

June 14, 2005

Memorandum

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

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Subject: **Transmittal of 2005 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) to Maryland Department of Planning and Department of Natural Resources as a Staff Draft**

Staff Recommendations

- **Transmit Staff Draft Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) to Maryland Department of Planning and Department of Natural Resources**
- **Continue outreach over the summer, present Public Hearing Draft September 15, 2005, and**
- **Hold public hearing on October 27, 2005**

The State Guidelines for the 2005 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), outreach, and schedule and proposed subsequent Park, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Strategic Plan were discussed with the Planning Board on April 28, 2005. This item focuses on the contents of the Staff Draft, which is due to the Maryland Department of Planning by June 30, 2005.

Staff will work to improve the Plan over the summer by conducting outreach to user group representatives on future needs, and continuing to analyze permit data, facility inventories and capacity, before returning to the Planning Board with a Public Hearing Draft in September. A copy of the proposed schedule for completion of the Plan is shown in Attachment A.

OVERVIEW AND SCOPE OF PLAN

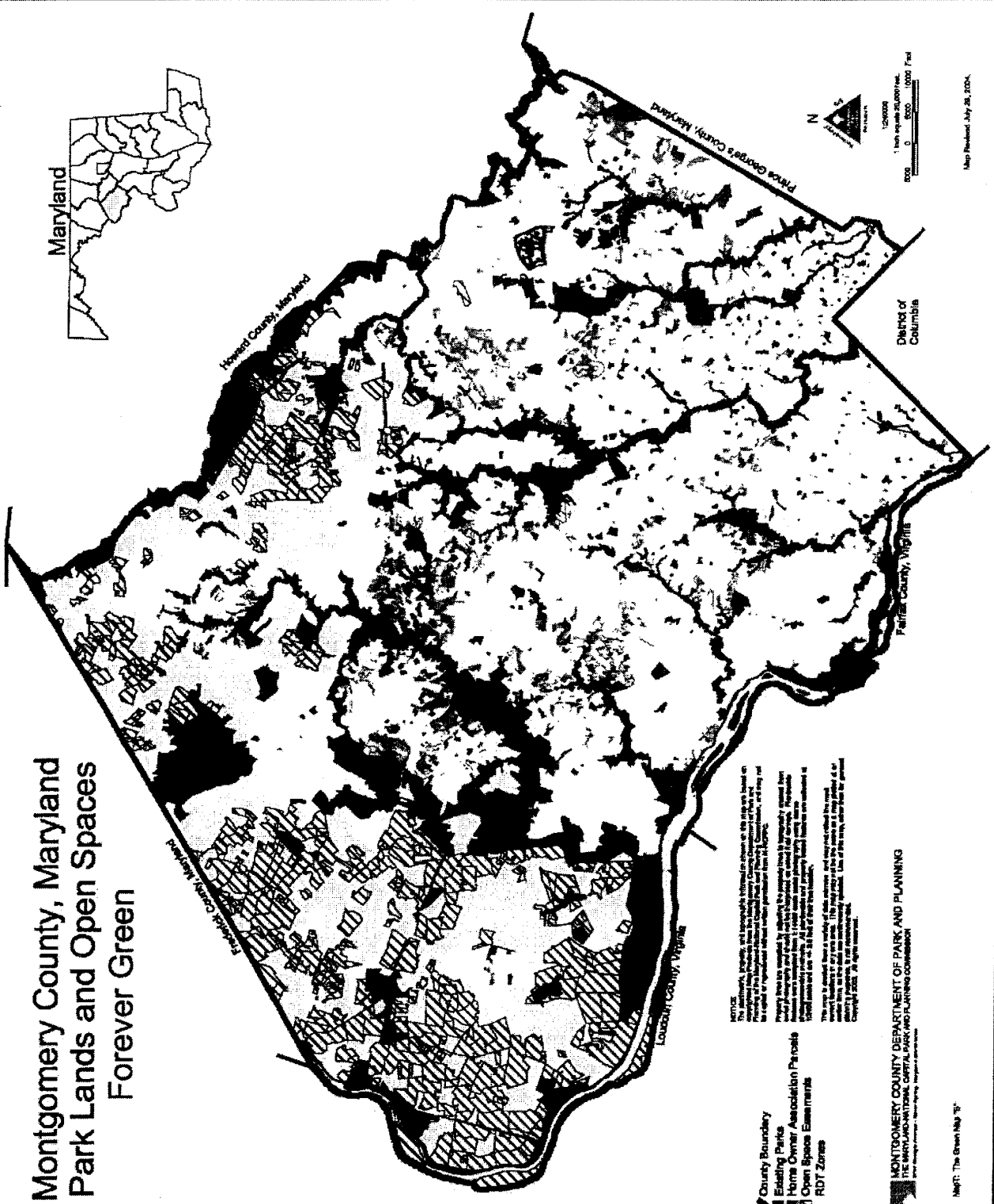
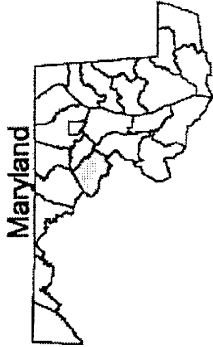
The new guidelines developed by the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources call for the LPPRP to have specific sections which are listed below. A summary of existing programs, findings and future direction for each section is included in this memorandum.

