

Attachment D- Summary of Comments at Public Forums and User Group Meetings

Public Forum Comments Summary

Two public forums were held on the proposed 2005 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, one on May 23, 2005 in the MRO Auditorium and one on September 28, 2005 in the UpCounty Government Center. The following summaries incorporate the comments made at each.

Over 50 people attended the May 23, 2005 Public Forum on the 2005 Land Preservation Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP). There were six different "stations" where people gave their comments on future needs for : 1) Park Recreation Facilities; 2) Community Recreation Center and Aquatics Facilities; 3) "Nature Oriented" Recreation and Trails; 4) Stewardship of Natural Resources; 5) Stewardship of Cultural Resources; and 6) Agricultural Preservation.

Comments from participants emphasized the need to preserve open spaces and protect natural and cultural resources, and maintain existing parks (particularly returning trash cans). Recreation facilities requested ranged from dog exercise areas and indoor tennis, to rectangular ball fields and community recreation centers. The most requested facility was trails with many people testifying in favor of multiple use (including bicycles) and many others against bicycle use on unpaved trails.

The Upcounty Forum on September 28, was attended by approximately 30 Citizens, who also rotated to six different stations giving comments throughout the evening. They expressed a wide range of opinions ranging from protection of natural and agricultural areas to the need for trails, dog exercise areas and lighted ballfields. A new interest that emerged at the forum were several requests for motorized dirt bike trails. This is something that we have never considered, and their were conservation oriented people at the meeting who indicated that motorized bikes should not be allowed. Some of the other comments included providing bicycle access for historic sites, putting an arboretum/nature center upcounty, Provide an intermediate or beginner golf course for youth and seniors, develop Gude Recreational Park, need for recreation center in Germantown, classes and renovation/expansion of Plum Gar Recreation center, a combination indoor mountain bike /skate park for night/winter/rainy use, and a paint ball area.

A summary of major comments is included in the following section, and a listing of individual comments is attached.

1) Park Recreation Facilities

Maintenance and Operation

- Return the trashcans to the parks.
- Maintain existing facilities before building new facilities
- Hold a Public Forum for youth
- Provide greater enforcement policies
- Combine Parks and Recreation Departments.

Dog Exercise Areas (DEA's)

- Enlarge Wheaton DEA
- Provide new DEA at East Norbeck Local Park
- At Nolte Local Park, have an area with daily off leash hours for dogs.

Protection of Open Space When Developing Recreation Facilities

- Build facilities at edge of parks to preserve interior. Don't remove large stands of trees.
- Need to balance recreation facilities and preservation of open spaces.
- Revisit the 1/3 : 2/3% restriction. Allow a higher percentage to build ballfields.
- Preserve forest and wetlands at Fairland Recreational Parks

Recreation Facilities

- Skateboard facilities- don't put one at the Fenton St. Urban Park. Provide bike access to Olney Skateboard Park.
- Ballfields – need soccer and lacrosse fields. Needs should consider demographics.
 - Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport. Has field shortage.
 - Fields are especially needed in Damascus and Bethesda
 - Provide lighted multi purpose rectangular fields
- Tennis – Provide more indoor tennis and upgrade current facilities.
 - Build new courts in larger clusters – especially needed up county
 - Consider alternate uses (soccer) for under utilized local tennis courts.

2) Community Recreation Center and Aquatics Facilities

- Reduce impervious surfaces/ provide Green Buildings and better storm water control.
- Increase maintenance of existing facilities
- White Oak Center is high priority — revisit site selection
- Need Clarksburg Center – close to population and Montgomery Village
- Broad Acres and Colesville areas need centers
- Address senior needs in community centers
- Do not build center at North Four Corners

3) 'Nature Oriented' Recreation and Trails

Open Space and Nature Conservation

- Acquire more land for the protection of nature through Legacy Open Space or other programs to protect forest and wetlands.
- Preserve Paint Branch and North West Branch SU parks for trout fishing.
- Do not develop North Four Corners Park or South Fenton Gateway Park – keep passive.

Natural Surface Trails

- Rachel Carson Trail should be completed.

- Allow all recreational users including bicycles on Rachel Carson and other natural surface trails
- Do not allow bikes on natural surface trails
- Use MORE (Mid-Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts) to help build and maintain trails
- Include historical/cultural sites and their interpretation
- Natural surface trails preserve the environment – prefer them to hard surface trails.

Hard Surface Trails

- Need to maintain better/control invasive species
- Examine potential for semi-permeable surfaces
- Continue land acquisition for trails so they can be used for exercise and commuting
- Build full ICC multi-use trail
- Build a minimum of paved trails as they open the forest canopy and allow invasive species
- Improve connectivity of existing trails
- Have park police patrol trails/park rangers would be useful.

Trails in General

- Need paid trail team to monitor and maintain trails/control invasive
- Provide adequate parking
- Design to build new sustainable trails and re-align badly designed ones

4) Stewardship of Natural Resources

- Allocate more money for Natural Resources land acquisition.
- Give equal emphasis to natural resource preservation as active recreation.
- Preserve open space in urban areas/ preserve South Fenton Gateway Park and North Four Corners Park – Purchase Webb tract Lot #7.
- Don't build the ICC
- More citizen education is needed on the value of green space and forests.
- Inventory natural resources and wildlife
- Control deer
- Acquire remainder of Shale Barrens, and Glenmont Forest
- Protect forests- keep intact and build at the edge
- Use on-site storm water management
- Preserve stream valleys and water quality
- Only have natural surfaces trail
- Control invasive species

5) Stewardship of Cultural Resources

- Increase funding for cultural preservation
- Educate public as to importance of historic site preservation.
- Provide better interpretation of historic sites with signage and kiosks.
- Require archaeological survey of all proposed development
- Consider acquisition of Haviland Mill site.

6) Agricultural Preservation

- Protect the agricultural reserve
- Do not allow churches in agricultural reserve
- Manage deer
- Need impervious limits/no sewer service

PUBLIC FORUMS- Individual Comments

1 PARK RECREATION FACILITIES

Maintenance & Operation

- Olney Manor Park is over-developed – NO more active recreation facilities can be accommodated.
- A sustained public advocacy effort is critical to maintaining and enhancing infrastructure task force report
- Enhance maintenance and lighting to increase capacity for use of Wheaton, Cabin John, and Olney Manor. Make these parks premier facilities.
- Need enforcement of permit policies by park police and park staff. Evaluate whether permit policies are working properly.
- Combine parks and recreation departments - facility utilization and programming suffer because of the separation of functions. Citizens want 1-stop service.

