

<b><u>Table of Contents</u></b>	1
<b><u>Introduction:</u></b>	2
Preparing or Updating an LPPRP for 2022	2
Recommended Timeline and Due Dates	3
<b><u>LPPRP Content Guidelines:</u></b>	
General Overview	5
Parks and Recreation	5
Guidelines for Reporting Parks and Recreation Goals	11
Other Protected Lands	13
<b><u>Appendices:</u></b>	
<b>Appendix A:</b>	20
State Goals	
A-1: Parks and Recreation	
A-2: Natural Resource Land Conservation	
A-3: Agricultural Land Preservation	
<b>Appendix B:</b>	23
Sample Inventory Spreadsheet	
<b>Appendix C:</b>	24
Sample Parks and Recreation Surveys/Questions	
<b>Appendix D:</b>	25
Federal, State and Other Studies to Consider	
<b>Appendix E:</b>	26
Level of Service Analysis	
Proximity Analysis	
Park Equity Analysis Tool	
<b>Appendix F:</b>	29
Additional Considerations	
<b>Appendix G:</b>	30
GIS Data Sharing	
<b>Appendix H:</b>	31
Chesapeake Bay Program and Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Essential Protected Lands Data Standards and Best Practices	

## Introduction

Ranking high among the things that make Maryland “The Land of Pleasant Living” are the state’s parks, trails, waterways, forests, and farms, and the opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation. Indoor recreation facilities also add to our quality of life.

Public parks and recreation facilities, and lands preserved for their agricultural and natural resource values, provide Maryland residents and visitors with a wide array of services that benefit their health, the economy, and the environment. These places and amenities are vital pieces of community infrastructure.

County governments and the City of Baltimore use their Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plans (LPPRPs) as an opportunity to collect and evaluate comprehensive data and information to better serve the public by identifying the:

- Locations, extent and recreational opportunities available at park and recreation facilities;
- Rates of park use and public participation in various types of recreation;
- Need for more parks and recreation facilities
- Proximity of parks and recreation facilities to where people live and to underserved populations in particular;
- Accomplishments of local jurisdictions to preserve agricultural and resource land.

These Plans can and should be a resource that provides county and state leaders and the general public with a “snapshot” of the status of issues outlined in these Guidelines, as well as a clear understanding of the jurisdiction’s goals, strategies and priorities for investing to improve parks and recreation facilities and open spaces for the public benefit.

The preparation and/or regular update of an LPPRP is a prerequisite for county participation in Maryland’s Program Open Space (POS) Local *[per Section 5-905(b) (2) of the Natural Resources Article – Annotated Code of Maryland]*, which provides annual grants for the acquisition of land for conservation and park purposes as well as for the development of public recreation facilities. Information from the LPPRPs guides land conservation and parks and recreation planning and decision making within each county, City of Baltimore and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and is important to the work of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). LPPRPs are also used as key sources of information in the preparation of Maryland’s Land Preservation and Recreation Plan, which serves as the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Regular five-year updates to the Statewide Land Preservation and Recreation Plan are required to maintain Maryland’s eligibility to receive funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a federal program that provides cost-share funding to state agencies for the acquisition, development and planning of public outdoor recreation opportunities. Draft updated LPPRPs are due for submission to DNR and MDP by December 31, 2021. **Revised and county-approved final LPPRPs are due to be submitted to DNR and MDP by July 1, 2022.**

### Preparing or Updating LPPRPs for 2022

These Guidelines outline **minimum** planning and documentation requirements to be followed in the preparation or update of an LPPRP. The 2022 LPPRP Guidelines have been updated in 2020-2021 for this next planning cycle. The 2022 Guidelines replace the previous guidelines released in January 2016.

Updating of these Guidelines will be completed through a collaborative process among DNR, MDP and the parks and recreation and planning staff from every county government and the City of Baltimore. A draft set of Guidelines was distributed for comment to all county staff participating in the process and staff from DNR and MDP, as well as the Maryland Association of Counties' Parks and Recreation Administrators.

### 2022 LPPRP Planning Timeline Recommendation

It is recommended that counties begin the LPPRP planning process as early as possible. County staff have advised DNR and MDP that a minimum of twelve to eighteen months is necessary to gather information, analyze and synthesize data, craft goals and develop strategies, engage the public in the process, draft the plan and usher it through the review and approval process with county or City leadership, prior to final submission to DNR and MDP. ***The 2022 LPPRPs are due, with final approvals from local leadership by July 1, 2022.*** Draft reports are due by December 31, 2021. As such, the following timeline for preparing an LPPRP is suggested:

#### *Summer 2020*

Assemble planning team, review Guidelines and develop a general outline of the Plan and timeline for Plan preparation;

#### *Fall 2020*

Share guidelines with counties for review. Counties will begin inventory data collection, prepare and open recreational survey to the public;

#### *Winter 2020*

Continue inventory data collection and public engagement, begin level of service analysis using inventory and user demand data, develop and refine overarching goals; begin assembling draft portions of the plan;

#### *Summer 2021*

Continue inventory and user needs and demand data collection, level of service analysis and public engagement; refine goals and develop strategies for reaching goals; continue preparation of text, maps, graphics, etc;

#### *Fall 2021*

Complete a first draft of the LPPRP; solicit county internal and public input as needed per county requirements and revise the draft as necessary. Counties should also provide municipalities adequate opportunity to review draft LPPRPs and should consider municipal comments;

*December 31, 2021*

Submit the draft LPPRP to DNR and MDP by December 31, 2021 for review and feedback. Draft LPPRP's will be posted on County websites. DNR will provide legislators from applicable districts with a link to County draft LPPRPs for their review and comment. DNR and MDP will also review the Plans and provide feedback to the county within 30-45 days of receipt. Please send draft plans to Andrew Mengel at [andrew.mengel@maryland.gov](mailto:andrew.mengel@maryland.gov) and Jason Dubow at [jason.dubow@maryland.gov](mailto:jason.dubow@maryland.gov);

*Spring 2022*

Edit and finish the LPPRP. Usher the final Plan through all necessary county approval processes;

*July 1, 2022*

**Finalized county approved/adopted LPPRP to be submitted to DNR and MDP.** The final submission package must consist of a single, bound hardcopy and single electronic copy (PDF format preferred) via email. If not possible to email, a PDF on a compact disk may be submitted. One final submission package must be submitted to DNR and a separate final submission package must be submitted to MDP. Specific instructions on who to send the documents to will be provided in early 2022.

