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## CHAPTER 1 - Project Overview

### INTRODUCTION

Parks and open spaces are essential to the high quality of life for Montgomery County residents. The greatest challenge for park and recreation planning is to balance facilities needed for the active lifestyles of a growing population with the stewardship of our park system's sensitive environmental and cultural resources, in a county where there is little undeveloped land remaining. The 2012 update of the *Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan*, serves as the planning policy for parks and recreation in Montgomery County to the year 2022. It assesses needs and recommends strategies for the delivery of recreation facilities, protection of natural resource areas, and preservation of historic/cultural areas and agricultural lands, and is required by the State of Maryland for funding by Program Open Space.

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### GUIDANCE FROM VISION 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation (Vision 2030)*, completed in June 2011, has guided the *2012 PROS Plan*. Based on broad consensus among the public, staff, and county leadership, *Vision 2030* includes strategies for maintaining and improving the overall levels of service across the County, as well as specific recommendations for effective and efficient delivery of the park and recreation facilities that County residents value the most. Building on the findings of *Vision 2030*, the *2012 PROS Plan* includes service delivery strategies for several priority facilities and resources. The strategies will guide the Department of Parks in locating the right park and recreation facilities in the right places, and to ultimately help ensure that the parks and recreation system continues to play a major role in shaping Montgomery County's high quality of life.

### PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purposes of the *2012 PROS Plan* are:

- To provide guidance regarding recreation facility needs in the County for the next 10 years
- To recommend priorities for important natural and historic resources in the County that need to be preserved and interpreted
- To provide the basis for park and recreation recommendations in area and park master plans
- To guide priorities for park acquisition and development
- To review policy and background information regarding local agricultural land preservation programs

The *PROS Plan* serves as the County's *Local Land Planning, Preservation and Recreation Plan (LPPRP)*. In order to keep pace with changing patterns of need,

updates to the Plan have been required by the State approximately every six years. The *PROS Plan* supports the park and recreation goals and objectives contained in the County's *1993 General Plan Refinement – Goals and Objectives (APPENDIX 2)*. It compares facility needs and resource conservation priorities for different areas of the County so that decision makers have the information necessary to establish priorities in an era of high competition for limited resources. It includes chapters on Recreation and Park Needs, Natural Resource Conservation, Historic/Cultural Resource Preservation and Agricultural Land Preservation.

## PLAN OUTREACH

A great deal of the input for the *2012 PROS Plan* is based on outreach from *Vision 2030*, including the statistically valid mail survey, public meetings, summits, and focus groups. Additional outreach included:

- Providing a **Web page and e-mail access** with opportunity for input
- Obtaining input from **Recreation and Park Advisory Boards**
- Holding **Public Meetings** on Draft Service Delivery Proposals

## PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

This *PROS Plan* endorses and builds on many of the recommendations of *Vision 2030*. The *Vision 2030* Inventory and Level of Service Analysis showed that Montgomery County has an extensive system of high quality parks and associated recreation programs. *Vision 2030* recommends that to maintain this high level of quality into the future, the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Montgomery County Department of Recreation have the following broad challenges:

- Maintain and strengthen the current parks and recreation system
- Prioritize tax resources on core services
- Ensure operational sustainability
- Balance new construction with maintenance and repair of existing facilities
- Respond to emerging trends and changing priorities
- Strengthen stewardship of natural and historical resources
- Continue to “green” the park system – including facilities, equipment, and operational programs
- Continue the current focus on customer service and public safety
- Collaborate to efficiently deliver quality services
- Plan for future growth
- Respond to changing demographics



The main challenge of the *PROS Plan* is to maintain the high level of park and recreation service in the County by putting the “right parks” in the “right places.” Not surprisingly, *Vision 2030* confirmed that the highest needs are and will continue to be in areas of highest population density, mainly along the I-270 corridor and inside the Beltway. The 2011 Annual Growth Policy recommends concentrating new development in these areas for Smart Growth reasons including:

*“...with little room left to grow, development will need to occur in areas where densities can be higher, on sites closer to transit, reusing underdeveloped sites, or redeveloping strip malls and surface parking lots. Development in these areas will reduce vehicle trips and make the best use of our infrastructure investments (M-NCPPC, 2011, Annual Growth Policy).”*

As the County becomes more urban, acquiring park sites in growth areas will be increasingly difficult because of competition with other land uses. However, park and recreation goals should support Smart Growth by locating facilities that are accessible by walking and transit, as much as possible. Providing sufficient parks and open space will depend heavily on renovation and repurposing of existing lands and facilities, while strategically acquiring new land. *Vision 2030* recommends balancing renovation of the existing aging facilities with expenditures for new construction, co-location of facilities of two or more public agencies where appropriate, repurposing of existing underutilized facilities, where supported by detailed analysis, and strengthening marketing efforts in order to increase revenue, awareness, and use. The service delivery strategies contained in this *PROS Plan* build upon these recommendations from *Vision 2030*.

This *PROS Plan* for the first time looks not only at projecting estimated needs and facilities as required by the State, but also attempts to look beyond needs projection to implementation. It also attempts, by building on the *Vision 2030* process, to better align future capital expenditures with the public’s priorities for facilities and services. Finally, the *PROS Plan* reaffirms the Department of Parks’ critical responsibility for stewarding and interpreting natural and cultural resources throughout M-NCPPC’s park system in Montgomery County.

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## WHAT'S NEW ABOUT PROS?

The following new aspects of the *PROS Plan* are intended to help staff and decision makers address park, recreation and stewardship needs in an era of diminishing resources and increasing urbanization in Montgomery County:

- Create service delivery strategies
- Renovate and repurpose existing parkland and facilities
- Implement new guidelines for urban parks
- Apply new plan to manage natural areas throughout the park system

- Manage and interpret historic and archaeological resources per cultural resources asset inventory database
- Create an implementation plan to distribute needed facilities equitably

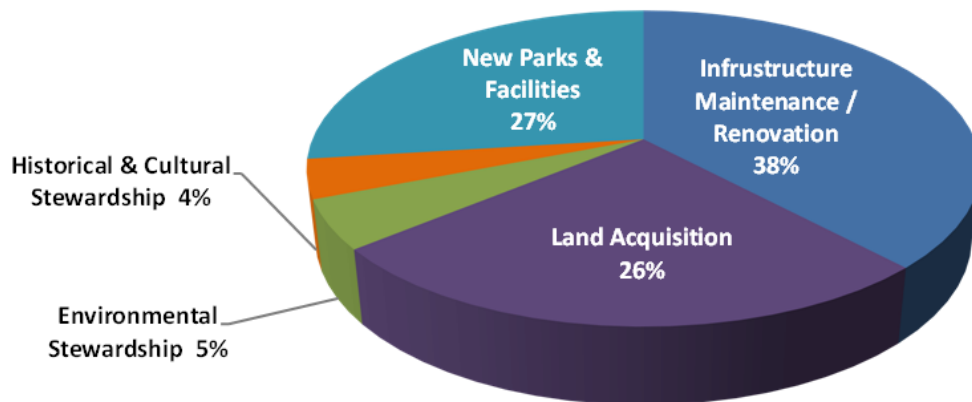
### Create Service Delivery Strategies

The 2012 *PROS Plan* recommends strategies to deliver park and recreation facilities for the most important facilities and resources identified by *Vision 2030*. These strategies will help Parks staff locate things where they are most needed. Some popular facilities such as playgrounds, basketball courts, and tennis courts are currently meeting needs in most areas and are relatively easy to include in new or renovated parks. Others are more difficult to provide due to the lack of available or affordable land to meet the needs of a growing population; they include recent trends such as community gardens, civic greens, community open space, dog parks, cricket, skateboarding facilities, as well as more traditional facilities, including community recreation/aquatic centers, trails, and athletic fields. The service delivery strategy for each of these is provided in detail in Chapter 3, Recreation.

### Renovate and Repurpose Existing Parkland and Facilities

The Department of Parks recognizes that existing parks and facilities need renovation and reconstruction to continue to provide County residents with a high level of service. The proposed CIP for FY 13-18, approved by the Planning Board, reflects this priority. Thirty-eight percent of the Parks Department CIP is allotted to Infrastructure Maintenance and Renovation, while 27% is allotted to New Parks and Park Facilities. Service delivery strategies in this *PROS Plan* consider the renovation of existing facilities an important aspect of meeting needs and maintaining and improving levels of service.

Proposed FY 13-18 CIP



*Vision 2030* recommended strategically repurposing some underutilized park and recreation facilities with those in higher demand. Repurposing analyses will be included in future site selection and implementation studies.

### Implement New Guidelines for Urban Parks

*PROS Plans* in the past have projected park and recreational needs by broad planning areas. The smaller urban sector plan areas present distinct challenges and opportunities for park and recreation resources as areas redevelop. Urban Park Guidelines will provide direction to park and recreation recommendations in area master plans/sector plans, park master plans, park facility plans and CIP projects. This *PROS Plan* recommends that a system of parks and open spaces be provided for every urban master plan or sector plan area through a combination of public and private efforts. Urban open space systems should support a vibrant and sustainable urban center by creating open spaces that will be comfortable, attractive, easily accessible, and provide a range of experiences. Those open spaces that rise to the level of serving as a focal point of community life for the sector plan area are typically recommended to be publicly owned and operated parks, while those open spaces serving each district, neighborhood, or block are often recommended as public use spaces to be owned by the private sector. The following hierarchy should be applied to all urban master plans and sector plans:

- For the **Sector Plan Area**:
  - active recreation destinations within or near the plan area
  - a central civic urban park, ranging in size from 1/2 to 2 acres
  - an interconnected system of sidewalks and trails to connect parks and open spaces
  - wooded areas that will provide a sense of contact with nature
- For each **Urban Neighborhood**: a neighborhood green
- For each **Block**: an urban square or pocket park
- For each **Building**: recreation space
- For each **Residence**: private outdoor space

### Apply New Plan to Manage Natural Areas throughout the Park System

Important natural resources will be protected by acquisition into the park system through the development review process or the Program Open Space and County Legacy Open Space land acquisition programs.

Operation and Use Plans for Natural Areas will be developed for existing and future parks. These park-specific operational plans will be created within the framework of the new *Natural Resource Management Plan for Natural Areas in Montgomery Parks, M-NCPPC* (draft June 2012).

Stewardship of natural areas within parks will continue to be implemented through a variety of programs. Current policies and management programs are critical to the conservation of natural resources, especially programs that control invasive and/or damaging plant and animal species (e.g., a variety of non-native invasive plants and white-tailed deer).

### **Manage and Interpret Historic and Archaeological Resources per Cultural Resources Asset Inventory Database**

The Cultural Resources Asset Inventory Database is a prioritized historic sites inventory based on preservation factors. Some of the buildings were acquired in a near-complete state of disrepair. The top 20 - 25 historic sites at any given time should be considered the priority sites for funding, preservation, and potentially programming.

The Department of Parks' Cultural Resources Program will continue to make historical, archaeological, and landscape properties useful to residents and visitors now and in the future in the following ways:

- Continue to tell the county's story through its best 8-10 public interpretive sites, including, but not limited to: Woodlawn Manor and the Underground Railroad Experience Trail, Oakley Cabin, Josiah Henson Special Park, the Agricultural History Farm Park, Kingsley School, and Blockhouse Point
- Should a new cultural resource become available that tells a critical part of Montgomery County's history never told before, that resource should be considered for selection in the inventory, regardless of its geographic location

### **Create an Implementation Plan to Distribute Needed Facilities Equitably**

*PROS Plans* inform the park, open space, and recreation recommendations in area master plans, sector plans, park master plans, park facility plans, and the CIP. This *PROS Plan* recommends an Implementation Plan that is system-wide, while focusing on increasing service where it is most needed. This new park planning paradigm will rely on comprehensive and integrated analysis of facilities and lands that are in greatest demand to provide decision-makers with understanding of the trade-offs in an era of increasing competition for limited land and resources while the County population and its needs are growing. In some areas it will not be possible to build facilities on additional land and the only solution to meeting needs will be to repurpose underutilized facilities to more needed ones, while strategically seeking opportunities in other areas for new parkland. The new paradigm links:

- The estimated number of needed facilities (e.g., PROS needs for dog parks)
- The service delivery strategy
- The results of facility-specific site selection studies

Park Planning staff believes these outcomes, coupled with the more general guidance in *Vision 2030*, will provide excellent guidance for preparation of the Department's future CIP. It will also help guide our work with the development

community, by giving direction to our efforts to negotiate opportunities for new parks (and their associated facilities) through the development review process.

The service delivery strategies in this *PROS Plan* (see Chapters 3, 4, and 5) will serve as a starting point for the more detailed site selection recommendations. The Implementation Plan will use an objective and data-based analysis to recommend:

- Sites for natural and hard surface trails, natural areas, dog parks, community gardens, picnic shelters, group picnic areas, historic/cultural areas, ice rinks, skateboarding facilities, outdoor volleyball, cricket fields, civic greens, community open spaces, and athletic fields. Athletic field recommendations will be based on analysis of existing fields -- use, capacity, and demand to re-balance the existing mix -- and on analysis of sites for new or re-configured fields. This study will be especially challenging and will attempt to consider the impact of new policies instituting hourly permit fees, permit turndowns or inability for filling first or second requests, and amount of unpermitted use
- Whether and where any new nature centers or renovations should be constructed in the park system. This would include a service delivery strategy and an analysis of the existing facilities
- Realistic hard surface and natural surface trail alignments and priorities, per the Countywide Park Trails Plan Amendment currently underway



## CHAPTER 2- Background, Existing Policies, and New Guidelines for Urban Parks

This Chapter includes background and policies that guided the *2012 PROS Plan*, including Mission, Vision and Values of the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*, and the missions of the Department of Parks and the Montgomery County Department of Recreation. Additionally, background is included on the Montgomery County Park System, a revised Park Classification System and the Policy for Parks. New guidelines are included for the planning of urban parks.

### BACKGROUND

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#### MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

##### Vision 2030 Strategic Plan

The following values and vision statements for the *Vision 2030* project were developed based on input from community leaders and stakeholders that participated in a *Vision 2030* Summit in February 24, 2010. These strategies helped guide the proposals in the *2012 PROS Plan*.

#### VALUES

The M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Montgomery County Department of Recreation serve the County to:

- Promote healthy living through diverse recreation and leisure activities
- Protect natural, historical, and archaeological resources
- Promote economic competitiveness of Montgomery County as a place for businesses to locate through a robust parks and recreation system that attracts knowledge workers and families
- Promote sense of community and civic pride
- Nurture an appreciation for our natural, cultural legacy
- Provide lifelong learning opportunities
- Shape healthy, safe, green communities
- Collaborate with partners to provide sustainable, accessible, and diverse leisure opportunities
- Engage a diverse community and proactively respond to changing demographics, needs, and trends
- Acquire, maintain, and manage the parks and recreation built environment

*Vision 2030* will guide the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Montgomery County Department of Recreation to provide:

- Stewardship of natural and historic resources
- Opportunities for active life-long learning, leisure, and recreation

### **M-NCPPC Department of Parks, Montgomery County**

Following are the vision, mission, and values statements for M-NCPPC Department of Parks, Montgomery County.

#### **VISION**

“An enjoyable, accessible, safe, and green park system that promotes a strong sense of community through shared spaces and experiences and is treasured by the people it serves.”

#### **MISSION**

“Protect and interpret our valuable natural and cultural resources; balance the demand for recreation with the need for conservation; offer a variety of enjoyable recreational activities that encourage healthy lifestyles; and provide clean, safe, and accessible places for leisure-time activities.”

#### **VALUES**

- **Stewardship** – Manage the county park system so it best meets the needs of current and future generations
- **Recreation** – Offer a range of leisure activities that strengthen the body, sharpen the mind, and renew the spirit
- **Excellence** – Deliver the highest quality product, service, and experience possible
- **Integrity** – Operate with an objective, honest, and balanced perspective
- **Service** – Be courteous, helpful, and accessible to each other and the public we serve
- **Education** – Promote opportunities for continuous learning among staff and the public we serve
- **Collaboration** – Work in cooperation with all stakeholders including residents, communities, public and private organizations, and policymakers, as well as interdepartmentally
- **Diversity** – Support and embrace the differences among our employees and the public we serve, and offer suitable programs, activities, and services
- **Dedication** – Commit to getting the job done the right way, no matter what it takes



## **Montgomery County Department of Recreation**

Following are the mission and operating principles and objectives for the Montgomery County Department of Recreation.

### **MISSION**

The mission of the Montgomery County Department of Recreation is to provide high quality, diverse, and accessible programs, services, and facilities that enhance the quality of life for all ages, cultures, and abilities.

**Operating Principals:** In support of the mission, the Department will readily serve the community by providing:

- Leisure activities that enhance skills, health, and self-esteem
- Activities that incorporate current leisure trends and population demographics
- Ways to stimulate growth in knowledge through leisure experiences
- Opportunities to build sense of community
- A network of services linking the community through collaboration and partnerships
- Safe havens where participants feel welcome
- Fun for all

**Operating Objectives:** The Department will continuously strive for optimal participant experiences.

- **Teamwork:** Essential to achieve success for our staff, our programs, our families, and our community
- **Objectivity:** We will maintain a positive approach to all challenges we face
- **Growth:** Change will be embraced, and used to expand our opportunities
- **Imagination:** We will cultivate new ideas into exciting programs and services
- **Value:** We will understand and appreciate the wealth of diversity of our community
- **Excellence:** We will meet our participants' expectations of quality and performance

## EXISTING POLICIES

### THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARK SYSTEM

The preservation of open space and recreation in our parks is essential to the quality of life in Montgomery County. Recreation includes both nature-oriented experiences such as nature walks and bird watching, as well as those activities needing specific facilities such as athletic fields, playgrounds, etc.

Montgomery County currently has approximately 36,000 acres of parkland and 410 park and open space areas. Most of the County’s park acreage is found in large countywide parks that form the framework of our park system. These include Regional and Recreational Parks, Special Parks (focusing on historic/cultural areas) and Conservation Oriented Parks (Stream Valley and Conservation Area Parks). County residents also have the benefit of many Community Use Parks that are closer to home and consist of neighborhood, local and neighborhood conservation areas *(See Figure 1)*.

*Figure 1 - Montgomery County Park System Acreage Summary*

(Report Number 30)	DEVELOPED	UNDEVELOPED	TOTAL PARKS	ACRES UNDEVELOPED	ACRES DEVELOPED	TOTAL ACRES
<b>COUNTYWIDE PARKS</b>						
Stream Valley Park Units	1	37	38	14,316.20	71.93	14,388.13
Regional Park	5	0	5	5,372.92	2,686.46	8,059.37
Recreational Park	8	3	11	408.68	2,494.45	2,903.12
Conservation Park	0	20	20	4,431.02	0.00	4,431.02
Special Park	20	5	25	1,074.25	1041.28	2115.53
Misc. Facilities	6	0	6	0	110.62	110.62
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>25,603.07</b>	<b>6404.74</b>	<b>32007.79</b>
<b>COMMUNITY USE PARKS</b>						
Urban Park*	20	7	27	18.65	23.11	41.75
Neighborhood Park	80	15	95	91.02	575.65	666.67
Local Park	135	15	150	322.16	1,946.49	2,268.65
Neighborhood Conservation Area	0	40	40	282.05	0.00	282.05
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>713.88</b>	<b>2,545.25</b>	<b>3,259.12</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>26316.95</b>	<b>8949.99</b>	<b>35,156.29</b>

*Disclaimer: By Policy Regional Parks can be only 1/3 developed, maximum. The developed acreage numbers reflect maximum development potential.*

*\* Urban Parks are recommended by this 2012 PROS Plan to be moved into the Countywide category of the Park Classification System*

### THE PARK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Montgomery County Parks are classified into two broad categories -- Countywide Parks and Community Use Parks. There are several Park Types in each category (*see Figure 3.*)

This plan recommends redefining and moving Urban Parks from the Community Use category to the Countywide Category. Community Use Parks serve primarily residents of surrounding communities, whereas Countywide Parks serve the whole County. The newer role and design of Urban Parks draws people from beyond the immediate community (*see Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4.*)

Based on the approved *Issues, Objectives and Outreach Report of the Urban Parks Guidelines (Montgomery County Planning Board, June 3, 2010)*, the definition of an urban park should be, "... updated to reflect the open space needs of urban communities, including places for gathering, environmental health, human health, and economic vitality." *It is no longer the case that urban parks serve mostly as a buffer between adjacent residential, office and commercial districts...*" The updated definition will "... highlight the vision and role of urban parks to serve mixed-use, densely developing communities." (*2005 Park Recreation & Open Space Plan (PROS) / Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan (LPPRP), p. III-12.*)

**Figure 2 – Comparison of the Existing and Proposed changes to the Urban Park Classification**

	EXISTING URBAN PARK DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED URBAN PARK DESCRIPTION
<b>PARK TYPE CATEGORY</b>	<b>COMMUNITY USE PARK</b> Parks in this category serve residents of surrounding communities	<b>COUNTYWIDE PARK-</b> Parks in this category serve all residents of Montgomery County
<b>PARK TYPE</b>	Very small parks, serving highly urban areas.	<b>Walk-to Parks</b> that serve residents, employees, and visitors in high density, mixed use, transit oriented development areas, and range in size from pocket urban parks to ½ to 2 acre civic greens to parks large enough for active and passive uses. They generally have more green space than paved surface and may be available 24 hours a day.
<b>TYPICAL FACILITIES*</b>	Landscaping, sitting/picnic areas, play equipment, courts, and shelters.	Predominantly flexible space for community gatherings and festivals, as well as active and passive recreation activities, that may include Frisbee, pickup sports, picnicking, skateboarding , community gardens, etc.
<b>APPROX. SIZE</b>	1 Acre	1/4 acre minimum

Figure 3 - The Current Montgomery County Park Classification System Chart

PARK TYPE	PARK TYPE DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL FACILITIES*	APPROXIMATE SIZE
<b>COUNTY-WIDE PARKS – Parks in this category serve all residents of Montgomery County</b>			
<b>- Recreational Oriented Parks</b>			
<b>Regional Parks</b>	Large Parks that provide a wide range of recreational opportunities but retain 2/3 or the acreage as conservation areas.	Picnic / playground areas, tennis courts, athletic fields, golf course, campgrounds, water-oriented recreation areas.	200 acres or more
<b>Recreational Parks</b>	Parks larger than 50 acres in size that are more intensively developed than Regional Parks, but may also contain natural areas.	Athletic fields, tennis courts, multi-use courts, picnic/playground areas, golf course, trails, natural areas.	50 acres or more
<b>Special Parks</b>	These parks include areas that contain features of historic and cultural significance.	Vary, but may include agricultural centers, garden, small conference centers, historic structures, etc.	Varies
<b>- Conservation Oriented Parks</b>			
<b>Stream Valley Parks</b>	Interconnected linear parks along major stream valleys providing conservation and recreation areas.	Hiker-biker trails, fishing, picnicking, playground areas.	Varies
<b>Conservation Area Parks</b>	Large natural areas acquired to preserve specific natural archaeological or historic features. They also provide opportunities of compatible recreation activities.	Trails, fishing areas, nature study areas, informal picnic areas.	Varies
<b>COMMUNITY USE PARKS – Parks in this category serve residents of surrounding communities</b>			
<b>Urban Parks</b>	Very small parks, serving highly urban areas.	Landscaping, sitting/picnic areas, play equipment, courts, and shelters.	1 Acre
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	Small parks providing informal recreation in residential areas.	Play equipment, play field, sitting area, shelter, tennis and Multi-use courts. (Do not include regulation size ballfields).	2.5 Acre
<b>Local Parks</b>	Larger parks that provide ballfields and both programmed and un-programmed recreation facilities.	Ballfields, play equipment, tennis and multi-use courts, sitting/picnic area, shelters, buildings and other facilities.	15 Acre
<b>Neighborhood Conservation Areas</b>	Small parcels of conservation oriented parkland in residential areas, generally dedicated at the time of subdivision.	Generally undeveloped, may include a storm water management pond and related facilities.	Varies

\* This list is not all-inclusive, but includes facilities typical of each park type.

Figure 4 - Proposed Park Classification System Change

PARK TYPE	PARK TYPE DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL FACILITIES*	APPROX. SIZE
<b>COUNTYWIDE PARKS – Parks in this category serve all residents of Montgomery County</b>			
<b>- Recreational Oriented Parks</b>			
<b>Regional Parks</b>	Large Parks that provide a wide range of recreational opportunities but retain 2/3 or the acreage as conservation areas.	Picnic / playground areas, tennis courts, athletic fields, golf course, campgrounds, water-oriented recreation areas.	200 acres or more
<b>Recreational Parks</b>	Parks larger than 50 acres in size that are more intensively developed than Regional Parks, but may also may also contain natural areas.	Athletic fields, tennis courts, multi-use courts, picnic/playground areas, golf course, trails, natural areas.	50 acres or more
<b>Special Parks</b>	These parks include areas that contain features of historic and cultural significance.	Vary, but may include agricultural centers, garden, small conference centers, historic structures, etc.	Varies
<b>Urban Parks</b>	Walk-to Parks that serve residents, employees, and visitors in high density, mixed use, transit oriented development areas, and range in size from pocket urban parks to ½ to 2 acre civic greens to parks large enough for active and passive uses. They generally have more green space than paved surface and may be available 24 hours a day.	Predominantly flexible space for community gatherings and festivals, as well as active and passive recreation activities, that may include Frisbee, pickup sports, picnicking, skateboarding , community gardens, etc.	1/4 acre minimum
<b>- Conservation Oriented Parks</b>			
<b>Stream Valley Parks</b>	Interconnected linear parks along major stream valleys providing conservation and recreation areas.	Hiker-biker trails, fishing, picnicking, playground areas.	Varies
<b>Conservation Area Parks</b>	Large natural areas acquired to preserve specific natural archaeological or historic features. They also provide opportunities of compatible recreation activities.	Trails, fishing areas, nature study areas, informal picnic areas.	Varies
<b>COMMUNITY USE PARKS – Parks in this category serve residents of surrounding communities</b>			
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	Small parks providing informal recreation in residential areas.	Play equipment, play field, sitting area, shelter, tennis and Multi-use courts. (Does <b>not</b> include regulation size ballfields).	2.5 Acre
<b>Local Parks</b>	Larger parks that provide ballfields and both programmed and un-programmed recreation facilities.	Ballfields, play equipment, tennis and multi-use courts, sitting/picnic area, shelters, buildings and other facilities.	15 Acre
<b>Neighborhood Conservation Areas</b>	Small parcels of conservation oriented parkland in residential areas, generally dedicated at the time of subdivision.	Generally undeveloped, may include a storm water management pond and related facilities.	Varies

## **“A POLICY FOR PARKS”**

The following *Policy for Parks* was adopted by the Montgomery County Planning Board in the *1988 PROS Plan* and has been re-affirmed and included in every *PROS Plan* since that date. Its goals and objectives are still valid and should be followed whenever possible. Exceptions may be made by the Planning Board when it is deemed to be in the best public interest. The Policy for Parks guides acquisition, development, and management of the Montgomery County Park System. It is listed in its entirety below:

**Goal** – To acquire and maintain a system of natural areas, open spaces, and recreation facilities developed in harmony with the County’s natural resources to perpetuate an environment fit for life and fit for living.

### **Objectives**

#### **Acquisition of Parkland**

The objectives of the program for parkland acquisition shall be:

- 1 - Acquisition of land for a balanced park system in the region in order to:
  - Provide citizens with a wide choice of both active and passive recreation opportunities as major factors in enhancing the quality of life
  - Provide adequate parklands to accommodate conservation and preservation needs
- 2 - Acquisition of parkland based on the following considerations:
  - Local and regional demand for public park and recreation facilities based on current need and projected population changes
  - Protection and preservation of natural areas
  - Protection and preservation of watersheds
  - Protection and preservation of cultural and historical site
- 3 - Encouraging the private dedication of land as a means of parkland acquisition.

#### **Development and Management of the Park System**

The objectives of the planning, design, construction, and management of the park system shall be based on:

- Meeting the needs of recreation and preservation in a manner that is harmonious with the natural beauty and parkland physiography, reflecting concern for the environment
- A planned and scientific approach to resource management, cognizant of the ecological interdependencies of people, the biota, water and soil

To preserve natural resources, the Department of Parks shall:

- Limit the development of active-use areas in regional parks to no more than 1/3 of their total park acreage, with the remaining acreage designated as natural areas and/or conservation areas. Development in

other categories of parks shall be determined on a case-by-case basis with full consideration of the values of the natural features

- Prepare an environmental evaluation as part of park development or rehabilitation plans where deemed appropriate by the Park Commission
- Review as necessary the impact of park use, development, and management practices on parkland

#### **Relationship to Other Public Agencies, Education and the Private Sector.**

- The Department of Parks shall encourage other public agencies, as well as the private sector, to assist in providing compatible open spaces, natural areas, and recreation facilities and opportunities in the region
- The Department of Parks shall encourage and support research in the environmental sciences by other public agencies, institutions of higher learning, and the private sector, and support programs in outdoor education and recreation in the school system
- Lands and facilities under the control of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission are held as a public trust for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations. The Commission is pledged to protect these holdings from encroachment that would threaten their use as parkland. The Commission recognizes that under rare circumstances non-park uses may be required on park property in order to serve the greater public interest

### **NEW GUIDELINES FOR URBAN PARKS**

Public parkland and trails—as well as both public and private open spaces—play important roles in the well-being of a community. Urban parks promote health and wellness, stimulate community and economic development, protect the environment, and educate, protect, and enrich America’s youth and growing senior population. They enhance the quality of community life by providing visual relief from the built environment, a sense of place, and an opportunity to connect with community and nature, and space to gather, play and celebrate. In recent years, as health issues caused by decreased activity have risen astronomically, providing active recreational opportunities close to urban residences and places of employment has become a priority.

Parkland contributes to the natural environment by providing wildlife habitat, improving air quality, and protecting water quality. Although small in size, urban parks typically have trees that remove pollutants and impurities from the air. The landscaped buffers and lawn areas in these parks can capture water run-off from the surrounding urban hardscape of buildings, streets and parking lots and cleanse it before it flows back into the groundwater, stream system and ultimately the drinking water for the urban areas. In some cases, forest areas

and ecosystems can be preserved in urban parks and become representative of what the landscape used to be before development occurred. These preserved areas have valuable habitat for native wildlife and can provide educational experiences for urban dwellers not frequently exposed to nature.

New research that has studied the relationship between urban areas and people's mental and emotional well-being cite the design and condition of cities as being associated with the happiness of the residents of those cities. The research has found that cities that provide easy access to convenient public transportation and to cultural and leisure amenities promote more happiness among the city residents. In addition, cities that are designed to foster social connections are deemed happier places to live and raise a family. Urban parks provide the much needed spaces to gather, to hold cultural events and to provide the leisure activities that urban residents seek in their pursuit of happiness.

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## **URBAN PARK GUIDELINES**

In June of 2010, the Planning Board approved the *Urban Park Guidelines: Objectives, Outreach Strategy Recommendations, and Plan Schedule*. The goal of the *Urban Park Guidelines* is to re-examine and re-define the role of urban parks in community life. While the County has been served well for years by its extensive park and trail system, its urban centers are largely lacking in accessible, conveniently located, public parkland. The pattern of urban parks must keep pace with the County's vision, plans, and policies for compactly developed, sustainable urban areas. This *PROS Plan* responds to the following three planning objectives approved by the Board in 2010:

- Objective 1: Define a new (third) park category in the classification system called Urban Parks
- Objective 2: Propose a standard amount of public parkland for community master plan areas, based on projected future population in the plan area
- Objective 3: Propose a methodology for distributing parkland across a community master plan area

### **Objective 1 - A New Definition**

A new definition of urban parks is covered in this chapter, with a recommendation for a new urban park category in the countywide section of the park classification system. The Board agreed in 2010 that the definition, role, and functions of urban parks should be revised to better reflect the important and evolving role urban parks play in community life. The new recommendation to place urban parks in the Countywide category, along with the new description, supports the vision and role of urban parks to serve mixed-use, densely developing communities. The new definition as stated in the proposed revised Park Classification System is as follows:



<b>PROPOSED URBAN PARK DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>PARK TYPE CATEGORY</b>	<b>COUNTYWIDE PARK-</b> Parks in this category serve all residents of Montgomery County
<b>PARK TYPE</b>	<b>Walk-to Parks</b> that serve residents, employees, and visitors in high density, mixed use, transit oriented development areas, and range in size from pocket urban parks to ½ to 2 acre civic greens to parks large enough for active and passive uses. They generally have more green space than paved surface and may be available 24 hours a day.
<b>TYPICAL FACILITIES*</b>	Predominantly flexible space for community gatherings and festivals, as well as active and passive recreation activities, that may include Frisbee, pickup sports, picnicking, skateboarding , community gardens, etc.
<b>APPROX. SIZE</b>	1/4 acre minimum

### **Objective 2 - A Standard Amount**

A standard amount of urban parkland is addressed in part by the service delivery strategy for Civic Greens (see Chapter 3, Countywide Facilities section). This *PROS Plan* recommends sizing civic greens according to the overall future density of a master plan or sector plan. In 2010 staff cautioned, and the Board agreed, that it would not be appropriate to establish a standard acreage per thousand residents, because the amount of parkland alone will not guarantee “the right parks in the right places” in our urban areas. The pattern and type of parks and open spaces rather than a standard amount of parkland is more effective in producing an appropriate open space system in an urban area. The pattern and type is addressed under Objective 3, below.

### **Objective 3 - A Methodology**

The Board agreed in 2010 that in order to distribute parkland appropriately within an urban area, the Urban Park Guidelines should:

- Help meet needs identified in the *2012 PROS Plan*, including new, urban park facilities such as event spaces, skate spots, etc.
- Help create a walkable open space system, using a standard maximum walking distance from residences and transit stops to parks

A methodology for distribution of urban parks is addressed in this *PROS Plan*, by including:

- New park facility types that are appropriate in urban areas in needs estimates and service delivery strategies, e.g. civic greens, community

open space, urban woodlands, community gardens, dog parks, and skate parks (see Chapter 3, Countywide Facilities section)

- A system with specific attributes to meet needs of urban residents, including a maximum walking distance
- A hierarchy of parks and open spaces with relative service areas to avoid gaps in service
- a minimum a walking distance to urban parks and open spaces

## Recommendations

### A System

This *PROS Plan* recommends that for each urban area, a unique open space system should be planned to serve the projected demographics of residents, workers, and visitors. The urban design vision developed during the master plan or sector plan process for the area will help guide the amount, pattern, location, siting, and design of open spaces.

The type and pattern of parks and open spaces best suited to urban populations is different from the suburban model of large tracts of land filled with fixed, single-use facilities. *PROS Plans* in the past projected recreational needs by broad planning areas, rather than by small sub-areas such as the new transit oriented neighborhoods being created in Montgomery County. This *PROS Plan* recognizes that urban areas change the way in which we provide, build, and manage park and recreation resources in those areas. There are distinct challenges, the potential to provide park and recreation resources in different ways and different opportunities to incorporate and create those resources as urbanizing areas redevelop. This *PROS Plan* recommends a system of parks and open spaces at the core of every urban area, provided through a combination of public and private efforts. The new open space system should support a vibrant and sustainable urban center by including open spaces that will be comfortable, attractive, easily accessible, safe, and provide a range of experiences, up to and including festival and outdoor event spaces. Those open spaces that rise to the level of serving as a focal point of community life for the planning area are typically recommended to be publicly owned and managed parks, while those open spaces serving a smaller district, neighborhood, or block are often recommended as public use spaces owned or managed by the private sector.

