



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

THE MARYLAND - NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCPB Item # 5

February 24, 2011

February 16, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Mary Bradford, Director of Parks *M Bradford*
Mike Riley, Deputy Director of Parks for Administration

FROM: John E. Hench, Ph.D., Chief, Park Planning and Stewardship Division
Brooke Farquhar, Supervisor, Park and Trail Planning Section (PPSD) *JEH*
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SUBJECT: Work Program for the 2012 Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan Update / (Land, Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan/LPPRP)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve Work Program for Transmittal to Maryland Department of State Planning

Purpose and Background

The purpose of this item is to obtain approval of the work program for the 2012 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master (PROS) Plan Update (Attachment 1). This Plan must be completed in conformance with Maryland State Guidelines (attachment 2) for County Land, Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plans (LPPRP) and updated every six years to maintain Program Open Space Grant Funding eligibility. The update will be informed by the on-going Vision 2030 Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation in Montgomery County.

The 2012 Plan work program includes updated 2005 PROS Plan chapters on Recreation (supply, demand, needs), and Natural Resources, Historic/ Cultural Resources and Agricultural Preservation (attachment 3). Each Chapter will include relevant recommendations from the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan. The schedule mandated by the State requires Staff Draft Plan completion by January 1, 2012 and Final plan completion by July 1, 2012.

There are significant differences between the PROS Plan and Vision 2030. The PROS Plan summarizes guiding policies. It also includes a park inventory and it estimates needs for neighborhood, community and countywide facilities, natural, historic/cultural and agricultural preservation and implementation. Vision 2030 is much broader in scope, focusing on priorities rather than on specific needs for land acquisition and facilities. It addresses all aspects of operating the Parks and Recreation system, such as programming, facility renovation and construction, maintenance, operations, policing, management and marketing. Vision 2030 also helps us understand where generally underserved areas of the County are. Together, these two documents will enable us to set clear priorities for acquisition, renovation, and development of our Park System, as well as guide our recommendations in Area and Park Master Plans and the Capital Improvements Program.

Work Program Elements

As shown in the attached work program, the 2012 Plan will:

- Include updates of the 2005 PROS Plan information that are required by the State Guidelines
- Incorporate elements of the Vision 2030 Plan that help inform our assessment of future needs for park planning and stewardship
- Compare our projected needs for land and facilities with those of similar jurisdictions around the Country
- Attempt to determine the right balance between renovation and new construction in meeting assessed needs

Outreach

Outreach for the 2012 PROS Plan Update will build on inputs received from the Vision 2030 survey, summits, public meetings and focus groups. The process of updating the PROS Plan will also include focus group meetings, public meetings, and obtain input from the Recreation and Parks Advisory Boards and a dedicated web site. As with the past plans, it will be a collaborative effort with the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Attachments:

1. Proposed 2012 PROS Plan Work Program Summary
2. Guidelines for State and Local Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Planning, October 2010
3. Executive Summary of the 2005 PROS Plan

PC:

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PROPOSED 2010 PROS PLAN WORK PROGRAM SUMMARY

Overview

The 2012 PROS Plan Update Work Program is based on the Guidelines for State & Local Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Planning submitted by the Maryland Department of State Planning in October 2010. In addition to fulfilling the State requirements, the Plan Update will incorporate important recommendations and input from the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan.

The Guidelines indicate that the 2012 Update focus should be on updating the major recreation and parks components of the prior Plan, including inventory, supply, demand, and needs analysis, and the 15-year land acquisition and capital improvement priorities. Chapters on Natural and Historic/ Cultural Preservation and Agricultural Preservation will also be included and will focus on state and local goals, progress since the 2005 Plan, and new proposals.

Recreation Chapter

1. Vision 2030 Input

Analyze recommendations from Vision 2030 Strategic Plan including goals, objectives and actions; findings and input from survey and focus groups to determine top 10 recreation facility needs in the County and other important inputs. Determine how they should be included in the 2012 PROS Plan.

2. State Requirements

- *State and County goals* for recreation and parks. List and analyze how do they compare? Include priority recreation and parks issues identified in the 2009 State plan.
- *Principle implementing programs*- Describe how they help to achieve these goals, and how they are consistent with the Strategic Guidelines for Recreation and Parks.
- *State recreation acreage goal* of 30 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons. Calculate the current ratio according to state requirements, including the three categories of preserved acreage that count towards this goal: local recreational acreage, a portion of local natural resource acreage, and a portion of qualifying State and federal acreage
- *Facility inventory and analysis of facility supply, demand, and needs*- Calculate using county or statewide survey data, updated demographic data, and the method described in Appendix B of the Guidelines (or approved alternative). Analyze rectangular athletic fields, baseball diamonds, playgrounds, basketball courts, and tennis courts plus the top ten facility needs identified by the County. These facilities shall be determined by the results of the Vision 2030 Survey and Plan. The service areas will be the same as those in the 2005 Plan for comparison purposes. Specifically, the work program will:
 - i. *Calculate Supply*, the total number of occasions/uses provided by the given recreational facilities in a single year for each of the required facilities (playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, diamonds and rectangular fields, and 10 additional most needed facilities. The quantity (inventory) of a given facility (such as baseball diamonds) is

multiplied by that facility's "season length"(number of days per year facility is available) and "daily carrying capacity." (number of "uses" that a facility provides per day)

- For the inventory, analyze Vision 2030 completed inventory for use in the Plan Update.

- ii. Develop *demand estimates*, using a recreation demand survey and population projections for 2012, 2017, and 2022. The Vision 2030 inputs will be used if possible to derive participation numbers. The State 2003 Surveys and park permit data may also be used.
 - Determine *Participation Rate*, the percentage of the surveyed sample population that responds that they have participated in a given activity (such as baseball/softball) in the past year.
 - Determine *Frequency Rate*, the average number of times that the individuals who participated in a given activity did so in a twelve month period. Estimate *demand* by multiplying Participation and frequency rates by the current and future County populations for selected Service areas

- iii. *Determine Current and Future Needs*, by subtracting the occasions/uses demanded from the occasions supplied to determine if there is unmet current demand. Estimate the number of facilities needed and then the amount of land desired per facility to determine the total need for additional land acquisition associated with the activity. The Updated Plan will compare our projected needs for land and facilities with those of similar jurisdictions around the Country and also attempt to determine the right balance between renovation and new construction in meeting those needs.

- *Implementation* - Determine Acquisition, Development, and Rehabilitation Priorities. Include a 15-year implementation program for land acquisition, facility development, and rehabilitation priorities, identified for the short term (2012-2016), mid-term (2017-2021), and long range (2022 and beyond). As in the table used for the needs analysis, the matrix should include information on the County's needs for athletic fields, baseball diamonds, basketball courts, and tennis courts, and for the additional top ten needs identified by the County. Prepare a spreadsheet showing what State and local goals are being met by each project.

Natural Resources Chapter

1. *Vision 2030 Plan Input*. -Identify relevant recommendations from Vision 2030 Strategic Plan including findings, and input from 2010 survey and focus groups
2. *State and Local Goals for Natural Resource Conservation* – List and analyze -note differences and conflicts, if any.
3. *County established priority preservation and conservation areas*. Identify and provide GIS 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
4. *Compare boundaries* of these primary natural resource areas to DNR's GreenPrint lands. -- Provide map.
 5. *Progress since 2005 Plan* - Describe which parts of the program development strategy from the natural resources element of the last County Plan have been implemented and those that have not. Summarize any new proposals to conserve natural resources and priority lands.
 6. *Reference and summarize information from the County's comprehensive plan* and implementing ordinances and programs as appropriate to provide plan content for this element of the Plan Update.

Cultural and Historic Resource Conservation Chapter (Optional)

1. *Vision 2030 Plan Input* -Identify relevant recommendations from Vision 2030 Strategic Plan including findings, and input from 2010 survey and focus groups
2. *State and Local Goals for Historic/Cultural Conservation* – List and analyze -note differences and conflicts, if any.
3. Identify County established priority preservation sites.
4. *Progress since 2005 Plan* - Describe which parts of the program development strategy from the natural resources element of the last County Plan have been implemented and those that have not. Summarize any new proposals to conserve historic/cultural sites.
5. *Reference and summarize information from the County's comprehensive plan* and implementing ordinances and programs as appropriate to provide plan content for this element.

