique pressure to Dorchester County is the loss of farm and resource lands to hunting. This has been a concern of the Dorchester County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for several years. It is not clear how much land has been lost due to this factor. This combined effect of development pressure, and utilization of land for hunting, is contributing to the declining number of farms. If the economic viability of farming further declines and environmental regulations get tougher it may be harder for farmers to survive. The current incentives for preservation may not be enough.

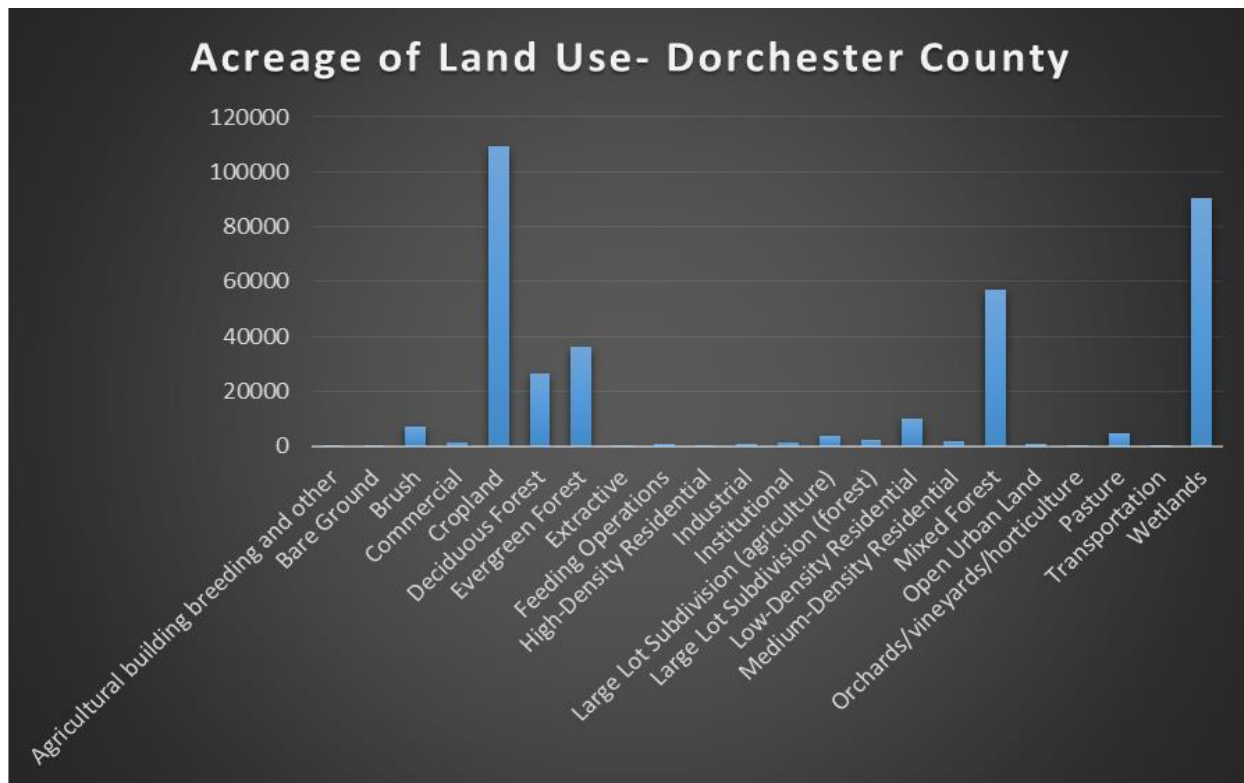
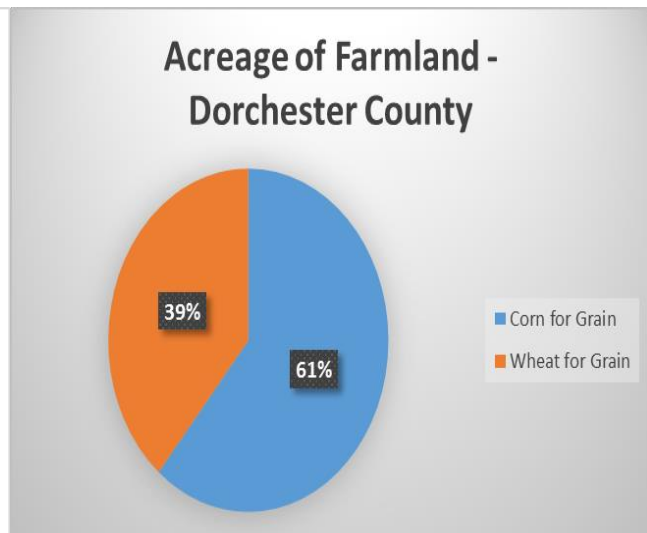
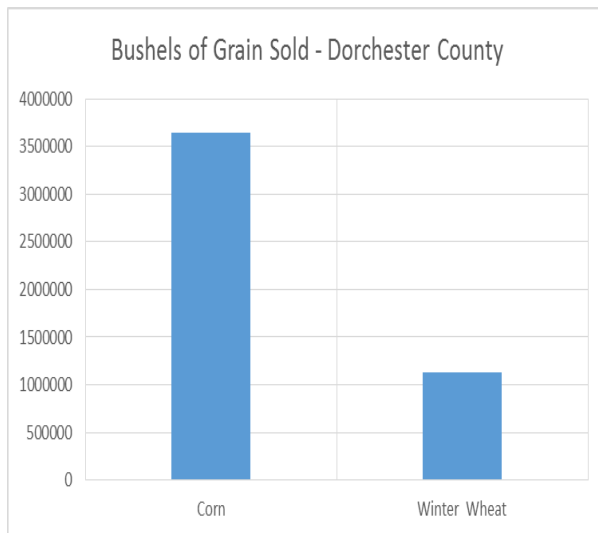
Farming and Farming Assistance Programs

Farming Assistance Programs are provided by State and Federal agencies at this time. Among the agencies included are the United States Department of Agriculture, Dorchester Soil Conservation District, and the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension.



Dorchester County leadership, and subject matter experts in agriculture are cognizant of the importance the industry plays in our overall economic wealth. With the average age of the farmer being 58, and with alternative land uses, it is imperative the County continues programs that help to elevate the support and priority of farming within our community.

With the information provided by the USDA, it is clear that certain crops are essential to the well-being of the agricultural industry. As noted in the pie chart above, winter wheat and corn are predominant, followed closely by poultry. The tables below identifies the quantity of corn sold in the County, which accounts for the acreage allotted to that crop.



Program Development Strategy for Agricultural Land Preservation

Based on the above evaluation and needed improvements, the following strategies are recommended:

- Continue to engage the public through meetings and inform citizens of conservation programs;
- Develop both a transfer and purchase of development rights program if feasible;
- Collaborate with economic development to develop assistance programs for the agricultural industry;
- Analyze other measures and incentives to balance development and preservation;
- Identify funding options to secure the \$3-4 million needed to reach the goal;
- Update the Comprehensive Plan to include strong agricultural zoning provisions;
- Collaborate with State and/or Federal organizations/programs to preserve resource lands; and
- Encourage preservation by lobbying legislatures to eliminate the capital gains tax on money earned from easement sales.

SUMMARY

The 2017 Land Preservation Recreation and Park Plan provided Dorchester County with the opportunity to evaluate goals and objectives in Recreation and Parks, Natural Resource Land Conservation, and Agricultural Land Preservation.

Reassessing the current status of these goals to determine where gaps exist, as well as where improvements have been made illustrated to the County Council how input from the public, subject matter experts, and staff is necessary for smart decision making for future adjustments.

The Recreation and Parks Department led the facilitation of plan development in partnership with the Departments of Planning and Zoning, Tourism, and Economic Development. The outcome of the evaluation clarified gaps in programs, services and facilities. The process also illuminated needed updates on land conservation goals, and agricultural land preservation efforts.

Throughout the process, State goals have been central tenets in Dorchester County's attempt to create solutions and guidelines to optimize conservation acreage, recreational opportunities, and the protection of agricultural land.

As prescribed by the LPPRP guidelines, the decisions for acquisition and development of parks and recreational facilities was driven by data, public input and sustainability. Decisions on where to place/develop facilities was steered toward suitable locations due to protected lands, population centers and the lack of current assets.

Dorchester County Recreation and Parks, with the support of the County Council, and other departments and executive leadership is satisfied the LPPRP reflects the stated goals within the guidelines provided by the Maryland Departments of Planning and Natural Resources.

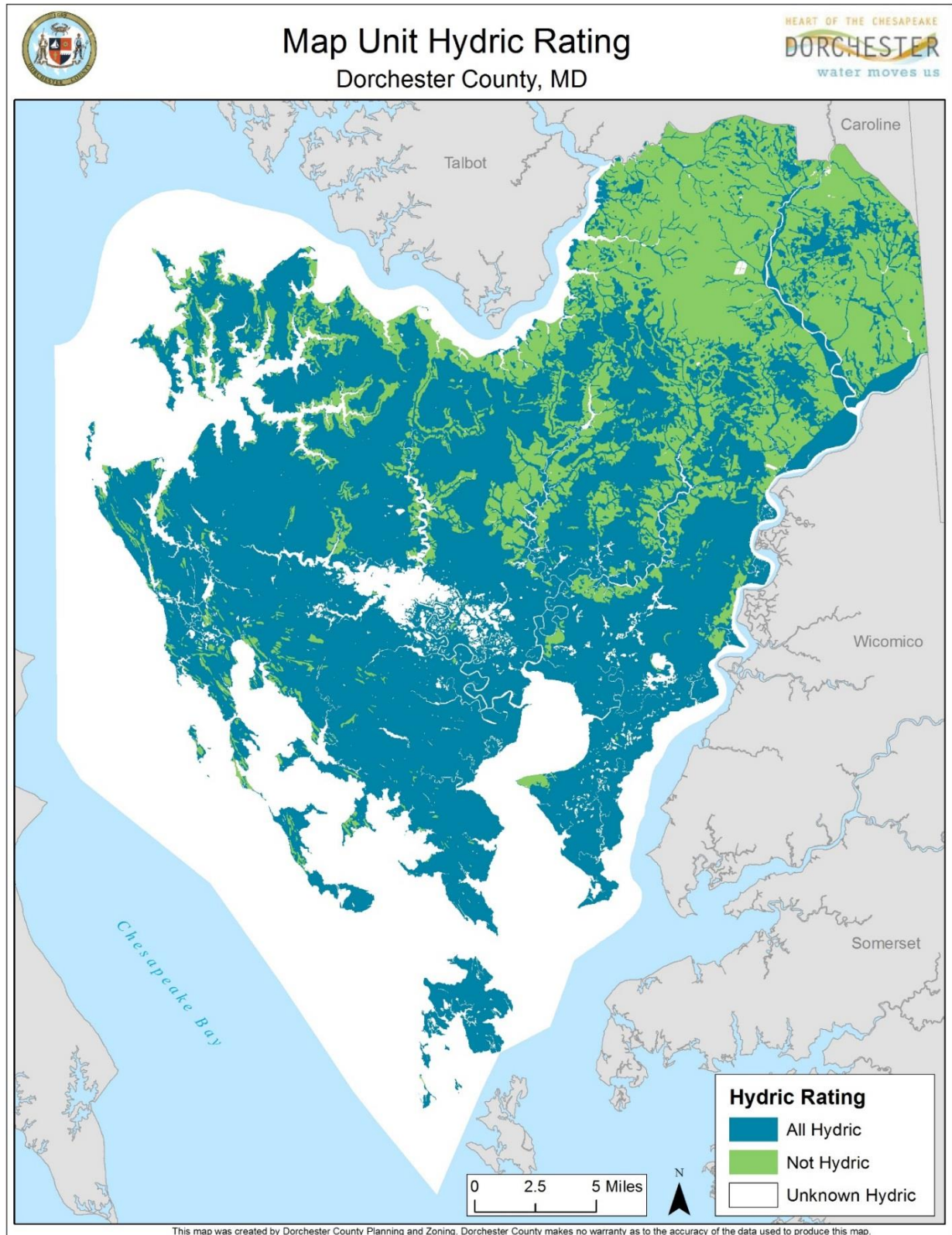
APPENDICES

- A. Hydric Soil
- B. Soil District
- C. Critical Area
- D. Protected Land and Greenways
- E. Priority Preservation
- F. Recreation Facilities and Water Access
- G. Recreation and Park Proximity Map
- H. Sports and Recreation Proximity Map
- I. Athletic Fields
- J. Agricultural Easements
- K. Equity Map 17 and under
- L. Equity Map 65 and older
- M. Green Infrastructure
- N. Comprehensive Recreation and Park Maps with inventory cross-referenced table
- O. Population Density Map

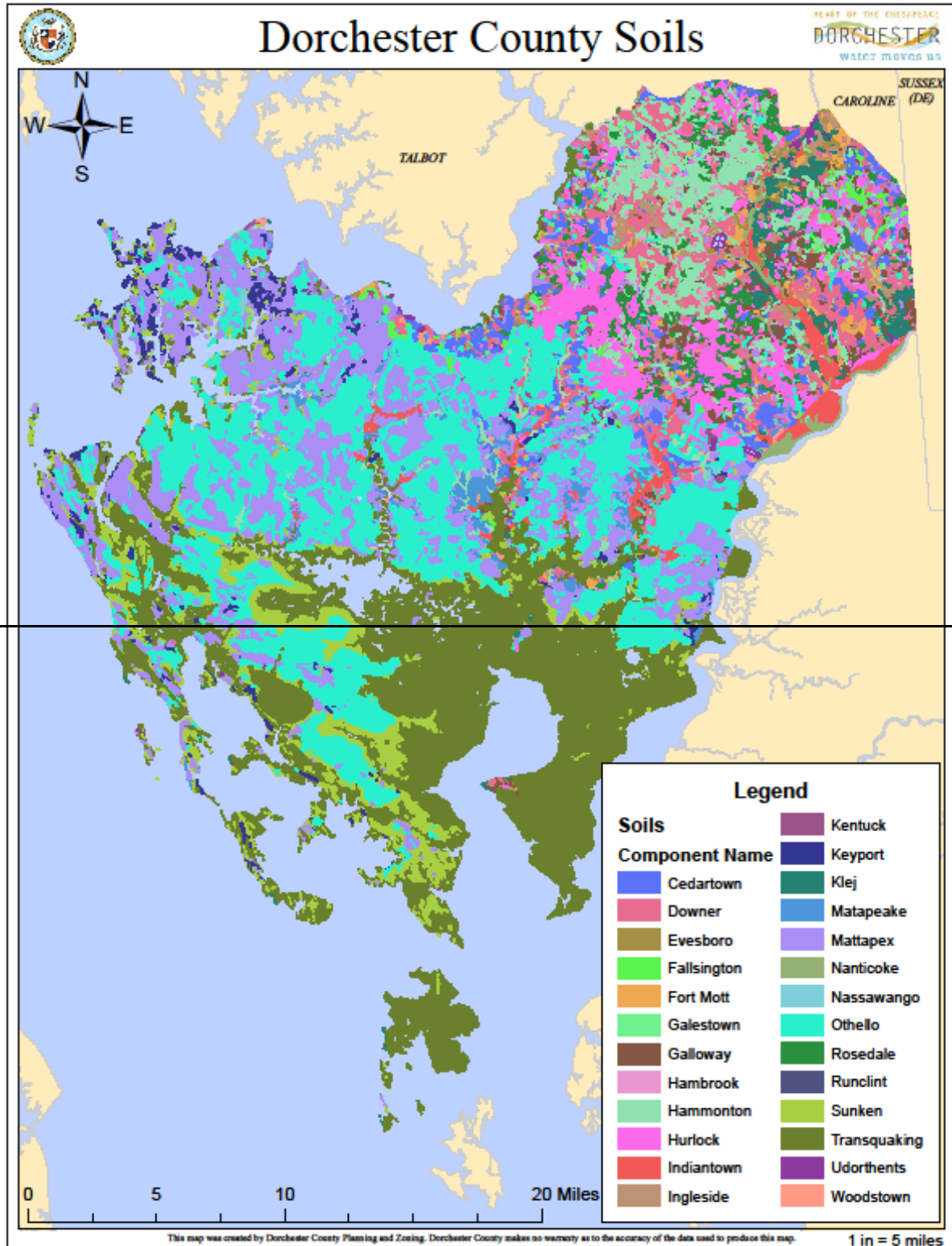
RESOURCES

- A. Water Access, Water Trails, Trails
- B. Survey
- C. Survey Tables
- D. Enrollment Information
- E. Table of Goals
- F. Acquisition and Development Goals
- G. Inventory
- H. Programs
- I. Agricultural Lands
- J. Dorchester County Agricultural Land Inventory
- K. Natural Areas Inventory

