



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS

ANNUAL REPORT FY '17

From The Director



It is my pleasure to present to you the annual report for fiscal year 2017.

This fiscal year came in with and then ended with a bang. On July 31, our department (along with the entire county) became swept up in the recovery and rebuilding effort of historic Ellicott City after an historic flood. Then in the spring, the department completed two important items: one to cement our status as a leading recreation & parks agency and another that charts our future over the next decade. These two items were the completion of the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) re-accreditation application and the completed Land Preservation, Parks, & Recreation Plan.

CAPRA recognizes park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service. Less than 200 recreation & parks agencies in the nation are CAPRA accredited.

The Land Preservation, Parks, & Recreation Plan is a comprehensive plan that guides our department forward in all aspects, from conservation to recreation.

I firmly believe that the work our staff does in parks, recreation services, and natural resources

makes our department easy to support. The wide range of services we perform never ceases to amaze me. Our staff manages over 9,000 acres of parkland, and in this fiscal year offered 8,079 programs and 1,781 camps. Our staff is enhancing natural areas by removing invasive species. They are preserving the history of our county in the 25 historic sites we manage. They are providing excellent child care services in many of Howard County's elementary and middle schools. They execute large-scale events such as the July 4th Fireworks and Wine in the Woods.

I encourage you to look through this report to learn about our diverse offerings and the community we serve. It is my honor to lead this department and the excellent staff that makes Howard County a great place to live, work and play.

John R. Byrd
Director
Howard County Recreation & Parks

"We're proud to be recognized once again [by CAPRA]. What was impressive this time around was receiving 100% compliance. This department continues to be a model for others in the Recreation and Parks' profession and this recognition confirms why. Our ability to have a positive impact on the quality of life of Howard County residents is reflected by this achievement. I'd like to thank Howard County Executive Kittleman for his commitment to the department," John R. Byrd.



Howard County

RECREATION & PARKS

7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, Maryland 21046

County Executive: Allan H. Kittleman
Director: John R. Byrd

Bureau Chief of Recreation: Laura T. Wetherald
Bureau Chief of Parks: John S. Marshall

Bureau Chief of Capital Projects: A. Raul Delerme
Bureau Chief of Administrative Services: Michael H. Milani

FY2017 Advisory Board

Joel Goodman (Chair)
Sylvia Ramsey (Vice Chair)
John R. Byrd (Recording Secretary)
Christine O'Connor (Board of Education)
David Brown (Board of Education, Alternate)
Edward Coleman (Planning Board)
Thomas Franklin
Joanne Kiebler
Daniel Tracy, Jr.
Jonathan Gresham (Student Member)

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Mission, Vision & Core Values

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 & Parks is accredited through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). To achieve accreditation, the Department was required to meet 151 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 & Parks achieved accreditation in 2001 and re-accreditation in 2006, 2012 and 2017. Howard County Recreation & Parks is one of only 167 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 for best practice.



Completed Goals

1

Complete and implement 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

Objectives:

- 1) Share data with public and staff in a transparent format. ✓
- 2) Review and incorporate needs assessment data. ✓
- 3) Review and strategize Community Inventory of Programs and Parks. ✓
- 4) Review and incorporate User Demand and Trend Analysis data into programming and facility management. ✓

2

Expand Partnerships with other government and private entities to enhance program opportunities

Objectives:

- 1) Expand special events and general programming options in 10 core areas. ✓
- 2) Seek sponsorships and naming opportunities from private corporations as an alternate source of funding for capital and operating budgets. ✓

3

Improve the Department's revenue and fee fiscal status

Objectives:

- 1) Design and Implement programs for weekends and weekdays for Active Aging Citizens. ✓
- 2) Determine if we are competitive with other service providers. ✓
- 3) Explore opportunities for sporting events at turf fields. ✓
- 4) Focus on funding alternatives for Therapeutic and Recreation Inclusions opportunities, scholarships and special needs areas. ✓

4

To become re-accredited through CAPRA/NRPA

Objective:

- 1) September 2017 data was submitted and reviewed by the NRPA Team. ✓
- 2) Start re-accreditation process for 2021 and focus on transparency of 151 standards. ✓

5

Complete design for Phase 2 Blandair Park, Phase 2 Troy Park, and East Columbia Library Park.

