

Section 12: Five Year Capital Projects Program

Introduction

Based on input from the communities and organizations involved in preservation, community revitalization and economic development activities in the SMHA, a large number of potential capital projects were identified. The SMHA's Five Year Capital Projects Program is geographically balanced, thus insuring that the full potential of the SMHA in each county is equally addressed. Capital Projects have been segregated into five categories:

- Interpretive and Educational Projects
- Recreation and Attractions Projects
- Linkages Projects
- Community and Economic Development Projects
- Marketing and Outreach Projects

More than half of the proposed capital projects are located within Target Investment Zones (TIZs), based on the collective potential for the projects located therein to advance the SMHA objectives for development as well as to address the goals of the *Maryland Heritage Areas and Tourism Development Program*. Candidate projects within the TIZs include trail segments, kayak/canoe launch facilities, interpretive facilities, and community revitalization and economic development projects. All projects have the potential to leverage private investment and provide a substantial return on public investment.

Successful completion of these and other key projects will result in an "improved product" throughout the Southern Maryland Heritage Area that will be supported by SMHA Program Development Activities (see Section 14), along with continuing marketing and outreach efforts of the SMHA and other organizations and entities in the region, the counties, and the state.

Interpretive and Education Projects

Note: TIZ denotes project in a Target Investment Zone

TIZ Construct an Interpretive Nature Center at Friendship Farm Park to serve as a hub for eco tourism and nature-oriented initiatives in the region. Proposed center to include observation deck and could serve as home to estuarine studies center and similar programs. Construct trails and wildlife observation areas and blinds, as well as camping and fishing areas and facilities to support canoe/kayaking activities. Hiking and paddling trails maps should be developed to enhance visitor understanding and experience. Portions of the park should be re-vegetated to provide habitat opportunities and windbreaks. Additional interpretation and exhibits at the park to include:

- estuarine system of Nanjemoy Creek
- fisheries issues
- bald eagle observation points

- portion of the site would feature interpretation of Matthew Henson, born in Nanjemoy

TIZ Construct new exhibits at Friendship Farm Park as part of new Farm Museum to interpret planting and preparation of crops and especially tobacco.

TIZ Develop new exhibits and interpretive displays at the Calvert Marine Museum about the Patuxent and the Bay (to be coordinated with the acquisition of additional property for the museum).

TIZ Develop Leonardtown Steamboat Wharf transportation museum and visitor's center exhibits that interpret rural transportation history and maritime resources of national significance (significant because they represent a vanishing Bay resource: riverfront, wharf and warehouse structures that served the maritime trades since the early 19th century).

Reconstruct historic lighthouses with new exhibits for Lighthouses of Southern Maryland:

- Reconstruct Pope's Creek Lighthouse as Visitor Center with interpretive exhibits on original lighthouse.
- Reconstruct Blackistone Lighthouse on St. Clements Island as a lighthouse museum.

TIZ Assist in moving and expanding Potomac River Maritime Museum exhibits to Piney Point. Move exhibits from Colton's Point museum site and construct/renovate buildings to house new exhibits relating to historic, cultural (including ethnic) and environmental aspects of Potomac River, including fisheries, wooden boat exhibit/interpretive facility in existing workshop building on site and Potomac River vessels exhibit/interpretive facility in existing warehouse building on site (includes four vessels on loan from Lundenburg School of Seamanship).

TIZ Construct exhibits for Port Tobacco Courthouse and old Jail site, including recreating stocks, gallows and dunking chair, to enhance external interpretation of courthouse grounds and surrounding historic structures with interpretive panels for a short trail or walking tour and on-site costumed interpreters.

TIZ Enhance exhibits on and interpretation of Colonial period structures in Leonardtown, particularly Tudor Hall. Evaluate Tudor Hall's existing interpretive experience for possible improvement, make physical improvements including additional landscaping to replicate estate gardens of the period.

TIZ Expand the Calvert Marine Museum wood shop/woodworking building to allow the development of traditional maritime trades including classes on this subject.

