

Attachment A

Public Hearing Testimony- 2005 LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN- 10/27/05

Part I- Oral Testimony on 10/27/05

| SPEAKER/ ORGANIZATION | TESTIMONY | STAFF RESPONSE |
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| Charles Pritchard, self | The main objective of Legacy Open Space Program is to protect and expand the county green infrastructure. We should also preserve Open Space in small urban sites. Concerned about the North Four Corners Local Park Plan. Increasing impervious surface aggravates flooding. Park maintenance is a problem. Changing recreation trends are also a problem. Baseball & softball have declined in favor of soccer & skateboard. In the LPPRP more data is needed on polls & surveys that support proposals. The soccerplex has many problems that should be solved. The plan should mention Rachel Carson Trail. | See changes to Chapter V. An appendix on survey data was added. |
| Rolf Sinclair, Greater BCC Coalition 7508 Tarrytown Rd. Chevy Chase, MD 20815 (301) 657-3441 | BCC coalition is for the preservation of Open Space – Plan is generally OK but omits the important goal of interacting with other parts of the County Government. . There is no discussion of the need for the extension of the CCT to Silver Spring and Rock Creek and Sligo Creek, although the Plan calls for an increase in trails. CCT must be preserved and extended to Silver Spring and beyond. | Plan discusses interaction with other County Department in Chapter III. The LPPRP does not include specific trails, however extension of the CCT is recommended in other Plans. |
| Devin Battley, Pres. Linburgh Park Owners Association Maryland Motorcycle Association 19416 Muncaster Rd. Derwood, MD 20855 (240) 364-2050 | No provision made in LPPRP for off road vehicles. There are +- 10,000 motorcycles & ATV's in the County. There are also 10,000 horses, and they have trails. There is no place to ride a motorbike in M.C. We need a public/private partnership to have a public riding area. I have a private area and it works well, and would be glad to participate in a partnership. | Language was added to the Plan indicating that this sport and others will be considered in the future PROS Strategic Plan. |
| Kathy Michaels | Friends of Sligo and Eyes of Paint Branch support conservation in the parks. Acquire land next to waterways. Place high priority on this. Arcola Elementary School wanted to do geothermal system but parks would not close the field for 2 seasons to do this. | Stream buffers are always a very high priority for parkland protection when they are contiguous to existing parkland. Planning Board and staff are not opposed to installation of geothermal system at Arcola park. |
| Kathy Gray- Individual 9311 Pennywise Lane Gaithersburg, MD 20877 | Avid dirt bike rider. Supports creation of an Off Road Vehicle Public Area. There are a lot of riders in the county. People would pay for this facility Devin Battley would be a great operator of such a facility. Allegheny County generates about 15 million from their facility. | Added language that we will look at needs for this sport and others in the PROS Strategic Plan. |

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| <p>Ginny Barnes – West Citizens Association Potomac, MD</p> | <p>Environmental groups met to discuss Plan. The LPPRP emphasizes recreation such as ballfields too much. The environment only gets a broad discussion. Bird watching is the fastest growing recreation in the U.S. They need high quality interior forest. Recreation is not properly defined in the plan. Map is needed for natural areas. Put more detailed info on forest, etc. Volunteers in Plan. Need a PROS Strategic Plan and Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan. Forest Preservation Strategy is on the web. Shows the amount of decreasing forests.</p> | <p>See changes to Chapter V.</p> <p>Additional detail was provided on quantities of natural resources in parkland. Amount of detail in the Recreation chapter was required by the guidelines and does not reflect the importance of our multiple goals regarding natural resource protection and recreation.</p> <p>An appendix on survey data was added.</p> |
| <p>Charles Carter- MC Tennis Association</p> | <p>MCTA Pleased with Outreach. Our comments have been included in the Plan. Our new program “Tennis in the Park” will help reverse the observed decrease in local tennis. Olney Manor lights Project is needed. Indoor courts are severely lacking in M.C. Demand is huge & growing. Plan needs to address the need for funding for maintenance and replacement (Wheaton indoor tennis) AMC Sports and Learning Complex is needed in the County (see P.G. Sports & Learning Complex)</p> | <p>The need for indoor tennis is mentioned in the Plan. Added survey data to Plan indicating this.</p> |
| <p>Jane Hawes – MC DOG and Leisure World Animal Companion Club 3225 Ludham Dr. Silver Spring, MD 20906 (301) 598-0953</p> | <p>Generally agree with the Plan. There is a need for the Proposed Dog Parks at Cabin John & Olney. After 10 years we need to re-look at how many dog parks we need – maybe more like 20. Don’t cluster them Up County. They should be individual (not just big square). In California, they have Lakes and obstacles. The elderly need a fenced area for their dogs. Dog Parks should have 2 areas 1 for small dogs & 1 for large. Existing parks are too small. MCDOG is raising funds for Dog Parks.</p> | <p>Added language to Plan regarding request for larger dog parks with separate areas for small and large dogs.</p> |
| <p>Susan Rich- Animal Protection Alliance of MC PO Box 2608 Silver Spring, MD 20915 (301) 942-6672</p> | <p>Teach Kindness, not Killing – Would like more statistics on environmental Protection. Concerned about the Planning Process. P. IV-4 Some conflicts – Bird watching is important. There is language elsewhere in the Plan that says that many activities need large spaces that can’t happen in urban areas. Hunting is not the answer (only 6% of people hunt). Explore non-lethal methods of reducing number of Deer. Kids need constructive non-violent activities. Near Connecticut Avenue Estates, Wheaton/Claridge Local Park is not a safe place. Remove “hunting” from uses in parks.</p> | <p>Hunting (other than managed hunts) is generally limited to state parkland and one large county park under state control.</p> <p>The Deer Management Plan details the different approaches to deer control. Will analyze ways to improve safety of Wheaton/Claridge L.P as a separate issue</p> |

