

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan 2022 Appendices

Note: the full PROS 2022 survey results are reported in a separate “Appendix A.”

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Note: The PROS 2022 Appendices are attached as supplementary materials and should be construed consistent with the text of the main document. If there is any conflict between documents in the appendices and the main document, the language in the main document of PROS 2022 prevails.

Appendix I. The Parks and Recreation System

Montgomery County is the most populous county in the State of Maryland, located adjacent to Washington, D.C. As of the 2020 census, the county's population was 1,055,110, up about 10 percent from 2010. Most of the county's residents live in unincorporated locales, of which the most urban are Silver Spring and Bethesda. The county has a total area of 507 square miles (1,310 km²), of which 491 square miles (1,270 km²) is land and 16 square miles (41 km²) (3.1%) is water.

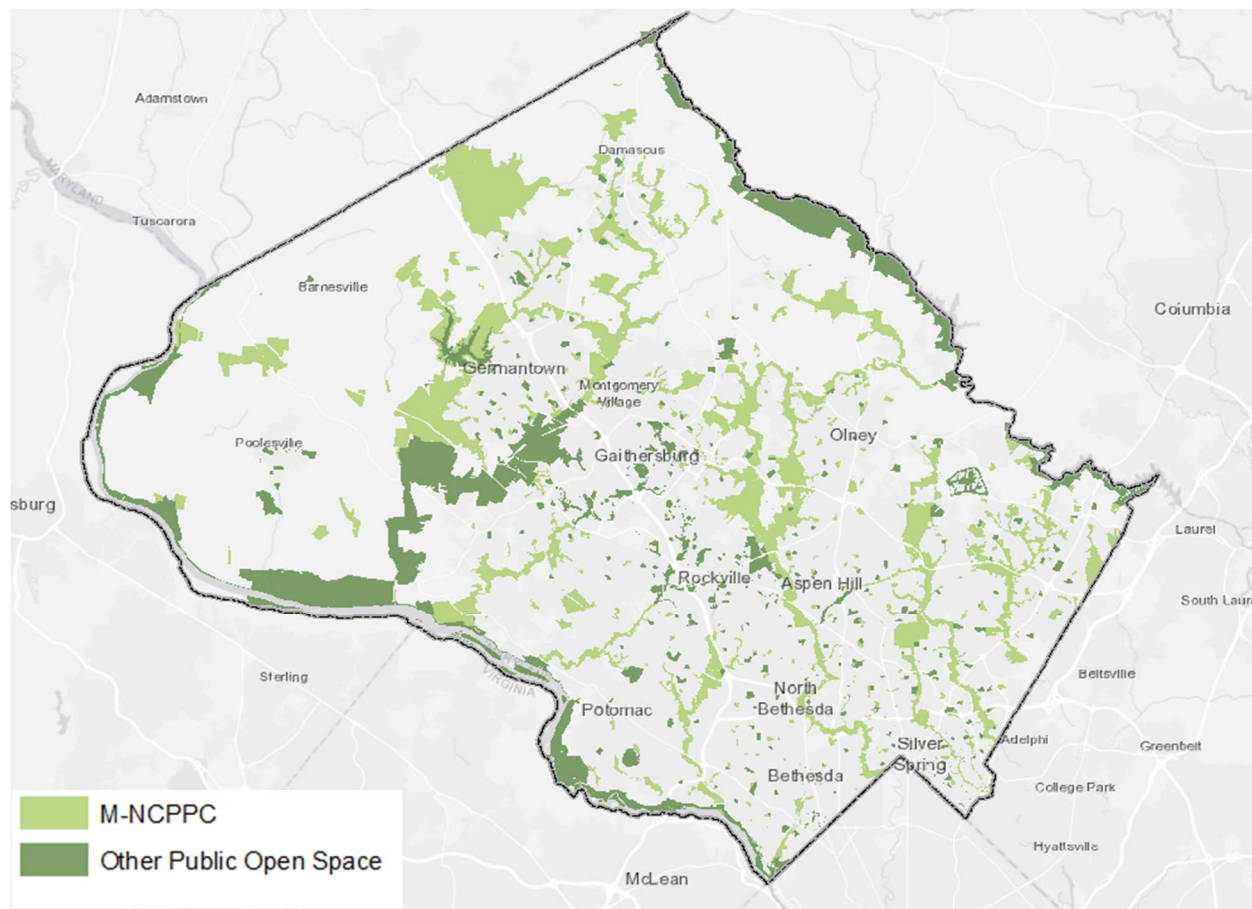


Figure1.1: Existing Public Parks and Recreation Land.

| Categories | M-NCPPC | Montgomery County Public Schools | Montgomery County Government | Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS) | Municipalities | State & Federal | Total Inventory |
|------------|---------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Acres | 36,949 | 3241 | ~4 ¹ | ~30 ¹ | 1,989 | 20,357 | 62,570 |

Table1.1: Existing Public Parks and Recreation Land Size

¹ Disclaimer: Acreage estimates in these columns are approximations of public space boundaries based on aerial imagery.

Park Classification

| PARK TYPE | PARK DESCRIPTION/Major Function | TYPICAL FACILITIES |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| CONSERVATION AREA PARKS | <p>Large natural areas acquired to preserve specific natural archaeological, and/or historic features. These parks also provide opportunities for compatible recreational activities.</p> <p>Conservation Area Parks are typically located in upland areas and acquired specifically for environmental preservation purposes. Conservation area parks may include outstanding examples of natural communities, populations of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, or unique archaeological and historical resources.</p> <p>Given the sensitive nature of the resources in conservation parks, any proposed addition of infrastructure or amenities is carefully planned and designed to ensure protection of these resources when providing active and social gathering opportunities such as trails, fishing, camping or picnic areas, public access, and the like. Opportunities for interpretation of protected environmental, historic, and archeological elements include self-guided nature trails, interpretive signage, and nature programs.</p> | Trails, fishing and camping areas, nature study areas, and informal picnic areas. |
| STREAM VALLEY PARKS | <p>Linear parks along major stream valleys providing conservation and recreation areas.</p> <p>Stream Valley Parks form the foundation of the park system, extending as throughout the urban, suburban and rural areas, putting the natural environment within reach of residents.</p> <p>Stream valley parks reduce flooding, sedimentation, and erosion, and provided valuable wildlife habitat. Some stream valleys,</p> | Trails, fishing, picnicking, play areas. |

| PARK TYPE | PARK DESCRIPTION/Major Function | TYPICAL FACILITIES |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| | <p>such as the Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley, are also designated as special protection areas.</p> <p>In urban areas, clusters of active recreation facilities in parks adjacent to stream valley parks were developed many years ago to serve as local parks. More recent environmental regulations now limit or prevent intensive development along stream banks to reduce sedimentation and erosion and environmental degradation caused by urban runoff.</p> <p>New facilities and upgrades to aging facilities are evaluated to assess the balance of providing recreational opportunities and the protection of natural resources.</p> | |
| SPECIAL PARKS | <p>Parks acquired for their historic or culturally significant features that activate parks and have distinguishing characteristics that set them apart from other park types. They can be parks of a specialized character such as equestrian parks, formal gardens, and Rails-to-Trails Parks.</p> <p>Examples of Special Parks in the County include McCrillis Gardens, Woodlawn Manor House, Rockwood Manor Park, and the Agricultural History Farm Park. They are often used for small conferences, social events, specialized education, and art exhibits.</p> <p>Important historic sites are preserved in all types of parks. Examples of these are the Silver Spring in Acorn Urban Park, Woodlawn Manor House with its smoke house, and the Needwood Mansion.</p> | <p>Variable, but may include agricultural centers, gardens, small conference centers, historic and cultural sites, museums, and historic park rental properties.</p> |
| RECREATIONAL PARKS | <p>Large parks that are more intensively developed than Regional Parks but may also contain natural areas.</p> <p>Physical activity is the main emphasis of this park type, but social and contemplative</p> | <p>May include athletic fields, playing courts, picnicking, dog parks, play areas, trails, natural areas, and</p> |

| PARK TYPE | PARK DESCRIPTION/Major Function | TYPICAL FACILITIES |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| | <p>opportunities are also considered. This category includes parks with intensive active development such as ballfield, sport courts, and play areas.</p> <p>Design considerations include access to sunlight and connection to the network of public spaces, and protection from the wind, traffic, and noise. In more urbanizing areas, these parks tend to be smaller than other recreational parks and the size of the facilities and multiple functions are studied to optimize use of parkland and serve diverse populations.</p> | <p>sitting areas and flexible grassy open space. In more urbanizing areas include more flexible spaces.</p> <p>Programming may include farmer's markets, outdoor exercise classes, and community yard sales. There is often space for a safe drop-off area and nearby accessible parking.</p> |
| REGIONAL PARKS | <p>Large parks that provide a wide range of recreational opportunities combining active, contemplative, and social gathering experiences.</p> <p>Regional Parks maintain a large proportion of parkland dedicated to conservation, while providing space for a diversity of recreational activities. <i>A Policy for Parks</i> (see Appendix 7) has established a standard of setting aside 2/3 of regional park areas as natural or conservation areas to preserve enough habitat to support healthy ecosystems. The Parks Department has discretion, with Planning Board approval, to adjust this standard on a case-by-case basis after careful review of environmental impacts.</p> <p>Montgomery County has five developed regional parks offering a variety of recreation opportunities within a reasonable travel time of most County residents totaling around 7,629 acres.</p> | <p>Picnic / playground areas, tennis courts, athletic fields, golf course, campgrounds, natural areas, and lake-based recreation areas.</p> |
| LOCAL PARKS | <p>Local Parks serve the adjacent neighborhood and also may contain amenities that serve the residents countywide. This type of park is</p> | <p>Permitted and non-permitted ballfields, playing courts, sport-</p> |

| PARK TYPE | PARK DESCRIPTION/Major Function | TYPICAL FACILITIES |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| | <p>primarily programmed for physical and activity, with supporting programming and contemplative opportunities.</p> <p>Most existing Local Parks provide regulation size athletic fields that can be reserved for game play. New parks in urbanizing areas may not be able to accommodate regulation size facilities but will provide alternative ways to enjoy physical activity in smaller fields or courts on a first-come, first-serve basis.</p> <p>Many down-county parks include small recreation centers that are used for classes, social events, and other similar activities. Some parks also include other facilities, such as swimming pools. Some of these parks, such as Sligo-Dennis, are located adjacent to Stream Valley Park areas and provide both active and contemplative recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Local parks provide facilities for many programs sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department and are often adjacent to schools, providing additional play space for students.</p> | <p>specific and multi-use courts, sitting/picnic area, shelters, buildings, and other facilities.</p> <p>Programming can include farmer's markets, outdoor exercise classes, and community yard sales. There is space for a safe drop-off area and nearby accessible parking for those who cannot walk to the park.</p> |
| NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS | <p>These parks are generally walk-to parks, providing informal leisure opportunities and recreation serving residents and workers. Existing neighborhood parks typically provide about five acres of open space developed with a sitting area, playground, informal play field, and sport courts. These parks provide a flexible space that supports social connections, physical activities and access to nature serving mostly local residents and nearby workers.</p> | <p>Lawn area, play field, shading sitting, shelter, sport courts. (Typically, do not include regulation-size ballfields).</p> <p>May include a play area, a skate park, a community garden, or similar facilities.</p> |
| URBAN PARKS | <p>Urban parks are strategically located to allow access by walking and biking to and from public transit and other complementary land uses to support the goals of encouraging physical activity, facilitating social connection,</p> | <p>Central lawn or hardscape as focal point, sunny and shaded seating areas, public art (explore interactive</p> |

| PARK TYPE | PARK DESCRIPTION/Major Function | TYPICAL FACILITIES |
|-----------|---|---|
| | <p>accessing nature, and promoting economic prosperity.</p> <p>Some urban parks are the “heart and civic center” of urbanizing areas emphasizing social gatherings, while others provide complementary uses and functions emphasizing nature-contemplation or physical activity. Some parks located in larger urban areas, including Bethesda, Silver Spring, Friendship Heights, White Flint and Wheaton generally serve as destination parks.</p> | <p>installations with education component), trails or walkways (loops encouraged); a variety of sizes and scales of playing courts and areas for physical activities, multifunctional structures.</p> <p>Features that incorporate nature, history, and/or cultural elements.</p> |

Neighborhood Conservation Areas

The 2022 PROS Plan Parks Classification system retains the Neighborhood Conservation Area category for existing parks, but strongly recommends against applying this classification to newly acquired parkland. Many of these parcels were acquired when conservation laws and natural resource preservation tools were not fully developed, so the approach at that time was to acquire these areas to preserve patches of forest and other natural areas. The existing inventory frequently contains streams and drainage areas and adjacent wooded slopes.

Parking in Parks

Where multiple transportation options such as walking, biking and transit are readily available, parks should not contain dedicated parking lots. Provide shared parking on streets and at nearby surface parking lots and garages where possible. In more remote and less dense areas, consider providing adequate parking to ensure access.

Temporary Parks and Interim Parks

A *temporary park* is a type of park created for a certain period of time in a location that is not currently planned as a future public space. An *interim park* is implemented in a short time frame on a site that is actively being designed for a future permanent public space. Staff can use these temporary facilities to collect information on programming and functions to inform the design of the long-term public space.

Both temporary and interim parks can also provide opportunities to partner with local businesses and non-profits to engage with the community in creative ways to deliver places for social gathering, active or contemplative experiences while building a sense of community and belonging at the location.

When feasible, new parks should consider implementation of temporary or interim parks.

State Goals for Parks and Recreation

The following State goals for recreation and parks should be considered appropriate supplementary objectives to be considered in addition to the goals outline in this plan:

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

Local Goals for Parks and Recreation

The drafting of [*Thrive Montgomery 2050*](#) generated a fresh reconceptualization of the County's goals for the planning and development of recreation and parks. These include:

- Focus on creating high quality urban parks.
- Use park and recreation facilities/programs to promote active lifestyles.
- Ensure that parks and recreation opportunities are equitably distributed along racial, socioeconomic, and geographic lines.
- Make social connection a central objective for parks and recreation.
- Update park facility standards and acquisition strategies to align with infill development and adaptive reuse strategies.
- Coordinate with county agencies to accommodate multiple needs, including recreation, education, community-building, and resource stewardship - through colocation, adaptive reuse, co-programming and other combined or shared land and facilities.
- Maintain high standards of environmental stewardship in park management and operations.
- Integrate parks/rec/public spaces into economic development strategies and land use planning to attract employers and workers, build social connections, encourage healthy lifestyles, and create vibrant places, especially as part of Complete Communities.

Current Challenges & Benefits of Parks

The Parks Department has built a well-deserved reputation for environmental stewardship, and it has made progress in providing a wider range of recreational opportunities, such as cricket, to meet the needs of a more culturally diverse population. It has room, however, for improvement:

- Our highest density areas are far from most parkland, which is difficult to reach without access to a car.
- Conservation-oriented parks can include carefully designed trails and other low impact recreation areas; however, many of these parks lack appropriate access for hikers and bikers, limiting their availability to the greater public.
- Parks conceived as buffers often act as separators rather than gathering places for people.
- Park facility standards and acquisition strategies conceived during a period of greenfield expansion are incompatible with infill development and adaptive reuse of sites.

Meanwhile, the role of land conservation and stewardship in addressing the county's environmental sustainability goals is as important as ever. Urban redevelopment and infill will reduce the environmental impact of future growth by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and help reverse the damage from earlier development by incorporating modern state-of-the-practice stormwater management features. Nonetheless, the environmental performance of green infrastructure on public land must keep getting better to improve water quality, limit property damage and erosion from flooding, and add tree and forest cover.

In addition to maintaining its leadership role in environmental management, the Parks Department must continue to take on new roles:

- Improve service to residents of downtowns, town centers, and other intensively developed areas
- Focus on social engagement and community building as a central role of parks and recreation
- Encourage vigorous physical activity for people of all ages, abilities, and cultures Over the coming decades, our challenge is to acquire, develop and program parks, recreation, and privately owned public spaces that provide a range of active recreation and community building opportunities throughout the most intensively developed parts of the county while continuing to apply sound environmental stewardship practices to public lands.

Appendix 2. Public Parks and Recreation Properties

| Categories | M-NCPPC | Montgomery County Public Schools | Montgomery County Government | Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS) | Municipalities | State & Federal | Total Inventory |
|---|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| TRAIL MILES: | | | | | | | |
| Paved Trails | 81.57 | n/a | 6.81 | 1.08 | 11.07 | 46.73 | 147.26 |
| Natural Trails | 206.30 | n/a | 4.90 | - | 0.53 | 47.84 | 259.57 |
| OUTDOOR AMENITIES: | | | | | | | |
| Picnic Shelters | 174.00 | 12.00 | 3.00 | 1.00 | 52.00 | 6.00 | 248.00 |
| Playgrounds | 307.00 | 367.00 | 17.00 | 10.00 | 93.00 | 8.00 | 802.00 |
| Baseball Fields | 16.20 | 6.00 | 4.00 | - | 21.00 | | 47.20 |
| Softball Fields | 107.40 | 167.40 | 3.00 | 6.00 | 30.00 | 2.00 | 315.80 |
| Multi-Purpose Rectangular Fields (Small-Medium) | 4.80 | 14.40 | 1.00 | n/a | 10.00 | 1.00 | 31.20 |
| Multi-Purpose Rectangular Fields (Large) | 116.40 | 79.80 | 8.00 | 7.00 | 22.00 | 1.00 | 234.20 |
| Cricket Fields | 8.00 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 8.00 |
| Sand Volleyball Courts | 12.00 | 1.00 | n/a | 1.00 | 7.00 | 1.00 | 22.00 |
| Tennis Courts | 285.00 | 361.00 | 16.00 | 4.00 | 91.00 | 1.00 | 758.00 |
| Pickleball Courts | 56.00 | 47.00 | n/a | n/a | 26.00 | n/a | 129.00 |
| Basketball Courts (Full & Half) | 210.00 | 432.50 | 12.00 | 3.00 | 64.00 | 2.50 | 724.00 |
| Community Gardens | 13.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 9.00 | 2.00 | 32.00 |
| Skate Park | 3.00 | n/a | 1.00 | n/a | 5.00 | n/a | 9.00 |
| Dog Parks | 7.00 | n/a | n/a | 2.00 | 5.00 | n/a | 14.00 |
| INDOOR AMENITIES: | | | | | | | |
| Indoor Recreation Space (Square Feet) | 602,783.00 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 602,783.00 |
| Indoor Aquatic Space (Square Feet) | 167,430.00 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 167,430.00 |
| Special Use Facilities (Square Feet) | 373,929.00 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 373,929.00 |

Table 1.2: Existing Recreational Facilities within Public Parks and Recreation Properties. Special Use Facilities include activity buildings, event centers, nature centers, and historic buildings that are available to the general public

Note: GIS database of all facilities and parkland was provided to DNR digitally. The database provides detailed info on facilities by type, park name, size, and ownership.

Appendix 3. New and redeveloped urban parks since 2017

Below is a list of the major urban parks projects that have completed milestones since 2017, including several park renovations/upgrades and one newly constructed park.

Renovated and Updated Parks

- Kemp Mill Urban Park: Construction was completed in 2017
- Woodside Urban Park
 - Facility Planning began in 2021 to re-assess the park design based on a reduced budget.
 - If the facility plan is approved, design is estimated for completion in 2023 and construction estimated for completion in 2024
- Caroline Freeland Urban Park
 - Design began in 2021 and is estimated for completion in 2022
 - Construction is estimated for completion in 2023
- Battery Lane Urban Park
 - Park improvements (tennis, basketball, playground, trail, fitness equipment) were completed in 2019

Newly Constructed Parks

- Gene Lynch Urban Park
 - Construction began in 2021 and is estimated for completion in 2022

Park Acquisitions since 2017

Since the 2017 PROS Plan, several acquisitions of new parkland have been completed in areas that serve the County's most populated communities. Here are a few examples.

Josiah Henson Park and Museum Expansion

- Recommended in the Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan, 2010
- Acquired 0.6 acres of land to expand this significant historic and archaeological park in the I-270 Corridor

Capital Crescent Civic Green (Urban Park)

- Recommended in the Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan, 2017
- Acquired 0.4 acres at end of the Purple Line in Bethesda to create Civic Green at a vibrant urban crossroads with transit, Metro, trails in a growing mixed-use community

Willard Avenue Neighborhood Park Expansion

- Recommended based on need for new park amenities near Friendship Heights and the border with Washington, DC.
- Acquired 0.25 acres of urban land to improve park trails, access and visibility, and maintenance access

Westbard Urban Recreational Park

- Recommended in the Westbard Sector Plan, 2014
- Acquired 1.6 acres to provide key urban recreational amenities adjacent to the Capital Crescent Trail in a redeveloping community

Ridge Road Recreational Park

- Recommended as the final parcel to complete the envisioned Ridge Road Recreational Park started over 30 years ago

- Acquired one acre to provide access to northeast corner of Park that will allow future priority park amenities, such as an improved dog park and a community garden, to serve the I-270 corridor

Wheaton Urban Recreational Park

- Recommended in the Wheaton Central Business District and Vicinity Sector Plan, 2012
- Acquired 3.8 acres to benefit affordable housing development and create new urban recreational park via a future land exchange

South Silver Spring Urban Recreational Park

- Recommended in Energized Public Spaces FMP, 2018
- Acquired one acre to provide critical space for active and social gathering park amenities in a traditionally underserved, diverse, and growing community in South Silver Spring

Appendix 4. Public Engagement and Outreach

Public Meetings

Starting June 2019, Montgomery Planning has engaged the Montgomery County community to imagine what life will be like in 2050 to inform the development of the new General Plan, *Thrive Montgomery 2050*, and what is needed to allow us to thrive in the decades to come.