Trash Cans

- Return park trash cans!!!
- Please put the trash cans back in the park. As a dog walker, I'm really tired of picking up trash after games
- Bring back the trash cans!
- Need trash cans at parks

Recreation Facilities

- I prefer that future expenditures be used to maintain *existing* park and recreation facilities rather than building new facilities. Once the old facilities are rehabilitated then I would support more spending on new facilities. A lot of the older park and recreation facilities have not been properly maintained over the years. Please prioritize maintenance before constructing new facilities. Thank you.
- Need to be able to maintain all existing facilities before building new facilities. Too much maintenance backlog.
- Have a program like the public park forum for middle and high school students to get their input on future recreation as preservation needs.
- E. Silver Spring – needs an ice rink
 - o Rethink park rules – too limiting for park usage to sign that contradicts
 - o Trash cans and enforce ball field clean-up
 - o Increase Police patrolling
 - o Revise agreement between County & Park leash laws for pets.
 - o Need toilet facilities at ballfields
 - o Arcola LP – teams are using park as a toilet at Sligo Creek Park
 - o Enforce permitting rules – major litter problem after groups use fields
- Silver Spring Rec Advisory Board – maintain existing facilities – especially Rec Centers – better staff funding.
- *North Four Corners Park Development*
- - North Four Corners
 - o HOA's have agreed on less expensive plan
 - o Please re-visit-community doesn't want it.
- No more ballfields or roller hockey HS pads or parking lot at North Four Corners
- Want sustainable low-impact natural park
- Want playground for older kids to compliment tot lot

- Gardens/ NS trail – things the community will use are is over developed.
- Whole park develop process overweighs active rec. vs passive which is more appreciated and more valuable need for quality of life.
- Ball field at Dennis and Sligo is under used- across street basketball and tennis are hardly used – moving to under use area good idea for ecological.

Dog Exercise Areas (DEA'S)

- May need more than Draft Plan's 15 dog parks; especially with recent leash law.
- Request flexible standards for service population and size of dog parks for varying needs; dog parks larger than one-acre desirable when possible.
- Urge significant County funding for dog parks,
- Residents are currently especially requesting fenced dog parks at East Norbeck Local Park (for which dog-owners have been raising funds); Olney Recreational Park, Cabin John Regional Park, Northwest Branch Recreational Park, and Calverton-Galway Local Park.
- Urge expanding existing dog parks; regional dog parks should be backed by local dog parks for neighborhoods; and
- Recommend separate areas in dog parks for smaller dogs when possible.

East Norbeck

- We want a dog park at East Norbeck Park and have petitioned for one for the past year. Wish over 10,000 residents at Leisure World we feel that Parks and Planning should not exclude Seniors. They need to be represented at this park. They want to let their dogs ramp and play there.
- East Norbeck- dog park for seniors need to address their needs. Planning fundraising of E. Norbeck.
- Seniors must be represented at E Norbeck. We are over 10,000 voting residents across the street and we don't feel that we should be ignored or dismissed. We are the community.
- Wheaton DEA too small for dog park

Nolte Local Park

- Desire to see dog park installed for off leash hours available in Nolte Park.
- More neighborhood dog parks, such as Nolte. We don't want to DRIVE. Trash cans everywhere.
- It is time for Montgomery County to start responding to current trends. Why not have daily off leash hours for dogs at Nolte Park? It would not impact the area where children play and it would stop the incessant tricketing of dog owners.
- We need to enlarge Wheaton Dog Park by creating a section for small/medium dogs and a section for medium/large dogs. – Jane Hawes, President of McDog & Leisure World Animal Companion Club.
- Need to have neighborhood dog parks where dogs are allowed to run off leash. I don't want to drive 20 minutes in rush hour traffic adding to the congestion in the county to go to the Wheaton Regional Park fro my dog to exercise.
- Improved access to any of these in lower Silver Spring area
 - Dog park
 - Off leash hours in any area park
 - Consistency with County laws in park allowing "dogs off leash" for good citizens.
- More LOCAL dog parks

- To exercise within law we must drive or stay home and break law.
- Down county DEA needed
- Nolte LP – lower green space – off of Denver

Wheaton DEA

- Rush hour prohibits Wheaton DEA use
- Wheaton Dog EA needs expansion & separation by dog-size

- Dog owners are more responsible stewards of the parks (vs. sports teams)
- Adversarial relationship building with dog owners
- Please align the county rules for dogs off leash with responsible owners with the park rules. Allow people to walk/run their dogs off leash in their neighborhood in parks such as Nolte.

Protection of Open Space when Developing Recreation Facilities

- Indoor facilities like skating rinks and tennis courts don't need to use parkland. They belong else-where.
- Facilities should be built at the edge of parks so as to leave a large piece of land intact.
- Need to revisit the 33 1/3% restriction on development in light of active outdoor recreation demands in county. Allow for higher percentage of development in Regional Parks to accommodate ballfield needs.
- Need a balance between recreation users and preservation of natural resources – now out of balance and heavily favors recreation.
- I noticed that 100 acres of forest and acres and wetlands will be destroyed by the proposed development by of Fairland Park for a golf community with fairway residential development. I am opposed to this. Please reserve these ares for wildlife, hikers, and trail riders. Protect our streams. Keep maintaining fish in the near in streams such as the Northwest Branch. Keep development away from the headwaters of streams such as wildcat. Keep houses off of walking trails.
- I am opposed to the removal of stands of trees for new facilities or parking lots such as what occurred in Cabin John park a few years ago.

New Recreation Facilities

- Olney Skate Park – access for bikes, ride bike to facility
- E. Silver Spring Cit. Assoc.- review skate board facility need of CBD.
 - Don't take urban green space
 - Keep away from neighborhood residential areas (noise/sight)
 - Review sight selection criteria CBD & C-wide
 - Vandalism issue
- *future indoor Mountain bike/ BMX Facilities
- Review community recreation center site design for skate park opportunities

Motorized Dirt Bike area –

- Need areas that are safety regulated and insured and provide revenue. Less uninsured accidents if controlled area.
- Have bike dealers in county provide data on the number bikes sold annually to get numbers of users. Most go to private land in Co. or public elsewhere to ride.
- What is ideal dirt bike area? Track, trails, and jumps – wood chips; gets muddy when rain—fun spin around. 90 ac with trails- thru. Forest- go up 15 feet jump – dirt mound race track like X-Games – straw bales ad sides, mounds, flat, banked

areas.