Appendix: A



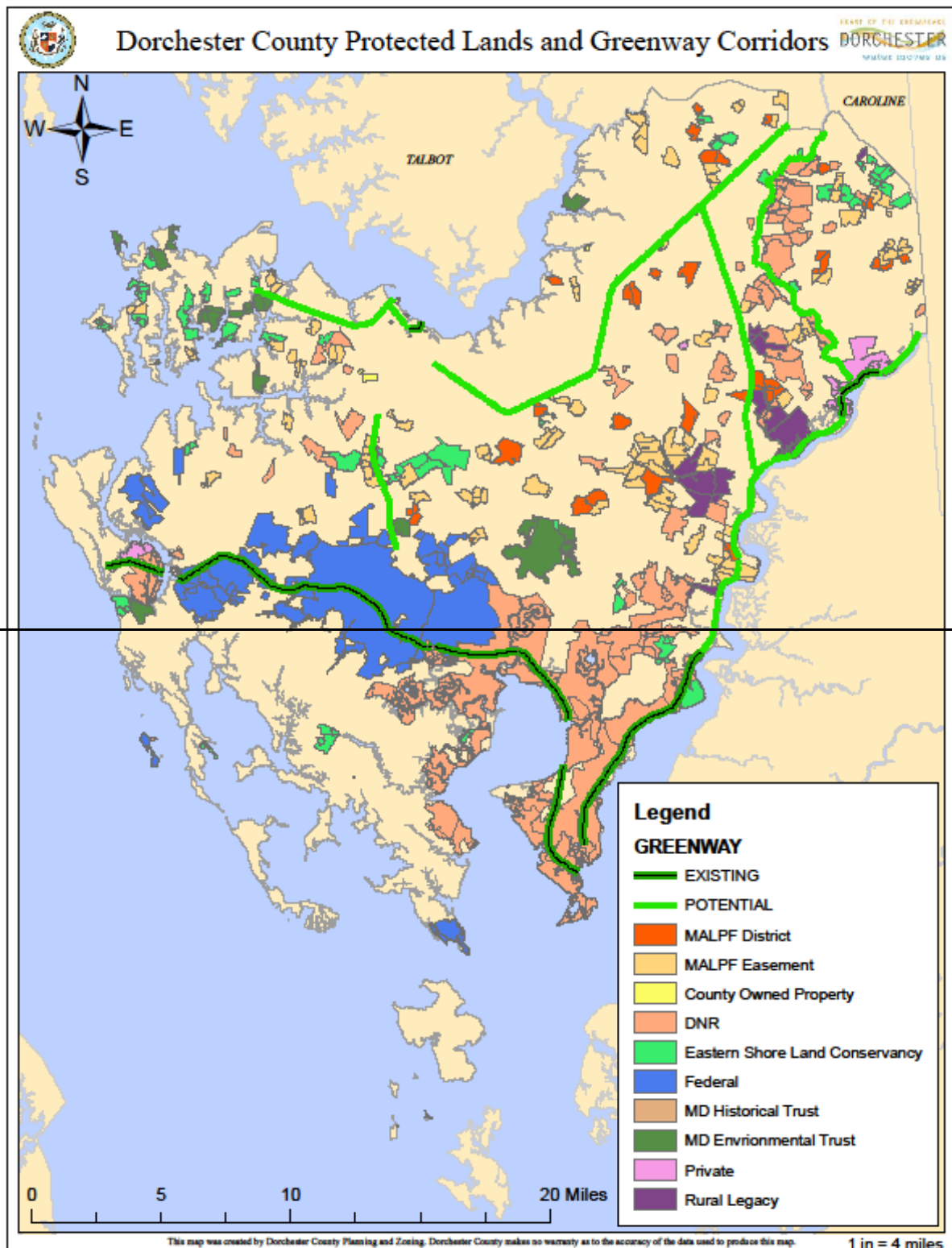
Appendix: B



Appendix: C



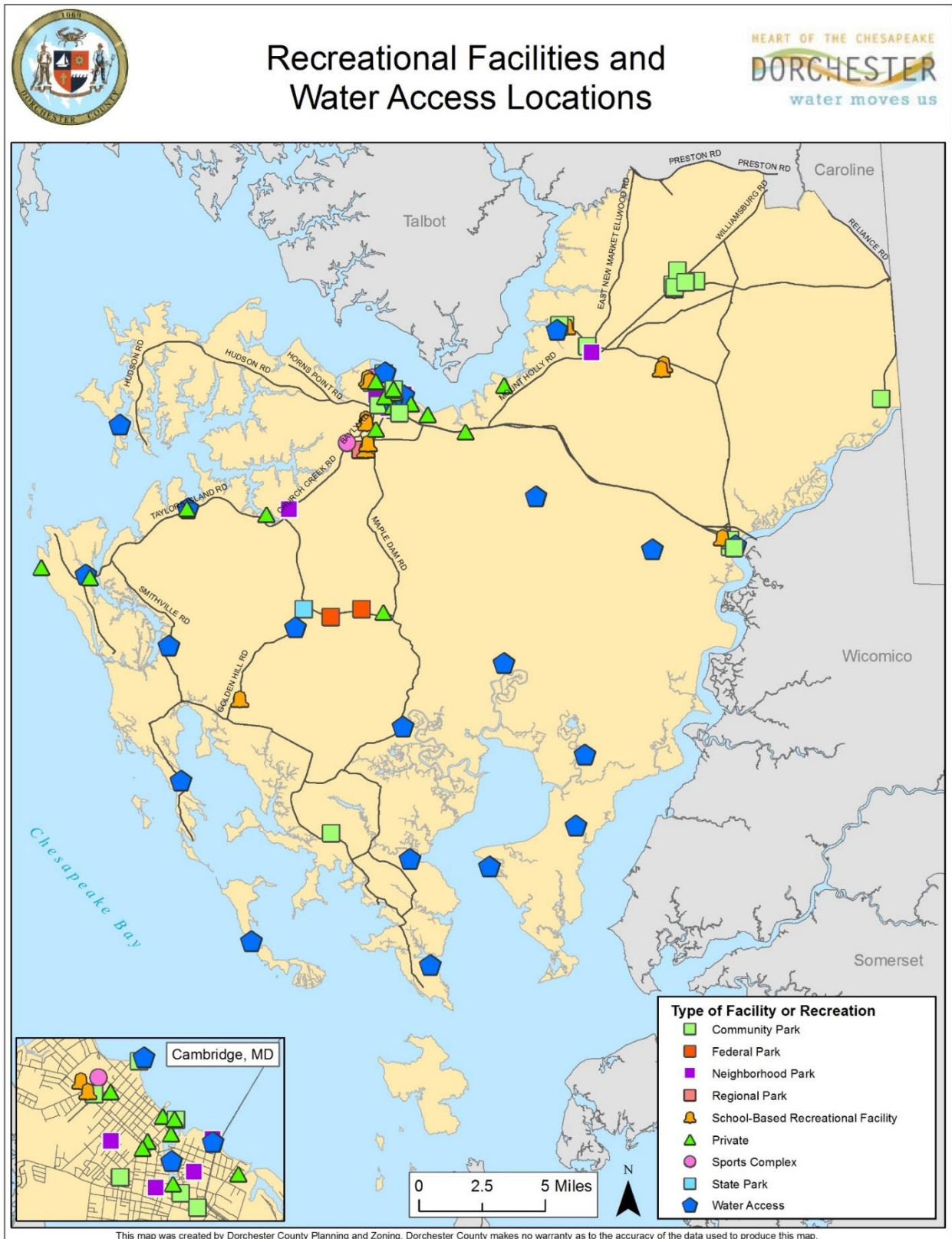
Appendix: D



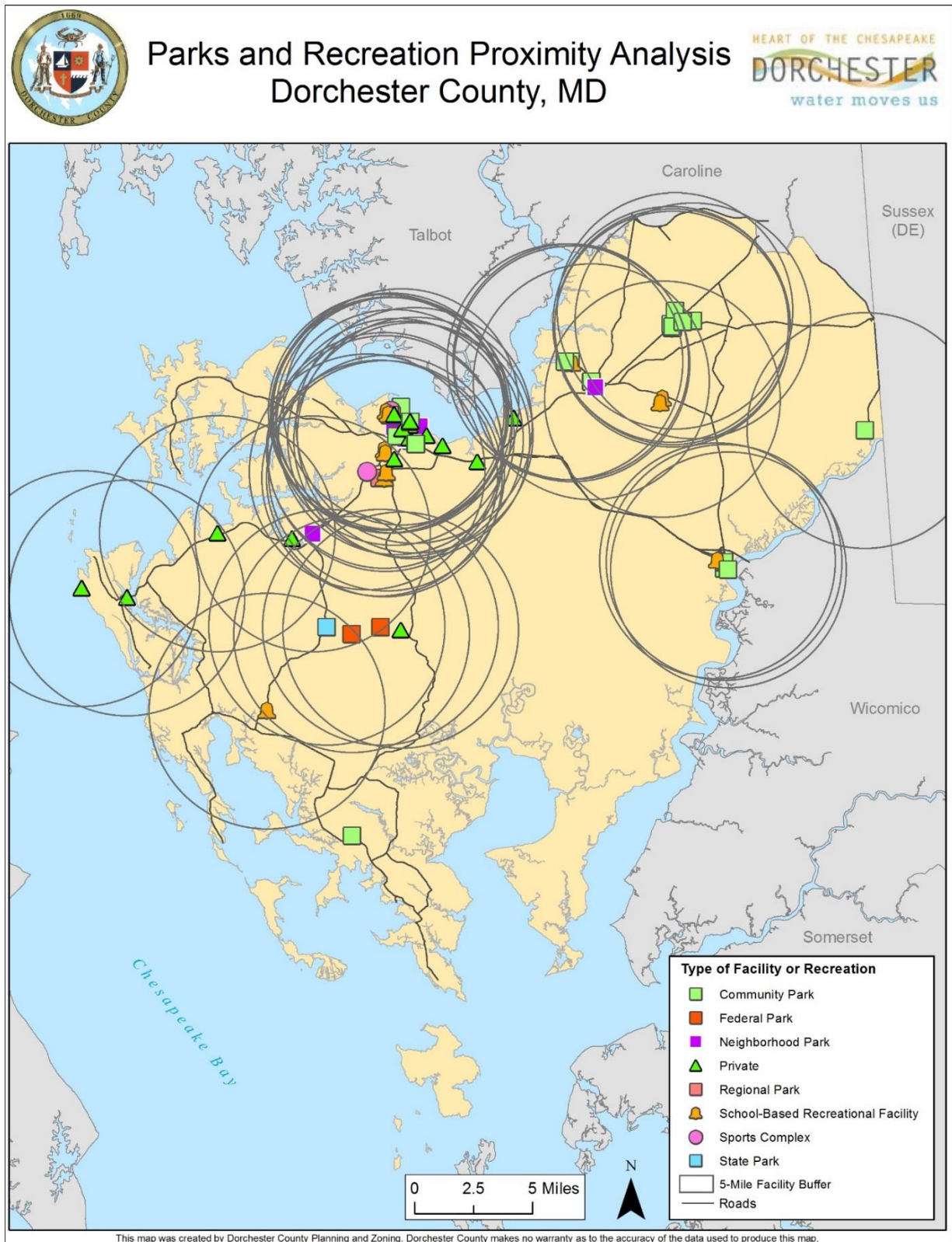
Appendix: E



Appendix: F



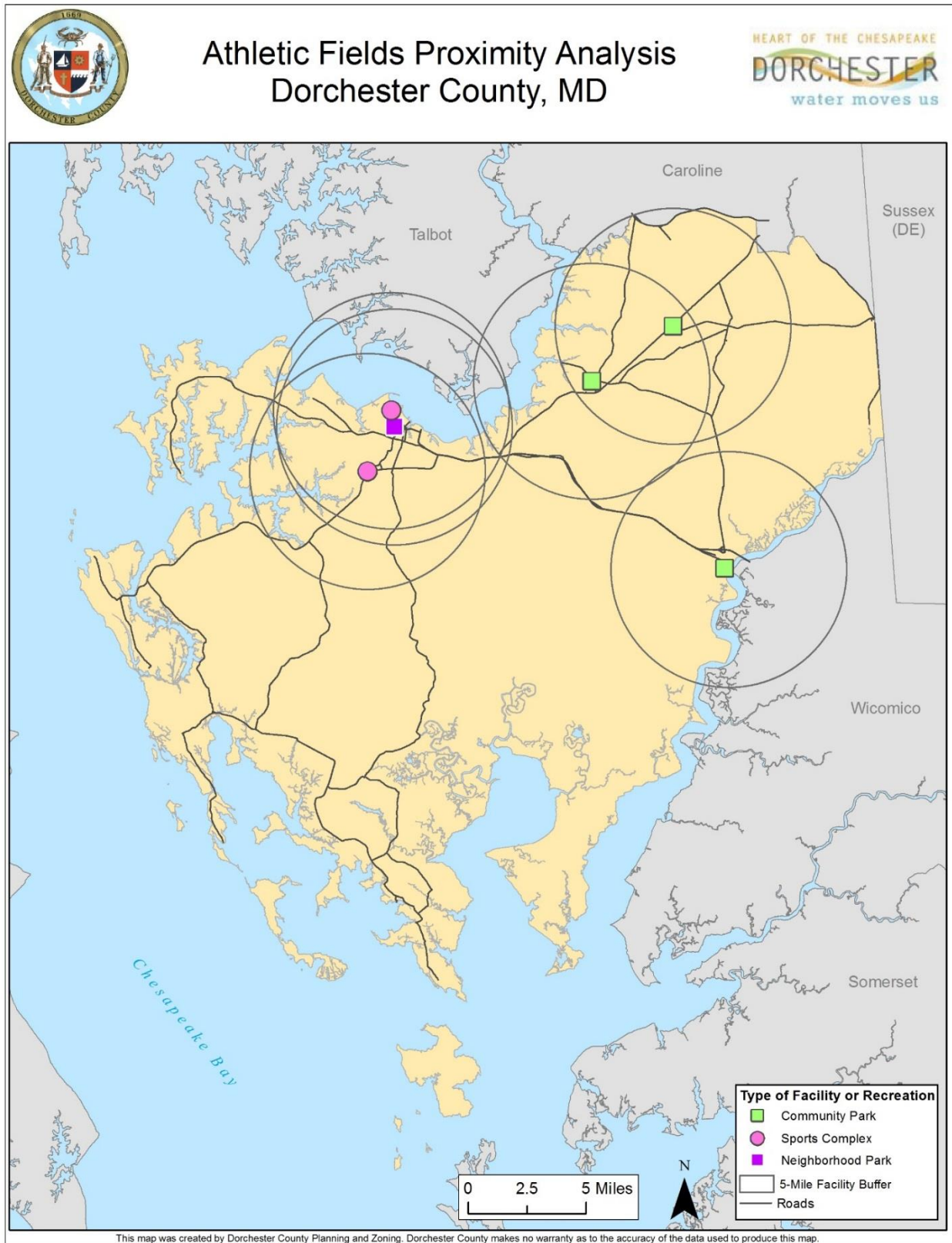
Appendix: G



Appendix: H



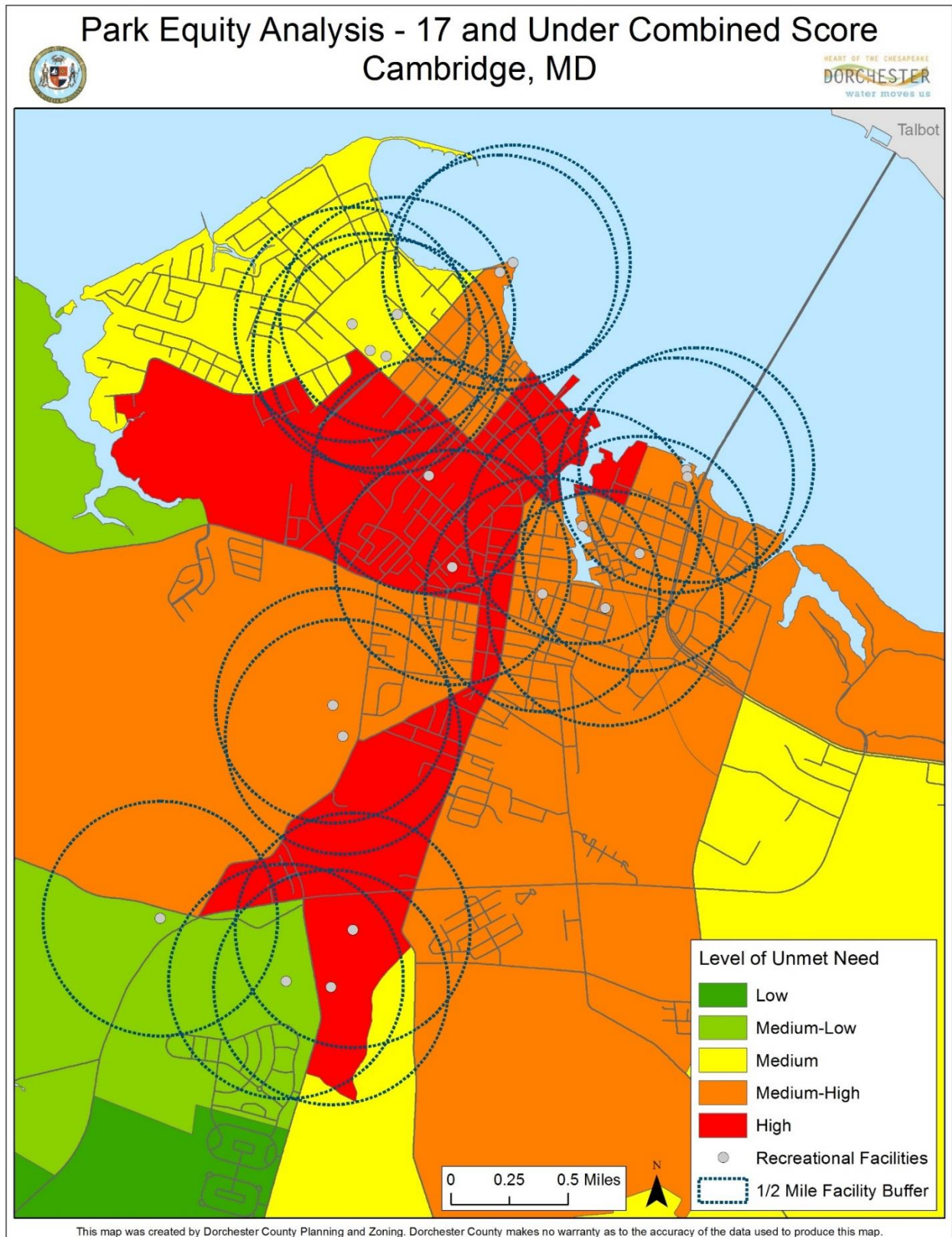
Appendix: I



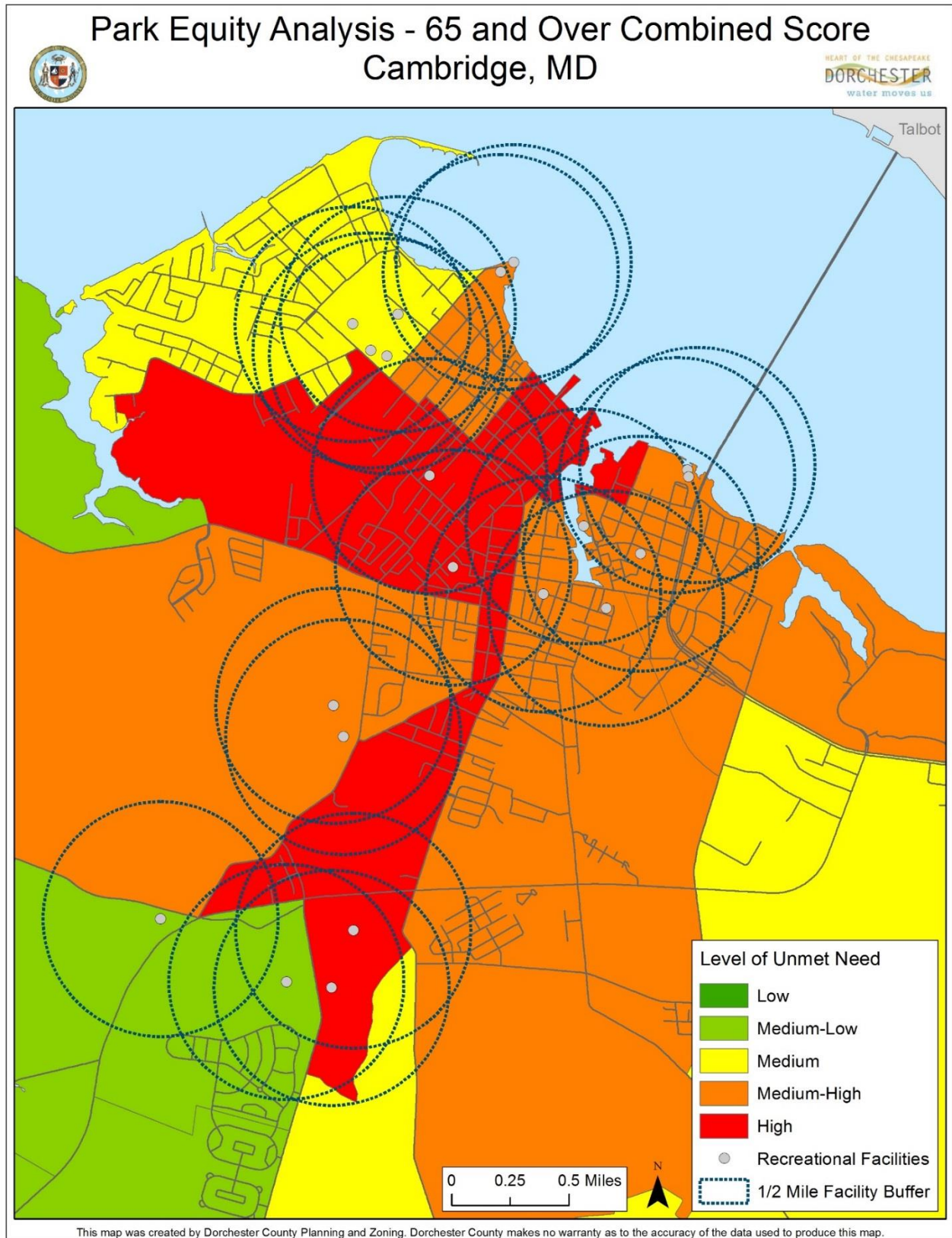
Appendix: J



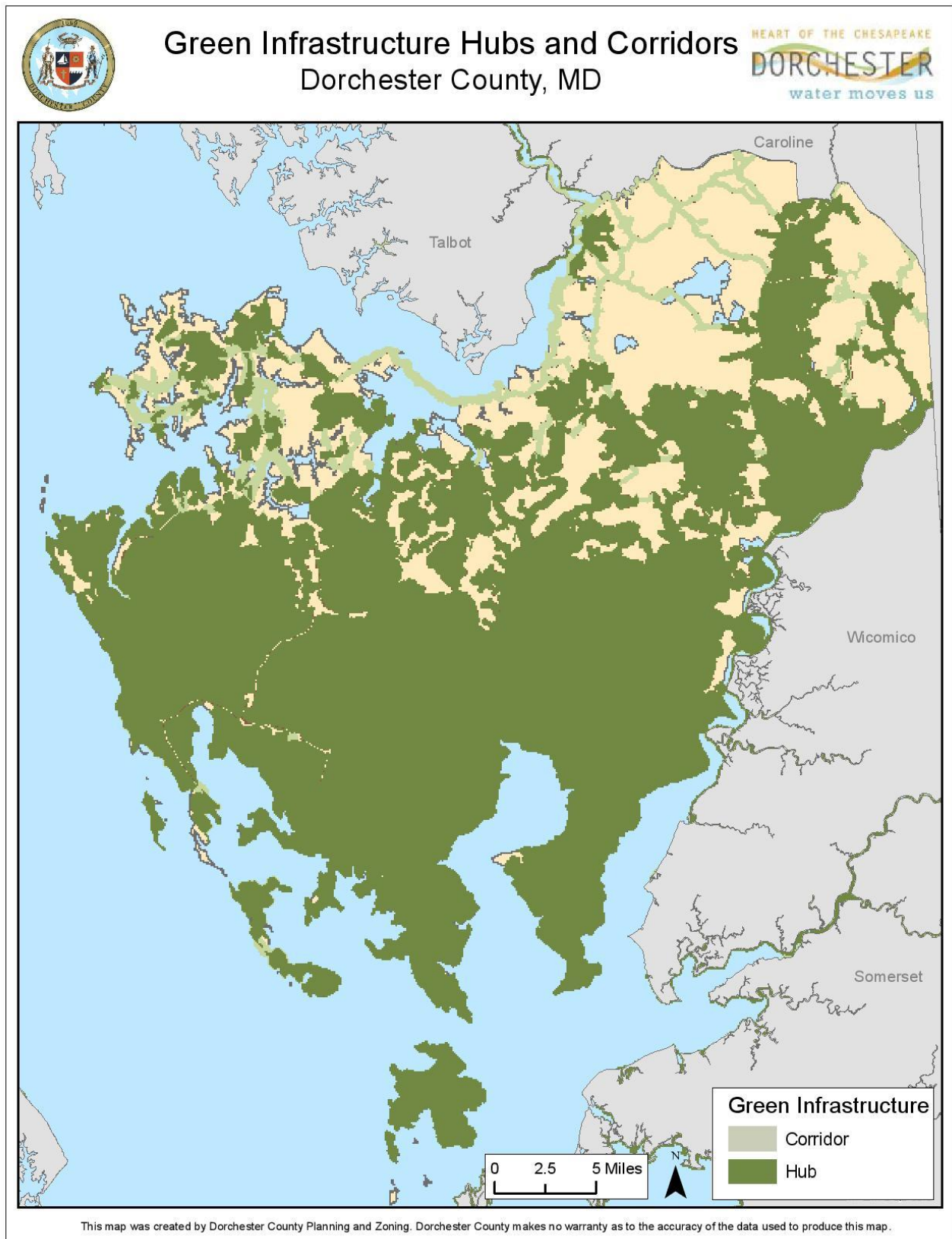
Appendix: K

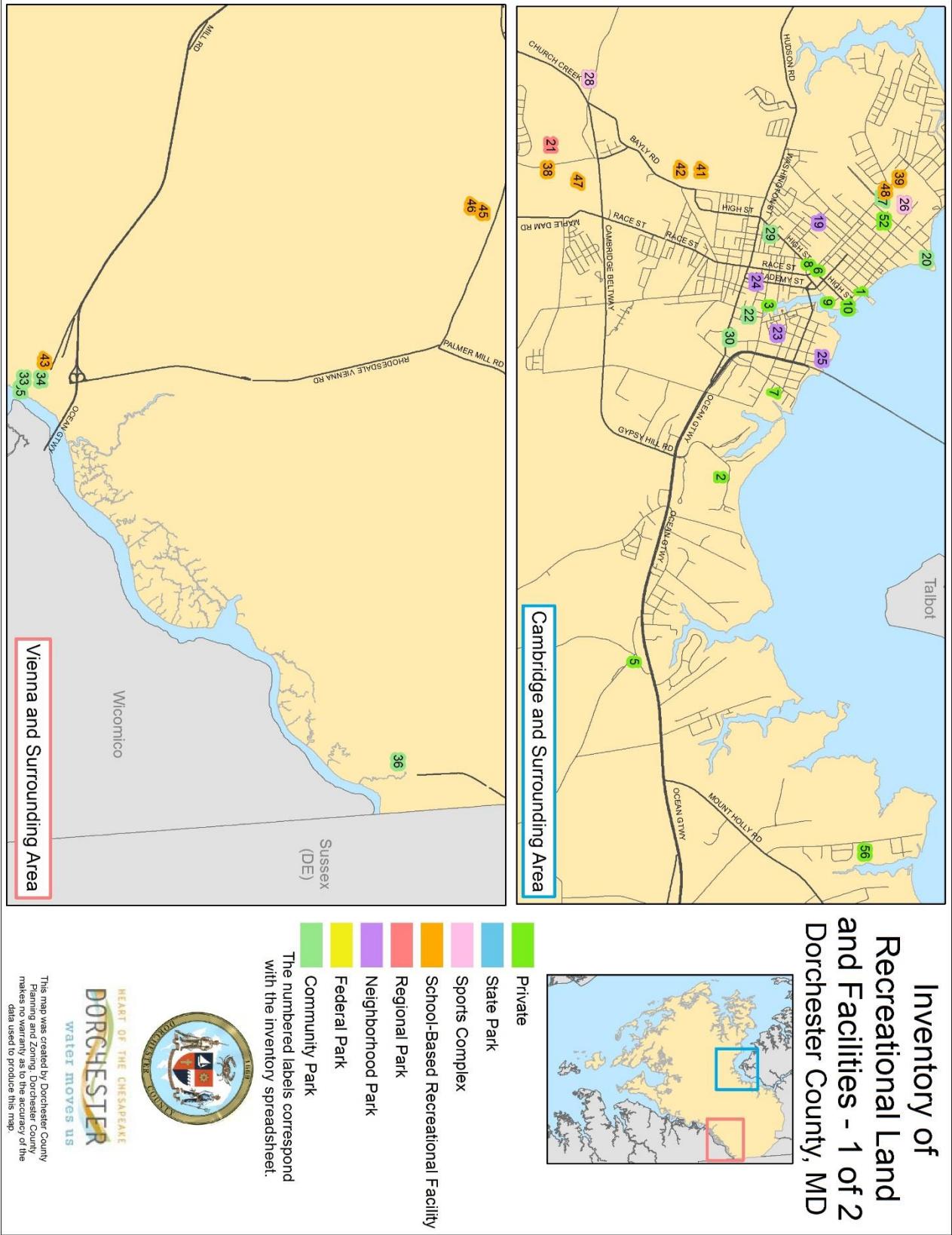


Appendix: L



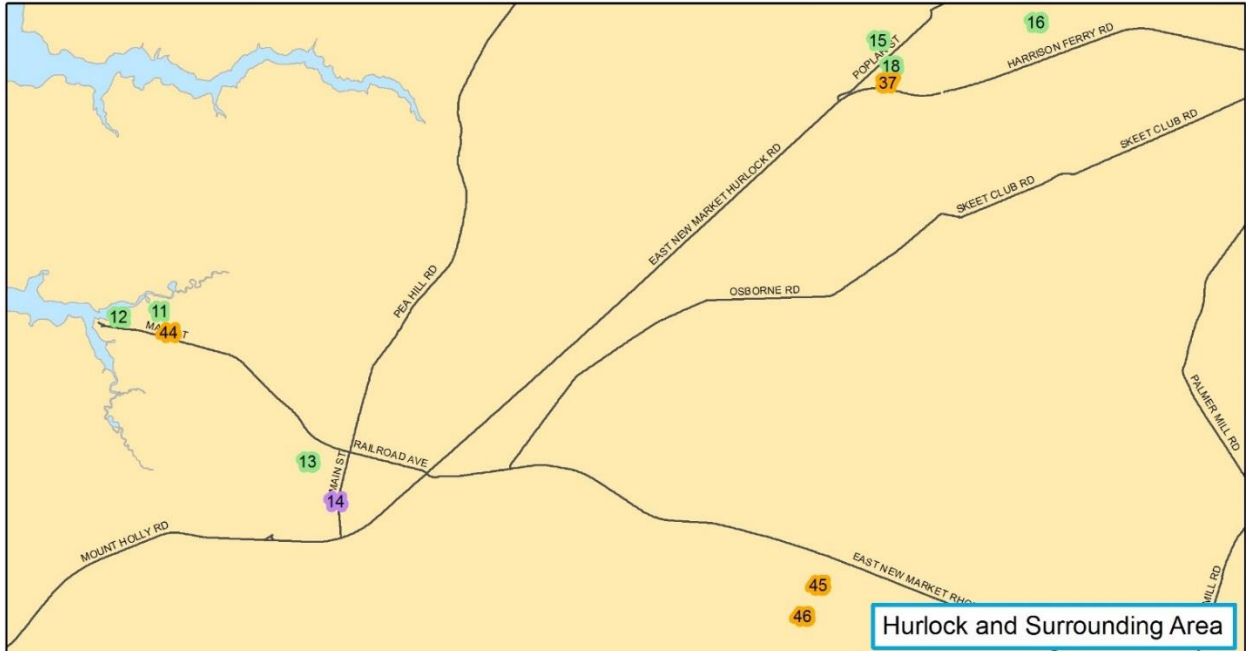
Appendix: M







Inventory of Recreational Land and Facilities - 2 of 2 Dorchester County, MD



Hurlock and Surrounding Area



Church Creek and Surrounding Area



- Private
- State Park
- Sports Complex
- School-Based Recreational Facility
- Regional Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Federal Park
- Community Park

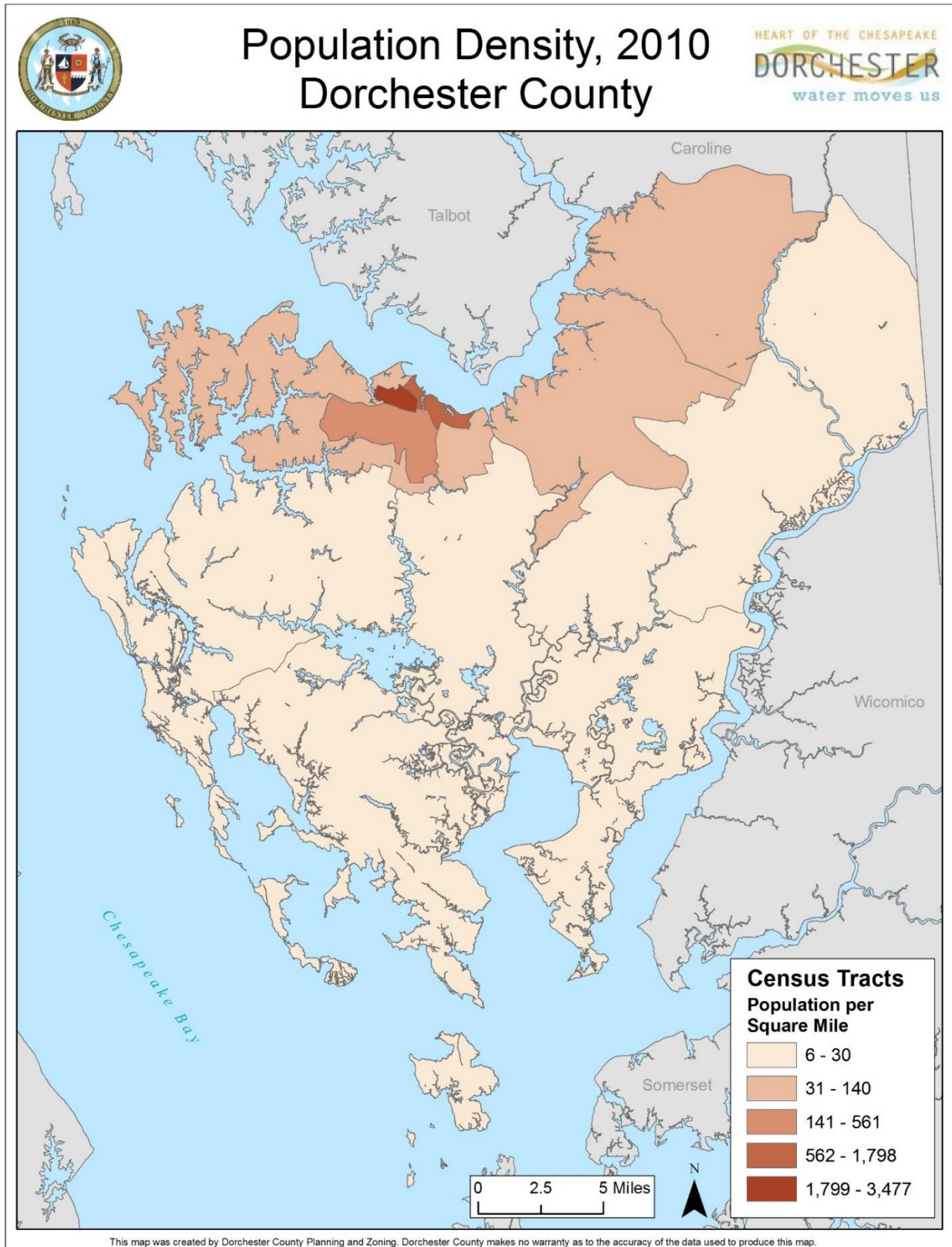
The numbered labels correspond with the inventory spreadsheet.

This map was created by Dorchester County Planning and Zoning. Dorchester County makes no warranty as to the accuracy of the data used to produce this map.

Map Index	Name of Facility	Address	Property Acreage
Private Facilities			
1	Cambridge Dockmaster Office	2 Yacht Club Dr., Cambridge, MD	2.89
2	Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa and Marina	100 Heron Blvd., Cambridge, MD	35.35
3	Generation III Marina	205 Cedar St., Cambridge, MD	2.44
4	Blackwater Paddle and Pedal Adventures	2524 Key Wallace Dr., Cambridge, MD	1.50
5	On the Rivet Bikes & Yaks	2833 Ocean Gateway E., Cambridge, MD	0.23
6	Dorchester Center for the Arts	321 High St., Cambridge, MD	0.06
7	Heritage Museums and Gardens of Dorchester	1003 Greenway Dr., Cambridge, MD	1.50
8	Richardson Maritime Museum	401 High St., Cambridge, MD	0.29
9	JM Clayton Company Tours	108 Commerce St., Cambridge, MD	1.99
10	Nathan of Dorchester Skipjack	Cambridge, MD	N/A
51	Tideland Campground	525 Taylors Island Rd., Taylors Island, MD	10.77