- 1) **Recreation, Parks and Open Space** which discusses planning for parks, open space, recreation facilities, and parkland acquisition, including quantitative analysis for supply, demand and needs for an increased number of facilities, and implementation recommendations;
- 2) **Agricultural Land Preservation**, which includes information on the public commitment to Land Preservation and supportive local goals, plans, and implementation programs. It also provides a description of the Agricultural Preservation Programs and summary of needed new initiatives;
- 3) **Natural Resource Conservation**. Which discusses current goals and implementation programs for conservation of natural resource lands and summary of needed improvements; and
- 4) **Cultural Resource Conservation**- Staff has added this additional chapter on cultural resource preservation. It was inadvertently omitted from the guidelines. However, the State recognizes the importance of cultural resource conservation, and has asked that it be included in the LPPRP.

PLAN MAP

The "Forever Green " map shown on the following page serves as the overall map for the 2005 LPPRP. It illustrates the land in Montgomery County that is preserved for parkland serving recreation and natural and cultural resource conservation needs, and land preserved for agriculture and private open space.

Montgomery County, Maryland Park Lands and Open Spaces Forever Green



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- County Boundary
- Existing Parks
- Home Owner Association Parcels
- Open Space Easements
- RDY Zones

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND PLANNING
 THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Map #: The Green Map '95

Map Revised: July 28, 2004

1) RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

EXISTING PARKLAND

There are over 32,000 acres in the M-NCPPC Park System. Nearly 90% of this parkland is in large Countywide Parks that provide conservation and open space as well as active recreation facilities in some areas. There are also approximately 230 local parks that provide close to home recreation for area residents. In addition to acquisition through the Capital Improvements Program and Legacy Open Space, much parkland is received in dedication through the subdivision development process.

FINDINGS ON ESTIMATED DEMAND AND NEEDS

The State Guidelines for the LPPRP require needs projection for a large number of facilities through the year 2020. Estimating the demand for these park facilities is very difficult and can be said to be more art than science. The projections consider both age and future total population in estimating park needs. Results from several surveys were used to determine recreation activity participation rates, including the 2000 park user survey and the 2003 telephone surveys by both the County and the State. Input from needs received from staff, other agencies, user groups and the public is also being considered. Staff will continue to analyze the need projections and expand outreach to user groups over the summer. The Public Hearing Draft projections will be adjusted where new information results in revised needs. Information on recreation trends and preliminary public input received to date is included in Attachment 2.

The population of the County is predicted to grow from 915,000 to over a million residents by the year 2020. New facilities will need to be constructed in developing areas, however renovation and redevelopment of older facilities will be essential, particularly in down county areas.

Preliminary Needs Estimates

The following Tables include preliminary estimates of public recreation facility needs for the year 2020. As previously mentioned, these estimates will be further refined during the next several months based on additional data and public input, prior to the final plan.

Facilities Served within Planning Areas

Facilities including playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts are considered to serve neighborhood recreation needs and should be provided close to home. For this reason, need estimates have been calculated on an individual planning area basis. Therefore needs are to be met within the planning area, and surplus facilities cannot count as serving an adjacent planning area. Facility estimates are for the peak spring season and were developed using the M-NCPPC methodology and based on participation rates observed by the year 2000 User Survey. The preliminary demand numbers in this section were based on the 6.4 demographic model but do not include the Cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg as they have their own Recreation Departments and facilities and do not contribute to the local park tax.

Preliminary Future Recreation Needs Estimates for the Year 2020

Service area	Facility	Methodology	Existing Park and School Facilities	2020 Estimated Needs
Planning Area	Playgrounds with the exception of regional adventure playgrounds)-	M-NCPPC	290	29
Planning Area	Tennis courts (with the exception of Recreation /Regional court s	MNCPPC	363	5
Planning Area	Basketball courts	MNCPPC	398	12

As shown in the following table, heaviest needs for these facilities are in the developing I-270 Area. The greatest need is for playgrounds with nearly 30 additional estimated to be needed by 2020. This estimate does not include adventure playgrounds or tennis complexes at regional and recreational parks, which should be accommodated in these parks wherever feasible. Facilities proposed in the CIP at parks and schools combined with developer built public facilities will accommodate the majority of the 2020 estimated needs.