Objectives:

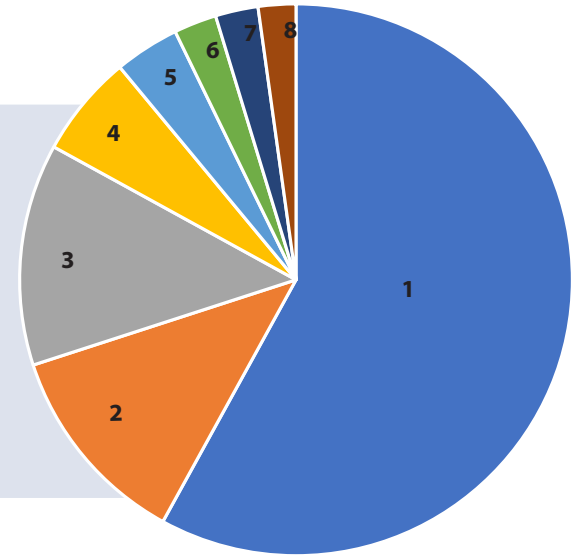
- 1) Complete design for Phase 3 of Blandair and Troy. ✓
- 2) Complete design for E. Columbia Library Park. ✓



Budget FY 2017

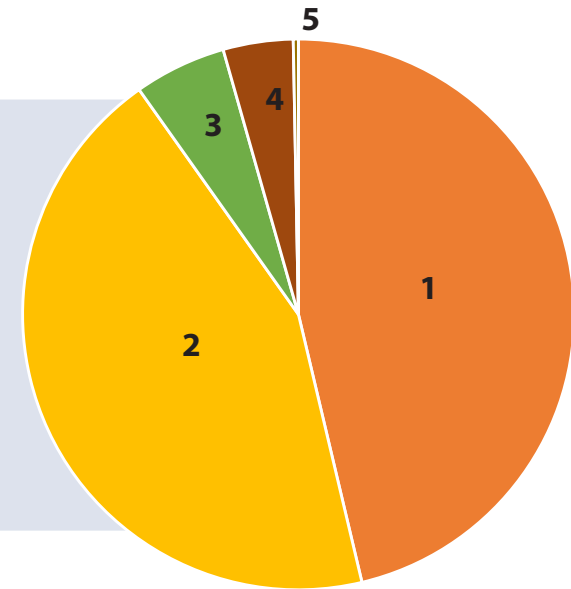
County's General Fund Budget: \$1,060,647,001

1 Education	58%	5 Community	3.80%
2 Public Safety	12%	6 General Government	2.50%
3 Non-Department	13%	7 Legislative / Judicial	2.50%
4 Public Facilities	6%	8 Recreation & Parks	2.20%



Recreation & Parks Budget: \$48,093,075

1 Recreation & Parks Fund	46.3%
2 General Fund	43.9%
3 Golf	5.4%
4 Forest Conservation	4.1%
5 Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) & Grant	0.3%



#ECSTRONG: Ellicott City Flood

Ellicott City - Rain and then a Subsequent Flood Six inches of rain in less than 2 hours... Patapsco River rose 13 feet in 100 minutes

The torrential rainfall on the night of July 30, 2016, resulted in a large amount of storm-water runoff. Combined with the rise of the Patapsco River, this caused significant flash flooding in the West End and Downtown Main Street neighborhoods of Historic Ellicott City. In the midst of the flooding, numerous evacuations and water rescues occurred.

In addition, the level of Centennial Lake rose and threatened the dam. The Dam Emergency Action Plan (EAP) was activated resulting in evacuation notices being sent to the threatened area.

Over 200 structures in Ellicott City were affected by the floodwaters, and significant damage occurred to the Main Street business area, creating a huge economic impact to Ellicott City and Howard County. In addition, the flood destroyed water supply to the area, cutting off drinking water and fire protection water supplies for the lower half of Ellicott City. Tragically, two people died during the flooding, and if not for the heroic acts of citizens and first responders, there might have been additional loss of life. One additional fatality occurred during clean-up when a business owner fell to his death.

90 businesses sustained significant damage from

the storm, 107 residences received damage, affecting more than 190 residents. 249 vehicles were removed from the affected area, and an additional 22 vehicles were extracted from the Patapsco River. Initial estimates for public infrastructure damages and repair in the Ellicott City area were over \$22.4 million. (This included major damage to a sanitary sewer interceptor.)

