

2025 *Annual Report*



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Kent County Commissioners

Ronald H. Fithian
President

Albert H. Nickerson
John F. Price

Shelley L. Heller
County Administrator

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Richard "Rick" Myers
Chair

Albert H. Nickerson
Vice Chair
County Commissioner

Faye Little
Member

Joyce Moody
Member

Trish McGee
Board of Education
Member

Jane Welsh
Member

Aiden Butler
Student Representative

Rachel Strong

Student Representative
Jillyn Coleman,
Director

Parks & Recreation
Carrie Klein
Deputy Director
Public Works

As I reflect on 2025, I am proud to share another year of growth, collaboration, and meaningful impact at Kent County Parks and Recreation (KCPR). This year highlighted the strengths of our community and the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and partners who work every day to provide welcoming spaces, engaging programs, and high-quality facilities for residents of all ages.

Throughout 2025, KCPR remained committed to enhancing health, wellness, and connection across Kent County. From expanding youth and adult recreation opportunities to hosting community events and maintaining safe and accessible parks and facilities, our focus continues to be on serving the diverse needs of our residents. Participation across programs increased, reflecting the trust our community places in us and the value of recreation in improving the quality of life.

The Department also made important strides in facility care, program development, and customer service. Our staff demonstrated exceptional professionalism, adaptability, and teamwork, ensuring that our parks and programs remained welcoming and well-maintained. Staff's commitment is the foundation of our success, and I am grateful for their continued dedication.

None of this work would be possible without the support of our County Commissioners, community partners, volunteers, and residents. Your collaboration, feedback, and engagement help shape the direction of KCPR and allows us to grow stronger each year. Thank you for being a valued part of Kent County Parks and Recreation. We look forward to continuing to serve you.

Sincerely,



Jillyn Coleman, Director

On the Cover: Community members participate in a brisk yet beautiful Senior Nature Hike at Sassafras Natural Resource Management Area. Senior Nature Hikes are offered monthly at various locations throughout the county.

Photo credit: Ken Young Photography

OUR TEAM

Mission

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

Vision

To become a leading-edge provider of recreational services that create community through people, parks, and programs.



Back row: L to R: Adrian Dean, Jeremy Francis, Mike Wolf, Michelle Morgan, Mark Dixon, Michaela Wilson
Middle Row: L to R: Ginny Faust, Greg Welch, Jr., Jillyn Coleman
Front Row: L to R: Patrick Collihan, Haili Davis, Carrie Klein
Not Pictured: Sandy Adams





Goals

- Encourage a growth mindset by viewing setbacks as learning opportunities and identifying lessons that can be applied to future projects or initiatives.
- Encourage open dialogue with our patrons, emphasizing the importance of listening and valuing diverse perspectives.
- Increase opportunities for the community to be actively engaged with the department.
- Foster a cohesive and collaborative environment that drives organizational success and delivers exceptional recreational experiences to the community.
- Regularly revisit and adjust role definitions as needed to accommodate changes in team dynamics or project requirements.

KENT COUNTY PARKS






Edesville Park

22012 Lovers Ln
Rock Hall, MD 21661

-  Ball Field
-  Picnic Pavilion
-  Playground
-  Restroom (portable)
-  Volleyball Court

Worton Park

10932 Worton Rd
Worton, MD 21678







-  Athletic Fields
-  Ball Fields
-  Basketball Courts
-  Picnic Pavilion
-  Platform Tennis Courts
-  Playground
-  Restroom (seasonal)
-  Tennis Courts
-  Sand Courts
-  Walking Path

KCPR's nine park facilities, including five flagship parks, offer something for everyone—from picnicking and hiking to swimming, fishing, and sports, while providing beautiful settings for private rentals and special events.



Betterton Beach

Ericsson Ave
Betterton, MD 21610

-  Public Beach
-  Picnic Pavilion
-  Boat Ramp
-  Bathhouse (seasonal)
-  Sand Court
-  Charcoal Grills

Turners Creek

13684 Turners Creek Rd
Kennedyville, MD 21645

-  Boat Ramp
-  Fishing Pier
-  Picnic Pavilion
-  Historic Tree Grove
-  Community Garden
-  Restroom (seasonal)
-  Walking Trails
-  Kent Museum

Toal Park

3753 Augustine
Herman Hwy
Galena, MD 21635

-  Athletic Field
-  Ball Field
-  Picnic Pavilion
-  Playground
-  Restroom (portable)
-  Charcoal Grill
-  Walking Trails

BY THE NUMBERS



807

*Recreational
Sports League
Participants*



28,224

Pool Visits



998

*Summer Camp
and Summer Rec
Club Participants*



156

*CPR & First Aid
Class
Participapnts*



2,856

*Total Program
Registrations*



80

*Programs
Offered*



2,678

*Community
Event Attendees*



43

*Community
Events*



737

*Community
Center Individual
Memberships*

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Youth In Action

Programs dreams are made of! Our Kids in Action had no shortage of fun this summer while traveling throughout the county for one experience after another! Special thanks to partners and hosts: Church Hill Theatre, Sandy's Garden, Fifer Orchards, Kent County Library, Chestertown Police Department, and the Chestertown Food Pantry for providing our youth with the opportunity to make new friends, try new things, and explore hidden gems in their own community.



