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ABSTRACT

**Title** *2017 Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan*

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**Abstract** Parks, recreation, and open spaces are essential to the high quality of life for Montgomery County residents. The greatest challenge for the park and recreation system in Montgomery County is to provide facilities for a growing population where there is competition for land, while continuing to steward sensitive environmental and cultural resources.

The *2017 Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan* serves as the planning policy for parks and recreation in Montgomery County to the year 2030 and beyond. It assesses needs and recommends strategies for the delivery of park and recreation facilities, protection of natural resource areas, and preservation of historic/cultural areas and agricultural lands, and is required by the State of Maryland for funding by Program Open Space.



# 2017 PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN

OCTOBER 2017



Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission,  
Department of Parks, Montgomery County

Montgomery County Recreation Department



2017 PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN - OCTOBER 2017

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TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
<b>CHAPTER 1 – Executive Summary</b> -----	<b>1</b>
Introduction -----	1
Purpose and Scope -----	2
Public Outreach -----	2
Plan Highlights -----	3
Summary of Plan Recommendations -----	7
<b>CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation</b> -----	<b>13</b>
About Montgomery Parks and Recreation -----	13
Policies -----	15
Population and Facilities -----	18
Implementation Strategies -----	36
<b>CHAPTER 3 - Optimizing Growth with Urban Parks</b> -----	<b>67</b>
Introduction -----	67
Implementation -----	69
Status of 2012 PROS Recommendations -----	72
Recommendations -----	75
<b>CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation</b> -----	<b>79</b>
Introduction -----	79
Goals -----	79
Implementation -----	80
Status of 2012 Recommendations -----	82
Recommendations -----	85
<b>CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resources Stewardship</b> -----	<b>119</b>
Introduction -----	119
Goals -----	120
Implementation -----	125
Status of 2012 PROS Plan Recommendations -----	150
<b>CHAPTER 6 - Cultural Resources Stewardship</b> -----	<b>159</b>
Introduction -----	159
Policy and Guidelines -----	160
Implementation -----	163
Status of 2012 PROS Recommendations -----	165
Recommendations -----	172
<b>CHAPTER 7 - Agricultural Land Preservation</b> -----	<b>175</b>
Introduction -----	175
Goals -----	179
Implementation -----	181
Progress Towards Goals -----	189
Recommendations -----	190



## 2017 PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN - OCTOBER 2017

### APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - 1993 General Plan Refinement -----	A1.1
APPENDIX 2 - Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY17-22 -----	A2.1
APPENDIX 3 - Land Acquisition Needs to 2030 and Beyond -----	A3.1
APPENDIX 4 – M-NCPPC Parkland and facility inventory -----	A4.1
APPENDIX 5 - Development Priorities -----	A5.1
APPENDIX 6 - Vision 2030 Parks and Recreation Amenity Analysis Chart -----	A6.1
APPENDIX 7 - Total Population Projected By Planning Area -----	A7.1
APPENDIX 8 - Non M-NCPPC Parks and Open Space In Montgomery County -----	A8.1
APPENDIX 9 - Natural Resource Maps and GIS Data List of Deliverables -----	A9.1
APPENDIX 10 - Glossary of Definitions, Terms and Acronyms -----	A10.1
APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report -----	A11.1
APPENDIX 12 - Segment Analysis Report -----	A12.1

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### LIST OF FIGURES

### PAGE

Figure 1- Forecasted Population Gains Taper Off -----	20
Figure 2- Race and Hispanic Origin, 1990-2015 -----	21
Figure 3 - Historical and Forecasted Racial Change in Montgomery County, 1950-2040 -----	21
Figure 4 -Percent of population by age group-----	23
Figure 5 - Growing Senior Population as Boomers Age -----	23
Figure 6 - Household Types, 1960-2014 -----	25
Figure 7 - New Park Classification System -----	34
Figure 8 - Walking Distance to Park Entrances and Trailheads Map -----	40
Figure 9 - Park Equity Map of Walkable Access to Parks in Higher Density, Lower Income Areas* ----	41
Figure 10 - Park Capital Improvement Projects in relationship to their park equity score -----	44
Figure 11 - Playground Proximity Map -----	45
Figure 12 - Trailheads Proximity Map -----	46
Figure 13 - Forested Areas Proximity Map. -----	47
Figure 14 - FY17-FY22 CIP by Funding Source -----	59
Figure 15 - FY17-22 CIP by Expenditure Category -----	60
Figure 16 - Sample Parks and Open Space Hierarchy, Bethesda Downtown Plan Design Guidelines, July 2017 -----	71
Figure 17 - Top Priorities for Investment for Recreation Facilities Base on the Priority Investment Rating -----	88
Figure 18 - Top Four Facilities Most Important to Your Household -----	89
Figure 19 -Service Delivery Areas Map-----	90
Figure 20 - 2016 CWPTP Loops and Links Trail Network Level of Service Performance (Figure 18) ---	93
Figure 21 - 2016 CWPTP Service Analysis of the Loops & Links vision (Figure 17) -----	94
Figure 22 - Montgomery County Public Water Access Map -----	102
Figure 23 - Estimated Future Field Needs for the Year 2030 by Planning Area -----	111
Figure 24 - Major Terrestrial Natural Communities of Montgomery County, Maryland -----	126
Figure 25 - Biodiversity Areas Map, NRMP 2013 -----	132
Figure 26 - Best Natural Areas Map, NRMP 2013. -----	133
Figure 27 - Total Acreage in Preservation per Program -----	181
Figure 28- Agricultural Preservation Map -----	182
Figure 29 – Average Price of Transferable Development Rights (TDRs), 1983 – 2016 -----	184
Figure 30 - Agricultural Easement Program(AEP) Easement Prices through FY15 -----	185
Figure 31 - Trend of Agricultural Transfer Tax Collections in Montgomery County, FY02-FY15 -----	188
Figure 32 - Land Preservation Program Acreage Under Preservation chart -----	189

2017 PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN - OCTOBER 2017





# CHAPTER 1: Executive Summary

## Introduction

Parks, recreation, and open spaces are essential to the high quality of life for Montgomery County residents. The greatest challenge for the park and recreation system in Montgomery County is to equitably provide enough of the “right” parks and recreation in the “right” places for a growing population of residents and employees. Parks and open spaces are needed now more than ever to serve the leisure needs of residents, many of whom do not have backyards. The focus of the *2017 PROS Plan* is on equitably providing activated, central community spaces, while meeting recreational needs and protecting and managing natural and cultural resources for future generations.

Since its inception, Montgomery County’s park and recreation system has been responding to the needs of its community with a variety of park experiences and services. During the earlier years of the Commission’s 80-year old history, parks were created to protect water supply, and then to provide community recreation in the suburbs. The suburban development pattern of the mid-century reflected the dependency on automobiles to access any destination. Parks and open spaces were located primarily within the suburbs, but not in the commercial centers of the County.

In the late 60’s and 70’s, when environmental policy began to take shape, growth management policies started emerging. The *General Plan “... on Wedges and Corridors” (1964)* was implemented to concentrate development along corridors and centers in and around the Beltway (I-495). The introduction of the Agricultural Reserve in 1981 as a land conservation policy preserved our farmland, and encouraged the shift toward “growing smarter”, and preserving access to farmland and open spaces.

More recently, the SmartGrowth policies of the late 1990’s and early 2000’s encouraged the infill and densification of commercial centers to produce a mix of uses and the highest densities near transit, while continuing to preserve the larger open spaces in the Agricultural Reserve. One of the biggest challenges today and moving forward is to provide adequate central parks and open spaces in those centers where land is already developed and very expensive. The need to focus on parks in these growing areas, established in the 2010 *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation (Vision 2030)* and the *2012 PROS Plan*, is further addressed through the recommendations in the *2017 PROS Plan*.

As our county changes in population, age, diversity, with a concentration of people in our mixed-use centers, it is no surprise that citizens value central gathering spaces, open green space and natural areas, and trails to connect them. The *2017 PROS Plan* promotes strategies for service delivery of these types of spaces within our areas of highest density while continuing to provide needed facilities and lands throughout the County.

## Purpose and Scope

The overall purpose of the *2017 PROS Plan* is to serve as the planning policy for parks and recreation in Montgomery County to the year 2030 and beyond. More specifically its purpose is:

- To provide the basis for park and recreation recommendations in area and park master plans
- To guide priorities for park acquisition, renovation and development
- To provide guidance regarding recreation facility needs in the County for the next 10 years
- To recommend priorities for important natural and historic resources in the County that need to be preserved and interpreted
- To review policy and background information regarding local agricultural land preservation programs

The PROS Plan provides input into the State’s *Land Planning, Preservation, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP)*; it serves as the County’s *LPPRP*. To keep pace with changing patterns of need, updates to the *PROS Plan* have been required by the State approximately every five years. The PROS Plan supports the park and recreation goals and objectives contained in the County’s *1993 General Plan Refinement of the Goals and Objectives for Montgomery County (Appendix 1)*. It compares facility needs and resource conservation priorities for different areas of the County so that decision makers have the information necessary to establish priorities in an era of high competition for limited resources. It includes chapters on Recreation and Park Needs, Natural Resources Stewardship, Cultural Resource Stewardship, and Agricultural Land Preservation.

## Public Outreach

During the development of the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* in 2010, the Department of Parks and the Montgomery County Recreation Department pledged to “engage a diverse community and proactively respond to changing demographics, needs, and trends”. Montgomery County demographic trends that helped shape the outreach methods for the *2017 PROS Plan* include:

- Increasing racial and ethnic diversity, with a projected growth in minority groups from 55 percent of the population in 2015 to 68 percent of the population in 2040.
- Projected growth in the population people over age 65 from 12 percent of the population in 2010 to 20 percent in 2040.
- A large and widely diverse foreign-born population speaking a multitude of languages and varying English speaking proficiencies (*see Chapter 2*).

For the *2017 PROS Plan*, a great deal of input was collected through a variety of methods. Montgomery Parks launched a multi-pronged outreach strategy in November 2016 to engage diverse communities for input about the future of parks and recreation. The initiative, titled *Parks and Recreation of the Future*, was aimed at soliciting public input to inform three separate but related park programs: the *2017 Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan*, the *Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan*, and the *Capital Improvement Program*.

## CHAPTER 1 – Executive Summary

The outreach strategy succeeded in soliciting ideas from nearly 3,000 Montgomery County residents. Over 950 people were reached through face-to-face community meetings, focus groups, and interviews. More than 1,000 comments were received via an online survey and interactive maps. Our statistically valid survey had 705 respondents. The outreach efforts targeted a vast array of audiences including, but not limited to ethnically diverse communities, senior populations, and people with disabilities. A variety of channels and tactics were leveraged to reach these audiences including traditional outreach methods of meetings with community groups, posters, flyers, and press releases, as well as newer outreach tools including:

- A segment on WRC-TV News Channel 4
- Interviews on County Cable TV programs Que Pasa and County Report This Week, and Radio program Montgomery Al Día, and WHAG
- Outreach to regional and ethnic outlets including TV affiliates, Washington Post, Bethesda Beat, Olney Greater News, Germantown Pulse, MYMCMedia, WTOP, WAMU, El Pregonero, Univision
- Media advertising: El Tiempo Latino, Radio One, Radio America, The Beacon
- Social media and marketing outreach via Facebook and Twitter posts and Facebook advertising
- A new online open town hall platform (Peak Democracy) for people to easily submit their comments and suggestions and respond to a survey
- A listening tour in which parks staff presented the details of the campaign among various organizations and groups including the Office of Community Partnership Advisory Boards, the Commission on the People with Disabilities, the Age-Friendly Montgomery Advisory Group, and Citizen Advisory Boards.
- A needs assessment by consultants including a statistically valid survey, key stakeholder focus groups and interviews, and intercept surveys targeting diverse audiences conducted at community locations.

## Plan Highlights

### PLAN GUIDANCE

The themes, goals, and recommendations of the *2017 PROS Plan* were guided by the policies of the National Recreation and Park Association, previous Montgomery Parks plans and policies, the needs assessment, park and recreation trends, and needs estimates and analysis performed by Staff.

#### National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), has as its core mission to impact communities through three pillars of Conservation, Health and Wellness, and Social Equity (online at: <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/>).

These overarching themes are important in guiding the priorities of Montgomery Parks and the Recreation Department, as described in more detail in *Chapter 2*.

## CHAPTER 1 – Executive Summary

### Previous Plans

Several plans and policies have guided the formation of the *2017 PROS Plan* including the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation (Vision 2030)*, completed in June 2011, and the *2012 PROS Plan*. Building on these plans, the *2017 PROS Plan* includes updated service delivery strategies for several priority facilities and resources. The strategies will guide the Department of Parks and the Recreation Department in locating the right park and recreation facilities in the right places, and to ultimately help ensure that the parks and recreation system continues to play a major role in shaping Montgomery County's high quality of life.

### Needs Assessment Report

Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Montgomery Parks contracted PROS Consulting and their sub-consultants, Communities Connect Consulting and ETC Institute, to complete a needs assessment to solicit comprehensive feedback from residents of the community. The process engaged a broad range of demographic segments present within Montgomery County to better understand the characteristics, preferences, and satisfaction levels of residents in relation to parks and recreation activities.

Once a thorough understanding of residents served was established, a variety of data sources and best practice standards was applied to quantify and prioritize community needs for parks and recreation services and amenities in Montgomery County. This needs assessment consisted of six community input methods and an analysis of priorities and highlighted the major findings and recurring themes. Ultimately, these key findings and themes laid the framework of the needs, interests, and preferences of residents served by Montgomery County Parks. These key findings were then aggregated into Priority Rankings.

At the request of the Planning Board, the consultants performed additional demographic analysis to see if there are any trends or patterns in preferences by subgroups of the population, such as by age, race, ethnicity, sex, income, and geography (*Appendix 12*).

PROS Consulting Inc. further analyzed the results of the statistically valid survey, according to four geographic areas, households with incomes under \$70,000, households with children, age segments of 20-34, 35-54, and 55+, and by race and ethnicity. The results are presented in a *Segment Analysis Report (Appendix 12)*. The Segment Analysis shows that, considering different geographic areas and demographic segments of the statistically valid survey results, the priorities of residents remain largely consistent across groups. While there are a few nuances, the priorities for trails, natural areas, and wildlife habitats, and green, gathering spaces in urban areas remain constant across the analysis.

Overall, Montgomery County residents report a high degree of satisfaction with the parks and recreation facilities and programs, which are considered by 82% of respondents of the statistically valid survey (*Appendix 11 and Chapter 3*) to be important to the quality of life in the County. Seventy percent of respondents are satisfied with the overall value their household receives from the M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Recreation Department. One out of four respondents (25%) indicated they are very proud of M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks recreation facilities, parks, and services, and 42% indicated they are proud.

## CHAPTER 1 – Executive Summary

Throughout the needs assessment three clear, overarching themes emerged, which helped to guide the goals and recommendations of the Plan, as follows:

- **Optimize Existing Parks and Facilities;** Utilize existing park and recreation facilities and lands more fully.
- **Create Great, Activated Parks to Equitably Serve the County:** Provide spaces and programs that bring people together.
- **Steward and Interpret our Natural and Cultural Resources:** Prioritize the management and protection of natural and cultural resources.

Each theme is described in more detail below:

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### OPTIMIZE EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES

Using existing park and recreation facilities and lands more fully is a major goal of the *2017 PROS Plan*. In a County where developable or re-developable land is scarce and expensive, it is more important now than ever to make sure our existing lands and facilities are used to their maximum potential, and if not, to renovate and repurpose them to best meet needs. Repairing and renovating our existing parks is a funding priority for 49% of those surveyed in statistically valid survey respondents in the *Needs Assessment Report (Appendix 11)*.

Trails are important to optimize by filling gaps in connected systems. Trails are the most important facility across all demographic groups, because they are accessible without special skills or equipment, they facilitate activity, health and wellness, connect people with nature and with their destinations, and ultimately help define a sense of community. In addition, trails are relatively inexpensive to build for the community benefit they provide.

Achieving optimum use of our existing parks should free up some amount of capital to address needs for parks and open space in other underserved areas of the County, especially our emerging high density, mixed-use centers where we have the highest concentrations of lower income residents.

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### CREATE GREAT, ACTIVATED PARKS TO EQUITABLY SERVE THE COUNTY

Providing spaces and programs that bring people together is a major goal of the *2017 PROS Plan*. Parks should provide activated open spaces where people can feel welcome independent of income, race, or ethnicity. A basic requirement of human well-being is a feeling of inclusiveness. The significant increase in density in Montgomery County makes parks and open space areas the “outdoor living rooms” for many existing and new communities. Social gathering spaces, events, and promoting equitable access to parks and recreation for all populations was a clear priority throughout the *Needs Assessment Report (Appendix 11)*. The participants of focus groups from foreign-born segments of the population expressed the need for central gathering spaces to meet people of their own and other cultures.

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### STEWARD AND INTERPRET NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Prioritizing the management and protection of, and public access to natural and cultural resources is a major goal of the *2017 PROS Plan*. Stewardship of these resources is key to the Mission, Vision, and Values of the Department of Parks. Numerous studies have demonstrated over the years that people intrinsically value nature and physical evidence, in the form of standing structures, of their past in the landscape. Educating and interpreting our resources to help people clearly understand the value of

## CHAPTER 1 – Executive Summary

natural and biological diversity, ecological significance, and environmental benefits of our natural resources as well as the meaning of our cultural resources is essential to building tomorrow's stewards.

A clear priority of County residents is to continue to acquire and provide access to the best of each resource type and to while devoting sufficient resources to take care of what we have. Citizens ranked trails, natural space, wildlife habitat, and nature recreation as the top three priorities for parks, across a variety of demographic segments. Interest was also very strong in taking part in our cultural amenities through museums and interpretive programs. Residents prioritized nature parks, expressing interest in a variety of nature based recreation (contemplative, active, educational, and adventure) as well as in the preservation of urban green space, and the County's rural and agricultural lands.

The challenge is how to balance the protection of the county's air, water, land, wildlife resources, and endangered historic and archaeological sites with providing recreation, and achieving comprehensive land planning priorities across the Park system – including areas where we have the highest concentration of lower income residents. Montgomery Parks is poised to prioritize park acquisition to achieve the most important service to our public, for increased, accessible open space in our more populated areas and in our areas of our natural areas.

### Park and Recreation Trends

Trends in Parks and Recreation across the United States, as presented at the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) conference in April 2017 by GreenPlay, LLC, are important to inform our future priorities. Key observations from the presentation are that we need to plan for Baby Boomers (over 50) who will make up over 50% of the national population by 2021, while responding to the Millennials (18-34), who consider wellness to be a daily pursuit, as well as the Generation Z (up to 18), who are the most tech-driven generation and spend more time indoors and online, and half of whom are ethnically diverse. Getting outdoors is considered a way to prevent illness, and team sports participation is declining, while walking, hiking, and running are greatly increasing. Programming in parks and recreation is focused on events and fitness programs, more than on organized team sports programs. Additional trends in lifestyle, such as the evolution of employment toward more flexible hours and work places, and a focus on creating livable, healthy, environmentally resilient communities all should play a role in the priorities of park and recreation agencies. Specific observations from the presentation include:

- Parks and recreation are part of the public health realm – individual, community, and social health
- Back to nature initiatives are popular
- The parks and recreation industry should develop solutions for an aging population
- Walkability and connectivity are increasingly important
- Ethnic and cultural differences should influence what the industry provides

## Summary of Plan Recommendations

Each of the *2017 PROS Plan* chapters contains information on current policies and background, status of what has been accomplished since the *2012 PROS Plan*, and recommendations for the future. The following is a summary of the recommendations for the future from each chapter.

**CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation**, includes the following new recommendations that will guide staff and decision-makers:

- New language in the section of the Policy for Parks that clarifies the Planning Board’s practice of avoiding, minimizing, mitigating, and compensating for the impacts of public projects to M-NCPPC parkland.
- Two new urban park types in the Park Classification System, to respond to a need for smaller “pocket greens” and “plazas” to complement the larger parks in an urban network.
- Promote park and recreation equity for all citizens of the County.
  - Provide parks in areas of higher concentrations of lower income households with low walkable access to parks, recreation and open spaces, as identified to the Park Equity tool and staff analysis.
  - Add Park Equity to the criteria for prioritization of the Capital Improvement Program to promote equitable access to parks for all.
  - Consider Park Equity as a priority when recommending new parks and open spaces in master plans.
- Provide quality services and park and recreation programs that are inclusive and accessible to patrons (Guidance for Accessibility and Non-Discrimination in Facilities and Services)
- Continue to balance repurposing and renovation with development and acquisition, to better serve the park and recreation needs of the citizens of Montgomery County.

**CHAPTER 3 - Optimizing Growth with Urban Parks**, recommends new strategies for maximizing the use of public spaces in our more populated areas, including:

- Create a network of great, activated parks that facilitate social gathering to serve areas of the County with the highest population and employment.
  - Create “signature” energized public spaces that will become regional destinations in areas of highest density.
  - Systematically identify needs for social gathering, active recreation, and contemplative recreation across the areas of higher population density in the County, by applying the methodologies of the *Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan (EPS FMP) for Parks in Mixed Use and Higher Density Areas*, currently under development.

## CHAPTER 1 – Executive Summary

- Prioritize acquisition, development, programming for parks in the areas of greatest identified need.
- Develop and apply a more robust urban design framework to create urban park recommendations for future planning and regulatory review.
- Expand the Park Activation program, across all areas of the County to “get people into the parks,” with a vision for all Montgomery County residents to choose park activities during their leisure time, and to ultimately promote self-directed activation of parks.

**CHAPTER 4 - Recreation and Parks** contains the estimated facility needs to the year 2030. Besides estimating future needs and recommending service delivery strategies for several facilities, the chapter recommends the following:

- Provide regional recreation centers to create multipurpose centers that combine a broad spectrum of recreation and leisure options, aquatic features and community recreation functions.
- Provide platforms for community-building events that address the cultural character of each region.
  - Identify existing parkland or potential new parkland to support large community events and festivals.
  - Retrofit existing parks to add enhanced picnic areas, large group picnic areas, spaces for food trucks, bus shelters, and other support amenities.
  - Select a site for a group picnic area in Rock Creek Regional Park.
- Create a robust trail system of natural and hard surface trails.
  - Commit to fully realizing the priority trail segments as identified in the *Countywide Park Trails Plan* for natural and hard surface trails.
  - Provide access to resource-based recreational opportunities associated with M-NCPPC’s trail network.
  - Ensure signage at trailheads and at key trail intersections.
  - Incorporate historical and cultural interpretive signage wherever opportunities arise at trailheads or along trails.
  - Ensure that all trails are adequately monitored, maintained and policed.
- Create an exceptional system of athletic fields to serve all areas of Montgomery County.
  - Complete an Athletic Fields Strategic Plan to align the services and functions of athletic fields in the County with the needs and expectations of the community, and the mission, mandates and resources of Montgomery County Parks.



## CHAPTER 1 – Executive Summary

- Identify existing parkland or potential new parkland to provide exceptional recreational facilities including athletic fields in higher density, downcounty areas.
- Expand athletic field capacity through lighting, synthetic turf, conversions, developer-provided rectangles, and improved design and construction of public school fields.
- Select a site for an adult-sized cricket field in the MD Route 29 corridor.
- Ensure that fields are adequately monitored and maintained to industry standards.
- Select a site for a group picnic area in Rock Creek Regional Park.
- Complete a Nature Centers Functional Plan with an objective and data-based analysis to determine if and where any new nature centers or renovations should be constructed in the park system
- Determine where there are underutilized sports courts for potential conversion to skate parks, dog parks, or futsal courts. Consider existing tennis court utilization within a larger area to preserve an adequate supply of tennis courts.
  - Select a pilot site for pickleball courts by converting one tennis court to two pickleball courts.
  - Continue to seek sites for dog parks, skate parks, and futsal courts on underutilized tennis courts.

**CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resources Stewardship** contains recommendations to continue Montgomery Parks’ strong history of stewarding natural resources in the park system and across the County, including:

- Expand ongoing natural resource management efforts
  - Ensure that public access into natural areas is accomplished utilizing standards of a sustainable and well-maintained system of natural surface trails.
  - Inventory, restore and maintain natural areas with a focus on those areas of highest natural value.
  - Interpret Best Natural Areas and Biodiversity Areas.
  - Ensure the Commission’s Environmental Guidelines are consistently applied to all development projects on M-NCPPC parkland.
- Create the next generation of environmental stewards by improving natural resource-based programs and facilities.
  - Expand efforts to educate citizens and staff about natural resources to reach more children and adults, through interpretive programs (e.g., environmental literacy,

## CHAPTER 1 – Executive Summary

Children in Nature, engaging diverse communities), and staff training (e.g., water quality protection, sediment and erosion control, Integrated Pest Management).

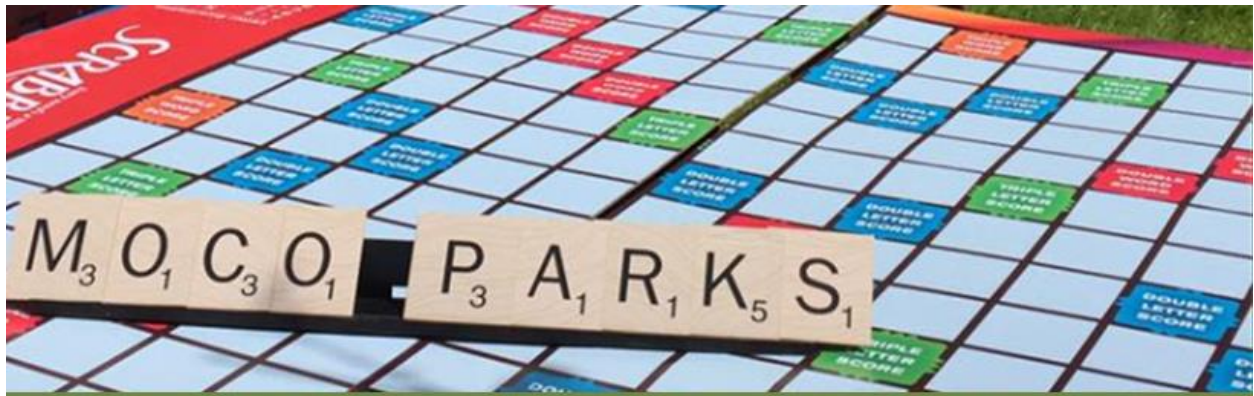
- Educate the public about our success in establishing a network of Best Natural Areas that protects the best examples of natural community types thereby preserving long term our County's native biodiversity.
- Grow park advocacy efforts for stewardship of natural resources.
- Continue to acquire areas of highest quality natural habitat, including
  - Improved access to natural resource-based recreation
  - Unique or critical habitats
  - Areas of benefit to Best Natural Areas or Biodiversity Areas
  - Areas essential to improvement of water or air quality

**CHAPTER 6 - Cultural Resources Stewardship** provides recommendations and priorities for cultural resources that focus on public interpretation first and foremost, bringing the county's history and archaeological discoveries to life, with three main priorities to:

- Increase cultural resource programming at all types of parks to include, but not be limited to living history events, music programs, cultural hikes, historic re-enactments, foodways, crafts demonstrations, archaeology programs for families, etc.
- Increase the focus on the preservation, restoration and adaptive reuse of those sites deemed the highest priority on the Cultural Resources Asset Inventory.
- Expand interpretive and educational opportunities in parks through historical and archaeological programs with interactive and innovative exhibits.
- Create premier cultural learning experiences at heritage sites (i.e., Josiah Henson Special Park, Woodlawn Special Park).
- Transform the existing Agricultural History Farm Park into a regional attraction consistent with the Planning Board-approved 2005 vision, which would involve additional staff, live animal demonstrations, and expansion of the existing activity center (e.g., additional office space, interpretive displays, public meeting space, and a large auditorium, and expansion of parking areas).
- Work to ensure archaeological sites are protected and/or interpreted wherever possible.
- Work to ensure archaeological sites are protected and/or interpreted wherever possible.

**CHAPTER 7 - Agricultural Land Preservation** contains recommendations that help to keep the highly successful agricultural preservation programs in Montgomery County moving forward into the next decade:

- Explore alternative sources to fund agricultural easement programs, including new public funding mechanisms and tools to incentivize private sector purchase of easements.
- Implement the New Farmer Project to promote the creation of new sustainable-practice farm businesses using mentoring, business training, and an innovative approach to pairing start-ups with landowners to speed the start-up process.



## CHAPTER 2: Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

This chapter includes background and policies that guide the *2017 PROS Plan* including the Three Pillars of the National Recreation and Parks Association, the Parks and Recreation departments' missions, visions and values, policies for parks to better deliver park and recreation services to county residents, population trends, data on the parks and recreation system in Montgomery County, a revised Park Classification System and Implementation of Mission, Vision, and Values.

### About Montgomery Parks and Recreation

Montgomery Parks is one department within the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), a bi-county agency created by the General Assembly of Maryland in 1927. The Commission's geographic authority covers most of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, excluding many large municipalities such as Rockville and Gaithersburg.

The Commission's planning jurisdiction the Maryland Washington jurisdiction, Maryland-Regional District, comprises 908 square miles; its parks jurisdiction, the Metropolitan District, comprises 75 square miles.

The Commission has three major functions:

- The preparation, adoption, and from time to time, amendment or extension of the *General Plan "... on Wedges and Corridors"*(1964) for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District within Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.
- The acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of a public park system.
- In Prince George's County only, the operation of the entire County public recreation program.

The Commission functions as one agency, involving a unique relationship between The Planning Department and The Department of Parks and governed by a bipartisan Board.

### THE GENERAL PLAN

The General Plan guides macro-level land use and development in the County. For the past 50+ years, the plan has served as the foundation of general planning. *The General Plan* recommended the renown "Wedges and Corridors" concept which refers to a pattern of regional land use in which growth is channeled into development corridors such as I-270, Wisconsin Avenue, Connecticut Avenue, Georgia Avenue, New Hampshire Avenue, and US 29 while between these corridors wedges of open space and farmland are preserved while accommodating lower density development.

Until the 1990s, these wedges have experienced the largest growth in parkland acreage in Montgomery County. These wedges include nearly all the county's stream valley parks, as well as most of the regional and recreational parks, and conservation parks. Local parks, neighborhood parks and urban parks have

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy and Plan Foundation

complemented development in the corridors, to meet the growing demand for active recreational facilities such as playground, ball courts and ballfields.

The county is now mature and there are not many large tracts of land available for large-scale development in the corridors, therefore, the county is now focusing on improving park and recreation service in areas experiencing the highest growth, and those areas tend to be in transit-serving urban nodes along Metro's red line (and in the future, the Purple Line corridor). The challenge is the competition for land at these nodes, where the cost of land is high. Consequently, the county increasingly is looking to developers to provide urban parks as part of higher density development, to keep pace with the large increases in population in these urbanizing areas.

Periodically the General Plan is updated and amended. The *1993 General Plan Refinement* is the most recent. It does not replace the *1964 General Plan* but reaffirms the emphasis of the Wedges and Corridors concepts and replaces guidelines that were expressed in a *1969 General Plan Update*.

Land use planning at the community level is guided by Area Master Plans and Sector Plans, each of which has amended the General Plan. In addition, the General Plan is amended by Functional Plans that are adopted by the County Council.

### MONTGOMERY PARKS VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

#### Vision

An enjoyable, accessible, safe, and green park system that promotes community through shared spaces and treasured experiences.

#### Mission

Protect and interpret our valuable natural and cultural resources; balance demand for recreation with the need for conservation; offer various enjoyable recreational activities that encourage healthy lifestyles; and provide clean, safe, and accessible places.

#### Values

- **Stewardship:** Manage the county park system to meet needs of current and future generations.
- **Recreation:** Offer leisure activities that strengthen the body, sharpen the mind, and renew the spirit.
- **Excellence:** Deliver high quality products, services, and experiences.
- **Integrity:** Operate with an honest and balanced perspective.
- **Service:** Be courteous, helpful, and accessible internally and externally.
- **Education:** Promote learning opportunities.
- **Collaboration:** Work with residents, communities, public and private organizations, and policymakers.

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy and Plan Foundation

- **Diversity:** Support and embrace cultural differences and offer suitable programs, activities, and services.
- **Dedication:** Commit to getting the job done the right way, no matter what it takes.

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT

#### Mission

The mission of the Montgomery County Recreation Department is to provide high quality, diverse, and accessible programs, services, and facilities that enhance the quality of life for all ages, cultures, and abilities.

**Operating Principles:** In support of the mission, the Department will readily serve the community by providing:

- Leisure activities that enhance skills, health, and self-esteem
- Activities that incorporate current leisure trends and population demographics
- Ways to stimulate growth in knowledge through leisure experiences
- Opportunities to build sense of community
- A network of services linking the community through collaboration and partnerships
- Safe havens where participants feel welcome
- Fun for all

**Operating Objectives:** The Department will continuously strive for optimal participant experiences.

- **Teamwork:** Essential to achieve success for our staff, our programs, our families, and our community
- **Objectivity:** We will maintain a positive approach to all challenges we face
- **Growth:** Change will be embraced, and used to expand our opportunities
- **Imagination:** We will cultivate new ideas into exciting programs and services
- **Value:** We will understand and appreciate the wealth of diversity of our community
- **Excellence:** We will meet our participants' expectations of quality and performance

#### Policies

Overarching policies that guide the provision of facilities and services in the Department of Parks include the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*, and "A Policy for Parks". This PROS Plan recommends an additional policy called "Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate, Compensate".

### VISION 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

The following strategies were developed based on input from community leaders and stakeholders who participated in a Vision 2030 Summit in February 2010. These strategies helped guide the proposals in the *2012* and *2017 PROS Plan*.

The M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Montgomery County Recreation Department serve the County to:

- Promote healthy living through diverse recreation and leisure activities
- Protect natural, historical, and archaeological resources
- Promote economic competitiveness of Montgomery County as a place for businesses to locate through a robust parks and recreation system that attracts knowledge workers and families
- Promote a sense of community and civic pride
- Nurture an appreciation for our natural, cultural legacy
- Provide lifelong learning opportunities
- Shape healthy, safe, green communities
- Collaborate with partners to provide sustainable, accessible, and diverse leisure opportunities
- Engage a diverse community and proactively respond to changing demographics, needs, and trends
- Acquire, maintain, and manage the parks and recreation built environment

### “A POLICY FOR PARKS”

The following *Policy for Parks* was adopted by the Montgomery County Planning Board in the *1988 PROS Plan* and has been re-affirmed and included in every PROS Plan since that date. Its goals and objectives are still valid and should be followed whenever possible. Exceptions may be made by the Planning Board when it is deemed to be in the best public interest. The *Policy for Parks* guides acquisition, development, and management of the Montgomery County Park System. It is listed in its entirety below, with the addition of a new section on public or quasi-public agencies seeking to use parkland for non-park projects:

#### Goal

To acquire and maintain a system of natural areas, open spaces, and recreation facilities developed in harmony with the County’s natural resources to perpetuate an environment fit for life and fit for living.

#### Objectives

##### **Acquisition of Parkland**

The objectives of the program for parkland acquisition shall be:

- Acquisition of land for a balanced park system in the region in order to:



## CHAPTER 2 - Policy and Plan Foundation

- Provide citizens with a wide choice of both active and passive recreation opportunities as major factors in enhancing the quality of Life
- Provide adequate parklands to accommodate conservation and preservation needs
- Acquisition of parkland based on the following considerations:
  - Local and regional demand for public park and recreation facilities based on current need and projected population changes
  - Protection and preservation of natural areas
  - Protection and preservation of watersheds
  - Protection and preservation of cultural and historical sites
  - Encouraging the private dedication of land as a means of parkland acquisition.

### Development and Management of the Park System

The objectives of the planning, design, construction, and management of the park system shall be based on:

- Meeting the needs of recreation and preservation in a manner that is harmonious with the natural beauty and parkland physiography, reflecting concern for the environment
- A planned and scientific approach to resource management, cognizant of the ecological interdependencies of people, the biota, water and soil

To preserve natural resources, the Department of Parks shall:

- Limit the development of active-use areas in regional parks to no more than 1/3 of their total park acreage, with the remaining acreage designated as natural areas and/or conservation areas. Development in other categories of parks shall be determined on a case-by-case basis with full consideration of the values of the natural features
- Prepare an environmental evaluation as part of park development or rehabilitation plans were deemed appropriate by the Park Commission
- Review as necessary the impact of park use, development, and management practices on parkland

### Relationship to Other Public Agencies, Education, and the Private Sector

- The Department of Parks shall encourage other public agencies, as well as the private sector, to assist in providing compatible open spaces, natural areas, and recreation facilities and opportunities in the region
- The Department of Parks shall encourage and support research in the environmental sciences by other public agencies, institutions of higher learning, and the private sector, and support programs in outdoor education and recreation in the school system
- Lands and facilities under the control of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission are held as a public trust for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations. The Commission is pledged to protect these holdings from encroachment that

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy and Plan Foundation

would threaten their use as parkland. The Commission recognizes that under rare circumstances non-park uses may be required on park property in order to serve the greater public interest

- For projects that will impact parkland, the policy is that non-parkland alternatives be pursued first for all publicly funded projects – unless environmental, economic, social and engineering impacts to move the project off parkland are proven to be prohibitive. In cases where the Planning Board has deemed that non-park use of parkland is unavoidable and/or serves the greater public interest, The Department of Parks shall:
  - Require the agency to acquire a Park Construction Permit. Through the review process, Parks will require that the agency minimize the impacts to parkland as much as possible.
  - Determine how to make the park system whole through mitigation. Some examples of mitigation may include but are not limited to: reforestation, vegetation enhancements or replacements, tree replacement, impervious surface removal, stormwater management facility retrofit or creation, terrestrial or aquatic habitat restoration, or other measures deemed appropriate for the impact.
  - In instances where the agency must permanently take ownership of parkland, parkland replacement may be required. Parkland impacted by a project must be replaced at equal or greater natural, cultural, and/or recreational value and therefor the parkland replacement mitigation may exceed the acreage impacted by the project. In certain instances, the impacts to parkland caused by public projects may be of such magnitude that the park function affected can never be restored and/or The Department of Parks believes there is no comparable replacement land in the County. When such cases arise, a compensation plan will be developed and agreed upon.
  - Neither Mitigation nor Compensation will be considered in place of avoidance, minimization or mitigation and will need to be approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board.

## Population and Facilities

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY POPULATION TRENDS

The changing character of Montgomery County's residents is now more notable than the anticipated slower growth typical of a populous and developed county. Major demographic trends shaping the County's growth and change such as increasing racial and ethnic diversity and the inevitable aging of baby boomer residents are highlighted below.

- Increasing racial and ethnic diversity in Montgomery County is expected to continue, assuming sustained migration patterns of racially and ethnically diverse populations moving into the County and additional minority births.
- Montgomery County gained "majority minority" status in 2010 when the percent share of the County's previously largest racial group, non-Hispanic whites, dropped below half. The County's

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy and Plan Foundation

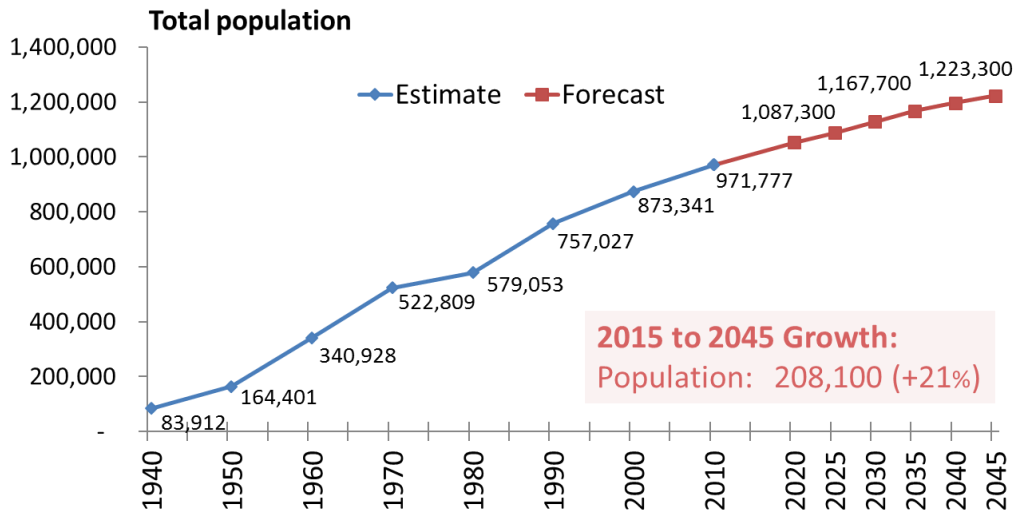
minority groups are projected to steadily increase from 55 percent in 2015 to 68 percent of the population in 2040.

- The aging baby boomers—the leading edge turned 65 in 2011— are forecasted to double the number of the County’s 65-plus population in 2010 from 120,000 residents to 244,000 by 2040, an increase from 12 percent of the population to 20 percent.
- Montgomery County has a large and widely diverse foreign-born population speaking a multitude of languages and varying English speaking proficiencies. One third of the county’s residents are foreign-born, the highest concentration in the Washington, D.C. region.
- Montgomery County retains its ranking among the wealthiest counties in the nation, while its median income varies by subpopulations such as race and Hispanic origin.
- Over the decades, Montgomery County evolved from predominately married-couples with children to a broader mix of household types including single parents, couples with no children under 18, single, and unrelated people living together.

### Slower Growth of a Mature, Developed County

With over one million people, Montgomery County settled into a slower growth phase as dwindling supplies of developable land and transportation capacity no longer sustained rapid growth. Forecasts of Montgomery County’s population, households and employment are prepared by the Research and Special Projects staff of the Montgomery Planning Department participating in a regional cooperative process organized by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (*see - Figure 1*). The County’s annual growth rate of 1 percent is projected to slow even further over the next 30 years. Population is forecasted to grow from just over 1 million people in 2015 to 1.2 million by 2045. This is an increase of about 208,000 people, or 21% gain over 30 years. In the near term, the County is forecasted to gain 72,000 people at a rate of 20 people per day to reach 1,087,000 people in 2025.

The key drivers of the County’s growth, international migration and births, not only add population, but more importantly, are major influencers of demographic change in addition to the inevitable aging of residents. The changing character of Montgomery County’s residents is now more notable than its population growth.



Source: 1940-2010 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau; Washington Council of Government Forecast Round 9.0, Research and Special Projects

Figure 1- Forecasted Population Gains Taper Off

## Racial Diversity, Hallmark of Change

Increasing racial and ethnic diversity outpaced Montgomery County’s overall population growth since the 1990s, steadily increasing the minority share of the total population --that is, everyone who is not non-Hispanic white. Between 1990 and 2015, the minority population added 366,200 people compared to gains of 283,100 in the total population or changed at a rate of 9 new minority residents for every 7 new residents (see - Figure 2) Hispanics, the County’s fastest growing group, gained 141,700 people, more than tripling in size over the past 25 years, while the non-Hispanic white population dropped 83,100 residents, a 15 percent loss. The minority share of the County’s population increased from 28 percent in 1990 to 55 percent in 2015.

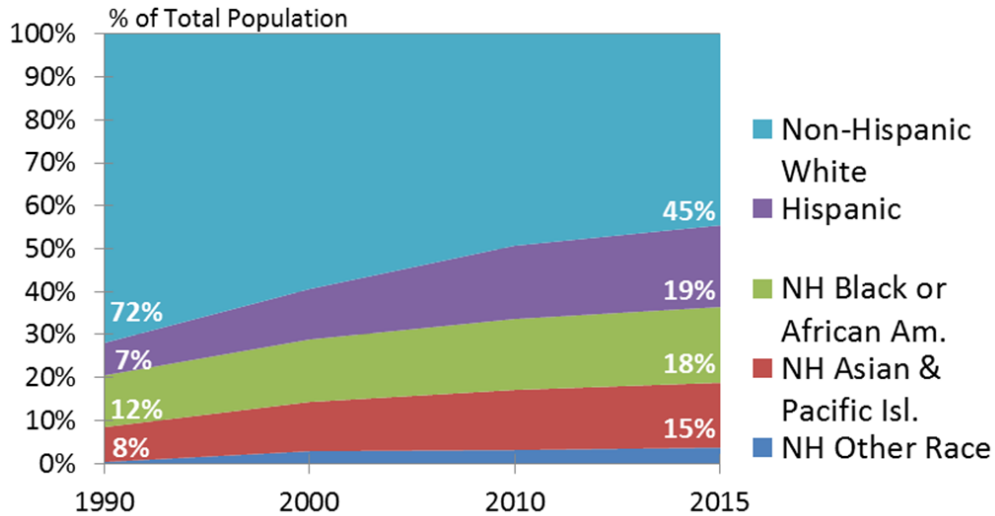
Montgomery County became a “majority minority” county in 2010. The percent share of the County’s largest racial group, non-Hispanic whites, dropped below half, 49.3 percent, creating a plurality among racial and ethnic groups where no single group was a majority. Hispanics became the largest minority group in 2010 surpassing the number of African Americans in the County.

Between 2010 and 2015, the Hispanic population gained 32,000 to 197,400 people, 19 percent of the County’s population. In 2015, 18 percent of the County’s population was African American (182,700 people), and 15 percent Asian and Pacific Islanders (155,500 people). The non-Hispanic white population dropped 3 percent to 465,300 people, 45 percent of the population. In 2015, minorities comprised 55 percent of the total population making Montgomery County more diverse than the nation (39 percent) and Maryland (48 percent). While similar in the level of diversity compared to the Washington, D.C. region (54 percent), the County has more equal percentage distribution among the minority groups.

Near and long-term trends of increasing racial and ethnic diversity in Montgomery County are expected to continue, assuming sustained migration patterns of racially and ethnically diverse populations moving into the County and additional minority births. The Maryland Department of Planning’s forecast of non-

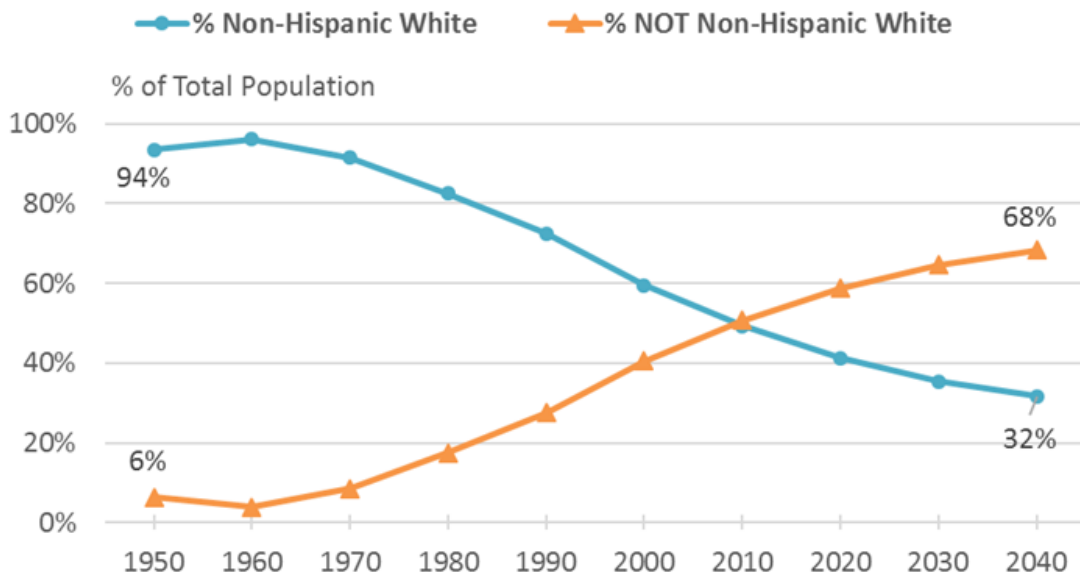
CHAPTER 2 - Policy and Plan Foundation

Hispanic white population projects the County’s minority groups will grow by 22 percent rising from 55 percent in 2015 to 62 percent of the total population in 2025. Between 2015 and 2040, the minority population is forecasted to increase by 46 percent and make up 68 percent of the County’s population (see Figure 4). Montgomery County’s population gained majority minority status in 2010, more than three decades before the minority population becomes the majority across America in 2044 according to the projections by the United States Census Bureau.



Source: 1990-2010 U.S. Census, 2015 American Community Survey

Figure 2- Race and Hispanic Origin, 1990-2015



Source: 1950-2010 U.S. Census, 2010-2040 Racial Forecast, Maryland Dept. of Planning

Figure 3 - Historical and Forecasted Racial Change in Montgomery County, 1950-2040

### Magnet for Foreign-born

Montgomery County has a large and widely diverse foreign-born population. With one-third of the County's population foreign-born (343,200 residents) in 2015, Montgomery County ranked first in the Washington, D.C. region and fifteenth among counties nationwide in this respect. About 40 percent of Maryland's foreign-born population reside in Montgomery County.

In 2015, international movement into the County set a record net gain of 11,000 foreign immigrants after dipping during the Great Recession. With the draw of its existing large foreign-born population base, economic opportunities, and welcoming social and political environment, Montgomery County is expected to continue to attract international immigrants moderated by world and national politics and regional and global economic cycles.

The origin of Montgomery County's foreign-born residents is widely diverse with 38 percent from Asia and 36 percent arriving from Latin America in 2015. The largest immigrant group is from El Salvador, about 47,600 people making up 14 percent of the County's foreign born in 2015. The other two countries with more than 20,000 people are India, 7 percent, and China, 6.5 percent. There are not many dominant immigrant groups, rather most of the common countries of origin each comprise only 1 to 3 percent of the foreign population contributing to broad tapestry of origins.

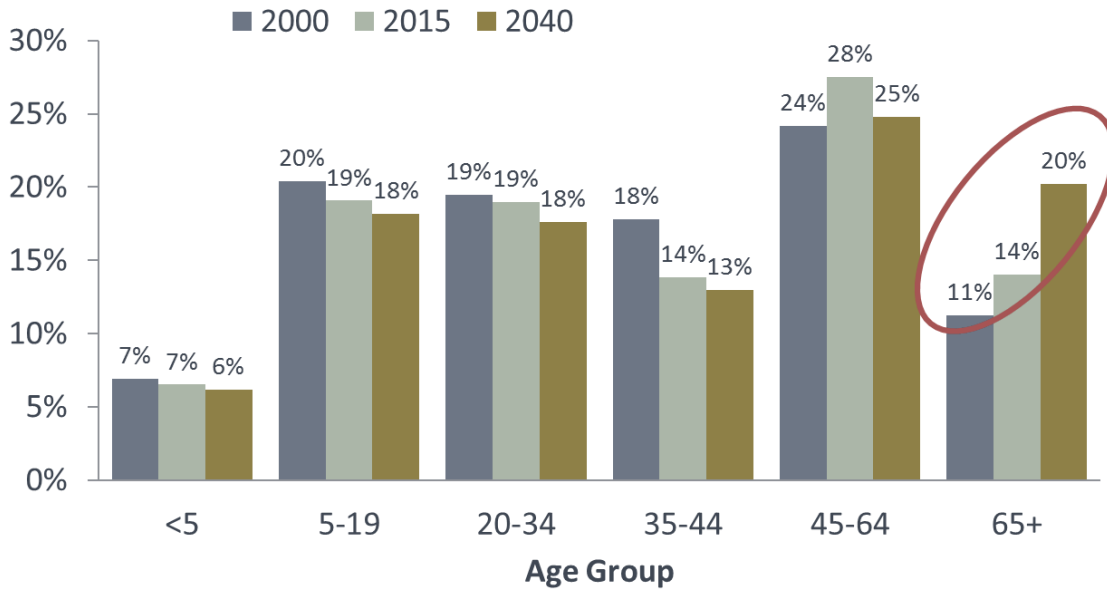
Many non-English languages, reflecting the diverse foreign places of birth, are spoken by 41 percent of the Montgomery County's residents. Spanish, spoken by 16 percent of the population, is the largest non-English language spoken at home in the County. Of the 400,000 people speaking a language other than English at home, over one-third speak English less than "very well". Of the large group of Spanish speaking residents, 44 percent characterize their English-speaking ability as less than "very well".

### Aging Baby Boomers

In 2015, almost one-quarter of a million children under age 18 live in Montgomery County, about 24 percent of the population. There are equal numbers of young adults age 20 to 34 and adults 35-44, about 198,000 people or 19 percent of residents. The percentage share of these age groups remained steady since 2000 while the older cohorts steadily increased as the baby boom generation, born between 1946 and 1964, aged. Between 2000 and 2015, the age cohort 45 to 64, considered "prime wage earners", gained 70,000 people, a 35 percent increase as boomers aged. In 2015, about 1 out of 7 residents are age 65 or older. The number of seniors, 146,200 in 2015, increased by half in the last 15 years.

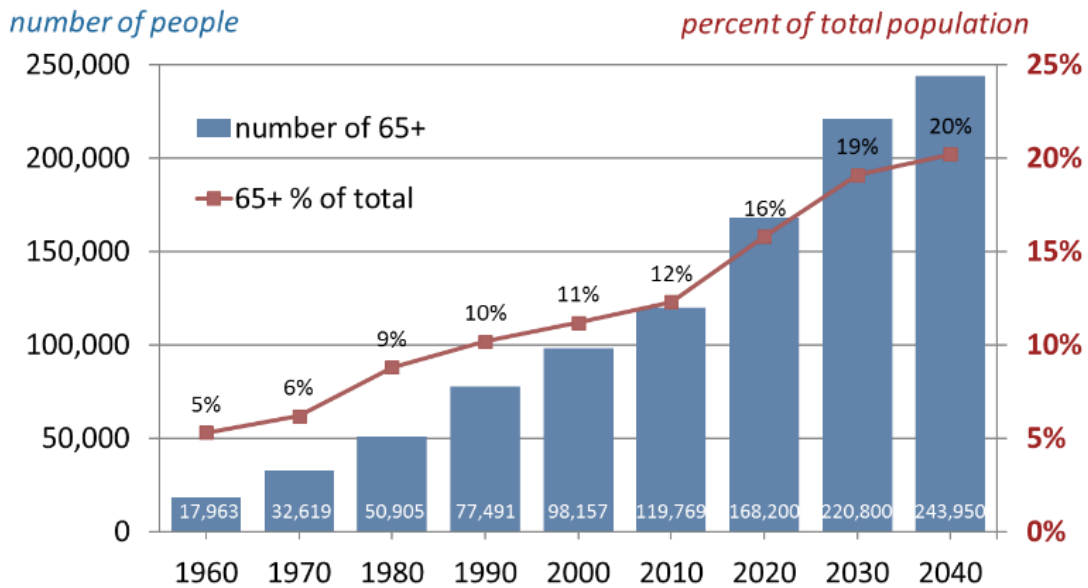
The most dramatic change in the County's age structure is driven by the aging of the baby boomers as this group ages through life-cycle events to the brink of retirement. The leading edge of the boomer generation turned 65 in 2011 and by 2030, all will be 65 and older. The aging boomers will drive growth in the County's 65-plus population from about 120,000 residents, or 12 percent of the population, in 2010 to 18 percent in 2030 - a 69 percent increase over 20 years. By 2040 the number of seniors are expected to double. Not only will 1 out of 5 residents be 65 or older in 2040, the diminishing cohort of boomers will be frail elderly, ages 76 to 94 years old.

CHAPTER 2 - Policy and Plan Foundation



Source: U.S. Census, 2000 Decennial Census (April estimate); 2015 Annual July Estimate of Populations; Maryland Dept. of Planning Age Forecast (July 2014).

Figure 4 -Percent of population by age group



Source: U.S. Decennial Census, 1960-2010; Maryland Department of Planning Population Forecast (July 2014).

Figure 5 - Growing Senior Population as Boomers Age

### Household Income

Montgomery County retains a place among the wealthiest counties in the nation, despite its median income not fully recovering from the 2007 recession. The median household income in Montgomery County—the income at which half the households are above and half are below — adjusted for inflation, dropped 5.8 percent (-\$6,063) from its peak in 2007 to \$98,917 in 2015. Although slow to recover, the County’s 2015 median income is 6 percent above Maryland’s at \$93,294, and 77 percent above the national median of \$55,775. Montgomery County, ranked 15th nationally, is one of the seven counties in the Washington, D.C. area rounding out the top 15 list of median household income across the nation.

Median income in Montgomery County varies by race and Hispanic origin. Non-Hispanic white households have the highest median among the groups at \$122,191, 24 percent above the countywide median, followed by Asian households at \$105,487, 7 percent above. In 2015, 60 percent of non-Hispanic white households and 53 percent of Asian households have incomes over \$100,000. The median income of Hispanic households is \$68,126, 31 percent below the county estimated median. African American household income at \$63,862 is \$35,000, or 35 percent, below the County’s median. An estimated 36 percent of Hispanic and 39 percent of African American households have incomes less than \$50,000. Hispanic (30 percent) and African American (32 percent) households are almost half as likely to have incomes above \$100,000 than non-Hispanic whites and Asians.

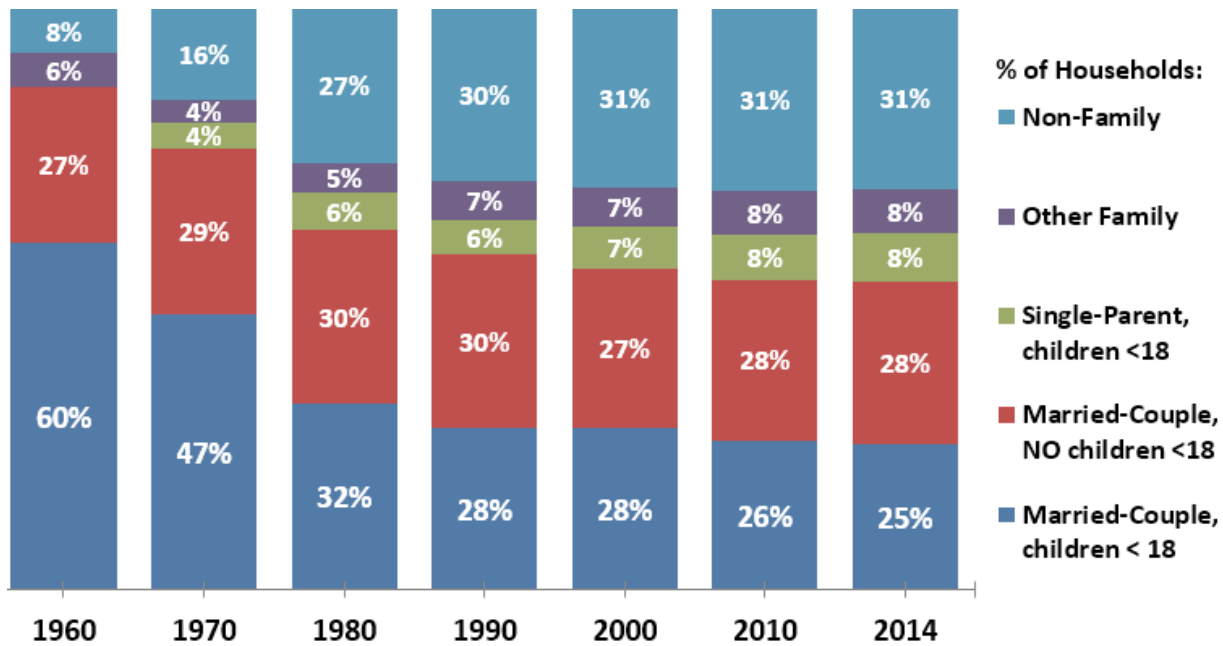
In 2015, an estimated 76,855 people, or 1 in 13 residents, have income below the federal poverty level. The poverty rate in the County at 7.5 percent, is below the rates for the Washington, D.C. region, 8.3 percent, and the nation, 14.7 percent.

### Evolving Household Types Outpace Married-couples with Children

Over many decades, the types of family and non-family households in Montgomery County shifted, responding to societal changes, broader housing choices, and an aging population. The 1950s-traditional family of husband, housewife, and several children is no longer the household norm as family formation became more varied.

The County’s share of married-couple households with children under 18 dropped dramatically from 60 percent of all households in 1960 to 25 percent in 2014 (*see - Figure 6*). Married-couple households with no children under 18 (101,961) outnumbered married-couples with children under 18 (91,173) in 2014. Between 2000 and 2014, married-couple households with children under 18 had a negligible change of 1.3 percent, roughly 1,200 families, in contrast to married-couples with no young children growing by 14.3 percent, gaining 12,700 households.





Source: 1960-2010 U.S. Census; 2014 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

Figure 6 - Household Types, 1960-2014

Aging within families explains some of this shift in married-couple households. As children become adults, parents become “empty nesters” with all of their children gone or they house “failed to launch” or “boomerang” adult children. These households, now with no children or adult children, fall into next category, married-couple, no young children, bumping up this group’s percentage share. Also, young married-couples heeding the millennial generation trend to postpone having children contribute to this group.

Coinciding with the drop in the traditional family type, comes a rise in the shares of single-parents and “other family”, both family types doubling since 1970 with each at 8 percent of the County’s population in 2014. Since 2000, the number of single-parent households with children under 18 increased by 6,900, a 29 percent jump to 30,600 families.

In the near term, the number of married-couples with children under 18 may only slightly increase, and the percentage share of this family type will probably continue its decline begun in 2000. Aging of the baby boom generation, combined with growth in non-family households serve to limit the share of married-couple with young children, relative to the overall growth in households. Montgomery County will continue to attract new families, and married residents will continue to have babies, but not at a rate to replace baby boomer households shedding children in the next ten years. By 2025, 29 percent of the County’s residents are projected to be 55 and older and living in a child-free home. The 17 percent growth in the 55 plus age cohort between 2015 and 2025 is projected to outpace the 2 percent gain in children under the 20 years old. Aging baby boomers will boost the number and the percentage share of married-couples without young children in the next ten years.

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy and Plan Foundation

The percentage of non-family households in the County, which includes singles, young and old, and unrelated individuals living together, increased from 8 percent of all households in 1960 to 30 percent in 1990 and subsequently plateaued. This rapid increase of non-family households, jumping from 7,200 to 84,000 households from 1960 to 1990, coincided with the addition of multi-family units to the County's housing stock broadening the choice of housing, a housing type which appeals to singles and other non-family households.

In 2000, non-family households became the most common household type with over 100,000 households and 31 percent of all households. Nonfamily households capturing over one-third of all household growth between 2000 and 2014, remain the leading type gaining another 13,200, a 13 percent increase since 2000. Given that most of the new housing in the development pipeline is multi-family units for the next 10 years and the current rental housing market trend for smaller units, studios and one bedrooms, it is possible the share of non-family household types may slightly increase, and it will undoubtedly increase in number by 2025.

### INVENTORY SUMMARIES

#### Recreation Department

Montgomery County Recreation Department's current facility inventory includes:

- 21 Community Recreation Centers, 2 closed for renovations
- 6 Senior Centers
- 13 Adult Activity Program Centers
- 4 Aquatic Centers (Indoor)
- 7 Outdoor Pools
- 12 Buildings and facilities on or immediately adjacent to parkland, through partnerships between MCRD and M-NCPPC

#### Department of Parks

The preservation of open space and recreation in our parks is essential to the quality of life in Montgomery County. Recreation includes both natural areas for nature walks, bird watching, hiking, mountain biking, etc., as well as those activities needing constructed facilities such as athletic fields, playgrounds, etc. Montgomery County currently has over 36,000 acres of parkland and 418 park and open space areas. Most of the County's park acreage is found in large countywide parks that form the framework of our park system. These include Regional and Recreational Parks, Special Parks (focusing on historic/cultural areas) and Conservation Oriented Parks (Stream Valley and Conservation Parks). County residents also have the benefit of many Community Use Parks that are closer to home and consist of neighborhood and local parks, and neighborhood conservation areas.

We recognize the importance of providing residents safe and accessible places to gather, enjoy the outdoors, and participate in healthy, recreational activities.

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2017 EXISTING PARK ACREAGE AND FACILITIES SUMMARY

Our park system includes:

**PARK SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Total number of parks: 419
- Total owned or managed acres of parkland: 36,641
- Total developed acreage: 7,732
- Open and Environmental Preservation acreage: 28,909

**PARK TYPES**

- Local Parks: 151
- Neighborhood Parks: 95
- Urban Parks: 28
- Stream Valley 36
- Regional Parks: 5
- Recreational Parks: 11
- Special Parks: 24
- Conservation Parks: 22
- Neighborhood Conservation Areas Parks: 41
- Miscellaneous Recreation/ Non-Recreation Facilities: 6

**PARK FACILITIES**

- Archery: 2
- Athletic fields: 296
- Basketball Courts: 214
- Boating Facility - Rentals: 2
- Boating Landing Ramps: 3
- Campgrounds – Full Service: 1
- Campgrounds – Primitive: 2
- Campsites: 102
- Carousel: 1
- Community Gardens: 12
- Cricket Field: 8
- Dog Parks: 6
- Driving Range (Stand Alone): 1
- Equestrian centers: 6
- Event Centers: 4
- Exercise Courses: 17
- Formal Botanical Gardens: 2
- Golf Courses: 4
- Gymnasiums: 1
- Historic Sites: 43
- Historic Structures: 117
- Ice Rinks: 2
- Lakes: 4
- Large Group Picnic Areas: 2
- Miniature Golf: 1
- Miniature Trains: 2
- Nature Centers: 4
- Outdoor Ropes Course: 1
- Overlay football/soccer fields: 41
- Park Activity Buildings: 28
- Picnic Shelters (Non-Permitted): 46
- Picnic Shelters (Permitted): 88
- Playgrounds: 284
- Skate Park: 3
- Splash Playground: 1
- Sports Center: 1
- Sports Pavilion: 1
- Tai Chi Court: 1
- Tennis Centers - Indoor: 3 (20 courts)
- Tennis Courts - Outdoor: 302
- Trails - Natural Surface: 161.9 miles
- Trails - Paved: 76.5 miles
- Trails - Water: 5.4 miles
- Volleyball Courts: 25

*Source: Management Services Division EAM Report, 06/2017*

A detailed inventory of the M-NCPPC park system is located in [APPENDIX 4](#).

### THE PARK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The M-NCPPC park system is categorized into different park types for budgeting and planning purposes. Montgomery County Parks are classified into two broad categories – Countywide Parks and Community Use Parks. There are several park types in each category. The park types are based in part on the service area of each park, its physical size, natural features, and the kind of facilities it contains. This section will describe and help define the distinctions between different types of parks. The table on the M-NCPPC Montgomery County Park Classification System contains a summarized description of each type of park, including approximate park size and typical recreation facilities (*Figure 7*).

This plan revises the Park Classification System to include two additional urban park types and to delete one type. Since the adoption of the *2012 PROS Plan*, the approved six types of urban parks have been applied to numerous master and sector plans. In the process, we identified the need to expand the existing urban park types to cover a multitude of spaces that can act as public spaces. The two new types are Pocket Greens and Plazas. The Urban Buffer Park type was removed because the definition of a park as a buffer between communities does not meet the current vision of an integrated urban park system that brings communities together.

#### Countywide Parks

Larger parks that serve regional recreation needs or conservation needs are called County-wide Parks. Over 90% of the total County park acreage is in County-wide parks. There are six types of County-wide parks: Regional, Recreational, Special, County-wide Urban (Civic Greens, County-Wide Urban Recreational, Urban Greenways) Conservation, and Stream Valley. Of these, the regional, recreational, special park, and Countywide Urban Park categories are recreation-oriented parks, while the conservation and stream valley parks belong to a sub-category of County-wide Parks known as conservation oriented parks.

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#### RECREATION ORIENTED PARKS

Regional, recreational, special parks, and Countywide Urban Parks are parks serving County-wide recreation needs. They provide opportunities for active and passive recreation.

##### **Regional Parks**

Regional Parks are large, typically over 200 acres, and contain a wide range of recreation opportunities and facilities, while retaining 2/3 of the park for conservation. Regional parks are the most popular of the County's parks.

Montgomery County has five developed regional parks offering a variety of recreation opportunities within a reasonable driving time of most County residents. Three of these parks serve the lower and mid-County areas. Wheaton, the System's first regional park, was opened to the public in 1961 and is easily reached by southeastern County residents. Cabin John Regional Park is accessible to southwestern County residents, and Rock Creek Regional Park by people living in the middle and upper-County areas. Many recreational facilities are provided including lighted tournament quality athletic fields, year-round tennis courts, ice rinks, trains, and a carousel. Rock Creek offers golf, boating and other water oriented recreation activities. Additionally, each of these parks furnishes other recreation opportunities, such as nature centers, playgrounds, trails, and picnic areas, and Wheaton has a large botanical garden.

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy and Plan Foundation

The two regional parks that serve the northern area of the County have large acreage of open space and conservation area. Little Bennett has a golf course and a large campground, while Black Hill offers opportunities to enjoy picnicking, water-related recreation, and many miles of trails.

### Recreational Parks

This category includes parks with intensive development such as ball field and tennis court complexes at regional parks; however, they differ from regional parks in that they do not limit 2/3 of their development to conservation uses. Small picnic/playground areas are also included in this category. Presently, Montgomery County has eight such developed parks -- Olney Manor, Martin Luther King, Damascus, Fairland, Ovid Hazen Wells, Ridge Road Recreational Park, South Germantown, and Northwest Branch Recreational Park. Laytonia is under construction and should open in the Summer of 2017. There are several other undeveloped recreational parks which are planned for future development including, Muncaster, Gude and Goshen.

### Special Parks

These parks preserve historic or culturally significant features and have distinguishing characteristics that set them apart from other park classifications. McCrillis Gardens, Woodlawn Manor House, Rockwood Manor Park, and the Agricultural History Farm Park are good examples of special parks in the County. They are often used for small conferences, social events, specialized education, and art exhibits. Important historic sites are preserved in all types of parks. Examples of these are the Silver Spring in Acorn Urban Park, Woodlawn Manor House with its smoke house, and the Needwood Mansion.

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### COUNTYWIDE URBAN PARKS

The *2012 PROS Plan* defined three types of County-wide Urban Parks: Civic Greens, County-wide Urban Recreational Areas, and Urban Greenways. This Plan adds a fourth County-wide Urban Park type: Plazas.

These four urban park types serve residents, visitors, and workers of an entire urban high-density transit-oriented development area, and may be programmed with numerous activities that attract residents from other parts of the County. Parking is located within structures underground or in nearby public parking lots, garages, or along adjoining streets, rather than on-site. Parks may be lighted at night along major walkways and for certain activities such as events, or court sports.

- **CIVIC GREENS**

Civic greens are formally planned, flexible, programmable open spaces that serve as places for informal gathering, quiet contemplation, or large special event gatherings. Depending on size, they may support activities including open air markets, concerts, festivals, and special events but are not often used for programmed recreational purposes. A central lawn is often the main focus, with adjacent spaces providing complementary uses. Such uses may include gardens, water features and shade structures.

- **PLAZAS**

A Plaza is a new park type that aligns with and complements the Civic Green park type. Plazas are formally planned, predominantly hardscaped open spaces for pedestrian traffic from nearby transit stops and commercial and higher density residential uses. In contrast, the Civic Greens provide a larger amount of green space area inclusive of a relevant gathering lawn area.

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy and Plan Foundation

Depending on size, Plazas may support activities including open air markets, concerts, festivals, and special events, but are not often used for active recreational purposes. They should be located with building entrances and at least one street facing them, and have access to sunlight and connection to the network of public spaces, and protection from the wind, traffic and noise.

- **COUNTYWIDE URBAN RECREATIONAL PARKS**

Countywide Urban Recreation areas are oriented to the recreational needs of a densely populated neighborhood and business district. They provide space for many activities. Activities may include athletic fields, playing courts, picnicking, dog parks, sitting areas and flexible grassy open space. Programming can include farmer's markets, outdoor exercise classes, and community yard sales. There is space for a safe drop-off area and nearby accessible parking for those who cannot walk to the park.

- **URBAN GREENWAYS**

Urban greenways are linear parks that provide trails or wide landscaped walkways and bikeways and may include other recreational and natural amenities. Amenities may occur along road rights of way or "paper" streets. They may include trails, walkways, and bikeways, with extra space for vegetative ground cover and trees, and they should link other green spaces, trails and natural systems.

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### CONSERVATION ORIENTED PARKS

There are two types of County-wide conservation oriented parks: stream valley parks and conservation area parks. Both protect important environmental areas; however, they differ in that stream valley parks are linear parks acquired to protect stream valleys and conservation parks are large natural areas acquired to preserve specific natural, archaeological, or historical features. Both types of parks are managed to provide stewardship of sensitive areas, but may include trails and other low impact recreation areas when carefully designed to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate environmental impacts.

- **STREAM VALLEY PARKS**

Stream Valley Parks form the foundation of the park system, extending as greenways throughout the urban areas and into the countryside, putting the natural environment within close reach of all Montgomery County citizens. They separate communities with green open space buffers and provide easy access to nature for adjacent residents. Just as they were seventy years ago, stream valley parks today are acquired primarily for conservation purposes. They hold the key to watershed protection throughout the County by reducing flooding, sedimentation and erosion, and they furnish valuable habitat for many species of wildlife. Some stream valleys, such as the Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley, are also designated as special protection areas. These areas are so sensitive that they are subject to a special set of regulations designed to protect them.

Stream valley parks also preserve some of the County's most beautiful and interesting terrain, providing long, interconnected greenways of parkland that provide corridors for trails and wildlife. There are 30 such parks in the County, which include nearly 12,000 acres of parkland. In urban areas, clusters of active recreation facilities in parks adjacent to stream valley parks were developed many years ago to serve as local parks for nearby residents. More recent environmental regulations now limit or prevent intensive development along stream banks to reduce sedimentation and erosion and environmental degradation caused by urban runoff.

- **CONSERVATION AREA PARKS**

Conservation Area Parks are generally large areas that preserve specific natural, archaeological or historical features; are typically located in upland areas; and are acquired specifically for environmental preservation purposes. Conservation area parks may include outstanding examples of natural communities, self-sustaining populations of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, or unique archaeological and historical resources. Given the sensitive nature of the resources in conservation parks, development is very limited and generally restricted to passive recreation areas and opportunities such as trails, fishing and picnic areas, and nature study. Opportunities for interpretation of the protected environmental, historic, and archeological elements should be maximized through self-guided nature trails, interpretive signage, and naturalist programs. There are nine conservation parks in the County, which include over 2,160 acres of parkland.

### Community Use Parks

Smaller types of parks that are primarily used by local residents are grouped in the park classification system under the category of Community Use Parks. There are four types of Community Use Parks: Community Use Urban Parks (Urban Buffer Parks, Neighborhood Greens, Pocket Greens, Urban Recreational Parklets), Neighborhood Parks, Local Parks, and Neighborhood Conservation Areas.

These parks provide everyday recreation needs for residents close to home. Currently there are over 200 developed community use parks. Many are located within the down-county area where they were placed to serve County development in the 1950s and 60s. As new park construction tries to keep pace with an ever-expanding County population, more parks are now being developed in rapidly growing up-county areas.

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#### COMMUNITY USE URBAN PARKS

**Urban Parks** serve central business districts or other highly urban areas, providing green space in an often otherwise concrete environment. Urban parks serve an important role as gathering places for the community and accommodate activities such as concerts and performances, celebrations, fairs, and outdoor spaces for area employees to have lunch. Nearly all the County's developed community use urban parks are in the down-County with concentrations in the Bethesda and Silver Spring areas.

These parks may be programmed for more localized events, but not countywide events. No parking is available on the park property. Subcategories include Neighborhood Greens, Pocket Greens, and Urban Recreational Parklets.

- **NEIGHBORHOOD GREENS**

Neighborhood Greens serve the residents and workers from the surrounding neighborhood or district, but may be designed for more activity than an urban buffer park. These formally planned, flexible open spaces serve as places for informal gathering, lunchtime relaxation, or small special event gatherings. Lawn area, shaded seating and pathways are typical facilities. Facility may also include a play area, a skate spot, a community garden, or similar neighborhood facilities.

- **POCKET GREENS**

The new park type of Pocket Greens will play an important role in the network of public spaces

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy and Plan Foundation

that will be encouraged in higher density areas. The presence of these smaller park types will allow for “pauses” in a landscaped setting along the route between major and larger open spaces within the network. These spaces are particularly important in areas where commercial activities are taking places to allow workers to take a lunch or coffee break while enjoying a contemplative environment. Research has suggested that smaller breaks during the work schedule increases productivity and health, especially mental health. This park type will serve residents and workers from nearby area, designed for relaxation, lunch breaks, small games, play area for children, and outdoor eating. Due to its small scale, the space should be highly visible from the street, and connect to the public space network and include access to sunlight, important view corridors, connection to the network of public spaces, and protection from the wind, traffic and noise.

- **URBAN RECREATIONAL PARKLETS**

Urban Recreational Parklets are parks that serve the residents and workers from the surrounding neighborhood or district, and are designed for more active recreation than an urban buffer park or a neighborhood green. Typical facilities include sport courts, skate spots, and may include lawn areas, playgrounds or similar neighborhood recreation facilities.

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### OTHER COMMUNITY USE PARKS

The most widespread community use parks across the County include the following three types of parks. Neighborhood and Local Parks are recreation-oriented park spaces to serve local communities and close-to-home needs. Neighborhood Conservation Areas provide conservation-oriented parkland located within residential communities in a smaller footprint than the countywide conservation parks.

- **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**

These park types are small, generally, walk-to parks providing informal leisure opportunities and recreation in heavily populated areas. They often provide about five acres of open space developed with a sitting area, playground, informal play field, and tennis and/or basketball courts. There are 74 developed neighborhood parks in the County, with the largest number found in the Wheaton, Silver Spring, and Bethesda areas where they were developed to serve early concentrations of single-family housing.

- **LOCAL PARKS**

Local Parks provide both programmed and informal recreation opportunities within reach of all area residents. Typically, about ten to fifteen acres in size, these parks contain athletic fields, tennis and basketball courts, picnic and playground areas, and sometimes recreation buildings and other facilities.

The major difference between neighborhood and local parks is that the local parks provide regulation size athletic fields that can be reserved for game play. Over 40% of the people visiting local parks in 1996 were either league players or league game spectators. Ballplayers attend games on fields near their homes, or travel to other parts of the County to challenge opposing teams. Therefore, local parks often have large service areas. Many people drive to local parks, while many neighborhood parks are within walking distance.

Many down-County local parks include small recreation centers that are used for classes, social events, and other similar activities. Some local parks also include other facilities as swimming pools that serve large areas of the County. Some of these parks, such as Sligo-Dennis, are



## CHAPTER 2 - Policy and Plan Foundation

located adjacent to stream valley park areas and provide both active and passive recreation opportunities.

The Commission cooperates with other agencies to use tax monies as wisely as possible. Parks provide facilities for many of the programs sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Many local parks are adjacent to schools and give school children more room to play during the day and families more recreation spaces on the weekend.

- **NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREAS**

These are small pieces of parkland preserved in residential areas. They are generally conveyed to M-NCPPC during the subdivision process and frequently contain streams or drainage areas and adjacent wooded slopes. They remain undeveloped and benefit the neighborhood by providing open space, reducing storm water runoff, and bringing nature into an urban environment.

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

Figure 7 - New Park Classification System

<b>COUNTYWIDE PARKS - Parks in this category serve all residents of Montgomery County</b>			
<b>- Recreational Oriented Parks</b>			
PARK TYPE	PARK TYPE DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL FACILITIES*	APPROX. SIZE
REGIONAL PARKS	Large Parks that provide a wide range of recreational opportunities but retain 2/3 of the acreage as conservation areas.	Picnic / playground areas, tennis courts, athletic fields, golf course, campgrounds, and water-oriented recreation areas.	<b>200 ACRES OR MORE</b>
RECREATIONAL PARKS	Parks larger than 50 acres in size that are more intensively developed than Regional Parks, but may also contain natural areas.	Athletic fields, tennis courts, multi-use courts, picnic/playground areas, golf course, trails, and natural areas.	<b>50 ACRES OR MORE</b>
SPECIAL PARKS	These parks include areas that contain features of historic and cultural significance.	Vary, but may include agricultural centers, garden, small conference centers, and historic structures, etc.	<b>VARIES</b>
<b>- Countywide Urban Parks</b>			
PARK TYPE	PARK TYPE DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL FACILITIES*	APPROX. SIZE
CIVIC GREENS	Formally planned, flexible, programmable open spaces that serve as places for informal gathering, quiet contemplation, or large special event gatherings. Depending on size, they may support activities including open air markets, concerts, festivals, and special events but are not often used for programmed recreational purposes.	A central lawn is often the main focus with adjacent spaces providing complementary uses. May include gardens, water features and shade structures.	<b>1/2 ACRE MINIMUM</b> <b>1.5 ACRE IDEAL</b>
PLAZAS	Formally planned, predominantly hardscaped open spaces for pedestrian traffic from nearby transit stops and commercial and higher density residential uses. Depending on size, they may support activities including open air markets, concerts, festivals, and special events, but are not often used for active recreational purposes. Consider access to sunlight and connection to the network of public spaces, and protection from the wind, traffic and noise.	Central hardscaped gathering area with public art/water feature as focal point. May include special lighting, shaded areas, and benches and tables. Consider temporary closure of local streets to enlarge the size of the plaza for special events. Playful and interactive elements are encouraged.	<b>1/2 ACRE MINIMUM</b> <b>1 ACRE IDEAL</b>
URBAN RECREATIONAL PARKS	Oriented to the recreational needs of a densely populated neighborhood and business district. They provide space for many activities.	May include athletic fields, playing courts, picnicking, dog parks, sitting areas and flexible grassy open space. Programming can include farmer’s markets, outdoor exercise classes, and community yard sales. There is space for a safe drop-off area and nearby accessible parking for those who cannot walk to the park.	<b>VARIES</b>
URBAN GREENWAYS	Linear parks that provide trails or wide landscaped walkways and bikeways and may include other recreational and natural amenities. May occur along road rights of way or “paper” streets.	Trails, walkways and bikeways, with extra space for vegetative ground cover and trees. Should link other green spaces, trails and natural systems.	<b>VARIES</b>

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

### - Conservation Oriented Parks

PARK TYPE	PARK TYPE DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL FACILITIES*	APPROX. SIZE
STREAM VALLEY PARKS	Interconnected linear parks along major stream valleys providing conservation and recreation areas.	Hiker-biker trails, fishing, picnicking, playground areas.	<b>VARIES</b>
CONSERVATION AREA PARKS	Large natural areas acquired to preserve specific natural archaeological or historic features. They also provide opportunities of compatible recreation activities.	Trails, fishing areas, nature study areas, and informal picnic areas.	<b>VARIES</b>

### COMMUNITY USE PARKS - Parks in this category serve residents of surrounding communities

#### - Community Use Urban Parks

PARK TYPE	PARK TYPE DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL FACILITIES*	APPROX. SIZE
NEIGHBORHOOD GREENS	Serve the residents and workers from the surrounding neighborhood or district, but may be designed for more activity than an urban buffer park. These formally planned, flexible open spaces serve as places for informal gathering, lunchtime relaxation, or small special event gatherings.	Lawn area, shaded seating and pathways. May include a play area, a skate spot, a community garden, or similar neighborhood facilities.	<b>1/4 ACRE MINIMUM</b>
POCKET GREENS	Serve residents and workers from nearby area, designed for relaxation, lunch breaks, small games, play area for children, and outdoor eating. Consider access to sunlight, important view corridors, connection to the network of public spaces, and protection from the wind, traffic and noise.	Program and design should reflect the demographics and culture of its surrounding users. Sunlit small gathering areas, shaded seating, small children play areas. May include movable furniture, focal point public art, and small-scale green areas and trees.	<b>1/10-1/4 ACRE</b>
URBAN RECREATIONAL PARKLETS	These parks serve the residents and workers from the surrounding neighborhood or district, and are designed for more active recreation than an urban buffer park or a neighborhood green.	Sport courts, skate spots, and may include lawn areas, playgrounds or similar neighborhood recreation facilities.	<b>1/10 ACRE MINIMUM</b>

#### - Community Use Parks

PARK TYPE	PARK TYPE DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL FACILITIES*	APPROX. SIZE
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	Small parks providing informal recreation in residential areas.	Play equipment, play field, sitting area, shelter, tennis and Multi-use courts. (Do not include regulation size ballfields).	<b>2.5 ACRE</b>
LOCAL PARKS	Larger parks that provide ballfields and both programmed and un-programmed recreation facilities.	Ballfields, play equipment, tennis and multi-use courts, sitting/picnic area, shelters, buildings and other facilities.	<b>15 ACRE</b>
NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREAS	Small parcels of conservation oriented parkland in residential areas, generally dedicated at the time of subdivision.	Generally undeveloped, may include a stormwater management pond and related facilities.	<b>VARIES</b>

*\*This list is not all inclusive, but includes facilities typical of each park type.*

## Implementation Strategies

### NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION THREE PILLARS

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), has as its core mission to impact communities through three pillars of Conservation, Health and Wellness, and Social Equity (online at: <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/>). These overarching themes are important in guiding the priorities of Montgomery Parks and the Recreation Department.

#### Conservation

##### **Protecting open space, connecting people to nature, and engaging communities in conservation practices.**

*“Local park and recreation agencies play a vital role in the protection of our environment through green infrastructure, conservation of public lands, providing wildlife habitat and more. In a world where people are increasingly disconnected to nature, local parks also are essential in creating environmental stewards who will advocate for and protect our most precious public resources – our land, water, trees, open spaces and wildlife...”*

*‘...Our areas of focus include promoting sustainable practices including green infrastructure and other strategies that address the effects of climate change, preserving wildlife, growing a next generation of environmental stewards, and supporting programs and policies that encourage a commitment to conservation.’*

Montgomery Parks supports this pillar in several ways, by promoting environmental stewardship and literacy, managing volunteer programs to tackle non-native invasive species, trails, and stream cleanups, and by providing attractive, safe, and interesting opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors. Montgomery Parks is a key player in environmental literacy planning in Maryland by public programming that supports Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and Maryland State environmental literacy standards.

Environmental literacy is a critical objective for the park and recreation industry, because it has a number of “positive impacts, from improving academic performance, to enhancing critical thinking skills, to developing personal growth and life-building skills including confidence, autonomy, and leadership. In addition, a number of the studies showed that environmental education increased civic engagement and positive environmental behaviors.” Online at: <https://naaee.org/eepr/research/eeworks/benefits-environmental-education-k-12>

### Health and Wellness

#### **Leading the nation to improved health and wellness through parks and recreation.**

*Local park and recreation agencies provide crucial health and wellness opportunities for all populations in communities across the country. As America continues to face serious health issues including rising rates of chronic disease, an increased prevalence of sedentary lifestyles and poor nutrition habits, parks and recreation offer an affordable and accessible solution.*

*NRPA works with local park and recreation agencies to provide tools, resources, and technical assistance to improve access to healthy foods and increase opportunities for people to be physically active in their communities. Our areas of focus include ensuring that all people have safe access to quality park and recreation facilities and programming; promoting healthy eating and physical activity standards; expanding access to evidence-based health prevention programs; connecting parks and the health community, and supporting programs and policies that eliminate health disparities.*

Montgomery Parks supports this pillar in several ways. The Department of Parks, the Department of Recreation and numerous other County agencies (schools, transportation, housing, health and human services and planning) are collectively meeting to determine a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Montgomery County. The goals for this plan are to achieve health equity for all residents, improving access to health and social services and enhancing the physical and social environment to support optimal health and well-being and reduce unhealthy behaviors.

Montgomery County is facing unprecedented challenges in meeting the behavioral and chronic health needs of County residents. Although all the departments are involved in providing some level of health services and programs, each have a niche of expertise and specialized viewpoint, resulting in little coherence or synergy among all the services afford. To address increasing health needs, there needs to be a collective understanding of what is currently being provided and what can be done as a coordinated response to meet the needs.

The Department of Parks is a key player in this effort, in that it is essentially a health care provider. As a provider of park and recreational amenities, Parks is responsible for safe, accessible, and attractive open spaces and amenities for people to enjoy for the benefit of their health. Access to nature has a positive influence of people's mental and physical health. The Department of Parks currently has many parks and amenities to meet physical active health needs of the community. The many acres of natural environments for contemplative experiences are a great benefit to the mental and restorative health of the residents. With the growth of the county continuing at the rate it has been growing, providing more open spaces, programs to address health needs and access to them will be the challenge.

### Social Equity

#### **Ensuring all people have access to the benefits of local parks and recreation.**

*“True to the very philosophy of public parks and recreation is the idea that all people – no matter the color of their skin, age, income level or ability – have access to programs, facilities, places and spaces that make their lives and communities great. Parks and recreation truly build communities – communities for all.*

*NRPA works with local park and recreation agencies to provide tools, resources, and technical assistance to ensure all people have access and are meaningfully involved in the development and use of park and recreation programs and spaces. Our areas of focus include ensuring all people have safe access to quality park and recreation facilities and programming, expanding access to meal programs for children, investing in park improvement projects for communities that need it most, and supporting programs and policies that protect our most vulnerable communities from environmental and health hazards”.*

Montgomery Parks supports this pillar in several ways. The [2017 PROS Plan](#) outreach focused on populations in the County who have not traditionally participated in planning processes. The plan also includes as an analysis of Park Proximity and an analysis of Park Equity as required by the State of Maryland for the first time (see [Appendix 4](#)).

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#### PARK EQUITY AND PROXIMITY ANALYSES

The State requires analyses and maps of park equity and park proximity. The utility of these analyses is to help Montgomery Parks provide services and facilities more equitably. The investment for improving park proximity or park equity in a location should depend on more detailed analysis to determine whether improvements in access or improvements in facilities would fill the gap identified on the maps. Resulting recommendations could consist of:

- Prioritizing the replacement of individual park components that have reached the end of their life cycle after a facility condition assessment
- Identifying and eliminating barriers to walking from neighborhoods to existing parks
- Providing new facilities as identified in the PROS Plan
- Re-thinking an entire park if the current layout no longer meets the needs of the residents

#### **Park Equity**

The State defines park equity much as the NRPA defines social equity. The analysis required by the State is intended to “aid in identification of areas where underserved populations do not have easy access to parks close to home.” - credit: [Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Guidelines, Final Draft, July 2015, page 9](#). Through data collection and geospatial analysis, the analysis and map preliminarily

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

identify areas of the County that may have lower park equity based on high concentrations of lower income households with low walkable access to park entrances and trailheads.

To accomplish the analysis, a Walking Distance to Park Entrances and Trailheads map (*Figure 8*) was created. To create this map first a walkable network of roads and trails was established. This network of walkable streets is defined as:

- Road classes that are residential and lower speeds (classes 4 and 5),
- All other road classes with sidewalks or an adjacent pedestrian path,
- All sanctioned natural-surface and hard-surface M-NCPPC Park Trails.

Next, using this walkable network and the point layer of Park and Trail Entrances from all jurisdictions, an analysis was performed in ArcGIS to calculate walk-sheds from these entrance points and reclassified to show walk-sheds at a variety of distances.

The Walking Distances to Park Entrances and Trailheads map shows a half-mile walk from entrances to existing parks and trailheads on all public lands in Montgomery County. As the data on park entrances and trailheads evolves and new entrances or trailheads are added, the accuracy of this map will improve over time.

Next, a Park Equity Map was created which depicts an index of three factors: population density, Median Household Income as a percent of Area Median Income (AMI), and walkable access to parks and trailheads on all public lands in the County.

CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

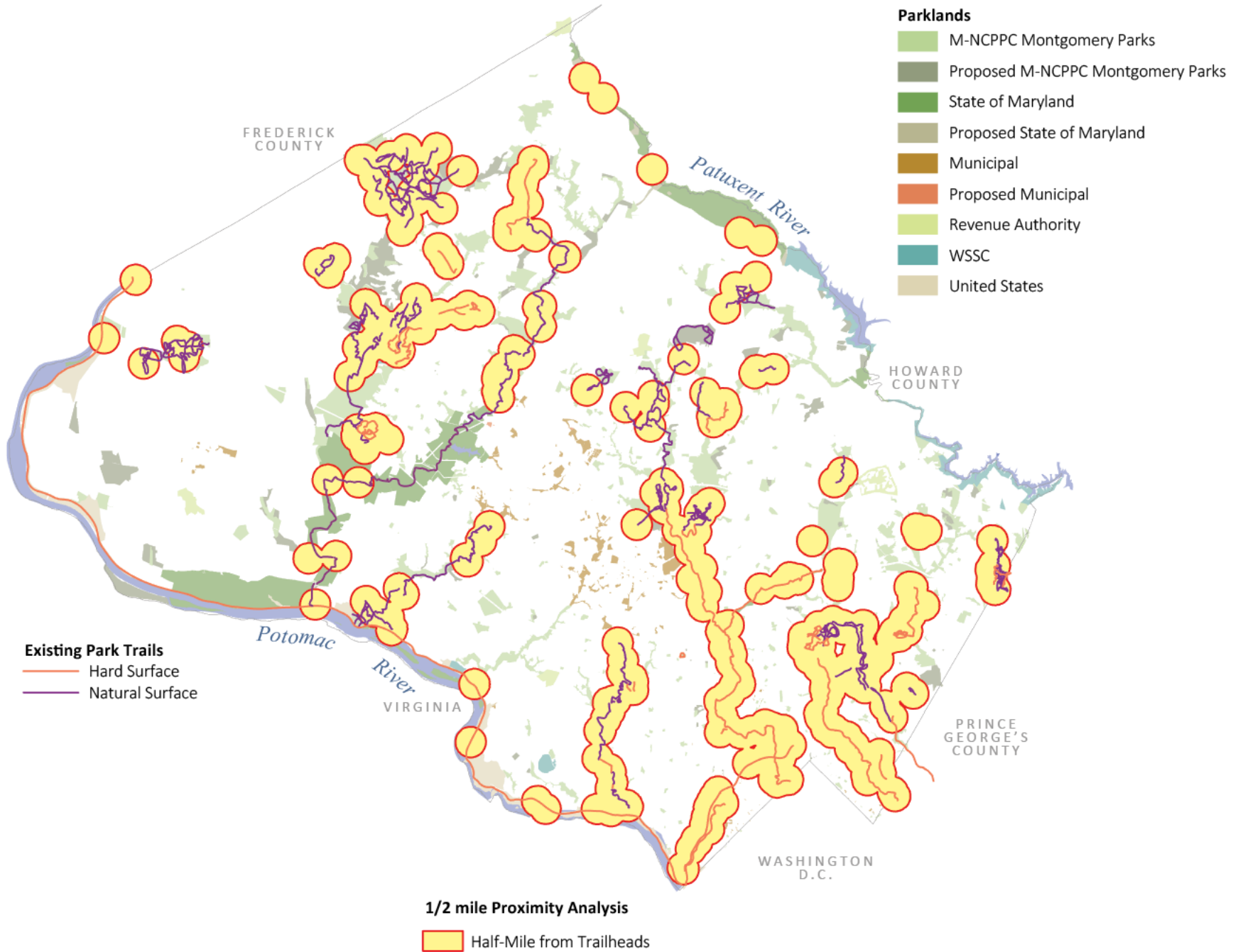


Figure 8 - Walking Distance to Park Entrances and Trailheads Map



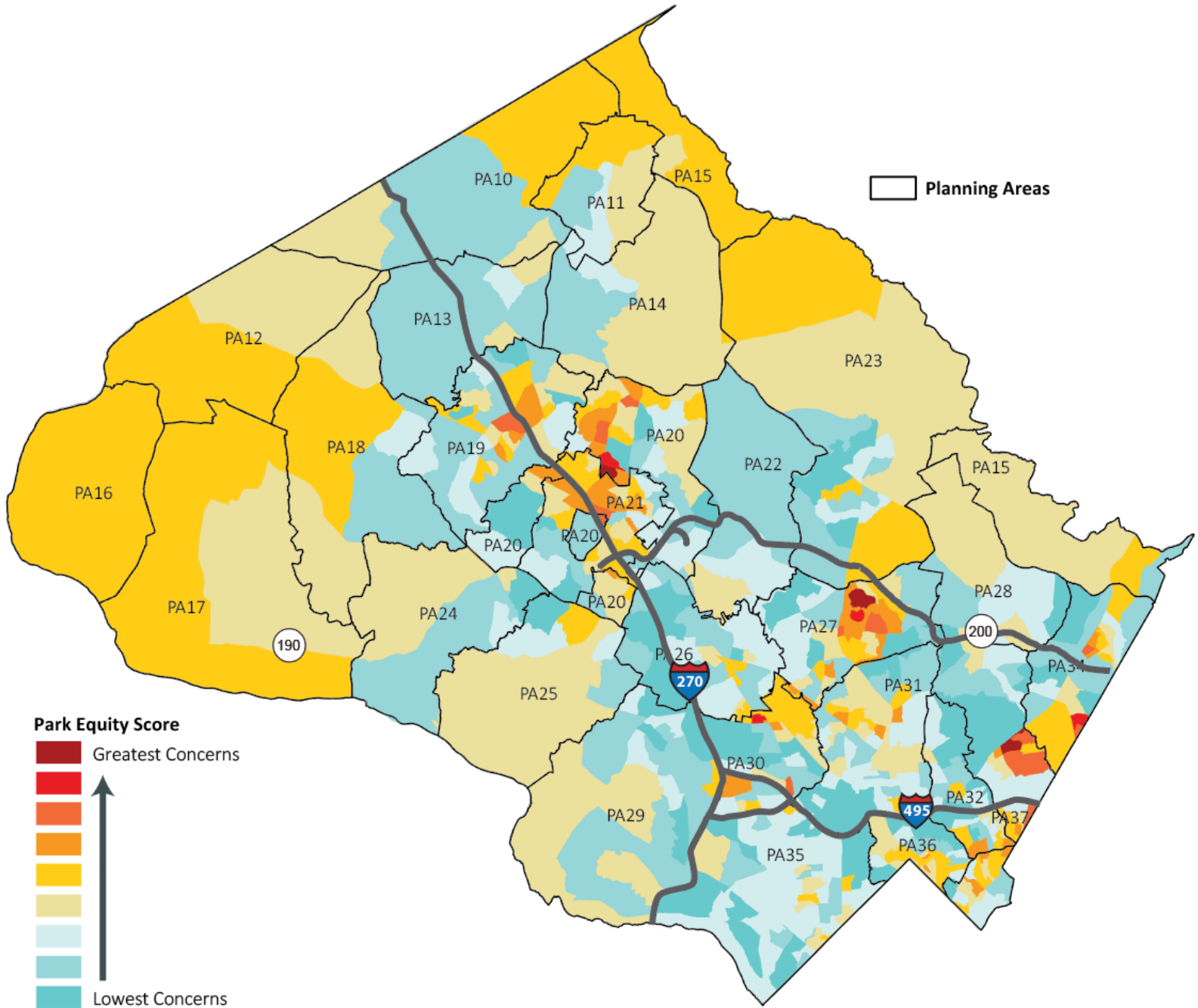


Figure 9 - Park Equity Map of Walkable Access to Parks in Higher Density, Lower Income Areas\*

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

\*The Park Equity Map was designed to identify high concentrations of lower income households with low walkable access to park entrances and trailheads. This map depicts an index of three factors: Population Density, Median Household Income as a percent of Area Median Income, and Walkable Access to Parks and Trailheads.

This Plan recommends that Park Equity be added to the prioritization criteria for the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The Park Equity Analysis assigns each census block in the County a Park Equity score, based on values assigned to levels of density, income, and walkable access. Data sets were mapped at the Census Block Group scale. The following tables show how data in each factor were scored. Each Census Block Group was scored according to these three factors and the individual scores were added together to create an overall score. All factors were weighted equally. Scores ranged from 0 – 9, with zero being the areas of least concern and nine being the areas of highest concern.

### Population Density: by Census Block Group (People Per Square Mile)

RANGE	DESCRIPTION	SCORE (0-3)
10,001 + ppsm	Very High Density (Urban, for Montgomery County)	3
5,001 – 10,000 ppsm	Medium-High Density (Suburban)	2
1,001 – 5,000 ppsm	Medium-Low Density (Suburban)	1
< 1,000 ppsm	Low Density (Rural)	0

*Data source: US Census Bureau. Table B01003: Total Population. 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Universe: Total population.*

### Income: Percent of Area Median Income by Census Block Group (2016 AMI \$108,600):

RANGE	DESCRIPTION	SCORE (0-3)
0% – 50% AMI	Very Low Income	3
51% – 64.6% AMI	Low Income	2
64.7% – 100% AMI	Middle Income	1
100% + AMI	Above AMI	0

*Data source: US Census Bureau. Table B19013: Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2015 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars), 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Universe: Households.*

### Chart: Park Access: Walking distance to Parks Entrances and Trailheads by Census Block Group

RANGE	DESCRIPTION	SCORE (0-3)
0 – 25% of area of Census Block Group is within a 10-min walk	Poor access to parks/trailheads	3
26 – 50% of area of Census Block Group is within a 10-min walk	Fair access to parks / trailheads	2
50 – 75% of area of Census Block Group is within a 10-min walk	Good access to parks / trailheads	1
76 – 100% of area of Census Block Group is within a 10-min walk	Very Good access to parks / trailheads	0

*Data source: M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks, Park and Trail Planning, Analysis of Walking Distance to Parks and Trailheads.*

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

The score of an area could be considered along with other factors when the Department of Parks evaluates potential projects to be funded. Those projects in areas lowest Park Equity would rise above some other projects in a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) priority list for level of effort project or a stand-alone project funding. *Figure 10* below shows a sample of candidate projects overlaid on the Park Equity Map.

Projects proposed in the CIP are evaluated for consistency with State and County goals for recreation, parks and open space. Additional assessment criteria are used to help sort and prioritize proposed CIP projects. With the addition of Park Equity as a criterion, these project assessment criteria would include:

- Provides Park Equity
- Renovates Aging Infrastructure
- Fulfills Required Mandates
- Stewards Natural or Cultural Resources
- Supports Plans or Studies
- Meets Public Request
- Enhances Safety
- Generates Revenue
- Minimizes Operating Budget Impact

### **Park Proximity**

Proximity analyses and maps were created to show gaps in proximity to three of the most popular park features – trailheads, playgrounds, and forested areas. For a more in-depth discussion of the countywide park trail system, including gaps in service and priorities, see *Chapter 4*. This analysis will help identify service gaps that will inform recommendations in master and sector plans, development review, and in park master plans, site selections, and park programs of requirement.

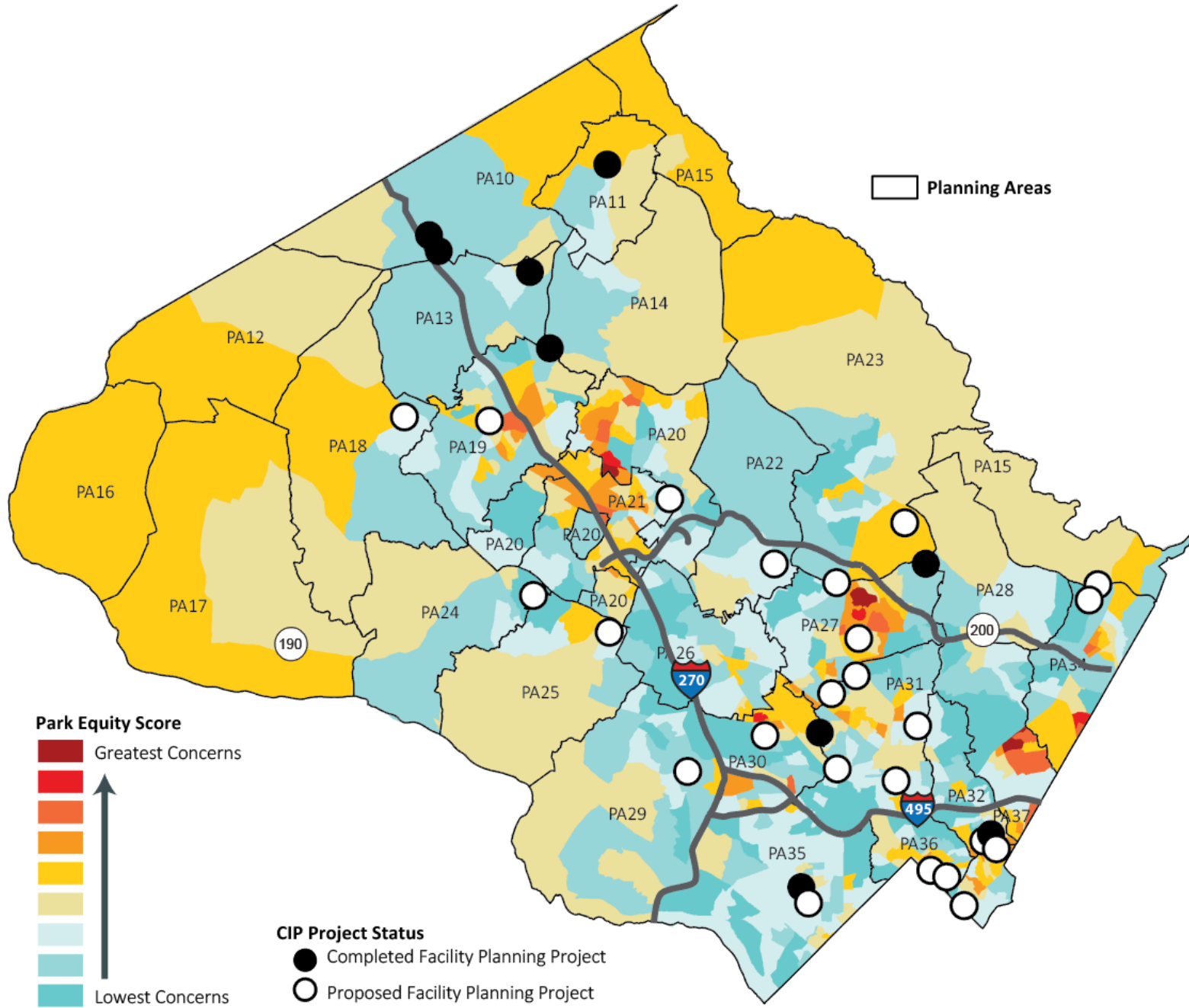


Figure 10 - Park Capital Improvement Projects in relationship to their park equity score

CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

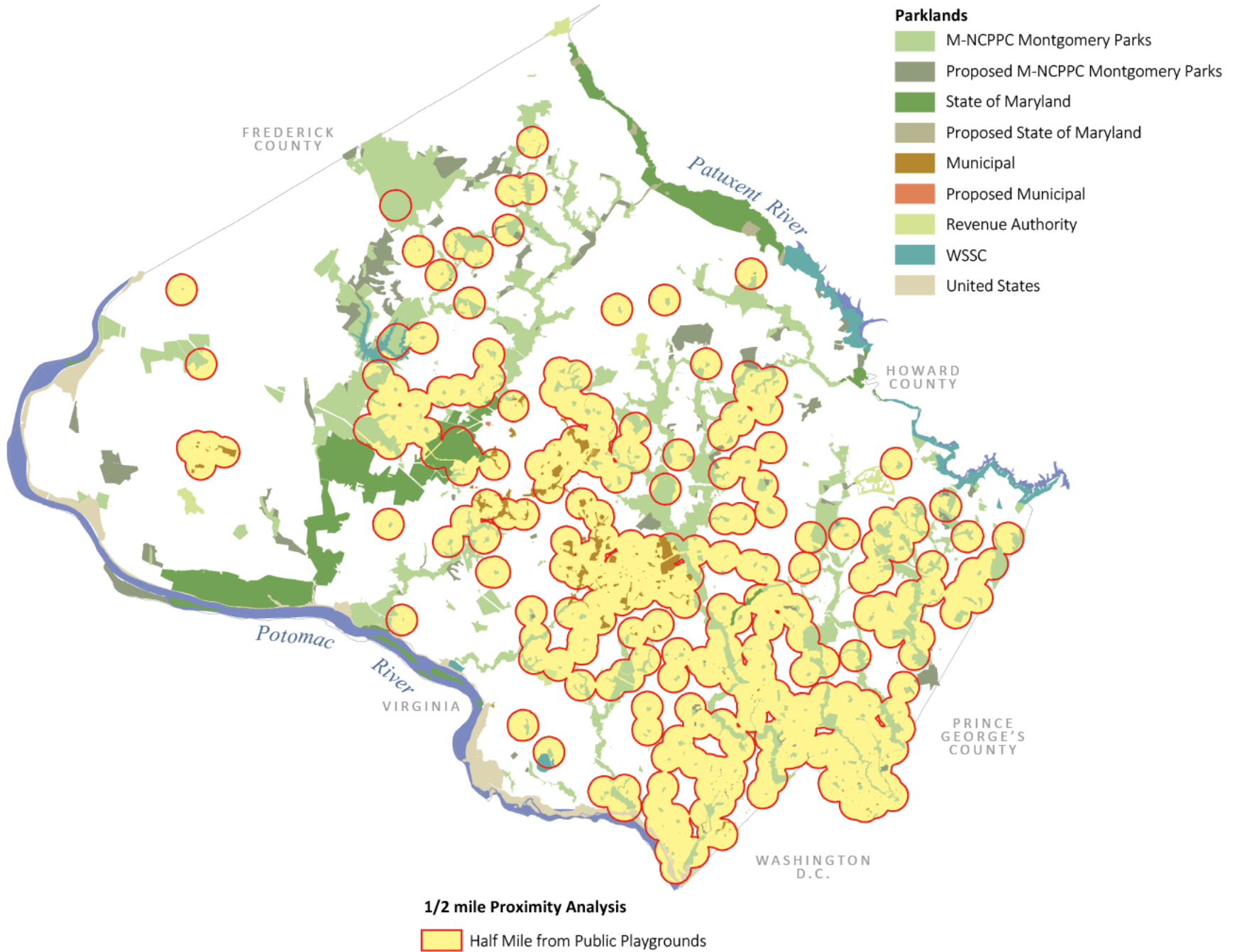


Figure 11 - Playground Proximity Map

CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

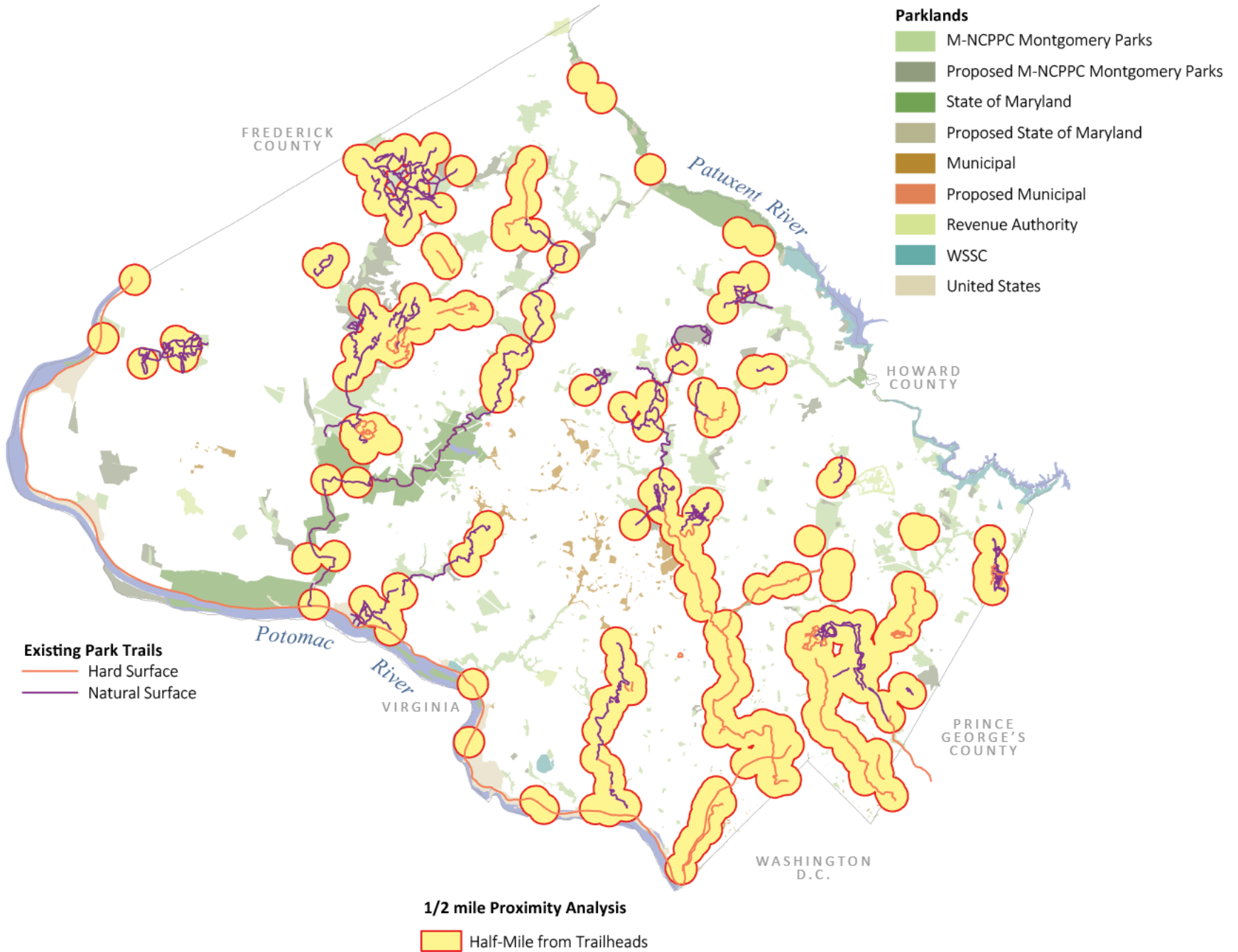
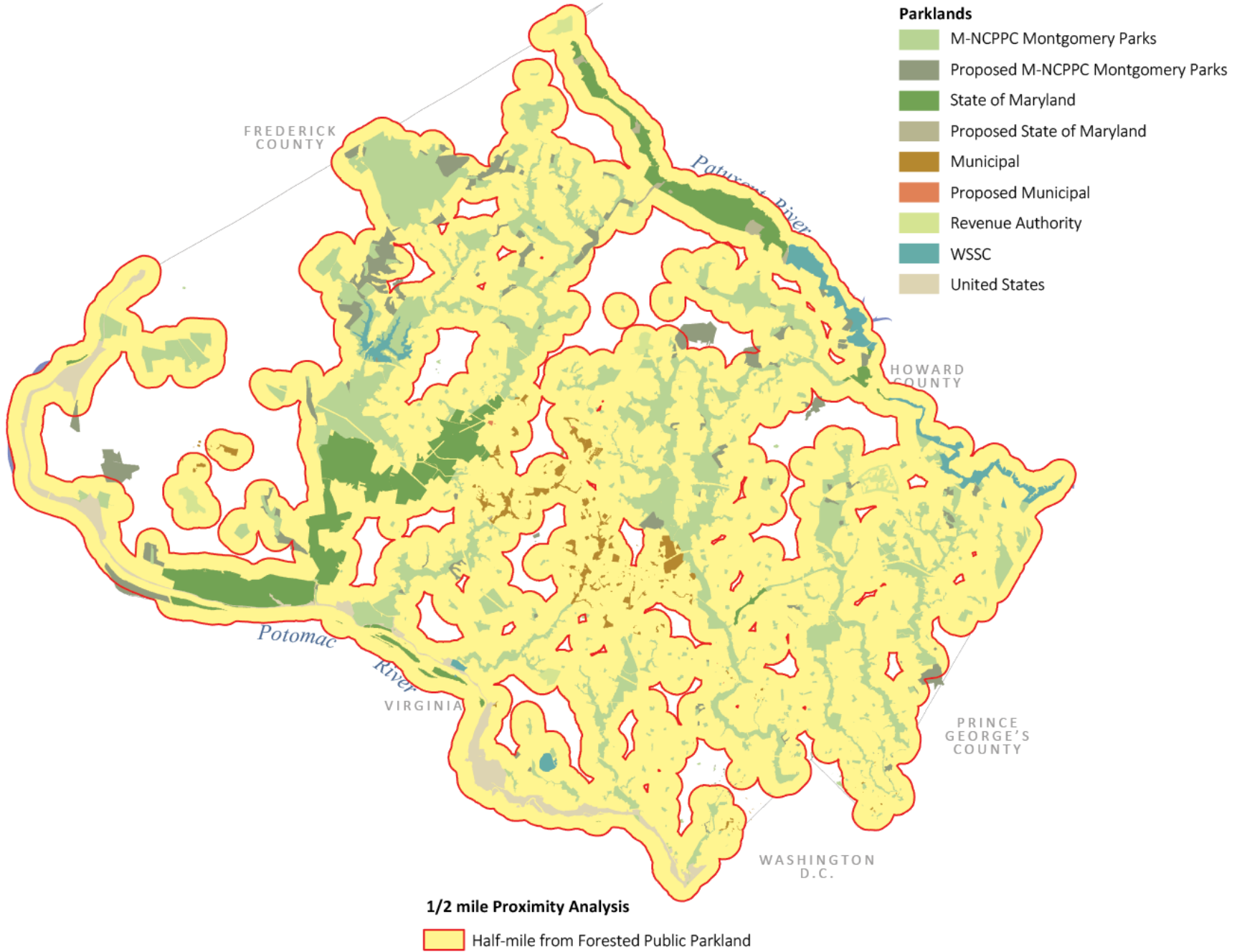


Figure 12 - Trailheads Proximity Map

CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation



\*Natural Area are defined as woodland and meadow areas on existing M-NCPPC Parkland

Figure 13 - Forested Areas Proximity Map.

### ACCESSIBILITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION IN M-NCPPC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks is dedicated to providing quality services and park and recreation programs that are inclusive and accessible to patrons. M-NCPPC complies with applicable laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, by taking all reasonable steps to remove barriers to participation in programs and services. In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, M-NCPPC does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs and activities. - *Source: M-NCPPC Notice 15-01, May 6, 2015*

#### ADA Federal Laws and Guidance

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act provides comprehensive civil rights protections for "qualified individuals with disabilities." An "individual with a disability" is a person who --

- Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a "major life activity", or
- Has a record of such an impairment, or
- Is regarded as having such an impairment.

Examples of physical or developmental impairments include, but are not limited to, orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments; cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, mental retardation, emotional illness, specific learning disabilities, HIV disease (whether symptomatic or asymptomatic), tuberculosis, drug addiction, and alcoholism.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) specifies that state and local governments:

- May not refuse to allow a person with a disability to participate in a service, program, or activity simply because the person has a disability. For example, a city may not refuse to allow a person with epilepsy to use parks and recreational facilities.
- Must provide programs and services in an integrated setting, unless separate or different measures are necessary to ensure equal opportunity.
- Must eliminate unnecessary eligibility standards or rules that deny individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to enjoy their services, programs or activities unless "necessary" for the provisions of the service, program or activity.
- Are required to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, and procedures that deny equal access to individuals with disabilities, unless a fundamental alteration in the program would result. For example, a city office building would be required to make an exception to a rule prohibiting animals in public areas in order to admit service animals assisting individuals with disabilities.
- Must furnish auxiliary aids and services when necessary to ensure effective communication, unless an undue burden or fundamental alteration would result.
- May provide special benefits, beyond those required by the regulation, to individuals with disabilities.



## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

- May not place special charges on individuals with disabilities to cover the costs of measures necessary to ensure nondiscriminatory treatment, such as making modifications required to provide program accessibility or providing qualified interpreters.
- Shall operate their programs so that, when viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

### Existing and Proposed Parks Department Policies

In 2006, the Department of Justice (DOJ), as part of its Project Civic Access initiative, conducted a comprehensive analysis of Montgomery County and M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks for compliance with Title II requirements. Because of this mutually coordinated effort, DOJ, Montgomery County, and M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks entered into a Settlement Agreement (SA). This agreement, entitled “Settlement Agreement between the United States of America and Montgomery County, Maryland and Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission under the Americans with Disabilities Act DJ 204-35-256” is signed and dated August 16, 2011.

The Settlement Agreement stipulates in part that M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks conduct self- evaluations over a specified timeline, perform upgrades at 19 specific facilities between 2011 and 2016, and submit an Interim Transition Plan (ITP) every year, with the Final Transition Plan (FTP) submitted in August 2016. The SA further requires that M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks evaluate all its programs, services, and activities for conformance with the ADA, requires certain signage upgrades at various buildings throughout its inventory, increase community outreach efforts, provide effective communications upgrades (namely to the Parks website), provide ongoing employee training, and adopt grievance procedures and various other policies. In accordance with the Settlement Agreement, all transition plans, including the FTP, have been made available online and in hard copy for the public to view and provide comments. Parks has also prepared a condensed version of the Transition Plan for public review and comment, which can be found on the Parks website.

In 2010, the Department of Justice issued revised and expanded ADA regulations. The new regulations revised and updated earlier standards as well as included new standards for various recreational uses such as play equipment, amusement rides, fishing piers, etc. These are collectively called the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (the “2010 Standards”). These new standards guide all new park construction and renovation projects. All facilities and parks have been evaluated using the 2010 Standards. Furthermore, Montgomery Parks elected to evaluate paved trails, campgrounds, and other outdoor facilities with yet-to-be adopted guidelines proposed by the US Access Board as a best practice. Currently, the ABA Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas (ABA Guidelines) are applicable to certain federal agencies on federally owned lands, and to vendors who may conduct certain activities on behalf of the federal government on federal properties.

Montgomery Parks has fully complied with the terms of the 2011 Settlement Agreement including the following major targets:

- Completed self-evaluations of all park properties one year ahead of schedule;
- Submitted all Interim Transition Plans as well as the Final Transition Plan on schedule;

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

- Completed accessibility upgrades at all 19 parks site identified by DOJ plus 2 additional substitute sites;
- Installed the required signage improvements;
- Evaluated all programs and offerings of the park system and identified program access remedies where applicable. Further a Program Access office was established to provide inclusion services, training, and reasonable modifications;
- Updated the Parks website and other communication elements as necessary;
- Provided ongoing training for all existing employees as well as for new employees; and
- Initiated various policies and procedures identified in the Settlement Agreement.

The Final Transition Plan was submitted in August 2016 and has received tentative approval by DOJ. The proposed strategy for ADA compliance is a multi-stage approach for physical access as well as program access. The goal of this strategy is to ensure that the programs, services, and opportunities offered by Montgomery Parks are accessible to the citizens of the County, regardless of abilities. In keeping with this spirit, the ADA Access Team has been established and works cooperatively to ensure accessibility and inclusion within our Parks, amenities, and programs.

Physical access focuses on both recurring amenities and unique amenities. Recurring amenities are those which occur and are repeated in a number of parks, such as playgrounds, playing fields, basketball and tennis courts, and other recreation amenities. A unique amenity is defined as one offering a singular experience or activity in the Park System. Examples include historic buildings and sites, a tai-chi court, a carousel, and a golf driving range. M-NCPPC recognizes that a few unique amenities within its system may be duplicated, however, due to unique types of offerings, geographies, or overall uses, those amenities can still be defined as unique as a matter of policy. Examples of these types of amenities include Brookside Gardens, archery ranges, ice rinks, and several of the nature centers. At its foundation, the proposed strategy is to ensure that at least one in three recurring amenities and all unique amenities are accessible, subject to various limitations such as technically infeasible conditions and funding limitations. The strategy takes into account numerous factors such as population density, proximity to public transportation, park types (countywide vs. community), amenity uniqueness, and other factors. This strategy will enable the best use of available funds to provide the optimal facility access to park programs for all citizens. Additionally, the objective is to provide a reasonable geographic distribution of accessible amenities throughout the County as well as establishing a destination trip limit of approximately 15-20 minutes by vehicle. The long term and ultimate goal, after full implementation of the Final Transition Plan, is to provide accessibility and inclusion to all programs, services, and opportunities within Montgomery County. The results of the self-evaluation process identified 13,600 physical barriers to accessibility as defined by the ADA regulations and the ABA Guidelines. Barrier removals will be funded through various sources including several CIP funds, Enterprise, and operating funds. Current estimates indicate that, at current funding levels, the process to remove the barriers identified in the FTP will require approximately 20-25 years to achieve.

### **Program Access**

Program Access focuses on inclusion by coordinating reasonable modifications for individuals with disabilities to be successfully included in countywide parks, recreation and leisure programs. Most of the programs offered by Parks are concentrated in the following areas: nature and environmental

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

educational programs, ice skating lessons, hockey, synchronized skating, tennis, specialized sports, archaeology, history programs and a full schedule of day camps and events. Volunteer service projects are abundant as they instill stewardship within our Parks system. These activities make up a diverse and exciting program schedule for all patrons to enjoy and, for a full experience, reasonable modifications are coordinated for successful inclusion:

- Trained Support Staff: seasonal/part-time paid staff that shadow/support an individual with a disability or shadow a small group of individuals with disabilities in programs;
- Companions: volunteers that support individuals with disabilities. This may also include family members, personal care providers, and other support;
- Adaptive equipment: for program participants who need specialized equipment that assist with successful program participation;
- Braille, large print materials: for program participants who are blind or have low vision;
- Audio Description: for program participants who are blind or have low vision;
- Assisted Listening Devices: for program participants who are deaf or have hearing loss;
- Sign language interpreters: for program participants who are deaf, have hearing loss and/or are non-verbal.

Since its inception, the Program Access Office has coordinated over 206 direct reasonable modifications for individuals with disabilities to be successfully included in Parks programs.

In addition to modification management, Office staff research and develop policy initiatives; employee training and educational programs; and acts as a resource for staff. Since November 2015, the Program Access Office has trained over 850 Parks employees in the ADA, Inclusion and Access, and other disability awareness educational programs and trainings.

The Final Transition Plan, including both physical as well as program access, reflects M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks' commitment to achieving accessibility within the park system and demonstrates substantial and sustainable progress to date. Yet much remains to be done. The effort to achieve accessibility and inclusion affects every division within M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks, and is an integral part of daily operations. The goal of an integrated effort toward serving the disability community as well as the broader user base is the keystone of the Final Transition Plan as well as all future efforts by Montgomery Parks.

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### LOOKING AHEAD – BEYOND THE 2016 FINAL TRANSITION PLAN

This Final Transition Plan has dealt primarily with the requirements of the 2011 Settlement Agreement, physical and programmatic barrier removals, the 2010 ADA Standards, and Title II compliance. All are legal requirements establishing the minimum thresholds for accessibility for all individuals and participants in the Montgomery Parks system. Montgomery Parks hopes to achieve more than these minimums. Initiatives the Department hopes to pursue include the following:

#### **Access to Open Space and Trails**

One of the signature assets of Montgomery County Parks is its system of undisturbed open space and natural areas as well as its network of trails. The benefits to the public including those with disabilities is

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

significant. Although specific adopted design standards do not currently exist, access to these areas is and will be an important mission of the Department in the years ahead. Initially, the Department will identify possible parking areas and trailheads which provide or could provide reasonable levels of accessibility using the ADA Outdoor Guidelines. Ultimately, the goal is to provide reasonable access to approximately 5% of trails in the County.

### **Promote and Increase Accessible Amenities and Inclusion in Park and Facility Settings**

To increase inclusion in parks, the Department of Parks intends to:

- Repurpose/develop land into multi-generational parks for all ages and abilities to recreate together in an inclusive setting; develop and/or enhance sensory trails, gardens and spaces.
- Develop/enhance specific trails into adventure trails/courses for individuals with limited mobility who want to increase their strength, stamina and individual wellness programs.
- Initiate a partnership with Walter Reed Medical and Rehabilitation Center located in the county to accommodate wounded soldiers as part of their overall wellness/ treatment/recovery plan or similar organization. Provide access for students to utilize parks and natural spaces to engage in programs/activities as part of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) approach to education.

### **Utilize Technology / Website Accessibility to Provide Current and More Accurate Information to the Public**

In the coming years, information /data concerning accessible parks, amenities, and/or programs needs to be readily available to the public. It is anticipated that this information will be developed and housed in a Geographic Information System (GIS) database. Information stored and regularly updated in GIS will be linked to the Parks Website thus enabling any person the ability to easily and readily determine the location or type of accessible amenities anywhere in the Montgomery County park system. The GIS database may be linking to the SmartParks/EAM system thereby resulting in current “live” updates of parks and the accessible features within the system. The goal to implement these or similar features prior to the end of the Phase One cycle of the Transition Plan.

## AGE-FRIENDLY MONTGOMERY

Montgomery County is Maryland’s first jurisdiction to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. By the year 2030, more than 18 percent of the residents in the county will be over the age of 65. Since 2015 when the county joined the network, it has accomplished many initiatives to serve its older adult population. Follow this link to read the AARP article, [\*"Montgomery County: A Community for a Lifetime: Summary of Accomplishments FY2008-FY2015."\*](#)

## Physical Improvements and Programmatic Considerations

Montgomery Parks is committed to working with Age-Friendly initiatives by designing parks with amenities to serve multigenerational groups. The Department is currently working with a regional team partnering with the World Health Organization (WHO), AARP, local Montgomery County agencies and others to assist in the implementation of the WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities initiative for the aging population. This initiative is to enhance amenities to be more age-friendly. Appropriate pillars of this initiative include:

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Communication and information

These pillars coincide with the mission of the Montgomery County Parks Department, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Specifically, the Department plans to design and or repurpose parks to be senior-friendly with features such as sensory trails, and adventure trails/courses for individuals with physical disabilities to engage in healthy, active exercise, and gardens.

### PARTNERING TO ACHIEVE SHARED VISIONS

Montgomery Parks enters into partnerships with various organizations to better deliver park and recreation services to residents. Partnering includes everything from volunteers who help enhance and maintain the park system and its services, to donors, to “Friends Of” groups, to those who operate programs on parkland under specific agreements.

Many of the projects resulting from partnerships are unsolicited, meaning a group approaches the department with an idea, and often funding, to create a new facility on county parkland. This type of partnership requires only staff time to evaluate the proposal and does not impact the department’s operating or capital budget. The department’s role in such a partnership is simply approving the use of parkland to deliver the service. Examples of this type of partnership include GoApe! In Rock Creek Regional Park and a new plaza along the Capital Crescent Trail at River Road funded by the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail. By contrast, some partnerships are solicited, whereby the department issues a request for proposals (or expression of interest) for a specific facility or program need, and the department co-operates or co-manages the facility or program. An example of this type of partnership are community gardens. Both types of partnerships fill critical gaps in delivering programs and services to county residents, saving taxpayer dollars in both the department’s operating budget and its capital budget. Other types of partnerships include those generated by a land acquisition or donation, a condition of a purchase contract, and requests from elected officials.

### Volunteers

Montgomery Parks engages the aid of thousands of community volunteers coordinated through a centralized Volunteer Services Office and managed by staff throughout the agency. Over the last five years, over 50,000 people have participated in at least one volunteer opportunity in parks, contributing over 420,000 hours of service with a value-added contribution of nearly ten million dollars. Among the most popular volunteer activities are our various environmental stewardship efforts including short term projects like stream clean ups and tree plantings, as well as longer term commitments such as controlling invasive plants through our Weed Warrior program. Additional opportunities to help with education and visitor services exist at our nature centers, public gardens, historic sites and may other facilities.

### Parks Foundation

The Montgomery County Parks Foundation (The Foundation) is by far the department’s largest partner. It was established in 1992 as an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Serving as a champion for M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks, The Foundation promotes the values and benefits of the park system to Montgomery County residents and policy-makers. The Foundation provides opportunities for county residents and businesses to support M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks and is a fundraising and support

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

organization to M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks. The Foundation does not directly operate park facilities or programs. Funds raised by the Foundation can be transferred to M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks where specialized staff acquire parkland, build and maintain park facilities and deliver services to the public or the Foundation can contract, procure and purchase directly with vendors on behalf of M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks.

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### HISTORY

During the first part of the five-year period since 2012, the Parks Foundation focused on establishing the policy “infrastructure” necessary to set the stage for robust fundraising efforts. In November 2013, the Commission and the Parks Foundation executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to govern the relationship between both entities. During 2013-2014, several policies were approved, including the Corporate Sponsorship Policy, the Financial and Control Policies, the Investment Policy and the Trust Agreement. As adopted by the Foundation’s Board of Trustees on July 23, 2013, the mission of the Foundation is stated as follows:

“The Montgomery Parks Foundation champions Montgomery County Parks cultivating financial support and public engagement of county residents and businesses as members, donors, sponsors and advocates.”

The current business model of the Parks Foundation involves leveraging in-kind support from the Parks Department to generate a significant Return on Investment (ROI) for the assistance provided.

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### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

With the policy infrastructure in place, the Parks Foundation was able to turn to fundraising. During the second part of the five-year period, the Foundation:

- Was instrumental in securing donations made directly to the Parks Department, for various county parks and trails, totaling \$2,160,000 in 2015;
- Transferred \$1 million for the construction of the Greenhouse at Brookside Gardens;
- Obtained \$250,000 in State funding through three bond bills: (1) for the renovation and reconstruction of a key trail connection in Little Bennett Regional Park; (2) the re-opening of a nature center at Maydale Conservation Park; and (3) necessary safety improvements and accessibility renovations at Martin Luther King Jr. Recreational Park;
- Secured \$150,000 for the renovation of the Kensington Cabin;
- Achieved significant increases in the Parks Budget and Capital appropriations by mobilizing advocates for “Friends of Montgomery Parks” early in 2016 and, during the Fall, held a successful “Advocacy Dinner” to kick-off next year’s cycle;
- Hired a Corporate Sponsorship Manager on September 26, 2016 to implement the Corporate Sponsorship Program and recorded the first corporate sponsorship agreement with Olde Towne Pet Resort for one year fee of \$5,625 for banners in three dog parks;
- Awarded funding for: a portable pump track (\$30,000); a speaker at the Trees Matter Symposium (\$5,000); a real-time trail use display (\$35,000); and repairs to the Harper Cabin (\$30,000);

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

- Established a new procedure with the Parks Department for the prioritization of fundraising by the Foundation, resulting in three items being placed on the Foundation’s work plan in 2017: (1) a “Living Classroom” at Black Hill Nature Center (\$550,000); (2) new exhibits for the four Nature Centers (\$180,000); and (3) an “Outdoor Classroom” at Brookside Nature Center (\$80,000);
- Reached fundraising target for the Western Grove Urban Park (\$140,545) by helping to establish the Friends of Western Grove Urban Park;
- Acquired \$10,000 donation for improvements to the Dotson Memorial Garden at Locust Grove Nature Center;
- Attained goal for “quiet phase” of fundraising for the River Road Plaza on the Capital Crescent Trail (\$64,550) by working with the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail; and
- Held two successful “Josiah Henson Leadership Conferences” by partnering with Montgomery Community Media on February 22nd and June 15th to help achieve the \$2 million fundraising goal for the Josiah Henson Park Museum & Education Center.

In summary, the Parks Foundation current business model has resulted in a considerable positive ROI for the Department in each year since the execution of the MOU.

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### THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The Foundation’s Strategic Plan has expired, and the Foundation Board will begin the development of a new strategic plan in the spring. One of the questions before the Foundation Board, with input from the Department, is whether to continue the current business model or move to operate as a “stand-alone” foundation with little or no support from the Department. Importantly, several other similar foundations, such as the Fairfax County Park Foundation, follow the current business model of the Montgomery Parks Foundation. The decision as to the long-range goal of the structure of the Parks Foundation will influence the amounts raised and the use of those funds over the next five years.

### Community and Public-Private Partnerships

Montgomery Parks works with entities in the business and non-profit sectors to enhance parks and recreational facilities. These strategic partnerships provide a range of goods and services with benefits to the general public as well as to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Our partners share our mission—to protect and interpret our valuable natural and cultural resources; balance demand for recreation with the need for conservation; offer various enjoyable recreational activities that encourage healthy lifestyles; and provide clean, safe, and accessible places. Partners may include an individual or corporation, whether non-profit or for-profit, that:

- Operates and manages, under a long-term legal agreement, a facility on park property that is consistent with the mission of M-NCPPC;
- Manages a program established to support the protection or enhancement of parkland and is consistent with the mission of M-NCPPC;
- Operates or manages a facility on parkland that constitutes a community service or recreational/educational opportunity that is consistent with the mission of M-NCPPC;
- Has a revenue stream and paid personnel; and

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

- Is not an all-volunteer organization or “friends” group that is focused solely on one particular park or facility.

There are three main categories of partnerships on M-NCPPC parkland:

### **Serving people with disabilities (sports, employment, therapy).**

Examples include Miracle League at South Germantown Recreational Park; Red Wiggler Community Farm at Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park; and Great and Small Therapeutic Riding at Rickman Farm Horse Park.

### **Offering public education.**

Examples include King Barn Dairy Mooseum at South Germantown Recreational Park; Hyattstown Mill Arts Project in Little Bennett Park; and National Capital Trolley Museum at Northwest Branch Recreational Park.

### **Offering sports/recreation services.**

Example include equestrian facilities throughout the county (Calithea Farm Stables, Meadowbrook Stables, Potomac Horse Center, Wheaton Regional Park Stables), athletic fields throughout the county (UMAC Baseball, Burtonsville Athletic Association, Bethesda Little League, Povich Field -- Big Train and Georgetown University, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Baseball Club, Maryland Community Baseball), Maryland Soccer Foundation (SoccerPlex) at South Germantown Recreational Park, Jack Shore Tennis (Tennisplex) at South Germantown Recreational Park, and Go Ape! At Rock Creek Regional Park.

A fourth category could include wildlife services (Second Chance Wildlife Center in Gaithersburg).

The Partnership Program is housed in the Division of Public Affairs and Community Partnerships, in large part because managing partners is all about maintaining strong relationships, which involve public relations and communicating regularly with partners as well as nearby communities. Montgomery Parks selects partners that are equipped to succeed, and thus has a stake in the success of all the above partnerships. While the department subsidizes certain costs (land, systemic maintenance), an intangible benefit is that underutilized parkland on which these facilities are located become activated. These organizations not only become long-term providers of needed programs and services in the county, but more than that, they also become long-term stewards of not only the recreational amenities, and also the natural environment.

## BALANCING RENOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND ACQUISITION

To serve the park and recreation needs of the citizens of Montgomery County as identified in this PROS Plan and other studies and master plans, the Parks Department utilizes three main strategies:

- Renovate and Repurpose Existing Facilities – to provide better quality service and the right type of service in the right location
- Develop New Facilities on Existing Parkland – where we have available space in already developed parks or a park site that has yet to be developed to meet its service intent
- Acquire Additional Land – to provide space for needed facilities where renovation, repurposing, and development alone cannot meet documented needs



## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

- To fill service gaps with the most cost effective and efficient solutions, these strategies are often used sequentially. For example, if an area has a need for a new playground, Parks will first determine if we can add a playground to an existing developed park in an area already developed with a less needed facility. If there is no opportunity for repurposing, then Parks would examine options for developing a new playground in an undeveloped area on existing parkland. Finally, if neither of those strategies present an opportunity to fill the need, then acquisition of additional land will be pursued to provide a platform for a necessary playground. These three strategies are implemented through the Parks Capital Improvements Program (CIP) that funds the necessary development projects and land acquisitions.
- As discussed above, partnership opportunities are increasingly pursued as a supplement to these three primary strategies to meet natural and cultural conservation and parks and recreation needs across the County.

### Parks Capital Improvement Program: Renovation and Development

The biennial process of creating the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a critical element for aligning Parks spending recommendations with our overall goals and identified priorities. CIP projects for facility rehabilitation and facility development originate from a variety of sources to meet goals and recommendations in Vision 2030, this PROS plan, park master plans, area master/sector plans, and other plans and studies. New projects also result from public input via a biennial CIP Forum and online requests, Planning Board and County Council directives, and the addition of new land to the park system via developer dedication and acquisition.

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#### PRIORITIZING CIP PROJECTS

Proposed projects are evaluated for consistency with State and County goals for recreation, parks and open space. Additional assessment criteria are used to help sort and prioritize proposed CIP projects. This PROS Plan recommends the additional criterion of Park Equity to prioritize services to areas of higher populations of lower income residents with low levels of access to parks. With the addition of Park Equity as a criterion, these project assessment criteria would include:

- Provides Park Equity
- Renovates Aging Infrastructure
- Fulfills Required Mandates
- Stewards Natural or Cultural Resources
- Supports Plans or Studies
- Meets Public Request
- Enhances Safety
- Generates Revenue
- Minimizes Operating Budget Impact

After the initial assessment of proposed CIP projects, they are prioritized according to the Planning Board's adopted CIP Strategy that is revised every two years during the CIP process. Issues commonly in the Planning Board's Strategy include:

- Immediacy – protect health and safety; comply with codes and laws; keep on schedule with integrated projects; prevent degradation of natural or cultural resources
- Need – provide facilities to underserved geographies and populations; ensure an equitable park system; meet unmet needs identified in plans and by communities

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

- Efficiency – increases revenue, cost savings, or operational efficiency; leverages partnership and grant opportunities; prevents future costs from lack of maintenance; has low cost/benefit ratio

Additional issues emphasized by the Planning Board for the FY17-22 CIP include the following strategies:

- Public Access to Natural Areas – serve park users with improved natural resource-based recreation opportunities while protecting key resources
- Trails – increase hard surface and natural surface trail construction and renovation efforts
- Athletic Fields – make ballfields available and convenient
- Urban Parks – address changing needs of urban areas, increase park activation efforts, and upgrade infrastructure
- Acquisitions – focus on urban parks, high density areas, and natural resource-based recreation
- Project Delivery – focus on phased, targeted and timely renovations and new construction
- Facility Planning – focus on smaller projects and studies over full scale projects
- Additional criteria and needs that help identify the most important renovations/repurposing projects and new park facilities are discussed throughout this Plan in the appropriate chapters.

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### CIP FUNDING

Once proposed projects are prioritized, they are assigned timing and funding within the six-year CIP from the pool of available resources. Limits on available CIP funding include:

- Overall Fiscal Capacity
- Spending Affordability Guidelines (SAG)
  - SAG limits on Park and Planning Bonds
  - SAG limits on County Bonds
- Limits on other available funding sources (State Program Open Space, other federal grants, contributions, Enterprise funds)
- Implementation Capability – constrained by limited resources and staff
- Balancing Priorities – new priorities vs. backlog of unfulfilled needs
- Operating Budget Impact – certain projects may require significant OBI and thus be not feasible to fund given operating budget constraints

The approved CIP for FY17-22 includes \$185 Million for all projects over 6 years, including renovation, development, and acquisition. The figures below illustrate the various funding sources and the balance between renovations, new parks & facilities, and land acquisition. Note that although the CIP appears to allocate on a small portion towards Environmental Stewardship and Historic & Cultural Stewardship (4% each), these percentages only reflect the projects within the CIP that are dedicated solely to stewardship efforts (such as the Stream Restoration and the Restoration of Historic Structures projects). Every

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

project within the entire CIP include elements of environmental and cultural stewardship during the implementation of construction projects and acquisitions.

County and Commission Bonds fund 60% of the CIP, and County Current Revenue provides another 12% of the six-year budget. State Program Open Space dollars are estimated to fund 12% of the total CIP over the next 6 years. Although POS dollars are a smaller portion of the CIP than the local bond funds, these state-provided funds are critical to supporting the necessary development and acquisition efforts of the Commission to provide parks, recreation and open space resources to the residents of the County.

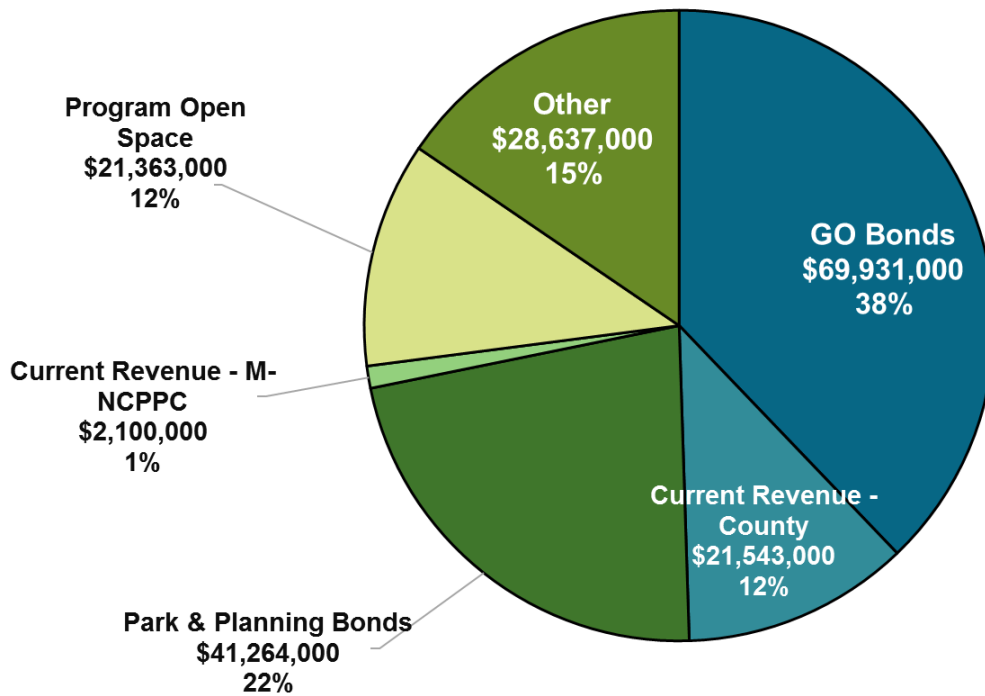


Figure 14 - FY17-FY22 CIP by Funding Source

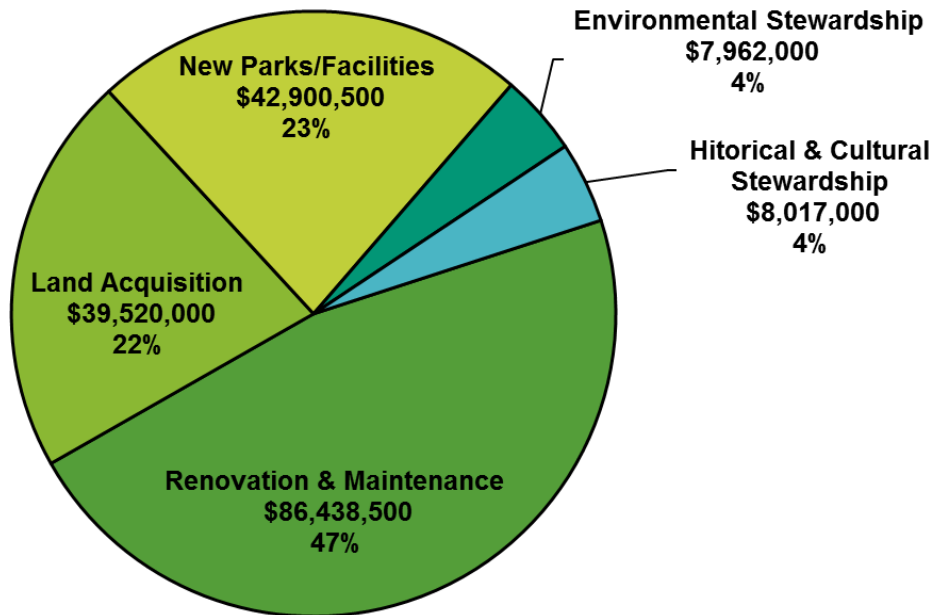


Figure 15 - FY17-22 CIP by Expenditure Category

### Land Acquisition Program

Where renovating and repurposing developed parkland, and developing additional parkland cannot meet the needs for recreation in the County, land acquisition must be pursued. Parks will face increasing demands for new urban parks, recreation facilities and green open spaces as the population of Montgomery County grows and changes. In addition to addressing relatively predictable 20-year needs for parkland via this PROS Plan and master plans, the projected continuation of population trends increases the far long-term need for parkland to serve the County. Over the past 90 years, the acquisition program has successfully provided a balanced park system through acquisition of land for facility-based and resource-based recreation and for natural and cultural stewardship. The land acquisition program is critical to maintaining the quality of life that the County’s residents and businesses have come to expect.

