

Chapter 4 Community Services and Facilities



Vision

Talbot County provides services that effectively meet the County's changing needs and are consistent with planned land use patterns.

Through thoughtful planning and the integration of programs valuable community services and facilities enhance the quality of life in Talbot County.

The County in cooperation with incorporated towns and nonprofit organizations, provide affordable housing opportunities to meet local needs. Successful plans and an emphasis on strategic growth contribute to keeping housing costs affordable. The County has programs in place requiring that adequate facilities and services are maintained and are not overwhelmed by new development.

All County residents find ample opportunities for recreation and relaxation in our park system. The Department of Parks and Recreation is attentive to the needs of County residents and offers a wide variety of programs and well-maintained facilities .

Population centers have conveniently located neighborhood parks with amenities for family-oriented activities. Larger community parks are connected by a greenway network including walking and biking trails. Waterfront parks and many public landings provide access to our many miles of Bay and river shoreline.

Goals

To provide an equitable system of public facilities and services including emergency services, police protection, educational, healthcare and social services, housing, libraries and other services, that effectively meet community needs and are consistent with land use plans.

To develop policies, initiate and support programs and acquire funding to help alleviate substandard housing conditions and provide opportunities to accommodate a variety of housing densities, types, sizes and costs to meet existing and future needs.

To provide an improved system of parks and recreation facilities based on residents needs.

Introduction

The availability, affordability and quality of community services are important indicators of the County's overall quality of life.

Planning for community facilities and services should take into account current community needs, as well as projected changes in both the

needs of the community and anticipated growth. Community services and facilities are provided to Talbot County residents by local and state government, public/private ventures, and the private sector.

The demographic trend has been increasing population of older and retired citizens, especially in the more distant and rural areas of the county, though the towns of Easton and Trappe are expected to be the County's major growth areas in the coming years.

Demands for community services are changing along with demographic shifts. The demand for schools and outdoor recreation may decrease, while the need for easily accessible services such as libraries, health care and emergency services are likely to increase.

County owned facilities are funded mainly through the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). Public schools are funded from local, state, federal and private revenue sources.

The community services and facilities

discussed in this Plan element include: government offices, public safety, education, libraries, health care, solid waste management, and Parks and Recreation. Public utilities and facilities are discussed separately in the Natural Resource Conservation chapter.

Government Facilities

The Town of Easton is Talbot County seat and most County offices are located in Easton, as well as State agency offices serving the County.

As operations grew over the past few decades, services and facilities spread to locations throughout the town. Residents with business to conduct were forced to visit several locations to get things done. separation of facilities also

hindered coordination between agencies and departments.

To provide better integrated service, the County purchased and renovated the building at 215 Bay Street, in close proximity to the Courthouse and other agency offices. This facility is currently home to the Planning and Permits Department, the Department of Public Works and the Office of Environmental Health.

Pending further renovations, the County Managers Office and Administrative Services remain in the Courthouse. The long-term plan is for the Courthouse to be dedicated entirely to matters of the courts.

From the 2005 Plan:

The County should seek regional solutions to providing community services or facilities when demonstrated to be cost effective.

Public facilities and services which are intended to meet countywide needs should be centrally located. Likewise, facilities and services intended to serve local communities should be located within and scaled to the needs of the areas they serve.

Public facility and service improvements should be efficiently coordinated with other County plans in the capital improvements program.

Public Safety

Responsibility for law enforcement in the County is shared by the Talbot County Sheriff's Department, Easton Police Department, St. Michaels Police Department, Oxford Police Department and the Maryland State Police.

The County constructed a Detention Center in 1992 with a maximum capacity of 132 inmates, designed to meet the needs of the County through the year 2018.

The Talbot County Community Service Program (TCCSP) was established in 1993 to offer sanctions other than incarceration, allowing participants to maintain family, job and community ties. Options for participants include performing community service, referral to addiction or substance abuse programs, GED programs, and counseling services.



and a fully staffed operations center to effectively deliver emergency services.

Fire, rescue, ambulance and emergency medical services are provided by the seven volunteer fire companies within the County. Volunteer fire companies are located in Queen Anne, Cordova, Easton, Oxford, Trappe, St. Michaels and Tilghman. volunteer companies receive funding support from the

State, County and towns, in addition to private donations and fund raising activities.

Advanced Life Support (ALS) services have been established to provide 24 hour emergency response by trained paramedics and cardiac rescue

technicians. ALS services are provided by volunteer and paid staff.

Fire companies are challenged to raise funds to update and improve the equipment needed to respond to an ever growing number of calls. Many companies also have difficulty recruiting and retaining volunteers, though the need for fire, rescue, ambulance and emergency medical services has steadily increased.

Hazard Mitigation

Hazard mitigation planning is the foundation for a long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. As an incentive for State and local governments to develop plans, the Federal government requires mitigation planning as a

Emergency Services

The Department of Emergency Services has three divisions: 911, responsible for processing and dispatching emergency calls; Emergency Medical Services, providing emergency care and medical transportation; and Emergency Management, implementing and coordinating responses to natural and man-made disasters.

