

Somerset County 2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan



Somerset County Recreation and Parks



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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the purpose and context for preparing Somerset County's 2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), its objectives and legal framework.

A. Purposes of the Plan

Updated County LPPRPs are required to be submitted to the State of Maryland every five years; one year prior to the revision of the statewide Maryland Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan¹. The main goal for the 2017 round of LPPRPs is to identify future needs and priorities for parks, recreation and open space acquisition, facility development and rehabilitation in the County and its two incorporated towns. These needs and priorities serve as a guide for land acquisitions and capital investments in the County's and towns' Capital Improvements Programs. The LPPRPs qualify local governments for State Program Open Space (POS) grants and other programs related to the plan's objectives for three land resource elements²:

Recreation and parks;

Agricultural land preservation; and

Natural resource land conservation.

The purposes of the statewide and local LPPRPs have changed over the years due to evolving priorities at the state level. This 2017 LPPRP has been developed in accordance with guidelines developed in 2015 by the Maryland Departments of Planning and Natural Resources. Past LPPRPs have had a strong emphasis on agricultural land preservation and natural resource land conservation. This LPPRP describes progress in these areas since the 2012 LPPRP. However, based on the LPPRP guidelines, the emphasis in this LPPRP is on recreation, and discussion and policies related to agricultural land preservation and natural resource conservation programs are set forth in the Somerset County Comprehensive Plan.

To achieve this purpose, this LPPRP:

Identifies needs and priorities of current and future County residents and visitors for parks and recreation through the 2017 to 2027 period and beyond.

Addresses the recommendations for parks and recreation made in the 2014-2018 State LPPRP.

¹ Program Open Space: § 5-905 of the Natural Resources Article, Maryland Annotated Code.

² Program Open Space is a MD DNR program is financed through a dedicated revenue stream: the ½-percent real estate transfer tax that is levied on each property sale in the State.

Describes progress in parks and recreation, agricultural land preservation and natural resource land conservation since the 2012 LPPRP.

Evaluates State and County land preservation goals and objectives for the three land resource elements and identifies where they are the same, complementary or different.

B. Local Agency Preparation of the Plan

Somerset County government is responsible for the preparation of the LPPRP. The effort was led by the Somerset County Department of Recreation and Parks, which took the lead on parks and recreation (Chapter III), and the Somerset County Department of Technical and Community Services which took the lead on agricultural land preservation and natural resources land conservation (Chapter IV). In addition, the following agencies and organizations contributed to preparation of the plan:

Somerset County Planning and Zoning Commission;

Somerset County Recreation and Parks Commission;

Somerset County Public Schools;

Town of Princess Anne

City of Crisfield.

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

This LPPRP is one of a series of companion plans, regulations, and guidance documents that form the County's planning program. The 1996 Somerset County Comprehensive Plan (as amended) is the primary planning document for guiding growth and land preservation. The Plan has been amended several times since adoption including:

- May 1998 - Amendment to add historic sites to Sec. 12.1 and Rural Villages to Sec. 6.1
- March 2002 - Amendment to Land Use Chapter for West Princess Anne
- March 2010 - Amendment to add Water Resources Element to the Plan
- July 2017 – Amendment to add Growth Tiers to the Plan

Somerset County is required by State Planning to have a do a complete update to the Plan in the 2021-2023 time frame.

In 2002 to designate the West Princess Anne Growth Area in recognition of available community sewer systems and to recognize, by reference, the Lower Eastern Shore Certified Heritage Area.

In 2005 to incorporate the 2005 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan

In 2010 to incorporate a Water Resources Element (chapter).

This LPPRP has been prepared to be consistent with pertinent Comprehensive Plan policies, goals and objectives. Following State approval of the LPPRP, anticipated to occur in the Summer or Fall of 2017, it will replace the 2012 LPPRP and become one of a number of functional plans that help implement the Comprehensive Plan.

Chapter II Framework

A. Physical Characteristics

1. Location

Somerset County is the southernmost county on Maryland's Eastern Shore, lying along the Chesapeake Bay side of the Eastern Shore peninsula. The Wicomico River forms the County's northern boundary. Dividing Creek and the Pocomoke River and Sound form the eastern and southern boundary. Tangier Sound and the Chesapeake Bay are to the west.

The County's geography is defined by peninsulas that extend into the Bay, separated by several meandering rivers: the Wicomico, the Manokin, the Pocomoke and the Annemessex. The County also includes South Marsh Island, Smith Island and Janes Island. Smith Island is the only inhabited island and has settlements at Ewell, Rhodes Point and Tylerton.

2. Land Cover

Table II-1 summarizes trends in land use/ land cover and development from 1997 to 2010 (see also Figure II-1). The County contains approximately 207,000 acres or 322 square miles of land area. In 2010 resource lands accounted for approximately 91 percent of the County's land, a decline of approximately 6,600 acres compared to 1997. Over 82,800 acres or 40 percent of land cover is forest, down from 42 percent in 1997. Since 1997, agricultural land has decreased by four percent or nearly 2,200 acres. Developed land increased by 6,800 acres or 57 percent since 1997. This large increase is partially explained by land converted to development but is also a recognition of earlier, existing development, that is now being recognized through the newly introduced classification of a very low density residential development category in the 2010 and revised 2002 land use data.

Table II-1 Somerset County Land Use Land Cover

	1997		2002		2010		1997-2010 Change	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
Resource Lands	194,825	94.2%	189,965	91.8%	188,215	90.9%	-6,610	-3.4%
Agriculture	51,843	25.1%	50,690	24.5%	49,693	24.0%	-2,150	-4.1%
Forest	87,101	42.1%	83,532	40.4%	82,822	40.0%	-4,279	-4.9%
Extractive/barren	136	0.1%	138	0.1%	128	0.1%	-8	-5.9%
Wetland	55,745	27.0%	55,605	26.9%	55,572	26.8%	-173	-0.3%
Development Lands	11,979	5.8%	17,023	8.2%	18,774	9.1%	6,795	56.7%
Residential	9,567	4.6%	14,355	6.9%	15,865	7.7%	6,298	65.8%
Non-residential	2,412	1.2%	2,668	1.3%	2,909	1.4%	497	20.6%
Total Land Area	206,804	100.0%	206,988	100.0%	206,989	100.0%	185	0.1%

Note: The Maryland Department of Planning has slightly varied methodology in estimating acreage inventories in the three reporting periods resulting in slight variations in total land area acreage. 2002 and 2010 include two new categories: very low density residential development and transportation.

Source: 1997 data from Maryland's Changing Land: Past, Present and Future, December 2001; 2002 and 2010 data from the 2010 Land Use/Land Cover update, both published by the Maryland Department of Planning.

Figure II-1 – 2010 Land Use

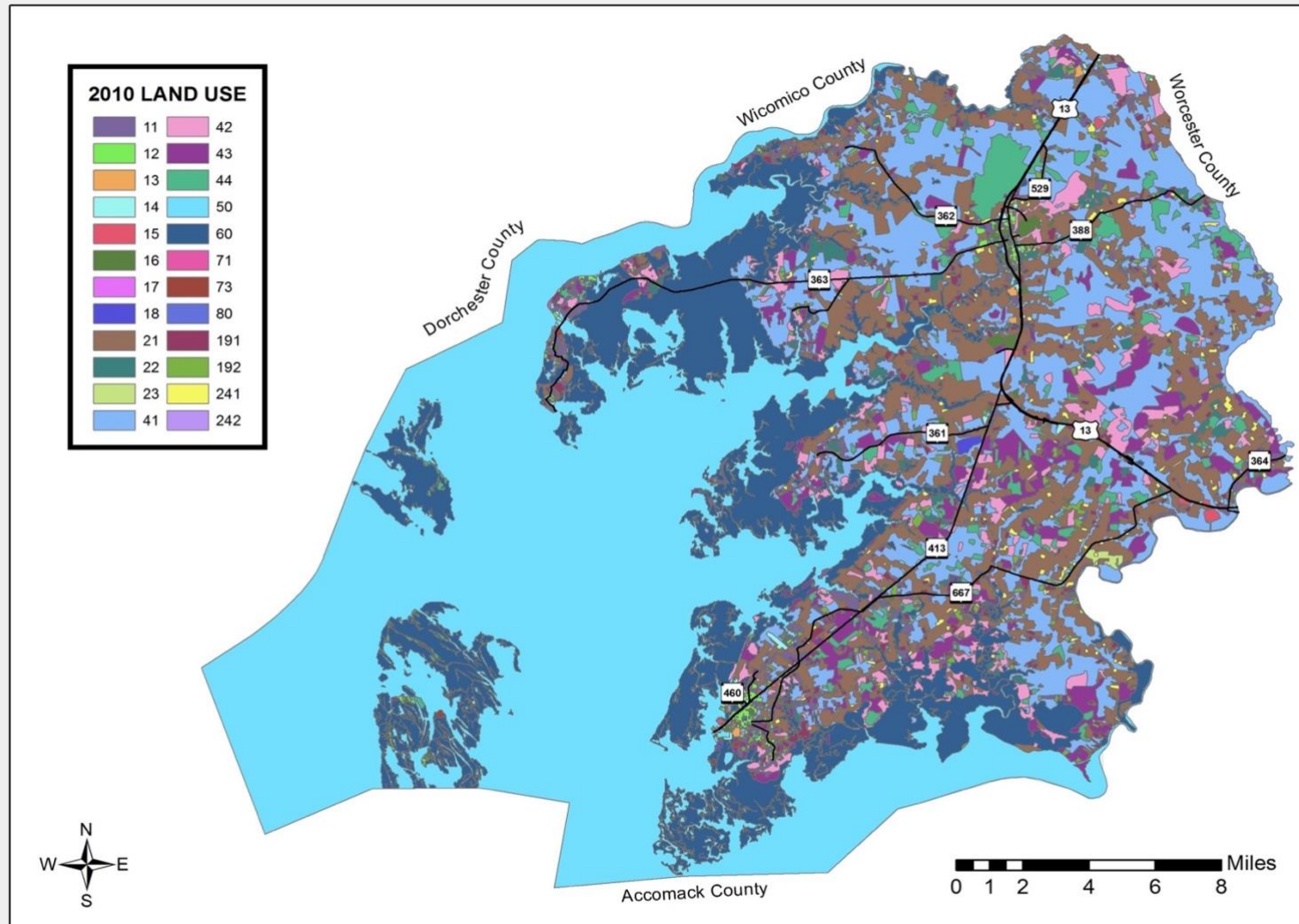


Figure II-1 Key

<u>Urban Land Uses</u>		Forest	
11	Low-density residential	41	Deciduous forest
12	Medium-density residential	42	Evergreen forest
13	High-density residential	43	Mixed forest
14	Commercial	44	Brush
15	Industrial	Water	
16	Institutional	50	Water
17	Extractive	Wetlands	
18	Open urban land	60	Wetlands
191	Large lot subdivision (agriculture)	Barren Land	
192	Large lot subdivision (forest)	70	Barren land
Agriculture		71	Beaches
21	Cropland	72	Bare exposed rock
22	Pasture	73	Bare ground
23	Orchards/Vineyards	Transportation	
24	Feeding Operations	80	Transportation
241	Feeding Operations		
242	Agricultural Facilities		
25	Row & Garden Crops		

3. Natural Resources

Somerset County forms a flat and low-lying coastal plain with a generally high water table. Environmentally sensitive areas occur throughout the County but are predominant in the western peninsula necks and in the southern portions along the Pocomoke Sound where tidal wetlands define the landscape. Wetlands and the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area are shown on Figure II-2. Most of the tidal wetlands are in the CO (Conservation Overlay) zoning district where development is very limited and is restricted to a five-acre minimum lot size.

The following provides an overview of the County's natural resources:

a. Shorelines and Watersheds

Somerset County has approximately 620 miles of shoreline and is in two major watersheds. The Pocomoke watershed contains six sub-watersheds and drains to Pocomoke Sound to the south. The Nanticoke watershed has three sub-watersheds and drains to Tangier Sound on the west. Streams and watersheds are listed in Table II-2 and shown on Figure III-3.

Maryland's Clean Water Action Plan³ evaluated the County's nine sub-watersheds for their ability to achieve water quality and other natural resource goals by assigning water quality category classifications. Somerset County's watersheds were classified as follows:

Category 1 Priority (Restoration) Watersheds - Monie Bay and Pocomoke Sound watersheds did not meet at least half of their clean water or natural resource goals and were in need of some restoration⁴.

Category 2 Priority (Preventive Action) Watersheds - Wicomico Creek and Tangier Sound watersheds met all or all but one clean water or natural resource goals, meaning preventive actions were needed to sustain water quality and aquatic life.

Category 3 Priority (Protection) Watersheds - The Lower Wicomico River, Lower Pocomoke River, Dividing Creek and Manokin River met two or more indicators of high quality or pristine conditions and were designated for protective actions. The Big Annemessex River Watershed was both a Category 1 and Category 3 watershed. In 1996, the County adopted a non-tidal wetlands plan for the Big Annemessex River watershed to serve as the basis for non-tidal wetland permitting in growth areas of the watershed.

- ³. Final 1998 Report on Unified Watershed Assessment, Watershed Prioritization and Plans for Restoration Action Strategies, MD DNR.
- ⁴ Monie Bay was erroneously listed in 1998 as failing to meet bacteria level goals and was de-listed in 2004 to indicate it meets bacterial levels. It had a Category Six designation in 2005 indicating that it was no longer impaired by bacteria.

Figure II-2 – Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and Wetlands

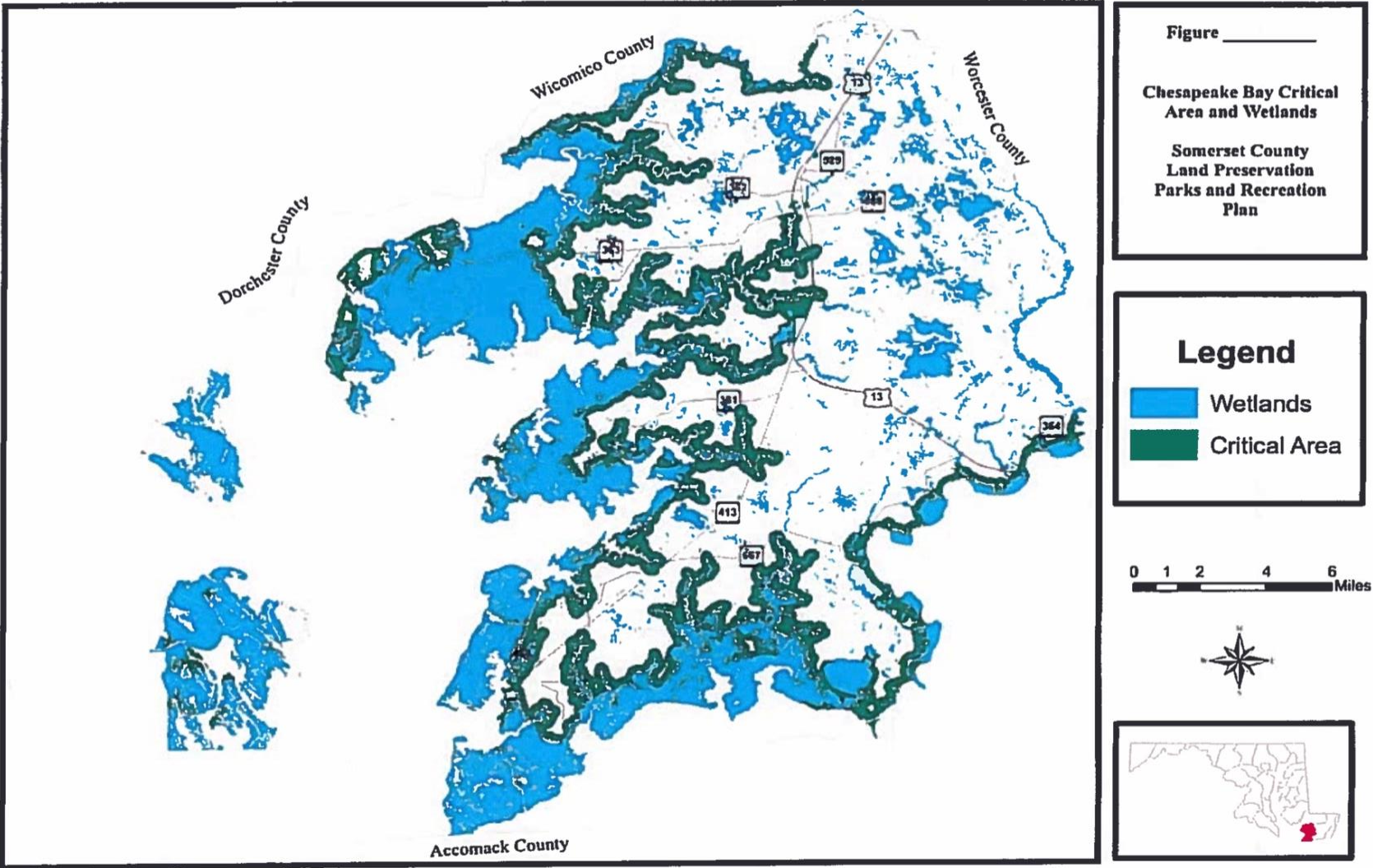


Figure II-3 Somerset County Streams and Watersheds

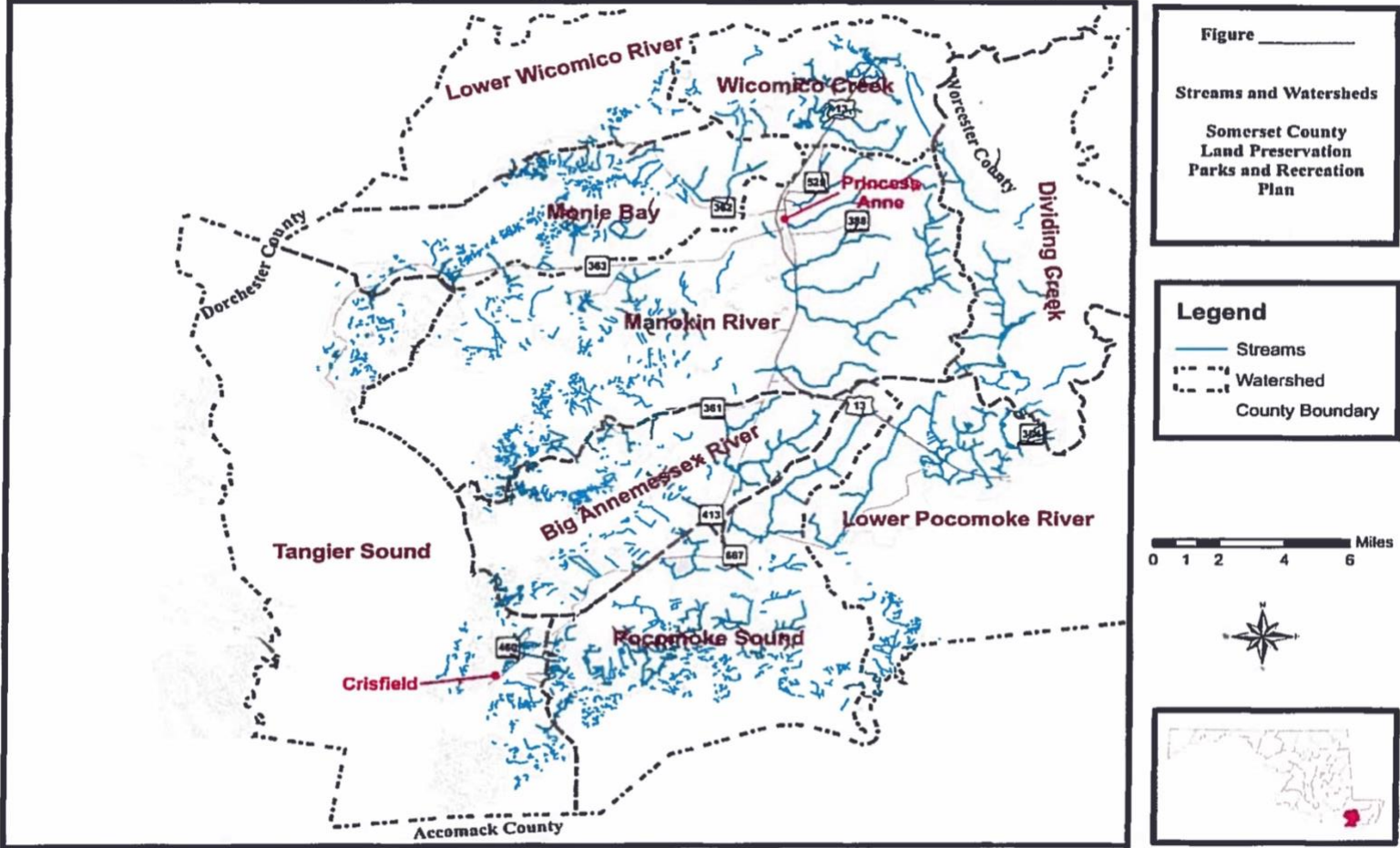


Table II-2 Somerset County Major Watersheds and Sub-watersheds

Number	Watershed	Acres
	Pocomoke Watershed	269,712
2130201	Pocomoke Sound *	34,246
2130202	Lower Pocomoke River	98,891
2130204	Dividing Creek	39,700
2130206	Tangier Sound *	15,316
2130207	Big Annemessex River *	22,113
2130208	Manokin River *	59,446
	Nanticoke Watershed	113,498
2130301	Lower Wicomico River	72,514
2130302	Monie Bay *	21,468
2130303	Wicomico Creek	19,516

Note: The Pocomoke and Nanticoke watersheds also drain portions of Wicomico and Worcester Counties. An (*) indicates sub-watersheds entirely within Somerset County.

b. Streams

The County's coastal plain is drained by several streams and rivers. The 17-mile long portion of the Pocomoke River and the 14-mile long portion of the Wicomico River, that form the County's east and west boundaries, respectively, are entirely tidal. The 16-mile long Manokin River is tidal up to the Town of Princess Anne. The Annemessex River is eight miles long.

c. Chesapeake Bay Critical Area

The Critical Area is a designated conservation area that provides resource protection for the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, while allowing environmentally sensitive development in shoreline areas (Figure II-2). The Critical Area includes the Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries to the head of tide, tidal wetlands, plus all land and water areas within 1,000 feet beyond the landward boundary of these lands or waters. The County's designated Critical Area (uplands portion) encompasses approximately 42,600 acres or about 21 percent of the County's land area.⁵ Within the Critical Area are three categories of land use: "Intensely Developed Areas", "Limited Development Areas" and "Resource Conservation Areas", each with its own density limits and environmental protection requirements.

d. Floodplains

Large portions of western Somerset County lie within the 100-year floodplain. Most floodplains are tidal, except for small areas of riverine floodplain above the head of tide. All floodplains are mapped by the County on 1"=600' scale maps. As a result of Superstorm Sandy 2012 the floodplain has been recalculated.

<http://www.somersetmd.us/maps/PrelimFloodMap.pdf>

e. Wetlands and Hydric Soils

Wetlands provide valuable functions including habitat, flood control, sediment trapping, nutrient reduction, groundwater discharge and fish spawning areas. They also provide recreational, scientific and educational opportunities. The National Wetlands Inventory identifies nearly 82,700 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands, accounting for

⁵ Critical Area acreage is from 2004 MD DNR Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission inventory data.

approximately 40 percent of the County's land area.⁶ These areas are shown on Figure II-2.

Areas that have particularly wet or hydric soils are Janes Island, Deal Island, Fairmont, Cedar Island and Pocomoke Sound, including off-shore South Marsh Island and Smith Island. The County's non-tidal wetlands result from a combination of high water tables or hydric soils that retain enough moisture to support a prevalence of vegetation adapted to wet conditions. Many non-tidal wetlands are located in eastern portions of the County between US 13 and MD 412 and the Pocomoke River. Many of the County's forested areas exist because they are too wet to farm, leading to a dispersed pattern of farming and woodlands. Only about ten percent of soils drain well enough as not to require artificial drainage ditches.

f. Groundwater Management Areas

The County has designated Groundwater Management Areas to restrict use of private septic systems in areas of wet soil conditions. Approximately 30,000 acres are in *Management Area A* (north and east of Princess Anne and in the vicinity of Westover and Pocomoke City) where soils are extremely permeable down to the underlying aquifer and minimum two-acre septic fields and treatment zones are required. Just over 36,000 acres are in *Management Area B* (surrounding Princess Anne to the west and extending throughout the eastern portions of the County) where soil borings and specially designed septic systems are required as a condition of development approval.

g. Forest Cover

Approximately 82,800 acres or 40 percent of the County were forested as of 2010 (Table II-1). Much of this resource has commercial value for loblolly pine, oak, and hickory. Forested areas occur throughout the County, with larger concentrations in the northern part of the County, areas east and north of US 13, and east of MD 413 (Figure II-1).

h. Topography, Steep Slopes

Only ten percent of Somerset County is more than 20 feet above sea level. Steep slopes (defined as over 15 percent) are very limited comprising approximately 200 acres of Sandy Loam soils primarily along streams within the Critical Area. Slopes between 10 and 15 percent cover approximately 160 acres.

i. Natural Heritage Areas

Natural Heritage Areas are specially designated plant and animal habits considered to be among the best examples in the State. Irish Grove (NHA-28), located along the north side of Pocomoke Sound, is a pristine marsh ecosystem within the Critical Area that contains six ecological communities and provides habitat for approximately 80 species of birds in winter. Hickory Point (NHA-29) is a wooded bald cypress swamp within the Pocomoke River Critical Area and is located in both Somerset and Worcester Counties. It is an isolated extension of the original Great Dismal Swamp ecosystem. It provides habitat for forest interior dwelling birds and other non-game and game wildlife. The

⁶ The National Wetlands Inventory acreage represented on Figure II-2 shows both tidal and non-tidal wetlands. This acreage differs from that shown in Table II-1 and in Figure II-1, because of differences in wetland identification methodology.

County maintains overlay maps of these areas and works with the Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Program to review plans that may impact Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species (RTES).

B. Demographic Characteristics

The 2010 Census reported a County population of 26,470, including 3,329 inmates in the Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI). Table II-3 shows County and municipal population changes from 2000 to 2010. The total County population grew by approximately 1,700 people, or seven percent between 2000 and 2010. The population in the unincorporated areas of the County increased by less than four percent in the same time period. The Town of Princess Anne increased its population by 42 percent while the City of Crisfield had a nominal increase of three people.

Table II-3 Somerset County and Town Population 2000 and 2010 per 2010 Census

Location	2010		2000		Change 2000 to 2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total County	26,470	100%	24,747	100%	1,723	7%
Princess Anne	3,290	12%	2,313	9%	977	42%
Crisfield	2,726	10%	2,723	11%	3	0%
Total Towns	6,016	23%	5,036	20%	980	19%
Unincorporated Area	20,454	77%	19,711	80%	743	4%

Note: ECI population was 2,480 in 2000 and 3,329 in 2010.

Source: 2010 Census

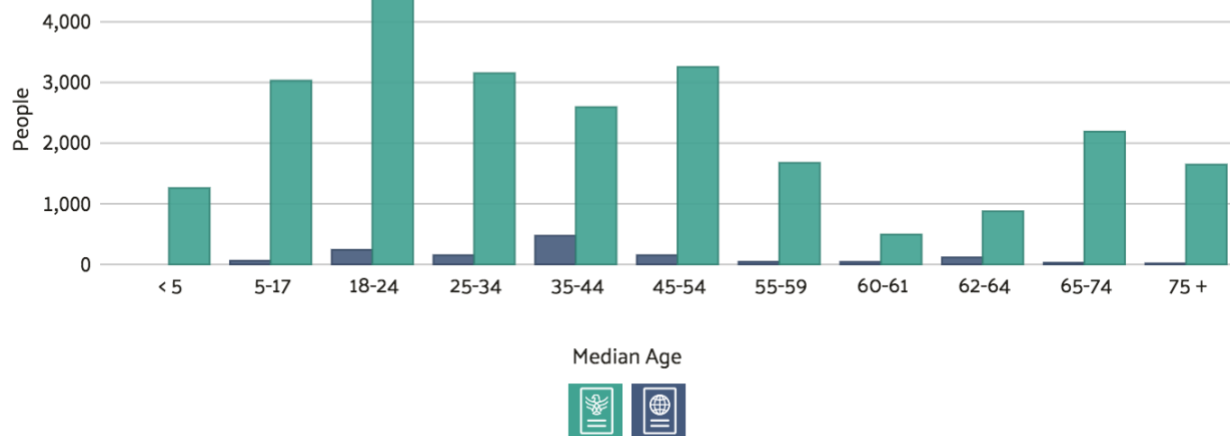
1. **Population By Races (updated in 2016-2017) -**
<https://suburbanstats.org/population/maryland/how-many-people-live-in-somerset-county>

Race	Population	% of Total
Total Population	26,470	100
White	14,170	53
Black or African American	11,192	42
Hispanic or Latino	863	3
Two or More Races	461	1
Some Other Race	371	1
Asian	184	Below 1%

For the purpose of planning for programs it is important to note a growing population outside of the white and African American population. Additiolly it is important to be mindful of the overall accessibility of programming and facilities as it relates to demographics and cultural sensibilities.

2. Median Age

Age by Nativity in Somerset County

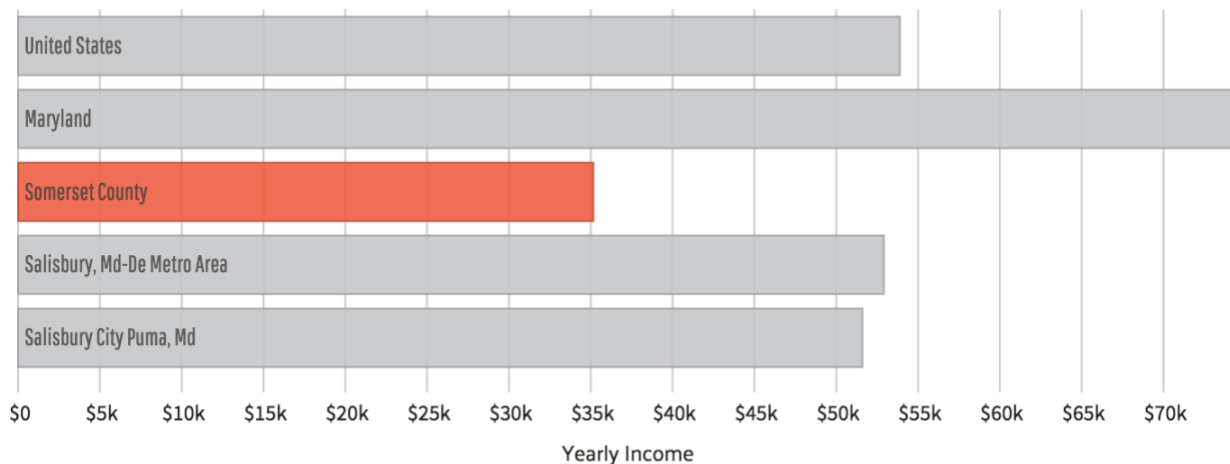


Dataset: ACS 5-year Estimate
Source: Census Bureau

DATAUSA

3. Median Household Income

Median Household Income in Somerset County



Dataset: ACS 5-year Estimate
Source: Census Bureau

DATAUSA

Total County population trends and projections are shown in Table II-4. Between 2010 and 2025, total County population, excluding ECI, is projected to increase by approximately nine percent or approximately 2,000 people. For the analysis of recreation demand in this LPPRP, the ECI population is not included in the population total because inmates do not create demand for public recreation facilities.

Analysis of rec and park needs for Somerset County take all of the above demographics into consideration and have led to the creation of a scholarship fundraising vehicle, the creation of another central facility to increase access through partnership with the local Health Department to provide free space and programming to.

