

Talbot County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan 2017



Talbot County Department of Parks & Recreation

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Adopted by Talbot County Council on October 9, 2018

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Talbot County 2017 Plan

The Talbot County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan will serve as a guide for Talbot County Officials in the acquisition, development and preservation of recreation areas and open spaces within the County. This Plan continues the long-standing tradition of environment protection and enhancement of natural resources that has characterized previous planning efforts in Talbot County. The recreation element of the Plan also assures that an appropriate level of parks and recreational facilities are provided for present and future Talbot County residents. This Plan will also provide the basic framework for coordination of preservation and recreation efforts within the incorporated towns for Talbot County.

The Talbot County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan is the product of a joint planning effort between the Talbot County Department of Planning and Permits and the Talbot County Department of Parks and Recreation. This Plan satisfies the State of Maryland mandate requiring integration of local and State park plans and replaces the Talbot County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan 2012 for Talbot County.

The Talbot County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is also a key contributor to this updated plan. Representatives to this board are local citizens who represent the five incorporated towns in Talbot County as well as other rural villages. Throughout the year, this Advisory Board is active in maintenance and programming issues, and also serves as the oversight committee regarding Program Open Space.

Talbot County's first Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1973 and has been updated at regular intervals. The 2016 Comprehensive Plan outlines goals, policies and implementation measures for managing growth and development within the County and calls for guiding development toward locations where public infrastructure such as roads, water, sewer, schools, police, and fire protection is established or available. This includes the incorporated towns of Easton, St. Michaels, Oxford, Trappe, and Queen Anne. Higher density development is allowed to occur in and around the towns and, as a result, roughly fifty percent (50.3%) of the County's total population is located within the incorporated areas.

This policy of concentrated growth benefits Talbot County by allowing for better utilization of public facilities, more efficient use of public services, limit urban sprawl, and conservation of the natural resources and environmentally sensitive lands of the County.



Talbot County has currently over 30,000 acres of preserved properties in County, Local and State Parks, School properties, private preserves and agricultural land preservations through such programs as Rural Legacy and MALPF.

The goals of the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan are consistent with related elements of the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is specifically linked to the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan through the following goal and policies:

Talbot County 2017 Goals

1. Provide an improved system of parks and recreation facilities based on residents needs.
2. Actively pursue the goals, objectives, and implementation recommendations adopted as part of the Talbot County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan.
3. Periodically update the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan to keep the inventory of parks and recreational facilities current, reassures demand in light of projected population growth and identify new or alternative implementation recommendations for site and project selection, land acquisition, facility development and preservation and conservation programs.
4. Create a park with historical value to tell the story of one of Talbot County's historic figures. The park will be designed, constructed and maintained in conjunction with state, local and private funding.
5. Develop a feasibility study as to the creation of a recreational bike trail from Easton to Cordova area to Tuckahoe State Park utilizing the existing rail system. This trail will not only be of recreational value, but also historic and eventually part of a state wide trail system.
6. Begin plans and development of a gymnasium expansion to the Community Center in Talbot County to satisfy the needs of its residents and visitors.
7. Continue to provide an information program to include programs, opportunities, maps and brochures that identify park location and facilities to insure that as many citizens as possible are aware of the recreation open space opportunities that exist in the County.

Purposes of the Plan

A 1969 State mandate required local jurisdictions within the State of Maryland to prepare a Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. The Maryland Department of Planning and the Department of Natural Resources will use these County Plans to provide the necessary framework upon which to develop an integrated and coordinated approach to the provision or recreational opportunities and resource protection measures in the State of Maryland.

Aside for its statewide significance, Talbot County's *Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan* is of great local importance. The Program Open Space legislation requires a Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan every five (5) years and the preparation and approval of this Plan ensures that Talbot County will continue to qualify for Program Open Space funds. However, of greatest importance is the Plan's intended purpose to serve as a guide for making decisions about places, policies, and programs that will meet recreational, cultural and other quality of life needs of County residents. The preservation of land along with the availability of recreational opportunities plays a large role in the quality of life in any county. With the aid of this Plan, a cooperative effort between the public and private sectors, and should leadership, the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of life in Talbot County can be achieved. Realizing that these are our goals and objectives,

the following is included in our overall purposes:

- Review goals and objectives of State and Local programs for three principal elements: parks and recreation, agriculture, and natural resources;
- Identify where these goals and objectives are essentially the same, where they are complementary or mutually supportive, and where they differ;
- Evaluate the ability of implementation programs and funding sources for each element to achieve related goals and objectives;
- Identify desirable improvement to policies, plans, and funding, strategies, to better achieve goals improve return on public investment;
- Recommend to State and local legislatures, governing bodies and agencies changes needed to overcome shortcomings, achieve goals, and ultimately ensure good return on public investment;
- Identify the needs and priorities of current and future State and local population for outdoor recreation;
- Achieve legislative goals of State and local land preservation programs; and
- Ensure that public investment in land preservation and recreation supports and is supported by local comprehensive plans, associated implementation programs, State Planning Policy, and State and local programs that influence land use and development.

Relationship to the comprehensive planning process

All elements of this Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan include the designations, goals and objectives of the County Comprehensive Plan. The last update to the Comprehensive Plan was adopted in August of 2016. The Plan has been amended to include a Water Resources Element, a Priority Preservation Areas element and is currently under complete revision. Clarity, consistency and implementation are all in place to assist the County officials in their efforts going forward.



Chapter 1 Background

Comprehensive planning provides a process and a framework for anticipating change and its implications. The process is built on a foundation constructed from the demographic, economic, social, and natural resource factors driving change along with extensive citizen input. An assessment of trends and changes, coupled with a thoughtful review of public policy, permits a clear-eyed review of Talbot County's progress and its areas in need of more work.

To accomplish this assessment, Chapter 1 provides a variety of information, which when linked with the Plan's citizen input yields an effective basis for the Plan's recommendations. Specifically, this chapter reviews important trends, projections, and planning assumptions that undergird the analysis and policies in the succeeding chapters.

It is important to consult reliable baseline data in order to set goals and monitor progress. Trend data provides a numerical benchmark to help determine if a plan is realistic and reasonable. Unless otherwise noted, the U.S. Census Bureau and Maryland Department of Planning are the sources for this chapter's information. Maryland State Data Center (SDC) provides Census 2010 and other data cited in the *Maryland Statistical Handbook*, found at www.mdp.state.md.us/msdc/.

The chapter begins with a look at population changes and then addresses housing, income, employment and land use trends.

Demographics

Population

Figure 1-1 provides historic population data from 1950 through the last Census in 2010. Population change affects the demand for public and private goods and services. Location and age distribution have implications for the school system and other public infrastructure and services. The age and sex composition also affects government services and the economy.

Figure 1-1 Population Change 1950—2010

Census Year	Population	Increase	Percent Change	Percent Annual Change
1950	19,428			
1960	21,578	2,150	11.1	1.11
1970	23,682	2,104	9.7	.97
1980	25,605	1,923	8.12	.81
1990	30,541	4,936	19.27	1.92
2000	33,812	3,271	10.7	1.07
2010	37,782	3,970	11.7	1.17
Average Annual Growth 1950—2010				1.175

Source: US Census Bureau

Talbot County's population is estimated to be among the lowest in the state, at 37,782 persons (Census, 2010). Between 1900 and 1950 Talbot County's population remained almost unchanged at under 20,000. The 1950s brought the opening of the first Chesapeake Bay Bridge marking the

beginning of increased County and regional growth.

Between 1950 and 2010, the population increased from 19,428 to 37,782, an annual growth rate of 1.17 percent.

The first half of the last decade saw a 5 percent rise, followed by a less dramatic increase of just 3.1 percent from 2005 to 2010. This slower trend reflected changes in the housing market, availability of credit and other consequences of the financially driven recession that began in 2008.

Geographic and Age Distribution

Like most rural areas, population growth in Talbot County is not evenly distributed. Figure 1-2 contains the distribution by jurisdiction for Talbot County's municipalities. Easton has traditionally been, and continues to be, the County's population center. The population of Easton was 15,945 persons, or 43 percent of the County's population, in the 2010 Census, and Easton has experienced continuous growth through the years. However, the County's other municipalities, with the exception of Queen Anne, lost population. This, most likely, results from the increased portion of County housing serving as second homes.

Figure 1-2 County and Municipal Population Distribution, 2010	
Talbot County Population	37,782
Total Municipal Population	18,796
Percent of County	49.7%
Easton	15,945
Oxford	651
Queen Anne (pt.)	94
St. Michaels	1,029
Trappe	1,077
Balance of County	18,986
Percent of County	50.3%

Figure 1-3 Census 2010 Age Comparisons, Maryland and Talbot County			
	2010 Total Population	Pop. 18 Yrs & Over	Pop. 65 Yrs & Over
Maryland	5,773,552	4,420,588	707,642
		76.6%	12.3%
Talbot Co.		30,407	8,958
		80.5%	23.7%
	Median Age, All	Median Age, Male	Median Age, Female
Maryland	38.0	36.4	39.3
Talbot Co.	47.4	45.8	48.9

Easton is not only the commercial and business center of Talbot County, but also has the most suitable land for development, supported by robust urban infrastructure and services. The County's other towns are either land locked, limited in sewer, road or other infrastructure capacity, or host limited employment generators.

The 2010 median age in Talbot County rose to 47.4 years, up from 43.4 in the 2000 Census. Talbot has the second highest median age among Maryland counties. The statewide median age was 38 years, with just 12.3 percent of the population age 65 or over. Locally, some 8,958 persons, or about 24 percent of the County population, were reported to be age 65 or over, as shown in Figure 1-3.

Talbot County's relatively high median age is a function of a population that is aging in place, immigration of retirees and out-migration of younger people.

The Census' American Community Survey reports that about one fifth of the County's population is less than 18 years of age. The total male and female population is somewhat evenly distributed through all age groups up to the age of 45, where women become a slightly larger proportion of each age group, as illustrated in Figure 1-4.

Population Projections

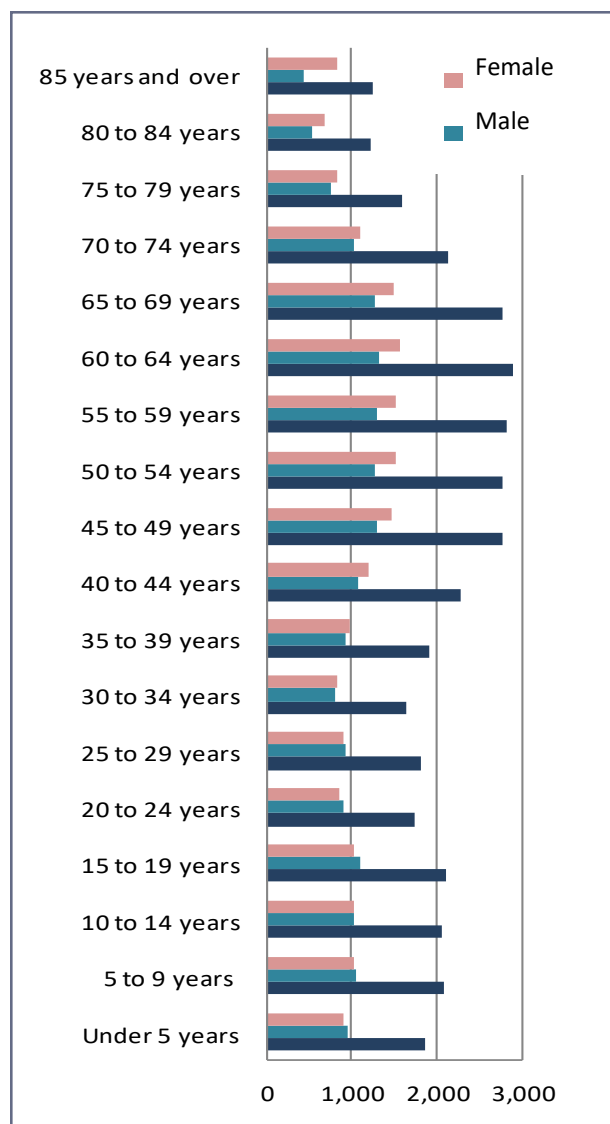
Despite the present downturn in home sales and new home construction, the Maryland Department of Planning has predicted modest but steady growth for Talbot County. The greatest component of growth over the past few decades and expected through the next several decades is domestic in-migration. In recent periods deaths have outnumbered births in the County (530 to 449 in the 2011 estimate), contrary to the statewide trend of greater numbers of births versus deaths.

Figure 1-5 contains historic and projected County Census population and households from 1970 through 2010 and the Planning Data Service's projections through 2040.

Talbot County can expect modest population growth, but a somewhat greater growth rate in the number of households as the size of households continues to decline.

In the *2005 Comprehensive Plan*, it was estimated that by 2030 the County's population would grow to 38,950, reflecting an average annual growth rate of about 0.5 percent per year (though some variability from year to year can be expected). The 2010 projections used in this update continue to predict a similar average annual growth rate of 1 percent or less, over the next 30 year period, which represents a substantially lower population growth rate than over the past 30 years.

Figure 1-4 Population by Gender and Age, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

Figure 1-5 Historic and Projected Talbot County Population and Households, 1970 – 2040

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040
Population	23,682	25,604	30,549	33,812	37,780	40,850	42,900	44,000
Growth Rate		8.1%	19.3%	10.7%	11.7%	8.1%	5%	2.6%
Households	7,914	9,934	12,677	14,307	16,150	18,000	19,275	19,800
Average Household Size	2.94	2.55	2.39	2.32	2.31	2.25	2.20	2.19

Source: Maryland Department of Planning, July 2014

Current and Projected Households

The growth in the number of households has been a steady trend over time. Between 1970 and 2000, the household rate of increase was 80.8 percent, nearly twice the rate of population growth (42.8%) over the same period.

The 2010 Census reports that 40 percent of all households consist of two persons and 28.3 percent

are single person households. In addition to small household size, there is a growing number of nonfamily households — over 30 percent of all households in the County are nonfamily and almost one fourth are single person households. Figure 1-4 shows population numbers and gender and age brackets.

In summary, the demographic outlook indicates Talbot County will continue to become older on average with greater number of retirees living in smaller households. The school-aged and prime working age populations will remain relatively unchanged in terms of numbers, resulting in only modest growth of the workforce. The implications for the economy, prosperity and livability of the County will be considered in subsequent chapters of the Plan. The relationship between population, growth and housing is outlined in the next section.

Housing

The U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) estimates that 19,618 housing units existed in the County in 2012, including the incorporated towns. This figure is an increase of over 3,000 units from the Census 2000 total of 16,500 units.

Countywide, 16,375 housing units, or over 80 percent of the County's residences, are single-family homes. This figure is about 10 percent higher than the statewide average for single family housing. Multi-family housing is almost exclusively located in the municipalities. ACA data indicates that Easton has the highest proportion of multi-family housing at 20 percent of all housing units. In contrast, the villages and rural areas of the County are reported to have little to no multi-family housing.

Of all housing units, just over 80 percent were occupied. In 2010, the percentage of vacant units rose to 19.2 percent, from the 13.3 percent vacant reported in the 2000 Census. The majority of vacant units were in the category of seasonal or occasional use, which includes guest homes and 'second' homes.

The Maryland Department of Planning reports that 2,953 new single family parcels were created between 2000 and 2009. The number of new parcels created has increased every decade since the 1960s (see Figure 1-6).

Figure 1-6 also reveals an ebb and flow to residential development in the County over the past seventy years. Using the Priority Funding Areas (PFAs) established in 1992 as a basis, new construction has gravitated from the towns to suburban and rural development and gradually back to the towns.

The percentage of new subdivision in urbanized areas in the 1940s was not achieved again until the last decade, with nearly four times as many new lots created within PFAs, primarily in Easton. Over the past few decades the proportion of subdivision in towns steadily increased from 47 percent in the 1980s, to 58 percent in the 1990s to over 70 percent in the 2000s.

Data from the Maryland Association of Realtors' Metropolitan Regional Information System reveals the demand for, and economic contributions of, single family housing in Talbot County.

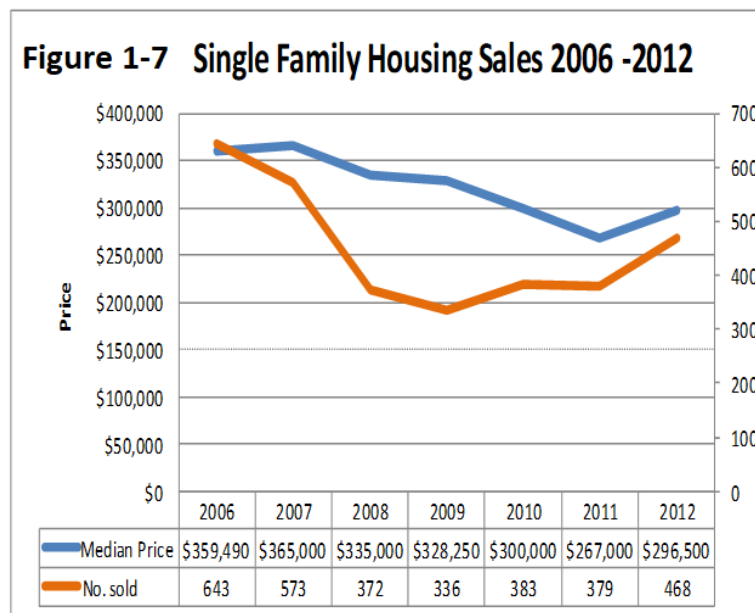
Since the last planning period, both the number of sales and the median price for single family homes declined in the recent recession. The number of sales fell by almost half and has yet to recover in volume. Median sale prices made a corresponding though less severe decline and remain below historic highs.

Figure 1-6 New Residential (Single Family) Parcels Created by Decade 1940 —2009

YEARS	Total	Inside PFA	Percent	Comment Area	Percent	Outside PFA	Percent
1940-49	585	421	71.97%	20	3.42%	144	24.62%
1950-59	1,102	777	70.51%	44	3.99%	281	25.50%
1960-69	1,025	457	44.59%	124	12.10%	444	43.32%
1970-79	1,796	782	43.54%	169	9.41%	845	47.05%
1980-89	2,307	1,085	47.03%	122	5.29%	1,100	47.68%
1990-99	2,465	1,426	57.85%	97	3.94%	942	38.22%
2000-09	2,953	2,118	71.72%	49	1.66%	786	26.62%
1940-2009	12,233	7,066	57.76%	625	5.11%	4,542	37.13%

Source: Maryland Department of Planning

These trends not only slowed new development in the County but impacted revenues as well. Transfer taxes and real estate taxes are significant elements of the County budget and the combination of fewer real estate transfers and lower sales values will continue to influence the provision of community services. Figure 1-7 shows recent trends in home sales and the effect of the recent economic downturn.



Source: MRIS

Future subdivision and development is likely to be centered in the towns for the foreseeable future, due to a combination of State, County and municipal policies and growth management strategies. Public utilities and infrastructure, zoning regulations and land preservation strategies are directed towards a manageable pattern of growth across the County, with the majority occurring in the towns. As housing is related to income, gross rent is a typical indication of housing affordability. The American Community Survey reported that more than half of all renters countywide paid 30 percent or more of their income for rent alone. Of all 2,030 renters in this category, 1,428 are reported to be

in Easton.

Such statistics for Talbot County should be viewed in a local context. For example, the greatest proportions of renters paying high portions of their income for housing are in the waterfront communities west of St Michaels. There, 62 percent of renters are likely short term and seasonal vacationers rather than full time residents.

Income

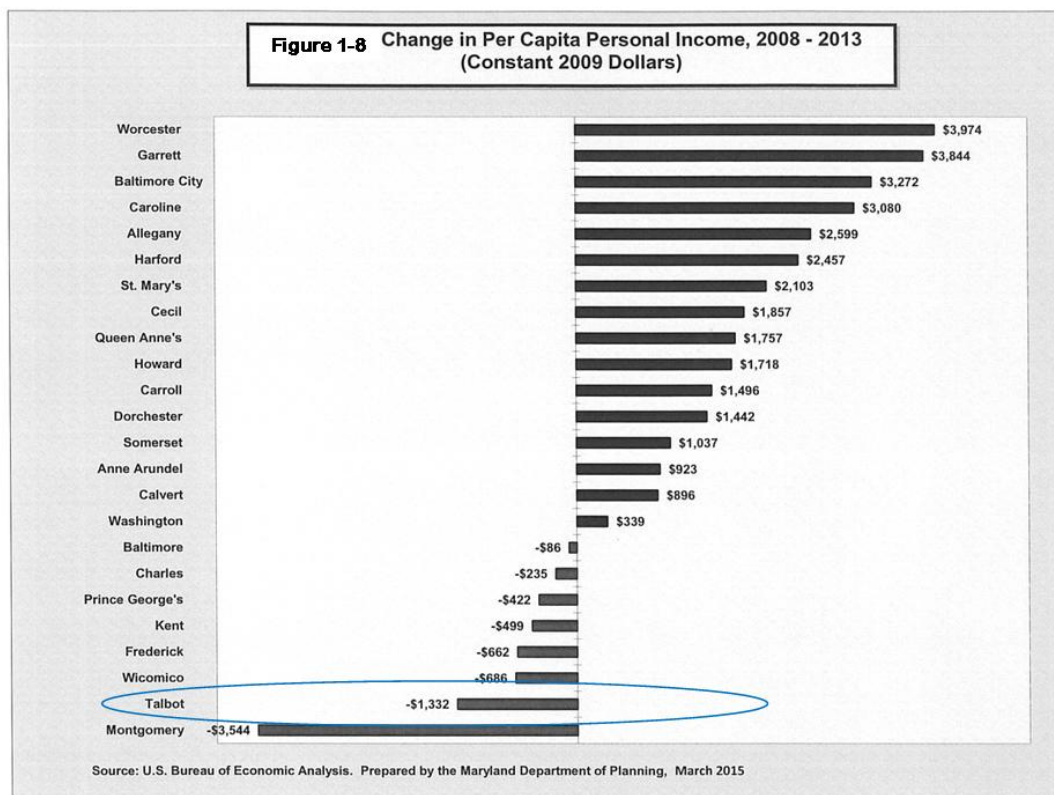
Income is composed of salary or wages, self-employment income, and dividends or interest income. Talbot has traditionally ranked among the highest median income counties in the state and generally exceeds the national county average.

Median household income indicates the relative earnings of households and can be compared to other jurisdictions. The *2014 Maryland Statistical Handbook* reported the 2013 median household income for the County at \$57,525, compared to a statewide median of \$72,482.

However, per capita income data reveal how income varies within households and among wage earners. The same, *Maryland Statistical Handbook*, reports the County's average individual income for 2013 at \$56,955; the third highest among Maryland counties and well over the state per capita income of \$50,149.

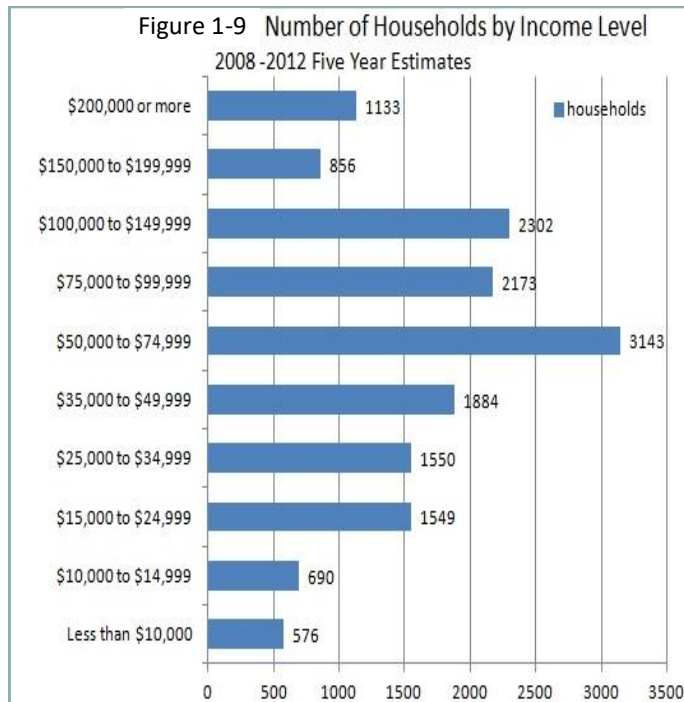
Other per capita income statistics tell another aspect of the story, showing Talbot County with only modest gains in a statewide comparison. Talbot net per capita earnings fell by \$1,332 between 2008 and 2013 (see Figure 1-8). This 2.3 percent drop in individual earnings is one of the largest declines in the State.

The *Handbook* also reports that Talbot County's poverty rate increased to 10.9 percent in 2013, a 3



percent increase from the 7.7 percent figure for 2006. This is somewhat greater than the statewide poverty rate increase over the same period from 8 percent in 2006, to 10.2 percent in 2013. The poverty threshold is not a single line, but a series of calculations based on family size and other variables, determining whether the income of a household is adequate to meet basic needs.

Though the County may have a reputation as a haven for the well off, statistics depict a solidly middle class, middle aged residential community. The latest American Community Survey five year estimates reveal the following distribution of income among residents (see Figure 1-9) Over 47 percent of all households in the County had incomes between \$50,000 and \$149,999, while 7.9 percent of households in the survey data set reported incomes of less than \$15,000.



Other statistics report that the largest householder group (6,359 households) is aged 45 to 64. Within that group, 18.5 percent fall in the \$50,000 to \$149,999 income bracket. The next largest group consists of householders aged 65 years and over. Of those 5,108 households (12.3%) have incomes in the same middle bracket. The demographic and income data above, combined with the employment and land use data below, can assist the County as it manages community services and programs. Income can predict revenues and population trends help anticipate local needs. While short-term economic variability can be managed, long-term changes could be problematic for public service provision and so should be monitored.

Employment

State agencies including the Maryland Department of Commerce track business and employment data, provides annual updates and long-range projections. Their most recent *Brief Economic Facts, Talbot County, Maryland* reports the following data:

The 2015 County civilian labor force was comprised of 19,239 persons. In the 16,852-person private sector, Health Services employed the greatest number of people with over 2,000 jobs. Trade and Transportation employed 3,286 persons, Leisure and Hospitality services employed 3,152, while Manufacturing employed 1,104. The largest single employers in the County are the University of Maryland Shore Regional Health (1,640 employees), Genesis Health Care (250 employees), Bayleigh Chase (formerly William Hill Manor, 220 employees) and Wal-Mart (205 employees). All governments combined employ 1,409 persons in Talbot County.

The December 2015 unemployment rate was approximately 5.1 percent compared to the state's rate of 4.7 percent. The Department of Commerce reports that Talbot County's total civilian employment in 2015 was 18,226 full and part time jobs. The Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that between 2008 and 2013 County employment fell by 1,204 full or part time jobs (approximately 4.1%). That figure includes 670 jobs regained from the low point of 27,225 in 2010. Most Eastern Shore counties

except Worcester and Cecil experienced similar downturns in employment.

Other data on the County's workforce from the Maryland Department of Planning indicate that just over 38 percent of Talbot County workers live outside the County. In Figure 1-10 of the 8,060 persons entering the County for work, an estimated 3,327 live in Caroline County, 2,208 in Dorchester County and 1,064 in Queen Anne's County. Smaller numbers come from as far as Lancaster County, PA and Fairfax County, VA.

Somewhat fewer Talbot County residents work elsewhere, with an estimated 4,885 persons commuting to other locations. The largest proportion (960) travel to Queen Anne's County followed by Anne Arundel County (738) and Caroline County (697). A few County residents travel as far as Philadelphia and Adams County, in Pennsylvania.

Figure 1-10 Inter-County Commuters

Commuting Into	Commuting Out Of	Net (In-Out)
8,060	4,885	3,175

Clearly, Talbot County is part of a regional economy centered in, but not restricted to, the Eastern Shore. Workers commuting into the County make possible a dynamic retail and service economy that serves the region. Residents who work outside the County spend on housing, goods and services in their community. All will use County infrastructure and facilities, along with the considerable number of tourists and visitors who visit or pass through the County every year.

Employment and unemployment add to an already complex calculation of future demands for County services. While job opportunities remain tight, Maryland statistical projections indicate that younger workers are likely to continue to relocate outside the area. New residents replacing them will invariably be older, perhaps more prosperous and most likely retired persons attracted by Talbot's combination of rural character and urbane attractions. They will be consumers of the retail, hospitality and medical services that are already a large portion of the local economy.

Existing Land Use

Map 1-A (at the end of this chapter) depicts existing land uses. The geographic distribution of land use/land cover in Talbot County illustrates that land use has remained relatively stable through the past decade.

As the map illustrates, medium and high density residential development in the County remained concentrated in the incorporated towns, while lower density residential development comprises the majority of the residential use in the unincorporated areas.

The County's rural villages, as historical centers predating the automobile, formed small concentrations of somewhat higher density development, along with the remnants of earlier commercial and industrial uses.

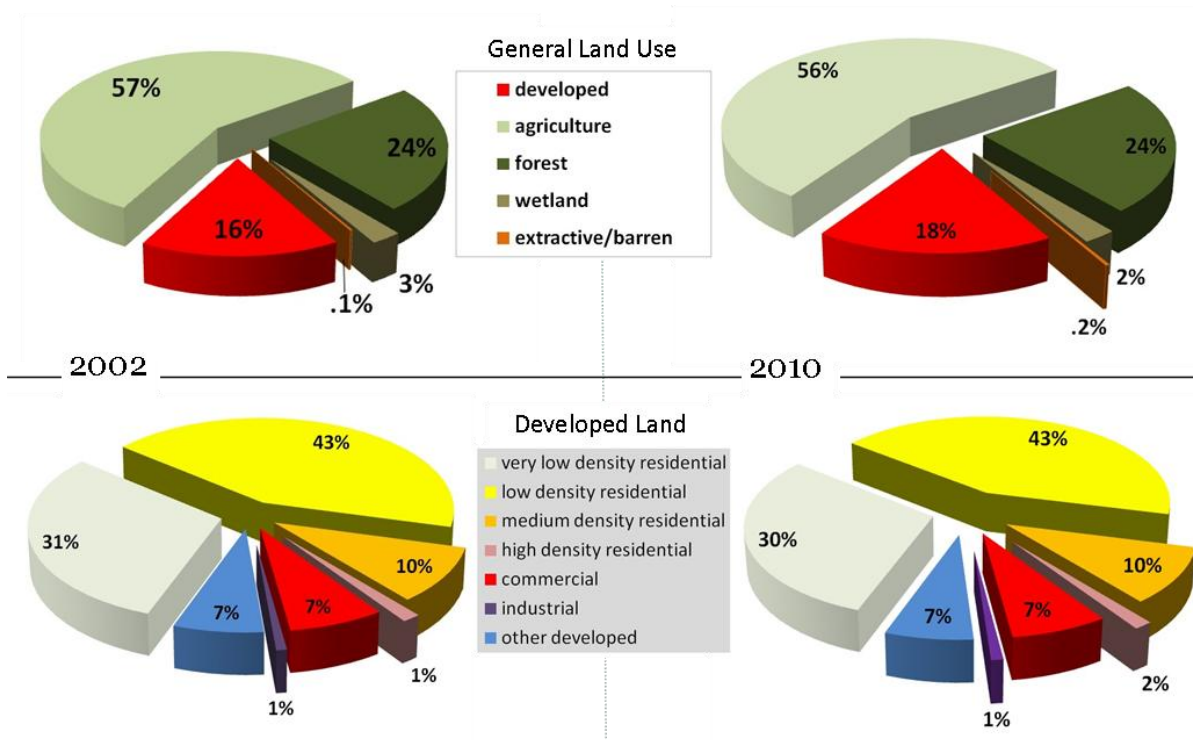
In Figure 1-11 the Maryland Department of Planning estimates that 30,654 acres of Talbot County's 171,657 acre land area could be classified as developed in 2010. By comparison in 2002, 27,987 acres were classified as developed.

Within the category of developed land, commercial and industrial uses accounted for about 3,041 acres in 2010, up from 2,292 acres in 2002. Most commercial and industrial development in the County is located in the incorporated towns, with some development in unincorporated areas along routes U.S. Route 50 and MD 33.

The vast majority of land classified as resource land is in agricultural use. Agriculture occupied 95,662 acres in 2010, down from 97,739 acres in 2002. Forests, which are also agricultural

resources, covered an additional 40,510 acres in 2010, 757 acres below the 2002 figure of 41,270. The 2012 Census of Agriculture collects and reports farmland acreage using a different methodology and reports that Talbot County had 119,481 acres in farmland.

Figure 1-11 Talbot County Land Use, 2002 and 2010



Summary

Talbot remains by design one of Maryland's sparsely populated rural counties, despite development pressures brought on by regional trends and a growing number of individuals, retirees and small families settling in the area. The County is projected to continue to age with little growth in its work force. These trends have implications for the County's communities, economy and land use.

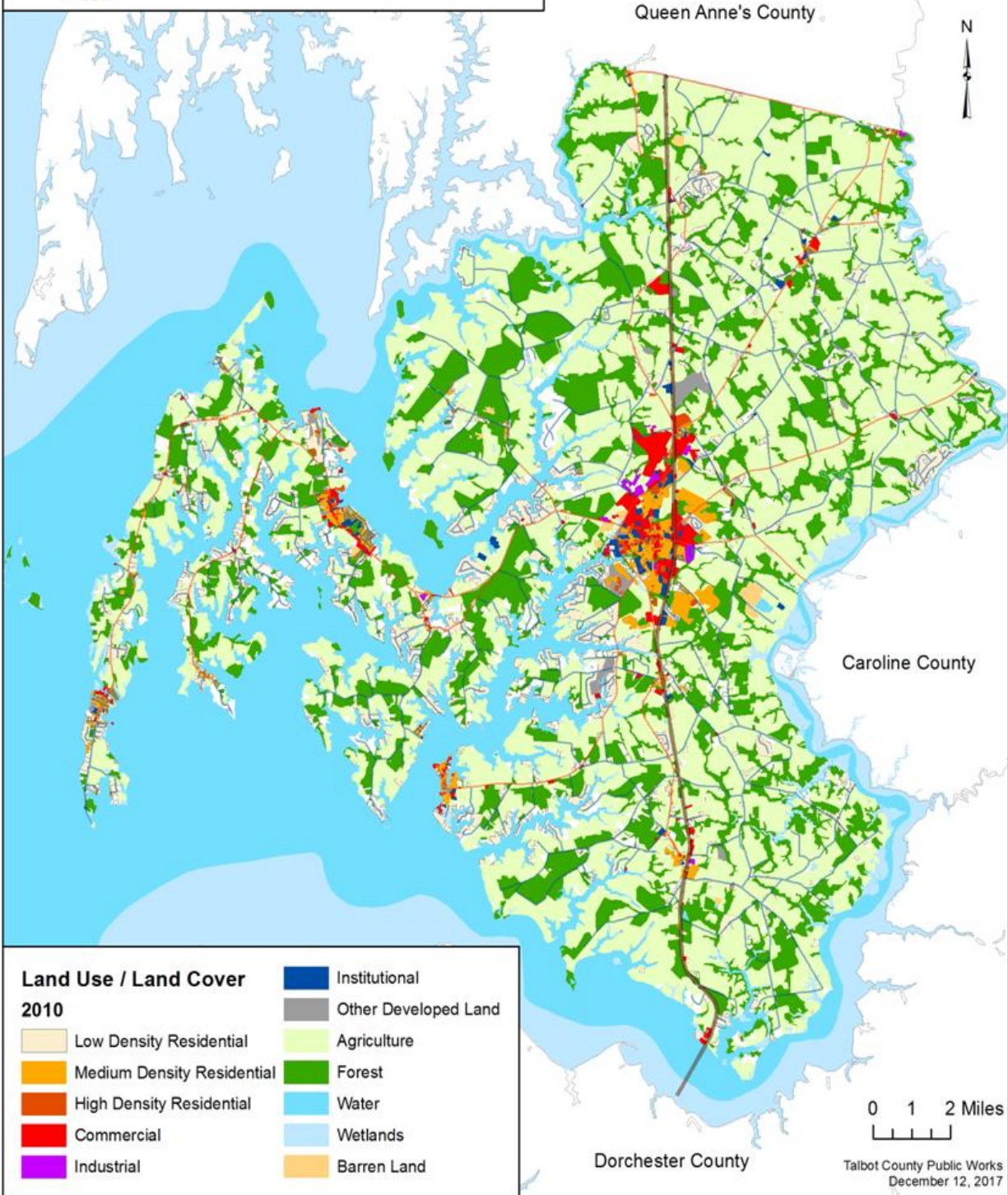
Long-standing land use policies have protected farmland and open space from development and retained the County's rural character. Agriculture remains an important and viable industry in part because fragmentation of farm landscapes has been discouraged.

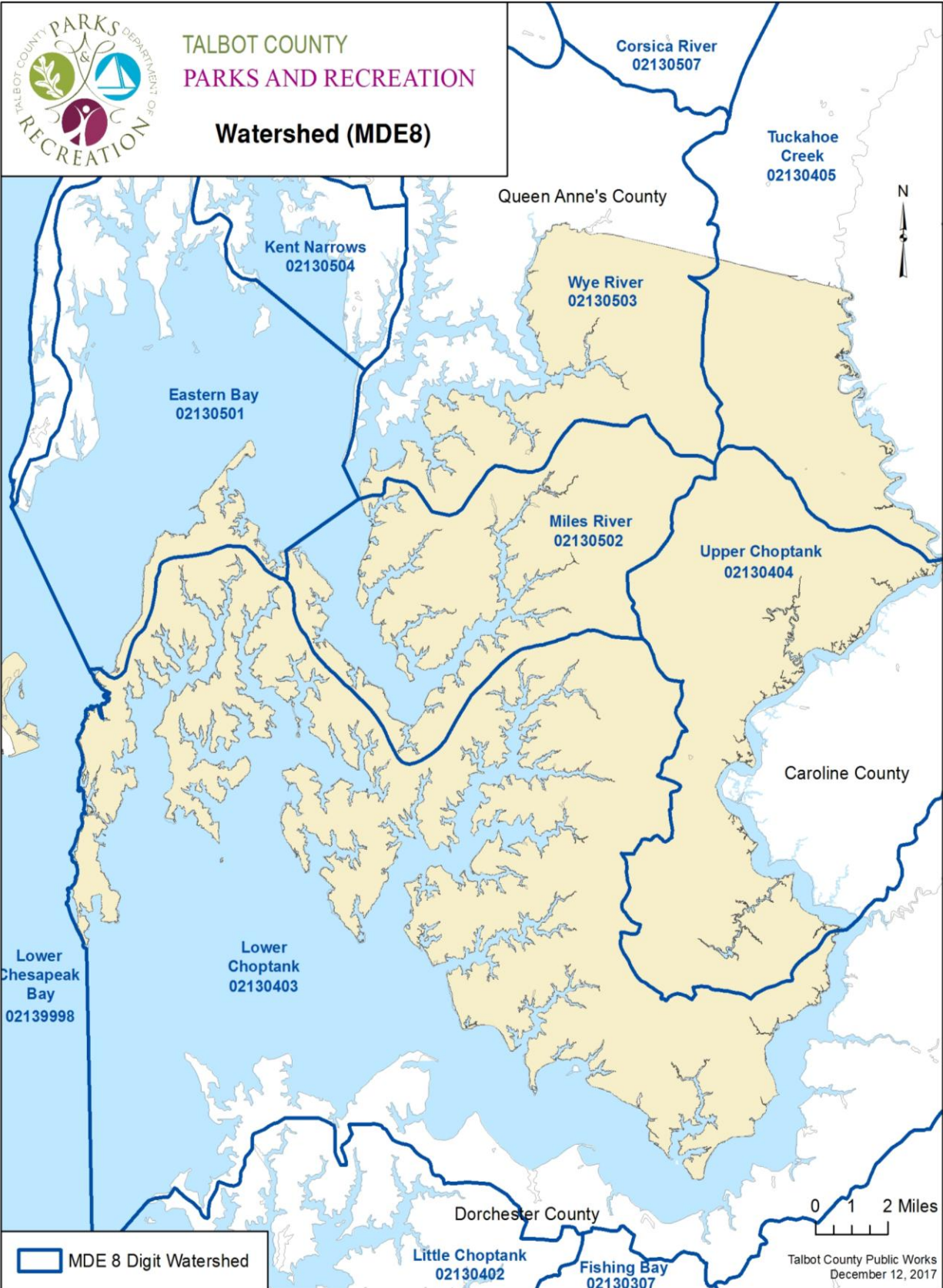
Talbot is a comparatively prosperous County. Though some poverty exists, incomes of most residents are adequate to meet their needs. Unemployment in the County is nearly equal to the State average. Hospitality businesses, medical services, education and government are important employers.

The statistics outlined in this chapter suggest some challenges that will be discussed in subsequent chapters. These range from protection of natural and historic resources, to the provision of public services and amenities, to promoting a resilient economy. The economic downturn of the last few years has impacted Talbot County less than some other areas but nevertheless has exposed some vulnerability that should be considered.



