

# the **BIG** picture



**Howard County**

RECREATION & PARKS

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



# FROM THE DIRECTOR



It is my pleasure to present to you the annual report for fiscal year 2014.

When I look at all this department has accomplished in the last year, I am amazed at the hard work of all of our employees. Without the passion from our full-time and part-time staff and our seasonal contingent staff, none of what we do would be possible. Every day I see their eagerness to make Howard County a better place live and play.

Our parks continue to draw in visitors around the country for different events, and I am always humbled by the feedback we receive. So much goes into creating a great experience, from the wonderful park maintenance crew's daily upkeep to the tireless work of our Park Rangers to ensure a safe visit. Our programs -- preschool to older adults, cooking to basketball -- are led by knowledgeable and well-trained staff, and their enthusiasm keeps participants coming back. The smiles I see in so many photos let me know that we're doing our job in providing the best leisure activities for all ages and interests.

The staff at our three community centers makes their buildings comfortable and safe meeting places for all ages. Beyond their day-to-day operations, they have opened their doors

for those displaced or distressed during weather events. They understand the true meaning of "community."

I am equally proud of the work our natural resources team does to keep our environment healthy and to ensure it remains that way for generations. Their innovative outreach programs impart their knowledge to the community so we can all take part in keeping Howard County beautiful.

Last but not least, the vision and foresight of our capital projects division never ceases to impress me. Howard County and the needs of its residents are evolving rapidly. It is imperative that we stay ahead of the curve in providing the necessary amenities to accommodate what's next, and that's exactly what they have done year after year.

Finally, I want to thank all who have taken a walk in our parks, enrolled in a program, watched fireworks on the lake, or sipped wine in the woods. Your participation and support is what keeps us going.

Sincerely,

John R. Byrd  
Director  
Howard County Recreation & Parks



# Howard County

## RECREATION & PARKS

7120 Oakland Mills Road  
Columbia, Maryland 21046

County Executive: Ken Ulman  
Director: John R. Byrd

FY2014 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.





# Howard County

## RECREATION & PARKS

Howard County Recreation & Parks sees the big picture. Our mission is to provide the best possible experience for all who participate in recreational and leisure activities in the county. No detail is too small; no vision is too big.

From maintaining the more than 100 miles of trails in our parks to hosting more than 25,000 people at the annual Wine in the Woods Festival, we strive to create a memorable experience for our residents and our visitors.

That is the Big Picture.

the  
**BIG**  
picture

# GOALS FY2014

1 To have our capital projects and park planning division design and submit the proper waiver petition and site development plan through the Department of Planning and Zoning for the renovation of the South Branch Park site to construct a playground, picnic pavilion and parking lot.

Objectives:

- 1) Design necessary renovation work.
- 2) Submit plans to DPZ and all other review agencies.
- 3) Obtain DPZ's approval.

2 Master plan design and begin construction of Troy Park

Objectives:

- 1) Complete Master Plan design
- 2) Complete Phase 1 construction

3 Continue construction of Blandair Park

Objectives:

- 1) Bid out Phase 2 through Department of Purchasing
- 2) Begin design of Phase 3
- 3) Begin design of Phase 6

4 Develop year round programs for the new Roger Carter Community Center

Objectives:

- 1) Explore triathlon events and training classes
- 2) Start a year round swim club for youth and/or masters
- 3) Plan additional swimming options for camps

5 Make Belmont Manor and Historic Park Operational

Objectives:

- 1) Purchase all needed equipment and supplies by July 31.
- 2) Develop and implement the management plan by the end of year one.
- 3) Coordinate rentals with the construction staff.
- 4) Hire and train part time staff.
- 5) Develop a staff manual.



# GOALS FY2015

**1** Restructure the FY15 Budget to secure an adequate balance in the self-sustaining fund

Objectives:

- 1) Identify SSF FT positions to transfer to the GF.
- 2) Evaluate which SSF CW expenses should be transferred to the GF.
- 3) Identify if we can delay the hiring of FT vacancies in the GF & the SSF.
- 4) Identify a funding source for facility repairs.
- 5) Identify how to reduce GF expenses, to absorb the cost of the SSF positions, transferring to the GF.

**2** Secure a new management contract for the Timbers at Troy Golf Course

Objectives:

- 1) Establish a Golf Course Committee to oversee the management contract process.
- 2) Specify responsibility for Timbers equipment replacement.
- 3) Revise the revenue sharing formula.
- 4) Identify improvements that are needed for the grounds and the facility.
- 5) Identify if a lease or a management contract is the most advantageous option.

**3** Work with the Superlative Group to promote sponsorship opportunities

Objectives:

- 1) Provide the Superlative Group with a list of our parks, programs, media and sponsorship partners.
- 2) Solicit sponsorship legal expertise from staff in the Office of Law and the Department of Finance.
- 3) Review the Superlative reports to ensure that the Scope of Work requirements are completed.
- 4) Identify the value of current department sponsorships.
- 5) Identify if Phase II of the Consultant Services RFP is viable.

**4** Secure a consultant to conduct a comprehensive needs analysis for the 2016 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan

Objectives:

- 1) Establish an in-house Committee to develop an RFP.
- 2) Review neighboring and other similar jurisdictions plans.
- 3) Select a qualified consultant to conduct the survey and analysis.

**5** Assist new Administration during transition period

Objectives:

- 1) Provide thorough background of DRP.
- 2) Initiate new staff by meeting and providing on site tours.