52	YMCA	201 Talbot Ave., Cambridge, MD	5.93
53	Taylors Island Family Campgrounds	4362 Bay Shore Rd., Taylors Island, MD	10.86
54	Madison Campground	4814 Madison Canning House Rd., Madison, MD	11.40
56	Overboard Paddle & Fitness	5525 Cedar Grove Rd, East New Market, MD	N/A
Public Facilities - County/Municipal			
11	Secretary Park	Linden Ave, Secretary, MD	3.94
12	Secretary Veterans Park	Main St, Secretary, MD	0.45
13	East New Market Park	Creamery Rd, East New Market, MD	3.12
14	Friendship Park	Railroad Rd, East New Market, MD	2.88
15	Hurlock Town Park	Elm St, Hurlock, MD	1.46
16	Prospect Heights Community Park	Douglas Dr., Hurlock, MD	0.59
17	North Main Community Park	North Main St., Hurlock, MD	19.34
18	Hurlock Athletic Complex	Rt. 392 & Poplar St., Hurlock, MD	14.64
19	J. Edward Walter Park	446 Willis St., Cambridge, MD	5.75
20	Great Marsh Park	Somerset Ave., Cambridge, MD	5.67
21	Egypt Road Regional Park	Egypt Rd, Cambridge, MD	95.00
22	Dorchester County Swimming Pool	107 Virginia Ave., Cambridge, MD	3.00
23	McCarter Park	Lecompte Street, Cambridge, MD	2.56
24	Meadows Park	Meadow Ave., Cambridge, MD	1.09
25	Sailwinds Park Playground	2 Rose Hill Place, Cambridge, MD	11.82
26	School Street Athletic Complex	School St., Cambridge, MD	21.73
27	James G. Busick Tennis Courts	Glasgow St., Cambridge, MD	5.66
28	Christ Rock Park	Rt. 16 & Dailsville Rd	10.42
29	Cornish Park	Douglas St. and Wells St., Cambridge, MD	0.77

30	Cannery Park	Washington St., Cambridge, MD	6.60
31	Church Creek Park	Route 16, Church Creek	2.28
32	Crapo Community Center	Lakesville Crapo Rd., Crapo, MD	6.71
33	Vienna Town Park	Market St., Vienna, MD	6.45
34	Gay Street Town Park	Gay St., Vienna, MD	0.56
35	Vienna Nature Park	Water St., Vienna, MD	2.80
36	Galestown Playground	Old School House Rd., Galestown, MD	0.95
37	Hurlock Elementary School	301 Charles St., Hurlock, MD	3.99
38	Maple Elementary School	5225 Egypt Rd., Cambridge, MD	126.00
39	Sandy Hill Elementary School	1503 Glasgow St., Cambridge, MD	9.12