Thrive Montgomery 2050, which includes a chapter on parks, involved extensive public outreach, including 32 presentations, 18 one-on-one interview/conversations, 6 meetings, 16 community events (Details can be found [Thrive Montgomery 2050 Outreach](#)²).



On December 9, 2021, the draft PROS plan was presented and briefed for the Planning Board review. Additionally, during the fall, 2022, on-line Town Hall survey was conducted to solicit feedback on PROS recommendations and public's interest for recommendation prioritization.

Surveys

During the development of the 2022 *PROS Plan*, Parks pledged to “engage a diverse community and proactively respond to changing demographics, needs, and trends”. Montgomery County demographic trends that helped shape the outreach methods for the 2022 *PROS Plan* include:

Increasing racial and ethnic diversity, with a projected growth in minority groups

A large and widely diverse foreign-born population speaking a multitude of languages and varying English speaking proficiencies

² <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/master-plan-list/general-plans/thrive-montgomery-2050/thrive-montgomery-outreach/>

For the 2022 *PROS Plan*, a great deal of input was collected through a variety of methods. Montgomery Parks launched a multi-pronged outreach strategy in summer 2021 to engage diverse communities for input about the future of parks and recreation. The initiative, titled “*Powered by Parks*”, was aimed at soliciting public input to inform three separate venue: Consultant’s randomized mail out survey, park staff’s intercept survey and on-line survey.

Randomized Mail (831 responses), Intercept (825 responses), On-line (164 responses), MCPS On-line³ (approx. 200 responses) surveys were analyzed to create the recommendations. Details can be found [Finding Report](#)⁴, [Open-Ended Comments](#)⁵, [Comparison of On-line, Intercept, Randomized Mail Survey](#)⁶.

After the first draft plan, Townhall survey⁶ was conducted (131 responses) to indicate top priorities that contribute to high quality of life when dealing with parks and open spaces.



³ https://montgomeryparks.org/projects/public-input/#peak_democracy

⁴ https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.montgomeryparks.org/uploads/2021/11/2021-M-NCPPC-Survey_Report-1.pdf

⁵ <https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.montgomeryparks.org/uploads/2021/11/randomized-survey-outcomes.pdf>

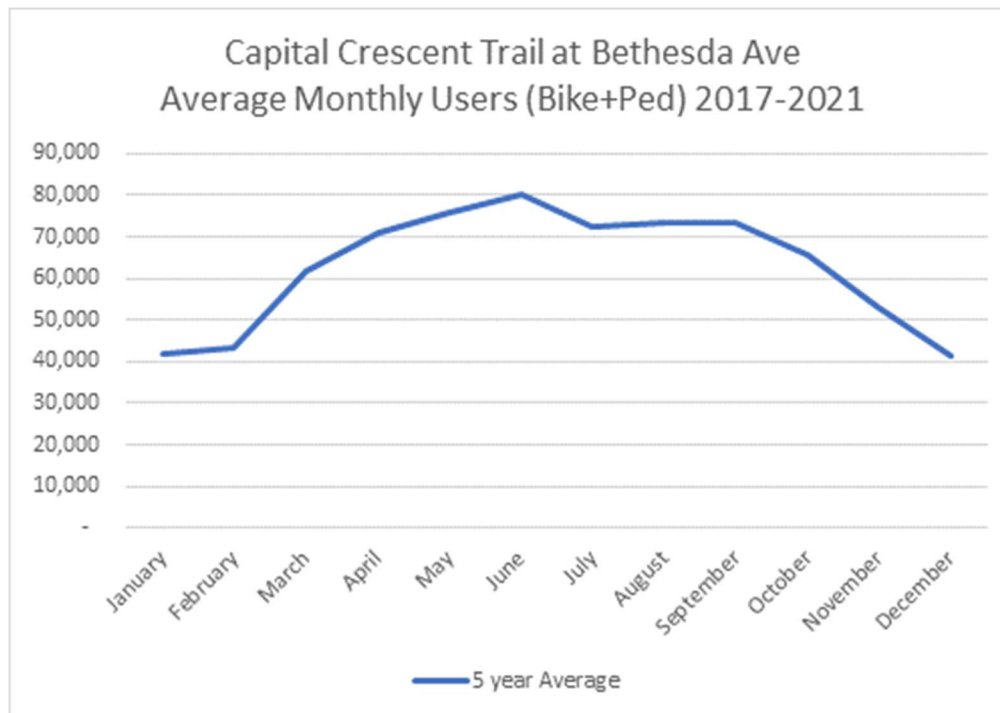
⁶ <https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.montgomeryparks.org/uploads/2021/11/Comparison-randomized-intercept-online-surveys.pdf>

⁶ https://www.opentownhall.com/portals/260/Issue_11473/survey_responses

Total number of program participations/registrations annually

Montgomery County Parks has 305,835 total program participants. Following illustrates other participation data and tools. External resources is available for measuring user demand such as [‘Visitation to the C& O Canal National Historic Park’](#), [‘Maryland Park Service Annual Report’](#)

Trail Trends



Capital Crescent Trail at Bethesda Ave Average Annual Users: 759,350

| | Capital Crescent Trail #1@ Bethesda Ave | Capital Crescent Trail #2 @ Dalecarlia | Rock Creek Trail 1 @ Wildwood | Rock Creek Trail 2 @ Baltimore | Matthew Henson Trail 1 @ Layhill |
|------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Monday | 1907 | 1573 | 507 | 1149 | 483 |
| Tuesday | 1908 | 1588 | 515 | 1051 | 188 |
| Wednesday | 1944 | 1588 | 490 | 1007 | 170 |
| Thursday | 1859 | 1524 | 473 | 1033 | 179 |
| Friday | 1872 | 1443 | 431 | 947 | 611 |
| Saturday | 2594 | 1955 | 856 | 1261 | 591 |
| Sunday | 2614 | 2010 | 777 | 1309 | 276 |

Average trail users, by day of the week at five trail locations, 2017-2021. Source: Eco-Counter

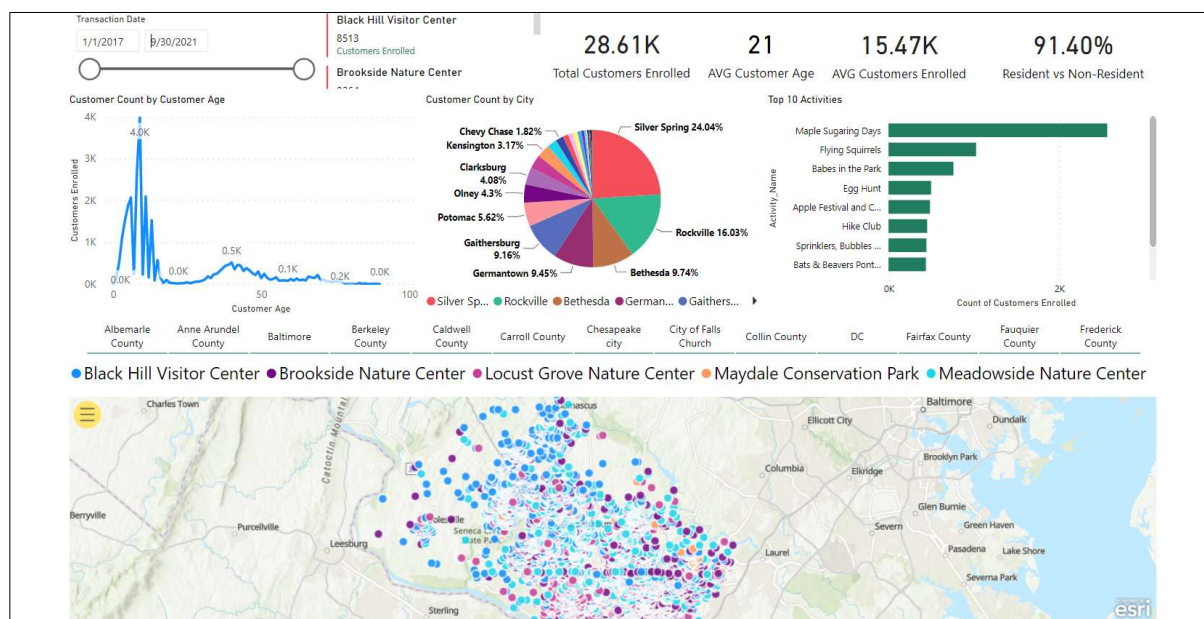
Capital Crescent Trail at Bethesda Ave Average Users (Bike+Ped) 2017-2021

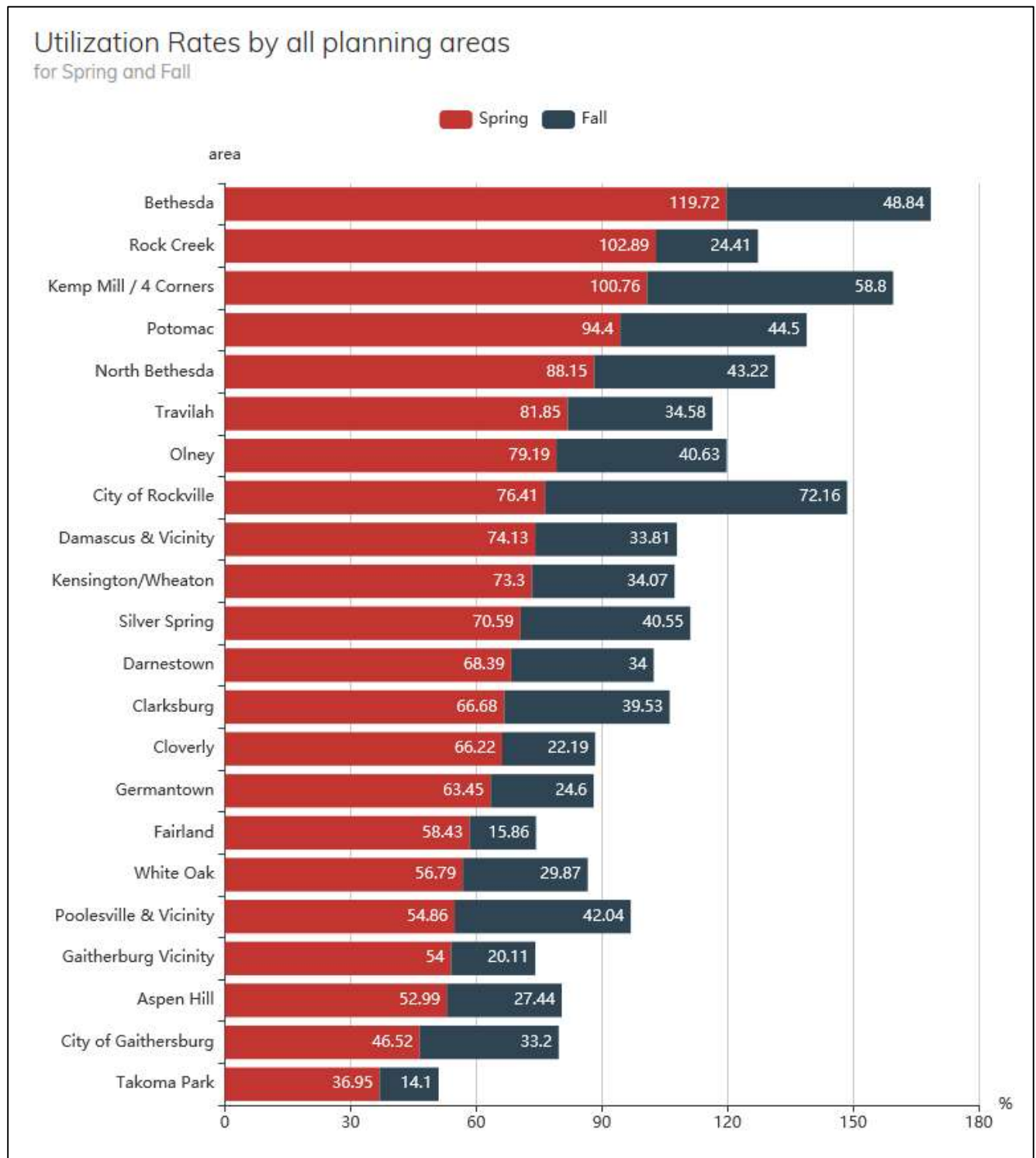
| Month | Average Monthly Users |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| January | 42,000 |
| February | 43,500 |
| March | 61,800 |
| April | 70,700 |
| May | 76,000 |
| June | 78,000 |
| July | 72,400 |
| August | 73,260 |
| September | 73,300 |
| October | 65,750 |
| November | 53,125 |
| December | 41,200 |

Community Garden Wait List 2022

| Park Name | Number of Wait List Requests |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bradley Park | 47 |
| Briggs Chaney | 38 |
| Brink Road | 37 |
| Fenton Street Urban Park | 30 |
| Nolte Local Park | 10 |
| Gaynor Road | 26 |
| King Street | 26 |
| Long Branch Local Park | 16 |
| Parklawn | 10 |
| Rocking Horse Center | 37 |
| Sligo Mill Overlook | 16 |
| South Germantown Recreational Park | 67 |

Nature Center User Demographics



Athletic Fields Permit Data *(All permittable fields under Community Use of Public Facilities)*

Appendix 5 - M-NCPPC's Approach Park Access, Experiences and Equity Analysis, Park Visitation, and Level of Service Analysis

Overview

As mentioned in Chapter 6, the Parks Department gathers a wide variety of information about parks and facilities, and it has devoted resources to adding more sophisticated data collection capabilities such as GIS-driven park accessibility from a grid system, trail counters, anonymized and aggregated cell phone traffic measurement, and advanced park permit software.

2018 Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan

The 2017 *Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan* introduced a new policy document that focuses on the delivery of parks and open spaces in higher density areas of the County - the [2018 Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan](#)

[\(EPS Plan\)](#) and its associated [2019 Designing Public Spaces Design Guidelines](#).

The EPS Plan applies an innovative methodology and framework to identify areas with the highest need for parks and open spaces and recommends opportunities to increase the amount and quality of parks and open space in those communities. This Plan promotes public spaces as platforms where people can share experiences and build a sense of community. As participants noted during the listening and visioning sessions, Silver Spring needs more parks for physical activity. The EPS Plan implemented data analysis, a new user-friendly metric, and scenario testing layers to support this need and enhance our park planning analysis during the planning process.

Data-Driven Methodology and Tool

The EPS Plan maps and scores the community's access to parks and open spaces by identifying and quantifying what we have, where we have it, and how to get more of what we need. The tool measures how accessible a variety of public space amenities are from a given spot in the plan via walking. The plan's methodology and approach to mapping outdoor experiences will contribute to this sector plan as well as park-specific plans and park planning studies in the Study Area. By further prioritizing parks implementation selection combining the mapping of our Experience Improvement Areas (EIAs) with the overlay of the Equity Focus Areas (EFAs) this Plan will also contribute to the efforts initiated by County Council on Racial Equity and Social Justice.

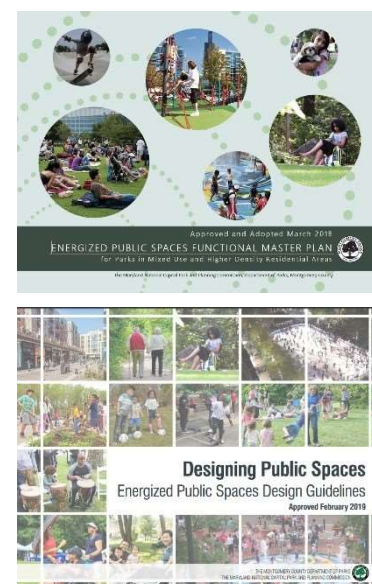


Figure 5.1- EPS Functional Master and associated Design Guidelines

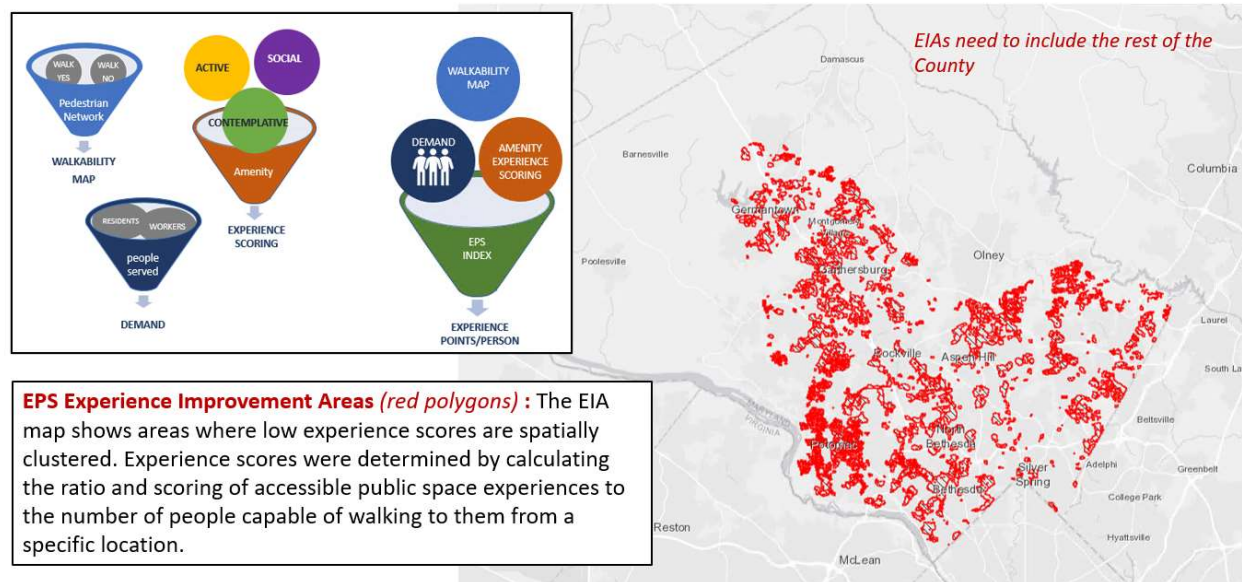


Figure 5.2 - Summary Illustration of Methodology Elements

EPS Plan Methodology Elements

1 - WALKABILITY MAP:

Creating a flexible and adaptable grid system – A regular grid system allows an equal comparison of supply and demand relationships for the many different areas of the county and different districts within the same sector plan. Accessibility is defined as within a 10-minute walkshed from each one-acre cell in the County, and the number of people is determined by how many people live and work in each one-acre cell in the County.

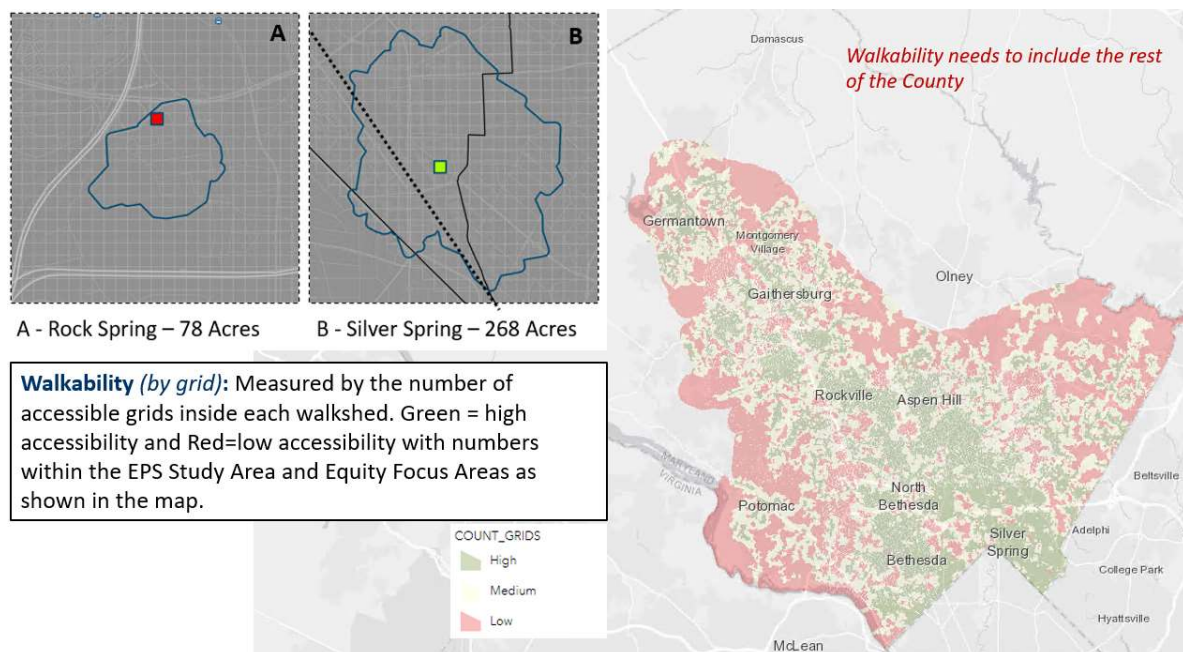


Figure 5.3 - Walkability Map

2 - SUPPLY:

Supply of all publicly accessible parks and public space independently of ownership. The methodology evaluates how each recreational amenity within the open space network provides for three outdoor experiences shown in Figure 3.

