



FULL CIRCLE



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS
ANNUAL REPORT 2013





Howard County

RECREATION & PARKS

7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, Maryland 21046

County Executive: Ken Ulman
Director: John R. Byrd

Advisory Board:

Dr. Joel Goodman (Chair)
Ms. Sylvia Ramsey (Vice Chair)
Mr. John R. Byrd (Executive Secretary)
Mr. Thomas Franklin
Ms. Joanne Kiebler
Mr. Chuck Parvis
Dr. Janet Siddiqui
Mr. Daniel Tracy
Mr. Charles Frekot (Student)

Mission

To responsibly manage natural resources; provide excellent parks, facilities, and recreation opportunities for the community; and ensure the highest quality of life for current and future generations.



Vision

The Department of Recreation & Parks strives to deliver recreation and leisure opportunities that will improve the health and well-being of the community and to serve as model stewards of the environment by managing, protecting, and conserving our resources for a sustainable future.



Core Values

- Exceptional Customer Service
- Professionalism
- Accountability
- Knowledgeable, Well-trained Staff
- Teamwork
- Integrity
- Trend-Setting



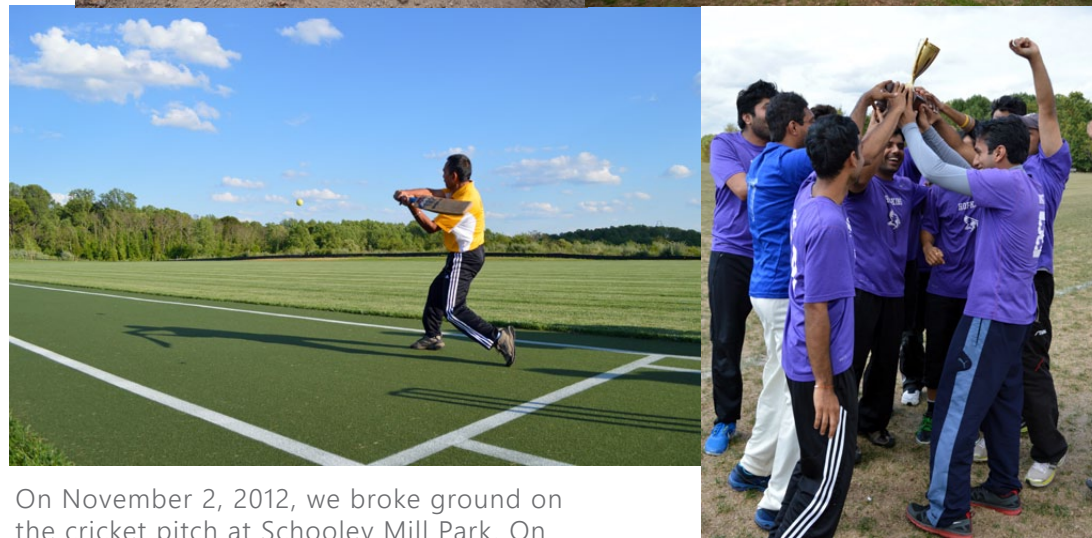
Accreditation



Howard County Recreation and Parks is accredited through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). To achieve accreditation, the Department was required to meet 144 standards encompassing all operations contained in leisure services. These professional standards serve as an aid for improving performance and maintaining quality. They provide park and recreation agencies with an ability to evaluate their operation, while achieving and maintaining a level of efficiency and effectiveness. Howard County Recreation and Parks achieved accreditation in 2001 and re-accreditation in 2006 and 2012. Howard County Recreation and Parks is one of only 102 accredited agencies in the United States.

CAPRA recognizes park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service. Charged with providing high quality services and experiences, park and recreation agencies across the United States turn to CAPRA Accreditation as a credible and efficient means of achieving these goals, while providing assurance to the public that the agency meets national standards of best practice. CAPRA accredits departments and agencies that provide park and recreation programs and services.

Unique.



On November 2, 2012, we broke ground on the cricket pitch at Schooley Mill Park. On May 13, 2013, the only cricket pitch in the region opened for play.

Enriching.



Classes and programs offer lifelong learning opportunities for all ages, from infants to older adults.

Innovative.