Every urban area should have a system of parks and open spaces that include the following attributes:

- Active recreation - places to exercise outdoors, alone or in groups
- Social interaction - comfortable seating areas, large public spaces for formal or informal gathering, community gardens
- Access to green space - ample areas of grass, trees, and other landscaping
- Relaxation and stress relief - areas away from traffic and urban noise

- Public accessibility - where anyone can gather or sit or talk
- Educational experiences and programs to learn from nature or cultural/historic resources
- Walkability - every residence should have a park or open space within 1/8 mile. Major roads can be barriers that add to the walking time and must be calculated into the minimum distance formula
- Connectivity - walking and biking systems to link all proposed urban open spaces, and to provide pleasant walking routes from residences and businesses to open space destinations throughout the planning area, and to connect to regional trail and bikeway systems
- Flexibility- space that can be used for a variety of spontaneous activities and gatherings, and to respond to the changing needs of urban populations
- Activating Uses –nearby shops, restaurants, and residences, attractions, entertainment, as well as places within the park for relaxation, getting work done (Wi-Fi), spontaneous play, education, recreation, etc.

### A Hierarchy

Each area master plan should include a system of open spaces based on the roles of each type of open space. The amount and size of open spaces may vary from plan to plan and should be directly proportional to the projected density, and adjusted to the pattern of existing open space and other factors such as community-specific needs.

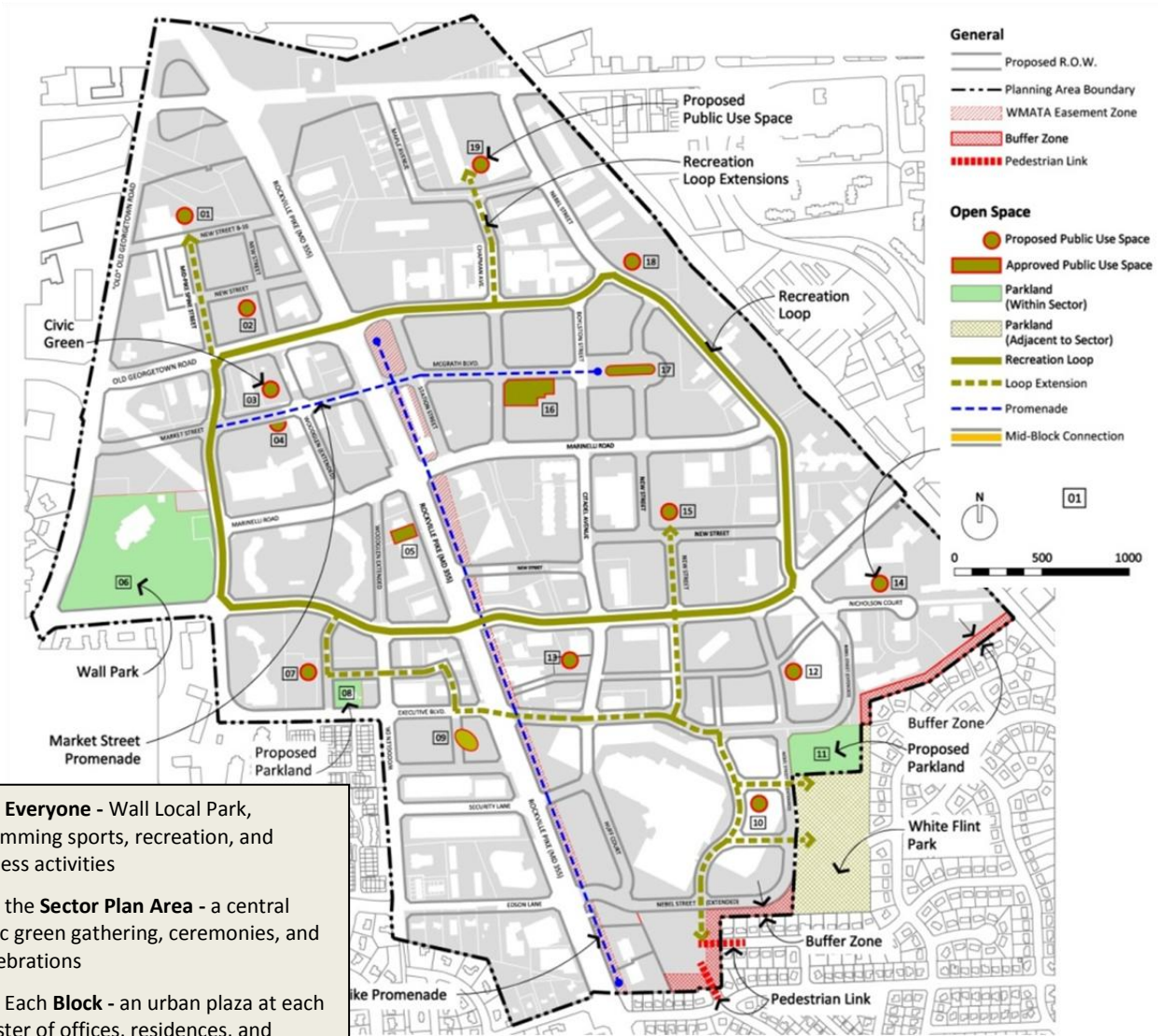
The following hierarchy should be applied to any new urbanizing area:

- For the **Sector Plan Area**:
  - active recreation destinations located in within or near the plan area. At a minimum, include one or more parks with Community Open Space (see Chapter 3) large enough for pick up soccer, Frisbee, festivals or events, etc.
  - a central “civic green” urban park (see Chapter 3), ranging in size from ½ to 2 acres, depending on projected densities, located in close proximity to a public transit hub, next to activating uses, with a mixture of hard and soft surfaces including a central lawn area for events
  - an interconnected system of sidewalks and trails to connect parks and open spaces
  - wooded areas that will provide a sense of contact with nature
- For each **Urban Neighborhood**: a neighborhood green
- For each **Block**: an urban square or pocket park
- For each **Building**: outdoor recreation space
- For each **Residence**: private outdoor space

An example of a hierarchy for parks and open spaces from the recently approved and adopted *White Flint Sector Plan (2010)* is shown **Figure 5** below.

**Figure 5 - Role of Parks in the Open Space System**

Source: the *White Flint Sector Plan – Approved and Adopted April 2010*



For **Everyone** - Wall Local Park, swimming sports, recreation, and fitness activities

For the **Sector Plan Area** - a central civic green gathering, ceremonies, and celebrations

For Each **Block** - an urban plaza at each cluster of offices, residences, and shops provide plazas, pocket parks, green streets

For Each **Neighborhood** - a neighborhood green meeting place and landmark

For Each **Building** - private recreation space public use space, community garden, green roof

## CHAPTER 3 - Recreation And Parks

### INTRODUCTION

Chapter 3 includes goals for recreation and parks, the principal County Implementation Programs for achieving these goals, an analysis of supply, demand and need for recreation facilities, and priorities for land acquisition, development and renovation. In addition to estimating needs for the next 10 years, Recommended Service Delivery Strategies are included to guide how they will be provided.

### STATE AND LOCAL GOALS

#### State Goals

The following State goals for recreation and parks are used in Planning for Parks and Recreation, in addition to other local goals:

- 1 - A variety of quality recreational opportunities are accessible to all of Maryland's citizens, and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being
- 2 - Parks and recreation facilities are amenities to make communities, counties, and the state more desirable places to live, work, and visit
- 3 - State investment in parks, recreation, and open space complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive plans
- 4 - Recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located near population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile, and help to protect natural open spaces and resources
- 5 - Investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities complements infrastructure and other public investments in existing communities and in areas planned for growth
- 6 - Parkland and resource land are protected at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate at which land is developed at a statewide level

## Local Goals

Goals contained in the *Vision 2030 Executive Summary* serve as Local Goals. They are listed under 5 Themes and include:

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### THEME 1: PROGRAMS AND EXPERIENCES

**GOAL 1** – Provide a variety of high-quality programs that meet community needs and interests

**GOAL 2** – Promote awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Montgomery County’s natural and historical resources

**GOAL 3** – Enhance health, wellness, and active living in Montgomery County

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### THEME 2: PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Planning for recreational, natural, and cultural resources in an urbanizing County

**GOAL 4** – Provide adequate and appropriate public lands and facilities that are equitably distributed across the County to meet the needs of residents

**GOAL 5** – Create a high-functioning system of Parks, Recreation, Trails, And Open Space that is responsive to changing community needs and interests

**GOAL 6** – Expand and enhance opportunities for recreational trail experiences to promote health and wellness

**GOAL 7** – Expand park and recreation facility accessibility

**GOAL 8** – Provide an equitable distribution of public indoor recreation spaces in Montgomery County that is sustainable

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### THEME 3: OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE & SAFETY

Maintaining a safe, accessible, quality parks and recreation system

**GOAL 9** – Maintain quality park and recreation lands and facilities for efficiency, safety, attractiveness, and long-term sustainability

**GOAL 10** – Provide for the protection, security, and safety of natural areas, historic resources, archeological sites, and park and recreation facilities, including playgrounds, athletic fields, pools, community centers, and trails

**GOAL 11** – Inventory, conserve, restore, and enhance ecologically healthy and biologically diverse natural areas with a focus on Park Best Natural Areas, Biodiversity Areas, and Environmentally Sensitive Areas as defined in the *Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (M-NCPPC, 2005)*

**GOAL 12** – Identify, stabilize, preserve, maintain, and interpret historic and archaeological resources on parkland

#### **THEME 4: MANAGEMENT**

Maximizing efficiencies and sustainability

**GOAL 13** – Ensure long-term sustainability by focusing taxpayer funding on those services that produce the widest community benefit, using a cost recovery pyramid

**GOAL 14** – Ensure services are accessible for those who are socio-economically disadvantaged

**GOAL 15** – Increase alternative funding sources

**GOAL 16** – Be leaders in sustainable “green” practices

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#### **THEME 5: MARKETING & OUTREACH**

Informing and engaging a diverse community

**GOAL 17** – Proactively market parks and recreation services and facilities and communicate the benefits to the community

**GOAL 18** – Effectively communicate with and engage diverse groups

**GOAL 19** – Provide meaningful opportunities for public support, input, and engagement

#### **CURRENT COUNTY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS**

This section describes County programs and procedures for recreation, parks, and related open space.

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#### **COMMUNITY MASTER PLAN PARK PROPOSALS**

Community master plans continually update the County’s Comprehensive Plan and provide an important vehicle for implementation of park plan proposals. During the community master planning process, needs for future public facilities, including parks, are given careful consideration. The importance of protecting significant historic, cultural and natural areas such as stream valleys is also identified and incorporated into proposed land acquisition proposals and included in community master plans.

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#### **PARK MASTER PLANS**

Park master plans also serve an important role in implementation of the *PROS Plan*. Countywide recreation facility needs and preservation of natural and

historic resources are most often provided by regional and recreational parks. Park master plans and management plans are prepared for these parks and include proposals that meet recreation needs while providing stewardship of the park's natural resources.

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### **DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS**

Acquisition and development of new parks through the subdivision process is an important method of implementing recreation and open space needs. Cost-sharing or partnership proposals with developers have become a way of meeting recreation needs in an efficient manner with minimal impact on County taxpayers. Each subdivision plan for new development is reviewed with respect to park and recreation needs and considers the following:

- The need for a community-use park to serve the development as evidenced by the *PROS Plan* or area master plan proposals
- The need for preservation of natural areas or historic and cultural sites
- The need for trails or access paths to existing or proposed parkland
- The need to provide private recreation areas. The *Recreation Guidelines* approved by the Planning Board in 1992 include requirements for developers to provide privately developed and maintained recreation areas to fulfill the need for informal neighborhood facilities for new residents
- The need to contribute to public amenities in areas of high density mixed use development

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### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP) PARK PROPOSALS**

The Capital Improvements Program implements the *PROS Plan* by including proposals for land acquisition and construction of recreation facilities identified in the *PROS Plan* that are not provided through the development review process. Following the identification of park needs and specific site proposals in the Plan or community or park master plans, individual park projects may then be considered for inclusion in the six-year Capital Improvements Program -- first for facility planning and site design -- and second for construction. The CIP is submitted every two years and includes all acquisition and development to be completed within the following six years.

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### **PLANNING COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ENTITIES**

Planning coordination with other agencies or jurisdictions is important in the implementation of the *PROS Plan*. Implementation of Plan proposals will occur through partnerships with other public agencies or private organizations or groups. Recreation, natural or historic resource preservation projects that are achieved cooperatively with another public agency or with private developers



are increasingly important as areas of the County redevelop. Friends' groups and volunteers add significant resources to park facilities and programs.

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## FUNDING SOURCES

There are many funding sources the County uses to support the park and recreation programs. The Capital Improvements Program, the annual budget, (including funding for park maintenance and renovation) and State Program Open Space Grant funds are the primary sources supporting the County Parks and Recreation.

## NEW RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

### Needs Analysis and County Priorities for Lands, Facilities and Rehabilitation

This section of the plan includes information on:

- 1) Supply of parkland and recreation facilities to support specific recreational activities;
- 2) Demand assessment and estimate of the public demand for specific recreation activities;
- 3) Needs determination of additional land and facilities needed through the year 2020 with service delivery strategies on how they should be provided; and
- 4) County Priorities for land acquisition, facility development, and renovation.

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## SUPPLY OF PARKLAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

M-NCPPC has 35,156 acres of Parkland divided into large countywide and smaller community use parks which include a wealth of recreation facilities (*see APPENDIX 1*). Overall, Montgomery County has a total of 66,067 acres of parkland, recreation space, and open space. The County is fortunate to have many partners providing open space protection with each providing a portion of the open space preservation. In addition to M-NCPPC and Municipal Parkland, these partners include Federal and State Parks, public school open space, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and private open space areas.

### Demand Assessment and Estimates

#### Parkland

Demand for future M-NCPPC parkland is analyzed in individual area and park master plans. Needs are based on areas needed for natural and cultural

preservation as well as recreation facilities. A summary of these needs is included in later in this chapter and in **appendix 7**.

### State Acquisition Goal

A recreation acreage goal for each county of 30 acres of recreation parkland per 1000 persons has been recommended by the State as a way of measuring future needs. See **APPENDIX 4** for a description of how the State calculates the goal and Montgomery County's status.

### Park Facilities

The remainder of this section focuses on the demand for specific recreation facilities to the year 2022. It discusses needed facilities and methodologies for estimating demand, and, for the first time, service delivery strategies for meeting needs. The strategies are based on approved plans and policies such as *the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*, *the Environmental Guidelines (M-NCPPC)*, and past *PROS plans*, as well as emerging trends and benchmarking.

Estimating exact numbers of athletic fields and other recreation facilities demanded in the County is an extremely difficult task and subject to many future variables. It therefore is often spoken of as "more art than science". Need estimates should be considered "guidelines" rather than hard and fast rules. They may be revised in the future, as needed, to accommodate changes in population projections and participation rates.

Maintenance of existing and future facilities is critical to their usability by the public. Renovation and improved maintenance of existing facilities is needed, particularly in older areas of the County, to keep them in safe, usable condition. Seventy-nine percent of the respondents of the *Vision 2030* Survey indicated that making improvements to existing facilities is a top funding priority. To assure that we can maintain future facilities, their maintenance impact is calculated and noted in the Capital Improvements Program so that public officials will be aware of their future budget impact.

*Vision 2030* recommended the following guiding principles for meeting future park and recreation needs in the County, which are reflected in this plan's service delivery strategies:

- Balance renovation and conversion of older, deteriorated parks and facilities with new construction
- Respond to changing priorities by re-defining existing land and facilities to provide different kinds of services
- Deliver services to areas of highest need

*Vision 2030's* statistically valid survey assessed and prioritized needs for facilities for the next 20 years. The methods used by the *2012 PROS Plan* for estimating future needs for each facility are similar to past *PROS plans*; most are based on participation rates of various sports or activities and adjusted to census projections to the year 2022. A service delivery strategy that typically proposes a platform, type and size, and geography is proposed for each facility.

### **Park Facilities Not Analyzed in this Plan**

The park and recreation system also has many facility types that are not specifically addressed in the analysis of needs in this document, some of which are highly unique. They include botanical display gardens, an Agricultural History Farm Park with historic house and barn, and activity center, equestrian parks, nature centers, therapeutic facilities such as a Miracle League baseball field and specialized playground complex. In addition there are primitive and full service campgrounds, a carousel, miniature trains, event centers, exercise courses, golf courses and driving range, lakes and boating facilities, miniature golf, an outdoor ropes course, park activity buildings, a splash playground and indoor tennis centers (**APPENDIX 1** for table showing all park facilities.)

The Department of Parks is committed to incorporating the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design, ADA, into planning and development and upgrading of park and recreational facilities. Making facilities available and accessible to existing and future populations should be an integral part of all park and recreation planning and development and is therefore not detailed in the individual service delivery strategies.

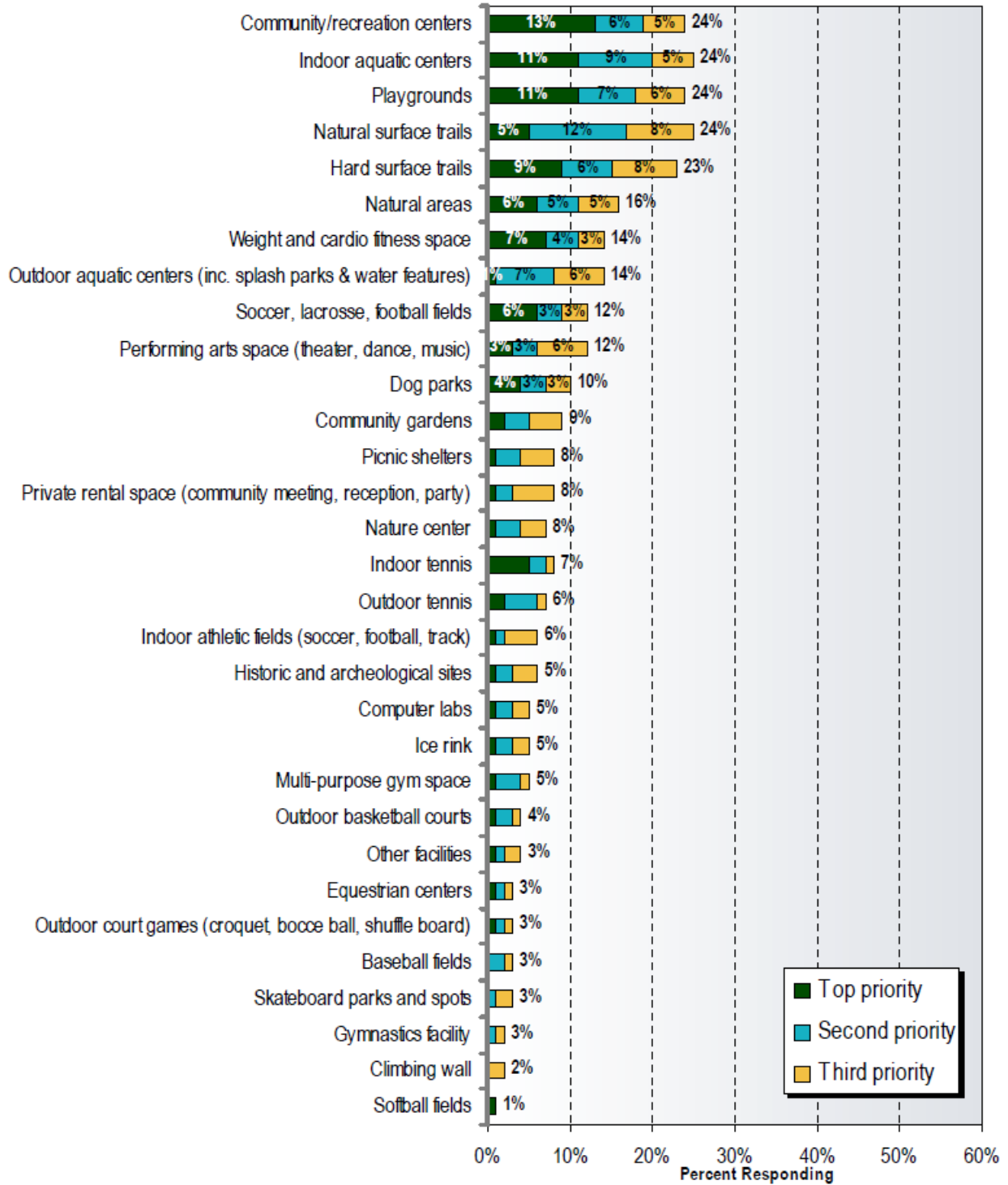
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### **NEEDS DETERMINATION AND PRIORITIZATION OF FACILITIES**

Needs are estimated to the year 2022 for a selection of the most popular park and recreation facilities, as required by the State guidelines for inclusion. A statistically valid countywide survey was completed as part of the *Vision 2030* analysis. The survey measured how people ranked park and recreation facilities according to their current usage and frequency, as well as their importance, and how well they currently meet needs. The survey also measured the need for future facilities and the importance of adding, expanding or improving them. Question four, “Future Facilities and Programs” asked the respondents to indicate which of the potential facilities were the three most important to them and their household, and then to indicate the three facilities they felt “are most in need of addition, expansion, or improvement” (**see Figure 6.**) This provided the opportunity to not only see what amenities are important to respondents, but also to get an idea of how the same amenities are viewed in relation to each other, allowing priorities to become more evident. The survey showed certain facilities to be high ranking across several questions—most notably trails, natural areas, playgrounds, and community recreation and aquatic centers. This *PROS Plan* estimates needs and recommends service delivery strategies for those facilities as well as for some facilities that ranked lower in importance but higher in unmet need such as skate parks, dog parks, and ice rinks, as well as for traditional facilities such as athletic fields, picnic shelters, tennis courts, and basketball courts. Additional facilities not measured in the survey—cricket fields, outdoor volleyball, civic greens, and community open spaces—are included due to other public input and/or staff-observed demand.

Figure 6- Vision 2030 Survey Report – June 2010

**FIGURE 21**  
**IMPORTANCE OF ADDING, EXPANDING, OR IMPROVING FACILITIES (TOP 3 PRIORITIES)**



**SERVICE DELIVERY GEOGRAPHIES**

The Service Delivery Recommendations in this document are grouped, by three geographies, into facilities serving the Countywide Area, Athletic Field Areas, and Planning Areas. The following service area map illustrates the boundaries of the Athletic Field Areas used to estimate all types of fields, and Planning Areas, which are used to estimate local area needs for basketball, tennis and playgrounds. The remaining facilities are estimated for the entire County. The facilities within each geographical group are listed in order of *Vision 2030* Survey ranking.

Figure 7 - PROS Service Areas Map



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## METHODOLOGIES AND SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGIES

The methodologies used in the *2012 PROS Plan* for estimated future needs are primarily based on guidance from State suggested methods, approved policies and plans such as the *Countywide Park Trails Plan* (M-NCPPC 1998, 2008), the *Vision 2030 Survey* (M-NCPPC, 2011), the 2003 M-NCPPC Park User Survey, 2011 M-NCPPC and CUPF permit data, and recent benchmarking.

For the first time in a *PROS Plan*, service delivery strategies for each facility are included to guide the type and distribution of facilities. The strategies are guided by findings and recommendations from *Vision 2030* and historic need patterns. These strategies will provide policy guidance for area master plans, park master plans, partnership proposals, site selection studies, facility plans and prioritization of future CIP work programs.

## COUNTYWIDE FACILITIES

The following table lists preliminary estimates for future additional needs for facilities that are served on a countywide basis. Facilities are listed in order of the importance of adding, expanding or improving facilities as indicated by the *Vision 2030 Survey*. Countywide facilities listed are recreation/aquatic facilities, natural and hard surface trails, natural areas, dog parks, community gardens, picnic shelters, group picnic areas, historic/cultural areas, ice rinks, skate parks, outdoor volleyball, cricket fields, civic greens, community open spaces, and urban forest areas. These facilities are projected on a total countywide basis because many are located in regional or recreational parks and they serve large portions of the County. Estimates account for existing inventory and population projections for all publically owned areas of the County, including municipalities.

This *PROS Plan* includes facilities in other jurisdictions in the inventory of countywide facilities. Where there is a documented shortage of a facility type, and the current master plan or CIP proposals cannot fulfill that need in the future, other alternative providers (e.g., Smokey Glen Farm for group picnic areas,) will be examined to determine if they are meeting the projected unmet need.

For combined community recreation centers/aquatic facilities, the Montgomery County Recreation Department's *2010-2030 Recreation Facility Development Plan* provided the basis for the needs projections. The *Countywide Park Trails Plan* (M-NCPPC, 1998, 2004, 2008), currently undergoing an amendment, is the basis for needs for trails to serve walkers, runners, bikers and equestrians. Dog park needs are based on participation rates from the *Vision 2030 Survey*. Community garden needs are estimated using benchmarking from national research. The needs for picnic shelters and group picnic areas are derived from 2011 M-NCPPC permit data. Skateboarding facility needs were estimated based

on the participation rates derived from the *2003 State Telephone Survey*. Volleyball and cricket needs are based on benchmarking from national research and local user groups. Civic green needs are based on public input from recent area master plans, and community open space and urban wooded area needs are based on numerous requests from park users. Natural resource area conservation priorities and methods are described in detail in Chapter 4, and historic and archaeological resource preservation priorities and methods are described in Chapter 5.

Figure 8- Countywide Inventory, Future Needs and Service Delivery Strategies

V2030 SURVEY RANK	FACILITY TYPE	CALCULATION OF NEED			COUNTYWIDE SERVICE DELIVERY
		METHOD /DATA SOURCE	2011 INVENTORY	ADD'L NEED BY 2022	
<b>PROS COUNTYWIDE - Indoor Facilities</b>					
1	<b>Combined Community Recreation and Aquatic Multipurpose Centers</b>	Per Montgomery County Recreation Facility Development Plan 2010-2030, (MCRD, 2011)	0	4	Add fewer, larger centers, and combine typical elements of Community Recreation Centers and Aquatic Centers into combined structures, ( <i>Vision 2030</i> , M-NCPPC, 2011). Redefine two existing and add two additional strategically located combined Community Recreation and Aquatic Multipurpose Center projects to serve the North & South Central Sub-Areas
2	<b>Indoor Aquatic Centers</b>		4	0	See above
<b>PROS COUNTYWIDE – Outdoor Facilities</b>					
4	<b>Natural Surface Trails</b>	Per Countywide Park Trails Plan (M-NCPPC, 2008)	128.3 mi. (+21 alternate providers)	TBD	Per <i>Vision 2030</i> (M-NCPPC, 2011): Expand distribution of multi-use trails: high density areas with limited trail access; and where existing trails are over ½ mile apart:
5	<b>Hard Surface Trails</b>	Per Countywide Park Trails Plan (M-NCPPC, 2008)	62.6 mi. (+112.6 alternate providers)	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Re-examine planned regional trails as part of the Countywide Park Trails Plan Amendment</li> <li>▪ Convert limited use trails to multi-use where appropriate</li> <li>▪ Identify and fill gaps in regional trail system</li> <li>▪ Enhance trail connectivity to the county’s recreational facilities and activity centers</li> <li>▪ Improve links to the county’s bikeway system and recognize the trail system’s value for non-motorized mobility</li> <li>▪ Examine additional way to enhance level of service</li> </ul>
6	<b>Natural Areas</b>	Per Planning Board approved area master plans, park master plans, and countywide functional plans	26,000 ac	5,173 ac	<p>Key natural areas in the County will be conserved, managed and appropriate public access provided through three primary delivery strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Important natural resources will be protected through acquisition into the park system through the development review process and acquisition programs</li> <li>▪ Park-specific operational plans will be developed to provide management guidance for newly acquired and existing natural areas within the overall framework of the new Natural Resource Management Plan for Natural Areas in Montgomery Parks, M-NCPPC</li> <li>▪ A variety of conservation and education programs will continue to be implemented by the Parks Department to conserve natural resources and create the next generation of stewards for long-term conservation</li> </ul>



V2030 SURVEY RANK	FACILITY TYPE	CALCULATION OF NEED			COUNTYWIDE SERVICE DELIVERY
		METHOD /DATA SOURCE	2011 INVENTORY	ADD'L NEED BY 2022	
11	Dog Parks	Participation rates per <i>Vision 2030</i> Survey (M-NCPPC, 2011)	5	12 dog parks or 24 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give priority to areas where level of service per population is lowest</li> <li>Provide three types of facilities defined by size, platform, and service area</li> <li>Priority platform is dog parks (3 acres) in regional and recreational parks, followed by dog parks (.5-3 acres) in local parks. Consider dog spots (.25-.5 acres) for neighborhood and urban Parks only where compatibility with surrounding land uses, and increased operations are feasible</li> </ul>
12	Community Gardens	Participation rates from Benchmarking (National Research-National Gardening Association, 2009)	10	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct survey to guide site selection study</li> <li>Priority platform: local and neighborhood parks and public schools, followed by recreational parks</li> <li>Geographic Distribution: Current inventory and future need to be delivered in proportion to percent of County population in each area of the County</li> <li>Size: Optimal number of plots is 50</li> </ul>
13	Permitted Picnic Shelters	Participation rates from M-NCPPC permit data, 2011	87	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look at geographic parity and locate in regional and recreational parks near higher density in areas with lower levels of service for this facility, e.g., Northwest Branch Recreational Park, Wheaton Regional Park, Little Bennett Regional Park, Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park, and Cabin John Regional Park</li> </ul>
NA	Group Picnic Areas	Participation rates from M-NCPPC permit data, 2011	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locate in regional and recreational parks near higher density in areas with lower levels of service for this facility, e.g., South Germantown Recreational Park. Site selection should focus on the UpCounty area where there are currently no public facilities.</li> </ul>
19	Cultural Resources: Historic & Archaeological Sites	Cultural Resources Asset Inventory Database, Maryland Historic Trust, and Archaeological Database	117 structures, approx. 383 archaeology sites	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within a policy and regulatory framework provided by the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites (M-NCPPC, 1976), the Master Plan of Historic Preservation (M-NCPPC, 1979), and Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code, identify, preserve, protect, and interpret historic and archaeological resources on M-NCPPC parkland; rehabilitate standing historic structures through either the CIP, major maintenance, or property management programs; and prioritize these efforts according to the ranked priority of cultural resources as determined in the Park Planning and Stewardship Division's Cultural Resources Asset Inventory Database</li> <li>New historic and archaeological resources will be considered for addition to the current inventory on a case-by-case basis according to historic significance, availability, condition, and public funds</li> </ul>
21	Ice Rinks	User data (M-NCPPC, 2011)	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locate in a regional or recreational park in the I-270 Corridor, based on location of users from current turn-away data. Ridge Road Recreational Park most appropriate</li> </ul>

V2030 SURVEY RANK	FACILITY TYPE	CALCULATION OF NEED			COUNTYWIDE SERVICE DELIVERY
		METHOD /DATA SOURCE	2011 INVENTORY	ADD'L NEED BY 2022	
					because of available infrastructure, grading, parking, etc
28	Skateboarding Facilities	Participation rates from State Planning Survey, 2003	6.5	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Give priority to areas where level of service per population is lowest, such as South Central Area (<i>Vision 2030</i>, M-NCPPC, 2011)</li> <li>▪ Locate within safe walking distance of middle or high schools, in areas of higher population density</li> <li>▪ Provide three types of facilities defined by size, platform, and service area, with priority to be given to mid-size (10k-15k sf) skate parks in local parks, and larger skate parks (15k-20k sf) in regional and recreational parks. Provide smaller skate spots (5k-10k sf) in urban and neighborhood parks</li> </ul>
NA	Outdoor Volleyball Courts	Participation rates estimated	17	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Add sand volleyball, with an emphasis on co-locating two or more courts for tournament play, with lighting (<i>Vision 2030</i>, M-NCPPC, 2011)</li> <li>▪ Service delivery depends on where the most players are and where there is room in regional or recreational parks</li> <li>▪ Locate two groups of 4-6 courts, lighted, in a regional or recreational park, with adequate restrooms, picnic tables, and parking</li> </ul>
NA	Cricket Fields	Participation rates estimate to be verified with national research and local user groups	1*	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide 2 fields in the I-270 Corridor, and 2 in East County, accessed by major road such as MD Route 29, MD Route 200 /ICC</li> </ul>
NA	Civic Green		0	NA	<p>Include in urban parks in the center of highest density in urban areas, near activating uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide one in every transit-served urban sector plan area</li> </ul>
NA	Community Open Space		To be verified	TBD	<p>Open, level, grassy area for a variety of informal recreational activities. 10,000 sf minimum, with 60' width, minimum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Designate Community Open Space in existing parks, and acquire additional lands that could include Community Open Space especially in areas with high population density and lower levels of service</li> </ul>
NA	Urban Wooded Areas		To be verified	TBD	<p>An area of preserved trees or new plantings that will provide a sense of being in a natural area within an urban environment. Trails and seating areas will create inviting, relaxing places within the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Existing and proposed parks in urban areas - As a part of regular</li> </ul>

V2030 SURVEY RANK	FACILITY TYPE	CALCULATION OF NEED			COUNTYWIDE SERVICE DELIVERY
		METHOD /DATA SOURCE	2011 INVENTORY	ADD'L NEED BY 2022	
					<p>planning processes, designate Urban Wooded Areas in existing and proposed parks. Prioritize efforts in areas lacking nearby woodland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Geographic Distribution: Look for opportunities to acquire additional lands that could include Urban Wooded Areas in existing and future urban areas</li> <li>▪ Size: 5,000 sf minimum, with 50' width, minimum</li> <li>▪ Setbacks: 30' from buildings and curbs, and other park facilities</li> </ul> <p>Priority Platform for Service Delivery: Parks in urban areas.</p>

\* Two temporary substandard fields considered equivalent to one standard cricket field for the purposes of inventory.





## COMBINED RECREATION CENTER AND AQUATIC FACILITIES

A new *Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030* has been developed by the Recreation Department based on the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*, with the goal to provide an equitable and sustainable distribution of public indoor recreation spaces in Montgomery County. In addition to completing current planned facilities and renovations, the Plan recommends refining the model for future indoor community recreation centers, adding fewer, larger regional centers and combining them with indoor aquatics. It indicated that new construction should be focused in the underserved North and South Central growth corridor. The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* indicated that no additional outdoor aquatics facilities are needed, and that no new stand-alone indoor aquatics facilities are recommended. Accordingly, the *Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030* recommends continued evaluation of renovations and modernization of centers and pools and potential consolidation/repurposing of older smaller community and neighborhood facilities as may be warranted.

The Recreation Department began constructing community recreation centers in the 1980s. The proposed prototype for these facilities meets residents' needs much more effectively. The Department currently has 24 Community / Neighborhood Recreation and Senior Centers located throughout the County which provide recreation and leisure programs and services and public use of facilities. These centers provide leisure activity, social interaction, family participation, neighborhood civic involvement, and promote community cohesion and identity. Services for all ages are available in centers. Centers and Aquatics facilities are among the most popular Montgomery County recreation facilities, with participation by 61% and 43% respectively of the respondents to the 2010 survey. Additionally, Community Recreation Centers (CRC) and indoor Aquatic Centers (AC) were rated the highest facilities in importance to add, expand or improve in the *Vision 2030* survey.

### Calculation of Need

**Assumptions:** Total need by the year 2030 based on the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* and the *Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030*: a total of four combined Community Recreation and Aquatic Centers.

**Facility Size:** 80,000+/- net square feet of programmable space (CRC – 35,000 & AC – 45,000). With a current calculation of 1.4 as the gross square foot adjustment factor the building will occupy around 110-115,000 gross square feet. Some portions of the facility can be developed as multi-floor space reducing the overall footprint to 90,000+/- gsf.

