CAROLINE COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS

ANNUAL REPORT

Bringing the Community Together

2022
Dear Caroline County Residents and Partners,

I am pleased to present you with the Caroline County Recreation and Parks 2022 Annual Report — a look back at the past year’s accomplishments and a look forward to what 2023 holds. As we reflect on the past year, it is important to acknowledge words that we have added to our lexicon as we pushed through the pandemic years — RESILIENCE, RESOLUTION, and REORIENTATION. This department has long been pliable to ever changing winds, and 2022 was no exception to that mindset and psyche.

CCRP celebrated the retirement of long-time legacy public servant and recreation and parks ambassador, Director Sue Simmons. Her passion and force of will were testaments to the vision she brought to work every day for nearly four decades. Sue embodies these words from Ralph Waldo Emerson:

“To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived — that is to have succeeded.”

With Sue’s departure, the department has reorganized, eliminating the deputy director position and creating two top level manager positions to lead both the Recreation and Parks Divisions. The team also added two new positions: program services administrator and a parks maintenance worker, to better serve the needs of program participants and parks users.

The Recreation Team welcomed dynamic new members and navigated changing responsibilities as veteran team members took on new roles. This newly configured team has created new programs and added enhancements to existing programs that have resulted in increases in program registrations and participation levels. Overall, recreation program participation saw a resounding improvement compared to 2021 when participants were still cautious about returning to pre-pandemic activities.

The Parks Team expanded, adding one new position and welcoming two talented new hires. It also celebrated the completion of several projects, including the North County Park Stream Restoration project, a massive undertaking resulting in the restoration of 2,300 linear feet of headwater streams and 2.25 acres of freshwater Delmarva Bay wetlands.

As we begin 2023, we embrace the challenges ahead as a cohesive band of parks and recreation champions committed to the provision of creative and diverse programs, lush and functional open spaces and sports facilities, as well as being a valued partner and providing exceptional customer service to all who cross our paths.

Jamie Beechey

Jamie Beechey, Director
BY THE NUMBERS

2022

3,620 Participation in Programs

1,076 Boat Ramp Permits Issued

304,440 Pounds of Trash Removed

600 Cubic Yards of Mulch Spread

$1 = $5.57

In 2022, for every $1 of local taxes invested, CCRP leveraged $5.85 in state and federal funds for Caroline County programs and parks projects.

$6.4 Million Capital Grants
$484,162 Program Grants

83,842 Social Media Engagements

12,762 CCRP & Summerfest Followers

1,562 Acres Mowed Annually

10 Full Time Staff (18,720 hours)

24,985 Part Time Staff Hours

243 Unique Part Time Positions

153 Total Part Time Staff

27 Years Longest Part Time Staff Tenure

3.5 Years Average number of Part Time Years Employed by CCRP

18 First Time Jobs

52 Program Scholarships Provided

6,189 Customer Engagements by Phone

3,706 Field & Facility Rentals
The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team. —Phil Jackson

Administration
Jamie Beechey, In-Coming Director
Heidi Potter, Office Manager
Linda Rees, Administrative Assistant II
Sue C. Simmons, Out-Going Director

Program Services
Danny Mitchell, Program Services Manager
Debra Scott, Program Services Administrator
Lynn Davis, Program Specialist II
Katie Beebe-Cunningham, Program Specialist, Afterschool

Parks & Capital Projects
Mark Lasocha, Parks and Capital Projects Manager
Philip Blunt, Parks Maintenance Worker
Ben Somers, Parks Maintenance Worker
In 2022, CCRP full-time and part-time staff dedicated 32,000+ hours to creating high quality recreational opportunities for Caroline County residents and visitors. Approximately 85% of these hours were committed to programs that provided school-age children with access to out of school opportunities in Summer Camp, afterschool programs, youth sports and family events.

Maintaining parks and facilities is primarily handled by the three full-time Parks Division staff. They are supported by several dedicated part-time staff who care for the 4-H Park, the Fretterd Center, Choptank Marina and South County Regional Park as well as oversee independent contractors.

SUMMER CAMP OFFERS FIRSTS EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE FOR CAROLINE RESIDENTS

Over the years CCRP has provided Caroline residents with their first work experience, from the interview process and on-boarding and training to their first paycheck and performance evaluation. In 2022, 18 youth gained their first work experience by joining the CCRP program services team. Many of the youth who joined the staff were camp participants as children.

Staff Spotlight

"Summer Camp was my first job. I have worked for two summers, and I am looking forward to returning this summer. I really enjoy working with the staff and the children and building meaningful relationships with them. I have learned a lot about leadership and how to relate with different kinds of kids."