The tool applies a 3-value system focused on accessibility to outdoor experiences that benefit our overall health. An experience value is applied to all amenities based on 3 major categories of recreation:



Figure 5.4 - EPS Experiences Classification

Active Experiences: physical activities that promote physical health

- Play sports or games; run, walk, or bicycle; climb or mountain bike; other outdoor exercises
- Trails, athletic fields, open spaces/lawns, sport courts, playgrounds, interactive elements, natural areas

Contemplative Experiences: improve exposure to nature, history and culture, and provide opportunities for education and stewardship

- Enjoy nature, read a book, or learn something new; relax/meditate/reflect.
- Include natural areas, historic sites, benches, shade trees, community open spaces, gardens, small green spaces, or trails

Social Gathering Experiences: opportunities for social gathering and interaction

- Community festivals, concerts, outdoor movies, parades, farmer's markets, historic sites
- Use plazas with seating, small sport courts, amphitheaters/stages, picnic tables, large community open spaces, dog parks

3 - DEMAND:

The demand data is a sum of single-family and multi-family residents and daytime population estimates within each square grid.

New Metric: EPS Experience Index Results

An experience value, measured as points-per-person, is assigned based on how each amenity ranks as an active, contemplative, or social gathering experience. Experience scores were determined by calculating the ratio of accessible public space experiences to the number of people capable of accessing them from a specific location. A high ratio, meaning a high rate of walkable experiences per person results in a high score for a cell, while a low ratio results in a low score. Areas with low score are called Experience Improvement Areas (EIAs) (see Figure 2) and are the focus of prioritization of park resources as one filter to be used in the CIP Strategy and recommendations for overall park studies, including sector plans.

Equity and Experience Improvement Areas

The map below highlights the overlap between Equity Focus Areas and Experience Improvement Areas. The areas where these two filters overlap are ideal sites to be prioritized along with all other filters listed in the chapter 6 – Implementation.

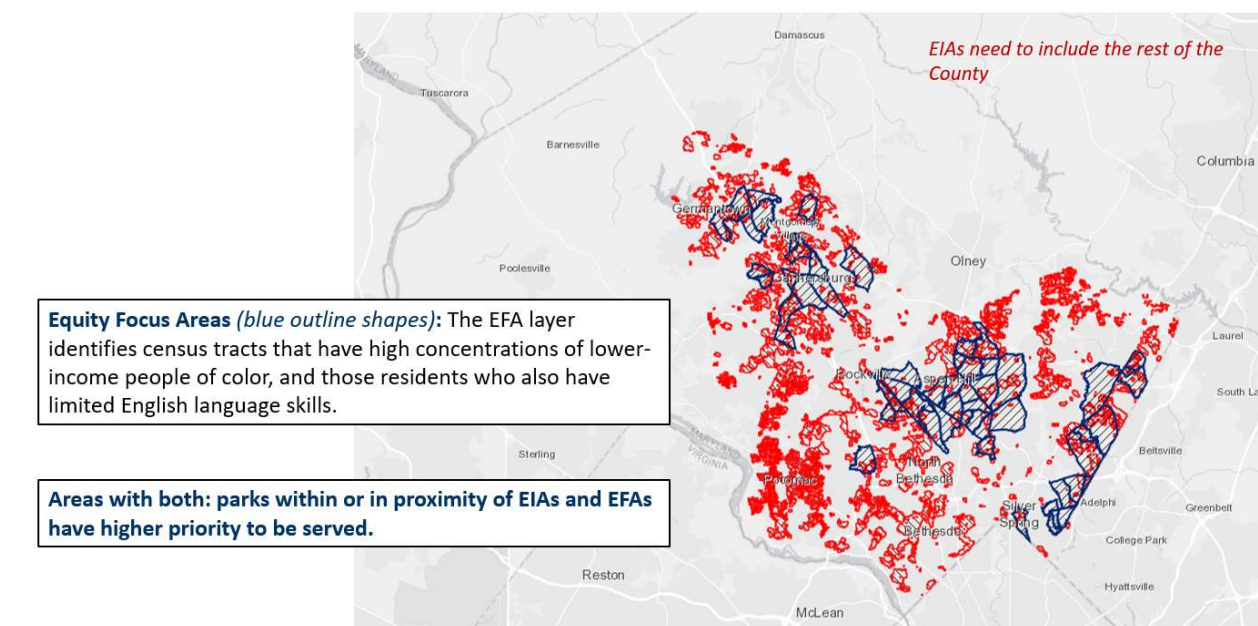


Figure 5.5 - Map illustrating the overlap between Equity Focus Areas and Experience Improvement Areas

Park Visitation

Data Collection in large scale - Montgomery County Parks (M-NCPPC) has measured park visitation using a number of techniques in the past. These include the use of sensor placement on trails or entrances, trash collection metrics, and facility rental data.

In the past couple years, the department has begun evaluating a new technology that has great potential to measure our entire system for the same time periods. This new technology is delivered through several vendors, but all are based on collected GPS location data captured through the various applications present on cell phones.

Various vendors can process this immense amount of cloud data to certain pedestrian, bicycle or driving trips. These trips are a representative sample that is a proxy for an actual number of people traveling into various parks and trails. But the power of this data lies in the fact that the tool can measure the number of trips for each facility for the same periods. Existing physical sensor use can only be employed in one place at a time otherwise.

Montgomery Parks' pilot efforts in this area have been able to show what parks are trending up or down during various time periods. For example, certain parks during Covid closures in 2020 went down dramatically. And others went up. Downtown parks showed a down trend for 2020. The same was observed for parks adjacent to schools that were used largely as a school amenity.

For trails, the use of counters has been somehow successful, but this technology is expensive and requires maintenance of the counters and staff time to retrieve information. Currently Parks has been trying to capture park visitation through big data providers such as Streetlight and CityDash and also the creation of an algorithm based on counters and manual data collection mixed with field observation. Each approach has its strengths and weaknesses. Below is a summary of each study with associated pros and cons. Currently Parks is exploring CityDash since it seems to be a less expensive alternative and offer more flexibility on the targeted outcomes.

George Mason University (GMU) Study

The GMU park visitation study was performed in 2020. The study took place at the following locations: Black Hill Regional Park, Germantown Town Center Urban Park, Long Branch Local Park, and Ten Mile Creek Trail. In the study GMU monitored the activities at the locations, while observing and surveying park patrons. The study focused on key metrics such as time of day, day of the week, race, activity, and weather.

Both CityDash and StreetLight are big data providers that measure visitation based on the segment of population that carries mobile devices and has location tracking permitted.

StreetLight

M-NCPPC entered into a contract with Streetlight in June of 2020. Three years of visitation data was acquired (2018, 2019, and 2020). The data is referenced to M-NCPPC parks and trails as tracked in GIS layers. The data for the Streetlight study can be found in both ArcGIS Online and Power BI dashboards. Users (Montgomery Parks staff) can view visitation trends for parks and trails such as the most and least visited trails.

CityDash

The Data Analytics Team explored a sample visitation dataset provided by CityDash to review the visitation trends of three parks: Black Hill Regional Park, Germantown Town Center Urban Park, and Long Branch Local Park. The sample visitation data spanned 8 weeks in 2021. The emphasis of the exploration was on how visitation trends change, daily/hourly visitation, and visitor origins (Census block groups) that enable Equity Focus Areas and assumed demographics of visitors to be utilized for staff to better understand what parks serve which visitors and what communities are underserved by parks. The demographic findings were compared to that of the overall County and the GMU study. Montgomery Parks is currently in the process of securing a contract with CityDash for visitation data from 2019 to 2024, which will expand the exploration of the data beyond the limits of the sample in the future.

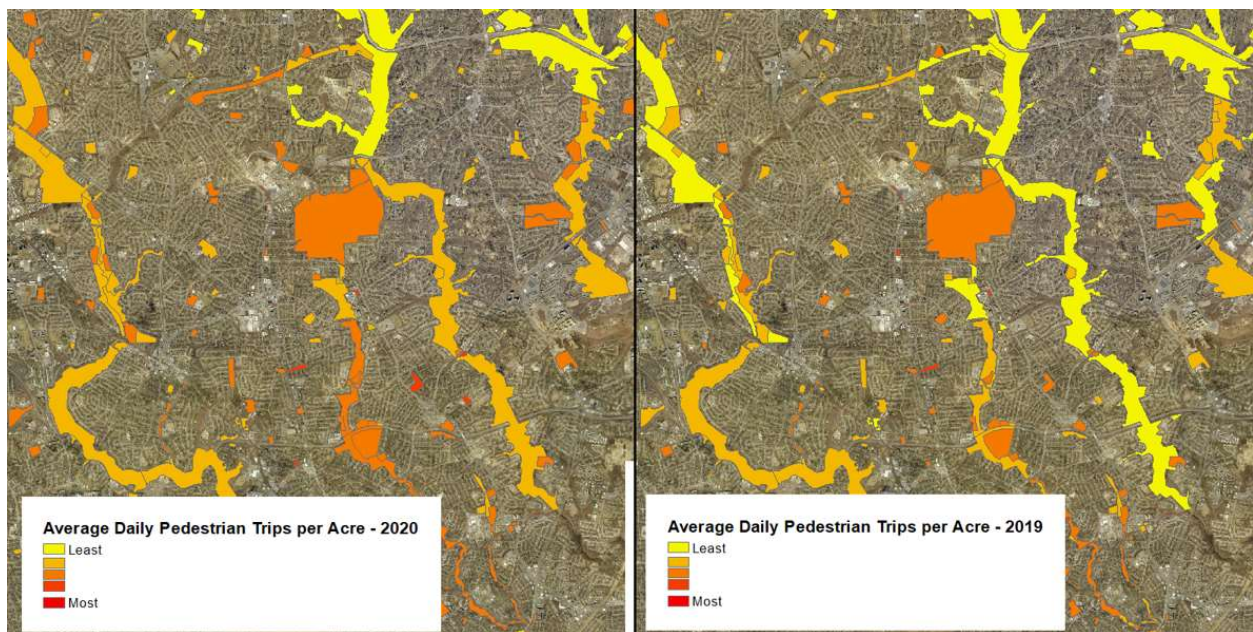


Figure 5.6 - Example of park visitation collected by Streetlight Data analysis.

LOS Methodology

Level of Service (LOS) standards are guidelines that define service areas based on population that support investment decisions related to parks, facilities, and amenities. LOS standards can and will change over time as the program lifecycles change and demographics of a community change.

Every agency has different needs depending on the demographics of the community, the residents' interests, the history and culture of the area, as well as the geography and climate. All of these issues are factors that need to be considered when evaluating what programs, services, and infrastructure should be included in a Parks and Open Space Master Plan Update.

To establish what the wants and needs of the community are for this updated plan, Montgomery County Park staff relied on the following data sources and evaluations:

- National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) recommendations for the number of facilities per population.
- A 2021 statistically valid survey conducted for Montgomery County conducted by ETC Institute that asked a number of questions about park related needs, recreation programming needs and resident overall needs in the County.
- Department staff conducted 825 intercept surveys throughout the county as well as collected approximately 200 high school student surveys
- Interviews with Department staff and key leaders.

It is important to note that these LOS standards should be viewed as a guide. The standards are to be coupled with conventional wisdom and judgment related to the particular situation and needs of the community. By applying these standards to the population of Montgomery County, gaps or surpluses in park and facility types are revealed.

According to the LOS, there are multiple needs to be met in Montgomery County to properly serve the community today and in the future. The existing level of service meets best practices and recommended service levels for many items; however, for example, paved and unpaved trails standards have increased due to the community's wants and needs.

The overall LOS chart was also broken out into three tiers: rural, suburban, and urban. Being able to understand the distribution of amenities and facilities throughout the County will help park planners make educated decisions on where new amenities and facilities should be developed for the future.

The standards that follow are based upon population figures for 2021 and 2026, the latest estimates available at the time of analysis.

Montgomery County Parks overall as a system has done a very good job of meeting and exceeding the needs of residents for parks, trails, and recreation amenities in the county. When evaluating the density areas of the county based on urban, suburban, and rural areas of the county there are disparities in various amenities due to available park plan for park development. Many of the cities within Montgomery County have developed their own parks systems as well and supports and compliments what Montgomery County Parks is providing to the community. Montgomery County is a leader in the Nation in their efforts to support the citizens of the county with exceptional parks, trails, amenities, and programs based on the benchmark report and this level of service report.

Level of Service Chart⁷

The chart below (Figure 5.8) provides a snapshot of the current level of service standards as well as best practice standards from NRPA.

⁷ Montgomery Parks is currently undergoing a revision of athletic fields inventory including fields owned by MCPS. Data provided at this stage in the PROS Plan LOS chart reflects the current snapshot of the inventory to date.

Per Capita “Gaps”

According to the LOS, the County is performing well in meeting the needs to properly serve the community today and in the future. The existing level of service meets and exceeds best practices and recommended service levels for many items; however, there are several areas that do not meet recommended standards.

Trails

The 2022 PROS Plan LOS chart (Figure 5.8) shows that paved and natural surface trails were among the top three as the most important amenities to households based on the statistically valid survey. Montgomery County has a strong connected trail system and is a leader in trails throughout the region. It is recommended that additional trail mileage (14 miles of paved and 9 miles of natural surface) is needed to meet the standard. The County should continually encourage and seek funding for the development of trails and coordinate with the plans in surrounding jurisdictions to ensure a connected system of shared use paths within region.

Outdoor amenities

Outdoor amenities include ball fields, courts, play equipment, and other park infrastructure that is geared toward a particular sport or activity. The numbers of facilities needed below reflect countywide needs. However, when facilities are distributed in PROS Service Areas, the needs change considerably due to the concentration of the population in urbanizing areas.

Picnic Shelters – There is a need to add an additional 5 picnic shelters based on the recommended level of service standard.

Athletic Fields (Ball Diamonds, Rectangular Fields, Cricket Fields) – Findings from the 2019 Montgomery Athletic Field Business Plan, there are limited number of athletic fields that serve a large number of organizations that offer youth sports. The quality of fields is suffering due to the multiple forms of sports that are played on the fields as well as lengthened seasons. Montgomery County needs to continue to evaluate their inventory for athletic fields and build new ball fields as well as multi-purpose fields to meet community and standard needs for the future.

Sand Volleyball – An additional 20 sand volleyball courts are needed to meet the standard.

Community Garden – There is currently a waiting list of 270 individuals for the existing community gardens found within the County. To meet the level of service standard, there is an additional need for four community gardens.

Skate Park – An additional 2 skate parks are needed to meet the standard.

Dog Park – An additional 4 dog parks are needed to meet the standard.

While LOS indicated per capita gaps, the analysis also revealed surplus facilities for potential conversion and repurposing possibilities to meet new demand.

Playground – There are 270 facilities exceeding the standard.

Tennis Courts – There are 492 facilities exceeding the standard.

Basketball Courts – There are 299 facilities exceeding the standard.

Indoor amenities

There is a need for additional indoor recreation and aquatic space. Although, Montgomery Parks does not oversee indoor recreation facilities beside tennis centers and Nature Centers they own and operate. They should continue to work hand in hand with Montgomery County Recreation to fulfill community needs jointly on what is needed across the county to supplement indoor recreation opportunities such as indoor sports courts, indoor aquatics, program spaces for youth and adult programs and activities in a similar manor that Montgomery County Parks addresses outdoor amenities. This should be a major strategy for the future for both organizations to coordinate efforts together more often.

| COUNTYWIDE: 2021 Inventory | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| | 2021 Inventory | | | 2021 LOS Standards | | 2026 LOS Standards | |
| Categories | M-NCPPC (sf) | Current Service Level based upon population (sf/person) | Recommended Service Levels (sf/person) | Meet Standard/ Need Exists (sf) | Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed (sf) | Meet Standard/ Need Exists (sf) | Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed (sf) |
| Indoor Recreation Space (Square Feet) | 602,783 | 0.57 | 1.50 | Need Exists | 990,309 | Need Exists | 1,010,415 |
| Indoor Aquatic Space (Square Feet) | 167,430 | 0.16 | 0.50 | Need Exists | 363,601 | Need Exists | 370,303 |
| Special Use Facilities (Square Feet) | 373,929 | 0.35 | 0.40 | Need Exists | 50,895 | Need Exists | 56,257 |

Figure 5.7 – Summary of Indoor Recreation Space Needs

Note: 2020 Census Population (1,062,061), 2026 Estimated Population (1,075,465: Source ESRI), High school athletic fields are removed from the inventory since these are not open to the general public and controlled by the school athletic director, except for, James Blake HS. Special Use Facilities include activity buildings, event centers, nature centers, and historic buildings that are available to the general public

| COUNTYWIDE: 2021 Inventory (Developed Facilities) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2021 LOS Standards | | | 2026 LOS Standards | | | |
|---|---------|---------------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|---------|--------|--|---|----------------------------|--------|---------|----------------------------|---|----------|----------------------------|---|----------|--|
| Categories | M-NCPPC | Public School | County Gov. | Privately Owned Public Spaces | Municipalities | State & Federal | Total Inventory | Current Service Level based upon population | | | 2021 NRPA Agency Data Upper Quartile Numbers by Jurisdiction Type - County | | Recommended Service Levels | | | Meet Standard/ Need Exists | Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed | | Meet Standard/ Need Exists | Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed | | |
| PUBLIC OPEN SPACES ACREAGES: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Acres | 36,949 | 3,241 | 4 | 30 | 1,989 | 20,357 | 62,570 | 58.91 | acres / | 1,000 | 17 acres / | 1,000 | 22.85 | acres/ | 1,000 | Meets Standard | (+38,302) | Acre(s) | Meets Standard | (+37,972) | Acre(s) | |
| TRAIL MILES: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paved Trails | 81.6 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 47 | 147 | 0.14 | miles / | 1,000 | 94 miles of trails | | 0.15 | miles/ | 1,000 | Need Exists | 12.05 | Mile(s) | Need Exists | 14.06 | Mile(s) | |
| Natural Trails | 206.3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0.5 | 48 | 260 | 0.24 | miles / | 1,000 | | | 0.25 | miles/ | 1,000 | Need Exists | 5.95 | Mile(s) | Need Exists | 9.30 | Mile(s) | |
| OUTDOOR AMENITIES: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Picnic Shelters | 174 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 52 | 6 | 248 | 1.00 | site/ | 4283 | 1 site / | - | 1.00 | site/ | 4,200 | Need Exists | 5 | Sites(s) | Need Exists | 8 | Sites(s) | |
| Playgrounds | 307 | 367 | 17 | 10 | 93 | 8 | 802 | 1.00 | site/ | 1324 | 1 site / | 13,951 | 1.00 | site/ | 2,000 | Meets Standard | (+267) | Sites(s) | Meets Standard | (+260) | Sites(s) | |
| Baseball Fields | 16.2 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 47.2 | 1.00 | field/ | 9744 | 1 field / | 42,181 Adult 17,879 Youth | 1.00 | field/ | 8,000 | Need Exists | 23.8 | Field(s) | Need Exists | 25 | Field(s) | |
| Softball Fields | 107.4 | 167.4 | 3 | 6 | 30 | 2 | 315.8 | 1.00 | field/ | 4687 | 1 field / | 37,490 Adult 23,117 Youth | 1.00 | field/ | 4,000 | Need Exists | 38.9 | Field(s) | Need Exists | 42 | Field(s) | |
| Multi-Purpose Rectangular Fields (Small-Medium) | 4.8 | 14.4 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 31.2 | 1.00 | field/ | 35640 | 1 field / | 74,980 Hockey 49,471 Football 49,471 Lacrosse 24,970 Multi-Purpose 64,887 Multi-Purpose Synthetic 49,500 Overlay 32,980 Soccer (Adult) 29,536 Soccer (Youth) | 1.00 | field/ | 10,000 | Need Exists | 76 | Field(s) | Need Exists | 78 | Field(s) | |
| Multi-Purpose Rectangular Fields (Large) | 116.4 | 79.8 | 8 | 7 | 22 | 1 | 234.2 | 1.00 | field/ | 4634 | | | 1.00 | field/ | 4,000 | Need Exists | 36 | Field(s) | Need Exists | 40 | Field(s) | |
| Cricket Fields | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1.00 | field/ | 132758 | 1 field / | 367,849 | 1.00 | field/ | 100,000 | Need Exists | 3 | Field(s) | Need Exists | 3 | Field(s) | |
| Sand Volleyball Courts | 12 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 22 | 1.00 | court/ | 48276 | 1 court / | | 1.00 | court/ | 25,000 | Need Exists | 20 | Court(s) | Need Exists | 21 | Court(s) | |
| Tennis Courts | 285 | 361 | 16 | 4 | 91 | 1 | 758 | 1.00 | court/ | 1401 | 1 court / | 13,453 | 1.00 | court/ | 4,000 | Meets Standard | (+483) | Court(s) | Meets Standard | (+480) | Court(s) | |
| Pickleball Courts | 56 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 129 | 1.00 | court/ | 8233 | 1 court / | | 1.00 | court/ | 25,000 | Meets Standard | (+20) | Court(s) | Meets Standard | (+19) | Court(s) | |
| Basketball Courts (Full & Half) | 210 | 432.5 | 12 | 3 | 64 | 2.5 | 724 | 1.00 | court/ | 1467 | 1 court / | 22,760 | 1.00 | court/ | 2,500 | Meets Standard | (+299.7) | Court(s) | Meets Standard | (+294) | Court(s) | |
| Community Gardens | 13 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 32 | 1.00 | site/ | 33,189 | 1 site / | 106,987 | 1.00 | site/ | 30,000 | Need Exists | 3 | Site(s) | Need Exists | 4 | Site(s) | |
| Skate Park | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 9 | 1.00 | site / | 118007 | 1 site/ | 235,760 | 1.00 | site / | 100,000 | Need Exists | 2 | Site(s) | Need Exists | 2 | Site(s) | |
| Dog Parks | 7 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 14 | 1.00 | site / | 75862 | 1 site/ | 117,176 | 1.00 | site / | 60,000 | Need Exists | 4 | Site(s) | Need Exists | 4 | Site(s) | |