- Dirt bike – need properly registered bikes, has 92 AC riding area. Use mufflers, county property has emergency LDFL area in Dickerson. Extensive size property trails properly sited don't erode. TS – maybe Dickerson CP.
- No motorized recreational vehicles in parks. Afraid for hikers/bikers and guests and wildlife.
- For almost all parks – no motorized vehicles. Maybe find one or so area if there is such an area for them

Playground

Park at Locust Hill – what priority will it receive at the new location? When will it be built? 50% of my neighbors voting against new playground

- Alternative uses- soccer use of tennis practices
- Mountain bikes must drive to VA to use facilities needed here – bikes/skate parks NS trails and high quality paved bike trails

Ballfields

- Would like to see current status or count of number of fields of different type, by areas; calculations used in determining current need; calculations and assumptions used in projecting change over next 15 years.
- How has Montgomery County's continuing demographic shift been factored into estimated need for sports field? For example, recent Washington Post front page article referred overwhelming shift of need away from BB/SB to needing more soccer fields.
- Need for more fields and playing time for boys and girls. Men and women's lacrosse at all levels (youth, high school, adult club) and in all geographic areas of county.
- Lacrosse is fastest growing sport in US (see April 2005 sports illustrated article) lacrosse is MD state team sport. Can use some fields as soccer, football, field hockey. Revisit possible use of Germantown Soccerplex.
- In evaluating recreation facility use you have to take time in use into account. In example trails are used year round. Ball fields are seasonal. Insides multi-use fields to better utilize park land and aid in conservation efforts.
- Need for fields for youth and high school lacrosse teams both boys and girls. Areas need from Damascus to Bethesda to Silver Spring to Poolesville. One of the fastest growing sports in US according to Sports Illustrated. Both new fields and use of current soccer fields.
- Hurling Wash. Gaelic Assoc.- surface is larger 90 yards x 150m wide Gaelic football/hurling
- Pat., Chapter of US LAX- Montgomery County and other jurisdiction
 - 10p. article in Sports illustrated
 - State Team Sport
 - Share fields with other fields- review Germantown soccer plex field use.
 - FFX is ahead.
- Need lacrosse
- Croquet course
- Provide lighted multi-purpose rectangular facilities for soccer using community based planning area geography.
- Be able to see the field use for say the fall after the season is over (Nov/Dec) to see the dead times for groups to be able to apply for the next fall season.
- Being a relatively new sport, it is hard to get a field permit for practice/game.

Most fields have been permitted for years with a particular group. You can't ask what fields are available.

- Recreation facilities should be very close to those that use them this cuts down on traffic to use them. School fields should also be used for non-school recreation.

-Adult softball teams need lights at UpCounty fields for games and not start at 6 pm – too early for getting there from work. Lights at Ovid Hazen Wells would be good.

-Can county work with Montgomery Village foundation on using fields – some sit empty?

-Do not put lights at existing (or non-existing) fields at O.H.W. unless absolutely needed.

-Sr. Softball fields UpCounty need 250-275 ft fenced fields.

-Damascus and Germantown teams need fields

Tennis

- Reconsider uses of local parks in close proximity with premier parks tennis clusters (CJ, WR, OMD) for other uses to alleviate misuse of larger facilities e.g. convert E. Norbeck to lighted hard surface soccer court or multi purpose rectangular. – MCTA
- Provide more indoor tennis facilities and upgrade existing facilities, especially Wheaton to meet a growing unmet demand.
- Build new courts in larger clusters using community based planning area geography
- Need tennis courts up-county; 4 banks of courts.
- Provide money and emphasis on renovating existing courts
- Misuse of tennis facility for other programs – soccer, - Lighted facility
- Renovate or replace Wheaton Indoor Tennis Facility
- South Fenton Gateway Park is defined in the CBD sector plan as a green urban park and a gateway to be defined by landscaping. It specifically recommends sculpture. There is currently one sculpture. There is currently one sculpture. Poorly placed and poorly maintained. In keeping with the CBD sector plan green theme and cultural downtown ESSCA supports enhancing the park as a setting with landscaping and art including opportunities for temporary site specific art. Find a use related to park or WSSE historic for the Burnt Mill former WSSE [trail needs.

2 COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER & AQUATICS FACILITIES

- Should have low impact development reduce impact of development of facilities
- Reduce impervious surfaces/have Green Buildings
- Increase Maintenance of existing facilities – Long Branch/ Coffield
- Access by alt. Transportation – bike/motor/etc.
- Ancillary facilities- maintain existing centers
- High priority- White Oak Community Center - * Re-review site location/development improvements to Colesville Local Park – Colesville Elem.
- Senior Needs within CRC's
- Environmental Education – Youth/Sr's – Recreation Partner with others
- Community Recreation Facility- M. Village Plaza/Opposite Lake Forest

- No Community Recreation Center at North Fourth Corners Local Park
- Need for Learning & Recreation Facility- PG county preferred Down County partner with developers
- Site selection for Clarksburg- close to designated population.
- Broad Acres needs neighborhood facility to be jointly provided by MCRD/MCPS/MNCPPC/KAY MGT
- Recreation centers need high priority because public meeting places are crucial.
- LID Practices should be used.
- All buildings should be built to have the least impact on land. Provide a county-wide sports and learning complex with track, aquatics, gymnastics, fitness, etc. for youth with emphasis on at-risk youth.
- Need to maintain existing facilities before building new facilities. Get money from State for maintenance.
- Need better storm water control at facilities- use LID and order bio-retention
- Do not replace community center in North Four Corners park with larger center
- April-Stewart Lane is a disastrous location for a community center. No land, tucked away.
- The existing building at the Colesville local park is inadequate and outdated. Some community members would like Montgomery County to initiate and fund a study of the Colesville local park that would consider consolidation of the old Colesville Elementary School. The adjoining park and possibly the abutting property at the northeast corner of New Hampshire and Hobbs drive. The goal being to provide the residents of Colesville a facility that would create "our" community identity. It is perfect for co-location, and/or possible incorporation for the existing school users into a community center that would be a truly multi-purpose facility. We understand and desire that the historic wing of the elementary school must remain. Like other communities, we too, would like a community gathering spot that we can walk to and hold our local events.

3 "NATURE ORIENTED" RECREATION AND TRAILS

Open Space and Nature Conservation

- I would like to preserve South Fenton Gateway Park as recommended in the CBD sector plan as a green respite "defined by landscaping, gardens, and art". This is supported by ESSCA.
- Please acquire more land for the protection of nature

Natural Surface Trails

- proponent of preserving the natural surface trail for hiking/biking/mountain biking
- consult with state on Seneca Greenway
- Rachel Carson trail below rt. 29 should be emphasized as it is beautiful environment
- Burnt Mill Park East (Rachel Carson Trail) should be improved and promoted so the area can be better enjoyed
- Complete Rachel Cars/Hawlings River to Patuxent River trail connections
- As a resident of NE Montgomery County on Haviland Mill Rd. and a member of the Potomac Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited the Hawlings River stream Valley Park and Rachel Carson conservation park need to be significantly protected and developed for trails and recreation including fishing explore as a trout fishery and water quality improvement and retention.
- Include all recreational trail users on the Rachel Carson Trail, without restricting its use to bicyclists, etc.