### **LPPRP Content Overview**

The 2022 LPPRPs should address the items outlined below and described in greater detail in the corresponding sections of these Guidelines:

1. **Plan Introduction**: Provide a general overview of county geography, population and an introduction to the existing system of preserved lands.
2. **Parks and Recreation**: Include an updated inventory of assets and user demand information; level of service and equity analyses to identify deficiencies and opportunities; and strategies for meeting recreational goals, addressing deficiencies, and improving and managing county parks and recreation facilities over the next five years.
3. **Natural Resource Land Conservation**: Update information, analysis, goals and strategies for managing and improving county natural resource conservation land networks.
4. **Agricultural Land Preservation**: Update data on preserved lands; provide the goals and strategies for improving the local program. Counties whose farmland preservation programs have not been certified by MDP and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation will need to provide more information than certified counties. If a county has prepared an updated comprehensive plan, Priority Preservation Area (PPA) element, or a substantially equivalent plan containing goals for agricultural preservation acquisition, within the past five years, the county may reference that plan and briefly describe how the LPPRP strategies complement the land preservation goals and efforts reported in that plan.
5. **Optional/Other**: Consider reviewing relevant topics of significance in the county, including but not limited to an economic analysis of parks, recreation and land conservation in the county, discussion of cultural resource preservation, historic preservation, tourism, education and environmental literacy, etc. Please see Appendix F for more of these additional considerations.

### **Plan Introduction**

LPPRPs should include a brief introduction to the Plan that provides pertinent baseline information about the county, its system of public parks and recreation facilities, and preserved natural resource and agricultural lands. Suggested information to include consists of the following:

- General geographic information.
- General population/demographic information.
- Introduction to and map of the entire system of public parks and recreation facilities and preserved natural resource and agricultural land.

### **Guidelines for Parks and Recreation Section**

LPPRPs should include a summary of the following information about parks and recreation. Counties should include relevant summary information from existing county plans, reports and other pertinent public information and clearly direct readers to them.

1. Executive Summary / Overview of the Parks and Recreation System in the County

Include narrative, images, maps and/or other data to provide a general overview of the public parks and recreation system in the county. Counties should highlight any major accomplishments or challenges associated with the public parks and recreation system or specific amenities, programs or needs. Explain the environmental, economic and health benefits of maintaining and enhancing parks and recreation systems that provide opportunities and amenities for both “active” field/court based recreation (such as baseball and football fields, basketball courts, skate parks or aquatic centers) and for “outdoor” or natural resource based recreation (such as trail hiking, boating, hunting or fishing). Discuss community conditions that impact the provision of public parks and recreation amenities within your jurisdiction.

2. Inventory of Existing Public Parks and Recreation Facilities

Provide an updated inventory of existing **public** parks and recreation facilities in the county. All counties and Baltimore City completed this inventory as part of the 2017 LPPRPs and are encouraged to build on those existing data sets. Generally the use of a spreadsheet or GIS database is recommended for compiling and updating the inventory. A sample inventory template is included in Appendix B. In addition to the inventory itself, a summary narrative should be provided that generally describes the county parks system and the different types of recreational amenities and opportunities that are available to the public. The summary should also make note of any land or facilities that have been added to the inventory since the completion of the 2017 LPPRP inventory. All inventories should include the following baseline information:

a. Public Parks and Recreation Properties

Publicly owned by municipal, county, state and/or federal government

- Examples include publicly owned neighborhood parks, state parks, sports complexes, county recreation centers, greenways, trails etc.
- Counties are encouraged to utilize the most recent DNR Land Acreage Report to determine the extent of DNR owned parkland in their jurisdictions. This report can be found at <https://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/Tracking-Acreage.aspx>

b. Quasi-public and/or privately owned recreational facilities or park lands that are open or available for regular public use:

Properties open to the public for recreational use via legal agreements, Joint Use Agreements, deed restrictions or other covenant, where regular public access for recreational purposes is guaranteed. Such properties may include those owned by land trusts, school properties, etc. Counties should not include privately owned land, such as land owned by homeowner associations, as part of the inventory, if regular public access for recreational purposes is not guaranteed.

c. Inventory Map

Provide a GIS-based map of the parks and recreation lands and facilities included in the inventory spreadsheet (or geodatabase) and a brief narrative explaining it.

A list of available GIS datasets for state parks, other DNR owned lands and associated public recreational amenities is included in Appendix G. A list of GIS datasets to be submitted by counties with their LPPRPs is also included in Appendix G.

### 3. Measuring User Demand

Collecting and analyzing a variety of data about the use of existing county public parks and recreational facilities is important in estimating the level of service parks and recreational infrastructure are providing. Thoughtful, planned investment in parks and recreation sites can take place after the county establishes a baseline of data about the locations of amenities in relation to populations and the quantity and types of use that the facilities receive. It is also important to gain an understanding of the quality of a user's experience in order to help identify trends, deficiencies and opportunities for improvements to the parks and recreation system. At a minimum, counties should gather and analyze information through a combination of the means and sources, including those outlined below. Findings from the analysis of the different data sets should then be reviewed and a composite view of the level of service provided by the county parks and recreation system should be provided through narrative, maps and other supporting graphics. This summary, resulting from your analysis, should note any trends, strengths, weaknesses and opportunities that may impact the implementation of local recreational goals or otherwise influence the management of the county parks and recreation system or capital improvement programming from 2022 – 2027.

#### a. Public Engagement and Outreach

1. Public Meetings: Public meetings (including virtual meetings) are crucial for engaging interested members of the community. Counties should conduct public meetings as part of the LPPRP planning process and are advised to follow existing county laws, policies and protocols for civic engagement in this public planning process.
2. Survey: Feedback from the users of county parks and recreation facilities and other members of the community should be actively sought and documented as part of the LPPRP planning process. Counties should create and administer a survey which seeks public input on the use of county owned parks and recreation facilities and programming. Surveys do not need to be administered following strict methodology for statistical validation. A summary of survey findings should be provided in the LPPRP and the use of visual aids (graphs, charts, etc.) to help explain findings is encouraged.
  - i. Survey questions should seek information on the full array of county parks and recreation offerings.
  - ii. Links to sample surveys can be found in Appendix D. Counties are also encouraged to share sample surveys.
  - iii. Counties are encouraged to utilize internet-based resources, including free or low cost web-survey hosting services, to help administer surveys and track results.