New land is added to the park system through three main avenues: dedication through the land development process, direct purchase using CIP funds, and the occasional donation of land by property owners. The direct acquisition program is structured in four Level-of-Effort projects in the County Capital Improvement Program (CIP), each briefly described below, plus one new proposed project. Different funding sources are appropriated to each of these CIP projects to finance different types of land acquisition. Just as for Park construction projects, land for acquisition must be identified, prioritized, and then acquired using a variety of means.

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#### IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION

When acquisition of additional parkland is determined to be necessary to meet park and recreation goals, potential acquisition sites go through a similar but not identical selection and prioritization process to development-oriented CIP projects. Land acquisition needs are established in area

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

master/sector plans, park master plans, this PROS Plan, the Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan, and other park studies and plans. Community proposals, Planning Board or other policy maker input, and unexpected opportunities for acquisition also contribute to determining park acquisitions outside of a more formal planning process.

Current plans indicate 6546.63 acres of specifically identified Proposed Parkland throughout the County. These sites are identified and tracked as “Proposed Parkland” in the Commission’s Geographic Information System (GIS) database. Additional proposed parkland is identified more broadly via target areas and criteria that guide acquisition in policies and plans.

General criteria that help to identify and prioritize properties for acquisition include the following:

- Identified need for a specific property based on location, unique potential for providing critical facilities, or for preservation of natural or cultural resources
- Identified site that is threatened by loss to development
- Sites essential to management and operation of existing parks
- Opportunities to expand existing parks
- Removal of private in-holdings surrounded by existing parkland
- Opportunities to improve access to existing parks
- Land to better accommodate construction of facilities in new or existing parks
- Sites with capacity to reduce PROS Plan unmet needs

More specific criteria for identifying and prioritizing land for acquisition to meet different park, resource, and recreation needs are discussed in each chapter of this plan.

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### ACQUISITION PROGRAM FUNDING

Montgomery County relies upon the State of Maryland Program Open Space (POS) grant program as a critical component of the funding structure for acquisitions. A significant portion of the M-NCPPC Montgomery County park system has been acquired using state POS funds since the program’s inception in 1970. Of the total of \$176.7 million in POS grant payments received, half has been allocated to purchase parkland while half was used for facility development. In addition to State POS funding, Montgomery County General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds and M-NCPPC G.O. Bonds (aka Commission or Park and Planning Bonds) are issued by the controlling agency and provided to acquisition CIP projects. For certain types of acquisition expenses and in strong economic times, County Current Receipts are also provided to the acquisition CIP.

The intent of having multiple funding sources supporting the overall park acquisition CIP is to provide a steady, predictable funding stream over multiple years to provide adequate funds to keep pace with increasing demands for parkland. However, budget constraints over the past decade have resulted in high variability in certain funding sources and overall significant reductions to the aggregate level of CIP funding for land acquisition. State POS funding has varied significantly over the past decade because of fluctuations in the real estate market and state government policy decisions, resulting in much lower

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

funding levels over the past 5 years than the previous decade. Economic impacts on County and Commission funding sources have similarly reduced the level of bond funds that can be issued, and cash flows (current receipts) have been much lower than during the first decade of the 2000's.

This lack of available funds combined with increasing property values has reduced the purchasing power of the total acquisition program, significantly reducing the ability to acquire parkland. The acquisition budget comprises approximately 22% of the entire Parks CIP (FY17-22).

Creating needed new parks in developing and urban areas can be especially challenging in tight budget times, so staff already are using a variety of new and existing tools to implement proposed new urban parks, whether in master plan or functional plan recommendations. When dedication is not an option and parkland acquisition is necessary, staff will use a variety of tools to make expensive acquisitions more feasible, such as negotiating installment contracts to stretch current funding, seeking additional funding sources, and requesting supplemental appropriations when necessary for significant urban acquisitions.

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### ACQUISITION PROGRAM STRUCTURE

#### **Acquisition via Development Review Process**

The development of land within the County often results in recreational and stewardship land being transferred to park ownership. The amount of land conveyed to Parks through the development review process varies with the zoning requirements, area master/sector plan recommendations, the size and quality of natural resources on the land being developed, and recreation and open space needs related to the new development. Designation of a site in a functional master plan such as Legacy Open Space may also result in dedication of appropriate parkland.

Significant areas of the stream valley park system and other elements of the park system have been acquired through the development process over the previous decades. It is estimated that 15% (or 5,500 acres) of the current park system has been added through the dedication process.

To address the challenges of providing parks in our most populated communities (urban, mixed use and the most densely populated residential neighborhoods), innovative zoning tools are being written to create opportunities for dedication of necessary park spaces in our expanding urban areas. However, these innovative zoning and density transfer tools will not be adequate on their own to provide for the civic greens and other urban open spaces necessary for our increasingly dense core communities. Adequate acquisition funding will be necessary to meet these new and unique needs.

#### **Non-Local Park Acquisition**

The Non-Local Park Acquisition Program funds the acquisition of parkland that serves residents on a County-wide basis. Regional, Recreational, Conservation, Special and Stream Valley Parks are examples of the types of parks funded through this program. Due to their county-wide significance, Non-Local Parks are acquired by and titled to the Montgomery County, but are operated and managed by the Commission as part of the park system. The Non-Local Park CIP project is primarily funded by State

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

Program Open Space (POS) funds with a small amount of County funds allocated to fund program expenses.

The Non-Local Park Acquisition CIP Budget has a total appropriation of \$1,135,000 in FY17. Of the current FY17 Non-Local Park appropriation, \$1,000,000 is being funded by Program Open Space (POS) grants for land acquisition and \$135,000 is being funded by County Current Receipts for staff salary chargebacks and other acquisition-related expenses (appraisals, surveys).

### Local Park Acquisition

The Local Park Acquisition Program funds the acquisition of parkland that serves County residents on a neighborhood or community basis. Urban, Local, and Neighborhood park types are examples of the parks funded through this program. These parks are generally in walking distance from intended users or are facilities that can be reached via a short drive. Local Parks are acquired by and titled to the Commission. The Local Park CIP project is primarily funded by State Program Open Space (POS) funds with a small amount of County funds allocated to fund program expenses.

The Local Park Acquisition Program has a total appropriation of \$1,035,000 in FY17. Of the FY-17 Local Park appropriation, \$1,000,000 is being funded by Program Open Space (POS) grants for land acquisition and \$35,000 is being funded by Park and Planning Bonds for staff salary chargebacks and other acquisition-related expenses (appraisals, surveys).

### Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan

The Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan (M-NCPPC 2001), adopted by the Montgomery County Planning Board and Montgomery County Council, established a program to preserve the best remaining open spaces across the County in six different categories:

- Environmentally Sensitive Natural Resources
- Water Supply Protection
- Heritage Resources
- Greenway Connections
- Farmland and Rural Open Space
- Urban Open Spaces

The Legacy Open Space (LOS) plan contains criteria for evaluating properties for designation and envisions using a variety of tools to protect open space in the County. The two primary tools used are to protect resources through the development review process and to purchase resources as new parkland. Certain Legacy Open Space-designated properties are recommended for acquisition because they “rise above the rest” due to their exceptional recreational, historic, natural, or cultural value.

The Legacy Open Space Acquisition CIP project funds acquisition to protect a variety of open space resources, including many park types geographically located to serve residents across the County. This CIP project is primarily funded by County General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds and M-NCPPC G.O. Bonds. The Legacy Open Space CIP only rarely includes State POS funding in years of unusually high POS allocations. Additional funds from contributions from partner municipalities and State special funds are also included in this CIP project.

## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

In FY17 the Legacy Open Space Program has a budget of \$3,250,000. Of the FY15 Legacy Open Space appropriation, \$2,500,000 is being funded by County Bonds, \$500,000 is being funded by Commission Bonds, and \$250,000 is being funded by County Current Receipts.

### Advance Land Acquisition Revolving Fund (ALARF)

The ALARF Program can be used to acquire property that has been designated on master plans for public uses such as rights-of-way for roads and streets, school sites, library sites, recreation center sites, other government buildings, etc., when money is not available from other fund sources. Importantly, ALARF may also be used to acquire parkland. This CIP project is a revolving fund source that, except for parkland purchases, will be reimbursed when the property is transferred to the appropriate agency to be used for its intended purpose. At the time of transfer, the Commission is paid its cost to purchase plus interest.

The Commission has broad discretion in using ALARF for land acquisitions within two primary constraints:

- The proposed acquisition must be shown on the Commission's General Plan or another adopted master or sector plan.
- The County Council must approve each ALARF purchase by resolution.

The ALARF CIP is funded with three main sources. Reimbursement from other agencies for prior land purchases can provide a significant amount of funding, but not on a predictable schedule. Interest earned on the fund balance can also contribute measurable funds during a period when significant reimbursements have occurred. When the ALARF balance drops below a certain level, approximately \$2.0 Million, special ALARF Commission Bonds are issued to create an adequate fund balance to be able to pay for time-sensitive acquisitions.

As of April 2017, ALARF has an available cash balance of \$9,911,853 resulting from reimbursement for several prior ALARF acquisitions.

### Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan

A new functional master plan is in development to create a more data driven and analytical approach to identifying necessary park facilities and land in the County's most dense residential neighborhoods and mixed-use communities. *(For more detail, see Chapter 3).* The *Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan (EPS FMP)* will result in a new method for identifying park needs in parts of the County where most growth is occurring, and will recommend sites for activation, renovation, new development, partnerships, and new park acquisition to meet recreation and open space needs. The Planning Board Draft of this new plan has been approved and submitted to the County Council as of the date of this PROS plan. The *EPS FMP* is expected to be approved on a timeline to support requests for new funding within the CIP during the coming biennial CIP cycle, FY19-FY24.

Maintaining funding sources like Legacy Open Space and the Local and Non-Local Acquisition programs funded by Program Open Space is a key element of ensuring we can purchase and preserve open spaces in our growing areas. However, to acquire necessary parkland in many of the most expensive areas of



## CHAPTER 2 - Policy Framework and Plan Foundation

the County, additional funding dedicated to that purpose will be necessary to implement the goals of this new Functional Master Plan and the existing goals for parks in our most dense communities.

CHAPTER 3 - Optimizing Growth with Urban Parks



# CHAPTER 3: Optimizing Growth with Urban Parks

## Introduction

### NEED FOR URBAN PARKS

Around 80% of Americans live in cities (2010 Census). In Montgomery County, most of the population lives in urban areas, primarily along I-270 and near and inside the Beltway (I-495). The forecasted patterns of growth (2010-2045) will be concentrated along I-270, representing only 14% of the County's land, but 72% of the population and 82% of employment. With the scarcity of developable land and the increase in density in urban areas, park planning has become more critical to creating livable and healthy communities. The trend in real estate development is to replace lower density residential and commercial development with higher density residential and mixed-use buildings. The significant increase in density makes parks and open space areas the "outdoor living rooms" for many of these new communities. Without space for large private backyards, public parks and trails play an increasingly important role in improving public health and promoting social interaction and equity. Access to urban parks is a critical and necessary element of achieving one of the primary County's goals, to promote community welfare and quality of life.

### THE PARK SYSTEM'S RESPONSE TO SOCIETAL CHANGES

Since its inception, Montgomery County's park system has been responding to the needs of its community with a variety of park experiences and services. Each phase of the development of park system over time reflects the needs, lifestyle and predominant development pattern at that time. When the park system was created in the 1920's and 1930's the emphasis was on water supply protection. After World War II and into the 1950's, organized recreation in park activity buildings, ballfields, and tennis courts were the priorities. The 1960's and 1970's brought a suburban growth pattern of larger lots of single-family homes with backyards grouped by residents with similar income and social structure. This development pattern encouraged the use and dependency on car to access any destination.

In the late 60's and 70's, environmental policy started taking shape with a better understanding of the impact of suburban sprawl. Growth management policies started emerging. The *On Wedges and Corridors (1964) Plan* took place, concentrating development along corridors and centers in and around the Beltway (I-495). The introduction of the Agricultural Reserve as a land conservation policy preserved our farmland, and encouraged the shift toward "growing smarter", and preserving access to farmland and open spaces.

Initially, urban parks were created as buffers to protect suburban residential development from commercial areas. Now that people are moving to the commercial centers, parks and open spaces are needed inside the more urban areas so that people have nearby places to gather, play, or be in touch with the outdoors.

### TODAY'S CHALLENGES

As housing moves inside the commercial centers, the biggest challenge is to provide adequate parks and open spaces where land is already developed and very expensive. The need to focus on urban parks in these growing areas was established in the *Urban Parks Guidelines, Vision 2030* and *2012 PROS*.

With the increase in competition for land, our parks and open spaces should accommodate multiple needs. Integrating parks and recreation areas with other services can reduce costs by providing local amenities within walking distance, reducing impervious surfaces, and recharging groundwater supply, and removing pollutants from water. Sustainability requires integration of efforts and preventive measures to avoid waste of resources. This is especially critical in urban areas where high density puts a strain on failing infrastructure. The comprehensive integration of land uses, including parkland, will require a level of coordination among the different agencies including alignment of objectives, development schedules, and dedicated funds.

In areas with more people and jobs, parks are now much more than a leisure amenity -- they provide a platform for a diversity of community experiences. Urban parks provide many direct and indirect benefits to the lifestyle of residents, employees, and visitors.

### ALIGNMENT WITH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS VALUES

Parks in areas of high density can be incubators for health – physical, mental, and social. Urban Parks provide opportunities to promote many of the values and strategies of the Department of Parks, including:

- **Healthy Living** – Physical activity reduces and can prevent chronic health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity while reducing anxiety and depression. Having a system of parks within mixed use centers encourages people use parks more frequently for exercise. With a well-designed system of trails and sidewalks, people will tend to walk and bike rather than drive.
- **Stewardship & Recreation** – with many families choosing to live in urban areas, the first contact with nature and outdoor play for many children is through their neighborhood parks. Urban Parks can help plant the seed for stewardship of nature for those who live in higher density developments with no backyards.
- **Natural, Historical and Archaeological Resources** – Although much of the County's inventory of natural, historical, and archaeological resources are outside urban areas, urban parks can provide "pilot" places to experience and appreciate them.
- **Economic Competitiveness** – healthier communities attract businesses and residents, and access to parks is one critical element of a healthy community. Parks increase property values from 5-20%. Parks also lower the cost of infrastructure by managing stormwater and preventing flooding. By promoting walking to parks and maintaining a healthy weight, communities can save \$1,500 per person in healthcare costs a year.

- **Social Equity** – Access to parks is critical to healthy living. In areas of higher density with little open space, proximity to parks is especially important. In lower income areas where residents depend on public transit to access park facilities, the public sector should prioritize parks within walking distance. Currently, one third of the County’s population is foreign-born. This diversity should guide the services and facilities so that the parks provide public space that is inviting to all.

## Implementation

### RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 2012 PROS: A SYSTEM AND A HIERARCHY

#### A System

The *2012 PROS Plan* recommended that for each urban area, a unique open space system should be planned to serve the projected demographics of residents, workers, and visitors. The urban design vision developed during the master plan or sector plan process for the area helped guide the amount, pattern, location, siting, and design of open spaces.

The type and pattern of parks and open spaces best suited to urban populations is different from the suburban model of large tracts of land filled with fixed, single-use facilities. PROS Plans in the past projected recreational needs by broad planning areas, rather than by small sub-areas such as the new transit-oriented neighborhoods being created in Montgomery County. The *2012 PROS Plan* recognized that urban areas change the way in which we provide, build, and manage park and recreation resources in those areas. There are distinct challenges, the potential to provide park and recreation resources in different ways and different opportunities to incorporate and create those resources as urbanizing areas redevelop. The *2012 PROS Plan* recommended a system of parks and open spaces at the core of every urban area, provided through a combination of public and private efforts. The new open space system should support a vibrant and sustainable urban center by including open spaces that will be comfortable, attractive, easily accessible, safe, and provide a range of experiences, up to and including festival and outdoor event spaces. Those open spaces that rise to the level of serving as a focal point of community life for the planning area are typically recommended to be publicly owned and managed parks, while those open spaces serving a smaller district, neighborhood, or block are often recommended as public use spaces owned or managed by the private sector.

The *2012 PROS Plan* recommended that every urban area should have a system of parks and open spaces that include the following attributes:

- Active recreation - places to exercise outdoors, alone or in groups
- Social interaction - comfortable seating areas, large public spaces for formal or informal gathering, community gardens
- Access to green space - ample areas of grass, trees, and other landscaping
- Relaxation and stress relief - areas away from traffic and urban noise
- Public accessibility - where anyone can gather or sit or talk

## CHAPTER 3 - Optimizing Growth with Urban Parks

- Educational experiences - programs to learn from nature or cultural/historic resources
- Walkability - every residence should have a park or open space within 1/8 mile. Major roads can be barriers that add to the walking time and must be calculated into the minimum distance formula
- Connectivity - walking and biking systems to link all proposed urban open spaces, and to provide pleasant walking routes from residences and businesses to open space destinations throughout the planning area, and to connect to regional trail and bikeway systems
- Flexibility- space that can be used for a variety of spontaneous activities and gatherings, and to respond to the changing needs of urban populations
- Activating Uses –nearby shops, restaurants, and residences, attractions, entertainment, as well as places within the park for relaxation, getting work done (Wi-Fi), spontaneous play, education, recreation, etc.

### A Hierarchy

The *2012 PROS Plan* recommended, and this plan confirms that each area master plan should include a system of open spaces based on the roles of each type of open space. The amount and size of open spaces may vary from plan to plan and should be directly proportional to the projected density, and adjusted to the pattern of existing open space and other factors such as community-specific needs.

The following hierarchy should be applied to any new urbanizing area:

#### **For each Urban Sector/Master Plan Area:**

- Active Recreation Destinations
- Central Civic Green
- Interconnected System of Sidewalks and Trails
- Wooded Areas

#### **For each Urban Neighborhood:**

- Neighborhood green
- Walk to recreational amenities

#### **For each Block:**

- Space for an urban square, plaza, or green area

#### **For each Building:**

- Space for outdoor recreation space

#### **For each Residence:**

- Private outdoor space

An example of an applied hierarchy for parks and open spaces from the approved *Bethesda Downtown Plan Design Guidelines* is shown in *Figure 16*.

### CHAPTER 3 - Optimizing Growth with Urban Parks

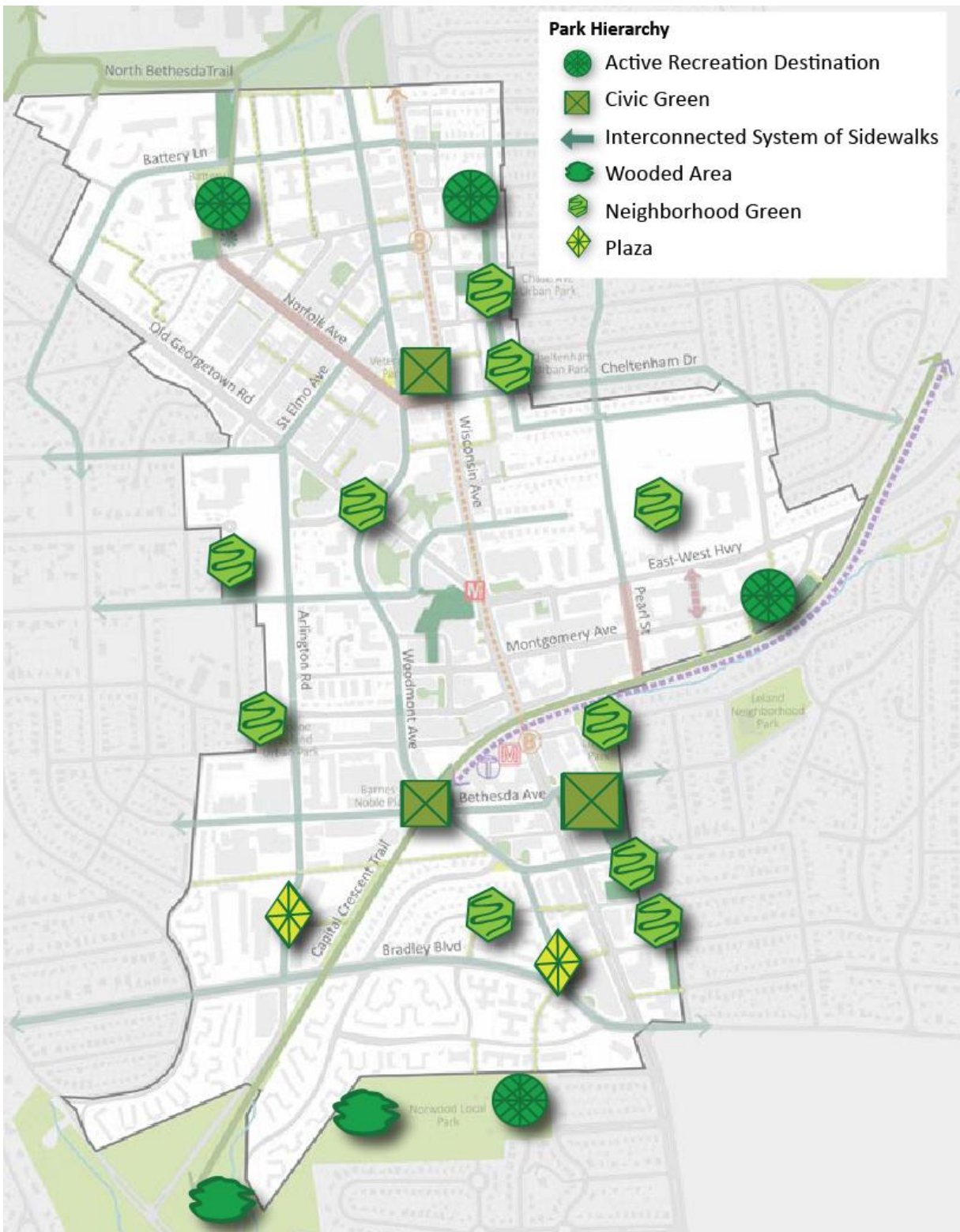


Figure 16 - Sample Parks and Open Space Hierarchy, Bethesda Downtown Plan Design Guidelines, July 2017

## Status of 2012 PROS Recommendations

### PARK RECOMMENDATIONS IN AREA MASTER AND SECTOR PLANS

A series of County Council adopted master and sector plans have applied the system and hierarchy of open spaces proposed in the *2012 PROS Plan*, to recommend over 30 new or expanded parks (to be either privately or publicly owned) including:

- February, 2017 – *Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan*- 7 new or expanded parks
- July, 2016 – *Westbard Sector Plan* – 5 new parks
- 2014 – *White Oak Science Gateway Plan* – 5 new or expanded parks
- November, 2013 – *Glenmont Sector Plan*– 5 new or expanded parks
- November, 2013 – *Long Branch Sector Plan* – 5 new or expanded parks
- October, 2013 – *Chevy Chase Lakes Sector Plan* – 2 new parks
- December, 2012 – *Burtonsville Crossroads Neighborhood Plan* – 2 new parks
- June, 2012 – *Takoma/Langley Crossroads Sector Plan* – 2 new or expanded parks

### ACTIVATION PROJECTS “POP UP” IN MONTGOMERY PARKS

During 2016 Montgomery Parks instituted a new program for park activation. Its mission is to “get people into the parks,” and its vision is for all Montgomery County residents to choose park activities during their leisure time, and to ultimately promote self-directed activation of parks.

In 2014, the Parks Leadership Program assigned a core group of program participants the project of developing an activating parks program. Initial activities included Touch a Truck Event, Sharks in the Parks (Discovery Channel Shark week film), Butterfly Garden and Chalk Day. In addition, amenities were installed in various parks to increase activity which included movable tables and chairs, heart smart trail, chess, ping pong and shuffle board.

In 2015, grill nights were held each month during the summer which included live music, large grill for people to grill their own food and a camp fire to make s’mores.

In 2016, a large scrabble board was set up in two parks to promote National Scrabble Day. Giant Jenga games were dropped off in ten parks for park patrons to enjoy. A giant chess set was made available for check out at a local library for use in a park. Free lunch time massages were scheduled in late summer. Bollywood dancing and Tai Chi demonstrations were held in two parks. Food trucks were a trial event at one park. Tree climbing for kids was coordinated by the Parks tree crews. Large amenities purchased for use in parks included a portable climbing wall and a pump track.

In September of 2016, an Activating Parks Program Coordinator was hired to oversee and expand the existing program. Additional staffing includes the hiring of play specialists to support and assist with children and families leading them and encouraging them to play in parks.

Programs and activities will be developed for four seasons to promote park use year-round. The coordinator has developed and initiated a winter schedule of activities which include scheduling at various parks, the pump track and climbing wall, Pop -up Recess, Movie Night in the Park, Community Cozy Day (fire pit, s’mores, and hot chocolate), evening fire circles.



### NEW AND REDEVELOPED URBAN PARKS SINCE 2012

Below is a list of the major urban parks projects that have completed milestones since 2012, including several park renovations/upgrades and two newly constructed parks.

#### Renovated and Updated Parks

##### **Kemp Mill Urban Park**

- Design completed May 2015
- Construction to be completed in Summer 2017

##### **Woodside Urban Park**

- Design to be completed in early 2017
- Construction to begin in Spring 2018 with estimated completion in 2019

##### **Caroline Freeland Urban Park**

- Facility plan completed July 2015
- Design programmed to begin in July 2018
- Construction programmed for 2020-2021

##### **Battery Lane Urban Park**

- Tennis courts renovated in 2016
- Playground renovation scheduled for 2017-2018

##### **Ellsworth Urban Park – Pilot Urban Dog Park**

- Site Selection completed April 2014
- Design completed September 2015
- Construction completed June 2016

##### **Wall Local Park**

- Interim park plan
- Design completed Feb 2017
- Construction programmed for 2018-2019

#### Newly Constructed Parks

##### **Germantown Town Center Urban Park**

- Design completed April 2012
- Construction completed in Fall 2015

##### **Western Grove Urban Park**

- Facility plan completed September 2013
- Design completed February 2016
- Construction completed Fall 2017

### PARK ACQUISITIONS

Since the 2012 PROS Plan, several acquisitions of new parkland have been completed in areas that serve the County's most populated communities. Here are a few examples.

#### **Glenfield Local Park Expansion**

- Recommended in the Glenmont Sector Plan, 2013
- Acquired 3.4 acres of forest to provide natural resource recreation opportunities near Metro

#### **Santini Road Local Park**

- Recommended in the Burtonsville Neighborhood Plan, 2012
- Acquired 15.7 acres to provide future local park to serve expanding Burtonsville neighborhoods

#### **Patuxent River Conservation Park Expansion**

- Recommended in the Burtonsville Neighborhood Plan, 2012
- Acquired 36.5 acres of forest to provide natural resource recreation opportunities

#### **Piedmont Crossing Local Park**

- Recommended in the Shady Grove Sector Plan, 2006
- Acquired 22.9 acres to provide future local park to serve new residential communities transforming the Shady Grove Metro station area

### URBAN PARK GUIDELINES OBJECTIVES

In June of 2010, the Planning Board approved objectives for *Urban Park Guidelines*. The goal of the *Urban Park Guidelines* was to re-examine and re-define the role of urban parks in community life. The *2012 PROS Plan* responded to three of the objectives approved by the Board in 2010, and progress to date is summarized below:

**Objective 1: Define a new (third) park category in the classification system called Urban Parks.** This was achieved in the *2012 PROS Plan* by adding 6 new types of urban parks to the Park Classification System. The new categories and subcategories and their descriptions support the vision and role of urban parks to serve mixed-use, densely developing communities. Several of these park types are found in all sector plans approved since 2012.

**Objective 2: Propose a standard amount of public parkland for community master plan areas, based on projected future population in the plan area.** In 2010 the Board agreed that the amount of parkland alone will not guarantee “the right parks in the right places” in our urban areas. Urban parks recommendations since 2012 have been based primarily on creating the right pattern and type of parks and open spaces for each master or sector plan area, rather than setting a target for the amount of parkland.

**Objective 3: Propose a methodology for distributing parkland across a community master plan area.** The Board agreed in 2010 that in order to distribute parkland appropriately within an urban area, the recommendations for parks in each urban area should help meet needs identified in the *2012 PROS Plan*, including new, urban park facilities such as event spaces, skate spots, etc., and create a walkable open space system, using a standard maximum walking distance from residences and transit stops to parks.

The *2012 PROS Plan* established a new methodology for distribution, which has been applied to every sector plan since 2012, by including:

- New park facility types that are appropriate in urban areas in needs estimates and service delivery strategies, e.g. civic greens, community open space, urban woodlands, community gardens, dog parks, and skate parks
- A system with specific attributes to meet needs of urban residents
- A hierarchy of parks and open spaces with relative service areas to avoid gaps in service
- A maximum walking distance to urban parks and open spaces

## Recommendations

### ENERGIZED PUBLIC SPACES FUNCTIONAL MASTER PLAN (EPS FMP)

Since the *2012 PROS Plan* approval, sector and master plans have been implementing the three objectives listed above. In August 2016, Montgomery Parks initiated a new plan for parks in higher density areas called the *Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan (EPS FMP)*.

The main purpose of the *EPS FMP* is to create outdoor spaces where people of all ages and incomes can meet, play, relax, exercise, and enjoy nature and more, in a range of parks and public spaces within specific geographic areas. The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation (M-NCPPC 2010)* confirmed that the highest needs are and will continue to be in areas of highest population density.

### Study Area

The *EPS Functional Master Plan* seeks locations for new open spaces in areas traditionally underserved by M-NCPPC parks. Historically, parks were located where people lived, outside of the commercial areas. M-NCPPC parkland acted as buffers between commercial and residential communities. With increased mixed-use development and the arrival of new residents to commercial and employment areas, Montgomery Parks seeks to meet the increasing demand for parks and open space to serve both residents and the day-time population.

The study area mapped for the *EPS FMP* identifies areas in Montgomery County that are:

#### Higher-intensity Mixed Use Areas (commercial and residential)

Areas that are “higher-intensity mixed use” are defined as being areas with both moderate residential density and that are also employment centers. These areas have a both a residential population density of 5,000 people per square mile and a ratio of employees to residents that is 1:1 or higher.

#### Higher Density Residential

To also provide greater service to areas in the county with the highest residential density, those areas were also added to the study area map and are defined as having 10,000 residents per square mile or higher.

## CHAPTER 3 - Optimizing Growth with Urban Parks

Data from the Planning Department’s Round 9.0 Forecast was used to create the study areas and includes current (2010) and future (2045) conditions. In addition, the Study Area also aligns with on-going regional and local planning efforts areas: activity centers from the Council of Governments, public transit routes and stations, and recent master and sector plans completed by the Planning Department.

### Methodology

Within the Study Area, the Plan methodology will identify priorities for activation and renovation of existing parks, opportunities for partnering with other entities to provide service, and recommendations for acquisition and development of new parks. Review and approval of this functional master plan by the County Council will result in a legally robust plan that can support a wide variety of implementation tools, including dedication through the development process and the land acquisition process. As an approved functional master plan, this Plan also will provide the ability to study priority areas of the County and make new park recommendations without being tied to the land use master plan schedule.

In summary, the *EPS FMP* develops a methodology that can be employed systematically across the EPS Study Area thereby ensuring equity in parks and opens spaces. The new methodology will:

- Identify where parks and open spaces are needed most to serve dense populations within walking distance to an integrated network of public spaces
- Prioritize parks and open spaces for implementation using level of service and social equity
- Propose innovative tools and new funding sources to activate and connect parks, renovate, and repurpose existing facilities, develop new facilities and a create new parks and open spaces

The EPS FMP is organized as follows:

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#### ANALYZE SUPPLY AND DEMAND

- Identify Areas with a Low Level of Service
- Identify Opportunities to Increase Level of Service

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#### ORGANIZE AND PRIORITIZE RESULTS

- Organize Opportunities by Strategies
- Screen Opportunities for Feasibility
- Prioritize Opportunities by Social Equity

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#### IMPLEMENTATION

- Apply Methodology to the entire EPS Study Area
- Implement Recommendations
- Provide Funding Resources
- Align Operations, Maintenance, and Policing
- Assess Progress

## CHAPTER 3 - Optimizing Growth with Urban Parks

### Proposed CIP Funding

To successfully implement the recommendations of this plan, staff will request critical funding in the FY19-24 CIP process to address two needs: design and engineering funds to support renovations and new development, and acquisition funds to support necessary new parkland in the County's most dense and mixed-use areas. This funding will be requested as new funding within existing acquisition and facility planning projects. Final design and construction funds for major park renovations and new construction of these important parks will be funded through the CIP as Facility Planning is completed, as is done for other major park projects.

CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation



## CHAPTER 4: Parks and Recreation

### Introduction

*Chapter 4* includes state and local goals for recreation and parks, the current County implementation programs for achieving these goals, progress since the *2012 PROS Plan*, new recommendations based on an analysis of supply, demand and need for recreation facilities, and priorities for land acquisition, development, and renovation.

The overall goal is to balance facility based recreation, resource based recreation, natural resource and cultural resource stewardship offerings to serve a diverse population.

### Goals

#### STATE GOALS

The following State goals for recreation and parks are used in Planning for Parks and Recreation, in addition to other local goals:

- Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens, and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.
- Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the state more desirable places to live, work and visit.
- Use State investment in parks, recreation, and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans.
- To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile, and help to protect natural open spaces and resources.
- Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities.
- Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a statewide level.

#### LOCAL GOALS

The *Vision 2030 Executive Summary* provides the County's local goals for the planning and development of recreation and parks. These are listed as Goals 4-8 under the theme of Planning and Development: Planning for recreational, natural, and cultural resources in an urbanizing County.

**GOAL 4** – Provide adequate and appropriate public lands and facilities that are equitably distributed across the County to meet the needs of residents.

**GOAL 5** – Create a high-functioning system of Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space that is responsive to changing community needs and interests.

**GOAL 6** – Expand and enhance opportunities for recreational trail experiences to promote health and wellness.

**GOAL 8**– Provide an equitable distribution of public indoor recreation spaces in Montgomery County that is sustainable.

### Implementation

This section describes County programs and procedures for recreation, parks, and related open space.

#### COMMUNITY MASTER PLANS

Community master plans and sector plans continually update the County’s Comprehensive Plan and provide an important vehicle for implementation of park plan proposals. During the community master planning process, needs for future public facilities, including parks, are given careful consideration. The importance of protecting significant historic, cultural, and natural areas such as stream valleys is also identified and incorporated into land acquisition proposals and included in community master plans.

#### PARK MASTER PLANS

Park master plans are completed for all Countywide parks and facilitate implementation of the *2017 PROS Plan*. These plans help meet recreation needs while providing stewardship of the park’s natural and cultural resources.

#### PARK FUNCTIONAL PLANS

There are two types of Parks Functional Plans – Functional Master Plans that are approved and adopted by the County Council (e.g., *Legacy Open Space, Energized Public Spaces*). The second type deals with a specific type of facility countywide and is approved and adopted by the Planning Board (e.g., *Countywide Park Trails Plan*).

#### RECREATION FACILITY AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The *Montgomery County Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030* was created from the information gathered during the *Vision 2030* study. This information is utilized to guide the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) proposed every other year to recommend facility development, renovations, and other capital repair items. Once in the Countywide Facility Planning Montgomery County Project these efforts make their way into a standalone Project Description Form to be considered for funding in the areas of design, construction, development, etc.

The *2017 PROS Plan* provides revised population figures, acknowledges project completion schedules, and incorporates an extensive user needs assessment.



### DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS

Acquisition and development of new parks through the subdivision process is an important method for meeting recreation and open space needs in an efficient manner with minimal impact on County taxpayers. Each subdivision plan for new development is reviewed with respect to park, trail, and recreation needs and considers the following factors when requesting conditions of approval on the development plans:

- The need for a park to serve the development as evidenced by the *2017 PROS Plan* or area master plan proposals
- The need for preservation of natural areas or historic and cultural sites
- The need for trails or access paths to existing or proposed parkland and to the County's regional trail and bikeway system
- The need to provide private recreation areas. The *Recreation Guidelines* approved by the Planning Board in 1992 and updated in 2017 require developers to provide privately developed and maintained recreation amenities for new residents as an important supplement to the public park and recreation system
- The need to contribute to open space, public benefits, and public amenities in areas zoned for high density mixed use development and maintained recreation amenities for new residents as an important supplement to the public park and recreation system
- The need to contribute to open space, public benefits, and public amenities in areas zoned for high density mixed use development

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP) PARK PROPOSALS

#### Facility Development Projects

The Capital Improvements Program implements the PROS Plan by providing funding for design and construction of recreation facilities identified in the PROS Plan and other policy documents that will not be provided through the development review process. Following the identification of park needs and specific site proposals in community and park master plans, individual park projects will be prioritized for inclusion in the six-year Capital Improvements Program (see *Chapter 2* for prioritizing criteria and funding limitations of the CIP). Proposed projects will be prioritized first for facility planning and site design, and second for final design and construction. The CIP is submitted every two years and includes all development projects to be implemented within the following six years. See *Appendix 2* for a list of the projects proposed in the current CIP cycle (FY17-FY22).

#### Acquisition of Parkland for Facility-Based Recreation

The CIP also funds the land acquisition program to create the necessary platforms for facilities (see *Chapter 2* for details). When determining whether land acquisition is necessary or appropriate to meet recreation needs, there are two criteria that need to be evaluated in addition to the general criteria in *Chapter 2*.

## CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

- Sites should have topography suitable for the desired facilities, including areas large enough for any desired athletic fields.
- Sites must have adequate land outside of Environmentally Sensitive Areas based on analysis using the Resource Atlas GIS tool (*See Chapter 5*)

### OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ENTITIES

Planning coordination with other agencies or jurisdictions is important in the implementation of the *PROS Plan*. Implementation of Plan proposals often will occur through partnerships with other public agencies or private organizations or groups. Recreation or natural or cultural resource preservation projects that are achieved cooperatively with another public agency or with private developers are increasingly important as areas of the County redevelop. Friends' groups and volunteers add significant resources to park facilities and programs.

### FUNDING SOURCES

There are many funding sources and mechanisms the County uses to support the park and recreation programs. The Capital Improvements Program funds capital expenditures with a combination of County General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds, M-NCPPC G.O. Bonds (aka Park or Commission Bonds), Current Revenue and State Program Open Space grants. (*see Chapter 2*). The annual operating budget (including funding for park maintenance and renovations under \$30,000) is funded by a combination of Park Tax revenues, Enterprise facility revenues, and other grants and miscellaneous funding sources. Partnerships with other public agencies and private entities provide additional funds to support certain projects and programs. Finally, donations of real estate, in-kind services, cash or other assets via the Parks Foundation, and volunteer hours through the Volunteer Services Office all provide direct, tangible financial support to the parks and recreation facilities and programming.

## Status of 2012 Recommendations

The Department of Parks has accomplished many of the recommendations in the *2012 PROS Plan*. These may be grouped according to the Local Goals as established in *Vision 2030*. The following repeats the goals and gives a summary of the progress on each.

**GOAL 4 – Provide adequate and appropriate public lands and facilities that are equitably distributed across the County to meet the needs of residents.** The Department continues to meet this goal by applying the service delivery strategies from the *2012 PROS Plan* that were based on prioritizing facilities where the lowest level of service per population exists.

The service delivery strategies are key factors in the recommendations for the Capital Improvements Program. In addition, alternative funding mechanisms for urban parks have been recommended in area master plans, designed to meet needs in high density areas where land is most expensive.

Since January 1, 2012, M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks has acquired 1,566.23 +/- acres of parkland, and constructed and renovated numerous parks. Examples of renovation or construction of new parks with active facilities are as follows, by geography.

## CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

### I-270 Corridor

- Laytonia Recreational Park – added lighted baseball field, lighted synthetic turf rectangular field, two natural turf rectangular fields, permitted shelter, playground, basketball court, paths, parking

### Potomac Subregion

- Greenbriar Local Park – added rectangular field, basketball court, playground, volleyball court, seating areas, parking, loop trail, picnic shelter

### Silver Spring/Takoma Park Area

- North Four Corners LP – added 1 rectangular field, fitness equipment, parking, plaza with seating, bikeway through park
- Ellsworth UP – added dog park
- Takoma Piney Branch LP – adds one playground, reduces two volleyball courts to one, adds new shelter, converts two tennis courts to a skateboard park, entrance plaza, renovates other facilities

### East County Area

- Hillandale LP – removed park building and added picnic shelter

### Georgia Avenue Area

- Northwest Branch RP – added 1 baseball, 3 rectangular fields, 1 football field, parking
- East Norbeck LP – adds parking, natural surface trail, permitted picnic pavilion, expands and realigns fields so they do not overlap

### Rural Area

- Woodstock Equestrian Park – adds outdoor riding ring and cross country course, parking

**GOAL 5 – Create a high-functioning system of Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space that is responsive to changing community needs and interests.** The Department continues to meet this goal by streamlining funding, approval, design, and construction processes, designing and delivering more multi-use, flexible spaces, and accommodating trends through retrofitted or new development. Recommendations from area master plans and other community requests factor heavily in priorities for funding and construction. Examples of accomplishments of this goal include:

- Programs of Requirement were developed for parks undergoing design or repurposing, to ensure that the design of the park responds to needs identified in the *2012 PROS Plan*, including Wheaton-Claridge Neighborhood Park, Caroline Freeland Urban Park, and Hillandale Local Park.
- Plans and designs have included more un-programmed, flexible parks and recreation spaces, and features that are multi-functional or adaptable for multiple purposes, including Caroline Freeland Urban Park and Hillandale Local Park.
- Site selection studies identified sites for facilities in areas with service gaps, which were subsequently planned and designed, such as the County's first urban dog park in Ellsworth Urban Park, and the first purpose-built cricket field at South Germantown Recreational Park.
- A streamlined process for designing and delivering facilities resulted in a shorter turn-around time between planning and construction, in several projects including: Wheaton-Claridge Local Park, Long Branch Wayne Local Park, and Acorn Urban Park.

## CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

**GOAL 6 – Expand and enhance opportunities for recreational trail experiences to promote health and wellness.** The newly approved *2016 Countywide Park Trails Plan* prioritizes trails to fill gaps in the countywide system and will achieve a high level of service once the system is built out. When the trail system is fully built-out, in combination with bikeways, 85% of residents will be located within 1 mile, and nearly 100% will be located within 3 miles. Under both scenarios, 100% of residents are served within 5 miles.

We have constructed close to 30 miles of natural surface trail since 2012. Most notable trails include:

- Ten Mile Creek and Cool Spring Run trail in Black Hill Regional Park,
- Rachel Carson Greenway trail in Northwest Branch,
- North Branch Trail in the North Branch of Rock Creek,
- Hillandale Loop Trail in White Oak,
- The Upper Rock Creek trail and Carson Farm Trail at the Agricultural History Farm Park,
- The Diabase Trail in the Hoyles Mill Conservation Park,
- The new Tobacco Barn, Browning Run and Windy Ridge trails in Little Bennett Regional Park and the Silverwood Trail in Fairland Recreational Park.
- various trail reroutes in order to make other existing trails more sustainable and usable.

We also completed the following hard-surface trail projects:

- Matthew Henson Trail connector to Layhill Village LP
- Signage for 14 miles of the Rock Creek Trail
- Parklawn North Trail connection to Rock Creek Trail (almost completed)
- The trail connector from Matthew Henson to the Midcounty Recreation Center looks like it was funded in FY13, so it may be new since 2012.
- Trail connector from Sligo Creek Trail to Colt Terrace (funded in FY13).
- We've renovated sections of the Rock Creek Trail, done shoulder work on the CCT, and done some additional trail renovations near the Carousel and Shorefield House in Wheaton RP.
- Facility planning completed for North Branch Trail and Little Bennett RP connection.
- Black Hill Trail is renovation project was 2.38 miles and the extension project was 1.2 miles.

**GOAL 8– Provide an equitable distribution of public indoor recreation spaces in Montgomery County that is sustainable.** The *Montgomery County Recreation Facility Development Plan (RFDP), 2010-2030* was developed by the Recreation Department based on the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*, with the goal to provide an equitable and sustainable distribution of public indoor recreation spaces in Montgomery County. In accordance with that plan, the Department has made significant progress in completing current planned facilities and renovations, while adding fewer, larger regional centers and combining them with indoor aquatics.

## Recommendations

This section of the plan includes information on:

- Supply of parkland and recreation facilities to support specific recreational activities;
- Demand assessment and estimates for specific facility-based recreation and natural resource-based recreation activities;
- Needs determination of additional land and facilities through the year 2030 with service delivery strategies on how they should be provided; and
- Priorities for land acquisition, facility development, and renovation.

### SUPPLY OF PARKLAND AND RECREATION FACILITIES

As of January 1, 2017, M-NCPPC has approximately 36,820 acres of parkland divided into large countywide and smaller community use parks which include a wealth of recreation facilities. The County is fortunate to have many partners providing open space protection and preservation. In addition to M-NCPPC and Municipal Parkland, these partners include Federal and State Parks, public school open space, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and private open space areas.

### Demand Assessment and Estimates

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#### PARKLAND

Priorities for future M-NCPPC parkland are analyzed in individual area and park master plans. Each plan assesses the opportunities to meet natural and cultural resource preservation goals, natural resource-based recreation needs as well as facility-based recreation needs. A summary of these needs is included in later in this chapter.

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#### PARK FACILITIES

The remainder of this section focuses on the demand for specific recreation facilities to the year 2030. It discusses needed facilities and methodologies for estimating demand, and, for the first time, service delivery strategies for meeting needs. The strategies are based on approved plans and policies such as the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*, the *Environmental Guidelines (M-NCPPC)*, and past PROS plans, as well as results of outreach, emerging trends and benchmarking.

Estimating exact numbers of recreation facilities demanded in the County is an extremely difficult task and subject to many future variables. Need estimates should be considered “guidelines” rather than hard and fast rules. They may be revised in the future, as needed, to accommodate changes in population projections and participation rates.

Maintenance of existing and future facilities is critical to their usability by the public. Renovation and improved maintenance of existing facilities is needed, particularly in older areas of the County, to keep them in safe, usable condition. Seventy-nine percent of the respondents of the Vision 2030 Survey and 74% of the respondents of the statistically valid survey (*Appendix 11, Chapter 3*) indicated that making improvements to existing facilities is a top funding priority. To assure that we can maintain future facilities, their maintenance impact is calculated and noted in the Capital Improvements Program so

## CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

public officials will be aware of their future budget impact. Park facilities should be co-located with other public facilities whenever feasible.

The Department of Parks is committed to incorporating the *2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design (ADA)* into planning and development and upgrading of park and recreational facilities. Making facilities available and accessible to existing and future populations should be an integral part of all park and recreation planning and development and is therefore not detailed in the individual service delivery strategies (*Chapter 2*).

The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommended, and the extensive outreach results for the *2017 PROS Plan* confirmed the following guiding principles for meeting future park and recreation needs in the County. The service delivery strategies in this chapter support these principles:

- Balance renovation and conversion of older, deteriorated parks and facilities with new construction
- Respond to changing priorities by re-defining existing land and facilities to provide different kinds of services
- Deliver services to areas of highest need

The statistically valid *2017 PROS Survey* assessed and prioritized needs for facilities. The methods used by the *2017 PROS Plan* for estimating future needs for each facility are based on participation rates and frequencies from that survey as well as from the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) 2015 data, facility capacity, and census population projections to the year 2030. A service delivery strategy that recommends a size, park type, and geography is proposed for each facility.

### Park Facilities Not Analyzed in this Plan

The park and recreation system also has many facility types that are not specifically addressed in the analysis of needs in this document, some of which are unique. They include equestrian facilities; therapeutic facilities; and specialized playground complexes, as well as primitive and full-service campgrounds, a carousel, miniature trains, event centers, exercise courses, golf courses and driving range, lakes and boating facilities, miniature golf, outdoor ropes courses, park activity buildings, splash playgrounds and indoor tennis centers.

### Needs Determination and Prioritization of Facilities

Needs are estimated to the year 2030 for a selection of the most popular park and recreation facilities. The statistically valid survey (*Appendix 11, Chapter 3*) measured how people ranked park and recreation facilities according to their current usage and frequency, as well as their importance, and how well they currently meet needs. The survey also measured the need for future facilities and the priorities for facility investments. This provided the opportunity to not only see what amenities are important to respondents, but also to get an idea of how the same amenities are viewed in relation to each other, allowing priorities to become more evident.

## CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

As stated in *Chapter 1*, Montgomery County residents report a high degree of satisfaction with the parks and recreation facilities and programs and consider them to be important to the quality of life in the County.

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### PRIORITIES FOR FACILITY INVESTMENTS

A rating for facility investment priorities was developed based on the results of the statistically valid survey (*Appendix 11, Chapter 3*). The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on parks and recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weights (1) the importance that residents place on facilities and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the facility. Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following five facilities were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Natural surface trails (walking, biking, horse-back riding) (PIR=193)
- Paved, multi-use trails (walking, biking) (PIR=190)
- Natural areas and wildlife habitats (PIR=150)
- Public gardens (PIR=122)
- Park shelters and picnic areas (PIR=105)

The following chart shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 24 facilities that were assessed on the survey. When compared with the *Vision 2030* survey of 2010, three park facilities remained in the top four – natural surface trails, hard surface trails, and natural areas. Playgrounds dropped to a medium priority in the statistically valid survey (*Appendix 11, Chapter 3*) while public gardens and park shelters and picnic areas rose to the top five priorities.

The *2017 PROS Plan* estimates needs and recommends service delivery strategies not only for those facilities that ranked as high priorities, but also for some facilities that ranked lower in importance but that have unmet or partially met need such as rectangular sports fields, baseball fields, volleyball courts, skate parks, and dog parks. Recent trends in park facilities were added to the survey, including cricket, nature play spaces, pickleball, and rentable space for formal events.

CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

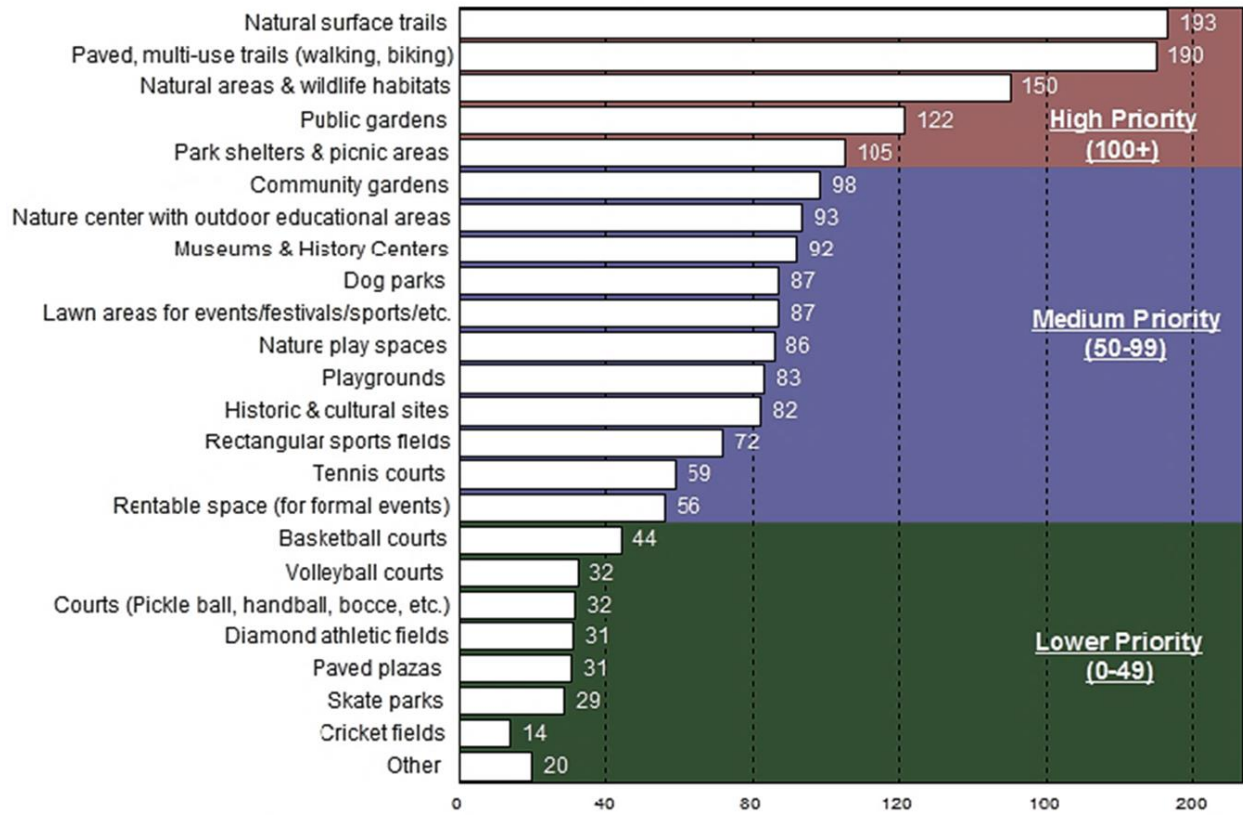


Figure 17 - Top Priorities for Investment for Recreation Facilities Base on the Priority Investment Rating



**Q11. Which four facilities are most important to your household?**

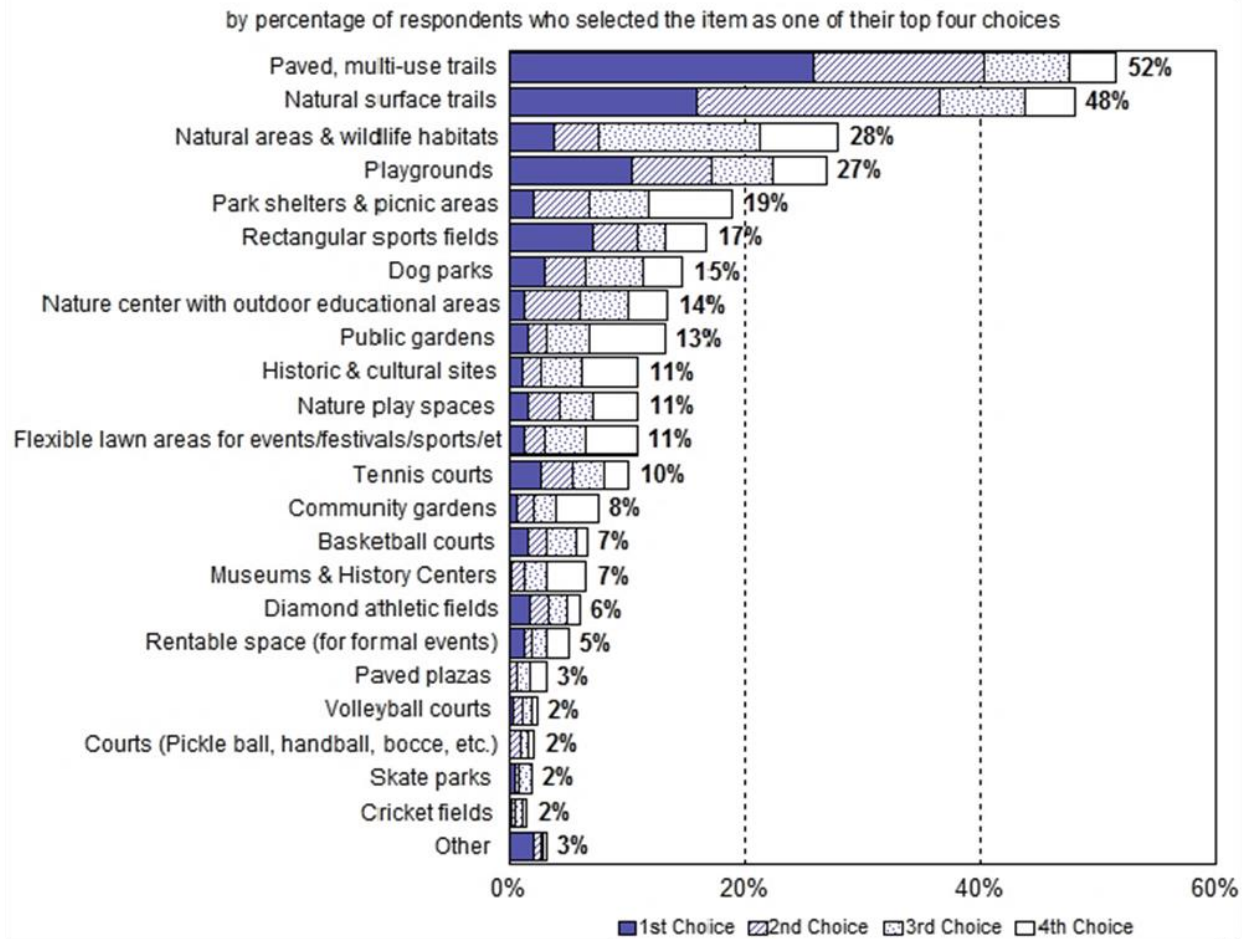


Figure 18 - Top Four Facilities Most Important to Your Household

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SERVICE DELIVERY GEOGRAPHIES

The Service Delivery Recommendations in this document are grouped, by two geographies, into facilities serving the Countywide Areas and Planning Areas.



Figure 19 -Service Delivery Areas Map

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METHODOLOGIES AND SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGIES

The methodologies used in the *2017 PROS Plan* for estimated future needs are primarily based on guidance from State suggested methods, approved policies and plans such as the *Countywide Park Trails Plan (M-NCPPC 1998, 2008, 2016)*, the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan Survey (M-NCPPC, 2011)*, and Needs Assessment Survey (*Appendix 11, Chapter 3*).

*The 2017 PROS Plan* provides service delivery strategies for each facility are included to guide the type and distribution of facilities. These strategies will provide policy guidance for area master plans, park

master plans, partnership proposals, site selection studies and implementation plans, facility plans and prioritization of future CIP work programs.

### Countywide Facilities

The following details preliminary estimates for future additional needs for facilities that are served on a countywide basis. These facilities are projected on a total countywide basis because many are in regional or recreational parks and they serve large portions of the County. Estimates account for existing inventory and population projections for all publicly owned areas of the County, including municipalities. The *2017 PROS Plan* includes facilities in other jurisdictions in the inventory of countywide facilities. Where there is a documented shortage of a facility type, and the current master plan or CIP proposals cannot fulfill that need in the future, other alternative providers will be examined to determine if they are meeting the projected unmet need.

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#### HARD SURFACE AND NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS



Running, hiking/walking, bicycling and horseback riding continue to be among the most popular recreational activities on M-NCPPC parkland, and safe enjoyment of these activities require some type of trail, whether hard surface (paved) or natural surface (unpaved). Depending on the context, trail use may be considered natural resource-based recreation or facility-based recreation. The *2012 PROS Plan* defined natural resource-based recreation as “any leisure activity conducted outdoors that is dependent on a particular element or combination of elements in the natural environment. These elements cannot be easily duplicated by human effort.” Natural resource-based recreation includes a vast range of pursuits including bicycling, hiking, running, and horseback riding, bird watching, nature photography, wildlife viewing, kayaking, rowing, canoeing, and fishing. In contrast, facility-based recreation may be defined as any leisure activity dependent on a fabricated facility. Fabricated facilities can generally be provided anywhere, assuming the availability of space and funds for development. Examples of facility-based recreation including baseball, soccer, basketball and tennis, among many others.

Public surveys conducted during the *Vision 2030* and the *2017 PROS Plan* identify park trails as among the most popular and most used facilities in the park system. The surveys also revealed that residents want more trails, particularly closer to where they live and/or work, and that residents highly value park natural areas. Park trails and natural areas go together within the M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks system. Park trails are gateways to natural areas; they are the means by which park users typically access and enjoy natural areas. Trails can be a destination, as well as a route to or through an area.

The M-NCPPC Department of Parks owns and manages 76 miles of existing hard surface trails and 160 miles of natural surface trails in the County. An additional 21 miles of natural surface and 112.6 miles of hard surface trails are owned and operated by other providers such as the State of Maryland, Montgomery County and the National Park Service. The *2016 Countywide Park Trails Plan* finds that some areas of the County are underserved by trails, and recommends looking at a variety of ways to increase the level of service of trails in addition to building new trail segments. Strategies include

evaluating unsanctioned (aka “people’s choice”) trails to determine which ones are or can become sustainable, and these trails then can be brought into the official sanctioned (e.g., signed, marked, mapped and maintained) park trail system.

### Calculation of Need

From a countywide perspective, residents are well-served by park trails. Compared to other Maryland jurisdictions, Montgomery County features an extensive recreational park trail system, both hard surface and natural surface. However, these trails are unevenly distributed geographically, as a result of the pattern and timing of past development and land acquisition opportunities. Some areas of the county are better served (defined as convenient access) than others. For example, our hard surface trail system is primarily located in downcounty stream valley parks in older, more densely developed urbanized areas. It is important to have trails where population densities are highest.

### Policy Framework

The *2016 Countywide Park Trails Plan* defines a framework for the countywide park trails network. “Loops and Links” identifies four large existing and nearly complete “hybrid” loops, while simultaneously recommending park trail, bikeway and sidewalk connectors between these loops and major parks and other regional destinations.

Hybrid loops include existing and proposed hard surface and/or natural surface trails on county parkland and other public lands. Where necessary to help fill critical gaps in the overall system or to link to major destinations, the new framework also includes a few existing or proposed regional bikeways and occasionally sidewalks and low volume roads.

Loops and Links focuses on continuous “circuit” trail user experiences and the park trails, key regional bikeways or sidewalks that connect loops and links with major regional destinations. The system also establishes smaller “stacked loops.” With stacked loops, trails users can have shorter or longer trail experiences without retracing their routes. This type of park trail system offers a variety of loop experiences, both long and short.

Highlights of the plan include recommendations to:

- build more natural surface trails downcounty in the more urban areas
- build sustainable trails suitable for multiple user groups (hiking, mountain biking and equestrian)
- complete gaps in the regional trail system to make trail experiences continuous
- create series of loop trails closer to where people live, rather than focusing on longer-distance, cross-county trail experiences; and,
- provide a variety of trail experiences, both “destination trails” to which residents would be willing to drive for a longer experience as well as more local, community-serving trails to which residents can walk or bike from home.

The Loops & Links system is designed to offer the highest level of service in the areas of highest density. The Loops & Links system offers a very high level of service to existing and future county residents. When fully built-out, sixty-eight percent (68%) of residents will live within 1-mile of a loop or link and

## CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

nearly one hundred percent (100%) will live within 3 miles. When regional bikeway connectors are included, 85% of residents will be located within 1 mile, and nearly 100% will be located within 3 miles. Under both scenarios, 100% of residents are served within 5 miles - *see Figure 20*.

<b>LOOPS &amp; LINKS    LOOPS,</b>			<b>LINKS &amp; KEY BIKEWAYS</b>		
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>% TOTAL POPULATION</b>	<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>% TOTAL POPULATION</b>
<b>.25 mile</b>	248,117	25.53%	<b>.25 mile</b>	384,900	39.61%
<b>.5 mile</b>	394,826	40.63%	<b>.5 mile</b>	575,731	59.25%
<b>1 mile</b>	666,558	68.59	<b>1 mile</b>	829,089	85.32%
<b>3 miles</b>	968,754	99.69	<b>3 miles</b>	968,941	99.71%
<b>5 miles</b>	971,777	100%	<b>5 miles</b>	971,777	100%

*Figure 20 - 2016 CWPTP Loops and Links Trail Network Level of Service Performance (Figure 18)*

The Level of Service Analysis shows that nearly 100 percent of the county’s population in 2030 will be served by a loop, link, or regional bikeway as part of the Loops and Links framework.

Some areas of the county will not be well-served by it. *Figure 21* below shows the future Loops and Links system when it is fully built out, with few remaining gaps in service. For these areas, trail user needs will be met by more locally-serving trail and/or bikeway segments.

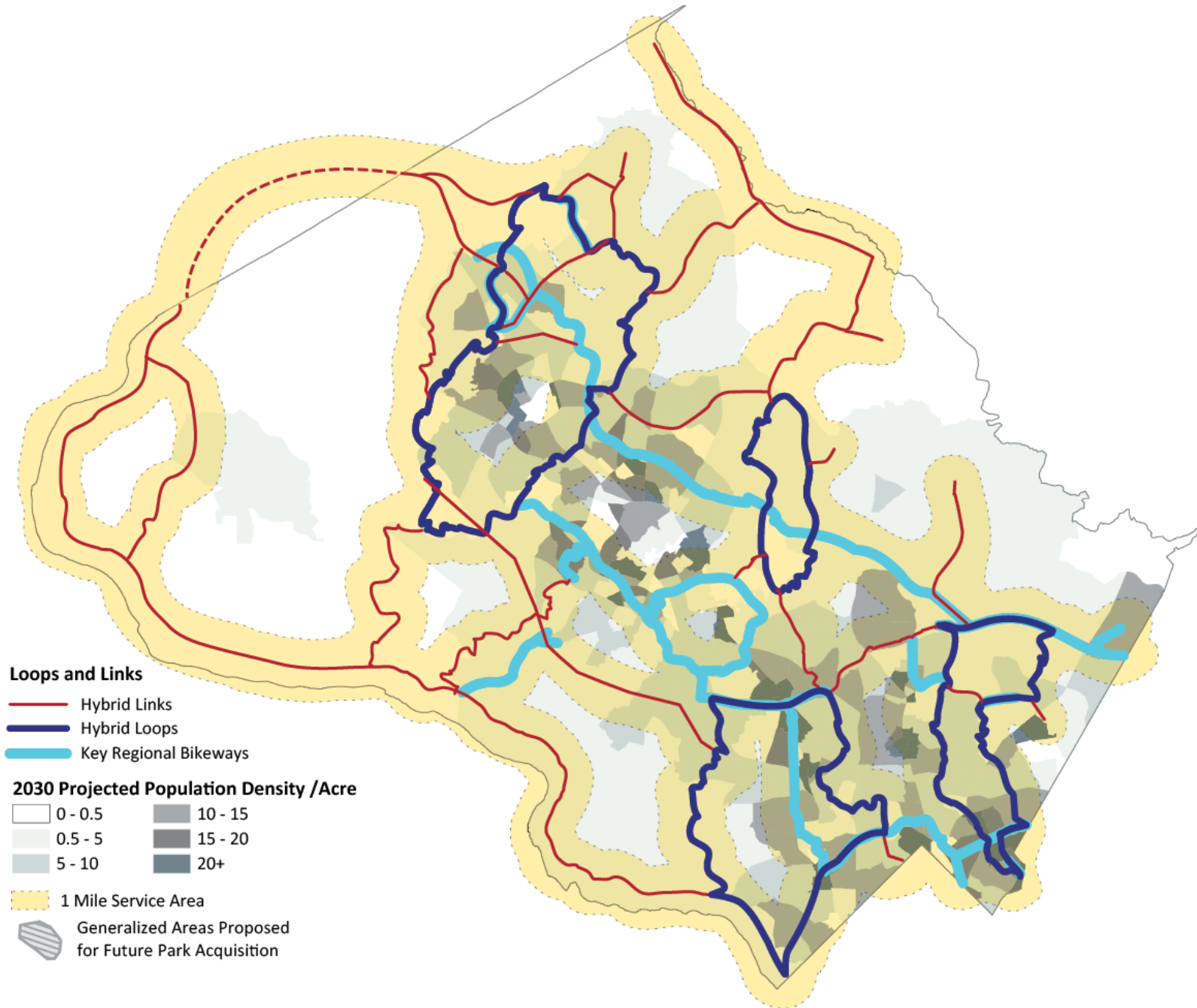


Figure 21 - 2016 CWPTP Service Analysis of the Loops & Links vision (Figure 17)

### Service Delivery Strategies

The following strategies are based on recommendations in the *2016 Countywide Park Trails Plan* as well as *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*, and more recent analysis in the *2017 PROS Plan* of proximity to trailheads:

- Implement Loops and Links as identified by the *2016 Countywide Park Trails Plan* and based on the plan's implementation criteria, as well as the *2017 PROS* analyses:
- Population density within one mile
- Return on investment
- Connectivity to destinations priorities
- Geographic parity
- Parkland ownership
- Walking distance to trailheads
- Areas of low access to park trails
- Expand the distribution of multi-use trails by identifying new multi-use trails particularly in currently or projected underserved and high-density, lower income areas with limited trail access
- Increase trail connectivity by filling in gaps in the regional trail system and creating linked series of loops
- Enhance trail connectivity to the county's recreational facilities and activity Centers
- Improve links to the county's bikeway system and recognize the trail system's value for non-motorized mobility
- Establish certain trails as limited-user trails to address the needs of hikers, bikers and equestrians
- Improve trail connections to provide increased accessibility to natural areas
- Identify and evaluate unsanctioned trails to determine which should be brought into the official, sanctioned park trail system
- Continue to plan, design and build designated bicycle skills areas (South Germantown, Carson Farm, Fairland) in partnership with mountain biking advocacy organizations

The *2017 PROS Plan* recommends that through the *2016 Countywide Park Trails Plan* as well as the work program for the Natural Surface Trail Construction Program, the Department of Parks should build on these recommendations by prioritizing trails that help close gaps in the trail system. The implementation priorities for the segments are based on population density within a mile, return on investment, connectivity to destinations, geographic parity, and parkland ownership.

It should recommend realistic alignments for trail corridors, taking into account more detailed environmental and natural resource analysis than previous trail plans. It should also be coordinated with the *Master Plan of Bikeways* (currently underway), as much as possible to produce interconnected systems of trails and bikeways.

## CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

The implementation priorities in closing the gaps in the system are based on the following criteria:

- Population density within one mile
- Return on investment
- Connectivity to destinations priorities
- Geographic parity
- Parkland ownership
- Walking distance to trailheads
- Areas of low access to park trails.

The top five implementation priorities for natural surface and hard surface trails are as follows:

### Trail Implementation Priorities

#### Top 5 Implementation Priorities for Countywide Hard Surface Trails

1. Northwest Branch Trail - Wheaton Regional Park to Matthew Henson Trail (Score=10) – E-03.03
2. Wheaton Regional Park Through-Trail - Southern Boundary to Kemp Mill Road (10) – E-07.01
3. Muddy Branch Trail - MD 28 to Quince Orchard Road (8) – U-11.01
4. Magruder Branch Trail - Current trail terminus to Damascus Town Center (7) – U-10.01
5. Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park-Damascus Recreational Park Link (7) – U-13

#### Top 5 Implementation Priorities for Countywide Natural Surface Trails:

1. Paint Branch Trail Extension South - MLK Jr. Recreational Park to Old Columbia Pike (Score=11) – E-04.03
2. Sligo Creek Trail - Wheaton Regional Park Link South - Colt Terrace Neighborhood Park to Tennis Bubble (9) – E-07.02
3. Paint Branch Trail Extension North - Fairland Road to Briggs Chaney Road (8) – E-04.01
4. Rachel Carson Greenway Trail North - Wheaton Regional Park to Woodlawn Manor Special Park (8) – E-05.01 and E-05.02
1. Cabin John Trail Link to C&O Canal Towpath - Cabin John Local Park to C&O Canal Towpath (7) – L-09

For natural surface trails, implementation efforts receive significant assistance from volunteers across the County. Montgomery Parks has an active volunteer program that supports natural surface trails implementation in a variety of roles, including inspecting trails for damage, maintaining existing trail sections and building new trail sections and installing trail bridges. Since 2012, more than 5,000 volunteers have contributed approximately 29,000 hours towards these efforts in the 160-mile natural surface trail system in Montgomery Parks.



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### SUSTAINABLE INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES



The Montgomery County *Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030 (RFDP)* was developed by the Recreation Department based on the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*, with the goal (number 8.0) to provide an equitable and sustainable distribution of public indoor recreation spaces in Montgomery County. In addition to completing current planned facilities and renovations, the Plan recommends refining the model for future indoor community recreation centers, adding fewer, larger regional centers and combining them with indoor aquatics. It indicates that new construction should be focused in the underserved North and South Central growth corridor. The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* indicates that no additional outdoor aquatics facilities are needed, and that no new stand-alone indoor aquatics facilities are recommended. Accordingly, the *Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030* recommends continued evaluation of renovations and modernization of centers and pools and potential consolidation/repurposing of older smaller community and neighborhood facilities as may be warranted.

Similarly, the *RFDP 2017 Update* utilizes all the same data collection methods as *Vision 2030* and the *2017 PROS Plan*. In doing so, this data has confirmed the accuracy of the population projections from 2011. However, for this current version, additional resident preference surveying has been added to the mix. Community recreation facilities, Centers and Pools, were handled as separate items from the Parks demand / needs surveys conducted. This method provided further justification for the importance of the recreational facilities to the entire County population. See the full *Montgomery County Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030 – 2017 Update* online at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/about/facility.html>.

One of the most significant findings and recommendations to come out of the Plan and be re-confirmed by the *RFDP 2017 Update*, urges the County to consider a different approach to delivering community recreation amenities/services including Centers and Pools. The Plan recommends that the County move away from the current smaller individual community-based approach and consider a larger scale regional approach to the development and operation of facilities. These facilities could take the form of larger combined multipurpose centers with aquatic features included - Community Recreation (CR) and Aquatic Centers (AC) which are being referred to as: Regional Recreation Centers.

The general information regarding Montgomery County Recreation Department facilities and its programs listed in this section is a brief overview of the department's facilities and operations. The *Montgomery County Recreation Facility and Development Plan 2010-2030*, incorporated by reference as part of this PROS Plan, includes more detail and can be found on the website of the Montgomery County Recreation Department online at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/about/facility.html>.

#### Calculation of Need

**Assumptions:** Future Unmet Need by the year 2030 based on *the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* and the *Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030*. 2017 Update: a total of four combined Community Recreation and Aquatic Centers.

**Facility Size:** 80,000+/- net square feet of programmable space (CRC - 35,000 & AC - 45,000). With a current calculation of 1.4 as the gross square foot adjustment factor the building will occupy around

110-115,000+/- gross square feet. Some portions of the facility can be developed as multi-floor space reducing the overall footprint to 90,000+/- gross square feet.

### Service Delivery Strategies

Priority platform for service delivery: With other institutional facilities (partner and/or co-locate with schools, libraries, park facilities, or other leisure service providers etc.), when appropriate, in highly accessible locations along multi-modal transportation corridors (e.g., public transportation routes, trails, major roadways, etc.) Optimum elements include:

- **Size:** Size: 15.0-20.0 acres of programmable space (building: 110-115,000 gross square feet; parking: 350-500 spaces; large multi-age playground structure and sprayground: 12-15,000 square feet ; multipurpose hard surface court games area: 15,000 square feet; multipurpose play field: 1.5 - 2 acres)
- **Geographic Distribution:** Prioritize adding public indoor recreation/aquatic centers in the North Central and South Central sub-areas where lower per capita level of service currently exists, and highest rates of growth are projected in the next 10 to 20 years (2010-2030)
- **Silver Spring:** Explore reuse of available sites for development of an urban combined Community Recreation & Aquatic Center. This community has no other community recreation facilities, is well served by mass transit and significant pedestrian access
- **White Flint** -Pursue a public/private coordinated development project at Wall Park which could bring a Community Recreation Center to the site along with redevelopment/expansion of the Montgomery Aquatic Center and Park facilities including structured parking
- **Shady Grove** - Take advantage of the Metro Center redevelopment and locate an expanded Community Recreation Center here. Undertake a detailed feasibility study to determine the need for an additional aquatic facility at this location; review usage of Germantown Aquatic Center, Germantown Outdoor Pool, Upper County Outdoor Pool, and City of Gaithersburg aquatic facilities, current and proposed. It is possible that no additional aquatic services are required and the project could proceed as an enlarged community recreation center only
- **Clarksburg** - Continue Facility Planning, begun in 2008, and including Site Evaluation for a combined Community Recreation and Aquatic Center to serve the North-central County area

### Accomplishments since 2012

#### Current Ongoing CIP Projects

- White Oak Community Recreation Center (CRC) - Completed - Summer, 2012

#### Recreation Facility Modernization

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ▪ Plum Gar NRC Renovation   | Completed – Summer, 2013  |
| ▪ Scotland NRC Renovation   | Completed – Fall, 2014    |
| ▪ Ross Boddy NRC Renovation | Completed – Fall, 2016    |
| ▪ Good Hope NRC Renovation  | Construction – Fall, 2016 |

## CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

- North Potomac CRC Completed – Fall, 2016
- Western Outdoor Pool Renovation Completed – Spring, 2016
- Wheaton Library and CRC Construction – Spring, 2016

### Facility Planning / Site Evaluation Projects

- Silver Spring CR and AC (South County Regional Recreation Center) - Site Selection and Facility Planning – Design Development – Fall, 2016
- Clarksburg CR and AC (North County Regional Recreation Center) - Planning and Site Evaluation – Ongoing

### Recreation Facility Modernization - Update Programs of Requirement, Needs and Feasibility Assessments FY 13-18

- MLK Aquatic Center – Facility Planning – FY17
- Schweinhaut Senior Center – Facility Planning – FY17
- Clara Barton NRC
- Upper County CRC
- Bauer CRC – Deferred/Substituted with MLK Aquatic Center Renovation
- White Flint CR and AC (North Bethesda Regional Recreation Center) - Facility Planning, Revise / Update POR – FY13-18 - Ongoing

### Needs Assessment, Site Selection, and Facility Planning

- Shady Grove CR and AC (Requires Aquatic Needs Assessment) - Site Selection and Facility Planning, Develop POR
- East Germantown CRC- Needs Assessment, Site Selection, and Facility Planning
- Sandy Spring CR and AC- Needs Assessment, Site Selection, and Facility Planning
- Western County CR and AC- Needs Assessment, Site Selection, and Facility Planning
- Kensington CRC - Needs Assessment, Site Selection, and Facility Planning
- Kemp Mill CRC - Needs Assessment, Site Selection, and Facility Planning
- Bethesda CRC- Needs Assessment, Site Selection, and Facility Planning

### Facility Modernization - Develop Assessment Process and POR Documents – FY 13-18

- Bauer SC
- Holiday Park SC
- Longwood CRC
- Germantown CRC and Pool
- Lawton CRC
- Potomac CRC
- Olney AC
- MLK AC
- Coffield CRC
- Glenmont Pool
- Long Branch CRC and Pool
- East County CRC
- Bethesda Pool
- Praisner CRC
- Damascus CRC
- Wisconsin Plc CRC
- Germantown AC
- MidCounty CRC
- North Potomac CRC
- Wheaton CRC

Source: [Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030 - 2017 Update](#)

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NATURAL AREAS



Natural Areas are important not only for conservation of ecosystems, but for a form of recreation referred to as natural resource-based recreation. Natural resource-based recreation is defined as any leisure activity conducted outdoors that is dependent on a particular element or combination of elements in the natural environment. These elements cannot be easily duplicated by human effort. In contrast, facility-based recreation (any leisure activity dependent on a built facility) can generally be provided anywhere, assuming the availability of space and funds for development. Natural resource-based recreation includes a vast range of pursuits including bicycling, hiking, running, and horseback riding on trails, bird watching, nature photography, wildlife viewing, kayaking, rowing, canoeing, and fishing.

### Calculation of Need

There is very little data available to determine precisely how much land can support a specific amount of natural resource-based recreation. That said, the quality of the natural area can affect the user experience. An area of high natural value, such as a Best Natural Area (*Chapter 5*) can afford a higher range of user experiences (e.g., high bird species diversity for birdwatching) than a similar sized area of low natural value.

The *Vision 2030* survey and the *Needs Assessment Survey* indicate natural areas, which are the platforms for natural resource-based recreational activities, rank higher than many other facilities across several survey questions. In the *Vision 2030 Survey*, natural areas ranked as the third highest (74%) amenity for which County residents have the highest need, exceeded only by natural surface and hard surface trails. In importance of adding, expanding, or improving future park facilities, natural areas ranked sixth. In the Needs Assessment Survey, Natural Areas ranked third as a priority investment, after trails (*see - Figure 17*). As the County's population grows, it is reasonable to assume the need for natural areas will increase. Surveys of various natural resource-based activities support the popularity and future need for natural areas. For example, 19% of the US population is estimated to participate in bird-watching, 7% in nature photography, and 4% in wildlife viewing (*2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife; 2006 Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis; and Wildlife Watching Trends: 1991- 2006*).

According to the results of the Needs Assessment, nearly 40% of the County's population participates in activities that typically occur in natural areas. Birdwatching, nature photography and wildlife watching collectively have an estimated 197,000 total participants in the county, approximately 20 % of the population, while more active natural resource-based recreation such as hiking, mountain biking, and trail running have an estimated 169,000 participants, or approximately 17% of the population.

U.S. Census projections indicate that by 2050, one in every four Americans will be over age 65 with a mean age of 45. As the population pyramid shifts and individuals age, use will likely shift from facility-based to natural resources-based recreation. As they age, individuals tend to put down their cleats and bats and pick up field guides and walking shoes.

## CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

Quality of life in Montgomery County is significantly enhanced when adults have easy access to natural areas where they can de-stress and unplug from fast-paced lives. As our population grows older, the importance of access to natural areas increases. In a recent white paper, the International Council on Active Aging cited many research studies showing the benefits nature has on adult health. One study concluded that spending time in natural environments promotes stress reduction and mental recovery from mentally demanding activities.

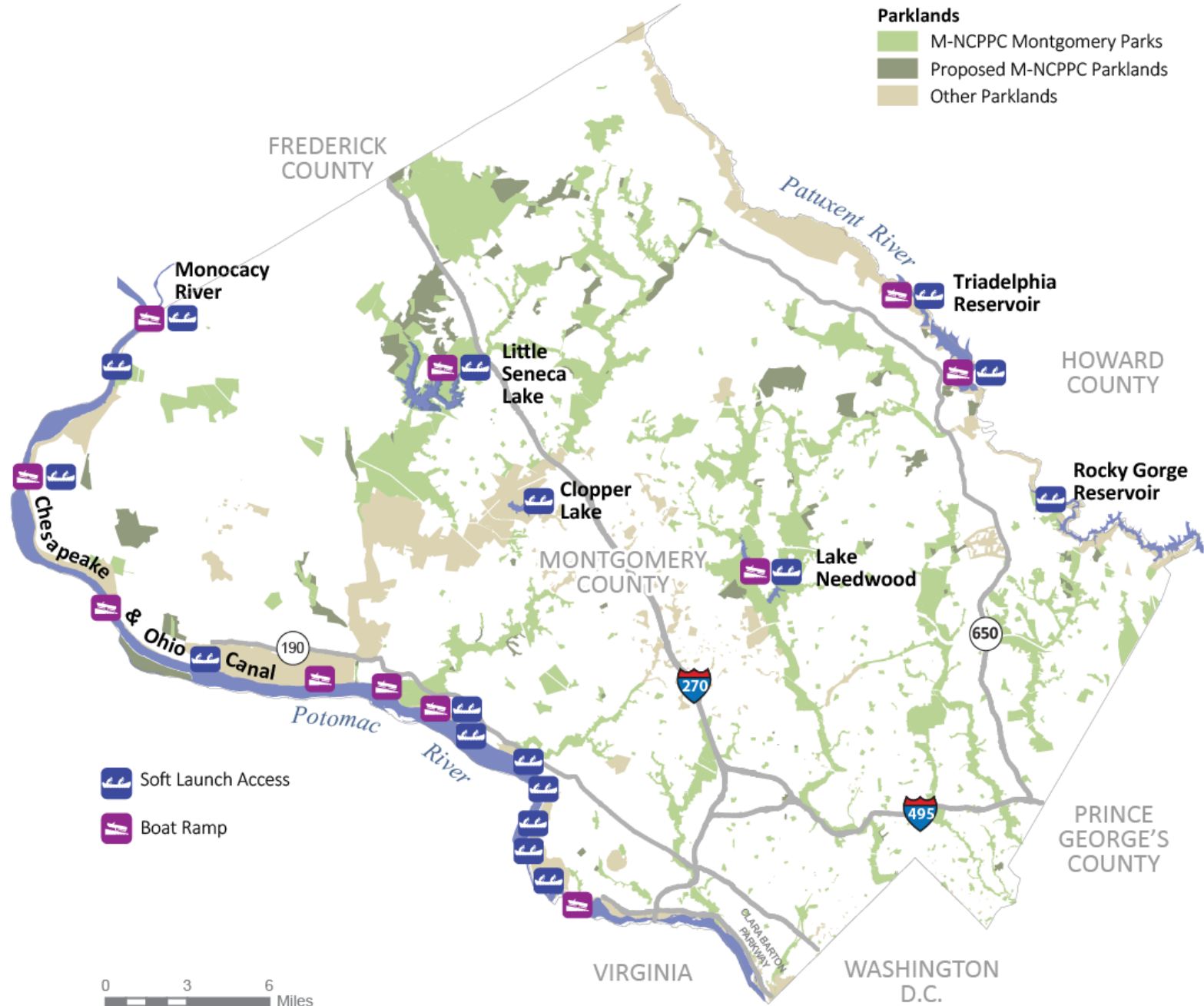
In addition, natural resource-based recreation forms the backbone of the meaningful experiences children and youth have in nature outside of school. Scout groups, religious youth groups, summer campers and teens fulfilling service learning requirements flock to parkland. Park-based out of school experiences ensure that Montgomery County's children have the opportunity to step away from screens and video games, and connect with the natural world.

Public access for water-based recreation activities such as canoeing, kayaking, boating, and fishing are available in several locations in Montgomery County from Federal, State of Maryland, M-NCPPC, and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) (*see - Figure 22*).

Federal water access is provided at the C & O Canal which parallels the Potomac River. The State of Maryland water access is provided at Clopper Lake located within the Seneca Creek State Park. M-NCPPC water access is provided at Little Seneca Lake at Black Hill Regional Park and at Lake Needwood at Rock Creek Regional Park. Lake Frank, which is also located at Rock Creek Regional Park has water access limited to fishing only. WSSC provides water access at the Triadelphia Reservoir located between Montgomery County and Howard County.

*Figure 22 depicts 24 different water access points in Montgomery County for residents to access a water based recreation activity. Montgomery County residents appear to be well served with a geographic diversity of access points to engage in the water based recreation activity of their choice.*

CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation



Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Public Access, Water Trails, and Recreation Planning

Figure 22 - Montgomery County Public Water Access Map

### Service Delivery Strategy

This PROS Plan assumes that the need projected to the Year 2030 for natural areas will be met by the natural areas acquisition priorities recommended in Planning Board approved master plans and functional plans. Parkland in Montgomery County's system currently totals over 36,000 acres, 26,000 acres of which are classified as natural areas. There are approximately 5,000 additional acres of natural areas master planned for future acquisition. Additional lands will be identified for park acquisition as their importance to the public realm is identified. Priorities for future acquisitions (not currently master planned) will include additions to existing parks, areas with identified needs, and acquisition of strategic acreages in priority watersheds. In addition, future large donation opportunities will avail themselves. Specific criteria and priorities for natural resource conservation are described in *Chapter 5*.

Park types that provide natural-resource based recreation include Regional Parks, Conservation Parks, Stream Valley Parks, and natural areas in all other park types. This PROS Plan does not attempt to quantify the amount of land needed into the future for natural resource-based recreation, because it is difficult to determine how much space is needed, unlike more facility-based activities such as fields and courts.

Natural resource-based recreation requires land and resource preservation far beyond the actual space for trails, wildlife viewing and other activities. Water quality capable of sustaining a diversity of fish and amphibian species, forests large enough to harbor forest interior dwelling birds, geological and soil conditions diverse enough to provide habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species - all are dependent on large tracts of land. Even urban wildlife accessible to people near their homes depend on threshold amounts and strategic locations of natural habitat.

By acquiring and preserving parkland, M-NCPPC ensures that children and youth can experience free-flowing streams, roll over logs to look for beetles or salamanders, follow butterflies through meadows and make the formative connections with nature that foster environmental stewardship over the long term.

In the midst of an obesity epidemic among children and teens, and with diabetes on the rise among our youngest citizens, natural resource-based recreation provides an antidote to sedentary lifestyles among our county's children. The US Forest Service is working with the National Environmental Education Foundation to train health care providers to give children and their guardians a written prescription for outdoor activity, connecting them with a particular forest, park, wildlife refuge, nature center or other public land near their neighborhood. This "prescription for nature" can help prevent serious health conditions in children including obesity and diabetes and can serve as a support mechanism for attention disorders. By expanding the acres of natural-resource based recreation areas available to area children, M-NCPPC delivers health benefits to Montgomery County's youngest residents.

The best resources will attract the greater numbers of visitors and the quality of a natural recreational experience is directly related to the quality of the environment within which the activity is taking place. High quality natural environments are characterized by a diversity of animals and plants, an absence of invasive plants, a general absence of manmade features and often include varied topography and hydrologic features, and the necessary quiet and solitude to enjoy nature. Large natural areas are needed to insure ecological function and sustainability, be it preserving watersheds or limiting fragmentation and edge effects to forested areas. Successful public acquisition of key acres can take

decades due to available funding, negotiating with multiple owners, reaching agreements with willing sellers, etc.

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### DOG PARKS



The County currently has 8 dog parks. The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommends addressing the growing demand for dog parks, especially in urban areas. Dog parks ranked 11th in importance for addition, expansion or improvement in the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* Survey, and 9th in the Needs Assessment Survey.

#### Calculation of Need

Assumptions:

- Average size: 2 acres (smaller in community use and urban parks)
- Season length: 365 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 2 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 5
- Capacity per session: 30 (15 dogs per acre per session)
- Daily carrying capacity: 150 dogs per day per 2-acre facility
- Participation rate: 15.9% - Needs Assessment Survey
- Frequency: 8.4 x/year -
- Survey

**Future Unmet Need: 19.3 additional dog parks or 40 additional acres of dog parks**

#### Service Delivery Strategy

- Priority platforms for service delivery: Countywide (regional and recreational parks) or Community Use (Local, Neighborhood, and Urban) parks based on operational and user capacity considerations. Types and Sizes: The following 3 types of dog parks should be considered to meet needs:
  - Countywide Dog Park: 3 acres, located in regional or recreational park
  - Dog Park: 0.5- 3 acres, located in local parks
  - Dog Spot: 0.25-0.5 acre, located in neighborhood or urban parks
- Geographic Distribution: Current inventory and future facilities to be delivered in proportion to percent of County population in each subarea of the County. Sites with currently underutilized facilities such as tennis courts should be considered for conversion.



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### COMMUNITY GARDENS



Montgomery County currently has 11 community garden sites including those on school property. *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommends strategically adding these facilities. Community gardens ranked 12th in importance for addition, expansion, or improvement in the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* survey and 6th in the Needs Assessment Survey.

#### Calculation of Need

Assumptions:

- Average size: 50 plots (smaller in urban parks)
- Season length: 270 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 1
- Capacity per session: 100 (50 plots, average 2 persons per plot)
- Daily carrying capacity: 100 people per day
- Participation rate: 1.9% (National Gardening Association 2009)
- Frequency: 36x/year (1x/week for 9 months)

**Future Unmet Need: 18 additional community gardens or 900 plots**

#### Service Delivery Strategy

- Priority platform for service delivery: Prioritize community use parks and public schools, followed by recreational parks
- Geographic Distribution: current inventory and future gardens to be delivered in proportion to percent of County population in each subarea of the County

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### SKATE PARKS



There are currently 6.5 skate Parks countywide, including those in municipalities. While they ranked in the lower priority category in the Needs Assessment Survey, skate parks were recommended to be strategically provided by the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*. There is a need to address the growing demand for skate parks, especially in urban areas, to update policies, maximize partnerships and identify opportunities to add them in areas of greatest need. Unfenced skate facilities can be provided as small areas in parts of urban or local parks or can be multi-purpose park elements such as plazas with steps for seating or amphitheaters, ramps, rails, edging, etc.

### Calculation of Need

Assumptions:

- Facility Size - 10,000 square feet (average)
- Season length: 210 days (7 months)
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 2 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 5
- Capacity per session: 25 (10,000 square feet divided by 200 square feet per person)
- Daily carrying capacity: 125 persons per day per facility
- Participation rate: 2.0% (SFIA, 2015)
- Frequency: 18.2x/year (SFIA, 2015)

**Future Unmet Need: 9.1 skate parks or 100,000 square feet**

### Service Delivery Strategy

- Priority platform for service delivery: Local parks - 10,000 -15,000 square feet skate parks within safe walking distance of middle schools or high schools, and near public transportation. If no space is available in local parks, in areas of unmet need, locate skate spots, 5,000-10,000 square feet, in neighborhood or urban parks. Locate largest skate parks, 15,000-20,000 square feet in Countywide parks
- Geographic Distribution: Current inventory and future need to be delivered in proportion to percent of County population in each subarea of the County. Sites with currently underutilized facilities such as tennis courts should be considered for conversion, in parks near mass transit stops.

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### CRICKET



Cricket fields have been requested by user groups for many years, but the space for one field is extremely large and the game lasts several hours; thus, fields only accommodate a small number of users. We currently have 3.5 fields, 1 adult-sized and 1 youth-sized in the East County and adult-sized in the I-270 Corridor.

*Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommends that we provide a permanent adult-sized cricket field with supporting infrastructure.

### Calculation of Need

Assumptions:

- Facility Size: 1 large oval

## CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

- Season length: 210 days (7 months)
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 8 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 1
- Capacity per session: 30 (2 teams, 15 players each)
- Daily carrying capacity: 30
- Participation rate: 1.0% (2017 Parks staff estimates)
- Frequency: 19.5x/year (2017 Parks staff estimate)

### **Future Unmet Need: 9.5 cricket fields**

#### **Service Delivery Strategy**

- Priority platform: converted baseball fields in local parks; underutilized softball fields large enough for youth play or which are expandable; new fields in regional or recreational parks; or new property to be added to any park
- Geography: I-270 Corridor, East County near Route 29 or other by major road such as MD 200/ICC (not inside the urban ring because there is a great rectangular field deficit there)
- Potential sites: Barmakian property, Little Bennett Regional Park, Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park, Calverton Galway Local Park, Burtonsville area parks (Santini Road Local Park)

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## OUTDOOR VOLLEYBALL COURTS



Outdoor volleyball has been a core service in Montgomery County for years. Input from user groups during the *2012 PROS Plan* indicated a demand for multiple courts for tournament play. There are 18 existing outdoor volleyball courts in the County, 11 of which are sand courts in M-NCPPC Parks. The trends show that casual/pick-up play exceeded organized play in grass and sand volleyball.

### **Calculation of Need**

#### Assumptions:

- Facility Size: 1 court
- Season length: 180 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 2 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 5
- Capacity per session: 12 (2 teams, 6 players each)
- Daily carrying capacity: 60 persons per day per court

- Participation rate: 1.22% (SFIA, 2015)
- Frequency: 16.2x/year (SFIA, 2015)

### **Future Unmet Need: 2.4 volleyball courts**

### **Service Delivery Strategy**

Facility grouping: Look for opportunities to add sand volleyball, with an emphasis on co-locating two or more courts for tournament play (with lighting when feasible).

- Priority platform: One site with 4 courts, lighted, in a regional or recreational park, with restrooms, picnic tables, one new site with 2 courts at a Local Park, or add one court to two existing volleyball sites.
- Geography: Perform an internal staff study. Locate near major roads, near where the most players are and/or where there is available space in regional or recreational parks.

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## PICKLEBALL



The Montgomery Parks Department is getting more and more requests for Pickleball. The *2012 PROS Plan* recommended that Parks should consider repurposing underutilized facilities. In the case of Pickleball, a better strategy may be adding a recreation offering on an existing facility, while keeping that facility's original intent. Specifically, adding Pickleball striping to an existing tennis court in good condition (defined as US Open standard blue court/green outline), while simultaneously keeping the tennis function. By adding another sport to the tennis courts, this strategy will increase the use of tennis courts for paddle sports, and reduce the use of such courts for unintended dog parks or other non-tennis purposes.

### **Calculation of Need**

Assumptions:

- Average size: 1 Court
- Season length: 270 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 2 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 5
- Capacity per session: 8
- Daily carrying capacity: 40
- Participation rate: .78% (SFIA, 2015 and Parks staff estimates)
- Frequency: 19.5 x/year (SFIA, 2015 and Parks staff estimates)

### **Future Unmet Need: 13.8 pickleball courts**

### Service Delivery Strategy

With many tennis courts in the park system, a service delivery strategy analysis was developed to determine which courts, where, and under what circumstances would provide the best candidates to add Pickleball. The following factors were developed for site selection:

- Currently in good condition (already painted with the US Open standard (blue court, green outside)
- Scheduled to be renovated
- Near a Recreation Department building that is teaching Pickleball classes in the winter
- At a local park (2 courts) to increase usage
- Community requests, and
- Low actual tennis court usage.

The Montgomery County Recreation Department (MCRD) is currently providing Pickleball classes at selected Community Recreation Centers (CRC). These programs are provided indoors in the gymnasiums during the winter season. Many of these CRC's are located within, or adjacent to, local parks. Local parks generally provide 2 outdoor tennis courts. Having two outdoor courts adjacent to a CRC could provide "Recreational Programming and Facility Synergy" if the two outdoor courts are "paired" with the building's gymnasium providing the indoor court time. This pairing idea fits site selection criteria C and D and possible E.

Before any Pickleball is added to a tennis court, a deer camera will be installed for 2 weeks during good spring weather in to gauge how the existing tennis courts are utilized. Existing use data will determine tennis use by day of the week, time of the day and the amount of usage that is non-tennis. The deer camera for the above listed sites should be installed in time to capture existing use for approximately the first two full weeks in May.

Sites could include candidates for Pickleball conversion which includes eliminating one tennis court and constructing two Pickleball courts.

Priority platforms for service delivery: Countywide (regional and recreational parks) or Community Use (Local, Neighborhood, and Urban) parks based on operational and user capacity considerations. Types and Sizes:

- 4 Court Model in regional or recreational park
- 2 Court Model - located in local parks
- Geographic Distribution: Current inventory and future facilities to be delivered in proportion to percent of County population in each subarea of the County.

Should the partnership with the MCRD CRC's prove fruitful, and Pickleball is being taught indoors at the following sites, and there is a documented need evidenced by the 2017 PROS Plan, the following sites should be considered:

- Damascus CRC – Moyer Road Local Park – US Open Standard

## CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

- Good Hope CRC – Good Hope Local Park – US Open standard
- Leland CRC – Leland Neighborhood Park – US Open standard
- Clara Barton CRC – Cabin John Local Park – US Open standard
- Fairland CRC – Columbia Local Park – NOT US Open standard
- Long Branch CRC – Long Branch Local Park – NOT US Open standard
- Mid- County CRC - Layhill Village Local Park – NOT US Open standard
- Upper County CRC – Johnsons Local Park – NOT US Open standard
- Coffield CRC – Rosemary Hills Lyttonsville Local Park – NOT US Open standard
- Praisner CRC – Columbia Local Park (old tennis bank)

### Planning Area Facilities

Athletic Fields, Playgrounds, basketball, and tennis courts are considered to be facilities needed “close to home” and are therefore calculated for each Planning Area. These public facilities will be supplemented by private homeowners’ association facilities and public use spaces that often serve as neighborhood parks particularly in more recently developed areas of the County. New schools will also supplement the supply of playgrounds and courts available to the public after school and on weekends.

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#### ATHLETIC FIELD AREAS



#### Calculation of Need

The *2017 PROS Plan* includes estimated future needs derived from estimated future demand minus current supply. Needs are estimated by three field types – Baseball (90 ft. infield), Softball and Rectangles. Current inventory is assumed to be fields permitted through the Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF). These include all Park fields, public elementary, middle, and selected high school fields, and closed public school fields. Estimated participation rates and frequencies are based on SFIA data from 2015.

The needs estimates shown below are consistent with past PROS Plans, with traditionally higher needs for rectangular fields in Bethesda and North Bethesda. The higher baseball field needs may reflect that there are few bona fide baseball fields, defined as 90-foot infields and a mound, in the park system inventory.

Athletic fields are among the most expensive facilities to build and maintain. To assess the needs for fields as accurately as possible, several types of analysis will be synthesized into the Athletic Field Business Plan that is concurrent with the *2017 PROS Plan*, including:

- A 2017 Athletic Field User Survey currently underway
- Athletic field usage data from CUPF

## CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

- Focus groups with athletic field users
- Future needs estimates
- Trends in the industry
- Statistically valid general population survey

The Athletic Fields Business Plan will address all aspects of the existing inventory and issues to determine what can be solved through permitting, conversions, maintenance, management, natural turf enhancements, and lighting, as well as new construction. It will be based on in-depth data collection from surveys and focus groups with field users and will result in an implementation strategy to minimize field shortages.

ATHLETIC TEAM AREA	PLANNING AREA	BASEBALL 2030	DIAMONDS 2030	RECTANGULAR 2030
Georgia Avenue	Aspen Hill - 27	2	0	0
Bethesda/North Bethesda	Bethesda - 35	2	0	7
I 270	Clarksburg - 13	0	0	1
Eastern	Cloverly - 28	0	0	1
Rural	Damascus – 10,11,14, 15	0	0	0
Potomac	Darnestown – 24	1	0	0
Eastern	Fairland - 34	1	0	0
I 270	Gaithersburg Vicinity -20	3	0	3
I 270	Germantown - 19	1	0	0
Silver Spring/TP	Kemp Mill/Four Corners - 32	1	0	0
Georgia Avenue	Kensington/Wheaton - 31	3	0	3
Bethesda/N Bethesda	North Bethesda - 30	2	0	1
Georgia Avenue	Olney - 23	0	0	0
Rural	Poolesville 12,16,17,18	1	0	1
Potomac	Potomac - 29	2	0	0
Georgia Avenue	Upper Rock Creek - 22	1	0	0
Silver Spring/TP	Silver Spring - 36	3	0	0
Silver Spring/TP	Takoma Park - 37	2	0	1
Potomac	Travilah 25	2	0	1
Eastern	White Oak - 33	1	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>

*Figure 23 - Estimated Future Field Needs for the Year 2030 by Planning Area*

### Service Delivery Strategy

Future estimated field needs provide guidance to what type and where future fields should be provided. There are several ways to provide future field capacity:

- Increasing capacity by adding hours of use through lighting of fields
- Conversion from diamonds to rectangles to achieve rectangular fields
- Conversion from softball diamonds to baseball diamonds to achieve baseball fields
- Adding onto an existing park
- New construction on existing parkland
- New construction on future parkland

### Rectangular Fields

It is likely that rectangular field needs will be met largely through new construction where there are no opportunities for lighting or for conversions from diamonds to rectangles (e.g., Bethesda, North Bethesda, Takoma Park, and Silver Spring). Discussions with user groups during the Athletic Field Strategic Plan outreach will determine whether there are any opportunities for alternative providers to meet the future needs.

### Baseball Fields

For the purposes of estimating needs for specific field types, the supply and demand for 90-foot infield baseball diamonds was separated from the smaller diamond field types. Discussions with user groups during the Athletic Fields Strategic Plan outreach will determine whether diamonds with smaller infields are acceptable to meet some of the estimated future needs for baseball fields. Since the park system has a heavy supply of softball fields, an analysis of existing softball inventory may reveal opportunities for field expansions to meet baseball needs.

### Other Athletic Field Efforts

In addition to finding longer range solutions, the Department of Parks can make other investments to provide an increase in ballfield opportunities, quality of experiences and efficient service delivery from the existing inventory, such as:

- Promote usable rectangular shaped spaces within private developments to take pressure off the park system (through regulatory review, e.g., Recreation Guidelines).
- Eliminate overlay fields when demand for one sport decreases to the point where a small number of remaining users of that same sport can be relocated to other fields.
- Coordinate with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to provide improved initial design, specifications, construction inspection, and maintenance standards for new fields at public schools.



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PLAYGROUNDS



The Needs Assessment Survey ranked playgrounds 4th in importance to households. The County currently has approximately 332 playgrounds at parks and schools available to meet community needs after discounting time for school use. *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommended maintaining a high level of service. Playgrounds are used by children, parents, and grandparents and they should typically be included in all new local and neighborhood parks along with seating and shade.

### Calculation of Need

#### Assumptions:

- Facility Size: large enough to fit 8 children
- Season length: 180 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 1.5 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 7
- Capacity per session: 8
- Daily carrying capacity: 50 persons per day per facility
- Participation rate of children ages 0-14: 21.5% (Needs Assessment Survey)
- Frequency: 4x/year (Needs Assessment Survey)

**Future Unmet Need: 0 playgrounds**

### Service Delivery Strategy

Although the system has enough playgrounds to technically meet estimated needs, playgrounds are very popular. Therefore, when planning new or renovated parks, the following applies:

- Provide a playground in every neighborhood and local park
- Consider new playgrounds on existing or potential parkland where there are gaps in a walkable service area
- Keep existing playground inventory and replace at end of useful life cycle

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OUTDOOR TENNIS



There are approximately 492 outdoor tennis courts currently available for community use in public parks and schools in Montgomery County. Tennis courts were reported as used by 36% of the population in

the 2010 survey. Parks with only one or two courts can be considered for re-purposing in some instances. The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommended identifying strategic opportunities for larger groupings of tennis courts (indoor and/or outdoor). Tennis court complexes of 6 or more can be used more effectively than the local courts, for lessons, league play and tournaments, and experience much heavier use than the local park courts. New courts are constructed at all new middle schools (4 courts) and high schools (6-8 courts) that serve their educational and competitive program and serve community needs after school and on weekends. New single, stand-alone courts should not generally be built.

### Calculation of Need

#### Assumptions:

- Facility Size: 1 court
- Season Length: 240 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 1.5 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 7
- Capacity per Session: 2.4
- Daily carrying capacity: 16 persons per day per court (based on ratio of singles to doubles, user observation survey, 1990)
- Participation rate: 5.56% (2015 SFIA)
- Frequency: 20x/year (2015 SFIA)

**Future Unmet Need: 0 tennis courts**

### Service Delivery Strategy

Tennis is a long-time function of the park system. As recreation demand changes over time, all existing facilities must be examined for utilization. Several local park tennis courts are being used for recreational activities other than tennis. In looking at site selection for needed facilities other than tennis, staff will look at existing tennis court utilization within a larger area to preserve an adequate supply of tennis courts. In reviewing tennis courts, three outcomes are possible:

- Renovate for tennis only
- Increase the use of paddle sports such as Pickleball on tennis courts.
- Repurpose to another use

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BASKETBALL (MULTI-USE) COURTS



There are over 377 existing basketball courts at parks and schools in the County that are available for community use. They are particularly important to serve teens and young adults. The 2010 *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* Survey indicated that basketball courts are used by 30% of the population. *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommended a service delivery strategy to review use patterns of existing basketball courts and identify opportunities for multiple uses such as futsal, as well as possible re-purposing of underutilized courts.

### Calculation of Need

Assumptions:

- Facility Size: 1 court
- Season Length: 240 days
- Average day length: 10
- Average stay length: 1.5 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 7
- Capacity per session: 10
- Daily carrying capacity: 65
- Participation rate: 7.32%
- Frequency: 22x/year

**Future Unmet Need: 0 basketball courts**

### Service Delivery Strategy

- There is a wide variety and number of basketball courts in the park system. Existing inventory should be maintained or augmented as follows:
- Consider new courts on existing or potential parkland where there are gaps in a walkable service area
- Keep existing court inventory and replace at end of useful life cycle
- Consider paving and striping basketball courts at recreational and regional parks and at high-use community use parks

### TOPICS IN NEED OF FURTHER STUDY

The Department of Parks will continue to respond to park and recreation trends. In the past few years, an urban dog park, modern outdoor fitness equipment, and nature play spaces have been installed in the parks system. In addition, portable pop-up amenities such as a pump track and a climbing wall, have been located to attract more use in several parks. These relatively new amenities should be assessed for

## CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

their “lessons learned” to apply to future needs estimates in the next PROS Plan. Other amenities that ranked highly in the Needs Assessment Survey and outreach that need further analysis include permitted picnic shelters, group picnic areas, nature centers, and futsal.

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### PERMITTED PICNIC SHELTERS

Montgomery County currently has 81 permitted picnic shelters, ranging in capacity from 30 to 100 people per shelter. *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommended strategically adding these facilities. Shelters and picnic areas ranked 5th in the 2017 PROS Survey for Priority Investment.

To assess the unmet need and recommend a service delivery strategy, the Department of Parks should perform an objective and data-driven analysis to monitor usage and demand in current picnic shelter locations and to identify gaps in the park system. Priority platforms for service delivery are countywide parks (Regional, Recreational) with restrooms and attractions for families. The analysis should consider where to add to or modernize existing picnic shelter areas where there is more demand than capacity, as well as where to locate new facilities.

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### GROUP PICNIC AREAS

The 2017 PROS Survey and other outreach identified areas for gathering and picnicking as priorities for many people in the County. The Department of Parks should perform an objective and data-driven analysis to monitor usage and demand in group picnic locations and to identify gaps in the park system. The analysis should consider where to consolidate existing underutilized shelters into one larger group picnic area in countywide (Regional, Recreational) parks such as at Rock Creek Regional Park.

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### NATURE CENTERS

The Department of Parks currently operates four nature centers, located around the County, in Black Hills Regional Park, Wheaton Regional Park, Cabin John Regional Park, and Rock Creek Regional Park. Their services include indoor, outdoor, and off-site nature education and interpretation, offered to a variety of participants ranging from school-aged children to adults. The four nature centers are outdated and in desperate need of upgrades and replacement.

*Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommends expanding outdoor nature programs. This function was ranked among the top priorities by the statistically valid *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* survey. The Needs Assessment Survey identified Nature Centers with outdoor education areas seventh in priority for investment. The Department of Parks should produce a Nature Centers Functional Plan with an objective and data-based analysis to determine if and where any new nature centers or renovations should be constructed in the park system. This would include analysis of the existing facilities, a calculation of need and a service delivery strategy.

The Nature Centers Functional Plan is needed to determine:

- The proper location of nature centers in the county to equitably and adequately serve the diverse population needs of Montgomery County
- The themes and purpose of each center
- Programming and exhibits needs and desires of residents of Montgomery County
- Fiscal impacts on budgets for new centers and renovations.

## CHAPTER 4 – Parks and Recreation

Outcomes of the Plan would include options for nature center sites based on social equity and population density, with a list of possible themes for centers. The Plan should be informed by outreach to the community to assist with setting program and exhibit priorities. Finally, the Plan would need to include an implementation strategy that identifies fiscal impacts and possible funding sources as well as a timeline for implementing the renovation and construction of new nature centers.

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### FUTSAL

Futsal is a growing sport that allows soccer to be played outside when the soil is wet. It is typically played with fewer players per team, and as a pick-up sport. The Department of Parks should perform an objective and data-based analysis to look for an opportunity for a pilot futsal court on underutilized sports courts near an existing rectangular field.

CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship



## CHAPTER 5: Natural Resources Stewardship

### Introduction

The soils, streams, rivers, wetlands, woodlands, and other natural resources of Montgomery County support a variety of ecological communities and forms the backbone of our park system. Montgomery County Parks recognizes both the anthropogenic benefits and ecological benefits (e.g. clean air and water, quality of life, and natural resource based recreation) of preserving these areas – so much so that the stewardship of these resources is key to the Mission, Vision and Values of the Department of Parks. The critical concern is how to balance the protection of the county's air, water, land, wildlife resources and natural beauty with providing recreation, managing growth and development, and achieving comprehensive land use priorities.

The advent of the Commission and the subsequent General Plan is the genesis for natural resources protection efforts in Montgomery County. The core of the Commission's goals, dating back to its creation in 1927, is preserving stream valley watersheds and greenspace necessary to water and air quality, and for providing public access opportunities. In the decades since, the field of ecology has advanced to more fully understand how development and other land uses contribute to habitat loss, declining stream quality and decreases in biodiversity. Natural resource stewardship policies and actions have evolved parallel the changes in the science. Today, natural resources stewardship within the County is focused on maximizing three primary goals: health, ecosystem function, and biodiversity.

The first step towards stewarding natural resources is having baseline knowledge of the critical habitat features of distinct communities. These features can include but are not limited to acreage, soil types, geology, forest type and successional stage, watershed information and suitable connectivity. For example, water quality capable of sustaining a diversity of fish and amphibian species often requires limits on impervious surfaces within the drainage area, and attention to pollution prevention; forest interior dwelling bird species – often the most sought out by birding enthusiasts – require forests large enough to have mature trees and understory not impacted by invasive plants; and rare, threatened, endangered and watchlist plant species require a unique mix of geologic and soil conditions often only found in one geographic location.

Even in urban environments, the presence of wildlife requires specific features and strategic locations of natural habitat. Seeing a frog is often taken for granted, especially in less developed, more natural areas of the County. For people in urban environments to experience seeing a frog, a large enough area is required with natural structures including vernal pools and/or wetlands, a requirement of the life cycle of frogs and toads in the Piedmont region of Maryland.

With a healthy understanding of wildlife habitat relationships, we can better research, analyze and steward existing natural resources. This stewardship comes in the form of assessing impacts, planning efforts, and active management programs that identify, protect, preserve and manage the county's natural environment. We also use these strategies to scientifically identify and target new properties within the county that should be conserved to enhance our park system by acquiring land that will adding new or expanding existing critical habitat features.

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

Many of these programs assist in the implementation of the seven visions of the Governor's Commission on Growth in the Chesapeake Bay Region that relate to the protection of sensitive areas, stewardship of the Bay and conservation of resources. Since the *2012 PROS Plan*, the most notable addition to water quality programs is the Department of Parks acquiring a State/Federal Phase II National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This permit requires measures to reduce the amount of non-point source pollution and untreated stormwater from impacting our waterways and has significantly shifted the focus of water quality management programs.

This chapter includes information on State and County Natural Resource goals and implementation programs for conservation of natural resource lands. Natural resource GIS maps and data requested by the State will be provided in digital format as requested (*See Appendix 9*).

### Goals

#### STATE GOALS

Achieving the State's goals for the conservation of natural resource lands depends on cooperation and coordination among federal and local governments, citizens, conservation organizations, and the private sector:

- Identify, protect, and restore lands and waterways in Maryland that support important aquatic and terrestrial natural resources and ecological functions, through combined use of the following techniques:
  - Public land acquisition and stewardship;
  - Private land conservation easements and stewardship practices through purchased or donated easement programs;
  - Local land use management plans and procedures that conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas and minimize impacts to resource lands when development occurs;
  - Support incentives for resource-based economies that increase retention of forests, wetlands, or agricultural lands;
  - Avoidance of impacts on natural resources by publicly funded infrastructure development projects; and
  - Appropriate mitigation response, commensurate with the value of the affected resource.
  - Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas, according to a strategic framework such as GreenPrint (which is not to be confused with the former easement program also called GreenPrint).



## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

- Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that fall outside the green infrastructure: rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shale barren communities, grasslands, shoreline beach and dune systems, mud flats, non-forested islands, etc.
- Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas to assist State and local implementation programs.
- Assess the combined ability of State and local programs to:
  - Expand and connect forests, farmlands, and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure;
  - Protect critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats, biological communities, and populations;
  - Manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve, and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands, floodplains, and aquifer recharge areas and their associated hydrologic and water quality functions;
  - Adopt coordinated land and watershed management strategies that recognize the critical links between growth management and aquatic biodiversity and fisheries production; and
  - Support a productive forestland base and forest resource industry, emphasizing the economic viability of privately owned forestland.
  - Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated State/local strategy to achieve them through State and local implementation programs.

### COUNTY GOALS

County goals reflect and complement those of the state. M-NCPPC has been a leader in implementing the goals of many state environmental and resource management programs, and has even provided a model for state programs in certain instances. The *1993 General Plan Refinement* reflects the eight visions of State Planning Policy and the environmental goals and objectives in that document directly reflect the state goals stated above. Most recently, the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* provides general and specific direction to natural resource conservation goals that also reflect state goals.

### County General Plan

The approved and adopted *1993 General Plan Refinement* states the following Environmental Goal that includes four Objectives and accompanying implementation Strategies that are most relevant to the protection of natural resources by the Parks Department.

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL GOAL

Conserve and protect natural resources to provide a healthy and beautiful environment for present and future generations. Manage the impacts of human activity on our natural resources in a balanced manner to sustain human, plant, and animal life.

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

**Objective #2:** Preserve natural areas and features that are ecologically unusual, environmentally sensitive, or possess outstanding natural beauty.

### Strategies

- Protect natural resources through identification, public acquisition, conservation easements, public education, citizen involvement, and private conservation efforts.
- Connect parks and conservation areas to form an open space and conservation-oriented greenway system.
- Require open space dedications in new subdivisions that maximize protection of stream valleys and other sensitive environmental features.
- Ensure that development guidelines are reviewed periodically to make certain that they are environmentally sensitive and reflect current technologies and knowledge of the environment.

**Objective #3:** Protect and improve water quality.

### Strategies

- Limit impacts on water quality by designating compatible land uses near water resources.
- Identify and protect recharge areas for aquifers, individual wells, headwater springs, and seeps through land use and innovative control techniques.
- Manage activities in the Potomac and Patuxent river basins above water supply intakes to prevent pollution that might endanger the region's water supply.
- Prevent or mitigate thermal pollution that may be harmful to aquatic life and the general ecology of the County's waters through land use policies.
- Control runoff and flooding by minimizing impervious surfaces.

**Objective #4:** Conserve County waterways, wetlands, and sensitive parts of stream valleys to minimize flooding, pollution, sedimentation, and damage to the ecology and to preserve natural beauty and open space.

### Strategies

- Identify and protect wetlands and other sensitive parts of watersheds.
- Continue parkland acquisition in key stream valleys.
- Limit the potential damage to life and property from flooding.
- Prohibit development too close to streams, in the 100-year ultimate floodplain, and in flooding danger reach areas of dams, unless no feasible alternative is available.
- Maintain the natural character of drainage areas in the immediate vicinity of streams, rivers, and lakes.
- Plant and retain trees and other vegetation near streams.
- Develop programs to rehabilitate damaged streams and then to maintain them.
- Mandate "no net loss" of wetlands.

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

**Objective #6:** Preserve and enhance a diversity of plant and animal species in self-sustaining concentrations.

**Strategies**

- Determine and protect the land and water masses and linkages necessary to support a diversity of species in self-sustaining concentrations.
- Plan a system of parks, conservation areas, subdivision open space, and easements to support a diversity of species in self-sustaining concentrations.
- Minimize forest fragmentation to protect habitat continuity.

**Objective #8:** Increase and conserve the County's forests and trees.

**Strategies**

- Identify and designate forest preservation and tree planting areas.

### Vision 2030 Strategic Plan for Parks & Recreation in Montgomery County, MD

The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* process, completed in 2011, developed a series of detailed recommendations for moving forward with the mission to provide parks and recreation to the County's residents, including many goals and objectives important to the conservation of natural resources. The most relevant goals and objectives for Parks Department implementation are included here.

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#### GOAL 2

Promote awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Montgomery County's natural and historical resources.

**Objectives**

- Develop and implement interpretive master plans to guide educational and interpretive programs.
- Develop a multi-age environmental literacy program to raise fundamental understanding of the natural systems of Montgomery County, the relationships and interactions in the living and non-living environment, and how to deal sensibly with complex issues that involve weighing scientific evidence, uncertainty, and economic, aesthetic, and ethical considerations.

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#### GOAL 4

Provide adequate and appropriate public lands and facilities that are equitably distributed across the County to meet the needs of residents.

**Objective**

- Provide an appropriate balance between stewardship and recreation.

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#### GOAL 9

Maintain quality park and recreation lands and facilities for efficiency, safety, attractiveness, and long-term sustainability.

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

### Objectives

- Continue to refine current maintenance levels of service and standards based on industry best practices (e.g., maintenance, health, and safety standards) and update standards (e.g., mowing frequency for different park types, natural resources management, routines to maintain clean parks and recreation facilities, etc.)
- Continue to identify operating budget impact (OBI) needed for new capital improvement projects and acquisitions and allocate adequate resources (e.g., program staff, maintenance, supplies and materials, other services and charges, etc.)
- Expand SmartParks applications to park planning, natural resources management, and historic resources management, etc.

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### GOAL 11

Inventory, conserve, restore, and enhance ecologically healthy and biologically diverse natural areas with a focus on Park Best Natural Areas, Biodiversity Areas, and Environmentally Sensitive Areas as defined in the *"Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan" (M-NCPPC, 2005)*.

### Objectives

- Develop a protocol and schedule for routine inventory and analysis of natural resources like the "Montgomery County Stream Protection Strategy."
- Develop a countywide natural resources management plan.
- Prioritize Best Natural Areas and Biodiversity Areas based on their ecological value and biological diversity.
- Develop and implement natural resources management plans for all Best Natural Areas and Biodiversity Areas by 2018 and update each of them every six years.
- Develop comprehensive restoration plans for down-county stream valley parks including Rock Creek, Sligo Creek, Little Falls Branch, Cabin John Creek, and Northwest Branch.
- Expand the current white-tailed deer management program into down-County areas if consistent with public demand, natural resource management needs, and public safety.
- Develop natural resources-based stewardship training for park staff.
- Develop new volunteer-based programs to assist with the inventory and management of natural resources in County parks (e.g., Forest Stewards).
- Determine staffing levels required to accomplish all objectives.
- Expand control of non-native invasive plants (NNIs) particularly in Best Natural Areas, Biodiversity Areas, and other Environmentally Sensitive Areas of parkland.
- Review and revise "Nuisance Wildlife Guidelines for Beaver and Canada Geese".

## Implementation

### RESEARCH AND ANALYZE NATURAL RESOURCES

To achieve State and County resource preservation goals, the Commission uses standard procedures to research and analyze natural resources. To provide baseline data on terrestrial flora and fauna and aquatic fauna, three primary types of research conducted include: resource inventories, monitoring for changes in resource condition, and making predictions of future resource condition using various tools and associated metrics. Routine inspection and quantitative analysis of natural area habitats and the organisms within, commensurate with the resource and anticipated rate of change, provide a robust indication of ecosystem function and health. These data then provide a baseline from which to evaluate how preservation, conservation, and development strategies benefit the public and how these tools might be enhanced.

To appropriately manage habitat for wildlife diversity, it is necessary to know what species are found, or expected to be found, in each park or habitat type. Such scientific research provides vital information about the location and condition of essential habitats that can be identified as Priority Natural Resource Areas within the Park system. These Priority Natural Resource Areas then provide the basis for necessary resource preservation measures to accomplish stewardship objectives.

### Inventory, Monitor, and Predict

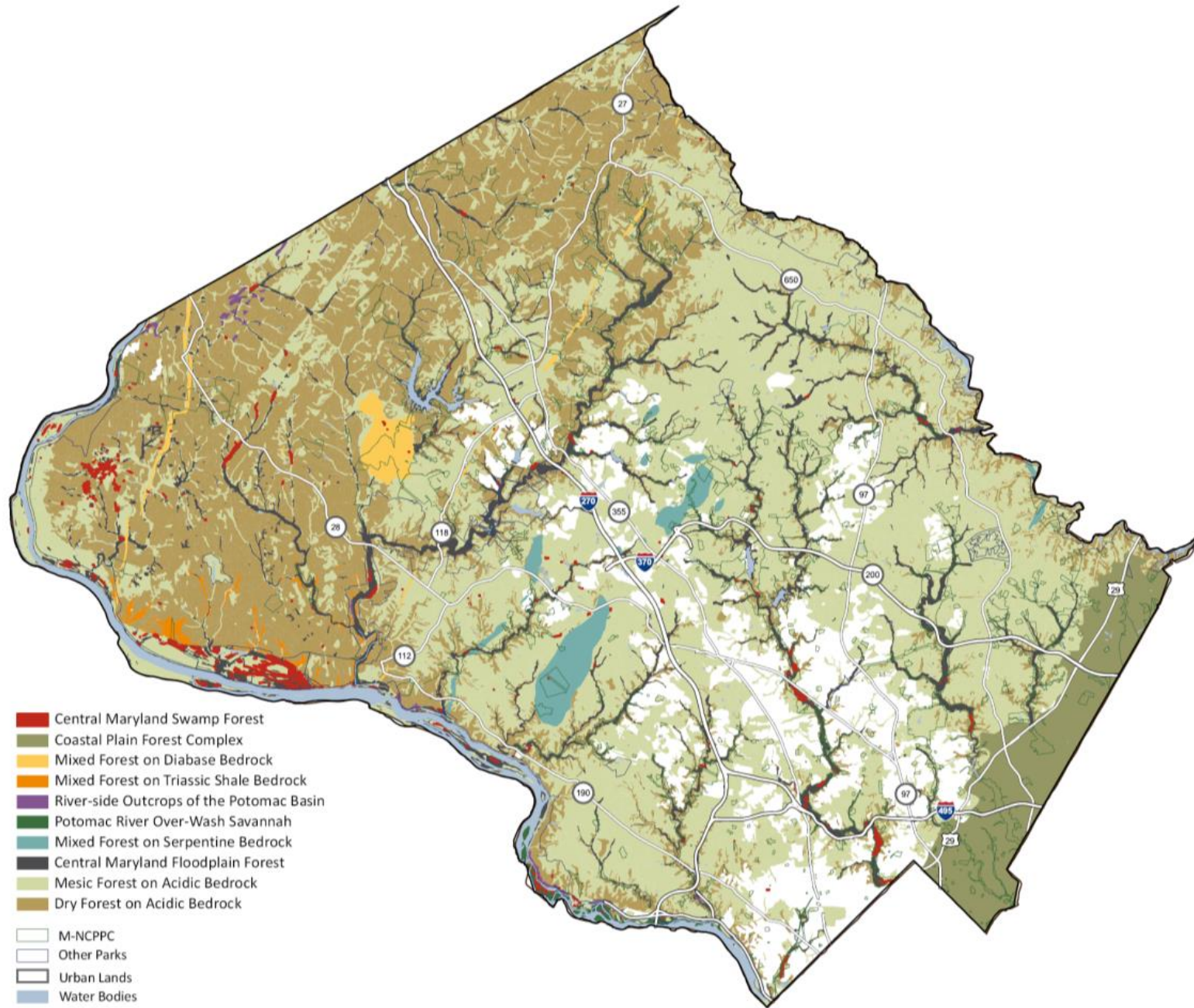
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#### MAJOR TERRESTRIAL HABITATS

The *Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) for Natural Areas in M-NCPPC Parkland in Montgomery County (2013)* identifies and maps ten Major Terrestrial Natural Communities found in Montgomery County (see *Figure 24*) These terrestrial habitats consist of ecological communities derived from unique contributions of geology, soils, physiographic features and climate. Other significant habitat types and microhabitat features – such as successional forest, grasslands, rock outcrops and vernal pools – are described in the *NRMP* and exist throughout these Major Terrestrial Communities.

Through inventory and monitoring efforts, parkland is categorized into these ten Terrestrial Habitats. Identifying all undeveloped parkland by habitat type assists with inventory efforts by allowing for prediction of the plants and animals likely to be found in a given location. Categorizing parkland by Terrestrial Habitat also provides input into appropriate methods for managing resources and assists with determining where to focus active resource management efforts as described further in this chapter.

CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship



Source: Natural Resources Management Plan for Natural Areas in M-NCPPC Parkland in Montgomery County, 2013  
Figure 24 - Major Terrestrial Natural Communities of Montgomery County, Maryland

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### TERRESTRIAL FLORA AND FAUNA

Biological monitoring of terrestrial habitat is focused on conservation of wildlife and plant species and systems. Natural Resources Stewardship staff are updating protocols and inventory standards to complete and update park inventories on a more consistent and systematic basis and based on accurate, current and relative scientific principle and process. Montgomery Parks has set a goal to inventory and monitor 1000 acres of natural areas annually, with a focus on the best resources in each of the ten Major Terrestrial Communities. Inventories also will be tied to the work program for the development of Operation and Use Plans (see below).

Terrestrial inventories will generally consist of analysis of forest successional stage and habitat guild classification, plus identification of essential habitat or key terrestrial wildlife habitat, e.g. forest interior, edge/interior ratio, microhabitats. These data are collected from a variety of historical and digital data sources and new field inventory work. Data may be derived from available static data including existing Forest Stand Delineations, inventories of Rare, Threatened, Endangered and watchlist plant species, soils maps, and historic flora/fauna inventories and reports. Additional data from outside sources may be included in inventories, as appropriate, such as information from the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas, Christmas Bird Counts, the Maryland Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project, the North American Butterfly Association and the Mid-Atlantic Invertebrate Field Studies website.

Once existing data is assembled for a terrestrial resource inventory, active data collection is conducted to supplement existing data sources and to monitor current conditions of the resources. Such active collection efforts may include detailed mapping of essential habitats, select wildlife surveys, and non-native invasive (NNI) plant species inventories. Data collection will be done by both park staff, park contractors and volunteers.

In the final step, existing and new data can be assessed to make predictions of habitat quality and potential future impacts. Undeveloped parkland can be categorized in the appropriate Major Terrestrial Habitat, helping us to predict what other plants and animals that may be served by these habitats. The habitat type can further help us to predict future changes from land use changes or other human activity based on the relative sensitivity of each habitat type to environmental impact. In addition, Parks studies meteorological data and other predictive models to identify overarching trends affecting ecosystems and to identify resources at risk of degradation.

Documenting unique habitat, flora and fauna, and analyzing related spatial and temporal trends allows for accurate management goals and to guide responsible development in alignment within these; and evaluation and prioritization permits the best allocation of resources where most beneficial. GIS and data sharing is often utilized to guide Commission and county policies, and helps to guide land acquisition and use in balance.

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### AQUATIC RESOURCES

In Montgomery County, parkland contains over 488 miles of streams. As stewards of county parkland and the waters flowing through it, an understanding of the general health of these waters is imperative. These biological communities are extremely sensitive to both pulsed and cumulative anthropogenic stresses within the County's watersheds. Aquatic community composition and structure provide metrics that can be compared to high-quality, unimpaired reference streams to determine a relative state of health.

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

Over the past several decades, Parks' biological monitoring program has tracked the health of these streams through numerous partnerships with various county, state, and federal agencies. Staff follow the Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) standardized methods developed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to monitor freshwater fish and benthic macroinvertebrate communities specific to Maryland streams.

Over the past PROS 5-year cycle, 50 stream sites have been monitored in 13 different watersheds. The results of Parks' stream monitoring efforts support a wide variety of resource management needs across both park and planning domains. Developing integrated estimates of stream condition over entire watersheds along a measurable temporal and spatial scale allows for informed and responsible planning decisions appropriate to development or parkland acquisition. Emerging trends in biological health within developing watersheds can also help to target stormwater management opportunities where they are needed the most.

In addition to the general watershed monitoring program, targeted monitoring sites allow for assessment of stream restorations and other stormwater management strategies, effects of emergency infrastructure failures, significant development projects, resources being considered in both area and park master plans, and parks where sensitive or high-quality water resources have been identified and need to be monitored (i.e. Special Protection Areas, Best Natural Areas and Biodiversity Areas).

### Identify Priority Natural Resource Areas

Utilizing this extensive knowledge base resulting from research, inventory and monitoring plus predictive analysis, important resources within Parks are categorized to assist with management and protection efforts. The best quality and most unique ecological communities within the Park system have been identified and categorized as Biodiversity Areas or Best Natural Areas. Other important natural resources within Parks are identified as Environmentally Sensitive Areas, a category defined in the *Guidelines for Environmental Management of Development in Montgomery County (Environmental Guidelines, January 2000)*. The Environmental Guidelines is the document used by the Planning Board to protect natural resources through the land development process. These three categories collectively make up Priority Natural Resource Areas within the park system.

These categorizations were initially developed in the 1985 – 1995 timeframe to ensure special preservation and conservation efforts for the most significant ecological communities in Montgomery County. This section includes a brief description of the purpose and criteria that define each Priority Natural Resource Area. More detailed information about Biodiversity Areas (BDAs) and Best Natural Areas (BNAs) can be found in the *2013 NRMP* referenced above including significant features, major terrestrial habitat types, and watershed and water quality. More details on the determination of ESAs can be found in the *Environmental Guidelines*.

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#### BIODIVERSITY AREAS

Biodiversity Areas (BDAs) were first identified in the early 1990's through a cooperative research effort with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Natural Heritage Division. The goal of BDAs was to identify rare, threatened, and endangered species and their habitats across the County, and further to recommend areas within parkland for conservation efforts and areas outside of parkland for future acquisition into the park system.



## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

Biodiversity Areas (BDAs) are defined as areas of parkland containing one or more of the following:

- Large areas of contiguous, high quality forest, marsh or swamp that show little evidence of past land-use disturbance
- Rare, threatened, endangered or watch-list species
- The best examples of unique plant communities found in Montgomery County
- Areas of exceptional scenic beauty

There are currently 33 Biodiversity Areas designated in parks across the County totaling 4469 acres of high quality resources. Many BDAs are linked to unique geological features and bedrock, as described in the *Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP, 2013)*. Examples of habitats that are designated as BDAs include:

- River-rock outcrops of the Potomac River Basin
- Serpentine, diabase or limestone influenced plant communities
- Plant communities on soils derived from Triassic shale, siltstone, sandstone or conglomerate
- Forest types ranging from swamps and floodplain forest to mesic and dry forest

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### BEST NATURAL AREAS

In the early 2000's, an effort was made to identify the "best of the best" resources within the park system that were the best examples of each natural community type. The intent was to select the highest quality resources within the designated BDAs and to provide those Best Natural Areas with a heightened level of protection, conservation efforts and interpretation to the public. BNAs are not only the best quality examples of a given resource type, they are often significantly larger than BDAs, resulting in a larger range of microhabitat types and providing the natural space necessary to support important species of flora and fauna.

Best Natural Areas (BNAs) are defined as areas of parkland which contain one or more of the following:

- Large areas of contiguous, high quality forest, marsh or swamp that are generally more than 100 acres and show little evidence of past land-use disturbance
- Rare, threatened, endangered or watch-list species
- The best examples of unique plant communities found in Montgomery County in the ten Major Terrestrial Natural Communities
- High quality wetlands, including those of Special State Concern as noted in COMAR Title 26
- Aquatic communities rated as good or excellent in the Countywide Stream Protection Strategy
- Special Trout Management Areas as noted in COMAR Title 08
- Areas of exceptional scenic beauty

There are currently 13 BNAs that include 9674 acres of many different habitat types. Just as for BDAs, the BNAs often result from the influence of unique geological features and frequently include examples

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

of the special habitat types listed under BDAs. BNAs currently include designated portions of the following parks:

- Little Bennett Regional Park
- Black Hill Regional Park
- Hoyles Mill Conservation Park
- River Road Shale Barrens Conservation Park
- Blockhouse Point Conservation Park
- Serpentine Barrens Conservation Park
- Watts Branch Stream Valley Park
- Rachel Carson Conservation Park
- North Branch Stream Valley Park
- Cabin John Regional Park
- Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley Park
- Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park
- McKnew Conservation Park

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### ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

The final resource category within Priority Natural Resource Areas is Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs). ESAs were initially established by State regulation (Article 66B, repealed and replaced with Article 24-305) and are now defined in the *Environmental Guidelines: Guidelines for Environmental Management of Development in Montgomery County* (M-NCPPC, 2000) as resources that need protection through the development review process. The Environmental Guidelines identify landscape characteristics that are important within the hydrologic cycle (such as stream and wetland buffers and steep slopes) to include within ESAs. The guidelines include methods for limiting impacts to ESAs through the development process, thus correlating positively with water quality, integrity of erosion control, water uptake and groundwater recharge. The protection of ESAs through the regulatory review of development by the

Environmentally Sensitive Areas include:

- Streams and stream buffers
- 100-year floodplains
- Wetlands and wetland buffers
- Steep slopes
- Highly erodible soils
- Habitats of rare, threatened, endangered, and watch-list species

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### PRIORITY NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS: MANAGEMENT, PROTECTION AND INTERPRETATION

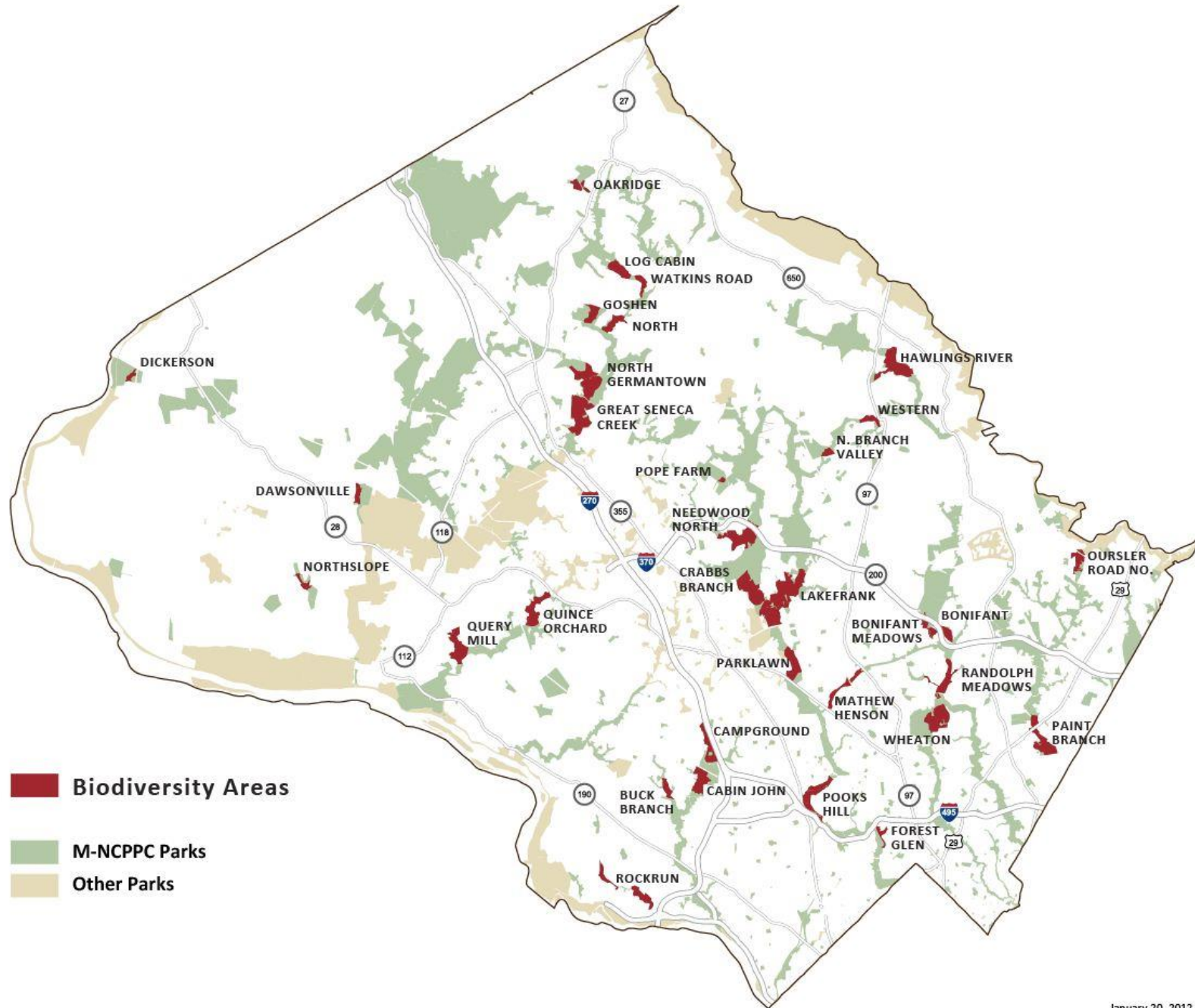
Collectively, Best Natural Areas, Biodiversity Areas and Environmentally Sensitive Areas within parkland are considered Priority Natural Resource Areas that are the focus of the Department of Parks' efforts to manage and preserve natural resources. The Department goes to great lengths to steward the most significant of these three designations, the Best Natural Areas (BNAs) and Biodiversity Areas (BDAs), by limiting the introduction of new facilities and removing existing development when possible, except for trails which are important for public access, interpretation, and appreciation by the public. However, as

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

an older park system that has developed since 1927, many of our parks – especially in the down county area – were developed prior to the Environmental Guidelines and therefore have existing amenities in Environmentally Sensitive Areas. Development that currently exists within ESAs includes roads, parking areas, playgrounds, and many types of active recreation facilities.

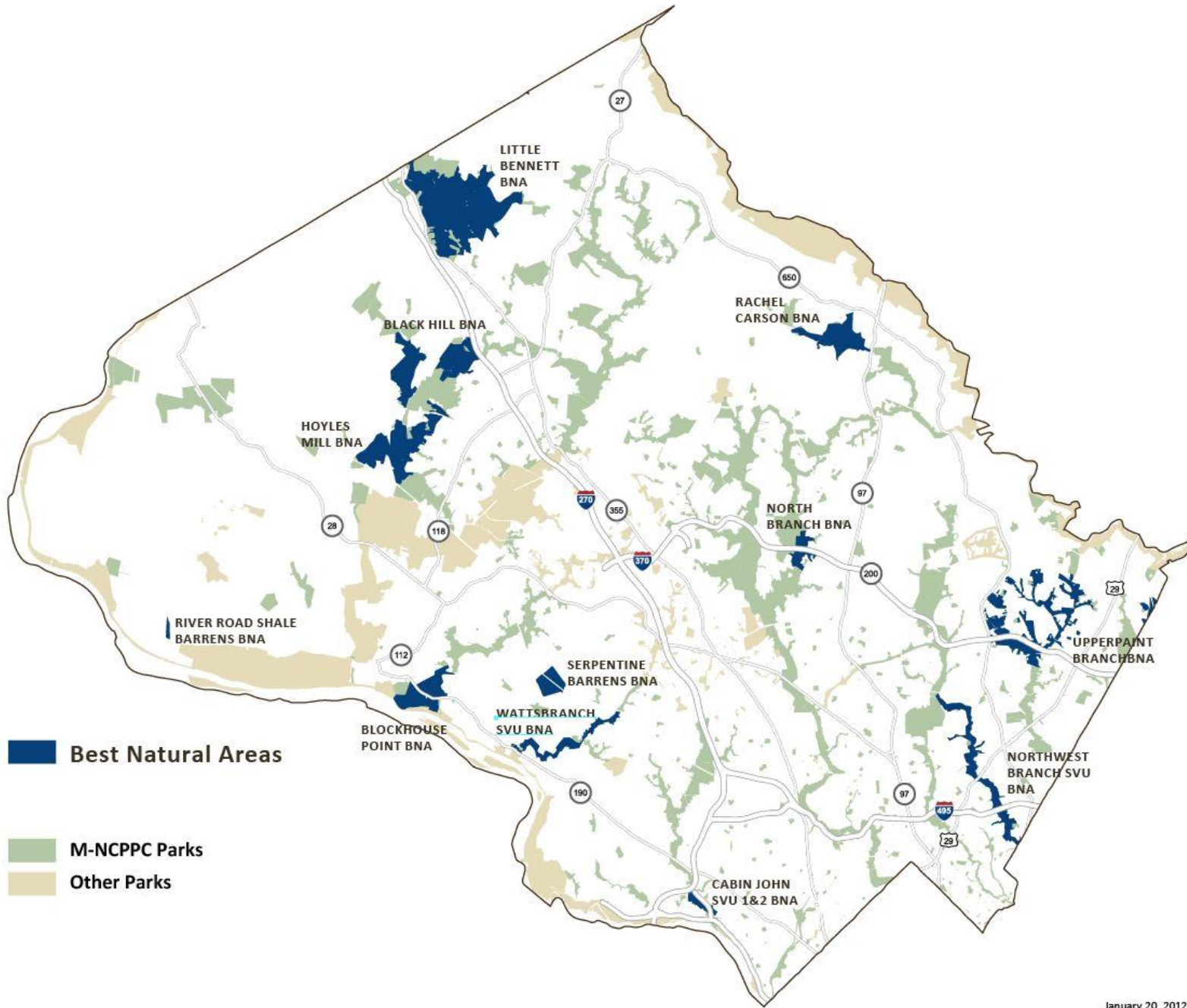
The overall standards for management, protection and interpretation of these Priority Natural Resource Areas include:

- Prioritize the protection of Priority Natural Resource Areas to the greatest extent possible through conservation and preservation efforts
- Maintain Priority Natural Resource Areas in various stages of natural succession and free of Non-Native Invasive (NNI) plant species, thereby maximizing biodiversity and well as providing sites for high-quality natural resource-based recreation.
- With the exception of trails, trailheads and associated parking, prohibit development of new park facilities within Priority Natural Resource Areas.
- Remove existing park facilities from Environmentally Sensitive Areas during redevelopment projects whenever feasible and appropriate; when removal or relocation is not feasible, minimize impacts to environmental resources to the maximum extent practicable.
- Interpret the ecological significance of these areas for the public's benefit and enjoyment and to ensure ongoing public advocacy for natural resource stewardship efforts.



January 20, 2012

Figure 25 - Biodiversity Areas Map, NRMP 2013



January 20, 2012

Figure 26 - Best Natural Areas Map, NRMP 2013.

### PLAN FOR NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

A variety of planning processes and approved plans and policies contribute to the conservation of natural resources in existing and future parkland in Montgomery County. Significant protection of Natural Resources in the County is accomplished through PROS Plans and through adopted area land use master plans that implement the *General Plan*. Natural resource recommendations in those comprehensive plans are based on countywide and large area inventories and studies that are broad in scope. More detailed analyses are often conducted for areas of proposed natural resource parkland in area master plans.

Based on the thorough natural resources research, analysis and categorization of park natural resources described in the section above, park planning efforts are initiated to organize resource management efforts throughout the park system. Park natural resource planning has been done countywide, as in the case of the countywide *Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP, 2013)* and is also regularly completed for specific parks on a more detailed basis.

