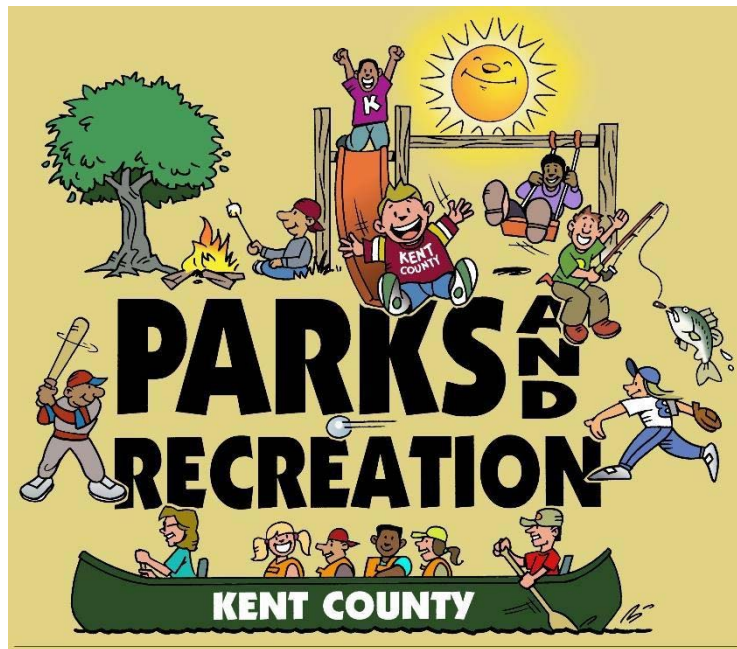


Kent County 2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan



March 30, 2021

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Executive Summary

Kent County is one of the oldest counties in Maryland. Its natural gifts include the magnificent expanse of the Chesapeake Bay, the beautiful Chester and Sassafras Rivers, its broad swaths of both protected environmental resource lands and working agricultural lands. Land preservation, parks, and recreation are key components of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Guiding principles of the Kent County Comprehensive Plan related to this Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan include:

- Stewardship of lands and waters as a universal ethic in planning efforts
- A commitment to supporting agriculture and promoting working landscapes
- Preserving cultural, historic and archeological resources essential for maintaining sense of place
- A commitment to enriching the lives of citizens and sustaining a healthy community including opportunities for recreation & cultural activities

Kent County has the smallest number of residents of any county in Maryland, with a population hovering around 20,000. This population decreased by 2.3% between 2000 and 2010 and that trend is expected to continue. The population of Kent County is also aging, with an increase in citizens over 60 years old and decline in the numbers of school children. In 2010 21.7% of the population was over the age of 65 and this is anticipated to increase to more than 35% by 2030.

Recreation, Parks and Open Space

Kent County, with its five municipalities, and the Board of Education provide approximately 648.6 acres of public park, recreation and open space. This acreage includes two regional parks, eight community parks and seven neighborhood parks. The County boasts three public swimming pools as well as two public beaches. In addition, the County provides water access through a system of 32 public landings. While there are no state or federal parks in the County, there is 7,603 acres of resource land which include the state Millington Wildlife Management Area and the Eastern Neck Federal Wildlife Refuge, which provide public access to a trail system and passive recreational opportunities.

Future needs for recreation and parks were evaluated using several methods including a public survey, meetings, a review of State surveys and national publications. In addition, County recreation program participation data was evaluated, and a distribution and proximity analysis of the parks and open spaces was undertaken and analyzed as it related to income levels and age demographics.

The analysis shows a County parks and open space system that is geographically well-distributed with the exception of the northeastern and southern areas which are suggested to be in need of trails, amenities are well distributed throughout the County.

Along with this identified need for additional trails, this Plan identifies maintenance, repair and upgrades of existing parks and facilities as the primary need in the parks and recreation system. In addition, and in alignment with the Comprehensive Plan, this Plan notes that the County will work closely with municipalities to support their parks and open space plans.

The State's criteria related the allocation of Program Open Space funding to land acquisition and parks capital development is based on an analysis of land available for parks and open spaces, preservation and conservation. Additionally, the County has analyzed access to parks and open space using both proximity and equity frameworks. Based on this analysis, the County has met its land acquisition goals and at this time will focus on parks and open space development and amenities. The capital projects included in the Capital Improvement Plan include 15 projects, none of which require land acquisition.

Agricultural Preservation

Agriculture is one of the County's keystone land uses and is the preferred land use for most of the County. It has served as the cultural foundation for the County and is planned to continue its important economic and cultural role. Protecting farmland and natural resources from development and encouraging growth in and around existing towns in the form of sustainable growth are fundamental goals of the Kent County Comprehensive plan as well as the Land Use Ordinance. The County adopted a Priority Preservation Area Element in the 2006 Comprehensive Plan. There is now 33.99% of the undeveloped portion of the PPA protected through conservation easements. The participation in various land preservation programs has been high. More than 21% of the County is now protected by some type of easement, not including publicly owned lands. In 2017, there were 38,863.63 acres protected by various preservation programs. This was an increase of 4,269.07 acres since 2012.

Natural Resources Conservation

The hallmarks of Kent County are the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, good soils, rich marshlands, and a landscape teeming with wildlife. These resources are the foundation from which the County's culture emerged and today remain the foundation of Kent's economy and the essence of its character.

The Kent County Land Use ordinance provides a framework for the resource conservation plans the County, which also align with the State's goals. Most of the County is a designated conservation area. Many of these are part of the Chesapeake Heritage area, the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, the Priority Preservation Area, and the Chesapeake County National Scenic Byway. The County has also identified additional areas and habitats for protection including designated Habitat Protection Areas, buffers and protective zones as well as other areas with unique wildlife and plant habits and any natural heritage areas designated by the State of Maryland.

Protective zoning in the countryside and specific environmental standards are in place to protect these unique resources. The primary components of the County's strategy to implement its natural resource goals are its land use authority, watershed restoration action strategies, the Watershed Implementation Plan, Baywide Total Maximum Daily Loads, Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Climate Change and SEA Level Rise Adaptation Report and partnerships with various private organizations. Additionally, the County Land Use Ordinance includes conservation techniques that require a substantial amount of the subdivision to include open space that is located so as to enlarge and connect to other open space and natural areas.

Chapter I: Introduction and Purpose of the Plan

The State of Maryland requires an updated Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) of each County in the State of Maryland and Baltimore City every five years prior to the update of the statewide Plan. The local plans provide the basis for the statewide plan which provides a framework for the State to implement an integrated and coordinated approach to the provision of recreation lands and facilities as well as the protection of natural resources and agriculture.

This Plan acts as a supplement to the Kent County Comprehensive Plan and is developed in accordance with Maryland's 2017 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan Guidelines. The plan consists of the following elements:

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

A. Local Agency Preparation of the Plan

Kent County government is responsible for the preparation of the LPPRP. The Parks and Recreation Department and Planning, Housing, and Zoning Department worked jointly in preparing the Plan. The Kent County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Planning Commission, and Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board reviewed the plan.

B. The Plan's Relationship to the Comprehensive Planning Process

The Comprehensive Plan is the principal document outlining County direction, policy, and action regarding land use. It is a policy statement that can be valid in the face of change over many years. Properly used, the Plan is the basis for decision-making at all levels of government and will guide the private sector toward acceptable, beneficial, and profitable activities affecting the land and people. Commencing in 2016, the County proceeded to update the 2006 Comprehensive Plan. The draft updated Plan was issued for 60-day review in May of 2017, and the Planning Commission held a public hearing in August of 2017. The Planning Commission forwarded the Updated Comprehensive Plan to the County Commissioner's for adoption. The Commissioners held a public hearing in March 2018 and the Plan was enacted on 17 April 2018. The LPPRP was developed with extensive public involvement and is one of a series of plans, policies, and regulations that implements the Comprehensive Plan by providing more detailed information and policy.

C. Physical Condition of Kent County

Kent County, founded in 1642, is the second oldest County in Maryland. Prior to European colonization, the area was inhabited by a mosaic of different native societies, including the Tockwoghs and Wicomisses. Early European settlers were greeted with the magnificent expanse of the Chesapeake Bay, the beautiful Chester and Sassafras Rivers, waters teeming with fish; myriads of waterfowl, mighty forests, and rich soil. Although much has changed since then, much

remains the same. The hallmarks of Kent County continue to be the Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries, and our rich farmland. These resources shaped much of our economy, culture and character and they continue to serve as the foundation of this Comprehensive Plan.

Kent County is located on the northern portion of the Delmarva Peninsula on the eastern side of the Chesapeake Bay directly opposite Baltimore. The County is bordered on the north by the Sassafras River, which separates it from Cecil County, and on the south by the Chester River, which separates it from Queen Anne's County. The western border is formed by the Chesapeake Bay, and the eastern boundary is formed by the Delaware State Line. The County has a total land area of 178,428 acres or approximately 281 square miles and has 79,006 acres of water within its boundaries. Five incorporated towns—Betterton, Chestertown, Galena, Millington, and Rock Hall—are located in Kent County. Chestertown is the County seat.

A railroad line runs from Chestertown north to Worton and eastward through the County to Delaware and points north. Both Maryland Route 213 (Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway) and U.S. Route 301 cross the County in a generally north-south direction. These highways are parts of the main connection to the Baltimore-Washington area by way of the Bay Bridge and U.S. Route 40 and Interstate 95.

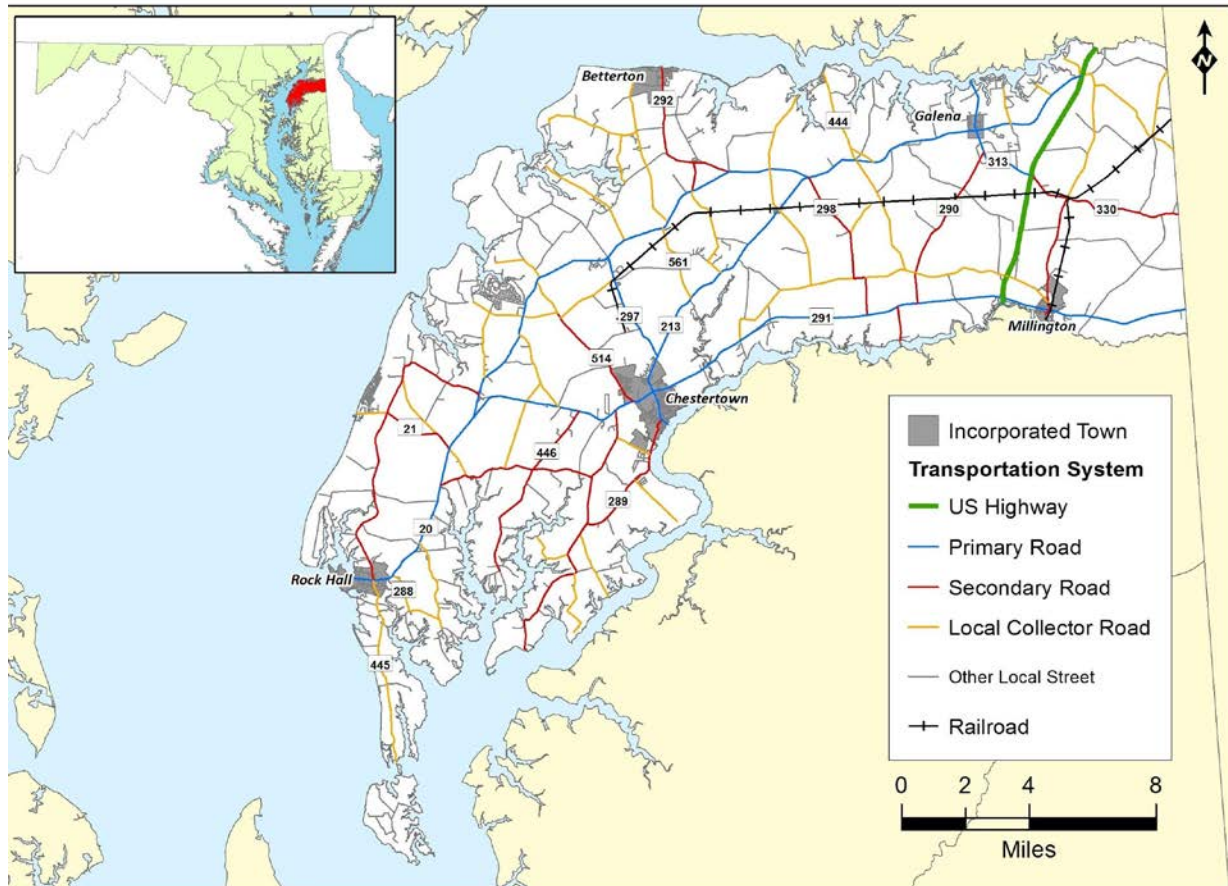
The County's Priority Preservation Area (PPA) comprises the majority of the County's "resource lands," which are defined as any parcel in the Agricultural Zoning District (AZD) or Resource Conservation District (RCD). In drafting the initial Priority Preservation Area Element that was adopted in April of 2010 and incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan, the total area of resource lands was calculated using the assessment data in MdProperty View 2008. The total land of the County is 179,840 acres, and 149,555 acres are within the PPA. For the purposes of the PPA, a parcel over 20 acres is considered a farm and parcels less than 20 acres are considered developed. Parcels less than 20 acres accounted for 6,630 acres within the PPA and 142,925 acres were considered undeveloped. The goal to preserve at least eighty percent (80%) of this remaining undeveloped land within the PPA through easements and zoning translates to approximately 114,340 acres.

Based on the acreage calculated for the Comprehensive Plan's Priority Preservation Area (PPA) Element, there is now 33.99% of the undeveloped portion of the PPA protected through conservation easements. Since the 1970s when the first easements were donated to the Maryland Environmental Trust through the 2016 MALPF settlements, more than 38,800 acres of private land has been placed under some type of conservation easement.

During the calendar years of 2014 through 2016, a total of two (2) parcels were recorded within the PPA that are less than 20 acres, resulting in an additional 8-acres of developed land within the PPA equating to 0.007% of the total PPA. Therefore, since 2008 a cumulative total of 64.334 acres of the PPA has been developed. However, from July 2014 through July of 2017 there were 2,064-acres preserved by perpetual easements (1.7% of the total PPA). A map of all protected lands in Kent County is attached.

Interest in the program continues to remain high and has accelerated. Kent County elected to retain the Agricultural Land Preservation District component as a local condition for County eligibility in the easement application process. As of May 2018, there are 47 County Agricultural Land Preservation District Agreements recorded by landowners seeking to sell an easement to the Foundation, an increase of 42% over the number of Districts in 2014. With MALPF only accepting applications every other year, the creation of Districts has outpaced the settlement of easements.

Map 1-1 Regional Context



Source: Kent County Department of Planning, Housing and Zoning. Map prepared October 2017.
This map was developed in color. Reproduction in B/W may not represent the data as intended.

The Development Pattern

The early development of Kent County was devoted almost exclusively to the conversion of wooded land to agricultural use. Several early settlements were established on waterways as shipping points for agricultural products. These settlements grew into the towns of Chestertown on the Chester River, Rock Hall on the Bay, and Georgetown and Betterton on the Sassafras River. Betterton later grew more as a resort center than as a trade center or shipping point. As more land was converted to agriculture, small trading communities formed in the central County at crossroads, or later where roads crossed the Pennsylvania Railroad. Galena, Still Pond, and Fairlee are examples of the former; Massey, Kennedyville and Worton grew up at railroad crossings. Rock Hall with a good harbor off the Bay grew as a center for fishing and boat building.

Millington grew around a grain mill near the headwaters of the Chester River. Chestertown developed as the center for the County and later home to Washington College and some agriculture-related industries.

In addition to the residences clustered around the towns, small groups of houses grew in isolated locations originally in strips along existing roads and later in subdivisions. Some of these were occupied by farm workers, but an increasing number were occupied by families supported by jobs in the towns. The scattered pattern of rural, non-farm residences is supplemented by a substantial number of dwellings along the waterfront. This scattered pattern of development continued as Kent County's population began to increase and the interest in vacation and retirement homes increased. In particular, the number of waterfront and rural subdivisions increased. The desire for large rural lots increased with the desire for second homes. (See table of Kent County Land Use in Acres)

Main elements of the commercial pattern are located in the towns and along the highways on the outskirts of the towns. Other small spots of commerce are located along highways or at crossroads in outlying areas. Most industry is also located near the towns and villages. Larger public and semi-public uses include the country club golf courses near Chestertown and at Great Oak on Fairlee Creek, Worton Park, Betterton Beach, Turners Creek Park, and the four wildlife reservations: the federal area on Eastern Neck Island, the two State areas – Sassafras Natural Resources Management area and the Millington Wildlife Management Area and Chesapeake Farms, a private demonstration area on the west fork of Langford Creek.

Land Use/Land Cover data from the Maryland Department of Planning is shown in Table 2-1. There have been no changes since the last LPPRP. Between 2002 and 2010, the County saw an 8% increase in developed lands but only a 0.7% decrease in resource lands. Overall, the County has been successful in encouraging development in areas where it is appropriate and out of the countryside.

Table 1-1: Land Use/Land Cover Data

	<i>Land Use in Acres</i>		<i>Land Use Change</i>	
	<i>2002³</i>	<i>2010²</i>	<i>2002-2010</i>	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Very Low Density Residential ¹	3,681	4,184	503	13.7%
Low Density Residential	6,096	6,371	275	4.5%
Medium Density Residential	1,987	2,128	141	7.1%
High Density Residential	165	227	62	37.9%
Commercial	887	994	107	12.1%
Industrial	38	38	0	0.0%
Other Developed Lands/ Institutional/Transportation ¹	1,465	1,518	53	3.6%
Total Developed Lands⁴	14,319	15,460	1,141	8.0%
Agriculture	117,228	116,526	-702	-0.6%

Forest	42,460	41,997	-464	-1.1%
Extractive/Barren/Bare	49	49	0	0.0%
Wetland	4,372	4,397	24	0.6%
Total Resource Lands⁴	164,109	162,968	-1,141	-0.7%

Total Land	178,428	178,428
Water	79,006	79,006

1. Two new categories have been added to the 2010 Land Use/Land Cover layer update; very low density residential development (191,192) and transportation (80).
2. Updates/modifications to the 2010 land use/land cover layers used the 2007 NAIP aerial imagery and parcel information from Maryland Property View 2008.
3. The original 2002 data were mapped using geo-rectified LANDSAT satellite imagery and 2000 MdProperty View. In 2010 two new land use categories were added, transportation and very low density residential making it necessary to modify the 2002 land use/land cover layer to incorporate these categories for comparative purposes. Additionally, better imagery and property data information were used to make further modifications. The enhanced 2002 dataset is available upon request.
4. As noted above, new land use categories were added in 2010 and associated adjustments were made to 2002 data. Similar adjustments were not made to 1973 data, making it impossible to know how much change from 1973 is due to new development since then, versus misclassified land uses at that time. For these reasons, we suggest reliance only on change statistics for the aggregate land use categories, Total Developed and Total Resource Lands.

Source: Maryland Department of Planning, Land Use/Land Cover (with one change: 213 acres was subtracted from 2010 Very Low Density Residential and added to 2010 Agriculture to correct for a parcel that was mistakenly identified as being developed.

Natural Features

Located in the Atlantic Coastal Plain, Kent County is comparatively low-lying, with relief seldom exceeding 80 feet. The eastern and central portions of the County are characterized by a broad, gently rolling plain; the northwestern section is deeply incised by streams. These streams have steep banks along their shorelines and in some cases bluffs 20 to 80 feet high. The character of the southwestern portion of the County is one of flat plains and terraces sloping toward the water.

Kent County is underlain by deposits of sand, clay, sandy clay and silt, greensand, and marls resting on crystalline rocks. These rocks slope to the south and southeast at the rate of 60-150 feet per mile. The depth of the Coastal Plain sediments ranges from 900 feet in the northeastern portion to 2,200 feet in the southeastern portion.

Soils

The open, flat expanses of rich fertile soil that blankets the County is a gift of immeasurable value. Approximately 57% of the County is defined as prime farmland as compared with 23% of Maryland as a whole. The County has some of the best farmland in the United States and this combined with the proximity to a variety of markets makes Kent County an ideal location for agribusinesses to thrive.

Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources

The natural resources important to Kent County are clean air, prime agricultural land, tidal marshes, non-tidal wetlands, woodlands, large forests, ground water, the Chesapeake Bay, the Chester River, the Sassafras River and their tributaries, ponds, mineral resources, landscapes of agriculture, waterfront, open space, historic sites, dark nighttime skies and a peaceful, unhurried atmosphere.

The County also values its diverse ecosystems. We have hedgerows, cropped fields, shorelines, meadows, forests, wetlands, submerged aquatic vegetation, and other plants. The varied wildlife includes deer, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians, waterfowl, game birds, songbirds, colonial nesting water birds, raptors, fish, crabs, and many species of shellfish.

The Chesapeake Bay, Chester and Sassafras Rivers and their major tributaries are the most significant water bodies in the County. Kent is in the Upper Eastern Shore Watershed which may be divided into the Sassafras, Still Pond/Fairlee, Langford, Lower Chester, Middle Chester, and Upper Chester sub-watersheds. Each of these sub-watersheds has a diverse assemblage of sensitive species, wetlands, forest, and other significant habitat areas.

Kent County is one of the oldest working landscapes in North America and one of the last intact colonial and early American landscapes anywhere. Archeological sites, historic buildings, old churches, and traditional landscapes are all evidence of Kent County's long and significant history. These historic sites and structures remind us of our cultural richness and provide a reassuring sense of time and place. The importance of these resources has been recognized by the State and federal governments through the designation of Maryland Routes 213, 20, and a portion of 445 as a National Scenic Byway and the inclusion of the majority of the County in the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area.

D. Demographic Characteristics of Kent County

Kent County continues to have the lowest population of any County in Maryland. At the last U.S. Census in 2010, the County's population of 20,197 represented approximately a 5% increase since 2000. This growth rate is significantly lower than nearby counties and the State. Although it was previously projected to continue to slowly increase, the opposite has occurred. Current projections show a decrease in total population as reflected below in Table 1-2.

Table 1-2: Population

	2000 Census	2010 Census	2016 Projection	Percent Change 2010-2016
State of Maryland	5,296,486	5,773,552	6,016,447	4.2
Kent County	19,197	20,197	19,730	-2.3

Betterton	376	345	324	-6.1
Chestertown	4796	5,252	5080	-3.3
Galena	428	612	594	-2.9
Millington	416	642	572	-10.9
Rock Hall	1396	1,310	1298	-.9

Source: MD Department of Planning, Projections and State Data Center, July 2016

Most of Kent County's population in 2010 (60%) lived outside its incorporated municipalities and this is anticipated to continue. Chestertown is the largest municipality with 26% of County residents living within its boundaries. The four remaining jurisdictions accounted for 14% of the County's total population. Kent County's population continues to reflect an out-migration of young adults and an in-migration of older age groups, especially those of retirement age. Since 1997, there has been a slow but steady decline in the number of school-age children, while the number of citizens over 60 has continued to increase. In 2000, the median age for the County was 41.3 years compared to 36 years for the entire State, and in 2010 the median age was 45.6 compared to 38 years for the State. Over 21% of the County's population was over 65 years old compared to almost 18% for the State. This trend has continued, and notably, the over 65 population is projected to increase to over 35% as shown below in Table 1-3.

Table 1-3: Population Projections by Age

Age	2010		2020		2030	
	Pop.	%	Pop.	%	Pop.	%
0-19	4,440	22.0	4,188	20.80	3,839	17.4
20-64	11,360	56.3	10,935	54.5	10,503	47.5
65+	4,400	21.7	4,933	24.7	7,765	35.1
Total	20,200		20,056		22,107	

Source: MD Department of Planning, Projections and State Data Center, July 2016

Other demographic characteristics of Kent County's population include a decline in the population of Black/African Americans and increases in the White and Hispanic subgroups.

Child, Family and Household Demographics

The percentage of the population under the age of 20 only represents 21.3% of the total population, but more than 3 in 10 of these children live in households that are headed by a single parent and more than half are eligible to receive Free/Reduced Meals. For many Kent families, financial stability is a significant concern. The unemployment rate in Kent, at 4.2% is slightly higher than the State of Maryland's 4.0%. Median household income is \$55,028 (significantly less than the state median household income of \$76,067) and 31.5% of residents' community outside the county for work. The median rent in Kent County is \$894 and 57% of renters pay 30% or more of their gross income for housing. Many more minorities live in poverty than whites, with 90.8% of low-income residents identifying as black, Hispanic or two or more races.

E. Comprehensive Plan Framework

The Kent County Comprehensive Plan is the official policy document for the County. The current Plan identifies the following guiding principles that will serve as a guide to decision making in the future:

- A diverse, stable economy that provides economic opportunities for all our citizens is essential to a healthy and balanced community.
- Stewardship of our lands and waters is a universal ethic.
The County is committed to supporting agriculture and promoting working landscapes.
- Preservation of our cultural, historic and archeological resources is essential to maintaining our sense of place.
In order to preserve the County's unique quality of life, growth is planned to occur slowly and deliberately at a manageable rate which does not exceed the County's historic growth rate.
- Growth will occur in limited and specific locations in a way that complements and enhances each community's character. These locations will be a result of mutually agreed upon boundaries established by working with existing communities.
- Elements necessary to enrich the lives of our citizens and sustain a healthy community include a high-quality system of public and private schools, opportunities for recreation and cultural activities, effective transportation systems, a variety of housing types, and a safe and healthy environment.

The Comprehensive Plan establishes goals and strategies to achieve the vision for Kent County's future. The Comprehensive Plan addresses the following eight chapters:

- Economy
- Towns and Villages
- Countryside
- Environment
- Housing
- Transportation
- Community Facilities and Public Services
- Historic and Cultural Preservation

The goals for each of these areas describe the County's policy. Efforts to achieve and maintain the County's goals are continuous and ongoing. Land preservation, parks and recreation, the basis for the LPPRP, are noted in several of these areas and will be discussed in more detail further in this document.

Data Development and Data Sharing

While Kent County relies heavily on geospatial data produced by the State, the County is willing to share any of the data generated for use in this plan, such as projected lands and parks and amenities. ArcGIS Shapefiles will be included with the final submission of the Plan. Data is always available upon request.

Chapter II: Recreation, Parks and Open Space

This chapter describes and identifies Kent County's goals, objectives and strategies for recreation, parks and open space. It will demonstrate how they support the County's Comprehensive Plan, the State of Maryland's goals and objectives and the future needs and priorities of recreation, parks and open space in Kent County.

