

County Commissioners of Kent County, MD

Department of Parks and Recreation

11041 Worton Road • P.O. Box 67 • Worton, MD 21678 • Phone 410-778-1948 • Fax 410-778-4602

June 29, 2016

Carrie Lhotsky, Regional Administrator
Program Open Space Grants
Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Bldg.
580 Taylor Ave., E-4
Annapolis, MD 21401

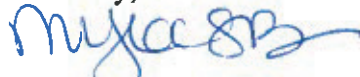
Dear Ms. Lhotsky,

I am pleased to submit Kent County's Fiscal Year 2017 Program Open Space Annual Program.

The projects proposed in the Program have been prioritized to meet the needs of Kent County, as well as the State requirements for use of Program Open Space dollars. In addition, the Program is consistent with the goals of the 2012 Kent County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan.

Thank you for your continued support of and assistance in carrying out Kent County's recreation goals. Should you have questions or concerns related to the Annual Program, I can be reached at 410-778-1986 or mbutler@kentgov.org.

Sincerely,



Myra S. Butler
Director



Creating balanced opportunities for our patrons to play, learn, and grow through our programs and parks.



FISCAL YEAR 2017 PROGRAM OPEN SPACE KENT COUNTY ANNUAL PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION:

Development and implementation of the Annual Program is completed by the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, resulting from a collaborative effort between the administrative staff of the Parks and Recreation Department, Kent County Department of Public Works, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Kent County Board of Education, Kent County Planning Office and Planning Commission, local town municipalities, State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Program Open Space state and regional offices, with final approval by the County Commissioners of Kent County.

The Annual Program is consistent with the guidelines set forth in the County's Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan and the County Comprehensive Plan. All project requests and recommendations (both county and municipal) are submitted to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. It is the responsibility of the Board to prioritize and submit recommendations to the Kent County Commissioners who make the final approval for implementation of projects into the County's fiscal budget. The projects in the 2017 Annual Program, outlined below, have received approval in this fiscal year's budget.

Worton Park Enhancement III

The park's existing entry sign is not very appealing. Approximately four years ago the sign was painted from a dark brown background with yellow lettering, to a light blue background with dark blue lettering. Although the changes to color were an improvement, the basic design of the sign is not eye-catching or very welcoming, as the wood is old with cracks and is beginning to fade again. The new uniform design will include the County seal, a more appealing letter style and size, along with the required Program Open Space program verbiage. Replacing the entry sign will be a welcome change by park users and will likely increase the number of users due to the new visual attraction to the park's entry. Additionally, as park users have grown accustomed to parking in grass areas that are not designated for parking, it has become necessary to create clearly defined additional parking areas as to not further damage grass areas within the park. Finally, we will add (20) new picnic tables to the park. These collective improvements to the park will be welcome changes by park users that lend to a more visually attractive park, along with ensuring park users are safe.

County Parks' Entry Sign Replacement - Bayside Park, Betterton Beach, Edesville Park, Francis Cann Woodlot, Kent Agriculture Center, Millington Park, Toal Park, Turners Creek Park, and Worton Arena

The County's existing park entry signage is not very appealing. Currently, the Entry signs are dark brown with yellow lettering. The basic design of each sign is not eye-catching or very welcoming, as the wood is old with cracks, and is fading.

The new uniform sign design will include the County seal, a more appealing letter style and size, along with the required Program Open Space program verbiage. Replacing the entry signs at all parks will be a welcome change by park users and will likely increase the number users due to the new visual attraction to the park's entry.

Still Pond Station Park Pavilion and Restroom

Kent County's newest park, acquired through the National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks Program in 2003 is a waterfront park, Still Pond Station. In December 2015, the Program approved Kent County to demolish the existing structures that were deteriorated beyond repair. The previous amenities did not support a high volume of public use due to the structures being in disrepair. The park entry sign will be replaced to be consistent with the other park entry signs which will include the County seal, a more appealing letter style and size, along with the required Program Open Space program verbiage. Additionally, a new pavilion, restroom facility, playground structure, and swing set will add to Kent County's public park system, placing Still Pond Station on the map as an additional venue for passive recreation, as well as to be used for departmental programs and exclusive use rentals.

The projects outlined above will surely contribute to an increased volume of use of County parks and facilities by the public, both current and new users.

The County has reached its open space acreage goal and continuously explores opportunities of new open space to assure maintaining its goal should the population change.

**PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2017 – KENT COUNTY, MD**

	<u>Project Name / Project Description</u>	<u>Acreage</u>			<u>Source of Funds for Annual Program Only</u>			
		<u>Existing</u>	<u>Ultimate</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>State (POS Local Funds)</u>	<u>Federal</u>
KENT COUNTY PARKS & REC	<i>Worton Park Enhancement III</i> Replace existing park entry sign; add additional parking spaces; add new picnic tables.	97	97	N/A	26,000	2,600	23,400	N/A
KENT COUNTY PARKS & REC	<i>County Park Entry Sign Replacement</i> Replace existing park entry sign for each County *park/facility (9). *Bayside Landing, Betterton Beach, Edesville, Francis Cann Woodlot, Kent Ag. Center, Millington, Toal, Turners Creek, and Worton Arena	342.12	342.12	N/A	9,000	900	8,100	N/A
KENT COUNTY PARKS & REC	<i>Still Pond Station Park Development</i> Replace existing park entry sign; build new picnic pavilion and restroom facility; install new playground structure and swing set.	11.169	11.169	N/A	210,000	*TBD (21,000)	*TBD (189,000)	N/A

* Funding amounts and sources to be determined pending unspent funds from FY16 approved projects that are not yet complete, but are anticipated to be completed in FY17