— Katelynn Thompson, Junior Program Leader
Caroline County is a special place because of the organizations and people who are committed to making it a great place to live and work. Caroline County Recreation & Parks depends on the strong relationships it has with other County departments, agencies and community based organizations. In 2022, CCRP worked with the following agencies and organizations:

**PROGRAM SERVICES PARTNERS**
Aaron’s Place  
Caroline County Board of Education  
Caroline County Council Arts  
Caroline County Health Department  
Caroline County Public Library  
Caroline Helping Hands  
Caroline Human Services Council, Inc.  
Caroline County Youth Soccer Association  
Channel Markers, Inc.  
Choptank Community Health Systems, Inc.  
Chesapeake College  
Chesapeake Culinary Center  
Maryland Business Roundtable  
Maryland State Department of Education  
Maryland Department of Community & Housing Development  
Maryland Rural Development Corporation  
University of Maryland Extension

---

**ADMINISTRATION – BY THE NUMBERS IN 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boat Ramp Permits Issued</th>
<th>1,076</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Media Engagements</td>
<td>83,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCRP &amp; Summerfest Followers</td>
<td>12,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Engagements by Phone</td>
<td>6,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field &amp; Facility Rentals</td>
<td>3,706</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REC & PARKS IN DOLLARS & CENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County General Fund</td>
<td>$1,244,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Grants</td>
<td>$6,795,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Grants</td>
<td>$484,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise Programs</td>
<td>$313,157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BEHIND THE SCENES**
The Administrative team at CCRP is vital to providing recreational opportunities for County residents. Whether taking program registrations and facility rentals or managing grant reporting, the three full-time office staff keep the Department operating at top capacity.

---

**Choptank Community Health Systems School Based Health**

“The collaboration we have with CCRP is essential to our mission for all Caroline students to thrive in the classroom and in life. By providing opportunities to meet student health needs outside of the typical school day, our partnership integrates physical and emotional health with recreation, nutrition and fun!”

— Chrissy Bartz PAC, MMS, Director of Community Based Programs, Choptank Community Health Systems
Like all service providers, CCRP was forced to change the way it provided programming during 2020 and 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. After pivoting to virtual platforms and new ways to provide activities, 2022 offered the CCRP team the opportunity to re-engage with program participants in person. And, the numbers show that Caroline County residents were ready to get back to their trusted CCRP programs. All across afterschool and summer programming, indoor soccer and other youth sports, and at long-time favorite community events including Summerfest and Turkey Trot, participation is returning to, and in some cases exceeding, pre-COVID registrations.

CCRP staff have also worked hard to research recreation trends across the country and to explore new programming opportunities.

“I attended the Winter Wine Bottle Etching at CCRP as part of a work team building outing. To say it was a BLAST would be an understatement. We had the best time. The ladies instructing the class were fantastic and made sure to explain every step of the process to us. Can’t wait for the next one!” — Kristin A. Dietz
RENEWING, REHABILITATING, RECLAIMING

The Caroline County Parks System maintains 483 acres of multi purpose fields, ball diamonds, natural resource lands and water access points throughout the County. In 2022, through capital funding from Maryland Program Open Space, Community Parks and Playgrounds and Waterway Improvement and matching County funds, CCRP invested over $2.2 million in construction and $420,000 in pre-construction engineering for future projects in development of new features at several parks.

North County Regional Park restoration effort

Harmony Community Park Pavilion

Marydel Park Sod
I like to take walks in the park by myself, where no one can bother me and I can think. — Magic Johnson

REGIONAL PARKS
South County Regional Park
Added two 30’ x 50’ pavilions to provide shade for park users.

North County Regional Park
Restoration of 2,300 linear feet of headwater streams and 2.25 acres of Delmarva Bay wetlands, as well as tree and meadow plantings designed to reduce stormwater flooding, address significant erosion, decrease nutrients and sediments entering the Choptank, and restore wildlife habitat.

COMMUNITY PARKS
Marydel Community Park
Phase II completed, including addition of sod multipurpose field with irrigation, extended walking path and new maintenance shed.

Templeville Community Park
Installed a fountain with decorative lighting in small pond, mitigating algae growth and enhancing the health of the water quality and fish environment.

Harmony Community Park
Added a 20’ x 36’ shade pavilion for park users and erected a memorial to the late Sarah Harding Mueller for her devotion to Caroline County children.

Fretterd Community Center
Replaced roof on the facility, originally the National Guard Armory, rehabilitated and reopened as the Community Center in 2008.

