Program Open Space Annual Program
FY 2018

Introduction

The Department of Parks and Recreation within Talbot County, Maryland has spent significant time developing a strategy for improving access to public lands as part of both the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan (TCCP) and the Land Preservation Recreation Plan (LPRP). Within both plans the goal is clear: Provide an improved system of parks and recreation facilities based on residents needs.

Talbot County currently provides its residents with many opportunities to pursue recreational and leisure activities. Some of these opportunities are available through a variety of recreation programs offered by the County's Department of Parks and Recreation. Other opportunities exist in a variety of parks ranging from large County-wide park facilities to small neighborhood play areas. The continued development of parks and recreation facilities is necessary to accommodate a changing and growing population in the County.

The Land Preservation and Recreation Plan (LPRP) contains a description of the State's recreation and open space classification and standards, an inventory of existing parks, open space and recreational facilities, a demand analysis of park, recreation and open space needs, and plan and implementation recommendations for meeting those needs.

The Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for the administration and programming of recreational facilities and activities for Talbot County. The Department maintains and schedules activities at recreational facilities, participates in the preparation of a five year acquisition and development plan which is required by the State of Maryland as a basis for program open space funding, and oversees the State funded School Community Centers program. The Department is responsible for coordinating park, open space and recreational activities between the County and the incorporated towns. The Department provides technical assistance and encourages towns to participate in the local programming, acquisition, and development of recreation facilities.

The Talbot County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board provides recommendations to the County Council and the County Parks Department relating to plans and policies for public recreation, the organization of recreation councils, the establishment of recreational programs and plans for the acquisition of land for public recreation and open space. This Board includes appointees from both the County and the incorporated towns.

The Talbot County Park Board is involved with the administration, long-range planning and policy direction for the Talbot County Community Center and Hog Neck Golf Course. The

Board is appointed by the County Council and recommends policies and administrative guidelines, prepares annual reports and submits budget requests for these recreation facilities.

Parks and Recreation Policies

1. Actively pursue the goals, objectives and implementation recommendations adopted as part of the Talbot County Land Preservation and Recreation Plan.

2. Periodically update the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan to keep the inventory of parks and recreational facilities current, reassess demand in light of projected population growth, and identify new or alternative implementation recommendations for site and project selection, land acquisition, facility development, and preservation and conservation programs.

3. Continue to support the development, operation and funding of indoor and outdoor recreational programs for County residents.

4. Acquire a shoreline park facility and continue to retain, maintain, and improve existing facilities that provide access to public waters for County recreational boaters, kayakers, outdoorsmen, picnickers and swimmers.

5. Continue to assess and develop existing systems of walking and bicycle trails in areas where this activity will not create automobile/bicycle traffic hazards. The development of bike and walking trails shall not occur without consideration of property rights, privacy issues and conflicts with agricultural use. (see Map 4-3 Pedestrian and Bicycle Trails)

6. Explore the feasibility of developing public and private greenways and open space linear parks in areas of the County where this will not create conflicts with private property rights and privacy.

7. Encourage developers to provide recreational space in residential development projects. Standards for provision of open space should be evaluated and updated as needed. Such standards shall not permit land area utilized for golf course facilities to satisfy recreational space requirements.

8. Provide an information program to include maps and brochures that identify park locations and facilities to insure that as many citizens as possible are aware of the recreation and open space opportunities that exist in the County.

Needs Analysis

Needs Assessment Survey

To ensure broad based citizens participation, a need survey was conducted during March and April 2013 to find out the leisure needs of Talbot County citizens. The survey summary and results are listed as follows:

This survey consisted of a series of questions, approximately twelve that were thought provoking, in order to help Talbot County Park and Recreation (TCPR) generate feedback from the community members that use our programs and facilities. TCPR hopes to better serve our community with the result of this survey.

The survey sample included all of Talbot County. The surveys were given out through the Chamber of Commerce, George Murphy Community Pool, all of the Talbot County employees, various leagues, and some mail outs. Out of the 2,500 surveys put out at the various Talbot County locations, TCPR received a response from about 140 (18%) of those surveys distributed. Though TCPR feels this was a significant number of responses to the survey, the following factors may have contributed to the response received and should be taken into consideration when creating and distributing the next survey.

