

NRPA Discovery Challenge Wining Photo



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS

ANNUAL REPORT FY '18

From The Director



It is my pleasure to present to you the annual report for fiscal year 2018.

This report highlights some new initiatives, such as the building of new parks and creating new programs to meet the ever-changing needs of Howard County residents. I hope you will read about the unique collaboration with federal and local agencies, including a five-year tick survey on page 21. This is a great example of how diverse our department is – from natural resources to historic preservation to programming sports and programs to therapeutic recreation and childcare and more.

The Department completed two important items to cement our status as a leading recreation & parks agency and to chart our future over the next decade. These two items were the completion and recertification of the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) in October 2017 and the completed Land Preservation, Parks, & Recreation Plan in July 2017.

There are currently 174 accredited park and recreation agencies in the United States. The Land Preservation, Parks, & Recreation Plan is a comprehensive plan that guides our department forward in all aspects, from conservation to recreation.

This fiscal year came in and out with floods in historic Ellicott City. On July 31, 2016 and again in May 27, 2018, our department (along with the entire county) became swept up in the recovery and rebuilding effort of historic Ellicott City after a major flood.

I welcome you to review 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.

Sincerely,

John R. Byrd
Director
Howard County Recreation & Parks



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

FY2018 Advisory Board

Sylvia Ramsey (Chair)

Daniel Tracy, Jr. (Vice Chair)

John R. Byrd (Recording Secretary)

Edward Coleman (Planning Board)

Thomas Franklin

David Brown

Dr. Joel Goodman

Ananta Hejeebu

Joanne Kiebler

Samuel Nitkin (Student Member)

Table of Contents

Recreation & Parks Advisory Board	3
Mission, Vision & Core Values	4
Land Preservation, Park & Recreation Plan	5
Accreditation	6
Employee of the Year	7
Completed Goals	8
Budget	10
Numbers at a Glance	
Registration & Scholarships.....	11
Parks.....	12
Facilities.....	13
Capital Projects	
Blandair Park.....	14
Troy Park.....	15
Volunteers	16
Natural Resources	
Robinson Nature Center.....	19
Conservation.....	20
Tick Study.....	21
Historic Sites.....	22
Recreational Licensed Child Care	23
Therapeutic Recreation & Inclusion Services	25
Active Aging Encore Programs	26
Adult Programming Trends	27
Special Events	28
Community Sports Hall of Fame	30
Ellicott City Flood	31

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



Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan



Howard County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Completed in July 2017

The Department completed a new Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP). This is a comprehensive plan that is produced every five years. It guides the Department on key issues, trends and plans for managing and enhancing the systems of preserved public lands, parks and recreation facilities.

The process began by seeking input from residents. 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 the program.

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.



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 174 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.



Employee of the Year



Amanda Bartell

Amanda Bartell is a valuable asset to the Department and her commitment to excellence is evident in her programming and supervision. If you want the job done right, Amanda is the employee called upon.

Ms. Bartell is consistently the one who is first to step in and assist and/or take on extra responsibilities and assignments. Her positive attitude and enthusiasm is contagious every single day.

Amanda willingly takes on special assignments. She worked long and extended hours during the 2018 Ellicott City Flood and her Emergency Support Function 14 (ESF14) team rushed into action to make sure their volunteer efforts were met.

Amanda took the lead in multiple areas of response such as updating the disaster web page; creating google doc spreadsheets for volunteer management and sign-up; scheduling volunteers; and walking door-to-door to determine volunteer needs for local residents and business owners affected by the flood.

Amanda covered shifts at the Credentialing Station to coordinate volunteers. She identified and scheduled contingent staff to assist with coverage as needed.

Amanda coordinated volunteer assignments with hundreds of volunteers via email and on-site. Her performance stood out even though she was part of an excellent team.

"There are employees that go the extra mile and Amanda Bartell gave her heart and soul to the job this year." - Co-worker



In sum, Amanda performed disaster volunteer duties while continuing to manage her own recreation and parks sports program areas for the summer season.

"She spent long hours working to assist the EC disaster during the day and at night worked to keep her programs, classes, camps afloat. She is dedicated, took initiative, and represented the county at an outstanding level!" - Co-worker

Completed Goals



1

Identify best marketing practices to ensure that residents and visitors are able to find info offered by the Department easily.

Objectives:

- 1) Maintained social media sites, reviewed data, ensured questions were answered in a timely manner, and updated regularly to ensure high visibility.
- 2) Updated websites.
- 3) Created and printed marketing material to be mailed or displayed throughout the county.
- 4) Continued to coordinate with other agencies to share information in lobbies, on video screens, in newsletters and emails, on websites, and more.
- 5) Continued to create, update and post online 360-degree virtual tours of rentals and facilities.
- 6) Provided photography & videography; purchased advertising and give away items; helped coordinate fairs; etc.

2

Install new color coat surface to tennis courts.