40	South Dorchester K-8 School	3485 Golden Hill Rd., Church Creek, MD	20.00
41	Maces Lane Middle School	1101 Maces Ln., Cambridge, MD	92.08
42	Choptank Elementary School	1103 Maces Ln., Cambridge, MD	92.08
43	Vienna Elementary School	4905 Ocean Gtwy, Vienna, MD	9.39
44	Warwick Elementary School	155 Main St., Secretary, MD	10.22
45	North Dorchester High School	5871 Cloverdale Rd., Hurlock, MD	
46	North Dorchester Middle School	5745 Cloverdale Rd., Hurlock, MD	59.62
47	Cambridge-South Dorchester High School	2475 Cambridge Beltway, Cambridge, MD	126.00
48	Judy Hoyer Center	1405 Glasgow St., Cambridge, MD	5.66
<i>Public Parks & Facilities - Federal</i>			
49	Blackwater Wildlife Refuge	2145 Key Wallace Dr., Cambridge, MD	28,896.00
50	Harriet Tubman Museum	4068 Golden Hill Rd, Church Creek, MD	16.86
55	Key Wallace Hiking Trail	4200 Egypt Rd., Cambridge, MD	2.7 miles long

Appendix: O



Resource: A

NAME	LOCATION	ACCESS TYPE	PARKING	RESTROOM	AMENITIES	NOTES
Asquith Island / Cannon Road	Crapo	Boat Launch (small outboard and kayak)	Limited	No		Wildlife views
Bestpitch Ferry Boat Ramp	Cambridge (BWR)	Boat Ramp / Soft Launch	Large area for parking	No		Access to the Fishing Bay Water Trail (Transquaking River Loop)
Crocheron Wharf	Fishing Bay	Boat Ramp and Soft Launch	Limited	Yes		Access to Tedious Creek and Lower Fishing Bay
Dorchester County Historical Society	Cambridge	Soft Launch		No		
Elliott's Island Road / McReady	Elliotts Island	Boat Ramp and Soft Launch (small outboard)	Moderate parking	No		Wildlife views, strong currents, allows access to Island depending on tides. Fishing Bay area.
Franklin Street	Cambridge	Boat Ramp	Large Parking area			Access to Choptank River; walking distance to downtown restaurants
Great Marsh Park	Cambridge	Boat Ramp	Large parking area	Yes	Pavilion, picnic area, fishing pier	Access to Choptank River
Trenton Street	Cambridge	Boat Ramp	Moderate Parking	No	Picnic area	Access to Choptank, near local restaurants
Secretary	Secretary	Boat Ramp	Large parking area	Yes		Near local stores, access to