This is a prominent time of year for vacations; therefore so many community members are gone. Many patrons are extremely busy during the summer with other obligations so the survey may have been put on the back burner for these community members. Many patrons will find larger surveys a bit intimidating and may not fill them out. Of the 18% that did return the surveys TCPR received some very valuable information, which helped us meet our objective to better program and meet the community needs.

Summary of Surpluses and Deficiencies

Current demands for passive sports, trails, open green spaces and passive parks are higher than those for active sports and athletic fields. The Department of Parks and Recreation plan includes a five year outlay to request funds within general fund monies to be set aside to meet these demands both current and future.

- Claiborne Jetty is one project that can be accomplished with assistance from the Federal Government and POS funds if they made available through State budgeting.
- Lewistown Road is one project that can be completed to showcase the life and experiences of Frederick Douglas with assistance from outside agencies both government and private.
- Continued assessment of Parks, Landings and faciltieis to ensure that user demands are being met and County goals are being followed.

We anticipate the demands to shift heavily to outdoor adventure based activities and senior based activities over the next twenty years, based on projections from the Comprehensive Plan.

Surpluses include the basketball courts supply, baseball fields, and active play spaces within the County. Although demand may increase in these areas once our population increases we believe that all of these areas can be sustained during the period this plan projects into until the last five years. At which point the demand will require increased supply for several areas as they grow in population.

Funding for these areas of growth should follow the Comprehensive Plan thus allowing for Recreation Impact Fees to supply funds for these types of increased demands on our supply.

Land Acquisition Priorities

Trails, open green spaces, soccer/combination fields, and waterfront parks are the areas of land acquisitions that can be justified under the Comprehensive Plan and Land Preservation and Recreation Plans. All research indicates needs for lands that support these items going forward up to 2020.

The Comprehensive Plan clearly set the priorities and how the land would be acquired through planning process and mechanisms for purchase including impact fees. The Plan also outlines the ways these uses would impact the County. Impacts to natural resources and agricultural development are outlined in the following chapters of this plan as well as in the Comprehensive Plan. All goals, objectives and implementation are systematically the same within each plan.

Acquisition Goal

The Maryland Open Space Program (POS) provides funding to counties to acquire and develop recreation spaces in accordance with the state-wide goals. The state recommends the local recreational goal of 30 acres of recreation land 1,000 persons. Pursuant to law, the acreage goal is established is the State Land Preservation and Recreation Plan (LPRP) prepared by the Maryland Department of Planning in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources. Each county, in its own LRPR, may set a goal that differs from the State recommendation goal; however, the law requires that the higher of the two goals be used for certification that a county's goals has been met.

The purpose of the local recreation acreage goal is to encourage counties and municipalities to acquire sufficient land to meet the current and future active recreational and open space needs of their residents. Ideally, local governments will buy land for this purpose in designated growth areas before development drives up land costs; or the will expand recreational opportunities in currently developed areas where priority need still exist. Currently, Talbot County is eligible to apply 50% of its own POS funding to development and 50% of its funding to acquisition; if Talbot Count were to exceed the recreation acreage goal; it would be able to apply 75% of its funding to development and 25% to acquisition.

The State recommended acreage goal, and the formula for calculating the categories of recreational land that counts toward the goal, were published in the 1989 State LPRP. The 1993 State LPRP did not change the goal or the formula. The goal and formula as they say appeared in

the 1989 Plan were used in the Guidelines for the 1998 Local Land Preservation and Recreation Plans. These guidelines were prepared in cooperation with the Recreation Director's affiliate of the Maryland Association of Counties.

The goal appears as follows in that guideline:
30 acres/1,000

- 15 acres of this may include the sum of
    1.) any combined state and federal recreational acreage over 60 acres/1,000 person and
    2.) One-third of local open space (natural resource lands) per 1,000 persons.