Table II-4 Somerset County Population Trends and Projections 2010 to 2025

	2010	2015	2020	2025	Change 2010-2025	
Total	26,470	27,050	27,800	28,450	1,980	7.5%
ECI	3,329	3,300	3,300	3,300		
Total (excluding ECI)	23,141	23,750	24,500	25,150	2,009	8.7%

Note: The Eastern Correctional Institution's population is estimated at 3,300 between 2015 and 2025.

Source: Maryland Department of Planning projections, November 2010

Nearly all of the population increase through 2025 is projected to be in the 65 and over age group. This group is projected to grow by 1,980 people, a 54 percent increase. The share of the population in younger age groups is projected to change only slightly (Table II-5)

Table II-5 Population Projections by Age for Somerset County 2010 to 2025

2010			2025		Change 2010-2025	
Age	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-19	6,256	24%	6,270	22%	14	0.2%
20-64	16,554	63%	16,550	58%	-4	0.0%
65 over	3,660	14%	5,640	20%	1,980	54.1%
Total	26,470	100%	28,450	100%	1,990	7.5%

Source: Maryland Department of Planning's 2010 Demographic and Socio-Economic Outlook.

Projections are rounded, therefore numbers may not add to totals

C. Comprehensive Plan Framework

Goals in the County Comprehensive Plan emphasize preserving sensitive natural resources and protecting groundwater and agricultural lands by minimizing sprawl and directing development to designated primary and secondary growth areas where infrastructure capacity exists or is planned (Figure II-4).

The land use component of the Comprehensive Plan states that:

“The County’s agricultural base is the backbone of its economy and by far the dominant land-use. The Plan seeks to preserve that base by restricting growth, and particularly unplanned sprawl, from diluting the rural character of the County. Although most of the Plan recommendations concern urbanization, they are in large part directed at concentrating urbanization in areas where it is not destructive of the farm economy”.

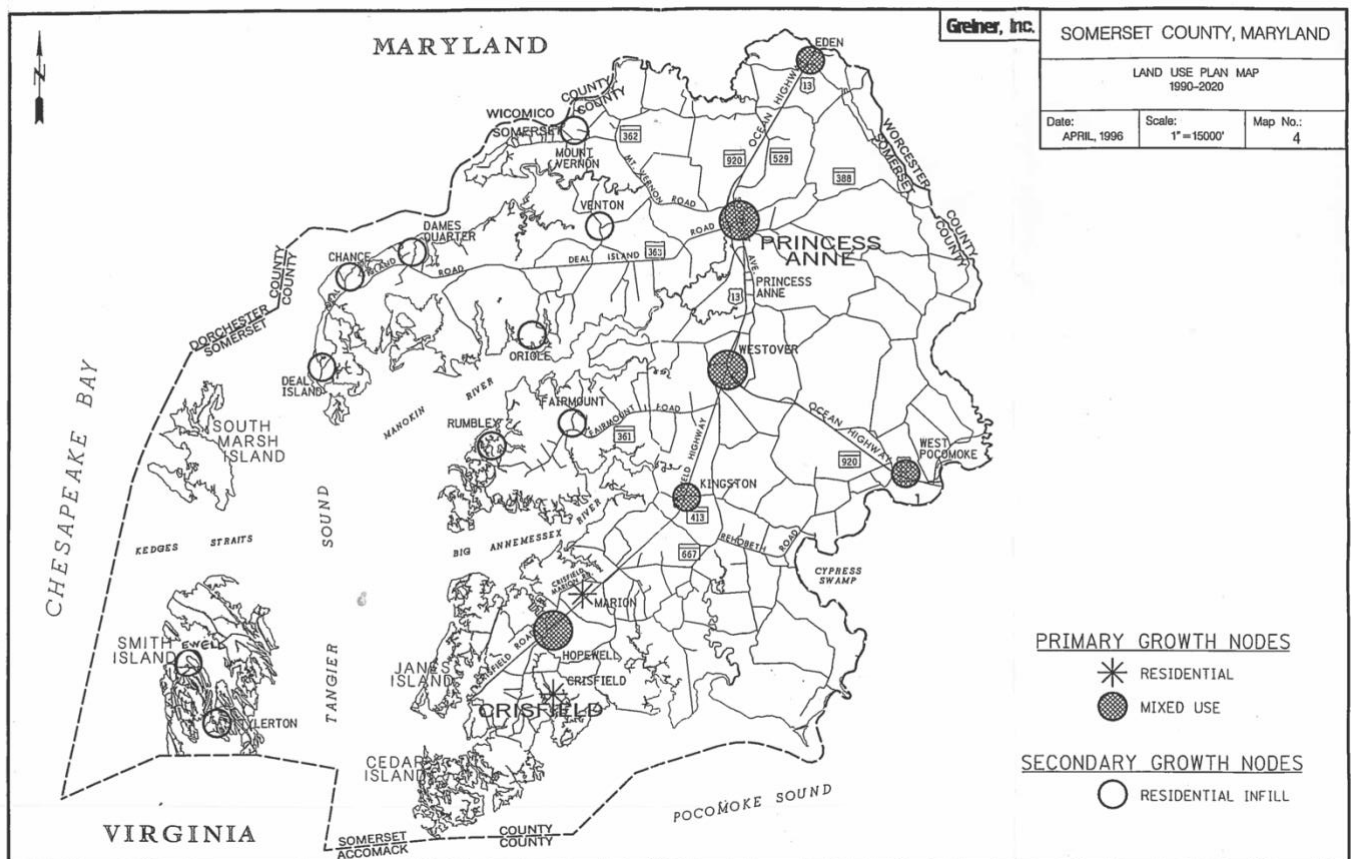
The Comprehensive Plan map establishes a land use framework of designated growth areas. These growth areas occur primarily along US 13 where “Mixed-Use Primary Growth Nodes” are located at Eden, Princess Anne, Westover and West Pocomoke, and along MD 413 in Kingston and Hopewell. Residential growth nodes are in Crisfield, Marion, and West Princess Anne. Twelve Rural Villages are designated for in-fill

development: Oriole, Deal Island, Wenona, Dames Quarter, Chance, Mt. Vernon, Champ, St. Stephens, Monie, Rhodes Point, Tylerton and Shelltown. Outside of these areas the Comprehensive Plan primarily stresses the importance of agricultural preservation and conservation of natural resources.

The County's general planning strategy for directing growth, conserving natural resources, protecting agricultural land, and providing supporting park and recreation infrastructure is to:

1. **Encourage development and growth within the primary growth nodes.** These areas can be served by water and sewer systems, or are otherwise suitable for growth due to access to main highways or proximity to other amenities. Planned unit developments and higher density residential and mixed-use commercial, employment and recreation uses are encouraged.
2. **Provide for limited development in designated "Secondary Growth Infill Areas".** These are primarily bay front communities that are intended to retain a residential character along with supporting community facilities. These areas are appropriate for

Figure II-4 Primary and Secondary Growth Nodes



development provided all environmental, Critical Area, and septic system criteria are met or a central package treatment system can be provided.

- 3. Preserve and protect rural agricultural and natural resource lands by channeling growth into the primary and secondary growth areas and generally only allowing minor subdivisions in agricultural areas.**
- 4. Protect environmentally sensitive lands through regulatory controls related to floodplains, wetlands, groundwater protection, steep slopes, forests, stream buffers and through watershed protection and restoration strategies.** These are discussed in more detail in Chapter IV of this LPPRP.
- 5. Provide recreation facilities and open space in areas convenient to the majority of population in designated growth areas.** The Comprehensive Plan encourages more active recreation facilities in growth areas so that facilities are convenient to residents.
- 6. Adhere to the County's zoning districts during the development review process.** The low density CO Zone (1 dwelling per 5 acres) is used to manage development in environmentally sensitive areas along the shorelines and in wetland areas. Development in the County's growth areas is guided by a variety of residential and non-residential zoning districts. However, the large majority of the County remains in the AR Zone where minimum lot size is one acre, although lots tend to be larger due to health department requirements for septic systems.

D. Implications for Land Preservation and Recreation

The County's location, physical characteristics, and demographics have significant implications for land preservation and recreation policies.

The County is projected to have moderate but steady growth through 2025, growing by approximately 2,000 people. The Comprehensive Plan would direct most development into growth areas, but development in the AR zoned area continues to occur.

Projected age distribution changes over the next 15 years will result in increasing demand for recreation services and leisure facilities for the elderly.

With projected moderate growth and physical limitations to development, the County will continue to maintain its rural character, provided adequate land use controls are in place.

Extensive State and County natural resource-based recreational lands, along with extensive shoreline, create opportunities to increase water-based recreation, maritime interests and eco-tourism.

Agricultural areas are dispersed throughout the County and generally occur on lands that can be drained. A concentration of good agricultural soils lies east of US 13. Forest lands that are generally too wet to farm separate agricultural lands. The resulting forested land cover pattern provides opportunities to preserve greenway corridors, while protecting adjacent prime agricultural lands.

CHAPTER III - RECREATION, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE

Introduction

This chapter sets forth the park and recreation goals for Somerset County and identifies current and future needs and priorities for park and open space acquisition, facility development and rehabilitation. Goals and priorities are established based on:

State goals and policies for recreation and parks;

A supply and demand needs analysis of recreational facilities and activities based on existing facilities and demand factors obtained from surveys of public recreational interests; and

Goals, policies and actions from Somerset County's Comprehensive Plan and the 2017 LPPRP.

Based on the supply and demand analyses, survey and input from the Department of Recreation and Parks, Princess Anne and Crisfield and various park and recreation organizations, a program for recreational land acquisition, facility development and rehabilitation is outlined.

A. Recreation and Parks Program

1. Goals

This section discusses interrelationships between the County Comprehensive Plan and the State of Maryland's goals for recreation and parks.

a. County Goals

Revised County goals in this LPPRP are built upon the 2 LPPRP goals and are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's overall goals and objectives:

- Maximize use of existing recreation facilities and coordinate provision of park and recreation activities with school sites;
- Build on existing recreation facilities in Westover to create a central indoor and outdoor recreation hub that can serve the needs of the entire county;
- Locate new facilities in growth areas that are accessible to the majority of residents, but also provide recreation opportunities to serve populations that are far from existing recreation facilities;
- Coordinate and maximize use of programs between the County, municipalities, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES);
- Enhance public access to the Bay and elsewhere through more pedestrian and bicycle facilities that go near the shoreline;
- Promote the County's park and recreation program as a draw for attracting new residents and businesses;
- Improve coordination between the County and its two municipalities on recreation.

Parks and Recreation

1. Executive Summary

Somerset County Parks and Recreation serves our county and the surrounding areas in a variety of capacities such as:

1. Parks and Public Space
2. Youth Athletic Leagues
3. Adult Athletic and Fitness Programs
4. Administration of Great Hope Golf Course
5. Organizing Public Events
6. Assisting Public School System and other county entities in several ways
7. Serving on/in Boards, Community Groups, Outside Youth Leagues that are concerned with public health and economic/tourism development.

In the 4 years since the last LPPRP Plan was submitted this Department has undergone many changes in an effort to serve the needs of our population and act on the recommendations of the 2012 Plan. The following paragraphs will detail those efforts to meet Somerset County's Goals.

Maximize Use of Existing Recreation Facilities

This department determined that the most effective strategy to maximize use of recreational facilities throughout the county was to partner with agencies looking for space to provide programming, meet and plan with community members in proximity of the parks to encourage greater use and partnerships, and take measures to upgrade each facility with at least one project at each site. We view the below listed improvements to facilities and the following as significant accomplishments since the 2012 LPPRP:

Accomplishments

- The creation of Healthy Somerset Coalition to tackle childhood obesity, pre-diabetes and other health risks associated with a sedentary lifestyle.
- Annual Community Field Day Event
- Nearly quadrupling of 2012 catalogue of program offerings for the county
- The creation of a comprehensive trail catalogue to promote active lifestyles for people of the community. (www.somersettrailmix.com)
- An enhanced and new partnerships with civic organizations, municipal agencies and public school system to create events, market programming and increase enrollment.

Challenges

- Sustaining and growing programming in tight budgetary climates.
- Creating access to all parks and programs people with transportation difficulties.

- Staffing of programming and facilities within the constraints of the present county budget and makeup of the department.

1. Glenn Ward Ballpark, Crisfield MD

- a. Renovation of Dugouts, Backstop Fencing, Electrical System, and Parking Area.
- b. Scheduled Girls Recreation Softball Games at the site, splitting time with our Princess Anne Field to provide equity in travel time and proximity for all county residents.
- c. Created a closer working relationship with the local Lions Club that holds an annual fundraiser tournament to maximize effectiveness and ensure that event is able to continue and discuss possibility of other events. Created an annual horseshoe tournament with Lions Club.
- d. Fostered closer ties with local Salvation Army Chapter, which also provides sports programming for youth in the Crisfield area. Through this effort we have been able to assist them with their records and promotion of programs, take the maintenance of the area aspect from their responsibilities and allow them to concentrate on staffing programs. Additionally, this has allowed us to cross promote our programming to reach a greater number of participants and discuss further ways that we can help them serve the youth who they serve.
- e. Continued cooperation with local Little League Chapter to use venue for Junior and Senior League competition and to use for fundraising tournament like the Butch Mills Memorial Tournament held this past fall.
- f. Encouraged local residents to use the facility for drop in Softball days. With increased attention to the maintenance of the field we able to create an environment where the facility is used far more frequently than in the past. Also, this initiative created an opportunity to add Dept. programming to serve Adults interested in both Men's and Coed Softball. This new program will be discussed later in the document.

2. Upper Hill Playground Area, Upper Hill, MD

- a. Cleared brush, improved lane leading into park, replaced signage.
- b. Removed aging storage barn and replaced with new barn.
- c. Replaced entry gate and added wood stockade fence to delineate park from surrounding properties.
- d. Complete overhaul of playground equipment and removal of aged equipment.
- e. Increased dialogue between community stakeholders and Dept. to deal with issues involving the park, its users, and general upkeep and capital improvements.
- f. Included park in Trail Program to increase exposure and use.

3. Westover Centralized Athletic Complex

- a. Added lighting to Field 2 to create 2 fully lit fields
- b. Improved walking path through weed prevention and surface conditioning, coordinated efforts with partnering agencies to increase walking/exercise on the trail through programming, incentives and exposure
- c. Developed and implemented turf management plan to maximize growth and durability of turf.
- d. Marketing/increased outreach of complex to a wide variety of entities for use including but not limited to:
 - County residents for Rec Programming
 - Private club teams for practice and tournament play
 - Local school systems for practice and game play
 - Potential patrons for rental/facility use for parties, picnics, and gatherings
 - County agencies and groups for special events (i.e.-Relay for Life, Community Field Day)
 - Businesses for advertising on facility fencing
- e. Addition of programming in recreation leagues (adult field hockey, soccer, summer camps, football training camps and practices)

4. Great Hope Golf Course

- a. Major removal of brush and undergrowth
- b. Overhaul of clubhouse facilities, especially patio and deck areas
- c. Lease agreement for new fleet of carts to enhance patron experience, reduce maintenance costs, and create greater efficiency of clubhouse operations
- d. Improve restaurant operations by: overhauling menu to reduce waste and improve patron choices and quality of food, market menu through daily fax and social medial posts, introduce delivery service, compete for catering opportunities for luncheon events, special meetings and group use in restaurant area.
- e. Ongoing creation of nature trail that connects adjacent Somerset County Public Schools property to foster greater partnerships between agencies and golf course increase usage by staff and students
- f. Opened facility as a venue for picnics, walking, concerts and other non-golf activities
- g. Created the following plan to be put into effect in the coming year:

5. Raccoon Point Park

- a. Regraded and added new material to parking area
- b. Added charcoal grills

- c. Initiated contacts with neighbors and community members to create a “Friends of Raccoon Point” group committed to policing the park and addressing issues. This is a very secluded area and is difficult to maintain regularly. These community members in conjunction with the Dept. have organized bi-annual cleanup days at the park.
- d. Worked with local school system (early childhood education) to develop a series of outdoor activities focused around water quality, marsh life, species recognition and a wide variety of other ecosystem education. Partnered with Ward Foundation of Salisbury for this initiative.
- e. 2017-18 Program Open Space Plan calls for addition of playground equipment and fire ring at the park.
- f. Included Raccoon Pt. as a destination in trail initiative.

6. Princess Anne Baseball Complex

- a. Open Space program to replace infield material, rebuild mounds and batter’s area
- b. New turf management plan for area
- c. Fostered partnership with both local Little Leagues to combine resources for inter- league and all-star level play.
- d. Large brush and undergrowth removal, with tree pruning to increase visibility from the road and attractiveness of facility
- e. Open facility to rental/use by other baseball programs for tournaments and practices.

7. County Office Complex Indoor Gymnasium

- a. Completed complete rehabilitation to area including: paint entire area, new SportCourt Flooring System, Dasher Board System, new seating areas. This has been a boon for the program as have seen increased enrollment in indoor programs as a result. Additionally, these upgrades will give the Dept. an opportunity to market the facility to a wider range of outside groups for rentals, tournaments and other program offerings.
- b. Include the area as an indoor opportunity for walking during the business day for county employees
- c. Created an indoor yard sale, craft fair event to draw a different demographic to the area with some success.

8. Mt. Vernon Park

- a. Upgraded mulch around playground equipment
- b. Removed large tree which was a hazard and eyesore
- c. Removed aged storage shed
- d. Added electricity to pavilion area to enhance use by community
- e. Included park as a destination of trail initiative

- f. 2017-18 Program Open Space calls for the addition of workout stations at park

9. Build on Existing Recreational Facilities in Westover

- a. This effort has not yet come to fruition in regards to an indoor facility, but we have through marketing, greater organizational practices, outreach to a wide range of groups and potential users and uses significantly grown the number of people that use the outdoor facility on a regular basis.
- b. Indoor space in the Westover area was enhanced through partnership with Somerset County Health Dept. An 80' x 50' area which served as a cafeteria in the old Westover Elementary School, which underwent renovations and now serves as a Health Dept. facility, was converted into a gym area using Health Dept. funds, Maryland Childhood Obesity Grant Funding, County Tax Dollars and Program Open Space Funds. The gym consists of SportCourt Flooring, Basketball Equipment, Volleyball Standards, a storage area and restroom, and a bevy of other sports and recreational equipment. It currently has programs ranging from adult exercise, karate, individual team practices and afterschool programs taking place 7 days a week.

10. Coordinate and maximize use of programs between the County, municipalities, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore

- a. Have engaged both municipalities to hold events (walk/runs) - use their areas as sites for biking, hiking, paddling initiatives, fostered and have continued dialogue with youth centers in those municipalities to partner in programming.
- b. Presently working with City of Crisfield to develop passive-park at entrance to town.
- c. Engaged in extensive planning with UMES for increased partnership between Great Hope and the University's PGA/PGM program. As of this date no formal agreement has been enacted.
- d. Partnered with Somers Cove Marina to pool marketing efforts to offer value to slip holders/transient boaters and Great Hope members. Also, engaged in partnership with marina to use their pool facilities for summer swimming programming. We have done this with great success for the last 3 years.

11. Enhance Public Access to the Bay and elsewhere through more pedestrian and bicycle facilities

- a. As a result of inventory of existing facilities serving pedestrian and cycling activities the Dept. created, with funding through the Somerset County Health Dept. and Centers for Disease Control, the Trail Mix Initiative.
www.somersettrailmix.com. This initiative uses county roads and facilities to encourage physical activity through hiking and biking that uses the following waterfront areas as trail hubs: Webster's Cove (Mt. Vernon), Raccoon

Point(Westover) Crisfield City Dock (Crisfield) and uses county. All of these areas are accessible for fishing, general activity, and launches for watercraft of all sizes.

- b. Engaged in and implemented planning, design, and promotion of RT 413 Hiker/Biker Trail in conjunction with SHA. Detailed description of the status of this project will follow later in the plan.
- c. Worked in partnership with SHA to establish dedicated bike lanes in both municipalities.

12 Roles, Services and Benefits of the Public Parks

- a. Provides access to natural areas for recreation.
- b. Services a wide range of demographics including age, race and income to provide inexpensive and/or free physical activity both structured and unstructured.
- c. Works for the public good by enhancing facilities, exploring new opportunities for partnerships, recreation and public health benefits.
- d. Connects people throughout the county in a wide variety of activities.
- e. Preserves and maintains parks and greenspace.
- f. Acts as a vehicle for the promotion of Somerset County through tourism outreach.

13. The Partnership for Children in Nature

- a. While there is no formal plan to incorporate this, our programming does meet the overall goals of Children in Nature as we already have partnerships with the public school system to provide access to education in nature through the creation of events and utilizing parks and Great Hope Golf Course.

State Goals

The State's goals for recreation, parks, and open space are:

- 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.
- 2. Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the State more desirable places to live, work and visit.
- 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.
- 4. To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile, and help protect natural open spaces and resources.
- 5. Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities.

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.

- a) Brief Summary of how Somerset County Goals complement State of Maryland Goals

In planning the goals for the coming 5 years and beyond for Somerset County Parks and Recreation it was important to consider the goals of the State. These considerations are outlined in the roles, services and benefits section and by increasing access to all citizens by the further establishment of programming in proximity to citizens in the outer areas of the county, working in concert with municipalities of Crisfield and Princess Anne to promote and utilize their existing recreational facilities and infrastructure to reach the most people, and to continue to procure grant funding from the state's many programs to enhance and develop new opportunities for recreation. Simply put, Somerset County's goals mirror the State of Maryland's in almost every respect.

Programs and Procedures

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

- a. *Organization and Planning Procedures*

The Somerset County Recreation and Parks Commission was established by the Board of County Commissioners in 1967, "for the purpose of maintaining and conducting a comprehensive program of public recreation and parks for the benefit of the citizens...." The Board is composed of nine members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners for three year terms. The Commission is required to meet at least four times a year.

The Commission provides direction to the Department of Recreation and Parks in carrying out recreation and parks programs and policies. This includes overseeing the acquisition of property, facilities development, coordination of recreation programs and facilities with the Town of Princess Anne, the City of Crisfield and local non-profit organizations. It is also responsible for implementing the goals and policies of the County's land preservation, parks and recreation plans, including administration of the use of Program Open Space (POS) funds.

The Department increasingly informs citizens about programs and activities through the Somerset County Recreation and Parks website (<http://www.somersetrecandparks.org/>). The website provides information pertaining to available facilities, registration for programs, class schedules and updates on ongoing projects. Program information is also disseminated through social media platforms Facebook and Instagram as well as links on several county websites including but not limited to: Somerset County Public Schools, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Somerset County Health Department, both regional newspapers (Somerset Herald and County Times), Somerset County Tourism and the municipalities of Princess Anne and Crisfield. Regular emails are sent to parents and participants updating program offerings, making other announcements and providing online registration links.

Somerset County Recreation and Parks consists of the following staff: Director, Full-time Office Manager, 2 Full-Time Program Coordinators, One Maintenance Supervisor/Certified Spray Technician, One Full-Time Maintenance Employee, One PGA Golf Professional, One Full-Time Golf Shop Assistant, One Golf Course Superintendent,

One Assistant Superintendent, One Golf Course Mechanic, One Part-Time Irrigation Specialist, and up to 12 part-time employees performing the following job assignments: Counter/Cook at Caddyshack Restaurant, Equipment Operator, Greenskeeper, Golf Cart

Attendant and Pro-Shop staff. In addition, we employ on a contractual basis the following: After School Program Coordinator, Referees and Officials, Karate Instructor, Camp Directors and Employees, Adult Fitness and Yoga Instructor, and Swim Program Assistants.

Local non-profit and sport organizations are very active in helping deliver recreational programs and activities. These organizations such as Crisfield Little League, Princess Anne Little League and Little League Softball, and Princess Anne Football/Salvation Army operate sport leagues and raise operating revenue through fund raisers, tournaments, and concession sales. The Department coordinates field availability and scheduling with the organizations and prepares fields for seasonal use. Typically, the organizations take over facility maintenance and operation once the sport season begins.

The County's processes, procedures, and considerations for recreation and parks programs support State and County goals and objectives by providing a range of recreation facilities, activities and programs to residents, focusing special attention on existing population centers, and using recreation and open space amenities to further economic and community development goals, such as with the Great Hope Golf Course and the Centralized Athletic Complex in Westover.

b.Funding

The County Department of Recreation and Parks budget is summarized in Table III-1.

Operating Budget

Budgeted expenditures are \$281,585 for salaries and benefits, facilities and site maintenance, recreation programming, and contributions to County non-profit organizations that help provide recreation activities and facilities.

The Great Hope Golf Course is budgeted as an enterprise fund separate from the Department of Recreation and Parks budget. The county provides funds to support operating expenses at the course as facility revenue is not currently self-sustaining.

Maryland towns are also able to take advantage of grants provided by Maryland's Community Parks & Playgrounds Program. These grants may be used by local governments to build new parks or renovate existing facilities

Table III-1 Somerset County Recreation and Parks FY 2016 Expenditure Percent

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 233,036	71%
Operating	\$ 90,000	28%
Charitable Contributions	\$ 3,000*	>1%
Total	\$ 326,036	100%

*50% - Other-in-kind (physical labor, donation of equipment, etc.

Capital Budget	Percent
General Revenue	\$50,000 42%
Program Open Space	\$69,000 58%
Total	\$119,000 100%

Source: Somerset County Department of Recreation and Parks Budget FY2016

Capital Funds

The County's FY 2016 Capital Budget is \$119,000, of which approximately 64% is from County funds. This budget assumed \$50,000 in POS funds. The County actually received only approximately \$24,000 (see Table III-2). The County and the municipalities have relied heavily on POS as a major financial source for funding parks, recreation facilities, and open space. Since 2005, the County's annual POS appropriation has averaged approximately \$134,700. POS peaked from 2006 to 2008 with the highest appropriation of \$437,296 in FY2007. Unfortunately, since the program is funded through the state's real estate transfer tax, due to the economic recession and fiscal restructuring by the State, revenues have fallen sharply since 2008 to leave a sizable funding gap in relation to needs. Since 2012 the average POS apportionment has been approximately \$65,000.

Table III-2 Somerset County's Program Open Space Apportionments from 2012 to 2016

Fiscal Year	Total POS Funds	Acquisition Amount	Development Amount
2012	\$24,333	\$0	\$24,333
2013	\$93,152	\$0	\$24,333
2014	\$52,951		\$52,951
2015	\$66,618.41		\$66,618.41
2016	\$107,645		\$107,645
2017	\$68,982		\$68,982
Total	\$413,683.14	\$0	\$413,683.14
<2012 Total	\$1,077,744		
TOTAL	\$1,491,427.14		

Source: Somerset County Department of Recreation and Parks, February 2012.

The County's FY 2012 capital expenditures total approximately \$281,500, of which \$87,000 is the County's general fund contribution and \$117,000 will be reimbursed back to the County from encumbered State POS funds.

Somerset County has been certified by the State as meeting its recreation land acreage goal (see Section D, below). After evaluation of acquisition goals in this document the County will then have knowledge of its available funding for possible acquisition. Since 2005, the County has allocated approximately \$78,000 of its apportionment to fund acquisition, with the remaining \$1 million used for facility development and rehabilitation.

Plannin
g

The Department of Technical and Community Services is responsible for implementing the County's comprehensive planning program, under direction of the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Technical and Community Services work cooperatively to implement the Comprehensive Plan's goals as they relate to recreation and parks.

Planning for recreation and park facilities generally takes place through discussions between the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Recreation and Parks Commission. The Department and Commission use surveys and other public feedback mechanisms to assess needs and formulate possible projects and actions needed to satisfy expressed needs.

B. Needs Analysis and County Priorities for Lands, Facilities, and Rehabilitation

County priorities for land acquisition, facility development and rehabilitation consider needs in the context of State and County goals and long-term funding availability. An analysis was performed to evaluate the land and facilities needed to accommodate the recreation and park land needs of the existing and projected Somerset County population. The analysis uses three time frames: short (2017-2021), mid (2021-2025), and long-range (2025 and beyond). Estimates for short-range demand and need are based on 2010 population; mid and long-range on projected 2017 and 2022 population.

Recreation and park needs were identified through:

1. Recreation Commission Meetings – meetings are held quarterly every year with members of the Recreation Commission. The goal of these meetings is to inform them of our recent activities with regards to programs and events. Each time we also discuss future plans, both immediate and extended.
2. Healthy Somerset Coalition – this coalition represents distinguished members of the community. Member of include McCready Health, Chesapeake Health, Somerset County Health Department, Somerset County Board of Ed – Judy Center; University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Somerset County Sheriff's Department, Somerset

3. County Recreation and Parks, as well as local church groups. This group meets on a quarterly basis to discuss local activities, issues in the community with healthcare and plans the Annual Somerset Community Field Day. This group strongly recognizes that recreation and activity are vital to the health of the community.
4. Somerset County Public Schools – meetings are held at various schools through the year with teachers, administration and students to talk about activities and discuss programs and needs of the community that Somerset Recreation and Parks can fill.
5. Promotion at our Annual Somerset Community Field Day – this event gives multiple vendors in the community a chance to reach out with information to lead people to a more healthy lifestyle.

A public survey was given to get feedback from community members.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-B7X6D5WG/>

The results from the needs analysis are the County's best estimates, especially for the mid to long-range planning horizons. The State's LPPRP Guidelines recognize that County priorities are subject to change for a variety of legitimate and sometimes unpredictable reasons.

The following sections examine the recreational supply, demand and facility needs in the County for 15 recreation activities selected by the State and the County Department of Recreation and Parks.

1. Supply

The County updated its inventory of recreation and open space land and facilities for the LPPRP. The resulting detailed inventory table showing park and recreation sites, acreages, and amenities present at each site can be found in Appendix A. Detailed tables for the supply, demand, and needs analyses are provided in Appendix B. The location of each site is depicted in Figure III-13. At this time, constraints in staffing and data collection and without required permits for use of county boat ramps it is very difficult to estimate usages for recreational areas that are not directly associated with the department's recreational programming. Table III-3 summarizes the amount of recreation and open space resource lands in the County by ownership. Natural resource open space lands are discussed and mapped in Chapter IV.

Table III-3 Acreage of Public Recreation and Resource Lands in Somerset County by Owner

Ownership	Acres		Total
	Recreation	Resource	
Somerset County	598	-	598
Board of Education	160	-	160
Town of Princess Anne	21	-	21
City of Crisfield	5	-	5
Crisfield Housing Authority	8	-	8
Total Local	792	-	792
State	-	48,053	48,053
Federal	-	4,431	4,431
Total State and Federal	3,794	47,706	51,500
Grand Total*	4,586	47,706	52,292
Source: Appendix A			
* Excludes private/quasi-public lands (1,714 acres).			

