

TOWN OF MILLINGTON



Robvanary Park



Water Front Park

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Millington Town Council

Mayor C. J. Morales, Jr.
Council Kevin Hemstock
Council Michelle Holland
Council J Eli Manning
Council Wayne J. Starkey

Millington Planning Commission

Chair Joyce P. Morales
Commissioner Patty Cartagena-Santiago
Commissioner Sam Johnston
Commissioner Moe Morton
Commissioner Lewis Teat

Millington Staff

Administrator E. Jo Manning
Clerk Carolyn Bowers
Maintenance James Baxter
Maintenance Sam Runkle

Consultants

KCI Technologies

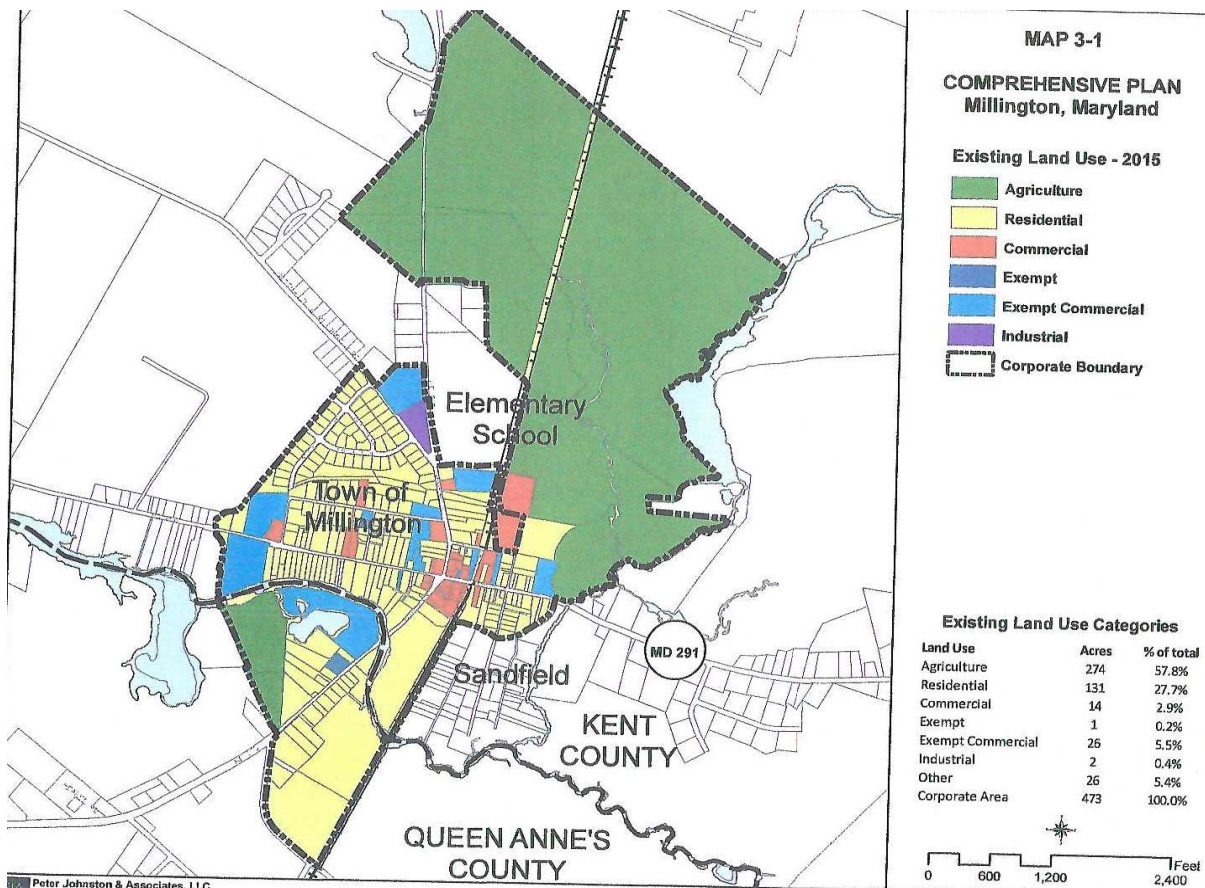
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I. Purpose of this Plan

The Town of Millington's Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended to help meet the needs of current and future residents by positioning Millington to build on the community's unique parks and recreation assets and identify new opportunities. This plan establishes a clear direction to guide Town staff, advisory boards, and elected officials in their efforts to enhance Millington's parks and recreation services and facilities. The Town's goal is to ensure that public lands are used in a manner that best serve the needs of its residents and visitors.