In the ensuing weeks and months, the County undertook an unprecedented effort to coordinate the response to, and recovery from, this disaster. The County coordinated in-depth assessments of the area's infrastructure; provided residents, businesses, and property owners with information and assistance; and provided controlled access to their properties. Much effort was expended on restoring and stabilizing public infrastructure. The County organized for recovery. While recovery took many months, Main Street opened to traffic again on October 6, 2016, which represented an important event milestone in its recovery.

Recreation & Parks staff helped with almost every aspect of this recovery effort. Starting with the night of the flood and not ending until months afterwards, staff worked tirelessly to assist in downtown Ellicott City's recovery.



#ECSTRONG Support



In the aftermath of the flood in downtown Ellicott City, Recreation & Parks (HCRP) full-time staff were in charge of managing volunteer sign-up, bus transportation, marketing, public information, water and rations and safety equipment.

Park Rangers provided security and volunteer training. HCRP set up a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) at Walmart, and then at the Disaster Assistance Center (DAC) when volunteer missions decreased.

HCRP staff used social media and public messaging to inform and update the public. A form was created and placed on the website for efficient volunteer sign-up. During this time, HCRP registered over 540 volunteers, tracked their hours, badged them for scene access, and developed plans to match volunteers with specific job missions.

Recreation & Parks contributed to the following Emergency Support Functions (ESF)

ESF 1: Transportation

ESF 2: Technology and Communications

ESF 3: Public Works & Engineering

ESF 5: Information and Planning

ESF 6: Mass Care and Sheltering

ESF 7: Resource Support & Logistics

ESF 11: Agricultural, Historical, & Natural Resources

ESF 12: Energy and Utilities

ESF 14: Volunteer & Donations Management

ESF 15: Damage Assessment

Recreation & Parks contributed to the following Supportive Units

- Joint Information Center (JIC)
- Call Center
- Volunteer Reception Center (VRC)
- Disaster Assistance Center (DAC)

#ECSTRONG Volunteers



Ellicott City Flood Recovery Efforts – ESF 14: Volunteer Management

Highlights

- ESF 14 Activated and had three team members report to the EOC just hours after the flood to beginning coordination efforts
- Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) was mobilized at Ellicott City Walmart Super Center to accept, screen, train, and deploy spontaneous volunteers
- ESF 14 partnered with several Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs) to provide volunteer assistance
- ESF 14 assisted with transporting residents and business owners to their property
- ESF 14 deployed spontaneous volunteers to assist with disaster clean up efforts
- (ESF 1) assisted with the credentialing and badging process
- ESF 14 & 1 Team Roles & Efforts:



- Disaster Volunteer Coordination
 - o Tracked offers of help
 - o Tracked donations received
 - o Tracked volunteer missions needed
 - o Assigned volunteers to areas in need of assistance
 - o Scheduled staff to work at VRC
 - o Contacted and collaborated with VOADs and non-affiliated volunteer groups
 - o Provided 24-hour EOC coverage
- Created/Staffed VRC Staging
 - o Received Spontaneous Volunteers
 - o Interviewed & Screened Volunteers
 - o Trained Volunteers
 - o Deployed Volunteers
- Handled Donation Intake (Until Citizen Services stepped in)
- Provided Credentialing & Badging
- Transported Residents and Business Owners to Properties
- Provided Customer Service – Assisted displaced residents (Q&A)

Volunteers



17th Family Volunteer Day 2016

November 5, 2016

Volunteers: 80

Hours: 230

Robinson Nature Center volunteers removed invasive plants (Japanese Stiltgrass, Autumn Olive, Wineberry, and Multiflora Rose). They covered about ¼ acre. They also planted native perennial plants and wildflowers.

Rockburn Branch Park's youngest volunteers planted 40 perennial flowers (several flower beds were beautified with Mesa Verde Ice, Blue Clips Bellflower, Phlox, Arizona Red Blanket, Jacobs Ladder and Pink Mist Pincushion).

West Friendship Park volunteers planted 100 saplings (Red Maple, River Birch, Tulip Poplar and Sycamore).

Western Regional Park Tree Arboretum project continues to move forward in collaboration with the Howard County Forestry Board. 300 native trees will be planted over a 5-year period. Trees will be marked with interpretive signs for the enjoyment and education of visitors. Volunteers planted nine trees ranging in size from 2 gallon to 7 gallon containers - American Chestnut, American Beech, American Elm, American Larch (3), Serviceberry, Yellow Buckeye and Red Buckeye. (Trees provided by a Howard County Forestry Board grant.)

