

COMMUNITY HEALTH

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC RECREATION

R&P IQ

Public Parks

Parks Acreage

Swim Lesson Participants

Dog Parks

Rounds of Golf

Athletic Field Use Hours

Participants

St. Mary’s County By the Numbers

Recreation, Parks, Museums & Golf Course

St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks

R&P IQ

23
Public Parks

2,763
Parks Acreage

3,291
Swim Lesson Participants

4
Dog Parks

33,362
Rounds of Golf

41,411
Athletic Field Use Hours

56,257
Participants

St. Mary’s County By the Numbers

Recreation, Parks, Museums & Golf Course

ST. MARY'S COUNTY
RECREATION & PARKS



MISSION

To provide an enriched quality of life for the community through the preservation of natural, cultural and historical resources, enhancement of parks and outdoor spaces, and promotion of a variety of leisure experiences.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS

Setting the **PACE** in public recreation in so many areas of park and leisure programming and services.

PROFESSIONALISM

ACCOUNTABILITY

CUSTOMER SERVICE

EXCELLENCE

COMMISSION FOR ACCREDITATION OF PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES
CAPRA ACCREDITED



FRAMEWORK

PILLARS OF SUCCESS



CUSTOMER

Service



FISCAL

Stewardship



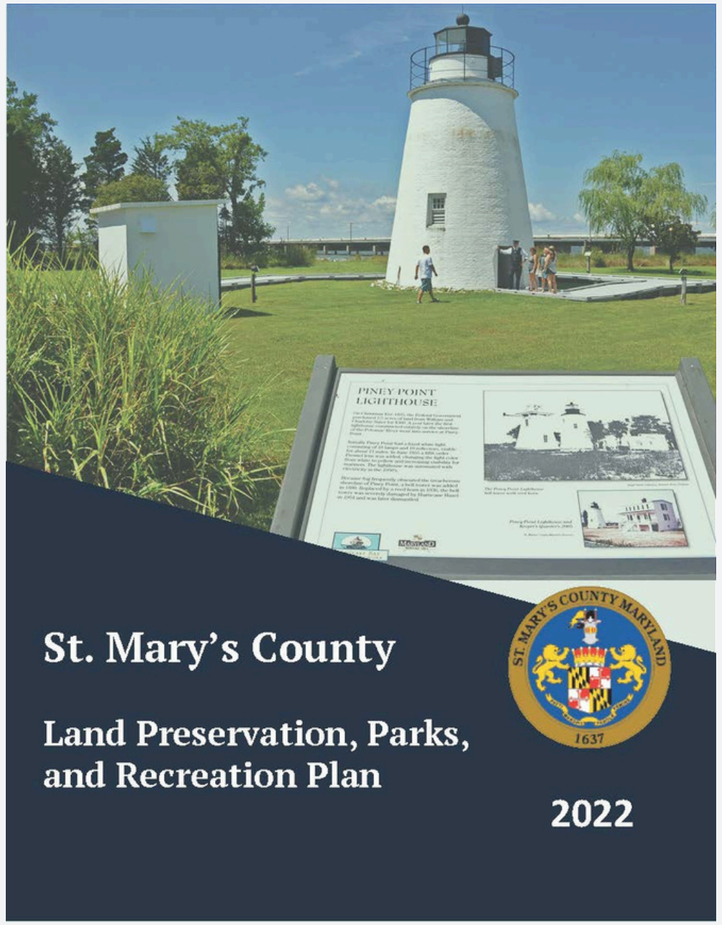
INNOVATION

Organization



HUMAN CAPITAL

Sustainability



GOALS

① Continue to improve and enhance **existing county facilities and amenities**

② Continue to improve **program and service delivery**

③ Continue to look for opportunities to **develop new facilities and amenities**

④ Continue to improve **organizational efficiencies**

THE POWER OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

Comprehensive Plan Elements & Impact

Participation

Identify the rates of public participation in specific types of recreation and availability of facilities.

Proximity

Park facilities proximity to where people live especially underserved communities.