**6** Ensure continuation of active capital projects

Objectives:

- 1) Determine adequate budget needs and secure funding.
- 2) Hire another project manager for current vacancy in Capital Project Division.
- 3) Facilitate RFP process for design and construction in a timely manner.







More than 350 children passed through the annual Camp Day on May 3, 2014, at Centennial Park. The free event showcases the Department's camp offerings, from drama and magic to more than a dozen sports. Families enjoyed demonstrations, performances and completed their own Camp Passport by having it stamped at different booths.



Sports tournaments in Howard County continue to thrive. The Summer Smash Field Hockey Tournament on June 21, 2014, at Blandair Park drew dozens of youth and adult field hockey teams. In all, more than 6,000 families attended tournament events partnered with Howard County Recreation & Parks in June.



The inaugural KidsFest event at Meadowbrook Park was a showcase of all that instructional and preschool sports has to offer. More than 730 kids registered, more than seven times the expected number, and more than 2,500 people left with goodie bags, smiles on their faces, and the promise that they would definitely be back next year.



The Columbia Lakefront was once again packed for the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival and Fireworks. For the first time, attendees could download a mobile app that included a site map, schedule of events, detailed parking information, and music that synchronized with the firework show. Attendees staked out spaces early in the morning to view the show.



Robinson  
NATURE CENTER

Our mission to champion sustainability and green practices is no more evident than at Robinson Nature Center. In November, the Maryland Office of Tourism selected Robinson as its statewide "2013 Green/Sustainable Tourism Award" winner for its exemplary green practices, the cost savings associated with those practices, and the education the center provides.



The Natural Resources Division runs the Stream Releaf program to create and enhance riparian forest buffers (protective strips of trees, shrubs and other vegetations along a stream) to improve water quality and wildlife habitat throughout Howard County. The Department planted hundreds of shrubs and trees along County streams.



In June 2014, the five resurfaced tennis courts at Centennial Park opened. The Department also resurfaced tennis courts at Schooley Mill Park. For just youth tennis programs in the fiscal year, the Department had more than 1,200 registrants, necessitating the improvements at the county's most heavily used courts.



In October, Cub Scout Pack 914 adopted Blandair Park through the department's Parks Adopt-a-Park Program. Scout groups play an important role in helping the Department maintain beautiful parks and trails. Thank you Cub Scout Pack 914!





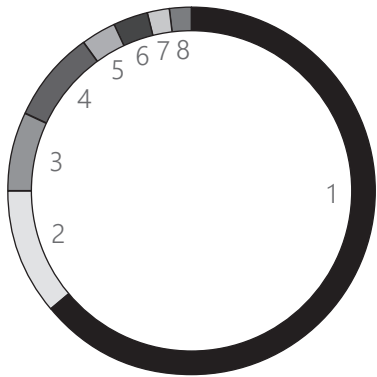
# the BIG picture



# Budget

## Total General Fund Budget

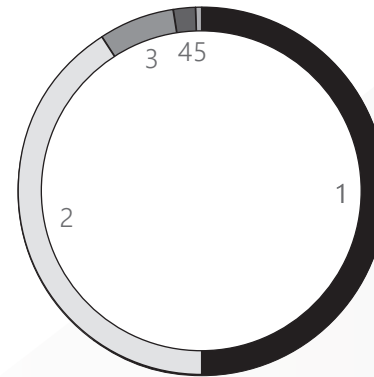
**\$969,839,219**



1	Education	62%
2	Public Safety	12%
3	Public Facilities	6%
4	Non Department	9.5%
5	Community	3.7%
6	General Government	3%
7	Legislative / Judicial	2%
8	Recreation & Parks	1.8%

## Recreation & Parks Budget

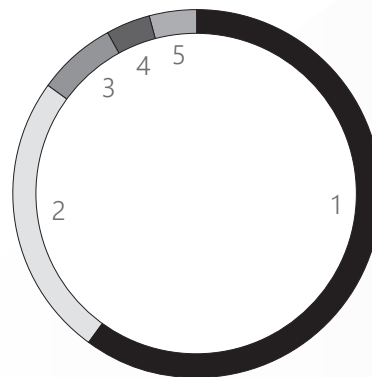
**\$40,357,014**



1	Self Sustaining Fund	49.5%
2	General Fund	42.2%
3	Golf	5.6%
4	Forest Conservation	2.3%
5	MPEA & Grant	0.4%

## Recreation & Parks Expenses

**\$37,388,451**



1	Salaries	59%
2	Contractual	27%
3	Supplies	6%
4	Fleet	1%
5	Other	7%

# Who we are

**205**  
full-time positions

**102**  
part-time benefitted positions

**460**  
contingent employees (average)



- Budget
- Staff
- Facilities
- Programs
- Child Care
- Volunteers
- Administration
- Sustainability
- Parks