						Warwick and Choptank Rivers
Vienna	Vienna	Boat Ramp	Moderate parking		River Walk	Near local stores, may experience strong currents, access to Nanticoke River; access to Nanticoke River Water Trail (Vienna to Cherry Beach)
Shorters Wharf	Church Creek	Boat Ramp	Moderate Parking	No		Access to Blackwater River, great birdwatching
Liners Road	Crapo	Soft Launch	Limited	No		Access to Blackwater
Farm Creek Road (Toddville)	Toddville	Boat Ramp	Large Parking area	No		Access to Farm Creek and Upper Fishing Bay
MD 355 @ Blackwater	Woolford	Soft Launch	Moderate Parking	No		Access to Blackwater, No trailers – boats must be carried in), near Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park
Madison	Madison	Boat Ramp	Moderate Parking area	Yes	Pavilion, picnic area,	Adjacent to EMS/fire station and Madison Campground; access to Madison Bay, the Little Choptank,

						and the Chesapeake Bay
Taylors Island	Taylors Island	Boat Ramp	Large Parking area	Yes	Marina and Supplies	Access to Slaughter Creek, Little Choptank and the Chesapeake Bay
Golden Hill	Church Creek	Boat Ramp	Moderate Parking	Yes	Marina and Supplies	Access to Wallace Creek, Honga River and the Chesapeake Bay
Smithville Bridge	Church Creek	Boat Ramp	Limited parking	No		Access to Keene Broads, Slaughter Creek, Honga River, and the Chesapeake Bay; high level of difficulty
Tylers Cove	Church Creek	Boat Ramp	Moderate Parking	Yes		Access to Honga River and Chesapeake Bay; moderate to high level of difficult
Hoopersville	Fishing Creek	Boat Ramp	Moderate Parking	Yes	Pavilion, picnic area	Access to Honga River and Chesapeake Bay
Transquaking River Access (Drawbridge Road)	Aireys	Boat Ramp	Large Parking area	No		Access to Upper Transquaking River
New Bridge Road	Vienna	Boat Ramp	Limited Parking	No		Access to Upper

						Chicamacomi go River
Island Creek Marina	Elliott Island Road	Boat Ramp	Limited road side parking	No		Access to Fishing Bay Water Trail
Steins Marina	Wingate	Boat Ramp	Large Parking area	Yes		Access to Honga River
Langrells Creek	Vienna	Soft Launch	Limited Parking	No		Access to Nanticoke River
Robbins Road	Robbins	Soft Launch	Limited Parking	No		Access to Blackwater River
Ragged Point Marina	Ragged Point Road	Boat Launch	Large Parking area	No		Access to Brooks Creek
Sailwinds Park (Visitor's Center)	Cambridge	Soft Launch	Parking at visitors center	Yes	Playground, picnic area, visitors' center	Kayak, canoe access. Portage necessary from parking area to water access

Water Trails

The Fishing Bay WMA Water Trail	Transquaking River Loop	5 mile loop	Strong currents		
	Island Creek Trail	Variable – out and back	Subject to high winds and strong currents		
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (BNR) Water Trail	Green Trail, Purple, and Orange Trails	20 miles of water trail in different locations of the Refuge			
BNR Little Blackwater Trail					
Nanticoke River Water Trail	Access at Vienna, MD	Travel upstream to the Chicone Creek, explorations by John Smith (National Historic Trail)	Or travel to Cherry Beach		

Trails

Trails / Tours			
BNR Wildlife Drive	Via automobile		
Chesapeake Country Heritage Tour	Via automobile		
Harriet Tubman UGRR Byway	Via automobile	Part of the 125 mile underground railroad national road. Audio available	
Cambridge Downtown Walking Tour	On foot		
Cycle.maryland.gov	SHA designated bike routes (on road)		
Chesapeake Country Mural Trail	Via automobile		

Resource: B



In order for Recreation and Parks to serve you better, and to learn about the types of amenities you are looking for, we'd appreciate you taking a few minutes to answer a few short questions.

1. What is your zip code?
2. How many people are in your immediate family? ____ If you have children, what age are they? ____
3. In the past year what recreation and park facilities and/or programs have you or someone in your family used?
 - a. Public water access / landings
 - b. Public sports facility / field
 - c. Public park or playground
 - d. Youth recreation program
 - e. Adult recreation program
 - f. Swimming Pool
 - g. State Park
 - h. School – based facility
 - i. Other _____
4. What type of facility and/or program do you use most frequently?
 - a. Organized team sport (adult/youth)
 - b. Open access public park or playground
 - c. Open access public sports facility
 - d. Swimming Pool
 - e. Water access
5. If you or an immediate family member has participated in an organized activity, please rate the experience:
Excellent Good Satisfactory Poor
6. If you or an immediate family member has used a public facility or park in the past year, please rate the experience:
Excellent Good Satisfactory Poor
7. Do you use the Dorchester YMCA? If so, for: fitness ____, youth programs ____, swimming ____, other ____



8. How do you receive information regarding programs and services from Dorchester County Recreation and Parks?

- a. Online
- b. Walk-in
- c. Printed flyers / Mailing
- d. Word of Mouth
- e. Radio Announcements

9. How do you prefer to enroll in organized programs?

Online by phone in Person (at the office)

10. How often do you and/or your family members use public facilities, parks, and programs?

Daily Weekly Monthly Yearly Rarely

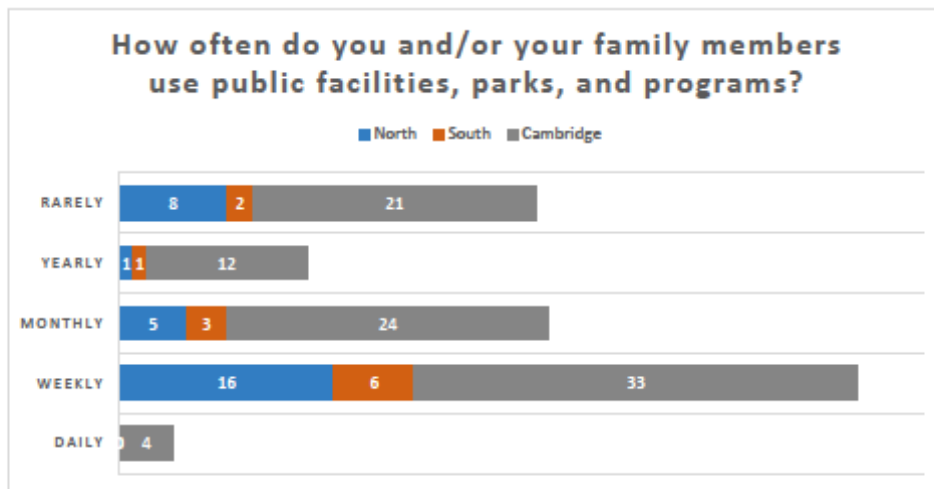
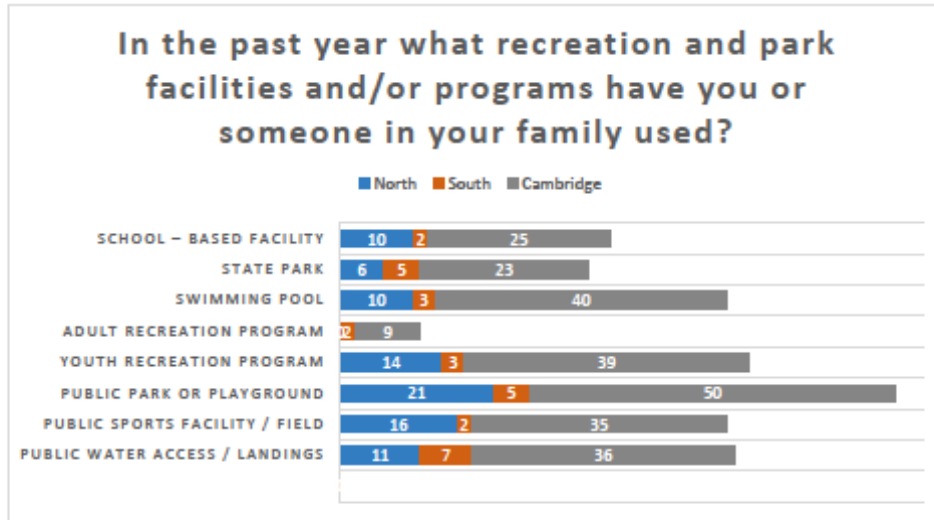
11. Please indicate the importance of the following statements about Recreation and Parks open space goals, (5 most important; 1 least important)

- _____ Protecting farmland from development
- _____ Preserving environmentally sensitive areas
- _____ Providing athletic fields for youth
- _____ Creating new parks / open spaces
- _____ Offering recreation for seniors
- _____ Offering play areas and recreation for youth
- _____ Creating trails along streams (greenways)
- _____ Creating more public access to water
- _____ Creating more cultural, historical/museum opportunities
- _____ Recreational activities for adults
- _____ Other _____

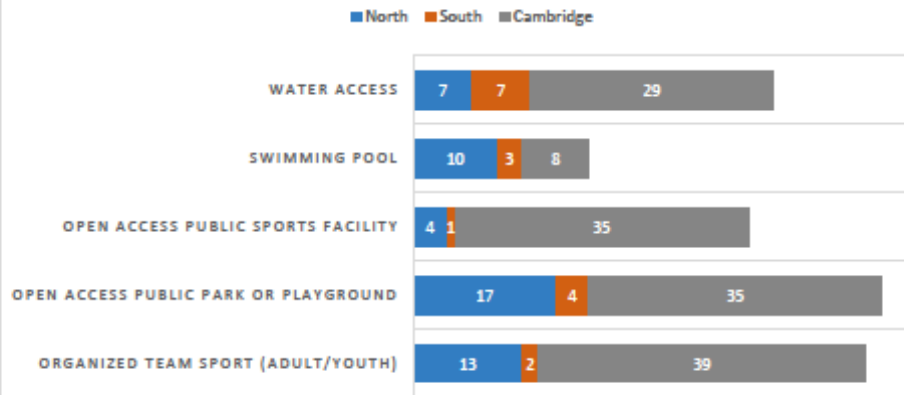
12. What would you suggest as an addition to the County Recreation and Park amenities? Please share examples of other parks and recreational opportunities you've enjoyed in other communities.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the survey. Please return it in the addressed and stamped envelope provided.

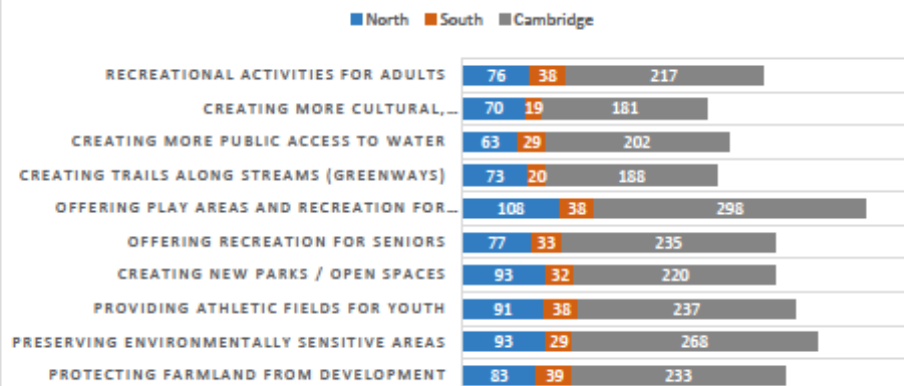
Resource: C



What type of facility and/or program do you use most frequently?



Please indicate the importance of the following statements about Recreation and Parks open space goals, (5 most important; 1 least important)



Resource: D

2013		
SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS	Age	# of Participants
American Legion Baseball		
Baseball/Softball Practices		
Cambridge Senior League Baseball		
Pee Wee T-Ball Clinic	4 to 6	46
Pee Wee T-Ball League	4 to 6	133
Pee Wee Tennis	4 to 8	
Pool	ANY	
Pool Hops	ANY	
Pool Parties	ANY	
Shorefins Swim Team		40
Slow Pitch Softball	16 & over	
Slow Pitch Tournament	16 & over	
Summer Basketball		
Summer Drama	Grades 3 to 12	
Swimming Lessons		
Tri-City Senior League Baseball		
Weightlifting Training		
Women's Fitness	16 & over	48
Youth Tennis	9 to 15	
FALL/WINTER PROGRAMS		
Dorchester Pop Warner Cheer		67
Dorchester Pop Warner Football		119
Co-Ed Softball	16 & over	
Fall Drama	Grades 3 to 12	
Fall Field Use		
Indoor Soccer Clinic	4 to 5th grade	45
Men's Slow Pitch Softball	16 & over	
North Dorchester Youth Basketball		
Pee Wee Basketball Clinic	4 to 8	
Recreation Basketball		
Square Dance	ANY	
Youth Basketball League		
Youth Soccer League	8 to 13	110
SPECIAL EVENTS		
Easter Egg Hunt	Grade 5 & under	
National Night Out	ANY	

2014		
SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS	Age	# of Participants
American Legion Baseball		
Baseball/Softball Practices		
Cambridge Senior League Baseball		
Pee Wee T-Ball Clinic	4 to 6	38
Pee Wee T-Ball League	4 to 6	112
Pee Wee Tennis	4 to 8	16
Pool	ANY	
Pool Hops	ANY	
Pool Parties	ANY	
Shorefins Swim Team		
Slow Pitch Softball	16 & over	
Slow Pitch Tournament	16 & over	
Summer Basketball		
Summer Drama	Grades 3 to 12	
Swimming Lessons		
Tri-City Senior League Baseball		
Weightlifting Training		
Women's Fitness	16 & over	50
Youth Tennis	9 to 15	7
FALL/WINTER PROGRAMS		
Dorchester Pop Warner Cheer		64
Dorchester Pop Warner Football		112
Co-Ed Softball	16 & over	
Fall Drama	Grades 3 to 12	
Fall Field Use		
Indoor Soccer Clinic	4 to 5th grade	42
Men's Slow Pitch Softball	16 & over	
North Dorchester Youth Basketball		
Pee Wee Basketball Clinic	4 to 8	
Recreation Basketball		
Square Dance	ANY	
Youth Basketball League		
Youth Soccer League	8 to 13	
SPECIAL EVENTS		
Easter Egg Hunt	Grade 5 & under	
National Night Out	ANY	