Parks and open space are protected lands. There are approximately 35 acres designated as park land and open space in the Town of Millington. Some of the Town's park facilities have been built or refurbished with POS (Program Open Space) funds. Program Open Space was established under the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in 1969 and is funded by the State's real estate transfer taxes. POS funds are used by counties and municipalities to purchase and/or make improvements to parks and recreation lands.



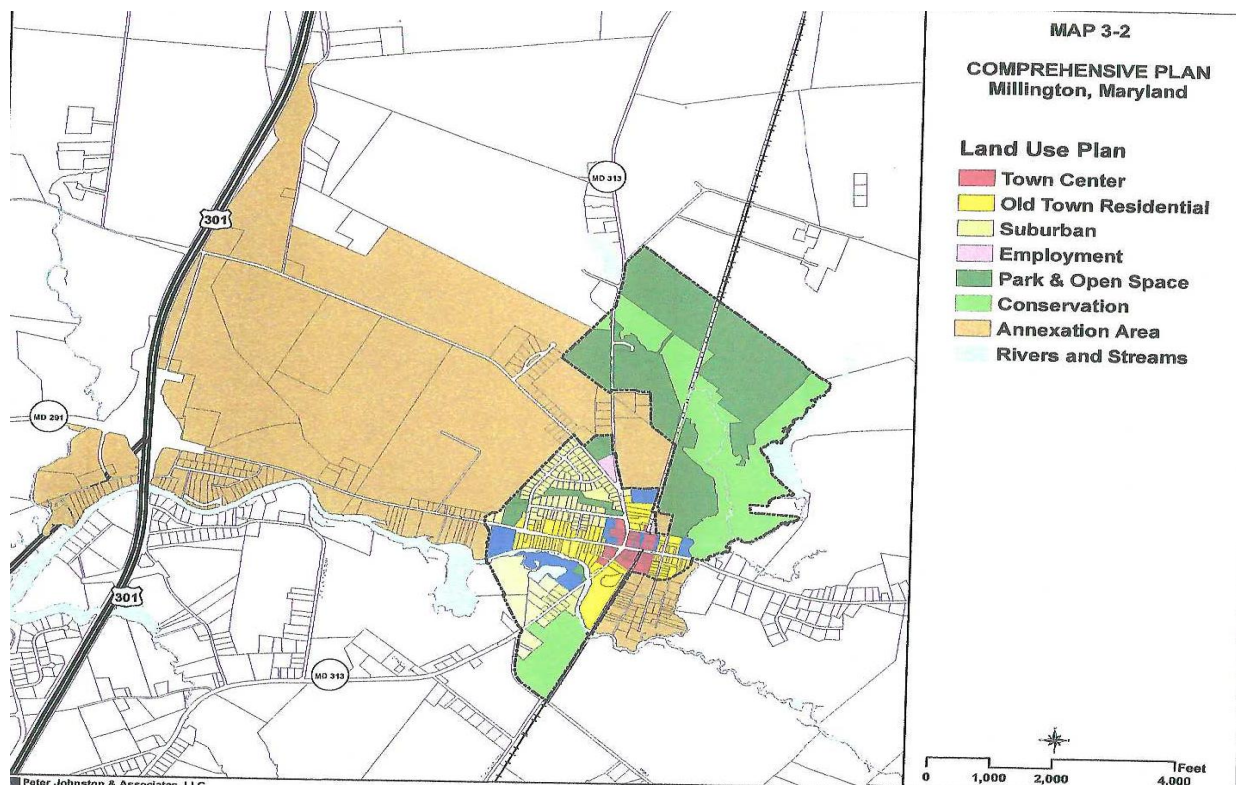
II. Planning Process

This plan has been drafted by a team made up of the Administrator, KCI Technologies, Millington Planning Commission, and Millington Mayor and Council. The Town's objective for these areas is to maintain public park land for the enjoyment of town residents and visitors. The process begins with land being identified either by the Town Council or Planning Commission during site plan development. Once identified, the Town uses various sources to determine the need and how to successfully satisfy that need through the planning and development of a public park or open space area. These sources include but are not limited to:

- Community Engagement through public meetings, Facebook postings, and website postings;
- Review of previous planning efforts, comprehensive plan;
- Review of historical information available; and
- Meetings with Kent and Queen Anne's Counties Planning, Economic Development, Parks and Recreation, and Tourism departments.

The next step in the planning process is to inventory existing parks and facilities using existing mapping and on-site visits to verify amenities and assess the condition of the facilities and surrounding areas. At this time the Town measures the current delivery of service for these facilities and explores finance and funding mechanisms to support development and sustainability within the system. Consideration is made to the community profile and demographics, including growth trends and projections, growth impacts, and conservation of natural resources.

From this information, the Town can identify and categorize recommendations into themes with goals, objectives, and an action plan for implementation. Development of an action plan for improvements include cost, funding source potentials, and timeframe to support the implementation of the plan.



III. Key Issues Identified