Introduction

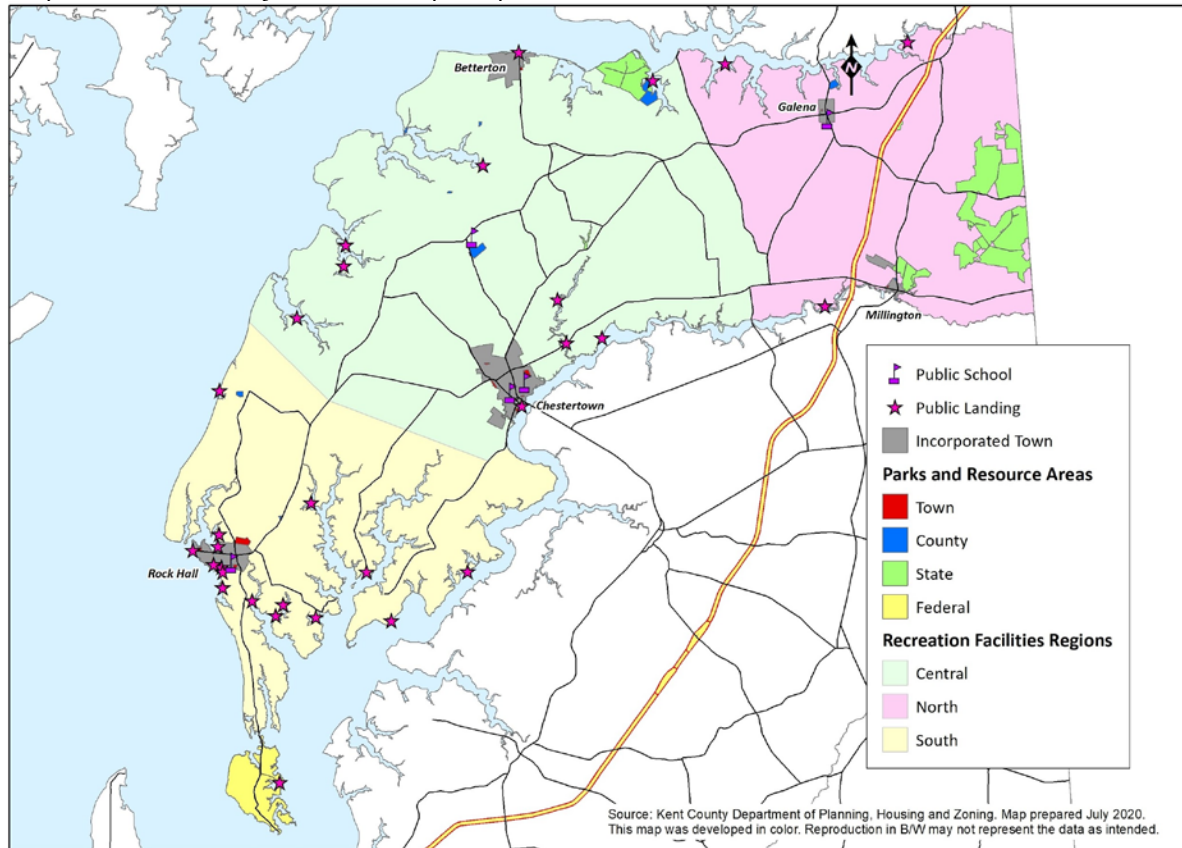
Kent County has an abundance of natural areas including the Chesapeake Bay, the Chester and Sassafras rivers, wetlands, and forests. These natural areas provide many Kent County residents and visitors with a wide variety of recreational opportunities and access to nature. Spaces for recreation range from large natural resource areas to small neighborhood parks to historic and cultural structures, sites. Kent County's natural area also play a key role in resource-based employment and are an economic driver for the County. In addition, non-resource-based and historic/cultural-based recreational opportunities are available through a variety of programs offered by the Kent County Department of Parks and Recreation, incorporated towns, villages, special interest groups and other organizations.

Kent County is committed to providing diverse recreational opportunities and experiences that meet both individual and community needs. It is important that the County provides open spaces and recreation and fosters in-town and village recreational opportunities. The commitment to recreational facilities and programming will enable a viable recreation network that provides focal points for community activity and pride as well as for attracting visitors and prospective residents.

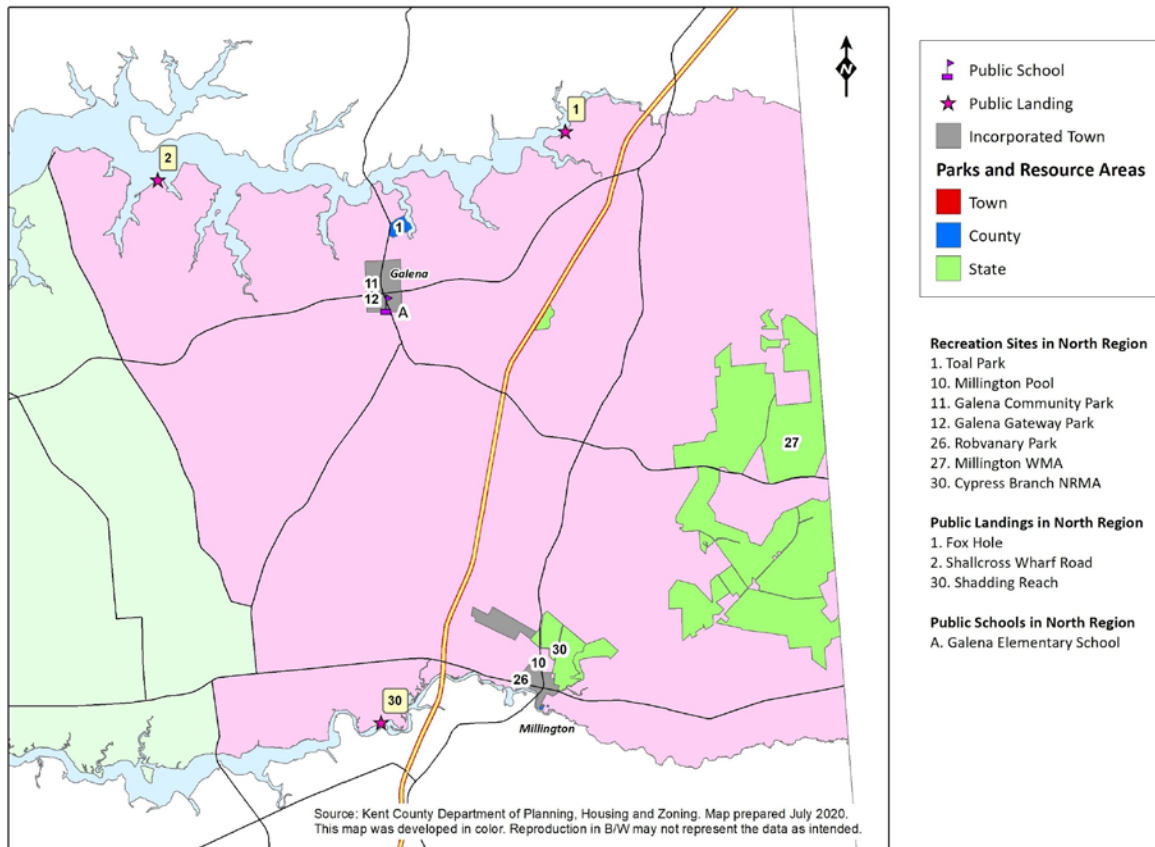
County Parks and Recreation System

Kent County has a diversity of parks, recreation, and open spaces. Neighborhood parks are found in the municipalities, designed to serve local populations and attract visitors. Community parks that are larger in size are located throughout the County and provide a more diverse set of opportunities to reflect the broader population served. Worton Park is the County's primary regional park and is geographically located in the center of the County. It is home to the Kent County Community Center and adjacent to Kent County High School. Additional school facilities throughout the County provide recreational opportunities as well. Additionally, natural resources and preserved lands are an important component to the County's park and recreation system. Map 2-1 below illustrates the location of County Parks, public school recreation sites, town parks, and State properties. Maps 2-1a,b,c show the county displays the county by regions for ease of analysis.

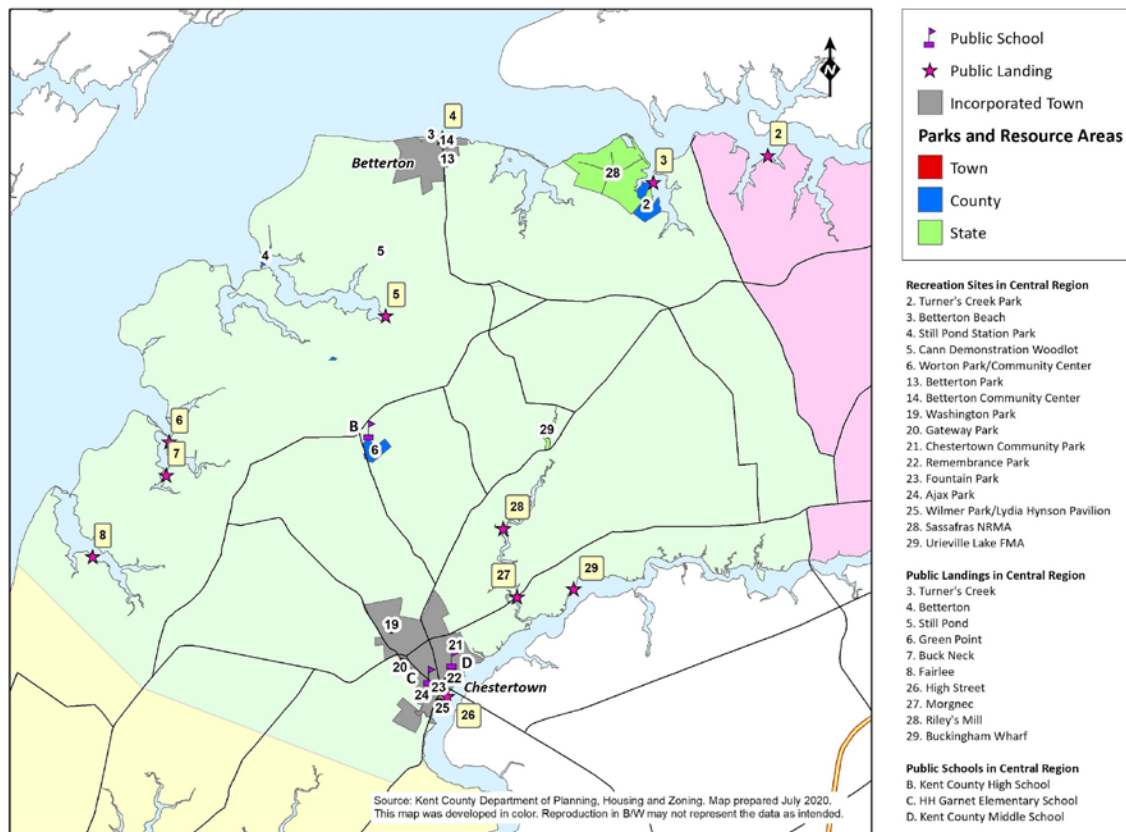
Map 2-1: Kent County Parks and Open Spaces



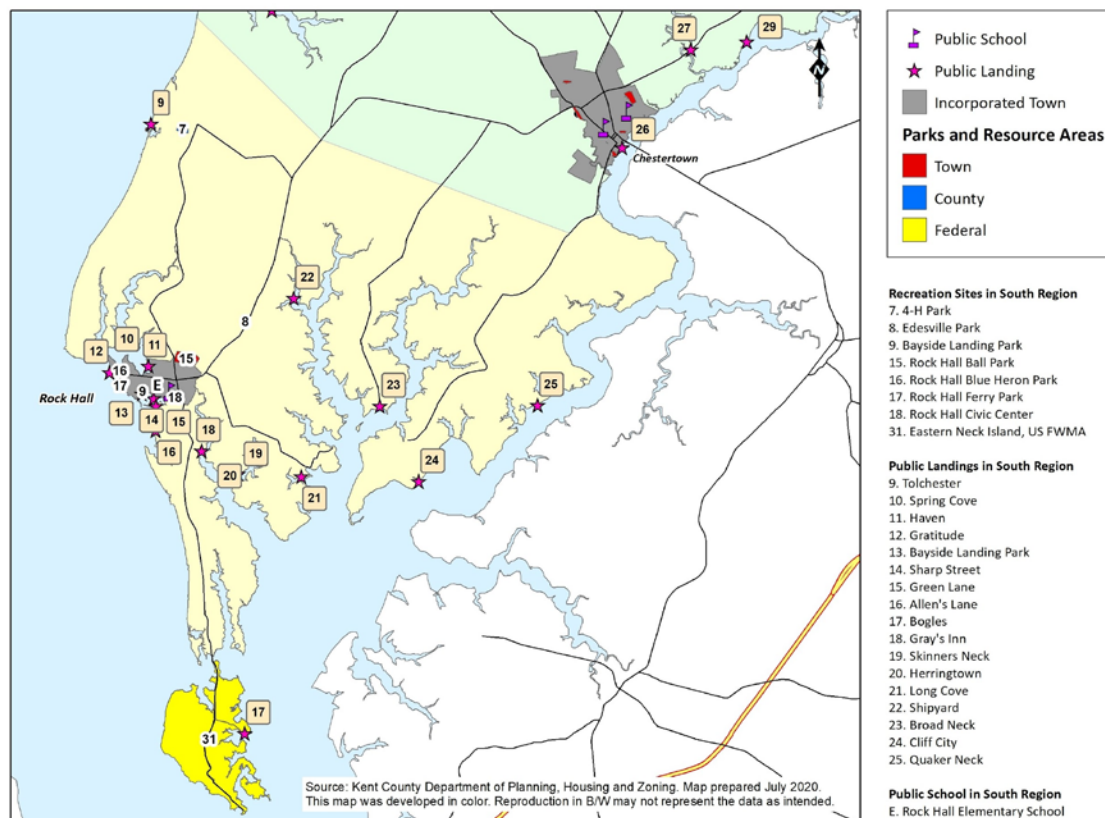
Map 2-1a: Kent County North Region



Map 2-1b Kent County Central Region



Map 2-1c Kent County South Region



A. County Parks and Recreation Program

County Goals

Kent County has established its goals and strategies based on the overall County comprehensive planning process as well as on state and national goals for recreation and parks. In addition, this plan is based on an analysis of the County's inventory of existing recreation facilities and activities, demand factors obtained from community input from review of Kent County Parks and Recreation usage data, public surveys and meetings. Also taken into consideration is the national and state trends in parks and open space as well as recreation usage.

The LPPRP Goals are also reflected in the most recent Kent County Comprehensive Plan. The goals and strategies reflected below support the Department's mission statement and are important to guide the ongoing work of the department. They have been carried forward with refinements, from the 2012 LPPRP.

County Goal	Strategies
1. Enhance existing and provide new recreational programs to meet the recreational needs of all county residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provide and promote recreational programs● Seek funding to ensure program stability● Promote cooperation among recreation-related agencies
2. Provide for the varied recreational needs and interest of citizens and visitors in Kent County by developing and enhancing facilities throughout the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Promote multiple use of existing facilities to more effectively serve community needs● Focus on development of recreational facilities in towns and villages● Promote sporting facilities● Seek funding to establish hiking, biking, kayak, canoe, and horseback trails throughout the county
3. Enhance and promote the preservation and recreational use of public open space and natural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Establish a Greenways Program● Coordinate development of public parks and open spaces with other natural resource protection programs● Improve public access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries● Assure that the amount of and amenities for public open space keeps pace with changing needs in the demographics of the population

The Kent County Goals align with the State goals as follows:

State Goal	Complementary County Goals/Strategies
1. Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily available to all citizens and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.	County Goals 1&2 1) Enhance recreational programs to meet demand of county residents and 2) which meet the needs and interest of citizens and visitors. Strategies to meet the goals include promoting cooperation among agencies to most effectively use existing facilities and to promote the development of facilities in towns
2. Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the State more desirable places to live, work, play and visit.	County Goals 1, 2 & 3 - 1) Enhance recreational programs to meet demand of county residents and 2) which meet the needs and interest of citizens and visitors 3) enhance and promote the preservation and recreational use of public open space and natural areas. In particular Kent County will continue to improve access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and assure that the amenities for public open space keeps pace with changing community need.
3. Use State investment in parks, recreation and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive/master plans.	Goal 3 - Kent County is committed to the preservation of agricultural and natural resource land and also recognizes the value of these lands for recreational use and is committed to the joint strategy of preservation and recreation working in tandem. Strategies include coordinating development of public parks and open spaces in conjunction with other resource protection programs and improving public access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.
4. To the greatest degree possible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile, and help to protect natural open spaces and resources.	Goal 2 & 3 - Focus on development of recreational facilities in towns and villages (Goal 2 strategy) and establishing a Greenways Program (Goal 3 strategy) to limit, to the extent possible, reliance on automobile transportation.
5. Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community park and facilities.	Goal 2 & 3 and supporting strategies which focus on multiple uses of existing facilities and preservation and recreational use of public open space and natural areas by supporting development of recreational facilities in towns and villages.
6. Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a Statewide level.	Goal 2 & 3 and supporting strategies which focus on multiple uses of existing facilities and preservation and recreational use of public open space and natural areas by supporting development of recreational facilities in towns and villages and by coordinating development of parks and open spaces with other natural resource protection programs.

The County's organizational framework for accomplishing the County's LPPRP goals includes identified programs, procedures and funding for recreation, parks and open space. The Kent County Commissioners have the ultimate authority and approval on all County programs, procedures and projects related to recreation, parks and open space. They solicit input and recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Department of Parks and Recreation, and from citizens of the County.

The County Commissioners appoint a 13-member Parks and Recreation Advisory Board that is responsible for developing a comprehensive program of public recreation. Representation on the Advisory Board includes two students who serve a one-year term; the remaining eleven members serve four-year terms and include the Directors of Parks and Recreation, and Public Works (or designees), as well as a County Commissioner. Additional members are appointed by the County Commissioners and are representative of the County's demographics. The Advisory Board, subject to budgetary policies, appropriations and approval of the County Commissioners, may initiate, adopt, direct or cause to be conducted or directed a program of public recreation in schools, parks or other lands or buildings, either publicly or privately owned. Further, it may develop, equip, operate, maintain and issue permits for use of any facilities made available to the Board and suggest to the County Commissioners charges where appropriate.

The mission of the Kent County Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide leadership in coordinating and conducting parks and recreation programs and activities for the maximum benefit of all citizens in Kent County, to maintain and develop to the utmost, the existing parks within the Kent County system, and to identify and expand for the future, new park land in the County. Creating balanced opportunities for its patrons to play, learn, and grow through its parks and programs remains a high priority for the department.

The Kent County Departments of Parks and Recreation and Public Works, jointly, are the only major providers of public recreational opportunities for citizens. The Director of Parks and Recreation oversees the Recreation Division. Comprising eight full time staff, the Recreation Division is responsible for coordinating and scheduling recreation programs and activities. The Director of Public Works oversees the Parks and Facilities Maintenance Division, with six full time staff. The Maintenance Division is responsible for preparation and maintenance of all County parks and recreation facilities. The Directors act as liaisons between the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the County Commissioners, and department staff.

The Parks and Facilities Maintenance Division is responsible for maintaining 12 County parks and three recreational facilities totaling more than 360 acres. These parks and facilities include playgrounds, athletic fields, ball diamonds, beaches, pools, natural areas, historic sites, forestry demonstration areas, picnic pavilions, restroom facilities, and other park amenities.

Public parks and recreational amenities offer numerous benefits to citizens that include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting environmental stewardship
- Quality environmental education opportunities
- Preserved habitats that support wildlife and plants
- Increased property values for properties near parks
- Employment and volunteer opportunities to youth, adults, and seniors
- Annual events that attract visitors impact the local economy
- Promotion of outdoor recreation (trails, hunting, fishing, biking, boating, etc.)

- Promotion of recreation and open space for the positive physical and mental health benefits
- Readily available recreational opportunities lead to more physical activity to improve overall health

The Recreation Division is responsible for providing a comprehensive array of programs and activities for all citizens of the County. It facilitates 10 youth sport programs and leagues, three adult leagues, elementary after school programs at school recreation centers, and summer day camp programs. It also coordinates classes for all age groups, such as tumbling, dance, art, line dancing, swimming, certification courses, and fitness and exercise. In addition, adult drop-in programs, such as basketball, tennis, pickleball and soccer, are organized by the Division.

In alignment with the state's efforts to encourage student understanding and stewardship of the environment through the Maryland Project Green Classrooms (formerly the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature) the Department also partners with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's Sassafras Environmental Education Center to provide outdoor nature and education programs to children, youth, and families. Echo Hill Outdoor School also supplements public school curricula by providing nature and environmental education experiential learning programs.

Other important areas for which the Recreation Division is responsible are specialized summer programs, such as the Leaders Club for 7th and 8th graders and Youth In Action for 5th and 6th graders. Both programs focus on using positive peer influences in a variety of educational, recreational and service-learning type activities that help develop and enhance self-esteem, decision making and problem-solving skills. These programs also include environmental stewardship components that enhance/support classroom learning/Project Green Classroom.

Finally, the Recreation Division partners with other community organizations in planning annual special events including a youth fishing derby, beach clean-up days, Easter egg hunt, Hall-O-Teen, and the Kent County High School post-prom party, plus trips according to citizens' interests.

An objective of the County is to provide recreational programming and facilities near existing towns and villages. However, pedestrian and vehicular access to recreational facilities for all County residents continues to be an area that needs improvement. Public transportation remains an ongoing discussion among County officials, municipalities and State elected officials, with the most recent request for support addressed in the annual transportation priorities letter to the State in April 2017. This includes trail and pedestrian priorities that align with both County and State LPPRP goals and are shown in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: Trail and Pedestrian Priorities in Kent's Transportation Plan

Construction, Engineering, and Project Planning
♦ Chester River Bridge Crossing (Chester River Boulevard)
♦ Rte. 291 Draining Improvements (Between Millington and Delaware State Line)
Streetscape
♦ Cypress St., Millington
♦ Rte. 298 and Rte. 297 Sidewalks, Drainage Improvements, Traffic Calming ▪ (Butlertown & Worton)
Trail and Pedestrian
♦ Sidewalks & Pedestrian Walkways (Flatland Rd.)
♦ Bike/Pedestrian Improvements to Water Trail (Rte. 298 to Radcliffe Creek)
♦ Rock Hall Trail System & Sidewalk Expansion Around Waterfront
♦ Addition of Bike Lanes During Resurfacing Projects

The projects noted above in Table 2-1 provide additional safe walking and biking opportunities in alignment with research noted later indicating that this type of recreation is the most desired across the state and nation.

Kent County Parks and Recreation also attempts to reduce transportation challenges by providing recreational programming at public schools, events and facilities throughout the County. In addition, youth leagues such as Kent County Youth Baseball and Kent County Youth Softball are scheduled at Worton Park, which is centrally located within the County. Kent County Parks and Recreation cooperates with other groups and organizations to provide transportation to recreational activities and childcare. The County continues discussions to pursue public transportation options through existing public transportation service providers such as Delmarva Community Transit, as well as welcome opportunities with a new transportation provider. For most residents of the municipalities in the County, parks are located within walking distance as indicated in the Proximity Analysis that appears later in this chapter.

The Kent County Board of Education and the Department of Parks and Recreation are proud to have a long-standing joint use agreement for school buildings and athletic field usage. Many collaborative programs and shared facility uses are offered between the two agencies. Primary use of the school facilities occurs from October through February with evening programs such as youth basketball. In addition, the Elementary After School Program is offered in all three County elementary schools to provide structured activities between school dismissal and 6:00 pm. During the summer, summer day camp participants have the option to attend the extended school year program in the morning at schools and on-site recreational activities in the afternoon at either park or school facilities.

Athletic fields at schools and parks are used by both the Board of Education and the Department of Parks and Recreation. The high school athletic teams utilize fields at Worton Park for practices, as well as the Community Center gymnasium for practices during inclement weather and when school facilities are in use for games. When school is not in session, Parks and Recreation uses the high school fields for games and practices. Part of the joint use agreement specifies shared maintenance of the fields.

Funding

The County funds its park and recreational programs from a variety of sources. The County's total Fiscal Year 2016 operating budget for parks and recreation was approximately \$1.3M; approximately \$900K for the Recreation Division and \$400K for the Parks Division.

Traditionally, funding for capital and development projects has been based primarily on Program Open Space yearly allocations and the County's required matching funds. The construction of the Community Center project in 2009 created the necessity for the County to seek creative funding alternatives. The formation of a public/private partnership and creation of the Authority Board, and now the Advisory Board, to undertake the Community Center and future projects demonstrates the County's commitment to development and capital projects. Future project funding options are anticipated through Program Open Space, additional State Bond Funding and private partnerships, depending on the nature of projects. The County's allocation from the Program Open Space Grant program has seen a decrease of approximately \$303K since Fiscal Years 2006-2011 when it totaled approximately \$1.1M compared to Fiscal Years 2012-2017 which totaled approximately \$742K.

Table 2-2: Kent County Program Open Space Apportionments, 2012 – 2017

Fiscal Year	Amount
2012	\$69,667
2013	\$286,946
2014	\$156,036
2015	\$86,369
2016	\$72,204
2017	\$71,341
Total	\$742,563

The Kent County Local Management Board for Children, Youth and Families has provided mini grants for various department programs. In addition, mini-grants from the Town of Chestertown, Mid-Shore Community Foundation, and the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association make it possible to enhance offerings. As annual funding opportunities are made available, the County will pursue additional awards. Recent awards for funding during Fiscal Years 2012 through 2016 included a junior golf program, youth swimming lessons, post prom party, and summer camp scholarships for more than 120 children.

The Kent County *Land Use Ordinance* requires the set aside of open space at a rate of 1/10 acre per lot or dwelling unit at the time of the subdivision. If the land is not of significant quality or size for the purpose of providing parks and recreational facilities, a developer may be permitted to pay a fee-in-lieu. The rate of payment is currently set at \$250 per lot or dwelling unit. Currently, the fund contains approximately \$30K which can be used for park land acquisition or facility development.

In addition to the maintenance of parks and facilities, the County's Public Works Department, through its Public Landings Division, is responsible for the operation, maintenance and funding of the County's 30 public landings. There are public landings located within three County waterfront parks: Turner's Creek, Betterton Beach and Bayside Landing. The Director of Public Works oversees the Landings Division and acts as a liaison between the Public Landings Advisory Board and the County Commissioners. The operational budget for Fiscal Year 2017 was approximately \$18K, which is a significant decrease from over \$38K in Fiscal Year 2012. Utilization of funding from the Waterway Improvement program has also seen a decrease since 2012 when it received nearly \$300,000 and 2017 when it received less than \$70,000.

Table 2-3: Waterway Improvement Grant Funding for Kent County Public Landings

Fiscal Year	Amount
2012	\$299,289
2013	\$12,624
2014	\$8,022
2015	\$111,808
2016	\$85,405
2017	\$69,517
Total	\$586,665

Community Conditions that Impact Parks and Recreation

Kent County is a rural county where population densities are low and travel by vehicle is required of most of the population. The County's population continues to decline and to age. The portion of the population over 65 is expected to continue to exceed that of youth under 19 years of age. Many residents continue to be challenged with unemployment and or low household incomes. A significant number of children are being raised in single-parent households or by other relatives.

The County is committed to providing parks and recreation services throughout the County. Municipalities also have an integral role in providing recreation facilities and services and the County will work with town officials and staff to assist in planning for recreation activities and parks and open space within town boundaries. Lower-income residents who cannot easily afford private or fee-based programming are provided important opportunities through both County and municipal public recreation and parks programming. The graying of the County's population will require greater focus on programming and park access that meets the needs of this segment of the population.

B. Inventory of Public Lands and Recreation Facilities

An inventory of existing public parks and recreation facilities is shown in Appendix A. The inventory includes publicly owned land by the County, municipalities, State government and federal government. The diversity of lands as shown in the amenity data for each location includes athletic fields and sport courts, swimming facilities, recreation centers, picnic facilities, playgrounds, trails and paths, and public landings/water access, and includes natural resources and agriculturally preserved lands. For locations of the parks and open space inventory see Map 2-1 and 2-1a through 2-1c on pages 12 - 13.

The County together with the Towns and the Board of Education provides 648.6 acres of local recreation land. This acreage comprises 365 acres of County parks and recreation lands, 27.8 acres in public landings, 122 acres (an increase from 83.4 acres) in the incorporated towns, and 135 acres of recreation lands at schools.

Regional Parks. Regional parks provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities including ball fields, field sports, boat ramps, picnic areas and playgrounds. The County has two regional parks. Worton Park and Community Center & Pool are located close to the geographic center of the County. Turner's Creek Park is located on the Sassafras River and is easily accessible from most parts of the County.

Community and Neighborhood Parks. The County's community and neighborhood parks, like the regional parks, provide a variety of recreational opportunities, but generally they serve smaller areas. The County has eight community parks and seven neighborhood parks that are spread throughout the County. Worton Park, Millington Pool and Bayside Landing have public swimming pools. Betterton Beach and Ferry Beach provide non-boating access to the Chesapeake Bay. Edesville Park and Rock Hall Ball Park have ball fields and playground equipment. In addition to County owned neighborhood parks, towns also provide access to green space, recreation areas, and playgrounds.

School Recreation Areas. School recreation areas comprise land at facilities owned by the Board of Education. As noted above, the Department of Parks and Recreation has use agreements with the Board permitting general public use of fields, gymnasiums, and other facilities at certain times. The school recreation areas are widely distributed and contribute significantly to recreation opportunities in the County.

Special Use Areas. The County has six special use areas that make important contributions to public recreation. The 4-H Park is available for special events and hosts the Kent County Fair every July. Blue Heron Park provides passive recreation in the form of a boardwalk out over a tidal marsh in the town of Rock Hall. The Town of Betterton's Community Center, is a former Catholic church refurbished as town offices and a museum, located on Main Street, and Chestertown's Remembrance Park features a walkway, landscaping and benches.