### Service Delivery Strategies

- Priority platform for service delivery: With other institutional facilities (partner and/or co-locate with schools, libraries, park facilities, or other leisure service providers etc.), when appropriate, in highly accessible

locations along multi-modal transportation corridors (e.g., public transportation routes, trails, major roadways, etc.)

- Size: 6.6 acres of programmable space (building: 110-115,000 gross sf; parking: 350-500 spaces; large multi-age playground structure and sprayground: 12-15,000 sf ; multipurpose hard surface court games area: 15,000 sf; multipurpose play field: 1.5 – 2 acres)
- Geographic Distribution: Prioritize adding public indoor recreation/aquatic centers in the North Central and South Central sub-areas where lower per capita level of service currently exists, and highest rates of growth are projected in the next 10 to 20 year (2010-2030):
  - **Silver Spring** - Explore reuse of available sites for development of an urban combined Community Recreation & Aquatic Center. This community has no other community recreation facilities, is well served by mass transit and significant pedestrian access
  - **White Flint** -Pursue a public/private coordinated development project at Wall Park which could bring a Community Recreation Center to the site along with redevelopment/expansion of the Montgomery Aquatic Center and Park facilities including structured parking
  - **Shady Grove** - Take advantage of the Metro Center redevelopment and locate an expanded Community Recreation Center here. Undertake a detailed feasibility study to determine the need for an additional aquatic facility at this location; review usage of Germantown Aquatic Center, Germantown Outdoor Pool, Upper County Outdoor Pool, and City of Gaithersburg aquatic facilities, current and proposed. It is possible that no additional aquatic services are required and the project could proceed as an enlarged community recreation center only
  - **Clarksburg** - Continue Facility Planning, begun in 2008, and including Site Evaluation for a combined Community Recreation and Aquatic Center to serve the North-central County area

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## Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030 Plan Outline

### Current Ongoing CIP Projects

- **White Oak Community Recreation Center (CRC)**  
Under Construction, Spring 2012 Opening
- **Neighborhood Recreation Center (NRC) Construction**  
Plum Gar NRC Renovation - Construction – Spring 2011  
Scotland NRC Renovation - Construction – Winter, 2012  
Ross Boddy NRC Renovation - Design Development and Construction FY 13-18

Good Hope NRC Renovation - Design Development and Construction FY 13-18

- **North Potomac CRC**  
Design Development

### Facility Planning / Site Evaluation Projects

- **Western Outdoor Pool Renovation**  
Finalize Program of Requirements (POR) and Cost Estimates, FY 13
- **Wheaton Library and CRC**  
Facility Planning Revise / Update POR FY 13-18
- **Clarksburg CR and AC (Community Recreation and Aquatic Center)**  
Complete Planning and Site Evaluation (Update POR) FY 12-13
- **Recreation Facility Modernization**  
Update PORs, Needs and Feasibility Assessments FY 13-18  
Schweinhaut Senior Center  
Clara Barton NRC  
Upper County CRC  
Bauer CRC
- **White Flint CR and AC (Wall Park w/ MAC serving the North Bethesda region)**  
Facility Planning, Revise / Update POR FY 13-18
- **Silver Spring CR and AC**  
Site Selection and Facility Planning, Develop POR FY 13-18
- **Shady Grove CR and AC (Aquatic Needs Assessment)**  
Site Selection and Facility Planning, Develop POR
- **East Germantown CRC**  
Needs and Feasibility Assessments

### Needs Assessment, Site Selection, and Facility Planning

- **Sandy Spring CR and AC**
- **Western Co CR and AC**
- **Kensington CRC**
- **Kemp Mill CRC**  
Needs Assessment, Site Selection, and Facility Planning
- **Facility Modernization**  
Develop Assessment Process and POR Documents  
Holiday Park SC  
Longwood CRC  
Germantown CRC and Pool  
Lawton CRC  
Potomac CRC  
Olney AC  
Martin Luther King Jr AC  
Gwendolyn Coffield CRC  
Glenmont Pool  
Glenmont Pool  
Long Branch CRC and Pool  
East County CRC  
Bethesda Pool  
Praisner CRC  
Damascus CRC  
Wisconsin Place CRC







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## HARD SURFACE AND NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS

Use of hard and natural surface trails is the County's most popular recreation activity according to the respondents of the *Vision 2030* statistically valid survey. Sixty-eight percent of the respondents reported using both types of trails, and nearly 75% considered them very important to their household. In addition, trails ranked highest on the survey as to overall importance of adding, expanding or improving facilities. The M-NCPPC Department of Parks owns and manages 62.6 miles of existing hard surface trails and 128.3 miles of natural surface trails in the County. An additional 21 miles of natural surface and 50 miles of hard surface trails are owned and operated by other providers such as the State of Maryland, Montgomery County and the National Park Service. *Vision 2030* finds that some areas of the County are underserved by trails, and recommends looking at a variety of ways to increase the level of service of trails in addition to building new trail segments.

### Calculation of need

The *2005 PROS Plan* based the unmet need for trails on the proposed trails in the *Countywide Park Trails Plan (M-NCPPC, 2008)*. This Plan is currently undergoing an amendment that will recommend revising how we meet trail needs.

Mileage is not the only indicator of the total amount of usability of the trail system. One way to improve the level of service for trails is to reroute them to reduce resource impacts and to make them more sustainable, accessible and usable. When trails are rerouted, new trail segments are built while older segments are eliminated which can make the total mileage fluctuate. A decrease in mileage does not necessarily indicate a lower level of service, but can actually indicate an increase of service through improvements.

As the County urbanizes and land acquisition opportunities become more limited, we should expand the trail system where it makes sense, while investing in improvements to make our existing and planned trail system more sustainable, accessible, usable and enjoyable.

### Service Delivery Strategies

The following strategies are based on recommendations in *Vision 2030*:

- Expand the distribution of multi-use trails by identifying new multi-use trails particularly in currently or projected underserved and high-density areas with limited trail access and where existing trails are over ½ mile apart
- Increase trail connectivity by filling in gaps in the regional trail system and creating linked series of loops
- Enhance trail connectivity to the county's recreational facilities and activity centers

- Improve links to the county’s bikeway system and recognize the trail system’s value for non-motorized mobility
- Establish certain trails as limited-user trails to address the needs of hikers, bikers and equestrians
- Improve trail connections to provide increased accessibility to natural areas
- Re-examine planned regional trails as part of the CWPTP Amendment

This *PROS Plan* recommends that through the Amendment to the Countywide Park Trails Plan, the Department of Parks should build on these recommendations by prioritizing trails according to population density, connecting to destinations, suitable terrain, and closing gaps in the trail system. It should recommend realistic alignments for trail corridors, taking into account more detailed environmental and natural resource analysis than previous trail plans. It should also be coordinated with the 2005 Countywide Bikeways Functional Master Plan as much as possible to produce interconnected systems of trails and bikeways.

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## DOG PARKS



The County currently has 5 dog parks that are usable with an annual permit fee. The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommends addressing the growing demand for dog parks, especially in urban areas. Dog parks ranked 11th in importance for addition, expansion or improvement in the *Vision 2030 Survey*.

### Calculation of Need

#### Assumptions:

- Average size: 2 acres
- Season length: 365 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 2 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 5
- Capacity per session: 30 (15 dogs per acre per session)
- Daily carrying capacity: 150 dogs per day per facility
- Participation rate: 19%
- Frequency: 4.5 x/year

**Total Need:** 12 additional dog parks or 24 additional acres of dog parks

### Service Delivery Strategy

- Priority platforms for service delivery: Countywide (regional and recreational parks) based on operational and user capacity considerations. If no space is available in Countywide parks, locate dog

parks in local parks. Last priority is to locate in neighborhood or urban parks.

- Types and Sizes: The following 3 types of dog parks should be considered to meet needs:
  - Countywide Dog Park: 3 acres, located in regional or recreational park
  - Dog Park: 0.5- 3 acres, located in local parks
  - Dog Spot: 0.25-0.5 acre, located in neighborhood or urban parks
- Geographic Distribution: Current inventory and future facilities to be delivered in proportion to percent of County population in each subarea of the County.



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## COMMUNITY GARDENS

Montgomery County currently has 10 community garden sites including those on school property. *Vision 2030* recommends strategically adding these facilities. Community gardens ranked 12th in importance for addition, expansion, or improvement in the *Vision 2030* survey.

### Calculation of Need

#### Assumptions:

- Average size: 50 plots (smaller in urban parks)
- Season length: 270 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 1
- Capacity per session: 100 (50 plots, average 2 persons per plot)
- Daily carrying capacity: 100 people per day
- Participation rate: 1.9% (based on National Gardening Association 2009 Study - 1 million currently community garden, and 5 million want to for a total of 6 million or 1.9% of 2010 US Population)
- Frequency: 36 (1x/week for 9 months)

**Total Need:** 18 additional community gardens or 900 plots

### Service Delivery Strategy

- Priority platform for service delivery: Prioritize local and neighborhood parks and public schools, followed by recreational parks
- Geographic Distribution: current inventory and future gardens to be delivered in proportion to percent of County population in each subarea of the County



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## PERMITTED PICNIC SHELTERS

Montgomery County currently has 81 permitted picnic shelters, ranging in capacity from 30 to 100 people per shelter. *Vision 2030* recommends strategically adding these facilities. Picnic shelters ranked 13th in importance for addition, expansion, or improvement in the *Vision 2030* survey.

### Calculation of Need

#### Assumptions:

- Daily carrying capacity: 50 persons
- Season length: 100 days (30 days x 3 months -- June, July, and August plus 5 days end of May and 5 days early September)
- Number of turnovers per day: 1
- Participation rate: 7.95% (M-NCPPC Class Permit data, divided by 2010 County population)
- Frequency: 4.75x/year (State Telephone Survey, 2003)
- **Total Need: 0**

### Service Delivery Strategy

- Priority platform for service delivery: Countywide (regional and recreational parks), with restrooms and attractions for families
- Monitor capacity utilization
- Geographic Distribution: Augment existing service in Countywide parks with highest current usage (Wheaton, Black Hill, Cabin John Regional Parks). Add new facilities in Countywide parks closest to high concentrations of existing and future growth (Little Bennett Regional Park Day Use Area)

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## GROUP PICNIC AREAS

Montgomery County currently has 2 group picnic areas, which serve very large groups and allow alcohol. They are fenced for privacy and have a playground, playfield and rest rooms. They are located in Cabin John Regional Park and Valley Mill Special Park. *Vision 2030* recommends no increase in the number of facilities. Group picnic areas were not included in the survey.

### Calculation of Need

#### Assumptions:

- Daily carrying capacity: 167 persons per site average (M-NCPPC permit brochure)
- Season length: 100 days (30 days x 3 months -- June, July, and August plus 5 days end of May and 5 days early September)
- Number of turnovers per day: 1

- Participation rate: 1.41% (M-NCPPC Class Permit data, divided by 2010 County population)
- Frequency: 1.75 x/year (estimate based on professional judgment that patrons come more than once but not likely twice a year, on average)

**Total Need:** One additional facility is needed to compensate for the closure of Parklawn.

### Service Delivery Strategy

Locate in regional and recreational parks near higher density in areas with lower levels of service for this facility, e.g., South Germantown Recreational Park. Site selection should focus on the Upcounty area where there are currently no public facilities.



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## SKATEBOARDING FACILITIES

There are currently 6.5 countywide skate parks and skate spots, including those in municipalities. *Vision 2030* indicates a need to address the growing demand for skateboarding facilities, especially in urban areas, to update policies, maximize partnerships and identify opportunities to add in areas of greatest need. There is a great demand for skateboarding facilities that are unfenced and can be used informally. These can be built as small areas in parts of urban or local parks or can be multi-purpose park elements such as plazas with steps for seating or amphitheaters, ramps, rails, edging, etc.

### Calculation of Need

#### Assumptions:

- Facility Size – 10,000 square feet (average)
- Season length: 210 days (7 months)
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 2 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 5
- Capacity per session: 50 (10,000 sf divided by 200 sf per person)
- Daily carrying capacity: 250 persons per day per facility
- Participation rate: 3.2% (State of Maryland Telephone Survey, 2003)
- Frequency: 24.7 x/year (State of Maryland Telephone Survey, 2003)

**Total Need:** 10 skateboarding facilities or 100,000 sf

### Service Delivery Strategy

- Priority platform for service delivery: Local parks - 10,000 -15,000 sf skate parks within safe walking distance of middle schools or high schools, and near public transportation. If no space is available in local parks, locate skate spots, 5,000-10,000 sf, in neighborhood or urban

parks. Third priority is to locate largest skate parks, 10,000-20,000 sf in Countywide parks

- Geographic Distribution: Current inventory and future need to be delivered in proportion to percent of County population in each subarea of the County

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## CRICKET



Cricket fields have been requested by user groups for many years, but the space for one field is extremely large and the game lasts several hours; thus fields only accommodate a small number of users. We currently have two temporary fields, one in East County and one in the I-270 Corridor. There are 1,000 players in Montgomery County leagues today.

*Vision 2030* recommends that we provide a permanent adult-sized cricket field with supporting infrastructure.

### Calculation of Need

#### Assumptions:

- Facility Size: 1 large oval
- Season length: 210 days (7 months)
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 8 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 1
- Capacity per session: 30 (2 teams, 15 players each)
- Daily carrying capacity: 30
- Participation rate: .05%
- Frequency: 1x/wk = 28x/yr

**Total Need: 4**

#### Service Delivery Strategy

- Priority platform: converted baseball fields in local parks; underutilized softball fields large enough for youth play or which are expandable; new fields in regional or recreational parks; or new property to be added to any park
- Geography: I-270 Corridor, East County near Route 29 or other by major road such as MD 200/ICC (not inside the urban ring because there is a great rectangular field deficit there)
- Potential sites: Barmakian property, Little Bennett Regional Park, Calverton Galway Local Park, Burtonsville area parks



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## OUTDOOR VOLLEYBALL COURTS

Although outdoor volleyball has been a core service in Montgomery County for years, we have not estimated the demand for it. Input from user groups during *Vision 2030* indicated a demand for multiple courts for tournament play. There are 24 existing outdoor volleyball courts in the County, 17 of which are in M-NCPPC Park plus 7 by other providers. The trends show that casual/pick-up play exceeded organized play in grass and sand volleyball. Volleyball was not included in the *Vision 2030* survey.

### Calculation of Need

#### Assumptions:

- Facility Size: 1 court
- Season length: 180 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 2 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 5
- Capacity per session: 12 (2 teams, 6 players each)
- Daily carrying capacity: 60 persons per day per court
- Participation rate: 2% (estimate to be verified)
- Frequency: 12 (2x a month for 6 months - estimate to be verified)

**Total Need:** 7 facilities

### Service Delivery Strategy

Facility grouping: *Vision 2030* recommends looking for opportunities to add sand volleyball, with an emphasis on co-locating two or more courts for tournament play (with lighting when feasible).

- Priority platform: Two groups of 4-6 courts, lighted, in a regional or recreational park, with restrooms, picnic tables, etc.
- Geography: Dependent on future site selection study; near major roads; near where the most players are and where there is available space in regional or recreational parks



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## CIVIC GREENS

A civic green is a space that provides opportunities for outdoor community gatherings, ceremonies and celebrations, in the center of high-density, transit-served, mixed-use urban areas. These spaces have been approved in several of the most recent community master plans/sector plans. The *Vision 2030* survey ranked community events and festivals as the second most important program and activity to add, expand and improve.

## Calculation of Need

### Assumptions:

- Size: ½ to 2 acres, depending on the overall size and density of the sector plan or downtown area
- Characteristics: a mixture of hard and soft surfaces with a central lawn area for events
- Future Need: One civic green per sector plan for urban, transit-served areas

### Service Delivery Strategy

- Priority Platform for service delivery: urban parks in the center of highest density in urban areas, near activating uses
- Geographic Distribution: one in every transit-served urban sector plan area

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## COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE

A community open space is an open, level, grassy area for a variety of informal recreational activities. The *Vision 2030* survey did not assess the importance of this component; however, flexible, un-programmed areas in existing parks are heavily used, and often requested.



### Calculation of Need

**Assumptions** (based on the definition of "Open Play Area I" in the *Recreation Guidelines for Recreation Amenities in Residential Developments*, M-NCPPC, September, 1992):

- Size: 10,000 sf minimum, with 60' width, minimum (may be smaller in urban parks)
- Setbacks: 30' from buildings and curbs, and other park facilities
- Slope: Mostly level or slightly sloping/rolling land, although hillsides for sledding should also be included
- Not on wetlands or hydric soils
- Keep out of 25 ft State nontidal wetland buffer wherever possible
- Public access via a road or trail (less than ¼ mile) or direct access from neighborhood.
- Adjacent to other park amenity where possible
- Maintained by regular mowing to keep grass low
- Provide shade at the perimeter where possible



### Service Delivery Strategy

- Priority Platform for Service Delivery: Per Planning Area, provide a minimum area of Community Open Space per person, to be determined by further analysis
- Existing and proposed parks of all types - As a part of regular planning processes, designate Community Open Space in existing and proposed parks. Prioritize efforts in areas with high population density and lower levels of service
- Geographic Distribution: Look for opportunities to acquire additional lands that could include Community Open Space, especially in urbanizing areas



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### URBAN WOODED AREA

Urban wooded areas are being added to the new urban park category in the draft *PROS Plan* at the public's request. An urban wooded area is an area of preserved trees or new plantings that will provide a sense of being in a natural area within an urban environment. Trails and seating areas will create inviting, relaxing places within the area. Design and management of the area should follow Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, to allow visibility into the area. Since natural areas ranked third on the *Vision 2030* survey, staff believes that developing an urban standard is a priority. Management of this type of facility will present some unique challenges associated with soil compaction, maintenance of adequate soil moisture, tree health, CPTED, etc.

### Calculation of Need

#### Assumptions:

- Size: 5,000 sf minimum, with 50' width, minimum
- Setbacks: 30' from buildings and curbs, and other park facilities
- Slope: Mostly level or slightly sloping/rolling land
- Not on wetlands or hydric soils
- Keep out of 25' State nontidal wetland buffer wherever possible
- Public access via a road or trail (less than ¼ mile) or direct access from neighborhood
- Adjacent to other park amenity where possible
- Maintained by regular removal of non-native invasive species and low branches for visibility per CPTED

### Service Delivery Strategy

- Priority Platform for Service Delivery: Parks in urban areas
- Existing and proposed parks in urban areas - As a part of regular planning processes, designate Urban Wooded Areas in existing and proposed parks and prioritize efforts in areas lacking nearby woodland

- Geographic Distribution: Look for opportunities to acquire additional lands that could include Urban Wooded Areas in existing and future urban areas

## ATHLETIC FIELD AREA FACILITIES

### Calculation of Need

Needs are estimated for Athletic Field Areas, which are groups of Planning Areas (**Figure 7**). There are seven Athletic Field Areas in the County: Bethesda Chevy Chase, Potomac, Rural, Gaithersburg and Vicinity, Georgia Avenue, Eastern County, and Silver Spring Takoma Park. Needs for athletic fields are reported by these areas because people travel further to use an athletic field than to a local facility such as a playground, tennis court or basketball court (**Figure 8**).

Future field needs are derived from estimated future demand minus current supply. Needs are estimated by five field types – large adult-sized rectangles, smaller youth-sized rectangles, baseball diamonds (90' baseline), adult softball/youth baseball diamonds, and youth softball diamonds. Current inventory is assumed to be fields permitted through the Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF). These include all park fields, public elementary, middle, and selected high school fields, and closed public school fields.

### Athletic Field Study

*Vision 2030* recommends a more detailed analysis of field use in order to better assess the demand and deliver the service of athletic fields. Specifically it recommends that the Department of Parks re-balance the existing mix of athletic fields to better fit current needs for rectangle and diamond fields by strategically repurposing some existing diamond fields and increasing the number of rectangular fields to meet growing demand for a variety of sports played on rectangular fields. It acknowledges that locating enough of the right type of fields close to field users is a big challenge. Accordingly, *Vision 2030* recommends that the Department of Parks undertake a more detailed analysis of athletic fields than is typically required by the State of Maryland in a *PROS Plan*. This proposed “Athletic Field Study” will:

- Conduct extensive outreach efforts to athletic field user groups and various governmental partners, e.g., CUPF, Montgomery County Public Schools, and Montgomery Department of Recreation
- Identify athletic field issues and associated solutions unique to each of the seven athletic field areas
- Compare use to capacity (both measured in hours per week) for all public athletic fields
- Identify opportunities on restricted use fields to increase their capacity by adding irrigation, lighting, and/or converting some to synthetic turf



- Identify opportunities to increase the number of rectangular athletic fields through:
  - making more high schools fields available for public use through CUPF
  - conversion of diamonds to rectangles where feasible
  - building new fields
- Consider the contributions of alternative providers(e.g., Olney Boys and Girls Club) to meeting countywide athletic field needs
- Compare and contrast M-NCPPC Department of Parks current method of predicting future athletic field needs by sport, youth versus adult (as first proposed in the *2005 PROS Plan*), with methods used by other jurisdictions throughout Maryland and elsewhere
- If Department of Parks Staff and its various governmental partners agree on a more accurate method for predicting future athletic field needs, the Department will use it

Until the proposed Athletic Field Study is completed in FY 13, the Department of Parks will continue to rely upon the athletic field needs projections presented in the *2005 PROS Plan*. As noted in

**Figure 9** below, athletic field needs as presented in the *2005 PROS Plan* are projected to the year 2020. When completed, the proposed Athletic Field Study will project athletic field needs as per the *State of Maryland PROS* requirement, to the year 2022.

### **Service Delivery Strategy**

Using the Vision 2030 findings as a starting point, staff developed a service delivery strategy for athletic fields. This strategy includes estimates of need for each field type (i.e., adult rectangles, youth rectangles, 90' infield baseball, adult softball/youth baseball, youth softball), as well as service delivery strategies for each field type (

**Figure 9**). The Calculation of Need will be updated per the proposed Athletic Field Study. The following Service Delivery Recommendations are based on input from user focus groups (Vision 2030), operations staff and permitting staff, first for rectangular fields, followed by diamonds.

Figure 9 - Athletic Fields - Inventory, Future Countywide Needs, and Service Delivery Matrix

V2030 SURVEY RANK	FACILITY TYPE	2005 CALCULATION OF NEED (TO BE UPDATED)			COUNTYWIDE SERVICE DELIVERY
		2005 METHOD /DATA SOURCE	2005 INVENTORY	ADD'L NEED BY 2020 (2005 PLAN)	
<b>PROS ATHLETIC FIELD AREAS FACILITIES</b>					
9	<b>Rectangular Fields: Large/Adult</b>	Participation rates from M-NCPPC Method, based on data from CUPF permits	70	73	In Athletic Field Areas showing a need for rectangular fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construct new fields in areas of greatest need</li> <li>▪ Give priority to increasing the number of adult sized rectangular fields when planning new fields anywhere in the County</li> <li>▪ Consider converting softball fields to rectangles when it is determined that year-round rectangular use would increase and the site can accommodate a field of appropriate size. As part of the proposed "Athletic Field Study," staff will develop minimum standards for athletic fields</li> <li>▪ Increase capacity for field use through enhanced turf management, irrigation, lighting, or installation of synthetic turf where feasible</li> <li>▪ Seek opportunities for repurposing existing public lands or acquiring new parkland specifically for athletic field use</li> <li>▪ Consider "massing" athletic fields and associated infrastructure whenever possible in order to facilitate tournament play, minimize travel for parents/guardians with multiple team participants, and minimize costs for maintenance and policing</li> <li>▪ Gradually phase out athletic field overlays by transitioning to year round diamonds and rectangles</li> <li>▪ Conduct a field conversion study to determine where "underutilized" athletic fields can be converted to adult rectangles without significantly impacting environmentally sensitive areas</li> </ul>
9	<b>Rectangular Fields: Small/Youth</b>	Participation rates from M-NCPPC Method, based on data from CUPF permits	103	15	
27	<b>Diamond Fields: Baseball/Large</b>	Participation rates from M-NCPPC Method, based on data from CUPF permits	35	20	In Athletic Field Areas showing a need for diamond fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open discussions with high schools regarding allowing CUPF to permit diamond fields -- thereby increasing opportunities for permitted baseball play</li> <li>▪ Consider promoting select underutilized diamonds for the emerging recreational trend of adult kickball</li> <li>▪ Consider the construction of new large diamond fields in areas of high need and low level of service</li> </ul>
31	<b>Diamond Field: Softball Large</b>	Participation rates from M-NCPPC Method, based on data from CUPF permits	164	15	
31	<b>Diamond Fields: Softball Small</b>	Participation rates from M-NCPPC Method, based on data from CUPF permits	91	0	

During development of the *2012 PROS Plan Staff Draft*, Department of Parks Staff met with staff from CUPF, the Montgomery County Department of Recreation. Their observations include:

- Large rectangular and 90' baseline diamond fields are the field type requests that are the most difficult to fill
- Users prefer to play games on higher quality regional park fields than on lower quality fields in local parks, neighborhood parks, or elementary schools
- When planning new fields, staff should always strive to provide the highest design and operational standards possible
- Some softball fields are underused and could be considered for repurposing to rectangular fields, and that the smallest diamond fields are those that should be examined first for repurposing, because youth baseball on large diamonds continues to be popular
- Large adult-sized rectangular fields are needed the most
- Bethesda, Silver Spring, and Takoma Park have, in past *PROS plans*, consistently shown field shortages
- The I-270 Corridor is likely to have future needs for fields because of future directed population growth
- There may be a need to adjust the future mix of field types within a select planning area in order to optimize service delivery

## PLANNING AREA FACILITIES

Playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts are considered to be facilities needed “close to home” and are therefore calculated for each Planning Area. These public facilities will be supplemented by private homeowners’ association facilities and public use spaces that often serve as neighborhood parks particularly in more recently developed areas of the County. New schools will also supplement the supply of playgrounds and courts available to the public after school and on weekends.

The following table lists preliminary estimates for future additional needs for facilities that are served on a Community Planning Area basis (**Figure 7**). Facilities are listed in order of the order of importance of adding, expanding or improving facilities as indicated by the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan Survey (Figure 6)*, and include future needs for playgrounds, basketball, and tennis courts.

The methodology used to determine future needs for Planning Area facilities is the same as that used for many Countywide Facilities. It looks at current use and recommended needs in the Vision 2030 Survey and utilizes a participation rate derived from the 2003 Park User Survey. It then applies that rate to the Round 8 future population forecast to estimate future needs.

*Figure 10 - Future Recreation Needs for the Year 2022 by Planning Area*

Planning Area (PA)	PA Num	Playgrounds 2022	Tennis Courts 2022	Basketball Courts 2022
Aspen Hill	27	0	2	0
Bethesda	35	0	0	0
Clarksburg	13	3	5	3
Cloverly	28	0	0	0
Damascus	10,11,14,15	0	3	0
Darnestown	24	0	0	0
Fairland	34	0	0	0
Gaithersburg	20	0	0	0
Germantown	19	0	1	0
Kemp Mill/Four Corners	32	0	0	0
Kensington/Wheaton	31	0	0	0
North Bethesda	30	1	1	0
Olney	23	0	0	0
Poolesville	12,16,17,18	0	0	0
Potomac	29	0	0	0
Rock Creek	22	0	0	0
Silver Spring	36	0	0	5
Takoma Park	37	0	4	0
Travilah	25	0	0	2
White Oak	33	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>

Figure 11 - Planning Areas - Inventory, Future Needs and Service Delivery Strategies

V2030 SURVEY RANK	FACILITY TYPE	CALCULATION OF NEED			COUNTYWIDE SERVICE DELIVERY
		METHOD / DATA SOURCE	2011 INVENTORY	ADD'L NEED BY 2022	
<b>PROS PLANNING AREAS FACILITIES</b>					
3	Playgrounds	Participation rates per M-NCPPC User Survey	332	4	<p>In Planning Areas that show playground needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide a playground in every neighborhood and local park</li> <li>▪ Provide an adventure playground in every regional and recreational park within the Planning Area</li> <li>▪ Identify and document alternative providers</li> <li>▪ Where the steps above do not satisfy the need, consider new playgrounds on existing or potential parkland where there are gaps in a walkable service area</li> </ul>
23	Basketball Courts	Participation rates per M-NCPPC User Survey	377	10	<p>In Planning Areas that show basketball needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify and document alternative outdoor providers</li> <li>▪ Assess the use of high school courts to meet needs</li> <li>▪ Add court(s) to existing neighborhood and local park court areas if adequate parking, space, and visibility for policing are available</li> <li>▪ Add court(s) to regional and recreational parks within the Planning Area, if local or neighborhood parks are not available and if adequate parking, space, and visibility for policing are available</li> <li>▪ Where the steps above do not satisfy the need, consider new courts on existing or potential parkland where there are gaps in a walkable service area</li> </ul>
17	Outdoor Tennis Courts	Participation rates per M-NCPPC User Survey	492	16	<p>In Planning Areas that show tennis needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify and document alternative outdoor providers</li> <li>▪ Assess the use of high school courts to meet needs</li> <li>▪ Avoid new single, stand-alone courts (<i>Vision 2030, M-NCPPC, 2011</i>)</li> <li>▪ If needs cannot be met by previous steps, add court(s) to existing neighborhood and local parks where feasible, or to existing regional and recreational park located in a Planning Area, if local or neighborhood parks are not available</li> </ul>

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## PLAYGROUNDS

The *Vision 2030* Survey indicated that playgrounds are one of the County's most popular facilities, being used by 62% of the respondents. The County currently has approximately 332 playgrounds at parks and schools available to meet community needs after discounting time for school use. *Vision 2030* recommends maintaining a high level of service. Playgrounds are used by children, parents, and grandparents and they should typically be included in all new local and neighborhood parks.



### Calculation of Need

#### Assumptions:

- Facility Size: large enough to fit 8 children
- Season length: 180 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 1.5 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 7
- Capacity per session: 8
- Daily carrying capacity: 50 persons per day per facility
- Participation rate: proportional to percentage of children in planning area

**Total Need:** varies per planning area need totals (existing supply – future need)

### Service Delivery Strategy

In Planning Areas that show playground needs:

- Provide a playground in every neighborhood and local park
- If needs cannot be met in neighborhood and local parks, provide an Adventure Playground in regional and recreational park(s) within the Planning Area, and attribute higher capacity to them
- Identify and document alternative providers
- Where the steps above do not satisfy the need, consider new playgrounds on existing or potential parkland where there are gaps in a walkable service area
- Keep existing playground inventory and replace at end of useful life cycle

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## OUTDOOR TENNIS

There are approximately 492 outdoor tennis courts currently available for community use in public parks and schools in Montgomery County. Tennis courts were reported as used by 36% of the population in the 2010 survey. At these parks where there are usually only two courts. They are generally used informally by the adjacent community and use is often low. They can be





considered for re-purposing in some instances. The *Vision 2030* Plan recommended identifying strategic opportunities for larger groupings of tennis courts (indoor and/or outdoor). Tennis court complexes of 6 or more can be used more effectively than the local courts, for lessons, league play and tournaments, and experience much heavier use than the local park courts. New courts are constructed at all new middle schools (4 courts) and high schools (6-8 courts) that serve their educational and competitive program and serve community needs after school and on weekends. New single, stand-alone courts should not generally be built.

### Calculation of Need

#### Assumptions:

- Facility Size: 1 court
- Season Length: 240 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 1.5 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 7
- Capacity per Session: 2.4
- Daily carrying capacity: 16 persons per day per court (based on ratio of singles to doubles, user observation survey, 1990)
- Participation rate: proportional to percentage of age groups that play tennis in planning area

**Total Need:** varies per planning area need totals (existing supply – future need)

### Service Delivery Strategy

In Planning Areas that show Tennis needs:

- Identify and document alternative outdoor providers
- Assess the use of high school courts to meet needs
- Avoid new single stand-alone courts (*Vision 2030*, M-NCPPC, 2011)
- If needs cannot be met by previous steps, add court(s) to existing neighborhood and local parks where feasible, or to existing regional and recreational park located in a Planning Area, if local or neighborhood parks are not available



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### BASKETBALL (MULTI-USE) COURTS

There are over 377 existing basketball courts at parks and schools in the County that are available for community use. They are particularly important to serve teens and young adults. The 2010 *Vision 2030* Survey indicated that basketball courts are used by 30% of the population. *Vision 2030* recommended a service delivery strategy to review use patterns of existing basketball courts and identify opportunities for multiple uses such as futsal, as well as possible re-purposing of underutilized courts.

## Calculation of Need

### Assumptions:

- Facility Size: 1 court
- Season Length: 240 days
- Average day length: 10
- Average stay length: 1.5 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 7
- Capacity per session: 10
- Daily carrying capacity: 60

**Total Need:** varies per planning area need totals (existing supply – future need)

### Service Delivery Strategy

In Planning Areas that show basketball needs:

- Identify and document alternative outdoor providers
- Assess the use of high school courts to meet needs
- Add court(s) to existing neighborhood and local park court areas if adequate parking, space, and visibility for policing are available
- Add court(s) to regional and recreational parks within the Planning Area, if local or neighborhood parks are not available and if adequate parking, space, and visibility for policing are available
- Where the steps above do not satisfy the need, consider new courts on existing or potential parkland where there are gaps in a walkable service area

## FACILITIES IN NEED OF FURTHER STUDY

### NATURE CENTERS

The Department of Parks currently operates four nature centers, located around the County, in Black Hills Regional Park, Wheaton Regional Park, Cabin John Regional Park, and Rock Creek Regional Park. Their services include indoor, outdoor, and offsite nature education and interpretation, offered to a variety of participants ranging from school-aged children to adults. Our existing centers are in dire need of upgrading and or modernization.

*Vision 2030* recommends expanding outdoor nature programs. This function was ranked among the top priorities by the statistically valid *Vision 2030* survey. Another recommendation of *Vision 2030* was to balance construction of new facilities with renovation of existing ones. The Department of Parks should perform an objective and data-based analysis to determine if and where any new nature centers or renovations should be constructed in the park system.



This would include analysis of the existing facilities, a calculation of need and a service delivery strategy.



## RESPONDING TO TRENDS

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### RECENT AND FUTURE TRENDS

The Department of Parks will continue to respond to park and recreation trends. In the past few years, ten community gardens, an urban skate spot, an adventure high ropes course, a bicycle pump track, and an interim cricket field have been installed, some of them with the help of private sector partners. To deal with future trends, the Implementation Study proposed by the Plan will look at repurposing underutilized facilities for those with a higher need and could accommodate trends such as tai chi, futsal, soccer-tennis, etc. The continuing trend for nature-oriented programs and facilities will be addressed in the future nature center analysis.



### URBANIZATION

Perhaps the most significant trend recognized by this *PROS Plan* is the urbanization of the County and the trend for people to live in transit served areas, with less reliance on the automobile. The Plan recognizes that people in these urban areas need trail and sidewalk systems for recreational walking or biking or for commuting, as well as places for gathering, meditation, recreation, connecting to nature, etc. To respond to this need, this *PROS Plan* proposes a new urban park classification which includes civic greens for gathering and urban wooded areas for connection to nature. In addition, service delivery strategies proposed for community gardens, dog parks, and other facilities include criteria for smaller versions of the facilities that are appropriate in urban areas.



### A GROWING SENIOR POPULATION

Seniors are a growing age group and more seniors will be moving to urban areas where they will need nearby pathways and parks. The urban park facilities recommended in this plan will include age-friendly opportunities for social interaction, relaxation and active and passive recreation. Senior-friendly facilities include trails that measure miles (heart-smart trails), playgrounds with activities for seniors, and shade and seating throughout our parks.