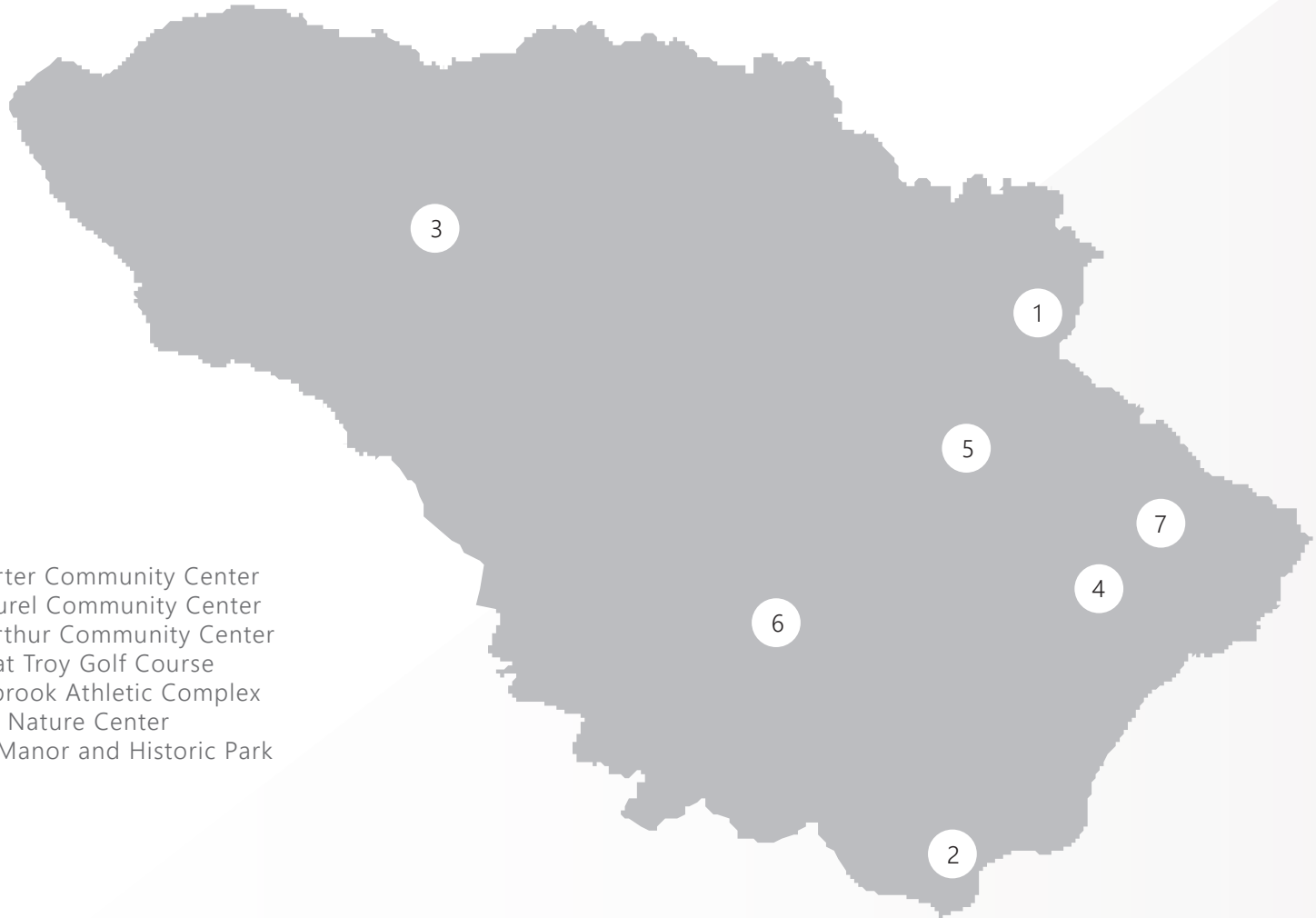


The Recreation & Parks sports staff at Celebration of Sports.

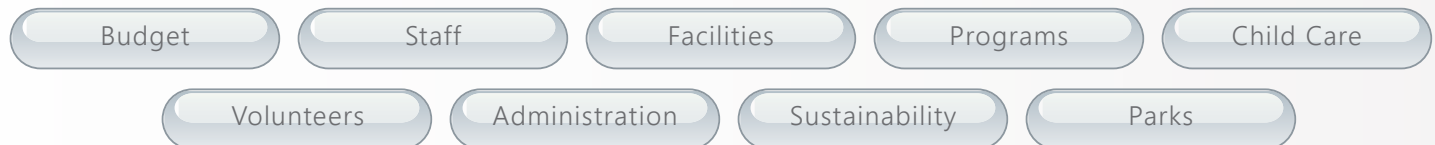


Howard County Park Rangers.

# 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 68 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.

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#### FY2014 Highlights:

- Completed soil remediation on the site.
- Completed renovation of the barn roof.
- Completed archway and ornamental iron garden fencing.
- Completed lead remediation.
- Finalized restoration contract and restoration of Manor House began.
- Howard County Conservancy was awarded use of the Carriage House to conduct environmental programs within the park.
- Began hosting outdoor weddings and events, including the Celebration of Partners in Parks in November.



# 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.

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#### FY2014 Highlights:

- Sponsored the 41st annual Holiday Mart with an attendance of 2,500 a net profit of \$20,348.01. The Train Garden in lobby during holidays was well received and brought a number of people to the center.
- Center hosted Glenelg High School soccer banquet and Warhawk wrestling tournament.
- Held a very successful Snowflake Ball for Dads & Daughters with 55 couples attending. Quote of the evening came from a grandfather saying he postpones his winter trip to Florida every year until after he can attend the Snowflake Ball with his granddaughter.