Objectives:

- 1) Determined which courts are need of color coating the surfaces by use of Fixed Asset records and site visits.
- 2) Compiled the list of sites and check to see if additional Fast Start lines are needed.
- 3) Contacted American tennis to have them visit the sites to develop a proposal.
- 4) Submitted proposal and obtained a purchase order.
- 5) Inspected contractor's work and ensured all courts were completed.

3

To develop a formal training system for newly hired Park Maintenance employees.

Objective:

- 1) Formed a committee consisting of Park Maintenance Specialists to outline the equipment used in the Operation.
- 2) Developed the safety standards for each piece of equipment.
- 3) Included relevant information in the Park Operations Manual with other suggested items from the operation.

4

Assume management of the B&O Ellicott City Station Museum. Identify new programs, exhibits, and restoration, to interpret this national historic landmark.

Objectives:

- 1) Negotiated with the Baltimore B&O Museum in an effort to obtain the museum collection through purchase, gift and loan. Obtained funding through the Park Planning office, Historic Capital fund for this effort.
- 2) Renovated the office and storage areas of the museum to ensure functionality upon reopening. This objective was accomplished through a partnership with the Heritage Construction Division.
- 3) Assumed the gift shop from the Baltimore B&O Museum. Reconfigured shop to be compatible with Department Operations. Partnered with the Robinson Nature Center staff to set up ActiveNet inventory and procedures for gift shop.
- 4) Created job descriptions for Manager and Assistant Manager (Program Coordinator).
- 5) Prepared museum for opening on October 6, 2017.
- 6) Began free access for all visitors.
- 7) Worked in partnership with other sections within the Division to identify opportunities for collaboration on programs and events.

Completed Goals

5

To eliminate the bamboo colony in Font Hill Park.

Objectives:

- 1) Coordinated with zone 2 needed labor to cut down and remove.
- 2) Cut down bamboo and other herbaceous plant material in the colonized area.
- 3) Had contractor add area to contract mowing in spring. This controls resprouting of bamboo.
- 4) Had inspections of the area monthly through the growing season.

6

Design and implement programs for evenings/weekends at senior center sites and community centers.

Objectives:

- 1) Added new programs to the 55+ Active Aging Series to meet the needs of working adults or those who have newly retired.
- 2) Researched new program ideas.
- 3) Advertised for and hire new instructors.
- 4) Permitted space in community centers and through partnerships with the Office of Aging and Inclusion Services.
- 5) Advertised programs in the seasonal brochure, fliers in centers, email blasts etc.

7

Increase the number of extended trip excursions to include a Winter Season Trip and Spring Season Trip.

Objectives:

- 1) Increased the number of large excursion trips.
- 2) Researched possible excursion locations.
- 3) Researched different travel agencies for quotes.
- 4) Complete necessary paperwork and logistics.

8

Research offering new full day camps (non-licensed).

Objectives:

- 1) In 2017, full-day camps (7am-6pm) and this increased enrollment of over 1,000 participants compared to 2016.
- 3) Completed a survey of 2017 camp parents to see if there is a need to offer additional full-day camps.
- 4) Secured location for the camp.
- 5) Advertised for and recruited camp staff.
- 6) Developed the curriculum.
- 7) Purchased the supplies.



9

Provide parent sport education tool box that includes code of ethics, how to be a fan, supporting your player, etc. Include a one page summary format inside seasonal brochure and an online presence. Organized with reference points for easy re-direction by staff.

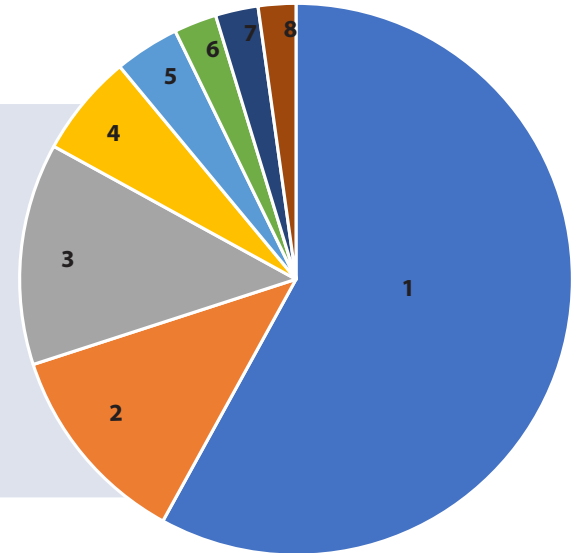
Objectives:

- 1) Reviewed NAYS National Standards for Youth Sport.
- 2) Assessed current information disseminated to parents and updated as necessary.