Inventory

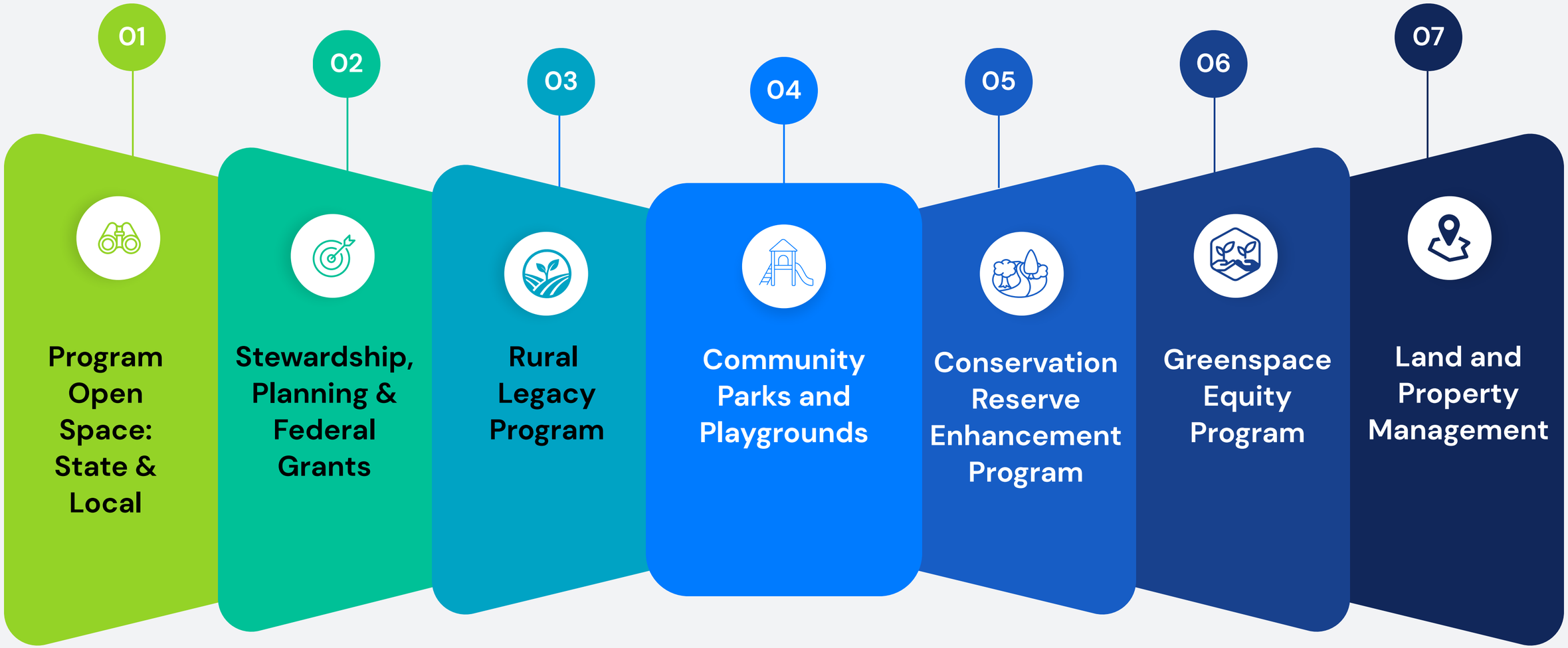
Natural resource conservation land and agricultural preservation land identified and tracked.

Funding

Prerequisite for participation in Program Open Space via approval of Dept. Natural Resources and Planning.

Dept. of Natural Resources: Land Acquisition & Planning

Grant Projects



Parks & Recreation System

General Demographics

Collection of maps and identified locations

GIS Data Maps

Local data included in state analysis to identify future needs of county protected lands and other county municipal preserved spaces

Systems

1. Properties
2. Measure User Demand
3. Level of Service Analysis
4. Goals of Recreation & Parks
5. Program Implementation
6. Capital Improvement Plan

National Resources & Land Conservation

Acreage mapping totals of Protected Natural Resources Land

Agricultural Land Preservation

Essential data and information on local goals for preservation and identify efforts to achieve goals

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT







- Hosted 5 community **engagement sessions** June 4-6, 2026
- Met with 30 different community **stakeholder organizations**
- Direct outreach First Friday, Farmer's Market & Waterfront Parks
- Collected input **comment cards** at various R&P facilities
- Offered online **social website** with several feedback tools
- Randomly selected **mailed-out survey** to residents - at least 400



WIN A COOLER

the Future of Play
Design Tomorrow TODAY!

ST. MARY'S COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS

Scan the QR code and tell us your ideas!