Un-met Needs by the Year 2020 by Planning Area

Planning Area	PA Num.	Basketball Courts 2020	Playgrounds 2020	Tennis Courts 2020
Damascus	10,11,14,15	0	0.5	1.5
Poolesville	12,16,17,18	0	0	0
Clarksburg	13	5.3	11.7	2.7
Germantown	19	0	6.5	0
Gaithersburg	20	0	1.4	0
Rock Creek	22	0	2.3	1.2
Olney	23	0	0	0
Darnestown	24	0	0	0
Travilah	25	3.8	2.1	0
Aspen Hill	27	0	2.7	0
Cloverly	28	0	0	0
Potomac	29	0	0	0
North Bethesda	30	0	2.1	0
Kensington/Wheaton	31	0	0	0
Kemp Mill/Four Corners	32	0	0	0
White Oak	33	0	0	0
Fairland	34	0	0	0
Bethesda	35	0	0	0
Silver Spring	36	1.2	0	0
Takoma Park	37	1.5	0	0
TOTALS		11.8	29.2	5.4
Totals Rounded		12	29	5

Facilities Served within Community Based Team Areas.

In the 2000 Park User survey, ballfields accounted for 65% of use observed at local parks. The Community-based Team Areas (which are 7 clusters of Planning Areas) are recommended as the service area within which to project fields. Most field sports teams play other teams from within the County and drive to parks or schools to play their games, so the service area for fields is larger than the Planning Area. It is desirable, however, to minimize driving time by striving to meet field needs in the general area of the players. Field use needs include estimates for all types of fields for both youth and adults, unlike the 1998 Plan which estimated only total field needs for all sports. For purposes of this analysis, As staff assumed field needs will be met within the individual Community Based Team Areas, deficits in one Area cannot be served by surpluses in another Area. It should be noted, however, that some field needs might be met by converting one field type to another. Need estimates are for a peak spring week and are based on participation rates derived from 2002 Park Permit data, and input from the Maryland portion of the "National Superstudy of Sports Participation."

Field Need Projections by Type of Sport

Service area	Facility	Methodology	Existing Park and School Facilities	Maximum 2020 Estimated Needs
Community Based Team Area	Youth diamonds (T-ball, youth softball and baseball)	MNCPPC	133*	5
Community Based Team Area	Multi-purpose Youth baseball/Adult Softball diamonds (these sports play on the same type of field)	MNCPPC	172 *	19 *
Community Based Team Area	Baseball (90' base paths- Adults and teens)	MNCPPC	35 *	15
Community Based Team Area	Multi-purpose rectangular field (Soccer/Football/Lacrosse)	MNCPPC	101	77 **
Community Based Team Area	<u>Youth rectangular field (Soccer/Football/Lacrosse)</u>	MNCPPC	87 *	16
TOTALS			528	129

* Methodology assumes youth fields have a lower weekly capacity than adult fields
 ** Includes 10% Adult Softball Practice Factor.
 *** Includes 10% Resting/Renovation Factor for Multi-purpose Rectangular Sports.

As shown in the tables, a maximum total Countywide need of approximately 130 additional fields are estimated to be needed by 2020, over half of which are for multi-use rectangular fields. However, within the team area, fields needs may potentially be lowered by converting fields to another use (where feasible) to meet the needs, and can potentially lower the total field need to a little over 100. In the following table, the total needs number on the right is shown as a range reflecting that some field needs may be met by converting one field type to another. The minimum number assumes that adult fields, except for 90 ft baseball can be converted to another field type.

Future fields proposed in the Park and MCPS Capital Improvements Program appear to only provide about half of the field need estimates for 2020. However there are many undeveloped park and school sites that have the potential to provide additional fields. A functional plan could be conducted in the future to analyze individual field conversion potential as well as analyze potential for future site development.

Field Need Projections by Community Based Team Areas

COMMUNITY BASED TEAM AREA 2020 FIELD NEEDS Planning Team Area	Number of Youth (0-9) Multi-Purpose Diamonds Needed	** Number of 10-14 BB/10-65+ Softball Diamonds Needed*	Number of Baseball 15+ Fields Needed	*** Number of Adult (10-65+) Multi-Purpose Rectangular Fields Needed**	Number of Youth (0-9) Multi-Purpose Rectangles Fields Needed	*Range Minimum/Maximum
Rural	-1.7	-2.8	1.4	5.3	-2.5	3.9/6.7
I-270	0.3	3.5	1.6	20.0	9.9	35.4/35.4
Georgia Avenue	-6.4	-17.5	0.5	10.0	2.5	.5/13
Potomac	-0.1	6.0	3.9	4.9	-4.0	14/14.8
Eastern County	-0.3	-19.6	-0.3	5.0	1.2	0/6.2
Bethesda/Chevy Chase	4.5	-7.3	3.7	20.9	1.9	29.3/29.3
Silver Spring/TP	-1.9	9.8	3.4	11.1	-3.3	24.3/24.3

TOTAL 108.2/129.7

* Minimum needs assume the maximum number of field conversions can be made, and is subject to future confirmation through individual field studies. Maximum needs assume youth can use adult fields, but no field conversions.