**TALBOT COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION**
**Map 1-A
Land Use / Land Cover**



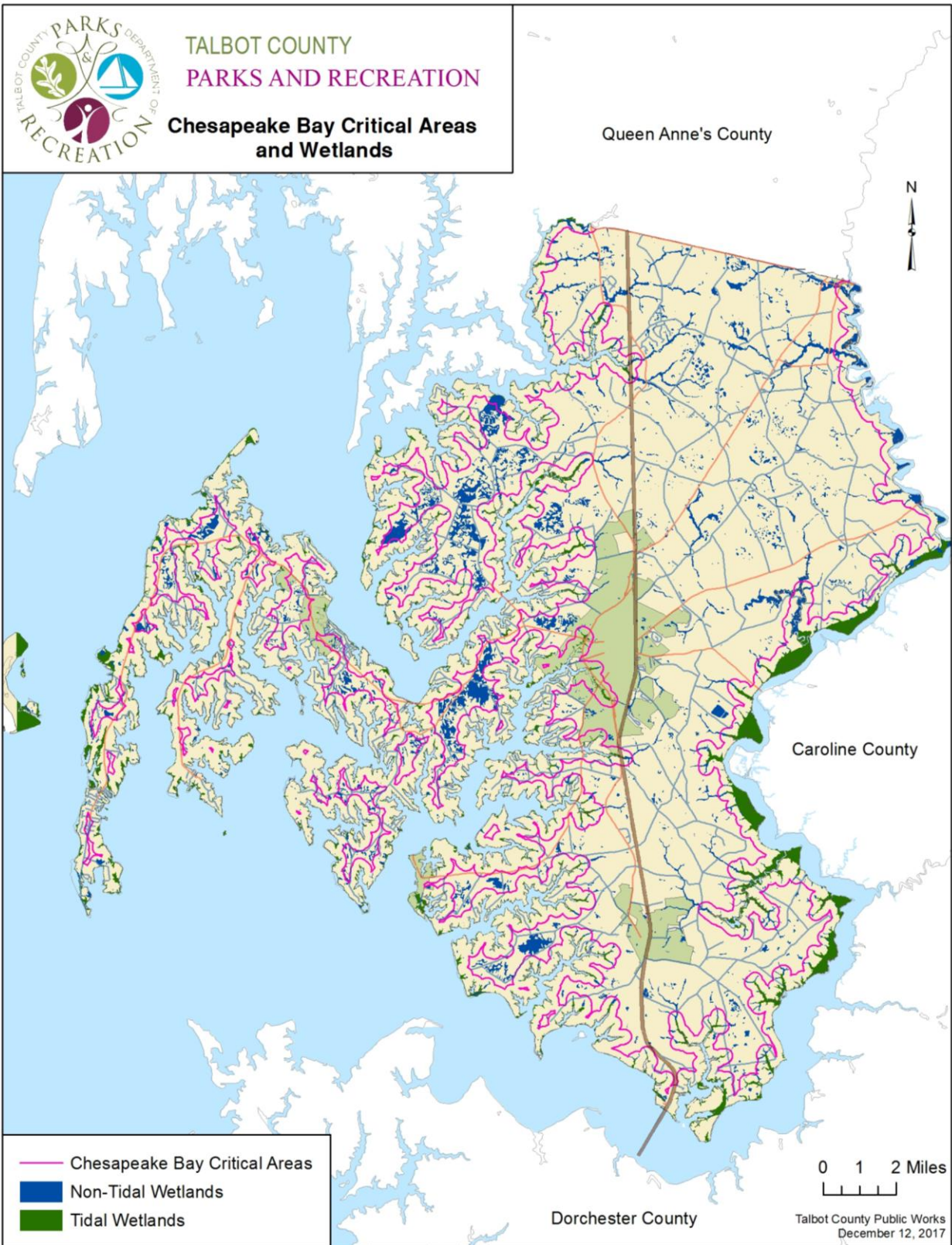




TALBOT COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION

FEMA Floodplain

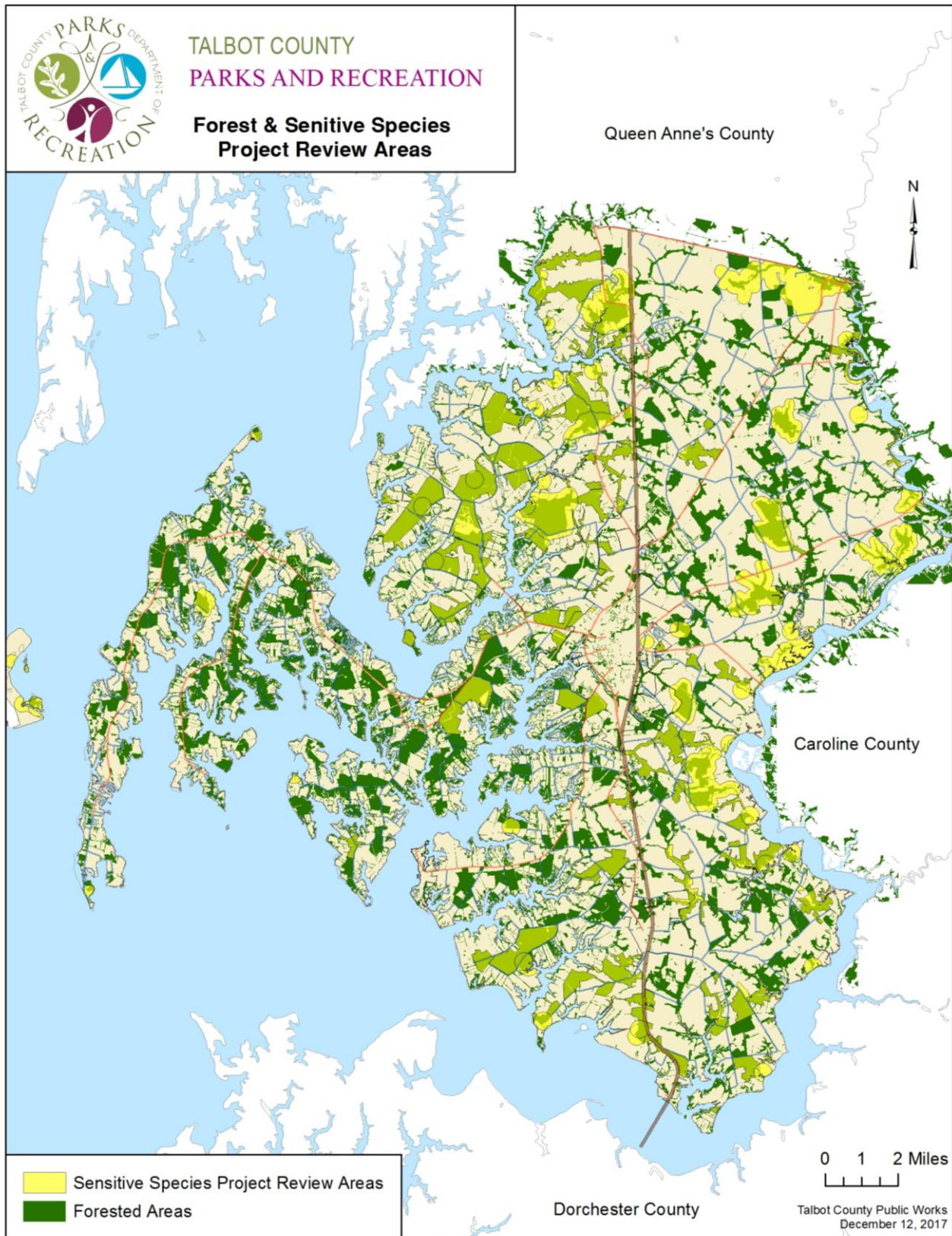






**TALBOT COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION**

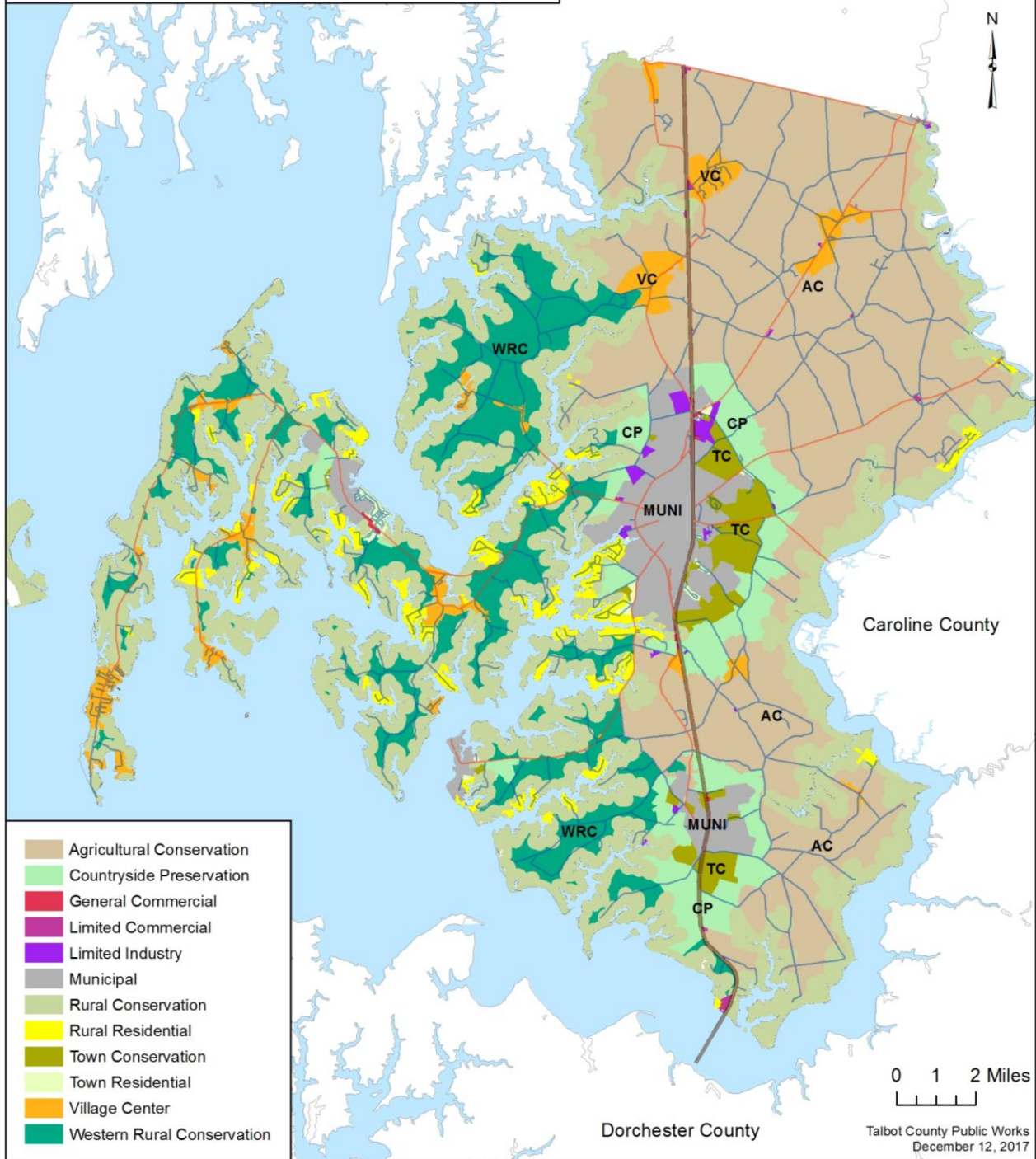
**Forest & Sensitive Species
Project Review Areas**





TALBOT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

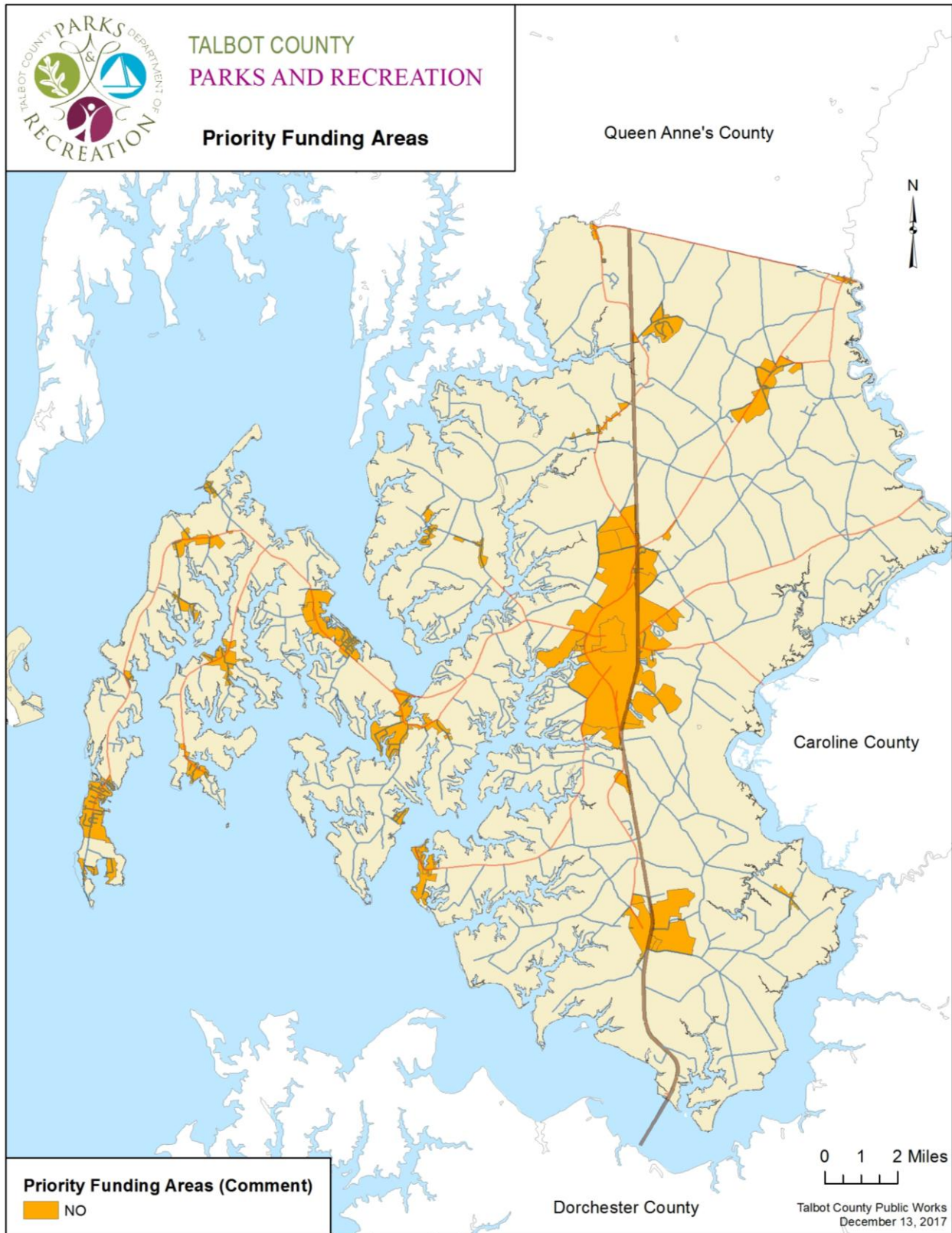
Zoning

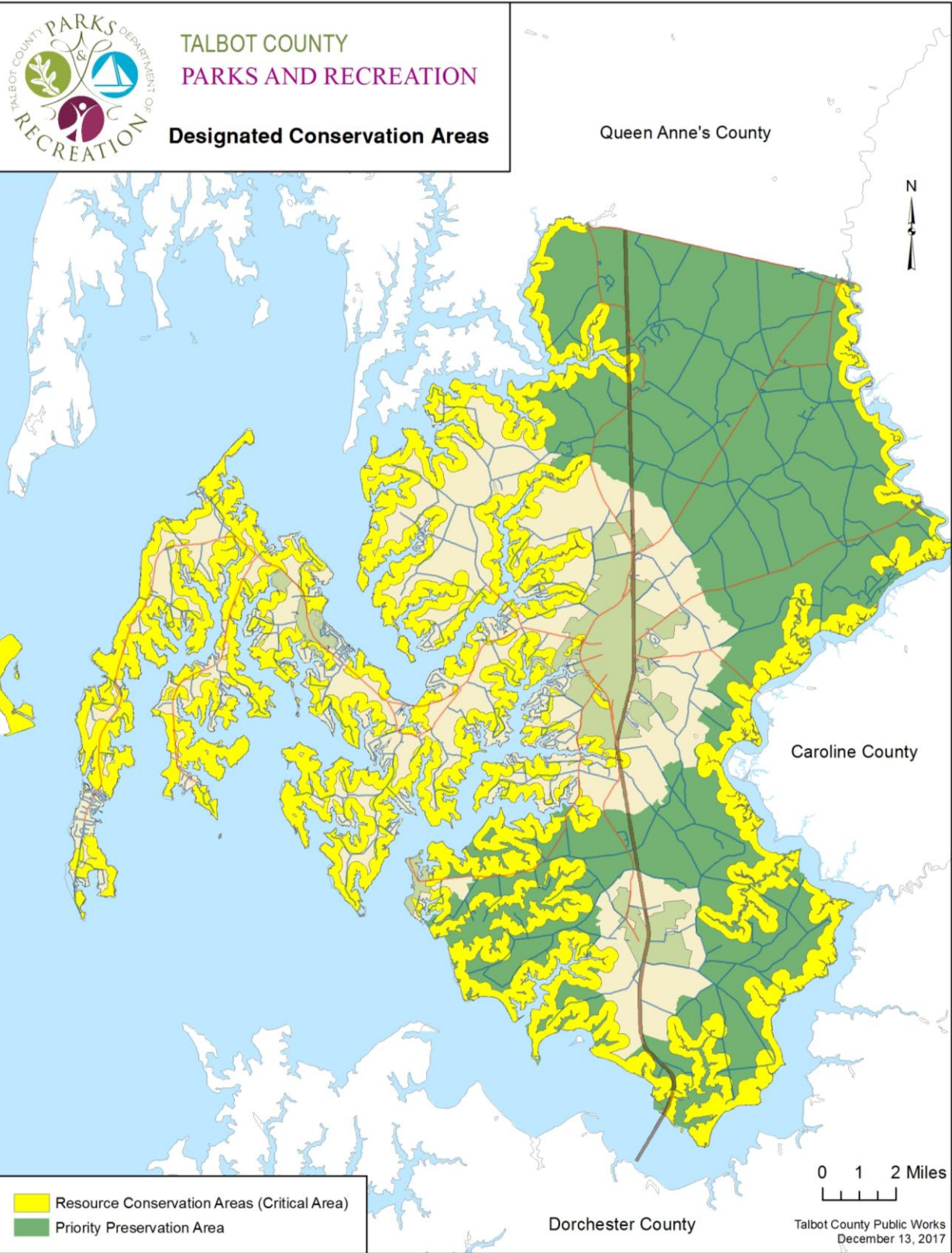




**TALBOT COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION**

Priority Funding Areas

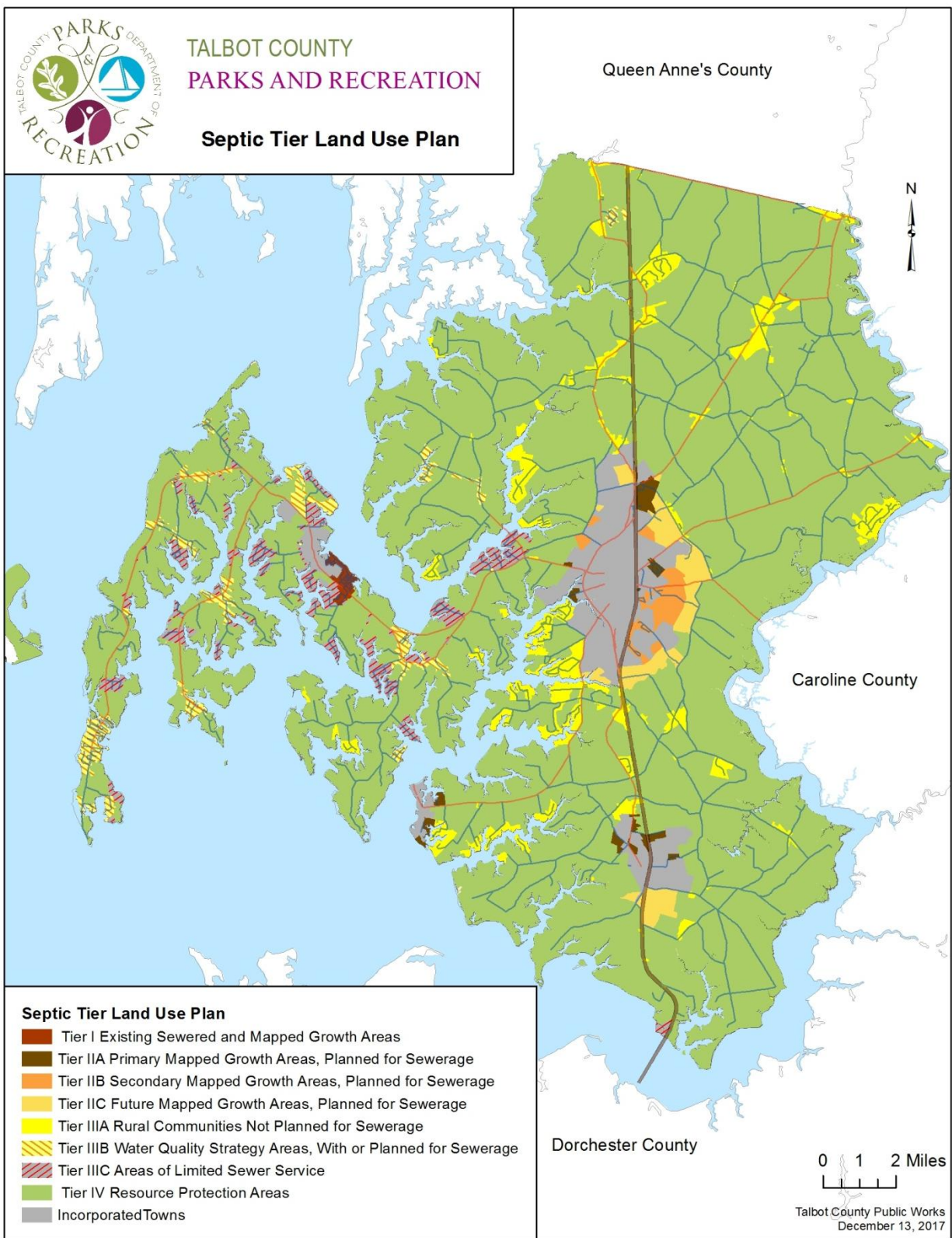






TALBOT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

Septic Tier Land Use Plan





Chapter 2 Recreation, Parks and Open Space

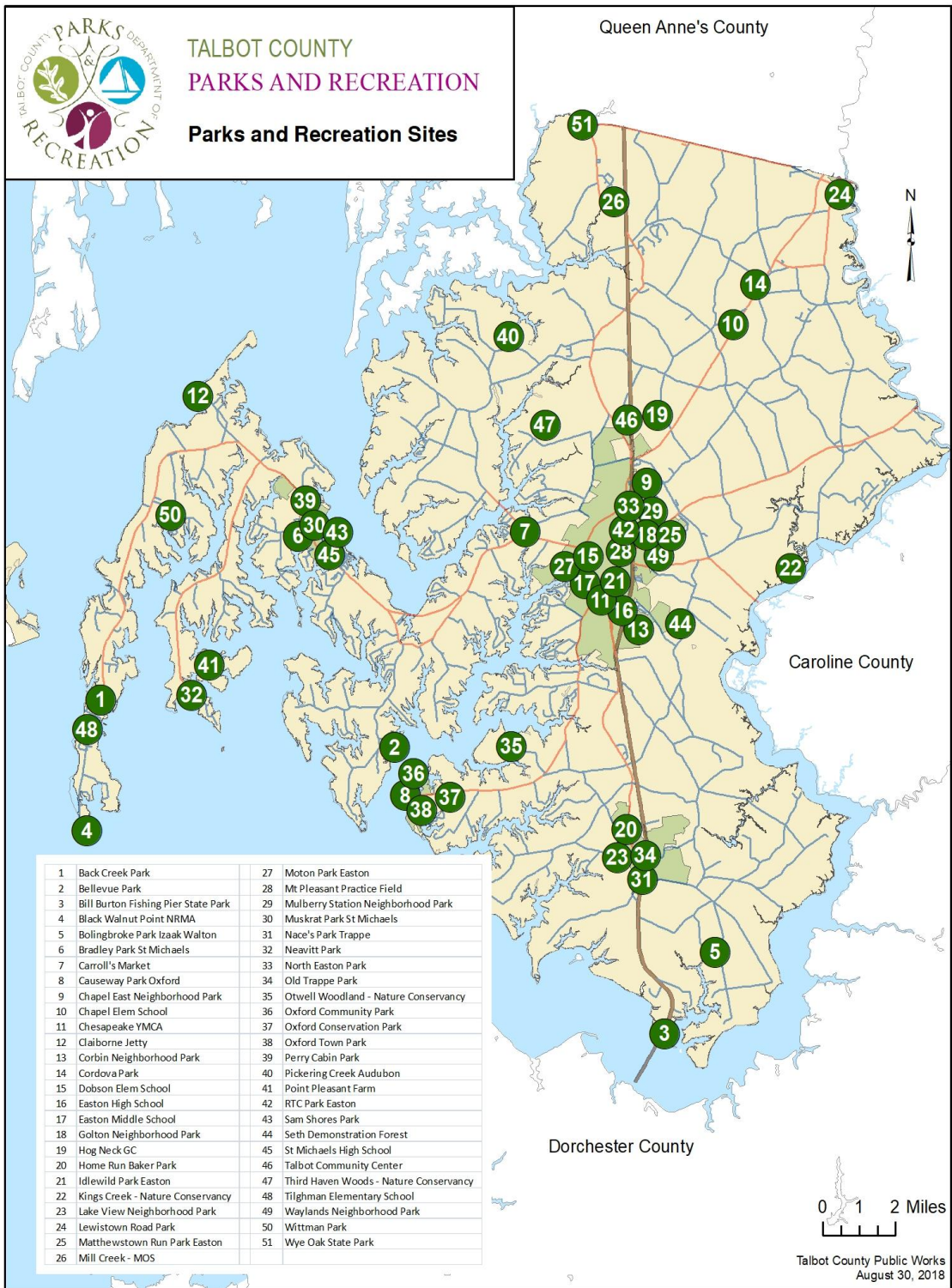
State of Maryland 2017 Goals for Recreation, Parks, and Open Space

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, play 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.

Talbot County 2017 Goals:

1. Provide an improved system of parks and recreation facilities based on residents needs.
2. Actively pursue the goals, objectives, and implementation recommendations adopted as part of the Talbot County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan.
3. Periodically update the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan to keep the inventory of parks and recreational facilities current, reassures demand in light of projected population growth and identify new or alternative implementation recommendations for site and project selection, land acquisition, facility development and preservation and conservation programs.
4. Create a park with historical value to tell the story of one of Talbot County's historic figures. The park will be designed, constructed and maintained in conjunction with state, local and private funding.
5. Develop a feasibility study as to the creation of a recreational bike trail from Easton to Cordova area to Tuckahoe State Park utilizing the existing rail system. This trail will not only be of recreational value, but also historic and eventually part of a state wide trail system.
6. Begin plans and development of a gymnasium expansion at the Community Center in Talbot County to satisfy the needs of its residents and visitors.
7. Continue to provide an information program to include programs, opportunities, maps and brochures that identify park location and facilities to insure that as many citizens as possible are aware of the recreation open space opportunities that exist in the County.

Talbot County currently provides its residents with many opportunities to pursue recreational and leisure activities. Some of these opportunities are available through a variety of recreation programs offered by the County's Department of Parks and Recreation while other opportunities exist in a variety of parks ranging from large County-wide park facilities to small neighborhood play areas. The continued development of parks and recreation facilities is necessary to accommodate a changing population in the County.



In recent years, increased leisure time, a rise in the standard of living and a growing and increasingly elderly population has contributed to changes in the demand for recreational sites and activities. These changes in individual and community recreation needs should be considered in the planning for parks, recreational facilities and programs.

The Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) contains a description of the State's recreation and open space classification and standards, an inventory of existing parks, open space and recreational facilities, a demand analysis of park, recreation and open space needs, and plan and implementation recommendations for meeting those needs.

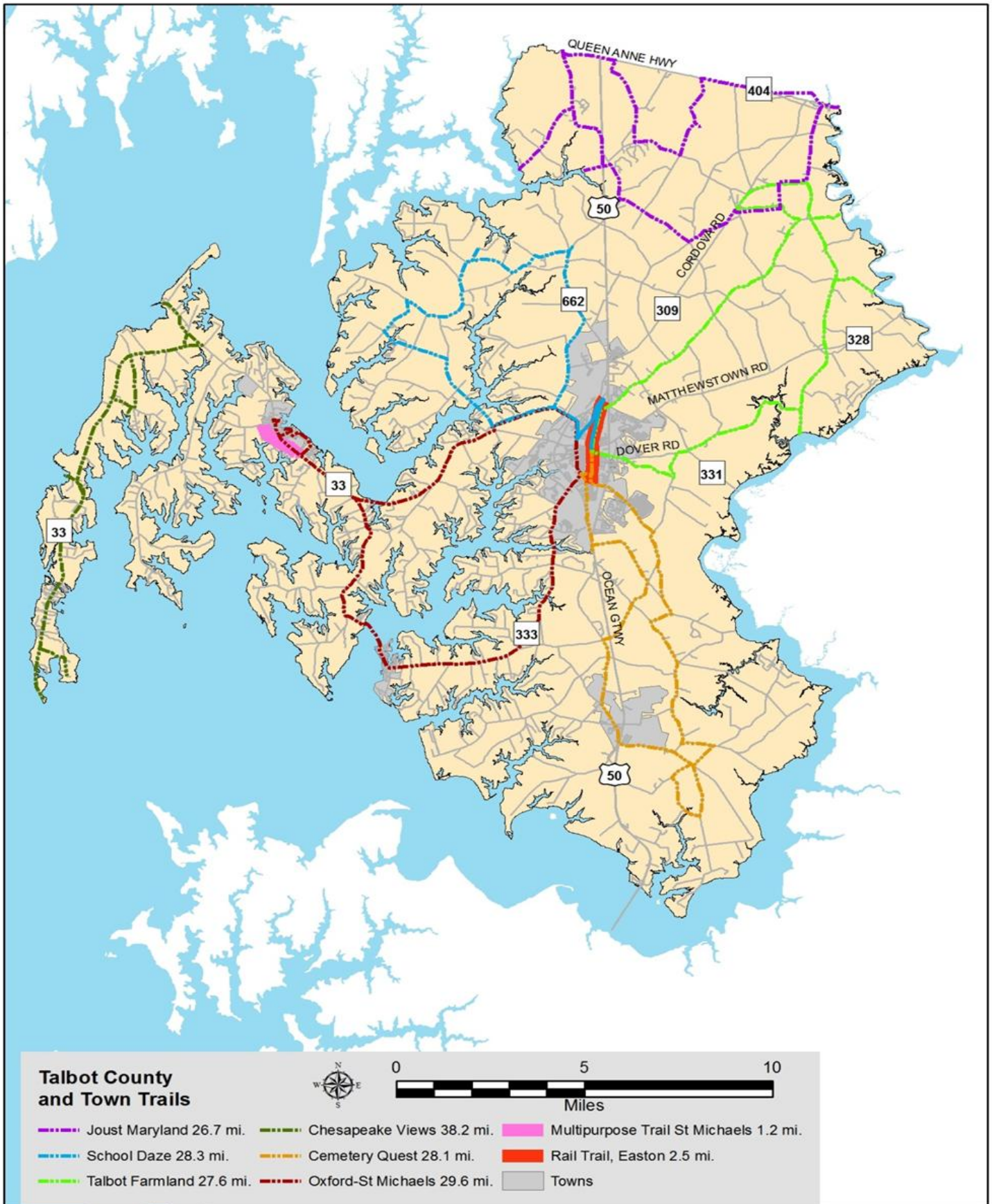
County Parks and Recreation Department

The Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for the administration and programming of recreational facilities and activities for Talbot County. The Department maintains and schedules activities at recreational facilities, participates in the preparation of a five year acquisition and development plan which is required by the State of Maryland as a basis for program open space funding. The Department is responsible for coordinating park, open space and recreational activities between the County and the incorporated towns. The Department provides technical assistance and encourages towns to participate in the local programming, acquisition, and development of recreation facilities.

The Talbot County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board provides recommendations to the County Council and the County Parks Department relating to plans and policies for public recreation, the organization of recreation councils, the establishment of recreational programs and plans for the acquisition of land for public recreation and open space. This Board includes appointees from both the County and the incorporated towns. This advisory board is also involved with the administration, long-range planning and policy direction for the Talbot County Community Center and Park System. The Board is appointed by the County Council and recommends policies and administrative guidelines, prepares annual reports and submits budget requests for these recreation facilities.

Trails and Walking Paths

The County recognizes the need and desire to continue the development of a trail system in and around Talbot County, giving the residents and visitors a safe, structured means of exercise and leisure. The town of Easton has established a very successful "Rails to Trails" system that bisects the Town of Easton. This trail is popular to individuals and groups of walkers, runners and bikers. In the past, Talbot County has been unsuccessful in acquiring several easements from local farmers and property owners; however, with each purchase of land or when land is granted to the County the possibilities of extending trails or adding trails is one of the top priorities. For example, the development of the acquired Oxford property had a strong interest to construct a walking trail around the perimeter that would be ADA compliant, giving the residents and visitors a walking experience that is free from road traffic and on a safe surface. This also serves as an avenue to extend trails from the Town Oxford to the Oxford Park in the future. Talbot County has established and advertised six bike routes through both urban and rural areas. Talbot County has also been diligent in establishing a Water Trail system for use by canoes and kayaks. There are currently maps available to residents and visitors for showing the routes for the trails and waterways in Talbot County and they are shown at the end of this chapter. There has been strong interest in possible construction of the abandoned rail system travelling from Easton through Cordova. This is being



proposed as a joint venture with State, local, and private funds to not only construct a trail system but also to enhance a current property to allow for historic representation. This would allow Talbot County to possibly connect to a trail system in Queen Anne County; and ultimately find a suitable connection to Caroline County.

Existing Trails:

- Loop trail in Oxford Park
- Loop trail in Cordova Park
- Loop trail in Home Run Baker Park
- Loop trail in RTC Park
- Rails to Trails through Easton
- Various published Bike Routes (fig. 2-25 through 2-36)
- Various published Water Trail Maps (fig. 2-37 through 2-47)

County Parks and Recreation Programs

The Comprehensive Plan serves as the framework for other plans and ordinances relating to the management of growth and development in Talbot County. The policies and guidelines contained within the 2016 Comprehensive Plan supersede any conflicting policies and/or guidelines and takes into consideration the comprehensive development plans and ordinances of the incorporated municipalities within the County. The Plan also refers to applicable State plans and ordinances which affect the growth and development of Talbot County. It is required that the Comprehensive Plan be reviewed and, if necessary, revised as needed at least once every five to ten years.

The Talbot County LPPRP includes these Comprehensive elements within them including the twelve visions of State Planning Policy. Wherever possible these plans are used to develop policies, processes and procedures for parks and programs. The Planning Department built into these Planning Program policies to develop, protect, and plan for our parks. Listed going forward in this section are such mechanisms that are utilized by Talbot County to ensure the following:

- POS funding is invested in ways that complement and support the broader goals and objectives of our Comprehensive Plan.
- Recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers.
- That facilities complement community design and infrastructure.
- While setting priorities for land acquisition that they reflect the goals and objectives of the comprehensive plan thus making exciting communities and planned growth areas more desirable.
- Encouraging private investment in those areas commensurate with the priorities of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Provide some reasonable assurance that a variety of quality recreational facilities and opportunities are readily accessible to all of its citizens.

Program Funding

Assisting these programs are funding mechanisms from a variety of sources. We list the following sources as currently being used to support parks and recreation programs:

- Local taxes support several aspects of the programs through annual collection within Talbot County.

- Private donations are made annually for specific or general programs within Talbot County Parks and Recreation.
- Local non-profit organizations make contributions with monies they fundraise, in kind services, and volunteer efforts throughout the County.
- Funding from Program Open Space in the form of grants is applied for annually based upon availability through the State of Maryland. Infrastructure improvements for many of the Talbot County Parks are funded through this mechanism each year.
- Department of Natural Resources funding in the form of grants is applied for annually based upon availability through the State of Maryland. These grants fund aspects of waterways, landings, boat launches and waste management at each type of site.

Needs Analysis and County Priorities for Lands, Facilities, & Rehabilitation

In using the State standards to indicate what types of recreational facilities are needed Talbot County conducted a needs assessment during 2013. This assessment provided information used to compare our current programs with the needs for future programs. This assessment was specifically done to look at the four critical areas of supply, demand, needs, and priorities. A summary is provided in the following sections.

Supply: County Park Facilities

The major types of recreation areas that exist within Talbot County are:

1. State Lands
2. County parks
3. Municipal parks
4. Quasi-public/School parks

Supply Reports are provided on pages 2-16 and 2-17 for Talbot County facilities and municipal properties.

State Lands

The State owns approximately 227 acres of recreation lands. The State Lands are: Black Walnut Point NRMA, Bill Burton Fishing Pier State Park, Wye Oak State Park and Seth Demonstration Forest.

County Parks

The residents and visitors to Talbot County have over 15 different park locations to enjoy for both active and passive recreational opportunities. The two most active parks maintained by the County are the Hog Neck Golf Course (255 acres) and the Talbot County Community Center (50 acres). Both are located adjacent to Route 50 north of the Town of Easton. The public Golf Course facility includes a 27-hole golf course, driving range, clubhouse, and picnic area. The County Community Center provides indoor facilities for ice skating and ice hockey. Grounds adjacent to the Community Center are improved with lighted outdoor fields to support baseball, lacrosse and soccer.

Municipal Parks

The Municipalities within Talbot County have over 124 acres of land committed to community parks in many different locations. The parks range in size from pocket parks (1 acre) to more active parks such as the newly completed RTC Park (50 acres); these parks are designed to serve residents within one mile of their location.

Quasi-public/School Parks

Seven of the park sites are located at public schools providing for multiple use and efficient maintenance of these facilities. Special parks in Talbot include existing natural areas, quasi-public facilities and historic and cultural areas. Although special park facilities do not fall within standard park classification systems, these areas are considered a very important part of Talbot's inventory of preservation and recreation lands. There are special park natural areas within the County totaling approximately 2,383 acres which are devoted solely to land preservation and conservation, such as the Knapp Foundation and the McManus Institute Nature Preserves. These special parks/ recreation areas and facilities are identified in the Talbot LPPRP and include the Izaak Walton League property with an archery range and picnic facilities, the Easton Club Golf Course, the Martingham Golf Course which includes pool and tennis courts, Kronesburg Park picnic area, the Pickering Creek Audubon Center, the former Jean Ellen DuPont Audubon Center, now Point Pleasant Farm, owned by Robert Pascal and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. Talbot County is also supplemented by over 20,000 acres of preserved agricultural land.

LOCAL RECREATIONAL ACREAGE GOAL CALCULATION BY FACILITY CATEGORY

Talbot County	Locally Owned/Usable	State Owned	Federally Owned
Recreation Areas	570.14 acres – County Parks 124.05 acres – Municipal Parks 50.19 acres – Public Landings <u>48.04</u> acres – Board of Education (60% of 80.06 acres) 792.42 Acres Total (100%)	0 acres (acres that are state-owned do not meet qualifier of 15 acres/1,000 persons in excess of 60 acres/1,000)	0 acres (acres that are federal-owned do not meet qualifier of 15 acres/1,000 persons in excess of 60 acres/1,000)
Resource Area**	1345.64 acres	None	None

**Resource Areas are the Point Pleasant Farm and the Pickering Creek Audubon

Landings & Waterfront Access

Talbot County operates and maintains 28 landings surrounding the county. These landings are important for both the economic aspect of the County but also for the recreation opportunity it affords visitors and residents alike. These landings compose over 50 acres of protected land. (fig. on page 2-16) Public landings in the County offer boat ramps, mooring facilities, fishing and crabbing piers, picnic areas and parking facilities. Although public landings provide waterfront access opportunity, most facilities are small in land area and limited in size. The County is working toward selective and targeted improvement of waterfront access facilities.

Assessed and estimated needs for specific recreational activities

Recreational Facilities

General Statewide standards help indicate what types of recreational facilities are needed in the county. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources utilized a public participation process in 2013 to encourage citizen involvement during the update of Maryland's Land Preservation and Recreation Plan. Statewide, the respondents of the telephone survey indicated the following most popular

outdoor recreation activities:

- Walking (75%);

- Visiting historical sites (75%);
- Picnicking (65%);
- Visiting natural areas (59%);
- Participation in outdoor special events (57%);
- Visiting playgrounds (56%);
- Swimming outdoors (55%).

In addition, a local survey was conducted in 2013 to supplement this information and public meetings were held in 2016 in the Villages of Bellevue and Tilghman Island as part of master planning for these historic waterfront communities.

Needs Assessment Survey

To ensure broad based citizens' participation, a needs survey was conducted during March and April 2013 to find out the leisure needs of Talbot County citizens. The next survey will be conducted during the 2018-19 season. The survey materials are shown on pages 2-48 through 2-53. The survey summary and results are listed as follows:

- The survey sample was available at the Talbot County Community Center and community pools during all open hours. Out of the 3,000 surveys emailed and placed at the various Talbot County locations, TCPR received a response from 471 (15.7%) of those surveys distributed. Though TCPR feels this was a significant number of responses to the survey, there is always opportunity to increase returns; a more aggressive survey will be completed in the following plan.
- The survey showed that 39 percent of respondents resided in the Town of Easton, 19 percent resided in St. Michaels, 11 percent lived in Trappe, and 11 percent in Cordova.
- The survey showed that 68 percent of respondents visited a Talbot County Park at least once a week, 20 percent visited monthly and 5 percent visited one daily.
- Respondents ranked the Talbot County Community Center as the most visited park in the past year, second visited was Home Run Baker Park, and third was Perry Cabin Park. This would be evident because these parks are the main hubs for sports programs in the County.
- Respondents ranked the following as the most desired park facilities to be added or developed: Multi-use trails, Indoor recreation facilities, Picnic structures and Outdoor recreation facilities.
- Respondents also included the following as suggestions for a 5 year plan: Indoor gym addition, Indoor field house, Fitness center, Day care, Turf fields, more beaches and permanent park restrooms.

Community Meetings

Community meetings were held in the Villages of Bellevue and Tilghman Island as part of Talbot County receiving a Maryland Working Waterfront Enhancement Grant to support the protection and revitalization of working waterfront communities and the retention of maritime-related businesses. This grant also supported the exploration of opportunities for maritime heritage tourism, recreation, natural resources conservation and hazard mitigation. The meetings were conducted in Bellevue throughout July and August of 2016 while the meetings were conducted on Tilghman Island during August 2016 and on October 21 and 22, 2016. The responses for these meetings are located on pages 2-54 through 2-97. Though held at two separate communities within the County, the responses were quite similar in their desires for improvements to communities and parks. The results were:

- Permanent restrooms
- Walking trails
- Sidewalks
- More parking at parks and landings
- Better roads/road maintenance
- Construction of community center

The community meetings in 2016 echoed the survey from 2013 in that residents of Talbot County want walking trails as the prominent priority. The County has completed 3 walking paths in the past year and planning on a long term walking path proposal for the future to connect Easton and Cordova and Lewistown Road Park. Permanent restrooms at parks are also deemed a high priority by public opinion; however, based on cost and maintenance, this concept will have to be evaluated more fully to determine the feasibility.

Summary of Surpluses and Deficiencies

Surpluses include baseball fields, outdoor athletic fields and landings. In the past five years, several baseball facilities have been renovated to green space as organized baseball and softball have diminished in Talbot County. Also, several green areas that had been dedicated use areas for such activities as soccer, lacrosse and field hockey have not been scheduled for organized use and serve predominantly as free green space for residents and visitors. Conversely, availability for indoor facilities such as basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer have created a very challenging scheduling issue in Talbot County as different user groups are all vying for the same facilities. As the population continues to age, the need for more walking trails, passive parks and open green space will also increase. This was a major reason for the construction of the Oxford Conservation Park in 2016, a passive park with a focus on green space rather than active recreation. Graphs showing park and water access locations throughout the County and the areas they serve provide a good indicator of needs for these facilities. (Fig. 2-19 through 2-22) By utilizing a varying radius distance; one mile for in town (Easton, St. Michaels) and a five mile for all other county locations to show any deficiencies of facility. Talbot County has worked with, and will continue to work with, local municipalities in order to obtain grants, state funding and federal resources to better their facilities and parks.

Land Acquisition Priorities & Goals

Talbot County does not currently have any land acquisition goals. Based upon the park proximity maps 2-19 through 2-21 and the current ratio of population to acreage, Talbot County is focused on improving current properties such as Lewistown Road Park, Oxford Park and improvements to existing recreation facilities. The areas north of Easton and St. Michaels were recently annexed into the town limits and are predominantly agricultural; along with the areas in the south of the Town of Easton. The County parks proximity radius shows a full coverage of Talbot County. However, with any project or trail system proposals, acquisition of properties needing to make these possible would be considered. An example would be the park at Lewistown Road and the proposed trail system to that property from Easton. If easements were not possible, there may be a need to acquire properties to ensure the completion of this future project, and those would be priorities under this plan. Another possible acquisition is the property adjacent to Bellevue Landing/Park. In order to enlarge the parking lot to enhance water access and the boating community, land will need to be acquired

near the park. However, in both these instances and any moving forward, easements from property owners, especially with regards to the trail system, would be fully explored and prioritized prior to acquisition planning.

Land Acquisition and Development

Establishing priorities for both acquisition and development of recreational facilities is extremely important due to the limited sources available to the County for these purposes. State standards, structured for urban and suburban jurisdictions, are not necessarily suitable for Talbot County. The County's predominantly rural setting, with extraordinary access to water and the large open space areas due to agricultural land, critical areas and non-tidal wetlands laws lessens the perceived need for large tracts of passive recreation areas. Acquisitions had recently been made for a passive park in Oxford.