- Keep Rachel Carson Trail joint as opposed to multiple use.
- Keep mountain bikes and other bikers off unpaved trails because they interfere with passive trail users that are bird watching and observing nature.
- Natural trails open to bicycles including existing trails of good distance and quality. (including Rachel Carson)
- I think trails get all the attention. I support trails but I think other nature-centered activities are given short shrift even within this topic which itself is given less weight than "active recreation" facilities.
- Keep the addition to North-Four Corners park geared to nature oriented recreation. The civic association and community is passionate about this and neighboring civic associations support us as well. We want a natural surface trail, not more "active" recreation. More effort is needed to control invasive species. Maybe bikers and pedestrians using trails would be willing to help with need warriors – why not advertise on the trails?
- Please acquire more land in our County thru LOS or other programs to protect forests and wetlands and areas of endangered plant life and other sensitive natural areas. Be minimal about facilities, natural surface trails rather than invasive paved trails. Need mechanical removal of invasive species
- Continue to upgrade Northwest Branch and its parkland. Work to upgrade its water quality.
- Preserve and develop Paint Branch Stream Valley Park. It is a trout fishing important recreation.
- Keep Mounted police off trail when soil is wet. They destroy the trail tread.
- Allow bikes on Rachel Carson
- Use IMBA and MORE to help build trails and maintain them
- More shared use trail are needed- in particular N.S. trails for biking.
- Corridor trails are for transportation therefore should be shared use
- Self guided nature trails on natural surface paths
- Rachel Carson should not exclude bikes. It should be for everyone. Bicycles are an important part of MC recreation and travel. Please provide kiosks and better nature interpretation signage at trailheads and along trails so that citizens can educate themselves.
- No mountain bikes or horses in sensitive areas or steep slopes.
- Mid-Atlantic Off Road enthusiasts (MORE) and international Mountain Bike Assn. (IMBA) can help build and maintain trails
- Trails in Conservation Parks at stream valley should be hiking only. Define passive recreation as hiking only.

Natural Oriented Recreation

- Continue to maintain the near-in stream as trout streams- i.e. NWBranch, Seneca Creek, Paint Branch etc.
- Protect head waters in all watersheds- i.e. Wildcat, Seneca Creek, etc
- Nature and nature oriented recreation (study of and appreciation of nature) should be a goal. More emphasized at the community level planning as well as countywide. Nature is not adequately represented in the county/community planning process. Interpret nature.

Hard Surface Trails

- Trails should be used for commuting bikers

- Survey hard surface trails in stream valley to see if they are used by bikers. If not perhaps they should be taken out of the sensitive stream valleys. Or rerouted to a better location, i.e. – Paint Branch, Fairland.
- Examine potential for semi-permeable surfaces
- Need to maintain trails.
- No hard surface trails in forests and wetlands
- Control invasive species. Needs more staff and funding
- Spend less money on paved trails and more money on maintaining existing trails and park facilities.
- Facilities should include historical and archaeological sites/ cultural information on trails for cultural environment. Interpretation of cultural features.
- Don't cut trees to build trails. Trees do a whole lot more good than bikes.
- Stop paving trails – and instead leave them natural.
- Hard surface trails open the forest canopy more – allowing invasive plants to come into an area; they also cause great disturbance in their construction. Thus allowing invasive to come in.
- Continue land acquisition to complete trails so they can be used for exercise and commuting.
- Build full ICC multi-use trail as called for in the MC master plan.
- Improve connectivity of existing trails.
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- Over all, provide safe places away from traffic to ride bicycles.
- Paved trails by soccer fields causes problems as fans and players sit on trail. This disturbs the hundreds of bicyclists, dog walkers, hikers, and families trying to use the trail.
- Build a minimum of paved trails. stick to natural trails for a natural feel of being with nature.
- I prefer that paved trails be constructed outside sensitive natural areas to reduce harm to floodplains, wetlands, forests and wild life habitats. I prefer that paved trails be located thru existing open areas such as fields, lawns, along roads and utility corridors to avoid and minimize environmental harm.
- Need to have the park police patrolling the trails. It would be helpful to have park rangers on.

Trails in General

- Greater connectivity between all trails in system
- More trails in Easter part of county- shared use
- Designed to withstand shared use – sustainable techniques
- Control invasive plants that come in when a trail corridor is opened.
- Paid trail team needed to monitor and maintain trails and eradicate species
- Provide adequate parking with environmentally friendly technology i.e.: Berms Drainage
- Want clear explanation and defense of why users are excluded.
- Sustainable designed trails should be the priority for new and re-aligned trails-correct bad trail design
- Surveys – what are the parameters of user research.
- Don't pave trails, especially those that were along streams. It covers too much "run-off"
- Don't open any new trails unless you have a plan for managing invasive plants. Shoes and bikes bring in seeds. A hard over-run with vines is no fun. I want to be able to stop for interesting plants. Many residents in Clarksburg favor all types of

trails. Little Bennett should have peaceful trails as a priority.

Biking

- kids love to bike
- biking on trails increases children's exercise and reduces their chances of obesity and type-2 diabetes both of which are reaching epidemic proportions especially in our poor and minority communities.
- Biking on trails allows further exploration of nature by children than can be achieved on foot.
- Biking is a life sport and can be enjoyed by several generations of families.
- Bikes can get to trails without requiring use of automobiles. Certain hiking only trails require access by automobile to reach the trail head. This increased use of vehicles also increases congestion and pollution.
- Provide an old farm or landfill for mountain bike use to avoid user conflicts.
- "Extreme" MBX – off trail riding
 - o ramps – hard surface
- to preserve environmental & entice mountain bikes off trails – lower damage especially after rain.
- Mountain bikes and BMX are completely different
 - o BMX – more contained/ more invasive/ more liability
 - o Mt. Bikes- more "touring", nature appreciation

4 STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Importance of Open & Green Areas in Developed Areas

- critical to quality of life
- leave some areas w/o facilities in existing parkland especially in down county areas
- any facilities should take account of ecological issues
- limit use & size of facilities
- Concern about confining green areas in stream valley- concern about pollution from wildlife
- South Fenton Gateway Park – ESSCA would like to preserve this park as an urban green respite and in keeping with explicit recommendations of the CBD sector plan as a green "gateway defined by landscaping, gardens."