*Contact information is only used to notify the winner.

How important to you and your household is the availability of local parks, recreation and trails in St. Mary's County?

☐ Not at all important ☐ Somewhat important ☐ Very important

Are there barriers that keep you or members of your family from participating in recreational activities (select all that apply)?

☐ Accessibility
☐ Proximity
☐ Affordability
☐ Lack of time
☐ Lack of Information and Awareness
☐ Lack of Options
☐ Transportation
☐ Cultural
☐ Other (please specify) _____

Please rank the following potential parks and recreation initiatives:

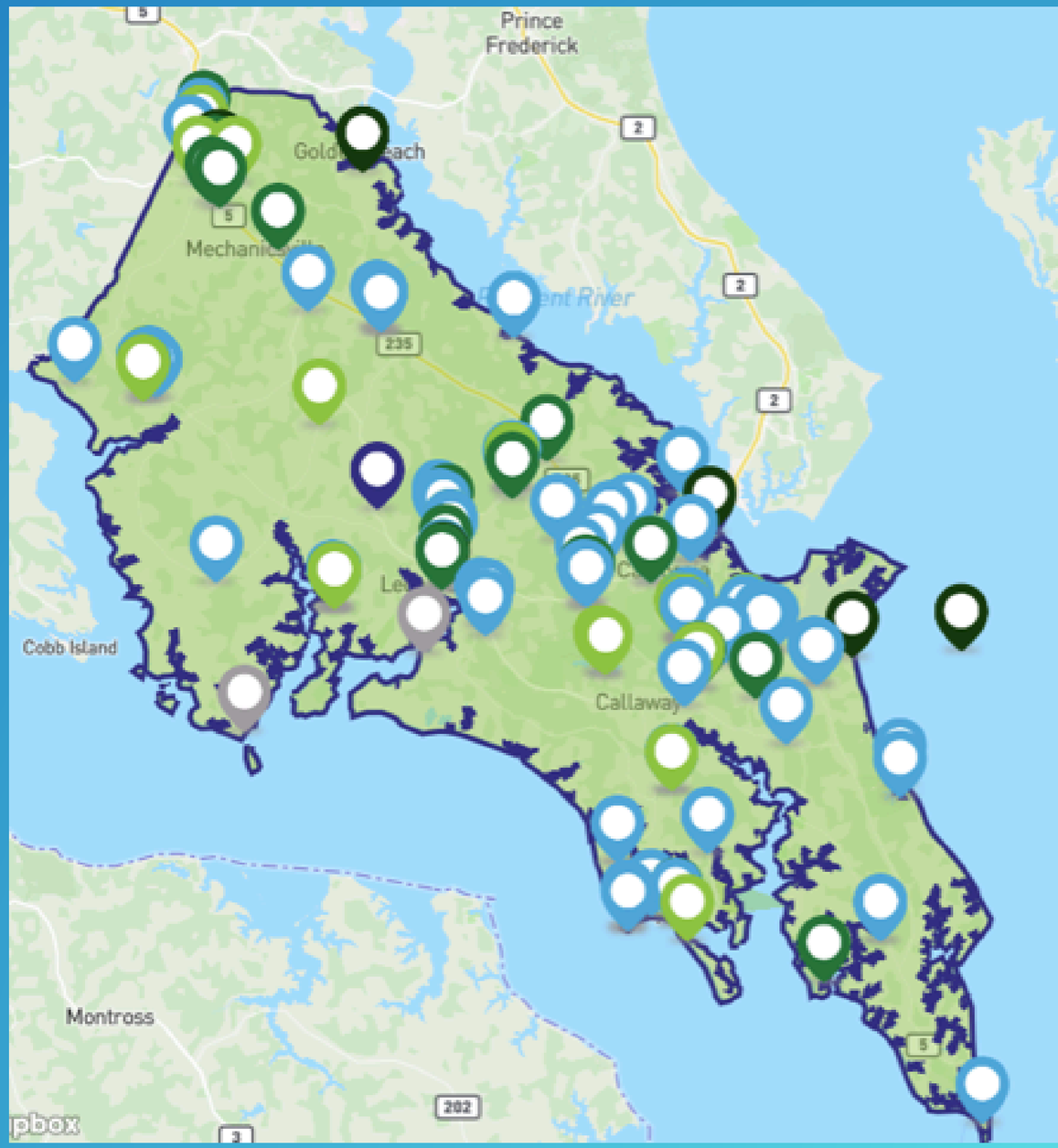
__ Increase passive recreation opportunities (e.g., walking paths, wildlife viewing, picnic areas)
__ Increase competitive sports and athletic opportunities
__ Increase water access (fishing, boating)
__ Expand recreational programming and activities
__ Increase technology/connectivity in parks
__ Increase nature and sustainability projects in parks (tree plantings, pollinator gardens)

