



County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland
Department of Parks & Recreation

October 10, 2023

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

Dear Mr. McQuarrie,

Enclosed you will find Kent County's Fiscal Year 2024 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 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 410-810-5948 or jcoleman@kentgov.org. If you have any questions about the projects, please contact Dan Mattson, he can be reached at 410-778-7409.

Sincerely,

Jillyn Coleman, M.Ed.
Director
Dan Mattson, PE, CFM
Deputy Director of Public Works

11041 Worton Road * P.O. Box 67 * Worton, MD 21678 * 410-778-1948 * info@KentParksAndRec.org
KentparksAndRec.org * [Facebook.com/KentCountyCommunityCenter](https://www.facebook.com/KentCountyCommunityCenter)

County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland Department of Parks & Recreation

FISCAL YEAR 2024 PROGRAM OPEN SPACE 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 are submitted to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for review. 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 2024 Annual Program, outlined below, have received approval in Kent County Government's fiscal year's budget.

Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Planning Grant Assistance -\$25,000

Professional assistance in planning and executing the development of the LPPRP is necessary for Kent County to ensure the Plan meets the established Department of Natural Resources Program Open Space Guidelines, contains all or the required elements, and to ensure the Plan is submitted on time every five years. Kent County will continue its planning of the LPPRP in preparation for the 2027 Plan update. The process will be facilitated by an experienced Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Planning consultant who will provide guidance and oversight in the development of the Plan and ongoing updates to land inventory, mapping, surveys, and public input. The State of Maryland requires local governing bodies to prepare a local Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) under the Maryland Natural Resources Code, Title 5 Forest, and Parks.

Worton Park – Renovation of Basketball Courts - \$275,000

Worton Park is Kent County's largest and regional park and consists of 97.7 acres. Worton Regional Park/Community Center Campus is the center of recreational activities in Kent County and the largest active recreation park in the County. It is an essential component in recreation programming in Kent County. The campus boasts six baseball/softball fields, .6 miles walking path, 10 athletic fields, tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, playground, picnic pavilion, swimming pool, and restroom facilities. At that time due to the increased interest in nighttime basketball games, inquiries were made to explore renovating the basketball courts. This project consists of renovating the park by resurfacing the basketball courts, installing new posts, nets, and backboards, installing fencing and lights, and relining the basketball courts.

These improvements will be welcome changes by park and facility users that aid in keeping patrons safe, protect County resources, and in turn, increase the number of visitors.

**PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR ACQUISITION
FISCAL YEAR 2024 – KENT COUNTY, MD**

<u>SPONSOR</u>	<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>2027 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Planning Grant Assistance / Consultant Services to Facilitate Development of LPPRP</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	25,000	N/A	25,000	N/A

**PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2024 – KENT COUNTY, MD**

<u>SPONSOR</u>	<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-Kent County Community Center Campus / Renovation of Basketball Courts</i>	97.716	97.716	N/A	275,000	27,500	247,500	N/A



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WORTON PARK



Source: Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing and Zoning. MdProperty View 2011. Map prepared July 2013.

1 inch = 500 feet

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WORTON PARK