General

- Spend more money on Natural Resources LOS, easements, etc.
- Natural resource preservation must be on a par with active recreation.
- Consider the seasonal nature of some types of recreation – e.g., baseball, when projecting need and plotting priorities
- Use community service with groups to maintain natural resources
- Better education/coordination through groups – box with info for proper trail use
- In down-county; Stewardship of natural resources must give weight to scarcity of resources for vibrant communities- - even non-pristine environments must be preserved or quality of life is irreparably hurt.
- The Montgomery Village Foundation Board of Directors asks the County to purchase Lot #7 of the Webb Tract (please see attached map) for public use as a natural area.

If the county were to purchase Lot #7, a relatively small, 4-acre lot, and allow it to become a natural ecological preserve, this would significantly enhance the

natural environment for current and future generations in the mid and upcounty areas. Lot 7 could be used as an educational resources by children from local elementary schools and the general public and it would serve to mitigate some of the negative impacts of locating a light industrial park right in the middle of a residential area.

Housing developments that are currently under construction near the Webb Tract include the 772-unit Hidden Creek development, the 198-unit Airpark One Apartments (productivity housing) and the 204-unit Gables Residential multi-family complex.

- It is important to save natural areas as much as possible – large and small tracts. Need to provide habitat for wildlife. This must be considered in zoning and development processes – paved land is not good habitat.
- No impervious surface in our parks
- Get funds to leverage State/County for LOS – is nearly out of funds. Need to acquire lands sooner because price is only going up.
- Natural area near Historic Area by Forest Glen needs to be preserved. gorgeous Woods and wild flowers
- Need to use LID in parks. Need to do more maintenance in natural areas. Need trail maintenance
- Carrying capacity of parks needs to be defined
- In the North Four Corners area- all the neighborhood associations have agreed that we want the Yeshiva property to remain as natural as possible- a plan that the county persists in ignoring in favor of a need more expensive plan for more 'active' recreation – ballfields skate parks etc.
- Don't remove dead trees from wooded areas as they are needed for wildlife habitat.

ICC

- NO ICC
- STOP THE ICC! It will destroy many ecologically important areas including pristine wetlands.
- County citizens and county officials need more education in the value if natural areas to provides services to us – air and water. See American Forests Method of Evaluating Forests.
- The route of the ICC wrong- on-way goes right through the incredibly important wetland area along North Branch/Rock creek – and it will destroy this sensitive ecosystem.
- The most helpful thing to do for natural and sensitive areas would be to ditch the ICC
- More citizen education needed on the value of green space and forests. Use American Forest program to determine economic value of existing green space in terms of its value in filtering air and water and storm water control.
- Please spend funds such as LOS to protect sensitive MOCO areas and restore impacted areas to their former more pristine nature. This means streams and wetland and forest stands (plant more trees in areas where the forests are impacted such as Sligo Creek). Control invasive which wreck biodiversity. No more bike trails in stream valley parks. Natural surface only.
- Conduct nature resource inventories to document bird life, amphibians and reptiles, mammals, and rare species in each parkland. Keep new trails outside wetlands.
- Recognize and consolidate undeveloped/used facilities (e.g. the ballfield on

Dennis and Sligo- rarely used.)

- Save as much land as possible intact – no trails, nothing. Say, 75% of all parkland. We want some land available to be decided about 50 and 100 years from now. Once wooded land is converted, you can go backwards to reclaim it – razing a building won't bring back plants that weren't there.
- Finish acquiring the Shale Barren properties off River Rd and Mt Nebo Rd. minimize new trail construction in conservation and stream valley parks to reduce forest fragmentation.
- Need more control of deer- an entire ecological niche is being destroyed.
- Need campaign, publicity, and education program on letter.
- Enforce forest conservation restrictions- don't leave it to the public.
- Encourage more interagency coordination between DEP, DPS, MNCPPC, AND DPWT.

Forest Protection

- Conserve/preserve as much forest as still exists- for the wildlife and for our own benefit.
- Save Glenmont Forest
- Save Matthew Henson Park
- Need more no man areas, to let the forests return
- Retain snags of dead trees for wildlife habitat.
- Keep large forest untouched because broken up pines of land never support as much wildlife as the same quantity in one large piece. Always build at edges, not on roads that own through the land.
- Please no more sculptures in parks that impact the important natural resources like trees. This happened in Jesup Blair Park with the oak leaf sculptures on the stone piers that are place to destroy the trees that they depict and represent.
- Stated concerns regarding land clearing activity/tree removal prior to side development.

Natural Resources- Watershed Protection and Storm Water Management

- Use on-site retention of storm water for landscape use and ground water recharge. This is critical to the M-NCPCC's role as protector of streams and stream valleys without GW recharge, the streams are just storm drain ditches.
- Don't allow construction in the flood plain.
- Work with communities to educate homeowners and other property owners to enhance storm water management. Use it as a resource to recharge ground water. MNCPPC should require this for all new development. Encourage green roofs, rain barrels, rain gardens.
- Join with St of MD and Montgomery County to protect, while developing, the Hawlings River stream Valley park – with adequate run off control into the system. From growth in the Olney – sunshine, Brookeville Area
- High use facilities should not be located in the most ecologically sensitive areas (e.g. basketball courts don't need to be right next to the streambed.)
- Prepare for SWM retrofits, exotic invasive species, etc. Design facilities to be ecologically friendly (e.g. NOT astro-turf; semi-permeable parking lots?) astro-turf – not natural, not true green space.
- Many residents in Clarksburg are very concerned and favor: reserving areas undeveloped; taking extra steps to keep water pure (especially their well water).
- Need more stream clean-ups and stream restoration. More use of LID and bio-

retention

- Pay particular attention to preservation of stream valleys and water quality when developing recreation facilities (i.g., limit such facilities)
- Preserve the Paint Branch Stream Valley Park and Protect the water quality so that it can continue to support the natural trout fishery that exists there. Supported by the Potomac Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Trails Use/ Construction

- No mountain bikes in the stream valleys or on steep slopes, provide other areas for bikes.
- plan new trails and trail repair with protection of ecological features in mind avoid wetlands, apply sustainability principles
- allow mountain bikes on trails in natural areas
- work with the mountain bike organizations to deal with trail issues- help re-design some trails
- some trails are too close to archeological sites
- My organization requires kids to do community work hours to complete their program they can/will/do work on trail maintenance on trails that are open to MTB.
- Mountain Bikes in field part of North Branch.
- Do not pave trails. it creates too much run-off.
- Don't allow mountain bikes on Rachel Carson Natural Trail section.
- Develop good complete and connected trails for bicycles to promote more use of bicycles and as transportation to deal with air and water pollution.
- Protect stream valley parks by building only natural surface trails.
- Include protection of bio-diversity ; a major goal of all planning.
- Ban bicycle usage on unpaved trails. provide cyclist their own park dedicated to that use. Buy an old farm or landfill for them.
- Define passive recreation as hiking/walking and I confine conservation parks to passive recreation only.