On June 15, 2013, the Roger Carter Community Center in Ellicott City opened to the public. It includes a pool with a retractable roof and a climbing wall.

Collaborative.



We work with many organizations to put on special events such as the Rockburn Open Car Show, July 4th Fireworks, Wine in the Woods and National Night Out.



Howard County

RECREATION & PARKS

Howard County Recreation & Parks strives to fulfill its mission to provide and serve from start to finish. Whether it's developing new parks, new amenities or facilities--or improving existing ones--we take pride in completing each step of the process to the best of our abilities. From conception to completion and beyond, we ensure a premier product.

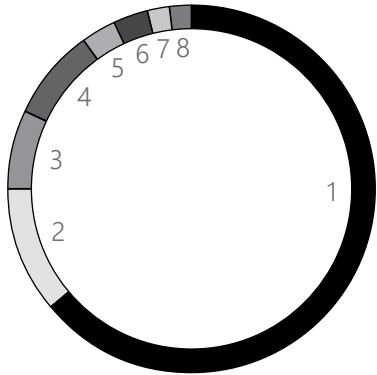
We offer opportunities for those of all ages and interests. From infants to older adults, from cooking classes to soccer leagues, we are there every step of the way in your pursuit of lifelong learning.



Budget

Total General Fund Budget

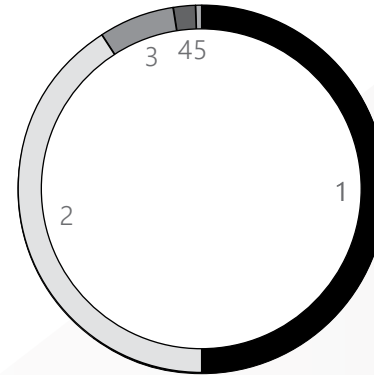
\$898,680,542



| | | |
|---|------------------------|------|
| 1 | Education | 64% |
| 2 | Public Safety | 11% |
| 3 | Public Facilities | 7% |
| 4 | Capital / Debt | 8% |
| 5 | Community | 3.2% |
| 6 | General Government | 3% |
| 7 | Legislative / Judicial | 2% |
| 8 | Recreation & Parks | 1.8% |

Recreation & Parks Budget

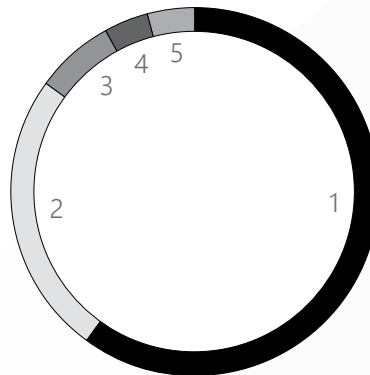
\$37,352,606



| | | |
|---|----------------------|------|
| 1 | Self Sustaining Fund | 50% |
| 2 | General Fund | 41% |
| 3 | Golf | 6.6% |
| 4 | Forest Conservation | 2% |
| 5 | MPEA & Grant | 0.4% |

Recreation & Parks Expenses

\$32,356,035



| | | |
|---|-------------|-----|
| 1 | Salaries | 60% |
| 2 | Contractual | 25% |
| 3 | Supplies | 7% |
| 4 | Fleet | 4% |
| 5 | Other | 4% |



Who we are

159
full-time positions

102
part-time benefitted positions

409
contingent employees (average)





Kelli Coleman

Administrative Support Tech II

Years at HCRP: 3

- Maintain over 500 part-time employee files, payroll records and criminal background reports.
 - Process part-time employee paperwork: new hire, reactivation, pay rate adjustment, resignation and termination.
 - Perform data entry of employee information into computerized payroll system.
 - Perform filing functions: Set up file folders for new part-time employees and maintain personnel files.
 - Fingerprint new staff.
 - Prepare contingent staff photo ID badges.
-

Department Rookie of the Year, 2012





Steve Reed

Operations Supervisor 3 / Zone 4

Years at HCRP: 21

- Manage zone 4, consisting of Rockburn Branch Park, Troy Regional Park, Worthington Dog Park, Ellicott City and other neighborhood parks. The zone has an 18-hole disc golf course, mountain bike skills area, the first unleashed dog park, Col. Anderson grave site and assists with the historical properties.