2015		
SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS	Age	# of Participants
American Legion Baseball		
Baseball/Softball Practices		
Cambridge Senior League Baseball		
Pee Wee T-Ball Clinic	4 to 6	46
Pee Wee T-Ball League	4 to 6	110
Pee Wee Tennis	4 to 8	11
Pool	ANY	
Pool Hops	ANY	4
Pool Parties	ANY	20/1020
Shorefins Swim Team		
Slow Pitch Softball	16 & over	
Slow Pitch Tournament	16 & over	
Summer Basketball		
Summer Drama	Grades 3 to 12	31
Swimming Lessons		47
Tri-City Senior League Baseball		
Weightlifting Training		
Women's Fitness	16 & over	
Youth Tennis	9 to 15	10
FALL/WINTER PROGRAMS		
Dorchester Pop Warner Cheer		85
Dorchester Pop Warner Football		141
Co-Ed Softball	16 & over	70
Fall Drama	Grades 3 to 12	5
Fall Field Use		
Indoor Soccer Clinic	4 to 5th grade	37
Men's Slow Pitch Softball	16 & over	94
North Dorchester Youth Basketball		
Pee Wee Basketball Clinic	4 to 8	25
Recreation Basketball		
Square Dance	ANY	
Women's Fitness		
Youth Basketball League		
Youth Soccer League	8 to 13	152
SPECIAL EVENTS	Grade 5 & under	
Easter Egg Hunt	ANY	
National Night Out		

2016		
SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS	Age	# of Participants
American Legion Baseball		
Baseball/Softball Practices		
Cambridge Senior League Baseball		
Pee Wee T-Ball Clinic	4 to 6	29
Pee Wee T-Ball League	4 to 6	90
Pee Wee Tennis	4 to 8	7
Pool	ANY	
Pool Hops	ANY	
Pool Parties	ANY	18/850
Shorefins Swim Team		
Slow Pitch Softball	16 & over	
Slow Pitch Tournament	16 & over	
Summer Basketball		
Summer Drama	Grades 3 to 12	41
Swimming Lessons		54
Tri-City Senior League Baseball		
Weightlifting Training		
Women's Fitness	16 & over	43
Youth Tennis	9 to 15	7
FALL/WINTER PROGRAMS		
American Youth Cheer		59
American Youth Football		114
Co-Ed Softball	16 & over	
Fall Drama	Grades 3 to 12	7
Fall Field Use		
Indoor Soccer Clinic	4 to 5th grade	51
Men's Slow Pitch Softball	16 & over	
North Dorchester Youth Basketball		
Pee Wee Basketball Clinic	4 to 8	35
Recreation Basketball		
Square Dance	ANY	
Women's Fitness		
Youth Basketball League		
Youth Soccer League	8 to 13	174
SPECIAL EVENTS	Grade 5 & under	
Easter Egg Hunt	ANY	
National Night Out		

2017		
SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS	Age	# of Participants
American Legion Baseball		
Baseball/Softball Practices		
Cambridge Senior League Baseball		
Pee Wee T-Ball Clinic	4 to 6	18
Pee Wee T-Ball League	4 to 6	67
Pee Wee Tennis	4 to 8	
Pool	ANY	
Pool Hops	ANY	0
Pool Parties	ANY	
Shorefins Swim Team		
Slow Pitch Softball	16 & over	50
Slow Pitch Tournament	16 & over	
Summer Basketball		
Summer Drama	Grades 3 to 12	43
Swimming Lessons		
Tri-City Senior League Baseball		
Weightlifting Training		
Women's Fitness	16 & over	
Youth Tennis	9 to 15	
FALL/WINTER PROGRAMS		
American Youth Cheer		42
American Youth Football		108
Co-Ed Softball	16 & over	
Fall Drama	Grades 3 to 12	
Fall Field Use		
Indoor Soccer Clinic	4 to 5th grade	27
Men's Slow Pitch Softball	16 & over	
North Dorchester Youth Basketball		
Pee Wee Basketball Clinic	4 to 8	29
Recreation Basketball		
Square Dance	ANY	
Women's Fitness		
Youth Basketball League		
Youth Soccer League	8 to 13	169
SPECIAL EVENTS		
Easter Egg Hunt	Grade 5 & under	40
National Night Out	ANY	

Resource: E

	State	Local	
Dorchester County Pool			
Replace tile deck	S4, S3	L1, L3	Quality recreation, and public safety
Renovate concession pavilion	S4, S3	L1, L3	Infrastructure improvement
Replace Sidewalk	S4	L1, L3	Walkability, and public safety
Replace Waterside	S2, S3	L1, L3	Infrastructure improvement
Replace Mushroom Fountain	S2, S3	L1, L3	Infrastructure improvement
Plaster pool interior	S3	L1, L3	Quality recreation, and public safety
Replace Chlorinator			Public safety
McCarter Park			
Resurface sidewalk	S4, S3	L1, L3	Walkability, and public safety
Playground surfacing	S1, S2, S4	L1, L3	
Ages 2-5 Play Equipment	S1, S2, S3	L1, L3	
J. Edward Walter Park			
Develop adjacent property	S1, S2, S3, S3	L1, L3	Expand recreational opportunities
Renovate concession/restrooms	S1	L1, L3	Greater public use
Press box renovation	S1	L1, L3	Infrastructure improvement
Christ Rock Park			
Develop plan for development	S1, S2, S3, S4	L1, L3	Enhance site for better overall use
Expand/pave parking lot	S2, S3, S3	L1, L3	Improve public use
New basketball courts	S1, S2, S3	L1, L3	
New playground/tot lot (ages 2-12)	S1, S2, S3	L1, L3	Offer greater recreational use
Picnic tables/amenities	S1	L1	
School Street Athletic Complex			
Sports lighting for main field	S1, S2, S3	L1, L2, L3	Increase use of site
Design/pave parking area	S2, S3, S3	L1	
Restrooms/concession building	S1, S3	L1	Improve public use
Bleachers / Scoreboard	S1, S3	L1, L3	
Cornish Park			
New fencing	L2, L3	L1	Public safety
Refurbish basketball equipment/court			
Egypt Road Park			
Develop plan for park development	S1, S2, S3, S3	L1, L3	Expand recreational opportunities
Development Phase 1	S1, S2, S3, S3	L1, L3	Expand recreational opportunities
Development Phase 2	S1, S2, S3, S3	L1, L3	
Maple Dam Property			
Develop plan for site development	S1, S2, S3, S6	L1, L3	Create new recreational opportunities for public
Sailwinds Park			
Waterfront walkway design w/benches	S1, S2, S3, S4, S6		
Development of permanent stage	S1, S2, S3, S4, S6		
Guarded Beach	S1, S2		
Seasonal Bathrooms	S1, S2		
Enhance amphitheatre lighting			
Beach Combining equipment			
Lifeguard stands/equipment			
Cambridge Area			
Rails to Trail - Cannery Park	S1, S2, S3	L1, L3, L3	
Church Creek Park			
New play equipment (ages 2-5)	S1, S2, S3	L1	Greater public use
Additional playground surfacing	S1, S2, S3	L1	
Plantings	S2, S3	L1, L3	Improve park appearance
Hurlock Athletic Complex			
Plantings	S2, S3	L2	Enhance park appearance

Resource: F

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION GOALS ESTIMATED TIME AND COST										
2											
3			SHORT-RANGE GOALS (2017-2022)			MID-RANGE GOALS (2022-2027)			LONG-RANGE GOALS (2027-2032)		
4	PROJECT / LOCATION	RECOMMENDATIONS	Acquisition	Capital	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital	Rehabilitation
5											
6	CAMBRIDGE										
7	County Pool	Repair Pool Deck - as needed			X						
8		Chlorinator			X						
9		Renovate Concession Stand			X						
10		Replace Mushroom Fountain		X							
11		Repair Waterslide			X						
12		Renovate Restrooms			X						
13		Plaster Pool Interior			X						
14	McCarter Park	Playground resurfacing						X			
15		New play equipment (2-5)					X				
16		Resurface sidewalk						X			
17	J. Edward Walker Park	Renovate concession / Restrooms						X			
18		Press Box Renovation						X			
19		Develop adjacent property					X				
20	Christ Rock Park	Park development plan		X							
21	Rustick Tennis Courts	Add Pickleball lines		X							
22	School Street Athletic Complex	Basketball Courts (2 full)					X				
23		Design/Pave Parking lot					X				
24		Main Field Lighting					X				
25		Bleachers/Scoreboard					X				
26	Comish Park	Repair Fencing			X						
27		Refurbish basketball equipment			X						
28	Maple Dam Property	Plan for site development				X	X				
29	Cannery Park	Development of Rail to Trail		X							
30	Sellwinds	Beach development			X						
31		Amphitheatre development			X						
32		Signage		X							
33		Development of Rail to Trail connector to Cannery Park			X						
34											
35	CHURCH CREEK										
36	Church Creek Park	Refurbish play equipment			X						
37		Additional Playground surfacing					X				
38		Plantings					X				
39		Expand Parking					X				
40											
41	MADISON										
42	Campground	Development plans		X	X						
43											
44	NORTH DORCHESTER	Land acquisition for green space	X								
45											
46	HURLOCK										
47	Athletic Complex	Lighting for softball field		X							
48		Add benches and picnic tables					X				
49		Apply pickleball lines to court		X							
50		Add batting cages								X	
51	Town Park	New benches & amenities					X				
52		Update play equipment					X				
53											
54	SECRETARY										
55	Town Park	Resurface Tennis courts						X			
56		Pavillion Renovation								X	
57		Park entry signage		X							
58											
59											
60	EAST NEW MARKET										
61	Town Park	Park signage		X							
62											
63	VIENNA										
64	Community Park	Resurface Tennis Courts					X				
65		New fencing around courts					X				
66		Repave Parking					X				
67	Waterway / Greenway	Development Plan	X								

Resource: G

Name of Facility	Address	Property Acreage	Outdoor Recreation in Area	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Facilities	Trails	Hunting	Other:	Field/Facility Recreation Areas (acres)	Sports Fields	Basketball	Tennis	Activity Building/Recreation Center	Other:	Notes:
Private Facilities																
1 Cambridge Dockmaster Office	2 Yacht Club Dr, Cambridge, MD	2.89		X												
Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay										golf course, miniature golf, beach, wildlife refuge				indoor/outdoor swimming, paddle board, paddle boat, kayak, guests	use restricted to paying guests	
2 Golf Resort, Spa and Marina	100 Heron Blvd, Cambridge, MD	35.35	X	X		X										
3 Generation III Marina	205 Cedar St., Cambridge, MD	2.44		X												
Blackwater Paddle and Pedal Adventures	2524 Key Wallace Dr., Cambridge, MD	1.50		X										water sports, bicycles		
5 On the River Cycle and Sport	2833 Ocean Gateway E, Cambridge, MD	0.23												water sports, bicycles art classes/activities		parking
6 Dorchester Center for the Arts	321 High St., Cambridge, MD	0.06														
Heritage Museums and Gardens 7 of Dorchester	1003 Greenway Dr., Cambridge, MD	1.50														
8 Richardson Maritime Museum	401 High St., Cambridge, MD	0.29														
9 JIM Clayton Company Tours	108 Commerce St., Cambridge, MD	1.99														
10 Nathan of Dorchester Ski/Jacket	Cambridge, MD	N/A												cruises		
51 Tideland Campground	525 Taylors Island Rd., Taylors Island, MD	10.77	X	X	X											
52 VMCA	201 Talbot Ave., Cambridge, MD	5.93														
Taylors Island Family Campgrounds	4362 Bay Shore Rd., Taylors Island, MD	10.86	X	X	X			fishing						game room, store, marina		parking
54 Madison Campground	4814 Madison Canning House Rd., Madison, MD	11.40	X	X	X			fishing						Restaurant / Bar Beginner, Core & Out, Yoga Paddle, Fit Paddle		parking
56 Overboard Paddle & Fitness	5525 Cedar Grove Rd., E. New Market, MD	0.93														
57 Old Trinity Church (walking paths)	1716 Taylors Island Rd., Church Creek, MD	65.38				X			waterfront							parking
58 Cambridge Little League Park	Race Street, Cambridge, MD	8.00									(4) baseball		(2) pavilions			parking
Karen Noonan Memorial Environmental Education Center	1304 Phillips, Phillips Gunning Club Road, Crofton, MD	20.00							waterfront						Environmental Education Program through the CBF	
Horn Point Laboratory	2020 Horns Point Road, Cambridge, MD	800.00														
Public Facilities- County/Municipal																
11 Secretary Park	Linden Ave, Secretary, MD	3.94	3.94		X			fishing		playground			1 grill	pavilion, picnic tables, pavilion, memorial, benches		parking street parking
12 Secretary Veterans Park	Main St, Secretary, MD	0.45	0.41		X											short walking path parking
13 East New Market Park	Creamery Rd, East New Market, MD	3.12	3.12		X				tot lot		(1) baseball	1	1 gamebo, picnic tables			parking

<u>Name of Facility</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Property Acreage</u>	<u>Outdoor Recreation Area</u>	<u>Natural Areas</u>	<u>Water Access</u>	<u>Picnic Facilities</u>	<u>Trails</u>	<u>Hunting</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Field/Facility Recreation Areas (acres)</u>	<u>Sports Fields</u>	<u>Basketball</u>	<u>Tennis</u>	<u>Activity Building/Recreation Center</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Notes</u>
52. WMCA	201 Talbot Ave., Cambridge, MD	5.93														
Taylor's Island Family Campgrounds	4362 Bay Shore Rd., Taylors Island MD	10.86	X	X	X			fishing					game room, store, marina			parking
54. Madison Campground	4814 Madison Canning House Rd., Madison, MD	11.40	X	X	X			fishing					Restaurant / Bar			parking
56 Overboard Paddle & Fitness	5525 Cedar Grove Rd., E. New Market, MD	0.93											Beginner, Core & Oar, Yoga Paddle, Fit Paddle			
57. Old Trinity Church (walking paths)	1716 Taylor's Island Rd., Church Creek, MD	65.38				X			waterfront				(2) pavilions			parking
58 Cambridge Little League Park	Race Street, Cambridge, MD	8.00									(4) baseball					parking
Karen Noonan Memorial Environmental Education Center	1304 Phillips, Phillips Gunning Club Road, Crocheton, MD	20.00							waterfront						Environmental Education Program through the CBF	
Horn Point Laboratory	2020 Horns Point Road, Cambridge, MD	800.00														
Public Facilities - County/Municipal																
11. Secretary Park	Linden Ave, Secretary, MD	3.94	3.94		X			fishing		playground			1 grill			parking
12. Secretary/Veterans Park	Main St, Secretary, MD	0.45	0.41		X								pavilion, memorial, benches		short walking path	street parking
13. East New Market Park	Creemey Rd, East New Market, MD	3.12	3.12		X					tot lot	(1) baseball	1	1 gazebo, picnic tables			parking
14. Friendship Park	Railroad Rd, East New Market, MD	2.88	2.88		X										walking path	
15. Hurlock Town Park	Elm St, Hurlock, MD	1.46	1.46		X					tot lot, play equipment			open space, benches			street parking
16. Prospect Heights Community Park	Douglas Dr., Hurlock, MD	0.59	0.59		X					play equipment		1	pavilion, bleachers			
17. North Main Community Park	North Main St., Hurlock, MD	19.34	19.34		X					play equipment	(3) baseball, (1) softball, (1)		benches			parking
18. Hurlock Athletic Complex	Rt. 392 & Poplar St., Hurlock, MD	14.64	1.94		X						(1) baseball, (2)	3	pavilion, concession, restrooms		(2) diamonds are litged	parking
19. J. Edward Walzer Park	446 Willis St., Cambridge, MD	5.75	5.75		X										lighted diamond	parking
20. Great Marsh Park	Somerset Ave, Cambridge, MD	5.67	5.67 X		X			fishing	6 acres waterfront	tot lot, beach	(1) multipurpose		boat ramp, pavilion, benches, swings, walking loop		Ironman & Eagleman race locations	parking
21. Turn Park	Egypt Rd, Cambridge, MD	95.00	95.00 X		X		X	fishing	training	nature trail	cross country course		picnic tables			limited parking
22. Dorchester County Swimming Pool	107 Virginia Ave., Cambridge, MD	3.00	3.00		X					(2) waterslides, diving board, lap lanes, tot lot			pavilion, picnic tables, concession stand, restrooms			parking
23. Park	Lecompte Street, Cambridge, MD	2.56	2.56		X					tot lot	(1) multipurpose					
24. Meadows Park	Meadow Ave., Cambridge, MD	1.09	1.09							tot lot, play		1	pavilion, picnic tables			parking