Water Access. There are 33 public landings in the County. Some are nothing more than a dirt ramp or the end of a road; some have cement ramps, restrooms, and rented slips. Public landings

provide access to most of the County's major creeks, the Chesapeake Bay, the Chester River and the Sassafras River. According to the most recent Kent County Comprehensive Plan, Kent County has many of the basic ingredients for becoming an important boating center due in part to these access points. Boating tourism can add significant benefits to the local economy. In particular, the upper reaches of the rivers, areas around Eastern Neck Island, and the County's many creeks provide unique opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, fishing, crabbing, rowing and other water-related activities.

State and Federal Land. State and federal recreation lands in Kent County total 7,603 acres and include 5,320 acres of state land and 2,283 acres of federal land and primarily fall into the category of resource land. There are no State or federal parks in the County. However, the State-owned Sassafras Natural Resource Management Area and the Millington Wildlife Management Area provide recreational opportunities while also serving as valuable resource lands. Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge also serves as more than a wildlife refuge. Walking trails and wildlife observation areas are available at all three locations and hunting is also allowed under certain circumstances. The County maintains two water access points at Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge – Bogles Wharf on the Chester River side of the island and Ingleside Recreation Area on the Chesapeake Bay side. See Appendix A-2 for the inventory of state and federal lands in Kent County.

Private/Quasi-Public Land and Facilities

Private/quasi-public lands make a significant contribution to recreational opportunities in Kent County. They include open space areas in subdivisions, marinas, golf courses, and Washington College. Most of the private/quasi-public organizations are fee-based for use of the facility but are vitally important for filling niche recreation needs that are not provided by the County.

Recent County Development Projects

As reported in the 2012 LPPRP, the County opened its first centrally located community center and swimming pool in 2010. Designed as a campus that makes use of existing infrastructure and recreational facilities, the Kent County Community Center and Pool is located in Worton adjacent to an elementary school, the County's only high school, and Worton Park. The County recognized the benefits of accessible recreational facilities to the physical and mental well-being of its citizens to improve the quality of life. It also recognized how such a facility promotes economic growth within the County. The community center is a major recreational facility, drawing patrons from within the County, neighboring counties, and the region. Registrations in its programs are routinely fully enrolled with waiting lists.



Playground Structure at Toal Park



Bayside Landing Park Pool

Photos: Kent County Parks & Recreation



Worton Park Multi-Purpose Field Photo: Kent County Parks and Recreation

Since the 2012 LPPRP, the County and municipalities have completed numerous other development projects through funding from the Department of Natural Resources Program Open Space Program and Community Parks and Playgrounds Program as well as with private donations and other funding sources.

Progress Toward Goals

The 2012 LPPRP contained the following specific priorities for enhancement and rehabilitation of existing parks and facilities (Column 1). Column 2 summarizes when and what enhancements and rehab projects were completed.

Enhancement and Rehabilitation	
Millington & Bayside Landing Pool updates/renovations	2014, ADA accessible pool chair lifts installed 2015 Facilities renovated
Betterton Beach restrooms renovation	2017 - Design phase completed, renovations scheduled for 2020.
Edesville Park restroom facilities added	Project currently on-hold. Timeframe to be determined during the 2022 LPPRP planning process
Public transportation to recreation facilities	2012 - 2013 Attempted partnership with Delmarva Community Transit to provide community stops for transport to the Worton Community Center. Low usage resulted in discontinuing the service after Summer 2013
Still Pond State Environmentally Sensitive Area Preservation Plan and public accessibility assessment	2016 - structures beyond repair demolished, plans for redevelopment include new picnic pavilion, restroom facility playground structure and swings. Property is open for unlimited public use.
Toal Park playground structure an athletic field enhancement	2015 - Playground installed
Turner's Creek Park granary rehabilitation/restoration, restroom addition	Stabilized to prevent further deterioration in 2010. Timeframe for granary restoration and restroom renovation TBD during 2022 LPPRP planning process.
Worton Park enhancements to include: athletic field development and enhancements renewable energy solar array Construction of maintenance facility, restroom facility, Walking path enhancements	2014 - 3 multi-purpose fields, fitness stations, picnic table/shelter combos, ball diamond improvements, other field improvements. 2016-playground safety surfacing improved, playground rehabbed, and ball diamond improved

In addition to projects completed at County owned parks and open space areas, several municipalities also completed significant recreational and parks development projects including:

Town of Chestertown

- Remembrance Park – This park was built in 2014 using DNR Community Parks and Playgrounds funding. It consists of oyster shell walking paths, permeable brick sidewalk, parking area, a wood pavilion, and a playground.
- Margo Bailey Community Park – A dog park has been installed, along with a demonstration rain garden, and an unofficial multi-purpose field.
- Wilmer Park – Funded through private donations, Broad Reach, consisting of a wave and sail shape fabricated from brushed stainless steel, is scheduled to be completed in September 2017.
- Gilcrest Rail Trail – An additional .6 mile of trail was added to the existing 1.2 mile trail in 2014.

Town of Millington

- Waterfront Park – This park is within the Town limits of Millington, however, it is located on the Queen Anne’s County side of Millington and is not included in the Kent County inventory, however it deserves mention because it is accessible to the residents of Millington who live within the Kent County boundaries. An additional 28 acres of land was recently acquired to expand the park to possibly include an open pavilion, fishing piers, and a walking trail.
- The State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources acquired a 250-acre property formerly known as the “Wick Property” on the northern part of Millington’s Town limits.

Town of Betterton

In early 2017 the Town of Betterton established a conceptual waterfront master plan, which included addressing the eroding bluff and shoreline along the Sassafras River. Restoration of shorelines is consistent with the stewardship and community engagement goals of the Chesapeake Bay program and enables Kent County to increase public access to the Bay, while effectively stabilizing shorelines to maintain more vital fish and wildlife habitat at the water’s edge.

C. User Demand and Participation

Public Engagement and Input

While local and national studies help document current use and suggest future trends, the most accurate indicator of local preferences and needs is from a local county resident perspective. The planning and development process of the Kent County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan has been conducted in a manner that involved citizens, boards, commissions, community organizations, and leagues. Kent County also conducted a series of public input sessions as a part of its comprehensive planning process. As documented in the most recent Comprehensive Plan, access to open space and recreational areas continues to be a goal of the County in response to citizen input. The Comprehensive Plan outlines goals that align with this LPPRP as well as

with municipality plans for the majority of incorporated towns. In addition, the Department of Parks and Recreation routinely solicits input from citizens who utilize County facilities. Input was also solicited specifically on the Draft Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan by the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board, Kent County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Kent County Sport League organizations, program participants, and the general public.

Kent County Parks and Recreation staff continues to conduct program surveys at the conclusion of each recreation program, activity, or event. The surveys include requests for ratings in marketing, registration, program organization and administration, staff and instructors' friendliness and knowledge, facility location and appearance, and overall evaluation of participant satisfaction. The surveys also include a section for additional comments for the specific program or in general for the Department. In addition, visitors of the Community Center are encouraged to submit suggestions or comments into a suggestion box located at the front desk. Another tool used to survey programs is the completion of a post program report by recreation staff at the conclusion of each program period. Information gathered from each of the survey methods provides direction for future programs, parks, and facilities.

With assistance from the Local Management Board, Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey (Appendix B), available online and in paper format, was conducted in March-April 2016. Although not scientific, and with less participation than desired, the results provide useful input into the LPPRP. The survey was hosted by Survey Monkey, an online survey firm. The survey was open for 30 days and was advertised in media resources, the Parks and Recreation newsletter, mass informational emails and contact lists, as well as a link on the homepage of the Parks and Recreation website.

A total of 36 responses were received. The largest number of responses came from residents of Chestertown (33%, 14/36). The remaining responses were spread fairly evenly across other municipalities in the county. The majority of respondents were female (68%, 23/36) and between the ages of 22 and 54 (86%). There were no respondents 21 or younger and only five respondents over 55. All respondents indicated that they have visited a Kent County Park in the past 12 months. Nearly 40% visit a park at least once per week and several respondents indicated they visit the park daily. The remaining respondents were split about equally between those who visit 1 - 2 times per month and those who attend irregularly. Among respondents, the most popular parks were Worton Park/Community Center, Betterton Beach, and Turners Creek Park & Landing. Nearly all respondents have been to Worton Park/Community Center in the last year.

Walking/running/hiking was the top outdoor interest/pursuit with 80% of respondents indicating that this was their top interest. Other interests included athletics/sports, playgrounds, and wildlife/nature access. Written response to a question about what respondents would like that are not currently available in Kent County parks, elicited several responses that camping and bike trails are interests not met at this time. In response to a similar question, respondents would like to see additional multi-use trails and indoor recreation/meeting facilities.

Responses to a question concerning what improvements are needed in existing parks overwhelmingly indicated that installation of bathrooms or improvements to existing bathrooms were a priority. Additionally, noted were improvements to ball fields.

National Trends Related to Recreation & Parks

According to the National Outdoor Participation Report, completed annually by the Outdoor Foundation in 2017, nearly half of all Americans participated in outdoor activities in 2016. This was a slight increase from 2015. The most popular outdoor fitness activities were running, and walking was popular not just for fitness but as a leisure pastime as well. (2017 Outdoor Participation Report, www.outdoorfoundation.org)

In addition, the 2017 Physical Activity Report from the Outdoor Industry Association indicated that the top five activity preferences were walking, hiking/backpacking, running/jogging, swimming outdoors, and visiting playground/nature play spaces. There was also growth in water-based recreation, particularly kayaking and paddle boarding.

Participation Information

Programs offered by Kent County Parks & Recreation (KCPR) typically fill to capacity with a waiting list. In response to this demand, over the period between 2014 and 2016 as indicated in Table 2-4, KCPR increased the number of programs offered by a total of 19 or 24% more than the 59 offered in 2014. Additionally, total participation increased by just under 25% as well.

Table 2-4 Total Recreation Programs & Participation

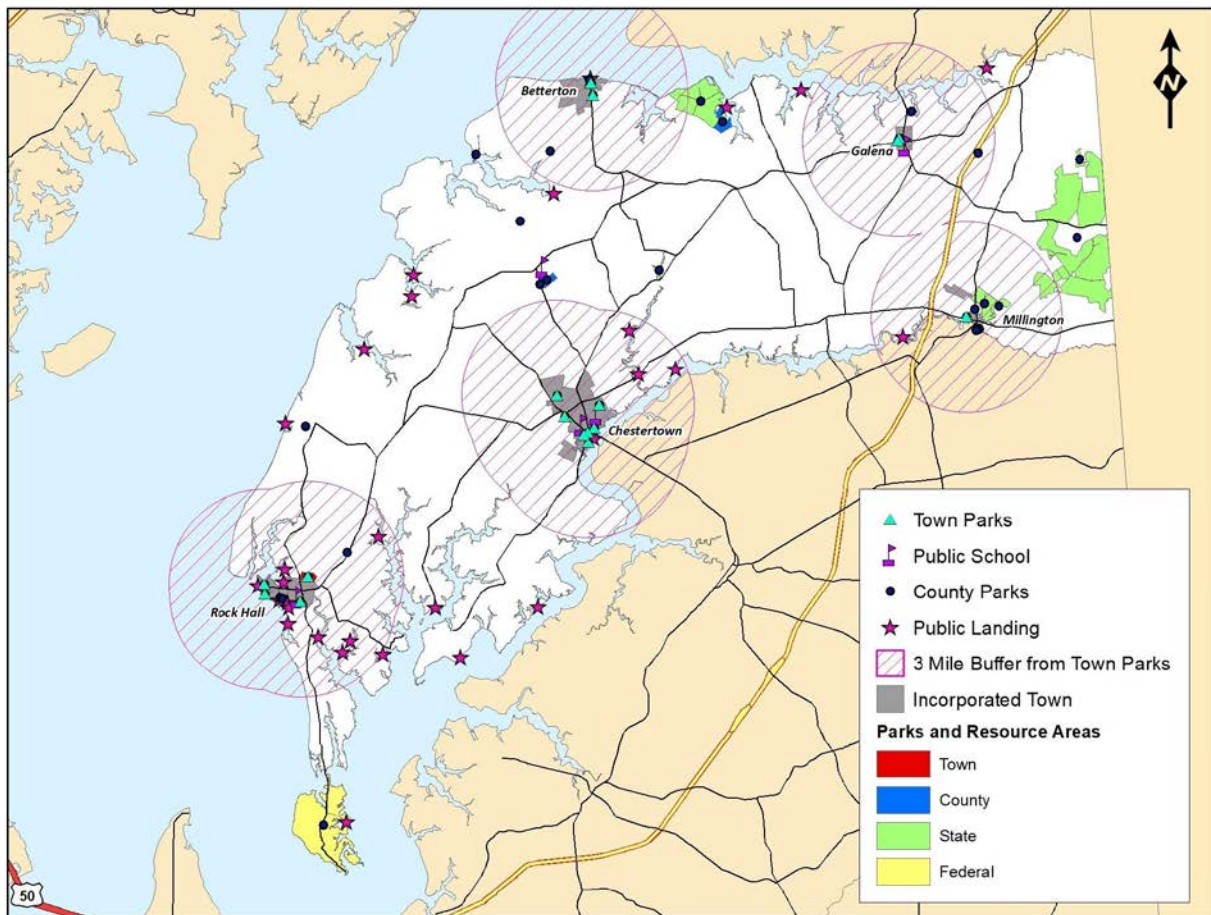
	2014	2015	2016
Total Programs	59	66	78
Total Participants	1,201	1,475	1,591

Source: Kent Co. Rec & Parks Database

D. Level of Service Analysis

Based on the previous long-standing State-default method for analysis of local recreational acreage, the goal required a minimum of 30 acres of recreational land per 1,000 residents. The County met this goal in 2000 and has maintained a surplus of recreational lands. As a result, the County enjoys the flexibility of using Program Open Space funding for either land acquisition or facility development and rehabilitation. As encouraged by the State, use of two additional metrics (proximity analysis and equity analysis) is introduced in the LPPRP to aid in determining allocation of resources to acquire and develop park and recreation areas.

Map 2-2 Proximity and Equity Analysis



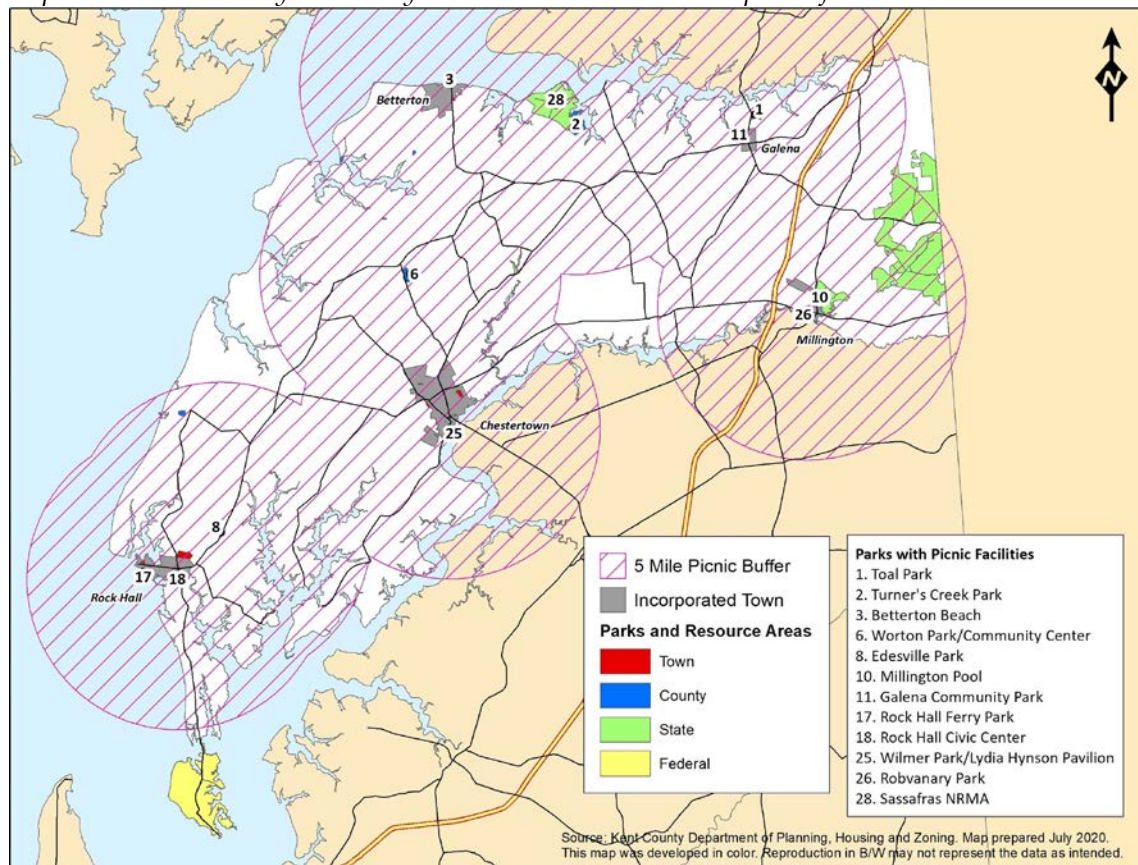
Source: Kent County Department of Planning, Housing and Zoning. Map prepared July 2020.
This map was developed in color. Reproduction in B/W may not represent the data as intended.

As demonstrated earlier on Map 2-1, the County's Parks and Recreation system reflects that public park space is well-distributed throughout the County. Additionally, Map 2-2 above, demonstrates that when a 3-mile overlay is added around each municipality, there is access to parks and recreational facilities in each area. The County's Comprehensive Plan has historically directed growth and population expansion to its incorporated towns and its villages. Not only has the County been successful in its consistency to implement its Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Ordinance in this regard, state initiatives such as Priority Funding Area and Septic Tiers have further directed population growth.

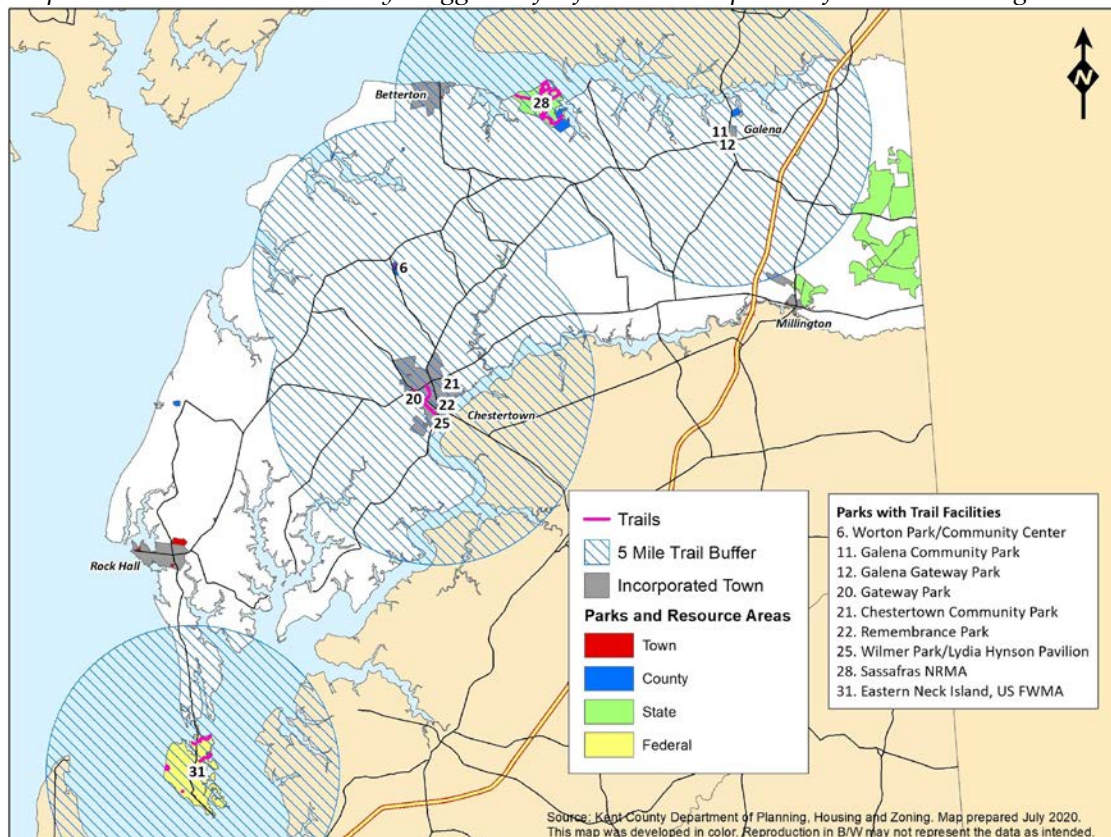
In 2000, approximately 39% of the County's population lived in the incorporated towns. The unincorporated villages also serve as small population centers. Rock Hall and Chestertown remain the major population centers in the County. Since 1980, Chestertown's population has increased by 45%. Galena's population is increasing; Betterton's population has remained stable, and Millington and Rock Hall have seen decreases. Each of these communities have parks and open spaces within their boundaries that are either county-owned (Betterton Beach and Millington Pool) or town owned and within walking distance for many residents (Remembrance Park, completed in 2014 using Program Open Space Community Parks & Playground funds). A review of each of the town's most recent comprehensive plans indicated that they have a commitment to providing open space and recreational facilities for their residents and the section on recent developments discussed earlier demonstrates that several are prioritizing open space and recreation in their development efforts.

Map 2-3 through Map 2-5 demonstrate the proximity of both population centers and rural development in relation to park amenities that include picnic facilities, trails, and water access using a five-mile radius for each amenity map. These amenities were chosen because picnic facilities are available at nearly all public parks. Both the local survey conducted, and state and national trend analysis demonstrate that walking/running/hiking have high participation currently and the desire for more and different trails is high. Kent County, through input into the development of its most recent Comprehensive Plan has identified boating as a premier activity in the county and that boating is both an activity many Kent residents participate in and that attracts visitors to the county. There is little data about how far rural consumers will travel for outdoor recreation. A 5 mile radius was used because [proximity research](#) shows that consumers will travel up to an average of 16 minutes for routine purchases. Taking into account average speeds in rural towns and on county roads, a 15 minute trip is about 5 - 7 miles. However, research also indicates that in developed areas consumers are most likely to choose fitness activities that are within 3-4 miles of their homes. The maps demonstrate for the most part, with the exception of the Northeastern (Millington) and Southern (Rock Hall) areas which are suggested to be in need of trails, amenities are well distributed throughout the County. The County will assess with these two municipalities a future plan for further development of trails. Although a specific timeframe has not yet been determined, it is anticipated that the deficiencies will be addressed and strategies identified during the 2022 LPPRP planning process. Town Administrators have expressed their appreciation for plans to engage municipalities on a higher level in the next Plan, and also to collaborate more with the County not only as it relates to parks and open space needs, but in general.

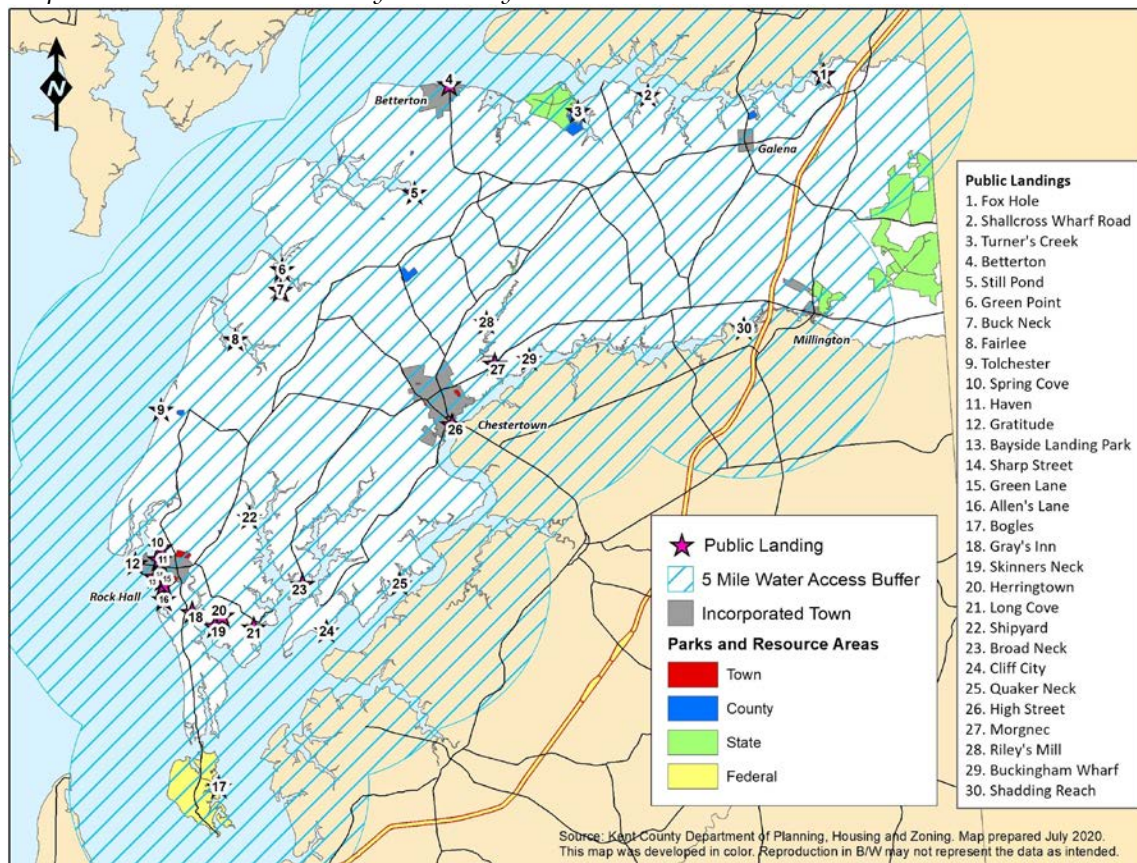
Map 2-3: Picnic Facility Proximity - well distributed access to picnic facilities



Map 2-4: Trail Access Proximity -suggested for future development of trails is Millington and Rock Hall



Map 2-5: Water Access Facility Proximity

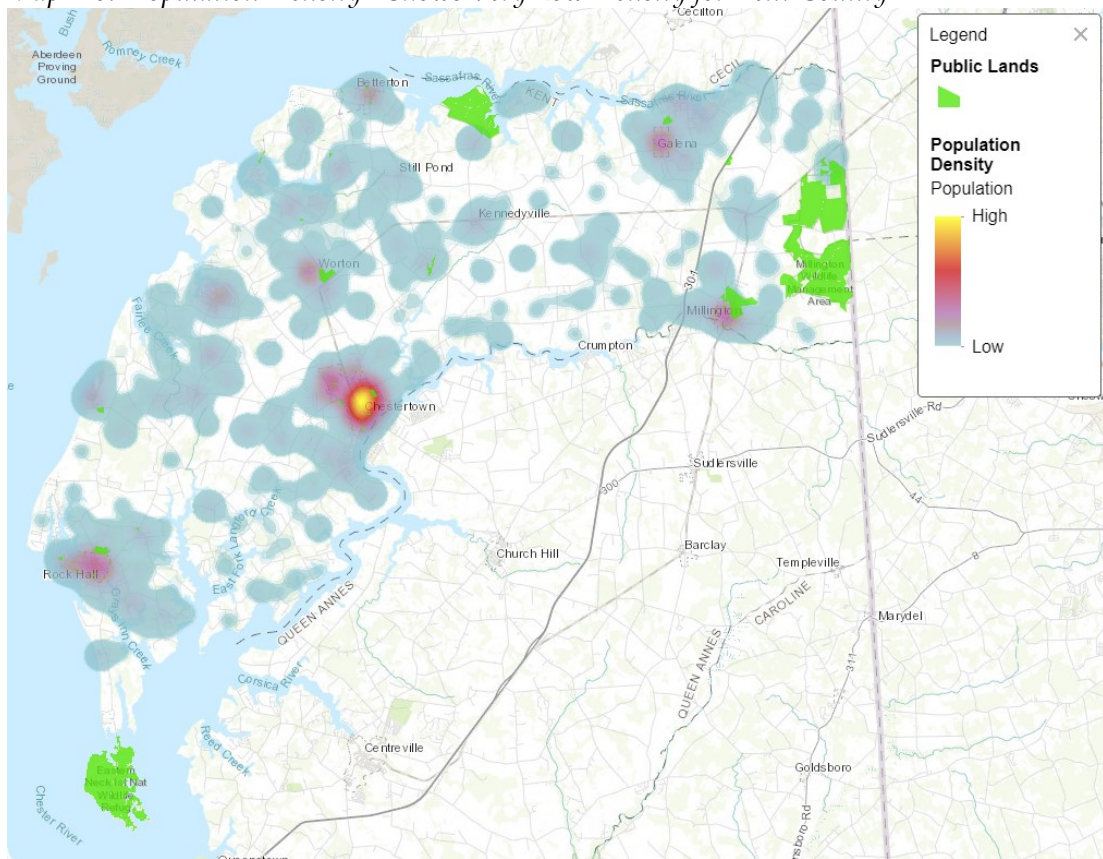


Proximity to a park or open space for those who do not have transportation is also a key component of a comprehensive parks and open space plan. Maps 2-6 and 2-7 demonstrate that while Kent's population is low density overall, those residents living within municipalities have access to parks/open space by walking or bicycling. A number of projects currently underway and noted earlier will increase access through pedestrian/bicycle trails, sidewalks and bike lanes.