Budget FY 2018

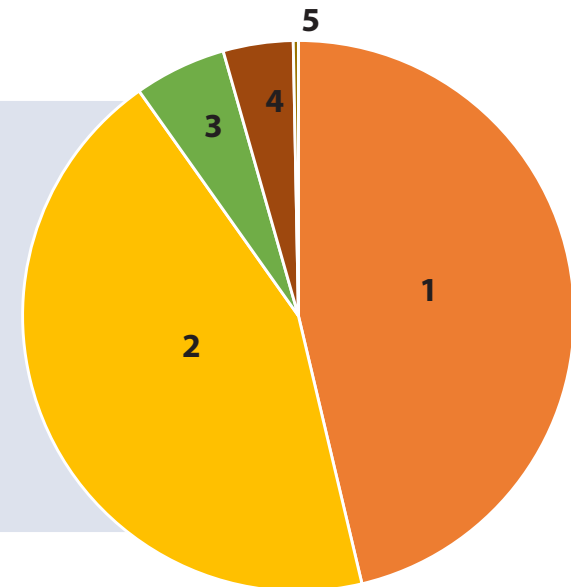
County's General Fund Budget: \$1,098,746,451

1 Education	57.08%	5 Community	4.11 %
2 Public Safety	12.27%	6 General Government	2.64%
3 Non-Department	12.65 %	7 Legislative / Judicial	2.57 %
4 Public Facilities	6.45%	8 Recreation & Parks	2.23%



Recreation & Parks Budget: \$48,457,693

1 Recreation & Parks Fund	43.3%
2 General Fund	50.5%
3 Golf	4.4%
4 Forest Conservation	1.4%
5 Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) & Grant	0.4%



Programs Offered (7/1/17-6/31/18)

8,645

Filled Programs/Camps (6/18-8/18)

1,685

Registrants in camps (6/18-8/18)

21,618

Registrants in Classes, Programs,
Events, etc. (7/1/17-6/31/18)

93,719

Camps Sections Offered (6/18-8/18)

1,801

Scholarships: Classes, Programs, Events, etc.
(7/1/17-6/31/18)

\$738,925

Regional Parks (acres)

2,609.2

Community Parks (acres)

788.3

Neighborhood Parks (acres)

326.1

Natural Resources Areas (acres)

1,887.3

Historic Places (acres)

114.5

Open Space Total (acres)

3,816.3

Total Recreation & Parks

Land Holdings (acres)

9,572.5

Three Community Centers' Total Center Use

+48%

Historic Sites Revenue

(Large increase due to the inclusion of Baltimore & Ohio Ellicott City Station Museum)

+172%

Belmont Manor & Historic Park Visitors

+24%

Meadowbrook Athletic Complex Rentals

+88%

Pavilion Permits

+46%

Robinson Nature Center Revenue

+7%

Howard County opens second phase of Blandair Park

A ribbon cutting on Saturday, March 10, 2018 marked the opening of the second phase of Blandair Park. The park is conveniently located on Oakland Mills Road, one-third of a mile north past the intersection of Old Montgomery Road and Oakland Mills Road. Following the ribbon cutting, the County Executive threw out the first pitch for a 14U baseball game.

Blandair Park is one of the county's premier destinations for sports events. Once the final phase is complete, the park will be 300 acres.

"I want to thank the consulting engineers, architects, general contractor and sub-contractors, facility suppliers, neighbors from the adjacent Sealed Message Road, the State Highway Administration, and the adjacent village boards for their help and collaboration," stated Kittleman. "Many of the groups attended bi-weekly construction meetings throughout the project and have been looking forward to this second phase of the park."

"The County also wants to thank the adjacent village boards and the Blandair planning committee," added Byrd. "Their long involvement with this park has been greatly appreciated. There are some members here today from the Blandair Citizens Advisory Committee who served from 2001 to 2003 to develop the first draft of the Master Plan; and many also served on the second committee to finalize the plan in 2008."

In this phase, the roadway construction involved the realignment of Oakland Mills Road from north of Kilimanjaro Road to east of Shadow Fall Terrace. This includes new ramps off eastbound Rouse Parkway (MD 175), two roundabouts,



driveway extensions, entrance parking lots, and concrete sidewalks. (Westbound on-and-off ramps will be completed in addition to a new bridge in a future phase.) The new roundabout at the intersection of Oakland Mills Road with Old Annapolis Road facilitates traffic flow, and the second roundabout is located at the ramp junction with MD 175. The input and cooperation from the Maryland State Highways was instrumental for these improvements. The new roadway improves roadway connectivity and allows park traffic direct access to Rouse Parkway

"Public Works is very happy to have completed this important road project that not only provides access to the park but improves the circulation pattern in the adjoining neighborhoods," stated Irvin. "The new connection will help to reduce congestion in the adjoining neighborhoods by providing a direct connection to the park."

The road relocation and ramp connections to Rouse Parkway cost \$6.4 million. The construction of the park's phase 2 was \$7.4 million.

Phase 1

- Playground (shade structure completed in April 2018)
- Starting in July 2017, this park became part of the new bike share program and has a station in the phase one area near the current playground and pavilion.
- There are Seven Phases. If the project goes according to schedule, the last phase will start in 2026.