- 2005 Dept. Great Idea award
- 2011 Friend of EAAA award
- 2011 Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter award





Bryan Moody

Natural Resource Program Manager I

Years at HCRP: 8

- Mapping, research, inspection, and enforcement of more than 9,000 acres of parklands and 5,500 acres of forest conservation easements throughout Howard County, requiring direct communication and collaboration with citizens, community groups, developers, contractors, elected officials, MDNR, and staff from the DPZ, DPW, DILP, DTC, and the Office of Law.
- Post-development landscaping inspections, hazardous tree assessments, and DRP DOC operations while also taking a support role in tree planting programs and various other natural resource programs, efforts, and policy.
- State of Maryland Certified Emergency Medical First Responder
- NIMS ICS-200 and ICS-800
- NRPA Certified Playground Safety Inspector
- State of Maryland Certified Roadside Tree Care Expert
- NRPA Certified Park and Recreation Professional
- State of Maryland Certified Forest Conservation Qualified Professional





Nicola Morgal

Sports and Fitness Manager

Years at HCRP: 16

- Coordinates and supervises all fitness classes in the County.
 - League Supervisor for the Men's Run and Shoot Football League and Tournaments and the Co-rec Football League and Tournaments.
 - Supervises the sports classes unit within the Sports Division that offers classes for children in pre-school through middle school.
-

- HCRP Employee of the Year 2013
- HCRP Rookie of the Year 1999
- HCRP Great Idea Award 3rd Place winner 2002