# 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.

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## FY2014 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

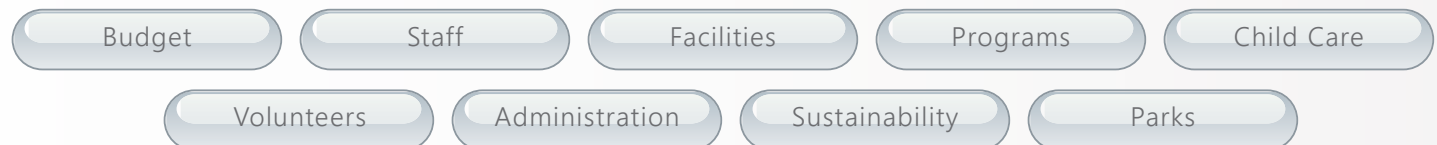


The North Laurel Community Center was built to serve the southeastern portion of the county. The facility is shared by the Departments of Recreation & Parks, Health, and Police as well as the Office on Aging. Features include a fitness room, commercial kitchen, double gymnasium, pre-school classrooms,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

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## FY2014 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

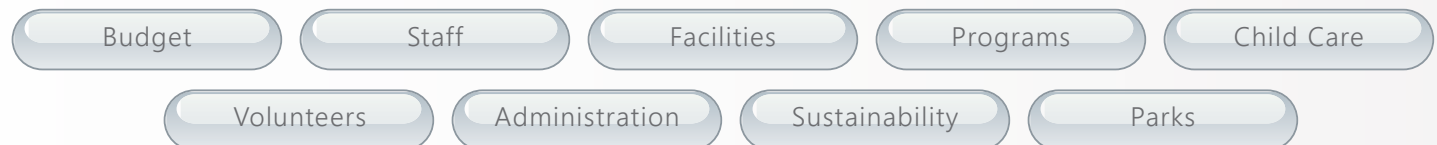


The Robinson Nature Center is a unique nature education facility situated on 18 acres of land adjacent to the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, which provides over 1,000 acres of forest, meadows and river valley to explore. Geothermal heating/air-conditioning, porous paving, solar panels which generate 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.

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## FY2014 Highlights:

- Successfully hosted the 2nd Volunteer Appreciation Gala on December 7. This year's theme of "Snowy-Cosmic-Celtic-Fall-Wedding" was orchestrated by the entire nature center staff.
- Successfully presented the 2nd annual Insect Extravaganza; approximately 122 visitors participated and learned about insects from guided walks, children's crafts and games, puppet shows, face painting, and a host of fantastic community partners.
- The new "Trick or Treat Among the Trees" program sold out 3 weeks in advance.
- Girl Scout Allison Seitz successfully completed her Gold Scout Project. She installed a guided bird walk utilizing 17 native carved birds donated by the Howard County Woodworkers Guild. Allison presented a bird talk, then led a bird walk, and completed it with a bird craft. She also created a bird brochure that coincides with the walking tour.





# Roger Carter Community Center

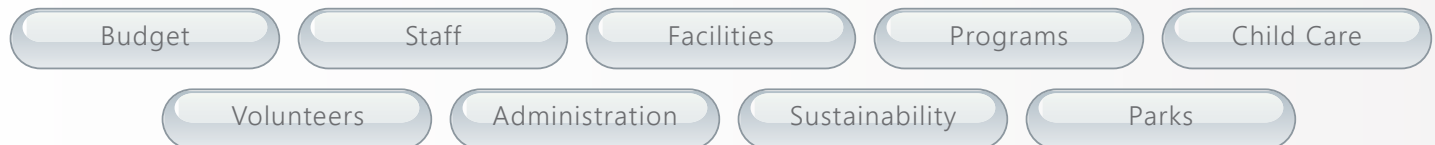


The Roger Carter Community Center is a state-of-the-art, 46,000 square foot community center that includes swimming and diving pools, basketball and volleyball courts, classrooms, fitness and exercise rooms with cardio and PRECOR strength training equipment, a climbing wall and much more. It will be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

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## FY2014 Highlights:

- The 46th HC Invitational Swim Meet on July 14 had a 8% growth in entries.
- Daddy/Daughter Dance was a huge success, very well organized and both sessions filled. Total of 113 couples registered.
- Introduced new aquatic and rock climbing classes.
- Held our 2nd National Night Out Event. Event included a Traveling Bands concert, community tables, Park Ranger "Bark" program information, a visit from HCPD's "Sparky", and other County dignitaries, including the County Executive.





## 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.

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### FY2014 Highlights:

- 34,197 rounds of golf were played.
- Food & Beverage increased revenues by 6%. The Grille Room has been a great addition to our revenue stream. Private events have nearly doubled vs prior year.
  - There was an 18% increase in Peak Weekend rounds in compared to prior year.
  - There was a 46% increase in Golf Now paid rounds, which are rounds paid during different times of the day.
- The Timbers is Audubon Certified and has been since 1997. Of the 19,000+ golf courses in the United States only 1,049 courses are certified.
- 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.

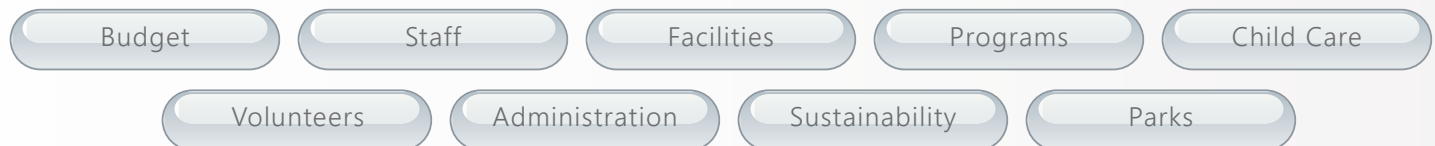


# Recreation Highlight SHREDIT ACTION SPORTS VIDEO EDIT CONTEST

The ShredIt Contest ran from June 2 to July 11 and sought to integrate different skills into one innovative program. To participate, contestants had to be at least 13 years of age or older and have their own original skateboarding, biking and/or rollerblading video edits shot at the Department's North Laurel Skate Park, Centennial Skate Spot or Rockburn Skills Course. Submissions had to be less than three minutes long. Five finalists were selected and the winner was chosen through a poll on the Department's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/HoCoRec](http://www.facebook.com/HoCoRec).

