



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Robert Moton Center, Room 229 • 300 South Center Street, Westminster, MD 21157
Phone: 410-386-2103 • Email: ccrec@carrollcountymd.gov



@ccrecpark



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DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Bob Hicks,
Director

It is with great pleasure that we present our Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2025 for the Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks. We are committed to fulfilling our mission of connecting people, parks and programs in support of a strong, healthy community and natural environment. We serve our residents with more than 30 developed parks and thousands of acres of open space that are visited by thousands of people annually.

The department values its role in supporting the quality of life that is enjoyed by our residents and attractive to our visitors. We offer a wide variety of activities that provide social, educational, economic and health related benefits. The community's commitment to living an active lifestyle is evident in their support of our programs and parks.

During this past year, the department was very excited to host a ribbon cutting event with the Nathan Chris Baker Foundation and the Vakil Family to complete and open up the challenge playground course at Freedom Park. At Piney Run Park new pickleball courts were completed along with the reconstruction of the boat trailer parking lot, along with resurfacing of the upper parking lot. At Bear Branch Nature Center, a new 40'X40' pavilion was completed in addition to a new butterfly house. Hashawha had two rehabilitation projects finished including adding a concrete floor to the Maintenance Barn and resurfacing of the cafeteria and kitchen floors. The restroom floors at the Sports Complex were resurfaced and the pavilion at Sandymount Park received an exterior renovation.

Our citizens have responded to the challenge of improving and enhancing their community with over 579,000 hours of volunteer service. While we are proud of our department's accomplishments, none would be possible without the ongoing commitment from volunteer recreation councils and supportive business and community partners.

The Department remains committed to offering quality recreation and park opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. As always, we welcome your ideas, thoughts and suggestions to help us serve you better. We are proud to be a part of making Carroll County a great place to live, to work and to play.

Bob Hicks,

Director



CARROLL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Kenneth Kiler,
President



Joseph Vigliotti,
Vice President



Tom Gordon, III



Michael Guerin



Susan W. Krebs

CARROLL COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Kristen E. Darby

Mr. Gary Davis, *Chair*

Mr. Michael Duffy

Mr. David Ferguson

Mr. Donald V. Gerkin, Jr.

Mr. Austin Johnstone, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Lynn Karr-Kratz