Kids Night Out

Kid's Night Out gives parents a well-deserved break while kids enjoy an evening of crafts, games, team sports, and more at the Kent County Community Center. Supervised by trained staff, participants stay active and engaged, with pizza and a nutritious snack included.



Swim Lessons

Kent County Parks & Recreation offers expert swim lessons for all ages and skill levels, from beginners to advanced swimmers. Our instructors help participants build confidence, improve technique, and stay safe in the water, with over 80 participants in 2025.





Co-Ed Sand Volleyball

Kent County Parks and Recreation added both a youth and adult Co-Ed Volleyball League this year. Thirty two residents participated across the two leagues, with an additional 12 residents regularly attending drop in sand volleyball sessions.

Kids Care

Kent County families have safe, fun, and exciting options for their kids when Kent County Public Schools are closed. 114 participants attended Kids care across 4 program days in 2025.



Full Moon Hike

A howling good time was had by all at KCPR's first ever full moon night hike! Our family and senior hikes offered throughout the year are a great time for new and seasoned hikers alike.

FALL FEST

Over 500 community members joined Kent County Parks and Recreation and our incredible partner in planning and financial support, Kent County Health Department, at our annual Fall Fest celebration at Red Acres Hydroponics.



The Kent County Health Department's continued partnership and support make our healthy, family-friendly community events possible. Together, these collaborations helped make the event a success, and we look forward to welcoming the community back again next year.

We extend our sincere thanks to Red Acres Hydroponics for generously hosting the event, providing a beautiful setting, engaging activities, and for their outstanding hospitality.



Families and neighbors came together to enjoy hayrides, games, local treats, and activities for all ages, creating a joyful and welcoming experience for everyone who attended.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

KCPR is deeply grateful for our strong partnership with the Kent County Health Department, whose ongoing support enhances the impact of our community events. Fall Fest, Santa's Workshop, and Spring Fest provide engaging experiences for families across our community. Together, we proudly offered these annual events at no cost, welcoming more than 900 community members throughout the year.



The Kent County Health Department's dedication to health, wellness, and community connection elevates every event, enabling high-quality programs that strengthen connections and bring our community together.

Partners

Boys & Girls Club of Harford & Cecil Counties
Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company
Friends of East Neck Island
Healthy Families Mid-Shore
Ken Young
Kent County Character Counts
Kent County Health Department
Kent County Health Department
Kent County Judy Center (Galena, Garnet, & Rock Hall)
Kent County Little League Baseball
Kent County Public Library
Kent County Public Schools
Kent County Sheriff's Office
Kent County Spartans Football & Cheer
Kent County Youth Soccer
Kent Family Center
Kent Goes Purple
Kent Museum
Kent Youth Lacrosse, Inc.
Lion's Club
Maryland Health Connection
Maryland Park Service
MD Snap-Education
Minary's Dream Alliance
Open Doors in Education
Pitch Hit and Run
Queen Anne's County Parks & Recreation
Red Acres Farm
Recovery in Motion
Shore Elite Wrestling
Shore Sticks Field Hockey
Tip-Top Tots
Washington College Men's & Women's Basketball Teams
Washington College Men's & Women's Soccer Teams
Washington College Softball Team
Washington College Women's Field Hockey Team
Wayne Gilchrest

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Field Upgrades

In 2025 KCPR invested in upgrades to softball and baseball fields. From backstops to fencing, mounds to dugouts, and shades to team benches, Kent County sluggers were ready to hit the new fields in both Worton and Toal Parks.



Worton Park

The new, lighted basketball courts at Worton Park, were made possible through the support of the Kent County Commissioners, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Department of Public Works, and Kent County Parks and Recreation. These courts reflect our commitment to healthy living and community connection by providing a safe, welcoming space for residents of all ages to gather, stay active, and enjoy the game.

Other Capital Enhancements

Worton Park also saw upgraded bathrooms and the installation of a digital messaging board to keep the community apprised of upcoming events and activities. KCPR is committed to investing in your parks, your health and your future!

Improvements to Kent County's fields and facilities are financially supported in part by the Maryland Department of Natural Resource's Program Open Space in partnership with Kent County Commissioners.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

We are proud to invest in our community through engaging programs and interactive spaces at Worton Park. From the Sensory Path and StoryWalk® to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Beach Tennis Tournament, these initiatives inspire activity, learning, and connection for all ages.



Sensory Path

We are excited to introduce a new Sensory Path at Worton Park, developed by Eric Fitch from the Maryland SNAP-ED Program and installed by the Department of Public Works. This vibrant, interactive pathway encourages visitors of all ages to explore, move, and engage in activities that promote physical activity, mindfulness, and sensory development.



Beach Tennis Tournament

The ITF Beach Tennis Tournament came to Worton Park on May 3 & 4, featuring professional players and exciting matches. Visitors enjoyed free demos and clinics, trying the sport, sharpening their skills, and exploring the latest equipment.



StoryWalk® at Worton Park

In partnership with Kent County Public Library & donated by D&D Contracting, the StoryWalk® at Worton Park is a self-guided family experience that combines literacy and outdoor exploration, bringing a story to life along the park's walking trail.



@KENTCOUNTYCOMMUNITY
CENTER



11041 Worton Road
Worton, MD 21678