Agriculture Chapter (Optional)

1. *State and Local Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation* - List and analyze
2. *Progress since 2005 Plan* -Document the extent to which progress has been made toward achievement of the agricultural land preservation goals and objectives.
3. *Reference and summarize information from the County's comprehensive plan* and implementing ordinances and programs as appropriate.
4. Include map of priority preservation areas.
5. Provide a data table showing agricultural land preserved by year by easement programs and other means since the last Plan. Provide a table showing how much total land in the County has been preserved by the easement program.

Project Schedule

Plan will adhere to schedule required by the State Guidelines.

- Work Program submitted to State Planning (2/1/2011)
- Draft Plan Submittal to MDP/DNR (1/1/2012)
- Final Local Plan Submission (7/01/2012)
- Plan Submittal to State Legislators (7/01/2012)

Final State Plan (7/1/2013)

GUIDELINES FOR
State & Local Land Preservation,
Parks, and Recreation Planning

OCTOBER 2010

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Guidelines for State and Local Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Planning

October, 2010

Introduction

In addition to the traditional emphasis in prior planning cycles on recreation and parks, the 2003 *Guidelines for Local Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plans* (LPPRPs) led to the creation of local and State plans that explicitly included agricultural and natural resources for the first time. The State plan, as well as some local plans, also examined historic preservation. The purpose was to help clarify for State and local stakeholders the relationships and distinctions between these areas of public interest. For all areas, the goal was to examine the set of State and local efforts, determine if they are complementary or conflicting, identify shortcomings, and recommend improvements for State and local administrations and lawmakers.

The last round of local plans was due in 2005. The next round should be completed, technically, in 2011. However, given the late publication of the State plan in 2009, its expanded scope and content, and the key issues identified, the next round of local plans will be due July 1, 2012. These *2010 Guidelines* have been revised to define current program goals and objectives accordingly and to update major components of the 2005/2006 plans. The intent is to minimize the need to generate plan content, eliminate unnecessary work, and focus the effort on achieving plan goals.

These Guidelines were a joint creation of a State/Local Work Group, consisting of staff from the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), Program Open Space of the Department of Natural Resources (POS/DNR), and members of the Parks and Recreation Affiliate of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo).

Schedule and Milestones for 2012 Local Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plans

Revised Local LPPRP Guidelines (10/1/10)
LPPRP Work Program (2/1/2011)
Draft Plan Submittal to MDP/DNR (1/1/2012)
Final Local Plan Submission (7/1/2012)
Plan Submittal to State Legislators (7/1/2012)
Final State LPPRP (7/1/2014)

General Guidelines for Local Plans

Because the 2005 LPPRPs were so comprehensive, the plan content requirements for the 2012 local LPPRPS are much more limited:

- **Recreation and Parks Element:** The major focus of the 2012 LPPRP, this element will address the recommendations for parks and recreation made in the 2009 State LPPRP.

- Agricultural Land Element and Natural Lands/Resources: Brief update on the progress of local programs since the 2005 LPPRP.
- Historic Preservation Element: Optional (see Appendix D for guidelines. Content can be cut and pasted as appropriate from existing plans, reports, studies, etc., and/or incorporated by reference. Each jurisdiction can expand on the template, if needed).

Guidelines for Agricultural & Natural Lands and Resources

The local Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plans for 2005-2006 were the first to examine all land preservation programs simultaneously. In addition to land and facilities for parks and recreation, the local LPPRPs also described and evaluated local programs and issues related to the preservation of land for agriculture and for the conservation of natural resources.

This information was highly useful for the 2009 Maryland LPPRP. In consultation with the State/Local Work Group, MDP determined that the 2012 LPPRPs should return to the plan's roots as a parks and recreation-focused plan, with only a brief updating required for key information on agricultural and natural resource lands. There were a number of reasons behind this decision:

- The 2012 LPPRP's focus should be on updating the major recreation and parks components of the prior LPPRP, including inventory, supply and demand analysis, and the 15-year land acquisition and capital improvement priorities for each County. The 2012 LPPRP should also address the priority recreation and parks issues identified in the 2009 State plan. This will help to evaluate the progress your jurisdiction has made since the last LPPRP and chart a course for the future.
- Under the State Agricultural Certification Program, MDP and MALPF have certified the farmland preservation programs of seventeen of Maryland's twenty-three Counties. Their applications and annual reports provide all the information the State needs about agricultural land preservation, and similar information has been compiled for the other six Counties.
- At the local level, agricultural land preservation and natural resource conservation are addressed to varying degrees through the comprehensive plans of most Counties, as well as in other documents.

Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation

The goals below are repeated from the *2003 Guidelines* in order to inform the program update that is required in the 2012 LPPRP.

The Maryland General Assembly passed a resolution in 2002 establishing a statewide goal of preserving approximately 1,030,000 acres of productive agricultural land by 2022 through the combined efforts of MALPF, Rural Legacy, GreenPrint (an easement program that has since ended), and local easement acquisition programs. Other State goals for agriculture include the following:

- Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting a reasonable 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:
 - ❖ 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;
 - ❖ 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.

Agricultural Land Preservation, Required Plan Content

- The 2012 LPPRP should document the extent to which progress has been made toward achievement of the agricultural land preservation goals and objectives identified in the 2009 State LPPRP and the most recently adopted County LPPRP.
- Provide reference to and summarize information from the County's comprehensive plan and implementing ordinances and programs as appropriate to provide content for this plan element.
- Local jurisdictions have the option of including a more detailed presentation of information on agricultural land preservation in their LPPRPs, if they wish. See Appendix D for guidelines.

Goals for Natural Resource Conservation

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 and 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).
- 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.

Natural Resource Land Conservation, Required Plan Content

This section of the local LPPRP is valuable to DNR and MDP because it provides the basis to examine congruency and differences between State and local conservation priorities and actions.

On the State side are priority GreenPrint “targeted ecological areas” and other lands and waterways included in DNR’s inventory of natural resources. Local jurisdictions may have additional priorities.

Are State and local goals complementary? If so, is the County supporting the achievement of those goals? If not, what can the State do to help? If local goals for resource protection encompass different geographies from the State’s, what is the reason for those differences, and what steps are needed to reconcile and integrate priorities?

The intention for this element of the LPPRP is that much of the required content be incorporated through reference to the County’s comprehensive plan, implementing ordinances, program reports and procedures, and existing County maps. If the comprehensive plan and/or other documents and programs are in the process of being revised, the County, in consultation with MDP, can refer to existing draft plans and other ongoing planning activities as the best interim representation of the County’s approach to natural resource land conservation.

The local LPPRP should include the following content:

- A. What are the County’s goals for natural resource lands and conservation?
- B. Local Priorities for Natural Lands and Resources
 1. Has the County established priority preservation and conservation areas for natural resources in its comprehensive plan?
 2. If so, do the boundaries of these areas differ from DNR’s GreenPrint lands? If so, why? Please provide a map, if possible.
 3. What are the principle implementing ordinances and programs to achieve County goals for conserving natural lands and resources?
- C. Describe which parts of the program development strategy from the natural resources element of the last County LPPRP have been implemented and those that have not. Summarize changes in the County’s intentions to conserve natural resources and priority lands.
- D. Provide reference to and summarize information from the County’s comprehensive plan and implementing ordinances and programs as appropriate to provide plan content for this element of the LPPRP.

Data Sharing

Much of your data on natural resource land will be important to the State plan. Here is a description of the interaction between MDP and the Counties for using your data in the State LPPRP.

- First, PLEASE ARRANGE TO SHARE GIS MAPS OF COUNTY LANDS TARGETED FOR NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION, AS WELL AS THE MOST RECENT COUNTY PRESERVED LANDS GIS DATA LAYER, WITH MDP. [Contact Daniel Rosen at MDP, drosen@mdp.state.md.us; 410-767-4577]. Preserved lands include:

- ♣ Federal, State, and locally owned parkland, open space, greenway, or natural resource areas. Military lands do not count, because their purpose is not resource protection, even though they often contain a lot of undisturbed resource land.
- ♣ 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, not just by zoning.
- ♣ Land protected by deed covenants such as homeowner association open space.
- ♣ Land trust easements or ownership.