#### b. Data on Usage, Demand and Participation Rates

Counties should provide a summary of parks and recreation participation rates, known or estimated facility usage figures and other associated information the county may collect through program registration, field or amenity permitting, ticket sales or other related means that answer the following questions:

- i. How many people are known to use the parks and recreation system and/or specific parks or recreational amenities?
  - ii. Can an educated estimate of the potential overall level of casual or non-documented usage of county parks and recreation facilities be deduced?
  - iii. Are there unmet needs and demands for additional programs or facilities that are known but not easily identified or quantified by these figures?
- c. Interpretation of Studies from Federal, State, Local, Academic or Industrial Sources: Many government, university and interest groups provide detailed information on parks and recreation issues and trends. Some of these studies and reports are likely relevant to county parks and recreation operations, facilities and planning. Where applicable, counties are encouraged to consider using these resources **to supplement locally sourced data** to inform the LPPRP planning process. Examples of several relevant studies are included in Appendix D. Counties are encouraged to explore any reputable source of information relevant to their parks and recreation programs, management and planning. The Park Equity Mapper Tool found in Appendix E combines demographic and environmental health data that can assist park officials in identifying communities that are in need of additional parks facilities and green space.

#### 4. Level of Service Analysis

An analysis of the level of service provided by public parks and recreation systems is intended to identify areas in the county where additional investment in land or facilities may be needed to meet the needs and desires of users. In completing a level of service analysis for their public parks and recreation systems, counties may elect to use additional means of analysis beyond those suggested below, provided that logical justification of the basis of analysis is clearly documented in their Plan. Regardless of the analytical methodology used, the results must clearly indicate any opportunities or deficiencies in the existing recreational system. These guidelines allow local jurisdictions the flexibility to use a methodology that is useful for them; provided that it makes the case for how the local jurisdictions will address the recreational needs of their users.

Historically in Maryland this analysis was completed using only a single metric of # acres per 1,000 population, with the state's default goal for all counties and the City of Baltimore being 30 acres of parks and recreational land per 1,000 population. This metric was not always useful for measuring the extent to which recreational facilities are meeting users' needs. A park containing hundreds of acres could be far away from population centers and not easily accessible. By analyzing and mapping a county's parks and recreation inventory in relation to population density, and taking into consideration the known needs and demands of users (as determined via



surveys, participation rate figures, public input, etc.), a more accurate determination of deficiencies in service can be made and better plans formulated to address them.

To measure the level of service provided by public parks and recreation facilities in Maryland, it is required that counties at least utilize the two methods outlined below in preparing their 2022 LPPRPs. Not only do these two methods provide means for analyzing multiple factors impacting the level of service provided by public parks and recreation amenities, they also are used to create maps that illustrate existing conditions and findings. These visual tools can help clearly convey key levels of service related information to decision makers and the general public.

a. Proximity Analysis

Conduct a geospatial analysis utilizing the county's inventory of parks and recreation facilities and population data to generally determine where the public can readily access these amenities and where they cannot. Provide a map (or maps) and brief narrative that discusses findings from the analysis and identifies any deficiencies, and consider how the findings should shape the county's goals for parks and recreation.

The Department of Natural Resources completed this type of analysis to help gauge the level of service provided by state and national parks in Maryland as part of the 2019-2023 Statewide Land Preservation and Recreation Plan. A link to this Plan is included in Appendix D.

Information on conducting a proximity analysis is located in Appendix E.

b. Park Equity Analysis

The Park Equity Analysis is an interactive, web-based, geospatial tool that helps identify areas where underserved populations do not have easy access to parks and recreation facilities. This tool has been updated and expanded since the 2017 State LPPRP guidance document in partnership with the University of Maryland School of Public Health. Counties are encouraged to use DNR's Park Equity Analysis to prepare a park equity map for inclusion in the LPPRP.

The Park Equity Mapper Tool will continue to be developed to ensure data is accurate and complete. The tool can remain a resource for counties to use in their LPPRP park needs analysis. DNR and Planning ask that counties also use their own data and knowledge to identify underserved areas and set goals for meeting demand in those areas.

Additional information, including where to access this tool, is located in Appendix E.

**5. Goals and Objectives for Parks and Recreation**

- a. General context information: Explain the types of public parks and recreational facilities in the county and the services and benefits they provide to residents and visitors. Focus on county-managed infrastructure.

1. What roles, services and benefits do public parks and recreational amenities and associated programming provide within the county?
  2. Explain why the provision of public parks and recreation facilities is important in the county.
- b. County Goals: Define and explain county goals for the provision of public parks and recreation facilities. In so doing please cover the following:
- Explaining County Goals: Please use the Measuring User Demand and Level of Service Analysis described directly above in information requirements 3 and 4 in setting and explaining your goals and objectives. It is important to tie these explanations of county goals directly to the results of the County's measurements and analyses.
- c. State Goals: Include the list of state goals for parks and recreation from Appendix A in this section of the county's LPPRP. Describe how county goals complement statewide goals and help implement them. If state and local goals differ, please explain how.

## 6. Implementing Programs

Provide a list and summary description of programs/funding sources used by the county to help achieve parks and recreation goals.

Briefly explain how these programs are used to benefit the public. *Examples include: Program Open Space, Rural Legacy, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Sustainable Communities designation, county ordinances, etc.*

## 7. Capital Improvement Plan

Based on stated goals and review of the analyses described in these guidelines, a 5-year parks and recreation capital improvement plan (FYs 2022 - 2026) for land acquisition, facility development and rehabilitation priorities must be developed and included in the LPPRP.

It is suggested that counties use a spreadsheet for this purpose and include approximate acreage to acquire; number, type, and locations of facilities to develop or rehabilitate; and estimated costs. This should also include municipal projects and acquisitions to align with Annual Program requests. A spreadsheet including the same information for mid-term and long-term planning horizons (e.g. 2027-2031 and 2032-2036) is recommended.