Figure 5.8 - 2022 PROS Plan LOS Table - Entire County

| Zone A (Urban: Corridor-Focused Growth area) 2021 Inventory (Developed Facilities) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2021 LOS Standards | | | 2026 LOS Standards | | |
|--|---------|---------------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|--------|---------|--|---|----------------------------|--------|---------|----------------------------|---|----------|----------------------------|---|----------|
| Categories | M-NCPPC | Public School | County Gov. | Privately Owned Public Spaces | Municipalities | State & Federal | Total Inventory | Current Service Level based upon population | | | 2021 NRPA Agency Data Upper Quartile Numbers by Jurisdiction Type - County | | Recommended Service Levels | | | Meet Standard/ Need Exists | Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed | | Meet Standard/ Need Exists | Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed | |
| PUBLIC OPEN SPACES ACREAGES: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Acres | 8,846 | 2,075 | 3.86 | 30 | 1,793 | 1,763 | 14,511 | 18.19 | acres/ | 1,000 | 17 acres/ | 1,000 | 22.85 | acres/ | 1,000 | Meets Standard | (+3,714) | Acre(s) | Meets Standard | (+4,442) | Acre(s) |
| TRAIL MILES: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paved Trails | 60.62 | - | 6.16 | 1.08 | 9.50 | 7.52 | 84.88 | 0.11 | miles/ | 1,000 | 94 miles of trails | | 0.15 | miles/ | 1,000 | Need Exists | 34.8 | Mile(s) | Need Exists | 39.5 | Mile(s) |
| Natural Trails | 38.51 | - | 0.08 | | 0.34 | 3.66 | 42.59 | 0.05 | miles/ | 1,000 | | | 0.25 | miles/ | 1,000 | Need Exists | 156.8 | Mile(s) | Need Exists | 164.8 | Mile(s) |
| OUTDOOR AMENITIES: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Picnic Shelters | 77.00 | 5.00 | 2.00 | 1.00 | 44.00 | 2.00 | 131.00 | 1.00 | site/ | 6,089 | 1 site/ | 6.00 | 1.00 | site/ | 4,200 | Need Exists | 59 | Sites(s) | Need Exists | 66.5 | Sites(s) |
| Playgrounds | 217.00 | 259.00 | 11.00 | 9.00 | 76.00 | 4.00 | 576.00 | 1.00 | site/ | 1385 | 1 site/ | 13,951 | 1.00 | site/ | 2,000 | Meets Standard | (+177) | Sites(s) | Meets Standard | (+161) | Sites(s) |
| Baseball Fields | 9.00 | 3.00 | 2.00 | - | 16.00 | - | 30.00 | 1.00 | field/ | 26,588 | 1 field/ | 42,181 Adult 17,879 Youth | 1.00 | field/ | 8,000 | Need Exists | 70 | Field(s) | Need Exists | 74 | Field(s) |
| Softball Fields | 74.40 | 107.40 | - | 1.00 | 26.00 | 2.00 | 210.80 | 1.00 | field/ | 3,784 | 1 field/ | 37,490 Adult 23,117 Youth | 1.00 | field/ | 4,000 | Meets Standard | (+12) | Field(s) | Meets Standard | (+3) | Field(s) |
| Multi-Purpose Rectangular Fields (Small-Medium) | 4.20 | 11.40 | 1.00 | - | 6.00 | | 22.60 | 1 | field/ | 35293 | 1 field/ | 74,980 Hockey 49,471 Football 49,471 Lacrosse 24,970 Multi-Purpose 64,887 Multi-Purpose Synthetic 49,500 Overlay 32,980 Soccer (Adult) 29,536 Soccer (Youth) | 1.00 | field/ | 10,000 | Need Exists | 57.16 | Field(s) | Need Exists | 60 | Field(s) |
| Multi-Purpose Rectangular Fields (Large) | 74.40 | 47.40 | 2.00 | 1.00 | 16.00 | 1.00 | 141.80 | 1 | field/ | 5625 | | | 1.00 | field/ | 4,000 | Need Exists | 57.61 | Field(s) | Need Exists | 66 | Field(s) |
| Cricket Fields | 5.00 | - | - | - | - | | 5.00 | 1 | field/ | 159,526 | 1 field/ | 367,849 | 1.00 | field/ | 100,000 | Need Exists | 3 | Field(s) | Need Exists | 3 | Field(s) |
| Sand Volleyball Courts | 7.00 | 0 | - | - | 7.00 | | 14.00 | 1 | court/ | 56,974 | 1 court/ | | 1.00 | court/ | 25,000 | Need Exists | 18 | Court(s) | Need Exists | 19 | Court(s) |
| Tennis Courts | 186.00 | 237.00 | 16.00 | 4.00 | 81.00 | 1.00 | 525.00 | 1 | court/ | 1,519 | 1 court/ | 13,453 | 1.00 | court/ | 4,000 | Meets Standard | (+326) | Court(s) | Meets Standard | (+318) | Court(s) |
| Pickleball Courts | 26.00 | 32.00 | - | - | 22.00 | - | 80.00 | 1 | court/ | 9,970 | 1 court/ | | 1.00 | court/ | 25,000 | Meets Standard | (+48) | Court(s) | Meets Standard | (+48) | Court(s) |
| Basketball Courts (Full & Half) | 143.00 | 287.00 | 6.00 | 1.00 | 55.00 | 2.50 | 494.50 | 1 | court/ | 1,613 | 1 court/ | 22,760 | 1.00 | court/ | 2,500 | Meets Standard | (+175) | Court(s) | Meets Standard | (+163) | Court(s) |
| Community Gardens | 9.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 9.00 | 2.00 | 27.00 | 1 | Site/ | 29,542 | 1 site / | 106,987 | 1.00 | site/ | 30,000 | Meets Standard | | Site(s) | Need Exists | 1 | Site(s) |
| Skate Park | 3.00 | - | 1.00 | - | 4.00 | - | 8.00 | 1 | Site/ | 99,704 | 1 site / | 235,760 | 1.00 | site/ | 100,000 | Meets Standard | (+0) | Site(s) | Meets Standard | (+0) | Site(s) |
| Dog Parks | 6.00 | - | - | 2.00 | 4.00 | - | 12.00 | 1 | Site/ | 66,469 | 1 site/ | 117,176 | 1.00 | site/ | 60,000 | Need Exists | 1 | Site(s) | Need Exists | 2 | Site(s) |

Figure 5.9 - 2022 PROS Plan LOS Table - PROS Service Area: Urban Tier

| Zone B (Suburban: Limited Growth area) 2021 Inventory (Developed Facilities) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2021 LOS Standards | | | 2026 LOS Standards | | | |
|--|---------|---------------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|---------|--|--------------------|---|------|---------|----------------------------|---|----------------|----------------------------|---|----------------|-----------|---------|
| Categories | M-NCPPC | Public School | County Gov. | Privately Owned Public Spaces | Municipalities | State & Federal | Total Inventory | Current Service Level based upon population | | 2021 NRPA Agency Data Upper Quartile Numbers by Jurisdiction Type - County | | Recommended Service Levels | | | Meet Standard/ Need Exists | Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed | | Meet Standard/ Need Exists | Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed | | | |
| PUBLIC OPEN SPACES ACREAGES: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Acres | 12,882 | 876 | - | - | 91 | 3,798 | 17,647 | 92 | acres/ | 1,000 | 17 acres/ | 1,000 | | 22.85 | acres / | 1,000 | Meets Standard | (+13,263) | Acre(s) | Meets Standard | (+13,192) | Acre(s) |
| TRAIL MILES: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paved Trails | 12.45 | - | 0.65 | - | 1.57 | 16.84 | 31.51 | 0.16 | miles / | 1,000 | 94 miles of trails | | 0.15 | miles / | 1,000 | Meets Standard | (+3) | Mile(s) | Meets Standard | (+2) | Mile(s) | |
| Natural Trails | 78.18 | - | 1 | - | 0.19 | 6.48 | 85.85 | 0.45 | miles / | 1,000 | | | 0.25 | miles / | 1,000 | Meets Standard | (+38) | Mile(s) | Meets Standard | (+37) | Mile(s) | |
| OUTDOOR AMENITIES: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Picnic Shelters | 58.00 | 5.00 | - | - | 4.00 | 4.00 | 71 | 1 | site/ | 2,702 | 1 site/ | - | 1.00 | site/ | 4,200 | Meets Standard | (+25) | Sites(s) | Meets Standard | (+25) | Sites(s) | |
| Playgrounds | 70.00 | 88.00 | 5.00 | - | 7.00 | 4.00 | 174 | 1 | site/ | 1,103 | 1 site/ | 13,951 | 1.00 | site/ | 2,000 | Meets Standard | (+78) | Sites(s) | Meets Standard | (+77) | Sites(s) | |
| Baseball Fields | 3.00 | 1.20 | - | - | 3.00 | - | 7.20 | 1 | field/ | 26,647 | 1 field/ | 42,181 Adult 17,879 Youth | 1.00 | field/ | 8,000 | Meets Standard | (+17) | Field(s) | Meets Standard | (+17) | Field(s) | |
| Softball Fields | 25.80 | 47.40 | 3.00 | 5.00 | 1.00 | - | 82.20 | 1 | field/ | 2,334 | 1 field/ | 37,490 Adult 23,117 Youth | 1.00 | field/ | 4,000 | Meets Standard | (+34) | Field(s) | Meets Standard | (+33) | Field(s) | |
| Multi-Purpose Rectangular Fields (Small-Medium) | 0.60 | 3.00 | - | - | - | 1.00 | 4.60 | 1 | field/ | 41,709 | 1 field/ | 74,980 Hockey 49,471 Football 49,471 Lacrosse 24,970 Multi-Purpose 64,887 Multi-Purpose Synthetic 49,500 Overlay 32,980 Soccer (Adult) 29,536 Soccer (Youth) | 1.00 | field/ | 10,000 | Need Exists | 15 | Field(s) | Need Exists | 15 | Field(s) | |
| Multi-Purpose Rectangular Fields (Large) | 24.60 | 27.00 | 4.00- | 4.00 | 1.00 | - | 60.60 | 1 | field/ | 3,166 | | | 1.00 | field/ | 4,000 | Meets Standard | (+13) | Field(s) | Meets Standard | (+12) | Field(s) | |
| Cricket Fields | 2.00 | - | - | - | - | - | 2.00 | 1 | Court / | 95,931 | 1 field/ | 367,849 | 1.00 | field/ | 100,000 | Meets Standard | 0 | Field(s) | Meets Standard | 0 | Field(s) | |
| Sand Volleyball Courts | 3.00 | 1.00 | - | - | - | 1.00 | 5.00 | 1 | Site/ | 38,372 | 1 court/ | | 1.00 | court / | 25,000 | Need Exists | 3 | Court(s) | Need Exists | 3 | Court(s) | |
| Tennis Courts | 78.00 | 92.00 | - | - | 6.00 | - | 176.00 | 1 | Site/ | 1,090 | 1 court/ | 13,453 | 1.00 | court / | 4,000 | Meets Standard | (+128) | Court(s) | Meets Standard | (+127) | Court(s) | |
| Pickleball Courts | 18.00 | 13.00 | - | - | - | - | 31.00 | 1 | Site/ | 6,189 | 1 court/ | | 1.00 | court / | 25,000 | Meets Standard | (+24) | Court(s) | Meets Standard | (+23) | Court(s) | |
| Basketball Courts (Full & Half) | 49.00 | 117.00 | 5.00 | - | 5.00 | - | 176.00 | 1 | field/ | 1,090 | 1 court/ | 22,760 | 1.00 | court / | 2,500 | Meets Standard | (+99) | Court(s) | Meets Standard | (+98) | Court(s) | |
| Community Gardens | 3.00 | - | - | - | - | - | 3.00 | 1 | field/ | 63,954 | 1 site/ | 106,987 | 1.00 | site/ | 30,000 | Need Exists | 4 | Site(s) | Need Exists | 3 | Site(s) | |
| Skate Park | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | field/ | 0 | 1 site/ | 235,760 | 1.00 | site / | 100,000 | Need Exists | 2 | Site(s) | Need Exists | 2 | Site(s) | |
| Dog Parks | 1.00 | - | - | - | - | - | 1.00 | 1 | court/ | 191,861 | 1 site/ | 117,176 | 1.00 | site / | 60,000 | Need Exists | 2 | Site(s) | Need Exists | 2 | Site(s) | |

Figure 5.10 - 2022 PROS Plan LOS Table - PROS Service Area: Suburban Tier

| Zone C (Rural: Rural Areas and the Agricultural Reserve) 2021 Inventory (Developed Facilities) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2021 LOS Standards | | | 2026 LOS Standards | | | |
|--|---------|---------------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|--------|--|--------------------|---|------|--------|-------------------------------|--|----------------|-------------------------------|--|----------------|-----------|---------|
| Categories | M-NCPPC | Public School | County Gov. | Privately Owned Public Spaces | Municipalities | State & Federal | Total Inventory | Current Service Level based upon population | | 2021 NRPA Agency Data Upper Quartile Numbers by Jurisdiction Type - County | | Recommended Service Levels | | | Meet Standard/ Need Exists | Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed | | Meet Standard/ Need Exists | Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed | | | |
| PUBLIC OPEN SPACES ACREAGES: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Acres | 15,218 | 320 | - | - | 104 | 14,796 | 30,437 | 610 | acres/ | 1,000 | 17 acres / | 1,000 | | 23 | acres/ | 1,000 | Meets Standard | (+29,295) | Acre(s) | Meets Standard | (+29,254) | Acre(s) |
| TRAIL MILES: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paved Trails | 8.50 | - | - | - | - | 22.37 | 30.87 | 0.62 | miles/ | 1,000 | 94 miles of trails | | 0.15 | miles/ | 1,000 | Meets Standard | (+23) | Mile(s) | Meets Standard | (+23) | Mile(s) | |
| Natural Trails | 89.61 | - | 3.82 | - | - | 37.70 | 131.13 | 2.62 | miles/ | 1,000 | | | 0.25 | miles/ | 1,000 | Meets Standard | (+119) | Mile(s) | Meets Standard | (+118) | Mile(s) | |
| OUTDOOR AMENITIES: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Picnic Shelters | 39.00 | 2.00 | 1.00 | - | 4.00 | - | 46.00 | 1.00 | site/ | 1,086 | 1 site / | - | 1.00 | site/ | 4,200 | Meets Standard | (+34) | Sites(s) | Meets Standard | (+34) | Sites(s) | |
| Playgrounds | 20.00 | 20.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 10.00 | - | 52.00 | 1.00 | site/ | 961 | 1 site / | 13,951 | 1.00 | site/ | 2,000 | Meets Standard | (+27) | Sites(s) | Meets Standard | (+26) | Sites(s) | |
| Baseball Fields | 4.20 | 1.80 | 2.00 | - | 2.00 | - | 10.00 | 1.00 | field/ | 4,997 | 1 field / | 42,181 Adult 17,879 Youth | 1.00 | field/ | 8,000 | Meets Standard | (+3.75) | Field(s) | Meets Standard | (+4) | Field(s) | |
| Softball Fields | 7.20 | 12.60 | - | - | 3.00 | - | 22.80 | 1.00 | field/ | 2,192 | 1 field / | 37,490 Adult 23,117 Youth | 1.00 | field/ | 4,000 | Meets Standard | (+10) | Field(s) | Meets Standard | (+10) | Field(s) | |
| Multi-Purpose Rectangular Fields (Small-Medium) | - | - | - | - | 4.00 | - | 4.00 | 1.00 | field/ | 12,492 | 1 field / | 74,980 Hockey 49,471 Football 49,471 Lacrosse 24,970 Multi-Purpose 64,887 Multi-Purpose Synthetic 49,500 Overlay 32,980 Soccer (Adult) 29,536 Soccer (Youth) | 1.00 | field/ | 10,000 | Need Exists | 1 | Field(s) | Need Exists | 1 | Field(s) | |
| Multi-Purpose Rectangular Fields (Large) | 17.40 | 5.40 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 5.00 | - | 31.80 | 1.00 | field/ | 1,571 | | | 1.00 | field/ | 4,000 | Meets Standard | (+19) | Field(s) | Meets Standard | (+19) | Field(s) | |
| Cricket Fields | 1.00 | - | - | - | - | - | 1.00 | 1.00 | field/ | 49,967 | 1 field / | 367,849 | 1.00 | field/ | 100,000 | Meets Standard | 0 | Field(s) | Meets Standard | 0 | Field(s) | |
| Sand Volleyball Courts | 2.00 | - | - | 1.00 | - | - | 3.00 | 1.00 | court/ | 16,656 | 1 court / | | 1.00 | court/ | 25,000 | Meets Standard | (+1) | Court(s) | Meets Standard | (+1) | Court(s) | |
| Tennis Courts | 21.00 | 32.00 | - | - | 4.00 | - | 57.00 | 1.00 | court/ | 877 | 1 court / | 13,453 | 1.00 | court/ | 4,000 | Meets Standard | (+44) | Court(s) | Meets Standard | (+44) | Court(s) | |
| Pickleball Courts | 12.00 | 2.00 | - | - | 4.00 | - | 18.00 | 1.00 | court/ | 2,776 | 1 court / | | 1.00 | court/ | 25,000 | Meets Standard | (+16) | Court(s) | Meets Standard | (+16) | Court(s) | |
| Basketball Courts (Full & Half) | 18.00 | 28.50 | 1.00 | 2.00 | 4.00 | - | 53.50 | 1.00 | court/ | 934 | 1 court / | 22,760 | 1.00 | court/ | 2,500 | Meets Standard | (+33.5) | Court(s) | Meets Standard | (+33) | Court(s) | |
| Community Gardens | 1.00 | - | 1.00 | - | - | - | 2.00 | 1.00 | site/ | 24,984 | 1 site / | 106,987 | 1.00 | site/ | 30,000 | Meets Standard | 0 | Site(s) | Meets Standard | 0 | Site(s) | |
| Skate Park | - | - | - | - | 1.00 | - | 1.00 | 1.00 | site / | 49,967 | 1 site / | 235,760 | 1.00 | site / | 100,000 | Meets Standard | (+0.5) | Site(s) | Meets Standard | 0 | Site(s) | |
| Dog Parks | - | - | - | - | 1.00 | - | 1.00 | 1.00 | site / | 49,967 | 1 site/ | 117,176 | 1.00 | site / | 60,000 | Meets Standard | 0 | Site(s) | Meets Standard | 0 | Site(s) | |

Figure 5.11 - 12022 PROS Plan LOS Table - PROS Service Area: Rural Tier

New Upcoming Enhanced LOS Analysis by Facility Type

The LOS tables provide the number of park facilities within each PROS Service Areas. However, it does not identify the location of needed facilities beyond the geographic boundaries of the service areas. Montgomery Parks is currently developing a more detailed analysis to determine the best location of a facility type based on that facility location and its associated walkshed, bikeshed and driveshed – all based on a 10-min shed timeframe and the served demand within these sheds. This analysis together with the Parks Classification, Equity and Experience Analysis and other CIP strategies will further enhance Montgomery Parks’ goal of providing access to park resources in a more equitable manner, especially to those who cannot voice their opinion in the traditional process through participation on community meetings and official surveys. The current PROS Plan LOS tables focus on major facilities. This new upcoming analysis can be applied to any facility within the county due to its association to a grid system and its associated demand and supply of amenities (existing and proposed). The expected outcome is to optimize our limited resources where there are more people in need, especially those in equity areas.