Ms. Nadine Rosendale

Mr. Mark Schmidt

Ms. Anita Taylor

Mr. John Woodley

RECREATION & PARKS STAFF

Administration

Bob Hicks, CPRP, *Director*

Brad Rogers, *Division Manager, Parks*

Lisa Carroll, CPRE, *Division Manager, Recreation*

Will Brozy, *Project Manager, Parks*

Ashleigh Smith, *Fiscal Analyst*

Seth Carlson, *Marketing Specialist*

Recreation

Jamie Noel, *Program Coordinator*

Myiah Edwards, *Program Coordinator*

Candy Sample, *Facility Coordinator, Charles Carroll*

Rebecca Eckard, *Recreation Assistant*

Stacey Smith Widener, *Administrative Associate*

Christie Moore, *Adaptive Recreation Specialist*

Piney Run Park & Nature Center

Dylan Collins, *Park Manager*

Ross Mason, *Park Technician*

Wayde Blank, *Park Maintenance Supervisor*

Brian Dayhoff, *Maintenance Technician*

Ant Campanili, *Maintenance Technician*

Basil Levesque, *Park Naturalist*

Mika Lawrence, *Park Ranger*

Trey Douglas, *Park Ranger*

Ivan Purdin, *Park Ranger*

Hashawha & Bear Branch Nature Center

Dawn Harry, *Park Manager*

Jay Weller, *Park Maintenance Supervisor*

W. George Stolkovich, *Park Maintenance Technician*

Holly Zimmerman, *Park Technician*

Analeigh Gardner, *Park Naturalist*

Nikki Wolf, *Food Service Supervisor*

Michelle Duvall, *Cook*

Mora ‘Trey’ Bates, *Cook*

Vacant, *Park Naturalist*

Sports Complex

Rebecca Kishter, CPRP, *Supervisor*

Doug Gregory, *Maintenance Technician*

Hap Baker Firearms Facility

Chuck Hamlet, *Chief Range Safety Officer*

Community Parks

Steve Alberts, *Foreman for Community Parks*

YEAR AT A GLANCE

JULY 2024



July
Parks & Recreation
Month
Proclamation

July
Piney Run Nature
Camps Begin at
Piney Run Park
486 participants



July
National
Recreation
& Park Month
41 participants

AUGUST 2024

August
Walk in the Park
Various locations



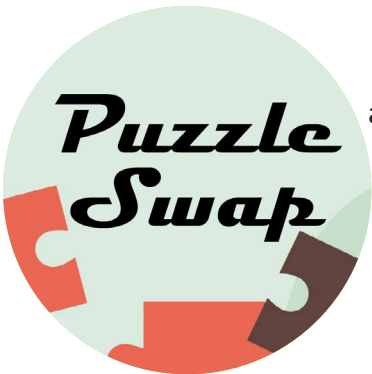
August
Fall Guide Released



September
Monarch
Madness
Festival at the Bear
Branch Nature Center

SEPTEMBER 2024

September
Piney Run Park
Wagon Rides and
Campfires at
Piney Run Park



September
Puzzle Swap
at the Robert Moton
Center



OCTOBER 2024



October
Friends of Krimgold
receive the MRPA
Showcase
Community
Organization Award

October
Westminster
Veterans
Memorial Park
Memorial Garden
receives the MRPA
Showcase
Landscape Site
Award



NOVEMBER 2024



November
Winter Guide
Released

November
3rd Annual
Family Duck Hunt
56 families
participated at
the Bear Branch
Nature Center



DECEMBER 2024



December
Santa Calling
199 participants

December
Santa wagon rides
151 group
participants
at Piney Run
Park



December
Piney Run Park
moves to cashless
payment system



December
Adaptive Recreation
Jingle Bell Hop
at Carroll Springs
School
79+ participants



JANUARY 2025



January
First Day Hike
at Piney Run Park
with The
Partnership for a
Healthier Carroll
County and Walk
Carroll

January
Challenge Course
Completed at
Freedom Park
Ribbon Cutting
Ceremony held



FEBRUARY 2025



February
Spring Program
Guide Released

February
"Best in Snow"
Snowman
Building Contest



MARCH 2025



March
Maple Fest at
Hashawha

March
2025
Philadelphia
Flower Show
Bus Trip
35 participants



March
Panfish Tournament
at Piney Run Park
22 participants



March
Adaptive
Recreation
St. Patrick's Day
Dance at the
Robert Moton
Center
71 Participants



APRIL 2025



April
The Great Egg Drop at the Westminster Veterans Memorial Park
Over 100 participants