## THE 2010 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT



The Department of Parks is committed to providing park facilities for people of all abilities. The approved CIP for FY 11-16 includes funding for on-going comprehensive efforts to ensure that all parks and park facilities are built and maintained in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ADA Accessibility Guidelines standards. This program also includes policy development and advanced technical training for Department of Parks' architects and engineers to ensure that ADA compliance and accessibility are incorporated throughout the park system's planning, design, and construction processes to comply with the new revisions to Title II of the ADA.

## STATUS OF 2005 PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Over 2,500 acres of parkland have been added since the 2005 Plan. Additionally, a great deal of progress has been made at meeting facility needs shown in the 2005 Plan through new construction of facilities at both parks and schools. These include approximately 25 fields, 16 playgrounds, 1 tennis court, 12 basketball courts, 3 picnic shelters, 6.5 skate parks and 2 dog parks. A list of athletic field area and planning area facilities that have been added since 2005 is included in **APPENDIX 5**.

## COUNTY PRIORITIES FOR LAND ACQUISITION, FACILITY DEVELOPMENT, REHABILITATION

This section discusses County Priorities for Land Acquisition, Facility Development, and Rehabilitation priorities and recommendations to meet recreational needs for the periods required by the State guidelines which are: short (2012-2016), mid (2017-2021), and long-range (2022 and beyond)

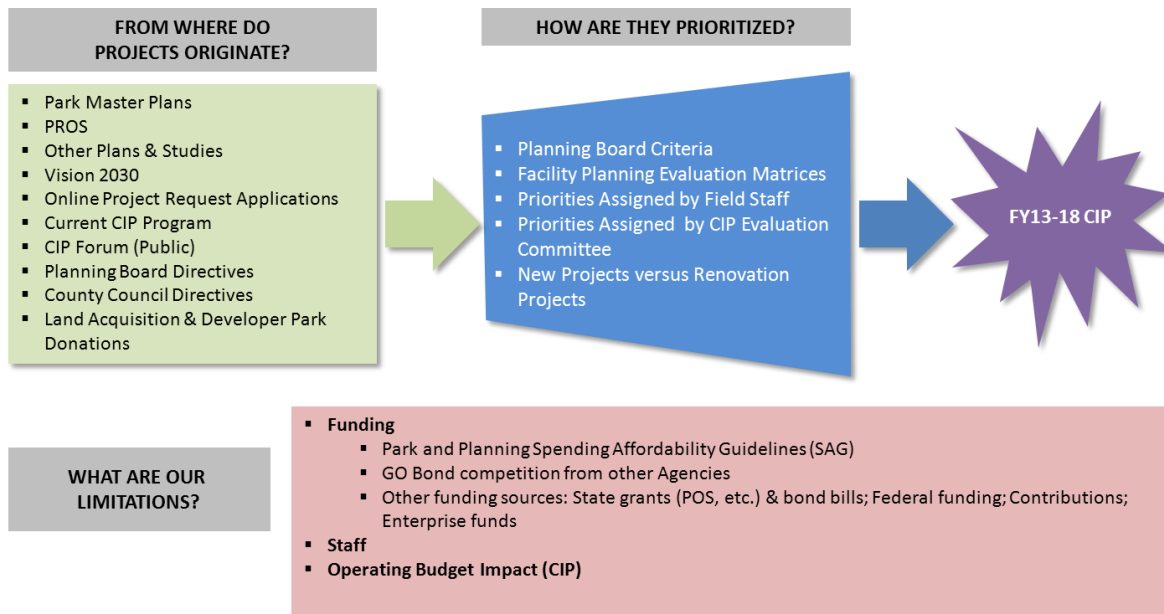
County priorities for land acquisition, facility development, and rehabilitation are based on, *Vision 2030* recommendations, the results of the *2012 PROS Plan* needs analysis, park and area master plans/sector plans and are consistent with State and County goals for recreation, parks and open space. The following graphic shows the process for Implementation through the CIP Process.

## IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH THE PARKS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Criteria for evaluating CIP Projects emphasize renovation, natural and cultural preservation, safety, etc. Operating Budget Impact is also considered. Below is a list of the criteria:

- Renovates aging infrastructure (reduces unexpected capital, operating or maintenance expenses of existing infrastructure)
- Protects Natural or Cultural Resources (Protects environmentally or culturally significant sites)
- Supports Plans or Studies (Supported by approved plans including park/area master plans, surveys, condition or needs assessment studies, PROS, etc.)
- Enhances Safety(Eliminates hazard; repairs deteriorated condition thus reducing Commission’s liabilities)
- Generates Revenue (User fees, permits ,admission fees, etc.)
- Meets Public Need(Requested by public through testimony, C-tracks, letters, etc.)
- Required by Mandates(Federal/State/Local regulations, i.e., ADA, NPDES)

### The CIP Sifting Process



The requested FY13-18 Capital Improvements Program includes \$171.1 million for acquisition, renovation and development. The entire CIP proposal is found in **APPENDIX 3**.

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### FUTURE LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITIES

Land acquisition needs and priorities are established based on area and park master plan recommendations. A detailed listing of future park acquisition proposals and their priorities is included in **appendix 7**. A total of 6,346 acres is recommended. Of this total, 5,173 acres are recommendation for conservation purposes and 1,173 acres for future recreation needs. The detailed table includes information on the specific park and notes whether it is short, mid, or long range priority. The proposed Capital Improvements Program only includes a small portion of this acreage. Priorities are established based on need for critical properties threatened by loss to development; essential to management and operation of an existing park, to accommodate construction of an approved CIP project, and to help reduce *PROS Plan* unmet needs.

Based on reduced Program Open Space Funding, there is \$535,000 in the FY 13-18 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for short term acquisition of community use parks (urban, neighborhood, and local parks) and \$1,135,000 for acquisition of non-local parks (regional, recreational, stream valley and conservation parks). This is only a small portion of what was included in past Capital Improvements programs. However, in addition the CIP has \$29,500,000 in Legacy Open Space (LOS) funding, and this funding may be utilized for conservation and agricultural easements as well as fee-simple land acquisition.

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### FUTURE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

The following tables show the relationship between the existing number of facilities, estimated 2022 additional facility needs, and facilities that are currently proposed in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP), area and park master plans and other documents. As requested by the state guidelines, these proposals are classified as short, mid and long range proposals that could help meet future needs. Short-range proposals include CIP facilities funded in FY 12-16 for Parks or Schools. Mid-range facilities (FY 17-21) are those funded for facility planning in the CIP or scheduled for constructed by a developer. Long-range proposals (after FY22) are park sites subject to future review that are not yet in the CIP for planning or construction, or dedication and/or construction by a developer, but have the potential of providing future facilities. (See **Appendix 6** for specific proposals for athletic fields and planning area proposals.

Because of fiscal constraints, the tables indicate that some of the short and mid-range proposals for facilities fall considerably short of the 2022 estimated needs, particularly rectangular athletic fields, picnic shelters, skate parks and

dog parks. However, the Service Delivery Strategies developed for each facility will maximize facility utilization and look at ways to close these gaps.

**Figure 12 - Facilities Serving Planning Area Needs**

Facility	Existing Park and School Facilities	2022 Estimated Needs	Short Range 2012- 2016	Mid-Range 2017-2021	Long Range After 2022
Playgrounds (with the exception of regional adventure playgrounds)	332	4	7	6	12
Tennis courts	492	16	0	0	10
Basketball courts	377	10	5	3	13

**Figure 13 - Facilities Serving Athletic Field Planning Area Needs**

Facility	Existing Park and School Facilities	Maximum 2022 Estimated Needs	Short Range 2012- 2016	Mid-Range 2017-2021	Long Range After 2022
Youth diamonds (T-ball, youth softball and baseball)	TBD	TBD	0	1	1
Multi-purpose Youth baseball/Adult Softball diamonds (these sports play on the same type of field)	TBD	TBD	1	1	2
Baseball (90' base paths- Adults and teens)	TBD	TBD	2	0	2
Multi-purpose rectangular field (Soccer/Football/Lacrosse)	TBD	TBD	13	3	22
Youth rectangular field (Soccer/Football/Lacrosse)	TBD	TBD	1	4	2

**Figure 14 - Facilities Serving Countywide Needs**

Facility	Existing Park and School Facilities	2022 Estimated Needs	CURRENT PROPOSALS		
			Short Range 2012- 2016	Mid-Range 2017-2021	Long Range After 2022
Combined Community Recreation/Aquatic Centers	0	4	5	2	2
Natural Surface	128.3	tbd	25	20	60.4

Facility	Existing Park and School Facilities	2022 Estimated Needs	CURRENT PROPOSALS		
			Short Range 2012- 2016	Mid-Range 2017-2021	Long Range After 2022
Regional Trails (miles)					
Hard Surface Regional Trails (miles)	62.6	tbd	8.3	6	8.2
Natural Areas in M-NCPPC Parks (acres)	26,000	5,173	To be updated	To be updated	To be updated
Skate Parks (Including Informal Use Areas)	6.5	10	2	2	0
Dog Parks	5	12	2	0	1
Community Gardens	10	18			
Permit Picnic Shelters	87	0	3	2	0
Group Picnic Areas	2	1	0	0	0
Cultural Resources: Historic & Archaeological Sites	117/383	NA			
Ice Rinks	2	1		1	
Outdoor Volleyball Courts	17	7	1	1	
Cricket Fields	1	4			





## Chapter 4 - Natural Resource Conservation

### INTRODUCTION

The natural environment of Montgomery County, its soils, streams, rivers, wetlands, and woodlands, supports a variety of plants and animals and forms the backbone of our park system. Parkland provides a touchstone to our natural and cultural heritage, and a looking glass through which to view our past. This environment contributes to the County's high quality of life, visual quality and character and serves as the essential setting for resource-based recreation activities. Visiting natural areas in Parks is the most popular recreation activity of County residents, according to the *Vision 2030* survey. Due to its proximity to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, Montgomery County is expected to continue developing at a fairly rapid pace. The critical concern is how to protect the County's air, water, land, wildlife resources and natural beauty while managing growth and making development more environmentally sensitive.

Resource-based recreation requires land and resource preservation far beyond the actual space for trails and wildlife observation areas. Water quality capable of sustaining a diversity of fish and amphibian species, forests large enough to have forest interior dwelling birds, geological and soil conditions diverse enough to provide habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species – all are dependent on large tracts of land. Even urban wildlife accessible to people near their homes depend on specific amounts and strategic locations of natural habitat.

Protection of the green infrastructure is a major reason for adding proposed parkland to our master plans and capital program. Parkland proposed for environmental protection in land use master plans is added to the system as Conservation or Stream Valley parkland. In addition, development on any type of parkland is carefully planned to consider a variety of environmental factors and protect important natural resources on the affected park.

A considerable number of plans and programs designed to identify, protect, preserve and manage our County's natural resources have been developed and are currently ongoing or soon to be implemented. These programs assist in the implementation of the seven visions of the Governor's Commission on Growth in the Chesapeake Bay Region that relate to the protection of sensitive areas, stewardship of the Bay and conservation of resources.

This Chapter includes information on State and County Natural Resource goals and implementation programs for conservation of natural resource lands. Natural resource GIS maps and data requested by the State will be provided in digital format as requested. See **Appendix 12** for a list of the specific maps and data being provided.

## STATE AND LOCAL GOALS

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### 2010 STATE GOALS

Achieving the State's goals for the conservation of natural resource lands depends on cooperation and coordination among federal and local governments, citizens, conservation organizations, and the private sector:

- Identify, protect, and restore lands and waterways in Maryland that support important aquatic and terrestrial natural resources and ecological functions, through combined use of the following techniques:
- Public land acquisition and stewardship;
- Private land conservation easements and stewardship practices through purchased or donated easement programs;
- Local land use management plans and procedures that conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas and minimize impacts to resource lands when development occurs;
- Support and incentives for resource-based economies that increase retention of forests, wetlands, or agricultural lands;
- Avoidance of impacts on natural resources by publicly funded infrastructure development projects; and
- Appropriate mitigation response, commensurate with the value of the affected resource.
- Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas, according to a strategic framework such as GreenPrint (which is not to be confused with the former easement program also called GreenPrint).
- Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that fall outside the green infrastructure: rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shale barren communities, grasslands, shoreline beach and dune systems, mud flats, non-forested islands, etc.
- Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas to assist State and local implementation programs.
- Assess the combined ability of State and local programs to:
- Expand and connect forests, farmlands, and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure;
- Protect critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats, biological communities, and populations;
- Manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve, and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands, floodplains, and aquifer recharge areas and their associated hydrologic and water quality functions;
- Adopt coordinated land and watershed management strategies that recognize the critical links between growth management and aquatic biodiversity and fisheries production; and

- Support a productive forestland base and forest resource industry, emphasizing the economic viability of privately owned forestland.
- Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated State/local strategy to achieve them through State and local implementation programs.

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## COUNTY GOALS

County goals reflect and complement those of the state. M-NCPPC has been a leader in implementing the goals of many state environmental and resource management programs, and has even provided a model for state programs in certain instances. *The General Plan Refinement adopted in 1993* reflects the eight visions of State Planning Policy and the environmental goals and objectives in that document directly reflect the state goals stated above. Most recently, the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan (M-NCPPC, 2011)* provides general and specific direction to natural resource conservation goals that also reflect state goals.

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## GENERAL PLAN

The *Approved and Adopted General Plan Refinement of 1993* includes the following Goal, Objectives and accompanying Strategies:

### Goal

Conserve and protect natural resources to provide a healthy and beautiful environment for present and future generations. Manage the impacts of human activity on our natural resources in a balanced manner to sustain human, plant, and animal life.

**Objective:** Preserve natural areas and features that are ecologically unusual, environmentally sensitive, or possess outstanding natural beauty.

### Strategies

- Protect natural resources through identification, public acquisition, conservation easements, public education, citizen involvement, and private conservation efforts.
- Connect parks and conservation areas to form an open space and conservation-oriented greenway system.
- Require open space dedications in new subdivisions that maximize protection of stream valleys and other sensitive environmental features.
- Ensure that development guidelines are reviewed periodically to make certain that they are environmentally sensitive and reflect current technologies and knowledge of the environment.

**Objective:** Protect and improve water quality.

### Strategies

- Limit impacts on water quality by designating compatible land uses near water resources.
- Identify and protect recharge areas for aquifers, individual wells, headwater springs, and seeps through land use and innovative control techniques.
- Manage activities in the Potomac and Patuxent river basins above water supply intakes to prevent pollution that might endanger the region's water supply.
- Prevent or mitigate thermal pollution that may be harmful to aquatic life and the general ecology of the County's waters through land use policies.
- Control runoff and flooding by minimizing impervious surfaces.

**Objective:** Conserve County waterways, wetlands, and sensitive parts of stream valleys to minimize flooding, pollution, sedimentation, and damage to the ecology and to preserve natural beauty and open space.

### Strategies

- Identify and protect wetlands and other sensitive parts of watersheds.
- Continue parkland acquisition in key stream valleys.
- Limit the potential damage to life and property from flooding.
- Prohibit development too close to streams, in the 100-year ultimate floodplain, and in flooding danger reach areas of dams, unless no feasible alternative is available.
- Maintain the natural character of drainage areas in the immediate vicinity of streams, rivers, and lakes.
- Plant and retain trees and other vegetation near streams.
- Develop programs to rehabilitate damaged streams and then to maintain them.
- Mandate "no net loss" of wetlands.

**Objective:** Preserve and enhance a diversity of plant and animal species in self-sustaining concentrations.

### Strategies

- Determine and protect the land and water masses and linkages necessary to support a diversity of species in self-sustaining concentrations.
- Plan a system of parks, conservation areas, subdivision open space, and easements to support a diversity of species in self-sustaining concentrations.
- Minimize forest fragmentation to protect habitat continuity.

**Objective:** Increase and conserve the County's forests and trees.

**Strategies**

- Identify and designate forest preservation and tree planting areas.

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**VISION 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR PARKS & RECREATION IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD**

The *Vision 2030* process, completed in 2011, developed a series of detailed recommendations for moving forward with the mission to provide parks and recreation to the County's residents, including many findings and goals & objectives important to the conservation of natural resources (see Chapter 1 for description of *Vision 2030* process and products). Relevant findings are summarized and goals/objectives are excerpted below.

**Key Findings Relevant to Natural Resources Conservation**

The following findings under the *Planning & Development* and the *Operations, Maintenance & Safety* Themes helped shape the natural resource-related goals and objectives described in the next section.

**Community Input**

The *Vision 2030* survey demonstrated an overall high degree of satisfaction with the current parks and recreation system of parklands and facilities. The facilities that rated the highest in importance include trails and natural areas.

Note that natural areas and the trails used to access those natural areas were not only rated as the top two most important park and recreation resources to the survey respondents, but also as two of the five most important priorities for further improvements or expansion to the park and recreation system in the County.

**Level of Service**

- A detailed Level of Service analysis of park and recreation facilities was conducted as part of *Vision 2030*. This analysis concluded, among other things, that Montgomery County is well-served for public access to natural resources across the geographic sub-areas of the study.

**Planning & Coordination: Strategic Focus**

Prioritized and focused planning efforts are needed to maximize the available resources and respond to changing needs and demographics. Future parks and recreation planning focus areas include planning for dense urban areas and specialty facilities (e.g., dog parks, skate parks, etc.). Montgomery County is known for its proactive approach to preserving, protecting, and enhancing natural areas and should continue this commitment into the future.

### Appropriate Maintenance Levels

One key finding under the theme of *Operations, Maintenance and Safety* is that there is a need for the public and decision-makers to understand the resources and subsidy needed for acceptable maintenance service levels (e.g., developed parks, natural and cultural resources, and community recreation centers). While the vast majority of parkland managed by the M-NCPPC Department of Parks is made up of undeveloped natural areas, the maintenance resources may not align to adequately preserve *quality* natural areas into the future. Reevaluating maintenance standards and realigning resources may be needed.

## CURRENT COUNTY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS

Relevant *Vision 2030* Goals, Objectives and Implementation Strategies for Natural Resource

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### VISION 2030 GOALS

#### Goal

*Promote awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Montgomery County's natural and historical resources.*

#### Objectives

- Develop and implement interpretive master plans to guide educational and interpretive programs.  
**Implementation:** Develop a strategic and cutting edge interpretive plan. Prioritize park sites for implementation of interpretive messages.
- Develop a multi-age environmental literacy program to raise fundamental understanding of the natural systems of Montgomery County, the relationships and interactions in the living and non-living environment, and how to deal sensibly with complex issues that involve weighing scientific evidence, uncertainty, and economic, aesthetic, and ethical considerations.  
**Implementation:** Expand ongoing training in environmental stewardship for all Parks staff and create public programming that supports Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and Maryland State environmental literacy standards.

#### Goal

*Provide adequate and appropriate public lands and facilities that are equitably distributed across the County to meet the needs of residents.*

#### Objectives

- Provide an appropriate balance between stewardship and recreation.  
**Implementation:** Using national and local benchmarks, apply a balance of stewardship and recreation to all plans for new or renovated parks.

## Goal

*Maintain quality park and recreation lands and facilities for efficiency, safety, attractiveness, and long-term sustainability.*

### Objectives

- Continue to refine current maintenance levels of service and standards based on industry best practices (e.g., maintenance, health, and safety standards) and update standards (e.g., mowing frequency for different park types, natural resources management, routines to maintain clean parks and recreation facilities, etc.).

**Implementation:** Revise and develop as necessary standards for park maintenance, custodial work, tree maintenance and natural resources management. Communicate with policy-makers and the public if changes to maintenance routines are required due to resource limitations.

- Continue to identify operating budget impact (OBI) needed for new capital improvement projects and acquisitions and allocate adequate resources (e.g., program staff, maintenance, supplies and materials, other services and charges, etc.).

**Implementation:** Improve collection and consistency of OBI data for new parks and park facilities approved in the CIP. Identify new operation funds or change maintenance frequency / practices to reflect reallocation of existing operational resources (endowments, volunteers, sponsorships).

Expand SMARTPARKS applications to park planning, natural resources management, and historic resources management, etc.

**Implementation:** Enhance SMARTPARKS capabilities and efficiency. Incorporate Maintenance and Operations Manual into SMARTPARKS.

## GOAL

Provide for the protection, security and safety of natural areas, historic resources, archaeological sites, and park and recreation facilities, including playgrounds, athletic fields, pools, community centers, and trails.

### Objectives

- Expand the use of Park Rangers as appropriate for natural resource and cultural resource stewardship and interpretive duties.

**Implementation:** Relocate the Park Rangers from the Park Police to a program focused on stewardship and education. Train the Rangers to accomplish the additional duties.

## GOAL

*Inventory, conserve, restore, and enhance ecologically healthy and biologically diverse natural areas with a focus on Park Best Natural Areas, Biodiversity*

*Areas, and Environmentally Sensitive Areas as defined in the "Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan" (M-NCPPC, 2005).*

## **Objectives**

- Develop a protocol and schedule for routine inventory and analysis of natural resources like the "Montgomery County Stream Protection Strategy."  
**Implementation:** Standardize and schedule the inventory of parkland natural resources. Use staff and volunteers to inventory park natural areas. Update and maintain a GIS inventory database.
- Develop a countywide natural resources management plan.  
**Implementation:** Finalize draft Natural Resources Management Plan to include Vegetation Management Plan and Appendices; Plans and Guidelines for the management of white-tailed deer, beaver, and Canada geese; and countywide Stream Protection Strategy.
- Prioritize Best Natural Areas and Biodiversity Areas based on their ecological value and biological diversity.  
**Implementation:** Develop criteria and select sites. Use the Cultural Resources Asset Priority Index as a model for prioritization.
- Develop and implement natural resources management plans for all Best Natural Areas and Biodiversity Areas by 2016 and update each of them every five years.  
**Implementation:** Create product and plan schedule with management plans.
- Develop comprehensive restoration plans for down-county stream valley parks including Rock Creek, Sligo Creek, Little Falls Branch, Cabin John Creek, and Northwest Branch.  
**Implementation:** Use current Rock Creek study as pilot program. Conduct studies of select stream valley parks. Select focus areas. Establish CIP projects and maintenance plans for sites selected.
- Expand the current white-tailed deer management program into down-County areas if consistent with public demand, natural resource management needs, and public safety.  
**Implementation:** Determine where additional management is required. Assess whether current staffing levels are adequate to conduct additional management. Publicize, create, and fund program if warranted.
- Develop natural resources-based stewardship training for park staff.  
**Implementation:** Use available training programs, including webinars, and develop and present training on an approved schedule.
- Develop new volunteer-based programs to assist with the inventory and management of natural resources in County parks (e.g., Forest Stewards).



**Implementation:** Review and update existing programs (e.g., Weed Warriors). For the new Forest Stewards Volunteer Program -- Prepare a volunteer job description, recruitment strategy, training and certification program, work schedule, strategy for coordinating with operations staff, reporting structure for work performed, and performance measures.

- Determine staffing levels required to accomplish all objectives.

**Implementation:** Track staffing levels and adjust as needed to accomplish all objectives of Goal 11.

- Expand control of non-native invasive plants (NNIs) particularly in Best Natural Areas, Biodiversity Areas, and Environmentally sensitive areas of parkland.

**Implementation:** Expand identification, mapping, prioritization, and monitoring according to all natural resource priorities, using volunteers where possible. Increase replanting of NNI treatment areas. Develop and apply quantitative measures of success.

- Review and revise "Nuisance Wildlife Guidelines for Beaver and Canada Geese".

**Implementation:** Annually assess status of nuisance wildlife including beaver and Canada geese and expand proactive management efforts where problems exist. Standardize protocols for assessing on an annual basis, the nuisance status of wildlife populations; train park staff on strategies for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating impacts of nuisance wildlife and permitted techniques for population control; apply reporting structure and related performance measures.

## Planning for Natural Resources in Parkland

A variety of planning processes, approved plans and policies, and scientific inventories and analyses contribute to the conservation of natural resources in existing and future parkland in Montgomery County.

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### COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

Significant protection of Natural Resources in the County is accomplished through the *Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan* (this document) and through adopted area land use master plans that implement the General Plan (see description in Chapter I). Natural resource recommendations in those comprehensive plans are based on countywide and large area inventories and studies that are broad in scope. More detailed analyses are often conducted for areas of proposed natural resource parkland in area master plans.

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### NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

To provide more protection of specific natural resources within the park system, the new *Natural Resource Management Plan for Natural Areas in M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks* (draft, February 2012) is in development to provide guidance to park staff for the management of the approximately 26,000 acres of natural areas in parks. The term “natural area” is defined as: “the sum total of acres of land not improved for public use, and encompassing those natural resources being preserved to maintain a diversity of native natural communities as a legacy for future generations (*M-NCPPC, 2005: pp A III-6*).”

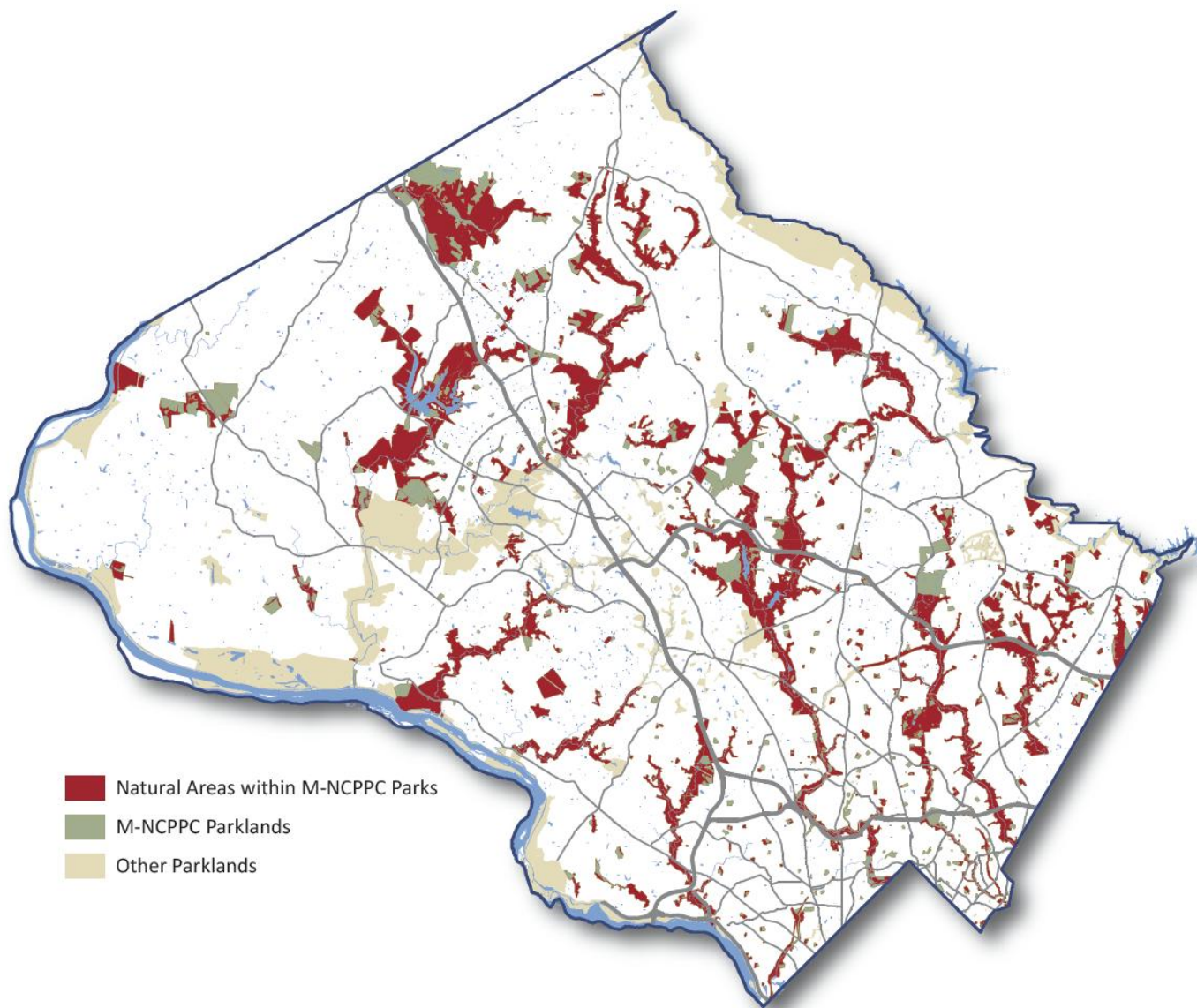
The *Natural Resource Management Plan for Montgomery Parks* primarily focuses on the management of environmentally sensitive areas as defined in Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland—as well as other areas of unimproved parkland. Per Article 66B, environmentally sensitive areas include: streams, wetlands, and their buffers; 100-year floodplains; habitats of threatened and endangered species; steep slopes; agricultural and forest lands intended for resource protection or conservation; and other areas in need of special protection, as determined in the plan. Best Natural Areas and Biodiversity Areas, as defined and designated by Montgomery Parks, are considered “other areas in need of special protection, as determined in the plan” and thus are considered sensitive areas as defined by the State (see Definitions and Criteria section below).

This *Natural Resources Management Plan* focuses active resource management on the ten major terrestrial habitat types found in the County, as well as other significant habitat types and microhabitat features that contribute to the biodiversity and biological integrity of the park system.

*Figure 15 - Major Terrestrial Habitats of Montgomery County, Maryland*

#	Habitat Type	Habitat Description
1	Mesic Forest on Acidic Bedrock	Moist forests on acidic soils dominated by tuliptree, American beech, oaks, and hickories
2	Central Maryland Floodplain Forest	Forests which are temporarily flooded and are dominated by sycamore, silver maple, box elder, and American elm
3	Dry Forest on Acidic Bedrock	Dry forests on acidic soils dominated by chestnuts oak and other oak species.
4	Central Maryland Swamp Forest	Seepage wetland forests dominated by red maple, black gum, tuliptree, and ashes
5	Mixed Forest on Diabase Bedrock	Forests on soils that are shallow, but less acidic than most soils in the County; dominant trees include oaks, eastern red cedar, and Virginia pine
6	Riverside Outcrops of the Potomac River Basin	Steep to vertical rock formations with well-developed fissures and crevices, often sparsely vegetated, with early successional stands of black locust and sassafras
7	Mixed Forest on Triassic Shale Bedrock	Forests on soils derived from shale, with rock outcrops and low water holding capacity. Dominant trees include Virginia pine, eastern red cedar, oaks, and hickories
8	Mixed Forest on Serpentine Bedrock	Forests on low-nutrient soils derived from serpentine bedrock, dominated post oak, blackjack oak, shortleaf pine, and Virginia pine
9	Potomac River Over-wash Savannah	Young, flood-scoured woodlands on shallow soils with areas of bare rock, dominated by small sycamore, box elders, river birch, and green ash
10	Coastal Plain Forest Complex	Forests and wetlands on sandy, coastal plain soils, characterized by pines, American holly, Sweetbay magnolia, blackgum, and poison sumac

Figure 16 - Natural Areas within Existing Parkland



## **PARK MASTER PLANS AND OPERATIONAL PLANS**

Two types of park-specific plans are created to guide development and management of parkland and contribute to the conservation of natural resources in parks. Park Master Plans and Operation and Use Plans provide more specific management guidance to park managers than the comprehensive plans and the *Natural Resource Management Plan for Montgomery Parks* due to their park-specific focus.

### **Park Master Plans**

Park Master Plans are prepared for Countywide Parks (*see Figure 4*) either soon after acquisition or when funds are anticipated for significant park improvements. These park master plans specify areas for protection, restoration and development, giving the general layout of facilities and trail alignment. These plans are prepared through a process similar to area land use master plans with significant public outreach and input opportunities. The one difference from area master plans is that final approval is given to park master plans by the Montgomery County Planning Board instead of proceeding to the Montgomery County Council. A briefing of the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee of the County Council typically follows Planning Board approval.

### **Operation and Use Plans: Natural Resources**

Operation and Use (O&U) Plans are practical management-oriented documents that provide day-to-day operational guidance to Park staff on natural resources, cultural resources, public access and trails, and other park operational issues. Operation & Use Plans are drafted in stand-alone documents for each of these operational areas (i.e., separate documents for natural resources, cultural resources, etc.) due to the separate demands and work programs of divisions of Parks, but these O&U Plans will work together to provide operational guidance to park managers. The goal relevant to natural resource protection is for all parks with significant natural resources to have a completed Operation and Use Plan for Natural Resources.

To move toward that goal, a six-year work program has been created to complete these O&U Plans for Natural Resources for each of the Best Natural Areas and Biodiversity Areas, as well as the principal down-county stream valley parks (Sligo Creek, Rock Creek, and Cabin John Creek). See **Appendix 13** for the proposed work program for completing O&U Plans for these high priority natural areas over the coming six years.

In addition to these priority parks, operational planning is also under development for newly-acquired parkland containing significant natural areas. These O&U Plans for new parkland often include the Natural Resources and the Public Access and Trails documents. The planning for these new parks must not only assist in preserving the natural resources through proper operation and maintenance recommendations, but also identify how those new natural resource parks will be made accessible in an appropriate manner to the public, specifically through trail recommendations. Recommendations for future

interpretive programming and/or signage are also usually included in the O&U Plan for Public Access and Trails.

A key component of all the O&U Plans for Natural Resources is the *Natural Resource Management (NRM) Map*. The NRM Map is developed within the framework of the Natural Resource Management Plan for Montgomery Parks referenced above. These park-specific NRM Maps provide practical and detailed guidance for the protection, management and enhancement of each individual park's natural resources using standardized protocols and mapping symbols for management of various resource types. The NRM Map identifies and describes the natural resources of the park in detail, identifies and addresses key issues, and provides detailed stewardship and management recommendations. NRM Maps should be revised and updated on a regular basis (at least every 6 years).

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## COUNTYWIDE PARKLAND INVENTORIES

To draft recommendations and to implement the *Natural Resource Management Plan for Montgomery Parks* and park-specific master and operational plans, quality inventories of the terrestrial flora and fauna and the aquatic fauna of County parkland must be available. In order to appropriately manage habitat for wildlife diversity, it is necessary to know what species are found, or expected to be found, in each park or habitat type.

### Terrestrial Flora and Fauna

Park-specific, terrestrial flora and fauna inventory data are currently collected and maintained in a database as part of Park master planning and other general inventory surveys conducted by Natural Resource Stewardship staff and volunteers. However, inventories on most parks are out of date and in some cases decades old. Much has changed in our parks in the last 20 years due to increased deer populations, a great increase in non-native invasive plant and animal species and other anthropogenic factors.

As part of the Department's new effort to develop detailed operational plans for its high priority natural areas (see Park Master Plans and Operational Plans), Natural Resources Stewardship staff are updating protocols and inventory standards in order to complete and update park inventories on a more consistent and systematic basis. Inventories will be tied to the six-year work program for the development of Operation and Use Plans for Natural Resources for the highest priority natural areas (See **Appendix 13**). This will allow for complete coverage and update of inventories for all high priority natural areas every six years.

In-house inventory data collection will consist of Forest Stand Delineations, floral inventories including RTE and Watchlist species, breeding and wintering bird surveys, and amphibian breeding surveys. Data will be stored in databases maintained by M-NCPPC with the intent to make this data available to the public via the internet at some future time. Data collection will be done by park staff and volunteers.

Additional data from outside sources will be included in inventories, as appropriate. Information on bird populations during the spring and winter is available from the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas and the yearly Christmas Bird Counts. The Maryland Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project will be an ongoing source of locating data from amphibians and reptiles. Information on butterflies is available from the North American Butterfly Association and information on damselflies and dragonflies is available on the Mid-Atlantic Invertebrate Field Studies website.