#### Countywide Natural Resource Management Plan

As described above, the *Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP, 2013)* identifies ten Major Terrestrial Habitats found in Montgomery County plus other significant habitat *features (see - Figure 24)*. In addition to defining these habitat types, the *2013 NRMP* provides overarching guidance to park staff for the management of the approximately 26,000 acres of Natural Areas in parks. The overall guidance of the NRMP is to protect the best examples of each habitat type in various stages of natural succession to maximize biodiversity.

While deciduous-dominated forest is the natural mature, or climax, condition in this part of Maryland, it is critical to biodiversity to maintain or create areas of successional habitat to mimic conditions prior to modern human settlement. These successional areas, including grasslands/meadows, scrub-shrub areas, and conifer-dominated forest, provide a constantly changing mix of flora and fauna that are affected by the prior land disturbance, available light, and hydrology. Each successional stage also makes changes to the soils that ultimately enable land to support a mature deciduous forest. Without each stage, biodiversity will not be preserved. These stages can be maintained or created through a variety of resource management programs, as described later in this chapter.

Preserving examples of major habitat types, micro habitat features, and early successional habitats is necessary to maximize species diversity and biological integrity amongst native plant and wildlife across the County. Many of the best examples of each Terrestrial Habitat are included within the aforementioned Priority Natural Resource Areas (especially BNAs and BDAs). Categorizing parkland into these ten Terrestrial Habitats provides the baseline for assigning appropriate methods to manage resources and assists with determining where to focus active resource management efforts.

#### Park-Specific Plans

Two types of park-specific plans are created to guide development and management of parkland and contribute to the conservation of natural resources in parks. Park Master Plans and Operation and Use Plans provide more specific stewardship and management guidance to park managers than the

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

comprehensive plans and the *Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP, 2013)* due to their park-specific focus.

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### PARK MASTER PLANS

Park Master Plans are prepared for Countywide Parks either soon after acquisition or when funds are anticipated for significant park improvements. The park master plans specify areas for protection, restoration, and development, plus outline the general layout of facilities and trail alignments. They are prepared through a process similar to area land use master plans with significant public outreach and input opportunities, although the final approval is given to park master plans by the Montgomery County Planning Board instead of proceeding to the Montgomery County Council. A briefing of the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee of the County Council typically follows Planning Board approval.

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### OPERATION AND USE PLANS

Operation and Use (O&U) Plans are practical management-oriented documents that provide day-to-day operational guidance to Park staff on natural resources, cultural resources, public access and trails, and other park operational issues. O&U Plans are drafted in stand-alone documents for each of these operational areas (i.e., separate documents for natural resources, cultural resources, etc.) due to the separate demands and work programs of divisions of Parks. The O&U Plans will work together to provide operational guidance to park managers. The goal is for all parks with significant natural resources (BNAs and BDAs) and for principal down-county stream valley parks to have a completed O&U Plan for all Natural Areas.

In addition to priority parks, operational planning is also under development for newly-acquired parkland containing significant natural areas. O&U Plans for new parkland often include the Natural Areas and the Public Access and Trails documents. The planning for these new parks must not only assist in preserving the natural resources through proper operation and maintenance recommendations, but also identify how those new natural resource-oriented parks will be made accessible in an appropriate manner to the public, specifically through trail recommendations. Recommendations for future interpretive programming and/or signage are also usually included in the O&U Plan for Public Access and Trails.

A key component of all the O&U Plans for Natural Resources is the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Map. The NRM Map is developed within the framework of the *Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP, 2013)* referenced above. These park-specific NRM Maps provide practical and detailed guidance for the protection, management and enhancement of each individual park's natural resources using standardized protocols and mapping symbols for management of various resource types. The NRM Map identifies and describes the natural resources of the park in detail, identifies and addresses key issues, and provides detailed stewardship and management recommendations. NRM Maps should be reviewed on a regular basis and revised as necessary to best manage the resource.

## IMPLEMENT AND COMPLY WITH POLICIES, LAWS, AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Many laws, regulations, and programs work to conserve natural resources in the County, both within and outside of parkland. Department of Parks and Department of Planning staff, as well as many other County agencies, use these regulations and guidelines not only to review the impacts of planned development on parkland or elsewhere in the County, but also to protect natural resources through recommendations written in park, local, and area master plans. This section is a brief summary of the most important of these efforts that are implemented via the development review process, focused on water quality conservation, or related to development taking place on parkland.

### Development Review Process

Montgomery County has many regulatory requirements put in place to protect the County's natural resources during the land development process. Measures including Erosion and Sediment Control permits, Natural Resource Inventory/Forest Stand Delineations (NRI/FSD), Forest Conservation Plans, and Water Quality Plans (for projects planned in one of the County's five Special Protection Areas) are just some of the key requirements that protect natural resources.

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#### FOREST CONSERVATION ACT

Once the zoning, land use and park acquisition boundaries are set in a land use master plan and accompanying zoning map amendments, individual developments are subject to review for compliance with the Montgomery County Forest Conservation Law and the Planning Board's Environmental Guidelines. These programs comprehensively protect most environmentally sensitive features on sites when development projects (both public and private) are submitted to the Planning Board. The County Forest Conservation Act, adopted pursuant to the State legislation, regulates efforts to preserve forest and tree canopy through the development process, including the development of parkland.

Forest Conservation requirements on private and non-park public development projects contribute to the large amount of sensitive areas and forest that are conveyed to the park system through the development review process. On land that is not appropriate for transfer to Parks, a Forest Conservation easement is placed on land to protect existing forest or newly planted forest on properties under development. A Category I Conservation easement does not allow disturbance of the canopy or understory except to control non-native invasive species. This type of easement is used most frequently to protect natural areas that remain on private land. They are legally recorded in the land records and M-NCPPC, Montgomery Planning Department provides enforcement.

For development of active recreational facilities on parkland, the same forest conservation requirements apply. Forest that is to be permanently preserved as a result of a park development project is identified on the Final Forest Conservation Plan that is approved and enforced by the M-NCPPC, Montgomery Planning Department.

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES

The document *Environmental Guidelines: Guidelines for Environmental Management of Development in Montgomery County* (2002) defines the objectives, principles and policies to protect sensitive areas through which development projects are to be reviewed and approved by the Montgomery County



## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

Planning Board. M-NCPPC's Environmental Guidelines provide specific guidance for protecting environmentally sensitive areas on public and private land proposed for development. The Montgomery County Planning Board approved these guidelines in 1983 and revised them in 1997. The Guidelines establish a procedure for identification and protection of natural resources potentially affected by construction, and they apply to all Sensitive Areas as initially defined by Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (see definition above, under Definitions and Criteria for Identifying Key Environmental Resources). The Guidelines ensure that development plans give adequate consideration to the following environmental management objectives: protection of stream water quality, water supply reservoirs, steep slopes, forest conservation, wildlife habitat and exemplary natural communities including rare, threatened, and endangered species; maintenance of biologically viable and diverse streams and wetlands; reduction of flood problems; protection against development hazards on areas prone to flooding, soil instability, etc.; and provision of visual amenities and areas for recreation and outdoor education activities.

In areas where the land use planned is considered a potential risk in high quality watersheds, the area may be designated a Special Protection Area (SPA) through an act of the Montgomery County Council. Proposed development in an SPA requires that a water quality plan be prepared that incorporates redundant stormwater management facilities and other features that address the particular goals for the receiving waterway. Among other requirements, wider wetland buffers and accelerated reforestation are required in these areas. In some SPAs, overlay zones are adopted to limit imperviousness to specific levels on each site and limit or prohibit certain land uses that pose a risk to water quality.

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### RECOMMENDATIONS IN MASTER PLANS

Complementary to regulatory and guideline compliance, recommendations regarding natural resources in the various land use master plans provide input to natural resource protection during the development review process in front of the Planning Board. In addition, some land use developments are subject to a finding of conformance to the relevant land use master plan. Many large developments are subject to Site Plan review requirements under the County zoning ordinance, a more detailed plan review process than traditional subdivision review. Before the Montgomery County Planning Board can approve such a development, one of the required findings is to find conformance with the land use master plan recommendations that affect the property. As such, overall goals and objectives and property-specific recommendations related to natural resource protection in adopted land use master plans, while more general than regulations and guidelines in nature, still must be addressed during a development project and provide a significant tool for protection of natural resources in the County.

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### OTHER LOCAL POLICIES

The *Green Infrastructure Network Map and Enhancement Strategy* is a countywide conceptual network map of existing and potentially connectable natural areas developed by the Planning Department and available on the Department website. This document also includes strategies that can be implemented to improve the network of green infrastructure throughout the County. The Green Infrastructure Network Map is intended to serve as an additional source of information in the implementation of the County's green infrastructure-related policies, plans, regulations, and programs.

### Water Quality Regulatory Compliance and Conservation Programs

Many programs are implemented in Montgomery County by the County agencies and the Commission to support water quality conservation efforts and comply with a myriad of regulatory requirements, some implemented directly by agencies and some implemented via the development review process. Changes to Federal, state and county water quality regulations over the past decade have resulted in significant shifts to the goals and methods by which the Commission and other property owners protect water quality for their existing and new developments.

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#### NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEMS (NPDES) COMPLIANCE

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks, Montgomery County (Montgomery Parks) received a *Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)* permit in late 2009. This permit requires Montgomery Parks to develop and implement best management practices under six minimum control measures which include: Personnel Education and Outreach, Public Involvement and Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Runoff Control, Post Construction Stormwater Management, and Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping. Practices implemented under these minimum control measures serve to reduce or eliminate sources of stormwater pollution on parkland in Montgomery County.

Prior to the Phase II MS4 permit, Montgomery Parks received an *NPDES Industrial Permit* for its twelve maintenance yards. This permit, received in the 1990's and still in force today, requires Parks to train staff, adopt best management practices, develop pollution prevention plans, and improve facilities to reduce stormwater pollution from these sites. Progress in meeting the requirements of this industrial permit is reported annually in combination with the Phase II permit.

Montgomery County has a *Phase I MS4 NPDES* permit which includes a requirement to treat an additional 20% of untreated stormwater every five-year permit cycle. Because Montgomery Parks is largely a stream valley park system, many of the County's stormwater management facilities and stream restoration projects are either currently or proposed to be on parkland. Parks works with the County and other NPDES permittees on reviewing and permitting these projects on parkland.

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#### STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

Montgomery County has continually updated the requirements for Sediment and Erosion Control and Stormwater Management based on state of the art techniques and State of Maryland policy direction. This program resides in the County Department of Permitting Services and includes an aggressive inspection program. The County collects a water quality protection charge to support maintenance of stormwater management facilities. Privately owned facilities that meet certain standards may be maintained by the Department of Environmental Protection via this funding source.

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#### WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAMS

The M-NCPPC has a long and effective history of collaborating with local, state and federal agencies to focus on protecting and restoring the County's watersheds. Federal and state regulations and programs (such as the Clean Water Act and the Chesapeake Bay Program) spurred many interagency watershed cleanup efforts since the 1980's, including the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Program and Patuxent

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

River cleanup efforts. Over the years, the Departments of Parks and Planning have supported implementation of the Patuxent River Primary Management Area (PMA) and the State's Tributary Strategy Teams for the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers, among other programs. The Countywide Stream Protection Strategy (CSPS) was developed in the early 1990's (by Montgomery County DEP in collaboration with Montgomery Parks) to provide detailed information about water quality in the County to be able to target County and interagency restoration and protection efforts to the most important watersheds.

Today, watershed restoration efforts are primarily driven by two recent federal/state mandates: the NPDES requirements and the Chesapeake Bay TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load, a measure of pollution entering waterways) requirements. The NPDES permits of the Parks Department and the County prioritize restoration efforts on the most impacted waterways in the most developed portions of the County. For the Parks Department, our compliance with the Chesapeake Bay TMDL requirements is through our Phase II NPDES permit compliance.

Currently, the County has a significant Watershed Restoration Program to address the impacts of development approved prior to environmental regulations under the guidance of the County Phase I NPDES permit. The County Department of Environmental Protection (MCDEP) evaluates watersheds to determine existing problems and the feasibility of stormwater retrofit projects and stream restoration. Eligible projects are selected based on feasibility, potential for stream improvements, cost and funding availability. Watershed plans have been completed for the Paint Branch, Hawlings River, Rock Creek, Cabin John, Watts Branch, and Northwest Branch. Each year, selected priority restoration projects from these watershed plans are implemented by the County DEP. Due to the significant percent of streams in the County occurring in stream valley parks, many of the County watershed restoration projects are implemented on parkland.

In addition to restoration driven by regulatory requirements, the Parks Department directly implements a variety of watershed restoration projects via Parks' capital budget to support development of park facilities and address specific erosion and watershed damage in new and existing parkland, and to improve water quality and overall natural resources condition. The level-of-effort project in the CIP is typically funded at a level of \$500 thousand per year, enough to annually fund one to two stream restoration projects and approximately 5 to 10 smaller improvement projects. A complete stream restoration project will typically address multiple erosion and related issues for a designated stream reach, often including the reforming and stabilizing of the channel and banks, providing fish passage, and replanting riparian vegetation. Smaller watershed restoration projects may include riparian restoration after bridge or culvert construction, repair of erosion associated with storm drain outfalls, small wetland or floodplain improvements, or forest planting along stream edges.

### Park Conservation Policies: Review of Development on Parkland

With 36,820 acres of parkland (at the time of this report), our parks receive significant pressure from development – both internal and external.

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#### PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Internally, the department is constantly developing new and retrofitting existing parks, and dealing with the aging infrastructure that comes with being an older park system. We protect sensitive natural resources by not only complying with Federal, State and County laws and regulations, including those described above, but with a set of park policies and procedures as well.

One standard step in planning for development on parkland is to utilize a Resource Atlas GIS map that shows all the sensitive natural and cultural resources on the site. The Resource Atlas assessment is used at the very beginning of the site selection and planning process for new park facilities and retrofits of existing facilities, thus ensuring a consistent set of data is being used for decision-making and resource impact evaluation. Using these data, as well as numerous field walks, park ecologists can better analyze the true impacts of the proposed project and determine how best to protect the resource.

Another important Park policy that affects the review and design of park projects is the standards set in this document for management and preservation of the Priority Natural Resource Areas as described in the section above. Here is a reiteration of those standards:

- Prioritize the protection of Priority Natural Resource Areas to the greatest extent possible through conservation and preservation efforts
- Maintain Priority Natural Resource Areas in various stages of natural succession and free of Non-Native Invasive (NNI) plant species, thereby maximizing biodiversity and well as providing sites for high-quality natural resource-based recreation.
- With the exception of trails, trailheads and associated parking, prohibit development of new park facilities within Priority Natural Resource Areas.
- Remove existing park facilities from Environmentally Sensitive Areas during redevelopment projects whenever feasible and appropriate; when removal or relocation is not feasible, minimize impacts to environmental resources to the maximum extent practicable.
- Interpret the ecological significance of these areas for the public's benefit and enjoyment and to ensure ongoing public advocacy for natural resource stewardship efforts.

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#### NON-PARK GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT THAT IMPACTS PARKLAND

Projects proposed to impact parkland by external government agencies (e.g., WSSC, MCDOT, MD SHA, MCPS) must go through a slightly more rigorous process than internal development projects. In addition to ensuring that projects abide by the above mentioned Federal, State and County policies, laws and regulations, staff goes a step further to ensure the stewardship of natural resources. Projects must first go through a concept review stage where park staff work with the applicant to understand the scope of the work, if the impacts to parkland are unavoidable or minimizable, and if not, what the mitigation or compensation will be for that impact (*see Chapter 2*). The “Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate, Compensate”

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

policy is critical to protecting natural resources in Parks and across the County, and is a key tool during project reviews with external agencies to balance the varying needs of the public.

Many of these external agency projects then go before the Montgomery Planning Board for a state-required Mandatory Referral review whereby park staff recommend approval, approval with conditions, or denial of the project. For projects that do not result in park impacts, the Mandatory Referral decision is advisory in nature. However, in the case of projects that impacts parkland, the Planning Board is determining whether to accept the impact to park property that is under their control – in which case their decision is binding.

After Mandatory Referral approval (or in the case where no Mandatory Referral is necessary, after concept review), detailed plans for the project are submitted to the Park Development Division in an application for a Park Construction Permit. The Park Development Division issues Park Construction Permits to approve all work by non-Park entities to be done on properties owned or managed by the M-NCPPC and on properties to be dedicated to the M-NCPPC after the completion of a development project. Reviews of proposed work are provided to check plans for technical accuracy and minimization of impacts to the park properties prior to the issuance of a Park Construction Permit. A Park Construction Permit must be issued prior to the commencement of any work by outside entities on property owned, managed, or being dedicated to the M-NCPPC.

In concert with the many policies already discussed, the Parks Department has several documented policies with detailed **guidance to assist with the protection of natural resources. These guidance documents are used** by Parks for internal construction projects and provided to Park Construction Permit applicants for use in their development plans on parkland. Two examples of such guidance documents include:

- Planting Requirements for Land Disturbing Activities and Related Mitigation on M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Parkland (revised 2009)
- Guidelines for Converting Paved Areas into Pervious Greenspace

### IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES

M-NCPPC is responsible for the protection and management of all natural resources within county parkland. As the primary public landowner in the county, this responsibility often serves a larger countywide function. Natural Resources Stewardship staff develop and implement resource management plans, programs, guidelines, and Best Management Practices to protect and enhance park resources, and assist with implementation of Federal, State and local plans for conservation of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species and critical habitats. A selection of the most critical programs is described here.

#### Vegetation Management Programs

The benefits of a healthy and diverse plant community are multiple and significant, leading to the importance of vegetation management programs. Significant vegetation assemblages are often determinant of critical wildlife habitats essential within the coastal plain and piedmont physiographic

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

regions. Preserving habitats in the various stages of vegetative succession is key to providing the necessary habitat for diverse wildlife communities. Vegetative succession in Montgomery County goes through several distinct stages, including meadows/grasslands, scrub-shrub, conifer-dominated forest, then deciduous-dominated forest. Each stage in this succession process is important to providing habitat to different associated species, thus the importance to overall biodiversity of maintaining heterogeneous areas across the natural areas of Parks.

Vegetation management programs are devised and implemented in an attempt to maximize ecological function and heterogeneity, to provide clean air and water, and to provide connectivity for species distribution of both flora and fauna. Management recommendations are guided by all the research and analysis acquired through inventory, monitoring and prediction efforts as described above. Overall guidance for vegetation management comes from the *Comprehensive Vegetation Management Plan for M-NCPPC Parkland (April 2009)*. Specific programs as described next support the management of park forest resources and meadow resources.

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### FOREST

Forest is the primary vegetation type in Natural Areas in Montgomery Parks. In addition to the many policies and regulations that support preservation and expansion of forest, Parks takes direct action to preserve, manage and expand forest on parkland. Through the guidance in *Planting Requirements for Land Disturbing Activities*, development projects by private and public agencies result in afforestation (new forest) and reforestation (replacement forest) being planted in appropriate areas within Parks. Park planning recommendations contained within Park Master Plans, Operation & Use Plans, and even within land use master plans also result in areas of parks where forest is planted. Newly acquired parkland is often reviewed during initial planning to identify appropriate locations for supplemental planting to improve existing forest and for planting additional forest to protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas such as streams and wetlands.

As a result of these multiple efforts to restore and plant new forest, more than 100,000 trees have been planted across 500 acres of parkland since 2000.

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### MEADOWS, GRASSLANDS AND SCRUB-SHRUB VEGETATION

Since natural disturbances that create meadows and grasslands (such as fire or beaver activity) are mostly absent in a suburban landscape, there is a significant shortage of these vegetation types in Montgomery County. The Parks Department manages some of our natural areas to remain permanently in various stages of secondary plant succession to address this lack of diversity. By preserving some natural areas in grassland and scrub-shrub stages using appropriate protocols, the maximum diversity of plant habitats can be provided across the County to support wildlife diversity. Grasslands management dedicates natural areas in suspended succession to support specific plant and wildlife species.

The Department of Parks has identified a goal to maintain 10% of its natural areas as grasslands. Currently, grasslands make up approximately 3500 acres of the park system, enough meadows to come close to meeting that goal.

### Wildlife Management Programs

Wildlife is managed for public safety, regulatory compliance, biodiversity, and sustainability, and in accordance with human land uses and priorities. Management programs are focused on providing habitat necessary to maximize species diversity in sustainable abundance, as discussed in the vegetation management section above. Hands-on wildlife management programs also create artificial habitat otherwise unavailable in the County for certain species. Most of the additional effort in wildlife management focuses on the addressing the nuisance impacts of certain wildlife on citizens and parkland.

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#### WHITE-TAILED DEER

Montgomery Parks is charged to lead the Montgomery County Deer Management Work Group, a multi-agency and citizen entity that produces annual reports to guide county-wide implementation of the *Comprehensive Management Plan for White-tailed Deer in Montgomery County, Maryland (1995)*. Subject to the guidance in the management plan and the annual reports, Montgomery Parks implements a comprehensive management program for White-Tailed Deer.

The White-tailed Deer Management Program addresses county-wide impacts of deer including deer-vehicle collisions, over-browsing of natural vegetation, damage to agriculture and ornamental landscapes, and communicable disease. Montgomery Parks has active deer population control occurring on approximately 19,000 of its 37,000 acres, over 50% of all parkland. Multiple control efforts are utilized to manage the population, including Archery, Cooperative, Lottery and Tenant-based Managed Deer Hunting and Park Police-based Sharpshooting Programs.

Additionally, since M-NCPPC is charged to address county-wide White-tailed Deer impacts such as deer-vehicle collisions and manage the countywide deer population inventory, some program efforts occur on all parkland and outside of parkland. Deer inventory data is gathered across the County in all park types, even those that are not currently used for active deer control efforts, and in other public and privately held lands not within stewardship authority of M-NCPPC to fully understand the population dynamics in the entire county.

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#### NUISANCE WILDLIFE

Other wildlife can come into conflict with the preferred uses or desired vegetation on parkland, land use goals, or can cause damage to structures and other facilities on parkland resulting in safety, regulatory compliance and maintenance impacts. An example of such wildlife is the year-round resident Canada Goose population that impacts the condition of artificial and natural ponds, streams, and grass-based recreational facilities such as athletic fields and golf courses. Another native wildlife species that can come into conflict with human uses and desires is beavers. Beavers are a valued native mammal that contributes to the varied successional habitats across forest and stream ecosystems. However, in certain highly developed areas of the County, such in the southern county stream valley parks, beavers can construct dams that cause flooding of park facilities and can kill significant numbers of trees in parks where every tree is valued for habitat, shade and landscape benefits. Another common example of nuisance wildlife is groundhogs whose underground burrows can cause damage to park buildings, especially historic structures that may be located far from active park use areas.

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

Park natural resource management staff run a series of efforts to actively manage these and other nuisance wildlife when they come into conflict with Parks and other desired goals or conditions. These efforts may utilize a variety of techniques to address the issue including public education aimed to build understanding and tolerance, harassment and exclusion of nuisance animals, and population management efforts such as egg addling and trapping of nuisance animals.

### Non-Native Species Management Programs

Non-native species management is designated to sustain populations of native flora and fauna, through address of species identified as non-indigenous of the physiographic region. These invaders include terrestrial and aquatic species of flora and fauna. Examples of common invasive plants include Oriental Bittersweet, Porcelainberry and English Ivy vines and Japanese Honeysuckle and Japanese Barberry shrubs. Examples of common invasive animals include Gypsy Moth and Emerald Ash Borer Beetle, Spiny Softshell Turtle, and Snakehead fish.

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#### NNI PLANT MANAGEMENT

Non-Native Invasive (NNI) Plant management is guided by the *Best Management Practices for Control of Non-Native Invasive Plants* (and intended to protect native species within areas identified as key environmental resources for the purpose of enhancing public health and safety, ecosystem function, and biodiversity. Management efforts include mechanical and chemical treatment by staff and contractors, and mechanical removal by volunteers. Over 130 units of parkland have received treatment for NNI removal over the past ten years.

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#### NNI ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Programs to address invasive insects and other animals are conducted on an as-needed basis and focus on preventing the spread and/or mitigating the impacts of the invasive species. Currently, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Program is addressing the significant damage to ash trees from the now widespread invasive beetle. Ash trees are present in the forest canopy across the park system and also in many landscaped areas. To address the primary goal of safety for park patrons, staff and property, this program assesses and prioritizes ash trees infested with EAB and removes the ash trees at highest risk of failure as determined by trained arborists. trees infested with EAB and removes the ash trees at highest risk of failure as determined by trained arborists. Gypsy Moth populations are assessed annually on parkland, by the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and managed as necessary for maintenance below established thresholds.

### Volunteer Programs

Montgomery Parks has a strong Volunteer Services Office that coordinates tens of thousands of hours of volunteer assistance via more than 35 program areas throughout the parks, including several programs that assist with natural resource management issues. Key examples include the Weed Warrior Program, Natural Surface Trail Program, and the Stream and Park Cleanup Program which are highlighted below. Volunteers also support the Deer Management Program and assist in the planting and care of trees and other native plants in parks.



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### WEED WARRIOR PROGRAM

Since its inception in 1999, Montgomery Park's Weed Warrior Program has trained more than 1200 citizens in non-native, invasive plant identification and removal techniques. Now in its 18th year, the program has more than 600 active volunteers who contribute approximately 5000 hours of volunteer service in our parks annually. Once trained, Weed Warrior volunteers are permitted to work independently anywhere on park property on their own schedule. Specially-trained Weed Warrior Supervisors and park staff also lead more than 100 group workdays per year to tackle larger infestations and provide opportunities for untrained volunteers and outside groups to help control non-native, invasive plants in our parks.

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### STREAM AND PARK CLEANUP PROGRAMS

The volunteer park cleanup program provides a significant level of support to help keep parks and streams clear of trash and debris. Since 2012, more than 25,000 volunteers have contributed approximately 70,000 hours to keeping Montgomery Parks' streams and parks clean. This volunteer program has been steadily increasing in participation levels and trash removed since 2011. In a typical recent year, volunteers from more than 100 groups and organizations take part in around 250 cleanup projects coordinated by Parks staff and remove about 72 tons of trash from parkland.

## PRIORITIZE AND PROTECT COUNTYWIDE NATURAL RESOURCES

In addition to the many programs that protect and improve the natural resources within the park system, the Department of Parks implements and supports efforts to conserve diverse, essential habitat features across the entire County. These countywide assessment and implementation efforts are a key element of fulfilling the Mission, Vision and Values of the Department of Parks.

### Assess and Prioritize Natural Resources for Conservation

Dating back to its creation in 1927, the Commission has implemented many efforts to protect the most important natural resources in Montgomery County, preserving stream valleys, forest and other greenspace necessary to water and air quality. For the past three decades, the Department of Parks has spearheaded assessments of Countywide environmental resources to identify the most important and unique ecosystems in the County, monitor their condition, and make recommendations on how to preserve those resources. These efforts were largely initiated with a study published in 1986 that evaluated a process for Natural Resource Planning and Management for a conference appropriately titled "Urban Planning to Benefit Wildlife and People". Subsequent research conducted in Montgomery County resulted in a prediction methodology for impacts on wildlife of development and land use decisions]. Subsequent studies in the 1990's identified the most important ecosystems in the County based on unique geological, soil and vegetative conditions.

Significant natural resources within the County then are evaluated and prioritized for protection efforts in a variety of planning and policy documents. During area master plan development, detailed assessments are conducted of resources in smaller portions of County. Those targeted studies result in the identification of priority resources and protection recommendations within community master and sector plans.

Significant natural resources are sometimes studied individually, such as the Upper Paint Branch watershed that serves as cold-water trout habitat. Since the 1980's, several studies of this watershed

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

have been conducted by Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (MCDEP) jointly with the Commission that have resulted in many areas of the watershed being identified for conservation efforts.

On a countywide basis, the *Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan* (M-NCPPC, 2001) established a program to conserve Montgomery County's most significant open spaces. The LOS Functional Master Plan developed criteria to identify the most important unprotected natural resources, greenway corridors along stream valleys, and water supply protection areas in the Patuxent River watershed. (*see Chapter 2 for all open space categories in the LOS plan.*) The resource analysis in this 2001 plan built upon the earlier local area, countywide and statewide assessments of natural resources, including the State's Green Infrastructure maps, and created criteria for identifying the "best of the best" natural resources in the County.

### Apply Variety of Tools to Conserve Natural Resources

Once countywide natural resource sites are identified and prioritized, different tools can be applied to protect those resources. Many important resources can be preserved on private land through the development review process that is implemented by the Planning Department with input from the Department of Parks. Regulatory tools that can protect resources for the long term include:

- Zoning regulations, such as required percentages of open space, cluster development and reduced lot sizes, and other requirements of the zoning code
- Forest Conservation Act regulations, including placing conservation easements on forested land
- Stormwater management regulations
- Special Protection Area regulations, including Water Quality Plans

The Planning and Parks Departments also support other public and private sector efforts that preserve resources on privately held land. These programs include forest banking, private land trust easements, agricultural easements, and other tools for conserving private land.

### Acquire Priority Parkland for Natural Resources Conservation

In addition to the general criteria for new parkland acquisitions (*see Chapter 2*), selection of the most important natural resource sites for acquisition includes using the inventory, monitoring and prediction methods described above, looking at existing recommendations for natural resource parkland, and applying adopted criteria to evaluate resources (such as in the Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan and Vision 2030). Staff ecologists play a key role in evaluating environmental value of properties being considered for park acquisition. The addition to parks of important new natural resource concentrations and key areas of buffer habitat around existing natural resources on parkland both serve to conserve natural resources and provide access to those resources for public enjoyment and education. Acquisition of property for primarily natural resources purposes typically meets one of three main purposes:

- Land suitable to expand public ownership of high quality resources adjacent to existing Priority Natural Resource Areas within Parks (especially BDAs and BNAs).

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

- Land suitable to buffer and protect existing Priority Natural Resource Areas within Parks that may include areas of less than superior natural resources.
- Opportunities to conserve and provide public access to unique or exemplary natural communities or large areas of quality, diverse habitats as new Priority Natural Resource Areas.

Note that many parkland acquisitions occur for reasons other than the quality of the land's natural resources that do include land with natural resources of varying quality. Decisions to acquire land for parks, as opposed to using other resource protection tools with the land remaining in private ownership, is a complex analysis of many factors and natural resource conservation is often only one of many factors in consideration.

Acquisition of natural resources into the park system is accomplished by either dedication during the development review process or by direct purchase from property owners.

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### ACQUISITION VIA DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS

Environmentally Sensitive Areas and other quality natural areas are often transferred to park ownership from the development of land. The amount of land conveyed to Parks through this process varies with the zone, land use master plan recommendations, and the size and quality of the resources on the land being developed. Significant areas of the stream valley park system have been acquired through this development process over the previous decades. In fact, sometimes land that is not required to be conveyed to Parks by subdivision regulation is given to Parks by the landowner as a less expensive option than creating a Home Owners Association to monitor and maintain the land. Land received through dedication often falls into the first two purposes above, serving to expand or buffer existing Priority Natural Resource Areas.

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### ACQUISITION VIA DIRECT PURCHASE

Direct purchase of properties is accomplished through the acquisition program that is described in [Chapter 2](#). Direct acquisitions can meet all three of the purposes listed above. As the County continues to develop and redevelop and the park acquisition program makes progress, the number of highest quality natural resource concentrations that should be added to the Park System is steadily reducing. Over future years, priority natural resource acquisitions will continue to shift from a focus on protecting new Priority Natural Resource Areas to expanding and buffering the Priority Natural Resource Areas Parks already is responsible for stewarding.

The County's commitment to open space and natural resource conservation in rural, suburban, and urban areas is shown through the significant local financial support of the Legacy Open Space acquisition program to date, totaling over \$70 Million in County and Commission funds since 2000. See Appendix 4 for a list of priority parkland acquisitions identified in current adopted plans including natural resources sites.

## EDUCATE CITIZENS AND STAFF ABOUT NATURAL RESOURCES

*Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommended that the Department of Parks develop an environmental literacy program for County residents of all ages that fosters a fundamental understanding of the systems of the natural world, the relationships and interactions between the living and non-living environment, and the ability to deal sensibly with complex issues that involve weighing scientific evidence, uncertainty and economic, aesthetic and ethical considerations. This section discusses

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

progress toward the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* goal that recommends environmental stewardship training for all Parks staff and public programming that supports Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and Maryland State environmental literacy standards.

### Interpretive Programs for Adults and Children

The future success of our stewardship efforts depends on an engaged citizenry who accurately interpret scientific data, understand the impact of human actions on the environment, and are committed to support conservation activities in their own lives and throughout our community. The Parks Department provides interpretive programs, curriculum based school programs, and community engagement efforts that connect knowledgeable Parks staff with current environmental stewards and help to develop future leaders. Montgomery Parks' four nature centers, Black Hill, Brookside, Locust Grove and Meadowside, and two public gardens, Brookside and McCrillis, are the facilities by which our agency provides formal and informal programs in the fields of horticulture, environmental education, and natural history interpretation.

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

The State of Maryland is a national and international leader in environmental literacy. Building on past accomplishments and to support Montgomery County Schools in meeting the Maryland Environmental Literacy Graduation Requirement, Montgomery Parks will continue to offer free curriculum-based school programs for all K-12 Montgomery County public schools, independent schools, and home school groups, thereby overcoming the financial barrier that keeps some student populations from regular access to environmental education. With proposed additional staffing, Parks will increase frequency of programming with individual classes and schools, strengthening the relationship between students and nature by deepening their understanding of the natural world through more in depth and multiple programs over the course of the school year.

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#### CHILDREN IN NATURE

Many studies have shown that regular access to nature improves physical and mental health, motor skills, cognitive functions, and helps form conservation values, knowledge, and behaviors. At the same time, children are spending more time inside with electronic devices and less time outside. The State's *2014 LPPRP* noted that youth participation in outdoor recreation is strongly influenced by parents, family, friends and relatives. Providing welcoming facilities for a diversity of groups with convenient hours, engaging interpretive exhibits, stimulating programs and trails that link to local neighborhoods and schools make for an experience that is safe, enjoyable, and accessible. Interpretive exhibits provide a robust learning experience for drop-in visitors who may not be able to attend regular programs, address the needs of people with disabilities who may have difficulty navigating outdoor trails, and communicate conservation messages to multilingual audiences who represent the diversity of our community.

In addition to visitor centers and programs, park patrons can learn more about natural and cultural history from interpretive signage in many park access locations and along nature trails. The past ten years have seen an increase in installation of interpretive signage throughout the park system to educate the public and create good stewards of the natural environment. Rachel Carson Conservation Park is the site of a pending demonstration project to create better interpretive signage.

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### ENGAGING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Montgomery County is home to some of the most ethnically diverse areas in the country. The 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, a multi-state agreement, recognizes in its Diversity Outcome Management Strategy, the need to engage underrepresented and underserved communities to provide input, make decisions, and take action to conserve and restore our natural resources. The Agreement's definition of diversity includes "...a wide range of people of all races, income levels, faiths, genders, ages, sexual orientations and disabilities, along with other diverse groups." Our programming, engagement efforts and staffing should mirror the demographics of our community and ensure that all people have access to the benefits of local parks.

Future plans include:

- Increased cultural competency training so existing staff can better understand, communicate with, and plan programming for a wide range of people
  - A focus on participation by youth from communities of color in educational programs, volunteer positions and job opportunities.
  - Development of a green jobs pipelines to encourage youth from middle school, high school and college to consider careers in the horticulture and conservation fields, in alignment with Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature Action Plan 2016-17
  - Development of educational programs, interpretive exhibits and events that draw inspiration from the rich cultural heritages of our community.

### Staff Training and Education

The Parks Department conducts training for maintenance, operations, and administrative staff across the department on the best practices for management of natural resources. These educational programs improve efficiency and ensure compliance with regulations and policies to protect the environment.

To support the Department's MS4 NPDES permit that regulates stormwater discharges (described above), the Department of Parks conducts many Personnel Education and Outreach activities to promote water quality preservation across the park system. Initiatives to improve water quality and meet the requirements of the permit include:

- Pollution Prevention Training – Mandatory annual training targeting frontline operations staff that covers pollution prevention and spill cleanup response
- Stormwater Management Facility Maintenance – Field training conducted for bioretention facility maintenance
- Pesticide Use Compliance and Tracking – Training on the new system for tracking pesticide use, alternative pest control practices, and compliance with the new County regulations on pesticides
- Certification for Pesticide and Fertilizer Use – Training to become State registered pesticide applicator and/or State certified fertilizer applicator

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

- Production of Minnow Minutes – A newsletter to provide education and outreach to all staff on topics such as biological monitoring of streams, air pollution sources and impacts, and nutrients as a major water pollutant
- Mosquito-Borne Illness Prevention – Training on Zika virus and other mosquito borne illnesses, personal protection from bites, as well as methods to eliminate mosquito breeding habitat

Additional educational initiatives include:

- MDE Responsible Personnel Certification (RPC) Program – Park engineers educate staff about the importance of erosion and sediment control, and encourage appropriate staff to achieve certification through MDE’s Responsible Personnel Certification Program
- Integrated Pest Management and Synthetic Chemical Use Reduction – Annual training in pesticide use, safety, and integrated pest management that provides strategies and techniques to identify and prevent the spread of pest species (including invasive species) while minimizing pesticide use, protecting the environment and preventing off-target effects

### Status of 2012 PROS Plan Recommendations

The *2012 PROS Plan* made several recommendations for improvements to the County’s implementation program to conserve and protect natural resources in the Park system as well as set ambitious goals for land acquisition of natural resources. The Department of Parks has made progress towards accomplishing many of those recommendations in the *2012 PROS Plan*, as described in the Implementation Efforts section. These accomplishments are summarized here by the Local Goals as established in *Vision 2030*.

#### Goal 2

Promote awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Montgomery County’s natural and historical resources.

#### Objectives

- Develop and implement interpretive master plans to guide educational and interpretive programs.

**Implementation:** Develop a strategic and cutting edge interpretive plan. Prioritize park sites for implementation of interpretive messages.

**Progress:** While a comprehensive interpretive master plan has not been completed to date, significant amounts of interpretive signage has been coordinated and implemented across the County at priority cultural and natural resource sites. Examples of sites interpreted to the public include the Rachel Carson Greenway trail along the Northwest Branch (8 interpretive panels) and 9 interpretive panels focused on environmental stewardship located in four Regional Parks, a Conservation Park and a down-county Stream Valley Park. []

- Develop a multi-age environmental literacy program to raise fundamental understanding of the natural systems of Montgomery County, the relationships and interactions in the living and non-

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

living environment, and how to deal sensibly with complex issues that involve weighing scientific evidence, uncertainty, and economic, aesthetic, and ethical considerations.

**Implementation:** Expand ongoing training in environmental stewardship for all Parks staff and create public programming that supports Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and Maryland State environmental literacy standards.

**Progress:** Parks is implementing a robust program of education programs for adults and children and internal staff training on the importance of environmental resources. See descriptions above, Educate Citizens and Staff About Natural Resources.

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### Goal 9

Maintain quality park and recreation lands and facilities for efficiency, safety, attractiveness, and long-term sustainability.

#### Objectives

- Continue to refine current maintenance levels of service and standards based on industry best practices (e.g., maintenance, health, and safety standards) and update standards (e.g., mowing frequency for different park types, natural resources management, routines to maintain clean parks and recreation facilities, etc.)

**Implementation:** Revise and develop as necessary standards for park maintenance, custodial work, tree maintenance and natural resources management. Communicate with policy-makers and the public if changes to maintenance routines are required due to resource limitations.

**Progress:** Maintenance standards are constantly revised and updated to meet goals for efficiency and resource protection.

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- Continue to identify operating budget impact (OBI) needed for new capital improvement projects and acquisitions and allocate adequate resources (e.g., program staff, maintenance, supplies and materials, other services and charges, etc.)

**Implementation:** Improve collection and consistency of OBI data for new parks and park facilities approved in the CIP. Identify new operating funds or change maintenance frequency / practices to reflect reallocation of existing operational resources (endowments, volunteers, sponsorships).

**Progress:** Implementation of the new Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) system, currently in its first years of use in the Parks system, will result in improved data collection and usefulness of OBI information for new parks, including natural resource based recreation and natural areas conservation and management programs.

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- Expand SmartParks applications to park planning, natural resources management, and historic resources management, etc.

**Implementation:** Enhance SmartParks capabilities and efficiency. Incorporate Maintenance and Operations Manual into SmartParks.

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

**Progress:** The new EAM system will include use by park planning, natural resources stewardship, and the cultural resources stewardship units in the near future to meet this objective.

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### Goal 11

Inventory, conserve, restore, and enhance ecologically healthy and biologically diverse natural areas with a focus on Park Best Natural Areas, Biodiversity Areas, and Environmentally Sensitive Areas as defined in the "*Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan*" (M-NCPPC, 2005).

### Objectives

- Develop a protocol and schedule for routine inventory and analysis of natural resources like the "Montgomery County Stream Protection Strategy."

**Implementation:** Standardize and schedule the inventory of parkland natural resources. Use staff and volunteers to inventory park natural areas. Update and maintain a GIS inventory database.

**Progress:** Inventory and analysis of natural resources on parkland has been prioritized for the most important natural resources (Priority Natural Resource Areas) as identified earlier in this chapter. A target of evaluating 1,000 acres per year is proposed for the next five years.

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- Develop a countywide natural resources management plan.

**Implementation:** Finalize draft Natural Resources Management Plan to include Vegetation Management Plan and Appendices; Plans and Guidelines for the management of white-tailed deer, beaver, and Canada geese; and Countywide Stream Protection Strategy.

**Progress:** Complete. The NRMP was completed and presented to the Planning Board in February 2013.

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- Prioritize Best Natural Areas and Biodiversity Areas based on their ecological value and biological diversity.

**Implementation:** Develop criteria and select sites. Use the Cultural Resources Asset Priority Index as a model for prioritization.

**Progress:** A comprehensive prioritization within the designated BNAs and BDAs has not been undertaken to date.

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- Develop and implement natural resources management plans for all Best Natural Areas and Biodiversity Areas by 2018 and update each of them every six years.

**Implementation:** Create product and plan schedule with management plans.

**Progress:** The objective remains for all parks with significant natural resources (BNAs and BDAs) and for principal down-county stream valley parks to have a completed O&U Plan for all Natural



## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

Areas. A new timeline has not been set for completing this process, but instead a target of evaluating 1,000 acres per year.

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- Develop comprehensive restoration plans for down-county stream valley parks including Rock Creek, Sligo Creek, Little Falls Branch, Cabin John Creek, and Northwest Branch.

**Implementation:** Use current Rock Creek study as pilot program. Conduct studies of select stream valley parks. Select focus areas. Establish CIP projects and maintenance plans for sites selected.

**Progress:** Not yet started.

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- Expand the current white-tailed deer management program into down-County areas if consistent with public demand, natural resource management needs, and public safety.

**Implementation:** Determine where additional management is required. Assess whether current staffing levels are adequate to conduct additional management. Publicize, create, and fund program if warranted.

**Progress:** Expansion of deer population management into down-county areas has occurred in 5 park units since 2012. In total, 8 park units have seen implementation of deer population management on parkland during the period of last publication of the PROS plan, including the development and implementation of an Archery Managed Deer Hunting Program that will allow for further expansion into developed areas of the county in a more resource efficient manner. Expansion into parkland of highly developed areas of the county continues to be complex, and is being pursued in a very controlled and conservative approach to ensure safety, sustainability, and public trust.

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- Develop natural resources-based stewardship training for park staff.

**Implementation:** Use available training programs, including webinars, and develop and present training on an approved schedule.

**Progress:** Significant new training on environmental stewardship has been implemented across the Parks department over the past five years. See section on Staff Training and Education above.

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- Develop new volunteer-based programs to assist with the inventory and management of natural resources in County parks (e.g., Forest Stewards).

**Implementation:** Review and update existing programs (e.g., Weed Warriors). For the new Forest Stewards Volunteer Program -- Prepare a volunteer job description, recruitment strategy, training and certification program, work schedule, strategy for coordinating with operations staff, reporting structure for work performed, and performance measures.

**Progress:** The Weed Warrior Program continues to evolve and expand its efforts to encourage volunteer support of our forest ecosystems by containing NNI plants. The Woods Warrior

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

Program, which utilizes existing Weed Warrior trained volunteers, has been developed to evaluate and maintain areas of reforestation and to fence vegetation requiring special protection from the effects of herbivory and invasion.

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- Determine staffing levels required to accomplish all objectives.

**Implementation:** Track staffing levels and adjust as needed to accomplish all objectives of Goal 11.

**Progress:** The new EAM system will allow for this detailed tracking and adjustment once it reaches full implementation in future years.

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- Expand control of non-native invasive plants (NNIs) particularly in Best Natural Areas, Biodiversity Areas, and other Environmentally Sensitive Areas of parkland.

**Implementation:** Expand identification, mapping, prioritization, and monitoring according to all natural resource priorities, using volunteers where possible. Increase replanting of NNI treatment areas. Develop and apply quantitative measures of success.

**Progress:** NNI management and control programs have expanded significantly over the past five years. Efforts to identify, map, prioritize and monitor NNI's has expanded- however, management of NNI's has remained relatively constant in these specified areas of attention, and to date no metrics to evaluate effectiveness of management efforts has been developed. In 2015, staff completed an amendment of the Best Management Practices for Non-Native Invasive Plants. The Weed Warrior Program continues to grow, with the number of trained volunteers having doubled since 2012 (approx. 600 to approx. 1200) and has expanded into new parklands. As well, some herbaceous and woody plantings have occurred as part of these efforts to enhance restoration effects of NNI management.

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- Review and revise "Nuisance Wildlife Guidelines for Beaver and Canada Geese".

**Implementation:** Annually assess status of nuisance wildlife including beaver and Canada geese and expand proactive management efforts where problems exist. Standardize protocols for assessing on an annual basis, the nuisance status of wildlife populations; train park staff on strategies for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating impacts of nuisance wildlife and permitted techniques for population control; apply reporting structure and related performance measures.

**Progress:** No revision has occurred. These guidelines continue to guide best management practices for management of impacts and populations of these species. Reporting is conducted as a requirement of Federal and State permitting and in support of the NPDES MS4 Phase I permit requirements.

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

Prioritizing the management and conservation of natural resources and providing public access for recreational and educational purposes is a major goal of the *2017 PROS Plan*. Stewardship of these resources is key to the Mission, Vision and Values of the Department of Parks. Numerous studies have demonstrated over the years that people intrinsically value nature. This section describes three recommendations for moving forward with natural resource management and conservation, resource education and interpretation efforts, and using targeted land acquisition to improve access to resource-based recreation and protect unique ecosystems.

### EXPAND ONGOING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

Based on input from citizen surveys, the Planning Board, and multiple studies, maintaining what we have in good condition is the most important stewardship step not only for constructed facilities within parks but also for natural resources. In fact, preventing natural resources from degrading due to a variety of influences is perhaps even more critical for irreplaceable natural resources than for other facilities that can be rebuilt or replaced as long as adequate funding is available. Once a unique natural ecosystem has been negatively impacted by excess stormwater runoff, overtaken by non-native invasive plants, or other human impacts to the landscape, it may be difficult if not impossible to replace that natural resource. As such, maintaining the highest quality natural resources in our parks remains the highest priority for the many implementation programs described in this chapter.

To assist in targeting stewardship efforts to the best resources, staff will refine the management objectives for natural resources to spell out the rationale for allocating scarce resources to conservation efforts. As discussed in this chapter, the designated Priority Natural Resource Areas are a primary factor in determining where scarce staff, contract and volunteer resources should be allocated.

The recommendations to maintain quality natural resources in the Parks system are as follows:

- Ensure that public access into natural areas is accomplished utilizing standards of a sustainable and well-maintained system of natural surface trails.
- Inventory, restore and maintain natural areas with a focus on those areas of highest natural value.
- Interpret Best Natural Areas and Biodiversity Areas.
- Ensure the Commission's Environmental Guidelines are consistently applied to all development projects on M-NCPPC parkland.

### CREATE THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

Educating and interpreting our resources to help people clearly understand the value of natural and biological diversity, ecological significance and environmental benefits of our natural resources is essential to building tomorrow's stewards. Many programs described in this chapter already implement education of staff and citizens through a variety of means.

The recommendations to create the next generation of environmental stewards are as follows:

- Expand efforts to educate citizens and staff about natural resources to reach more children and adults through interpretive programs (e.g., environmental literacy, Children in Nature, engaging diverse communities) and staff training (e.g., water quality protection, sediment and erosion control, Integrated Pest Management).
- Educate the public about our success in establishing a network of Best Natural Areas that protects the best examples of natural community types thereby preserving long term our County's native biodiversity.
- Grow park advocacy efforts for stewardship of natural resources.

### CONTINUE TO ACQUIRE AREAS OF HIGHEST QUALITY NATURAL HABITAT

In addition to devoting sufficient resources to take care of the natural resources already in public stewardship, a clear priority of County residents is to continue to acquire and provide access to the best examples of natural resources across the County. Citizens ranked trails, natural space, wildlife habitat, and nature recreation as the top three priorities for parks across a variety of demographic segments. Residents prioritized nature parks, expressed interest in a variety of nature-based recreation (contemplative, active, educational, and adventure) as well as in the preservation of urban green space and the County's rural and agricultural lands. Montgomery Parks is poised to prioritize park acquisition to achieve the most important service to our public, for increased, accessible open space in our more populated areas and in our natural areas.

The Mission, Vision and Values of Montgomery Parks emphasizes providing a balanced system of recreation and stewardship to the citizens of Montgomery County. That overall mission is typically interpreted to mean a balance between facility-based recreation and natural resources conservation. However, given the high level of importance that our citizens and policy leaders place on trails and natural areas for recreation, we also need to balance stewardship and recreation within the subset of parkland that is made up of natural resources. The objective is to provide the public access that is necessary to meet the contemplative and active resource-based recreation desires of our residents while minimizing impacts to natural resources. To achieve that balance, Parks will continue to prioritize our most precious natural resources for conservation efforts and appropriate public access, and identify our less valuable or less unique natural areas for higher levels of public access and recreation. As described throughout this chapter, Montgomery Parks has and will continue to do that balancing act by relying upon scientific data and analysis and results-oriented resource management efforts.

## CHAPTER 5 - Natural Resource Stewardship

Acquisition of quality natural resources in the Parks system should be prioritized to meet the following criteria:

- Improved access to natural resource-based recreation.
- Conservation of unique or critical habitats.
- Areas of benefit to Best Natural Areas or Biodiversity Areas.
- Areas essential to improvement of water or air quality.

## Chapter 6 - Cultural Resources Stewardship



# CHAPTER 6: Cultural Resources Stewardship

## Introduction

Protection and interpretation of our irreplaceable cultural resources are key to the mission, vision and values of the Montgomery Parks Department. Cultural resources include everything from prehistoric rock shelters to mid-century modern houses. Cultural, historical, and archaeological resources are vital to our shared Montgomery County heritage and offer unparalleled opportunities for resource-based educational programming. The challenges are how to protect endangered historic and archaeological sites with scant resources and how to balance preservation with competing land use priorities.

Buildings now considered historically significant were constructed in the park system as early as the 1930s, just a few short years after the Commission's origins in 1927. From Kensington Cabin and Meadowbrook Recreation Center to Meadowbrook Stables, many buildings from the 1930s are now historically designated on the County's *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* and are being preserved and used daily by the public. In addition, the vast acreage of the park system guarantees that many structures much older in years also are part of the park system. (Some historic dwellings date to the second half of the 18th century.) Many of the Commission's land ownings exist along the Potomac River or are based around stream valleys. They tell of a state that allowed slavery, saw Civil War activity, rose to agricultural prominence, and feature a wealth of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. All these cultural resources are protected and managed in keeping with federal, state and local historic preservation laws and cultural and archaeological resource best practices.

The Cultural Resources Stewardship program protects over 117 standing historic structures spread across 43 historic sites. Of 735 Montgomery County archaeological sites registered in the State of Maryland, 215 fall within M-NCPPC's park system. These cultural resources include a wide variety of site types spanning over thousands of years, dating from the earliest prehistoric lithic scatter site to the 20th century built environment:

### Standing Structures\*

- Schoolhouses
- Country stores
- Plantation houses
- Farm houses
- Manor houses
- Barns
- Other agricultural outbuildings
- Mills and mill houses
- Cabins
- Recreation Centers
- Mid-Century modern houses

### Archaeological Sites

- Military installations and encampments
- Mills, mill houses and raceways
- Bridges
- Taverns
- Cabins and their sites
- Tenant houses
- Town sites
- Farmsteads and plantations
- Rock shelters
- Quarries
- Lithic scatters
- Cemeteries

*\*Note: Standing structures are often accompanied by archaeological sites.*

## Chapter 6 - Cultural Resources Stewardship

Stewarding cultural resources always requires at its foundation historic research, analysis, and interpretation. Projects rely on primary source documents; archaeological field work, lab work, cataloguing; analysis and reporting; application of historic significance standards (Determinations of National Register of Historic Places Eligibility, Determinations of Integrity, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, etc.); and compliance with all applicable laws (including, but not limited to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966). The Department of Parks' inventory of cultural resources is maintained not only in Geographic Information System (GIS) layers, but also in a Cultural Resources Asset Inventory database and in a custom-designed archaeological database.

A 2006 Departmental Strategic Plan for Cultural Resources in Parks, titled "*From Artifact to Attraction*" also guided the Department in past years in prioritizing the approach to historic rehabilitation and maintenance. All Master Plans and Sector Plans feature recommendations based on the preservation and stewardship of cultural resources on parkland, and, where appropriate, individual park master plans are written to guide cultural resource site development (e.g., the Josiah Henson Park Master Plan of 2010). Stewardship of resources follows federal, state and local policies and best practices.

### Policy and Guidelines

Below is a listing of applicable laws and policies pertaining to cultural resource stewardship:

#### FEDERAL LAWS AND POLICIES

**Law or Regulation:** *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), Section 106, as amended, along with its regulations 36 CFR Part 800.*

**Purpose**

The primary federal law regarding review of federal projects (or projects that use Federal moneys or permitting) for effects on historic preservation and is commonly referred to as "Section 106." The Maryland Historical Trust, the State Historic Preservation Office, reviews projects in Maryland.

**Law or Regulation:** *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (1995).*

**Purpose**

Preservation guidance to historic building owners and building managers, preservation consultants, architects, contractors, and project reviewers prior to treatment.

**Law or Regulation:** *Archaeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (1983) Amended and Annotated, 2000].*

**Purpose**

Guidelines to integrate the diverse efforts of many entities performing historic preservation into a systematic effort to preserve our nation's culture heritage.

**Law or Regulation:** *National Environmental Policy Act of 1970.*

**Purpose**

Similar to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 in that it requires review of federal projects (or projects that use Federal monies or permitting) for its impacts on the environment.



## STATE LAWS AND POLICIES

**Law or Regulation:** *Annotated Code of Maryland: The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) Act of 1985 as amended, State Finance and Procurement Article §§ 5A- 325 and 5A-326.*

**Purpose**

Analogous to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, but on the state level. To ensure consistency for projects with both federal and state involvement, the Maryland Historical Trust follows the process set forth in 36 CFR Part 800 for reviewing state assisted actions and reviews projects in Maryland.

**Law or Regulation:** *Preserve Maryland (MHT, 2014).*

**Purpose**

Preserve Maryland is a five-year policy document (2014-2018) that charts a way for the historic preservation community to work more effectively to protect the state's historic and cultural heritage. It contains five goals: 1) connect with broader audiences, 2) improve the framework for preservation, 3) expand and update documentation 4) build capacity and strengthen networks and 5) collaborate toward shared objectives.

**Law or Regulation:** *Maryland Historical Trust's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Maryland (Schaeffer and Cole 1994).*

**Purpose**

Maryland's minimum standards for all phases of archaeological work within the state of Maryland.

**Law or Regulation:** *Collections and Conservation Standards for Maryland (Maryland Historical Trust 2005)*

**Purpose**

These guidelines ensure the long-term preservation of the state's irreplaceable archaeological heritage.

## LOCAL LAWS AND POLICIES

**Law or Regulation:** *Montgomery County Code Chapter 24 A. Historic Resources Preservation.*

**Purpose**

Montgomery County's Historic Preservation Ordinance that protects properties designated on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* and sets out the County's implementation of preservation policies.

**Law or Regulation:** *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites (M-NCPPC, 1976).*

**Purpose**

M-NCPPC document including a geographic map that identifies resources that are potentially historic. These sites are afforded limited protection under Chapter 24-A of the Montgomery County Code, the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Ordinance.

**Law or Regulation:** *Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation (M-NCPPC, 1979).*

**Purpose**

The Master Plan for Historic Preservation is the County's preservation inventory. It lists all officially designated historic sites and districts that have been found to hold historic or architectural significance and merit protection under Chapter 24-A, the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

## Chapter 6 - Cultural Resources Stewardship

**Law or Regulation:** *Montgomery County Heritage Plan (MHAA, 2002).*

**Purpose**

The plan on how to use state heritage funding. The plan's goals and strategies cover interpretation and education, marketing and economic development, and preservation and stewardship (i.e., heritage tourism).

**Law or Regulation:** *From Artifact to Attraction: A Strategic Plan for Cultural Resources (M-NCPPC, 2006).*

**Purpose**

A Departmental strategic plan to create a blueprint for the future use and priority of Montgomery County Parks' cultural resources.

**Law or Regulation:** *Cultural Resources Asset Priority Inventory (M-NCPPC, 2009).*

**Purpose**

A metric chart that uses criteria to prioritize Parks' historic built inventory in need of capital. It is a living, changing repository, wherein new acquisitions of a cultural or historical nature can be added to the inventory. (The Asset Inventory is based on Department of the Interior, National Park Service facilities management model adapted for Parks' use).

**Law or Regulation:** *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan (M-NCPPC and Montgomery County Department of Recreation, 2011).*

**Purpose**

A Strategic Plan to guide the M-NCPPC Department of Parks, Montgomery County, and the Montgomery County Department of Recreation in the provision of stewardship of natural and historic resources and opportunities for active life-long learning, leisure, and recreation. *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* states several goals that apply to cultural resources: 1) Protect natural, historical, and archaeological resources; 2) Nurture an appreciation for our natural and cultural legacy; 3) Collaborate with partners to provide sustainable, accessible, and diverse leisure opportunities; and 4) Engage a diverse community and proactively respond to changing demographics, needs, and trends.

**Law or Regulation:** *M-NCPPC Planning Board-adopted Master and Sector Plans and Functional Plans.*

**Purpose**

Master Plans and Sector Plans are based on geographical location while Functional Plans undertake projects that span more than one geographic area. Each community within Montgomery County has a master plan that creates a comprehensive view of land use trends, including history and preservation. Functional Plans can include environmental resources, historic preservation, transportation networks, and zoning text amendments.

**Law or Regulation:** *Montgomery County Code Chapter 22A, Natural Resource Inventory/Forest Stand Delineation (NRI/FSD).*

**Purpose**

A regulation that requires the collection and presentation of environmental information for a property that is planned for development. Among the requirements are the identification and complete inventory of archaeologically sensitive features and historic sites.

### Implementation

The Cultural Resources Stewardship Section's mission is to research the history of cultural sites; to plan for the preservation and operation of cultural sites in the context of geographic and functional plans; to stabilize, rehabilitate, and restore historic structures on parkland; to unearth, process and analyze archaeological artifacts; and to program and interpret the 8-10 best historic sites that tell Montgomery County's story. The Section's work program is thus defined by four broad areas: History and Planning; Preservation and Building Rehabilitation; Archaeology; and Public Interpretation.

Historic research is based on primary source documents wherever possible. Historic preservation and rehabilitation projects are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Archaeology is based on the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the State of Maryland's archaeological best practices. Public interpretation is based on National Park Service, Association of American Museums, Association of African American Museums, and the Association for State and Local History Farm Museum best practices.

The Cultural Resources program brings together a corps of professionals with expertise in history, archaeology, interpretation, museum management, farming, architectural history, and historic preservation. The programs delivered to the public cover many aspects of American history—enslavement, Civil War, commerce, industry, education, agriculture, religion, Native American, and social history. Current implementation programs include:

#### HISTORY AND PLANNING

State and federal archives are routinely combed through for all information pertaining to cultural properties on parkland. Examples of the types of documents used include land grants, deeds, census roles, records of enslavement, historic photographs and correspondence, historic aerial photographs, inventories, estate cases, insurance policies, historic maps and atlases, etc. In addition, the Program staff participate in all Master Plans, Sector Plans, Park Plans, and acquisition planning involving cultural resources

#### PRESERVATION AND BUILDING REHABILITATION

The preservation and building rehabilitation program is based on an Inventory and assessment that is continuously updated on the portfolio of historic properties. The Asset Inventory is a prioritization tool that takes into consideration how rare a building is in the county and within Parks' portfolio, whether or not it is locally designated, whether or not the state holds a preservation easement on the property, what are its best potential uses for adaptive reuse; and how strong is its constituency. The resulting ranking helps allocate scarce dollars to too many projects. In addition, the program designates properties on state and local inventories for protection if they meet the standards and such protection is warranted. Each year, the Capital Improvement Program funds a few projects for rehabilitation in a fund called the Restoration of Historic Structures. More money should be allocated in the Restoration of Historic Structures CIP to those projects that rank high in the Cultural Resources Asset Inventory. In addition, funds are sought from the Maryland General Assembly and in private fundraising campaigns for select projects. The program coordinates with local, state and federal governments in regulatory matters for historic and archaeological resources, including obtaining Historic Preservation Commission approval, Section 106 compliance, and Maryland Historical Trust Easement Committee approvals. The

## Chapter 6 - Cultural Resources Stewardship

Program also uses scientific tools to better understand historic structures, including nail dating, historic paint analysis, and dendrochronology.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

The Department of Parks maintains Geographic Information System (GIS) layers not only on park-owned cultural resources, but on state-identified known archaeological sites. The Archaeology Program implements an extensive field work program, an active lab program, curation, collection analysis, database analytics, reporting, displays and public interpretations and educational programming. The program uses scientific tools to understand archaeological resources, including faunal analysis, archaeological flotation analysis (to recover seeds, charcoal, and micro-artifacts), micro-analysis and x-ray radiography. The Archaeology Program also includes over 100 volunteers who contribute greatly to the work done by the small staff. Projects range from prehistoric rock shelters to mill sites to plantation dwellings to Civil War fortifications to early 20th century stores. Archaeological summer and spring break camps and educational programs are among the most popular programs in the Department. In addition, this Program participates in all planning projects that affect archaeological resources, including development projects and road construction projects. Using the State laws and guidelines, the National Preservation Act and Section 106 compliance, treatments for archaeological sites that are adversely affected include preservation, mitigation, stabilization, and the curation, conservation of artifacts and public commemoration.

### PUBLIC INTERPRETATION

The public interpretation program tells the County's history using its 'best' stories. Its premier interpretive sites are Woodlawn Museum and the Underground Railroad Experience Trail, the Agricultural History Farm Park, Oakley Cabin African American Park, Josiah Henson Park, Blockhouse Point Park, and Kingsley Schoolhouse. Through regular public openings, reserved group tours, special events, student field trips, and partnership programs, these sites are open to the public for both free and moderately priced programs. Many of the programs are designed specifically to correlate to school core curricula.

In order to provide great public programs, the Public Interpretation Program, known as "History in the Parks," offers regular docent training, employs costumed interpreters, and provides a geographic spread of programs and events. The program's main season is April through October, but special programs are planned during Black History Month and multiple offerings make group tour reservations possibly year-round at most sites.

American history is told through universal themes: Enslavement, the Civil War, Quaker History/Underground Railroad, Emancipation and post-Civil War Free Black Populations, Agricultural history, Industrial History, Community-specific history, and Native American history.

## Status of 2012 PROS Recommendations

Progress since the *2012 PROS Plan* has been extensive. Below are major highlights, followed by a listing of progress by each historic property.

The Cultural Resources Program opened a brand-new heritage tourism destination at Woodlawn Museum, with traditional and multimedia exhibits focused on the Quakers, Underground Railroad, Enslaved and Free Black Communities in Maryland. The museum was opened officially in the stone barn and carriage house at Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park in June 2016.

Field trips programs were created for the site. In addition, working with architects, engineers and exhibit designers, the Cultural Resources Program is creating a new museum at Josiah Henson Park celebrating the life of the Reverend Josiah Henson and covering the subject of slavery in Maryland. The Program also established a living history program at the Agricultural History Farm Park, and will showcase its “Sow the Seeds of Victory” program this April 2017 there in commemoration of the anniversary of the U.S. entry into World War I. The History in the Parks Program also fixed up and opened a one-room schoolhouse, the Kingsley Schoolhouse, furnishing it with historic objects from the 1920s and runs regular programs there.

The Program designated eight additional resources for protection on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation and/or the National Register of Historic Places and rehabilitated and/or stabilized several distressed structures including: Bussard Farmhouse kitchen, Brainard Warner House, Kensington Cabin, Jesup Blair House, Meadowbrook Recreation Center, Brewer Farm at Woodstock, Darby Store, and Poole’s Store. Thirty-four historic interpretive signs were added into the park system on historic and natural history.

Archaeologically, the Program was selected to participate in signature PBS archaeological television series. The Josiah Henson Archaeological site was featured in the second season of PBS Time Team America (TTA) as one of four episodes. By bringing high-tech equipment to help Park archaeologists, Time Team introduced the Reverend Josiah Henson to audiences across the U.S. through its documentary “The Search for Josiah Henson.” Excavation work continues at the Josiah Henson Archaeological Site, and a Meyers Foundation Grant allowed the Program to produce the Josiah Henson Park Archaeology Program Student Activity Booklet “Searching for Josiah Henson”, which targets 4th and 8th grade at Title I area schools.

Regular program implementation also features updated web sites, social media posts live from historic sites, ongoing lectures on projects in parks, traveling displays, “History in the Box” kits to schoolhouses, teacher training materials, etc.

## ASSET INVENTORY PRIORITY INDEX

Below is the Cultural Resources Stewardship Program's progress since PROS 2012 for Project Rehabilitation, Public History Programs and Archaeological Investigations organized by asset/location.

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HENSON (JOSIAH) HOUSE, 11420 OLD GEORGETOWN RD.

### **Regional Park: Josiah Henson Special Park**

#### **Project Rehabilitation**

- In Final Exhibits Design and Construction Drawings Phase.
- Secured NPS Save America's Treasures Grant, among other sources.

#### **Public Interpretation and History**

- Open for School and Group Tours, as well as public events.
- Archaeology exhibits completed.
- Obtained Meyers Foundation Grant for development of curriculum for Title I Schools.
- Developed the Josiah Henson Park Archaeology Program Student Activity Booklet "Searching for Josiah Henson".
- Hosts Events and Programs: Black History Month, Heritage Montgomery Days, Emancipation Days.
- Seasonal Staff Hired.

#### **Archaeological Investigations**

- Archaeological Excavations Regularly Conducted under plan by staff Principal Investigator.
- On-going processing and analysis of archaeological artifacts recovered from site

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WOODLAWN MUSEUM, 16501 NORWOOD RD.

### **Regional Park: Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park**

#### **Project Rehabilitation**

- New museum and heritage destination created out of stone barn and carriage house.
- Full site used for educational purposes including Underground Railroad Experience Trail.

#### **Public Interpretation and History**

- Open to the Public.
- Open for School and Group tours and programs.
- Interpretive Signage in place.
- Staff hired.

#### **Archaeological Investigations**

- Archaeological Investigations Completed.
- Archaeological processing and curation anticipated in next 5 years.

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WARNER (BRAINARD) PROPERTY, 10231 CARROLL PLACE

**Regional Park: Brainard Warner Special Park**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- Phase I Rehabilitation Complete, including removal or nursing home wings.
- Interim Exterior Stabilization Underway.
- No Available Funding for interior rehabilitation.

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Special Programming hosted on lawn, including Pumpkin Rock 'n Roll
- Interpretive Signage in research phase.

**Archaeological Investigations**

- Phase I Archaeology Report Completed.

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BUSSARD FARM AT AGRICULTURAL HISTORY FARM PARK, 18400 MUNCASTER RD.

**Regional Park: Agricultural History Farm Park**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- Living History Farm Museum incorporating grounds, buildings, animals, etc.
- Kitchen Rehabilitation Completed.

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Regularly Open for Interpretation
- Partnership with Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park
- Host Events and Programs: Harvest Festival, Music on the Farm, Wee Little Farmers, Sewing Groups, Storytime, etc.
- Interpretive Signage in place.
- Staff Hired.

**Archaeological Investigations**

- Archaeology Investigations Completed.
- On-going processing and analysis.

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KINGSLEY SCHOOL, CLARKSBURG ROAD

**Regional Park: Little Bennett Regional Park**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- Rehabilitation Complete.

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Regularly Open for Interpretation.
- Interpretive Signage in place.

**Archaeological Investigations**

- No archaeological work completed or anticipated in next 5 years.

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OAKLEY CABIN

3610 BROOKEVILLE RD.

**Regional Park: Reddy Branch Stream Valley**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- Rehabilitation completed pre-2012

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Regularly Open for Interpretation.
- Hosts series of special events and programs annually
- Interpretive Signage in place

**Archaeological Investigations**

- 2012 MHAA Grant for Archaeology Completed, including Report.
- On-going processing and analysis

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WATERS HOUSE, 12535 MILESTONE MANOR LN.

**Regional Park: Waters House Special Park**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- Rehabilitation completed pre-2012

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Maintained as Parks Natural Resources Office Space

**Archaeological Investigations**

- Archaeology Investigations Completed

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JESUP BLAIR, 900 JESUP BLAIR DR.

**Regional Park: Jesup Blair Local Park**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- Phase I Stabilization Complete,
- Phase II Full interior rehabilitation anticipated in next 3 yrs.

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Interpretive Signage in place (3 signs)

**Archaeological Investigations**

- No archaeological work completed or anticipated in next 5 years

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ZEIGLER LOG HOUSE, 25321 FREDERICK RD.

**Regional Park: Little Bennett Regional Park**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- No rehabilitation funding available at present.

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Interpretive Signage in place

**Archaeological Investigations**

- Archaeological work completed or anticipated in next 5 years



- On-going processing and analysis

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HYATTSTOWN MILL & MILLER'S HOUSE, 14920-21 HYATTSTOWN MILL RD.

**Regional Park: Little Bennett Regional Park**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- Major maintenance of miller's house in 2017

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Montgomery Parks partnership in mill with Hyattstown Mill Arts Project
- Interpretive Signage in place

**Archaeological Investigations**

- No archaeological work completed or anticipated in next 5 years

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KENSINGTON CABIN, KENSINGTON PKWY

**Regional Park: Kensington Cabin Local Park**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- Full Rehabilitation and occupancy by community classes anticipated in 2017
- Interpretive Signage Drafts complete

**Archaeological Investigations**

- No archaeological work completed or anticipated in next 5 years

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BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY BLDG. (NORWOOD REC CENTER), 4711 NORWOOD DR.

**Regional Park: Norwood Local Park**

**Project Rehabilitation:**

- Exterior Stabilization and repairs to be completed in phases

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Leased for community purposes.

**Archaeological Investigations**

- No archaeological work completed or anticipated in next 5 years

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MEADOWBROOK STABLES, 8100 MEADOWBROOK LN.

**Regional Park: Meadowbrook Local Park**

**Project Rehabilitation:**

- Major Rehabilitation Completed

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Leased as equestrian center.
- No interpretive programming anticipated in next 5 years

**Archaeological Investigations**

- No archaeological work completed or anticipated in next 5 years

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POPE FARMHOUSE AND COOKE'S RANGE, 7400 AIRPARK RD.

**Regional Park: Pope Farm**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- Rehabilitation of 1920s house Complete
- Maintained for Office Space
- Plans for 18th century house in discussion

**Public Interpretation and History**

- No interpretive programming anticipated in next 5 years

**Archaeological Investigations**

- No archaeological work completed or anticipated in next 5 years

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POOLE/SENECA STORE AND HOUSE, 16401 OLD RIVER RD.

**Regional Park: Seneca Landing Special Park**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- House rehabilitated and leased
- Rehabilitation Design for store complete.
- Permitting and Construction of store anticipated in 2017 (to be completed in-house).

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Traveling Archaeological Exhibit to be completed 2017
- Interpretive Signage in place (4 signs)

**Archaeological Investigations**

- Archaeological Investigation Completed in Preservation Easement Boundary

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SENECA STONE BARN (FISHER BARN), WASCHE RD.

**Regional Park: Woodstock Equestrian Park**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- Restoration Completed

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Interpretive Signage in place

**Archaeological Investigations**

- No archaeological work completed or anticipated in next 5 years

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MEADOWBROOK REC CENTER, 7901 MEADOWBROOK LN.

**Regional Park: Meadowbrook Local Park**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- Window Rehabilitation Completed

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Interpretive Signage anticipated in next 5 years

**Archaeological Investigations**

- No archaeological work completed or anticipated in next 5 years

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NORBECK SCHOOL/REC CENTER, 4101 MUNCASTER MILL RD.

**Regional Park: Norbeck-Muncaster Mill Neighborhood Park**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- No funding for rehabilitation at present

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Interpretive Signage anticipated in next 5 years

**Archaeological Investigations**

- No archaeological work completed or anticipated in next 5 years

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VALLEY MILL HOUSE, 1600 EAST RANDOLPH RD.

**Regional Park: Valley Mill Special Park**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- 2017 major maintenance and repairs undertaken.
- Ready for Lease to tenant by End of 2017

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Interpretive Signage on mill history in place (4 signs)

**Archaeological Investigations**

- No archaeological work completed or anticipated in next 5 years

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MORSE WATER FILTRATION PLANT, 10700-701 COLUMBIA PIKE

**Regional Park: Burnt Mills East and West**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- No funding for rehabilitation at present

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Used for storage and movie set
- Interpretive Signage in place

**Archaeological Investigations**

- No archaeological work completed or anticipated in next 5 years

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BOYD-MAUGHLIN HOUSE, 15215 BARNESVILLE RD.

**Regional Park: Boyds Local Park**

**Project Rehabilitation**

- Major Repairs and leasing to tenant anticipated in 2018

**Public Interpretation and History**

- Four interpretive signs anticipated in 2018

**Archaeological Investigations**

- No archaeological work completed or anticipated in next 5 years

## Recommendations

The recommendations and priorities for cultural resources focus on public interpretation first and foremost, bringing the county's history and archaeological discoveries to life. In addition, they focus on prioritizing scarce resources for capital improvements on those properties that have the most visibility and significance in the inventory and on creating a searchable, analytical database of archaeological artifacts to better understand prehistoric to present-day culture. Recommendations are:

- Increase cultural resource programming at all types of parks, especially those near the most populated areas to include, but not be limited to family programs, living history events, music programs, cultural hikes, historic re-enactments, foodways, and crafts demonstrations. Consider additional mobile cultural programming that brings programs to the parks and schools.
- Create an international destination at Josiah Henson Park, celebrating the life of the Reverend Josiah Henson and a museum to slavery in Montgomery County, Maryland. This project involves the construction of a new visitor center and the rehabilitation of the historic Riley Bolten House. Funding is the top priority for both traditional and interactive exhibits, as the museum will not be complete without exhibits for interpretation. Grounds to feature archaeological exhibits, former plantation interpretations, and areas for public educational programming. Publish works on the historical research and archaeology tied to Josiah Henson Park.
- Continue to provide support to the efforts of the Montgomery Parks Foundation in its critical capital campaign for Josiah Henson exhibits and recommend and implement use of other non-County funding sources.
- Expand visitorship and educational programming at the Woodlawn Museum at Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park. Adopt Business Plan premises to make this facility a signature cultural attraction. Evaluate the added potential of event rentals at the site, in addition to historic-based programs.
- Transform the existing Agricultural History Farm Park into a regional attraction consistent with the Planning Board-approved 2005 vision, which would involve additional staff, live animal demonstrations, and expansion of the existing activity center (e.g., additional office space, interpretive displays, public meeting space, a large auditorium, and expansion of parking areas. Increase the focus on the preservation, restoration and adaptive reuse of those sites deemed the highest priority on the Cultural Resources Asset Inventory. Advocate for more funding in the Restoration of Historic Structures CIP to allow for better stabilization and preservation of endangered historic properties that rank on the Cultural Resources Asset Inventory.
- Work to ensure archaeological sites are protected and/or interpreted wherever possible. Populate the archaeological cataloguing database for analysis of archaeological inventory countywide. Use the internet-based features of this software to explore what archaeological sites looked like in the past through 3D modeling and storymapping.
- Continue to expand the ever-popular archaeology program and its interpretation through increased programming and permanent and traveling exhibits.
- Work with the Department of Planning to initiate an archaeological ordinance like the one enacted by M-NCPPC, Prince George's Department of Planning.

## Chapter 6 - Cultural Resources Stewardship

- Adhere to all Maryland laws and archaeological best practices in projects affecting historic cemeteries and cultural sites.
- Complete the rehabilitation of the Jesup Blair House to make it a facility for Montgomery College's Science program and a home for the Silver Spring Historical Society's Archives.
- Find an appropriate partner and tenant for the Brainard Warner House in Kensington.
- Re-open the restored Kensington Cabin to the public.
- Create a walking trail in Brookeville incorporating Oakley Cabin and the Newlin and Thomas Mills as a mitigation measure of the Brookeville Bypass.
- Continue to educate the public through the Department's historic interpretive signage program, developing educational signage at trailheads, along trails and at historic and cultural sites.
- Partner with local colleges and universities if opportunities arise to expand information and educational materials and opportunities for Montgomery Park's cultural resources.
- Continue to work with the Department's Program Access office to provide historical and archaeological programs and camps to an inclusive audience.
- Continue to work with the Department's ADA team to upgrade accessibility at historic sites, whenever possible and without compromising historic structures' character-defining features.
- Continue to develop educational, marketing and social media content to spark interest in educational programs and disseminate information to a broader and more diverse audience
- Develop specialized education programs to provide a Life Long Learning experience for Montgomery County citizens of all ages--from early education to seniors.
- Expand partnerships for educational programming with shared tours and large events such as Emancipation Day and Heritage Days. Partners include state, non-profit, and other local museums and park agencies such as Prince Georges Department of Parks and Recreation.

Chapter 7 - Agricultural Land Preservation



# CHAPTER 7: Agricultural Land Preservation

## Introduction

### PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO INVESTMENT IN LAND PRESERVATION

The foundation of Montgomery County's efforts to protect farmland and rural open spaces was the ... *on Wedges and Corridors: A General Plan for the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties (1964 General Plan)*. This plan envisioned a land-use pattern where intensive development was confined to a series of Corridor Cities located along major transportation arteries and separated by wedges of rural open space, low-density residential uses, and farmland. The *General Plan* intention was to protect large open spaces for farming, recreational opportunities, mineral extraction, and other natural resource activities, as well as to conserve and protect the public water supply.

In the 53 years since, Montgomery County has implemented its commitment to the protection of the Agricultural Wedge through a range of policies, plans, and regulations, working in concert with State easement programs and with private conservation initiatives.

In 1980, the Montgomery County Council approved, and the M-NCPPC adopted, the *Functional Master Plan for the Preservation of Agriculture and Rural Open Space*, which recognized the critical and accelerating loss of farmland and open space in the County. To address this loss, the Plan created an 110,000-acre Agricultural Reserve and a 26,000-acre Rural Open Space area, covering in total almost a third of the County (p. iv).

Since then, Montgomery County has protected 70,416 acres of farmland through easement programs and has acquired environmentally sensitive and culturally significant properties in the Agricultural Reserve, placing them into parkland. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council and the American Farmland Trust, these efforts have resulted in the most successful farmland and open space preservation program in the country. The County's diverse agricultural industry has 540 farms and 350 horticultural enterprises, which contributed \$288 million to the local economy in 2016. In combination, these protected agricultural lands and park areas are key components of local and regional agricultural, economic, cultural, and environmental functions.

Montgomery County's vision and commitment to agricultural land preservation and stewardship of the Agricultural Reserve continues. Since the *2012 PROS Plan*, the County has further exceeded its goal of preserving 70,000 acres of farmland by 2010; has implemented a new program, the Building Lot Termination (BLT) program, to further protect farmland; and has preserved environmentally sensitive and culturally significant properties through programs such as Legacy Open Space; Montgomery County's Agricultural Land Preservation Program was recently recertified through the State of Maryland, so additional details on the programs described here can be found in the *Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Certification Report, FY1980 – FY2014*.

In addition to the immediate production of food and fiber, agricultural land serves many important functions: protection of sensitive natural areas, biological diversity and ecosystem function; reduction of

## Chapter 7 - Agricultural Land Preservation

polluted runoff into local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay; provision of landscapes of great beauty, and open spaces and locales for unstructured recreational activities; and preservation of the County's agricultural heritage and cultural resources. Montgomery County is committed to encouraging the growth of farming through land preservation efforts, public policies and programs—thus building toward a future with the capacity to provide for the needs of future generations.

### ZONING AND REGULATION

Montgomery County has recognized population growth trends within its borders and taken action to conserve land for agriculture and open space, as detailed above. The *1969 General Plan Update* affirmed the *1964 General Plan* recommendations. In 1974, after extensive study by the Montgomery County Planning Board, the County Council approved a new Rural Zone to protect the wedge areas from increasing development pressure. This new zone imposed a five-acre minimum lot size on approximately one-third of the County. The Rural Zone was designed specifically to preserve farmland and further implement the recommendations of *the 1964 General Plan*.

In the following years, it became evident that the Rural Zone (in combination with the State Agricultural Assessment Program) was not sufficient to protect farmland. From 1975-1979, almost 11,000 acres of farmland were subdivided, primarily for dwellings. As a result, from 1976-1980, County Planning staff, the Montgomery County Planning Board, County Council, a Council-appointed Agricultural Task Force, and a cross-section of County residents wrestled with the problem of farmland and rural open space preservation.

To address the issue of the loss of farmland on the urban fringe, the *Functional Master Plan for the Preservation of Agriculture and Rural Open Space (AROS)* was adopted by the M-NCPPC and approved by the County Council in 1980. The AROS Plan initiated the creation and application of 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 a critical mass of farmland.

In return for this loss of development potential, the TDR system provides an economic return for farmland placed in the RDT Zone by allowing the owner of the farmland to sell development rights at a rate of one TDR per five acres. This is equivalent to the development density permitted under the 1974 Rural Zone before downzoning to the one dwelling unit per 25-acre density. The development rights may be used in specifically designated TDR receiving areas in parts of the County determined suitable for growth. When TDRs are sold for transfer to a receiving area, a perpetual easement is placed on the sending area restricting the use to agricultural or open space purposes.

Development rights are commodities that can be sold to developers and transferred to designated areas of the County where growth and development are desired. The private marketplace establishes the value of development rights, and the County is responsible for tracking the sale and transfer of rights



## Chapter 7 - Agricultural Land Preservation

through its records. The TDR system has the advantage of using the private sector to fund the protection of farmland.

In 1993, the County approved *A General Plan Refinement of the Goals and Objectives for Montgomery County*. The *1993 General Plan Refinement* updated the goals and objectives, outlined challenges, and provided a vision for the 21st century. The Refinement's vision for the agricultural wedge was addressed in three goal areas—Land Use, Economic Activity, and Community Identity and Design. The strategies relevant to agriculture are detailed below (see the *County Goals* section of this chapter).

In 2001, the County approved *The Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan* which conserves Montgomery County's most significant open spaces, including unprotected natural, historic, agricultural, and urban open spaces. The Plan includes recommendations for protection of Farmland and Rural Open Space Target Areas, Natural Resources Sites, Water Supply Protection Target Areas, and Heritage Sites in the Agricultural Reserve through acquisition or easement.

The newest land preservation tool is the Building Lot Termination Program (BLT), adopted into the zoning code in 2008, that provides enhanced compensation to landowners for extinguishing potential lots in the RDT zone. The BLT easement program is implemented through two components, a publicly funded initiative and a privately funded initiative similar to the TDR program. The BLT program is a critical tool to reduce development potential in the Agricultural Reserve below the 1 unit per 25 acres in the RDT zone and under TDR easements, to provide more complete protection of functioning agricultural lands in the County.

Farmers and landowners are crucial partners in efforts to preserve agricultural land. They are both participants in, and beneficiaries of, efforts to preserve agricultural land. Landowners can choose from a number of State and local preservation programs. Each of the programs places an easement on property designed to minimize non-agricultural development of the land.

### FUNCTIONAL, COMMUNITY AND PARK MASTER PLANS

The 1980 AROS Master Plan continues to be implemented through recommendations in a variety of planning documents. Detailed guidance to significant parts of the Agricultural Reserve is provided by several functional master plans that have been adopted since 1980. Most notable of these include the *1993 Functional Master Plan for the Patuxent River Watershed*, the *1996 Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan* and the *2001 Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan*. Designation in the *1979 Master Plan for Historic Preservation* (as amended) provides recognition for one historic road and for numerous farms and crossroads communities in the Reserve that form the foundation of today's working landscape.

Community master plans that describe land use recommendations outside of the Agricultural Reserve also support agricultural land preservation goals. The Transfer of Development Rights and Building Lot Termination programs require support in the forms of TDR receiving areas and the application of zones that encourage use of BLTs outside of the Agricultural Reserve. Since the *2012 PROS Plan*, no new TDR receiving areas have been added, but all new master plans during this time have increased areas with certain zones that encourage the use of BLTs to increase development density. Of the twelve master plans approved since 2012, two also require the use of BLTs for a portion of the incentive density in the CR zone (Wheaton CBD Sector Plan, January 2012, and White Oak Science Gateway, July 2014).

## Chapter 7 - Agricultural Land Preservation

Planning and operational documents for individual parks, including Park Master Plans and Park Operation & Use Plans, provide a variety of recommendations that support agriculture, rural open space, natural resources stewardship, and agricultural education. Examples include the Park Master Plans for the MOOseum and Woodstock Equestrian Special Park, plans that span both agriculture and parkland.

### PARKS DEPARTMENT SUPPORT OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESERVE

The Department of Parks plays several roles in the County's agricultural land preservation efforts, from acquiring and conserving lands with significant natural and cultural resources to supporting agricultural conservation both directly and indirectly. There are over 30 parks in the Agricultural Reserve, including three State and Federal parks that protect major waterways (Potomac River, Patuxent River, and Seneca Creek), two State Wildlife Management Areas, and a variety of M-NCPPC parks to meet the needs of the residents in the Agricultural Reserve and the rest of the County. The combination of undeveloped rural land and viewsheds, agricultural destination businesses, and these important public open spaces results in the Agricultural Reserve being a popular destination for residents of the County and the region. People visit these parks for hiking, biking, horseback riding, birding, fishing, and participating in historical, cultural and educational programs provided by Parks staff and volunteers

M-NCPPC manages twenty-seven parks within the Agricultural Reserve. Three large parks provide a combination of facilities and nature areas to provide for recreation opportunities within the Reserve: Little Bennett Regional Park includes a campground, day use area, historic interpretive sites, streams for fishing, and miles of trails through forested lands; Black Hill Regional Park includes picnic areas, playgrounds and volleyball courts, boating and fishing on Seneca Lake, and miles of trails that provide for a variety of recreational activities; and South Germantown Recreation Park provides a regionally-significant complex of recreation amenities and the 24-field SoccerPlex. These large regional and recreational parks provide a unique combination of amenities for active recreation along with large areas of natural resources and associated trails, and serve residents within the Reserve and across the County. In addition to these larger parks, six smaller local/neighborhood parks provide for the recreational needs of residents of the Reserve, including ballfields, playgrounds, and other local park amenities.

The Parks Department supports the conservation of rural open space and agricultural lands through eight Conservation Parks and five Stream Valley Parks located across the Agricultural Reserve. These conservation-oriented parks provide protection to several of the most ecologically significant natural areas in the County, and also includes many acres of farm fields. These farm fields are often placed into agricultural leases with local farmers to provide active management of the land, support the agricultural economy, and to preserve rural open space and viewsheds. Acquisition of new conservation-oriented parkland can also result in the preservation of agricultural land by removing remaining development rights from land, thus reducing development pressure that affects the overall viability of the Reserve. The combination of farm fields, forests and stream valleys in these parks plays an important role in maintaining biological diversity of plant and animal communities in the County, as well as providing unique opportunities for natural resource-based recreation and education in the Reserve.

Five Special Parks directly support the many purposes of the Agricultural Reserve. The 873-acre Woodstock Equestrian Park includes 16 miles of equestrian and hiking trails and associated amenities to meet the recreational needs of the equestrian community that is concentrated in the Agricultural

Reserve. The 100-acre Rickman Farm Horse Park has a therapeutic riding program that serves to help clients through engagement with horses. The 455-acre Agricultural History Farm Park with an operating early 20th-century farm (located outside the Reserve) provides significant educational opportunities about the role of agriculture in the County's development and its continuing importance in our urbanizing society. The 103-acre Sugarland Special Park primarily serves as rural open land that is under active farming use in the Agricultural Lease program. Finally, the Darby Store Historic/Cultural Park includes a refurbished country store that currently houses an agriculture-related business. This Park provides protection for the rural historic character of the Agricultural Reserve, educational opportunities about the history of agriculture and commerce in the County, and a facility for a functioning business that can support the agricultural economy.

## Goals

### STATE GOALS

Maryland's small size and large population place unremitting development pressure on agricultural and natural resource land. Initially radiating from the metropolitan core of the Baltimore–Washington area, this pressure has now extended over almost the entire state to varying degrees, challenging the ability to achieve the following State goals for agriculture:

- Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting a diversity of agricultural production.
- Protect natural, forestry, and historic resources and the rural character of the landscape associated with Maryland's farmland.
- To the greatest degree possible, concentrate preserved land in large, relatively contiguous blocks to effectively support long-term protection of resources and resource-based industries.
- Limit the intrusion of development and its impacts on rural resources and resource-based industries.
- Ensure good return on public investment by concentrating State agricultural land preservation funds in areas where the investment is reasonably well supported by both local investment and land use management programs.
- Work with local governments to achieve the following:
  - Establish preservation areas, goals and strategies through local comprehensive planning processes that address and complement State goals;
  - In each area designated for preservation, develop a shared understanding of goals and the strategy to achieve them among rural landowners, the public at large, and State and local government officials;
  - Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by ensuring sufficient public commitment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs;

## Chapter 7 - Agricultural Land Preservation

- Use local land use management authority effectively to protect public investment in preservation by managing development in rural preservation areas; and
- Establish effective measures to support profitable agriculture, including assistance in production, marketing, and the practice of stewardship, so that farming remains a desirable way of life for both the farmer and the public-at-large.

### COUNTY GOALS

Montgomery County Goals for agriculture are consistent with these State of Maryland goals. County goals are articulated in three sections of the *1993 General Plan Refinement*:

#### Land Use

**Objective #4:** Preserve farmland and rural open space in the Agricultural Wedge

- A. Strengthen land use policies that encourage farmland preservation and rural open space preservation in the Agricultural Wedge.
- B. Strengthen incentives and regulations to encourage agricultural use and discourage development within the Agricultural Wedge.
- C. Limit non-agricultural uses to those that are low intensity or otherwise identified in master plans.
- D. Continue the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program as well as the County and State farm easement programs as important elements of preserving farmland.
- E. Continue the function of existing rural centers as the focus of activity for the surrounding countryside.
- F. Ensure that rural centers primarily serve rural lifestyles and are compatible in size and scale with the intent of the Agricultural Wedge.
- G. Continue agriculture as the preferred use in the Agricultural Wedge.

#### Economic Activity

**Objective #2:** Retain and enhance existing businesses consistent with master plans.

- C. Foster the agricultural industry, particularly activities in the Agricultural Wedge.

**Objective #5:** Foster a stable and competitive business climate through appropriate land use decisions

- D. Coordinate land use decisions with the County's management of resources to facilitate economic vitality and quality of life.

**Community Identity and Design**

**Objective #3:** Identify and preserve significant historic, scenic, and cultural features and promote art in public areas

**Implementation**

Montgomery County has access to a large “toolbox” of programs to preserve agricultural land, each described in this section. The County’s Office of Agriculture is the lead agency in implementing the State and County easement programs to support the agricultural economy in the County, while the M-NCPPC implements the Legacy Open Space program and other policies/programs to support preservation and stewardship. The chart below provides a summary of protected acreage for each of the primary easement programs. A detailed inventory of protected acreage is being submitted to the State electronically as part of this Plan’s submission. See *Figure 28* for a map of the protected acreage.

Program	Begun	ACRES PRESERVED		
		Through FY2004*	FY2005 to FY2016*	Total through FY2016*
Maryland Environmental Trust (MET)	1967	2,086	0	2,086
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)	1977	3,322	1,424	4,746
Maryland Rural Legacy Program (RLP) in Montgomery County	1997	3,904	971	4,875
Montgomery County Transferable Development Rights Program (TDR)	1980	45,042	7,111	52,153
Montgomery County Agricultural Easement Program (AEP)	1987	6,678	1,897	8,575
Montgomery County Building Lot Termination Program (BLT) – Public	2008	na	1,359	1,359
Montgomery County Building Lot Termination Program (BLT) – Private	2008	na	273	273

\* Fiscal year (FY) is July 1 through June 30

*Information from Montgomery County Office of Agriculture.*

*Figure 27 - Total Acreage in Preservation per Program*

Chapter 7 - Agricultural Land Preservation

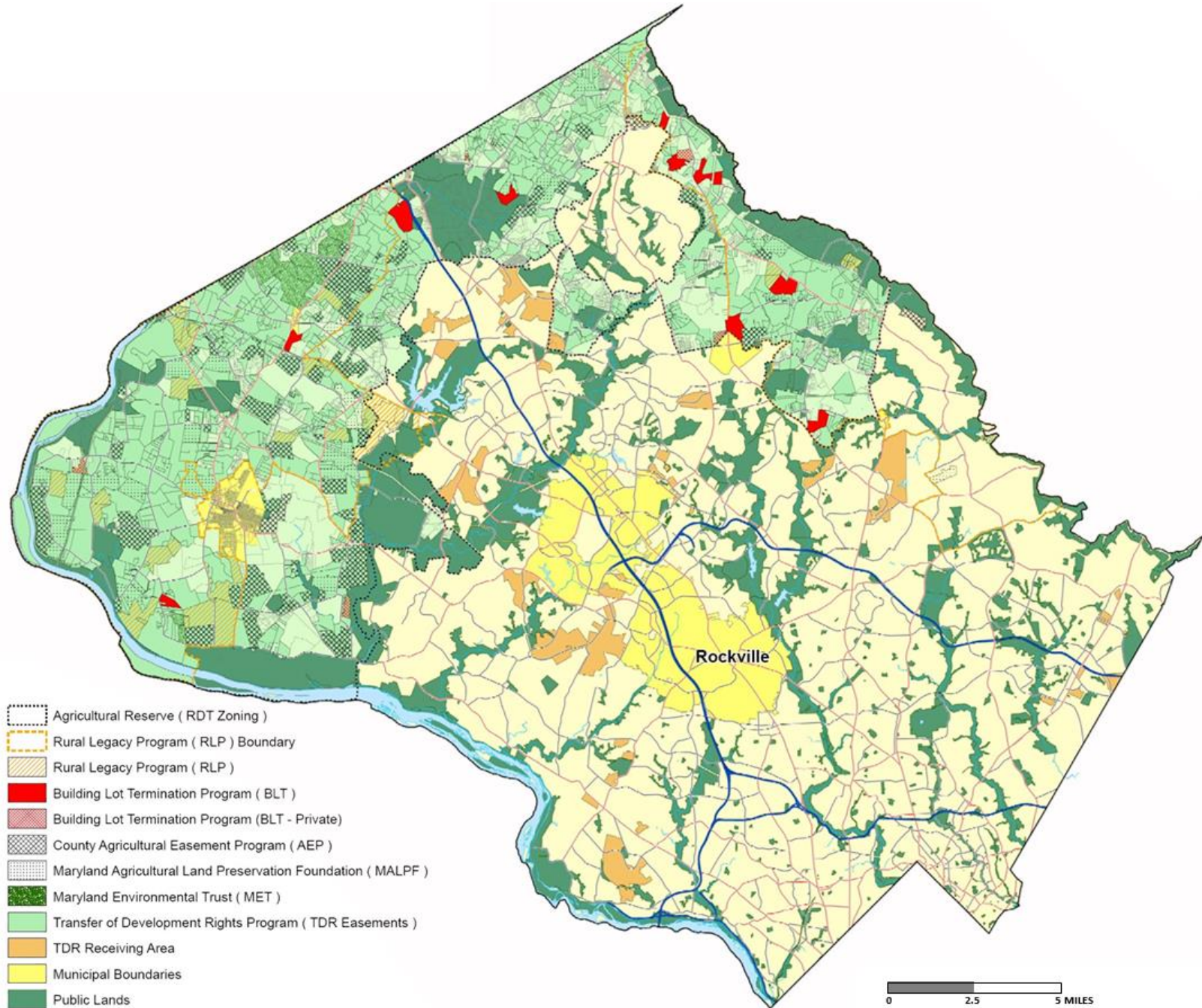


Figure 28- Agricultural Preservation Map

### STATE PROGRAMS

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#### THE MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST (MET)

This program was established by the Maryland State Legislature in 1967 to encourage landowners to donate easements to protect scenic open areas, including farm and forest land, wildlife habitat, waterfront, unique or rare areas and historic sites. MET accepts both donated and purchased easements. In the donated easement program, the landowners are eligible for certain income, estate, gift and property tax benefits in return for limiting the right to develop and subdivide their land, now and in the future. Through this program, 2,086 acres were preserved through FY2016.

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#### MARYLAND AGRICULTURE LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION (MALPF)

This program was established in 1977 by the State Legislature as a result of concern over decreasing farmland acreage caused by development. The program is implemented through the Maryland Department of Agriculture, in partnership with local government. The MALPF purchases agricultural land preservation easements directly from landowners for cash. Following the sale of the easement, agricultural uses of the property are encouraged to continue. Through FY2016, 4,746 acres were preserved under this program.

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#### RURAL LEGACY PROGRAM (RLP) IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Passed by the Maryland General Assembly in May of 1997 as part of the Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation Act, the Rural Legacy Program encourages local governments and private land trusts to identify Rural Legacy areas and to competitively apply for funds to complement existing land conservation efforts or create new programs. This State program provides grants to Counties or other sponsors for preserving areas rich in agricultural, forestry, natural and cultural resources. The intent is to promote a resource-based economy, protect greenbelts and greenways and maintain the fabric of rural life. Grants can be directed to either purchase sensitive lands in fee or to acquire protection through conservation easements. In the spirit of maximizing both State and local funds, Montgomery County has been successful in its Rural Legacy applications by leveraging State/local funds to target significant agricultural resources through the conservation easement acquisition process. Since the first grants were awarded during the FY1998-1999 grant cycle, Montgomery County has been awarded a total of \$19.3 million in State Grant Funds; through FY2016, 4,875 acres have been protected by this program. As with the County's AEP program, TDRs created through the easement acquisition process are held jointly by the State/County and represent an asset and potential source of future revenue for the program. Through FY2014, the State/County has acquired 351 TDRs through this program.

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### COUNTY PROGRAMS

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#### TRANSFERABLE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS PROGRAM (TDR)

The Montgomery County TDR Program was established in 1980 as part of the *Preservation of Agriculture and Rural Open Space Functional Master Plan*. The TDR program allows landowners to transfer a development right from one parcel of land to another parcel. For agricultural land preservation, TDRs are used to shift development from agricultural areas ("TDR sending areas") to designated growth zones or ("TDR receiving areas") which are closer to public services and far removed from the "sending area". When rights are transferred from a parcel within the designated "TDR sending area," the land is

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restricted by a permanent TDR easement. The TDR program represents the private sector's investment in land preservation, as the price paid for TDRs is negotiated between a landowner and a developer. A developer who purchases TDRs is permitted to build at a higher density than permitted by the "base zoning." The funds paid for a TDR by the developer to a landowner creates a wealth transfer from the developed areas back into the rural economy.

Montgomery County has been recognized as having one of the most successful TDR programs in the nation, with 52,153 acres of agricultural land preserved by TDRs through FY2016. The following chart shows how the price of TDRs has varied over time with changes in the supply and demand.

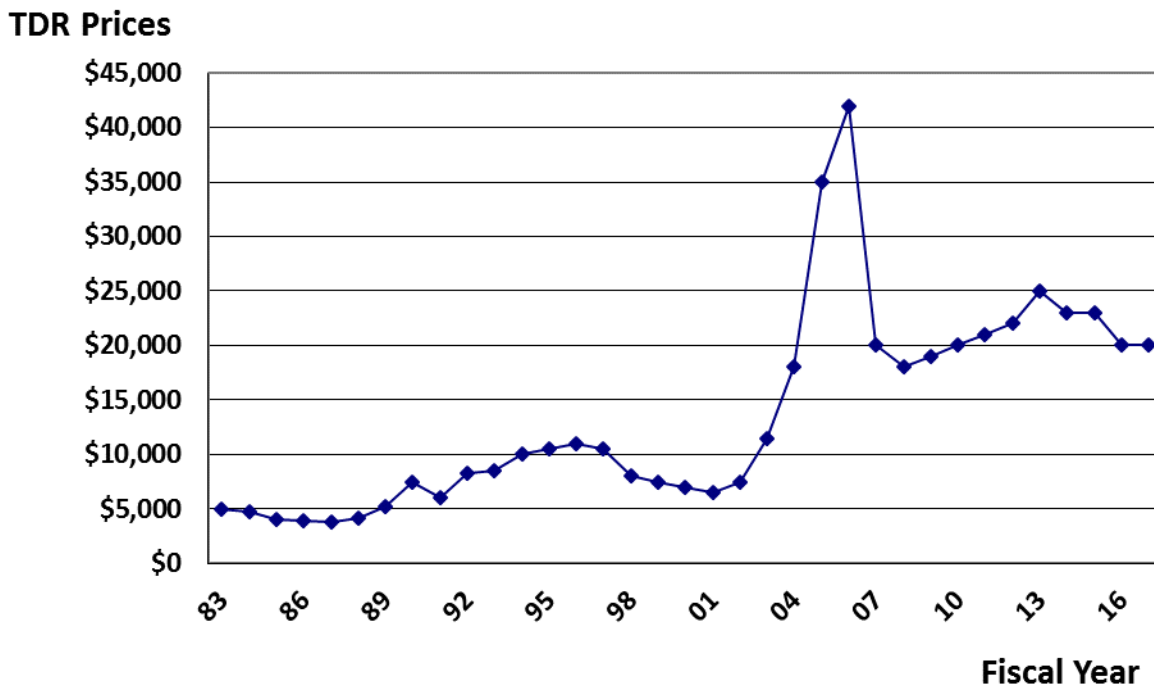


Figure 29 – Average Price of Transferable Development Rights (TDRs), 1983 – 2016

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PROGRAM (AEP)

Established in 1987, this program gives the County the ability to purchase agricultural land preservation easements to preserve land for agricultural production. Lands eligible for participation in this program must be zoned Rural, Rural Cluster, or Rural Density Transfer, or subject to land being designated as an approved State or County Agricultural Preservation District. The program was created to increase both the level of voluntary participation in farmland preservation programs and to expand the eligibility of farmland parcels. Through FY2016, 8,575 acres were preserved under this program. The following graphic shows the AEP prices by fiscal year through FY2015.



**Price Per Acre**

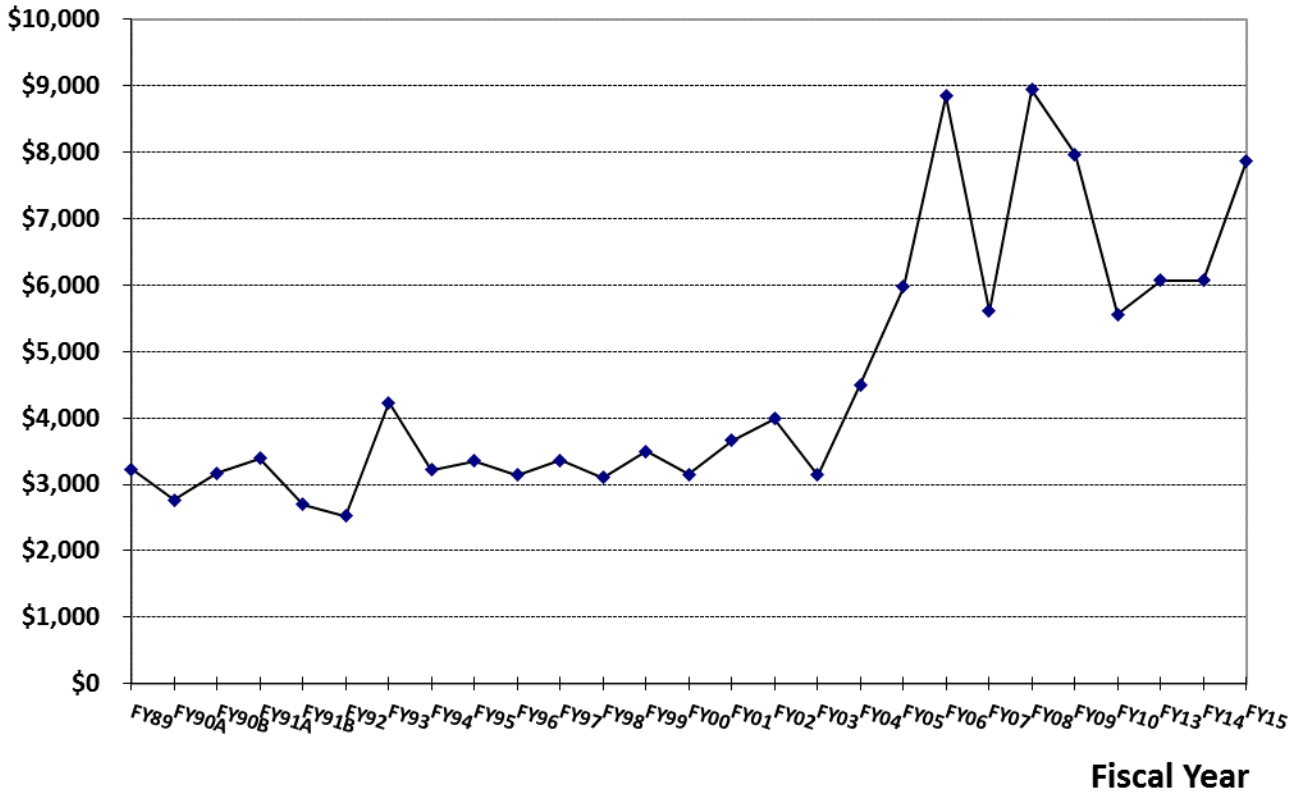


Figure 30 - Agricultural Easement Program(AEP) Easement Prices through FY15

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BUILDING LOT TERMINATION (BLT) PROGRAM**

The Montgomery County BLT program was established in 2008 with the first BLT easements purchased in 2011. The primary purpose of a BLT easement is to preserve agricultural land by reducing fragmentation of farmland due to residential development. A BLT easement restricts residential, commercial, industrial, and other non-agricultural uses beyond the level of protection that a TDR easement provides. A key feature of the BLT easement is an enhanced level of compensation to landowners who demonstrate that property has the capacity for residential development and who agree to permanently retire an approved on-site waste disposal system associated with the lot to be terminated.

This program has two phases. The initial program comprises a publicly funded program governed under County Law (Chapter 2B of the Montgomery County Code) and corresponding Executive Regulation 3-09AM. The seed money for the public Building Lot Termination (BLT) program was provided by the Parks Department acquisition funds (\$5 Million from the ALARF account). Over time, the publicly funded BLT program is intended to act like a revolving fund with developers paying for a portion of their BLT requirements and those funds being used to acquire additional BLTs. Since a development project may need to purchase a fraction of a BLT as a condition of their development plan, it will contribute funds to

## Chapter 7 - Agricultural Land Preservation

the public BLT program in proportion to the partial BLT required. To date, five partial BLT transactions have paid for 3.7 BLTs with contributions totaling \$824,079.

The second phase involves a privately funded initiative whereby the development community purchases whole BLT's directly from RDT zoned landowners. This privately funded initiative functions in a similar fashion as the County's highly successful Transfer of Development Rights Program (TDR). BLTs are one method that a developer may use for acquiring additional density for projects in the CR family of zones, and public benefit point structures in those zones incentivize the use of BLTs for that extra density. For example, if a developer seeks approval of a project that includes a plan to purchase 3.6 BLTs, typically they will purchase 3 whole BLTs from landowners and contribute funds equivalent to the value of 0.6 BLTs to the public program.

To date, the publicly funded BLT program has preserved over 1,180 acres of land and removed 30 potential development lots from the Agricultural Reserve, and the privately funded BLT program has preserved over 270 acres of land and removed 13 potential development lots. As more developments proceed in the coming decade in the more dense areas of the County that are zoned to encourage acquisition of BLTs, the BLT program is expected to accelerate in its ability to preserve farmland from future development and fragmentation.

### M-NCPPC PROGRAMS

The M-NCPPC has worked for many decades to support the preservation and stewardship of agricultural and rural lands in Montgomery County. Since spearheading the creation of *the Agricultural and Rural Open Space Functional Master Plan* in 1980, the Planning and Parks Departments in Montgomery County have worked to preserve farmland through a variety of policies and programs and expended significant effort and funds to implement those programs. The Commission's programs complement the extensive efforts to protect the Agricultural Reserve that have been completed since 1980 through the easement programs as implemented by the County's Office of Agriculture.

Within the Commission, each Department has a role in preserving agricultural land. The Planning Department plays a critical role in maintaining large areas for agriculture and preservation of natural resources via their review of subdivision requests in the Agricultural Reserve. The Parks Department further works to preserve agricultural and rural lands by preserving targeted lands of significance within the Agricultural Reserve as parkland, providing public access for recreation, and agricultural and natural resource education on some of the most exceptional lands in the County, as described elsewhere in this Plan. Two key Parks programs are described here.

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#### LEGACY OPEN SPACE PROGRAM (LOS)

The *Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan (LOS FMP)* was approved by the Montgomery County Council in 2001. The LOS FMP includes one category of open space that is focused on preservation of Farmland and Rural Open Space. The functional plan recommended that the Legacy Open Space program and funding should support the agricultural preservation programs in several ways, primarily through supporting the AEP program and purchasing easements on exceptional programs directly. The LOS FMP also states a goal of reducing development potential on priority rural land to no more than 1 unit per 50 acres. During 15 years of implementation efforts, the LOS program has supported the goals of farmland preservation through the tools that are most appropriate for the Parks Department, primarily the use of in-fee land acquisition instead of easement acquisition.

## Chapter 7 - Agricultural Land Preservation

The Legacy Open Space program protects and stewards the Agricultural Reserve through two main avenues. First, when a high priority natural resource site is acquired as conservation parkland, further residential development is excluded from that property, thus reducing the number of potential rooftops in the Agricultural Reserve as a whole. This result is comparable to the preservation achieved by placing BLTs or other development restrictive easements on privately owned land. By reducing new development in the Reserve, the potential of the Reserve to remain a functioning economic agricultural area is supported. In addition to supporting farmland and rural open space through these acquisitions, other goals achieved include protection of sensitive natural resources, water supply areas, heritage resources, and the provision of trails and natural-resource recreation. To date, the Legacy Open Space program has resulted in the addition of approximately 1975 acres of rural and agricultural lands to the park system in the Reserve.

Second, above the preservation and stewardship of rural land purchased for parkland, those acquisitions can result in the complete protection of many additional acres of farmland that remain in active agriculture in private ownership. To achieve multiple goals for the Legacy Open Space program, agricultural preservation and Parks overall, partial acquisitions are often pursued that remove development rights from the land remaining in private ownership below the level of 1 unit per 25 acres. For instance, the portion of a farm that consists of high quality forest and natural resources that adjoins existing conservation parkland and that provides opportunities to make trail connections between public lands may be acquired in-fee as parkland. To meet farmland preservation goals, additional development rights can be purchased during that transaction that limit the development potential on the farmland remaining in private ownership. To date, LOS purchases of 1975 acres of parkland have resulted in over 300 acres of farmland and rural land remaining in private ownership but protected from further development that could damage future agricultural use.

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### AGRICULTURAL LEASE PROGRAM

Another Parks Department effort to support agricultural is our Agricultural Lease Program. Many acres within the Park system are actively farmed under lease agreements with local farmers, contributing to the provision of adequate land for farming and the overall agricultural economy. Currently, the Parks Department manages 16 agricultural leases totaling 1069 acres of active fields.

## FUNDING SOURCES

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### AGRICULTURAL TRANSFER TAX

State Agricultural Transfer Taxes are collected when farmland is sold and converted to uses other than agriculture. The agricultural transfer tax assessed on real property is five percent of the consideration paid. Montgomery County's agricultural preservation program is certified by the State, and is therefore able to retain 75 percent of the agricultural transfer taxes collected to fund the agricultural preservation program. A total of \$30,983,365 from FY1990 through FY2014 was retained by the County for agricultural land preservation.

The County Office of Agriculture estimates that only about 4,000 acres of farmland exist in the County that could be developed and trigger the collection of agricultural transfer taxes (i.e., land outside of the Agricultural Reserve in agricultural use with a preferential agricultural tax rate). Montgomery County is running out of farmland to develop, thus creating a funding dilemma for the preservation program:

## Chapter 7 - Agricultural Land Preservation

Montgomery County will have fewer farm conversions that generate agricultural transfer taxes to fund future easement acquisitions.

As the primary funding source for farmland preservation easements in Montgomery County, the significant decline in Ag Transfer Tax revenue over the past decade has resulted in a severe shortage of funds for farmland preservation easement programs. The chart below illustrates the steady downward trend of these revenues, a trend that is expected to continue.

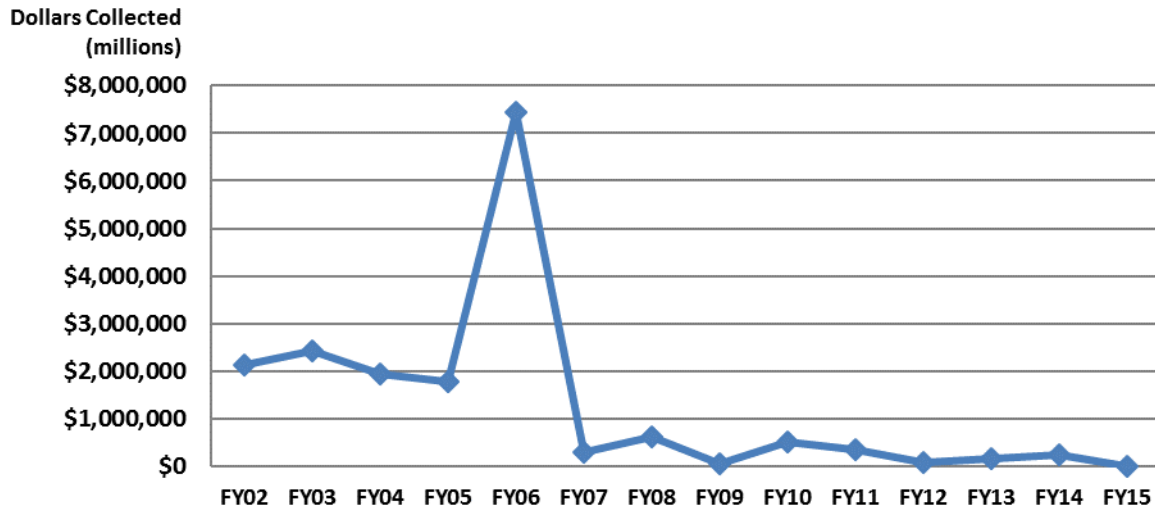


Figure 31 - Trend of Agricultural Transfer Tax Collections in Montgomery County, FY02-FY15

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### INVESTMENT INCOME

Agricultural Transfer Taxes retained by Montgomery County are placed in an interest-bearing account. Beginning in FY1994, the income generated by the interest was invested back into the agricultural land preservation program. As of FY2014, a total of \$4,578,529 of interest had accrued. Investment income was used to fund preservation initiatives, agricultural economic development initiatives and staffing costs.

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### GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

One alternative for funding farmland preservation in Montgomery County is through the use of General Obligation (or G.O.) Bonds. G.O. bonds are backed by the full faith, credit and taxing power of the issuing jurisdiction. Because these types of bonds require debt servicing for repayment, the County has adopted a policy to limit their use for farmland preservation. This policy dictates that G.O. Bonds can only be used when the reserves of cash are significantly depleted. Declining collections of Agricultural Transfer Taxes in recent years necessitated an infusion of \$2 Million in G.O. Bonds in one year, but no additional G.O. Bonds are currently appropriated for farmland preservation.

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STATE GRANTS

Beginning in 1997, the State's Rural Legacy Program was enacted as part of the Governor's Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation initiative to protect natural resources. Through this program, a grants program was established by which local governments and local land trusts could compete for State funds. These funds could be directed to either purchase sensitive lands in fee or acquire protection through conservation easements. Since the first grants were awarded during the FY1998-1999 grant cycle, Montgomery County has been awarded a total of \$19.3 million in State Grant Funds.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BLT PROGRAM

As described above, a developer seeking to build an optional method development in the Commercial-Residential (CR) family of zones is incentivized to purchase BLTs to meet their project's density requirements. Purchase of partial BLTs from the public part of the BLT program helps return money to the easement acquisition fund that can then be used to purchase additional BLTs from interested landowners. Again, as more developments proceed in the coming decade in areas of the County under the CR family of zones, the BLT program is expected to accelerate and provide more funding to the public BLT program.

## Progress Towards Goals

The Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve is now 32 years old, and it comprises about a third of the County. Farming continues to be a viable industry, and the overall policy goal is to ensure the next generation will be the beneficiaries of productive farmland and open space.

Montgomery County established and met our original Phase I goal of protecting 70,000 acres of farmland: by the end of FY2016, Montgomery County had protected 70,416 acres of farmland through the many preservation programs offered to farmers. The Phase I goal involved protecting agricultural lands under easement with a maximum development potential of 1 residential unit per 25 acres using a variety of easement programs. The County is now moving forward with implementing a Phase II goal for ag land preservation. The Phase II goal is to protect the Agricultural Reserve with a more complete level of farmland protection that further limits residential development and other potential uses that would interfere with the agricultural use of the land in perpetuity.

LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM	YEARS	ACRES UNDER PRESERVATION
TDR Easements without Enhanced Preservation	1980 - 2008	48402
TDR Easements Plus Enhanced Preservation	2009 - 2016	3751
PDR Programs Cumulative (BLT, AEP, MALPF, MET, and RLP)	1980 - 2016	22014
<b>Total Acres of Ag Land Preservation</b>		<b>70,416</b>

*Figure 32 - Land Preservation Program Acreage Under Preservation chart*

As described throughout this chapter, progress towards protecting additional farmland and adding extra layers of protection over already protected land continues despite the challenging fiscal environment over the past decade. The County Office of Agriculture and the Parks and Planning Departments of the Commission have worked on complementary aspects of the effort to preserve a functioning Agricultural Reserve.

### Recommendations

The success of farmland preservation programs depends on several factors including the local economy, the local real estate market, and available funding for preservation programs. Having the appropriate preservation tools in place at the time that landowners are interested in participating is a critical challenge to land preservation programs. To continue a successful farmland preservation program, many tools will have to be explored, including innovative program changes, policy and regulatory changes, and alternative funding sources. Several future action items have been identified in the most recent *Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Certification Report* (FY1980 – FY2014) and two are highlighted here as critical for moving forward with farmland preservation over the next 5 years.

First, alternative funding sources need to be explored to continue to fund agricultural easement programs. As described above, State Agricultural Transfer Tax revenue is a steadily declining resource and is not sustainable. The County needs to evaluate alternative public funding mechanisms and consider additional tools to incentivize private sector purchase of easements.

Second, the County intends to create a New Farmer Project to help address the challenges that inhibit small, sustainable-practice farmers and horticulturalists from starting new agricultural businesses. The New Farmer Project is designed to provide mentoring and specialized business training, as do many traditional incubator projects. To speed the start-up process from idea to functioning farm, this program is designed to match new farmers with private land owners to create their new business in a permanent location with a long-term lease. This model is intended to make new farm start-ups more feasible by skipping the need to learn on a designated incubator site before relocating their enterprise to a more permanent location. The New Farmer Project is meant to encourage new and innovative forms of agriculture that can help to keep the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve up to speed with the changing farm economy.

## APPENDICES

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	PAGE
APPENDIX 1 - 1993 General Plan Refinement	A1.1
APPENDIX 2 - Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY17-22	A2.1
APPENDIX 3 - Land Acquisition Needs to 2030 and Beyond	A3.1
APPENDIX 4 – M-NCPPC Parkland and facility inventory	A4.1
APPENDIX 5 - Development Priorities	A5.1
APPENDIX 6 - Vision 2030 Parks and Recreation Amenity Analysis Chart	A6.1
APPENDIX 7 - Total Population Projected By Planning Area	A7.1
APPENDIX 8 - Non M-NCPPC Parks and Open Space In Montgomery County	A8.1
APPENDIX 9 - Natural Resource Maps and GIS Data List of Deliverables	A9.1
APPENDIX 10 - Glossary of Definitions, Terms and Acronyms	A10.1
APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report	A11.1
APPENDIX 12 - Segment Analysis Report	A12.1

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## APPENDICES



## APPENDIX 1 - 1993 GENERAL PLAN REFINEMENT

### Refinement of the Goals and Objectives for Montgomery County

*The General Plan* proposed concentrating development in corridors allowing much of remaining wedges to be preserved for agriculture and open space. This smart growth policy allows more efficient placement of parks and other public services as shown in the strategies below.

The following Park and Recreation objectives and strategies are included in the Land Use, Environmental, and Identity elements of the *1993 General Plan Refinement - Goals and Objectives for Montgomery County*. Only those sections relating to parks have been excerpted. They are compatible with the policy for parks as well as guidelines and objectives for parkland acquisition and development.

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#### LAND USE OBJECTIVES RELATING TO PARKLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

**Objective:** Provide a coordinated and comprehensive system of parks, recreation, and open space.

**Strategies:**

- Give priority to open space, park, and recreation investments in areas with the greatest existing or proposed residential density and in areas with important environmental features.
- Use open space, parks, and recreation facilities to shape and enhance the development and identity of individual neighborhoods, cluster developments, and existing communities.
- Integrate open space, parks, and recreational facilities into urbanized areas to promote public activity and community identity.
- Plan for and encourage the provision of greenways to connect urban and rural open spaces to provide access to parkland, and to connect major stream valley park areas.

**Objective:** Preserve farmland and rural open space in the Agricultural Wedge.

**Strategies:**

- Strengthen land use policies that encourage farmland preservation and rural open space preservation in the Agricultural Wedge.
- Strengthen incentives and regulations to encourage agricultural uses and discourage development within the Agricultural Wedge.
- Limit non-agricultural uses to those that are low intensity or otherwise identified in master plans.
- Continue the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program as well as the County and State farm easement programs as important elements of preserving farmland.
- Continue the function of existing rural centers as the focus of activity for the surrounding countryside.
- Ensure that rural centers primarily serve rural lifestyles and are compatible in size and scale with the intent of the Agricultural Wedge.
- Continue agriculture as the preferred use in the Agricultural Wedge.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL OBJECTIVES RELATING TO PARKLAND

**Goal:** Conserve and protect natural resources to provide a healthy and beautiful environment for present and future generations. Manage the impacts of human activity on our natural resources in a balanced manner to sustain human, plant, and animal life.

**Objective:** Preserve natural areas and features that are ecologically unusual, environmentally sensitive, or possess outstanding natural beauty.

**Strategies:**

- Protect natural resources through identification, public acquisition, conservation easements, public education, citizen involvement, and private conservation efforts.
- Connect parks and conservation areas to form an open space and conservation-oriented greenway system.
- Require open space dedications in new subdivisions that maximize protection of stream valleys and other sensitive environmental features.
- Ensure that development guidelines are reviewed periodically to make certain that they are environmentally sensitive and reflect current technologies and knowledge of the environment.
- Limit construction on soils and slopes not suited for development.

**Objective:** Conserve county waterways, wetlands, and sensitive parts of stream valleys to minimize flooding, pollution, sedimentation, and damage to the ecology and to preserve natural beauty and open space.

**Strategies:**

- Identify and protect wetlands and other sensitive parts of watersheds.
- Continue parkland acquisition in key stream valleys.
- Limit the potential damage to life and property from flooding.
- Prohibit development too close to streams, in the 100-year ultimate floodplain, and in flooding danger reach areas of dams, unless no feasible alternative is available.
- Maintain the natural character of drainage areas in the immediate vicinity of streams, rivers, and lakes.
- Plant and retain trees and other vegetation near streams.
- Minimize impacts from construction and operation of public and private facilities located in stream valleys, buffers, and floodplains; first priority should be given to preserving natural areas (avoidance), second priority to mitigation, and third priority to replacement with functional equivalents.
- Develop programs to rehabilitate damaged streams.
- Mandate "no net loss" of wetlands.

## APPENDIX 1 - 1993 General Plan

**Objective:** Identify and preserve significant historic, scenic, and cultural features and promote art in public areas.

**Strategies:**

- Evaluate historic resources for inclusion in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.
- Preserve appropriate sites with their environmental settings and districts that are:
  - Representative of a period or style
  - Architecturally important
  - Locations of important events or activities
  - Associated with important persons
  - Archeological sites
  - Cultural landmarks, or
  - Historic or cultural value.
- Protect historic sites permanently.
- Encourage the preservation, restoration, and use of historic sites and community landmarks to foster community identity.
- Use financial incentives to minimize the impacts of maintaining and restoring historic properties.
- Promote art and cultural opportunities at appropriate public and private locations.
- Encourage compatible development that highlights and enhances historic resources in development or redevelopment near historic resources and in and around historic districts.

## APPENDIX 1 - 1993 General Plan

APPENDIX 2 - Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY17-22

APPENDIX 2 - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (CIP) FY17-22

The most recent CIP was approved by the Montgomery County Council on March 26, 2016.

PDF #	PDF Name	Park Name	Project Detail	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
957775	Facility Planning LP	ACORN URBAN PARK	New Method: Design for renovation of park	X					
8720	Ballfields	ARGYLE LOCAL PARK	Fencing Replacement		X				
8720	Ballfields	ARORA HILLS LOCAL PARK	Infield Renovation		X				
128701	ADA LP	AVENEL LOCAL PARK	parking					X	
118701	Battery Lane	BATTERY LANE URBAN PARK	Battery Lane Construction		X	X			
118701	Battery Lane	BATTERY LANE URBAN PARK	Battery Lane Design	X	X	X			
78701	Pollution Prevention	BEACH DRIVE PARKWAY	Beach Drive Culvert Retrofits near Meadowbrook	X					
998773	Enterprise	BLACK HILL BOAT RENTAL AREA	Design build	X					
128702	ADA NL	BLACK HILL REGIONAL PARK	Shelters, access						X
128702	ADA NL	BLACK HILL REGIONAL PARK	Parking, dog park, rest rooms						X
128702	ADA NL	BLACK HILL REGIONAL PARK	Parking, EAR, to Shelters					X	
128702	ADA NL	BLACK HILL REGIONAL PARK	Parking, trails, amenity access					X	
998763	Minor New Construction NL	BLACK HILL REGIONAL PARK	SEED Classroom in Black Hill Regional Park (was: Design and construct Yurt, prefab restroom, landscape & civil for a 1/2-acre site, incl. grading, site utilities and SWM.)	X	X	X			
8720	Ballfields	BLAIR LOCAL PARK	The current condition of the irrigation system is outdated and needs to be upgraded so we can irrigate the fields properly.			X			
8720	Ballfields	BLUEBERRY HILL LOCAL PARK	Turf Renovation	X					
128702	ADA NL	BROOKSIDE GARDENS	Parking, access at Conservancy				X	X	
128702	ADA NL	BROOKSIDE GARDENS	Access Improvements				X		
128702	ADA NL	BROOKSIDE GARDENS	New/rev. walkway connection between Pine Lake trail and Gude Gardens		X				
78702	Brookside Master Plan Implementation	BROOKSIDE GARDENS	ADA Renovations to Gude Gardens (accessible bridge to tea house) - Design				X		
78702	Brookside Master Plan Implementation	BROOKSIDE GARDENS	PHASES VI & VII - Propagation & Maintenance Area B (Service Hill and Overflow Parking) - Facility Planning				X	X	
78702	Brookside Master Plan Implementation	BROOKSIDE GARDENS	ADA Renovations to Formal Gardens - Construction		X				
78702	Brookside Master Plan Implementation	BROOKSIDE GARDENS	PHASES IX, X & XIII - Tent Site, North Service Drive, Visitors Center and Conservatory POR and Visitors Center Gardens - Facility Planning		X	X			
78702	Brookside Master Plan Implementation	BROOKSIDE GARDENS	Upgrade Visitor Center Exhibits/Wayfinding Signage - Construction		X	X			
78702	Brookside Master Plan Implementation	BROOKSIDE GARDENS	PHASE III - Stream Bank Stabilization - Design		X				
78702	Brookside Master Plan Implementation	BROOKSIDE GARDENS	ADA Renovations to Gude Gardens (accessible bridge to tea house) - Construction					X	
78702	Brookside Master Plan Implementation	BROOKSIDE GARDENS	PHASE V - Propagation & Maintenance Area A - Construction	X					

## APPENDIX 2 - Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY17-22

PDF #	PDF Name	Park Name	Project Detail	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
78702	Brookside Master Plan Implementation	BROOKSIDE GARDENS	PHASES I & II - Glenallan Ave. Entry & Parking Lot Expansion - Construction	X					
128702	ADA NL	BROOKSIDE NATURE CENTER PROPERTY	Replacement of front ramps, steps	X					
958776	Facility Planning NL	BROOKSIDE NATURE CENTER PROPERTY	Interior design for interior auditorium renovations to be done by Facility Management	X					
8720	Ballfields	BUCK BRANCH NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	Turf Renovation	X					
8720	Ballfields	CABIN JOHN ATHLETIC AREA	Athletic field # 3 currently does not have irrigation. The fields brown out in the summer, it is difficult to effectively use pesticides when we are unable to apply water when needed. Germination of over seeding is less effective as well when natural moisture is untimely.				X		
8720	Ballfields	CABIN JOHN ATHLETIC AREA	Athletic field # 4, currently does not have irrigation. The fields brown out in the summer, it is difficult to effectively use pesticides when we are unable to apply water when needed. Germination of over seeding is less effective as well when natural moisture is untimely.				X		
871544	PLAR NL Resurfacing	CABIN JOHN ATHLETIC AREA	Repair Potholes/ temp seal for cracks in access drive to Athletic fields and around ice rink			X	X		
998773	Enterprise	CABIN JOHN ICE RINK PROPERTY	Replace NHL and Studio rinks refrigeration system		X	X			
998773	Enterprise	CABIN JOHN INDOOR TENNIS PROPERTY	Ancillary Building roof replacement	X					
128701	ADA LP	CABIN JOHN LOCAL PARK	parking, porta john, walkway, pads, possible softball field	X					
8720	Ballfields	CABIN JOHN LOCAL PARK	Fencing Replacement		X				
128702	ADA NL	CABIN JOHN REGIONAL PARK	Parking, access to volleyball and handball courts					X	
128702	ADA NL	CABIN JOHN REGIONAL PARK	Group Picnic Area					X	
128702	ADA NL	CABIN JOHN REGIONAL PARK	Parking, access, restrooms				X		
128702	ADA NL	CABIN JOHN REGIONAL PARK	Parking, access to picnic shelters				X		
128702	ADA NL	CABIN JOHN REGIONAL PARK	Group Picnic area - parking, access, restroom				X		
128702	ADA NL	CABIN JOHN REGIONAL PARK	Parking, EAR, Restrooms			X			
128702	ADA NL	CABIN JOHN REGIONAL PARK	Field 2 - parking, access			X			
128702	ADA NL	CABIN JOHN REGIONAL PARK	Tennis area, courts			X			
128702	ADA NL	CABIN JOHN REGIONAL PARK	Accessible parking and ballfield access Field 4 (drainage, erosion issues)		X				
998709	PLAR NL Playgrounds	CABIN JOHN REGIONAL PARK	Re-Install equipment from Woodside	X					
838882	Roofs NL	CABIN JOHN REGIONAL PARK	Group picnic area restroom bldg.		X				
128701	ADA LP	CALVERTON GALWAY LOCAL PARK	Access to fields, tennis courts		X				
998702	PLAR LP Minor Renovation	CALVERTON GALWAY LOCAL PARK	Tennis Court impervious removal and reforestation		X				
871546	PLAR LP Resurfacing	CALVERTON GALWAY LOCAL PARK	REPAIR AND RESURFACE parking lot 2 (requested by Brian Lewandowski 8/2014)	X					
128702	ADA NL	CAMP SENECA SPECIAL PARK	Lodge at Seneca Creek Parking, access to event center, front entry					X	
768673	Trails Hard Surface Design and Construction	CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL SPECIAL PARK	Construct Capital Crescent trail connector to Little Falls Stream Valley (behind Bethesda Pool)	X	X				

**APPENDIX 2 - Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY17-22**

PDF #	PDF Name	Park Name	Project Detail	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
128701	ADA LP	CAPITAL VIEW-HOMEWOOD LOCAL PARK	bball, softball, access, PAB			X			
871546	PLAR LP Resurfacing	CAPITAL VIEW-HOMEWOOD LOCAL PARK	SIDEWALK: Reconstruct Path from Plyers Mill Rd to Fayette Rd.		X				
871546	PLAR LP Resurfacing	CAPITAL VIEW-HOMEWOOD LOCAL PARK	PAVING: REPAIR AND RESURFACE PATH & DRIVEWAY	X					
871743	Caroline Freeland UP	CAROLINE FREELAND URBAN PARK	Caroline Freeland UP Design			X	X	X	X
871743	Caroline Freeland UP	CAROLINE FREELAND URBAN PARK	Caroline Freeland UP Construction				X	X	X
957775	Facility Planning LP	CARROLL KNOLLS LOCAL PARK	New Method: Facility planning/design for phased implementation of park improvements		X				
8720	Ballfields	CEDAR CREEK LOCAL PARK	Local Park Initiative - Drainage	X					
8720	Ballfields	CEDAR CREEK LOCAL PARK	Infield Renovation		X				
8720	Ballfields	CENTERWAY LOCAL PARK	Infield Renovation		X				
128701	ADA LP	CLOVERLY LOCAL PARK	parking, tennis,		X	X			
128701	ADA LP	COLUMBIA LOCAL PARK	parking, fields, b-ball, tennis, shelter				X		
957775	Facility Planning LP	COLUMBIA LOCAL PARK	New Method: Design for underutilized facilities and areas of park		X				
128701	ADA LP	Countywide	Misc. Playground ramps, for projects built between 2010-2014	X	X				
958776	Facility Planning NL	Countywide	Functional plan and program of requirements for nature centers			X			
958776	Facility Planning NL	Countywide	Nature Center (Black Hill, Brookside, Locust Grove or Meadowside) Renovation of existing nature center, pending program of requirements or functional plan for nature centers (if ready)				X		
78701	Pollution Prevention	Countywide	Storm Drain Mapping Phase III	X					
78701	Pollution Prevention	Countywide	Minor Constructed Wetland Modifications w PPSD	X					
78701	Pollution Prevention	Countywide	Rain Barrels (countywide)	X					
768673	Trails Hard Surface Design and Construction	Countywide	Design and construct Little Falls, Long Branch and NW Branch Trail Signage & kiosks			X	X		
958776	Facility Planning NL	Countywide	Hard Surface Trail Road Intersection Assessment	X					
998703	PLAR LP Play Equipment	DALE DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK		X					
998702	PLAR LP Minor Renovation	DAMASCUS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK			X				
998708	PLAR NL Minor Renovation	DAMASCUS RECREATIONAL PARK	Renovate 2 shelters & restroom facility. ADA work too.		X				
998709	PLAR NL Playgrounds	DAMASCUS RECREATIONAL PARK	Design and construct play area renovation		X	X			
998799	Minor New Construction LP	DARNESTOWN LOCAL PARK	Design and construct additional parking on newly acquired property (Darnestown)		X				
128701	ADA LP	DEWEY LOCAL PARK	parking, soccer, pathways						X
957775	Facility Planning LP	DEWEY LOCAL PARK	Design for repurpose of courts	X					
998703	PLAR LP Play Equipment	DEWEY LOCAL PARK	FY18 construction		X				
128701	ADA LP	EAST NORBECK LP	Misc. Items not completed by contractor		X				

APPENDIX 2 - Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY17-22

PDF #	PDF Name	Park Name	Project Detail	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
957775	Facility Planning LP	EDITH THROCKMORTON NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	New Method: Design for renovation of park	X	X				
138701	Elm Street UP	ELM STREET URBAN PARK	Elm Street UP Design	X	X				
138702	Elm Street UP	ELM STREET URBAN PARK	Elm Street UP Construction	X	X				
128701	ADA LP	FLEMING LOCAL PARK	parking, access to softball field, shelter						X
871546	PLAR LP Resurfacing	FOREST GLEN NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	Pave parking lot and bioswale work (requested by Brian Lewendowski 8/2014)	X					
998703	PLAR LP Play Equipment	GLEN HILLS LOCAL PARK	Re-install Woodside equipment	X					
128701	ADA LP	GLENFIELD LOCAL PARK	parking, courts, diamond field					X	
998702	PLAR LP Minor Renovation	GOOD HOPE LOCAL PARK	Cost-sharing with DGS, misc. work		X				
78701	Pollution Prevention	GOOD HOPE LOCAL PARK	Good Hope Local Park	X					
8720	Ballfields	GREENBRIAR LOCAL PARK	Fencing Replacement		X				
998799	Minor New Construction LP	GREENBRIAR LOCAL PARK		X					
128701	ADA LP	GREENWOOD LOCAL PARK	parking, various courts, shelter					X	
8720	Ballfields	GUNNER'S LAKE LOCAL PARK	Turf Renovation	X					
871742	Hillandale LP	HILLANDALE LOCAL PARK	Hillandale LP Design	X	X	X	X	X	
871742	Hillandale LP	HILLANDALE LOCAL PARK	Hillandale LP Construction			X	X	X	
808494	Restoration of Historic Structures	JESUP-BLAIR LOCAL PARK	Jesup Blair House Stabilize and secure	X					
998703	PLAR LP Play Equipment	JOHN HAINES NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	FM construction	X					
128701	ADA LP	JOHNSON LOCAL PARK	pavilion, sidewalk, parking	X					
128701	ADA LP	JOHNSON LOCAL PARK	parking, pathways from transit stop, courts					X	
8720	Ballfields	JOHNSON LOCAL PARK	Fencing Replacement	X					
8720	Ballfields	JOHNSON LOCAL PARK	Infield Renovation		X				
871552	Josiah Henson HP	JOSIAH HENSON SPECIAL PARK	Josiah Henson HP Design	X	X	X	X	X	
871552	Josiah Henson HP	JOSIAH HENSON SPECIAL PARK	Josiah Henson HP Construction		X	X	X	X	
138702	Kemp Mill UP	KEMP MILL URBAN PARK	Kemp Mill UP Construction	X					
8720	Ballfields	KINGS CROSSING LOCAL PARK	Infield Renovation		X				
128701	ADA LP	LAYHILL LOCAL PARK	parking, field access, shelter			X			
998702	PLAR LP Minor Renovation	LAYHILL LOCAL PARK	Bridge F-06-01 Replacement with ET tech		X				
38703	Laytonia RP	LAYTONIA RECREATIONAL PARK	Laytonia RP Construction	X	X				
8720	Ballfields	LEAMAN LOCAL PARK	Turf Renovation	X					
998773	Enterprise	LITTLE BENNETT CAMP GROUND	Design and Install water feature/playground	X					
998773	Enterprise	LITTLE BENNETT CAMP GROUND	Pave entrance to contact station	X					



APPENDIX 2 - Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY17-22

PDF #	PDF Name	Park Name	Project Detail	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
998773	Enterprise	LITTLE BENNETT CAMP GROUND	Upgrade camp sites loop D to full hook-ups			X			
998708	PLAR NL Minor Renovation	LITTLE BENNETT MAINTENANCE YARD PROPERTY	Grinder pump system replacement			X			
871544	PLAR NL Resurfacing	LITTLE BENNETT MAINTENANCE YARD PROPERTY	Resurface maintenance yard parking lot (req. #869) and employee parking area possibly with NPDES work		X	X			
128702	ADA NL	LITTLE BENNETT REGIONAL PARK	Parking, EAR, camping, misc.			X			
138703	Little Bennett Regional Park Day Use Area	LITTLE BENNETT REGIONAL PARK	Little Bennett Regional Park Day Use Area - Design			X	X	X	X
138703	Little Bennett Regional Park Day Use Area	LITTLE BENNETT REGIONAL PARK	Little Bennett Regional Park Day Use Area - Construction					X	X
871744	Little Bennett Regional Park Trail Connector	LITTLE BENNETT REGIONAL PARK	Little Bennett Regional Park Trail Connector - Design						X
78701	Pollution Prevention	LITTLE FALLS STREAM VALLEY PARK	Little Falls Parkway Concrete Swale Retrofit Design	X					
818571	Stream Protection	LITTLE FALLS STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #1	Little Falls SVU 1 Stabilization with Bridge Replacement just upstream of USACE reservoir (bridge P17-01)	X					
128702	ADA NL	LOCUST GROVE NATURE CENTER PROPERTY	Access to nature center, parking						X
128702	ADA NL	LOCUST GROVE NATURE CENTER PROPERTY	Design and construct railing	X					
128701	ADA LP	LONG BRANCH LOCAL PARK	parking, tennis, pathways					X	
998702	PLAR LP Minor Renovation	LONG BRANCH-GARLAND NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	Bridge D77-01 Replacement		X				
957775	Facility Planning LP	LONG BRANCH-WAYNE LOCAL PARK	Park renovations, concept/facility plan, phase 1 design for phased implementation of improvements (playground is phase 1)	X	X				
998703	PLAR LP Play Equipment	LONG BRANCH-WAYNE LOCAL PARK	Phase 1 Construction			X			
128701	ADA LP	LONGWOOD LOCAL PARK	parking, tennis, walkways		X				
128701	ADA LP	MAPLEWOOD-ALTA VISTA LOCAL PARK	parking, bball, tennis, softball		X	X			
128702	ADA NL	MARTIN LUTHER KING RECREATIONAL PARK	MLK Jr. RP (Parking Lot next to Baseball Field # 1 and Soccer Field # 3) Parking, EAR to baseball and softball fields (carryover from FY16)	X					
8720	Ballfields	MARTIN LUTHER KING RECREATIONAL PARK	The condition of 2 set of bleachers for the regional baseball field are in dire need of replacement. Infield needs renovation concurrently.	X					
8720	Ballfields	MARTIN LUTHER KING RECREATIONAL PARK	Irrigation, field re-grading, ADA access, bleachers, and planning for lights of Field # 3 which is full size soccer field		X				
8720	Ballfields	MARTIN LUTHER KING RECREATIONAL PARK	Irrigation						X
8720	Ballfields	MARTIN LUTHER KING RECREATIONAL PARK	Field # 2 is a softball field with the lack of irrigation it is impossible to sustain turf growth during the summer months with a higher volume of users. Fields dry out and the turf suffers.						X
8720	Ballfields	MARTIN LUTHER KING RECREATIONAL PARK	The condition of all 2 sets of bleachers for the regional fields: Softball are in dire need of replacement.						X
871544	PLAR NL Resurfacing	MARTIN LUTHER KING RECREATIONAL PARK	Resurface paths and parking				X	X	

APPENDIX 2 - Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY17-22

PDF #	PDF Name	Park Name	Project Detail	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
958776	Facility Planning NL	MATTHEW HENSON STATE PARK STREAM VALLEY PARK	Wheaton to Matthew Henson Trail Segment (next priority trail from the Countywide Park Trails Plan) Facility plan for trail extension from Wheaton RP to Poplar Run & the Matthew Henson Trail	X					
998763	Minor New Construction NL	MAYDALE CONSERVATION PARK	Renovate nature center	X	X				
128701	ADA LP	MEADOWBROOK LOCAL PARK	EAR, Amenities, Trails, Parking	X	X				
8720	Ballfields	MEADOWBROOK LOCAL PARK	Local Park Initiative - Drainage						X
871546	PLAR LP Resurfacing	MEADOWBROOK LOCAL PARK	Parking lot south of woodbine street. Reconstruct parking lot.		X				
871546	PLAR LP Resurfacing	MEADOWBROOK LOCAL PARK	Parking Lot north of Beach Drive at Pinehurst Pkwy. Pavement removal, informal SWM and resurface parking lot that is being used as a staging area.		X				
871544	PLAR NL Resurfacing	MEADOWBROOK MAINTENANCE YARD PROPERTY	Resurface maintenance yard area? Replace Employee Parking lot and Repave Lot adjacent to bldg. and add HC pkg. remove asphalt and refigure islands by 5 feet. Need SC permit	X					
838882	Roofs NL	MEADOWBROOK MAINTENANCE YARD PROPERTY	Replace Roof				X		
128702	ADA NL	MEADOWSIDE NATURE CENTER PROPERTY	Parking, access to bldg. and nature play space			X			
871544	PLAR NL Resurfacing	MEADOWSIDE NATURE CENTER PROPERTY	Repair Parking Lot		X				
78701	Pollution Prevention	MEADOWSIDE NATURE CENTER PROPERTY	Meadowside Nature Center Pond (Sunfish Pond) Riser Rehab	X					
871544	PLAR NL Resurfacing	MLK JR. MAINTENANCE YARD PROPERTY	Repave entire maintenance yard.	X					
8720	Ballfields	MOUNT ZION LOCAL PARK	Infield Renovation		X				
8720	Ballfields	MOUNT ZION LOCAL PARK	Fencing Replacement		X				
838882	Roofs NL	NEEDWOOD MANSION PROPERTY	Design (FY17); replace roof (FY18)			X			
128701	ADA LP	NOLTE LOCAL PARK	parking, walkways, fields, bball		X	X			
958776	Facility Planning NL	NORTH BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #2	North Branch Trail Extension (second priority from the Countywide Park Trails Plan) Facility plan for final northern segment from the Preserve at Rock Creek to Bowie Mill Road					X	
871541	North Branch Trail	NORTH BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #2	North Branch Trail Renovation	X	X				
768673	Trails Hard Surface Design and Construction	NORTH BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #2	Design North Branch Trail. Construction funded in project #871541	X					
128701	ADA LP	NORTH CHEVY CHASE LOCAL PARK	Access near PAB				X		
8720	Ballfields	NORTHWEST BRANCH RECREATIONAL PARK	Irrigation	X					
118704	Northwest Branch Recreational Park	NORTHWEST BRANCH RECREATIONAL PARK	Northwest Branch Recreational Park-Athletic Area - Design					X	
118704	Northwest Branch Recreational Park	NORTHWEST BRANCH RECREATIONAL PARK	Northwest Branch Recreational Park-Athletic Area - Construction	X					X
858710	Trails Natural Surface	NORTHWEST BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK	Pedestrian Bridge	X					

## APPENDIX 2 - Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY17-22

PDF #	PDF Name	Park Name	Project Detail	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
998708	PLAR NL Minor Renovation	NORTHWEST BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #4	Northwest Branch SVU at Burnt Mills Dam Sidewalk connection on west side of MD 29 from dam parking lot to shopping center crosswalk			X			
128701	ADA LP	NORWOOD LOCAL PARK	Parking, access to courts, play fields		X				
8720	Ballfields	NORWOOD LOCAL PARK	Turf Renovation	X					
957775	Facility Planning LP	NORWOOD LOCAL PARK	Facility planning or design for phased park improvements (timed for inclusion in FY21-26 CIP)			X			
998705	PLAR LP Park Building Renovations	NORWOOD LOCAL PARK	Lab renovation	X					
871540	Urban Park Elements	NORWOOD LOCAL PARK	Dog park and/or skate park following facility plan study for repurposing in FY19-20					X	X
128702	ADA NL	OLNEY MANOR RECREATIONAL PARK	Parking, access Fields 4,5					X	
128702	ADA NL	OLNEY MANOR RECREATIONAL PARK	Parking, Access to Fields 1,3, skatepark					X	
128702	ADA NL	OLNEY MANOR RECREATIONAL PARK	Parking, Access to Field 2				X		
128702	ADA NL	OLNEY MANOR RECREATIONAL PARK	Parking, access to restroom, picnic area					X	
8720	Ballfields	OLNEY MANOR RECREATIONAL PARK	Design and install irrigation systems for ballfield # 1			X			
8720	Ballfields	OLNEY MANOR RECREATIONAL PARK	Design and install irrigation systems for ballfield # 3			X			
8720	Ballfields	OLNEY MANOR RECREATIONAL PARK	Design and install irrigation systems for ballfield # 4			X			
8720	Ballfields	OLNEY MANOR RECREATIONAL PARK	Field #1 located at Olney Manor Recreational park is in need of a complete renovation. The infield has a depression along third base and in front of second base, which holds water. (Grading and Drainage)			X			
871745	Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park	OVID HAZEN WELLS RECREATIONAL PARK	Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park - Design			X	X	X	X
871745	Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park	OVID HAZEN WELLS RECREATIONAL PARK	Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park - Construction				X	X	X
858710	Trails Natural Surface	PIEDMONT CROSSING LOCAL PARK	Western Piedmont	X					
128701	ADA LP	PILGRIM HILL LOCAL PARK	Parking, PAB						X
957775	Facility Planning LP	PINECREST LOCAL PARK	New Method: Design	X					
998799	Minor New Construction LP	PINECREST LOCAL PARK	Install loop path around ballfield; fix drainage issues.		X				
871546	PLAR LP Resurfacing	PINECREST LOCAL PARK	Repair and resurface parking lot & add conc. Curbing & SD pipe	X					
78701	Pollution Prevention	POTOMAC HORSE CENTER SPECIAL PARK	Potomac Horse Center Retrofit	X					
998702	PLAR LP Minor Renovation	QUINCE ORCHARD VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	Remove Tennis Court/trail/wall and replace pedestrian bridge	X					
128701	ADA LP	RANDOLPH HILLS LOCAL PARK	Parking, tennis and b-ball courts, shelter, field						X
128701	ADA LP	RAY'S MEADOW LOCAL PARK	Parking/ramp design construct	X	X				
998703	PLAR LP Play Equipment	RAY'S MEADOW LOCAL PARK	FY18 construction, will need funding from ADA LP		X				
871544	PLAR NL Resurfacing	RICKMAN FARM HORSE SPECIAL PARK	Resurface entire road and driveways		X				

APPENDIX 2 - Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY17-22

PDF #	PDF Name	Park Name	Project Detail	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
8720	Ballfields	RIDGE ROAD RECREATIONAL PARK	PURCHASE bleachers for stadium field and provide ADA access	X					
8720	Ballfields	RIDGE ROAD RECREATIONAL PARK	Infield Renovation	X					
998773	Enterprise	RIDGE ROAD RECREATIONAL PARK	Design and construct new ice rink				X	X	
128702	ADA NL	ROCK CREEK REGIONAL PARK	Shelters, parking, trails						X
128702	ADA NL	ROCK CREEK REGIONAL PARK	Parking, access to picnic area/shelter					X	
128702	ADA NL	ROCK CREEK REGIONAL PARK	Parking and walkway for Archery Range	X					
998709	PLAR NL Playgrounds	ROCK CREEK REGIONAL PARK	Design for Lake Needwood adventure and nature play area, construction to be stand-alone PDF		X	X			
998709	PLAR NL Playgrounds	ROCK CREEK REGIONAL PARK	Design and construct small play area	X					
768673	Trails Hard Surface Design and Construction	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK	Design Trail heads and amenities			X			
768673	Trails Hard Surface Design and Construction	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK	Construct Trail heads and amenities				X		
888754	Trails Hard Surface Renovation	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK	Ten pilot intersection improvements	X	X				
858710	Trails Natural Surface	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #15	Upper Rock Creek SVP	X					
871544	PLAR NL Resurfacing	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #2	Beach Drive, Rock Creek SVU 2(MC-P46) (Mormon Temple Trib Parking Lot). Parking lot to be replaced, accessible parking and access to the trail added, while removing unnecessary impervious. Swale between trail and parking lot to be enhanced.	X					
818571	Stream Protection	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #2	Mormon Temple Tributary	X					
768673	Trails Hard Surface Design and Construction	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #2	Feasibility and Concept connecting the Grosvenor Metro to the Rock Creek Trail			X	X		
888754	Trails Hard Surface Renovation	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #2	Construct Kensington Parkway to Connecticut Ave. improvements and overlay #2 including crossing at Standhope and drainage improvements.		X				
888754	Trails Hard Surface Renovation	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #2	Design and Construct Ireland Drive Connector Trail to Rock Creek Trail #3a		X	X			
888754	Trails Hard Surface Renovation	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #2	Construct Levelle Road to Old Spring Road - basic improvements and overlay - #3b			X			
888754	Trails Hard Surface Renovation	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #2	Construction of safety improvements of Sligo Creek Trail near Schuyler Avenue	X					
998709	PLAR NL Playgrounds	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #3	Puller Park	X					
888754	Trails Hard Surface Renovation	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #3	Cedar Lane to Franklin Street - repair by FM	X					
888754	Trails Hard Surface Renovation	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #3	Design and Construct Connecticut Ave approach and under pass Design #1	X	X				
888754	Trails Hard Surface Renovation	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #3	Beach Drive/Connecticut Avenue coordination with SHA project - widen Beach Drive, design and construct new trail segment	X	X				
888754	Trails Hard Surface Renovation	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #3	Franklin Street to Parkwood Terrace - trail repair by FM, 1,800 LF	X					
888754	Trails Hard Surface Renovation	ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #3	Design and Construct STA 319+00 to Saul Road - realignment #4	X	X				

APPENDIX 2 - Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY17-22

PDF #	PDF Name	Park Name	Project Detail	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
888754	Trails Hard Surface Renovation	Rock Creek Trail SVU7 and Drake Drive NCP	Design and construct improvements to trail connector from Russett Road (includes boardwalk and drainage improvements)	X	X				
998773	Enterprise	ROCKWOOD SPECIAL PARK	Rockwood Manor Design a Reconfigure entrance and both main parking areas.	X					
128701	ADA LP	ROSEMARY HILLS-LYTTONSVILLE LOCAL PARK	EAR to amenities (Citizen Complaint)		X				
128701	ADA LP	ROSEMARY HILLS-LYTTONSVILLE LOCAL PARK	Parking, field access						X
128701	ADA LP	SADDLEBROOK LOCAL PARK	parking, soccer field, b-ball				X		
998708	PLAR NL Minor Renovation	SENECA LANDING SPECIAL PARK	Seneca Store	X					
808494	Restoration of Historic Structures	SENECA LANDING SPECIAL PARK	Seneca Store Rehab interior and exterior. Store to function as working Ag Reserve commercial center.	X					
818571	Stream Protection	SLIGO CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK	Sligo Creek Stream Restoration Design	X					
818571	Stream Protection	SLIGO CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK	Sligo Creek at Brunett	X					
768673	Trails Hard Surface Design and Construction	SLIGO CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK	Construct Trail heads and amenities				X		
768673	Trails Hard Surface Design and Construction	SLIGO CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK	Design Trail heads and amenities			X			
8720	Ballfields	SLIGO CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #3	Turf Renovation	X					
818571	Stream Protection	SLIGO CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #4	Inwood Tributary	X					
818571	Stream Protection	SLIGO CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #4	Roswell Tributary	X					
888754	Trails Hard Surface Renovation	SLIGO CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #4	Sligo Creek Trail Connector to Tenbrook Drive	X					
888754	Trails Hard Surface Renovation	SLIGO CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #4	Sligo Creek Trail repair at Mississippi Avenue	X					
998708	PLAR NL Minor Renovation	SLIGO PARKWAY PROPERTY	Drainage Improvements and Bus Stop			X			
871544	PLAR NL Resurfacing	SLIGO PARKWAY PROPERTY	Lot at Dallas Avenue: The project will include reconfiguration of the parking lot and trail as well as pavement removal and resurfacing.		X				
78701	Pollution Prevention	SLIGO PARKWAY PROPERTY	Sligo Creek Parkway Retrofits Forest Glen to Colesville	X					
128701	ADA LP	SLIGO-DENNIS AVENUE LOCAL PARK	parking, b-ball, tennis				X		
8720	Ballfields	SLIGO-DENNIS AVENUE LOCAL PARK	Fencing Replacement		X				
128702	ADA NL	SOUTH GERMANTOWN MINI GOLF/SPLASH PLAYGROUND AREA	Parking, restroom, misc.						X
128702	ADA NL	SOUTH GERMANTOWN MINI GOLF/SPLASH PLAYGROUND AREA	Paved parking and EAR to Mini Golf and Archery		X				
128702	ADA NL	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	Parking, Access to baseball fields, courts, misc.					X	X
128702	ADA NL	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	Parking, misc. to baseball/softball fields						X
128702	ADA NL	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	Soccer Field access					X	

**APPENDIX 2 - Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY17-22**

PDF #	PDF Name	Park Name	Project Detail	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
128702	ADA NL	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	Central park pond - access, trails, misc.				X		
128702	ADA NL	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	Parking, access to community gardens			X			
128702	ADA NL	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	Paved EAR to Pavilions (2)			X			
128702	ADA NL	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	Trail, parking, access upgrades			X			
128702	ADA NL	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	Ballfields, parking lots		X				
128702	ADA NL	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	Surveys - archery, exercise pads	X					
128702	ADA NL	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	Picnic shelters, horseshoes, parking		X				
8720	Ballfields	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	Infield Renovation	X					
871746	S. Germantown Recreational Park: Cricket Field	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	S. Germantown Recreational Park: Cricket Field - Design	X	X	X	X		
871746	S. Germantown Recreational Park: Cricket Field	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	S. Germantown Recreational Park: Cricket Field - Construction		X	X	X		
858710	Trails Natural Surface	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	South Germantown Bike Park	X					
128701	ADA LP	SOUTH GUNNER'S BRANCH LOCAL PARK	Playground project - parking, access	X	X				
998703	PLAR LP Play Equipment	SOUTH GUNNER'S BRANCH LOCAL PARK	FY18 construction		X	X			
998703	PLAR LP Play Equipment	SOUTHEAST OLNEY LOCAL PARK		X					
128701	ADA LP	SPENCERVILLE LOCAL PARK	Parking, access to cricket fields						X
128701	ADA LP	STEWARTOWN LOCAL PARK	parking, courts, shelter, diamond				X		
128701	ADA LP	STONEBROOK LOCAL PARK	parking, PAB, tennis courts				X		
128701	ADA LP	STRATTON LOCAL PARK	ADA Improvements (DOJ) changed from FY16 to FY17	X					
8720	Ballfields	SUNDOWN ROAD LOCAL PARK	Fencing Replacement	X					
998703	PLAR LP Play Equipment	SUNDOWN ROAD LOCAL PARK	FY18-19 construction			X			
128701	ADA LP	TAKOMA - PINEY BRANCH LOCAL PARK	ADA Improvements	X					
128701	ADA LP	TILDEN WOODS LOCAL PARK	parking, courts, softball/soccer					X	
8720	Ballfields	TILDEN WOODS LOCAL PARK	Fencing Replacement		X				
957775	Facility Planning LP	TRAVILLE LOCAL PARK	New 13.7-acre park on land deeded by developer in N. Potomac (timed for inclusion in FY21-26 CIP)				X		
998705	PLAR LP Park Building Renovations	VALLEY MILL SPECIAL PARK	Restroom renovation	X	X				
818571	Stream Protection	VALLEY MILL SPECIAL PARK	Valley Mill South of Culvert	X					
128701	ADA LP	VEIRS MILL LOCAL PARK	PAB				X		
958776	Facility Planning NL	WALL LOCAL PARK	Facility planning to renovate park (if ready)		X				
871540	Urban Park Elements	WALL LOCAL PARK	Phase 1 improvements following facility plan (to include dog park)			X	X		

APPENDIX 2 - Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY17-22

PDF #	PDF Name	Park Name	Project Detail	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
128701	ADA LP	WARING STATION LOCAL PARK	Playground project - parking, access, b-ball, field, gazebo	X	X				
998703	PLAR LP Play Equipment	WARING STATION LOCAL PARK	FY18 construction		X	X			
838882	Roofs NL	WATERS HOUSE SPECIAL PARK	Convert to standing seam metal		X				
818571	Stream Protection	WAVERLY-SCHUYLKILL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	Waverly Schuykill Sign Installation	X					
998703	PLAR LP Play Equipment	WELLS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	FY18 construction		X				
8720	Ballfields	WEST FAIRLAND LOCAL PARK	Convert to 90 baseball		X	X			
998703	PLAR LP Play Equipment	WEST FAIRLAND LOCAL PARK		X					
957775	Facility Planning LP	WHEATON COMMUNITY BUILDING PROPERTY	Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center park design for park improvements in conjunction with DGS project	X					
128701	ADA LP	WHEATON FOREST LOCAL PARK	Parking, football, softball, shelter						X
871544	PLAR NL Resurfacing	WHEATON MAINTENANCE YARD PROPERTY	Entrance drive and all maint. area (Kemp Mill Road)			X			
838882	Roofs NL	WHEATON MAINTENANCE YARD PROPERTY	Design & construct Roof	X	X				
128702	ADA NL	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Parking and access at ice rink						X
128702	ADA NL	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Parking lot, trails, picnic shelters				X	X	
128702	ADA NL	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Parking, access to dog park and sports pavilion				X		
128702	ADA NL	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Parking, Access, - Athletic Area (Fields 1,2, 3)			X			
128702	ADA NL	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Parking, access to Handball Field		X				
128702	ADA NL	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Parking, access to Field 1		X				
128702	ADA NL	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Prelim. Design restroom/shelter in Athletic Area	X	X				
8720	Ballfields	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Fix Drainage Problems			X			
8720	Ballfields	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Redesign - Existing Field #1 (90' ball diamond) is currently in need of moderate upgrades due to inefficient layout, undulating and potentially unsafe field surface, and outdated facilities.					X	
8720	Ballfields	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Field #1 (90' ball diamond) Irrigation					X	
8720	Ballfields	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Irrigation - Due to the lack of moisture and dry summer conditions, Wheaton Regional Park athletic field # 2 develop field issues such as root damage, which inhibits growth causing the grass to be very brittle and dry. In addition, with the high volume of use on the playing fields, during league play, further damage causes poor playing conditions.						X
998773	Enterprise	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Wheaton RP Sports Pavilion Replace roof skylights and paint steel structure	X					
998773	Enterprise	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Purchase replacement carousel			X			
998763	Minor New Construction NL	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Wheaton Carousel Parking Lot (WRP SOUTH)		X				
998763	Minor New Construction NL	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Wheaton Shorefield Area (WRP NORTH)	X	X				

APPENDIX 2 - Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY17-22

PDF #	PDF Name	Park Name	Project Detail	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
998708	PLAR NL Minor Renovation	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Adventure PG Drainage Impr						
998708	PLAR NL Minor Renovation	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Wheaton RP Athletic Area Replace restroom facility due to failed water lines. Connect to public water & sewer. (J Loveless 2007,)	X	X				
998708	PLAR NL Minor Renovation	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Shorefield-Carousel area trail		X	X			
871540	Urban Park Elements	WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	Design and upgrade existing dog park	X	X	X			
871544	PLAR NL Resurfacing	WHEATON STABLES PROPERTY	repave parking lot	X					
998799	Minor New Construction LP	WHEATON-CLARIDGE LOCAL PARK		X					
998702	PLAR LP Minor Renovation	WHEATON-CLARIDGE LOCAL PARK	Bridges E19-01&E19-02 (MPK19B) to be renovated into overlook and new vehicular bridge built; Renovations	X					
871540	Urban Park Elements	WOODSIDE URBAN PARK	Relocate basketball court to expand skatepark	X					
138705	Woodside Urban Park	WOODSIDE URBAN PARK	Woodside Urban Park Renovation - Design	X	X	X			
138705	Woodside Urban Park	WOODSIDE URBAN PARK	Woodside Urban Park Renovation - Construction	X	X	X	X		



## APPENDIX 3 - Land Acquisition Needs to the Year 2030 and Beyond

### APPENDIX 3 - LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS TO 2030 AND BEYOND

The following tables include proposed parkland acquisition recommended in approved Area Master and Sector Plans and Functional Master Plans.