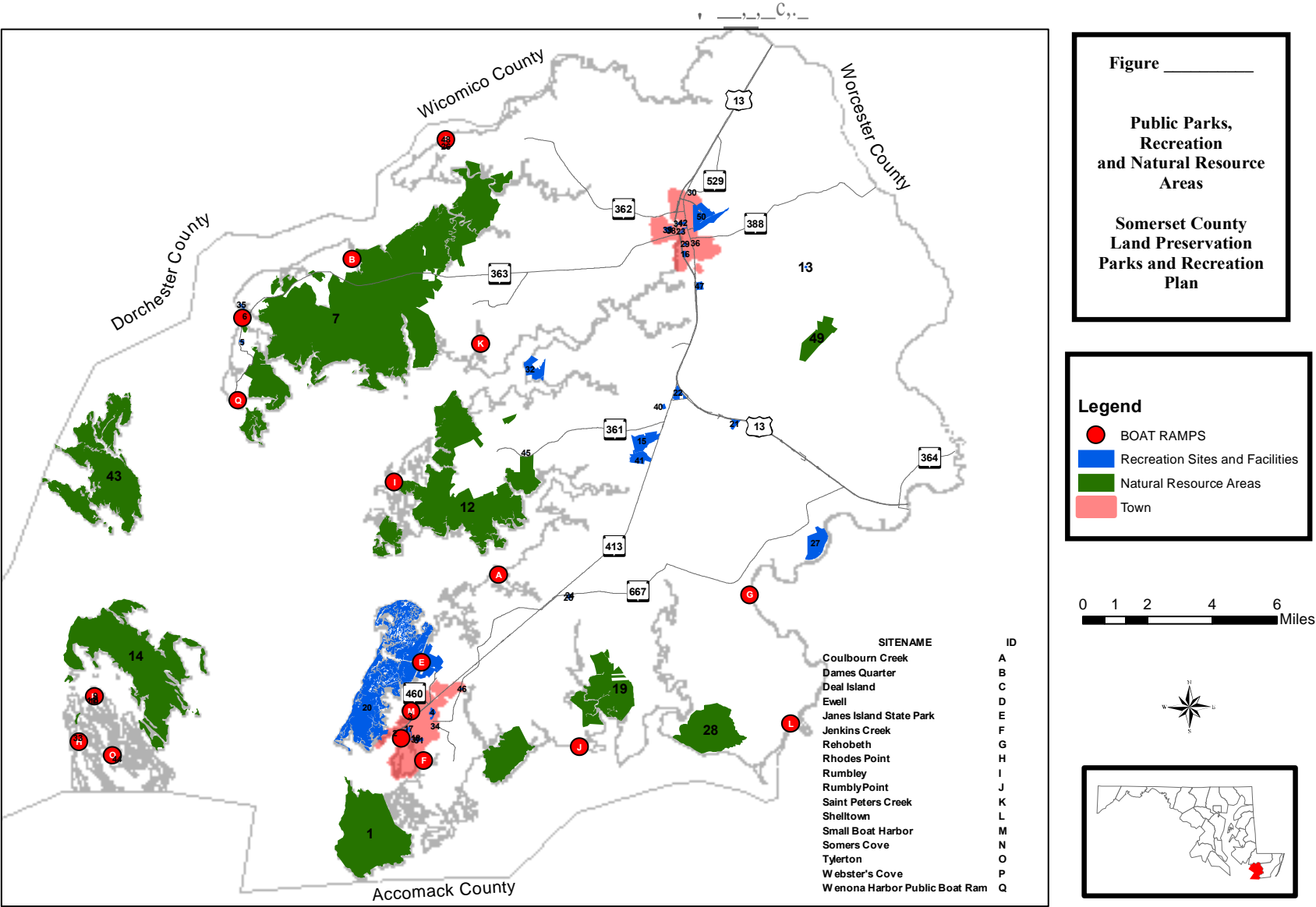
County and Municipal Land

Somerset County provides approximately 598 acres of parks, recreation and open space land. The largest County sites are: the 213-acre Great Hope Golf Course; 216-acre Raccoon Point Recreational Area used as a regional park for both active and natural resource-based recreation; and the 46-acre "Long" Centralized Athletic Complex⁷, a new sports complex that opened in the summer of 2010, and provides five multipurpose fields. Other County owned recreation lands are smaller and contain a variety of active recreation facilities.

⁷ Named after Robert C.B. Long and Edwin D. Long, Jr., the former owners of the property

User Agreement Between Somerset County Public Schools and the Public.
There is no formal user agreement in place, in practice both running/walking tracks in the county are open for public use, athletic fields at both high schools are not locked and are used by the public informally for exercise. In instances where there is a formal use of the fields for a tournament or organized play, contact is made between the two parties and a rental agreement is met. This practice is infrequent.

Figure III-1 Somerset County Public Parks, Recreation & Natural Resource Areas



Reference Key for Figure III-1

Public Parks, Recreation and Natural Resource Areas – Somerset County LPPRP 2017

REFERENCE NUMBER	NAME	MAP NUMBER	
1	Cedar Island WMA	27	Pocomoke River State Forest
2	Crisfield City Dock	28	Pocomoke Sound WMA
3	Crisfield City Park	29	Princess Anne Elementary School
4	Crisfield High School	30	Princess Anne Headstart
5	Deal Island School	31	Princess Anne Little League
6	Deal Island Harbor	32	Raccoon Point Recreational Park
7	Deal Island WMA	33	Rhodes Point Dock
8	Ewell Ball Field	34	Salvation Army Youth Club
9	Ewell Dock	35	Scotts Cove Marina
10	Ewell Elementary School	36	Seton Center Catholic Charities
11	Ewell Recreation Center	37	Somers Cove Marina
12	Fairmount WMA	38	Somerset Civic Ruritan Ball Field
13	Garland Hayward Park	39	Somerset County Fairgrounds
14	Martin National Wildlife Refuge	40	Somerset County Health Department
15	Great Hope Golf Course	41	Somerset Intermediate School
16	Greenwood Elementary School	42	Somerset Office Complex
17	Housing Authority Rec. Center	43	South Marsh Island WMA
18	Housing Authority Tennis Courts	44	Tylerton Recreational Area Ballfield
19	Irish Grove Sanctuary	45	Upper Hill Playground
20	Janes Island State Park	46	W. Glenn Ward Park Ballfield
21	Lake Somerset Campground	47	Washington Senior High School
22	Long Centralized Athletic Facility	48	Webster's Cove Marina
23	Manokin River Park	49	Wellington WMA
24	Marion Recreation Area	50	University of MD Eastern Shore
25	Marion Sarah Peyton Elem. School	51	Woodson Middle School
26	Mt. Vernon Recreation Park		

The Board of Education is an important provider of recreation land in the County. School recreation parks totaling 160 acres are located at 9 elementary/primary, middle, and high school sites. Three additional sites classified as school recreation are used by Crisfield Headstart, Princess Anne Headstart and a parochial school. A fourth is the Marion Recreation Area which is located adjacent to a school site. These school recreation facilities are used by a variety of sport teams, youth organizations and community leagues.

Combined, the Town of Princess Anne and the City of Crisfield and its Housing Authority provide 34 acres of park and recreation lands. The Town of Princess Anne owns the 16-acre Manokin River Park and the 4.5-acre Garland Haywood Park. The City of Crisfield and the Crisfield Housing Authority have approximately 13 acres between the City Dock area, the leased Crisfield Armory, Crisfield City Park and the Housing Authority's recreation center and tennis court sites. In 2004, the three acres containing the Crisfield Headstart and Salvation Army Youth Club were sold to a private user for a new food store. Headstart moved to the H. De Wayne Whittington Primary School upon its closure as part of a school consolidation program. The property is currently owned by the Board of Education. Since 2012 this property has been condemned and razed and will be the future site of It Takes A Village Afterschool Programming, with construction slated for 2018. The Headstart Program will be housed at Crisfield High School in a newly constructed addition to the building. The Salvation Army Youth Club relocated to the Crisfield Armory, which, at the time of that LPPRP, ownership was transferred to the City of Crisfield, this site in 2014 was determined to be mold infested and subsequently youth programs ended at the site. Presently, the Salvation Army Youth Club is housed in the Woodrow Wilson Community Center for daily activities and indoor programming in the winter months has returned to the Armory after a treatment and inspection for mold performed by the City of Crisfield.

State and Federal Land

The State is by far the largest owner of park, recreation and open space in the County with approximately 48,000 acres of recreation and natural resource land. The Janes Island State Park, Somers Cove Marina, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore facilities comprise approximately 3,520 acres of recreational land. The Chesapeake Forest Lands are comprised of 17,300 acres of working forest. A portion of these lands are open to hunting by the public while the majority is maintained for the purposes of sustainable forestry. The State also owns approximately 29,700 acres of natural resource lands in several wildlife management areas. These lands provide some limited resource-based recreational opportunities but primarily contribute to the County's inventory of natural resource lands. The Federal government owns over 4,300 acres of natural resource lands at the Glen L. Martin National Wildlife Refuge, located west of Janes Island State Park in the Chesapeake Bay.

FISCAL YEAR 2016
DNR Owned Lands Acreage

SOMERSET:

Cedar Island WMA - 3,081
Chesapeake Forest Lands - 17,321
Crisfield Marine Terminal – 2
Deal Island WMA – 13,564
Fairmount WMA – 5,224
Green Hill FT – 3
Janes Island SP – 3,160
Maryland Marine Properties WMA – 1,030
Pocomoke River SF – 281
Pocomoke Sound WMA – 922
Somers Cove Marina – 69
South Marsh Island WMA – 2,968
Wellington WMA – 428
TOTAL: 48,053 acres

Other Land

Privately owned open space lands accessible to the public total approximately 1,550 acres. The largest site is the 1,400 acre Maryland Ornithological Society's Irish Grove Sanctuary in the Marion area. This bird sanctuary is mostly marshland, but contains several nature trails and pond observation decks. The 29-acre Lake Somerset Campground provide other resource-based recreation opportunities.

Water Access

The County has 29 publicly-owned boat ramps at 14 locations. The State provides another six public ramps, four at Somers Cove Marina and two at Janes Island State Park. There are two privately owned sites available to the public and each has two boat ramps (Breakwater/ Last Chance Marina and Scotts Cove Marina). A total of 616 slips are available at Deal Island Harbor, Janes Island State Park, Scotts Cove Marina, Somers Cove Marina, and Webster's Cove Marina.

Publicly owned beaches are accessible at the Raccoon Point Recreational Area and, by boat only, at Janes Island State Park. Many of the State Wildlife Management Areas provide fishing opportunities in marsh ponds or along shorelines.

Coulbourne's Creek Boat Ramp underwent an extensive overhaul in 2015. A new floating dock was added along with resurfacing of the existing ramp.

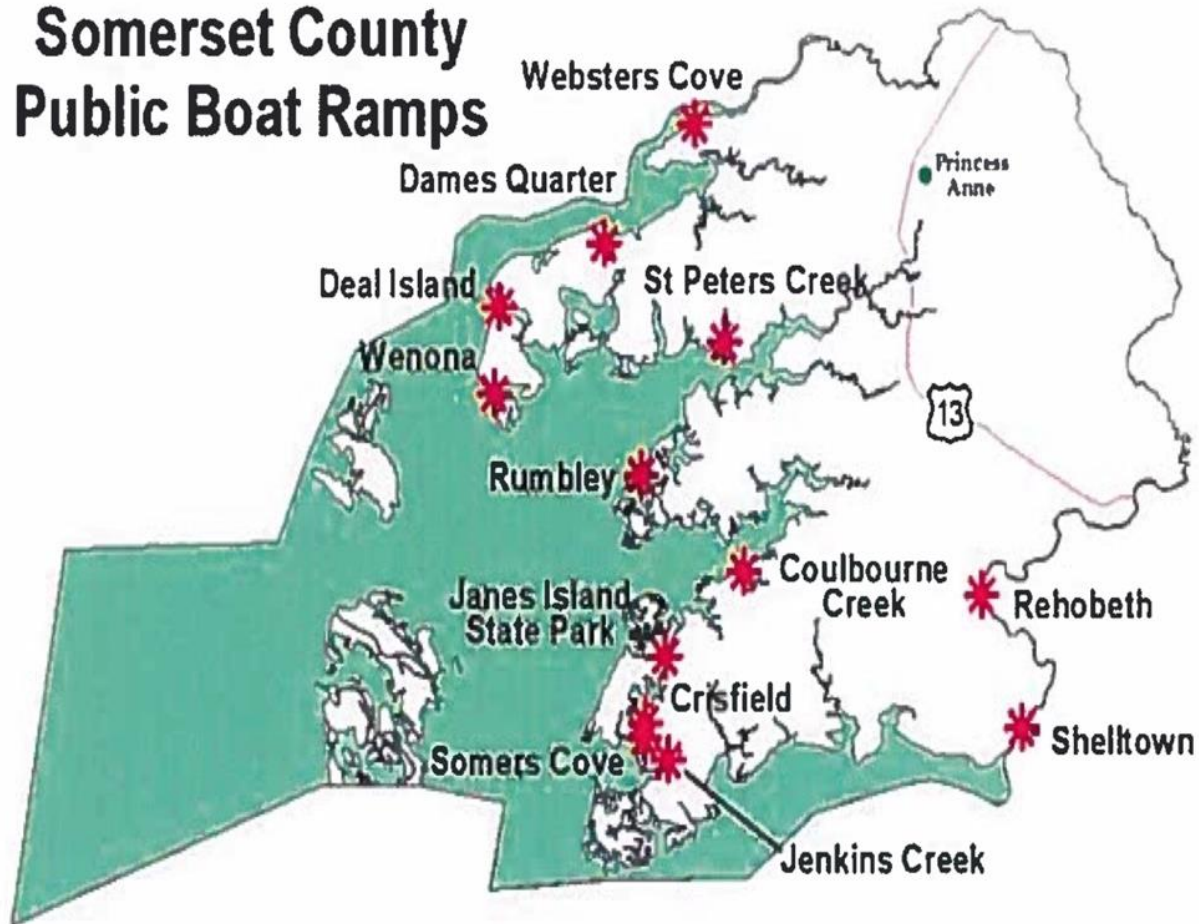
Water Access is an essential aspect of the recreational needs of our citizens.

Furthermore, these opportunities provide the county with tremendous assets to support economic growth and tourism initiatives in Somerset. Key components of this growth includes, but is not limited to DNR projects on Smith Island, Monie Bay,

Janes Island and the town of Princess Anne associated with water trail mapping and promotion. The trail mapping at Bending Water Park provides another unique opportunity for persons from within the county and beyond to explore the heritage of the area in a recreational setting. Obviously, Somerset County's geography is a natural fit for an abundance of exceptional opportunities to parlay the streams and rivers in the county into enjoyment, exercise and promotion to support recreational and economic goals in conjunction with state assistance and guidance. Somerset County's Trail Mix Initiative includes all of the aforementioned trails and facilities in a comprehensive site detailing the beauty, accessibility and other attributes of the trails, ramps, and parks.

Figure III - 2

Somerset County Public Boat Ramps



Somerset County Harbors with boat slip leasing available:

Tylerton Boat Harbor
Websters Cove Boat Harbor
Deal Island Boat Harbor
Wenona Boat Harbor
St. Peters Boat Harbor
Jenkins Creek Boat Harbor

To obtain more information or inquire about boat slip availability please call the County Commissioner's Office at 410-651-0320.

Accomplishments since the 2012 LPPRP

Several of the improvements recommended in the 2012 LPPRP have been implemented (see Table(III-4))

We used a survey developed by the Somerset Recreation and Parks Department as the basis for determining the demand for recreational facilities.⁸ The results were based on responses from 33 households from program participants, respondents to the survey and local county residents.

Additional information on demand was provided through the LPPRP public participation process, including personal interviews with County and municipal staff and other interested parties.

The demand analysis used the data for the Somerset County Recreation and Parks Survey on recreational activity participation rates, daily carrying capacity and season length unless other information or local experience indicated otherwise. In such cases, either sport season length or daily carrying capacity were adjusted to better represent local participation rates or demand was adjusted based on local activity and facility utilization experience.

2. Demand

After our analysis of our supply of facilities Many of the needs for adult exercise for biking and walking and other programming outside of our traditional catalogue have been met. Many of these are made possible by shared use agreements with Somers Cove Marina, Health Department and other civic organizations. Upon analysis conducted through informal meetings, conversations with patrons and users of our programs and considering national and state trends in recreation, the following items were consistently requested, those being.

- a. A large multi-use indoor facility
- b. Rehabilitation of current tennis courts
- c. A lighted outdoor basketball/multi-use hard surface area
- d. Increased activities for the age demographic of 45-65. Activities including basketball, bocce ball, badminton, volleyball and low impact aerobics
- e. Archery Program
- f. A county pool facility – indoor or outdoor. This would enable us to offer swimming lessons in a more centralized facility, swim teams and swimming aerobics.

Strategies to address and prioritize these demands will include continued communication with county residents, inclusion of potential projects in yearly budgets and analysis of the feasibility of some of the larger items listed such as the indoor facility and swimming pool.

3. Needs Analysis

The needs analysis compares recreation facility supply to demand. The analysis results in two products:

A summary of surpluses or deficits in the amounts of land and facilities needed to serve County residents, and

Identification of County priorities for land acquisition, facility development and rehabilitation.

Table III-4 summarizes results from the detailed supply, demand and needs analysis tables contained in Appendix B. Three facility deficits are identified:

Indoor gym facilities for activities such as soccer, field hockey, basketball, volleyball, aerobics classes and other indoor court sports;

Local County and municipal trails; and A second public outdoor swimming pool.

With respect to indoor gym facilities, the 2012 LPPRP analyzed the need for indoor basketball only (and reported a surplus). This LPPRP analyzed the need for indoor basketball together with a variety of other indoor activities such as volleyball and indoor soccer/hockey, and identifies a minimum four-court deficit. This analysis was needed because there is growing pressure for indoor space. For example, at the Somerset County Office Complex indoor recreation league basketball and soccer compete for space during the winter months. The growth in popularity of field hockey has also created increased competition for indoor court space.

In the time since the 2012 LPPRP plan Somerset County Recreation and Parks has worked in coordination with the local Health Department to refurbish an old cafeteria in their renovated office complex to be used as gym space. This 80x50 area is centrally located and provides an additional county venue for the aforementioned activities as well as fitness programs, karate and self defense, strength training, and a practice area for a variety of local teams. County businesses and institutions also use the area for training and recreation periodically.

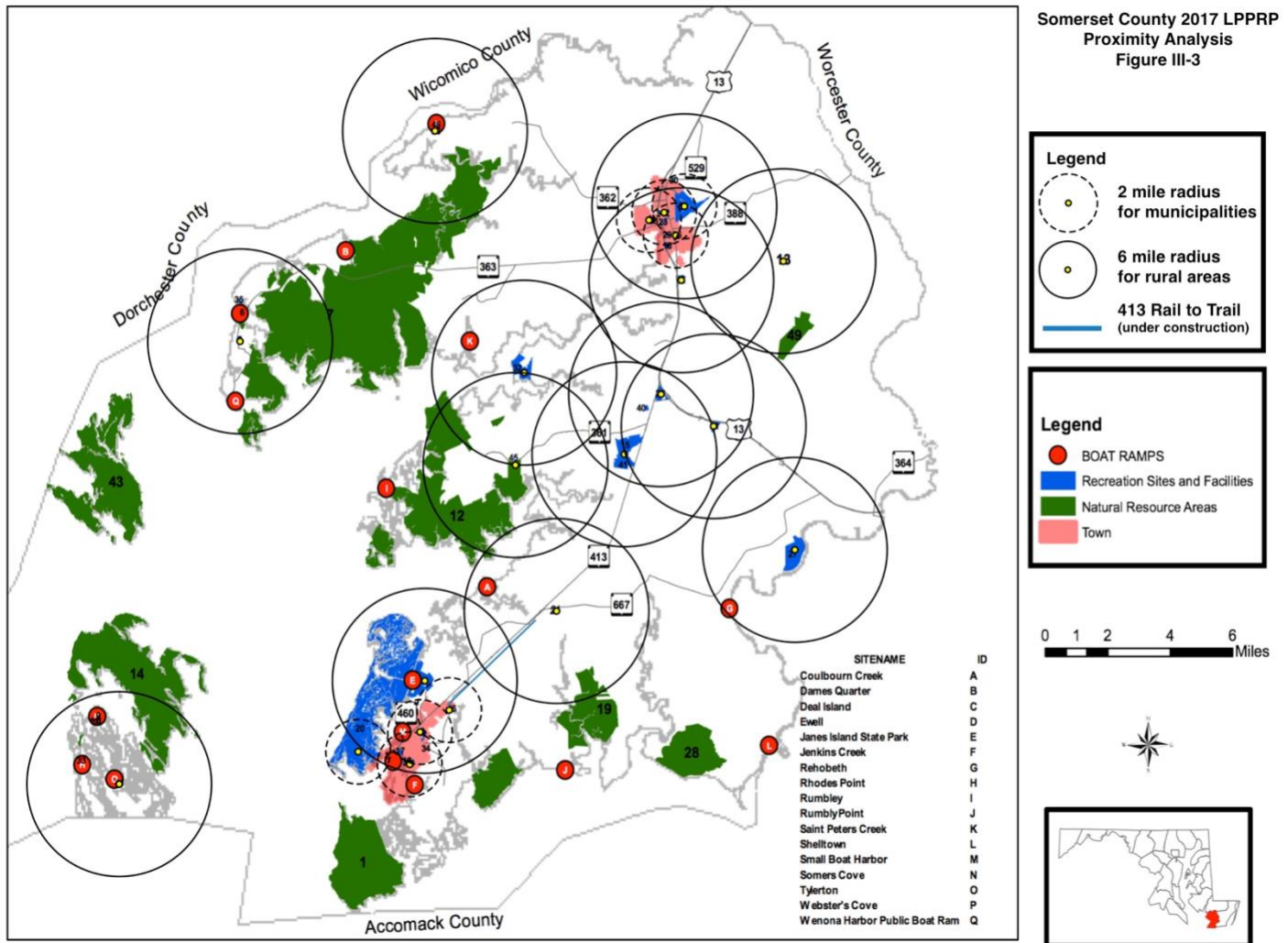
The deficits for trails and pools were identified in the 2012 LPPRP. The analysis separates local trails from state trails because, combined, the trails in state parks show the residents' demand being met whereas there is need for trails to serve the resident population in developed areas.

The 2012 LPPRP showed a partial need for a second outdoor pool. This 2017 LPPRP shows full need. This is due in part from deletion from the inventory of a private outdoor pool at Lake Somerset Campground, so that the only public outdoor pool is at Somers Cove Marina near Crisfield.

⁸ 1) *2012 Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland* and 2) *State Parks and Natural Resource Areas in Maryland: A Survey of Public Opinion*.

Based on our proximity analysis in Figure III-3, our experience shows that Somerset County residents will travel on average 15-20 minutes to use park facilities. Many county residents travel from all ends of county to use Janes Island State Park and the Long Centralized Athletic Fields. This is the justification for our 6 mile radius in rural areas. As for municipalities and a 2 mile radius, the actual towns are small in size in respect to boundaries but many small neighborhoods and villages are within a 2 mile distance from the incorporated town boundaries. Residents will use town amenities like the municipal parks, walking paths and trails and kayak launches and travel there via car, bike or walk. In speaking to any gaps in this map most of the areas that are not covered consist of either wide tracts of farm land, marsh land, or very sparsely populated villages and neighborhoods.

Figure III-3 Proximity Analysis



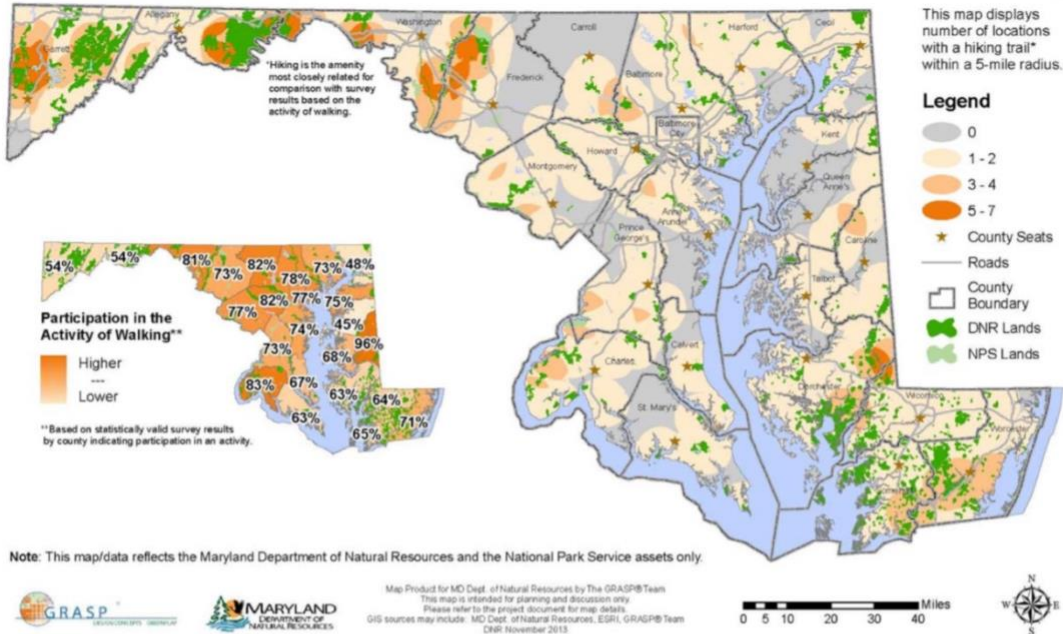
REFERENCE NUMBER	NAME	MAP NUMBER	
1	Cedar Island WMA	27	Pocomoke River State Forest
2	Crisfield City Dock	28	Pocomoke Sound WMA
3	Crisfield City Park	29	Princess Anne Elementary School
4	Crisfield High School	30	Princess Anne Headstart
5	Deal Island School	31	Princess Anne Little League
6	Deal Island Harbor	32	Raccoon Point Recreational Park
7	Deal Island WMA	33	Rhodes Point Dock
8	Ewell Ball Field	34	Salvation Army Youth Club
9	Ewell Dock	35	Scotts Cove Marina
10	Ewell Elementary School	36	Seton Center Catholic Charities
11	Ewell Recreation Center	37	Somers Cove Marina
12	Fairmount WMA	38	Somerset Civic Ruritan Ball Field
13	Garland Hayward Park	39	Somerset County Fairgrounds
14	Martin National Wildlife Refuge	40	Somerset County Health Department
15	Great Hope Golf Course	41	Somerset Intermediate School
16	Greenwood Elementary School	42	Somerset Office Complex
17	Housing Authority Rec. Center	43	South Marsh Island WMA
18	Housing Authority Tennis Courts	44	Tylerton Recreational Area Ballfield
19	Irish Grove Sanctuary	45	Upper Hill Playground
20	Janes Island State Park	46	W. Glenn Ward Park Ballfield
21	Lake Somerset Campground	47	Washington Senior High School
22	Long Centralized Athletic Facility	48	Webster's Cove Marina
23	Manokin River Park	49	Wellington WMA
24	Marion Recreation Area	50	University of MD Eastern Shore
25	Marion Sarah Peyton Elem. School	51	Woodson Middle School
26	Mt. Vernon Recreation Park		

Reference Key for Figure III-3 Proximity Analysis
Public Parks, Recreation and Natural Resource Areas – Somerset County LPPRP 2017

Figure III-4 Proximity Map: Hiking Trails & All Trails

Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Land Preservation and Recreation Plan
Perspective Map F: 5-Mile Proximity to Hiking Trails*

Connecting People and Places



Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Land Preservation and Recreation Plan
Perspective Map G: 5-Mile Proximity to All Trails

Connecting People and Places

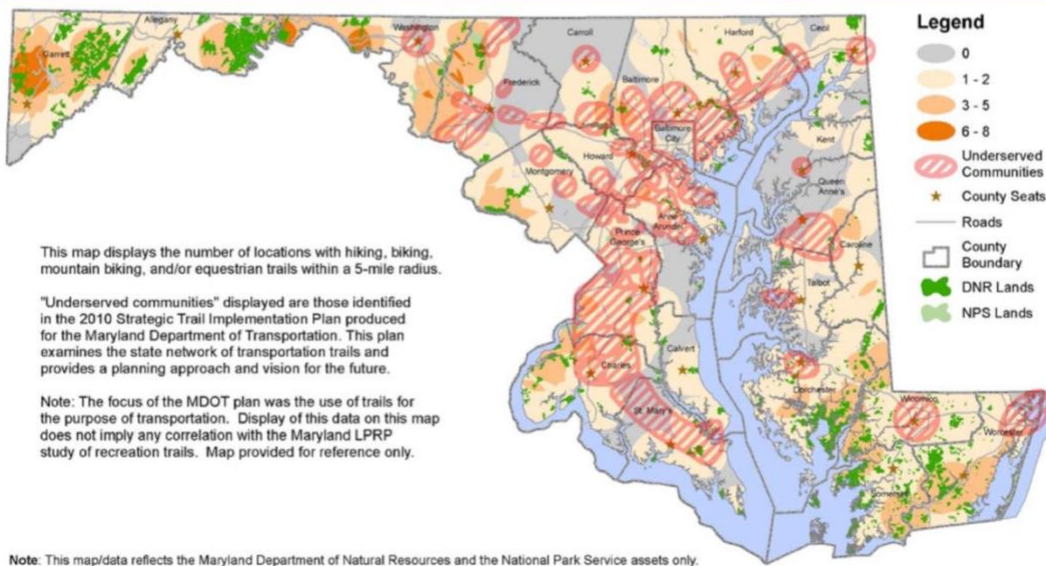


Figure III-5 Proximity Map: Fishing

Map 11: Perspective Map E: Proximity to Fishing

Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Land Preservation and Recreation Plan

Perspective Map E: 5-Mile Proximity to Fishing

Connecting People and Places

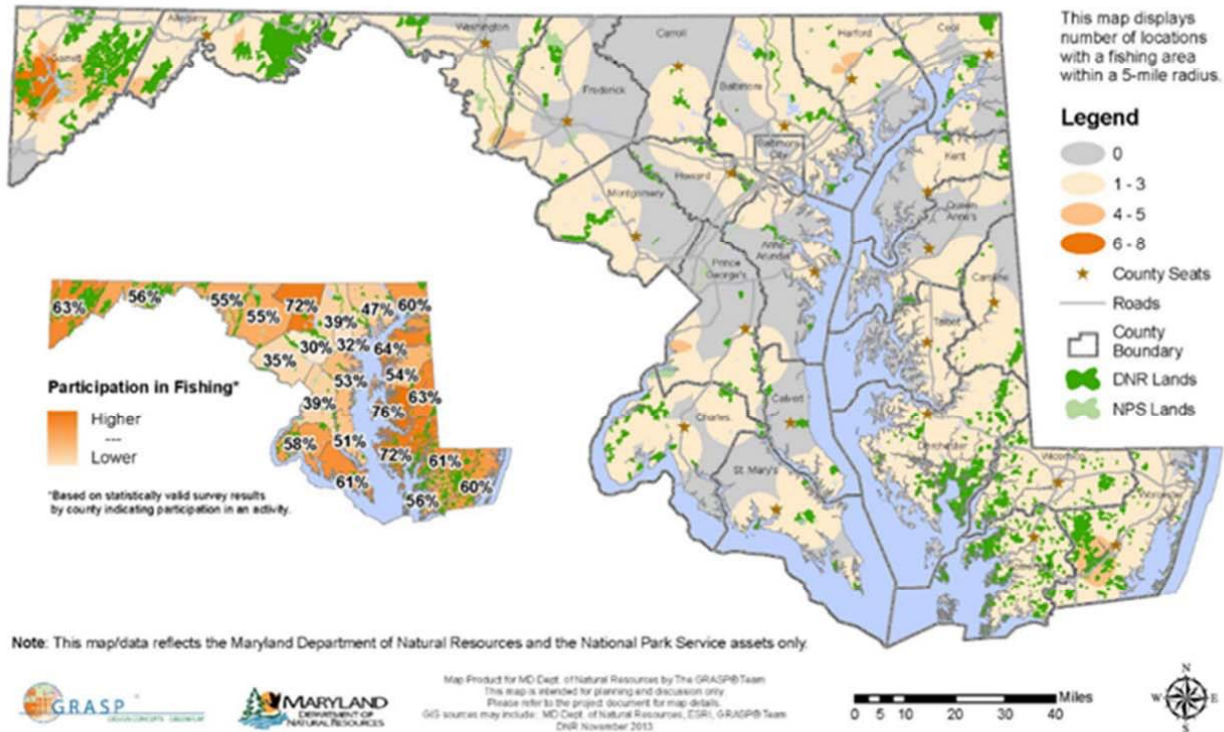


Table III-4 Recreation Facilities Summary Needs Report

Numbers in parenthesis indicate a deficit. Positive numbers indicate a surplus. For example, the (1) for swimming pools (outdoor) in 2010 indicates a need for 1 additional outdoor pool to meet current demand.				
Activity	Facility type	Existing Facilities	2016 Demand	2027 Demand
Baseball/ Softball	Diamonds	23	20	20
Basketball Indoor (plus volleyball, hockey, other indoor sports)	Courts indoor	20	(3)	(4)
Basketball (outdoors)	Courts outdoor/recreation	15	9	8
Tennis	Courts	15	13	12
Field sports (football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey)	Multi-purpose fields	20	18	18
Trails: hike, bike, jog, walk, nature (State and private)	Trail miles	14	11	11
Trails: hike, bike, jog, walk, nature (County and Local)	Trail miles	1	(2)	(2)
Swimming Pools (indoor)	Pools	1	0	0
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	Pools	1	(1)	(1)
Playgrounds (Tot Lots)	Playgrounds	9	4	4
Picnic Pavilions	Shelters	14	9	9
Picnic Tables	Tables	101	79	77
Boating ramps/ launching areas	Ramps	40	39	39
Equestrian Trails	Trail miles	2	1	1
Golf (18 holes)	Courses	1	0	0

C. County Priorities

Table III-5 lists the County's park and recreation priorities for meeting its land acquisition, facility development and rehabilitation needs through 2027, including estimated costs and time frames. In developing the priorities consideration was given to need relative to:

The supply and demand analysis;

How a project can best satisfy recreational facility or activity needs;

How a recreational need can best be accommodated by facilities; and

How a project relates to the County's recreation goals.