Clara Gouin

Park Planner

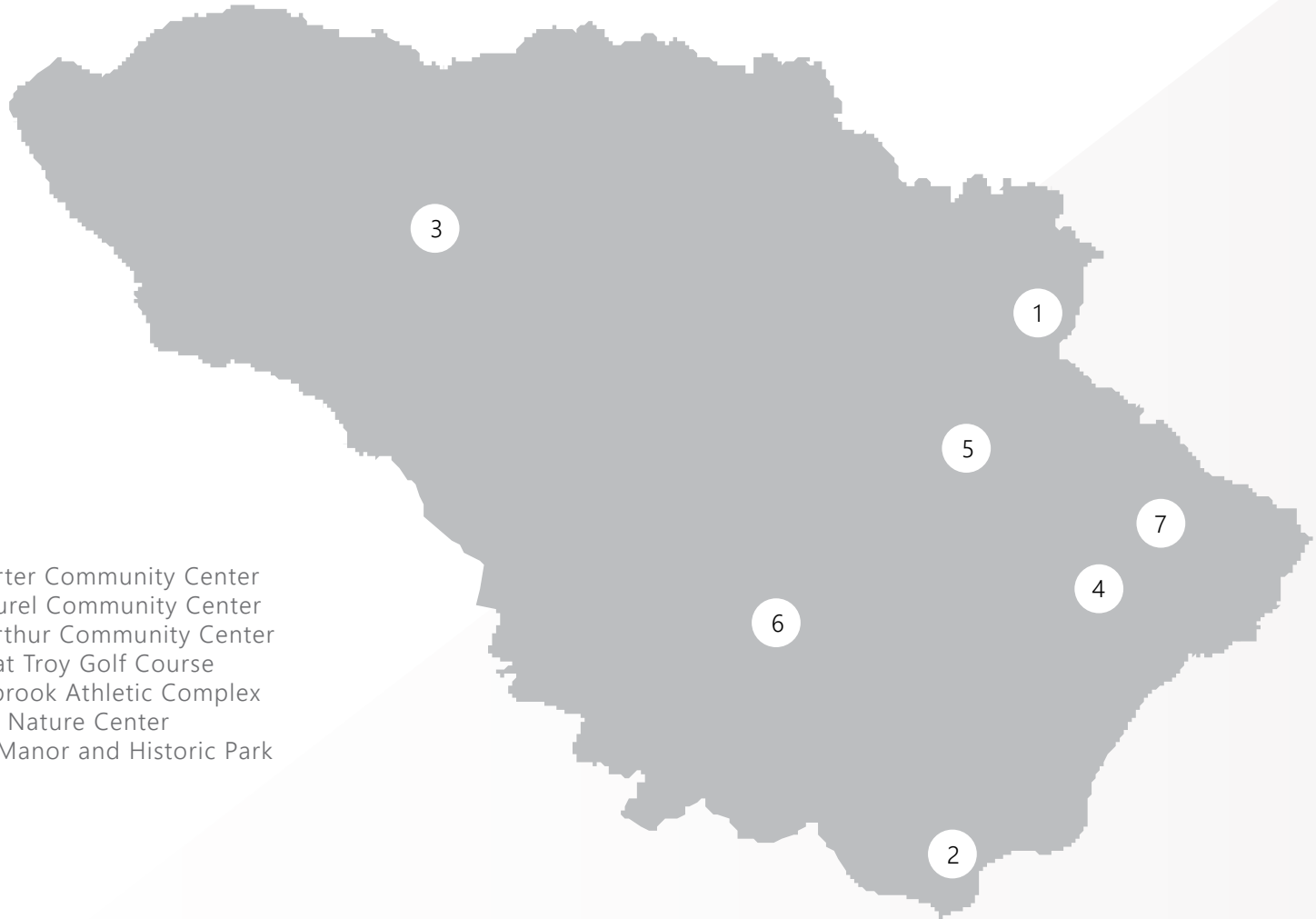
Years at HCRP: 24

- Project manager who collaborates with consultants in preparing master plans and construction documents
 - Interacts with citizens, county departments and state agencies in developing projects such as historical interpretation panels.
-

- 2013 Research and Writing Award, given by the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association for the historical interpretation panels developed for the Baldwin Common in the town of Savage.



Facilities and Amenities



- 1 Roger Carter Community Center
- 2 North Laurel Community Center
- 3 Gary J. Arthur Community Center
- 4 Timbers at Troy Golf Course
- 5 Meadowbrook Athletic Complex
- 6 Robinson Nature Center
- 7 Belmont Manor and Historic Park





Belmont Manor and Historic Park

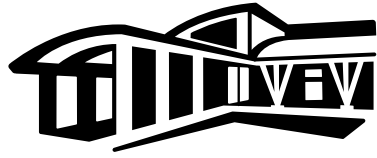


The county exercised its right of first refusal and purchased Belmont, a National Historic Register property, from Howard Community College. Built in 1738, Belmont's 80 acres are surrounded by Patapsco State Park and consist of a manor home, a carriage house, a cottage, a large barn, tennis courts and a pool. Howard Community College purchased Belmont in 2004 for \$5.2 million, including \$2.6 million in County funds. Because of the purchase agreement signed at the time, the County was able to acquire the property for \$89,000.

The County will establish a schedule where there are times for public access to wander the grounds and visit the manor house. The County also intends to enter into a partnership with a local environmental organization to provide nature-based programs on site.

Belmont Manor and Historic Park will be open for weddings, conferences and other events beginning in the fall of 2014.





Gary J. Arthur Community Center



The Gary J. Arthur Community Center is a true “community facility” built to serve the growing population in the western part of the county. Located within Western Regional Park, the facility is shared by the Departments of Recreation & Parks, Health, and Police as well as the Office on Aging. Features include a fitness room, commercial kitchen, double gymnasium, pre-school classrooms, multi-purpose rooms, senior activity room and much more.

FY2013 Highlights:

- Sponsored and hosted the 40th Annual Holiday Mart with an attendance of 2,800 and an increase in profit of \$9,500 from 2011. The Train Garden in the lobby during holidays was well received and brought a number of people to the center. Two 10' x 10' sheds were delivered to help with storage of equipment and supplies and freeing up much needed closet space inside center.
- Hosted its 3rd Annual Snowflake Ball with 55 couples registered.
- Baltimore Bead Society held its annual Bead Trade Show with more than 1,000 in attendance.



Meadowbrook Athletic Complex



The Meadowbrook Athletic Complex (the "MAC") is a destination for indoor basketball, volleyball, field hockey, badminton, jump rope and much more! The facility houses 35,000 square feet of unobstructed gymnasium space designed to serve all ages and all levels of play.