SWM

- Try to de-silt Burnt Mills reservoir

Control of Invasives

- Focus on programs to manage exotic invasive plants
- Please continue to increase programs, (volunteer and paid employees) to eradicate non-native invasive plant species in parks. Please emphasize acquisition of the Casey property of Hoyles Mill to maintain the ecological integrity of the Diabase ecosystem.
- Do something about managing invasive plants – get a trial team to go around removing and manage invasives. Take leadership – ask for volunteers to help. You have nothing to lose – it's good to draw people in.
- Need to get a handle on controlling invasive species. This is now a national issue (see USNPS website) but must be addressed at the local level. MNCPPC forest ecologist was a leader in this issue and should be provided with the resources she needs to get the job done.
- Need to control invasive spaces in parks – they are overwhelming parks.
- MNCPPC arborist cuts too many trees- and refuse to help remove invasives.

This must change.

5 STEWARDSHIP OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural Resources (historic)

- Please protect our cultural resources. In the past 6 years in Silver Spring, we have lost the Boy Scout Cabin in Sligo Creek Park. The Jesup Blair Cottage and the heritage recreation structure both in Jesup Blair Park. Please maintain not destroying these irreplaceable resources.
- Database of historic and pre-historic sites (obviously not for public availability) for the use of archaeologists/sociologist/anthropologists/historians/other researches as a resource. Theories regarding civilians may arise from an organized source of this information.
- Education of why preserved historic sites are kept vs. other sites that are not. What determines a site worthy or significant to be preserved? There is much to be done is educating the public of preserved sites.
- Historical site- consider acquisition of Haviland Mill site near Patuxent River and it's race [Haviland Mill Bridge immediate area]
- Please increase funding to maintain and acquire publicly owned historic sites.

Cultural Resources (interpretation)

- Save all historic site markers, and sites whenever it's at all possible. The slave century in Seneca should be studied and saved. Don't pave new areas until archaeological studies can be made.
- Provide better interpretation of historic sites with signage and kiosks so that citizens can learn about local history at each historic sites.
- With the county being quickly paved over we need a process to insure that material culture is found and available for interpretation.
- A description of historic, archaeological park at some sites.
- Stabilizing mill ruins for interpretation purposes.
- Interpreted trails for archaeology and historic use.

Archaeology

- Require archaeological survey of all proposed development to catalog sites of potential historic significance. Surveys should be done in a manner such that it does not burden developers in fact, historic significance could increase potential value of site.
- Provide for requirement to do at least a phase I arch. Survey (and more as required) whenever new developments, road improvements, etc. are proposed.
- Provide for more and improved facilities for proper storage of collections of artifacts.
- Larger focus in identifying and preserving pre-historic sites in the area. (the Potomac River would be a great starting point for this)
- Send out archaeologists to every construction site before and during the earth moving, especially in Clarksburg where items were found 9,000 years old and where Braddock's troops camped. Slow down construction for this.
- We need to survey sites before any construction can be done, just like in PGC
- I favor archaeology for Indian sites.
- Collective resources of artifacts in one database that will help enhance resource availability and to minimize duplication of information -> this may also lead to new

theories of established civilization in the MD-DC-VA region

- This area has been inhabited for so many centuries. There are surely archaeological treasures yet to be found, and we should show off what we have found.

6 AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION

Churches in Agricultural Preservation Area

- No development in Agricultural Reserve, especially churches.
- Protect the Agricultural Reserve. No mega churches.
- From what I've seen, Clarksburg puts a high priority on preserving the agricultural preserve. We like churches but are worried that the treatment they are given for special. exception will hurt the Agricultural preserve and the plan made assuming them.
- Our Agricultural Reserve is so valuable to us all that we must pull out stops to preserve it. No exceptions to sewer restriction, and no alternative septic. system, mega churches do not belong in the Agricultural Reserve. fill it with mega churches and you'll have no farms. Incompatible.
- Preserve beautiful farmland and woods from development of houses, malls, and mega churches with large parking lots.

Management

- Manage deer – on any land and everywhere.
- Ag land should be managed to keep land wooded and biologically diverse. Discourage opening land up to invasive plants.
- Keep from nibbling away at the fringes of the Agricultural Reserve. Don't extend sewer into the Agricultural Reserve.
- Keep the sewer service out of the Agricultural Reserve.
- Need to fund study on imperviousness in Agricultural Preserve.
- We need imperviousness limits in the Agricultural Reserve – 8% would be dust, certainly no more than 10%
- Save as much of the beautiful county as possible.
- Need to strongly encourage, even start up subsidies, for organic farming. Need more deer control.
- More funds for acquisitions for passive uses. Farmland close to cities is smart planning.

Summary of Meeting LPPRP Natural Resources Issues October 20, 2005

John Hench
Mary Dolan
Sally Gagne
John Parrish
Lynn Vismara
Tanya Schmieler

Charles Pritchard
Michael Pollock
Ginny Barnes
Deloris Milmoe
Jayne Hench
Norma Kawecki

Doug Redmond
Rob Gibbs
Mark Wallis
Mark Symborski
Charles Deering

John Hench opened the meeting with introductions and an overview of the planning process. He then described the contents of the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan and the subsequent PROS Strategic Plan. There was discussion throughout the meeting of the difference between the LPPRP document, the 1998 PROS plan and the upcoming PROS strategic plan - most seemed relieved that this strategic plan would address some of their concerns but there was a strong feeling that this document should also include more. Group members wanted to clear up confusion between the plans and continue to explain that this plan is necessary to secure continued state funding for local land acquisition and improvements. The following comments were made at the meeting:

- The plan needs more emphasis on recreation as enjoyment of the whole park. The natural setting is part of the whole park experience and should be recognized as a facility in itself, not just the trails or ball fields, etc.
- There is a need to have the definition of recreation be more inclusive so that it captures all the activities associated with use of natural areas such as hiking, birding, photography, fishing, relaxing in a quiet natural setting, etc., as well as the more traditional recreation activities.
- The plan should have a rationale for the proposed natural resource parkland. Be explicit about the importance of the natural ecosystem for the general well being of citizens - e.g. less pollution, erosion, better water quality, etc. Provide more quantitative information where available to illustrate this. The current document gives at least the illusion that ball fields are very important because a lot of calculations go into predicting needs but little of the same effort seems to go into natural areas.
- Include the top priority natural resource acquisition lands with a description in the plan.
- Need to include the requirements of a healthy ecosystem - e.g. forest size, connectivity, species diversity, diversity of habitat, stream quality, the need for management efforts to maintain the health of the ecosystem (e.g. deer, NNI and habitat mgt, RTE protection, habitat restoration).
- Preservation of natural resources is essential to create viable ecosystems in which people and wildlife can coexist.
- Include more photos of nature based recreation and natural resources, providing balance to the document.

