



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

March 2, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Jeff Zyontz *JZ*, Chief, Countywide Park Planning

FROM: Tanya Schmieler, Park Planning and Resource Analysis (301) 650-4392 *TKS*
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SUBJECT: WORK PROGRAM NEW STATE GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF THE NEW 2005 PROS PLAN

The attached Work Program is based on new State guidelines for preparation of the 2005 Local Land Preservation and Recreation (LPRP) that were transmitted to us in November, 2003. This Plan serves as the County's Park, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) long range plan.

The new guidelines differ substantially from the previous ones that guided the 1998 Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan. Staff has analyzed the new guidelines and noted the following major changes from those that governed the current plan:

- **Increased emphasis on Natural Resource and Agricultural Preservation.**
- **An Increased number of facilities required for quantitative needs analysis**
- **Site specific implementations recommendations**

The attached work program reflects these changes and may be amended during the Plan development process as needed to include additional work items suggested by the Planning Board, Staff, Recreation Advisory Boards, or general public. Input to the Plan will be provided by 2003 park participation and satisfaction surveys conducted by the Department of State Planning and M-NCPPC and a 2000 Montgomery County park user count survey. The six County Recreation Advisory Boards will provide linkages to the public and meetings with user groups and a public forum will also be held.

Based on recent legislative changes, County Plans are due July 1, 2005, however, due to the delay in the guidelines completion, the Maryland Department of Planning will permit a five month extension to December 1, 2005. Staff will be sending progress and information memos to the Board as the Plan evolves. If requested, staff will be glad to discuss the work program and related issues with the Planning Board at a future meeting.

Copies of the new State 2005 PROS Plan Guidelines and the 1998 approved Plan are attached for your information. The work program for the 2005 Prince George's County Plan is also attached.

TS:ccq

cc: C. Loehr
L. Straw
G. Boyer
D. Cochran
J. Bourne

2005 Land Preservation and Recreation (PROS) Plan Montgomery County Work Program

I. Major Work Program Items

- A. Complete recreation, natural resource, and agricultural needs assessments and all other work program items required by the State Guidelines.
- B. Complete State Maryland Electronic Inventory of Recreation Sites (MEIRS Inventory) and PROS Plan revised Inventory, including municipalities & Mont. Village.
- C. Revise and update the Park Classification System
- D. Update overall Goals and Objectives, and Guidelines for each individual park Classification.
- E. Complete quantitative Needs Analysis for all required Facilities including youth and adult athletic fields (softball, baseball, and rectangular field sports), tennis, basketball, and the top ten other county priorities. This analysis will be based on state and local surveys and public input.
- F. Develop new information required on Natural Resources and Agricultural needs.
- G. Collaborate with the Department of Recreation to develop a systematized method to project needs for indoor recreation centers and aquatic facilities.
- H. Recommend sites for implementation of future park and recreation needs.

II. Preliminary Public and Staff Outreach Proposals

- A. Coordinate with various Montgomery County Park and Planning Divisions, the Montgomery County Departments of Recreation and Economic Development/Agricultural Preservation Division, County municipalities, and Prince George's County Park Planning.
- B. Utilize the six Recreation Advisory Boards to provide countywide and regional input. The County-wide Recreation Advisory Board will be asked to co-host the public forum.
- C. Review recent state and local surveys and summarize public opinions.
- D. Develop a web site to provide information to the public and solicit comments.
- E. Place information on the Plan and public input process at all public libraries.

- F. Meet with a variety of recreation, conservation and agricultural interest groups. These meetings will be open to the public.
- G. Work with the community relations staff on press releases that inform County residents about the web site, public meetings and other opportunities for input.
- H. Hold a public forum to provide input on needs for recreation, natural resource and agricultural preservation.
- I. Hold a Public Hearing on the Planning Board Approved Public Hearing Draft.

III. **Plan Staffing** – Plan will be staffed by the Park, Planning and Resource Analysis Division, with input from other M-NCPPC Park and Planning Departments and the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Funding is included in the FY 04 and proposed FY05 M-NCPPC budgets.

IV. **Plan Schedule** (may be deferred 5 months)

- A. Submit Work Program – February, 2004
- B. State review of preliminary MEIRS inventory data- February 1, 2004
- C. Complete MEIRS and other inventory update, May 1,2004
- D. Complete Needs Analysis for Land & Facilities, July 1, 2004
- E. Submit Draft Plan to Montgomery County Planning Board, Maryland Department of Planning and Department of Natural Resources, January 1, 2005
- F. Submit Montgomery County Planning Board Approved Plan to Maryland Department of Planning, Department of Natural Resources, and state legislators July 1, 2005