NOTE: To ensure that the LPPRP considers all residents, the Guidelines require coordination between counties and their municipalities when identifying land acquisitions, park development, or park rehabilitation projects. Briefly discuss how the county coordinates with the local jurisdictions by describing the process for including municipal park and recreation priorities in the county LPPRP, the strategy for funding projects in municipalities, how municipal projects are represented in the CIP, etc

**Guidelines for Reporting Parks and Recreation Acreage Goals**

Provide an update of the County’s work to reach the goals established in the 2017 LPPRP for parks and recreation, using the following table:

<b>Open Space and Parks and Recreational Land Goals Established in 2017</b>	<b>Type and Specific Location</b>	<b>Acreage Needed</b>	<b>Acreage Acquired</b>
	example: Multi-use fields in X location		
	example: Waterfront access in X location		
	example: Increasing access to underserved community in X location		
	example: Expand public access to nature in X location		

Submit a plan framework for how the County plans to meet their land acquisition goals (needs) within the next five years. In doing so, please fill out the table shown below. If the county has met their acquisition goal, please include an explanation of how the goal has been met.

Note: If the county believes that they have met their acquisition goals set forth in the LPPRP, please indicate “zero” in the “Acreage Needed” column and “N/A” in the “Plan for meeting need” column. Please refer to and quote text from the county LPPRP’s proximity analysis, equity analysis, and/or other level of service analyses to demonstrate how the county has met the acquisition goals set forth in the LPPRP.

*\*A County may submit a request prior to the end of the five years requesting the Department re-review the County’s acquisition goals if new land is acquired and the County believes it has met their goals.*

Open Space and Parks and Recreational Land Goals 2022	Type and Specific Location	Acreage Needed	Plan for Meeting Need

*According to Section 5-905(c)(1)(ii) of the Natural Resources Article, if the Department and the Department of Planning certify that acquisition goals set forth in the current, approved local land preservation and recreation plan have been met, additional POS Local funds may be used for development projects and the match required decreases.*

### Other Protected Lands

County goals identified in this section (“Other Protected Lands”) should only include lands that do not allow for public access. Acreage that is discussed in this section should not be counted towards the parks and recreation acquisition goals.

### Guidelines for Content on Natural Resource Land Conservation

Land conserved for natural resource purposes typically serves multiple functions that benefit people and the communities where they live, work and play. Forests, wetlands, river corridors, open meadows and other landscapes preserved in their natural state provide valuable ecosystem services such as water filtration, carbon sequestration, soil formation, stormwater management, and extreme weather mitigation. Taking advantage of these services through targeted land conservation allows counties to avoid costs to taxpayers in providing these services through other means.

LPPRPs should include summaries of the following natural resource land conservation information. In providing such information, counties should include text to direct readers to other existing county plans, program documents, reports or resources that provide more in-depth information on this topic. When appropriate, engage interested members of the community through the public meeting process to discuss deficiencies and identify recommendations for the Plan.

#### 1. Executive Summary / Overview of Natural Resource Land Conservation in the County

Provide a general overview of the areas preserved in the county for their natural resource value, supplemented by any supportive images, maps or other data. Counties are encouraged to highlight any major accomplishments or challenges associated with managing or preserving natural resource lands.

Explain the public benefits of maintaining and enhancing the county’s system of natural resource lands including:

- a. What are the existing opportunities and areas in the county for people to connect with nature?
- b. Are there opportunities at county parks and recreation areas to offer additional amenities or opportunities to connect people with nature?
  - For example, might there be wetland or wooded areas on parkland, adjacent to some other facility, where a small interpretive trail could be constructed? Is there access to water where stewardship of natural resources might be discussed?

#### 2. Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation

- a. General context: Describe the environmental and social benefits that natural resource conservation land provides for people living in and visiting the county.
  - Examples of environmental/social services provided by natural resource lands include natural filtration of air and water, economic and public health benefits, and wildlife habitat and biodiversity, etc.

- b. County goals: List the county/local goals for natural resource land conservation. Explain why the preservation of land for natural resource conservation is important to the county.
- c. Provide a summary update on the status of the county’s work to achieve goals for the preservation of natural resource land since the last LPPRP in 2017.
- d. State goals: Include the list of state goals for natural resource land conservation in this section of the county’s LPPRP. Provide a summary of how county/local goals are complementary or differ from the statewide goals. A list of current state goals is included in Appendix A.

### 3. Inventory of Protected Natural Resource Lands

- a. Complete and provide a spreadsheet documenting existing preserved natural resource lands in the county. A sample template is included in Appendix B of these Guidelines.
- b. Land preservation data provided in a table within the LPPRP document should be organized according to the categories of the [Maryland Protected Lands Dashboard](#).

### 4. Mapping

- a. Mapping: Counties should create and/or utilize any maps that show progress in meeting land preservation goals, and which may be needed to clearly convey the following information related to natural resource land conservation:
  - i. Local and State Targeted Growth and Conservation Areas;
  - ii. GreenPrint areas and county focus areas for natural resource land conservation;
  - iii. Publicly owned parcels of land designated for natural resource conservation, greenways, park land or other public open space. Delineate parcels by ownership (federal, state and local);
  - iv. Public parks and recreation properties (GIS dataset from the Parks and Recreation Inventory Map). Note if and how parks and natural resource conservation land complement one another. Are trails or other outdoor recreation amenities crossing between parks and conservation lands?
  - v. Parcels protected for natural resource conservation purposes through long-term conservation easements, licenses, agreements, etc; that are held by public entities (federal, state or local). Delineate parcels by easement ownership;
  - vi. Land preserved by deed covenants, such as homeowners association designated open space, land preserved by land trusts through ownership or easement, etc.;
- b. A list of available GIS datasets for state parks, other DNR owned lands and associated public recreational amenities is included in Appendix G. A list of GIS datasets required to be submitted by counties with their LPPRPs is also included in Appendix G.

### 5. Implementing Ordinances and Programs

Outline the principal implementing ordinances and programs that the county uses to work towards achieving its goals for the conservation of natural resource land. Include a summary list, table or narrative that provides baseline information on these ordinances and programs.

6. Summary of Deficiencies and Recommendations

Based on an analysis of the county's inventory of natural resource lands and implementing ordinances and programs against its goals for natural resource conservation, this section should indicate any deficiencies that need to be addressed. For each deficiency identified, the plan should list a recommendation to help address the deficiency.