Talbot County has a comprehensive road naming and property numbering program, a Geographic Information System (GIS) for dispatch and tracking emergency response,

condition of eligibility for hazard mitigation project funding.

The Talbot County Council and the governments of the incorporated towns have adopted the *2011 Hazard Mitigation Plan* for the County. The purpose of the plan is to review, assess and update area vulnerabilities to natural hazards and prepare a long-term strategy to address them.

The Plan is Talbot County’s road map to evaluating hazards, identifying resources and capabilities, selecting appropriate actions and developing and implementing mitigation measures to eliminate or reduce future damage from those hazards, in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents in the community.

The Implementation Plan features a list of mitigation projects and contains information on responsible organizations, estimated costs, possible funding sources, and timeline for implementation. It also outlines the steps necessary to implement the mitigation strategies.

The highest hazard risks identified in the study were from winter storms, mass power outages, flash floods, tropical storms, shore erosion, extreme heat and wildfires. Other hazards ranging from extreme cold to drought were identified as having a high impact but were considered to occur less frequently. The plan details and prioritizes projects that could be undertaken to mitigate for all of the hazards identified.

Education

Primary

The Talbot County Public School System is operated by the Talbot County Board of Education. System facilities consist of five elementary schools, one middle school, one combined middle/high school and one high school, located in nine buildings.

Priorities for implementation identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- Establishing the Talbot County Community Center as a State Mass Care Shelter for approximately 3,000 residents/evacuees, or to shelter evacuees transiting through the County if evacuation routes were closed.
- An enhanced flood warning system to include the use of GIS and loss estimation software in the development of flood stage forecast maps, flood depth maps and images of vulnerable structures, linked to parcels and flood stage maps.
- Identifying areas of concern throughout the County that experience repetitive flooding and/or flood related issues.
- A Community Rating System (CRS) application to reduce flood insurance costs in Talbot County.
- A system for recording and storing elevation certificates and first-floor elevation data using County GIS and database technology.
- Specifications for backup generators and fuel tanks to provide the municipalities and County with a continuous source of electrical power.
- Resolving flooding issues on Route 33 that have caused parts St. Michaels and Tilghman Island, to be cut off.
- Detailed structural assessment for buildings in the floodplain in St. Michaels to determine appropriate mitigation measures to reduce low level repetitive flooding.
- Oxford WWTP upgrades to the facility and pre-draining to help mitigate flooding issues.
- Replacement of three existing culverts with bottomless culverts in the Dutchman’s Lane area.
- Restoring barrier islands for wave action protection to County coastlines.

Coastal and Climate Hazards - Projections and Strategies

Weather events and coastal hazards have not been discussed in detail in previous comprehensive plans and until recently discussion of hazard mitigation in County planning had been limited.

Though the Delmarva Peninsula -and Talbot County in particular - has a historic reputation for a mild climate, favorable growing seasons, calm waters and abundant natural resources, much evidence has already been gathered, that in many ways, the near future may not resemble the recent the past.

A rise in Maryland's average temperature over the last century has been documented from published records. Sea level rise of one foot in the past 100 years has been recorded in Baltimore Harbor (see charts at the end of this chapter). These changes have and will continue to impact on human health, the built environment, agriculture and natural resources and water resources in the County.

For planning purposes we can consider two categories of change, regional and localized. For example, excessive heat, rain or snow can effect the entire region. Storm surges and sea level rise, on the other hand, will have more isolated impacts. The strategies to respond to these changes can also be arrayed from evacuation and refuge at one end and construction and engineering at the other.

Hazard mitigation planning can address some events that are likely to occur, have a limited duration and a variable intensity, and can be life threatening events. Emergency cooling or warming centers, proactive communications and warnings, establishing evacuation routes and shelters to help residents cope with these events are all planned.

Mitigation can also help to reduce property damage and break a cycle of repeated losses and reconstruction. Drinking water supplies as well as buildings may be threatened by even short term inundation from a single weather event. Enhancement of wetlands and riparian buffers, infrastructure improvements, and improving the resilience of utilities and services can anticipate these occurrences, arrest loss cycles and protect against additional losses. Identifying trouble spots is the first step to mitigating damage.

The knowledge that areas of MD 33 from Sherwood through Royal Oak could eventually be inundated by sea level rise between 2 and 5 feet, or that the risk to Oxford, St Michaels, Tilghman and many small communities from Category 1 storm surges will increase, requires planning for events that history indicates are likely to happen.

Other existing, regional plans may help address impacts to the larger region and environment. Critical Area regulations, Bay TMDL strategies, habitat restoration plans, agricultural best management practices, etc. can play a part in impeding a documented rise in water temperature and PH, the migration of invasive species and plant diseases from more tropical regions and the loss of some migratory species. Though these conditions are not hazards, the character of Talbot County would be diminished if trends continue unabated.

Detailed analysis of trends and prediction of future conditions for the County and State can be found at Climatechange.Maryland.gov, including an interactive map of climate change impact areas.

In recent years more than 50% of the County budget has been devoted to public education, and represented 69% of the Public School's 2012 budget. The system reports it receives the lowest per pupil revenues in the State.