The contest received 15 high-quality submissions. The winners were announced at National Night Out at North Laurel Park:

- Jason Chapman of Baltimore was the Grand Prize recipient of a full custom skateboard from The Good Roll Shop and Gallery, a Johnny Rad's skateboard deck, a yearlong Fit4U membership to the county's three community centers – Gary J. Arthur, Roger Carter and North Laurel; and a Bohnam camera bag and gear;
- The Runner-Up Prize of a Johnny Rad's skateboard deck and a Bohnam t-shirt went to Idris Battou of Silver Spring; and
- Howard County's own Nick Griesser of Glenelg won the "Best in Bike Edit" award, along with a \$150 gift certificate towards POC merchandise from Race Pace Bicycles.





# Sports Highlights

- Over 850 participated in Cyclocross races on November 10 at Schooley Mill Park and November 17 at Rockburn Branch Park.
- Winter basketball adult league had 78 teams, up 16% from the previous year.
- Youth Winter basketball league had 750 players, up 48% from the previous year.
- Over 400 jumpers participated in the Spring Festival Jump Rope Tournament at the Meadowbrook Athletic Complex on March 15. Jumpers came as far as North Carolina to participate in the festival.
- 48 teams from Maryland, Delaware and Virginia participated in volleyball tournaments in March. These teams are part of the local USA Volleyball region, CHRVA (Chesapeake Region Volleyball Association).
- Concussion Education sessions in conjunction with football practices and Baseline Testing for children 10-18 years old became available directly to the families. The first sessions at East Columbia Library Fields reached 45 families.
- The Columbia Baseball League (pictured) expanded to 300 players.
- The Youth Volleyball League reached 18 teams allowing for 3 skill level breakouts to better assure league balance, fun and success for players. Our league is one of the few intramural type programs in the state.
- The Free Tennis Day at the MAC was very well received attracting over 80 youngsters to an hour of free tennis.
- Over 90 teams participated in Firecracker and Summer Sizzler softball tournaments.
- Recreation & Parks partnered to host 43 championship deaf softball teams in its National Softball Association of the Deaf Softball championships from August 8-10.
- Fall adult leagues had more than 180 softball teams and 132 soccer teams.





## Special Events

Perfect weather made for a perfect day sipping wine in the woods. The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Wine in the Woods at Symphony Woods was attended by 30 wineries, 12 musical acts on two stages, 50 artisans and crafters, and 22 food vendors. Over the two days in May, 26,405 people attended the event.



## Special Events

The Voices 4 Change Youth Summit in March gathered students from all over Howard County to exchange ideas about issues concerning teens. At the summit, groups of V4C members present their findings on the issue of their choice

to other middle and high schoolers (selected by their guidance counselors) in the county (the issues can be found on another page). It is an exciting event with keynote speakers, breakout sessions, lunch, and a feeling of empowerment.

# Recreational Licensed 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 & 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 (ELC) 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 (Can-TEEN) and two serve as therapeutic recreation extended care centers (TREC).



Program (number enrolled)	ELC	Elementary (before   after)	Can-TEEN	TREC
August	58	1,118   1,170	36	19
September	77	1,223   1,327	46	21
October	82	1,215   1,311	44	22
November	80	1,213   1,276	42	22
December	79	1,185   1,272	41	22
January	81	1,205   1,281	42	23
February	82	1,210   1,286	43	23
March	80	1,215   1,289	43	24
April	78	1,207   1,262	44	24
May	76	1,200   1,258	43	24
June	77	1,173   1,236	43	24



# Volunteers

Division	Volunteers	Hours
Natural Resources	830	3,754
Sports & Adventure	2,060	120,016
Recreation	670	9,774
RLC	21	860
Parks	429	1,984
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,010</b>	<b>136,388</b>

**Total Compensation for Volunteers x \$23.05\* = \$3,143,743**  
 (\*Value determined by the Independent Sector.)

FY2014 Highlights:

- 166 volunteers participated in the Family Volunteer Day Event held on November 2 at various county parks (Rockburn Branch Park, Worthington Park, Centennial Park, Western Regional Park, Alpha Ridge Park, and Schooley Mill Park). Our volunteers performed duties such as leaf raking, mulching, flower planting. They also planted 200 native trees.
- There were 323 festival volunteers at Wine in the Woods.
- In just one quarter of the year, the volunteer knitting group produced for the following organizations:
  - Mt. Sinai Hospital: 50 baby hats, 12 blankets, 14 afghans
  - Montgomery General Hospital: 15 blankets, 30 baby hats
  - St. Agnes Hospital: 30 baby hats
  - St. John's Episcopal Church: 7 shawls for cancer patients
  - MD Defense Force: 127 helmet liners
  - Linton Hall Convent: 51 afghans, 7 hat & scarf set