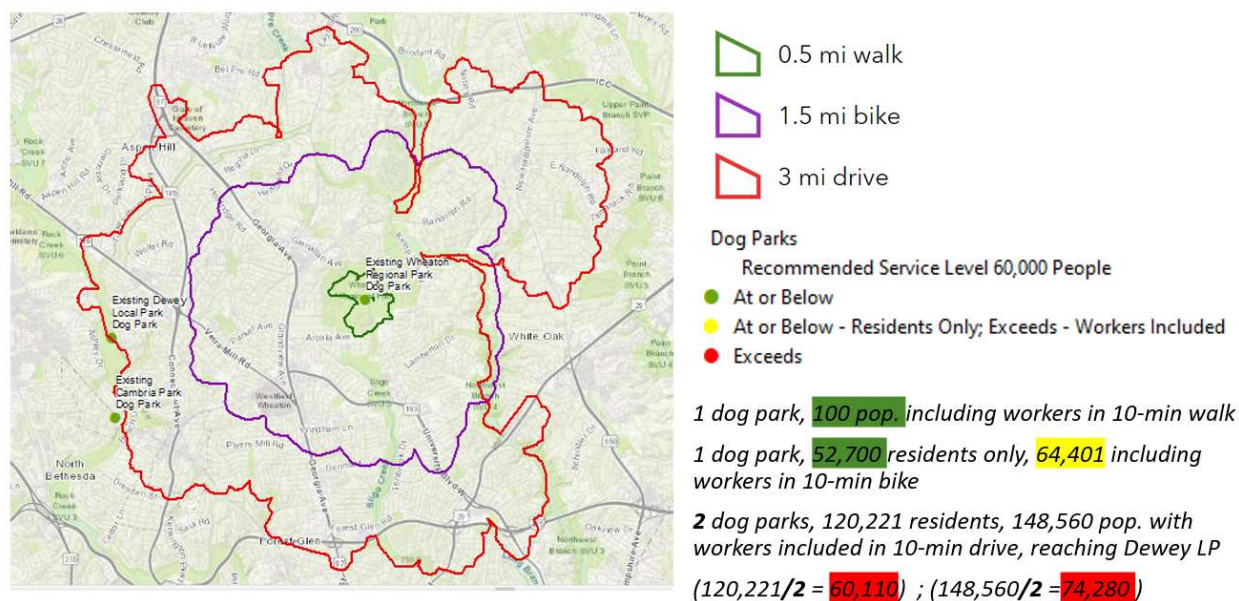


Figure 5.12- Example of upcoming analysis using walkshed, bikeshed and driveshed to determine service area of a dog park in the Wheaton Regional Park

Non-Participant Interest by Age Segment

Montgomery Parks is also interested in residents who are non-participants and to better understand how to entice them to be active in their parks.

The Sports & Fitness Industry Association’s (SFIA) conducts an annual report (Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report) tracking participation rates as well as tracking non-participant interest. The following are activities that the U.S. population currently does not participate in due to

physical or monetary barriers, but is interested in participating in. Below are the top five activities that each age segment would be most likely to partake in if they were readily available.

Overall, the activities most age segments are interested in include Camping, Bicycling, Fishing, and Swimming for Fitness. All of which are deemed as low-impact activities, making them obtainable for any age segment to enjoy.

These top activities align with the LOS with additional need of trails to not only serve active residents but potentially new users.



Appendix 6. DNR-Required Park Proximity & Equity Analysis

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

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

Montgomery Parks has developed a more detailed proximity analysis described in Appendix 5. The maps shown in this appendix were created with the sole purpose to respond to the LPPRP required analysis.

Park Proximity

Proximity analyses and maps were created to show gaps in proximity to various popular park features – trailheads, playgrounds, and forested areas and state required facilities. As mentioned above, Montgomery Parks uses a different methodology to show gaps to park facilities. Following the LPPRP guidelines' requirements, the maps provide:

- 5-mile buffer from parks and facilities within the Rural and Suburban Tiers;
- 0.5-mile buffer from parks and facilities within the Suburban and Urban Tiers

As the majority of the maps illustrate, most of the County is very well-served.

Entire parks and recreation system

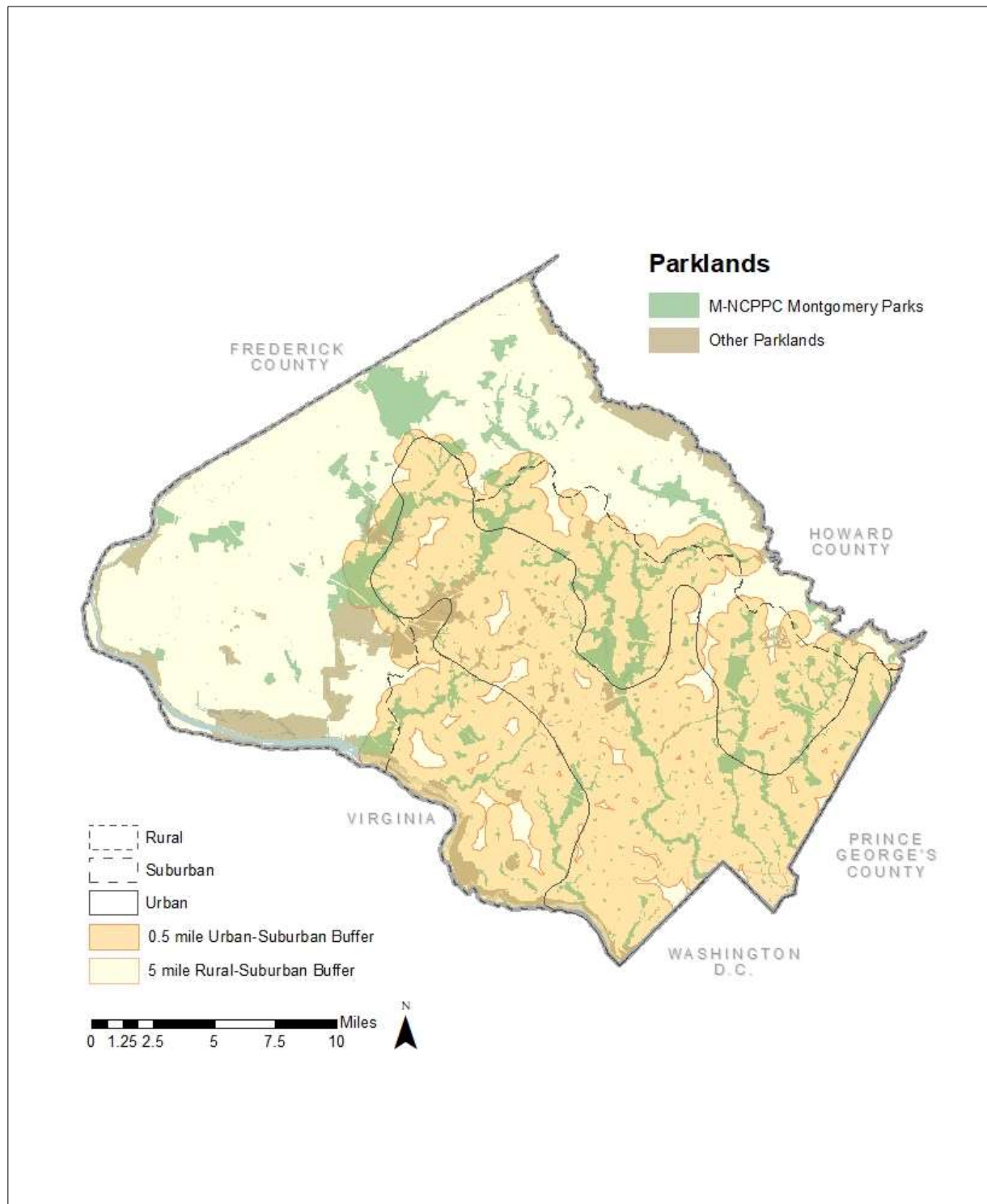


Figure 6.1: Proximity Analysis on Entire Parks and Recreation System. Approximately 96% residents are covered within the half-mile distance from Parkland.

Water Access

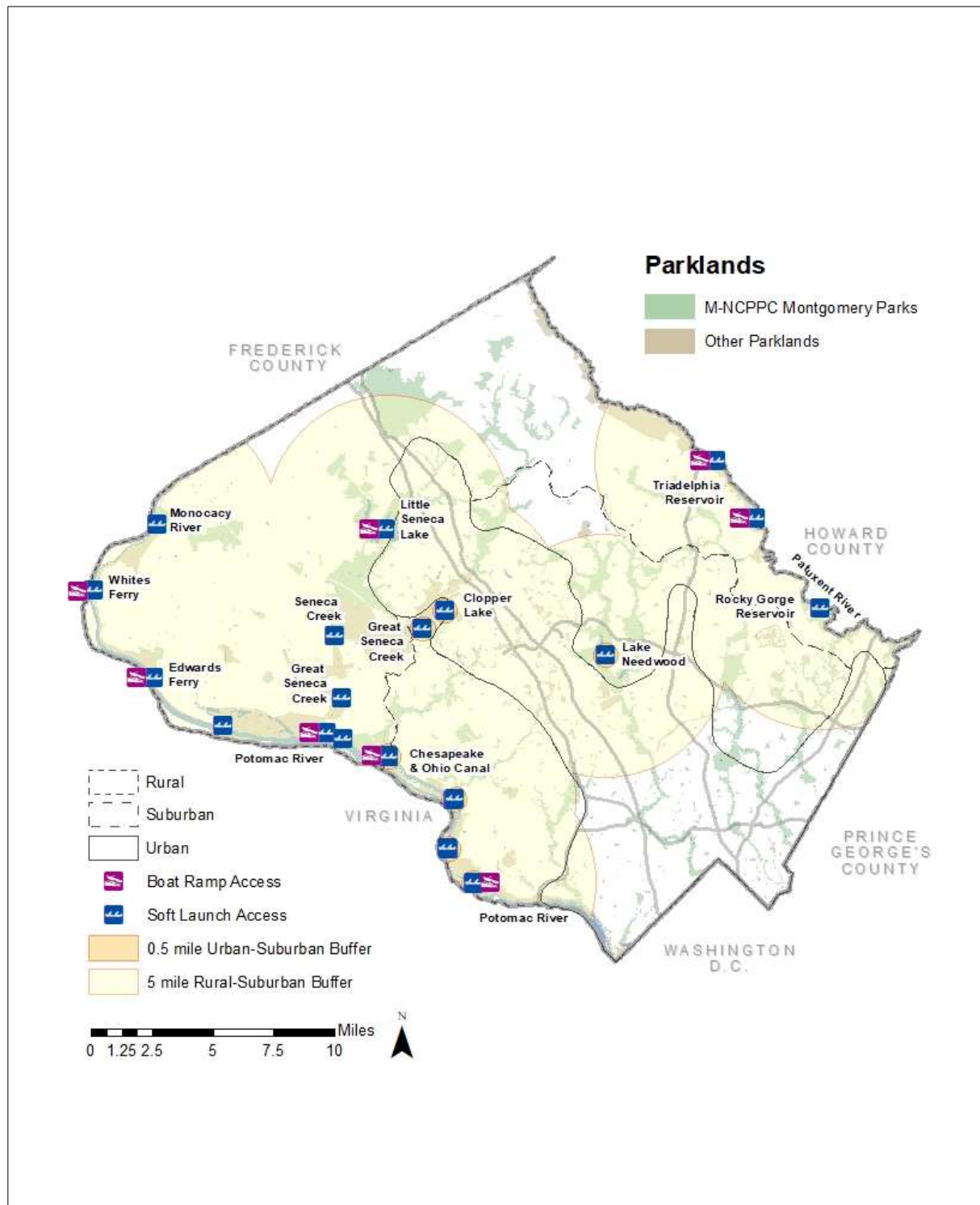


Figure 6.2: Proximity Analysis on water Access which include soft launch access and boat ramp. There are 25 “water access” points on public land in the county.

Trails

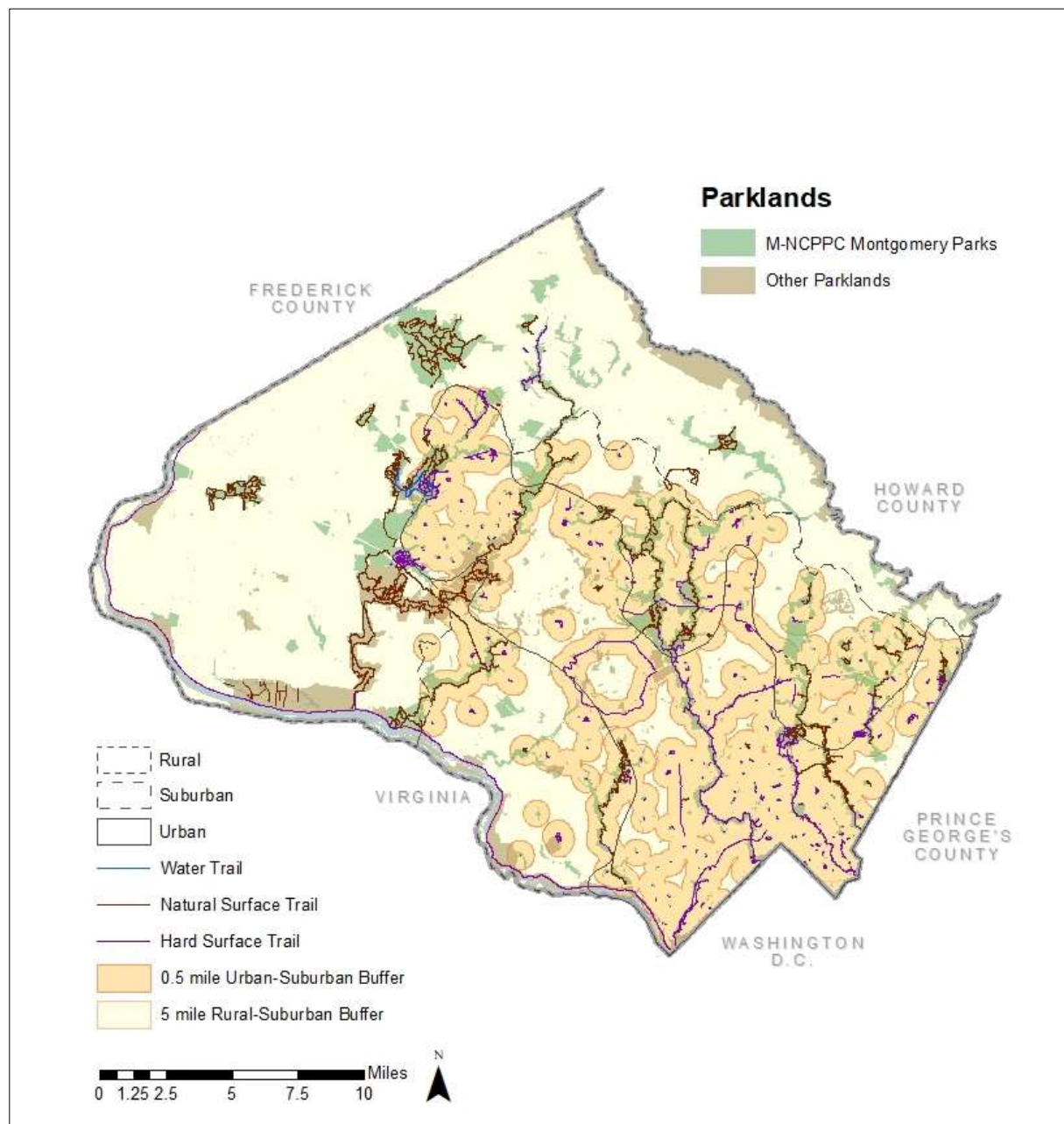


Figure 6.3: Proximity Analysis on Trails. Montgomery Parks has 206 miles of natural surface trails and 82 miles of hard surface trails. (Additional trails exist on state parkland and in urban jurisdictions.) On average, trail access points are located a little less than a mile apart in our trail network. “Access points” include trailheads with parking, signed access points without designated parking, and locations where trails intersect roadways. Access points are more frequent on hard surface trails, with one located every 0.6 miles on average, compared to 1.1 miles for natural surface trails. A total of 289,000 of residents are covered within the half-mile distance from trailheads or access points.

Picnic Facilities

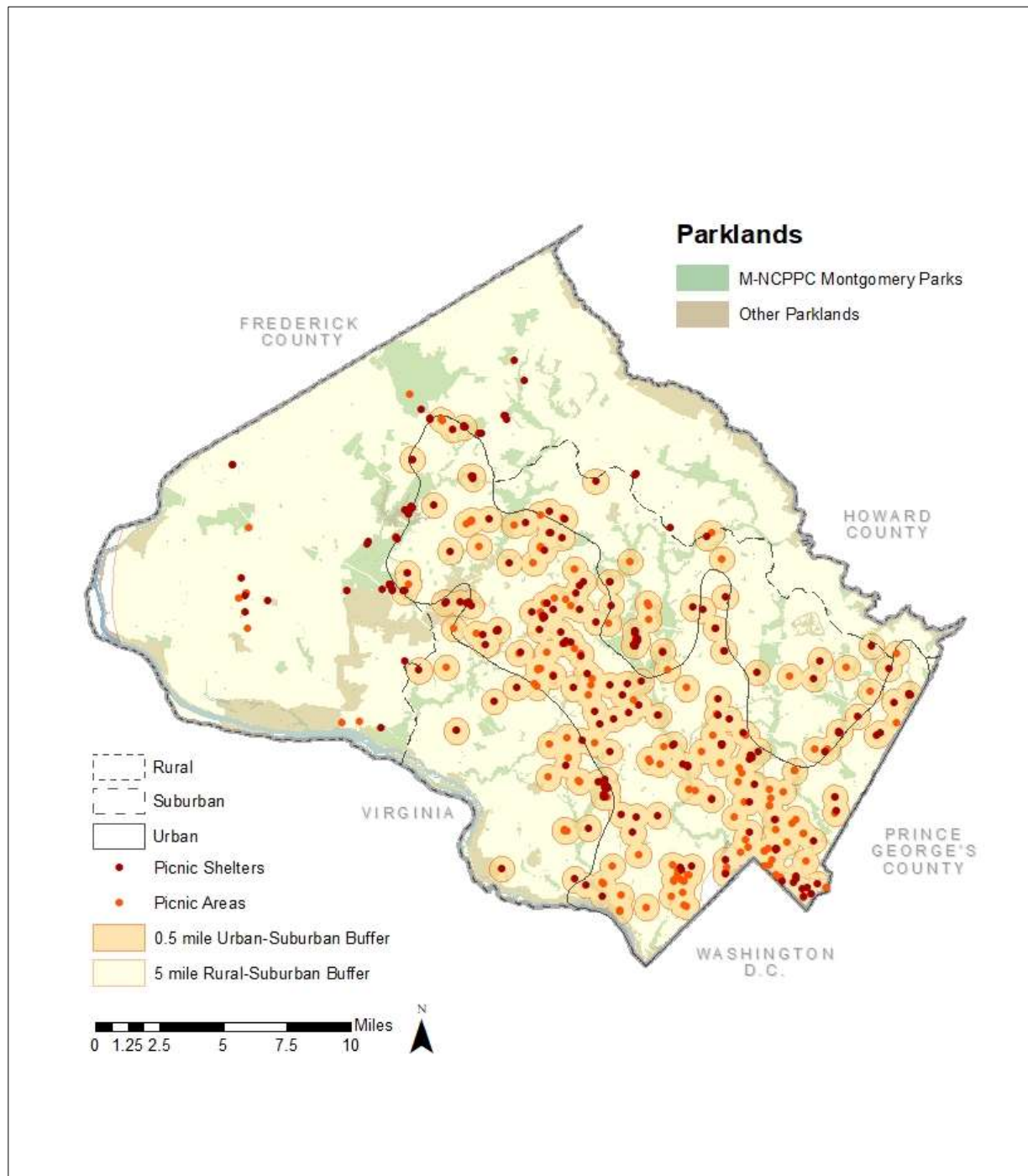


Figure 6.4: Proximity Analysis on Picnic Facilities. Approximately 56 percent residents are covered within the half-mile distance from picnic area and shelters (424 shelters).