Current projections indicate a relatively steady school population. In 2003, there were 4,310 school age children in Talbot County. As reported in the Board of Education's 2012 Annual Report, the number of students held somewhat steady at 4,542. Projections for 2019 estimate a student population of 4,601.

The Talbot County public school system has adequate existing capacity on a County-wide basis to accommodate projected enrollment for the next ten years. However, facility utilization has been shifted to relieve conditions at Easton elementary schools, which along with St. Michaels Elementary are at over 90% of capacity. Presently Easton High School is reported to be at 86% of capacity, while St Michaels combined middle and high schools are at 61% following major renovations.

Talbot also has several private schools enrolling students from within and outside the County:

- The Country School accommodates grades kindergarten through eight.
- St. Peter and Paul's School facilities accommodate grades kindergarten through twelve.
- The Chesapeake Christian School accommodates grades kindergarten through



twelve.

In 2009, total private school enrollment was 1,048 students, or 24.5% of public school enrollment. Home instruction in 2012 declined to 2.6% of public school enrollment, down from a reported 3.4% in 2004.

Secondary

Chesapeake College is a two-year community college located in Wye Mills and supported in part by the five Midshore counties. It offers 17 transfer and 20 career Associate

Degree programs, including science and technology, liberal arts, education and various specialties of allied health.

The college had a fall 2013 full time enrollment of 2,572. Twenty four percent of enrollees were from Talbot County. There have also been over 17,000 registrations in non-credit continuing education courses, many related to aspects of the manufacturing and hospitality industries.

Salisbury University and Washington College are each located within an hour of the County:

- Salisbury is part of the University System of Maryland and offers 43 undergraduate and 14 graduate degree programs.
- Washington College is a private institution offering 40 majors and academic programs.

Library Services

The Talbot County Free Library provides comprehensive library services to the public from its main library in Easton and branches

in St. Michaels and Tilghman. The library is funded 75% by Talbot County and 18% by the State of Maryland. Public funds are used primarily for staff salaries, acquisitions, supplies and routine maintenance.

The main library building has recently been renovated and expanded to a 28,000 square foot, energy-efficient structure, featuring two meeting rooms, an expanded audio-visual collection an increased number of public computers. There is also a separate children's wing and an improved Maryland Room dedicated to historical, genealogical and archival materials.

The Library developed a strategic plan through 2014, including goals for various age groups, services provided and access to resources.

Health Care and Social Services

Hospital

Memorial Hospital at Easton has been the primary medical and health care provider in Talbot County and the Mid-Shore region for over 100 years. Memorial Hospital, the primary facility in the Town of Easton, offers a full range of inpatient and outpatient care. It has 140 licensed beds and an Emergency Department designed to accommodate 60,000 visits a year. Additional outpatient centers for primary care, diagnostics, treatment, education, and rehabilitation are located throughout the Mid-Shore.

Shore Health System was formed in 1996 through the affiliation of two community hospitals; The Memorial Hospital at Easton and Dorchester General Hospital, located in

the city of Cambridge. In 2006, Shore Health System merged with the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) to enhance clinical programs and facilities, and to facilitate physician recruitment.

Subsequently, Shore Health Systems began to seek a site for a new regional medical facility. With the encouragement and assistance of Talbot County and the Town of Easton, Shore Health Systems selected a site north of Easton and adjacent to the County Community Center. Over 225 acres were annexed into the Town in order to provide

public utilities for a complete medical campus. Construction of the hospital is anticipated to begin in late 2015, and will take two years to build.

Shore Health currently employs over 1,900 people, including a medical staff of over 200 attending, consulting and associate staff members, and a corps of over 500 volunteers.

From the 2005 Plan:

The County should encourage the State, as well as private, non-profit corporations and for-profit companies to expand mental health care services and facilities within the County commensurate with the needs of County residents and examine feasibility of an emergency shelter for the homeless.

Community Health and Assistance

The County Health Department is a local agency of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The department provides all County residents a wide array of family health programs and services. Program areas include adult health and family services, clinical services, developmental disabilities and veterans services. Areas of concern include communicable disease control services including immunizations, monitoring the spread of diseases, and testing and treatment for tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS.

Environmental Health

The Office of Environmental Health is responsible for the enforcement of State regulations as delegated by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Services include septic system and well site inspections, licensure and inspection of restaurants, seafood operations and other food processing facilities, outdoor air quality monitoring and rabies surveillance and control.

The Office works in cooperation with County Planning and permits on approval and inspection of septic systems and of housing conditions in trailer parks, foster homes, labor camps and day care facilities.

Special Needs Populations

Special populations include low income residents, the elderly, disabled residents and the homeless.

Social Services

The Department of Social Services is an agency of the State of Maryland. It provides a wide variety services adult protective services and social services, child and family support services, medical and in-home assistance and the SNAP (food stamp) program, from offices at 301 Bay Street, Easton.

In the last reporting year (2009) the agency dispersed over \$2.7 million in SNAP assistance and more than \$2 million in foster care payments.

Senior Services

Upper Shore Aging, Inc. operates the Talbot County Senior Center in Easton, providing a range of onsite and home-based services.