### **Aquatic Inventories**

In addition to land-based flora and fauna, inventories of aquatic species (benthic macro invertebrates and freshwater fish) are conducted annually under the rubric of the Countywide Stream Protection Strategy. The annual stream inventory program is conducted in cooperation with the Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS, a program of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources) and the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Planning (MMCDEP). Aquatic species are inventoried in each of the County watersheds every five years with some sites being monitored more frequently for special projects. Data are stored in a database maintained by MCDEP, but accessible by M-NCPPC.

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## **DEFINITIONS AND CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING KEY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

Environmental resources within the County and the Park system are classified in different ways by various government regulations and adopted public policies. These classification systems assist with the identification, management and conservation of natural areas. The most important definitions and criteria to management of natural areas within parks are included here.

Sensitive Areas are defined in Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The next three definitions (Biodiversity Areas, Best Natural Areas, and Forest Interior Habitat) were originally defined in the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan (M-NCPPC, 2005: pp V-14) and are reiterated here. High Quality Forest was also originally defined in the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan (M-NCPPC, 2005: pp V-14). The revised definition proposed here is an enhancement of the previous definition to reflect new thinking from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Program.

### **Sensitive Areas from article 66b(State of Maryland)**

1. Streams, wetlands, and their buffers;
2. 100-year floodplains;
3. Habitats of threatened and endangered species;
4. Steep slopes;

5. Agricultural and forest lands intended for resource protection or conservation; and
6. Other areas in need of special protection, as determined in the plan.

### **Biodiversity Areas (M-NCPPC)**

Areas of parkland which contain one or more of the following:

1. Areas of contiguous, high quality forest and/or wetland which show little evidence of past land-use disturbance.
2. Rare, threatened, endangered, or watch-list species.
3. Exceptional examples of notable plant community types found in Montgomery County (i.e., mesic forest on acidic bedrock, central Maryland floodplain forest, dry forest on acidic bedrock, central Maryland swamp forest, mixed forest on diabase bedrock, riverside outcrops of the Potomac basin, mixed forest on Triassic shale bedrock, mixed forest on serpentine bedrock, Potomac River over-wash savannah, and magnolia bog).
4. Areas of exceptional scenic beauty.

### **Best Natural Areas (M-NCPPC)**

Areas of parkland which contain one or more of the following:

1. Large areas of contiguous, high quality forest and/or wetland which are generally more than 100 acres, and show little evidence of past land-use disturbance.
2. Rare, threatened, endangered, or watch-list species.
3. The best examples of notable plant communities found in Montgomery County (i.e. mesic forest on acidic bedrock, central Maryland floodplain forest, dry forest on acidic bedrock, central Maryland swamp forest, mixed forest on diabase bedrock, riverside outcrops of the Potomac basin, mixed forest on Triassic shale bedrock, mixed forest on serpentine bedrock, Potomac River over-wash savannah, and magnolia bog).
4. High quality wetlands, including those of Special State Concern as noted in COMAR (spell out) Title 26.
5. Aquatic communities rated as good or excellent in the Countywide Stream Protection Strategy.
6. Special Trout Management Areas as noted in COMAR Title 08. (spell out)
7. Areas of exceptional scenic beauty.



### **Forest Interior Habitat (M-NCPPC)**

1. Existing forest with trees generally larger than 5 inches dbh.
2. At least 100 acres in size.
3. High area to edge ratio.
4. Forested buffer of at least 300 feet in width around the interior forest.

### **High Quality Forest (M-NCPPC)**

1. Shade tolerant species are present in all age/size classes. Area is dominated by trees in larger size classes (11 inches dbh or larger).
2. Natural mortality and windfall create randomly distributed canopy gaps, resulting in small clearings that soon become pockets of regenerating growth.
3. There is an accumulation of dead wood of varying sizes and stages of decomposition, standing and down, accompanied by decadence (i.e., dead limbs, tree cavities, and larger hollows) in the dominant trees. Snags for cavity nesting are abundant.
4. There is little evidence of past land-use disturbance. Pit and mound topography is often an indication that the land has not been disturbed for a significant amount of time.
5. There is a high degree of structural diversity characterized by multiple growth layers (canopy, understory trees, shrubs, herbaceous and ground layers) that reflect a broad spectrum of ages.

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## **ACQUISITION OF NEW NATURAL RESOURCE PARKLAND**

Montgomery Parks has three programs that focus on preserving additional natural resources of significance in the County through adding land to the park system. The addition of important new natural resource concentrations and the preservation of key areas of buffer habitat around existing natural resources on parkland both serve to preserve natural resources and provide access to those resources for public enjoyment. See **appendix 7** for a detailed list of priority parkland acquisitions including natural resources sites.

### **Acquisition via Land Development**

Sensitive areas and other quality natural areas are often transferred to park ownership as a result of development of land within the County. The amount of land conveyed to Parks through the development review process varies with the zone, land use master plan recommendations, and the size and quality of the resources on the land being developed.

Significant areas of the stream valley park system have been acquired through this development process over the previous decades. In fact, sometimes land

that is not required to be conveyed to Parks by subdivision regulation is given to Parks by the landowner as a less expensive option than creating a Home Owners Association to monitor and maintain the land.

### **Program Open Space**

Of the State of Maryland Program Open Space (POS) funds that are provided to Montgomery County each year, half is allocated to purchase open space in the County. POS funds are used to purchase property for both local and countywide parks that has been identified as future parkland in adopted area master plans and functional master plans. A significant portion of the Montgomery park system has been acquired using state POS funds since the program's inception in 1970.

### **Legacy Open Space**

The *Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan (M-NCPPC, 2001)* established a program to conserve Montgomery County's most significant open spaces. The functional master plan establishes criteria to identify the most important unprotected natural, historic, agricultural, and urban open spaces for conservation, and proposes using a variety of protection tools including acquisition into the park system. The state Green Infrastructure information was used to locate potential sites for the natural resources, greenways, and water supply protection categories. The County's commitment to open space conservation in rural, suburban, and urban areas can be shown through the significant financial support of this program to date. Almost \$60 Million in local funds have been provided that have leveraged almost \$30 Million in non-County funds for open space preservation. To date, over \$25 Million in Legacy Open Space County funds have been spent to preserve significant natural resource sites.

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## **PARK PROGRAMS TO CONSERVE AND EDUCATE**

M-NCPPC is responsible for the protection and management of all natural resources within county parkland. Staff ecologists also participate in evaluating ecological value of properties being considered for park acquisition. As the primary public landowner in the county, this responsibility often serves a larger countywide function. Natural Resource Staff develop and implement resource management plans, programs, guidelines and Best Management Practices in order to protect and enhance park resources.

These programs and plans include the following:

- The Comprehensive Stewardship Plan for Forested Parkland in Montgomery County
- The Non-Native Invasive Plant Management Plan for M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
- Re-vegetation Guidelines for Disturbances on M-NCPPC Park Property
- Park Reforestation Program

- The Weed Warrior Volunteer Program
- The Comprehensive Management Plan for White-tailed Deer in Montgomery County which is countywide in scope
- Management guidelines for nuisance species including beaver and Canada geese
- A Goose Management Plan
- An extensive Bluebird Nest-box Monitoring Program
- Meadow Management Guidelines focused on maintaining grassland bird habitat; and other park specific and species specific management plans
- Management and reduction of encroachment of adjacent private property owners on parkland

Non-native invasive plants (NNIs) and deer are having a tremendous impact on natural communities on public and private lands throughout the county. Both are significantly affecting biodiversity and require more direct management. High deer populations and NNIs are impeding reforestation work and much more intense efforts are needed to assure that forest plantings are successful. Planting of larger trees and adequate deer protection will require additional funding.

Interpretive Programs in Montgomery County Parks address aspects of Montgomery County's natural and cultural history. These programs are offered at the park system's four interpretive (nature or visitor) centers. All four interpretive centers offer public programs designed to inspire and entertain people of all ages while developing an appreciation for the county's natural resources and encouraging careful stewardship. All four centers also present programs to school children, scout groups, home school students, and others interested in hands-on and close-up encounters with the world around them.

In addition, visitors can learn more about natural and cultural history from interpretive exhibits and nature trails. The nature centers house interactive exhibits that spotlight unique regional features, and naturalists stand ready to answer questions and direct visitors to local hot spots for birds, wildflowers, and other resources of interest. The past five years have seen an increase in focus on interpretive signage throughout the park system to educate and create good stewards of the natural environment.

### **Environmental Literacy Program**

*Vision 2030* recommends that the Department of Parks develop an environmental literacy program for County residents of all ages that fosters a fundamental understanding of the systems of the natural world, the relationships and interactions between the living and non-living environment, and the ability to deal sensibly with complex issues that involve weighing scientific evidence, uncertainty and economic, aesthetic and ethical considerations. Specifically, *Vision 2030* recommends:

- Expand ongoing training in environmental stewardship for all Parks staff and create public programming that supports Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and Maryland State environmental literacy standards

In the *Semiannual Report*, Fall 2011, the Department of Parks committed to outreach efforts built around four ongoing initiatives:

- the new Maryland Environmental Literacy requirement for schoolchildren
- the No Child Left Inside program
- intergenerational programming
- off-site nature outreach programs

The proposed FY13 annual operating budget for Montgomery Parks includes two major efforts that address these issues:

- Work with MCPS and other County agencies to develop programs to fulfill the State's new environmental literacy requirement for graduating seniors
- Continue supporting the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature through our own "No Child Left Inside" initiative, with our parks, nature centers, and schools

### **Other Natural Resources Conservation Efforts**

Many other laws, regulations, and programs work to conserve natural resources in the County, both within and outside of parkland. This section is a brief summary of the most important of these efforts.

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### **FOREST CONSERVATION ACT IMPLEMENTATION**

Once the zoning, land use and park acquisition boundaries are set in the master plan and accompanying zoning map amendments, individual developments are subject to development review for compliance with the Montgomery County Forest Conservation Law and the Planning Board's Environmental Guidelines. These programs comprehensively protect most environmentally sensitive features on site when development projects (both public and private) are submitted to the Planning Board. The County Forest Conservation Act, adopted pursuant to the State legislation, regulates efforts to preserve forest and tree canopy through the development process, including the development of parkland.

Forest Conservation requirements on private and non-park public development projects contribute to the large amount of sensitive areas and forest that are conveyed to the park system through the development review process. On land

that is not appropriate for transfer to parks, a Forest Conservation easement is placed on land to protect existing forest or newly planted forest on properties under development. A Category I Conservation easement does not allow disturbance of the canopy or understory except to control non-native invasive species. This type of easement is used most frequently to protect natural areas that remain on private land. They are legally recorded in the land records and M-NCPPC (Montgomery Planning Department) provides enforcement.

For development of active recreational facilities on parkland, the same forest conservation requirements apply. Forest that is to be permanently preserved as a result of a park development project is identified on the Final Forest Conservation Plan that is approved and enforced by the Planning Department, M-NCPPC.

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### **ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTATION**

M-NCPPC's Environmental Guidelines provide specific guidance for protecting environmentally sensitive areas on public and private land proposed for development. The Montgomery County Planning Board approved these guidelines in 1983, and revised them in 1997. The guidelines establish a procedure for identification and protection of natural resources potentially affected by construction, and they apply to all Sensitive Areas as defined by Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (see definition above). The guidelines ensure that development plans give adequate consideration to the following environmental management objectives: protection of stream water quality, water supply reservoirs, steep slopes, forest conservation, wildlife habitat and exemplary natural communities including rare, threatened, and endangered species; maintenance of biologically viable and diverse streams and wetlands; reduction of flood problems; protection against development hazards on areas prone to flooding, soil instability, etc.; and provision of visual amenities and areas for recreation and outdoor education activities.

In areas where the land use planned is considered a potential risk in high quality watersheds, the area may be designated a Special Protection Area (SPA) through an act of the Montgomery County Council. Proposed development in an SPA requires that a water quality plan be prepared that incorporates redundant stormwater management facilities and other features that address the particular goals for the receiving water. In addition, wider wetland buffers and accelerated reforestation is required in these areas. In some Special Protection Areas, overlay zones are adopted to limit imperviousness to specific levels on each site and limit or prohibit certain land uses that pose a risk to water quality.

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### **WATER QUALITY AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection and M-NCPPC jointly prepare the Countywide Stream Protection Strategy, with updates

every five years. This publication documents the results of a stream condition survey that samples biological communities and physical stream conditions for all streams in the county. In addition, it indicates existing and projected imperviousness and a management strategy for each sub-watershed in the county. This information is used as part of the inventory described above and is a key resource in area and park master plan preparation. The preparation of the land use alternatives considered is influenced by this information and more refined estimates of projected imperviousness are made with detailed information about each alternative land use scenario. Our overlapping goals of protecting, conserving and restoring stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands and floodplains are combined in the master planning process to arrive at the best combination of density, clustering options, open space preservation and parkland acquisition to protect water quality.

Montgomery County has continually updated their requirements for Sediment and Erosion Control and Stormwater Management based on state of the art techniques and state policy direction. This program resides in the Department of Permitting Services and includes an aggressive inspection program. The County collects a water quality protection charge to support maintenance of stormwater management facilities. Privately owned facilities that meet certain standards may be maintained by the Department of Environmental Protection via this funding source.

The County also has a significant Watershed Restoration Program to address the impacts of development approved prior to environmental regulations. The Department of Environmental Protection evaluates watersheds to determine existing problems and the feasibility of stormwater retrofit projects and stream restoration. Eligible projects are selected based on feasibility, potential for stream improvements, cost and funding availability. Watershed plans have been completed for the Paint Branch, Hawlings River, Rock Creek, Cabin John, Watts Branch and Northwest Branch. Each year, selected priority restoration projects from these watershed plans are implemented by the County DEP.

## STATUS OF 2005 PROS PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The *2005 PROS Plan* identified several needed improvements to the County’s implementation program to conserve and protect natural resources within the Park system as well as set ambitious goals for land acquisition of natural resources. Progress on these items is summarized in the table below.

*Figure 17 - Accomplishments since 2005 PROS Plan adoption (December)*

Plan Recommendation	Accomplishments
Manage for over populations of white-tailed deer in order to protect biodiversity within natural areas and protect the viability of farming in the county (recent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conducted Deer Management programs annually in 19 county parks covering approximately 16,000 acres</li> <li>▪ Harvested approximately 800 to 1,300 deer annually</li> </ul>

publications have identified deer as the number one threat to agriculture in the county)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Managed 27,000 acres of public land through all aspects of the comprehensive deer management program</li> </ul>
Manage infestations of non-native invasive species, which are reducing biodiversity within high quality natural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Treated Non-Native Invasive plants in 69 parks in 480 separate treatments totaling 1,890 acres</li> </ul>
Manage over-all biodiversity on parkland natural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Established criteria for designating Best Natural Areas (BNAs) and Biodiversity Areas (BDAs) in parkland</li> <li>▪ Completed Natural Resource Management Plan for Natural Areas In Montgomery Parks</li> <li>▪ Set schedule for completion of park-specific Natural Resource Management Maps for all important biodiversity areas in parks, including all BNAs and BDAs</li> </ul>
Reduce encroachment of adjacent private property owners on parkland resources (i.e., mowing, dumping, tree and understory removal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New encroachment protocol developed in 2010</li> <li>▪ Created a summary of enforcement actions since 2006</li> </ul>
Acquire key natural resource lands as parkland through the POS and Legacy Open Space programs and through the development review process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acquired nearly 670 acres of natural resource parkland through the LOS and POS programs</li> <li>▪ Acquired nearly 1,200 acres as a result of the development review process</li> </ul>

## NEW RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

As this chapter indicates, the natural environment of Montgomery County -- including its bedrock, soils, streams, rivers, wetlands and woodlands -- supports a wide variety of plants and animals and forms the backbone of M-NCPPC's park system. Approximately 22,550 acres of the 35,000+ acre park system are considered natural areas as defined in the Planning Board approved *Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan* (M-NCPPC, 2005: page V-14) and are predicated on the Sensitive Areas Element of *Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland* (see definitions and Criteria section above). Collectively, the park system's natural areas include Sensitive Areas, Biodiversity Areas, Best Natural Areas, and other areas of unimproved parkland. These key environmental resources may also include smaller areas of High Quality Forest and Forest Interior Habitat.

Natural areas throughout M-NCPPC's Montgomery County park system are used for a wide variety of activities including the management and preservation of biological diversity, general nature viewing, bird watching, wildflower viewing, nature study, drawing, painting, nature photography, stream study, fishing, nature interpretation, white-tailed deer management programs, and environmental research.

Visiting natural areas in M-NCPPC's parks is one of the five most popular recreational activities in Montgomery County according to the recent *Vision 2030* Survey. Nearly 74% of county respondents indicated there is a need for additional natural areas throughout the county park system, especially in the rapidly urbanizing down-county and mid-county areas. In fact, the Survey results indicate that the demand for additional natural areas countywide is greater than that for a wide variety of CIP-funded park improvements -- including dog parks, athletic fields, and tennis and basketball courts. It is important to note that M-NCPPC's extensive system of sanctioned natural surface and hard surface trails provides important, managed access to highly valued natural areas throughout the park system.

Stewardship of natural resources throughout M-NCPPC's park system is a key element of the Mission, Vision and Values of the Montgomery Parks Department. Stewardship guidance is provided through countywide and park-specific planning for natural areas and is implemented by staff across the entire Parks Department and citizen volunteers.

### Calculation of Need

The needs for natural areas are determined through detailed staff analysis that culminates in Planning Board approved recommendations in area master plans, sector plans, park master plans, and countywide functional plans.

### Service Delivery Strategy

As described throughout this chapter, natural resources will be conserved; managed and appropriate public access will be provided to those natural resources through three main delivery strategies.

First, important natural resources will be protected through their acquisition into the park system (see Acquisition of New Natural Resource Parkland above). See **appendix 7** for a detailed list of specific land acquisition sites for all park types for the next 20 years and beyond. Natural resource parkland makes up approximately 5,173 acres (or 82%) of the estimated future acquisitions. These natural resources will be added to the park system through the development review process, the Program Open Space and County Legacy Open Space acquisition programs.

Second, Operation and Use (O&U) Plans for Natural Resources will be developed for existing and future parks, and the resulting management recommendations will be implemented across the Department of Parks. These park-specific operational plans will be created within the framework of the new *Natural Resource Management Plan for Natural Areas in Montgomery Parks, M-NCPPC*. See **Appendix 13** for the proposed work program to complete Natural Resource Management Plans for Best Natural Areas, Biodiversity Areas, and key down-county Stream Valley Parks over the coming six years. Additional O&U Plans will be completed for new parks with significant natural resources.

Third, stewardship of natural areas within parks will continue to be implemented through the variety of programs described in this chapter. Current policies and management programs are critical to the conservation of



natural resources, especially programs that control invasive and damaging wildlife and plant species. In addition, maintaining interpretive programs for the public creates the next generation of stewards to support the long-term preservation of natural resources in the County.





## Chapter 5 - Historic and Cultural Resources Preservation

### INTRODUCTION

This Chapter reviews federal, state and local goals, current County implementation programs, progress since the 2005 Plan, and new recommendations. There are currently 117 standing historic structures (divided among 43 sites) and 383 archaeological resources on M-NCPPC parkland in Montgomery County. The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan (M-NCPPC, 2011)* indicated a need to “promote awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Montgomery County’s natural and historical resources” and to “identify, stabilize, preserve, maintain, and interpret historic and archaeological resources on parkland.”

A wide variety of cultural resources exist in M-NCPPC’s park system. Archaeological resources date from the prehistoric period to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Standing historic structures include schoolhouses, corner stores, manor houses, barns, other agricultural outbuildings, slave quarters, and the remnants of military installations and encampments spanning from the period of the Civil War to the Cold War. Some resources are as small as a smokehouse whereas others are as large as a three-story timber-frame and stone bank barn.

The Cultural Resources program in Montgomery County, established as part of M-NCPPC’s Department of Parks in 2007, has the following Mission: to stabilize, rehabilitate, and restore more than 100 historic structures at over forty different historic sites; program and interpret the eight-to-ten best historic sites to tell Montgomery County’s story; unearth, process, and interpret archeological artifacts throughout the park system; and research and analyze cultural sites to facilitate the planning and operation of the county’s park system. The Cultural Resources Program is dedicated to making historical, archaeological, and landscape properties useful to residents and visitors now and in the future, so that the stories of the county’s shared heritage can inspire, inform, and entertain its citizens, bringing them closer together as a community.

Cultural Resources include both historic and archaeological sites. By and large, cultural resources are defined in the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites (M-NCPPC, 1976)* and/or the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation (M-NCPPC, 1979)*. Properties that are designated are thereby protected under the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code. As noted in the *2005 PROS Plan (M-NCPPC, 2005: page VI-4)*, the needs for new cultural resources are determined through detailed staff research and follow-up analysis in connection with the regular updates of area master plans or sector plans.

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## VISION 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

The recently enacted plan, *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*, reinforces the core value of the cultural resources program with its values:

- Protect natural, historical, and archaeological resources
- Nurture an appreciation for our natural, cultural legacy
- Collaborate with partners to provide sustainable, accessible, and diverse leisure opportunities
- Engage a diverse community and proactively respond to changing demographics, needs, and trends

The Plan's objectives include the following:

- Implement the cultural/historic interpretation plan based on *From Artifact to Attraction: A Strategic Plan for Cultural Resources in Parks* and the prioritization system in the *Cultural Resources Asset Inventory*
- Provide an appropriate balance between stewardship and recreation
- Continue to identify operating budget impact (OBI) needed for new capital improvement projects and acquisitions and allocate adequate resources (e.g., program staff, maintenance, supplies and materials, other services and charges, etc.)
- Expand SMARTPARKS applications to park planning, natural resources management, and historic resources management, etc.
- Expand the use of Park Rangers as appropriate for natural resource and cultural resource stewardship and interpretive duties

## STATE AND LOCAL GOALS

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### FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOALS, POLICY AND GUIDELINES

There are many goals and policies that drive the Cultural Resources Program issue from all levels of government.

#### Federal Policy and Guidelines

Federal policy includes the National Historic Preservation Act (including Section 106) of 1966; the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation (part of the Act); and the National Environmental Policy Act.

#### State Policy and Guidelines

State policy protecting and enhancing historic resources is contained in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (since it is administered by the State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs); preservation easements, often held by the Maryland Historical Trust; the Maryland Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Collections; Plan Maryland; the Montgomery County Heritage

Area Management Plan (under the auspices of the Maryland Heritage Area Authority), and past Land Policy Preservation and Recreation Plans.

### **Local Policy and Guidelines**

Local policy is embodied in Chapter 24-A of the Montgomery County Code (the Historic Preservation Ordinance) as administered by the Historic Preservation Commission; *the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation (M-NCPPC, 1979)*; the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites (M-NCPPC, 1976)*; M-NCPPC Planning Board-adopted master and sector plans, functional plans: NRI/FSD requirements; and the recent Planning Board-approved *Vision 2030 Plan*.

Local Goals and Objectives are described in the previous section on the *Vision 2030 Plan*.

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## **CURRENT COUNTY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS**

To implement its Mission, the Cultural Resources Stewardship Section, or Cultural Resources Program, is comprised of four programmatic work areas: 1) History and Planning, 2) Archaeology, 3) Building Rehabilitation, and 4) Public Interpretation.

Each of these areas is staffed by one full-time person, and the program has a Cultural Resources Manager.

### **Current Cultural Resource Assets**

The historic and archaeological resources that comprise the “cultural resources” inventory are scattered throughout the county, as documented in the *Vision 2030 Plan*. There are approximately 117 historic “resources,” or “built structures” located on 43 historic “sites.” Approximately 25 of these resources merit the most attention.

The Cultural Resources Asset Inventory Database is an internal ranking tool based on a National Park Service Facilities Management model, but adapted to M-NCPPC’s park system in Montgomery County. In the inventory, built cultural resources are ranked by a number of factors that cumulatively add up to an “Asset Priority Index” score. This score is considered alongside a building’s “Facility Condition Index” score. The top 25 historic sites on the Asset Priority Index are those that reflect the most important cultural resources type and size. These resources carry the greatest weight in protection (See the list below).

Some resources are downcounty resources in local parks, while others are upcounty resources found in regional parks like Little Bennett. The vast majority of the built resources are designated or eligible for designation on the *Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. The historic structures range from large manor houses (such as Woodlawn Manor) to plantation houses (the Isaac Riley House at Josiah Henson Special Park) to

African American log cabins (Oakley Cabin) to schoolhouses (Kingsley School) to farmsteads, general stores, bank barns, corn cribs, and horse stables.

Although not ranked on the Cultural Resources Asset Inventory, equally important are the 383 archaeological sites situated on M-NCPPC's parkland in Montgomery County. These sites are registered with the state archaeological office at the Maryland Historical Trust. The archaeological sites range from prehistoric rock shelters and soapstone quarries to the sites of farmsteads, plantations and their outbuildings, African-American settlements, Native American gathering areas, and French and Indian War-era taverns (or "ordinaries.")

History is the basis for all programs within the Cultural Resources Stewardship Section. All resources are studied by a thorough evaluation of primary and secondary sources, as well as through oral history. Historic research provides the backbone for public interpretation. The Department of Parks has implemented an interpretive signage program based on the National Park Service model that provides for public education along trails and beside historic buildings and sites.

Equally important is the undertaking of archaeology to understand the history that is beneath the ground. The County maintains an active archaeological program that investigates resources dating back 12,000 years and including pre-history, Native American history, and the histories of lesser known populations through their material culture remains. It also is the best means of understanding the County's Civil War heritage.

Finally, the Department of Parks implements a small, but thriving public interpretation program that tells the 'best' stories of the county's history. Such programs take place at African American sites such as the Josiah Henson Special Park, Oakley Cabin, and the Underground Railroad Experience Trail. Programming also highlights the agricultural history of the County at the Agricultural History Farm Park's Bussard Farm and at a future interpretation at the Darby Store. Other future programs for the public include a museum dedicated to the subject of slavery and the life of Josiah Henson at the Josiah Henson Special Park and a Visitors Center at Woodlawn Barn dedicated to the themes of the Quakers, the Underground Railroad, and the Free Black populations in the County. The County implementation of the building rehabilitation program and its relation to existing laws is described further below.

### **The Master Plan for Historic Preservation**

The County implements the local preservation law for properties affected on parkland. Buildings and sites designated on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* are subject to design review on the exterior and site (within the designated "environmental setting"). The Historic Preservation Commission does the design review. The *Master Plan* is constantly being added to via amendments. The Planning board, County Executive, and County Council vote on amendments. In order to be designated, buildings and sites have to meet

one or more criteria and have integrity. Most of the buildings within the Department of Parks' Cultural Resources Asset Inventory are designated on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*.

### **Locational Atlas and Inventory of Historic Sites**

Likewise, the County implements the law as it pertains to the original inventory of designated structures. This *Atlas* is a holding place for historic sites that carries some protection. Buildings and sites on the *Locational Atlas* are subject to design review if a "substantial alteration" is planned. The Historic Preservation Commission does the design review. Buildings on the Locational Atlas can be upgraded to the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* or removed from the *Locational Atlas*.

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## **IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

The County implements all federal and state laws and regulations affecting park properties. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 is the federal law that guides historic preservation. The National Register of Historic Places, administered by the states on behalf of the National Park Service, is an honorific list of important districts, sites, and objects. It also offers protection against federal and/or state undertakings. "Section 106" of the National Historic Preservation Act specifies precisely how such undertakings should consider any effects on historic resources, and mitigate those if they are adverse.

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## **FUNDING FOR CURRENT COUNTY IMPLEMENTATION**

The current, primary funding mechanism for cultural resource protection is through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), but this is woefully insufficient to steward the historic and archaeological resources in the public trust on parkland. Likewise, there is a dearth of project managers, architects, interpretive personnel, and archaeologists to manage the work that should be done.

### **Capital Improvement Program**

Most of the building projects are handled in the Restoration of Historic Structures PDF, which is a level-of-effort PDF that ranges from \$200,000 to \$250,000 each year, with an appropriation line item for state and/or federal funding in the range of \$50,000 annually or more. A few of the larger projects are funded by "stand-alone" PDFs, such as the Warner Circle Special Park and Woodlawn Barn Visitors Center projects. Other PDFs are used, as appropriate, to support the restoration of historic structures, such as the Legacy PDF, or PLAR Non-Local PDF.

There is significant effort (and success) in supplementing the county budget with non-county funding sources, such as grants from state agencies and federal

governments. Since 2007, there have been upwards of 14 grants received from non-county funding sources, totaling upwards of approximately \$2 million additional dollars.

### **Operating Budget**

The operating budget for Cultural Resources contains a line item for Professional Services, which varies annually depending on the budget climate. For the past three years, this line item has been used to contract with an architect who can produce required drawings for the Historic Preservation Commission.

The operating budget does not have sufficient personnel funding, however, to hire additional personnel needed for the Cultural Resources Program, including Facility Managers for historic sites open to the public, Archaeologists, Architects, Code Specialists, and Regulatory Compliance Staff (who could handle the additional administrative tasks of compliance with state and federal regulations that accompany grants and bond bills).

A Special Revenue Fund, titled "Parks Cultural Resources" has been established to provide a means for revenue and costs associated with two programs: Archaeology and Interpretation. There has been a push since 2007 to start to generate some reasonable revenue from interpretive sites in order to pay for performers, supplies, or seasonal employees associated with making public events happen. While the Archaeology Special Revenue fund, the funds of which are derived from summer camp fees, is self-supporting and has an established track record, the Interpretive Special Revenue fund is new, and has a very small starting balance. It still needs to grow to become truly effective.

### **Non-County and In-Kind Funding**

The Department of Parks has also worked hard to open avenues and shine a light on non-county and in-kind funding opportunities. Cultural Resources has given a list of target projects and initiatives to the Montgomery Parks Foundation, including potential Naming Rights Opportunities. Cultural Resources helped draft a section of the CR Zone language such that developers could obtain bonus density by investing in the restoration of historic resources on parkland. Cultural Resources has actively pursued grants and bond bills, as previously mentioned. Cultural Resources is working to tie Friends Groups' activities more to programmatic needs identified by Parks staff and to encourage Friends Groups to support the funding of supplementary staffing.

The Cultural Resources Stewardship Section also maintains one of the largest contingents of volunteers throughout the Department. There are close to 100 annual volunteers associated with the archaeology and interpretive programs. Parks is expanding the docent opportunities as well by creating programs and costumes so that docents have begun to work in the first-person narrative style. Finally, Cultural Resources has expanded its historical volunteer program to take in several docents who undertake specific, historic research projects tied to one of parks' interpretive sites or interpretive signage projects.



## STATUS OF 2005 PROS PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Progress since the 2005 *PROS Plan* has been extensive. It has included the following:

- Publication of the 2006 *from Artifact to Attraction: A Strategic Plan for Cultural Resources in Parks*
- Creation of the prioritized Cultural Resources Asset Inventory
- More in-depth research on the Commission and its various historical and archaeological assets. Initiation of a National Park-Service style interpretive signage program throughout the parks
- Initiation of archaeological fieldwork and reporting at Parks' interpretive sites
- Creation of Archaeology Collections Software and its reporting
- Introduction of more archaeological displays at public sites
- Initiation of scientific dating tools to understand buildings, such as nail dating, historic paint analysis, and dendrochronology
- Achievement of one major edifice stabilized and/or rehabilitated through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) annually
- Multiple smaller building projects achieved through the CIP and Major Maintenance Programs
- Upwards of 14 grants and bond bills successfully awarded
- Expanded docent training programs and costumed, interpretive roles
- Improved coordination with other public interpretive sites, especially during special events
- More sites programmed and opened to the public
- Significantly greater focus on use of primary-source historical material over secondary sources
- Increased coordination with state and federal governments in regulatory matters

## NEW RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Department of Parks’ Cultural Resources Program will continue to make historical, archaeological, and landscape properties useful to residents and visitors now and in the future in the following ways:

- Continue to tell the county’s story through its best 8-10 public interpretive sites, including, but not limited to: Woodlawn Manor and the Underground Railroad Experience Trail, Oakley Cabin, Josiah Henson Special Park, the Agricultural History Farm Park, Kingsley School, and Blockhouse Point
- Should a new cultural resource become available that tells a critical part of Montgomery County’s history never told before, that resource should be considered for selection in the inventory, regardless of its geographic location

As noted above in this chapter, the Cultural Resources Asset Inventory Database is a prioritized historic sites inventory. Some of the buildings were acquired in a near-complete state of disrepair. Below are the top 25 historic sites, according to preservation factors, in the inventory. The top 20-25 properties in the inventory at any given time should be considered the priority sites for funding, preservation, and potentially programming.

*Figure 18 - Cultural Resources Asset Inventory – Historic Structures Top 25 as of 2011*

SITE NAME	ADDRESS	PARK
HENSON (JOSIAH) HOUSE	11420 OLD GEORGETOWN RD	JOSIAH HENSON SPECIAL PARK
WOODLAWN	16501 NORWOOD RD	WOODLAWN SPECIAL PARK
HYATTSTOWN MILL & MILLER'S HOUSE	14920-21 HYATTSTOWN MILL RD	LITTLE BENNETT REGIONAL PARK
KINGSLEY SCHOOL	CLARKSBURG ROAD	LITTLE BENNETT REGIONAL PARK
OAKLEY CABIN	3610 BROOKEVILLE RD.	REDDY BRANCH STREAM VALLEY
ZEIGLER LOG HOUSE	25321 FREDERICK RD	LITTLE BENNETT REGIONAL PARK
WARNER (BRAINARD) PROPERTY	10231 CARROLL PL	BRAINARD WARNER SPECIAL PARK
WATERS HOUSE	12535 MILESTONE MANOR LN	WATERS HOUSE SPECIAL PARK
JESUP BLAIR HOUSE	900 JESUP BLAIR DRIVE	JESUP BLAIR LOCAL PARK
NEEDWOOD	NEEDWOOD ROAD	ROCK CREEK REGIONAL
VALLEY MILL HOUSE	1600 EAST RANDOLPH RD	VALLEY MILL SPECIAL PARK
KENSINGTON CABIN	KENSINGTON PKWY	KENSINGTON CABIN LOCAL PARK
BUSSARD FARM	18400 MUNCASTER ROAD	AGRICULTURAL HISTORY FARM PARK
DARBY HOUSE & STORE	19812 DARNESTOWN RD	DARBY CULTURAL PARK
SENECA STONE BARN (FISHER BARN)	WASCHE RD	WOODSTOCK EQUESTRIAN PARK
MEADOWBROOK STABLES	8100 MEADOWBROOK LN	MEADOWBROOK LOCAL PARK

<b>SITE NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>PARK</b>
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY BUILDING	4711 NORWOOD DRIVE	NORWOOD LOCAL PARK
HOLLAND/RED DOOR STORE	16400 LAYHILL ROAD	RED DOOR STORE HISTORICAL/CULTURAL PARK
POOLE/SENECA STORE AND HOUSE	16401 OLD RIVER RD	SENECA LANDING SPECIAL PARK
BREWER FARM	20201 DARNESTOWN ROAD	WOODSTOCK EQUESTRIAN PARK
MEADOWBROOK REC CENTER	7901 MEADOWBROOK LN	MEADOWBROOK LOCAL PARK
MORSE WATER FILTRATION PLANT (WSSC)	10700-701 COLUMBIA PIKE	BURNT MILLS EAST AND WEST
CHARLES BROWNING FARM	13910 LEWISDALE RD	LITTLE BENNETT REGIONAL PARK
OLIVER WATKINS FARM	23400 RIDGE RD	OVID HAZEN WELLS RECREATION PARK
JOSEPH WHITE HOUSE	17400 MOORE RD	RICKMAN HORSE FARM SPECIAL PARK

## Chapter 6 - Agricultural Land Preservation



### BACKGROUND AND CHAPTER CONTEXT

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#### PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO INVESTMENT IN LAND PRESERVATION

For over two hundred years, Montgomery County has been the home to a strong agriculture industry. There is a long and rich farming heritage in the County; a heritage and tradition that has contributed greatly to the incredibly high quality of life the residents of Montgomery County enjoy today. Preserving that heritage and encouraging its growth, through land preservation efforts and public policy, continues to be a top priority in Montgomery County

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council and the American Farmland Trust, Montgomery County has the most successful farmland and open space preservation program in the country. Ninety-three thousand acres in Montgomery County have been set aside, through zoning for agricultural and open space uses. The County's diverse agricultural industry has 561 farms and 350 horticultural enterprises, which contribute \$243 million to the local economy. The Preservation of Agriculture and Rural Open Space Functional Master Plan outlines the County's goals on land preservation, and an important component is ensuring the continued viability of agriculture.