Ober Park
Replacement of tennis and basketball courts. The new courts include pickleball and will open for play in Spring 2023. This project is in partnership with the Town of Greensboro.

PARKS & FACILITIES – BY THE NUMBERS IN 2022

- 1,076 Boat Ramp Permits Issued
- 3,706 Field & Facility Rentals
- 600 Cubic Yards of Playground Mulch Replaced
- 304,440 lbs of Trash Removed = 6,765 Bags
- 1,562 Acres Mowed Annually

PARKS & CAPITAL PLANNING PARTNERS
Army Corps of Engineers
Maryland Department of Forestry
Maryland Department of Resources
Shore Rivers
Smithsonian Institute
Maryland Fisheries
Maryland State Parks
NOAA
University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension
PLANNING & PRE-CONSTRUCTION
The completed parks development projects were matched by the pre-development engineering on projects cued up to begin in the next 12-24 months. This pre-construction work completed during 2022 will direct major capital projects over the next several years.

Much of this work is guided by the 2022 Caroline County Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan adopted by the Commissioners in 2022. This Plan is completed every five years as a part of the process for the County to be eligible to receive Maryland Program Open Space funding and is developed with participation from community members and stakeholders.

CAPITAL GRANTS ADMINISTRATION
In total, CCRP leverages more than $5 of state and federal funding for each local tax dollar invested in Parks in Caroline County. These funds are specifically earmarked at either the State or Federal level to be invested in parks and environmental land preservation. Currently CCRP has secured and is managing nearly $7 million in capital grants.

PARKS CAPITAL PROJECT ALLOCATIONS 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Way Improvement (WWI)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choptank Marina Engineering</td>
<td>55,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aux Parking</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dredging</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Parking Lot</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel Tank Install</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Open Space</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henderson Park Improvements</td>
<td>202,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonestown Park Improvements</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marydel Park Irrigation</td>
<td>86,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marydel Park Phase III Dev</td>
<td>16,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North County Regional Phase I Development</td>
<td>232,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South County Regional Phase IIA Development</td>
<td>5,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choptank Nature Park Trail &amp; Amenities</td>
<td>9,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmony Park Ballfield</td>
<td>57,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ober Park Court Paint &amp; Parking</td>
<td>33,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countywide Planning (LPPRP)</td>
<td>78,171</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parks Playground &amp; Infrastructure (PPI)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North County Regional Phase I Development</td>
<td>350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North County Regional Phase I Development</td>
<td>750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marydel Park Basketball Court</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henderson Park Basketball Court</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonestown Park Basketball Court</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Parks &amp; Playgrounds (CPP)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marydel Park Phase II Development</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ober Park Tennis Basketball Courts</td>
<td>270,125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marydel Park Env. Stabilization</td>
<td>280,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North County Regional Pending-Phase I Dev</td>
<td>997,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coastal Bays</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North County Regional Stream Restoration</td>
<td>1,095,976</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>319 Grant*</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North County Regional Stream Restoration</td>
<td>350,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** $6,445,287

* CCRP and Caroline County Planning and Codes are jointly responsible for this project.
PROGRAM SERVICES
Caroline residents can anticipate new opportunities to get involved in Recreation & Parks programs in 2023. Responding to resident requests and regional and national trends, CCRP will be expanding adult and teen programming and exploring where, when and how often to offer programs to best meet the needs of residents. Look for pop-up activities and short program sessions held throughout the County to increase accessibility. CCRP will also be reviewing its scholarship policies and procedures to ensure that all residents who wish to participate in programs are able to do so.

PARKS & FACILITIES
Working with users, CCRP will implement a process for completing routine sports field assessments to determine current field conditions and plan for short, mid-range and long-term improvements. With the Department of Public Works, CCRP will be using a new software platform to manage project planning and work orders. The software will increase the Parks’ Division’s productivity and responsiveness. With the County IT Department, CCRP will be installing Wi-Fi and security cameras at parks locations throughout the county.

2023 PARKS CAPITAL PROJECTS INCLUDE:
• Cultural resource survey and site preparation for multipurpose fields at North County Regional Park
• Construction of playground, basketball court and walking trail extension at Jonestown Community Park
• Construction of playground and basketball court at Henderson Community Park
• Dredging of the Marina Basin at Choptank Marina, beginning with clearing of the dredge disposal site at Choptank Nature Park
• Installation of fuel pumps at Choptank Marina

LOOKING AHEAD
Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much. → Helen Keller
If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.
—Booker T. Washington