Name of Facility	Address	Property Acreage	Outdoor Recreation Areas	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Facilities	Trails	Hunting	Other	Field/Facility Recreation Areas (acres)	Sports Fields	Basketball	Tennis	Activity Building/Recreation Center	Other	Notes
Sailwinds Park Playground (Visitor's Center Park / Bill Burton 25 Pier)	2 Rose Hill Place, Cambridge, MD	11.82	9.73		X	X		fishing		playground, waterfront open space	(4) baseball, (3) multipurpose	1	10	Heritage Museum, bike rentals, amphitheatre, restrooms, shade structures, swings, picnic tables	walking path	parking
26 School Street Athletic Complex	School St., Cambridge, MD	21.73	21.73													limited parking
27 James G. Busick Tennis Courts	Glasgow St., Cambridge, MD	5.66	1.37												Bus stop within 1 block	parking
28 Christ Rock Park	Rt. 16 & Daisville Rd Douglas St. and Wells St., Cambridge, MD	10.42	10.39								(2) baseball, (1)		1			parking
29 Cornish Park	Washington St. at Rt. 50, Cambridge, MD	0.77	0.77		X				tot lot			2		picnic tables, pavilion	Bus stop within 1 block	parking
30 Carney Way	Cambridge, MD	6.60	6.60											benches, art/murals pavilion, gazebo, picnic tables	short walking path	parking
31 Church Creek Park	Route 16, Church Creek	2.28	2.28		X				tot lot	(1) multipurpose						parking
32 Crapo Community Center	Lakesville Crapo Rd., Crapo, MD	6.71	N/A						recreation center	(1) multipurpose						
33 Vienna Town Park	Market St., Vienna, MD	6.45	6.45		X				tot lot	(1) baseball, (1) multipurpose		1	2	pavilion, picnic tables, restroom	walking path	parking
34 Gay Street Town Park	Gay St., Vienna, MD	0.56	0.56						fountain					benches		parking
35 Vienna Nature Park	Water St., Vienna, MD Old School House Rd.,	2.80	2.80	X				fishing	waterfront	open space, kayaking				gazebo	long wooden boardwalk style walking path	parking
36 Galetstown Playground	Galetstown, MD	0.95	0.95													
37 Hurlock Elementary School	301 Charles St., Hurlock, MD	3.99	2.66						playground equipment	(1) multipurpose						parking
38 Maple Elementary School	5225 Egypt Rd., Cambridge, MD	126.00	7.76						playground equipment	(2) multipurpose						
39 Sandy Hill Elementary School	1503 Glasgow St., Cambridge, MD	9.12	3.71						playground equipment	(2) multipurpose fields, gymnasium					adjacent to School Street athletic complex, and Busick Tennis Courts (10)	parking
40 South Dorchester K-8 School	3485 Golden Hill Rd., Church Creek, MD	20.00	4.86						playground equipment	(3) multipurpose fields, gymnasium		1	2			parking
41 Maces Lane Middle School	1101 Maces Ln., Cambridge, MD	92.08	9.18							(3) multipurpose						parking
42 Choptank Elementary School	1103 Maces Ln., Cambridge, MD	92.08	4.87						playground equipment	(2) multipurpose						parking
43 Vienna Elementary School	4905 Ocean Gw., Vienna, MD	9.39	0.81						playground equipment	(2) multipurpose						parking
44 Warwick Elementary School	155 Main St., Secretary, MD	10.22	5.27						playground equipment	(2) baseball, (1) multipurpose,						parking
45 North Dorchester High School (currently building a new facility)	5871 Cloverdale Rd., Hurlock, MD		8.91							(1) baseball, soccer, track, (1)			4			parking
46 North Dorchester Middle School	5745 Cloverdale Rd., Hurlock, MD	59.62	8.85							multipurpose,			6			parking
Cambridge-South Dorchester High School	2475 Cambridge Beltway, Cambridge, MD	126.00	25.07							(1) baseball, soccer, track, (4) multipurpose						parking

Resource: H

Program	Ages	Duration	Location
Dor County Youth Basketball League	Ages 8 & up - as of November 1	Practice starts in October Games start January - April	MLMS
Pee Wee Basketball Clinic	Ages 4 - 8 as of November 1	4 weeks on Saturday mornings	MES
Indoor Soccer Program	Ages 4 - up to the 5th grade as of January 1	5 weeks on Saturday mornings	MLMS
Women's Fitness & Exercise Class Late Spring	Ages 16 & over	10 weeks - every Tuesday & Thursday	CES
Women's Fitness & Exercise Fall	Ages 16 & over	10 weeks - every Tuesday & Thursday	CES
Women's Fitness & Exercise Class Winter	Ages 16 & over	10 weeks - every Tuesday & Thursday	CES
Youth Lacrosse League	Help with advertising registration information		
Easter Egg Hunt	Grades 3 & under		Breckenridge Adventures
Pee Wee T-Ball Clinic	Ages 4 - 6 as of April 1	3 Saturday Mornings	CSDHS
Dorchester County T-Ball League	Ages 4 - 6 as of April 1	Thru Week	Glasgow Fields
Slow Pitch Men's Softball	18 & over	April - October	Hurlock Athletic Complex
Pee Wee Tennis Lesson	Ages 4 - 8	3 weeks - Mon & Wed	North Dorchester High School Tennis Courts
Youth Tennis Lessons	Ages 9 & up	3 weeks - Tues & Thurs	North Dorchester High School Tennis Courts
Dorchester County Youth Soccer League	8 - 13 as of Sept 1	Practice Starts in August - November	J Edward, Glasgow Fields, Hurlock Complex
Dorchester American Youth Cheerleading	Ages 5 - 14 as of July 31	Practices start late July Games/Competitions could go to December	SHE, CES, MES, CSD
Dorchester American Youth Football	Ages 5 - 13 as of July 31	Practice Starts late July - Games/Playoffs could go to Dec	Edward Park Parking Lot & CSDHS, School Street
Cambridge Tennis Clinic	Providing registration info		Busick Tennis Courts
Drama Camp - Fall	Grades 3 - 12	Sept - December (mon & tues)	CSD
Drama Camp - Summer	Grades 3 - 12	3 weeks Mon - Thurs	CSD/Zion
Youth Summer Basketball/Open Gym	Ages 11 - 16	3 weeks Mon - Thurs	MES/CES
Cambridge Little League - Junior Division		Home Games played at J Edward Walter Park	
Cambridge Little League - Senior Division		Home Games played at J Edward Walter Park	
American Legion Post 91 Baseball		Home Games played at J Edward Walter Park	
Co-ed Softball	Ages 16 & over		Hurlock Athletic Complex
Square Dance Class	Ages 16 & up/advertise only	Offered throughout the school year	Maple
After School Basketball	Grades 4 & 5th	2 days a week	Hurlock

Resource: I

Name	GIS_Acres	Organizati	Protection
BOHLEN	135.41	MALPF	AGEASE
WEBER	144.39	MALPF	AGEASE
DIGREGORIO	158.83	MALPF	AGEASE
DIGREGORIO	227.54	MALPF	AGEASE
WEBER	8.85	MALPF	AGEASE
FLEMING	169.26	MALPF	AGEASE
BYE	91.60	MALPF	AGEASE
RICHARDSON	113.43	MALPF	AGEASE
LINDNER	122.78	MALPF	AGEASE
FLEMING	142.96	MALPF	AGEASE
LINDNER	62.39	MALPF	AGEASE
BAKER	164.59	MALPF	AGEASE
ROBBINS	112.90	MALPF	AGEASE
BECKWITH	103.80	MALPF	AGEASE
HOWARD	72.35	MALPF	AGEASE
SCOTT	85.46	MALPF	AGEASE
DONOVAN	126.78	MALPF	AGEASE
NABB	330.06	MALPF	AGEASE
SCHULTZ/WERKHEISER/WILLEY	72.32	MALPF	AGEASE
JOHNSON	114.10	MALPF	AGEASE
WOLF-KING	68.33	MALPF	AGEASE
WHEEDLETON	70.66	MALPF	AGEASE
JONES	354.88	MALPF	AGEASE
TURNER	301.21	MALPF	AGEASE
MALKUS	294.15	MALPF	AGEASE
EBERSPACHER	243.98	MALPF	AGEASE
NAGEL	40.96	MALPF	AGEASE
RICKWOOD	76.29	MALPF	AGEASE
ANDREWS	113.81	MALPF	AGEASE
BAKER	19.55	MALPF	AGEASE
NAGEL	73.62	MALPF	AGEASE
PHILLIPS	360.30	MALPF	AGEASE
ULLAH/ULLAH-ALVI	160.47	MALPF	AGEASE
TODD	92.21	MALPF	AGEASE
TRICE	199.07	MALPF	AGEASE
HELGASON	216.04	MALPF	AGEASE
TULL	155.72	MALPF	AGEASE
LUTHY	78.71	MALPF	AGEASE

MALKUS	193.03	MALPF	AGEASE
HARDING	157.07	MALPF	AGEASE
LUTHY	151.42	MALPF	AGEASE
HARDING	105.22	MALPF	AGEASE
PHILLIPS	279.85	MALPF	AGEASE
DONOVAN	76.89	MALPF	AGEASE
BRAMBLE	164.32	MALPF	AGEASE
LAYTON	326.36	MALPF	AGEASE
LAYTON	248.44	MALPF	AGEASE
BAKER	167.08	MALPF	AGEASE
SCOTT/CORDREY	165.70	MALPF	AGEASE
HELGASON	127.17	MALPF	AGEASE
GORE	132.49	MALPF	AGEASE
TRICE	142.20	MALPF	AGEASE
MORRIS/DIETRICH/PHILLIPS/TRICE	161.79	MALPF	AGEASE
TRICE	151.22	MALPF	AGEASE
SAUNDERS	103.85	MALPF	AGEASE
SELLERS	45.67	MALPF	AGEASE
OUTTEN	216.89	MALPF	AGEASE
BECKWITH/SHORT	179.58	MALPF	AGEASE
SCOTT	126.42	MALPF	AGEASE
JAMES	122.98	MALPF	AGEASE
OUTTEN	159.41	MALPF	AGEASE
OUTTEN	131.19	MALPF	AGEASE
JACKSON	122.82	MALPF	AGEASE
GORE	204.89	MALPF	AGEASE
COLLINS	205.93	MALPF	AGEASE
NABB	109.15	MALPF	AGEASE
HARDING/PARKS	50.33	MALPF	AGEASE
EBERSPACHER	72.33	MALPF	AGEASE
POMEROY	111.82	MALPF	AGEASE
CLARK	162.85	MALPF	AGEASE
OUTTEN	352.65	MALPF	AGEASE
GREENHAWK/LEGG	122.68	MALPF	AGEASE
THOMAS	103.70	MALPF	AGEASE
CORDREY/SCOTT	134.79	MALPF	AGEASE
HANDLEY	146.10	MALPF	AGEASE
SCOTT	183.29	MALPF	AGEASE
SAATHOFF	79.56	MALPF	AGEASE

HARDING	180.94	MALPF	AGEASE
	106.76	MALPF	AGEASE
MALKUS	354.34	MALPF	AGEASE
STEVENS	189.10	MALPF	AGEASE
	183.47	MALPF	AGEASE
BAKER	175.73	MALPF	AGEASE
BAKER	241.97	MALPF	AGEASE
BAKER	131.54	MALPF	AGEASE
NANTICOKE	35.50	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	195.04	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	61.99	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	402.49	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	406.68	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	448.32	DNR	RURLEG
OUTTEN, WILLIAM F. JR. ET AL	320.18	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	1,001.45	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	409.62	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	273.32	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	235.66	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	151.75	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	178.98	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	125.61	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	179.82	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	444.21	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	1,582.77	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	173.55	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	98.30	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	116.44	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	183.29	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	122.42	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	102.78	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	90.79	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	53.64	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	56.52	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	51.36	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	119.32	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	297.31	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	121.17	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	194.00	DNR	RURLEG

AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	52.59	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	59.62	DNR	RURLEG
AG SECURITY-MARSHYHOPE	64.43	DNR	RURLEG
NANTICOKE	124.31	DNR	RURLEG
LEWIS	130.28	MALPF	AGEASE
EDGAR	170.97	MALPF	AGEASE
BOOG	197.29	DNR	RURLEG

Resource: J – Dorchester County Agricultural Inventory

Ag Land Inventory			
OWNER	PROT	Acres Preserved	Property Acreage
Baker Farm	AGEASE	171.637	175.733204
	AGEASE	123.333	781.953515
	AGEASE	166.11	167.077117
	AGEASE	232.733	781.953515
	AGEASE	208.488	164.586694
Beckwith Farm	AGEASE	104.69	103.798036
Bohlen Farm	AGEASE	139.13	135.408101
Bramble Farm	AGEASE	164.352	125.6102
	AGEASE	164.352	155.366513
	AGEASE	164.352	164.319776
Claggett Farm	AGEASE	277	306.156223
Clark Farm	AGEASE	164.236	162.854222
Collins Farm	AGEASE	186.7359	32.037755
	AGEASE	186.7359	173.890482
Cordrey Farm	AGEASE	138.57	49.58319
	AGEASE	138.57	64.217983
	AGEASE	138.57	70.536201
	AGEASE	138.57	70.575131
	AGEASE	144.13	5.742248
	AGEASE	144.13	40.49469
	AGEASE	144.13	64.217983
	AGEASE	144.13	70.357089
	AGEASE	144.13	70.536201
	AGEASE	144.13	70.575131
Digregorio Farm	AGEASE	277.188	158.83273
	AGEASE	236.187	11.067131
	AGEASE	236.187	227.537092
Donovan Farm	AGEASE	75.197	76.892793
	AGEASE	125.65	45.627827
	AGEASE	125.65	81.155964
Eberspacher Farm	AGEASE	73.37	72.326257
Edgar Farm	AGEASE	171.67	211.082128
Fleming Farm	AGEASE	166.234	2.006695
	AGEASE	166.234	169.257303
	AGEASE	166.234	350.517803
Fleming Farm	AGEASE	143.77	2.011047
	AGEASE	143.77	4.041404
	AGEASE	143.77	142.961796
Gore Farm	AGEASE	204.03	204.889844
Gore Farm	AGEASE	145.47	132.488924