Phase 2

- A challenge course specifically designed for teens and adults
- Five tennis courts
- A pavilion/shade structure
- Two synthetic turf baseball fields with shaded bleacher seating
- Restroom facilities
- An open green space
- New parking lot



Phase 1

Opened September & October 2014

- Two lighted synthetic multipurpose fields with press boxes and bleachers seating 330 for each field
- Parking areas that include bio-retention islands with trees and plants to filter stormwater
- Paved entrance road to the park.
- Playground
- Cost: \$8 million

Phase 2

Opened March 2018

- 3rd multipurpose field with bleachers
- 2 parking lots opened
- 2 pavilions with restrooms nearby
- 1 pavilion without a rest room
- 1 rest room without a pavilion
- Paved entry road
- Created pathways around new fields

Phase 2B

Spring 2019

- One lighted stadium multi-purpose field

Finished Park

- 101-acre park

Volunteers



Special Projects

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 14 Virtual Volunteer Management Plan

During the 2018 Ellicott City Flood, the Emergency Support Function – Disaster Volunteer Management Team implemented its Virtual Volunteer Management Plan. The Virtual Volunteer Management Plan is designed to simplify the process of recruiting, organizing, scheduling, and connecting volunteers. The virtual plan allowed ESF 14 team members to organize large numbers of interested volunteers more efficiently by eliminating the need for time-consuming traditional volunteer management methods and paper signups. By using online database systems, the ESF 14 team was able to manage approximately 12,000 volunteer offers of assistance in response to the Ellicott City flood. Additionally, local businesses and resident owners were able to receive volunteer support and coordination more efficiently.

Disaster Volunteer Coordination:

- Tracked offers of help
- Tracked volunteer registration
- Scheduled staff to work at virtual volunteer mobile station
- Contacted and collaborated with VOADs and non-affiliated volunteer groups
- Provided 24-hour virtual management coverage
- Provided customer service – walked through EC to provide face-to-face support and ask for volunteer support



Volunteers donated over \$1.36 million in labor costs to Howard County's Department of Recreation and Parks. 217 volunteers self-logged 5,523 hours through HoCoVolunteer.org.

Volunteer hours submitted by Supervisors/Coordinators accounted for another 57,731 hours.

Volunteers



Volunteer Audit

Implementation of annual, internal Department-wide Volunteer Audits began February 2018. The goal of the audit was to annually assess current volunteer programs; analyze the assessment data for strengths, weakness, and improvements; and develop a planning strategy for program improvement.

During the FY18 fiscal year, volunteer audits were conducted for the following areas: Roger Carter Community Center, Gary J. Arthur Community Center, North Laurel Community Center, Robinson Nature Center, Natural Resources, Preschool Programs, Adult & Cultural Arts Programs, Seniors & Trips and Tours, Therapeutic Recreation Programs, Sports & Adventure Programs, Heritage & Historic Sites Programs, Teen & Grant Programs, Horticulture Programs, and Parks.

University Recreation (UREC)

University Recreation is a new training initiative. The first phase was the launching of the redesign of the junior counselor training camp.

UREC will offer a comprehensive menu of trainings and classes with clear objectives designed to offer the most relevant and diverse professional development experience. The program covers major aspects of the recreation and parks industry.

UREC will assist the Department in the outreach, recruitment, training, and retention of individuals interested in exploring a future as an employee or volunteer in the Recreation and Parks field.



Junior Counselor Training Camp

Under the newly created UREC umbrella of comprehensive trainings is the Junior Counselor Corps. The Junior Counselor Corps Program has been enhanced and redesigned to offer youth a more extensive training to meet the standards identified by the National Recreation and Parks Association as necessary for preparing a student to work in the recreation and parks profession.

The Junior Counselor Corps is no longer considered a "program." It has been upgraded to an actual camp. This means that the Junior Counselors convene at an actual camp location during their training week. Training curriculum focuses on: Administration, Program Planning, Profession-



alism in Recreation, Team Building, Communication & Customer Service, Job Readiness, Safety, Policies and Procedures, Arts & Crafts for Leisure, Outdoor Recreation Leadership, and Behavior Modification.

- 4 training camp sections were offered for new and returning Junior Counselors.
- Approximately 200 new and returning Junior Counselors were trained for the 2018 summer camp season and assigned to at least 2 weeks of field experience in a variety of HCRP summer camps.

Volunteers



HERP Atlas 2018

New Species Found: 2

The Howard County Amphibian & Reptile Atlas (Herp Atlas) continues to map the distribution of reptiles and amphibians across the County every 10-square miles.

In 2018, the Herp volunteers documented two uncommon turtle species in the Woodbine area, the Spotted Turtle and the Eastern Musk Turtle. These represent two of the three least common native turtle species in Howard County.

Overall, ten turtle species have been found in the County including three non-native species, the Red-eared Slider, Diamondback Terrapin and False Map Turtle.

Above is the photo of the Eastern Musk Turtle taken by Wes Earp.



Volunteer Stream Clean-ups

Volunteers: 41

Volunteer Hours: 127

Recycled: 1,025 lbs.

Trash Collected: 1,338 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.



Maryland Biodiversity Project

Howard County has the distinction of having the first record of *Ephemera blanda* in the state of Maryland found in 2015 at Cedar Lane Park. In 2017, Howard County documented the second record of this mayfly species in the state of Maryland at Daisy Meadow. This record was entered into the Maryland Biodiversity Project. Both records were documented while conducting evening moth surveys.