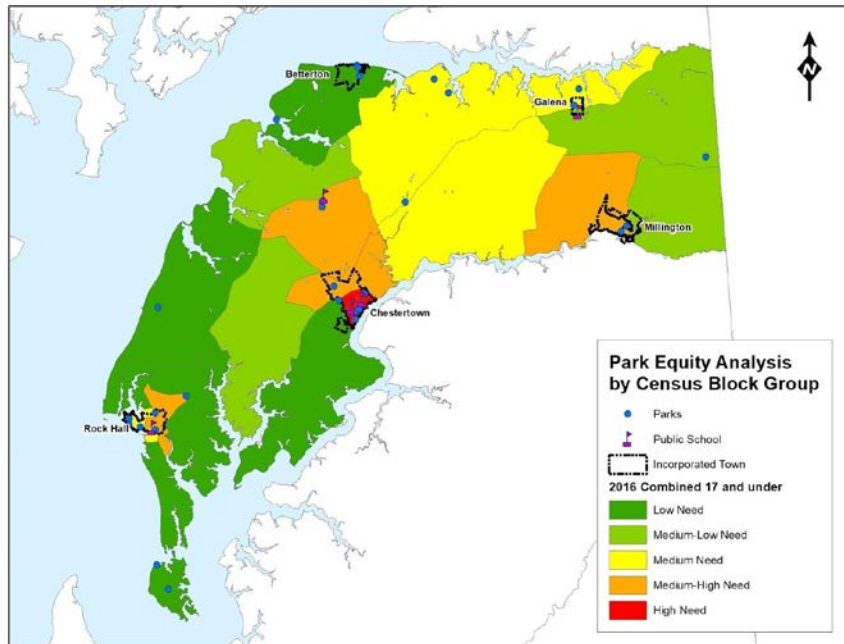
Park Equity Analysis

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provided a new tool for identifying population centers lacking access to parks and recreation facilities. The tool uses national, statewide, and local data to analyze levels of service for residents. Map 2-6 shows that Kent County overall is very low density. Maps 2-7 shows a Block Group of four combined layers: high population density, high concentration of children, high concentration of poverty, and access to public parks and natural areas. Kent County does not expect to see an increase in population through 2020; however, current projections anticipate an increase by 2030. This increase is projected to occur in the over 65 age group. While past trends demonstrate that the over 65 population uses recreation facilities in Kent County the least, national trends demonstrate that the active senior population has a desire for passive recreation like walking and would likely use these recreation amenities if provided. One of the areas identified for improvements in Kent County is access to walking trails and other pedestrian paths. As noted earlier, a primary goal in the 2022 LPPRP will be working with municipalities to address gaps in access to parks and open spaces, as related to municipal plans for open space and development of walking and cycling paths.

Map 2-6: Population Density - Shows Very Low Density for Kent County



Map 2-7: Park Equity



Source: Kent County Department of Planning, Housing and Zoning. Map prepared October 2017. Equity Analysis performed by Maryland DNR. This map was developed in color. Reproduction in B/W may not represent the data as intended.

E. Capital Improvement Priorities

The following Table 2-5 outlines Kent County Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement priorities over the next 5 years. Kent County's priorities over the next five years will be enhancement and rehabilitation of existing parks and facilities, as well as to continue addressing pedestrian access and public transportation to recreation facilities. These improvements are to continue to provide safe welcoming parks and facilities throughout the county. Some of the highlights include improvements at community pools, restroom renovations at beaches, and general improvements at county parks including ball diamond improvements and new signage. Longer range projects include restoration of the Granary at Turners Creek Park, a complete rehabilitation of Washington Park to include a pavilion and playground as well as a basketball court. Table 2-5 includes estimates for short-range through long-range priorities. The County's highest priority needs, not in order of priority, are shown on the next page.

Table 2-5: Development and Rehabilitation Projects

Project	Location	Descript. of Land Pres. & Recreation Recommendation	Estimated Cost	Acres to be Acquired	Estimated Short-Range (2017) Cost			Estimated Mid-Range (2021) Cost			Estimated Long-Range (2025) Cost		
					Acquis.	Capital Devel.	Rehab	Acquis.	Capital Devel.	Rehab	Acquis.	Capital Devel.	Rehab
Bayside Park Pool	21661	Video Surveillance System Install	5.3K	N/A			5.3K						
Betterton Beach Park	21610	Restroom Renovation/ Video Surveillance System Install	240K 5K	N/A					240K	5K			
County-wide		Park Entry Signs	9K	N/A			9K						
Edesville Park	21661	Restroom Facility	75K	N/A								75K	
Gilchrest Trail	21620	Trail Extension	50K	N/A						50K		500K	
Millington Park & Pool	21651	Video Surveillance System Install	5K	N/A			4K						
Still Pond Station Park	21678	Picnic Pavilion, Restroom, Playground Install	225K	N/A					225K				
Toal Park	21635	Ball Diamond Improvements/ Restroom Facility	12K 25k	N/A			12K		25K				
Turners Creek Park	21645	Granary Restoration	TBD	N/A									TBD
Turners Creek Park	21645	Restroom Renovation	80K	N/A									100K
Washington Park	21620	Pavilion / Playground, Basketball Court, Trail	250K	N/A						250K			
Wilmer Park	21620	Children's Playscape	150K	N/A			150K						
Worton Park	21678	Maintenance Facility	500K	N/A									

Worton Park	21678	Ball Diamond Improvements/ Video Surveillance System Install	68K 19K	N/A			87K						
Worton Park	21678	Parking Spaces/Picnic Tables	25k	N/A			25K						

Table 2-5: State Goals Met by Acquisition and Development Recommendations

Project	Short Range	Mid Range	Long Range	State Goal(s) Met (1-6)	Local Goal(s) Met (7-9)	Notes
Video Surveillance System Install	x			2,3,5	8,9	Each project meets several State and local goals. With regard to State goals, in addition to enhancing recreational opportunities which make the State and County more desirable places to live, work, and visit, each project considers convenience in accessibility for population centers and areas anticipated to grow, as well as being investments within neighborhood and community parks and facilities. Each project also complements infrastructure and existing public investments (i.e. schools and community centers). Local goals are met by each project by way of enhancing existing and new programs. Public/private partnerships will include, but not be limited to solicitations for restroom renovations, Granary restoration, athletic/ball field development, and walking trail/path projects. Facility uses will be varied and multiple uses of facilities will be fostered between agencies.
Restroom Renovation/ Video Surveillance System Install		x		2,3,4,5	8,9	
Restroom Facility			x	1,2,4,5	8	
Video Surveillance System Install	x			2,3,5	7,8	
Ball Diamond Improvements/ Restroom Facility	x			1,2,3,4,5	7,8	
Granary Restoration			x	1,2,5	7,8	
Restroom Renovation			x	1,2,4,5	8	
Maintenance Facility			x	2,5	8	
Ball Diamond Improvements/ Video Surveillance System Install	x			1,2,4,5	7,8	
Parking Spaces/Picnic Tables	x			1,2,4,5	7,8	
Picnic Pavilion, Restroom/ Playground Install		x		1,2,3,4,5	7,8	
Park Entry Signs	x				8,9	
Children's Playscape, Broad Reach	x			1,2,3,4,5	7,8	
Pavilion/Playground, Basketball Court/Trail		x		1,2,3,4,5	7,8	
Trail Extension		x		1,2,3,4,5	7,8,9	

Chapter III: Agricultural Land Preservation

This chapter presents Kent County's goals, policies, and implementation strategies to achieve State and County objectives in the preservation of agricultural land.

Executive Summary

Kent County is blessed with large, open, flat expanses of fertile soil that blanket the County, which is a gift of immeasurable value. The County has some of the best agricultural land in the United States, and its proximity to a variety of markets makes Kent County an ideal location for agribusiness to thrive. In addition to being an important component of the local economy, agriculture also provides a picturesque agrarian landscape, which contributes to the tourism industry and the overall quality of life for Kent County residents.

Agriculture remains the County's keystone land use and is the preferred land use for most of the County. It has served as the cultural foundation for the County and is planned to continue its important economic and cultural role. Kent County's economy builds on the traditional livelihoods of farming, fishing, forestry, and hunting associated with its working landscapes and natural areas. The 2006 Comprehensive Plan identifies economic development strategies which promote and support agriculture recognizing it as the County's primary land-based industry with substantial potential for additional growth. This policy recognizes agriculture's keystone role in the County's identity and culture and its significant economic contribution. Maintenance and growth of this industry will have significant and ongoing influence on the overall prosperity and identity of Kent County. Additionally, a new generation of farmers is materializing and investing in local agriculture. Agricultural support industries and suppliers are doing likewise.

The 2012 Census of Agriculture found that 133,201 acres, or 74% of the total land area, in Kent County is in farms. The total number of farms was 367, the average farm size was 363 acres, and the median farm size was 123 acres. The market value of production was \$112.25 million (up 31% from 2007). Crop sales accounted for \$78.3 million and livestock sales totaled \$33.8 million. The County consistently ranks near the top statewide for crop production and in 2012, ranked 2nd for corn production, 2nd for barley, 4th for wheat, and 5th for soybeans.

Not only does staff promote the traditional industry, but it also has been directly engaged in the support of burgeoning agricultural industries such as Chesapeake Fields (the 2002 value-added initiative), Chester River Microbrewery, and, Crow Vineyard. In 2014, county staff sat on the Governor's Intergovernmental Committee on Agriculture's Agritourism subcommittee and assisted in the drafting of a model definition and guidance for Agritourism in the State.

Protecting farmland and natural resources from development and encouraging growth in and around existing towns in the form of sustainable growth are fundamental goals of the Comprehensive Plan and *Land Use Ordinance*. The Comprehensive Plan emphasizes the preservation of the County's rural character and agricultural resources. Agriculture is viewed as a permanent and preferred land use which is reflected in the goals and strategies within the current 2006 Comprehensive Plan and the regulations within the *Land Use Ordinance*.

On April 27, 2010, the County adopted a Priority Preservation Area Element that was incorporated as an Appendix to the 2006 Comprehensive Plan and likewise included in the 2017 Comprehensive Plan. Based on the acreage calculated for the Priority Preservation Area (PPA) Element, there is now 33.99% of the undeveloped portion of the PPA protected through conservation easements. Since the 1970s when the first easements were donated to the Maryland Environmental Trust, more than 38,800 acres of private land has been placed under some type of conservation easement.

Kent County has a strong agricultural community and participation in the various land preservation programs has been high. There is support at all levels to maintain a viable agricultural industry. Over 21% of the entire County is now protected by some type of easement, not including publicly owned lands.

The below table presents the total acreage of lands protected through the various land preservation programs in Kent County between 2012 and 2017. This reflects that the acreage of protected land grew by more than 4,269 acres, which is more than a 12% increase since 2012.

Table 3-1: Change in Preserved Land 2012 – 2017 (Acres)

Land Preservation Program	2012 (total acres)	2017 (total acres)	Increase (acres)
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)	16,947.32	19,085.41	2,138.10
Maryland Environmental Trust / Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (MET / ESLC)	12,300.52	12,541.68	241.16
The Conservation Fund /American Farmland Trust (TCF/AFT)	3,300	3,300	-
Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway	-	1,663.98	1,663.98
Rural Legacy	2,046.73	2,205.16	158.43
ESLC/ ACUB*	-	23.52	23.52
NRCS**	-	43.88	43.88
Total Preserved Lands	34,594.57	38,863.63	4,269.07

Compatible Use Buffer Program/Aberdeen Proving Ground

**ACUB = Army*

***NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service*

A. Agricultural Land Preservation Goals

Kent County's Agricultural Preservation Program is certified by the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, with the most recent recertification approved in 2018. The County recognizes the important economic role and other long-term benefits of agriculture and shares the State of Maryland's goals for farmland protection:

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

In accordance with these goals, Kent County continues to have one of the lowest rates of land conversion in Maryland. Since the County's initial certification of its Agricultural Preservation Program in the Spring of 1997 and submission of the first report commencing in Fiscal Year 1998, only 1,506 acres have been converted during these past 20 years. This low rate of agricultural land conversion reflects a successful achievement in preservation of the County's agricultural land.

Kent County's 2017 Comprehensive Plan recognizes that agriculture is the keystone to Kent County's heritage and its future. Therefore, the Plan includes long-term goals and strategies that emphasize the preservation of the County's rural character and agricultural resources. Implementation of the Plan's goals and strategies is continuous and on-going. As articulated in the Comprehensive Plan, agriculture is viewed as a permanent and preferred land use for the majority of Kent County.

B. Current Implementation Program

Kent County recognizes that a successful farmland preservation program requires a comprehensive approach, which integrates a variety of techniques, promotes the purchase of farms by farmers, and minimizes the potential conflicts between farmers and their non-farm neighbors. The following describes the key elements of the program.

Land Use Management

Approximately 85% of the County is within the Priority Preservation Area and is considered to be outside the County's Designated Growth Areas. The County considers agriculture to be the preferred and primary use in the Agricultural Zoning District (AZD) and the Resource Conservation District (RCD), and the *Land Use Ordinance* limits the use of these lands for non-agricultural purposes. The base density in the AZD is 1 dwelling unit per 30 acres. Under certain limited and restrictive conditions, enclave developments are allowed at a density of 1 dwelling unit per 10 acres. The *Land Use Ordinance* also limits development in the AZD to 10% of the property and a maximum of two new lots fronting onto a public road. In the RCD, development is limited to 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres. Although the Planning Commission and Board of Appeals regularly consider the impact of development on scenic viewsheds, no formal guidelines have been adopted to evaluate or protect these viewsheds.

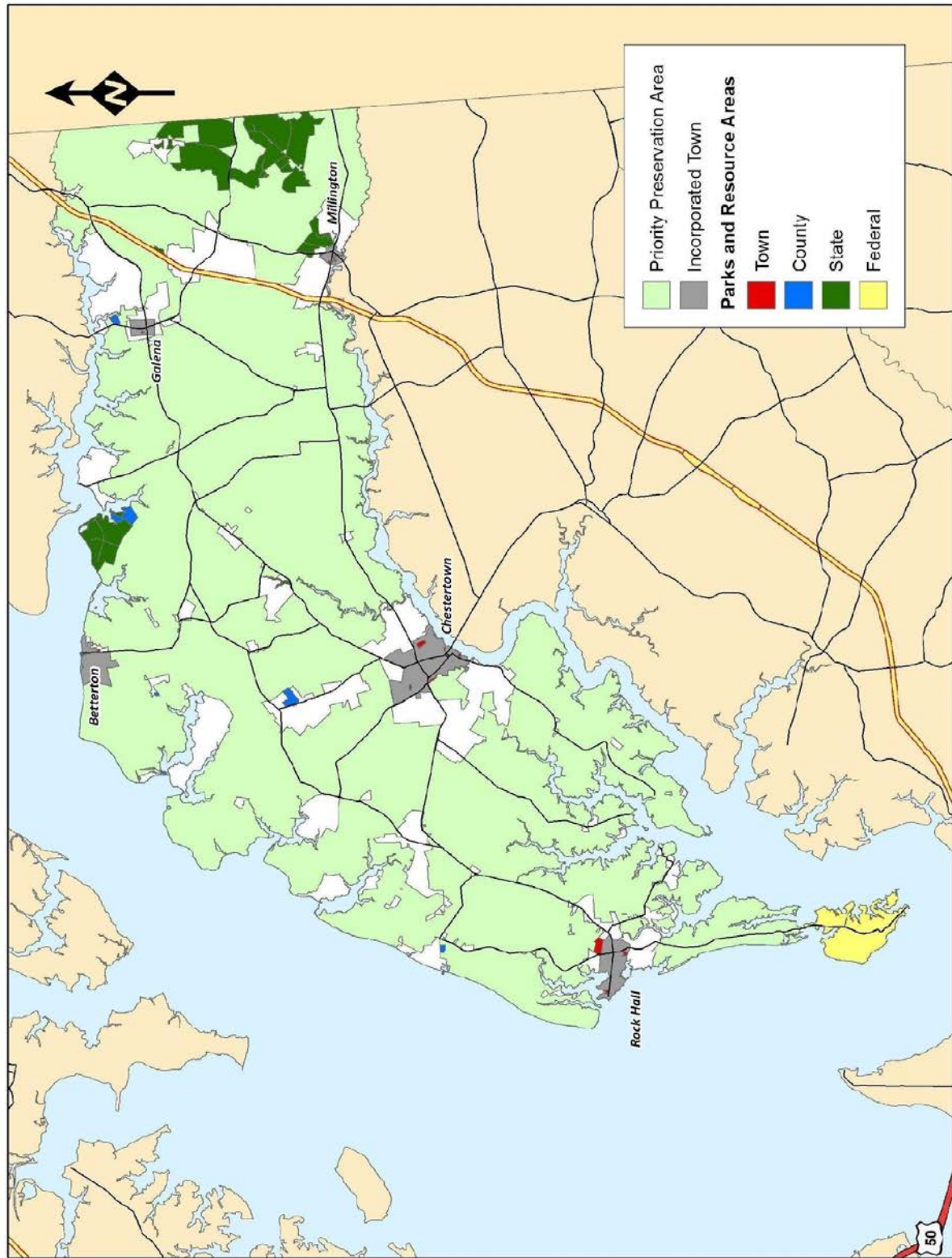
The Comprehensive Plan calls for investigating a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program. During the last comprehensive rezoning in 2002, the Planning Commission included a TDR Program in the draft Ordinance. However, the County Commissioners felt that the time was not right for implementing a TDR Program and asked the Planning Commission to remove it. In addition, no formal steps have been taken to actively reduce the number of undeveloped lots in the countryside.

In addition, the Plan calls for the County to adopt an "Economic Resource Bill of Rights" that includes the right to farm, the right to fish, and the right to hunt. The County first adopted a right to farm law in 1989. This law was revised and strengthened in 2004. The law limits the circumstances under which agricultural and forestry operations may be deemed a nuisance and established an Agricultural Resolution Board. The law also requires that a right to farm statement be added to subdivision plats where appropriate, contains a provision for notice to go to all taxpayers and requires a real estate disclosure statement be signed at the time of settlement. The Agricultural Resolution Board has not heard a single case and the right to farm disclosures are routinely signed and added to plats. In 2009, the County adopted a right to fish ordinance that

protects fishing and seafood operations adhering to generally accepted industry practices. No action has been taken to adopt a right to hunt ordinance.

Maryland's Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012 required the adoption of a Growth Tier Map, which designates all land into one of four tiers. Within the Tier IV, which are resource areas, major subdivisions are prohibited unless an exemption is granted by the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). In April of 2013, Kent County was granted an exemption upon finding that the established zoning and subdivision rules as articulated in the *Land Use Ordinance* already limit residential subdivision such that there was no need for the additional restrictions that would be imposed by Tier IV restrictions. This finding was based on MDP's estimate that the actual overall yield for the cumulative Tier IV area in Kent County would be less than one dwelling unit per twenty (20) acres, and that this yield was likely to continue into the future. MDP's finding was further supported by the established record of the County's land use and preservation plans, rules, policies, and funding to limit subdivision and development, as well as the vitality of resource-based industries in the Tier IV areas and particularly agriculture, as along with the County's available development capacity outside of the Tier IV areas.

Map 3-1: Priority Preservation Area



Source: Kent County Department of Planning, Housing and Zoning. Map prepared October 2017. This map was developed in color. Reproduction in B/W may not represent the data as intended.

Designated Preservation Areas

In the 1980s the Kent County Agricultural Advisory Commission created a map showing the County's Agricultural Priority Area. The Agricultural Priority Area was defined as areas of critical or special concern for the continuance of agriculture in Kent County and was reviewed every 3-5 years. The area was defined using the following criteria:

- Areas of large contiguous acreage
- Areas that contain predominantly Class I, II or III soils
- Protection of areas needed for market or support services
- Some environmentally sensitive areas
- Farms considered essential to agriculture in Kent County
- Properties surrounding current district or easement properties
- Farms that will help maintain the agricultural infrastructure
- Farms with a high degree of operability

In 2010, the County adopted the Agricultural Priority Preservation Area Element as an appendix to the 2006 Comprehensive Plan. The Agricultural Priority Area map was the basis for the Priority Preservation Area (PPA). The PPA contains approximately 151,350 acres and at the time of designation approximately 142,925 acres were considered undeveloped. The goal to preserve at least eighty percent (80%) of this remaining undeveloped land within the PPA through easements and zoning translates to approximately 114,340 acres. Map 3-1 is a map of the Priority Preservation Area.

Based on the acreage calculated for the Comprehensive Plan's Priority Preservation Area (PPA) Element, almost 34% of the undeveloped portion of the PPA is protected through conservation easements. Since the 1970s when the first easements were donated to the Maryland Environmental Trust through the 2016 MALPF settlement, more than 38,860 acres of private land has been placed under some type of conservation easement. Table 3-2, at the end of this chapter, is an inventory spreadsheet of these preserved lands.

Easement Acquisition Mechanisms

Kent County relies primarily upon three programs to purchase/extinguish development rights on farmland.

Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation

The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) program is a voluntary purchase of development rights program. The property must meet certain size, location and soil requirements. Following the change in State law to eliminate districts, Kent County elected to require establishment of a local district as a prerequisite to applying to sell a perpetual easement to the State.

As of September 2017, Kent County had 7,050 acres enrolled in 47 Agricultural Land Preservation Districts and had permanently protected 19,085 acres in 100 MALPF Easements. Kent County has participated in the MALPF Program since 1983 and interest continues to remain high. In the Spring 2017 easement acquisition cycle there were 18 easement applications. The County dedicates local funding to the farms selected to receive easements. The County contributed approximately \$120,000.00 in local match funds toward the most recent MALPF easement cycle.

Rural Legacy Program

The goal of this program is the protection of areas that are rich in agricultural, natural and cultural resources, thereby preserving resource-based economies, greenbelts and greenways. The Rural Legacy Program provides the funding necessary to protect large contiguous tracts of farms, forests and natural areas through cooperative grant agreements with the State and a local sponsor. The protection of natural resources is accomplished through the voluntary acquisition of property through easement or fee simple purchase. Kent County has participated in this program from the beginning through a regional partnership with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and Cecil, Talbot, Caroline, and Dorchester Counties known as the “Agricultural Security Corridor” partnership. There are eleven (11) easements covering 2,205 acres which have been acquired in the Sassafras Rural Legacy Area in Kent County.

Land Trusts and Other Private Conservation Efforts

Conservation groups have pursued the preservation of agricultural and environmental lands throughout Kent County. The groups have used various preservation methods including conservation easements. Kent County works closely with the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) in obtaining donated conservation easements. The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy is a non-profit organization founded in 1990 to preserve farmland and unique natural areas on Maryland’s Middle Eastern Shore. The ESLC and MET have protected over 12,565 acres in Kent County through conservation easements. In addition the Conservation Fund and the American Farmland Trust have preserved 3,300 acres through the donation of the Chesapeake Farms property and another property on the Chesapeake Bay. Kent County has almost 15,865 acres permanently preserved through privately donated easements, one of the highest totals in the State of Maryland.

Funding for Acquisition

Placing conservation easements on private land from willing landowners is the chief mechanism for permanently protecting agricultural land in Kent County. The majority of these easements have been purchased through MALPF or Rural Legacy with the State of Maryland providing a large majority of the funding. Kent County has had a “certified” agricultural land preservation program since 1998.

Since Fiscal Year 1985, the County has committed over \$1.24M towards easement acquisition, mostly from retained agricultural transfer taxes. The County dedicates local funding to the farms selected to receive easements. The County contributed approximately \$120,000.00 in local match

funds toward the most recent MALPF easement cycle. The County Commissioners have shown support for agricultural preservation through past allocations from the general fund. Given the State of the economy over the past several years, the County has taken no action to further develop a Purchase of Development Rights Program or explore a tax credit incentive program.

Farming Assistance Programs

Kent County is active in a variety of ways to promote and support agriculture. Since 1980, the County has had a seven-member Agricultural Advisory Commission whose role is to advise the Planning Commission and County Commissioners on any proposals or zoning changes that affect agriculture. The members must be actively engaged in agriculture. Other County Boards and Commissions also routinely include at least one member who is actively engaged in agricultural pursuits. These boards and commissions work to promote agriculture as a viable industry and support the development of farm-based businesses.

Kent County is known throughout the region for having a strong commitment to agriculture from both the government and citizens. In 2014, the County was granted a Maryland Sustainable Growth Award for its Farmland Preservation Program. Farming assistance programs mainly exist in State and federal agencies, such as the Kent County Soil and Water Conservation District, the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, and the USDA Farm Service Agency. While the County does not have an agricultural marketing specialist, agricultural interests are represented on the Economic Development Advisory Board.

The Maryland Cooperative Extension maintains an office in Chestertown. The Kent County Soil and Water Conservation District, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and the USDA Farm Service Agency operate from a joint location to provide assistance and services to local farmers. The Upper Shore Regional Council, in partnership with Washington College, also offers a searchable on-line Eastern Shore Harvest Directory; of which print copies are also available. The County will continue to work with regional partners to expand opportunities and promote natural resource-based industries.

C. Evaluation of the Land Preservation Program

Overall Strategy

Kent County has a strong agricultural community and participation in the various land preservation programs has been high. There is support at all levels to maintain a viable agricultural industry, with over 21% of the entire County being protected by some type of easement, which does not include publicly owned lands. Donated conservation easements tend to be located along the water, especially the Chester River. The protection of these sensitive lands ensures that important wildlife habitat will remain intact. Farms protected by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation and Rural Legacy are located primarily in the central part of the County, which will help maintain the agricultural infrastructure. Even with the County's low rate of land conversion, the County has been able to preserve large tracts of land

and anticipates a continued high-level of interest and increased participation in the various programs.

Funding

Although Kent County has limited financial resources, the County remains committed to agricultural preservation and participates in all available programs. Since Fiscal Year 1985, the County has committed over \$1.24M towards easement acquisition, mostly from retained agricultural transfer taxes. The County relies primarily on State funding for purchasing easements and there is always more landowner interest than funding available. As land values continue to rise, the dollars available will buy fewer acres. The County accepts donations toward the purchase of development rights, although active solicitation of monies has not occurred in several years. All donations to the program are used to supplement the County's match in the MALPF matching funds program. The County intends to continue the availability of this program to generate the funds needed to remain certified.

Land Management Tools

Kent County's protective agricultural zoning was adopted in 1989 and additional restrictions were adopted in 2003. In combination with relatively low development pressure, this zoning has been generally effective in helping to protect the County's agricultural land base. Although growth pressure has greatly diminished since 2008, the County recognizes that growth must be carefully managed. The 2006 Comprehensive Plan calls for growth to occur slowly and deliberately at a manageable rate which does not exceed the County's historic growth rate.

Combined Performance of Preservation Tools

The tools Kent County is currently using have been partially successful in preserving farmland. The County has one of the lowest rates of farmland conversion; since July 1997, agricultural transfer taxes have been collected on only 1,506 acres. In that same time, over 38,860 acres have been preserved through purchased or donated easements, such that more than 34% of the undeveloped land in the Priority Preservation Area is protected. This includes land protected through easements since 2012. See highlights in Table 3-2.