The Acquisition Summary Table indicates that 5515 acres of Countywide Parks and 218 acres of Community Use Parks are proposed, totaling 5733 acres across the County.

Acquisition Summary Table

Park Type	By Park Type	By Sub-Category	By Category
<b>Countywide Parks</b>			<b>5515</b>
<i>Recreation Oriented</i>		1588	
Regional	610		
Recreational	802		
Special	176		
<i>Urban</i>		23	
Civic Greens	8		
Plazas	1		
Urban Recreational	3		
Urban Greenways	11		
<i>Conservation Oriented</i>		3904	
Stream Valley	3430		
Conservation	474		
<b>Community Use Parks</b>			<b>218</b>
<i>Recreation Oriented</i>		198	
Neighborhood Parks	7		
Local Parks	191		
<i>Urban</i>		19	
Neighborhood Greens	19		
Pocket Greens	0		
Urban Recreational Parklet	0		
<i>Conservation Oriented</i>		1	
Neighborhood Conservation	1		
<b>All Proposed Parks</b>			<b>5733</b>

Within each major use category (Countywide and Community Use), proposed parkland is broken out into the subcategories of Recreation Oriented, Urban, and Conservation Oriented. Across both use categories, 1,786 acres of recreation oriented, 42 acres of urban, and 3,905 acres of conservation oriented parkland are proposed.

## APPENDIX 3 - Land Acquisition Needs to the Year 2030 and Beyond

As discussed throughout this plan, all categories of parkland provide the platform for recreational needs, including urban parks and natural resource-based recreation in conservation parkland. Compared to the recommended parkland acquisition in the *2012 PROS*, this Plan indicates an increase of 25% in proposed recreation oriented acreage, a quadrupling of the proposed urban park acreage, and a decrease in the proposed conservation oriented acres of 21%.

The detailed table includes information on the specific park and notes whether it is short, mid, or long-range priority.

## APPENDIX 3 - M-NCPPC LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS TO THE YEAR 2030 AND BEYOND

### Acquisition Details Table

This table includes information on the specific sites identified for parkland acquisition. Priority 1 acquisitions are the highest priority acquisitions that are also most likely to occur in the short term (2018-2022). Priority 2 acquisitions are likely to occur in the mid-term (2023-2027) and Priority 3 acquisitions are likely to occur over the long term (2028+).

Estimated costs were developed for Priority 1 acquisitions using data on comparable sales and recent market assessments. For Priority 2 and 3 acquisitions, the cost estimates are a more general level-of-effort value based on average costs per acre for the location and zone of the proposed acquisition.

PARK NAME	PARK TYPE	PLANNING AREA	AUTHORITY	ACRES	ESTIMATED COSTS	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	NOTES
Arliss Civic Green	Civic Green	Takoma Park	Long Branch Sector Plan	0.6	\$0	1			new since 2012
Battery Lane Park Expansion	Countywide Urban Recreational	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	0.7	\$2,700,000	1			Unmet recreational needs in urban area
Broad Run SVU 2	Stream Valley	Martinsburg	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	519.3	\$3,000,000	1			Large trail system opportunity; resource protection of high quality habitat
Cabin Branch Local Park	Local	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	10.5	\$0	1			Unmet rec needs in new community
Cabin Branch SVP	Stream Valley	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	74.3	\$0	1			Resource protection
Capital Crescent Civic Green	Civic Green	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	0.5	\$8,500,000	1			Park amenities and open space to serve core urban area
Clarksburg Village LP	Local	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	8.1	\$0	1			Unmet rec needs in new community
Eastern Capital Crescent Urban Greenway Park	Urban Greenway	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	1.4	\$16,000,000	1			Unmet recreational needs in urban area
Farm Women's Market Civic Green	Civic Green	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	0.7	\$5,000,000	1			Park amenities and open space to serve core urban area
Fenton Village Neighborhood Green	Neighborhood Green	Silver Spring	Silver Spring Master Plan	0.9	\$3,000,000	1			Meet urban park needs in Silver Spring
Flower Avenue Neighborhood Green	Neighborhood Green	Takoma Park	Long Branch Sector Plan	0.3	\$0	1			new since 2012
Hoyles Mill CP	Conservation	Lower Seneca	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	14.8	\$300,000	1			Resource-based recreation access point; resource protection of unique habitat
Hyattstown Forest Special Park	Special	Bennett	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	85.0	\$2,600,000	1			Protection of wooded bluff with scenic, historic, resource and recreational value
Little Bennett Regional Park	Regional	Bennett	Little Bennett Regional Park Master Plan	7.8	\$500,000	1			Remove inholding in Regional Park
Muddy Branch SVU 2	Stream Valley	Travilah	Potomac Master Plan	71.7	\$0	1			Stream valley park expansion
Northwest Branch SVU 4	Stream Valley	Kemp Mill/ 4 Corners	SHA Agreement	15.1	\$0	1			Provide connection between Sligo Creek and Northwest Branch trails
Olney Manor Recreational Park	Recreational	Olney	Olney Master Plan	16.4	\$900,000	1			Unmet recreational needs and park facilities
Peach Orchard NCA	Neighborhood Conservation	Cloverly	Cloverly Master Plan	1.4	\$100,000	1			Resource protection
Reddy Branch SVU 1	Stream Valley	Olney	Olney Master Plan	1.5	\$1,000,000	1			Watershed protection, remove inholding to stream valley park
Reddy Branch SVU 2	Stream Valley	Olney	Olney Master Plan	18.5	\$0	1			Stream valley park expansion
Ridge Road Recreational Park	Recreational	Germantown	Germantown Master Plan	1.0	\$1,000,000	1			Unmet recreational needs
River Road Shale Barrens CP	Conservation	Poolesville	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	80.0	\$1,500,000	1			Interpretive trail opportunity; resource protection of unique geology and habitat
Stewart Avenue Neighborhood Green	Neighborhood Green	Silver Spring	Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan	4.0	\$0	1			Unmet recreational and open space needs
Upper Paint Branch SVP	Stream Valley	Cloverly	Cloverly Master Plan	59.0	\$0	1			Watershed protection
Veteran's Park Civic Green	Civic Green	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	0.5	\$6,000,000	1			Park amenities and open space to serve core urban area
Westbard Central Civic Green	Civic Green	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Westbard Sector Plan	0.5	\$0	1			Civic space to serve new and existing residents

**APPENDIX 3 - M-NCPPC LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS TO THE YEAR 2030 AND BEYOND**

<b>PARK NAME</b>	<b>PARK TYPE</b>	<b>PLANNING AREA</b>	<b>AUTHORITY</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	<b>ESTIMATED COSTS</b>	<b>PRIORITY 1</b>	<b>PRIORITY 2</b>	<b>PRIORITY 3</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Westbard Urban Recreational Park	Countywide Urban Recreational	Bethesda/Chevy Chase	Westbard Sector Plan	2.4	\$8,000,000	1			Recreational needs adjacent to Capital Crescent Trail in developing community
White Flint Civic Green	Civic Green	North Bethesda	White Flint Sector Plan	1.7	\$7,500,000	1			Needed amenities in developing transit corridor
White Flint Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	North Bethesda	White Flint Sector Plan	2.6	\$0	1			Needed amenities in developing transit corridor
Willett Branch Urban Greenway	Urban Greenway	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Westbard Sector Plan	1.8	\$1,500,000	1			Create naturalized greenway on previously developed land to connect community with stream
WSSC Civic Green	Civic Green	Silver Spring	Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan	0.5	\$0	1			Urban Open Space needs
16th Street Urban Plaza	Plaza	Silver Spring	Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan	0.3	\$0		2		Urban open space needs
B-CC East Neighborhood Green Park	Neighborhood Green	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	0.3	\$0		2		Community open space for new development
Eastern Greenway Neighborhood Green South	Neighborhood Green	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	4.3	\$20,700,000		2		Unmet recreational needs and green space
Ednor Soapstone Quarry CP	Conservation	Patuxent	Cloverly Master Plan	0.8	\$1,000,000		2		Protect and interpret archaeological resource
Glenfield LP	Local	Kensington/ Wheaton	Glenmont Sector Plan	25.1	\$2,500,000		2		Forested land for trails and recreation in dense community
Glenmont Civic Green	Civic Green	Kensington/ Wheaton	Glenmont Sector Plan	0.6	\$0		2		New Civic Green to serve center of community
Hawkins Creamery Road LP	Local	Damascus	Damascus Master Plan	13.2	\$400,000		2		Undeveloped school site potentially available for park
Limestone CP	Conservation	Martinsburg	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	107.5	\$2,000,000		2		Trail system linkage; resource protection of unique geology and habitat
Little Bennett Creek SVP	Stream Valley	Damascus	Damascus Master Plan	291.7	\$8,800,000		2		Significant Regional Park expansion
Long Branch-Garland NP	Neighborhood Park	Takoma Park	Long Branch Sector Plan	0.2	\$0		2		new since 2012
Magruder SVU 2	Stream Valley	Damascus	Damascus Master Plan	0.8	\$100,000		2		Stream valley park expansion
New Hampshire Estates NP	Neighborhood Park	Takoma Park	Long Branch Sector Plan	1.6	\$0		2		new since 2012
North Germantown Greenway SVP	Stream Valley	Germantown	Germantown Master Plan	15.7	\$500,000		2		Stream valley park expansion
Northwest Branch Recreational Park	Recreational	Cloverly	Cloverly Master Plan	10.9	\$400,000		2		Eliminate inholding in natural resource area
Northwest Branch Recreational Park	Recreational	Cloverly	ICC Mitigation	26.2			2		Unmet recreational needs
Northwest Branch SVU 7	Stream Valley	Cloverly	Cloverly Master Plan	31.4	\$1,000,000		2		Stream valley park expansion
Piedmont Woods Special Park	Special	Clarksburg	Development Compliance	65.8	\$0		2		Unmet rec needs in new community
Reddy Branch SVU 2	Stream Valley	Olney	Olney Master Plan	196.7	\$2,500,000		2		Stream valley park expansion
Rock Creek SVU12	Stream Valley	Upper Rock Creek	Upper Rock Creek Master Plan	21.2	\$700,000		2		Stream valley park expansion
Rock Creek SVU16	Stream Valley	Upper Rock Creek	Upper Rock Creek Master Plan	23.8	\$800,000		2		Stream valley park expansion
Seek Lane NP	Neighborhood Park	Takoma Park	Long Branch Sector Plan	0.4	\$500,000		2		new since 2012
Springfield Neighborhood Green Urban Park	Neighborhood Green	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Westbard Sector Plan	0.3	\$0		2		Unmet recreational needs
Summit Hills Civic Green	Civic Green	Silver Spring	Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan	0.5	\$0		2		New gathering space to serve existing and new community
Summit Hills Urban Recreational Parklet	Urban Recreational Parklet	Silver Spring	Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan	1.0	\$0		2		Unmet recreational needs
Ten Mile Creek CP	Stream Valley	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Ten Mile Creek Limited Amendment	851.1	\$2,000,000		2		Create new stream valley park in significant high-quality watershed
Viva White Oak Civic Green	Civic Green	Fairland	White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan	0.9	\$0		2		Civic space to serve new and existing residents
Viva White Oak LP	Local	Fairland	White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan	3.9	\$0		2		Unmet recreational needs

## APPENDIX 3 - M-NCPPC LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS TO THE YEAR 2030 AND BEYOND

PARK NAME	PARK TYPE	PLANNING AREA	AUTHORITY	ACRES	ESTIMATED COSTS	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	NOTES
White Oak Neighborhood Green	Neighborhood Green	Fairland	White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan	2.0	\$0		2		Green space to serve new and existing residents
Arlington South Gateway Plaza	Urban Greenway	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	0.2	\$0			3	Connectivity to Capital Crescent Trail
Black Hill Regional Park	Regional	Lower Seneca	Boyds Master Plan	7.3	\$500,000			3	Future resource protection next to Seneca Lake
Black Hill Regional Park	Regional	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Ten Mile Creek Limited Amendment	247.1	\$0			3	Watershed protection; Easement or dedication
Blockhouse Point CP	Conservation	Darnestown	Potomac Master Plan	10.4	\$400,000			3	Resource protection, remove inholding
Brickyard Road Local Park	Local	Potomac	Potomac Master Plan	20.3	\$700,000			3	Unmet park needs
Bucklodge Branch SVP	Stream Valley	Lower Seneca	Agricultural and Rural Open Space	117.4	\$3,600,000			3	Watershed Protection
Dry Seneca Creek SVU 1	Stream Valley	Lower Seneca	Agricultural and Rural Open Space	160.4	\$4,900,000			3	Watershed Protection
Dry Seneca Creek SVU 2	Stream Valley	Lower Seneca	Agricultural and Rural Open Space	71.9	\$2,200,000			3	Watershed Protection
Eastern Greenway Neighborhood Green North	Neighborhood Green	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	2.3	\$14,000,000			3	Unmet recreational needs and green space
Gaithersburg West LP	Local	Gaithersburg Vicinity	Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan	14.0	\$500,000			3	Unmet recreational needs
Gateway to Norwood Local Park	Local	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	0.1	\$0			3	Connectivity to existing local park
Glen Hills LP	Local	Travilah	Potomac Master Plan	9.7	\$300,000			3	Unmet park needs
Glenmont Greenway Urban Park	Urban Greenway	Kensington/ Wheaton	Glenmont Sector Plan	2.1	\$0			3	Expand urban greenway for recreation and open space
Great Seneca SVU 2	Stream Valley	Goshen	Agricultural and Rural Open Space	5.9	\$200,000			3	Watershed protection, stream valley park expansion
Great Seneca SVU 4	Stream Valley	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	47.5	\$1,500,000			3	Watershed protection, stream valley park expansion
Great Seneca SVU 5	Stream Valley	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	158.5	\$4,800,000			3	Watershed protection, stream valley park expansion
Great Seneca SVU 6	Stream Valley	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	100.2	\$3,000,000			3	Watershed protection, stream valley park expansion
Great Seneca SVU 7	Stream Valley	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	1.0	\$100,000			3	Watershed protection, stream valley park expansion
Great Seneca SVU 8	Stream Valley	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	16.4	\$500,000			3	Watershed protection, stream valley park expansion
Great Seneca SVU 9	Stream Valley	Damascus	Damascus Master Plan	18.7	\$600,000			3	Watershed protection, stream valley park expansion
Gude Drive Recreational Park	Recreational	Upper Rock Creek	Upper Rock Creek Master Plan	164.3	\$0			3	Unmet recreational needs
Hawlings River SVP	Stream Valley	Olney	Olney Master Plan	211.2	\$0			3	Watershed protection
Hillandale LP	Local	White Oak	White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan	0.8	\$1,500,000			3	Unmet recreational needs
King's Bridge LP	Local	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	30.3	\$1,000,000			3	Unmet recreational needs
Linthicum West Recreational Park	Recreational	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	81.8	\$2,500,000			3	Unmet recreational needs
Little Bennett Regional Park	Regional	Bennett	Planning Board	306.7	\$3,000,000			3	Regional Park expansion
Little Bennett Regional Park	Regional	Bennett	Planning Board	10.5	\$100,000			3	Regional Park expansion
Little Bennett Regional Park	Regional	Bennett	Planning Board	30.2	\$300,000			3	Regional Park expansion
Long Branch SVU 1A	Stream Valley	Takoma Park	Takoma Park Master Plan	1.2	\$100,000			3	Stream valley park expansion to provide trails and recreation
LSC West Civic Green	Civic Green	Gaithersburg Vicinity	Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan	0.5	\$100,000			3	Needed amenities in developing corridor
LSC West LP	Local	Gaithersburg Vicinity	Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan	15.5	\$500,000			3	Needed amenities in developing corridor
Muddy Branch SVU 1	Stream Valley	Darnestown	Potomac Master Plan	12.7	\$0			3	Stream valley park expansion

## APPENDIX 3 - M-NCPPC LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS TO THE YEAR 2030 AND BEYOND

PARK NAME	PARK TYPE	PLANNING AREA	AUTHORITY	ACRES	ESTIMATED COSTS	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	NOTES
North Bethesda Trail Urban Greenway Park	Urban Greenway	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	0.9	\$0			3	Connectivity between community and major employment center
North Branch SVU 2	Stream Valley	Upper Rock Creek	Remainderment Interest	5.9	\$100,000			3	Stream valley park expansion
North Branch SVU 3	Stream Valley	Olney	Olney Master Plan	86.3	\$0			3	Watershed protection
North Branch SVU 4	Stream Valley	Upper Rock Creek	Upper Rock Creek Master Plan	23.3	\$0			3	Stream valley park expansion
Oak Drive LP	Local	Damascus	Damascus Master Plan	13.0	\$400,000			3	Unmet recreational needs
Oaks Landfill Recreational Park	Recreational	Olney	Olney Master Plan	501.3	\$0			3	Potential transfer of former landfill
Old Georgetown Road Neighborhood Green Park	Neighborhood Green	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	0.3	\$6,000,000			3	Green space to serve core of urban area
Ovid Hazen Wells Greenway SVP	Stream Valley	Clarksburg	Clarksburg Master Plan	31.6	\$1,000,000			3	Watershed protection
Patuxent River Watershed CP	Conservation	Patuxent	Cloverly Master Plan	34.6	\$350,000			3	Watershed protection
Patuxent River Watershed CP	Conservation	Patuxent	Fairland Master Plan	39.1	\$400,000			3	Watershed protection
Patuxent River Watershed CP	Conservation	Olney	Olney Master Plan	162.5	\$1,600,000			3	Resource-based recreation, watershed protection
Rachel Carson CP	Conservation	Olney	Olney Master Plan	14.8	\$200,000			3	Resource-based recreation, trail link, watershed protection
Rachel Carson CP	Conservation	Olney	Olney Master Plan	9.0	\$150,000			3	Resource protection, important trail connection
Red Door Store Historical/Cultural Park	Special	Olney	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	16.3	\$500,000			3	Eliminate inholding to a culturally significant park
Rock Creek SVU 2	Stream Valley	Silver Spring	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	14.3	\$0			3	Heritage trails protection; stream valley park expansion
Rock Run SVP	Stream Valley	Potomac	Potomac Master Plan	8.0	\$300,000			3	Stream valley park expansion
Rosemary Hills-Lyttonsville Expansion	Local Park	Silver Spring	Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan	1.0	\$0			3	Land swap during future redevelopment
Sandy Spring Village Green	Neighborhood Green	Patuxent	Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan	0.5	\$0			3	Unmet urban park/open space needs
Selden Island CP	Conservation	Poolesville	Legacy Open Space Master Plan	0.0	\$0			3	Protection of archaeological resources and water quality via easement
Seneca Landing Special Park	Special	Darnestown	Agricultural and Rural Open Space	8.6	\$300,000			3	Eliminate inholding to a culturally significant park area
Seneca Meadow Neighborhood Green	Neighborhood Green	Germantown	Germantown Employment Area Sector Plan	0.4	\$500,000			3	Unmet recreational and park needs
South Bethesda Public Plaza	Community Recreational	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	0.2	\$0			3	Green space to serve urban residential area
Summit Hills Urban Greenway	Urban Greenway	Silver Spring	Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan	4.9	\$0			3	Greenway and naturalized stream
Takoma Academy Local Park	Local	Takoma Park	East Silver Spring Master Plan	25.8	\$2,600,000			3	Unmet recreationa and park needs in dense down-county area
Unity	Neighborhood Park	Olney	Opportunity Acq	2.1	\$200,000			3	Unmet recreational needs
Upcounty Regional Services Center Neighborhood Green	Neighborhood Green	Germantown	Germantown Employment Area Sector Plan	0.9	\$1,000,000			3	Unmet recreational and park needs
Water Tower Neighborhood Green	Neighborhood Green	North Bethesda	White Flint Sector Plan	0.7	\$1,000,000			3	Urban Open Space needs
Wellington Drive Neighborhood Green Park	Neighborhood Green	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	0.5	\$0			3	Park amenities and open space to serve urban residential area
Western Edge Neigh Green (Beth Elem - Bd Ed)	Neighborhood Green	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	0.5	\$1,000,000			3	Expand open space adjacent to public school
Western Edge Neigh Green (Caroline Freeland)	Neighborhood Green	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	0.2	\$1,000,000			3	Expand open space next to existing park
Western Edge Neigh Green (Private home)	Neighborhood Green	Bethesda/ Chevy Chase	Bethesda Downtown Plan	0.5	\$1,000,000			3	Expand open space adjacent to public school
Wildcat Branch SVU 1	Stream Valley	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	45.1	\$1,400,000			3	Watershed protection, stream valley park expansion

**APPENDIX 3 - M-NCPPC LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS TO THE YEAR 2030 AND BEYOND**

<b>PARK NAME</b>	<b>PARK TYPE</b>	<b>PLANNING AREA</b>	<b>AUTHORITY</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	<b>ESTIMATED COSTS</b>	<b>PRIORITY 1</b>	<b>PRIORITY 2</b>	<b>PRIORITY 3</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Wildcat Branch SVU 2	Stream Valley	Goshen	Damascus Master Plan	100.8	\$3,100,000			3	Watershed protection, stream valley park expansion
<b>TOTAL ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED</b>				5733		1004	1698	3031	
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS</b>					\$184 Million	\$69 Million	\$44 Million	\$71 Million	

APPENDIX 3 - M-NCPPC LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS TO THE YEAR 2030 AND BEYOND



Appendix 4 - M-NCPPC Parkland and Facility Inventory

APPENDIX 4 – M-NCPPC PARKLAND AND FACILITY INVENTORY  
M-NCPPC PARKS FACILITY INVENTORY

PARK NAME	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS	PICNIC SHELTERS
ABERDEEN LOCAL PARK					1				1	1	2	1		1
ACORN URBAN PARK														
AGRICULTURAL HISTORY FARM PARK														
AMITY DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		1		1
AQUARIUS LOCAL PARK														
ARCOLA LOCAL PARK								2	1					
ARCTIC NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
ARGYLE LOCAL PARK								1	1	1	2	1		
ARORA HILLS LOCAL PARK							1	1		1		1		2
ASPEN HILL LOCAL PARK								2	1					
AVENEL LOCAL PARK								1	3	1	3	2		
AYRLAWN LOCAL PARK							1	1	1	1	2			
BATCHELLORS FOREST LOCAL PARK														
BATTERY LANE URBAN PARK										1	1	1		
BAUER DRIVE LOCAL PARK						2			1		2			
BECCA LILLY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										2				
BEDFORDSHIRE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		1		
BEL PRE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
BERET NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
BERRYVILLE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
BEVERLY FARMS LOCAL PARK								2	1	1	2			
BIG PINES LOCAL PARK									1	1	2	1		1
BIRCH DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
BLACK HILL REGIONAL PARK	1				2					2				10
BLAIR LOCAL PARK							1	1	3					
BLUEBERRY HILL LOCAL PARK								1	1	2	2	1		1
BLUNT ROAD LOCAL PARK														
BONIFANT NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
BOOZE CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK														
BOUNDARY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
BOWIE MILL LOCAL PARK									2	1	2			
BOYDS LOCAL PARK														
BRADLEY HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														

Appendix 4 - M-NCPPC Parkland and Facility Inventory

PARK NAME	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS	PICNIC SHELTERS
BRADLEY LOCAL PARK		1							1	1	2			
BREEWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
BROAD RUN STREAM VALLEY PARK														
BROADACRES LOCAL PARK							1	1	1	1				
BROOKDALE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		2		
BROOKMONT NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	1	1		
BROOKSIDE GARDENS														1
BROOKSIDE NATURE CENTER PROPERTY														
BROOKVIEW LOCAL PARK								1						
BROWNS CORNER NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
BUCK BRANCH NEIGHBORHOOD PARK									1	1	2	1		
BUCK BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
BUCKLODGE BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
BULLIS LOCAL PARK					1				1	1	1			
BURNING TREE LOCAL PARK								2	1		2			
BURTONSVILLE LOCAL PARK								2		1		1		1
CABIN BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
CABIN JOHN LOCAL PARK								1	1	1	2	1		1
CABIN JOHN REGIONAL PARK	1												1	11
CABIN JOHN STREAM VALLEY PARK														
CALLITHEA FARM SPECIAL PARK														
CALVERTON GALWAY LOCAL PARK				2			1	2	3	1	4			2
CALVERTON NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
CAMP SENECA SPECIAL PARK										1		2		1
CANNON ROAD LOCAL PARK								2	1	1	2			
CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL SPECIAL PARK														
CAPITOL VIEW OPEN SPACE URBAN PARK														
CAPITOL VIEW-HOMEWOOD LOCAL PARK								2	1	1	2	3		
CARDEROCK SPRINGS NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
CAROLINE FREELAND URBAN PARK										1				
CARROLL KNOLLS LOCAL PARK														
CASHELL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
CEDAR CREEK LOCAL PARK								1	1	1				
CENTERWAY LOCAL PARK							1		1	1				1
CHARRED OAK NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
CHASE AVENUE URBAN PARK										1				
CHELTENHAM DRIVE URBAN PARK										1				

Appendix 4 - M-NCPPC Parkland and Facility Inventory

PARK NAME	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS	PICNIC SHELTERS
CHERRYWOOD LOCAL PARK					1				1	1		1		
CHEVY CHASE LOCAL PARK									1	1	1	1		
CINDY LANE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
CLARKSBURG NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	2	1		
CLARKSBURG TRIANGLE URBAN PARK														
CLARKSBURG VILLAGE NORTH LOCAL PARK									1					1
CLEARSPRING LOCAL PARK								1	1	1		2		1
CLOVERLY LOCAL PARK								2		1	2			1
COLESVILLE LOCAL PARK							1	1	1	2	2			
COLESVILLE MANOR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
COLLEGE VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
COLT TERRACE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
COLUMBIA LOCAL PARK								4		1	5	3		1
CONCORD LOCAL PARK									1	1		3		
CONNECTICUT AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
CONSERVATORY NORTH														
COUNTRYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	2	2		
CRABBS BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
CROSS CREEK CLUB LOCAL PARK									1	1				
DALE DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
DAMASCUS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		1		
DAMASCUS RECREATIONAL PARK					1		1	3	4	2	2	2		3
DARBY HISTORICAL/CULTURAL PARK														
DARNESTOWN HERITAGE PARK														
DARNESTOWN LOCAL PARK								1	1	1	2	1		1
DARTMOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
DERWOOD STATION NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
DEWEY LOCAL PARK									1	1	4	1		
DICKERSON CONSERVATION PARK														
DICKERSON LOCAL PARK								1		1		1		1
DOWDEN'S ORDINARY SPECIAL PARK										1				
DRAKE DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
DRUID DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
DRY SENECA CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK														
DUFIEF LOCAL PARK									2	2	3			
DUVALL ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
EAST NORBECK LOCAL PARK								2	1	1	2	2		1

Appendix 4 - M-NCPPC Parkland and Facility Inventory

PARK NAME	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS	PICNIC SHELTERS
EAST SILVER SPRING URBAN PARK														
EAST-WEST HIGHWAY NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
EDGEWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				1
EDITH THROCKMORTON NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
EDNOR LOCAL PARK							1	1		1	2	2		
ELLSWORTH URBAN PARK	1									2	2			
ELM STREET URBAN PARK										2		1		
ELMHIRST PARKWAY NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA									1					
EMORY GROVE HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
ENGLISH COURT NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
EVANS PARKWAY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	2	2		1
FAIRDALE ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
FAIRLAND RECREATIONAL PARK								2	3	1	6	2		4
FAIRVIEW URBAN PARK										1				
FALLS ROAD LOCAL PARK							1		2	3				
FARMLAND DRIVE LOCAL PARK								2	1					
FENTON STREET URBAN PARK		1												
FERNWOOD LOCAL PARK									1	1	2			
FLEMING LOCAL PARK							1	1		1	2	2		1
FLOWER AVENUE URBAN PARK										1				
FLOWER HILL LOCAL PARK								1	1	2	2	1		
FLOWER VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK									1	1	2	1		
FOREST GLEN NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		2		
FOREST GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		2		
FOUNTAIN HILLS LOCAL PARK								1	1	1	2	1		
FOX CHAPEL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK									1	1	2			1
FOX HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	1	1		
GARRETT PARK - WAVERLY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK											2	1		
GARRETT PARK ESTATES LOCAL PARK								1						
GENE LYNCH URBAN PARK														
GENERAL GETTY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	2			
GEORGIAN FOREST LOCAL PARK									1	1	2	2		1
GERMANTOWN EAST LOCAL PARK														
GERMANTOWN SQUARE URBAN PARK														
GERMANTOWN TOWN CENTER URBAN PARK														
GLEN ECHO HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		1		
GLEN HAVEN NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														

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PARK NAME	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS	PICNIC SHELTERS
GLEN HILLS LOCAL PARK								2	1	1	2	2		
GLEN MAR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										2	1	1		
GLENFIELD LOCAL PARK									1	1	2			1
GLENMONT GREENWAY URBAN PARK														
GLENMONT LOCAL PARK								1		1				
GOOD HOPE LOCAL PARK								2	1	1	2	2		
GOSHEN BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
GOSHEN RECREATIONAL PARK														
GREAT SENECA STREAM VALLEY PARK														
GREENBRIAR LOCAL PARK					1				1	2		1		2
GREENWAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
GREENWICH NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	2	1		
GREENWOOD LOCAL PARK								2	1	1	2	2		1
GREGERSCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
GRIFFITH LOCAL PARK														
GUDE DRIVE RECREATIONAL PARK														
GUNNER'S BRANCH LOCAL PARK								1	1	1	2	2		
GUNNER'S LAKE LOCAL PARK									2	1				1
GUNNER'S VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
HARMONY HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
HASTINGS NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
HAWLINGS RIVER STREAM VALLEY PARK														
HERITAGE FARM NEIGHBORHOOD PARK									1	1	2	1		
HIGHLAND STONE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										2				1
HILLANDALE LOCAL PARK								2	1	1	2	2		
HILLMEAD NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	2	2		
HILLWOOD MANOR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		1		
HISTORIC HYATTSTOWN OPEN SPACE SPECIAL PARK														
HOPEFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
HOYLES MILL VILLAGE LOCAL PARK								1		1		1		
HUNTERS WOODS LOCAL PARK								1	1	1		2		2
HUNTERS WOODS NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
HYATTSTOWN FOREST SPECIAL PARK														
INDIAN SPRING TERRACE LOCAL PARK								1		1	2	1		
INVERNESS FOREST NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
JESUP-BLAIR LOCAL PARK									1	1	2	2		
JOHN HAINES NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		1		

Appendix 4 - M-NCPPC Parkland and Facility Inventory

PARK NAME	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS	PICNIC SHELTERS
JOHNSON LOCAL PARK								1	1	1	2	2		1
JONES MILL ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD PARK												1		
JOSIAH HENSON SPECIAL PARK														
JUNIPER-BLAIR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
KEMP MILL ESTATES LOCAL PARK										1	2	1		
KEMP MILL URBAN PARK										2		1		
KEN-GAR PALISADES LOCAL PARK								1	1	2	2	2		
KENSINGTON CABIN LOCAL PARK								1		2	2	1		
KENSINGTON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		2		
KENSINGTON PARKWAY STREAM VALLEY PARK														
KENSINGTON PARKWAY STREAM VALLEY PARK UNIT #1														
KENSINGTON-FREDERICK AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
KILGOUR BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
KINGS CROSSING LOCAL PARK								1		1				
KINGS LOCAL PARK								1	2					2
KINGSVIEW LOCAL PARK														
KRAMER URBAN PARK														
LAYHILL LOCAL PARK								3	2	1				1
LAYHILL VILLAGE LOCAL PARK								1	1	1	3			
LAYTONIA RECREATIONAL PARK														
LAYTONSVILLE LOCAL PARK								1	1	1		1		1
LEAMAN LOCAL PARK									2	1	2			
LELAND NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	2	1		
LELAND-BEACH TRIANGLE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
LITTLE BENNETT CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK														
LITTLE BENNETT REGIONAL PARK										1				
LITTLE FALLS STREAM VALLEY PARK														
LITTLE SENECA GREENWAY STREAM VALLEY PARK														
LITTLE SENECA STREAM VALLEY PARK														
LOCUST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK												1		
LONG BRANCH LOCAL PARK		1						1	1	1	2	1		
LONG BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
LONG BRANCH-ARLISS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	2	1		
LONG BRANCH-GARLAND NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		1		
LONG BRANCH-WAYNE LOCAL PARK								1	1	1		1		1
LONGWOOD LOCAL PARK						2		2	1	1	2	1		
LUXMANOR LOCAL PARK								2	1					

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PARK NAME	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS	PICNIC SHELTERS
LYNNBROOK LOCAL PARK								1	1	1	2			
MAGRUDER BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
MAIDEN LANE URBAN PARK														
MANOR OAKS LOCAL PARK								1	2	1				
MANOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
MAPLEWOOD-ALTA VISTA LOCAL PARK								2	1	1	2	1		
MARTIN LUTHER KING RECREATIONAL PARK							1	1	2	1	3	3		1
MATTHEW HENSON STATE PARK STREAM VALLEY PARK														
MATTHEW HENSON STATE PARK UNIT #1														
MATTHEW HENSON STATE PARK UNIT #2														
MATTHEW HENSON STATE PARK UNIT #3														
MATTHEW HENSON STATE PARK UNIT #4														
MCCRILLIS GARDENS SPECIAL PARK														
MCKENNEY HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK					1					1	2	3		
MCKNEW LOCAL PARK									1	1	1	1		1
MEADOWBROOK LOCAL PARK							1	5	4	1	3	2		
MEADOWOOD LOCAL PARK						2	1		1	2	2	2		
MERRIMAC NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	2	1		
METRO URBAN PARK														
MIDDLEBROOK HILL NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
MIDDLEVALE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
MILES ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
MILL CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK														
MILL CREEK TOWNE LOCAL PARK									1	1				
MINERAL SPRINGS NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
MONTGOMERY HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	1	2		
MOUNT ZION LOCAL PARK								1		1	2	2		1
MOYER ROAD LOCAL PARK									1	1	2	1		1
MUDDY BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
MUNCASTER MANOR LOCAL PARK														
MUNCASTER RECREATIONAL PARK														
NEW HAMPSHIRE ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD PARK					1					1				
NEWPORT MILL LOCAL PARK							1	1		1		3		
NIKE MISSILE LOCAL PARK					1			1	1	1	2	1		
NOLTE LOCAL PARK							1	1	1	2		1		
NORBECK MEADOWS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	1			
NORBECK-MUNCASTER MILL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		1		

Appendix 4 - M-NCPPC Parkland and Facility Inventory

PARK NAME	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS	PICNIC SHELTERS
NORTH BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
NORTH CHEVY CHASE LOCAL PARK							1	1	1	1	2	1		
NORTH FOUR CORNERS LOCAL PARK									1	2	4	1		
NORTH GATE LOCAL PARK										1		1		
NORTH GERMANTOWN GRNWAY STREAM VALLEY PARK														
NORTH POINT NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
NORTHWEST BRANCH RECREATIONAL PARK							1		4					
NORTHWEST BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
NORWOOD LOCAL PARK								2	1	2	5	2		
NORWOOD VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
OAK RIDGE CONSERVATION PARK														
OLD FARM NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
OLNEY ACRES NEIGHBORHOOD PARK					1					1		1		
OLNEY FAMILY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK					1			1		3		1		
OLNEY MANOR RECREATIONAL PARK	1		1		1		2	3		2	18	2		
OLNEY MILL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	2	1		1
OLNEY SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										2	2	3		
OPAL A. DANIELS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
ORCHARD NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
OVID HAZEN WELLS GREENWAY														
OVID HAZEN WELLS RECREATIONAL PARK							1	2	2	1				3
OWENS LOCAL PARK								1		1	3	2		
PAINT BRANCH NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
PAINT BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
PARKLAND LOCAL PARK								1	2					
PARKLAWN LOCAL PARK									2					
PEACH ORCHARD NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
PEACHWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	2	1		1
PENNYFIELD LOCK NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
PHILADELPHIA AVENUE URBAN PARK														
PIEDMONT CROSSING LOCAL PARK														
PILGRIM HILL LOCAL PARK								1		1	2	1		
PINECREST LOCAL PARK								1	1	3	2			
PLEASANT VIEW LOCAL PARK									1	1				
PLUMGAR LOCAL PARK										1		3		
POTOMAC COMMUNITY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	2	2		
POTOMAC HORSE CENTER SPECIAL PARK														



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PARK NAME	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS	PICNIC SHELTERS
POTOMAC PALISADES CONSERVATION PARK														
QUEBEC TERRACE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										2				
QUINCE ORCHARD KNOLLS LOCAL PARK								1		1	2	1		
QUINCE ORCHARD VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK								1		1	2	2		
RACHEL CARSON CONSERVATION PARK														
RANDOLPH HILLS LOCAL PARK								2	1	1	2	2		
RAY'S MEADOW LOCAL PARK								1	2	1				
RED DOOR STORE HISTORICAL/CULTURAL PARK														
REDDY BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
REDLAND LOCAL PARK									1	1	2	1		1
RICKMAN FARM HORSE SPECIAL PARK														
RIDGE ROAD RECREATIONAL PARK	1				1		1	2	2	1	1	1		3
ROCK CREEK REGIONAL PARK					1					3				17
ROCK CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK														
ROCK RUN STREAM VALLEY PARK														
ROCKWOOD SPECIAL PARK														
ROSEMARY HILLS-LYTTONSVILLE LOCAL PARK								1	1	2	2	2		
ROYCE HANSON URBAN PARK														
SADDLEBROOK LOCAL PARK									1	1		2		
SAINT PAUL NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
SANGAMORE LOCAL PARK								1	1	1	2			
SANTINI ROAD LOCAL PARK														
SCOTLAND NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		2		
SEEK LANE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										2				1
SENECA CROSSING LOCAL PARK														
SENECA LANDING SPECIAL PARK														
SENECA SPRINGS LOCAL PARK														
SEVEN LOCKS LOCAL PARK									1	1	2	2		1
SEVEN OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
SHERWOOD FOREST MANOR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
SHERWOOD FOREST NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
SILVER SPRING INTERMEDIATE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	2	2		
SILVER SPRING TRANSIT PLAZA URBAN PARK														
SLIGO AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	1	1		
SLIGO CABIN NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
SLIGO CREEK NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		1		1
SLIGO CREEK STREAM VALLEY PARK														

Appendix 4 - M-NCPPC Parkland and Facility Inventory

PARK NAME	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS	PICNIC SHELTERS
SLIGO MILL NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
SLIGO MILL OVERLOOK NEIGHBORHOOD PARK		1												
SLIGO-BENNINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										2	2			
SLIGO-DENNIS AVENUE LOCAL PARK								1		1	2	3		
SOUTH FOUR CORNERS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
SOUTH GERMANTOWN MONTGOMERY TENNISPLEX PROPERTY														
SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK		1			1		4	1	2	3	2	3		4
SOUTH GERMANTOWN SOCCERPLEX PROPERTY									20					
SOUTH GUNNER'S BRANCH LOCAL PARK									1	1	2	1		
SOUTHEAST OLNEY LOCAL PARK									2	1		1		1
SPENCERVILLE LOCAL PARK				2						1	2	2		
STEWARTOWN LOCAL PARK								1	1	2	2	2		2
STONECREST NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
STONEGATE LOCAL PARK									1	1	2	2		
STONEHEDGE LOCAL PARK					1				1	1		1		
STONEBROOK LOCAL PARK								1	1	1	2	2		
STRATHMORE LOCAL PARK								1		1	2			1
STRATTON LOCAL PARK								1	2	1	2	2		1
STRAWBERRY KNOLL LOCAL PARK				2						1	2	1		
SUGARLAND SPECIAL PARK														
SUNDOWN ROAD LOCAL PARK								2		1	2	1		2
TAKOMA - PINEY BRANCH LOCAL PARK			1		1			1	1	2		2		1
TAKOMA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
TAKOMA PARK SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
TAKOMA URBAN PARK										1				
TAMARACK NEIGHBORHOOD PARK								1		2		1		
TANGLEWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
TEN MILE CREEK GREENWAY STREAM VALLEY PARK														
TILDEN WOODS LOCAL PARK								1	1	1	2	1		
TILDEN WOODS STREAM VALLEY PARK														
TIMBERLAWN LOCAL PARK					1				2	1		1		
TOBYTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	1	1		
TRAVILLE LOCAL PARK														
TUCKERMAN NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
TWINPONDS NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
UNITY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
UPPER LONG BRANCH NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										2		1		

Appendix 4 - M-NCPPC Parkland and Facility Inventory

PARK NAME	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS	PICNIC SHELTERS
UPPER PAINT BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
UPPER ROCK CREEK LOCAL PARK														
VALLEY MILL SPECIAL PARK					1					1			1	1
VALLEYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
VEIRS MILL LOCAL PARK								2	2	1		2		
WALL LOCAL PARK										1		1		
WARING STATION LOCAL PARK									1	1		1		
WARNER CIRCLE SPECIAL PARK														
WASHINGTON SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK								1		1	2	2		1
WATERS LANDING LOCAL PARK									1	1	2	1		1
WATTS BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
WELLS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1				
WEMBROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		1		
WEST FAIRLAND LOCAL PARK							1	1		1	2			
WESTERN GROVE URBAN PARK														
WESTMORELAND HILLS LOCAL PARK								2		2	2	1		
WHEATON FOREST LOCAL PARK								2	1	1	2	2		1
WHEATON REGIONAL PARK	1									2				8
WHEATON VETERAN'S URBAN PARK														
WHEATON WOODS LOCAL PARK									2	1	2	1		
WHEATON-CLARIDGE LOCAL PARK												1		
WHITE FLINT NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1	2	2		
WHITTIER WOODS LOCAL PARK								1	1	1	2			
WILDCAT BRANCH STREAM VALLEY PARK														
WILLARD AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK										1		1		
WINDING CREEK LOCAL PARK									2	1		2		
WINDSOR NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA														
WINTER'S RUN LOCAL PARK														
WOOD LOCAL PARK								3						
WOODACRES LOCAL PARK								2	1	1	2	1		
WOODFIELD LOCAL PARK														
WOODLAWN CULTURAL SPECIAL PARK														
WOODSIDE URBAN PARK			1							3	1	2		
WOODSTOCK EQUESTRIAN PARK														
WYNGATE WOODS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>124</b>

Appendix 4 - M-NCPPC Parkland and Facility Inventory

Appendix 5 - Development Priorities

APPENDIX 5 - DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Project Development Priorities FY 19 - 24 and Beyond (Parks, Developer, MCPS)

Recreational facilities to the Year 2022. Status coding: A = FY19 - 24, B = Beyond FY24 (TBD), Note: The number of facilities is estimated in some cases.

PLANNING AREA	PROJECT LOCATION	STATUS	COMMENTS	CENTRAL LAWN FOR GATHERING	DIAMONDS	BASEBALL	RECTANGLES	PLAYGROUNDS	OUTDOOR TENNIS	OUTDOOR BASKETBALL	DOG PARKS	SKATE PARKS	OUTDOOR VOLLEYBALL	COMMUNITY GARDENS	PICKLEBALL	CRICKET
<b>RURAL AREA</b>																
DAMASCUS	LITTLE BENNETT DAY USE AREA	A	PICNIC SHELTERS					1								
DAMASCUS	SENECA SPRINGS LOCAL PARK	B					1	1								
DAMASCUS	WOODFIELD SCHOOL ROAD LOCAL PARK	B				1	2	1								
DAMASCUS	DAMASCUS MS	B			1		1		4	4						
DAMASCUS	DAMASCUS ES	B					1	1		1						
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>I-270 AREA</b>																
CLARKSBURG (13)	CLARKSBURG VILLAGE SOUTH LOCAL PARK (JEAN ONIFRY)	B	SITE GRADED				1	1		1						
CLARKSBURG (13)	CLARKMONT LOCAL PARK	A	DEVELOPER BUILT				1	1								
CLARKSBURG (13)	OVID HAZEN WELLS RECREATIONAL PARK	A						1				1				
CLARKSBURG (13)	PIEDMONT WOODS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	B	DOG PARK, 2 PICNIC SHELTERS,						2		1					
CLARKSBURG (13)	CABIN BRANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	B					1	1		2						
CLARKSBURG (13)	WEST OLD BALTIMORE ELEM	B						1		2						
CLARKSBURG (13)	CLARKSBURG ELEM #1	B						1		2						
CLARKSBURG (13)	LINTHICUM WEST RECREATIONAL PARK	B				1	3	1								
GERMANTOWN (19)	SENECA CROSSING LOCAL PARK	B	SITE GRADED				2	1		2						
GERMANTOWN (19)	KINGSVIEW VILLAGE LOCAL PARK	B						1								
GERMANTOWN (19)	SOUTH GERMANTOWN RECREATIONAL PARK	A														1

Appendix 5 - Development Priorities

PLANNING AREA	PROJECT LOCATION	STATUS	COMMENTS	CENTRAL LAWN FOR GATHERING	DIAMONDS	BASEBALL	RECTANGLES	PLAYGROUNDS	OUTDOOR TENNIS	OUTDOOR BASKETBALL	DOG PARKS	SKATE PARKS	OUTDOOR VOLLEYBALL	COMMUNITY GARDENS	PICKLEBALL	CRICKET
GERMANTOWN (19)	SOUTH GERMANTOWN (HONDROS PROPERTY)	B					1									
GERMANTOWN (19)	BLUNT ROAD LOCAL PARK	B					3	1								
GAITHERSBURG (20)	LAYTONIA RECREATIONAL PARK	A				1	3	1		1						
GAITHERSBURG (20)	PIEDMONT CROSSING LOCAL PARK	B					1	1								
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>GEORGIA AVE</b>																
UPPER ROCK CREEK (22)	MUNCASTER LOCAL PARK	B					2	1								
UPPER ROCK CREEK (22)	WINTER RUN LOCAL PARK	B					1	1								
OLNEY (23)	BATCHELORS FOREST LP (FORMER FARQUHAR MIDDLE SCHOOL)	A	POTENTIAL NEW FIELD ON OLD SCHOOL FOOTPRINT				1									
ASPEN HILL (27)	STRATHMORE LOCAL PARK	B						1								
KENSINGTON/WHEATON (31)	DEWEY LOCAL PARK	A	FITNESS, FUTSAL								1					
KENSINGTON/WHEATON (31)	WHEATON RECREATION CENTER	A		1				1								
KENSINGTON/WHEATON (31)	CARROLL KNOLLS LOCAL PARK	A						1		1		1				
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>POTOMAC</b>																
TRAVILAH (25)	TRAVILLE LOCAL PARK	A	SITE GRADED				0.5	1		1						
POTOMAC (29)	HANSON PROPERTY	A	DEVELOPER PROVIDED (TBD)				2	1								
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>EASTERN COUNTY</b>																
FAIRLAND (34)	BURTONSVILLE LOCAL PARK	B														1
FAIRLAND (34)	COLUMBIA LOCAL PARK	A													4	
FAIRLAND (34)	CALVERTON GALWAY LOCAL PARK	A									1					
CLOVERLY (28)	SANTINI ROAD LOCAL PARK	B					1	1								1
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

### Appendix 5 - Development Priorities

PLANNING AREA	PROJECT LOCATION	STATUS	COMMENTS	CENTRAL LAWN FOR GATHERING	DIAMONDS	BASEBALL	RECTANGLES	PLAYGROUNDS	OUTDOOR TENNIS	OUTDOOR BASKETBALL	DOG PARKS	SKATE PARKS	OUTDOOR VOLLEYBALL	COMMUNITY GARDENS	PICKLEBALL	CRICKET
<b>BETHESDA CHEVY CHASE</b>																
NORTH BETHESDA (30)	WALL LOCAL PARK	A		1	0											
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TAKOMA PARK / SILVER SPRING</b>																
TAKOMA PARK (37)	SLIGO MILL OVERLOOK NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	A						1								
SILVER SPRING (36)	WOODSIDE URBAN PARK	A		1										1		
SILVER SPRING (36)	ELLSWORTH URBAN PARK	A		1												
SILVER SPRING (36)	GENE LYNCH URBAN PARK	A		1												
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Appendix 5 - Development Priorities



Appendix 6 - Vision 2030 Parks and Recreation Amenity Analysis Chart

APPENDIX 6 - VISION 2030 PARKS AND RECREATION AMENITY ANALYSIS CHART

FACILITY OR COMPONENT	*NRPA (PER POP).			**SURVEY RESULTS (2010)			SERVICE	ASSESSMENT		RECOMMENDATION (IN NEXT 5-10 YEARS)
	ALL	COUNTY	MONTGOMERY COUNTY (2010) (PER POP).	IMPORTANCE	NEEDS BEING MET	SUB-AREA	NORTH	SOUTH	TRENDS (NAT'L)	
<b>OUTDOOR AMENITIES</b>										
Basketball court (outdoor)	7,333	16,333	4,951 (high LOS relative to NRPA study)	Lower (37%)	Mid (56%)	Ranked as low priority countywide	Complementary Development	Core Service	Declining participation (organized vs. pick-up)	Consider multiple uses of some courts (e.g., futsal, inline skating, etc.).
Diamond field	3,913	9,467	5,232 (mid LOS)	Lower (27%)	Mid (49-50%)	Ranked as low priority countywide	Advance Market Position (Regional/Recreational Parks) Core Service (Community Use Parks)		Baseball, softball - declining participation	Strategic potential to repurpose some existing diamond fields; a capacity/use study may be warranted
Community Gardens	NA	NA	4 sites (over 200 plots total) = 241,975	Mid (46%)	High (57%)	Higher demand in South and North Central	Advance Market Position		Increasing demand (in MC)	Strategic potential to add (3 planned for spring 2011)
Dog Park	59,256	242,500	193,580 (mid LOS)	Lower (33%)	Lower (43%)	Higher demand in South and North Central	Core Service		Growing trend, especially in urban areas	Increase, focus on urban areas
Multi-Purpose Field, all sizes	4,946	10,500	6,049 (mid LOS)	Mid (45%)	High (62%)	Higher demand in East Transit Corridor and South Central	Advance Market Position (Regional/Recreational Parks) Core Service (Community Use Parks)		Soccer and lacrosse growing, football steady participation	Strategic potential to add (or increase functionality of existing)
Picnic Shelters	NA	NA	20,994	Higher (62%)	High (66%)	Higher demand in East Transit Corridor and South Central	Advance Market Position for Rentals - Shelters Core Service - Picnic Grounds		Continue to be a common, popular park amenity; Ranked as 5th top facilities to add or expand per Vision 2030 Survey	Maintain current LOS
Playground, all sizes	4,000	16,400	3,752 (high LOS)	Higher (68%)	High (73%)	Higher demand in East Transit Corridor, South and North Central	Core Service		Growing importance as healthy living amenity	Maintain high current LOS
Skate Park	NA	NA	483,950	Lowest (16%)	Lowest (39%)	Ranked as low priority countywide	NA None in this region	Core Service	Fewer participants, but high % increase in youth participation	Strategic potential to add
Tennis (outdoor)	4,690	15,779	3,184 (high LOS)	Mid (48%)	High (63%)	Higher demand in Potomac/Rural	Complementary Development		Steady participation since 2000	Potential to decrease number of stand-alone courts and increase groupings of tennis courts
Trails	NA	NA	3349 miles per person (hard and soft surface)	Highest (72-73%)	Highest (74% natural surface, 76% hard surface)	Higher demand for hard surface trails in East Transit Corridor; Higher demand for soft surface trail in Potomac / Rural	Core Service		Popular amenity national-wide; exercise walking ranks as the top sport by total participation nationwide; hiking, biking, and running/jogging also rank in the top 12	Expand distribution of multi-use trails with a focus on more densely populated areas, when feasible; increase trail connectivity
Volleyball (outdoor)	NA	NA	40,413 (GreenPlay benchmark review shows lower LOS in MC)	NA	NA	NA	Core Service		Casual/pick-up play exceeded organized play in grass and sand volleyball; Community input of user groups shows demand for multiple courts for tournament play	Look for opportunities to add sand volleyball, with a focus on co-locating two or more courts for tournament play (with lighting when feasible)

## Appendix 6 - Vision 2030 Parks and Recreation Amenity Analysis Chart

FACILITY OR COMPONENT	*NRPA (PER POP).			**SURVEY RESULTS (2010)			SERVICE	ASSESSMENT	TRENDS (NAT'L)	RECOMMENDATION (IN NEXT 5-10 YEARS)
	ALL	COUNTY	MONTGOMERY COUNTY (2010) (PER POP).	IMPORTANCE	NEEDS BEING MET	SUB-AREA	NORTH	SOUTH		
<b>INDOOR FACILITIES</b>										
Aquatic Center	34,187	105,556	211,679	Mid (59%)	Mid (60%)	Higher demand in North Central	Advance or Affirm Market Position at all sites		Swimming ranks as the 4th sport by total participation nationwide; Vision 2030 survey identified indoor aquatics as one of the top five facilities to expand or improve	Incorporate indoor aquatics with recreation centers (do not build additional stand-alone aquatic centers)
Nature Center	NA	NA	241,975	Mid (58%)	High (67%)	Higher demand in Potomac / Rural	Core Service - Drop-in Experience Other services vary within nature centers and are Advance, Affirm or are Complementary Development (e.g., Environmental Education Programs - On-Site, and Special Events)		81% of Borough/Counties offer environmental education/nature programs per NRPA Operating Ratio Study*; Outdoor nature programs as 4th top priority to add or expand in Vision 2030 Survey	No new stand-alone Nature Centers recommended; 78% of survey respondents prefer outdoor nature education over indoor
Recreation Center	25,000	36,554	35,280	Higher (67%)	High (66%)	Higher demand in East Transit Corridor and North Central	Core Service - most Drop-in Experience. Other services vary within recreation centers		Larger, multi-purpose recreation centers with aquatics are a national trend; lap and leisure aquatics, larger gym and fitness spaces are common amenities; climbing walls and walking/jogging tracks are also trends	Add fewer, larger regional recreation centers (with aquatics) focused in along central corridor growth areas; (63% of survey respondents prefer to fewer, larger multi-purpose regional rec centers as opposed to a greater number of smaller centers)

*Note: This is a draft chart and is subject to revisions upon further staff review. \*National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Operating Ratio Study, 2009: "All" includes all jurisdiction respondent types (County/Borough, Municipal, and Special Districts) and "County" includes only the County jurisdiction respondents to this national benchmarking study. The numbers in columns 2-4 represent population per component. \*\*Survey: Vision 2030 Strategic Plan Survey results are statistically-valid on a countywide basis; sub-area information is informational and not statistically-valid due to the smaller sample size.*

## Appendix 7 - Total Population Projected by Planning Area

### APPENDIX 7 - TOTAL POPULATION PROJECTED BY PLANNING AREA

Forecast of Households, Population, and Employment by Planning Areas (Round 9.0)

PLANNING AREA	PLANNING AREA #	POPULATION 2015	POPULATION 2020	POPULATION 2025	POPULATION 2030
<b>DOWNCOUNTY AREAS</b>					
Aspen Hill	27	63,700	63,700	63,700	64,000
Bennett	10	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,200
Bethesda/Chevy Chase	35	94,800	98,400	100,200	108,700
Clarksburg	13	22,700	23,700	34,400	36,400
Cloverly	28	18,200	18,200	18,200	18,500
Damascus	11	11,700	11,700	11,700	12,000
Darnestown	24	13,100	13,100	13,100	13,700
Dickerson	12	1,300	1,300	1,300	2,000
Fairland	34	42,700	42,700	42,700	46,600
Gaithersburg City**	21	68,500	69,800	72,400	75,500
Gaithersburg Vicinity	20	78,000	84,500	89,000	92,600
Germantown	19	87,900	93,200	93,200	93,500
Goshen	14	10,500	10,500	10,500	10,700
Kemp Mill/4 Corners	32	38,400	38,400	38,400	38,900
Kensington/Wheaton	31	93,300	95,500	96,500	98,500
Lower Seneca	18	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,600
Martinsburg	16	400	400	1,300	700
North Bethesda	30	47,900	55,800	62,400	64,300
Olney	23	37,900	37,900	37,900	38,500
Patuxent	15	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,500
Poolesville	17	6,200	6,200	6,200	6,500
Potomac	29	46,400	47,000	47,000	48,100
Rockville**	26	65,400	69,800	75,100	78,600
Silver Spring	36	42,700	46,500	48,300	53,200
Takoma Park	37	33,100	33,100	33,100	33,500
Travilah	25	28,400	28,400	28,900	29,700
Upper Rock Creek	22	14,100	14,300	14,500	14,800
White Oak	33	36,200	36,300	36,300	37,000
<b>Total *</b>		<b>1,015,300</b>	<b>1,052,200</b>	<b>1,088,100</b>	<b>1,128,800</b>

## Appendix 7 - Total Population Projected by Planning Area

RURAL AREAS	PLANNING AREA #	POPULATION 2015	POPULATION 2020	POPULATION 2025	POPULATION 2030
<b>DAMASCUS &amp; VICINITY</b>					
Bennett	10	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,200
Damascus	11	11,700	11,700	11,700	12,000
Goshen	14	10,500	10,500	10,500	10,700
Patuxent	15	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>32,600</b>	<b>32,600</b>	<b>32,600</b>	<b>33,400</b>
<b>POOLESVILLE &amp; VICINITY</b>					
Dickerson	12	1,300	1,300	1,300	2,000
Martinsburg	16	400	400	1,300	700
Poolesville	17	6,200	6,200	6,200	6,500
Lower Seneca	18	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,600
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,300</b>	<b>9,300</b>	<b>10,200</b>	<b>10,800</b>

\* Figures may not sum to total because of rounding.

\*\* Municipality. Source: Research & Special Projects, Montgomery County Planning Department, MWCOG Draft Round 9.0 Cooperative Forecast.

## APPENDIX 8 - NON M-NCPPC PARKS AND OPEN SPACE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

### Federal, State, and Other Parkland and Open Space

Montgomery County also benefits from parkland and open space areas provided by other governmental and private entities. These are the Federal Government, the State of Maryland, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and private providers.

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#### FEDERAL

Federal parkland in Montgomery County consists of the C&O Canal Historical Park, which provides approximately 4,082 acres of parkland. The park includes 3.67 miles of the old towpath for hiking and biking, and opportunities for picnicking, fishing, and bird watching. In addition, a limited number of primitive campsites are located along the towpath. The major access point and the area of highest use in the C&O Canal Park is the Great Falls recreation area. In addition to a historic tavern, canal locks and towpath, there are sixteen miles of hiking and natural trails available in the Great Falls area. The Carderock area of the canal below Great Falls provides opportunities for rock climbing enthusiasts. Access to the C&O Canal above Great Falls occurs primarily at the old canal lock sites. There is a boat ramp and parking at the Pennyfield Lock site on M-NCPPC parkland, which provide boat access to the Potomac. Parking is also available at Violets and Swains Locks.

Other national park sites in Montgomery County include the Clara Barton National Historical Site and the Glen Echo Park, both located in the Glen Echo area of the County.

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#### STATE OF MARYLAND

State parkland in Montgomery County is 12,688 acres. Approximately 6,313 of these acres are in the Seneca State Park, which extends from the Potomac River to Germantown. A significant portion of this park is developed with picnic, boating, and trail facilities. The area contains the 90-acre Clopper Lake, an archery range, and provisions for horseback riding. Strider Wildlife Management Area (267 acres) also adjoins Seneca State Park.

The second largest State holding is the undeveloped Patuxent State Park, at 3,136 acres, which lies along the Patuxent River on the Montgomery and Howard County boundary. This park, which primarily serves conservation purposes, also includes opportunities for hiking, fishing, and horseback riding. Future development of this park is in the planning stage.

The McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area encompasses 1,971 acres and is adjacent to the C&O Canal in the western portion of the County. This area is managed for wildlife and is significant because it is one of the few public sites available for hunting in the County. During the off-season, this area is also used for bird watching.

The Mathew Henson State Park consists of 100 acres from Viers Mill Road to Georgia Avenue. This linear Mid-county wildlife corridor provides passive and hiking recreation.

The Islands of the Potomac Wildlife Management Area (WMA) provides a collective 789 acres of protected wildlife habitat. The Diersen WMA contributes 40 acres.

## Appendix 8 - Non M-NCPPC Parks and Open Space In Montgomery County

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### OTHER

#### Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)

The WSSC owns 2,074 acres of open space land and 2,192 acres of water supply in Montgomery County. The Triadelphia Watershed comprises 1132 acres with a reservoir containing 576 acres. The T. Howard Duckett Watershed contains 942 acres including a 259-acre reservoir. Black Hill Regional Park has a 1357-acre lake surrounded by Black Hill Regional Park. Although the primary purpose of the WSSC land is for water supply, recreational use of the land is permitted. The activities allowed include fishing, boating, picnicking, and horseback riding on an established trail system.

#### Other Large, Private Open Spaces

Private conservation-oriented groups in Montgomery County provide an important role in preserving open space purposes. The Izaak Walton League has 5 Chapters providing a total of 732 acres of protected open space; however, it is not available to the general public. Rockville has 50 acres protected, Bethesda/Chevy Chase Chapter 493 acres, Lois Green Chapter 63.5 acres protected, Wildlife Achievement Chapter 93 acres, and the Izaak Walton League national headquarters with 33 acres.

Appendix 8 - Non M-NCPPC Parks and Open Space In Montgomery County

Non M-NCPPC Facility Inventory

OWNER	PARK NAME	ACRES	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS
CHEVY CHASE SEC. III	GAZEBO PARK	0.1													
CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE	BELMONT BUFFER PARK	0.3													
CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE	BELMONT BUFFER PARK	1.1													
CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE	BOXWOOD PARK	0.2													
CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE	BROOKVILLE PARK	0.4													
CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE	LARGE OLIVER PARK	0.5													
CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE	LAUREL PARK	0.8													
CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE	NEWLANDS PARK	0.6													
CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE	SMALL OLIVER PARK	0.1													
FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS	HUBERT HUMPHREY FRIENDSHIP PARK	0.9		1											
FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS	WILLIAM TYLER PAGE PARK	0.3													
FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS	WILLOUGHBY PARK	0.7													
GAITHERSBURG	BLOHM PARK	29.8													
GAITHERSBURG	BOHRER PARK AT SUMMIT HALL FARM AND ACTIVITY CENTER	56.6									1				3
GAITHERSBURG	BROWN STATION PARK	26.3													
GAITHERSBURG	CASEY COMMUNITY CENTER	3.8													
GAITHERSBURG	CHRISTMAN PARK	4.1													
GAITHERSBURG	CITY HALL AND CIVIC CENTER PARK	5.4									1	2	1		
GAITHERSBURG	CONSTITUTION GARDENS	1.5													
GAITHERSBURG	CROWN WOODS	4.3													
GAITHERSBURG	DIAMOND FARMS PARK	23.6									1	3	1		
GAITHERSBURG	DUVALL PARK	3.4									2		1		1
GAITHERSBURG	GREEN PARK	17.3									1				
GAITHERSBURG	INSPIRATION PARK	0.1													
GAITHERSBURG	INTERNATIONAL LATTITUDE OBSERVATORY PARK	2.3													
GAITHERSBURG	KELLEY PARK	28.1					1	2	1		1	2	2		
GAITHERSBURG	KENTLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAQUE	0.0													
GAITHERSBURG	KENTLANDS GREEN	1.3													

Appendix 8 - Non M-NCPPC Parks and Open Space In Montgomery County

OWNER	PARK NAME	ACRES	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS
GAITHERSBURG	KENTLANDS LAKES PARK	57.8													
GAITHERSBURG	LAKE PLACID DAM	0.3													
GAITHERSBURG	LAKE VARUNA PARK	14.0													
GAITHERSBURG	LAKELANDS PARK	11.6			1				2	1	1				1
GAITHERSBURG	LAKELANDS STREAM VALLEY PARK	63.1													
GAITHERSBURG	LITTLE QUARRY PARK	5.8													
GAITHERSBURG	MAIN STREET PAVILLION	0.4													
GAITHERSBURG	MALCOLM KING PARK	78.3										2	1		
GAITHERSBURG	MORRIS PARK	30.8							2		1	3			1
GAITHERSBURG	MUDDY BRANCH PARK	62.9													
GAITHERSBURG	NIKE MISSILE PARK	3.1													
GAITHERSBURG	OLDE TOWNE SQUARE	1.2													
GAITHERSBURG	PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS, MAINTENANCE, & ENGINEERING	20.1													
GAITHERSBURG	ROBERTSON PARK	8.9							1	2					
GAITHERSBURG	ROSEMONT STREAM VALLEY PARK	19.1													
GAITHERSBURG	SUMMERFIELD PARK	0.4													
GAITHERSBURG	SWM FACILITY	0.7													
GAITHERSBURG	TRAVIS AVENUE PARK	1.4									1		2		
GAITHERSBURG	VICTORY FARMS PARK	57.9													
GAITHERSBURG	WALDER PARK	2.7									1				
GAITHERSBURG	WASHINGTONIAN WOODS PARK	16.9									1	2	2		
GAITHERSBURG	WELLS-ROBERTSON HOUSE	2.5											1		
GARRETT PARK	CAMBRIA PARK	1.9										2			
GARRETT PARK	PORCUPINE WOODS PARK	3.1											1		
GLEN ECHO	PRINCETON AVENUE PARK	0.1													
KENSINGTON	CLUM-KENNEDY GARDENS PARK	0.7		1											
KENSINGTON	ERNEST MEMORIAL PARK	0.5													
KENSINGTON	FLINN PARK	0.3													
KENSINGTON	HOWARD AVENUE PARK	0.1													
KENSINGTON	JOSEPH PARK	0.2													
KENSINGTON	REINHARDT PARK	0.7									1				
KENSINGTON	ST. PAUL PARK	3.2									1		1		
OAKMONT	DALEY LANE PARK	0.2													



Appendix 8 - Non M-NCPPC Parks and Open Space In Montgomery County

OWNER	PARK NAME	ACRES	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS
POOLESVILLE	BEAVER POND PARK	6.0													
POOLESVILLE	BODMER PARK	1.5							1		1				
POOLESVILLE	BROOKS PARK	0.7									1				
POOLESVILLE	CAMPBELL PARK	2.3													
POOLESVILLE	COLLIER CIRCLE PARK	9.7													
POOLESVILLE	DR. DILLINGHAM PARK	3.7			2						1				
POOLESVILLE	DRY SENECA CREEK PARK	24.9													
POOLESVILLE	E.E. HALMOS PARK	17.1						2	1	1		2	3		
POOLESVILLE	L.M. STEVENS PARK	30.3							1	1	1	2	2		
POOLESVILLE	LORI GORE PARK	0.2													
POOLESVILLE	WESTERLY AVENUE PARK	0.7													
POOLESVILLE	WHALEN COMMONS PARK	3.7													
POOLESVILLE	WILLARD PRACTICE FIELD PARK	2.2													
POOLESVILLE	WOOTTEN HEIGHTS PARK	0.4									1				
REVENUE AUTHORITY	FALLS ROAD GOLF COURSE	148.4													
REVENUE AUTHORITY	HAMPSHIRE GREENS GOLF COURSE	342.0													
REVENUE AUTHORITY	LAYTONSVILLE GOLF COURSE	172.2													
REVENUE AUTHORITY	POOLESVILLE PUBLIC GOLF COURSE	227.1													
REVENUE AUTHORITY	RATTLEWOOD GOLF COURSE	171.8													
ROCKVILLE	ANDERSON PARK	13.6													
ROCKVILLE	AUTRE-ST. MARY'S PARK	1.3													
ROCKVILLE	BEALL-DAWSON HOUSE & PARK	1.4													
ROCKVILLE	BROOME ATHLETIC PARK	19.4							2		1	4			
ROCKVILLE	BULLARDS PARK	5.9									1		1		
ROCKVILLE	CALVIN PARK	5.9										2	3		
ROCKVILLE	CIVIC CENTER PARK	153.4										4			
ROCKVILLE	COLLEGE GARDENS PARK	6.2					1				1		2		
ROCKVILLE	COURTHOUSE SQUARE PARK	1.5													
ROCKVILLE	DAVID SCULL PARK	3.7							1		1		1		1
ROCKVILLE	DAWSON FARM PARK	1.8									1				
ROCKVILLE	DAWSON FARM PARK	7.5									1				
ROCKVILLE	DOGWOOD PARK	5.5					1	3	1		1	3	3		

Appendix 8 - Non M-NCPPC Parks and Open Space In Montgomery County

OWNER	PARK NAME	ACRES	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS
ROCKVILLE	DOGWOOD PARK	34.5					1	3	1		1	3	3		
ROCKVILLE	DPW WATER TREATMENT FACILITY	7.3													
ROCKVILLE	ELWOOD SMITH PARK	3.3							1		1		1		
ROCKVILLE	ELWOOD SMITH PARK	7.6							1		1		1		
ROCKVILLE	FALLSGROVE PARK	18.6		1							1	2			
ROCKVILLE	FALLSGROVE STREAM VALLEY	38.7													
ROCKVILLE	FIRST STREET PARK	0.3													
ROCKVILLE	FRIENDS PARK	0.2													
ROCKVILLE	GLENORA PARK	13.9					1		1		1	2	2		
ROCKVILLE	GRANDIN AVENUE PARK	0.4									1				
ROCKVILLE	HILLCREST PARK	4.4							1		1	1	1		
ROCKVILLE	HORIZON HILL PARK	28.1													
ROCKVILLE	ISRAEL PARK	3.5							1		1				
ROCKVILLE	JACQUILIN TRELLS WILLIAMS PARK	1.0													
ROCKVILLE	JAMES MONROE PARK	0.6													
ROCKVILLE	KARN PARK	0.1													
ROCKVILLE	KING FARM 12 ACRE PARK	12.0								1	2	2	2		
ROCKVILLE	KING FARM HOMESTEAD PARK	5.0													
ROCKVILLE	KING FARM STREAM VALLEY PARK	9.7													
ROCKVILLE	KING FARM STREAM VALLEY PARK	5.6													
ROCKVILLE	KING FARM STREAM VALLEY PARK	4.6													
ROCKVILLE	KING FARM STREAM VALLEY PARK	1.9													
ROCKVILLE	KING FARM STREAM VALLEY PARK	12.4													
ROCKVILLE	KING FARM STREAM VALLEY PARK	4.8													
ROCKVILLE	KING FARM STREAM VALLEY PARK	2.7													
ROCKVILLE	KING FARM STREAM VALLEY PARK	1.5													
ROCKVILLE	KING FARM STREAM VALLEY PARK	3.5													
ROCKVILLE	KING FARM STREAM VALLEY PARK	5.3													
ROCKVILLE	KINSHIP PARK	0.5									1				
ROCKVILLE	LEGACY AT LINCOLN PARK	0.8									1		1		

Appendix 8 - Non M-NCPPC Parks and Open Space In Montgomery County

OWNER	PARK NAME	ACRES	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS
ROCKVILLE	LONE OAK PARK	6.4							1		1		1		
ROCKVILLE	MAINTENANCE YARD	14.8													
ROCKVILLE	MARK TWAIN ATHLETIC PARK	10.1							2		1	1			1
ROCKVILLE	MARY TRUMBO PARK	0.3													
ROCKVILLE	MARYVALE PARK	1.7								1	1		2		
ROCKVILLE	MARYVALE PARK	7.7								1	1		2		
ROCKVILLE	MATTIE J.T. STEPANEK PARK	24.5								2	2	3	4		
ROCKVILLE	MEMORY WALK PARK	0.2													
ROCKVILLE	MILLENIUUM GARDEN PARK	1.3													
ROCKVILLE	MONTROSE PARK	5.7							1		2	2	4		
ROCKVILLE	MONTROSE WOODS PARK	6.0													
ROCKVILLE	MONUMENT PARK	7.7							1		1		2		
ROCKVILLE	NORTH FARM PARK	5.4									1	2	1		
ROCKVILLE	NORTH STREET PARK	0.2													
ROCKVILLE	NORTHEAST PARK	5.9													
ROCKVILLE	NORTHEAST PARK	0.8													
ROCKVILLE	OPEN SPACE	1.8													
ROCKVILLE	OPEN SPACE	0.3													
ROCKVILLE	OPEN SPACE	0.7													
ROCKVILLE	OPEN SPACE	2.3													
ROCKVILLE	OPEN SPACE	4.3													
ROCKVILLE	OPEN SPACE	1.3													
ROCKVILLE	OPEN SPACE (SWM)	1.9													
ROCKVILLE	OPEN SPACE (SWM)	3.4													
ROCKVILLE	ORCHARD RIDGE PARK	2.0									1		1		
ROCKVILLE	PEG SANTEE PARK	0.6													
ROCKVILLE	POTOMAC WOODS PARK	40.8							2		1	2	2		
ROCKVILLE	PROMENADE PARK	0.4													
ROCKVILLE	PUMP HOUSE AT CROYDON PARK	1.2									2		1		
ROCKVILLE	REDGATE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE	134.4													
ROCKVILLE	ROCKCREST PARK	5.2									1		2		
ROCKVILLE	ROCKCREST PARK	7.4									1		2		
ROCKVILLE	ROCKMEAD PARK	20.2													

Appendix 8 - Non M-NCPPC Parks and Open Space In Montgomery County

OWNER	PARK NAME	ACRES	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS
ROCKVILLE	ROCKVILLE DOG PARK	2.1	1												
ROCKVILLE	ROCKVILLE TOWN SQUARE	0.4													
ROCKVILLE	ROSE HILL STREAM VALLEY	9.1													
ROCKVILLE	ROSE HILL TOT LOT	0.1									1				
ROCKVILLE	SENIOR CENTER PARK	8.8													
ROCKVILLE	SILVER ROCK PARK	2.7									1				
ROCKVILLE	SWIM CENTER	21.3						1	1						
ROCKVILLE	THIRTY OAKS PARK	0.5													
ROCKVILLE	TWINBROOK PARK	11.1									1	2	2		
ROCKVILLE	UPPER WATTS BRANCH FOREST PRESERVE	3.2													
ROCKVILLE	UPPER WATTS BRANCH FOREST PRESERVE	69.2													
ROCKVILLE	VETERANS PARK	0.9													
ROCKVILLE	VILLAGE GREEN PARK	0.8													
ROCKVILLE	WELSH PARK	11.7							1			3	3		
ROCKVILLE	WOODLEY GARDENS PARK	40.3					1	1	1		1	4	3		
ROCKVILLE	WOOTTONS MILL PARK	4.4		1							1	2	1		
ROCKVILLE	WOOTTONS MILL PARK	74.3		1							1	2	1		
ROCKVILLE	WOOTTONS MILL PARK	9.5		1							1	2	1		
SOMERSET	CAPELLA PARK	3.2										4	1		
SOMERSET	FOUNDERS PARK	0.1													
SOMERSET	SOMERSET PARK	16.7													
STATE OF MARYLAND	DIERSSEN WMA	49.4													
STATE OF MARYLAND	ISLANDS OF THE POTOMAC WMA	502.6													
STATE OF MARYLAND	MATTHEW HENSON STATE PARK UNIT #1	69.9													
STATE OF MARYLAND	MATTHEW HENSON STATE PARK UNIT #2	36.7													
STATE OF MARYLAND	MCKEE-BESHES WMA	1968.1													
STATE OF MARYLAND	PATUXENT RIVER STATE PARK	3136.2													
STATE OF MARYLAND	SENECA CREEK STATE PARK	6294.0									8				6
STATE OF MARYLAND	STRIDER WMA	234.7													
TAKOMA PARK	B.Y. MORRISON PARK	0.1													
TAKOMA PARK	CIRCLE WOODS	0.8													

Appendix 8 - Non M-NCPPC Parks and Open Space In Montgomery County

OWNER	PARK NAME	ACRES	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS
TAKOMA PARK	CIRCLE WOODS	0.5													
TAKOMA PARK	COLBY TOT LOT	0.2									1				
TAKOMA PARK	FOREST PARK	1.4									1				
TAKOMA PARK	GLENGARY PLACE PARK	0.9													
TAKOMA PARK	HEFNER PARK	2.3	1								1				
TAKOMA PARK	JACKSON BOYD PARK	0.3									1				
TAKOMA PARK	JEQUIE PARK	1.8								1	2		2	1	1
TAKOMA PARK	LOWER PORTAL PARK	0.2													
TAKOMA PARK	MEMORIAL PARK	0.4													
TAKOMA PARK	SPRING PARK	3.1								1	1		2		
TAKOMA PARK	THOMAS SIEGLER HISTORIC SITE	0.2													
TAKOMA PARK	TOATLEY FRASER PARK	0.3									1				
TAKOMA PARK	UPPER PORTAL PARK	0.3													
TAKOMA PARK	WABASH PARK	0.9													
TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE	ROSEMARY CIRCLE PARK	0.3													
TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE	ROSEMARY TRIANGLE PARK	0.2													
TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE	TARRYTOWN PARK	0.5													
TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE	ZIMMERMAN PARK	0.7													
UNITED STATES	C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK	4081.6													
UNITED STATES	DALECARLIA RESERVOIR	140.7													
WASHINGTON GROVE	CHAPEL PARK	0.6													
WASHINGTON GROVE	EAST WOODS FOREST RESERVE	27.7													
WASHINGTON GROVE	HICKORY PARK	0.1													
WASHINGTON GROVE	HOWARD PARK	1.8													
WASHINGTON GROVE	MCCOULEY PARK	0.1													
WASHINGTON GROVE	MORGAN PARK	4.8													
WASHINGTON GROVE	RAILROAD PARK	0.1													
WASHINGTON GROVE	WADE PARK	0.5													
WASHINGTON GROVE	WEST WOODS FOREST RESERVE	47.7													
WASHINGTON GROVE	WOODWARD PARK	9.3									1	3	1		

Appendix 8 - Non M-NCPPC Parks and Open Space In Montgomery County

OWNER	PARK NAME	ACRES	DOG PARK	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	CRICKET	VOLLEYBALL COURT	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL / DIAMONDS	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PLAYGROUND	TENNIS COURT	BASKETBALL / MULTI-USE COURT	GROUP PICNIC AREAS
WASHINGTON GROVE	ZOE WADSWORTH PARK	2.4													
WSSC	CIRCLE WOODS	0.6													
WSSC	DAMASCUS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT	7.6													
WSSC	LITTLE SENECA RESERVOIR	613.7													
WSSC	T. HOWARD DUCKETT WATERSHED	1001.9													
WSSC	TRIADELPHIA RESERVOIR	1100.3													
WSSC	TRIADELPHIA RESERVOIR	31.9													
WSSC	WSSC AVENEL SITE	160.2													
WSSC	WSSC FILTRATION PLANT	71.5													

## APPENDIX 9 - NATURAL RESOURCE MAPS AND GIS DATA LIST OF DELIVERABLES

The Guidelines for State & Local Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Planning require additional materials to be shared with the State Department of Planning including the following maps and data.

- Maps of Federal, State, and locally owned parkland, open space, greenway, or natural resource areas
- Parkland, natural areas, and open space protected by long-term lease or license agreement
- Forest conservation easements and reservations
- Floodplains, steep slopes, and wetlands preserved by legal and regulatory mechanisms, i.e., protected by easement
- Land protected by deed covenants such as homeowner association open space
- Land trust easements or ownership

### Inventory Map

- Provide a GIS-based map of the parks and recreation lands and facilities included in the inventory spreadsheet and a brief narrative explaining it.

GIS datasets requested from counties for future statewide analysis:

- County protected public lands (county owned parks, natural areas and lands with agricultural or conservation easements)
- Public land and water trails in county parks and natural areas – preferably with any notes on use restrictions (ex. Hikers only, equestrian, mountain bike, etc.)
- Parking at county parks and trailheads
- Public hunting areas in county parks or natural areas (if applicable)
- County park amenities – such as picnic areas, campgrounds, playgrounds, recreation centers or sports fields
- Public fishing sites
- County water access locations (boat ramps and canoe/kayak launches)

## Appendix 9 - Natural Resource Maps and GIS Data List of Deliverables



## APPENDIX 10 - GLOSSARY OF DEFINITIONS, TERMS, AND ACRONYMS

The following terms are used in the *2017 Park Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan* document and in Park and Open Space planning in general.

### A

**Active-Use Areas:** The sum total of acres of land developed for public use. These areas include managed trails, roads, nature centers, buildings, picnic areas, campgrounds, golf courses, ballfields, soccer fields, horticultural gardens, parking lots, lawns, boat docks, etc.

**Acquisition:** The act of fee-simple or easement purchase of land.

**Agricultural Land:** Land that is in active agriculture or pasture use within a county's agricultural zoning district. For some state programs, forestland with a forest management plan in place can be considered agricultural land. Land that is assessed for agricultural use and is not developed may also be considered agricultural land.

**Agricultural Land Transfer Tax:** A tax levied by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) when farmland is converted to a non-agricultural use (e.g., sold for development) and no longer qualifies for agricultural use assessment. This tax is not to be confused with the real estate transfer tax (definition below) which is levied on all property transfers.

**Agricultural Use Assessment:** The State Department of Assessments and Taxation's (SDAT) assessment on property that is actively devoted to farm or agricultural use.

**Advanced Land Acquisition Revolving Fund (ALARF):** A M-NCPPC bond-funded acquisition program to purchase lands for highway, schools, libraries, parks, recreation centers, government buildings and other public uses in advance of their need. Projects must be included in an adopted master plan and acquisitions must be approved by the County Council.

**Afforestation:** The creation, on a tract that is not presently in forest cover, of a biological community dominated by trees and other woody plants, at a density of at least 100 trees per acre with at least 50 of the trees and other woody plants having the capability of growing to a diameter (measured 4.5 feet above the ground) of 2 inches or more within seven years.

**Agricultural Reserve:** Areas of Montgomery County planned and zoned for agricultural uses, which include the majority of the County's remaining working farms and certain other non-farm land uses.

**Allowed Use:** An activity that is permitted on a property through a deed, zoning regulation, or terms of easement.

**Amenity:** Privately provided facilities within a development that enhance public enjoyment. Amenities can include physical enhancements to public and private spaces, which make those spaces more inviting to the general public.

### B

**Best Management Practice (BMP):** A practice or combination of practices that is determined to be the most effective, practicable (including technological, economical and institutional considerations) means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by non-point sources to a level compatible with water quality goals.

## Appendix 10- Glossary of Definitions, Terms, and Acronyms

**Bikeway:** Any road, path or way that is signed and/or marked for bicycle travel, regardless of whether such facilities are exclusive or shared (see *Shared Use Path, Bicycle Lane, Signed Shared Roadway, or Cycle Track*).

**Bicycle Lane (Bike Lane):** A portion of a roadway which has been designated by striping, signing, and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. Consists of a 4 ft. to 6 ft. lane in each direction, with traffic flow. Previously called a Class II Bikeway.

**Biodiversity Area:** These areas are designated by the Maryland Natural Heritage Program in the document titled *Inventory for Rare Plants and Significant Habitats on M-NCPPC Parklands in Montgomery County*. They contain rare threatened, endangered or watch list species; unusual or unique habitat; high quality or otherwise significant natural communities; or plant or animal species with importance to the County or locality. These areas appear in many of the proposed trail corridors. Special care must be taken when planning, designing and constructing trails in these areas.

**Block Grant:** Money distributed by an organization, which does not need to be paid back, and the use of which is largely at the discretion of the recipient. A consolidated grant of federal funds, formerly allocated for specific programs, that a state or local government may use at its discretion for such programs as education or urban development.

**Boulevard:** A divided roadway with a wide median and a formal streetscape of regularly spaced trees on both sides, as well as the median (see *Urban Boulevard*).

**Buffer:** Land that is set aside through zoning, subdivision regulations, or easement to protect land or water resources from the effects of adjacent development. A buffer can be placed around agricultural land or a water, natural resource, historic, or cultural feature among other things.

**Buffering:** Isolation or separation of different land uses by a third land use, by open space, or by a physical separator such as a wall, vegetation or open space. Low density offices and townhouses are frequently used as buffers to separate commercial and detached residential areas.

### C

**Capital Improvements Program (CIP):** A six-year comprehensive statement of the objectives of capital programs with cost estimates and proposed construction schedules for specific projects. The CIP is submitted annually to the County Council by the Executive. The CIP is the tool through which locally funded public facilities, such as sewers, local roads, storm drains, schools, libraries, parks, etc., can be scheduled and built, in coordination with, and guided by, the Annual Growth Policy and area Master Plans. It is used in conjunction with the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance in terms of programming for public facilities needed to serve subdivisions.

**Central Business District (CBD):** Any one of the County's principal business districts that has been so designated in section 59-C-6.12 of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance. There are four designated in the County: Bethesda, Friendship Heights, Silver Spring, and Wheaton.

**Cluster Development:** An optional development technique under zoning and subdivision regulations that allows residential dwellings to be placed on smaller than usual lots that have been grouped or clustered in order to leave some land undivided and available as common area or open space.

**Commemorative Naming Opportunity:** The process of naming or Dedication of Park Assets to recognize an individual without regard to any financial contribution.

**Community Master Plans:** Long range plans that include recommendations for land use, transportation and public facilities among other topics for a specific area.

## Appendix 10- Glossary of Definitions, Terms, and Acronyms

**Community Partner:** An organization with a scope broader than a specific Park Asset but with an overlapping mission and common objectives.

**Concept Plan:** A generalized idea or set of ideas that forms the basis for a master, facility or development plan.

**Conservation:** The continuing protection and management of natural resources.

**Conservation Areas:** The sum total of acres of land that are managed to maintain select, viable, native populations of plant and animal species. These areas include the following managed habitats: pond, deep marsh, shallow marsh, scrub swamp, forested swamp, meadow, oldfield, coniferous forest, mixed forest, and deciduous forest. Conservation areas may also be designated within a contour approximating the normal spillway elevation of man-made lakes provided that these areas are managed for the benefit of both wildlife and people.

**Conservation Easement:** A restriction placed on the land and the natural features of the land usually shown on the record plat of subdivision or recorded by a metes and bounds description. Its terms and conditions are recorded in the County's land records. Most commonly, the agreement prohibits removal of healthy, mature trees and shrubs, and prohibits changes to the scenic character of land without written permission from M-NCPPC's Planning Department.

**Concessionaire:** A for-profit entity allowed through a legal agreement to use existing infrastructure on park property to conduct operations usually in alignment with the Parks mission.

**Creek:** A small stream that serves as the natural drainage course for a drainage basin of small size.

**Cultural Resource:** A site or location of local, state, or national cultural significance.

**Cycle Track:** A bicycle facility that is physically separated from vehicular and pedestrian infrastructure to facilitate higher speed bicycle travel. Separation may be vertical (curb), horizontal (landscaped panel, parking lane, bollards), or a combination of the two. Cycle tracks are typically installed on roads where high-volume and/or high-speed traffic is likely to deter some cyclists from using bicycle lanes and shared roadways, or where shared-use paths are not appropriate.

## D

**Dedication:** Donation of land to a public agency for parkland, school sites, road and transit rights-of-way, etc., in connection with the development of a subdivision or lot.

**Development:** Changes in land forms and biota caused and managed by construction activity which alter their function and/or appearance. **Development District:** A special district in which government may levy special assessments or taxes on real property to help pay for infrastructure improvements for that district.

**Development Plan Review:** Some zones require approval of a development plan at the time of rezoning. The development plan shows the layout, unit mix, uses, building densities, circulation, parking and open space configuration. When a development plan is required, the subsequent site plan must be in conformance with it. The preparation of an acceptable development plan helps to assure that the intent of the master plan is achieved.

**DNR:** The Maryland Department of Natural Resources

**Donor:** An individual or organization that makes a purely charitable contribution in support of Parks with no benefits expected in exchange.

## Appendix 10- Glossary of Definitions, Terms, and Acronyms

**Drainage Area:** The size of a drainage basin or watershed, usually expressed in acres or square miles. Also called a watershed, catchments area or river basin.

### E

**Easement:** A contractual agreement to gain temporary or permanent use of, and/or access through, a property, usually for public facilities and access ways.

**Encroachment:** Unauthorized uses occurring within parkland generally by an adjacent property owner.

**Environmental Evaluation:** An analysis of physical and biological characteristics of a park to determine areas which should be preserved and areas capable of supporting development.

**Environmental Mitigation:** A series of actions, ranging from avoidance to replacement, intended to ameliorate the negative impacts of development on the environment.

### F

**Fall Line:** A line joining the waterfalls on a number of rivers and streams. This line marks the boundary between the upland Piedmont Plateau and the lowland Atlantic Coastal Plain.

**Facility:** For the recreation portion of this Plan, a building, apparatus, or site feature used for a specific recreational purpose.

**Facility-based Recreation:** Any leisure activity dependent on a built facility, such as a court, an athletic field, or a trail. In contrast with natural resource-based recreation these can generally be provided anywhere, assuming the availability of space, environmental suitability, and funds for development.

**Fee-simple:** Full ownership of, or absolute title to, a piece of property that is free from easement or other ownership claims against the title. and compatibility with the natural environment and surrounding land uses. Includes mineral, ground and air rights.

**Floodplain:** A relatively flat or lowland area adjoining a river, stream pond, stormwater management structure, or watercourse subject to periodic, partial or complete inundation; or an area subject to unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface water as a result of an upstream dam failure.

**Friends Group:** A legal entity formed by the community and sanctioned by the Parks to support the development, maintenance and programmatic needs of a specified Park Asset, managed through a formal MOU and an annual work program.

**Forest:** A biological community dominated by trees and other wood plants covering a land area of 10,000 square feet or greater and at least 50 feet wide. Includes: 1) areas that have at least 100 trees per acre with at least 50 percent of those trees having a 2-inch or greater diameter at 4.5 feet above the ground; and 2) forest areas that have been cut but not cleared. Forest does not include orchards.

**Forestland:** A parcel or tract of land on which the predominant vegetation is forest and trees that can be used for forest-related projects or recreation.

**Forest Conservation Plan:** A plan approved under Chapter 22A of the Montgomery County Code that outlines the strategies and specific plans proposed for retaining, protecting and reforesting or afforesting areas on a site pursuant to the 1991 Maryland Forest Conservation Act.

**Formal Trail:** A trail that is designated, signed, and maintained. Also known as a sanctioned trail.

**Functional Master Plan:** A document addressing a system such as circulation or environment, or policy such as agricultural preservation or public facilities that covers a large part of the county or applies

## Appendix 10- Glossary of Definitions, Terms, and Acronyms

countywide. A functional plan amends the General Plan but does not make land use or zoning recommendations.

### G

**General Plan:** The Countywide comprehensive plan entitled "On Wedges and Corridors," adopted in 1964, and updated in 1969 and 1993. It provides the overall framework for the County's future. Each master plan, sector plan, and functional plan adopted since 1969 amends the General Plan. Located online here: [http://montgomeryplanning.org/community/general\\_plans/general\\_plans.shtm](http://montgomeryplanning.org/community/general_plans/general_plans.shtm).

**Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** The integration of data with computerized maps enabling the generation of high quality maps based on the analysis of underlying layers of geographic information. GIS allows all information in the database to be integrated for any location covered by the database.

**Grant:** Funding received from a recognized grant-making entity to support a program or service with specific deliverables and reporting requirements and a finite timeframe.

**Green Corridors:** Roadways that are extensively landscaped along their sides and in their medians.

**Green Infrastructure:** A network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitats and other natural areas that supports native species and contributes to clean air, clean water and a healthy, sustainable quality of life. (From: [http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/green\\_infrastructure/index.shtm](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/green_infrastructure/index.shtm))

**Greenway:** A corridor of undeveloped land or open space, as along a river/stream or between urban centers that is reserved for recreational use and/or environmental conservation."/ A corridor of undeveloped land, as along a river or between urban centers that is reserved for recreational use or environmental preservation. May or may not include a trail. (From [greenways.com](http://greenways.com) and slightly modified)

**Group Picnic Area:** Separate picnic area reserved by large groups and generally includes a shelter and sometimes play equipment and/or ballfield.

**Guidelines:** Guidelines are a set of limits and objectives, less binding than regulations, used to guide development or plan proposals.

### H

**Hard Surface Trail:** Any firm and stable trail surface capable of supporting most on-road or hybrid bicycles as well as wheelchairs and rollerblades. May include concrete, asphalt, crushed stone, packed gravel or other hard surface and bridges or boardwalk where necessary.

**Hiker-Biker Trail:** A paved trail used for both walking and bicycling. A hard surface park trail intended primarily for recreational walking and bicycling.

**Hiking Trail:** Unpaved trail generally through wooded parkland and natural areas that is primarily intended for foot travel .

**Historic Preservation:** The identification, designation and regulation--for purposes of protection, preservation and continued use and enhancement--of those sites, structures with their appurtenances and environmental settings, and districts that are of historical, architectural, archaeological or cultural value. In Montgomery County, historic preservation activities are directed by the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code.

**Historic Resource:** A structure, site, or location of local, state, or national historical significance.

## Appendix 10- Glossary of Definitions, Terms, and Acronyms

**Homeowners Association (HOA):** When development occurs under the cluster provisions of the subdivision regulations, a homeowners' association is frequently required to assure the maintenance and operation of private open space, recreational facilities private streets or other common space in the subdivision. The homeowners association generally levies a fee in the form of a property assessment to maintain these facilities. It also must provide a management structure to supervise orderly maintenance.

### I - J

**Informal Trail:** An unsanctioned trail that is not signed or maintained

**Interpretive Facilities:** Nature Centers and other facilities used to teach the public about the natural environment.

**Impervious Surface:** Any surface that prevents or significantly impedes the infiltration of water into the underlying soil, including any structure, building, patio, sidewalk, compacted gravel, pavement, asphalt, concrete, stone, brick, tile, swimming pool, or artificial turf. Impervious surface also includes any area used by or for motor vehicles or heavy commercial equipment, regardless of surface type or material, including any road, driveway, or parking area.

**ISTEA:** The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991. The federal transportation law passed which includes provisions for 'transportation enhancements' such as trail and bike facilities. The federal transportation law has changed names many times over the years (TEA-21, SAFETEA-LU) and is now called "MAP-21"

**Joint-use Agreement :** An agreement between two entities to share the use of a facility. For the recreation portion of this plan, such an agreement is between a county and its board of education.

### L

**Lake:** An inland body of water created by a natural or artificial impoundment, which is normally too deep in the middle for the growth of rooted aquatic vegetation.

**Land Conservation:** The purchase of land or easements on land to conserve its agricultural, cultural, historic, or natural resource characteristics.

**Land Trust:** A non-profit organization formed for the express purpose of holding land (or restrictive easements on land) for its conservation, historic preservation, wildlife protection, and/or recreation values, among other things. According to State law, a land trust is a qualified conservation organization that (1) is a qualified organization under § 170 (h) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations adopted under § 170 (h) (3); and (2) has executed a cooperative agreement with the Maryland Environmental Trust.

**Lease:** Written agreement that conveys real estate, equipment, or facilities for a specified term and for a specified rent.

**Local Governing Body:** According to the Project Open Space (POS) law, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the governing body of any county or Baltimore City.

**Local Projects:** According to the POS Law, acquisition or development of projects sponsored by local governing bodies or their units, and in the case of Baltimore City it also means operation and maintenance of projects as described in POS Law.

**LWCF:** Land and Water Conservation Fund

M

**Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** State agency responsible for protecting, restoring and enhancing the land, water and living resources in the State of Maryland.

**Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC):** A bi-county agency created by the General assembly of Maryland in 1927. The Commission's geographic authority extends to the great majority of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties: The Regional District (M-NCPPC planning jurisdiction) comprises 1,001 square miles, while the Metropolitan District (parks) comprises 919 square miles, in the two counties. The Commission has three major functions: (1) the preparation, adoption and occasional amendment or extension of the General Plan for the physical development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District; (2) the acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of a public park system; (3) in Prince George's County only, the operation of the County public recreation program.

**Master or Sector Plan:** A document that guides land use, zoning, infrastructure and park acquisition for a specific area and the way an area should be developed. In Montgomery County, these plans amend the County's General Plan and provide more detailed recommendations for a local area (see also *Community Master Plans*).

**Master Plan for Historic Preservation:** A document listing properties protected by the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code. Listed properties have been approved for designation by the Historic Preservation Commission, the Planning Board, the County Executive and the County Council. Any proposals for exterior alteration, new construction, subdivision or demolition of these properties must be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission.

**MET:** Maryland Environmental Trust

**MDP:** Maryland Department of Planning

N

**Natural Area:** The sum total of acres of land not developed for public use, and encompassing those natural resources being preserved to maintain a diversity of native natural communities as a legacy for future generations. Within these communities, natural processes and desirable ecological changes should be allowed to take place. Management activities should be limited to those necessary to mitigate the influence of humans as well as non-native and undesirable species (e.g. gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar*).

**Natural Heritage Protection Area:** An area defined by the Maryland Natural Heritage Program as containing rare, threatened and endangered plant species, unusual or unique habitat types, or examples of significant or high quality natural communities.

**Natural Resource Area:** An area where natural processes predominate and are not significantly influenced by either deliberate manipulation or accidental interference by man. Such an area may also have unique scenic, geological, cultural, or ecological value, or a combination of such values.

**Natural Resource-based Recreation:** Any leisure activity conducted outdoors that is dependent on a particular element or combination of elements in the natural environment. These elements cannot be easily duplicated by human effort. In contrast, facility-based recreation can generally be provided anywhere, assuming the availability of space and funds for development and compatibility with natural systems and surrounding land uses.

## Appendix 10- Glossary of Definitions, Terms, and Acronyms

**Natural Resources Inventory (NRI):** A complete analysis of existing forest, natural features and tree cover on a site. The natural resources inventory must cover the development site and first 100 feet of adjoining land around the perimeter or the width of adjoining lots, whichever is less. Natural features include topography, steep slopes, perennial and intermittent streams, major drainage courses, 100 year floodplain, wetlands, soils and geologic conditions, critical habits, aerial extent of forest and tree cover, and necessary buffers. The inventory also includes cultural features and historic sites.

**Natural Surface Trail:** Typically a two to four foot wide unpaved trail. May also include wood chips or stones. Generally involves no major tree cutting but may involve water bars, stairs, boardwalk, or erosion control measures where necessary.

**Non-Tidal Wetland:** An area inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater that normally supports vegetation typically adapted for saturated soil conditions (hydrophytic vegetation). If the Maryland Department of Natural Resources designates a non-tidal wetland, desirable ecological changes should be allowed to occur and management activities should be limited to those necessary to mitigate the influence of humans and undesirable species (e.g., gypsy moth and others).

### O

**Open Space:** Land that is permanently set aside for general public use as a result of zoning and subdivision regulations or owned by homeowner associations for use of residents in a sub-division from which a portion of the parcel was left undeveloped, that has reasonable public access. Areas usually intended for recreational, agricultural, preservation or scenic purposes.

### P

**Purchase of Development Rights (PDR):** An easement purchase where funds are paid to the landowner to extinguish the right to develop the property and other rights are left intact.

**Park:** A tract of land or water that provides for public leisure activities and/or the protection of natural resources.

**Park Acquisition (Park-Take) Lines:** Proposed boundaries for park acquisition and inclusion in the County park system. Areas considered for stream valley parks generally include floodplains, steep slopes and sites of environmental sensitivity.

**Partner:** An entity allowed through development and lease agreements to develop parkland and operate a business on park property for the purposes of offering programs or services that are aligned with the Parks mission. In particular, any services or programs Parks is unable to offer due to a lack of resources.

**Perennial Stream:** A stream which has base flow all year.

**Philanthropic Naming Opportunity:** The naming or dedication of a specified Park Asset in exchange for a charitable contribution to the Parks Foundation.

**Pond:** An inland body of water, smaller than a lake. Typically, it is shallow enough for rooted aquatic vegetation to grow, even in its deepest areas.

**POS:** Program Open Space

**Preservation:** Protection of specific resources.

**Preserved Land:** Land that has been acquired through fee-simple or easement purchase to protect its agricultural, cultural, historic, or natural resource characteristics



## Appendix 10- Glossary of Definitions, Terms, and Acronyms

**Private Conservation Organization:** A land trust or other non-governmental group that purchases land or easements for land conservation.

**Program Open Space (POS):** A state funding program that acquires recreation and open space areas for public use. The program administers funds made available to local communities for open and recreational space through the State real estate transfer tax and from federal programs, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Program coordinates the acquisition of lands for the use of all units of DNR. POS funds are split between State and local government. Stateside POS Funds are allocated to purchase land for state parks, forests, wildlife habitat, natural, scenic and cultural resources for public use. A portion of stateside funds are also dedicated to capital improvements, critical maintenance, and operations in state parks. Local-side POS makes funds available to local government to help them buy land and build park facilities that will help them meet their specific goals of Land Conservation and Recreation for their citizens. (From: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/land/landconservation.asp>).

**Public Right-of-Way:** Property owned by the public and occupied or intended to be occupied for use as a public roadway, bikeway, shoulder, sidewalk, transit way, or for utility pipes, transmission lines or public open space amenity. Typically, public right-of-way is separate and distance from a privately owned lot or parcel.

**Public Use Space:** Space sometimes required by the sector plan or other space devoted to uses for public enjoyment such as gardens, malls, plazas or walks. This space doesn't include areas for parking or maneuvering vehicles. The CBD and CR zones require development projects to provide increase public use space in return for density.

## R

**Recreation Activities:** Leisure activities that are voluntarily pursued for personal satisfaction and enjoyment.

**Reforestation:** The re-creation of a biological community dominated by trees and other wood plants including plant communities, the understory and the forest floor which is at least 10,000 square feet in area or 50 feet wide, and containing at least 100 live trees per acre, with at least 50 percent of the tree having the potential of attaining a 2 inch or greater diameter measured at 4.5 feet above the ground within 7 years.

**Resource Management:** Restoration and/or maintenance of the environment.

**Right-of-Way:** A strip of land occupied or intended to be occupied by a road, bikeway, sidewalk/path, transitway, crosswalk, railroad, electric transmission line, oil or gas pipeline, water main, sanitary or storm sewer main or for other special use. To be shown on a record plat as separate and distance from the adjoining lots or parcels and not included within their dimensions. Rights-of-way maintained by a public agency shall be dedicated to public use on the plat.

**RLA:** Rural Legacy Area Define "Rural Legacy Area" here or as a separate term / A Rural Legacy Area (RLA) is a region designated by the Rural Legacy Board as rich in a multiple of agricultural, natural, forestry or cultural resources. (From <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/land/rurallegacy/terminology.asp>)

**Rural Density Transfer Zone (RDT):** The zone applied to the Agricultural Reserve. Development is limited to one house per 25 acres, with the provision that such development can be grouped on lots of 40,000 square feet (approximately one acre). The property in the Agricultural Reserve is designated as a "sending area" that maintains development rights at one dwelling unit per five acres, and can be sold and transferred to designated receiving areas (see *Receiving Areas* and *Sending Areas*).

## Appendix 10- Glossary of Definitions, Terms, and Acronyms

**Rural Open Space:** Areas abutting suburban development where the critical mass of farms has already been eroded by subdivision activity. The preservation of farmland in an appropriate combination with low density residential development is the objective.

**Rustic Roads:** A road that is located in an area where natural, agricultural, or historic features are predominant, and where master planned land use goals and zoning are compatible with a rural/rustic character; is narrow and intended for predominantly local use; is low volume with traffic that does not detract significantly from the road's rustic character; and has outstanding natural features along its borders, such as native vegetation, tree stands, and stream valleys.

### S

**Scenic Easement:** A contractual agreement to gain permanent preservation of the visual character of a piece of property.

**Schematic Development Plan:** A development plan for Planning Board review and County Council approval submitted as part of an application for the rezoning of land into floating zones at the option of the applicant. Such schematic development plans limit development to that specified in the application.

**SDAT:** State Department of Assessments and Taxation. Maryland State agency that administers and enforces the property assessment and property tax laws of Maryland. (From: [http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/general\\_info.html](http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/general_info.html)).

**Sensitive Areas:** Are defined as streams and their buffers, 100-year floodplains, habitats of threatened and endangered species, and steep slopes as well as other areas that a jurisdiction (i.e., the Montgomery County Planning Board) may elect to protect. [Codified at 3.05(a)(1)(viii), Article 66B, Annotated Code of Maryland.] (Maryland Office of Planning and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 1993).

**Shared Use Path:** An 8' to 10' wide asphalt or concrete path that is separated from motorized traffic either by barrier or a minimum five-foot landscape panel. These facilities may be located within a roadway right-of-way and parallel the road (Great Seneca Highway) or within an independent right-of-way (North Bethesda Trail). They are intended to be used by pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, wheelchair users, joggers and other non-motorized users. Previously called a Class I Bikeway.

**Shoulder:** This is the smooth paved surface adjacent to the roadway's travel lane.

**Shoreline:** Ocean, bay, river, and stream frontage.

**Signed Shared Roadway:** A roadway designated (signed and/or marked) for bicycle travel where bicyclists share travel space with motor vehicles. .

**Site:** A piece of property.

**Site Plan:** A detailed plan, required in certain zones, that usually shows proposed development on a site in relation to immediately adjacent areas. It indicates roads, walks, parking areas, buildings, landscaping, open space, recreation facilities, lighting, etc. The Planning Board approves the site plan after preliminary subdivision plan approval and before building permits can be issued.

**SmartParks:** An Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) System, which manages the many demands on staff time and resources including work orders, assets management, and inventory control. Specifically: Asset Management of playgrounds, ball fields, Tennis courts, picnic shelters, trails, natural areas, etc. Work Order Management for preventive maintenance and on-demand requests. Inventory of Equipment (including HVAC, electrical, and alarm systems) and Event Project Tracking like snow, hurricanes, earthquakes.

## Appendix 10- Glossary of Definitions, Terms, and Acronyms

**Specimen Tree:** A tree that is particularly impressive or unusual example of a species due to its size, shape, age or any other trait that epitomizes the character of the species.

**Sponsor:** An entity that provides cash or in-kind resources in support of Parks programs or services in exchange for recognition benefits and exposure to Parks users.

**Steep Slope:** A slope in which the percent slope equals or exceeds 25 percent, or 15 percent when the associated soils are considered highly erodible by the USDA Soil Conservation Service Highly Erodible Land Report for Montgomery County.

**Storm Runoff:** That portion of the total runoff that reaches the point of measurement within a relatively short period of time after the occurrence of precipitation.

**Stormwater Management (SWM):** The application of various techniques for mitigating the adverse effects of stormwater runoff.

**Stream Valley Buffer:** A strip of land contiguous with and parallel to the bank of a perennial or intermittent stream, which acts to: (1) protect hydraulically adjacent slope areas; (2) maintain or improve the water temperature regimen/water quality of the stream(s); (3) protect natural wetlands; (4) provide groundwater storage/recharge for a stream; (5) complement regulations pertaining to the 100-year ultimate floodplain; (6) provide wildlife habitat, open space, or both; (7) complement on-site erosion/sediment control measures by serving as a filter trap.

**Streetscape:** The environment of the public right-of-way as defined by adjacent private and public buildings, character of the pavement and street furniture, and the use of the right-of-way.

**Subdivision:** (1) The division of a lot, tract or parcel of land into two or more lots, plots, sites, tracts, parcels or other divisions for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of sale or building development. (2) The recombination of lots previously created into a new configuration.

### T

**Tenant:** An entity allowed through a lease to use existing infrastructure on park property to conduct operations not necessarily aligned with the Parks mission.

**Trailhead:** An area that marks the beginning and/or end of a trail and includes such facilities as parking, trail maps, signs, bulletin boards, water, restrooms, etc.

**Transfer of Development Rights (TDR):** In general, a program whereby a landowner can sell development rights on his or her land to another landowner. In turn, the purchaser of the development rights can increase the density of development on his or her property.

### U - V

**Urban Boulevard:** The major street or streets in a CBD, with well-defined streetscape consisting of wide sidewalks, a distinct type of street tree and wide, clearly marked pedestrian crossings.

**Urban District:** A County special purpose tax area for an urban location. Urban districts are established in Bethesda, Silver Spring and Wheaton.

**Urban Street:** Central Business District streets that accommodate a mix of users and are enhanced with streetscape elements.

**Vendor:** An entity allowed through a legal agreement to sell merchandise or other products on park property at a specified location for a finite timeframe, not necessarily aligned with the Parks mission.

## Appendix 10- Glossary of Definitions, Terms, and Acronyms

**Volunteer:** An individual, group of individuals, or organization providing one-time or regular episodic support for specific park projects through the donation of time and effort.

### W

**Watershed:** The area contained within a topographic divide above a specified point on a stream; the area that drains into that stream; all lying within a sub-basin defined in water quality regulations adopted by the Maryland Department of the Environment under Maryland State Code (COMAR) 26.08.02.08 (see *Drainage Area*).

**Wetland:** An area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support under normal circumstances a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, commonly known as hydrophytic vegetation.

**Wildlife Management Area:** An area whose primary objective is to protect, propagate, and manage wildlife populations. It may provide recreational opportunities for sportsmen and other wildlife enthusiasts or may provide an undisturbed refuge for wildlife.

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

APPENDIX 11 - NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

APRIL 2017



## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

### ABSTRACT

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<b>Title</b>	<i>Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Report</i>
<b>Author</b>	Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Department of Parks - MontgomeryParks.org, Park Planning and Stewardship Division
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#### PEAK DEMOCRACY



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

CHAPTER ONE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... A11.7

    1.1 INTRODUCTION ..... A11.7

    1.2 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW.....A11.7

    1.3 MAJOR THEMES FROM OUTREACH AND ANALYSIS..... A11.10

CHAPTER TWO - INTRODUCTION AND PROCESS .....A11.13

    2.1 PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE FUTURE OUTREACH CAMPAIGN..... A11.13

    2.2 NEEDS ASSESSMENT BY CONSULTANTS..... A11.14

CHAPTER THREE - STATISTICALLY VALID COMMUNITY SURVEY .....A11.17

    3.1 OVERVIEW ..... A11.17

    3.2 SURVEY RESULTS ..... A11.20

CHAPTER FOUR - KEY STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS AND INTERVIEWS..... A11.32

    4.1 OVERVIEW .....A11.32

    4.2 FOCUS GROUP RESULTS ..... A11.32

CHAPTER FIVE - INTERCEPT SURVEY #1- USAGE, INTEREST, & MARKETING PREFERENCES..... A11.45

    5.1 OVERVIEW .....A11.45

    5.2 METHODOLOGY .....A11.45

    5.3 SURVEY RESULTS ..... A11.46

CHAPTER SIX - INTERCEPT SURVEY #2- PRIORITIZATION OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES..... A11.53

    6.1 OVERVIEW .....A11.53

    6.2 METHODOLOGY.....A11.53

    6.3 SURVEY RESULTS .....A11.54

CHAPTER SEVEN - COMMUNITY INTERNET FORUM..... A11.57

    7.1 OVERVIEW .....A11.57

    7.2 METHODOLOGY .....A11.57

    7.3 FORUM RESULTS.....A11.57

CHAPTER EIGHT - COMMUNITY CREATE PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE FUTURE SURVEY A11.60

    8.1 OVERVIEW ..... A11.60

    8.2 METHODOLOGY ..... A11.60

    8.3 SURVEY RESULTS ..... A11.61

CHAPTER NINE - PRIORITY RANKINGS .....A11.67

    9.1 FACILITY / AMENITY PRIORITY RANKING ..... A11.67

    9.2 OVERALL FACILITY / AMENITY PRIORITY RANKINGS..... A11.68

    9.3 PRIORITY RANKINGS BY LANGUAGE..... A11.69

    9.4 PRIORITY RANKINGS BY RACE..... A11.70

    9.5 PRIORITY RANKINGS BY ETHNICITY ..... A11.71

CHAPTER TEN - APPENDICES .....A11.72

    10.1 APPENDIX A- FULL STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY RESULTS .....A11.72

    10.2 APPENDIX B- FULL COMMUNITIES CONNECT REPORT ..... A11.91

    10.3 APPENDIX C- INTERCEPT SURVEY #1 .....A11.101

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

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10.4 APPENDIX D- INTERCEPT SURVEY #2 ..... A11.104  
10.5 APPENDIX E- MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY INTERNET FORUM ..... A11.114  
10.6 APPENDIX F- PEAK DEMOCRACY FORUM: COMMUNITY CREATES PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE  
FUTURE SURVEY ..... A11.131

## CHAPTER ONE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) contracted PROS Consulting, in collaboration with Montgomery Parks, Communities Connect Consulting, ETC Institute, and Peak Democracy, to complete a Needs Assessment for Montgomery County, Maryland. The Needs Assessment is the focus of the initial phase of the 2017 Montgomery County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan Update.

The overarching goal of the Community Needs Assessment is to solicit comprehensive feedback from residents of the community. The process engaged a broad range of demographic segments present within Montgomery County to better understand the characteristics, preferences, and satisfaction levels of residents in relation to parks and recreation activities. Once a thorough understanding of residents served is established, a variety of data sources and best practice standards is applied to quantify and prioritize community needs for parks and recreation services and amenities in Montgomery County.

This Needs Assessment consists of six (6) community input methods and an analysis of priorities and highlights the major findings and recurring themes. Ultimately, these key findings and themes lay the framework of the needs, interests, and preferences of residents served by Montgomery County Parks. These key findings are then aggregated into Priority Rankings.

### 1.2 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

#### STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

ETC Institute administered a statistically valid needs assessment survey for Montgomery County. This survey was mailed to a random sample of households within Montgomery County. A total of 705 households completed the survey.

Overall, 20% of those surveyed indicated that English was not their primary language. A total of 21 different languages were represented in the survey, with Spanish and Mandarin being the two highest non-English languages noted amongst respondents. The overall results indicated that 95% of respondents communicated that high-quality parks, trails, recreation facilities and services are either Very Important (82%) or Somewhat Important (13%) to the quality of life in Montgomery County.

#### KEY STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS AND INTERVIEWS

Communities Connect Consulting conducted an extensive public engagement outreach effort, focused on minority communities. Over a period of four (4) weeks, six (6) focus groups consisting of 61 total participants were conducted with an experienced facilitator, a native language interpreter, and a research analyst to record notes.

These focus groups were open to individuals who live in the selected specific minority population areas. The group was evenly distributed in terms of race/ethnicity, with 30% African American, African, or Black; 33% Hispanic and/or Latino; and 37% Asian or Pacific Islander. Participants resided in 16 different zip codes, and ranged from recent arrivals to residents living in the U.S. between 5-10 years. Of participants, 58% were female and 42% were male. Throughout the process, all ideas from the public were carefully documented, and used to summarize the development of the outreach plan to the minority communities. The following are key themes from focus group results:

- Improve park security and safety - increase lighting; improve traffic crossings; add cameras
- Cleanliness of facilities - clean up litter on trails and remove trash; cleaner restrooms
- Programming - programs for families/small children; culturally relevant programs and sports

- Physical facilities - for small children in walking distance; large outdoor event amenities
- Engage communities - parks as gathering spaces; engage partners
- Accessibility - language barriers in signage; prohibitive cost; service to elderly and families

### INTERCEPT SURVEY #1 – USAGE, INTEREST, AND MARKETING PREFERENCES

The PROS Consulting team collected survey information from residents and system users via intercept survey method. The purpose of these surveys was to help develop a better understanding of the needs, preferences, and satisfaction levels of Montgomery County residents in relation to parks, natural resources, and recreation activities. Surveys were collected at community recreation centers, local grocery stores, churches, and parks.

To help ensure collection from a representative cross-section of County residents, Mandarin, Spanish, and Hindi interpreters were also present assisting the PROS Team throughout this process. A total of 174 responses were collected throughout this method. Respondents' language of preference included: 49% English, 10% Spanish, 25% Mandarin, and 16% Hindi.

Key themes of open-ended question responses include:

- **Positive feedback** - almost 30% of the feedback was a positive and satisfied comment
- **Maintenance** - outdoor fields, landscaping, sidewalks/paths; indoor hot water, signage, steps
- **Additional amenities** - water fountains, waste bags, restrooms, indoor gym, greenspace
- **Hours** - additional operating hours for both facilities and specific programs (ping-pong)
- **Communication** - outreach for updates, programs, and events; outreach in Chinese community
- **Accessibility, cleanliness, & security** - better access, facility cleanliness, better security

### INTERCEPT SURVEY #2 – PRIORITIZATION OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Montgomery County Parks staff conducted a second complementary survey (Intercept Survey #2). The primary focus of Intercept Survey #2 was system users. Respondents were asked to rank the following facilities/ services, provided by Montgomery County Parks, in order of most to least important (Sports, Trails, Nature, History, Events, Special Places, and Gathering Places).

Surveys were conducted at two community events in the fall of 2016; where a total of 534 responses were collected. The most important facilities and services in the community include:

- |           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. Trails | 4. Nature         |
| 2. Events | 5. History        |
| 3. Sports | 6. Special Places |

Key themes of open-ended questions include:

- **More** - playgrounds, picnic areas, shade, bathrooms, water amenities, programs, information
- **Cleanliness & safety**- litter issue, need for trash cans and recycling bins, addition of lights
- **Transportation & access** - bicycle access, public transportation, parking, wheelchair access
- **Appreciation** - about 25% of the feedback was a positive and satisfied comment

### INTERACTIVE FORUM FOR USAGE & NEEDS

Montgomery County Parks also created an internet forum in order to obtain additional community input. The purpose of this internet forum was to reach additional community members that they were not able to reach during the intercept surveys, and the forum was accessible through the Montgomery County Parks website.

Respondents were prompted with two overarching topics: park needs and park usage. Approximately 300 participants left their thoughts, opinions, concerns pertaining to these topics on the message board.

Key themes of park needs and usage included:

- **Amenities** - signage, a dog park, programs, parkland developed into parks, picnic tables, swings
- **Access** - positive comments on traffic solutions, bicycle access, safer pedestrian access
- **Positive Feedback** - approximately 50% of the feedback was a positive or satisfied comment.
- **Connections**- connections to other parks preservation of urban green and open space
- **Urban Parks** - converting current open space to an “energized park,” or an “urban park”
- **Security** - additional lighting (Rock Creek Park)
- **Art/History** - interest in art history behind the area, art student use, historic education
- **Wildlife** - leave pockets of trees as habitat for wildlife, joy of seeing wildlife
- **Maintenance** - better landscape maintenance, cleaner restrooms, flooding issues

### **PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE FUTURE SURVEY**

Peak Democracy conducted an online survey focusing on the future of parks and recreation in Montgomery County. A key objective of this survey was to obtain feedback from as many geographic planning areas within Montgomery County as possible. To help ensure this, individual respondents’ zip codes were obtained during the survey process.

In doing so, the Planning Team is able to identify what regions specific feedback came from and can better understand the needs and preferences within each planning area of the county. As of March 30, 2017- 10:30am EST, a total of 714 surveys had been completed; with responses from 25 of the 28 total Planning Areas.

Of those surveyed, 71%-80% gave a positive rating of either excellent or good, for Parks, Facilities, and Services; while only 12%-17% consider their needs to be fairly or poorly met.

### **PRIORITY RANKINGS**

PROS Consulting uses a weighted scoring system to formulate the Priority Ranking. The purpose of the Facility Priority Rankings is to provide a prioritized list of facility/amenity needs for the community served by the Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Department. This rankings model evaluated both quantitative and qualitative data.

Quantitative data includes the statistically valid community survey, which asked residents to list unmet needs and rank their importance. Qualitative data includes resident feedback obtained via community input, such as through the intercept surveys and focus groups, as well as demographics and trends.

The weighted scoring system considers the following:

- **Community Survey- 60 %** (30% unmet needs, plus 30% importance rankings)
- **Consultant Evaluation- 40%** (consultant’s evaluation of qualitative community input)

These weighted scores were then summed to provide an overall score and priority ranking for the system as a whole. The results of the priority ranking were tabulated into three categories: High Priority (top third), Medium Priority (middle third) and Low Priority (bottom third).

The combined total of the weighted scores for Community Unmet Needs, Community Importance, and Consultant Evaluation is the total score based on which the Facility/Amenity Priority is determined.

The top five priorities based on this evaluation system are:

- Paved multi-use trails (walking, biking)
- Natural surface trails (walking, biking, horseback riding)

- Natural areas & wildlife habitats
- Public gardens
- Park shelters & picnic areas

### 1.3 MAJOR THEMES FROM OUTREACH AND ANALYSIS

#### PLAN GUIDANCE

While analyzing the results from the community input collection process, Montgomery County Parks staff used best practice to guide recommendations as they emerged from the data.

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#### NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

The [National Recreation and Park Association \(NRPA\)](https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars), has as its core mission to impact communities through three pillars of Conservation, Health and Wellness, and Social Equity (<https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars>). These overarching themes are important in guiding the priorities of Montgomery Parks and the Recreation Department.

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#### GUIDANCE FROM PREVIOUS PLANS

Several plans and policies have guided the formation of the *2017 PROS Plan* including the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation (Vision 2030)*, completed in June 2011, and the *2012 PROS Plan*. Building on these plans, the *2017 PROS Plan* includes updated service delivery strategies for several priority facilities and resources. The strategies will guide the Department of Parks and the Recreation Department in locating the right park and recreation facilities in the right places, and to ultimately help ensure that the parks and recreation system continues to play a major role in shaping Montgomery County's high quality of life.

#### MAJOR THEMES FROM OUTREACH AND ANALYSIS

Overall, Montgomery County residents report a high degree of satisfaction with the parks and recreation facilities and programs, which are considered by 82% of respondents of the statistically valid survey (*2017 PROS Survey*) to be important to the quality of life in the County. Seventy percent of respondents are satisfied with the overall value their household receives from the M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Recreation Department. One out of four respondents (25%) indicated they are very proud of M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks recreation facilities, parks, and services, and 42% indicated they are proud.

Three major themes emerged from the extensive outreach and analysis for guiding the park and recreation facilities and services for Montgomery County into the future:

- **Optimize what we have** - utilize existing park and recreation facilities and lands more fully
- **Build community through parks** - provide spaces and programs that bring people together
- **Plan for future generations** - increase land for natural resource protection and conservation

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#### OPTIMIZE WHAT WE HAVE

In a County where developable or re-developable land is scarce and expensive, it is more important now than ever to make sure existing developed and undeveloped lands and facilities are utilized to their maximum potential, and if not, to renovate and repurpose them to best meet needs.

This theme was strongly expressed by respondents of the statistically valid survey as well as participants in other outreach venues. Repairing and renovating of existing park facilities was considered a funding priority by 49% of the survey respondents, followed by purchasing land for natural resource protection and conservation for future generations (45%). This theme was a major

recommendation in Vision2030 from 2011 as well. The Department of Parks has responded over the past six years in several ways.

Recommendations include to adjust and to continue to:

- **Assess** underutilized areas and facilities that could be repurposed with facilities for which there are identified needs
- **Balance** funding for renovation and repair with acquisition and development of new lands and facilities
- **Program** parks and facilities to attract more users

Key themes for tactics from the Community Needs Assessment supporting this strategic priority include:

#### **ENHANCE CLEANLINESS, SECURITY, & ACCESSIBILITY**

- Enhance cleanliness of parks, especially restrooms
- Maintenance of existing facilities, including repair or renovation
- Added security, including lights or staff/personnel
- Accessibility by public transportation, pedestrian-friendly traffic elements, and connectivity to sidewalks, trails
- Emphasis on multi-use trails

#### **PROGRAMS AND AMENITIES FOR SMALL CHILDREN**

- Organized activities for small children and families
- Playgrounds and accessible outdoor play amenities for children

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#### **BUILD COMMUNITY THROUGH PARKS**

In order to build communities, there first must be an understanding of who makes up our communities. Serving the residents of the County has always been a goal of Montgomery Parks and the Recreation Department. One of the values of Montgomery Parks is to “support and embrace cultural differences and offer suitable programs, activities, and services.” The mission of the Recreation Department is to “provide high quality, diverse, and accessible programs, services, and facilities that enhance the quality of life for all ages, cultures, and abilities.”

Using refined tools to improve our delivery of facilities and services equitably to all communities in the County has been a focus of the *2017 PROS Plan*. With better methods for outreach, the outreach listening sessions and survey results were tailored according to areas of minority populations. With improved geospatial analysis methods, the results of the outreach were correlated with population data on a finer level. This allowed recommendations to reflect the reported needs of traditionally underrepresented populations such as individuals with disabilities and foreign-born residents.

Recommendations include:

- Add park equity to the criteria for prioritization of the Capital Improvements Program to promote equitable access to parks for all
- Include facilities that serve all ages and abilities in service delivery strategies
- Recognize the importance of social gathering - Recommend additional social gathering spaces in our areas of highest population densities and in our destination parks

Key themes for tactics from the Community Needs Assessment supporting this strategic priority include:

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#### **CREATE CULTURALLY-RELEVANT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

- Program offerings that relate to diverse demographics of the area
- Historic and cultural events that demonstrate and relate history of the amenity or area

- Large-scale festivals and music events

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#### DIVERSE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NATIVE LANGUAGE OUTREACH

- Use of email blasts, consistent website updates, and social media outreach, the preferred communication methods as noted in the intercept surveys
- Outreach to diverse communities through native language and in partnership with culturally-focused organizations
- Proactive outreach and communication with underserved communities

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#### GATHERING SPACES

- Emphasis on benches and picnic shelters as a place for people to meet and groups to gather
- Large picnic shelters for long-term rentals (1/2 day or longer) and bathroom facilities nearby
- Flexible adjacent lawn areas for large gatherings and pick-up sports

#### PLAN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Montgomery County has historically emphasized the need to manage land toward natural resources protection and conservation, and the community has historically been supportive and encouraging of such efforts. The 2005 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan shows this historic emphasis. The recent community outreach as part of the Community Needs Assessment has shown that this ethic or preservation of these resource for future generations is still evident, even with the changing demographics. Recommendations include:

- Development of program and service amenities that balance activity with the natural environment, such as nature playgrounds
- Connecting current open spaces together using sustainable trails, and use of interpretive signs to show natural open space as a critical piece of the parks system
- Land preservation and acquisition strategies based on the development of natural, cultural, or light adventure amenities balanced with land strategies for traditional sports, such as sport fields and courts

Key themes for tactics from the Community Needs Assessment supporting this strategic priority include:

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#### PRIORITY RANKINGS

Priority rankings identified using the quantitative and qualitative input from all of the community needs input methods included:

- An emphasis on natural trails, natural space and wildlife habitat, and gardens, indicating that the community values the opportunity to preserve enjoy these amenities
- Nature Parks over traditional sports parks

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#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATURE RECREATION

- Contemplative and active educational and adventure elements
- Connections to natural trails and other natural/cultural amenities, including dog parks and playgrounds
- Preservation of current open space, greenspace and existing urban parks



## CHAPTER TWO - INTRODUCTION AND PROCESS

During the development of the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan in 2010, the Department of Parks and the Montgomery County Recreation Department pledged to “engage a diverse community and proactively respond to changing demographics, needs, and trends”. Accordingly, for the *2017 PROS Plan*, a great deal of input was collected through a variety of methods including the Parks and Recreation of the Future campaign and surveys, interviews, and focus groups conducted by a team of consultants.

Several Montgomery County demographic trends shaped the outreach methods for the *2017 PROS Plan*, including:

- Increasing racial and ethnic diversity, with a projected growth in minority groups from 55 percent of the population in 2015 to 68 percent of the population in 2040
- Projected growth in the population people over age 65 from 12 percent of the population in 2010 to 20 percent in 2040
- A large and widely diverse foreign-born population speaking a multitude of languages and having varying English speaking proficiencies

### 2.1 PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE FUTURE OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Montgomery Parks launched a multi-pronged outreach strategy in November 2016 to engage diverse communities for input about the future of parks and recreation named Parks and Recreation of the Future ([http://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/public-input/#peak\\_democracy](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/public-input/#peak_democracy)), was aimed at soliciting public input to inform three separate but related park programs: the *2017 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan*, the *Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan (EPS FMP)*, and the Capital Improvement Program.

The outreach efforts targeted a vast array of audiences including, but not limited to ethnically diverse communities, senior populations, and people with disabilities. A variety of channels and tactics were leveraged to reach these audiences including:

#### TRADITIONAL OUTREACH METHODS

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- Public and community meeting presentations to regional and citizen advisory boards
- Email outreach to elected officials, Homeowner and Civic Associations
- Posters and flyers distributed at frequented locations such as recreation centers, park facilities and libraries

#### MEDIA OUTREACH

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- A segment on WRC-TV News Channel 4 (NBC affiliate for the DC market)
- Interviews on County Cable TV programs Que Pasa and County Report This Week, and Radio program Montgomery Al Dia, and WHAG
- Outreach to regional and ethnic outlets including TV affiliates, Washington Post, Bethesda Beat, Olney Greater News, Germantown Pulse, MYMCMedia, WTOP, WAMU, El Pregonero, Univision

#### MEDIA ADVERTISING

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- El Tiempo Latino
- Radio One
- Radio America
- The Beacon

## SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING & OUTREACH

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- Facebook and Twitter posts
- Facebook advertising

## ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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- A new online open town hall platform (Peak Democracy) for people to easily submit their comments, suggestions and respond to a survey.
- Face-to-Face Outreach: via a listening tour in which parks staff presented the details of the campaign among various organizations and groups such as the Office of Community Partnership Advisory Boards
- Commission on the People with Disabilities
- Age-Friendly Montgomery Advisory Group

## INTERCEPT SURVEYS

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Targeting diverse audiences conducted at community locations such as:

- Grocery stores
- Faith organizations
- Recreation centers
- Community events

## FOCUS GROUPS

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Targeting minority communities, specifically:

- The Latino community
- The African community
- The Asian and Asian-Pacific communities

## 2.2 NEEDS ASSESSMENT BY CONSULTANTS

The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) contracted PROS Consulting, in collaboration with Montgomery Parks, Communities Connect Consulting, ETC Institute, and Peak Democracy, to complete a Needs Assessment to solicit comprehensive feedback from residents of the community. The process engaged a broad range of demographic segments present within Montgomery County to better understand the characteristics, preferences, and satisfaction levels of residents in relation to parks and recreation activities.