**Guidelines for Content on Agricultural Land Preservation**

If a county has prepared an updated comprehensive plan, Priority Preservation Area (PPA) element, or a substantially equivalent plan containing goals for agricultural preservation acquisition, within the past five years, the county may reference that plan and briefly describe how the LPPRP strategies complement the land preservation goals and efforts reported in that plan.

Working agricultural lands in Maryland help define the character of the state’s rural areas, provide a number of environmental services for residences and businesses in rural and urban areas and are vital to rural economies. LPPRPs should document and convey essential data and information on local goals for agricultural land preservation and efforts to achieve those goals. Many counties already collect and disseminate key information on agricultural land preservation via their participation in the Program for the Certification of County Agricultural Land Preservation Programs, administered jointly by MDP and MALPF.

There are several reasons for including agricultural land preservation in the LPPRPs:

- Preserved farmland keeps intact landscapes where resource-based recreation takes place;
- Land protected for agriculture often preserves natural resource features;
- Preserved farmland provides ecological services that benefit recreation and resource land and waterways; and
- Information on all land preservation programs in one document facilitates decision-making by officials and residents

The counties with agricultural land preservation programs certified by MDP and MALPF as of July 2020 are Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George’s, Queen Anne’s, St. Mary’s, Talbot, Washington and Worcester.

Counties without agricultural land preservation programs certified by MDP and MALPF as of July 2020 are Allegany, Charles, Dorchester, Garrett, Howard, Somerset and Wicomico.

To facilitate completion of this section, parks and recreation staff should coordinate with planning staff and the local Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation program administrator - see <https://mda.maryland.gov/malpf/Pages/Program-Administrators.aspx>. The state does not recommend using a consultant to develop this section, since available information is readily available from local and state sources: farmland preservation program administrators in certified counties have in their certification reports all the information required by the LPPRP, while farmland preservation program administrators in non-certified counties can find the necessary information in comprehensive plans, the zoning code, and local agriculture/farmland preservation plans (if any). Planning’s Resource Conservation & Management Unit staff also are available to assist counties with completing this section.

Counties should address the items noted below through narrative summaries, tables or spreadsheets and maps in their LPPRPs to convey a current “snapshot” of the status of agricultural land preservation in the county. Certified counties can accomplish this in a streamlined manner by including references to their certification plans and reports.



When appropriate, engage interested members of the community through the public meeting process to discuss deficiencies and identify recommendations for the Plan.

1. Executive Summary / Overview of Agricultural Land Preservation in the County

Provide a short executive summary, supplemented by supportive images, maps or other data, to provide a general overview of the county's agricultural land preservation efforts and existing areas of preserved agricultural lands. Counties are encouraged to highlight any major accomplishments or challenges associated with preserving working farms and forests. Explain the public benefits of maintaining and enhancing the county's system of agricultural lands.

2. Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation

- a. County goals for uncertified counties: Define and summarize county goals for agricultural land preservation. Provide a general update on the status of the county's work to achieve goals for the preservation of agricultural land since the last LPPRP in 2017.
- b. State goals for uncertified counties: Include the list of state goals for agricultural land preservation in this section of the county's LPPRP (see Appendix A-3). Provide a summary of how county/local goals are complementary or differ from the statewide goals.

3. Inventory of Preserved Agricultural Land

Complete and provide a spreadsheet documenting existing preserved agricultural land in the county. A sample inventory spreadsheet is included in Appendix B of these Guidelines.

4. Mapping

Provide a map of agricultural land preserved in the county and any existing Priority Preservation Areas. Preserved parcels on the map should match those documented in the preserved agricultural lands inventory (per Guideline #3, above).

- a. In the map legend, distinguish between properties that are publicly owned and those under easement. Disaggregate easements by program, including MALPF, Rural Legacy, CREP, MET, land trust, and local PDR/TDR. Distinguish properties within the Priority Preservation Area (PPA).
- b. Explain any differences between properties highlighted in this map and those listed in the associated inventory of preserved agricultural lands in the county.

5. Additional Agricultural Land Preservation Guidelines

- a. Counties WITH and WITHOUT agricultural land preservation programs certified by MDP and MALPF:

- i. Describe which strategies or actions presented in the county's 2017 LPPRP have been implemented and what the effect has been.
  - ii. Which strategies or actions presented in the county's 2017 LPPRP were not implemented? Why?
  - iii. Ensure that the county's existing agricultural preservation program development strategy (which is used to determine certification eligibility) is aligned with the LPPRP agricultural preservation goals.
- b. Only counties WITHOUT certified agricultural land preservation programs:
- i. Has the county established PPAs in its comprehensive plan? Are these areas mapped and is the map included in the comprehensive plan? If so, note where in the comprehensive plan this is discussed and if not, explain why.
  - ii. How are the county's goals implemented through its zoning and other land use tools?
  - iii. How is the county monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of these programs?
  - iv. What are the findings and conclusions of the most recent evaluation of these programs or ordinances?

6. Summary of Deficiencies and Recommendations

Based on an analysis of the county's inventory of agricultural lands and implementing ordinances and programs against its goals for agricultural preservation, this section should indicate any deficiencies that need to be addressed. For each deficiency identified, the plan should list a recommendation to help address the deficiency.

**Appendices Content:**

**Appendix A:**

- State Goals
- A-1: Parks and Recreation
- A-2: Natural Resource Land Conservation
- A-3: Agricultural Land Preservation

**Appendix B:**

- Sample Inventory Spreadsheet

**Appendix C:**

- Sample Survey Questions

**Appendix D:**

- Federal, State and Other Studies and Information Sources to Consider

**Appendix E:**

- Level of Service Analysis
- Proximity Analysis
- Park Equity Analysis Tool

**Appendix F:**

- Additional Considerations

**Appendix G:**

- GIS Data Sharing

**Appendix H:**

- Chesapeake Bay Program and Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Essential Protected Lands Data Standards and Best Practices

**Appendix A: State Goals**

**A-1: State Goals for Parks and Recreation**

- 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, play 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.

**A-2: State Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation**

- 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;
  - Incentives for resource-based economies that increase the 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 the Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) in 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 may fall outside of designated green infrastructure (examples include: 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.
- Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated state/local strategy to achieve them through state and local implementation programs.
- Assess the combined ability of state and local programs to achieve the following:
  - Expand and connect forests, farmland 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.