Forested Public Land

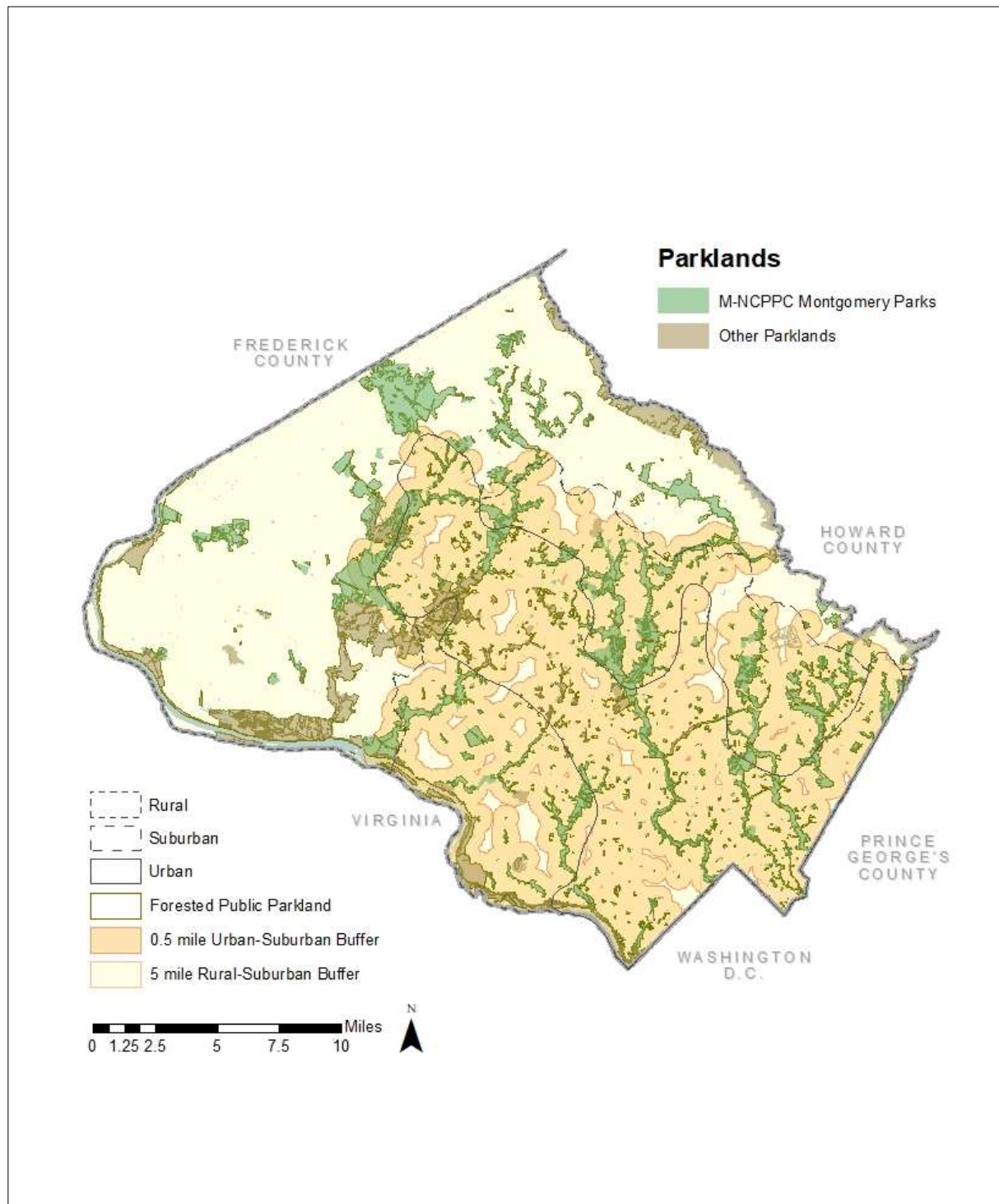


Figure 6.5: Forested Area are defined as woodland (50-feet wide with at least 10,000 sf) and meadow areas. Proximity Analysis on Forested Public Land. Approximately 94% residents are covered within the half-mile distance from forested Area.

Public Playgrounds

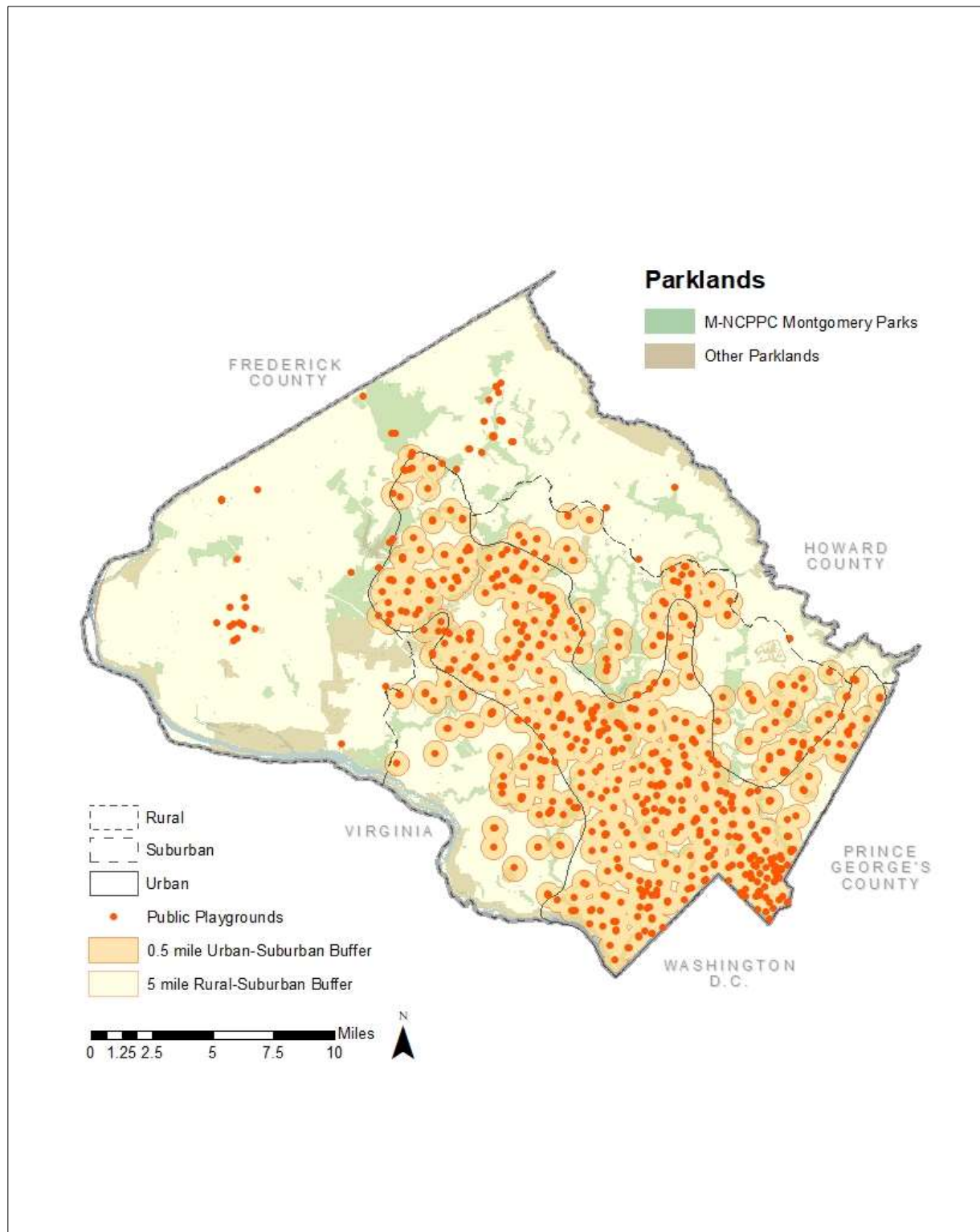


Figure 6.6: Proximity Analysis on Public Playgrounds. Approximately 85% residents are covered within the half-mile distance from public playgrounds.

Appendix 7. “A Policy for Parks”

The following *Policy for Parks* was adopted by the Montgomery County Planning Board in the *1988 PROS Plan* and has been re-affirmed and included in every PROS Plan since that date. Its goals and objectives are still valid and should be followed whenever possible. Exceptions may be made by the Planning Board when it is deemed to be in the best public interest. The *Policy for Parks* guides acquisition, development, and management of the Montgomery County Park System.

Goal

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

Objectives

Acquisition of Parkland

The objectives of the program for parkland acquisition shall be:

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

Development and Management of the Park System

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

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

To preserve natural resources, the Department of Parks shall:

- Limit the development of active-use areas in regional parks to no more than 1/3 of their total park acreage, with the remaining acreage designated as natural areas and/or conservation areas. Development in other categories of parks shall be determined on a case-by-case basis with full consideration of the values of the natural features

- Prepare an environmental evaluation as part of park development or rehabilitation plans where deemed appropriate by the Park Commission
- Review as necessary the impact of park use, development, and management practices on parkland

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

- The Department of Parks shall encourage other public agencies, as well as the private sector, to assist in providing compatible open spaces, natural areas, and recreation facilities and opportunities in the region
- The Department of Parks shall encourage and support research in the environmental sciences by other public agencies, institutions of higher learning, and the private sector, and support programs in outdoor education and recreation in the school system
- Lands and facilities under the control of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission are held as a public trust for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations. The Commission is pledged to protect these holdings from encroachment that would threaten their use as parkland. The Commission recognizes that under rare circumstances non-park uses may be required on park property in order to serve the greater public interest
- For projects that will impact parkland, the policy is that non-parkland alternatives be pursued first for all publicly funded projects – unless environmental, economic, social and engineering impacts to move the project off parkland are proven to be prohibitive. In cases where the Planning Board has deemed that non-park use of parkland is unavoidable and/or serves the greater public interest, The Department of Parks shall:
 - Require the agency to acquire a Park Construction Permit. Through the review process, Parks will require that the agency minimize the impacts to parkland as much as possible.
 - Determine how to make the park system whole through mitigation. Some examples of mitigation may include but are not limited to: reforestation, vegetation enhancements or replacements, tree replacement, impervious surface removal, stormwater management facility retrofit or creation, terrestrial or aquatic habitat restoration, or other measures deemed appropriate for the impact.
 - In instances where the agency must permanently take ownership of parkland, parkland replacement may be required. Parkland impacted by a project must be replaced at equal or greater natural, cultural, and/or recreational value; therefore the parkland replacement mitigation may exceed the acreage impacted by the project. In certain instances, the impacts to parkland caused by public projects may be of such magnitude that the park function affected can never be restored and/or The Department of Parks believes there is no comparable replacement land in the County. When such cases arise, a compensation plan will be developed and agreed upon.
 - Neither Mitigation nor Compensation will be considered in place of avoidance, minimization or mitigation and will need to be approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board.

Appendix 8. Natural Resources Stewardship Goals

Montgomery Parks' natural area conservation objectives have long been aligned with the State Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation, listed below, and other existing policy initiatives of the State. The agency utilizes the State Targeted Ecological Areas network and Rare, Threatened, and Endangered or Greatest Conservation Need Species to identify and target parkland acquisition for conservation of species and habitats/micro-habitats, water quality, and greenway connectivity.

M-NCPPC's Planning Department directs zoning and development standards inclusive of progressive forest conservation, easement, parkland creation, and mitigation requirements.

Policy documents that guide natural areas conservation include but are not limited to:

- Environmental Guidelines for Development,
- Natural Resources Management Plan,
- Comprehensive Management Plan for Vegetation,
- Countywide Stream Protection Strategy,
- Comprehensive Management Plan for White-tailed Deer,
- Sustainability Plan,
- Non-Native Invasive Plant Management Plan,
- Best Management Practices for Non-Native Invasive Plants,
- Planting Requirements for Land Disturbing Activities on Parkland,
- the draft Greenways Functional Plan, and
- numerous Master Plans.

Additionally, while Montgomery County encourages forest retention, provision for allowable commodities development of forest products within the Agricultural Reserve zone is permitted.

Montgomery Parks is recycling hazard trees removed, for use/re-use for building products and landscaping materials.

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

Appendix 9. Implementing Ordinances and Programs

Many laws, regulations, and programs work to conserve natural resources in the County, both within and outside of parkland. Measures including Erosion and Sediment Control permits, Natural Resource Inventory/Forest Stand Delineations (NRI/FSD), Forest Conservation Plans, and Water Quality Plans (for projects planned in one of the County's five Special Protection Areas) are just some of the key requirements that protect natural resources. Department of Parks and Department of Planning staff, as well as many other County agencies, use these regulations and guidelines not only to review the impacts of planned development on parkland or elsewhere in the County, but also to protect natural resources through recommendations written in park, local, and area master plans. This section is a brief summary of the most important of these efforts that are implemented via the development review process, focused on public health, water quality and biodiversity conservation, or related to development taking place on parkland. Nothing in this appendix – or in other parts of this plan – vitiates or expands the applicability of these laws and regulations, although every effort should be made to interpret both the PROS plan and any applicable statutes, ordinances, rules and guidelines in a manner that harmonizes their intent and effect.

Environmental Guidelines

[Environmental Guidelines: Guidelines for Environmental Management of Development in Montgomery County](https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/environment/environmental-guidelines-reports/environmental-guidelines/)⁸ defines the objectives, principles, and policies to protect sensitive areas through which development projects are to be reviewed and approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board. These provide specific guidance for protecting environmentally sensitive areas on public and private land proposed for development and establish procedure for identification and protection of natural resources potentially affected by construction. The Guidelines ensure that development plans give adequate consideration to protection of stream water quality, water supply reservoirs, steep slopes, forest conservation, wildlife habitat and exemplary natural communities including rare, threatened, and endangered species; maintenance of biologically viable and diverse streams and wetlands; reduction of flood problems; protection against development hazards on areas prone to flooding, soil instability, etc., amongst other provisions for public amenities. In areas where the land use planned is considered a potential risk in high quality watersheds, the area may be designated a Special Protection Area (SPA). Proposed development in a SPA requires a water quality plan be prepared that incorporates redundant stormwater management facilities and other features that address the goals for the receiving waterway. Among other requirements, wider wetland buffers and accelerated reforestation are required in these areas. In some SPAs, overlay zones are adopted to limit imperviousness to specific levels on each site and limit or prohibit certain land uses that pose a risk to water quality.

Montgomery County Forest Conservation Law (amended 2018 and 2021)

Adopted pursuant to the State legislation, regulates efforts to preserve forest and tree canopy through the development process. Forest Conservation requirements on private and non-park public development projects contribute to the large number of sensitive areas and forest that are conveyed to the park system through the development review process. On land that is not appropriate for transfer to

⁸ <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/environment/environmental-guidelines-reports/environmental-guidelines/>

Parks, a Forest Conservation easement is placed on land to protect existing forest or newly planted forest on properties under development. These are legally recorded in the land records and M-NCPPC, Montgomery Planning Department provides enforcement.

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System and MS4 Permits

Montgomery Parks complies with requirements of a Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for all parkland (requiring Montgomery Parks to develop and implement best management practices under six minimum control measures which include: Personnel Education and Outreach, Public Involvement and Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Runoff Control, Post Construction Stormwater Management, and Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping) and an Industrial Permit for its twelve maintenance yards (requiring Montgomery Parks to train staff, adopt best management practices, develop pollution prevention plans, and improve facilities to reduce stormwater pollution from these sites).

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

Cosmetic Pesticides Use Restrictions

Montgomery County regulates pesticide use on private and public lands for safe and responsible use and for transparent public notification, with oversight provided by the Department of Environmental Protection. This regulation addresses parkland, non-native invasive plants, and pesticide use near a waterbody separately.

Best Natural Areas and Biodiversity Areas

These areas, collectively, are considered the best-of-the-best; demonstrative of unique, high quality natural areas demonstrating specific qualities (e.g., RTE/GCN species, large contiguous forest interior, meadow, or wetland habitat) necessary of sound conservation and biodiversity sustainability. Development affecting these is discouraged, except for well-planned and low impact trails and associated infrastructure.

Programs to Conserve Natural Resources

M-NCPPC is responsible for the protection and management of all-natural resources within county parkland. As the primary public landowner in the county, this responsibility often serves a larger countywide function. Natural Resources Stewardship staff develop and implement resource management plans, programs, guidelines, and Best Management Practices to protect and enhance park resources, and assist with implementation of Federal, State and local plans for conservation of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species and critical habitats and is guided by a countywide [Natural Resources Management Plan](#)⁹. A selection of the most critical programs is described here.

Watershed Restoration

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

Montgomery Parks evaluates watersheds to determine existing problems and the feasibility of stormwater retrofit projects and stream restoration. During the past PROS 5-year cycle, 82 streams were surveyed, in 17 watersheds. Eligible projects are selected based on feasibility, potential for stream improvements, cost and funding availability. Watershed plans have been completed for the Paint Branch, Hawlings River, Rock Creek, Cabin John, Watts Branch, and Northwest Branch. Each year, selected priority restoration projects from these watershed plans are implemented by the County DEP. Due to the significant percent of streams in the County occurring in stream valley parks, many of the County watershed restoration projects are implemented on parkland.

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

The volunteer park cleanup program provides a significant level of support to help keep parks and streams clear of trash and debris. In a typical recent year, volunteers from more than 100 groups and organizations take part in around 250 cleanup projects coordinated by Parks staff and remove about 72 tons of trash from parkland.

⁹https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.montgomeryparks.org/uploads/2016/07/2013.02_naturall_resources_management_plan.pdf

Vegetation Management

The benefits of a healthy and diverse plant community are multiple and significant: vegetation assemblages are often determinant of critical wildlife habitats essential within the coastal plain and piedmont physiographic regions. Preserving habitats in the various stages of vegetative succession (meadows/grasslands, scrub-shrub, conifer-dominated forest, then deciduous-dominated forest) is key to providing the necessary habitat for diverse wildlife communities. Each stage in this succession process is important to providing habitat to different associated species, thus the importance to overall biodiversity of maintaining heterogeneous areas across the natural areas of Parks.

Vegetation management programs are devised and implemented to maximize ecological function and heterogeneity, to provide clean air and water, and to provide connectivity for species distribution of both flora and fauna. Management recommendations are guided by all the research and analysis acquired through inventory, monitoring and prediction efforts as described above. Overall guidance for vegetation management comes from the [Comprehensive Vegetation Management Plan for M-NCPPC Parkland](#).

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

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

Non-Native Invasive Species

Non-native species management is designated to sustain populations of native flora and fauna, through address of species identified as non-indigenous of the physiographic region. These invaders include terrestrial and aquatic species of flora and fauna. Non-Native Invasive (NNI) Plant management is guided by the [Non-native Invasive Plant Management Plan](#) and [Best Management Practices for Control of Non-Native Invasive Plants](#) and intended to protect native species within areas identified as key environmental resources for the purpose of enhancing public health and safety, ecosystem function, and biodiversity. Management efforts include mechanical and chemical treatment by staff and contractors, and mechanical removal by volunteers. Programs to address invasive insects and other

animals (e.g. Gypsy Moth and Emerald Ash Borer Beetle) are conducted on an as-needed basis and focus on preventing the spread and/or mitigating the impacts of the invasive species.

Montgomery Park's Weed Warrior Program trains and activates citizens to identify and remove non-native invasive plants. Supervisors and park staff also lead more than 100 group workdays per year to tackle larger infestations and provide opportunities for untrained volunteers and outside groups.

Wildlife Management

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

White-Tailed Deer

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

The White-tailed Deer Management Program addresses county-wide impacts of deer including deer-vehicle collisions, over-browsing of natural vegetation, damage to agriculture and ornamental landscapes, and communicable disease. Montgomery Parks has active deer population control occurring on approximately 21,000 of its 37,000 acres. Multiple control efforts are utilized to manage the population, including Archery, Cooperative, Lottery and Tenant-based Managed Deer Hunting and Park Police-based Sharpshooting Programs.

Additionally, since M-NCPPC is charged to investigate and address county-wide White-tailed Deer impacts, some program efforts occur on additional public and private lands not within stewardship authority of M-NCPPC to fully understand the population dynamics in the entire county.

Sustainability

Montgomery Parks is committed to sustainable practices that preserve natural and economic resources, reduce consumption and waste, reduce our environmental footprint, promote green practices in our facilities and programs, and that support the wellness of our employees and wider community that we serve. The Department has developed a [sustainability plan](#) and contributes to the M-NCPPC sustainability plan and the Montgomery County Climate Action Plan.

All new and retrofit park buildings/facilities of qualifying size are constructed to LEED Silver or equivalent standard. In older facilities, upgrades are made to conserve and improve the efficiency of both energy and water resources – cutting back on consumption, utility bills, and pollution. These upgrades include installing high-efficiency heating and air conditioning units, improved insulation, motion sensor lighting and use of LED technology, installation of ‘smart’ thermostats for improved management and control of energy resources and replacing faucets and toilets with low-flow fixtures.

Solar panel installation and power purchase agreements allows Montgomery Parks to benefit from clean renewable solar energy with no upfront costs. These projects will lower utility bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while also contributing to smart, clean, and resilient energy region-wide.

Montgomery Parks cares very much about reducing waste and ensuring that we divert materials for reuse or recycling, as appropriate. A few strategies we use to reduce our waste include: All facilities recycle mixed paper/cardboard as well as commingled jars and containers of glass/plastic/aluminum/steel/tin. Additionally, we recycle scrap metal, motor fuel, tires, electronic waste, light bulbs, batteries, construction debris, concrete and asphalt. Green waste removed from parkland is composted for conversion these waste materials into useful products, including compost, wood chips, and mulch, that can be used for future park projects. Over four million pounds of waste is diverted from landfills or incineration each year.

Integrated Pest Management

The Department follows Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles to steward resources and protect them from pests (weeds, insects, animals, and diseases) that may harm people or plants, impair function, and deteriorate infrastructure. IPM means managing pests by combining multiple strategies and techniques such as mechanical removal of pests, cultural methods to improve soil and plant health, conserving and introducing beneficial biological controls, and using pesticides.

The Parks Department does not use pesticides for cosmetic purposes. Pesticides are used as a last resort to control noxious and invasive pests, maintain safe and playable athletic fields and courts, and prevent significant economic damage, including degradation of park infrastructure. Staff who apply pesticides and fertilizers are certified and registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture and all applications are posted on-site and on the web for public notification and tracking purposes.

Montgomery Parks manages 45 pesticide-free parks. Pests in parks designated pesticide-free are managed using alternative methods, such as hot foam, string trimming, mechanical weed removal and products approved for use by Montgomery County Code 33B. And as previously mentioned the Department has developed Best Management Practices for Control of Non-Native Invasive Plants that emphasize the safe use of chemicals in addressing invasive species.