If your County cannot provide polygon data, let us know. The data that the Counties provide will be used by MDP and DNR to analyze preservation and development in Maryland's green infrastructure. Before we present our findings and draw our conclusions in the State's LPPRP, however, we will send our graphs, tables, etc. to the Counties to get your feedback and to ensure that we have accurately depicted local conditions. MDP will send you data on preserved federal and State land. MDP will also send you a map of your county that depicts the following information:

- ♣ Boundaries for Priority Funding Areas (PFAs), Priority Preservation Areas (PPAs—if any), Rural Legacy Areas, and any County-designated priority areas for preservation and conservation.
- ♣ The boundaries of DNR's Green Infrastructure.
- ♣ Preserved parcels.
- ♣ Parcels (using point data) in targeted conservation areas that are: residential parcels 20 acres or less and developed within the past decade; residential parcels 20 acres or less developed prior to the past decade; and unpreserved non-residential parcels larger than 20 acres.

The data underlying these maps will be graphed in a number of ways to examine relationships between the State and the Counties. We will also provide our interpretation of the maps and graphs. We would like you to respond with specifics about the County's program and development/preservation trends that could better inform MDP's and DNR's perception and evaluation of County programs.

The updated preserved lands maps and data will also be shared with DNR.

Guidelines for Recreation and Parks

As stated previously, these *2010 Guidelines* have been revised to define current goals and objectives and to update the major components of the 2005-2006 plans. "The intent is to minimize the need to generate plan content, eliminate unnecessary work, and focus the effort on

achieving plan goals.” As such, the guidelines and requirements below are intended to link closely with those of the 2005-2006 local LPPRPs.

Goals for Recreation and Parks

As was the case with the 2005-2006 LPPRPs, local plans must incorporate the following State goals for recreation and parks, in addition to other local goals as appropriate for each jurisdiction:

- 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.

Strategic Guidelines for Recreation and Parks

The 2009 Maryland LPPRP made it a priority for the next round of recreation and parks elements to focus more on how State and local goals are being achieved and less on the mechanisms used to achieve them. It established initial guidelines stating that, in addition to updating data on populations and recreation facilities, each local plan should focus on how it will achieve these goals through its spending priorities for acquisition, facility development, and rehabilitation.

Accordingly, the majority of funding should be targeted to neighborhoods and communities where population and growth are concentrated. Parks and facilities should be provided in lands designated for agricultural and/or natural resource conservation only to serve needs of the existing population or to preserve significant natural resources.

It is important that the recreation and parks portion of the plan update the 2005-2006 LPPRP (see Required Plan Content) and report progress towards meeting that plan’s goals, objectives, and capital project priorities. The plan should also describe how local parks and recreation efforts complement the resource conservation focus of stateside POS. (The emphasis is on “complement,” since the State has the main role in natural resource conservation.)

County plans for recreation and parks will be examined and summarized in the 2014 Maryland plan in relation to the preceding goals and strategic guidelines. The plan will also demonstrate how local priorities for land acquisition and facilities development are accomplishing State goals.

Recreation and Parks, Required Plan Content

The recreation and parks section of the plan must include the following:

- A. State and County goals for recreation and parks.
- B. A description of principal implementing programs, how they help to achieve these goals, and how they are consistent with the Strategic Guidelines for Recreation and Parks.
- C. Three essential data elements are to be provided in the same standardized format employed in the 2005-2006 local LPPRPs. The continuation of this format will allow the data to be queried in a manner that will allow for a statewide analysis consistent with that of the 2009 State LPPRP. The three required data elements are:
 - Local inventory of parkland and associated parkland acreage needs analysis using the standard 30 acres per thousand population analysis method or an approved alternative methodology. (See Appendix A.)
 - Facility inventory and analysis of facility supply, demand, and needs using statewide survey data, updated demographic data, and the method described in Appendix B of the 2003 *Guidelines* (or approved alternative). (See Appendix B. The tables in Appendix B should address athletic fields, baseball diamonds, basketball courts, and tennis courts. In addition to these, the tables should address the top ten needs identified by the County.)
 - A 15-year capital improvement program for land acquisition, facility development, and rehabilitation priorities, identified for the short term (2012-2016), mid-term (2017-2021), and long range (2022 and beyond). (See Appendix C. As in the table used for the needs analysis, the matrix should include information on the County's needs for athletic fields, baseball diamonds, basketball courts, and tennis courts, and for the top ten needs identified by the County that will be addressed in the County CIP beyond these four. This will allow information to be aggregated at local, regional, and state levels.)

Appendix C also contains a second spreadsheet, C-2, that asks what State and local goals are being met by each project. All you have to do is put in the appropriate number 1 through 6 for the State goals, which are listed on the spreadsheet, and 7 onward for local goals. Please number the local goals, starting with 7 instead of 1, on the spreadsheet you submit to MDP. Then, in the "Notes" column, provide a brief description of HOW each project advances the goal(s). A sentence or two of narrative should suffice.

Appendix A – Calculation of the Default State Recreational Acreage Goal

This appendix summarizes how to calculate the generic State recreation acreage goal of 30 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons and how to count local, State, and federal lands towards this goal. This is one of the methods a County can use to set its recreational acreage goal. If a County does not set a needs-based acreage goal or use another system that must be approved by MDP and DNR, the goal described in this appendix will serve as the default goal.

There are three categories of preserved acreage that count towards this goal: local recreational acreage, a portion of local natural resource acreage, and a portion of qualifying State and federal acreage. What types of land qualify under each category and how each category counts towards the goal are explained below in the appropriate section.

STEP 1: SETTING THE GOAL

Example: If a county has 150,000 persons its default State-recommended recreational goal is 4,500 acres (based on the 30 acres per thousand rule).

$$(150,000 \text{ residents} / 1,000) * 30 \text{ acres} = 4,500 \text{ acres}$$

STEP 2: LOCAL RECREATIONAL ACREAGE PORTION OF THE GOAL

When counting public land towards the default acreage goal, it is important to note that a minimum of 15 acres per 1,000 people must come from locally owned recreational lands. The box below indicates what types of land may be counted as recreational lands.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Local Recreational Acreage</u></p> <p>Consists of 100% of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Neighborhood Parks- Community Parks- City/Countywide Parks- Metro/Regional Parks- Educational Recreation Areas* <p><small>*60% of school site or actual community recreational use areas can be counted. A joint use agreement between the County and school must exist.</small></p>

The local recreational acreage portion of the recreational goal can be determined through the equation below:

$$\text{Local Recreation Portion of Goal} = \text{Local Recreation Acres} / \text{Population in thousands}$$

If the county with 150,000 persons determined it owned 3,000 acres of recreational acreage it could count towards meeting the generic State acreage goal, it would have 20 acres per 1,000

persons of the 30 acre per 1,000 person goal (3,000 acres / 150).

As the County does not have enough locally owned recreational lands to meet its overall 30 acres per thousand goal, it may apply a portion of locally owned natural resource lands and qualifying State and federal lands towards the goal. The sections below explain how to compute the portions that can count towards the goal.

STEP 3: LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCE ACREAGE PORTION OF THE GOAL

In addition to local recreational acreage, one third of the acreage of certain types of natural resource land can be counted towards the default recommended acreage goal. Lands that can be counted are indicated in the text box to the right.

The local natural resource acreage portion of the recreational goal can be determined through the equation below:

Local Natural Resource Acreage
Consists of 1/3 of:

- Natural Resource Areas
- Historic Cultural Areas
- Private Open Space *

*Private Open space may be counted if the land is permanently preserved as open space, is accessible to members of the community in which it is situated, and can be reasonably construed as helping to meet public demand for open space.

$$\text{Local Natural Resource Portion of Goal} = (1/3 * \text{Local Natural Resource Acres}) / \text{Population in thousands}$$

If the County with 150,000 persons determined it had 2,250 acres of natural resource acreage, it could count 1/3 of this acreage or 750 acres towards meeting the generic State acreage goal. This acreage would add an additional 5 acres per 1,000 persons to the County's 30 acre per 1,000 person goal ($750/150 = 5$). The County would now have 25 acres of land per 1,000 residents of the 30 acre per 1,000 person goal.

STEP 4: STATE AND FEDERAL ACREAGE PORTION OF THE GOAL

If needed, up to 15 acres per 1,000 persons of State and federal lands present in the County, in excess of 60 acres per 1,000 persons, can be used to meet the default recommended acreage goal. State and federal lands that can be counted towards the goal are indicated below.