Stated in another way, acreage that can be counted toward meeting the 30 acres per 1,000 persons local acreage goal must be made up entirely of locally-owned recreation land, unless the county has more the 60 acres/1,000 persons of the sum of:

1.) all land classified as State or Federal recreational land; and
2.) 1/3 of land classified as local resource land.

If it does, the amount of land in those combined categories over 60 acres/1,000 persons can be counted toward as much as half (15 acres per 1,000 persons) of the 30 acres per 1,000 person goal.

The following table summarizes Talbot County's local acreage goal:

Appendix A-4
LOCAL RECREATIONAL ACREAGE GOAL CALCULATION BY FACILITY CATEGORY

Talbot County	Locally Owned/Usable	State Owned	Federally Owned
Recreation Areas	570.14 acres – County Parks 124.05 acres – Municipal Parks 50.19 acres – Public Landings 48.04 acres – Board of Education (60% of 80.06 acres) 792.42 Acres Total (100%)	0 acres (acres that are state-owned do not meet qualifier of 15 acres/1,000 persons in excess of 60 acres/1,000)	0 acres (acres that are federal-owned do not meet qualifier of 15 acres/1,000 persons in excess of 60 acres/1,000)
Resource Area**	1345.64 acres	None	None

**Resource Areas are the Point Pleasant Farm and the Pickering Creek Audubon

Therefore, Talbot County's current acres per 1,000 people equals:

37,782 (population_/1,000 people = 37.78

792.42 acres + 1345.64 acres/ 37.78 =

56.59 acres/ 1,000 people

This is above the 30 acres goal, which means that Talbot County would not need additional acres to meet the goal; however, the exploration of additional land acquisitions throughout Talbot County will continue to be a top priority to enhance the lifestyles of its residents and to protect the environment.

Land Acquisition and Development

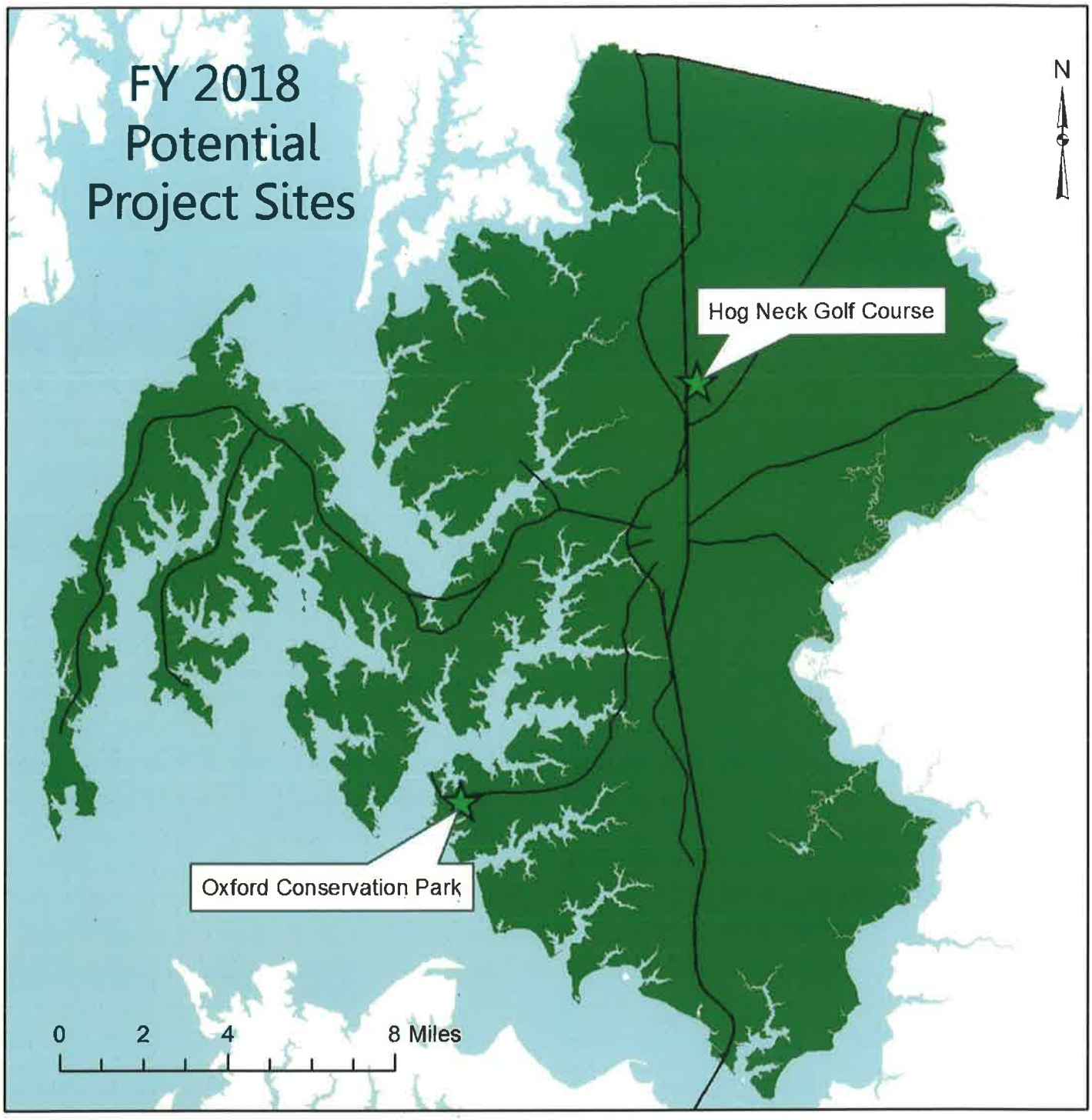
Establishing priorities for both acquisition and development of recreational facilities is extremely important due to the limited resources available to the County for these purposes. State standards, structured for urban and suburban jurisdictions, are not necessarily suitable for Talbot County. The County's predominantly rural setting, with extraordinary access to water and the large open space areas due to agricultural land use, and critical areas and non–tidal wetlands laws lessens the perceived need for large tracts of passive recreation areas.