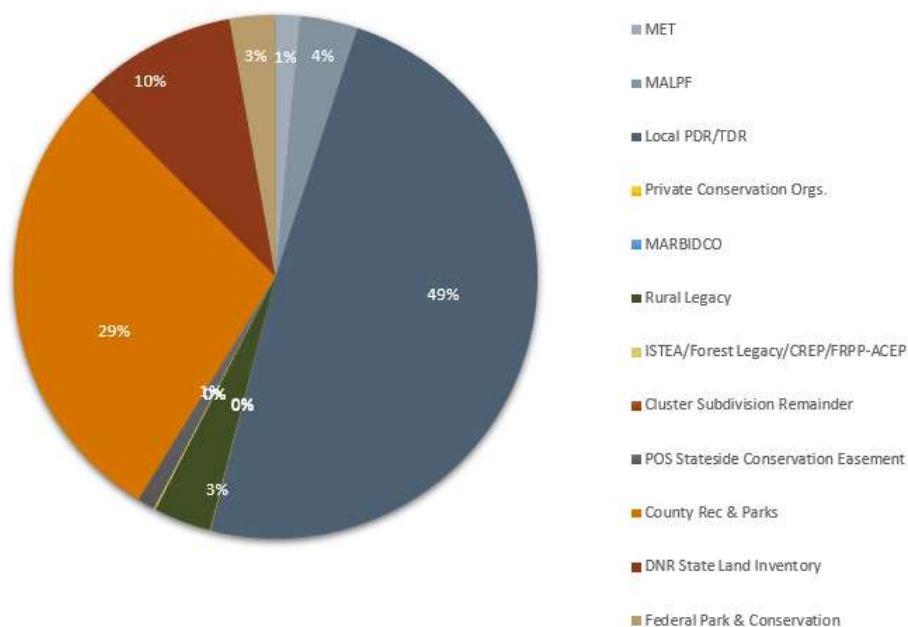
Nature Centers and interpretive services

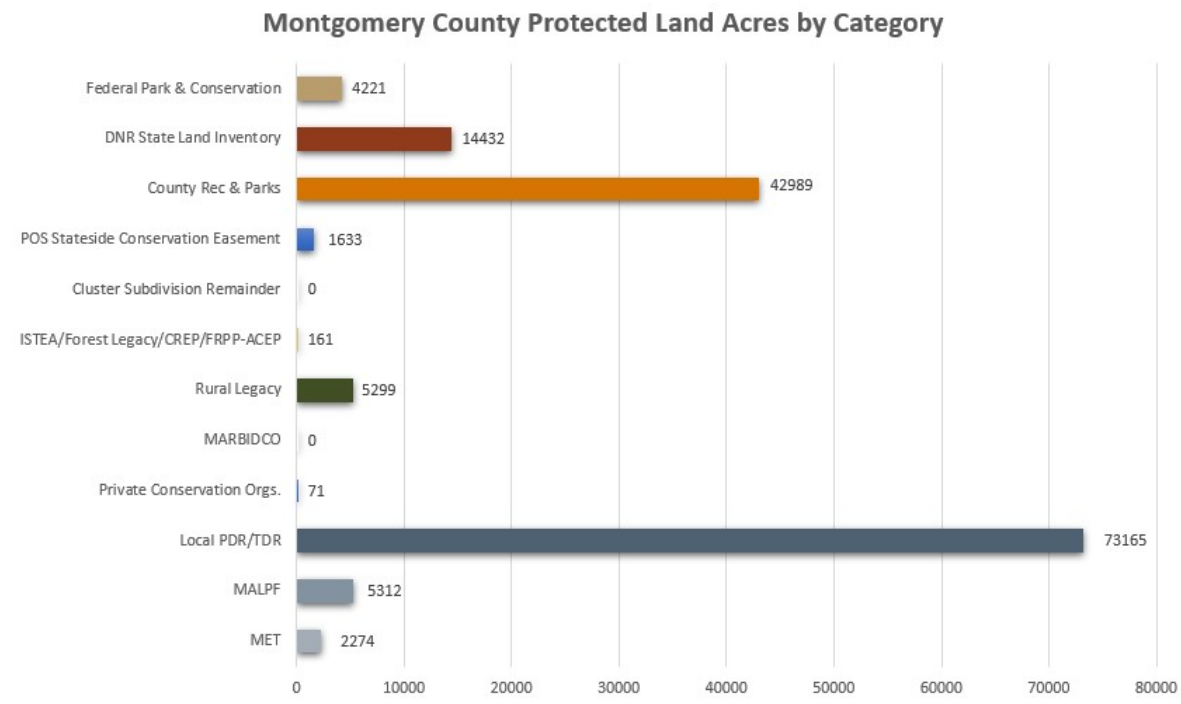
Montgomery Parks provides interpretive programs, curriculum-based school programs, and community engagement efforts that connect knowledgeable Parks staff with current environmental stewards and help to develop future leaders, including formal (five nature centers and one mobile unit) and informal programs in the fields of horticulture, environmental education, and natural history interpretation. To

support Montgomery County Schools in meeting the Maryland Environmental Literacy Graduation Requirement, Montgomery Parks offers free curriculum-based school programs for all K-12 Montgomery County public schools, independent schools, and home school groups, thereby overcoming the financial barrier that keeps some student populations from regular access to environmental education.

| Protected Lands by Category | MC Acres |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| MET | 2274 |
| MALPF | 5312 |
| Local PDR/TDR | 73165 |
| Private Conservation Orgs. | 71 |
| MARBIDCO | 0 |
| Rural Legacy | 5299 |
| ISTEA/Forest Legacy/CREP/FRPP-ACEP | 161 |
| Cluster Subdivision Remainder | 0 |
| POS Stateside Conservation Easement | 1633 |
| County Rec & Parks | 42989 |
| DNR State Land Inventory | 14432 |
| Federal Park & Conservation | 4221 |

Montgomery County Protected Land Acres by Category





Dashboard Disclaimer: Preserved lands data are a public resource for general information purposes. Accuracy is not guaranteed. Data users are responsible for determining suitability. Acreages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