Partnership for Project Green Classrooms (formerly Children in Nature)

While Talbot County Parks and Recreation does not have a specific curriculum relating to support of environmental literacy in the schools; we do involve classrooms in park construction and include information sessions both during and after relating to the task. One example would be tree plantings that are often done throughout the County, this offers a hands-on experience for students to learn about trees, saplings, shrubs and how they increase the overall park experience from an aesthetic standpoint and also provide health benefits. Another example are pollinator plantings and wildlife habitat construction at Oxford Conservation Park. Students were involved in planting over 800 pollinators in gardens and creating turtle habitat in the park while learning the economic and health benefits of butterfly and bee pollination and discussing the advantages to creating a home for marine life in the wetlands area. Talbot County Parks and Recreation also partners with local entities to market and enhance educational possibilities, such as the following groups:

- **Phillips Wharf** – fishmobile, oyster education, summer camps, internships and school field trips
- **Chesapeake Maritime Museum** – offers tours and field trips to educate students and adults on the history, culture and environment of the Chesapeake Bay
- **UMD Extension Office** – through their 4H program, youth learn about agriculture, gardening, nutrition, health and the environment and Chesapeake Bay
- **Pickering Creek Audubon Center** – each year over 13,000 contacts are made in areas such as Summer EcoCamp, Youth Conservation Club and school field trips while learning the importance of local wetlands for wildlife, water quality, native plants, and as a natural resource.

Accomplishments

- Design and construction of a passive park in Oxford has been the crowning achievement for the conclusion of the year, complete with walking trails, wildlife viewing, native plantings and open to residents and visitors. This park serves the need for additional park property in a location within Talbot County with no County owned property. It also goes to the desire for more multi-purpose walking trails and passive green space. This park will be upgraded with phase 2 coming in subsequent years adding additional trails, tree plantings, pollinator areas, interpretive signage and wildlife habitat.
- Also completed were facility upgrades that not only served to enhance user experience but also safety and the environment. LED lighting was installed at the Community Center, both

inside and out, to upgrade older, expensive, high energy halogen bulbs. Walking trails were paved at Cordova Park and Home Run Baker Park, offering a safer, smooth surface for bikers, walkers and runners. A pavilion was placed at the Community Center, another aspect requested in the survey for picnic structures. This serves not only as a picnic facility but also a meeting place, designation area for many events such as Tour deCure, MS Society Bike events, baseball/softball tournaments and summer camps.

Summary

- Talbot County values its preserved natural resources and will continue to thrive to hold more properties in preservation through easements, private donations and joint uses. While acquisition is no longer a top priority, there is always a desire to obtain resources if the opportunity presents itself for the good of another program or by obtaining easements from property owners to enhance recreation facilities such as a bike path and trail. The main focuses in the future is the exploration of the expansion at the community center to allow residents and visitors more indoor recreation options and the feasibility of the rails to trails system from Easton to Cordova while continuing the maintenance and improvement of existing resources and facilities. Whether it is the addition to Oxford Conservation Park or the replacement of aging playgrounds around the County; Talbot County will continue to advertise its recreation opportunities and vast natural resources through an annual program guide, bike trail maps, water trail maps, website and other marketing avenues while soliciting



OXFORD GATEWAY PARK
TALBOT COUNTY, MD · NOVEMBER 2014



input from the community through surveys and meetings.

CIP – Capital Improvement Plan				
Project	Location	Description	Cost	Status
LED Lighting	Easton	Park Dev.	\$133,640.00	Completed
Pavilion	Easton	Park Dev.	\$42,528.86	Completed
Walking Trails	Cordova & Trappe	Park Dev.	\$120,336.80	Completed
Monument Sign	Easton	Park Dev.	\$63,950.00	Completed
Oxford Park	Oxford	Park Dev.	\$126,000	FY 2018
Golf Course Fence	Easton	Park Dev.	\$40,000	FY2018
Gym Expansion	Easton	Park Dev.	\$4,000,000	FY 2019
Playground Replacement	Easton—TCCC	Park Dev.	\$75,000	FY 2020
Oxford Park Phase II	Oxford	Park Dev.	\$100,000	FY 2021
Lewistown Road Park	Cordova	Park Dev.	\$125,000	FY 2019
Rails to Trails	Easton—Cordova	Park Dev.	\$100,000	FY 2022

APPENDIX C
Talbot County LPPRP Inventory Spreadsheet

Parks and Recreation Inventory		Outdoor Recreation Amenities:							Field/Facility Based Recreation Amenities:							
Site Name:	Property Size (Acres)	Outdoor Recreation Area (acres):	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Facilities	Trails	Hunting/ Fishing	Other	Field/Facility Rec. Area (acres)	Sports Fields	Playground/ Play Structure	Basketball	Tennis	Activity Building/ Recreation Center	Notes:	
County Parks and Recreation																
Bellevue Park	5	5		X	X				5		X	X				
Back Creek Park	6.5	6.5		X	X	X			6.5		X					
Carroll's Market	20							Agricultural								
Claiborne Jetty	9.5	9.5		X					9.5							
Cordova Park	7.5	7.5			X	X			7.5	X	X	X	X			
Hog Neck Golf Course	255	255			X	X		27 Hole Golf Course	255					27 Hole Golf Course		
Home Run Baker Park	14	14			X	X			14	X	X					
Lewistown Road Park	67	67	X	X				Passive Park	67							
Neavitt Park	3.5	3.5			X				3.5		X	X				
Old Trappe Park	6.5	6.5			X				6.5							
Oxford Conservation Park	87	87	X			X		Passive Park	87							
Perry Cabin Park	11	11			X				11	X	X					
Sam Shores Park	1	1							1							
Talbot County Community Center (Park)	50	50			X				50	X	X			Community Center	Recreation Center, meeting rooms, Seasonal Ice Rink, Seasonal Curling Rink, Multi-Purpose fields for Baseball/Softball/Soccer/Field Hockey	
Wittman Park	4.5	4.5			X				4.5		X	X				
Municipal Parks and Recreation																
Bradley Park, St. Michaels	2	2			X				2		X					
Causeway Park, Oxford	8.5	8.5		X	X				8.5							
Idlewild Park, Easton	11	11			X	X			11		X	X	X			
Moton Park, Easton	12	12			X				12	X	X					
Muskrat Park, St. Michaels	2	2		X	X				2							
Nace's Park, Trappe	1	1			X				1							
North Easton Sports Complex, Easton	23	23			X				23	X	X					
Oxford Community Park, Oxford	6	6			X				6	X				Community Center		
Oxford Town Park, Oxford	2	2			X				2							
RTC Park, Easton	58	58			X	X		Passive Park	58		X					
Chesapeake YMCA	10	10			X				10		X	X	X	Recreation Center		
Chapel East Neighborhood Park, Easton	1	1			X				1		X					
Golton Neighborhood Park, Easton	1	1			X				1		X					
Lake View Neighborhood Park, Easton	1	1			X				1		X					
Matthewstown Run Park, Easton	1.5	1.5			X				1.5		X					
Mulberry Station Neighborhood Park,Easton	1	1			X				1		X					
Waylands Neighborhood Park, Easton	1	1			X				1		X					
State Parks																
Black Walnut Point NRMA	58	58		X					58		X			X	Visitors Center offers nature based educational and interpretive programs	
Bill Burton Fishing Pier State Park	26	26	X	X					26							
Seth Demonstration Forest	125	125	X						125							
Wye Oak State Park	29	29	X						29							
Federal Parks																
N/A																
Quasi-Public Parks/Recreation Sites																
Chapel Elementary School	11	11				X			11	X	X	X	X			
Dobson Elementary School	4	4							4		X					
Easton Middle School	15	15							15	X						
Easton High School	20	20							20	X						
Mt. Pleasant Practice Fields	6.5	6.5							6.5							
St. Michaels High School	20	20							20	X						
Tilghman Elementary	4	4							4	X	X	X	X			
Totals:	1008.5	988.5							988.5							
Acres		Acres							Acres							

Natural Resource Lands Inventory

Site Name:	Property Size (Acres)	Outdoor Recreation Amenities (if any):	Trails	Water Access	Other
Pickering Creek Audubon	377	Welcome Center, Canoe/Kayak Launch, Gardens, Pond	X	X	Bird watching, youth camps, kayak/canoe, wetland, hardwood forest
Point Pleasant Farm	950			X	Important breeding grounds
Nature Conservancy - Otwell Woodland	95				Not open to public without
Nature Conservancy - King's Creek	250				Brackish Marsh, only
Nature Conservancy - Third Haven Woods	500				No Amenities or parking
MOS - Mill Creek Sanctuary	156	Shelter/Picnic Tables	X		
Bolingbroke Park - Izaak Walton League	55	Nature Center	X	X	
Totals:	2,383				

acres

Preserved Agricultural Land Inventory

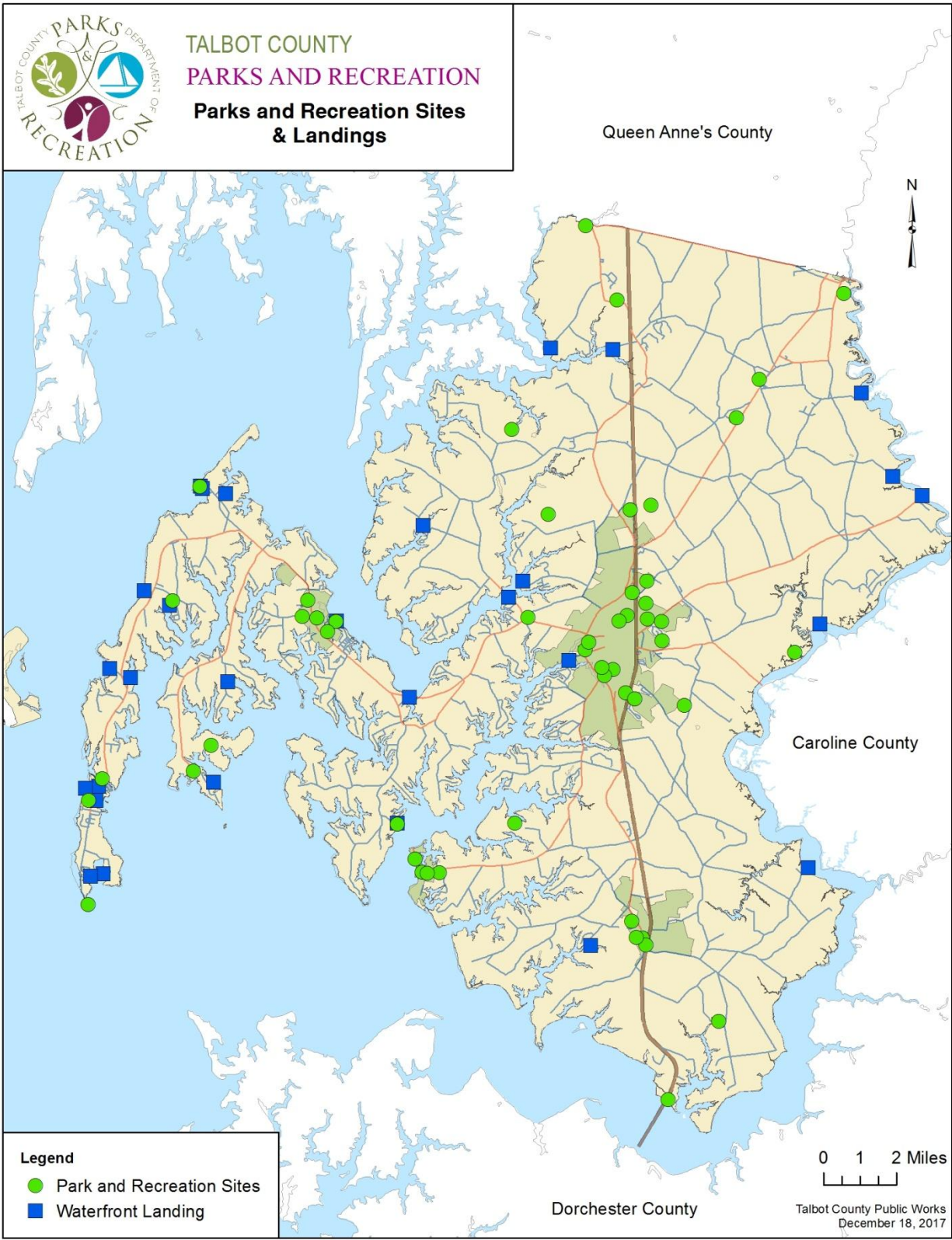
Site Name:	Property Size (Acres)	Acres Preserved	Protection Type (ownership/ easement type)
Various - 71 property easements	10905	10905	MALPF
Various	830	830	Rural Legacy
Conservation easements	14804	14804	MET/ESLC
Totals:	26,539		

acres

Public Landings

1	Blackwalnut Cove Landing	11	Grace Creek Landing	21	Trappe Landing
2	Dogwood Harbor	12	Neavitt Landing	22	Windy Hill Landing
3	Tongers Basin	13	Oak Creek Landing	23	Kingston Landing
4	Sherwood Pier, Harris Creek	14	Bellevue Landing	24	New Bridge Landing
5	Lowes Wharf, Ferry Cove	15	Miles River, Bridge Landing	25	Reeses Landing
6	Bayshore Road, Eastern Bay	16	Tunis Mills Bridge Landing	26	Coveys Landing
7	Cummings Creek Landing	17	Villa Road Landing	27	Blackwalnut Point
8	Tilghman Creek Landing	18	Skipton Creek Landing	28	Bar Neck Landing
9	Claiborne Landing	19	Wye Landing		
10	Claiborne Jetty Landing	20	Easton Point Landing		



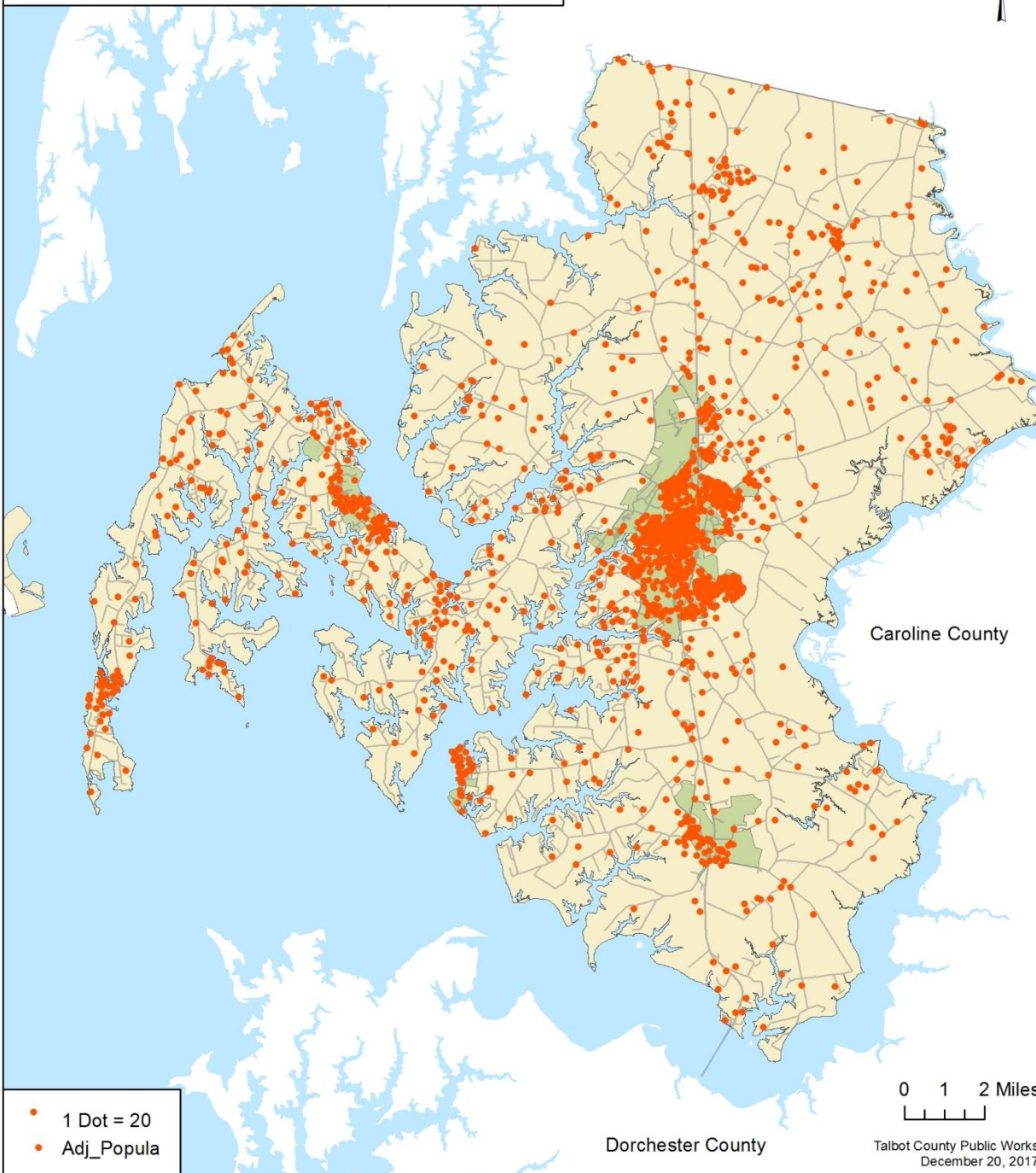




TALBOT COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION

Proximity Analysis:
Population Density

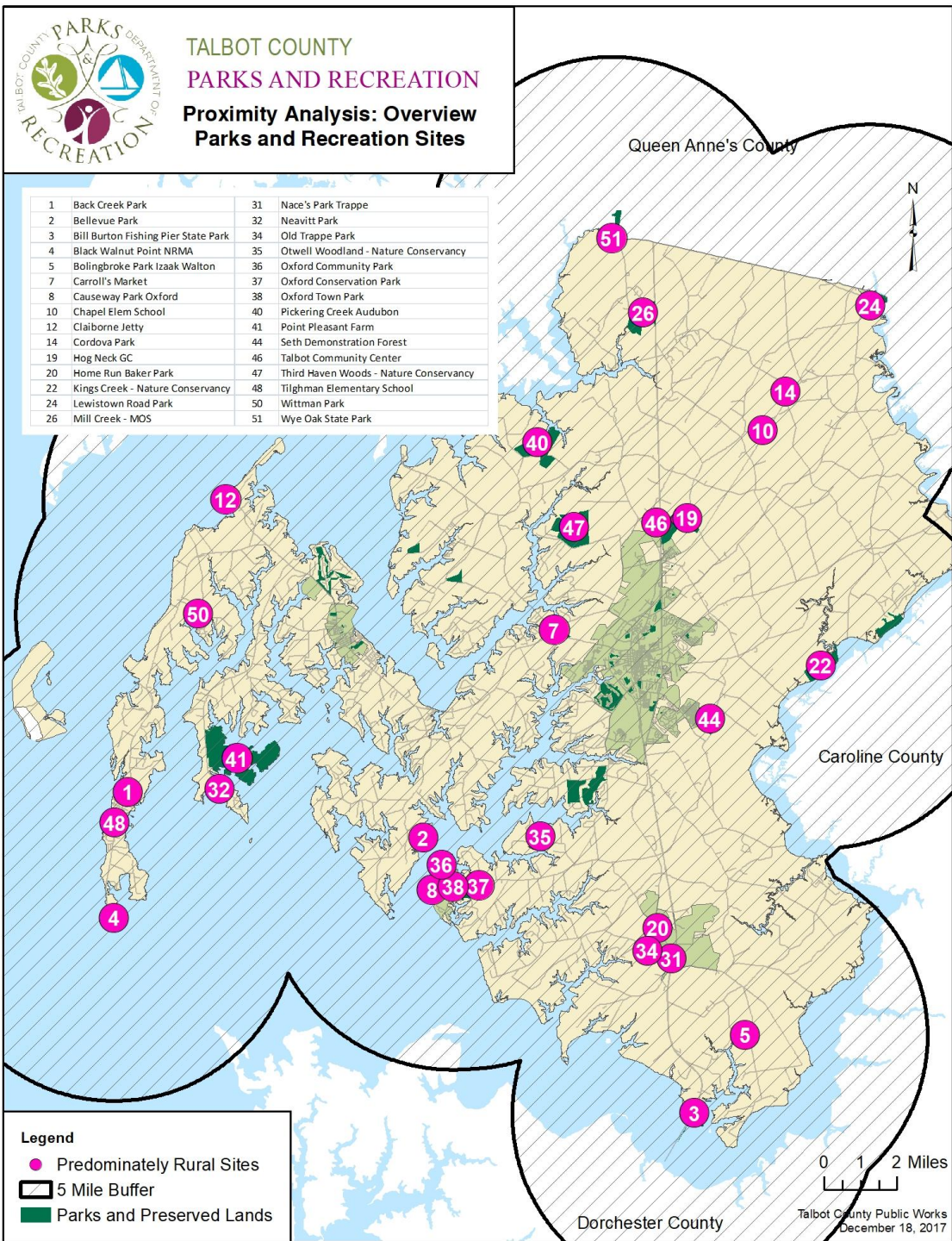
Queen Anne's County

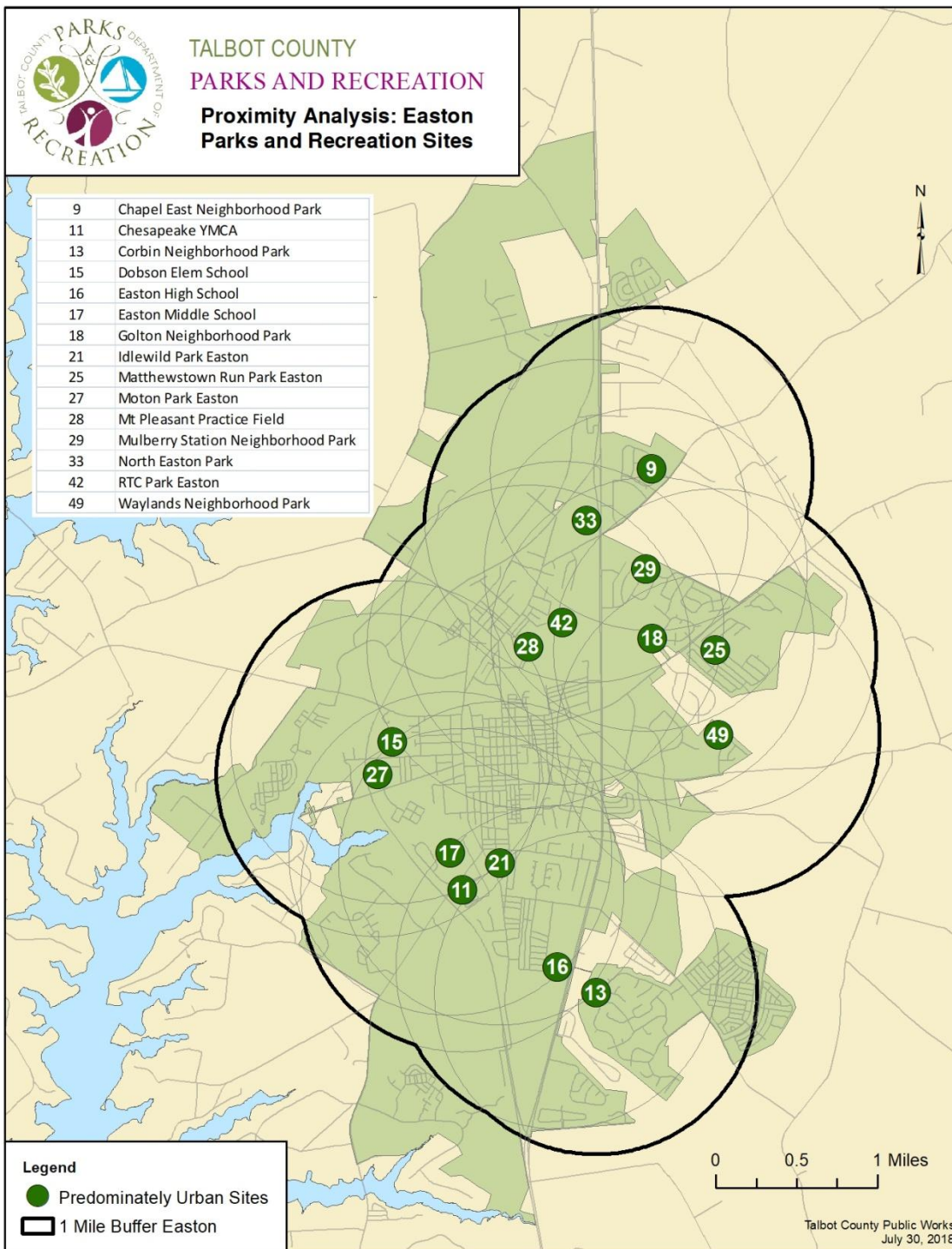


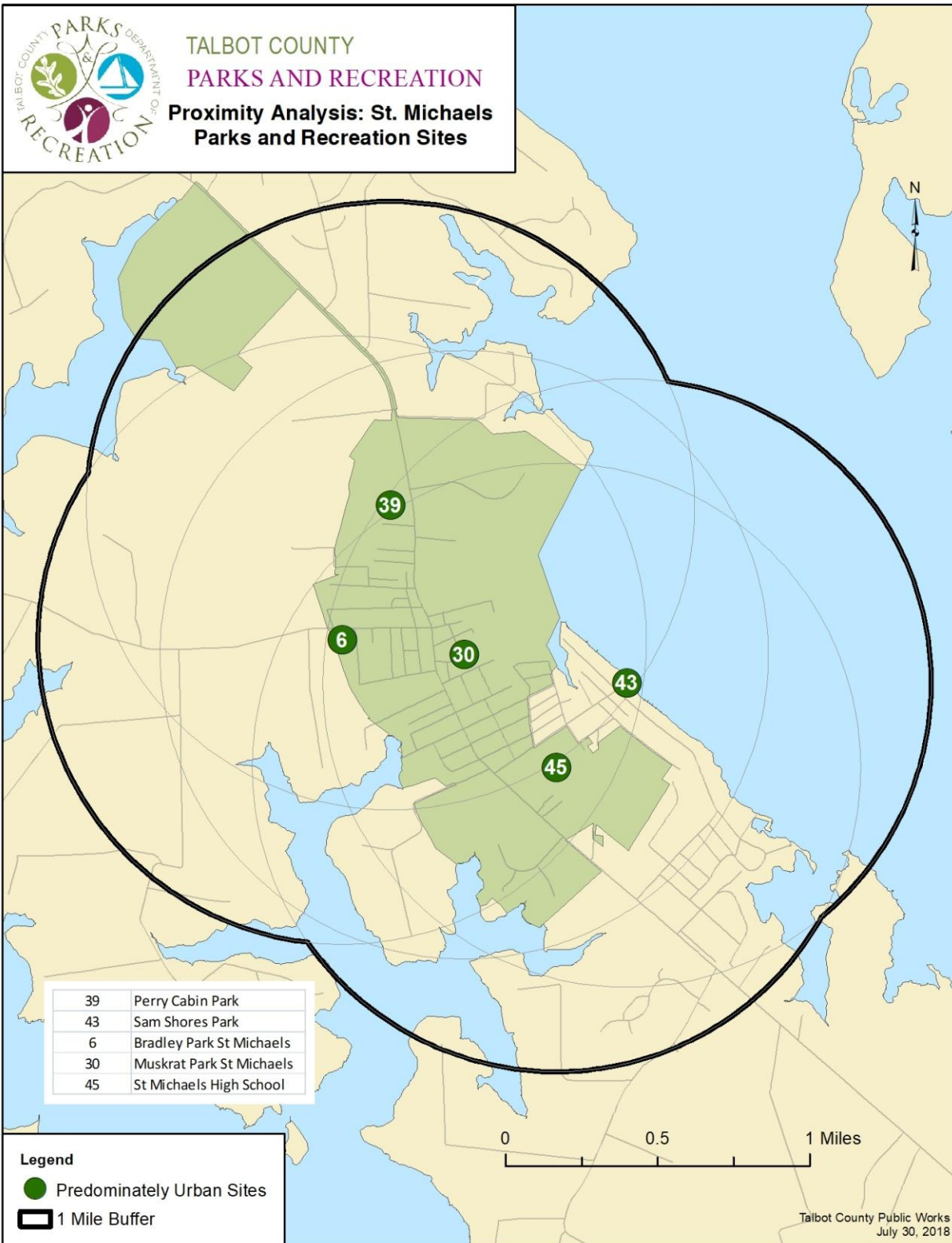
- 1 Dot = 20
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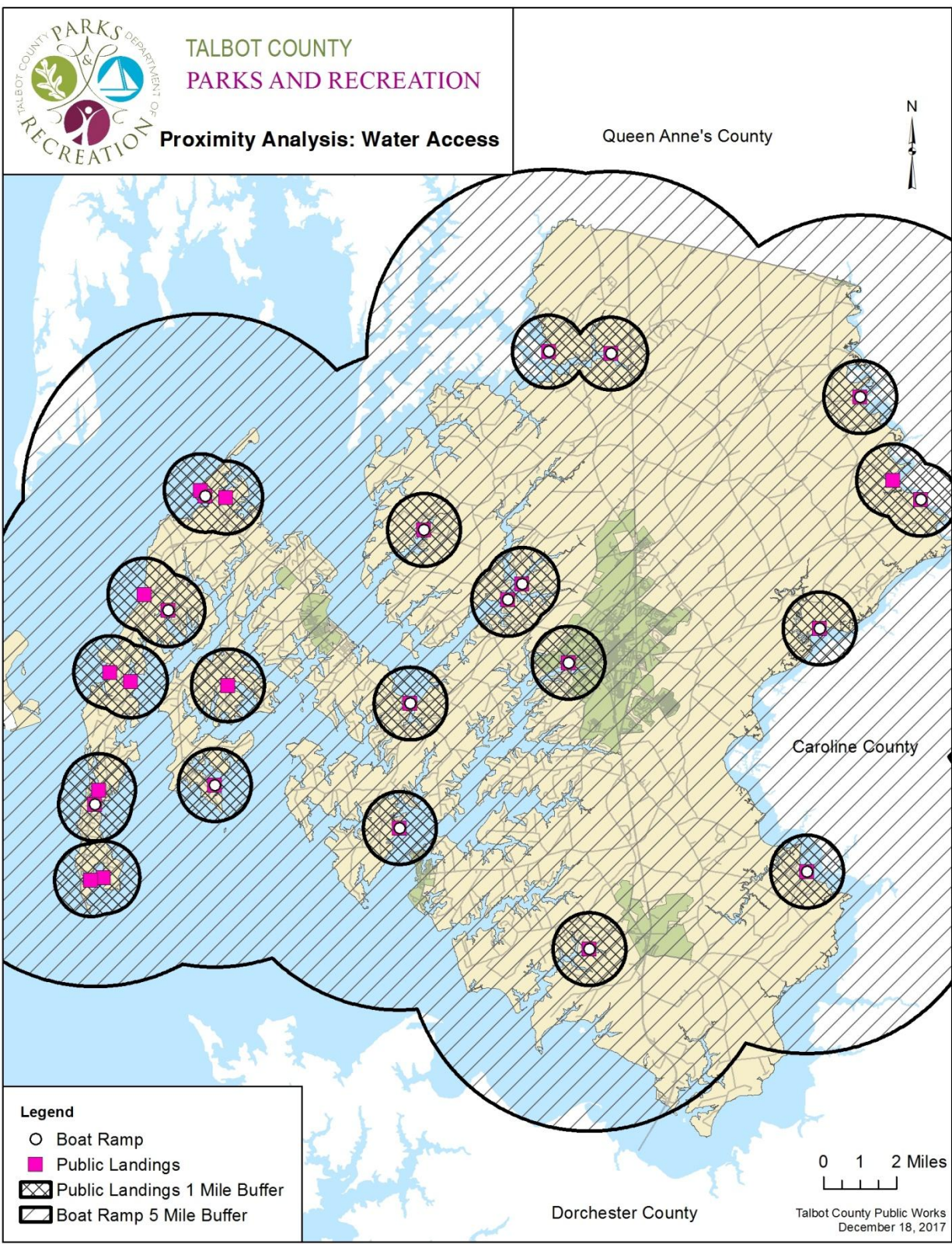
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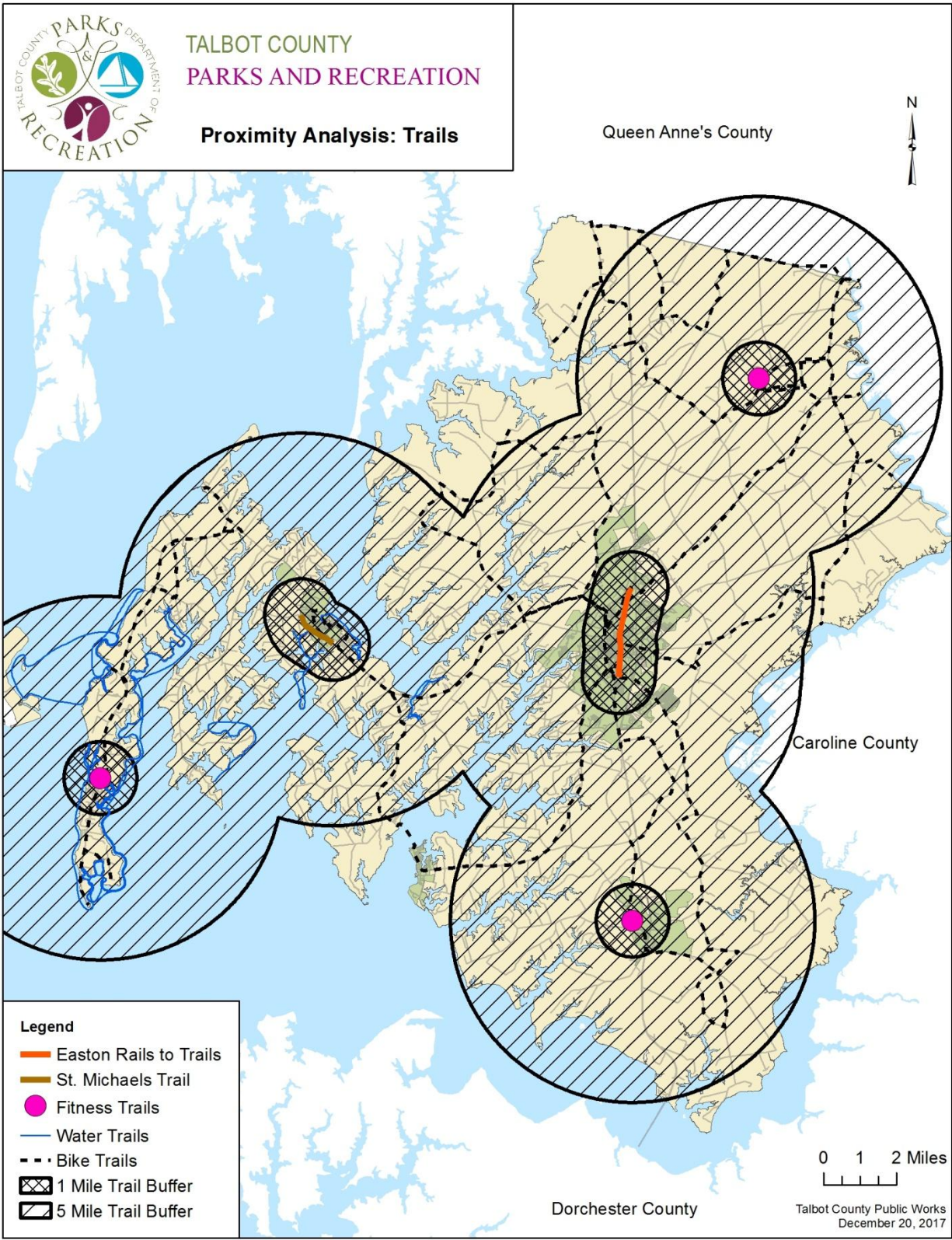
Talbot County Public Works
December 20, 2017









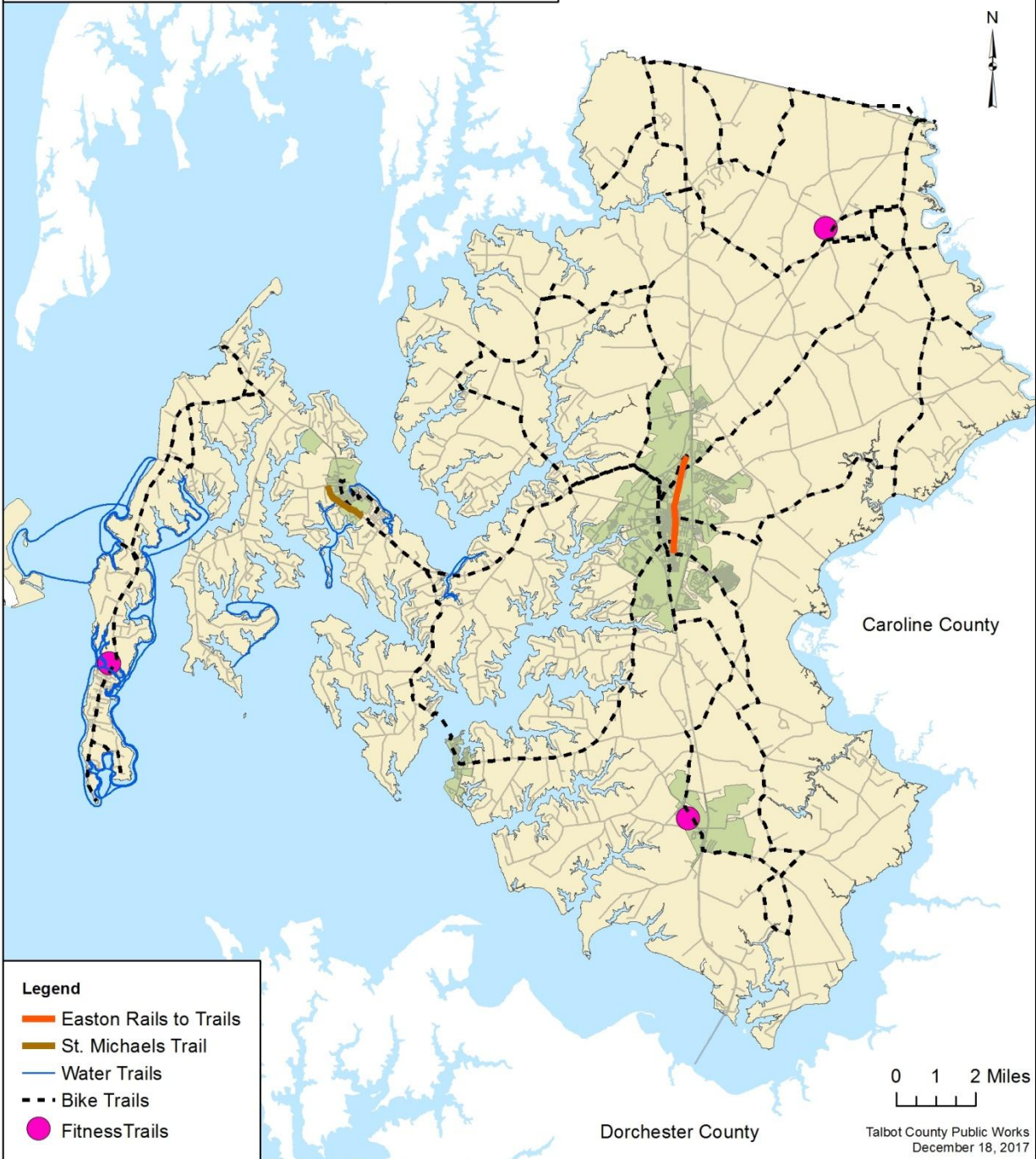




**TALBOT COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION**

**Current and Future
Trails Network**

Queen Anne's County





















1 School Days 28.3 Miles

Highlight is the Little Red Schoolhouse at Longwoods and the historic cemetery in Unionville with the graves of soldiers from Black regiments that fought in the Civil War. A side trip down Audubon Lane off Presquile Rd. takes you into the heart of local environmental education at the Pickering Creek Audubon Center where blinds and observation platforms can reward bikers with binoculars with great views of Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron, Great and Snowy Egret, and migrating shorebirds in spring and fall. Bald Eagle sightings are common here. These wetlands have become a Mecca for rare birds; in recent years, sightings have included Wilson's Phalarope, Ruff, and Northern Shrike. If you are a birder-biker, take time to take a second look.



The Little Red Schoolhouse, Longwoods Road

Directions:

1. Begin at the Easton Rails to Trails on Goldsborough St. and Pennsylvania Ave. Follow the trail north to its end at the North Easton Sports Complex.
 2. Turn  and follow the driveway of the complex to the exit at N. Washington St. 1.4 miles.
 3. Turn  on N. Washington St. and follow it to Glebe Rd. 1.5 miles.
 4. Turn  on Glebe Rd. and take it to Goldsborough Neck Rd. 1.2 miles.
 5. Turn  on Goldsborough Neck Rd. and follow it to Hailem School Rd. 1.9 miles.
 6. Turn  on Hailem School Rd. and take it to Longwoods Rd. (MD 662) 0.9 miles.
 7. Turn  at Longwoods Rd. and travel to Forrest Landing Rd. (on the left) 2.1 miles. (If you travel past Forest Landing Rd. a short distance you will see the Little Red Schoolhouse.) Go back to Forest Landing Rd. and follow it to Sharp Rd. 1.3 miles.
 8. Turn  on Sharp Rd. and take it to Todds Corner Rd. 1.9 miles.
 9. Turn  on Todds Corner Rd. and take it until it turns into Bruffs Island Rd. 2.4 miles and take Bruffs Island Rd. to Copperville Rd. 0.7 miles.
 10. Turn  onto Copperville Rd. and follow it to Tunis Mills Rd. 1.2 miles.
 11. Turn  onto Tunis Mills Rd., cross Leeds Creek to Tunis Mills. Turn  and continue on Tunis Mills Rd. to Unionville Rd. 2.0 miles.
 12. Turn  onto Unionville Rd. and follow it into the town of Unionville. You will come across the historic St. Stevens Church and Cemetery. Continue on Unionville Rd. to Glebe Rd. 2.4 miles.
 13.  Turn  on Glebe Rd. and take it to N. Washington St. 3.1 miles.
 14. Turn  on N. Washington St. and take it back to the North Easton Sports Complex 1.5 miles. Take the entrance drive into the Sports Complex back to the Rails to Trails. Take the Rails to Trails back to the parking area at Goldsborough St. and Pennsylvania Ave. 1.4 miles.
-  Glebe Rd. has no shoulder and deep ditches, ride with extreme caution.



SCHOOL DAYS TRAIL



2 Joust 26.7 Miles Maryland



















This trail highlights Maryland's state sport, Jousting. For the past 138 years, in early August on "the hottest day of the year" according to participants, the Maryland Jousting Association holds its Annual Horse Show and Jousting Tournament at historic St. Joseph's Church.

Annually more than 30 riders attempt to spear not one another, but a series of small rings while galloping down the course at full tilt. Bikers at any time of year will appreciate the setting. There is more Maryland history on the trail as well. Wye Landing is typical of the many steamboat docks that once ferried product and passengers to and from Baltimore well before the Bay Bridge was built. In Wye Mills the Wye Oak State Park, the smallest park in Maryland, commemorates the former state record tree.



The Wye Grist Mill, Wye Mills

Directions:

1. Start at the Wye Oak State Park and turn  out of the park onto Old Wye Mill Rd. (MD 662) south to Wye Landing Ln. 1.6 miles.
2. You can turn  onto Wye Landing Ln. and take it 2.4 miles to the boat launch at the historic landing on the Wye East River. Or you can continue on Old Wye Mill Rd. (MD 662) to US-50 1.4 miles.
3. Turn  onto US-50 and take it to Old Skipton Rd. 0.6 miles.
4. You can turn  onto Skipton Landing Rd. and cross Mill Creek at a Bird Sanctuary maintained by the Talbot Bird Club for the Maryland Ornithological Society. Follow Skipton Creek 0.6 miles.
5. Or you can turn  onto Old Skipton Rd. (also MD 662) to Three Bridge Branch Rd. 1.2 miles.
6. Turn  onto Three Bridge Branch Rd. to Old Cordova Rd. 2.3 miles.
7. Turn  on Old Cordova Rd. Take Old Cordova Rd. to Cordova Rd. (MD 309) 1.2 miles.
8. Turn  on Cordova Rd. and head into the town of Cordova. Take Cordova Rd. for 0.5 miles to Kitty's Corner Rd.
9. Turn  on Kitty's Corner Rd. There is a country store here to get refreshments if you like. It is on the corner of Covey's Landing Rd. 200 ft.
10. Turn  on Covey's Landing Rd. and take it to Voshell Rd. 1.1 miles.
11. Turn  on Voshell Rd. and follow it to Tappers Corner Rd. (MD 303) 0.6 miles.
12. Turn  on Tappers Corner Rd. and take it to Lewistown Rd. 0.8 miles.
13. Turn  on Lewistown Rd. and travel into Queenstown 2.3 miles. From here you can take MD 404 for 0.2 miles to the Civil War Trails boat ramp.
14. Or you can turn  on Main St. (MD 303) and follow it to Queen Anne Hwy. (MD 404) 0.5 miles.
15. Turn  on Queen Anne Hwy. and take it to Church Ln. 3.0 miles.
16. Turn  on Church Ln. About a mile down Church Ln. you will see Old St. Joseph's Church founded in 1765 on the right, the site of the annual Jousting Tournament (Maryland's state sport). Continue on Church Ln. to Skipton Cordova Rd. 2.4 miles.
17. Turn  on Skipton Cordova Rd. and take it to Newtown Village Rd. 1.3 miles.
18. Turn  on Newtown Village Rd. to Newtown Rd. 0.5 miles.
19. Turn  on Newtown Rd. and follow it to Queen Anne Hwy. (MD 404) 2.2 miles. Turn  on Queen Anne Hwy. (MD 404) and follow it through the village of Wye Mills, along the route you will pass the site of the Old Wye Oak tree, Orrell's Beaten Biscuits bakery and the Old Wye Church. Follow the route back to Wye Oak State Park 1.4 miles.

JOUST MARYLAND TRAIL




















3 Talbot Farmland ^{27.6 Miles}

Farming accounts for 60% of land use in Talbot County, with over 80% of these lands in "grain agriculture," a rotation of wheat, corn, and soybeans whose products are sold locally to the poultry industry. This trail will take you deep into the farmland east of US 50 with wonderful "big sky" vistas. Cordova is a typical agriculture crossroads, complete with railroad tracks that once served to transport produce to canneries and markets on Delmarva and beyond. Two general stores provide refreshments that are otherwise scarce on this trail. Side trails to Covey's Landing, Reeses Landing, and Kingston Landing are worth the diversion for shade and differing views of the Choptank River. If you are a birder, the bridge at King's Creek has been reliable for Prothonotary and Yellow-throated Warbler. During the cooler months the former cornfields abound with wintering Canada Geese and Tundra Swan and, in the northern parts of the trail, huge flocks of Snow Geese settle in now and then. There is an active Bald Eagle nest in a distant sycamore east of Lewistown Rd. and a half-mile north of private Bluff Pt. Rd. The birds of the summer countryside are the beautiful Indigo Bunting and Blue Grosbeak that festoon the telephone wires like ornaments.



Reeses Landing, Reeses Landing Road

Directions:

1. Begin at the Rails to Trails in Easton. You will find it at Goldsborough St. and Pennsylvania Ave. There is plenty of parking available. From here head north on the Rails to Trails to Chapel Rd. 0.9 miles.
2. Turn  onto Chapel Rd. and take it to Covey's Landing Rd. 8.1 miles.
3. Turn  onto Covey's Landing Rd. and follow it around to the town of Cordova, 1.9 miles. Covey's Landing Rd. will end at Kitty's Corner Rd. There are two small general stores here for refreshments.
4. Turn  on Kitty's Corner Rd. and take it for 200 ft. to Cordova Rd. (MD 309).
5. Turn  onto Cordova Rd. (MD 309) and travel to Tappers Corner Rd. 1.0 mile.
6. Turn  onto Tappers Corner Rd. (MD 303) and take it 1.4 miles to Lewistown Rd.
7. Turn  on Lewistown Rd. and take it to Covey's Landing Rd. 1.1 miles, here you can turn  on Covey's Landing Rd. and ride down to Covey's Landing to see Tuckahoe Creek 0.8 miles. Retrace your steps back to Lewistown Rd. turn  and continue on to Reeses Landing Rd. 1.9 miles.
8. You can turn  here and go down to Reeses Landing. 1.2 miles. Retrace to Lewistown Rd.
9. Turn  back onto Lewistown Rd. and take it to Mathewstown Rd. (MD 328) 2.0 miles. Cross Mathewstown Rd. and take it to Kingston Landing 2.7 miles. Retrace your path to Kingston Rd. 0.7 miles.
10. Turn  on Kingston Rd. and travel to Black Dog Alley 3.7 miles.
11. Turn  and take it to Dover Rd. (MD 33) 213 ft.
12. Turn  onto Dover Rd. (MD 33) take it to Dover Neck Rd. 0.3 miles.
13. Turn  on Dover Neck Rd. and follow it for 0.8 miles to Chilcutt Rd. Turn  on Chilcutt Rd. and take it to Dover Rd. 1.4 miles.
14. Turn  onto Dover Rd. and take it to Rails to Trails 1.0 mile.
15. Turn  onto Rails to Trails and back to the parking area 0.1 miles.

TALBOT FARMLAND TRAIL



38.2 Miles Chesapeake 4 Views












This is one of the few bike trails that will afford waterfront views of open Chesapeake Bay. The small towns of McDaniel, Wittman, and Sherwood quickly remind one of days gone by and the remarkable presence of agriculture on the Eastern Shore even on this peninsula where water is so near. Tilghman, on the other hand, is a waterman's village that formerly hosted bustling fleets of skipjacks and boats outfitted for oyster tonging, crabbing, or net fishing and today is a major port for recreational fishing. The old ferry landing in Claiborne predates the Bay Bridge and was one of the major ways people from the Western Shore eventually reached Ocean City. The trail affords a wonderful cross-section of land use and culture that contribute to Talbot County's unique sense of place.



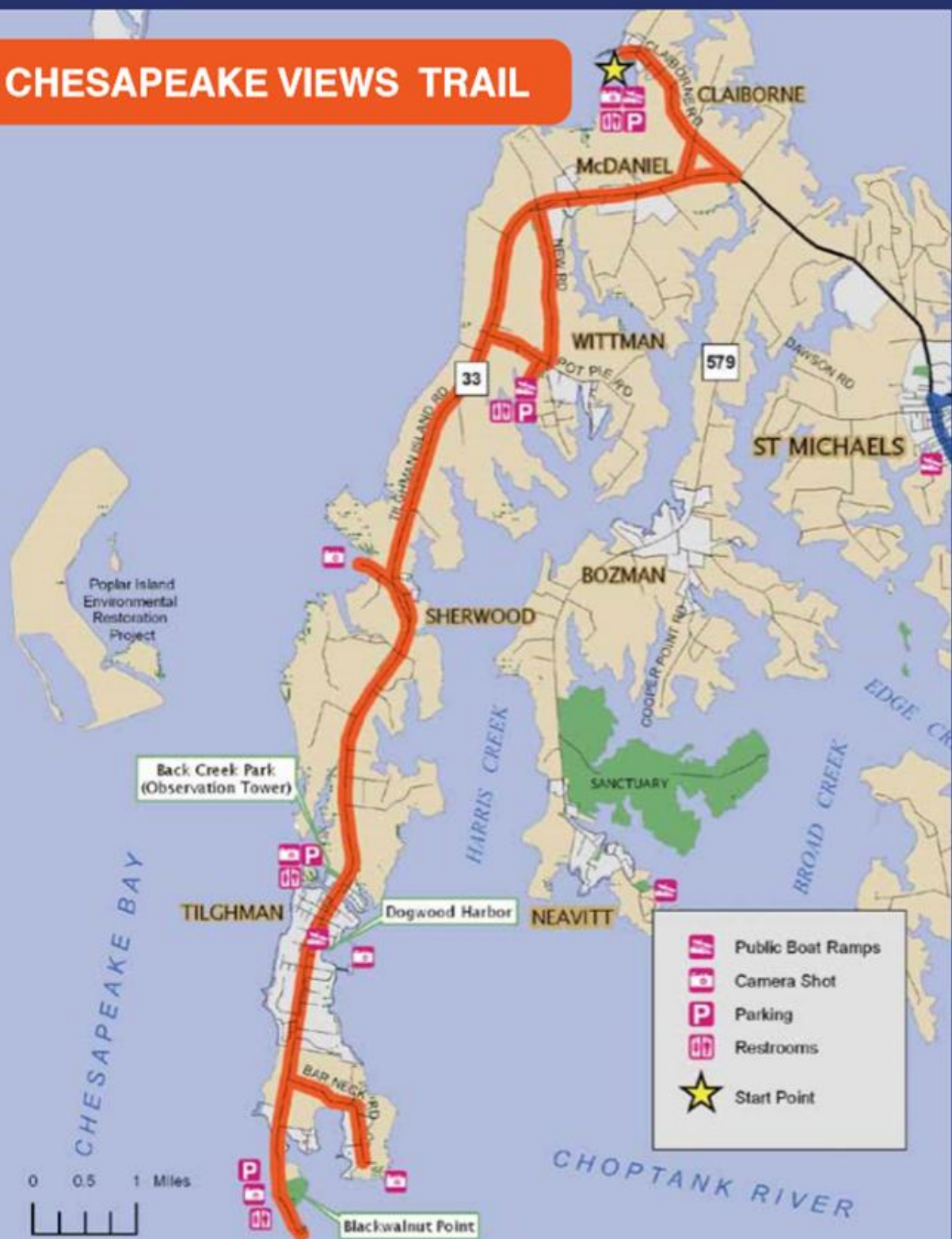
The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum



Directions:

1. Begin your trip at the Claiborne Landing in the town of Claiborne which is between St. Michaels and Tilghman Island. From the landing take Claiborne Landing Rd. (MD 451) to N. Claiborne Rd. 0.2 miles.
2. Turn  on N. Claiborne Rd. and take it to Tilghman Island Rd. (MD 33) 1.5 miles.
3. Turn  on Tilghman Island Rd. and follow it to New Rd. 1.9 miles. You can continue on Tilghman Island Rd. or venture off at New Rd.
4. Turn  on New Rd. and follow it down to the town of Wittman and Pot Pie Rd. 1.5 miles.
5. Turn  on Pot Pie Rd. and follow it to Howeth Rd. 0.1 miles.
6. Turn  on Howeth Rd. and follow it to the end 0.3 miles. Here you can view Cummings Creek which is a branch of the Harris Creek from Wittman Park and the Cummings Creek Landing. Retrace your path back on Howeth Rd. to Pot Pie Rd.
7. Turn  on Pot Pie Rd. and follow it to Tilghman Island Rd. 0.6 miles.
8. Turn  on Tilghman Island Rd. and continue the trail toward Tilghman Island.
9. At Lowes Wharf Rd. 2.6 miles you can turn  and take another detour to Lowes Wharf 0.4 miles. Here you can relax and view the Chesapeake Bay.
10. Follow Lowes Wharf Rd. back crossing over Tilghman Island Rd. and follow it south until it meets up with Tilghman Island Rd. again.
11. Turn  and continue on Tilghman Island Rd. Tilghman Island Road will change names to Black Walnut Pt. Rd. when you cross the drawbridge. Follow Black Walnut Pt. Rd. to Bar Neck Rd. 5.2 miles. You can continue on or take a detour to Bar Neck Pt.
12. Turn  on Bar Neck Rd. and follow it down to Lower Bar Neck Pt. 1.3 miles. Bar Neck Pt. affords wide views of the mouth of the Choptank River. Retrace your trip back to Black Walnut Pt. Rd.
13. Turn  and continue down to the end of Tilghman Island which is Black Walnut Pt. 1.5 miles. There is a great parking area to end your trip and enjoy the Chesapeake Bay. Retrace your path back up Tilghman Island Rd. to Claiborne where you began. View includes Sharps Island Lighthouse to the south, historic North Beach and Chesapeake resorts across the Bay and Poplar Island restoration project to the north.

CHESAPEAKE VIEWS TRAIL



5 ^{29.6 Miles} Oxford/ St. Michaels

This is recognized as one of the premier bike trails in the Mid-Atlantic region. The route includes the historic boat building town of Oxford (museum, general store, restaurants), the crossroads of Royal Oak with its antique stores and post office with the cannon ball that lodged in a nearby oak tree during War of 1812, the popular tourist destination of St. Michaels with its many shops and restaurants. Treat yourself to superb ice cream treats at the Scottish Highland Creamery in Oxford or Justine's in St. Michaels. It is recommended that you follow the indicated trail between MD 33 and Royal Oak; avoid Royal Oak Rd. which is very narrow with a deep ditch on one side and enjoy the view from atop Miles River Bridge instead.

Oxford Bellevue Ferry-Open 7 days a week beginning in Oxford at 9:00 a.m. Continuous crossings every 15-20 minutes.

March thru November

Last trip at sunset*

*Call (410) 745-9023 for exact times and spring start up.

Extended hours: June 1 thru August 15:

Friday and Saturday evenings

Last trip leaves Oxford 8:30 p.m.

Last trip leaves Bellevue 8:45 p.m.

Closed * December * January * February



The Oxford Bellevue Ferry



Directions:

1. Begin your bike trip from the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. From the Museum parking lot turn onto N. Talbot St. and take N. Talbot St. to E. Chew Ave. 0.4 miles.
2. Turn on E. Chew Ave. and take it to W. Harbor Rd. 0.2 miles.
3. Turn on W. Harbor Rd. to N. Harbor Rd. around to Radcliffe Ave. 0.2 miles. Take Radcliffe Ave. to Seymour Ave. 0.2 miles. Turn left on Seymour Ave. and take it to Riverview Terrace.
4. Turn on Riverview Terrace 0.2 miles.
5. Turn on Lincoln Ave. and take it to S. Talbot St. 0.4 miles.
6. Turn on S. Talbot St. (here it changes name to St. Michaels Rd.). Take St. Michaels Rd. to Unionville Rd. (MD 370) 6.5 miles. Take Unionville Rd. to Glebe Rd. 0.1 mile. Take Glebe Rd. to S. Washington St. Glebe Rd. will circle around and will end merging into S. Washington St. 3.1 miles. Take S. Washington to Peachblossom Rd. 1.0 mile.
7. Turn onto Peach Blossom Rd. which will become Oxford Rd. (MD 333) and follow it to Morris St. 9.2 miles.
8. Turn on N. Morris St. and take it to the end which is the Oxford Dock 0.6 miles. Board the Oxford Bellevue Ferry and ride it to the Bellevue Dock 0.9 miles. On the other side of the Tred Avon River disembark the Oxford Bellevue Ferry onto Bellevue Rd. and take Bellevue Rd. to the intersection of Bellevue Rd. and Ferry Neck Rd. 0.6 miles.
9. Turn on Bellevue Rd. and take it to Royal Oak Rd. 2.8 miles.
10. Turn on Royal Oak Rd. and take it to St. Michaels Rd. 1.0 mile.
11. Turn onto St. Michaels Rd. and take it back to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum 3.1 miles.

OXFORD / ST. MICHAELS TRAIL



28.1 Miles Cemetery Quest

6


















Here is your challenge to find all the cemeteries indicated on the map. Some are prominent and marked with a church; others are smaller with only ancient tombstones; at least one is sequestered in the woods and is best found by locating the periwinkle that grows in its vicinity. Two are the resting places of famous Talbot Countians: Nathaniel "Nace" Hopkins in Trappe, and the Senior Robert Morris at the ruins of White Marsh Church, father of Robert Morris, Jr., the Revolutionary War financier who is commemorated by an inn in Oxford. What is the oldest date you can read? Let us know and we will add it to the quest.

If you are a birder, this is a great trail for binoculars. Plan to take two side trips west of Koogler Rd. Both Piney Hill Rd. and Tarbutton Mill Rd. cross streams that were once millpond sites that provided water power sufficient for grinding grain. The surrounding mature wetland forests are great for early spring migrant songbirds. You are sure to see Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and Carolina Wren. But the specialties are Kentucky Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Ovenbird which sing often in May and June as well as the Baltimore and Orchard Oriole, Scarlet Tanager and Great Crested Flycatcher.

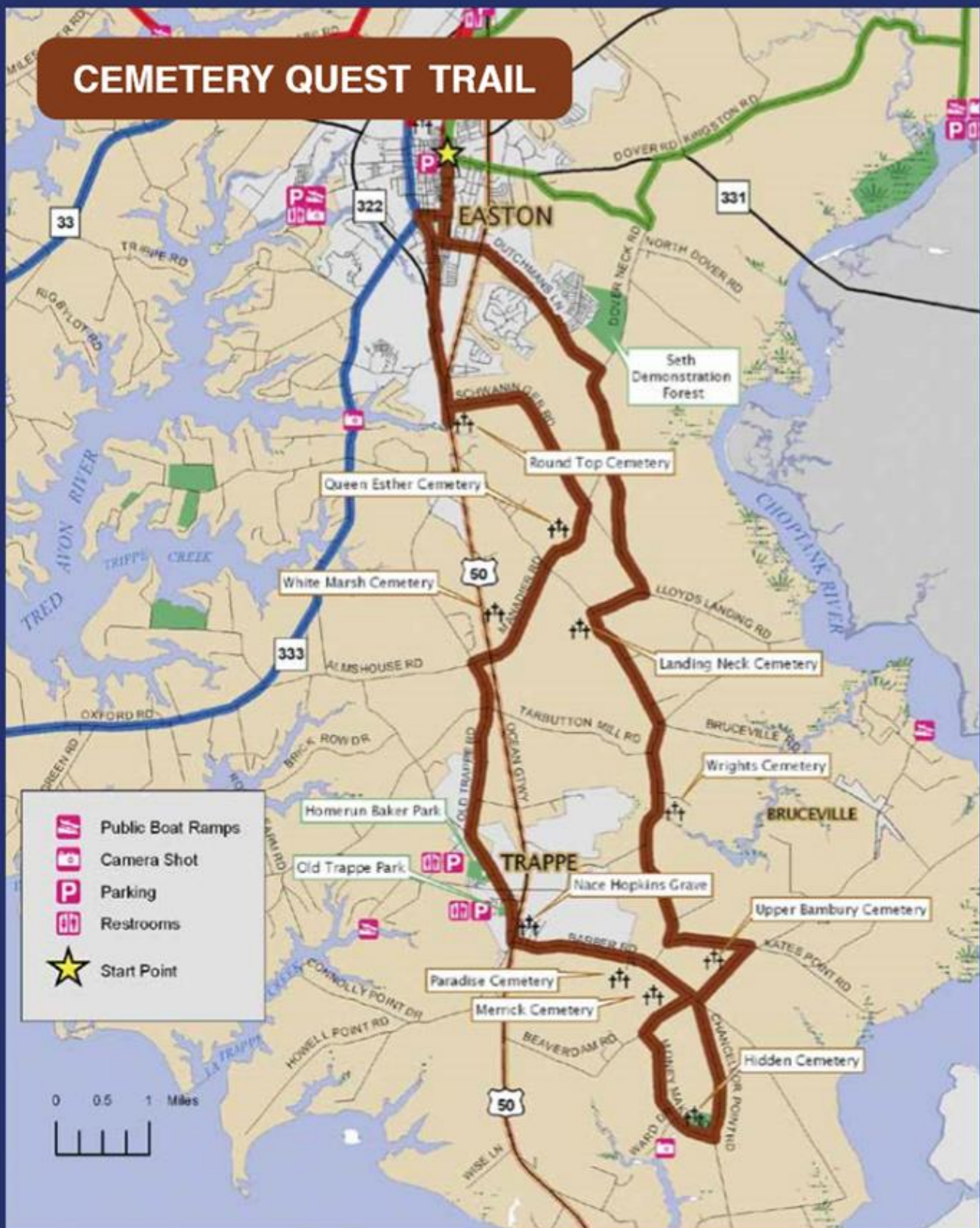


Old White Marsh Church

Directions:

1. Begin at the Easton Rails to Trails parking area at Goldsborough St. and Pennsylvania Ave. Head south on the Rails to Trails to Dutchman's Ln. 0.9 miles.
2. At Dutchman's Ln. turn  and ride on Dutchman's Ln. to Manadier Rd. 2.3 Miles.
3. Turn  on Manadier Rd. and ride to Boston Cliff Rd. the left fork in the road is Boston Cliff Rd. 1.5 miles.
4. Take Boston Cliff Rd. to Schwaninger Rd. Boston Cliff ends at Schwaninger Rd. 0.9 miles.
5. Continue on Schwaninger Rd. to Lloyds Landing Rd. 0.5 miles.
6. Turn  onto Lloyds Landing Rd. and take Lloyds Landing Rd. to Landing Neck Rd. 0.6 miles.
7. Turn  on Landing Neck Rd. (Landing Neck Cemetery). Take Landing Neck Rd. to Wrights Mill Rd. 1.4 miles. Landing Neck Rd. ends at Wrights Mill Rd. (Wrights Cemetery) so take right fork and continue on Wrights Mill Rd. to Koogler Rd. 1.3 miles.
8. Take Koogler Rd. to Kates Point Rd. 0.9 miles.
9. Turn  on Kates Point Rd. to Bambury Rd. 0.8 miles.
10. Turn  on Bambury Rd. and take it to Chancellor Pt. Rd. 0.8 miles. (Upper Bambury Cemetery), Bambury Rd. ends at a 3 point corner. Chancellor Pt. Rd. is across the road (Jamaica Point Rd.) and a  turn.
11. Take Chancellor Pt. Rd. to Money Maker Rd. 1.5 miles. (Hidden Cemetery)
12. Turn  on Money Maker Rd. and follow it as it curves around and ends at Beaver Dam Rd. 1.5 miles.
13. Turn  on Beaver Dam Rd. and travel to Barber Rd.
14. Turn  on Barber Rd. 0.6 miles. (Merrich and Paradise Cemetery, Nace Hopkins grave). Take Barber Rd. back to US-50 Ocean Gateway.
15. Cross US-50 Ocean Gateway in Trappe and turn  onto Main St. 2.2 miles.
16. Take Main St. to Easton Trappe Rd. It is not marked and Main St. merges into Easton Trappe Rd. 1.1 miles.
17. Take Easton Trappe Rd. to Almshouse Rd. 1.9 miles.
18. Turn  on Almshouse Rd. and take Almshouse to US-50 Ocean Gateway. 0.2 miles.
19. Cross US-50 Ocean Gateway and it becomes Manadier Rd. (White Marsh Cemetery with Robert Morris Sr. gravesite at church ruins) continue on Manadier Rd. to Schwaninger Rd. 2.0 miles.
20. Turn  on Schwaninger Rd. and follow it to the end. Schwaninger Rd. will end at US-50 Ocean Gateway. 2.1 miles. (Round Top Graveyard).
21. Turn  onto US-50 Ocean Gateway and take it to MD 322. 0.4 miles.
22. Take Route 322  from US-50 Ocean Gateway to MD 565. 0.4 miles.
23. Turn  onto MD-565, this will turn into S. Washington St. follow S. Washington St. to Idlewild Ave. 1.3 miles.
24. Turn  on Idlewild Ave. 0.2 miles to Rails to Trails ride Rails to Trails back to the parking lot 0.6 miles.

CEMETERY QUEST TRAIL



Neavitt Landing to Leadenham Creek

1

Directions to launch site:

From St. Michaels take Route 33 toward Tilghman Island for about 2 miles. Turn left on Neavitt Road toward Bozman. Continue on Neavitt Road for about 6 miles through the villages of Bozman and Neavitt, to the launch site on Neavitt Road. Put-in is the boat ramp. Hard put-in.

Paddling Directions:

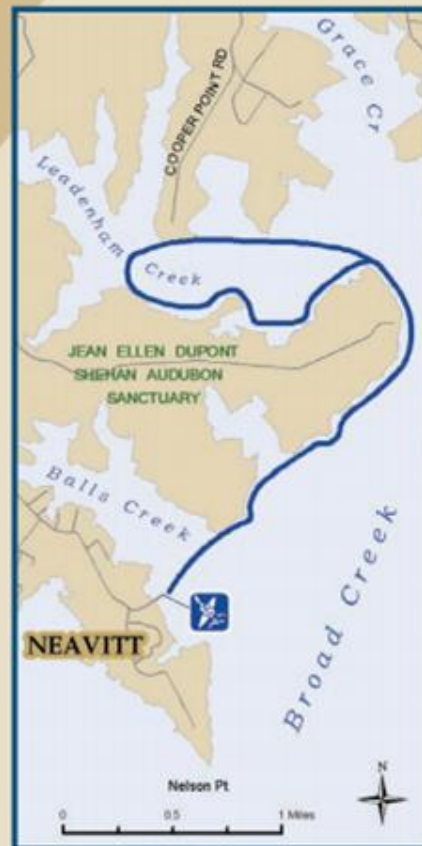
Paddle time: 4-6 hours

Paddle distance: 8 miles

Skill level: Intermediate to difficult, open waters with SW exposure.

Cautions: Be aware of tidal currents. Waves 1-2 feet or higher in strong winds. Return trip can be against SW winds, especially in summer. Check local weather for wind direction and speed.

From boat ramp head east across creek to northern shore (left). Follow shoreline keeping it on your left. There is one cove before Leadenham Creek you may want to explore. The entire shoreline is part of the Jean Ellen DuPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary. Follow shoreline into Leadenham Creek to left at green channel marker #1. Paddle west (left) up Leadenham Creek about 2 miles. Turn around and retrace your path back to Neavitt boat ramp, keeping the shoreline on your right.



Attractions:

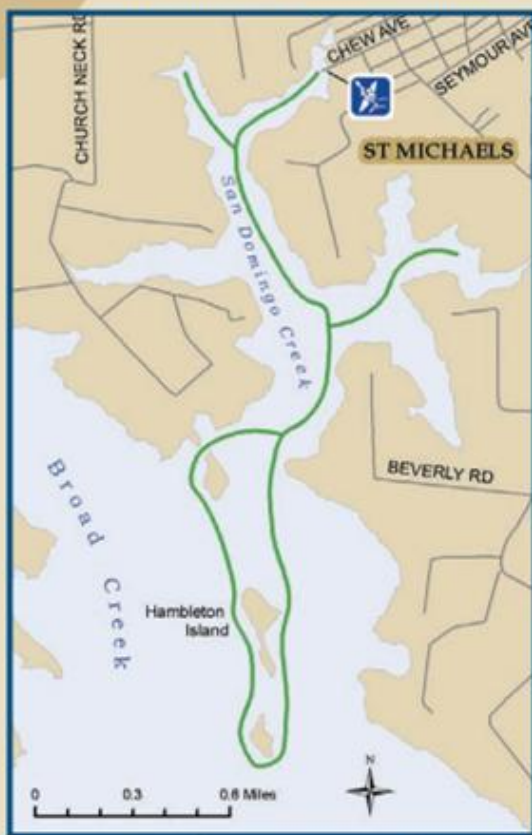
If the water clarity allows, you will see an abundance of submerged grasses along the natural shoreline. The Sanctuary is a 950 acre estate donated in 1997 by Jean Ellen Dupont Shehan to the Audubon Society. It remains largely undeveloped and provides the paddler with a glimpse of native Chesapeake Bay vegetation. Nearly 200 bird species frequent the Sanctuary during the year.

San Domingo Creek to Hambleton Island

2

Directions to launch site:

From Route 33 in St. Michaels take W. Chew Avenue and proceed 2 blocks to harbor on left. Put-in is to the right of the boat launch and dock in the park. Soft put-in.



Paddling Directions:

Paddle time: 2-3 hours

Paddle distance: 3 miles

Skill level: Beginner to

Intermediate, some open waters with SW exposure.

Cautions: Be aware of tidal currents. Waves 1 foot or higher in strong SW winds around Hambleton Island. Check local weather for wind direction and speed.

From boat ramp head west out of harbor and then head south (left). There are several coves to explore along the way, but the main channel is marked with red and green channel markers. Follow these to the mouth of San Domingo Creek. At the red channel marker #4, look to your right to locate Hambleton Island. Paddle around Hambleton Island and retrace your path to the put-in.

Attractions:

Note the several colonial homes along the shoreline of San Domingo Creek. At the #4 channel marker, explore the left shoreline (east) to see submerged grasses if the water clarity allows. These underwater grasses provide habitat and food for many aquatic organisms. Some of the grasses have been restored to the area through a University of Maryland research project. Make your way back across San Domingo Creek to Hambleton Island. These islands were once one island, but are now eroding and have split. Again look for underwater grasses in the shallows around the islands and visit the small sandy beach on the west side at low tide.



St. Michaels Harbor and Miles River

3

Directions to launch site:

From Route 33 in St. Michaels take E. Chew Avenue and proceed 2 blocks to harbor on left. There are two boat ramps in the harbor.

Hard put-in.

Paddling Directions:

Paddle time: 2 + hours

Paddle distance: 3 miles

Skill level: Intermediate to difficult, open waters with NW to SW exposure.

Cautions:

Be aware of tidal currents.

Waves 1-2 feet or higher in strong winds. Return trip can be against SW winds, especially in summer. Check local weather for wind direction and speed. Motorized boat traffic can be high during the summer.

From boat ramp head west (right). Before exiting the harbor, you may want to tour around to view the various businesses, restaurants and inns from the water. From the harbor head north (right) into the Miles River. Turn east (right) and follow developed southern shoreline for 1.25 miles to Spencer Creek to the SE (right). Explore the creek and retrace your path to the harbor and boat ramp.



Attractions:

St. Michaels harbor has many attractions to be viewed from the water. Once out in the Miles River, watch watermen fish for crabs and clams. The embayment's eastern shoreline hosts farm fields buffered by small red cedars and other trees and grasses. Birdlife you are likely to encounter include Osprey, Great Blue Heron, Eagles, and Swans. You may also encounter turtles and muskrats.

(A)Oak Creek (B)Newcomb Creek

Directions to launch sites for A & B:

From St. Michaels take Route 33 toward Easton to the Oak Creek Bridge. Just before the bridge, turn right on Station Road and turn left into the parking lot. Boat ramp launch is at the end of parking lot. Hard put-in.

4



A. Oak Creek

Paddling Directions:

Paddle time: 1 hour

Paddle distance: 2 miles

Skill level: Beginner to intermediate, easy paddle, protected waters.

Cautions: Be aware of tidal currents.

From boat ramp head south (right and away from bridge on your left) and stay to the right at fork in creek. The Oaks, a long-time Eastern Shore Inn, is located 0.7 miles from boat ramp up the right fork of Oak Creek. Paddle back along the right fork and head SE along the left fork. Return via the eastern shoreline to boat ramp.



Attractions:

The shoreline of Oak Creek is lined by many older Talbot County homes and estates. Shoreline is a mix of rip-rap (stone breakwater) and wooded edges. The calm waters provide excellent viewing of Osprey fishing for their dinner. You can see resident Canada Geese nests and Great Blue Herons wading in the shallows. Blue Crab fishing boats and clamming boats operate from the moor.

B. Miles River & Newcomb Creek

Paddling Directions:

Paddle time: 1.5-2 hours

Paddle distance: 2.5 miles

Skill level: Intermediate to difficult, open waters with NW to SW exposure.

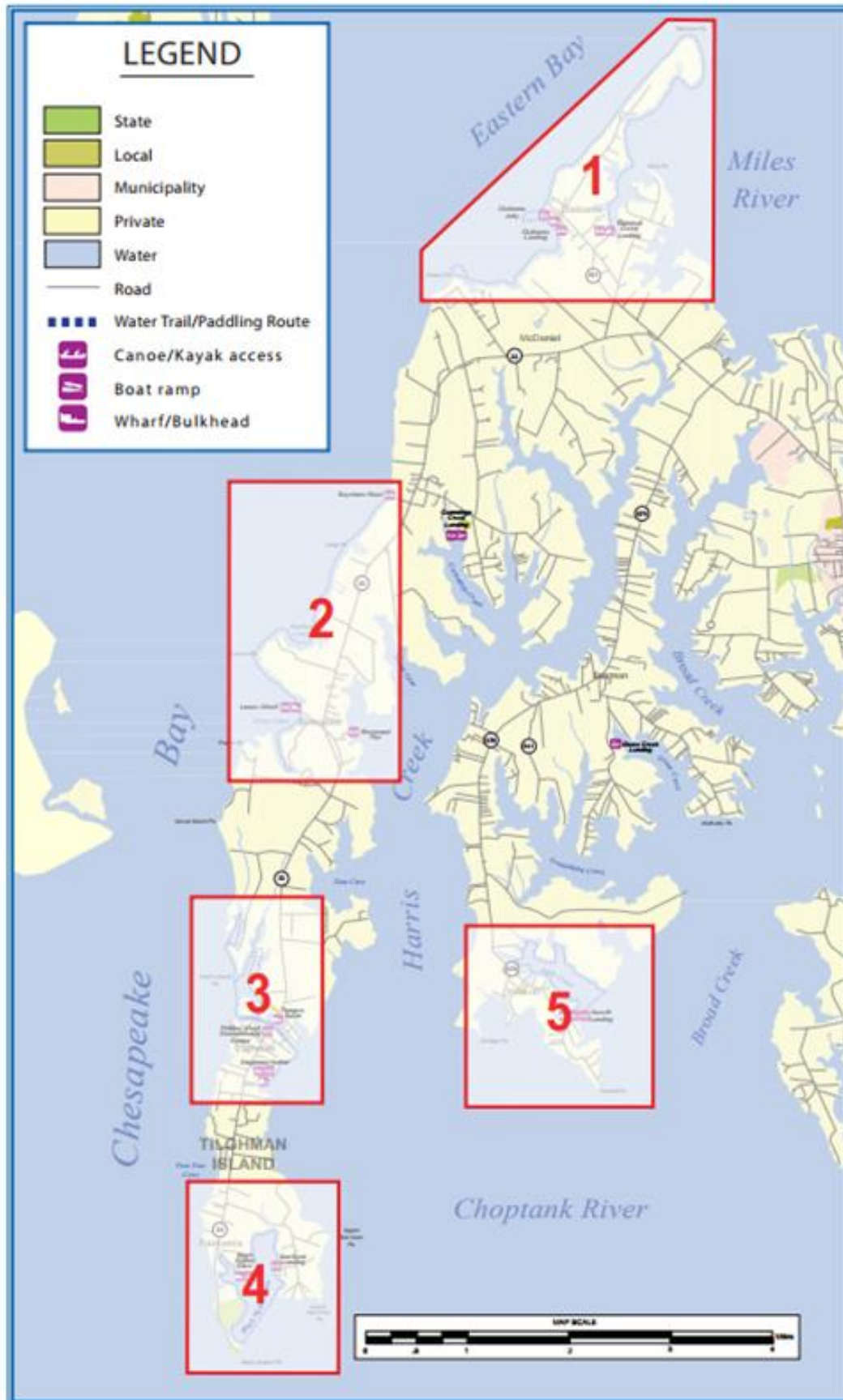
Cautions: Be aware of tidal currents. Waves 1-2 feet or higher in strong winds. Return trip can be against SW winds, especially in summer. Check local weather for wind direction and speed. From boat ramp head north (left) and pass under Oak Creek Bridge. Stay on the eastern shoreline (right) for about 0.5 miles and enter Newcomb Creek. There is an island at the mouth of the creek and a shallow area on the N side of the opening. Follow creek to right along the developed shoreline. The creek ends in a pond area with a fringing marsh dominated by salt marsh cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) and marsh elder (*Iva frutescens*). Retrace your path to boat ramp.

Attractions:

Watermen work on the Miles River, fishing for clams and crabs. During colder months, Sea Ducks (Bufflehead, Old Squaw, Canvasbacks) float in the open waters of the Miles. During the summer you may see log canoes, skipjacks, sailboats, and other vessels in the river.

THE ST. MICHAELS WATER TRAIL





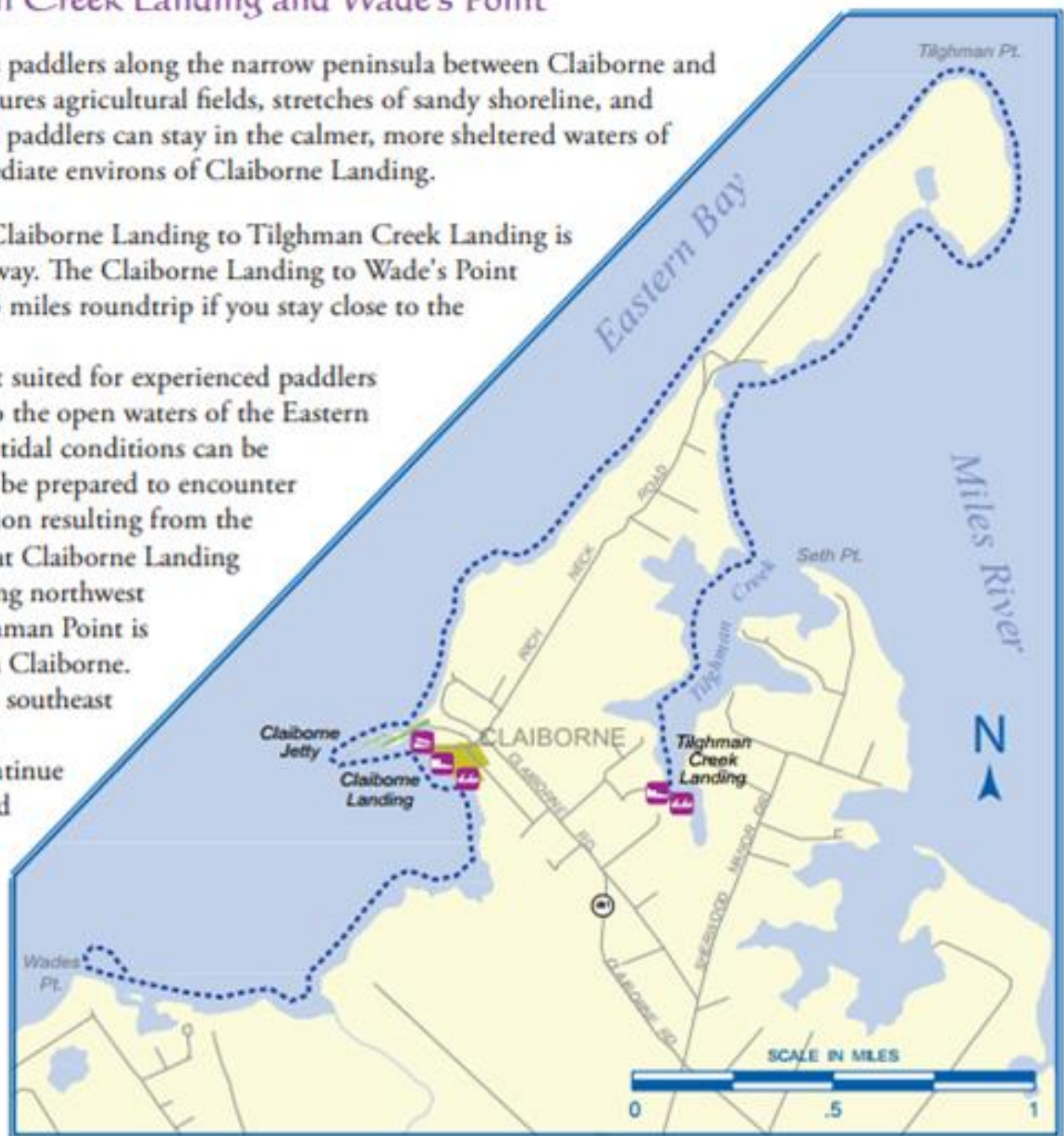
Tilghman Creek Landing and Wade's Point

For paddlers along the narrow peninsula between Claiborne and Eastern Bay, the area features agricultural fields, stretches of sandy shoreline, and a narrow channel. Paddlers can stay in the calmer, more sheltered waters of the immediate environs of Claiborne Landing.

Claiborne Landing to Tilghman Creek Landing is a short way. The Claiborne Landing to Wade's Point is a 5 miles roundtrip if you stay close to the shore.

It is suited for experienced paddlers on the open waters of the Eastern Bay. Tidal conditions can be challenging. Be prepared to encounter strong currents resulting from the tidal flow at Claiborne Landing. The narrow channel northwest of Tilghman Point is a shortcut to Claiborne. The channel southeast of Claiborne is a shortcut to the Eastern Bay.

Continue
id



2

Chesapeake Bay Trail Bayshore Road to Lowes Wharf and Cabin Cove



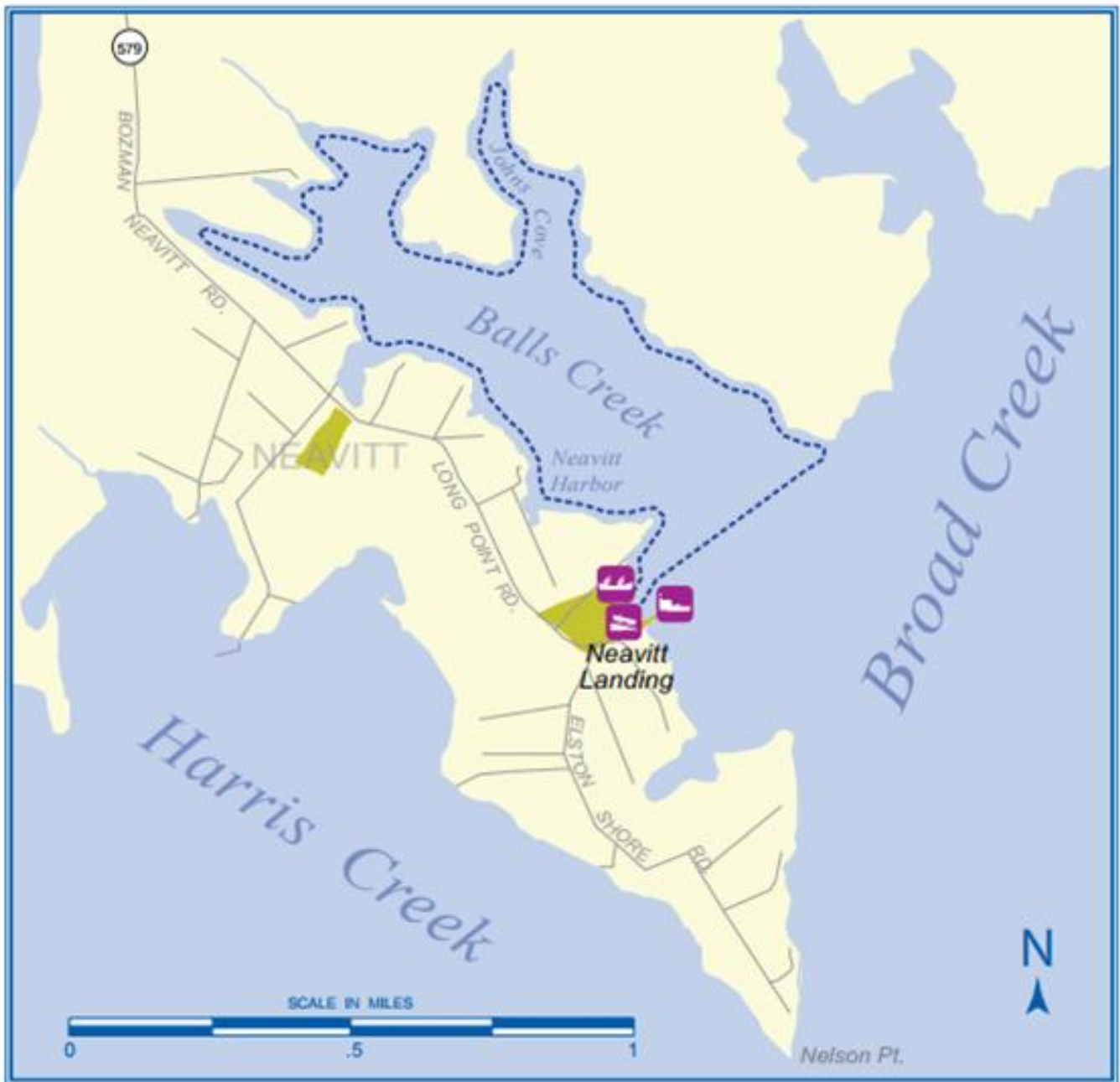
- 3** Knapps Narrows and Three Creeks Trail
Phillips Wharf Environmental Center (PWEC) or Dogwood Harbor to Front,
Back, and Harris Creeks



4

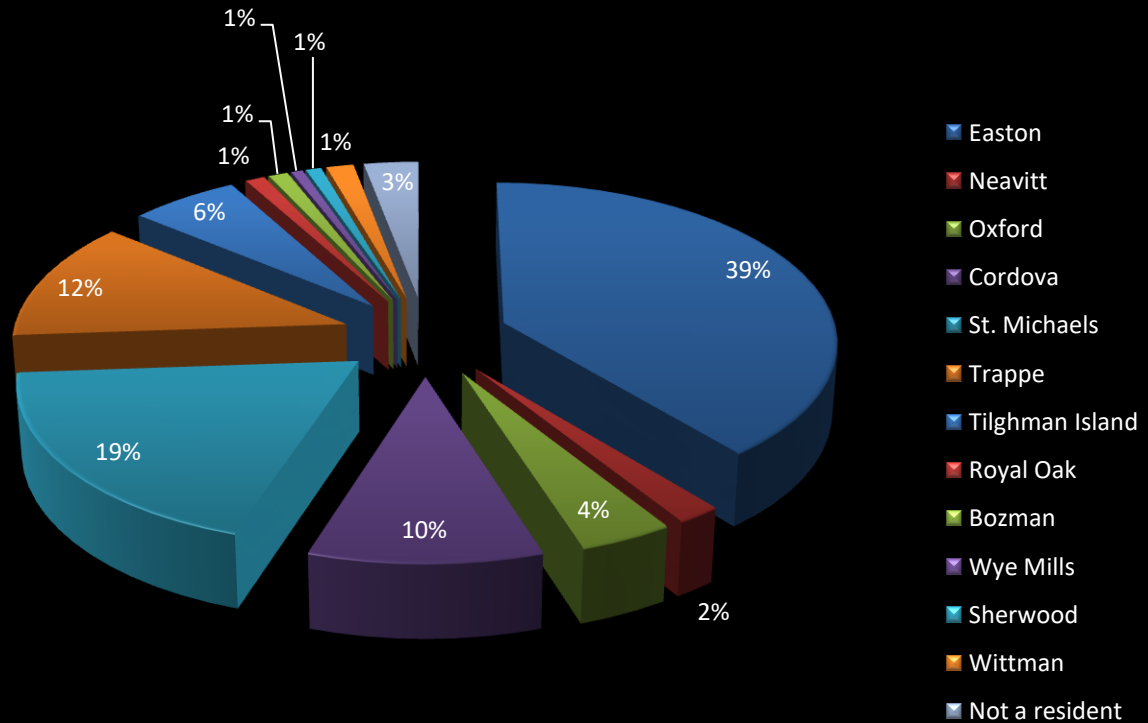
Black Walnut Cove Trail A loop trail in Black Walnut Cove





2013 LPPRP Parks and Recreation Survey Results – 471 received

Q1: Where do you live in Talbot County?



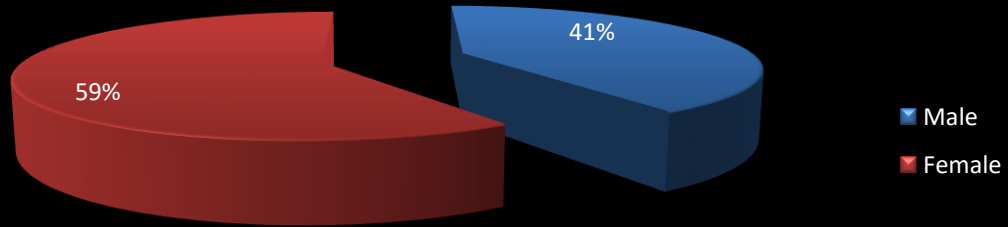
Answer Choices

Easton
 St. Michaels
 Trappe
 Cordova
 Tilghman Island
 Oxford
 Neavitt
 Wittman
 Bozman
 Royal Oak
 Sherwood
 Wye Mills
 Not a resident of Talbot County

Responses

184
 89
 57
 47
 28
 19
 9
 7
 5
 5
 4
 3
 14

Q2: Gender?



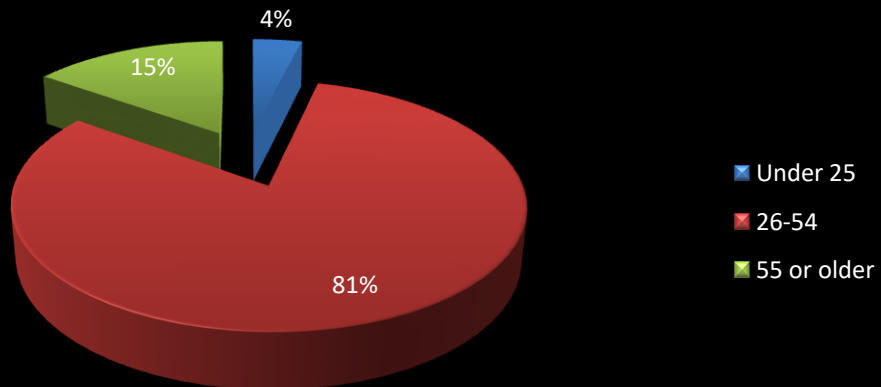
Answer Choices

Male
Female

Responses

192
279

Q3: Age?



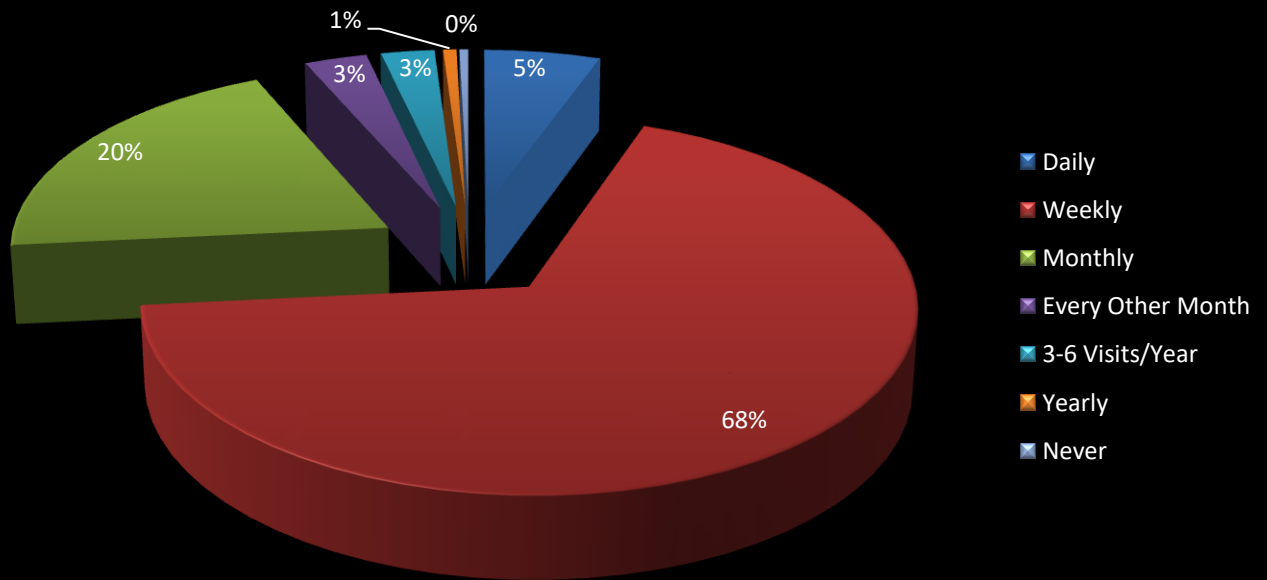
Answer Choices

Under 25
26-54
55 or older

Responses

18
382
71

Q4: How often do you and/or your family use a Talbot County Park?



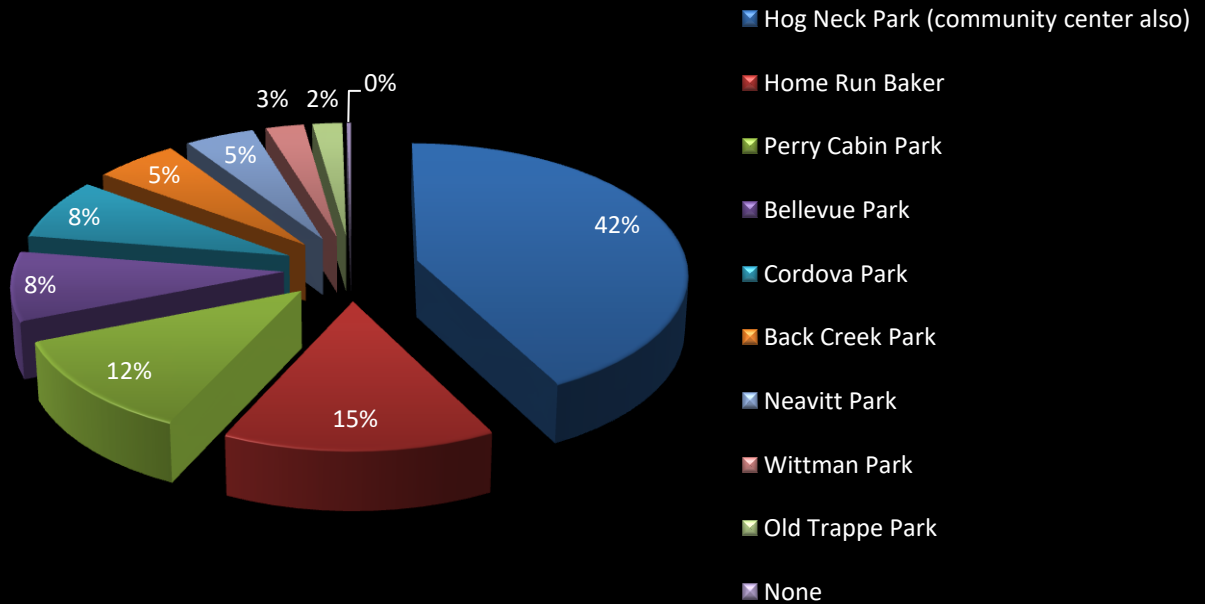
Answer Choices

Daily
Weekly
Monthly
Every other Month
3-6 visits/year
Yearly
Never

Responses

26
320
94
14
12
3
2

Q5: Which Talbot County Parks have you visited in the past 12 months?



Answer Choices

Hog Neck Park (community center also)
 Home Run Baker
 Perry Cabin Park
 Bellevue Park
 Cordova Park
 Back Creek Park
 Neavitt Park
 Wittman Park
 Old Trappe Park
 None

Responses

452
 156
 128
 91
 81
 59
 49
 27
 21
 3

Survey question #6: What facilities, amenities or improvements would you like to see made to existing parks and recreation?

- Better Parking
- Increase Trails
- Dredge Bay and create better fishing opportunities
- Build a new and better skateboard park
- Permanent restrooms at all parks, port o potties are gross!
- Better bathrooms at ball fields
- More parking areas at parks and landings
- More winter activities
- Fix sidewalks parks
- Connect trails to others in the area
- More restrooms in all areas
- Better Park playgrounds
- Needs pavilion and picnic area
- Lights on Trails
- More Signs for dog owners with bags for clean up
- Fix playground at Home Run Baker, always wet
- Very satisfied
- Community clean-up days to clean up rec. areas
- Install lights at parks
- More Maps and brochures of rec. areas- so we know what's available
- Better maintenance of restrooms in the parks
- Eliminate the ramp permits
- More boat slips
- Better landings for recreation boaters
- Better walking surface at Cordova trail, grass growing throughout

Survey question #7: Are there any improvements, additions, developments that you would like for consideration for this five year plan?

- County wide trail to connect bay bridge to Ocean City
- Racquetball
- Free activities
- Sand volleyball
- Outside movies
- Outside concerts
- None due to the economic situation at this time
- Transportation available to get to all facilities
- Outside skating rink
- More moderate cost to serve moderate-income families
- Large slide at Pools
- Lower prices for children
- More basketball courts
- Tennis courts and swimming pool at Bellevue
- Fix walking path at HRB, wash out every time it rains hard
- Need more user-friendly areas
- Publicize them, where they are and maintain them
- Maintain and improve
- Pools open before Memorial Day and past Labor Day
- Indoor Pools
- More/better beaches
- Teen center
- Need community involvement
- Volleyball court
- More outside activities
- Gymnasium (existing are old and dirty)
- Everything is fine, need nothing
- Longer trails
- Do something about Canadian geese overrunning parks!
- Swimming pool is cold
- Fitness center
- Indoor turf arena so we don't have to drive so far!
- Synthetic turf fields outdoors for tournaments

Default Report

Bellevue Community Survey

September 9th 2016, 11:39 am EDT

Q1 - Please indicate the phrase that best describes your relationship to the Village of Bellevue:

Answer	%	Count
Bellevue year-round resident	78.13%	25
Bellevue seasonal/part-time resident	9.38%	3
Frequent the Bellevue Community Park/Boat/Boat Launch	6.25%	2
Frequent the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry	0.00%	0
Other	6.25%	2
Total	100%	32

Q2 - In your opinion, what are the three most important things that you enjoy about living and/or visiting the Village of Bellevue?

Choice #1	Choice #2	Choice #3
It's laid back atmosphere	friendly community	
small village and its friendly atmosphere	access to public boat ramp	minimal outside intrusion
Laid back, quiet		
This was a predominately black community similar to Oxford and St. Michaels		
Location - including access to waterfront	Neighborhood - quiet, safe and friendly	Density - it's not!
Diverse village neighborhood community	Immediate access to walking and biking in beautiful countryside	Ease of water access for boating, fishing, kayaking, etc.
the quiet residential return of a well-cared-for rural community on the Eastern shore		
family community	beauty and tranquility of the area	easy walk to the ferry/park/landing
peaceful, beautiful place	Bellevue neighbors	access to water on our property - having ferry close by
The kindness of its residents	the beauty of the area	
tranquility	friendliness of neighbors	sense of community
no crime	quiet community	Friendly community. Mostly family
It's small	It's quiet	It's peaceful
great neighbors	quiet setting	access to water
water access community	excellent schools	low crime rate
peace and quiet, friendly neighbors	public boat ramp access	feeling of back in time
family community and everyone respects each other	beuty and tranquility of the area	easy walk to the ferry, park, landing.
Quiet village	proximity to water	low crime
no crime	quiet	not a lot of traffic
the view	convenience	central sewer
privacy within a small community	access to boat ramp	minimal municipality intrusion

Privacy in a community setting	waterfront access at public marina	minimal municipality intrusion
small village	people in the village	the community church
Tred Avon Access/water oriented	interaction with entire diverse community	TRANQUILITY mixed with interaction with weekend visitors/ferry passengers/boaters/weekend activity in general
great neighbors	quiet setting	access to water
peaceful, beautiful place	Bellevue neighbors	access to water on our property - having ferry close by
that it is a small, contained village and not part of suburban-style sprawl	it's marine environment	the quiet
Water access	Park	Ferry
Feeling of being safe	water close to access	the community of neighbors
Proximity to water	quite	community aspect

Q3 - In your opinion, what are the three things you would like to see to make the Village of Bellevue a better community?

Choice #1	Choice #2	Choice #3
the roads that service the community need to be better maintained	storm water runoff	
regular maintenance of storm water ditches	better roads, i.e. church street, orchard terrace	maintenance of village roads
More access to the landing as in later longer hours for fishing and overnight boaters.		
The black population has decreased as the number of whites have exceeded the black residents	Lost the black culture	
Access to affordable credit and/or grants for home ownership	Maybe public transportation improvements ... not sure if it is available presently	
Fixing the decrepit roads in the village	Dealing with derelict houses, autos, boats, etc., which create a feeling of neglect and diminish the charm and character of the village	
slower/enforced speed limit 20-25 mph entering/leaving the community. Speed needs to be posted leaving the landing as well as entering the village near Chris Berg's farm	Better road maintenance to include all streets	Regulations for proper property maintenance. Cars on blocks with grass growing out of them etc., too many vehicles parked at one residence permanently, trash/old appliances etc. piled up in yard
removal of deserted derelict houses	helping to fix "private" roads	keepings lots small to encourage the building of smaller homes that already exist in the heart of Bellevue
underground electric wiring	an expanded beach area at the ferry dock	getting onto Saint Michaels water system
clean up abandoned properties	resume county maintenance of church hall lane and orchard terrace	
Nothing - with change comes unnecessary drama. This is a nice retirement community. Mostly family		
removal of derelict houses		
community store to serve residents and ferry visitors and cyclists	community center	improvement of navigation in Tarr creek
cleaner ditches on sides of roads	fire hydrants	county road maintenance
speed limit (30 mph) needs to be posted leaving landing.	regulations and enforcement for property maintenance. Cars on blocks with grass growing out of	Too many vehicles parked at one residence. No multi-family dwellings.

	them.	
sidewalks, street lights	adding small convenience store/bar/restaurant	community structure, pool, tennis courts added to parking area, enhance basketball court resurface/repair cracks in concrete.
Much more parking area for boat launching		
nothing - no higher taxes	no high crime	like community as is
regular cleanout of all ditches for storm runoff control	installation of fire hydrants for the village of Bellevue	roadway improvements
storm runoff control	roadway (public) improvements	better weekend access to the marina
I think it's a great place to live as is		
more community picnics	community garden	a "walk and bike path" throughout village including dock and bike flow to/from ferry.
removal of derelict houses		
removal of deserted, derelict houses	helping to fix "private" roads	keeping lots small to encourage the building of smaller homes that already exist in the heart of Bellevue
that people make more of an effort to build a community	for the scale to remain the same and for small in-fill lots to be developed over time	
Clean park and beach	We've seen condoms and needles on beach and park	
village establishment like Mom and Pop	safer bike lanes	
Road maintenance	remove vacant dwellings	less delaware watermen

Q4 - In your opinion, what are the greatest threats to your quality of life in the Village of Bellevue (Please list up to three and explain):

Threat #1	Threat #2	Threat #3
Outside interests placing restrictions on what can be done within the community	CROWDED STREETS - ENCOURAGE MORE OFF STREET PARKING	
outside interference in community - taking away the asthetic beauty of a small community	Lack of fire hydrants "dry hydrants"	commercialization, attempts to urbanize and destroy our village way of life
Over regulation	Lack of listening and creative problem solving when a county agency is involved.	Creeping gentrification.
Greater housing density - environmental and social threat	Loss of diversity by new development	Increased traffic
Aggressive driving and excessive speeding on Bellevue Road, which is a constant threat to families and children walking/biking to the park/waterfront and a major source of noise pollution	outdoor burning of trash/household waste, etc.	
Any change to current residential zoning for underdeveloped areas	Introduction of commercial ventures - regardless of past commercial activity within the village	
Speeding traffic both from the village residents and watermen/contractors. We should be able to walk our dogs or walk with small children and not be threatened by huge speeding trucks	Project housing...totally against any affordable housing project in the village, we all want to increase the value of our property not pull it down.	
people building "mansions" in town changing the historic atmosphere of this special place	vehicles speeding to ferry as well as lawn and construction vehicles	people using huge amounts of fertilizers and weed killers that find its way into Tarr Creek and the Tred Avon
Arsenic in the aquifer above acceptable levels	pollution of the rivers and bay	agricultural pesticides on surrounding lands
speculators	loss of population	over-gentrification of village
High crime - there is no crime here	unnecessary traffic bringing all walks of life into our community	Not knowing the history of the village and what it means to family that were born here
THE GRANT - we don't need outsiders telling us that we are going to change like it or not!		
excessive speed of vehicles		
no access to a community store for minor emergency needs - food, batteries, beverages on a hot day for cyclist		

outsiders wanting to change our wonderful community	no fire hydrants scares me, WE NEED THEM	cost of insurance regulations by FEMA "commercialism"
Project housing - against any affordable housing project in village. We want to increase the value of our property.	General sense of embracing our village - needs everyone working together (we don't have this today)	Way too much trash on beach - this is mostly from tourists. Signs needed to remind them to clean up!
greatest threats are making no improvements. Keeping things as is will stagnate growth in community.		
tourists, trespassing on private property		
nothing		
one of the neighbors		
No fire hydrants on back streets - death by fire if not installed	Onerous Insurance regulations - involves obligations that outway the advantages	outside interference into community - no more privacy. Commercialization.
Onerous insurance regulations and outside interference into the community		
People from outside telling me what's good for me. See question number 5.	Commercialization	
Increased commercial activity within the village center - especially with any noise or odor	disrespectful motorists to/from ferry dock and into/out of Poplar/Gates	Decreased level of nature at dock/park
excessive speed of vehicles		
people building "mansions" in town changing the historic atmosphere of this special place.	vehicles speeding to ferry as well as lawn and construction vehicles	people using huge amounts of fertilizers and weed killers that find its way into Tarr Creek and the Tred Avon
degradation of water quality in Tarr Creek and the Tred Avon	addition of artificial lights (streetlights)	closing St Lukes
Shoulder for bikers	Cleaning of Bach and park	
bikers - they are a driving hazard	more accomodations for the boat trailers	
bikers		

Q5 - In your opinion, are there any specific improvements or amenities that would help to maintain or enhance your quality of life in the Village of Bellevue? Please rank the following from 1 to 6 (1 being most important):

Question	1		2		3		4		5		6		Total
Better Maintained Streets	50.00%	13	23.08%	6	19.23%	5	7.69%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	26
Community Center	9.09%	1	18.18%	2	18.18%	2	36.36%	4	18.18%	2	0.00%	0	11
Corner Store	42.86%	6	21.43%	3	28.57%	4	7.14%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	14
Enhanced Community Policing	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	28.57%	2	14.29%	1	0.00%	0	57.14%	4	7
Sidewalks	0.00%	0	20.00%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	5	30.00%	3	10
Renovation of Vacant Dwellings	30.77%	8	42.31%	11	11.54%	3	7.69%	2	7.69%	2	0.00%	0	26

Q6 - Please list up to three additional improvements or amenities that were not listed above as part of Question #5:

Improvement/Amenity#1	Improvement/Amenity#2	Improvement/Amenity#3
Ice machine for fishermen, Ice cream/refreshment stand for tourists	more parking for weekend recreational vehicles	walking path on currently owned county property for residents to use the park area.
Restrooms at park maintained	Running water at park	Parking for public ramp - off road
Work with local, wealthy landowners, to figure out how to loan money to locals for home improvements and create affordable housing.	Actively support options for the youth. Support commercial growth only when it can continuously employ locals. Develop a loan program for accessory apartments so young and old can afford to stay in the community.	Sit down in private with stakeholders so you can get their opinions but prompt them on options and consequences.
Reduce speed limit on Poplar Lane... Current danger to children		
Affordable Housing	Access to waterfront for the community with walking paths through property	
Solution to the seasonal boat trailer parking problem; the overspill parking on the west side of Bellevue road is a constant hazard to bikers, walkers and other road users	Clean up the beach and in-shore water and maintain it as an attractive, safe and clean environment for families, similar to the Oxford beach with restrictions on off-the-leash dogs	
better policing of trash on beach/park area & cans	dog waste bags refilled more timely	community center is not needed (we have park), sidewalks are not needed (we are rural and don't want that town feel), NO AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Affordable housing	community center only if its in the Methodist church	
Affordable housing	underground electric wiring	slightly expanded beach space, public water access
Affordable housing.	Limit types of commercial development along waterfront	limit size of new construction to something in keeping with traditional scale of houses
more pole lights in the community		
Better parking for boaters - or - close the landing - the congestion is ridiculous!		
affordable housing	running water at landing	real restrooms at landing
pavement improves ramps	local community store as already mentioned, community center	improvement of tar creek navigation
public trash containers on end of island	medical emergency first aid station	more public parking at marina
Better policing of beach/trash	Dog waste bags refilled quicker	

clean up		
small bar/restaurant with light snacks, sandwiches, burgers, etc.	expansion of boatramp, more parking	street lights, better lighting of village
not anything else		
clean up of properties		
THESE ARE FORCED ANSWERS. I do not want public lights on streets, or sidewalks.	I do not want additional boat slips at several are not used now	Would like to see code enforcemtn on delinquent owners rather than funds - public funds- provided for cleanup.
Better parking at public marina	better public restrooms (not portable)	better streets/improvements
Are these the things that are getting done? It looks pre-ordained	Housing is already affordable	Maintain restrooms at landing
A "welcome to Bellevue" sign with large depictive map or indication of village to left	Speed control "respect the village"	A website with history and communication portal
affordable housting	running water at ramp	real restrooms at ramp
real rest rooms instead of porta potties (at ramp)	running water (at ramp)	some sort of trash disposal out on pier. There is often debris there.
more parking for boat trailers		
more parking for watermen	more boat slips for recreational boaters	

Q7 - Do you have any additional suggestions or recommendations as to how to protect and enhance the traditional working waterfront in Bellevue, or to improve the overall quality of life in the village (Please explain):

Do you have any additional suggestions or recommendations as to how to prot...

I do not want sidewalks or street lights on Poplar Lane. This would encourage undesired foot traffic and loitering.

In my experience, there are young people who want to live in Bellevue. They can get moderate jobs in the county. However there is no place for them to live. You have the perfect tool to make this available, accessory apartments. However until the financing is available, the property owners have been educated and the financial and cultural benefits illustrated, it will not happen. And, you will get dead end proposals from agencies that have no options for small scale, village affordable housing.

Need better parking facilities and control of boats and trailers at the landing and park. Don't agree with plans for Tar Creek, especially if they plan to park barges there.

In the event of private development, save integrity of the church as center of community life; encourage socialization with walking paths to park; need low density high quality designed houses and some affordably priced homes in community.

Essential to install traffic calming procedures (e.g. 20 mph speed limit) on Bellevue Road extending out to include the Ferry Neck road junction. Find ways to deal with the problem of trash being thrown out of vehicles both entering and leaving the village and ferry dock areas.

Need to carefully define "traditional working waterfront". For example: Proposed use described in brochure for a company to store large construction barges at a new pier for frequent transit in and out of Tarr Creek hardly seems "traditional" or in keeping with the character of the village. Also, commercial vehicles used to keep these barges supplied with construction materials may overtax the roads and challenge pedestrian safety.

Community work together to keep our area clean/tidy/safe. Community watch more active We have a nice village, but it can be better, we have to be mindful of each other and work to have the guests (waterman, contractors and tourists) be respectful of our village and residents. Speeding watermen/contractors are a huge nightmare on the last stretch of road from Ferry Neck Rd. to the ferry landing/back...this must be addressed...it is used as a raceway, needs to be 20-25 mph., not 30 mph...traffic goes 60+ mph to/from that corner and won't slow down even passing bikes/walkers...ridiculous!

(at the landing: Real restrooms instead of Porta-potties, Running water, some sort of trash disposal out on pier. There is often debris there) Bellevue is a historical community built on package plants, watermen commercial boating. I would like to see the town continue supporting that. Loud recreational boating does not support the history of this peaceful place of hard working people. The town is a treasure. I hope people can see that properties and quality of life will be worth more continuing in the ways of the past.

Expanded beach area. Road maintenance of ALL roads in Bellevue. NO sidewalks.

Promote efforts to encourage growth of natural grasses on bottom and banks of Tarr Creek. Open up parking on grass areas on busy boating weekends. Make dumpster accessible. Give thought to protecting waterfront from development. Incorporate Clay's hope state historic district as important aspect of views along Tarr Creek.

One waterfront is enough. Two waterfronts are not necessary.

Bellevue is a historically blue-collar community. It's creek should welcome appropriate commercial use - working craft not transient recreational boating!

health department approved swimming area near dock.

This "grant money" should provide and help improve life here for the community and watermen. NOT BE USED frivolously on "sidewalks and street lights". Public bathrooms at marina. Daily Maintenance at park and restrooms at marina - IF we get them - as needed. Do not WASTE the grant money on things

that will NOT benefit or help us. Listen to the people living and paying to live here. Public restrooms area must at the marina for public and waterman use. Get rid of porta potties - they stink! Please use this money to improve not change us into something we are not in favor of like tourist invading our privacy. Community watch more active / Viligant. Way too much speeding through village. This needs urgent attention.

Sign depicting entering the village of Bellevue with small history notation. Add some tennis courts with water fountain. Volley ball courts with sand. Enhancement of basketball court. Community swimming pool with lifeguard during operation. Enhance beach area with new sand and overall improvements to make it more attractive for families to use. With new homes being built each year more people are moving into the village. Support for a small convenience store and or a small bar/restaurant is growing.

much more parking area for launching ramp for boat trailers and trucks.

Clean up old houses and maintain properties.

#5 - In my opinion this survey is for formality purposes only as the CAC already has in mind the improvements or amenities that are desired. Therefore, why do you ask our opinion when it will not matter because you have already manipulated the outcome of the answers to be exactly as the Citizens Advisory Committee wants to have. Better parking at public landing for weekend crabbers and fishing boats. Better public restrooms not porta-potties. Regular cleanup maintenance of Bellevue park, public restrooms with trash cans provided at end of island and landing areas. 1) I would like to see extended fencing between public and private properties to ensure safety for private residents. 2) I would like to have the Bellevue working waterfront plan citizen advisory committee listen and take into consideration that our community - the community of Bellevue - does not want to become a tourist town nor do we want to encourage outside traffic to peruse and loiter around our private RESIDENCES. This will also be encouraging additional out-of-state traffic which the citizens of the Bellevue community do not want or need! It has been duly noted that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) has been very selective as to whom they have delivered the Bellevue community surveys. If you were not trying to manipulate answers for the CAC personal outcome, then why did the CAC overlook several property owners in the Bellevue Village when distributing these surveys? And why were the residents of OXFORD handed the Bellevue community surveys when all of this project applies ONLY to the waterfront of Bellevue?

Do not want sidewalks. Do not want street lights. Would like code enforcement on delinquent owners - not public funds to clean up.

Get rid of derelict boats in landing

Improved access for buyers. More watermen will come to seafood buyers. Speed/noise control in and out of village (loud pickup trucks). A few have EXTREME disrespect when driving to/from dock. Please increase communication efforts during this process. This form made it to me on Aug 9 evening. Also, no opportunity to nominate for the CAC (or volunteer).

Bellevue is a historically blue-collar community. It's creek should welcome appropriate commercial use - working craft not transient recreational boating.

Affordable housing. Community center only if it is at the Methodist church. Bellevue is a historical community built on package plants, watermen commercial boating. I would like to see the town continue supporting that. Loud recreational boating does not support the history of this peaceful place of hard working people. The town is a treasure. I hope people can see that properties and qualities of life will be worth more continuing in the ways of the past.

like the road-endings rights-of-ways in Oxford, it would be nice for the public to have even a small amount of access to at least sit on a bench or two at the end of Avonia La.

Enhancing the beach as they did in Oxford

Bikers do not understand that the speed limit on Bellevue road is 50 mph and that there is no shoulder. They often ride in clusters/groups, not single file, or further into the road than they should. It creates a very dangerous situation for everyone.

Default Report

Tilghman Community Survey

August 12th 2016, 9:07 am EDT

Q1 - Please indicate the phrase that best describes your relationship to the Village Tilghman

Answer	%	Count
Tilghman year-round resident, work here	28.81%	34
Tilghman year-round resident, work elsewhere	22.88%	27
Tilghman year-round-resident, retired	27.97%	33
Tilghman seasonal/part-time resident	11.86%	14
Frequent one of the marinas in Tilghman	0.85%	1
Visitor	2.54%	3
Other	5.08%	6
Total	100%	118

Q2 - In your opinion, what are the three most important things you enjoy about living and/or visiting the Village of Tilghman?

Choice #1	Choice #2	Choice #3
it remains generally underdeveloped	Quiteness	People
working water environment	calm and quiet	work ethic of local workers
seafood harvesting heritage	quiet	scenery
Not incorporated - less government, already too much	small community	watermen
quietness of the village	talking with the watermen	being near the water
Drugs	mickey mouse P+Z regulations a lot of which are a result of assumptions from federal agencies that have no basis in fact. Assumptions from bureaucrats never do	
The natural beauty and being only 70 feet from the bay	the sense of community	the peace and quiet
quietude	water view and swimming	friendly TI people
low population	close knit community	enjoying surrounding nature
Community feel - support each other	quietness - slower pace (not city feel) - safety feel	Some of the new residents have been wonderful to the community - supportive
Sense of community /friendships	relaxed lifestyle	water-related activities
Most locals have a togetherness - caring	the school - programs	
uniqueness of island	live in the neighborhood where I work	
relaxed and quiet atmosphere	local history/culture/natural beauty	friendly, non-pretentious people
1) Community cohesion - access to the bay and river system 2) Sewer system	3) EMS and the firehouse 4) waterman's museum	5) Phillips Wharf Environmental Center 6) Street Lighting
Small town atmosphere	lack of "rules" as in SM and Oxford	
Peace and quiet	It's being a working watermen's community	Sequestered without being isolated
old fashioned	close community	small and peaceful
Hospitality	School	Fire Department
The small town, laid back and quaint atmosphere.	The friendly people.	The absence of heavy traffic and "city" sounds.

Close knit community	Fire company	Church
Water/active lifestyle	Small/Close Community	Services located in our community
Water lifestyle	friendly community	don't have to travel to easton for services
Very few people	Quiet	Relaxing
Kayaking	Biking	Public peers
Quaint	Safe	Undeveloped
Independence	Proximity to the water	No city government
Quiet	Water views	Strong community feeling
Everyone is like family	Great school	Perfect place to raise kids
Quiet	Friendly	Close community
Quiet	Good people	Seafood
Sense of community	Small town feel	lack of traffic
Small town living	Kind helpful people	Boats and being on the water
the community of watermen	The small town locals that are close knit	
The water	The amazing fresh seafood & vegetables & fruits	Quiet relaxed way of life
The culture	The people	The history
'Small town America' community appeal	the unique history And the working watermen	Total immersion in thbay lifestyle, our new education center, pwec, the watermans museum
history/family	small town/community feel	school/fire dept.
Water	Small village feel	People
Working watermans town	Small population	Water access
Safe place for children	Close knit working fishing community	
The school	Close community	
small		
sense of community	little traffic	quiet town
rural environment	sense of community	historic buildings
The great people	the presence of the Chesapeake Bay	The life

small town living	water oriented lifestyle	quiet community
sidewalks	live music allowed at restaurants	adult education classes or recreation at Tilghman school
its originality		
working village atmosphere	diversity (population, socioeconomic, age range)	Dogwood Harbor
peace and quiet	nature and marshes, wildlife	residents
Friendly people, close knit of people to help others in need	Keeping water employment alive	allowing watermen first priority at slips
Friendly locals	Farmer's market (could be expanded), food pantry	Bank/Post Office "Library"
no traffic	quiet	nature
the quaintness		
lack of crowding	relaxed pace of life	friendly community
access to the Bay	slower pace of most residents	community is a step back in time
friendly	water	community
Friendly residents/working/retired/local/newcomers = diversity	walk to parks, restaurants, etc.	
waterfront		
natural beauty	local charm	slow pace
small town/rural ambiance	natural environment and water orientation	tranquility
The watermen	Close knit community	casual life style which is symbolic to Tilghman
Local residents	hunting	fishing
location by water	quaintness	water activities (boating)
quaint atmosphere	friendly people	riding my bike
The people who are FROM Tilghman "Been Here's"	The sense of community	The natural environment
quiet and peaceful	friendly people	community spirit
small town / rural	water access, environment	Bucolic
low key/ quiet	the people	the water
The water	water views	water access
the natural beauty of the area	access to bounty from the watermen	the lovely people in community

the people	the serenity	the environment
cohesiveness of community	interaction with all levels and ages of residents	courtesy in dealing with others
small town	sense of community	safety
family	home	friends
quiet	friendly	
Outdoor/Water Environment	Beauty of real working village	Clean, quite, Harrison's
Working Waterman's community small village / community	Workboats	Hospitality of the people
Friendly people	Safe environment	Beautiful outdoors
The Bay	The Quiet	The People
My beautiful home on the Bay	The many species of birds that I feed	Activities on the water
The friendliness of the people	The mix of "been heres" and "come heres."	The beauty of the natural environment
Friendliness of people/ people help each other	24hr EMTs	Seafood
Not crowded; low key	Beautiful views of the water	The combination of a traditional community and the presence of newcomers
The friendly village life	Great natural beauty	The charm of a working watermen's community
Quiet and serenity	Unique character of watermen's village	Native vegetation and wildlife
Peaceful, unspoiled environment	Friendly small town feel	Lack of traffic and congestion
The good-natured, hard working people	Strong sense of community	
Small Town atmosphere	Quaint	
Sense of community	A working watermen's community - a broad range of people	Water on all sides
Sense of community	Working watermen culture	Broad range of people
Beauty	Serenity	Residents
Being so close to the water	Seeing the stars at night	A peaceful place to live
The people	Quiet	Scale
Quality of life	Beauty	Community
Quiet	Authentic - watermen; not DC lawyers	Vistas and wildlife

Quiet	Laid back atmosphere	
Quiet and peaceful	Small Town feel	Waterfront
Quietness	Water Views	Low Taxes
Existing charm, character and natural beauty		
Knapps Narrows and Dogwood Harbor as working docks		
The way it is		
Quietness	No traffic	
Sense of community	beautiful landscape	less developed
Serenity	Rural Composition	Historical homes/commercial buildings/church
Natural Environment	Limited planned developments like TOC	No commercial activity in the residential areas
Access to authentic waterman's village culture and people	Living among like-minded individuals in a rural, setting on the Bay	
The calm, serene, low density environment	The sense of community in Fairbank and Tilghman Island in general	The number of activities available (boating, fishing, crabbing, etc.)
Peace and quiet	Community Spirit	Safety-security
Nature/natural beauty	Lack of traffic	Lack of tourists
Preserving the "watermen" heritage	Sense of Community	
Fishing /crabbing village atmosphere	slow pace	places to eat and get supplies

Q3 - In your opinion, what are three things you would like to see to make the Village of Tilghman a better community?

Choice #1	Choice #2	Choice #3
More restaurants - Not fast food	Hardware store	City trash collection
sidewalks	tear down/fix up shanties, shacks, sheds	less drugs + use
sidewalks	bike path/walking trails	arrest drug addicts/dealers/thieves
dredge Narrows to help the tourist industry	dredge Dogwood and Tongers is necessary for watermen	serious drug problem
keep it like it is	restrict building of new housing condos etc	keep public dock public and restrict yachts from taking over the waterman's place
get rid of the drug problem	get rid of the mickey mouse P+Z regulations and tell the feds to keep its money and leave Talbot County alone	
A 25 mph speed limit through town with speed limit postings	Preserve the lawn in front of Harrison's Chesapeake House	
more communication between long-term residents and part timers	less clinging to the "good old days"	a little more openness to innovation
encourage waterman's business	preserve it "as is"	repair existing structures
Have concern about drug problem on Island	affordable housing	
more economic prosperity for the existing businesses	more demand for businesses - if businesses are healthy there will be jobs	
Stop letting the County Council make decisions like the cell tower		
clean up drugs on island		
Better ditching for drainage	Sidewalks	
any possibility of a small public beach or a small public pool?	bring back the newsletter at the post office to keep people informed of happenings	
Increase the demand (e.g. Visitor industry)	Get rid of the trash collection process at Back Creek Park	Advertise - cooperate with Saint Michaels and MD Visitor
Jobs for young residents	Library - health and wellness center OPEN	Dredging the Narrows would bring business - resurfacing a marina
Sidewalks	Removal of the most egregious eyesores	More focus on the school and education in general. Better cell phone connectivity
clean up the drug activity	stop developments - we are a farming and waterman community	help slow erosion
Stop letting newcomers change our island		

Walkable sidewalks on one side of street.	More parks and green space.	Street signs more noticable and bigger.
Do something about the drug problem		
Cleaning up the drug problem/thefts/etc	Sidewalks for safety of our children	Less zoning restrictions(more businesses thus more jobs)
Clean up the drug problem, sherif Gamble is doing a great job	Less Zoning Restrictions, Have you been to the Delaware shore? very nice	Restrictions are hurting local business, get the cell tower working
Less people moving here	Same as above	Same as above
Biking lane	Side walk/ safe place to walk on side of 33	Fishing pier @
A sidewalk from the bridge to the school	Better maintenance of the park	Lights at the park
Bring back drug store and fountain service	Restore abandoned businesses	Clean up abandoned properties
More police presence	Cleaner park	County to make owners mow lawn
Cell phone service	Less drugs	Sidewalks
Less druggies	Litter cleanup	Preserve the way of life
Major restaurants/inns operating properly	access to public transportation like other towns	proper policing
Less crackheads	More opportunities for the kids	A gym
Clean up the drugs and users that openly sell and deal and are continually let go	Stop holding our children from choosing to go to St. Michaels school and having more social and educational experiences based on where we live when children from all other schools are welcomed with open arms and we are continually discriminated against based on where we reside.	Clean up the drugs
More press	More visitor overnight accomodations	Stores/shopping
Slow growth	Limited development	Expand outdoor activities
Continued efforts to encourage tourism revenue in a way that does not complete transform the community	Community gardens /food projects	Do we need /want our village center more walker friendly? Should we ha ve sidewalks????
continued support of Museum and preservation of culture	Outreach to children	
Dog park	General island cleanup	
Sidewalks	Environmental conservation	Expanded history/museums
More activities for children	Transportation options for children for after school activities	
More Police patrols and to clear out the drugs		

more public access to waterfront (large park on water)	sidewalks	bike riding lanes
better internet and cellular coverage	expanded emergency medical service	decrease (10%) non-permeable space to allow some expansion of existing homes and businesses
I'm very happy with it		
More public areas, more walking/biking trails	Elimination of drugs	some public transportation
walking/biking trails	community health center	
Less restrictions	music allowed to pull in people	
improve main street - underground drains and utilities	county improve its land holdings and make walking trails and sidewalk	leverage poplar island NOAA demonstration project to make Tilghman an Eco Destination
speed limit - too many speeders in town		
do away with drug activity	allow music outside at restaurants	sidewalks
Revitalize/paint existing houses rather than building new ones. More affordable housing	viable grocery store/other shops without tourist prices...a "dollar store" would be good. Place where you can buy local seafood - like Harrison Oyster Co. used to be	transportation to doctor, shopping etc for people who don't drive
cell phone service	a full-service Tilghman Island Inn	A first-class resort where Harrison's now exists
Planning and Zoning should consider age of community and existing structures when reviewing plans for property upgrades		
less crime	more community involvement	
sidewalks	dredge the narrows to encourage sailing	visitors
sidewalks	Water access for visitors	restaurants better
services and activities for youth and seniors	coordination of expansion of non-profit organizations	ecological experience tourism
Cleaner structures, yards, ditches and roads	Increased employment opportunities	Strict law enforcement on drug problem
I like Tilghman just the way it is today		
Clean up broken down houses	cell phone tower that works	clean up Knapps Narrows
a bike path	cleaner recycling or maybe move it to a less obvious place	
Bring the library back	Staff the school wellness center for the elderly who can't drive up the road for medications, blood pressure checks, flu shots, etc.	Better police presence to rid drugs

sidewalks on route 33	shields on security lights - enforce rule that lights must be downward facing or shielded - problem especially in Knapps Narrows	street lighting on Camper Circle downward facing or lower intensity
Safer paths for biking and walking	programs for youth, seniors	experiential tourism/non-profit organizations
safe walking/biking (sidewalk)	cell tower working	good internet service (all portions of island)
give citations to load exhaust trucks	give citations to VHF radios on all night	clean up the drug problems
ability to buy seafood on the island		
no more growth		
drug enforcement and rehab	speed limit enforcement	easing of building code with cottages or businesses in need of restoration - i.e. parking, sprinklers, ditches and drainage
no more drugs	limited growth - weekend homes/business	more use to school as a community center
cell phone tower	working	
Make Harrison's more attractive/upgrade the visual experience - but the food is great	Leave the community alone	
Better attitudes from come here's regarding Waterman's way of life	Drug prevention programs	Adult education
Extend public sanitary sewer to all properties	Better cell phone coverage	Address drug addiction problem
Cell Phone Service	Cleaning up Bay for watermen	
Better management of places like Harrisons and Tilghman Island Inn	Clean up dilapidated residences	More community activities
Sidewalks/safe biking on Route 33	A community center with library, health, exercise and meeting room	
Police station substation here	Get rid of abandoned houses - vagrents squat in them	Sidewalks on Main Street
Infrastructure upgrades to enhance the walking around town	More effective use of school as a community center	
Health care facility	Bike path	Tilghman Citizen's Council
More community gathering spaces	No development zones	Bike trail winding through the Island
Combat drug abuse	Strong sense of individual core family values - "family time together" and "involvement in kids lives"	
Stopped cars, people, and dogs in the streets	Stop drug deals	
Police or Sheriff presence	Cell phone tower - need one for emergencies	

Zoning changes to promote infill and home rehabilitation; especially impervious area rules	Community support for kids and seniors	Make Main Street pedestrian and bicycle safe - eg. shoulders
Community center in school	Better use of school stage for theater and music	Staff health office in school with part-time nurse practitioner
Public swimming pool		
I like it the way it is		
Housing Codes	Maintenance enforcement	Sidewalks
Retain and support the watermen that live here		
Sidewalks on main road	More businesses	
Sidewalks from bridge to church on Tilghman Island Road (similar to sidewalk at school)	Bike path on Tilghman Island Road	Working cell tower for ATT customers
Sidewalks through town along Route 33	More parking at water access areas	More water access areas for public use
Re-establishment of the Glendenning Planned Community School		
Sidewalk in town	Daily bus to St. Michaels	Affordable apartments for people who cannot afford a house
a police presence	community beach	better main road
Signs evidencing the boundaries of "Avalon"	Grants to historic property owners for historic preservation of their homes and buildings.	
Bike lanes and sidewalks	No Confederate flags	Less inbreeding among the old families
Public access to water; there is really no easy way to launch a dog, a canoe or kayak	Regular surveillance of use of shoreline at BlackWalnut Point	Better public access to land past the Watch Tower on Black Walnut Point
Less state and county interference	Less restriction on property development	Improved Knapp Narrows waterfront businesses (seafood sales, restaurants, marinas)
Control of weekend rentals in residential areas	A shoulder on Main Street for pedestrians and bicyclists	Repair of County side roads
Jobs for young families		
Support for residents (education, medical)	More job opportunities	
keep the businesses strong	keep the roadways clean	keep the marinas clean

Q4 - In your opinion, what are the greatest threats to your quality of life in the Village of Tilghman (Please list up to three and explain)?

Threat #1	Threat #2	Threat #3
development	Water quality	Condition of the Bay
poverty pockets and drugs	demise of watermen's industry	future infusion of aesthetically inconsistent development
low life people/addicts/thieves	rundown houses and unkept yards abandoned homes	no cell service
lack of jobs for young families	difficulty with endless rules preventing you to do anything with your own property when it won't hurt the bay etc.	
Tilghman on the Chesapeake expansion like this. Condominiums being built and people with financial means taking over and ruining the island with wanting sidewalks, bike lanes and on and on		
Drugs - if you need an explanation you shouldn't have the job you do	Drugs	P+Z regulations - ditto "Threat #1" above
I hope we don't lose the watermen's culture	Laws that make it impossible to make a living on the water	Too much expansion
no/little awareness of trash along the roadsides	scary gun activity during hunting season	reckless driving with little consideration, especially after dark
storm surge/drainage	speeding vehicles	litter
People who do not understand a WORKING waterman village and pose hardships by enacting laws on the waterman. A business has necessities, the waterman have materials and equipment for their businesses, need to keep it where they live (it is thier livelihood not vacation)	New residents changing the landscape and way of life that has always been here	
loss of full time residents	loss of watermen	loss of school, loss of severn marine
People moving here and trying to change the island - why did they move here?	The school closing - help us keep it open	Fire Department - no leadership
Newcomers who purchase land in area and then make attempts to change way of life	Newcomers against fishing industry materials and don't want watermen to have thier necessary equipment on property	
The decline of the seafood business		
loss of existing culture due to over-development that favors high end	Loss of ambience due to over commercialization	

residences and their occupants		
Rising water level	Lack of policial voice on Talbot County Council	Losing Severn Marine
School closing and lack of library and wellness center	rising cost of living on the island	lack of jobs
Poverty and drug traffic	Demise of the water industry	
erosion - loss of land	crime rate on the rise due to drug activity	nothing here for teenage children to do. Task is wonderful for elementary children but middle and high school aged children have nothing
People come here because they like the island, then they try to change it	Cell tower - didn't care of property owners on the surrounding property or the park	Just don't care about the waterman and families
Condo's and mcmansions.	Over development.	Losing the "village" of tighman and all that entails.
Drugs - who wants to raise kids there with the heroin problem?		
The drug problem	Street Safety	Zoning restrictions(hard to run a business)
Drugs, the criminals keep getting right back out of jail	We dont own our property, we just rent it. it takes way too much to build/add on	Out of town/weekenders buying property, CHANGING, then move away
Out of town people moving here	Same as above	Same as above
Trash/oil / being dumped into the waters	Lack of respect for natural beauty	Car speed/ along 33 through town , weather it a person who lives on TI or a visitor
Development would diminish the small town feel	Increase in taxes	Expansion of commercial zoning
Come Here neighbors	Northern Virginians	New Yorkers
Poor state support of watermen		
Drug runs and no police presence		
Drugs	Alcohol	Theft
Outsiders- people move here to get away from the city but then they expect us to change for them. We are not the city dont expect us to change for you.	Drugs- drugs have been a problem in thw area not just Tilghman. It devalues our properties and lessens our safety	
herion addicts, the crime they create	electricity outages	The 911 service is frustrating and difficult to communicate with
Known druggies walking the streets late at night	Bad neighbors	Phone tower that is making reception worse

		by being there unwired and will probably be even worse once wired.
Limited educational access and opportunities with declining enrollment in the tilghman school and cutting of teachers and combining classrooms.	The persistent drug problems on the streets.	The lack of cell phone signal especially in emergency situations.
Progress		
The possible threat or decline of tourism as it relates to job and income loss	Decline of property value	Substance abuse/addiction and the desperation of those who are struggling with this
Trying to make Tilghman into something it is not. It is a working waterman' village. It is not St. Michaels with all it's tee shirt shops and restaurants.	People who want to change Tilghman. Why do people love it for what it is, then feel they need to change it.	
Building/growth. Lossing the heritage	Lack of seafood industry. High overhead ie rent/ property value	Drugs. Significant drug prescence
Drug use, leading to crime increase		
Drugs. Too many drug dealers and users in this area. The courts keep setting them free and allowing this to go on. When you have a drug dealer in a school zone that has all charges dismissed..NOT GOOD		
pollution	unmanaged growth	
loss of the watermen's culture as the age and no one replaces them	changes in lawas tha tallow and promote short term rentals	lack of healthcare providers that force people as they age to move closer to healthcare.
bay pollution	loss of identity as a community	loss of connection to roots/history
commercial expansion. The community would be different if we invited bigger retail expansion	the drug trade	loss of our school - oxford has no school and it is a town of older, retired people. No vibrancy.
drugs - there is a significant drug problem in the community which I believe leads to other crimes	Repeated efforts to close the school - it is essential to the community	
newcomers trying to change everything need to go back where they came from		
Failure to provide affordable housing for the poor/working poor	inordinate delays with permitting and requirements (watermans museum marker 5)	corps not maintaining navigable waterways - Knapps Narrows
mega homes being built that take away from the island charm especially in town in place of		

smaller structures		
Drug activity - stealing and disrespect for others and property	people not taking care of property. Trash and boats cluttering yards and discarded vehicles	incomplete cell phone coverage.
Traffic - on main street it goes on 24/7	Tourists	No mail delivery on main road
development - spoils the rustic nature of Tilghman		
too much development		
Lack of cell phone service	Lack of full-time health clinic	Lack of physical fitness facility with pool and library
Usage of illegal drugs by communities youth - drugs lead to other crimes within the community	overly strict and non flexible actions by county Planning and Zoning	Bay access for the local watermen
DRUGS	CRIME	
weekend rentals in residential communities are disruptive	the shallow narrows is preventing much needed sailing vessels from visiting	
no sidewalks, walk ways, bike paths		
commercial development	residential development (large scale)	
overdevelopment - we don't need more housing development	overdevelopment - we don't need additional retail development	lack of access to services - law enforcement, public health, activities
Lack of law enforcement. Drugs have caused a problem with theft.	Imposed changes of Tilghman. Too many people move in and change our heritage	No interest to tourists. There is nothing to bring visitors to this area that is unique or appealing to promote business growth.
Drug abuse by the youth	New comers who want to change Tilghman to be more like where they came from originally	
Broken down houses	Beach Erosion	No cell service
need for more drainage	worry it will become too commercial	trash left at recycle area
Closing the school; our school brings the community together w/ volunteers and functions around our youth	Less tourism - bringing visitors to Tilghman makes it less safe for our children because a) of predators and b) cars driving TOO fast	
Outdoor music - sound carries on water! Enforce current rules and limit exceptions		
over-development housing and retail	law enforcement coverage	access to health care services
increased traffic	increased retail space	not having a master plan for entire island
load exhaust trucks	VHF radios on all night	drug problem

the decline of watermen	decrease in young families	destruction of nature and waterfront by wealthy and influential
use of drugs - brings on vandalism and stealing	more commercialism - who needs McDonald's , etc.	more residential development - want this to be a waterman's community
excessive commercialism and tourism traffic	drug crimes (theft, public behavior)	politicians helping fix things not broken
drugs	part-time residents outnumbering locals because of cost of property	growth of business that develops waterfront so watermen lose docking and places to store/work on equipment
cell phone tower		
lack of facilities for the youth to keep them out of trouble		
Possible failure of Harrison's - help them with the following: management, property master plan, clean up, visual upgrades		
Development...too many expensive houses being built	Noisey tourists drinking and partying	Too many yachts taking over the knarrows
Lack of sanitary sewers for all properties, which endangers the ecosystem	Lack of adequate cell phone coverage, which could be dangerous in an emergency situation	Illegal drug usage, which causes an increase in crime
Calling Tilghman Island the awful 'Tilghman Village.' Cut it out!	Citizen Advisory Committees	New businesses and new development
Drugs on the Island	Speeding on road through town down to Black Walnut Point	Residents don't support local businesses enough
Wetlands erosion	Open culverts on Main Street	Lack of opportunities for young adults
Drugs and prostitution on the Island - I see drugs being sold out in the open	Part/vacation rental houses in residential blocks	Lack of docking slips for watermen
The willingness of many to let the community drift; little direction	Ongoing tension between "come-heres" and "been-heres"	If Harrison's continues to deteriorate as a destination
More development	Part-time residents and visitors who don't contribute to community life and don't have any idea what its really like to be here	Short-term rentals
The loss of Tilghman's historic character	Managing tourist traffic	
Development - There is no capacity for lots of traffic or public services	Poverty - Many families need support services they are not recieving	Youth programs - Too many teens with nothing to do
Apathy towards drugs and alcohol and its direct impact on family unity and core family values		
Folks moving in trying to change it	Folks not cleaning up after themselves	Trash on playgrounds/parks
Single lane road	Drug dealers	Hookers

Drug abuse	Unkept and abandoned houses and empty lots where houses once stood	Overtime, the Island gains more retirees that displace the local people necessary to maintain a village
Drug abuse	Unkept and abandoned houses	Improve successful cafes and restaurants
More tourism	Overbuilding/overdevelopment	
Too much change	Too many committees	The watermen leaving
Newcomers that want to keep it as it is, but modify it to match their idea of what they perceived it to be.		
Watermen moving out and giving up life on water	In-migration of the "DC crowd"	
Commercialism	Multi-story condos/apartments	Too many zoning laws
Drug abuse among Island residents and the crime this abuse causes	Lack of public water access	Dangerous walking or riding bikes through town on Route 33
Sidewalks and/or bicycle lanes	Housing Developments (especially concerns area outside the village such as Grey Goose Farm)	Short-term rentals
Widening of roads	Addition of sidewalks	
Greatest threat is new people coming here and trying to change it! If they want to be like St. Michaels than move there!		
Overpopulation	Too many large homes	Drug situation
knapps to shallow needs dredge	better bulkheads	development of open land
Removing the historical name of the village of Avalon	Altering the historical aspects of Avalon buildings with modern offices and stores.	
Lack of good jobs for young people, who leave, resulting in an aging population on the Island.	Global warming resulting in flooded roads and continued erosion of the Island, and nothing being done to address it.	Resistance to change on the part of the "from heres" which handicaps their own ability for future success.
lack of a year-round economy on the island	proposed inconsistent land uses e.g. turning a corn field into town houses	Too much runoff and usage of plant fertilizers that pollute the bays
Property development restrictions	Farmland developments	Business closures or failure
Neighbor who built 7 rental dwellings next door damaging street and increasing traffic, trash and trucks driving on my property because of poor access to her property.		
TOC-type development	Increased tourism	Increased traffic

Drug use and trafficking - There are known hotspots that need to be addressed	Watermen way of life - It is not always financially supporting the community as it has in years past. Is there a way that extraordinary wealth of knowledge can be used to help residents?	
Knapps Narrows shoaling keeping visitors away and hurting business	lawless attitude of some residents	too much development

Q5 - In your opinion, are there any specific improvements or amenities that would help to maintain or enhance your quality of life in the Village of Tilghman? Please rank the following from 1 to 9 (1 being the most important):

Question	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		Total
Better Streets	1.4 5%	1	13.04 %	9	8.70 %	6	11.59 %	8	11.59 %	8	18.84 %	13	10.14 %	7	11.59 %	8	13.04 %	9	69
Better Cell Phone Service and Reception	41.38 %	36	16.09 %	14	18.39 %	16	3.45 %	3	2.30 %	2	4.60 %	4	5.75 %	5	4.60 %	4	3.45 %	3	87
More Jobs	8.45 %	6	19.72 %	14	15.49 %	11	19.72 %	14	14.08 %	10	9.86 %	7	7.04 %	5	4.23 %	3	1.41 %	1	71
More Retail Stores	3.08 %	2	3.08 %	2	6.15 %	4	7.69 %	5	13.85 %	9	13.85 %	9	9.23 %	6	23.08 %	15	20.00 %	13	65
Public Library	5.00 %	4	7.50 %	6	12.50 %	10	11.25 %	9	16.25 %	13	12.50 %	10	13.75 %	11	10.00 %	8	11.25 %	9	80

					%				%		%		%		%					
Retention of Elementary School	37.23 %	35	21.28 %	20	8.51 %	8	8.51 %	8	7.45 %	7	6.38 %	6	5.32 %	5	2.13 %	2	3.19 %	3	94	
Sidewalks	18.67 %	14	13.33 %	10	18.67 %	14	9.33 %	7	6.67 %	5	1.33 %	1	8.00 %	6	9.33 %	7	14.67 %	11	75	
Wellness /Health Center	9.20 %	8	17.24 %	15	19.54 %	17	11.49 %	10	12.64 %	11	8.05 %	7	9.20 %	8	10.34 %	9	2.30 %	2	87	
Youth Sports Teams	2.33 %	2	8.14 %	7	13.95 %	12	17.44 %	15	11.63 %	10	15.12 %	13	11.63 %	10	6.98 %	6	12.79 %	11	86	

Q6 - Please list up to three additional improvements or amenities that were not listed above in Question #6 that you would like to see in Tilghman

Improvement/Amenity #1	Improvement/Amenity #2	Improvement/Amenity #3
Pharmacy	Vetrinarian	Increased sheriff presence (has improved!)
Drugs are still here - bottom since Gamble took over	camera at recycle area to prosecute illegal dumping	bottom timing of bridge rod light
A resident cop		
If tourists rent water sport equipment, teach them about osprey nests and how NOT to scare the birds		
Dredging the narrows entrances		
affordable housing for families		
public computers	signs for businesses and activities	plant trees
More police coverage	portable bathrooms	
Ditching	Public access to a beach	
mosquito control	walking trails	protection and maintenance of natural areas
Historical Markers (e.g. this is Bay Hundred)		
Dredging the Narrows	have police presence	Get rid of red layout at the bridge
vet	pharmacy	
Bathrooms	Dog Park (Fence in portion of it)	Keep the weeds at bay
Keeping and expanding green space.		
Community Pool/Fitness center		
trash drop of at the recycling station	WAY TOO MANY WHITE COUNTY PICK UP TRUCKS AT PARKS, WASTE OF TAXES	I HAVE COUNTED OVER 15 TRUCKS CHECKING OUT THE PARKS IN ONE DAY
Bulk trash pick up 4 x a year	Trash pick up	
Police for the drugs	Police for the theft	Compitent postal workers
Adult exercise classes! Yoga, specifically	Post office open all day long	More festivals or community events
Public beach area	Public pool	Gym
Fitness and wellness center		

Hotels		
Litter/street clean up volunteers		
Bus. Association/chamber	Improved boat launches	
Public transportation to get children to after school activities. Most parents have to work elsewhere and can't get their children to activities which are all also held elsewhere	Wider shoulders on the road to allow for walkers/bikers to safely use the road without impeding the traffic	
more public access to waterfront		
public sewers for all areas of the island		
grants for preserving history buildings		
walking/hiking trails	more public areas	recycle pick up
walking / biking trails		
a fence in the park seperating parking lot		
state/county get rid of phragmites on thier land	loop walking trail at Black Walnut Point	Get NOAA to make Tilghman the administrative center for thier demo project
Restriction of boats to no more than 1 on property	restriction of trailer (module) in yards/extension cords	no trash or brush deposited on vacant lots
public transportation - both on island an dother	before and after school childcare -- questionable, there are very few children and will be fewer in the future. Staffing and maintenance could be expensive. Maybe a senior housing facility would be a better use.	Head start program
public access to water		
Permanent restrooms at Dogwood Harbor	Permanent restrooms at Back Creek Park	
more police presence		
Sidewalks	Water access	parks
services and activities for active seniors	bettter utilization of facilities for activities - fire hall, school	
more commercial boat dockage		
Better internet service		
Boardwalks and shops on Knapps Narrows		
drainage on the smaller streets		

Better restaurants	cell tower activated	
change street lights so more appropriate to residential areas - downward facing, don't shine into bedrooms		
utilization of firehouse, school for activities	community garden to help food bank	public restroom
good internet availability on entire island		
protected natural resources		
side streets need better maintainance	widen, drainage and resurfacing	
ladder at boat ramp - safety at ramp	more police presence to deter drug use + dealing	
cell phone service		
Upgrade graphics signage at entry to island	Improve visual experience at Phillips Wharf	Upgrade landscape at entry
Better police patrol during weekends	Community center / public space available to hold classes / meetings	
Public sanitary sewer for all properties	Hiking/biking trail	
A couple of nice public ball fields and tennis courts	A public beach	Ice cream stand in season
Enclosed culverts on Main Street	Community center with meeting facilities, health and wellness, exercise room, and library	Continue to expand after school programs, and meals for kids during summers and vacation periods
Solar-powered street lights	Police substation	Better docking facilities
It's imperative that we retain our bank and the paramedics at the firehouse		
More water sports	Concerts and community events	Guided tours
Better lighting through the Island	Better services to beautify the Island - garbage, trash	Better services to the poor - Food Bank and/or community jobs
Visible law enforcement	Family values and drug counseling to those that need it	
Police/Sheriff Station		
Making Tilghman School more available to the community - eg basketball in winter and part-time medical facility, etc.		
Fish and chips take out restaurant/cafe	Place to meet and drink coffee, etc.	
Public pool	Accessible beach and water area	
A place to exercise (all ages)		

Bike/pedestrian lanes with shared access signs, but no concrete sidewalks	Redevelopment and reuse of the Harrison's Chesapeake House property	
Completion of cell tower		
Public beach for swimming access	Restaurant for locals with reasonable prices - similar to Sam's pizza in St. Michaels	
Seafood market on Island		
The fewer improvements the better		
I'd like to see a fence at Back Creek Park along the parking lot so dogs can run off leash.		
Affordable restaurant	Public transportation to St. Michaels	
Community center emphasis on our children 7 days a week	better speed enforcement	satalite police station
Appropriate commercial businesses along Knapps Narrows	No sidewalks! It destroys rural character, and leads to condemnation of private property	
Development of Knapps Narrows so people can access water-based activities other than expensive sport fishing.	Fish Market	Bike lanes
public kayak launch, something resembling a sandy beach accessible to residents w/o docks	attention to invasive species; plants especially	attention to abandoned buildings
Improvement of storm water management and function/appearance of roadside ditches	Quicker drawbridge operation	Better effort to eliminate littering
County-maintained street lighting	Increase watermen slips at Dogwood Harbor	
Dredge Knapps Narrows and bring back vibrant boat visitors	Control draw bridge openings	

Q7 - In your opinion, are there additional improvements or amenities you would like to see in the County-maintained Back Creek Park, Dogwood Harbor, or Tonger's Basin? (Please list up to three)

Improvement/Amenity #1	Improvement/Amenity #2	Improvement/Amenity #3
put power and phone lines underground		
Get rid of watermen who hand out there drinking all day	get rid of watermen who feel its ok to litter	move in decent watermen to those slips
Dredging - Dogwood/Tongers + Narrows	Camera to enforce dumping at Back Creek Park - LOCK 'EM UP	
year round portapotties		
Maybe more obvious information about the Poplar Island project and the option to visit it. When tourists find out on a visit to TI it is too late to book		
just be sure lights are in each		
move recycling bins to hidden location - keep them clean (glass around trash)		
Back Creek Park - Weeds grow over trail to deck, Boards need to be replaced on deck	Tongers Basin has a lot of trash	
Electric outlets at Tongers Basin		
Public Restrooms (not Porta-Potties)	Better access to the water at Back Creek Park	
slight modifications in Dogwood Harbor area to encourage/promote easy, safe exploration of historic vessels	including parking that doesn't block visual or walking access to harbor vessels	
Back Creek Park - Trash location sets teh "tone" for Tilghman. Better to not have it at all than keep it at our front door	Can someone talk to the confederate flag folks at Tongers? Is not cute and decreases demand for TI visiting. I understand the right to do this but it is hurtful to us all - it's not about political correctness as S.C. gov Nikki Haley Notes	
Dredging the Narrows and Harbor		
Buried power lines		

Back Creek Park - maintained more (deck needs repairs, the walk is covered with weeds)	Trash around Tongers Basin	
More lighting.	More benches for people to enjoy views.	More permanent type structures for bathrooms rather than port-o-potties which detract from views and areas.
Trash dumpster at the recycling center at Back Creek Park (Lot of trash on ground)		
Back Creek Park is Overgrown going up to the Look out	If we are paying the guys in the white county trucks. They could actually do work, not just ride around	I have seen them taking naps in the trucks at the parks,
Monitor & fine for litter	Sitting benches/enhanced by flower beds	
New playground, the plastic coating has busted and metal is poking through	Switch to rubber chips at the playground	Plant fruit trees
Better launch ramp	Fish cleaning station	Rest room
Clean up parks	Clean up basin	
T.B. better parking	Waterfountains/bathrooms	Water access B.C.P.
Fix the potholes in the driveway and parking lot		
Concerts in the park	Public Restrooms that were maintained	Kayak launch
Again clean up the drugs being sold and used in all of these locations.		
Bike racks	Possible covered seating area at the end of dogwood harbor	Somehow better 'policing' if the dumpsters and general irresponsible dumping of trash thru our community particularly at our recycling bins at backcreek...people dump household trash there all of the time, its horrible! our
Fully fenced Back Creek Park		
Live stage		
Would like to see the ball fields behind the school (which have a county sign) maintained		
actually maintain it		
spray park for ticks in summer		
keeping recycling area clean		

make sure the trash is picked up	some public transportation	Additional sitting areas and walking areas
more boat slips		
fence in the park separating parking lot		
Back Creek Park access to Bay at the viewing platform	resurface blacktop at Dogwood and Tongers	
electric hook up at Dogwood Harbor		
Fuel sales at Dogwood Harbor - would cut down on traffic		
public water access		
remove recycling bins from Back Creek Park		
cheaper water sports rental	cheaper boat rentals, more competition	
well maintained public restroom	shade shelter at Dogwood Harbor	Parks and recreation activities
maintenance of dockage	additional dockage	maintenance of boat ramp
Put up a fence with gate at Back Creek Park so children and pets can't run into parking lot and street	Trash in Back Creek Park needs to be emptied more often	Signs to not dump trash at recycle bins
Tilghman tourist info center and public restroom at Backcreek	Activity classes (kayaking, bird watching) at Backcreek	Small pool at Backcreek
no confederate flags at Tongers - insults visitors of all kinds		
fence back of trash - signs about litter	mess is not compatible with child's park	better dog station service - bags, signs of pickup after pets, empty waste
more trash cans for watermans use		
Better visitor friendly graphics and interpretive program to better explain fishing industry in Tilghman		
More trash recepticals at dogwood harbor and Tongers basin	Public toilet at tongers basin	Cut tall brush Behind lookout pier at back creek park
Water fountains		
More slips	Knapps Narrows needs to be dredged	Removal of sunken boats in Tonger's Basin
This should be up to the working watermen		
Kayak rentals and/or lessons		
Dogwood Harbor - Picnic tables and benches		

Dogwood Harbor needs signs that say parking only with permit in places where you park your car and trailer		
Better access to water at Back Creek Park - Clear area around steps and make a beach that you can sit on.		
More parking for Dogwood Harbor	Clean up Tonger's Basin more frequently	
Clean up Tonger's Basin	Better water access at Back Creek Park	
Boat ramp maintenance		
Kayak/paddle board rentals	Tonger's Basin just looks like a dump so anything would help there.	
kayak, SUP, canoe rental and launch access		
None	None	None
Kayak/paddle board rentals		
Dogwood Harbor should have some more tourist type rental places to bring in revenue.		

Q8 - Do you have any other suggestions or comments as to how to protect and enhance the traditional working waterfront in Tilghman, or to improve the overall quality of life in the village? (Please explain)

Do you have any other suggestions or comments as to how to protect and enha...

We came here because we liked Tilghman. If it changes much, we would have a lot less interest in staying.

Install some common sense into Planning and Zoning. Example 1) adding a mooring piling to a 60+ year old pier became it was a few feet too close to the property line - what would it really hurt? 2) much too long to get permission for simple, no impact, changes! example 0 months for ok to add a pad for a home generator. WHY?

Growth needs to be limited. Tilghman is a fishing village and needs to remain so. Wealth cannot and should not dictate what is done on Tilghman. Tired of having wealthy people criticize native islanders and their lifestyle. What you have here are hard-working people that need to be left alone. This is not a luxury island. It is home to good people.

Just do everything to preserve our open land and fields and control any further building.

Complete transparency when changes have been proposed for the community. Some of the islands non-native residents who move here misspeak for the island and make statements that are false. Those who work here are trying to provide for families, not retired and looking for a vacation spot. Views that are often shared are not in favor of a working village. Daytime are not for the working men/people that are affected.

Signs allowed along roads to direct visitors to businesses; reduced parking and driveway requirements for new businesses; signage at entry and exit to St. Michaels indicating waterfront and heritage activities down the road on TI.

Continue to encourage collaboration or activities that bring together full time residents and part time residents - and people who have grown up on the island and those who choose to come here to live - don't want to lose that but rather enhance it!

One has to work on making this an attractive place for visitors and new residents if we are to have job created and more retail.

Have police presence - far from Easton and Saint Michaels

Retain the original "feel" or quaintness while still allowing for influx and growth - since the initial attraction was to the working water environment, that "look" needs to be preserved.

New people don't care about the natives and families of the island. Always want change - why did they move here? Retail can't come here - not enough business

My father was born on Tilghman and his family lived there for generations, with many Tilghman islanders still related to me living and working there. I would like to see the island, it's people, it's history, it's traditions and it's land kept from becoming another "st Michaels". Which is no longer (in my opinion) the true waterman's village that it once was, where the people who worked in the viilage also lived in the village. Most who work in town can't afford to live in the town. Which is a total shame, and I fear Tilghman Island is headed that way.

The process of building our dreams has become way too difficult, The Tilghman watermans museum almost did not happen due to the County and State Restrictions, Philips wharf is having probles also. If the school closes it will be devastating to out community. We need Jobs, The future of Harrison's in Unknown and the other 3 restrutants on tilghman have changed owners severl times in the last couple ouf years. STOP making it so difficult to open a business that serves our community.

Stopen building Housing Communities. Leave the place as it is

a great example of Controlled development / or enhancement Is continue education /dialogue with the county , ex. if a business is given a permit to establish in the village ,they also must enhance their

property(given business) to the natural surroundings, thus giving back to the community.

Surveillance cameras or police presence in the night to deter theft

Drug, alcohol and theft are the biggest issues we face

I think many of my neighbors would benefit from the public busses making regular stops on Tilghman. It is very difficult for some to get to shopping and medical appointments.

There needs to be significant investment from the state as private investors do not exist here. Most watermans/seafood buyers do not have the capital to develop land and structures. A focus on education and next generation of aquaculture for young adults to sustain a healthy seafood population. This industry lacks ongoing education for its private workers.

preserve all the village names and identities

We all love Tilghman. Perhaps a bi-annual community meeting in which ways to continue to improve Tilghman can be discussed and assignments made.

Perhaps a "neighborhood watch" group to work in cooperation with law enforcement to minimize petty crimes (break-ins, burglaries, etc.)

It's great the way it is!

Make Tilghman a destination for ecology i.e. leverage poplar, NOAA + Phillips Wharf Environmental Center

Dredging Narrows, buildings in distress and need to be removed or remodeled, sidewalks to allow pedestrian walking.

There used to be a senior citizens group that met (weekly or monthly) at the church or firehouse that included lunch and various speakers. It is sorely missed. Upon reviewing my responses to this questionnaire, it appears that my goal is to run Tilghman for its citizens rather than for the tourists.

Those of us who live here bought here because we like the slow quaint place...unlike Easton and Saint Michaels.

Preserve zoning that discourages short-term rentals. Encourage family support activities for those with young children. The after school program at Tilghman Island elementary is a treasure and essential for the community.

Phillips Wharf Environmental Center - Seafood Market

limit construction of residential home and consider construction of necessary facilities to accommodate the increased population that reside in the area.

Bike path would be wonderful

No Sidewalks!

Public support for Phillips Wharf Environmental Center, Tilghman Waterman's Museum, and Tilghman Area Youth Association

Elementary school - open for youth/senior activities, mentoring, movie nights, arts programs, firehouse - emergency center during power outages, food classes/programs, exhibits, law enforcement center

limit jet ski use

No

fund Phillips Wharf - they protect the environment

Teach your children to respect the properties of others and to keep their environment clean.

If it is not broken - don't try to fix it! Tilghman is not broken or else folks would not be buying weekend homes

Traditional working waterfront are key words - watermen must have a place affordable to dock and carry out their livelihood - pots, bait, loading, unloading, etc... Maintaining the limited farmland is equally important w/o farms we have less food and diminished rural lifestyle.

Keep an outhouse year round at the park + basins

Start program to develop scatter site, small scale, affordable but compatible design for young watermen - housing - equipment lay down area.

Limit high rise buildings and condominiums. Preserve and provide more public free boat docking. Limit Airbnb rentals, provide noise ordinance against late night parties. Crackdown on known drug users.

I moved to Tilghman Island because I loved it just the way it is. Leave it alone!

Need more police presence. Close down drug house on Main Street

- Dredge Knapps Narrows more frequently so that it becomes a more user friendly thoroughfare - A concerted effort to save the wetlands and prevent further erosion.

Regulation of businesses that come in - i.e. no tourist traps. We want utilitarian businesses i.e fitness center, drug store, bowling alley, hardware store

My greatest fear is that if you keep developing Tilghman the way it sounds like you want it to you will end up with another St. Michaels on your hands. You will destroy Tilghman and the people who live here because of the way it is, people will no longer want to live here.

Closer working relationship between long-time residents and new residents

The challenge is that what makes it a charming village is also creating problems - especially for teens who are drinking alcohol and finding drugs for sale. Teen programs are essential. The Elementary School does an amazing job with after school care and summer camps, but as students age out there is nothing for them to do. This lack of programming and support creates an environment of crime and despair.

Create and install a large 'Welcome to Tilghman' sign at the entry to the Island. Re-establish the Tilghman Island newspaper. Most Important - We need young families, kids and working people.

Seafood market at PWEC. Bread baking company

Don't change it too much! It's beautiful!

More clarity on how and where commercial development is allowed in VC zone; Review regulations that affect watermen to assure they will always be part of Tilghman Island. They are its core.

Do not encourage development outside of "downtown" Tilghman. Place an historic overlay to regulate the size/appearance of new construction. Do not increase density between Tilghman and Easton along Route 33.

Knapps Narrows must be dredged!

I am adamantly opposed to either or both sidewalks and bicycle lanes on Tilghman (including and especially on Route 33). We are not St. Michaels! Bicyclists could end their trip on the other side of the bridge, or, if they cross, park their bikes at PWEC.

If people don't like the way it is they should move back where they come from! I own seven properties along Route 33 and I will not sign off for sidewalks on these properties.

more DNR involvement , dredging of the Knapps

Use Knapps Narrows properties for commercial seafood/boatyard and other water-related businesses.

Preserving the working waterfront is imperative, but I have no expertise to offer. I think that the "from here" population is falling further behind educationally and therefore socioeconomically. For the island to maintain its history and also prosper, this population needs significant training and workplace development. How you make that palatable to them is a challenge.

Provide help to stop littering. Improve the drainage of storm water, especially on Barb Neck Rd at the top of Barb Neck Cove where the tidal water mixes with the old tailings from dredging done decades ago.

Keep village authentic, not a tourist trap like St. Michaels. Approach the State to stop closure of Rte 33 for St. Michaels events, greatly inconveniencing those who live below on the peninsula.

Need to attract young families with a better school and better jobs.

To bring in revenue - it needs to be made a 'destination.' What about making it a training area for athletes like Cambridge did for the Ironman? I'm not saying bringing in thousands of people that would ruin the island, but making it a place where athletes would come, stay, and train - it is a perfect launching place for something like bikers, runners, triathletes... Another thought is really developing PWEC and making it grow into a fantastic learning community about the Chesapeake Bay - the experts literally live right on the Island. Working museums, places for field trips for people to come to. The residents of the Island would really benefit from resources being put back into the School. It has the space for a public library and a wellness center. That would be amazing for so many residents to have access to the internet and basic needs being met.

Dredge Knapps Narrows and help the town attract visitors thru various methods. Too many people think the world ends in St. Michaels. We need tourists to keep what little business is there open.

Chapter 3 Agricultural and Rural Conservation



Vision

Talbot County's undeveloped and working agricultural lands are precious resources that are critical to the rural character and quality of life which the Comprehensive Plan seeks to preserve. Residential and commercial development pressures are no longer in conflict with preservation of the rural landscape, thanks to the land use policies put in place to direct growth toward designated areas and otherwise preserve agricultural and forest lands.

The keystone preservation strategy is for critical tracts of undeveloped land to be placed under conservation easements. Comprehensive planning that designates preservation and growth areas, combined with rigorously enforced zoning ordinances and a range of land preservation incentives, maintain a balance of land uses and foster agricultural operations.

2017 State of Maryland Goals for Agriculture 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. 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.
6. Work with local governments to achieve the following:
 - Establish preservation areas, goals, and strategies through local comprehensive planning processes that address and complement State goals;
 - In each area designated for preservation, develop a shared understanding of goals and the strategy to achieve them among rural landowners, the public-at-large, and State and local government officials;
 - Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by ensuring sufficient public commitment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs;
 - Use local land use management authority effectively to protect public investment in preservation by managing development in rural preservation areas; 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.

Goal

Conserve Talbot County's agricultural land base and preserve its rural character by directing growth to existing population centers and securing permanent conservation easements in predominantly rural areas.

Introduction

Agriculture is a significant part of Talbot County life, both as a major industry and as an important contributor to the county's distinctive character. Working farmland is a valuable and limited natural resource that once developed, cannot be reclaimed for agricultural use.

Conservation of working land is an important component of support to the agricultural industry. In spite of increasing development pressure on agricultural and open space lands, Talbot County continues to derive benefit from conserving these elements of rural character.

In order to preserve agricultural land and open space, the County, in 1991, adopted a comprehensive rezoning of rural and agricultural lands, reducing the density permitted in agricultural areas from one dwelling unit per two acres.

Figure 3-1 Talbot County Farm Statistics, 1982-2012

Farm number and size	1982	1987	1992	1997	2002	2007	2012
Number of farms	350	280	250	240	288	305	328
Average size (acres)	342	389	423	457	367	357	364
Land in farms (acres)	119,684	109,032	109,108	109,572	105,729	109,002	119,481

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

General Agricultural Land Use Policies

3.1 Agricultural and forestry activities are the primary and preferred land use activity in rural areas of the county.

3.2 Agricultural and forestry activities should be conducted in accordance with best management practices for soil and water conservation which are approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

3.3 Agriculturally-related commercial and industrial uses are permitted in the non-Critical areas of the county, provided these uses can be compatible with surrounding land uses and do not adversely impact environmentally sensitive areas.

3.4 Low density single-family residential construction is permitted in agricultural areas. Development design standards for rural residential development should insure the conservation of agricultural lands, open space, woodlands, environmentally sensitive areas and *rural character*.

3.5 Rural landowners should be provided the opportunity to transfer development rights from a property in order to maintain development equity and conserve agricultural lands and open space.

In its place, zoning now allows a variable density somewhat less than one unit per twenty acres on most farmland. This density has been modified by SB236.

To maintain the commercial viability of agriculture, clustering of subdivided lots is generally required. Code amendments passed in 2007 eliminated the opportunity to increase development intensity through the use of Transferable Development Rights (TDRs).

To further protect agriculture as a land use activity, a Right to Farm ordinance was enacted in 2000, stressing the County's commitment to agriculture and helping to protect farmers from unwarranted nuisance complaints.

The most current Census of Agriculture reports an increase in area and number of farms from 2002 to 2007, and again in 2012. New calculations bring numbers close to the farm acres from 1982. The average farm size remains below the historic high in 1997.

Some of these fluctuations may be due to changes in the definition of farming operations or the way census data were gathered. The period was also one of industry consolidation, followed by a recent interest in the establishment of smaller specialty farms.

Changes in farmland acreage over the past 50 years are shown in Figure 3-1.

Existing Land Preservation Programs

MALPF

Founded in 1977, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) is one of the oldest and most successful programs of its kind in the nation. The MALPF program is intended to permanently protect farmland by offering landowners financial incentives to voluntarily sell development rights. The Foundation's purpose is to preserve sufficient agricultural land to maintain a viable food and fiber production capacity for present and future citizens of Maryland. The program is administered by the County and State in an equitable partnership.

Talbot County has a moderately successful MALPF program. Community participation has been steadfast and increasing. Landowners have applied to establish easements on an increasing number of farms in every application period. Each annual round of easement purchases has been highly competitive, with only the highest quality farmland purchased in any year.

Presently, Talbot County's MALPF holdings consist of 10,905 acres in 71 easements, with 11,003 acres on 88 properties vying for future easement purchases. As a MALPF Certified County, Talbot is qualified to retain a portion of agricultural transfer taxes collected in the county, to be reserved for land preservation. The County has used, and intends to use, all retained funds to purchase development rights, supplement MALPF payments, or promote the sale or purchase of easements. Certification allows Talbot County to retain 2/3 of all agricultural transfer tax revenues collected, for the sole purpose of purchasing agricultural easements in the county.

Easement applications reached a record high



MALPF Preserved Farm near Cordova

in 2006, as State funds for land preservation peaked. Most of the decade was characterized by dramatic increases in land value, and a corresponding increase in easement acquisition costs. The net effect was a greater per-acre cost to purchase agricultural easements.

By 2008, land preservation in the County and State came to a halt, due to the economic recession and its impact on tax revenues which fund the MALPF program. With little funds available to purchase easements, progress in land preservation has slowed considerably.

In order to add predictability and a greater degree of local control, the County should pursue additional sources of funding, both public and private, to acquire conservation easements.



Talbot County remains committed to assisting local property owners who are interested in participating in MALPF or other local, regional, state and national conservation programs. The County will continue to work with the State to actively encourage more farmers to participate in MALPF and other programs.

Conservation Programs

Land Trusts

Non-profit land trusts play an invaluable role helping to protect the county's rural and agricultural landscape. Unlike MALPF, which purchases easements for cash, land trusts typically accept donated easements in exchange for federal and State income tax credits and deductions.

Over one half of the land that is preserved from future subdivision and development in the county has been protected (at no cost to the County) by two such organizations the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) and the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET). These organizations craft conservation easements that extinguish legal development rights and hold easements on preserved lands. The easements are recognized as tax deductible donations. Property owners who wish to voluntarily conserve land agree to deed restrictions that preserve farmland, forests, streams, shorelines and other important resources.

As of this report, approximately 100 such easements protect about 15,000 acres of land within the county. Most properties are in areas designated for limited development and environmental conservation in County land preservation plans. The County should continue to support these organizations with data sharing and other resources in their efforts to acquire conservation easements.

Historically, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Nature Conservancy have also acquired land or easements to protect critical resources such as old growth forests and marshland. These sensitive resources are valued habitat protection areas for threatened and endangered species and the ecological diversity they preserve.

Rural Legacy and Program Open Space

The Agricultural Security Rural Legacy Area was developed by the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, in cooperation with Talbot and other Midshore counties, in order to preserve lands

bordering waterways such as the Tuckahoe River in the northeast corner of the county.

The Talbot portion on the Tuckahoe is part of an upper shore Agricultural Security Corridor, established to help safeguard the Eastern Shore's agricultural economy. The northeast quadrant of the county is a hub of agricultural production and investment, stressing the importance of land preservation. About 830 acres in the county have been preserved through Rural Legacy easements. Future Rural Legacy Areas may provide for additional protection of farmland paralleling MD Route 404, in cooperation with Queen Anne's County, in an effort to maintain the Corridor's Rural Character in spite of ongoing transportation system improvements.

DNR Lands

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages several publicly owned parks and protected sites in Talbot County. These 238 acres of public lands include Black Walnut Point Natural Resource Management Area, Bill Burton Fishing Pier State Park, Wye Oak State Park and Seth Demonstration Forest. The sites provide recreational water access, passive recreational opportunities and natural resource services to local residents and visitors alike.

TDR Lands

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) lands are properties that have participated in a County managed TDR program and have sold or transferred development rights from one property to another, preserving land as open space or agricultural lands. The County does not permit TDRs at present.

Priority Preservation Areas

The Talbot County Department of Planning and Zoning adopted a Priority Preservation Area (PPA) plan as an element of the Comprehensive Plan, in 2009. The element was required for counties with certified MALPF programs. The intent was to assure that State funds were used in a strategic fashion to meet local goals.

The Talbot County PPA encompasses approximately 83,000 acres and includes the majority of existing MALPF easements and prospective properties, the Tuckahoe Rural Legacy area, and several conservation easements. The PPA is home to a high percentage of local farm owner/operators. Farm operations are diverse, ranging from grain and poultry, to aquaculture, greenhouse and hydroponic growers, wine grapes, artisan cheeses and specialty produce. The area hosts a variety of agricultural support services including grain storage facilities, agricultural equipment dealers and a network of specialized service providers.

The PPA also contains high concentrations of the most productive soils in the county and is capable of supporting profitable agricultural and forestry enterprises. In 2004, Talbot County partnered with The Conservation Fund to develop a Green Infrastructure Plan identifying and evaluating areas of high natural resource and agricultural value. This research provided important background toward establishing a viable priority area.



MALPF Easement Outside Easton

Virtually all land in the PPA is designated for agriculture in the County Zoning Ordinance.

Agricultural Conservation (AC) zoning predominates, with slightly more restrictive **Rural Conservation (RC)** zoning in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area. The County has no plans to extend sewer or water into the PPA.

Almost all of the PPA has been designated Tier 4 in accordance with the *Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act*. Tier 4 is designated for limited development, and each parcel is limited to seven new subdivisions, regardless of the acreage of the parent parcel. Zoning places other constraints and restrictions on non-agricultural development activities in order to minimize conflicts with agriculture.



Figure 3-2 Talbot County Priority Preservation Area Goals

	acres	Farms (est.)	% of farm land
Farm Land (Census of Agriculture, 2012)	119,481	328	100%
MALPF Preserved Land (2012)	10,905	71	10%
MALPF Eligible Land in PPA	70,000	488	64%
20 Year MALPF Preservation Goal	56,000	391	51%

Among the uses not permitted in the PPA are Auto Service Stations, Hospitals, Hotels, Manufacturing, Nightclubs, Offices, Indoor Recreation Facilities, Major Retail and Solid Waste Disposal. Prohibiting large or intensive non-residential development will minimize the threats of conflicting uses, heavy traffic and the lure to take land out of agricultural production.

The County has worked to minimize constraints or restrictions on farm related activities by amending zoning regulations to accommodate a range of contemporary uses. For example, farm markets, produce stands, wholesale and retail greenhouses, fish and game hatcheries, and riding stables are all permitted uses in agricultural areas.

The PPA is bound and bisected by major traffic and tourism routes to Maryland and Delaware beaches. Despite the obvious attraction to develop these byways, non-agricultural development has been restricted almost exclusively to the incorporated towns along the highways. Priority Preservation Area goals are shown in Figure 3-2.

Land Preservation Policies

3.6 The County should encourage rural property owners to participate in land preservation easement programs offered by national, State, regional and local land trust organizations.

3.7 The County should work with local farmers and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation to encourage the greatest possible participation in the program.

3.8 The County should monitor the effectiveness of current incentives designed to preserve working farmland and open space by reviewing land use changes in the Rural Reserve planning area.

3.9 The County should examine opportunities to create additional tax or other incentives to preserve farmland.

3.10 The County will maintain a Priority Preservation Area program that specifies goals, an implementation program, program evaluation, and program development strategy.

Also included in the PPA are the villages of Cordova, Bruceville, Ivytown, Williamsburg and Wye Mills, which are emblematic of Talbot County's agricultural heritage. For example, Wye Mills traces its roots to the Colonial period when the extant grain mill was first established. Cordova's history dates to the 20th Century commodity-based agricultural boom and remains central to grain and poultry production.

There are approximately 4,130 parcels of record in the PPA. Of those, about 650 parcels are 50 acres or greater; 488 of those MALPF-qualifying parcels are not yet preserved or enrolled in a preservation program. The parcels that would qualify for the MALPF program amount to approximately 70,000 acres of farm and forest land.

Talbot County has retained a 'district' registration system based on the former statewide requirement, with a nonbinding 3 year program commitment. The Department of Planning and Zoning encourages registration as a district to assure that a parcel meets program requirements and that landowners are contacted during each application cycle.

Summary

If Talbot County continues to secure MALPF easements at its historic rate, it will take over 100 years to reach agricultural land preservation goals. In order to achieve a 20-year preservation goal of 56,000 additional acres, easements would need to be acquired at a rate of 2,800 acres per year.

Adequate funding is the most significant impediment to achieving County preservation goals. Funds are scarce at every possible level of source. Interest in land preservation has remained strong through periods of scarce funding and episodes of extraordinary fluctuations in land and easement values.

To the public, there is no apparent difference between permanently preserved land and other farm property. Whether land remains in agriculture because commodity prices are high, or because the demand for new housing is low, County policies appear to be working when new residential subdivisions are not emerging on the landscape.

Talbot County is not unique in this respect. All Maryland counties face challenges and tradeoffs in their efforts to manage land development while working cooperatively with landowners. As development restrictions increase, the motivation for landowners to participate in preservation programs diminishes.

State legislation establishing Priority Preservation Areas and limiting the number of subdivisions

allowable on septic systems have added greater focus to the goals of preserving viable agricultural areas and limiting a pattern of sprawling development. The challenge for Talbot County is to combine such regulations with policies that support farm families and businesses in their endeavors.

To a great extent, County policies have been working. A combination of ‘moderately protective’ zoning, land use priorities backed by incentives and regulations, and Right to Farm legislation all serve to keep agriculture viable.

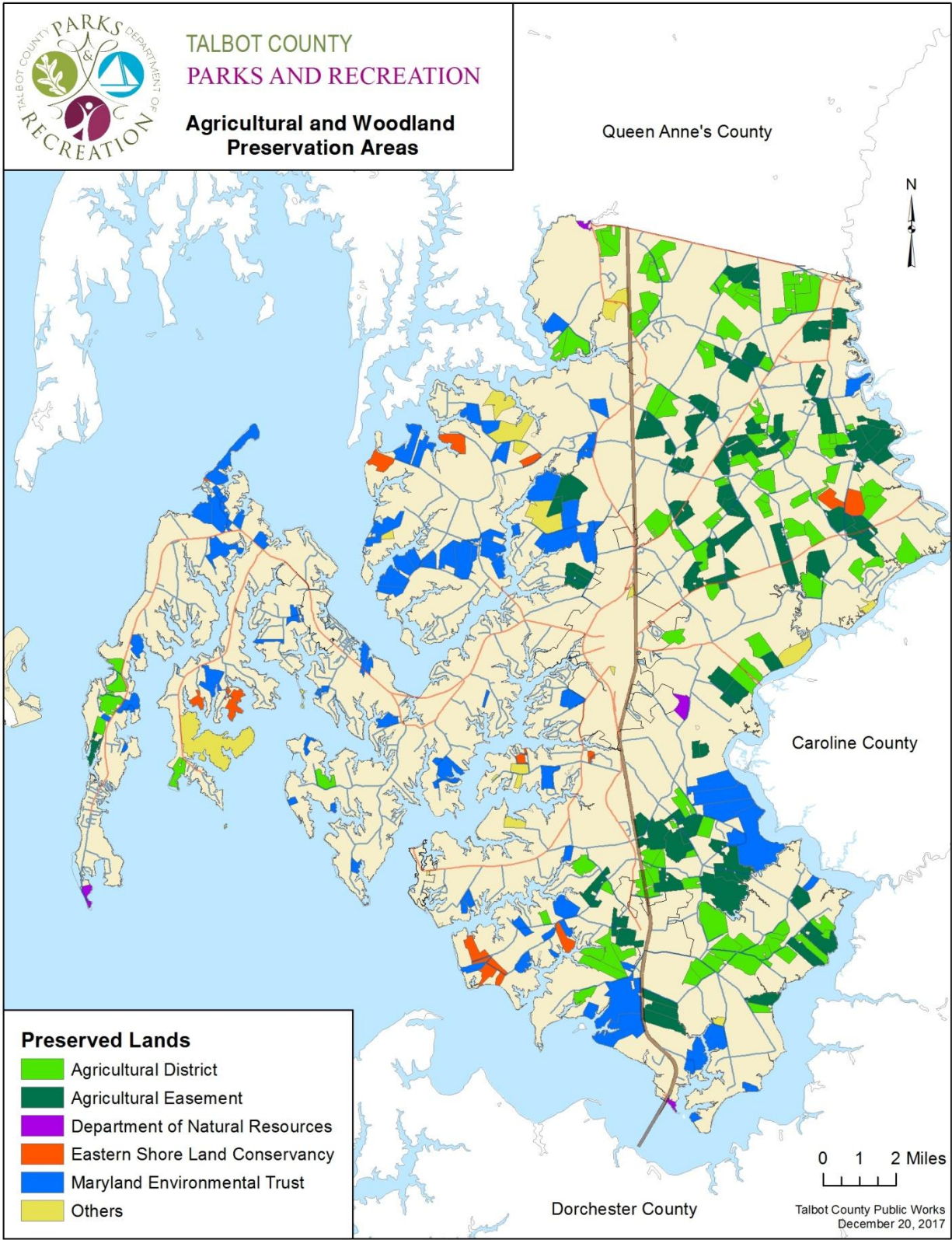
Thanks to Talbot County’s longstanding local traditions, affinity for a rural landscape, and a healthy regional market for agricultural products, the motivation to preserve agricultural land and agricultural industry remains strong.





**TALBOT COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION**

**Agricultural and Woodland
Preservation Areas**



Preserved Lands

- Agricultural District
- Agricultural Easement
- Department of Natural Resources
- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
- Maryland Environmental Trust
- Others



TALBOT COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION

Rural Legacy Areas



Chapter 4 Natural Resource Conservation



Vision

Because our natural resources and sensitive areas are critical to the quality of life in Talbot County and because significant components of our local economy depend upon clean and abundant waters, the County takes the necessary steps to reduce runoff and other pollutants into its waters. The means of enforcing these provisions are adequately funded, and measurable, objective criteria for monitoring the success of our efforts are in place.

Groundwater and aquifers—as well as wetlands, rivers and bays — are aggressively protected for the future. Measurable standards are in place to determine whether development threatens to deteriorate our groundwater or reduce our aquifers to unsustainable levels.

Thanks to adequate safeguards, sand and gravel extraction and closure of extraction sites avoid environmental damage. Site recovery and conversion to ponds and wooded areas controls runoff, helps maintain groundwater tables, beautifies the landscape and creates opportunities for parks and recreational areas.

To ensure the adequacy of the infrastructure prior to any development, the County strives to ensure that the cost of development is borne by the developer. Public infrastructure capacities are based on peak, rather than average, load requirements.

Goals

- Conserve and protect Talbot County’s most valuable and attractive assets, its natural resources.
- Maintain, in cooperation with the local municipalities, a safe and adequate water supply and adequate amounts of wastewater treatment capacity.
- Take steps to protect and restore water quality, and to meet water quality requirements in rivers and streams.
- Conserve major accessible mineral resource deposits for future extraction while safeguarding the public by minimizing the environmental impacts of resource extraction and transport.
- Establish and enforce programs and regulations to ensure preservation of natural resources, provide tax, financial, and any other incentives for compliance while allowing for moderate planned growth and development on existing lots or record.

State of Maryland 2017 Goals for Natural Resource Conservation

- Identify, protect, and restore lands and waterways in Maryland that support important aquatic and terrestrial natural resources and ecological functions, through combined use of the following techniques:
 - Public land acquisition and stewardship;
 - Private land conservation easements and stewardship practices through purchased or donated easement programs;
 - Local land use management plans and procedures that conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas and minimize impacts to resource lands when development occurs;
 - Support and incentives for resource-based economies that increase retention of forests, wetlands, or agricultural lands;
 - Avoidance of impact on natural resources by publicly funded infrastructure development projects; and
 - Appropriate mitigation response, commensurate with the value of the affected resource.
- Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas, according to a strategic framework such as the Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) in GreenPrint (which is not to be confused with the former easement program also called GreenPrint).
- Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that fall outside the green infrastructure (examples include: rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shale barren communities, grasslands, shore line beach and dune systems, mud flats, non-forested islands, etc.)
- Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas to assist State and local implementation programs.
- Assess the combined ability of State and local programs to:
 - Expand and connect forests, farmlands, and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure;
 - Protect critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats, biological communities, and populations;
 - Manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve, and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands, floodplains, and aquifer recharge areas and their associated hydrologic and water quality functions;
 - Adopt coordinated land and watershed management strategies that recognize the critical links between growth management and aquatic biodiversity and fisheries production; and
 - Support a productive forestland base and forest resource industry, emphasizing the economic viability of privately owned forestland.
- Establish measureable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated State/local strategy to achieve them through State and local implementation programs.

Introduction

Talbot County's most notable feature is its proximity to the Chesapeake Bay and its 600 mile, irregular shoreline. Bordered by the Chesapeake Bay to the west, the Choptank River to the south and east, and the Tuckahoe River to the northeast, Talbot County is nearly surrounded by tidal waters. Along its western edge, the county takes the form of numerous peninsulas, necks, coves and creeks.

The County's history is reflected in its landscape. The land and waterways are intertwined in a unique mosaic of tidal waters, streams, farmlands, and forests, following settlement patterns dating to pre-Colonial times. A scattered patchwork of farms, estates, villages, and towns grew from

Natural Resource Policies

4.1 The County shall maintain countywide policies for conservation and protection of natural and cultural resources.

4.2 The County will enforce mandatory programs and regulations, and develop financial incentives to insure preservation of natural resources.

4.3 Where required, the County shall call for evidence of federal and State environmental permits as a condition of local development approval.

4.4 The County requires all new major subdivisions to submit an environmental impact assessment prepared by a qualified professional as part of a development application. The assessment must include all environmentally sensitive features on and adjacent to the site.

4.5 The County will maintain a Geographic Information System (GIS) inventory and map of countywide natural resources to assist with resource preservation management.

4.6 The County should promote and encourage partnerships to maintain comprehensive baseline data providing a measurable basis for pollution monitoring. Baseline data for air and water quality should be tracked to measure progress on environmental quality indicators.

4.7 The County will maintain cooperative partnerships with State, federal and town government agencies to address environmental problems as needed.

traditions long centered on farming, seafood and maritime industries.

This Plan references the 2010 Census counts and projections. It also incorporates the septic tier system required by SB 236 into the Comprehensive Plan. New to this chapter are the recent State requirements for a Water Resources Element in the Comprehensive Plan and the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program.

The conservation and protection of sensitive natural resources transcends man-made boundaries. Loss of forest land, polluted runoff coursing into local waters, loss of agricultural land, and development in sensitive areas are all significant issues countywide.

Uniquely, over one third of the county's land area is within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area. The County's Critical Area program contains strict regulations for the protection of these sensitive shoreline areas. Floodplain regulations extend additional safeguards within the 100-year floodplains.

Because sensitive areas are more vulnerable to environmental degradation, future development should be directed away from such areas and guided toward areas where environmental impacts would be less severe. All future development, regardless of location, should be subject to minimum performance standards for environmental protection and natural resource conservation.

The costs of resource restoration are far greater than those of resource conservation and protection. The loss of natural resources must either be accepted or the costs must be borne by County taxpayers to address the consequences of environmental degradation. The cost in tax dollars expended for



water quality remediation in the Chesapeake Bay is a case in point.

Environmental quality is one attribute that makes Talbot County an especially desirable place to live and work. Efforts to conserve and protect natural resources yield long-term public benefits. The intent of County environmental protection measures is not to stop growth or development, but to ensure that development occurs without impairing the environmental sustainability of sensitive areas.

Water Resources Element

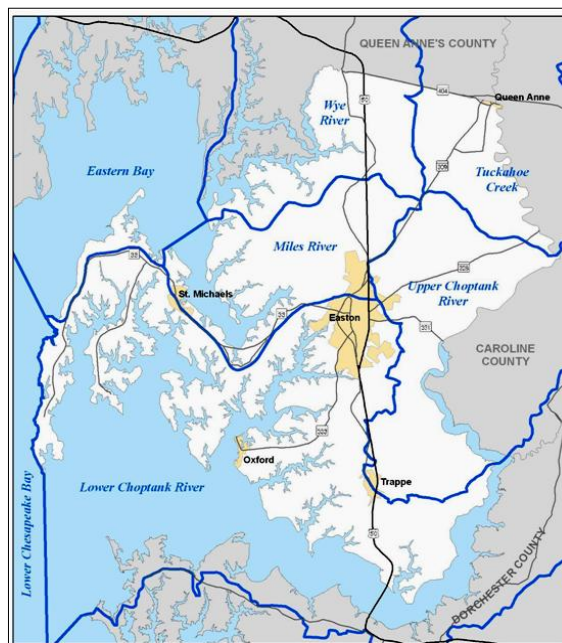
Background

The Water Resources Element represents a policy framework for sustaining public drinking water supplies and protecting the county's waterways and riparian ecosystems by effectively managing point and non-point source water pollution.

State Requirements for Water Resources Element

This Water Resources Element complies with the requirements of State law as modified by Maryland House Bill 1141, passed in 2006. Among the requirements addressed in this section are:

1. To identify drinking water and other water resources that will be adequate for the needs of existing and future development proposed in the Plan's land use element, considering available data;
2. To identify suitable receiving waters and land areas to meet stormwater management and wastewater treatment and disposal needs of existing and future development proposed in the land use element of the plan, considering available data provided by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE);
3. To deliver the Plan for review by the Department of the Environment to determine whether the proposed Plan is consistent with the program goals of the Department.



The original element was reviewed by MDE, and adopted by the Talbot County Council in December, 2010. It has been amended to include more recent data from the 2010 U.S. Census, along with updated growth projections as described in Chapter 1 (Background).

The Water Resources Element incorporated in this Plan identifies opportunities to manage existing water supplies, wastewater effluent, and stormwater runoff in a way that balances the needs of the natural environment with the County's land use plans, including the County's municipalities. The emphasis is to protect the local and regional ecosystem while ensuring clean drinking water for future generations of County residents.

This Element takes a watershed-based approach to analyze the impact of future growth on Talbot County's water resources, particularly in relation to discharged nutrients.

Figure 4-1 Projected Housing Unit Growth by Watershed, Through 2030

Watersheds	2007 Existing ²	2007-2030 Growth	
		Increment	2030 Total
Eastern Bay	242	85	327
Lower Chesapeake Bay	5	0	5
Lower Choptank River			
Easton ¹	5,224	1,141	6,365
Trappe ¹	368	116	484
St. Michaels ¹	327	5	332
Oxford	963	20	983
Remainder of Watershed	6,077	237	6,314
Miles River			
Easton ¹	896	119	1,015
St. Michaels ¹	693	91	784
Remainder of Watershed	2,087	119	2,206
Tuckahoe Creek			
Queen Anne	48	4	52
Remainder of Watershed	567	103	670
Upper Choptank River			
Easton ¹	506	45	551
Trappe ¹	117	336	453
Remainder of Watershed	1,386	185	1,571
Wye River	677	156	833
Total	20,183	2,762	22,945

Notes:

1: Includes the portion of the municipality (including areas likely to be annexed, based on the Talbot County Water and Sewer Master Plan) that falls within this watershed.

2: Source: Maryland Property View 2007

Inter-jurisdictional Coordination

The County recognizes the importance of inter-jurisdictional water resources planning. This Plan compiles, to the greatest degree possible, up-to-date statistics in order to coordinate water resources, growth, and land use planning. Data from municipal plans were used for this assessment. Where possible, Talbot County has also obtained data and information on water resources from adjoining counties, in order to paint the fullest possible picture of future impacts to the Choptank, Wye, and other rivers and streams that form Talbot County's boundaries.

There are five incorporated municipalities in Talbot County. Residents and businesses of the communities of Easton, Oxford, St. Michaels and Trappe receive public water and/or sewer service. Queen Anne residents and businesses do not receive public water or sewer service. Municipalities own and operate all of the public water systems in Talbot County. Easton, Oxford, and Trappe operate their own wastewater treatment plants.

County Projections and Scenarios

This chapter uses countywide population projections by the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), referenced in Chapter 1. These projections indicate that the county population will reach

approximately 42,900 by the year 2030, an increase of roughly 5,120 persons from the 2010 population of 37,782.

At the time the Water Resources Element was prepared in 2010, the County and its municipalities had granted at least preliminary approval for more than 5,500 housing units. Three thousand of these were planned by the Town of Trappe. For the purposes of the following analysis, it is understood that some of the approved units will not be built and occupied by 2030, nor be occupied by full-time residents.

Though MDP conducted a Development Capacity Analysis in 2010 indicating that over 20,000 new housing units could be accommodated under County zoning, subsequent actions have rendered such an outcome less likely. For example, the Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012 (the septic tier system) has substantially limited subdivision potential for large rural parcels.



Future Development Scenario

A single future development scenario, based on pre-2010 population projections, was developed for the 2010 Water Resources Element in order to evaluate the sustainability of the County's 2005 Comprehensive Plan.

Figure 4-2 Source Aquifers for Existing Public Water Systems, 2000

Water System ¹	Source Aquifer (number of wells)	Source Concerns / System Issues
Easton	Aquia Greensand (1), Magothy (3), Upper Patapsco (2)	Elevated arsenic levels
Oxford Area	Aquia Greensand (2)	Elevated arsenic levels
St. Michaels	Aquia Greensand (2)	Elevated arsenic levels
Trappe ¹	Piney Point (2)	
Claiborne	Aquia Greensand (2)	System size limitations, leakage. Elevated arsenic levels
Hyde Park	Aquia Greensand (2), Federalsburg (1)	Elevated arsenic levels
Martingham	Aquia Greensand (2)	Elevated arsenic levels

Sources: 2002 Talbot County Water and Sewer Master Plan; 2009 Trappe Comprehensive Plan (WRE); 2009 Easton Comprehensive Plan (WRE).

Notes:

1: Trappe also has groundwater allocations from the Matawan Aquifer, although there are no active production wells in this formation

The non-point source loading analysis continues to anticipate the use of septic denitrification technologies to improve the quality of the County's receiving waters. Also, plans are underway to extend sewer to areas of failing septic systems and mapped communities and subdivisions in environmentally sensitive areas, further reducing the amount of nitrogen and bacteria released into rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

Because water and sewer service is often measured in terms of equivalent dwelling units (EDU), the Water Resources element uses housing units as the basis for its water, sewer and non-point source pollution analyses.

Figure 4-1 shows the projected watershed-level distribution of housing units in the 2010 scenario.

Revised (2012) population estimates change the projections slightly: There were slightly fewer households than estimated (19,577 rather than the 2007 estimate of 20,183). The number of households projected in 2030 has also been revised from 22,866 to 22,945. However, the assumption remains that about 70 percent of new housing units will be built in municipalities, including those areas identified as the towns' future growth areas.

The updated projections have not changed the core planning assumptions and so the scenario has been altered little from the original.

Drinking Water Assessment

This section describes existing conditions and projected future demand for drinking water in Talbot County.

Public Water Systems

Groundwater is the source of all public and private drinking water in Talbot. Groundwater quality in the county is generally good. Elevated levels of naturally-occurring arsenic are known to be present in some areas. Saltwater intrusion in the Aquia aquifer is a known problem in the region of the Eastern Shore and may also be a special concern in the County's coastal areas. These issues are discussed in more detail in the section below.

Figure 4-2 summarizes municipal and community water sources in the County. The *Talbot County Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan* (CWSP) provides detailed information on county water supply sources, existing and proposed water facilities, and schedules for improvements. The County has a groundwater protection plan, and during the update process the County applied changes in accordance with new federal water quality standards.

Approximately 9,600 dwelling units in Talbot County, and a considerable share of businesses, receive drinking water from municipal and community water systems. The Towns of Easton, Oxford, St. Michaels, and Trappe all operate municipal water systems. There are also private community water systems in the communities of Claiborne, Martingham under the County's jurisdiction, and Hyde Park in the Town of Easton.

Figure 4-3 Talbot County Groundwater Withdrawals by Use Category, 2007

Type of Withdrawal	Total Withdrawals (MGD)			Percent of County Withdrawals
	Surface Water	Groundwater	Total	
Industrial	0	0.88	0.88	11%
Livestock Watering	0.02	0.12	0.14	4%
Irrigation	0.69	1.35	2.04	14%
Residential self-supplied	0	1.61	1.61	26%
Public Supply	0	2.55	2.55	39%
Total	.71	6.51	6.00	100%

Source: USGS MD-DE-DE Water Science Center <http://md.water.usgs.gov/freshwater/withdrawals/>

All of the major public water systems in the County have available system capacity to support projected growth through 2030. Available source water supply is covered in the *Issues and Discussion* section on the subsequent page.

Other Water Use

All residential units and businesses in Talbot County not served by the public water systems rely on individual or community wells. These wells are drilled in a variety of water-bearing formations, particularly the Columbia (or surficial) aquifer, Miocene, Piney Point and Aquia aquifers. Although not a precise representation of current water use, public water and private residential wells represent almost two thirds of all water use in the County.

There were 329 active groundwater appropriation permits in Talbot County in 2002, drawing a daily average of 6.4 million gallons per day (MGD). A complete summary, *Hydrogeology of the Coastal Plain Aquifer System in Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties*, can be accessed at

http://www.mgs.md.gov/publications/report_pages/RI_72.html.

The remainder of this section discusses non-public water uses in greater detail.

Private Residential Wells

About 10,500 residential units in Talbot County rely on individual wells or (in a few cases) community wells for drinking water supply, as do most businesses in rural areas. Private residential wells generally draw water from the Piney Point aquifer in the western and southern portions of the county, and the Aquia and Miocene aquifers in the central portion. Some older residences, particularly in the north and east continue to draw from the Columbia aquifer.

The total projected new demand for public water systems includes the transfer of some homes and businesses from private wells to public systems. These connections would add to the demand for public water service but not to the overall withdrawals from aquifers.

Major Commercial and Industrial Users

Commercial and industrial activities outside of municipal systems account for approximately one-fifth of all water used in Talbot County. The largest concentrations of such water use are found in Cordova and in areas adjacent to Easton and Trappe. The majority of non-municipal commercial/industrial water use is scattered throughout the county's rural areas, typically along U.S. 50 and other major roads.

Agricultural Water Users

As is the case throughout the Eastern Shore, Talbot County's farmers employ irrigation using both surface water and groundwater. Irrigation is most frequently used in areas to the south and east of Easton. Most surface water used for irrigation is drawn from Tuckahoe Creek. Groundwater for irrigation is generally drawn from the surficial aquifer. Recent droughts and near-droughts have led to an increased number of acres under irrigation since 2000, however usage is not consistent from year to year. In the 2014 Farm Services Agency report, irrigation was available on approximately 4,660 acres of farmland.

Issues and Discussion – Water

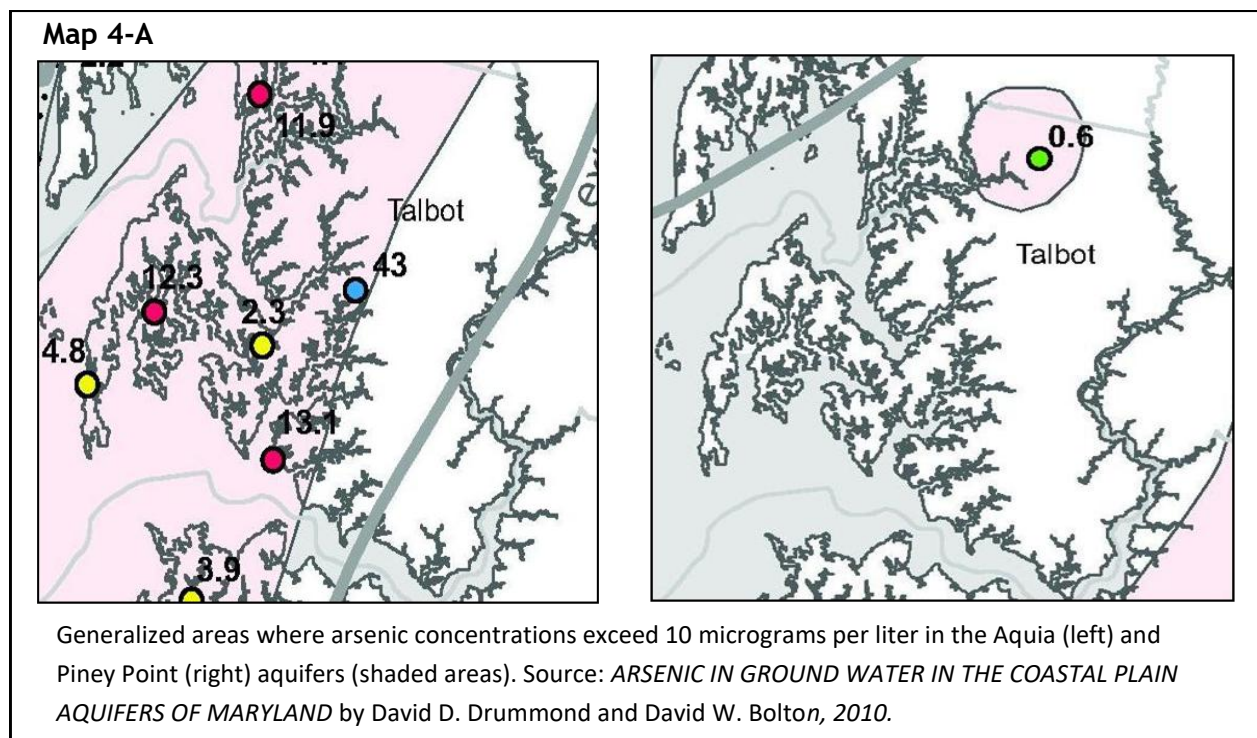
Groundwater Recharge

Talbot County's public and private water users draw drinking water from several major confined aquifers, many of which are widely used throughout the region. The capacity of these confined aquifers is increasingly strained by new development on the Delmarva Peninsula and west. (See Figure 4-3, Talbot County Groundwater Withdrawals by Use Category, 2007.)

The U.S. Geological Society (USGS) reports that "withdrawals from Maryland Coastal Plain aquifers

have caused ground-water levels in confined aquifers to decline by tens to hundreds of feet from their original levels. Continued water-level declines could affect the long-term sustainability of ground-water resources in agricultural areas of the Eastern Shore” (*Sustainability of the Ground Water Resources in the Atlantic Coastal Plain of Maryland*. USGS Fact Sheet 2006-2009). In most cases, the recharge areas for these aquifers extend to the Western Shore.

No comprehensive study exists of the water-bearing formations used by Talbot County residents and businesses. While the County understands that its groundwater supplies are limited and declining, there is no reliable measure of water supply against which to compare current and especially projected water demands. Project-specific groundwater studies do not take into account the cumulative impacts, on both sides of the Chesapeake Bay, of increasing demand on the Aquia and other formations. Concentrations of arsenic in groundwater is a localized concern which is illustrated in Map 4-A. MDE, the Maryland Geological Survey (MGS), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have begun work on a Coastal Plain Aquifer Study, but that study remains incomplete. The County should use the data and recommendations of the Coastal Plain Aquifer Study (once completed) to shape its own water use policies and ordinances.



For purposes of this Plan, it is assumed that groundwater permits issued for public drinking water systems by MDE reflect the maximum safe yield of the aquifer or aquifers used by that system. However, the County also recognizes the need for the development of regional plans and policies to protect our diminishing groundwater resources. To that end, the County will work with the State and appropriate county governments to encourage the establishment of a multi-county organization to better manage our major aquifers. Talbot County supports the commitment by the MGS and USGS to complete the Coastal Plan Aquifer Study, followed by a management plan to steward our shared water resources. Local resources are inadequate to the task. Implementation of a management plan will require effective inter-jurisdictional coordination and management.

Groundwater Protection

In addition to these concerns about water supply in the Aquia, individual wells in the surficial aquifer are at risk for elevated nitrate levels due to cross-contamination from failing or inadequate septic systems or agricultural fertilizer.

The *Talbot County Groundwater Protection Plan* (GPP) was developed in 1987, and identifies areas where septic systems may be allowed. The GPP establishes the design criteria and construction requirements for all septic systems, and designates areas that require maximum protection of shallow groundwater aquifers. The GPP is adopted as an appendix to the County's *Water and Sewer Master Plan*, and is enforced by the Talbot County Health Department.

Water Conservation

The County and its municipalities implement, through building codes, the Maryland Water Conservation Plumbing Fixtures Act (MWCPFA), which requires that plumbing fixtures sold or installed for new construction be designed to conserve water. In addition, the *Water and Sewer Master Plan* enumerates several benefits of water conservation and encourages water conservation as an official policy. The County and its municipalities actively encourage water conservation through education and water use monitoring.

Potential New Water Supplies

To assure sustainability, the County and its municipalities should begin to investigate the limits of existing source capacity and the feasibility of other drinking water sources, including different aquifers and surface waters.

Although not widely used for water supply, the Matawan, Patapsco, and Upper and Lower Pawtuxet formations are also under Talbot County, as described in *Hydrogeology of the Coastal Plain Aquifer System*. The Town of Easton draws some of its water from the Matawan, while the other aquifers listed above are not widely used for water supply.

More detailed investigation is necessary to determine whether these aquifers are of sufficient quality to produce a reasonable quantity for human consumption. Also, the aquifers listed above also exist at significantly greater depths than the Aquia and Piney Point, adding to the cost of wells.

Surface water impoundments are not currently used for drinking water in Talbot County. Nevertheless, surface water cannot be ruled out as a potential new source and should be included in any comprehensive study of new drinking water sources.

The County acknowledges however, that surface water is unlikely to be a preferred source. Though the County has access to the Choptank and other moderate-sized rivers, preparing surface water for public consumption can be costly and difficult. All of the County's major rivers are impaired by nutrients and several are also impaired by a variety of other pollutants, including biological material, bacteria, and sediments.

To address concerns about water supplies, some Maryland counties have begun to investigate the feasibility of withdrawing and treating brackish tidal waters for public water supplies. Though desalinization technology necessary for such systems is expensive and energy-intensive, it should also not be ruled out over the very long term.

Figure 4-4 Overview of Existing Wastewater Treatment Systems

Wastewater Treatment Plant	Discharge Location (Watershed)	Treatment Technology	Planned/Potential Upgrades or Expansions
<i>Public Systems</i>			
Region V (Tilghman)	Chesapeake Bay (Lower Chesapeake)	Lagoons	Potential upgrade/expansion
Easton	Upper Choptank River	Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR)	Service to additional areas around Easton (see below)
Oxford	Town Creek (Lower Choptank River)	Lagoons	Potential phosphorus upgrade, relocated discharge point.
Trappe	La Trappe Creek (Lower Choptank River)	Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR)	Likely upgrade/expansion of existing WWTP and/or construction of new WWTP.
Region II (St. Michaels)	Miles River	ENR	None planned
<i>Private/Community Systems</i>			
Hyde Park	Onsite Bermed Infiltration Pond		Annexed and Connected to Easton WWTP.
Martingham	Lagoons and spray irrigation		Flow permanently diverted to Region II WWTP.
Preserve at Wye Mills	Onsite Spray Irrigation	BNR	None planned

Source: 2002 Talbot County Water and Sewer Master Plan, updates 2012, 2014.

Figure 4-5 Capacities and Projected Demands for Public Wastewater Systems

		Region II (St. Michaels)	Region V (Tilghman)	Easton ⁴	Oxford	Trappe ⁵
Current System Capacity	MGD	0.66	0.15	4.00	0.10	0.20
	EDU	2,640	600	16,000	416	800
Current Average Daily Flow	MGD	0.37	0.09	2.65	0.09	0.15
	EDU	1,460	368	10,596	360	582
Current Net Available Capacity	MGD	0.30	0.06	1.35	0.01	0.05
	EDU	1,180	232	5,404	56	218
System Capacity, 2030 ¹	MGD	0.66	0.15	4.00	0.10	0.20
	EDU	2,640	600	16,000	416	800
Total Projected New Demand, 2008-2030	MGD	0.16	0.06	0.39	<0.01	0.13
	EDU	648	256	1,577	23	520
Total Demand, 2030	MGD	0.53	0.16	3.04	0.09	0.28
	EDU	2,108	624	12,173	383	1,102
Net Available Capacity, 2030	MGD	0.13	(0.01)	0.96	< 0.01	(0.08)
	EDU	532	(24)	3,827	33	(302)

Notes:

1: Incorporates all ongoing or planned capacity upgrades.

4: For Easton, 2007 Average Daily Flow includes existing flow, plus capacity committed to future development, based on the Town's WRE. Future demand assumed that Hyde Park system will eventually be connected to the Easton WWTP.

5: Trappe future system capacity does not reflect conceptual system improvements as outlined in public sewer discussion.

Wastewater Assessment

This section describes existing conditions and projected future demand for public wastewater treatment capacity in Talbot County.

Public and Community Sewer Systems

Wastewater systems in Talbot County are quite varied, ranging from individual systems with septic systems, to innovative community systems, to municipal systems using mechanical equipment. All Public systems are summarized in Figure 4-4. The *Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan* (CWSP) outlines the characteristics and capacities of the central and community wastewater treatment collection and disposal systems within the County. The CWSP also details plans for expansions and improvements at each of these facilities. The County has adopted a Shared-Facilities Ordinance which allows for the expanded development of community-owned and operated wastewater disposal systems and the creation of new types of systems serving more than one household.

County owned and operated facilities are:

- Region II: located in St. Michaels, serving the Town of St. Michaels, the communities of Rio Vista, Bentley Hay, and the villages of Newcomb, Royal Oak, Bellevue, Unionville, Tunis Mills, and Copperville. The community system in Martinham, on the outskirts of St Michaels, pumps effluent to Region II for processing.
- Region V: located in and serving the Village of Tilghman and presently serving only that community.

Public systems not owned and operated by the County include:

- Easton's municipal system, serving the largest proportion of county residents, has begun processing effluent from the community system in Hyde Park, which has been annexed into the Town.
- The Towns of Oxford and Trappe operate municipal systems.

Also, the MEBA Engineering School operates a private community system.

More than half of all dwelling units in the county (over 13,500 EDUs), and a considerable share of businesses, discharge wastewater to one of the county's municipal or private wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). Figure 4-5 shows existing and projected public sewer supplies, demands, surpluses and deficits for these wastewater systems in 2030.

All of the county's major public sewer systems have available capacity to support some additional growth and development. The Region V plant may not have adequate capacity to accommodate projected growth through 2030 without system improvements.

The Town of Trappe's municipal sewer system will not have adequate capacity to support projected development, unless the proposed 540,000 gpd WWTP upgrade (and spray irrigation system) is built to support the planned Lakeside development.

Private Septic Systems

The majority of residential properties in the county are served by individual on-site septic systems. Permits for these systems are reviewed and approved by the Talbot County Health Department as an agent of the Maryland Department of Environment. Soil and water table conditions generally determine the suitability of sub-surface disposal systems. The County Groundwater Protection Plan has delineated soils in the area mainly to the east of U.S. 50 as suitable for sub-surface discharge of wastewater, except in areas with a high water table. The historic riverfront Town of Queen Anne is an

exception, with generally less suitable soils for on-site septic systems.

The groundwater protection plan has designated most areas to the west of U.S. 50 as susceptible to sub-surface system failures because of high water tables, low elevations, and soils with low permeability.

Communities in this area are impacted by failing septic systems, groundwater infiltration or concentrations of small lots on poorly drained soils; the communities include the Villages of Williamsburg, Sherwood, Wittman, McDaniel, Bozman, Neavitt, Claiborne, Fairbank and Bar Neck. The County will work to revise sewer connection and allocation policies to concentrate available capacity on addressing existing failing or polluting septic systems in villages, and allow for moderate planned growth and development on existing lots of record within established sewer service areas.

Plans to extend sewer service to these areas have been drafted while funding is being pursued. Connecting communities to effective wastewater treatment plants will help achieve the County's water quality improvement and environmental health objectives.

Nutrient Discharges

Nitrogen and phosphorus (more generally referred to as nutrients) from wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs), stormwater and other non-point sources have been identified as primary contributors to degraded water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Through the Water Resource Element, local governments are required by the State to identify suitable receiving waters for the discharge of additional stormwater and wastewater.

The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is a series of calculations required by the federal Clean Water Act. A TMDL is the maximum load of pollutant that a water body can receive without impairing its quality below water quality standards. The TMDL is typically expressed as separate

Figure 4-6 Approved TMDLs for Talbot County Watersheds

Watershed	Substance	Approval Date
Choptank (upper)	Nitrogen	12/2010
Choptank (upper)	Phosphorus	12/2010
Choptank (upper)	Sediment	12/2010
Choptank (upper, segments)	Fecal Coliform	11/2006
Choptank (lower)	Nitrogen	12/2010
Choptank (lower)	Phosphorus	12/2010
Choptank (lower)	Sediment	12/2010
Choptank (lower, segments)	Fecal Coliform	11/2006
Eastern Bay	Nitrogen	12/2010
Eastern Bay	Phosphorus	12/2010
Eastern Bay	Sediment	12/2010
Miles River	Nitrogen	12/2010
Miles River	Phosphorus	12/2010
Miles River	Sediment	12/2010
Miles River (segments)	Fecal Coliform	09/2005, 09/2010
Tuckahoe Creek	Nitrogen	12/2010
Tuckahoe Creek	Phosphorus	12/2010
Tuckahoe Creek	Sediment	12/2010
Tuckahoe Creek (segments)	Fecal Coliform	11/2006
Wye River	Nitrogen	12/2010
Wye River	Phosphorus	12/2010
Wye River	Sediment	12/2010
Wye River (segments)	Fecal Coliform	11/2006

Source: MDE

discharge limits from point sources such as WWTPs, and non-point sources such as stormwater or agricultural runoff.

Water bodies are classified as impaired when they are too polluted or otherwise degraded to support their designated and existing uses. Like other waterways in the state, all of Talbot County's major waters are classified as impaired for nutrients, sediments and in some areas fecal contamination, and so by definition are not suitable receiving waters (see Figure 4-6). All counties are committed to Watershed Improvement Plans (WIPs) under an agreement between the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Maryland. The WIP, which maps a strategy for reducing pollutants to meet the TMDL, is discussed in Section II C of this chapter.

Point Source Caps and Discharges

To address nutrient loads from point sources such as WWTPs, the State has established numerical limits, expressed as pounds per year, on the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus that can be discharged into the Bay and its tributaries. Point source caps for nitrogen and phosphorus have been established for the Region II (St. Michaels) and Easton WWTPs. A phosphorous cap has been established for the Trappe WWTP, and a nitrogen cap has been established for the Oxford WWTP.

Figure 4-7 lists nutrient caps as well as existing and projected future nutrient discharges for the county's major WWTPs. This summary assumes that by 2030, the Region V (Tilghman) and Oxford WWTPs will both be upgraded to BNR, or biological nutrient removal technology.

Figure 4-7 Nutrient Loads and Discharge Capacities for Public Wastewater Systems

		Region II	Region V	Easton ²	Oxford	Trappe
Existing Nutrient Loads	TN ¹	5,000	5,000	23,800	4,900	4,900
	TP ¹	603	1,700	2,400	1,600	183
Likely Nutrient Caps, 2030	TN	8,040	4,406	48,729	5,621	6,100
	TP	603	457	3,655	457	183
Projected ADF, 2030	MGD	0.53	0.16	3.00	0.10	0.28
Assumed Treatment Technology, 2030		ENR	BNR	ENR	BNR	ENR
Estimated Nutrient Discharges, 2030	TN	4,810	3,794	27,415	2,330	1,328
	TP	481	948	2,742	583	251
Remaining Discharge Capacity	TN	3,230	612	21,314	3,291	4,772
	TP	122	(491)	913	(126)	(68)

Notes:

1: TN = Total Nitrogen (lbs/year); TP = Total Phosphorus (lbs/year)

2: Includes the Hyde Park system as connected to the Easton system.

A Region V plant upgrade would trigger the establishment of a nutrient cap for that facility. The default cap for such minor facilities (those that discharge less than 0.5 million gallons per day) is 6,100 lbs/year of nitrogen and 457 lbs/year phosphorus. The Tilghman facility may need to go beyond BNR or consider alternative effluent disposal methods to meet the phosphorus cap. A similar situation may exist for the Oxford WWTP. The Trappe WWTP would be upgraded to enhanced nutrient removal (ENR). Such upgrades will be necessary to support projected growth in Trappe. It appears that even with ENR upgrades, the Trappe WWTP will not be able to meet the very stringent phosphorus cap for La Trappe Creek, the WWTP's current discharge point.

The Town may need to consider relocation of its outfall pipe, or alternative effluent disposal methods.

The Region II (St. Michaels) and Easton WWTPs have adequate nitrogen and phosphorus discharge capacity to support projected growth through 2030 and beyond.

Alternative Wastewater Disposal

The application of treated wastewater effluent directly to the soil allows nutrients to be naturally disposed of by bacteria before the effluent reaches receiving streams or groundwater. Spray irrigation is the most common form of land application, although other options such as drip irrigation or subsurface discharge can also be considered.