The facility houses rooms for exercise and fitness, wellness, education, crafts, games and has a media room and dining room. The

Senior Information and Assistance service provides information about services, Medicare and Medicaid application assistance and referrals to other agencies.

The Senior Center also manages a Meals on Wheels program that delivered 17,126 meals to Talbot County residents in fiscal 2013, and projected the number would top 19,000 in 2014. Over the same period, the Center served residents 3,940 congregate meals in its dining room and anticipated an increase of 1,000 meals in the upcoming year.

Hambleton Village in St Michaels, is a 24 unit development owned and operated by the Upper Shore Aging Housing Corporation, serving low-income elderly residents.

Homeless Services

The Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) was established in 2009, to provide safe, temporary shelter to those who lack adequate housing and to raise awareness for the issues of homelessness. Since then TIS has provided shelter to a modest number of persons through the winter season, in one of a consortium of area religious facilities.

More recently, TIS has worked to better address the their client's needs. The organization has developed a strategic plan to provide a range of integrated services in a permanent location. To that end they have hired part-time staff and developed partnerships with other community organizations. The ultimate goal is for TIS to provide year-round services in the county.

Housing

Providing affordable housing opportunities for middle and low-income families is important to the long term economic and social vitality of Talbot County. Families who pay more than 30 percent of their household income for housing are considered

cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.

The location of housing – its proximity to jobs, childcare, stores and services and whether or not these are accessible by car, transit, or walking – also have a significant impact on the cost of living and therefore affordability.

Some County residents, including the fully employed, have difficulty obtaining housing to meet their needs due to a lack of safe, affordably priced rental or for-purchase housing.

In 1987 and 2002, the County initiated studies of substandard housing. The 1987 study focused on housing problems of the elderly and handicapped. The 2002 study found that between 1987 and 2002, Talbot County had significantly reduced its stock of substandard housing in the unincorporated areas of the County. As of 2002, only 148 housing units were considered to be substandard and of those just 24 were occupied. In 1989 the County adopted a Minimum Livability Code to enhance enforcement of housing code violations.

Comprehensive Plan policies favor new development to the areas within the incorporated towns, where the availability of public services enables homes to be built at a lower cost and on smaller parcels. The towns of Easton and Trappe have adopted policies permitting a mix of housing types and price ranges to meet the needs of families with below median incomes.

Affordable and Assisted Housing

Habitat for Humanity Choptank, headquartered in the Town of Trappe, is the local affiliate of the global organization. Habitat Choptank provides home ownership opportunities for lower income residents with construction, financing and educational

Housing Recommendations from the 2005 Plan:

Talbot County Should...

- Develop a wide range of tools and methods to insure an adequate supply of affordable housing in new developments.
- Seek means to provide affordable housing for low and middle income families, including consideration of a County Housing Authority. Study of the feasibility of establishing a Housing Trust Fund.
- Provide assistance through State and Federal programs for rehabilitation or, where no alternative exists, replacement of substandard housing in unincorporated areas of the County.
- Apply for Community Development Block Grants to rehabilitate substandard housing in targeted areas and continue to support grant applications by the Towns for State and Federal Housing Subsidies.
- Encourage the establishment of a joint commission of the County, towns and unincorporated villages to initiate and implement a coordinated affordable housing program.
- Coordinate with the towns, local business and civic groups, the banking community, non-profit organizations and government partners to promote the development of affordable housing.
- Continue to support the office of Housing Coordinator to oversee community development programs, focus on obtaining Federal and State financing and give attention to housing problems in the unincorporated areas of the County.

assistance. Since 1992, the organization has given 55 low-income families in Easton, St. Michaels and Cordova the opportunity to purchase a home with an affordable mortgage.

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) serves the housing needs of people with limited incomes, the elderly and the handicapped in Talbot County and all state jurisdictions. The

agency provides mortgage financing for single and multi-family housing, finances home and energy conservation improvements to existing homes and administers Federal rent subsidies.

The DHCD Special Loan Program provides low or no interest loans to moderate and low income landowners and landlords for home rehabilitation and lead paint risk reduction activity. Talbot County's Planning and Permits Department is available to assist DHCD and applicants with applications.

The USDA Office of Rural Development provides funding for low and moderate-income housing to families and the elderly, as well as loans and/or grants for repairs.

There are currently seven USDA Rural Development Multi-Family Housing properties serving low to moderate income tenants in county. Six developments offer 178 subsidized units in Easton; Jowite Apartments, Mulberry Hill Apartments, Parkway Apartments, Quail Meadows I and II, and St. Marks Village. Also St. Michaels



Apartments offers 19 subsidized units in the Town.

There are 140 public housing units in Talbot County – 65 are in the Town of Easton and 75 in the Town of St. Michaels. These units are

operated by The Housing Commission of Talbot County, which merged with the St Michaels Housing Authority 2011. There is an extensive waiting list for low-income families wishing to move into these units.

Solid Waste Management

Talbot Caroline, Kent, and Queen Anne's counties, currently utilize the Midshore II regional landfill in Caroline County. The previous site was located outside Easton and is now used as a transfer station, recycling center and homeowner drop-off facility.