** Includes 10% Adult Softball Practice Factor.

*** Includes 10% Resting/Renovation Factor for Multi-purpose Rectangular Sports.

Facilities Served County-wide

The remaining facilities are projected on a total countywide basis in the 2005 LPPRP because most facilities are located in regional or recreational parks and serve large portions of the County. Several of these facility needs are based on Master Plans or special studies (such as the Countywide Park Trail Plan). The following table indicates preliminary estimates for 2020. The needs for picnic shelters, nature centers roller hockey, and skate parks are based on the State Planning Department methodology, and utilize participation rates derived from the 2003 State telephone survey, supplemented where possible by M-NCPPC park permit data. Dog Exercise area needs were projected using the Fairfax County facilities/population methodology because of insufficient survey data. Needs for Natural Areas were based on proposed sites determined by environmental analysis in approved Area Master Plans, and the Countywide Park Trail Plan is the basis for needs for trails to serve walkers, bikers and equestrians. For community recreation centers (which do not include small M-NCPPC) centers, and aquatic facilities, the 2003 proposed update to the Recreation Department's Long Range Facility Plan provided the basis for the needs projections. We are currently working with the Department and analyzing service area and user data. Preliminary estimates below may be revised in the Public Hearing Draft as a result of this analysis.

Service area	Facility	Methodology	Existing Park and School Facilities	2020 Estimated Needs
County-wide	Permit Picnic Shelters	State Planning/Plus M-NCPPC Data	78	21
County-wide	County-Wide Group Picnic Areas	State Planning/Plus M-NCPPC Data	3	1
County-wide	Nature Centers	State Planning/Plus M-NCPPC Data	4	2.3
County-wide	Roller Hockey (Game) Facilities	State Planning	2.5	1
County-wide	Skate Parks-(Including Informal Use Areas)	State Planning	1(Olney)	15
County-wide	Dog Exercise Areas	Fairfax County	3	15
County-wide	Natural Areas In M-NCPPC Parks	MNCPPC- Areas in Approved Plans	17,682	5796 Acres
County-wide	Natural Surface Regional Trails	Trails In County-Wide Trails Plan	118 Miles	108 Miles
County-wide	Hard Surface Regional Trails	Trails In County-Wide Trails Plan	43 Miles	61 Miles
County-wide	Community Recreation Centers	Recreation Dept	18	10
County-wide	Aquatic Facilities	Recreation Dept	6 Indoor 3 Outdoor	1 Indoor 2 Outdoor

FUTURE DIRECTION/IMPLEMENTATION

Staff will continue work over the summer to explore ways that projected needs can be implemented. Virtually all of the 2020 need for playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts and a portion of the ballfield needs can be met by the combination of M-NCPPC and MCPS Capital Improvements Programs, developer built public parks, and facilities on currently owned parkland. The greatest need will be providing for needed ballfields. Ballfields, particularly large rectangular multi-purpose for soccer and lacrosse, have greater estimated deficiencies than any other facilities and needs are harder to accommodate as fields require large level areas and consume more space than any other local park facility. Tables listing projects in the Capital Improvements Program are included in Attachment 4.

2. AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council and the American Farmland Trust, Montgomery County has the most successful farmland and open space preservation program in the United States. Ninety-three thousand acres in Montgomery County have been set aside, through zoning for agricultural and open space uses. The County's diverse agricultural industry has 577 farms and 350 horticultural enterprises, which contributes \$250 million to the local economy. The Preservation of Agriculture and Rural Open Space Functional Master Plan outlines the County's goals on land preservation, and an important component is ensuring the continued viability of agriculture.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

The 1964 General Plan proposed protection of agriculture using "green wedges" and in 1974, a Rural Zone was approved to protect them. The *Preservation of Agriculture & Rural Open Space Functional Master Plan* was adopted by the M-NCPPC and approved by the County Council in 1980 to address the issue of the loss of farmland on the urban fringe. The Functional Plan proposed the creation and application of two zoning techniques, the Rural Density Transfer (RDT) and the Rural Cluster (RC) Zones, in conjunction with a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) system.