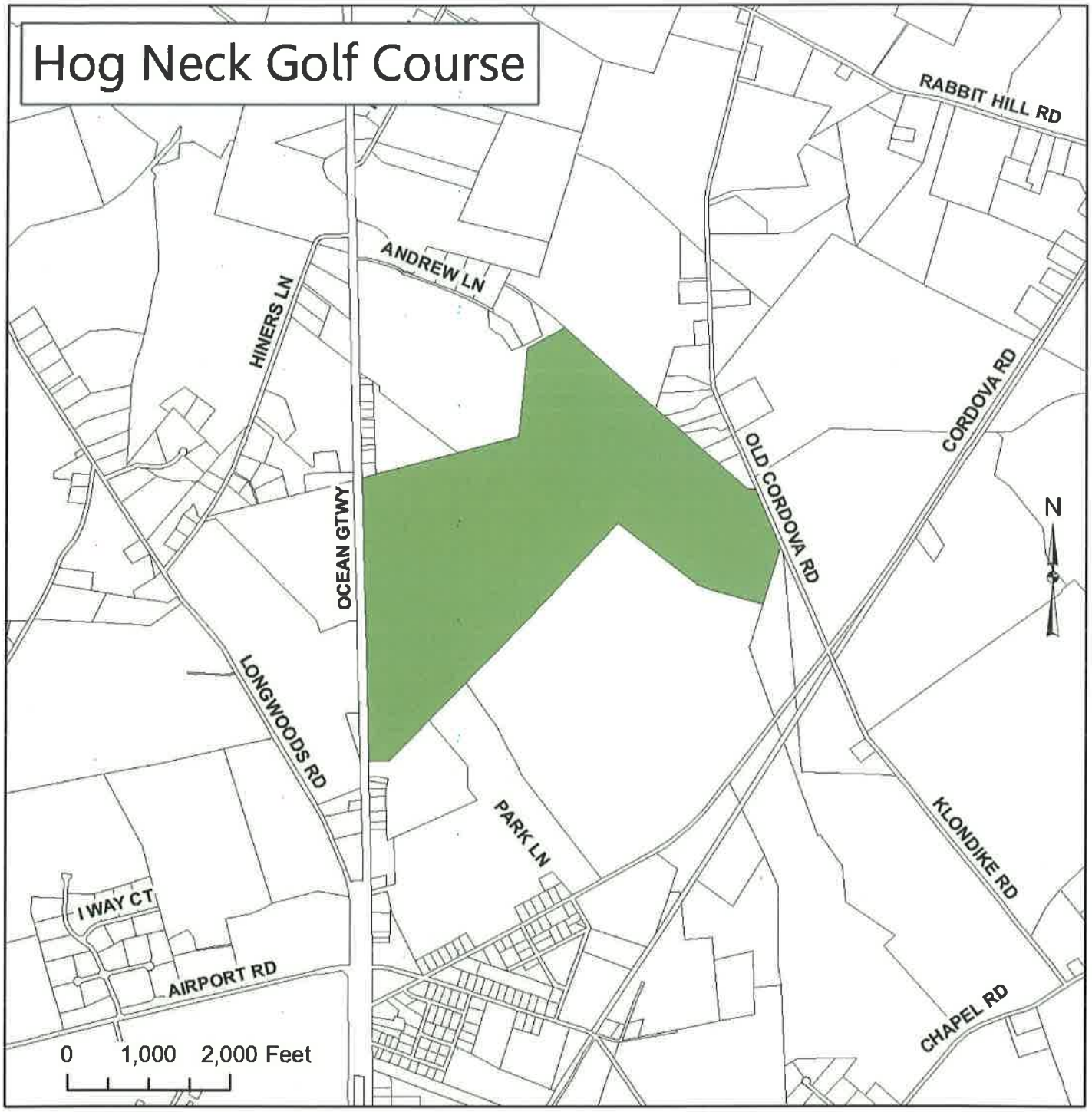
The strong need for acquisitions in Talbot County has lessens over the years based on many acreages being put into conservation easements; along with the parks (county, municipal, school, State). Acquisitions by the Parks and Recreation department will be very selective in the future with the main goal of acquiring properties having historical significance or complimentary acreages to existing parcels that will enhance the park experience of the residents and tourists of Talbot County.