Municipal waste collection is a public utility in the town of Easton. All other communities, rural residential areas and non-residential users contract for private services.

The Maryland Recycling Act of 1988 requires that each County recycle at least 15 percent of its solid waste. The Talbot County meets that target through voluntary programs.

Recyclable materials are delivered to collection sites throughout the county.

Parks and Recreation

The Talbot County Department of Parks and Recreation provides its residents with a variety of recreational opportunities, from

public landings for boating and fishing to ball fields and a Community Center offering ice skating and providing space for public and community events.

The Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible not only for recreational facilities and activities at County facilities, it also works to coordinate activities between the County and Towns. The Department also oversees the State funded School Community Centers program.

The Department is assisted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, which is appointed by the County Council and includes representatives from both the County and the incorporated towns. The Board provides plans and policy recommendations to the County Council and the Parks Department on land acquisition, administration, planning and policy direction for the Community Center, annual reports and budget requests.

Directions for Parks and Recreation are outlined in the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), which is required by the State of Maryland as a basis for Program Open Space funding. The LPPRP includes detailed assessment of Talbot county recreational facilities and programs and an accounting of publicly available recreation and open space. The LPPRP is regularly updated and contains comprehensive

From the 2005 Plan: 2005 Waterfront Park Recommendations

In cooperation with the Claiborne community and the U.S. Government, the County should initiate discussions to re-activate planning for the planning and development of the Claiborne Jetty Waterfront Park, as proposed in the 1997 Comprehensive Plan.

In cooperation with the Town of Easton, Easton Point should be redeveloped as a revitalized “working waterfront” area, including a waterfront park.

recommendations for maintaining and improving the County’s recreational facilities.

Parks and Recreation is committed to developing facilities and programs to accommodate the needs of a growing population. Over the years, increased leisure time, a rise in the standard of living and a growing senior population have driven the demand for a changing mix of recreational sites and activities.

Park Facilities

There are several classes of recreation within Talbot County; State parks to County parks, community parks and neighborhood

recreation areas, plus special parks and private recreational facilities.

County Parks

The largest improved public recreation facilities serving County residents are Hog Neck Golf Course and the Talbot County Community Center. The 27-hole public Golf Course includes a driving range, clubhouse, and picnic area. Community Center provides indoor facilities for ice skating and ice hockey and several rentable meeting rooms. The Community Center also features

lighted outdoor baseball, lacrosse and soccer fields.

The County also supports 18 community parks, that primarily serve residents within a five mile radius. These parks are often located adjacent to or





near school facilities. Many community parks are under 25 acres and support field games, court games, and playground apparatus.

There are also 16 neighborhood parks ranging in size from one to five acres, designed to serve residents within a one or two mile radius. Neighborhood parks support active recreational activities with features such as playgrounds, playing fields and organized games, as well as passive recreation

In recent years, the County has acquired two larger properties dedicated to passive recreation and open space protection; Lewistown Park, outside Queen Anne and Boone Creek, outside Oxford. Passive recreation plus habitat and conservation improvements and amenities are planned for these former farmland sites.

Water-oriented facilities

The County operates twenty seven public landings featuring boat ramps, mooring facilities, fishing and crabbing piers, picnic areas and parking facilities. Most facilities occupy small land areas with limited parking capacity. The Department has an ongoing targeted improvement program that has upgraded several access facilities in the past few years. Landing locations are identified the Map at the end of this chapter.

Public/Private Parks

Other recreational opportunities in the County include natural areas, quasi-public facilities and

historic and cultural areas owned and managed by nonprofit organizations, which are an important part of Talbot’s spectrum of recreational opportunities.

Major quasi-public facilities include Pickering Creek Audubon Center, the the Easton Club and Martingham Golf Courses, and conservation lands of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Izaak Walton League, Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, Nature Conservancy and Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

The public and quasi-public parks of Talbot County are supplemented by 1,264 acres of private parks and recreation areas. private parks contain a full range of passive and active recreational facilities and range in size from small community clubs to large country clubs and golf courses.

Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

Talbot County’s 2013 LPPRP is consistent with the overall vision and goals of the County Comprehensive Plan. Many of the LPPRP’s goals, policies, and strategies are reflected in the Plan and LPPRP recommendations related to land preservation support the overall goals of this Plan.