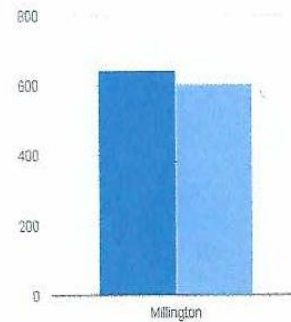
The following key issues have been identified to be considered by the Town Council and the Planning Commission as project development is reviewed.

- Organizational – how to better market and communicate activities and facilities; potential future need to increase staff for operations and maintenance; how to attract tourism and outdoor recreational opportunities.
- Finance – how to increase economic impact and revitalize Town center; utilization of “fee in lieu” monies from development of annexed properties; consider the creation of user fees; and pursue grant opportunities.
- Programs and Service Delivery – determine ways to increase programming for families, seniors, and children; determine ways to increase programs in wellness/fitness, cultural, and special needs; determine ways to increase the number of special events; and determine ways to increase water-related opportunities due to vicinity of Upper Chester River.
- Facilities and Amenities – maintain and improve existing facilities; develop connections with greenways and trails; meet future population demands

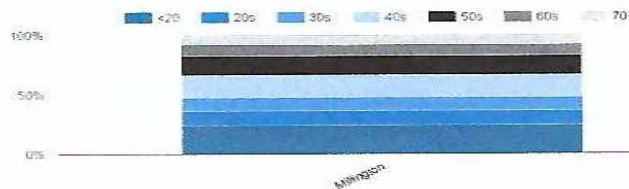
through additional recreational sites; improve water access to river and ponds; explore sports venue for leagues and tournaments; explore outdoor venue for area organizational use; and explore and develop historical sites.



Population of Millington in 2018
*www.towncharts.com



Population comparison between
2010 (dark blue) and 2018 (light blue)
*www.towncharts.com



Population by Generation
*www.towncharts.com

IV. Inventory Assessment Summary

- Existing parks are pleasant and well maintained throughout the Town.
- The parks are used and enjoyed by residents.
- Millington's Lions Club offers an additional park that serves residents of Millington and outlying areas.
- Kent County Parks & Recreation operates and maintain the Millington Swimming Pool enjoyed by residents and visitors from Memorial Day until Labor Day.

- Even though Millington is a walkable Town, there is a need for additional parks to be distributed throughout the Town.

V. History of Millington's Parks

Parks, recreation, historical resources, and cultural resources is defined to include but not limited to playgrounds; sports fields; indoor recreation; museums; civic and cultural centers; historical centers; and other parks and areas owned or controlled by the Town of Millington.