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| <p>Jim Erickson – Countywide Recreation Board 14421 Stepping Stone Way Burtonsville, MD 20866 (443) 285-4025 Rodrigo Valderama</p> | <p>We need long-term investment in our recreation infrastructure. Our priorities are #1 ballfields – there are the most used facility. Need more fields both Down County (Bethesda) and in growing areas Up County. Support more trails and greater connectivity. County is slow to build new trends (Skateboard Parks). There is a need for green space. Community Recreation Center & Senior Centers support Recreation Departmental Plan. Quality of life in MC is why we live here and parks should be accessible to all residents.</p> | <p>Concur. Plan supports need for more fields downcounty and in growing areas upcounty. Plan also supports trails, green space and recreation centers.</p> |
| <p>Judy Koenick – Individual 2714 Washington Ave. Chevy Chase, MD 20815 (301) 589-4104</p> | <p>Showed photos of Wildlife – we need to protect wildlife. Kids enjoy wildlife. Maintenance of existing facilities is a big problem. Damage at Meadowbrook Local Park from cars costs money to repair. Cars park illegally. Park Police need to come in and ticket them. There are not enough parking places.</p> | <p>Concur. The importance of wildlife habitat in our parks is mentioned in the Plan. Will look at Meadowbrook parking problem as a separate issue.</p> |
| <p>Joel Cohen – Rides for Peace Potomac, MD</p> | <p>He organizes motorcycle rides for Peace. His group has 10 million dollar annual budget. There are no safe places to ride. Not a single off road place to ride in M.C. There has been an increase in motorcycles lately. Many people ride and events instill camaraderie. Would like something in the Plan regarding needs. Rider will pay to ride.</p> | <p>Added language to plan that PROS Strategic Plan will look at need for off road motorbikes, among other sports.</p> |
| <p>Stan Fischer – Up County Region Recreation Board</p> | <p>Complimented staff for document. Good attempt to look to future reserve preservation is important. Some facilities are needed Up County such as Recreation Centers (Germantown & Clarksburg) Ballfields & Soccer fields, Local Parks needed in Clarksburg (2-3) Nature Centers Up County. Plan should add list of Recreation Staff on front page along with M-NCPPC Staff. Need more Park Police & maintenance. Trails need to be implemented. Up County needs places to hold some Programs. An arboretum like Brookside is needed Up County. Active Seniors need more facilities Up County. A firearm safety range is needed and a learning golf course.</p> | <p>Plan supports need for parks, fields and Recreation and Nature Centers UpCounty. The PROS Strategic Plan will look at needs for an arboretum, golf, and firearm safety range.</p> |
| <p>Joe Fristch –self</p> | <p>MORE Liaison. There is a need for more space to ride bicycles off the roads. Natural surface trails are needed in all areas of the County. MORE Volunteers build natural surface trails. Paved trails are also needed, particularly the ICC trail. A width of 10 feet is needed. Rock Creek & Sligo should be widened. Bikes should also be allowed in skate parks. Build an indoor bike & skate facility. Bikes are environmentally friendly. Need more safe places to ride.</p> | <p>Trails will be given more emphasis in PROS Strategic Plan.</p> |