April
Henry Lysy Fishing Rodeo at Westminster Community Pond
204 participants



MAY 2025



May
Krimgold Park Fishing Rodeo at Krimgold Park
180 participants

May
Ranger Led Kayak trips at Piney Run Park



JUNE 2025

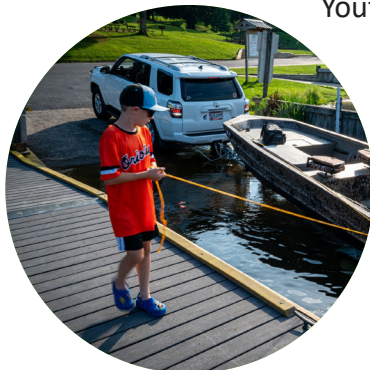


June
Largemouth Bass Fishing Tournament at Piney Run Park
29 participants

June
TR Day at the Farm Museum
349 participants



June
Youth Fishing Derby at Piney Run Park
69 participants



June
Puzzle Swap at the Robert Moton Center



COMPLETED PROJECTS

Bear Branch Nature Center – New Pavilion/Outdoor Classroom³

Hashawha/Bear Branch – Butterfly House⁴

Hashawha/Bear Branch Barn – Concrete Floor

Hashawha Environmental Center – Cafeteria and Kitchen Floor Resurfacing

Freedom Park – Challenge Course Construction and Swing Relocation⁵

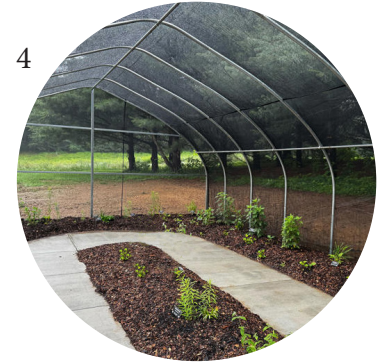
Piney Run Park – Boat Trailer Parking Lot Reconstruction and Upper Parking Lot Resurfacing

Piney Run Park – Pickleball Courts²

Sports Complex – Bathroom Floor Resurfacing

Sandymount Park – Pavilion Restoration¹

5



COMING SOON

Deer Park, Freedom Park, Mayeski Park – LED Field Lighting Conversions

Leister Park – Pickleball Court Construction

Piney Run Park – Bulkhead/Sheet Piling Replacement

Piney Run Park – Park Entrance and Main Road Reconstruction and Upgrades

Piney Run Park – Upper Playground Replacement

Hashawha/Bear Branch – Martin Cabin Repairs⁶

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HELPING HANDS KEEP PARKS GREEN



The Helping Hands campaign is an excellent opportunity for local groups and organizations to help keep their local parks beautiful with organized clean-ups, trash pickups, and trail maintenance. To learn more about Helping Hands, visit ccrecrepark.org.