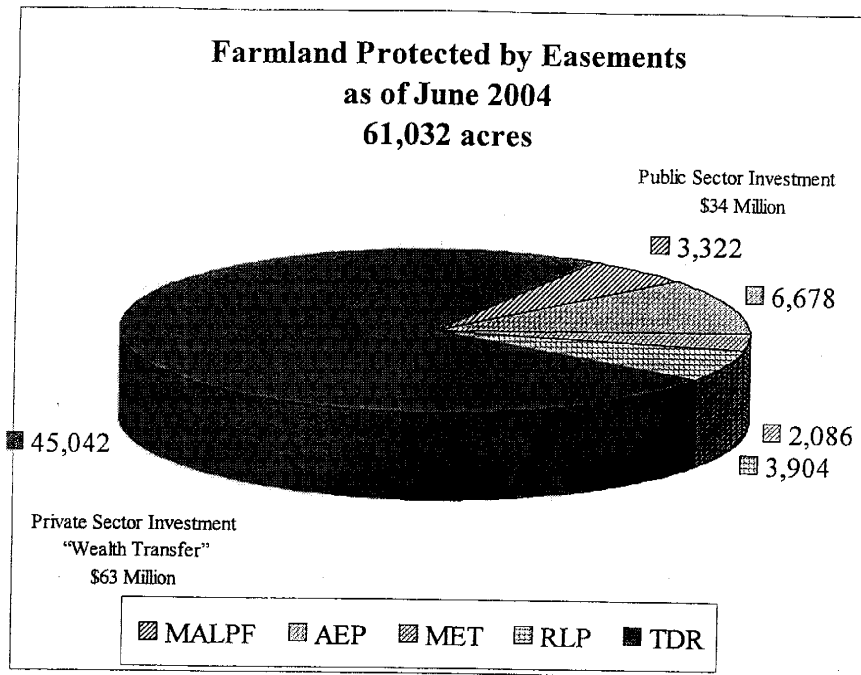
The RDT Zone gives strong preference to agriculture, forestry, and open space uses, as well as allowing a wide variety of agriculturally related commercial and industrial uses. It discourages residential uses by restricting residential development to one dwelling unit per 25 acres. Use of the RDT Zone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

Montgomery County currently has six programs available for land preservation, in Montgomery County's "toolbox" of land Preservation Program Options for landowners: Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) easement program, Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), Transfer of Development Rights Program (TDR), Montgomery County Agricultural Easement Program (AEP), the Maryland Rural Legacy Program (RLP), and the M-NCPPC Legacy Open Space Program (LOS)

FINDINGS

Through FY2004, Montgomery County has protected 61,032 acres of farmland through the preservation programs offered to its residents. The pie chart on the following page, graphically illustrates the progress made by the County's preservation programs through FY2004.

Montgomery County has established a goal of protecting 70,000 acres of farmland. Through FY2004, the County is about 87 percent of the way towards reaching that goal. By examining the trend of development versus the trend of agricultural land preservation, achievement of the goal should be attained by the year 2010, provided no significant economic and political disruptions occur.



FUTURE DIRECTION

The M-NCPPC is also committed to continuing the preservation of Montgomery County's agricultural heritage by working with governmental and private sector partners to ensure that the County's Agricultural Preservation programs reflect 21st century land use issues and agricultural economics. We must continue to expand the use of TDRs within the County wherever possible.

Legislative efforts are necessary to implement budget initiatives and deer management measures in the County Council, as well as increasing the profile and public awareness of agriculture throughout the county. "Twenty-five years ago, public officials recognized that the best way to preserve farmland and open space was to preserve the business of farming," "As the population in our region continues to grow, this principle will become even more important in the future that this tradition is not only sustained, but flourishes."

In addition we must recommend changes in State Law that limit property tax assessments on protected lands. As the remaining undeveloped farmland increases in value, it is almost certain that the tax assessments will also increase and place increased financial burden on farmers. This future concern is reflected in how these increased assessments will negatively impact the farmer's ability to make a living in farming. A change in law will ensure that historic and significant farm related structures are not demolished because they cost too much to retain.

3. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

The natural environment of Montgomery County, its soils, streams, rivers, wetlands, and woodlands, support a variety of plants and animals. This environment contributes to the County's high quality of life, visual quality and character. Due to its proximity to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, Montgomery County is expected to continue developing at a fairly rapid pace. The critical concern is how to protect the County's air, water, land, and wildlife resources while managing growth and making development more environmentally sensitive. Currently, about 28,000 acres of locally owned parkland are considered as conservation or stream valley parks (including 2/3 of the acreage of regional parks set aside for natural resource conservation). Approximately 4800 additional acres are proposed as parkland for natural resource protection.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Programs that conserve resources in Montgomery County respond to many federal, state, regional and local directives related to habitat and water quality protection as well as efforts to manage and restore environmental resources.

Our existing programs include land acquisition through dedication via the development process and purchase with Program Open Space Funds, Legacy Open Space Funds and our Capital Improvement Program. Resources are targeted for protection through the community master planning process, the Legacy Open Space Functional Plan and occasional special studies brought to the Planning Board for action. Several easement programs are used to protect resources on private land; the most prevalent are forest conservation easements required as part of the development process. Many agricultural easements secured through state and county programs (see Agricultural Section) include substantial natural resources that are protected as part of the larger easement.

Planning for resource protection is carried on at many levels. Environmental resource inventories are prepared prior to each community master plan. Increasingly detailed fieldwork is conducted for community master plans, park master plans and park management plans. Recommendations and implementation programs are prepared for each level of plan, with follow-up funding and action programs.