In 2018, Howard County has the distinction of documenting the first Black Damsel Bug in the state of Maryland at Schooley Mill Park. 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.



A to Z Nature Trail Project

Anne Robinson loved both reading and nature. Both to honor Anne's legacy and engage the surrounding community, the Robinson Nature Center created the A to Z Nature Trail project. The trail consists of nine fabric banners displayed along a portion of our existing trail system, leading between our nature play area and the river pavilion, which marks the former location of Anne and James Robinson's house.

Each banner showcases pictures drawn by community members and children from the Howard County Recreational Licensed Childcare program. Inspiration for these pictures came from 26 different children's books which were chosen with titles each beginning with a distinct letter of the alphabet. The alphabet letters on each banner were hand drawn by former staff member and artist, Sarah Causey. Funding for production of the banners came from W.R. Grace and the James and Anne Robinson Foundation.



Photo by Rob Gelner

Partnerships

127 community partners have helped the center be so successful. Partners contribute in-kind services, expertise, sponsorships, donations, and a multitude of other engagement to the community (which mutually benefits both the center and their own business or organization).



Conservation

Howard County Tourism and Promotion and the Patuxent River Commission selected Robinson's venue to incorporate in the "Patuxent River Passport Challenge" as one of only two Howard County sites to be included in this multi-county conservation awareness event. This opportunity afforded regional marketing and promotion for Robinson.

Each year the center participates in the state-wide Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) Youth Summit celebrating Green Schools and Green Centers. The event is a day of celebration of the change makers today for a greener tomorrow. It promotes conservation education to over 2,000 students from Maryland. This past year, Robinson staff worked with students to create a Green Pledge marker with their name, stating what they would do to help the Earth.

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.

- Howard County Recreation & Parks (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 by the end of FY 2017 and another 14.34 acres were planted by the end of FY 2018, totaling 28.68 acres.
- 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 planting was completed in FY 2018.
- HCRP has paid for thistle control for two growing seasons.
- The restoration project is now complete.
- HCRP will pay for some maintenance associated with the site (mowing/herbicide treatments).



More steps in evaluating tick-control strategies

Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks (HCRP), in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and University of Maryland (UMD), launched a study in January 2017 to evaluate integrated tick control strategies on single-family home sites located adjacent to large public lands in Howard County. A first in Maryland, the study as a whole is part of a larger, five-year, Area-wide Integrated Tick Management Project of the ARS.

The five-year, area-wide integrated tick management project is aimed at developing an effective package of minimal pesticide methods to reduce the number of black-legged ticks or at least the percent carrying Lyme disease-causing bacteria.

7 Components to the Area-Wide Study

1) Deer Collaring

Tracking movements of adult deer. This phase began in February 2017–April 2017 and then again in January 2018–April 2018. The goal was to collar 50 deer. The deer with collars will continue to be tracked for 24 months (the life span of the battery on the GPS collar). The plan is to track the deer collared in 2017 until February 2019. Deer collared in 2018 will be tracked until January 2020.

2) Tick Sampling

This activity will occur on all 7 sites for the duration of the 5-year project. Sampling with drag nets occurs monthly March–November. Ticks collected are sampled to determine the number infected with the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease.

3) Mouse GPS Collars/Tracking of Mouse Movements.

This part of the process began in April 2018. In addition, mice captured are ear tagged, tissue samples collected, blood samples collected and ticks are collected. UMD graduate student Grace Hummell (under the direction of Assistant Professor Dr. Jennifer Murrow) and a team from the University and ARS deployed collars in the spring and tracked the mice. They then recaptured the mice to retrieve the collars and redeployed the collars again to track movements in the fall.

4) Bait Boxes

309 of these were deployed in May 2018, then collected and replaced with fresh bait boxes in July 2018. The boxes will remain in the field until November 2018. They are then collected and weighed to determine how much bait has been consumed.

5) Met52 Applications

Tickicide spray applications to vegetation occurred in June and July 2018 at residences agreeing to participate in the study. Subsequent tick sampling will determine if there is a change in the amount of ticks as a whole and the percentage infected with the bacteria.

6) 4-Poster Deer Feeders

20 were deployed in October–December 2017. The feeders have been set up in four park sites and will continue to be deployed throughout the study period. They will be monitored with camera to determine usage and will be tracking the amount of corn consumed and permethrin applied to rollers.



7) Home Owner Solicitation

The USDA crew is actively soliciting participation in the area-wide study in the neighborhoods surrounding the study site locations. Participation allows the researchers to sample for ticks at the edge of their properties 2x per month, allow mouse trapping monthly, and allow bait boxes and/or Met52 spray applications to occur on their property.

All of these activities will continue for the life of the study—ending in 2021.

"This project is exciting to me because it is a chance to look at the behavior of a species that is not heavily studied," stated Hummell. "The results I find will hopefully give a better understanding of how we can better manage white-footed mice to reduce ticks and tick-borne diseases."