TIZ Complete construction of new facilities of Patuxent River Naval Museum and expand interpretation and collections:

- Develop new exhibits to include video/computer simulation and other technologically advance interpretation-building platforms
- Archive and conserve video and film collections

TIZ Develop a unified setting for St. Mary's Seminary (the area of St. Mary's Hall, Calvert Hall, and Anne Arundel Hall at St. Mary's College) including markers that both identify and provide the history of the buildings, and infrastructure.

TIZ Refurbish and restore "Dolores", a passenger car at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum to show the ambiance of this mode of transportation and to better interpret the museum as part of the Chesapeake Beach scene in the early 1920s and 30s.

TIZ Design, develop and build a collection storage “prep” lab with public access and interpretation at the Calvert Marine Museum to show the importance of the geological and prehistoric heritage of Southern Maryland.

TIZ Design and develop a Bayside History and Nature Center including wetlands restoration and a wetlands trail at North Beach on town-owned property to the north of the town.

TIZ Develop and build an Amphibious Landing Base Museum and Exhibit Center on the site of the Calvert Marina to include programs and displays to interpret the importance of Solomons as a training location during World War II. Include additional interpretation at Flag Ponds Nature Park.

Expand the displays and interpretation of rural life at the Farm Exhibit Building at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum to highlight the tools and equipment used by the agricultural community in Calvert County and Southern Maryland.

Construct boardwalk and interpretive exhibit panels and maps at Mallows Bay, including history of sunken ships, estuarine system and marine life.

Complete restoration of Drayden African American Schoolhouse and implement interpretive program

- Develop interpretive plan
- Incorporate past community research and interpretive efforts such as those of the Unified Committee for African-American Culture
- Create external interpretive signage

Construct exhibits that interpret the mid-20th century lifestyle of an African-American farmer and his family on the recently acquired Gross family homestead. Provide infrastructure to make this property visitor friendly and visitor accessible.

Construct a replica of one of Commodore Joshua Barney’s barges used in the War of 1812. This ship would be used to conduct tours on St. Leonard Creek, the site of one of the largest Naval battles in the United States, and other related water tours at both the Calvert Marine Museum and Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum.

Construct and build/or interpret the site of the location of the home of Richard Smith, the first Surveyor General of the State of Maryland, at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

Construct Steamboat Wharf transportation museum and visitor’s center that could be a reproduction of a steamboat company’s freight and passenger terminals, which were typical in waterside towns around the Bay at the turn of the century. The development of this facility will create a heritage tourism destination that interprets rural transportation history and preserves maritime resources of national significance (significant because they represent a vanishing Bay resource: riverfront, wharf and warehouse structures that served the maritime trades since the early 19th century). Wharves and warehouses around the Bay represented nodes of communication and transportation for the goods and passengers to the rest of the Southern Maryland region before a reliable network of roads and rails were established.

- Indian Head waterfront possible site
- steamboat wharf terminal can serve as visitor’s center and transportation museum for boaters, bicyclists and other visitors touring the region
- museum/visitor’s center should display exhibits that interpret the history of the steamboat era in the SMHA

Expand the Native American hamlet and archaeological education center at Jefferson Patterson Park

and Museum to better interpret the important position that these peoples played in the development of Southern Maryland.

Continue with the restoration and develop interpretive signage for the Old Wallville School, the oldest existing African-American school left in Calvert County.

Improve interpretation and infrastructure at Flag Ponds Nature Park to provide a better visitor experience:

- Develop a series of interpretive signage along the various trails.
- Construct outdoor kiosks and interpretive displays.
- Provide horseback riding trails in addition to the already existing walking trails.

Recreation and Attractions Projects

TIZ Develop facility at Piney Point/Potomac River Museum site to support canoe/kayaking and paddleboat activities to facilitate visitor interaction with water resources and natural features. Facilities can be utilized to support group environmental and nature study programs.

Develop tourist comfort station facilities in Piney Point at Potomac River Museum site, including:

- restrooms
- visitor information materials/displays
- vending machines

TIZ Expand the facilities at Annmarie Garden on St. John in Dowell, MD to include the building of a Visitor Center & Art Gallery with meeting rooms. Refurbish the house by the water to include facilities for weddings, banquets, meetings and retreats. Procure and place new statuary at the Garden to allow for a more comprehensive visitor experience. Continue with the development of additional phases of the Annemarie Garden Master Plan.

TIZ Develop canoe/kayak landing at new “Port of Leonardtown” site on McIntosh Run.

Develop and interpret the Biscoe/Gray farm property (or a similar property) as a major attraction depicting the farm life of Calvert County during the early part of the 20th century with the potential of future expansion to a “living history” museum.

Construct overnight facilities (rustic cabins, campground areas, bathrooms and showers) at various locations throughout the county to provide for the extension of current educational programs and to allow for the provision of youth hostels and other activities.

- Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum
- Kings Landing Park
- Calvert Marine Museum
- Flag Ponds Nature Park
- Calvert Cliffs State Park

Construct a series of permanent ADA accessible canoe/kayak launch sites, together with a heritage water trail guide to these locations and a preview of the sites along the routes. Explore the potential of canoe/kayak storage and rental facilities at one or all of these locations:

- Calvert Marine Museum (TIZ)
- Flag Ponds Nature Park

- Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum
- Kings Landing Park
- Maxwell Hall

Develop additional guides and improve existing facilities at Myrtle Point Park in St. Mary's County (California) in conjunction with FY '04 master plan for the park, including trail improvements, construction of a Visitor and Nature Center, amphitheater, canoe and kayak launching facilities, and activities consistent with the nature of the site.

Construct a gazebo at Chapel Point State Park for band/outdoor concerts and events.

Create a corn maze at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

Construct a boat launching facility at Mallows Bay using State of MD waterway improvement funds that can include.

Linkages Projects

TIZ Construct hiking trails and access/launch points for paddling trails at Friendship Farm Park. Highlights of trails should include wildlife observation areas and blinds. Segments along trails should re-vegetated to provide habitat opportunities. Develop and install trail map and educational panels along trails that interpret vegetation, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and the estuarine system of the Nanjemoy.

TIZ Construct hiking trails at "Port of Leonardtown" that follow McIntosh Run and connect to Breton Bay. Install self-guiding signage/interpretation for environmental and wildlife education.

TIZ Develop an Indian Head rail trail from Indian Head to White Plains with signage and panels that interpret vegetation, wildlife habitats and other natural areas.

TIZ Develop trails system at Port Tobacco, including trail to Thomas Stone National Historic Park (approx. 1.5 miles) and trail to Chapel Point State Park (approx. 3 miles), and walking trails within the town that feature interpretive signage about historic structures, the role of the river, etc..

TIZ Develop a War of 1812 Star Spangled Banner Hiker Biker trail from Flags Ponds Nature Park to Solomons

TIZ Develop Fishing Creek Trail system to parallel and in two locations traverse the length of Fishing Creek from it's mouth to the Chesapeake Beach town boundary. May be further extended into the County beyond the TIZ. Improvements would include the trail itself as well as two trail bridge crossings and two to three observation areas to permit enjoyment of natural wetland surroundings, view wildlife and support eco-tourism opportunities in the Town.

TIZ Create visual and pedestrian linkages from Tudor Hall to Old Jail Museum and Leonardtown via landscape and physical improvements.

Link Sotterley and Greenwell physically via trails.

Develop and implement hiking, biking and paddling trails that group and connect natural and cultural points of interest within a four to five mile range. Develop and install trail map and educational panels along trails that interpret vegetation, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and the estuarine systems.

Develop recreation trail system in St. Mary's County. Build trail on existing R.O.W. from Mechanicsville to Lexington Park.

Develop a series of trails at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum:

- Expand the Riverside Interpretive Trail with exhibits, structures, and partial reconstruction of buildings that would have been located along this trail during the 12,000 years that people have lived on this site. Write and edit oral histories. Develop a program that shows how to discover the past through archaeology and architectural history.
- Construct and interpret the Patuxent Shore Walking Trail to provide access to the waterfront and to interpret the importance of maintaining the environment and the waters around it.