The overall program would cost approximately \$10.3 million including partial costs for trails¹⁰. Projects are in three time-frames: short range (2017 to 2021), mid-range (2021 to 2025) and long range (2025 and beyond). It is anticipated that construction of trails would begin in the short-term and extend over several years beyond 2020. Several projects lack cost estimates because information was not available or the projects have not advanced to a stage where estimates can be made. Examples include the proposed trail components and Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Plan projects.

Proposals shown in the short term (2017-2021) will be funded by a combination of POS, County, local and other grant-based sources. Some acquisitions, such as rights-of-way or easements for trails may be accomplished through the development process.

Results of Park Equity Analysis, Public Meetings/Interviews/Surveys and Proximity Analysis

Analysis of county amenities in conjunction with DNR and Federal Park Facilities.

The results of park equity, proximity and demand

By taking into consideration the results of these studies and data/feedback from public meetings, surveys and the day to day interaction with those we serve we have been able to enter into targeted planning for our development for the next 5 years and beyond.

As a result of the data being readily accessible and in an attempt to compile a complete look at Somerset County Recreation from a variety of metrics we will use a combination of all the suggested areas.

When addressing access to trails, picnicking, fishing, hunting, natural areas, water access and other outdoor activities in the provided Proximity mapping it shows that on average Somerset falls above the state averages for participation in associated activities. Examining Proximity to Natural Areas (something that we consider to be a benchmark statistic) we see that the county is well served and as a result the proximity analysis. In respect to planning, we can take comfort in knowing that our citizens are spending time in those areas frequently and have access to them. Delving deeper into the other data results we do see however, a few results that give us a look into some areas where we can better provide access to recreational activities associated with these locales and amenities. *Plans and analysis will be provided below:*

Proximity to Fishing/Participation in Fishing: 56% - Proximity to Water Access/Participation in Water-Based Recreation 86%.

It would seem on the surface that if one is participating in “water based recreation” fishing would play a large part of this recreation. However, this is not the case. This Department feels strongly that educated/licensed people who fish the rivers, sounds, streams, ponds and creeks of our area are also good stewards of the resource. They care for the habitat and follow rules and regulations. In planning to increase participation in fishing it is important to provide access to fishing areas and equipment. As a result, this Department will create programming and efforts to educate people on the rules, techniques, areas for public fishing and examine the possibilities of stocking the ponds that are in our parks/golf course for catch and release fishing. We can coordinate this through efforts with local DNR, school system/STEM initiatives and promotional events.

Proximity to All Trails & 5-Mile Proximity to Hiking Trails/Participation in the Activity of Walking 65%

This is of particular interest to the Department. The illustration shows the county does not have any “Underserved Communities” in regards to Proximity to all trails but despite that ranks near the middle/bottom of participation in walking, lagging far behind many urban areas on the Western Shore. Analysis of this fact has been in the forefront of our thinking and planning here for some time. As a result we will use this information as further motivation to continue our projects already outlined in this document such as Somerset County Trail Mix and the RT 413 Hiker/Biker Trail. These projects are both aimed at increasing awareness of the benefits of walking and providing access and information about sites in the county where the activity can be done safely. Specifically, Somerset County has instituted a walking program (Recreation and Parks and Somerset County Health Depts.) that in conjunction with the Trail Mix program provides scheduled activities, events, and educational opportunities at low or no cost to address low usage of municipal, county and state trails. See information on www.somersettrailmix.com and the Trail Mix facebook page.

Park Equity Analysis Results

In examining the results of the different layers in the Maryland Park Equity Mapper we found some very interesting facets of the data that are in line with our findings and observations over the past 4 years in Somerset.

Primarily, the eastern part of the county that borders Worcester is underserved in relation to parks and other recreational amenities provided by the county. The county will look into opportunities to provide parks and waterfront facilities in this area. Additionally, the Oaksville Eagles Ballpark is located in the Perryhawkin/Oaksville area in Eastern Somerset. A potential partnership there to increase the amenities they provide and to increase the usage of the facility with the community members in the area has already been discussed. The inclusion of playground equipment, reconditioning of the ballfield and promotion and creation of activities there will foster cooperation between this community and surrounding areas and Somerset County. In the past year, we have included this park as a location on our Trail Mix tour of bike trails.

Secondly, the data on both sub-groups shows what we have always known, that the biggest challenge facing Somerset in terms of density, income, and the resources available is that people in the outlying areas of the county are traditionally underserved by programming provided by the county. A lion’s share of the challenge is represented by the large geographic area that exists in combination with the low population levels in these areas.

While there are parks and amenities in all regions of the county many of these are not in areas where a large number of people can access them. Transportation is a challenge in many instances and the difficulty in getting people to events and programming in Princess Anne and Westover.

Future planning for POS Development will take into consideration the acquisition and development of lands to “fill in the gaps” between parks in the outlying areas, with specific attention paid to the Deal Island region and the Rumbley/Frenchtown areas of Somerset. Both of these areas were noted by citizenry in meetings of being in need of park areas. Additionally, the continuing development of our Westover Centralized Athletic Fields and Park was also listed as an area the people of Somerset desire further development. The additions of softball/baseball facilities, basketball/tennis courts, expansion of the walking trail on site, additional fitness equipment, creation of more lighted multi-purpose fields and more playground equipment were all listed as priorities for this area and will be included in future Program Open Space Proposals and Plans.

Finally, the county shows a need of creation and improvement of existing park space in both Marion Station and Crisfield. Currently the county maintains 2 tennis courts and basketball area in Marion, these are aged and in need of resurfacing and repair. The same stands true for Crisfield Tennis Area. Users of these facilities spoke to the need of repairs and attention to these courts as a means to improve safety and increase usage. Future planning will attempt to address these needs. One specific challenge is the fact that both of these have received funding for resurfacing within the last 20 years. In closing, the analysis of this data shows that in many respects the County has done an adequate job in the creation of regional parks and matching those with good maintenance practices yet we have many areas where we can create programming and space to serve a wider variety and number of people. The results of these studies make that very clear. The motivation and creation of our 5 year plan is mindful of all these items and also takes into consideration the budget and staffing realities present in the County. Certainly, execution of the plan will be reliant on the continued support of county government, partnerships with other agencies and municipalities and our approach to providing quality programs and facilities that foster pride with in the community and do the most good for the most people.

¹⁰ Cost estimates are approximate and are in 2016 dollar values, based on knowledge of recent land acquisitions, real estate values in different parts of the County, and facility development and rehabilitation costs. Estimates were not obtainable for Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Plan projects at this time

Table III-5 Somerset County Land Acquisition, Facility Development and Rehabilitation Recommendations

Additions to Table in Green serve as updates to 2012 data.

						Estimated Short-Range (2012-2016) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Mid-Range (2017-2021) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Long-Range (2022-2027) Cost (\$1,000s)		
Projects	Location (area)	Description of LPPRP Recommendations	Est.Total Cost (\$1,000's)	Fiscal Year Program med	Acres to be Acquired	Acquisiti on	Capi tal Develop ment	Rehabilitat ion	Acquisitio n	Capital Developme nt	Rehabilitation	Acquisiti on	Capital Developme nt	Rehabilitati on
ACQUISITION and DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS														
Burgess Americana Museum	Marion area (Hudson's Corner)	Acquire building and/or site for permanent museum home	\$200	FY12-16	7	\$150	\$50							
South Beckford Avenue Park	Town of Princess Anne	Acquire land (.53 AC) in the South Beckford Avenue area to construct a park and playground	\$280	FY17-21	0.53				\$100	\$180				
Greenway Trails (right-of-way and construction)														
Manokin River Greenway Trail	Town of Princess Anne	Acquire land and construct approximately 20 miles of hard/soft surface trail (estimate \$100,000 per mile) that connects the Downtown Area, UMES, Manokin River Park, Garland Hayward Park, the ball fields at the Somerset County Office Complex, and the Mt. Vernon Road Commercial District	\$2,000	FY22-27	N/A							\$1,000	\$1,000	
Manokin River Park Extension	Town of Princess Anne	Extend Manokin River Park eastward toward the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and tie in with a proposed walking trail	\$205	FY12-16	N/A		\$205							
Pocomoke River Greenway Trail	Pocomoke River	Acquire land for soft surface trail segments along river (estimate \$100,000 per mile)	N/A	FY12-16		NA	N/A		N/A	N/A				
Rail Trail along MD 413	Westover to Crisfield	Acquire land and construct 15-mile hard surface trail (estimate \$200,000 per mile)	N/A	FY12-16		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A				
Acquisition Cost			\$1,250			\$150			\$100			\$1,000		
Facility Development Cost			\$1,435				\$255			\$180			\$1,000	
Total Cost			\$2,685											
PARK and RECREATION FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS														
Central Indoor Recreation Complex	Westover	Construct an indoor recreation facility on existing land in Westover	\$4,500	FY12-16			\$4,500							
Somerset Intermediate School	Westover	Build facilities for softball, baseball, football and a track with stadium	\$1,000	FY12-16			\$1,000							
Coast Guard Property Playing	City of Crisfield	Build facilities for softball, baseball, soccer and field hockey on property owned by the Board of Education	\$350	FY 17-21						\$350				
Manokin River Park	Town of Princess Anne	Install bandstand, picnic pavilion and a playground	\$224	FY12-16			\$224							
Manokin River Park	Town of Princess Anne	Construct a wildlife observation deck and walkway	\$250	FY12-16			\$250							
Garland Hayward Park	Town of Princess Anne	Install a picnic pavilion, restrooms, a storage shed, bicycle racks, trash cans, picnic tables, grills, bleachers, lighting and landscaping	\$107	FY12-16			\$107							
Prince William Street Pocket	Town of Princess Anne	Construct a pocket park	\$150	FY 17-21						\$150				
Total			\$6,581				\$6,081			\$500				
PARK and RECREATION FACILITY REHABILITATION PROJECTS														
Crisfield National Guard Armory	City of Crisfield	Acquire building from MD Army National Guard & rehab for City recreation use	\$1,000	FY12-16				\$1,000						
Crisfield Little League	City of Crisfield	Install restrooms & dugout roof	\$25	FY12-16				\$25						
Total			\$1,025					\$1,025						
GRAND TOTAL (Land Acquisition, Facility Development and Rehab)			\$10,291											

Land Acquisition and Development Projects

Six projects involving land acquisition are proposed including four trail projects.

UPDATES TO THESE PROPOSALS SINCE 2012 ARE IN GREEN

- a. Acquisition of an estimated seven acres at a cost of approximately \$150,000, to provide a permanent location to house the Burgess Americana Museum and provide outside space for interpretative and educational activities. The museum is currently housed at Hudson's Corner in the Marion area, but the facilities are inadequate. A need exists to find a more centrally located site in order to promote the collection. Somerset County and Somerset County Tourism are partnering with a non-profit organization to make this project one of Somerset County's cultural, historic, and tourism attractions. This improved and expanded facility will help County efforts to increase tourism. The project will require acquisition of a building or property. Facility development is estimated at \$50,000 if an existing building could be acquired for the use.

Somerset County in conjunction with SHA has created a site plan to expand the facility at the Judge Lloyd Simpkins Rest Area and County Tourism Office to house these artifacts. This plan will create maximum exposure for the attractions and assist in this tourism initiative. This development will be considered a park space by the county as it will have outdoor space and seating.



- b. The Town of Princess Anne would like to acquire approximately one half acre of land on South Beckford Avenue to build a park with a playground. Acquisition of the property will be approximately \$100,000 and constructing the park is expected to be \$180,000.

No movement on this project has occurred.

c. Four recreational trail projects are recommended. The need for trails and other opportunities for walking and bicycling was expressed at public meetings held for this LPPRP, and is supported by the needs analysis which shows a current demand for over three miles of County and municipal trails. Currently there are approximately 12 miles of trails in the County, but all except one mile are at Janes Island State Park. These trails are not convenient or easily accessible to many residents. Detailed acreage acquisition needs or development cost estimates have not yet been determined because trail alignments, right-of-way, length, surface, and type of construction required will not be known until more design work is completed. Costs per linear mile are likely to vary between approximately \$100,000 for gravel surface and \$200,000 for hard surface. The four trails are:

A trail along the old Pennsylvania Railroad right-of-way along the west side of MD 413 from Westover to Somers Cove Marina in Crisfield. The right-of-way is owned by the Maryland Department of Transportation and the County would need to work with the State to explore the feasibility of this facility. This trail could be hard surfaced because the grade and alignment are established.

Since 2012, Somerset County has worked closely with MTA and SHA to establish this right-of-way as a hiker biker trail. As a result of this work the State and County are in the midst of planning and design of Phase 1 of the trail from Davis Rd. in Marion Station to the beginning of the dual highway in Crisfield. Somerset County has listed this project as a priority to the State in its Transportation Plans for the past 3 years. Some of the challenges faced during the project include the inability to “railbank” the property due to the Transportation Safety Board’s 2015 decision that the railroad is already considered abandoned by that body. Subsequently, the county and state have been investigating ownership of the area and title searches to ascertain how the property was acquired (dating back to the 1860’s) either through easement or fee. SHA’s determination and action on the item has resulted in a “quick claim” of the property for further expansion of RT 413 and the use of the space for a hiker-biker trail in the interim. Transportation Alternative Programming (TAP) will fund 80% of the project with the remaining 20% match coming from other State Grant Programs. Submission and Re-application for funds will occur in May 2017.

A 20 mile greenway trail along the Manokin River, linking the County’s Raccoon Point Regional Park at the mouth of the river with the Manokin River Park and Garland Hayward Park in the Town of Princess Anne, and terminating at UMES. This facility is envisioned as an ecological and recreational greenway that could also have a water trail along the river.

There has been no action on this plan since 2012 recommendations.

In addition to the 20 mile greenway trail project, the Town of Princess Anne is planning to extend Manokin River Park eastward to extend the proposed trail network.

The above two projects will connect to the Town’s Sustainable Communities Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan network (see Figure III-2).

A greenway trail along the Pocomoke River that would be an ecological and recreational multi-county greenway facility. The trail could link natural resource lands and historic attractions along the river. Most of the route is within marsh areas and the type of trail surface will vary with the terrain.

Bike lanes in Princess Anne have been dedicated on the Somerset Ave, the town's main road, a greenway trail has not been constructed.

NEW Trail Program, Somerset County's Original Trail Mix,
www.somersettrailmix.com

This project in conjunction with Somerset County Health Department was designed to promote access to existing recreational facilities such as pavilions, boat ramps, walking trails, and map out bike routes on low traffic county roadways that make connections with villages and towns and neighboring counties. Infrastructure for this program includes: Trail Hub signage and informational kiosks, trail markers and QR Code to website link, development of website and social media sites, printing of brochures and maps to be displayed throughout the county, procurement of part time/contractual staff member to promote the initiative. Pictures and details are illustrated below.



Figure III-6 Princess Anne Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

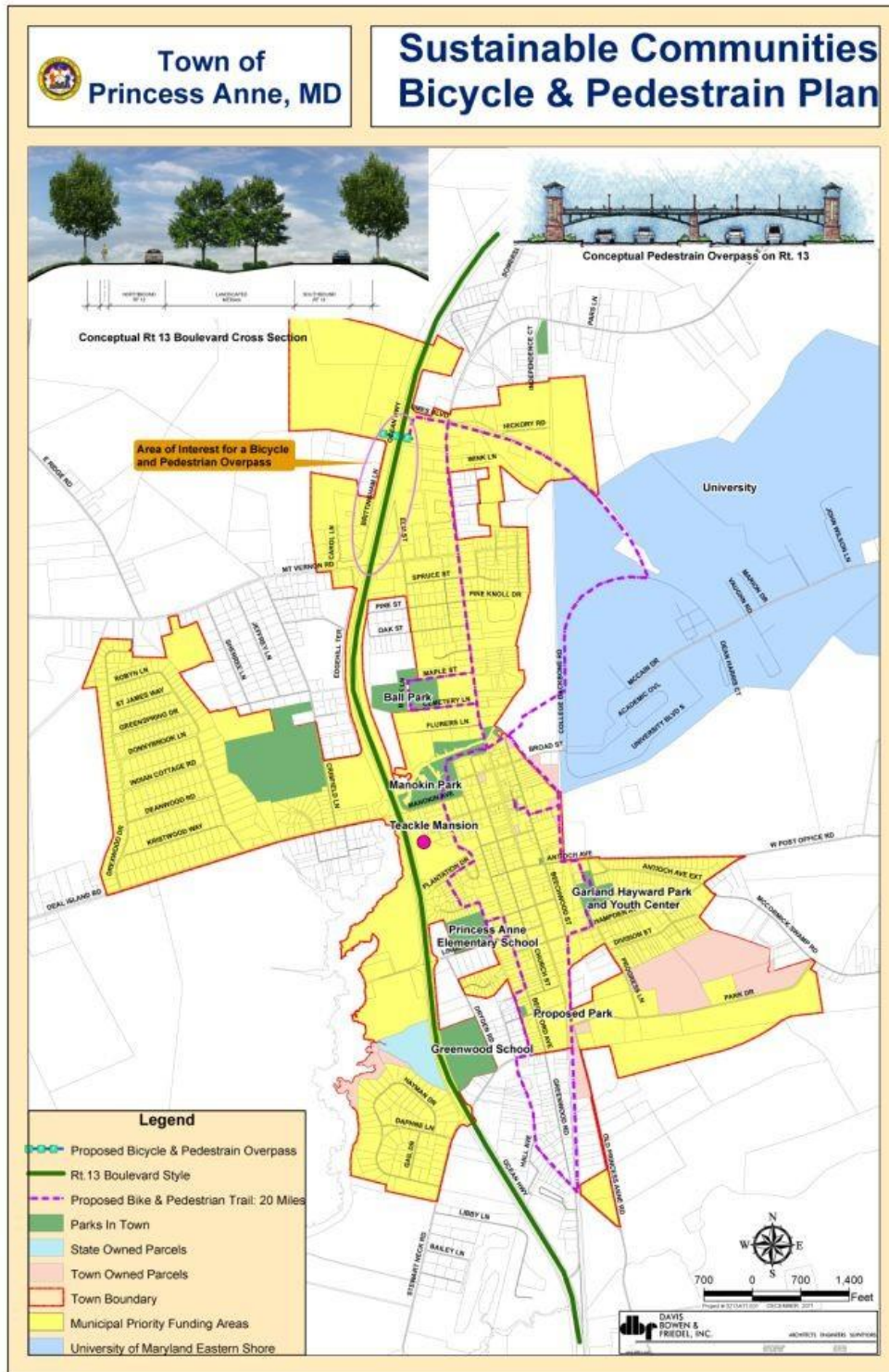


Figure III-7: Planned Route 413 Bike Rail Trail

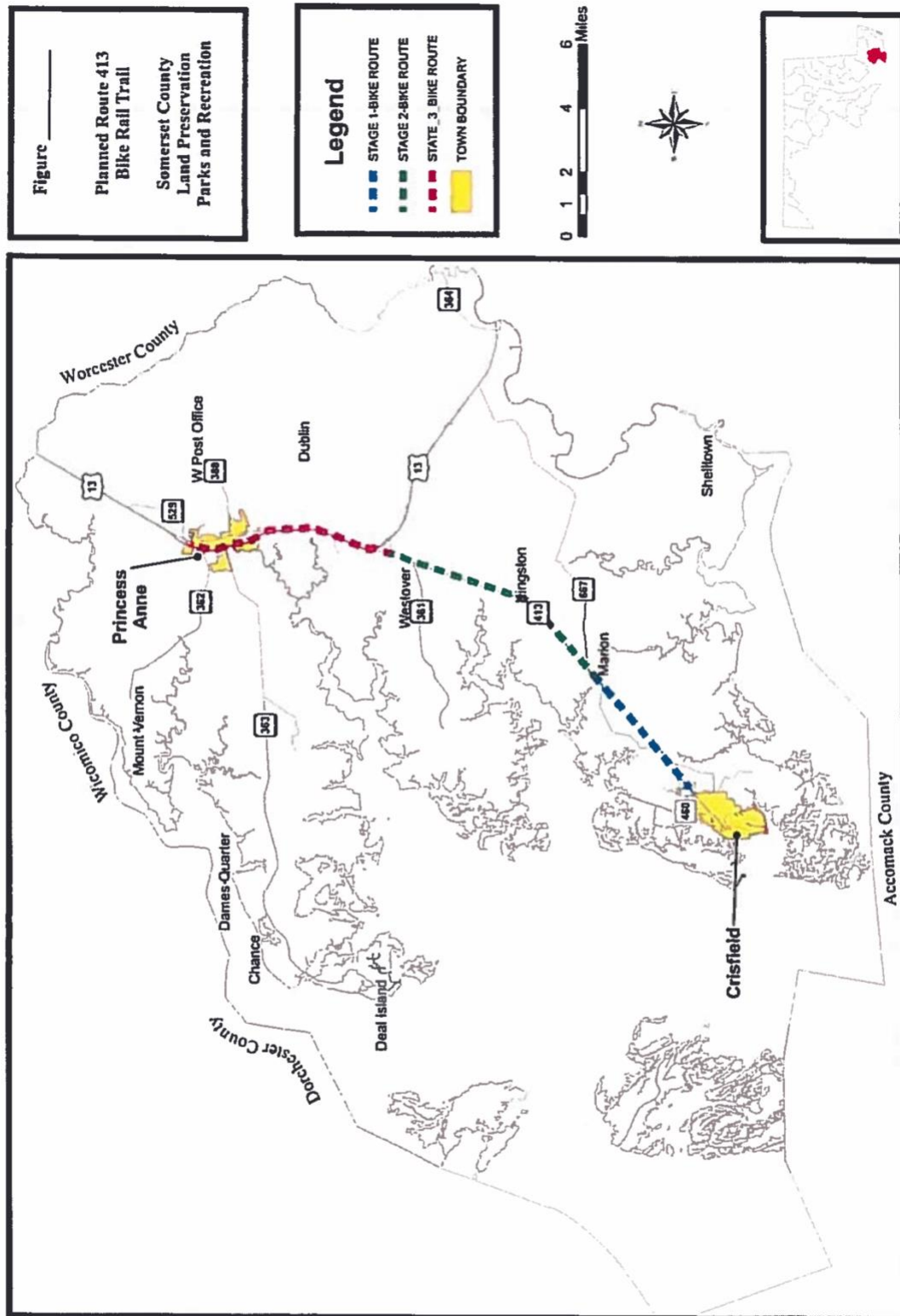
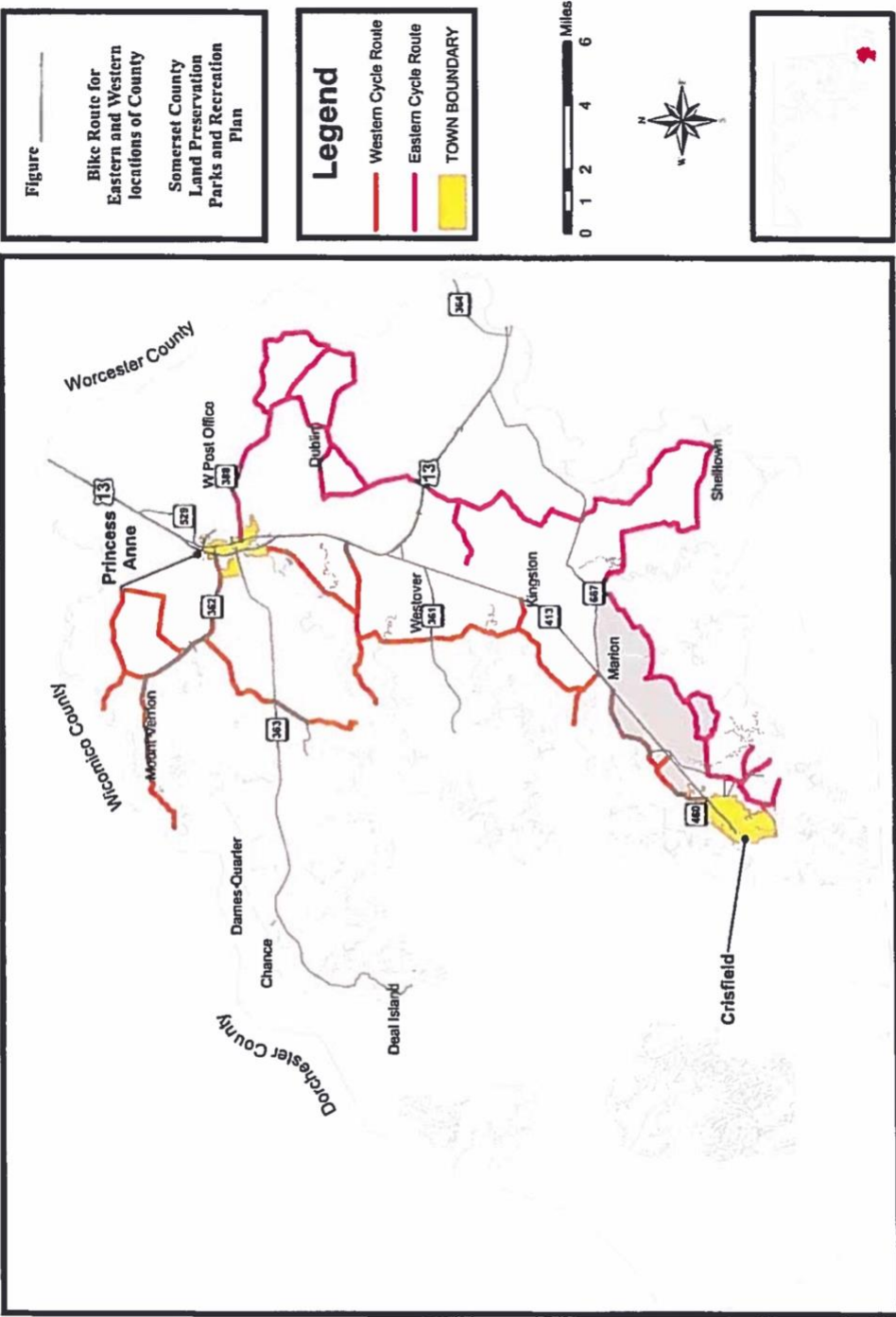


Figure III-8: Bike Route for Eastern and Western locations of County



3. Facility Development Projects

Six facility development projects are proposed on land already owned by the County, towns, or the Board of Education.

Updates since 2012 Plan are in green

- a. A new indoor recreation complex located in the central part of the County. A similar project was recommended in the 2005 LPPRP at the Westover Intermediate School but is now recommended for a portion of the 45-acre Long Centralized Athletic Complex site opened by the County in 2010. This would be the County's first indoor recreation facility oriented to serve multiple needs, and is the County's top priority.

Due to budget climate there has been no action on this plan, but the County still holds it as a top priority. In the interim, as described earlier in the document, Recreation and Parks has added an indoor gymnasium in Westover and upgraded the facility in Princess Anne.

Indoor recreation facilities are currently very limited in the County. The only one fully under the Department of Recreation and Parks control is a former high school gym at the Somerset County Office Complex, built in 1957. There is strong demand for space here from multiple users including basketball, indoor soccer, and fitness resulting in scheduling conflicts. The Salvation Army runs programs at a gym in the Armory in Crisfield, but this gym is very small. The other indoor facilities are gyms at schools which are needed for school use and not accessible for public use. In fact, the high schools lack space, and practice at the County Office Complex.

Demand for indoor recreation is high and opportunities are limited. The needs analysis in Section 3 of this LPPRP shows a (four) indoor sports court deficit. According to lower Eastern Shore respondents to the State's 2003 Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities survey, more indoor recreation is desired by six in ten households with children. A dedicated indoor facility would provide opportunities for different types of activities oriented to different segments of the population, including the growing elderly population. This would also support health education and wellness promotion under the mission of the Somerset County Health Department for "healthy people in healthy communities".

An approximately 45,700 square foot facility is envisioned that would provide a gymnasium for indoor athletic activities and other space for a variety of active, leisure, and educational/community pursuits (see conceptual layout in Figure III-3). The facility would serve both the Crisfield and Princess Anne areas in a convenient central location. Together with the athletic fields at the complex and the nearby Great Hope Golf Course the facility would create a recreational hub in the center of the County, and build on the success of the athletic fields in promoting overall recreation in the County.

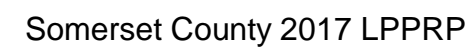
In the long range, consideration should also be given to using this site as a location for meeting the long term need for an additional outdoor swimming pool.

- b. The Board of Education plans to build fields for softball, baseball, football and a track at the Somerset Intermediate School in Westover. Currently the only playing fields at the facility are practice fields and not suitable for match play, requiring all home games to be played at Washington High School or the Long Centralized Athletic Complex. There are no adjacent schools or athletic complexes which offer these playing fields and no tracks at all in this portion of the county.

The project is estimated to cost approximately \$1 million; however, the option of installing a synthetic turf field would double or triple this estimate.

No action has occurred in this regard since 2012 plan, in fact the zoning of the area around the school as a wetland precludes any future action on this project at this time.

III-40



- c. The Board of Education acquired the old Coast Guard Property in Crisfield and plans to build softball, baseball, soccer and field hockey fields at the facility. Crisfield High School, directly across the street from the Coast Guard Property, has a shortage of available playing fields for junior varsity teams and a general shortage of practice fields. The project would cost approximately \$350,000. As of 2016 there has been very little action with this project. A study was completed to repurpose these fields but budgetary constraints and zoning of property as a non-tidal wetland have slowed development. However, the Board did dedicate funds for the rehabilitation of the existing field hockey field to create a multi-use field for soccer as well. The field was dedicated and unveiled in fall of 2016 and includes irrigation, regrading of the playing surface and the addition of a bleacher system. The Recreation and Parks Dept. was heavily involved in securing funding and the design of the project.
- d. The Town of Princess Anne has two short-range projects planned for Manokin River Park. The first project consists of the construction of a wildlife observation deck and walkway. The second project includes the installation of a bandstand, picnic pavilion and a playground. Manokin River Park received Community Parks and Playground Funds to construct a playground and a picnic area in-line with these plans in 2013.
 - 13 The Town of Princess Anne plans to continue its Garland Hayward Park project, a redevelopment project in partnership with University of Maryland Eastern Shore at a former clam processing plant. Short-range improvements include a new picnic pavilion, grills, restrooms, bleachers, lighting and landscaping. No action as of this time
- f. The Prince William Street Pocket park is a mid-range project by the Town of Princess Anne that will use property currently owned by the town to construct a pocket park.