Effects of Potential Development on Land Markets

The following charts, Figures 3-1 and 3-2, show that since the turn of the century in the year 2000 the majority of new houses and new lots are being built or located in the development areas and not within the Priority Preservation Area, which is targeted for protection. Although development pressure has significantly declined since 2008, there remains a potential for large scale development projects, that even when located in our growth areas could affect the viability of the agricultural industry. The County's goals and policies for new development in both the incorporated towns and unincorporated villages direct that growth should occur at a rate and scale that is compatible with our rural heritage.

Figure 3-1: Lots Created by Zoning Type

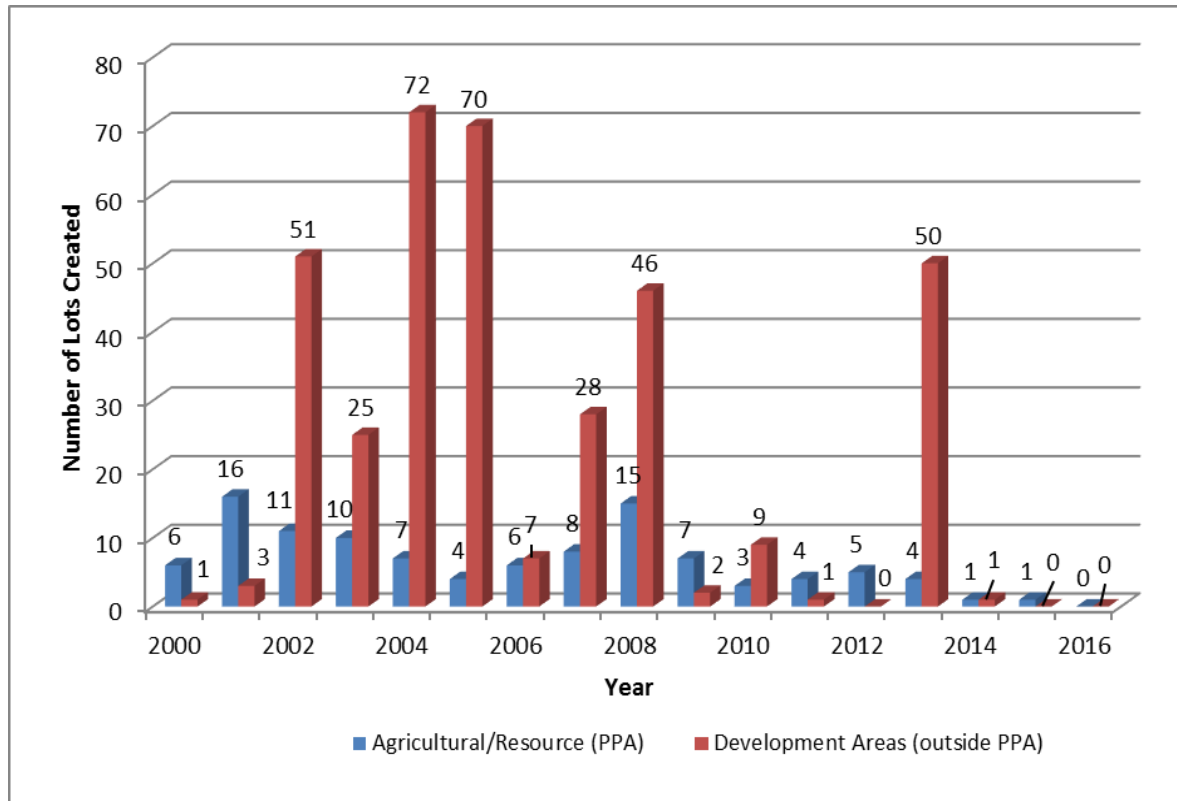
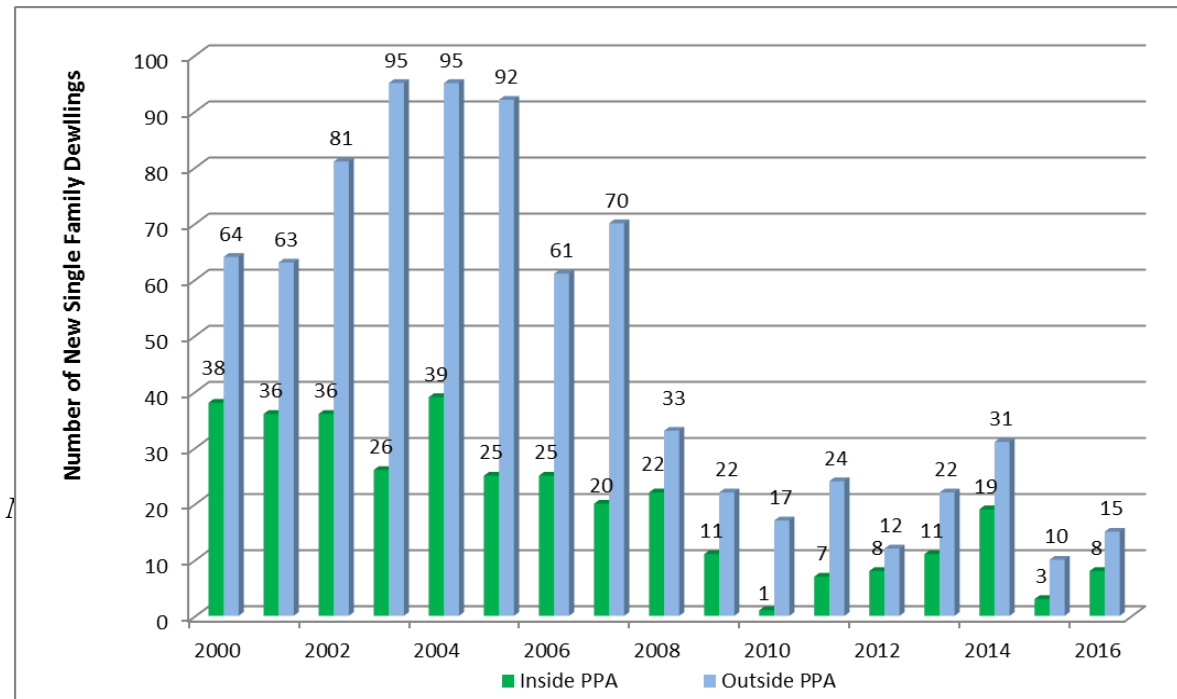
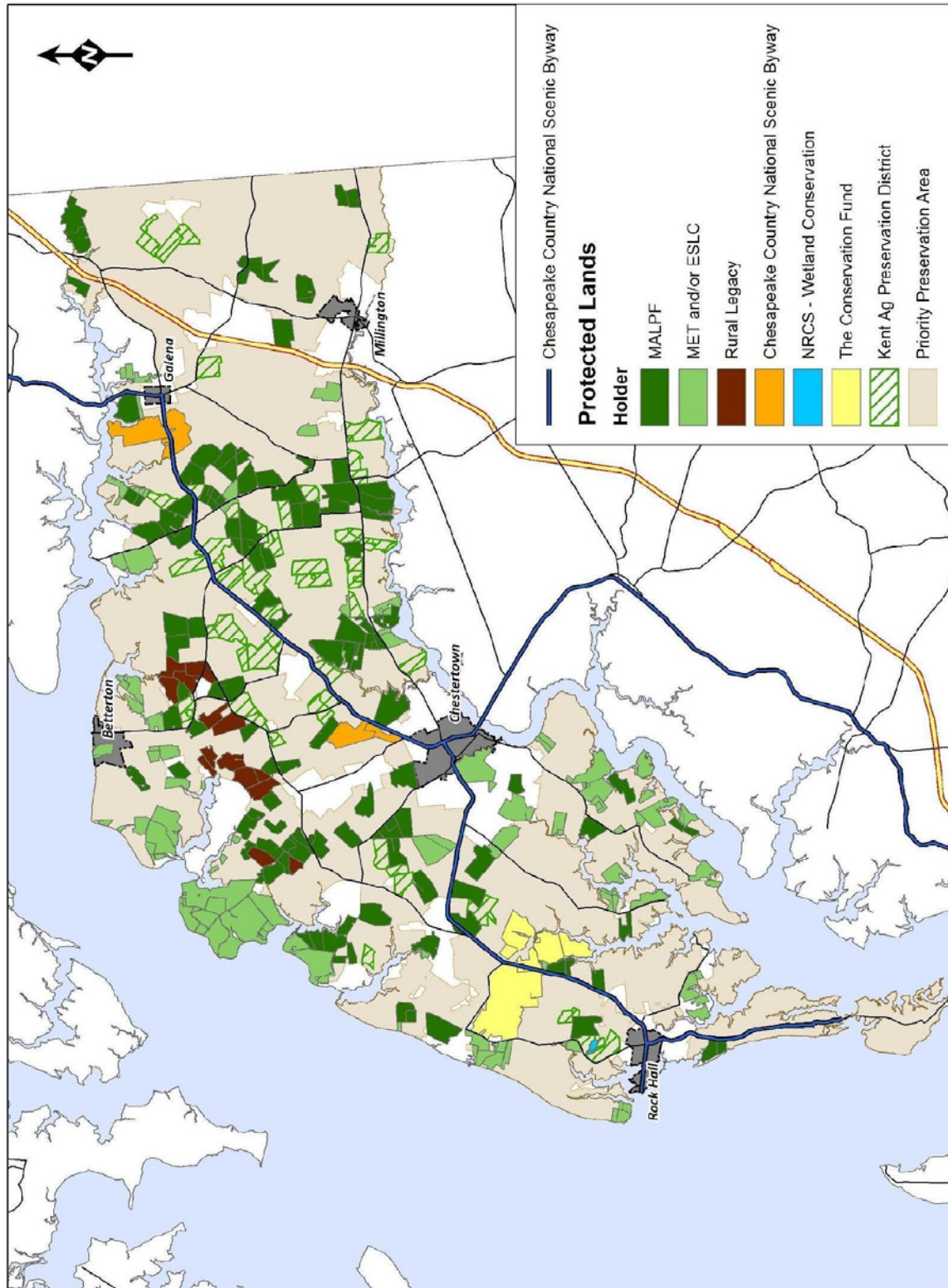


Figure 3-2: New Single-Family Dwellings by Zoning Type





Source: Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing and Zoning, MdProperty View 2013. Map prepared October 2017.

Table 3-2: Inventory of Preserved Land

Owner	File Number	Year	Holder	Acres Preserved in Easement	Type
KERNER, STEPHEN & TERRI LYNN	0003WEL74.KENT	1974	MET	2.500	Donated
MANOR SHORES, LLC	0007COP75.KENT	1975	MET	632.000	Donated
RICHARDSON, DAVID & CHERYL J.					
MANOR SHORES, LLC					
MANOR SHORES, LLC					
HAVEMEYER, CHRISTIAN	0092HAV84.KENT	1984	MET	173.720	Donated
GSELL, DAVID SMITH & CONNIE ROSE	0116HUB86.KENT	1986	MET	1172.460	Donated
STEPNE, L.L.C.					
FRANK, CHARLES & GERALDINE					
MELTON POINT DUCK CLUB, LLC	0111HAR86.KENT	1986	MET	176.310	Donated
JOHNSON, ELDRIDGE R II & BETTY Z	0114JOH86.KENT	1986	MET	683.830	Donated
JOHNSON, ELDRIDGE R II & BETTY Z &					
NICKERSON, ALBERT H. & KRISTEN E.					
ZEISET, ABRAM S. & SARA E.; & ZEISET, ERIC M. & CONSTANCE A.	0194NIC90.KENT	1990	MET	437.000	Donated
PAYNE, ROBERT P. & JEAN C.	0210PAY91.KENT	1991	MET/ESLC	155.430	Donated
MICHAEL LOUIS G ETAL	0230MIC92.KENT	1992	MET/ESLC	42.500	Donated
RIENHOFF, WILLIAM F III & GRACE S	0227REI92.KENT	1992	MET/ESLC	27.339	Donated
VANREED, GARY B.	0219VAN92.KENT	1992	MET/ESLC	23.200	Donated
PARISH, PHILIP P.W., TRUSTEE	0228PAR92.KENT	1992	MET/ESLC	22.189	Donated
LIEBER, ALBERT C. & JOAN R. ETALS	0235LIE92.KENT	1992	MET/ESLC	61.550	Donated
GOODALL, DOUGLAS K. & GOODALL, MARY ELLIE	0241HUN92.KENT	1992	MET/ESLC	53.400	Donated
NICKLAS GREGORY W., & HERMAN, JONI C.					
THE GIBSON COMPANY	0243GIB93.KENT	1993	MET/ESLC	119.000	Donated
BRYAN ROBERT L JR ETALS	0249BRY93.KENT	1993	MET/ESLC	125.000	Donated
ENEY FARM LLC	0269COO93.KENT	1993	MET/ESLC	40.515	Donated
	T				
Owner	File Number	Year	Holder	Acres Preserved in Easement	Type

BACHMANN, JACK & MARK	0281WOL94.KENT T	1994	MET/ESLC	78.748	Donated
WOLFSON, CHERYL LINDA					
BRADY MICHAEL K					
ENEY FARM LLC	0338COO95.KENT T	1995	MET/ESLC	59.056	Donated
QUARSTEIN, PAMELA ANN, ETALS,	0323KRO95.KENT	1995	MET/ESLC	311.240	Donated
FRANCIS O. DAY CO., INC.					
SHIPPING CREEK FARM, LLC	0362ING96.KENT	1996	MET/ESLC	318.000	Donated
HEWES, ROBERT M.,III & JANET J.	0405HEW97.KENT T	1997	MET/ESLC	164.130	Donated
HEWES ROBERT M III TRUSTEE					
SPORTING GOODS PROPERTIES, INC.	Ches. Farms	1997	TCF/AFT	3300.000	Donated
SYSAK MARIAN E & JANE E HALIL	0408ERN97.KENT	1997	MET/ESLC	19.970	Donated
ENEY FARM LLC	0432COO98.KENT T	1998	MET/ESLC	43.800	Donated
FOEHRENBACH, JACK	0457FOE98.KENT	1998	MET/ESLC	32.670	Donated
SYCAMORE POINT FARMS, LLC	0458BLA98.KENT	1998	MET/ESLC	165.165	Donated
JOHNSON, SHAW M.	0491JOH99.KENT	1999	MET/ESLC	126.520	Donated
KING'S GRANT FARM, INC.	0476KGE99.KENT	1999	MET/ESLC	704.237	Donated
SWAN POINT FARM LLC	0497ALL99.KENT	1999	MET/ESLC	177.842	Donated
HARRIS, MARGARET M. &	0487HAR99.KENT	1999	MET/ESLC	190.533	Donated
AQUILLA, JOSEPH B. & KATHRYN	0537AQU00.KENT	2000	MET/ESLC	45.930	Donated
SPENCER FARM LLC	0619SPE01.KENT	2001	MET/CWH	189.811	Donated
CUGLE, JOHN P. & KATHY, CO-TR.	071CON02.KENT	2002	MET/ESLC	23.230	Donated
HOON, PHILIP W. & LISA L.	0714HOO02.KENT T	2002	MET/ESLC	20.480	Donated
ASPLUNDH, GREGG G. & CHRISTINE M.	0715ASP02.KENT	2002	MET/ESLC	58.085	Donated
TURNERS CREEK FARM LLC	0700DAL02.KENT	2002	MET/ESLC	479.180	Donated
PAYNE, ROBERT P. & JEAN C.	0731PAY02.KENT	2002	MET/ESLC	65.801	Donated
Owner	File Number	Year	Holder	Acres Preserved in Easement	Type
KENT FAMILY FARM, LLC	0761KEN03.KENT	2003	MET/ESLC	223.649	Donated

HILL FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	0782STA03.KENT	2003	MET/ESLC	50.000	Donated
LEVENGOOD, PAUL K. & KATHARINE H.	0811LEV04.KENT	2004	MET/ESLC	34.190	Donated
BRADY, JAMES COX & TONY HEIDRICH,	0790HOU04.KENT	2004	MET/ESLC	152.490	Donated
FALCONE, MICHAEL LOUIS	0812FAL04.KENT	2004	MET	157.000	Donated
CFD, LLC & DFLP, LLC		2007	ESLC	65.130	Donated
MARGARET K. BRAMBLE, LLC	0933BRA07.KENT	2007	MET/ESLC	324.000	Donated
JASION, W.E. SCOTT & TINA	0907TOT07.KENT	2007	MET	84.660	Donated
SHRILEY, CHARLES I. & KATHLEEN M.	0938SHR07.KENT	2007	MET/ESLC	34.282	Donated
CROW, ROY W.	0934CRO07.KENT	2007	MET/ESLC	110.221	Donated
CHURCH JACKIE L	0939SUS07.KENT	2007	MET/ESLC	69.780	Donated
MARGARET K. BRAMBLE, LLC	0971BRA08.KENT	2008	MET	249.000	Donated
HILL, HERMAN E JR & HERMAN E III	0973HIL08.KENT	2008	MET/ESLC	139.000	Donated
WILMERDING, PETER, JEREMY P	0974WIL08.KENT	2008	MET/ESLC	181.690	Donated
TCF FARM #2 LLC	0970TCF08.KENT	2008	MET	112.830	Donated
JOLLY, CHARLES N.	1000JOL09.KENT	2009	MET/ESLC	100.349	Donated
ANDELOT LLC	0995DUE09.KENT	2009	MET/ESLC	2894.200	Donated
MICHAELS, GEORGE S.	0999MIC09.KENT	2009	MET/ESLC	24.221	Donated
OWINGS BROTHERS PROPERTIES LLC	1028ACB11.KENT	2011	MET/ESLC	136.590	Donated
LEIGH LINDA H	1066LEI13.KENT	2013	MET/ESLC	114.294	Donated
ROBERT C. FRY AND JUDITH L. GIFFORD	1093FRY15.KENT	2015	MET/ESLC	61.730	Donated
JAMES NORTH AND RITA MARIE & RONALD JEFFREY AKINS	1095NOR15.KENT	2015	ESLC/ACUB	23.517	Donated
Owner	File Number	Year	Holder	Acres Preserved in Easement	Type
FRY, EDWIN R & MARIAN M	1056FRY13.KENT	2013	ESLC/CCNSB	160.630	Scenic/PDR
MASON ROY SCOTT	1061MAS13.KENT	2013	ESLC/CCNSB	421.108	Scenic/PDR

FRY FAMILY LP	1079FFL14.KENT	2014	ESLC/CCNSB	403.597	Scenic/PDR
Oldfield Point Farms, LLC		2017	ESLC/CCNSB	678.649	Scenic/PDR
NICKERSON, ALWYN & SUE ELLEN	0628NIC01.KENT	2001	ESLC/RL	89.680	PDR
WESTPHALIA FARMS LIMITED PARTNERSH	0728SAS02.KENT	2002	ESLC/RL	448.771	PDR
MYERS, KENNETH A.	0650MYE02.KENT	2002	ESLC/RL	169.862	PDR
WOOTTON, EUGENIA COOPER	0735COO02.KENT	2002	ESLC/RL	161.110	PDR
WOOTTON, EUGENIA COOPER	0735COO02.KENT	2002	ESLC/RL	164.364	PDR
EATON, GORDON W & LEONE R TRUSTEES	RL-0360	2006	ESLC/RL	210.865	PDR
FUCHS WILLIAM P & DEBORAH	RL-0508	2011	ESLC/RL	185.880	PDR
FUCHS WILLIAM P & DEBORAH	RL-0509	2011	ESLC/RL	245.252	PDR
MCDONALD BRYAN S	RL-0531	2012	ESLC/RL	222.050	PDR/FRPP
MCDONALD BRYAN S	RL-0530	2012	ESLC/RL	148.895	PDR/FRPP
BONTRAGER WILLIAM	RL-0564	2013	ESLC/RL	158.434	PDR
MYERS, JOHN H. JR ETALS	14-84-04	1985	MALPF	172.000	PDR
BRINK, ROBERT S & EILEEN M	14-84-03	1986	MALPF	125.000	PDR
PRICE, FLOYD W., JR. & TERRI B.	14-85-02	1986	MALPF	119.320	PDR
HILL HENRY JAY	14-85-01	1986	MALPF	163.690	PDR
THORNTON FARM LLC	14-86-05	1987	MALPF	124.590	PDR
BIG MEADOW, INC.	14-85-03	1987	MALPF	183.447	PDR
CHANCE, JOHN ANDREW & AUDREY MOORE	14-87-06aex3	1987	MALPF	77.575	PDR
THORNTON FARM LLC	14-86-06	1987	MALPF	139.270	PDR
Owner	File Number	Year	Holder	Acres Preserved in Easement	Type
BIG MEADOW, INC.	14-86-01a	1987	MALPF	27.727	PDR
ALEXANDER, NOBLE JR	14-88-06ex3	1988	MALPF	236.471	PDR
ALEXANDER, ANN R. & NOBLE JR. TRUSTEE					

DAVIS, SAMMY L. & R. LEE DAVIS JR,	14-88-03ex1	1988	MALPF	308.500	PDR
FOSTER, ARTHUR L., SR. & ANN E. &	14-88-07ex1	1988	MALPF	204.000	PDR
CLARK CROMWELL WAYNE	14-86-04	1988	MALPF	296.000	PDR
MYERS JOHN H JR	14-88-04	1988	MALPF	92.650	PDR
USILTON, ELIZABETH M & JAMES D SR	14-87-03ex1	1988	MALPF	214.920	PDR
MYERS BARBARA L					
PRICE, MARILYN Y. &	14-87-04	1988	MALPF	251.310	PDR
SIBFOUR CORPORATION	14-87-07Aex2	1989	MALPF	56.252	PDR
LAWRENCE, MICHAEL R	14-87-07Bex3	1989	MALPF	49.557	PDR
PRATT, ROBIN J.	14-87-05ex1	1989	MALPF	226.520	PDR
PRATT, ROBIN HENRY					
LANGENFELDER, ALLEN G & ALVENA L	14-87-02	1989	MALPF	105.100	PDR
PARKER, DAVID A. & BARBARA H.	14-90-01	1990	MALPF	227.920	PDR
GREEN POINT FARMS, LLC					
BERGEN CLARA M LYNDA ANN BERGEN WH	14-89-03	1990	MALPF	163.038	PDR
COREY JANE A ETALS	14-91-02	1993	MALPF	298.494	PDR
MEEKS, ROBERTA S & EDGAR R	14-90-02	1994	MALPF	123.618	PDR
PARKER POINT, LLC	14-94-01	1994	MALPF	198.860	PDR
JOINER, CHARLES H., JR & DOROTHY S	14-87-01	1994	MALPF	203.566	PDR
LEAVERTON I, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	14-92-04	1995	MALPF	443.040	PDR
REDMAN WILLIAM CARL	14-92-05	1995	MALPF	207.230	PDR
DILL FRANKLIN M II TRUSTEE	14-86-03	1996	MALPF	194.620	PDR
BERGEN, LEE A & ALISON B	14-95-02	1996	MALPF	78.388	PDR
LANKFORD, RICHARD JR &	14-92-01	1997	MALPF	202.260	PDR
Owner	File Number	Year	Holder	Acres Preserved in Easement	Type
HOON, ANN WILMER ETAL	14-97-07	1997	MALPF	307.393	PDR
JACOBSEN, ERIC	14-97-09ex1	1997	MALPF	183.398	PDR
CHASE ERIKA L & LAURA C SNYDER	14-96-03	1997	MALPF	283.766	PDR
REDMAN WILLIAM CARL	14-92-06	1997	MALPF	119.000	PDR/FRPP

ORCHARD CREEK BUILDERS, LLC	14-97-06	1998	MALPF	215.830	PDR
OLIN DAVIS FARMS, LLC	14-97-02	1998	MALPF	217.757	PDR
BORIA MARIA C TRUSTEE	14-88-05e	1998	MALPF	128.336	PDR
ORCHARD CREEK BUILDERS, LLC	14-97-06	1998	MALPF	0.000	PDR
CLAGGETT, HERSCHELL B	14-98-03	1998	MALPF	210.300	PDR/FRPP
BATEMAN FARMS, INC.	14-95-13	1999	MALPF	129.053	PDR
BATEMAN FARMS, INC.	14-99-05	1999	MALPF	164.491	PDR
STOLTZFUS, JONAS L. & RUTH E.	14-98-02	1999	MALPF	149.723	PDR
GOOSE HAVEN ENTERPRISES, LLC	14-98-06	1999	MALPF	112.540	PDR
MCDONALD BRYAN S & LEWIS H	14-98-05	1999	MALPF	351.023	PDR
LANGENFELDER, CHARLES A JR&DEBORAH	14-97-12	1999	MALPF	89.683	PDR
MOORE, MICHAEL R. & WENDY S.	14-98-07aex1	1999	MALPF	64.210	PDR/FRPP
GSELL, JOSEPH C & PORTIA F	14-99-04	2000	MALPF	272.800	PDR
OLIN DAVIS FARMS, LLC	14-97-03	2000	MALPF	294.932	PDR
ROSE, HOWARD E. & EREN	14-98-01	2000	MALPF	206.570	PDR
SPRINKLE, JOHN HAROLD JR.	14-88-08	2000	MALPF	352.880	PDR
THIEME, WAYNE H.	14-98-04	2000	MALPF	115.103	PDR
STAP, JOHN & JULIA C.	14-96-01	2001	MALPF	211.184	PDR
ROESER, LORIE S.					
MANZON, KATHARINE					
STAP, WILLIAM JOHN					
HERRELL BOBBY J & ALICE TRUSTEES					
Owner	File Number	Year	Holder	Acres Preserved in Easement	Type
HICKMAN, FRANCIS JOSEPH & MARIANNE L	14-00-07	2002	MALPF	229.000	PDR
ACED, LLC	14-00-11ac	2002	MALPF	82.460	PDR
LOVETT, DAVID W & DAWN M	14-00-09	2002	MALPF	105.681	PDR
GUTHRIE, THOMAS W & DEBORAH B	14-01-02	2002	MALPF	106.000	PDR
CLAGGETT, HERSCHELL B	14-00-06	2003	MALPF	119.740	PDR
SUTTON, M. LYNN	14-01-01	2003	MALPF	130.209	PDR
TCF FARMS #3 LLC	14-01-08	2003	MALPF	226.100	PDR/FRPP

BRYAN ROBERT L JR ETALS	14-02-01	2003	MALPF	124.470	PDR/FRPP
YORK FARM, LLC	14-02-05	2005	MALPF	200.244	PDR
PHILIPP, BEVERLY C.	14-04-05	2005	MALPF	197.280	PDR/FRPP
MCDONALD LEWIS H	14-01-09	2005	MALPF	257.186	PDR/FRPP
DICKERSON, M. MARGARET &	14-00-10	2006	MALPF	290.000	PDR
FOSTER VIRGINIA LYNN	14-05-01	2006	MALPF	269.267	PDR
SHIPYARD CREEK LLC	14-04-01	2006	MALPF	144.211	PDR
M.R. LONGENECKER FAMILY L.P.	14-99-02c	2006	MALPF	116.041	PDR
HUDSON, FRANK P.	14-05-02	2006	MALPF	202.800	PDR
BROWN HAROLD L JR	14-88-01	2006	MALPF	103.492	PDR
MCHEMRY, HOWARD A. & REBECCA P.	14-01-07	2006	MALPF	206.756	PDR
JOINER, EMILY DIANA	14-01-04	2006	MALPF	123.375	PDR
BARNES, W. FRANK JR & JESSIE KAYE	14-89-01	2007	MALPF	198.570	PDR
NEWSOME, FRANK S, ETALS	14-03-01	2007	MALPF	96.125	PDR
NEWSOME, FRANK S, ETALS		2015			
MCHEMRY, HOWARD A. & REBECCA P.	14-06-03	2007	MALPF	99.000	PDR
DUDLEY A. MCHEMRY PREL RELEASE CHILD LOT		2015			
SMITHVILLE FARM LLC	14-06-06	2007	MALPF	77.378	PDR
HILL FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	14-06-10	2007	MALPF	292.190	PDR
LEONARD, SUSAN D. & FRANKLIN D.	14-06-04	2007	MALPF	146.432	PDR
HUNTINGFIELD FARM LLC	14-06-08	2007	MALPF	199.401	PDR
VESTRY OF NORTH KENT PARISH, THE	14-06-15	2007	MALPF	303.040	PDR
EASON, DAVID B. SR & PATRICIA A.	14-06-14	2007	MALPF	126.975	PDR
FALCONE, MICHAEL LOUIS	14-06-05	2007	MALPF	184.030	PDR
Owner	File Number	Year	Holder	Acres Preserved in Easement	Type
MCDONALD LEWIS H II	14-92-03	2007	MALPF	231.000	PDR
OWINGS AND SONS BUSINESS TRUST	14-95-06	2007	MALPF	301.000	PDR
OPEN ACRES FARM LLC	14-01-06	2007	MALPF	220.215	PDR
PHIPPS FARM LIMITED LIABILITY CO.	14-06-13	2007	MALPF	227.992	PDR
OWINGS AND SONS BUSINESS TRUST	14-95-07	2007	MALPF	224.760	PDR
NEW GRAND VIEW HOLDINGS LLC	14-02-02	2008	MALPF	387.633	PDR
OWINGS AND SONS BUSINESS TRUST	14-06-02	2009	MALPF	324.376	PDR/FRPP

FERNWALT, JOHN D JR	14-09-04	2011	MALPF	240.000	PDR
STOLTZFUS STEPHEN LAMAR	14-11-01	2012	MALPF	139.482	PDR
DUCK PUDDLE VENTURE LLC	14-13-01	2014	MALPF	181.897	PDR
ANGELICA NURSERIES #6	14-13-03	2014	MALPF	229.897	PDR
DEBNAM, C. BRECKINRIDGE & SUSAN	14-13-05	2014	MALPF	143.450	PDR
DUCK PUDDLE VENTURE LLC	14-13-02	2014	MALPF	282.000	PDR
LEWIS H. McDONALD & BRYAN S. McDONALD	14-15-07	2016	MALPF	220.761	PDR
HOWARD'S GIFT FARM	14-15-05	2017	MALPF	256.479	PDR
ALLAN J. HILL	14-15-04	2017	MALPF	156.210	PDR
LEWIS H. McDONALD	14-15-06	2017	MALPF	228.680	PDR
ANGELICA NURSERIES, INC.	14-15-01	2017	MALPF	216.058	PDR
MARY WOODLAND TAN & MARGARET ANN CUMMINGS	14-15-08	2017	MALPF	221.163	PDR
FOSTER, VIRGINIA LYNN		2014	NRCS	43.881	Purchased
			Total	38,863.63	acres

Indicates easements since 2012 LPPRP.