Cape Horn Park



Westminster Community Pond



Westminster Veterans Memorial Park

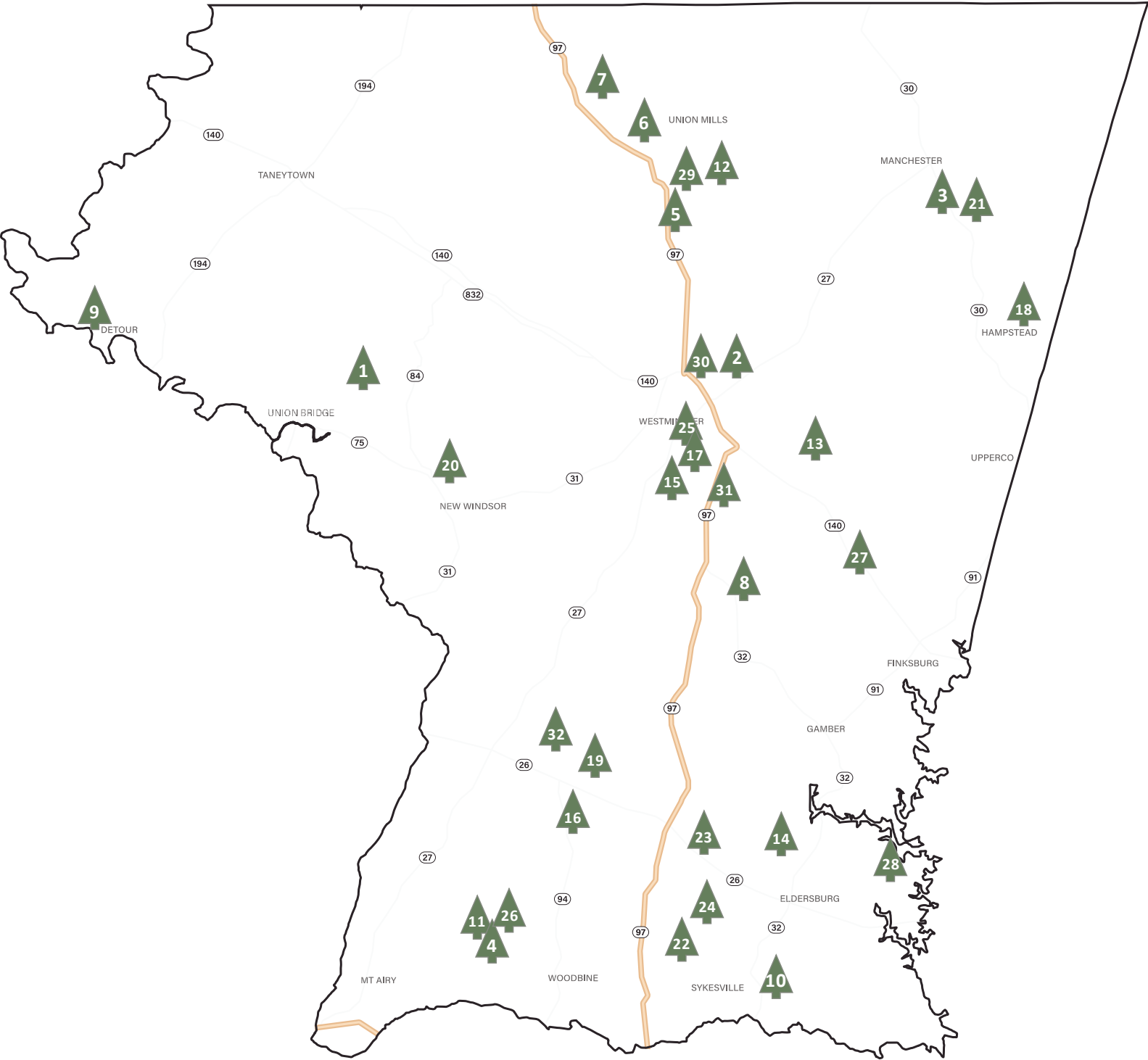


Westminster Veterans Memorial Park

Story Strolls are free family-friendly activities for the whole family to enjoy. Families can bond through literacy while spending time outdoors exploring our community parks. Story Strolls are currently located at Deer Park and Leister Park.



PARKS & FACILITIES



- 1 BARK HILL PARK**
515 Peace N Plenty Drive, Union Bridge, MD 21791
- 2 BENNETT CERF PARK & DOG PARK**
400 Bennett Cerf Dr, Westminster, MD 21158
- 3 CAPE HORN PARK**
2500 Cape Horn Rd, Hampstead, MD 21074
- 4 CARROLL COUNTY EQUESTRIAN CENTER**
2512 Grimville Road, Mount Airy, MD 21771
- 5 CARROLL COUNTY SPORTS COMPLEX**
2225 Littlestown Pike, Westminster, MD 21158 • 410-857-4832
- 6 CHARLES CARROLL PARK & COMMUNITY CENTER**
3719 Littlestown Pike, Westminster, MD 21158
- 7 CHERRYTOWN ROAD PARK**
1260 Cherrytown Rd, Westminster, MD 21158
- 8 DEER PARK**
637 Deer Park Rd, Westminster, MD 21157
- 9 DOUBLE PIPE CREEK PARK**
7577 Middleburg Road, Detour, MD 21157
- 10 FREEDOM PARK**
100 Raincliffe Rd, Sykesville, MD 21784
- 11 GILLIS FALLS RESERVOIR SITE**
2512 Grimville Road, Mount Airy, MD 21771
- 12 HASHAWHA/BEAR BRANCH NATURE CENTER**
300 John Owings Rd, Westminster, MD 21158 • 410-386-3580
- 13 HAP BAKER FIREARMS FACILITY**
1400 Baltimore Blvd, Westminster, MD 21157
- 14 HODGES PARK**
5630 Hodges Rd, Sykesville, MD 21784
- 15 KATE WAGNER FIELDS**
1100 Gist Road, Westminster, MD 21157
- 16 KRIMGOLD PARK**
5355 Woodbine Rd, Woodbine, MD, 21797
- 17 LANDON C. BURNS PARK**
700 Gist Road, Westminster 21157
- 18 LEISTER PARK**
4134 Black Rock Road, Hampstead, MD 21074
- 19 MAYESKI PARK**
1300 W. Old Liberty Road, Sykesville, MD 21784
- 20 NEW WINDSOR COMMUNITY ROOM**
1100 Green Valley Road, New Windsor, MD 21776
- 21 NORTH CARROLL COMMUNITY POND**
2401 Hanover Pike, Hampstead, MD, 21074
- 22 OBRECHT ROAD PARK**
100 E. Obrecht Road, Sykesville, MD 21784
- 23 OLD LIBERTY ROAD**
100 W. Old Liberty Road, Sykesville, MD 21784
- 24 PINEY RUN PARK & NATURE CENTER**
30 Martz Rd, Sykesville, MD 21784 • 410-795-6043
- 25 ROBERT MOTON CENTER**
300 S. Center Street, Westminster, MD 21157 • 410-386-2103
- 26 SALT BOX PARK**
2201 Gillis Falls Rd, Woodbine, MD 21797
- 27 SANDYMOUNT PARK**
2250 Old Westminster Pike, Finksburg, MD 21048
- 28 SOUTH CARROLL DOG PARK**
5928 Mineral Hill Rd, Sykesville, MD 21784
- 29 UNION MILLS RESERVOIR**
220 John Owings Road, Westminster, MD 21158
- 30 WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY POND**
30 College View Boulevard, Westminster, MD 21157
- 31 WESTMINSTER VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK**
355 CREST LN, Westminster, MD 21157
- 32 WINFIELD PARK**
4388 Salem Bottom Rd, Westminster, MD 21157