The Town of Millington is located in Kent and Queen Anne's Counties with the Upper Chester River dividing a portion of the Town. The Town's parks are an important factor in the quality of life in the community and a nature enthusiast draw due to the river and wildlife.

Over the years, the Town of Millington has purchased and transformed property into parks. On the west side of Town, at the intersection of Cypress Street and School Street, is located Robvanary Park. This park use to be the Town's baseball/softball field; used for many years for youth and adult leagues as well as for sandlot ball. It now has playground equipment for the Town's youth and a section of exercise equipment and instruction for adults; a skateboard park, and a paved walking trail around the edge of the park for use by our health-conscious residents.

Within the last 10 years, the Town of Millington transformed the river bank on the southern side of the Upper Chester River into a Water Front Park complete with fishing piers, a canoe/kayak launch, and a nature trail west along the river bank. The Upper Chester River is the annual site for spawning perch which draws a crowd of fishermen every spring. With the many streams along the river, this park is also a good place to start a canoe/kayak excursion down the Chester River.

VI. Future of Millington's Parks

The Town of Millington participates in the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program in the event of a declared storm disaster. Through this program, the Town has purchased property on the Queen Anne's County side of the Chester River for

future use as a park as well as return a portion of this land to its natural state. This area is on the east side of Sassafra Street and consists of 25+ acres made up of woodland, marshland, riverbank, and an old sand pit. On this site there is also an existing artesian well the Town would like to incorporate into its future park design. Through the same program, the Town purchased another parcel, approximately .25 acres which has not been earmarked at this time. The Town would like to preserve the waterfront with buffers, plantings, reconstruction of eroded river banks; create a nature walking trail through the property; install fishing piers; install a small playground area; and are researching other recreational ideas for this property.

In 2002, the Town purchased .713 acres through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program. Currently this site is being maintained as Open Space by the Town's maintenance department. Future plans are to convert this area to a Dog Park, allowing residents to exercise and play with their dogs off lease and to help their dogs stay healthy. This type of park will also allow the dogs and their owners to socialize and to form relationships with one another.

In 2016, the Town purchased 418 Cypress Street and demolished an abandoned house. This property is located at the corner of Cypress Street and Crane Street. The Town would like to create a mini playground area for the children that currently live on the east side of Town and in Sandfield, a small development south east of Cypress Street.

In 2019, the Town received through a donation that piece of land that was previously home to the Head-of-Chester Friends Meetinghouse and Quaker Burial Ground, dated 1787 – 1874. This property is a vital piece of Millington's history as it represents the founding of what is known today as the Town of Millington. Prior to donating this property to Millington, the Philadelphia Annual Meeting for the Religious Society of Friends, refurbished an iron fence and remaining tombstones on the site. The Town would like to create a park at this site that honors our past and creation as a Town. The park envisioned is a "serenity park" with a walking path to view the existing historical tombstones, signage depicting the Quaker history in Millington, and sitting areas for reflection or relaxation.

The Town has seen an increase in the interest in soccer, vastly due to the increase in the Latino population. Currently there are no soccer fields within 15 miles of