Once a thorough understanding of residents served was established, a variety of data sources and best practice standards was applied to quantify and prioritize community needs for parks and recreation services and amenities in Montgomery County. This Needs Assessment consisted of six (6) community input methods and a cumulative analysis of priorities which sorted the major findings and recurring themes. Ultimately, these key findings and themes laid the framework of the needs, interests, and preferences of residents served by Montgomery County Parks. These key findings were then aggregated into Priority Rankings of community needs.

## STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

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ETC Institute administered a statistically valid needs assessment survey for Montgomery County. This survey was mailed to a random sample of households within Montgomery County. A total of 705

households completing the survey. Overall, 20% of those surveyed indicated that English was not their primary language. A total of 21 different languages were represented in the survey, with Spanish and Mandarin being the two highest non-English languages noted amongst respondents.

The overall results indicated that 95% of respondents communicated that high-quality parks, trails, recreation facilities and services are either very important (82%) or Somewhat Important (13%) to the quality of life in Montgomery County.

### KEY STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS AND INTERVIEWS

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The group was evenly distributed in terms of race/ethnicity, with 30% African American, African, or Black; 33% Hispanic and/or Latino; and 37% Asian or Pacific Islander. Participants resided in 16 different zip codes, and ranged from recent arrivals to residents living in the U.S. between 5-10 years. Of participants, 58% were female and 42% were male. Throughout the process, all ideas from the public were carefully documented, and used to summarize the development of the outreach plan to the minority communities.

### INTERCEPT SURVEYS

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The PROS Consulting team collected survey information from residents and system users via intercept survey method. The purpose of these surveys was to help develop a better understanding of the needs, preferences, and satisfaction levels of Montgomery County residents in relation to parks, natural resources, and recreation activities. Surveys were collected at community recreation centers, local grocery stores, churches, and parks. To help ensure collection from a representative cross-section of County residents, Mandarin, Spanish, and Hindi interpreters we also present assisting the PROS Team throughout this process. A total of 174 responses were collected throughout this method. Respondents' language of preference included: 49% English, 10% Spanish, 25% Mandarin, and 16% Hindi.



## CHAPTER THREE - STATISTICALLY VALID COMMUNITY SURVEY

### 3.1 OVERVIEW

ETC Institute administered a statistically valid needs assessment survey for Montgomery County during the winter of 2016-17. The survey was administered as part of the County’s efforts to establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services. The results of this survey will assist the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery Parks, and the Montgomery County Recreation department in taking a resident-drive approach to making decisions that will enrich the future of parks and recreation services in the County, and affect the lives of its residents.

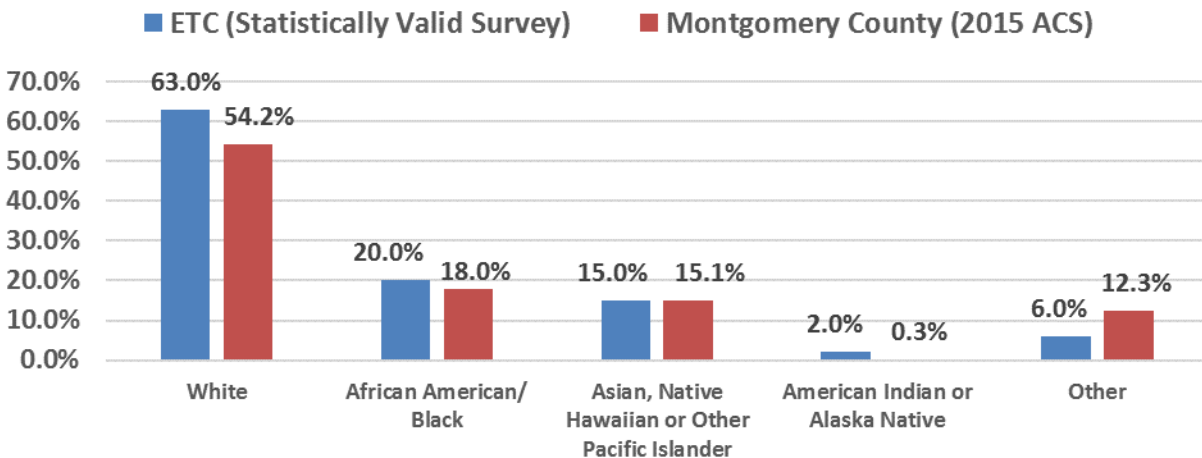
#### Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in Montgomery County. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it on-line at [bit.do/montgomeryparks2017](http://bit.do/montgomeryparks2017). Once the surveys were mailed, resident households who received the survey were contacted by phone. Those who indicated that they had not returned the survey by mail were given the option of completing it by phone. The goal was to obtain completed surveys from at least 700 residents. The goal was accomplished with a total of 705 residents completing the survey. The overall results for the sample of 705 households have a precision of at least +/-3.7% at the 95% level of confidence.

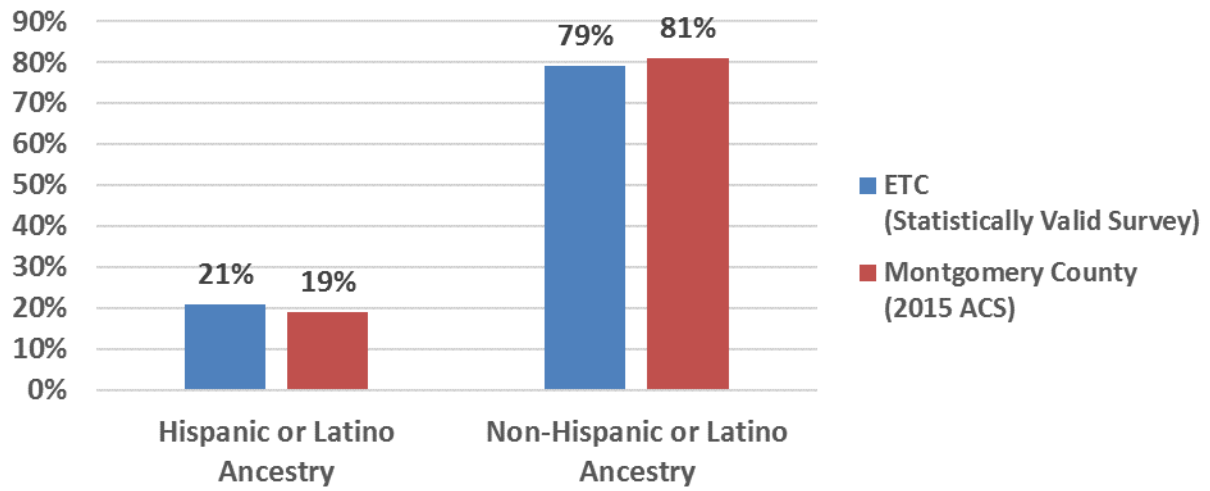
A reported 20% of respondents to the survey did not speak English as their primary language. Spanish and Chinese were the 2-non-english language that were most represented. People who speak 21 different languages participated in the survey.

The demographic comparison below and on the following page compares the survey respondents’ demographics to those of the County.

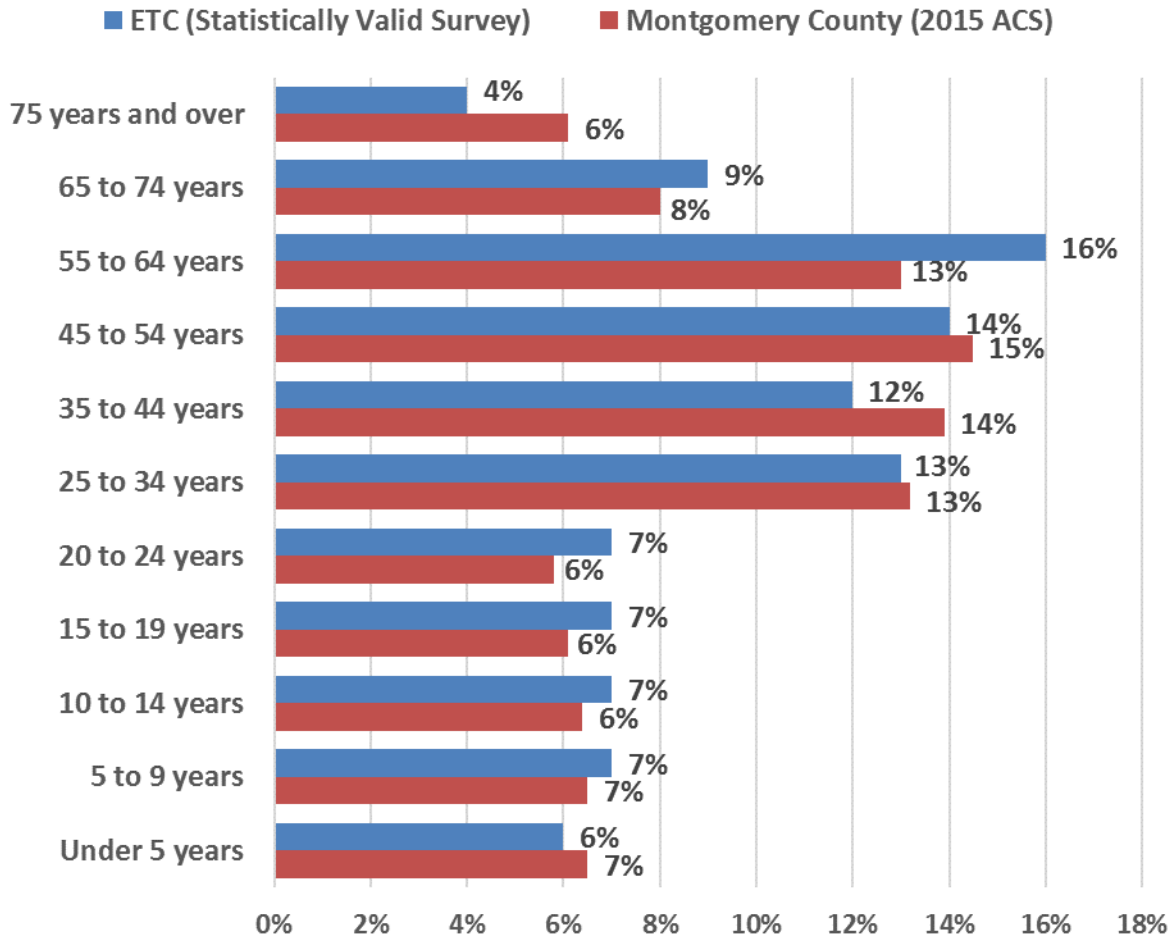
#### Demographics by Race



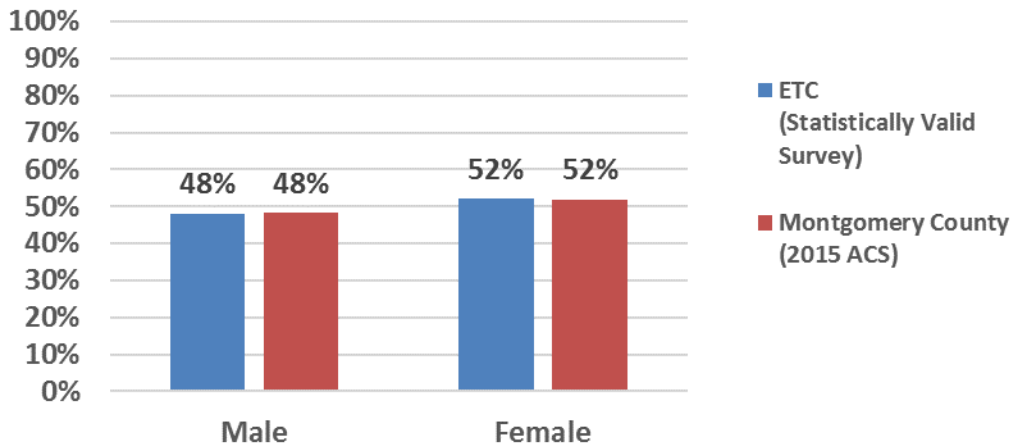
### Demographics by Hispanic Origin



### Demographics by Segment



### Demographics by Gender



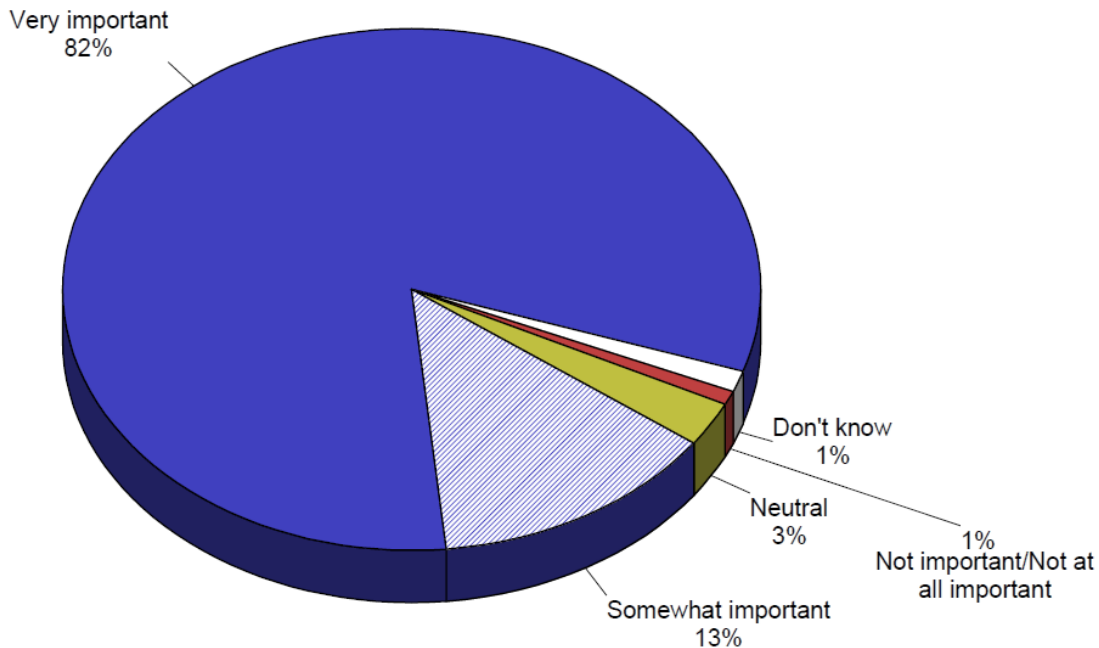
### 3.2 SURVEY RESULTS

#### OVERALL PERCEPTIONS

Eighty-two percent (82%) of respondents indicated that high quality parks, trails, recreation facilities, and services are very important to the quality of life in Montgomery County, 13% think they are somewhat important, 3% are neutral, and only 1% think they are not important or not at all important. When asked to rate the physical condition of all the parks, trails, and recreation facilities operated by M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Recreation Department that respondents have visited during the past year, 21% indicated they were excellent, 55% indicated they were good, 16% fair, 1% poor, and 6% indicated they have not visited any M-NCPPC parks, trails, or recreation facilities during the past year.

#### QUESTION 1. HOW IMPORTANT ARE HIGH QUALITY PARKS, TRAILS, RECREATION FACILITIES AND SERVICE TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY?

by percentage of respondents

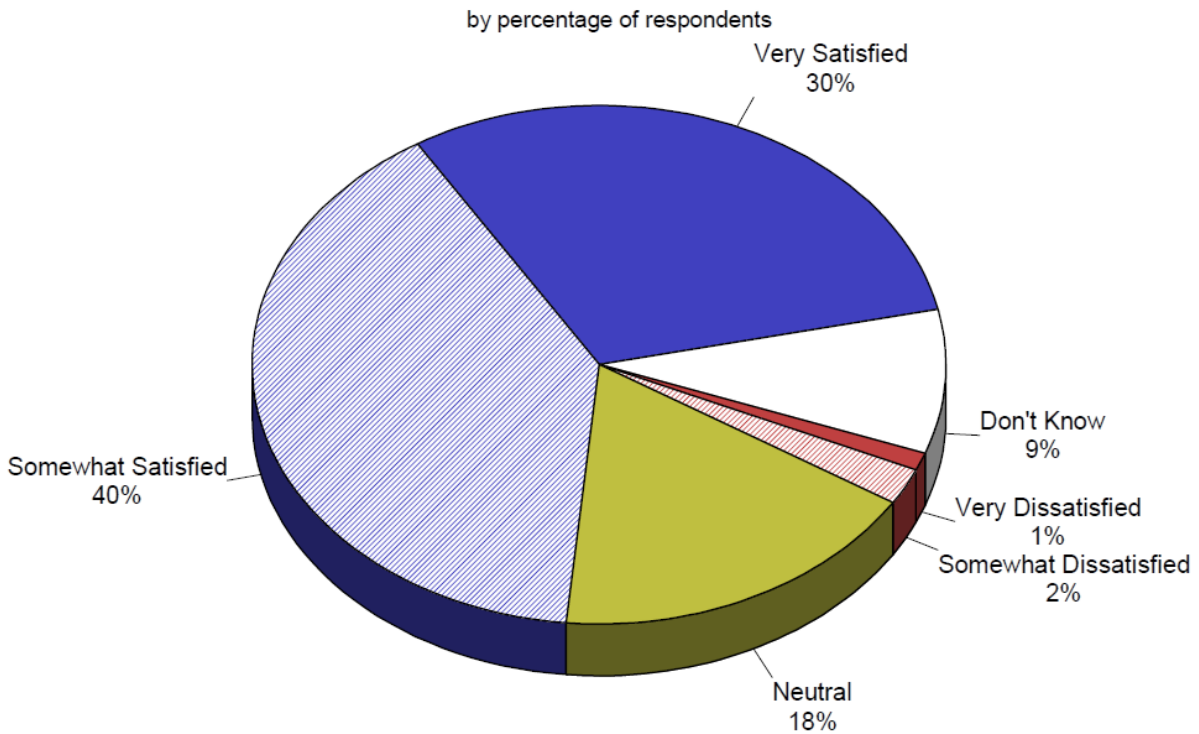




Based on the sum of very satisfied and somewhat satisfied responses 70% of respondents are satisfied with the overall value their household receives from the M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Recreation Department, 18% of respondents are neutral, and 3% were either somewhat or very dissatisfied. One out of four respondents (25%) indicated they are very proud of M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks recreation facilities, parks, and services, 42% indicated they are proud, 26% are neutral, and only 2% indicated they were not proud or not at all proud.

**QUESTION 2. SATISFACTION WITH THE OVERALL VALUE YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES FROM M-NCPPC MONTGOMERY PARKS AND THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENTS.**

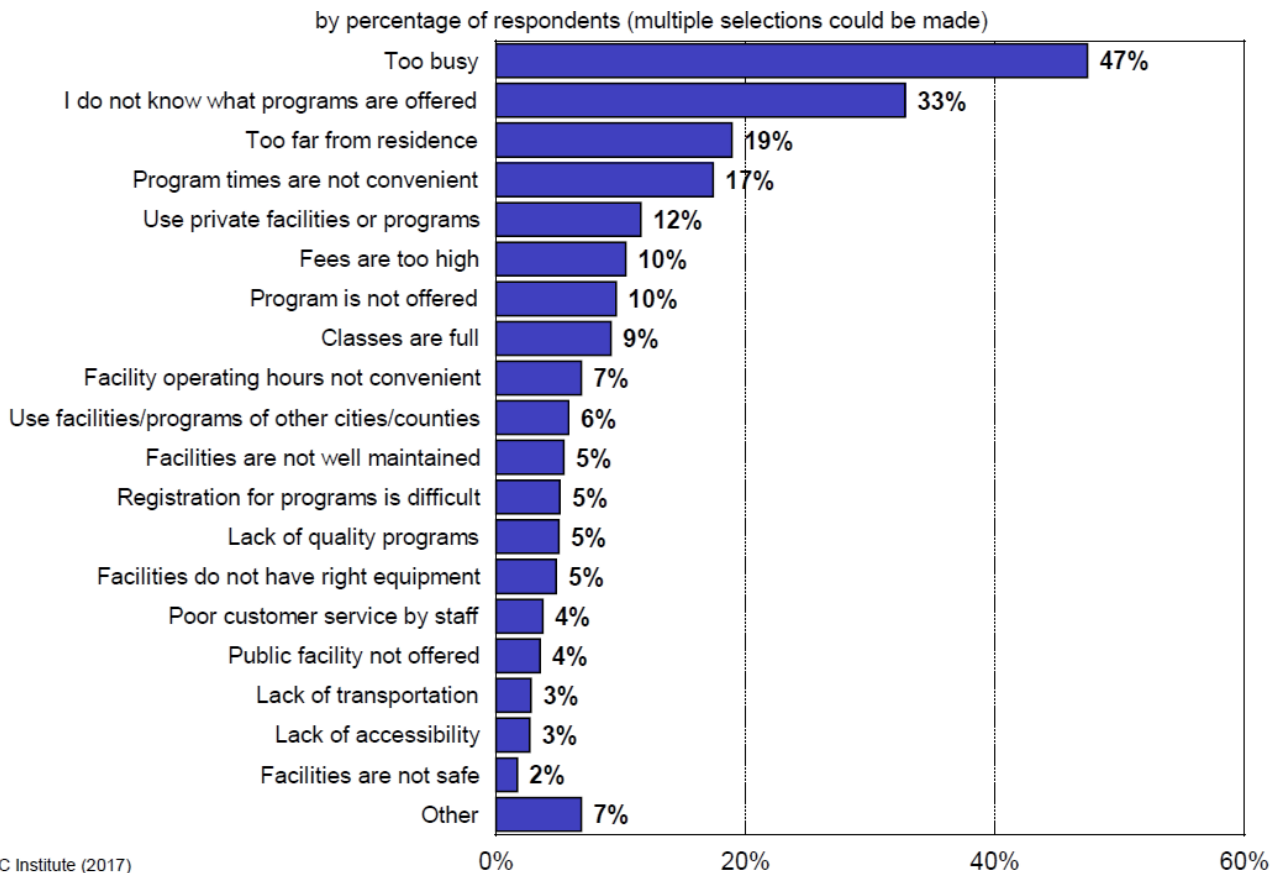
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**BARRIERS TO PARK, FACILITY, AND PROGRAM USAGE**

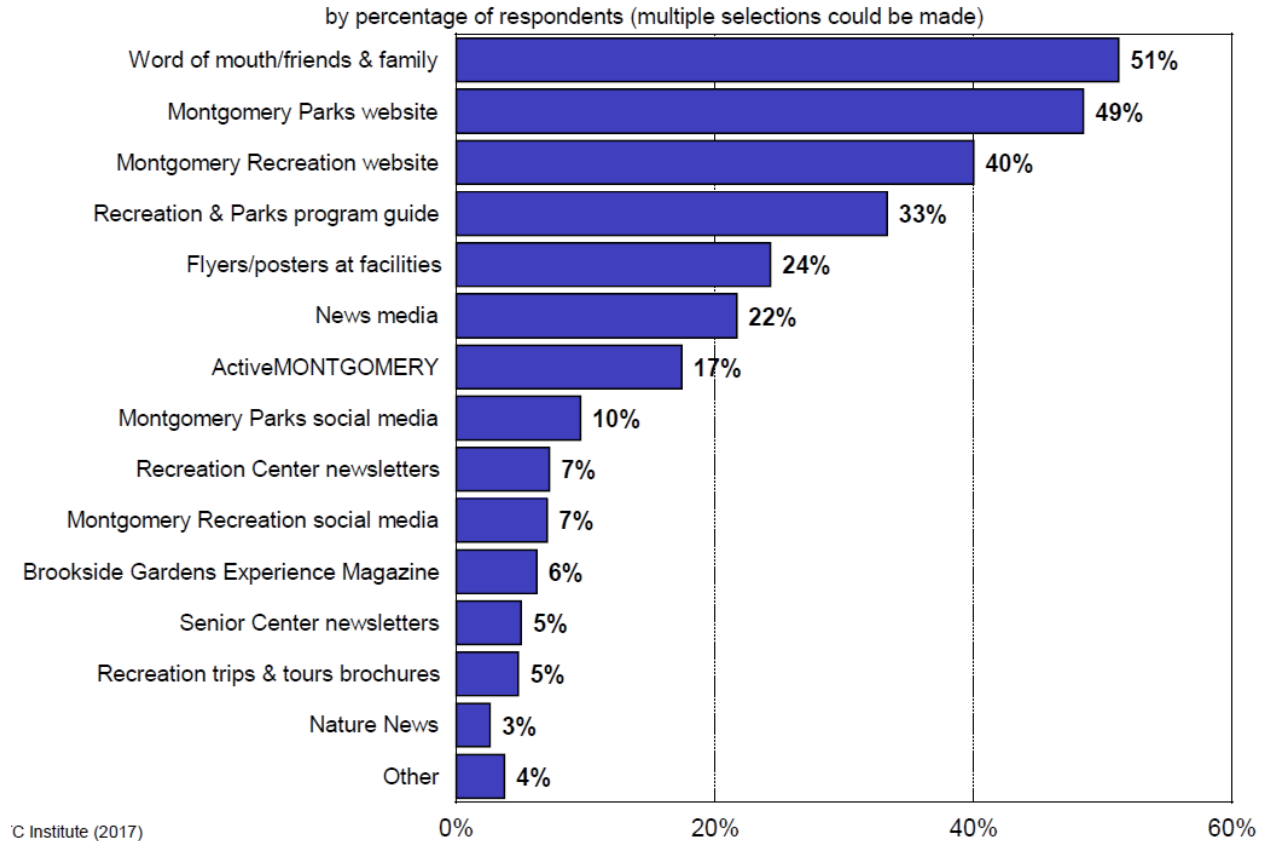
Respondents were asked from a list of 20 potential reasons to identify what prevents them from using parks, recreation facilities, or programs of the M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Recreation Department more often. The top four reasons selected were: being too busy (47%), not knowing what programs are offered (33%), programs are too far from the residence (19%), and program times are not convenient (17%).

**QUESTION 7. REASONS WHY YOUR HOUSEHOLD DOES NOT USE PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES OR PROGRAMS OF M-NCPPC MONTGOMERY PARKS AND THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENTS.**



Fifty-one percent (51%) of respondents indicated they learn about M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Recreation Department programs and activities by word of mouth from friends and family, 29% use the Montgomery Parks website, 40% use the Montgomery Recreation website, and 33% use the Recreation and Parks program guide.

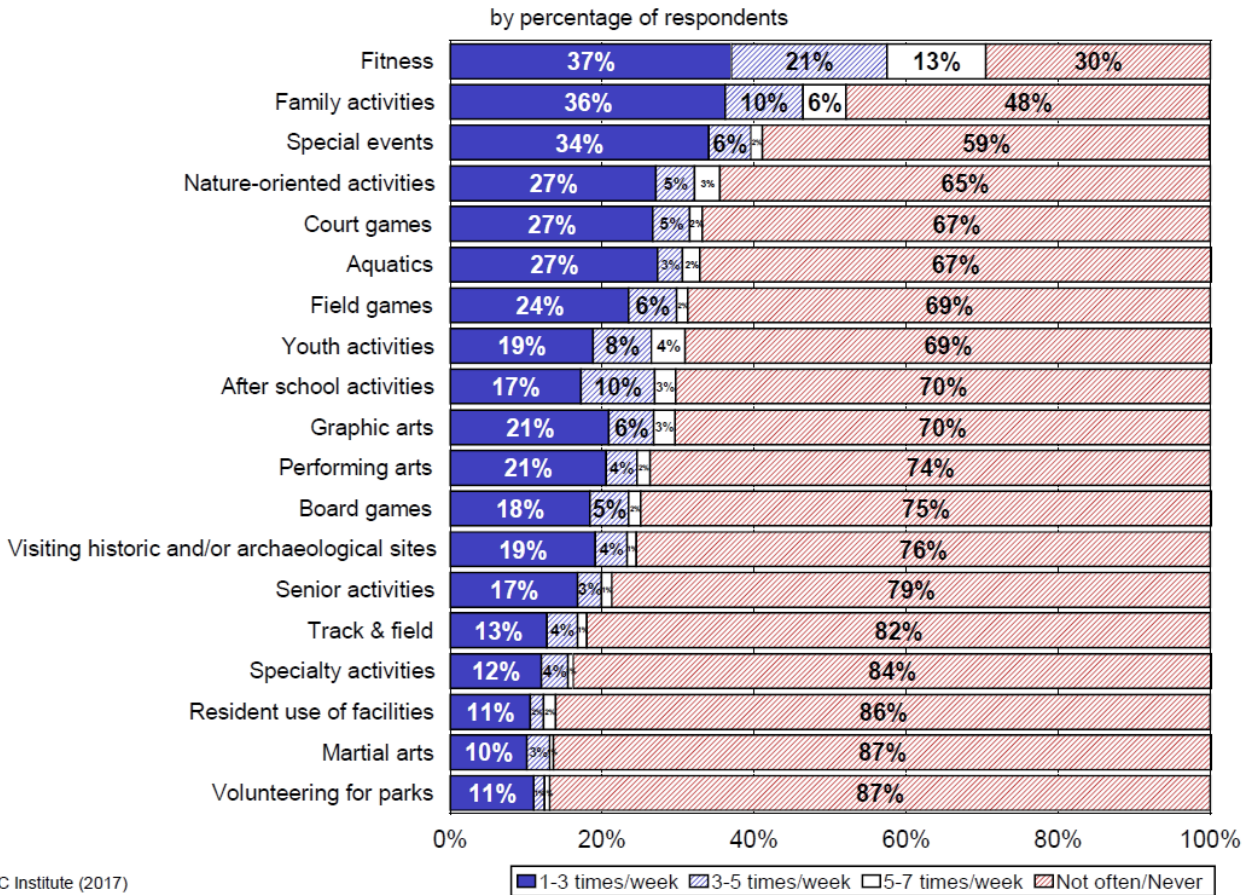
**QUESTION 18. WAYS RESPONDENTS LEARN ABOUT M-NCPPC MONTGOMERY PARKS AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENTS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**



**CURRENT PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION ACTIVITIES**

All 705 respondents indicated how often they currently participate in 19 various activities, and indicated how their usage of those facilities may change over the next ten years. The three facilities which respondents indicated they participated in most often, based on the sum of 1-3 times/week, 3-5 times/week, and 5-7 times/week responses were: fitness (weight lifting, aerobics, walk/jobbing, yoga, Zumba, Pilates, spinning, nutrition, etc.) (71%), family activities (52%), and special events (concerts, festivals, movie nights, etc.) (42%).

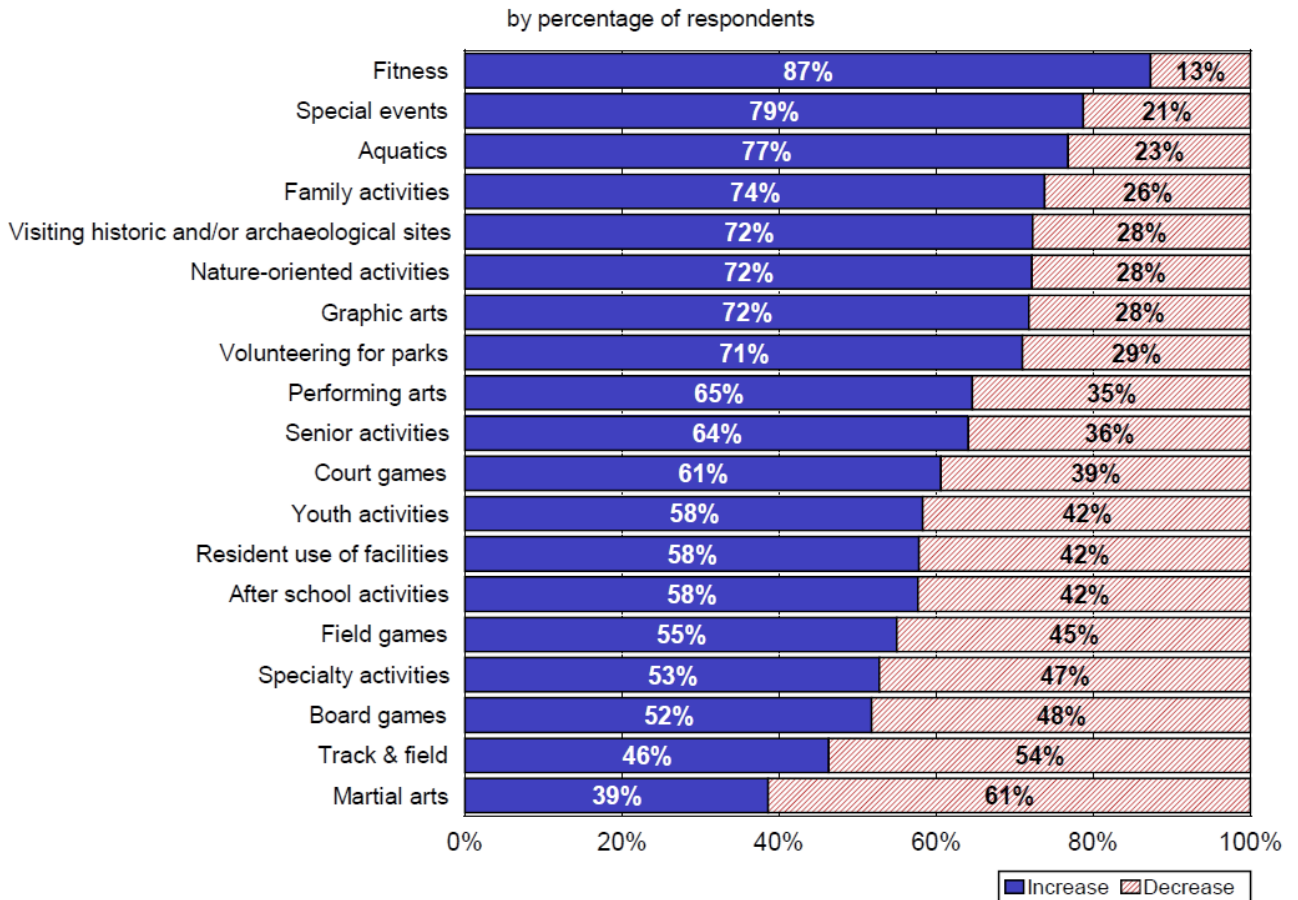
Questions 14. How often respondents currently participate in the following activities.



Eighty-seven percent (87%) of respondents indicated they rarely (not often/never) participate in volunteering for parks (stream cleanups, weed warriors, water quality monitoring, trail building and maintenance, tree planting, deer management, public gardens, nature centers) and martial arts (karate, boxing, judo, etc.). Martial arts also received the highest number of respondents who indicated their participation in the program would decrease over the next 10 years.

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of respondents indicated their participation in fitness (weight lifting, aerobics, walk/jobbing, yoga, Zumba, Pilates, spinning, nutrition, etc.) activities would increase over the next 10 years, 79% indicated their participation in special events (concerts, festivals, movie nights, etc.) would increase over the next 10 years, and 77% of respondents indicated their participation in aquatics (swimming, diving, competition, scuba, etc.) would increase over the next 10 years.

**QUESTIONS 14-1. HOW WILL THE USAGE OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF ACTIVITIES INCREASE OR DECREASE OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS?**



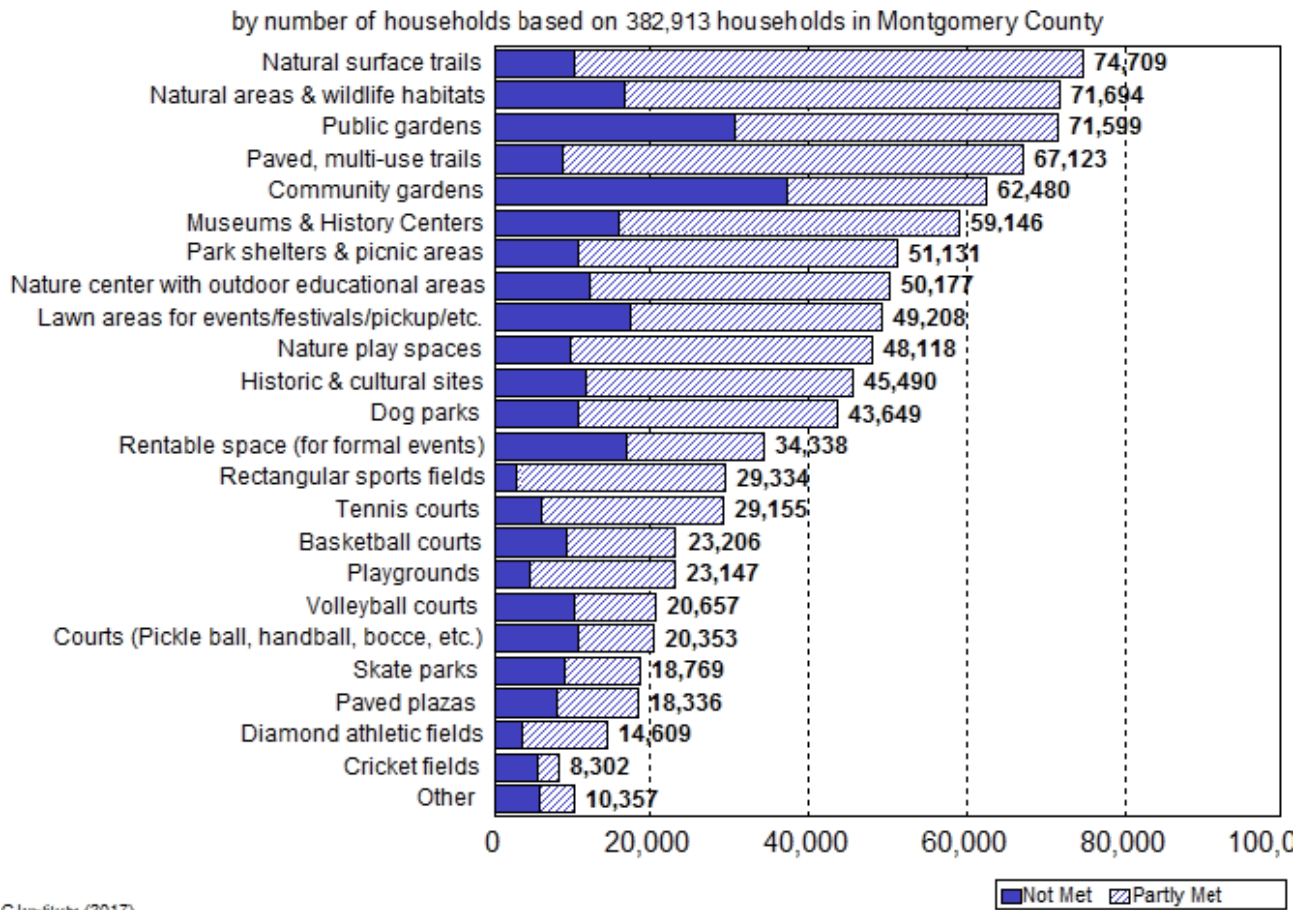
ETC Institute (2017)

**FACILITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES**

**Facility Needs:** Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 24 recreation facilities and amenities and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest “unmet” need for various facilities.

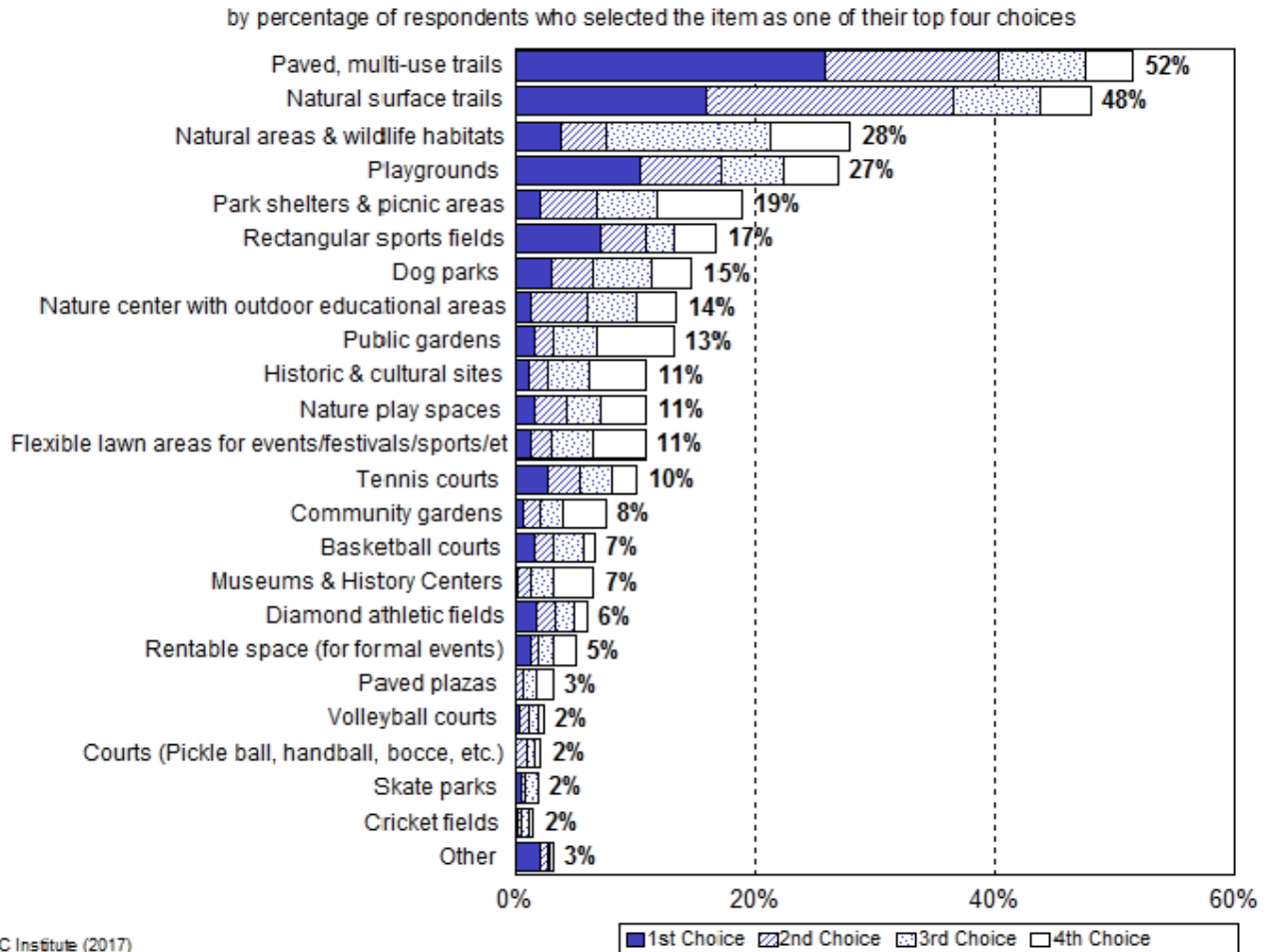
The three recreation facilities with the highest percentage of households that indicated a need for the facility were: paved, multi-use trails (walking, biking) (70%), natural surface trails (walking, biking, horse-back riding) (69%), and natural areas and wildlife habitats (52%). When ETC Institute analyzed the needs in the community, three facilities had an unmet need that affected more than 70,000 households. ETC Institute estimates a total of 74,709 of the 382,913 households in Montgomery County have unmet needs for natural surface trails (walking, biking, horse-back riding). The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 24 facilities that were assessed is shown in the chart below.

**QUESTION 10-3. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD WHOSE NEEDS FOR FACILITIES ARE BEING PARTLY MET OR NOT MET.**



**Facility Importance:** In addition to assessing the needs for each facility, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each facility. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, the three most important facilities to residents were: paved, multi-use trails (walking, biking) (52%), natural surface trails (walking, biking, horse-back riding) (48%), and natural areas and wildlife habitats (28%). The percentage of residents who selected each facility as one of their top four choices is shown in the chart below.

**QUESTION 11. WHICH FOUR FACILITIES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOUR HOUSEHOLD?**



ETC Institute (2017)

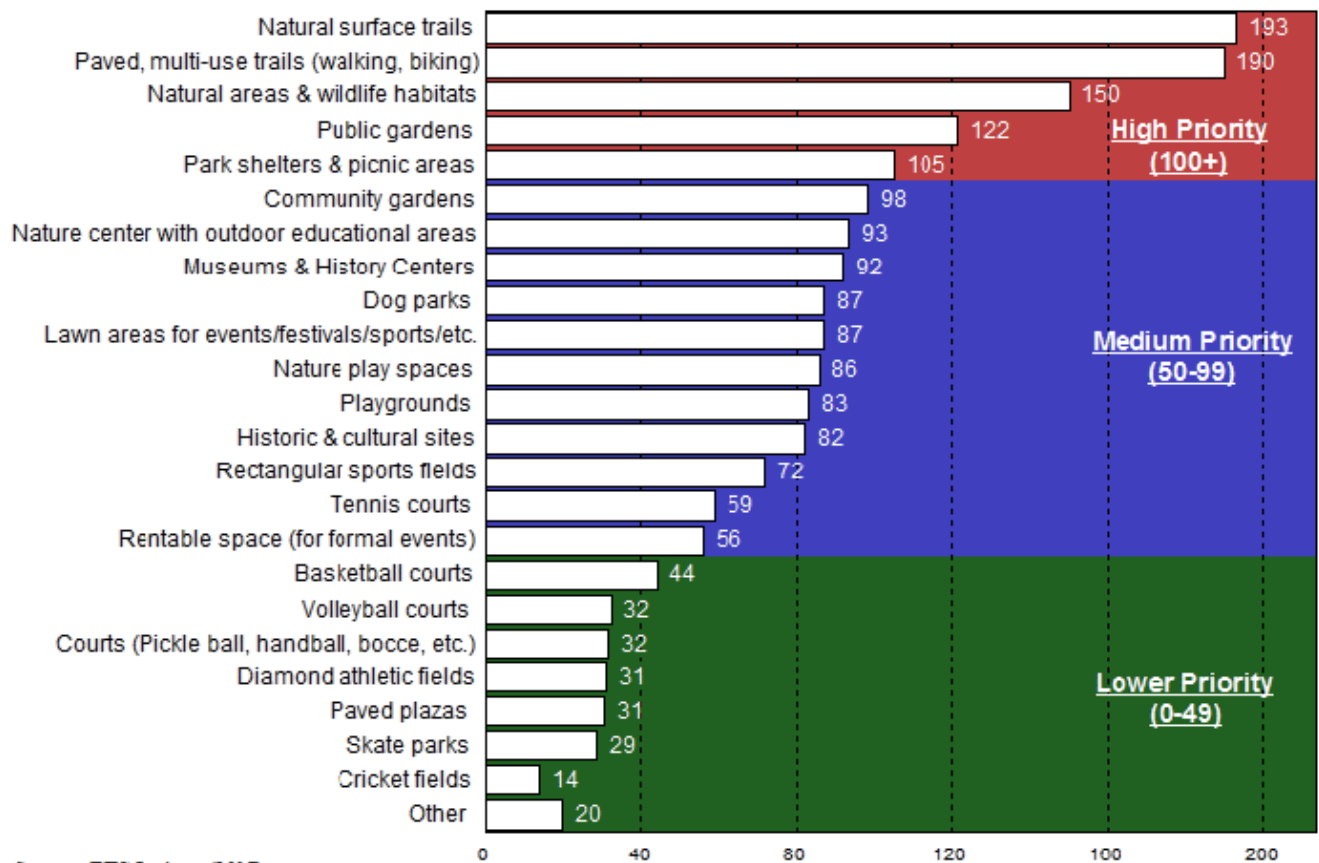
**Priorities for Facility Investments:** The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on parks and recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weights (1) the importance that residents place on facilities and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the facility.

Based the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following five facilities were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Natural surface trails (walking, biking, horse-back riding) (PIR=193)
- Paved, multi-use trails (walking, biking) (PIR=190)
- Natural areas and wildlife habitats (PIR=150)
- Public gardens (PIR=122)
- Park shelters and picnic areas (PIR=105)

The chart on the following page shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 24 facilities that were assessed on the survey.

**TOP PRIORITIES FOR INVESTMENT FOR RECREATION FACILITIES BASED ON THE PRIORITY INVESTMENT RATING.**





### ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

Montgomery County asked its respondents to indicate the ways they travel to parks, trails, and recreation facilities in the County. The most used methods of transportation are driving (89%), walking (77%), and biking (39%) followed by the Metrorail (12%) and bus (9%).

- A majority of respondents indicated the latest they would consider using outdoor recreation facilities was between 8pm and 9pm during weekends and weekdays.
- Roughly one out of three respondents indicated the latest they would consider using indoor recreation facilities was between 9pm and 10pm or 8pm and 9pm during the weekends and weekdays.

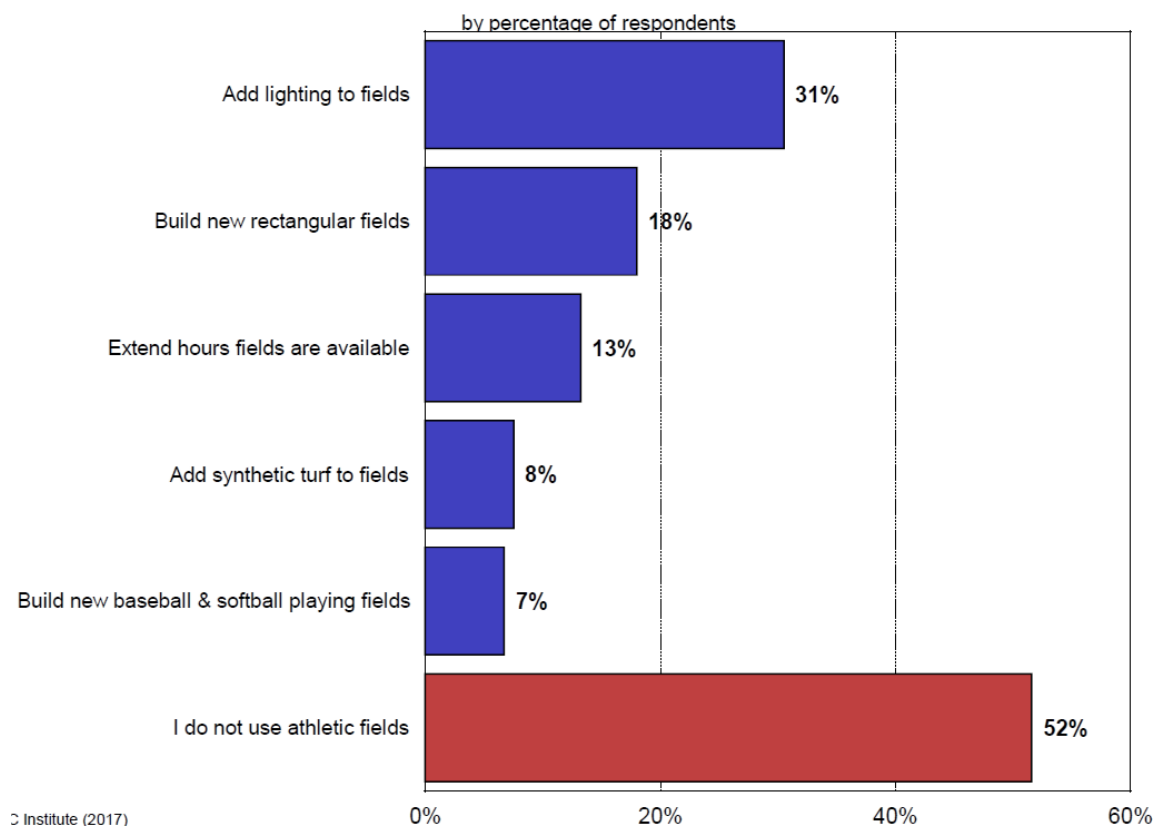
The most important improvements that could be made to baseball, softball, and rectangular fields are:

- Add lighting to fields (31%)
- Building new rectangular fields (18%)
- Extend hours fields are available (13%)

Most (52%) of respondents indicated they do not use athletic fields.

- Fifty-seven percent (57%) of respondents indicated M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Recreation Department should ensure children (under 13) and teens (ages 13-17) are their top priority to serve for programs.
- Fifty-percent (50%) of respondents indicated they would be interested in using surveys in the future as a public engagement tool, 38% indicated community events, and 32% indicated they would use online forums.

**QUESTION 16. WHICH TWO IMPROVEMENTS ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU AND MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD?**



**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Facility Priorities:** When analyzing the facilities offered by M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks the three most important facilities to households were also among the highest for unmet need. ETC Institute estimates that at least 65,000 households in Montgomery County have unmet needs for paved, multi-use trails (walking, biking), natural areas and wildlife habitats, and natural surface trails (walking, biking, horse-back riding). Focusing on these facilities within the County would provide the greatest benefit for the largest number of residents.

In order to ensure that Montgomery County continues to meet the needs and expectations of the community, ETC Institute recommends that M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks sustain and/or improve the performance in areas that were identified as “high priorities” by the Priority Investment Rating (PIR). The facilities and programs with the highest PIR ratings are listed below.

**Facility Priorities**

- Natural surface trails (walking, biking, horse-back riding) (PIR=193)
- Paved, multi-use trails (walking, biking) (PIR=190)
- Natural areas and wildlife habitats (PIR=150)
- Public gardens (PIR=122)
- Park shelters and picnic areas (PIR=105)

**Action Items:** When given a list of 13 action items respondents indicated the three most important actions for M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks and the Montgomery County Recreation Department to prioritize based on the sum of respondents’ top three choices, are: providing opportunities to improve

physical health and fitness (54%), conserve natural resources and the environment (45%), providing recreation facilities/programs for children and teens (29%), and making Montgomery County a more desirable place to live (29%). Providing history programs (6%) was the least important action for respondents.

**Funding Priorities:** The four actions respondents are most supportive of M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Recreation Department funding with tax dollars in order to improve the Parks and Recreation system, based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, are:

- Repair/renovate existing park facilities (49%)
- Purchase land for natural resource protection and conservation for future generations (45%)
- Develop new walking/biking trails and connect existing trails (40%)
- Purchase land for developing trails (29%)

For complete survey results, reference [Chapter 10.1 Appendix A](#) of this report.

## CHAPTER FOUR - KEY STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS AND INTERVIEWS

### 4.1 OVERVIEW

Communities Connect Consulting was retained for professional experts' services to conduct an extensive public engagement outreach effort, focused on minority communities and to assist in the development of the *2017 Montgomery County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan*. Montgomery County Parks encouraged the involvement and participation of the minority communities in the planning and review process.

Over a period of four weeks, six (6) focus groups consisting of 61 total participants were conducted with an experienced facilitator, a native language interpreter, and a research analyst to record notes. Throughout the process, all ideas from the public were carefully documented, and used to summarize the development of the outreach plan to the minority communities.

These focus groups were open to individuals who live, in the selected specific minority population areas. The group was evenly distributed in terms of race/ethnicity, with 30% African American, African, or Black; 33% Hispanic and/or Latino; and 37% Asian or Pacific Islander. Participants resided in 16 different zip codes, and ranged from recent arrivals to residents living in the U.S. between 5-10 years. Of participants, 58% were female and 42% were male.

#### Methodology

From the beginning of February 2017, the Communities Connect team orchestrated a diverse public involvement process that incorporated an intense outreach effort in the minority communities organizing six (6) focus groups to hear what the minority communities of Montgomery County had to say, gathering opinions, beliefs and attitudes, encouraging discussion and providing an opportunity to learn more about the parks. The focus group team was able to deal tactfully with outspoken group members, keep the discussion on track, and made sure every participant was heard.

In order to gather input and test ideas with the public, the focus groups were held over a period of four weeks. These focus groups were open to individuals who live in the selected specific minority population areas and were consistently well attended, indicating a strong community interest in the future of the Parks.

Following Communities Connect's introduction presentation, participants were asked to respond to five (5) questions in order to gather verbal feedback. Additionally, respondents were asked to fill out an eight (8) question survey. Each focus group was recorded and an audiotape of each meeting is provided as part of the Communities Connect report. Communities Connect engaged in intensive outreach and partnering efforts in order to draw attention to the PROS Plan Outreach process and encourage participation at focus groups. These efforts returned very positive results, as participation at each focus group ranged from 8 to 15 people.

### 4.2 FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

In this report, findings have been summarized by focus group to show preferences by country of origin. Key themes from all focus groups have also been extracted to demonstrate overall non-native resident preferences. In addition, location information was gathered from each participant, including city, zip code, and nearest school. Some participants chose not to state the location of their residence. The following tables detail the location information of participants, where provided.

**FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT SUMMARY**

Total Number of Focus Groups = 6      Total Number of Participants = 61

**CITY OF RESIDENCY**

City	%	City	%	City	%
Silver Spring	28%	Wheaton	5%	Bethesda	2%
Gaithersburg	21%	Derwood	3%	Montgomery Village	2%
Takoma Park	10%	Potomac	3%	Rockville	2%
North Potomac	5%	Bel Air	2%	No response	18%

**NEAREST SCHOOL TO RESIDENCE**

School	%
Gaithersburg High School	7%
Arcola Elementary School	5%
Candlewood Elementary School	3%
Fairland Elementary School	3%
Georgian Forest Elementary School	3%
Highland Elementary School	3%
Potomac Elementary School	3%
Stone Mill Elementary School	3%
Ashburton Elementary School	2%
Blair High School	2%
Brown Station Elementary School	2%
Burnt Mills Elementary School	2%
Cannon Road Elementary School	2%
Davis Library	2%
Falls Mead Elementary School	2%
Farmland Elementary School	2%
Glen Haven Elementary School	2%
Glenallen Elementary School	2%
Jones Lane Elementary School	2%
Leiderman School	2%
Page Elementary School	2%
Piney Branch Elementary School	2%
Sligo Creek Elementary School	2%
Stedwik Elementary School	2%
Stonegate Elementary School	2%
Westwood School	2%
No response	39%

ZIP CODE OF RESIDENCY

Zip Code	%
20902	15%
20877	13%
20878	8%
20904	8%
20912	8%
20901	7%
20906	5%
20817	3%
20855	3%
20879	3%
20886	3%
20852	2%

20854	2%
20905	2%
20910	2%
21014	2%
29854	2%
No response	13%

Demographics and additional context and details regarding the focus group results are included here. Full, detailed responses to questions and the survey can be found in Appendix B, where the full Communities Connect report is provided under separate cover.

FOCUS GROUP 1: UPCOUNTY

DEMOGRAPHICS

Focus Group No.: 1	#	Name	Country of Origin
Date: February 16, 2017	1	Cristian	Honduras
Geographic site area: Upcounty	2	Reyna	El Salvador
Language: Spanish	3	Rafael	El Salvador
# of participants: 11	4	Myrna	El Salvador
Group: Latino	5	Cindy	El Salvador
City: Gaithersburg	6	Mynor	Guatemala
	7	Lastenia	Ecuador
	8	Ana	El Salvador
	9	Gilberto	El Salvador
	10	German	El Salvador

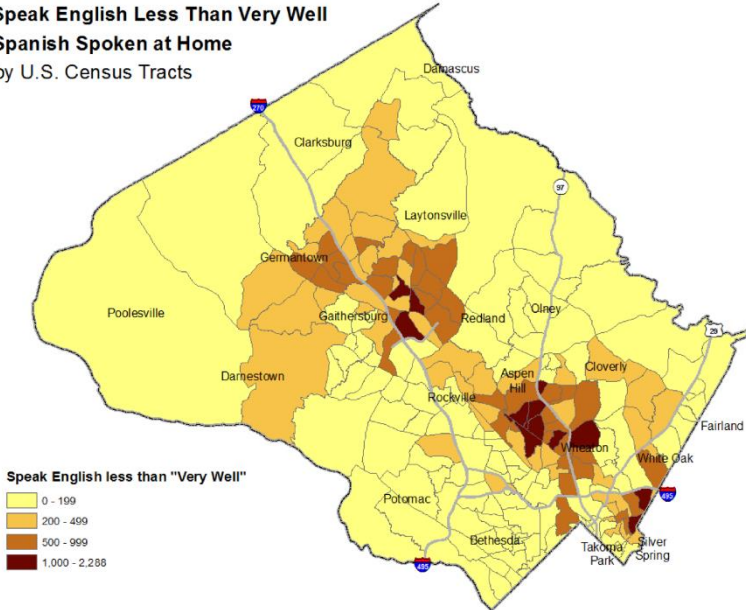
PARTICIPANTS AND FINDINGS

This group was characterized by generally having small children in the household. Participants generally use the parks to spend time with family and for social gatherings. The group in this session had two recurring concerns:

- (1) That there should be more focus on facilities and amenities for small children ages 2 - 3 and their parents and;
- (2) that there should be more efforts for safety, particularly with security and lighting issues being highlighted.

A variety of amenity and facility related desires were mentioned, including vending areas to buy water, benches, and a place to change the children. Ten years from now, participants would like to see more parks, bigger parks, and parks with more activities for children and sports. The group also expressed that they would like the park to communicate more with them in their language and in ways that are representative of their communities. Additionally, some expressed confusion regarding permitting processes.

**Speak English Less Than Very Well  
Spanish Spoken at Home**  
by U.S. Census Tracts



Source: 2010-2014 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates; Research & Special Projects, Montgomery County Planning Dept.

**FOCUS GROUP 2: MID-COUNTY**

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

Focus Group No.: 2

Date: February 17, 2017

Geographic site area: Mid-County

Language: Spanish

# of participants: 10

Group: Latino

City: Wheaton

#	Name	Country of Origin
1	Ana Maria	Peru
2	Nurys	El Salvador
3	Rosa	Honduras
4	Maria	Honduras
5	Lina	El Salvador
6	Socorro	Venezuela
7	Yissel	Puerto Rico
8	Brenda	Puerto Rico
9	Margarita	Mexico
10	Monica	Mexico
11	Alan	
12	Patric	

**PARTICIPANTS AND FINDINGS**

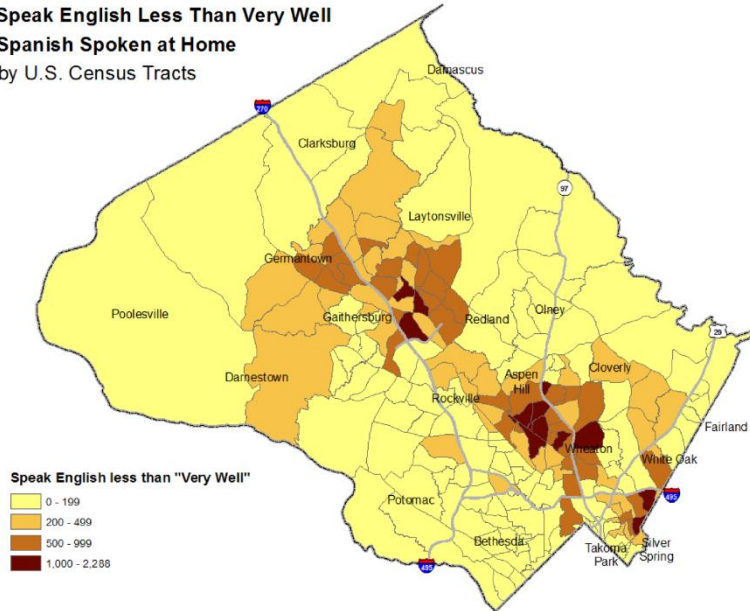
Generally, the group in this session had four recurring concerns:

- (1) Safety and security with a focus on illicit activities and concerns about poor lighting;
- (2) Having more services for children, including programming and spaces where small children can play safely;
- (3) Accessibility was a recurring theme, particularly with the danger of crossing Georgia Avenue, the high cost of renting facilities; and
- (4) Cleanliness of facilities was also an issue for this group.

This group also expressed the desire for there to be vending at the parks. Additionally, this group discussed the need for more outreach and communication from the parks to the community to facilitate accessibility for community members. It is worth noting that this group also discusses

language barriers and wanting more culturally relevant programming as sub-themes of accessibility of the parks. Though not discussed in depth in the focus group, survey responses showed a desire from participants of this focus group to conduct outreach to better serve the elderly.

**Speak English Less Than Very Well  
Spanish Spoken at Home**  
by U.S. Census Tracts



Source: 2010-2014 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates; Research & Special Projects, Montgomery County Planning Dept.



FOCUS GROUP 3: DOWN-EAST COUNTY

DEMOGRAPHICS

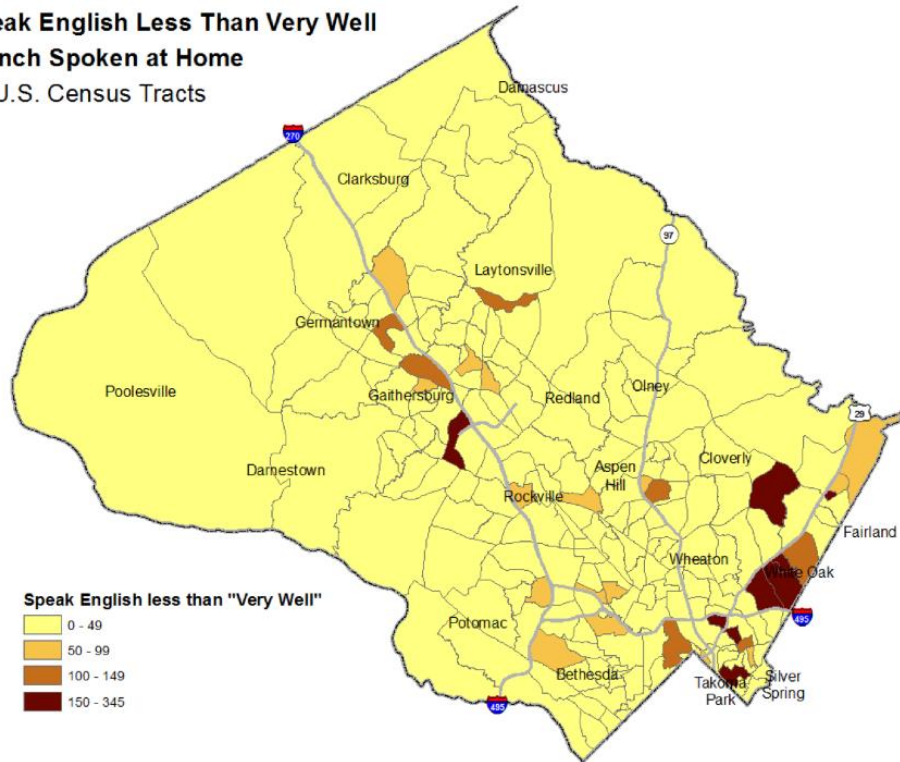
	#	Name	Country of Origin
Focus Group No.: 3	1	Cyprius	Cameroon
Date: February 20, 2017	2	Ines	Cameroon
Geographic site area: Down & East County	3	Fuka	Cameroon
Language: African, French	4	Oliedraogo	Burkin-Faso
# of Participants: 9	5	Chabrol	Cameroon
Group: African	6	Yves	Cameroon
City: Silver Spring/ Takoma	7	Christele	Cameroon
	8	Wamo	Cameroon
	9	Beacon	Cameroon

PARTICIPANTS AND FINDINGS

Answers in this focus group were characterized by having settled in Montgomery County very recently compared to other focus groups. All but one respondent indicated they have lived in Montgomery County for less than one year. Some participants in this group had not yet had the opportunity to visit a park however many spoke about what a park is like in their native country and what they would like to see here.

Participants were primarily interested in having more varied and targeted sports activities like health and wellness programming for people of all ages. It was also important to this group that the park act as a place of building community through social gatherings so people can meet each other. Cleanliness of the parks, including trails, was an issue that came up as well for this focus group. This group was much less familiar with Montgomery County Parks and how they operate and felt that transportation was a barrier to park access as well as expressed the importance of park guidance, including signage.

**Speak English Less Than Very Well  
French Spoken at Home**  
by U.S. Census Tracts



Source: 2010-2014 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates; Research & Special Projects, Montgomery County Planning Dept.

**FOCUS GROUP 4: UP-DOWN EAST COUNTY**

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

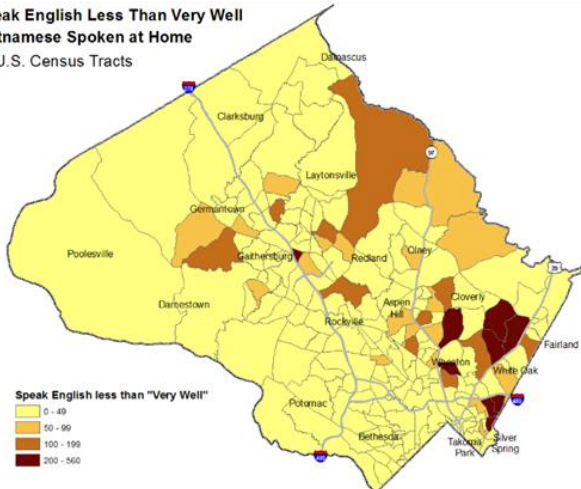
Focus Group No.: 4  
 Date: February 21, 2017  
 Geographic Site Area: Up - Down county  
 Language: Asian  
 # of Answers: 12  
 Group: Asian Pacific

#	Name	Country of Origin
1	Tho	
2	Stan	
3	Matthew	
4	Asoka	
5	Ashima	
6	Rajika	
7	Song	
8	Diane	
9	Sam	
10	Nazmin	
11	Ishani	
12	Neel	
13	Jaemin	

**PARTICIPANTS AND FINDINGS**

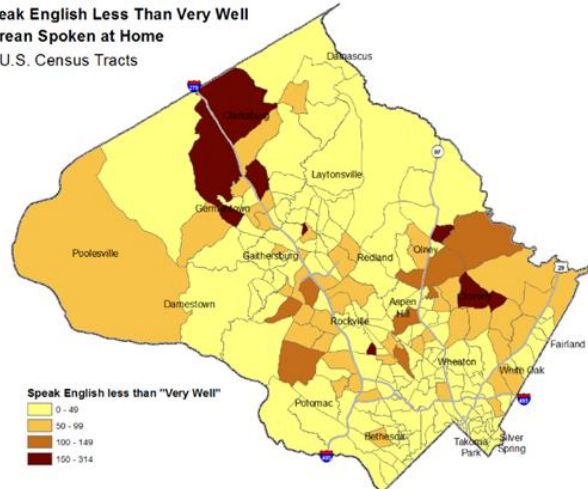
Participants in this focus group highly stressed the importance of various types of programming, including health and fitness programming, cultural programming, and events. This group talked about parks as meeting points and vehicles for community building and gatherings. In regards to increased accessibility to the parks, this group discussed transportation, proximity, and more outreach to diverse communities, youth and seniors.

**Speak English Less Than Very Well  
 Vietnamese Spoken at Home**  
 by U.S. Census Tracts



Source: 2010-2014 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Research & Special Projects, Montgomery County Planning Dept.

**Speak English Less Than Very Well  
 Korean Spoken at Home**  
 by U.S. Census Tracts



Source: 2010-2014 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Research & Special Projects, Montgomery County Planning Dept.

FOCUS GROUP 5: DOWN-EAST COUNTY

DEMOGRAPHICS

	#	Name	Country of Origin
Focus Group No.: 5	1	Helena	Ethiopia
Date: 02/24/2017	2	Ephrem	Ethiopia
Geographic site area: Down & East County	3	Saba	Ethiopia
Language: African, Amharic	4	Mekedes	Ethiopia
# of Answers: 9	5	Abdurahman	Ethiopia
Group: Ethiopian/Ethiopian American	6	Tilahum	Ethiopia
City: East Silver Spring	7	Wondwosen	Ethiopia
	8	Rebecca	Ethiopia
	9	Amde	Ethiopia

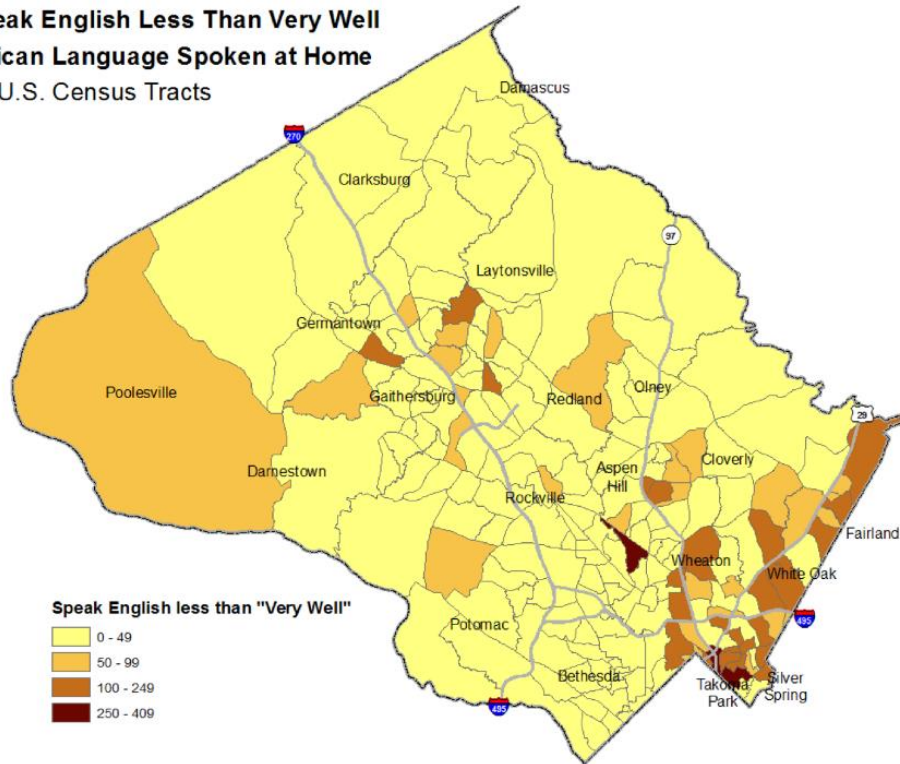
PARTICIPANTS AND FINDINGS

Participants in this focus group predominantly utilize parks for health and fitness and sports. When discussing improvements, participants stressed the need for more security and regards for safety.

Importantly, this group discussed ways that the parks can better engage communities to further their mission, including through partnerships with schools, volunteerism and cultural programming. Regarding how the parks can best reach out to the community participants suggested not focusing only on online outreach but also to conducting outreach through more traditional media such as print (flyers, grocery stores, schedule inserts) and radio.

The desire for urban parks was also expressed along with the concern that with increased population in the county, there should be close attention paid to preserving existing green spaces.

**Speak English Less Than Very Well  
African Language Spoken at Home  
by U.S. Census Tracts**



Source: 2010-2014 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates; Research & Special Projects, Montgomery County Planning Dept.

**FOCUS GROUP 6: UP-WEST COUNTY**

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

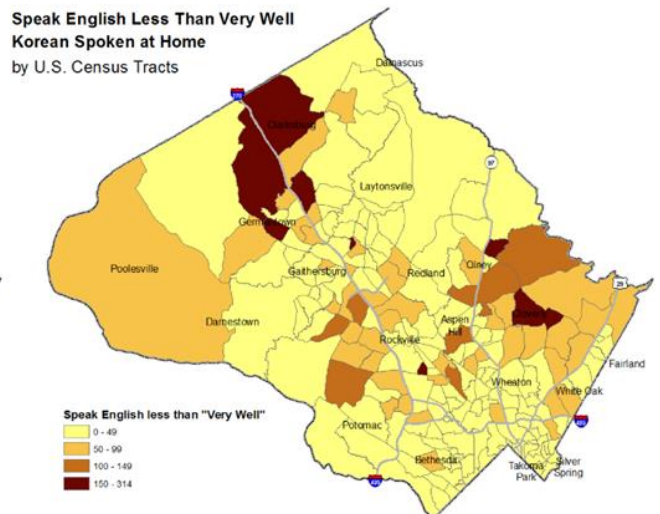
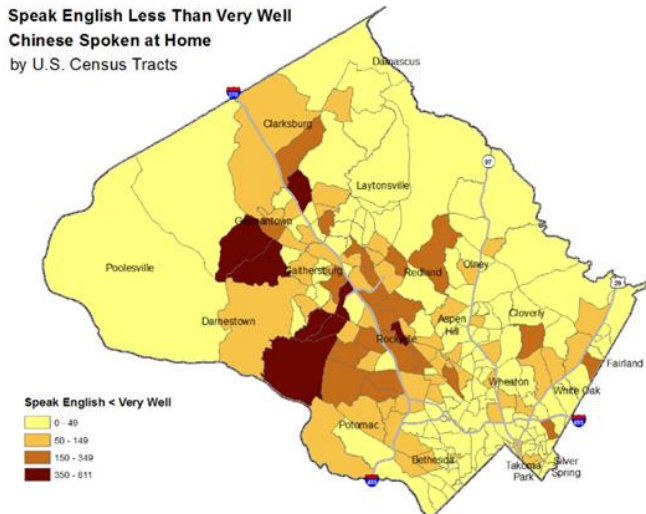
Focus Group No.: 6  
 Date: March 3, 2017  
 Geographic Site Area: Up - West County  
 Language: Asian  
 # of Answers: 12  
 Group: Asian

#	Name	Country of Origin
1	Corinna	
2	Angela	
3	Li-Fang	
4	Kihoon	
5	Haiwen	
6	Su Lee	
7	Liu	
8	HyunSook	
9	Annie	
10	Sunghee	
11	Hyunoo	
12	Chung	

**PARTICIPANTS AND FINDINGS**

For this focus group, culturally relevant programming and park design came up as prominent themes. Participants expressed that they would like to see parks utilized as centers to promote cultural understanding and learning particularly through more programming and events.

Regarding events, some participants felt there could be expanded capacity to accommodate large outdoor events that would need staging and other related equipment like concerts. The majority of participants indicated that they currently utilize the parks for social gatherings with large groups of people like alumni associations or church members. It was suggested to work in partnership with the community, particularly through non-profits to accomplish more cultural programming. Respondents expressed concern with the high cost of Montgomery County Parks as compared to other similar services or adjacent counties.



## **KEY THEMES FROM ALL FOCUS GROUPS**

The consulting team analyzed the results of all of the focus group and survey responses, and identified the following major themes:

### **Improve Park Security and Safety**

Eliminate illicit/illegal activities and make improvements to poor lighting. Decrease the danger of crossing Georgia Avenue by making pedestrian improvements, and provide visible security such as cameras/video recording and security personnel presence within parks and open space facilities.

### **Cleanliness of Facilities**

Improve the cleanliness of the facilities, including trails, and trash removal.

### **Programming**

Provide more varied and targeted sports activities and health and wellness programming for people of all ages. Target and improve programs for small children ages 2-3. Provide more cultural programming and events.

### **Physical Facilities**

Increase facilities and amenities for small children ages 2-3 including spaces where small children can play safely and their parents can engage in meaningful activities. There is a desire for more urbanized parks to preserve existing green spaces in communities, located within walking distance. Expand the park capacity to accommodate large outdoor events that would need staging and other related equipment for venues such as concerts.

### **Engage Communities**

Further the mission of the communities, through partnerships with schools, volunteerism and cultural programs. Many residents currently utilize the parks for social gatherings for large groups of people to hold events for alumni associations, churches, and culturally relevant programs.

Utilize parks as meeting points and vehicles for community building and gatherings. The parks should function as a place for building community through social gatherings so that people can meet each other. Work in partnership with the community, through nonprofits to accomplish more cultural programming. Parks should be utilized as centers to promote cultural understanding and learning particularly through more ethnic programming and events.

### **Accessibility**

Eliminate language barriers in staffing and signage. Conduct outreach to better serve the elderly and families. Eliminate the high cost of utilizing Montgomery County Parks as compared to other similar services or those in adjacent counties.

Provide outreach through more traditional media such as print (flyers, grocery stores, schedule inserts) and radio. Regular communication is needed from the parks to the community to facilitate accessibility for community members. The high cost of renting facilities is prohibitive. Transportation cost is a barrier to park access for many participants.





## CHAPTER FIVE - INTERCEPT SURVEY #1- USAGE, INTEREST, & MARKETING PREFERENCES

### 5.1 OVERVIEW

In order to understand the needs and desires of the community, the PROS Consulting team collected survey information from residents and system users via intercept survey method. The surveys were conducted December 2016 throughout February 2017.

The purpose of these surveys was to help develop a better understanding of the needs, preferences, and satisfaction levels of Montgomery County residents in relation to parks, natural resources, and recreation activities. The goal was to obtain completed surveys from at least 150 residents/system users. The goal was exceeded and a total of 174 responses were collected throughout this process.

### 5.2 METHODOLOGY

The project team used “intercept surveys” to collect information from the public about the system. Intercept surveys are conducted in-person, in a public place, and consist of a short, quick interview about a certain topic. In this case, the intercept survey consisted of three questions, and were carried in local parks, recreation centers, grocery stores, and churches. Gathering community input in this way allows Montgomery County to understand the perspectives of both users and non-users.

Intercept Survey #1 was administered by members of the PROS Consulting team, which included Mandarin, Spanish, and Hindi translators, to enable survey collection from a representative cross-section of County residents. There were two rounds of community outreach for this survey:

- Community recreation centers, December 2016
  - Plum Gar Neighborhood Recreation Center
  - Germantown Community Recreation Center
  - Upper County Community Recreation Center
  - Gwendolyn E. Coffield Community Recreation Center
  - Long Branch Community Recreation Center
  - White Oak Community Recreation Center
- Local grocery stores, churches, and parks, February 2017
  - Islamic Society of Germantown (ISG)
  - Great Wall Supermarket
  - Everlu Food
  - Angkor Supermarket
  - Wheaton Regional Park

Respondents were asked whether they used Montgomery County parks and facilities; if yes which parks they preferred, and if no, why not. They were also asked if there were any programs and amenities that should be added or changed, and how they would like to be communicated with in the future regarding program offerings, events, etc. Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide additional comments via an open-ended question. Surveys were offered in English, Spanish, Mandarin and Hindi. Consultants noted that some were reluctant to complete the survey, possibly signaling distrust or fear.

### 5.3 SURVEY RESULTS

The following is an overview of the top 5 answers given for each question:

#### PARK AND FACILITY USAGE

The following parks and facilities were most visited by those surveyed.

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH
Black Hill Regional Park	Wheaton Regional Park	Germantown Community Rec Center	Johnson's Local Park	Plum Gar Neighborhood Rec Center

#### PARTICIPATION BARRIERS

Those surveyed indicated that the following barriers prevent respondents from using Montgomery County parks, facilities, and programs.

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH
Too far from our residence	Cleanliness (Bathrooms)	We are too busy	Facility operating hours are not convenient	I do not know location of facilities

#### PROGRAMS AND AMENITIES

The following programs were considered to be missing or in need of changes in the community by survey respondents.

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH
Playground Equipment	Public Restrooms	Sport Courts	Fitness Equipment	Security

#### COMMUNICATION METHODS

Survey participants wanted to be communicated with about future offerings and updates in the following ways.

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH
Email Blasts	Phone (Text)	Montgomery County Website	Social Media	Fliers

#### RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN BY PREFERRED LANGUAGE

The primary objective for this survey was reach large groups of minority community members. Of respondents who were surveyed, 51% indicated English was a secondary language in their households. Please note that just because a respondent chose to speak English during the intercept survey, doesn't necessarily mean that they don't also speak another language.



### SUMMARY OF OPEN-ENDED QUESTION RESPONSES

The project team pulled our key themes of the open-ended question responses. The following are major areas in which the community expressed needs and desires in response to this survey. Detailed survey responses are included in Appendix C.

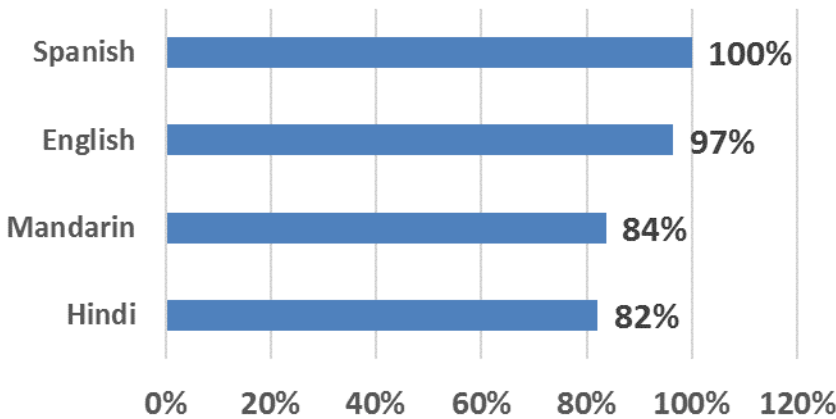
- **Positive Feedback.** Almost 30% of the feedback was a positive and satisfied comment.
- **Maintenance.** Survey respondents asked for better maintenance, from outdoor areas such as fields, landscaping beds, and sidewalks/paths to indoor facility maintenance items such as hot water, signage, and steps.
- **Additional amenities.** These items ranged from additional water fountains, waste bags, cell phone service, and restrooms to additional indoor gym space, greenspace, and flower beds.
- **Hours.** Particularly with surveys gathered at the recreation centers, respondents asked for additional operating hours for both facilities and specific programs (ping-pong).
- **Communication.** Survey respondents asked for better communication and outreach regarding updates, programs, and events. Respondents also asked for more outreach in Chinese community.
- **Accessibility, cleanliness, & security.** A few respondents asked for better access to amenities, cleaner amenities, and better security at amenities, both indoor and outdoor.

MOST VISITED PARKS AND PROGRAM NEEDS

**RESULTS BROKEN DOWN BY PREFERRED LANGUAGE OF RESPONDENTS**

**Question #1** in this survey asked respondents whether they use or visit Montgomery County parks or facilities. Results show that all Spanish speakers and most English speakers used parks, while fewer Mandarin and Hindi speakers had done so.

**Percent That Said “YES” to Using or Visiting Montgomery County Parks or Facilities**



If respondents answered “No” to the first question, they were asked the reasons why they do not use Montgomery County parks or facilities. While not all respondents answered this question, of those that did, the following most common reasons were given, broken down by preferred language:

*Reasons survey respondents do not use Montgomery County Parks, by Preferred Language*

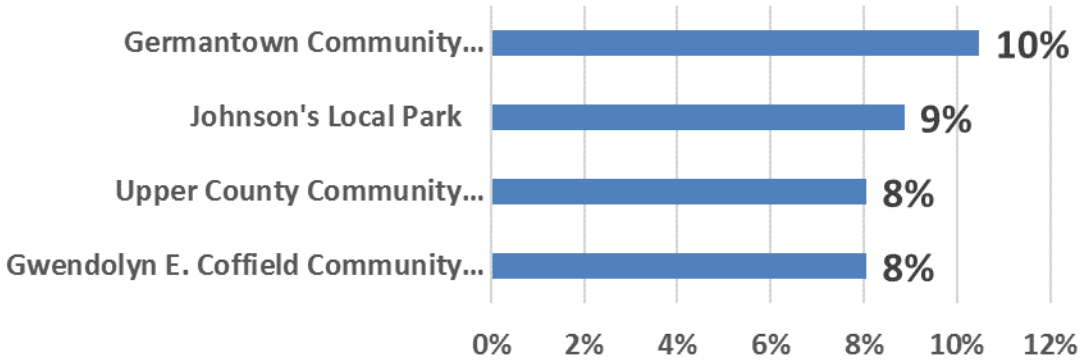
Language	Reason and Percentage Stating this Reason
English	Too far from our residence = 42%, Facility operating hours = 25%
Spanish	Too far from our residence = 100%
Mandarin	I do not know location of facilities = 20%, Other = 30%
Hindi	Facilities are not well maintained = 31%, We are too busy, 23%

If respondents answered “Yes” to the first question, they were then asked which parks they like to visit most. The four charts on the next page show a breakdown of most visited parks by preferred language. Results show that respondents with English as their preferred language tend to prefer recreation and community centers, while respondents with another language as their preferred language are drawn toward the regional and more nature-based parks.

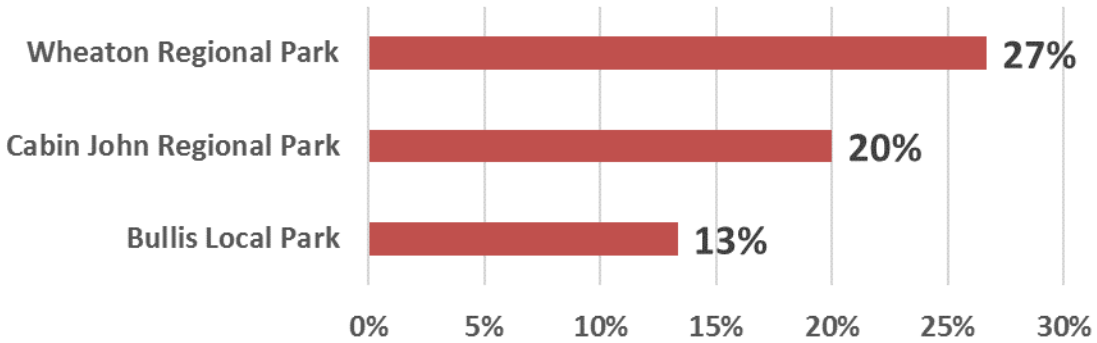
**Question #2** in this survey asked respondents whether there were any park amenities or recreation programs missing in the parks that they visit, or if there is anything they would like to see added or changed to make their experience better. Results show that all respondents want more playground equipment and restrooms, while security is important to Mandarin and Hindi speakers.

**QUESTION #1: PARKS VISITED MOST FREQUENTLY, BROKEN DOWN BY PREFERRED LANGUAGE**

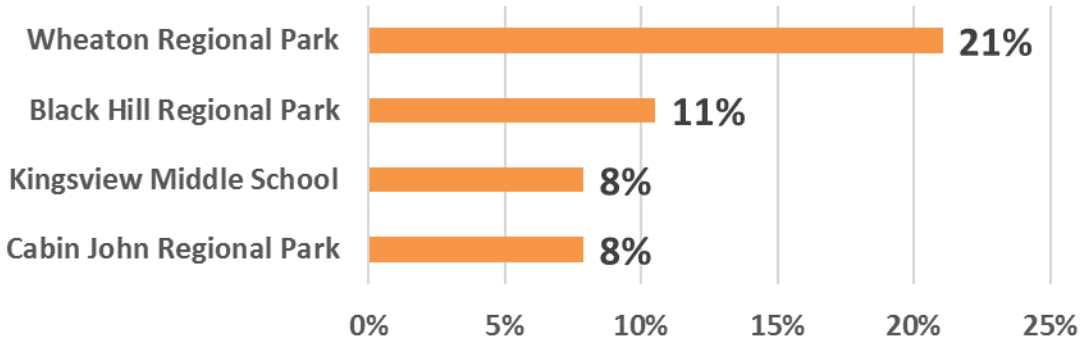
**Parks Visited Most Frequently By English Speaking Respondents**



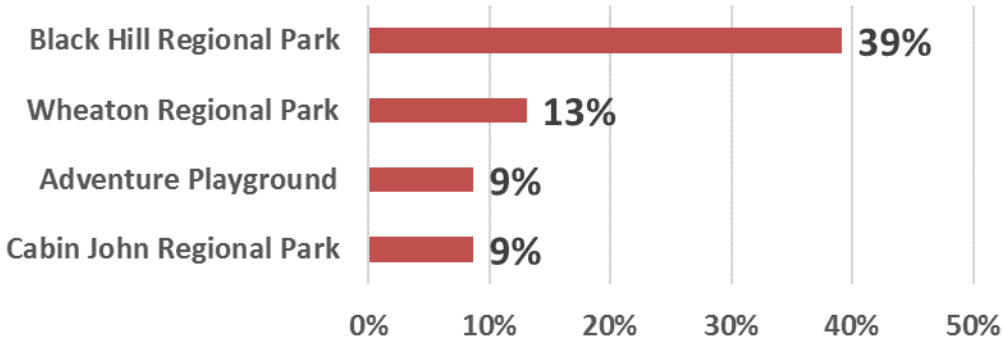
**Parks Visited Most Frequently By Spanish Speaking Respondents**



**Parks Visited Most Frequently By Mandarin Speaking Respondents**

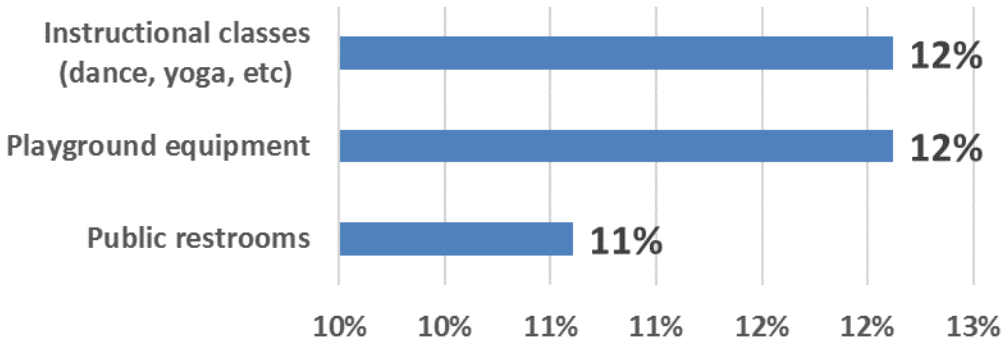


### Parks Visited Most Frequently By Hindi Speaking Respondents

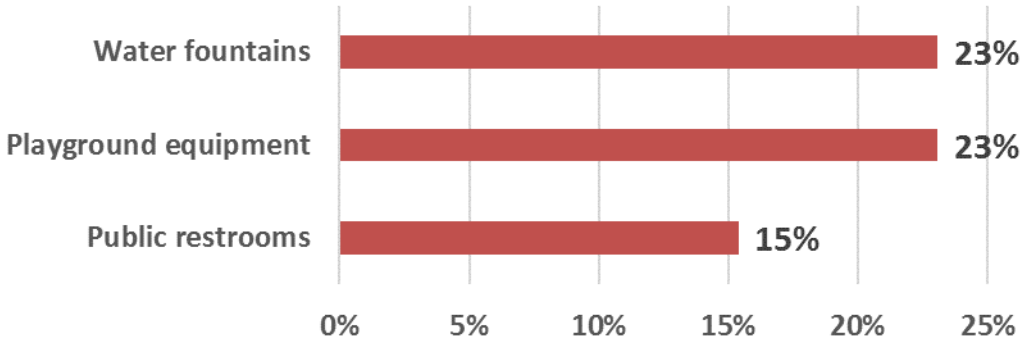


### QUESTION #2: MISSING AMENITIES OR PROGRAMS, BROKEN DOWN BY PREFERRED LANGUAGE

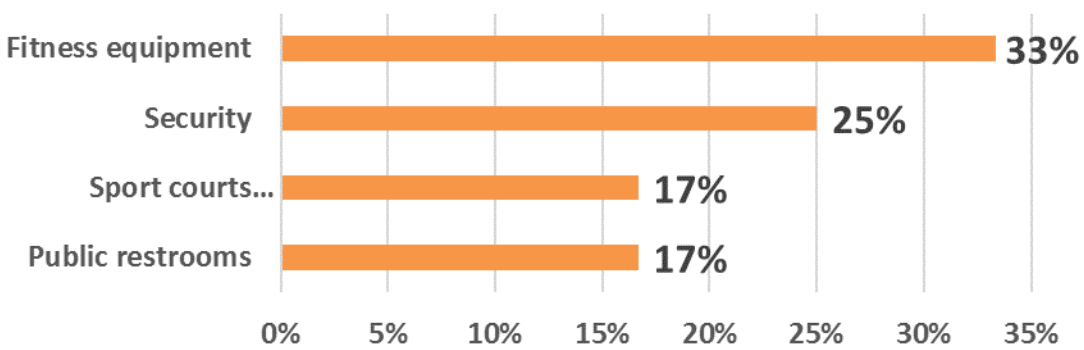
#### Missing Amenities/Recreational Programs for English Speaking Respondents



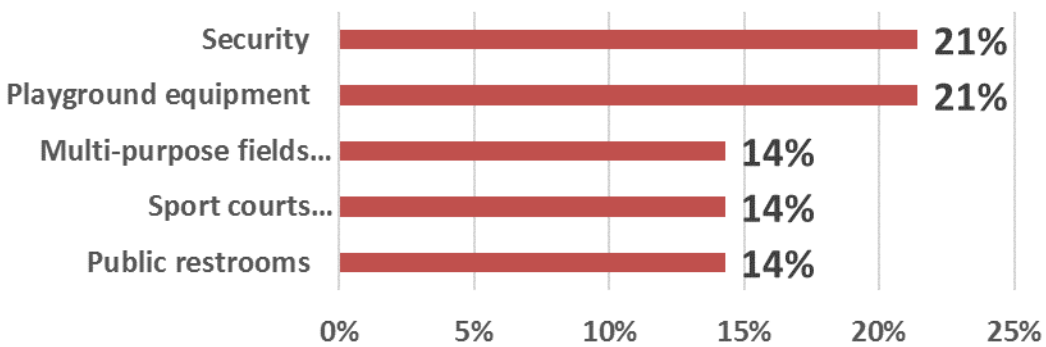
**Missing Amenities/Recreational Programs  
for Spanish Speaking Respondents**



**Missing Amenities/Recreational Programs  
for Mandarin Speaking Respondents**



**Missing Amenities/Recreational Programs  
for Hindi Speaking Respondents**



**QUESTION #3: PREFERRED COMMUNICATION METHOD REGARDING PARK OFFERINGS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS**

The last question in the survey asked respondents to name their preferred communication method for future park offerings and updates. Results have been broken down by preferred language, and show that while all groups like to receive information by email, Mandarin speakers prefer social media, and Hindi speakers are as likely to prefer the website or flyers as they are email. Spanish speakers prefer email or text, and English speakers are much more likely to prefer email.

*Preferred Communication Methods*

Primary Language	Email	Phone (Text)	Website	Flyers	Social Media
English	47%	16%	-	8%	-
Spanish	36%	27%	-	-	-
Mandarin	17%	17%	20%	-	26%
Hindi	26%		26%	26%	



## CHAPTER SIX - INTERCEPT SURVEY #2– PRIORITIZATION OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES

### 6.1 OVERVIEW

In addition to Intercept Survey #1, Montgomery County Parks staff conducted a second complimentary survey (Intercept Survey #2). The primary focus of Intercept Survey #2 was system users. The surveys were conducted October 2016 throughout November 2016.

The goal was to obtain completed surveys from at least 500 residents/system users. The goal was exceeded and a total of 534 responses were collected throughout this process.

### 6.2 METHODOLOGY

Intercept Survey #2 consisted of one ranking question and were carried at two community events in the fall of 2016:

- World of Montgomery Festival, Rockville, MD, October 16, 2016
- Silver Spring Tree Lighting, Silver Spring, MD, November 12, 2016

Zip codes were collected in order to determine geographic area of the respondent, and respondents had the option to include their email address with the survey. Respondents were asked to prioritize their top facilities/services provided by the Parks Department, and were given 7 options in English, Spanish, and pictographs:

- Sports
- Trails
- Nature & Camping
- History & Education
- Events & Festivals
- Special Places
- Gathering Places

## 6.3 SURVEY RESULTS

### PARK FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The following park facilities and services were rated **most important** by survey respondents. (Organized by highest total number of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice votes.)

1. Trails
2. Events
3. Sports
4. Nature
5. History



## SUMMARY OF OPEN-ENDED QUESTION RESPONSES

The project team pulled out key themes of the open-ended question responses. The following are major areas in which the community expressed needs and desires.

**More...of many things.** Respondents asked for more of the following amenities, services, or programs:

- Playgrounds and kid-friendly activities
- Bathrooms
- Benches, Picnic Tables, Water Fountains, and Shade
- Water amenities and activities
- Adventures, events and activities
- Information

**Cleanliness and safety.** Respondents would like to see less litter in parks, more trash cans, and more recycle bins. More lights were noted and an increase in safety measures.

**Transportation and access.** Respondents cite a desire for better access via bicycle and public transportation, more parking, and better wheelchair accessibility.

**Appreciation.** Respondents used the words “great,” “love,” “perfect,” and “thanks,” to describe the parks as they are today.

Detailed results from the surveys and key themes that arose out of the open-ended questions are included here. Answers to the open-ended questions are shown in the Appendix D.

## RANKING OF FACILITY AND SERVICE IMPORTANCE

Respondents were asked to rank their top three activities to do in parks:

- Sports
- Trails
- Nature
- History
- Events
- Special Places
- Gathering Spaces

### MONTGOMERY PARKS INTERCEPT SURVEY TOTAL RESULTS

World of Montgomery Festival & Silver Spring Tree Lighting

CHOICE	SPORTS	TRAILS	NATURE	HISTORY	EVENTS	SPECIAL PLACES	GATHERING PLACES
1st	121	139	61	43	93	24	25
2nd	53	98	101	50	94	32	26
3rd	55	51	67	46	83	69	59
<b>Total:</b>	229	288	229	139	270	125	110

Trails, Nature, and Events were the most often ranked of Highest Importance to respondents, receiving the most 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice votes (respectively).

Overall, Trails were acknowledged as Most Important to survey respondents; receiving the highest total number of votes. Trails were followed by Events (2nd), Sports (T-3rd), Nature (T-3rd), and History (5th) having the next highest level of importance.

## DETAILED THEMES OF OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

### MORE...OF MANY THINGS

---

#### PLAYGROUNDS

---

Several respondents noted the need for more playgrounds, new playground equipment, or more kid-friendly areas and activities. Specific requests ranged from updated maintenance on current equipment, a nature playground, and more modern playground equipment.

#### BATHROOMS

---

The need for additional bathrooms in or near parks was stated by several respondents, as was the need for current spaces to be better maintained.

#### BENCHES, PICNIC TABLES, SHADE & WATER FOUNTAINS

---

More park amenities such as rest areas, benches, picnic tables, shade, and water fountains were cited by several respondents as a need for the parks.

#### WATER AMENITIES

---

Water amenities and features such as ponds, swimming pools, water play areas, and other water amenities were cited as a need on several occasions by respondents.

#### PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

---

While some respondents cited the need for more un-programmed open space and natural areas, a higher amount of respondents asked for additional activities, events, or programs.

#### INFORMATION

---

Several respondents asked for more information from the parks in general.

### CLEANLINESS & SAFETY

Littering and cleanliness of the parks was a major theme of respondents. Respondents were disappointed in the amount of litter and asked for additional trash cans and recycle bins throughout the parks. Some respondents noted smoking as a nuisance. Safety, including the addition of lights in some particular areas, was another concern.

### TRANSPORTATION & ACCESS

Another theme of the open-ended responses was accessibility to the parks. Respondents cite a desire for better access via bicycle and public transportation, more parking, and better wheelchair accessibility.

### APPRECIATION

Many survey respondents expressed appreciation for the parks and encouraged Montgomery County Parks to “keep it up.” Respondents used the words “great,” “love,” “perfect,” and “thanks,” to describe the parks as they are today.

## CHAPTER SEVEN - COMMUNITY INTERNET FORUM

### 7.1 OVERVIEW

Supplementary to Intercept Survey #2, Montgomery County Parks also created an internet forum in order to obtain additional community input. This forum was open for just over four weeks, spanning from February 2017 to March 2017.

The purpose of this internet forum was to reach additional community members that they weren't able to reach during the intercept surveys. Using an online forum allowed Montgomery County Parks to reach a broad range of the community. Roughly 300 residents participated in this online forum.

### 7.2 METHODOLOGY

An Internet forum, or message board, is an online discussion site where people can hold conversations in the form of posted messages. This particular forum was accessible through the Montgomery County Parks website ([MontgomeryParks.org](http://MontgomeryParks.org)). This internet discussion forum was administered by Montgomery County Parks. The forum was open to the public February 23, 2017 through March 27, 2017.

Respondents were prompted with two overarching topics; park needs and park usage. Forum participants were then allowed to leave their thoughts, opinions, concerns pertaining to these topics on the message board. Comments varied in themes, including:

#### PARK NEEDS DISCUSSION

- Park Accessibility
- Park Amenities
- New Park Locations
- Park Safety
- Park Condition
- Other Comments

#### PARK USAGE DISCUSSION

- Daily Visits
- Weekly Visits
- Monthly Visits
- Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)
- Rarely (1-3 Visits/Year)

### 7.3 FORUM RESULTS

The internet forum platform used was able to group responses by planning area from the geolocation of the comment. Planning area locations of the respondents are listed below in order of most frequent, with number to the right of the planning area name indicating frequency and length of the comment:

#### SPECIFIED PLANNING AREAS RESULTS

##### Planning Area

Silver Spring	69
Kensington/Wheaton	45
Cloverly	38
Kemp Mill/Four Corners	33
Bethesda/Chevy Chase	28
White Oak	15
Takoma Park	13
Aspen Hill	9
North Bethesda	8
Potomac	8
Fairland	5

##### Planning Area

Olney	5
Upper Rock Creek	5
Rockville	4
Germantown	3
Gaithersburg Vicinity	2
Lower Seneca	2
Bennett	1
Clarksburg	1
Goshen	1
Patuxent	1

Similarly, if a user noted a specific park or facility when commenting, that park or facility was noted in the forum results. The following park or facility locations were submitted:

**SPECIFIED PARKS/FACILITIES**

<u>Park/Facility</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Park/Facility</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Park/Facility</u>	<u>Count</u>
Sligo Creek	34	C&O Canal NHP	2	Glenmont	1
Wheaton Regional Park	19	General Getty	2	Good Hope	1
Northwest Branch	18	Kemp Mill	2	Great Seneca	1
Jesup-Blair	15	Maydale	2	Hubert Humphrey	1
Rock Creek	12	N Four Corners	2	Kilgour Branch	1
Long Branch	10	Olney Acres	2	Layhill	1
Fairview	8	Paint Branch	2	Little Bennett Regional Park	1
Henson	8	Patuxent River	2	Little Falls	1
Upper Paint Branch	8	Rockcrest Parks	2	Little Seneca Reservoir	1
Spencerville	7	Sherwood Forest	2	Long Branch-Garland	1
Hopefield	5	Twinponds	2	Lynbrook	1
MRO Building	5	White Flint	2	Maiden Lane	1
Nolte	4	Arcola	1	Mill Creek	1
Battery Lane	4	Autre-St. Mary's Park	1	Opal A. Daniels	—
Cabin John	4	Brookdale	1	Potomac	1
Countryside	4	Capital Crescent Trail	1	Randolph Hills	1
Ellsworth	4	Cashell	1	Ray's Meadow	1
Seven Oaks	4	Cannon Road	1	Ridge Road	—
Wembrough	4	Cedar Creek	1	Somerset	1
Breewood	3	Civic Center Park	1	Southeast Olney	1
Norwood	3	Cloverly	1	St. Paul Park	1
Sligo-Bennington	3	Colt Terrace	1	Traville	1
Sligo-Dennis	3	Dale Drive	1	Whittier Woods	1
South Germantown	3	Druid Drive	1	Willoughby	1
Woodside	3	Evans Parkway	1	Willard Avenue	1
Acorn	2	Fairland	1		
Burnt Mills	2	Forest Grove	1		

## SUMMARY OF PARK NEEDS

The project team pulled out key themes of the open-ended question responses regarding park needs. The following are major areas in which the community expressed needs and desires in response to this survey. From the qualitative feedback, key themes have been pulled out approximately in order of frequency. There were approximately 100 total comments on this topic. A full aggregation of forum comments, grouped by comment threads, are included in [Appendix E](#).

- **Amenities.** Additional desired amenities mentioned in the comments ranged from specific items such as signage, a dog park, ferris wheel, parking surface and fencing, to general comments such as “lack things to do” or “more amenities.” Playgrounds, slides, and swings as well as shade structures and water fountains, for humans and dogs, were also noted.
- **Access.** Forum participants were looking for both vehicular traffic solutions, including better bicycle access, as well as safer and more accessible pedestrian solutions. Also discussed was lack of access points to parks, including fencing that looked prohibitive and lack of public access near privately-held land.
- **Maintenance.** Many respondents discussed a need for better maintenance, especially with landscaping (existence of weeds), neglect of tennis and basketball courts, and general littering problems. A need for better trash cleanup and trash bins was also noted.
- **Positive Feedback.** Approximately 12% of the feedback was a positive or satisfied comment.
- **Connected/Urban Parks.** Connections to other parks within the system and preservation of urban green and open space was another theme of the comments in this section. Better bicycle and walking paths were a common theme.
- **Security.** Comments regarding additional lighting were most common, as was a general comment, “it’s not safe here!”
- **Art/History.** A few comments discussed the unique art/architectural history behind the area.
- **Wildlife.** One participant expressed the desire to leave pockets of trees as habitat for wildlife.

## SUMMARY OF PARK USAGE

The project team completed a similar analysis of the park usage forum comments. Many comments were similar in nature to the park needs section, though some noted specific uses. There were approximately 200 total comments on this topic. A full aggregation of forum comments, grouped by comment threads, are included in [Appendix E](#).

- **Positive Feedback.** Approximately 72% of the feedback was a positive and satisfied comment.
- **Amenities.** Additional desired amenities range from parkland developed into parks, to picnic tables and swings. Flood control infrastructure, more trash cans, bike racks, playground equipment, and availability of rental space were mentioned.
- **Access.** Forum participants had some positive comments specifically regarding recent access improvements, including traffic on Cedar Lane, ICC bike trail connection for safer access from Olney to Rock Creek, and the bicycle trail near Bethesda. Others cite the need for better traffic control around parks, more parking, and better trail connectivity and access.
- **Maintenance.** Feedback ranged from cleaner restrooms to better trail maintenance and the need for stream/creek cleanup or restoration. Weeds and poison ivy were also mentioned.
- **Art/History.** Participants appreciated the ability for art students to use spaces for drawing, enjoy history of the area, and want to see more collaboration for reenactments and programs.
- **Use and Value.** Some forum commenters noted that parks seem to be underused or undervalued by the public and the parks department, while others cited overuse at certain parks, especially when used for tournaments or events.
- **Urban Parks.** Converting current open space to an “energized park,” or an “urban park” were mentioned by some participants, as was better design of current space and more park space.
- **Wildlife and Nature.** Several participants remarked on the joy of seeing various wildlife during their time in the park, and spending time enjoying nature alone and in groups.

## CHAPTER EIGHT - COMMUNITY CREATE PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE FUTURE SURVEY

### 8.1 OVERVIEW

A key component of collecting community input is allowing all areas of the community equal opportunity to voice their opinions. In order to help ensure all planning areas' voices were heard, Peak Democracy was hired to conduct an online survey. Peak democracy is a research firm that specializes in a cloud-based online citizen engagement.

This type of engagement allows for each individual respondents' zip code to be tracked/mapped (if they choose to register that information). In doing so, the Planning Team is able to identify what regions specific feedback came from and can better understanding of the needs and preferences within each zone of the county. In this case, the object was to focus on the county's various (29) planning areas. As of March 30, 2017- 10:30am EST, a total of 714 responses had been received. Of those responses, 296 respondents elected to "register" prior to taking the survey; 418 respondents chose to remain "unregistered."

### 8.2 METHODOLOGY

Peak Democracy is using this online engagement platform to collect information from the public regarding the future of parks and recreation within Montgomery County. The online survey took approximately 10- minutes to complete, and consisted of 13 multiple choice and free response questions regarding: usage, recreation priorities, overall perception of the parks system, current issues/challenges, missing programs/amenities, demographics, and an open-ended additional comment question.

The *Create Parks and Recreation of the Future Survey* successfully received responses from 25 of 28 total Planning Areas. The geographic distribution of respondents is shown below.

#### SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY PLANNING AREA

Planning Area	Planning Area	Planning Area
Bethesda/Chevy Chase 47	Potomac 10	Bennett 1
Kensington/Wheaton 47	Germantown 9	Clarksburg 1
Kemp Mill/4 Corners 26	Gaithersburg City 8	Lower Seneca 1
North Bethesda 19	Gaithersburg Vicinity 6	Upper Rock Creek 1
Olney 19	Darnestown 5	Dickerson 0
White Oak 19	Patuxent 4	Martinsburg 0
Aspen Hill 13	Travilah 3	Poolesville 0
Rockville 13	Damascus 2	Outside Planning Area 7
Silver Spring 13	Fairland 2	
Takoma Park 11	Goshen 2	

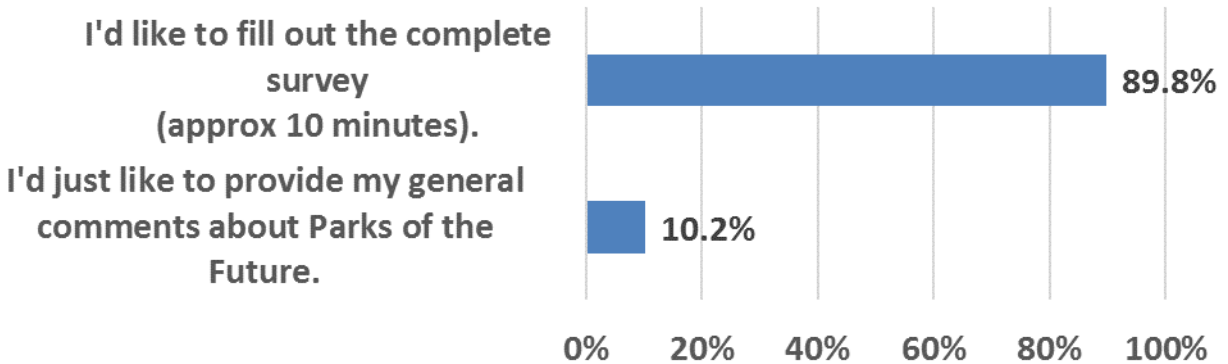


### 8.3 SURVEY RESULTS

#### HOW WOULD YOU PREFER TO PARTICIPATE AND PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK ABOUT PARKS OF THE FUTURE?

Approximately 90% of survey respondents indicated that they would prefer to fill out the complete survey as opposed to just providing general comments about parks of the future (10%).

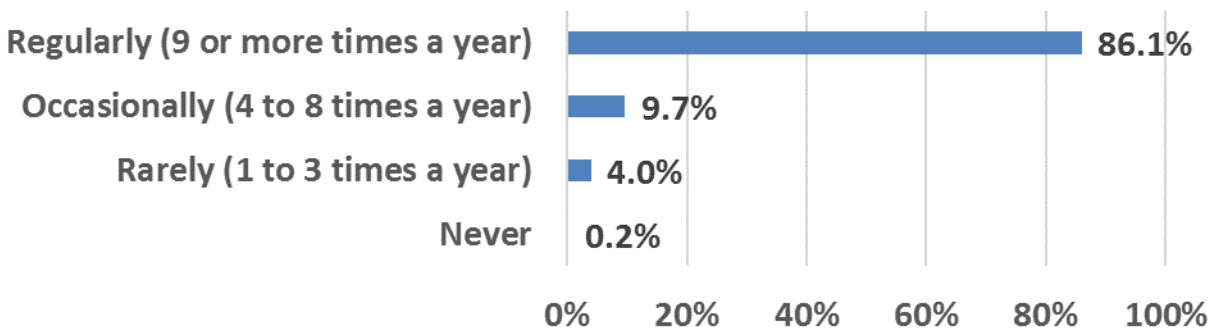
#### How would you prefer to participate and provide your feedback about Parks of the Future?



#### HOW OFTEN DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD USE PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES, OR PROGRAMS IN A YEAR?

When asked how often does your household use parks, recreation facilities, or programs in a year 86.1% of survey participants answered Regularly- 9 or more times a year. The other 13.9% answered Occasionally- 4 to 8 times a year (9.7%), Rarely- 1 to 3 times a year (4.0%), or Never (0.2%).

#### How often does your household use parks, recreation facilities, or programs in a year?



**WHAT DO YOU FEEL ARE THE TOP THREE FUNCTIONS PROVIDED BY MONTGOMERY PARKS AND THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECREATION?**

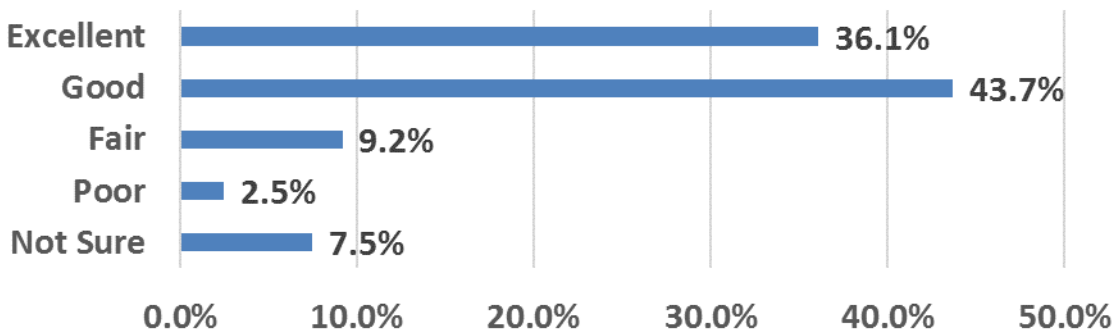
The top six (6) most frequent responses are as follows:

- Preservation of natural resources
- Fitness and health
- Preservation of cultural / historic resources
- Sports
- Social gathering
- Events

**HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE AGENCY'S PARKS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN MEETING THE COMMUNITIES NEEDS?**

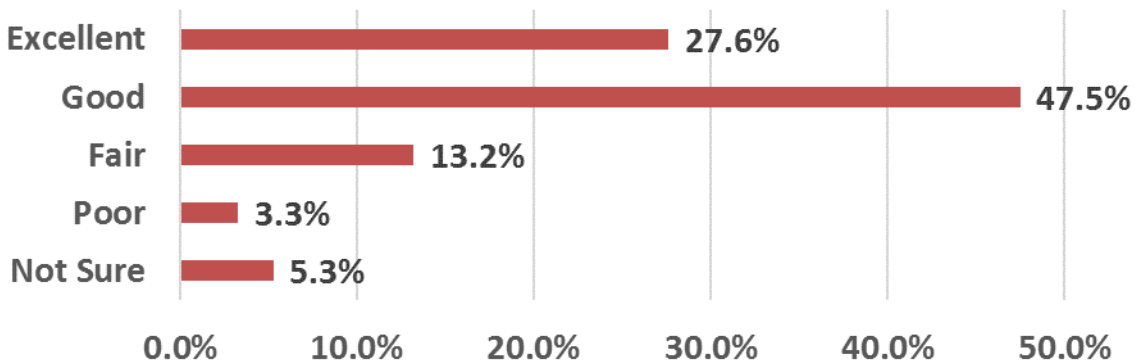
When rating parks, an estimated 79.8% percent of those surveyed gave a positive rating of either excellent (36.1%) or good (43.7%), while the other 11.7% consider the quality of parks to be in either fair (9.2%) or poor (2.5%). Roughly 7.5% indicated that they were unsure.

**Parks Facilities**



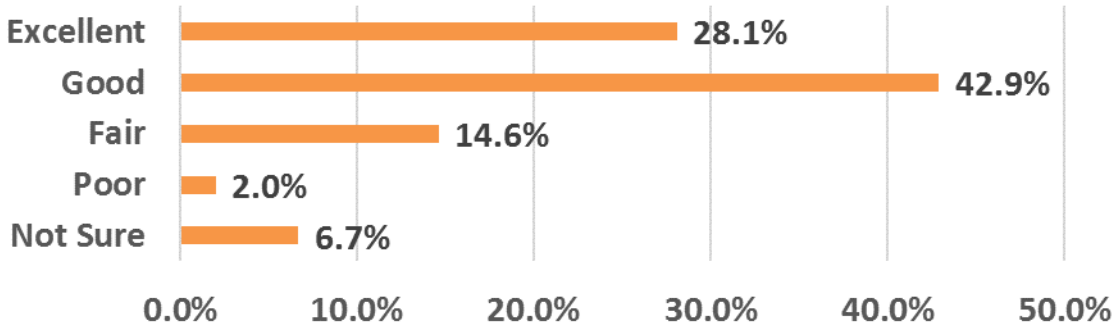
When rating facilities, an estimated 75.1% percent of those surveyed gave a positive rating of either excellent (27.6%) or good (47.5%), while the other 16.5% consider the quality of recreation facilities to be in either fair (13.2%) or poor (3.3%). Roughly 5.3% indicated that they were unsure.

**Recreational Facilities**



When rating programs, an estimated 71% percent of those surveyed gave a positive rating of either excellent (28.1%) or good (42.9%), while the other 16.6% consider the quality of recreation programs to be in either fair (14.6%) or poor (2.0%). Roughly 6.7% indicated that they were unsure.

### Recreational Programs



ARE THERE ANY SEGMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY THAT NEED TO BE BETTER SERVED BY MONTGOMERY PARKS AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECREATION? IF SO, WHO ARE THEY AND HOW CAN THEY BE BETTER SERVED?

The following four questions prompted the participant to provide an open-ended response. Responses are grouped in the form of a word cloud, which uses size, shade, and weight of font to visually represent frequency a particular word or phrase was used. These word clouds are designed for the visually impaired to read as well as the general public. Full open-ended question results are located in *Chapter 10.6 Appendix F*.

need outdoor pickleball courts tennis Seniors Montgomery County could they available use growing additional needs better senior who play over out center kids population Players great just While all older were other them do equipment community time More One area access also areas only up Dedicated new sport without facilities very which like see some most sports how parks especially near communities those even young activities trails Bethesda recreation residents good s from don programs Potomac know so walk space please Families children people fields playground open natural nature walking Teens far Park think Urban centers been green school Downtown silver spring dog much public Wheaton Regional dogs than Horse soccer

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES / CHALLENGES FACING MONTGOMERY PARKS AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECREATION IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

More pickleball courts programs needs Upkeep parks facilities Montgomery County use who 1 Population 2 Budget 3 people growing aging all community money resources up funding Maintaining existing new park recreation Maintenance t especially enough natural current

preservation trash **areas** land them green invasive species important residents need also open **space** developers public from fields Preserving spaces infrastructure getting Keeping so maintain they make development Lack

WHAT AMENITIES, PROGRAMS OR EXPERIENCES ARE MISSING THAT WOULD BETTER SUPPORT YOUR RECREATION NEEDS THAT WE SHOULD BE PLANNING FOR IN THE FUTURE?

---

Outdoor **pickleball** courts **tennis** which better county summer kids so needs need facilities play sport very Montgomery other existing could used sports One **park** indoor school s **See** they Center some **more** centers all local help parks up out Love **like** also recreation children **programs** public community use new people from areas adults space just especially bike paths make area fields nature natural **trails** dog t events well Trail gardens

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS TO HELP MONTGOMERY PARKS AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECREATION STAFF PLAN FOR THE COUNTY'S FUTURE PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES OR PROGRAMS?

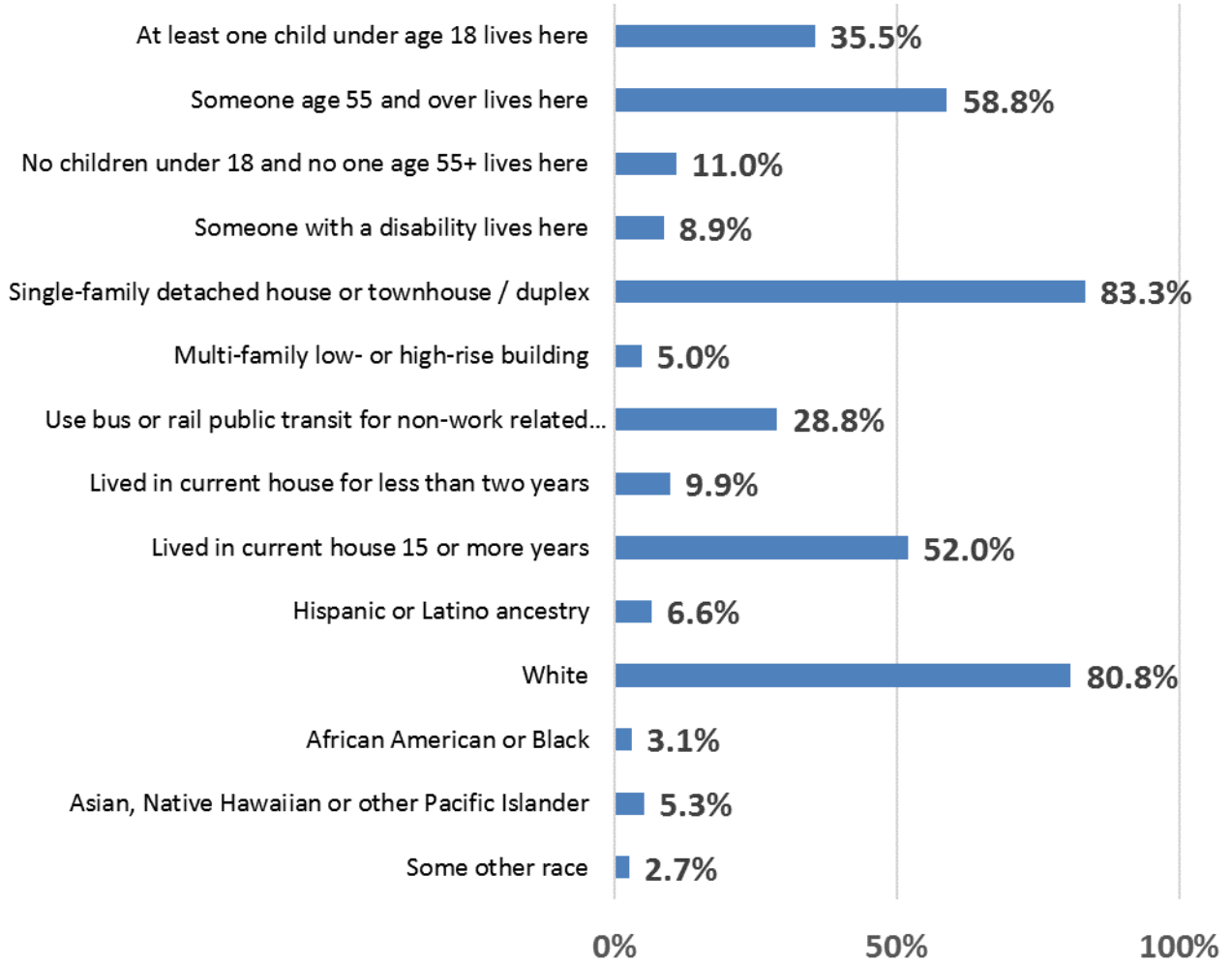
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Provide **Pickleball tennis** courts **County** Growing playing need outdoor **so** please new use sport **community** space court **more** equipment **very people all** Branch Trail think Do public needs dedicated only lines **play** Potomac one live Centers **facilities like see** some **parks** Wheaton game seniors been used could just make **they** both sports Recreation ball over players its where which **Also Montgomery** high them Thank **area s** d especially **park** into those was years from other any summer available Bethesda Love what families up great most important programs Center kids after work number nice EVERY private time residents help keep enjoy well wonderful green out Brookside Gardens fields support development land trees nature trails **rugby** facility areas neighborhood dogs Creek children staff who SCHOOL field Don t riding Horse

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR HOUSEHOLD?

When asked to describe their households, a majority of survey participants answered: Single-family detached house or townhouse/duplex (83.3%), White (80.8%), Someone age 55 and over lives here (58.8%), and Lived in current house 15 or more years.

**How would you describe your household?**



Please provide your zip code here to help us to determine where facilities and services are needed. Of the 714 survey respondents, 626 provided a zip code.

**ZIP CODES OF FORUM PARTICIPANTS**

20902 ..... 56	20905..... 10	20007 ..... 1
20901 ..... 47	20850..... 9	20008 ..... 1
20817 ..... 42	20851..... 9	20818 ..... 1
20906 ..... 41	20871..... 9	20838 ..... 1
20904 ..... 36	20882..... 9	20860 ..... 1
20910 ..... 34	20912..... 9	20861 ..... 1
20815 ..... 33	20816..... 8	20873 ..... 1
20852 ..... 32	20855..... 8	20950 ..... 1
20878 ..... 31	20886..... 8	20954 ..... 1
20814 ..... 30	20833..... 7	21771 ..... 1
20854 ..... 27	20872..... 6	21773 ..... 1
20895 ..... 24	20876..... 6	21797 ..... 1
20832 ..... 20	20877..... 6	29095 ..... 1
20853 ..... 16	20879..... 6	29879 ..... 1
20874 ..... 16	20841..... 4	
20903 ..... 11	20868..... 2	

## CHAPTER NINE - PRIORITY RANKINGS

### 9.1 FACILITY / AMENITY PRIORITY RANKING

The purpose of the Facility Priority Rankings is to provide a prioritized list of facility/amenity needs for the community served by the Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Department.

This rankings model evaluated both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data includes the statistically valid community survey, which asked residents to list unmet needs and rank their importance. Qualitative data includes resident feedback obtained in community input, such as through the intercept surveys and focus groups, as well as demographics and trends.

A weighted scoring system was used to determine the priorities for parks and recreation facilities/ amenities. For instance, as noted below, a weighted value of 3 for the Unmet Desires means that out of a total of 100%, unmet needs make up 30% of the total score. Similarly, importance-ranking also makes up 30%, while Consultant Evaluation (driven by public input and overall assessments) makes up 40% of the total score, thus totaling 100%.

This scoring system considers the following:

- Community Survey

**Unmet needs for facilities-** This is used as a factor from the total number of households mentioning whether they have a need for a facility and the extent to which their need for facilities has been met. Survey participants were asked to identify this for 23 different facilities/ amenities.

**Importance ranking for facilities-** This is used as a factor from the importance allocated to a facility by the community. Each respondent was asked to identify the top four most important facilities.

- Consultant Evaluation

Factor derived from the consultant's evaluation of facility priority based on community input (Intercept Survey #1, Key Stakeholder Focus Groups and Interviews, Intercept Survey #2, Statistically Valid Survey, and Market Definition of Estimated Participation Rates and Frequencies).

The weighted scores were as follows:

- 60% from the statistically valid community survey results
- 40% from consultant evaluation using community focus groups and public meetings, demographic and trends data, and levels of service

These weighted scores were then summed to provide an overall score and priority ranking for the system as a whole. The results of the priority ranking were tabulated into three categories: High Priority (top third), Medium Priority (middle third) and Low Priority (bottom third).

The combined total of the weighted scores for Community Unmet Needs, Community Importance, and Consultant Evaluation is the total score based on which the Facility/Amenity Priority is determined.

## 9.2 OVERALL FACILITY / AMENITY PRIORITY RANKINGS

As observed below, Paved multi-use trails (walking, biking), Natural surface trails (walking, biking, horseback riding), Natural areas & wildlife habitats, Public gardens, and park shelters & picnic areas are the top five highest facility / amenity priorities county-wide.

FACILITY/AMENITY	OVERALL RANKING
Paved, multi-use trails (walking, biking)	1
Natural surface trails (walking, biking, horseback riding)	2
Natural areas & wildlife habitats	3
Public gardens	4
Park shelters & picnic areas	5
Nature center with outdoor educational areas	6
Playgrounds	7
Flexible lawn areas for events & festivals, pickup sports, etc.	8
Museums & history centers	9
Community gardens	10
Dog parks	11
Rectangular sports fields (soccer, football, Ultimate Frisbee, etc.)	12
Nature play spaces	13
Historic & cultural sites	14
Tennis courts	15
Rentable space (for formal events)	16
Basketball courts	17
Diamond athletic fields (baseball, softball, kickball, etc.)	18
Volleyball courts	19
Courts (pickleball, handball, bocce, etc.)	20
Skate parks	21
Paved plazas	22
Cricket fields	23



### 9.3 PRIORITY RANKINGS BY LANGUAGE

The following table depicts the facility / amenity priority rankings based on whether or not English is the primary language spoken in the household. When analyzing survey responses by language, the results closely resembled the overall priority rankings. The non-English speaking group exhibited the most notable deviation, as this segment overvalued Rectangular sports fields compared to the overall priority rankings.

#### AMENITIES AND FACILITIES RANKINGS

Facility/Amenity	English - Yes	English - No
Paved, multi-use trails (walking, biking)	1	2
Natural surface trails (walking, biking, horseback riding)	2	1
Natural areas & wildlife habitats	3	5
Public gardens	4	7
Park shelters & picnic areas	5	3
Nature center with outdoor educational areas	6	6
Playgrounds	9	4
Flexible lawn areas for events & festivals, pickup sports, etc.	7	9
Museums & history centers	8	10
Community gardens	10	12
Dog parks	11	15
Rectangular sports fields (soccer, football, Ultimate Frisbee, etc.)	12	8
Nature play spaces	13	11
Historic & cultural sites	14	13
Tennis courts	15	16
Rentable space (for formal events)	16	14
Basketball courts	17	17
Diamond athletic fields (baseball, softball, kickball, etc.)	18	22
Volleyball courts	20	20
Courts (pickleball, handball, bocce, etc.)	19	23
Skate parks	21	19
Paved plazas	22	18
Cricket fields	23	21

## 9.4 PRIORITY RANKINGS BY RACE

Facility/amenity priority rankings results based on race were rather diverse. With the White, African American, and Asian segments being somewhat similar to the overall rankings. The American Indian/Alaskan Native and Other segments varied a great deal from the overall priority rankings. The American Indian/Alaskan Native population indicated a higher preference for Community gardens and Rentable space (for formal events) but were less interested in Paved, multi-use trails (walking, biking) and Park shelters & picnic areas. The Other category indicated a higher preference for Community gardens and Nature play spaces but were less interested in Nature center with outdoor educational areas and Rectangular sports fields.

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY FACILITY / AMENITY PRIORITY RANKINGS

Facility	White	African American or Black	Asian, NH, Other Pacific	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Other
Paved, multi-use trails (walking, biking)	1	1	1	8	1
Natural surface trails (walking, biking, horseback riding)	2	2	2	2	2
Natural areas & wildlife habitats	3	5	5	4	8
Public gardens	4	8	4	7	6
Park shelters & picnic areas	9	4	3	10	3
Nature center with outdoor educational areas	5	7	7	1	14
Playgrounds	6	3	8	9	5
Flexible lawn areas for events & festivals, pickup sports, etc.	8	6	6	5	12
Museums & history centers	7	10	9	11	9
Community gardens	10	12	10	3	4
Dog parks	11	13	15	12	10
Rectangular sports fields (soccer, football, Ultimate Frisbee, etc.)	12	9	14	15	16
Nature play spaces	13	17	12	14	7
Historic & cultural sites	14	11	17	13	11
Tennis courts	15	14	16	15	18
Rentable space (for formal events)	16	15	11	6	15
Basketball courts	17	16	13	15	13
Diamond athletic fields (baseball, softball, kickball, etc.)	18	23	23	18	17
Volleyball courts	21	18	21	18	20
Courts (pickleball, handball, bocce, etc.)	19	19	19	18	22
Skate parks	20	20	20	18	21
Paved plazas	22	21	22	18	19
Cricket fields	23	22	18	18	22

## 9.5 PRIORITY RANKINGS BY ETHNICITY

The following table depicts the facility / amenity priority rankings based on respondent Hispanic/Latino origin. When analyzing survey responses by ethnicity, the results closely resembled the overall priority rankings.

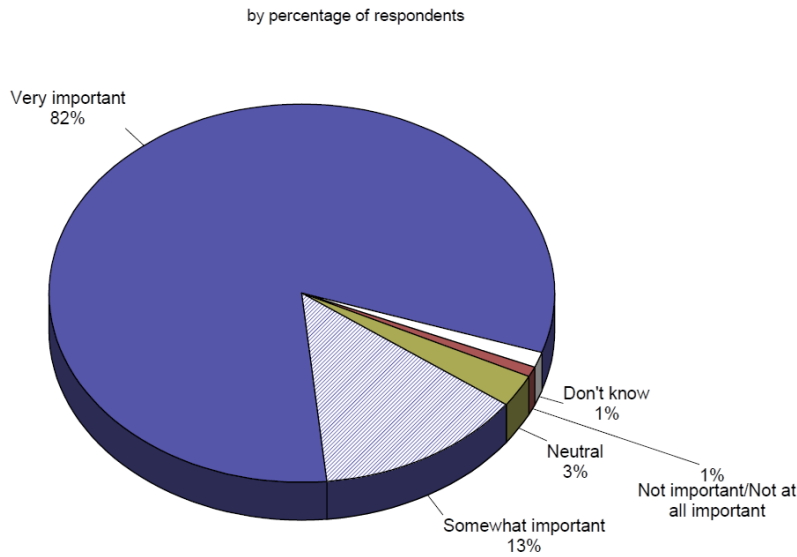
### MONTGOMERY COUNTY FACILITY / AMENITY PRIORITY RANKINGS

Facility	Hispanic
Paved, multi-use trails (walking, biking)	1
Natural surface trails (walking, biking, horseback riding)	2
Natural areas & wildlife habitats	3
Public gardens	7
Park shelters & picnic areas	5
Nature center with outdoor educational areas	6
Playgrounds	4
Flexible lawn areas for events & festivals, pickup sports, etc.	11
Museums & history centers	8
Community gardens	9
Dog parks	13
Rectangular sports fields (soccer, football, Ultimate Frisbee, etc.)	10
Nature play spaces	12
Historic & cultural sites	14
Tennis courts	15
Rentable space (for formal events)	16
Basketball courts	17
Diamond athletic fields (baseball, softball, kickball, etc.)	18
Volleyball courts	21
Courts (pickleball, handball, bocce, etc.)	22
Skate parks	20
Paved plazas	19
Cricket fields	23

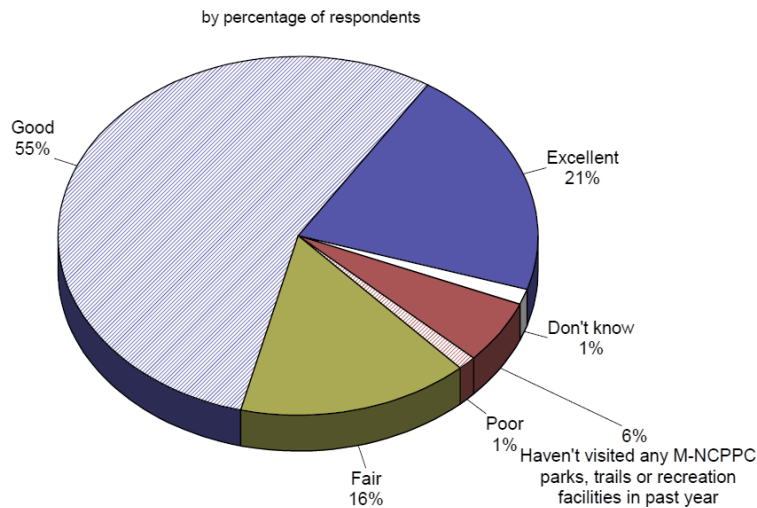
## CHAPTER TEN - APPENDICES

### 10.1 APPENDIX A- FULL STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY RESULTS

Question 1. How important are high quality parks, trails, recreation facilities and services to the quality of life in Montgomery County?

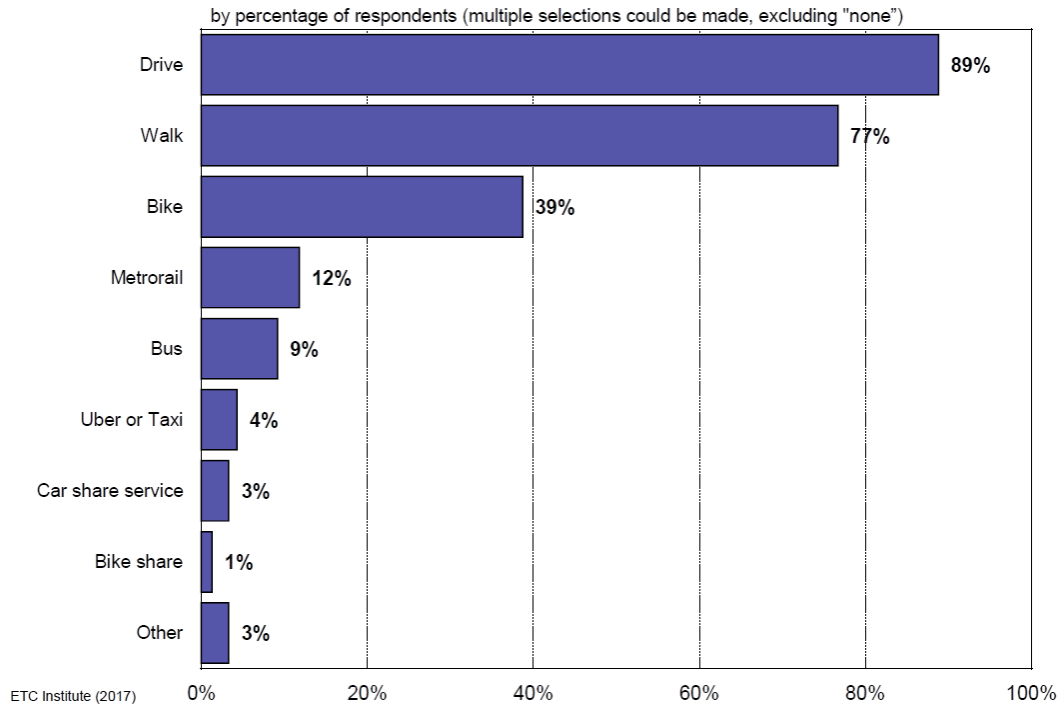


Question 2. Overall, how would you rate the the physical condition of all the parks, trails and recreation facilities operated by Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Recreation Department that you have visited in the past year?

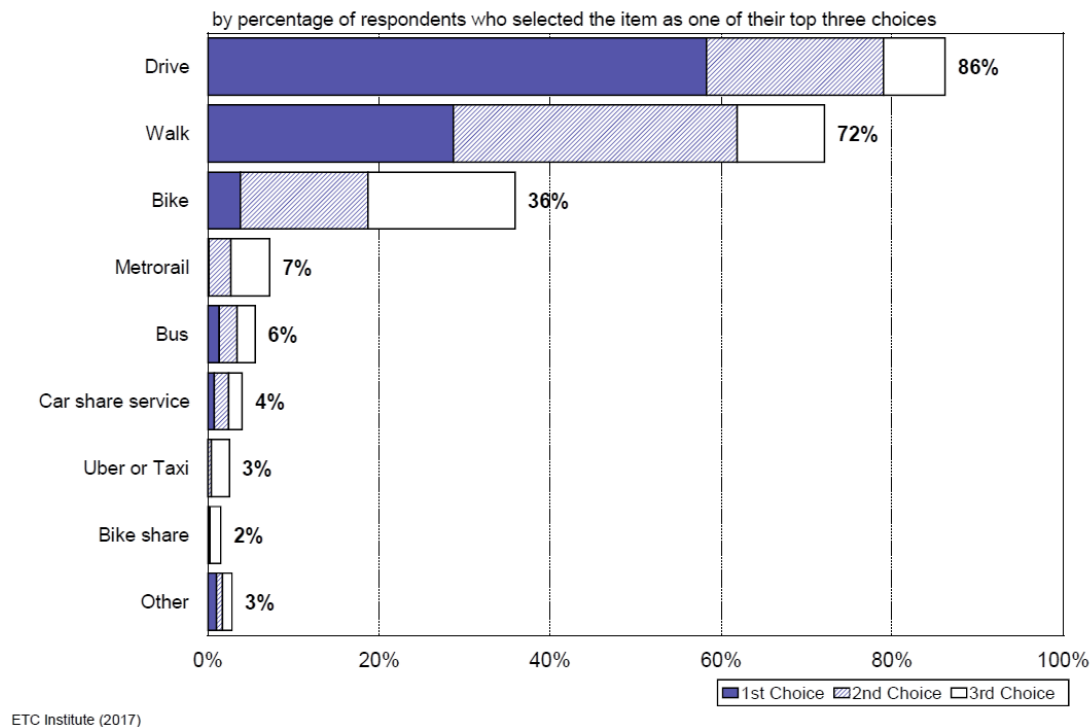


APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Questions 3. All the way you and member of your household travel to the parks, trails and recreation facilities you use in Montgomery County.

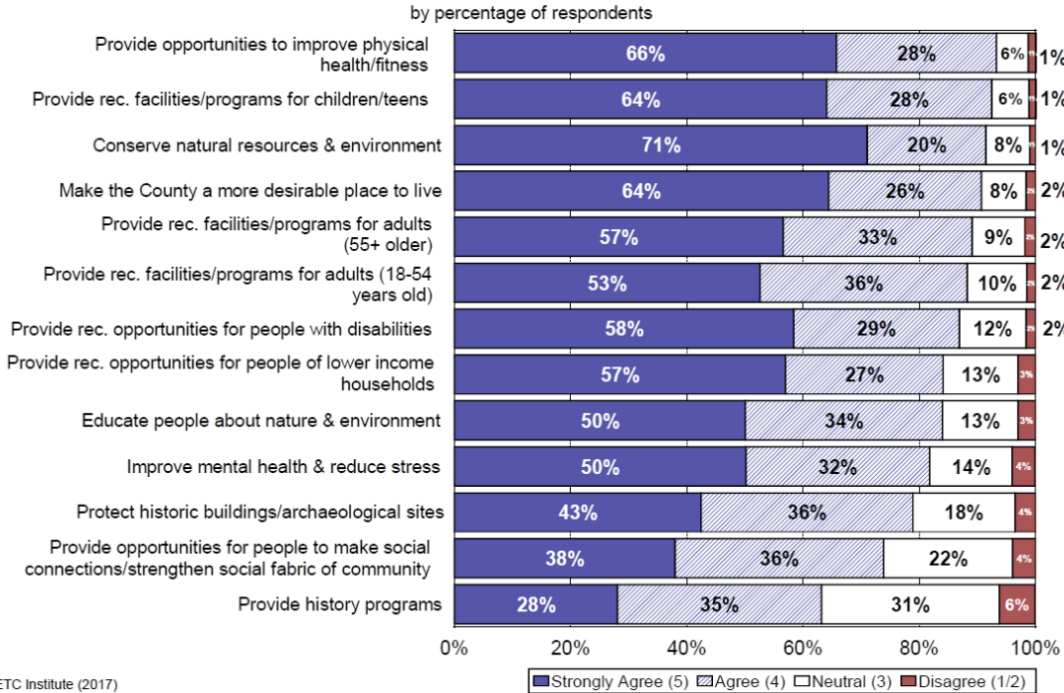


Question 4. Which three methods of transportation household travel to the parks, trails and recreation facilities you use in Montgomery County.