WE ARE...

32

County Parks
and Facilities

14

Fishing Locations

24

Number of Pavilions

73

Athletic Fields

51

Miles of Trails

24

Playgrounds

14

Tennis Courts

37

Public Schools Used By
Recreation & Parks

2 Nature Centers • 2 Dog Parks • 1 Aero Modelers Park • 1 Planetarium • 1 Observatory • 7 Basketball Courts • 2 Disc Golf Courses • 5 Community Centers

CARROLL COUNTY DOG PARKS

Bennett Cerf Dog Park

This 1-acre off leash area is located within Bennett Cerf Park in Westminster.
Revenue July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

78
Members

\$1,730
Total Revenue

44 memberships
purchased for both
parks with a total
revenue of \$2,110.

South Carroll Dog Park

This 2-acre off leash area is located behind the South Carroll Senior and Community Center in Eldersburg.
Revenue July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

230
Members

\$5,970
Total Revenue

Community Park Pavilion Rentals

\$17,030

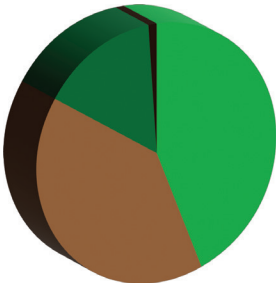
WHY ARE FEES CHARGED AT SOME PARKS BUT NOT OTHERS?

Several of our large park facilities provide a higher service level that results in additional operating expenses. Other areas such as our dog parks and community recreation programs were created with the understanding that revenues would largely support their operation. These fees generated revenue in the amount of \$931,649 recovering most of the approved operating budgets for these areas.

HASHAWHA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER & BEAR BRANCH NATURE CENTER

Approved FY2025 Operating Budget: \$1,103,660

\$435,733
TOTAL REVENUE



Who We Reached

Outdoor School • Private Rental Groups • Nature Center Visitors • Programs & Camp Attendees • Trail Users

PINEY RUN PARK & NATURE CENTER

Approved FY2025 Operating Budget: \$1,061,470

\$469,076
TOTAL REVENUE



Who We Reached

Pavilion Rental Groups • Nature Center Visitors • Programs & Camp Attendees • Trail Users • Boat Rentals Users



CARROLL COUNTY SPORTS COMPLEX

Approved FY2025 Operating Budget: \$263,860

\$195,492
TOTAL REVENUE

Field Rentals	40%
Cell Tower Revenue	39%
Recreation Council	21%



(Includes fees charged but not collected from Charles Carroll Rec. Council) & Senior Softball

Who We Reached

NFL Flag Youth Football • Adult Softball Leagues • Youth Sport Leagues • Local & Regional Tournaments • Senior Softball