# Registration

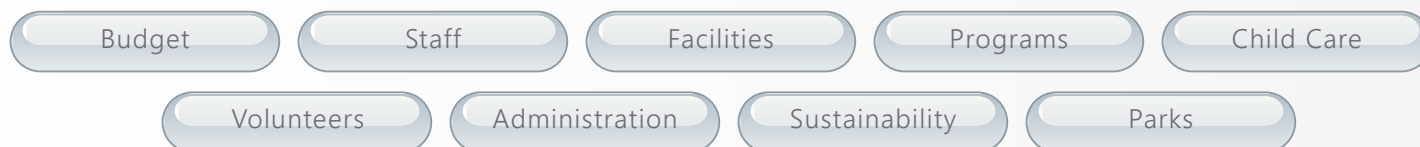
	Revenue	Programs (offered   ran)	Programs Filled	Scholarships	Call Count
Summer Programs	\$756,461	518   447	89		15,767
Summer Camps	\$2,809,684	906   802	202		
Fall Programs	\$4,068,471	1,996   1,599	227	\$170,710	10,064
Winter Programs	\$2,806,394	1,417   1,153	192	\$125,151	7,840
Spring Programs	\$3,145,228	1,673   1,353	240	\$116,971	14,237
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,586,238</b>	<b>6,510   5,354</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>\$412,832</b>	<b>47,908</b>

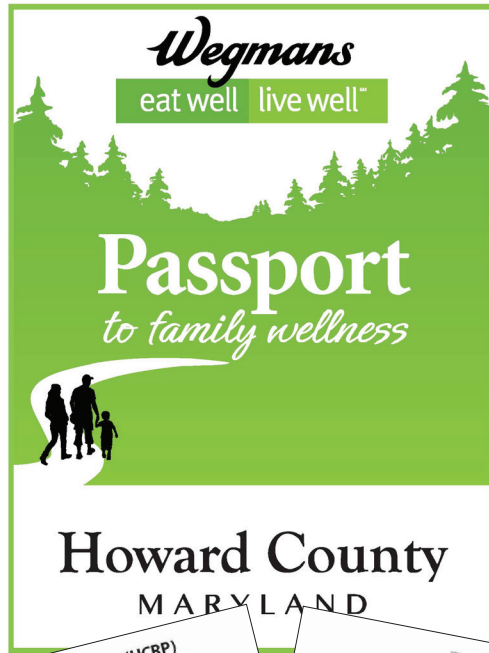
# Marketing

After centralizing all marketing in fiscal year 2013, the marketing group has continued to expand as it takes on more roles within the department. It still produces the four major activity guides, which in FY2014 were the largest they have ever been. Additionally, the marketing group has created more than 200 fliers, supplementals, trifolds, and other printed material.

The department's social media presence continued to grow. It picked up more than 1,500 Facebook likes, more than 500 Twitter followers and expanded its presence on Flickr and Pinterest. The photos on the flickr site -- more than 2,000, nearly all taken by the marketing staff -- have garnered close to 420,000 views.

The marketing group has also branched out to creating park signage and is beginning a redesign of park kiosks. Additionally, it has played a role in the process of securing sponsorships for county parks and facilities.





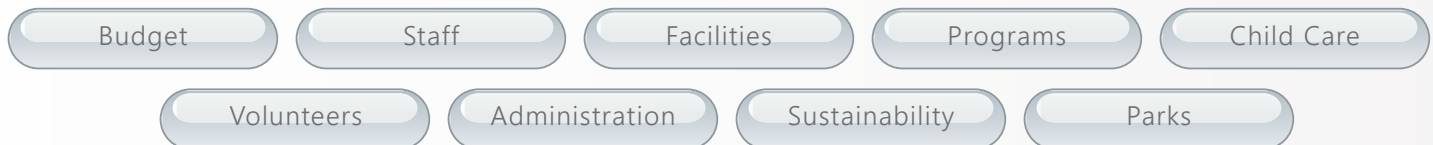
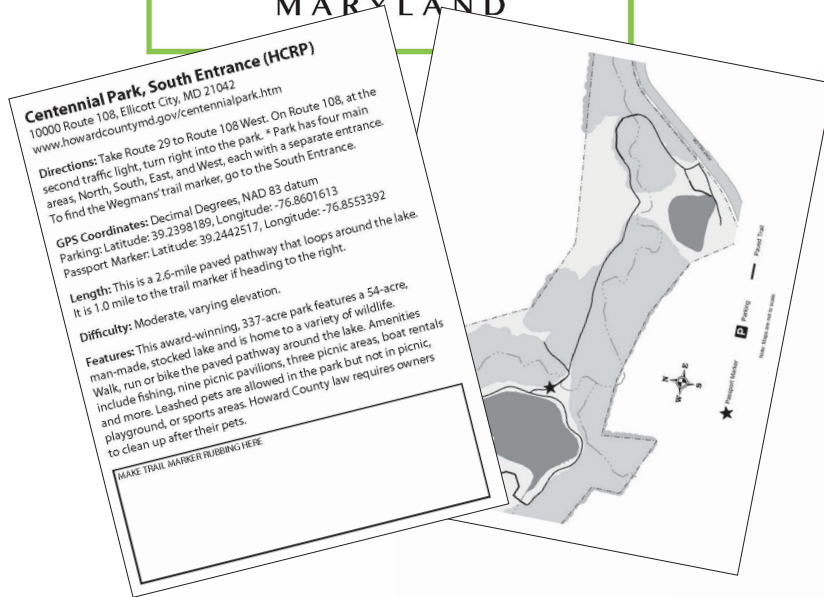
# Partnerships

## HIGHLIGHT: PASSPORT TO WELLNESS

Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks, Columbia Association and Wegmans store in Columbia teamed up to introduce Howard County's Nature Quest and the Wegmans Passport to Family Wellness, an initiative to encourage usage of the county's excellent trail network.

HCRP and CA offered free giveaways to those who walk all eight of their respective trails. For those who walk six trails, Wegmans will offer a coupon for a free towards a Wegmans product. Participants who walked all 16 trails were entered into a raffle for a \$100 Wegmans Gift Card or a Gift Certificate from HCRP or CA.