According to entomologist Andrew Li with the ARS's Invasive Insect Biocontrol & Behavior Laboratory, data from the study will help develop a science-based minimal pesticide control strategy for Lyme disease carrying ticks.



HC Recreation & Parks Became the New Managers of Baltimore & Ohio Ellicott City Station Museum

Effective Friday, September 1, 2017 the County began managing and operating the Baltimore & Ohio (B&O) Ellicott City Station Museum.

The railroad's first trip from Baltimore to Ellicott Mills occurred on May 22, 1830, with horse drawn rail cars. Regular passenger service began two days later. Also of historic significance, the B&O demonstrated its first locomotive, the Tom Thumb, at Ellicott's Mills in a famous race against a horse later that same year.

From August 28-October 5, the B&O Ellicott City Station Museum closed for minor renovations and program development. When the museum reopened on Friday, October 6, general admission to the site was now free. The museum features a variety of educational programs and special events for school groups, families and adults for a fee.

In Historic Ellicott City,

Recreation & Parks oversees the following:

- The Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park
- The Ellicott City Colored School, Restored
- The Firehouse Museum
- The Heritage Orientation Center (until it collapsed during the May 2018 flood)
- The Thomas Isaac Log Cabin
- The Barnard Fort House and
- The B&O Ellicott City Station Museum



Recreational Licensed Child Care

Recreational Licensed Child Care (RLC) registrants were offered throughout the school year extra events that they may participate in. For competitive events, teams were formed at each center to then compete against other RLC/school sites.

During the 2017-18 school year, seven events were offered. (A Stop Ball tournament will be offered during the 2018-19 school year.)

In addition to the events on this page, Fun Fit Fridays were part of the weekly schedule.

Not pictured:

- * Annual Track and Field Meet started 7 years ago. The event was held in June. 125 children participated in six track and field events. First and second place finishers moved on to the Mid-Atlantic Recreation and Parks Sports Alliance Track and Field Event later that month.
- * Spelling Bee Competition started 5 years ago.



Jam Fest Dance Competition started a few years ago. This past May, awards were given in Hip Hop/Jazz, Multi-cultural, Modern, and Line/Swing.



2018 March Madness Basketball Tournament's 7th annual event included 14 RLC teams and four Can-TEEN (middle school) teams.



November 2017 celebrated the 13th year of the Turkey Bowl, including both an elementary and a middle school tournament. 16 RLC school programs participated.



An RLC Chorus was created in the fall of 2017. They practiced in the fall and had a final concert at Centennial Park's Christmas in the Park event. This was one chorus combining all interested participants from all centers.



The first RLC art shows (in June) displayed over 400 pieces of artwork over the three community centers. Roger Carter had sports-theme works. North Laurel showed off racing-theme masterpieces. Gary J. Arthur displayed farm-theme creations.

Recreational Licensed Child Care



Recreational Licensed Child Care Summer Blast Camp

RLC Summer Blast Camp enrollment for the past fiscal year was 4,481 campers. Four Blast camps offered a variety of sports, drama, arts & crafts, STEAM, field trips, water play, and learning. Four additional camps offered the core Blast components, with additional concentrations in Sports, STEAM, Cooking & Crafts and Music Drama & Theater.

In addition, a Mini-Scholars camp was offered for children entering Kindergarten; Teen Blast was offered for children aged 10-14 years old and FunZone, in partnership with the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) was offered in conjunction with the Summer Institute and Gifted & Talented Summer Program.

On average 150 contingent, part-time staff supervised the RLC programs during the 2017-18 school year.

Recreation & Parks offered 21 classes to help staff maintain their continuing education unit credits.

The 2017-18 school year had 2,665 children at 22 locations registered in Recreational Licensed Child Care (RLC); which equated to 30,547 registrations.

Therapeutic Recreation & Inclusion Services



New & Expanded Programs Being Offered

Cooking

Instructional Cooking

Fitness

Tumblers: Adapted Gymnastics

Enrichment

EXCELS Program

Friday Night Socials

Green Thumb Club

Out & About

The Safety Project

866 participants signed up for Inclusion programs
at a cost of **\$258,920.**



Active Aging Encore Programs



Creating Programs Specifically for Active Adults

Howard County's population is aging and the Department is creating new programs and services to accommodate the changing demographics.

The new Encore Programs began with the 2017 fall programming season and are designed with a renewed focus on the active aging adults in the community. These programs provide opportunities for this population to try things that they have always wanted to do but may not have had the time.

The Department conducted surveys and attended focus groups to help guide programming for these active adults.

The Encore Program expanded its offerings in Dance, Fine Art, and Lifelong Learning. The expansion of programs also included more fitness programs for active aging adults including yoga, BOSU Mobility & Stability, and a grant-sponsored walking & wellness program. Based on information collected, the pilot of a new format of program was also implemented this year, called Encore Explorations. It allowed customers to try a one-time class before committing to a full class session.

