

# Kent County, Md. unveils conservation park

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Turner Creek Conservation Park in Kent County, Md., will be unveiled officially at an open house at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 1.

The 40-acre park which showcases farm, forestry and wildlife conservation practices, is the only one of its kind in the state. Developed by the Kent Soil Conservation District and U.S. Soil Conservation Service in conjunction with the Kent County Department of Parks and Recreation, the conservation park is intended as a display and study area for people concerned about protecting land, water and wildlife.

"We wanted to have an area where we could display conservation practices, not only for

landowners who might want to install them on their own property but for students and others interested in seeing how land can be put to its best use," said Mary Ann Skilling, district manager.

Skilling and other conservationists conduct tours of the park for civic and school groups. According to SCS District Conservationist Ralph Timmons, nearly 300 fourth graders from the county's public, private and parochial schools are scheduled to visit this year. Students from Cecil County also use the park.

Bordered by trees and surrounded on three sides by water, the conservation park is part of a 116-acre recreation area owned by the county. Swimming, crabbing, fishing, boating, and

picnicking are available nearby. The site was also a major trading and shipbuilding port in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The granary, built around 1830, is the last remaining one in the county. Other historic landmarks include the Barroll or Knocks House and the Latham House.

Many of the practices installed at the conservation park were done with donated equipment, materials and labor.

Agricultural practices designed to control erosion include one grass waterway with a rock rip-rap outlet and one with a drop pile outlet, a cornfield planted by the no-till method and diversions to safely transport runoff across steep slopes.


In a woodland, good and bad forestry practices are demonstrated. At one point, labels on the trees tell visitors how to identify tree species by the bark.

A 20- by 50-foot wildlife pond was blasted in a marsh near the headwaters of the creek. The open water will provide a refuge and resting place for ducks. Wildlife trees and shrubs were planted. Boy Scouts installed about 10 squirrel

nesting boxes and one nesting box for woodducks.

"We're really just beginning," says Skilling. "We plan to install other practices as time and money allow. But for now, we want to let people know we're here and thank those who've helped."

For tours or more information about the park, contact the soil conservation office in Chestertown at 301-778-5150.



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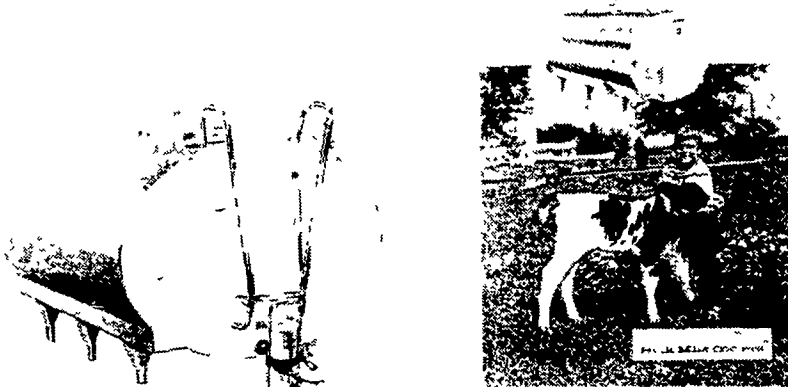


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