Earth Day

April 22, 2017

Volunteers: 40

Hours: 87

Forty volunteers enhanced Howard County park lands and natural resources. Tasks involved digging holes for trees, spreading mulch and placing tree shelters for protection.

Planting trees helps create habitat for birds, insects, rabbits, and foxes- all of which live in Howard County!

Along the pond behind the Meadowbrook Athletic Center, volunteers planted 5-gallon containers of the following.

- 25 Eastern Redbud (*Acer rubrum*)
- 25 American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
- 25 Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)
- 25 River Birch (*Betula nigra*)
- 4 Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

HCRP Natural & Historic Resources Division purchased the trees and supervised the planting.



Volunteers contributed

approximately **127,638.25** hours to the Howard County Department of Recreation and Park's operations, saving the department nearly **\$3 million** in labor costs.

Above & Beyond

Two Employees Recognized For Heroic Actions

Josh Fisher, a parks maintenance worker with the County's Department of Recreation & Parks' Heritage Division, won the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) Life Saver's Award and was recognized at LGIT's 29th annual meeting on October 27, 2016 at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis.

The Life Saver's Award is presented to a person directly responsible for saving a human life. Clear reasonable evidence must show that imminent danger existed and that a human life would have been lost if action had not taken place, and the act must go above and beyond the regular duties required by the award nominee's occupation.

Around 2:00 p.m. on Aug. 18, 2016, Fisher and his partner Jeff Murray were on their way to the Alpha Ridge Landfill when they witnessed a vehicle accident at the corner of US 40 and Marriottsville Road. One of the vehicles involved became engulfed in flames. Fisher quickly called 9-1-1 and then noticed another driver struggling to pull the young man from his burning vehicle. Fisher ran over, grabbed the young man by his chest and pulled him out. The young man's arm was badly broken and he was burned. Fisher wrapped the young man's arm in a towel, offered him his cell phone so he could call his mother and held his head until paramedics arrived. As his nominator wrote, "If Josh didn't act quickly to extricate this young man from his vehicle, he would surely have sustained further injuries and could have perished in the fiery vehicle before first responders arrived on the scene. He moved swiftly and didn't hesitate to do what was necessary to save a stranger's life ..."



In addition to Fisher, Greg Fiala, an operation supervisor with the Department of Recreation & Parks, was also nominated for this award. While on his lunch break at a local sandwich shop on April 14, 2016, Fiala noticed two women in a nearby vehicle in distress. Upon approaching the vehicle, he learned the one occupant was having difficulty breathing, unresponsive and turning blue. With 9-1-1 already called, Fiala pulled the woman from the car and began administering Hands-Only CPR. Fiala continued to perform CPR until a police officer arrived on scene and took over. Following the arrival of paramedics, Fiala turned his attention to a two-year-old child in the vehicle's backseat, comforting and distracting her from what was happening around her



Above & Beyond



Pictured above from left to right: Josh Fisher, Laura Wetherald, and Greg Fiala at Belmont Manor and Historic Estate.

Laura Wetherald Elected into the American Academy for Park & Recreation Administration

Laura Wetherald, Bureau Chief of Recreation, was elected into the American Academy for Park & Recreation Administration as a Fellow. She was formally inducted during the National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA) conference held in St. Louis, Missouri on Oct. 5-6, 2016.

The Academy is a group of distinguished practitioners and educators who are leaders in the field of parks and recreation. They must have served for at least 15 years in a high level of administration in a park and recreation agency

or as a recognized educator in parks and recreation administration or they must manage a park and recreation department for an agency with a population of more than 500,000. They also must have demonstrated outstanding ability in administration, management or education in the profession, displayed broad interest with a direct service benefit to the advancement of public parks and recreation, or assumed leadership with a keen desire to contribute to the advancement of the field. The Academy is limited to 125 active members.

“The Academy has recognized what we’ve known all along from working with Laura,” said Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman. “She’s an innovator and a motivator; she loves Recreation & Parks and spreads her enthusiasm to all her colleagues. She makes our parks and our people better. We congratulate her on this well-deserved honor.”

Established in 1980, the Academy was formed to advance knowledge related to the administration of parks and recreation; encourage scholarly efforts by both practitioners and educators to enhance the practice of park and recreation administration; promote broader public understanding of the importance of parks and recreation to the public good; and conduct research, publish scholarly papers and/or sponsor seminars related to the advancement of park and recreation administration.