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#### SUPPORTIVE LOCAL PLANS, ZONING, AND REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Montgomery County's leadership contributed to the vision of recognizing growth trends within its borders and taking action to conserve land for agricultural and open space. County efforts to preserve farmland began in 1964 when the County adopted the *General Plan (On Wedges and Corridors)*. This plan envisions a land use pattern where intensive development is confined to a series of Corridor Cities located along major transportation arteries and separated by wedges of rural open space, low-density residential uses and farmland. When the agricultural wedge concept was introduced, its function was to provide and protect large open spaces for recreational opportunities; provide a rural environment in which farming, mineral extraction, and other natural resource activities could be carried out; and conserve and protect the public water supply and recreation. In 1969, when the General Plan was updated, it affirmed the 1964 *General Plan* recommendations.

In 1974, after extensive study by the Montgomery County Planning Board, the County Council approved a new Rural Zone to protect the wedge areas from increasing development pressure. This new zone imposed a five-acre minimum lot size on approximately one-third of the County. The Rural Zone was designed specifically to preserve farmland and further implement the recommendations of the General Plan.

In the following years, it became evident that the Rural Zone (in combination with the State Agricultural Assessment Program) was not sufficient to protect farmland. From 1975-1979, almost 11,000 acres of farmland were subdivided, primarily for homes. As a result, from 1976-1980, County Planning staff, the Montgomery County Planning Board, County Council, a Council-appointed Agricultural Task Force, and a cross section of County residents wrestled with the problem of farmland and rural open space preservation.

The *Preservation of Agriculture & Rural Open Space Functional Master Plan* was adopted by the M-NCPPC and approved by the County Council in 1980 to address the issue of the loss of farmland on the urban fringe. The Functional Plan proposed the creation and application of two zoning techniques, the Rural Density Transfer (RDT) and the Rural Cluster (RC) Zones, in conjunction with a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) system.

The RDT Zone gives strong preference to agriculture, forestry, and open space uses, as well as allowing a wide variety of agriculturally related commercial and industrial uses. It discourages residential uses by restricting residential development to one dwelling unit per 25 acres. Use of the RDT Zone significantly reduces fragmentation of farmland, stabilizes farmland value, minimizes development pressure, protects agricultural practices, and maintains a critical mass of farmland.

In return for this loss of development potential, the TDR system provides the opportunity for an economic return of farmland placed in the RDT Zone by allowing the owner of the farmland to sell development rights at a rate of one TDR per five acres. This is equivalent to the development density permitted under the 1974 Rural Zone before the 25- acre minimum downsizing. The development rights may be utilized in specifically designated TDR receiving areas in various parts of the County determined suitable for growth. When TDRs are sold for transfer to a receiving area, a legal easement is placed on the sending area restricting the use of the sending area to agricultural or open space purposes.

Development rights are therefore determined to be commodities that can be sold to developers and transferred to designated areas of the County where growth and development are desired. The private marketplace establishes the value of development rights, and the County is responsible for tracking the sale and transfer of rights through its records. The TDR system has the advantage of using the private sector to fund the protection of farmland.

In 1993, the County approved the *A General Plan Refinement of the Goals & Objectives for Montgomery County*. This document updated the General Plan goals and objectives, outlining challenges, and providing a vision for the approaching 21st century. The vision for the agricultural wedge is to preserve farmland and rural open space by employing the strategies listed in the County Goals Section of this Chapter.

Farmers and landowners are a crucial part of the effort to preserve agricultural land. They are both participants in, and beneficiaries of, efforts to preserve agricultural land. Landowners can choose from many State and local

agricultural land preservation programs. Each of the programs is designed to place an easement on the property which prevents future commercial, residential or industrial development of the land.

The Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance helps to ensure that the Agricultural Reserve is maintained in agricultural use. Several recent Zoning Text Amendments promote the new Building Lot Termination (BLT) program. Currently, Montgomery County is undergoing a Zoning Code rewrite, which will continue to support agricultural uses and preservation.

## GOALS FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

### STATE GOALS

Preservation of rural land for agricultural use is becoming increasingly important in many areas of the State of Maryland and Montgomery County. The primary goals of agricultural preservation programs include the following:

- To conserve farmland for future food and fiber production.
- To ensure continued high quality food supply for our citizens.
- To preserve the agricultural industry and rural communities as an *enhanced quality and way of life*.

---

### COUNTY GOALS

County Goals for agriculture are consistent with the previously stated State goals and are built on those expressed in the County's Comprehensive General Plan discussed in Chapters 1 and 2, and are listed below:

#### Objective:

Preserve farmland and rural open space in the Agricultural Wedge.

#### Strategies:

- Strengthen land use policies that encourage farmland preservation and rural open space preservation in the Agricultural Wedge.
- Strengthen incentives and regulations to encourage agricultural uses and discourage development within the Agricultural Wedge.
- Limit non-agricultural uses to those that are low intensity or otherwise identified in master plans.
- Continue the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program as well as the County and State farm easement programs as important elements of preserving farmland.
- Continue the function of existing rural centers as the focus of activity for the surrounding countryside.

- Ensure that rural centers primarily serve rural lifestyles and are compatible in size and scale with the intent of the Agricultural Wedge.
- Continue agriculture as the preferred use in the Agricultural Wedge.
- Promote the new Building Lot Termination Program to preserve larger tracts of farmland.

## **CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION**

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### **TYPES OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS:**

The primary land preservation programs available to assist landowners in Montgomery County are:

- State Purchase of Development Rights Programs
- Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation Programs (MALPF)
- Rural Legacy Program (RLP) – State/County Cooperative PDR
- County Purchase of Development Rights Programs
- Montgomery County Agricultural Easement Program (AEP)
- Building Lot Termination Program (BLT)
- County Transferable Development Rights Program (TDRs) Montgomery County Transferable Development Rights Program (TDRs)
- Donation Based Conservation Easements Programs
- Programs of the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET), and other private trust organizations.

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## **COUNTY AND STATE PROGRAMS**

### **Current Programs and Land Use Management Tools**

The following table shows Montgomery County currently has eight programs available, in Montgomery County's "toolbox" of land Preservation Program Options.

*Figure 19 - Total acreage in preservation per program*

Program	June 2004	Acres Preserved	
		Through FY2011	From 2004 to FY2011
Maryland Environmental Trust (MET)	2,086	2,086	0
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)	3,322	4,433	1,111
Building Lot Termination Program (BLT)			
Transfer of Development Rights Program (TDR)	45,000	52,052	7,052
Montgomery County Agricultural Easement Program (AEP)	6,678	8,176	1,498
Rural Legacy Program (RLP)	3,900	4,875	975
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	1,909*		
M-NCPPC Legacy Open Space Program (LOS)			

\*CREP Contract Phase Only

Go to [http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/ded/agservices/pdf/files/farmpresbrochure\\_2010.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/ded/agservices/pdf/files/farmpresbrochure_2010.pdf) for details regarding any preservation programs.

**The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET)**

This program was established by the Maryland state legislature in 1967 to encourage landowners to donate an easement on their property to protect scenic open areas, including farm and forest land, wildlife habitat, waterfront, unique or rare areas and historic sites. MET accepts both donated and purchased easements. In the donated easement program, the landowners are eligible for certain income, estate, gift and property tax benefits in return for limiting the right to develop and subdivide their land, now and in the future. Through this program, 2,086 acres have been preserved through FY2011.

**Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Act -- State Agricultural Preservation Program**

This program was established in 1977 by the State Legislature as a result of concern over decreasing farmland acreage caused by development. The program is implemented through the Maryland Department of Agriculture, in partnership with local government. The MALPF purchases agricultural land preservation easements directly from landowners for cash. Following the sale of the easement, agricultural uses of the property are encouraged to continue. Through FY2010, 4,433 acres have been preserved under this program. The table below details a summary of MALPF Acquisitions for FY2004 through FY2011.



**Figure 20 - Summary of MALPF Acquisitions for FY2004 through FY2011**

From the *Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Annual Report FY1980 – FY2010* pp.6 -7

<b>Landowner</b>	<b>MAPF Program Cycle</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Fair Market Value/Acre</b>	<b>Max. Easement Value/Acre</b>	<b>Discounted Easement Offer/Acre</b>	<b>Discount Value</b>
MDR Friendly Acres	FY04	109.539	5,000	4,215	4,215	\$0.00
MDR Friends Advice	FY04	150.97	5,100	4,313	4,300	\$1,962.61
MDR Friends Ahoy	FY04	231.07	5,000	4,213	4,100	\$26,110.91
Bernard Mihm	FY05	272.84	5,200	4,406	3,900	\$137,045.04
Shiloh Farms LLC	FY06	140	7,192	6,327	5,800	\$73,817.00
Richards Biggs	FY08	137.85	10,920	10,282	7,049	\$445,831.90
John Doody Et al	FY08	165.02	9,939	9,415	7,455	\$323,503.87
Lonnie Luther	FY09	145.1	10,848	10,244	10,244	\$0.00
Lewis Haines	FY09	98.5	20,000	19,438	10,000	\$929,686.00
Drew Stabler	FY10	55.2875	17,002	16,065	8,650	\$478,236.88
Lonnie Luther	FY10	98.4842	7,839	7,288	7,288	\$0.00

**The Montgomery County Building Lot Termination Program (BLT)**

The Montgomery County BLT program was established by law in 2008 with easements purchased in 2011. The primary purpose of a BLT Easement is to preserve agricultural land by reducing the fragmentation of farmland resulting from residential development. A BLT Easement restricts residential, commercial, industrial, and other non-agricultural uses. A key feature of the BLT Easement is an enhanced level of compensation to a landowner who can demonstrate that their land is capable of residential development and agrees, as part of the BLT Easement, to forego development and permanently retire an approved on-site waste disposal system associated with the lot to be terminated under the easement.

This program will involve two phases, the initial program will be comprised by a publicly funded program which is governed under County Law (Chapter 2B of the Montgomery County Code) and corresponding Executive Regulation 3-09AM. The second phase of this program will involve a privately funded initiative whereby the development community may purchase BLT's directly from RDT zoned landowners. It is envisioned that this privately funded initiative will function in a similar fashion as the County's highly successful Transferable Development Rights Program (TDR). Montgomery County will settle on 3 BLT easement properties during FY12 successfully eliminating 7 buildable lots covering 308 acres.

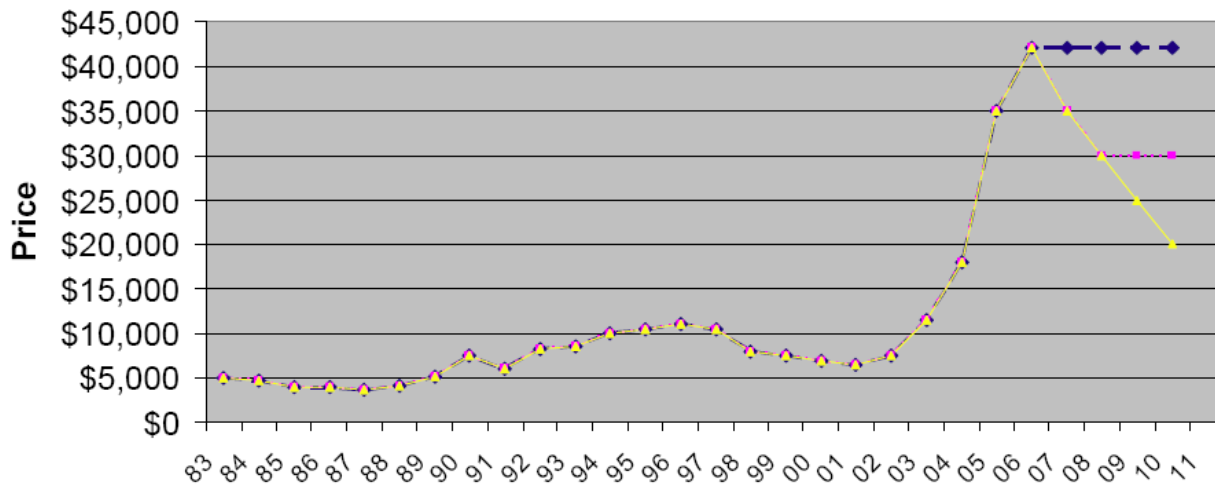
### The Montgomery County Transfer of Development Rights Program (TDR)

The Montgomery County TDR Program was established in 1980 as part of the Functional Master Plan for the Preservation of Agricultural and Rural Open Space. The TDR program allows landowners to transfer a development right from one parcel of land to another parcel. For agricultural land preservation, TDRs are used to shift development from agricultural areas (“TDR sending areas”) to designated growth zones or (“TDR receiving areas”) which are closer to public services and far removed from the "sending area". When rights are transferred from a parcel within the designated “TDR sending area,” the land is restricted by a permanent TDR easement. The land to which the rights are transferred are called the “receiving area.” A TDR program represents the private sector's investment in land preservation, as the price paid for TDRs are negotiated between a landowner and a developer. A developer who purchases TDRs is permitted to build at a higher density than permitted by the “base zoning.” The funds paid for a TDR by the developer to a landowner creates a wealth transfer from the developed areas back into the rural economy.

Montgomery County has been recognized as having one of the most successful TDR programs in the nation, with 52,052 acres of important agricultural land preserved through FY2011. The following chart shows the TDR prices per fiscal year.

**Figure 21 – Transfer Development Rights Prices Per Fiscal Year.**

From the *Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Annual Report FY1980 – FY2010* p. 10

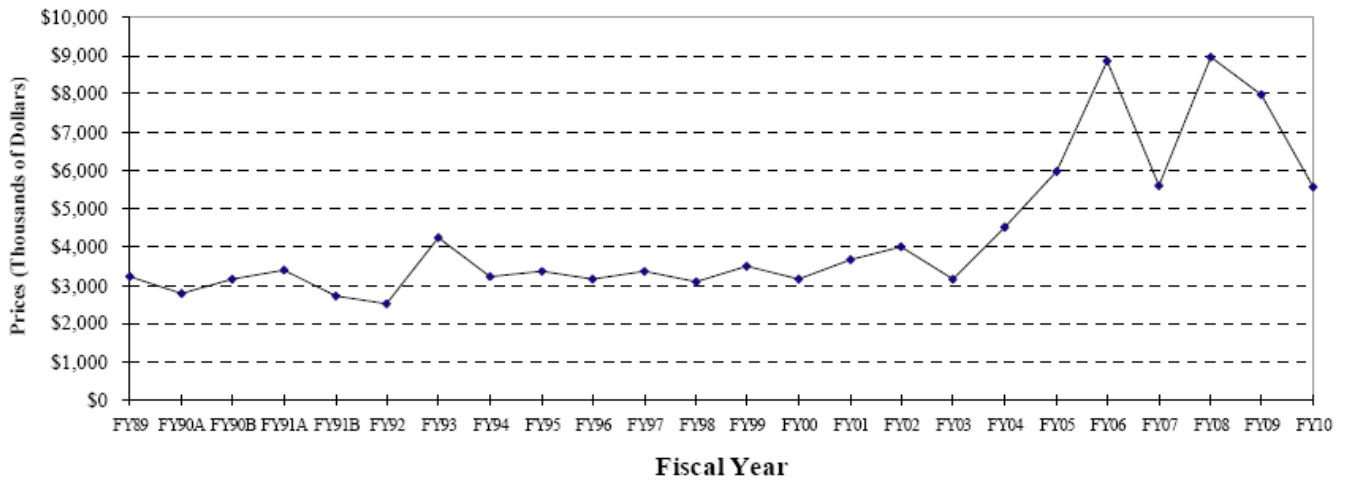


### The Montgomery County Agricultural Easement Program (AEP)

Established in 1987, this program gives the County the ability to Purchase agricultural land preservation easements to preserve land for agricultural production. Lands eligible for participation in this program must be zoned Rural, Rural Cluster, or Rural Density Transfer, or subject to land being

designated as an approved State or County Agricultural Preservation District. The program was created to increase both the level of voluntary participation in farmland preservation programs and expand the eligibility of farmland parcels. Through FY2010, 8,176 acres have been preserved under this program. The following graphic shows the AEP prices by fiscal year through FY2011.

**Figure 21 - Agricultural Easement Program(AEP) by Fiscal Year through FY11**  
 From the *Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Annual Report FY1980 – FY2010* p. 9



**Rural Legacy Program in Montgomery County (RLP)**

Passed in May of 1997 as part of the Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation Act, the Rural Legacy Program encourages local governments and private land trusts to identify Rural Legacy areas and to competitively apply for funds to complement existing land conservation efforts or create new programs.

This State program provides competitive grants to Counties or other sponsors for preserving areas that are rich in agricultural, forestry, natural and cultural resources that, if protected, will promote a resource-based economy, protect greenbelts and greenways and maintain the fabric of rural life. Awarded Grants could be directed to either purchase sensitive lands in fee or acquire protection through conservation easements. In the spirit of maximizing both State and Local funds, Montgomery County has been very successful in its Rural Legacy applications by leveraging State/Local funds to target significant agricultural resources through the conservation easement acquisition process. Since the first grants were awarded during the FY1998-1999 grant cycle, Montgomery County has been awarded a total of \$16.9 million in State Grant Funds; and through FY2011 4,875 acres have been protected by this program. As with the County’s AEP program, TDRs created through the easement acquisition process are held jointly by the State/County and represent an asset and potential source of future revenue for the program. Through FY2011, the State/County has

acquired 351 TDRs through the County's RLP program. Montgomery County will apply for new Rural Legacy Funding during FY12. This will represent the first new funding opportunity for Montgomery County since FY2006.

### **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

As part of a partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State of Maryland, this program was developed beginning in 1997 to focus attention on streamside buffer restoration initiative which would protect water quality and critical wildlife habitat. The County is only in the contract phase. Through June 2011, a total of 51 farms covering 1,909 acres are under active CREP contracts.

The County is attempting to meet the objectives of the CREP program through the acquisition of 4,875 acres of Rural Legacy Conservation Easements as this program compliments CREP. While CREP may not be the preferred vehicle by which riparian buffers are established and protected, the objectives of CREP are met through the Rural Legacy conservation easement provisions. Through FY2011, over 20 miles of buffers are permanently protected under the RLP program.

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## **FUNDING SOURCES**

### **Agricultural Transfer Tax**

Agricultural Transfer Taxes are collected when farmland is sold and converted to uses other than agriculture. The agricultural transfer tax that is assessed on real property is 5 percent of the consideration paid. Montgomery County's agricultural preservation program is certified by the State, and is therefore able to retain 75% of the agricultural transfer taxes collected in order to fund the agricultural preservation program. A total of \$30,178,928 from FY1990 through FY2010 was retained by the County for agricultural land preservation.

### **Investment Income**

Agricultural Transfer Taxes retained by Montgomery County are placed in an interest bearing account. Beginning in FY1994, the income generated by the interest was invested back into the agricultural land preservation program. As of FY2009, a total of \$4,576,039 of interest has accrued. Investment income has been used to fund preservation initiatives, agricultural economic development initiatives and staffing costs.

### **General Obligation Bonds – may need to be modified per p. 4 of the Ag. Report**

One alternative for funding farmland preservation in Montgomery County is through the use of General Obligation Bonds. By definition, a General Obligation Bond or G.O. Bond is a bond backed by the ability of a sovereign or municipal issuer (County) to levy taxes on real property and on business activities in its jurisdiction. General obligation bonds are backed by the full faith, credit and taxing power of the issuer. Because these types of bonds require

debt servicing for repayment, the County adopted a policy to limit the use of G.O. Bonds for farmland preservation. This policy dictates that G.O. Bonds can only be used when the reserves of cash have been significantly depleted. For several fiscal years, G.O Bonds were authorized and appropriated for use, but were never used because of the G.O. Bond usage policy. In FY 2001, \$700 thousand dollars of appropriated G.O Bonds were returned for use elsewhere in the County since the program had sufficient cash revenue. During FY2011, \$4 Million Dollars in General Obligation Bonds have been approved for the Agricultural Land Preservation Easement Program

### **State Grants**

Beginning in 1997, the State's Rural Legacy Program was enacted as part of the Governor's Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation initiative to protect our natural resources. Through this program, a competitive grants program was established by which local governments and local land trusts could compete for State funds. These funds could be directed to either purchase sensitive lands in fee or acquire protection through conservation easements. Since the first grants were awarded during the FY1998-1999 grant cycle, Montgomery County has been awarded a total of \$19.3 million in State Grant Funds.

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### **SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION GOAL**

Montgomery County has established and met a goal of protecting 70,000 acres of farmland. Through FY2010, Montgomery County has protected 71,622 acres of farmland through the preservation programs offered to its residents.

### **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION**

- The preservation of farmland itself will not ensure that farming will continue as a viable industry. The State and local government must promote a holistic approach to the preservation of agriculture in terms of preserving agriculture an industry. This concept must include many components in order for a viable future to exist. Continue agricultural preservation programs.
- Promote the BLT program working with the public and private sectors allowing the program to succeed.
- Secure funding for agricultural land preservation.
- Assist in development of the Zoning Code Rewrite to ensure that agricultural land is protected for agricultural uses.
- Implement improvements to the TDR programs and promote nonresidential uses for TDRs through the expansion of Urban Growth Areas.



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## APPENDIX 1 - PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY, ACREAGE AND SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS

PARK	DEVELOPED	UNDEVELOPED	TOTAL PARKS	UNDEVELOPED ACRES	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	SOFTBALL	BASEBALL	FOOTBALL/SOCCER OVERLAY	FOOTBALL/SOCCER FIELD	PLAY FIELD	PLAYGROUND	BASKETBALL MULTI USE COURT	LIGHTED BASKETBALL	TENNIS	LIGHTED TENNIS	PICNIC SHELTER	OPEN SHELTER	PARK ACTIVITY BUILDING	
<b>COUNTYWIDE PARKS</b>																				
Stream Valley Park	1	37	38	14,316.20	71.93	14,388.13	1	0	1	3	0	12	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	
Regional Park	5	0	5	5,372.92	2,686.46	8,059.37	9	3	1	0	0	13	0	2	0	21	47	0	0	
Recreational Park	8	3	11	408.68	2,494.45	2,903.12	14	8	2	13	0	11	6	4	10	22	14	5	0	
Conservation Park	0	20	20	4,431.02	0.00	4,431.02	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Special Park	20	5	25	1,074.25	1041.28	2115.53	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
Misc. Facilities	6	0	6	0	110.62	110.62	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>25,603.07</b>	<b>6,404.74</b>	<b>32,007.79</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY USE PARKS</b>																				
Urban Park	20	7	27	18.65	23.11	41.75	0	0	0	0	0	14	2	1	3	1	0	8	0	
Neighborhood Park	80	15	95	91.02	575.65	666.67	4	1	3	7	3	83	49.5	9	46	11	1	34	4	
Local Park	135	15	150	322.16	1,946.49	2,268.65	125.5	11	57	79	1	141	94	37	125	64	14	69	25	
Neighborhood Conservation Area	0	40	40	282.05	0.00	282.05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>713.88</b>	<b>2,545.25</b>	<b>3,259.12</b>	<b>129.5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>145.5</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>26,316.95</b>	<b>8,949.99</b>	<b>35,266.91</b>	<b>155.5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>153.5</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>31</b>	

Report Date: 3.6. 2012 Disclaimer: By Policy Regional Parks can only be 1/3 developed maximum. The developed acreage numbers reflect maximum development potential.

(Report Number 30)	DEVELOPED	UNDEVELOPED	TOTAL PARKS	ACRES UNDEVELOPED	ACRES DEVELOPED	TOTAL ACRES
<b>COUNTYWIDE PARKS</b>						
Stream Valley Park Units	1	37	38	14,316.20	71.93	14,388.13
Regional Park	5	0	5	5,372.92	2,686.46	8,059.37
Recreational Park	8	3	11	408.68	2,494.45	2,903.12
Conservation Park	0	20	20	4,431.02	0.00	4,431.02
Special Park	20	5	25	1,074.25	1041.28	2115.53
Misc. Facilities	6	0	6	0	110.62	110.62
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>25,603.07</b>	<b>6404.74</b>	<b>32007.79</b>
<b>COMMUNITY USE PARKS</b>						
Urban Park*	20	7	27	18.65	23.11	41.75
Neighborhood Park	80	15	95	91.02	575.65	666.67
Local Park	135	15	150	322.16	1,946.49	2,268.65
Neighborhood Conservation Area	0	40	40	282.05	0.00	282.05
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>713.88</b>	<b>2,545.25</b>	<b>3,259.12</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>26316.95</b>	<b>8949.99</b>	<b>35,156.29</b>



## M-NCPPC MONTGOMERY PARKS

Parks Information Line – 301-495-2595

[www.MontgomeryParks.org](http://www.MontgomeryParks.org)

### OUR MISSION

Protect and interpret our valuable natural and cultural resources; balance the demand for recreation with the need for conservation; offer a variety of enjoyable recreational activities that encourage healthy lifestyles; and provide clean, safe, and accessible places for leisure-time activities.

### PARK SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of parks:	416
Total acres of parkland:	35,120
Total developed acreage:	9,020
Open and environmental preservation acreage:	26,100

### PARK FACILITIES

Athletic fields: 296	Lakes: 4
Overlay football/soccer fields: 50	Boating Facility - Rentals: 2
Basketball Courts: 207	Boating Landing Ramps: 3
Campgrounds – Full Service: 1	Miniature Golf: 1
Campgrounds – Primitive: 2	Miniature Trains: 2
Campsites: 102	Nature Centers: 4
Carousel: 1	Outdoor Ropes Course: 1
Dog Parks: 5	Park Activity Buildings: 29
Equestrian centers: 6	Picnic Shelters - Non-Permitted: 49
Event Centers: 5	Picnic Shelters - Permitted: 81
Exercise Courses: 13	Large Group Picnic Areas: 3
Formal Botanical Gardens: 2	Playgrounds: 292
Community Gardens: 10	Skate Park: 1
Golf Courses: 4	Splash Playground: 1
Driving Range (Stand Alone): 1	Tennis Centers - Indoor: 2 (12 Courts)
Gymnasiums: 1	Tennis Courts - Outdoor: 305
Historic Sites: 45	Trails - Canoe: 2.4 miles
Historic Structures: 110	Trails - Natural Surface: 149.3 miles
Ice Rinks: 2	Trails - Paved: 78.5 miles

### PARK BUDGET

Park Fund, Adopted Operating Budget FY2012	\$78.47 million
Capital Improvements Program FY2011-2016	\$52.2 million for acquisition
Capital Improvements Program FY2011-2016	\$118.9 million for development

As of 07/2011  
 Source: SmartParks



## APPENDIX 2 - 1993 GENERAL PLAN REFINEMENT OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The General Plan Proposed concentrating development in corridors allowing much of remaining wedges to be preserved for agriculture and open space. This smart growth policy allows more efficient placement of parks and other public services as shown in the strategies below.

The following Park and Recreation objectives and strategies are included in the Land Use, Environmental, and Identity elements of the 1993 General Plan Refinement-Goals and Objectives for Montgomery County. Only those sections relating to parks have been excerpted. They are compatible with the policy for parks as well as guidelines and objectives for parkland acquisition and development.

---

### LAND USE OBJECTIVES RELATING TO PARKLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

**Objective:** Provide a coordinated and comprehensive system of parks, recreation, and open space.

**Strategies:**

- Give priority to open space, park, and recreation investments in areas with the greatest existing or proposed residential density and in areas with important environmental features.
- Use open space, parks, and recreation facilities to shape and enhance the development and identity of individual neighborhoods, cluster developments, and existing communities.
- Integrate open space, parks, and recreational facilities into urbanized areas to promote public activity and community identity.
- Plan for and encourage the provision of greenways to connect urban and rural open spaces to provide access to parkland, and to connect major stream valley park areas.

**Objective:** Preserve farmland and rural open space in the Agricultural Wedge.

**Strategies:**

- Strengthen land use policies that encourage farmland preservation and rural open space preservation in the Agricultural Wedge.
- Strengthen incentives and regulations to encourage agricultural uses and discourage development within the Agricultural Wedge.
- Limit non-agricultural uses to those that are low intensity or otherwise identified in master plans.
- Continue the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program as well as the County and State farm easement programs as important elements of preserving farmland.
- Continue the function of existing rural centers as the focus of activity for the surrounding countryside.
- Ensure that rural centers primarily serve rural lifestyles and are compatible in size and scale with the intent of the Agricultural Wedge.
- Continue agriculture as the preferred use in the Agricultural Wedge.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL OBJECTIVES RELATING TO PARKLAND

**Goal:** Conserve and protect natural resources to provide a healthy and beautiful environment for present and future generations. Manage the impacts of human activity on our natural resources in a balanced manner to sustain human, plant, and animal life.

**Objective:** Preserve natural areas and features that are ecologically unusual, environmentally sensitive, or possess outstanding natural beauty.

**Strategies:**

- Protect natural resources through identification, public acquisition, conservation easements, public education, citizen involvement, and private conservation efforts.
- Connect parks and conservation areas to form an open space and conservation-oriented greenway system.
- Require open space dedications in new subdivisions that maximize protection of stream valleys and other sensitive environmental features.
- Ensure that development guidelines are reviewed periodically to make certain that they are environmentally sensitive and reflect current technologies and knowledge of the environment.
- Limit construction soils and slopes not suited for development.

**Objective:** Conserve county waterways, wetlands, and sensitive parts of stream valleys to minimize flooding, pollution, sedimentation, and damage to the ecology and to preserve natural beauty and open space.

**Strategies:**

- Identify and protect wetlands and other sensitive parts of watersheds.
- Continue parkland acquisition in key stream valleys.
- Limit the potential damage to life and property from flooding.
- Prohibit development too close to streams, in the 100-year ultimate floodplain, and in flooding danger reach areas of dams, unless no feasible alternative is available.
- Maintain the natural character of drainage areas in the immediate vicinity of streams, rivers, and lakes.
- Plant and retain trees and other vegetation near streams.
- Minimize impacts from construction and operation of public and private facilities located in stream valleys, buffers, and floodplains; first priority should be given to preserving natural areas (avoidance), second priority to mitigation, and third priority to replacement with functional equivalents.
- Develop programs to rehabilitate damaged streams.
- Mandate "no net loss" of wetlands.

**Objective:** Identify and preserve significant historic, scenic, and cultural features and promote art in public areas.

**Strategies:**

- Evaluate historic resources for inclusion in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.
- Preserve appropriate sites with their environmental settings and districts that are:
  - Representative of a period or style
  - Architecturally important
  - Locations of important events or activities
  - Associated with important persons
  - Archeological sites
  - Cultural landmarks, or
  - Historic or cultural value.
- Protect historic sites permanently.
- Encourage the preservation, restoration, and use of historic sites and community landmarks to foster community identity.
- Use financial incentives to minimize the impacts of maintaining and restoring historic properties.
- Promote art and cultural opportunities at appropriate public and private locations.
- Encourage compatible development that highlights and enhances historic resources in development or redevelopment near historic resources and in and around historic districts.





