

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
PRESS RELEASE**

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**PLANNING BOARD APPROVES PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF
PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

SILVER SPRING, MD – The Montgomery County Planning Board has approved a plan for the future of parks and open space in Montgomery County. To qualify for funding consideration through the state’s Program Open Space, the Board must periodically submit such a plan to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Major features of the Board’s plan, titled Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan, include strengthening support for environmental and natural resource protection and agricultural preservation to help balance the demands for a wide variety of additional recreational facilities to serve the county’s growing population.

The Board anticipates that soccer, lacrosse and football fields will be at the top of the future recreation needs in the county. The Board also acknowledged the need for other recreation facilities including skate parks, trails for mountain biking, and more and larger dog parks.

“Program Open Space funding from the state is vital to our land preservation strategy,” said Planning Board Vice Chairman Wendy Perdue. “As the county’s population increases, the need for protection of open space becomes even more critical.”

Key features in the plan include a quantitative analysis of needs for future parks, open space, parkland acquisition and recreation facilities through the year 2020; an assessment of current agricultural land preservation programs and a summary of new initiatives needed; current implementation programs for conservation of natural resource lands and a summary of necessary improvements; and proposed improvements for historic and archeological resources.

The final plan will be available online in January at www.montgomeryparks.org.

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