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

SOCIAL POINT

LAUNCHED	April 27, 2026
ENGAGEMENT	3,524 unique views
INTERACTIVE MAP	135
IDEAS WALL	128
BUDGET TOOL	143
ONLINE SURVEY	165 responses



Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

Development and Approval Timeline



Discovery

Project kickoff, data collection, and initial system review by consultant

March-April 2026

01

Engagement

Community outreach, survey, and public input to identify priorities and gather feedback

April-July 2026

02

Analysis

Assessment of parks, facilities, programs, and access to identify gaps and opportunities

May-Sept. 2026

03

Visioning

Development of key findings, community vision, and draft recommendations

Sept-Dec. 2026

04

Finalization

Draft plan review, community feedback, and final plan development and adoption

Thru July 2027

05

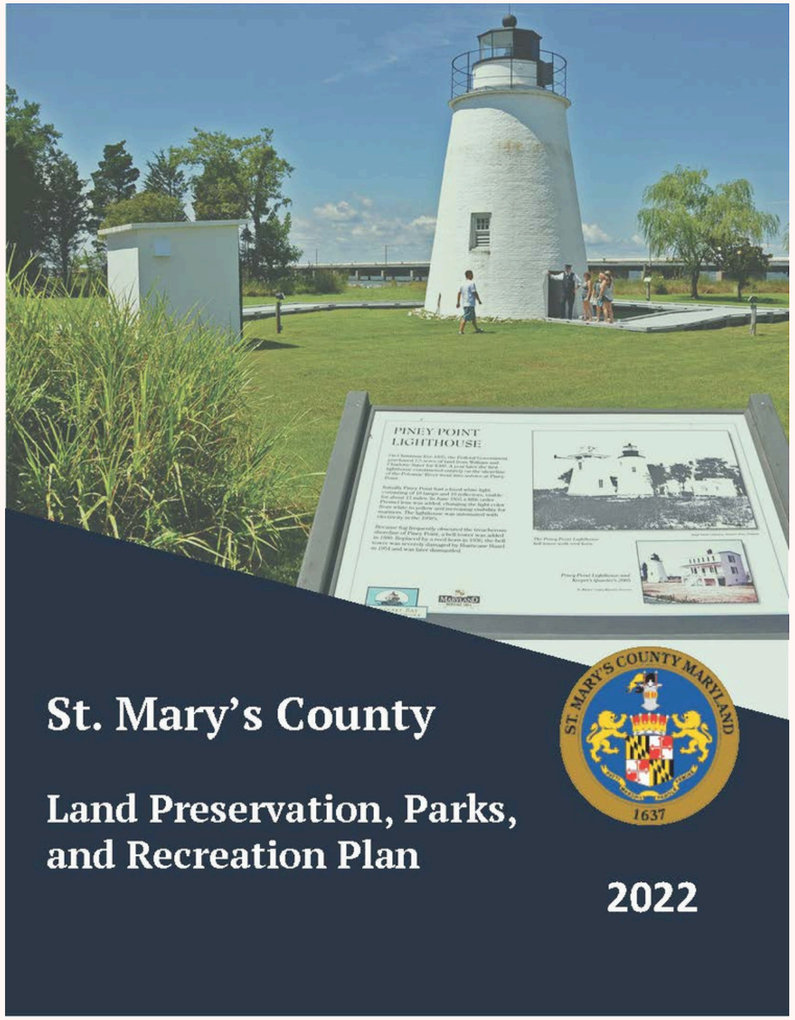
Draft Review

August 28
to Department

October 2
R&P Board Review

October 26
Planning Commission

November 17
Commissioners of St. Mary's County







Planning & Reporting Resources











Provide opportunities for individuals that aid in improving their overall health and well-being while ensuring access to a variety of spaces and places.



Create space for everyone while working with community partners to deliver an improved quality of life.















QUESTIONS?

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St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks