



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2024



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DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Bob Hicks,
Director

It is with great pleasure that we present our 2024 Annual Report for the Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks. Carroll County is a community committed to quality living. This commitment is consistent with the County's recreation and park system that offers an outstanding network of park facilities, natural areas, open spaces and year-round recreational activities. In today's busy and fast paced world, it is easy to forget and take the time to enjoy each day and how important it is to our health and well-being. We are committed to insuring that every resident has an opportunity to experience and enjoy the excellent recreational activities and park facilities that enhance their quality of life.

We serve our residents with over 30 developed parks and thousands of acres of open space and recreational facilities that are visited by thousands of people annually. Our facilities include nature centers, playgrounds, athletic facilities, trails, a public shooting range, boat launch areas, a planetarium, picnic areas, basketball/tennis/pickleball courts, ponds and even a model airplane airfield.

In January 2024, the Community Parks Maintenance Staff was added to our department to maintain all the non-staffed parks in Carroll County. They are in the parks on a regular basis and has been making great strides in conducting preventive maintenance work on our existing amenities including, power washing tennis/basketball courts, picnic tables and playground equipment, in addition to coordinating our mowing contractor, installing benches and trees as part of the Park Legacy Fund, removing fallen dead trees and brush and making various repairs in our parks.

On May 18th the Department was honored to host a dedication ceremony for the Blue Star Memorial Marker and Westminster Veterans Memorial Park Garden. It was well attended despite the rainy weather.

The County's volunteer recreation councils continued their commitment to providing quality programs in 2024, donated 288,208 hours of service to the community. In addition, our Community Recreation Programs expanded their programming numbers to 6,615 registrants – an increase of over 16% from the previous year.

A number of park improvements were completed this year including field lighting at Cape Horn Park, a disc golf course at Krimgold Park, a new parking lot at Freedom Park, the replacement of two pavilions (one at Freedom Park and the other at Piney Run Park), renovations/repairs to Hashawha's swimming pool and a playground resurfacing/Gaga Ball Pit addition to Leister Park.

These are just some of the highlights of the many projects and activities our dedicated staff has worked on in the past year. We continue to take pride in our accomplishments and 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



Ed Rothstein



Kenneth Kiler,
President



Joseph Vigliotti,
Vice President



Tom Gordon, III



Michael Guerin

CARROLL COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Kristen E. Darby

Mr. Gary Davis, Vice Chair

Mr. Michael Duffy

Mr. David Ferguson

Mr. Donald V. Gerkin, Jr.

Mr. Austin Johnstone

Ms. Lynn Karr-Kratz

Ms. Nadine Rosendale

Ms. Anita Taylor

Mr. John Woodley

Vacant, Chair

RECREATION & PARKS STAFF

Administration

Bob Hicks, CPRP, *Director*

Brad Rogers, *Bureau Chief of Parks*

Lisa Carroll, CRPE, *Bureau Chief of Recreation*

Will Brozy, *Park Development Manager*

Ashleigh Smith *Administrative Assistant*

Seth Carlson, *Marketing Specialist*

Recreation

Jamie Noel, *Recreation Coordinator*

Myiah Edwards, *Program Coordinator*

Rebecca Eckard, *Program Associate*

Stacey Smith Widener, *Office Associate*

Ann Marie Foster, *Adaptive Recreation Specialist*

Sports Complex

Rebecca Kishter, CPRP, *Sports Complex Manager*

Doug Gregory, *Maintenance Specialist*

Hap Baker Firearms Facility

Chuck Hamlet, *Chief Range Officer*

Piney Run Park & Nature Center

Dylan Collins, *Park Superintendent*

Ross Mason, *Park Technician*

Wayde Blank, *Maintenance Supervisor*

Brian Dayhoff, *Maintenance Specialist*

Ant Campanili, *Maintenance Specialist*

Basil Levesque, *Park Naturalist*

Harrison Wittle, *Ranger*

Hashawha & Bear Branch Nature Center

Dawn Harry, *Park Operation Coordinator*

Jay Weller, *Maintenance Supervisor*

Christine Ridgley, *Maintenance Specialist*

W. George Stolkovich, *Maintenance Specialist*

Holly Zimmerman, *Park Technician*

Nikki Wolf, *Kitchen Manager*

Michelle Duvall, *Cook*

Mora Bates, *Cook*

Jenna Mele, *Park Naturalist*

Community Parks

Steve Aberts, *Parks Maintenance Foreman*

Tyler Carlus, *Maintenance Specialist*

Justin Everhart, *Maintenance Specialist*

Rob Heier, *Maintenance Specialist*

YEAR AT A GLANCE

JULY 2023



July
Park Pursuit

July
First Annual
Moth Night
26 participants



July
National
Recreation
& Park Month



AUGUST 2023

August
Charles Carroll
Community
Center Open
House



August
Family Camp
Outdoor Movie Night



SEPTEMBER 2023

September
Monarch
Madness
Festival



September
Charles Carroll
Community Center
Tech room opens

September
Piney Run Park
Wagon Rides and
Campfires



OCTOBER 2023



October
New Director
of Recreation &
Parks Appointed

October
Celebrate Fall at Piney
Run Park



NOVEMBER 2023



November
Volunteer of the
Year/Hall of Fame

November
2nd Annual
Family Duck Hunt
29 families of 5 or
less participants



DECEMBER 2023



December
Santa Calling
230 participants

December
Santa wagon rides
98 group
participants



December
Piney Run Park
moves to cashless
payment system



December
Jingle Bell Hop
65 participants



JANUARY 2024



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

January
100-Mile Challenge with The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County and Walk Carroll



MARCH 2024



March
Release of Sponsorship Booklet

March
March for Parks at Piney Run Park
20 participants



March
Adult Easter Egg Hunt at Bear Branch Nature Center
129 participants

March
Maple Sugarin' Days at Piney Run Park
94 participants



March
Panfish Tournament at Piney Run Park
9 participants

APRIL 2024



April
Henry Lysy Fishing Rodeo at Westminster Community Pond
259 participants





April
1st Annual Car Show at Landon C. Burns Park
67 cars



April
Earth Day at Piney Run Park

MAY 2024



May
Henry Lysy Fishing Rodeo
Krimgold Park
136 participants



May
Spring Scavenger Hunt at Piney Run Park
30 participants

JUNE 2024



June
Family Summer Bash at the Farm Museum
316 participants



June
TR Day at the Farm Museum
349 participants



June
Sasquatch Saturday at Piney Run Park
195 participants



June
Hill Yeah! at Bear Branch Nature Center
Hashawha

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Cape Horn Park – Field Lights (Fields 1 and 2)
- Cape Horn Park – Additional Property Acquisition
- Westminster Veterans Memorial Park – Memorial Garden
- Krimgold Park – Disc Golf Course
- Freedom Park – New Parking Lot
- Freedom Park – Pavilion Replacement
- Piney Run Park – Pavilion Replacement
- Hashawha Environmental Center – Swimming Pool Repairs
- Hashawha Environmental Center – Pavilion Restoration
- Leister Park – Playground Resurfacing and Gaga Ball Pit



COMING SOON

- Bear Branch Nature Center – New Pavilion/Outdoor Classroom
- Freedom Park – Challenge Course Construction and Swing Relocation
- Piney Run Park – Bulkhead Replacement
- Piney Run Park – Road Resurfacing and ADA Improvements
- Piney Run Park – Playground Replacement



HELPING HANDS KEEP PARKS GREEN

HELPING HANDS KEEP OUR PARKS GREEN



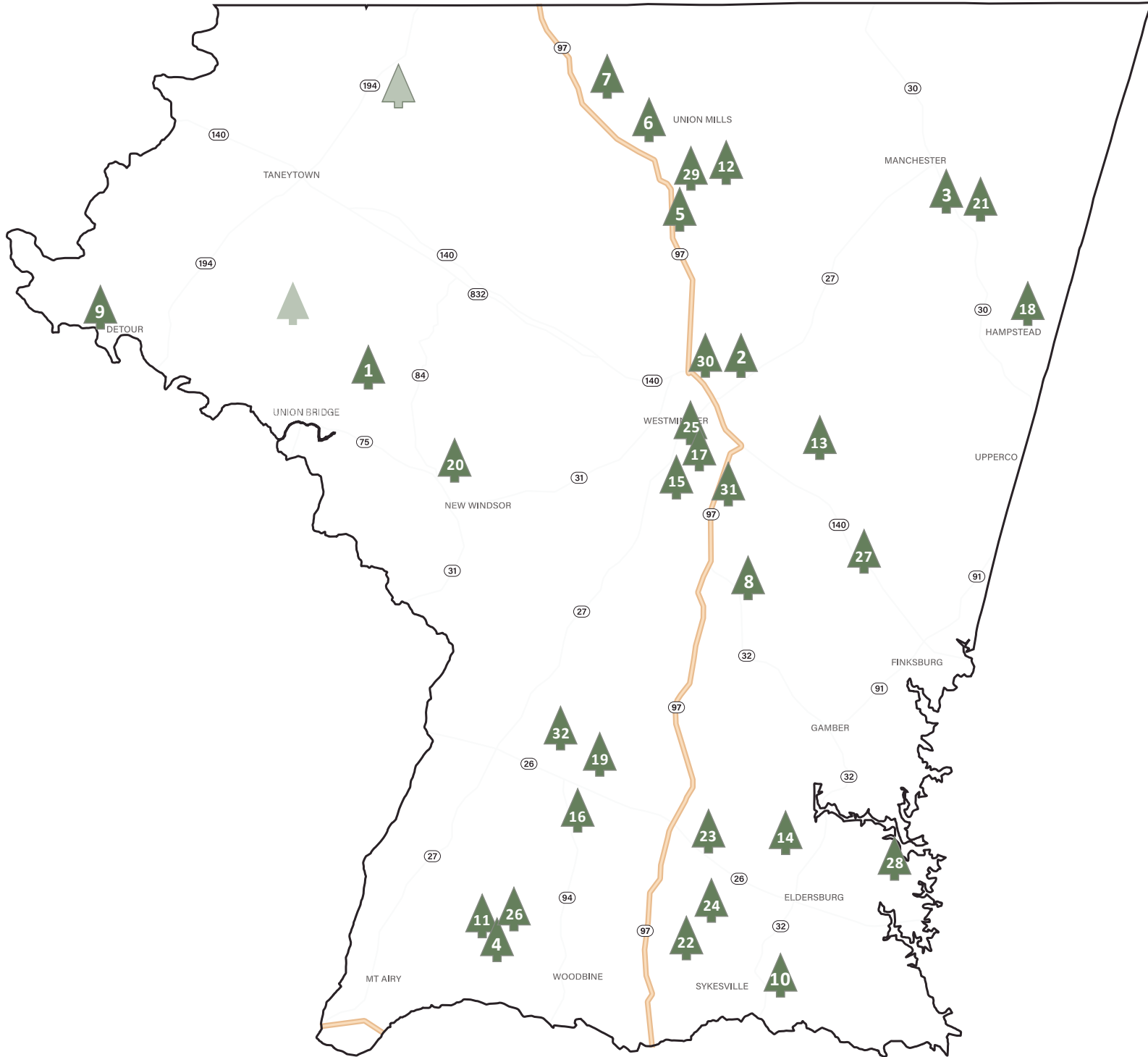
The Helping Hands campaign is an excellent opportunity for local groups and organizations to help keep their local parks beautiful with organized clean-ups, trash pickups, and trail maintenance. To learn more about Helping Hands, visit ccrecpark.org.



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



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Bark Hill Park
Peace N Plenty Drive (off Bark Hill Road), Union Bridge 21797</p> <p>2 Bennett Cerf Park & Dog Park
544 Manchester Road, Westminster 21157</p> <p>3 Cape Horn Park
2500 Cape Horn Road, Hampstead 21074</p> <p>4 Carroll County Equestrian Center
2512 Grimville Road, Mount Airy 21771</p> <p>5 Carroll County Sports Complex
2225 Littlestown Pike, Westminster 21158</p> <p>6 Charles Carroll Park & Community Center
3719 Littlestown Pike, Westminster 21158</p> <p>7 Cherrytown Road Park
Cherrytown Road, Westminster 21157</p> <p>8 Deer Park
637 Deer Park Road, Westminster 21157</p> <p>9 Double Pipe Creek Park
7577 Middleburg Road, Detour 21757</p> <p>10 Freedom Park
1111 Raincliffe Road, Sykesville 21784</p> <p>11 Gillis Falls Recreation Area
Woodbine 21797</p> <p>12 Hashawha & Bear Branch Nature Center
300 John Owings Road, Westminster 21158</p> <p>13 Hap Baker Firearms Facility
1400 Baltimore Boulevard, Westminster 21157</p> <p>14 Hodges Park
5630 Hodges Road, Sykesville 21784</p> <p>15 Kate Wagner Fields
1100 Gist Road, Westminster 21157</p> <p>16 Krimgold Park
5355 Woodbine Road, Woodbine 21797</p> | <p>17 Landon C. Burns Park
700 Gist Road, Westminster 21157</p> <p>18 Leister Park
4134 Black Rock Road, Hampstead 21074</p> <p>19 Mayeski Park
1300 W. Old Liberty Road, Sykesville 21784</p> <p>20 New Windsor Community Room
1100 Green Valley Road, New Windsor 21776</p> <p>21 North Carroll Community Pond
Basler Road & Route 30, Hampstead 21074</p> <p>22 Obrecht Road Park
100 E. Obrecht Road, Sykesville 21784</p> <p>23 Old Liberty Road Park
100 W. Old Liberty Road, Sykesville 21784</p> <p>24 Piney Run Park & Nature Center
30 Martz Road, Sykesville 21784</p> <p>25 Robert Moton Center
300 S. Center Street, Westminster 21157</p> <p>26 Salt Box Park
Gillis Falls Road, Woodbine 21797</p> <p>27 Sandymount Park
2250 Old Westminster Pike, Westminster 21157</p> <p>28 South Carroll Dog Park/South Carroll Senior & Community Center
5928 Mineral Hill Road, Eldersburg, 21784</p> <p>29 Union Mills Recreation Area
220 John Owings Road, Westminster 21158</p> <p>30 Westminster Community Pond
30 College View Boulevard, Westminster 21157</p> <p>31 Westminster Veterans Memorial Park & Memorial Garden
Crest Lane, Westminster 21157</p> <p>32 Winfield Park
Salem Bottom Road (opposite Winfield Elementary), Westminster 21157</p> <p> Future Recreation Facility
(undevelopment)</p> |
|--|--|

WE ARE...

32

County Parks
and Facilities

14

Fishing Locations

24

Number of Pavilions

73

Athletic Fields

51

Miles of Trails

24

Playgrounds

37

Public Schools Used By
Recreation & Parks

2 Nature Centers • 2 Dog Parks • 1 Aero Modelers Park • 1 Planetarium • 1 Observatory • 7 Basketball Courts • 14 Tennis Courts • 5 Community Centers

CARROLL COUNTY DOG PARKS



27 memberships purchased for both parks with a total revenue of \$1,275.

Bennett Cerf Dog Park

This 1-acre off leash area is located within Bennett Cerf Park in Westminster.
Revenue July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

71
Members

\$2,260
Total Revenue



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, 2023 - June 30, 2024

209
Members

\$6,410
Total Revenue

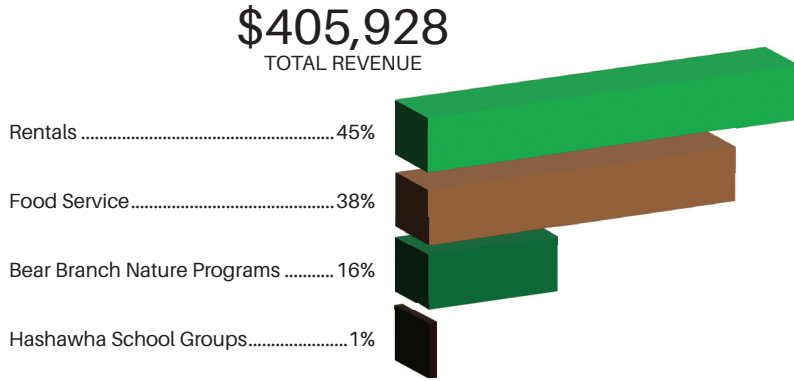


WHY ARE FEES CHARGED AT SOME PARKS BUT NOT OTHERS?

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 \$926,285 recovering most of the approved operating budgets for these areas.

HASHAWHA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER & BEAR BRANCH NATURE CENTER

Approved FY2024 Operating Budget: \$1,052,600

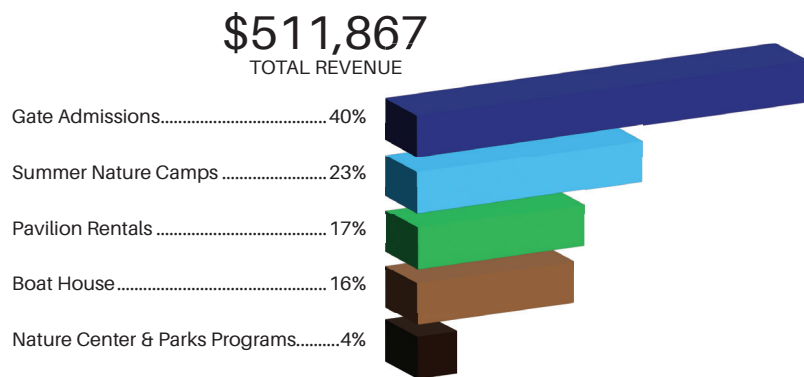


Who We Reached

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

PINEY RUN PARK & NATURE CENTER

Approved FY2024 Operating Budget: \$993,250



Who We Reached

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

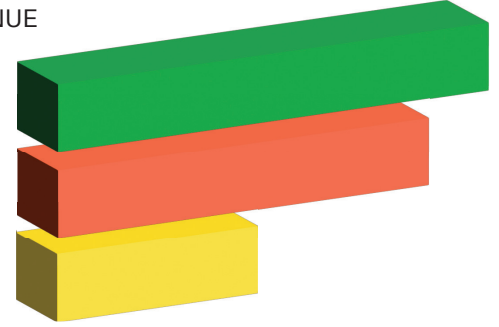


CARROLL COUNTY SPORTS COMPLEX

Approved FY2024 Operating Budget: \$255,190

\$203,072
TOTAL REVENUE

Field Rentals	43%
Cell Tower Revenue	37%
Recreation Council	20%



(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

Approved FY2024 Operating Budget: \$240,210

\$187,484
TOTAL REVENUE

Daily Visits	91%
Concessions	6%
Recycling	3%



Who We Reached

528 Season Pass Members • 8,024 Total Visitors • 5,187 Daily Visitors (Includes In County & Out-of-County)

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 5,000 registrants participated in these programs in FY2024.

\$280,371

Total Expenses

\$298,846

Total Revenue

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*
 Renee Schoff, *Community Coordinator*



Charles Carroll Recreation Council
 Kathy Lowe, *Council President*
 Becky Kishter, *Community Coordinator*
 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, *Community Coordinator*
 Website: carrollcountyequestriancouncil.org



Westminster Area Recreation Council
 John Neubert, *Council President*
 Laine Janoski, *Community Coordinator*
 Website: westminsterarearec.com



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



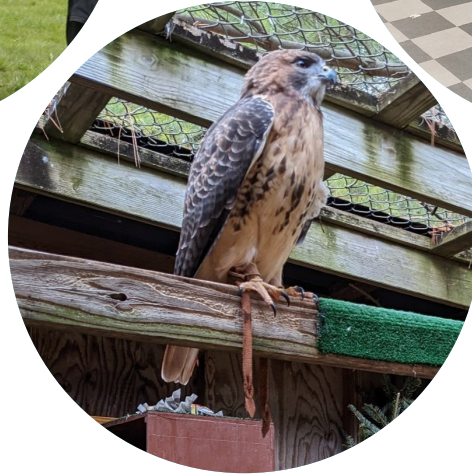
Winfield Recreation Council
 Buddy Brown, *Council President*
 Natalie Janoski, *Community Coordinator*
 Website: winfieldrec.org



Friends of Hashawha & Bear Branch
 Kristin Darby, *Council President*
 Jenna Mele, *Community Coordinator*
 Website: friendsofhbb.org



Woodbine Recreation Council
 Eric Troppman, *Council President*
 Myiah Edwards, *Community Coordinator*
 Website: woodbinerec.org



\$5,543,358

Total Expenses

\$5,715,051

Total Revenue

Council	Registrants	Attendance	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours
Central Carroll Rec Council	1,571	56,093	389	3,746
Charles Carroll Rec Council	214	3,046	43	1,442
Equestrian Rec Council	180	605	33	2,190
Freedom Area Rec Council	10,192	321,051	1,971	107,043
North Carroll Rec Council	3,661	135,868	738	26,940
West Carroll Rec Council	1,763	77,631	359	28,565
Westminster Area Rec Council	4,087	133,985	721	68,586
Winfield Rec Council	2,038	89,179	482	10,827
Woodbine Rec Council	2,114	99,118	787	38,869
Total	25,820	916,576	5,521	288,208

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Each of our volunteer recreation councils has nominated a "Volunteer of the Year" for 2023. 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, 2023 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 2023



JoAnn Barr
Carroll County
Arts Council



Joseph Dragan
Carroll County
Equestrian Council



Rex O'Connor
Central Carroll
Recreation Council



Kyle Hale
Charles Carroll
Recreation Council



Bob, Alison & Bobby Lord
Department of
Recreation and Parks



Craig Hohlbein
Freedom Area
Recreation Council



Mike Washington
Friends of South
Carroll Dog Park



Stephanie Clavell
West Carroll
Recreation Council



Liz Piper
North Carroll
Recreation Council



Paul Lewis
Westminster Area
Recreation Council



Kerry Duvall
Woodbine
Recreation Council



Chris Curtell
Winfield
Recreation Council



Carol Demarzo
Piney Run Recreation &
Conservation Council



Ken Harris and Jason Irla
Hashawha/Bear Branch
Advisory Council

2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Lona Greensfelder



Buddy Brown



Carolyn Garber

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.

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

Catherine Best
Deer Park Lions Club
Donna Conoscenti
Geary Schwemmer
John Rill
John Wise
Mason Coyne
Ronald Zumbrun

FRIEND (\$100-\$249)

Alison Malichowski
Jenna Krebs

SUPPORTER (UP TO \$100)

Troop 417 Girl Scouts
John Hubbs

PATRON (\$500-\$999)

Anonymous
Michael and Naomi Esh
David and Gina Booka
Margot Wolmon
Ruth Lampert

PARTNER (\$250-\$499)

Ernest and Marie Wilson

For more information regarding the Carroll County Park Legacy Fund.



SUMMARY



	Operating Budget
Administration	\$689,120
Bureau of Recreation	\$622,570
Hap Baker Firearms Facility	\$240,210
Hashawha Environmental & Bear Branch Nature Center	\$1,052,600
Piney Run Park & Nature Center	\$993,250
Carroll County Sports Complex	\$255,190
TOTAL	\$3,852,940

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



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