State Acreage
Consists of 100% of:

- State Parks
- State Forests
- Educational Recreation Areas

Federal Acreage
Consists of 100% of:

- National Parks
- National Seashores
- National Recreational Areas

The acreage of both types of land should be added together. The State and federal portion of the recreational goal can be determined through the equation below:

$$\text{State and Federal Acres per 1,000 persons} = (\text{State and Federal Acres}) / \text{Population in thousands}$$

Of the figure computed above, only the portion above 60 acres per 1,000 persons can be used to meet the goal.

For example if there are 10,500 acres of State and federal acres in the County with a population of 150,000, the total calculated State and federal acres per 1,000 persons is 70 ($10,500/150 = 70$).

Of this, the State and federal portion that can count towards the goal is only 10 acres per 1,000 persons (i.e., the 10 acres over and above 60 acres/thousand residents). Using this acreage, the County would now have 35 acres of land per 1,000 residents. The County has thus achieved the 30 acre per 1,000 person goal.

NON-QUALIFIED STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS

The acreages of certain lands under State and federal ownership cannot be used to meet the acreage goal. These are listed in the boxes below.

Non-Qualified State Acreage

DO NOT COUNT:

- Natural Resource Management Areas
- Natural Environment Areas
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Fish Management Areas
- Roadside Picnic Areas
- Historic Cultural Areas
- Natural Areas

Non-Qualified Federal Acreage

DO NOT COUNT:

- Wildlife Areas
- Wilderness Preservation Areas
- Parkways
- Historic Sites
- Cemeteries
- Natural Areas
- Battlefields

Appendix B – Recreation and Parks Supply and Demand Analysis: An Approach

All Counties are required to complete a needs analysis as part of their Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan. The needs analysis should be based upon several sources of information:

- The results of the two statewide surveys, *Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland* and *State Parks and Natural Resource Areas in Maryland: A Survey of Public Opinion*;
- County-specific surveys or information on trends in recreational activities and emphasis;
- Population and demographic projections;
- Other County-specific information on demand obtained through knowledge of and interaction with users and the public; and
- Other local insights concerning latent demand.

Information from these sources can and should be incorporated directly into the supply and demand analysis or used to adjust the results of it. In either case, the County should explain what information was used for the needs analysis, how it was used, and the basis for quantitative assumptions used in the text of the parks and recreation element of the plan.

The needs analysis must utilize a set of mandatory activities common to most jurisdictions (athletic fields, baseball diamonds, basketball courts, and tennis courts). A County should add 10 additional activities at their discretion if they determine the activity is important to meet specific County or regional recreational needs. Indoor recreational facilities can be used in the analysis provided the rationale for using these facilities and the assumptions governing their inclusion are stated in the text.

This appendix describes a “recreation supply and demand” methodology as a means of providing a general, consistent platform for estimating outdoor recreation facility needs. The methodology is basic and simple, relying on very few numeric factors and mathematical functions. Counties can determine factors for activities used in the needs analysis: season length, daily carrying capacity, and acreage required for facilities. These factors will vary from county to county due to natural features and the design and amount of facilities present in the area.

The factors, all of which are necessary for completion of the analysis as designed, are listed below. For each factor, describe how each is estimated or calculated and the rationale and basis for its use.

1. **SUPPLY**: Supply is generally the total number of occasions/uses provided by the given recreational facilities in a single year. To determine existing supply, the quantity of a given facility (such as baseball diamonds) is multiplied by that facility’s “season length” and “daily carrying capacity.” The quantity of a given facility can be obtained by looking at the number of facilities reported in the system for a given jurisdiction.

Season Length is the estimated number of days per year that the facility is judged to be available for use. This factor often varies by region or jurisdiction in order to account for weather variations and differences in operational procedures. For example, let’s assume the statewide survey indicates the season length for baseball/softball is 190 days in a county’s region.

Daily Carrying Capacity is the estimated number of individual “uses” that a facility provides per day. For example, if a baseball diamond is estimated to allow for three games per day (on average), and we assume that a total of 18 individuals may play during each game, the daily carrying capacity for the diamond would be estimated as 54 uses per day (3 games times 18 uses/users per game). This factor, like season length, can be adjusted to better reflect each jurisdiction’s individual situation (e.g., instead of using 18 players per game, one could estimate a use of 24 players per game to account for the fact that more than the “starting nine” usually play in a game).

Using the above example for baseball diamonds, and assuming a season length of 190 days, each baseball diamond would provide 10,260 uses per year (190 days * 54 uses/day). Next, this per-facility supply factor would be multiplied by the quantity of the given facility within the jurisdiction. For example, if the jurisdiction operates 30 ball diamonds, the total occasions/uses provided for one year would be 307,800 (30 ball diamonds times 10,260 uses/year).

Counties should perform a similar calculation for each type of recreation facility in their jurisdiction. A table template is provided in Table B-1. The mandatory activities must be used in the table along with other activities required to meet County needs.

2. **DEMAND:** Demand is estimated through the use of a recreation demand survey. The State has provided two surveys—*Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland* and *State Parks and Natural Resource Areas in Maryland: A Survey of Public Opinion*—to local jurisdictions to assist this portion of the analysis. These surveys provide information at regional levels and can be used to provide a baseline of information to the Counties. However, a local jurisdiction may decide to supplement these surveys with its own surveys or other measures of demand. To calculate the overall demand for a certain activity, the survey collects two numbers: “participation rate” and “frequency rate.”

Participation Rate represents the percentage of the surveyed sample population that responds that they have participated in a given activity (such as baseball/softball) in the past year. For example, if 100 individuals are surveyed, and 18 indicate they played baseball or softball, the participation rate would be 18%.

Frequency Rate is the average (mean) number of times that the individuals who participated in a given activity did so in a twelve month period. As such, during a survey, if the respondents answer positively that they played baseball/softball in the past twelve months, they would then be asked to estimate the number of times they played. Based on the responses of all the surveyed individuals, the average (mean) number of times that each played/participated would be calculated to determine the frequency rate. As an example, the 1993 State LPPRP (p.31) indicates the “average number of times” the respondents statewide played baseball was 22.4 times.

Once both demand factors have been calculated based on the survey responses, they are multiplied by the jurisdiction’s total population to estimate recreation demand countywide or citywide. Using the above example for a jurisdiction with a current population of 100,000, the total occasions/uses demanded for one year of baseball/softball would be 403,200 (100,000 * 18% * 22.4).

Table B-2 shows how to present this information in a summary chart, as required in the LPPRP. The table covers future demand that can be determined by using population projections for 2012, 2017, and 2022. The mandatory activities must be used in the table along with other activities used in the supply table.

3. NEEDS DETERMINATION: The next step would be to subtract the occasions/uses demanded from the occasions supplied to determine if there is unmet current demand. In the above example, the result would be 95,400 occasions/uses of unmet demand (307,800 uses provided minus 403,200 uses currently demanded). The final step is to determine the additional number of facilities (if any) that are needed to meet the unmet demand, and to estimate the amount of land needed for those facilities. To do so, the occasions of unmet demand are divided by the facility's annual carrying capacity. For this example, the result would be an estimated need for approximate 9.3 additional ball diamonds (95,400 occasions of unmet demand divided by an annual carrying capacity of 10,260 uses/diamond). Then the County should use its best estimate of the amount of land desired per facility to determine the total need for additional land acquisition associated with the activity.

Table B-3 shows how these numbers calculated in the needs and supply table can be utilized to determine facility needs in a generalized way, as required in the LPPRP. The activities used in the chart must include the mandatory activities and the activities used in the previous charts.

TABLE B-1: Sample Supply Report

Activity*	Facility Types	Number of Facilities	Season Length+	Daily Carrying Capacity per Facility+	Annual Carrying Capacity per Facility	Total Supply, All Facilities
Baseball/Softball		20	190	54	10,260	307,800
	Baseball Diamond**	20				
	Baseball Diamond, Lighted	10				
Field Sports						
Basketball						
Tennis						

- * This list of activities must include the mandatory list of activities as shown and those determined by the County to meet its recreational needs.
- ** If private and indoor recreation facilities are used in the needs analysis, they should be included in this report.
- + Season length and daily carrying capacity should be estimated by each County.