Rehabilitation

Two facility rehabilitation projects are recommended:

- a. Rehabilitation of the Army National Guard Armory in the City of Crisfield, which the City is in the process of acquiring. This facility is currently providing indoor gymnasium space and other recreational activities for the Crisfield Salvation Army Youth Club. No movement on this has occurred, although the City has investigated the cost of rehabilitation, the site incurred damages from Superstorm Sandy.
- b. Install restrooms and dugout roofing at the Crisfield Little League Fields. Dugout roofing has taken place, no restroom at this time.

4. Other County Projects

The following project is in the approved FY12 County POS program and is funded by the State and County for completion in 2012:

- a. Rehabilitation of a portion of the Raccoon Point Regional Park to install picnic grills, picnic tables, permanent trash cans, and make landscaping and parking lot improvements. A grill was added and grading of the parking lot occurred in 2013, improvements to this park are included in 2017 Program Open Space Plan.

5. Other Projects

Not listed in Table III-6 are several projects recommended in the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area Management Plan or proposed by the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council. Only two of these projects have a cost estimate, because others have not been conceived in sufficient detail. These projects are expected to develop without major support by the County, with funding by a variety of non-county sources.

- a. The Cedar Island Marsh Sanctuary Project is being developed by the Crisfield Heritage Foundation on 300 acres that comprised the former Jenkins Creek Environmental Center. The non-profit, in cooperation with other partners, plans to construct resource-related wetland boardwalk trails and observation stations. Project cost is estimated at \$2 million, with approximately \$1.5 million for land acquisition and
- b. The Ewell Pocket Park is currently being developed by the Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of Planning and Zoning and the Association of Realtors for a small pocket park on Smith Island. (See Figures III-7)

The remainder for facility development. The project will be completed within the short-term. **No action beyond a survey and site plan has occurred with this project.**

- c. The Tangier Sound Natural History Initiative is envisioned to link existing State, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and other protected lands with the Jenkins Creek/Cedar Island Marsh Sanctuary project (described above), the Glen L. Martin National Wildlife Refuge; and the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's Monie Bay Component. Linking these large natural resource lands together with an ecological theme will help the County implement its goals to enhance public access to the Bay and will also support efforts to boost eco-tourism. The Monie Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is one of three such areas in the Chesapeake Bay region, and one of 29 Reserves in 23 states. Reserves are established to protect estuarine areas as natural field laboratories for research, monitoring and education. A field station is in the planning stages at the Drawbridge Farm Property of the Reserve. The Field Station will enhance research and educational opportunities in the area.

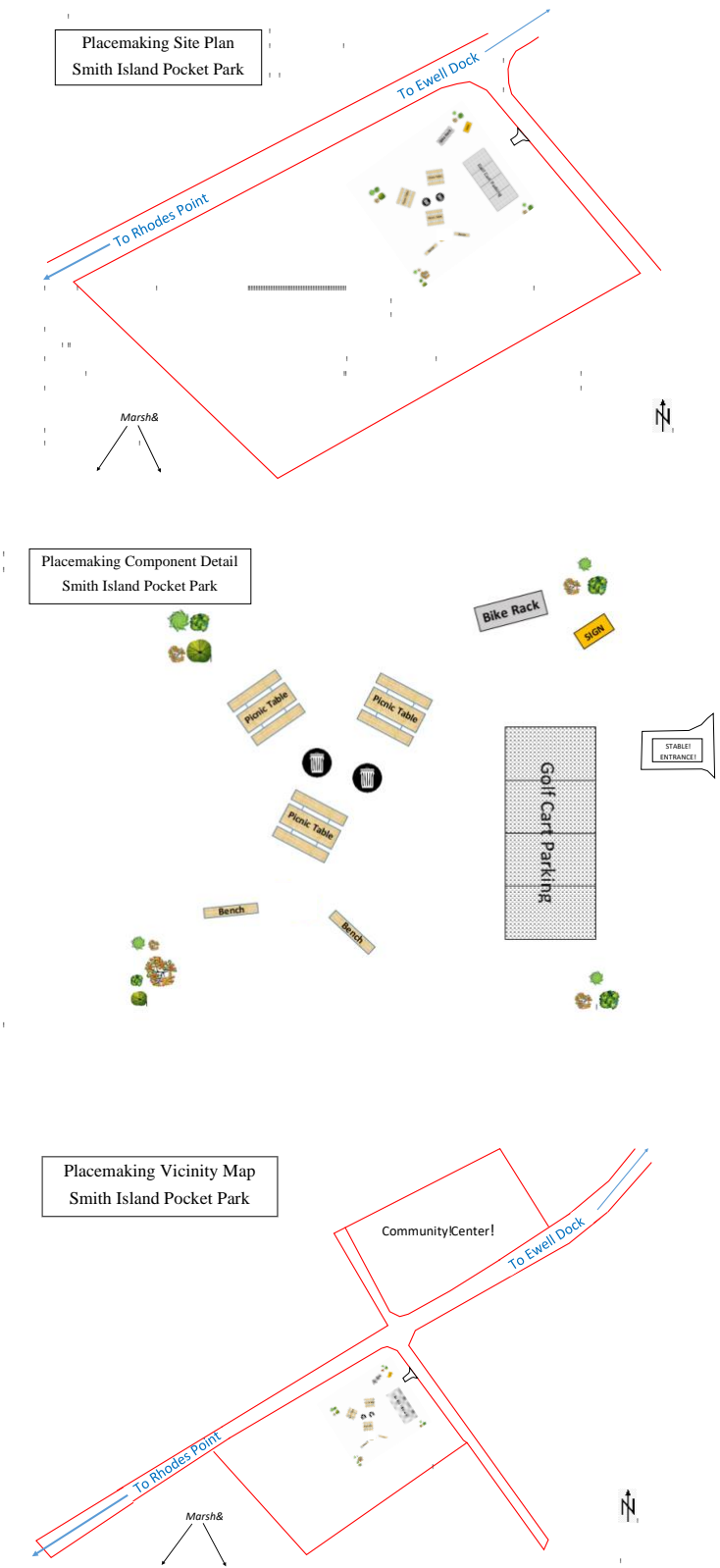
A series of mapped water trails has been created at Monie Bay as a result of a DNR/Somerset County project. Links are provided in Trail Mix Program.

- d. The Bending Water Park Cultural Arts Center is a recommendation to develop a museum for the Accohannock Indians in the Marion area. **No action, however a water trail has been mapped out.**
- e. A Deal Island Skipjack Museum is recommended in the Deal Island and Wenona area to harbor the Bay's largest skipjack fleet.

Deal Island Skipjack Heritage Foundation recently received a grant (Summer 2016) to establish this museum.

- f. The Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council and the Somerset County government plan to purchase six interpretive signs to be placed on Smith Island, as well as an observation deck equipped with a high-powered telescope. The goal of this project is to provide the visitor to Smith Island with additional information regarding the sights to be seen on the existing road from Ewell to Rhodes Point. The cost of the project is estimated at \$37,500 and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2012.

Figure III-10 (Ewell Pocket Park-Smith Island)



6. Consistency with State and Local Goals

Table III-6 summarizes how the proposed development projects fulfill the state and county goals for recreation. This is a required table under the LPPRP preparation guidelines.

Table III-6 Goals Met by Acquisition and Development Recommendations

Project	Short Range	Mid Range	Long Range	State Goals Met (see table notes)	Local Goals Met (see table notes)	Notes
Acquisition and Development Projects						
Burgess Americana Museum				1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12	Encourages tourism
South Beckford Avenue Park				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	9	Expands outdoor recreation opportunities
Manokin River Greenway Trail				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	7, 9, 10, 11	Expands trail network
Manokin River Park Extension				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	7, 9, 10, 11	Expands existing facility
Pocomoke River Greenway Trail				1, 2, 3, 5, 6	7, 9, 10, 11	Expands trail network
Rail Trail along MD 413				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	7, 9, 10, 11	Expands trail network
Facility Development Projects						
Central Indoor Recreation Complex				1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 8, 9, 10, 12	Meets County's need for indoor facilities
Coast Guard Property Playing Fields				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	7, 9	Expands existing school facilities
Garland Hayward Park Upgrades				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	7, 9	Upgrades increase usability
Manokin River Park Bandstand, Pavilion and Playground				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	7, 9	Upgrades increase usability
Manokin River Park Observation Deck and Walkway				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	7, 9, 11	Expands trail network
Prince William Street Pocket Park				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	9	Expands outdoor recreation opportunities
Somerset Intermediate School Playing Fields				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	7	Maximizes existing school facilities
Facility Rehabilitation and Development Projects						
Crisfield Little League Ballfields Improvements				1, 2, 4, 5, 6	7	Upgrades improve usage of the facilities
Crisfield National Guard Armory Rehab				1, 2, 4, 5, 6	7	Upgrades improve usage of the facilities

Table notes are on the following page

Table Notes

State	State Goals	
	1	Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens, and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.
	2	Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the State more desirable places to live, work, and visit.
	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.
	4	To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile, and help to protect natural open spaces and resources.
	5	Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities.
	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.
County	Local Goals	
	7	Maximize existing recreation facilities and coordinate provision of park and recreation activities with school sites.
	8	Build on existing recreation facilities in Westover to create a central indoor and outdoor recreation hub that can serve the needs of the entire county.
	9	Locate new facilities in growth areas that are accessible to the majority of residents, but also provide recreation opportunities to serve populations that are far from existing recreation facilities.
	10	Coordinate and maximize use of programs between the County, municipalities, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES).
	11	Enhance public access to the Bay and elsewhere through more trails and bike paths.
	12	Promote the County's park and recreation program as a draw for attracting new residents and businesses.
	13	Improve communication between the County and its two municipalities on recreation.

7. Funding

The total program for County and municipal land acquisition, facility development and redevelopment costs as shown in Table III-6 is approximately \$10.3 million. This averages out to \$686,000 per year to 2027, the time frame for this LPPRP. POS grants have averaged approximately \$0.135 million since 2005 and while the County is contributing towards capital project funding (for example, \$87,000 in FY 2012), this leaves a large shortfall. School construction funds will likely be used for the projects at schools. Nevertheless, in order to pursue the recommended projects listed in this LPPRP, other funding will be necessary.

The County has been actively investigating alternative funding sources for the construction of the Central Indoor Recreation Complex. The County will also likely want to partner with the various non-profits involved in implementing the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Plan as these entities can often help leverage funding from private and other public funding sources. Consideration could also be given to increasing staffing to pursue grants, recognizing that such staff can be self-supporting.

In summary, the projected costs for proposed projects will exceed current County funding levels and will require renewed commitment in the current fiscal environment, especially with recent cut backs in POS funding. The challenge is for the County to pursue all available funding sources and opportunities to leverage funding with municipal, non-profit organizations, and the State's POS program.

D. Land Acquisition Goal

Somerset County has adopted the default State recommended land acquisition goal of 30 acres per 1,000 population, which is 694 acres in 2010 (Table III-8). The County currently exceeds this goal by 444 acres. The County **had** been certified by the Maryland Department of Planning as meeting its acreage goal pursuant to Natural Resources Article §5-905 c (1)(ii), **but this is no longer the case due to updated guidelines requirements.** We believe that this 2017 version of the LPPRP based on our Proximity Analysis and other metrics demonstrates that we have met our land acquisition goal.

When Somerset County states that they have reached, their Acquisition Goal the statement is based on the rationale that the area Somerset covers naturally has several gaps, but the land in those regions is predominately agricultural and marshland, therefor development of parks in those locales would be difficult logistically and not serve a large number of people. However, we are committed to the creation of parks and recreational areas using land that is already owned by the County. Deal Island, Rumbley, Crisfield and Marion have tracts of County owned land that can be developed into recreational areas and are reflected in our long-term goals. This in our estimation, in conjunction with our meetings with county residents, input from patrons of our parks and programming and responses to surveys, is the best use of County and State resources to ensure that residents of Somerset County are well served in respect to parks and recreation.

Table III-7 Somerset County Land Acquisition, Facility Development and Rehabilitation Recommendations

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
					Acres		
Year	Current/ Projected Population	Recreation and Open Space Acreage Goal (30 acres per 1,000 population) (1)	County and Town Recreation Land (2)	County and Town Natural Resources Land (3)	Applicable State and Federal Land (4)	Total	Acreage Above Goal
2010	23,141	694	792	0	347	1,138	444
2022	24,760	743					395

Notes:

- 1) Column 2 shows the total acreage goal of 30 acres per 1,000 population (694 acres in 2010).
- 2) Column 3 comprises 100 percent of county and municipal recreational land.
- 3) Column 4 includes the 66-acre County owned Deal Island Wilderness Area, of which one-third or 22 acres counts toward meeting the State recommended acreage goal (Column 2).
- 3) There are 3,519 acres of State owned recreational lands. Since this exceeds 60 acres per 1,000 persons (60×23.1 or 1,386 acres), 15 acres per thousand persons (15×23.1 or 346.5 acres) may be used to meet the acreage goal.
- 4) There are 47,869 acres of State and Federal open space and natural resource lands that may not be counted toward the county's acreage goal because they are classified as Natural Resource Lands.

E. Program Development Summary

This section summarizes Somerset County's program development strategy for recreation and parks. Recommended actions on the part of the State are noted.

1. Acquire property for two park and recreation projects.

Approximately 7.5 acres of land acquisition are recommended for two projects that will then be developed at a cost of approximately \$480,000. One of these is a .5 acre park in the Town of Princess Anne. The other acquisition is for the Burgess Museum collection;

2. Request State assistance in determining feasibility of trail proposals.

The technical expertise and financial resources of the State Highway Administration and the Department of Transportation is needed by the County to begin investigating the feasibility of the recommended trails system – *Previously described*

3. Implement the proposed facility development program.

The County's facility development program totals \$4.5 million to construct an indoor recreation complex at the current Long Centralized Athletic Complex. The County is currently pursuing multiple avenues for funding the project in addition to utilizing POS funding.

4. Increase coordination between the County and its municipalities.

The County should seek ways to increase coordination and cooperation among its municipalities and others regarding recreation facilities and programming. The County's Recreation and Parks Commission should play a central role in this effort, and. *Descriptions of actions regarding this recommendation are in previous pages.*

5. Continue County involvement with the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area Management Plan.

The County should continue to be an active partner in implementing the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area Management Plan. Financial assistance may be needed from the State in order to implement some of the LESHAMP projects – ***State, County and non-profit action.***

F. Five Year Goals

1. Continue to pursue funding and local and state legislature support for a planned indoor facility in Westover.
2. Expand existing Centralized Athletic Facility in Westover to include basketball court, tennis courts, skate board ramp, baseball fields, swimming pool, and to expand on the current fields at the park.
3. Continue to expand Trail Mix initiative with the goal of transitioning to a permanent and sustainable public health initiative and vehicle for tourism.
4. Continue to pursue funding for construction and design of phases II and III of the route 413 hiker biker trail.

CHAPTER IV AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE LANDS

This chapter discusses the extent to which progress has been made toward achievement of the agricultural land preservation and natural resource land conservation goals and objectives identified in the 2009 State LPPRP and the 2012 County LPPRP.

A. Agricultural Land Preservation

1. Introduction

Somerset County has a long and rich agricultural tradition, and it continues to play an important economic and cultural role in the life of the County. Agricultural land is widespread in Somerset County both on upland areas and on lowland areas that have been drained. Figure II-1 shows the distribution of agricultural land in 2010.

The USDA Census of Agriculture defines a farm as “any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, in the census year.” In 2007 the Census counted 60,255 acres of land in farms in Somerset County, up six percent from 56,650 acres in 2002. The number of farms also increased during that period, from 301 in 2002 to 329 in 2007 (Table IV-1). Some other key points from Table IV-1 are as follows.

Poultry is by far the most important agricultural product with a market value of over \$177 million in 2007.

Over 68 million chickens were sold in 2007.

The top crops in terms of acreage are corn for grain and soybeans. These crops are used primarily to feed poultry.

The largest number of farms, 109, or 33 percent, are small farms in the 10 to 49-acre size range.

47 percent of farm operators listed farming as their primary occupation, a decline of 22 percent compared to 2002 when 65 percent listed farming as their primary occupation.

The average age of farm operators in Somerset County in 2007 was 58, up from 55 in 2002.

The impacts of the poultry industry go way beyond the market value of \$177 million. A 2016 study of the economic impacts of the poultry industry on Maryland’s Eastern Shore found that in addition to the almost 4,700 people that are employed in the poultry industry, another 2,200 jobs are generated in supplier and ancillary industries. Each of these 6,900 jobs pays on the average \$66,500 in wages and benefits, totaling almost \$460 million. In addition to the jobs created directly by the poultry industry, the local economy benefits indirectly as well, as business is generated for firms that appear to be unrelated to the poultry industry, such as banking, real estate and accounting. In 2016, the industry was responsible for as much as \$2.04 billion in total activity throughout Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

¹ The Economic Contribution and Long-Term Sustainability of the Delmarva Poultry Industry Report prepared for the Maryland Agro-Ecology Center, Inc., Queenstown, Maryland April 2003 Report prepared by: Robert A. Chase, Huckell, Weinman Associates, Inc.; and Wesley N. Musser and Bruce Gardner, University of Maryland, College Park. Delmarva comprises the

Table IV-1 Selected Agricultural Statistics 2007 and 2002

	2007		2002		Change 2002 to 2007	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Land in County (acres)	206,932		206,932			
Number of farms	329		301		28	9%
Land in farms (acres)	60,255	29%	56,650	27%	3,605	6%
Land in farms by land use (acres)						
Cropland	35,392	59%	38,720	64%	(3,328)	-9%
Woodland	15,005	25%	12,971	22%	2,034	16%
Pasture	1,228	2%	781	1%	447	57%
Other (house lots, roads)	8,630	14%	4,178	7%	4,452	107%
Number of Farms by Size						
1-9 acres	22	7%	36	12%	(14)	-39%
10-49 acres	109	33%	96	32%	13	14%
50-179 acres	106	32%	86	29%	20	23%
180-499 acres	60	18%	53	18%	7	13%
500-999 acres	23	7%	20	7%	3	15%
1000+ acres	9	3%	10	3%	(1)	-10%
Market Value of Products Sold \$ millions						
Crops (including nursery & greenhouse)	\$ 14.9	8%	\$ 8.9	7%	\$ 6.0	68%
Livestock and Poultry	\$ 177.6	92%	\$ 118.4	93%	\$ 59.2	50%
Total	\$ 192.6		\$ 127.3		\$ 65.3	51%
Market Value of Land and Buildings \$ millions	\$ 382.1		\$ 141.1		\$ 241.0	171%
Top crops (acres)						
Corn for grain	15,237	43%	13,196	34%	2,041	15%
Soybeans	14,386	41%	19,175	50%	(4,789)	-25%
Forage (hay, grass)	1,116	3%	1,409	4%	(293)	-21%
Wheat	4,147	12%	4,793	12%	(646)	-13%
Chickens sold (millions)	58.1		63.9		(6)	-9%
Principal Farm Operator Characteristics						
Farming as primary occupation	155	47%	196	65%	(41)	-21%
Other as primary occupation	174	53%	105	35%	69	66%
Average age	58.3		55.0		3.3	6%
Hired Farm Labor (full and part-time)	348		680		(332)	-49%

Source: USDA, 2002 and 2007 Censuses of Agriculture

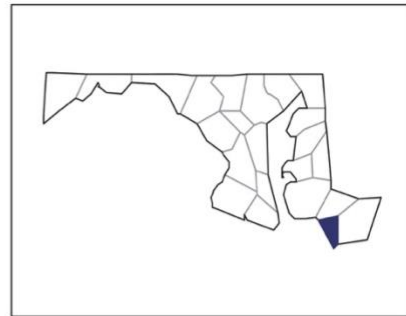
four counties of Maryland's lower Eastern Shore, Delaware's two rural counties, and Accomack County in Virginia. The economic impacts likely vary from county to county, but this was not analyzed in this study.

Figure IV-1

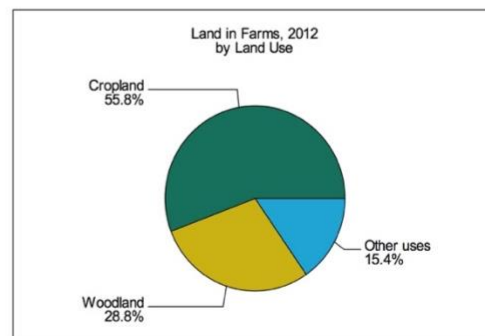
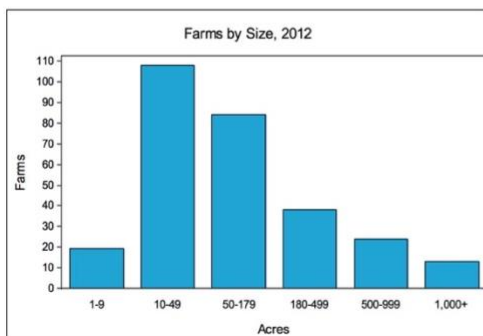
2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

COUNTY PROFILE

Somerset County Maryland



	2012	2007	% change
Number of Farms	286	329	- 13
Land in Farms	65,212 acres	60,255 acres	+ 8
Average Size of Farm	228 acres	183 acres	+ 25
Market Value of Products Sold	\$218,950,000	\$192,563,000	+ 14
Crop Sales \$26,652,000 (12 percent)			
Livestock Sales \$192,297,000 (88 percent)			
Average Per Farm	\$765,558	\$585,297	+ 31
Government Payments	\$1,653,000	\$1,173,000	+ 41
Average Per Farm Receiving Payments	\$9,339	\$5,560	+ 68



US Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

www.agcensus.usda.gov



Somerset County – Maryland

Ranked items among the 23 state counties and 3,079 U.S. counties, 2012

Item	Quantity	State Rank	Universe ¹	U.S. Rank	Universe ¹
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)					
Total value of agricultural products sold	218,950	3	23	472	3,077
Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse	26,652	16	23	1,557	3,072
Value of livestock, poultry, and their products	192,297	1	23	186	3,076
VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	22,090	13	23	1,192	2,926
Tobacco	-	-	8	-	436
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-	635
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	(D)	14	23	(D)	2,802
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	4	23	23	2,544	2,724
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	(D)	14	23	(D)	2,678
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	-	-	21	-	1,530
Other crops and hay	(D)	21	23	(D)	3,049
Poultry and eggs	191,990	1	23	37	3,013
Cattle and calves	186	20	23	2,918	3,056
Milk from cows	-	-	18	-	2,038
Hogs and pigs	(D)	20	23	(D)	2,827
Sheep, goats, wool, mohair, and milk	(D)	17	23	(D)	2,988
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	-	-	22	-	3,011
Aquaculture	(D)	6	15	(D)	1,366
Other animals and other animal products	(D)	23	23	(D)	2,924
TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)					
Soybeans for beans	16,830	11	23	983	2,162
Corn for grain	13,121	14	23	1,111	2,638
Wheat for grain, all	8,235	8	22	750	2,537
Winter wheat for grain	8,235	8	22	665	2,480
Forage-land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	882	21	23	2,879	3,057
TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)					
Broilers and other meat-type chickens	14,935,325	1	23	6	2,723
Layers	(D)	(D)	23	(D)	3,040
Pullets for laying flock replacement	(D)	6	21	(D)	2,637
Cattle and calves	880	21	23	2,895	3,063
Goats, all	279	14	23	1,885	2,996

Other County Highlights, 2012

Economic Characteristics	Quantity	Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Farms by value of sales:		Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Less than \$1,000	103	Farming	159
\$1,000 to \$2,499	7	Other	127
\$2,500 to \$4,999	5	Principal operators by sex:	
\$5,000 to \$9,999	5	Male	259
\$10,000 to \$19,999	7	Female	27
\$20,000 to \$24,999	4	Average age of principal operator (years)	
\$25,000 to \$39,999	2		60.2
\$40,000 to \$49,999	1	All operators by race ² :	
\$50,000 to \$99,999	9	American Indian or Alaska Native	-
\$100,000 to \$249,999	25	Asian	31
\$250,000 to \$499,999	11	Black or African American	7
\$500,000 or more	107	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	-
Total farm production expenses (\$1,000)	174,848	White	371
Average per farm (\$)	611,357	More than one race	2
Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)	48,395	All operators of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin ²	
Average per farm (\$)	169,215		6

See "Census of Agriculture, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series" for complete footnotes, explanations, definitions, and methodology.

- Represents zero. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with item. ² Data were collected for a maximum of three operators per farm.

1

Taken from the website,
https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Maryland/cp24039.pdf

2. Goals

The County Comprehensive Plan seeks to preserve the agricultural land base by restricting growth, and particularly unplanned sprawl, from diluting the rural character of the County. Key goals in the Comprehensive Plan are:

Encourage growth in selected nodes or communities so as to preserve valuable farmland and other sensitive areas (Goal 2a).

Continue to investigate the advisability of a new Agricultural Zone which would restrict residential development other than farm-related uses (Goal 2e).

Continue the County's commitment to its agricultural base, especially the continuing farming of prime agricultural soils. Encourage the establishment of agricultural districts which discourage residential subdivision and sprawl (Goal 6e).

The County has not established Priority Preservation Areas (PPA) in its Comprehensive Plan. Somerset's Plan is required to be updated in 2020. During the update possibly including PPA's will be considered.

The State's goals for Agricultural Land Preservation are shown in the box on the next page. County goals are consistent with the State's goals. The County has not adopted a specific agricultural land preservation acreage goal.

3. 2005 LPPRP Recommendations

The 2005 LPPRP recommended program development strategy (pages IV-11 to IV-12) included the following:

1. Recognize the importance of preserving agricultural land as a key element of Somerset County's economy. Adopt a goal for agricultural land preservation.
2. Adopt zoning that is protective of agricultural land resources.
3. Create an agricultural preservation focus area.
4. Apply to create a Rural Legacy Area (RLA).
5. Revise the County's transfer of development rights (TDR) program.
6. Increase State funding for the MALPF program to create more interest in the program in Somerset County.

State of Maryland Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation

1. Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting a reasonable diversity of agricultural production.
2. Protect natural, forestry, and historic resources and the rural character of the landscape associated with Maryland's farmland.
3. 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
4. Limit the intrusion of development and its impacts on rural resources and resource based industries.
5. Preserve approximately 1,030,000 acres of productive agricultural land by 2020.
6. 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.
7. Work with local governments to:
 - 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; and
 - 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 the public at large.

4. Progress

- 4.1. *Recognize the importance of preserving agricultural land as a key element of Somerset County's economy. Adopt a goal for agricultural land preservation.*

As noted in Section A.1, agriculture continues to be a vital element the County's economy supporting jobs and economic spin-off activity well in excess of the initial investment value in the industry. In a County with limited additional economic development options agriculture needs to be supported, nurtured, and protected.

Agriculture is a very important component of Somerset County's economy. In 2009 there were 10,908 jobs in the County of which 7,791 were private (non-

government) employment. 1,056 of these jobs were in agricultural services, forestry and fishing².

The 2005 LPPRP included a recommendation that the County adopt an agricultural land preservation goal of 25,000 acres. The County has not formally adopted this goal, but it will be reconsidered as part of the Comprehensive Plan update currently underway.

Preserved Agricultural Land

Approximately 5,835 acres of agricultural lands in Somerset County are permanently preserved through three programs/organizations. This is an increase of 1,674 acres since the 2005 LPPRP (Table IV-2 and Figure IV-1). An additional 1,465 acres are temporarily preserved in agricultural districts.

Protected forest land is discussed below in Section B.

Table IV-2 Protected Agricultural Land

Easement Type	Acres
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	5,520
Rural Legacy	1,413
Maryland Environmental Trust	4,921
Total	11,854

Sources: 1. MALPF easements: Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, Annual Report Fiscal Year 2017.

2. Nature Conservancy.

3. MET figure from MET Website at http://dnr.maryland.gov/met/pages/protected_acres.aspx

Somerset County has participated in the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) program since the 1980s. This program preserves agricultural land by working with private landowners to sell their development rights to MALPF while retaining the right to continue to use the land for farming. As of June 2011, a total of 4,682 acres in 38 easements have been permanently preserved through the MALPF program³.

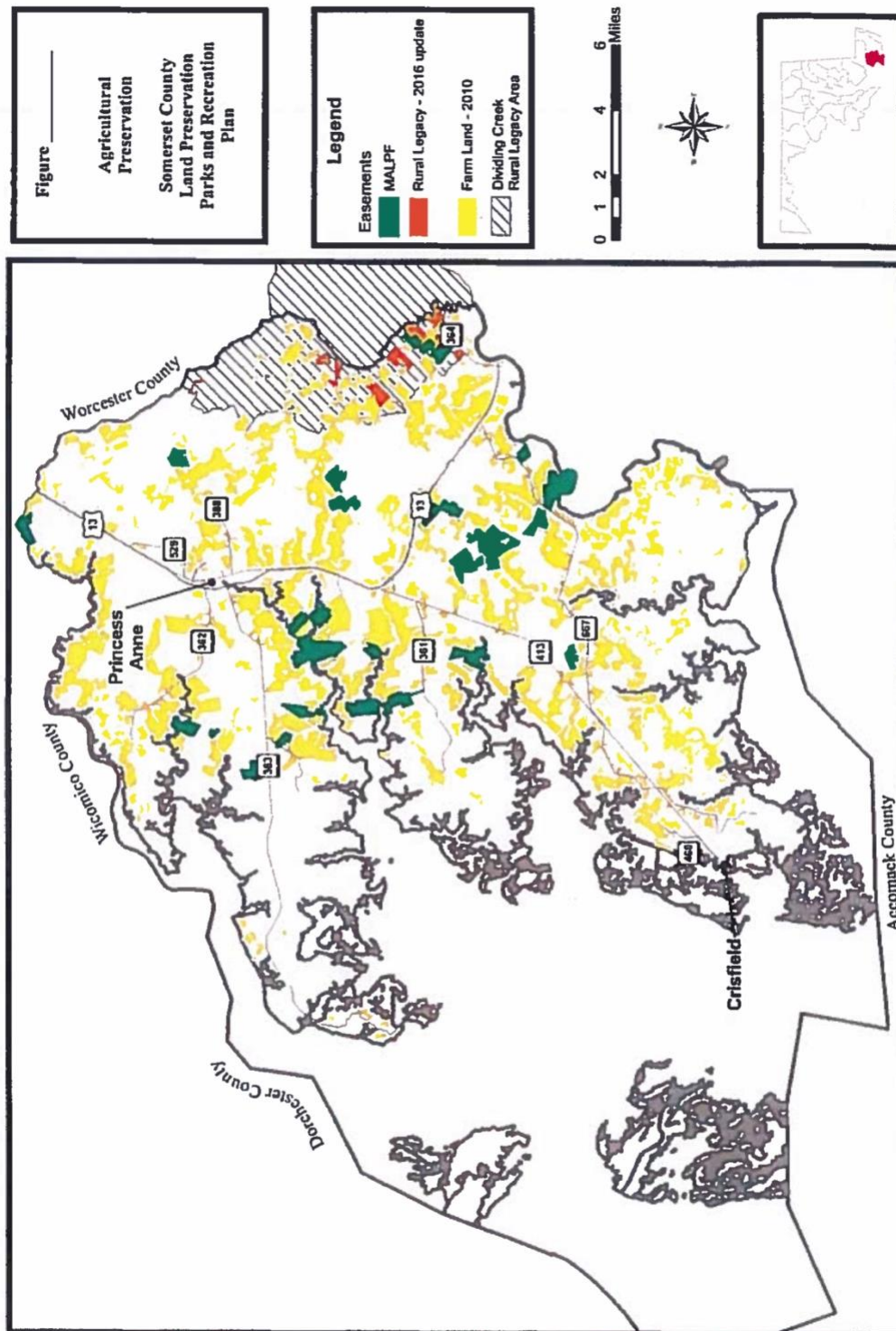
Until 2008 the MALPF preservation program was a two-step process involving the creation of temporary (5-year renewable) Agricultural Preservation Districts followed by sale of permanent easements. Somerset County helped administer the Agricultural Preservation District program. MALPF now uses a one-step easement process with no district program. Land in districts is still preserved temporarily, but landowners can remove their land from the program. There are 13 agricultural districts established prior to 2008 comprising approximately 1,465 acres.