First developed by Wegmans in 2005, the Passport to Family Wellness is a pocket-sized booklet that guides participants through 16 trails in the county -- eight managed by HCRP and eight managed by CA. Participants record their progress by making a rubbing in their passport of a trail marker located at a designated point on each trail.

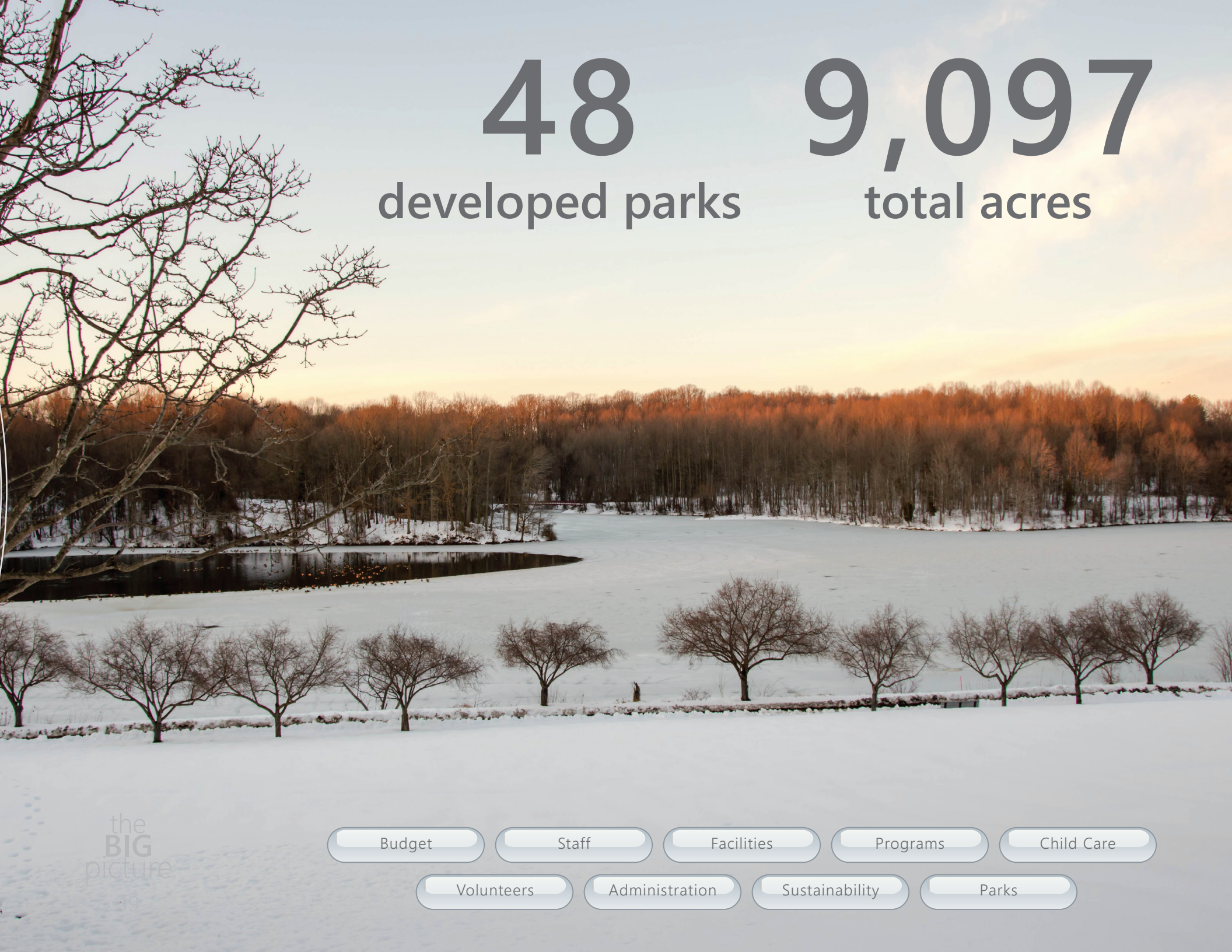


# 48

developed parks

# 9,097

total acres



- Budget
- Staff
- Facilities
- Programs
- Child Care
- Volunteers
- Administration
- Sustainability
- Parks

# Program Open Space

Grants from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Program Open Space continue to be vital to the maintenance, expansion and continued prosperity of the parks in Howard County. More than 20 parks and facilities were made possible through funds allocated by Program Open Space, including the newly opened Troy Park. The County purchased 80 of the 101 acres for the park with \$2.1 million from the program.

1. Blandair Park
2. Rockburn Branch Park
3. Centennial Park
4. Rockburn Branch Park turf fields
5. Roger Carter Community Center
6. Western Regional Park





# Schooley Mill Cricket Pitch

The county's only cricket pitch opened in Schooley Mill Park. It involved re-grading two existing fields to a single level and other necessary facility and infrastructure improvements including sidewalks and drainage solutions for storm water management. In September, Schooley Mill hosted its first Cricket League Championship. The team from Johns Hopkins defeated the team from UMBC.



- Budget
- Staff
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As part of a continued effort to upgrade the county's amenities, the construction division managed the installation of new playgrounds at Atholton (pictured) and Cedar Villa Heights Parks. At Atholton Park, the larger playground was replaced and a swing area, including an accessible swing bay, was installed. At Cedar Villa Heights Park, a larger swing area and updated equipment replaced the old playgrounds. At both parks, a bonded rubber safety surface replaced the engineered wood fiber surface.