Management of our resource base is extensive. While many natural areas are basically self-sustaining, continuing growth and nearby development introduce opportunities for invasive species and encroachment into parkland and conservation easements. Extensive efforts are aimed at deer and invasive plant management, reducing encroachment, stream and habitat restoration.

FINDINGS

Notwithstanding our compliance with and participation in programs for natural resource and Chesapeake Bay protection, the accommodation of growth and development continues to take its toll on the environment of Montgomery County. Our inventories reveal the following findings:

Habitat Losses - There is a continuing loss of certain types of habitat that result from a combination of high real estate prices, need for housing, smart growth efforts to concentrate new development in areas of existing infrastructure, and environmental regulations that are limited to forests, wetlands and stream buffers. Continuing losses include meadow, vernal pool and upland forest habitat as well as urban wildlife habitat.

Non-native invasive plants (NNIs) and deer - These pressures are having a tremendous impact on natural communities and require more direct management. This is true for most areas of the county, significantly affecting biodiversity on State, County and private lands. Planting of larger trees and adequate deer protection will require additional funding.

Wetlands – Those wetlands that are rated highly by functional analysis for aquatic and terrestrial habitat include large upland areas that cannot be protected with standard stream and wetland buffers. Protecting such habitat inside the PFA requires park acquisition or purchase of easements.

Stream Quality - The 2003 CSPA update of stream conditions and water quality indicates that there has been little change in the proportions of excellent, good, fair, and poor watersheds, and the general pattern of water quality has stayed the same – i.e. the better quality watersheds occur in the less-developed areas in the northern and western parts of the county, and the poorer quality watersheds occur in the highly developed down-county areas and in the I-270 corridor.

State information sources – Information prepared by the state is important and more research needs to be done. State identification of green infrastructure, unique communities, biodiversity areas, and wetlands of state concern have been especially helpful. Additional help in understanding groundwater resources, urban forest and wildlife as well assistance on coping with deer predation and non-native species in restoration projects are needed to continue our efforts to maintain our green infrastructure.

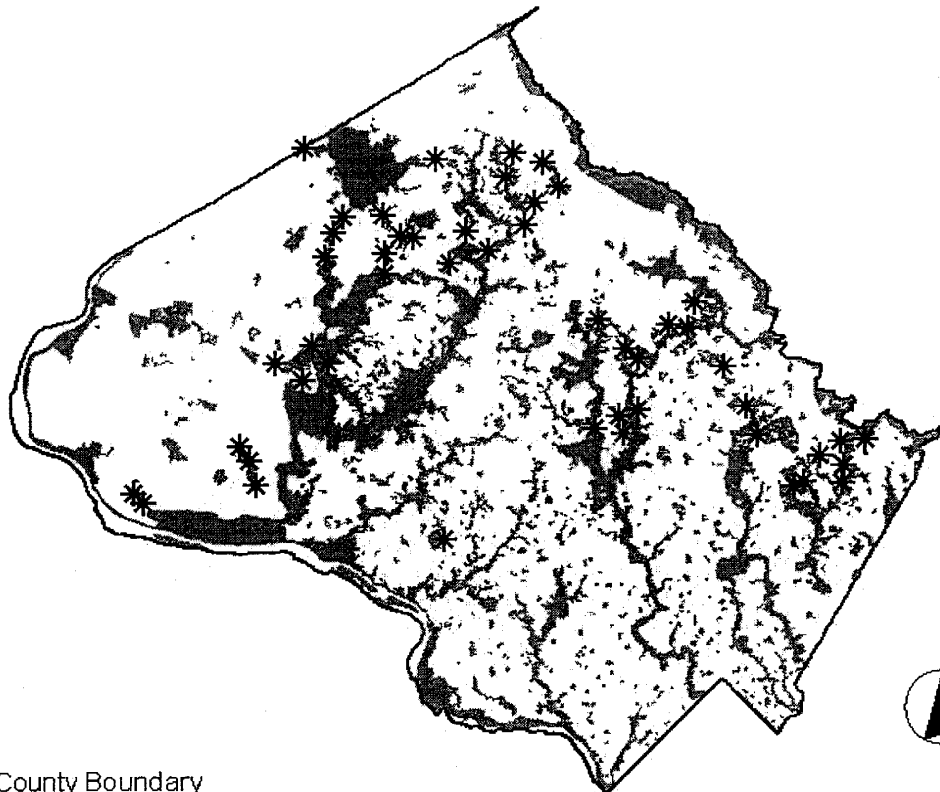
FUTURE DIRECTION

M-NCPPC will continue to acquire land through dedication as master plans are implemented through the development process. Expenditures of Legacy Open Space and POS funding for purchase of natural resource lands or easements are prioritized based on the risk of loss, importance and availability of funding. The most significant effort to further identify and rank resources for conservation will be in the Green Infrastructure Functional Master Plan.