FY2013 Highlights:

- In cooperation with nation-wide promotion by USTA, the 10 and under Free Tennis Play Day at the MAC on March 17 attracted approximately 50 participants that attended.
- Meadowbrook Volleyball League has 155 participants on 16 teams and Meadowbrook Basketball League spring season has 28 teams, with games to be held at the MAC.
- Over 300 boys and girls basketball teams with over 3,000 players participated in tournaments in the MAC, Gary J. Arthur Community Center and North Laurel Community Center in June.





North Laurel Community Center



The North Laurel Community Center was built to serve the southeastern portion of the county. The facility is shared by the Departments of Recreation & Parks, Health, and Police as well as the Office on Aging. Features include a fitness room, commercial kitchen, double gymnasium, pre-school classrooms, multi-purpose rooms, senior activity room, and more.

FY2013 Highlights:

- Hosted National Night Out, which drew more than 500 people. Event featured a Traveling Band concert, skate park competitions, and various equipment on display from Police and Fire & Rescue.
- Partnered with HCPSS and hosted a Coat Drive in which 700 coats were distributed to children and adults. The Center also hosted with North Laurel Multi-Service Center and United Way in the distribution of over 250 Thanksgiving meals to families in need.
- Hosted Teen Opportunities Fair in November. More than 350 middle and high school students met with more than 40 exhibitors and participated in demonstrations and workshops.





Robinson Nature Center



The Robinson Nature Center is a unique nature education facility situated on 18 acres of land adjacent to the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, which provides over 1,000 acres of forest, meadows and river valley to explore. Geothermal heating/air-conditioning, porous paving, solar panels which generate 15% of electric needs, innovative water conservation methods and a host of other features make this building environmentally friendly and one of only three LEED Certified Platinum buildings in the State. This project was made possible through the foresight and generosity of James and Anne Robinson and the James and Anne Robinson Foundation.

FY2013 Highlights:

At summer's end, Robinson staff had planned and taught 192 hours of camps over 10 weeks and ran an additional 20 field trips for visiting groups.

- Held 1st Annual Insect Extravaganza. Approximately 100 people participated. The event consisted of guided walks, children's crafts & games, puppet shows, pace painting, etc. A host of community partners and a tremendous volunteer staff helped to make this program a whopping success.
- Hosted the Open House One Year Anniversary Event on September 23. Approximately 750 visitors attend the festivities.





Roger Carter Community Center



The Roger Carter Community Center is a state-of-the-art, 46,000 square foot community center that includes swimming and diving pools, basketball and volleyball courts, classrooms, fitness and exercise rooms with cardio and PRECOR strength training equipment, a climbing wall and much more. It will be a silver LEED-certified building.

FY2013 Highlights:

- Grand opening on June 15. The Community Center opened to the public at no charge until 1 PM that day.
- Hosted a full schedule of summer camps.
- Introduced new aquatic and rock climbing classes.





Timbers at Troy Golf Course



A 6,652-yard par 72 championship layout with a slope rating of 134. The Timbers offers 4 sets of tees that accommodate every skill level.

The Timbers is the only public course in the greater Baltimore area with wall-to-wall bentgrass – tees, greens and fairways. The Timbers features a full-service Clubhouse & Grille Room, practice facility featuring driving range, large putting green and a practice chipping green.

FY2013 Highlights:

- 34,765 rounds of golf were played.
- A 22 percent increase in peak weekend rounds over last fiscal year.
- A 29 percent increase in merchandise sales over last fiscal year.
- Course rating improved after bunker improvement began in June 2012.
- Hosted Gary J. Arthur Memorial Golf Tournament and Celebration of Sports Golf Tournament.



Recreation Services

The Community Services Division is comprised of recreation programs and services that relate to arts, crafts, dance, therapeutic services, special events and children and adult leisure classes and programs. It also runs recreational summer camps for all ages of children.

The Adventure Services Division promotes active lifestyles through instructional programs and community partnerships. It offers programs such as hikes, astronomy, camping and campfires, fishing, kayaking and canoeing, skiing and tubing, boating classes, nature programs, rock climbing and more.