**TABLE B-2: Sample Demand Report
(Demand measured by demand occasions)**

Activity	Current Population	Participation Rate	Frequency Rate	Current Demand	2012 Population	2012 Demand	2017 Population	2017 Demand	2022 Population	2022 Demand
Baseball/Softball*	100,000			403,200	110,000	459,360	112,500	470,300	115,000	480,240
Baseball	100,000	9% (state survey)	22.4 (24.0)	201,600 (100,000* .09*22.4)	110,000	237,600 (110,000* .09*24.0)	112,500	243,500	115,000	248,400 (110,000* .18*24.0)
Softball	100,000	9%	22.4	201,600	110,000	221,760	112,500	226,800	115,000	231,840
Field Sports										
Basketball										
Tennis										

- * This list of activities must include the mandatory list of activities as shown and those determined by the County to meet its recreational needs.

Guidelines for State and Local Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Planning, October 2010

TABLE B-3: Sample Needs Analysis

Activity	Current Supply	Annual Carrying Capacity	Current Demand	Current Unmet Need	2012 Demand	2012 Unmet Demand	2012 Unmet Need	2017 Demand	2017 Unmet Demand	2017 Unmet Need	2022 Demand	2022 Unmet Demand	2022 Unmet Need
Baseball, Softball *	307,800	10,260	403,200	9.3 Diamonds	459,360	151,560	14.7 Diamonds	470,300	162,500	15.8 Diamonds	480,240	172,440	16.8 Diamonds
Field Sports													
Basketball													
Tennis													

* This list of activities must include the mandatory list of activities as shown and 10 others determined by the County to meet its recreational needs.

Appendix C –Acquisition, Development, and Rehabilitation Priorities¹

TABLE C-1 Acquisition and Development Recommendations

Project ²	Location ³	Description of Land Preservation and Recreation Recommendation	Estimated Total Cost	Acres to be Acquired	Estimated Short-Range (2012) Cost			Estimated Mid-Range (2017) Cost			Estimated Long-Range (2022) Cost		
					Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation

¹ Priorities for mid- and long-range planning horizons are intended for general planning purposes only. They may change considerably based on new information, actual changes in frequency and participation rates, inflation or other changes in costs, or a variety of other relevant considerations.

² Projects can either be listed as individual parks or facilities (e.g., westpark baseball field) to meet demand for activities, or as facility types (baseball fields) to meet demand for activities.

³ If a County does not create a separate table for each planning area, please include this column and list either the town/municipality name, zip code, or county planning area for each project. In the text of the chapter please explain the planning areas used by the County, for recreation and parks, e.g., countywide, election district, small planning area, municipality, etc.

TABLE C-2 State Goals Met by Acquisition and Development Recommendations

Project	Short-Range	Mid-Range	Long-Range	State Goal(s) Met (1-6)	Local Goal(s) Met (7-onward)	Notes*

State Goals

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Use State investment in parks, recreation, and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

* *Use the "Notes" column to explain how the project fulfills the goals. For long explanations, you may use footnotes instead of filling much of the page with the text for the "Notes" cell.*

Local Goals

- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- Etc.

APPENDIX D: Guidelines for Optional Plan Chapters

Agricultural Land Preservation

As noted on page 2, the Work Group that devised these *Guidelines*—comprising representatives from MDP, DNR, and local parks and recreation departments—decided that the 2012 LPPRPs should focus on addressing the recommendations for parks and recreation made in the State’s 2009 LPPRP. Therefore, an extensive section on agricultural land preservation is not required in the 2012 LPPRP. However, if agricultural land preservation is normally the responsibility of the department that writes the LPPRP, please include the following information, which can be incorporated through reference to the County comprehensive plan, implementing ordinances, program reports and procedures and existing County maps.

- A. What are the County’s goals for agricultural land and production, and what is the timeline for or likelihood of protecting enough land from the impacts of development to support these goals?
- B1. Priority Preservation Area (PPA), for Counties with agricultural land preservation programs certified by the Maryland Department of Planning and Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation: Are there outstanding issues that the County needs to resolve in order to maintain certification in the future?
- B2. Preservation priorities, for Counties whose preservation programs are not certified: please provide the following information regarding County efforts to preserve agricultural land and the industry:
 1. Has the County established priority areas for the preservation of agricultural land and resources in its comprehensive plan?
 2. Are the areas mapped and presented in the comprehensive plan?
 3. How are the County’s goals reflected in its zoning map and ordinance?
 4. Beyond zoning, what are the principle implementing ordinances and programs to achieve County goals for preservation of agricultural lands and resources?
 5. How is the County monitoring and evaluating effectiveness?
 6. What are the findings and conclusions of the most recent evaluation?
- C. Describe which parts of the program development strategy from the agricultural element of the last County LPPRP have been implemented and how, and those that have not yet been implemented.
- D. Provide the following data and associated narrative describing what the data indicate about efforts to achieve State and local goals and the 2010 Strategic Guidelines for Agricultural Lands and Resources provided in these *Guidelines*:
 - Provide a data table showing agricultural land preserved by year since the last county LPPRP and by easement program (MALPF, Rural Legacy, local PDR/TDR, CREP, MET, etc.).
 - Provide a data table showing how much land in total to date has been preserved, by easement program.

- Provide a data table comparing land preserved to land lost in each of the years since the last County LPPRP. Data sources for “land lost” should be identified, such as acres subject to agricultural land transfer tax, land in subdivided lots, acres of improved residential parcels on land zoned for agriculture or resource conservation, etc. Different measures obviously have different meanings, so more than one measure of land lost is encouraged.
- Provide a data table comparing land subdivided or built and residential units developed in the PFA and outside the PFA.
- Provide a map of preserved land and send an updated preserved lands GIS layer to MDP.

Cultural and Historic Resource Conservation

The local Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plans for 2005-2006 were the first to have the opportunity to include an (optional) chapter on cultural and historic resources. The intent was to learn how well another resource conservation program—protective of some landscapes but mostly concerned with structures—was integrated with planning for land preservation, parks, and recreation, and if any synergies existed among the efforts.

Few Counties chose to include cultural and historic resources in the LPPRPs, an observation that is not a criticism, given how many other matters were covered by the LPPRPs. The LPPRP Work Group decided to leave this chapter as optional once again. However, some of the recommendations for State action in the State LPPRP involve State/local cooperation for improving local planning for historic and cultural resources. They are quoted below, but first we would like to reiterate some of the findings that MDP presented as a result of its review of local plans:

[H]istoric preservation remains a poor stepsister of planning. It often appears in isolation or even as an afterthought, not well integrated with other planning matters. For example, a comprehensive plan may emphasize Main Street or neighborhood revitalization without mentioning the importance of historic preservation in attaining those goals. Preservation’s crucial role in establishing a sense of place and contributing to the economy and long-term stability of a community is often overlooked.

Communities are unaware of the wide range of grants, loans, tax incentives, and technical assistance available for historic preservation planning and the preservation of historic and cultural resources. The differences between designation on the local landmarks list and in the National Register of Historic Places are also not understood in many local plans.

Many local governments are content to rely on education and incentives to protect historic and cultural resources but are reluctant to create a local historic preservation district, which is the only mechanism for keeping a resource’s historic features intact or prohibiting demolition. Many jurisdictions lack the financial resources to adequately support a historic preservation program.

The public funds spent on preservation tax credits and other programs leverage an enormous amount of private investment. This particular mix of public and private investment has revitalized older towns and cities all over Maryland.

Because it is so effective in enhancing the quality of life in older neighborhoods, historic preservation is an excellent smart growth tool. It should also be in the forefront of thinking about green building. Reusing an existing building saves energy, construction materials, and open space.

Below are the recommendations that pertain to cooperation between the State and local governments.