Handley Farm	AGEASE	140.15	146.096301
Harding Farm	AGEASE	102.12	1.172621
	AGEASE	102.12	106.762028
	AGEASE	152.927	9.113598
	AGEASE	152.927	72.700621
	AGEASE	152.927	147.95961
	AGEASE	104.638	105.222777
	AGEASE	193.98	88.221726
	AGEASE	193.98	92.715582
Helgason Farm	AGEASE	130.09	11.430093
	AGEASE	130.09	115.743273
	AGEASE	212.03	5.75356
	AGEASE	212.03	74.977537
	AGEASE	212.03	135.313787
Howard Farm	AGEASE	78.899	72.35211
Jackson Farm	AGEASE	121.623	2.119972
	AGEASE	121.623	120.701044
	AGEASE	125.925	122.079361
Johnson Farm	AGEASE	115.62	73.691123
	AGEASE	115.62	114.099275
Jones Farm	AGEASE	330	345.578476
Layton Farm	AGEASE	270.73	207.688298
	AGEASE	285.85	326.364419
Legg Farm	AGEASE	118.01	50.828507
	AGEASE	118.01	71.854949
Lewis Farm	AGEASE	135.48	327.566502
Lindner Farm	AGEASE	137.12	122.784861
	AGEASE	66.9	61.510935
Luthy Farm	AGEASE	225.981	40.812397
	AGEASE	225.981	110.60431
Luthy Farm	AGEASE	268	11.941328
	AGEASE	268	59.39571
	AGEASE	268	212.868322
Macdonald Farm	AGEASE	93.86	91.604749
Malkus Farm	AGEASE	184.8	4.041404
	AGEASE	184.8	112.719865
	AGEASE	184.8	193.033114
	AGEASE	384.851	71.570565
	AGEASE	384.851	282.773303
Nabb Farm	AGEASE	107.57	0.818349
	AGEASE	107.57	32.070131
	AGEASE	107.57	77.079939
Nabb Farm	AGEASE	334.174	3.504133
	AGEASE	334.174	44.11675

	AGEASE	334.174	70.227063
	AGEASE	334.174	330.061468
Outten Farm	AGEASE	329.19	159.41164
	AGEASE	329.19	352.650016
	AGEASE	127.3	1.746516
	AGEASE	127.3	129.443485
	AGEASE	127.3	202.57162
	AGEASE	127.3	340.788204
	AGEASE	157.31	1.113297
	AGEASE	157.31	2.243438
	AGEASE	157.31	142.615737
	AGEASE	157.31	159.41164
	AGEASE	157.31	340.788204
	AGEASE	157.31	352.650016
	AGEASE	177.11	28.650603
	AGEASE	177.11	77.01984
	AGEASE	177.11	193.172069
	AGEASE	177.11	195.353121
	AGEASE	177.11	216.886107
Parks Farm	AGEASE	56.247	50.329926
Phillips Farm	AGEASE	272.39	279.847642
	AGEASE	342.638	13.922087
	AGEASE	342.638	95.848589
	AGEASE	342.638	250.52532
	AGEASE	181.507	12.318136
	AGEASE	181.507	657.639326
Pomeroy Farm	AGEASE	112.03	111.815656
Richardson Farm	AGEASE	112.32	113.432138
Robbins Farm	AGEASE	125.13	109.926984
Saunders Farm	AGEASE	101.96	103.852609
Schultz Farm	AGEASE	75.974	72.322004
Scott Farm	AGEASE	125.6	126.422114
Scott Farm	AGEASE	87.75	85.460769
Scott Farm	AGEASE	50.46	49.10627
Seller Farm	AGEASE	47.239	45.66608
Short Fram	AGEASE	179.565	30.004988
	AGEASE	179.565	55.90353
	AGEASE	179.565	93.670776
Stevens Farm	AGEASE	199.1	1.998382
	AGEASE	199.1	187.098024
Thomas Farm	AGEASE	108.61	49.22395
	AGEASE	108.61	54.476828

Todd Farm	AGEASE	96.41	92.213828
Trice Farm	AGEASE	209.078	11.321935
	AGEASE	209.078	50.502984
	AGEASE	209.078	199.068187
Trice Farm	AGEASE	148.11	6.124088
	AGEASE	148.11	161.790988
	AGEASE	152	142.196909
	AGEASE	152	151.221815
	AGEASE	156.949	142.196909
	AGEASE	156.949	151.221815
Tull Farm	AGEASE	161.699	155.717885
Turner Farm	AGEASE	296.97	301.214599
Ullah Farm	AGEASE	159.924	38.606727
	AGEASE	159.924	121.86184
Weber Farm	AGEASE	10	8.851782
Weber Farm	AGEASE	140.4988	144.388986
Wheedleton Farm	AGEASE	70.7	70.662539
Wolf Farm	AGEASE	69	68.329847

Resource: K - Natural Areas Inventory

Name	Protection	Organization	Acres
	MET	DNR	559.9792688
	MET	DNR	119.9217284
	MET	DNR	86.41814618
	MET	DNR	17.7183023
	MET	DNR	90.4827929
	MET	DNR	140.3045813
	MET	DNR	3.93941542
	MET	DNR	125.8919087
	MET	DNR	438.4574963
	MET	DNR	97.05435366
	MET	DNR	63.08193047
	MET	DNR	180.4318903
	MET	DNR	81.92688038
	MET	DNR	31.73736404
	MET	DNR	85.92968569
	MET	DNR	91.39037877
	MET	DNR	257.1889782
	MET	DNR	22.79740745
	MET	DNR	210.1791812
	MET	DNR	170.3752353
	MET	DNR	55.61905454
	MET	DNR	84.16723776
	MET	DNR	75.93015677
	MET	DNR	182.6067754
	MET	DNR	161.6017444
	MET	DNR	245.2228481
	MET	DNR	245.8509138
	MET	DNR	89.77868033
	MET	DNR	90.5732458
	MET	DNR	151.5044492
	MET	DNR	79.17005776
	MET	DNR	58.23704009
	MET	DNR	70.24764122
	MET	DNR	32.79193837
	MET	DNR	244.9903424
	MET	DNR	36.36287973
	MET	DNR	88.8461007
	MET	DNR	259.5239866
	MET	DNR	144.8117417
	MET	DNR	546.9672652
	MET	DNR	328.4836116
	MET	DNR	194.861764
	MET	DNR	132.1738182
	MET	DNR	194.4671329
	MET	DNR	204.8470381
	MET	DNR	10.08573016
	MET	DNR	266.3889215
	MET	DNR	223.0076727
	MET	DNR	22.00554579
	MET	DNR	74.89791907
	MET	DNR	521.6852832
	MET	DNR	31.50845195
	MET	DNR	34.37161047
	MET	DNR	97.8973526
	MET	DNR	254.3172511
	MET	DNR	232.250112
	MET	DNR	2358.131105
	MET	DNR	51.00824497
JONES, DAVID	POS	DNR	398.3076365
CAROWAN, JR., GLENN A.	POS	DNR	40.02702851
D'ADAMO FAMILY LIMITED PARTNER	CREP	DNR	85.63564303
	FED	FED	13723.13965
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	523.730326
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	158.2878927
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	445.5302923
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	360.7024328
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	136.4909932
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	19.73429472
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	91.62262039
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	105.0323504
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	59.21405873
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	71.51552501
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	87.55539234
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	140.81044
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	366.3017078
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	1149.715576
HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND	FED	DNR	18.72702748

BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	442.0002169
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	56.16899304
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	152.8049944
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	28.47508544
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	202.3427459
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	107.0743463
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	94.89577462
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	60.34986906
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	10.9381922
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	31.2696239
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	1556.69879
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	173.7676411
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	405.633037
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	36.43817438
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	901.5133595
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	39.14710917
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	135.6159875
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	145.5178494
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	122.6573933
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE	FED	UNITED STATES	415.9414881
	FED	UNITED STATES	315.434215
	FED	UNITED STATES	512.473631
	FED	UNITED STATES	247.8251894
	FED	UNITED STATES	397.0713733
	MET	DNR	129.3871774
HURLEY	CREP	DNR	58.748771
TERRY, JAMES	CREP	DNR	65.15419405
SCANLON, JOHN & KATHLEEN	CREP	DNR	49.02984786
LEGG, GEORGE & DAPHNE	CREP	DNR	87.45111102
STOCKER, HENRY	CREP	DNR	38.17864923
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	0.87782483
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	51.17692188
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	10265.45955
FISHIN BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	860.0483753
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	10125.77585
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	6.03315729
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	7.20386145
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	1351.129064
SAVANNAH LAKE LODGE	DNR	DNR	572.5965795
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	1209.182036
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	0.9576729
FRED W BESLEY DEMONSTRATION	DNR	DNR	86.36740233
TAYLORS ISLAND WMA	DNR	DNR	836.2339501
TAYLORS ISLAND WMA	DNR	DNR	84.94786
TAYLORS ISLAND WMA	DNR	DNR	39.27219255
NANTICOKE CORRIDOR HCF	DNR	DNR	58.35175406
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	73.35725388
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	97.61359006
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	152.9332896
LECOMPT WMA	DNR	DNR	497.4431331
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	314.0759561
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	58.76738643
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	171.229592
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	406.0515535
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	40.96765884
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	135.541455
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	153.7873919
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	157.3309212
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	25.35514768
LINKWOOD WMA	DNR	DNR	319.3380401
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	51.89985037
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	53.13615846
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	53.13632412
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	49.38044426
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	221.6137423
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	26.38765578
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	241.2590547
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	117.5530685
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	754.9707707
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	227.9266084
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	103.4636881
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	26.51316894
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	183.4670683
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	180.3992662
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	316.0304586
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	66.94192909
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	186.3308674
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	814.1921665

	FED	US FISH AND WILDLIFE	195.287439
	FED	US FISH AND WILDLIFE	212.6690107
	FED	NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE	1033.074538
SPRING ISLAND GAME PRESERVE	FED	US FISH AND WILDLIFE	11.65063491
SPRING ISLAND GAME PRESERVE	FED	US FISH AND WILDLIFE	7.96929755
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	168.0612649
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	14.55342882
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	31.64933981
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	355.0882888
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	132.8378122
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	69.81545529
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	135.4381911
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	49.27115641
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	69.4780996
	FED	USA	144.5767261
	FED	USA	8.34683344
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	13.58360437
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	40.0836431
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	262.3270604
HURLOCK PARK	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	15.07067101
THE GREAT MARSH	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	17.70373827
CAMBRIDGE LONG WHARF	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	6.72188183
CHRIST ROCK	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	10.96765298
EGYPT ROAD	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	100.5539545
Amercian Legion Park	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	4.82364638
Amercian Legion Park	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	1.25422957
Dorchester County Historical Society	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	1.65315046
Secretary City Park	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	20.9003555
County Commissioners of Dorchester F	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	1.97235246
County Commissioners of Dorchester F	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	8.9763755
County Owned Property	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	86.21352383
Dorchester County Pool	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	0.26561087
Dorchester County Pool	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	2.73363789
SECRETARY PARK	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	4.41555101
County Owned Property	COP	DORCHESTER COUNTY	31.18356264
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	FED	FED	406.7655546
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	FED	FED	88.30981874
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	FED	FED	402.4961016
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	FED	FED	82.3298972
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	FED	FED	80.4174967
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	FED	FED	1.64059461
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	FED	FED	145.1081904
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	FED	FED	2.01440997
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	FED	FED	2.74080943
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	FED	FED	111.450618
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	FED	FED	0.81842572
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	FED	FED	6.54581018

FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	451.5644377
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	400.7920977
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	54.87365025
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	19.85524321
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	7.58451604
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	1073.049134
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	533.7965353
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	159.0868167
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	0.39785083
FRED W BESLEY DEMONSTRATION	DNR	DNR	336.9525144
FRED W BESLEY DEMONSTRATION	DNR	DNR	111.5059686
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	405.8718557
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	2.64459963
FRED W BESLEY DEMONSTRATION	DNR	DNR	73.30816369
FRED W BESLEY DEMONSTRATION	DNR	DNR	420.9137128
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	56.14779335
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	113.6356413
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	22.4271758
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	95.67108996
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	832.2714596
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	362.7849634
GOOD LUCK FARMS CE	DNR	DNR	1411.355964
CHURCH CREEK FT	DNR	DNR	3.68519727
HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND F	POS	DNR	205.7475944
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	190.5737768
MOWBREY FARM CE	POS	DNR	728.7004839
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	57.72897586
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	415.4499114
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	36.33648634
BLACKWATER AREA-WEST	DNR	DNR	288.5286535
BLACKWATER AREA - EAST	DNR	DNR	403.9261404
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	308.6013095
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	2.38055002
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	0.53337638
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	2.0354956
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	0.54431702
LOWER MARSHYHOPE SWAMP	DNR	DNR	374.9953441
CHICONE CREEK WMA	DNR	DNR	230.6423242
ALLEN, ROBERT AND CHERILYN CREP	CREP	DNR	2.94937702
ALLEN, ROBERT AND CHERILYN CREP	CREP	DNR	24.01108394
HARRINGTON CREP EASEMENT	CREP	DNR	10.83158821
ALLEN, ROBERT AND CHERILYN CREP	CREP	DNR	18.46994663
HARRINGTON CREP EASEMENT	CREP	DNR	0.65024224
HARRINGTON CREP EASEMENT	CREP	DNR	0.30387316
HARRINGTON CREP EASEMENT	CREP	DNR	1.48275477
ALLEN, ROBERT AND CHERILYN CREP	CREP	DNR	11.39052242
ALLEN, ROBERT AND CHERILYN CREP	CREP	DNR	0.64454724
HARRINGTON CREP EASEMENT	CREP	DNR	11.86207252
ALLEN, ROBERT AND CHERILYN CREP	CREP	DNR	9.95008689
CAMBRIDGE MARINE TERMINAL	DNR	DNR	0.91406218
BILL BURTON FISHING PIER SP	DNR	DNR	1.74294183
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	70.80574983
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	84.09061115
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	26.18833692
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	47.71489892
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	81.75833339
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	2.24274511
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	494.1465402
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	140.0862623
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	227.251781
TAR BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	13.05492639
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	30.35520143
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	204.9871476
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	108.3274072
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	1486.302641
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	23.0142603
FISHING BAY WMA	DNR	DNR	315.01161
GLATFELTER EASEMENT	DNR	PRV	46.2104935
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	13.8761856
GLATFELTER EASEMENT	DNR	PRV	217.5263085
GLATFELTER EASEMENT	DNR	PRV	63.18926315
CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS	DNR	DNR	71.95053374
GLATFELTER EASEMENT	DNR	PRV	134.9682328
GLATFELTER EASEMENT	DNR	PRV	96.36811175
GLATFELTER EASEMENT	DNR	PRV	121.3234294
	FED	US FISH AND WILDLIFE	41.57608145
	FED	US FISH AND WILDLIFE	523.0734911
	FED	US FISH AND WILDLIFE	575.1419351