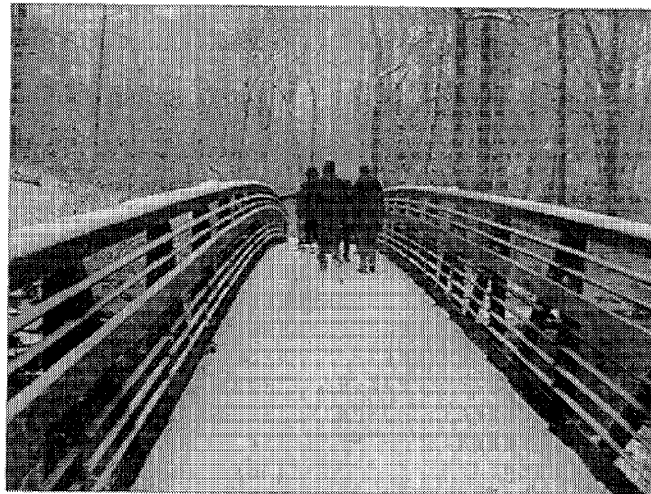


Executive Summary

The 2005 Land Preservation Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP)

This document is mandated by the Department of State Planning for eligibility for Program Open Space Grant funding and is intended to help the Counties carefully think about their needs and help the State focus on potential future requests for legislation and grant program funding. The Plan has the following chapters:

- **Recreation, Parks and Open Space** that discusses planning for parks, open space, recreation facilities, and parkland acquisition, including quantitative needs analysis for future facilities.
- **Agricultural Land Preservation** that provides a description of the agricultural preservation programs and summary of needed new initiatives; and
- **Natural Resource Conservation** that discusses current goals and implementation programs for conservation of natural resource lands and summary of needed improvements.
- **Cultural Resource Conservation** that includes information on historic and archaeological resources and needed improvements.





Future Recreation Facility Needs

In Montgomery County there are 47,300 acres of parkland that provide recreation including 32,700 acres of parkland, 12,000 acres of State parkland and 3,100 acres of National parkland. The majority of M-NCPPC parks are devoted to natural resource protection. Stream Valley and Conservation Parks comprise 51% of all parkland. In addition, Regional Parks comprise 20% of total parkland, of which 67 % is maintained as natural areas

Recreation includes both nature-oriented recreation such as nature walks and bird watching as well as recreation needing specific facilities such as athletic fields, playground, etc. This section of the LPPRP focuses on projecting future needs for active recreation facilities.

2005 LPPRP Specific Facility Projections and Service Area Assumptions

Estimating exact numbers of ballfields and other recreation facilities needed in the County is an extremely difficult task and subject to many future variables. It therefore is often spoken of as "more art than science". Need estimates provide guidelines. These guidelines may be revised in the future to accommodate changes in population projections and field participation rates.

This Plan examines needs for the following facilities:

- **Local Use Facilities** –These "close to home" facilities are assumed to be needed within each Planning Area and include playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts
- **Community Based Team Area Facilities** –These facilities that include all ballfields, are assumed to be needed within community based team areas, which are groups of adjacent planning areas. They include - youth diamonds for T-ball and peewee baseball; multi-purpose diamonds for youth baseball and adult softball; 90' baseball; multi-purpose rectangular (soccer/lacrosse) and youth rectangular fields.
- **Countywide Facilities** – These more specialized facilities are assumed to be needed by the County as a whole. They include permitted picnic shelters nature centers, roller hockey facilities, skate parks, dog exercise areas, natural areas, natural and hard surface trails, indoor community centers and aquatic facilities (is working closely with the Recreation Department on Community Recreation Centers and Aquatic Facilities.)

Methodologies for Estimating Future Needs

Three methodologies were used in estimating future recreation facility needs. They include:

M-NCPPC PROS Method

- Age Based Participation model, based on actual usage data from 2000 park user observation survey and 2002 spring park permits for both parks and schools, and age based sports participation
- Projects daily spring/summer facility needs for playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, and projects spring peak week needs for soccer, softball and baseball permit data for parks and schools.
- This method was used for playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts and all types of fields

State Planning Guidelines Method

- Participation based model (not age based) that uses phone survey responses regarding annual facility use from the 2003 State telephone survey with attendance data added where available
- Projects annual needs. It calculates existing participation rates for various recreation activities based on the 2003 state survey. Needs are then computed using season length, yearly facility capacities and population projections to the year 2020.
- This method was used for facilities serving County-wide needs

Fairfax County Method

- Park Standards (level of service) method provides ratios of various recreation facilities/thousand people in Fairfax County. This method was used to project only one facility, dog exercise areas, for which survey information was not available.