Approximately 598 acres are protected through Maryland's Rural Legacy Program (see Section 4.4 below).

² Source: Maryland Department of Planning using historic data from U.S. BEA Table CA 25N, June 2011.

³ MALPF Annual Report Fiscal Year 2011

Figure IV – 2 – Agricultural Preservation



Land trusts are non-profit organizations created by interested citizens to accept, monitor and enforce conservation easements donated by landowners. Easement donors can receive significant tax benefits at the Federal, State and local property tax levels.

The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) is a land trust that operates statewide. It holds approximately 4,519 acres in easements in Somerset County. Most of these easements are on natural resources land and are discussed in Section B of this chapter. However, approximately 555 acres are easements on active farmland and are included on Table IV-2.

The Lower Shore Land Trust is a local land trust that operates in Somerset County. It co-holds several easements with the MET.

Figure IV-1 shows the location of the areas protected through MALPF and Rural Legacy in relation to farmland in the County (MET easements are shown on Figure IV-4). Most of the easements and districts are in the central part of the County with clusters near Kingston and west of Princess Anne.

4.2. Adopt zoning that is protective of agricultural land resources.

Somerset County has not changed the zoning in its rural area since the 2005 LPPRP. As noted in Chapter 2, most agricultural land is in the CO Zone (1 dwelling per 5 acres) and in the AR Zone where the minimum lot size is one acre, although lots tend to be larger due to health department space requirements for septic systems.

There have been attempts in the past to apply more protective zoning. In 1997 County staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended a major change in the AR district that would have permitted only 10 percent of a parcel to be subdivided into lots smaller than 20 acres. This change would have applied to an area in the north east portion of the County. There was considerable opposition to the proposal and ultimately it was not supported by the County Commissioners.

Development pressure in Somerset County is low, and the amount of subdivision activity in the County has declined since the mid 2000s (Table IV-3). Between 2002 and 2007 the amount of farmland in the County increased (Table IV-2) although Land Use/Land Cover showed an approximately 1,000-acre decline in agricultural land between 2002 and 2010 (Table IV-1). Between 2006 and 2011 approximately 1,695 acres in the County were subject to the Agricultural Transfer Tax⁴.

The preceding discussion suggests that more protective zoning may not be needed. The question of appropriate development density in the rural area will be reviewed as part of the Comprehensive Plan update.

⁴ A tax paid when land is converted from agricultural to development use. Data source: State Department of Assessments and Taxation, AIMS 21 Reports.

Table IV-3 Lots Filed for Creation by Subdivision

Year	Lots filed or in Application Process for Subdivision
1999	30
2000	38
2001	9
2002	67
2003	10
2004	53
2005	133
2006	112
2007	35
2008	48
2009	19
2010	30
2011	5
Total	589
Average per Year	45

4.3. Create an agricultural preservation focus area

The 2005 LPPRP, after extensive analysis, recommended an agricultural preservation focus area in the north east part of the County that would be the focus of agricultural preservation efforts (Figure IV-2). While the County has not formally designated this area as a focus area, the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area has been designated in much of its eastern portion (see next section).

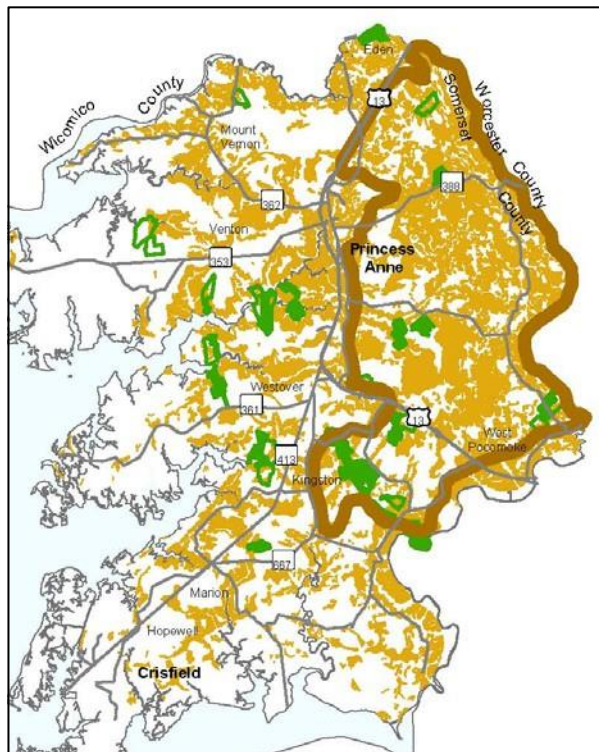


Figure IV-3 Agricultural Preservation Focus Area from the 2005 LPPRP

 Agricultural Land Preservation Focus Area

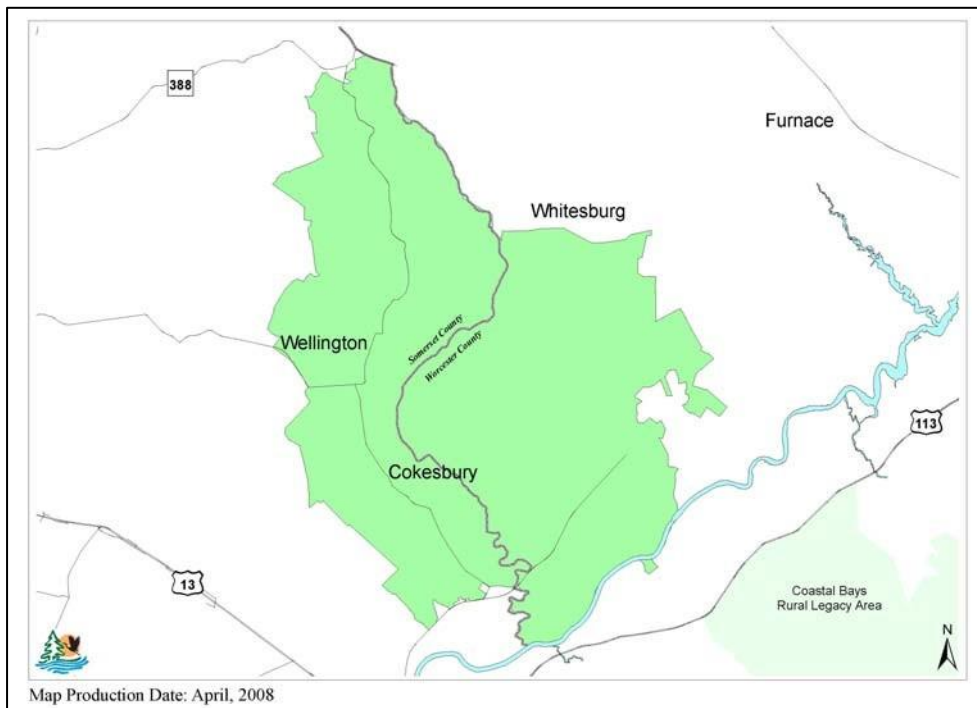
4.4. Apply to create a Rural Legacy Area (RLA)

The General Assembly established the Rural Legacy Program in 1997 to protect areas of large, contiguous blocks of land of rural landscapes, including agricultural, natural, cultural, and forestry resources.

The Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area (RLA) was designated by the State in 2008. It comprises 23,000 acres located in Somerset and Worcester Counties and is co-sponsored by the two counties and by The Nature Conservancy (see Figures IV-1 and IV-3). The Area provides for the conservation of prime farmland, working forests and ten miles of shoreline of the Dividing Creek, which connects to the Pocomoke River, a major tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. The area also includes one of the most pristine and ecologically significant watershed basins on the mid-Atlantic. Exemplary plant and wildlife habitats including Bald Cypress and Atlantic White Cedar swamps, forest interior and migratory songbirds, colonial water birds and the federally-endangered Delmarva Fox Squirrel are found within the Area.

As noted in Table IV-2 approximately 600 acres in the Somerset County portion of the RLA have been protected using Rural Legacy funds with a preservation investment of approximately \$3 million⁵. In total, approximately 1,326 acres in the RLA in Somerset County have been protected through various programs⁶. The Nature Conservancy anticipates preserving an additional 287 acres in the RLA by the end of 2012⁷.

Figure IV-4 Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area



Source: MD Department of Natural Resources

⁵ Liz Zucker, The Nature Conservancy, County Commissioners meeting minutes January 18, 2011.

⁶ <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/dnrnews/pressrelease2012/022212b.asp>

⁷ Liz Zucker, The Nature Conservancy, personal e-mail March 22, 2012.

4.5. Revise the County's transfer of development rights (TDR) program.

Somerset County created a transfer of development rights (TDR) program as part of its updated zoning ordinance that was adopted in 2000⁸. Under the program any property in the AR or CO districts may be a sending area. The program has not been used because of lack of demand in receiving areas. Based on the low development pressure in the County discussed above, this lack of demand is unlikely to change.

4.6. Increase State funding for the MALPF program to create more interest in the program in Somerset County.

This was a recommendation from the County to the State. In public meetings held for the 2005 LPPRP the comment was made several times that if easement offers through the MALPF program were higher, there would be more interest among farmers in the program. Somerset County has advocated for higher levels of State land preservation funding, but recognizes, consistent with the State LPPRP (page II-66), that political and economic conditions that would support new revenue sources remain poor.

Somerset County farmers have shown more interest in participating in the easement program in recent years. Interest had dropped drastically in the mid 2000s, before and just after the 2005 LPPRP. There were only two applications in FY 2005 and one in FY 2006. Higher easement acquisition offers by the State in FY 2007 significantly increased landowner interest. In 2008 there was a high of 24 applicants (*FY07-22, FY08-24, FY 09-15 and FY10-16*). Since then the recession and real estate industry collapse has drastically decreased the real estate transfer tax available and the revenue to fund the State's program. The lack of funding forced the State to combine minimal funding for FY 2011 and FY 2012. The County limited applications and submitted only seven. Only two offers were made and accepted. Recent State budget shortfalls are also restricting the availability FY 2013 funding.

⁸ In a TDR program development rights are transferred from a (rural) sending area to a receiving area. The sending area is protected and the receiving area may use the development density that would have been used in the sending area.

B. Natural Resources Conservation

1. Introduction

Natural resource lands help maintain the County's rural character, the attractiveness of developed areas, and provide wildlife habitat, natural systems filtration of pollutants, and opportunities for resource-based recreational pursuits. Somerset County's ubiquitous tidal and non-tidal wetlands dictate the pattern of development as well as the pattern of agriculture and forest lands. These wetlands and the County's rural character provide opportunities to increase resource-based recreation and eco-tourism.

2. Goals

The County Comprehensive Plan contains a series of goals that form the basis for County policies, regulations, and implementation programs for natural resource conservation.

The County's Comprehensive Plans goals for natural resource conservation are:

Goal 6 (a) Respect sensitive environmental areas, such as floodplains, wetlands and the Critical Area Zone adjacent to streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay;

Goal 6 (b) Retain and enhance wildlife management areas, riparian forest; greenways, scenic areas and unique open space areas;

Goal 6 (c) Discourage new development in areas where there is a high potential for contaminating the ground water, and discourage development where the land is considered unsafe due to unstable soils, steep slopes or potential flooding or erosion;

Goal 6 (d) Encourage planning regulations with emphasis on cluster development which will preserve environmentally sensitive areas and promote good environmental practices;

Goal 6 (f) Maintain and preserve wildlife management areas, and expand these programs to include areas of unique scenic, geological or archeological significance; and

Goal 6 (h) Adopt and enforce development standards to retain natural on-site features such as mature trees, hedgerows and natural drainage patterns. Encourage developer compliance with good planning practices with incentives.

Other Comprehensive Plan goals under economic development, land use, and infrastructure support the Plan's environmental goals and give further support to State natural resource goals. For example:

Goal 2 (a) Encourage development in selected nodes or communities in order to preserve valuable farmland and other sensitive areas; and

Goal 2 (e) Restrict residential development, other than farm related, in areas of A and B1-type soils where septic fields can penetrate ground water.

The State's goals for conservation of natural resource lands are shown in the box below.

The County's goals broadly encompass the State's natural resource land conservation goals such as protecting and conserving natural resources, using easements and districts to protect sensitive and agricultural lands, and preserving the cultural and economic value of natural resources. Generally, the County's goals address the regulation of natural resources whereas the State's goals have a broader natural resource land conservation emphasis. State goals relating to GreenPrint and the concept of green infrastructure are not directly addressed by the Comprehensive Plan because the concept was not fully conceived at the time the Plan was developed.

State of Maryland Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation

1. 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;
 - Avoid and minimize impacts of publicly funded infrastructure development on natural resources; and
2. Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas, according to a strategic framework such as GreenPrint.
3. Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that fall outside the green infrastructure: rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shale barren communities, grasslands, shoreline beach and dune systems, mud flats, non-forested islands, etc.
4. Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas to assist State and local implementation programs.
5. 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; and
 - Support a productive forestland base and forest resource industry, emphasizing the economic viability of privately owned forestland.
6. Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated State/local strategy to achieve them through State and local implementation programs.

3. Local Priorities for Natural Lands and Resources

Respecting sensitive environmental areas and retaining and enhancing wildlife management areas, riparian forest; greenways, scenic areas and unique open space areas are overarching County goals. Within this framework the only area specifically designated as a conservation priority is the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area. The Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area is also designated but covers the whole county and, while it promotes conservation, it does so in the context of promoting resource-based recreation and eco-tourism.

An extensive amount of natural resource lands in Somerset County is permanently protected. Table IV-4 provides a summary of these lands and they are also depicted on Figure IV-4. Note that these lands do not include recreation lands shown on Figure III-1, or protected agricultural lands shown on Figure IV-1.

Table IV-4 Somerset County Protected Natural Resource Lands

	Acres
Federal: Glen Martin National Wildlife Refuge	3,920
State of Maryland Owned	
Chesapeake Forest	17,231
Wildlife Management Areas	24,766
Other State of Maryland	2,225
State Easements (natural resources, excluding agricultural)	
Heartwood Forestland Fund IV	8,155
Other	530
Maryland Environmental Trust	3,964
Maryland Historical Trust	125
Total	60,916

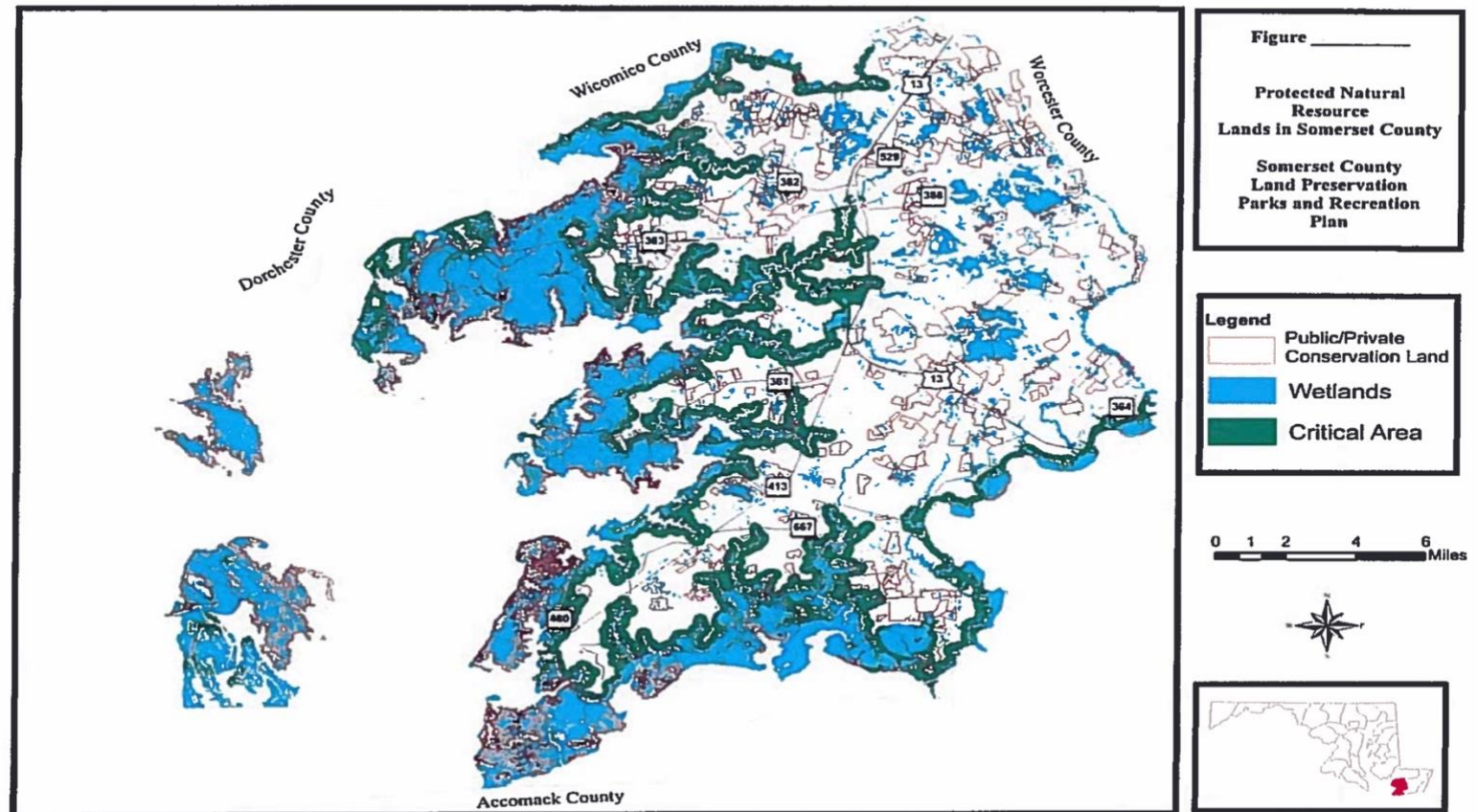
Notes: Acreages are taken from the source below and may not exactly match acreages in other sources including the DNR Acreage Report. MET acres reduced by 555; acres on agricultural land per Table IV-2.

Source: ERM from Maryland Dept. of Planning Protected Land Database (provided February 2, 2012 by Ryan Sigworth).

A detailed analysis in the 2005 LPPRP (pages V-3 to V-6) indicated that as of 2005 protected natural resource lands comprised approximately 122,000 acres, or almost 60 percent of County. These lands were permanently or extensively protected from development through public and private ownership, easement, or regulations. The analysis was organized to avoid double counting acreages in different categories. More land has been protected since 2005 so the percentage of protected land would be higher today, perhaps up to 65 percent⁹.

⁹ Budget resources precluded a complete update of the 2005 analysis for this 2012 LPPRP

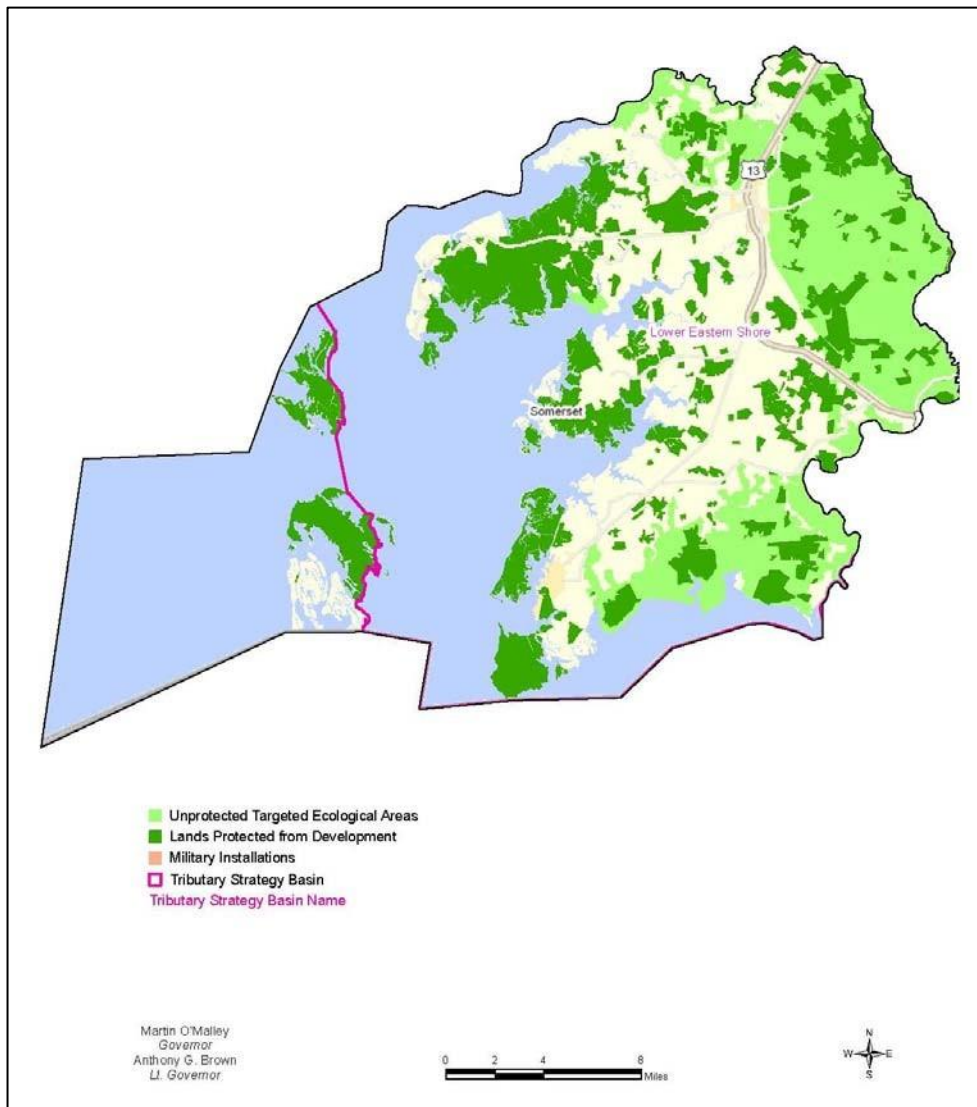
Figure IV- 5 – Protected Natural Resource Lands in Somerset County



The County's protected Natural Resource Lands and designated conservation areas are generally consistent with the State's GreenPrint conservation priorities. These are identified as "Targeted Ecological Areas" through Maryland's GreenPrint program and are preferred for Stateside Program Open Space funding based on their high ecological value (see Figure IV-5).

A comparison of Figures IV-4 and IV-5 illustrates how the protected lands and designated conservation areas closely correlate with the Targeted Ecological Areas. For example, the distribution of wetlands, public and private conservation lands, and the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy area east of US 13 closely mirror the Targeted Ecological Areas in this part of the County.

Figure IV-6 Somerset County GreenPrint



Source: MD Dept. of Natural Resources, <http://www.greenprint.maryland.gov>

4. County Implementation Program

County programs for natural resource land conservation and protection are guided by the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan builds upon the recognition that large areas of protected and sensitive environmental lands form the basic physical and policy framework around which the County's implementation regulations for protecting natural resource lands are formed.

a. Planning Programs

The following are additional planning programs, initiatives, data resources and inventories that are used by the County to implement its natural resource land conservation policies:

The 1998 Maryland Clean Water Action Plan evaluated the County's nine sub-watersheds for their ability to achieve water quality and other natural resource goals as discussed in Chapter 2, Section A (3). That plan led to development of a County action strategy in 2002 for the conservation and restoration of the 59,400 acre Manokin River watershed.

The County participated in the State's Tributary Strategies program and is now participating in developing TMDL implementation plans by developing a Watershed Implementation Plan (see discussion below).

The County uses available State and County inventories of land cover, natural resource lands, habitats of rare, threatened and endangered species, FIDS habitat, Natural Heritage Areas and ecologically significant areas, and other environmental features in implementing its growth and natural resource conservation policies. The County also monitors building permit and subdivision activity to track development trends. Specifically, the County uses GIS layers which identify sensitive areas when development or disturbance activities are proposed. This allows the County to condition development approvals, such as site plans for residential, commercial and industrial activities, and building permits for specific uses, or require that development be modified and designed appropriately to avoid sensitive areas, which in addition to the items identified above also includes floodplains, non-tidal and tidal wetlands.

The County supports the activities of land trusts and other organizations to acquire conservation easements on properties outside of designated growth areas.

The County has enacted a fee-in-lieu procedure for use in offsetting impacts associated with forest requirements in the Critical Area and Forest Conservation outside of the Critical Area. These funds may be used for tree plantings and water quality improvements in the Critical Area and land acquisition, planting, or the purchase of conservation easements in areas subject to Forest Conservation.

The County adopted the 2002 Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area Management Plan, as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, for purposes of promoting resource-based recreation and eco-tourism. The Heritage Area Plan recommends several natural resource-based projects to increase the County's ability to attract resource-based tourism (see Chapter III).

b. Regulations

Specific regulations used by the County to implement conservation and protection of natural resource lands are:

Zoning Ordinance – Ordinance 741, adopted February, 2001:

- Establishes zoning districts and land use density and intensity levels to implement Comprehensive Plan land use policies;
- Includes a cluster development option and a Transfer of Development Rights program;
- Contains Critical Area overlay regulations related to the three Critical Area land use management areas, stream buffers, forest conservation, and habitat protection;
- Contains countywide provisions relating to tidal and non-tidal wetland buffers; stream buffers; Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species; steep slopes; highly erodible soils; and
- Incorporates the Big Annemessex River Watershed Overlay District to implement non-tidal watershed management regulations within the watershed. The district resulted in 1996 from the Big Annemessex River Wetlands Management Plan.

Floodplain Ordinance – Originally adopted as Ordinance 238 in December 1981. The regulations pertain to flood elevation standards and building setbacks for protection of property and protection and conservation of the designated 100-year floodplain. Updated floodplain maps went into effect in March 2011.

Forest Conservation Ordinance – Originally adopted as Ordinance 581 in January 1985. The regulations are intended to conserve timber, forest and woodlands. It establishes requirements for forest stand delineation and conservation plans; timber harvests; mitigation and land banking; and reforestation and afforestation.

Stormwater Management Ordinance – Originally adopted as Ordinance 833 in July 2003 to establish minimum requirements and procedures to control adverse impacts associated with increased stormwater runoff.

Sediment and Erosion Control Ordinance – Originally adopted as Ordinance 76 in 1971. It is administered by the Soil Conservation District and is based on statewide regulations pertaining to soil runoff from disturbances over 5,000 square feet. An update of the 1966 soil survey was completed in 2007.

Subdivision Ordinance – Originally adopted as Ordinance 396 in September 1988. It provides regulations pertaining to subdivision of land and protection of natural resource lands.

5. 2005 LPPRP Recommendations

The 2005 LPPRP recommended program development strategy (pages V-11 to IV-12) included the following:

1. Develop measurable objectives for natural resource land conservation.
2. Adopt zoning in the rural area that supports the natural resource conservation goals and agricultural land resources.
3. Work with the State to complete protection of Green Infrastructure.
4. Continue efforts to promote watershed protection as part of the State's Tributary Strategies program.
5. Improve the mapping of the County's protected lands and natural resources.
6. Increase State funding for natural resource conservation.
7. Continue pursuing opportunities to increase tourism.

Progress

1. Develop measurable objectives for natural resource land conservation

The County has not yet developed measurable objectives for natural resource land conservation. With over 60 percent of the County land area already permanently or extensively protected, Somerset County needs to be strategic in developing objectives. The County also has growth area and economic development goals that need to be factored into land conservation goals.

The State could assist by helping the County define appropriate and reasonable objectives, perhaps tied to the state's GreenPrint strategic framework. These objectives could then be incorporated into the next update of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

2. Adopt zoning in the rural area that supports the natural resource conservation goals and agricultural land resources

As discussed in Section A of this chapter, Somerset County has not changed the zoning in its rural area since the 2005 LPPRP. The question of appropriate development density in the rural area will be reviewed as part of the Comprehensive Plan update.

3. Work with the State to complete protection of Green Infrastructure

The state's new strategic framework which built off the Green Infrastructure effort is called GreenPrint. As discussed in the previous section, the County's protected lands and designated conservation areas closely correlate with the Targeted Ecological Areas in GreenPrint. As noted in the 2005 LPPRP, the State can assist the County by identifying specific priority lands that should be considered for protection. Once priority areas are identified, the County can consider options for protection which might include:

Incorporating protection criteria into the zoning and subdivision regulations.

Working with private land trusts and others in protecting such areas.

4. Continue efforts to promote watershed protection as part of the State's Tributary Strategies program

As noted in the 2005 LPPRP, a significant amount of watershed management planning has occurred in the Manokin and Big Annemessex watersheds. These planning efforts formed a foundation for helping implement County and State policies for improving water quality and restoration of tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay.

The County's programs support the State's goals for natural resource land conservation and Maryland's required nutrient and sediment load reductions as set forth in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The TMDL was established by the US EPA in 2010. It has superseded the Tributary Strategy effort and the 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreement, and has shifted Bay restoration efforts from a voluntary framework to a regulatory framework.

The County is participating in developing TMDL implementation plans by developing a Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) that in combination with other counties WIPs will provide "reasonable assurance" to US EPA that the jurisdictions can and will achieve the nutrient and sediment reductions necessary to meet the Bay TMDL requirements by the year 2025. The WIP is due in July 2012.

5. Improve the mapping of the County's protected lands and natural resources

Somerset County has extensive amounts of protected lands and natural resources. While the mapping and databases have improved, discrepancies between different databases remain. A considerable amount of electronic map data was assembled for this LPPRP which the County is willing to share with the State.

Accurate mapping is essential to planning for growth and for natural resource land conservation. Useful improvements and additions to the County's GIS would include:

- Resolution of acreage discrepancies and duplicative records.
- Mapped growth areas from the Comprehensive Plan.
- Updated Critical Area maps.
- Land protected through the forest conservation ordinance.

6. Increase State funding for natural resource conservation

This was a recommendation from the County to the State. As noted in Section A of this chapter, Somerset County has advocated for higher levels of State land preservation funding, but recognizes, consistent with the State LPPRP (page II-66), that political and economic conditions that would support new revenue sources remain poor

7. Continue pursuing opportunities to increase tourism

Tourism is important to the County economy and Somerset County continues to pursue opportunities to increase tourism through, for example, the Somerset County Tourism centers in Princess Anne and in Crisfield, the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area and the county's extensive tourism website <http://www.visitsomerset.com/> which includes an extensive listing of events as well as places to visit and stay.

Figure IV - 7

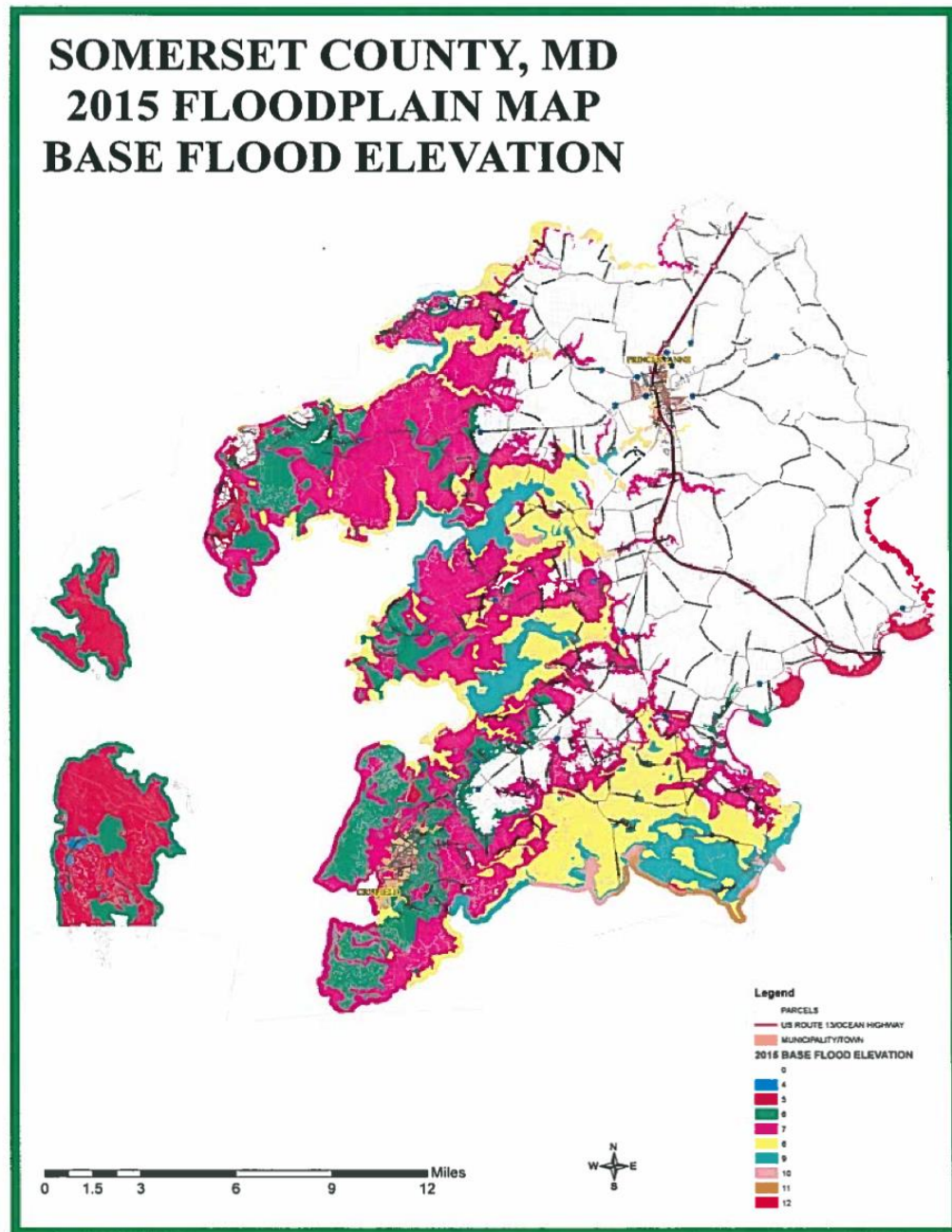
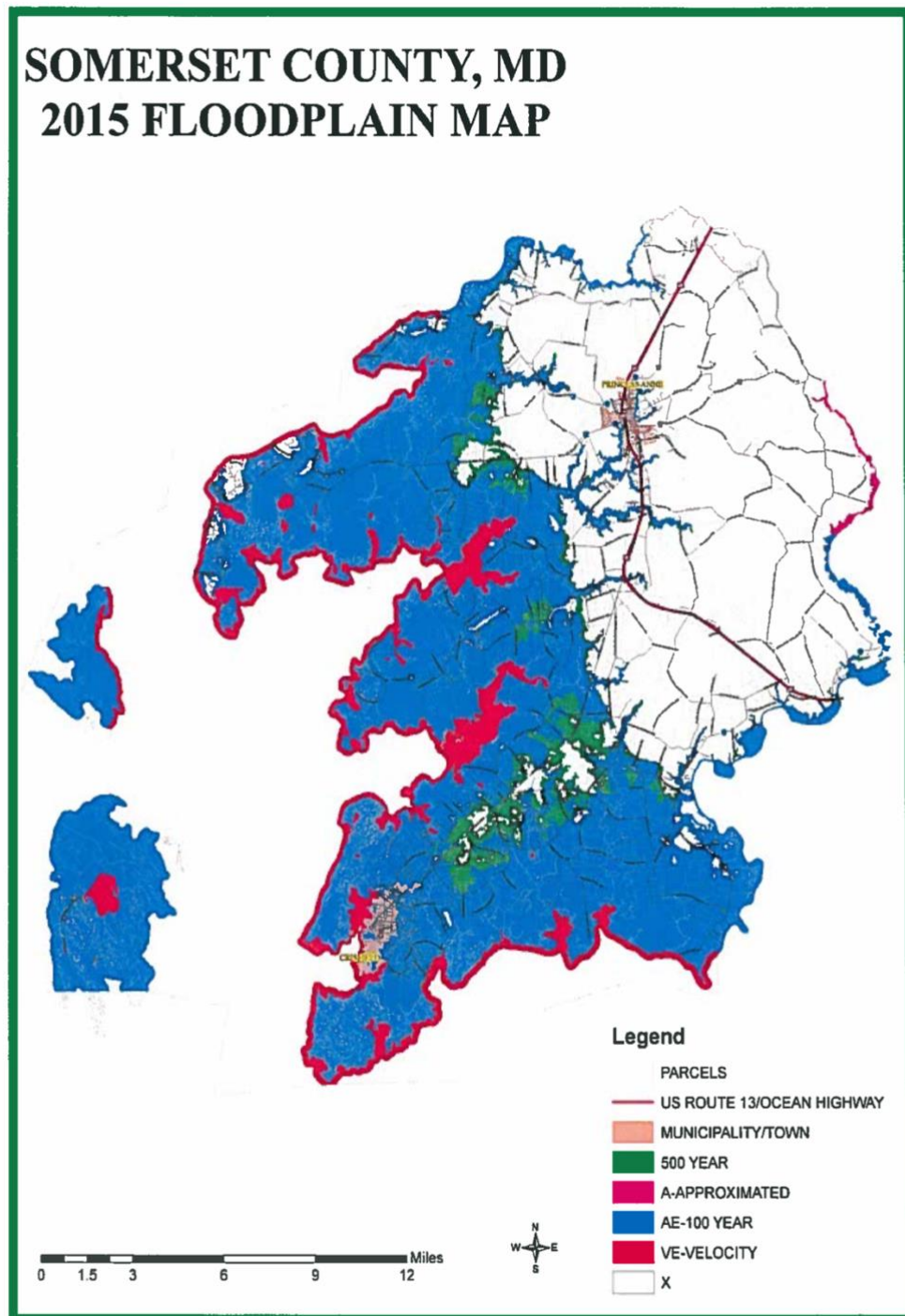


Figure IV-8



APPENDICES

Appendix A Somerset County Recreation Sites and Facilities Inventory

Site	County Acres			State/Federal Acres		Classification	Ownership	Comments	Facilities (Number given refers to the number of facilities unless otherwise specified)																											
	Recreation	Resource	Private/ quasi- public	Recreation	Resource				Baseball/S oftball Diamonds	Multi- Purpose Fields	Field Overlay	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts Indoor	Basketball Courts Outdoor	Other Courts	Conces sion	Golf Holes	Swim ming Pool	Stadium Seats	Outdoor Theater Seats	Tot Lots	Picnic Tables	Picnic Pavilion	Camp Sites	Boat Slips	Boat Ramps Large	Boat Ramps Small	Beach Length (feet)	Fishing Area (feet)	Hunting (Acres)	Multi- Purpose Trail Length (Miles)	Off-Road Vehicle Trail	Equestr ian Trail	Parking	Rest room	Enviro/ Educ Facility
Breakwater/ Last Chance Marina			6			Special Use Area	Private																50	2												
Cedar Island Wildlife Management Area					2,880	State Wildlife Management Area	State	Waterfowl hunting and fishing																				12,049								
Colbourne Creek Public Boat Ramp	1					Special Use Area	County	Boat ramp, portable restrooms																1								13	2			
Costen Recreational Park			9			Neighborhood Park	Private	Environmental/Education & Visitor Center, Boat ramps		1					1						6						83		1				50	2	1	
Chesapeake Forest Lands					17,326	Working Forest	State																													
Crisfield Christian Academy/ Crisfield Church of God			0.6			School Recreation Park	Private	Indoor basketball court					1																							
Crisfield City Dock (Depot) and Pavilion	0.8					Special Use Area	City of Crisfield	Boat ramp										40		2	1											22				
Crisfield City Park	3					Neighborhood Park	City of Crisfield																													
Crisfield High School	27					School Recreation Park	County Bd. Ed.	Where Crisfield Little League plays		4	1			2		1																		14		
Dames Quarter Public Boat Ramp	0.2					Special Use Area	County	Boat ramp, dock, portable restrooms																		1						7	2			
Deal Island Elementary School & Recreation Area	9					School Recreation Park	County Bd. Ed.			2			2		1				1													20				
Deal Island Harbor	17					Special Use Area	County	Boat ramp, marina, dock, pump out, portable restrooms															13	1									15	2		
Deal Island Wildlife Management Area					13,527	State Wildlife Management Area	State	Waterfowl hunting, hiking and all terrain bicycles around 2,800 acre pond, boat ramp																	1	1							1.5			
Ewell Ball Field/ Eddie T. Evans Park	2					Mini Park	County			1																										
Ewell Dock and Boat Ramp	2					Special Use Area	County	Boat ramp, dock																			1									
Ewell Elementary School	3					School Recreation Park	County Bd. Ed.					1																								
Ewell Recreation Center			0.3			Special Use Area	Private	Ewell Fire Dept.																										2		
Fairmount Wildlife Management Area					5,224	State Wildlife Management Area	State	Waterfowl hunting, walking and all terrain biking																				3,847								
Garland Haywood Park	5					Neighborhood Park	Town of Princess Anne					1							1												0.19					
Glen L. Martin National Wildlife Refuge					4,431	National Wildlife Refuge	Federal	Protected habitat																												
Great Hope Golf Course	213					Special Use Area	County	18-hole Golf Course & Driving Range, pavilion								18				8	1												110	2		
Greenwood Elementary School	7					School Recreation Park	County Bd. Ed.			2	1			1						1																
H. Dewayne Whittington Primary School Building-Crisfield HeadStart	2					School Recreation Park	County	Volleyball court & Skateboard court, houses Crisfield HeadStart			1			1					2		2												2			
Housing Authority Recreation Center (Col. Woodrow Wilson Comm. Ctr.)	8					Special Use Area	City of Crisfield Housing Auth.	Recreation Center					1																							
Housing Authority Tennis Courts	0.8					Special Use Area	City of Crisfield Housing Auth.					2		1																						
Irish Grove Sanctuary			1,579			Special Use Area	Private	Maryland Ornithological Society																												
Janes Island State Park				3,148		State Park	State	Canoe rentals, fitness course bath house, visitor and educational centers		1	1				1	1			35		30	2	104	25	2			2,800	11	2		75	35	1		
Jenkins Creek Boat Ramp						Special use Area	County	Boat ramp, dock																	1											
Lake Somerset Campground			29			Special Use Area	Private	Camping					1								127															
Long Centralized Athletic Complex	47					Sports Complex	County	Outdoor Recreation Facility		5						1				6	1									0.5		1	2			
Manokin River Park	16					Neighborhood Park	Town of Princess Anne	Large grant funded project to be completed by June 2012: Handicapped fishing area, kayak launch, shoreline restoration												12	1											10				
Marion Recreation Area	3					School Recreation Park	County					2		2																						
Marion Sarah Peyton Elementary School	5					School Recreation Park	County Bd. Ed.					1							1																	
Mt. Vernon Recreational Park	3					Neighborhood Park	County	Volleyball court		1	1			1	1					1	3	1														
Peninsula Beagle Club			84			Special Use Area	Private	Hunting area																				100								
Pocomoke River State Forest				281		State Forest	State																													
Pocomoke Sound Wildlife Management Area					922	State Wildlife Management Area	State	Waterfowl hunting																												
Princess Anne Elementary School	3					School Recreation Park	County Bd. Ed.					1							1																	
Princess Anne Headstart	0.7					School Recreation Park	Town of Princess Anne																													
Princess Anne Little League Complex	5					Sports Complex	County			4						1				2														2		
Raccoon Point Recreational Area	216					Regional Park	County	Public beach and fishing												3	1						175				20	1				
Rehobeth Public Boat Ramp	0.2					Special Use Area	County	Boat ramp																	1						5					
Rhodes Point Dock	2					Special Use Area	County	Public dock																												
Rumbly Point Public Boat Ramp	0.8					Special Use Area	County	Boat ramp																		1						4				
Rumbly Public Boat Ramp	0.3					Special Use Area	County	Boat ramp, marina, dock, pump out, portable restrooms																1							12	2				
St. Peters Creek Boat Ramp	9					Special Use Area	County	Boat ramps, marina, dock, pump out, portable restrooms																1	14						6					

Site	County Acres			State/Federal Acres		Classification	Ownership	Comments	Facilities (Number given refers to the number of facilities unless otherwise specified)																											
	Recreation	Resource	Private/ quasi- public	Recreation	Resource				Baseball/S oftball Diamonds	Multi- Purpose Fields	Field Overlay	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts Indoor	Basketball Courts Outdoor	Other Courts	Conces sion	Golf Holes	Swim ming Pool	Stadium Seats	Outdoor Theater Seats	Tot Lots	Picnic Tables	Picnic Pavilion	Camp Sites	Boat Slips	Boat Ramps Large	Boat Ramps Small	Beach Length (feet)	Fishing Area (feet)	Hunting (Acres)	Multi- Purpose Trail Length (Miles)	Off-Road Vehicle Trail	Equestr ian Trail	Parking	Rest room	Enviro/ Educ Facility
Salvation Army Youth Club	2					Special use Area	City of Crisfield	In former Crisfield Armory, leased by the City			2																						25			
Scotts Cove Marina			5			Special Use Area	Private	Boat ramp & slips															33	2												
Saton Center Catholic Charities			0.8			Neighborhood Park	Private				1																									
Shelldown Public Boat Ramp	0.8					Special Use Area	County	Boat ramp																	1								5			
Small Boat Harbor Boat Ramp	0.3					Special Use Area	County	Boat ramp, dock																1									10	1		
Somers Cove Marina				69		State Park	State	Multi-Use Environmental/ Education & Visitor Center, Boat ramps/slips, outdoor pool, bath house, stadium		1					1	1		1	500			22	2		486	4							650	64	2	
Somerset Civic Center Ruritan Ball Field	10					Special Use Area	County		1							1			75		3	1												2		
Somerset County Fairgrounds	20					Special Use Area	County																													
Somerset County Health Department	13					Special use Area	County	Plans to also put MAC center at this location		1		1																					25			
Somerset Intermediate School	83					School Recreation Park	County Bd. Ed.			2			1											1												
Somerset County Office Complex	0.5					Sports Complex	County	Indoor recreation facility				1				1																	100	6		
South Marsh Wildlife Management Area					2,968	State Wildlife Management Area	State	Waterfowl hunting																												
Tylerton Public Boat Ramp	3					Special Use Area	County	Boat ramp, dock, marina																		1										
Tylerton Recreational Area Ballfield	4					Neighborhood Park	County		1																											
University of Maryland Eastern Shore				296		Sports Complex	State	Multi-Use Environmental, arts and recreation centers, sports fields & courts, indoor pool, stadium	2	1		4	2	2	4			1	1,000														1,500		3	
Upper Hill Playground	1					Neighborhood Park	County	Volleyball court						1	1					1	2	1												1		
W. Glenn Ward Memorial Ball Park	5					Neighborhood Park	County	Has lights	1							1					2															
Washington Senior High School	19					School Recreation Park	County Bd. Ed.		2	3		2	1	2																			75			
Webster's Cove Marina	5					Special Use Area	County	Boat ramps, slips, marina, dock, pump out, portable restrooms																59	1								20	2		
Wellington Wildlife Management Area					428	State Wildlife Management Area	State	Hunting																												
Wenona Public Boat Ramp	12					Special Use Area	County	Boat ramp, dock, portable restroom																	1								20			
Woodson Middle School	4					School Recreation Park	County Bd. Ed.		1	1			1	1																			2	2		
Total	792	-	1,714	3,794	47,706				23	20	0	15	18	15	12	9	18	2	1,500	150	9	101	14	231	667	19	21	175	83	18,796	12.94	2	1.5	2,802	148	7

Appendix B Recreation Facilities Needs Analysis Tables (Supply, Demand, and Needs)

All counties are required to complete a needs analysis for recreational facilities based on a common methodology prescribed by the State. The analysis is required to estimate needs for current, 2017, 2021, and 2025 and beyond. Counties are given flexibility to measure their own facility and activity needs, season length for an activity, daily carrying capacity or participation rates at a facility and acreage required for facilities. The analysis is based on results from two statewide recreational use surveys¹, county specific information or trends, population and demographic projections and other local County and municipal experience or insights into facility use experience. Mandatory activities common to all counties must be evaluated; baseball/softball diamonds, basketball and tennis courts, and multi-purpose fields. Other activities identified in the tables were evaluated because a need or interest had been expressed for such recreational facilities or activities.

Private or quasi-public facilities have been included in the facility supply analysis because they help satisfy the demand for recreation facilities. However, they are excluded from the acreage inventory analysis because they are not in public ownership. Likewise, most state and federal properties are included for purposes of calculating facility supply, but are excluded from the acreage analysis.

The analysis consists of three tables: supply, demand and needs. The supply report lists 15 recreational activities. Four were required to be analyzed by the State, the other 11 were selected by the County. The result of the analysis is an expression of the surplus or deficit of facilities to support the particular recreational activity in 2017 based on the 2010 population, and in 2017, 2021, and 2025 based on projected population. The results are shown on the needs table and summarized in Chapter 3.

Notes following the three tables explain how the various demand and supply factors were derived.

¹ 2003 Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland and State Parks and Natural Resource Areas in Maryland: A Survey of Public Opinion. These scientific surveys accessed a total of 400 households in Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties that were drawn at random to reflect the distribution of households among these counties.

SUPPLY REPORT - SOMERSET COUNTY

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Activity	Facility types	Number of facilities 2012	Season length (1)	Daily carrying capacity per facility (2)	Annual carrying capacity (2)	Total supply of all facilities (3)
Baseball/ Softball	Diamonds	23	220	54	11,880	273,240
Basketball Indoor (plus volleyball, hockey, other indoor sports)	Courts indoor	18	235	40	9,400	169,200
Basketball (outdoors)	Courts outdoor/recreation	15	235	40	9,400	141,000
Tennis	Courts	15	220	32	7,040	105,600
Field sports (football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey)	Multi-purpose fields	20	260	60	15,600	312,000
Trails: hike, bike, jog, walk, nature (State and private)	Trail miles	14	270	128	34,560	483,840
Trails: hike, bike, jog, walk, nature (County and Local)	Trail miles	0.94	270	128	34,560	32,486
Swimming Pools (indoor)	Pools	1	335	450	150,750	150,750
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	Pools	1	103	450	46,350	46,350
Playgrounds (Tot Lots)	Playgrounds	9	270	30	8,100	72,900
Picnic Pavilions	Shelters	14	180	40	7,200	100,800
Picnic Tables	Tables	101	158	10	1,580	159,580
Boating ramps/ launching areas	Ramps	40	185	90	16,650	666,000
Equestrian Trails	Trail miles	1.5	256	60	15,360	23,040
Golf (18 holes)	Courses	1	220	360	79,200	79,200

(1) Generally, season length and daily carrying capacity (number of individual "uses" per day) are those used in the 2014-18 *Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan*.

(2) Annual Carrying Capacity derived by multiplying Columns 3 and 4.

(3) Total supply (derived by multiplying Columns 2 and 5) represents the total number of occasions/uses per year that a facility is used by all participants.

DEMAND REPORT - SOMERSET COUNTY

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Activity	2010 Population (1)	Individual Participation Rate (%) (2)	Frequency of Participation Rate (2)	2010 Demand (3)	2012 Population	2012 Demand	2017 Population	2017 Demand	2022 Population	2022 Demand
Baseball/ Softball	23,141	0.049	28.42	32,226	23,402	32,589	24,050	33,492	24,760	34,480
Basketball Indoor (plus volleyball, hockey, other indoor sports)	23,141	0.324	26.33	197,414	23,402	199,641	24,050	205,169	24,760	211,226
Basketball (outdoors)	23,141	0.119	22.09	60,831	23,402	61,517	24,050	63,220	24,760	65,087
Tennis	23,141	0.058	12.97	17,408	23,402	17,604	24,050	18,092	24,760	18,626
Field sports (football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey)	23,141	0.045	25.82	26,888	23,402	27,191	24,050	27,944	24,760	28,769
Trails: hike, bike, jog, walk, nature (State and private)	23,141	0.217	22.2	111,479	23,402	112,737	24,050	115,858	24,760	119,279
Trails: hike, bike, jog, walk, nature (County and Local)	23,141	0.217	22.2	111,479	23,402	112,737	24,050	115,858	24,760	119,279
Swimming Pools (indoor)	23,141	0.518	8.03	96,256	23,402	97,342	24,050	100,037	24,760	102,990
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	23,141	0.518	8.03	96,256	23,402	97,342	24,050	100,037	24,760	102,990
Playgrounds (Tot Lots)	23,141	0.606	2.92	40,948	23,402	41,410	24,050	42,557	24,760	43,813
Picnic Pavilions	23,141	0.36	4.19	34,906	23,402	35,300	24,050	36,277	24,760	37,348
Picnic Tables	23,141	0.36	4.19	34,906	23,402	35,300	24,050	36,277	24,760	37,348
Boating ramps/ launching areas	23,141	0.107	7.4	18,323	23,402	18,530	24,050	19,043	24,760	19,605
Equestrian Trails	23,141	0.021	11.43	5,555	23,402	5,617	24,050	5,773	24,760	5,943
Golf (18 holes)	23,141	0.106	16.98	41,651	23,402	42,121	24,050	43,287	24,760	44,565

(1) 2010 Population from US Census. Projections prepared by the Maryland Department of Planning Data Services, November 2010. The 2010 and projected ECI population has been removed from this model to accurately represent the population using recreation facilities.

(2) Individual participation rates and frequency of participation rates obtained from a May 2003 publication by the Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research, Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland, A Survey of Households in Maryland and Seven Sub-State Regions. Baseball/softball and multipurpose field individual and frequency of participation rates combine rates for baseball and softball and individual sports of football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey and other field sports because of cross usage of fields for multi-sport activities.

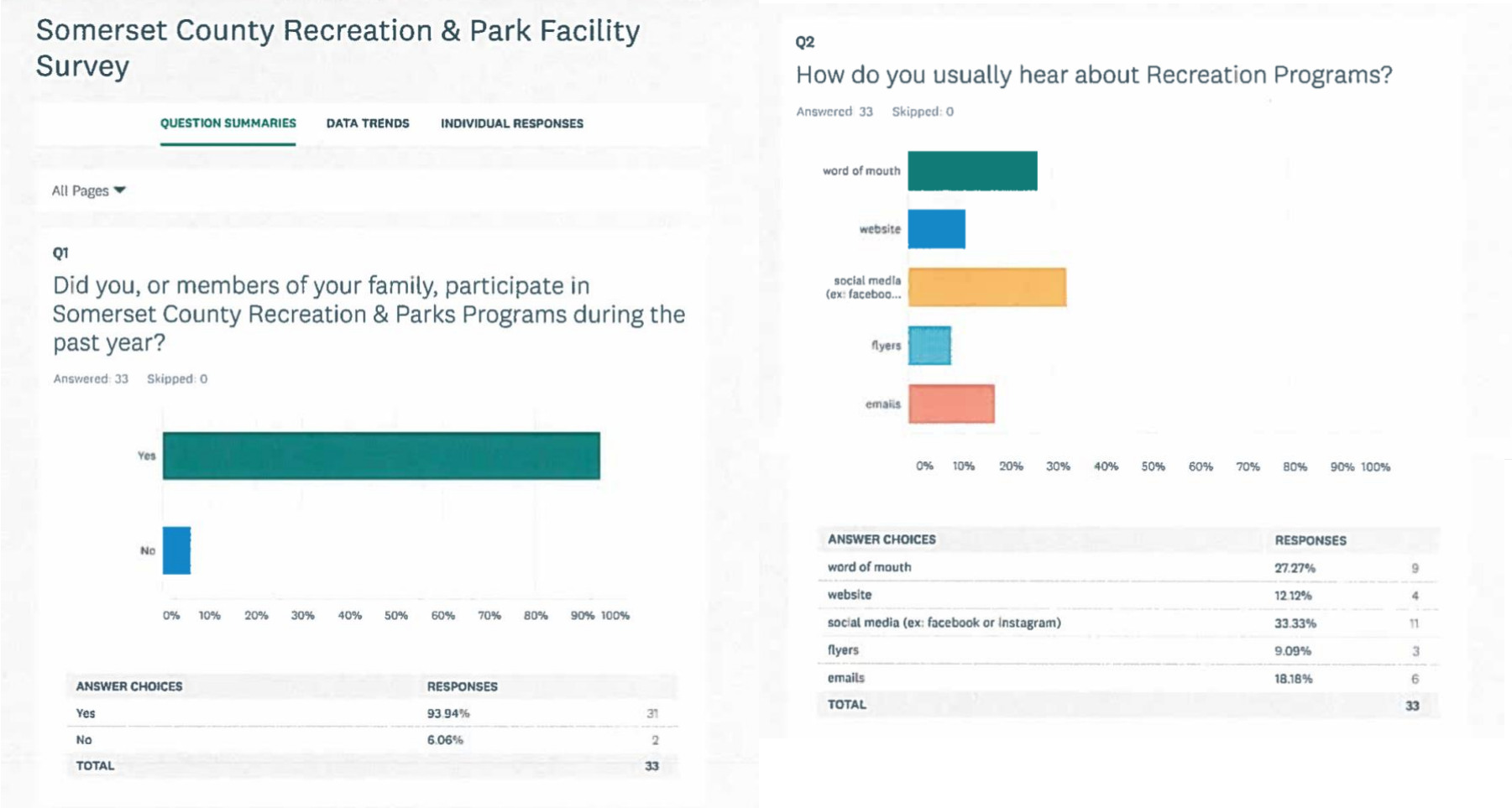
(3) Demand for 2010 (Column 4) is derived by multiplying Columns 1, 2 and 3. Demand for 2012, 2017 and 2022 is derived by multiplying respectively Columns 5, 7 and 9 by Columns 2 and 3.

NEEDS REPORT - SOMERSET COUNTY

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Activity	Facility type	Total 2010 Supply	Annual Carrying Capacity	2010 Demand	2010 Unmet Need (1)	2012 Demand	2012 Unmet Demand (2)	2012 Unmet Need (3)	2017 Demand	2017 Unmet Demand (4)	2017 Unmet Need (5)	2022 Demand	2022 Unmet Demand (4)	2022 Unmet Need (5)
Baseball/ Softball	Diamonds	273,240	11,880	32,226	20	32,589	240,651	20	33,492	239,748	20	34,480	238,760	20
Basketball Indoor (plus volleyball, hockey, other indoor sports)	Courts indoor	169,200	9,400	197,414	(3)	199,641	(30,441)	(3)	205,169	(35,969)	(4)	211,226	(42,026)	(4)
Basketball (outdoors)	Courts outdoor/recreation	141,000	9,400	60,831	9	61,517	79,483	8	63,220	77,780	8	65,087	75,913	8
Tennis	Courts	105,600	7,040	17,408	13	17,604	87,996	12	18,092	87,508	12	18,626	86,974	12
Field sports (football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey)	Multi-purpose fields	312,000	15,600	26,888	18	27,191	284,809	18	27,944	284,056	18	28,769	283,231	18
Trails: hike, bike, jog, walk, nature (State and private)	Trail miles	483,840	34,560	111,479	11	112,737	371,103	11	115,858	367,982	11	119,279	364,561	11
Trails: hike, bike, jog, walk, nature (County and Local)	Trail miles	32,486	34,560	96,256	(2)	97,342	(64,855)	(2)	115,858	(83,372)	(2)	102,990	(70,504)	(2)
Swimming Pools (indoor)	Pools	150,750	150,750	96,256	0	97,342	53,408	0		150,750	1	102,990	47,760	0
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	Pools	46,350	46,350	96,256	(1)	97,342	(50,992)	(1)	100,037	(53,687)	(1)	102,990	(56,640)	(1)
Playgrounds (Tot Lots)	Playgrounds	72,900	8,100	40,948	4	41,410	31,490	4	42,557	30,343	4	43,813	29,087	4
Picnic Pavilions	Shelters	100,800	7,200	34,906	9	35,300	65,500	9	36,277	64,523	9	37,348	63,452	9
Picnic Tables	Tables	159,580	1,580	34,906	79	35,300	124,280	79	36,277	123,303	78	37,348	122,232	77
Boating ramps/ launching areas	Ramps	666,000	16,650	18,323	39	18,530	647,470	39	19,043	646,957	39	19,605	646,395	39
Equestrian Trails	Trail miles	23,040	15,360	5,555	1	5,617	17,423	1	5,773	17,267	1	5,943	17,097	1
Golf (18 holes)	Courses	79,200	79,200	41,651	0	42,121	37,079	0	43,287	35,913	0	44,565	34,635	0

Notes:

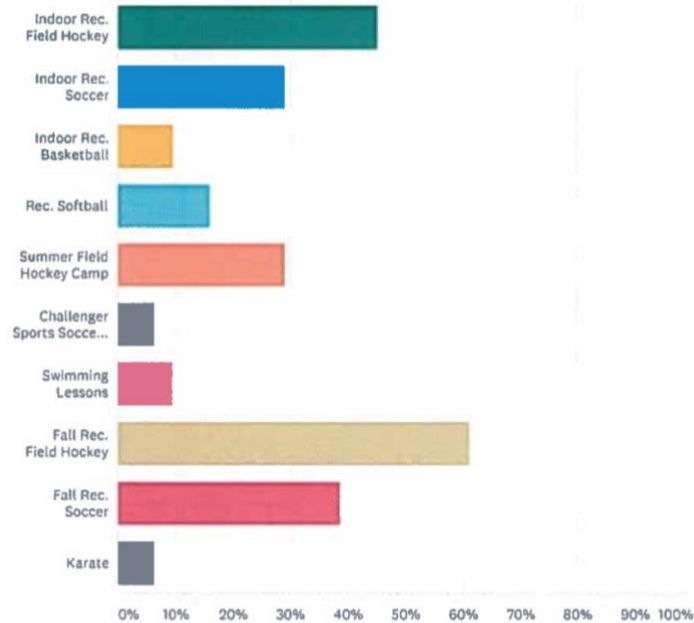
- (1) 2010 Unmet Need derived by subtracting Column 3 from Column 1 and dividing by Column 2. Parenthesis indicates a facility/activity deficit. A number without parenthesis indicates a facility surplus (e.g., 2010 unmet need indicates (1) deficit of
- (2) 2012 Unmet Demand derived by subtracting Column 5 from Column 1.
- (3) 2012 Unmet Need derived from subtracting Column 5 from Column 1 and dividing by Column 2.
- (4) 2017 and 2022 Unmet Demand derived from subtracting respectively Column 8 and Column 11 from Column 1.
- (5) 2017 and 2022 Unmet Need derived from subtracting respectively Column 8 and Column 11 from Column 1 and dividing by Column 2.