Department of Park and Planning staff are beginning preparation of a *Green Infrastructure (GI) Functional Master Plan* starting in July of 2005. This plan will comprehensively review existing information about natural resources and develop a detailed network of hubs and corridors for protection and restoration. This plan will streamline the preparation of environmental inventories for master planning and inform the process for determining the most important areas to protect as part of subdivisions, parkland or easements. In addition, corridor gaps or the expansion of hubs could be used to identify restoration opportunities and areas for mitigation of losses elsewhere in the County. The plan will also be used to supplement efforts to meet Chesapeake Bay

and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) requirements. The plan will be completed in 2008.

Existing Parkland and Easements with Proposed Natural Resource Parkland



County Boundary

Existing Parkland and Forest Conservation Easements

Proposed Natural Resource Parkland

4. CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

Montgomery County is recognized as having one of, if not the, best county-based preservation programs in the state. The Montgomery County HPC is cited as a model for a well-run local historic preservation commission. Below are summaries of major programs:

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites

In 1976, M-NCPPC prepared the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County*, an inventory of **over 1,000 potential cultural resources** (both built and archaeological) located throughout the County. Approximately 500 of these resources have been removed from the Atlas after analysis.

Participation in the Historical Trust Statewide Survey Program

The documentation of cultural sites in Montgomery County, primarily but not exclusively from the *Locational Atlas*, is done via the state's Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form. Currently, there are approximately **1,750 inventoried resources**, several of which are multi-property historic districts.

Historic Preservation Designation/Chapter 24A

Resources are evaluated to determine if they meet criteria that would warrant their protection. The Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Board, and County Council review designation actions. If the decision is positive, the action becomes an amendment to the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. As of the writing of this Plan (June 2005), there have been approximately **400 individual historic sites and 20 historic districts designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation**.

Historic Area Work Permits and Tax Credits

Each year **between 100 and 165 Historic Area Work Permits** are reviewed. The Historic Preservation Commission must review any substantial changes to the exterior of a resource or its environmental setting before work commences. Once designated, property owners are eligible for local and state tax breaks for certified rehabilitation work. Each year, **approximately 100 tax credit applications** are approved.

Designation as a Certified Heritage Area

In 2004, the State of Maryland's Heritage Area Authority approved Montgomery County as a Certified Heritage Area. The County has developed three themes that support the heritage area/ tourism initiative: 1) The Underground Railroad and Quaker Cluster, 2) the Farming History Cluster, and 3) The Technological Innovation Cluster. **Every \$1 invested in Maryland's Certified Heritage Areas leverages \$4.61 in annual, ongoing state and local tax revenues.**

Certified Local Government: Easements, National Register, Grants, and Section 106

The county acts as one of the state's premier Certified Local Governments (CLG). It reviews proposed National Register of Historic Places applications, receives grant monies from the Maryland Historical Trust, and reviews Section 106 projects, resulting in **over 200 reviews of state and/or federal actions** affecting historic structures annually.

FINDINGS

Despite the strength of the existing program, much can be done to expand and improve the Historic Preservation Section's scope in a proactive manner. The following findings are indicated to meet state and county goals and will require state and local funding:

- Approve a Strategic Plan for Historical and Archaeological Resources in Parks that outlines a strategy and the means by which to promote and rehabilitate park-owned resources. (Due Summer 2005)
- Increase maintenance funds for the upkeep of park-owned properties. A significant number of sites that the county owns in its park system are in disrepair due to a lack of maintenance funds. More bricks-and-mortar money from the state is necessary, as is money for Central Maintenance.
- Add staff to the Historic Preservation Section, which is presently working beyond capacity. For example, only one staff person is assigned to research and evaluate the roughly 1,000 properties designated on the *Locational Atlas* and make recommendations for *Master Plan* status. Second, the caseload for Historic Area Work Permits is increasingly heavy for existing staff. Third, a part-time contractor currently is only one who does community-based research projects. Fourth, educational projects that should be handled by M-NCPPC staff are farmed out, due to necessity, to volunteer docents. Fifth, more funds for ramping up the technological capabilities of the Historic Preservation Section are critical to bringing GIS data in line with SmartParks.
- Better steward twentieth-century resources to bring the county more in line with comparable, metropolitan localities. More "Recent Past" resources should be designated, especially those individual and neighborhood properties at risk. A study of Neighborhood Conservation Districts and Easements is scheduled to be undertaken next fall via a state grant to prepare a handbook on tools for slowing the demolition of houses and drastic alteration of established, downcounty neighborhoods.

FUTURE DIRECTION

One of Historic Preservation's top priorities is the *Strategic Plan for Historical and Archaeological Resources in Parks*, due in draft form to the Planning Board in the summer of 2005. This document will guide the maintenance and preservation of the many county-owned buildings located throughout the park system. The theme of the Strategic Plan is "From Artifact to Attraction" in recognition of the fact that cultural resources in parks should be prioritized based on their potential for long-range usage and heritage tourism. The Strategic Plan also provides a careful, systematic approach to stewarding cultural resources under the categories of capital improvements, maintenance, and programming and utilizing the talents of several divisions within the Department.