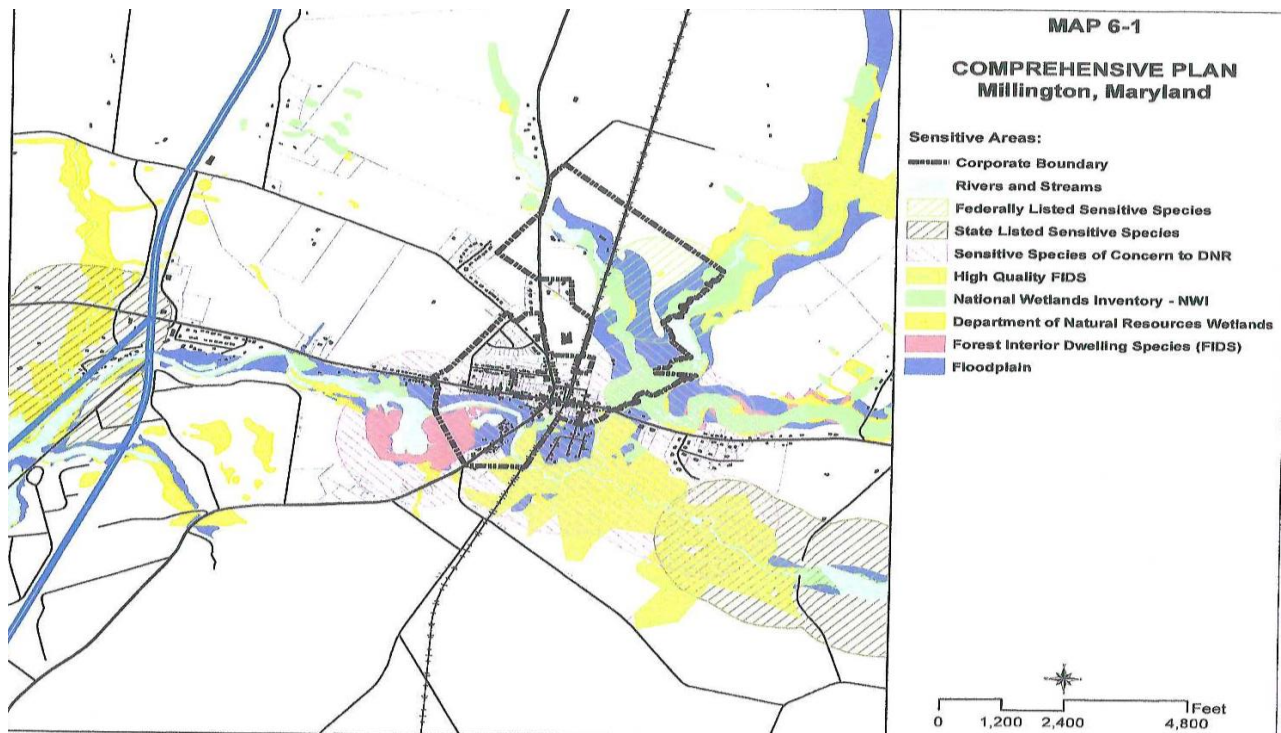
Millington, sending enthusiasts and participants outside of Town to belong to leagues and participate in tournaments. The Town would like to establish regulation soccer fields for use by our residents, their leagues, and future tournaments. The availability of this type of athletic field will increase community pride and economic development in the Town. The Town is researching the possibility of creating soccer fields at the existing Robvanary Park location. In addition, the Town is looking into the installation of additional recreational equipment at this location.

As the Town grows through annexation of lands surrounding the existing Town limits; the Planning Commission will continue to work with developers and property owners to create additional parks and open space areas. There will remain the effort to maintain the walkability of the Town through walking trails, bicycle trails, and connectability of sidewalks and streets.

