

2017 PROS Plan Preliminary Outline

Chapter 1 – Executive Summary

Purpose of the Plan

Overall Values

- Promote Healthy Living
- Balance Stewardship and Recreation
- Protect Significant Natural, Historical, and Archaeological Resources
- Promote Economic Competitiveness
- Promote Access for Underserved Populations

Meet State requirement for Program Open Space Funding

Adjust parks and recreation for trends and changing populations

Focus on facilities that people value the most

Steward the most important natural, cultural and agricultural resources

Scope of the Plan

Policy Guidance

Urban Parks

Recreation and Parks

Natural Resources Stewardship

Cultural Resources Stewardship

Agricultural Preservation

General Overview of County

Geography

Population

Existing system of preserved lands

Recommendation Highlights

Results of data-based analysis and community outreach

Top priorities for the future

Chapter 2 – Plan Foundation/Policy Framework

Policies, Existing and Proposed

Montgomery Parks

- Mission, Vision and Values
- A Policy for Parks
 - *Acquisition of parkland to create a balanced park system for recreation and conservation*
 - *Development and management of the park system*
 - *Relationship to other public agencies, education, and the private sector*
- Guidance from the General Plan

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Montgomery County Department of Recreation

- Mission, operating principles and objectives
- Facility development plan

The Park System Inventory

- Acres, facilities, etc.
- Park Classification Table

Recreation Department by the Numbers

- Numbers and types of buildings by type
- Other facilities

Park Planning Strategies for Area and Sector Plans

- Definition of urban, suburban, and other areas
- Pattern and type - hierarchy
- Amount of parkland- adequacy targets/thresholds
- Desirable attributes of every park and trail system
- Role of privately owned public space

Americans with Disabilities Act and Program Access

- Federal laws and guidance
- NRPA policies/guidance
- Existing and proposed Parks Department policies
- Serving a multigenerational group - Age-Friendly Montgomery
- Designing for all (dis)abilities
- Vision, goals, implementation strategies

An Attitude of Partnering to Achieve Shared Visions

Parks Foundation

Community partners

Public-private partnerships

Organized advocacy efforts

Chapter 3 – Urban Parks

Need for Urban Parks

Changes in trends

Response to population growth

Alignment with overall PROS values

Status of 2012 PROS Recommendations: Urban Parks Accomplishments

Adopted sector plans

Activation projects

Property acquisitions

New and redeveloped urban parks

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Status of Urban Parks Guidelines

Objectives completed since 2012

Objectives in progress

Service Delivery Strategies for Urban Parks

Where? definition and mapping of urban areas

What? service gaps - a methodology for identifying level of service in urban parks

How? implementation strategies – site selection, guidelines, collaboration, operations and funding

Recommendations and Future Priorities

Revision of 2012 PROS recommendations

New recommendations

Urban Parks Functional Plan framework

Chapter 4 – Recreation and Parks

Introduction

Balance facility based recreation, resource based recreation, natural resource and cultural resource stewardship

Balance renovation of existing parks, new development on existing parkland, and acquisitions

Balance new types of facilities with traditional facilities

Service delivery strategies to address unmet needs

Social equity analysis

Responding to trends

Inventory of Parkland and Recreation Facilities

Budget tree of facility inventory summary

County Goals (per Vision 2030 and 2012 PROS Plan)

State Goals (per State Guidelines)

Vision 2030 Survey Guidance

Service Delivery Geographies

Countywide

PROS Planning Areas

Planning Area

Facility-based Recreation

Countywide inventory, future needs, and service delivery strategies

PROS Planning area inventory, future needs, and service delivery strategy

Planning area inventory, future needs, and service delivery strategy

Athletic Fields

Existing inventory

Calculation of need

Service delivery strategy

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Implementation priorities

Trails

Existing inventory
Calculation of need
Service delivery strategy
Implementation priorities

Resource-based Recreation

Existing inventory
Calculation of need
Service delivery strategy
Implementation priorities

MCRD – Facilities Development Plan Highlights

Combined community recreation centers/aquatic centers

Topics in Need of Further Study

Futsal
Nature Centers
Pickleball
Integrated Site Selection Study for Priority Park Facilities
Others TBD

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Acquisition
Facility planning
Construction
Other funding sources

Chapter 5 - Natural Resources Stewardship

Introduction

Conservation and stewardship of Natural Resources is a key element of the Mission, Vision and Values of the Department of Parks
Natural resource land serves as backbone of M-NCPPC's park system, connecting people with natural areas
Natural areas provide essential living space for native species of plants and animals in terrestrial and aquatic habitats
Public access to significant natural areas promotes environmental awareness and park advocacy
Quality natural resources provide for significant public benefits that reach beyond county boundaries

Goals: State and Local

2017 State Goals

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County Goals

- County General Plan
- Vision 2030 Strategic Plan for Parks & Recreation
 - *Key findings relevant to natural resources conservation*
 - *Selected Vision 2030 goals*

Research and Plan for all Natural Resources within Parks

Conduct assessments of resources within natural areas in parks

- Countywide Natural Resource Management Plan (June 2012) provides framework for assessing all natural areas
- Assess individual natural areas within parks following standard procedures, including flora, fauna and aquatic ecosystem inventories