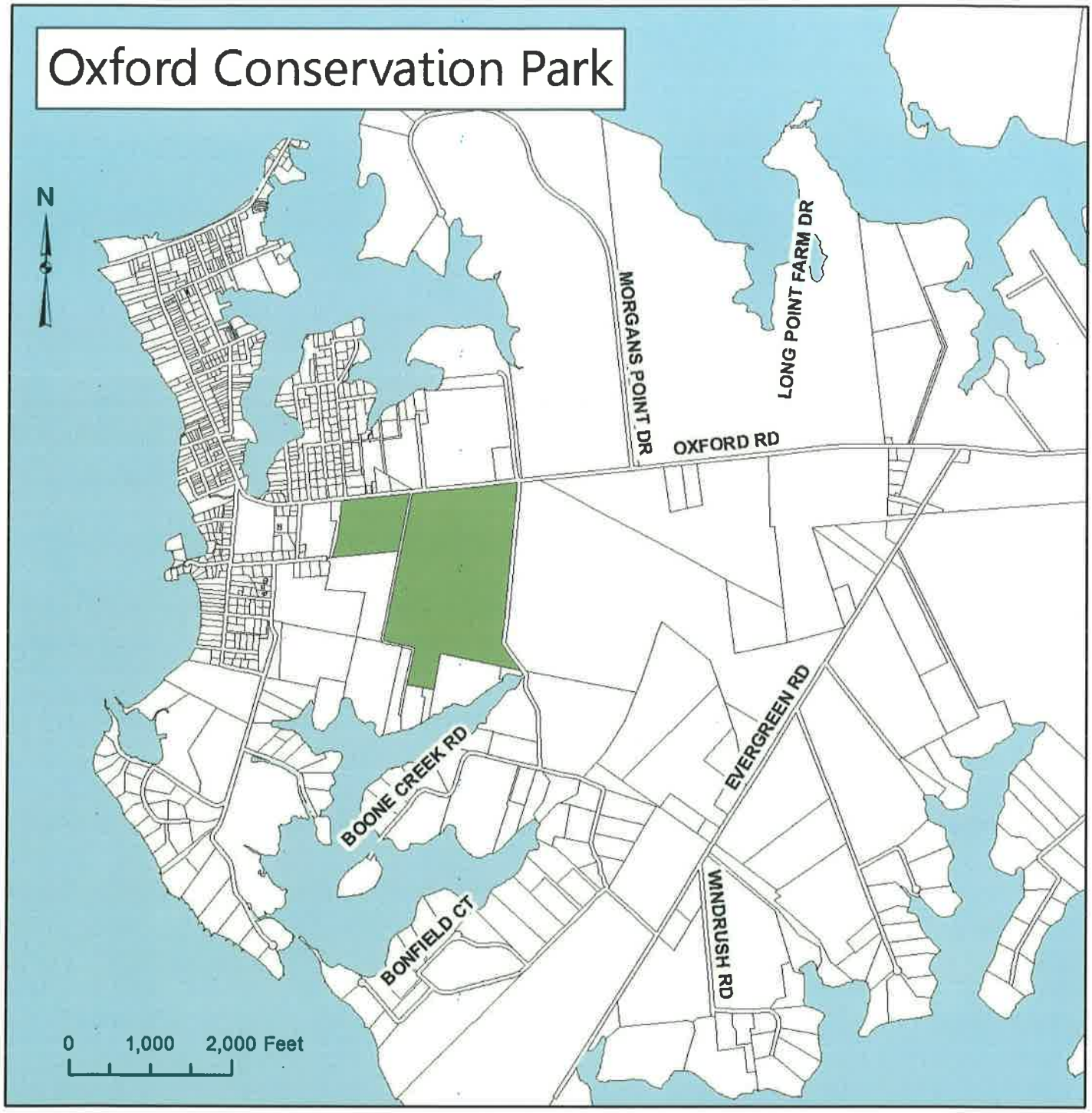
Construction of a County-owned and operated passive Park was begun in 2016 with tentative completion in 2018. This passive park will boast a wetlands creation, bird watching opportunities, pollinator plantings, paved walking trails and picnic areas.