ACUB: Army Compatible Use Buffer Program/Aberdeen Proving Ground

ESLC: Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

MALPF: Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation

RL: Rural Legacy

NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service

PDR: Purchase of Development Rights

FRPP: Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (Federal)

D. Program Development Strategy

This section describes Kent County's program development strategy for agricultural land preservation. The following on-going actions are recommended:

- Continued implementation of the County's Comprehensive Plan and adoption of the updated 2017 Comprehensive Plan
- Continued support from the County Commissioners through matching funds and policy decisions
- Increased funding through MALPF and Rural Legacy for agricultural easement acquisition to meet the demand to sell easements
- Increased rate of easement acquisition
- Continued landowner outreach regarding available land protection options. This includes landowner meetings, mailings and press releases
- Continued and ongoing coordination to direct growth to the towns and villages
- Support, to the extent possible, programs that assist the agricultural industry in economic development

- Continue to support agricultural land preservation with local funding
- Continue to support and work collaboratively with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Chapter IV – Natural Resources Conservation

This chapter identifies Kent County's goals and strategies for natural resources and evaluates their effectiveness to achieve the State and County goals for protecting and conserving natural resource lands. Natural resource lands contain forest, wetlands, floodplains, stream buffers, and other sensitive natural features that form the County's character.

Kent County is blessed with a rich natural resource base that sustains the County's rural character as well as the physical attractiveness of the developed areas, while providing wildlife habitat, natural filtration for air and water pollutions, and opportunities for resource-based recreation. These natural resource lands also provide flood, erosion, and sediment control. Natural resource lands require few government services, provide opportunities for ecotourism, and help enhance property values. The County seeks to maintain and improve these natural resources through the practice of sustainability in its development regulations and policies and its own facilities and operations. This is achieved through the goals and strategies articulated in the Comprehensive Plan; the regulations of the *Land Use Ordinance*; the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP); the Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Report; the Hazard Mitigation Plan; and the efforts of the Kent County Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Committee.

The hallmarks of Kent County are the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, good soils, rich marshlands, and a landscape teeming with wildlife. These resources are the foundation from which our local culture emerged. Today, they remain the foundation of Kent's economy and are the very essence of its character. These irreplaceable resources are the basis upon which we will continue to thrive and maintain our heritage.

A. Natural Resource Land Goals

This section discusses the interrelationship between the State's and County's goals for natural resource conservation.

State Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation

- Identify, protect, and restore lands and waterways in Maryland that support important aquatic and terrestrial natural resources and ecological functions, through combined use of the following techniques:
 - Public land acquisition and stewardship
 - Private land conservation easements and stewardship practices through purchased or donated easement programs
 - Local land use management plans and procedures that conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas and minimize impacts to resource lands when development occurs
 - Support and incentives for resource-based economies that increase retention of forests, wetlands, or agricultural lands

- Avoidance of impacts on natural resources by publicly funded infrastructure development projects
 - Appropriate mitigation response, commensurate with the value of the affected resource
- Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas, according to a strategic framework such as the Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) in GreenPrint (which is not to be confused with the former easement program also called GreenPrint).
 - Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that fall outside the green infrastructure (examples include rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shale barren communities, grasslands, shoreline beach and dune systems, mud flats, non-forested islands, etc.)
 - Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas to assist State and local implementation programs.
 - Assess 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
 - Adopt coordinated land and watershed management strategies that recognize the critical links between growth management and aquatic biodiversity and fisheries production
 - Support a productive forest land base and forest resource industry, emphasizing the economic viability of privately owned forestland
 - Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated State/local strategy to achieve them through State and local implementation programs

County Goals

Kent County's Comprehensive Plan was adopted in May 2006, and the 2017 Draft Plan update is currently being finalized. The County's Vision for the future as expressed in the Plan is to protect our environment and the County's inherent quality of life while facing growth and change. Many of these support the state's goals above:

- Stewardship of our lands and waters is a universal ethic
- The County is committed to supporting agriculture and promoting working landscapes
- Preservation of our cultural, historic and archeological resources is essential to maintaining our sense of place

- In order to preserve the County's unique quality of life, growth is planned to occur slowly and deliberately at a manageable rate which does not exceed the County's historic growth rate
- Growth will occur in limited and specific locations in a way that complements and enhances each community's character. These locations will be a result of mutually agreed upon boundaries established by working with existing communities

The 2006 Comprehensive Plan and the 2017 Update list a series of goals and strategies to achieve the County's Vision. The goals describe the County's policy. The strategies describe concrete actions that the County may take to achieve the goals and vision. The natural resources important to Kent County are clean air, prime agricultural land, tidal marshes, non-tidal wetlands, woodlands, large forests, ground water, the Chesapeake Bay, the Chester River, the Sassafras River and their tributaries, ponds, mineral resources, landscapes of agriculture, waterfront, open space, historic sites, dark nighttime skies and a peaceful, unhurried atmosphere.

The Water Resources Element, or WRE, was adopted on September 21, 2010, and added to the Comprehensive Plan as an Appendix. In addition to identifying safe and adequate drinking water sources as well as wastewater treatment facilities needed to support existing and future development, it also establishes the County's water resource goals to protect and restore water quality and meet water quality regulatory standards in the County's tributaries.

The County also values its diverse ecosystems. We have hedgerows, cropped fields, shorelines, meadows, forests, wetlands, submerged aquatic vegetation, and other plants. The varied wildlife includes deer, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians, waterfowl, game birds, songbirds, colonial nesting water birds, raptors, fish, crabs, and many species of shellfish.

Implementing the Plan

The Kent County *Land Use Ordinance* is one tool the County uses to implement the goals identified in the Comprehensive Plan. Each zoning district includes a series of environmental standards – both general and specific – to provide for the proper stewardship of the County's natural resources. These standards address forest conservation, natural heritage area, anadromous fish, habitat, forest interior dwelling birds, natural heritage areas, non-tidal wetlands, sensitive species, stormwater management, water quality, and stream buffers.

Comparison between State and Local Goals

State and County Goals are fully compatible. Both recognize the role of natural resources in maintaining a healthy environment and the overall character and quality of life that our citizens enjoy. Both goals recognize the cultural and economic benefits that natural resources provide. Both address the need to protect and manage natural resources. Both identify techniques such as easements and land purchase that may be used for land protection.

B. Current Implementation Program

Comprehensive Planning Context

The County's 2006 Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives are the same goals included in the last LPPRP, and the Comprehensive Plan has not been updated since 2006. Adoption of the updated 2017 Comprehensive Plan is pending. This section describes the steps that are currently being taken in the County to implement these goals and objectives.

Designated Conservation Areas, Inventories and Maps of Resources

Most of Kent County is a designated conservation area. In addition to the lands included in the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, the Priority Preservation Area, and the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway, the County has identified the followings areas and habitats as protection areas:

- All designated Habitat Protection Areas, buffers and protective zones including:
 - ◆ Colonial water bird nesting sites
 - ◆ Historic waterfowl staging and concentrations areas in tidal water, tributary streams or tidal and non-tidal wetlands
 - ◆ Riparian forest
 - ◆ Forested areas of 50 acres or more and forest corridors connecting these areas;
 - ◆ Anadromous fish spawning areas
 - ◆ Threatened and endangered species and Species in Need of Conservation with their habitat
 - ◆ Non-tidal wetlands
 - ◆ Minimum 100-foot buffer and 100-foot stream protection corridor
- Other areas which because of their unique wildlife habitat types and plant communities are of local significance. These shall be managed to protect the unique habitat or community.
 - ◆ Lloyd Creek Habitat for proposed State threatened species;
 - ◆ Andover Branch
 - ◆ Sandy Bottom - St. Paul's Lake
 - ◆ Churn Creek (Still Pond Creek Headwaters)
 - ◆ Big Marsh
 - ◆ Swantown Creek
 - ◆ Jacobs Creek
 - ◆ Upper Sassafras
 - ◆ Sassafras Lake
 - ◆ Mill Creek (wooded swamp, 1118-555 on the Maryland Coordinated Grid System)
 - ◆ Still Pond Creek (inland open fresh water, 1050-540 on the MCGS)
 - ◆ East Langford Mill Pond (Shrub swamp, 1050-495 on the MCGS)
 - ◆ Langford Creek East Fork Headwaters (inland shallow fresh marsh, 1055-499 on the MCGS)
 - ◆ N/W Fork Morgan Creek (inland shallow fresh marsh, 1077-536 on the MCGS);
 - ◆ Tavern Creek

- Any natural heritage areas as may be designated by the State of Maryland.

Protective zoning in the countryside and specific environmental standards are in place to protect these unique resources. Kent County also has several natural resource areas that deserve special attention. These include:

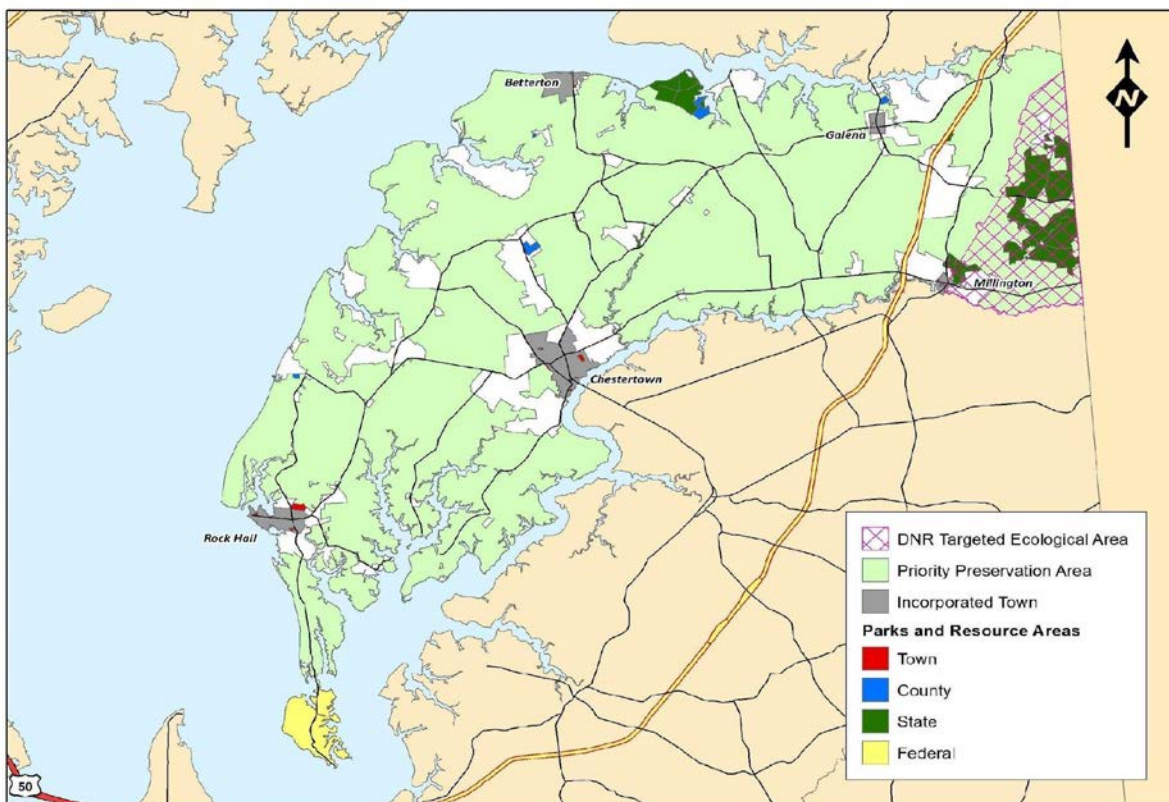
- Eastern Neck Island National Wildlife Refuge
- Sassafras River Natural Resource Management Area and Turners Creek Park
- Sassafras Rural Legacy Area
- Millington Wildlife Management Area

A map showing these areas has been included at the end of the chapter. While the County does not have a program specifically directed toward DNR's Targeted Ecological Area, the Priority Preservation Area overlaps this area. In addition, much of the DNR Targeted Ecological Area is already within the Millington Wildlife Management Area as reflected on Map 4-1.

Map 4-1: Priority Preservation Area and Targeted Ecological Area

Easement Acquisition, Funding, Planning and Land Use Management

The primary components of Kent County's strategy to implement its natural resource goals are its land use authority, watershed restoration action strategies, the Watershed Implementation



Source: Kent County Department of Planning, Housing and Zoning. Map prepared October 2017.
This map was developed in color. Reproduction in B/W may not represent the data as intended.

Plan (WIP), Baywide Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Climate

Change and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Report, and partnerships with private organizations such as the Chester River Association, Sassafras River Association, the Nature Conservancy, and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. The Kent County *Land Use Ordinance* includes conservation subdivision techniques that require a substantial amount of the subdivision to include open space that is located so as to enlarge and connect to other open space and natural areas. These documents also incorporate protection for sensitive natural areas such as:

- Forest – retention of high-quality forest, reforestation or afforestation of 15 to 20 percent of the net tract area
- Natural Heritage Areas – preserved during subdivision and site plan review;
- Anadromous Fish – preservation of spawning streams and identification and removal of fish blockages
- Habitat – creation and preservation of wildlife corridors, avoidance of habitat fragmentation, development of hedgerows
- Forest Interior Dwelling Birds – safe building and harvest times, canopy preservation
- Nontidal Wetlands – buffers, net increase in quality and quantity
- Sensitive Species – checked and federal or State guidelines followed on all permits and projects
- Buffers and Stream Protection Corridors – 100-foot buffers

Kent County has completed three watershed restoration action strategies – the Middle Chester River, the Upper Chester River and the Sassafras River. Kent County also partnered with Kent County Delaware and the Nature Conservancy to develop a plan for the conservation of the Blackbird-Millington Corridor which includes large forested areas, Delmarva Bays, prime farmland, and habitat for numerous rare, threatened, and endangered species. Each includes strategies for stream restoration, education, agricultural best management practices, and suburban and urban best management practices.

The Kent County Phase II WIP (Phase II) was completed in 2011. The TMDL program is designed to have bodies of water meet water quality standards. The Kent County WIP identifies its strategy for taking water quality improvement actions. The County will work cooperatively with adjacent jurisdictions to develop and implement watershed restoration action strategies and to update and implement Phase II WIP strategies. However, the WIP notes that significant funding and staffing shortfalls exist unless additional resources are made available. Therefore, the County will continue to work with the State and federal governments to secure sufficient funding and/or techniques to overcome local resource shortfalls to fully achieve the TMDL. Also, the County will continue its collaborative efforts with neighboring jurisdictions and nonprofit organizations to explore regional support and approaches to implement nutrient load reduction goals.

Easement and Funding

Although the County's easement programs are geared primarily toward agricultural lands, easement acquisitions tend to protect both farmland and natural resource areas. The County participates in the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program, the Federal Farmland and

Ranchland Preservation Program, the Maryland Rural Legacy Program and partners with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, Maryland Environmental Trust, Conservation Fund, and the American Farmland Trust to hold easements on both natural resource and agricultural lands.

Other Programs, Eco-Tourism, and Resourced-based Recreation

The 2017 Comprehensive Plan includes several strategies to promote eco-tourism and other resourced-based recreation. The overall goal is to enhance and expand locally based tourism that is rooted in the unique natural, cultural and historic features and qualities of Kent County. Strategies that are outlined in the Comp Plan align with the LPPRP.

C. Evaluation of the Natural Resource Land Conservation Program

This section examines the ability of the County to achieve its natural resource goals. The Comprehensive Plan continues to be a major strength. The Plan was developed after extensive public involvement and moves from vision to goals to strategies with priority actions clearly identified. Most of Kent County is a designated conservation area. The County has long standing protection measures included in its ordinances, and partnerships with organizations such as the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy achieves protection through easement, and The Nature Conservancy has led to preservation of sensitive areas such as Delmarva Bays.

No action has been taken to develop a Greenways Plan, a Biological Management Plan, or a Green Infrastructure Assessment, and no timeline has been identified to begin these projects. However, the County still actively works to protect our natural resources and to evaluate the impacts of proposed development projects, including administering the Forest Conservation Act. Table 4-1 reflects the acreage in forest protection easements or the amount paid through a fee-in-lieu when the required afforestation would not provide an adequate forested area for the years 2012 through 2017. Additionally, there are many day-to-day activities, such as requiring native plantings in the Critical Area or enforcing floodplain regulations, that cumulatively have a positive effect on preserving important natural resources. In addition, the Chester River Association and the Sassafra River Association, both non-profit, private organizations, are active in the community promoting the health and sustainability of the County's watersheds.

Table 4-1: Forest Conservation 2012-2017

Project	Acreage in Easements	Fee-in-Lieu
A&S Properties	0.380	
Robert Miller	0.168	
Web Blevins	0.106	
ISE America, Inc. / Southern States Cooperative	1.970	
Oddmund & Hedvig Angell	2.270	

P. Thomas and Alice M. Mason / Oxford Development (Worton Dollar General)		\$ 2,591.00
Henlyn Farm, LLC (Henry Dierker)	14.870	
David A. Bramble Inc./OneEnergy Blue Star Solar, LLC	34.190	
Massey Aero, LLC		\$ 2,388.15
Brickyard Land Holding, LLC (Gillespie Precast, LLC)	0.630	
TOTAL	54.584	\$ 4,979.15

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires Maryland to assess and identify impaired waters and set Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) restoration goals. The TMDL program began in 1998 with many partnerships such as the Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Natural Resources, Army Corps, Maryland Geological Society, U.S. Geological Survey, local government and non-profit environmental groups. Kent County has an active TMDL Committee that was established in November 2006. Since that time, the committee has completed two plans:

- The Local Tributary Strategy Basin Implementation Plan was completed in March 2008. It represents a snapshot in time, and the Kent County Plan was based on the State model which evolved into the phases of the Maryland Watershed Improvement Plan.
- The Phase II WIP was completed in November 2012 and will inform the County's Phase III Plan.

In 2010, Statewide TMDL development focused on the Chesapeake Bay Priority Watershed and the main pollutants of nitrogen and phosphorus. Other pollutants such as bacteria, mercury, PCBs and chlorides were addressed with the goal of working towards healthy aquatic ecosystems.

The 2016 TMDL prioritization is to monitor and assess impaired waters and to continue developing TMDLs by setting pollution limits. The 2016-2022 Maryland's Priority Listings focus on addressing impairments affecting the following: 1) Chesapeake Bay, 2) Public Life and 3) Aquatic Life. First, the Chesapeake Bay is monitored for nutrient loads. Second, public life is monitored for bacteriological impairments affecting shellfish harvesting areas and beaches. Third, chlorides are a potent stressor to aquatic life. Promoting aquaculture is essential.

Kent County's 2015 Local Programmatic Milestone Report reflected that the County's focus is two-fold. The County needs to devise a tool to track, and then, report best management practice implementation. Therefore, the County will strive to create a best management practice data collection form for ease of quarterly reporting. Data will be organized according to location, practice, volume/acres treated, and installation date. The County activity engages with its neighbors in the Healthy Waters Roundtable. It is this collaborative effort which will best-suit non-MS4 counties in developing such a tracking mechanism.

The County adopted its Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) in November 2012. The WIP strives to meet the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) targets. The WIP includes both municipal and County level efforts to improve water quality. Below is a listing of some of the more significant County efforts addressing water quality enhancement:

1. Major and minor wastewater treatment plant upgrades
2. Septic system upgrades to best available technology systems, septic system pump out program and connections of existing septic system uses to public sanitary sewer systems
3. Stormwater management retrofits including rain gardens, rain barrels, living shorelines, implementing current stormwater management regulations, applying the Critical Area Program of a 10% pollution reduction, street sweeping, stream restorations, tree canopy and forest expansions, wetland restorations, and streamside forest buffers
4. Middle Chester River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy
5. 2010 Trust Fund Middle Chester Partners Local Implementation Grant
6. Upper Chester River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy
7. Sassafras Watershed Action Plan
8. Early Action Compact
9. Hazard Mitigation Plan
10. Kent County Bay Restoration Fund Program
11. Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Report

The details of the TMDL program are presented in the County's current Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). These programs assist landowners in the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to help achieve the TMDLs; however, no one landowner or government agency can solve the water quality issues independently. Achieving TMDLs and improving water quality of the Bay and its tributaries requires the long-term cooperation of State and federal agencies, counties, and individual stakeholders.

D. Program Development Strategy

This section describes Kent County's program development strategy for natural resource conservation.

- Continue to support and promote the goals and strategies outlined in the 2006 Comprehensive Plan, and 2017 Draft Plan update; the Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Report; the Hazard Mitigation Plan; the Phase II and III WIPs; Middle and Upper Chester River WRASs; Sassafras Watershed Action Plan; the Blackbird-Millington Study; and the efforts of the Kent County Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Committee.
- Continue the strong support and County funding for land preservation and continue to participate in all State and Federal programs such as MALPF, Rural Legacy, Program Open Space, Heritage Areas, etc.

- Identify funding sources for programs to purchase easements on sensitive area lands that do not meet the MALPF criteria
- Promote the development of heritage and ecotourism businesses
- Continue to require conservation subdivision techniques for new subdivisions
- Support a no net forest loss strategy
- Prepare the Phase III Local Watershed Implementation Plan

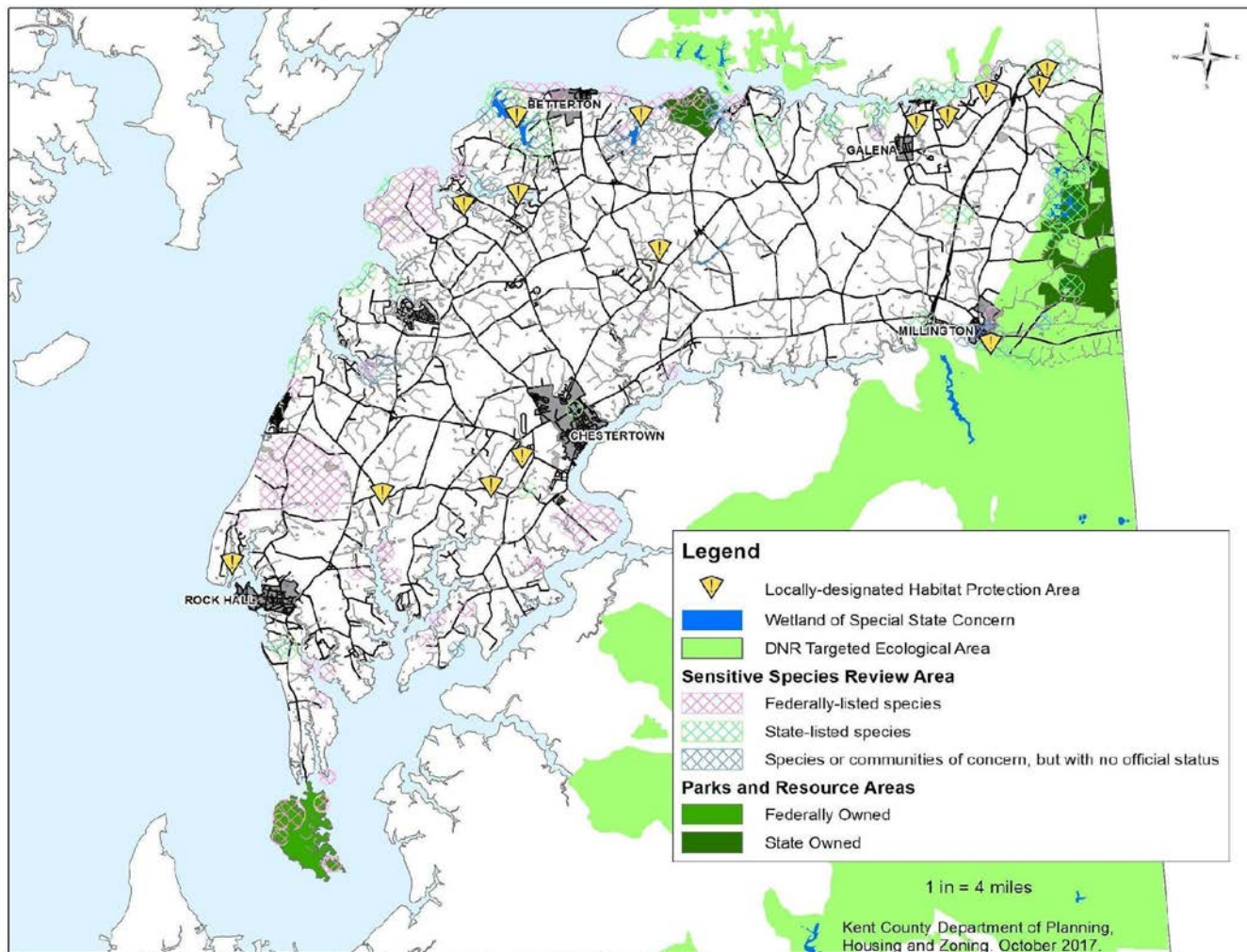
Table 4-2

Site Name	Property Size (Acres)	Outdoor Recreation Amenities (if any)	Trails / Interpretive Trails	Water Access	Owned / Managed
Millington Wildlife Management Area (WMA); includes the 131-acre Massey Pond Heritage Conservation Fund (HCF) Site, and the 48-acre Golts Ponds HCF Site	3,943	Fishing; Hiking; Hunting	Yes	No	Wildlife & Heritage Service / Maryland Park Service
Sassafras Natural Resources Management Area (NRMA)	1,008	Picnicking; Knock's Folly Visitors Center; Hunting; Fishing; Youth Group Camping	Hiking; Mountain Biking; Equestrian Trail Riding	Yes	Maryland Park Service
Urieville Lake FMA	54	Boat Ramp; Fishing; Picnicking	N/A	Yes	Maryland DNR Fisheries Service
Cypress Branch Natural Resources Management Area (NRMA) [Big Mill Pond Public Fishing Area was transferred to the Cypress Creek NRMA]	314	Fishing	N/A	Yes	Maryland Park Service
State Total	5,319				

Eastern Neck Island U.S. FWMA	2,284	Hunting; Fishing; Boat Launch; Wildlife Viewing	Yes	Yes	Federal
Total State and Federal Lands	7,603				

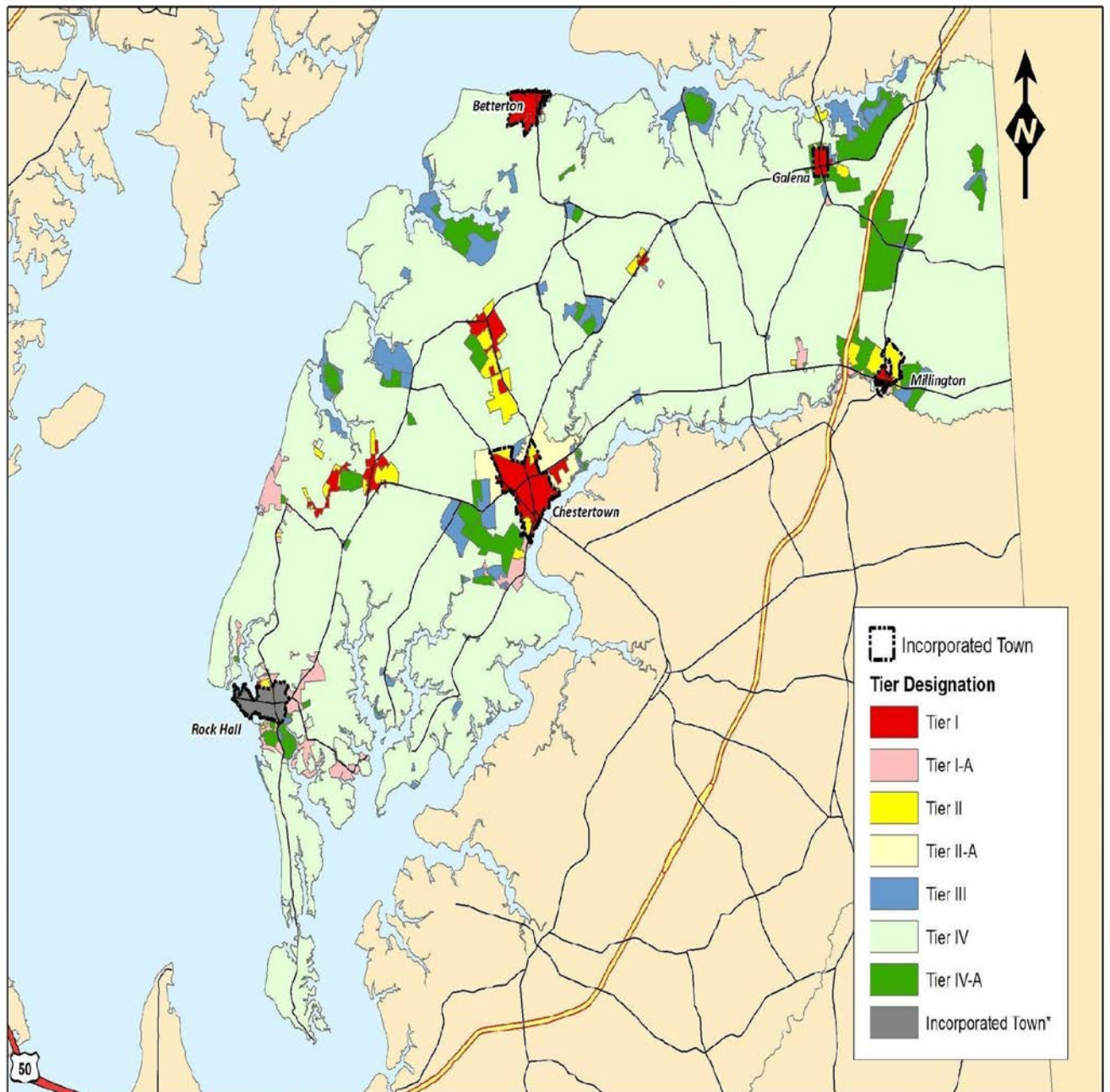
Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fiscal Year 2016 DNR Owned Lands Acreage

Map 4-2: Habitat Protection Areas and Sensitive Species Areas



This document was developed in color. Reproduction in B/W may not represent the data as intended.