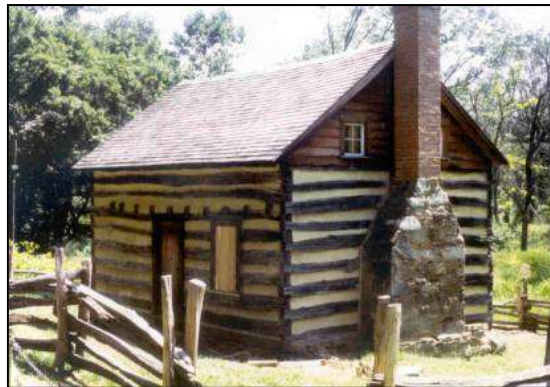
Improve Preservation Planning Tools

- Identify historic and cultural resource survey activities as a priority activity in order to provide data needed to inform local and statewide planning decisions and assist developers and project planners to more easily comply with federal, State, and local laws.
- Synthesize Maryland’s archaeological data and make it available in the form of a searchable database.
- Launch a Web-accessible comprehensive statewide inventory of historic properties that provides up-to-the-minute data on historical and cultural resource documentation.
- Provide better guidance to local jurisdictions about including historic preservation in the comprehensive planning process and encourage active involvement by the Maryland Historical Trust during the draft process.
- Create a pay-for-performance grant program through which the State can support local-government-sponsored heritage preservation programs that will greatly enhance the identification, documentation, and protection of historic resources of significance to local communities, the state, and the nation. Such a program will provide local governments with financial and human capital needed to undertake new or expanded historic preservation initiatives and provide incentives to communities to provide professional, well run, effective programs benefiting the citizens of Maryland.

- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY -
2005 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan
A PARKS RECREATION OPEN SPACE PLAN

for Montgomery County, Maryland

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission



- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY -

2005 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan A PARKS RECREATION OPEN SPACE PLAN

for Montgomery County, Maryland

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

December 2005

The 2005 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared by the M-NCPPC Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning in coordination with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation.

A copy of the entire Plan and Appendices may be found on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.mcparkandplanning.org/ppra>

County-wide Planning / Park Planning and Resource Analysis Unit

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910



Executive Summary

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

The Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan is mandated by the Department of State Planning for eligibility for Program Open Space Grant funding and is intended to help the counties in Maryland carefully think about their needs and potential future requests for Maryland State legislation and grant program funding. The Plan has major chapters that focus on:

- **Recreation, Parks and Open Space.** This chapter discusses planning for parks, open space, recreation facilities and parkland acquisition, and includes quantitative needs analysis for future facilities for the year 2020.
- **Agricultural Land Preservation.** This chapter provides a description of the agricultural preservation programs and summary of needed new initiatives; and
- **Natural Resource Conservation.** This chapter discusses current goals and implementation programs for conservation of natural resource lands and summarizes needed improvements.
- **Cultural Resource Conservation.** This chapter includes information on historic and archaeological resources and needed improvements.







FUTURE RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

In Montgomery County, there are 47,800 acres of parkland that provide recreation including 32,700 acres of M-NCPPC parkland, 12,000 acres of State parkland and 3,100 acres of National parkland. The majority of M-NCPPC parks are devoted to natural resource protection. Stream Valley and Conservation Parks comprise 51% of all parkland. In addition, Regional Parks comprise 20% of total parkland, of which 67 % is maintained as natural areas

Recreation includes both nature-oriented recreation such as nature walks and bird watching as well as recreation needing specific facilities such as athletic fields, playground, etc. The recreation section of the LPPRP focuses on projecting future needs for active recreation facilities to the year 2020.

LPPRP Specific Facility Projections and Service Area Assumptions

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

This Plan examines needs for the following facilities:

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

Methodologies for Estimating Future Needs

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

M-NCPPC Method (Used in the 1998 Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan)

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

State Planning Guidelines Method

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

Fairfax County Method

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



Facility Needs Estimates

Needs for Facilities Serving Planning Areas

These “close to home” facilities are assumed to be needed within each Planning Area and include playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts. The following table indicates estimates of additional recreation facility needs for the year 2020.

Future Planning Area Recreation Needs Estimates for the Year 2020

Service area	Facility	Methodology Used	Existing Park and School Facilities	2020 Estimated Additional Needs
Planning Area	Playgrounds (with the exception of regional adventure playgrounds).	M-NCPPC	285	32
Planning Area	Tennis Courts (with the exception of Recreation /regional courts)	M-NCPPC	411	4
Planning Area	Basketball Courts	M-NCPPC	317	12

Needs for Facilities Serving Community Based Team Areas

Most people drive to fields for league play, thus needs for all types of fields are estimated for Community Based Team areas (which are groups of Planning Areas). As shown in the following tables, a maximum total of 123 additional fields are estimated to be needed throughout the County by 2020, the overwhelming majority of which are for multi-use rectangular fields.

Service area	Facility	Methodology Used	Existing Park and School Facilities	Maximum Additional 2020 Estimated Needs
Community Based Team Area	Youth Diamonds (T-ball, youth softball and baseball)	M-NCPPC	91	0
Community Based Team Area	Multi-Purpose Youth Baseball/Adult Softball Diamonds (these sports play on the same type of field)	M-NCPPC	164	15
Community Based Team Area	Baseball (90' base paths- Adults and teens)	M-NCPPC	35	20
Community Based Team Area	Multi-Purpose Rectangular Field (Soccer/Football/Lacrosse)	M-NCPPC	103	73
Community Based Team Area	Youth Rectangular Field (Soccer / Football / Lacrosse)	M-NCPPC	70	15
TOTALS			463	123

Description of Field Needs within Community Based Team Areas

The following table indicates estimates of future additional field needs for the year 2020 within each area. As the service area goal calls for future needs to be met within the Community Based Team Areas, a surplus in an existing area (indicated by a minus) is not subtracted from the needs in another. Positive needs are shown in bold. However, within the team area, fields needs may potentially be lowered by converting fields to another use (where feasible) to meet the needs, and can potentially lower the total field need to a little over 100. Field conversions should not be made, however, without careful analysis and consultations with user groups.

2020 Additional Field Needs by Community Based Team Area

COMMUNITY BASED TEAM AREA 2020 FIELD NEEDS Planning Team Area	Number of Youth (0-9) Multi-Purpose Diamonds Needed	Number of (Age10-13 Baseball and 10-65+ Softball) Diamonds Needed	Number of 90' infield-Baseball Fields (Ages 14+) Needed	Number of Adult (10-65+) Multi-Purpose Rectangular Fields Needed	Number of Youth (0-9) Multi-Purpose Rectangles Fields Needed	Range Minimum/Maximum
Rural/Damascus	-1.8	-3.2	1.7	5.2	-2.6	3.7 / 6.9
I-270	0.1	1.5	3.0	19.4	9.7	33.7
Olney/Georgia Avenue	-5.3	-19.3	1.8	7.7	2.3	1.8 / 11.8
Potomac	-0.3	5.2	4.5	4.6	-4.1	14 / 14.3
Eastern County	-0.5	-20.5	-0.3	4.8	1.1	0.3 / 5.9
Bethesda/Chevy Chase	-1.0	-0.9	4.8	20.4	1.7	24.8 / 26.9
Silver Spring/Takoma Park	-1.7	8.7	4.1	10.8	-3.4	23.6
Maximum Need	0	15	20	73	15	TOTAL 101.7/ 123.1



Needs for Future Countywide Recreation Facilities

The following table lists year 2020 estimates for future additional facilities that are projected on a Countywide Basis. These are often more specialized facilities for which people are willing to drive longer distances.

Facility	Methodology Used	Existing Park and School Facilities	2020 Estimated Additional Needs
Permit Picnic Shelters	State Planning/ plus M-NCPPC Data	78	21
County-Wide Group Picnic Areas	State Planning/ plus M-NCPPC Data	3	1
Nature Centers	State Planning/ plus M-NCPPC Data	4	2.3
Roller Hockey (Game Facilities)	State Planning	2	0
Skate Parks (Including Informal Use Areas)	State Planning	0	16
Dog Exercise Areas	Fairfax County	3	15
Natural Areas in Parks	M-NCPPC- Areas in approved plans	17,682 acres	5495 acres
Natural Surface Regional Trails	Trails in County-wide Trails Plan	115.6 miles	105.4 miles
Hard Surface Regional Trails	Trails in County-wide Trails Plan	73.5 miles	22.5 miles
Community Recreation Centers	Recreation Dept*	17	11.5
Aquatic Facilities	Recreation Dept*	4 indoor 7 outdoor	3-4

*Recreation Facility Development Plan 1997-2010, 2005 Update

Meeting State Land Acquisition Goals

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

- Local Recreation Acreage** – This consists of 100% of Urban, Neighborhood, Local, Recreational, special and municipal parks plus 1/3 of Regional Parks and 60% of school property. When counting public land towards the overall acreage goal, a minimum of 15 acres per 1,000 people must come from Local recreational lands. Montgomery County currently meets this goal.