“The Class of 2016 is a great mix,” said 2016 President Rebecca Benná of Dayton, Ohio. “We have urban to small suburban, men and women, varied ages – all with superior career experience and a dedication to improving the quality of life through the provision of high quality parks and recreation opportunities.”

Laura’s acceptance letter pointed out that “[her] leadership within the profession, active involvement in other community, state, regional or national organizations, presentation and publications speak to [her] high regard for the profession and its continuance.”

Howard County Recreation & Parks Director John Byrd added, “Laura is at the top of the recreation and parks profession. She brings new ideas and methods back to Howard County and has helped ensure that our programs and services are some of the best around. I was excited to hear that this national organization was giving her this special, life-time recognition. I know she will share many trend-setting ideas with its members.”

Above & Beyond

Employee of the Year: Matt Zervas

Matt Zervas received Recreation & Parks' 2017 Employee of the Year Award. Mr. Zervas assists the team in the management and operation of a regional, multi-functional community center (Gary J. Arthur Community Center) that is open seven days a week. Matt coordinates with the Department of Recreation's Bureau of Parks, Department of Facilities, and with a variety of contractors for scheduled and unscheduled maintenance. In addition, Matt assists with the supervision of contingent staff, including scheduling and payroll. Next, he oversees preventative maintenance contracts and repair issues of fitness equipment. Also, Matt serves as a project manager with special projects as flooring replacement, rain garden, electrical upgrades, accessibility upgrades, and HVAC replacement.

Matt spearheads the center's marketing efforts through many initiatives. He helped research and begin virtual tours for the department's facilities online; he maintains the center's website; he creates promotional efforts for memberships that include emarketing efforts; and more. In addition to the above responsibilities, Matt handles the marketing for the rentals and special events.

Next, Matt is involved and active in the committees he is on. Committees included CAPRA, Facilities Work Team, and Park Rangers.

Matt is considered a true team player who volunteers his time for additional duties such as July 4th Fireworks, Wine in the Woods, Holiday Mart, Truck or Treat, and Christmas in the Park. CAPRA is one example of his dedication and willingness to help others and pitch in. During the agency's CAPRA accreditation this past year, Matt was an active committee member and then jumped in the final hours to provide very technical assistance to communicate the huge Self-Assessment document in another format. He also spent two weekends painstakingly checking and creating hyperlinks for 100's of pages of documents. He offered to do this but his effort was invaluable to accreditation which only 155 agencies in the nation hold currently.

What was most impressive over the past year as Matt's instrumental role in leading the credentialing process (credential volunteers and business owners going onsite) during the Ellicott City flood. He worked non-stop (without complaint and with a courteous nature to all that came in contact with him) for many hours to complete tasks. Matt created and implemented a process at the last minute when agencies were pulled in other directions with the crisis. He developed a system in a short amount of time that fixed a major security and customer-service issue on the site of the crisis in Ellicott City.



Community Partnerships



Solar System Walk at Alpha Ridge Park Opens Through Eagle Scout Project

Department of Recreation & Parks (HCRP), Boy Scout Colin Brinster and Howard Astronomical League (HAL) Events & Outreach Coordinator, and Howard County Recreation & Parks Advisory Board Chairman Dr. Joel Goodman held a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 6, 2016 to mark the opening of a Solar System Walk through Alpha Ridge Park.

The brain child of Boy Scout and HAL member Colin Brinster, the new Solar System Walk at Alpha Ridge Park offers visitors the opportunity to take a stroll through a scale model of our solar system. The 0.4-mile Solar System Walk loop represents

over three billion miles. The walk begins with the Sun, leads visitors through the planets in our solar system and ends with Pluto a dwarf planet in the Kuiper Belt. The walk begins and ends near the observatory.

The scale used is 3 feet = 4 million miles for a ratio of 1:7,000,000,000.

Each panel was translated into Braille, making the Solar System Walk accessible to the seeing-impaired. With guidance from HCRP Park Operations, Brinster and a team of boy scouts installed the Solar System Walk panels.

The print and installation costs were funded by HAL, the County's Department of Recreation & Parks and the Friends of Max Cowan Fund.