Talbot County Public Landings

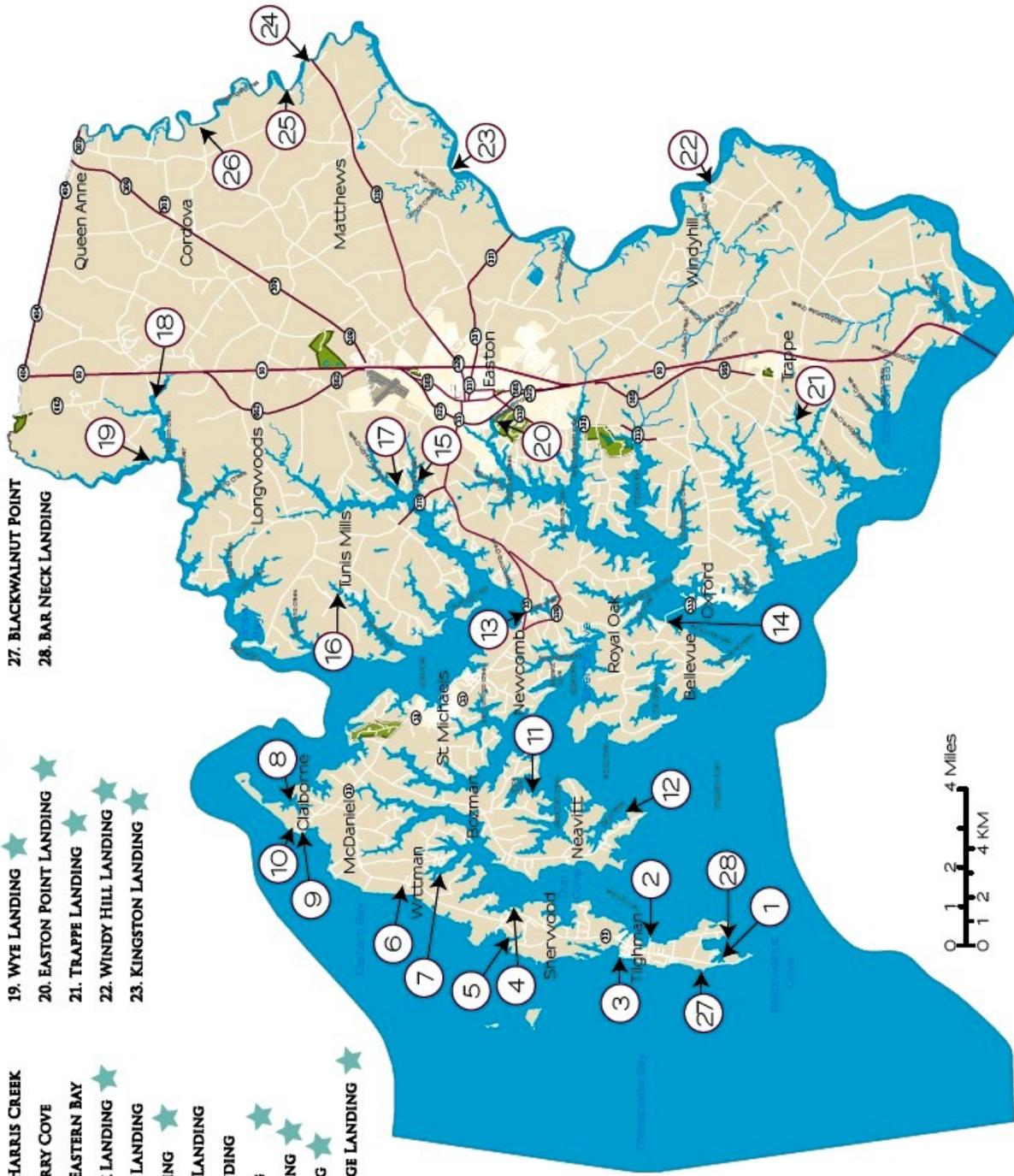
Landings

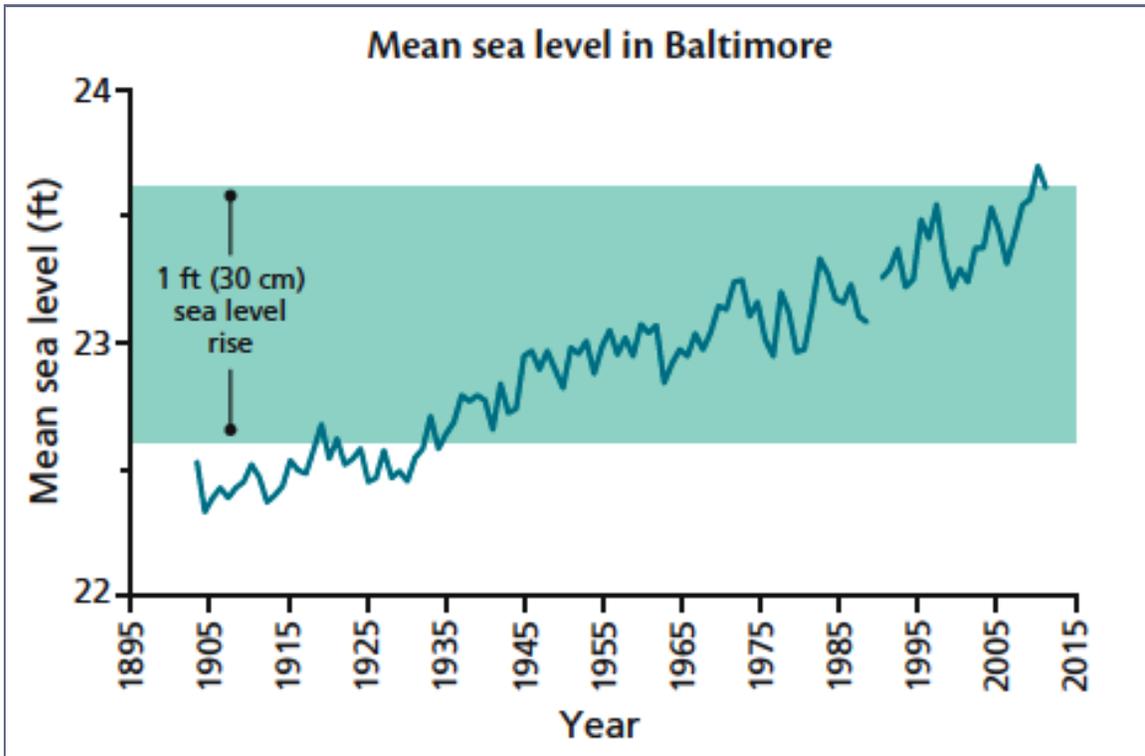
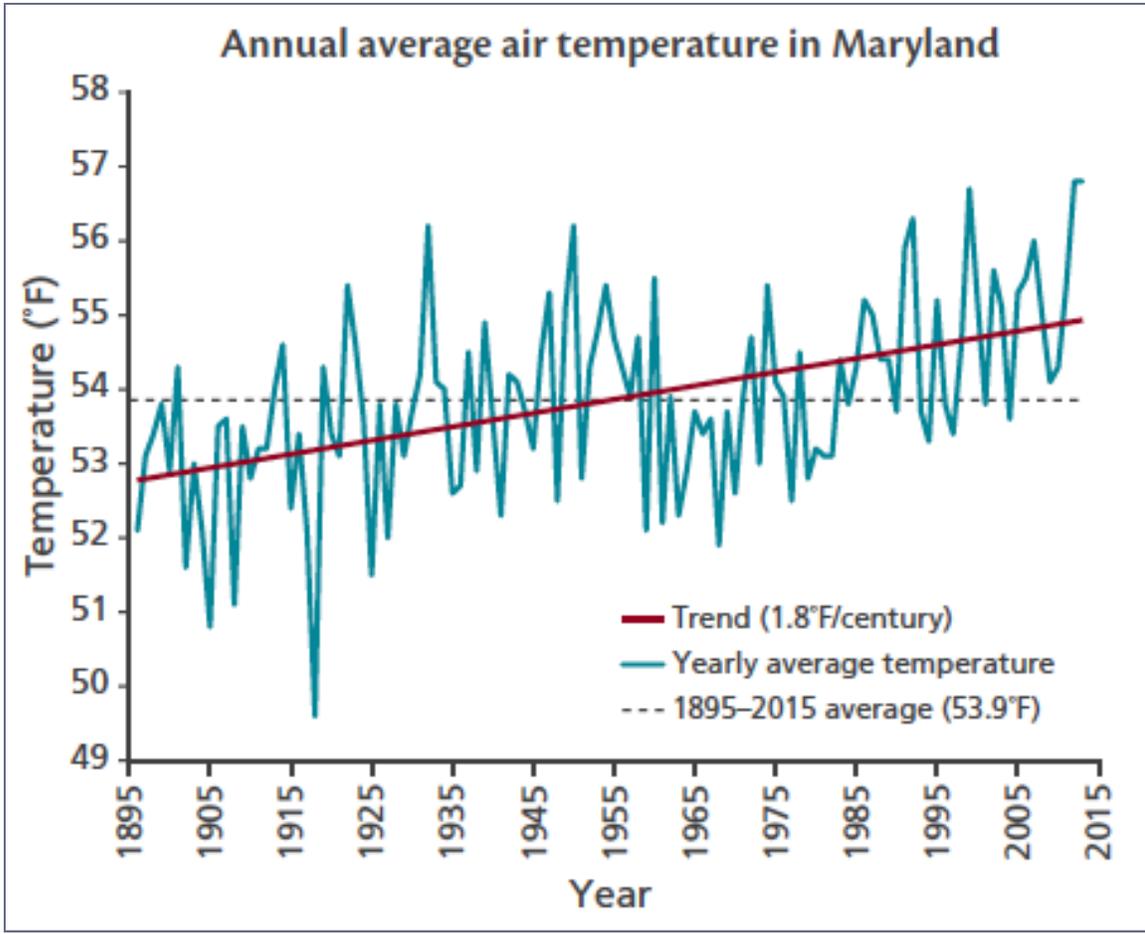
- 1. BLACKWALNUT COVE LANDING ★
- 2. DOGWOOD HARBOR ★
- 3. TONGERS BASIN
- 4. SHERWOOD PIER, HARRIS CREEK
- 5. LOWES WHARF, FERRY COVE
- 6. BAYSHORE ROAD, EASTERN BAY ★
- 7. CUMMINGS CREEK LANDING ★
- 8. TILGHMAN CREEK LANDING ★
- 9. CLAIBORNE LANDING ★
- 10. CLAIBORNE JETTY LANDING
- 11. GRACE CREEK LANDING ★
- 12. NEAVITT LANDING ★
- 13. OAK CREEK LANDING ★
- 14. BELLEVUE LANDING ★
- 15. MILES RIVER BRIDGE LANDING ★