Sports Highlights

- The Winter soccer season ended with 55 percent more teams than 2012.
- The new regional based HC Club Lacrosse League attracted 47 teams in first year of operation.
- There was a 47 percent growth in Indoor Field Hockey.
- The creation and expansion of the Cricket League -- 18 teams in spring and 12 teams in fall (total of 30 teams).
- Fall softball registration closed at 182 teams (estimated 2,800 players). This is the most Fall League teams in at least 13 years.
- The Columbia Baseball Festival was held at Long Reach High School to promote the new Columbia Baseball League. Baseball Factory, high school teams and the Oriole Bird were on hand to assist. Games and clinic for players ages 6-11, and on-site registration for the league.
- Youth basketball league in the fall increased by 50 percent.
- More than 300 wrestlers participated in the Vipers Mike Beck Memorial Wrestling Tournament at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center. Vipers wrestling registration is at 228, which is a 21 wrestler/10 percent increase from this time last season.
- Adult Basketball League increased by 20 percent with 68 teams tipping off the week of January 8.
- The indoor distance running program in cooperation with the HC Striders has 146 registrants currently enrolled, up 50 percent.
- The Winter Badminton session started in early November and the registration quickly filled.
- In the spring we entered into an agreement with the Howard County Bocce League to absorb this league into our offerings.



Recreation Highlight

EXTREME RECESS CAMP

Aptly named, Extreme Recess aimed to take the best part of a kid's day, pump it up with old-school style games, sport favorites and adventure activities, and make the fun last for a whole week. An array of activities were advertised, from basketball, kickball and capture the flag to archery, kayaking and fishing. Offered Monday-Friday, 9 AM-5 PM, programming that promised a camp packed with activity that would send children home happy and excited for the next day.

A typical day at Extreme Recess consisted of full-group activities in the morning as a warm-up, group rotations for specialized activities such as fishing, archery, and kayaking, and large-group

sporting events like kickball. Fittingly, there was also a "Recess" period of free play after lunch for children to pursue their own interests. Each day culminated with a trip to the pool to cool off and splash around in a less structured environment. Reality style games like "Minute to Win It" were also included on the schedule. Over the course of the week, campers were placed on teams, created team posters and t-shirts and competed in friendly team competitions on the last day of camp. This variety of structured, unstructured, large group, small group, and individual play allowed each child to find activities that resonated with his/her particular style and interests, in addition to promoting increased self-confidence and teamwork through team-building pursuits.



Special Events



- 1 Hershey Track Meet
- 2 Camp Day
- 3 Celebration of Sports
- 4 Wine in the Woods
- 5 July 4th Festival and Fireworks



Child Care

Recreational Licensed Child Care is dedicated to providing a safe, nurturing, quality program for the youth of Howard County. Our programs take children as young as 2½ years up through middle school. We offer a full array of child care programs and all of these programs and all of the staff are licensed through the Maryland State Department of Education Office of Child Care. Howard County Recreation and Parks is a recognized leader in opportunities for individuals with disabilities and complies with all Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) regulations.

Early Learning Centers for preschool-aged children focus on developing a child's social, cognitive, emotional and motor skills through age-appropriate activities following recommendations by the Maryland Model for School Readiness. There are six Early Learning Centers during the school year.

Before and after care during the school year is available at 27 locations: 21 serve elementary schools, four serve middle schools and two serve as therapeutic recreation extended care centers.

The Summer Sunsatons Camp ensures a summer packed with hands-on activities, sports, games, creative dramatics, cooking, science, nature and special events.

The Homework Club is a grant-funded program for the children of Ellicott City through a partnership with Howard County Housing, the Board of Education, Recreation and Parks and the Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP). The program helps children with their homework and provides additional academic assistance to improve school performance. It is a well-rounded program that includes sports, arts and crafts, social activities, and special events.



Volunteers

| Program | Volunteers | Hours |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Belmont | 5 | 15 |
| Diversion Program | 18 | 496 |
| Heritage Programs | 46 | 231 |
| Natural Resources | 866 | 4,307 |
| Robinson Nature Center | 769 | 5,116 |
| Sports | 2,060 | 120,016 |
| Recreation Services | 626 | 3,040 |
| RLC | 26 | 486 |
| Parks | 398 | 1,445 |
| Total | 4,809 | 135,137 |

Total Compensation for Volunteers x \$23.05* = \$3,114,908
 (*Value determined by the Independent Sector.)