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| John Parrish - Maryland Native Plant Society Silver Spring | Thank staff for meeting with environmental groups. PROS Strategic Plan should be funded to do the follow up Plan. In LPPRP, strengthen Natural resource section with photos & graphs. Would like to see text describing priority acquisition sites. The appendix needs to be described in the text and show how sites will meet needs. Maintenance of existing Parks should take precedence over building new parks. Why does Matthew Henson cost show up in Appendix? | See changes to Chapter V. Natural resource section of the LPPRP section was strengthened. Priority acquisition site descriptions were added. SHA has requested reimbursement for Matthew Henson. |
| Tim McGrath-TROT (Trail Rides of Today) | Support multi-use trails. Want to develop a partnership where users can help maintain trails. He used to go repair Bucklodge Forest. Now that it is Parkland, he has to call Park Staff and wait a long time. Need better signage to keep people on trails. Have multi use trail surfaces to prevent erosion. Also from soil conservation. Need to address off road motorbike Public Space because they are illegally using agricultural fields. Have them stay out of the fields. TROT will continue to work with staff. Need improved agreement for use of chain saws. Dept. of Nat Resources has a set. | Concur, will obtain agreement on trail maintenance from DNR. |
| Carol Barth 10602 Lockridge Dr Silver Spring, MD 20901 (301) 593-7863 | In the North Four Corners Local Park Plan, the LPPRP is the primary Rationale for recommending a new soccer field – Plan doesn't review in detail which LPPRP methods were used. Surveys are not adequately included. Ballfield permits provide the foundation for projections but there are only 2% turned down. No projection is included for informal use. Field conversions provided the only range of need, but a range of scenarios should be considered. Informal use of Green Space should be projected. Need for Green respite is greatest in urban areas, within walking distance of residents. | Plan will add methodology appendix plan mentions that Green Space is important in urban areas. |
| Wayne Goldstein-Mont. City. Civic Federation Planning & Land Use Committee 3009 Jennings Rd. Kensington, MD 20895 (301) 942-8079 | Commend staff for Chapter 6. All it is lacking is the staff to do it. There is a need for 2 more staff persons. Historic Preservation Plans should be put online. Staff cannot put Plans on line now. Historic Resources can be turned into affordable housing. Let's try to implement the proposals on Boulevards and Public Space. | Concur |
| Austin Steo MORE | Requests that acquisition of new land and existing land is considered for development of new multi-use trails. There are only 8 natural surface trails open to bikes now. Rachel Carson Trail does not allow bikes. Bikes cause least damage. MORE does a lot of volunteer work and would like a MOU. Met with risk management and nothing came of it. Would like to join with TROT to try to get an agreement. MORE can assist the trail planner. An ATV park is needed to prevent damage to existing trails. | Concur on needs for new multi-use trails. PROS Strategic Plan will include more information on trail needs and use of volunteers. |

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| <p>Commissioner's Comments at Public Hearing</p> | <p>1. <u>Motorbikes in Parks</u> Wellington – do you like jumps or just trails. Answer- there are beginner, intermediate John Richardson– question is where, how much and how to do it. Maybe Dept. of Nat. Resources may have a facility Berlage – Washington County – find out what other jurisdiction are done. Allison – How much land is needed for ORV Dickerson – Write up criteria John Richardson takes a lot of land off road. Proponents should talk to Ginny Barnes and nature enthusiasts. Berlage – look to improve safety at Wheaton Claridge Local Parks. 2. <u>Park Maintenance and Management</u> Allison – Look at Parking Problem at Meadowbrook</p> | <p>1. Issues will be addressed in PROS Strategic Plan 2. Will address issues with staff.</p> |