Alpha Ridge Park is 72-acres, is located at 11685 Old Frederick Road in Marriottsville, and features a target archery range, a regulation-size hockey rink with bleachers, two tennis courts, three ball diamonds, two multipurpose fields, two playgrounds, two picnic pavilions and the HAL Observatory (featuring a 15-foot diameter dome that houses the restored Paul S. Watson telescope).

"It is always wonderful to see county government partnering with our local youth and community organizations to create new offerings for our residents to enjoy,"
County Executive Kittleman.



Nature Place Wins Awards

Opened to the public in 2015, Robinson Nature Center's Nature Place, an outdoor nature play and discovery area for children, won two significant awards in 2017. The first was national recognition as a Certified Nature Explore Classroom. Through certification, the Nature Explore program, a collaboration of Dimensions Educational Research Foundation and the Arbor Day Foundation, recognizes intentional outdoor spaces that foster highly effective, nature-based outdoor learning. Additionally, Maryland Recreation & Parks Association awarded their 2017 Landscape Site/ASLA Award to Howard County Recreation and Parks for Robinson Nature Center's Nature Place

Here We Grow Exhibit

Robinson Nature Center hosted an interactive agricultural-themed exhibit on loan from Port Discovery Children's Museum for eight months beginning in January 2017. The traveling exhibit featured a tractor on which children could climb, a barn area for creative tool-making and a bean bag toss with a map of Maryland's agricultural production.



Natural Resources Conservation

Clarksville Restoration

A developer was unable to meet the forest conservation easement and landscaping obligations, so the money was transferred to the county for the completion of the Forest Conservation and Landscape obligations.

- HCRP received \$668,428.20 for the Forest Conservation obligations and \$50,400.00 for the Landscape obligations.
- HCRP planted 8,150 native trees for the Forest Conservation Obligations and 249 shade and evergreen trees for the Landscape obligations total.
- 14.34 acres were planted, with a goal of 28.68 acres by the end of FY 2018
- Some of the extra money was also used to plant Gwyndyl Oaks Estates Forest Conservation Easement. The easement was doing poorly and was planted with 1,960 trees in FY 2017.
- Preserve at Clarksville will be planted in FY 2018.
- The project should be closed by the end of FY 2018
- HCRP will pay for some maintenance associated with the site (mowing/herbicide treatments).



Natural Resources Volunteers



HERP Atlas 2017

New Species Found: 2

In 2017, the HERP Atlas volunteers added two new species to the herp checklist for Howard County.

First was the Ball Python which is a non-native snake species. It was either released or escaped and will not survive the winter.

Second was the Timber Rattlesnake. This was the first one to ever be documented in Howard County; there are no historical records. This is the second venomous snake species documented in Howard. (The other is the Northern Copperhead.)

On another note, during Volunteer Day, Gorman Stream Valley volunteers rolled rocks and logs searching for salamanders. The salamander survey is part of the Howard County Amphibian & Reptile Atlas, which maps the distribution of reptiles and amphibians across the County. The group found two species, the North Two-lined Salamander and the Eastern Red-backed Salamander.



Volunteer Stream Clean-ups

Volunteers: 29

Recycled: 1,212 lbs.

Trash Collected: 487 lbs.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires an annual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System report on what has been done/activities the county has sponsored to reduce water pollution. This volunteer stream clean-up is included in the annual report.

Maryland Biodiversity Project

Howard County has the distinction of having the first record of the Bisectioned Honey Locust Moth in the state of Maryland. This record was entered into the Maryland Biodiversity Project.

The Maryland Biodiversity Project is a non-profit organization focused on cataloging living things in Maryland. Their goal is "to promote education and conservation by helping to build a vibrant nature study community." Volunteers, naturalists and photographers help find, catalog and photograph species around Maryland.

Parks By the Numbers

Regional Parks (acres)

2,609.2

Historic Places (acres)

114.5

Community Parks (acres)

788.3

Open Space Total (acres)

3,809.3

Neighborhood Parks (acres)

326.1

Total Recreation & Parks
Land Holdings (acres)

9,492.6

Natural Resources Areas (acres)

1,887.3

Parks Future Plans



Howard County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

The Department began seeking input from residents for its Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), a comprehensive plan produced every five years that guides the department on key issues, trends and plans for managing and enhancing the systems of preserved public lands, parks and recreation facilities.

The first public meeting was held at GreenFest in April. Two more meetings occurred in FY2017 and a 350-page plan was completed in June 2017. The plan included an analysis on recreational trends, priorities, use patterns, land preservation, challenges, and goals.