- **Natural Resource Acreage** - If the county does not have enough locally owned recreational lands to meet its' overall 30 acres per thousand goal, it may apply a portion of locally owned natural resource lands. This includes 1/3 of Stream Valley, Conservation and undeveloped portions of Regional Parks.

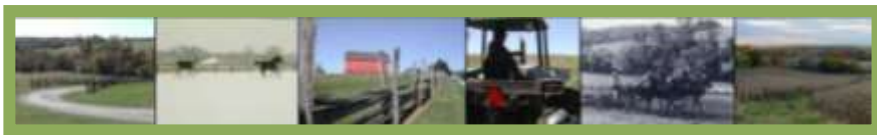
Montgomery County currently has 26,362 acres that count toward fulfilling the State goal of 28,259 acres of recreation land, and could be certified as meeting the State's land acquisition goal with 1,897 additional acres. The following table indicates how land proposed for acquisition could provide 2,650 acres of qualifying parkland, which will enable the County to exceed the State's certification goal.

M-NCPPC - Montgomery County Park System Future Land Acquisition Needs To The Year 2020		M-NCPPC Future Parkland Acquisition Certification Potential To Year 2020	
PARK TYPES	ACRES	STATE PERCENT ALLOWANCE	POTENTIAL CERTIFIED ACRES
County-wide			
Stream Valley	3,204	33%	1057
Regional	368	33% of 1/3 - 2/3 Policy	80
Recreational	283	100%	283
Conservation	1,149	33%	379
Special	708	100%	708
Historical Cultural	16	100%	16
County-wide Subtotal	5,729	County-wide Subtotal	2524
Community-Use			
Urban	2	100%	2
Neighborhood	0	100%	0
Local	123	100%	123
Neighborhood Conservation Area	1	33%	1
Community-Use Subtotal	126	Community-Use Subtotal	126
TOTAL	5,855	TOTAL	2,650

Montgomery County Recreation Department

Recreation programs provide many key values and benefits for individuals, families, and the community, including creating critical community focal points, offering activities that strengthen the family unit, promoting health and wellness, reducing isolation and facilitating social and cultural interaction, providing positive alternatives to drug and alcohol use, enhancing public safety, and promoting economic growth and vitality.

This 2005 LPPRP has been fully coordinated with the Montgomery County Recreation Department and includes a small amount of information regarding Montgomery County Department of Recreation facilities and programs. For additional details please consult the 'Recreation Facility Development Plan, 1997-2010, 2005 Update' prepared by the Recreation Department and incorporated by reference as a part of this report."



AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

Through FY2004, Montgomery County has protected 61,032 acres of farmland through the preservation programs offered to its residents. According to the national publication, Farmland Preservation Report, Montgomery County ranked first in the nation in preserving agricultural land.

The *Preservation of Agriculture & Rural Open Space Functional Master Plan* was adopted by the M-NCPPC in 1980 and proposed the creation and application of two zoning techniques, the Rural Density Transfer (RDT) and the Rural Cluster (RC) Zones, in conjunction with a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) system. These techniques have enabled Montgomery County to preserve large amounts of the County for agriculture.

Montgomery County has established a goal of protecting 70,000 acres of farmland. Through FY2004, the County is about 87 percent of the way towards reaching that goal. By examining the trend of development versus the trend of agricultural land preservation, achievement of the goal should be attained by the year 2010, provided no significant economic and political disruptions occur. In order to reach our 70,000 acre goal by the year 2010, we will need to protect an additional 8,968 acres.

It should be recognized that as we approach our goal of protecting 70,000 acres of farmland, it will become more difficult to preserve the unprotected lands that remain. The land that has been protected thus far has become extremely valuable for development, and the remaining unprotected agricultural lands are often directly adjacent to protected properties. Developers and real estate agents use our protected lands as another selling feature amenity that adds value to an unprotected property and encourages rural landowners to pursue development options. Rising real estate values will require diligence by program staff to ensure that valuation of farmland for agricultural preservation easements provides fair and equitable compensation for farmers. In the absence of fair and equitable values, the land will most likely convert to other land uses and be lost to preservation.

Agricultural Land Preservation Initiatives

The best way to safeguard, Montgomery County's agricultural reserve is to safeguard the profitability of farming by creating an environment that is conducive to agricultural sustainability and productivity. We must continue to expand the use of TDRs within the County wherever possible. Therefore, the recommendations in the TDR Task Force Report must become a part of our future planning goals. In another initiative, the County Council recently amended the Ten-Year Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan to prohibit extension of water and sewer service to Private Institutional Facilities in the RDT zone.

Program Development Strategy for Agricultural Land Preservation

The preservation of farmland itself will not ensure that farming will continue as a viable industry. The State and local government must promote a holistic approach to the preservation of agriculture in terms of preserving agriculture an industry. This concept must include many

components in order for a viable future to exist. These components include but are not limited to the following proposals:

Agricultural Zoning - The creation of a true agricultural zone is paramount to the future of agriculture as an industry.

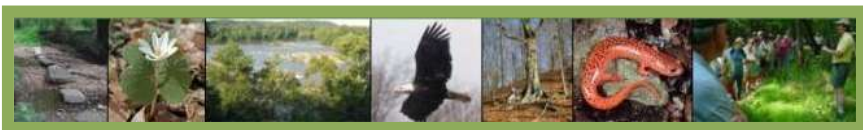
Right-to-Farm Provisions - The Legislative intent and purpose of any agricultural zone is to promote agriculture as the primary land use. Ideally, an agricultural zone should incorporate a right to farm provision stating that all agricultural operations are permitted at anytime, including the operation of farm machinery. No agricultural use should be subject to restriction on the grounds that it interferes with other uses permitted within the agricultural zone.

Master Plan Development - The development and adoption of a Master Plan establishes a public policy guide or “blue print” for local jurisdictions to formulate a holistic approach to agriculture as an industry and a land use.

Support to the Agricultural Industry - The State should work closely with local government to assess the economic contribution agriculture makes to each jurisdiction's local economy. By quantitatively assessing this contribution, local government can define the extent, nature and future direction of the agricultural industry. The agricultural industry within the State is constantly evolving. We must recognize that changing trends in agriculture are not unique to Maryland, nor is it a sign which signifies the ultimate demise of the agricultural industry. Changes are a normal part of an evolving market-driven system. The key for any industry to survive is dependent upon change and the ability for a State, region or county to adapt to these changes. One of the main philosophies the state must employ is to preserve the agricultural land base and let the industry focus on the direction it wants to go. We should not protect farmland for any particular type of agriculture activity or use.

Local and State Legislative Support

We must recommend changes in State Law that limit property tax assessments on protected lands. As the remaining undeveloped farmland increases in value, it is almost certain that the tax assessments will also increase and place increased financial burden on farmers. A change in law will ensure that historic and significant farm related structures are not demolished because they cost too much to retain.



NATURAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION

The natural environment of Montgomery County, its soils, streams, rivers, wetlands, and woodlands, support a variety of plants and animals and forms the backbone of our park system. Parkland provides a touchstone to our natural and cultural heritage, and a looking glass through which to view our past. This environment contributes to the County's high quality of life, visual quality and character and serves as the essential setting for resource-based recreation activities. Visiting natural areas in Parks is the most popular recreation activity of County residents, according to the 2003 Park User Survey (see Appendix). Due to its proximity to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, Montgomery County is expected to continue developing at a fairly rapid pace. The critical concern is how to protect the County's air, water, land, wildlife resources and natural beauty while managing growth and making development more environmentally sensitive.

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

Protection of the green infrastructure is a major reason for adding proposed parkland to our master plans and capital program. Parkland proposed for environmental protection in master plans is added as conservation or stream valley park. Park development plans consider a variety of environmental factors including soil type, hydrology, drainage, slope, non-tidal wetlands, stream and wetland buffers, rare, threatened and endangered species, forest interior birds, minimal viable population size, exotic plants, edge effect, natural community type, stormwater management, tree preservation, restoration, and mitigation.