| Public Hearing Written Testimony | | |
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| Letters & Mails Individual/Organization | Summary of Comments | Staff Response |
| E-mail Nov. 4, 2005 Michael Pollock Ann Hoffnor Jim Baird/ Friends of Sligo Creek | Environmental Preservation should be given priority in the Plan over recreation needs. Assuring maintenance of facilities is essential prior to new construction. Address environmental concerns in future PROS and Green Infrastructure, but address environmental concerns now. | A large amount of additional material on the importance of environmental preservation has been added to the LPPRP Natural Resources Chapter. Future PROS Plan will address environmental concerns. |
| E-mail Nov. 4, 2005 Suzanne Paro Resident | Restrict use of ATV's and motorbikes on parkland. Urges proper use of Sligo & other parks. Preserve stream valleys. Retrofit old SWM facilities. Ballfields should be considered impervious areas. | Use of ATV's is currently prohibited in Parks and will be assessed during the future PROS Strategic Plan. Additional material on environmental preservation has been added to the LPPRP. |
| Nov 7, 2005 Joseph W. McPhearson Avalon Education Group, Inc | Agricultural Land Use Regulations are making it difficult to locate independent schools. Provide accommodation in the agricultural reserve to fill need for independent schools. They save taxpayer dollars and preserve open space. | Will pass on issue to agriculture Planning staff. |
| Nov. 6, 2005 Kathleen Michels Upper Sligo Civic Assoc. Edward Murtagh Sligo Headquarters Civic Assoc. | Believe that the balance between the need for environmental preservation and recreation is currently in favor of sports recreation that do damage to Parkland. Preservation needs to be made a higher priority over new development. LPPRP should include more specifics on the value of natural area preservation. New development damages Sligo Creek. Acquire Freedom Property in N.W. Branch. Parks Dept. should have allowed both geothermal heating system at Arcola Elementary. Address environments concerns in future PROS and Green Infrastructure Plans. | Added considerable materials to natural resource chapter of LPPRP. Will continue efforts to preserve the environment. |
| Nov. 4, 2005 Edward Murtagh Friends of Sligo Creek | Excellent Plan but concerned about management of Local Parks. Arcola local park has runoff parking and trash problems. Parks would not let BOE put in a geothermal system and re-grade park because the field would be out of service. Kids need sports but also natural environment. | Planning Board and staff did not oppose geothermal tubes at Arcola. |
| Jack S. Cochrane Chair, Montgomery Bicycle Advocates (MOBIKE) | The LPPRP should do more to emphasize the importance of building more hard surface hiker-biker trails. The plan should note benefits on non-polluting transportation by bikes, and that it may offset the environmental impacts of building paved trails written stream valley parks and has strong recreational and health benefits. It should call for more miles of paved trails. | Added material on the non-polluting transportation benefits of trails. |
| John H. Fauerby Lynn Rosenbursch | Add a discussion of the Clarksburg Greenway Trail Linear Park to the LPPRP as an example of Planning for parks, planning for a recreational facility and for acquiring parkland. | Added the Clarksburg Greenway Language Chapter III to the section on "Funding Through Private Development" |

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| <p>Jim Erickson Chairman Countywide Recreation Advisory Board</p> | <p>More ballfields are needed down county and in developing areas. Additional trails are needed for linkages, transportation and recreation. The County needs to be faster in responding to new trends and needs to protect "Green Space" in urbanized areas, and through the Legacy Open Space Program</p> | <p>Concur</p> |
| <p>Joe Fritch Chairman Mid County Recreation Advisory Board</p> | <p>Parks and Recreation should communicate better and strive to work as one. Assure funding is available for parks and recreation building maintenance. Urge building of hard surface and natural surface trails such as the ICC trail, and find the use volunteers for trail building and maintenance.</p> | <p>Concur</p> |
| <p>Matthew Kendall Silver Spring</p> | <p>Use soccer fields and enjoy nature/historic Preservation. Urges hat Little Bennett Regional Park as a nature preserve.</p> | <p>Will consider comments in Little Bennett Regional Park Outreach and Strategy report.</p> |
| <p>Carl Blake Silver Spring Recreation Advisory Board</p> | <p>Recognize the need for a skateboard facility, but recommends further analysis of the feasibility of a skateboard park in Silver Spring. Recommends acquisition of Takoma Academy site.</p> | <p>Plan cites the need for skateboard parks as county-wide facilities but does not discuss location. Plan does include the Takoma Academy is a mid-term (FY2010-2015) acquisition.</p> |
| <p>Coach Carter Olney</p> | <p>MCTA comments have been incorporated into the Plan. Lack of indoor tennis courts is a critical issue. Urge that M.C. build a sports and learning complex as a public private partnership.</p> | <p>Added additional language to Plan stating that indoor tennis courts are cited as facility with greatest deficiency by the 2003 park user satisfaction survey.</p> |
| <p>Glen Kreger- MNCPPC Silver Spring Team</p> | <p>Requests change in definition of "Urban Parks"</p> | <p>Classification changes will be included in the upcoming PROS Strategic Plan.</p> |
| <p>Jacqui Sapper Silver Spring</p> | <p>Maintain existing sport parks before building new. Preserve forest and natural land.</p> | <p>Plan indicates need for both fields and nature preservation.</p> |
| <p>Denise Gorham BCC Baseball</p> | <p>Plan should include additional good quality fields for youth baseball in Bethesda</p> | <p>Plan shows need for rectangular field and 90' baseball fields in Bethesda. Inserted language into Plan about the need work with user groups prior to any field reconfiguration.</p> |
| <p>Ann Amber Sierra Club</p> | <p>Plan is not user friendly. LPPRP should add specific numbers on the value of natural resources. Bird watching is the fastest growing recreation actively in the nation. Maintenance of facilities is a great concern. Comment cultural and historic resources. Concerned about ATV us of parks. Hope that future PROS Strategic Plan and Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan place more emphasis on the environment</p> | <p>Added specific information to the Natural Resources Chapter on benefits of Natural Resource Preservation.</p> |