Preliminary Needs Estimates

Needs for Facilities Serving Planning Areas

These "close to home" facilities are assumed to be needed within each Planning Area and include playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts. The following Table includes preliminary estimates of recreation facility needs for the year 2020.

Future Planning Area 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	285	32
Planning Area	Tennis Courts (with the exception of Recreation /regional courts)	M-NCPPC	411	4
Planning Area	Basketball Courts	M-NCPPC	317	12

Needs for Facilities Serving Community Based Team Areas

As shown in the following tables, Countywide a maximum total of 123 additional fields are estimated to be needed by 2020, the majority of which are for multi-use rectangular fields.

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)	M-NCPPC	91	0
Community Based Team Area	Multi-Purpose Youth Baseball/Adult Softball Diamonds (these sports play on the same type of field)	M-NCPPC	164	15
Community Based Team Area	Baseball (90' base paths- Adults and teens)	M-NCPPC	35	20
Community Based Team Area	Multi-Purpose Rectangular Field (Soccer/Football/Lacrosse)	M-NCPPC	103	73
Community Based Team Area	Youth Rectangular Field (Soccer / Football / Lacrosse)	M-NCPPC	70	15
TOTALS			463	123

Description of Field Needs within Community Based Team Areas

The following table indicates preliminary estimates of future additional field needs to the year 2020. As the service area goal calls for future needs to be met within the Community Based Team Areas, a surplus in an existing area (indicated by a minus) is not subtracted from the needs in another. Positive needs are shown in bold. 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.

2020 Additional Field Needs by Community Based Team Area

COMMUNITY BASED TEAM AREA 2020 FIELD NEEDS Planning Team Area	Number of Youth (0-9) Multi-Purpose Diamonds Needed	Number of (Age 10-13) Baseball and (10-65+ Softball) Diamonds Needed	Number of 90' infield-Baseball Fields (Ages 14+) 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	-1.8	-3.2	1.7	5.2	-2.6	3.7 / 6.9
I-270	0.1	1.5	3.0	19.4	9.7	33.7
Georgia Avenue	-5.3	-19.3	1.8	7.7	2.3	1.8 / 11.8
Potomac	-0.3	5.2	4.5	4.6	-4.1	14 / 14.3
Eastern County	-0.5	-20.5	-0.3	4.8	1.1	0.3 / 5.9
Bethesda/Chevy Chase	-1.0	-0.9	4.8	20.4	1.7	24.8 / 26.9
Silver Spring/TP	-1.7	8.7	4.1	10.8	-3.4	23.6
Maximum Need	0	15	20	73	15	TOTAL 101.7/ 123.1



Needs for Future Countywide Recreation Facilities

The following table lists preliminary estimates for future additional facilities that are needed on a *Countywide Basis*. These are often more specialized facilities for which people are willing to drive longer distances.

Facility	Methodology	Existing Park and School Facilities	2020 Estimated Additional Needs
Permit Picnic Shelters	State Planning/ plus M-NCPPC Data	78	21
County-Wide Group Picnic Areas	State Planning/ plus M-NCPPC Data	3	1
Nature Centers	State Planning/ plus M-NCPPC Data	4	2.3
Roller Hockey (Game Facilities)	State Planning	2	0
Skate Parks (Including Informal Use Areas)	State Planning	0	16
Dog Exercise Areas	Fairfax County	3	15
Natural Areas in Parks	M-NCPPC- Areas in approved plans	17,682 acres	5495 acres
Natural Surface Regional Trails	Trails in County-wide Trails Plan	115.6 miles	105.4 miles
Hard Surface Regional Trails	Trails in County-wide Trails Plan	73.5 miles	22.5 miles
Community Recreation Centers	Being Coordinated with the Recreation Dept	17	11.5
Aquatic Facilities	Recreation Dept	6 indoor 3 outdoor	1 indoor 2 outdoor

Meeting State Land Acquisition Goals

A recreation acreage goal of 30 acres of parkland per 1000 persons has been established by the State in the LPPRP Guidelines. There are two categories of preserved acreage in Montgomery County Local Recreational Acreage, and Natural Resource Acreage.

- Local Recreation Acreage** - When counting public land towards the acreage goal, a minimum of 15 acres per 1,000 people must come from locally owned recreational lands which consists of 100% of Urban, Neighborhood, Local, Recreational, special and municipal parks plus 1/3 of Regional Parks AND 60% of schools.