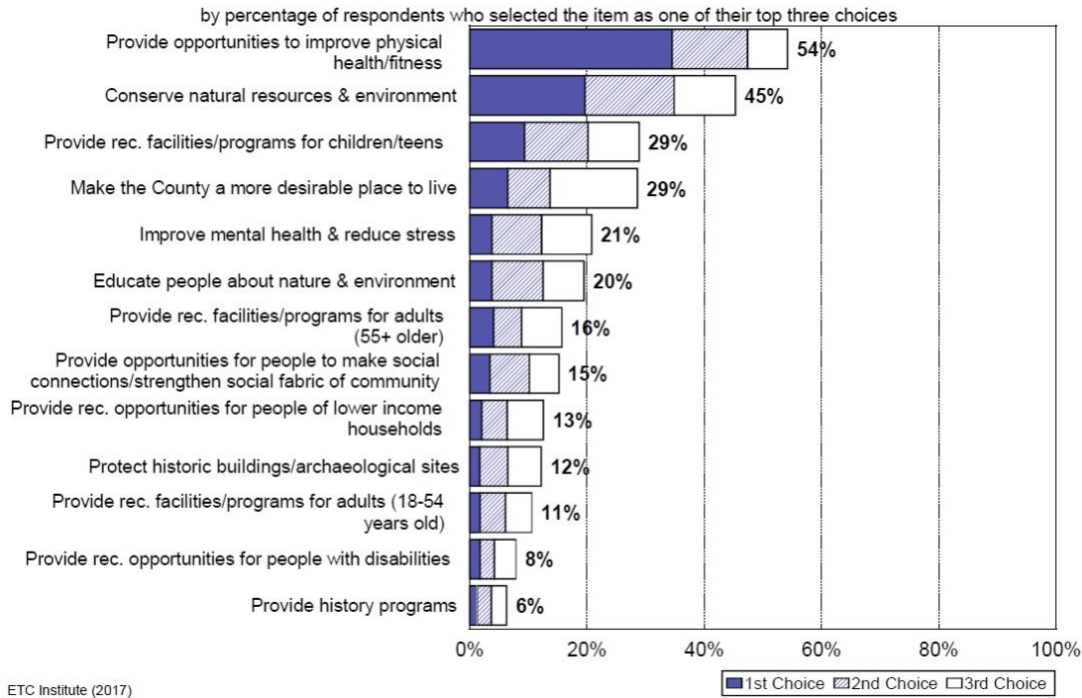


APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

QUESTION 5. Level of agreement with the importance of Montgomery Parks and County Recreation Department doing the following:

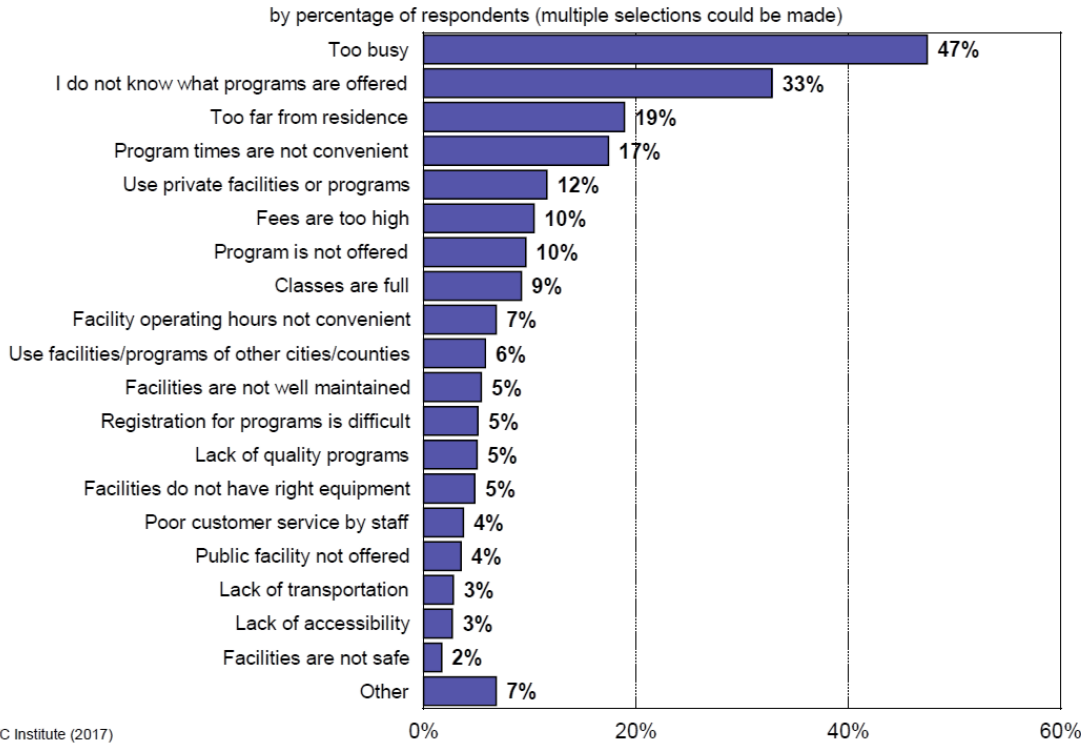


Question 6. Which three statements are most important for Montgomery Parks And County Recreation Department to do for you and member os your household?

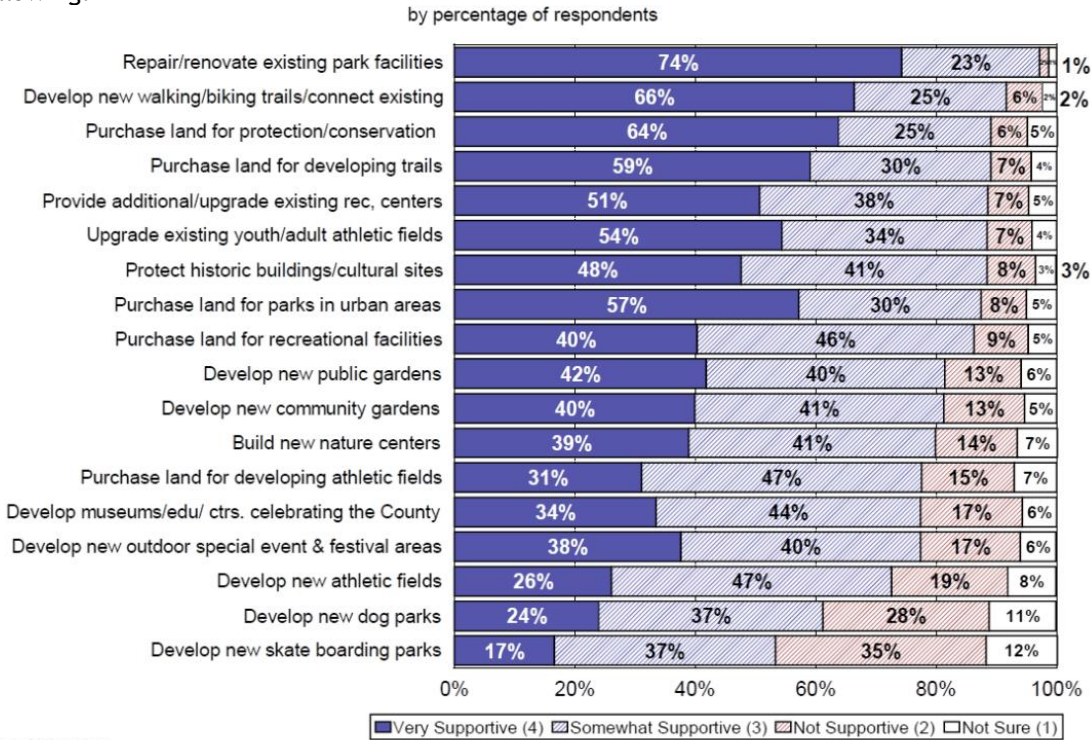


APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Question 7. Reasons why your household does not use park, recreation facilities, or programs of Montgomery Parks and County Recreation Department more often.

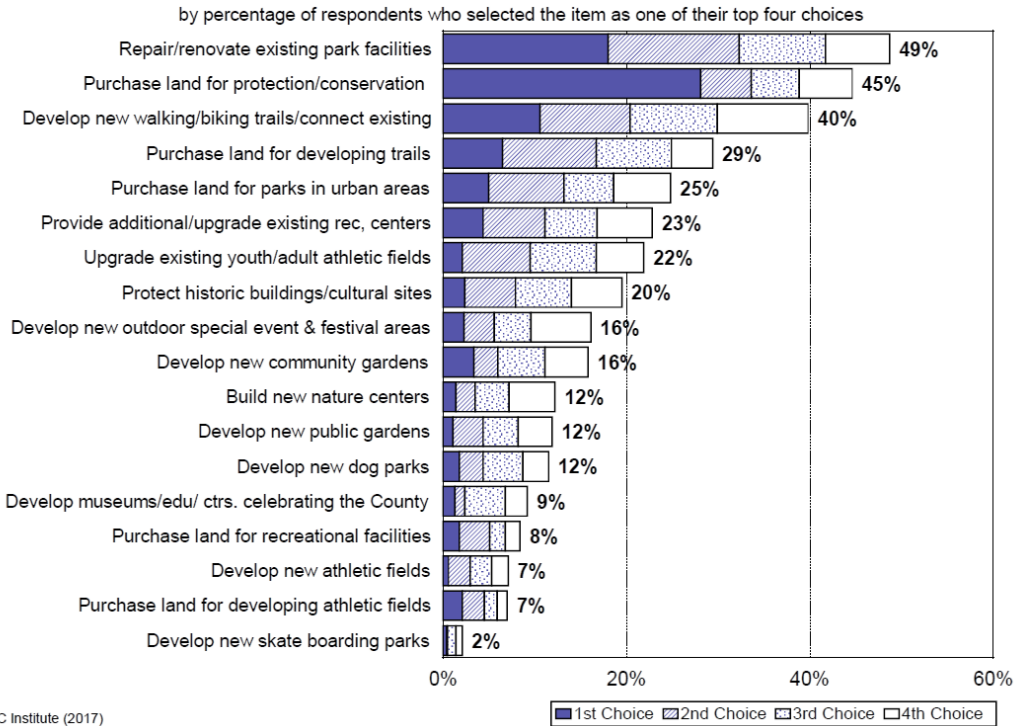


Question 8. Level of support for having montgomery parks and county recreation department to do the following.

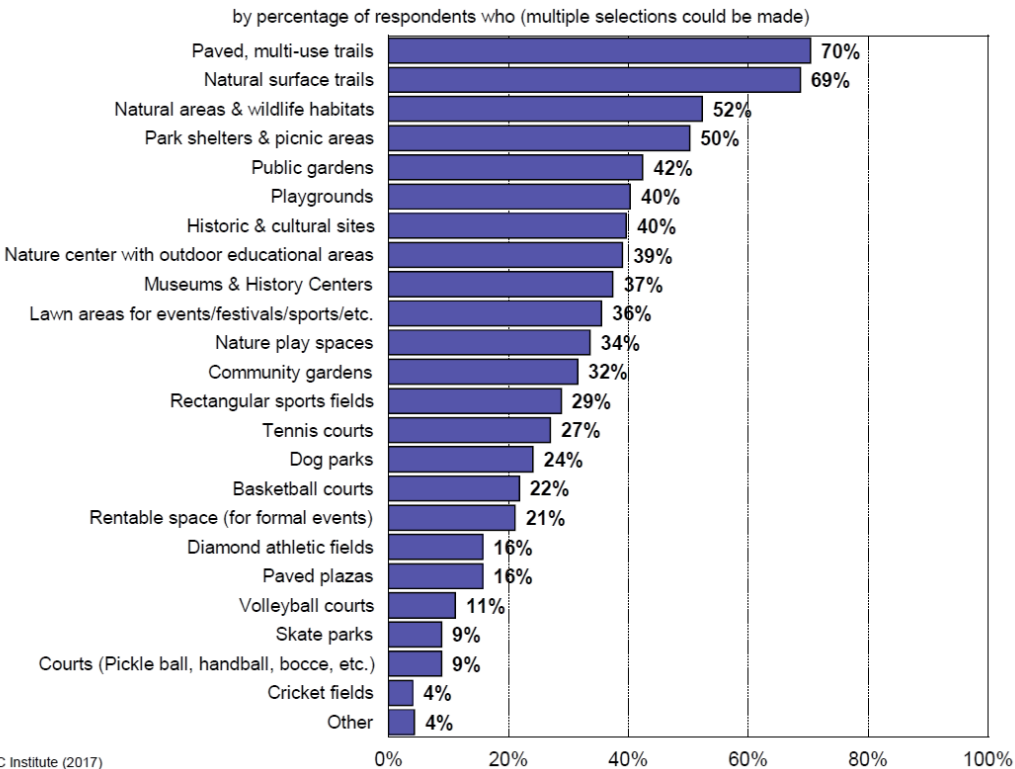


APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Question 9. Which four actions would you be most willing to fund with your county tax dollars?



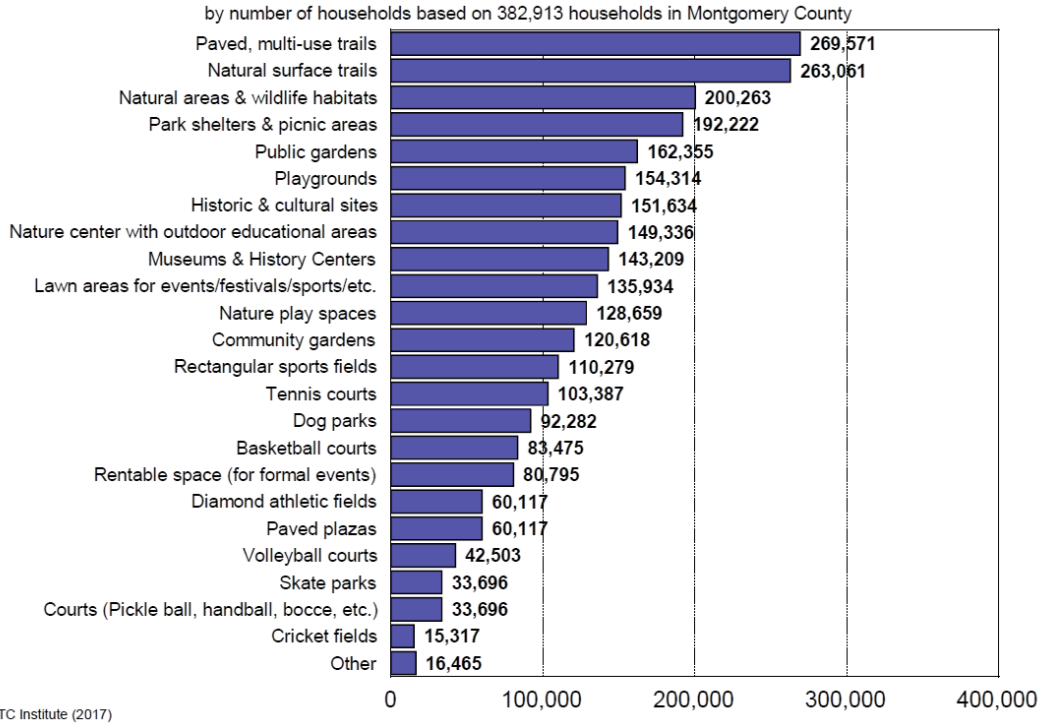
Question 10. Facilities respondent household have a need for.



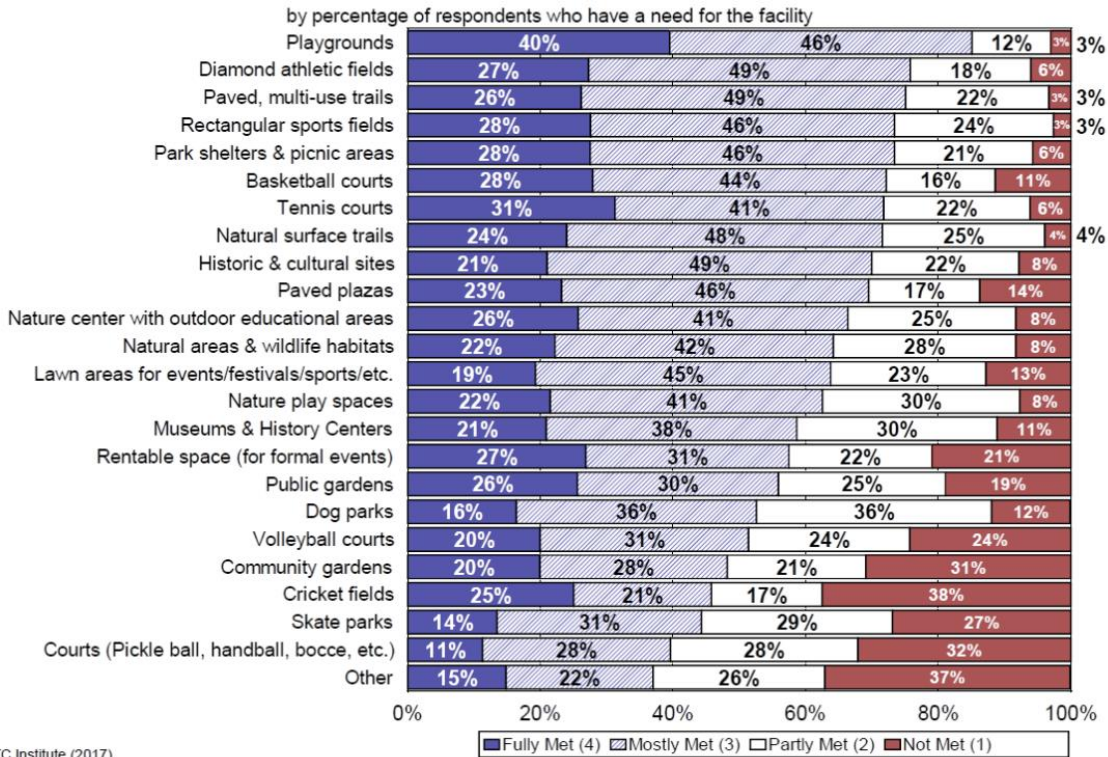


APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Question 10-1. Estimated number of households that have a need for various facilities.

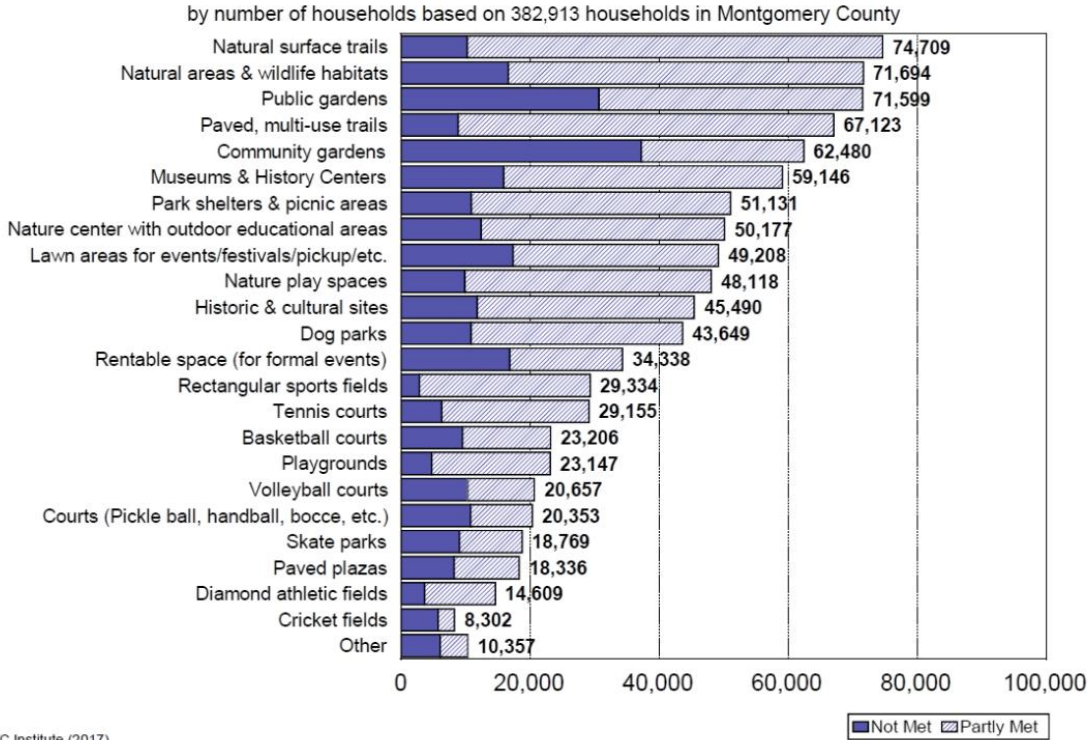


Question 10-2. How well park facilities meet the needs of respondent households.

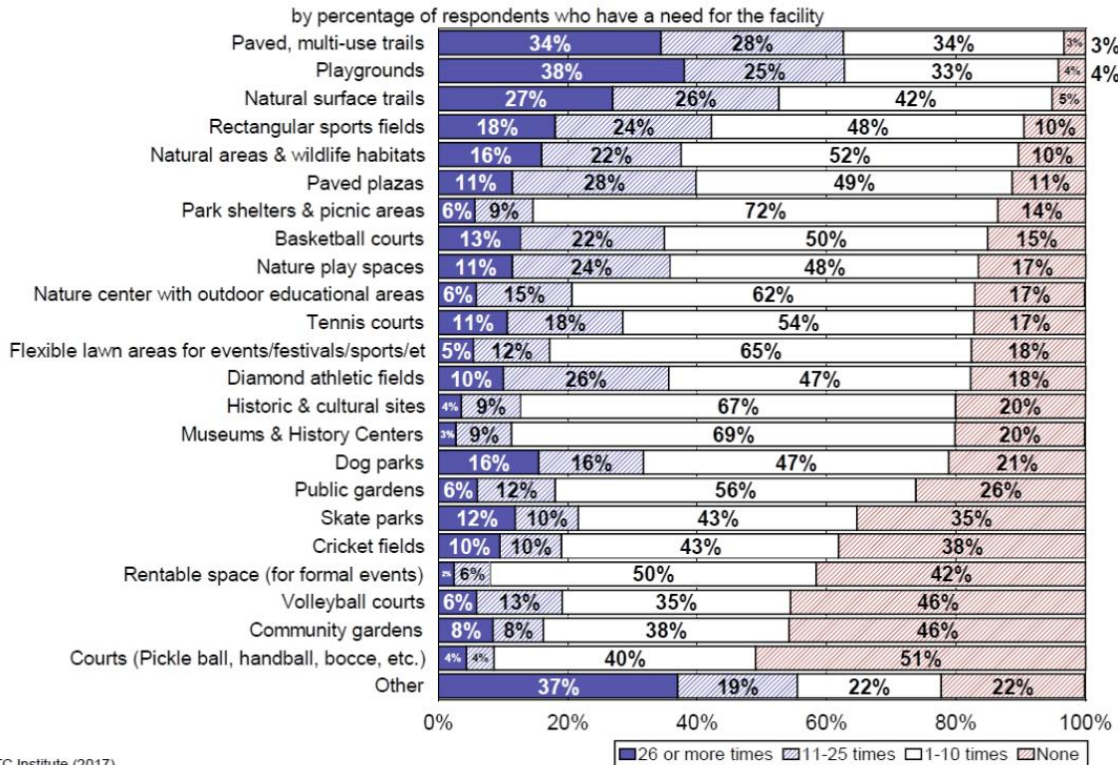


APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

QUESTION 10-3. Estimated number of households whose need for facilities are being partly met or not met.



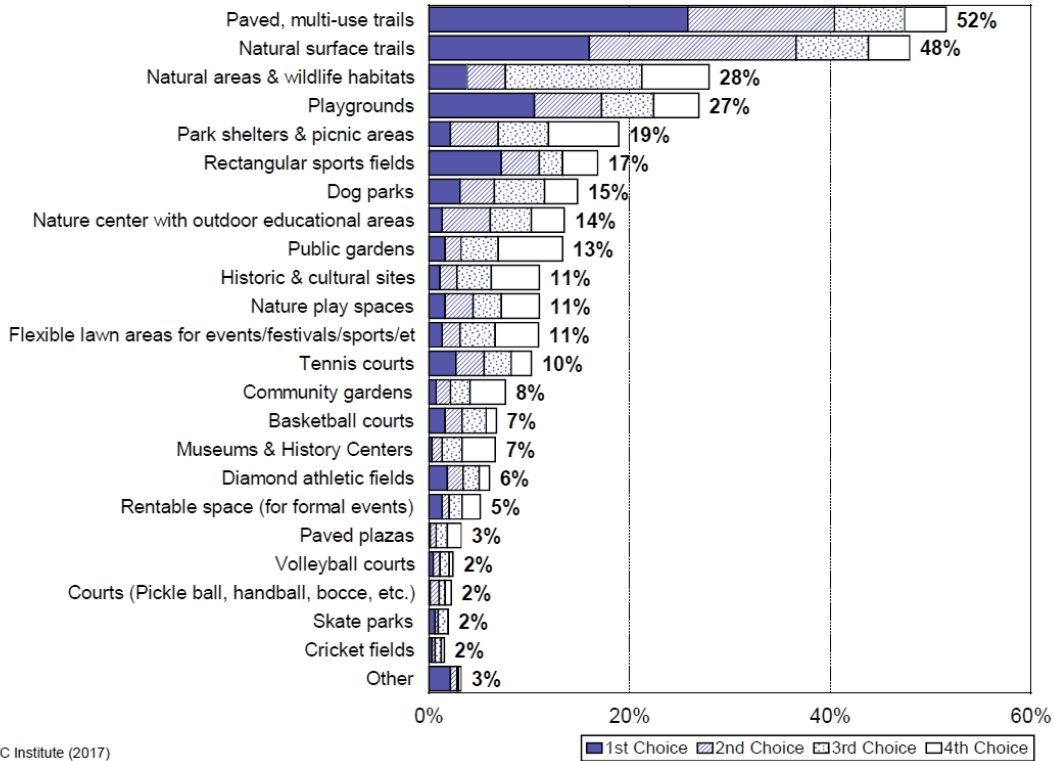
QUESTION 10-4. Number of times households used this type of facility during the past 12 months.



APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

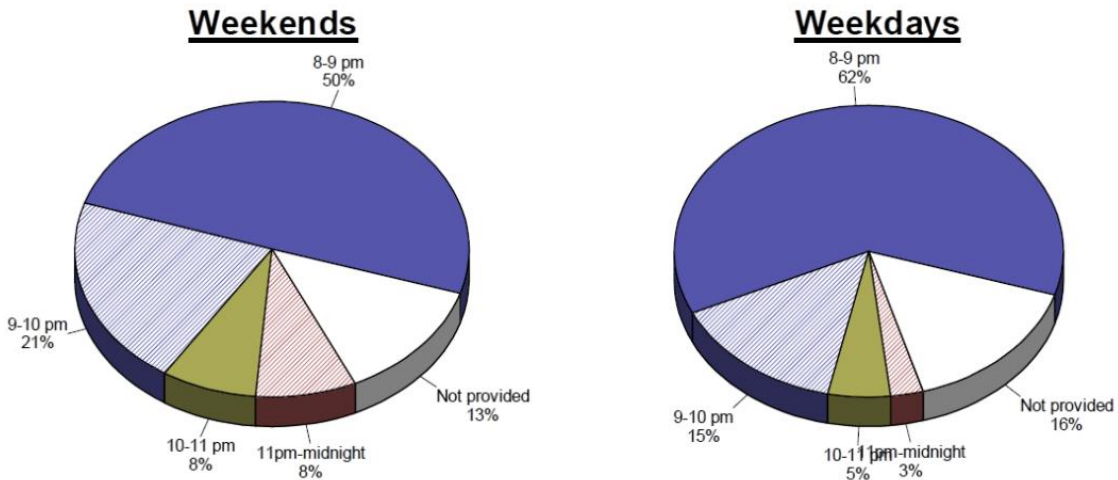
Question 11. Which four facilities are most important to your household?

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices



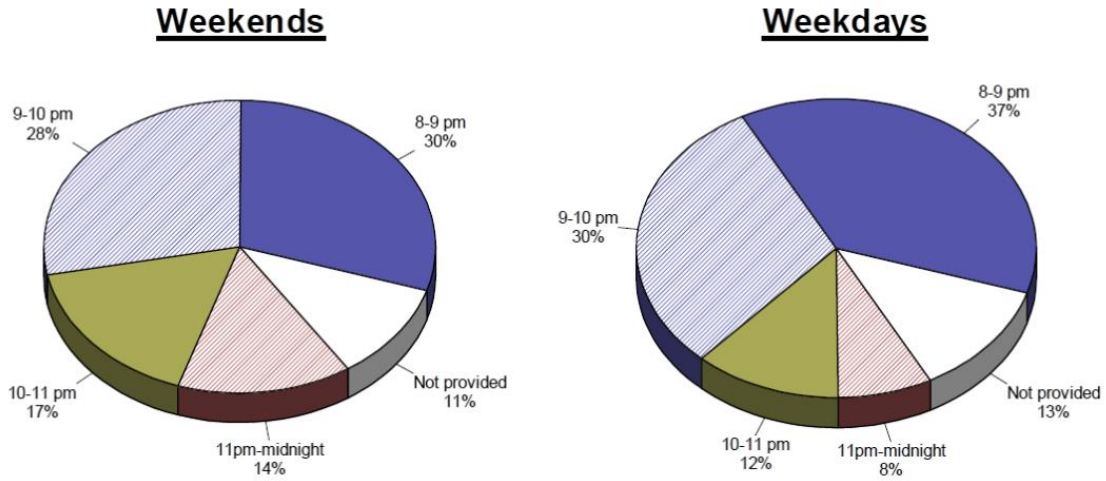
Question 12. What is the latest time in the evening you would consider using outdoor recreation facilities?

by percentage of respondents



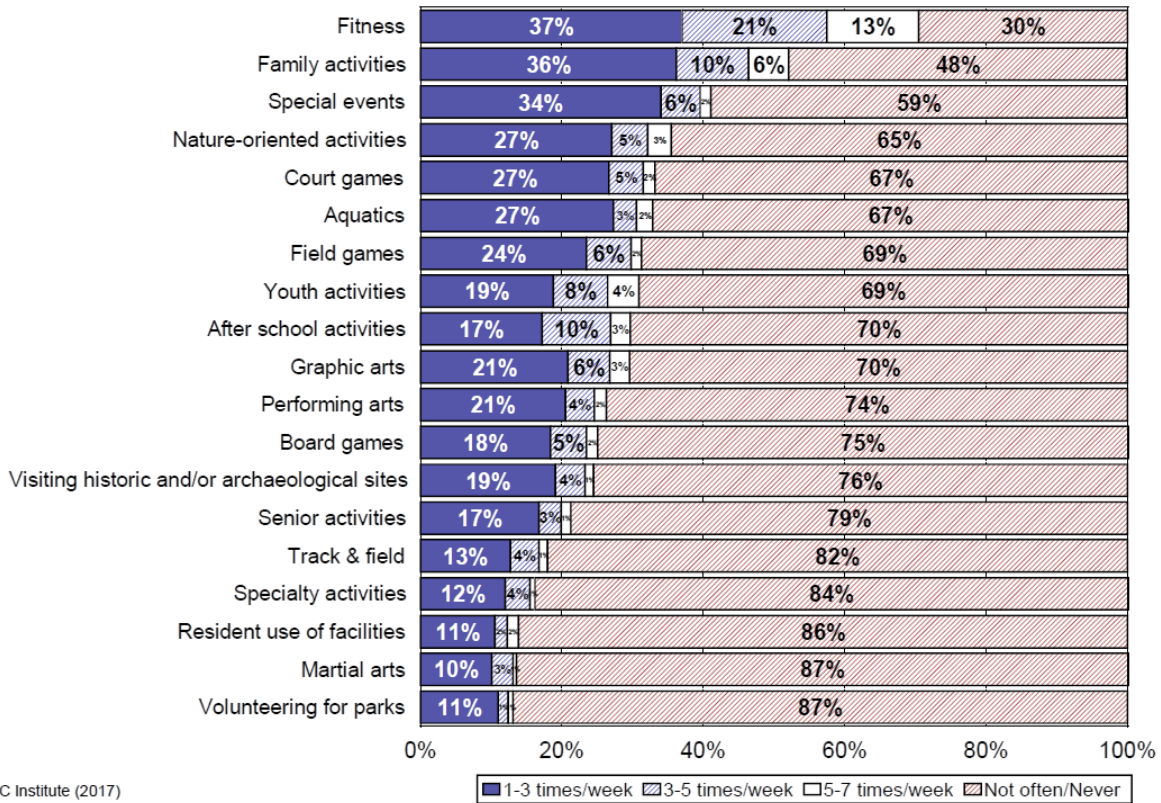
QUESTION 13. What is the latest time in the evening you would consider using indoor recreation facilities?

by percentage of respondents



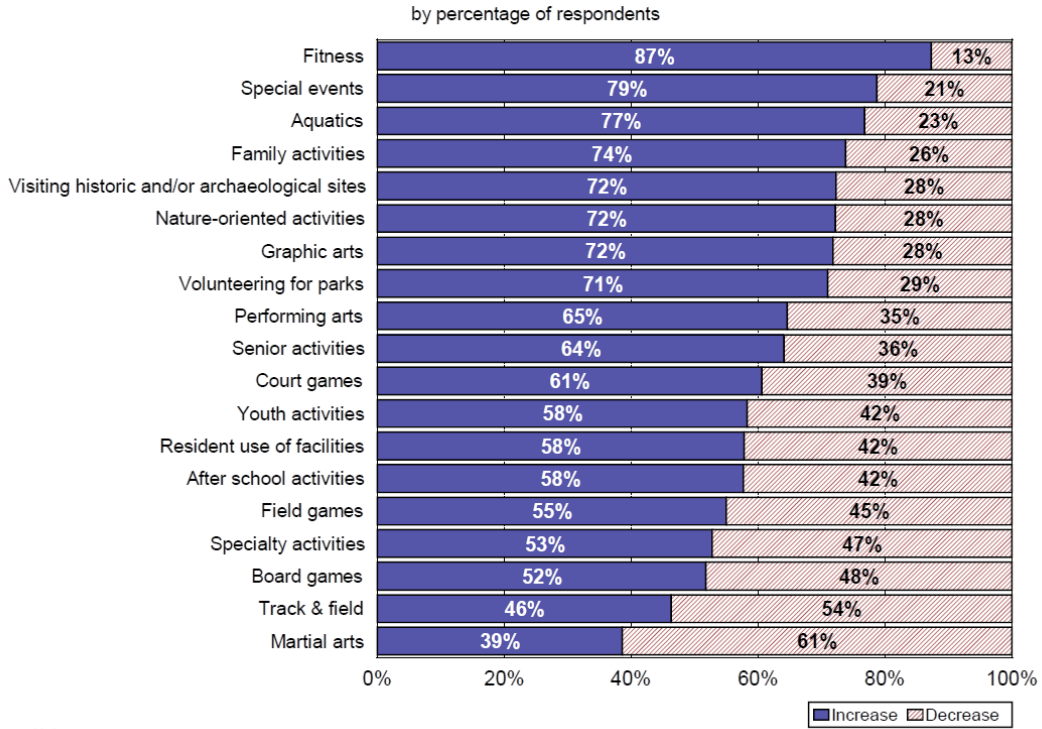
Question 14. How often respondents currently participate in the following activities.

by percentage of respondents



APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

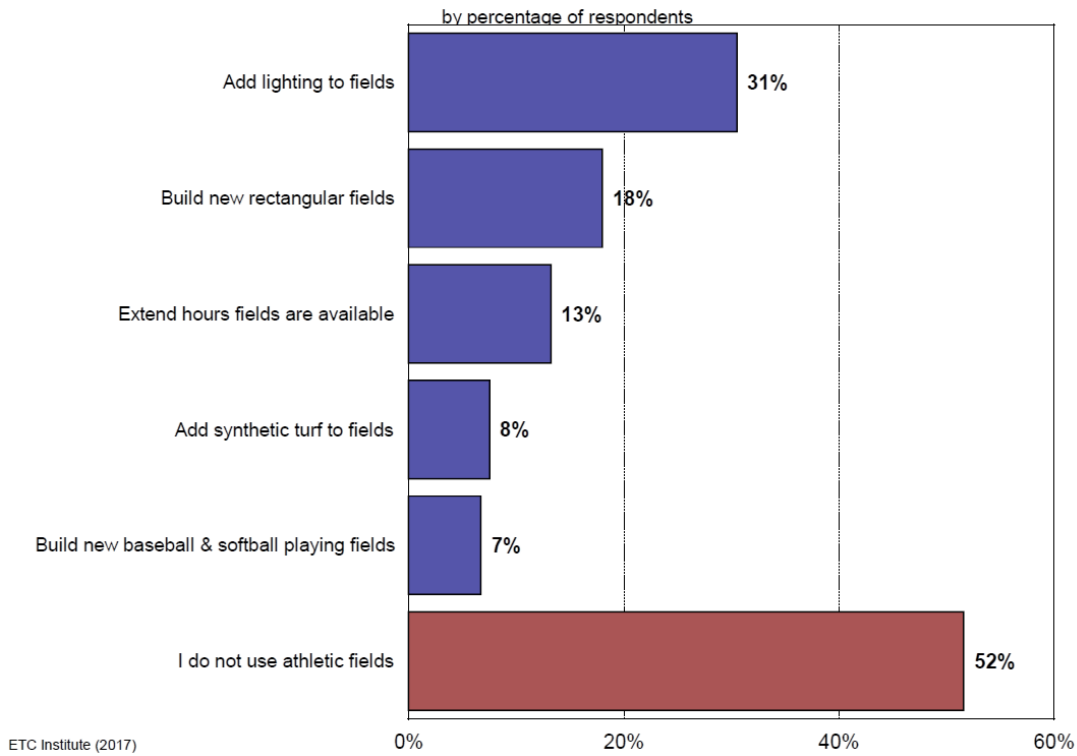
Question 14-1. How will the usage of the following types of activities increase or decrease over the next 10 years?



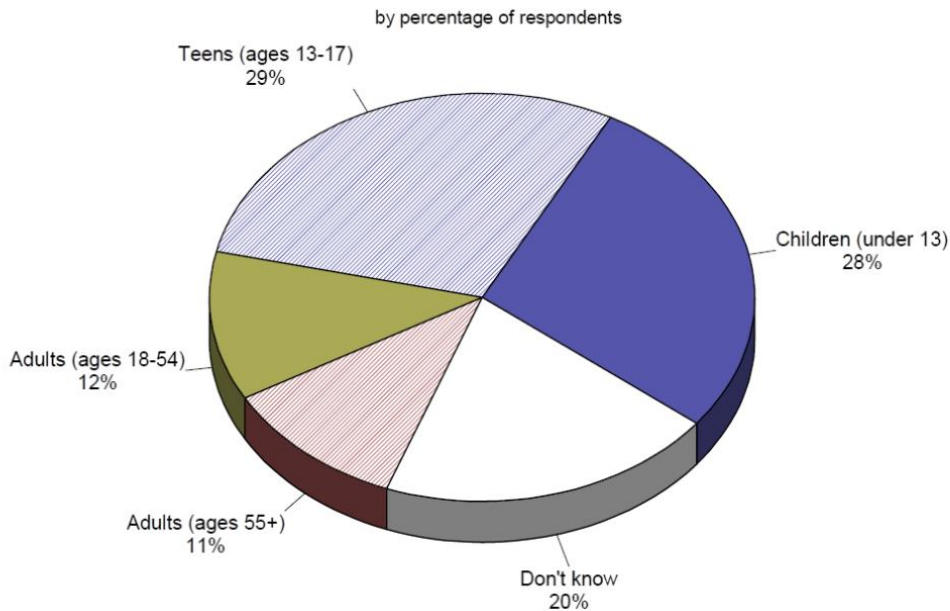
ETC Institute (2017)

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Question 16. Which two improvements are most important to you and members of your household?

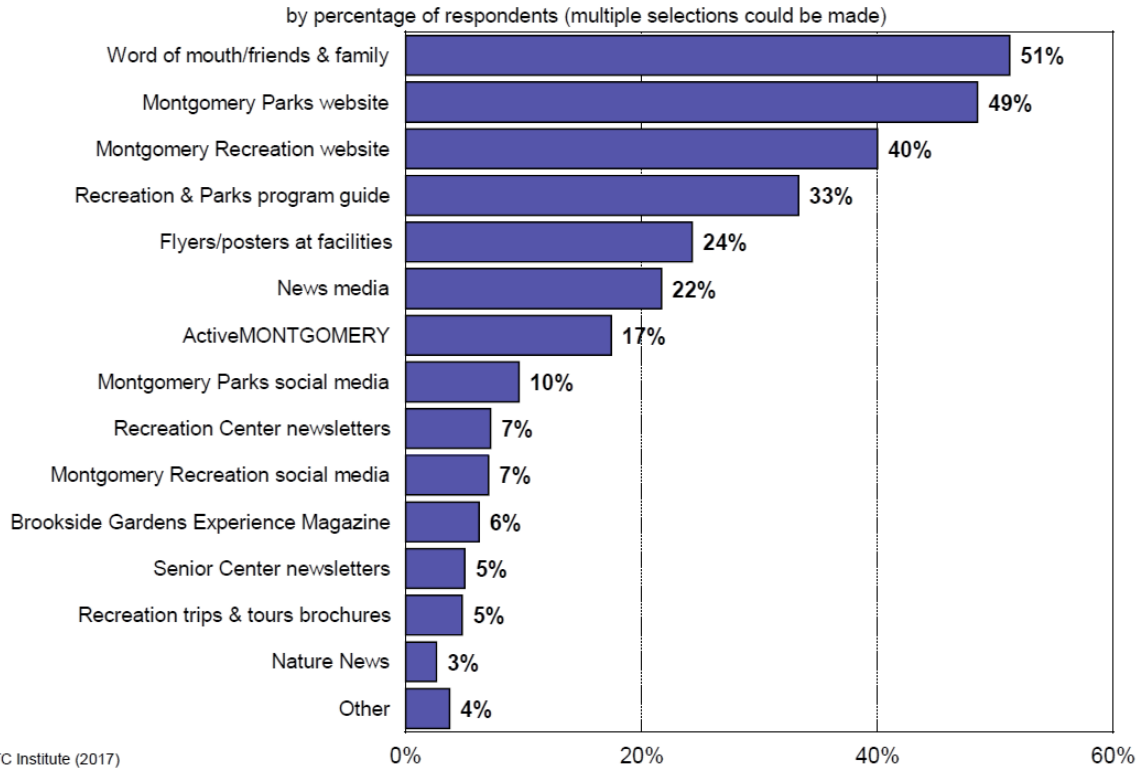


Question 17. Which group do you think should be Montgomery Parks and County Recreation Departments top priority to serve for programs?



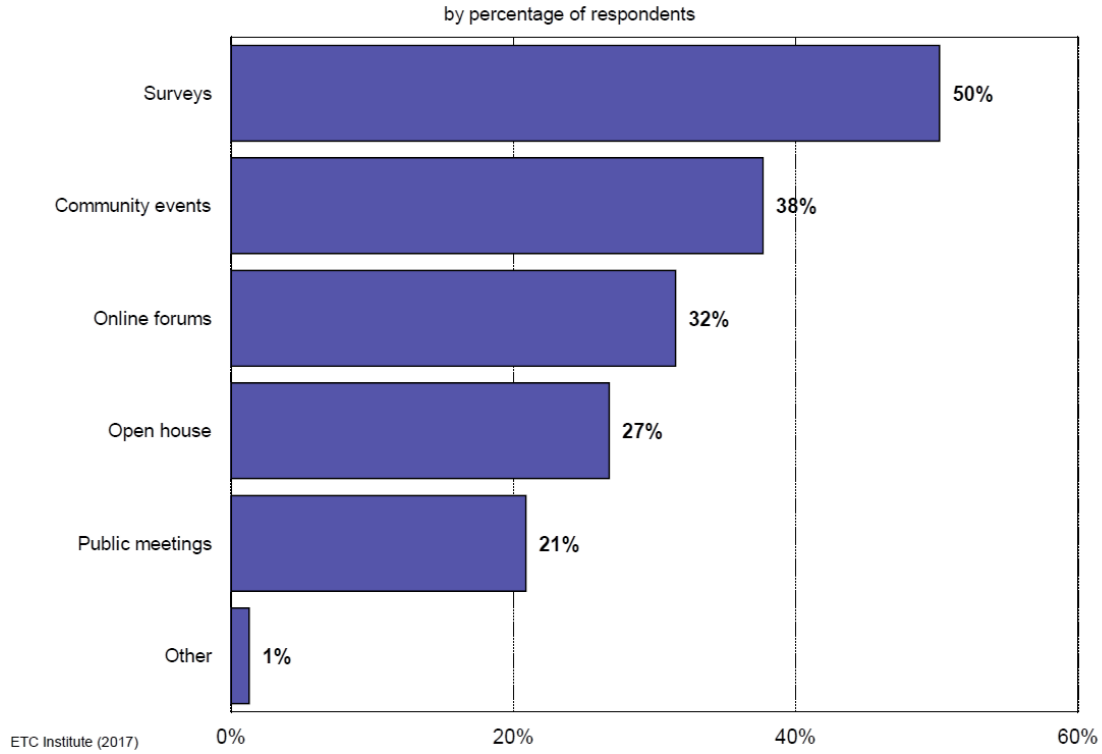
APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Question 18. Ways respondents learn about Montgomery Parks and County Recreation Department programs and activities.

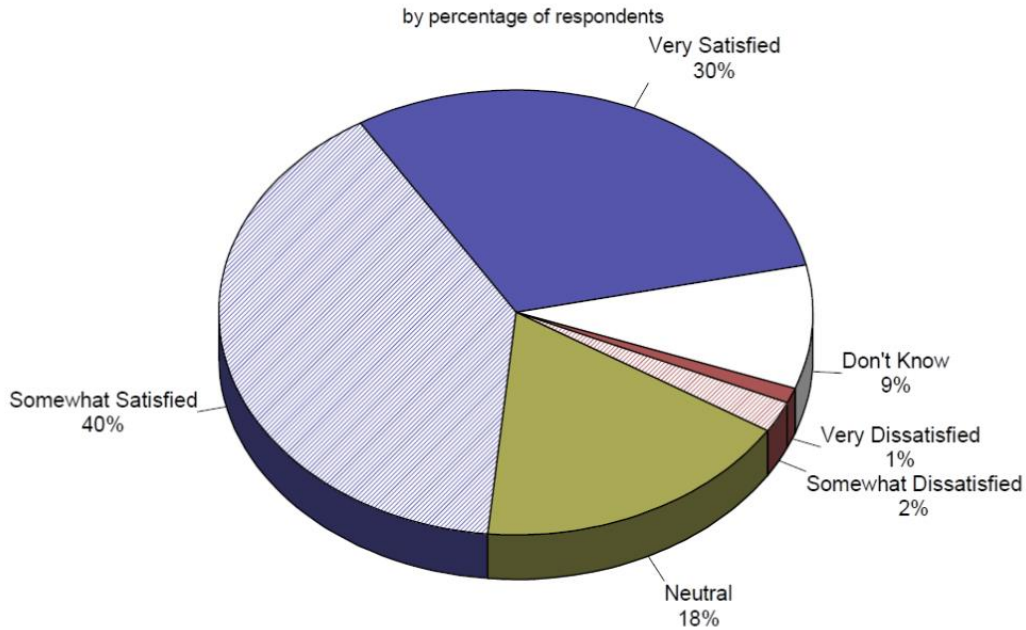


APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Question 19. Public engagement tools you and members of your household would be interested in using in the future.



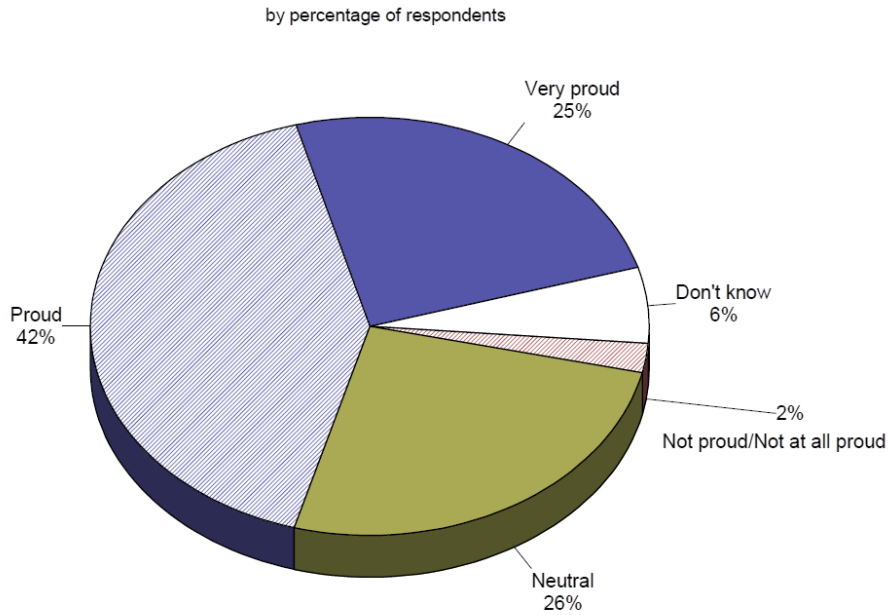
Question 20. Satisfaction with the overall value your household receives from the Montgomery Parks and County Recreation Department.



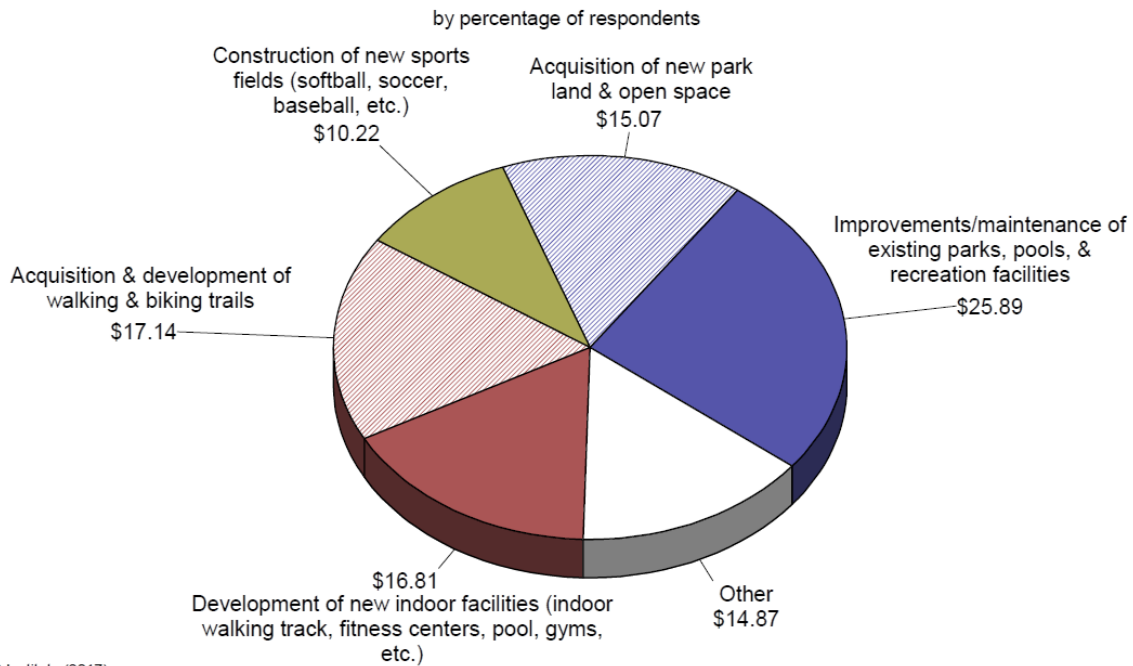


APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Question 21. How would you describe your sense of pride in Montgomery Parks and recreation facilities, parks and services?



Question 22. If an additional \$100 were available for Montgomery Parks and County Recreation Department trails, parks, natural and cultural resources, sports, and recreation facilities, how would you allocate the fund among the following categories of funding?

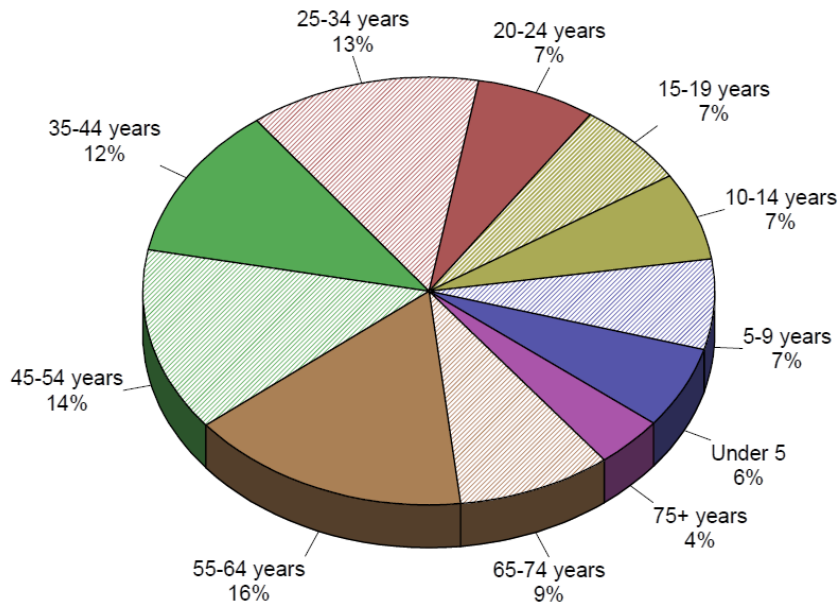


ETC Institute (2017)

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

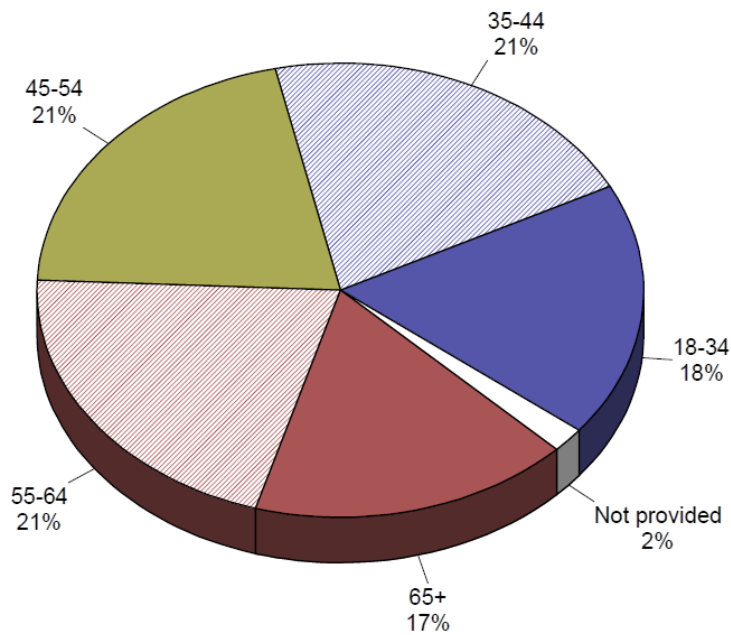
Question 23. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are:

by percentage of respondents



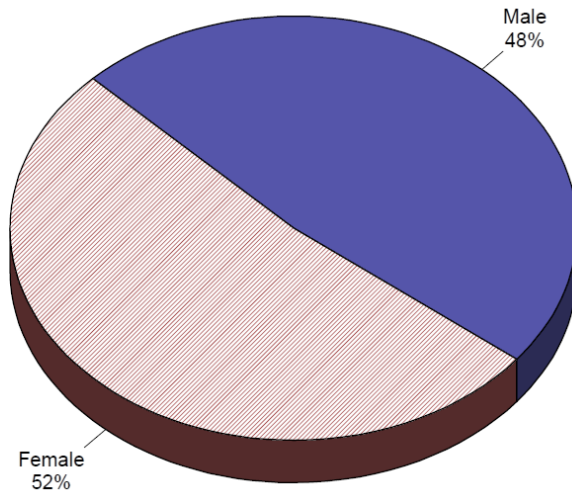
Question 24. What is your age?

by percentage of respondents



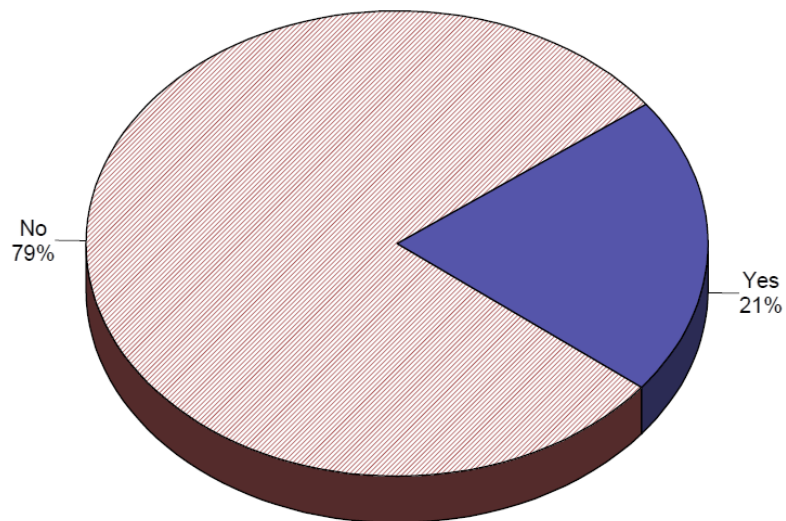
Question 25. What is your gender?

by percentage of respondents

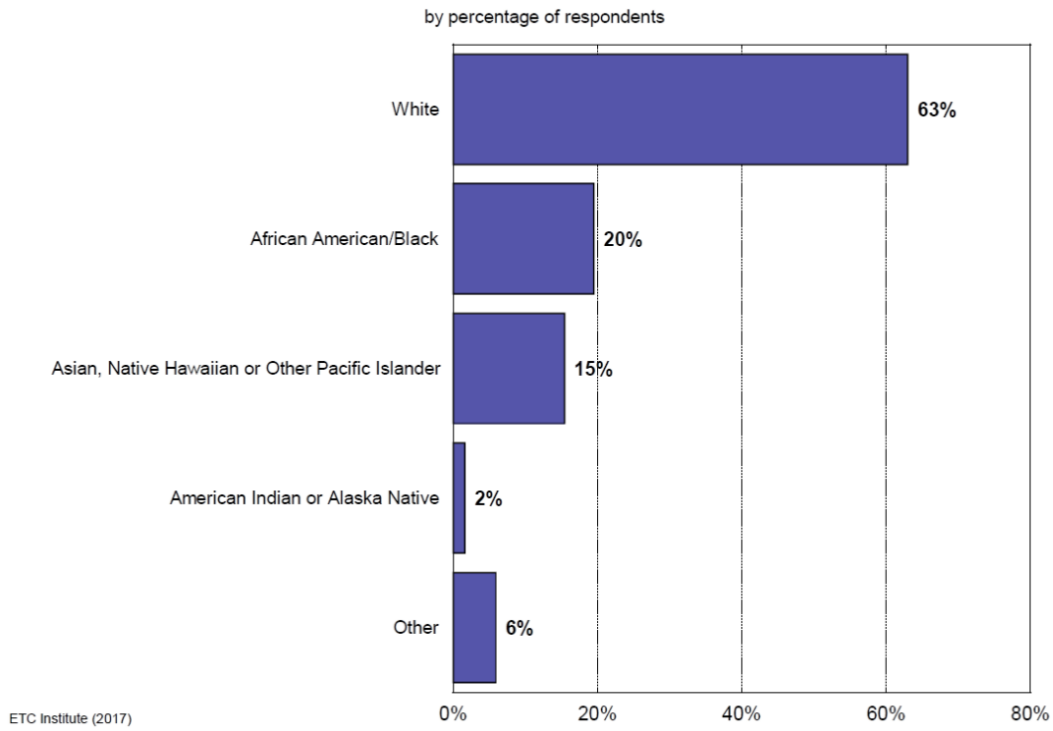


Question 26. Are you or other members of your household of Hispanic or Latino ancestry?

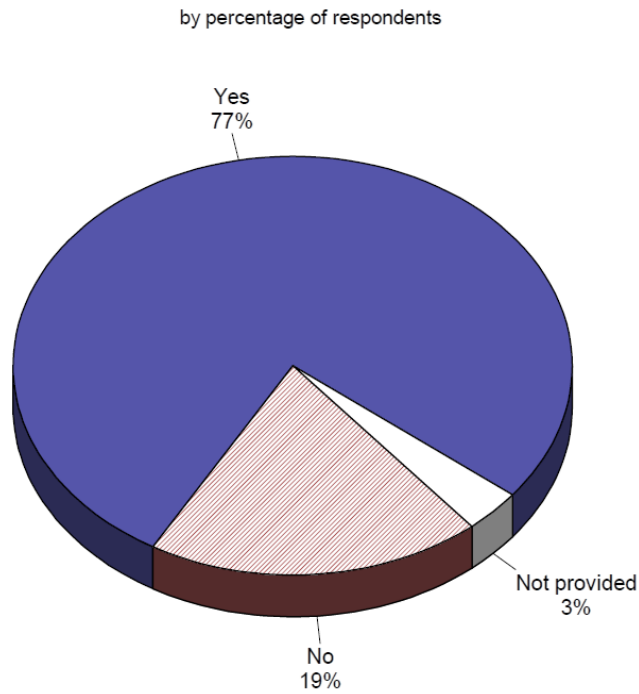
by percentage of respondents



Question 27. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?



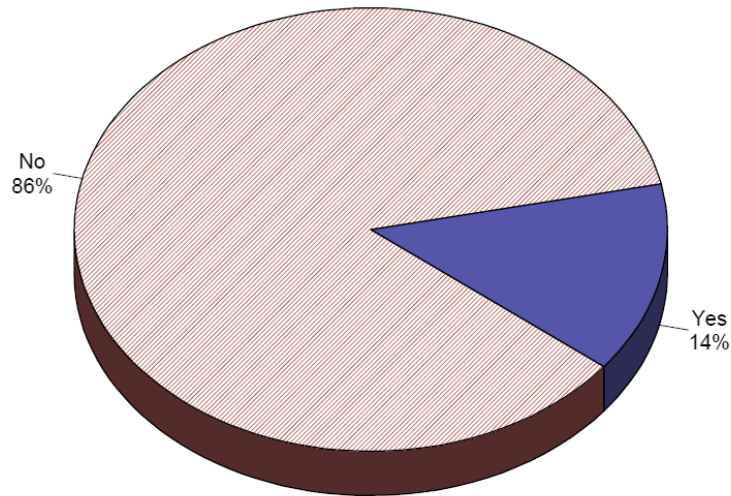
Question 28. Is English the primary language spoken in your home?



APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

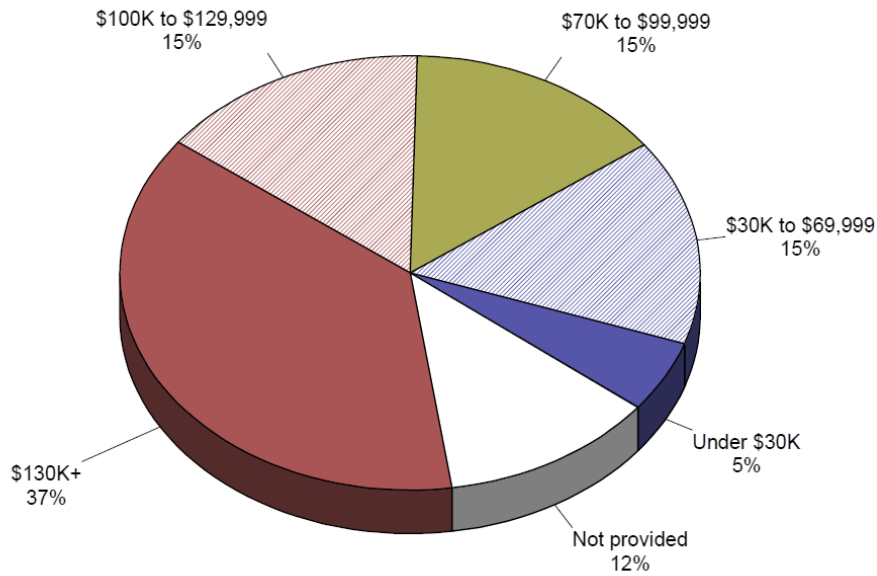
Question 29. Does anyone in your household have a disability?

by percentage of respondents



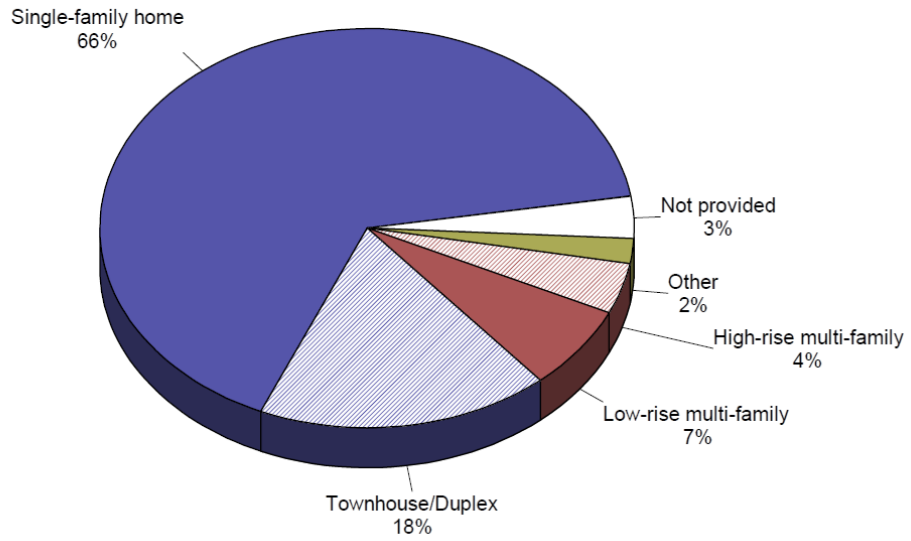
Question 30. Which of the following best describes your total annual household income?

by percentage of respondents



Question 30. Which of the following best describes your home?

by percentage of respondents



## 10.2 APPENDIX B - FULL COMMUNITIES CONNECT REPORT



**COMMUNITIES CONNECT**  
POWER YOUR VISION

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACES**  
**2017 PROS PLAN - FOCUS GROUPS**  
MINORITIES COMMUNITIES REPORT - 2017





## **INTRODUCTION**

Communities Connect Consulting was retained for professional experts services to conduct an extensive public engagement outreach effort, focused on minority communities and to assist in the development of the *2017 Montgomery County Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan Update*. The Department of Parks encouraged the involvement and participation of the minority communities in the planning and review process.

The *2017 PROS Plan Update* supports the park and recreation goals and objectives contained in the County's *1993 General Plan Refinement – Goals and Objectives*. The new Plan will also build upon and expand the work of the current *2012 PROS Plan*. The purpose of the *PROS Plan* is developing strategies to deliver the “right parks in the right places, and to recommend policies and implementation steps for park acquisition, renovation, development and preservation, addressing methods to achieve social equity, health and conservation. The plan will include a policy framework; identify future facility needs and resource conservation priorities.

## **THE PROCESS**

From the beginning of February 2017, the Communities Connect team carefully and diligently orchestrated a diverse public involvement process that incorporated an intense outreach effort in the minority communities organizing six focus groups to hear what the minority communities of Montgomery County had to say, gathering opinions, beliefs and attitudes, encouraging discussion and providing an opportunity to learn more about the parks (the communities findings). A focus group team that was able to deal tactfully with outspoken group members, keep the discussion on track, and made sure every participant was heard. The outreach effort created through this process will be part of the outreach strategy plan, will undergo further public review and is scheduled for adoption in the winter of 2017.

In order to gather input and test ideas with the public, focus groups were held over a period of four weeks. These focus groups were open to individuals who live, in the selected specific minority population areas and were consistently well attended, indicating a strong community interest in the future of the Parks. Throughout the process, all ideas from the public were carefully documented, and used to summarize the development of the outreach plan to the minority communities.

### Why Engage the Minority Communities?

The updated plan for the Parks is very timely, with the growing diverse community in the County. Planning for the Parks is important for a variety of reasons:

- Diverse Population Growth throughout the county is generating increased park users and starting to see indications that the system is approaching resources and accommodations saturation.
- Notwithstanding fluctuations in the real estate market, properties in the county will continue to develop, growing a need for parks, recreational, and open space areas.
- The appearance of the Parks do not reflect the diverse community. Parks are aging, are designed primarily to accommodate physically passive individuals, and are unfriendly to the socialization.

The combination of the need to address approach to saturation, the strength of the development potential, and the opportunity to turn the Parks into a signature address for Montgomery County and the region make the *2017 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update* a timely and vital undertaking.

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Following Communities Connect's introduction presentation, participants were asked to respond to five (5) questions in order to gather verbal feedback. Additionally, respondents were asked to fill out an eight (8) question survey.

Each focus group was recorded and an audiotape of each meeting is provided as part of the Communities Connect report.

Communities Connect engaged in intensive outreach and partnering efforts in order to draw attention to the *PROS Plan Outreach* process and encourage participation at focus groups. These efforts returned very positive results, as participation at each focus group ranged from about 8 to 15 people.

The *Focus Groups with the Minority Communities* outreach process incorporated detailed information the community findings about the parks. This section highlights several of the key findings that arose from the summaries

### **FOCUS GROUP 01 - Up-county Area - Targeting the Latino Community**

Focus Group One was held in the up-county area. The group in this session generally had two main concerns:

- 1) That there should be greater focus on facilities and amenities for smaller children (between ages 2- 3) and their parents, and;
- 2) That there should be greater efforts on safety, particularly with security and lighting issues being highlighted.

A variety of amenities and facilities related needs were mentioned, including vending areas to buy water, benches, and a place to change the children. Ten years from now, participants would like to see more parks, bigger parks, and parks with more activities

for children and sports. The group also expressed that they would like the park to communicate more with them in their language and in ways that is representative of their communities. Additionally, some expressed confusion regarding permit processes.

### **FOCUS GROUP 02 - Mid-county Area - Targeting the Latino Community**

Generally, the group in this session had four recurring concerns:

- 3) Safety and security with a focus on illicit activities and concerns about poor lighting.
- 4) Having more services for children, including programming and spaces where smaller children can play safely.
- 5) Accessibility was a recurring theme, particularly with the perceived danger of crossing Georgia Avenue, the high cost of renting facilities. Additionally, this group discussed the need for more outreach and communication from the parks to the community to facilitate accessibility for community members. It is worth noting that this group also discusses language barriers and wanting more culturally relevant programming as sub-themes of accessibility of the parks.
- 6) Cleanliness of facilities was also an issue for this group. Additionally, though not discussed in depth in the focus group, survey responses showed a desire from participants of this focus group to conduct outreach to better serve the elderly.

### **FOCUS GROUP 03 - Down-East County area - Targeting the African Community**

The answers in this focus group were characterized by settling in Montgomery county very recently compared to other focus groups. All but one respondent indicated they have lived in Montgomery County for less than one year. Some participants in this group had not yet had the opportunity to visit a park but many spoke about what a park is like in their native country and what they would like to see here. Participants were primarily interested in having more varied and targeted sports activities like health and wellness programming for people of all ages. It was also important to this group that the park act as a place of building community through social gatherings so people can meet each other. Cleanliness of the parks, including trails, was an issue that came up as well for this focus group. This group was much less familiar with Montgomery County Parks and how they operate and felt that transportation was a barrier to park access.

### **FOCUS GROUP 04 - Up - Down East County area - Targeting the Asian Pacific Community**

Participants in this focus group highly stressed the importance of various types of programming, including health and fitness programming (such as drop-in yoga outdoor classes), cultural programming, and events. This group talked about parks as meeting points and vehicles for community building and gatherings. In regards to increased accessibility to the parks, this group discussed the need for transportation, proximity,

and need of more outreach to diverse communities, youth and seniors. Participants suggested having more outreach by the parks through native language printed media. Two participants discussed the need to have a more updated website in regards to up to date information and a more user-friendly permit application.

### **FOCUS GROUP 05 - Down - East County area - Targeting the African Community**

Participants in this focus group predominantly utilize parks for health, fitness and sports. When discussing improvements, participants stressed the need for more security and regards for safety. Importantly, this group discussed ways that the parks can better engage communities to further their mission, including through partnerships with schools, volunteerism and cultural programming. Regarding how the parks can best reach out to the community participants suggested not focusing only on online outreach but also to conducting outreach through more traditional media such as print (flyers, grocery stores, schedule inserts) and radio. The desire for urban parks was also expressed along with the concern that with increased population in the county, there should be close attention paid to preserving existing green spaces.

### **FOCUS GROUP 06 - Up - West County area - Targeting the Asian Community**

For this focus group, culturally relevant programming and park design came up as prominent themes. Participants expressed that they would like to see parks utilized as centers to promote cultural understanding and learning particularly through more programming and events. Regarding events, some participants felt there could be expanded capacity to accommodate large outdoor events that would need staging and other related equipment like concerts. The majority of participants indicated that they currently utilize the parks for social gatherings with large groups of people like alumni associations or church members. It was suggested to work in partnership with the community, particularly through non-profits to accomplish more cultural programming. Respondents expressed concern with the high cost of Montgomery County Parks as compared to other similar services or adjacent counties.

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **❖ IMPROVE PARK SECURITY AND SAFETY**

Eliminate illicit/illegal activities and make improvements to poor lighting. Decrease the danger of crossing Georgia Avenue by making pedestrian improvements, and provide visible security such as cameras/video recording and security personnel presence within parks and open space facilities.

### **❖ CLEANLINESS OF FACILITIES**

Improve the cleanliness of the facilities, including trails, and trash removal.

### **❖ PROGRAMMING**

Provide more varied and targeted sports activities and health and wellness programming for people of all ages. Target and improve programs for small children ages 2–3. Provide more cultural programming and events.

❖ **PHYSICAL FACILITIES**

Increase facilities and amenities for small children ages 2–3 including spaces where small children can play safely and their parents can engage in meaningful activities. There is a desire for more urbanized parks to preserve existing green spaces in communities, located within walking distance. Expand the park capacity to accommodate large outdoor events that would need staging and other related equipment for venues such as concerts

❖ **ENGAGE COMMUNITIES**

Further the mission of the communities, through partnerships with schools, volunteerism and cultural programs. Many residents currently utilize the parks for social gatherings for large groups of people to hold events for alumni associations, churches, and culturally relevant programs.

Utilize parks as meeting points and vehicles for community building and gatherings. The parks should function as a place for building community through social gatherings so that people can meet each other. Work in partnership with the community, through non- profits to accomplish more cultural programming. Parks should be utilized as centers to promote cultural understanding and learning particularly through more ethnic programming and events.

❖ **ACCESSIBILITY**

Eliminate language barriers in staffing and signage. Conduct outreach to better serve the elderly and families. Eliminate the high cost of utilizing Montgomery County Parks as compared to other similar services or those in adjacent counties.

Provide outreach through more traditional media such as print (flyers, grocery stores, schedule inserts) and radio. Regular communication is needed from the parks to the community to facilitate accessibility for community members. The high cost of renting facilities is prohibitive. Transportation cost is a barrier to park access for many participants.

## **PROJECT LEADERSHIP**

Communities Connect Leadership provided overall strategic direction and continuing participation in the *Montgomery County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Focus Groups with the Minority Communities*. The Leadership carefully deliberated on ideas and issues that surfaced throughout the focus groups. The support of these individuals enhanced and encouraged the development of this process. The Communities Connect, which designed and guided the process. Their guidance ensured that every detail of the process was addressed. Communities Connect is most appreciative of their efforts on our behalf.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

The foundation of *Montgomery County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Focus Groups with Minority Communities* is made up of the ideas generated at the focus groups and written comments. The community comments received during the process will be very important in shaping the plan principles. These individuals fulfilled their roles as citizens in a clear and concrete fashion by investing their time and energy into this project. Their work constructed part of the basic content of the vision that will become the Montgomery parks future. In addition to the government agencies, other public and private entities provided essential contributions for which we are grateful.

## **PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM**

The project manager team managed and implemented the process, including working in partnership with the prime consultant team PROS Inc. Project team members carefully deliberated on ideas and issues that surfaced through the community process in organizing the focus groups, and brought their own technical expertise. This team has been working diligently since beginning of 2017. We are grateful to make possible the extraordinary level of public participation in the *Montgomery County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Focus Groups with Minority Communities*.

### **Mayra Bayonet - Communities Connect President and Executive Director**

Ms. Bayonet is a community development relationship manager that holds a degree in architecture/urban planning. Her career spans 34 years of experience in community planning, customer relations, community development, and community outreach. She also has over 15 years of public service experience at the city and county level, and has worked primarily in diverse, multi-cultural and often times disadvantaged environments. She has a deep knowledge of government processes with an exemplary record of strengthening communication between communities and organizations. Ms. Bayonet is a recognized force in the community who is present at many community

outreach and advocacy events. She is constantly creating connections between community groups and in turn gets things done.

**Raul Medrano - Entrepreneur | Economic Development Professional | Educator**

Raul was born in Washington, DC, his parents are from Honduras-Central America. He currently resides near downtown Silver Spring, Maryland with his wife and family, as well as lived in Montgomery County for over 20 years. Graduated from Johns Hopkins University-Carey Business School with an MBA and concentration in Organizational and Leadership Development. Also, he is a graduate of the University of Maryland-College Park Campus, having earned a B.S. Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing. Medrano, has an extensive background in economic development, having worked for the Montgomery County Economic Development Department from 2006-2011 and under two County Executive administrations. Formed part of the Germantown Sector Plan update from 2006-2010, as well as the Germantown Task Force which was an alliance of community stakeholders and business leaders during the Germantown Sector Plan Study period. Manager and Instructor, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Program, Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School for Adults in NW, Washington, DC. Campus Director, Ana G. Mendez University System, Capital Area Campus, Wheaton, MD. Business Development Specialist, Montgomery County Department of Economic Development.

**Maria P. Rodriguez - Interpreter | Administrative | Paralegal**

President/Owner of MPR Translations, LLC, recognized by the Daily Record of Baltimore as Maryland's Top 100 Women for 2012. A graduate of John Jay College, BS in Criminal Justice, Paralegal and Spanish Interpreter-Translator. A devoted community member at the local, county and states levels. Involved with private organizations to advance opportunities for women in business, the Hispanic community and charitable organizations, notably MD Hispanic Business Conference, The Featherstone Foundation, The Susana De Moya Foundation, CODR, Alzheimer's Association and the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce.

**Desiree Bayonet - Audio Technician**

Désirée is a multimedia producer with experience in video, audio, and graphic design. She holds a B.A. in Electronic Media from George Washington University and a M.A. in Educational Communication and Technology from New York University. Désirée is particularly interested in the intersection of technology, education, and storytelling. Désirée co-founded audio storytelling collective, From Block2Block, which engages community members in telling stories from their own community. She is currently the Program Director for WOWD-LP, a community radio station just outside of Washington, D.C.

**Ana Reyes - Research Analyst**



Ana holds an M.A. in Latin American and Latino Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago where she was an Abraham Lincoln Fellow. She also holds a B.A. in Anthropology and Spanish Language and Cultures from the University of Maryland,

College Park. She has formal training in quantitative and qualitative data collection methods and has extensive experience in methodologies of social science research, including oral histories, focus group facilitation, and surveying. Her past roles have allowed her to combine this social science research background with administrative experience, including strategic planning and project management for nonprofit organizations. For over ten years, she has worked to increase opportunities for diverse communities of the DC-Metro Area through direct service, research, advocacy and policy work.



10.3 APPENDIX C- INTERCEPT SURVEY #1

**COPY OF INTERCEPT SURVEY #1 (ENGLISH & SPANISH VERSIONS)**

 <p>Montgomery County, MD</p> <p>Maryland-National Capital Park &amp; Planning Commission</p> <p>1. Do you use or visit Montgomery County Parks or Facilities? (If yes, go to 1a else go to 1b) 1a. If yes, what parks do you like to visit most?</p> <p>1b. If not, what are the reasons you don't use Montgomery County Parks or Facilities?</p> <p>2. Are there any park amenities or recreation programs missing in the <u>parks that you visit</u> that you would like to see added or changed to make your experience better?</p> <p>3. How would you want us to communicate with you about future offerings and updates?</p> <p>Other Comments, if any:</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>English</b></p>
<hr/>  <p>Montgomery County, MD</p> <p>Maryland-National Capital Park &amp; Planning Commission</p> <p>1. ¿Usted visita los parques o usa las instalaciones del Condado de Montgomery? (Si su respuesta es "sí" pase a pregunta 1a. Si su respuesta es "no" pasa a 1b) 1a. ¿Cuáles parques le gusta visitar más?</p> <p>1b. ¿Cuáles son las razones por cual no utiliza los parques o instalaciones del Condado de Montgomery?</p> <p>2. ¿Hay comodidades del parque o programas de recreación que no existen en los parques que visita que gustaría ver añadido o modificado para mejorar su experiencia?</p> <p>3. ¿Cómo desea que nos comuniquemos con usted acerca de información de última hora o programación?</p> <p>Otros comentarios, si los hay:</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Spanish</b></p>

**INTERCEPT SURVEY #1: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BY QUESTION**

A	1	Keep parks natural, don't let in commerical shops, advertisements, etc.
	2	The city is doing a good job of keeping kids safe at the playgrounds
	3	City's current management of the parks is good
	4	Plants and flowers need to be kept well-maintained
	5	Need more access to public restrooms
B	6	Staff is great, especially with kids
	7	Dissapointed in the limited summer camp offerings
	8	People with pets don't have any space for leisure activity
D	9	Water fountains sometimes don't work in the parks
	10	Whetstone Park's fences need to be fixed
	11	Need to ensure parks are <b>clean</b> and <b>safe</b>
	12	Hours for boating need to be exteneded
	13	More pavilions are needed
	14	We really enjoy the farris wheel at Watkins Park
	15	Better signage is needed for restrooms
	16	Better signage is needed for fields (Fredrick)
	17	Website needs to be kept updated with most important information
	18	Restrooms are currently self-maintained

**INTERCEPT SURVEY #1: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, BY LOCATION**

Plum Gar Neighborhood Recreation Center	<p>Can we open earlier. Other facilities open at 9am but Plum Gar doesn't open until 10am. Also,</p> <p>1 it needs to be open longer on Sundays.</p> <p>2 So far things are great.</p> <p>3 Need to listen more to the Chinese community in this area (Plum Gar)</p> <p>4 Need to sound proof game room, its too noisy</p> <p>5 Opened limited hours to the public</p> <p>6 Limited summer hours and limited hours for seniors regularly</p> <p>7 Limited time for playing ping pong (only available for 2-hours on Fridays)</p>
Germantown Community Recreation Center	<p>8 Better communication through the schools, outreach</p> <p>9 Extended operating hours</p> <p>10 Market in local newspaper about community center events</p> <p>11 Need beeter landscaping (more flowers)</p> <p>12 Enjoy talking to the Chinese staff members at the community center</p> <p>13 Ping pong tables are great</p> <p>14 Staff members are nice</p> <p>15 Facility lacking hot water</p>
Upper County Community Recreation Center	<p>16 I have a lot of fun at the park</p> <p>17 Love being at the community center and at the parks</p>
Gwendolyn E. Coffield Community Recreation Center	<p>18 It is always clean in here and I like that they offer classes for people with disabilities</p> <p>19 I'm glad that the trash cans went back in the parks</p> <p>20 I think the parks are great; Montgomery County gives great value for our taxes</p> <p>21 Soccer fields need irrigation</p> <p>22 There is some erosion down by the playground</p> <p>23 Thank you for blowing the leaves instead of just mowing over them like in previous years</p> <p>24 I think MNCPPC does a great job</p> <p>25 Please keeo the paved paths in prime condition</p> <p>26 Keep creeks free of "strainers" so canoes and kayaks can float safely</p> <p>27 The bathrooms always stink</p> <p>28 Recreation centers need to offer affordable rental space for small vendors</p>
Long Branch Community Recreation Center	<p>29 I like the Tai Chi and Zumba classes that are offered</p> <p>30 More security is needed in the parks; especially when kids are playing</p> <p>31 Last year there was a secruity problem at Long Branch, would like to see the security increased</p> <p>32 There are major accessibility issues getting into the park ADA</p> <p>33 It would be nice to have waste bags</p> <p>34 More park land needs to be purchased in this area, especially around Silver Springs Library</p>
White Oak Community Recreation Center	<p>35 Mid County gym is to small</p> <p>36 Long Branch needs to fix their steps and have more stairs</p> <p>37 Long Branch needs to have more parking spaces for the disabled</p> <p>38 I wish White Oak was open throughout the holidays</p> <p>39 Long Branch needs enhanced since gas line explosion</p> <p>40 Long Branch is a dead zone for phones</p> <p>41 System is doing a great job</p> <p>42 Schweinhaut Senior Center needs to be renovated</p>

10.4 APPENDIX D- INTERCEPT SURVEY #2

COPY OF INTERCEPT SURVEY #2

Please rank your top 3 favorite things to do in parks • Por favor clasifique sus 3 cosas favoritas para hacer en los parques

#	sports • deportes	
#	trails • caminos	
#	nature & camping • naturaleza & campamentos	
#	history & education • historia & educación	
#	events & festivals • eventos y festivales	
#	special places • lugares especiales	
#	gathering places • lugares para reuniones	

What would make our parks better? • ¿Cómo mejoraríamos los parques?

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zip code • código postal: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please rank your top 3 favorite things to do in parks • Por favor clasifique sus 3 cosas favoritas para hacer en los parques

#	sports • deportes	
#	trails • caminos	
#	nature & camping • naturaleza & campamentos	
#	history & education • historia & educación	
#	events & festivals • eventos y festivales	
#	special places • lugares especiales	
#	gathering places • lugares para reuniones	

What would make our parks better? • ¿Cómo mejoraríamos los parques?

---

zip code • código postal: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

**INTERCEPT SURVEY #2: FULL RESULTS**

Ranking of the top 3 most important facilities/services provided by Montgomery County Parks.

World of Montgomery Festival - Rockville, MD, October 16, 2016

CHOICE	SPORTS	TRAILS	NATURE	HISTORY	EVENTS	SPECIAL PLACES	GATHERING PLACES
1st	47	61	28	19	44	12	13
2nd	29	46	43	16	41	19	11
3rd	25	24	31	21	40	34	31

Silver Spring Tree Lighting - Silver Spring, MD, November 12, 2016

CHOICE	SPORTS	TRAILS	NATURE	HISTORY	EVENTS	SPECIAL PLACES	GATHERING PLACES
1st	74	78	33	24	49	12	12
2nd	24	52	58	34	53	13	15
3rd	30	27	36	25	43	35	28

Intercept Survey #2: What would make our parks better?

Number	Responses
1	More isolated, natural places.
2	More nature centers and evets.
3	Adventure.
4	Lots of activities and parks.
5	If we could also go on stage.
6	I wish there were more fields and trees.
7	gardens
8	more events.
9	involve community more, disseminate event information.
10	easy access for all family to enjoy.
11	more of them.
12	nature trails, love how Montgomery County has already kept play grounds and updated and clean
13	about outdoor fitness stations, more dog parks.
14	more kids facilities.
15	more trash cans.
16	renovate Maydale - return the programs.

Number	Responses
17	Prizes
18	bathrooms.
19	keep them cleaner.
20	with more park policies.
21	no smoking
22	making dog registration information more available (dog parks)
23	more activities.
24	creating more activities for students and young people.
25	more accessibility and information known.
26	better trash receptacles.
27	ride bikes.
28	don't waste.
29	make them cleaner and set up more trash cleaning events.
30	large space for more people.
31	more parks.
32	more community awareness.
33	keep it clean.
34	keep clean.
35	a water museum would be great.
36	more recycling bins by every trash can.
37	safety.
38	diversity culturally.
39	make more.
40	Fenced area for toddlers and special needs. Shaded play parks, sensory gardens.
41	Restrooms.
42	Easy public transit and bike lanes to the parks.
43	Easier methods to learn about events like a weekly or monthly digest.
44	More bike trails, easy public transportation.
45	Swings.
46	recycling bins, swings, carousel.
47	More kids activities.
48	with animals.
49	organized and clean
50	more parks for children.

Number	Responses
51	ensure accessibility for all.
52	better signage (wheaton regional)
53	playgrounds.
54	neighborhood activities for us to meet each other.
55	dog bag stations.
56	plaques saying to clean up and not litter.
57	park with water recreations and activities.
58	swimming pool.
59	water fountains.
60	keep it up. These are natural treasure.
61	electric outlets at pavilions.
62	parking.
63	clean all the time.
64	less taxes.
65	Clean quiet spaces.
66	Prevent littering. More picnic areas and bathrooms.
67	If they could have a kids nature park.
68	8ft Basketball hoops.
69	Some of them need more clean up.
70	More trash cans.
71	More Sanitary.
72	Trails stay safe and clean.
73	Recreation Centers in Jessup Blair Park.
74	Clean facilities.
75	Fun structures.
76	Separate area to promote animal habitat. More trees and shade near playground areas.
77	More water fountains.
78	Make more accessible to shelters.
79	More picnic areas.
80	More pools.
81	More fun biking trails.
82	More activities for children such as train.
83	Rachel Carson - allow bikes.
84	More tot and playgrounds for older kids.

Number	Responses
85	More lights in the evening by kurliy.
86	More trash cans on nature trails.
87	Benches, shaded places. Water fountains.
88	Better landscapes with colorful flowers.
89	Nature.
90	Sports.
91	Animal Zoo and more swings.
92	Keep them clean.
93	Ziplines.
94	Playgrounds.
95	More programs.
96	Dirty.
97	More greenery.
98	To make sure it's geared for all ages.
99	Better access to parks by bike and safe roads.
100	More water fountains and playgrounds.
101	Facilities maintainance in small park areas.
102	Our Parks are the best.
103	Cleaning.
104	I think the parks are so pretty.
105	More options of play areas for kids.
106	More ramping sites, and events.
107	You do good things. Just keep protecting the parks.
108	The parks are great normally. Keep it up.
109	More exposure about various events.
110	By putting candy at the end of the trail.
111	Parks are great.
112	We need more parks.
113	More water parks.
114	More events.
115	Better Playgrounds.
116	Park near my apartment.
117	Everything is perfect.
118	Swings.



Number	Responses
119	Playgrounds.
120	Toddler friendly swing sets.
121	More playgrounds.
122	More festival events.
123	More hockey classes, not just ice hockey.
124	Better managed soccer fields.
125	More bathrooms.
126	Better trails for running with guides. More bathrooms.
127	Making it more family friendly, such as installing more benches, barbeque places, etc.
128	Cookouts much fun.
129	Adult/senior sports/fitness activities in evenings and weekends.
130	More swings.
131	Better maintenance of buildings.
132	More playgrounds! But they're great how they are.
133	Special musical events.
134	A skate park.
135	Add resources for kids.
136	Petting zoo.
137	Printed trail maps.
138	Modern playgrounds.
139	More events for older people.
140	More sports.
141	More open to dogs.
142	I would like more playgrounds and park in New Hampshire Estates.
143	Trash collection.
144	More activity and trails.
145	Happy with them.
146	See more animals, concert in Parks.
147	More activities and fun for children.
148	Bathroom facilities in all.
149	Benches.
150	Benches, Water fountains.
151	A heated or coll building.

Number	Responses
152	Extended time please.
153	More kid friendly activities at the play grounds.
154	I love the parks, I just wish people would stop littering.
155	More lighting for evening events.
156	Filtered water fountains.
157	Swimming pools, fitness centers.
158	Working swings, cleane jungle gym.
159	Clean restrooms.
160	I really enjoy all the programs that you provide. Thank you.
161	Swimming pools.
162	They are geat as is.
163	More lights for the night.
164	Event days, flower watching
165	Attention to older parks, down county that have proper drainage, weeding needed, etc to make them usable, safe and beautiful.
166	More slides.
167	More history.
168	More seesaws.
169	Tennis courts, dog parks.
170	We need more park space in silver spring downtown.
171	More parks.
172	Wheelchair accessible.
173	Fix active montgomery/not user friendly.
174	Recycling Containers.
175	Access to public transportation.
176	Events that engage and educate the community. Although I know this is already done.
177	More animals and animal centers.
178	More places outdoors, more trees in cities.
179	More lights, better crossing, more, safety crossings.
180	Make trails smoother.
181	Not much, maybe just more frequent maintenance of the playgrounds, some of the stations are broken or I need of a paint job.
182	All dog accessible.
183	More open space.
184	Pet friendly.

Number	Responses
185	Playgrounds, well marked hiking trails.
186	More woods; communal farming areas.
187	OK.
188	All together.
189	Updated play sets (Becca Lilly Park)
190	Post events on social media.
191	Good lighting.
192	Horseback riding.
193	More bathrooms. They're pretty great already.
194	Jungle gyms for kids.
195	Lot more play stuff for kids.

#### INTERCEPT SURVEY #2: WHAT ELSE?

Number	Response Text
1	Everything is perfect, more information.
2	More events and ways to know them.
3	Parks are great.
4	Water
5	Swimming
6	You are doing good.
7	unprogrammed open spaces, trees, flowers.
8	bicycles
9	more events.
10	canoes/kayaks (but rentals cost too much)
11	dog parks
12	more adventures.
13	more activities.
14	playgrounds
15	play areas.
16	trash collection
17	It's more a matter of how do I find out all that is going on. I feel I miss a lot. I don't know what is available. Is there a map of MC or symbols. What is available?
18	clean up for SSL Hours.
19	water sports.

Number	Response Text
20	bikes and boats.
21	public activities.
22	more organized events.
23	rides and activities.
24	more camp grounds locally.
25	food.
26	lots of area to have fun in.
27	dog parks.
28	places for picnics.
29	a water fountain.
30	bathrooms.
31	more water fountains for people.
32	free coffee libraries and chess games.
33	More preschool nature programs on different days. Clarksburg only on Mondays, wanted something closer to Boyds on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
34	fun rides, train rides.
35	The slide.
36	Feeling of Safety.
37	Maybe public movie nights.
38	North Potomac needs an indoor swimming pool.
39	wheelchair accessible trails, BBQ pits
40	floral gardens.
41	ponds with lily pads.
42	playgrounds for kids.
43	some security.
44	tennis facilities for solo tennis.
45	video games.
46	playgrounds.
47	If there were trampolines.
48	More info to know what's happeninig.
49	Summer camp programs, love the nature camps. They were great.
50	Roller skating rink in the park. Community sign-up for family camping trips in parks
51	Basketball and art.
52	Tall rock climbing walls.

Number	Response Text
53	Dog Parks.
54	I like to walk with my dogs.
55	I love group biking and hiking.
56	More gardens, like brookside gardens.
57	Recreation Centers.
58	Playgrounds.
59	Bike Paths.
60	Slides.
61	Geocaching.
62	Playgrounds.
63	More places for shade, especially the fields.
64	Running Trails and water.
65	Maybe some more zen places like squares with fountains or rides.
66	Holiday Festivals and Events.
67	Summer Camps.
68	Basketball Courts.
69	Play area for kids.
70	Maintainence and trails free of weeds.
71	More trash cans.
72	Playgrounds.
73	Rest areas (benches)
74	We enjoy the view, nature and atmosphere.

## 10.5 APPENDIX E- MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY INTERNET FORUM

Open Ended Responses to the Internet Forum. Comments sorted by Planning Area and Park.

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
Park Amenities	Need to connect ICC bike path west of Layhill Rd with ICC bike path east of Notley Rd	Aspen Hill	Layhill LP
Rarely (1-3 Visits/Year)	Walk to and around Trolley Museum and return home	Aspen Hill	Northwest Branch Recreational Park
Rarely (1-3 Visits/Year)	Walk to Trolley Museum and return home	Aspen Hill	Northwest Branch SVU 5
Park Amenities	Need to connect ICC Bike Path west of Layhill Rd to ICC Bike Path east of Notley Rd	Aspen Hill	Northwest Branch SVU 5
Daily Visits	Great trails. Exercise, watch wildlife, educate children, watch the ecosystem at work,	Aspen Hill	Rock Creek Regional Park
Park Safety	not safe here!	Aspen Hill	Rock Creek SVU 6
Weekly Visits	I hike here on the weekend. I'd like it if there were cleaner bathrooms here.	Bennett	Little Bennett Regional Park
Daily Visits	Battery Lane Park is integral to the Battery Lane District. It is used daily all year by dog-walkers, runners, bikers, children (esp in the playground), tennis and basketball players, people relaxing and enjoying the outdoors. While the tennis court upgrade in 2016 and the anticipated playground upgrade in 2017 are much appreciated, it is definite need of new path lighting and more frequent groundskeeping work. Thank you.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Battery Lane UP
Weekly Visits	Require any new development in lots between park and Old Georgetown to have usable green/park space connected to this park	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Battery Lane UP
Park Safety	Battery Lane Park needs new path lights. Please make this a priority during or after the playground is upgraded.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Battery Lane UP
Park Condition	Battery Lane Park will benefit from more frequent groundskeeping, such as trimming bushes, removing broken branches, and planting/maintaining new grass. Please tell crews not to drive trucks into the park - the trucks' wheels leave deep divots that become mudholes after rains where grass never grows again.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Battery Lane UP
Rarely (1-3 Visits/Year)	connect to what needs to be huge park are in Geico new development. Just do it, ignore builders if they balk at large park requirements. Someone will proceed with development with huge space required	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Brookdale NP
Monthly Visits	Great local park.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Cabin John LP
Monthly Visits	Too crowded to use, no-one stops before crossing a road. What is MoCo going to do to accommodate all the people who want lots of walkable and bike able an green urban trails/pathways? It's awful. Used to use trail a lot	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Capital Crescent Trail SP
Weekly Visits	Great park for all ages.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Greenwich NP
Weekly Visits	way too tiny, overrun by dogs pissing (though poop pick up is good). Geico redevelopment area needs a HUGE park for the area. It will be developed by some company even with strict and large park requirements, developers will be lying if they say otherwise	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Hubert Humphrey Friendship Park

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
Daily Visits	The path is in terrible disrepair. I have run or walked it every day at least once for 25 years for health essential exercise but have seriously injured myself at least three times by falling over areas where tree roots pushed up the pavement. One time required a trip to the ER with cracked bones and stitches.  This is a highly used path by all ages for many purposes including transportation to Bethesda shops. Please repair the pavement as soon as possible!	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Little Falls SVU 2
Daily Visits	wonderful park. street is problematic when schools use the fields.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Lynnbrook LP
Park Amenities	It would be wonderful if this park had a swing and a slide.  We use this park as a focal point for the neighborhood, and just a little addition to the amenities would be greatly appreciated.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Maiden Lane UP
Daily Visits	DO NOT ALLOW ROAD EXTENSION FROM BRADLEY BLVD TO THE PARK.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Norwood LP
Daily Visits	Enforce parking rules or just get rid of some of the current spaces. Please open fence off the circle in middle of lot so grass can be used but cars can't park. Also park cannot sustain current usage and will be destroyed with all new building in Bethesda.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Norwood LP
Weekly Visits	Great example of the benefit of a large park.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Norwood LP
Monthly Visits	Invasive weeds, stream needs restoration	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Somerset Park
Weekly Visits	Great park.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Whittier Woods LP
Monthly Visits	stream needs restoration, invasive weeds awful	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Willard Avenue NP
Rarely (1-3 Visits/Year)	Pretty useless area, nicer than more building, but nonetheless terrible design of open/park/green space. Sorry	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	Willoughby Park
Daily Visits	Maiden Lane Park is a great community park that is used year round by the neighborhood, including neighborhood social events.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	
Daily Visits	Very nice job with the lane expansion on W/B Cedar Lane! I saw a red tailed hawk looking for fish in the collection pond.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	
Monthly Visits	I believe this is the access point to the trail from Bethesda, and if so we love the trail and use it to access Bethesda on bike or foot	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	
Weekly Visits	Great park on the edge of downtown Bethesda.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	
New Park Locations	Please consider converting the topside of surface parking into parks if these lots will be redeveloped.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	



APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
New Park Locations	If the county cannot obtain this land from JBG, can this still be used for the Capital Crescent trail?	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	
Other Comments	My understanding is that the outdoor seating area next to the restaurant is actually a public amenity space - I recall a very small sign posted when the previous restaurant tenant was there. If this is a public amenity then please remove the fencing and make it absolutely clear it is a public space.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	
Other Comments	Why is the trail on the east side of Wisconsin Ave not marked as parkland? Is it not still the CC trail?	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	
Other Comments	Ok, pie-in-the-sky, but if the Chevy Chase Club ever leaves this could be MOCO's Central Park (not exactly central, but SO MOCO's Central Park). Halfway between 2 subway stops, on bus lines, perfect.	Bethesda / Chevy Chase	
Rarely (1-3 Visits/Year)	The boating option is more expansive than Needwood. The pavilions are very popular and frequently used.	Clarksburg	Little Seneca Reservoir
Rarely (1-3 Visits/Year)	Nice park to visit	Cloverly	Cloverly LP
New Park Locations	Really looking forward to the redevelopment of Good Hope Park. Hoping you will include senior exercise programs as well as outdoor activities. There is lots of interest in this area in tai-chi, bone building exercises, and activities for adults. Hope to see this site in Active Montgomery soon!	Cloverly	Good Hope LP
Monthly Visits	The playground here is extremely valuable for our neighborhood. It's where we hold our annual July 4 celebrations. See photos at <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4yCEjp0slGoeGxnMG1ZZ2o1Qjg?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4yCEjp0slGoeGxnMG1ZZ2o1Qjg?usp=sharing</a> . The playground equipment is aging and may be due for replacement in a few years. The Good Hope Estates Civic Association is interested in meeting with Parks Staff to identify upgrades to the park.	Cloverly	Hopefield NP
Park Condition	Equipment is aging and should be replaced in next few years. Forest around parkland has natural debris and invasives.	Cloverly	Hopefield NP
Park Condition	Often has overgrown weeds.	Cloverly	Hopefield NP
Park Amenities	Would love to have a picnic table at this park.	Cloverly	Hopefield NP
5	Let's develop Maydale! Would particularly appreciate even more activities for seniors at this location, nature classes, learning opportunities.	Cloverly	Maydale CP
Monthly Visits	Maydale Park is a true gem. We love to explore the various habitats in the park (wetlands, streams, pastures, forest, and fish ladders) to find critters, plants, and learn about nature. The Good Hope Estates Civic Association fought hard to restore funding to the Maydale Nature Center, which is now scheduled to open this year. Families in our neighborhood enjoy the many activities that the Parks Dept hosts here. Photos of little explorer: <a href="https://goo.gl/photos/okZrZaaRXBR1Epby9">https://goo.gl/photos/okZrZaaRXBR1Epby9</a>	Cloverly	Maydale CP

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
Park Amenities	Neighbors have asked for a water fountain for human and canine visitors.	Cloverly	Maydale CP
Park Amenities	Water fountains. Picnic tables - seems like tables were at park, did not see the recently.	Cloverly	Maydale CP
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	We hold the meetings for our community garden at the park building. It is a nice building, would be on my list for private rentals.	Cloverly	Spencerville LP
Weekly Visits	During warm weather, the cricket fields are used every weekend. They are very popular!	Cloverly	Spencerville LP
Other Comments	As the president of the local civic association, I suspect that few people use the playground here because it is behind the building, hidden from the main street. Last time I visited, it was overgrown with weeds.	Cloverly	Spencerville LP
5	I've been to the building for events and did not even realize there was a playground.	Cloverly	Spencerville LP
Park Condition	Often gets overgrown with weeds.	Cloverly	Spencerville LP
Monthly Visits	The Good Hope Estates Civic Association advertises the educational signage at the pond to emphasize the importance of protecting the sensitive Upper Paint Branch Special Protection Area (SPA). Photo: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4yCEjp0sIGoc3Y0Qk1oWIZ4S2s/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4yCEjp0sIGoc3Y0Qk1oWIZ4S2s/view?usp=sharing</a>	Cloverly	Twinponds NCA
3	Would love to see this area improved, more walking trails, points of interest.	Cloverly	Upper Paint Branch SVP
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Occasionally we like to explore the stream to look for frogs and tadpoles. There is a naturally reproducing trout population in the Upper Paint Branch, and the spawn can be found here in the Spring! The Good Hope Estates Civic Association did a clean up here last year. Photo: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4yCEjp0sIGocUtUWI9ySFdHbGc/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4yCEjp0sIGocUtUWI9ySFdHbGc/view?usp=sharing</a>	Cloverly	Upper Paint Branch SVP
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	this tract of parkland needs to be developed as an urban park	Cloverly	Upper Paint Branch SVP
Weekly Visits	More than weekly visits during the gardening season. Belong to the community garden	Cloverly	Upper Paint Branch SVP
Park Amenities	Need to connect ICC bike path west of NH Ave with bike path on Old Columbia Pike	Cloverly	Upper Paint Branch SVP
Weekly Visits	The playground here is a popular social gathering spot. It enhances our neighborhood by allowing parents to meet each other. We have a lot of new families moving in, and this is generally where those first connections are made. Park is overall in good condition but could use more trees.	Cloverly	Wembrough NP
Park Condition	Plaground equipment is generally in good condition. More shade trees would enhance the park.	Cloverly	Wembrough NP
3	Wood chip bedding was added (thank you), but the crew did not spread it evenly (I helped some). Love the trash barrel additions, although more service work, it helps me clean up the parks I frequent.	Cloverly	Wembrough NP
Daily Visits	Maydale Park	Cloverly	
Daily Visits	Walking/running on the path. Unfortunately the playground and tennis/basketball courts need some maintenance.	Fairland	Countryside NP

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
Park Amenities	There is currently only one trash can in the park. It would be really helpful for all the dog walkers if there was another trash can at the other end of the park (western intersection of Countryside and Nees Lane). It would be an easy pick up for maintenance workers.	Fairland	Countryside NP
Park Condition	The playground equipment needs some maintenance and cleaning. The mulch in the playground looks to have deteriorated several inches over the years. The tennis and basketball courts need maintenance and probably need to be resurfaced.	Fairland	Countryside NP
Park Condition	The tennis courts and basket ball courts have been allowed to fall into disrepair. The court surfaces have become uneven with weeds poking up. The fence around the tennis court is damaged and becoming an eyesore. In addition, the pond is popular with casual fishermen. The water needs to be cleared of old fishing line. The goose who visit have been injured by the abandoned fishing lines and hooks.	Fairland	Countryside NP
Weekly Visits	We live in the development at the end of Cullingworth. We use the walking/mountain bike trails in the woods behind our neighborhood very regularly (several times a week) with our dog and 2 young kids. However, the official park access entrance is too far to walk to with such young kids and so most people just jump the fence and trudge through a few hundred yards without trails in order to meet up with the trail. It would be amazing if we could connect the trail to the neighborhood!	Fairland	Fairland Recreational Park
Weekly Visits	Beautiful trail connecting Redland Road to Needwood, ferns, deer, along creek, etc	Gaithersburg Vicinity	Mill Creek SVP
Daily Visits	Great location, current home for MD Exiles Girls Rugby Club, Inc. Current need is storage shed for SAFETY equipment, such as goal posts and tackle dummies.	Gaithersburg Vicinity	
Daily Visits	This park is a wonderful amenity for the community but the wrong events get permitted here each year. Early youth sports (i.e. soccer, flag football) at early ages draw at least 1 car per player, can average around 100 players per day. The parking continually overflows into the community making unsafe traffic conditions as well as many parking violations.	Germantown	Cedar Creek LP
Weekly Visits	Really nice fields, would like to use for youth Rugby events. Rugby fields dimensions are wider than soccer by 5 meters, not bad when working with soccer fields, but too much to extend with football dimensions. Having option for H shaped uprights on a soccer pitch would be greatly appreciated!	Germantown	Ridge Road Recreational Park
Daily Visits	Would like access to this park as an option for MDX Exiles youth rugby clubs as well as Rugby MD space. Primarily for matches, small tournaments, etc. Including rugby academy for girls of all ages running in the fall.	Germantown	South Germantown Recreational Park
Weekly Visits	Seneca Greenway Trail (toward Damascus); fantastic trail, well maintained!	Goshen	Great Seneca SVU 4
5	Hear, hear! And do something about the stagnant water that is so often there post-creek rehabilitation. It seems that there is more yet to do. We worry about mosquitos.	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Breewood NP
Daily Visits	Please work on removing the massive amount of Posion Ivy.	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Breewood NP
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Walking through	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Breewood NP

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
Weekly Visits	Enjoy the small park while shopping	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Kemp Mill UP
Weekly Visits	Really looking forward to this renovation. I use this shopping center all the time and love this little 'fancy park' Very convenient for kids too.	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Kemp Mill UP
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	I occasionally walk along this stretch of the Long Branch Trail when visiting the local library. I would make use of this segment more frequently if there was a safe crossing over Piney Branch Road. Good luck having traffic stop for you.	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Long Branch LP
Park Condition	Lots of trash/litter here too.	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Long Branch LP
5	Come here every nice day after daycare (we get there around 5:30/5:45). Occasional issues with bullies from the school on property, but it's a great park and we love how close it is to home!	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	North Four Corners LP
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Walking through from shops or bus stop, occasionally running through	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	North Four Corners LP
Rarely (1-3 Visits/Year)	Occasional hikes	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Northwest Branch SVU 3
5	Hiking/walking full 8 mile loop a few times a year, shorter sections more often	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Northwest Branch SVU 4
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Hiking	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Northwest Branch SVU 4
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Walk down NW Branch trail to Burnt Mills and back home	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Northwest Branch SVU 4
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Walk down NW Branch trail to Burnt Mills and return home	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Northwest Branch SVU 4
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Walk down NW Branch trail to Burnt Mills and return home	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Northwest Branch SVU 4
4	We are at this park daily, if not twice a day. There is a lot of foot traffic through this park and it could use a trash can. Also, it has lost a lot of trees over the past four years and has two SAD cherry trees that are both one-sided. Addition of mulch this past fall really helped with the mud problem and more children are playing on it again.	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Seven Oaks NP
4	Would be nicer with a trash can. Very useful location.	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Seven Oaks NP
5	Agreed. Used daily, most of the day. pre-k kids are out in school hours, after school, it's covered w/ elementary school kids.	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Seven Oaks NP
Daily Visits	Wonderful neighborhood park, full of kids, parents, grandparents. Home to three Little Free Libraries. We need our trash can returned and a 2nd picnic table.	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Seven Oaks NP
5	YES! It would be so nice to actually be able to use the crosswalk when coming over from Breewood Park.	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Sligo Creek SVU 4
Daily Visits	Please put in an additional crosswalk or a bridge so the branch trail can use the existing crosswalk.	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Sligo Creek SVU 4
Daily Visits	Please work on removing the poison ivy (especially on the trail).	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Sligo Creek SVU 4
Monthly Visits	Walking or biking through to get to Wheaton or other points, also recreational biking, walking and jogging	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Sligo Creek SVU 4

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
Park Amenities	close Sligo Creek Parkway on Sundays for bikes, long boards, roller blades, peds. Univ to Dennis.	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Sligo Creek SVU 4
Park Safety	Integrate trail from Breewood Park to the crosswalk for safer crossings of Sligo Creek Parkway	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Sligo Creek SVU 4
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Biking or walking, usually to visit shopping at Kemp Mill (need bike racks!!)	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Sligo Creek SVU 5
Weekly Visits	Love this little bridge. A lot of debris gets piled up through this area of the creek though. I'm concerned about the health of the water.	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Sligo Creek SVU 5
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Walk down NW Branch trail to Burnt Mills and back home	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Wheaton Regional Park
Rarely (1-3 Visits/Year)	Walk home from Wheaton after leaving car for service at Wheaton Service Center	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Wheaton Regional Park
Weekly Visits	We walk with our dog	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	Wheaton Regional Park
Weekly Visits	Nice area to walk through.	Kemp Mill/4 Corners	
Weekly Visits	I walk and bike past here regularly and sometimes use the grass field for sports. I rarely see the diamond in use, which is a shame.	Kensington/Wheaton	Arcola LP
Monthly Visits	I often bike up this easy trail and like to use the big field for frisbee and kites. We like this little playground too, but it's not in very good shape. It could use some love.	Kensington/Wheaton	Colt Terrace NP
Rarely (1-3 Visits/Year)	walking through on way home from Wheaton or Metro	Kensington/Wheaton	Evans Parkway NP
Weekly Visits	There are various mileage markers on the trail that don't make any sense to me. Please provide a geographic point with the mileage to that point, and not just a post marked "1/2".	Kensington/Wheaton	Forest Grove NP
Monthly Visits	I like the history interpretation here and it has a very nice variety of activities available in a small space.	Kensington/Wheaton	General Getty NP
Monthly Visits	This is a nice place to play and picnic.	Kensington/Wheaton	General Getty NP
Monthly Visits	We're not a big pool family but we like to go occasionally in the summer and we use this outdoor pool. The recent renovations are great.	Kensington/Wheaton	Glenmont LP
Park Safety	Viers Mill crossing of Matthew Henson trail is unsafe; 2 people killed here on bikes in last 2 years. Need HAWK beacon at minimum; a bridge would be better.	Kensington/Wheaton	Matthew Henson State Park Unit #1
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Ride bike on entire Matthew Henson Trail, connect to Rock Creek Trail	Kensington/Wheaton	Matthew Henson State Park Unit #3
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Walk down NW Branch to Burnt Mills and back home	Kensington/Wheaton	Northwest Branch SVU 4
Monthly Visits	Bicycle down Sligo Creek Parkway en route to MNCPPC in SS for Bicycle Master Plan meetings	Kensington/Wheaton	Sligo Creek SVU 4
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	walking or biking through to access metro or downtown silver spring	Kensington/Wheaton	Sligo Creek SVU 4
Weekly Visits	great trail!	Kensington/Wheaton	Sligo Creek SVU 4
Weekly Visits	Our family visits the little playground here fairly regularly. It would be nice if it could get cleaned and the penis graffiti removed.	Kensington/Wheaton	Sligo Creek SVU 4
Weekly Visits	Please clean up the playground equipment (penis graffiti on the slide).	Kensington/Wheaton	Sligo Creek SVU 4

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
Weekly Visits	Please trim the bushes and trees regularly where pedestrians and bikers cross Forest Glen Rd. It's hard to see trail users approaching the crosswalk from a car.	Kensington/Wheaton	Sligo Creek SVU 4
Weekly Visits	The creekbed is lovely for exploring, but during the summer the poison ivy makes it almost completely inaccessible. Please consider workin to remove the poison ivy or add a small access trail.	Kensington/Wheaton	Sligo Creek SVU 4
Park Amenities	Close Sligo Creek Parkway on Sundays from Dennis to Colesville, for bikes, long boards, roller blades, pedestrians, non motorized use.	Kensington/Wheaton	Sligo Creek SVU 4
Park Amenities	wish there was a bench here	Kensington/Wheaton	Sligo Creek SVU 4
Park Condition	Playground needs cleaned up, graffiti removed.	Kensington/Wheaton	Sligo Creek SVU 4
Daily Visits	I walk or bike this park regularly to get to other parks, the elementary school, the local shopping center, or just for exercise.	Kensington/Wheaton	Sligo Creek SVU 5
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	needs bike racks!!!	Kensington/Wheaton	Sligo-Dennis Avenue LP
Weekly Visits	We love the stream work that got odne here--so much easier to play in the creek, thank you!	Kensington/Wheaton	Sligo-Dennis Avenue LP
Park Condition	Slig-Dennis Park seems pretty run down, especially compared to other parks near-by. Could really benefit from some equipment updating.	Kensington/Wheaton	Sligo-Dennis Avenue LP
Daily Visits	This is a great little park to walk and take little ones to. Was so sad about the vandalism a few years ago.	Kensington/Wheaton	St. Paul Park
Weekly Visits	My family members take classes here weekly. I'm thrilled to see it being renovated, but concerned that it will not meet the needs of the exploding Wheaton population. And of course I hope the construction will not be delayed, especially because I regularly use the Library as well.	Kensington/Wheaton	Wheaton Community Center
Monthly Visits	I often go to the farm stand that sets up here during the growing season, and sometimes use the playground. I don't use it in the winter.	Kensington/Wheaton	Wheaton Forest LP
Monthly Visits	I go to the nature center less often now that my son is older, but I still enjoy the trails there and some of the programs. Other nature centers around the county have nicer facilities and programs.	Kensington/Wheaton	Wheaton Regional Park
Monthly Visits	I visit Brookside gardens regularly as the seasons change, to attend their programs, and for recreation.	Kensington/Wheaton	Wheaton Regional Park
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Visit Brookside Garden and Wheaton Regional almost but not quite monthly. Sometimes more often if taking classes. Use the space for walking, looking at plants.	Kensington/Wheaton	Wheaton Regional Park
Rarely (1-3 Visits/Year)	Biking and hiking through. Occasional visits to Brookside Garden	Kensington/Wheaton	Wheaton Regional Park
Rarely (1-3 Visits/Year)	Walk home from Wheaton after leaving car for service at Wheaton Service Center	Kensington/Wheaton	Wheaton Regional Park
Weekly Visits	Enjoy the trails at Wheaton Regional with our dog on a weekly or twice weekly basis	Kensington/Wheaton	Wheaton Regional Park
Weekly Visits	I volunteer at Brookside Gardens on a weekly basis and enjoy the walks at Brookside	Kensington/Wheaton	Wheaton Regional Park

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

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Weekly Visits	Walk around Brookside Gardens every weekend	Kensington/Wheaton	Wheaton Regional Park
Other Comments	I want a ferris wheel in wheaton.	Kensington/Wheaton	Wheaton Regional Park
Park Amenities	because the park is so vast, it would be helpful if there was a 'welcome station' where people could learn about all of the things to do within the park.	Kensington/Wheaton	Wheaton Regional Park
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	I attend the Memorial Day ceremony and sometimes the Veterans Day activities here. I'd like to see this plaza get more use for civic events.	Kensington/Wheaton	Wheaton Veteran's UP
Weekly Visits	I walk through here regularly commuting via metro. The plantings are nice and make it pleasant.	Kensington/Wheaton	Wheaton Veteran's UP
5	Please consider more regional events other than for sports (i.e. July 4th, summer concert series)	Lower Seneca	South Germantown Recreational Park
Weekly Visits	Fantastic facility, both active for youth sports, but also for nature lovers and hikers. Thank you MoCo for making this happen.	Lower Seneca	South Germantown Recreational Park
Weekly Visits	Druid Drive park needs updating to handle older children say ages 9-12. Maybe a climbing wall, bigger slide, other advanced climbing equipment	North Bethesda	Druid Drive NP
Monthly Visits	Waliking on the bike trail from here to Kensington.	North Bethesda	Randolph Hills LP
Monthly Visits	Miss having a rec building here.	North Bethesda	Rock Creek SVU 3
Monthly Visits	Beach Drive is a pleasant break from urban driving.	North Bethesda	Rock Creek SVU 6
Weekly Visits	I love this park!	North Bethesda	White Flint NP
Weekly Visits	Sometimes more than twice a week	North Bethesda	White Flint NP
Weekly Visits	Need updated tennis courts and improved basketball surface, additional climbing wall, bike rack	North Bethesda	
Daily Visits	Middle school and high school kids use this area and families	North Bethesda	
Weekly Visits	Will the tennis courts get a backboard again?	Olney	Cashell NP
Weekly Visits	Williamsburg Run watershed is a combination of pasture and some trees on perimeter. Very nice to walk along meandering stream which has shallow and deep stream banks. Fox is seen periodically. Occasional hawk also seen. Coyote seen once. My family does annual clean up of trash and recycling. Gas pipeline co. cuts tall grass- is it necessary? Can they avoid stream bank damage better with their tractor?	Olney	Cashell NP
Daily Visits	Neighborhood park is a nice bit of green amongst the houses. Playground is very popular with younger kids. 1/2 length basketball court is popular with older kids. MD champion tree is a signature feature of park.	Olney	Olney Acres NP
Monthly Visits	Rest stop on bike rides to north eastern part of county	Olney	Olney Manor Recreational Park

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
Daily Visits	Enjoy the wildlife that lives in this park.	Olney	Patuxent River State Park
Weekly Visits	Thank you for upgrading the playground! This is a great park that is frequently used by the neighborhood as well as a variety of recreation sports.	Olney	Southeast Olney LP
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	We generally come for the hiking and the river, but like the history too! Enjoyed the canal boat ride.	Potomac	C&O Canal National Historical Park
Rarely (1-3 Visits/Year)	Hike the Billy Goat Trail with my kids	Potomac	C&O Canal National Historical Park
Weekly Visits	Great park.	Potomac	Cabin John Regional Park
Weekly Visits	Great park.	Potomac	Cabin John Regional Park
Weekly Visits	Great park.	Potomac	Cabin John Regional Park
Park Accessibility	This is a county park with no access to others besides the adjacent property owners. Provide better access.	Potomac	Kilgour Branch SVP
Park Condition	Needs improvement	Potomac	Potomac Community NP
Daily Visits	Convert that open space into an energized park	Potomac	
Park Accessibility	need more access from the north to this park.	Rockville	Autre-St.Mary's Park
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Sometimes attend performance events or the car show here. The playground is very nice as well.	Rockville	Civic Center Park
Park Accessibility	nice path	Rockville	Rockcrest Park
3	it's ok	Rockville	Rockcrest Park
Monthly Visits	we frequently use Dale park for grilling and running during the summer. if there were picnic tables that would be great, and maybe another grill.	Silver Spring	Dale Drive NP
Daily Visits	Dog PArk excellent!! Visit twice/day. Too bad bags no longer provided.	Silver Spring	Ellsworth UP
Monthly Visits	This is a fantastic park if only we could get there from the Woodside Park neighborhood. Seems so unfair that it is so close and yet we have to walk a bunch of blocks and around to get there. Something should be done with state highway to enable the neighborhood to have proper access . Love the dog park that was added .	Silver Spring	Ellsworth UP
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Dog Park is a wonderful addition and enjoyed by many neighbors. We welcome the addition of affordable housing when the old Silver Spring Library disappears.	Silver Spring	Ellsworth UP
Park Condition	Remove house leased to HHS and expand Ellsworth Urban Park. Fence along Colesville; move tennis court; add active ball oriented activities (1/2 field soccer, basketball, etc).	Silver Spring	Ellsworth UP
5	My daily walks are more enjoyable because of this park. I enjoy the big old trees and the wildlife that ekes out a living there. Sad to lose the Ash trees. This little gem of a park anchors our neighborhood, adding beauty and upliftment, as only a natural area can.	Silver Spring	Fairview UP



APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
Daily Visits	This is a nice park that has a decent sized grass area. This area is great for kid's birthdays, kids to play sports, etc!	Silver Spring	Fairview UP
Daily Visits	We love this park... great location just needs MORE! More swings, more benches, more play equipment ... and picnic tables! Maybe a sand box?	Silver Spring	Fairview UP
Weekly Visits	This is a much needed open space for the neighborhood.	Silver Spring	Fairview UP
Weekly Visits	This is a wonderful green space and is enjoyed for it's undeveloped way. As a neighbor, we help maintain it - pull vines from trees, pick up debris and dead tree-castoffs. Neighborhood children enjoy the equipment as it is. Imaginative play is certainly apparent. Please don't allow any intrusion into it for roads or drives. Any current land should be preserved and maintained.	Silver Spring	Fairview UP
Park Safety	needs lights	Silver Spring	Fairview UP
1	This was a sample comment and not real. Brooke	Silver Spring	Fairview UP
Park Safety	too many trees	Silver Spring	Fairview UP
1	Tennis courts, basket ball courts, soccer fields are frequently used by many groups, including the soccer field by the San Miguel School, all ages, they walk right on over from their school. Art students from Mo College use the picnic tables in the Grove to do drawings of the Park, the trees, the house.	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
5	For Earth Day several years ago, we did have a reenactment about the history of the Park, with S.S. residents playing Violet Blair Janin, President & Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, & his Postmaster General Montgomery Blair who lived at the Mansion for one period during the Civil War. Please see the 3 Park Dept. signs visually & textually describing the significance of this your historic Park!	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
5	I visit here often and see many folks walking dogs, taking a lap, at the tot playground. and playing soccer.	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
5	of Francis Preston Blair, founder of S.S. Father Blair built the house and James wife Mary designed the house. Violet Blair Janin, daughter, bequeathed her land, 14.46 acres, and her mansion as a public park in perpetuity to the people of Maryland. It's a wonderful contemplative place, a chance to catch your breathe after a hectic day, sit at the picnic tables in the Grove of ancient trees, and read or write, or do art work; and a great place to walk and energize.	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
5	Violet's magnanimous gift to all of us does not need any additional facilities built within; it provides a haven, it is akin to New York's Central Park, it also allows for exercise in the tennis, basketball courts, and soccer fields, wonderful walking paths! A swing set for the kids could be easily added to the existing wonderful playground. In	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
	addition to Tours of the Trees and sharing the U.S., State, County and local level history of the Park and Mansion; historic re-enactments !		
Daily Visits	We visit the Park 4-5 times a week; it's a wonderful place to walk; wonderful to sit at the picnic tables in the Grove adjacent to the historic house and read, or have a picnic. Recently, art students with their big drawing pads were enjoying the Grove and drawing for their art class. It's great place to enjoy the trees; would be great to have a tour of the different trees; along with telling the story of the historic mansion, "The Moorings," country estate of James & Mary Blair, James, the son	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
Weekly Visits	I ride thru this park frequently, but rarely see people using the park, even the tennis courts are underutilized	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
New Park Amenities	This is a very large parcel. I would like to see more amenities in this park. Compared to Woodside Park, this park lacks things to do.	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
Park Amenities	Need more amenities in this park. Large lot but not many things to do.	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
New Park Amenities	Need more amenities here. It is a large park but lack amenities.	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
Park Accessibility	Create bike, ped lanes to increase access to JB Park. Prioritize Fenton as biking-walking corridor joining two destinations - DTSS and Fenton Village and Library with Jessup Blair Park. Create other bike, ped lanes from west to east also. Major barriers to this park are rr tracks, Georgia Ave.	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
5	The way to "create bike and ped" access to the park from more parts of the CBD would be to make Fenton Ave. a priority "sustainable mobility" corridor, using the Transport for London "Healthy Streets" framework. Fenton connects to the ped. bridge over the Met Branch, and can be used to access Jessup-Blair Park from the east side of Georgia Avenue.	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
Other Comments	Create publicity campaign around this park, after increasing activities and amenities and accessibilities.	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
Other Comments	Please leave "snags" of trees in Jesup Blair Park for the woodpeckers and other birds, owls, squirrels, wildlife; it's done in other Parks we're familiar with, including Belle Ziegler/Jecque Park on Albany Ave. in nearby Takoma Park.	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
5	Agree! Like it!	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
5	Install Cross Walk with Traffic Light at Jesup Blair Drive & Georgia Ave. to allow pedestrians, adults, kids, those with strollers, baby buggies, those in wheel chairs, ease of crossing into this magnificent Jesup Blair Park and all it has to offer for all!	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
5	Please no smoking in Jesup Blair Park and other County Parks. No new buildings in the Park; green open space is precious and scarce; there is no other swathe of green land, 15 acres, with trees anywhere else in Silver Spring's CBD. J.B. Park was bequeathed with its 1850's mansion as a Public Park in Perpetuity to the people of the State of Maryland in 1932 by its	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
	owner Violet Blair Janin, granddaughter to S.S.'s founder, Francis Preston Blair. J.B. Park is a green oasis.		
Park Amenities	Add dog park to JB Park for growing multifamily communities in South SS.	Silver Spring	Jesup-Blair LP
5	me too	Silver Spring	MRO Building
5	This is a constantly used park for people of many ages, from the basketball court, skateboarders, tennis, tots on children's equipment. Wonderful space.	Silver Spring	MRO Building
Daily Visits	I love this place.	Silver Spring	MRO Building
Park Amenities	we need a smoking area here	Silver Spring	MRO Building
5	+1 for the smoking community	Silver Spring	MRO Building
1	horrible idea! I'm allergic to cigarette smoke	Silver Spring	MRO Building
5	+1 again for smoking	Silver Spring	MRO Building
4	The smoke from people here has never bothered me.	Silver Spring	MRO Building
Daily Visits	This is the largest open space in our area, however it needs help with flooding, playground equipment and its connection to nearby trails (capitol crescent). This area has a ton of potential but seems somewhat undervalued	Silver Spring	Ray's Meadow LP
Monthly Visits	Large playground area and indoor public space are great-However this area also suffers from major problems with flooding	Silver Spring	Rock Creek SVU 1
Monthly Visits	Nicest playground in the immediate area, but we love the walk through the park to get here.	Silver Spring	Rock Creek SVU 2
Daily Visits	This park is really lovely, right near the sligo creek trail, and I walk or run through it almost every day. There are always children or families at the park. The playground equipment for the children is older and worn down compared to other neighborhood parks in the area - it would be great if this could be fixed soon.	Silver Spring	Sligo Creek SVU 2
Park Safety	Add bike lanes on Sligo Creek Parkway.	Silver Spring	Sligo Creek SVU 2
Park Safety	Install three way stop at Worth Ave and Sligo Creek Parkway. This is major access route for students, cyclists, elderly, dog walkers, families, kids on skateboard. They all access park here from Indian Spring and north Seven Oaks neighborhoods.	Silver Spring	Sligo Creek SVU 2
Park Safety	Enforce No Commercial Traffic on Sligo Creek Parkway.	Silver Spring	Sligo Creek SVU 2
5	great idea!	Silver Spring	Sligo Creek SVU 2
4	I enjoy it also	Silver Spring	Sligo Creek SVU 3
Monthly Visits	Bicycle on bike path from Forest Glen Rd to MNCPPC in SS for Bicycle Master Plan CAC Meetings	Silver Spring	Sligo Creek SVU 3
Monthly Visits	Love the trail for biking and walking	Silver Spring	Sligo Creek SVU 3
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	biking through en route to downtown Silver Spring	Silver Spring	Sligo Creek SVU 3

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
Weekly Visits	great park	Silver Spring	Sligo Creek SVU 3
Daily Visits	Nice place for all ages.	Silver Spring	Sligo-Bennington NP
Park Amenities	Will the water fountains every be repaired?	Silver Spring	Sligo-Bennington NP
Weekly Visits	Need Improvement ... a water park/spray-- better area for the little kids, and a more "open welcoming feeling for families and adults for recreation. Also -- NAME should CHANGE! Maybe naming it after Former senator Barbara Mikulski would be a nice way to honor her . Or maybe there are other people who should be honored but that park needs a new name. Way too confusing since it's in the Woodside neighborhood not the Woodside Park neighborhood that is nearby.	Silver Spring	Woodside UP
Park Amenities	would love to see a spray ground here.	Silver Spring	Woodside UP
4	Me too	Silver Spring	Woodside UP
4	Nice playground. I'm not so sure about the spray ground, as the park already has a lot of equipment and amenities in it... It might be too crammed.	Silver Spring	Woodside UP
Daily Visits	Love this little park! This park is used by folks who live close by in the neighborhood as we take our kids and the dogs to the park daily. Please keep our green communal spaces alive as we need it even more as downtown SS is turning into concrete jungle with more and more high rise buildings going up. Save our little bit of green space where folks can gather and enjoy the sunshine!	Silver Spring	
Weekly Visits	There are not enough nearby parks for active recreation nearby	Silver Spring	
Other Comments	Treat this space as "the anchor" of an integrated parks and open space system in the Silver Spring CBD.	Silver Spring	
Park Amenities	Please add a fabulous large art element to the concrete "floor" of the area under the canopy. It should be delightful and fun and be able to withstand the rink ice durng the winter.	Silver Spring	
New Park Locations	Follow North and West Silver Spring Master Plan and add these unused County lots to the Ellsworth Urban Parks.	Silver Spring	
5	Yes! We need to keep public spaces in the public domain. More urban parks for urban people.	Silver Spring	
5	Burket's former S.S. Library can continue to serve the public in its adaptive reuse as it has done since 1957! His Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired "Parkitecture" building can continue to serve in its green and hilly setting!	Silver Spring	
5	Already entered 5 stars. In addition, adaptively reuse the former Silver Spring Library--Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired, S.S.'s only such public building, designed by Rhees Evans Burket, leading D.C. area architect, lauded Mo Co Civic Leader, including President for aS.S. resident. His Mid-Century Modern treasure is his Legacy gift to S.S. & Mo Co; and one of his Principal Works [AIA Directory], in addition to myriad schools, commercial bldgs, homes. "In harmony with nature," integrated into its h	Silver Spring	

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
Park Accessibility	Fenton should be an urban greenway connecting parks & civic assets in a networked and integrated way	Silver Spring	
Park Amenities	Cute little park, but it lacks amenities... Would love to see something that brings back to "spring" idea, since that's where the very name of the town comes from... Perhaps an interactive fountain, so the (many) kids and grown ups in the neighborhood can enjoy it.	Silver Spring	
Daily Visits	The Long Branch Trail segment between Piney Branch Road and Carroll Avenue sees a lot of foot traffic on a daily basis. You really get to see the diversity of the greater Long Branch area when walking this segment.	Takoma Park	Long Branch SVU 1
Park Condition	Trash is constantly littering the creek and creek banks.	Takoma Park	Long Branch SVU 1
Park Safety	There is gang-related graffiti near this marker.	Takoma Park	Long Branch SVU 1
Park Condition	There is trash littering the creek under and around the footbridge.	Takoma Park	Long Branch SVU 1
Park Amenities	Would be nice to have a drinking fountain at this park.	Takoma Park	Long Branch SVU 1
Park Condition	Trash littering the ground every day.	Takoma Park	Long Branch SVU 1
Park Condition	Trash cans at this park are always overflowing with litter. They seem to be rarely, or at least infrequently, serviced.	Takoma Park	Long Branch-Garland NP
Monthly Visits	I visit Opal Daniels Park at least once a month.	Takoma Park	Opal A. Daniels NP
Park Amenities	Will the drinking fountain ever be repaired?	Takoma Park	Sligo Creek North NP
Monthly Visits	thank you for closing sligo creek parkway to auto traffic on weekends!	Takoma Park	Sligo Creek SVU 1
Weekly Visits	Thoroughly enjoy jogging and walking along Sligo Creek Trail.	Takoma Park	Sligo Creek SVU 1
New Park Locations	I would love to see this neglected round-about turned into a recognized community park and gathering spot. It is currently in a sad state of affairs.	Takoma Park	
Park Accessibility	walking paths. Very simple. Everyone can use them, especially the people who live in neighborhoods like ours that don't have sidewalks and have to walk in the street. We live in North Potomac but often drive over to Brookside to walk. Walking paths are simple to add to a park-like setting and they can be used by everyone from mothers pushing strollers to kids to young adults to us oldsters.	Travilah	Traville LP
Monthly Visits	I love Needwood Lake! We hike year round and go paddle boating in the summer	Upper Rock Creek	Rock Creek Regional Park
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	I like the boating options here. I concerned about the regular toxic algae alerts.	Upper Rock Creek	Rock Creek Regional Park
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Nice loop for dog walk.	Upper Rock Creek	Rock Creek Regional Park
Weekly Visits	More often in summer, less often in winter. Boating option is great! Nice walking trails. Looking forward to ICC bike trail connecting to Needwood Park this spring. Olney will finally have safe access to Rock Creek and beyond. Thank you	Upper Rock Creek	Rock Creek Regional Park
Weekly Visits	trail connects Redland to Needwood and then on to Redland Middleschool. Very beautiful and natural.	Upper Rock Creek	Rock Creek Regional Park

APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

Type of Usage or Need	Comment	Planning Area	Park Name
Monthly Visits	Like great Falls but closer! I love this hike and do it regularly.	White Oak	Burnt Mills East SP
Monthly Visits	This is one of my favorite hikes, I do this regularly, especially in the spring, fall and warm winter.	White Oak	Burnt Mills West SP
Park Amenities	Need bike path from Cannon Rd ES to MLK park path so kids can bike to pool and WO library	White Oak	Cannon Road LP
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	I usually walk this trail from the Rachel Carsen site on Colesville, but some times I start at Northwood and go south.	White Oak	Northwest Branch SVU 4
Daily Visits	Walk Dog	White Oak	Northwest Branch SVU 5
Daily Visits	Walk Dog	White Oak	Northwest Branch SVU 5
Occasionally (4-8 Visits/Year)	Walk down NW Branch trail to Burnt Mills and back home	White Oak	Northwest Branch SVU 5
Park Condition	Nicer trail. Upgrade from dirt.	White Oak	Northwest Branch SVU 5
Park Amenities	Need to connect ICC bike path west of Layhill Rd with ICC bike path east of Notley Rd	White Oak	Northwest Branch SVU 5
Monthly Visits	Bicycle on park trail to MLK park on way to WO Library	White Oak	Paint Branch SVU 5
Park Amenities	Need bike path from Cannon Rd ES to MLK park path so kids can bike to pool and WO library	White Oak	Paint Branch SVU 5
Daily Visits	Walk Dog	White Oak	Sherwood Forest Manor NP
Daily Visits	Walk Dog	White Oak	Sherwood Forest NCA
Monthly Visits	Walks with the dog. Very close to home	White Oak	Upper Paint Branch SVP

## 10.6 APPENDIX F- PEAK DEMOCRACY FORUM: COMMUNITY CREATES PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE FUTURE SURVEY

Full detail regarding survey results and open-ended comments can be found under separate cover, in an Excel spreadsheet format.

### PARKS OF THE FUTURE SURVEY RESULTS

#### How would you prefer to participate and provide your feedback about Parks of the Future?

	Response Percent	Response Count
I'd like to fill out the complete survey (approx 10 minutes).	89.7%	297
I'd just like to provide my general comments about Parks of the Future.	10.3%	34

#### How often does your household use parks, recreation facilities, or programs in a year?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Rarely (1 to 3 times a year)	3.0%	9
Occasionally (4 to 8 times a year)	7.7%	23
Regularly (9 or more times a year)	89.3%	266

#### What do you feel are the top three functions provided by Montgomery Parks and the Montgomery County Recreation?

##### Average priorities over 331 responses

1. Preservation of natural resources
2. Fitness and health
3. Preservation of cultural / historic resources
4. Social gathering
5. Sports
6. Events

#### How would you rate the agency's parks, facilities, and services in meeting the community's needs?

##### Parks

	Response Percent	Response Count
1 Poor	1.7%	5
2 Fair	8.4%	25
3 Good	45.5%	135
4 Excellent	36.4%	108
5	7.1%	21

**Recreational facilities**

	Response Percent	Response Count
1 Poor	2.4%	7
2 Fair	14.1%	42
3 Good	47.5%	141
4 Excellent	27.9%	83
5	4.0%	12

**Recreational programs**

	Response Percent	Response Count
1 Poor	1.3%	4
2 Fair	16.2%	48
3 Good	44.4%	132
4 Excellent	24.2%	72
5	7.4%	22

**Are there any segments of the community that need to be better served by Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Recreation? If so, who are they and how can they be better served?**

**Answered 196 / Skipped 135**

- Yes, we need outdoor pickleball courts at Travilah CC. Everywhere there are MC outdoor tennis courts there should be outdoor pickleball courts.
- Seniors / Retirees
- It would be incredibly helpful if the Montgomery County outdoor tennis courts could be lined for Pickleball. There are a few indoor courts but in the summertime they are not available for use. It is quickly growing in popularity and it would be advantageous to have an expanded network of courts within Montgomery County - simply by adding additional lines.
- The segment that needs better service is active senior citizens and, in particular, senior citizens who want to play pickleball.
- As we baby-boomers age, we need to be the top priority over youngsters. Senior Sneakers members are officially supposed to be out of the rec center by 3 PM to make room for kids.
- Yes. There is a growing population of Pickleball Players in Montgomery County, actually, throughout the country. The game is easy to learn and play and is a great form of activity, competition, social connection and just plain fun. While designed for all ages, it has found a following amongst older folks, including seniors. Many of the players were athletic when they were younger and Pickleball provides an outlet for health, fun, and competition that other games can no longer give them. The county can help by building additional Pickelball Courts. It is easy to do- simply putting down lines on all of the County Tennis courts. No additional nets or equipment are required.
- All ages in the community would be better served if pickleball courts were provided by putting pickleball lines on the tennis courts. Two pickleball courts can be put on a single tennis court. The tennis net can be left in place and tennis can be played at any time. Portable pickleball nets can be easily put in place by the players before a game is played and removed after the game is over.
- More outdoor pickleball courts with lights
- One area that requires improvement is access to more pickleball courts, both indoors and outdoors with lights. For working and non-working folks, we need access during the day, in the evenings and on weekends. This access should include the ability to play singles and doubles. Although pickleball can be played on existing tennis courts, it would be ideal to also have areas that



are designated as pickleball-only courts. The opportunities to play pickleball indoors vastly decrease in the summer months when summer camps take over the gyms.

- Reserve time for pickleball players. Nine out of 10 are seniors that if taking up the game by the thousands. Dedicated courts and times for play would better serve the senior community..
- Not sure.
- Pickleball is a new sport for older clients. We need permanent courts just for pickleball. I play tennis 3x a week. but i usually play at cabin john courts. There are many groups of 2 tennis courts that can be changed to pickleball courts, without affecting the tennis players.
- Pickleball is fast growing sport and is under served. Maintaining existing facilities
- More outdoor pickleball courts available for day and evening play having lights. Lots of tennis courts are under used and adding pickleball lines to existing courts will accommodate both types of players. This is a growing sport I believe edging out the tennis players.
- We are pickle ball players and there are very few summertime courts to play. Love the indoor courts during the winter, but these are used for summer camps during the summer which leaves us without facilities. Would like to see some tennis courts also striped for pickleball.
- Dedicated Pickle Ball courts or courts that are configured for both tennis & pickle Ball. The former would be the most expensive: The latter the least.
- Active senior sports leagues and facilities. Convert as a many existing tennis courts to also allow pickleball to be played on them. Some type of organized volleyball senior league.
- I have noticed how popular parks are for picnics, especially near apartment communities. It is important to ensure that such facilities are adequate to meet the local populations' needs.
- I am a regular Pickleball enthusiast and feel it is a sport and fitness opportunity for a large and growing population of those over age 55. Without increased outdoor accommodations for the sport on existing tennis and / or basketball courts, the opportunity to participate in this activity will be extremely limited.
- it would be nice to see more rec classes and opportunities for kids that can't do weekday events.
- Pickleball players. Would like to see even more facilities dedicated to pickleball
- Need more Pickleball courts (indoor and outdoor) to meet the demand for this rapidly growing sport
- more pickleball!
- 55 and older folks that are still working could use more evening gym time for pickleball. The existing tennis courts could also be converted dual use to pickleball/tennis courts. Outside dedicated pickleball courts would be a plus.
- Would like our parkss to include pickle ball courts. There own or painted lines on tennis courts.
- Two populations that I feel need additional attention are the post college working young and those in retirement or close to retirement to make sure that they have plenty of recreational and physical activities. Also I believe the bike trail system needs to be improved with more protected trails. It would be very useful to have a protected trainly between Rockville and Bethesda which would then provide access to Crescent trail in Bethesda
- I appreciate the parks and recreation facilities available to my community. Whatever contributes to keeping residents happy and active is good for everyone.
- More indoor pickleball courts, as well as more pickleball-lined outdoor courts.
- OUT DOOR PICKLEBALL COURTS
- Water safety for all ages.
- I would like to see more dedicated pickle ball courts.
- I've lived and worked in Montgomery County most of my life and have recently retired. I used to play tennis and volleyball but those days are mostly over. I've started playing pickleball recently and find it to be a great competitive game that I can still play

as a senior citizen. I see outdoor tennis courts at many recreation facilities but most are not marked with pickleball lines and certainly no pickleball nets there. It would be great to mark some of these tennis courts with pickleball lines and how about courts totally dedicated to pickleball players?? There's a huge growing segment of seniors who would love to play pickleball if courts and nets were more readily available!!

- Pickleball players of all ages (kids, adults and seniors) would benefit from more outdoor pickleball courts.
- Retired member of the community
- As a senior, I don't get information about what recreational programs are available in the Bethesda-Potomac area. I have to search for them and often can't find them. For example, I live near Clara Barton Community Center and have no idea what programs are offered there. I heard there is a new senior center but don't know where it is.
- Making youth sports accessible by programming in the neighborhoods. Keep it local so participants can walk to and from sites.
- Bicyclists who want SAFE trails both for commuting and pleasure. I know this will seem like it's not the community, but wild animals such as fox, deer, raccoons, squirrels, birds, etc. are being squeezed into less and less space. They enrich our lives and I want to have our parks be sanctuaries for them.
- Upcounty - maintain existing facilities, please.
- Families without outdoor spaces need our parks for recreation, reflection and relaxation. Montgomery County has done a great job of developing smaller community parks, and should continue to do so.
- More at parks for older children. Parks are not just for toddlers
- Due to increased popularity, we need many more pickleball courts and times to play. Current facilities cannot handle the number of people who are showing up. The result is long waits between games.
- More sporting fields; more running/jogging trails; more/modernized playground equipment
- Due to the marked increase in pickleball I would like to see all outdoor tennis courts lined for PB...this is an incredible sport for everyone...also, would be great to have recreation facilities to be open during holidays.
- Those who would like to hike, that is WALK, for physical and mental health, through woods on natural surface trails--without being hit by bicyclists on pedestrian trails. Pedestrian-only trails lack adequate signage. But beyond that, the parks have shifted focus to multi-use trails, which seems to mean paving some natural surface trails and allowing mountain bikes and horses to degrade others. Paving and multi-use work against preservation and also, of course, reduce the trails available for those who just wish to enjoy nature and walking.
- Teens and seniors
- Toddlers and their parents. I moved to Montgomery County with my twins right after they turned two from Cambridge, MA, which has excellent playgrounds for young kids. I was disappointed that the playground options near us were all very poorly designed for that age (great for older kids, though!). Fenced tot lots (bonus if there are no wood chips for kids to try to eat) are fantastic for young families and are entirely absent in Montgomery County, as far as I've found. Why not fence off the little-kid area at a place like Ellsworth Park or Woodside Park so that parents with very young children can let them explore without worrying about them darting off?
- Upper East County/Burtonsville Area could use new/updated parks and programs.
- Rugby -- We do not have a dedicated rugby pitch with regulation size and markings in Montgomery County. We can fill up 4-8 fields with rugby every weekend from kids to adults.
- I'm most concerned with our local park down here in Hillandale & NW Branch trail (yay Parks & Planning for scheduled renovation & improvement). But I've also played a number of sports leagues so I've seen some of the other parks. The challenge is that some are \_great\_, while some are very average to grubby. I'd think the goal would be every house in Urban/suburban areas within some walking distance of a good park and then look for underserved house clusters from there. Same thing goes for the larger centralized rec centers, residents in Urban/Suburban areas should be within maybe a 10 minute drive of one of these. I'm also a consumer of the recreation programs, and I have noticed that our local rec center (White Oak) never seems to have the ones I want (up to now I've mostly been looking at the Tiny Tots and young kids leagues). But that could just be me.

## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

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- Need to keep preserving any open space in areas with increasing density. Very supportive of smart growth and transit access, but need to balance with trying to have green, open space for recreation and relaxation for those without personal green space.
- Aspen Hill needs a park that isn't part of a school. I want a park that my kids can walk to.
- The White Flint area, and other rapidly growing urban centers, currently suffer from a lack of usable parks that are easily walkable.
- Car free households can be better served by increasing and improving the number of off street bike paths and green ways. Downtown silver spring needs more recreation options, particularly an indoor and outdoor pool. I believe there is an indoor pool being planned but it cannot come fast enough. Th nearest county pools are white oak and white flint and they are not easily reached by transit from downtown.
- Park - i was part of FoNP years ago and although my kids are older high school and one in college the park benches that we raised money for need some loving!! some stain and schlack to preserve them for maintenace. We moved and live over in Town of Chevy Chase now and the Elm street park is ok but nothing as grand at Norwood park. Don't know if anything is in the budget to help them or make a better park nearby. Leland Center park is ok too. maintenace i suppose. kids too old to play on playground equipment for the most part now adays. Could use older equipment for adults? Pullup bars -challenges for adults teens and even a few stations for somewhat elderly?
- dog parks to create community
- Equestrian activities
- Need play ground equipment on the Treadway Rd area of Olney Mill. After the pond construction the playground equipment was never replaced. We are underserved on this side of the Olney Mill family park.
- There needs to be more park access available close to Metro Stations where all the growth is occurring. While the hiker/biker trail from Fisher Avenue to Rock Creek Park is a start. There needs to be much more park access points and small parks in the Twinbrook/Parklawn area close to Metro.
- The current rules for "continuous open spaces" in new developments should be revised Concerning the Toll Brothers development on the WMAL lot; they are required to allocate 7.5% of the land (5.24 acres) for continuous space use for recreational use. With the current rules, they are allowed allocate the space next to some trees and next to a noise abating fence (from I270). Other parts of the space wonder down a narrow path, until they hit the 5.24 requirement. They might have followed all the rules on open spaces, but I believe no one would suggest this is suitable for recreational use. The County is losing an opportunity to have a large open space, centrally located, that would be put to great use by our citizens.
- I love the plethora of parks that are near me! I don't know of any parks that are needed in the Takoma Park area but I do recommend placing parks in areas that have high chronic disease prevalence. I also recommend considering access to parks (via public transit, biking and walking) as a factor. NRPA has a great report out about this and the disproportionate access and availability to parks and facilities in low-income communities and communities of color.
- The part of Sligo Creek Parkway in Takoma Park needs raised crosswalks to protect pedestrians, just as is provided in the upper part of Sligo Creek Park.
- People of color and low income. Not so many parks in densely populated areas. Need gathering places and trees and green spaces.
- Urban cores need plazas and green gathering places
- Don't know.
- Aspen Hill, corner of Georgia and Connecticut Aves. There is a large space near Home Depot now occupied by an empty office building. It is an area with a high population density and no recreation facilities or child centered facilities. Would be a perfect place for a recreation center and playground where parents and children can enjoy a respite from shopping in the strip malls in that immediate area.
- Young kids! Downtown Bethesda needs additional park and playground space targeted at kids. The area has a severe shortage of parks and green spaces for children to play, both in absolute terms and compared with similar downtown areas like Silver Spring. Perhaps the County could turn some surface parking lots into parks. Downtown Bethesda also needs a "spray park" or

park with a water feature for kids. During the hot summer months, the only pool in Bethesda has very limited hours and is not very accessible so a spray park would help fill in the gaps.

- Recreation facilities don't open early enough for early-morning workouts
- All Senior citizen programs be opened up at age 55, not age 60 as a Senior Season Citizens Nature Club being lowered to age 55, not 60...also camping opportunities especially at Wheaton, also a triage center for medical issues.
- Downtown Silver Spring is lacking in green space. Should utilize the shuttered Silver Spring Library to add to available green space for this urban environment.
- Bicyclists and walkers. There need to be more paved walkways through the parks. Also, the signage on many of the walkways needs to be made clearer.
- I feel that East County facilities are sometimes overlooked. I have heard the parks are now considering moving the Wheaton Carousel from Wheaton to the western side of the County. This carousel is a longtime staple and icon for our Wheaton Regional Park. Please - leave it where it is!
- Need more parks in Bethesda especially as downtown development plan allows huge buildings and very little real green space
- Mountain bikers, hikers, dog walkers.
- The County has a decent amount of green space, yet Parks offer embarrassing little public education and outreach for teaching habitat conservation, ecosystem stewardship, pollution abatement, and wildlife habitats and challenges. The bulk of any such effort is primarily provided by volunteer organizations associated with individual parks. Could your average citizen easily figure out how to engage a Park naturalist? Does Parks even have a resident staff naturalist? Parks website only encourages reporting downed trees, not engaging staff about invasive species or reporting pollution.
- You need to serve the outlying areas of the county better, it seems like you only care about the rich area of the county such as Cabin John, Bethesda, etc. While the other parks in the county are let waste away. Or you randomly throw up a park area in an absolutely horrible location without thinking about the impact it will have on traffic in an area, and spend millions of dollars on facilities that will only get used for like 4 months of the year .. Such as the new sports park that is being set up by the animal services building. It doesn't even have a dog park and its right beside the animal services center! What a joke! The county could of put in a nice dog park that has running water and they didn't, as far as I know only the dog park in the rich area has running water (Cabin John) and its all wood chips, maintained often. While the other ones are tiny, have sharp rocks that cut the dogs feet, no poo bags, and no water or shade. Shame on you county, there's other poorer counties/cities in the area that have FAR better dog parks than the ones in this county. Again, only care about the rich areas of the county.
- Please improve the Potomac Horse Center. The roof of the New School is leaking. It makes the ground slippery for horses and very dangerous. It is your responsibility to repair it as soon as possible. This problem has been going on for way too long.
- More playgrounds for children and greenspace in downtown bethesda. A water spray park would be greatly appreciated!
- Downtown Bethesda needs more park area (especially with increased population growth); a dog park would be especially useful, particularly with the focus on attracting "Millennials" to live in the new apartment buildings.
- Yes. As a long-time resident of Potomac and a long-time customer of the Potomac Horse Center, I feel the need to update you on a very serious safety issue at the Potomac Horse Center.

The New School Riding Arena roof has been leaking for many years, and it is causing riding accidents to both horses and riders. It is only a matter of time where the leaks in the roof onto the riding arena footing cause a fatality. I question how this issue has been overlooked by the County, but yet on my daily trip to the Horse Center, I pass the Big Pines Park tennis courts on Travilah Road that received an entire renovation. The courts are not that old, and I cannot fathom what kind of safety issues to tennis players warrant a complete renovation of tennis courts while child, adult, and senior riders and horses are falling in mud holes created by the leaking roof of the New School arena of the Horse Center. I am asking that you please take a look at the hazardous conditions the roof leaks are creating.

• cant think if any

• No

• I use the Wheaton Regional park and the sligo creak park in wheaton just about everyday. My greatest concern is litter and loss of trees and wind areas due to development. Wheaton Regional has litter in the woods behind the picnic grounds. Some new benches were put up near pine lake and now that is full of litter. There should be penalties for littering and they should be

enforced. The soccer;baseball and basketball facilities behind the Arcola school are full of litter after practice and games. Yesterday we walked on one of the paths and there was a man relieving himself in broad daylight right next to the path. He did not even attempt of hide it when he saw us I see this about once every two months.

- The elderly and disabled need better access to park grounds and facilities. And more children's facilities are always welcome.
- Down county we have very little green space.
- The eastern part of the county seems to be neglected when compared to other areas. The proposal to move the carousal in Wheaton Regional Park to Clarksburg is just one example. After years of neglect, Wheaton Regional Park was renovated and became a great place for children and families. The carousel and train have attracted children and parents and have been used with enthusiasm. This park also serves many lower income residents who will be unable to access the carousel if it is moved to an area that is far distant from Wheaton. In Bethesda, there are numerous neighborhood parks which is not the case in the Eastern part of the county. Parks were created in Bethesda when streets were closed off to thru traffic. There are large parks but there do not seem to be many small local parks. My children, my grandchildren and I have enjoyed Wheaton Regional Park and ALL of its activities on a weekly basis in the summer, fall, and spring. While I know Clarksburg is a growing area, I am not sure why there is a need to penalize Wheaton Regional Park in order to serve Clarksburg.
- My familiarity with the parks is predominantly with Cabin John Regional Park, Lake Frank, and Brookside Gardens. I believe that dog walkers need to be served better. One suggestion would be to permit well behaved dogs to be off leash during certain posted hours at some parks. This would permit those who do not desire to be around dogs to know when they should use the parks which undoubtedly would be the vast majority of available time as dog owners require just an occasion 2-3 hour window 2 or 3 times each week.
- Pedestrians could be better served. For instance, there are no sidewalks for pedestrians to use Orebaugh Avenue entrance to Wheaton Park. This means that I either must dodge cars when I walk in the street or must walk on homeowners' lawns. Traffic can sometimes be heavy on Orebaugh when games/skating rink sessions are beginning or ending. Traffic especially unnerving when I am walking my dogs.
- Equestrians
- I think you have a range of options available. It's possible you need more programs for seniors, I don't know how well that audience is served.
- Olney. Longwood is a sorry place. Wonderful programs, but the building is a significant problem. The "elevator" often is not working appropriately, and it's pretty scary to be on it. Parking lot is very dark at night. this place needs to be leveled and started over.
- The natural "community."
- The county has a tendency to support open space on the west side of the county and try to turn the east side into a paved parking lot with public private partnership deals; yet there are more people on the east side of the county in need of open green space; the county should support green space for everyone..... not just the affluent
- The naturalists in the community - those interested in trees, wildflowers and natural habitat -need to know that preservation of natural resources is a priority. It seems now that recreation trumps everything else. More invasive plant removal and less intrusion into natural areas would be good.
- Green space in downtown Bethesda has disappeared at an alarming rate. Sold out to commercial development and the purple line. Additional green space is sorely needed. Also, improvements to safe cycling routes are always needed.
- I would like to see more programs for scouts, especially to earn their outdoor type badges. I would like to see more hikes and experiences for people
- We need more dog parks.
- Bethesda near Democracy Blvd/Old Georgetown has nearly no parks to speak of. Stratton woods park is barely passable and difficult to access
- Families with young children
- Down county residents have very little wild open space. We need natural areas, no matter how small, to get some relief from all the congestion and crowding. (Which, if the planning people have their way, will become much more severe. Just open areas -- no need for all the rigamarole of equipment (although some is nice, and good, I'm talking priorities -- if you have money for

land or more "stuff" on land you own, go for land acquisition). So: down county people. We don't have a dog, but I can see how a dog park somewhere would be useful -- those poor dogs on leashes ALL the time are just depressing, even to us non-pet owners. (Reason not to have a dog is the jailer aspect of dog ownership.)

- Yes downtown areas and close in suburbs

- Dog owners need dedicated spaces in which their dogs can run off-leash and socialize together. As much land as we have fenced off for tennis could have been devoted to the dogs and owners. Dog owners outnumber tennis players by an order of magnitude, and use the park rain, snow, or shine.. At Norwood Park the police regularly threaten to ticket people for letting dogs off-leash, while ignoring soccer gangs driving their vehicles over the grounds, which is illegal, destructive, and dangerous. Water fountains would be a welcome feature, as would toilets. Swimming is a very healthful. low-impact exercise suitable for people of all ages, yet there is no public indoor pool within miles of downtown Bethesda.

- Public Transportation accessibility 7 days a week for residents living on OLD COLUMBIA PIKE north of 11501 OLD COLUMBIA PIKE (Dow Jones Building)public transportation is a .60 mile walk. (Dow Jones Building) . Weekend accessibility for residents living north of White Oak Library ( no public transportation on Sunday going north on New Hampshire Avenue) Sunday accessibility stops at White Oak Shopping Center. Implementation of a Community Shuttle Service to and from ( White Oak Community Center, MLK Community Center & White Oak Library) However, the library will be closing sometime this spring for new construction.

- Active seniors

20-30's

Non-native speaking residents

- Teens, especially in the summer when they have outgrown most daycamps but aren't working full time yet. Also, The elderly.

- We desperately need a world class skate park plan. We need more than one park. The Rockville wooden park is outdated. We need permanent concrete parks like the one in Arlington, Manassas, or any concrete park system like they have in California, or Oregon. We should be on par with these progressive states. This is the sport of the future. Kids of all ages will use Skatepark's. I am 48 years olds, and have to drive 30-60 minutes to reach a quality advanced concrete park. We need skateparks in lower Montgomery county.

- n/a

- Glenmont west could use a dog park. The one at Wheaton is a far walk, about 3 miles each way. A long narrow Park like the one in Shirlington Arlington Virginia might be good for the urban park near Glenmont metro. Also nature trails -the one near the Wheaton High School is overgrown, eroded and muddy.

- I think the county is doing a good job in attempting to reach out to all different cultures in planning their programs. We have a wonderful diverse community. However, attempting to integrate the different cultures and languages is very difficult. I have found that people segregate at Rec Centers by their language thereby excluding others. I don't unfortunately have the answer and I'm guessing that maybe the county does not, but I would hope that the county recognizes this problem and directs resources toward this issue.

- We all need options to get to our parks! County should develop trail connections so we don't have to DRIVE in order to WALK. Black Hills regional park is excellent example- I live in Germantown and can walk or bicycle to the park because of paths and low speed roads which are safe for nonmotorized travel.

- hikers

bikers

children

- My husband and I like to walk. If we lived near Brookside, we would go there to walk 4-5 times a week. But, we live in North Potomac and that is too far, so we walk in the street in our development and dodge the cars that drive much too fast through the neighborhood. We also drive up to Kentlands to walk on their sidewalks and paths.

It seems that every time there is a new park that is being planned, the first and foremost goal is to provide more soccer fields. That's good but it doesn't serve everyone. MSI is a very strong lobbyist for soccer fields. Who is the lobby for walking/jogging paths?

The entire population of Montgomery County should be out walking or jogging but most of the county doesn't even have sidewalks.

There is currently a big push to build the LSC Loop around the Shady Grove hospital area, next to 4-6 lane highways...much less than ideal. Breathing exhaust is not my idea of a good walk. Spending a ton of money for a wide sidewalk that is next to large highways and is not accessible to homes and therefore inaccessible to walkers is not a good use of funds. It is just one more check on the checklist for the master plan rather than a well thought out project.

I applaud you for ASKING what we think. I wonder if anything that is said will be HEARD. Montgomery County consistently ASKS the residents what they want but then HEARS only the developers.

- I would like to see more initiatives to bring environmental education to more urban youth. Possibly more collaboration with DC schools to get them out to the parks and nature centers.
- Walkable, neighborhood, open fields for sports and events. Closed fields for licensed dog owners.
- There's a large and growing population of young adults on the autism spectrum. They are underserved.
- Yes, I have found the soccer and baseball fields in most county parks to be in terrible shape with rocks and lots of bare patches. Considering that so many youth athletic organizations use these fields, and it provides reasonably inexpensive access for many children to play sports, it is important to keep these fields in much better condition.
- Nursing Home Residents for outings: need an area where a small bus can be parked with wheelchair accessibility to seating & tables (not too far, as some will be walking)
- Children need less plastic play equipment and more tactile/natural/unique play opportunities. Playground designers should be thinking about how they can incorporate fallen logs for balancing on, tree forts for hiding in, rocks for climbing on and creek restoration for skipping rocks.
- I think there needs to be more interactive parks for kids like splash parks, scooter ramps, and also updated playground equipment. I'd also like to see more restroom facilities near parks and trails that would open for early morning exercisers and throughout the day/ early evening when kids are playing at the playgrounds.
- Veterans, possibly suffering from PTSD, people suffering from depression, people suffering from trauma. These populations need to be made aware of the healing benefits of green space.
- Families with young kids need access to bathrooms, changing tables.
- Please help improve the facilities at Potomac Horse Center - the use this 2-3 time per week for the last 7 years. It needs repair and we love this park. Please help preserve PHC!
- Potomac Horse Center is in need of repairs to county-owned facilities that are utilized every day by county residents. PHC has been trying to work with the County to get a roof on an indoor riding arena for several months. It is important to the facility, lesson program and riders that these repairs are completed in a timely manner.
- Infrastructure improvement and maintenance is necessary in the facilities in and around Wheaton/SilverSpring. While we have some excellent facilities such as Wheaton Regional Park, Brookside Gardens and the Nature center, it serves a huge population not only from local areas but also from other counties. Wear and tear is natural because of that. So these specific facilities, need more TLC than other underserved facilities and communities.
- More for working adults - the parks have been taken over by kids organized sports and retired persons activities. I miss the Women's Weekend around Labor Day and yoga at Brookside after the "reorganization" removed staff who had planned these self-sustaining activities.
- Every neighborhood should have a park within walking distance. This is not the case for far too many families.
- Roscoe r Nix elementary school used to be a park for the community. We no longer have one. Having a park in the community would be great.
- I feel the eastern portion of the county (Silver Spring, Takoma Park, Burtonsville, etc.) have been neglected in favor of Rockville, Potomac, Bethesda/Chevy Chase, and up-county areas such as Gaithersburg and Germantown. We need better facilities, more activities, and better communications from the department.
- Improvements to the Potomac Horse Center facility so it is useable. It is in great need of repair.

- Oakview Community
- Better running trails and tracks; more adult athletic opportunities
- Trails, particularly paved trails, need to be maintained better for access to those with wheelchairs and walkers.
- Balancing use of parks in suburban/urban areas with preservation of the park and wildlife for future use.
- I believe that older people have difficulty in navigating our parks and gardens. Development of close-in (urban) community parks and gardens could help provide more opportunities for people who don't have ready access to transportation.
- Dogs and dog walkers, as well as bicyclists in non-paved trails.

The post-highschool community and post-college community should be better notified of Parks activities, clubs, and sporting events.

• I spend most of my time in Brookside and McCrillis and am uber impressed at the amount of work and effort it requires to maintain the loveliness that is those parks. When I have younger visitors I enjoy taking them to Cabin John, Wheaton and Germantown. I would love to see the pool in Bethesda upgraded (its morose), but I would prefer to have the less affluent parts of our county be attended to first.

- Insufficient park/Rec space downcountry. Especially overburdened for team sports
- Please change the way you plan and renovate playgrounds. The staff in charge is very very angry and hostile to the public, and never responds to emails. It once took the staff years (no exaggeration) to respond to our community's emails about upcoming renovations, and they hit reply to respond, so they obviously were getting our queries! Also, the way you choose to renovate needs more public participation. Although the person in charge says MNCPPC would like each park to look exactly alike and once told us she would like new playground installation to operate "like a sausage factory," I think neighborhood parks would benefit from each having a unique feeling tied to their location, history, etc. It would be great, for example, to have parks note the unique cultural and environmental features around them so kids could associate those places with those resources and the unique heritage of that spot. More ability to interact with nature at playgrounds would be very nice. I also value public gardens VERY much. Please don't remove them. Nature centers are very important to me as well. Their programming provides a lot of value to families and schools but also to people like me that just enjoy hiking every single weekend. I use an MNCPPC park more than 5 times a week, every week, all year long.

- Kids - Many times fields are not reserved, yet still can't be used by kids or others

Surrounding neighborhoods - While the park is intended primarily for all county residents, there should be even more consideration to adjacent neighborhoods who are regulars at the park.

- Flower Hill community
- east of rt. 29 corridor
- I think the established parks could use more gardens for pollinators.
- I feel that preference has been given to wealthier communities with the activating parks initiative. Preference is given to areas of high density in Bethesda and Silver Spring but not so much Wheaton and the areas closer to Prince George's County. If you have ever been to Wheaton Regional Park in the summer, you would see that there is clearly a need for additional space for families to gather together.
- i don't know
- Spanish speaking communities
- Brookside Gardens needs to be fully funded to carry on the legacy of this free green space.
- Don't know.
- While there's a wide distribution of parks in the county, the up-county parks are not very accessible by public transportation. Parks could do better to offer a wider variety of discounts to the low-income sector and make it easier for that community to use those discounts. It's very cumbersome and time consuming.
- Yes, the seniors, the Hispanic communities and the special needs population.



## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

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- Silver Spring 20905 & Wheaton areas. Better facilities/bldgs. Parks with more for older kids & teens ie skate, bike and skateboard areas

- With all the young families and children, there needs to be more alternative parks; like a skateboard park. Please take a look at the modern skateparks that are being built in neighboring communities (ie. Loral, Sykesville, Silver Spring, etc...) here is a company that has help provide/build these parks around here. <https://www.spohnranch.com/>

This is Sykesville park... <https://www.spohnranch.com/sykesville-community-praises-new-skatepark-2016-06-30/>

- I would love to see more programs or events geared towards toddler during the school year since they are often the ones not in school all week.

- Paddlers: You need to do away with the prohibition on paddling on park streams, detailed in Chapter VI, Section 4.A of the county rules and regulations

- There is a lack of playing fields near downtown Bethesda for teens and school sports.

- Our neighborhood park is used for practices by our neighborhood high school because the HS has so little field space. Thus, my kids' sports practices are held at more distant fields and I must always drive them (typically at rush hour). So while it might look like we don't use our park, in fact we'd much rather use our local park than the ones we drive to! For families without cars, it must be either impossible to participate in sports like this, or would take far longer to get to practice and back on buses. Having a park located near a home, and having the entire family be able to use it regularly, are two different things.

- I know you can't dictate participation, but it sure would be nice to see additional programs (baseball, t-ball, wrestling) back in the down county area. With the loss of the Wheaton Boys & Girls Club, Silver Spring Boys & Girls Club there is no "hub" for activity

- low income families - create a sliding scale for programs and access fees to the county swim centers.

Teens are not served well - create after school clubs and programs at the rec centers that appeal to teens.

- 1) Children/Teens- REMOVE unregulated HOT toxic tire waste and plastic surfacing (tires are created for rolling on the road with dozens of toxic substances not OK for child play!) from children's playgrounds and other play areas. 2) Pulling in children and teens whose parents might not be familiar with the parks to enjoy the NATURAL world through fun events featuring the natural world and sports on NATURAL surfaces as much as possible

- I believe that rugby has received an unfair assumption that it is a culture of tearing up fields and abusing facilities including our public fields.

This could not be farther from the truth. We want to help invest in field maintenance, safety and accessibility as much as park management wants to. In truth, rugby does less damage to fields, especially at the youth level than football.

- Low-income families, young children

- need better paths to the baseball fields like Wheaton # 6, often flooded,

grounds crew do a pretty good job for the baseball fields,

would to have a family camp out in the parks one or two times a year,

- Seniors, more programs and faculties they can use. Also, more recognition of that segment of the public who want to experience a natural environment in the parks. This means natural trails, preservation and enhancement of natural habitats, and reduction of activities that disturb wildlife in certain areas of the parks.

- Should have some trails for handicapped.

- The Long Branch Sector, and Long Branch Trail, have historically been under served or ignored. Great improvements have been undertaken in the recent past but I would hate for this to lose momentum. This is a vibrant, diverse community - racially, ethnically, socio-economically - that can greatly benefit from green spaces and social gatherings.

- It would be helpful and enriching if there was a disabled persons park with signs in Braille along trails, wheelchair-height signs, and special markers that helped hearing/sight impaired be able to enjoy time outside in a park. We also have many disabled veterans who could benefit from a park designed with their needs in mind.

- Bocce ball

- With the dearth of parks and facilities, it means that fewer people in the community (regardless of age) have easy walking access. Parks anchor communities and should be seen as vital to their future health.
- All or almost all natural surface trails are now open to bikes. I support the extension of biking, but there should be a few trails that are reserved for hiking only.

If one's goal on a hike is to see wildlife, the passage of a just one or two bikes is enough to make all wildlife disappear.

The vast majority of bike riders are courteous, but those who are not courteous are worse than discourteous. Some are nasty or aggressive. Hikers who have experienced the worst that riders can dish out may never venture out on trails again. Hence the need for a few hiker only trails.

- Can't think of any
- As an East County resident I'm excited about the redevelopment of the Maydale Nature Center, and I'd like to see even more programming offered there for children in the community. It seems like much of the nature center programming at all centers is for children 5+, so it would be great to see more for toddlers and babies. The Black Hills Nature Center "Babes in the Park" program seems great, and I'd like to see something like that on the east side of the county.

I would also like to see continued expansion of bike paths throughout the county.

- don't know
- I would like to see the organic farm in Potomac more protected from the County's apparent fixation on soccer. A couple of years ago, the County planned to destroy the only organic farm in its park system to add two more soccer fields to its portfolio of literally hundreds of soccer fields. You can't take an elementary school class on a field trip to a soccer field to learn about sustainable agriculture. Where we have diversity of function, we should protect it.
- Cannot evaluate
- Brookside Gardens needs more funding for additional staff and general maintenance.
- Please add a dedicated rugby field. There is a HUGE rugby community in the area and there needs to be more resources dedicated to this sport.
- Thematic integration of our Local Park with other tangential M-NCPPC park assets such as biking trails, Black Hills Park & Reservoir, Boyd-Maughlin house, Ganley Road biking/hiking trail.
- Parks and Recreation Departments are separate in Montgomery County so I don't even know how to answer your question above. There are many programs in the Parks that don't get answered by your question. What about the Nature Centers?
- Equestrian activities. Montgomery County has many horses and riders and yet they are not mentioned in the sports and recreation listings. The horse community respects and preserves open space, provides outdoor recreation and is an important part of Montgomery County history.
- There are populations that have limited access despite the density of the population.
- Youth during the day. More lighted facilities (parks and basketball courts) for adults in the evening. If people can be active later at night (when it suits their schedules), they'll be more active later in life when they need to maintain exercise. I've traveled around the world and almost everywhere physical fitness, active sports participation/competition, and general health are greater priorities for non Americans. Montgomery County has more in common with these international communities than elsewhere in America, but we also have fewer resources and dwindling space.
- Individual sport teams struggle to compete against full leagues for field space.
- The Aspen Hill neighborhood is without an easily accessible on foot playground for young children. Although the land marked as "Aspen Hill Park" on Arctic has been there as long as I've been in the neighborhood (39 years) it has never been developed and has become a dumping ground. The land adjacent to Wheaton Woods Pool is for sale, would help that tremendous community resource stay viable, and would provide a wonderful location for a playground. There is no other park playground opener use during the day in the Aspen Hill area.
- All people across ethnic, racial and cultural groups will need quiet places to get away and enjoy the restorative nature of being in a natural environment, free of recreational equipment, noise, Pollution and motorized vehicles of any kind.

- I have lived in Aspen Hill for almost 20 years. There has never been playground that does not require crossing a major road which is dangerous for moms with little ones in tow or older kids on their own. The Wheaton Woods park requires crossing Aspen Hill Road and the new one at Berman requires crossing Arctic. Even with crosswalks this is often a hairy experience. Considering that the Wheaton Woods pool is selling part of its land to raise funds, why not help a community asset to survive by purchasing the land and establishing a playground on the empty lots? I strongly believe that the Parks and Recreation of the Future includes a new playground in Aspen Hill, only one block away from the soon-to-be renovated library. Even better, make it a combination playground and dog park. There is more than enough space on the parcel for sale to accommodate both. What a better location to enable our little ones to exercise their bodies and their minds? The benefits to the community would be tremendous. The love we have for our kids and our dogs is something that spans language and ethnicity. Such a park could bring all the diverse members of our community together in a positive and healthy atmosphere.
- Tener personaje bilingüe que ayude con matricular a alumnos en clases, y personaje en los centros de naturaleza bilingües por favor!
- Ensure that all areas of Montgomery County have parks for their children and families.
- I've lived in Aspen Hill for many years. As a mom of a toddler and infant I can attest that we need a playground near the aspen hill library. There are no playgrounds in this section of the neighborhood. The Wheaton Woods park requires crossing Aspen Hill Road and the new one at Berman requires crossing Arctic. Considering that the Wheaton Woods pool is selling part of its land to raise funds, why not help a community asset to survive by purchasing the land and establishing a playground on the empty lots? I strongly believe that the Parks and Recreation of the Future includes a new playground in Aspen Hill, only one block away from the soon-to-be renovated library. What a better location to enable our little ones to exercise their bodies and their minds?
- Public gardens are very important. They aren't well staffed on the weekend and there are abuses (sports in garden, picnicing, littering, etc).budget and staff for gardens has not increased while visits and programs have. Rec centers, especially small ones like Longwood, also sometimes have senior programs suspended in summer afternoons because of summer camp
- The Coffield Center activities seems to cater mostly to seniors and not enough activities are available for young families and young couples ages 25-40. We need early morning (before 8a.m. fitness classes (yoga, pilates, spin, etc) and weekend youth activities for K-2.
- Lower income residents, disabled and elderly people
- Teenagers and old people
- Yes. People with disabilities need more park access and more active programs, and the staff to support those programs, to enable people in wheelchairs and with other disabilities to engage in creative projects and to enjoy nature and being outdoors.
- Renters and people without cars, and newcomers particularly who work in DC and may not be familiar with all the resources that Montgomery County has available. Large apartment complexes such as the Blairs could do a much better job of promoting Montgomery County programs to residents so they can become more plugged into the surrounding community. Montgomery county should also ensure that new private developments include green spaces that are open to the public. Sonny's Green developed by the Blairs must be required to be open to the public and remain open to the public and not become an elitist gated community.
- Senior citizens. For example, there is a waiting list for the free bone-builders classes. More exercise classes for older residents in more locations.
- More interesting things for teens to do.
- The elderly and infirm are not well-served by Montgomery Parks due largely to lack of walkable/ADA accessibility from street-side into many Parks and broken down Trails within Parks - especially Local and suburban parks which do not have accessible access to parkland from parking lots or adjacent streets and sidewalks. However, Montgomery County Recreation does serve elderly and infirm better within County Recreation Centers, most of which have accessible entrances from parking lots, but NOT on Parkland which entirely lacks or has inadequate ADA accessible walkways and pedestrian assisted movement points of access in many Parks.
- Dog owners- while there have been an increase in the number of Dog parks, most are not very well designed and are far too small.

## What do you believe are the three most important issues / challenges facing Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Recreation in the next five years?

**Answered: 258 / Skipped: 73**

- More outdoor pickleball courts.
- Senior programs Recreational needs of the Baby boomers Upkeep of parks and rec facilities
- Montgomery County needs to provide more programs and facilities for use of senior citizens who are active and want to exercise and improve their health.
- 1) Population growth in the county. 2) Budget cuts. 3) Tendency of people to stay home.
- To meet the needs of a growing and aging population of Pickleball Players in Montgomery County, the county can put down Pickleball line on all county tennis courts thereby enabling this population of folks to play this game. Besides the lines no additional nets or equipment are required.
- Providing services to an active senior citizen community
- Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the US. It is particularly popular with middle-aged and older adults and is the perfect way to prevent some of the complications typically associated with aging. Pickleball could help save Montgomery County huge amounts of money in medical costs. Currently, there are few places in Montgomery County that have the ability to host pickleball tournaments. These tournaments bring in tremendous revenue for hotels and restaurants and could be a tremendous boost to the local economy. Due to the tremendous growth of pickleball, more resources are needed such as encouraging coaches to introduce the game and bring players up to higher levels.
- Eliminate where possible the underused tennis courts. Promoting games and exercise facilities like dedicated pickleball courts specifically for the senior community.
- Increasing volume, planning, funding.
- Provide places to play pickleball outdoors. Promote the sport. Upkeep of the outdoor courts.
- Maintaining existing facilities. Acquiring new parks and building new facilities. Converting existing tennis courts for pickleball use
- Maintaining its park and recreation facilities. It must be hard with budget cuts.
- Maintenance of a healthy ecological environment within parks Provide recreational services
- upkeep of the parks integrate kids summer programs and senior activities for rec center availability. kid friendly bike paths
- Serving the older and active members of Montgomery county--there are a lot of us who want to be active after retirement; budgets; budgets and priorities
- Addition of Pickle Ball courts, as this game is currently being played by seniors, which are a rapidly expanding segment of our society. Of course, there is no reason this game can't expand into today's youth. It is growing, is inexpensive, provides recommended physical exercise & is a great source of social interaction.
- Changing demographics Cost of activities Field and facility maintenance
- 1) Accommodating the needs of the rapidly growing sport of pickleball. 2) Better maintenance of some of the older community centers, especially in regards to lighting and cleanliness.
- I suspect the biggest challenge is meeting community needs and desires while working within the available budget.
- The "re-lining" of existing tennis and basketball courts to allow for Pickleball play throughout the county will undoubtedly allow greater participation of the senior citizen community.
- Having enough facilities for the ever growing population
- Active Seniors Pickleball Pickleball Outside
- Servicing the recreation needs of the working "seniors".

## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

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- Vandalism Safety Maintenance of natural settings
- Maintenance of high quality among current parks and recreation facilities, expansion of and the build of new facilities as new developments come on line greater marketing about the critical importance of these facilities in our communities
- I would like more outdoor pickleball courts. In the summertime the indoor facilities are used for camps and the seniors aren't able to get their regular pickleball exercise.
- Facilities preservation, senior awareness/access, social/community service opportunities (volunteer road/park/watershed clean-up, identification of trash dumping in park areas)
- providing outdoor pickleball courts providing indoor pickleball courts Line tennis courts for pickleball
- Funding for superior recreation facility maintenance and renovation.
- Maintenance of current facilities; acquiring land for new parks; and adjusting to changing needs of the community.
- Providing enough pickleball courts,nets, and playing time for the growing senior population. I have no opinions on other issues!
- Older facilities , high maintenance cost
- Money
- Funding, outreach/communication, outdated facilities
- How do we best serve all the needs of an incredibly diverse community. Gaining involvement of communities whose background does not lend them to working with government agencies.
- 1. conserving green natural trails, tree canopies, streams. 2. dealing with litter, pollution, invasive species, over-use. 3. programs that help connect people of all ages with the outdoors to counter the effects of our technologically obsessed society.
- Population growth, aging adults living longer, youth alone while parents work
- 1) Already the trails are becoming degraded because of budget limitations. Maintenance of existing facilities should be a top priority for safety reasons. 2) Creating programs for a growing senior population is important. The county's senior citizens are more active and engaged than ever! 3) Reaching out to county residents who are not yet fluent in our language--perhaps with programs based in universal languages like music or art.
- Matching your services with what our community needs/wants and updating your facilities.
- Competing needs, i.e., as the population ages, there is a need to meet that growing population, but parks also need to be enjoyed by young families who are major consumers of parks.
- All open space is being purchased by large developers who are building high density housing
- Staying open due to budget constraints Making sure that our population minimizes pollution or damage to our public land and facilities in order to avoid substantial cost for cleanup or repair Concern about community pride and involvement with our public resources
- 1. Aging population - accessibility and relevance 2. Competition with our digital world 3. Reinvestment in parks and centers
- Budget cuts, Continuing population growth needing more park land/facilities but developers wanting the land to develop for housing, increased cost to support the increased need.
- Preservation of green space in south county
- 1) The temptation to snatch parkland for other uses, e.g., schools, housing. 2) Damage to park resources from alien invasive plants and insects. 3) Erosion damage from overdevelopment along parks.
- Sufficient nature space with the growing population
- Available fields --
- Planting Water control/capture Facilities upkeep
- Preserving, maintains and expanding the number of historic and cultural sites. Maintaining recreational sites. Offering recreational services in low-income areas.

- Prioritization of resources is going to be critical.
- Balancing needs of newly arriving or relocating residents with those of current residents who often have different mindsets about their location and needs. Finding suitable open space in more quickly developing areas Having the public funds to purchase that land when other needs might cause higher prices
- accommodating the growing population. Finding land to build new parks. Preserving natural environment near urbanizing areas.
- The new urban spaces popping up in White Flint, Twinbrook, etc. do not have adequate park space to supplement growth. Promised park land, such as the expansion of Wall Park by removing the paved parking surface, have not been provided. Additionally, the County keeps removing park land and ruining what should be an urban escape with parkways (e.g. Montrose Parkway). The future of our parkland as preserved fields and forest is at risk of becoming empty plots of land divided by highways and other disruptive infrastructure that distract from the park experience.
- Upgrading facilities/equipment that are getting old and/or are in disrepair.
- Protecting green space Upkeep of existing facilities
- emerald ash borer.
- Keeping untouched woodland in an increasingly urbanized setting. Keeping areas untouched for wildlife. Stop tendency to "improve" parks with paths, benches, lights.
- Maintenance seems a regular concern. We live near Breewood Park and the northern end of Sligo Creek Parkway, and we are always concerned about widespread poison ivy and poison oak in the summer. We have seen repairs happen at the playground near Sligo creek and university--but the slide etched with graffiti of a large penis has never been fixed in the three years we've lived here. That said, the parks and programs in Montgomery County are so abundant -- we are thrilled to have these resources near to hand and just want to see them maintained as well as the can be.
- 1) Funding to maintain current locations 2) Manpower to maintain trails/paths 3) Funding to build new locations
- Maintaining adequate funding. Planning for growth and increased population density in the county. Working in partnership with local communities
- i have not been keeping up but have heard they might convert some parks from parking lots. assuring funds for good maintenance of parks? BETHESDA CHEVY CHASE HS NEEDS TURF. i played field hockey and lacrosse daughter did as well son is freshman at high school. we need turf so the kids can practice in the drizzle and not cancel and have to reschedule games. turf should be like somerset elementarys - SAND BASED not tire pebble based which is toxic and too hot in the summer. also include good shock absorption for knees. thank you very much. if we need to fundraise i'd be willing to help sell bricks benches whatever. this is schedule for completion by spring 2019 so need to be put in the planning charts now. thanks so much!!
- 1. Maintenance of the parks grounds, infrastructure, and amenities. 2. Demolition of the parks to make room for more housing or roads. Don't even think about doing this! 3. Maintaining the environment around the parks and recreation areas so negative things don't encroach into the parks.
- 1. The continuing urbanization of Montgomery County and corresponding reduction in green space. 2. The continued, growing influx of people into Montgomery County. 3. The high expectations of citizens who simultaneously demand service "for free". That is, management of expectations.
- global warming, encroachment of urban development vs. nature, trash
- Preservation of open space or "wilderness" areas Development encroachment Increasing population
- Funding Security Maintenance
- Beautification Maintenance Replacing existing equipment.
- 1. Keeping natives plants and trees in our parks. 2. Keeping parks clean and safe. 3. Providing access to parks in fast growing and densely populated areas.
- Resiliency and Adaptation, Funding, Downstream Pollution
- Pressure to overdevelop/pave areas of our parks, pressure to have parks used beyond their capacity, pollution from outside the parks damaging the ecosystems. The bike trail in Sligo Creek park is well used, BUT it greatly damaged the park, the

ecosystem, and the stream quality. MNCPPC cut many more trees than was envisioned by the proponents of the trail, thus the cost in reduced environmental values was much higher than expected. Montgomery Parks MUST make these calculations explicit and resist the urge to develop everywhere.

- development without parks included in building plans

climate change invasive species and death of mature trees

- Creating interesting places to encourage walking.
- Maintaining natural areas in the face of increasing population and pollution. Upkeep of sports fields, courts and other facilities. Dealing with older buildings in need of upkeep and repair.
- Creating connections between areas with high density and new development to green space like Rock Creek Park and making th connections walkable and bikeable
- Budget -- I know it takes money, but parks are good for our physical and mental health, so thank you for allocating the resources that you do. Please make sure to enforce the requirement that developers plant trees in the areas they develop -- as soon in the process as possible so the trees can start growing.
- Encroaching development, satisfying/accounting for the needs of children and seniors, access by public transportation.transportation
- keeping sufficient natural areas
- 1.) Provide additional park space for County children, particularly in downtown areas such as Bethesda and preserve existing space. 2.) Maintain and update playground equipment to ensure safety and variety for kids county-wide. 3.) Provide additional water play opportunities for County children, particularly in downtown areas such as Bethesda, for kids in summer months.
- Gaining new land, building new trails, attracting new users
- Baby Boomers retiring from the federal government especially in janitorial and maintenance, programs geared for them
- Lack of priority by the County Executive. Serving a diverse population (age demographic, socio economic demographic). Maintaining existing services while looking to improve services.
- Keeping cost under control.
- 1. Preservation and enhancement of natural areas (especially down county), including measures to control deer and invasive plants. 2. Expand natural areas through acquisition of new lands (esp along narrow riparian woodlands) and conversion of sites not used by people, but still frequently mowed, into areas of meadow management. 3. Effective advocacy within county government for adequate funding of staff positions and direct costs to promote the ecological health of our priceless natural areas.
- Preserving green space from development, increasing costs of maintaining and operating (especially staffed) facilities, and ensuring access to (and utilization by) all county residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, or income.
- Green space is critical. Ensure that bike/walking paths are built into all development projects. Preserve natural space and keep maintained trails and facilities. Proper budget and staffing is critical. Allowing and training a volunteer corp is important to have local communities invested in their local parks.
- Vandalism, personal safety and teen progrms
- Encroachment of developers Budget constraints Impact of the Purple Line on areas such as the Crescent Trail
- Pressure from developers to pave over any potentially green space Overdevelopment of urban areas without enough park area protected insufficient budget to maintain parks optimally
- Availability of funding to purchase new/expand park land, political support, maintenance costs
- development and increasing population density / loss of canopy / how to serve an increased population with less green space
- maintaining current assets, creating new ones and educating the public on proper conduct at various parks.
- Managing invasive plant and animal species. Managing impacts of adjoining lands on park ecosystems. Educating citizens on good stewardship. The County and the Parks are failing miserably in this area.

- budget, maintenance, getting people to use the sports facilities.
- Fix the riding arenas at the Potomac Horse Center. It is dangerous because the roof leaks and the floor is slippery especially the New School.
- 1) Provide more significantly sized park space in downtown Bethesda. Not just tiny pocket parks, but ones large enough for community events. 2) A water park/feature in downtown Bethesda for children during hot months. 3) Dog parks/runs.
- 1) By far the biggest issue is preserving and increasing green space and parks in downtown Bethesda along with the increased development. Without this effort, Bethesda will become too built up, and a less desirable place to live (especially for young families), which, ironically, will be bad for business for the new apartment buildings going up and businesses moving to the area. 2) Existing parks in downtown Bethesda need a face-lift. 3) It would be great to have parks that appeal to a broader group of people -- not just those with kids. I have kids and love playgrounds, but an increased focus on parks as a gathering place for the community would be great. Think: dog park, places for people to eat meals and picnic. Madison Square Park in NYC is a great example. It has it all. Something like that in Bethesda would be and see huge draw for everyone-- residents and businesses alike.
- The new Presidential administration: 1. loss of workers 2. loss of jobs 3. loss of money for road repairs.
- keeping open spaces safety adapting to change
- Safety, and then issues related to funding cuts -- upkeep of parks, maintenance, diversity of programs, etc.
- 1) Preserving the trees and wild spaces - not chopping them down to build facilities and sports fields. Sports fields should be established on property which is already devoid of trees. 2) Litter education programs in schools and people who are new to our neighborhoods / penalties / if you litter you should spend the next month of days off picking up . 3) Preservation of wild life and their habitat in our parks. 3) Preservation of wild life and habitats in our parks. Preservation of wild life in the parks
- 3)
- Don't know
- I believe the biggest challenge is balancing the need for recreational facilities with conservationist missions. Parks do need to provide opportunities for all of the local population, but in our highly urbanized county corridors supporting native wildlife are imperative.
- Keeping Parks maintained Funding Increasing population
- Development and population growth; upkeep and maintenance; making sure that citizens know what is available to them
- 1. Keeping every bit of green space we now have. Maybe adding more. 2. Letting kids/families not drive from down county all the way to the soccerplex for games. 3. Deer eating the natural spaces so that invasive plants take over.
- Maintenance of parks and expansion of park facilities. Montgomery County parks are wonderful. They provide a benefit to everyone, especially those who are not fortunate to live in a house with a yard. There are however, those who abuse the parks and vandalize the facilities. Pilgrim Hills Park is a wonderful resource for the area but it is in need of maintenance. The building is ugly and appears to be in disrepair. There also need to be bathroom facilities available where a lot of children congregate.
- Maintenance sometimes is overdone. For example, the recent addition of tons of blue stone to the trail in Cabin John is a detriment to walkers, campers, pets and especially to bicycle riders. This trail has been there for 50 years without the blue stone. It is difficult to walk on and significantly detracts from the natural appearance of the park. • Funding/budgetary issues, vandalism, unsavory/illegal activities/crime/alcohol use in the parks.
- Funding for capital improvements and maintenance
- 1. Land squeeze! Everywhere green space is getting gobbled up. The parks dept can help! 2. Preserving wild spaces for people to spend time, exercise, be in touch with nature. 3. New ways to help people experience and find out about the parks.
- Budget... too little for what is needed. Facilities need to be maintained & updated, which includes new facilities in growing areas of MoCo. Equipment needs to be maintained and upgraded (especially technology which if present, is often not working) Expanding programming to all areas of the community, regardless of age, ethnicity,
- 1. Environmental preservation in the face of climate change. 2. Lack of funding to repair aging infrastructure like buildings, toilets, etc. 3. Community programming and access.



## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

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- Cost of acquiring new parkland, invasive species, pressure to expand recreation in natural areas.
- the county needs to stop selling off county public lands and resources to developers in order to supplement budget deficits, and to treat all parts of the county with equal fairness - right now it caters to those affluent parts of the county where residents will and can afford to put up a defense, and tries to turn the east part of the county into a parking lot - trading off the silver spring parks and planning for a building in wheaton is just one example
- Preservation of habitat; recruiting and keeping volunteers; keeping up with infrastructure.
- Keeping up with maintenance. Tying park trails into alternative transportation (e.g., biking as commuting to Metro stations). Funding for basic projects.
- Loss of green space. Safer bicycle routes.
- -providing a natural, outdoor experience for an increasingly urban community. -rehabbing the many grass soccer fields that have bare dirt spots on them -cleaning up trash
- Space High rise building Traffic getting to and from park areas
- Overpopulation/overcrowding Access to land for parks Funding
- Allocating resources to serve the whole community well. Increasing aquatic facilities.
- Preserving the open space the public owns, given the pressure of the developers and their deep pockets (where they keep money and elected leaders). Acquiring additional open space, given the pressure of the developers and their deep pockets (where they keep money and elected leaders). Connecting open space for the benefit of nature in general -- not forcing wildness into little separated pockets that can't communicate.
- Urban sprawl, lack of greenspace and water pollution
- NIMBYs - they crave parks but abhor the notion of their property taxes being used to fund them - or anything else. Sanitation will continue to be an issue when there are no lavatories available - I have witnessed mothers letting their children 'go' on the park grounds because no toilets were available. Location is always important but it can be challenging to provide suitable green space where it is most needed.
- effective park and natural resource management with a limited budget
- Lack of oversight, lack of communication , participation & engagement.
- Budget Infrastructure Climate Change
- Having the resources to maintain and improve the parks. Keeping developers from encroaching on park land and natural resources.
- Lack of quality concrete skateparks built by skatepark builders who specialize in the trade. Lack of quality BMX dirt parks. The pump track is not even close to what we should expect in this county. That could be just a small part of a much larger BMX facility. Frisbee Golf, Ultimate Frisbee Golf
- 1. The growing population. 2. Limited resources. 3. Walkability and access to facilities and sites.
- I think transportation to parks and rec centers is an issue for some because many people are no longer driving. Then, identifying the needs of communities neighborhood by neighborhood and looking at new sports and classes and outdoor spaces. And then planning outside the box, such as evening Yoga in an urban park or local park, indoor dog walks/gyms for bad weather. Safe bicycle trails. • #1. Communication #2. Program support to better monitor senior programs. Organizing Seniors is like organizing cats. #3. You can't have enough Parks
- 1. Maintaining quality at parks despite reduced budgets. 2. Ensuring that all citizens have access and are motivated to take advantage of parks. 3. Encroachment of developments and construction.
- Nature protection is paramount in heavily urbanized areas. There is so little left, and it is constantly shrinking and destroyed by so-called development, excessive unnecessary roads, habitat fragmentation, water quality degradation, invasive plants destroying our native biodiversity, noise and trash.
- trail maintenance--low lying areas that flood easily, roots that are trip hazards, bridges that are deteriorating erosion control along rock creek

## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

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- 1. Park preservation/maintenance 2. park expansion 3. park awareness
- The entire population of Montgomery County needs to get outside and move. That would create a much healthier and happier population. A big consideration is that the population is getting older. Many of us don't play soccer anymore but we need pleasant and safe places to walk. Those who use walkers or are confined to wheelchairs should also have safe paths that they could use.
- Ongoing development- Montgomery County becomes more densely built each year. Parks must work hard to protect green space from development and keep the county beautiful. The parks department should not be afraid or hesitant to clash with developers to preserve open spaces. Equitable budgeting - With limited funds and the need to pay good salaries to employees, it can be hard to balance budget priorities. However, it is important to ensure programs and parks that serve the community that continue to be funded while paying all employees a wage that allows them to live a good life here in Montgomery County. Conservation within parks - With heavy use in some parks and environmental changes, the natural resources department may need to expand and work more actively to protect and conserve lands and wildlife.
- old people, or rather, people getting old. People get older and more fearful (of falling, getting lost, getting hurt) and stop using the services and then don't want to pay for or support what they don't use. Language/cultural barriers:. We were in a park for a picnic and my recently arrived French friends didn't understand that they couldn't have wine at the picnic. There recently arrived friends didn't understand about reserving soccer fields. They saw unused fields and didn't understand why they couldn't just use them. There must be hundreds of examples like this, some small issues, some large, that will need addressing.
- changing demographics/greater variety of languages; more limited financial resources, more need for people to get outside/get exercise
- Encroaching and unplanned housing, parking for park-goers,, and trash management.
- 1) budget pressures; 2) development pressures; 3) public apathy
- Funding as preservation of the parks.
- 1) Preserving green space and natural resources 2) preserving historical sites 3) providing safe space for families to be outdoors
- Inundation by certain species...especially the geese, and deer. The geese can make the parks unpleasant when they take over.
- It would be nice if there were recycle bins available. Activities for all age groups Encourage visitors to clean up after themselves.
- Montgomery Parks holds real power to shift the public's perception of community and the environment. The way in which our children interact with the outdoors, their neighbors and their own fitness, will shape decisions they make in the future. In my opinion, the greatest challenge facing Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Rec is how to incorporate more spontaneous, hands-on, outdoor learning opportunities that help foster knowledgeable, caring, healthy citizens.
- 1. Maintenance of playgrounds, park grounds and recreation facilities 2. Updated and safe playground equipment & environment 3. Need for more community recreation centers that takes the burden/ wear and tear off our school facilities
- Money to maintain facilities; crowding; combination of preservation and recreation
- Infrastructure failure: current funding levels for CIP and operating budget do not adequately address aging infrastructure; every year facilities become more and more decrepit Lack of staff: footprint of Parks grows every year, but number of staff and operating budget has not increased to match physical growth Perception of Parks as a nicety, not a necessity: Parks are chronically underfunded (operating and CIP budgets) by county decision-makers. How to turn that around?
- Funding, climate change, other environmental challenges (e.g., invasive plants, pollution, etc.)
- Funding funding funding
- Maintaining and improving existing facilities. Providing recreational facilities for residents who have no outdoor space at home. Developing neighborhood parks.
- Adding more green spaces as the community grows and becomes more dense, making parks a part of walkable urban areas.
- Please help improve the facilities at Potomac Horse Center - the use this 2-3 time per week for the last 7 years. It needs repair and we love this park. Please help preserve PHC!

## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

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- Maintaining the parks at a premium level is vital. Crumbling walkways and overgrown areas should be taken care of. Excellent classes should always be offered to keep the community educated in parks related study. Safety and security.
- Continuing to repair and maintain existing facilities that are utilized heavily by current residents. Maintaining green space as population density increases. Being able to maintain these priorities while staying within a shrinking budget.
- Environmental Stewardship Funding Inherent interest of the communities to help and nurture the parks
- Budget; infrastructure decline; climate change.
- Integrating parks better into the 'urban' type development. The spaces like Pike and Rose, proposed White Flint, and Bethesda could benefit from more integrated park space (playgrounds, performance space, and gathering space/plazas) - this would make the more densely developed areas more family friendly and serve a more diverse population.
- Maintain fields. Hours open, and security.
- Preservation and maintenance of park land. Support of trail users in park land, signage, trash receptacles, parking, clean up. Preservation of waterways, water quality, wildlife habitat.
- 1. Funding - especially with the current executive and legislative branches of the national government. 2. Diversity of programming to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population. 3. Improving communications with county residents.
- Maintenance of Potomac Horse Center to keep it safe and useable for regular patrons as well as those in the therapeutic riding program.
- Money, Space & Cleanliness
- upkeep of facilities; better parking
- 1. Keeping parks well maintained without additional user fees. Some fields should be open and available for public use. Seeing fenced fields unused to preserve the play surface, while large groups huddle-up on a few open fields is not a good thing. 2. Teaching stewardship to young users and encourage all to respect parks and public places. 3. Equity in park services across the entire county.
- The current political climate is unfavorable toward the environment. Also, county funds may be required to replace federal funds for education and healthcare, so recreation may suffer. Parks infrastructure, as already mentioned, desperately needs maintenance. Provide programs and support to bring together varied resident cultures.
- Trash in the parks due to human use, and runoff pollution. Budget pressures for maintenance/cleanup.
- Adequate financial resources to maintain and improve the parks
- Space and funding, because of pressure from charming developers with influence over elected officials to minimize contribution of open-space & parks. For example, to call the "courtyard" behind Old Pancake House (7700 Wisconsin Ave) an "open space" is just silly. Go sit in there to have a picnic lunch. Yes it's nicer than pavement hemmed in closer by buildings but I bet it qualified builder for some kind of density bonus or other benefit. If I'm wrong I do apologize but my sentiment stands: we're (generally) not getting enough open space/green space from developers and of course once it's covered over it's gone for good.
- Renovation of current community parks and gardens Making sure that gardens and parks are accessible to all users Providing safe places for all people to experience nature by developing new parks, gardens and trails.
- Pollution control (fines for littering, cleanups) & Carbon sequestration (more trees) Meeting recreational and outdoor needs of a growing Montgomery County Population Preserving forests and watersheds
- Maintenance. Parks that begin to disintegrate in upkeep are often invitations for further issues. Adequate horticultural staff/foresters/arborists to both advise the various parks but to also be available to offer important information to the public.
- See above Green space in urban areas Adding another skating rink
- Climate change, invasive species, deer management.
- - Preserving Open Spaces -Maintaining aging facilities -Determining specific needs for future parks and recreation facilities and providing them in an effective and cost efficient manner.
- Deer control Transportation issues

## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

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- Increasing density in the community may deprive it of necessary green space and lead to overcrowding of existing parks and facilities.
- dogs, crime, lack of care
- funding, maintenance, ability to make needed improvements
- Dwindling green spaces for people to access. Safety in the spaces for people to gather. Transportation to access green spaces.
- sufficient funding levels keeping parks safe programming to keep people coming to the parks
- 1. Lack of funding: we continue to add parks but don't add additional funds to staff them. Brookside Gardens has had the same staffing levels as they did in the 1980s, although they have added new features and grown the displays. 2. Keeping up with the changing population: We don't do a very good job serving the Asian and Latino populations. 3. Outdated infrastructure: Basketball courts, nature centers, bike paths, play grounds and ball fields are aging and could use replacements.
- Funding. • I would imagine budget is first. After that would be maintaining of the fields and buildings for public use. More fields • Aging infrastructure
- 1) Development/Growing Communities- Even the once rural areas of Montgomery County are seeing dramatic growth. For example, the Clarksburg Outlets development built outside of Black Hill Regional Park. Parks are more important than ever. 2) Cleanliness/Up-keep- With the growing population there is more foot traffic in the parks. There will be a bigger challenge to keep the park as clean. 3) Environmental Education: It is important to teach the growing population to respect their local environment before it is lost forever.
- Maintaining Brookside Gardens; funding Brookside Gardens to make sure the staffing is adequate to meet the challenges of an aging facility; provide more green space/parks in the downtown Silver Spring area.
- Aging infrastructure Maintenance Staffing
- Updating/modernizing facilities, especially nature centers. The buildings are older or have been repurposed over the years and need updating to accommodate visitors and modernizing the visitor experience where possible.
- Expanding Legacy Open Space holdings, maintaining the ecological integrity of our parks and natural resources, and accommodating the competing demands of special interest groups (e.g. the horse owners, the bikers, the lacrosse players...)
- maintaining current facilities making parks usable for residents of all ages continuing to offer classes/events that are affordable
- 1. getting over all the bureaucracy to actually get the work done... 2. getting people to understand skateparks are very beautiful art works and can be seen as a beautiful landmark for a community 3. skateparks open a child's mind to endless possibilities; skateboarding helps a child develop perseverance, friendship, skills, and a great attitude... it does not detract a neighborhood. please reach out to laural community center or sykesville skatepark...
- I am concerned about national budget and political trends that will reduce funding for environmental protection and for the creation of community and conservation spaces such as Parks. Sustainability is extremely important, and I feel that over-development in our county threatens our environment and ability to enjoy our natural spaces.
- 1. Funding/political action defunding parks 2. Environment/Sustainability 3. Preservation of natural areas and areas of historic significance
- 1. Funding for staffing, etc. to maintain and update these beautiful spaces 2. Funding 3. Funding
- Invasive species, including and in particular, whitetail deer. Control of speeding and red light running at roads crossing our parks. • With the development in the downtown Bethesda area there will be many more people who will need parks for active recreation, dog walking and leisure. • 1. Paying for routine maintenance: the substantial requirements are typically unappreciated by residents, and possibly by legislators as well. 2. Fending off the county using our parks to accommodate overcrowded schools. 3. Fending off the pressure to monetize everything: a park is a benefit to the community, even if it doesn't generate revenue!
- Upkeep expense Overcrowding Lack of exposure
- Maintaining the funding necessary to maintain and staff recreation facilities Increase funds for programs that serve low income communities Continue to maintain parks and natural spaces.

- 1) Getting rid of toxic materials from play and athletic areas- toxic tire rubber-derived surfacing in particular. USE NATURAL MATERIALS with state of the art methods for installation and maintenance especially for playgrounds and sports fields. 2) Programming to get children and teens off their electronic devices and into the natural world. USE those electronic devices to Help them learn MORE about the natural world- games to see who can identify the most plants, birds , insects etc using apps and web sites they find themselves? then showing them the best? 3) Eradicating invasive plants and insects and promoting native habits both inside and through classes and outreach- outside the park. Promote fun ways to inform and Make people stewards.
  - wasting current funds on synthetic turf fields that cost four times as much as real grass fields for similar performance and maintenance costs and committing Parks to unnecessary future expenses for replacing those synthetic fields when grass fields do not need to be disposed and replaced. ii's a Ponzi scheme and you are the suckers with our tax money that could be used to expand recreation programs.
  - Navigating through the permit process and properly setting up fields, not difficult but these measures ensure safety and civility during events.
  - Growing population, seniors,
  - Not enough money for programming, especially for nature centers. development that puts natural resources in jeopardy. competition among athletic fields.
  - money x 3
  - Maintenance of park property, which includes both structures, activity areas (e.g.sports fields) and also natural areas. Next would be continued acquisition of future park property in areas of ten county now experiencing increased development. Obviously central to both of these is maintaining sufficient funding to meet these goals. Private/ public partnerships with NGOs, businesses and educational institutions should be investigated.
  - Over use of limited facilities.
- Insufficient funding for maintenance.
- 1 Keeping the parks free of debris and trash. 2 patrolling the parks for those drinking alcohol after dark...those who vandalize and leave trash 3 keeping rhe parks open and safe, free of brush that hides mischief, crime and trash.
  - Failure to target improvements in parks near high-density, socio-economically diverse neighborhoods; Neglect (graffiti tagging, litter/trash, etc.); and Crime (lack of Park Police presence).
  - Collecting trash. Maintaining playground equipment. More regular police attention from parks where there are reports of crime.
  - Walkability to parks Up keep of parks
  - We absolutely need more parks in the downcountry area where I live. Persuading developers of the importance of more parks to increase the value of surrounding housing is critical. Finding new sources of funds for the purchase of open space is also very important. Another very important variable is to expand funds for the maintenance and operations in existing parks. I am at Norwood Park daily and I see the lack of attention given to maintaining the existing trees, shrubs and facilities that make up the park.
  - 1. Over development, removing natural areas 2. Too many trees planted at the expense of open meadows or wetlands 3. Development of amenities for people that interfere with the use of land by non-human species
  - Funding to acquire more forests and lands that are still in their natural state. Development is happening too fast in our county and I'd like to see more natural areas under county park protection, for the benefit of residents, our ecosystems, and wildlife. I'm also concerned about all the invasive plant species I see in our parks, particularly in Rock Creek Park near where I live. Lastly, I am against the hunting and killing of native wildlife on park property.
  - The parks environment is suffering greatly from invasive species. In some areas, there are no native wildflowers or understory trees and shrubs. I believe that this needs to be addressed immediately in a more meaningful way than the weed warrior program - which is great, but limited. The creeks in the parks are also suffering from erosion and poor water quality. This also needs to be addressed immediately while there is something to save. Illegal trails built by mountain bikers are compacting the soil and causing lots of damage. This is going to create even more habitat lose in the next years.
  - space to accommodate growing population.

- 1) Preservation of natural areas 2) Control of non-native invasive species
  - 3) Lack of adequate funding by the County Council to accomplish 1) and 2)
    - 1. Personnel availability 2. Budgeting 3. Access to resources
    - 1) Providing affordable programming to serve a diverse county 2) Improving/maintaining current park infrastructure 3) Making sure that all areas of the county receive equal opportunity for parks and rec services
    - overuse of trails and their deterioration and maintenance budget cut backs to park staff to handle programs and maintain park facilities • Preserving green spaces is the highest priority. The booms in development have, overall, been done well, with their focus on smart growth, but we need to make sure that they never come at the expense of the green spaces that are so important to our already problematic air quality. Climate change is the second most important challenge, as we work to protect our wild spaces from species loss, non-native invasives, and severe weather damage. We should also resist pressure to change the use of park space from more biologically diverse and sustainable uses to ones more biologically monocultural and resource-intensive. We have enough athletic fields. We do not have enough forested areas. There should be a hard cap on any more athletic fields, unless they are coming from land that was previously less green -- demolish a building and plant grass if you want one more blasted soccer field, but nobody anywhere should be cutting down a tree or reducing the count of species present for the sake of a playing field. To do so is environmental madness.
    - Not enough money for adequate staff Not enough staff for adequate maintenance Not enough awareness among residents of opportunities to use parks
    - Handling the growing population.
    - Budget to sustain the parks and out buildings and the personnel!
    - It is important to make funding the approved Brookside Gardens Master Plan a priority. Phase 7: Maintenance Yard renovations & improvements. Phase 9,10,13: New conservatory, visitors center enlargement and renovation and Tent Terrace.
    - Funding for capital needs; provision of more park land for more densely populated areas of the county; provision of recreational alternatives to meet the needs of a growing cultural diversity.
    - With today's federal executive branch I believe that funding is going to be the biggest problem. We have increasing population and aging of the county's residents. People need to be out in nature in order to become interested in protecting it.
    - Funding. Outreach. Maintenance.
    - 1.)Wherever there are high density populations planned, there should be parks and recreation within walking distance for kids but also for adult walking and just quietly sitting. 2.)There need to be many, many more green places despite the growth in housing. 3.)Parks and recreation need to fill the gaps with multigenerational families that must work.
    - Balancing the need for development while still preserving green space for kids and adults to enjoy the outdoors.
- Making use of land close to beltway or waterways that is not suitable/zoned for building but would make an excellent sports field. Growing the number of bike paths so we can rely less on cars.
- Meeting demand for field space. It continues to grow and larger organizations seem to crowd out smaller ones. Maintenance - with more usage, fields require more maintenance. Parking - many fields have limited parking which creates issues.
  - 1 - Adequate staffing levels 2 - Maintenance of current parks and facilities 3 - Acquisition of additional land for current and new parks
  - Preservation and maintenance of the natural environment. Maintaining comparable programs in all parts of the county. Expanding educational outreach through the nature centers by hiring more staff and keeping them open for more days and longer hours.
  - 1. Deer, deer and deer. We must have a comprehensive plan to reduce these populations. 2. Forest resiliency in the face of climate change. 3. Invasive plants. • Providing opportunities and venues for ALL of our residents to meet and get to know each other, fostering trust, friendship and understanding. Maintaining wild and green spaces among all the development. Educating people about the critical importance outside time is to child development and adult health. • Mantener la condición de playgrounds, promover mas actividades educativas bilingües y baratos, y agregar baños en sitios recreativos.
  - Maintaining a suitable balance between population and facilities. Maintaining quality facilities and activities. Keep expenses down.

- Natural areas destroyed by non-native invasives, budget cuts affecting staff, services, Sport facilities i.e., fields, overused
- Having useable spaces that can be reserved for celebrations, birthday parties etc. Right now key locations fill up months in advance.
- Adequate budget to maintain parks and buildings Aging of buildings and paths Environmental damage-deer, invasive plants, destructive insects like the emerald ash borer
- No idea. Probably money, isn't hat everyone's issue? And maintainence.
- urban sprawl, vandalism, maintenance costs
- 1) Serving an aging population by enabling access to natural areas at local parks. 2) Serving the highly-diverse immigrant community; connect with diverse cultures while inviting people of all backgrounds to engage with Montgomery's natural and cultural heritage. 3) Protecting, restoring, and increasing the wooded areas at Local and Regional Parks.
- Getting kids and communities to connect with the parks ! As we are increasingly disconnected from nature and kids are constantly plugged into technology instead of being outside we are seeing growing health issues including mental health issues. How to get all incomes and backgrounds including immigrants to get out to the parks !
- Historic preservation, preservation of natural resources (including litter, invasive plants, water quality, withstanding sprawl, etc.), recreational & commuter bike access
- Invasive plants, non-native vines, non-native trees, ecological imbalance, destruction of natives by deer.
- Not enough parks, many parks are around busy streets and also a lot of trash at current parks
- Expanding the size of parks in denser, more urban areas of the county.
- Keeping the quality high, marketing to the diverse community, and ensuring access.
- Montgomery County is flush. What if it wasn't. Say a shift in economic activity away from DC. Spending on parks is often one of the first cuts. Are MoCo parks robust to such a shock?
- As traffic and commute is becoming more and more of a problem, the trails in the MoCo parks are increasingly important to support bicycle commuters. The county should focus on ensuring that the trails in the parks will form part of a comprehensive and rational network of bike trails that will allow bicycle to become a true alternative to other forms of transport in the region. This requires the support of so-called "pedelecs" (bicycles that receive gentle electric support for pedaling). Pedelecs are the great opportunity to expand the group of bike users beyond those who bike only for very short distances, or who do so mainly with fitness and health on their mind. Nothing wrong with that, but bicycle transport is about much more than health and fitness! What about the elderly who would enjoy moderate exercise but do not feel like biking up a steep hill? What about those who don't bike because going up the hill " takes too much time"? Pedelecs have the potential to be a game changer--they have been already in other regions of the world (Europe, China), and the U.S. is lagging behind in exploiting their potential. Changing this requires public support for bikeway infrastructure and the elimination of outdated restrictions on the use of bicycles that receive electric pedaling support.
- 1. How to cope with and provide access and walkable pathways (trails) into and around Parks due to non-compliance with ADA guidelines and lack of maintenance and repair to existing Park trails. 2. How to offer sports activities to all age-groups outdoors in Parks - as most sports are aimed at/used by young adults and children only. 3. How to preserve the 'green-space' within existing suburban Parks in the face of excessive County Government redevelopments going up around/in Parks.
- Continuing to keep county parks safe as the population increases.
- Finishing purple line bike trail and during construction, providing bikers a safe no-stress protected bike route from Silver Spring to Bethesda. This is urgent
- Amenities for all users; balancing needs of different groups

### Why did you choose these top three functions?

- Because there are very few outdoor pickleball courts and many players.
- Important for growth of population using the facilities

## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

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- The active senior citizen population seems to be increasing in the County and this segment of the population is searching ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Providing facilities will encourage senior citizens to continue to reside in or relocate to Montgomery County, thereby helping the County to attract revenue, and help senior citizens to maintain good health, thereby reducing health care burden on the County.
- Overcrowding at centers, encroachment on parks. The current administration will cut anything that is not profitable. Hard to compete with the Internet, etc.
- The game of Pickleball enables all ages to play a fun game that gets people moving. As our county ages and many of our friends and neighbors cannot play the games they used to, Pickleball gives them an outlet to keep active and in shape. It also allows all ages to play together so grandparents can play outdoor games with their children and grandchildren as Pickleball players can easily play into their late 80s and beyond. It is an easy upgrade to our tennis courts and parks- Yes. There is a growing population of Pickleball Players in Montgomery County, actually, throughout the country. The game is easy to learn and play and is a great form of activity, competition, social connection and just plain fun. While designed for all ages, it has found a following amongst older folks, including seniors. Many of the players were athletic when they were younger and Pickleball provides an outlet for health, fun, and competition that other games can no longer give them. The county can help by building additional Pickelball Courts. It is easy to do- simply putting down lines on all of the County Tennis courts. No additional nets or equipment are required.
- Parks and Recreation services and facilities provide an enhanced lifestyle
- There is no doubt that pickleball is here to stay. Montgomery County is behind other nearby States in it's ability to offer quality playing locations and resources.
- Because I there needs to be changes to change the landscape to correct the Recreation department's lack of focus on a growing demographic.
- Sports like pickleball are becoming more popular, also the population increasing, planning is important to share resources fairly among different sports and age groups. Ensuring funds are available for maintenance, repair and staffing.
- The retired population needs this kind of activity , it is very easy to learn and beneficial for evryone.
- First two are general but sand and net replenishment/replacement are needed at some locations.

The many existing tennis courts are under utilized as use could significantly be increased by adding lines for pickleball. A lot of bang for few bucks.

1. I believe preserving the historic areas is important because the people of the future should know where their county came from.
  2. Natural resources do not replenish themselves easily.
  3. And I love sports!
- I frequent parks with grandchildren throughout the year. some senior programs are suspended for the summer months. safe bike riding with kids is a frequent activity.
  - because they are true challenges
  - They impact what activities are offered, quality of programs.
  - 1) The popularity of pickleball is exploding. At many MoCo rec centers offering three PB nets (which accommodate 12 players), the waits are frequently too long between games, due to 20 or more players showing up to play. If rec centers are limited to providing only three nets by the size of their gyms, then they should offer more dates/times when pickleball can be played. 2) I have fallen playing pickleball in two rec centers (Germantown and Potomac) due to sticky spots on the floors, luckily escaping broken bones or serious injury. I am not the only player to have fallen, especially at Potomac. The rec centers MUST clean the gym floors daily, with special attention to wiping up sweat or spilled drinks. The floors should also be swept frequently, because the broken badminton feathers and small pieces paper that are frequently on the gym floors also present a falling hazard. Finally, there are some gyms I cannot play in because they are too dark (e.g. Bauer Rec Center) or because in daytime glare is a problem. The county should replace burnt-out lightbulbs more often than once of year and install brighter ones overall .
  - When the summer months arrive, the current indoor locations for Pickleball play will be occupied by camps and other summer programs that will extremely limit locations that offer a lined Pickleball venue.
  - Because I am an active Senior who wants to play Pickleball, hike, walk etc. Year round. Indoors and out.
  - These are the reasons that I use the parks.



## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

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- Feel that the amount of natural areas is one of the primary factors necessary for any community and then making them available to the most number of people becomes critical.
  - They matter to me.
  - These are my needs and pickleball is the fastest growing sport for seniors..
  - Rec facilities and equipment, especially pools and community centers can easily become shabby and unattractive deterring usage when maintenance funds are cut and replacement funds deferred. These efforts must stay ahead of need and not continually fall behind. These substantial capital investments require a strong commitment to regular, high quality maintenance.
  - As the population increases, more people, I hope, will want to use the County parks and recreation facilities.
  - I've played competitive ball sports all my life, mostly in Montgomery county. It would be great to know that as a senior citizen, there would be enough emphasis on pickleball and playing facilities to allow us old folks to continue remaining active in a sport that we love to play!!
  - I use the centers weekly for health and fitness
  - Should be obvious - facilities are outdated so funding is needed; scant information about programs
  - Actually I believe that all of the above functions are equally important and valuable to the community. I chose the ones I have used the most.
  - I am in the recreation industry and can see how valuable enjoyment of, connection to, and responsibility for our environment is to the community. I grew up in Rockville and was shaped by my experience as a child exploring nature on my own, and then through summer camp and girls Scouts.
  - These are issues today that will continue trending in the next 5 years
  - They are personal.
  - Did I misread the instruction? It says to "pick your top priority" (singular) so I only chose one.
  - They are most important for health and recreation for families
  - I live on a lovely piece of property adjacent to one of our lakes and I see much pollution. I partake in sports activities at our gyms where trash is littered on the gym floors A sense of pride often lacks. With budget cuts, recreational services are often the first hit.
  - They are in line with what I see as my top three functions and budget cuts affecting everything about the facilities and it all stems from there.
  - Our parks are our lungs. Our land and our linked cultural heritage gives us a sense of place and continuity. The health of our citizens, as well as the web of life we share, is enhanced by having natural areas to retreat to.
  - I am concerned about the environment and preservation.
  - I mostly use the parks for family recreation with my young kids.
  - Actually just one -- because it seems that scheduling keeps getting tighter and tighter with the number of people (and teams) increasing everyday.
  - All facilities exist on land that must be maintained. I feel that it is vitally important that the parks department focuses on is keeping the land and water around it healthy. This should include native plantings, modeling good land stewardship, and wise water practices (water use and prevention of water pollution and erosion).
  - Trained docents enhance and educate visitors to historic sites. That requires resources.
- Increased resources are also needed to maintain sites and expand services.
- Parks are inherently a public infrastructure and neighborhood gathering place. It is their unique niche.
  - Do not see any let-up on this dual views of our county - as a suburban community of homes with lawns and large recreational parks and a more urban lifestyle communities with need for green space.

- Growth seems to be the most critical challenge to the county. It will occur, and we should embrace it, but we need smart planning.
  - Parks should be a refuge from a rapidly urbanizing county. These parks should try to mirror what Rock Creek Park and Archibald-Glover Park provide for residents of DC. These parks connect to urban centers and provide recreational dirt paths and social gathering places that make you feel like you are no longer in the city. They also all connect, providing a means for recreation where roads do not constantly need to be crossed and paths are not on the sides of roads. Roadside multi-use paths are great for commuting by bike, but are not great for recreation because people have to be next to traffic.
  - Parks and recreation should serve the public good and make natural resources accessible to all, regardless of income, age, ability, etc. They should also make recreational activities, e.g., trails, sports facilities, etc. accessible to all as well, since not everyone has the income or ability to access these activities privately. Parks and recreation also provide ways for people in our county to connect and create a sense of community, which is extremely important.
  - Growing population, increased urbanization, limited funds
  - We like to have a wide variety of parks to choose from.
  - Because we need some non-urbanized settings.
  - Living in such a busy urban/suburban area, preserving beautiful places for residents to enjoy is a really important piece of quality of life. Access to Sligo Creek trails brings out family so much joy and pleasure. Enjoying the Creek and playgrounds is something we do about every week. I love seeing our neighbors out and about as well.
  - Support for natural spaces open to the community will become an issue under the Trump administration's policy framework. Our local community needs to step up and ensure we can replace any imperiled funding.
  - Concern that county/State budget priorities could affect the MoCo parks system. Want to make sure that Parks and Green space are adequately accounted for in the county master plan. Want to make sure that MoCo Parks remains in communication with local neighborhood associations which are vital partners to maintaining and improving parks.
  - when we had newborns and young children we used park daily sometimes more than once a day to meet and greet and get outside for playtime. it was the center of the community for the kids. they'd bike over for soccer practice elementary and middle school. critical piece to a healthy community is a GREAT PARK!
  - Montgomery County has been growing in leaps and bounds. New communities are being built all the time.... so it's important to remember parks and recreation areas need to be included in this growth and also plans must include continued maintenance of the parks we already have so we can accommodate everyone. It's important to note -- parks should not feel crowded.
  - Because I believe they're the three most important...
  - parks should represent green, pristine spaces, a place to escape from technology and such
  - They relate directly to the equestrian activities that are under served.
  - For citizens with limited spaces in their homes/apartments, parks are the only option for many to take part in fitness, sports and learn to appreciate nature and ecology as well as celebrate important family or other social events in a space that is "free" and safe.
  - Because it covers the needs of the community and environment.
  - Deer and feral cats have destroyed the natural environment of Rock Creek Park adjacent to Twinbrook. Trash is not picked up in the forgotten parts of the Park near Viers Mill Road.
  - Climate Change, Trump Administration values, environmental policy, protection for the watershed, and enforcement
  - Protection of the environment is the top function of the parks--no one else can do that the way parks do. Private lands support private uses. Only public parks can provide a natural, healing experience to everyone. Protection of the stream valley is the mission of many parks--that MUST be your top priority.
  - for the first, this is a critical quality of life feature and we're growing so fast it seems like we're not paying enough attention to green space attached to developed space.
- for the second two, to keep our parks alive and functional we will need healthy trees and plants. They are at risk now.
- Space needs to be designated so people can be exposed to nature.

- Population is increasing and putting more pressure on natural areas, more wear and tear on fields and courts. Many of the buildings in the system are older and need repairs and upkeep.
- Increasing population density needs to be balanced with resource and historic preservation giving people alternatives to shopping and sports as recreation. It's important to preserve the green space and historical features of our communities.
- Because you asked what I thought was most important
- One of the reasons we moved to Montgomery County was its reputation as being kid-friendly and I have been unpleasantly surprised at the lack of park space, lack of playgrounds, and the lack of updated playground equipment on those playgrounds. Montgomery County is only as strong as its families so I hope the County will invest in the parks and playgrounds frequented by county kids, and provide kids with additional opportunities, especially in the hot summer months.
- This area is already so built up, how do you create new parks? After moving here from Colorado last summer, I'm disappointed by the lack of trails to run or bike on, even though there is a lot of undeveloped space (and county owned parkland) around me.
- Walking, hiking to keep my hips and tendons in shape
- Money Wide range of needs to be met Struggle to maintain current parks
- Because I thought they were most beneficial to the community.
- Citizens should not have to get in a car to walk in the woods. Our children need close-by opportunities to explore nature. Our wildlife has a right to quality and abundant habitat.
- These are our public spaces, and these are the most important functions for public spaces to serve, in my opinion.
- Green space is so important. Recreation is such a growing sector and important part of healthy living and community spirit. Recreation brings communities together.
- I chose it because this is how our family look for when we search for a park
- We need to do all we can to retain our green spaces for the health of our residents - young and old .....and for the health of our environment.
- I live in East Bethesda
- I know that there is pressure on developers to improve land. With smaller living spaces, our dependence on park and recreation facilities increases. Maintenance is never a "sexy" issue for politicians and residents, but continued maintenance is so important for continued enjoyment and use of our public facilities
- We all need clean air and water, especially as our population density increases. We all need tranquil, natural surroundings for our mental and physical well-being. We all need community and to build and strengthen our ties to our neighbors.
- what I observe the most.
- Because I use them in that order and always find one close by that meets my needs
- Because habitat loss and abuse is occurring at high rates of degradation, and the Federal government is signalling that all protections of natural resources will be left to state and local communities. So, we need to step it up.
- because budget is always an issue, which leads to why the parks are horribly maintained, and I barely ever see any of the sports facilities used when I go to the parks.
- My daughter and I ride at the Potomac Horse Center
- As downtown bethesda becomes denser, community park space because even more important.
- Social gathering places and parks are important for a desirable residential community and help foster a sense of community. Parks also provide a place for physical fitness, and the nature and greenery offered by parks are important in and of themselves, both for human health and aesthetic purposes in a city.
- The population in my geographical area is excessive.
- these are what came to mind

## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

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- As a person who runs in all the MoCo parks, it's clear when funds are low. Brush around the trails aren't as well kept, facilities aren't kept up as well (bathroom maintenance, water fountain upkeep, even segments of trails/facilities that are blocked off indefinitely due to lagging funds).
- Because this is what I appreciated most about this area when I moved here 30 years ago. I believe that green spaces improve our lives and mental well being and that it is important to share the planet with other creatures and preserve for future generations. Once a tree or space is cleared it never comes back and our county is losing trees and open spaces at an alarming rate.
- I go to parks to get out in nature, relax and clear my mind, so I selected "fitness and health." A lot of people have picnics in parks, thus, "social gathering." Parks DO preserve natural resources, but I don't think most people realize that.
- I am a naturalist with strong conservationalist ideals, and so preserving nature is important to me. Those efforts must be supported by local governments in order to be effective. Enjoying wildlife is also a hobby for me, so the preservation of natural resources naturally helps with my personal enjoyment of our parks.
- As development continues, we'll need to maintain open space as a community, and to provide subsidized health /sports options.
- The things that I think will be the greatest challenge going forward
- #1 should be obvious. #2 has to do with too much time spent in cars, using too much gas, losing a feeling of local/community sports. #3 also should be obvious.
- Montgomery County tends to favor roads over parks. The park areas get less attention than roads. Parks are important to the health of the county and more land needs to be devoted to parks instead of roads.
- I don't understand this question.
- Funding - bike paths aren't in great shape in Sligo Park There's also a playground by the Colt Terrace entrance to Sligo Park that's not in great shape. Unsavory activities - It's not unusual to see people walk into the woods and walk out carrying bags/packages. Cars/people not from the neighborhood park loitering at the Channing Street or Colt Terrace entrances to the park. In warmer weather, groups of men drink in the park and leave behind liquor bottles, beer bottles, etc.
- Investment is vital to maintaining our parks
- These are things I have noticed as I spend time in different parts of the county.
- You can't maintain or move forward without \$\$\$. That's reality. While we have come out of the worst of the last recession, there are still budgetary issues and these are going to impact us for years to come. If the facilities aren't maintained (no mold, leaky roofs, Handicapped doors that actually WORK, clean facilities), people won't come. If equipment is broken, dated, non existent... people won't come. As the demographics of MoCo change, we need to be sure that ALL parts are being reached (from babies to elderly; physically active to inclusive programs for those who are physically /mentally challenged)
- I love bringing my children to local parks and recreational facilities. The physical infrastructure, however, can leave much to be desired.
- Land costs are high, invasive species are transforming the parks, and demand for recreation is always there and changing.
- after these public resources and lands are sold off and developed, the damage can't be reversed - it's a short-term solution that only works for the current county executive and boards
- Because all three will bring more people into our parks and ensure that they will want to protect what we have.
- These are what I see/use.
- -We may not be able to get to the Grand Canyon or the Everglades this year, but we should all have a chance to experience nature within a short drive or walk -soccer fields are in bad shape, while the baseball fields are barely used -many of the local community parks, even playground areas, are very trashy
- The overbuilding in lower country areas (Bethesda/Chevy Chase, ex) have led to these problems
- We see continual growth in our community, but no commitments or requirements on developers to include parks or natural resources as part of their plans
- Because they reflect my main uses of the county's park resources.

- Because I believe it is essential that we preserve and acquire open space. It is good for our sanity, gives us a place to walk, helps to connect to nature, takes the hard edge off our lives (who wants to see buildings all the time?), preserves what nature we have left (animals and vegetables!). I do not enjoy being in the urban jungle. I hate Manhattan. (Yeah, Central Park, but after that nothing but dirt and grime and traffic and noise and crowding). I hate Boston. (Ditto the dirt and grime of New York. Gee, in New York, the grime is mostly in public places. But look at Boston -- the grime is extending into the privately held yards. It is just ugly.) Do not make Montgomery County just another casualty of greedy developers who just suck all the love of nature out of our lungs.
  - Because I like to hike and think that greenspace is critical as we see increasing urban sprawl
  - The general concept of parkland is that it be used to conserve natural, cultural, and historic resources, and that people will take advantage of parks to improve their health and fitness .
  - it is the most important to me as an outdoor enthusiast and avid hiker
  - Due to current social issues & assessment of the White Oak Community (Lockwood, Stewart Lane & Old Columbia Pike corridor). Area does not have a distinct identify to attract new businesses & residents to the area. There are no quality businesses or public spaces. There is no attention to the areas Historic features as a destination location. North 11501 OLD COLUMBIA PIKE is the Historic Paint Branch Bridge, which is slated to be re-opened in the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan and the road is to be widened to 4 lanes. The Historic Paint Branch Bridge will be 105 year old in September '17. The road should be designated as A Main Street by National Trust & Historic Perservation. The vacant wooded area north pass Dow Jones should be restored to a public park, dog park & community garden .
  - Funding is important to keep the parks and recreation folks doing what they do best. The parks are celebrating their 90th anniversary this year, and have lots of older buildings and play areas Climate affects programming, natural areas, structures, health of the environment
  - Because the current federal government is going to cut many protections, and the burden will be on state and local government to make up the difference.
  - We need to diversify the recreational amenities. The traditional sports are fine, but many these days don't relate to these traditional sports such as baseball, football, etc.
  - I chose the functions based on my observation (living across from Woodside Urban Park).
  - Because they are of interest to me and my family.
  - These are important to us.
  - News about shrinking budgets, increasing tendency for kids to stay inside and play video games.
  - Parks are important to me to spend time with friends and family. Why would anyone, child or adult, want to sit in front of a computer or hang out at a shopping mall if they have the most amazing endless source of fun and discovery in a forest, a creek or a lake. Also, parks protect our historical and cultural heritage from being bulldozed, paved over and lost forever.
  - preservation of important access areas
  - I am concerned that budget cuts could have a negative impact on the preservation and maintenance of our parks. Parks need to be expanded and connect to other parks so users can enjoy the outdoors. I worry that a lack of interest could limit what \$ is spent by the county to expand the park system.
- I want to see more people getting outdoors and using the beautiful parks we have! Time spent outside with family and friends is good for us! We need to move, interact and disconnect from social media.
- In Montgomery County the developers grade the property flat, destroying the contour, the trees and any historical structures. They want a flat vacant lot because the makes it easier to build lots of buildings that are jammed in as tightly as possible. The County likes that because the more buildings that are jammed in, the higher the taxes will be. At that point, the property has lost all of its inherent beauty. The trees are destroyed. The streams are run through culverts. The grading creates drainage problems. Ugly drainage ponds are created. Once the property is destroyed and the buildings are all jammed in, there is no reason for anyone to go outside except to get int their cars to drive on the already-congested roads.
  - See above.
  - Because that is how I use the parks.

- Currently, our Bethesda neighborhood parks are overly crowded, few and far-between, and trash is not properly managed.
- these are ongoing challenges
- These seem to be the most relevant to myself and my family and their use of the parks.
- The county continues to grow quickly and it is important not to lose access to these things for the environment and for the health of the population.
- Could only chose I, and chose fitness and health as I use the local park to walk my dogs and get exercise. I also think sports and playground equipment are important, and of course protecting local waterways with trails and natural buffers.
- If I take a lunch, it would be nice to leave my beverage container in a recycle bin, rather than take it home to recycle it. I'm 70, & not in very good physical health. I think we all should leave a place as clean or cleaner than when we arrived.
- I chose the three functions because these are the areas that apply most to my family and our use of the parks and recreation facilities.
- Being a steward of our shared natural resources is most important to me. It is a basic human right to have clean air, water and soil. If we don't ensure those fundamental needs for ourselves and for our future, we don't need buildings, new or historic, we don't need special events or ball fields or swimming pools. The question is subject to interpretation: what are the top three functions that Parks and Rec provide, or what three functions that Parks and Rec provide that are most important to me? Those are two very different answers.
- Parks are always underfunded; under the new administration, it appears that funding for amenities like parks will be slashed further. There is also a trend toward not believing or respecting scientific research. There is resistance to taking action to address climate change and other environmental issues.
- Look at the cuts they have made to parks
- The current political climate is turning away from discretionary expenses and environmental issues, yet citizens need the restorative powers of nature now more than ever before.
- As our culture becomes segregated by the ease and addictive nature of social media, it's important to provide and promote spaces to have human to human contact. Parks, plazas, and other green spaces beautify our daily lives and make it easier to interact within a community that can be strained by the 'rat race' culture we have.
- The parks are the best places for families, students, older citizens to enjoy year round, especially with no entrance fees. A good park in the neighborhood makes that community a better place to live. It gives a safe place for all to enjoy. A good park fosters positive relations among all who are there enjoying nature. All ethnic groups blend in their appreciation of nature. It offers healing, emotionally and physically. Special events give families entertainment that is wholesome and interesting. A good park is for all ages and all peoples.
- They are the ones that most affect myself and my family.
- Lack of care for the environment over profit margin seems to be the current trend. If bottom lines take precedence over the long term careless handling of nature, there will be a high price to pay in the long term. We need to be the guardians of our environment, enjoy it and make it better for the next generation. This is a "Pay it Forward" kind of gift we can bestow upon earth in a small but significant way.
- Short term budget shortfalls mean no money for maintenance. Other states will be polluting into the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Climate change means weather extremes and affect on wildlife.
- They're what my family need.
- I live next to Northwest Branch Park, I hike and walk in the park every week.
- Without funding, nothing else can realistically happen. Diversity is a challenge/opportunity facing all aspects of life in this country; this county is no exception. If I am representative of most county residents, I have no clue what the department has to offer - there are no newsletters or email alerts that I can remember. I don't have the time to research county offerings; you should do more outreach to increase participation.
- Potomac Jorse Center serves a population that cannot be served by general park facilities.
- Population increases. Government spending decreasing, Environmental waste

- Using various parks in different parts of the county
- No further explanation necessary.
- I live next to rock creek park and see the creek blocked with plastic bottles and trash after every storm, and see the discolored foam in the water from pollution.
- I am a strong advocate for the environment and wildlife. Maryland must preserve as much land through parks, the Agricultural Reserve, and undeveloped space as possible.
- I put sports 4th because it's narrower than health & fitness. I put health & fitness first because we are dying at rising rates from obesity etc. Physical inactivity is causing everything from diabetes to physical issues like back pain, to neurological issues like stress. There is ample research showing that exposure to natural environment increases well-being, physically & emotionally. Gets kids out from behind screens.
- It is important to provide ways for all community members to interact with natural environments. Having a safe place to walk or run, gardens to experience wonder and beauty, or as teaching environment for children and adults is very valuable. Existing gardens and parks should be made more accessible, and newer more local parks and gardens should be developed.
- I just feel they are most important. You need the first one for the next two and sports to me falls under the fitness and health umbrella.
- The County could create a huge swath of income on fines and tickets administered to groups of people who litter and do not clean up after themselves. (Cigarette buds, parties with bottles, styrofoam, and plastic)

Because the county population is continuing to grow at an alarming rate, and our outdoor recreation needs to be a top priority for a healthy and comfortable urban-suburban class.

We need to maintain our forests and watersheds in order to keep our drinking water clean and to allow our ecosystems to recover.

- Higher paying staff are frequently replaced with less informed, less competent staff and a cascade of negative issues follow.
- Where I see the most need
- I believe it is very important to protect our natural resources, and giving people open access to green space benefits the entire community.
- -Open spaces are rapidly diminishing -Recreation facilities are aging faster than renovation programs - It is difficult to determine what specific future recreation needs are and processes for acquiring funding and construction are onerous.
- Deer control - The deer population is out of control in the county parks which is unhealthy for the deer, county residents, and the parks themselves. Deer can't find enough food to survive, residents are getting Lyme disease more and more, crashing into deer, and unable to grow healthy gardens. Parks are losing too much vegetation and trees are becoming unhealthy.
- Transportation - One of the big reasons why there is so much traffic in the county is because parks become obstacles to complete the needed transportation network, particularly traveling east and west. Yet, in the short term, the parks could become an integral part of our transportation system in a green way by developing bikeways through the parks. Bikeways could connect most major towns within the county as well as connect to other jurisdictions like DC and College Park. Long term, there needs to be some consideration to widen roads that already cross parks and consider other new roads to cross parks in an environmentally friendly way.
- owners of dogs don't clean after them and it makes it impossible to walk and play to enjoy the park, lighting is not enough and no one to safely guard the parks while you are there, and to be sure it's not being used after it's closing, not enough trash bins to set around and not clean and dump or grounds rake often enough
- I am worried things will go downhill
- This county is growing quickly so there is added pressure on the parks. Growing communities unfortunately attract crime. More people are deciding not to have cars so transportation to parks is important.
- Park funding needs to increase to match increasing demands, more acreage, amenities, etc. Park Police do a great job and they need and deserve support. Parks and Rec activities are a great way to build communities, encourage healthy lifestyles
- I chose these items because they seem the most important issues

- Community benefits as well as personal interests.
  - I believe the three I mentioned encompass all of the other items presented. As a member of the community I use the parks for recreation, sports and socializing.
  - Brookside Gardens is a county treasure, open to all and free. The perennial decline of its funding over the years is showing. Living near downtown Silver Spring, I see also the decline in green spaces and the low priority given to this issue.
  - I believe our top priority should be preserving our natural resources, which are threatened by climate change and the development of the county. There must be a multi-faceted approach to conservation efforts, and the heart of that effort has to derive from county citizens being directly involved. We need more programs that get kids and their families to learn about and participate in environmental stewardship. The county's nature centers could be the community meeting space where this could happen.
  - They are all three what I see at Brookside Gardens.
  - Preserving and conserving natural and cultural resources should always be a primary function of any park system. And then finding the balance of preservation and development into usable areas is also important especially in such a heavily populated area.
  - Because I'm a naturalist with parks and I see the degradation of some of our properties as well as the increasing need for habitat preservation coupled with water protection.
  - areas that affect my family
  - I feel a skatepark would bring the community together. It would give all the kids in the neighborhood another option to engage in a healthy recreational activity and develop friendships with other kids in neighborhood.
  - I believe the most important function of Parks is to conserve our rapidly disappearing natural spaces and protecting our streams and natural resources so they can be enjoyed long into the future.
  - Because I realize how much funding impacts every aspect of Parks and I fear the worst in our current political situation.
  - The damage from invasive plants is obvious. But what good is controlling these plants if the deer denude any native vegetation that might succeed the removed invasives?
- Regrading red lights, just go to any intersection with Sligo Creek Parkway or Beach Dr., and step off the curb too soon.
- They are all extremely important for wellbeing both physical and emotional. Green space is important.
  - The upkeep is bound to increase. If this gets outsourced costs will continue to rise. As far as overcrowding, the population shift in youth back down county will mean less space. I am not aware that the county pushes its rec league programs very hard.
  - We need safe places for people to go to stay active and involved in the community in order to prevent crime, drug use, gang affiliation, and promote enjoyment of life. We also need to have safe, clean space for all people to be in and enjoy nature - a must for young children's brain development.
  - Children need to get away from screens and get out and play! BUT Research has shown that exposure to soil and vegetation in the natural world is essential to healthy development of a child's immune system and beneficial to emotional health. Conversely repeated exposure to toxic substances, known as ingredients in synthetic materials such as tire waste and plastic field surfacing now common in parks, is harmful to a child's healthy development AND substitutes harmful exposures for the healthy ones they need to develop appropriately.
  - We are a sports club focusing on providing opportunities through rugby and the development of healthy life choices for developing young athletes.
  - cutbacks are coming real soon
  - I have been a resident of this county for over 60 years, living for much of that directly adjacent to Sligo Creek Park, and now close to Northwest Branch Park. I also served on the citizen's group which gave the MCPPC advice on development of Wheaton Regional Park in the 1980s, and was also a volunteer at Brookside Gardens.
  - They are basic to a safe, beautiful enjoyable space that is in keeping with our dignity as people.



- All county residents have access to green spaces thanks to Montgomery Parks; the vast network of trails provides great opportunity for fitness - whether jogging, cycling, or walking; and parks allow for opportunities for neighbors to meet one another, socialize, and create community.
- Personal experience.
- Best guess
- My personal use of County parks is primarily for recreation on natural surface trails and as an active Bluebird monitor and FrogWatch volunteer. I go out on trails to get away from as many trappings of civilization as possible. My ideal trail would be nothing more than a deer path. I recognize that a game trail is not a sustainable trail, but the idea is to experience nature with as few signs of civilization as possible, consistent with maintenance and safety. I fear that the large number of people who seek the same as I do will be under represented in future decision making. It is easy to count the number of ball field rentals, the number of swim passes sold etc., but it is very challenging to count the number of people on trails. With a growing population, particularly in the upcounty, I fear that natural areas could be converted to build recreation buildings and other infrastructure. I don't oppose these. I only hope that our natural areas can remain natural. As a Bluebird monitor, I cringe every time I see a lovely meadow dotted with hundreds of tree planting tubes. (Birds die in these tubes, trapped when they investigate the opening for insects or potential nesting.) Again, I love trees, but I also love the variety of plants and animals that thrive in open habitats. These include not just Bluebirds but butterflies (notably the Monarch, again experiencing near catastrophic declines), dragonflies, rabbits, box turtles, wild flowers and all of the plant species that support a meadow based ecosystem. Meadows and open areas add to the biodiversity of our county. They also act as natural fire breaks to stop the spread of wildfires. The same applies to open wetlands. Amphibians are also a unique concern. One third to one half of all amphibian species are threatened with extinction. Of the 440 amphibian species in North America, 41 are extinct or critically endangered and 107 are endangered or vulnerable. We need to preserve the habitat that these species need to survive.
- Our ecosystems in this over-developed county are being degraded and our county's park agency can play a huge role in protecting biodiversity, the environment, and public health by preserving more land, protecting its wildlife, and protecting the ecological integrity of the land.
- The parks are unique in that they preserve native and natural environment. With increasing urbanization, they may be the only place that people can go to experience woods and creeks. More than anything, I think preserving nature should be the Parks mission.
- Healthy communities need green space for people to have recreation in a safe manner.
- Isn't it obvious?
- Familiarity with Parks through volunteer programs
- I chose my top three functions because although I believe that sports, social gatherings, and special events are all important, there are other organizations/companies within the county that can fulfill those needs. But the parks department is absolutely critical to preserving natural and historical/cultural resources, not to mention providing space for people to engage in physical fitness.
- We walk or ride our horses in Little Bennett several times a week depending on weather and wet conditions. We do not ride when it is wet to preserve the trails but notice many others do which is not very responsible. We also ride at other MC parks but more rarely since we live next to Little Bennett. We love the park and hike there with our dog too.
- I would prefer that my children not get asthma from our notoriously bad air quality. I like having a planet to live on.
- They are what I consider important
- In our densely populated area we need to give people places that are touched by nature and room to run and play.
- I use the Montgomery County recreation centers on an almost daily basis. I also use the walking paths!
- We visit Brookside frequently and I volunteer there. I see the need for these issues every week.
- This recognizes where the county will be in the future, not where it is now, in terms of demographics.
- I'm concerned about the president-elect's reduction of taxes, defiling the Climate Change concerns, and interest in nature and clean water.

- Competition for public funds is fierce. Some parks are overused, some underused. Regular maintenance is needed to keep the parks natural and healthy.
- 1.)Montgomery County can expand in a way that maintains a safe place for people to leave home without spending money and that enhances their health and sense of well-being. 2.)Gradually Montgomery has lost the charm of beautiful trees, not just those that line major streets, but trees that look like small virgin oasis in contrast to the urban blight. 3.)Families need after school programs that help with homework, health and fitness for older adults with limited transportation, safe and interesting programs for teenagers that do NOT play basketball, etc.
- Because Montgomery County and the Washington region as a whole enjoys a wonderful amount of green space. In order to live close to the city, more bike trails and more park resources are needed to ensure a high quality of life.
- Parks & Recreation should be about fitness, sports and preservation. Our citizens needs a healthy dose of this in their lifestyles.
- I think most, if not all, challenges revolve around funding
- Because our connection to nature is vital in building connections with each other.
- Deer are definitely the root of all current problems: the loss of native plants, the dominance of invasive species. Climate change is here to stay and we need to address it. Maybe test research at Pope farm for resilient species.
- Our county has a diverse population that often seems to self segregate. Places like playgrounds, dog parks and picnic areas bring people from all walks of life together in a way that encourages them to interact. I am concerned that our county is too focused on build build build and that the importance of green and wild spaces is being diminished. Our kids spend too much time inside staring at screens. Adults spend too many hours doing the same at work and at home. Insomnia, depression, anxiety and a host of other troubles physical and mental can be tied to a couch potato lifestyle. People need to be educated about the importance of spending time outside!
- Por que me han dicho padres de niños pequeños que se necesita.
- As a father, I want to ensure that my children have opportunities to use the parks and participate in activities
- The effects are apparent when you visit parks, recently centers, sports fields
- They are important to me and my family.
- Walking in the park daily I see these issues
- Just a wild guess
- I have school-aged children and these are what we use and would use the parks and recreation services for.
- They are the most important needs, now and into the next century. I am especially concerned that our Parks managers and Commissioners feel pressure to develop our parks' natural areas; they've traditionally tagged enjoyment of natural areas as "passive recreation" and given it lower priority. Contrary to this notion, enjoyment of natural areas is an activity that people from all over the world, and of all ages, have as a basic need. This need for woods in local and regional parks grows, as our county continues to urbanize. We need to preserve and restore our park woods and other natural areas, and not see them as "empty space waiting to be built upon." The portion of existing woods that are now at Little Bennett Regional Park and other regional parks must be placed into permanent protected legal status, if it isn't already so protected.
- Funding and attention are needed to shore up/ maintain where we are because trying to undo damage may not be possible. We need to preserve what we have.
- I chose one top function: Preservation of Natural Resources. Parks should be sanctuaries for plants and the insects, birds, and animals that depend on plants. Nature is soothing and relaxing to humans. Green spaces clean the air of carbon dioxide. Park lands prevent pollution of the watershed by absorbing storm water run-off.
- It's most important to me and my growing family
- Because I feel this is something private enterprise will not do.
- These are the main issues I see.
- It's what I like.

- 1. While I favor improved mass transit (and even the Purple Line - which is only a light rail Tram that is not quite "MASS" transit compared to METRO or MARC heavy rail trains, I find the County's over-emphasis and spending of excessive funds to build and operate the Purple Line has emerged as 'dysfunctional' and is taking away from resources essential to upgrade and maintain our Parks and Rec Centers. Many promises made about public benefits to Parks and Recreation from private corporate redevelopments turn out to be 'Bait-and-Switch' politics that deny the essence of these public resources by callously "privatizing" them. • I believe the parks should be ways of preserving our watershed, viewshed, and other resources while still allowing people to use and congregate in public spaces. Fitness and health activities such as hiking and biking I believe are gentle uses that allow natural areas to be preserved. However I realize that some parks should be areas where children can play and parents and families congregate and picnic. I believe sports can be organized at larger regional park such as the Germantown soccerplex, while smaller neighborhood parks should not be used to support these activities with large crowds.
- It affects my daily commute

### What amenities, programs or experiences are missing that would better support your recreation needs that we should be planning for in the future?

- Answered: 245 Skipped: 86 Hide Word Cloud
- Outdoor pickleball courts.
- Pickleball courts
- Please re-line tennis courts (outdoor) to allow for playing Pickleball which is becoming immensely popular. Or better yet, create designated outdoor Pickleball courts around the county. This is important because most of the current Pickleball courts are currently indoors and are superceded by summer camps for kids in the summer, so Pickleball needs to end at the best time of the year to be playing outdoors. So if possible, this needs to be done before summer starts.
- Accessibility to tennis courts with pickleball lines/dedicated pickleball courts.
- There is an immediate need to increase facilities for play of pickleball. It is a sport that is ideally suited to active senior citizens, and it is growing in popularity. There are very few facilities available for outdoor play of pickleball in the County. I travel to many places in the United States, rural and urban, and Montgomery County is far behind other locations that I visit in offering outdoor facilities for pickleball. While it would be best for the County to provide dedicated outdoor pickleball courts, as an interim step, it should aggressively engage in a campaign to line existing tennis courts with pickleball lines so the tennis courts could be used for both sports. One park whose tennis courts could be developed for pickleball is Norwood Park in Chevy Chase.
- My favorite sport now is pickleball; many other seniors agree. It can be played indoors or outdoors. There are many venues for indoor pickleball during the school year, but very few (indoor or outdoor) are available during the summer. It would be great if the county's tennis courts could be lined for pickleball so that either sport could be played. See the courts at Leisure World to see how they fit together. The exercise equipment at Damascus Rec Center is mostly ancient and in need of some repair. We need more stationary bicycles and elliptical machines. Other centers have similar issues. It would be great to have shower facilities on-site!
- While dedicated outdoor pickleball courts seem to be the wave of the future (several counties and cities have done this already- see below), there is a cost to building these. The county can put down pickleball lines on all of the County Tennis courts. No additional nets or equipment are required. Ultimately dedicated facilities based on need and utilization studies may clearly show parts of the county where dedicated sites would be best positioned On Delmarva- <http://www.delmarvanow.com/story/sports/local/delaware/2015/06/11/pickleball-passion-across-region/71084220/> In Arizona- <http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2015/08/07/phoenix-pickleball-courts-help-meet-demand/31127753/> In Denver- <http://www.denverpost.com/2014/07/22/lakewoods-first-outdoor-pickleball-courts-arrive-at-green-mountain/> In Madison Wi- <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/pickleball>
- Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States. It is a game that can be played by all age groups. It can be played as singles or doubles and by all-male, all female or mixed sexes. It is easily learned and can be expected to catch on rapidly after introduced.
- More organized pickleball league similar to basketball and softball--no need for officials will save money
- Increased access to both indoor and outdoor pickleball courts.

- More pickle ball courts on underused tennis courts. See Google images "pickle ball courts over tennis courts."
- Building additional exterior Pickleball courts and marking existing tennis courts for pickleball playing.
- Pickleball is very big in other parts of the country, and Montgomery county is way behind .
- Pickleball and volleyball under served.
- In the last year, my husband and I have taken up the booming sport of Pickleball. Previously, we were heavily involved in tennis, but with aging bodies, Pickleball is an easier game to play. In this last year we have watched the sport greatly increase in popularity. What has not increased at nearly the same rate is the venues in the county to play the sport. Both indoors and out.
- Provide dedicated Pickleball courts and reline existing tennis courts for Pickleball
- More outdoor lighting at tennis courts and availability of pickleball courts. Tennis courts can easily be used for both sports by adding lines to the existing courts.
- We are pickle ball players and there are very few summertime courts to play. Love the indoor courts during the winter, but these are used for summer camps during the summer which leaves us without facilities. Would like to see some tennis courts also striped for pickleball.
- As explained,Pickle Ball Facilities.
- Pickleball is becoming a very popular sport, more courts are needed (existing tennis courts can be used).

Currently, there are no adult volleyball leagues offered by Montgomery County. An over 40 league would be welcome. Currently, only the City of Rockville has women's and co-ed adult volleyball leagues, the fees are overpriced, the Middle School venues are substandard, but it is the only game in town. The City of Gaithersburg has very good facilities and competitive women's volleyball leagues.

- During the fall, winter, and spring, I play pickleball almost every day of the week, in a wide variety of MoCo and municipal recreation centers. It is my main form of exercise. Once summer arrives, pickleball is severely cut back in order to accommodate children's day camp programs in the rec center gyms. The county currently does not provide adequate places or hours for pickleballers to play during the summer, either indoor or outdoor. Adding pickleball lines to ALL existing MoCo tennis courts would help alleviate that problem.

- In the short term, I'd like to see Parks recognize that Pickleball really is one of the fastest growing sports in the country, and to react accordingly, There are numerous underutilized tennis courts in parks all over Montgomery County that can be multi-purposed to accommodate pickleball simply and cheaply by painting additional lines. This has already been done at Bauer Drive, Longwood, Meadowood, and Potomac It needs to be done everywhere there are public tennis courts, and many of these courts should be painted before school lets out for summer. At that point, the pickleball community, that now numbers several hundred, and who mostly play indoors in the winter, will be looking for places to play when the Recreation Center gyms they use are given over to children's summer camps. To demonstrate the amazing growth of pickleball in Montgomery County: when I became a pickleball ambassador in January 2015, the only County places to play pickleball were Whiteoak Community Center and Meadowood Park. Now, two years later pickleball is offered at 14 Community Centers, some three times a week, and four outdoor locations. The pickleball population has grown exponentially. Today my list has over 300 active players, and more are being added each week as new people come to learn and play. Within the bounds of Montgomery County, pickleball is now also offered in Gaithersburg, three locations within the City of Rockville, several country clubs, and at least two retirement communities. Leisure World in Silver Spring boast over 60 members, at least a dozen of whom also play at County Recreation Centers. Maryland Senior Olympics recognized pickleball's growing popularity, and added it to the Senior Olympics beginning in 2015. In 2016, registration had to be closed early because of the overwhelming response, and three additional gyms were added to the original location (Bowie Gym) to accommodate those who had signed up.. In the long term Maryland will fall behind many other States if it does not provide dedicated lighted pickleball courts for regular play. Places with sufficient courts where we may also hold tournaments that would attract people from out-of-state. Existing black top areas within local parks should be surveyed to determine if they are suitable places to install dedicated pickleball courts with permanent nets. It should be noted that although the current pickleball community consists mainly of adults with a large proportion of seniors, MCPS is taking an interest in pickleball. Last summer I was invited to conduct pickleball classes for Middle School and High School PE teachers. Children learning pickleball in school will want places to play after school. Pickleball has many advantages over tennis, the main one being cost. The equipment is cheaper: pickleball paddles never have to be restrung, balls last much longer than tennis balls, and the game is played in a space one third the size of a tennis court. The game is easy to learn, and it does not take long to become proficient at it. These factors all contribute to making it an ideal after-school game for children.

Working adults are also part of the growing population, although the shortage of available indoor evening court time at Recreation Centers is probably slowing that growth. Lighted outdoor courts would help ameliorate this problem in Spring through Fall.

- The lining of existing tennis and / or basketball courts throughout the county that would facilitate the opportunity to use as a Pickleball court.
  - Again, personally I would like to see more pickleball facilities. E.g., drawing pickleball lines on existing outdoor tennis courts so they can be used by both pickleball era and tennis players. Specifically, would like to see this at the tennis courts at Olney Manor park on Georgia Ave and Emory Lane
  - More Pickleball courts and at least some facilities where you'd be able to reserve and pay for court time, just as is possible with the Betz tennis center and the Wheaton Indoor Tennis Center. I'd also very much like to see the two tennis courts at the Silver Spring Intermediate Park (Philadelphia and Chicago Avenues) repaired and lined for Pickleball. They are infrequently used for tennis and there is strong demand for Pickleball.
  - Pickleball Courts Clinics
  - Pickleball is becoming a very popular sport so you should consider dedicated lighted pickleball courts.
  - Pickle ball courts
  - Would like to see more pickle ball outdoor courts and a few more indoor opportunities especially during the winter. Many tennis courts sit quite idle much of the time - converting to pickle ball would appeal to an ever growing number of participants. Second additional protected bike paths and lanes. We really need to make biking much more safe in Montgomery country and promote the greater use of bikes by all.
  - As soon as possible, I'd like Montgomery Parks to line the outdoor tennis courts for pickleball. A growing number of us Montgomery County seniors play pickleball daily indoors at Montgomery County facilities, but come summer the gyms where we play will become unavailable, as they are used then for children's summer programs. County residents need places to play pickleball in the summer. Painting tennis courts with pickleball lines will expand usage of the already existing courts with relatively small expense. This will help keep county seniors, myself included, healthier, fit, and happy. Thank you for considering my input. Playing pickleball this past 12 months has improved my fitness, health, and happiness.
  - More pickleball courts, more pro-active introduction and learning opportunities for pickleball
  - I live in Potomac right across from the community center and cannot use the 4 beautiful outdoor pickball courts..
- also need to line the tennis courts for pickleball
- PICKLEBALL FOR ALL! The Explosion of this sport for active senior adults, and soon the younger populations through introduction at schools, requires a rapid response by parks and recreation. The Rec Dept has responded by increased use at some indoor centers in day hours. This needs to expand substantially and at more varied times and days. There is a greater need for outdoor courts. Elsewhere in the country, parks depts have replaced poorly used features like old skate parks, tennis courts, etc., with permanent Pickleball courts, and see immediate use and growth. More importantly, altering existing tennis courts by simply adding additional striping to also allow Pickleball play is cheap and quick. With a few more alterations, Two Pickleball courts can be layed out on either side of a single tennis court! Need more courts ASAP, PLEASE.
  - Dedicated pickle ball courts, and introductory pickle all classes.
  - Once again, more pickleball, courts, nets, and playing time and certainly open gym and open court playing times!!
  - Tennis courts are underused. It would be great to line the existing tennis courts for pickleball. Pickleball is much easier to learn and it is fun exercise for all ages. Next step would be to make designated pickleball courts. They are 3 times smaller than tennis courts.
  - Painted pickleball courts on the tennis courts Gym availability in the summer months
  - More indoor swimming in Bethesda area (1 facility not enough); have a lazy river for exercise in a new indoor pool (like Denver's recreational centers which I've used -- fantastic exercise!)
  - Staffing to provide programming directly to the communities. Working with the schools to inform the public of the programs, especially after school, that are available to the children. In our current environment where both parents have to work in order to make ends meet, the community needs to assist with the care of the children. We can do that!!

- Would like the 50m indoor pool to be constructed in Clarksburg; a real need in the Western part of the County.
- I would love to see more weekday tours related to the underground railroad
- We need more pickleball venues. Create a rating program and then have certain center and times be for players that are within a certain ability.
- Walking paths to parks. In general, we need more walking paths (with benches would be lovely) since we do not have sidewalks in many, many places.
- Soccer fields
- Re sports...As mentioned above...listening and seeing how quickly one of our newest sports is growing...feeling then reacting to the increased need for facilities to play...it's not always about what is important for our youth or standard programs for adults but meeting the needs of new trends with increased across the board guidelines, rules, clinics and facilities.
- The new North Potomac Rec Center should be the gold standard
- Would love to see Norwood Park used for an outdoor festival.
- More nature walks to encourage people to enjoy natural areas. Do not sacrifice woods for soccer fields. But when you DO build soccer fields, at least make them natural grass and not carcinogenic tire crumbs and plastic.
- Interconnected bike and walking trails throughout the county.
- See above re: playgrounds designed for younger kids.
- I would like to get my kids playing recreation basketball with a team in our area. You just opened a new recreation site near our house, and we are taking the kids there. Thank you.
- More open space or playgrounds in the white oak burnt mills area. More advanced naturalist led ecology and wildlife programs. A better distribution of the types of recreation programs offered at community centers. Some courses, especially it seems science, art, and some sports experiences are offered far more frequently in the western part of the county.
- More dog parks and creative playgrounds like the ones in Silver Spring.
- I wonder if the Parks shouldn't look to the local school grounds as an extension of the public outdoor recreation space. I've noticed that our local school playgrounds and fields lack the expert care & attention that you see at the parks. Has anyone looked at moving the care and maintenance of the school outdoor areas to Parks & Rec? There could be some serious economies of scale if the two were to work together rather than as completely separate entities (obviously the money & employees allocated by schools for grounds maintenance would have to come along with something like that).
- Working toward retaining trees and marked walking paths/wide sidewalks that might connect parkland, transit, activity centers and residential communities with less proximity to roads and traffic. Keep those buffers as wide as possible and remember trails and park paths are often used as mobility paths for commuting or general living in all kinds of weather, the same as roads. The access to and around (especially urban) parks should not be overlooked for clearing in a timely manner during inclement weather, and should not be considered as a site for deposits to help with the movement of road traffic.
- onsite bathrooms- not porta poties. Trash cans that are emptied regularly
- More park land and forested areas that can be used for recreation in urban centers, and connect to parks like Tilden Woods and Rock Creek Park for a continuous experience.
- Splash pads for younger children!! DC has tons of these and they are very welcome for young families. Montgomery County has very few considering its size and the number of parks.
- There are some playgrounds with old, wooden equipment that are falling apart and need to be renovated ASAP.
- Being able to move around the county and connect to neighboring jurisdictions by bicycle in a safe manner
- Innovative facilities like the bike/board track at Argyle Park.
- We have too many amenities and scheduled programs already.
- A county wide effort to address the poison ivy infestations along our trails and around our playgrounds.

- integrating adult /teen outdoor training - pull up bars etc. <http://www.aaastateofplay.com/adult-fitness/> kids today are into NINJA warrior so they'd get use out of properly chosen equipment with goals in mind besides just play :) xo would be a great place to warm down after run - to complete a workout!!
- More shade in the vast majority of parks! The lack of shade is particularly relevant and important to those parks with playground equipment for small children. Overheating and sunburn are real concerns for my family, and reforestation would not only provide shade, but ambiance, scenery, and carbon sequestration. Good all the way around!
- more community events to promote nature education or a place for the community to gather
- Work more closely with the numerous private stables in the county
- My recreation needs center around biking and hiking as well as birding so trees and ponds/lakes are important as well. Access to the park facilities is also important... so bus stops and mass transportation options are a plus as well as adequate parking and walkways to and from parks.
- When pond renovation was done in the park, the baseball field and play ground equipment was removed and never replaced (Treadway Rd. side of the Family Park).
- More hiker/biker trails to connect residential areas to the interior of the park. More tot lots.
- I would love for there to be more public restrooms near parks or along trails (specifically thinking of Sligo Creek Trail). Renovate or replace the picnic tables along Sligo Creek Trail. Perhaps, if you aren't already doing so, working with the county health department and other sectors to support food security. For example, the recreation dept could pass out backpacks filled with healthy, long shelf-life foods to summer program participants that are food insecure.
- Raised crosswalks in the Takoma Park portion of Sligo Creek Parkway.
- More mature trees and stormwater projects to protect the parks and streams. Educational materials, signage to explain and engage the public about the biomes.
- More gardens and a variety of trees, plants, and flowers. More interesting walking paths.
- I will be very happy when the WSSC gets their interminable construction project out of Sligo Creek Park so I can enjoy it. I would also like the MoCo Park people, or whoever mows the soccer field across from the Sligo golf course, to stop mowing down to the very edges of the two ponds. There used to be cover for birds there, now there is none.
- Better connections to existing parks via hiker biker paths. Urban plazas like those in many European cities that give urban areas a sense of place.
- In addition to small parks as oases in urban areas, I'd like to see more leafy pathways in our built-up areas. As we develop the new urban districts (e.g., White Flint) please find a way to create walkways where the trees are a major feature. It is so much nicer to walk along the Georgetown Branch Trail than along a sidewalk next to a busy street.
- As listed above
- Downtown Bethesda needs more kid-friendly spaces and specifically it needs a playground and spray park in the downtown area. The playgrounds in Bethesda also need to be updated, especially the pocket parks in East Bethesda on Chase Street and Cheltenham. Montgomery County should also turn the surface parking lots in East Bethesda (lots 25 and 44) into park space with playgrounds. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in.
- I feel there is a severe lack of trails (both paved and unpaved) in Montgomery County. Sure, you have Rock Creek, but I have to drive to get there, and I only live a few miles away from Lake Frank. Yet there is open space, in parkland, that could have trails built on it so that more people could reach the flagship parks without having to travel on busy roads. There are powerline cuts that could have trails built on, that would give people easy access to various neighborhoods and more options for recreation, but I'm guessing that PEPCO says "no". I may be spoiled because I just moved to the area from Colorado, but I could access a trail a quarter-mile from my house and run 20+ miles with very little pavement (and this is in the very developed Front Range, not the mountains)
- A bike trail connecting Brookside Nature Center and Pine Lake, camping opportunities there as well...also note the Red Door Country Store could be part of Woodlawn Manor
- While the county officials spout "smart growth" they don't comprehend the need for green space in the rapidly urbanizing areas.

- Outdoor volleyball courts. All that's needed is a net that is set up during the spring, summer, and fall on a flat area that has boundaries marked.
- Longer season for outdoor swimming. It's certainly warm enough before Memorial Day and after Labor Day, and no doubt teen life guards could use the additional income.
- More well maintained basketball courts that can be used after dark
- Better bike trails and walking trails that are interconnected. Better signage of the resources. More volunteer opportunities to get invested in the county resources. Keep facilities like golf and parks inexpensive.
- Community program for different group of ages to create a sense of community and to provide meaningful activities to attract our children away from the digital world and social isolation.
- More bike trails. Cycling is growing quickly in the area.
- Bike trails along busy roads
- I'd like to see more bike trails that can be used for recreation and transportation through parks. Parks create short cuts and enjoyable riding experiences. I know we need to balance paved, improved trails with impacts on natural resources, but I think this is an opportunity that isn't being fully leveraged.
- Ways to bring people together to encourage empathy.
- more trails for hiking, mountain biking
- None
- Please see comments above.
- DOG PARKS and Trails!!! you absolutely ignore the vast majority of dog owners in the county that aren't rich enough to own a million dollar house with a yard. The dog parks are heavily used and poorly maintained by the county. its sad when setting up a dog park is dirt cheap.
- Fix the riding arenas at the Potomac Horse Center. It is dangerous because the roof leaks and the floor is slippery especially the New School.
- More playgrounds and greenspace in downtown Bethesda and the surrounding neighborhoods. The surface parking lots in East Bethesda -- lots 25 and 44 -- should be converted into park space with playgrounds. Please!!!
- Dog park in downtown Bethesda! I can't believe there isn't one already, honestly.
- see above comment.
- cant think of any
- As a female runner, a top priority is safety. This means some degree of regular checking in/patrol by an authority figure. Gang activity has increased tremendously in the area. Groups of teens congregate in many of our parks, especially under cover and in poorly lit areas. Safety to me also means ensuring that blown-out lights are replaced, that areas (especially parking) are well-lit. Yes, people need to use common sense, but there is no excuse for unlit public areas that should be lit. In addition, I understand that this can be very much outside our budgetary means, but an emergency post (often seen on college campuses) along popular trails/parks could be huge in ensuring safety. Having one located every so often along trails and in parks would absolutely give people, especially women, peace of mind. We need better upkeep of trails and facilities in general. There are thousands of local runners that rely on well-kept trails and bathrooms. Often times there are large ruts or obstacles that prove dangerous especially for those on wheels, and to a lesser extent shrubbery and branches in the way of trails. In terms of programs, our area is one of the most active, fittest areas of the country. While there is the Montgomery County Road Running Club, it would be fantastic to establish some kind of network to better connect runners and bikers. For instance, having a free public event with a trail expert introducing people to a trail they might want to learn more about. The history alone could be fascinating. I have lived and run the roads/trails of the DMV for 25 years, yet only recently learned of the Gold Mine Trail high above my beloved C&O Canal. The runners in my group had never run it either, and loved it. A speaker series like this could be so low cost, yet an excellent way to bring the community together to learn more about our local roads/trails. Lastly, community leaders may be surprised at the extent to which runners/bikers want to help keep the parks/trails clean. In my running group, runners often pick up trash that others have left behind; they even scold runners for letting a tissue accidentally drop from a pocket. The MCRRC group is constantly aware of their own trash, and remind others routinely to secure trash to



throw away later. So, another community event could involve a county-wide "MoCo park appreciation day," for volunteers to take to the parks/trails and clean! We LOVE our parks/trails, each of us have our favorites, and to make an annual/biannual/quarterly community event out of it -- maybe even with a celebratory barbecue or discount tickets to a local restaurant as a reward -- could be huge. The Rockville Town Square could be a great meeting point for this, and surely the restaurants around the Square would offer discounts to volunteers who could prove (via wristband for instance) that they participating in the park cleaning day.

- More parks and green spaces. Plant more trees everywhere.
- I think the county already does a good job with this, but I would like to see more educational programs focusing on natural history and the environment.
- Better playground facilities for the kids. The park next to Candy Cane, near East-West Highway has very poor drainage and is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. With Zika still as a threat, it is very important for the drainage to be dealt with, and for the county to spray against mosquitoes in that swampy space.
- More upcounty services - most are lower county - although increasingly more and more are coming up
- More bike trails. More green space in general. More sports locations down county. Fewer, far fewer deer.
- I would love to see more cooking classes. I have signed up for a few but they've been canceled, I assume for lack of interest. Maybe if they were better advertised there would be more interest. The portable parks for urban parks is a wonderful program. I would like to see it expanded to include parks outside of downtown Silver Spring and Hillendale.
- I support continued expansion of summer rec centers for county children. When I was a child in the 1960's, I spent nearly every weekday at Radnor Elementary School where they had organized ball games, arts & crafts, etc.
- Friendlier entrances for pedestrians, bikers to encourage more use from people who live in the vicinity of the park.
- I have one specific agenda point that I think needs attention: Potomac Horse Center. I have always wondered if the county actually contributes to it. They have very serious upkeep needs that people whose kids use the facility can't pay for. Believe me, not everyone who goes there is a rich horse-type of person. It's also used by disabled and special-needs riders. It needs some help to stay a unique resource for the county.
- The facilities at the Potomac Horse Center are in dire need of repair. My child just started taking lessons at the facility, which is leased from the Maryland-National Capital Park.
- Closing Sligo Creek Parkway to cars on the weekends.
- the county can start by preserving and enhancing the green spaces that exist instead of selling them off to developers for high density housing and tax breaks; the county can apply zoning as intended to ensure development doesn't impact existing residents, and that transportation planning supports all residents - not just those that are trying to get from the north parts of the county into dc - e.g. brt
- Greater efforts towards safer bicycling routes.
- More programs that are geared toward a scout earning a specific badge. Not many scout leaders have the outdoor expertise. More trail maps with link to neighborhoods, more soccer fields.
- Dog Park in Bethesda
- Better playground facilities, more parks, more paved trails
- We need more parks with splash pads. More public pools that offer swim instruction for young children, and more parks with a variety of activities for young kids (we love Watkins Regional Park in PG county for the farm, train, themed playground and carousel. I wish we had a park like that closer to home.)
- Woods. Trails through those woods. No buildings. If you have to have programs, make them nature walks & observations. Plan to acquire more land. Plan to buy back our future.
- More trails, maintain the capital crescent trail rather than replace it with the worthless Purple Line.
- Water fountains and lavatories. Slides and swings big enough for adults. Indoor swimming pool in Bethesda. Better paving for bike paths.

- Internal public transportation accessibility for residents living on OLD COLUMBIA PIKE north of 11501 OLD COLUMBIA PIKE (DOW JONES BUILDING) and residents on New Hampshire North of White Oak Library, should be implemented in the near future.
- An indoor swimming facility in Silver Spring An exercise/weight lifting facility in Silver Spring • Again - good programs for teens. Also more dog friendly parks. The ones I go to (some authorized and some not) are heavily used and enjoyed by residents, including many elderly people who cannot give their dogs a lot of exercise through walking. But I don't make the argument on behalf of the dogs. The main thing is that these are wonderful community-building gatherings.
- Please see above. Permanent concrete skateparks built by experienced skatepark builders like: Team Paine(Arlington), or Artisan Skatepark's (North Carolina).
- Focus on getting dog owners to use the dog park instead of the local tennis court. Putting more paths for walking.
- Dog parks, neighborhood events, sheltered walking or running trails and nature trails. Safe commuting bike trails, transportation to parks.
- 1. Prominent easy to read Name Tags for Recreation Staff. 2. Support staff that can be present to help with seniors and integration of multiple cultures.
- Current programs are great.
- 1) Trails and more trails, paved and unpaved. Connect the communities with bike paths, hiking paths and safe road crossings all over the county. 2) stream restoration, habitat connectivity, invasive plants removal to protect and strengthen our natural areas.
- biking lanes so that car traffic can move safely and pedestrians are free to move without bike accidents
- I love guided walks and tours in nature. These are not missing but I would like to see more of them made available to the general public especially children.
- Save the natural resources. Save the contours of the properties. Save and reuse the historical structures. Create environments where people will want to jog, walk, push strollers or wheelchairs and congregate away from the highways and exhaust fumes.
- I would like to see more hiking trails. I would also like the nature centers to be given more support in offering programs for high schools students and adults, not just preschool and elementary kids. Nature centers should offer higher level, more scientific programs to promote science literacy in our society.
- I'm always looking for water and a bathroom/porta John.
- Fenced dog parks, and more walkable, accessible fields.
- 1) As noted above, better, more focused support for young adults on the autism spectrum, including programs designed to help these folks build a community of friends on the spectrum, and support from the broader society, including employers. Very critical need. 2) a safer and more extensive network of bike trails.
- I would like to see more dog parks.
- As mentioned above, better maintained athletic fields.
- I live near the MLK, Jr. park complex...which has good swimming facilities...but would love at least some gym equipment and classes on other than swimming.
- see nursing home residents comments + recycle bins would be great for their staff as they take water or juice bottles for the residents.
- Specifically, I would like to see more community gardens and better care of the community gardens that do exist. Well kept gardens have been shown to increase home values, improve community morale, enhance plant diversity (which protects pollinators), and encourage healthy eating.
- More bike trails for family bike rides, updated playground equipment, more children rec activities, both free and at a cost, (both indoor and outdoor) and facilities near Silver Spring and Wheaton area, better communication with the residences if there is an upcoming activity in a particular area.
- More public swimming facilities - lakes and pools.

## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

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- Existing facilities that are in good repair Replace existing facilities that are outdated, too small, do not meet the expectations of a 21st century visitor Public garden at Ovid Hazen Wells, as stated in the master plan Renovated nature centers and/or new nature center(s) More community gardens More staff to facilitate understanding and enjoyment of our natural resources, leading to stronger stewardship action among county residents Nature play spaces and play facilitators Nature pre-school Garden and nature-based programs for millennials that taps into their environmental ethos Garden and nature-based programs for communities of color that are responsive to their needs and builds on shared love of gardening, nature, food, and health Increased programming that capitalizes on the health benefits of gardens and nature Increased bi-lingual programming Meaningful interpretive signage and logical wayfinding systems at Parks facilities and trails A website that is functional, beautiful and easy to navigate Paid internships for high school and college students, particularly recruiting from communities of color More performing arts in Parks More visual arts programs in Parks Use some of parks property to develop a farm incubator program to help develop regional sustainable food systems
- Brookside Gardens needs a new conservatory -- the old one is aging and falling apart. Brookside Gardens should be promoted as a top Montgomery County tourist attraction. With additional funding, Brookside Gardens could attract tourist dollars to the local economy. More programs taking advantage of the healing benefits of green space should be offered.
- In Montgomery County, we need events that can bring cultures together, like music and the arts. We particularly enjoy the Garden of Lights and the Summer Concert series at Brookside Gardens.
- More classes and offerings for the community. Possibly corporate sponsored events relating to nature and the parks could be planned.
- None. The wide variety of options are sufficient. They just need to be maintained.
- Well posted nature trails that can educate the public about the flora and fauna that can be seen while on it, improving Brookside Gardens so that it can showcase more interesting/exotic plants that cannot be found easily, having art in the Garden in the form of special exhibits, annual gathering for the public by the Parks in the form of events once or twice a year.
- More for working adults - the parks have been taken over by kids organized sports and retired persons activities. I miss the Women's Weekend around Labor Day and yoga at Brookside after the "reorganization" removed staff who had planned these self-sustaining activities.
- Providing indoor spaces for active toddler time/ early childhood gross motor activities, especially for the colder months. Our neighborhood park needs updating, Garrett Park Estates has been shifting to young families in recent years, and this park is in the center of the neighborhood. It gets moderate use, but with some updating (especially the old merry-go-round), it could serve older kids as well as the toddlers and attract more families.
- Opening more neighborhood parks.
- More parks in communities. Sometimes roscoe r nix has about 80 players playing soccer in one little field behind the school.
- Improved trails, signage, trash receptacles, education.
- I would like to see more actual recreation centers. The one in my neighborhood, West Hillandale, was taken down in favor of a covered meeting area. That does not work in inclement weather or if there is a need for electricity. Also, I'd like to see a greater variety of fitness options - different types of dance, yoga, pilates, and other leading edge exercise programs. Last, I'd like to see more programming for singles. Nature walks, natural resource and/or cultural-historic preservation activities, and other purposeful and social events would be nice.
- Repairs to Potomac Horse Center are an important priority for the safety of horses and riders.
- Mandatory Swimming lessons for grade school kids.
- Incorporating the arts (music, dance, theater, painting) into Parks programs.
- It would be nice to have ways to report large trash accumulations and have them be addressed. It would also be nice to have a large dog park somewhere in the county where I could run on trails with my dog.
- Where possible, accommodations for the disabled should be incorporated in recreation areas.
- For parks all over: MORE benches!!! See NYC if not sure what I mean. For sports fields: quit putting in synthetic/artificial turf fields. Hot, poisonous (they have lead & mercury--- why are we paying for this exposure?) and more expensive than grass that cools & recharges water tables. Back to benches: this is a generalized observation from many neighbors. In terms of parks generally nothing comes to mind in general. Maybe make community centers less of a dump? I was at Clara Barton a few nights

ago for their annual bingo night & the place feels almost like it's abandoned. It's clean & has chairs, working heat & lights etc... probably too big of a CIP tho.

- Many programs at our gardens and parks are designed for people who are available during the day, but more attention should be given to programming aimed at working adults. That means more weekend and evening classes. More emphasis on environmental programs, workshops on how to make your own home more environmentally friendly, how-to gardening and horticultural programs and trips.
- playgrounds with features that work year round and don't need consistent maintenance
- Giving fines to people breaking rubbish and littering laws, THIS IS A TOP PRIORITY Clean-up teams, Recycling and rubbish bins More public forested land for enjoyment and recreation
- More Naturalists in the parks would be an incredible asset to inform, guide, direct attention to natural issues that might be otherwise missed.
- Programs are good
- Do you mean missing from this survey? Why no mention of the public gardens? They are very very important features of Montgomery County. I treasure Brookside and it is one of the best things about living here.
- More natural surface trails Nature study and garden programs at senior centers
- Open fields when they are not reserved and provide significant discounts to those who regularly want to use the facilities. In another MD county, a group organized an adult rec club to reserve fields every Sunday morning and that group gets a huge discount. Like to see something similar here.
- It would be great to have more green space in Bethesda.
- family site and a bldg for restrooms instead of porta potties (out dated) with grills, we shouldn't have to travel miles to gather with family and have good entertainment sometimes for the community, we pay taxes give something back.
- more programs for aging adults more accessible pathways and activities for special needs, disabled and elderly preserving habitat for birds and wild animals getting rid of invasive plants, adding attractive native plants
- I think there need to be more flowers and native gardens to help native pollinators and educate people of that importance.
- outdoor workout stations wine and music festivals group zumba and yoga outside longer hours for outdoor pools
- I think you should add additional picnic shelters in high density areas such as Wheaton, which are located very close to apartment buildings and which would provide gathering space for the people living there. We should also make more of an effort to make our parks more assessable to people without cars.
- Pls consider implementing natural playgrounds. We need to move beyond the cookie cutter plastic equipment and turn to natural materials that correspond aesthetically to the natural environment- rocks, wood, ropes, etc Children would rather be challenged in a place that looks like a mini Ewok Village than bored in the result of our attempts to be 'safe' with what the current plastic ubiquitous playground 'promises'. Studies have shown children are bored on these, so use them in ways not intended, thereby actually increasing injury chances. Plus they are just unattractively predictable places that simply don't correspond to nature at all.
- I have tried to reserve fields for one time use programs. It is not so easy to do. My needs don't necessarily fit the profile. I am over 60, am not scheduling sporting events with a seasonal attendance, but social events for adults. These typically have a minor sport component such that we want to be on a field
- Nature and outdoor programs for families with working parents More opportunities for youth and teens to have regular nature and outdoor experiences
- My favorite amenities the parks offer our the diversity of trails. The up keep of the trails for safety and possibility providing more trail markers would be nice. I would be nice to be able to leave my phone behind and just follow a well marked trail.
- As I age, I want to see green, accessible spaces that are down county. It seems we often get low priority when it comes to park funding.
- I would love to see more invested into Locust Grove Nature Center - it would be nice to see a larger and more updated space that could support more programming and programming for adults.

## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

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- Larger spaces/areas to accommodate school groups and events and programming. How about a park app, or map app for trails or even for park events?
- More permeable paved trails, use of segways or other self propelled mobile devices for seniors, get rid of the unused tennis courts, more solar panels on rec buildings, nature preschools.
- more classes for homeschooling families multi-age/use facilities
- A skatepark only needs to be built. once built it is up to the skaters imagination to skate and attempt various maneuvers/tricks on the different obstacles.
- I really enjoy nature and garden centers such as those at Black Hills and Brookside Gardens. I would like to see more of these types of nature education programs throughout the county. I most enjoy the Parks that are left more to nature, with hiking trails, waterways, large forested areas, and protected flora/fauna. I am concerned that too much emphasis is being placed on the creation of athletic fields. While I understand there is some demand for these types of amenities, I feel that our county already has enough of them, and they are not environmentally a good practice for water management.
- I would love to see more events geared toward toddlers. I am an at home mom to two young kids and we are often looking for events or educational experiences during the week since pre school at that age is not every day. A little craft or a nature centered sorry hour or something like that would be great!
- I refer back to the boating prohibition. I can paddle the Potomac, including over Great Falls legally. Same goes for Seneca Creek through the state park. But launch into Rock Creek for example, and I have to elude park officers. There is no rational reason for this.
- Downtown Bethesda needs some type of community center for recreation such as a pool, meeting space and gyms for basketball and other sports. Very important as more traffic comes to the area and it will be more difficult to drive out of the area.
- Lower-cost recreation facilities that appeal to all ages and cultures: e.g., bocce courts, cricket courts, handball, street hockey, biking and walking paths that connect parks with bus and Metro lines. (As compared to higher-cost facilities like ice rinks.)
- Down County dog park. Down county green space. The county is taking away the "green space" in downtown Wheaton and putting a multi story building in its place after years of promising us a "green town square".
- indoor climbing walls, roller rinks, safe boating classes, horticulture, computer coding classes, classes on how to make your home energy efficient, more programs for adults with disabilities and seniors that need adult day care.
- 1) Promote appreciation of the natural world but Don't try to fight electronics- integrate them optionally before, during and after natural fun programs to find and identify things. Use them for scavenger hunts for example. Ask people to try and identify the plants around their sports fields- offer prizes. 2) Provide plenty of signage to let people know what plants, fish and animals are native along parks trails, why native plants are necessary for intact healthy habitats, water and air and human health, and make sure these are near sports venues. Include websites and perhaps bar codes for people to learn more. 3) Also signage on why invasives are problems and what people can do to help not just in the parks but in their own yards.
- Storage sheds and grass cutting schedules would be great. Sheds to help with large equipment like goal post pads and tackle dummies for safe training. Grass cutting and other activities known so when lines are needed to be painted, we are doing it during conditions to ensure longevity.
- Bathrooms, better advertising
- Nature centers. More money for programming for nature centers and preservation of natural resources.
- more nature walks with signs or some info on what we see, we are not all Park rangers so we need help with names of plants, trees, rocks and some historical signs as well, ie which president has visited montgomery county parks? I think none meet your congressperson in the park day visit Ike in the park before the concert night
- On of my major hobbies is birding, and many birders visit MoCo parks daily. I know that the Parks Department has many employees with experience in wildlife, and native vegetation, etc. Unfortunately, there does not see to be a coordinated program to put this expertise to use in developing, for example, a "birding trail" or similar area. In fact, all too often we find trails are being paved, widened, vegetation cut back or moved, and far too much mowing and noise disturbance. I would also like to see every suitable park have a demonstration "pollinator garden" ( here is where you can get help from organizations like the Montgomery Bird Club and the Xerces Society) and also an increase in "no-mow areas where appropriate. Partner with

these organizations to run weekend programs for those wanting to learn about our native wildlife, as I know park staff time is limited.

- More support for scouting. More tables and benches on trails. Keep horses off the people trails.
- Frequent cleanup. Availability of trash cans. Availability of picnic tables. Clearing brush from "naturalized" spaces. Removing fallen trees and branches from "naturalized" spaces.
- County sponsored fun runs and races, particularly along Sligo Creek Trail.
- Park amenities for aging adults.
- Bocce ball
- I think that the county park system must find new sources of funding. Their permit system is totally inadequate. Prices should be increased for high demand uses, such as sports programs run by private companies. Allow permits to be issued for programs before 9:30 am. Have an events planner on staff to encourage events in the parks and charge accordingly for park use.
- I'd like to see more bird-watching and natural interpretive programs so people and children can learn more about local ecosystems and the importance of their protection. I'd also like to see more invasive plant removal volunteer events.
- I think it would be nice to have naturalist activities in local parks - not just nature centers.
- continue to emphasize paths and pedestrian/biking friendly access and trails.
- Missing more experiences to enjoy nature. Montgomery Parks should get out of the golf, ice skating, baseball business - leave that to the schools and private companies.
- I would love to see the park trail system expanded to link various areas together. We run and bike these trails (up-county area) and have cut our own "trails" at times in order to get from one area to another but it would be much better if the county could do it especially as they are aware of the best spots to blaze a new trail. And the trails that MCPR has laid out are always nice!
- None. A wide variety of opportunities are available
- I would like to see bathrooms (even portapotties would be acceptable, if unsightly) at more of the parks, and it would be great if more of the water fountains worked.
- I am happy with the new trails that Little Bennett has added in the last several years.
- There's a pedestrian cut-through on our block, the long cul-de-sac of Sloan Street in Rockville, that the County had forgotten and abandoned for a long time. It has a set of switchback stairs that the children for several blocks around use to get to Rock Creek Valley Elementary. For many years, it was full of poison ivy, pokeweed, deadly nightshade, and several thorny bushes, all of which sprawled onto the sidewalk and stairs. After a long campaign of phone calls, we finally got the County to send out a crew to cut back all those plants that were dangers to young children -- thank you! yay! -- but now the soil erosion from stormwater runoff is out of control. We're trying to restore the soil enough to put in a rain garden, to use native non-invasive plants to slow down the runoff, but we're all stretched thin with our jobs and our family responsibilities. A very small amount of work on the scale of what the Parks Department normally undertakes could make a huge difference in turning this utilitarian cut-through surrounded by an environmentally problematic eyesore into something beautiful and beneficial for birds and pollinators, a model for gardeners in the neighborhood. More generally, poison ivy reduction in areas intended for children to play would be helpful. Poison ivy may be a native plant, but it's aggressive, just this side of invasive, and serves the ecosystem far less well than any number of other native plants.
- Many parks I visit do not have restrooms (porta-potties), which would be very useful
- Rugby fields please.
- i would miss the recumbent bikes at the recreation centers. i am disabled an this is the only exercise that I can do!
- We have a unique opportunity in the agricultural reserve to provide park land usage which would draw visitors from outside our normal service area. This is an "out-of-the-box" idea which might work since it is thematic, and not just recreational for local residents.
- Trails that have places to sit along the way and allow people to immerse themselves in greenery.

- Integrated riding trails. Improvement of the facilities at Rickman's on Buck Lodge Road. Improvement of the Potomac Horse Center facilities. Stables need to be upgraded and facilities designed for multi-use, including classes, therapeutic riding, competitions and trail riding.
- More safe bicycle paths on the major streets in my neighborhood. Except for bicycle paths, the concerns I have raised are not a problem for my zip code, they are serious health and well-being problems for others not fortunate enough to live in my current neighborhood that has quiet places and trees. Green spaces are calming for most of our senses and provide respite for our hectic lives.
- More rugby fields for youth and adults.
- Larger, dedicated field(s) for rugby are needed. The sport is growing very fast, and there are limited field options for youth and adult teams. The sport (now back in the Olympics) attracts male & females participants of all abilities and across all race and social spectrum. It is all -inclusive, very rewarding, and the County should seek to promote it given the existing level of participation.
- Nice to have Porta Potties at more of the parking areas, specifically in Little Bennett
- More neighborhood parks with good play equipment for younger children. I would also really like something to be done about the seemingly annual "blooms" on Lake Needwood that close it almost every summer for recreational use. That park is also totally lacking in playground equipment for younger children.
- Eliminate artificial turf fields. They are terrible for the ecosystem, cause injury and overheating and spread dangerous bacterial disease like Mersa.
- More playgrounds, more dog parks, and more events that focus on bringing a community together.
- Los parques me sirven bien por que tengo carro y dinero para gastar en programas para mis niños. También hablo ingles. La comunidad Hispana necesita mas personaje bilingüe para asistir in educarlos de las oportunidades para ellos. Y mas programas como las clases de naturaleza en español que van a dar en Meadowside Nature Center, por favor!
- Senior trips are difficult to get into, too few spaces for the number who want to participate.
- Water fountains and portapotties in parks on the major running trails please. We have very large running groups and tend to be constrained and kept off key trails for lack of water and portapotties. Especially in the winter.
- More picnic pavilions and rooms that can be reserved for events. More young kid friendly activities and amenities like the Wheaton Regional Park and Glen Echo Park have. Fitness center hours and classes that cater to young working professionals are also needed.
- More education to the public about programs and resources More trashcans
- I believe every pro should have a water fountain. I also think MoCo would benefit from a permanent pump track for bicycles and skateboards.
- ensuring that all neighborhoods have accessible (walking distance) playgrounds or green space, especially in exurbia. Some neighborhoods have a lot. Some neighborhoods have none.
- Woodland restoration is ongoing, and, needs to be stepped up county-wide. I realize this means an increase in the Parks budget to fund the staff and other requirements to undertake significant restoration and protection of woods and other natural areas, and I support such Parks budget increases. This includes native plant, tree and soil restoration in parkland natural areas combined with removal of exotic invasives w/o use of pesticides, and ongoing deer management. There are also money-saving changes, such as an increase in no-mow/no-leaf-blow zones, that will enable woods to expand incrementally rather than shrink, and to absorb more runoff, as part of compliance with the Parks' stormwater permit. Rather than mowing and leaf-blowing, the woodland edge zones can be allowed to naturally regenerate (letting the leaves stay where they fall), while weed warrior volunteers and staff provide regular exotics removal. Bare ground that is dried by leaf-blowing is more susceptible to exotic plant colonization.
- Please keep supporting and expand the community garden program. Improve recycling in public spaces and promote "zero waste events" for all events in parks. Parks should have a comprehensive recycling program and should include composting. Connect with the school recycling program to have consistency across educational programming and reinforce home and school recycling connections.