Producing an LPPRP is a prerequisite for Howard County's participation in Maryland's Program Open Space, which provides grants for the acquisition of land for conservation and park purposes as well as for the development of public recreation facilities. In fiscal year 2016, the county added 153 acres of land through the program, and in total manages 3,638 acres of land purchased through it.

The Department contracted Boston-based Sasaki to assist in developing the LPPRP. Sasaki is a planning and design firm of 250 people that works locally, nationally and globally, across multiple

scales. Sasaki comprises architecture, interior design, planning, urban design, landscape architecture, graphic design and civil engineering, as well as software development.



Capital Projects



First Outdoor Pickleball Courts in the County

The County's first two outdoor pickleball courts at Atholton Park (6875 Greenleigh Drive) in Columbia were opened on May 31, 2017.

Pickleball is a paddle sport played with a plastic ball with holes on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net. HCRP began offering pickleball programs in the summer of 2014. The programs were held at the Meadowbrook Athletic Complex (MAC). As the program has grown, so has the demand for places to play.

The County's new pickleball courts will meet the USA Pickleball Association's approved court dimensions, measuring 20' by 44'. In pickleball, the same court is used for both singles and doubles play.

The project cost \$110,322.15 and was funded by HCRP's Systemic Improvement Capital Fund.

Atholton Park was built in 1980 and consists of nine acres. The park is located behind Atholton Elementary School and offers two tennis courts, two pickleball courts, three handball/racquetball courts, two playgrounds (one for 5-12-year-olds and a swing set area), two picnic tables, a small grill, a multi-sport rebound wall and a restroom facility. A short, paved pathway provides access to an area reforested for resource conservation and protection suitable for bird watching.



"Howard County takes pride in its facilities and its ability to respond to the needs of our residents," said Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman. "We've created the county's first cricket-pitch, and now the first county's first outdoor pickleball courts. Next spring, we will construct the county's first quick-start tennis courts located at East Columbia Park. We've seen an increased demand for these smaller tennis courts and they will also double as pickleball courts, creating another pickleball location!"

Special Events Wine in the Woods



25th Year of Wine in the Woods

This event provides ticket holders samples of a variety of Maryland's finest winers. Food from an abundance of high quality, distinctive restaurants and caterers are available for purchase. Free wine education seminars are held. Crafters sell works of art and specialty crafts. Continuous, live entertainment is provided from two stages. And the designated driver program allows one to get a safe ride home. Because wine is being served, the target audience for this event is 21 years and over.

New Marketing Initiative: PushBots

- Incorporated PushBots into the Wine in the Woods app. This allowed us to send real-time messages out to those that had downloaded the app and allow notifications.
- During the festival, there were almost 1,000 devices. For example, at 2:01pm, Saturday, May 21, there were 974 devices receiving our PushBots messages.
- PushBots were sent at least once per hour during both days of the event

27 wineries

18 food vendors

30 artisans & crafters

12 live band performances over the two-day event.

Special Events Solar Fest



The first annual Solar Fest was held on July 9, 2016. The STEAM-focused event was primarily held for future astronomers and those interested in the sciences. The department entertained 250-300 people with 113 pre-registrants and 53 walk-in. (Only children registered; those younger than 5 and older than 11 were free with a registered participant.) In addition to providing a low-cost, summer event; the fest provided the department with a method to market their July and August summer camps to a new audience.

5 Program/Activity Vendors Attended

- KidzArt
- MadScience
- Howard County Mathematics Division
- Pump it Up
- IO Workshops

3 Food Vendors

Activities

- Astro Jump Obstacle Course
- Observatory and Telescopes
- Archery
- Crafts
- Each vendor provided an activity or demonstration

Howard County Recreation & Parks Vendors

- Howard Astronomical League
 - Observatory
 - Telescopes
- Robinson Nature Center
 - Meteorite Collection
- Preschool and Youth Team
 - Crafts, Bubbles & Sidewalk Chalk
- Adventure and Nature Team
 - Archery

Sports & Community

Community Sports Hall of Fame

The Community Sports Hall of Fame honors individuals who have gained prominence and/or have made a substantial contribution to community sports in Howard County. Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks announced the five newest members to be inducted into the Community Sports Hall of Fame on October 25, 2016. The 2016 induction class included Carolyn Jones, Jeffery Loveless, Dave Procida, Bill Shook and Allan Waschak.