- 16. TUNIS MILLS BRIDGE LANDING ★
- 17. VILLA ROAD LANDING ★
- 18. SKIPTON CREEK LANDING ★
- 19. WYE LANDING ★
- 20. EASTON POINT LANDING ★
- 21. TRAPPE LANDING ★
- 22. WINDY HILL LANDING ★
- 23. KINGSTON LANDING ★

- 24. NEW BRIDGE LANDING ★
- 25. REESES LANDING ★
- 26. COVEYS LANDING ★
- 27. BLACKWALNUT POINT
- 28. BAR NECK LANDING

★ Denotes Boat Ramp





Topic	Citation	Policy	Action
Public Facilities and Services		Public facilities and services, which are intended to meet countywide needs, should be centrally located. Likewise, those facilities and services intended to serve local community needs should be located within the community. Public facilities and services should be scaled to the needs of the area they are designed to serve.	The County should seek regional solutions to providing community services or facilities when demonstrated to be cost effective. Rural areas of the County should be provided facilities and services which match rural needs. Planned growth areas around towns should be provided a level of facilities and services matched to needs that are more intensive.
		Public facility and service improvements should be efficiently coordinated with other County plans related to capital improvements programming.	
		The County will continue to provide effective and efficient emergency services through a unified emergency services system using national and state regulations, standards, and guidelines to evaluate system performance and make system improvements.	
		The County should encourage the State, as well as private, non-profit corporations and for-profit companies to expand mental health care services and facilities within the County commensurate with the needs of County residents.	
		The County should provide adequate space for various County offices and facilities.	Done
Housing		The County should encourage the development of a variety of housing types, styles and designs.	To do: The County should seek means of providing affordable housing for low and middle income families including the potential establishment of a County Housing Authority for the purpose of increasing access to state and federal funding programs.

Topic	Citation	Policy	Action
Housing		The County should provide assistance through available State and Federal programs for rehabilitation or, where no other alternative exists, replacement of substandard housing units in the unincorporated areas of the County.	<p>To do: The County should develop a wide range of tools and methods to insure an adequate supply of affordable housing in new developments. The County should encourage the incorporated Towns to require construction of a minimum percentage of moderately priced housing units in larger developments, rehabilitate existing affordable housing, or investigate other alternative methods for achieving and protecting affordable housing.</p> <p>Apply for Community Development Block Grants to rehabilitate substandard housing conditions in targeted areas.</p>
			<p>To do: The County should examine needs for development of an emergency shelter for the homeless.</p>
	§190-48 §190-107 Code Chapter 91	Manufactured housing parks and subdivisions should continue to be allowed in order to provide affordable housing, in accordance with regulations.	Done
	§190-43	Manufactured homes should remain permitted as an accessory use to agricultural operations.	Done
	§190-45 §190-46	Single accessory apartments or cottages should remain be permitted in agricultural and rural residential districts in the County.	Done
		Update 2002 Housing Study to report on progress addressing substandard housing through 2010.	To do

Topic	Citation	Policy	Action
Housing	Code chapters 58 & 117	Maintain enforcement of the Hazardous Structures Ordinance to insure reduction in the number of unsafe structures.	Done
	Code Chapter 88	Continue enforcement of the Minimum Livability Code.	Consider developing a program for regularly scheduled inspections to insure that all rental housing in the County is adequately maintained and that existing substandard rental housing is rehabilitated.
		Coordinate with the towns, local business and civic groups, the local financial and banking community, non-profit housing organizations, the DHCD and the USDA Office of Rural Development to promote the development of affordable housing in Talbot County.	<p>To do: Research methods of requiring or encouraging affordable housing that best meets the needs of Talbot County citizens. Initiate a study of the feasibility of establishing a “Housing Trust Fund”.</p> <p>Continue to support grant applications by the Towns for State and Federal Housing Subsidies. Encourage the establishment of a joint commission of Talbot County, Talbot’s towns and unincorporated villages to initiate and implement a coordinated affordable housing program.</p>
			<p>To do: The County should continue to support the Housing Office and the Housing Coordinator to oversee housing and community development programs, to focus on obtaining Federal and State financing and to give attention to the housing problems in the unincorporated areas of the County.</p>
Solid Waste Management		The County should explore the feasibility of improving the existing solid waste collection system.	
		The County should continue to encourage and increase the ease of recycling of solid waste resources to prolong landfill life and conserve natural resources.	

Topic	Citation	Policy	Action
Parks and Recreation		The County should actively pursue the goals, objectives and implementation recommendations adopted as part of the Talbot County Land Preservation and Recreation Plan.	Done: 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.
	Code chapter 102	Continue to support the development, operation and funding of indoor and outdoor recreational programs for County residents.	Done
		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.	In Process: In cooperation with the Claiborne community and the U.S. Government, the County should re-activate planning for the development planning for the Claiborne Jetty Park as proposed in the 1997 Comprehensive Plan. To do: Easton Point should be redeveloped as a revitalized “working waterfront” area, including a waterfront park. Acquire a larger waterfront park site that can support a broader range of water-related activities in one location.
		Further develop the existing system of walking and bicycle trails in areas where this activity will not create automobile/bicycle traffic hazards.	See: County bicycle trails map
		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.	To do