Rural stormwater retrofit

Spray irrigation is already used as a disposal method for the Preserve at Wye Mills and may be appropriate for larger public systems in addition to, or instead of, point source outfalls. Factors such as slope, soil depth and granularity, water table depth and behavior, and buffers from streams and developed areas are important in determining true suitability.

Beyond soil and water table characteristics, other important considerations for land application include storage and seasonal restrictions. Land application systems typically require large storage lagoons capable of holding several months' worth of effluent. Land application is not permitted during winter months when frozen soil prevents infiltration of the effluent, or during other months when water tables rise, again preventing absorption.

Any future land application system would likely be paired with the nearby surface discharge to maximize system capacity without exceeding nutrient caps or TMDLs.

Programmatic Assessment of Nonpoint Source Policies

This section characterizes the policies and procedures in place to manage non-point source pollution in Talbot County.

Nonpoint sources of nutrient pollution include agricultural runoff, erosion and sediment from development, stormwater runoff from roads, atmospheric deposition, and any other source other than an outfall pipe. Non-point sources involve widely dispersed activities that are difficult to measure. All non-point sources of pollution eventually reach the waters of the Chesapeake Bay unless filtered or retained by some structural or nonstructural technique.

The Chesapeake Bay Program and other researchers report that statewide, agriculture is the largest source of non-point nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loads. Stormwater runoff from developed land is also a significant contributor and has remained steady or increased over the past several decades.

Nutrient reduction technologies for non-point source pollution, referred to as best management practices (BMPs), include animal waste storage, agricultural nutrient management planning, stormwater settling ponds, and erosion controls. Natural controls or "low-impact" development techniques are extremely effective in reducing the amount of pollutants that reach waterways. Woodlands and wetlands release fewer nutrients into the Bay than any other land uses. For these reasons, forests, grasslands, and wetlands are critical to restoring and maintaining the health of the aquatic environment.

Septic Denitrification

Maryland law requires all new development on septic systems to use best available technology (BAT) for nitrogen removal, as defined by MDE. Septic system repairs and replacements in the Critical Area must also upgrade to a BAT system.

Strategies for non-point source improvements assume that rural (i.e. not connected to a public sewer system) residential and commercial development will use denitrification units. Installation of denitrification retrofits will continue at the pace of 100 per year through 2030, contingent on the availability of Bay Restoration Fund fees.

As of 2013, 314 residential and commercial septic systems in Talbot County have been upgraded with denitrification units. The County Department of Public Works' objective is to maximize use of the State's Bay Restoration Fund to continue such installations.



Stormwater

The 2000 Maryland Stormwater Design Manual, which is incorporated by reference into the Talbot County Code, serves as the official guide for stormwater management principles and practices.

The 2007 Maryland Stormwater Management Act mandated substantial revision to the Stormwater Design Manual. The most notable provision of the 2007 Act is the requirement that new development use Environmental Site Design (ESD) techniques to the maximum extent possible, which will ideally “maintain pre-development runoff characteristics” on the site. ESD emphasizes the minimization and treatment of stormwater on each parcel through a variety of small-scale techniques that mimic natural stormwater absorption and dispersal processes.

In January of 2012, the County amended its stormwater management ordinance to incorporate the revision of the *Maryland Stormwater Design Manual* and other enhanced stormwater management policies recommended by MDE, pursuant to the Stormwater Management Act of 2007.

County departments will coordinate activities in recognition of the following stormwater management objectives:

- a. Stormwater retrofits can help to reduce non-point source pollution, particularly in more densely developed areas. The County strives to identify locations where retrofits could address concentrations of non-point source pollution or help to protect environmentally sensitive areas. Future retrofit funds and implementation activities should be targeted to these priority areas.
- b. Outside of towns and populated areas where pedestrian facilities are a priority, new roads in the county should continue to be developed with open sections (i.e., without curb and gutter), to better disperse stormwater.
- c. Sedimentation and other impacts resulting from construction activity and increased stormwater flows to streams and rivers from development are also a potential threat to water quality. All new non-agricultural development with a disturbance greater than 5,000 sq. ft. requires a sedimentation and erosion control plan.

Impervious Land Cover

Impervious surfaces create runoff that can cause stream bank erosion, sedimentation of streams, and adverse effects on water quality and aquatic life. The amount of impervious surface in a watershed is a key indicator of water quality.

Countywide, no more than three percent of all land is impervious. Even in Talbot County's most developed watersheds—the Miles River and Lower Choptank River—impervious surface coverage is under five percent.

Under the land use and development scenarios considered here, most watersheds would experience some increase in impervious coverage. While none of the county's major watersheds would approach ten percent impervious (the first tipping point with regard to water quality), some smaller sub-watersheds, particularly in and around municipalities, may already approach or exceed such thresholds. In these cases stormwater management retrofits can help reduce the impact of large areas of impervious surface.

Figure 4-8 summarizes existing and potential impervious coverage in the county by watershed.

Figure 4-8 Existing and Projected Impervious Cover by Watershed, Through 2030

Watershed	Total Acreage ¹	<i>Impervious Surface</i>			
		Existing		2030	
		Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
Eastern Bay	2,870	55	1.9%	56	2.0%
Lower Chesapeake Bay	142	1	0.4%	1	0.4%
Lower Choptank River	68,521	3,157	4.6%	3,352	4.9%
Miles River	27,368	1,225	4.5%	1,256	4.6%
Tuckahoe Creek	15,583	209	1.3%	230	1.5%
Upper Choptank River	36,371	717	2.0%	810	2.2%
Wye River	20,811	271	1.3%	292	1.4%
Total	171,666	5,634	3.3%	5,997	3.5%

Notes:

1: Excludes areas of open water within County boundaries.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

The federal Clean Water Act of 1972 required the estimation of the amount of pollutants that could be assimilated by the waters of the United States. This requirement resulted in the creation of the TMDLs. Each impaired water body is required to have a TMDL calculated for it, along with its current loading of the pollutant of concern.

All of the State's major watersheds are on the 303(d) list of impaired waters and so fall under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL as well as a TMDL for each water body.

To address TMDLs, the State and its jurisdictions have prepared Watershed Implementation Plans. These Plans contain goals for improvement by land use sector and a strategy for implementing Best Management Practices to meet the TMDLs. Also, two-year milestones are established to produce short term progress toward achievement of TMDLs.

Talbot County has produced its Watershed Implementation Plan which contains a scenario of currently accepted best management practices that numerically achieve the improvement standards for the Bay TMDL. This scenario will be refined as more cost effective Best Management Practices are vetted and

accepted by the State and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Talbot County expects that its Watershed Implementation Plan will use adaptive management to produce the greatest pollution reduction for each dollar of investment. For this reason, the County will pursue no and low cost Best Management Practices as a first priority. One such approach may include participation in the State's nutrient trading program. The County will also pursue lawn fertilizer management programs to meet its nutrient reduction goals.



Tuckahoe Creek near Queen Anne

Natural Resource Conservation

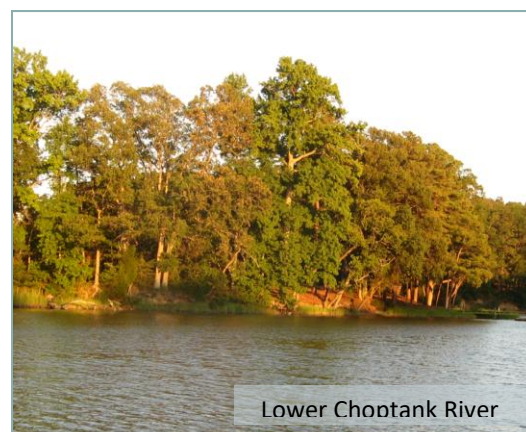
County resource conservation policies are broad and extend beyond mandated requirements for targeted areas. All parts of the county feature valued natural resources that should be protected and conserved. The level of protection required for each resource should be appropriately scaled to its significance.

Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas

The Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Protection Program was passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 1984 to address concerns about the decline of the Chesapeake Bay. This legislation required each Maryland county and municipality adjacent to the Bay or its tributaries to adopt a local Critical Area Plan and corresponding development ordinances. Local Plans are required to meet land use and development criteria established by the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission and are intended to minimize impacts on the Bay's water quality and plant, fish and wildlife habitat. The Critical Area includes all lands and waters within 1,000 feet landward of the boundaries of State or tidal wetlands and the heads of tides. It encompasses 65,260 acres, or about 38 percent, of the county's total land area. These 600 miles of shoreline are an important environmental, recreational and scenic resource. Portions of Talbot County are subject to severe soil erosion caused by wind and wave action. The western-most part of the county is subject to the direct wave action of the Chesapeake Bay and some shoreline reaches can incur losses of as much as 18 feet of land per year. Talbot County adopted its Critical Area Program in 1989. The County Zoning Ordinance and maps are tied to Critical Areas maps and were revised to incorporate boundary. Local zoning and other regulations implementing Critical Area Program policies are also updated as necessary; most recently in the fall of 2014.

Sensitive Area Protection

The State of Maryland requires local comprehensive plans to contain a Sensitive Areas element which describes how the County will protect streams and stream buffers; 100-year floodplains; habitats of threatened and endangered species; and steep slopes. In Talbot County, these sensitive areas are protected through a variety of means, including agricultural zoning; Priority Preservation Area designation and Tier IV designation.



Lower Choptank River

Water Resource Policies

4.8 The County will continue to study groundwater resources and establish follow-up mechanisms to monitor changes that may occur over time.

4.9 The County will encourage policies and programs that support reasonable water use.

4.10 The County's building and land development codes will ensure that, per the International Building Code (IBC), water conserving fixtures and appliances are required for all new development and retrofits outside of public water systems.

4.11 The County will work with MDE, MGS, and USGS to complete the Coastal Plain Aquifer Study and use the results of this Study to guide future decisions regarding groundwater withdrawals.

4.12 The County will work with MDE to identify new sources of drinking water, specifically by evaluating the quality and quantity of water in the County's deeper and less frequently used aquifers.

4.13 The County should increase efforts to monitor the condition of county surface waters including streams, rivers, and submerged aquatic plant resources.

4.14 The County will require properties with failing septic systems to be connected to sewer if that service is available, or, if it is not, the property owner will be encouraged to install a "Best Available Technology (BAT) septic system.

4.15 The County will work to identify and prioritize for connection to sewer systems, areas of failing, inadequate and substandard septic systems and other non-point source pollution "hot spots", especially in coastal communities and subdivisions but not limited to villages and current PFAs.

4.16 The County will continue to identify communities and subdivisions where failing, inadequate and substandard septic systems or other public health concerns exist, and work to extend public water and/or sewer service to existing lots of record within Tier III-B and Tier III-C.

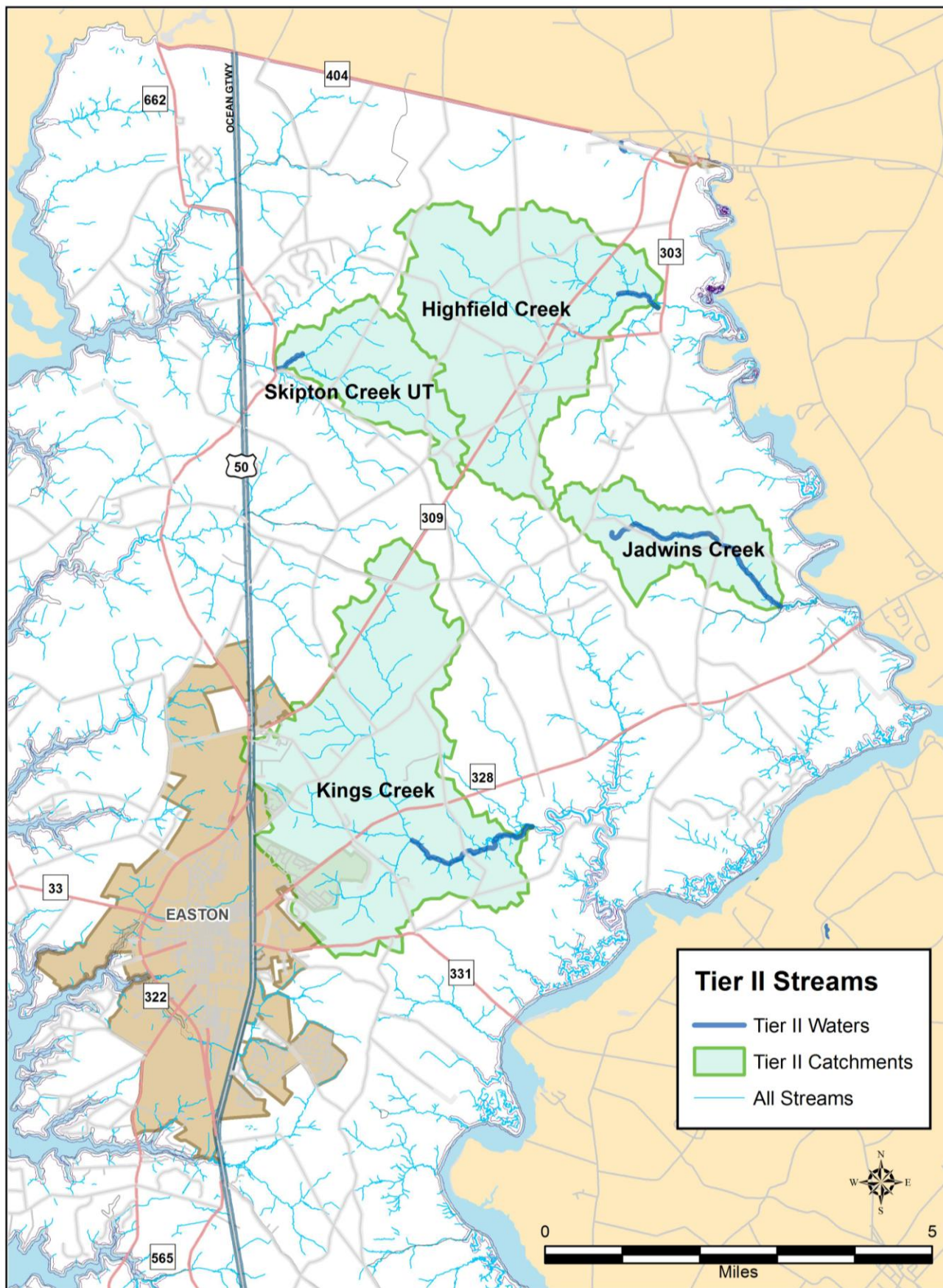
4.17 The County should insure that privately owned and operated water and sewer facilities are adequately maintained by requiring comprehensive and legally binding maintenance agreements between system owners and users.

4.18 As wastewater treatment facilities are modified or upgraded, increased demand for sewer treatment should be limited to the plant's peak capacity at the most current State standards.

4.19 The County will encourage the establishment of a multi-county organization to manage our major aquifers.

4.20 The County shall actively seek ways to implement the periodic inspection of septic systems, in order to protect public health and environmental quality by correcting failing conditions.

4.21 The County shall work to provide sewer service to western villages, communities and subdivisions mapped as Tier III-B and III-C for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of its citizens through improvements in water quality. This extension of sewer service is not intended for the purpose of supporting new development outside the boundaries of Tier III-B and III-C.



Rivers, Streams and Stream Buffers

County streams and their buffers are important resources supporting recreational fishing and serving as spawning areas for commercial fish stock. Streams and their adjacent buffers are home to countless species of animals and plants and transport valuable nutrients to rivers and creeks, and in turn the Chesapeake Bay. The floodplains, wetlands, and wooded slopes along streams are important parts of the stream ecosystem.

Stream buffers serve as protection zones and reduce sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, and other runoff pollutants by acting as a filter, thus minimizing stream damage. The effectiveness of buffers to protect stream water quality is influenced by their width, the type of vegetation within the buffer, as well as proper maintenance. Other aspects of buffer effectiveness include contiguous or nearby slopes, soil erodibility, or the presence of adjacent wetlands or floodplains.

Buffers also provide habitat for wetland and upland plants which form the basis of healthy biological communities. A wide variety of animals use the natural vegetation as travel corridors, for food and for cover. A natural buffer system provides connections to support wildlife movement between remaining patches of forest in the county.

Tributary stream buffers in the Critical Area must be at least 100 feet wide, and may be expanded beyond that distance to include contiguous sensitive areas. For waterways outside the Critical Area, the County requires a 100 foot natural buffer for perennial streams and a 50 foot natural buffer for intermittent streams.

Maryland's anti-degradation policy significantly limits new discharge permits that would degrade water quality in Tier II (high quality) waters, as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Four stretches of Tier II waters have been identified in Talbot County; portions of Highfield Creek, Jadwins Creek, Kings Creek, and Skipton Creek.

New nutrient discharges can be permitted in these areas, as long as they do not degrade existing water quality below water quality standards. All development activities near these rivers and streams are required to provide a natural buffer.

Floodplains

Certain areas of the County are subject to periodic flooding which pose risks to public health and safety, and potential loss of property. Flood-related property damage is most often the result of locating a dwelling or structure within a designated floodplain, or by constructing structures in a floodplain to an inadequate elevation.

Two types of flooding occur within the County: riverine and coastal. Nontidal areas of the County are subject to riverine flooding. In these areas, stream buffers will provide substantial protection to nearby floodplain resources.

While protection of life and property is the initial basis for limiting development within floodplains, it can also serve a variety of additional functions with important public benefits. Floodplains moderate and store floodwaters, absorb wave energy, and reduce erosion and sedimentation. Wetlands within floodplains help maintain water quality, recharge groundwater supplies, protect fisheries, and provide habitat and natural corridors for wildlife.

Steep Slopes

Slopes precipitate movement of soil and pollutants when land disturbances occur. Control of erosion potential is usually achieved through regulation of development on steep slopes because such areas

represent the greatest danger for accelerated soil loss and resultant sedimentation and stream pollution.

Threatened and Endangered Species

As a basis for establishing habitat protection measures for threatened and endangered species in Talbot County, this Plan defines habitat as *'Areas which, due to their physical or biological features, provide important elements for the maintenance, expansion, and long-term survival of threatened and endangered species listed in COMAR 08.03.08. Such areas may include breeding, feeding, resting, migratory, or overwintering areas.'*

The key to protecting threatened and endangered species is protecting the habitat in which they exist. The Maryland Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act provides definitions of threatened and endangered species. Twelve animal and 32 plant species are considered to be rare, threatened, or endangered in Talbot County, as of 2010. (Though the status of at least two species may have been changed from endangered to threatened or rare, State regulations and documents have not been revised to date, and the two species remain a conservation concern.) Habitat destruction and degradation is estimated to threaten some 400 native Maryland species with extinction.

Maintenance of biological diversity today sustains future opportunities to advance healthcare and provide a number of other societal benefits. Materials and chemicals produced by plants and animals are potential storehouses for beneficial products. More than half of all medicines in use today can be traced to wild organisms. Plant chemicals are the sole or major ingredients in 25 percent of all prescriptions written in the United States each year. Likewise, agriculture depends on the development of new varieties of crops, often created by cross-breeding strains with wild relatives of crop species, in order to promote a desired trait.

Wetlands

Wetland areas are valuable natural resources for the ability to act as collectors and filters of excess nutrients. Wetlands also reduce floodwater peaks by storing water and reducing velocity, serve as groundwater discharge and recharge areas, improve water quality and provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife. Wetlands are recreational and aesthetic resources as well.

Development activities in wetland areas are regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Maryland Department of the Environment. Tidal wetlands are protected by a 100 foot natural buffer and nontidal wetlands are protected by a 25 foot natural buffer. No development activities are allowed within the wetlands or buffer areas without all required federal, State and County approvals and permits, and compliance with all mitigation requirements.

Forest and Vegetation

Approximately 25 percent of the County is in forest cover. Forests are the ideal land use for maintaining water quality because they generate low levels of pollutants while filtering pollutants from both surface and subsurface flows. Trees serve as natural habitat for wildlife, and are important to the carbon and oxygen cycle. Forest areas also provide a cooling effect and visual buffer in both developed and undeveloped areas.

The Forest Conservation Act of 1991 was enacted to protect the forests of Maryland by making forest conditions and character an integral part of the site planning process. The Act is regulated by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, but implemented and administered by local governments. The Forest Conservation Chapter (73) of the *Talbot County Code* was most recently amended in July, 2011 to conform to the most recent State legislation.

Regulations require that any person making an application for subdivision of a tract of land 40,000 square feet or greater, or disturbing more than 40,000 square feet of forest in conjunction with a project plan, building permit or sediment and erosion control plan; must submit a Forest Stand Delineation and Forest Conservation Plan to the Planning Department for review and approval. Mitigation for forest removal and forest establishment are both required by the act under specified circumstances.

Soils

Prime farmland is the foundation of the county's agricultural industry, one of Talbot's largest and most valuable economic sectors. The importance of agriculture in the County's economy and lifestyle makes high quality soils an especially important resource which, once lost, cannot be reclaimed. Therefore the County strives to maintain agriculture and the soil that supports farming.

Prime agricultural soils are those best suited for continuous agricultural use and account for approximately 51 percent of the county's soils. They are usually found in areas that are nearly level and well drained and watered. The strategy for addressing conservation of this resource correlates with policies in the agriculture chapter.

Generally, the soils of the eastern half of the county tend to be the best for both agriculture and development. Many areas in the western part of the county contain soils that are poorly drained and have a high water table, presenting severe limitations for development. However, notable pockets of prime agricultural soils are located on the western peninsula between St. Michaels and Tilghman Island.

Mineral Resources

The sand and gravel extraction industry in Talbot County provides basic raw materials for the construction and paving industries and plays an important role in supporting local growth and development. Talbot County's mineral resources consist primarily of sand and to a lesser extent, gravel.

Because geologic conditions dictate the location of economically recoverable mineral deposits, opportunities to meet the future demand of the county's construction industry will be controlled by the availability of these deposits and future access to these deposits for construction industry use.

To be economical, sand and gravel must be mined close to where they will be used. According to industry and regulatory agency sources, transportation costs quickly exceed the on-site cost of these resources, with the price of sand and gravel roughly doubling every 25 to 40 additional miles the material is transported.

Sand and gravel deposits are confined principally to two stratigraphic units that can be in excess of 25 feet thick. They are principally located east of U.S. 50 and are generally found on major stream corridors, in areas where conservation of forests and farmlands are a key issue.

Deposits commonly vary in thickness and composition over short distances, so site investigations are typically required to estimate reserves on a specific site. Based on estimates provided by the Maryland Department of the Environment and various sand and gravel operators, annual production has been in the range of 200,000 tons in recent years.

Mineral extraction is permitted by special exception in the **Agricultural Conservation (AC)**, **Countryside Preservation (CP)**, **Western Rural Conservation (WRC)** and **Rural Conservation (RC)** zoning districts. The County has enacted policies prohibiting mining activities in the Critical Area and designated habitat protection areas. Proposals for new mining operations are

Natural Resources Policies

4.22 The County will continue to enforce regulations to implement the Talbot County Critical Area Program.

4.23 The County will continue to enforce its floodplain regulations and development within the 100-year floodplain will be limited to minimize disturbance and protect life and property.

4.24 The County recognizes the importance of stream corridors as water quality buffers and wildlife habitat and encourages their protection in an undisturbed state. The County should continue to enforce buffer requirements for all tributary and intermittent streams in the County.

4.25 The County should continue to monitor shoreline erosion conditions and recommend appropriate standards for shoreline stabilization and protection. Also, the County should adopt legislation improving the effectiveness of shoreline buffers for all land uses when research and science indicates such actions can improve buffer functions.

4.26 In order to reinforce existing regulatory protection programs, the County should maintain and review protection measures for sensitive areas including streams and their buffers, 100-year floodplains, steep slopes adjacent to streams and habitats of threatened and endangered species.

4.27 New development shall be restricted in sensitive areas and the protection and enhancement of environmental resources should be ensured.

4.28 The County will recognize the interdependence of floodplains and preservation of sensitive areas, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and stream corridors.

4.29 Forests and vegetation should be preserved in stream corridors to preserve the integrity of associated waterways. The County should adopt legislation authorizing substantial fines and penalties for clearing trees and vegetation in forest shoreline buffers. Any trees cut should be replaced per County mitigation regulations.

4.30 The County will coordinate with federal and State agencies to preserve existing wetlands where possible and to mitigate their destruction when necessary, in accordance with federal and State Policy and goal of “no net loss” of wetlands.

4.31 The County should develop and enforce mandatory programs and regulations, as well as financial incentives, to ensure preservation of natural resources.

4.32 All new development and redevelopment shall result in minimized pollutant loadings and runoff through the implementation of sediment, stormwater and erosion control plans.

4.33 Forest and woodland resources should be conserved and replenished through tree conservation, reforestation and compliance with the Maryland Forest Conservation Act. Alternatives should be developed to avert tree planting on prime agricultural soils.

4.34 In development plans, maintaining natural topography, drainage ways and tree cover should be a priority when determining the location of roads, placement of structures and site improvements. Local regulations should be developed to ensure that the landscape is preserved insofar as practical, by minimizing tree and soil removal.

4.35 The County shall coordinate with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Interior in the protection of rare, threatened, and endangered species habitat and shall take direct action when necessary to insure habitat protection. County zoning will direct intense growth and development away from threatened and endangered species habitat and maintain low density conservation zoning in areas where such habitats are identified.

4.36 The County should utilize open space and recreation planning efforts to pursue acquisition and protection opportunities in sensitive areas.

4.37 Marina facilities should be required to comply with Maryland’s Clean Marina Initiative.

subject to site plan review for compliance with environmental protection regulations.

To ensure mining sites are restored to a usable state, appropriate action must be taken before, during, and after extraction. Currently, the licensing process for an extraction permit requires reclamation plans for any site mined. As part of the application process, the post-extraction intended use of the property must be identified. The restoration plan should be consistent with the future land use of the site.

The County recommends the following post-extraction uses:

1. Recreational land uses: parks and lakes
2. Forestry
3. Aquaculture
4. Residential Development
5. Disposal of non-toxic solid fill material, clean fill material, and inorganic solid fill material originating from Talbot County.

Bonds are required to be posted to assure the availability of funds for reclamation should an operator abandon the site. Restoration guidelines and regulations have been successful in ensuring the remediation of sites where extraction has taken place since the licensing process was established.

Reclamation of abandoned extraction sites is also a concern. An initial step toward addressing reclamation would be an inventory and evaluation to determine reclamation needs and the potential for other land uses. Such an inventory could provide a basis for future targeting of priorities, evaluating funding needs, and assessing opportunities to secure assistance for site reclamation.

Options for funding reclamation of abandoned sites include imposing a tax on mineral products, a tax exemption, or a reduction or rebate for landowners who reclaim sites. Mining operations to date have been limited in number and have not significantly impacted the County road system. However, long-term mining utilization can cause increased damage to low-capacity roads by haulers' trucks and disturbance to neighbors or travelers who use the same routes.

The County should continue to monitor levels of extraction activity and be prepared, should the need arise, to seek legislation to allow imposition of a surcharge or tax on mineral products that would generate revenue for a roadway maintenance or improvement fund. These funds could be directed specifically to roads frequently used to haul mineral products, or pro-actively, to areas where the County wishes to facilitate recovery of mineral deposits.

Summary

Talbot County's 1990 Comprehensive Plan begins by characterizing the County's landscape as land and waterways intertwined in a mosaic of tidal waters, streams, farmlands and forests with 600 miles of shoreline on the Chesapeake Bay and rivers. Even the first Comprehensive Plan — from 1973 — expresses the objectives to preserve the county's natural assets, agricultural soils, wetlands and wildlife habitats and waters. The strong affinity for the area's natural resources informs the conservation objectives outlined in each successive edition and is carried forward in this Plan.

Talbot County's concerns have coincided with growing State concerns about natural resource conservation, growth management and strategic planning. Significant legislation has been passed in attempts to reverse past trends of resource degradation. Many of the laws and regulations dealing with these concerns are reflected in this chapter, from Critical Areas legislation, septic tier designation, water resources planning and the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

The County has consistently required that, in order to protect its resources as well as to meet State

requirements, all future development will be subject to minimum performance standards for environmental protection and natural resource conservation. This approach has received an even stronger mandate with the advent of the Bay TMDL. This Plan and this chapter in particular establish a basis for such standards and an evaluation of the current state of natural resources.

The water resources element of this chapter is the most current and most comprehensive study of drinking water, stormwater and wastewater management to date. It establishes the County's pro-active stance on managing the resources within its jurisdiction. The analysis indicates that:

1. The largest County wastewater facility uses the best available treatment technology and discharges minimal quantities of nitrogen and phosphorus.
2. Drinking water, derived from private wells outside municipal areas, generally deliver water of good quality in ample supply.
3. Water supplies and wastewater treatment capacity appear to be adequate to meet projected population growth through the next 20 years or more.
4. Nonpoint source water pollution has been, and continues to be, a challenging and costly problem. The strategies to address existing sources involve retrofits to existing infrastructure or utilities arrayed throughout the County. Managing potential new non-point sources imposes additional regulations on construction and development and implies long-term monitoring responsibilities on the part of County government.

Critical Area regulations are a long-standing and complex group of development standards, restrictions and offset that impact a significant proportion of rural residential property. Program accomplishments are measured in acres of undeveloped land and numbers of trees planted or conserved, though the ultimate goal of the program is more qualitative than quantitative. It is impossible to know the amount of erosion that has not occurred or the amount of stormwater that has been absorbed to recharge water tables. However, most will agree that the natural landscape has been preserved and enhanced through compliance with the regulations.

Mineral Resources Policies

4.38 The County will maintain land use policies and regulations that discourage the preemption of mineral extraction by other uses.

4.39 The County will provide adequate regulation and monitoring of mineral extraction operations to ensure compliance with applicable permitting requirements, including those established for reclamation or restoration of mineral sites.

4.40 The County will use appropriate methods to protect existing neighborhoods from the impacts of extraction operations and the transportation of extracted resources.

4.41 The County will ensure that all available measures are taken to protect the natural environment from all sources of pollution resulting from extraction activities.

4.42 The County will require post excavation uses for mined sites to be consistent with its plans and regulations.

4.43 The County will require that any post excavation use of a quarry for rubble fill is limited to product generated in Talbot County, and will provide opportunities for construction of rubble recycling facilities in conjunction with extraction facilities.

4.44 The County will identify and use any programs that support reclamation or reforestation of older or abandoned borrow pits or mined sites not subject or reclamation requirements.

Talbot County partnered with the Conservation Fund, State and federal agencies to develop a Green Infrastructure Plan, published in 2004. The Conservation Fund analyzed protected land, land use, acreage of undeveloped land and proximity to important natural resources to generate several focus areas for natural resource protection. The recommendations are consulted when opportunities arise to permanently preserve properties or to evaluate development proposals.

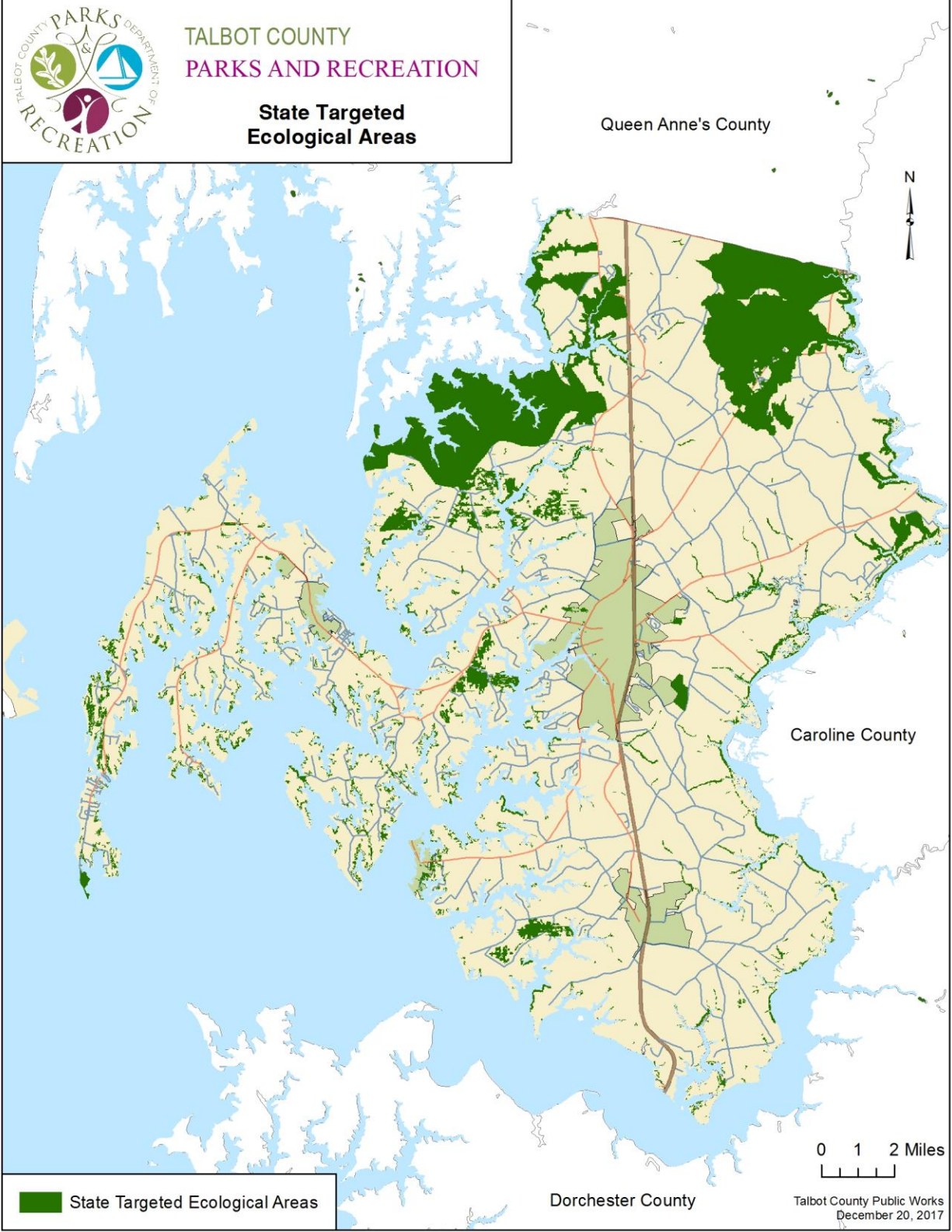
The Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load, or Bay TMDL, attempts to consolidate all the point and non-point source pollution strategies and Critical Area strategies into a series of Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) for the State and each county.

Nutrient reduction goals for each county are divided into land use sectors, including agriculture, industry and 'urban'. The County's responsibility to address non-point source pollution from the built environment relates directly to the water resources analysis, the Watershed Implementation Plan and other analytical tools developed by the State in recent years. These strategies are discussed in detail in the County Watershed Implementation Plan recorded with the Maryland Department of the Environment.

These and other programs are all directed toward the goal of maintaining and protecting the natural resources of Talbot County for the enjoyment, health and benefit of its current and future citizens. In embracing these policies, Talbot County also affirms its contribution and commitment to regional environmental quality.







Chapter 5 Historic and Cultural Preservation



Vision

Talbot County recognizes the importance of its historic resources. There are numerous groups in the region dedicated to the preservation of historic and cultural heritage. Efforts to increase public awareness of the importance of preserving the County's past have been successful. The County has an attractive program of local incentives to assist owners of historic properties to enroll and rehabilitate their properties. Easement programs have also been successful in protecting key historic resources throughout the County.

Goal

Preserve and enhance Talbot County's rich cultural and historic heritage.

Introduction

It is possible to experience Talbot County's history through appreciation of its historic resources and events. The early period of colonial settlement and subsequent eras are well represented in the County's historic architecture. These physical reminders of our history give depth and richness to the County, to past events, and to people's lives. Historic preservation enables this legacy to be protected and remembered. It allows the past to be integrated with the present and reminds us that the old has a useful place alongside the new.

Talbot County has maintained a longstanding interest in historic preservation. Many Talbot County families can trace their roots to the earliest colonial settlements of the County. Private houses and public buildings are often carefully restored. New uses are found for historic buildings that no longer serve their original functions. A number of historic properties in the County have been designated or preserved through private efforts, local Historic District zoning and designation on the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic resource preservation is about much more than the protection of historic structures. Historic resources are elements that are significant for their connection or linkage to events or persons that were important in the past. The County's history is reflected in archeology and cultural

events and is present in sites and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship or association.

In addition to preserving historic buildings and places, county residents also have a strong interest in preserving the cultural heritage of Talbot County by preserving traditional lifestyles, like that of the working waterman, whose heritage is threatened by a changing environment. Talbot County's traditions have long centered on farming, the seafood and maritime industries, and the many small rural villages in the County. It is important that these elements of cultural heritage be preserved as the County grows.

Many private historic preservation organizations play an important role in championing preservation efforts. The Talbot County Agricultural Fair, Tilghman Island Day Festival, Waterfowl Festival, Nace's Day Parade in Trappe and the Tuckahoe Steam and Gas Association Show are only a few of the many annual events and venues which honor the County's heritage and signify the importance of traditional cultural lifestyles to the people of Talbot County.



Talbot County Council and Historic Preservation

The Talbot County Council has long recognized the importance of protecting historic resources within the county. In 1976, the Council passed the Talbot County Historic District Ordinance empowering the Historic Preservation Commission to protect historic properties as a safeguard for the heritage of the county.

The County Zoning Ordinance provides protection for historic properties by designating Historic District Overlay Zones. A historic district can consist of an individual building and grounds or a grouping of buildings.

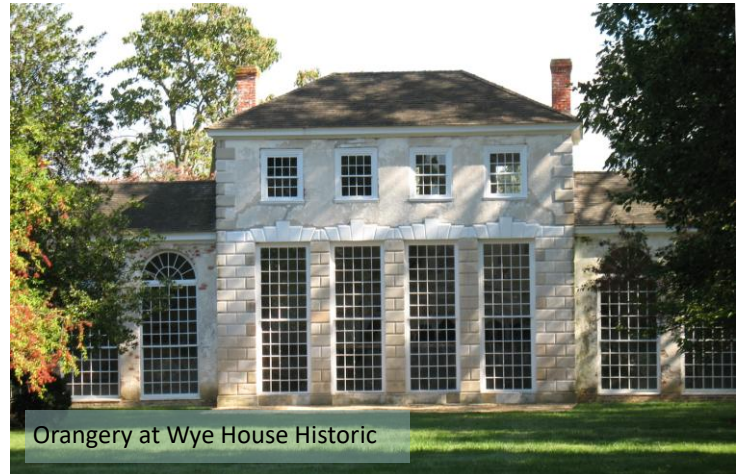
Establishing local historic districts is entirely the product of local initiative. District controls are created and administered by local citizens and local government.

Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission

The Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission (TCHPC) is made up of seven county residents appointed by the Talbot County Council for three-year terms on the basis of qualifications in architecture, history, or historic preservation, according to standards established by State and federal programs. The Historic Preservation Commission receives part-time administrative and technical assistance from the County Department of Planning and Zoning.

The Commission reviews properties of historic and architectural significance, selects historic properties for nomination as local Historic Districts and reviews applications for changes to exterior features within existing districts. The Commission is also involved in the nomination of County properties to the National Register of Historic Places. As of 2015, the efforts of the Historic Preservation Commission have resulted in the designation of twenty one County Historic Districts. In addition, the Commission has undertaken several studies of historic properties and communities throughout the County.

Talbot County was approved as a Certified Local Government (CLG) in 1987. Local governments can participate in this program when the State Historic Preservation Officer certifies that the local government has established its own historic preservation commission and a program meeting federal and State standards. The CLG Program was established under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, a nationwide program of financial and technical assistance to preserve historic properties — buildings, structures, sites, neighborhoods and other places of importance in the historical and cultural life of the nation.



Community Awareness and Education

Efforts should be made to increase local public awareness and education concerning the importance of historic preservation and the functions and role of the Historic Preservation Commission through use of print and electronic media.

Community interest in preservation is directly related to an understanding of the importance and value of preserving our heritage.

Greater community awareness of the importance of historic preservation in the County could be achieved in a number of ways:

1. In conjunction with National Historic Preservation Week each May, the Historic Preservation Commission could sponsor local events geared toward recognition of Talbot County's commitment to preservation.
2. The TCHPC could more broadly publicize its role by reprising its annual awards program to recognize local excellence in restoration of historic properties.
3. Community awareness of historic preservation could also be enhanced by providing all Historic District property owners with a plaque for their properties which distinguishes them as historic or architecturally significant places. Several owners purchased plaques when the offer was last made by the Commission.
4. More historical markers identifying and describing historic sites and events within the County would also serve to inform local residents and visitors of Talbot's rich heritage.
5. Participation in State and national scenic byway improvements and programs may be an opportunity to increase public education and awareness of historic resources.

Action Items

The following actions would support the Historic and Cultural Preservation Policies of this Plan.

1. The Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission (TCHPC) should be supported by a planner trained and experienced in historic preservation, to support the efforts of the Commission and to promote and support historic preservation programs.
2. The TCHPC should be consulted by the County's Technical Advisory Committee in the review of subdivisions or site plans that may impact historic resources.
3. The TCHPC should work to identify other properties eligible for Historic District status by updating the inventory of historic structures for the County, actively soliciting enrollment of

- eligible structures, seeking financial or other incentives for owners establishing Historic Districts, and reviewing permits for demolition or substantial alteration of identified structures.
4. The TCHPC should review the *Talbot County Code* in relation to the State model historic preservation ordinance and evaluate whether modifications to local legislation are appropriate.
 5. The TCHPC should explore implementation of local incentives for adaptive reuse of historic properties.
 6. The TCHPC should investigate and review other counties' preservation incentives to property owners, with a goal of adopting a local incentive program.

Cooperation and Collaboration

There are many public and private groups in the County which support historic preservation. These include the Historic Preservation Commissions of Talbot County, Easton, St. Michaels and Oxford; Historic St. Michaels — Bay Hundred, Inc.; Historic Easton; and the Talbot County Historical Society. Talbot County cooperates with the surrounding historic organizations as needed. It would be fitting for these groups to meet on a regular basis to discuss common concerns, to maintain planning cohesion among all entities with respect to inventories and actions, and to share in each other's successes.

In 2005, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority granted certification to the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area. This Heritage Area offers a mechanism for coordinated and enhanced heritage tourism by recognizing heritage sites in a four county area, including Talbot County.

Certification requires the Management Plan of the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area to be adopted in each county's Comprehensive Plan. Talbot County recognizes and references the Management Plan in order to further opportunities for heritage tourism and support economic development. Talbot County also supports the goals of the Maryland Heritage Areas Program's ten year plan for its Heritage Areas.

The County should continue to actively support and encourage community events which focus on the cultural heritage of the County. Museums and cultural events provide residents and visitors an opportunity to learn about the traditional ways of life that are an important part of the County's heritage.

Summary

Talbot County established a Historic Preservation Commission almost forty years ago and created a system of voluntary zoning overlays to designate Historic Districts. Since then, just twenty one of arguably hundreds of historic structures in the County jurisdiction have been designated as Historic Districts.

Education and collaboration are two important strategies to increase participation in the Historic District program. However, additional property owner incentives are necessary in order to preserve the remaining links to the County's rich history.

Historic preservation is a challenge in any rural area. Historic resources are less visible than in towns and cities and can be overlooked. Such resources are nevertheless significant elements of the area's rural and historic character that should be protected wherever possible.

The Historic Preservation Commission remains a valuable means of assisting homeowners and the community to appreciate and protect its heritage.

Historic Preservation Commission Policies

5.1 The County will continue to encourage and support the Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission.

5.2 The County will encourage restoration and/or adaptive reuse of historic sites and structures.

5.3 The County shall make a clear statement of policy that the Historic Preservation Commission shall have the authority to oversee the creation of Historic Districts and preservation of historic structures.

5.4 The Management Plan of the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area was adopted and made a part of the Comprehensive Plans of Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties in 2005. This update of the Comprehensive Plan incorporates by reference all applicable portions of the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area Management Plan.

5.5 The County will expand its efforts to protect and enhance the cultural heritage of the area by sponsoring heritage events and activities.