## CELEBRATION OF PARTNERS IN PARKS

Howard County Recreation & Parks hosted the Celebration of Partners in Parks at Belmont Manor and Historic Park on November 2 to recognize more than 60 volunteer organizations that strive to protect, preserve, and enhance the natural, cultural, historical, and overall park environment through sustainable practices and stewardship. Singer/songwriter Erica Wheeler (pictured) served as the keynote speaker and The Mighty Kelltones served as the musical act. More than 150 people attended the event.



# Natural Resources PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH

As part of the ongoing efforts to stem the effects of pollution and invasive species in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, the Natural Resources Division began the Weed Warrior Program, offering volunteer hours and coupons to participants.

Meanwhile, Park Rangers created awareness of two issues in parks through infographic campaigns. A poster was created encouraging park-goers to clean up after their pets and the consequences to the environment of leaving waste. The second poster education the public on tick-borne diseases and how to remove a tick from the skin.

## Join the SPRING 2014 Weed Warrior Program at Middle Patuxent Environmental Area



Every Tuesday and Friday afternoon from September 9-November 14 the MPEA hosts new weed warrior volunteers to pull, cut, and dig out invasive plants. We meet at the Trotter Rd. entrance to the MPEA (5795 Trotter Road) at 3:30 PM and work until 6 PM. Please bring your own water in a backpack and wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

Contact Davey Rogner, droegner@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-0476 for questions, directions, or to RSVP.

**Volunteer and receive coupons from local businesses for your hard work:**

<b>2.5</b> hours	<b>5</b> hours	<b>10</b> hours
Receive a Chicken Sandwich from Chick-Fil-A at Johns Hopkins Rd.!	Receive a 16-ounce water bottle from Robinson Nature Center!	Receive a ticket to a summer concert from Merriweather Post Pavilion!



**About MPEA:**  
The MPEA is a 1.6 square mile forest just west of Columbia and east of Clarksville, MD. Presently, more than 20% of the under-story plants growing in the MPEA are non-native, exotic plants. The predominance of non-native plants results in less habitat for native plants, animals, and beneficial pollinating insects. Please join us and receive great gifts while improving the environmental health of one of Howard County's most beautiful wild spaces!

Howard County RECREATION & PARKS

## BE THE SOLUTION TO THE POO-LUTION

dog waste is an environmental pollutant

The number of **licensed** dogs in Howard County.

**8,250**

1 GRAM of dog poop contains more than **23 MILLION** fecal bacteria.

**1g**

**8,250** × **365** = **3,011,250**

(PILES OF POO)

Harmful bacteria from dog feces enters our soil, waterways, and the Chesapeake Bay!

### DO YOUR "DOODIE" (A HOW-TO)

- PLACE HAND IN BAG
- PICK UP POO
- TIE BAG & PLACE IN TRASH BIN

Howard County RECREATION & PARKS

**BE A BARK RANGER**  
TAKE THE PLEDGE

www.howardcountymd.gov/rap

## TICKED OFF



### The Life Cycle of a Tick

SPRING: eggs, nymphs, larvae

SUMMER: nymphs, larvae

FALL: adults

WINTER: dormant

Most Common Tick-Borne Diseases

- Lyme Disease\*
- Ehrlichiosis
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness
- Tularemia
- Anaplasmosis
- Powassan Encephalitis
- Q Fever

**3 EASY STEPS TO REMOVE A TICK**

- PLACE THE KEY OVER THE TICK IN THE TIGHT-SHOP HOLE.
- SLIDE THE TICK INTO SPECIALLY SHAPED SLOT.
- PULL KEY AWAY FROM SKIN. TICK IS REMOVED HEAD AND ALL!

Howard County RECREATION & PARKS



The Worthington Dog Park introduced a new A-frame to large dog area, a welcomed addition to the county's most popular dog park. The Department processed 876 enrollments in the fiscal year -- 723 from residents and 153 from non-residents.



- Budget
- Staff
- Facilities
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# 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.

[Budget](#)
[Staff](#)
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# HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Heritage Program and Facilities Manager Jacque Galke was named "Preservationist of the Year" by Preservation Howard County.
- The Midnight Madness event in Historic Ellicott City on December 6, brought 105 visitors to the Firehouse Museum in spite of the cold rainy night.
- Santa and an elf greeted 118 kids and parents at the Thomas Isaac Log Cabin for the Santa's Workshop event on December 6 from 4-8 PM.
- Showings of Chesapeake Shakespeare Company's production of *Anthony and Cleopatra* and *Taming of the Shrew* ran through the end of July and early August. 3,341 visitors attended one or both shows.
- The Department hosted 40 educators for the Curriculum Coordinator of Advanced Programs and Social Studies for Howard County Public Schools and a large group of secondary social studies teachers at the Ellicott City Colored School, Restored on June 28. We hoped to partner with HCPS in bringing secondary students to the school as the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the desegregation decision in *Brown vs. The Board of Education* and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil Rights Act occur in 2014.

the  
**BIG**  
picture

Budget

Staff

Facilities

Programs

Child Care

Volunteers

Administration

Sustainability

Parks

# Capital Projects Highlights



## SOUTH BRANCH PARK

Construction began on Phase I of the park project to include the installation of two age-specific playgrounds – ages 2-5 and 2-12 – situated on a rubberized surface; a 32-by-36-foot picnic pavilion; retaining walls around the play area and an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant parking lot with a path. Phase I also involved the removal of a historic water tower that sat on the property. Construction was completed in summer 2014.



## 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 was completed in fall 2014.



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**BIG**  
picture



**ANNUAL REPORT 2014**