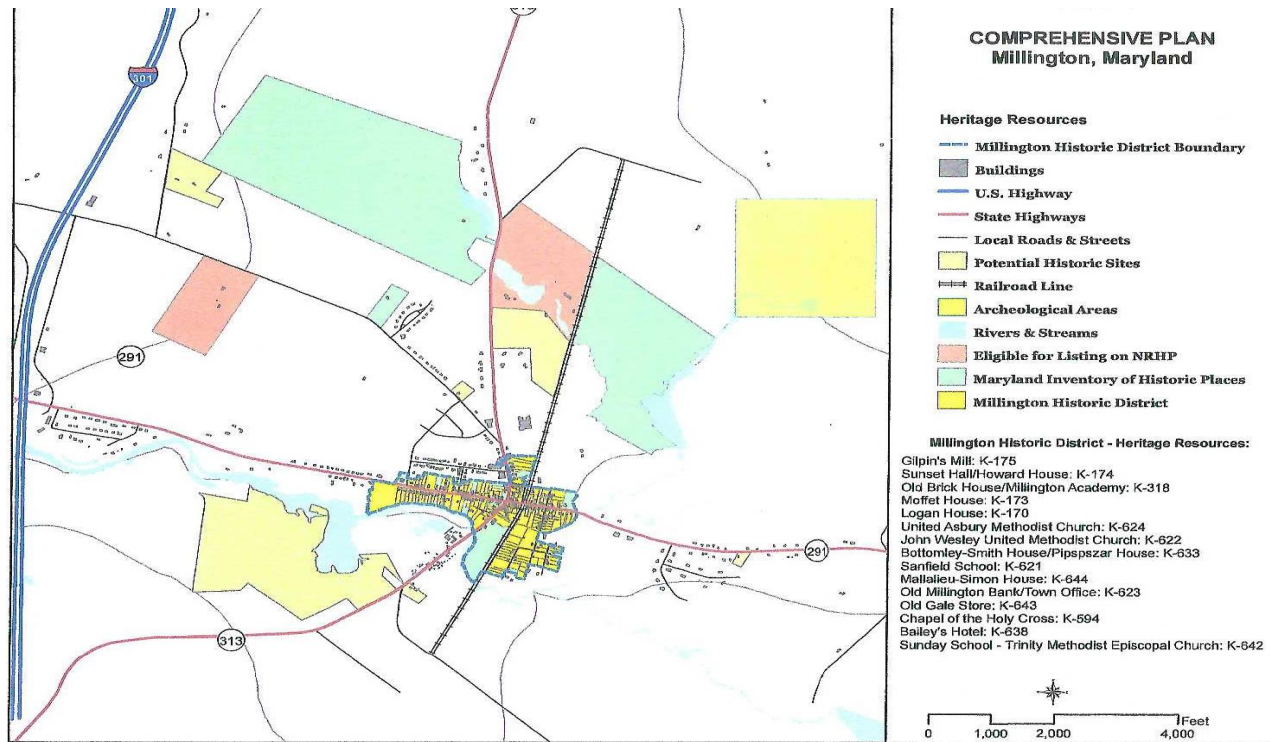
VII. Conservation & Preservation

Managing growth and development in Millington must be balanced with consideration for the natural resources, an essential component of the Town's quality of life. Millington's historic identity and present-day charm are intertwined with its natural setting and its roots as a rural waterfront community.

Conservation and the protection of key natural resources and sensitive areas are crucial to preserving the character of Millington. The development and maintenance of future parks will need to take into consideration these natural resources and sensitive areas; whether creating a park to educate environmental issues or to enjoy the natural resources the Town has to offer. During the planning stages of future parks, the Town must protect its streams and their buffers, the 100-year floodplain area, sensitive species habitats; steep slopes, and other sensitive areas from the adverse impacts of development and human activity.



In addition to natural resources and sensitive areas, the Town must preserve their history to promote tourism and enhance economic benefits. Through the planning process of parks, the Town should inventory and research historical properties in order to protect and preserve these sites. The historic sites and structures, archeological areas, and key scenic, natural, and cultural landscapes define Millington's character. These resources span the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Much of the Town's early historical structures have been lost over the years to fire, demolition, decay, neglect, and new development. Heritage resources that remain are extremely valuable. The preservation of heritage resources is vital, because these sites and structures define a unique character and highlight the Town's cultural roots. Heritage resources are one of Millington's primary attractions, providing significant and tangible value. By protecting and preserving these sites the Town is promoting a sense of community pride among its residents and educating its youth of the history of Millington.



VIII. Conclusion

With the acceptance of this master plan, Millington Council commits to the new vision and guiding principles. The Millington Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies the planning process, key issues, and efforts to maintain Millington's heritage and natural resources while providing open space and recreational areas for its residents and visitors. This master plan will be an integral part of the annual work plan and budget process. With this mater plan as a guide, Millington's Council strategic action planning process includes reviewing the plan annually with an update to be completed every five (5) years. This approach is adopted to ensure that the Millington Park and Recreation Master Plan is a living document that does not sit on a shelf but is used to improve the overall goals of the community well into the future.