Q3

Which recreational youth programs did you or your family members participate in this year?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 2



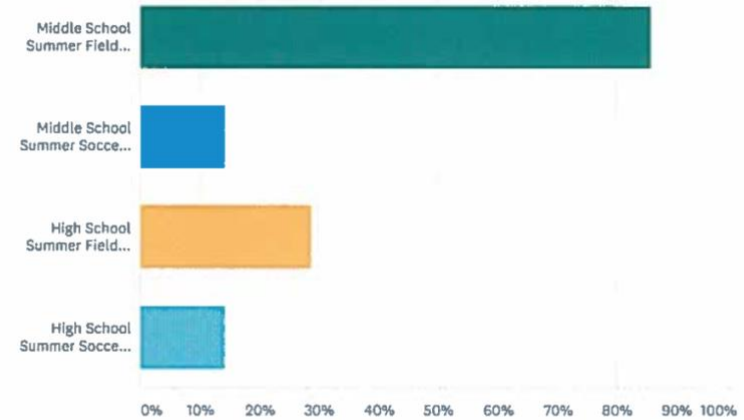
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Indoor Rec. Field Hockey	45.16%	14
Indoor Rec. Soccer	29.03%	9
Indoor Rec. Basketball	9.68%	3
Rec. Softball	16.13%	5
Summer Field Hockey Camp	29.03%	9
Challenger Sports Soccer Camp	6.45%	2
Swimming Lessons	9.68%	3
Fall Rec. Field Hockey	61.29%	19
Fall Rec. Soccer	38.71%	12
Karate	6.45%	2

Total Respondents: 31

Q4

Which youth sports leagues did you or your family members participate in this year?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 19

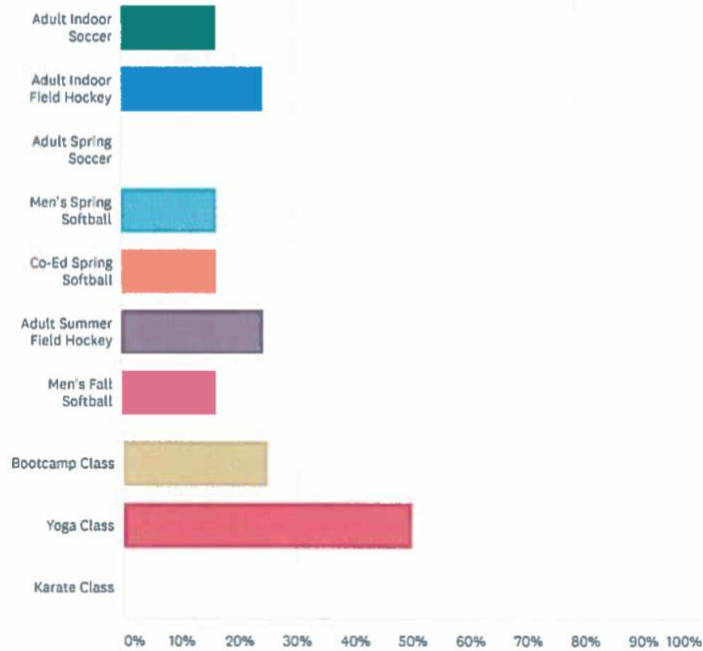


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Middle School Summer Field Hockey League	85.71%	12
Middle School Summer Soccer League	14.29%	2
High School Summer Field Hockey League	28.57%	4
High School Summer Soccer League	14.29%	2
Total Respondents: 14		

Q5

Which adult programs did you or a family member participate in this year?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Adult Indoor Soccer	16.67%	2
Adult Indoor Field Hockey	25.00%	3
Adult Spring Soccer	0.00%	0
Men's Spring Softball	16.67%	2
Co-Ed Spring Softball	16.67%	2
Adult Summer Field Hockey	25.00%	3
Men's Fall Softball	16.67%	2
Bootcamp Class	25.00%	3
Yoga Class	50.00%	6
Karate Class	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 12		

Q6

What improvements or additions need to be made to current youth and/or adult programs?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 17

The summer camps should be all day (7:30 am - 5:30 pm) so that parents can work. The Parks and Rec Dept should look into activities for breaks and school days off.

12/5/2016 9:44 PM

Mt Vernon needs a walking track! We need a place where we can take strollers and a place kids could ride their bikes. There are many people who walk up and down our road, but we need a place where we don't have to worry about cars coming around sharp turns or a place where we can take kids and not be on the roads! If we had this we could have walking groups and playgroups. It would benefit the whole area!

11/6/2016 8:49 AM

The championship winners need to get proper recognition, point blank!!!! It was absolutely ridiculous that that did not happen and therefore lots of unhappy girls

11/5/2016 10:05 PM

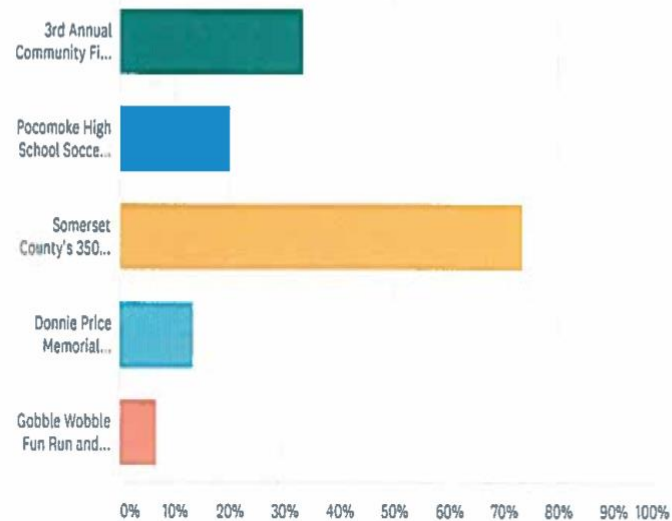
I was really disappointed in soccer this year. The coach was very unprofessional & my son actually wants to quit playing soccer because of him. At this point in time we have no intentions of allowing our children to participate in events at rec and parks in the future.

11/3/2016 12:10 PM

Q7

Which special events did you or your family member attend this year?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
3rd Annual Community Field Day (Spring)	33.33%	5
Pocomoke High School Soccer Play Day (August)	20.00%	3
Somerset County's 350th Anniversary (September)	73.33%	11
Donnie Price Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament (October)	13.33%	2
Gobble Wobble Fun Run and Walk (November)	6.67%	1
Total Respondents: 15		

Q8

What additions would you like to see added to special events and/or additional events?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 26

4th of July fireworks Back to School Event Jazz in the Park Summer Basketball Camp for high school boys
Karate Camp for all ages

12/5/2016 9:44 PM

The teams that are picked should have even skill level distribution

11/5/2016 10:05 PM

Liked that there was a 5-6 year old field hockey this year.

11/3/2016 8:36 AM

I would love to see more exercise classes and possibly a running club started.

10/28/2016 5:44 PM

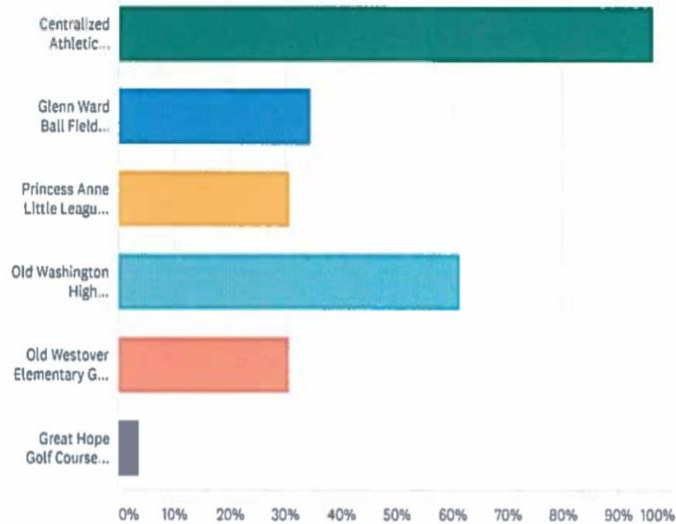
Trunk or Treat

10/28/2016 5:05 PM

Q9

What recreation facilities do you use? (check all that apply)

Answered: 26 Skipped: 7

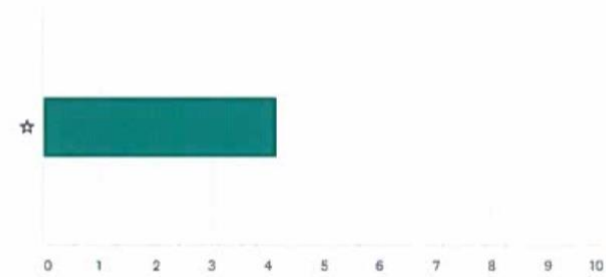


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Centralized Athletic Facility Fields (Westover)	96.15%	25
Glenn Ward Ball Field (Crisfield)	34.62%	9
Princess Anne Little League Ball Fields	30.77%	8
Old Washington High Gym (Princess Anne)	61.54%	16
Old Westover Elementary Gym (Westover)	30.77%	8
Great Hope Golf Course (Westover)	3.85%	1
Total Respondents: 26		

Q10

How would you rate the facilities that you use?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 8

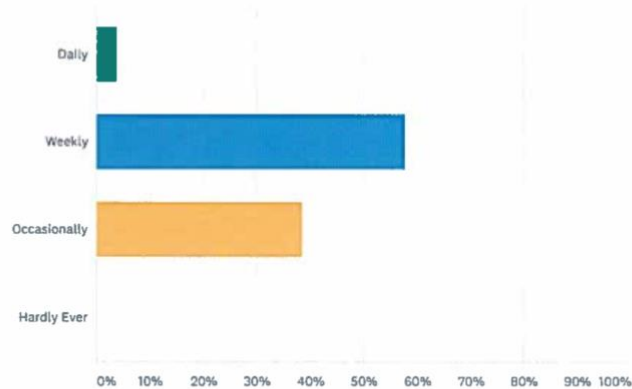


	TERRIBLE	NOT VERY GOOD	ACCEPTABLE	GOOD CONDITION	EXCELLENT CONDITION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	0.00% 0	4.00% 1	12.00% 3	48.00% 12	36.00% 9	25	4.16
Comments (6)							

Q11

How often do you visit or use these facilities?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	3.85%	1
Weekly	57.69%	15
Occasionally	38.46%	10
Hardly Ever	0.00%	0
TOTAL		26

Q12

What improvements or changes would you make to current facilities?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 28

We need heated facilities.

12/5/2016 9:54 PM

More seating at Westover Fields.

11/28/2016 7:15 PM

whole new indoor facility down in westover. Use funding to build a large pole building that can be used for one big indoor soccer/field hockey/volleyball/basketball court. It can have a kitchen, offices, and bathrooms.

10/28/2016 1:35 PM

Same as above.

10/28/2016 11:32 AM

Would be nice to have food and drinks at the softball fields esp if you are there everynight.

10/28/2016 10:30 AM

Q13

What additional facilities/amenities would you like to see in Somerset County?

Answered: 4 Skipped: 29

An actual gym and a community pool.

10/28/2016 5:46 PM

County commissioners need to consider indoor facility at westover.

10/28/2016 11:35 AM

Seating or benches for family.

10/28/2016 11:32 AM

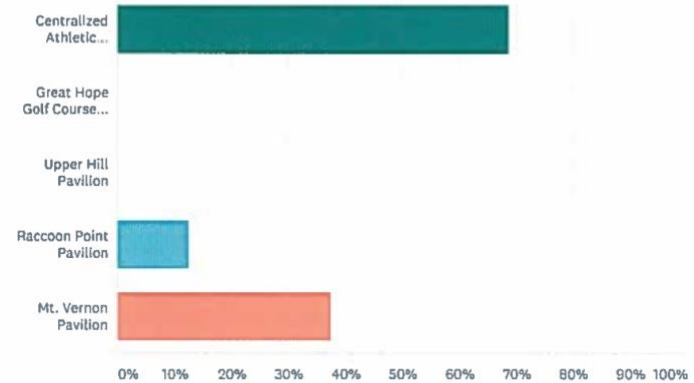
Tennis courts.

10/28/2016 10:55 AM

Q14

Which pavilions do you or your family members use?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 17

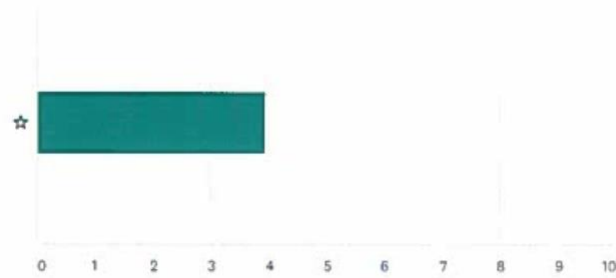


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Centralized Athletic Facility Pavilion	68.75%	11
Great Hope Golf Course Pavilion	0.00%	0
Upper Hill Pavilion	0.00%	0
Raccoon Point Pavilion	12.50%	2
Mt. Vernon Pavilion	37.50%	6
Total Respondents: 16		

Q15

How would you rate the pavilions that you use?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 17



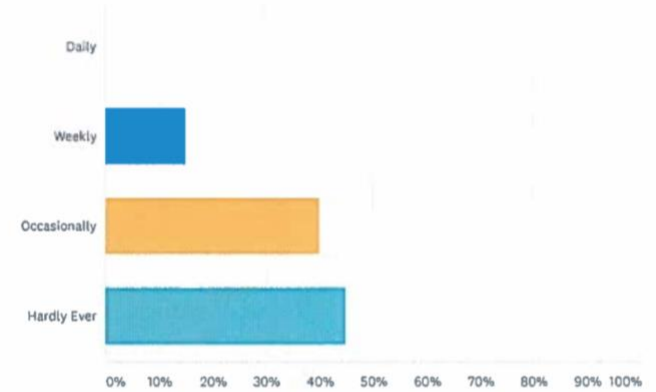
	TERRIBLE	NOT VERY GOOD	ACCEPTABLE	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	18.75% 3	68.75% 11	12.50% 2	16	3.94

[Comments \(2\)](#)

Q16

How often do you use the pavilion?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 13

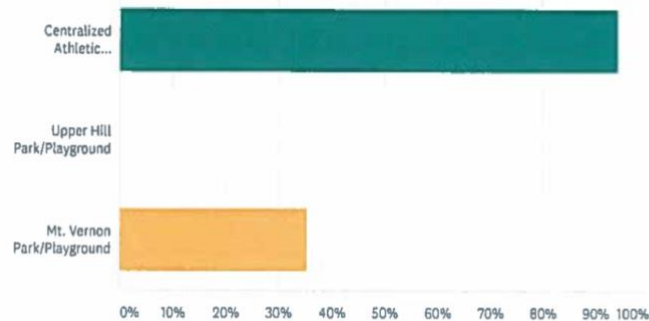


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Daily	0.00% 0
Weekly	15.00% 3
Occasionally	40.00% 8
Hardly Ever	45.00% 9
TOTAL	20

Q17

Which playground/park areas do you use?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Centralized Athletic Facility Park/Playground	94.12% 16
Upper Hill Park/Playground	0.00% 0
Mt. Vernon Park/Playground	35.29% 6
Total Respondents: 17	

Q19

What improvements or additions would you like to see at parks/playground areas?

Answered: 3 Skipped: 30

We need a walking track!!! We need a place kids can ride their bikes and people and walk/run without being on the road. I want to take my 1 year old on a walk in his stroller while my 8 year old rides her bike. We need a place that is safe and away from traffic. Another thing that would be awesome would be a small basketball court! It would be amazing to have a place to play and have somewhere in our area that kids can do something positive! The equipment is great, but we just need some activities available for all ages!

11/6/2016 8:55 AM

Seating around the playground areas for parents.

10/28/2016 11:32 AM

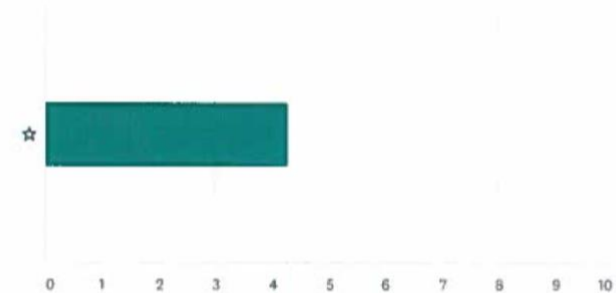
Grass cutting more often

10/28/2016 10:30 AM

Q18

How would you rate the parks/playground equipment that you use?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 14



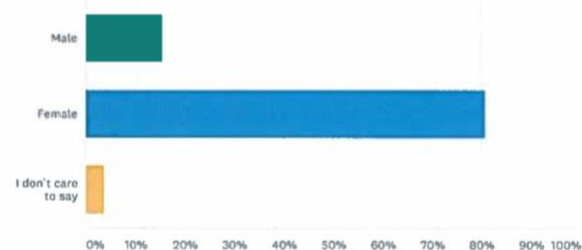
	TERRIBLE	NOT VERY GOOD	ACCEPTABLE	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	5.26% 1	63.16% 12	31.58% 6	19	4.26

Comments (1)

Q20

Gender

Answered: 26 Skipped: 7

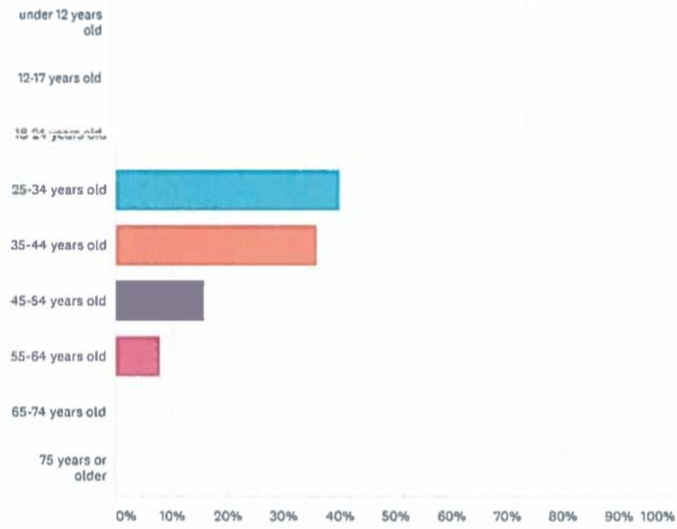


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Male	15.38% 4
Female	80.77% 21
I don't care to say	3.85% 1
TOTAL	26

Q21

Age

Answered: 25 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
under 12 years old	0.00%	0
12-17 years old	0.00%	0
18-24 years old	0.00%	0
25-34 years old	40.00%	10
35-44 years old	36.00%	9
45-54 years old	16.00%	4
55-64 years old	8.00%	2
65-74 years old	0.00%	0
75 years or older	0.00%	0
TOTAL		25

Q22

Marital Status

Answered: 26 Skipped: 7

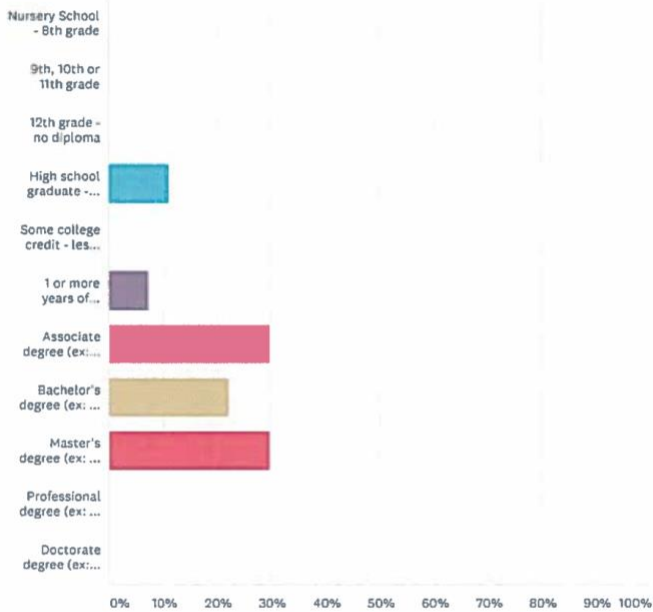


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
married	80.77%	21
widowed	0.00%	0
divorced	15.38%	4
separated	3.85%	1
never married	0.00%	0
TOTAL		26

Q23

What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

Answered: 27 Skipped: 6

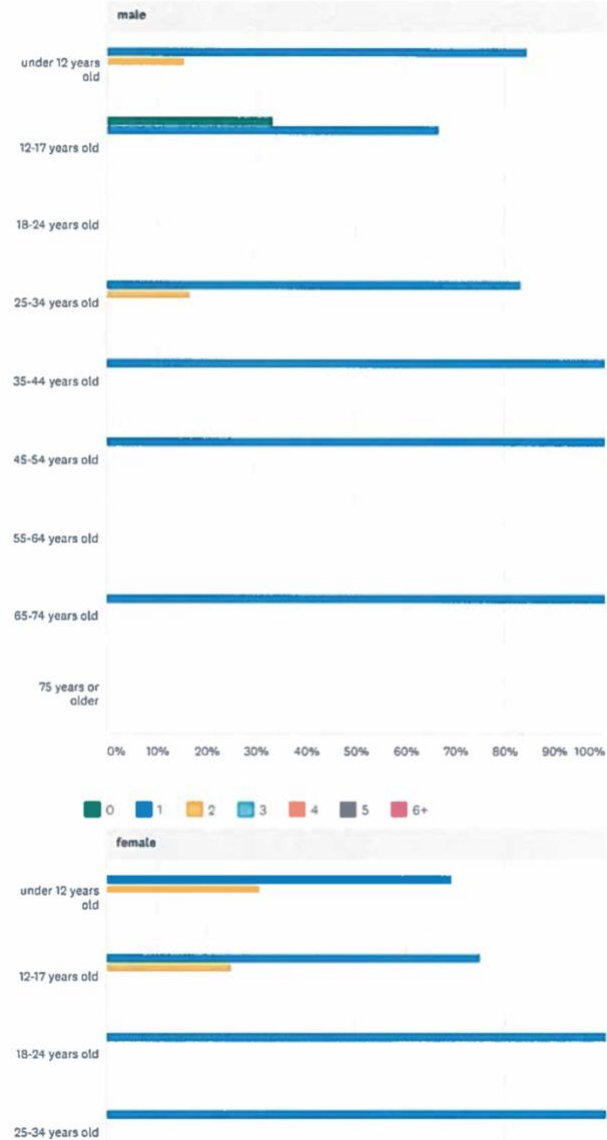


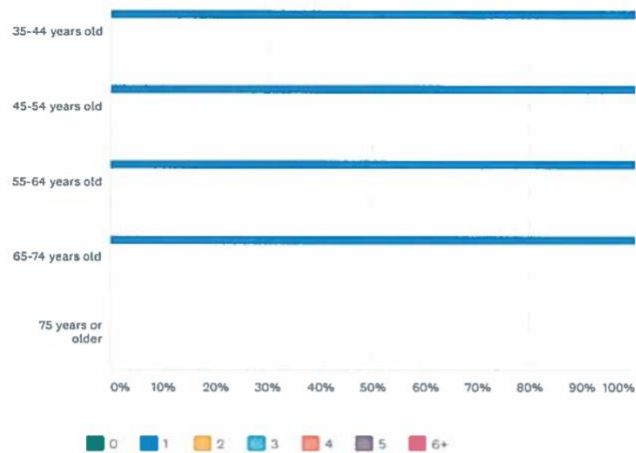
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Nursery School - 8th grade	0.00%	0
9th, 10th or 11th grade	0.00%	0
12th grade - no diploma	0.00%	0
High school graduate - diploma or GED	11.11%	3
Some college credit - less than 1 year	0.00%	0
1 or more years of college - no degree	7.41%	2
Associate degree (ex: AA,AS)	29.63%	8
Bachelor's degree (ex: BA, AB, BS)	22.22%	6
Master's degree (ex: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)	29.63%	8
Professional degree (ex: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)	0.00%	0
Doctorate degree (ex: PhD, EdD)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		27

Q24

Please list the number of people besides you living in your household with their gender and age.

Answered: 26 Skipped: 7





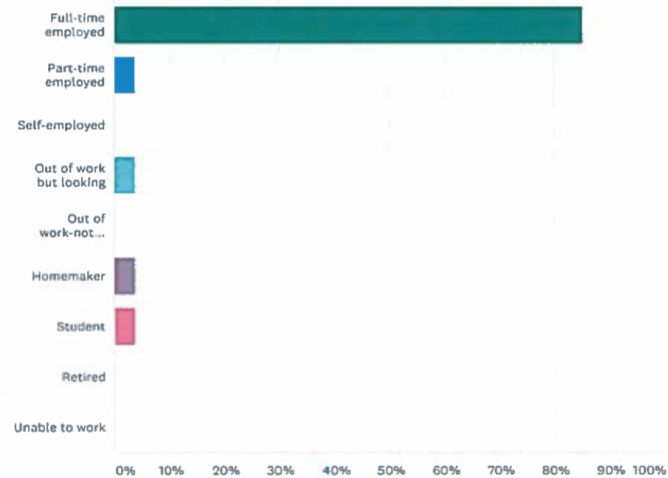
male								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+	TOTAL
under 12 years old	0.00% 0	84.62% 11	15.38% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	13
12-17 years old	33.33% 2	66.67% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6
18-24 years old	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0
25-34 years old	0.00% 0	83.33% 5	16.67% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6
35-44 years old	0.00% 0	100.00% 12	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	12
45-54 years old	0.00% 0	100.00% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3
55-64 years old	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0
65-74 years old	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1
75 years or older	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0
female								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+	TOTAL
under 12 years old	0.00% 0	69.23% 9	30.77% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	13
12-17 years old	0.00% 0	75.00% 9	25.00% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	12
18-24 years old	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1
TOTAL								27

25-34 years old	0.00% 0	100.00% 5	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	5
35-44 years old	0.00% 0	100.00% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6
45-54 years old	0.00% 0	100.00% 5	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	5
55-64 years old	0.00% 0	100.00% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	2
65-74 years old	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1
75 years or older	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0

Q25

Employment Status

Answered: 27 Skipped: 6

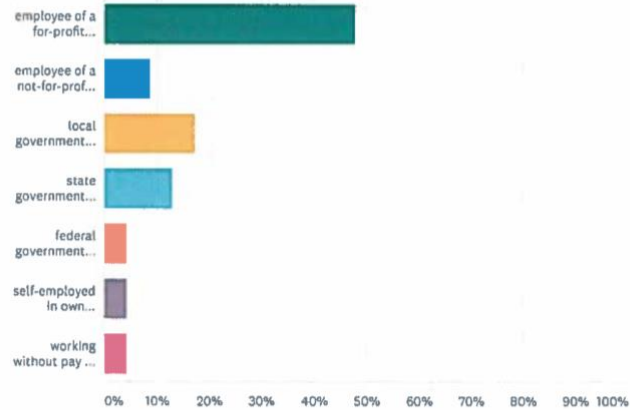


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Full-time employed	85.19%	23
Part-time employed	3.70%	1
Self-employed	0.00%	0
Out of work but looking	3.70%	1
Out of work-not currently looking	0.00%	0
Homemaker	3.70%	1
Student	3.70%	1
Retired	0.00%	0
Unable to work	0.00%	0

Q26

Employment Type

Answered: 23 Skipped: 10

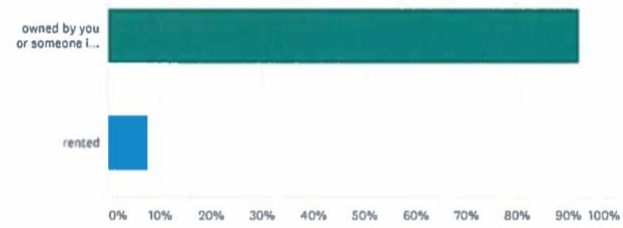


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
employee of a for-profit company or business or of an individual for wages, salary, or commission	47.83% 11
employee of a not-for-profit, tax-exempt or charitable organization	8.70% 2
local government employee (city, county, etc.)	17.39% 4
state government employee	13.04% 3
federal government employee	4.35% 1
self-employed in own incorporated business, professional practice or farm	4.35% 1
working without pay in family business or farm	4.35% 1
TOTAL	23

Q27

Housing: are your living quarters..

Answered: 26 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
owned by you or someone in your household	92.31% 24
rented	7.69% 2
TOTAL	26

Q28

What's your zip code?

Answered: 24 Skipped: 9

21853
12/5/2016 9:58 PM

21871
11/28/2016 7:17 PM

21853
11/10/2016 12:43 PM

21853
11/6/2016 8:57 AM

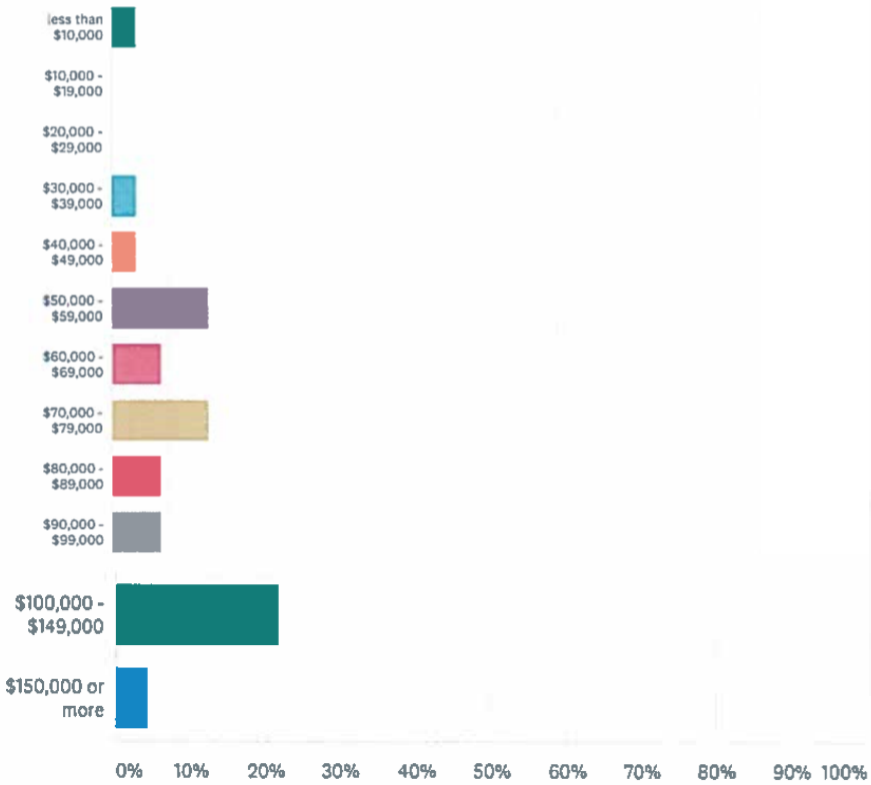
21853
11/5/2016 10:10 PM

21817

Q29

What is your total household income?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
less than \$10,000	4.35%	1
\$10,000 - \$19,000	0.00%	0
\$20,000 - \$29,000	0.00%	0
\$30,000 - \$39,000	4.35%	1
\$40,000 - \$49,000	4.35%	1
\$50,000 - \$59,000	17.39%	4
\$60,000 - \$69,000	8.70%	2
\$70,000 - \$79,000	17.39%	4
\$80,000 - \$89,000	8.70%	2
\$90,000 - \$99,000	8.70%	2
\$100,000 - \$149,000	21.74%	5
\$150,000 or more	4.35%	1
TOTAL		23

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