**APPENDIX 3 - PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP) FY13-18**

PDF #	PDF NAME*	SITE	DETAIL	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	PLAN AREA
998763	Minor New Construction - Non-Local Parks	Little Bennett RP	Construct trailhead parking, access road, picnic area	X						10
998708	PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations	Little Bennett RP	Replace vehicular-rated bridge # at Hyattstown Mill road in Little Bennett.	X						10
998708	PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations	Little Bennett RP	Replace vehicular-rated bridge on Western Piedmont Trail							10
858710	Trails: Natural Surface Design, Constr. & Renov.	Little Bennett RP	Repair damaged sections of trail: reroute as necessary, replace/install bridges.	X	X	X				10
138703	Little Bennett Regional Park Day Use Area	Little Bennett RP	Construct day use facilities			X	X	X	X	10
998705	PLAR: LP - Park Building Renovations	Damascus NP	Renovate shelter restrooms in group picnic area.							11
998704	PLAR: LP - Tennis/Multi-Use Court Renovations	John Haines NP	John Haines NP (1 BBALL)		X					11
998704	PLAR: LP - Tennis/Multi-Use Court Renovations	Dickerson LP	Dickerson LP (1 BBALL)	X						12
138704	Seneca Crossing Local Park	Seneca Crossing LP	Construct new local park with ballfields						X	13
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Laytonsville LP	Renovate diamond field		X					14
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Laytonsville LP	Renovate playground			X				14
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Camp Seneca	Renovate playground		X					18
078704	Germantown Town Center Urban Park	Germantown Town Center UP	Construct new park	X	X					19
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Gunner's Branch LP	Renovate playground			X				19
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Gunner's Lake LP	Renovate playground		X					19
998773	Enterprise Facilities' Improvements	S. Germantown SP/MG	Redesign mini-golf facility and expand splash park; install shelter & playground	X	X	X	X	X	X	19
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Waring Station LP	Renovate playground		X					19
808494	Restoration Of Historic Structures	Waters House SP	Stabilize/renovate loafing shed	X						19
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Waters Landing LP	Renovate playground		X					19
998704	PLAR: LP - Tennis/Multi-Use Court Renovations	Waters Landing LP	Waters Landing LP (2 TCTS+1BBALL)	X						19
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Blueberry Hill LP	Renovate rectangular field #2		X					20

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PDF #	PDF NAME*	SITE	DETAIL	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	PLAN AREA
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Centerway LP	Renovate playground		X					20
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Hunter's Woods LP	Renovate playground		X					20
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Mill Creek Towne LP	Renovate diamond field		X					20
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Redland LP	Renovate rectangular field		X					20
098709	Shady Grove Maintenance Facility Relocation	Shady Grove Maintenance Facility	Study options for facility relocation							20
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Strawberry Knoll LP	Renovate diamond field		X					20
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Washington Square NP	Renovate playground			X				20
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Bowie Mill LP	Renovate rectangular field #1	X						22
038703	Laytonia Recreational Park	Laytonia RP	Construct new recreational park with ballfields		X	X	X	X		22
118702	Rock Creek Maintenance Facility	Rock Creek RP	Replace existing maintenance facility	X	X	X	X	X		22
818571	Stream Protection: SVP	Rock Creek RP	Design & construct restorations along Rock Creek Tributary		X	X	X			22
998708	PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations	Rock Creek RP - Meadowside Nature Center	Replace pedestrian-rated bridge #M10-01/02.	X	X					22
768673	Trails: Hard Surface Design & Construction	Rock Creek SVP	Install trail signage and kiosks	X						22
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Cherrywood LP	Renovate rectangular field		X					23
058703	East Norbeck Local Park Expansion	East Norbeck LP	Renovate & expand local park	X						23
858710	Trails: Natural Surface Design, Constr. & Renov.	Hawlings River SVP (Rachel Carson Greenway)	Clear and mark trail, install bridges/boardwalk from Goldmine Road to MD Route 97. (3.0 miles).	X	X					23
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Mount Zion LP	Renovate diamond field		X					23
998702	PLAR: LP - Minor Renovations	Norbeck Meadows NP	Replace vehicular-rated bridge #B38-01.	X						23
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Sundown LP	Renovate diamond field		X					23
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Sundown LP	Renovate playground			X				23
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Aberdeen LP	Renovate rectangular field	X						24

PDF #	PDF NAME*	SITE	DETAIL	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	PLAN AREA
118701	Battery Lane Urban Park	Battery Lane UP	Renovate existing park				X	X	X	24
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Darnestown LP	Renovate diamond field		X					24
998799	Minor New Construction - Local Parks	Darnestown LP	Design and construct additional parking.	X						24
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Quince Orchard Knolls LP	Renovate diamond field		X					24
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Dufief LP	Renovate rectangular field #1	X						25
078705	Greenbriar Local Park	Greenbriar LP	Construct new local park with ballfields	X	X					25
957775	Facility Planning: LP	Traville LP	New 13.7-acre park on land deeded by developer in N. Potomac	X	X					25
118704	Northwest Branch Recreational Park-Athletic Area	Northwest Branch RP	Construct new recreational park with ballfields		X	X				27
818571	Stream Protection: SVP	Maydale Nature Center	Repair cross-vane and various eroded crossings; long-term monitoring		X		X			28
098703	Woodlawn Barn Visitors Center	Woodlawn CP	Construct visitor's center	X	X					28
998773	Enterprise Facilities' Improvements	Cabin John RP - Pauline Betz Addie Tennis Ctr	Facility planning for additional courts and for adding air conditioning	X	X					29
998773	Enterprise Facilities' Improvements	Cabin John RP Ice Rink	Replace refrigeration system at NHL and studio rinks		X	X				29
098705	Falls Road Local Park	Falls Road LP	Expand parking area	X						29
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Farmland LP	Renovate diamond field #1	X						30
998799	Minor New Construction - Local Parks	Fleming LP	Design and construct parking lot expansion to add 5-7 spaces.	X						30
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Randolph Hills LP	Renovate diamond field #1	X						30
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Rock Creek SVU 3 (Puller Lane)	Renovate playground	X						30
998705	PLAR: LP - Park Building Renovations	Stratton LP	Renovate shelter restrooms in group picnic area.							30
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Timberlawn LP	Renovate rectangular field #1	X						30
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Timberlawn LP	Renovate rectangular field #2		X					30
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Timberlawn LP	Renovate playground		X					30
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Wells NP	Renovate playground		X					30

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PDF #	PDF NAME*	SITE	DETAIL	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	PLAN AREA
078701	Pollution Prevention and Repairs to Ponds & Lakes	Brookside Gardens	Construct rehab of multiple dams surrounding Gude Gardens and SWM retrofit	X						31
998704	PLAR: LP - Tennis/Multi-Use Court Renovations	Capital View-Homewood LP	Capital View-Homewood (2TCTS)		X					31
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Dewey LP	Renovate rectangular field		X					31
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Dewey LP	Renovate playground			X				31
098702	Evans Parkway Neighborhood Park	Evans Pkwy. NP	Renovate & expand local park	X						31
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Forest Glen NP	Renovate playground		X					31
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	General Getty NP	Renovate playground		X					31
818571	Stream Protection: SVP	Ken-Gar LP	Construct wetland enhancement and culvert repairs	X						31
998702	PLAR: LP - Minor Renovations	Kensington Cabin LP	Kensington Cabin LP renovations	X						31
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Newport Mill LP	Renovate playground	X						31
998708	PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations	Sligo Creek SVU 4 (Forest Grove NP)	Replace vehicular-rated bridge							31
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Sligo Dennis Avenue LP	Renovate playground			X				31
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Viers Mill LP	Renovate rectangular field #4	X						31
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Viers Mill LP	Renovate diamond field #2	X						31
118703	Warner Circle Special Park	Warner Circle SP	Study re-use options for historic site.	X				X	X	31
138707	M-NCPPC Headquarters Project	Wheaton CBD	Study options for new HQ building	X						31
078702	Brookside Gardens Master Plan Implementation	Wheaton RP	Construct improvements	X	X	X				31
998708	PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations	Wheaton RP	Replace fuel pumps		X					31
818571	Stream Protection: SVP	Wheaton RP	Design & construct restoration Old Randolph tributary to NW Branch			X	X			31
888754	Trails: Hard Surface Renovation	Wheaton RP	Renovate Pine Lake trail from dog park to Shorefield parking lot.	X						31
888754	Trails: Hard Surface Renovation	Wheaton RP	Renovate Shorefield-Carousel Trail	X						31
998773	Enterprise Facilities' Improvements	Wheaton RP Ice Arena	Replace dehumidification system		X					31

PDF #	PDF NAME*	SITE	DETAIL	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	PLAN AREA
998702	PLAR: LP - Minor Renovations	Wheaton-Claridge LP	Design & construct renovation of playground, parking lot, SWM & bridge E19-01	X	X					31
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Wheaton-Claridge LP	Renovate playground		X					31
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Winding Creek LP	Renovate rectangular field #1	X						31
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Winding Creek LP	Renovate rectangular field #2		X					31
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Blair HS LP	Renovate diamond field	X						32
998704	PLAR: LP - Tennis/Multi-Use Court Renovations	Indian Spring Terrace LP	Indian Spring (2 TCT, 2 BBALL)	X						32
138702	Kemp Mill Urban Park	Kemp Mill UP	Renovate existing park	X	X	X	X	X		32
998704	PLAR: LP - Tennis/Multi-Use Court Renovations	Long Branch Arliss NP	Long Branch Arliss NP (1 BBALL)	X						32
998704	PLAR: LP - Tennis/Multi-Use Court Renovations	Long Branch LP	Long Branch LP (2 TCTS)		X					32
98706	Magruder Branch Trail	Magruder Branch SVU 2	Construct hard surface trail			X	X	X	X	32
078706	North Four Corners Local Park	North Four Corners LP	Renovate & expand local park	X	X	X				32
078701	Pollution Prevention and Repairs to Ponds & Lakes	NW Branch RP	Preliminary engineering - Burnt Mills Dam modification		X					32
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Colesville LP	Renovate diamond field	X						33
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Hillandale LP	Renovate rectangular field #3	X						33
957775	Facility Planning: LP	Hillandale LP	Renovate existing park	X						33
998704	PLAR: LP - Tennis/Multi-Use Court Renovations	Hillandale LP	Hillandale LP (2 TCTS, 2 BBALL)		X					33
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Martin Luther King, Jr. RP	Renovate baseball field	X						33
998708	PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations	Martin Luther King, Jr. RP	Replace fuel pumps	X						33
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Meadowwood LP	Renovate rectangular field #2		X					33
958776	Facility Planning: NL	Paint Branch SVP	Renovate trail	X	X					33
998708	PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations	Paint Branch SVU 5	Replace pedestrian bridge with vehicular bridge #PB-39.	X	X					33
998704	PLAR: LP - Tennis/Multi-Use Court Renovations	Pilgrim Hills LP	Pilgrim Hills LP (1 BBALL)		X					33

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PDF #	PDF NAME*	SITE	DETAIL	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	PLAN AREA
818571	Stream Protection: SVP	Valley Mill LP	Construct fish passage, cross-vanes, various repairs, eroded crossing	X						33
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Calverton Galway LP	Renovate rectangular field #3	X						34
998705	PLAR: LP - Park Building Renovations	Calverton-Galway LP	Renovate shelter restrooms in group picnic area.							34
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Columbia LP	Renovate playground	X						34
818571	Stream Protection: SVP	West Fairland LP	Design & construct restoration at tributary to Snowdens Mill pond		X	X	X			34
858710	Trails: Natural Surface Design, Constr. & Renov.	Cabin John SVU1	Renovation of existing trail including trail alignment, tread renovation, sign renovation, new bridges and/or boardwalks, etc.		X	X	X			35
888754	Trails: Hard Surface Renovation	Capital Crescent Trail	Renovate gravel shoulders and infiltration trenches along trail	X						35
957775	Facility Planning: LP	Caroline Freeland UP	Renovate existing park in Bethesda	X						35
138701	Elm Street Urban Park	Elm Street UP	Renovate existing park		X	X				35
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Fernwood LP	Renovate playground		X					35
998704	PLAR: LP - Tennis/Multi-Use Court Renovations	Greenwich NP	Greenwich (2 TCTS)	X						35
768673	Trails: Hard Surface Design & Construction	Little Falls SVP	Install trail signage and kiosks	X						35
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Maplewood Alta-Vista LP	Renovate rectangular field #3	X						35
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Norwood LP	Renovate rectangular field #3		X					35
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Sangamore LP	Renovate playground			X				35
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Whittier Woods LP	Renovate diamond field	X						35
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Whittier Woods LP	Renovate playground			X				35
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Woodacres LP	Renovate diamond field		X					35
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Dale Drive LP	Renovate playground		X					36
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Meadowbrook LP	Renovate diamond field	X						36
078701	Pollution Prevention and Repairs to Ponds & Lakes	Meadowbrook LP	Design & construct wetland rehab.			X	X			36

PDF #	PDF NAME*	SITE	DETAIL	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	PLAN AREA
818571	Stream Protection: SVP	Nolte LP	Design & construct SWM retrofit at Galveston & Dale Drive	X	X	X				36
888754	Trails: Hard Surface Renovation	Rock Creek Trail	Renovate trail north of Old Spring Rd. to Kensington Parkway	X						36
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Sligo Avenue NP	Renovate playground			X				36
138705	Woodside Urban Park	Woodside UP	Renovate existing park	X	X					36
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Broadacres LP	Renovate rectangular field #3		X					37
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	Broadacres LP	Renovate diamond field	X						37
768673	Trails: Hard Surface Design & Construction	Long Branch SVP	Install trail signage and kiosks	X						37
998703	PLAR: LP - Play Equipment	Sligo SVU 1 (Kennebec)	Renovate playground			X				37
767828	Acquisition: LP	Countywide	Acquire land for new or additions to local parks	X	X	X	X	X	X	
998798	Acquisition: NL	Countywide	Acquire land for new or additions to non-local parks	X	X	X	X	X	X	
128701	ADA Compliance: LP	Countywide	Various improvements	X	X	X	X	X	X	
128702	ADA Compliance: NL	Countywide	Various improvements	X	X	X	X	X	X	
957775	Facility Planning: LP	Countywide	Park assessment study to determine future priorities for renovations		X	X				
958776	Facility Planning: NL	Countywide	Design guidelines for park facilities	X	X					
958776	Facility Planning: NL	Countywide	Facility Plan cricket field (pending site selection study)	X	X					
018710	Legacy Open Space	Countywide	Acquire land of exceptional cultural or natural value	X	X	X	X	X	X	
998702	PLAR: LP - Minor Renovations	Countywide	Various horticultural services	X	X	X	X	X	X	
998702	PLAR: LP - Minor Renovations	Countywide	Various ADA Projects	X	X	X	X	X	X	
998702	PLAR: LP - Minor Renovations	Countywide	Bridges - inspections, design, repairs	X	X	X	X	X	X	
998702	PLAR: LP - Minor Renovations	Countywide	Install frost-free fountains and dog bowls	X	X	X	X	X	X	
998708	PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations	Countywide	Bridge inspection, design/replacement/repair	X	X	X	X	X	X	
998708	PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations	Countywide	Replace 12 drinking fountains over 35 years old	X	X	X	X	X	X	

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PDF #	PDF NAME*	SITE	DETAIL	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	PLAN AREA
078701	Pollution Prevention and Repairs to Ponds & Lakes	Countywide	Design & construct stormwater retrofits	X	X	X	X	X	X	
078701	Pollution Prevention and Repairs to Ponds & Lakes	Countywide	Design & construct pesticide mixing pads				X	X	X	
808494	Restoration Of Historic Structures	Countywide	Stabilize and/or restore historic properties	X	X	X	X	X	X	
818571	Stream Protection: SVP	Countywide	Reforestation	X	X	X	X	X	X	
818571	Stream Protection: SVP	Countywide	Construct Vernal Pools along floodplains	X						
858710	Trails: Natural Surface Design, Constr. & Renov.	Countywide	Install kiosks & trail signage, gravel parking lots, etc.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
858710	Trails: Natural Surface Design, Constr. & Renov.	Countywide	Reforestation	X	X	X	X	X	X	

\* Data sorted by Park Name.

**Abbreviations:** **CP** Conservation Park | **GC** Golf Course | **HP** Heritage Park | **HQ** Headquarters | **LP** Local Park | **MY** Maintenance Yard | **NC** Nature Center | **NL** Non-Local Park | **NP** Neighborhood Park | **PLAR** Planned Lifecycle Asset Replacement | **ROW** Right-of-Way | **RP** Regional or Recreational Park | **SVP** Stream Valley Park | **SUV** Stream Valley Unit # | **UP** Urban Park



## APPENDIX 4 - CALCULATING STATE ACQUISITION GOALS

**appendix 7** lists the M-NCPPC –Montgomery County Parks System future Acquisition priorities based on properties recommended for acquisition in park and area master Plans. The state guidelines suggest a method of estimating parkland needs that recommends a recreation acreage goal for each county of 30 acres of parkland per 1000 persons. This section summarizes how the State suggests calculating the generic state goal, and how to count local, state and federal lands towards this goal. This is one of the methods a county can use to set its recreational acreage goal.

$$(Number\ of\ residents/1,000) * 30\ acres = goal\ in\ acres$$

What types of land qualify under each category and how each category counts towards the goal are explained below in the appropriate section.

### Local Recreation Acreage

When counting public land towards the default acreage goal, a minimum of 15 acres per 1,000 people must come from locally owned recreational lands. The table on the right indicates what types of land may be counted as recreational lands.

#### Local Recreational Acreage

Consists of 100% of:

- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- City/Countywide Parks
- Metro/Regional Parks
- Educational Recreation Areas\*

*\*60% of school sites or actual community recreational use areas can be counted. A joint use agreement between the county and school must exist.*

### Local Natural Resource Acreage

If the county does not have enough locally owned recreational lands to meet its overall 30 acres per thousand population goal, it may apply a portion of locally owned natural resource lands and qualifying state and federal lands towards the goal. Tables below explain how to compute the portions that can count towards the goal.

#### Local Natural Resource Acreage

Consists of 1/3 of:

- Natural Resource Areas
- Historic Cultural Areas

#### Private Open Space

*\*Private Open Space may be counted if the land is permanently preserved as Open Space, is accessible to members of the community in which it is situated, and can be reasonably construed as helping to meet public demand for open space.*

### State and Federal Acreage

Montgomery County does not qualify for this category, as we do not meet the minimum requirements of 60 acres of State and Federal parkland, per 1000 county residents.

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## MEETING THE GOAL

In addition to local recreational acreage, one third of the acreage of certain types of natural resource land can be counted towards the default recommended acreage goal. Montgomery County lands that can be counted are indicated below.

### Local Recreation Acreage Parkland Qualified to Meet Goal

The estimated year 2022 Montgomery County population is 1,082,600. The table below indicates that Montgomery County falls short of the local minimum requirement of 15 acres of locally owned recreation lands/1000 population which equals 16,230 acres.

#### *Acreage Qualified to Meet Local Acreage Goals*

Park Category	Local Recreation Acreage Consists of 100% of:	Certified Acreage
Urban Parks	41.7	41.7
Neighborhood Parks	666.6	666.6
Local Parks	2268.6	2268.6
Misc. Recreational Facilities	4.1	4.1
Recreational Parks	2903.1	2903.1
Regional Parks (1/3 active)	2686.4	2686.4
Special Parks	2010.6	2010.6
Municipal Parks	1,752.6	1,752.6
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>12,333.7</b>	<b>12,333.7</b>

Other	Local Recreation Acreage Consists of 60% of Schools:	Certified Acreage
MC Public Schools	2841.30	1704.78
<b>Total Local Recreation Acreage</b>	<b>15,175</b>	<b>14,038.48</b>

#### *Acreage Qualified to Meet Local Natural Resources Acreage Goals*

Park Category	Local Natural Resources Acreage Consists of 1/3 of:	Certified Acreage
MNCPPC - Stream Valley Parks	14,388.1	4796
Regional Parks (2/3 natural acreage)	5372.9	1790.9
Conservation Parks	4431.0	1477
Neighborhood Conservation Areas	282.0	94
City of Rockville Stream Valley	585.69	193.28
City of Gaithersburg Stream Valley- to be updated	100.22	33.07
WSSC- to be updated	3431.70	1132.46
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>28,591.6</b>	<b>9,516.7</b>

Total acreage qualified to meet 30 acre/1000 goal of 32,460 acres =23,555 with 8,905 additional acres needed to meet state goal. (To be verified)

**APPENDIX 5 - ATHLETIC FIELD AREA AND PLANNING AREA PROJECTS COMPLETED SINCE THE 2005 PROS PLAN**

COMMUNITY TEAM AREA	PLANNING AREA NAMES	PROJECTS	STATUS	COMMENTS	YOUTH MULTI - PURPOSE DIAMOND YOUTH AGES 0- 9	AGES 10-13 BASEBALL / 10-65 SOFTBALL DIAMONDS	BASEBALL AGES 14+	ADULT MULTI - PURPOSE RECTANGLES AGES 10-65+	YOUTH RECTANGLES AGES 0-9	TENNIS COURT	PLAYGROUNDS	BASKETBALL COURTS
<b>RURAL AREA</b>												
Rural	Damascus	Damascus Recreation Center	C	Add to Inventory		1		1			1	1
	<b>SUBTOTALS</b>					<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>I 270 AREA</b>												
I270	Clarksburg (13)	Greenway Village Local Park	C	Aurora Hills		1	1				1	1
I270	Clarksburg (13)	Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park - Phase 1B	C					2			1	
	Clarksburg (13)	<i>Little Bennett Elem/(King s)</i>	C	In Kings Local Park				1			1	1
I270	Clarksburg (13)	Dowden's Ordinary Special Park	C								1	
I270	Germantown (19)	Fountain Hills Local Park	C			1		1			1	1
I270	Germantown (19)	Matsunaga ES	C						1		1	1
I270	Germantown (19)	Ridge Road Recreational Park	C			2	1	1		1	1	
I270	Germantown (19)	<i>Northwest ES #7</i>	C	Great Seneca Elem					1		1	1
I270	Germantown (19)	<i>Clarksburg/Damascus #8 (Milestone Site)</i>	C	Gibbs Elem	1			1			1	1
I270	Germantown (19)	Hoyles Mill Local Park	C	Shows Playground only		1					1	1
I270	Germantown (19)	Kings Crossing Local Park	C	Shows playground only		1					1	
I270	Gaithersburg (20)	Flower Hill Local Park	C		1						1	1
I270	Gaithersburg (20)	Montgomery Village Local Park	C	Milton Kaufman L.P.		1		1			1	
	<b>SUBTOTALS</b>				<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>

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COMMUNITY TEAM AREA	PLANNING AREA NAMES	PROJECTS	STATUS	COMMENTS	YOUTH MULTI - PURPOSE DIAMOND YOUTH AGES 0- 9	AGES 10-13 BASEBALL / 10-65 SOFTBALL DIAMONDS	BASEBALL AGES 14+	ADULT MULTI - PURPOSE RECTANGLES AGES 10-65+	YOUTH RECTANGLES AGES 0-9	TENNIS COURT	PLAYGROUNDS	BASKETBALL COURTS
<b>EASTERN COUNTY</b>												
Eastern County	White Oak (33)	Stonehenge Local Park	C						1		1	1
Eastern County	White Oak (33)	April Lane Local Park	C	White Oak Recreation Center				1			1	1
Eastern County	Fairland (34)	Cross Creek Local Park	C					1			1	1
Eastern County	Fairland (34)	Paint Branch HS		Per mandatory referral – 2 fields (types not specified) must be made available		1		1			1	
	<b>SUBTOTALS</b>					1		3	1		4	3
<b>BETHESDA CHEVY CHASE</b>												
Bethesda/Chevy Chase	Bethesda (35)	Concord LP	C								1	
	<b>SUBTOTALS</b>										1	
<b>SILVER SPRING / TAKOMA PARK</b>												
Silver Spring/TP	Takoma Park (37)	Broadacres LP	C					1				1
	<b>SUBTOTALS</b>							1				1
<b>COUNTY TOTALS</b>					<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>

**APPENDIX 6 - DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES FOR ATHLETIC FIELDS AND PLANNING AREA FACILITIES**

**Local Recreation Facilities Proposed in the FY 13-18 Park Capital Improvements Program Proposal and Beyond**

(Tentative Table- to be re-checked and updated if necessary)

**STATUS KEY: Short Term – 1 = 2012-2016, Medium Term - 2 = 2017- 2021, Long Term - 3 = 2022 and beyond +**

COMMUNITY TEAM AREA	PLANNING AREA NAMES	PROJECTS	STATUS	COMMENTS	YOUTH MULTI - PURPOSE DIAMOND YOUTH AGES 0- 9	AGES 10-13 BASEBALL / 10-65 SOFTBALL DIAMONDS	BASEBALL AGES 14+	ADULT MULTI - PURPOSE RECTANGLES AGES 10- 65+	YOUTH RECTANGLES AGES 0-9	TENNIS COURT	PLAYGROUNDS	BASKETBALL COURTS
<b>RURAL AREA</b>												
Rural	Damascus	Seneca Springs Local Park	3		1			1			1	
Rural	Damascus	Woodfield School Road Local Park	3				1	2			1	
Rural	Damascus	<i>Damascus MS (Site)</i>	3			1		1		4		4
Rural	Damascus	<i>Damascus ES (Site)</i>	3					1			1	
	Damascus	Little Bennett Day Use Area	2	Picnic Shelters							1	
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>Short Term</b>									<b>1</b>	
		<b>Medium Term</b>										
		<b>Long Term</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Potential Projects</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

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COMMUNITY TEAM AREA	PLANNING AREA NAMES	PROJECTS	STATUS	COMMENTS	YOUTH MULTI - PURPOSE DIAMOND YOUTH AGES 0- 9	AGES 10-13 BASEBALL / 10-65 SOFTBALL DIAMONDS	BASEBALL AGES 14+	ADULT MULTI - PURPOSE RECTANGLES AGES 10- 65+	YOUTH RECTANGLES AGES 0-9	TENNIS COURT	PLAYGROUNDS	BASKETBALL COURTS
<b>I 270 AREA</b>												
I270	Clarksburg (13)	Clarksburg Village South Local Park	2	Field grading requested				1	1		1	1
I270	Clarksburg (13)	Clarksburg Village N. L.P./Park School	1	! Rect. Field Complete				1	1		1	1
I270	Clarksburg (13)	Piedmont Woods Neighborhood Pk	3	Dog park, 2 picnic shelters,						2		1
I270	Clarksburg (13)	Cabin Branch Local Park	2			1		1			1	
I270	Clarksburg (13)	Cabin Branch Elementary School	3					1			1	2
I270	Clarksburg (13)	West Old Baltimore Elem	3						1		1	1
I270	Clarksburg (13)	Clarksburg Elem #1	3						1		1	1
I270	Clarksburg (13)	Greenway Village Middle	3			1		2		4		4
I270	Clarksburg (13)	Linthicum West Recreational Park	3				1	3			1	
I270	Germantown (19)	Kingsview Village Local Park	2								1	
I270	Germantown (19)	Seneca Crossing Local Park	2	4 Volleyball, skate spot	1			2	0		1	1
I270	Germantown (19)	Hondros Property	3					1				
I270	Germantown (19)	Blunt Road Local Park	3					3			1	
I270	Gaithersburg (20)	Casey Neighborhood Park	1	Piedmont Crossing N.P.							1	
I270	Gaithersburg (20)	Laytonia Recreational Park	1				1	3			1	1
		Piedmont Crossing Local Park	3					1				
	<b>SUB TOTALS</b>	<b>Short Term</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
		<b>Medium Term</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

COMMUNITY TEAM AREA	PLANNING AREA NAMES	PROJECTS	STATUS	COMMENTS	YOUTH MULTI - PURPOSE DIAMOND YOUTH AGES 0- 9	AGES 10-13 BASEBALL / 10-65 SOFTBALL DIAMONDS	BASEBALL AGES 14+	ADULT MULTI - PURPOSE RECTANGLES AGES 10-65+	YOUTH RECTANGLES AGES 0-9	TENNIS COURT	PLAYGROUNDS	BASKETBALL COURTS
		<b>Long Term</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total Potential Projects</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>GEORGIA AVE</b>												
Georgia Avenue	Upper Rock Creek (22)	Muncaster Local Park	3					2			1	
Georgia Avenue	Upper Rock Creek (22)	Winter Run Local Park	3					1			1	
Georgia Avenue	Olney (23)	East Norbeck Local Park	1					1				
Georgia Avenue	Aspen Hill (27)	Strathmore Local Park	3								1	
	Aspen Hill (27)	Northwest Branch(Llewellyn Fields) Athletic Area	2	Phase 2, shelter							1	
	Aspen Hill (27)	Northwest Branch(Llewellyn Fields) Athletic Area	1,	Phase I- ICC Replacement Fac			1	4				
	<b>SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>Short Term</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>				
		<b>Medium Term</b>									<b>1</b>	
		<b>Long Term</b>						<b>3</b>			<b>3</b>	
<b>Total Potential Projects</b>					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

COMMUNITY TEAM AREA	PLANNING AREA NAMES	PROJECTS	STATUS	COMMENTS	YOUTH MULTI - PURPOSE DIAMOND YOUTH AGES 0- 9	AGES 10-13 BASEBALL / 10-65 SOFTBALL DIAMONDS	BASEBALL AGES 14+	ADULT MULTI - PURPOSE RECTANGLES AGES 10- 65+	YOUTH RECTANGLES AGES 0-9	TENNIS COURT	PLAYGROUNDS	BASKETBALL COURTS
<b>POTOMAC</b>												
Potomac	Travilah (25)	Greenbriar Local Park	1	Volleyball				1			1	1
Potomac	Travilah (25)	Travilah Local Park	2						1		1	1
Potomac	Potomac (29)	Brickyard Road Middle	3			1		2		4		4
Potomac	Potomac (29)	Kendall Elementary	3						1		1	1
	<b>SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>Short Term</b>						<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
		<b>Medium Term</b>							<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
		<b>Long Term</b>				<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total Potential Projects</b>					<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>EASTERN COUNTY</b>												
Eastern County	Fairland (34)	Burtonsville Local Park	3					1				
Eastern County	Fairland (34)	Paint Branch H.S.	1	Per mandatory referral-2 fields (types not specified) must be made available		1		1			1	
Eastern County	White Oak (33)	April Lane Local Park	1	Recreation Dept. Fac.				1			1	1
	<b>SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>Short Term</b>				<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
		<b>Medium Term</b>										
		<b>Long Term</b>						<b>1</b>				
<b>Total Planned or Completed Projects</b>					<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2020 Identified Need</b>												



COMMUNITY TEAM AREA	PLANNING AREA NAMES	PROJECTS	STATUS	COMMENTS	YOUTH MULTI - PURPOSE DIAMOND YOUTH AGES 0- 9	AGES 10-13 BASEBALL / 10-65 SOFTBALL DIAMONDS	BASEBALL AGES 14+	ADULT MULTI - PURPOSE RECTANGLES AGES 10-65+	YOUTH RECTANGLES AGES 0-9	TENNIS COURT	PLAYGROUNDS	BASKETBALL COURTS
<b>BETHESDA CHEVY CHASE</b>												
		<b>No Proposals</b>										
	<b>SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>Short Term</b>										
		<b>Medium Term</b>										
		<b>Long Term</b>										
<b>Total Potential Projects</b>												
<b>SILVER SPRING / TAKOMA PARK</b>												
Silver Spring/TP	North Four Corners (32)	North Four Corners LP	1					1			0	
	<b>SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>Short Term</b>			0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
		<b>Medium Term</b>			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		<b>Long Term</b>			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Potential projects</b>					0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

COMMUNITY TEAM AREA	PLANNING AREA NAMES	PROJECTS	STATUS	COMMENTS	YOUTH MULTI - PURPOSE DIAMOND YOUTH AGES 0- 9	AGES 10-13 BASEBALL / 10-65 SOFTBALL DIAMONDS	BASEBALL AGES 14+	ADULT MULTI - PURPOSE RECTANGLES AGES 10- 65+	YOUTH RECTANGLES AGES 0-9	TENNIS COURT	PLAYGROUNDS	BASKETBALL COURTS
<b>ALL TOTALS</b>												
	Short Term	1			0	1	2	13	1	0	7	5
	Medium Term	2			1	1	0	3	4	0	6	3
	Long Term	3			1	2	2	22	3	10	12	13
	Overall Total				2	4	4	38	8	10	25	21



## APPENDIX 7 - M-NCPPC LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS TO THE YEAR 2025

The following tables primarily include proposed parkland acquisition recommended in approved Area Master Plans. As shown below, a total of 6,346 acres is recommended. Of this total, 5,173 acres are recommendation for conservation purposes and 1,173 acres to accommodate future recreation needs. The detailed table includes information on the specific park and notes whether it is short, mid, or long range priority.

### M-NCPPC - Montgomery County Parks System - Future Land Acquisition Needs to the Year 2025

Park Types	Acres	Conservation	Recreation
<b>Countywide</b>			
Stream Valley	3,377	3,377	
Regional	385	258	127
Recreational	315		315
Conservation	1,531	1,531	
Special	526		526
<b>County-wide Subtotal</b>	<b>6,135</b>	<b>5,166</b>	<b>969</b>
<b>Community Use</b>			
Urban	12		12
Neighborhood	3		3
Local	190		190
Neighborhood Conservation Area	7	7	
<b>Community Use Subtotal</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,346</b>	<b>5,173</b>	<b>1,173</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>18%</b>

**M-NCPPC - Montgomery County Parks System - Future Land Acquisition Needs to the Year 2025\***

PARK NAME	PLANNING AREA NUMBER	PLANNING AREA NAME	AUTHORITY	ESTIMATED COSTS	ACRES BY PARK	ESTIMATED SHORT RANGE (2011-2015) PRIORITY 1	ESTIMATED MID-RANGE (2016-2020) PRIORITY 2	ESTIMATED LONG RANGE (2020+) PRIORITY 3
Batchellors Forest LP	23	Olney	Olney Master Plan	\$0	17.3	1		
Cabin Branch LP	13	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	\$0	10.5	1		
Cabin Branch SVP	13	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	\$0	74.3	1		
Clarksburg Village LP	13	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	\$0	8.1	1		
Ednor Soapstone Quarry CP	15	Patuxent	Cloverly Master Plan	\$800,000	0.8	1		
Hoyles Mill CP	18	Lower Seneca	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	\$300,000	506.4	1		
Fairland Recreational Park	34	Fairland	Fairland Master Plan	\$0	28.9	1		
Little Seneca Greenway SVP	13	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	\$0	218.3	1		
Fenton Street UP	36	Silver Spring	Silver Spring Master Plan	\$1,000,000	0.5	1		
Fleming Local Park	30	North Bethesda	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	\$0	12.0	1		
Germantown Town Center UP	19	Germantown	Germantown Master Plan	\$0	1.6	1		
Upper Paint Branch SVP	34	Fairland	Fairland Master Plan	\$0	132.9	1		
Greenway Village NCA	13	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	\$0	5.4	1		
Hyattstown Forest CP	10	Bennett	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	\$2,600,000	85.0	1		
Limestone CP	16	Martinsburg	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	\$3,300,000	107.5	1		
Peach Orchard NCA	28	Cloverly	Cloverly Master Plan	\$100,000	1.4	1		
Rachel Carson CP	23	Olney	Olney Master Plan	\$300,000	9.0	1		
Reddy Branch SVU 1	23	Olney	Olney Master Plan	\$1,000,000	1.5	1		
Ridge Road Recreational Park	19	Germantown	Germantown Master Plan	\$900,000	2.2	1		
River Road Shale Barrens CP	15	Poolesville	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	\$2,000,000	153.4	1		
Rock Creek SVU #1	36	Silver Spring	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	\$2,000,000	3.0	1		
White Flint NP	35	North Bethesda	White Flint Sector Plan	\$0	2.6	1		
White Flint UP	35	North Bethesda	White Flint Sector Plan	\$7,500,000	1.7	1		
Hawkins Creamery Road LP	11	Damascus	Damascus Master Plan	\$400,000	13.2		2	
Hawlings River SVP	23	Olney	Olney Master Plan	\$6,300,000	211.2		2	
Little Bennett Creek SVP	11	Damascus	Damascus Master Plan	\$8,800,000	291.7		2	
Magruder SVU 2	11	Damascus	Damascus Master Plan	\$100,000	0.8		2	
Muddy Branch SVU 1	24	Darnestown	Potomac Master Plan	\$1,600,000	52.8		2	
Muddy Branch SVU 2	25	Travillah	Potomac Master Plan	\$1,700,000	54.5		2	
North Branch SVU 2	22	Upper Rock Creek	Upper Rock Creek Master Plan	\$4,300,000	142.7		2	
North Branch SVU 3	23	Olney	Olney Master Plan	\$2,600,000	86.3		2	
North Branch SVU 3	22	Upper Rock Creek	Upper Rock Creek Master Plan	\$3,300,000	108.2		2	

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PARK NAME	PLANNING AREA NUMBER	PLANNING AREA NAME	AUTHORITY	ESTIMATED COSTS	ACRES BY PARK	ESTIMATED SHORT RANGE (2011-2015) PRIORITY 1	ESTIMATED MID-RANGE (2016-2020) PRIORITY 2	ESTIMATED LONG RANGE (2020+) PRIORITY 3
Northwest Branch SVU 7	28	Cloverly	Cloverly Master Plan	\$1,000,000	31.4		2	
North Branch SVU 4	22	Upper Rock Creek	Upper Rock Creek Master Plan	\$700,000	23.3		2	
North Germantown Greenway SVP	19	Germantown	Germantown Master Plan	\$500,000	15.7		2	
Northwest Branch Recreational Park	28	Cloverly	Cloverly Master Plan	\$400,000	10.9		2	
Reddy Branch SVU 2	23	Olney	Olney Master Plan	\$6,500,000	215.2		2	
Olney Manor Recreational Park	23	Olney	Olney Master Plan	\$900,000	26.9		2	
Rock Creek SVU16	22	Upper Rock Creek	Upper Rock Creek Master Plan	\$800,000	23.8		2	
Rock Creek SVU12	22	Upper Rock Creek	Upper Rock Creek Master Plan	\$700,000	21.2		2	
Sandy Spring Village Green UP	15	Patuxent	Sandy Spring Ashton Master Plan	\$100,000	0.4		2	
Ten Mile Creek Greenway SVP	13	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	\$6,300,000	209.4		2	
Black Hill Regional Park	13	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	\$1,200,000	37.9			3
Blockhouse Point CP	24	Darnestown	Potomac Master Plan	\$400,000	10.4			3
Brickyard Road LP	29	Potomac	Potomac Master Plan	\$700,000	20.3			3
Broad Run SVP	16	Martinsburg	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	\$16,000,000	519.1			3
Bucklodge Branch SVP	18	Lower Seneca	Agricultural and Rural Open Space	\$3,600,000	117.4			3
Dry Seneca Creek SVU 1	18	Lower Seneca	Agricultural and Rural Open Space	\$4,900,000	160.4			3
Dry Seneca Creek SVU 2	18	Lower Seneca	Agricultural and Rural Open Space	\$2,200,000	71.9			3
Gaithersburg West LP	20	Gaithersburg Vicinity	Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan	\$500,000	14.0			3
Glen Hills LP	25	Travillah	Potomac Master Plan	\$300,000	9.7			3
Great Seneca SVU 2	14	Goshen	Agricultural and Rural Open Space	\$200,000	5.9			3
Great Seneca SVU 4	14	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	\$1,500,000	47.5			3
Great Seneca SVU 5	14	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	\$4,800,000	158.5			3
Great Seneca SVU 6	14	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	\$3,000,000	99.9			3
Great Seneca SVU 7	14	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	\$100,000	1.0			3
Great Seneca SVU 8	14	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	\$500,000	16.4			3
Great Seneca SVU 9	11	Damascus	Damascus Master Plan	\$600,000	18.7			3
Gude Drive Recreational Park	22	Upper Rock Creek	Upper Rock Creek Master Plan	\$0	164.5			3
King's Bridge LP	14	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	\$1,000,000	30.3			3
Linthicum West Recreational Park	13	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	\$2,500,000	81.6			3
Little Bennett Greenway SVP	13	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	\$1,200,000	36.8			3
Little Bennett Regional Park	10	Bennett	Planning Board	\$10,500,000	347.5			3
Long Branch SVU 1A	37	Takoma Park	Takoma Park Master Plan	\$100,000	1.2			3
LSC West LP	20	Gaithersburg Vicinity	Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan	\$500,000	15.5			3

