

Caroline County Annual Program Plan Program Open Space

Introduction

The 2016-2017 Annual Program reflects Caroline County's continued commitment to direct POS projects in or near the county's incorporated and unincorporated towns. Approximately 67% of the county's estimated 32,900 residents live in unincorporated areas. In order to enhance the market appeal of living near population centers, recreation facilities must be located strategically to improve the quality of life in population centers and preserve the government's ability to preserve the rural landscape.

This strategy also reflects the county's commitment to the State's 1992 Planning Act. Each of the projects submitted generally supports one or more of the Maryland Planning Act tenants, particularly as the project relates to "concentrating development in suitable areas" and "directing growth to population centers." Protecting sensitive areas and demonstrating stewardship of the bay and the land are also functions of the projects proposed, but more limited in their applications because of state and local funding limitations.

All of the proposed projects are consistent with the 2011 Caroline County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan was amended into the County Comprehensive plan in September 2011 by the Caroline County Commissioners.

The projects incorporated into this plan are based on the following factors:

1. The project's inclusion in previous annual program plans.
2. Represents a specific request for funds by a municipal governing authority.
3. Previous performance and current status of Program Open Space supported projects within the municipality.
4. Project's general consistency with municipal, county and state plans.
5. Balance of project allocations among county and municipal interests.
6. Balance of Program Open Space allocations among the three geographic regions of the county.
7. Level of grass roots political, and in some cases, private funding support for a particular project.

Granted, the plan submitted surpasses the grant funding resources available. Thus in reality, this document reflects two to three years of Program Open Space supported action. The specific projects completed within this fiscal year are extremely sensitive to the availability of local matching funds, the project development speed within the Department of Recreation and Parks and the local municipalities, and the political support for particular projects.

Land Acquisition Status Relative to 2011 LPPRP Goal

Caroline County acquired 207 acres in partnership with DNR Land Acquisition Division and a federal LWCF grant in 2016. This project, in combination with the 2015 acquisition of the Choptank Nature Park (dredge disposal site) and the Choptank River Park within the Town of Greensboro, adds 231 acres to the public park inventory and exceeds the 2011 Plan target for 2015 by 2 acres (pp.111-25, 2011 Caroline County LPPRP). This will prompt a formal request to redirect up to 25% of the land acquisition portion of POS funds to development projects in 2017.

The table of development projects outlined on page 10 presumes the state acceptance of this recommendation.

(Image right: aerial view of future North County Regional Park, formerly Schiff Farm LLC located on Upper Choptank River, north of Greensboro)



CC-1 North County Regional Park (Caroline Tax Map 15: Parcel 135)

FY2017 POS fund investment targeted to environmental stabilization of invasive species and development of forest stewardship practices. Master planning process for park development targeted for POS support in 2018 and is a part of the phased development of public access and the recreation amenities of the regional park. The grant funding request will include construction cost that will meet the proposed planning and design investment.



CC – 2 South County Regional Park and Athletic Complex (Caroline Tax Map 54: Parcel 88)

In 2001, this 73-acre site was a culmination of the efforts of both local government and community volunteers to expand the open space resources for future development of athletic facilities for youth and adults in the south county region. Regional park development is a specific goal in the County’s Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2006/2011 Updates) and has been consistently referenced in the Annual program Plans submitted to DNR. The project is consistent with the Seven Planning Visions advocated by the State of Maryland, particularly visions #5 and #7 as a means to maximize limited land and fiscal resources. The project responds

directly to the 2011 LPPRP goal #7 to establish regional parks centrally located to the growth areas of the county. The multipurpose project already supports league play for soccer and lacrosse. Eventually it will support athletic league play for over 1,500 youth and serve a population of over 7,500 citizens.

Caroline County Annual Program Plan, FY 2017 Amended 7/11/2016 Program Open Space Project Descriptions
Land Acquisition, Park Development & Capital Construction Projects

Engineering for Phase II and III will focus on the development of several youth and adult baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, walking paths, playgrounds, a concession stand and a parks maintenance facility. This project responds directly to the 2011 LPPRP goal #7 to establish regional parks centrally located to the growth areas of the county. The development proposed will be phased over a period of 8 to 12 years.