Develop interpretive facilities and programs at Summerseat Sanctuary arising from mission to function as an animal sanctuary and preserved working farm

Develop additional and improve existing facilities at Myrtle Point Park in St. Mary's County in conjunction with FY '04 master plan for the park, including trail improvements, construction of a Visitor and Nature Center, amphitheater, canoe and kayak launching facilities, and activities consistent with the nature of the site.

Develop an extensive trail system at Maxwell Hall, significant highlights to include:

- link to historic British landing at Benedict (before march to Washington)
- interpret trail of War of 1812 sites with signage

Develop a Civil War hiking trail in the Popes Creek RR Corridor (3 miles)

Community and Economic Development Projects

TIZ Convert the existing "White House" in Historic St. Mary's City into a "Village" shop for retail use as the first step towards re-creation of a colonial village similar to Williamsburg or Jamestown, which combines retail, restaurant, college, and residential space to make the area more accommodating to tourists and the local community.

TIZ Begin Leonardtown improvements program to enhance cultural activities in the town and develop it as a "Destination":

- Floating Theater at public wharf
- "Port of Leonardtown" plaza area with stage and related facilities
- support development of Tudor Hall Village, including proposed McIntosh Run Golf Course
- Refurbishment of private historic movie theater into dinner theater

TIZ Develop Potomac River Promenade and River Walk at Indian Head waterfront. Partner with Navy to utilize existing waterfront access facility (small marina) adjacent to Town for location of pier for Potomac River tour boat. Partner with landowners to extend the facility north along waterfront for development of Promenade and River Walk, with changes in elevation walkway to provide dramatic views of riverscape.

TIZ Construct or rehabilitate an existing structure to serve as a 15 to 40-room Victorian County Inn at Indian Head in the downtown area, along Route 210 (Main Street) near the Navy Base or adjacent to the Village Green.

Through the use of incentives and financial assistance, **encourage re-use and re-development of the old**

power plant at Popes Creek, possibly as retail shops or studios.

Through new construction or adaptive re-use, **increase the number of modern, upscale lodging and conference facilities currently located in the heritage area**. Implement a plan to encourage public and private sector investments in the development of additional accommodations facilities. Assess the number of vacant historic or downtown structures that could be adapted or reused as B&Bs or small hotels. Develop opportunities for staying on the water including B&Bs, hotels, and/or cabins.

TIZ Explore feasibility of constructing new Native American Life Museum in the town of Indian Head

- develop project collaboratively with Piscataway Indian Museum and the American Indian Heritage Society.
- coordinate with other Native American museums including “Woodland Hamlet” at St. Mary’s City and Jefferson Patterson Park.

Marketing and Outreach Projects

TIZ Construct and install interactive kiosks at key points in all TIZs with advertising capabilities to market key sites and attractions. Utilize touch screen options as another means of gathering visitor information.

TIZ Install “eagle cam” at bald eagle nesting site at Friendship Farm Park and develop web-based program to interpret what visitors to the web site are seeing (i.e., nesting habits and habitats, care and feeding of young eagles, etc.)

Create regional sign system that is directional but also keyed to type of attraction/amenity through use of “universal” symbols. Incorporate SMHA logo, and link to thematic driving/bicycling tour maps.

Create new and/or enhance qualities of existing Gateways and Visitor Centers at access points to the region and within each town center in the region to inform and orient visitors. (town centers could have interpretive components that tell about the history and resources of the town as well). Specific locations for Gateway/Visitor Centers include:

- Rte. 210 corridor at Chapman’s Landing or in the town of Indian Head
- Existing 301 corridor welcome center located near the Harry Nice Bridge
- Implement improvements program for Visitor Center in Solomons (TIZ) including better maps and guides to sites and museums and improved amenities - TIZ
- Rte. 5 corridor near Charlotte Hall/Mechanicsville area to supplement or relocate existing Chamber of Commerce facility to improve visibility
- Confluence of Rte. 2 and Rte. 4 corridors at Sunderland, possibly in conjunction with All Saints Church
- Patuxent River Naval Air Station at Base Visitor Reception Area and at Navy Museum - TIZ