FY2013 Highlights:

- International Coastal Clean-up event at Mayfield open space. Sixteen volunteers collected 255 lbs. of trash and 94 lbs. of recyclable materials.
- Family Volunteer Day was held at six park sites. More than 165 volunteers donate 495 hours to improve our parks. Infields were improved at Western Regional, leaves raked at Centennial, picnic table put together, trees were transplanted at Robinson Nature Center and much more.
- 437 people volunteered for the Wine in the Woods event; 1,242 winery volunteers participated this year. This is the largest number of Recreation & Parks volunteers to date! Volunteers donated approximately 5,693 hours of time to this event.





Registration

4,929
programs run

\$12,587,986
course revenue

\$632,394
facility income

89,345
registrations processed

48,570
registration calls taken

Marketing

The marketing division continued to grow and the process of centralizing all marketing initiatives began. The most significant step forward came in the rebidding of the printing and distribution contract for the four seasonal activity guides. Marketing elected to print with a glossy cover and direct mail to each Howard County residence, a decision that contributed to a significant increase in enrollment in FY2013.

The marketing division also began designing and printing all marketing material, from fliers and rack cards to supplementals, promotional items and more. It also began a process of streamlining marketing in the department to make it more efficient and effective.

For the first time, the marketing division took control of marketing Wine in the Woods. It designed and printed the day-of brochure, created advertising and promoted the event through its social media channels.

It was social media that grew the most in FY2013. Marketing expanded its efforts on Facebook, twitter, Pinterest and flickr, creating a bigger online footprint and increasing the department's branding.



Sustainability

HIGHLIGHT: GREENFEST (APRIL 13)

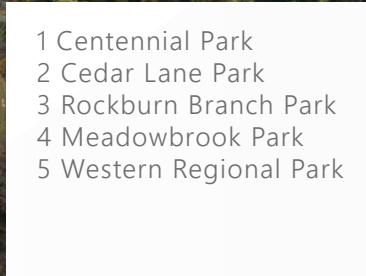
- The event was 100% wind powered (thanks to a donation of credits from Clean Currents!) and included:
- Native Plant Sale all day on the Quad with 7 vendors
- Over 100 pairs of jeans for denim collection for recycling into insulation
- 4 tons of electronics collected for recycling
- 7 tons of shredding
- 40 pairs of eyeglasses for donation
- 25 cell phones for donation and recycling
- Over 70 bikes and 2 sewing machines for Bikes for the World
- Numerous items for Goodwill
- 70 pairs of shoes for Nike Re-Use A Shoe and Goodwill
- Rain barrel workshops including 50 free barrels given away
- Compost and gardening/landscaping workshops and speakers
- Free compost bin giveaway
- Local green businesses and information on sustainable products



Parks

48
developed parks

9,097
total acres



- 1 Centennial Park
- 2 Cedar Lane Park
- 3 Rockburn Branch Park
- 4 Meadowbrook Park
- 5 Western Regional Park





What's Here...

CRICKET PITCH AT SCHOOLEY MILL PARK

The new field, roughly 300 feet in diameter, broke ground in November and opened in May. It overlays two existing multi-purpose fields in need of repair and allowed the new Howard County Cricket League to double its team capacity. To maintain the broadest usage, the new design allows the original multi-purpose fields to remain available independently, when not scheduled for cricket.

What's Coming...

TROY PARK AT ELKRIDGE

Howard County Executive Ken Ulman, Recreation & Parks Director John R. Byrd and other local officials officially launched construction of the new Troy Park at Elkridge in a ground breaking ceremony June 21 near what will be the new entrance to the park. The planned Troy Park will serve the far Eastern region of Howard County surrounding Elkridge with multiple ball fields, pavilions, playgrounds, trails and an indoor sports facility and community center. Construction encompasses multiple phases, the first of which will be completed in spring of 2014.



Heritage Sites

25

total heritage sites



- 1 Patapsco Female Institute
- 2 Firehouse Museum
- 3 Ellicott City Colored School, Restored
- 4 Thomas Isaac Log Cabin
- 5 Waverly Mansion

The mission of Howard County Recreation and Parks Heritage Initiative is to capture and convey the authentic and rich history of Howard County through educational programs and historic preservation. Howard County Recreation and Parks Heritage staff offers a variety of educational programs, special events, tours of its museums and parks and many opportunities for people of all ages throughout the county.



FULL CIRCLE



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS

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