FY2017 work leverages existing POS grant allocation and encumbers additional funds to install a concession/storage building, a ¼ mile perimeter trail around multipurpose fields and parking improvements.

CC-3 Ridgley Athletic Field Complex (Tax Map 22; parcel 2)

The complex represents a partnership between the Town, County and the Ridgely Little League Organization to develop a sports complex to address regional community needs. The need for additional active recreation facilities is identified clearly in the 2011 Caroline County Recreation & Land Preservation Plan. Although this project was initially envisioned as an opportunity to meet the baseball field needs of a growing local league operation, it became clear that the most effective way to meet the community needs was to look broader to future facility demands and interests. To date the 30-acre parcel includes three baseball fields, parking areas, concession facilities and a multipurpose field.

FY2017 employs an existing POS allocation to install a permanent batting cage.



CC-4 Ganey's Wharf Park Tax Map 41: p.76 & 1)

Ganey's Wharf Park is a 1.22-acre acquisition adjacent to an existing half-acre water access facility owned by Caroline County. The additional acreage will allow the development of a passive park, as well as the additional water access for non-motorized watercraft (green lines)

This park re-development will eventually allow for significant improvements to collection and natural filtration of storm water run-off and expanded community park amenities. Current residential property is being leased with net revenue collected in an escrow account for future grant match and capital improvements at site. Future land acquisition opportunities (red line) are very prospective; action not anticipated in 2017.

CC-5 Village of Choptank Park and Nature Area

(Caroline Tax Map 58: p.4)

This 12.6 acre parcel is located 3 miles south of Preston, adjacent to the village of Choptank and the county-owned Choptank marina and the public boat ramp—one of five water access points on the Choptank River within the county. The parcel builds on an existing POS funded acquisition in 1998 to establish an auxiliary parking lot for the marina recreation area.

The next POS supported phase in FY2017 includes the completion of a Master Plan and the phased development of a trail system around the dredge disposal berm in 2018. The grant funding request will include construction costs that will meet the proposed planning and design investment. The park's proximity to Poplar Neck Creek and the designation of this bridge terminus on the Network to Freedom trail invites the county to also accommodate tourism access and interpretation at the site.



CC-6 Sandtown Bridge Water Trail

Access (Caroline Tax Map 11; p.20)

One acre alongside the renovated SHA Bridge crossing between Goldsboro and the Delaware communities could serve as a seasonal public access point for small craft boated to the Upper Choptank. The reconstruction of the bridge eliminated the informal public access point. Project is consistent with the LPPRP Plan recommendation to increase public waterway access points to Bay tributaries. If successful, the project would also be eligible for state transportation BY Way and trail development funds.

CC-7 Jonestown Community Park

(Caroline Tax Map 59: p. 37 & 78)

In 1987, Caroline County established a small neighborhood playground in Jonestown; an unincorporated African American community located 2 miles north of Preston. The project is consistent with the 2011 LPPRP as reflected in recommendations #6 (acquisition and park development), #5 (strengthening partnerships); and it exemplifies the Smart Growth Vision 1: development concentrated in suitable areas and #3: directing



Caroline County Annual Program Plan, FY 2017 **Amended 7/11/2016** Program Open Space Project Descriptions
Land Acquisition, Park Development & Capital Construction Projects

growth to existing populations centers. FY2017 leverages existing POS grant funds to complete utilities and final furnishings of the Community pavilion constructed in 2015.

CC-8 Hillsboro Boat Ramp

(Caroline County Tax Map 021A: Parcels 708, 709 and 710))

Two waterfront lots adjoin an existing boat ramp that has served as a key public access point on the upper Tuckahoe River south of Tuckahoe State park. The lots represent .43 acres and were acquired in 2013 (green lines). The next phase is landscape and shoreline stabilization to preserve project and improve quality of storm water run-off. Future acquisition targets include parcel to the north pending interest of property owner (red line) but is not targeted for action in FY2017. The Park is featured on the Harriet Tubman Byway Trail currently.



CC-9 Martin Sutton Park Capital Reconstruction

(Caroline County Tax Map 0700: Parcel 684)



This park consists of 24.4 acres and includes a three-court tennis complex, basketball court, walking trails, sport fields and playground – it is a place that serves as a regional destination and is a backdrop for local festivals and sporting events.

The project is consistent with Smart planning principals because of the enhancement of an existing facility within an incorporated town. Future plans include collaboration with the Town to improve multipurpose field drainage, expand existing playground and pave the surface of existing walking pathways along park perimeter (yellow highlights) in conjunction with a Community Parks and Playground Grant Application in FY2018.

Caroline County Annual Program Plan, FY 2017 **Amended 7/11/2016** Program Open Space Project Descriptions
Land Acquisition, Park Development & Capital Construction Projects

CC-10 Marydel Community Park (County Tax Map 2; parcel 18)

Proposed phase one of the anticipated community park development to serve the 1,500 citizens around the north county small towns. Construction includes design for two multipurpose fields and public access amenities such as parking, utilities and trail access from incorporated town limits. The construction of one field with access road and defined parking anticipated, a natural and modular playground area, and accessible trail will be completed in the first quarter of FY2017. POS funding for phase II construction design shall be targeted for FY2017 in preparation for Marydel's 2018 Community Parks and Playground application. The project is consistent with the LPPRP and the State Planning Visions, and is within the jurisdictional limits of the Town of Marydel.



CC-11 Day Spring Community Park (County Tax Map 22B; parcel 189)

It has been 20 years since the development of the neighborhood playground that now serves 46 families in the workforce housing complex located across the street. The drainage issues in one segment of the existing playground eliminate public uses for several days after each storm and the pedestrian access and traffic issues along School Street and the neighborhood's potential intersection via pedestrian pathways to the municipal Martin Sutton Park within the Town of Ridgely are opportunities to make significant improvements at the site with a relatively small investment of resources.

The lot adjoining the site represents a *potential* acquisition opportunity or public easement to expand the neighborhood recreation elements at the site and permanently address the park drainage issues. FY2017 includes a POS development application to replace playground equipment, expand site furnishings and paved trail, and create a pedestrian cross walk to the park facility.



Caroline County Annual Program Plan, FY 2017 **Amended 7/11/2016** Program Open Space Project Descriptions
Land Acquisition, Park Development & Capital Construction Projects

CC-12 Sharp Road Community Park (County Tax Map 105; parcel 2292)

This park consists of 20 acres of open space with an entrance road and a paved basketball court. It is located across from Denton Elementary School and is within the Denton Town Limits. The land was secured as a future community park with POS funds in 1994.

FY2017 development employs an existing POS allocation along with an 2017 Denton Community Parks and Playgrounds for the design-build of two regulation multipurpose fields and the parking and support facilities to maintain grass turf fields.



CC- 13 Templeville Community Park (County Tax map 2; parcel 72)

In partnership with the Templeville Town Council and Caroline County Planning, the FY2017 POS funds will be combined with other sources to restore the community fishing pond and provide unstructured, nature-based recreation furnishings. The .4 acre neighborhood park serves a village of under 50 people. It was established in 1970 and has not been improved in over 30 years.

CC-14 Preston Elementary School Community Park (County Tax map 59; parcel 127 & 108)

This 4-acre park was established in 1990 and includes youth baseball field, tennis courts and support facilities. The school renovation will be completed in 2017 (3-year project), so investing in capital restoration of perimeter park fencing, paved court surfaces and overflow parking areas is timely in the Spring 2017. The facility is within the incorporated town limits of Preston and meet Smart Growth Planning Visions. The scope of work proposed at PES includes in the installation of permanent outfield fencing on the existing baseball field and parking security improvements in areas that have not been addressed with previous grant funds. The



Caroline County Annual Program Plan, FY 2017 **Amended 7/11/2016** Program Open Space Project Descriptions
Land Acquisition, Park Development & Capital Construction Projects

split rail fencing installed with a previous allocation of grant funds is not targeted for replacement or upgrade with this specific grant allocation request. That improvement has not met its capital life of 20 years



CC-15 Federalburg Elementary School Community Park (County Tax map 201; parcel 459 & 460)

There are 9 acres surrounding the school within the Town of Federalburg. Park facilities include youth baseball field, concession stands and playground. Capital investments in the spectator seating area, dugouts and community playground improvements are the target of POS funds.
(Left Image: FES baseball fields)

CC-16 Goldsboro Community Park (County Tax map 11A; parcel 66)

Restoration of paved court basketball and tennis court surfaces in FY2018/19 for a park that serves a rural village of 450+ includes the partnership of the Goldsboro Town Council and may be combined with a 2019 Community Parks & Playground application.

(Right Image: Goldsboro Park paved courts)



CC-17 Lockerman Middle School Baseball Field and Town of Denton's Wheeler Park (County Tax map 103; parcel 1192&1193)

The Senior League baseball field adjoins a neighborhood park within the Denton Town Limits and requires capital restoration to an existing trail, natural play area and special event parking area to enhance public safety. The project uses an existing POS grant award and targets a matching fund investment from the Board of Education.

CC-18 Land Preservation & Recreation, Parks Master Plan 2017

Caroline County intends to invest FY2017 POS funds from the land acquisition allocation to produce the 2017 plan. This increases an existing award from 2016 to reserve 50,000 for project completion.

Caroline County Annual Program Plan, FY 2017 Amended 7/11/2016 Program Open Space Project Descriptions
Land Acquisition, Park Development & Capital Construction Projects

Land Acquisition Projects			Acreage			Proposed FUNDING SOURCES				
Reference #	Sponsor	Project Name & Location	Existing	Ultimate	This Project	Local Side		Outside Funding Source/TBA	Federal LWCF/Other	Total
						Local GF	Local Side POS			
CC-4	County	Ganey's Warf Park	2.24	3.5	1.1		10,000	200,000		210,000
CC-6	County	Sandtown Bridge Water trial Access		1	1		20,000			20,000
CC-8	County	Hillsboro Boat Ramp	.78	1.2	.40		25,000			25,000
LPPRP	County	Contract Services for Plan Development					25,000			25,000
POS Acquisition Fund Totals			3.4	4.9	2.5		80,000	200,000	0	280,000

Park Development Projects				Source of Funds				
Reference #	Sponsor	Project Name & Location	Project Acreage	Local GF	Local POS	Federal	Other	Total
CC-1	County	North County	207		60,000		20,000	80,000
CC-2	County	South County (SCRIP)	72		40,000		10,000	50,000
CC-5	County	Village of Choptank Nature Area (18)	12.63	10,000	30,000			40,000
CC-10	County	Marydel Community Park	23.4	10,000	30,000			40,000
CC-11	County	Dayspring Community Park	.88		16,000		39,000	55,000
CC-13	County/Town	Templeville Community Park	1	5,000	15,000			20,000
CC-14	County	Preston Elementary School Community Park	4.5		20,700	6,500		27,200
CC-15	County	Federalsburg Elementary School Community Park	3		21,000	7,000		28,000
CC-16	Town	Goldsboro Community Park	1.2	5,000	15,000			20,000
POS Development Fund Total			325.61	30,000	247,700	13,500	69,000	360,200

Caroline County Annual Program Plan, FY 2017 Amended 7/11/2016 Program Open Space Project Descriptions
Land Acquisition, Park Development & Capital Construction Projects

Existing POS Project Allocations			Project Acreage	Source of Funds				
Reference #	Sponsor	Project Name & Location		Local GF	Local POS	Federal	Other	Total
CC-3	Municipal/County	Ridgely Athletic Field Complex	35		32,370		10,790	43,160
CC-7	County	Jonestown Community Park		2,500	7,500			10,000
CC-13	County/Town	Sharp Road Community Park	20		15,000		5,000	20,000
CC-16	County/Town	Lockerman Middle School Baseball Field & Wheeler Park			15,718		5,239	20,957
CC-2	County	South County Regional Park	72		116,865		32,500	149,365
Existing POS Project TOTAL				2,500	187,453	0	53,529	243,482