**A-3: State Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation**

- 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 achieve the following:
  - Establish preservation areas, goals and strategies through local comprehensive planning processes that address and complement state goals;

- In each area designated for preservation, develop a shared understanding of goals and the strategy to achieve them among rural landowners, the public-at-large and state and local government officials;
- Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by ensuring sufficient public commitment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs;
- Use local land use management authority effectively to protect public investment in preservation by managing development in rural preservation areas;
- 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 public-at-large.

**Appendix B: Sample Inventory Spreadsheets**

Appendix B provides guidance on the data fields that should be included within the LPPRP inventories (parks and recreation inventory, natural resource land conservation inventory, and agricultural land preservation inventory).

The inventories are provided as tables (tabular data format) and are in addition to the GIS data sets (see Appendix G) that must be submitted to assist in mapping the three categories of protected lands.

For the Natural Resource and Agricultural Preservation Land Inventories, please indicate, for each data record and summary of protected land type, one of the following categories used in the [Maryland Protected Lands Dashboard](#), since this will ensure we accurately capture your data updates into the dashboard:

1. MET
2. MALPF
3. Local Purchased Development Rights/Transferable Development Rights (PDR/TDR)
4. Private Conservation Orgs.
5. MARBIDCO
6. Rural Legacy
7. ISTEA/Forest Legacy/CREP/FRPP-ACEP
8. Cluster Subdivision Remainder
9. POS Stateside Conservation Easement
10. County Rec & Parks
11. DNR State Land Inventory
12. Federal Park & Conservation

If the data record of protected land type does not fit into one of the above categories, please indicate which category it belongs within.

Also, if a county wishes to link its inventories to its GIS data, one option is to add another column to the inventories entitled “Source Protected Area ID” and to add a unique identifier for the data record that corresponds to the GIS data record (which should also have the same Source Protected Area ID). Linking these datasets together can assist with various data queries.

*See the attached LPPRP Inventory Sample Spreadsheet*

**Appendix C: Sample Parks and Recreation Surveys**

*The surveys noted below are for example only. Counties should prepare their own survey to seek feedback on their own parks facilities, programs and needs.*

Maryland Sample

Howard County Trail Use Survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/?sm=Ri45QXbAFYFEeCLYLnfuog%3d%3d>

Samples from outside of Maryland

Township of Chatsworth - Community Recreation Survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CNL3NNW>

Columbia, MO – Parks and Recreation Survey:

<https://www.como.gov/parksandrec/about-us/parks-recreation-citizen-surveys/>

City of Eagle - Parks & Recreation Plan Survey:

[http://eagle-id.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=1&clip\\_id=111&meta\\_id=5085](http://eagle-id.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=111&meta_id=5085)

Winston-Salem, NC Recreation Customer Service Survey:

<http://www.cityofws.org/departments/recreation-parks/recreation-customer-service-survey>

Portland, ME Community Needs Assessment Survey Results:

<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1593/Community-Needs-Assessment?bidId=>



**Appendix D: Federal, State and Other Studies and Information Sources to Consider**

**State of Maryland**

Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan 2019-2023:

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/Stewardship/LPRP-2019-2023.aspx>

DNR Owned Lands Acreage Report:

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/Tracking-Acreage.aspx>

Maryland Trail Atlas:

<https://data.imap.maryland.gov/datasets/95281fc3ebde48648e249021459a4a00>

Maryland State Park Visitor Use and Services Goucher Poll:

<http://www.goucher.edu/Documents/Maryland%20State%20Parks%20Survey%20Release%2012-2-14.pdf>

Maryland GreenPrint:

<http://greenprint.maryland.gov/>

Sustainable Communities:

<https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Pages/dn/default.aspx>

**Federal Government**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation:

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2018/demo/fhw16-nat.pdf>

National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics:

<https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/>

**Non-Governmental**

American Planning Association – City Parks Forum Briefing Papers:

<https://www.planning.org/cityparks/>

Outdoor Industry Association –2017 Research Reports on Outdoor Recreation Participation and Economic Impacts:

[https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/OIA\\_RecEconomy\\_FINAL\\_Single.pdf](https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/OIA_RecEconomy_FINAL_Single.pdf)

National Recreation and Parks Association – Various reports, studies and tools including:

Safe Routes to Parks:

[http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications\\_and\\_Research/Research/Papers/Park-Access-Report.pdf](http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications_and_Research/Research/Papers/Park-Access-Report.pdf)

Prescribing Parks for Better Health:

[https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Grants\\_and\\_Partners/Health\\_and\\_Livability/FINAL%20Prescribing%20Parks%20for%20Better%20Health%20Success%20Stories.pdf](https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Grants_and_Partners/Health_and_Livability/FINAL%20Prescribing%20Parks%20for%20Better%20Health%20Success%20Stories.pdf)

**Appendix E: Level of Service Analysis – Proximity Analysis and Park Equity Analysis**

**Proximity Analysis**

By more accurately pinpointing the places where parks and recreation facilities are most needed, the proximity analysis is valuable for enhancing the quality of life in existing communities. As a result, it helps local jurisdictions to meet both state and local smart growth objectives. The Department of Natural Resources completed this type of analysis to help gauge the level of service provided by state and national parks in Maryland in Chapter 3 of the 2019-2023 Statewide Land Preservation and Recreation Plan. A link to this Plan is included in Appendix D.

To conduct the proximity analysis, determine where public parks and recreation sites are located in the county in relation to the population and identify areas where the population has greater or lesser access to public parks and recreational sites. Define a catchment area (set distance from a designated point or points, such as all parks, or individual public aquatic facilities, playgrounds or trailheads) and examine the extent of parks and recreation facilities within the catchment area. Areas found to be outside of catchment areas for a facility should be considered a deficiency, where the population may not have easy access to the type of park or recreational facility being examined.

For counties as a whole, proximity can be shown as areas within 5 miles (a 15-minute drive) from parks and recreation facilities; smaller-scale maps of urban and highly developed areas can show areas within a ½ mile (or some other fraction of a mile) or a set number of city blocks.

In addition to showing parks, the proximity analysis maps should show the default facilities of athletic fields (football/baseball/soccer/other), trails, courts (tennis/basketball/ other), indoor athletic complexes, aquatic facilities, picnic facilities, access to water, and others if the county chooses.