Map 4-3: Tier Designation



Source: Kent County Department of Planning, Housing and Zoning. Map prepared October 2017.
This map was developed in color. Reproduction in B/W may not represent the data as intended.

Conclusion

Kent County, with the proximity and equity analysis for the LPPRP and its most recent Comprehensive Plan have identified the priorities for Kent County for land preservation, parks and recreation. With combined local, state and federal open space of more than 8,000 acres, Kent County has a diversified mix of recreation opportunities as well as a strong commitment to the preservation of open space, particularly as it relates to agriculture. Analysis of the inventory in Kent County demonstrates that Kent County-owned parks along with municipal parks provide residents with park/open space access within close proximity to their homes. One of the Kent County parks systems' greatest assets is its multiple access points to water both for swimming and boating. With three public swimming pools and a public beach in the County, residents have a great deal more access to swimming than those who live in proximal counties. However, park user responses to the survey completed in 2016 indicate that facility upgrades and maintenance at the public pool locations as well as at other parks across the county are needed. In particular, restroom facilities were noted multiple times as needing upgrades and maintenance. The Capital Improvement Plan prioritizes these projects in alignment with user demand. Focus on boating water access points within the county was also identified by the planning process as a key component in the recreation plan for Kent County. Eco-tourism and boating provide opportunities for the County to utilize its natural assets as an economic driver.

In addition, both response to the user survey and through public input in the overall Comprehensive Plan highlight the local desire and the state and national trend toward increased usage of multi-purpose trails for walking/running/biking. The CIP also includes plans for several trail development and extension projects. In addition, the County will work with local municipalities to look for opportunities to expand walking and biking trails both within parks and as safe routes to parks and other points of interest.

Appendices

Appendix A: Inventory of Public Lands

Appendix A-1: Inventory of Kent County Public Lands

Parks and Recreation		Outdoor Recreation Amenities:						Field/Facility Based Recreation Amenities:					
Site Name:	Property Size (Acres)	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Facilities	Trails/ Paths	Hunting/ Fishing	Sports Fields	Playground/ Play Structure	Basketball	Tennis	Activity Riding/ Rec Center	Other	Notes:
County Parks and Recreation:													
Bayville Landing Park & Pool	3.86		T			Y		X			X		Outdoor Sport, Marina, Public Land
Betherton Beach	5.2	X	T	X		X	X						Natural Beach, Public Land
Coeville Park	4.76						X	X					
Francis Conn. Demonstration Woodlot	3.56	Y				Y							Environmental Ed. Demo Area
Kent Ag Center	44.93			A							A		4-H Park, Ag Extension Activities
Millington Park & Pool	3.9			X					X	X			Outdoor Pool
Still Pond Station Park	12.42	X	X			X	X						
Tut Park	57.08	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					Public Land, Natural Beach, Public Land, Historic Tree, Game Trails
Turners Creek Park	147.04	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							Indoor Sport Courts, Activity Rooms, Outdoor Pool
Worton Park-Community Center	67.71			X	X		X	X	X	X	X		
Total County Parks and Recreation:	395.16 Acres								X				
Municipal Parks:													
Alax Park					X				X				
Balderton Community Center	0.51										Y	Y	Museum, Town Office, Activity Rooms
Betherton Community Park	4			X				X	X	X			
Blue Heron Park	0.7	X	X										
Ferry Park	0.21	X	X										
Fountain Park	0.474							X					
Galena Community Park	2.32			X	X			X					
Gateway Park (Galena)				X	X			X					
Gateway Park (Chesapeake town)	0.477				A		A		A				
Marge Bailey Community Park	18			X	X		X	X	X	X			
Remembrance Park	3.46	X	X	X	X	X		X					Fitness Station, Skate Park Adjacent
Robbary Park	3.18			X	X		X	X	X				
Rock Hill Ball Park	60						X						
Rock Hill Civic Center	8.8			X	X		X	X	X	X			
Washington Park	4.43			A	X		A		A				
Wilmer Park	8.56	X	X	X	X	X							
Total Municipal Parks and Rec:	122.121 Acres												
Public Landings:													
**Acreage is included in applicable park acreage													
Allen	7	X	X			X							
Bayville	**	X	X			X							
Betherton	**	X	X			A							
Bogles	1	X	X			X							
Brookwood	0.1	X	X			X							
Buck Neck	0.1	Y	Y			Y							
Burkeville Wharf	1	Y	Y			Y							
Cliff City	2	X	X			X							
Fall Creek	0.1	X	X			X							
Funkle	0.46	X	X			X							
Gratitude	0.1	X	X			X							
Gray's Inn	0.1	X	X			X							
Green Lane	0.1	Y	Y			Y							
Green Point	0.1	X	X			X							
Hammertown	0.1	X	X			X							
Haven	0.1	X	X			X							
High Street	2	X	X			X							
Long Cove	1	X	X			X							
Morgue	7.4	X	X			X							
Quaker Neck	7	Y	Y			Y							
River's Mill	0.1	X	X			X							
Shadwell Beach	0.1	X	X			X							
Shuford	0.1	X	X			X							
Sharp Street	0.5	X	X			X							
Shipyard	0.2	X	X			X							
Skinner's Neck	0.4	Y	Y			Y							
Spring Cove	0.5	X	X			X							
Still Pond	6	X	X			X							
Tolchester	0.1	X	X			X							
Turner's Creek	**	X	X			X							
Total Public Landings:	27.75												
Quasi-Public Parks/Recreation Sites													
* Represents 60% of property acreage													
Garnet Elementary School	3.55				X				X		X		Board of Ed/Parks & Rec MOU indoor after-school/evening & weekend playground & fields use
Galena Elementary School	10.02							Y		Y	Y	Y	Board of Ed/Parks & Rec MOU indoor after-school/evening & weekend playground & fields use
Kent County High School/Worton Elementary School	62.23						X		X	X	X		Board of Ed/Parks & Rec MOU indoor playground & fields use
Kent County Middle School	9				X		X		X	X	X		Board of Ed/Parks & Rec MOU indoor after-school/evening & weekend playground & fields use
Millington Elementary School	10.24						X						Board of Ed/Parks & Rec MOU indoor evening & weekend playground & fields use
Rock Hill Elementary School	4.44						X		X	X	X		Board of Ed/Parks & Rec MOU indoor after-school/evening & weekend playground & fields use
Totals Quasi-Public Parks/Recreation Sites:	134.75												
Total Parks and Recreation Properties:	934.482 Acres												

Appendix A-1 Map Labels for 2-1 Maps

Map Label	Name	Owner	OwnerType	ParkType	Acres
1	Toal Park	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT CO	County	Community	17.58
2	Turner's Creek Park	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT CO	County	Regional	147.04
3	Betterton Beach	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT CO	County	Community	4.79
4	Still Pond Station Park	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT CO.	County	Community	11.16
5	Cann Demonstration Woodlot	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT CO.	County	Special Use	6.06
6	Worton Park/Community Center	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT CO	County	Regional	69.69
7	4-H Park	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT CO	County	Special Use	22.63
8	Edesville Park	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT CO.	County	Community	4.76
9	Bayside Landing Park	THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF	County	Community	1.44
10	Millington Pool	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT CO.	County	Community	3.80
11	Galena Community Park	TOWN OF GALENA	Town	Neighborhood	2.07
12	Galena Gateway Park	THE TOWN OF GALENA	Town	Undeveloped	0.48
13	Betterton Park	TOWN OF BETTERTON	Town	Neighborhood	4.00
14	Betterton Community Center	THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF BETTERTON	Town	Special Use	0.51
15	Rock Hall Ball Park	MAYOR & COUNCIL OF ROCK HALL	Town	Neighborhood	60.00
16	Rock Hall Blue Heron Park	MAYOR&COUNCIL O/T TOWN OF ROCK HAL	Town	Special Use	9.70
17	Rock Hall Ferry Park	MAYOR & COUNCIL OF ROCK HALL	Town	Neighborhood	0.21
18	Rock Hall Civic Center	TOWN OF ROCK HALL	Town	Community	8.80
19	Washington Park	TOWN OF CHESTERTOWN	Town	Neighborhood	4.43
20	Gateway Park	Town of Chestetown	Town	Neighborhood	11.00
21	Chestertown Community Park	TOWN OF CHESTERTOWN	Town	Community	18.00
22	Remembrance Park	TOWN OF CHESTERTOWN	Town	Special Use	3.46
23	Fountain Park	Town of Chestertown	Town	Neighborhood	0.00

24	Ajax Park	Town of Chestertown	Town	Neighborhood	0.00
25	Wilmer Park/Lydia Hynson Pavilion	TOWN OF CHESTERTOWN	Town	Community	6.56
26	Robvanary Park	TOWN OF MILLINGTON-THE	Town	Neighborhood	3.17
27	Millington WMA	GAME & INLAND FISH COMM OF MD	State		31.00
28	Sassafras NRMA	DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	State		1008.00
29	Urieville Lake FMA	DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	State		49.81
30	Cypress Branch NRMA	Maryland Park Service	State		157.52
31	Eastern Neck Island, US FWMA	UNITED STATES DEPT OF THE INTERIOR	Federal		2283.78

Appendix A-2 State and Federal Open Space Inventory

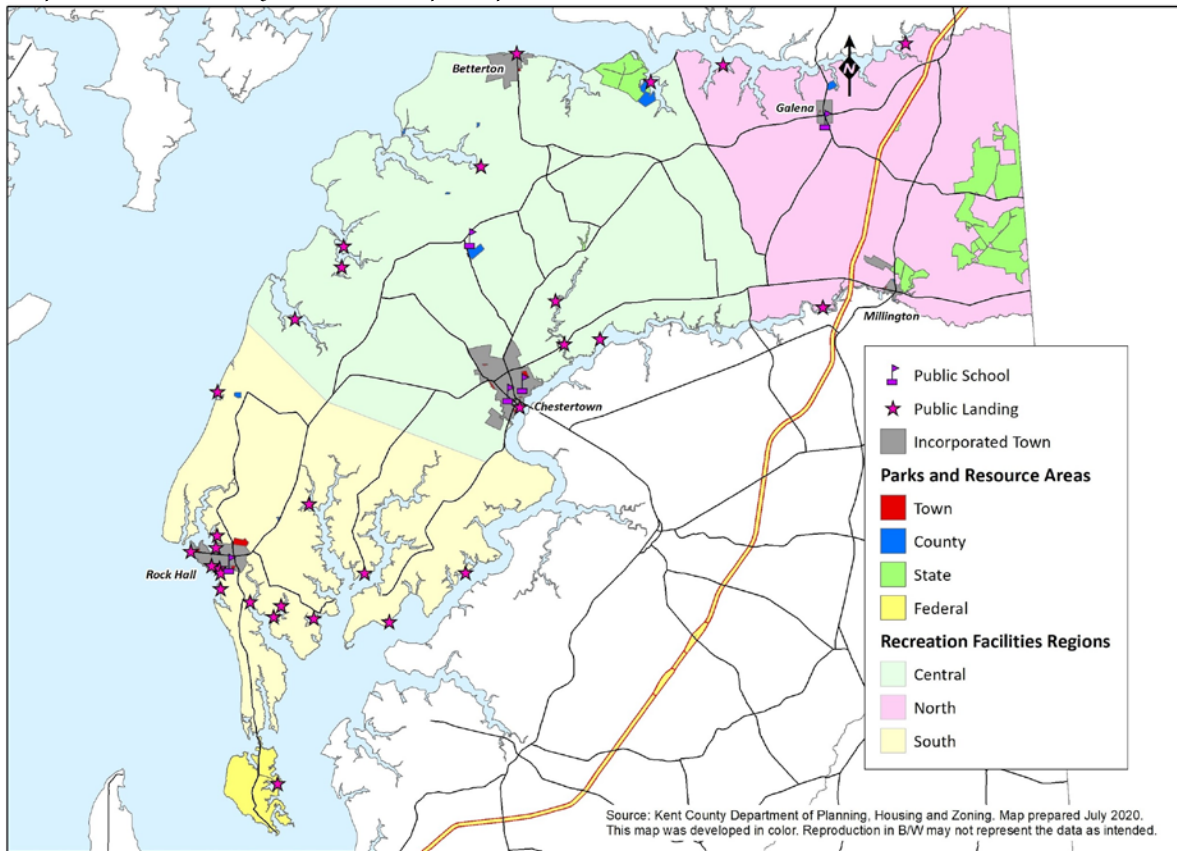
Appendix A-2 State and Federal Open Space by Name	Property Size (Acres)	Outdoor Recreation Amenities (if any)	Trails / Interpretiv e Trails	Water Access	Owned / Managed
Millington Wildlife Management Area (WMA); includes the 131-acre Massey Pond Heritage Conservation Fund (HCF) Site, and the 48-acre Golts Ponds HCF Site	3,943	Fishing; Hiking; Hunting	Yes	No	Wildlife & Heritage Service / Maryland Park Service
Sassafras Natural Resources Management Area (NRMA)	1,008	Picnicking; Knock's Folly Visitors Center; Hunting; Fishing; Youth Group Camping	Hiking; Mountain Biking; Equestrian Trail Riding	Yes	Maryland Park Service
Urieville Lake FMA	54	Boat Ramp; Fishing; Picnicking	N/A	Yes	Maryland DNR Fisheries Service
Cypress Branch Natural Resources Management Area (NRMA) [Big Mill Pond Public Fishing Area was transferred to the Cypress Creek NRMA]	314	Fishing	N/A	Yes	Maryland Park Service
State Total	5,319				

Eastern Neck Island U.S. FWMA	2,284	Hunting; Fishing; Boat Launch; Wildlife Viewing	Yes	Yes	Federal
Total State and Federal Lands	7,603				

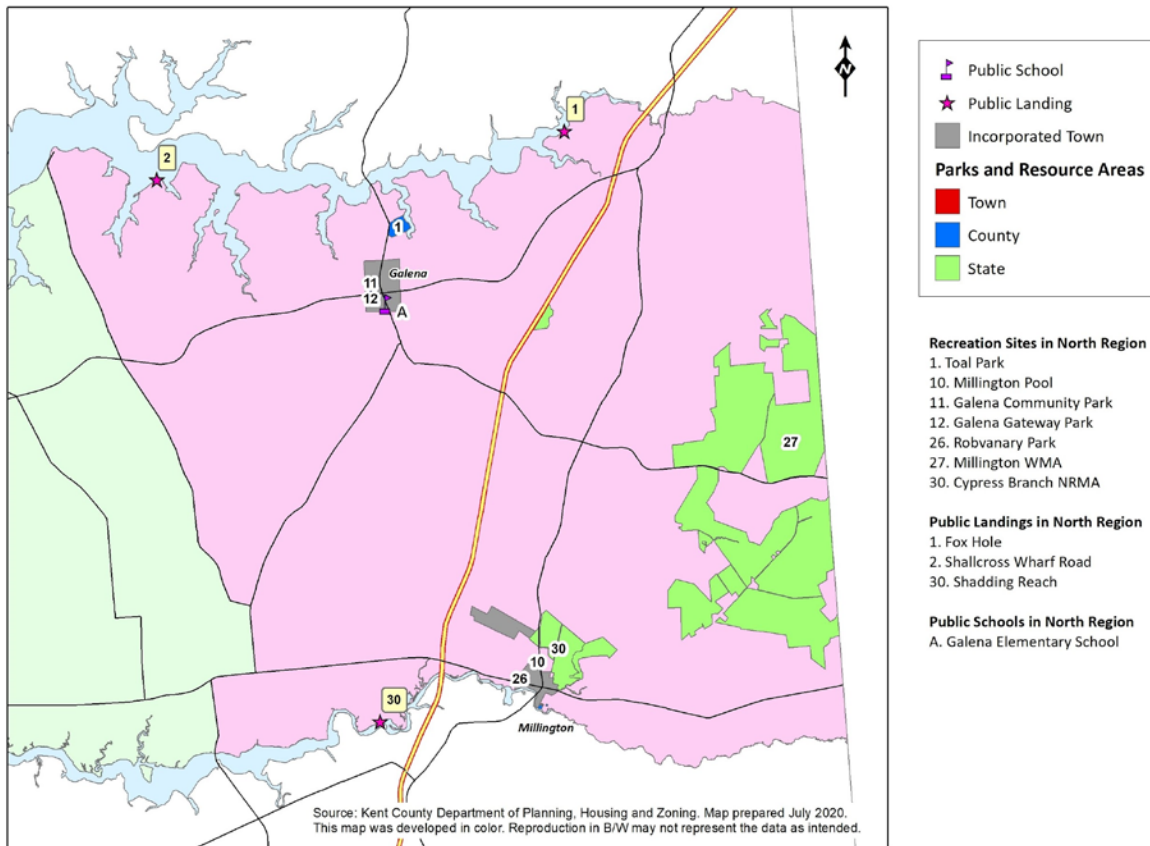
Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fiscal Year 2016 DNR Owned Lands Acreage

Appendix A-3

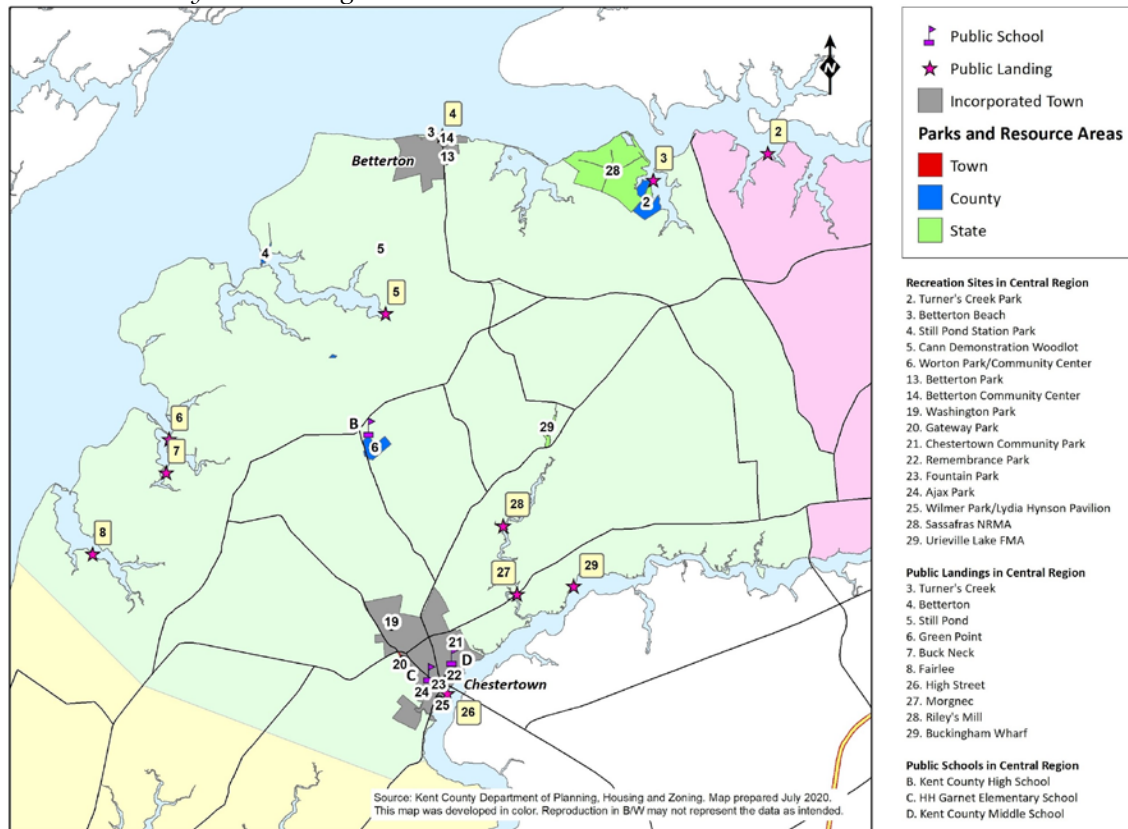
Map 2-1: Kent County Parks and Open Spaces



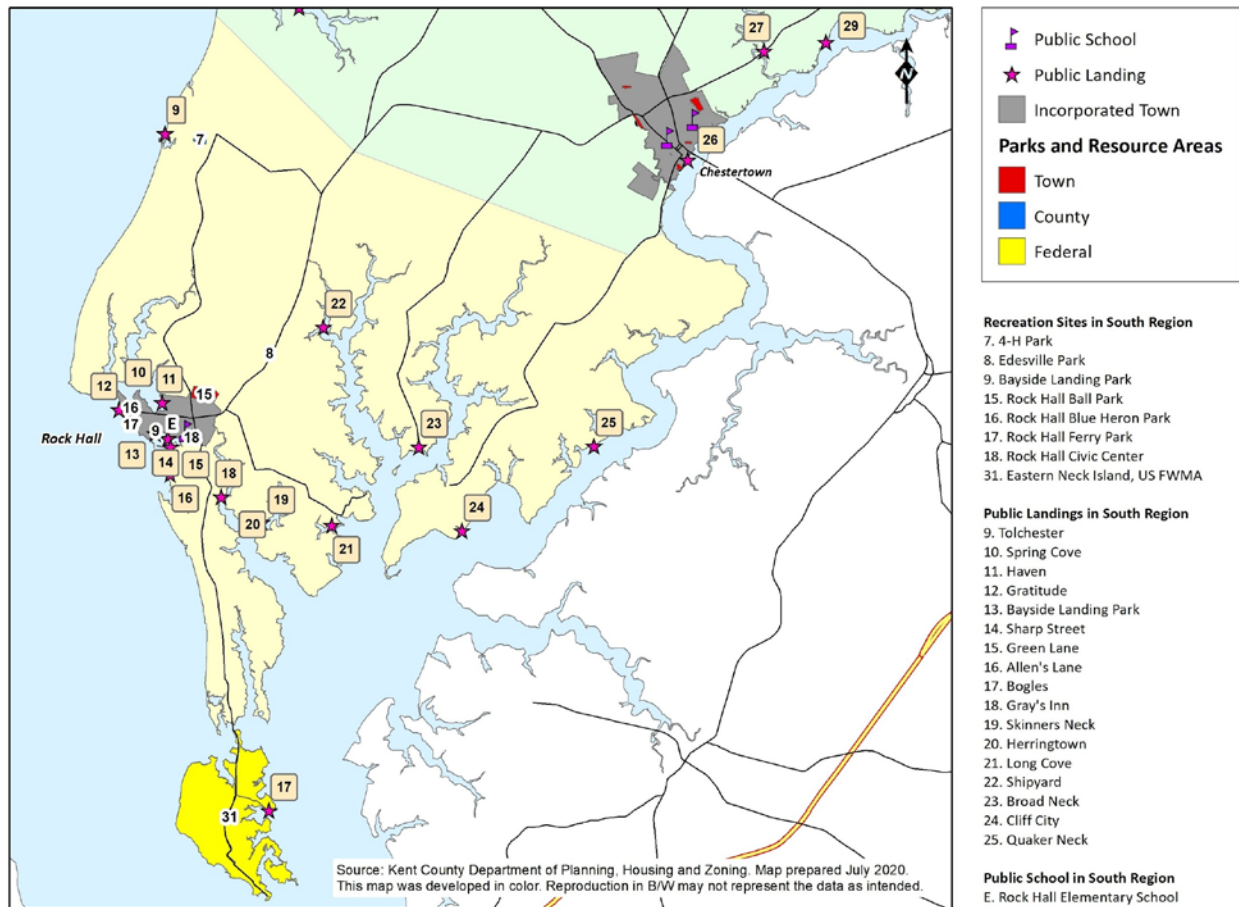
Map 2-1a: Kent County North Region



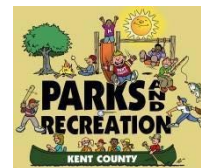
Map 2-1b Kent County Central Region



Map 2-1c Kent County South Region



Appendix B: Public Input Survey



To complete this survey online (preferred), please visit www.KentParksAndRec.org.