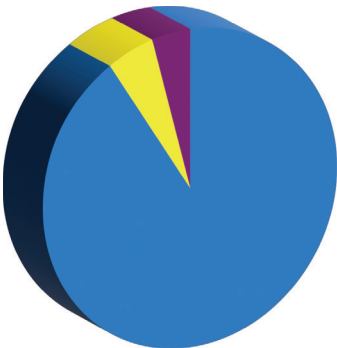


HAP BAKER FIREARMS FACILITY

Enterprise Fund FY2025 Expenditures: \$271,394

\$222,255
TOTAL REVENUE

Daily Visits	92%
Recycling	5%
Concessions	4%



Who We Reached

516 Season Pass Members • 8,036 Total Visitors • 4,275 Daily Visitors (Includes In County & Out-of-County)
MD Wear and Carry Renewal and Defensive Fundamentals Classes began in FY 2025
Four classes were held with a total of 15 participants.

COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAMS

As a means to fulfill our vision of promoting life long learning opportunities. Carroll County Department of Recreation & Parks offers a wide variety of activities through its Community Recreation Programs. These activities are designed to supplement the many programs that are available through the recreation councils and include a wide variety of activities designed to stimulate both the mind and body. Program guides are published four times per year with activities available for adults, youth, families and adaptive recreation at sites throughout the County. Over 5,500 registrants participated in these programs in FY2025.

\$306,848

Total Revenue

\$277,302

Total Expenses

Includes Recreation Programs,
Adaptive Recreation Programs and Trips.



RECREATION COUNCILS

The Carroll County Department of Recreation & Parks is proud to support the operation of twelve (12) volunteer recreation councils, each serving a specific geographic community or a county-wide interest group. These councils play a critical role in delivering various recreational services to the community. In addition to providing staff support, the Department administers facility usage, assists with program publicity, and manages liability insurance concerns.

To further enhance their effectiveness, recreation councils worked to obtain their 501(c)(3) non-profit status in FY24. This designation allows them to expand their fundraising efforts, apply for grants, and receive tax-deductible donations, ensuring long-term sustainability and growth. The councils hold regular meetings open to the public governed by their By-laws, each executive board is elected by community members.



Carroll County Arts Council

Gail Slater, *Council President*
Stephen Strosnider, *Executive Director*
Website: carrollcountyartscouncil.org



North Carroll Recreation Council

Andy Kiler, *Council President*
Maria Artista, *Community Coordinator*
Website: northcarrollrec.org



Central Carroll Recreation Council

Robert Freter, *Council President*
Steve Krouse, *Community Coordinator*
Website: centralcarrollrecreation.org



Piney Run Rec. and Conservation Council

Colleen Winters, *Council President*
Dylan Collins, *Staff Liason*



Charles Carroll Recreation Council

Kathy Lowe, *Council President*
Candy Sample, *Staff Liason*
Website: charlescarrollreccouncil.com



West Carroll Recreation Council

Stephanie Clavell, *Council President*
Penny Rockwood, *Community Coordinator*
Website: gowcrc.com



Carroll County Equestrian Council

Darlene Welsh, *Council President*
Jamie Noel, *Staff Liason*
Website: carrollcountyequestriancouncil.org



Westminster Area Recreation Council

Bob Jenkins, *Council President*
Laine Janoski, *Community Coordinator*
Website: westminsterarearec.com



Freedom Area Recreation Council

Ken Whalen, *Council President*
Natalie Janoski, *Community Coordinator*
Website: freedomarearec.org



Winfield Recreation Council

Jordan Burd, *Council President*
Natalie Janoski, *Community Coordinator*
Website: winfieldrec.org



Friends of Hashawha & Bear Branch

Kristin Darby, *Council President*
Dawn Harry, *Staff Liason*
Website: friendsofhbb.org



Woodbine Recreation Council

Eric Troppman, *Council President*
Myiah Edwards, *Staff Liason*
Website: woodbinerec.org