A considerable number of plans and programs designed to identify, protect, preserve and manage our County's natural resources have been developed and are currently ongoing or soon to be implemented. 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. Currently, about 28,000 acres of locally owned parkland are considered as conservation or stream valley parks (including 2/3 of the acreage of regional parks set aside for natural resource conservation). Approximately 4800 additional acres are proposed as parkland for natural resource protection.

Current Programs for Natural Resources Preservation

Montgomery County Park and Planning's programs to conserve, protect and enhance natural resources are among the strongest in the state, due to the strong tax base and the commitment of the County government and elected officials to the protection of our natural heritage. The continuing citizen advocacy for open space and natural resource protection is the

basis for this level of effort. As the County faces more development pressure, the need for natural resource protection becomes a more critical issue.

The success of our program in protecting many resources also results in some of our greatest weaknesses. The sheer size of the land area protected and the complexity of management issues require continuing efforts to improve our program. Control of deer predation and management of non-native invasive species remain a challenge.

Achieving an appropriate balance of natural resource protection with the needs for recreation, access to public lands and providing connectivity for trails, roads and utilities continues to fragment the county's natural resource base. We address these concerns in the area master plans, park master plans and development review process. Continuing efforts are needed to reduce the impact of these facilities.

Needed Improvements

The County is taking the following steps to overcome weaknesses and achieve goals

- Increasing efforts to manage for over populations of white-tailed deer in order to protect biodiversity within natural areas and protect the viability of farming in the county (recent publications have identified deer as the number one threat to agriculture in the county).
- Increasing efforts to manage infestations of non-native invasive species, which are reducing biodiversity within high quality natural areas.
- Increasing efforts to manage over-all biodiversity on parkland natural areas.
- Increasing efforts to reduce encroachment of adjacent private property owners on parkland resources (i.e., mowing, dumping, tree and understory removal).

Future Program Priorities

The Department of Park and Planning is increasing efforts to address the management issues listed above through increased use of volunteer groups and public/private partnerships. The FY06 work program includes a significant expansion of the non-native species and deer management programs. Stepped-up efforts to address encroachment have paid off and will be continued, especially in areas of critical stream and habitat resources.

Planning efforts to address the need and competition for urban natural resource areas are being undertaken:

- Several new master plan efforts are beginning in the older parts of the county. "Green Urbanism" principles are being applied to restore degraded resources and integrates green building and low-impact development incentives.
- The new "Centers and Boulevards" initiative will look at ways to intensify development around smaller commercial centers and along connecting roads with transit service to create more lively centers with more open space.
- The County Executive is convening a task force to conduct an interagency assessment of current zoning, subdivision, building and road code standards that impede efforts to mitigate the environmental effects of land development.

Green Infrastructure Functional Master Plan

Department of Park and Planning staff are beginning preparation of a *Green Infrastructure (GI) Functional Master Plan* starting in July of 2005. The proposed *GI Functional Master Plan* will be a predominantly GIS-based effort utilizing existing staff resources that will:

- Identify and prioritize the existing and desired countywide contiguous network of all environmentally important areas, and increase potential for funding open space preservation through programs that promote the preservation of Green Infrastructure;
- Identify and adopt effective implementation mechanisms to preserve, protect, enhance, and restore this network such as established mitigation requirements, and guidance for other environmental protection programs;
- Streamline the preparation of environmental information and recommendations for are master plan and public and private development projects;
- Provide a readily updated countywide natural resources inventory, provide a land use planning based tool to meet the TMDL goal of maintaining water quality; and provide a means for tracking and quantifying progress.

This plan is scheduled be completed in draft in 2007, with adoption in 2008.

Recommended Improvements to State Programs

State funding is needed to protect more land, prepare better inventories (before critical resources are lost) and provide better outreach and education for our citizens on the importance of natural resource protection. Eco-tourism is a possible source of economic benefit, however, facilities would have to be improved and significant effort made to attract people beyond the region. The natural features of most widespread interest are within national or state parkland.



CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

Cultural resources (both built and archaeological) are scattered throughout the County and on parkland. They demonstrate how each generation leaves its marks on the built environment. For example, Montgomery County's archaeological history contains a record of the cultural adaptations of pre-historic peoples to changing climate and ecology, from the Paleo-Indian Period of 12,000 years ago to European contact in 1608. The County's architectural history as represented by its built landmarks provides a window into early agricultural life, the end of slavery and the emergence of industry, transportation breakthroughs, suburbanization, and government expansion. Montgomery County has established a comprehensive program to identify, protect, and interpret this three-century-old, diverse legacy.

Current Programs for Cultural Resources Preservation

Montgomery County's preservation program is strong, but needs to reach out in key, new areas. The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, the body that heads the County's most visible preservation program, is cited as a model for a well-run local historic preservation commission. The Historic Area Work Permit process also is well defined, and is generally seen as balancing the mandate of historic preservation with property owners' needs for reasonable change.

The Historic Preservation Section has many specific programs to meet State and County goals, including: 1) Researching & evaluating sites for historic designation. 2) Reviewing proposed alterations to designated sites. 3) Reviewing subdivisions & development plans that affect historic sites. 4) Managing MNCPPC-owned historic sites. 5) Directing the countywide archeological program. 6) Undertaking educational and outreach activities. 7) Administering the County Historic Preservation Tax Credit and Historic Preservation Grant Fund. The Historical Atlas, printed in 1976, is now in an electronic format and is updated regularly and available to the public on the M-NCPPC website.

The primary weaknesses of the program are that additional staff is needed in the Historic Preservation office, and that maintenance funds for the upkeep of park-owned properties are severely lacking. Additionally, the historic preservation process is still, unfortunately, seen as a secondary process by some.

Improvements to the Implementation Program

The following are examples of either needed improvements in or future goals for the Historic Preservation program: 1) Increase the maintenance budget for cultural resources in parks. 2) Augment master plan research of cultural resources during intervening years by adding resources so that sites that show the potential for designation are not overlooked during a planning hiatus. Additional resources for research staff would assure that inventory efforts are kept more current, and that previously unidentified, but threatened resources that meet criteria are put on a watch list. 3) Add Cultural Landscape Reports and Historic Structure Reports to the repertoire of regular Commission documents. These explore the history behind parks, landscapes and important buildings through primary document research. 4) Conduct more research on twentieth-century resources ("the Recent Past"), whether commercial or residential, which are not yet appreciated and are quickly being lost to new construction. 5) Increase efforts and funding to put park-owned cultural resources into the GIS and Smart Parks system. The new *Strategic Plan for Cultural Resources in Parks* has started this process. 6) Develop an amendment to the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* of significant publicly owned and selected privately owned archaeological sites, and identify all prehistoric and historic archaeological sites on County master plans.

Future Program Priorities

In the future it will be important to: preserve and revitalize older, close-in neighborhoods, both commercially and residentially; embrace national preservation initiatives such as the registration of archaeological and African-American historical sites; increase the focus on the "Recent Past"; increase use of heritage tourism; and incorporate in-depth documentation and interpretation of major landmarks and cultural landscapes into the planning and design process.

Finally, it is important to provide opportunities for paid staff to interpret the cultural resources in County parks, something that is standard practice in many other nearby counties.

Another priority is to implement the goals of the *Strategic Plan for Cultural Resources in Parks*, the purpose of which is to create a blueprint for the future use and priority of County-owned resources. The Strategic Plan:

- Lays out a vision for improving stewardship of park-based cultural resources and establishes priorities critical to implementing that vision.
- Recommends a new way of prioritizing cultural resources in parks based on their potential for long-term use and heritage tourism.
- Presents a “Top 20” Priority Projects List containing sites to be opened to the public by M-NCPPC or via a public/private partnership.
- Defines a systematic approach to stewarding cultural resources in parks based on capital improvements, annual maintenance, and programming (both activity/use/interpretive programming and architectural & engineering programming). This approach crosses over Department divisions.
- Provides a better method for assessing maintenance costs of cultural resources in parks by developing new mathematical formulas.
- Increases agency knowledge about park-owned cultural resources by creating a new GIS park layer with extensive Excel spreadsheet and by sharing that data with Smart Parks.
- Lays the groundwork for ongoing strategic plans because a new cultural resource strategic plan will be developed every ten years and the original plan can serve as a prototype for strategic plans by other divisions.

For more information, see *From Artifact to Attraction: A Strategic Plan for Cultural Resources in Parks* (January 2006).