Additionally, the Encore Recreation Volunteer program was launched with an open house on April 17, 2018. This program is designed to allow active aging adults the chance to give back to their community, receive industry-level trainings and socialize with peers.

Meeting The Needs of Active Adults Through New Programs

Art

- Ceramics workshops
- Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain
- Fused Glass workshops
- Photography workshops

Dance

- Ballroom Dance workshops
- Senior Tap Classics
- Square Dance workshop

Lifelong Learning

- Basic Defensive Tactics
- Dining Savvy Through the Ages
- International Savvy: Cross-Cultural Communication
- Magnificent Maryland: Historical Lectures & Tours

Fitness

- BOSU Mobility & Stability for the Active Aging
- Cardio Dance & Tone
- Total Conditioning for a Healthy Life
- Walking with Ease
- Yoga 1 Flow

Adult Programming Trends



New Trends & Successful Programs

1 Beginning Bridge

2 Wine and Paint

3 Gluten-Free Cooking and Baking

4 Improv

5 Introduction to Ayurveda



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

Special Events



Howard County's July 4th Festival & Fireworks

Columbia Lakefront

July 4, 2017

Howard Countians and neighbors enjoyed the annual celebration. The event featured live entertainment and fireworks. Visitors were welcome to bring a picnic or purchase food from on-site vendors. Parking was free. Fireworks started after dusk. A free app was created for the event on both Android and Apple to show the event layout map. The app can post updates and played the music for the fireworks (in case you cannot hear it from the stage).



Solar Fest

Alpha Ridge Park

July 8, 2017

Howard County Recreation & Parks (HCRP) partnered with the Howard Astronomical League (HAL) for a fun evening of science, engineering, arts, crafts, games, astronomy, and much more. Vendors provided interactive and dynamic STEAM activities, HCRP provided crafts and games, and HAL had telescopes for participants to use.



Truck or Treat

Gary J. Arthur Community Center

October 28, 2017

Children and parents were welcome to a "wheely fun" day to celebrate Halloween and the 11th anniversary of the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood! Attendees were invited to dress in costume to trick-or-treat at the trucks, tractors, emergency vehicles and more, while meeting some of your hometown heroes. Each vehicle was represented by various County agencies, nonprofit groups, and local businesses. Live music, hayrides, face painting, children's activities, giveaways, story time, and more was included. A sensory-friendly hour was offered from 10-11am.

Special Events



Holiday Mart's 45th year!

Gary J. Arthur Community Center

December 2, 2017

Annually, the community is invited to shop for seasonal gifts and merchandise created by 140 juried artisans. The past few years, the event included mule-drawn carriage rides from a local farm, door prizes and a children's craft corner. Shoppers know this is the place to find unique handcrafted items and home décor.



Wine in the Woods' 26th year

Symphony Woods

May 19-20, 2018

This two-day event is now the largest wine festival in Maryland and was voted Best Festival in Howard County. Festival goers sampled a variety of Maryland's wines from a souvenir glass; purchased food from an abundance of high quality, distinctive restaurants and caterers; attended free wine education seminars; purchased works of art and specialty crafts; and listened to continuous live music from two stages. The target audience for this event is 21 years and over. The event had its own website (www.wineinthewoods.com) and Facebook page ([/wineinthewoods](https://www.facebook.com/wineinthewoods)). A free app was created for the event for both Android and Apple. The app provides a map of the event, information about the vendors, wineries and crafters, and could post messages to app users.



Kids Fest

Meadowbrook Park

March 31, 2018

Families had a blast at the 4th annual Kids Fest. This event is offered the day before Easter each year, providing a fun activity to do with the entire family. It is a great way to showcase and promote our summer camps and spring/summer classes to a large, targeted group of local residents. The day includes an egg hunt, sports instruction, games, activities, arts & crafts, food, an information table, inflatables, and much more.

Community Sports Hall of Fame



Bobby Farace

Volunteer and Howard County resident Bobby Farace has helped lead the Howard County Vipers wrestling team to victories both off and on the mat.

In his tenure as head travel coach, Bobby has tirelessly led weekday practices and weekend tournaments. As both a coach and role model, he knows that discipline, respect and self-confidence are more important than any single victory.

His coaching has instilled his team with work ethic and interpersonal skills they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Bobby has been the head/assistant coach for both the Wilde Lake Recreational Vipers Wrestling Team (for 3 years) and the Howard County Vipers Travel/Advanced Team (for 10 years).



Rich Francis

Rich Francis became involved in Howard County Youth Program (HCYP) softball in 1995 as a coach for his daughter's 8U HCYP team. Over the last 23 years and counting, the Howard County resident has provided guidance and leadership to Howard County athletes.

Rich – in his role as a coach, softball commissioner (2000-2002), and advisor to the HCYP Softball Committee (starting in 2002) – has helped train and encourage generations of softball and baseball players. He continues to provide crucial advice and perspective to the softball organization as a valued member of HCYP Softball Advisory Board.

In addition to his work with HCYP, Francis has volunteered and umpired in the Maryland Special Olympics' annual softball tournament for the past 17 years.