\$6,295,610

Total Expenses

\$6,449,208

Total Revenue

Council	Registrants	Attendance	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours
Central Carroll Rec Council	3,471	98,546	720	52,511
Charles Carroll Rec Council	1,048	4,037	38	1,685
Equestrian Rec Council	217	2,405	72	2,342
Freedom Area Rec Council	11,802	367,874	2,284	186,698
North Carroll Rec Council	3,776	146,311	656	63,095
West Carroll Rec Council	1,666	89,079	277	28,565
Westminster Area Rec Council	4,454	150,492	806	121,810
Winfield Rec Council	2,180	115,907	496	61,007
Woodbine Rec Council	3,476	138,796	938	61,918
Total	32,090	1,114,447	6,287	579,655

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Each of our volunteer recreation councils has nominated a “Volunteer of the Year” for 2024. We, along with their recreation councils, thank them for their many contributions and accomplishments. To the award winners: The service you have provided is truly special and has made an everlasting impact on your community. While you are one from your council, we know you are among many and we recognize and honor your accomplishments and by association, those who serve alongside you.

In addition, 2024 marks the fifth year of inductees in the Carroll County Recreation and Parks Volunteer Hall of Fame. To be considered for this honor, volunteers must have served at least twenty (20) years and made significant contributions resulting in a lasting impact over time.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR 2024



Lisah Tontala
Carroll County
Arts Council



Gina Miller
Carroll County
Equestrian Council



Rebekah Krolus-Scheffel
Central Carroll
Recreation Council



The Hott Family
Charles Carroll Recreation
Council



Chris Borcik
Westminster Area
Recreation Council



Lori Doyle
Freedom Area
Recreation Council



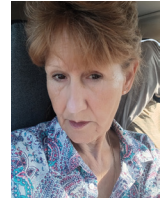
Dave Jeffrey
Friends of South
Carroll Dog Park



Kyle Myers
West Carroll
Recreation Council



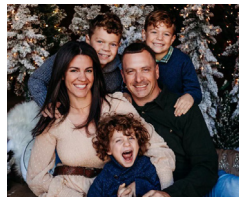
Chris Vaughn
North Carroll
Recreation Council



Karen Roberts
Hashawha/Bear Branch
Advisory Council



Brent Talley
Woodbine
Recreation Council



Jackie Brown
Winfield
Recreation Council

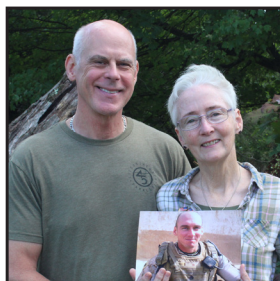


Renee Schoff
Piney Run Recreation &
Conservation Council

2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Toni Chiavacci



Malachowski Family



Brad Rockwood

PARK LEGACY FUND

The Park Legacy Fund was established to accept contributions to improve and enhance county parks for future generations. Contributions to the fund can be earmarked for specific sites or purposes and are tax deductible.

Park Legacy Donors

SPONSOR (\$5,000+)

- Tristan Kolmansberger
- Girl Scouts
- Mary Anne Baker
- Paul Ritterman
- Jeanne Turman
- Beth Hess
- Heather Roseman
- Charles Carroll Recreation Council
- Chris Varnauskas
- Chirstine Rico
- Eckhardt Funeral Chapel
- Jenn Banks
- Shannon Moneymaker

PATRON (\$1,000-\$4,999)

- Ernest Wilson
- Cindy and Bob Lord
- Greenmount Station
- CJ Miller

FRIEND (\$250-\$499)

- Rosemary Cuddy

SUPPORTER (UP TO \$100)

- Clarice Runckles
- Pro Health

For more Information regarding the Carroll County Park Legacy Fund.



SUMMARY



	Operating Budget
Administration	\$558,990
Division of Recreation	\$641,510
Community Parks	\$952,380
Hap Baker Firearms Facility	\$271,394
Hashawha Environmental & Bear Branch Nature Center	\$1,103,660
Piney Run Park & Nature Center	\$1,061,470
Carroll County Sports Complex	\$263,860
Community Recreation Programs	\$306,848
TOTAL	\$5,151,012

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



Connecting people, parks and programs in support of a strong, healthy community and natural environment.