Catchment area size can and should vary depending on the size and population density of areas being examined. The following criteria are suggested for use in defining proximity analysis catchment areas:

*a. Large-scale/rural area/county wide area analysis catchment: 5 miles*

This distance is suggested because it approximates a 15-minute drive and reflects how far a casual park or recreational facility user may travel by car, public transportation or via bicycle or foot to access a particular park or recreational amenity.

*b. Smaller-scale/urban/ highly developed area catchment: 1/2 mile (or some other fraction of a mile) or a set number of city blocks*

Within urban or densely developed areas, it is anticipated that a higher number of park or recreational facility users live and/or work within fairly close proximity to public parks and recreation facilities and likely will not rely on an automobile to travel to and from these places.

Parks and recreation facilities to review and map via a proximity analysis should include the following items, as well as additional parks and recreation amenities of higher importance to be defined by each county within their LPPRP:

*Entire parks and recreation system* – Identify areas where gaps in access to the public parks and recreation system areas exist. Gaps in access will be illustrated through the proximity analysis as those areas shown outside of the defined catchment area.

*Water Access* – Identify areas where gaps in public access to water bodies and waterways exist. Public facilities that provide water access can include beaches, swimming areas, boat ramps and canoe/kayak launches, shoreline or piers open for fishing, etc. DNR’s water access mapper may be used as a supplement to county data to identify these deficiencies:

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/Boating/Pages/water-access/boatramps.aspx>

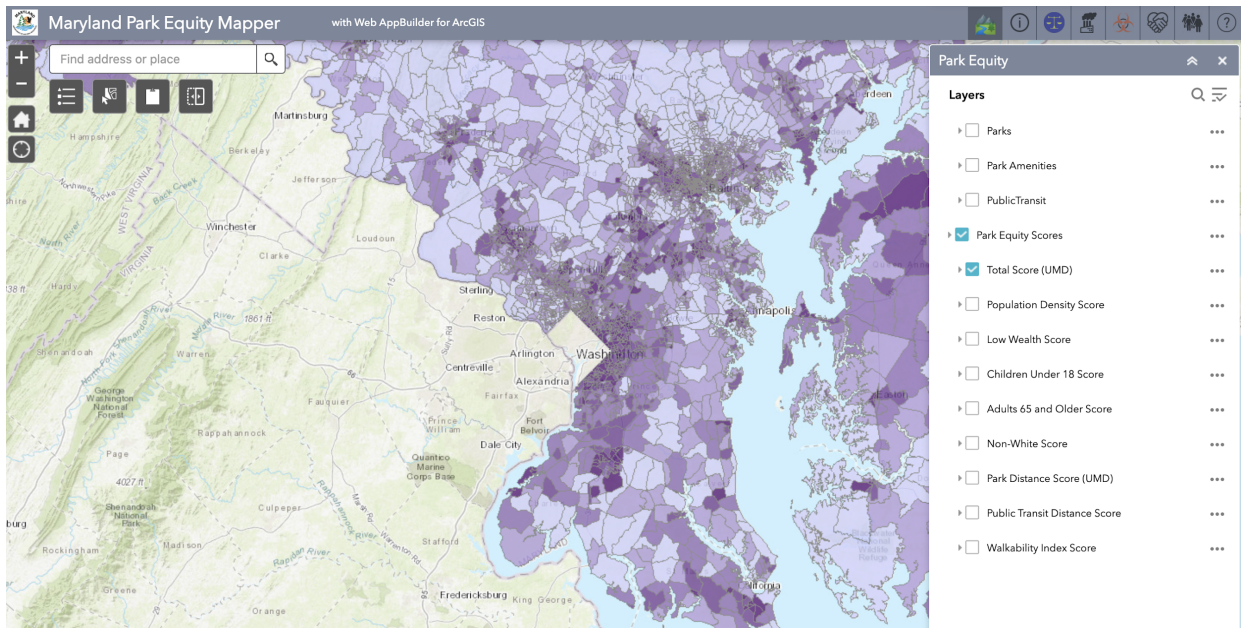
*Trails* – Identify where gaps in public access to trails may exist. For this analysis, any/all types of trails may be examined separately or as a larger grouping. Types of trails to consider should include natural surface hiking or mountain biking trails, bike paths and rail trails, hard-surfaced walking paths, equestrian and off-road vehicle trails and paddling/water trails. It is suggested that the catchment area for these linear amenities be set from managed trail heads or approved points of access where users would most likely gain access to the trail.

*Picnic Facilities* – Identify where gaps in public access to picnic facilities at public parks and recreation facilities may exist. Picnic facilities should generally be considered areas within parks or recreation facilities that provide picnic benches and/or pavilions that can accommodate multiple users or user groups.

*Suggested additional public parks and recreation amenities* to review via proximity analysis include nature areas, sports fields or courts, athletic complexes, aquatic facilities, playgrounds, skate parks, hunting or fishing areas, etc.

**Park Equity Analysis**

The Maryland Park Equity Mapper combines demographic and environmental health data from a variety of sources and maps to identify disparities in park access and quality. This tool can be used by planners and park officials to identify communities in need of more parks, recreation facilities and green space.



- The park equity is built upon data that identifies demographics, park location, amenities in those parks, and the accessibility of the parks. The park data layer is built upon state public lands data as well as local park locations as submitted by the counties in previous LPPRPs. Data is analyzed for amenities, and whether spaces include people-powered activities, nature-based activities, or the presence of both. Through the Analysis, a combined score is computed and illustrated by census tract on a statewide map. Areas with higher combined scores are considered to be those with underserved populations in higher need of additional access to parks and natural areas.

Park Equity Analysis Tool Website: <https://p1.cgis.umd.edu/ParkEquityEJ/>

The Park Equity Analysis is built upon the US Census data analyzed at the Census Tract Block Group level, combined with statewide maps of public and local parks. The model combines the following data layers to generate a combined park equity score.

- Distance to Public Park Space
- Concentration of children under the age of 17
- Concentration of Adults over the age of 65
- Concentration of low-income households
- Concentration of Non-White Population
- Population density
- Distance to Public Transportation
- Walkability

Each of these factors is represented in the model and as a separate data layer, and each also contributes to the combined score. The on-line mapper also includes other important data and mapping tools that may be helpful including MD EJ Score, pollution exposure information (e.g. pollution burden), environmental hazard exposures (e.g. lead paint), sensitive populations (e.g. asthma discharges) as well as other socioeconomic factors. In addition, the tool allows you to create reports, do side by side data comparisons as well as display other context layers such as schools, grocery stores, and additional income data.