The late Carolyn Jones was and still is known to many as the "Mom" of girls' soccer in Columbia. She was an original board member of The Soccer Association of Columbia (SAC) and served as a volunteer with the organization from 1971 until her untimely passing in 2001. Carolyn founded the first all-girls SAC soccer team and was the catalyst behind the formation of Wilde Lake High School's girls' soccer program and the Columbia Women's Soccer League. She coached at all levels, shepherded kids to and from practices and games in her white station wagon, and paved the way for the growth of girls' soccer in Howard County.

For more than 27 years, Jeffery Loveless has served in every role imaginable as a volunteer with the Howard County Youth Program (HCYP). Before computers did the work, Jeffery would stay up past midnight to complete baseball and basketball drafts to make sure teams were put together properly and fairly. Even though his kids are now adults, Jeffery remains a dedicated volunteer to HCYP. From vice president to coach, he epitomizes what it means to be a part of youth sports.



Pictured above from left to right are the 2016 inductees into the Community Sports Hall of Fame: Bill Shook, Jeffery Loveless, Dave Procida, and Allan Waschak

Dave Procida got his start with SAC as a coach in 1998. A year later, he joined SAC's Board of Directors, a position he held until 2007. Dave made his impact with the association in a number of ways, developing teamwork among disparate sports organizations in the county to achieve mutually beneficial goals; advocating for financial assistance to provide economically disadvantaged children the opportunity to participate in organized soccer; and helping bring high-quality soccer fields to Howard County at Covenant Park. Most of all, Dave tirelessly promoted good sportsmanship and a love of soccer.

Bill Shook founded the Columbia Volleyball Club (CVC) in 1985. At the time, there were very few club volleyball programs in the region. Since its inception, the CVC has grown from just three coaches to include more than 100 players on 14 teams with 25 coaches. The mission of the club is to improve volleyball skills at a high level and to instill in its player the values of team play, indi-

vidual discipline and good work habits. In 1994, Bill left CVC to coach collegiate volleyball; however, he returned to the organization in 2015 to coach its 17s Ellipse team. The CVC has served as a feeder program to Howard County's high school state championship volleyball teams.

Allan Waschak has served many roles with Special Olympics of Howard County since 1995, but his main contribution has been ensuring the group's financial stability so it continues to provide athletic opportunities for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Allan has stepped up time after time when it looked like the program might become inactive, securing sponsorships and other funding. Since he became fundraising director in 1998, the organization has raised \$2.8 million. He has also led the aquatics program since 1995, and what started with eight athletes has grown to include 95 athletes, eight coaches and 25 student volunteers.

Sports & Therapeutic Recreation



Howard County hosted an Adaptive Lacrosse Clinic for Adults & Students With Developmental Disabilities

Howard County Recreation & Parks, and the Howard County Lacrosse Program, hosted a lacrosse clinic for adults and students with developmental disabilities on September 25 at Cedar Lane Park West. The program offered participants of all abilities the opportunity to develop social skills while playing adaptive non-competitive lacrosse. Members of the University of Maryland men's and women's lacrosse teams served as volunteer

instructors to assist staff. The goal was to bring together the region's three adaptive lacrosse programs for a one-day clinic. The programs are (1) Howard County Adaptive Lacrosse Program; (2) Parkville (Baltimore County) Adaptive Lacrosse Program; and (3) Davidson (Anne Arundel County) Adaptive Lacrosse Program.



Adult Programming Trends



Top Ten Sections

1. Watercolor & Oil painting with Brenda Kidera
2. Couples & Line Dance with Mo and Barb Dutterer
3. Beginners Ballroom & Couples Dance with Jim Watts and Lucy Moran
4. International Cooking with Ravi Lahori
5. Bollywood Dance
6. Art Lecture Series with Ann Wiker
7. Musical Theater Programs with Drama Learning Center
8. Musical Muses Choir
9. Dance Class with Kinetics Dance Theater
10. Networking and Social Programs with International School of Protocol

New Trends & Successful Programs

1. Beginning Bridge
2. Wine and Paint
3. Gluten-Free Cooking and Baking
4. Improv
5. Introduction to Ayurveda



Numbers at a Glance

Programs Offered

8,079

Camps Sections Offered

1,781

Filled Programs/Camps

6,607

Scholarships

\$717,465

Registrants

104,374