A major objective of the PROS and Strategic Plans is to put the county-owned cultural resources 'on the map,' both literally and figuratively, and to provide a formulaic means of allocating dollars for maintenance of historic buildings. For the strategic planning effort, the Historic Preservation Section has collected data on cultural resources and is sharing it with SmartParks staff. With quantifiable data, M-NCPPC and County leaders will see cultural resources as critical components of an integrated park system.

-ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology is a critical component of cultural resources.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Archaeological stewardship has a countywide focus, but almost half of our non-renewable archaeological resources are located throughout our own park system. The parks contain a large number of river valleys and stream drainages that show great potential for both prehistoric and historical creek oriented sites. Below are elements of the County's comprehensive planning process that assist with the preservation of cultural resources:

Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland

The Locational Atlas' resources include archeological sites. These are then researched and evaluated for designated eligibility for the Master Plan for Historic Preservation

Master Plan for Historic Preservation

The Commission may designate sites for their significance and contribution to Federal, State or local history. These are, then, sent on to the County Council for final inclusion in the Master Plan.

Park and Area Master Plans

This includes a pedestrian survey of the park, recording archaeological sites using Global Positioning Systems, placing them on Geophysical Information System mapping, recording information for the State Inventory, obtaining a Maryland Historical Trust site number and suggesting any management needs or interpretive potential.

Subdivision Review

As part of the subdivision review process, an assessment is made of the land's prehistoric, and/or historical archaeological potential (based on geology, soils, hydrology, topography, and archival research), suggesting either mitigation or avoidance where appropriate.

GIS Mapping

The archaeological staff maintains and updates the Global Information System for all archaeological sites within both our Parks and County. Currently staff has identified some **350 archaeological sites on parkland and over 400 Countywide.**

Public/Private Partnerships

As an example, Dowden's Ordinary Special Park, a French and Indian War (1755-1763) and Revolutionary War tavern, is being acquired and a marker constructed through an agreement with Clarksburg developer, US Homes.

Easements

The Department also holds archaeological easements on private land, such as the Early Woodland/Agricultural (1000 B.C. to A.D. 300), prehistoric site, known as the Noursi Site, in Germantown, near Doctor Sally K. Ride Elementary School.

Education and Outreach

Staff has implemented the following initiatives to introduce the public to Montgomery County's archaeological heritage: family "dig days," community symposiums, camps and school programs, the "Volunteers in Archaeology" program.

FINDINGS

Despite the strength of the existing archaeology program, much can be done to expand and improve the scope. The following findings are indicated to meet state and county goals and will require state and local funding:

- Fund more archaeology staffing and projects. "With the current and past levels of development in the [Montgomery] County, a large portion of its archaeological resources are in danger of being lost, and this danger increases yearly" (Maryland Historical Trust, White Paper No. 1).
- Expand the development review process to include consideration of archaeological resources on non-Park public and private lands. Current archaeological guidelines concentrate on our Parks' system and only generally on the County at large.
- Encourage developers to consider archaeological resources when submitting plans by identifying and helping to mitigate known and potential sites on their properties. The Park and Planning Department now includes archaeological consideration in both the development review and transportation planning processes.
- Fully fund Program Open Space, which could supply state funding to local governments, not only as it does for natural resources, but also for archaeological resources protection.
- Consider archaeology in connection with eco-tourism as well as Heritage Tourism, adding a rich archaeological focus and understanding to site visitations.

FUTURE DIRECTION

Montgomery County has been especially vulnerable to archaeological degradation. The Maryland Historical Trust's Chief Archaeologist stated that, "More archaeological sites have been lost in Montgomery County than any other county in the State." However, over the last decade, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning's archaeology program has begun to reverse this trend. The future direction is based on taking the following measures:

- Adhere to the archaeological recommendations in the Strategic Plan for Historical and Archaeological Resources in Parks (draft due Summer 2005).
- Place more significant archaeological sites on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Develop an amendment to the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* for listing significant publicly owned and selected privately owned archaeological sites.

Present to the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Board, and County Council.

- Place all prehistoric and historic archaeological sites on County Master Plans.
- Follow specific, site survey implementation language for private development affecting archaeological resources.
- Increase interpretive possibilities within County Parks and our Parks trail systems.
- Work with Montgomery County Agencies, developers, and the public to increase their awareness of both the importance of the County's archaeological sites.
- Work with the public and developers to design a Cultural Resource Guidelines for archaeological sites, similar to the Department's Environmental Guidelines - 2000.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A- Proposed Schedule

Attachment B- Recreation and Open Space Trends/Facts

Attachment C- Discussion of Future Facility Needs

Attachment D-Future Facility Proposals in the Capital Improvements Program