## APPENDIX 11 - Needs Assessment Report

- Historic interpretation - I am filled with wonder when I come across old mills or foundations of past communities and I love to know more. Signage is good but occasional talks and guided hikes are even better. Active archeological research is vital (and the county has a great program that allows community study & engagement). Also: more safe bike access for serious adult bikers but also families with novice bikers.
- For recreational programs, instructors should be more experienced. Career coaches should be teaching classes. There is too much staffing by low-paid seasonal and temporary workers. One alternative could be contract workers who are paid at higher rates to provide more professional instruction.
- More trash control
- A large park with open green space in the midst of DTSS, perhaps an extension of the playground and dog park by the old library.
- More swim activities for adults, perhaps actively engaging in Adult learn to swim month (April I think). Making a goal to get teach more young people to swim, especially in communities of color.
- More tennis courts, more handball walls.
- I am not looking for "amenities", as they are by definition improvements made by private companies engaged in housing/other redevelopment usually on private property and where private property enters public roadways, sidewalks, etc. I seek outright PUBLIC BENEFITS improvement and extension to more areas of Montgomery County - especially where residential and working populations are already dense, rather than trying to 'Densify' suburban areas into urban ones by Land Use rezoning 'tricks', without consulting current resident or working people in these locations by means of a clear-cut VOTE on formal referendums. We need community decision-making (not mere community "inputs" to Planners (with Ulterior Agendas who use "Bait-and-Switch" tactics to obtain acquiescence) in order to determine real-world Public Benefits to Parks and Recreation infrastructure, programs, and opportunities to experience nature safely and healthily.
- I am very happy with the current dog parks, but as a dog owner I would always be happy with more! I love the racquetball courts in Olney and wish there were more in other parts of the county. The ones in Olney are often completely full so I think I'm not the only one who loves them! I used to live in Olney and now I live in Germantown, fyi. I really like the nature talks at Meadowside also, and wish there were more activities like this closer to Germantown now.
- We need large off leash dog parks. Not 0.5 to 1 acre areas, but 20-100 acre areas. They don't have to be in the city, but there don't appear to be any in the county.

### How would you describe your household?

	Response Percent	Response Count
At least one child under age 18 lives here	34.3%	102
Someone age 55 and over lives here	57.9%	172
No children under 18 and no one age 55+ lives here	11.4%	34
Someone with a disability lives here	9.1%	27
Single-family detached house or townhouse / duplex	86.5%	257
Multi-family low- or high-rise building	6.4%	19
Use bus or rail public transit for non-work related trips	33.7%	100
Lived in current house for less than two years	10.8%	32
Lived in current house 15 or more years	54.5%	162
Hispanic or Latino ancestry	6.4%	19
White	84.2%	250
African American or Black	3.7%	11
Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	5.7%	17
Some other race	1.3%	4



**Do you have any additional comments or suggestions to help Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Recreation staff plan for the County's future parks, recreational facilities, or programs?**

- Provide Pickleball lining on existing tennis courts in County.. Growing national & local interest in Pickleball playing
- We need outdoor pickleball courts so please line existing tennis courts or install new ones we can use asap.Thanks
- Pickleball is an excellent sport to promote within the community. Less playing space is required than a tennis court, and it uses more economically stable equipment. It is a very easy sport to learn and accessible for people of all ages.
- I often walk along Magruder Branch Trail. When I think of it, I take along a bag to collect trash. Do you think having trash cans along the trail would encourage people NOT to litter?
- Thanks for asking the public about our needs... :) We need pickleball courts
- More pickleball courts and times
- As a relatively new Pickleball player, I wish the county would have dedicated courts to only Pickleball. The lines in gyms are not completely accurate. As this is the fastest growing sport in the country, it should be offered in as many locations as possible. I play in Potomac, and think that I might be one of the only people to actually live there. While I appreciate that Community Centers are for the entire County, if there were more facilities dedicated to this one activity, it would be better.
- I would like to see some of the bigger parks, Olney, Wheaton, Cabin John, ect. put some pickleball courts in the parks. The game has really taken off and the seniors really need some outside courts. I have been in the parks during the week and the tennis courts are barely used. The tennis courts are used during the weekend and at night during the week. You could just make lines on the tennis courts so they could be used during the week. We have enough space and it would cost little to line the tennis courts so they could be used for both sports.
- The new Recreation complex in Wheaton off Georgia Avenue would be the perfect place for increased opportunities to play pickleball.
- They should consider the fact that 4 pickle ball courts can be painted over 1 Tennis Court. If all are occupied, there would be 16 pickle ball players to 4 tennis players. Again, see Google images. The department needs to maximize the use of its real estate.
- I believe it would be beneficial to provide more pickleball options, either by lining existing tennis courts or in the long-run providing dedicated pickleball courts where feasible. This is a growing sport which appeals to both genders and all age groups. Also Montgomery County is committed to attracting seniors and this is a sport with high appeal to seniors. Furthermore, outdoor tennis courts are often underutilized, so lining them for pickleball would be a cost-effective way to better utilize existing tennis courts. Thank you for your consideration.
- Pickleball is growing fast, and more dedicated courts are needed to accommodate more players. Compared to tennis, pickleball is safer and less prone to injury. Pickleball courts fit in a smaller area, and all you need to play are shoes and a paddle. It's a lot cheaper than tennis, and therefore accessible to more people.
- Have a meeting of pickleball players
- I'd like to see more facilities for playing pickleball. It is a fast growing sport that can be played indoors or outdoors. There are many unused tennis courts in the area that could be used for pickleball. Painting lines is very inexpensive as are the nets. It's a game that appeals to all ages and is especially suitable for seniors or former tennis players. It is easy to learn. You could also provide clinics or lessons. Thank you for asking.
- Include pickleball courts and volleyball courts in new park designs. Too often volleyball is absent or added later in less than ideal location.
- With the ever increasing popularity of Pickleball in this region and throughout the country, I think the county should look into the possibility of painting Pickleball lines on existing tennis courts or better yet, converting some of those courts to dedicated Pickleball courts. There is a tennis court at Mt. Zion Park which has suffered tree damage to fencing (which was replaced) and scares to the court surface, twice in the last eight years or so. I was told when the first damage occurred that the courts were not slated to be resurfaced due to the budget. My husband patched the surface, doing an adequate job, and we have since been playing on the court. We play both tennis and Pickleball (with chalked lines.). We never see anyone else there except the

group we bring. One court is unusable due to damage to the surface from mildew. The other court has the patched surface. This court would be a perfect candidate for a dedicated Pickleball court. Of course, I would be happy Pickleball courts anywhere, but I know this court should be generally rehabilitated. I assure you, I can produce the resident county pickleballers to use this or any court. Thank you for listening.

- There are many summer camps and activities available but the Rockville-Olney-Brookville area has less program availability. For instance golf is upper Montgomery and/or Bethesda.
- Love what is available for those of us over 55.
- As soon as possible, I'd like Montgomery Parks to line the outdoor tennis courts for pickleball. Currently I play indoors but have been told that come summer, these spaces become unavailable so that they may be used for summer camps. Pickleball has rapidly grown in popularity in the area; therefore, I'd also like the county, in their long term planning, to consider developing outside courts dedicated to the game.
- The county should understand and accommodate the rapidly exploding popularity of pickleball. In the near term, more days/hours for indoor pickleball play should be added to the MoCo rec centers, and ALL MoCo tennis courts should have pickleball lines added. This does not ruin the courts for tennis players, rather simply expands the usage of the courts. Adding PB lines to tennis courts allows whole families to play PB outdoors on summer weekends and evenings when working parents are off. In the long term, there should be dedicated pickleball courts built, with fencing to trap the balls. Pickleball is growing in popularity because it's an easy sport to start up, can accommodate players of all ages in the same game (great for family play), has low equipment costs, and is great fun. PLUS, possibly its most important asset: pickleball promotes physical activity in people of all ages in a county where sedentary lifestyles are the norm.
- I have been playing pickleball for over a year now. In the summer we played outside as the student programs require the rec centers. At Longwood Rec Center the group had many people waiting for a turn on the court. The group played starting at 8:00 in the cooler part of the day. It seems we need more outdoor pickleball courts with some designated solely for pickleball, not just tennis. The pickleball group is growing in Montgomery County. I did recently play for an hour at a park in Southern California with my brother. It was an outdoor pickleball court. Even with the rainy days this winter in California, when it did not rain, the courts were being used. The sport is growing all over America. Thank you for this forum.
- I'd like to see improved communication especially from the Recreation Department, and would be happy to share my ideas and concerns with them.
- None, thank you.
- We'd love to see new equipment for older kids at the South Four Corners park. We also think the new Pop Up initiatives are fantastic and lots of fun, would like to see them continue into the summer a little later into evenings so we can take kids after work! Swimming classes and pools are so limited for the number of kids that participate, it'd be nice to have more pools and more classes!
- MORE OUTDOOR DESIGNATED PICKLE BALL COURTS....EVERY PARK AREA WITH TENNIS COURTS ARE IDEAL FOR TAPING OF PICKLEBALL COURTS. THE ACTIVITY HAS BECOME VERY POPULAR AND WILL ONLY CONTINUE TO GROW IF COURTS ARE AVAILABLE
- As you can see from numerous sources, Pickleball may be the fastest growing sport in the US -- and not just among the older crowd. It's beginning to be taught in the public schools and parks (private and public) around the country have had great success either lining tennis courts for Pickleball play or converting tennis courts into Pickleball courts.
- Please consider expanding the number of pickleball courts in the county. The number of people that are playing seems to be growing every day. Many of the new players are older people (and long time tax payers) that have not used the parks in years.
- I would like to see Montgomery County make more courts available for playing pickleball. While there are some now in use for indoor playing, when the warmer weather arrives, we will need to have outdoor courts available. Dedicated courts would be the best option, though more expensive. However, pickleball courts are much smaller than tennis courts, so the cost would be less, which would be one advantage. A lower cost option would be to mark the pickleball court lines on existing tennis courts, so that they could be used for both sports.
- I said this before, but in case this is a better place I will say it again.....As soon as possible, I'd like Montgomery Parks to line the outdoor tennis courts for pickleball. A growing number of us Montgomery County seniors play pickleball daily indoors at Montgomery County facilities, but come summer the gyms where we play will become unavailable, as they are used then for children's summer programs. County residents need places to play pickleball in the summer. Painting tennis courts with

pickleball lines will expand usage of the already existing courts with relatively small expense. This will help keep county seniors, myself included, healthier, fit, and happy. Thank you for considering my input. Playing pickleball this past 12 months has improved my fitness, health, and happiness.

- Many retirement communities down south have recognized the fitness benefits, and burgeoning interest among seniors, in pickleball. It encourages general fitness (I've lost 15 pounds in 3 months playing 4-5 hours/week over that period), reaction time, eye-hand co-ordination, agility, balance, and is fun. Our 55 and over group is very avid. My wife and I both enjoy it. The social aspect has been a big plus, as well.

- Please accommodate pickle ball players by painting tennis courts to allow for playing on them. I'm a Montgomery county resident living near Long Branch Community Center, and I have to travel to White Oak CRC to pay inspired on a limited schedule. So many tennis courts go unused. Pickle ball is ready to learn, provides a wonderful workout, and requires only inexpensive equipment. Thank you.

- 2 pickleball courts take the space of one tennis court..Many community's are redoing the tennis courts to provide pickleball..that way the many tennis courts we drive by in Mont county not in use will be packed with pickleball players.

LIGHTED OUTDOOR PICKLEBALL COURTS so we can play after work...

- Expand facilities for PICKLEBALL indoor, and outdoor ASAP!

- No, just the comments I made about pickle ball courts. There are some now, but in Gaithersburg city facilities, near where I live.

- I am a senior and an avid pickleball player. I am discouraged by the lack of locations provided by the county for this sport. Because of its rising popularity, playing time is frequently limited due to the large number of people participating. Please consider the game's growth in other parts of the country, especially for seniors, and provide improvements in locations and playing conditions for pickleball.

- Yes, more pickleball courts and nets!!

- Build pickleball courts.

- Pickleball courts outside Meeting the needs of retired members in the gyms to play pickleball during the summer months when the gyms are used for student summer camps

- Multi-use facilities and hosting events to expose those facilities to the community. You do a great job, keep up the good work.

- More green roof parks. Make teen centers out of abandoned properties. Promote more civic art that is created at youth centers. Indoor and outdoor pools should transition away from harsh chemicals to natural filter systems.

- constructing/converting tennis courts to pickle ball courts based on the demand.

- I live in Montgomery County partly because of its remarkable parks system. I feel very privileged to live close to Wheaton Regional Park, and especially Brookside Gardens.

- update lighting in some of the older gyms. It can be very dark. Bauer drive is just one example.

- Responding to the community's needs has made Montgomery Parks outstanding in the past.

- PLEASE more pickleball courts inside and out!

- I think it would be helpful if one could sign up to receive the rec program guide in the mail. I have a terrible time negotiating it on the Internet.

- More Pickleball & Senior Basketball times.

- Partner with schools to improve playgrounds and sporting fields

- Thanks for listening!!

- Mark lines for pickleball use on outdoor tennis courts and designate specific times for pickleball play

- Continue to support and move forward on trail/path development on Pepco/Exelon land, support road diet and inclusion of bike facilities that make sense for the type of road, location, usage, etc.

- I protest the movement toward private funding for our parks through naming rights and hefty charges for events that close off sections of parks to the public. The more private money parks devise ways to raise, the more public officials will be inclined to reduce public funding. Our parks should be publicly funded and open to all the public. Furthermore, until fairly recently in the broad scheme of things, Montgomery County was mostly farms and woods. Now, aside from our extensive parks and an Ag Reserve suffering death by a million cuts, Montgomery County is roads, buildings, and street trees eviscerated by Pepco. The role of those woods and meadows that remain in parks has become critically important to preserving some bit of nature in the county--for the sake of preserving the web of life here and the mental health of our residents (see research on mental and physical health benefits of a walk in the woods). Please do not take any more of our parkland "out of service" by paving trails or clearing woodland for ball fields.
- I think you guys are doing a great job given the challenges of Montgomery Counties increasing population. Thank you for soliciting our feedback on what we think is needed. I would love to see us have a dedicated rugby facility here in Montgomery County where kids can play and adults can support their development.
- We enjoy and appreciate montgomery county parks, nature areas and historical preservation sites. We hope to see the county making wise choices as parks are updated and lands are acquired or change usage designation, but we especially want to see the current areas well maintained, ecologically drained, and well planted. In our neighborhood this particularly applies to martin luther king, jr. rec area, northwest branch trails, and the underdeveloped, unplanted rec area on new hampshire near the fda facility.
- All sites should be accessible to the disabled and elderly.
- Thank you for looking to improve the quality of the parks down here in East County. I hope additional rec programs will come once it is built.
- With so many active seniors in our county and the growing rise of pickle ball in the country, I feel we need more access to pickleball courts in the county. They can easily be made by simply painting lines where the tennis courts are as was done in the leisure world community. Indoor courts should be added as well to accommodate the growing number of pickleball players. Thank you.
- Those on bicycles present a real danger to walker's and their leashed dogs. People have been hurt and there have been many near collisions. How about signs warning bikers they are legally responsible if they hurt walker's or their pets, so bike defensibly. I've observed many close calls at Falls Rd. Park.
- Please move forward with Wall Park improvements and find ways to connect White Flint to Rock Creek Park and Tilden Woods without having to go along parkways and other busy streets to get there.
- Please, please add more splash pads for younger children. Not everyone can afford to join a private pool, and the county pools are few and far between. More local splash pads would bring communities together.
- Parks add greatly to our quality of life in Montgomery County. We bought our house because it was walking distance to a neighborhood park as well as Sligo Creek parkway. We have also participated in a community garden in the past. It does seem that many county park and rec facilities were built to serve the suburbs and those with cars. New resources should be focused on heavily populated areas such as downtown silver spring that are also transit accessible so that a more diverse group of residents will be able to access programs and facilities.
- Keep up the good work, including proactive thinking and implementation.
- Our association, the National Association for Recreational Equality, is a Montgomery County-based national organization with thousands of associates across the nation and abroad. It includes community organizers, park planners, architects, disability organizations, elementary and middle schools, all of whom advocate for total mix diversity based on universal design, namely drop-in, walk-on inclusion of the entire community comprised of typical families as well as the differently able, participants with autism, the mobility impaired, physically cognitively challenged, and their families. All know of the reality that communities invest most greatly in support, attention, budgets for sports. They are primarily ball-playing sports, most with body contact, team play, and defeating others. These therefore exclude, marginalize and discriminate against the differently abled, particularly the autistic community which plays sports independently and individually but not with opponents and not with body contact, not with offense and defense and not with teammates, but companionably alongside others not against others. Therefore, the play spaces provided in the design must be autism and wheelchair friendly, inclusive not merely accessible, and people with disabilities and their families must be able to walk-on and drop-in to integrate and socialize and not be segregated in prearranged programs by recreation staff. No one should be marginalized by any of the facilities provided in the master plan so that it becomes a national model of inclusion and diversity. Our objective is to advance consideration of a specific concept

within the conceptual master plan for the “study area design” which the planning board is presently evaluating, namely inclusion and diversity in our parks. We have previously submitted Larry R’s testimony, who states that all his family wants is to have his two children with autism be able to have drop-in accessibility and inclusion playing ball like all kids wish to do but cannot in the parks of Montgomery County. The missing play venues and shortage of facilities that are drop-in, walk-on, available for such families reflects the fact that universal design is not a reality. That is unfortunately characteristic of virtually all Montgomery County parks. We realize that there are a great many other considerations that are necessary to proceed with these plans. A proper balance between green space and play space must be determined so the percentage of each is clearly understood. How the green spaces are to be best determined is certainly a high priority, and one which we can certainly address. But our organization has much more to say about the play space and the play venues and sports facilities that achieve total mix diversity based on universal design. We leave to others to make the green space based on universal design for accessibility and inclusion. Socialization, integration and inclusion comprise the essence of the universal design conception.

- Leave woodlands alone
- Thanks for your great work!
- We love exploring MoCo's amazing parks. Please keep them as awesome as they are. Thank you!!
- just integrating adult/ teen/ elderly equipment and maintaining benches throughout community to last - stain/schlack as they are eroding and people paid good money for those benches as fundraisers i believe \$5000 - \$10,000 in some cases. that's the least we can do! and turf for BCC HIGH SCHOOL please sand based with good shock absorption! the atheletes deserve a great playing surface and less rainouts and a great track since they are on the smallest campus around with growing population of students!
- We're very happy with the number and proximity of parks available to us. Kudos to the county and team there! As previously noted, the newer parks could (on average) use more (any) shade. Additionally, a greater variety of playground equipment would be nice, for proximate parks. It would be nice to walk from park to park and find different play structures, or perhaps a merry go round or a swing.
- keep heavy duty machinery and noisy vehicles out of the park. Add recycling bins!!!!
- Even though I reside in Howard County, I am just north of the Patuxent River and very often enjoy the amenities of Montgomery County.
- Lawn mowing and fencing has been neglected for years.
- Please do something about non-native plants and over grasing by deer and feral cats!
- Thank you for doing what you do! I look forward to seeing what comes out of this planning effort. Best of luck!
- Resist the urge to develop facilities in the parks. Preserve nature!
- More ways to encourage regular walking/running.
- Would like to say that a heroic effort is put into that soccer field to keep it presentable despite so much use. Also appreciate the effort to grow a small meadow adjacent to the field.
- 1. Budget savings -- We could save money by plowing fewer paved trails after a snow storm. That's a luxury. 2. Weed warriors -- what a great challenge they are tackling! These people are heroes. Please continue to support this valuable, mostly volunteer program.
- Please protect our water ways (streams etc) from encroaching development.
- Please turn County parking lots 25 and 44 in East Bethesda (just East of Wisconsin) into park space and install playgrounds and a spray park for our kids! Please also update the playground equipment in the pocket parks on Chase and Cheltenham in East Bethesda (also just East of Wisconsin). There are so many kids in the area and very few places for them to run around safely. Thank you!
- We need more trails and more recreational facilities with gyms for the community. The hours of the rec centers need to be expanded to open earlier.
- Please lower the age eligibility for Senior Seasoned Citizens Nature Club from age 60 to age 55, also open up Harper Homestead more and remove mold from roof...also reasonable accomodations for mental illness
- Be realistic

- Please provide more paved paths.
- Prepare for the new challenges that term limits will bring to lobbying with the county council.
- Keep up the great work!
- Don't make parks and recreation be a car versus bike issue. Or development versus green space. Or recreation facilities versus other county infrastructure projects. Integrate parks and recreation into our fabric of county services, offerings and resources.
- Parking, restrooms and gathering area similar to outdoor amphitheater for community gathering.
- Think about ways to help connect people to one another who have different backgrounds, views, and life experience, so we can encourage a growth mindset and make our communities safer by helping people understand one another better.
- partnering with local user groups, co-ops and communities who actually are using the resources.
- No.
- Put in more dog parks when your putting in those massive sport complexes that no one ever uses! And put water to the dog parks too!!!
- Fix the riding arenas at the Potomac Horse Center. It is dangerous because the roof leaks and the floor is slippery especially the New School.
- Downtown Bethesda and the East Bethesda neighborhood desperately need more community green space and playground space. Please turn county parking lots 25 and 44 in East Bethesda into park/playground space for kids and dogs! Our kids currently spend a ton of time just playing in the streets of our neighborhood because there's nowhere safe to play.
- Keep up the good work. Please don't forget about downtown Bethesda where parks are of the utmost importance and we appear to be at a crossroads. Downtown Bethesda just doesn't have the open space other areas have, and many families live in apartments and really need parks. If we don't create and preserve them now, it won't be possible in the future if the land is developed. I grew up in Bethesda and have moved back after 10 years in NYC because I love what Bethesda has become. I love the development and all of the restaurants and amenities. But what makes it special is that you can have all that AND have it be a wonderful suburban experience with parks and room for kids to play. The latter is very important to preserve or families will leave and new ones won't come. Bethesda cant survive without families because it isnt downtown DC or NYC (a good thing, but not attracting lots of childless professionals). Thank you!
- Every time I contact any branch of the County, I receive an immediate response - I am very impressed with that!
- What I noted in the page earlier would suffice I think!
- When a team gets a licence to use a sports field, they should be made to sign an agreement that all the litter (plastic bottles etc) will be picked up and removed after their games and practices. (the field behind the Arcolca School is quite bad)

Education programs on preseving wildlife and our parks

Do not litter signs with consequences like a fine or communtiy service required as a penalty. Urinating in public should be self explanetary but apparently is it is not.

- Stock fish more than once a year. Lower the cost of renting canoes, kayaks and shelters. Form volunteers groups like Seneca Creek State Park does.
- Downtown Bethesda really needs a dog park. Many of the people moving into the new apartments seem to have dogs. How about buying the land bordered by Wisconsin Avenue, Woodmont Avenue and Flats 8300 apartment building and using it for this purpose?
- I live in Wheaton and find Wheaton Regional Park to be a gold standard for local parks that blends all of its functions seamlessly; any time it can be used as a model I think it should be.
- Parks should include area's with Water fountains or water feature for our seniors to be able to sit and enjoy. A walking pat that is flat for people with limited mobility would be great. Drinking water fountain and Bathroom facility a must.

The slides and play area for children should be divided by green grass and blooming seasonal trees so all can enjoy without the noise.

Shelter with and an area in case of sever weather for coverage.

And most importantly build close to bus routes and public transportation for easy access.

- no
- I'd like to see more resources and staff dedicated to caring for and maintaining trees and forests in Montgomery County parks, particularly mature trees. I'd also like to see improved access between parks for non-motorized travel: safe well-lit trail and bicycle routes that connect east-west above the beltway and below Wheaton, from Sligo Creek park, across Georgia Avenue, to Rock Creek Park across Connecticut Avenue.
- There is already a problem of INVASIVE LIGHT from residences with landscape lighting going beyond their property into national parks, e.g., from Fairfax County, Virginia estates onto Potomac River (which is Maryland) and National Park land, e.g., High Island and C&O Canal. The reason is that owners abutting park land like to have a greater view than their backyard. This has a biological impact on public land.

I would like to assist MP staff plan to prevent this happening in County park lands. Please contact: John Christian, IDSA at jonnxian@mac.com

- I recently was disappointed when recycling containers were removed from the Gables on Tuckerman Park. I spoke with Carl Weber of Montgomery County Parks who was very responsive and arranged for the containers to be restored. Thank you for such excellent service !
- Please provide funding to maintain and make needed improvements on Potomac Horse Center. It enables children and adults to experience the joys of horses. The staff are dedicated and provide wonderful care to the horses, as well as supporting those who want to learn to ride or get better. People come from miles around to use the local trails. The therapeutic riding program enriches the lives of people with disabilities. The barn hosts children's birthday parties and summer camps. It serves the community in many invaluable ways. Please provide funding. The fields and buildings need maintenance and TLC. The horses and riders deserve a well maintained facility.
- I think you're doing a great job. I was very impressed to see the new recreation facility on Travilah (Dacek Center). It would be nice if there was something like that in our neighborhood. Cabin John Community Center is nice but really outdated.
- I applaud the staff at sites such as Holiday Park, Schweinhaut. Mid County, White Oak, Germantown, Benjamin Gaither, and Praisner for the patience, good humor, and genuine care shown to patrons. These people are generally not in the best paid jobs, but whether it's a program for the disabled (WO), after school programs, or the abundance of programs at the senior centers, these people truly are jewels in MoCo's crown.
- Muddy Branch Stream Valley Park is in need of improvement at the Potomac Horse Center. Please repair the buildings!
- Increase staff in the parks department and budgets for the nature centers.
- play it straight..... make sure the facts are presented and that the office isn't just used to support the county council members' personal agendas with developers - your work within the county government for citizens is appreciated
- Just a message of appreciation for all you do.
- Montgomery County Parks are one of the best amenities that the county has to offer. I run in the parks regularly and use the lakes for boating. I also see many residents of modest income using the parks in the summer for picnicks and celebrations. I am happy to have my tax dollars used to support the parks.
- More control of dogs would be nice
- Buy land. They aren't making any more of it.
- Yes, the over development of the region with utter disregard for our waterways is particularly critical. Rock Creek is a disgrace and Seneca Creek is fast becoming an issue. Please look to protect our vital waterways.
- Conversion of underused above-ground parking lots to parks is an excellent concept that bears investigation.
- there is zero enforcement of the Montgomery Parks leash law in the park trails. Rowdy dogs off-leash are becoming quite a nuisance
- I would appreciate an opportunity to meet with a representative of Montgomery Parks & Montgomery County Recreation.  
June C. Henderson

(240) 316-1058

- Help preserve the forests and open areas, don't develop in natural areas.
- Please consider a brand new skatepark of 10,000 sqft or more. It would be very popular with the residents. Thank you!
- I'm concerned that while the Kemp Mill Park looks nice from what I can see, there seems to be an awful lot of solid ground covering. This destroys little critter accessibility to sun, air and water. In addition SOMEBODY has signed a bill creating a rain tax in our state. I am paying taxes for my cement driveway that was put in when the house was built in 1978. Who is paying the rain tax for the Kemp mill park? I think "wooden (engineered/recycled) walkways" would be more esthetically pleasing as well as more environmentally considerate. Take out the tar!
- The people that use the larger parks and recreation centers: how do they get there? Most drive. What about the people who don't? Maybe small neighborhood parks and spaces can serve multiple purposes with small features like a barn for winter dog play, yoga, classes or a band. Use public neighborhood parks for teaching about rain gardens and butterfly gardens. Add a dog park train for dogs and their people to ride to Wheaton Reg Dog Park or golf cart shuttle between areas of the park. Walking and running trails, indoors in winter. Love neighborhood pools and playing fields.
- Kids love to be outside. Please give them more opportunities to just play in the woods and the creeks like I used to do. Playground equipment is fine but expensive and will never replace the joy of climbing a tree or a boulder or splashing in a creek.
- partnership with National Park Seminary neighborhood to restore and improve access to trails in the Glen  
this area is used by many even outside the immediate NPS area.
- Thank you!
- Listen to the residents. Hear the residents. Save the contours of the land. Save the trees. Save the streams. Save and reuse the historical structures. Create walking paths and parks for the residents, away from the exhaust fumes.
- Conservation should be key. Parks play such an important role in environmental conservation of lands, wildlife, and resources and Montgomery Parks should be as active as possible in this work.
- Bike paths. I love the bike paths, but I think there needs to be more education/signage about the rules of the road, both for the new riders who don't understand about signaling or calling out turns/stops/ and hiking "expert's" who need to be reminded to slow down and share the road.
- no you do a great job
- Need more water and bathroom facilities. Shade structures are important.
- The County owned Potomac Horse Center really needs some repair to the roof in one of the arenas (new school). It is leaking every time it rains and this makes it dangerous for the horses and our children. Horse back riding is a sport that is very expensive and out of reach for many in our community. Without PHC many children would not have the opportunity to participate in horse back riding. It would be nice if the roof could be fixed so that the new school could be used safely after it has rained.
- There needs to be more walkable, open fields for play, and closed, fenced areas for dogs in Bethesda. There also needs to be signs that alert citizens and management for waste throughout the City.
- Nope. Love the weight rooms and bike trails
- Yes please do not give the best fields and facilities to private organizations \*BEFORE\* allowing others to try to reserve facilities. Facilities should be available to all taxpayers on a first-come-first-serve basis. I have been trying for years to reserve soccer fields in the Silver Spring area and am always so frustrated to see them already booked by private groups. The fields at Sligo LP or behind Sligo MS are always reserved by Takoma Soccer and a Catholic school every season even though I am careful to log in the second reservations are accepted. What is especially troubling is that so many of these private groups are religiously affiliated schools, which, unless I'm mistaken, don't pay taxes for the fields in the first place. So this means they often have fields I am not allowed to use, but I have to pay taxes for fields they can reserve before me? Also please consider getting rid of that silly Sligo Golf Course. It is barely used and there are already so many golf courses in this area. Meanwhile kids have nowhere to play soccer. Or even convert it to trails. Golf is a waste of good land.
- Yes, my daughter rides horses at the beautiful Potomac Horse Center. The facility is a gem in the county. There is a leaky roof in the New School arena that needs to be fixed. Thank you for your consideration!



- Please include a restroom as part of the plans for the Pinecrest Park in Silver Spring. The only facilities are locked when the community building is not in use, and when it is in use it is for private events. You will regularly see children urinating behind trees. Also, would it be possible to have a pocket dog park in the area? I feel that this would help curb the off-leash dogs that seem to be fixtures at the park.
  - Think the park (MLK, Jr.) is very well maintained...and like the new equipment put out for exercise on the loop around the pond. I would suggest that clearing out the dead wood in the main part of the park...where there are an incredible number of downed trees and bushes...would be nice. I assume it is best to leave downed trees in the Paint Branch Trail system.
  - Just less plastic parks please ... children need to touch wood and rock and dirt.
  - The two playgrounds on Forest Glen Road, Argyle Park and South Four Corners Park, both need to be updated and expanded. Argyle Park recently had a pop up scooter ramp and it was a hit with the local neighborhood. Both playgrounds are relatively small and the equipment is outdated. The Argyle Park equipment can't be used in the summer because it is metal and gets too hot for kids in the summer. I'd also like to see the Parks team work with the County to put white line crosswalks on the roads and signs that cars must stop for pedestrians walking across the street to these parks.
  - I live nearby the Wheaton Regional Park. There is a wonderful trail in this park designated for Horse back riding only. It would be a great service to the community if this could become a shared trail that would also allow mountain bike trail riding. Cycling is increasingly popular, attracts people and families of all ages, and trail days could easily alternate for different use.
  - Provide funding to Brookside Gardens for CIP projects, plus other improvements to the site.
  - Out-of-town guests are always impressed when we take them to Brookside Gardens and also to the trial garden at the Agricultural History Farm Park. Brookside Gardens is a peaceful and safe place to walk. The staff is friendly and knowledgeable. The signs are informative, and there is something to see every day of the year.
  - Please help improve the facilities at Potomac Horse Center - the use this 2-3 times per week for the last 7 years. It needs repair and we love this park. Please help preserve PHC!
  - We live close to and have used Brookside Gardens for 35 years. It is a very special place for our whole family to relax and enjoy. It's beauty in every season of the year is remarkable. It's educational programs are excellent. The community events such as free concerts and Children's Day are wonderful.
- I am concerned that it always be maintained and stay safe. With county budgets always being challenged, and never enough for every park, it is so important to keep this wonderful facility in prime condition and able to provide beauty and education to all in the communities it serves.
- We are very lucky to be able to enjoy such an abundance of nature in this area and it says a lot about the county and the Parks department. We, as the public who enjoy this gift every day and every week are thankful to the Parks and the County. More than ever, we need this public space to relax, restore our faith in nature and destress. Thank you PARKS!!
  - More programs for working adults - the parks have been taken over by kids' organized sports and retired persons activities. I miss the Women's Weekend around Labor Day and yoga at Brookside after the "reorganization" removed staff who had planned these self-sustaining activities.
  - Please advertise how the community can help. People are in a giving mood these days and if it helps open more parks I think many would volunteer.
  - please provide us with more recreation space! I love having a school in my community however hate not having recreational space that can accommodate everyone.
  - I would like greater on line access to documents relating to park resources, including and most particularly maps: topo maps, water sheds, wildlife, and more.
  - Please properly maintain properties like the Potomac Horse Center, which leases space and buildings from MoCo Parks (and has done so for the last 23 years). PHC is a wonderful riding center where people of all ages and walks of life can experience horseback riding - no need to own your own horse. The center also offers Therapeutic Riding to people with special needs and reaches out to the community through open houses, offering free pony rides and more. PHC has made a huge difference in my child's life, providing her with an opportunity to ride and work closely with animals in a way she might not have been able to otherwise. As a lifelong county resident, I am deeply upset that the MoCo Parks Department would not do its part to properly maintain buildings it owns and leases out, particularly to a group that serves hundreds of county children and families. I urge the Parks Dept. to provide the much needed repairs at PHC.

- Need more clean up programs
  - 1. Please make sure the renovation of the Hillandale Local Park happens! Also, please make sure that CHI and the Hillandale Fire Dept are well served by this renovation.
  - 2. Provide additional foot bridges along the NWB trail below 29
  - 3. Please provide more historical information to the public about Burnt Mills
  - 4. Please provide some historical information/interpretation of the Old Columbia Bridge over the Paint Branch. This closed bridge provides a wonderful opportunity to see the Paint Branch from above.
  - I volunteer at Brookside Gardens, Even with donations through Parks Foundation and Friends of Brookside Gardens, funding is insufficient. Like most of the parks I visit, the paths and ponds there need maintenance. To compliment the Garden Gateway construction, it would be wonderful to have money for new plants and more staff.
  - Thank you for what you do. I use Rock Creek Park every day.
  - No, but thank you for asking.
  - More trees, especially native hardwoods, in downcounty areas.
  - It would be wonderful to develop another public garden in the up-county area, perhaps one that features all native ecotype plantings.
  - Clean-ups and fines for litter are a top priority, as this creates revenue to further fund preservation and development projects.
- Notify citizens and park-users of littering laws and what their punishments are, in both English & Spanish especially
- Designate certain park zones and hours for off-leash dogs.
- Keep up the good work
  - Gardens are important. More public gardens, more community gardening space is needed. I am very proud of our trail system here and I am grateful for its high quality. I think providing people more access to parks in urban areas like Wheaton is especially important.
  - The trends I am seeing are for increased demand for edible gardening space - so more community gardens are a must and also for places to destress so public gardens like Brookside and McCrillis are also high priority items. These places give solace to the grieving, beauty and hope for the depressed, company for the lonely and aged, and exercise for all.
  - Keep providing and expanding the programs at Senior Centers Make sure new private residential and commercial developments have attractive open spaces where people can gather
  - no
  - I would encourage Montgomery County to think about adding more parks and green space to offset the amount of building density it seems bent on developing.
  - keep people out of the parks after hours and cars that are park there. Have a pet policy and keep it no one wants to set in the park and dogs running around loose and pooping all over the ground, have a separate pet park away from where families can set and eat, dogs and food don't mix, and I am a pet lover, everything has it place.
  - Urban parks are critical features of vibrant and healthy communities. We face so much development in our urban areas, green and peaceful parks are key to vitality.
  - I think Montgomery County is a proven leader in this capacity and deserves more resources to provide more services to this fast growing area. The model the parks has created show excellent use of limited resources. Imagine the possibilities if there were ample recourses that reflect the growth that is exploding in this county. I would support that cause!
  - Maryland is a leader among the nation in nature and environmental education. Parks needs to be more dedicated to supporting nature, outdoor and environmental education and STEM education. Numerous studies show that time outdoors improve physical, cognitive health, reduces stress which leads to numerous health issues and stress is particularly high in the Montgomery County area. We need to not only provide nature and outdoor opportunities but actively reach out to those in our county who don't know yet how much nature and outdoor time can benefit them!

- Provide funding for Brookside Gardens so they can increase the staff to care properly for the gardens.
- Yes, please increase the staff.
- Parks aren't just about recreation and ballfields, but also about education and conservation.
- The nature centers are obsolete and should be rebuilt using green technology. We must be considering what we stand for as a parks commission, and what our goals are with respect to sustainability and preservation. At present our parks and facilities are great, but serve as a very poor role model for visionary, forward thinking design. We endeavor to teach about the importance of conservation and care of the land, but our policies, our funding, our buildings, our transportation, our materials do not exemplify these values. In addition, we are failing in our duty to reach the citizenship of Montgomery County. Our program marketing should be targeted and more widespread than is currently available through facebook and the Guide. People are largely unaware of the learning opportunities presented by our educators and at our facilities. We must be cross-advertising and utilizing the means through which the younger generation communicates, adjusting our offerings to their needs and becoming literally and figuratively modern with a clear statement of purpose.
- Please contact me as needed for more information. I have been skateboarding in the MD/DC/VA area for the last 35 years and know a great deal of what kid's/people would like for a skatepark. Please contact me at edk\_23@yahoo.com
- I would love to see more large parkland conservation efforts. Rachel Carson Conservation Area is a true treasure. Please focus more on conserving and protecting these large natural areas. Facilities with a small footprint and sustainable practices will provide a wonderful benefit to the county residents who turn to parks to escape all the noise and bustle of our rapidly urbanizing surroundings.
- I love all the new playgrounds you have out in (Falls Road is my favorite!), but I would also love to see more shade at playgrounds. The equipment gets really hot and so do the moms :)
- Turning the surface parking lots in Bethesda to parks would be a great start. Also adding a recreational facility in downtown Bethesda would be great.
- I hear much talk lately about pushing park "events" and "programming," but the parks department isn't an entertainment agency. To me, parks are primarily for preserving nature and cultural heritage, for quiet reflection, to offer us a respite from the built environment, and an opportunity to exercise in fresh air. Events and programs are of course lovely, especially if they are educational, but that's not the primary mission.
- 1) For optimal fitness, wellness and respect for the natural world - keep parks lands as natural or using natural materials as possible even in sports areas (NO SYNTHETIC TURF! NO TIRE WASTE SURFACED PLAYGROUNDS - both of which also get VERY hot in the sun and off gas volatile ingredients as they get hotter. see [www.synturf.org](http://www.synturf.org) and [www.safehealthyplayingfields.org](http://www.safehealthyplayingfields.org)
- please acknowledge receipt and read of my survey by a real Parks employee, not a contractor. [sheldon.fishman@gmail.com](mailto:sheldon.fishman@gmail.com)
- My zip code is 20874, however, our club includes members from nearly every town in MOCO.
- On a recent school holiday, I took my grandchild to the nearby Wheaton Regional Park. It was a happening place! AND THE BATHROOMS WERE LOCKED. Who did not have their thinking caps on?
- More money set aside for nature centers and programming at nature centers.
- I would love to see this park carve out some space for a rugby field/facility. The DC area is home to the best high school program in the country (Gonzaga) and Montgomery County is a hotbed for rugby. The Potomac Exiles alone have hundreds of players, former players, and rugby fans associated with the program. A club called West Potomac also trains in Montgomery County and most of its players live in MC. So, with a number of powerful high school programs, that then join one of the local men's clubs after high school/college, why is Montgomery County NOT home to some of the "top notch" rugby programs (like New York Athletic Club or Glendale Raptors) ?? Answer: Field Space! For any club that is not affiliated with a school, it is nearly impossible to find space to practice. Most of the time and resources are spent trying to find a practice and/or game field, year after year, season after season. Instead of recruiting and finding more sponsorships, and things of that nature it's just search for a field, search for a field, search for a field. You can probably tell I'm talking as a rugby player, but the game attracts a lot of foot traffic as well. Any game we play at a central location, such as The Mall or the park by Reagan Airport, people that don't know rugby stop by to watch the action. Rugby will bring people to this park, I guarantee it. As the fastest-growing team sport in the country, and its debut in the Olympics last summer, there is a general curiosity to the sport. If rugby is given a top notch field/facility, Montgomery County rugby will grow and get better, and more people will come to the park to watch the games. It truly would be a win win for the sport and the park.

- see above

class on how to camp for us city folk and stay over night.

grandkids day or night events

watching the stars with a guide evening

have a bbq with the staff or rangers

a naturalist speaks to the public about how we are so lucky to live w these parks

Laurel has dinosaur bones, are there any dinosaur fossils in Montgomery Parks?

Who lived in the parks before they were parks, what was life like in the parks before cars/

- Go to senior, natural-history or hiking/biking/ horse riding organizations and give a program about what the Parks Department sees for its future and get feedback, I am currently involved with reviewing some plans being made by the National Park Service for Rock Creek Park. At the most recent public meeting in January, it was very obvious that the planners had no idea what the public really wanted. They found out, loud and clear. Not new structures, not more paving, they wanted trees, natural surrounding to walk, recreate or just think, separation of bike trails from walking trails. One issue which got an unexpected amount of feedback was the failure to enforce off-lead dogs - that is also an issue in many Montgomery Co. parks, and I am a dog owner so understand the problem.

- Wheaton Woods park needs trash cans and picnic tables. The park should be patrolled on summer evenings for beer drinkers. The park service should remove the trash in the woods. Half of the trash is beer bottles and beer cans. I asked for the trash to be removed months ago and it hasn't been done. Does anyone care?

- The Long Branch Sector is projected to see many development-related changes thanks in large part to the planned Purple Line. The Long Branch Trail should help create the identity - or at least a key characteristic - of this community. There is great diversity in Long Branch - racially, culturally, and socio-economically - that can benefit greatly thanks to clean, safe, and inviting green spaces and community parks.

- Thank you for accepting comments.

- Overall, I am pleased with the Parks and Recreation available in Montgomery County. The six Gold Medals were deserved. Congratulations!

- More community gardens in the parks would be nice. I'd also like to see more native landscaping and less turf grass. Keep up the great work. We love our parks.

- Keep pushing for more money!

- Keep up maintenance of existing facilities - make sure budget reflects maintenance - that includes tree trimming.

- Stormwater from roads, etc. needs to be controlled before it enters our stream valley parks.

- 

Staff is excellent continue to recruit well qualified, people oriented employees

- More nature walks /talks at up county facilities would be nice, but overall very happy with parks and their current programs.

- Our neighborhood's pedestrian cut-through probably isn't the only one in the county that's fallen into an environmentally counterproductive condition, and I'm sure it's not the only one that could be turned into a model of 21st century environmentally sensitive landscaping and an oasis for birds and beneficial insects. They're County property, but no branch of County government seems to want to take responsibility for them. A one-time investment from the parks department could make these little strips of land into self-sustaining sources of benefit and support for creatures that live in the larger parks.

- I love Brookside Gardens, and visit often in all seasons. The butterfly show is the best I have seen compared to Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina, the Museum in Seattle, and Ginter Gardens near Richmond VA, which all have butterfly displays. It is important for people to be educated about all pollinators including butterflies.

- I enjoy seeing wildlife in the parks. So I was appalled to read in the news that you killed 300 geese in Rock Creek & MLK parks this year. I am also appalled by all the deer you have killed in previous years. Please stop killing the wildlife in our parks. Instead

use nonlethal population control measures such as immunocontraception for the deer and egg oiling/addling for the geese. The parks belong to the wildlife as well!

- Rugby please
  - i find the Montgomery County Recreation Centers to be of great assistance to me, a senior with disabilities! I go to any recreation facility that is close to where ever I am, so I've been to many in the county. And also in the surrounding Prince George's County!
  - More funding to support the backlog of infrastructure repairs to buildings, roads, mulched pathways, classrooms signage, garden and plant collections. The number of visitors are growing, need to keep Brookside Gardens as an attractive outdoor facility that will be enjoyed by many, many people
  - What I have in mind would require more dialogue and planning than just a yes/no vote on picnic tables !
  - I'd like to see older facilities being updated - provide composting toilets in areas for public to use when buildings are closed. I'd like to have opportunities to use certain parks in the evenings.
  - Think big and into the future. Watch the rise of girls sports. Protect our natural lands for wildlife. Look into composting facilities. Coordinate with the state and federal parks.
  - With the many Montgomery county schools always out of space due to renovation and the many non-school sponsored sports teams on the rise, I see a big need in the county for an all-purpose stadium in the immediate Wheaton/Silver Spring area. While we are struggling with field time, I can see the Park Service utilize some of the land to not only help the community and schools but realize revenue to enhance many of the services and projects that have an endless raise in price. I was looking at the spot near Wheaton High School. Wheaton High will not have the fields until 2020 or later for the school. In the meantime, like many other schools, all outside sports are either sharing fields with other local schools as well as using some of the Parks fields. If we had a stadium across the street, it would not only serve and save the school and students from the transportation issues but make it easier for the community to come out and enjoy the games. When the school schedule is not renting your stadium, the rest of the private sector would be able to schedule in. I believe this to be a viable community investment. The one area I am looking at is on Randolph Road at Lindell Road. I look at that spot as a very under utilized spot that could bring a big change to the neighborhood, Other places are certainly available that could be carved out without a drastic environmental impact to the area. The community needs outdoor sports complexes, the Park Service can help.
- I also was wondering with the expansions at Holy Cross Hospital, why the Park Servcie could not build with partnerships an underground parking garage that would not effect the surface of the greener at all, yet allow the much needed parking for the hospital. This again is a revenue winner for the Park Service. Let's dig in and work with the community to easy the many burdens of our over populated community. HC
- I suggest you acquire pieces of land even if there is no money in a budget year to develop the green space. Just think what Montgomery County would be like if you could not go more that a few blocks in any direction without encountering a clump of trees and a park bench, and that no development would be built for low or moderate income residents that did not have park space within walking distance for a Mom and a child on a tricycle..
  - More rugby fields. The sport is growing exponentially at the youth level, it's multicultural, are men and women people play well into their adulthood.
  - "Non-Profit" leagues should pay higher fees for field usage. Examine their financials to understand how they operate these leagues while being subsidized by the County. Often, they use a large number of fields, crowding out other users, and pay nominal fees for the privilege. Perhaps leagues should build their own facilities if they do not wish to bear a more realistic cost for field space. I know this is decades later, but it is still important. Designate land for parks before developers can get a hold of it. Once developed, it is gone forever.
  - I am writing in particular to add my support for a dedicated rugby field to be built in Montgomery County. The more I have watched and learned about this game the more impressed I have become about its benefits for all kinds of youth, kids of all sorts of nationalities and income levels. I also think that while it clearly not a gentle game the kids who play it are at much less risk for the kinds of life long injuries they might suffer playing other sports. I realize a dedicated rugby field would have two end zones unlike so many MoCo fields which are mad fo soccer but I think this would be a worthwhile investment for a lot of MoCo kids
  - More plant labels including native, non-native and invasive. More model planted areas that will withstand both deer and climate change.

- Aspen Hill needs a playground and a dog park. So many children live in the area enclosed by Aspen Hill Road, Arctic Road and Parkland Drive. They have no way to get to a playground without crossing a heavily traveled road. And currently Aspen Hill dog owners have to travel to Olney to use a dog park. It's hard to meet people in your community when you drive 20 minutes away.

- No, en este momento.

- I've lived in Aspen Hill for many years. Although Aspen Hill is community-centered, there are sections of Aspen Hill which don't have access to playgrounds without the need to cross a major road. By needing to cross a major road, it exposes a danger to moms with little ones or older kids on their own.

The Wheaton Woods park requires crossing Aspen Hill Road and still traveling a great distance. The park at Berman still requires crossing Arctic which is a bit scary at times, even with crosswalks.

Considering that the Wheaton Woods pool is selling part of its land to raise funds, why not help a community asset to survive by purchasing the land and establishing a playground on the empty lots? I strongly believe that the Parks and Recreation of the Future includes a new playground in Aspen Hill, only one block away from the soon-to-be renovated library. What a better location to enable our little ones to exercise their bodies and their minds?

- Big gripe: contractors mulch trees at some schools 1 foot high. Wish I could attach a pic of young trees at Belmont elementary. Why are we paying them to suffocate the trees with mulch, so that they'll have to be replaced sooner? Love the idea of community gardens, but I think we need more of them.

- Rugby is an inclusive and growing youth team sport here in Montgomery County and there is a now a need for the County to provide more space that provides specifically for rugby's necessary end zones. Well over 400 kids in Mo Co participate in this sport which provides a great physical activity to its players.

- Habitat ponds aka mosquito magnets have been created along Beach Drive between Wildwood and Franklin streets. These areas should be filled in immediately as they pose health hazards to people and animals using the paths when mosquitoes breed in the large areas of water

- Just want to reiterate how much I want a pump track and water fountains

- Although Aspen Hill is community-centered, there is currently no playground that does not require crossing a major road which is dangerous for moms with little ones in tow or older kids on their own. Considering that the Wheaton Woods pool is selling part of its land to raise funds, why not help a community asset to survive by purchasing the land and establishing a playground on the empty lots? I strongly believe that the Parks and Recreation of the Future includes a new playground in Aspen Hill, only one block away from the soon-to-be renovated library. What a better location to enable our little ones to exercise their bodies and their minds?

- I have heard that there is an opportunity for the county to purchase some land for a playground in Aspen Hill near the library. I think this is a great idea. There currently is not a playground/park that doesn't require crossing a major road. To get to Wheaton Woods park, you have to cross Aspen Hill Road and to get to the new park at Berman, you have to cross Arctic Avenue. I know that Wheaton Woods pool wants to sell some its land to put it on a sound financial footing and that the pool itself is in danger of closing because it has been unable to complete a land sale for various reasons. I think it would be great if the Recreation Department could purchase the empty lots that are surrounded by single family homes full of children to build a neighborhood playground there. It would be great location -- tucked in among an established neighborhood, within walking distance of the Aspen Hill Library, and adjacent to Wheaton Woods pool, which is a wonderful asset to the neighborhood that I would hate to see have to close.

- I am interested in helping with the ongoing care and restoration of the woods at my local neighborhood park, Capitol View-Homewood. I would be willing to meet with the regional park manager, and to volunteer to remove exotic invasives, coupled with planting native trees and shrubs and install deer cages to prevent deer predation. I would also be interested in reaching out to my neighbors, and encourage them to plant native trees in their yards, in part to provide a more-continuous forest corridor that will connect up with our park woods.

- Thank you for asking for feedback. Please consider who is not likely to hear about and respond to an online survey in English and be assertive in collecting feedback from them. For example maybe posting the opportunity to give feedback in libraries or schools if you haven't already. Keep in mind those of us who don't have cars.

- I'd love to see more merging of the parks program with arts and cultural programming. More live music in the soccerplex for example would be a great use of resources.
  - Our parks should not be amusement parks. We should stop spending money on holiday light extravaganzas. I oppose the annual Festival of Lights at Brookside Gardens. Resources should be re-directed to preserving balanced ecosystems in the parks. Stream beds should be planted with wetlands plants. Invasive plants and destructive animals should be eradicated. For example, it will take a lot of money to remediate the devastation caused by the Emerald Ash Borer..
  - Please put a park in aspen hill on land green street. Wheaton woods pool is selling some land, the property would be perfect for a new park. The land backs to Brookhaven Elementary and could have safe access from the school as well as safe access on landgreen street. Other parks in the area require you to cross busy streets, this area would be much better for a park because it's safer and quieter. It's perfect!!
  - I'd like to know if there is a search engine to find park events, or park attributes. For instance, is there a grove of cherry trees in one of the parks... or when do boat rentals start... or listings of nature trails. Is there an phone number for calling a information center?
  - I truly appreciate our parks and recreational areas in Aspen Hill. I would like leadership to consider developing a park on land that is now owned by Wheaton Woods Pool. A parcel of that land is going to be sold to somebody and I would rather it be bought by the public for the public than by a private developer (with all due respect to private developers). Proximity to the newly renovated library and off the main roads makes it a slam dunk as a public asset, and as someone who lives close by, I know it would be a wonderful and highly-utilized asset. Please consider this idea. Warm regards, Michael Weinraub
  - It would be lovely if your trail horses could handle heavier adults.
  - Plan activities for the Germantown urban park...right now there does not seem to be anything happening there. Please maintain the area and don't let it get run down.
  - The soccer goals provided by Parks & Rec at East Silver Spring ES are unsafe, blow over in any wind, and are just a bad choice for a field that is used by the school, a densely populated neighborhood, and Takoma Soccer. Please consider replacing the goals with more robust versions considering how much community use those goals get.
  - Montgomery Parks and Recreation Department leadership needs to distant itself from current appointed heads of M-NCPPC Planning Board and Planning Department which does not view local suburban County Parks as "public assets" that must be preserved and enhanced without giving away parkland to private developers for 'redevelopment' intended to increase population density impacting the quality and availability of currently in-high-demand Parks and Recreation Centers adversely. Parks/Recreation field staff understand these issues acutely, but their current appointed leadership is unwilling to stand up for communities.
  - we use some Active Montgomery programs and have really enjoyed them.
  - I flipped through the recent powerpoint presentations and I think you're doing a great job! I like the idea of posting links on NextDoor which is how I found out about the ability to easily voice my opinion via this survey.
  - I recently was riding on the Matthew Hensen trail, after a slight rainfall. I was going very slow because I am aware that the wooden pathways are slippery when wet. I nonetheless fell and broke my clavicle where the pathway descends to asphalt at this point: 39.0710952,-77.0759028.
- I would like to urgently request that Montgomery Parks find some kind of gritty paint that can be sprayed on to these wooden pathways. I have fallen and seriously injured myself twice because they are so impossibly slippery after becoming wet.
- You may want to seek additional community input on future designs. Many of the current facilities have serious design flaws that significantly limit their utility. For instance, at Ellsworth Dog Park the gate to enter is right next to Colesville Road rather than by the parking lot. The area needs turf coverage and proper erosion control.





APPENDIX 12 - SEGMENT ANALYSIS REPORT

# Community Needs Assessment Segment Analysis Report

Chapter One Introduction -----	A12.3
Chapter Two - Mid-county East -----	A12.5
Chapter Three - I-270 Corridor -----	A12.7
Chapter Four - Downcounty-----	A12.11
Chapter Five - Outer Ring -----	A12.14
Chapter Six - Analysis of Priority Rankings By Area -----	A12.17
Chapter Seven - Households with Incomes <\$70,000 -----	A12.18
Chapter Eight - Households with Children Under the age of Ten -----	A12.20
Chapter Nine - Priorities by Age Segment -----	A12.22
Chapter Ten - Priorities by Race/Ethnicity -----	A12.26
Chapter Eleven - Conclusion -----	A12.33

## APPENDIX 12 -- Segment Analysis Report

## CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

As a supplementary section to the statistically valid survey taken by Montgomery County Residents, PROS Consulting Inc. further analyzed the results. In order to better understand the needs of Montgomery County’s diverse population, Montgomery County Parks divided the County into four Priority Investment Ranking (PIR) Areas (Midcounty East, I-270 Corridor, Downcounty, and Outer Ring), households with incomes under \$70,000, households with children, age segments of 20-34, 35-54, and 55+, and by race and ethnicity. The four PIR Areas encompass 684 of the 705 surveys administered.

Survey respondents broken down by PIR Areas

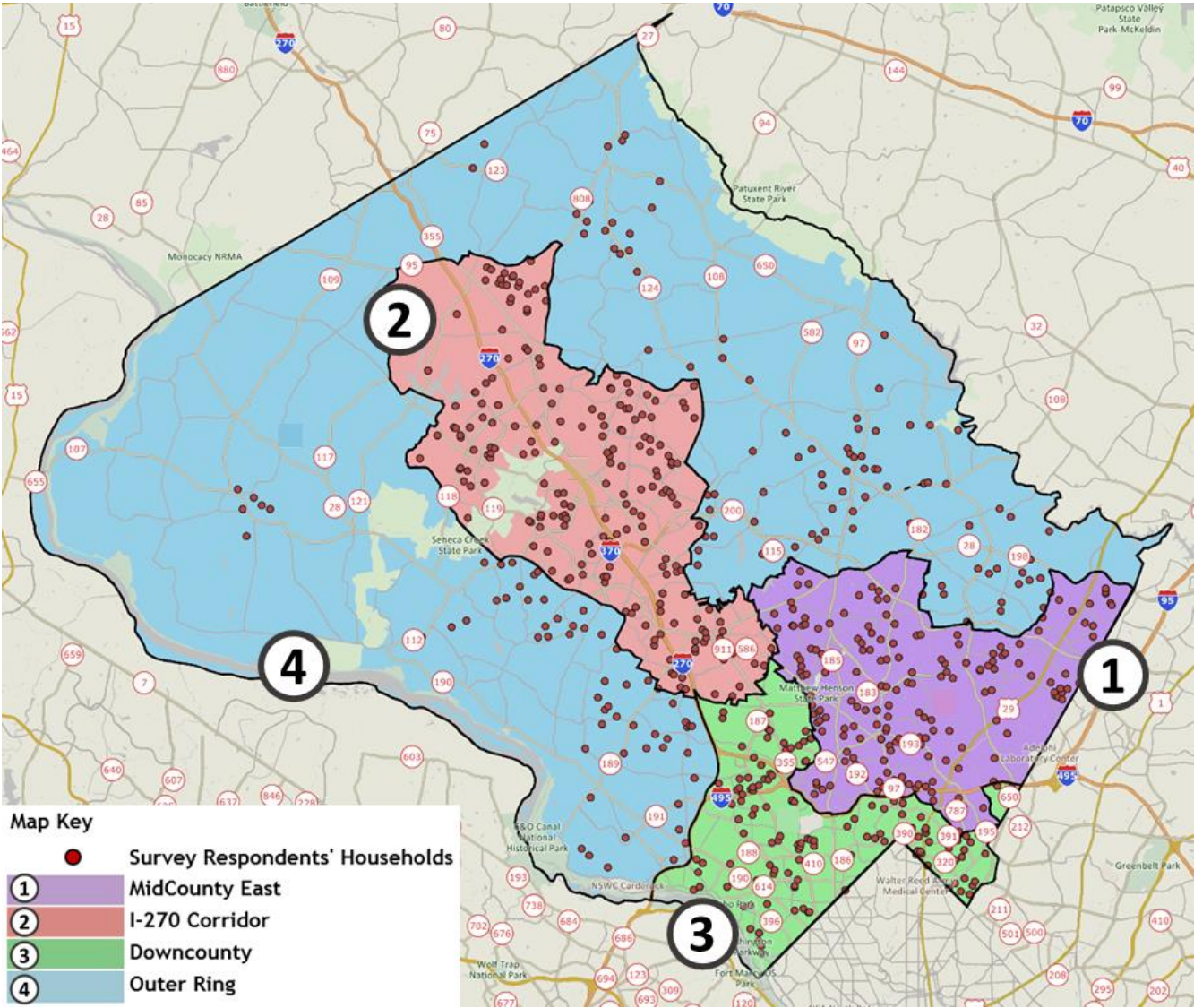
	MIDCOUNTRY EAST	I-270 CORRIDOR	DOWNCOUNTY	OUTER RING
Number of Respondents	181	207	146	150
Percentage of Respondents	26%	29%	21%	21%
2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Population Percentage Estimates	27.8%	30.3%	21.4%	20.5%

PROS Consulting, with the assistance of ETC Institute, was then able to assess survey results based on these demographic segments. This analysis allows for a more detailed understanding of County residents by identifying unique needs within each segment.

The consulting team also developed Priority Investment Ratings (PIR) for each of these segments, to enable comparison across geographies and demographic segments for parks and recreation priorities.

The following illustration depicts the location of each survey respondent’s household.

APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report



The following chapters describe each of the four PIR Areas by demographics (age, race, ethnicity, gender, income, household, English speaking ability). Priority Investment Rating, and Priority Rankings were determined for each of the four areas.

## CHAPTER TWO - MID-COUNTY EAST

### 2.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

The following tables show the demographics of survey respondents as compared with the demographics of the area, according to American Community Survey census data. ETC survey demographic results include all Ethnicities within the Race breakdowns, and identifies total Hispanic/Latino population separately. ACS survey data breaks out Ethnicity from Race, and identifies Non-Hispanic Race numbers, with Hispanic/Latinos of all Races combined together as a group. Both are shown in table format below.

#### MIDCOUNTRY-EAST: Age Segment Distribution

Age Segments	ETC Survey	2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates	Age Segments
18-34	18.4%	20.0%	20-34
35-44	23.5%	14.0%	35-44
45-54	22.3%	13.5%	45-54
55-64	17.3%	12.6%	55-64
65+	18.4%	29.5%	65+

#### MIDCOUNTRY-EAST: Income Distribution

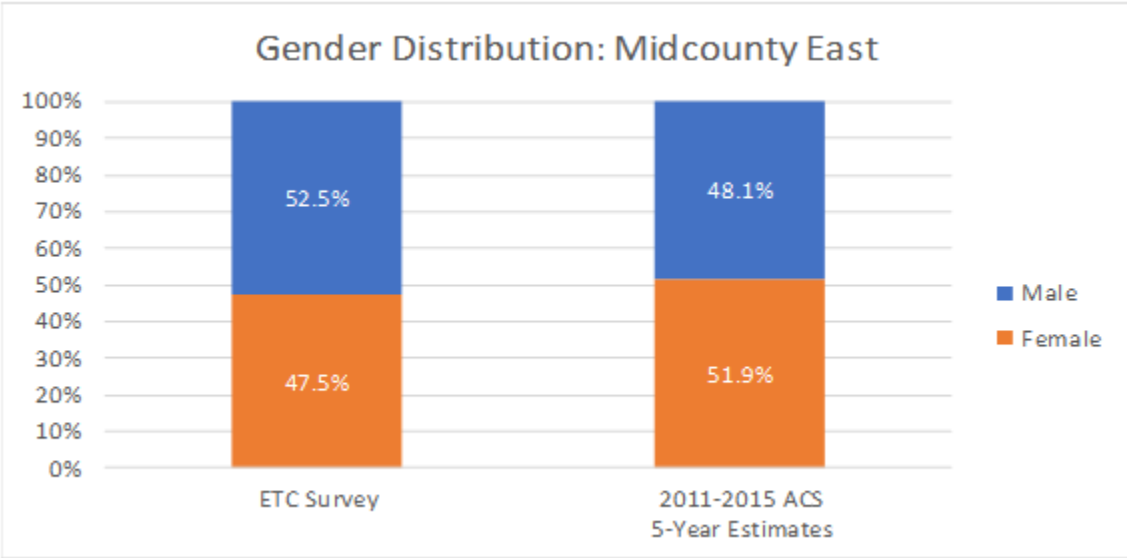
Income Tiers	ETC Survey	2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates	Income Tiers
Under \$30K	6.1%	15.4%	Less than \$30,000
\$30K to \$69,999	19.3%	29.7%	\$30,000-\$74,999
\$70K to \$99,999	14.4%	14.0%	\$75,000-\$99,999
\$100K to \$129,999	14.9%	11.3%	\$100,000-\$124,999
\$130K+	32.6%	29.7%	\$125,000 and up
Not Provided	12.7%	-	-

#### MIDCOUNTRY-EAST: Race & Ethnicity Distribution

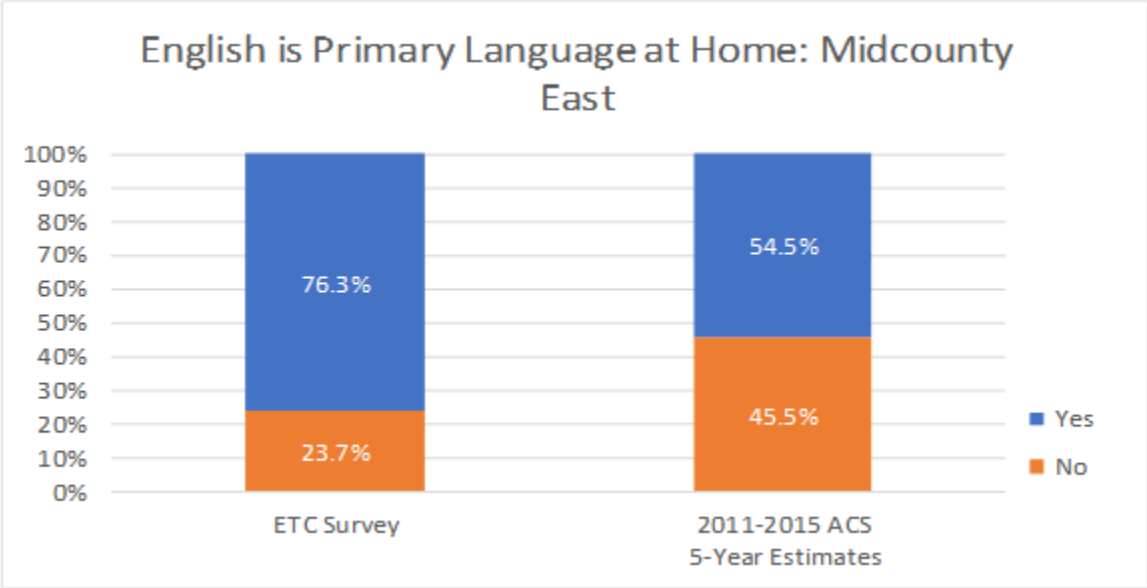
Race/Ethnicity	ETC Survey	2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates
Non-Hispanic white	40.0%	34.9%
Non-Hispanic black/African Am.	18.3%	25.6%
Non-Hispanic Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	8.9%	11.4%
Non-Hispanic Other (Includes American Indian)	5.6%	3.7%
Hispanic	27.2%	24.5%

#### MIDCOUNTRY-EAST: Gender Distribution

APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report



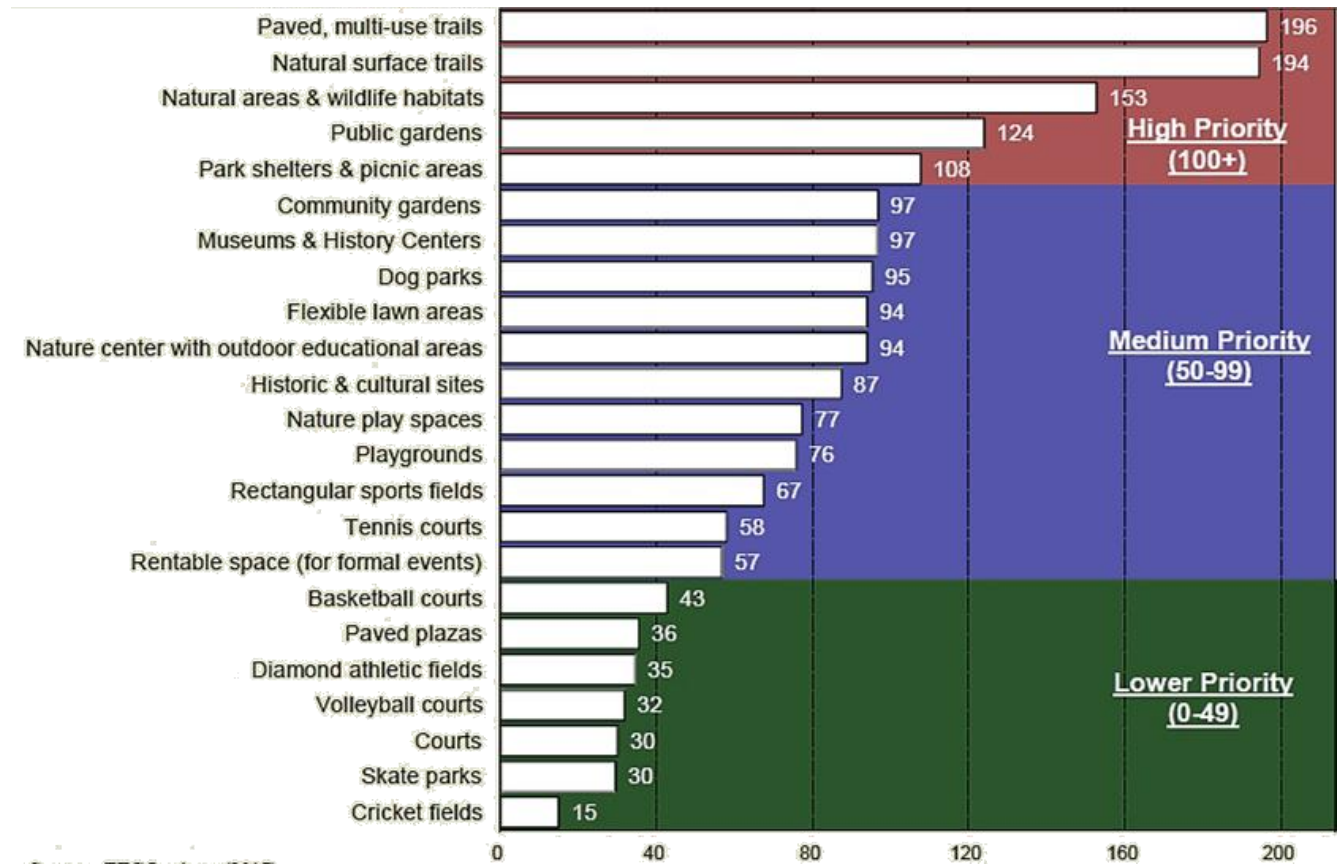
MIDCOUNTY-EAST: English is Primary Language at Home



## 2.2 IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITIES

Based on community needs assessment results by planning area, the team was able to determine Priority Investment Ratings (based on statistically valid survey results).

MIDCOUNTRY-EAST: Top priorities for investment for recreation facilities based on the Priority Investment Rating



Source: ETC Institute (2017)

## CHAPTER THREE - I-270 CORRIDOR

### 3.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

The following tables show the demographics of survey respondents as compared with the demographics of the area, according to American Community Survey census data. ETC survey demographic results include all Ethnicities within the Race breakdowns, and identifies total Hispanic/Latino population separately. ACS survey data breaks out Ethnicity from Race, and identifies Non-Hispanic Race numbers, with Hispanic/Latinos of all Races combined together as a group. Both are shown in table format below.

#### I-270 CORRIDOR: Age Segment Distribution

Age Segments	ETC Survey	2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates	Age Segments
18-34	21.0%	21.70%	20-34
35-44	24.9%	15.40%	35-44
45-54	21.5%	14.60%	45-54
55-64	22.4%	11.30%	55-64
65+	10.2%	20.00%	65+

#### I-270 CORRIDOR: Income Distribution

Income Tiers	ETC Survey	2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates	Income Tiers
Under \$30K	8.2%	12.0%	Less than \$30,000
\$30K to \$69,999	15.0%	30.1%	\$30,000-\$74,999
\$70K to \$99,999	15.9%	14.2%	\$75,000-\$99,999
\$100K to \$129,999	15.5%	11.6%	\$100,000-\$124,999
\$130K+	37.2%	32.0%	\$125,000 and up
Not Provided	8.2%		

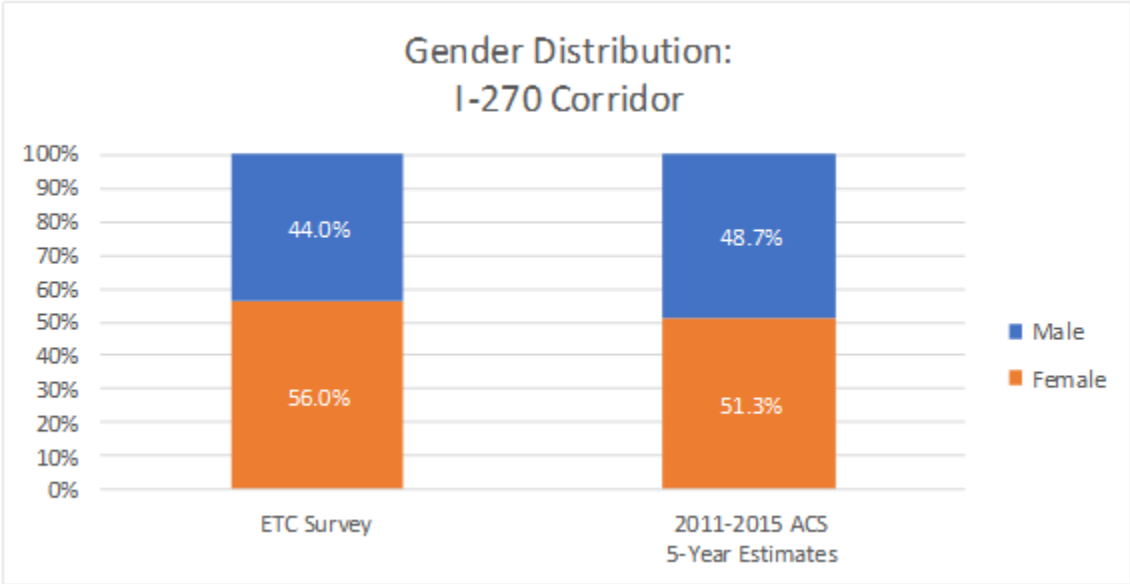
#### I-270 CORRIDOR: Race & Ethnicity Distribution

Race/Ethnicity	ETC Survey	2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates
Non-Hispanic white	42.2%	38.5%
Non-Hispanic black/African Am.	13.7%	18.2%
Non-Hispanic Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	16.5%	18.0%
Non-Hispanic Other (Includes American Indian)	5.3%	3.7%
Hispanic	22.3%	21.7%

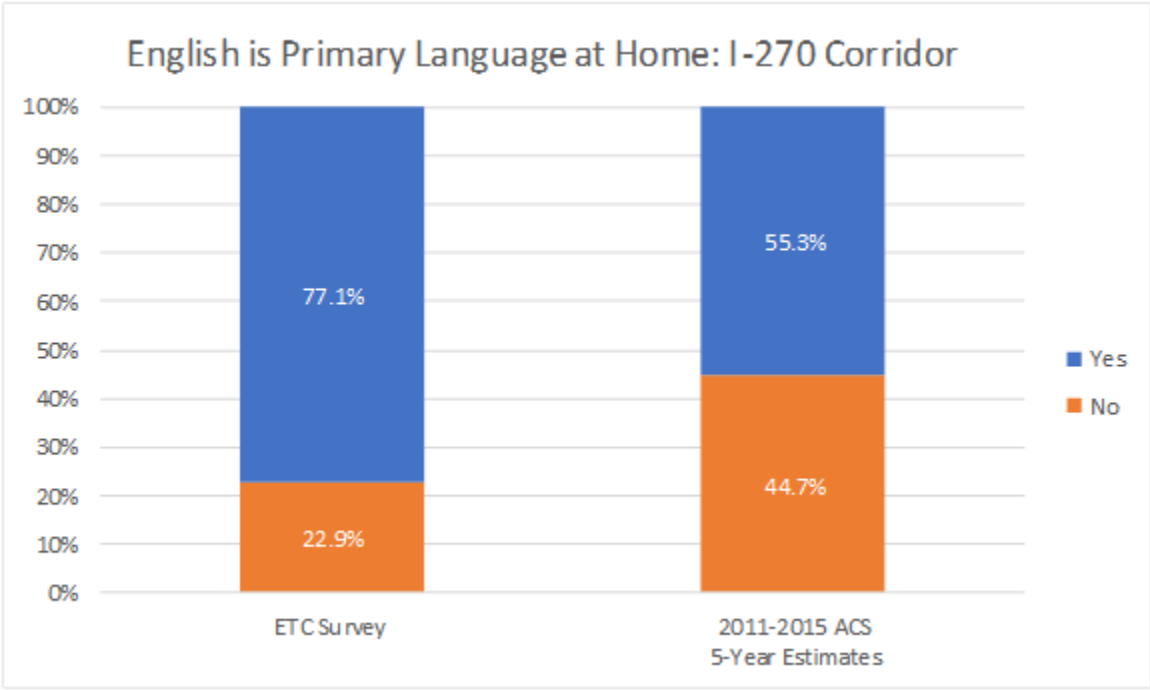


APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report

I-270 CORRIDOR: Gender Distribution



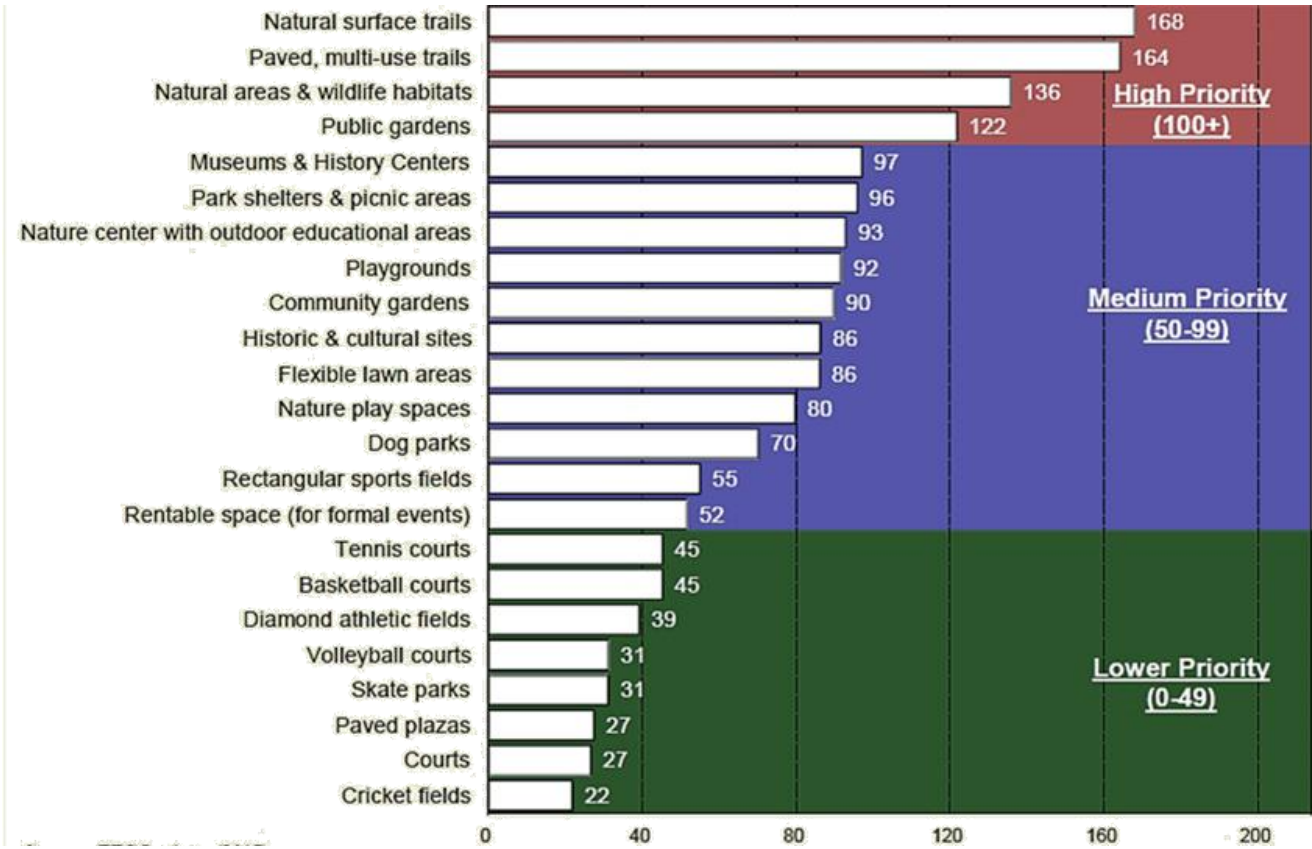
I-270 CORRIDOR: English is Primary Language at Home



3.2 IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITIES

Based on community needs assessment results by planning area, the team was able to determine Priority Investment Ratings (based on statistically valid survey results).

I-270 CORRIDOR: Top priorities for investment for recreation facilities based on the Priority Investment Rating



Source: ETC Institute (2017)

## CHAPTER FOUR - DOWNCOUNTY

### 4.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

The following tables show the demographics of survey respondents as compared with the demographics of the area, according to American Community Survey census data. ETC survey demographic results include all Ethnicities within the Race breakdowns, and identifies total Hispanic/Latino population separately. ACS survey data breaks out Ethnicity from Race, and identifies Non-Hispanic Race numbers, with Hispanic/Latinos of all Races combined together as a group. Both are shown in table format below.

#### DOWNCOUNTY: Age Segment Distribution

Age Segments	ETC Survey	2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates	Age Segments
18-34	21.9%	20.5%	20-34
35-44	17.1%	14.6%	35-44
45-54	19.2%	14.2%	45-54
55-64	17.1%	12.3%	55-64
65+	24.7%	30.3%	65+

#### DOWNCOUNTY: Income Distribution

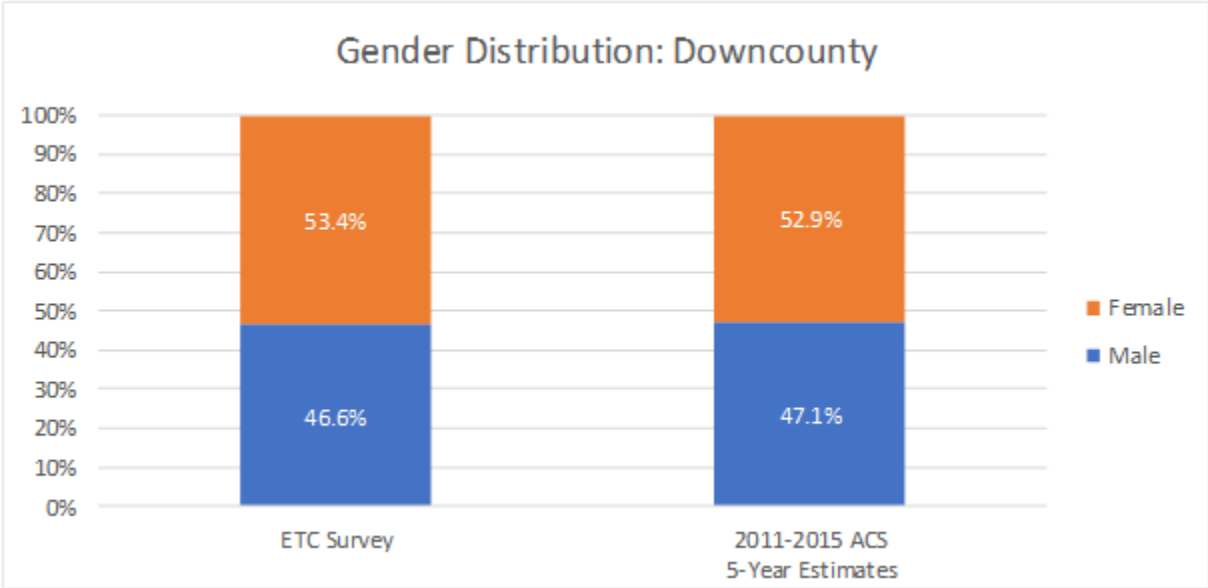
Income Tiers	ETC Survey	2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates	Income Tiers
Under \$30K	6.1%	15.4%	Less than \$30,000
\$30K to \$69,999	19.3%	29.7%	\$30,000-\$74,999
\$70K to \$99,999	14.4%	14.0%	\$75,000-\$99,999
\$100K to \$129,999	14.9%	11.3%	\$100,000-\$124,999
\$130K+	32.6%	29.7%	\$125,000 and up
Not Provided	12.7%		

#### DOWNCOUNTY: Race & Ethnicity Distribution

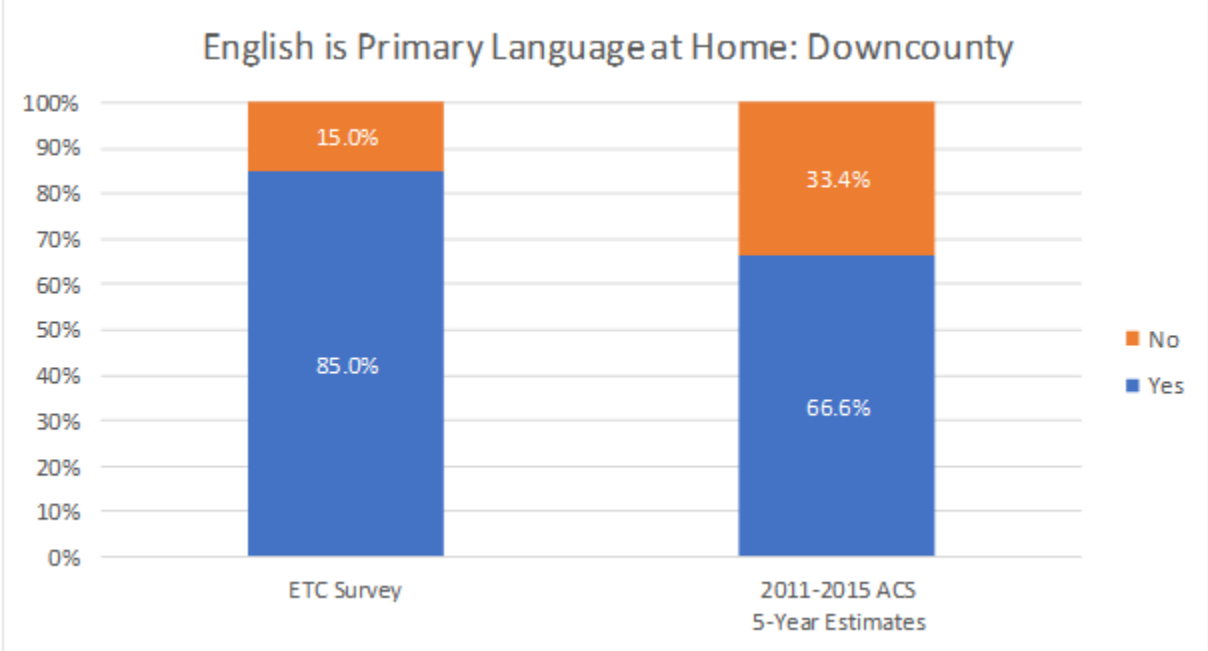
Race/Ethnicity	ETC Survey	2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates
Non-Hispanic white	54.1%	60.2%
Non-Hispanic black/African Am.	15.1%	12.2%
Non-Hispanic Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	8.2%	9.7%
Non-Hispanic Other (Includes American Indian)	3.4%	3.4%
Hispanic	19.2%	14.5%

APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report

DOWNCOUNTY: Gender Distribution



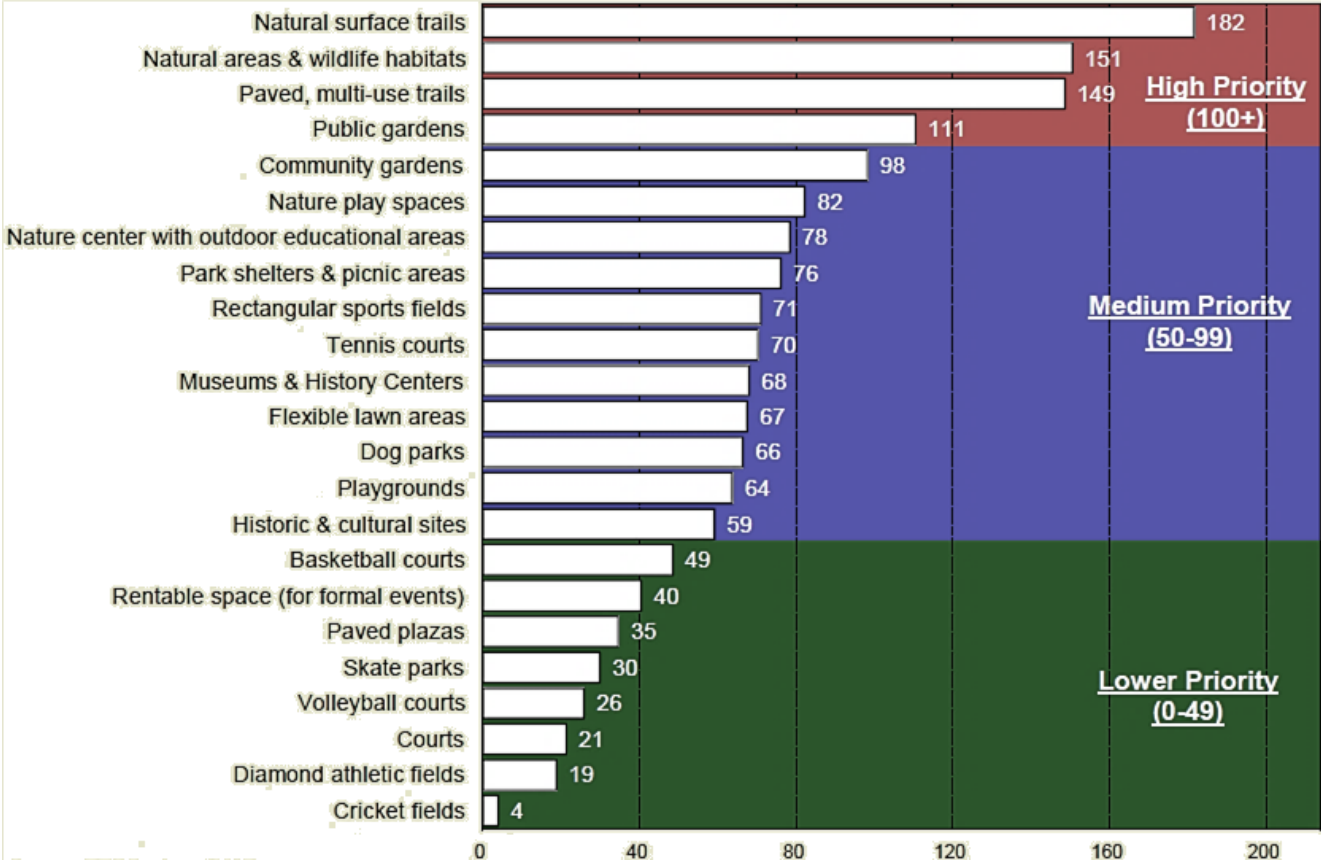
DOWNCOUNTY: English is Primary Language at Home



4.2 IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITIES

Based on community needs assessment results by planning area, the team was able to determine Priority Investment Ratings (based on statistically valid survey results).

DOWNCOUNTY: Top priorities for investment for recreation facilities based on the Priority Investment Rating



Source: ETC Institute (2017)

## CHAPTER FIVE - OUTER RING

### 5.1 DEMOGRAPHICS – OUTER RING

The following tables show the demographics of survey respondents as compared with the demographics of the area, according to American Community Survey census data. ETC survey demographic results include all Ethnicities within the Race breakdowns, and identifies total Hispanic/Latino population separately. ACS survey data breaks out Ethnicity from Race, and identifies Non-Hispanic Race numbers, with Hispanic/Latinos of all Races combined together as a group. Both are shown in table format below.

#### OUTER RING: Age Segment Distribution

Age Segments	ETC Survey	2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates	Age Segments
18-34	11.6%	12.8%	20-34
35-44	15.6%	11.6%	35-44
45-54	21.8%	18.2%	45-54
55-64	32.0%	15.6%	55-64
65+	19.0%	28.5%	65+

#### OUTER RING: Income Distribution

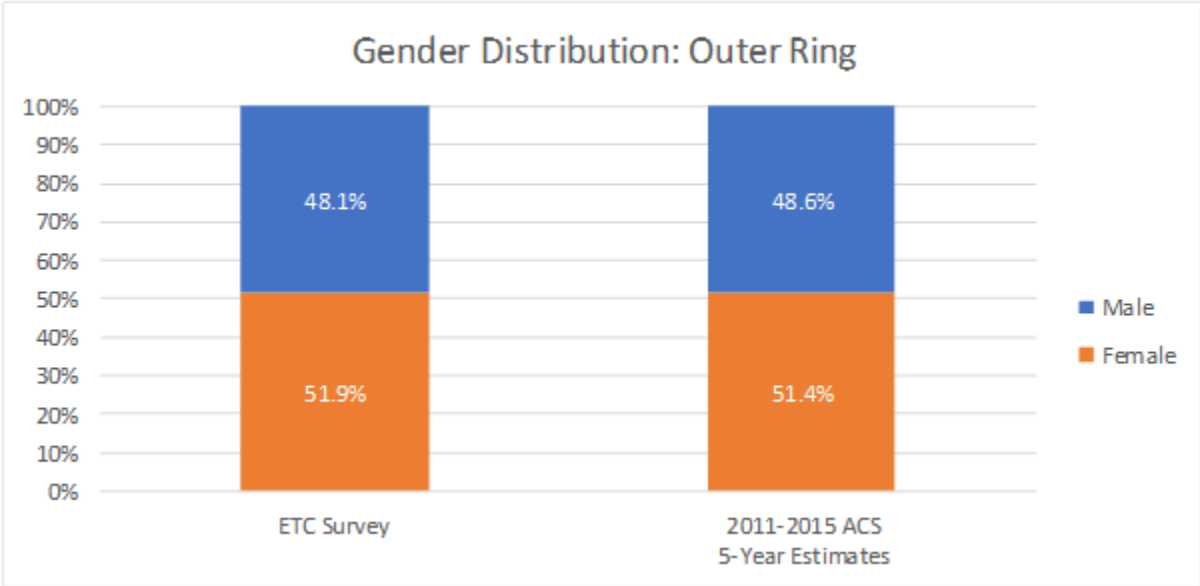
Income Tiers	ETC Survey	2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates	Income Tiers
Under \$30K	6.1%	6.4%	Less than \$30,000
\$30K to \$69,999	19.3%	15.4%	\$30,000-\$74,999
\$70K to \$99,999	14.4%	9.5%	\$75,000-\$99,999
\$100K to \$129,999	14.9%	10.9%	\$100,000-\$124,999
\$130K+	32.6%	57.7%	\$125,000 and up
Not Provided	12.7%		

#### OUTER RING: Race & Ethnicity Distribution

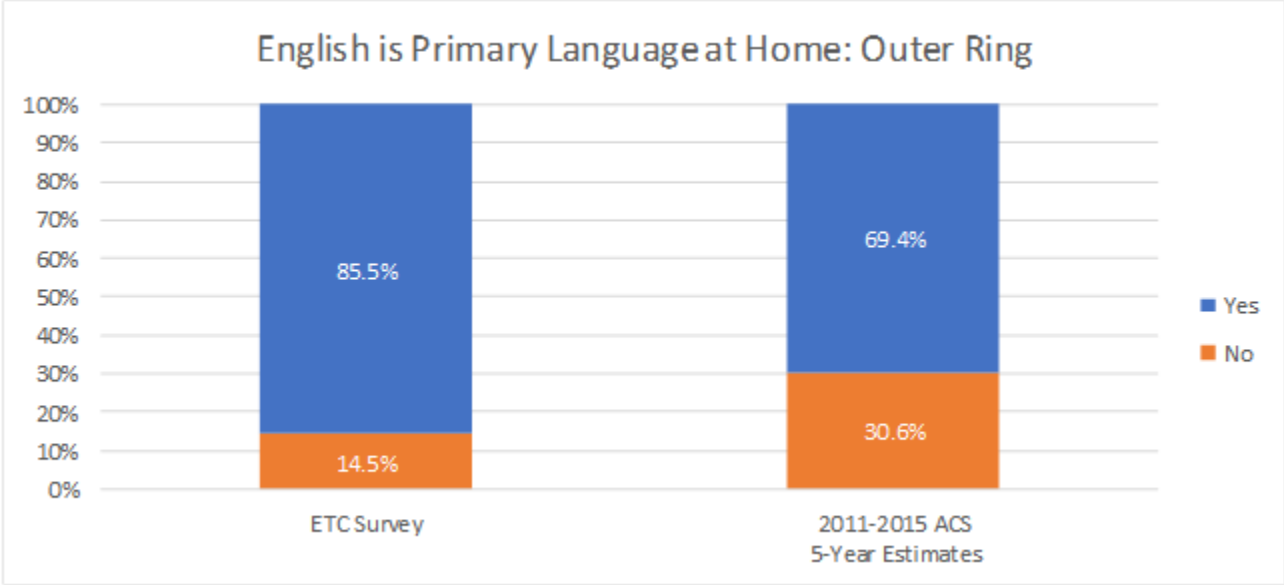
Race/Ethnicity	ETC Survey	2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates
Non-Hispanic white	56.7%	60.2%
Non-Hispanic black/African Am.	12.0%	9.3%
Non-Hispanic Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	12.0%	18.6%
Non-Hispanic Other (Includes American Indian)	4.0%	3.1%
Hispanic	15.3%	8.9%

APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report

OUTER RING: Gender Distribution



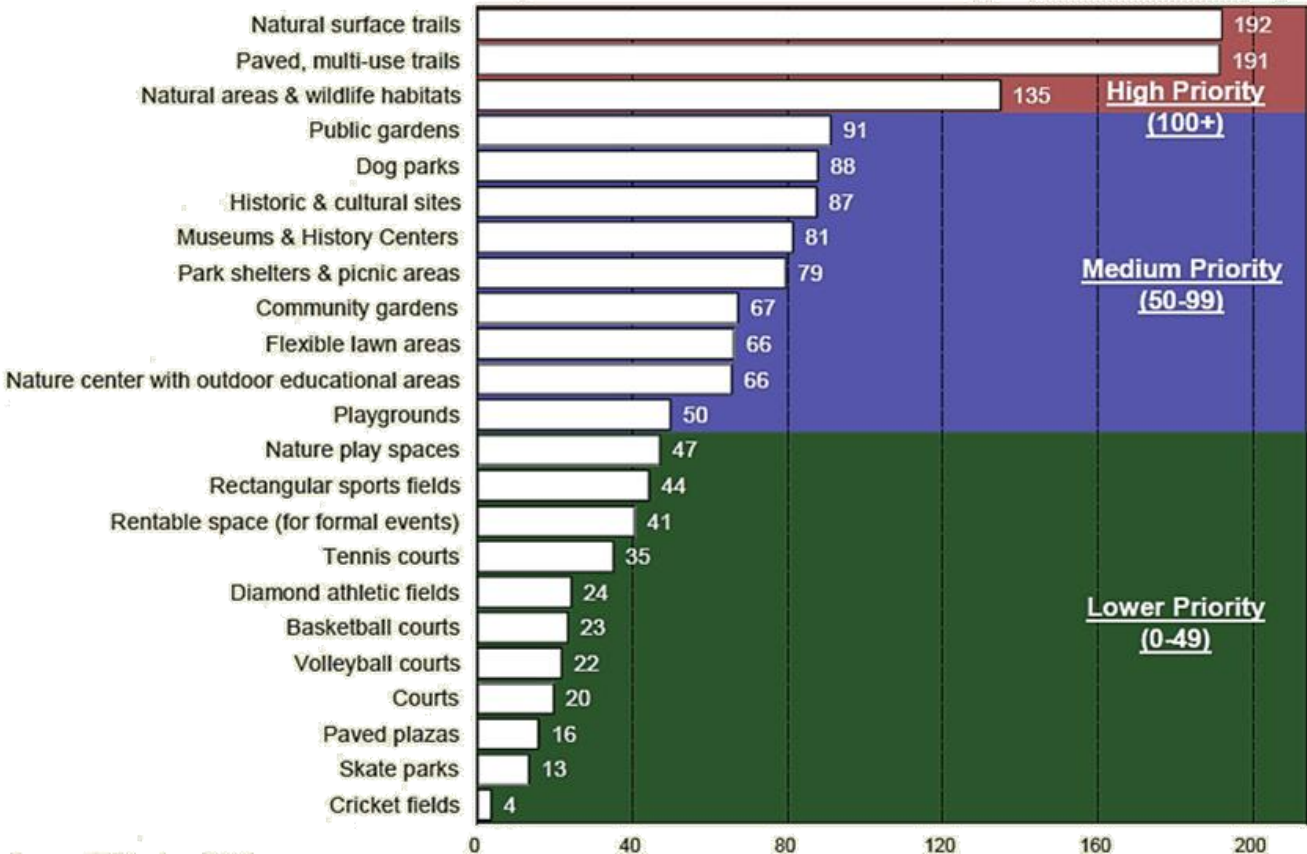
OUTER RING: English is Primary Language at Home



5.2 PRIORITY INVESTMENT RATINGS – OUTER RING

Based on community needs assessment results by planning area, the team was able to determine Priority Investment Ratings (based on statistically valid survey results).

OUTER RING: Top priorities for investment for recreation facilities based on the Priority Investment Rating



Source: ETC Institute (2017)



## CHAPTER SIX - ANALYSIS OF PRIORITY RANKINGS BY AREA

In addition to the Priority Investment Ratings that are based on statistically valid survey results, the team has also developed Priority Rankings for each of the four PIR Areas. Priority Rankings are based on analysis that includes 60% statistically valid survey results and 40% consultant observation of the qualitative data gathering through the community outreach process. The following table shows the Priority Rankings for each area.

As the table below demonstrates, the rankings for the county as a whole (“Overall”) are very similar to the rankings in the individual areas, particularly when focusing on the top 3-6 and the bottom eight.

### Montgomery County Facility / Amenity Priority Rankings

FACILITY / AMENITY	OVERALL	MID-COUNTY EAST	I-270 CORRIDOR	DOWN COUNTY	OUTER RING
Paved, multi-use trails (walking, biking)	1	1	1	2	2
Natural surface trails (walking, biking, horseback riding)	2	2	2	1	1
Natural areas & wildlife habitats	3	4	3	4	3
Public gardens	4	8	5	3	5
Park shelters & picnic areas	5	3	7	5	6
Nature center with outdoor educational areas	6	7	6	8	4
Playgrounds	7	5	4	6	10
Flexible lawn areas for events & festivals, pickup sports, etc.	8	10	8	7	11
Museums & history centers	9	12	9	10	8
Community gardens	10	13	10	9	9
Dog parks	11	14	11	11	7
Rectangular sports fields (soccer, football, Ultimate Frisbee, etc.)	12	6	14	10	14
Nature play spaces	13	9	13	12	12
Historic & cultural sites	14	15	8	14	10
Tennis courts	15	11	15	15	15
Rentable space (for formal events)	16	17	16	17	16
Basketball courts	17	16	17	16	17
Diamond athletic fields (baseball, softball, kickball, etc.)	18	18	18	18	18
Volleyball courts	19	19	20	20	19
Courts (pickleball, handball, bocce, etc.)	20	21	22	19	20
Skate parks	21	22	19	21	22
Paved plazas	22	20	21	22	23
Cricket fields	23	23	23	23	22

## CHAPTER SEVEN - HOUSEHOLDS WITH INCOMES <\$70,000

This group is 11.3% Hispanic and respondents are more likely to be female and either 65+ or 18-34. Households with incomes of less than \$70,000 are slightly more likely to rank parks and recreation facilities as important, but are also more likely not to have visited a M-NCPPC facility or did not know whether they had. This demographic is slightly more likely to use walking or public transportation rather than cars to reach parks.

Their top three choices for what services are most important for Montgomery County Parks to provide include:

1. Provide opportunities to improve physical health and fitness
2. Conserve natural resources and the environment
3. Improve mental health and reduce stress

They are also more likely than other income levels to indicate that providing recreational opportunities for people of lower income households is important.

Top reasons that this group does not use parks and facilities include:

1. Too busy
2. I don't know what programs are offered
3. Fees are too high

Top four priorities for use of county tax dollars in parks includes:

1. Purchase land for natural resource protection and conservation for future generations
2. Repair/renovate existing park facilities
3. Develop new walking/biking trails and connect existing trails
4. Purchase land for parks in urban areas

Respondents in this demographic feel the following facilities are most important to their household:

1. Natural surface trails
2. Paved, multi-use trails
3. Playgrounds
4. Natural areas and wildlife habitats
5. Historic and cultural sites

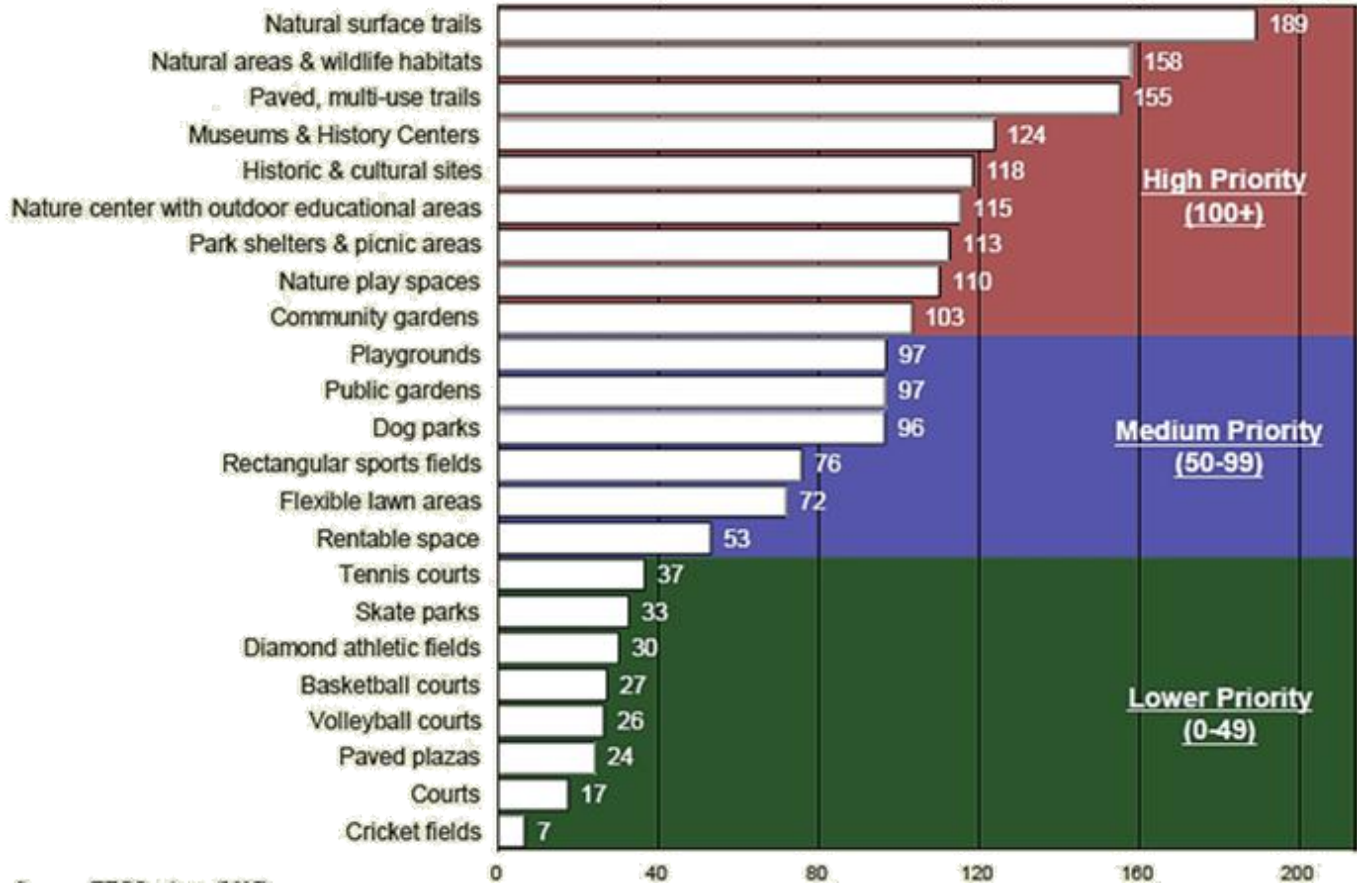
The program priority for this demographic group is toward children and teens, and this group learns about programs and activities through:

1. Word of Mouth
2. Montgomery Parks Website
3. Montgomery Recreation Website
4. Program Guide

Most are Very or Somewhat Satisfied with the value of parks, though tend to have a slightly lower sense of pride in parks than the higher income brackets.

APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report

Top priorities of Investment for Recreational Facilities for Household Incomes under \$70,000 per year.



Source: ETC Institute (2017)

## CHAPTER EIGHT - HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF TEN

This group is more likely than others to have either a very high or very low income level (<\$30k or >\$130k). Households with children are also more likely to live in a multi-family home compared with households with older children or households with no children >55+ in age. Of households with children under, 10, 75% speak English as a primary language.

Households with children <10 are much more likely to rank parks and recreation facilities as very important, and their ratings of the parks and facilities visited as Good or Excellent are largely on trend with the other household type segments.

This demographic is more likely to walk to parks and facilities than any other household group, although driving remains the preferred mode of transportation to reach parks. This demographic segment's top three choices for what services are most important for Montgomery County Parks to provide include:

1. Provide opportunities to improve physical health and fitness
2. Provide recreational facilities/programs for children and teens
3. Conserve natural resources and the environment

Top reasons that this group does not use parks and facilities include:

1. Too busy
2. I don't know what programs are offered
3. Program times are not convenient

Top four priorities for use of county tax dollars in parks includes:

1. Repair/renovate existing park facilities
2. Purchase land for natural resource protection and conservation for future generations
3. Develop new walking/biking trails and connect existing trails
4. Provide additional & upgrade existing recreation centers (tie)
4. Purchase land for parks in urban areas (tie)

Respondents in this demographic feel the following facilities are most important to their household:

1. Playgrounds
2. Paved, multi-use trails
3. Natural surface trails
4. Rectangular sports fields
5. Nature play spaces

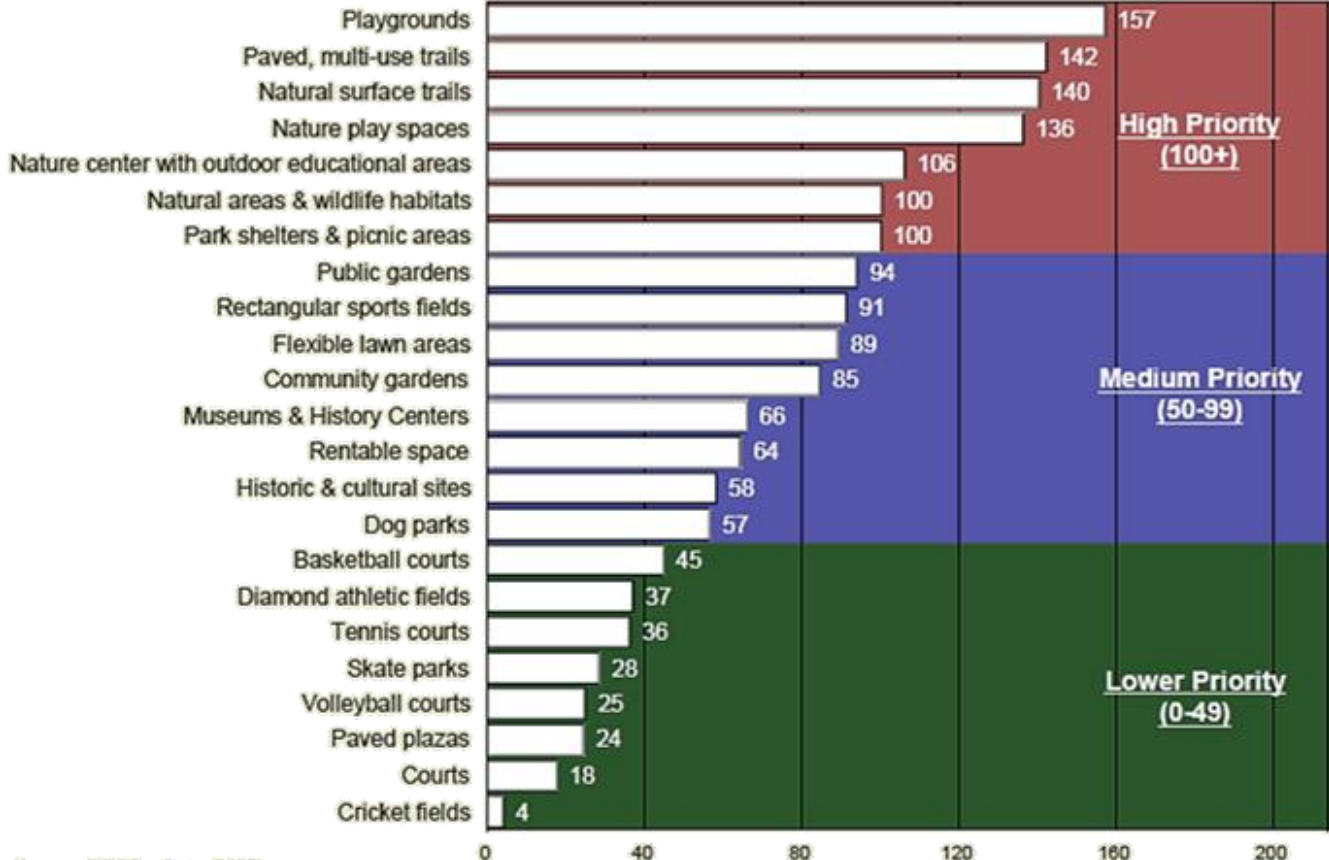
The program priority for this demographic group is toward children and teens, and this group learns about programs and activities through:

1. Montgomery Parks Website
2. Montgomery Recreation Website
3. Word of Mouth
4. Program Guide

APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report

Most are Very or Somewhat Satisfied with the value of parks, and have a slightly higher sense of pride in parks than households with older or no children.

Top priorities of Investment for Recreational Facilities for Households with children under the age of 10



Source: ETC Institute (2017)

## CHAPTER NINE - PRIORITIES BY AGE SEGMENT

For the purposes of this analysis, age segments here indicate ages of members of the households, and not age of survey respondent. The age segments of interest are ages 20-34, 35-54, and 55+.

Regarding home type, the 20-34 and 55+ age segments are much more likely to reside in a multi-family home, while the 35-54 age segment are more likely to be in a townhouse or duplex than the other groups. The 35-54 age segment also represents the group with the highest income level. 80% of these age segments speak English as a primary language in the home.

All three age segments are likely to rank parks and recreation facilities as very important, and satisfaction with the physical condition of the parks are higher in the 20-34 and 35-54 age segments than the 55+ age segment.

The 20-34 age segment is more likely to walk to parks, while the 35-54 group is more likely than the other segments to bicycle to parks. Although driving remains the preferred mode of transportation to reach parks, the 20-34 age segment is more likely than the others to drive to parks.

All age segments agree on the top two choices for what services are most important for Montgomery County Parks to provide, with the third being different:

1. Provide opportunities to improve physical health and fitness
2. Conserve natural resources and the environment
3. Provide recreational facilities/programs for children and teens (20-34 and 35-54 age segments)
3. Make Montgomery County a more desirable place to live (55+ age segment)

All age segments also agree on the top two reasons for not using parks and facilities, with the third being different:

1. Too busy
2. I don't know what programs are offered
3. Program times are not convenient (35-54 age segment)
3. Too far from residence (20-34 and 55+ age segments)

Top four priorities for use of county tax dollars in parks by age segments include:

Priority	Ages 20-34	Ages 35-54	Ages 55+
Repair/renovate existing park facilities	#2	#1	#1
Purchase land for natural resource protection and conservation for future generations	#1	#3	#2
Develop new walking/biking trails and connect existing trails	#3	#2	#3
Purchase land for developing trails	#4	#4	#4

## APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report

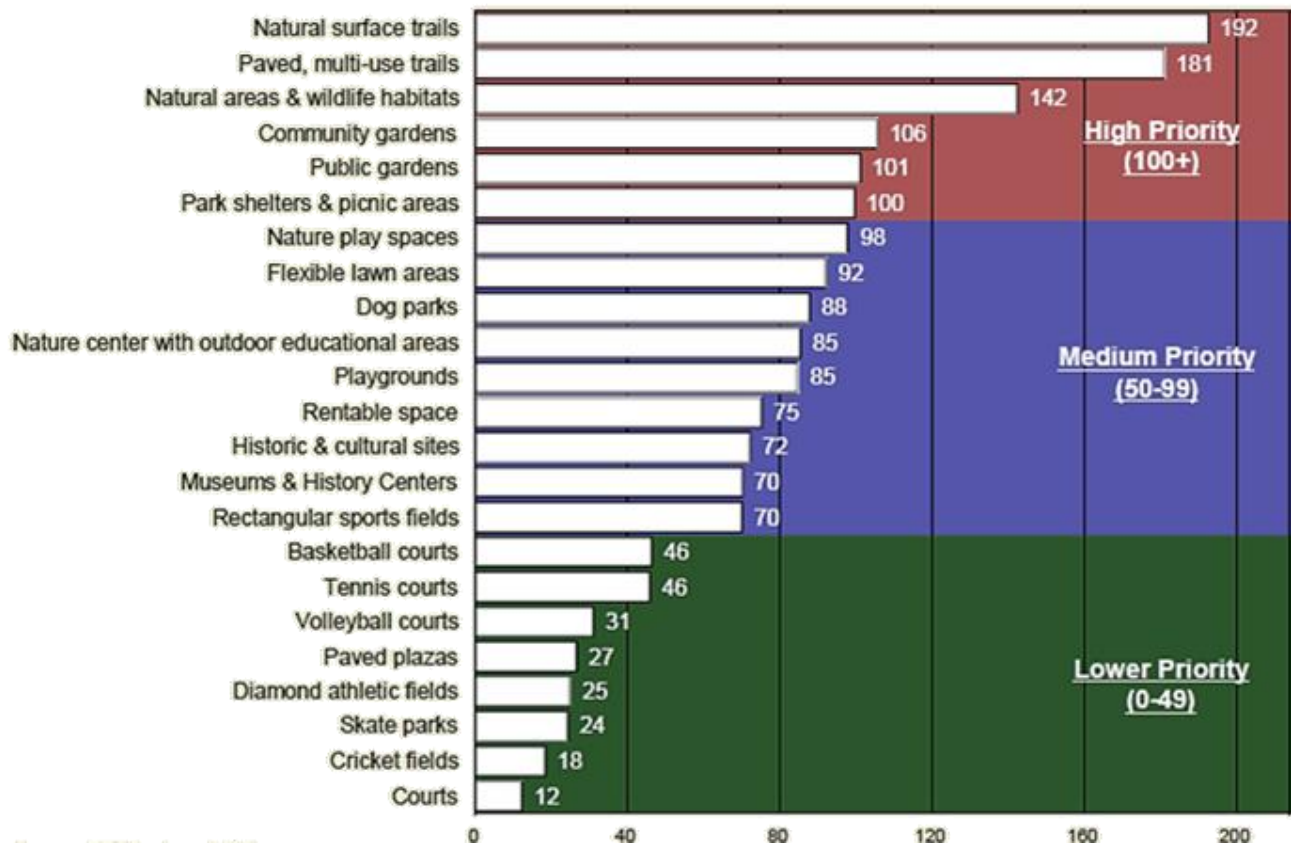
Respondents in this demographic feel the following facilities are most important to their household:

Facility	Ages 20-34	Ages 35-54	Ages 55+
Paved, multi-use trails	#1	#1	#1
Natural surface trails	#2	#2	#2
Playgrounds	#4	#3	--
Natural areas & wildlife habitat	#3	#4	#3
Rectangular sports fields	#5	#5	--
Park shelters & picnic areas	--	--	#4
Public gardens	--	--	#5

The 20-34 and 55+ age groups tend to learn about park programs and activities through Word of Mouth first, then the two websites and flyers at facilities, whereas the 35-54 age group use the Montgomery Parks website first, then Word of Mouth and the Montgomery Recreation website.

All three age segments tend to be Very or Somewhat Satisfied with the value of parks, and all three have a similar level of sense of pride in parks.

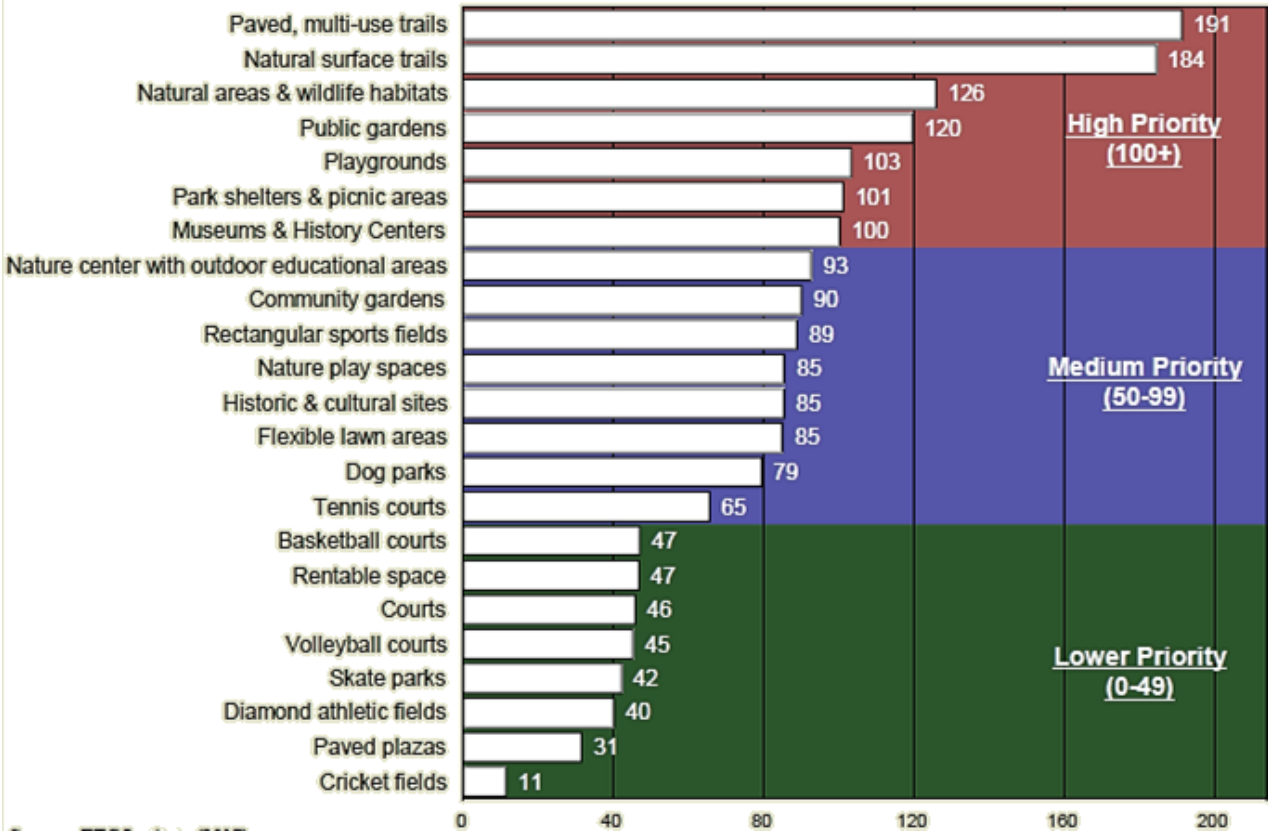
Top priorities of Investment for Recreational Facilities for Ages 20 - 34



Source: ETC Institute (2017)

APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report

Top priorities of Investment for Recreational Facilities for Ages 35 - 54

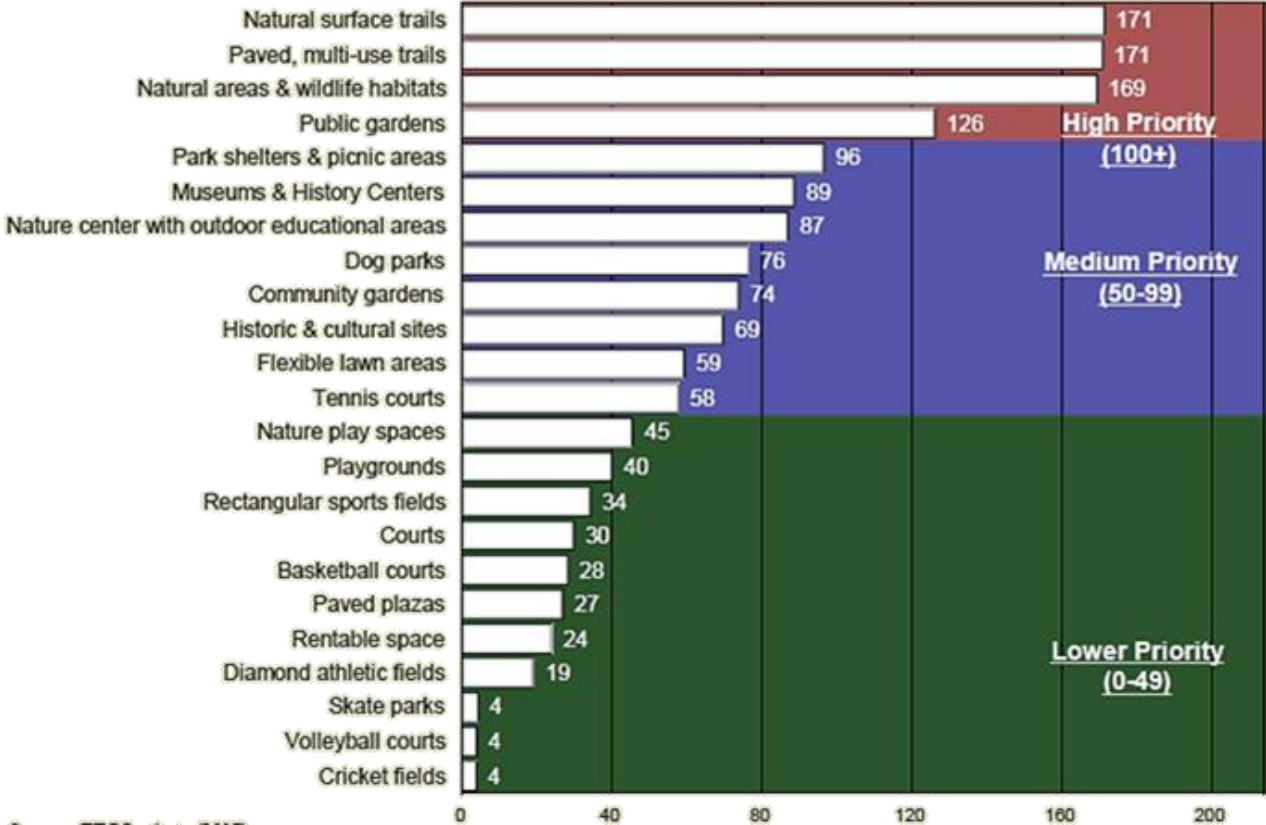


Source: ETC Institute (2017)



APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report

Top priorities of Investment for Recreational Facilities for Ages 55+



Source: ETC Institute (2017)

## CHAPTER TEN - PRIORITIES BY RACE/ETHNICITY

For the purposes of this analysis, race and ethnicity are combined, and demographic segments include the categories of: Non-Hispanic White, Non-Hispanic African American or Black, Non-Hispanic Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Asian-Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic Other (Including American Indian), and Hispanic.

Regarding home type, Non-Hispanic White group is more likely to reside in a single-family home, while Non-Hispanic African Americans or Black and Non-Hispanic Asians, Native Hawaiians, or Asian-Pacific Islanders, and Non-Hispanic Others are more likely to reside in a townhome or duplex. Income levels are fairly evenly distributed across the race and ethnicity segments. English is the primary language in the home for 96% of Non-Hispanic Whites, 79,6% of Non-Hispanic African Americans or Blacks, 56% of Non-Hispanic Asian, native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 90.3% or Non-Hispanic Others. Of Hispanics, 54.1% speak English as the primary language in their household.

All demographic groups are likely to rank parks and recreation facilities as very to somewhat important to quality of life, and satisfaction with the physical condition of the parks are higher with Non-Hispanic Whites and Non-Hispanic African Americans, while Non-Hispanic Asians, Non-Hispanic Others, and Hispanics are more likely to rate the parks fair, or, in the case of Non-Hispanic Others, poor.

All of these demographic segments are most likely to drive, walk, or bike to the parks, with Non-Hispanic African Americans being more likely than others to take the bus and Non-Hispanic Asians being more likely than others to take the Metrorail.

The following chart shows the top three services/functions are most important for Montgomery County to provide:

MOST IMPORTANT SERVICES	NH WHITE	NH AFRICAN AMERICAN	NH ASIAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN,	NH OTHER (INCL. AM. INDIAN)	HISPANIC
Provide opportunities to improve physical health & fitness	#2	#1	#1	#1	#1
Conserve natural resources & environment	#1	#2	#2	#2	#2
Make Montgomery County a more desirable place to live	#3	--	#3	--	#2
Provide recreational facilities/programs for children & teens	--	#3	--	#3	--

All age segments also agree on the top two reasons for not using parks and facilities, with the third being different:

1. Too busy
2. I don't know what programs are offered
3. Program times are not convenient (NH African American, NH Other, and Hispanic)
3. Too far from residence (NH White, NH Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander)

## APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report

## APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report

Top four priorities for use of county tax dollars in parks by age segments include:

TAX DOLLAR PRIORITIES	NH WHITE	NH AFRICAN AMERICAN	NH ASIAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN,	NH OTHER (INCL. AM. INDIAN)	HISPANIC
Repair/renovate existing park facilities	#2	#1	#1	#1	#1
Purchase land for natural resource protection & conservation for future generations	#1	#2	#2	#2 (tie)	#2
Develop new walking/biking trails & connect existing trails	#3	--	#3	#2 (tie)	#3
Upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields	--	#3	--	--	--
Provide additional & upgrade existing recreation centers	--	--	#3	--	--
Repair, maintain, & protect historic buildings/ cultural sites on public land	--	--	--	#4	--
Purchase land for developing trails	#4	--	--	--	--
Purchase land for parks in urban areas	--	#4	--	--	#4

Respondents in this demographic feel the following facilities are most important to their household:

FACILITY	NH WHITE	NH AFRICAN AMERICAN	NH ASIAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN,	NH OTHER (INCL. AM. INDIAN)	HISPANIC
Paved, multi-use trails	#2	#1	#1	#1 (tie)	#1
Natural surface trails	#1	#2	#2	#1 (tie)	#2
Playgrounds	#4	#3	--	#3	#3
Natural areas & wildlife habitat	#3	--	#4	--	#4 (tie)
Rectangular sports fields	--	--	--	--	#4 (tie)
Park shelters & picnic areas	--	#4	#3	#4 (tie)	--
Basketball courts	--	--	--	#4 (tie)	--

The top three ways that residents learn about park programs and activities are fairly consistent across the demographic groups:

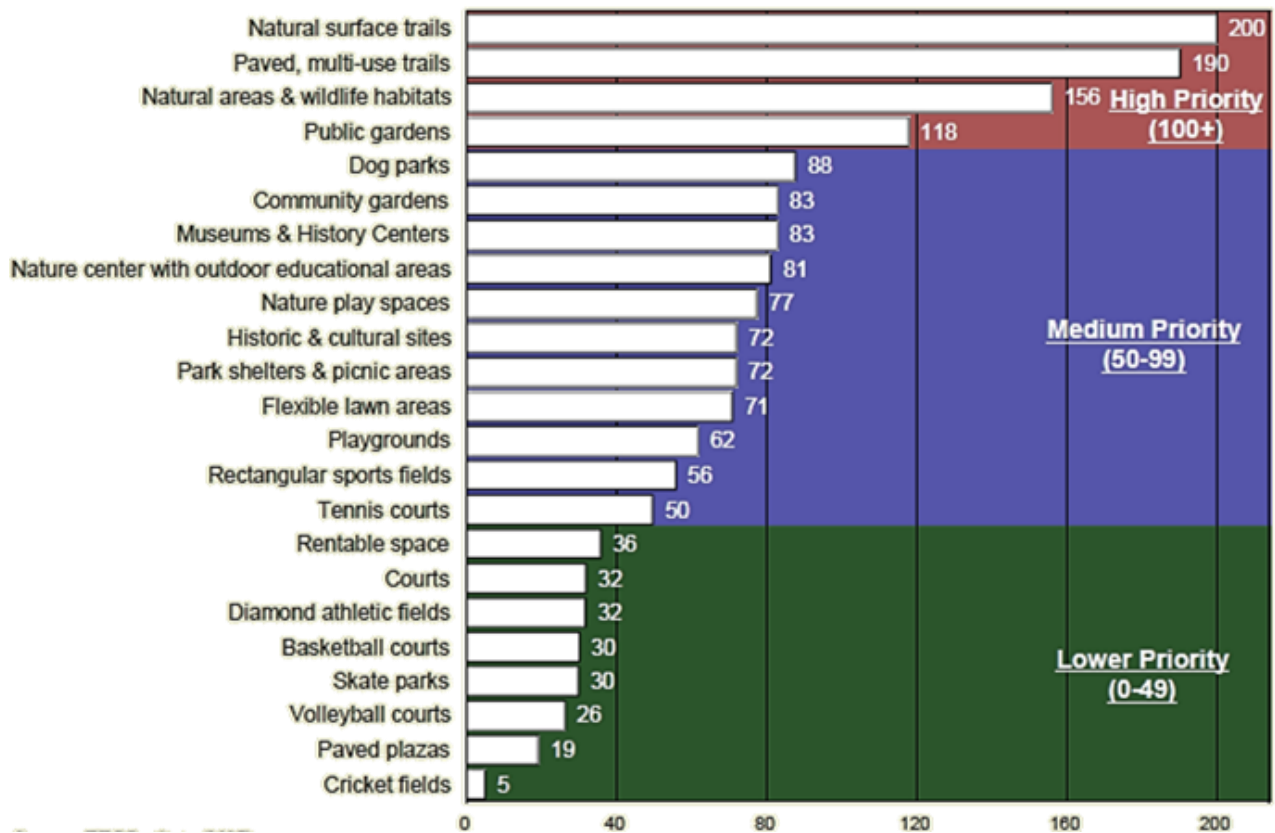
COMMUNICATION METHOD	NH WHITE	NH AFRICAN AMERICAN	NH ASIAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN,	NH OTHER (INCL. AM. INDIAN)	HISPANIC
Montgomery Parks Website	#2	#2	#1	#1	#1
Word of Mouth	#1	#1	#2	#2	#3

APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report

COMMUNICATION METHOD	NH WHITE	NH AFRICAN AMERICAN	NH ASIAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN,	NH OTHER (INCL. AM. INDIAN)	HISPANIC
Montgomery Recreation Website	#3	#3	#3	#3	#2
Program Guide	#4	#4	#4	--	#4
Active Montgomery	--	--	--	#4	--

Each of the race/ethnicity segments tend to be Very or Somewhat Satisfied with the value of parks, and all three have a similar level of sense of pride in parks.

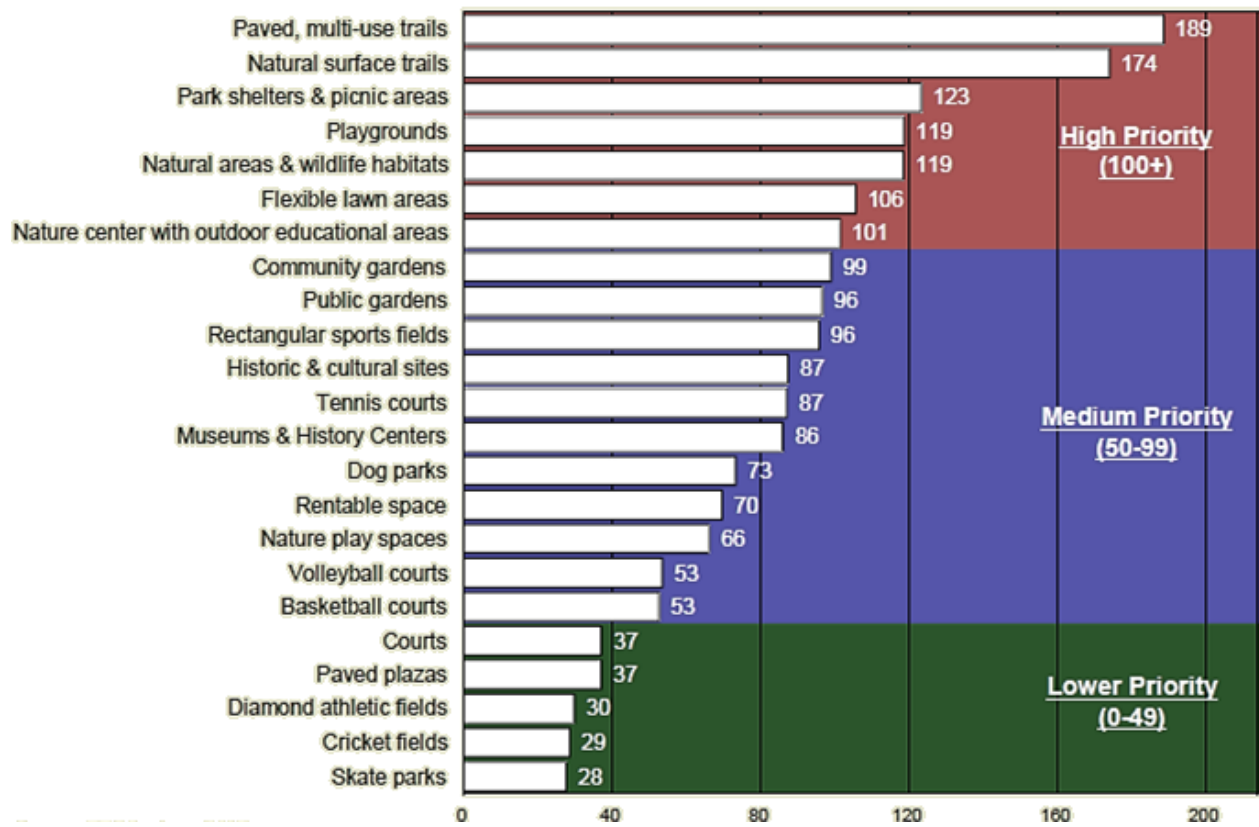
Top priorities of Investment for Recreational Facilities for Non-Hispanic White Residents



Source: ETC Institute (2017)

APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report

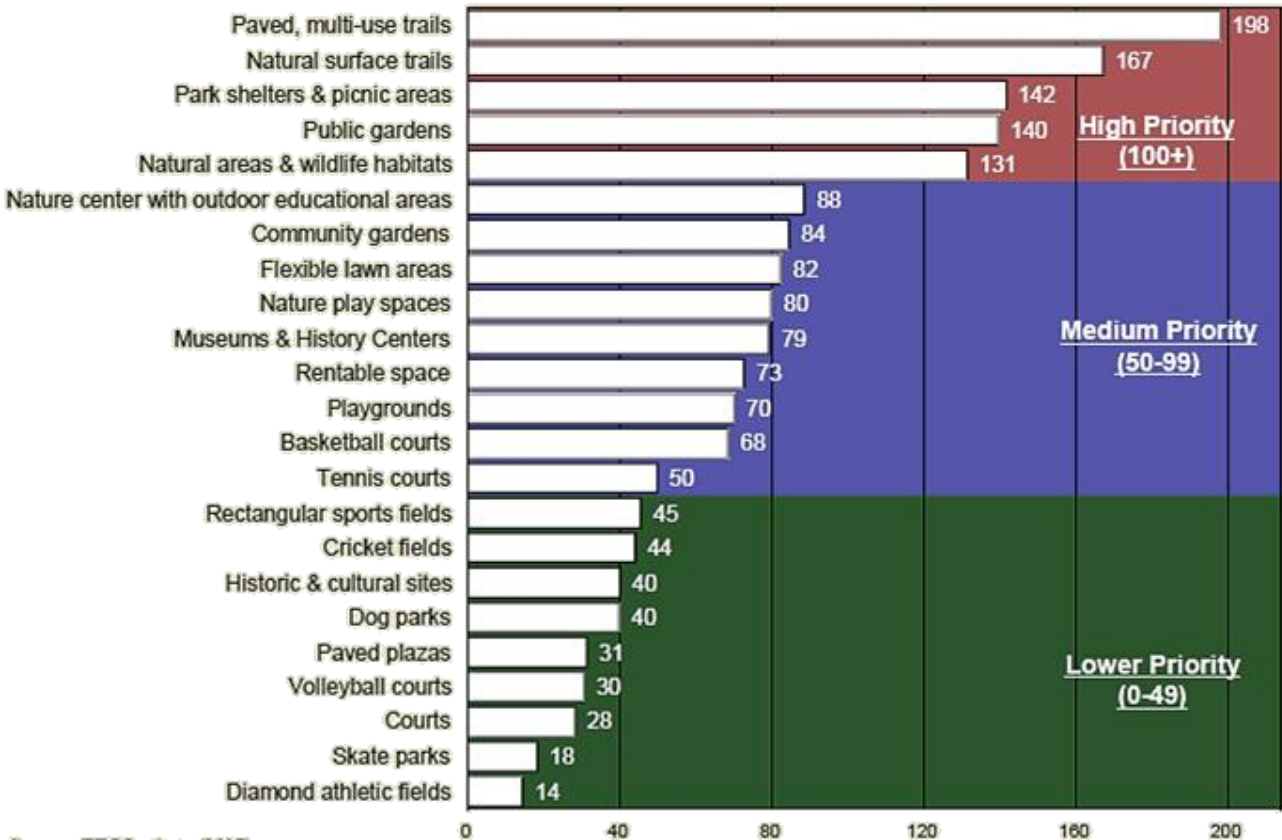
Top priorities of Investment for Recreational Facilities for Non-Hispanic African American or Black Residents



Source: ETC Institute (2017)

APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report

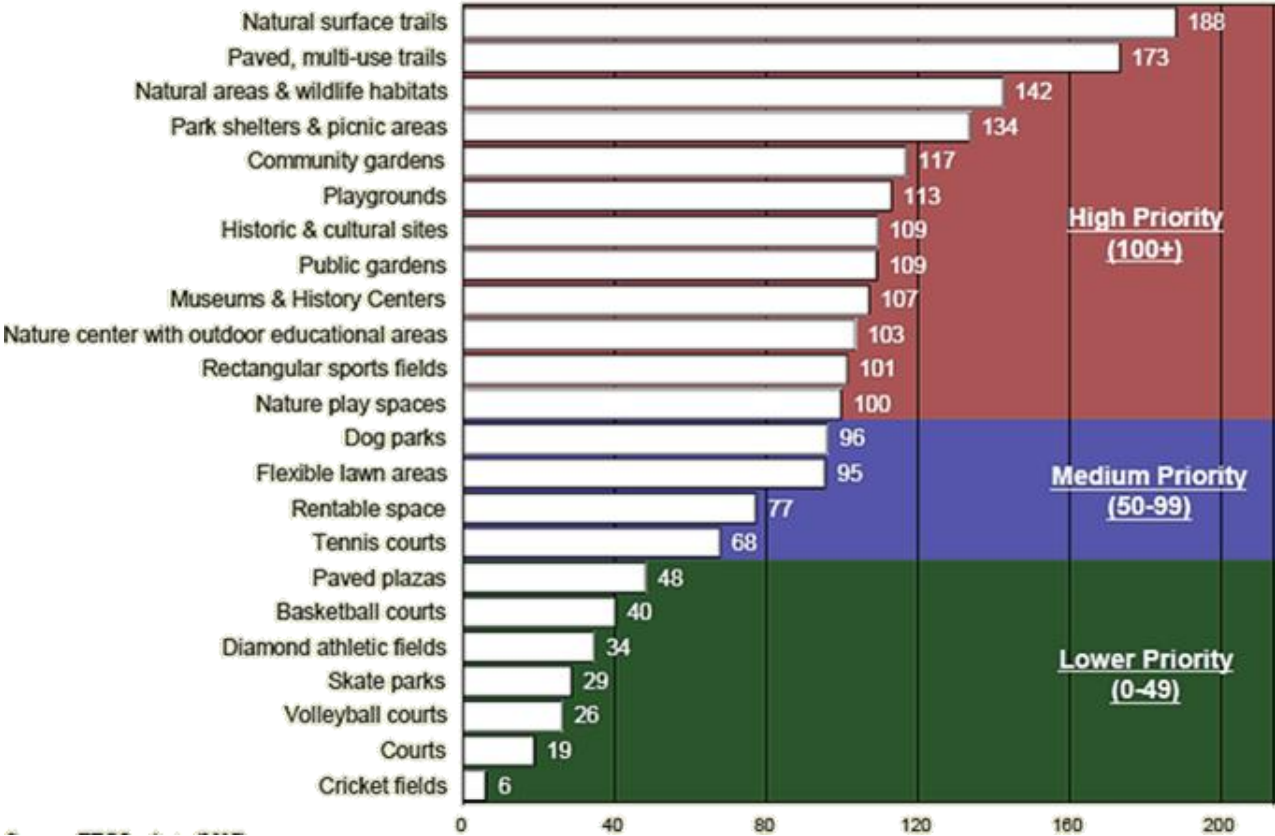
Top priorities of Investment for Recreational Facilities for Non-Hispanic Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Island Residents



Source: ETC Institute (2017)

APPENDIX 12 - - Segment Analysis Report

Top priorities for Investment for Recreational Facilities for Hispanic Residents



Source: ETC Institute (2017)



## CHAPTER ELEVEN - CONCLUSION

The segment analysis shows that, even taking into account different geographic areas and demographic segments of the statistically valid survey results, the priorities of residents remain largely consistent across groups. While there are a few nuances, the theme of trails, options for youth, and green, gathering spaces in urban areas remains constant across the analysis.

## APPENDIX 12 -- Segment Analysis Report

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### M - NCPPC Montgomery Parks

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## ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

### County Council

#### *County Executive*

Isiah Leggett

Roger Berliner, President  
Hans Riemer, Vice President  
Marc Elrich  
Nancy Floreen  
Tom Hucker  
Sidney Katz  
George Leventhal  
Nancy Navarro  
Craig Rice

### The Maryland - National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Chair  
Casey Anderson, Vice Chair

#### *Commissioners*

#### *Montgomery County Planning Board*

Casey Anderson, Chair  
Norman Dreyfuss, Vice Chair  
Gerald R. Cichy  
Natali Fani-Gonzalez  
Marye Wells-Harley

#### *Prince George's County Planning Board*

Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Chair  
Dorothy F. Bailey, Vice Chair  
William M. Doerner  
Manuel R. Geraldo  
A. Shuanise Washington