The mission of Kent County Parks and Recreation is to create balanced opportunities for our patrons to play, learn, and grow through our programs and parks. Kent County Parks & Recreation is updating its five year Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan for 2017 as required by the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Land Acquisition and Planning Program Open Space Program. The Program Open Space program provides financial and technical assistance to local subdivisions for the planning, acquisition, and/or development of recreation land or open space areas. The Program symbolizes Maryland's long term commitment to conserving our natural resources while providing outdoor recreation opportunities for citizens. Although Parks and Recreation offers programs other than those related to parks and open spaces, the purpose of this survey is to solicit input from the public to help establish outdoor park and open space goals to pursue over the next five years as it relates to parks and open spaces. A separate survey specific to recreation programs unrelated to parks and open spaces will be conducted in the future. Thank you in advance for your input!

Kent County owns and manages nine parks/open spaces with approximately 310 acres of land. The parks are:

1. Bayside Landing Park and Pool; 2.69 acres;
2. Betterton Beach and Park; 5.2 acres;
3. Edesville Park; 5 acres
4. Francis Cann Demonstration Woodlot; 8.06 acres
5. Millington Park and Pool; 3.8 acres
6. Still Pond Station Park; 11 acres
7. Toal Park; 37.4 acres
8. Turners Creek Park and Landing; 147 acres
9. Worton Park; 97 acres

Where do you live in Kent County?

☐ Betterton 21610 ☐ Chestertown 21620 ☐ Galena 21635
☐ Kennedyville 21645 ☐ Massey 21650 ☐ Millington 21651
☐ Rock Hall 21661 ☐ Still Pond 21667 ☐ Worton 21678
☐ I do not live in Kent County, MD

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female **Age:** ☐ Under 21 ☐ 22-54 ☐ 55 or Older

How often do you or your family visit a Kent County park?

☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ 2 x/ Month ☐ Every 2-6 months
☐ Every 6-12 months ☐ Once per year ☐ Never

Which Kent County parks have you visited during the past year? (select all that apply)

☐ Bayside Landing Park & Pool ☐ Betterton Beach & Park ☐ Edesville Park
☐ Francis Cann Demo. Woodlot ☐ Millington Park & Pool ☐ Still Pond Station Park
☐ Toal Park ☐ Turners Crk Park/Landing ☐ Worton Park ☐ None of the above

Which Kent County parks do you visit most often? (select no more than two)

☐ Bayside Landing Park & Pool ☐ Betterton Beach & Park ☐ Edesville Park
☐ Francis Cann Demo. Woodlot ☐ Millington Park & Pool ☐ Still Pond Station Park
☐ Toal Park ☐ Turners Crk Park/Landing ☐ Worton Park ☐ None of the above

For each Kent County park you have visited, describe what additions or improvements you think are needed.

Bayside Landing Park and Pool _____
Betterton Beach and Park _____
Edesville Park _____
Francis Cann Demonstration Woodlot _____
Millington Park and Pool _____
Still Pond Station Park _____
Toal Park _____
Turners Creek Park and Landing _____
Worton Park _____

When you have visited Kent County parks, have you or has anyone else been challenged by barriers to accessibility? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please explain where, and what the challenge or barrier was.

What are your main interests or pursuits in outdoor recreation?

☐ Walking/Running/Hiking ☐ Playgrounds ☐ Wildlife/Nature
☐ Swimming ☐ Biking ☐ Fishing
☐ Canoeing ☐ Boating/Water Skiing ☐ Athletics/Sports
☐ Winter Activities (Snow Tubing/Skiing) ☐ Camping Other: _____

What recreational interests or pursuits are you interested in but are not available in Kent County parks? _____

What parks and recreation facilities would you like to see added or developed for Kent County parks in the future?

☐ Multi-Use Trails ☐ Swimming beaches ☐ Splash Pads/Spray Yards ☐ Bike Trails
☐ Disc Golf ☐ Natural Areas ☐ Canoeing/Kayaking ☐ Picnic Shelters/Pavilions
☐ Indoor Recreational/Meeting Facilities ☐ Purchase More Land/Preserve Natural Areas
Other: _____

What do you think will be the best way to fund public parks & recreation in the future?

☐ Donations ☐ User Fees/Admission Fees ☐ County General Funds With No User fees
☐ County-wide Parks & Recreation Millage (property taxes) ☐ Private sponsorship

Is there anything else you would like to say or suggest for us to consider in the development of the five-year plan for parks? If so, please enter it here. _____

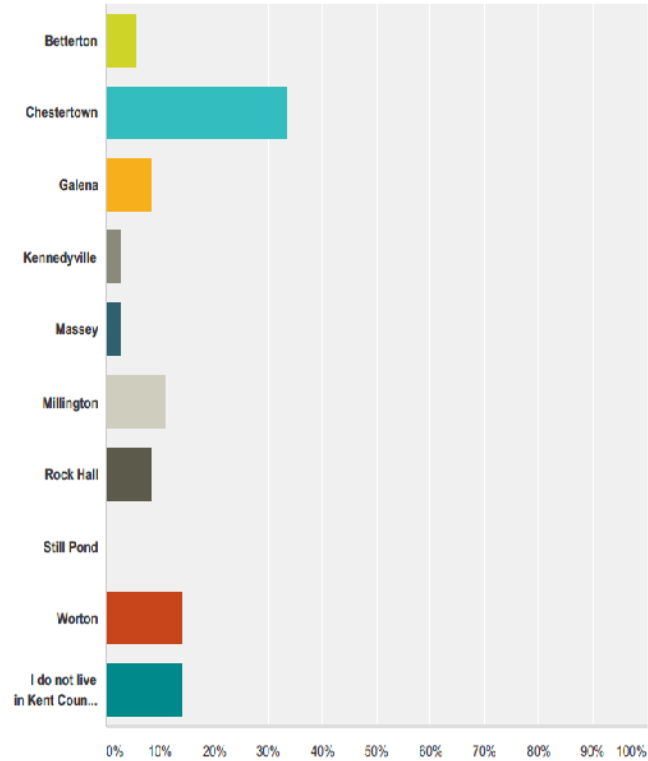
Thank you for your input and suggestions that will help shape goals established for Kent County Parks!

If you were unable to complete the survey online and have completed a paper copy, please mail the form to Kent County Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 67, Worton, MD 21678, or drop it off at the Kent County Community Center located at 11041 Worton Rd, Worton, or the Office of the County Commissioners located at 400 High St., Chestertown.

Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

Q1 Where do you live in Kent County?

Answered: 36 Skipped: 0

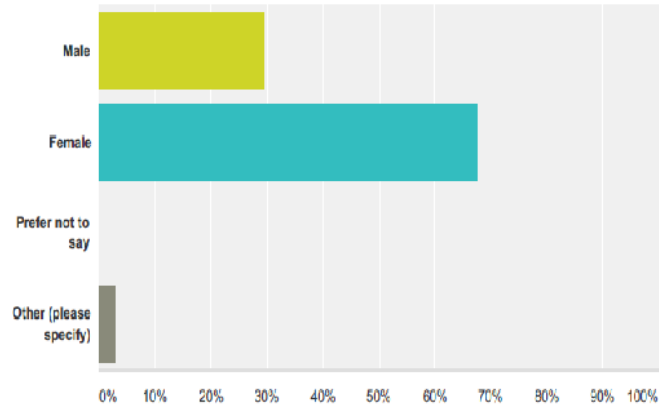


Answer Choices	Responses
Betterton	5.56% 2
Chestertown	33.33% 12
Galena	8.33% 3
Kennedyville	2.78% 1
Massey	2.78% 1
Millington	11.11% 4
Rock Hall	8.33% 3
Still Pond	0.00% 0
Worton	13.89% 5
I do not live in Kent County, MD	13.89% 5
Total	36

Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

Q2 Gender

Answered: 34 Skipped: 2



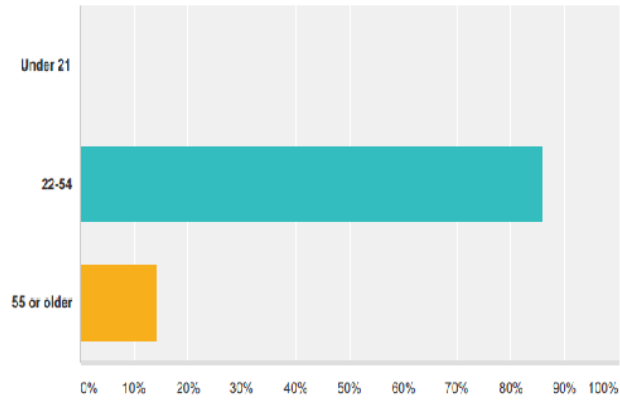
Answer Choices	Responses
Male	29.41% 10
Female	67.65% 23
Prefer not to say	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	2.94% 1
Total Respondents: 34	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Weekly depending on the season	3/22/2016 11:07 AM

Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

Q3 Age

Answered: 35 Skipped: 1

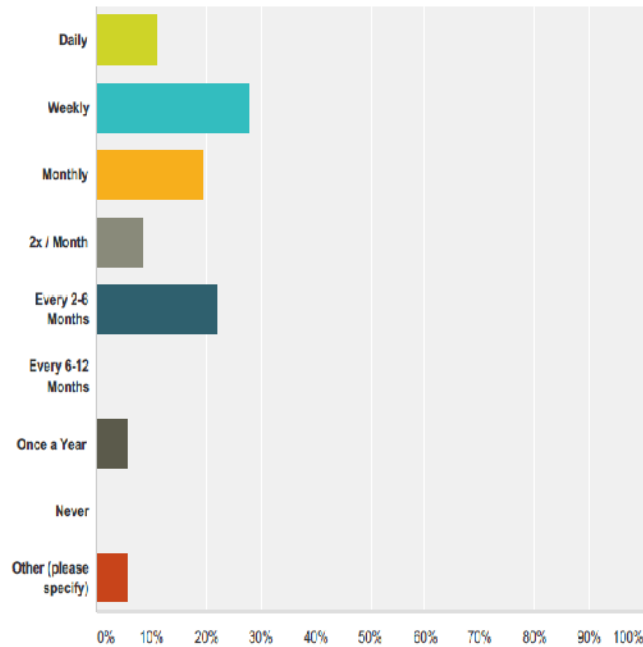


Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 21	0.00%	0
22-54	85.71%	30
55 or older	14.29%	5
Total Respondents: 35		

Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

Q4 How often do you or your family visit a Kent County Park?

Answered: 36 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Daily	11.11% 4
Weekly	27.78% 10
Monthly	19.44% 7
2x / Month	8.33% 3
Every 2-6 Months	22.22% 8
Every 6-12 Months	0.00% 0
Once a Year	5.56% 2
Never	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	5.56% 2
Total Respondents: 36	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	baseball games, seasonal	3/22/2016 4:09 PM
2	almost never	3/22/2016 12:18 PM

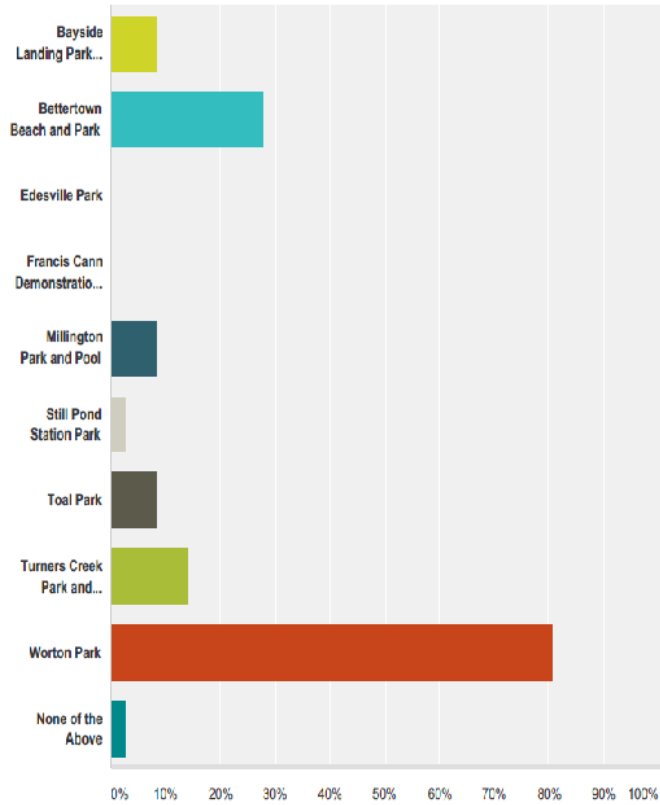
Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

Total Respondents: 36	
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Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

Q6 Which Kent County parks do you visit most often? (select no more than two)

Answered: 36 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Bayside Landing Park and Pool	8.33% 3
Bettertown Beach and Park	27.78% 10
Edesville Park	0.00% 0
Francis Cann Demonstration Woodlot	0.00% 0
Millington Park and Pool	8.33% 3
Still Pond Station Park	2.78% 1
Toal Park	8.33% 3
Turners Creek Park and Landing	13.89% 5
Worton Park	80.56% 29
None of the Above	2.78% 1

Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

Total Respondents: 36	
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Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

Q7 For each Kent County park you have visited, describe what additions or improvements you think are needed.

Answered: 23 Skipped: 13

Answer Choices	Responses
Beyside Landing Park and Pool	13.04% 3
Betterton Beach and Park	39.13% 9
Edesville Park	8.70% 2
Francis Cann Demonstration Woodlot	4.35% 1
Millington Park and Pool	21.74% 5
Still Pond Station Park	17.39% 4
Tcal Park	21.74% 5
Turners Creek Park and Landing	17.39% 4
Worton Park	73.91% 17

#	Beyside Landing Park and Pool	Date
1	n/a	3/22/2016 11:10 AM
2	Bigger pool	3/22/2016 9:25 AM
3	Bathrooms need slip resistant materials on floors	3/18/2016 10:41 AM
#	Betterton Beach and Park	Date
1	lifeguards	3/22/2016 2:01 PM
2	no opinion	3/22/2016 12:18 PM
3	Allow dogs	3/22/2016 11:50 AM
4	Lifeguards, opportunity for vendors	3/22/2016 11:10 AM
5	Weekly Beach Clean-up	3/22/2016 11:07 AM
6	I think it's great the way it is.	3/22/2016 10:47 AM
7	Public landing needs to be deeper	3/18/2016 9:48 PM
8	Beach sand clean up	3/18/2016 2:27 PM
9	Bathhouse and pavilion need a lot of work	3/18/2016 9:34 AM
#	Edesville Park	Date
1	n/a	3/22/2016 11:10 AM
2	the grass area is not level	3/18/2016 9:34 AM
#	Francis Cann Demonstration Woodlot	Date
1	n/a	3/22/2016 11:10 AM
#	Millington Park and Pool	Date
1	Add/improve Basketball court, parking lot repaving	3/22/2016 3:06 PM
2	Renovation	3/22/2016 11:10 AM
3	Would like for bathrooms to be opened when sports start.	3/21/2016 7:22 PM

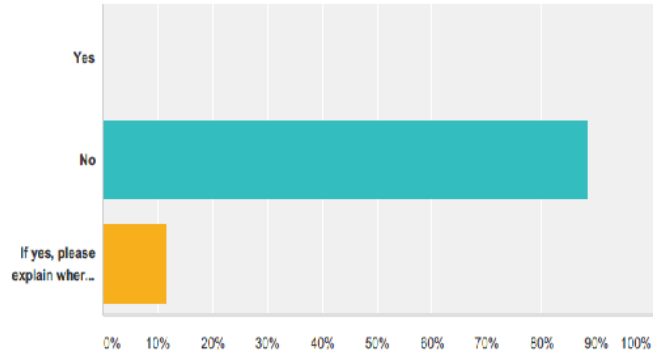
Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

4	the parking lot and basketball net is not playable	3/18/2016 9:34 AM
5	Cleaner environment, general maintenance, update play equipment	3/18/2016 8:45 AM
#	Still Pond Station Park	Date
1	bathrooms	3/22/2016 2:01 PM
2	Better utilization of the building, such as a co-op with a non profit to create an outdoor educational center	3/22/2016 11:10 AM
3	Parking for boats	3/22/2016 11:06 AM
4	It will be interesting to see how this changes.	3/22/2016 10:47 AM
#	Toal Park	Date
1	bathrooms	3/22/2016 2:01 PM
2	n/a	3/22/2016 11:10 AM
3	Something must be done here; this park is rarely if ever used. We are often the only people there. Perhaps a sequence of exercise equipment for adults?	3/22/2016 11:02 AM
4	Weed maintenance, ball field edges, rake field, fill in pot holes	3/18/2016 2:27 PM
5	the second field is unusable	3/18/2016 9:34 AM
#	Turners Creek Park and Landing	Date
1	Always thought this should be a county-funded campground, providing sites with water, electric, maybe wi-fi, and the addition of playground equipment. Bring in vendors, or partner up with local charterers to offer tours, fishing, etc. The influx of tourists could be a nice economic stimulus to the northern parts of the county.	3/22/2016 11:10 AM
2	Love it! No improvements come to mind	3/22/2016 11:02 AM
3	I love this park, too.	3/22/2016 10:47 AM
4	there's a lot of rich history they seems to be just getting bandaids	3/18/2016 9:34 AM
#	Worton Park	Date
1	Bathrooms need to renovated. Poor plumbing and filthy.	3/22/2016 4:09 PM
2	an additional bathroom facility by the basketball court	3/22/2016 3:24 PM
3	Bathroom Facility	3/22/2016 2:22 PM
4	more porta-johns when bathrooms are closed	3/22/2016 2:01 PM
5	no opinion	3/22/2016 12:18 PM
6	As the "flagship" park of the county, it should have an impressive playground. It is in much need of updating.	3/22/2016 11:10 AM
7	Grounds are well kept for sports games	3/22/2016 11:07 AM
8	Lighted multi-purpose field	3/22/2016 11:07 AM
9	Ball fields need major upgrading compared to other counties in MD.	3/22/2016 11:00 AM
10	Can't think of any necessary changes.	3/22/2016 10:47 AM
11	How can the CRA spend \$168000 to create a 1 acre wetland? What a waste of taxpayer money. Exactly how are those funds going to be spent?	3/18/2016 9:48 PM
12	Everything, worst park in Maryland. Bathrooms are horrible and always locked.	3/18/2016 3:14 PM
13	Bathrooms are always dirty	3/18/2016 2:27 PM
14	overall upkeep of park, everything seems run-down	3/18/2016 10:41 AM
15	parking, field maintainece (grass fields), playground, bathhouse (plus one needed in the back) additional concessions in the back	3/18/2016 9:34 AM
16	More benches throughout the park and another bathroom on the far side	3/18/2016 3:49 AM
17	Stations for poop cleanup for people with dogs, dog park so dogs arnt running and playing where kids sports are NC they have poop all over the fields	3/18/2016 8:45 AM

Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

Q8 When you have visited Kent County parks, have you or has anyone else been challenged by barriers to accessibility?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 2



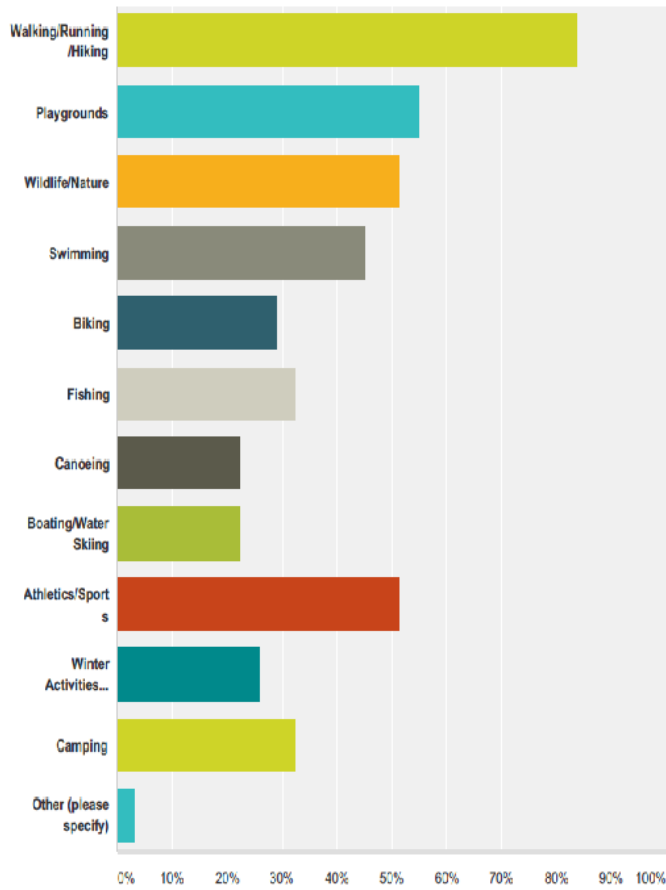
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	0.00% 0
No	88.24% 30
If yes, please explain where, and what the challenge or barrier was	11.76% 4
Total	34

#	If yes, please explain where, and what the challenge or barrier was	Date
1	Worton Park playground is not wheel chair accessible	3/22/2016 11:04 AM
2	Trails. We appreciate that not all trails can or should be made "paved", but perhaps a short woodland trail at Tumens Creek could be made wheelchair accessible? Or a sensory garden provided?	3/22/2016 11:02 AM
3	Bathrooms are not easily accessible	3/22/2016 11:00 AM
4	parking, bathrooms (availability and cleanliness and access to sosp), water fountains	3/18/2016 9:34 AM

Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

Q9 What are your main interests or pursuits in outdoor recreation?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses	
Walking/Running/Hiking	83.87%	26
Playgrounds	54.84%	17
Wildlife/Nature	51.61%	16
Swimming	45.16%	14
Biking	29.03%	9
Fishing	32.26%	10
Canoeing	22.58%	7
Boating/Water Skiing	22.58%	7
Athletics/Sports	51.61%	16

Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

Winter Activities (Snow Tubing, Skiing)	25.81%	8
Camping	32.26%	10
Other (please specify)	3.23%	1
Total Respondents: 31		

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	ice skating	3/22/2016 11:07 AM

Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

**Q10 What recreational interests or pursuits
are you interested in but are not available in
Kent County parks?**

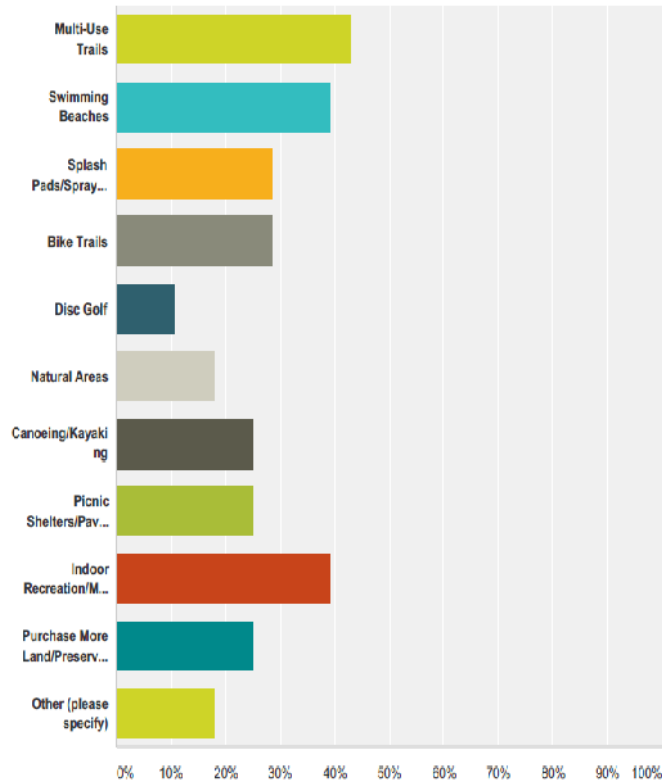
Answered: 13 Skipped: 23

#	Responses	Date
1	none	3/22/2016 3:37 PM
2	Camping, Bike trails	3/22/2016 3:10 PM
3	no opinion	3/22/2016 12:24 PM
4	Camping, full gym	3/22/2016 11:24 AM
5	N/A	3/22/2016 11:09 AM
6	Fun-Run's SK	3/22/2016 11:09 AM
7	ice skating	3/22/2016 11:07 AM
8	Birding	3/22/2016 11:03 AM
9	A snow tubing & ice skating area would be great. Just went to Heritage Hills in PA (it's a golf course they turn into snow tubing for winter)	3/22/2016 10:16 AM
10	Additional baseball field in galena, Sailing programs, bike trails	3/13/2016 2:31 PM
11	camping	3/13/2016 10:42 AM
12	None	3/13/2016 8:51 AM
13	Camping	3/13/2016 8:39 AM

Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

Q11 What parks and recreation facilities would you like to see added or developed for Kent County parks in the future?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 8



Answer Choices	Responses
Multi-Use Trails	42.86% 12
Swimming Beaches	39.29% 11
Splash Pads/Spray Yards	28.57% 8
Bike Trails	28.57% 8
Disc Golf	10.71% 3
Natural Areas	17.86% 5
Canoeing/Kayaking	25.00% 7
Picnic Shelters/Pavilions	25.00% 7
Indoor Recreation/Meeting Facilities	39.29% 11
Purchase More Land/Preserve Natural Areas	25.00% 7

Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

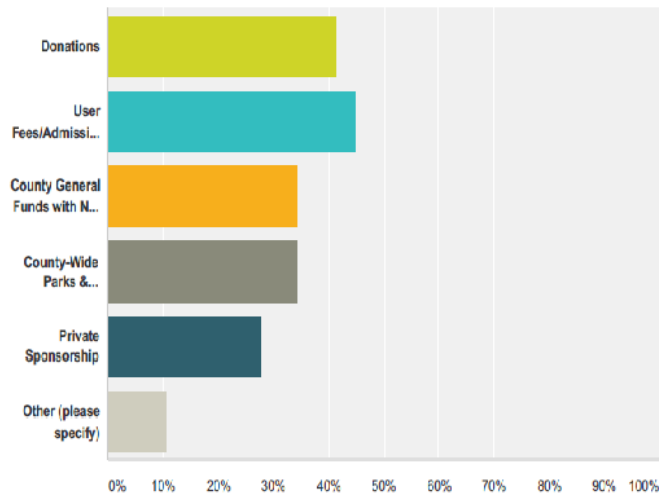
Other (please specify)	17.86%	5
Total Respondents: 28		

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	A full gym and campgrounds	3/22/2016 11:24 AM
2	more playgrounds, ice skating/hockey rinks	3/22/2016 11:07 AM
3	Playground in Chestertown	3/22/2016 11:07 AM
4	see above - snow tubing and ice skating area	3/22/2016 10:16 AM
5	None	3/18/2016 8:51 AM

Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

Q12 What do you think will be the best way to fund public parks & recreation in the future?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses
Donations	41.38% 12
User Fees/Admission Fees	44.83% 13
County General Funds with No User Fees	34.48% 10
County-Wide Parks & Recreation Millage (property taxes)	34.48% 10
Private Sponsorship	27.59% 8
Other (please specify)	10.34% 3
Total Respondents: 29	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Grants	3/22/2016 3:10 PM
2	Grants; Generate more tourism through offering parks and recreation, such as generating funds via camp site rentals; create more enticing opportunities for vendors at the beach or pool (or a camp store) and charge them rent to occupy space; meeting room/pavilion rentals; if you had a full gym membership could be higher (\$100 per year or more)	3/22/2016 11:24 AM
3	I like tiered admissions; free or low-cost for residents, higher (but not prohibitive) for non-residents	3/22/2016 11:03 AM

Parks and Open Spaces Public Input Survey

Q13 Is there anything else you would like to say or suggest for us to consider in the development of the five-year plan? If so, please enter it here.

Answered: 7 Skipped: 29

#	Responses	Date
1	My taxes pay for the park why do I have to buy an access card. I understand fees for use but an access card is offensive since my tax dollars pay for the park, its employees and its upkeep. Out of county people should have to pay higher fees then in county residence and the park access cards should be used only for out of county residence who pay an annual membership fee for use of facility.	3/22/2016 3:10 PM
2	good luck	3/22/2016 2:28 PM
3	Chesterdown, as the county seat, has nothing for families with children. It needs a playground.	3/22/2016 11:07 AM
4	Keep up the good work!!!	3/22/2016 11:03 AM
5	The parks certainly do not look as good and are not maintained like other parks in the state.	3/22/2016 11:02 AM
6	We have a horrible park and I'm a shamed of it to be a Kent county resident. Please make more fields and open space for activities.	3/18/2016 8:17 PM
7	Hire more staff to maintain all parks!	3/18/2016 2:31 PM