

Advocacy Agenda March 2022 Update

For the Chronic Disease Action Team

Of the Healthy St. Mary's Partnership

Changes to previous Advocacy Agenda Timeline: Candidate Filing Deadline is now April 15, Primary Election Day is now July 18. The Action Team needs to vote on any additional advocacy agenda items at our April meeting for review at the May HSMP Steering Committee meeting.

The St. Mary's County Commissioners submitted their recommended FY2023 Capital Budget and FY24 to FY28 Capital Improvement Plan to the Planning Commission, and the Planning Commission approved the CIP Budget and Plan on March 14, 2022. It is on the road to formal adoption this spring.

A key Commissioner decision was to approve and proceed with the YMCA of the Chesapeake public-private partnership for a YMCA facility on county-owned land on Great Mills Road. The County will provide \$581,000 for design and engineering in FY23 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) and \$15,800,000 more in FY 25 (July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025) to build. YMCA of the Chesapeake will perform fundraising to secure additional funds for the facility and for operations, and the facility itself will likely end up costing over \$20 million.

Also in the FY23 Capital Budget for the year starting July 1, 2022 are these key park and recreational facility items:

- Central County Park: \$350,000 for design and engineering of a park near the intersection of St. Andrews Church & Indian Bridge Roads, to include fields and tennis courts (this is a site to be considered for potential public-private partnerships for enhanced facilities)
- Snow Hill Park: \$1,500,000
- Shannon Farm Property: \$4,243,000
- Elms Beach Park Improvements; \$1,156,275
- Park Land and Facility Acquisition: \$930,000
- Existing Park Improvements: \$1,650,000.

The SMC Sports Complex, proposed on St. Andrews Church Rd and to include 9 large outdoor fields, will receive about \$202,000 in planning funds primarily from State of Maryland grant sources. The estimated \$7,240,000 to build the outdoor portion of the Sports Complex is not currently funded in the CIP for the FY24 to FY 28 period.

Our Advocacy Agenda for public-private partnerships to develop more recreational facilities (promoting enhanced physical activity facilities and programs) will encourage continued work on the YMCA Great Mills project, Central County Park plans and advocacy for funding to build it, SMC Sports Complex plan and advocacy for funding to build it, and other facilities.

The Town of Leonardtown is also considering plans for the Leonardtown Wharf waterfront and other property the Town already owns from the old Tudor Hall Farm. We aim to encourage a new park and new recreational facilities, including those enhanced with public-private partnerships.