- Add into the document the number of volunteers hours working on natural resource stewardship projects. Friends of Sligo Creek have put in thousands of hours. Provide recognition of these and other natural area user groups on the same footing as team sports.
- In the Agricultural Preservation Chapter, highlight the issues of large institutional uses; the use of sand mounds to increase development; increasing development on child lots, and changes to the TDR program.

In the PROS Strategic Plan,

- Put environmental preservation before preservation. The environment is the big picture and must be considered first.
- There should be more information available to elected officials and the public about the importance of natural areas and parkland for resource protection. This could be styled after the successful efforts now underway for the Ag Reserve. It was suggested that this could emphasize the importance to water quality, public water supply, air quality and the quality of life. Economic values such as developed for forestland and real estate values should be included. The group suggested that this be further brainstormed as part of the PROS Strategic Plan. A map or maps that illustrate the concepts would be helpful. This could then support more advocacy for protection of natural resource land.
- The PROS Strategic Plan should look at the park classification system to find a way to preserve important natural areas from being considered for active recreation use in the future. There is a fear that Legacy and other land acquisition programs are banking land for future ball fields and other facilities.
- There is a feeling that Park and Planning does not do enough to publicize the work that is being done on studies, planning and management. More outreach is needed.
- Since the structure of the LPPRP must follow the state guidelines, re-order the chapters in the PROS Strategic Plan so that the natural resources chapter provides the overall context.
- The plan should address how to accommodate both recreation and natural green space in the developed areas of the county.

Green Infrastructure Functional Master Plan

Mark Symborski presented the concept for the plan and distributed a schedule and information about the public outreach effort that is just beginning. The plan will follow a methodology similar to the Prince Georges' plan. It will be science-based and provide a way to look at preservation of green infrastructure in the Ag Reserve without opening the master plan for that area. It will identify an countywide network with opportunities for preservation and linkages that could be reinforced through mitigation related other projects. Questions raised included:

- How to account for developed areas of parks? Are ball fields part of the green infrastructure?

- Locating areas where environmental restoration would enhance corridors in our parks.
- How to look at smaller green spaces in the context of green infrastructure.
- How to integrate agricultural area concerns into the plan
- Be sure to link the PROS Strategic Plan and Legacy Open Space Plan

MINUTES OF WORKSHOP ON FUTURE RECREATION NEEDS Tuesday December 7, 2004- Parkside Lounge

Overview

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss: 1) future recreation needs for fields, 2) local parks and 3) emerging trends. The workshop was sponsored by the Park Planning and Resource Unit of Countywide Planning and attended by approximately 50 people including representatives from the Recreation Department, Park Region Staff, Park Design and Development, Park Police, Planning Department, etc. Following a general discussion, the workshop divided people into three groups, and they moved to a station on one of the three subjects. Each group spent 20 minutes discussing a subject and then rotated. At the end of the workshop, the station moderator summarized the comments of his groups on questions related to the subject.

Summary of introductory general session

- Jeff Zyontz welcomed the group and indicated how appreciative he was of the many Recreation Department and Park & Planning Staff. It was indicated that we are looking at future needs for current type of facilities, but also emerging trends for new types of activities.
- John Hench explained the park classification system and the table being developed that includes different methodologies for estimating facility needs. The workshop is intended to gain some insight as to staff opinions about facilities needed.
- A general discussion took place at the beginning of the meeting on emerging trends.

Recreation Trends were discussed by Robin Riley from the Recreation Department.

On November 17, a forum was held by MCRD. Although attendance was not extremely large; two hundred survey responses were received. The biggest issues reported concerning local parks are permitting of fields and parking. The majority of attendees came to complain about permitting issues. Some attendees testified that they see an increase in fees and a reduction in the quality of maintenance and officiating.

Representatives from the Department of Recreation mentioned several trends including:

1. An increase in organized youth team sports
2. A decrease in organized adult team sports. Those adults, who do participate in team sports, participate in age-restricted leagues. Adults are active in more individual, unscheduled sports such as jogging, indoor exercise rooms etc.
3. A decrease in softball teams for adults and youth, and an increase in soccer teams.
4. A shifting in the population age patterns. The number of senior citizens will outnumber youth in the year 2010 in Montgomery County.

5. A decrease in roller hockey teams in Montgomery County (although this may partially because of the inadequacy of facilities)
6. Athletic teams are going to Prince Georges County to play because the fees are less and the facilities are better..
7. A decrease in tennis, with the exception of indoor.

Other general trends expressed at the workshop were:

8. A decrease in use of basketball courts in some local parks potentially because more residential homes and schools have put in basketball courts.
9. An increase in playground and ballfield use at local parks.
10. A desire for unprogrammed open spaces for informal use, particularly in newly developing areas with dense housing, and the need for large flexible spaces that can be redeveloped as needs change.

Tanya Schmieler asked the participants to break into three groups to discuss the following topics : 1) field sports needs; 2) local parks of the future; and 3) emerging Recreation Trends. People met in groups to answer questions about the topic and rotated to another topic after 20 minutes, ultimately visiting each station. A summary of the results of the discussions were as follows:

Topic 1. SPORTS FIELD NEEDS

Questions

- 1) What trends do you see in sports, and age groups?
- 2) For what sports do you anticipate field shortages in the future and do you think preliminary field estimate numbers are reasonable?
- 3) How far should people be expected to travel to a game field? Practice field?

Question 1 responses - What trends do you see in sports, and age groups?

Trends

- more demand for sports for seniors
- more youth competitive sports vs. more informal adult recreational sports
- different usage trends may occur including early use, and later use calling for, more lit fields
 - need for Cricket and Rugby not in Montgomery County because county permit/usage policies do not encourage
- Increasing Adult Soccer (need to look at New Demographics)
- Increasing Informal (unpermitted) soccer
- Increased need for Urban Fields – inside the Beltway – Near Metro Stations

Related Recommendations

- light new parks from the beginning
- provide more guidance for new facilities in a new regional/rock parks
- use alternative field surfaces - artificial turf !!!
- construct rotate-able rectangular fields
- allow 360 > minimum for multipurpose fields
- provide guidance to the schools on field sizes
- provide interior play space, share multi-use space within facilities
- provide more space neede for pick up games
- greatly increase lighted fields
-

Question 2. Responses- For what sports do you anticipate field shortages in the future and do you think preliminary field estimate numbers are reasonable?