There are two important factors for the acquisition and development of new County recreational facilities. The first is that they are readily accessible to the user population in the specified area of the County in general. The second factor is meeting the participation rates established by the County for the type of facility.

Project	Location	Description	Estimated Cost	Short Range Cost
Oxford Park (Phase 2)	Oxford	Park Development	$75,000	$75,000
Hog Neck Golf Course	Easton	Fence Replacement	$50,000	$50,000


FY 2018
Potential
Project Sites
N
Hog Neck Golf Course
Oxford Conservation Park
0 2 4 8 Miles


Hog Neck Golf Course
RABBIT HILL RD
ANDREW LN
HINERS LN
CORDOVA RD
OLD CORDOVA RD
OCEAN GTWY
N
LONGWOODS RD
PARK LN
KLONDIKE RD
I WAY CT
AIRPORT RD
CHAPEL RD
0 1,000 2,000 Feet


Oxford Conservation Park
N
MORGANS POINT DR
LONG POINT FARM DR
OXFORD RD
EVERGREEN RD
BOONE CREEK RD
BONFIELD CT
WINDRUSH RD
0 1,000 2,000 Feet

PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
***ANNUAL PROGRAM* FOR ACQUISITION**
FISCAL YEAR 2018

Sponsor	**Project Name,** Project Description	Acreage			Source of Funds for Annual Program Only			
		Existing	Ultimate	Project	Total	Local	State (POS Local Funds)	Federal

PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
***ANNUAL PROGRAM* FOR DEVELOPMENT**
FISCAL YEAR 2018

Sponsor	**Project Name,** Project Description	Acreage			Source of Funds for Annual Program Only			
		Existing	Ultimate	Project	Total	Local	State (POS Local Funds)	Federal
	Oxford Conservation Development (Phase 2)	86.00	86.00	86.00	$75,000	$7,500	$67,500	
	Hog Neck Golf Course Fence Replacement	255.00	255.00	255.00	$50,000	$5,000	$45,000	