Kathy Reed

Since 1999, Kathy Reed has done everything from organizing tournaments to coaching teams and negotiating with food vendors for Western Howard County's baseball and softball programs.

Kathy has worked tirelessly to bring a sense of community, fellowship and sportsmanship to each Saturday game day at Western Regional Park.

Whether she's working to ensure a player can afford to participate in a program or grilling hot dogs for hungry spectators at a game, Kathy's nearly 20-year commitment to the program is unmistakable and astounding.



The Howard County Community Sports Hall of Fame, established in 2005, honors outstanding persons, living or deceased, who have gained prominence or made substantial contributions to community recreational sports programs in Howard County. This Hall of Fame serves to educate the public about the cultural, historical and personal contributions and achievements of the community of Howard County. The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks, along with a committee of individuals from the local sporting community, inducted the first members of the Hall of Fame in the fall of 2005.

#ECSTRONG: Ellicott City Flood



Following the 2016 devastation, Ellicott City was hit with a second “thousand year” flood last summer.

Over seven inches of rainfall on the afternoon of May 27, 2018 resulted in a large amount of storm-water runoff. Combined with the rise of the Tiber Creek, 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.

Sgt. Eddison Hermond, the sole fatality of the flooding, drowned. Further loss of life was avoided thanks to the efforts of citizens and first responders.

Multiple roads were completely washed away, the Old Courthouse near Ellicott Mills Drive was demolished, and there was massive damage to streets, sidewalks, and buildings. Additionally, there were two fires caused by lightning strikes, one of which was a two alarm fire

Over 200 structures in Ellicott City were affected by the floodwaters, and significant damage occurred to the Main Street business area, negatively impacting the economy of Ellicott City and Howard County.

The Roger Carter Community Center, in coordination with the Red Cross, provided assistance to 82 residents following the flood. Many structures in the historic area and West End sustained severe damage. Over 65 residents were displaced from their homes and required temporary housing. Damage to infrastructure was estimated at \$10.5 million. More than 180 vehicles were towed from Ellicott City and 50 destroyed vehicles were extracted from the Main Street area.

Recreation & Parks staff helped with almost every aspect of the recovery effort. Employees from various divisions helped to operate the flood recovery centers at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church and the George Howard Building. Full-time and contingent staff members created photo ID badges for residents and business owners, helped to organize volunteers, and provided information and material resources to those impacted by the flood. These centers were in operation throughout most of June.



#ECSTRONG: Ellicott City Flood



After the state of emergency ended, 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.

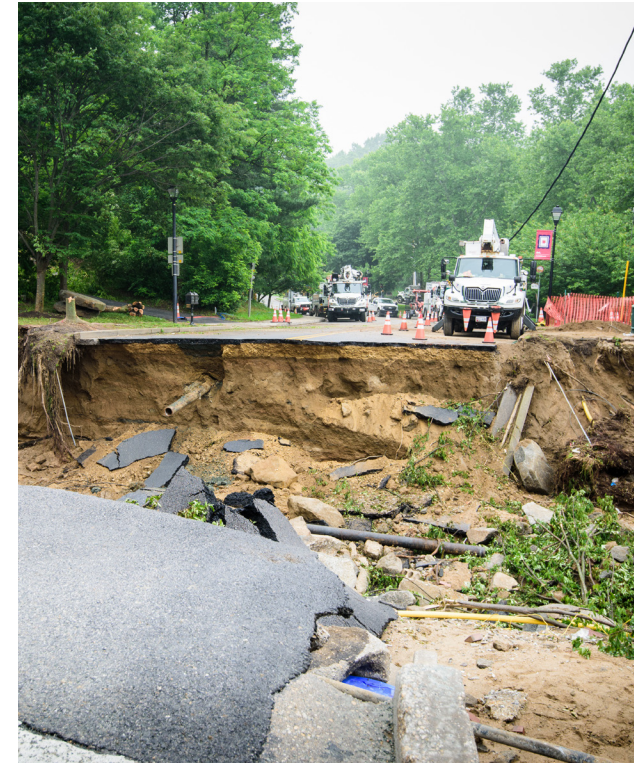
Following the re-opening of Main Street to pedestrian and automobile traffic, Recreation & Parks historic sites and museums in Ellicott City have resumed regular operation. The Thomas Isaac Log Cabin, which was largely untouched by the flooding, has been removed from its foundation and will be permanently relocated nearby due to safety concerns.



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

- ESF 1: Transportation
- ESF 2: Technology and Communications
- ESF 5: Information and Planning
- ESF 6: Mass Care and Sheltering
- ESF 7: Resource Support & Logistics
- ESF 11: Agricultural, Historical, & Natural Resources
- ESF 14: Volunteer & Donations Management
- ESF 15: Damage Assessment

During this time, HCRP recruited 1,564 volunteers, 144 called to service, and the result was 846 service hours.



Recreation & Parks Contributed to the following Supportive Units

- Joint Information Center (JIC)
- Volunteer Reception Center (VRC)