Future field shortages that were mentioned were:

- baseball fields with 90ft baselines
- football, field hockey, soccer, lacrosse full size rectangle fields
- Lacrosse, roller hockey, soccer
- Field hockey

Related Recommendations

- create a better relationship with schools
- make middle schools more the focus, include
 - i. lights
 - ii.fences
 - iii.restrooms
- make rectangular fields rotate-able
- allow time to rest the fields
 - provide artificial turf
- create local ballfields of flexible size
- Look at ways to overcome NIMBYism against neighborhood fields
- Quality Fields are most important !!!!
- Are soccer fields overused?Is perceived shortage of soccer fields real?
- We need something larger than a local park but not as big as a regional
 - i. needs bathrooms
 - ii.trash service
 - iii. adequate parking and bus access

Question 3 Responses How far should people be expected to travel to a game field? Practice field?

- People want to be in neighborhood
- Should be willing to travel a little more to better fields
- practices & pick up games B 15 min max
- for competitive & organized games B more travel possible
- some will go as far as they have to

Related Recommendations

- provide access to fields via trails & paths for neighborhoods
- find a way to limit parking of non-neighborhood issues in neighborhoods
- Look at other municipalities definitions of expectations
- Today=s= team-oriented younger generation will continue interest in team sports later in life as it is their exercise Alife@ style.
- A friendlier team sport permitting system is needed specific to the needs of outdoor and indoor sports= needs (including evening hours/light/practice times and lengths (1hr not enough))

Topic II. LOCAL PARKS OF THE FUTURE

Questions

- 1) What changes do you see in local parks of the future?**
- 2) Do you think preliminary estates for future playgrounds; multi-use courts and tennis courts appear reasonable?**
- 3) How far should people be expected to travel to a local park?**

Q1 Responses B What changes do you see in local parks of the future

- recreational parks handles more ballfield traffic
new community park Acomplexes@
- walk to easily B play whatever I like
- multi-use facilities for basket-ball/ scooters & bikes
- fences for security
- lighting B many people don=t welcome night use
- What do we need from our spaces?
 - Dog walk places
 - Evening lights only?
- Seniors use will increase
 - Grandchildren usage
 - Paved trail use
 - Tennis (more indoors)
 - Need better surfaces B injuries/death concerns B
 - provide easy access
- Outdoor needs - walk
- Flexible schedules/ odd hours
 - More indoor use
 - More lights - later use?

Non-traditional hours? to accommodate trails
emphasis of playground non compact event location- more walking paths need programming of facilities
do not change - used by adjacent community AND meet group ree needs need parking to meet needs
parks need to be more strategically placed B visible from street vs houses
more volleyball courts
more individual activities B jog/ run
we need more readily accessible parks
walking routes are essential to successful access
access to indoor activities in bad weather
local parks Bmore individual use
cluster facilities for organized sports
In new development B Communities are looking for close B not clustered facilities
need to build before or simultaneously as community is being built
Land resources are diminishing B what are opportunities to retro-fill existing rec parks?
Need to ID new possibilities prior to development of park
urban parks are needed
consider year-round surfaces?
multi-use spaces
handi-cap playground surface (Falls Rd)
need naming system range to reflect size of parks

Question 2 Do you think preliminary estates for future playgrounds; multi-use courts and tennis courts appear reasonable?

Regional Park Fields

- Preliminary estimates for Ballfield Regional Park complexes are not enough.

Local park ballfields

- enough but over used
- inside 495 not enough
- there are some empty school ballfields

Basketball courts

- more indoor
- not enough outdoor
- more indoor multi-use with track
-

Tennis Courts

- not a need for outdoor tennis courts
- group tennis courts together
- seniors need indoor courts

Other Needs

- Trails
- loop trails – scooters
- dog parks/sitting areas
- Brookeside overwhelmed
- more small child swings
- tiny tot parks
- open space/lawns – not --- used
- aesthetically pleasing & safe parks
-
- When planning a future park -Look at what=s in the area B adjacent school facilities
-
- Don't rely totally too much on schools as *mom=s can=t go to school during day
- renovated school field alleviate local park field needs
-

Question 3 Responses – How far should people be expected to travel to a local park?

- depends on purpose
 - informal play- closer
 - team sports- drive farther
- different expectations for different uses
- Depends on Age group 15 min --walk only for local park
- mode of transport?how does public transportation effect access?
- get parks on transport routes
- People should be able to Walk
- 10-15 minutes max
- ride bike with kids
- facilities should be near school/near home
- provide entry to park from many directions
- Bike path/trails
- Public transport routes can restrict park access B 270/ GA Ave/ dangerous x-ing
- Provide access paths
- Is it our responsibility to build parking everywhere?

- Create more "group" complexes alleviates local park overburdens – allows more multi use of L.P.s
- Access Down-County vs. Up. County is different Up county facilities are farther apart and many require driving

TOPIC 3- EMERGING FACILITY NEEDS

- 1) What are the emerging trends for which the Commission needs to provide facilities? Which are temporary, which are long term? Are these all-regional facilities, or can any of these be provided at local parks
- 2) What are some of the ways the Commission can provide for these new activities?

Q1 What are the emerging trends for which the Commission needs to provide which facilities are long term and which are short term?

Most Long term activities will be ---

- dog park
- obstacle courses for dogs
- BMX on track
- free form not MTN. Bikes
- "Senior Leagues" - Regional Parks
- Sports not staying in seasons
- multi-purpose facility
- trails

Short term activities

- skate board ST regional
- Bocci Ball
- indoor rock climbing

- Splash Parks – Spray grounds
- Public – indoor exercise area Local
- Public multi – use indoor facility: Health Club idea plus! 1 big complex Reg./Both
- Jogging Theme Walking: Art walk/ History/Nature

- Paint Ball
- Skateboard Plaza Local
- Dog Parks Both Regional & Local
- Bike Paths

Cricket	Regional users L.T.
Volleyball	R + L
Badminton	R +
Skateboard	R + L
Paintball	Regional
Outdoor concert Venues	Regional
Sledding, ice skating x.c skiing outdoor	
Dog park	
Water play – splash park (o H2O depth)	
<u>Indoor</u> and outdoor individual activities: multi-use-with – track – pool – exercise health club type	
Putt-putt golf	Regional
BMX	Regional
Meeting spaces with parking	
Extreme or Fear Factor type activities	
Rock climbing/zip line	
Challenge courses	
Motor cross	Regional
Flexible facilities both indoor & outdoor	

Q3: How to accommodate trends?

- Think regionally - outside the county and work with multi agency
- Think flexibility in facilities (can be converted to other activities
- All facilities should be tied to public transportation & pathways.
- Find better ways to assess needs so we can prioritize
- Build flexible facilities that can be converted for other uses.
- Incorporate service: trash, parking & sanitary services
- Develop policies that are friendly to public/private partner