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PARK NAME	PLANNING AREA NUMBER	PLANNING AREA NAME	AUTHORITY	ESTIMATED COSTS	ACRES BY PARK	ESTIMATED SHORT RANGE (2011-2015) PRIORITY 1	ESTIMATED MID-RANGE (2016-2020) PRIORITY 2	ESTIMATED LONG RANGE (2020+) PRIORITY 3
LSC West UP	20	Gaithersburg Vicinity	Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan	\$100,000	0.5			3
Maplewood Alta Vista UP	35	Bethesda	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	\$200,000	5.1			3
Oak Drive LP	11	Damascus	Damascus Master Plan	\$400,000	13.0			3
Oaks Landfill SP	23	Olney	Olney Master Plan	\$0	501.3			3
Ovid Hazen Wells Greenway SVP	13	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	\$1,000,000	31.6			3
Patuxent River Watershed CP	23	Olney	Olney Master Plan	\$7,100,000	236.1			3
Piney Branch Road UP	32	Kemp Mill/Four Corners	East Silver Spring Master Plan	\$100,000	0.4			3
Red Door Store Historical/Cultural Park	23	Olney	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	\$500,000	16.3			3
Rock Creek Unit #2	36	Silver Spring	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	\$0	15.1			3
Rock Run SVP	29	Potomac	Potomac Master Plan	\$300,000	8.0			3
Selden Island	17	Poolesville	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	\$12,000,000	400.0			3
Seneca Landing SP	24	Darnestown	Agricultural and Rural Open Space	\$300,000	8.6			3
Seneca Meadow UP	19	Germantown	Germantown Employment Area Sector Plan	\$100,000	0.4			3
Takoma Academy LP	37	Takoma Park	East Silver Spring Master Plan	\$800,000	25.8			3
Triadelphia Water Supply CP	23	Olney	Olney Master Plan	\$700,000	22.3			3
Upcounty Regional Services Center UP	19	Germantown	Germantown Employment Area Sector Plan	\$100,000	0.9			3
Upper Paint Branch SVP	28	Cloverly	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	\$100,000	3.3			3
Water Tower UP	35	North Bethesda	White Flint Sector Plan	\$100,000	0.7			3
Wildcat Branch SVU 1	14	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	\$1,400,000	45.1			3
Wildcat Branch SVU 2	14	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	\$3,100,000	100.8			3
<b>TOTAL ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED</b>					<b>6,346</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>3,422</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS</b>				<b>\$153,500,000</b>		<b>\$21,800,000</b>	<b>\$47,000,000</b>	<b>\$84,700,000</b>

\* Priority 1 acquisitions are estimated costs. \* Priority 2 and 3 acquisitions are level of effort costs averaging \$30,000 per acre (rounded up to the next \$100,000) due to uncertainty of beyond 5 and beyond 10 year costs





## APPENDIX 8 - VISION 2030 PARKS AND RECREATION AMENITY ANALYSIS CHART

FACILITY OR COMPONENT	*NRPA (perpop.)			**Survey Results (2010)			Service Assessment		TRENDS (NAT'L)	RECOMMENDATION (IN NEXT 5-10 YEARS)
	ALL	COUNTY	MONTGOMERY COUNTY (2010) (PER POP.)	IMPORTANCE	NEEDS BEING MET	SUB-AREA	NORTH	SOUTH		
<b>OUTDOOR AMENITIES</b>										
Basketball court (outdoor)	7,333	16,333	4,951 (high LOS relative to NRPA study)	Lower (37%)	Mid (56%)	Ranked as low priority countywide	Complementary Development	Core Service	Declining participation (organized vs. pick-up)	Consider multiple uses of some courts (e.g., futsal, inline skating, etc.)
Diamond field	3,913	9,467	5,232 (mid LOS)	Lower (27%)	Mid (49-50%)	Ranked as low priority countywide	Advance Market Position (Regional/Recreational Parks) Core Service (Community Use Parks)		Baseball, softball - declining participation	Strategic potential to repurpose some existing diamond fields; a capacity/use study may be warranted
Community Gardens	NA	NA	4 sites (over 200 plots total) = 241,975	Mid (46%)	High (57%)	Higher demand in South and North Central	Advance Market Position		Increasing demand (in MC)	Strategic potential to add (3 planned for spring 2011)
Dog Park	59,256	242,500	193,580 (mid LOS)	Lower (33%)	Lower (43%)	Higher demand in South and North Central	Core Service		Growing trend, especially in urban areas	Increase, focus on urban areas
Multi-Purpose Field, all sizes	4,946	10,500	6,049 (mid LOS)	Mid (45%)	High (62%)	Higher demand in East Transit Corridor and South Central	Advance Market Position (Regional/Recreational Parks) Core Service (Community Use Parks)		Soccer and lacrosse growing, football steady participation	Strategic potential to add (or increase functionality of existing)
Picnic Shelters	NA	NA	20,994	Higher (62%)	High (66%)	Higher demand in East Transit Corridor and South Central	Advance Market Position for Rentals – Shelters Core Service - Picnic Grounds		Continue to be a common, popular park amenity; Ranked as 5 <sup>th</sup> top facilities to add or expand per Vision 2030 Survey	Maintain current LOS
Playground, all sizes	4,000	16,400	3,752 (high LOS)	Higher (68%)	High (73%)	Higher demand in East Transit Corridor, South and North Central	Core Service		Growing importance as healthy living amenity	Maintain high current LOS
Skate Park	NA	NA	483,950	Lowest (16%)	Lowest (39%)	Ranked as low priority countywide	NA None in this region	Core Service	Fewer participants, but high % increase in youth participation	Strategic potential to add
Tennis (outdoor)	4,690	15,779	3,184 (high LOS)	Mid (48%)	High (63%)	Higher demand in Potomac/Rural	Complementary Development		Steady participation since 2000	Potential to decrease number of stand-alone courts and increase groupings of tennis courts
Trails	NA	NA	3349 miles per person (hard and soft surface)	Highest (72-73%)	Highest (74% natural surface, 76% hard surface)	Higher demand for hard surface trails in East Transit Corridor; Higher demand for soft surface trail in Potomac / Rural	Core Service		Popular amenity national-wide; exercise walking ranks as the top sport by total participation nationwide; hiking, biking, and running/jogging also rank in the top 12	Expand distribution of multi-use trails with a focus on more densely populated areas, when feasible; increase trail connectivity
Volleyball (outdoor)	NA	NA	40,413 (GreenPlay benchmark)	NA	NA	NA	Core Service		Casual/pick-up play exceeded organized play in grass and sand volleyball; Community input of user	Look for opportunities to add sand volleyball, with a focus on co-locating two or more courts

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FACILITY OR COMPONENT	*NRPA (perpop.)			**Survey Results (2010)			Service Assessment		TRENDS (NAT'L)	RECOMMENDATION (IN NEXT 5-10 YEARS)
	ALL	COUNTY	MONTGOMERY COUNTY (2010) (PER POP.)	IMPORTANCE	NEEDS BEING MET	SUB-AREA	NORTH	SOUTH		
			review shows lower LOS in MC)						groups shows demand for multiple courts for tournament play	for tournament play (with lighting when feasible)
<b>INDOOR FACILITIES</b>										
Aquatic Center	34,187	105,556	211,679	Mid (59%)	Mid (60%)	Higher demand in North Central	Advance or Affirm Market Position at all sites		Swimming ranks as the 4 <sup>th</sup> sport by total participation nationwide; Vision 2030 survey identified indoor aquatics as one of the top five facilities to expand or improve	Incorporate indoor aquatics with recreation centers (do not built additional stand-alone aquatic centers)
Nature Center	NA	NA	241,975	Mid (58%)	High (67%)	Higher demand in Potomac / Rural	Core Service – Drop-in Experience Other services vary within nature centers and are Advance, Affirm or are Complementary Development (e.g., Environmental Education Programs - On-Site, and Special Events)		81% of Borough/Counties offer environmental education/nature programs per NRPA Operating Ratio Study*; Outdoor nature programs as 4 <sup>th</sup> top priority to add or expand in Vision 2030 Survey	No new stand-alone Nature Centers recommended; 78% of survey respondents prefer outdoor nature education over indoor
Recreation Center	25,000	36,554	35,280	Higher (67%)	High (66%)	Higher demand in East Transit Corridor and North Central	Core Service – most Drop-in Experience. Other services vary within recreation centers		Larger, multi-purpose recreation centers with aquatics are a national trend; lap and leisure aquatics, larger gym and fitness spaces are common amenities; climbing walls and walking/jogging tracks are also trends	Add fewer, larger regional recreation centers (with aquatics) focused in along central corridor growth areas; (63% of survey respondents prefer to fewer, larger multi-purpose regional rec centers as opposed to a greater number of smaller centers)

**Note:** This is a draft chart and is subject to revisions upon further staff review. \*National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Operating Ratio Study, 2009: "All" includes all jurisdiction respondent types (County/Borough, Municipal, and Special Districts) and "County" includes only the County jurisdiction respondents to this national benchmarking study. The numbers in columns 2-4 represent population per component. \*\*Survey: Vision 2030 Survey results are statistically-valid on a countywide basis; sub-area information is informational and not statistically-valid due to the smaller sample size.

## APPENDIX 9 - TOTAL POPULATION PROJECTED BY PLANNING AREA

Round 8.0 Cooperative Forecast

Planning Area	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Aspen Hill	62,442	62,633	63,355	63,551	63,596	62,962	61,149	60,457
Bennett	3,908	3,851	3,828	3,893	3,968	4,040	4,055	4,049
Bethesda	92,267	102,807	110,568	115,475	118,028	119,172	121,268	123,160
Clarksburg	7,191	14,745	21,349	29,225	36,921	38,359	39,417	39,067
Cloverly	19,597	17,452	17,368	17,500	17,738	17,937	17,877	17,782
Damascus	11,075	10,978	10,919	11,458	12,642	13,507	13,556	13,532
Darnestown	13,528	12,982	12,798	12,693	12,565	12,664	12,742	12,854
Dickerson	1,372	1,363	1,372	1,405	1,443	1,483	1,502	1,509
Fairland	41,149	42,774	42,041	41,857	42,148	41,958	42,114	41,916
Gaithersburg City	57,534	58,707	62,416	67,560	72,473	77,050	81,440	85,012
Gaithersburg Vicinity	70,293	75,542	75,141	78,143	85,748	96,174	104,524	104,664
Germantown	78,231	87,573	86,074	87,422	94,754	102,176	105,121	104,749
Goshen	12,017	11,731	11,628	11,702	11,870	11,963	12,041	12,054
Kemp Mill	35,293	36,546	36,848	36,878	37,113	37,585	37,959	38,321
Kensington / Wheaton	77,582	78,259	82,054	87,537	90,544	93,052	94,411	95,626
Lower Seneca	1,254	1,226	1,243	1,297	1,339	1,377	1,408	1,428
Martinsburg	271	280	279	280	295	297	310	309
North Bethesda	42,209	51,683	56,929	67,078	69,496	77,924	82,548	87,705
Olney	38,252	37,758	37,064	38,267	39,521	40,851	41,609	41,665
Patuxent	5,600	5,561	5,551	5,672	5,798	5,914	5,938	5,931
Poolesville	6,183	5,990	6,435	6,798	6,946	7,087	7,116	7,087
Potomac	47,914	47,678	48,336	48,705	49,058	49,155	49,793	50,142
Rockville	59,618	62,476	67,341	71,847	74,503	77,644	80,786	83,929
Silver Spring	35,805	44,602	52,633	56,122	56,420	56,880	57,468	57,274
Takoma Park	29,740	30,597	30,264	29,931	30,858	31,346	31,955	32,478
Travilah	29,814	27,212	26,342	26,076	25,985	26,061	26,457	26,475
Upper Rock Creek	14,148	12,092	12,095	12,141	12,494	12,575	12,840	14,739
White Oak	34,813	34,902	34,729	34,487	34,736	34,807	34,596	35,086
<b>County Total</b>	<b>929,100</b>	<b>980,000</b>	<b>1,017,000</b>	<b>1,065,000</b>	<b>1,109,000</b>	<b>1,152,000</b>	<b>1,182,000</b>	<b>1,199,000</b>

Interpolation of these numbers results in an estimated year 2022 County Population of 1,082,600

## APPENDIX 10 - CURRENT PARK CLASSIFICATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

The current Montgomery County Park Classification System Chart

PARK TYPE	PARK TYPE DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL FACILITIES*	APPROXIMATE SIZE
<b>COUNTY-WIDE PARKS – Parks in this category serve all residents of Montgomery County</b>			
<b>- Recreational Oriented Parks</b>			
<b>Regional Parks</b>	Large Parks that provide a wide range of recreational opportunities but retain 2/3 or the acreage as conservation areas.	Picnic / playground areas, tennis courts, athletic fields, golf course, campgrounds, water-oriented recreation areas.	200 acres or more
<b>Recreational Parks</b>	Parks larger than 50 acres in size that are more intensively developed than Regional Parks, but may also may also contain natural areas.	Athletic fields, tennis courts, multi-use courts, picnic/playground areas, golf course, trails, natural areas.	50 acres or more
<b>Special Parks</b>	These parks include areas that contain features of historic and cultural significance.	Vary, but may include agricultural centers, garden, small conference centers, historic structures, etc.	Varies
<b>- Conservation Oriented Parks</b>			
<b>Stream Valley Parks</b>	Interconnected linear parks along major stream valleys providing conservation and recreation areas.	Hiker-biker trails, fishing, picnicking, playground areas.	Varies
<b>Conservation Area Parks</b>	Large natural areas acquired to preserve specific natural archaeological or historic features. They also provide opportunities of compatible recreation activities.	Trails, fishing areas, nature study areas, informal picnic areas.	Varies
<b>COMMUNITY USE PARKS – Parks in this category serve residents of surrounding communities</b>			
<b>Urban Parks</b>	Very small parks, serving highly urban areas.	Landscaping, sitting/picnic areas, play equipment, courts, and shelters.	1 Acre
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	Small parks providing informal recreation in residential areas.	Play equipment, play field, sitting area, shelter, tennis and Multi-use courts. (Do not include regulation size ballfields).	2.5 Acre
<b>Local Parks</b>	Larger parks that provide ballfields and both programmed and un-programmed recreation facilities.	Ballfields, play equipment, tennis and multi-use courts, sitting/picnic area, shelters, buildings and other facilities.	15 Acre
<b>Neighborhood Conservation Areas</b>	Small parcels of conservation oriented parkland in residential areas, generally dedicated at the time of subdivision.	Generally undeveloped, may include a storm water management pond and related facilities.	Varies

\* This list is not all-inclusive, but includes facilities typical of each park type.

- DESCRIPTIONS TO BE UPDATED -

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE M-NCPPC PARK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The M-NCPPC park system is categorized into different park types for budgeting and planning purposes. The park types are based in part on the service area of each park, its physical size, natural features, and the kind of facilities it contains. This section will describe and help define the distinctions between different types of parks. The table on the M-NCPPC Montgomery County Park Classification System contains a summarized description of each type of park, including approximate park size and typical recreation facilities.

### Countywide Parks

Larger parks that serve regional recreation needs or conservation needs are called County-wide Parks. Over 90% of the total County park acreage, nearly 30,000 acres, is in County-wide parks. There are five types of County-wide parks: regional, recreation, special conservation, and stream valley. Of these, the regional, recreational, and special park categories are recreation-oriented parks, while the conservation and stream valley parks belong to a sub-category of County-wide Parks known as conservation oriented parks.

**Recreation-Oriented Parks:** Regional, recreational and special parks are large parks serving County-wide recreation needs. They provide opportunities for active and passive recreation, but also generally contain areas without facilities that serve conservation purposes.

**Regional Parks** are large, typically over 200 acres, and contain a wide range of recreation opportunities and facilities, while retaining 2/3 of the park for conservation. Regional parks are the most popular of the County's parks. In 1995, surveys of developed portions of regional parks indicated visits by several million people annually. Many other informal users enjoy the undeveloped portions of the park.

Montgomery County has five developed regional parks offering a variety of recreation opportunities within a reasonable driving time of most County residents. Three of these parks serve the lower and mid-County areas. Wheaton, the System's first regional park, was opened to the public in 1961 and is easily reached by southeastern County residents. Cabin John Regional Park is accessible to southwestern County residents, and Rock Creek Regional Park by people living in the middle and upper-County areas. Many recreational facilities are provided including lighted tournament quality athletic fields, year-round tennis courts, ice rinks, trains, and a carousel. Rock Creek offers golf, boating and other water oriented recreation activities. Additionally, each of these parks furnishes other recreation opportunities, such as nature centers, playgrounds, trails, and picnic areas, and Wheaton has a large botanical garden.

The two regional parks that serve the northern Area of the County have large acreage of open space and conservation area. Little Bennett has a golf course and a large campground, while Black Hill offers opportunities to enjoy picnicking and water-related recreation as well as a many miles of trails.

**Recreation Parks** is a category that includes parks with intensive development similar to that found in the ball field and tennis court complexes at regional parks; however, they differ from regional parks in that they do not limit 2/3 of their development to conservation

uses. Small picnic/playground areas are also included in this category. Presently, Montgomery County has three such developed parks -- Olney Manor, Martin Luther King and Damascus. Fairland Recreational Park is under construction, and there are several other undeveloped recreational parks which are planned for future development including Ovid Hazen Wells, Ridge Road, Muncaster, Gude and Northwest Branch Recreational Parks.

**Special Parks** preserve historic or culturally significant features and have distinguishing characteristics that set them apart from other park classifications. McCrillis Gardens, Woodlawn Manor House, Rockwood Manor Park, and the Agricultural History Farm Park are good examples of special parks in the County. They are often used for small conferences, social events, specialized education, and art exhibits. Important historic sites are preserved in all types of parks. Examples of these are the Silver Spring in Acorn Urban Park, Woodlawn Manor House with its smoke house, and the Needwood Mansion.

### **Conservation-Oriented Parks**

There are two types of County-wide conservation oriented parks: stream valley parks and conservation area parks. Both protect important environmental areas; however, they differ in that stream valley parks are linear parks acquired to protect stream valleys and conservation parks are large natural areas acquired to preserve specific natural, archaeological or historical features. Both types of parks are managed to provide stewardship of sensitive areas, but may include trails and other low impact recreation areas when carefully designed to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate environmental impacts.

**Stream Valley Parks** form the foundation of the park system, extending as greenways throughout the urban areas and into the countryside, putting the natural environment within close reach of all Montgomery County citizens. They separate communities with green open space buffers and provide easy access to nature for adjacent residents. Just as they were seventy years ago, stream valley parks today are acquired primarily for conservation purposes. They hold the key to watershed protection throughout the County by reducing flooding, sedimentation and erosion, and they furnish valuable habitat for many species of wildlife. Some stream valleys, such as the Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley, are also designated as special protection areas. These areas are so sensitive that they are subject to a special set of regulations designed to protect them.

Stream valley parks also preserve some of the County's most beautiful and interesting terrain, providing long, interconnected greenways of parkland that provide corridors for trails and wildlife. There are 30 such parks in the County, which include nearly 12,000 acres of parkland. In urban areas, clusters of active recreation facilities in parks adjacent to stream valley parks were developed many years ago to serve as local parks for nearby residents. More recent environmental regulations now limit or prevent intensive development along stream banks to reduce sedimentation and erosion and environmental degradation caused by urban runoff.

**Conservation Area Parks** are generally large areas that preserve specific natural, archaeological or historical features; are typically located in upland areas; and are acquired specifically

for environmental preservation purposes. Conservation area parks may include outstanding examples of natural communities, self-sustaining populations of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, or unique archaeological and historical resources. Given the sensitive nature of the resources in conservation parks, development is very limited and generally restricted to passive recreation areas and opportunities such as trails, fishing and picnic areas, and nature study. Opportunities for interpretation of the protected environmental, historic, and archeological elements should be maximized through self-guided nature trails, interpretive signage, and naturalist programs. There are nine conservation parks in the County, which include over 2,160 acres of parkland.

### **Community Use Parks**

Smaller types of parks that are primarily used by local residents and nearby areas are grouped in the classification system under the category of community use parks. These parks are sometimes referred to as local parks, and provide everyday recreation needs for residents close to home. Currently there are over 200 developed community use parks. Many are located in the down-county area where they were placed to serve County development in the 1950s and 60s. As new park construction tries to keep pace with an ever-expanding County population, more parks are now being developed in rapidly growing upcounty areas.

The classification system presently includes four types of community use parks: urban, neighborhood, local parks, and neighborhood conservation areas.

**Urban Parks** serve central business districts or other highly urban areas, providing green space in an often otherwise concrete environment. These parks serve as a buffer between adjacent residential, office and commercial districts, and contain landscaped sitting areas, walkways, and in several cases, play equipment, handball and paddle ball courts. Urban parks serve an important role as gathering places for the community and accommodate activities such as concerts and performances, celebrations, fairs, and outdoor spaces for area employees to have lunch. Nearly all of the County's 19 developed urban parks are located in the down-County with concentrations in the Bethesda and Silver Spring areas.

**Neighborhood Parks** are small, generally, walk-to parks providing informal leisure opportunities and recreation in heavily populated areas. They often provide about five acres of open space developed with a sitting area, playground, informal play field, and tennis and/or basketball courts. There are 74 developed neighborhood parks in the County, with the largest number found in the Wheaton, Silver Spring, and Bethesda areas where they were developed to serve early concentrations of single-family housing.

**Local Parks** provide both programmed and informal recreation opportunities within reach of all area residents. Typically about ten to fifteen acres in size, these parks contain athletic fields, tennis and basketball courts, picnic and playground areas, and sometimes recreation buildings and other facilities.

The major difference between neighborhood and local parks is that the local parks provide regulation size athletic fields that can be reserved for game play. Ballplayers attend games on fields near their homes, or travel to other parts of the County to

challenge opposing teams. Therefore local parks often have large service areas. Many people drive to local parks, while many neighborhood parks are within walking distance.

Many down-County local parks include small recreation centers that are used for classes, social events, and other similar activities. Some local parks also include other facilities as swimming pools that serve large areas of the County. Some of these parks, such as Sligo-Dennis, are located adjacent to stream valley park areas and provide both active and passive recreation opportunities.

The Commission cooperates with other agencies in order to use tax monies as wisely as possible. Parks provide facilities for many of the programs sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Many local parks are adjacent to schools and give school children more room to play during the day and families more recreation spaces on the weekend.

***Neighborhood Conservation Areas*** are small pieces of parkland preserved in residential areas. They are generally conveyed to M-NCPPC during the subdivision process and frequently contain streams or drainage areas and adjacent wooded slopes. They remain undeveloped and benefit the neighborhood by providing open space, reducing storm water runoff, and bringing nature into an urban environment.



## **APPENDIX 11 - NON-MNCPPC PARKS AND OPEN SPACE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

- TO BE UPDATED -

### **Federal, State, Municipal and Other Parkland and Open Space**

Montgomery County also benefits from parkland and recreation areas provided by other jurisdictions. These are the National Park Service, the State of Maryland, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and various municipalities.

#### **National Park Service**

Federal park in Montgomery County consists of the C&O Canal Historical Park, which provides 4,102 acres of parkland. The park includes 3.67 miles of the old towpath for hiking and biking, and opportunities for picnicking, fishing, and bird watching. In addition, a limited number of primitive campsites are located along the towpath. The major access point and the area of highest use in the C&O Canal Park is the Great Falls recreation area. In addition to a historic tavern, canal locks and towpath, there are sixteen miles of hiking and natural trails available in the Great Falls area. The Carderock area of the canal below Great Falls provides opportunities for rock climbing enthusiasts. Access to the C&O Canal above Great Falls occurs primarily at the old canal lock sites. There is a boat ramp and parking at the Pennyfield Lock site, which provide boat access to the Potomac. Parking is also available at Violets and Swains Locks.

Other national park sites in Montgomery County include the Clara Barton National Historical Site and the Glen Echo Park, both located in the Glen Echo area of the County.

#### **State of Maryland**

State parkland in Montgomery County is 12,292 acres. Approximately 5,866 of these acres are in the Seneca State Park, which extends from the Potomac River to Germantown. A significant portion of this park is developed with picnic, boating, and trail facilities. The area also contains the 90-acre Clopper Lake, an archery range, and provisions for horseback riding.

The second largest State holding is the undeveloped Patuxent State Park, at 3,135 acres, which lies along the Patuxent River on the Montgomery and Howard County boundary. This park, which primarily serves conservation purposes, also includes opportunities for hiking, fishing, and horseback riding. Future development of this park is in the planning stage.

The McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area encompasses 2,831 acres and is adjacent to the C&O Canal in the western portion of the County. This area is managed for wildlife and is significant because it is one of the few public sites available for hunting in the County. During the off-season, this area is also used for bird watching.

The Mathew Henson State Park consists of 104 acres from Viers Mill Road to Georgia Avenue. This linear Mid-county wildlife corridor provides passive and hiking recreation.

The Islands of the Potomac Wildlife Management Area (WMA) provides a collective 306 acres of protected wildlife habitat. The Diersen WMA contributes 50 acres.

#### **Municipalities**

A number of municipalities in Montgomery County have their own park systems. Municipalities provide a significant amount of stream valley parkland, and local parks with recreational facilities. The cities of

Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Takoma Park also provide recreational programs for their citizens. The Appendix includes an inventory of recreation facilities in Municipalities.

### **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)**

The WSSC owns 2,074 acres of open space land and 2,192 acres of water supply in Montgomery County. The Triadelphia Watershed comprises 1132 acres with a reservoir containing 576 acres. The T. Howard Duckett Watershed contains 942 acres including a 259-acre reservoir. Black Hill Regional Park has a 1357-acre lake surrounded by Black Hill Regional Park. Although the primary purpose of the WSSC land is for water supply, recreational use of the land is permitted and encouraged. The activities allowed include fishing, boating, picnicking, hiking, and horseback riding on an established trail system.

### **Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)**

School properties include ballfields, tennis and basketball courts, playgrounds, and sometimes woodland that contribute to the open space of Montgomery County. The State Guidelines permit counties to count 60% of school acreage towards meeting their open space goal. In Montgomery County, schools provides 2,841 acres of total acreage, of which 60% (1,705) is credited as open space.

### **Montgomery County Revenue Authority**

The Montgomery County Revenue Authority operates 5 golf courses that provide recreation and open space totaling approximately 1,063 acres: Falls Road (148 acres), Hampshire Greens ( 342 acres), Rattlewood ( 173 acres), Poolesville ( 227 acres), and Laytonsville (172 acres ).

### **Other Large, Private Open Spaces**

Private conservation-oriented groups in Montgomery County provide an important role in preserving open space purposes. The Izaak Walton League has 5 Chapters providing a total of 732 acres of protected open space; however it is not available to the general public. Rockville has 50 acres protected, Bethesda/Chevy Chase Chapter 493 acres, Lois Green Chapter 63.5 acres protected, Wildlife Achievement Chapter 93 acres, and the Izaak Walton League national headquarters with 33 acres.

## **APPENDIX 12 - NATURAL RESOURCE GIS MAP AND DATA DESCRIPTION**

The following maps and data are being provided to the State.

- Maps of Federal, State, and locally owned parkland, open space, greenway, or natural resource areas.
- Parkland, natural areas, and open space protected by long-term lease or license agreement.
- Forest conservation easements and reservations.
- Floodplains, steep slopes, and wetlands preserved by legal and regulatory mechanisms, i.e., protected by easement,
- Land protected by deed covenants such as homeowner association open space.
- Land trust easements or ownership

## APPENDIX 13 - NATURAL RESOURCES WORK PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR OPERATION AND USE PLANS

### Best Natural Areas, Biodiversity Areas, and Down-County Stream Valley Parks, FY13-FY18

FISCAL YEAR	SITE NAME	TYPE OF NATURAL AREA	PARK NAME (MAY INCLUDE ONLY PART OF A PARK)
FY13	BLACK HILL	BEST NATURAL AREA	BLACK HILL REG PARK
	UPPER PAINT BRANCH	BEST NATURAL AREA	UPPER PAINT BRANCH SVP, BURTONSVILLE LP, CLOVERLY LP, COLUMBIA LP, COUNTRYSIDE NP, DUVALL ROAD NCA, FAIRDALE ROAD NCA, GOOD HOPE LP, HOPEFIELD NP, MAYDALE CP, MILES ROAD NCA, PEACH ORCHARD NCA, PEACHWOOD NP, SPENCERVILLE LP, TWINPONDS NCA, AND WEMBROUGH NP
	MCKNEW	BEST NATURAL AREA	MCKNEW CP, MCKNEW LP, AND FAIRLAND REC PARK
	NORTH GERMANTOWN	BIODIVERSITY AREA	NORTH GERMANTOWN GREENWAY SVP AND GREAT SENECA SVU2
	GREAT SENECA CREEK	BIODIVERSITY AREA	GREAT SENECA SVU1
	OURSLEER ROAD	BIODIVERSITY AREA	PATUXENT RIVER WATERSHED CP AND BURTONSVILLE LP
	PAINT BRANCH	BIODIVERSITY AREA	PAINT BRANCH SVU4/5 AND MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. REC PARK
	POPE FARM	BIODIVERSITY AREA	POPE FARM NURSERY
FY14	SLIGO CREEK (YEAR 1 OF 2)	DOWN-COUNTY STREAM VALLEY	SLIGO CREEK SVP
	LITTLE BENNETT	BEST NATURAL AREA	LITTLE BENNETT REG PARK (INCLUDING PARTS OF THE CAMPING AREA AND THE GOLF COURSE)
	HOYLES MILL	BEST NATURAL AREA	HOYLES MILL CP, LITTLE SENECA SVU4, CAMP SENECA SP, AND SOUTH GERMANTOWN REC PARK
	OAK RIDGE	BIODIVERSITY AREA	OAK RIDGE CP
	LOG CABIN	BIODIVERSITY AREA	MAGRUDER BRANCH SVU1
	WATKINS ROAD	BIODIVERSITY AREA	MAGRUDER BRANCH SVU1 AND GREAT SENECA SVU4
	GOSHEN	BIODIVERSITY AREA	GOSHEN REC PARK
	GREAT SENECA CREEK NORTH	BIODIVERSITY AREA	GREAT SENECA SVU4
FY15	DAWSONVILLE	BIODIVERSITY AREA	LITTLE SENECA SVU1
	SLIGO CREEK (YEAR 2 OF 2)	DOWN-COUNTY STREAM VALLEY	SLIGO CREEK SVP
	RACHEL CARSON	BEST NATURAL AREA	RACHEL CARSON CP
	NORTH BRANCH	BEST NATURAL AREA	NORTH BRANCH SVU2/3
	HAWLINGS RIVER	BIODIVERSITY AREA	HAWLINGS RIVER SVP
	WESTERN	BIODIVERSITY AREA	REDDY BRANCH SVU2
	NEEDWOOD NORTH	BIODIVERSITY AREA	ROCK CREEK REG PARK
	CRABBS BRANCH	BIODIVERSITY AREA	ROCK CREEK REG PARK
FY16	LAKE FRANK	BIODIVERSITY AREA	ROCK CREEK REG PARK
	NORTH BRANCH VALLEY	BIODIVERSITY AREA	NORTH BRANCH SVU4
	ROCK CREEK (YEAR 1 OF 2)	DOWN-COUNTY STREAM VALLEY	ROCK CREEK SVP
	BLOCKHOUSE POINT	BEST NATURAL AREA	BLOCKHOUSE POINT CP
SERPENTINE BARRENS	BEST NATURAL AREA	SERPENTINE BARRENS CP	
PARKLAWN	BIODIVERSITY AREA	ROCK CREEK SVU7 AND ASPEN HILL LP	
MATTHEW HENSON	BIODIVERSITY AREA	MATTHEW HENSON STATE PARK UNITS 1 AND 2	

FISCAL YEAR	SITE NAME	TYPE OF NATURAL AREA	PARK NAME (MAY INCLUDE ONLY PART OF A PARK)
	POOKS HILL	BIODIVERSITY AREA	ROCK CREEK SVU3
	FOREST GLEN	BIODIVERSITY AREA	ROCK CREEK SVU2
	QUERY MILL	BIODIVERSITY AREA	MUDDY BRANCH SVU1
	QUINCE ORCHARD	BIODIVERSITY AREA	MUDDY BRANCH SVU3
	ROCK CREEK (YEAR 2 OF 2)	DOWN-COUNTY STREAM VALLEY	ROCK CREEK SVP
FY17	CABIN JOHN	BEST NATURAL AREA	CABIN JOHN SVU1/2
	SHALE BARRENS	BEST NATURAL AREA	RIVER ROAD SHALE BARRENS CP
	CABIN JOHN CAMPGROUND	BIODIVERSITY AREA	CABIN JOHN REG PARK
	BUCK BRANCH	BIODIVERSITY AREA	BUCK BRANCH SVP
	CABIN JOHN	BIODIVERSITY AREA	CABIN JOHN REG PARK
	ROCK RUN	BIODIVERSITY AREA	ROCK RUN SVP
	DICKERSON	BIODIVERSITY AREA	DICKERSON CP
	NORTH SLOPE	BIODIVERSITY AREA	DRY SENECA CREEK SVU2
	CABIN JOHN CREEK (YEAR 1 OF 2)	DOWN-COUNTY STREAM VALLEY	CABIN JOHN SVP
FY18	WATTS BRANCH	BEST NATURAL AREA	WATTS BRANCH SVU1/2/3
	NORTHWEST BRANCH	BEST NATURAL AREA	NORTHWEST BRANCH SVU3/4, BURNT MILLS EAST SP, AND BURNT MILLS WEST SP
	BONIFANT	BIODIVERSITY AREA	NORTHWEST BRANCH SVU5
	BONIFANT MEADOWS	BIODIVERSITY AREA	NORTHWEST BRANCH SVU5 AND NORTHWEST BRANCH REC PARK
	RANDOLPH MEADOWS	BIODIVERSITY AREA	NORTHWEST BRANCH SVU4/5
	WHEATON	BIODIVERSITY AREA	WHEATON REG PARK
	CABIN JOHN CREEK (YEAR 2 OF 2)	DOWN-COUNTY STREAM VALLEY	CABIN JOHN SVP

**PARK NAME ABBREVIATIONS:**

CP = CONSERVATION PARK; LP = LOCAL PARK; NCA = NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA;  
 NP = NEIGHBORHOOD PARK; REG PARK = REGIONAL PARK; REC PARK = RECREATIONAL PARK; SP = SPECIAL PARK, SVP = STREAM VALLEY PARK; SVU # = STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #



INSIDE BACK COVER

OUTSIDE BACK COVER