Create countywide management plans for important natural resource issues

- Vegetation and Non-Native Invasive Plants
- White-tailed Deer and Nuisance Wildlife Species

Create park-specific plans with recommendations to steward natural areas

- Park Master Plans
- Operation and Use Plans
- Focus on conservation of diverse, critical habitat features to effectively steward natural areas

Identify and Protect Key Environmental Resources within Parks

- Why do we identify and protect Key Environmental Resources?
- Definitions of Key Environmental Resources
 - *Sensitive Areas from Article 66(b) (State of Maryland)*
 - *Biodiversity Areas*
 - *Best Natural Areas*
 - *Forest Interior Habitat*
 - *High Quality Forest*

Best management practices for Key Environmental Resources

Implement Park Programs to conserve natural resources

Non-Native Invasive (NNI) Plant management

Park Reforestation Program

Planting Requirements for Land Disturbing Activities and Related Mitigation

White-Tail Deer Management

Nuisance Wildlife Management

Meadow Management

Park Encroachment

Volunteer Programs

Implement and Comply with Policies, Laws, and Development Regulations affecting parkland and entire County

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Development Review Process

- Forest Conservation Act
- Environmental Guidelines
- Park and Environmental recommendations in County land use master plans
- Other federal, state, and local laws and policies

Water Quality Conservation

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) MS4 Permit (countywide)
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Industrial Permit (parkland)
 - *Water Quality Monitoring in support of County goals*
 - *Support for Interagency Watershed Management*

Identify and Acquire Priority Natural Resource Parkland

Assess and prioritize natural resources for addition to park system

Acquisition Programs

- Acquisition via land development process
- State Program Open Space
- County Legacy Open Space

Educate Staff and the Public about Natural Resources

- Implement interpretive programs to educate citizens and school children about the importance of natural resources
- Provide staff training regarding best practices for management of natural resources

Status of 2012 PROS Plan Recommendations

Other New Recommendations and Future Priorities

Chapter 6: Cultural Resources Stewardship

Introduction

- Preservation, management and stewardship of cultural resources is key element of the mission, vision and values of the Montgomery Parks Department
- Cultural, historical, and archaeological resources are vital to our Montgomery County's heritage
- Quality cultural resource assets provide significant benefits to entire county and provide locations for in-demand cultural historical and archaeological resource-based educational programming
- Cultural resources are a key tool to maintaining a community's sense of history and thereby sense of place
- Strategic plan for cultural resources in parks (2005) and Cultural Resources Asset Inventory (2009) provides blueprints for the present and future use and priorities of County-owned cultural resources within existing parkland

Federal, State, and local guidelines and policy

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Federal
State
County

- County General Plan
- Master Plan for Historic Preservation
- Locational Atlas
- Cultural Resources Asset Inventory
- Vision 2030 strategic plan for parks & recreation
 - *Key findings relevant to cultural resources preservation, management and interpretation*
 - *Selected Vision 2030 goals*

Current County Implementation Programs

- Conduct planning for cultural resources in parkland
- Catalog cultural resources and collections in parkland
- Utilize, maintain and update the cultural resources asset inventory database
- Develop extensive interpretive signage program throughout park system
- Preserve historic buildings, making the best available to the public
- Preserve archaeological resources through excavations, lab work, analysis, reports, and interpretation
- Create public museums that emphasize key historic themes – agriculture, life of enslaved and free African Americans, Underground Railroad, transportation, Quakers, etc.
- Implement public history and school programs to educate citizens and school children about the importance the Montgomery County’s history and the value of its archaeological and historical resources
 - *Support resource protection via implementation of laws, policies, and development regulations*

Status of 2012 PROS Plan Recommendations

New recommendations and future priorities

Chapter 7 – Agricultural Land Preservation

Background and Chapter Context

Public Commitment to Investment in Land Preservation
Supportive Local Plans, Zoning, Regulations and Procedures

- Support by parks in the Agricultural Reserve
- Master plan support

Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation

State Goals

County Goals

Post-General Plan Strategy

Current Implementation Programs for Agricultural Land Preservation

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- County and State Programs
 - *The Maryland Environmental Trust (Met)*
 - *Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Act - State Agricultural Preservation Program*
 - *The Montgomery County Transfer of Development Rights Program (TDR)*
 - *The Montgomery County Agricultural Easement Program (AEP)*
 - *Rural Legacy Program in Montgomery County (RLP)*
 - *Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)*
 - *M-NCPPC Legacy Open Space Program (LOS)*
 - *The Montgomery County Building Lot Termination (BLT)*
- Funding Sources
 - *Agricultural Transfer Tax*
 - *Investment Income*
 - *General Obligation Bonds*
 - *State Grants*

Summary of accomplishments and farmland preservation goal

- Strategies for Agricultural Land Preservation

Appendices

**Chart of Which Park Types Accommodate Which Recreation Types
Park System Inventory**

Chart of Future Acquisitions and Estimated Costs in 5 Year Intervals

Chart of Future Development Priorities in 5 Year Intervals

Proposed CIP – FY17 – 22

Additional, TBD