## **Appendix F: Additional Considerations**

*Climate change and sea level rise* - Consider identifying areas with critical infrastructure or properties that may be vulnerable to coastal or inland flooding hazards. As sea levels rise, land that is beach or marshland will be inundated and inland forests will become coastal environments. Counties can download the “wetland adaptation areas” from the DNR GreenPrint website and determine whether these areas might be a priority for local land preservation. DNR’s coastal atlas is an additional tool that can be used to identify and map these areas.

[https://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Documents/MARCH-2016\\_MDCoastalResiliencyAssessment.pdf](https://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Documents/MARCH-2016_MDCoastalResiliencyAssessment.pdf)

[https://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Documents/coastalland\\_conserv\\_md.pdf](https://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Documents/coastalland_conserv_md.pdf)

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/coastalatl原因/Pages/default.aspx>

*Source water protection areas as priorities for local land preservation* - In 1999 MDE began a program to assess the vulnerability to contamination of public drinking water sources in Maryland. The plan uses three main tools for assessing the drinking water sources: source water delineation, contaminant surveys, and susceptibility of a water supply source to contaminants that may affect the safety of drinking water.

Counties may wish to analyze source water protection areas using MDE’s GIS data, and whether those areas might be a priority for local land preservation.

[https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water\\_supply/Source\\_Water\\_Assessment\\_Program/Pages/by\\_county.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx)

[https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water\\_supply/Documents/www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/water/swap-new.pdf](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Documents/www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/water/swap-new.pdf)

*Cleaning up brownfield sites for recreational use* - EPA’s webpage on brownfield sites has information on opportunities for grants and technical assistance to safely clean up and reuse contaminated properties: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

Information on RCRA cleanup sites can be accessed through EPA’s webpages:

1. Go to <https://www.epa.gov/cleanups/cleanups-my-community>
2. On this EPA page, scroll down until you see the US map and click on Maryland. You will see a map of hazardous waste cleanup sites. Current RCRA Corrective Actions appear as green squares.
3. Click on the green square. When the name and address of the company appears, click on the blue hyperlinked text “RCRA Corrective Action Profile.” This will give site cleanup and background information.

Additional information on MDE’s Voluntary Cleanup Program can be found here:

[https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/marylandbrownfieldvcv/pages/vcp\\_info.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/marylandbrownfieldvcv/pages/vcp_info.aspx)

*Recreation in State Forests* - DNR’s state forest webpage includes links to the webpages of individual state forests. The opening page of each forest’s website includes information on the recreational opportunities in each forest and links to more information about the forest. The

websites for some state forests include links to annual work plans (AWP) that describe projected recreational activities for that particular state forest or for the region generally.

These Guidelines present, as an option, that counties refer to these forest webpages when creating the LPPRPs.

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/pages/mdforests.aspx>

*Children in Nature* - Maryland's Project Green Classroom is a collaborative effort across the State that works to support school systems as they develop and implement their local environmental literacy programs, fostering collaboration among formal and non-formal educators and to promote nearby nature for all. Public parks can play an important role in getting classrooms and families outside. Include a discussion of goals to support increased access for students and families to natural areas and parkland for both formal and non-formal education opportunities, any partnerships that are in place as well as targeted opportunities for children to connect to natural park spaces.

### **Appendix G: GIS Data Sharing**

DNR maintained GIS datasets available for county use:

1. State protected public lands (DNR owned lands and conservation easements)
2. Campgrounds on DNR lands
3. General points of interest on DNR lands -includes playgrounds, picnic areas, scenic vistas/views
4. Public parking areas at DNR lands, including trailhead parking
5. Maintained structures on DNR lands such as restrooms, shelters and pavilions
6. Maintained roads on DNR lands
7. Public land and water trails
8. Public water access locations (boat ramps and canoe/kayak launches)
9. Public hunting areas on DNR lands
10. Public fishing sites

GIS datasets maintained by DNR can be downloaded from the Maryland GIS Data Catalog (<http://data.imap.maryland.gov>) [Search = "DNR", check the boxes for "Feature Layer" and "Raster Layer" in the "Content Type" filter]

GIS datasets that counties are required to send to DNR for future statewide analysis:

1. County protected public lands (county owned parks, natural areas and lands with agricultural or conservation easements)
2. Land preservation data conforming to CBP’s “Essential Protected Lands Data Standards” in Appendix H. Please add the following three additional data fields that are not within the CBP standard: data field to distinguish between acreage with and without public access, data field to indicate the name of the conservation program used to fund the protection the property (e.g., Rural Legacy Program; note: if there is more than one program used to fund the protection of that property, then list each program separated by a comma) and data field to indicate which of the following iMap categories (descriptions of each category can be found at <https://data.imap.maryland.gov/>) the land falls within (if the protected land type does not fit into one of the following iMap categories, then please enter an alternative category):
  - a. DNR owned lands and conservation easements
  - b. Rural Legacy properties
  - c. Maryland Environmental Trust easements
  - d. Forest Conservation Act easements
  - e. MALPF easements
  - f. Transferable Development Rights
  - g. Purchased Development Rights.
  - h. Local protected lands (includes County Fee Simple Protected Lands, and Protected Open Spaces, e.g., protected HOA areas, remainders, but should not include BMPs/TMDL related easements, mitigation sites).
  - i. Coastal and Estuarine Land conservation program
  - j. Private conservation lands
  - k. Protected federal lands
3. Public land and water trails in county parks and natural areas – include any notes on use restrictions (ex. Hikers only, equestrian, mountain bike, etc.)
4. Parking at county parks and trailheads
5. Public hunting areas in county parks or natural areas (if applicable)
6. County park amenities – such as picnic areas, campgrounds, playgrounds, recreation centers or sports fields
7. Public fishing sites
8. County water access locations (boat ramps and canoe/kayak launches)

Please send datasets to Rodney Vese at [rodney.vesejr@maryland.gov](mailto:rodney.vesejr@maryland.gov).

**Appendix H: Chesapeake Bay Program and Chesapeake Conservation Essential Protected Lands Data Standards**

*See the attached Essential Protected Lands Data Standards and Best Practices*