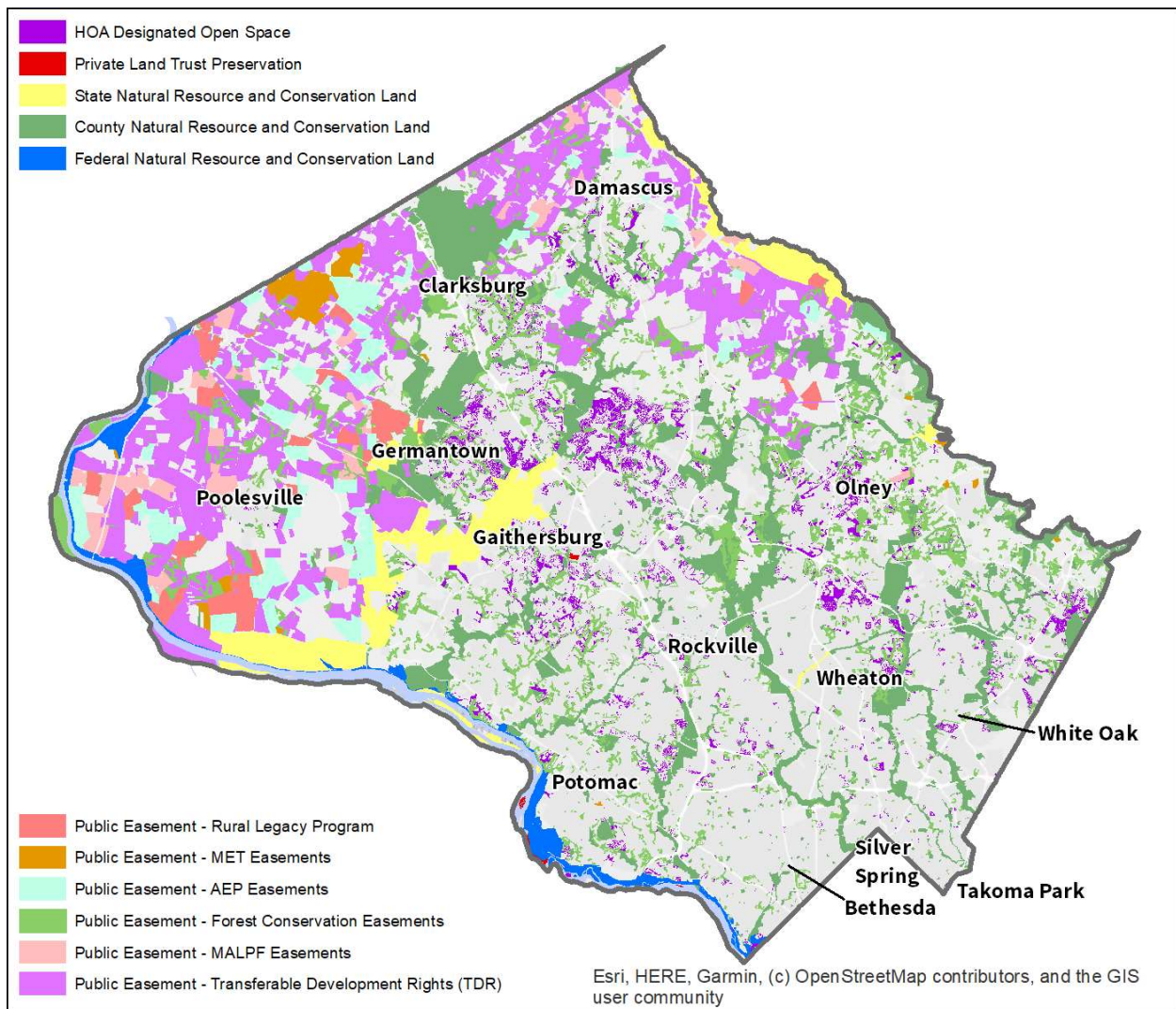


Table9.1: Public Protected Land Combined

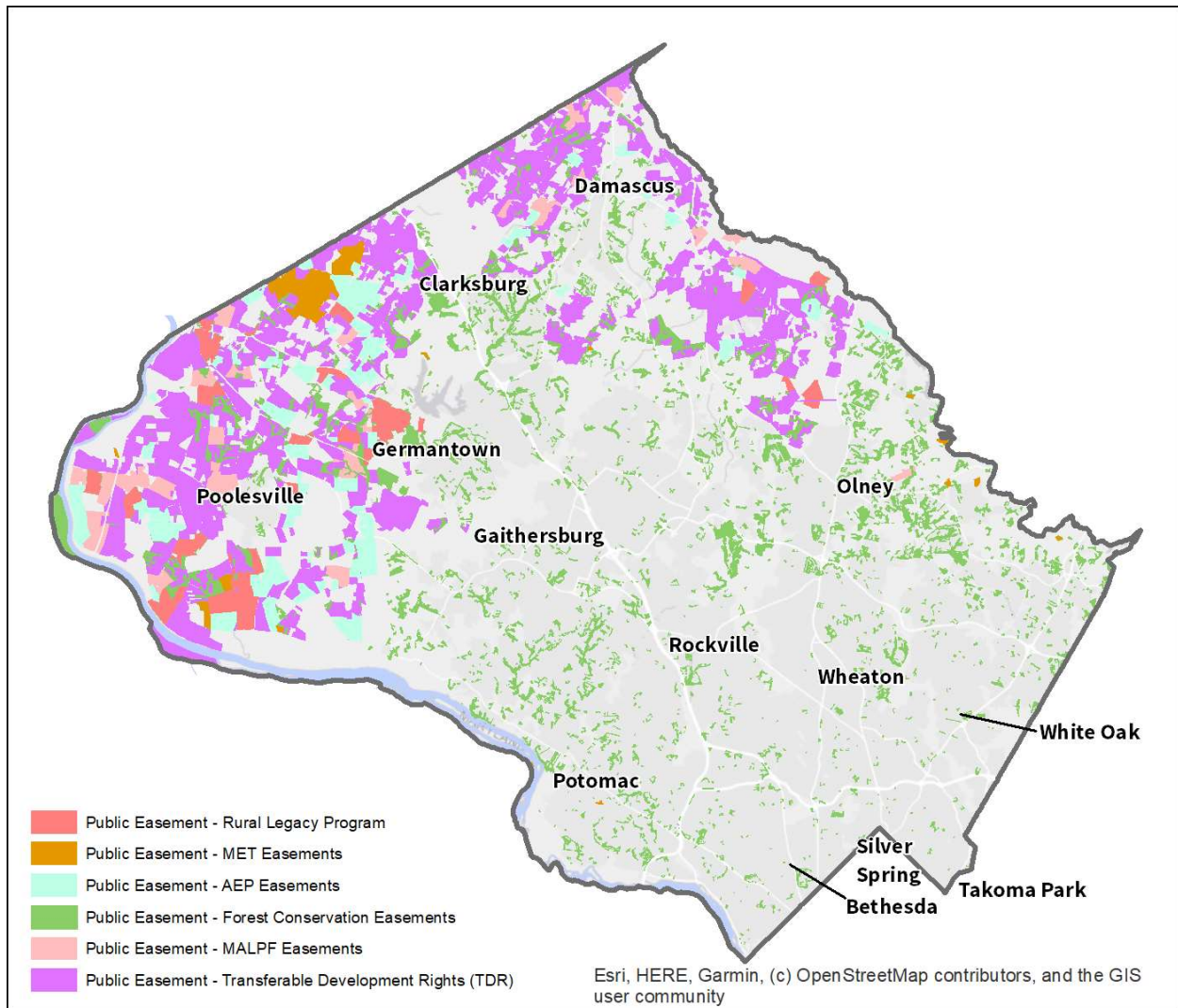


Table9.2: Public Protected Land – Per MD Dashboard Categories

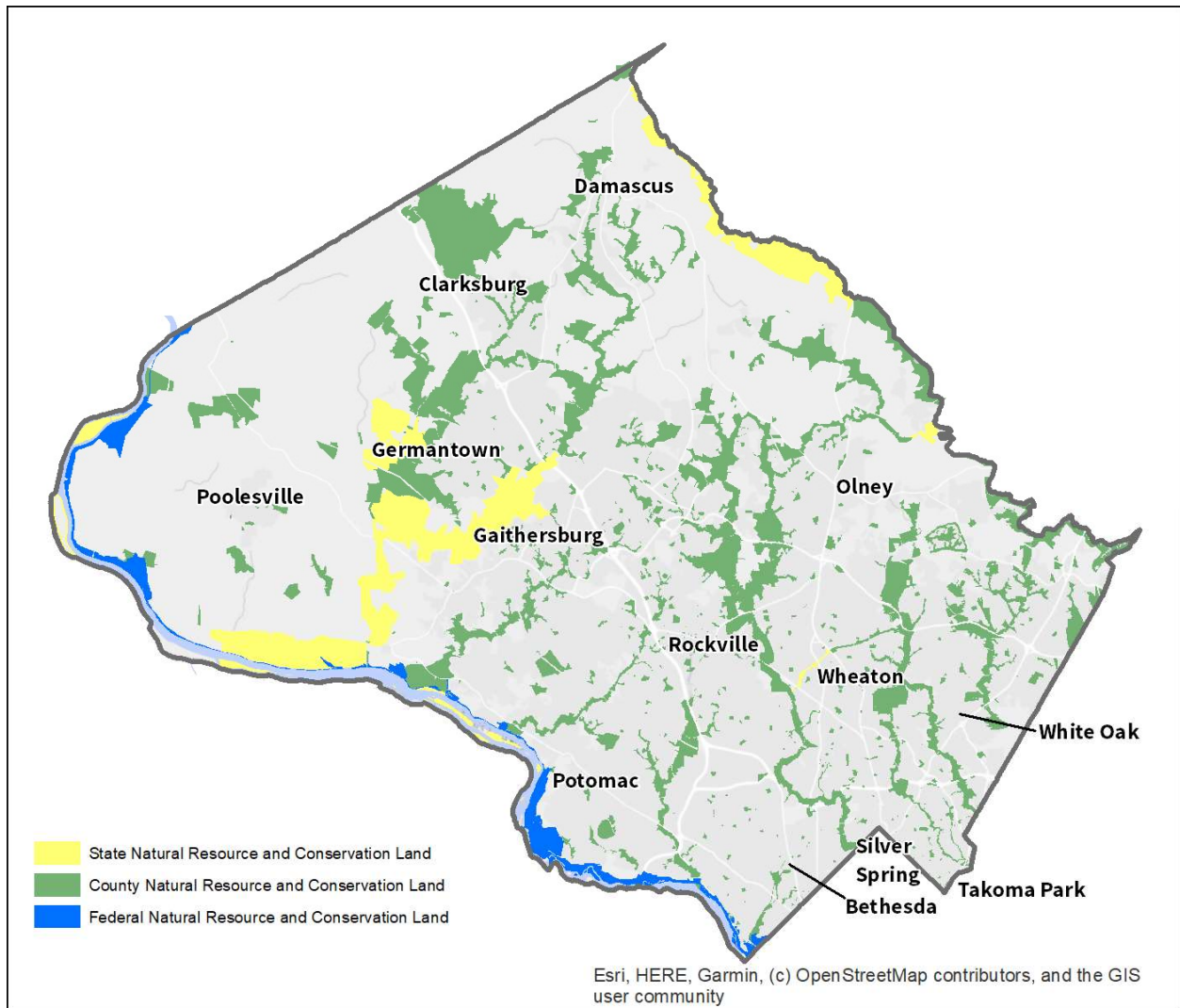


Table9.3: Public Protected Land – Per ownership

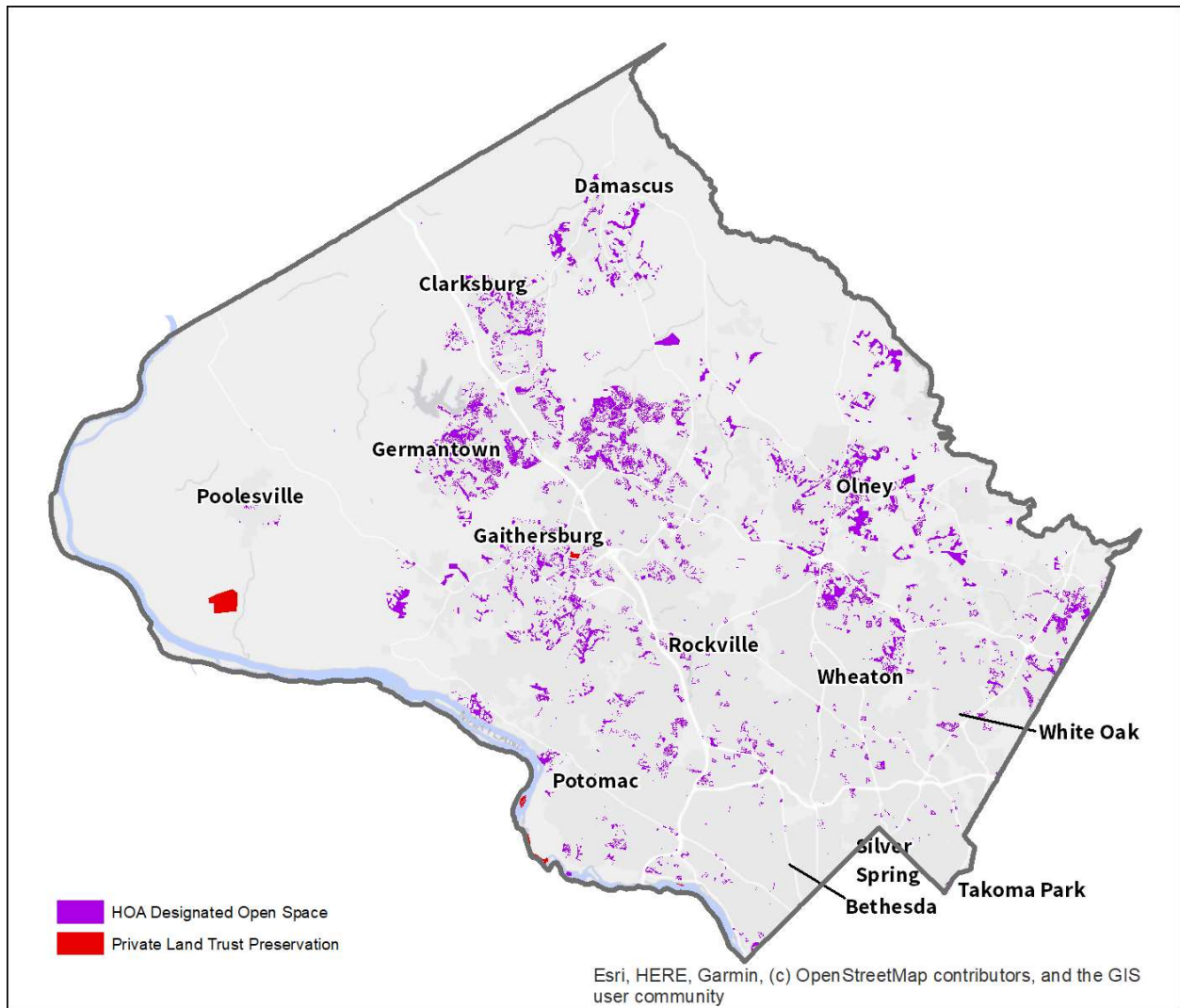


Table9.4: Private Protected Land – Per Designation

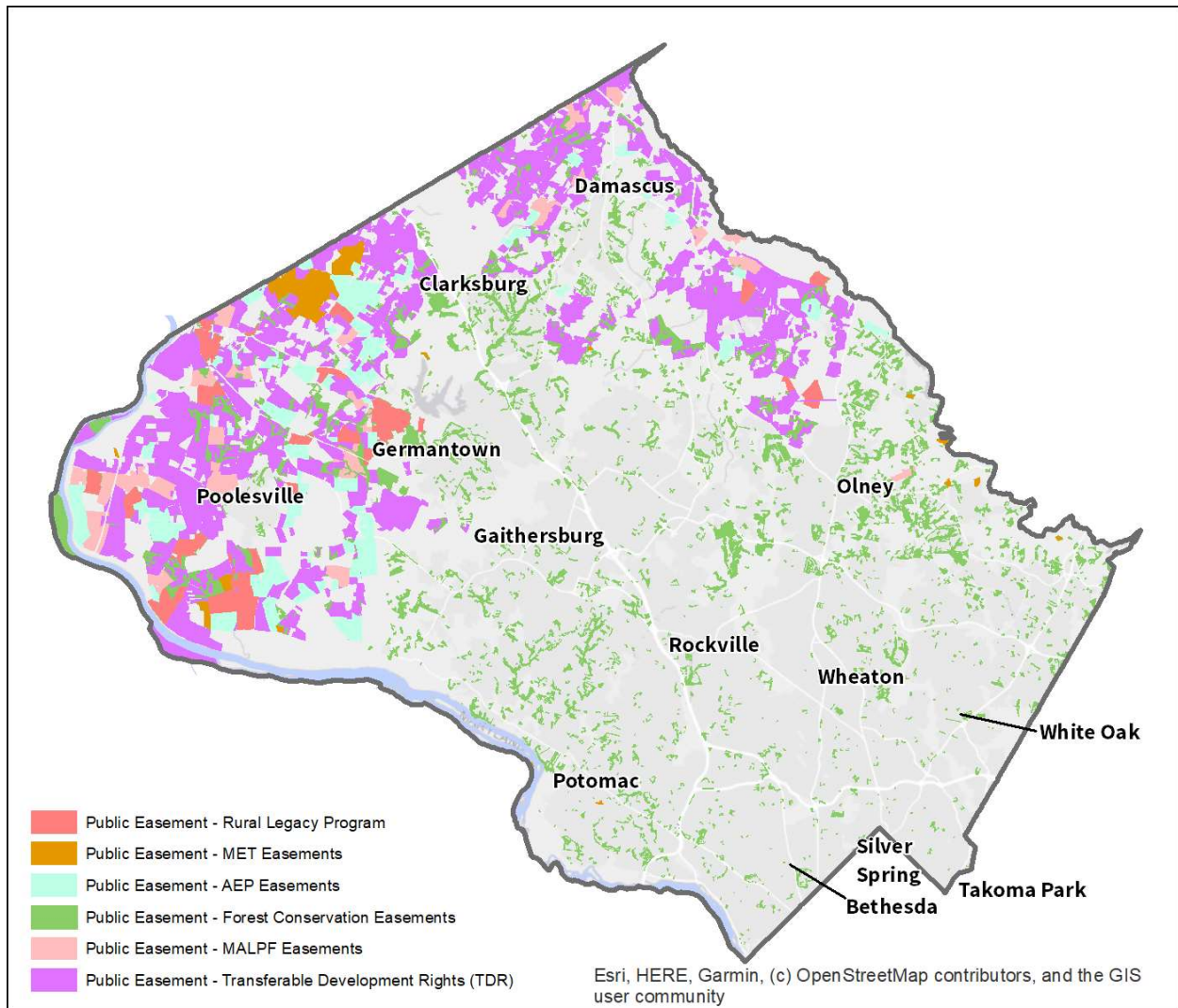


Table9.5: Private Protected Land – all combined

Appendix 10. Agricultural Land Preservation Programs

State Programs

The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET)

This program was established by the Maryland State Legislature in 1967 to encourage landowners to donate easements to protect scenic open areas, including farm and forest land, wildlife habitat, waterfront, unique or rare areas and historic sites. MET accepts both donated and purchased easements. In the donated easement program, the landowners are eligible for certain income, estate, gift, and property tax benefits in return for limiting the right to develop and subdivide their land, now and in the future. Using this program, 2,291 acres were preserved through FY2021.

Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)

This program was established in 1977 by the State Legislature as a result of concern over decreasing farmland acreage caused by development. The program is implemented through the Maryland Department of Agriculture, in partnership with local government. The MALPF purchases agricultural land preservation easements directly from landowners for cash. Following the sale of the easement, agricultural uses of the property are encouraged to continue. Through FY2021, 5,001 acres were preserved under this program.

Rural Legacy Program (RLP) in Montgomery County

Passed by the Maryland General Assembly in May of 1997 as part of the Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation Act, the Rural Legacy Program encourages local governments and private land trusts to identify Rural Legacy areas and to competitively apply for funds to complement existing land conservation efforts or create new programs. This State program provides grants to Counties or other sponsors for preserving areas rich in agricultural, forestry, natural and cultural resources. The intent is to promote a resource-based economy, protect greenbelts and greenways and maintain the fabric of rural life. Grants can be directed to either purchase sensitive lands in fee or to acquire protection through conservation easements.

In the spirit of maximizing both State and local funds, Montgomery County has been successful in its Rural Legacy applications by leveraging State/local funds to target significant agricultural resources through the conservation easement acquisition process. Since the first grants were awarded during the FY1998-1999 grant cycle, Montgomery County has been awarded a total of \$19.3 million in State Grant Funds; through FY2016, 4,875 acres have been protected by this program. As with the County's AEP program, TDRs created through the easement acquisition process are held jointly by the State/County and represent an asset and potential source of future revenue for the program. Through FY2021, 5,302 acres were preserved under this program and the RLP the State/County has acquired 360 TDRs through this program.

Transferable Development Rights Program (TDR)

The Montgomery County TDR Program was established in 1980 as part of the *Preservation of Agriculture and Rural Open Space Functional Master Plan*. The TDR program allows landowners to transfer a development right from one parcel of land to another parcel. For agricultural land preservation, TDRs are used to shift development from agricultural areas ("TDR sending areas") to designated growth zones

or (“TDR receiving areas”) which are closer to public services and far removed from the “sending area”. When rights are transferred from a parcel within the designated “TDR sending area,” the land is restricted by a permanent TDR easement. The TDR program represents the private sector's investment in land preservation, as the price paid for TDRs is negotiated between a landowner and a developer. A developer who purchases TDRs is permitted to build at a higher density than permitted by the “base zoning.” The funds paid for a TDR by the developer to a landowner creates a wealth transfer from the developed areas back into the rural economy.

Montgomery County has been recognized as having one of the most successful TDR programs in the nation, with 53,194 acres of agricultural land preserved by TDRs through FY2021.

Montgomery County Agricultural Easement Program (AEP)

Established in 1987, this program gives the County the ability to purchase agricultural land preservation easements to preserve land for agricultural production. Lands eligible for participation in this program must be zoned Rural, Rural Cluster, or Rural Density Transfer, or subject to land being designated as an approved State or County Agricultural Preservation District. The program was created to increase both the level of voluntary participation in farmland preservation programs and to expand the eligibility of farmland parcels. Through FY2021, 8,940 acres were preserved under this program. 16, 8,575 acres were preserved under this program.

Montgomery County Building Lot Termination (BLT) Program

The Montgomery County BLT program was established in 2008 with the first BLT easements purchased in 2011. The primary purpose of a BLT easement is to preserve agricultural land by reducing fragmentation of farmland due to residential development. A BLT easement restricts residential, commercial, industrial, and other non-agricultural uses beyond the level of protection that a TDR easement provides. A key feature of the BLT easement is an enhanced level of compensation to landowners who demonstrate that property has the capacity for residential development and who agree to permanently retire an approved on-site waste disposal system associated with the lot to be terminated.

This program has two phases. The public Building Lot Termination (BLT) program allows the County to pay farmers for a BLT Easement for each whole building lot that is terminated from their farm. To date, there have been 11 public BLT transactions totaling 1,257 acres. Through FY2021, 19 partial BLT transactions have paid for 9.2 BLTs. Another component of the BLT program allows a developer to purchase partial BLTs when their project does not warrant a whole BLT. The proceeds from partial BLTs are deposited in the agricultural preservation fund and used to purchase additional BLTs from interested landowners.

The second phase involves a privately funded initiative whereby the development community purchases whole BLT's directly from AR zoned landowners. This privately funded initiative functions in a similar fashion as the County's Transfer of Development Rights Program (TDR). The BLTs are one method that a developer may use for acquiring additional density for projects in the CR zones, to meet the public benefit formula.

The privately funded BLT program has preserved over 645 acres of land and removed 17 potential development lots.

M-NCPPC Programs

The M-NCPPC has worked for many decades to support the preservation and stewardship of agricultural and rural lands in Montgomery County. Since spearheading the creation of *the Agricultural and Rural Open Space Functional Master Plan* in 1980, the Planning and Parks Departments in Montgomery County have worked to preserve farmland through a variety of policies and programs and expended significant effort and funds to implement those programs. The Commission's programs complement the extensive efforts to protect the Agricultural Reserve that have been completed since 1980 through the easement programs as implemented by the County's Office of Agriculture.

Within the Commission, each Department has a role in preserving agricultural land. The Planning Department plays a critical role in maintaining large areas for agriculture and preservation of natural resources via their review of subdivision requests in the Agricultural Reserve. The Parks Department further works to preserve agricultural and rural lands by preserving targeted lands of significance within the Agricultural Reserve as parkland, providing public access for recreation as well as agricultural and natural resource education on some of the most exceptional lands in the County, as described elsewhere in this Plan. Two key Parks programs are described here.

Legacy Open Space Program (LOS)

The *Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan (LOS FMP)* was approved by the Montgomery County Council in 2001. The LOS FMP includes one category of open space that is focused on preservation of Farmland and Rural Open Space. The functional plan recommended that the Legacy Open Space program and funding should support the agricultural preservation programs in several ways, primarily through supporting the AEP program and purchasing easements on exceptional programs directly. The LOS FMP also states a goal of reducing development potential on priority rural land to no more than 1 unit per 50 acres. During 20 years of implementation efforts, the LOS program has supported the goals of farmland preservation through the tools that are most appropriate for the Parks Department, primarily the use of in-fee land acquisition instead of easement acquisition.

The Legacy Open Space program protects and stewards the Agricultural Reserve through two main avenues. First, when a high priority natural resource site is acquired as conservation parkland, further residential development is excluded from that property, thus reducing the number of potential rooftops in the Agricultural Reserve as a whole. This result is comparable to the preservation achieved by placing BLTs or other development restrictive easements on privately owned land. By reducing new development in the Reserve, the potential of the Reserve to remain a functioning economic agricultural area is supported. In addition to supporting farmland and rural open space through these acquisitions, other goals achieved include protection of sensitive natural resources, water supply areas, heritage resources, and the provision of trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding and other forms of natural – resource-oriented recreation such as fishing, camping and birdwatching. To date, the Legacy Open Space program has resulted in the addition of approximately 1975 acres of rural and agricultural lands to the park system in the Reserve.

Second, above the preservation and stewardship of rural land purchased for parkland, those acquisitions can result in the complete protection of many additional acres of farmland that remain in active agriculture in private ownership. To achieve multiple goals for the Legacy Open Space program,

agricultural preservation, and Parks overall, partial acquisitions are often pursued that remove development rights from the land remaining in private ownership below the level of 1 unit per 25 acres. For instance, the portion of a farm that consists of high-quality forest and natural resources that adjoins existing conservation parkland and that provides opportunities to make trail connections between public lands may be acquired in-fee as parkland. To meet farmland preservation goals, additional development rights can be purchased during that transaction that limit the development potential on the farmland remaining in private ownership. To date, LOS purchases of 1975 acres of parkland have resulted in over 300 acres of farmland and rural land remaining in private ownership but protected from further development that could damage future agricultural use.

[Agricultural Lease Program](#)

The Parks Department's Agricultural Lease Program supports farming operations on many park properties via leases with local farmers. The Parks Department currently manages 23 agricultural leases totaling 1,047 acres of active fields.

Appendix II. Preserved Agricultural Land

Montgomery County has access to a large “toolbox” of programs to preserve agricultural land, each described in this section. The County’s Office of Agriculture is the lead agency in implementing the State and County easement programs to support the agricultural economy in the County, while the M-NCPPC implements the Legacy Open Space program and other policies/programs to support preservation and stewardship. The Montgomery County Office of Agriculture keeps a comprehensive list of all existing preserved agricultural land in Montgomery County. The list is included below:

| Program | Election Districts | Primary Tax Account # | Date Acquired | Grantor | Owner | Size (Acres) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Agricultural Easement Program (AEP) | 11 | 918254 | 11/1989 | Simms | BUSH, WILLIAM and CHRISTINA BARR | 49.71 |
| | 11 | 920177 | 12/1989 | Ellsworth | LANGSTAFF DAVID H | 25 |
| | 11 | 917911 | 12/1989 | Martin | CLIFTON FARM LLC | 322.32 |
| | 11 | 1679436 | 12/1989 | Thoms | THOMS, RICHARD W ET AL TR | 57 |
| | 11 | 917146 | 1/1990 | Johnson | JOHNSON, EDWIN R JR ET AL | 174 |
| | 3 | 2396887 | 6/1990 | Raynsford | RAYNSFORD, ROBERT W & E R | 20 |
| | 3 | 2396865 | 8/1990 | Davis | DAVIS, BETTY J | 15.1326 |
| | 3 | 1658888 | 8/1990 | Kaylor | Mobaraki, Gholam Reza | 60 |
| | 3 | 37851 | 37851 | Ladd | ALLNUTT HOMESTEAD LLC | 36.949 |
| | 3 | 1936533 | 8/1990 | Warner | WARNER, JONATHAN M | 32.956 |
| | 11 | 914440 | 8/1990 | Davies | DAVIES, NELIA A | 90 |
| | 11 | 914666 | 8/1990 | Johnson | JOHNSON, EDWIN R ET AL | 163.185 |
| | 3 | 1898468 | 9/1990 | Jamison | JAMISON, FRANKLIN A & O P | 32.1186 |
| | 3 | 2242422 | 2/1991 | Kepart | KAPSCH, ELIZABETH & ROBERT | 28.71 |

| Program | Election Districts | Primary Tax Account # | Date Acquired | Grantor | Owner | Size (Acres) |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------|--|--------------|
| | 11 | 919010 | 4/1991 | Poole | WILLARD, WILIAM FRANCIS ET AL TR | 208.67 |
| | 11 | 1879261 | 4/1991 | Melnick | MELNICK, JULIANNE L | 16 |
| | 1 | 10236 | 6/1991 | Rogers | SUNDOWN FARM, LLC | 156.4752 |
| | 1 | 03357381 | 6/1991 | Rogers | ARNOLD, SANDRA E | 48.84 |
| | 11 | 917272 | 6/1991 | Hough | HOUGH, HAMMET W & J L | 28.5 |
| | 3 | 2840692 | 8/1991 | Levi | KIPLINGER, AUSTIN H & M L | 26 |
| | 11 | 2718911 | 8/1991 | Pachner | LANGSTAFF, DAVID H & C S | 30.047 |
| | 11 | 1684706 | 8/1991 | McCrea | WALKER, ANTHONY M | 20 |
| | 3 | 40222 | 12/1991 | Priest | GRIGORIAN, GREGORY | 57.59 |
| | 3 | 38491 | 12/1991 | Priest | GRIGORIAN, GREGORY | 22.91 |
| | 11 | 913695 | 12/1991 | Checkley | WMR III LLC C/O WM Rickman Co | 157.06 |
| | 11 | 2622185 | 4/1992 | Cissel | REMONDI, BENJAMIN W | 11.63 |
| | 11 | 1804120 | 33695 | Sutherland | HAGEN, RICHARD & JULIE | 77.8 |
| | 12 | 939121 | 33695 | Power | POWER, JOHN C | 98.3675 |
| | 3 | 41693 | 33756 | Weitzer | WEITZER, DAVID | 246.0487 |
| | 3 | 33831 | 39114 | Weitzer | Kim Worth | 7.19 |
| | 3 | 35008 | 7/1992 | Cleveland | CLEVELAND, ERNEST B & A F | 106.3364 |
| | 3 | 37714 | 7/1992 | Kiplinger | KIPLINGER, AUSTIN H ET AL | 326.38 |
| | 2 | 28548 | 11/1992 | Hay | HAY, THOMAS O & MELISSA MCCANNA | 26.77 |
| | 2 | 3002472 | 11/1992 | Hay | COLBURN, MARK A & SHARON L DONOVAN | 46.68 |

| Program | Election Districts | Primary Tax Account # | Date Acquired | Grantor | Owner | Size (Acres) |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---|--------------|
| | 11 | 2168372 | 33970 | Ware | BRUNNER, CHRISTOPHER & ELENA VICTORIA | 25 |
| | 2 | 28537 | 3/1993 | Hoffmann | HOFFMANN, R THOMAS & M K | 45.44 |
| | 11 | 1743247 | 3/1993 | Sugarloaf Equestrian | SUGARLOAF EQUESTRIAN | 40.55 |
| | 11 | 920667 | 34060 | Shumaker | SHUMAKER, KENNETH E ET AL | 188.2163 |
| | 11 | 1992870 | 34060 | Coleman | CHEN, SUN AND LYDIA NATAL | 30 |
| | 11 | 914644 | 34090 | Knop | KNOP, PETER J | 154.72 |
| | 3 | 2665071 | 34394 | Fistere | FISTERE, STEVEN CHARLES REV TR | 60 |
| | 11 | 3056190 | 34394 | Hilltop Farms LTD | HILLTOP FARMS LIMITED PTNSHP c/o FALLER MGMT CO INC | 245.27456 |
| | 3 | 406031 | 34547 | Windolph/Williams | BALLA MACHREE LLC | 395.3095 |
| | 11 | 1708780 | 34639 | Minners | PYLES, TRACEY | 81.04 |
| | 6 | 1636437 | 34639 | Minners | BALLA MACHREE LLC | 25.58 |
| | 3 | 41875 | 34881 | Willard | WILLARD, WILLIAM F ET AL | 293.07 |
| | 3 | 39451 | 34973 | Patton | LEWIS LEGACY LLC | 271.3 |
| | 11 | 3129401 | 11/1995 | Seligson | SWEETWATER FARM LLC | 95.72 |
| | 11 | 3129241 | 11/1995 | Seligson | SWEETWATER FARM LLC | 99.3 |
| | 11 | 921150 | 35004 | Kirsh | DIANE KIRSCH FAMILY TRUST | 57.91 |
| | 3 | 39462 | 35065 | Patton | J T PATTON & SONS | 243.42 |
| | 11 | 918538 | 35370 | Eeg | EEG, PETER H & C A | 16 |
| | 2 | 23262 | 12/1998 | Woodfield | HANEY, MARY E ET AL | 65.97 |

| Program | Election Districts | Primary Tax Account # | Date Acquired | Grantor | Owner | Size (Acres) |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| | 12 | 941738 | 36951 | Steele | ALEXANDER, DUANE L & DEBBIE L | 89.41 |
| | 3 | 38401 | 37012 | Beverly | BEVERLY, CHARLES M ET AL | 535.36 |
| | 11 | 917660 | 37135 | Lewis | LEWIS, ROBERT A & LINDA A | 187.925 |
| | 8 | 3317306 | 37561 | Pretty Penny LLC | C/O N G SHERWOOD | 107.4822 |
| | 3 | 41465 | 37591 | Crawford/Kean | CRAWFORD, IRVIN L 2ND ET AL | 116.1926 |
| | 1 | 10783 | 38534 | Hyatt | GINGRICH, CHARLES & SHERRI | 121.7318 |
| | 3 | 34653 | 38869 | BUTZ | BUTZ | 111.368 |
| | 12 | 929793 | 39052 | Connelly/Hawse | Connelly/Hawse | 85.88 |
| | 3 | 34700 | 39295 | Byrd | Byrd Charitable Foundation, Inc | 117.67 |
| | 3 | 34686 | 39295 | Byrd | Byrd Charitable Foundation, Inc | 153.49 |
| | 11 | 3528965 | 39630 | Worthington | Michael & Hayley Mott | 126.178 |
| | 11 | 3528965 | 39630 | Worthington | George Worthington | part of above |
| | 1 | 4122 | 39783 | Stabler | Stacy Stabler & Tricia Holland | 75.7845 |
| | 11 | 917124 | 39934 | Belt | Allen Belt | 257.14 |
| | 1 | 1345 | 39990 | Waredaca Farms LLC | Waredaca Farms LLC | 166.24 |
| | 11 | 921503 | 39995 | Friends Aplenty LLC | Friends Aplenty LLC | 170.9225 |
| | 3 | 2689316 | 40026 | Delia Croghan et al | Delia Croghan et al | 116.05 |
| | 11 | 918642 | 41275 | Windmill Farm LLC | Sunlight Farm LLC | 88.08 |
| | 2 | 28322 | 41275 | George Cumberledge | Burnt Hill Farm LLC | 117.58 |

| Program | Election Districts | Primary Tax Account # | Date Acquired | Grantor | Owner | Size (Acres) |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| | 3 | 34915 | 42109 | Greenfield View Farm LLC | Greenfield View Farm LLC | 192.79 |
| | 3 | 33682 | 42783 | Greenfield View Farm LLC | Greenfield View Farm LLC | 93.9645 |
| | 12 | 927420 | 42872 | Charles Gingrich et al | Charles Gingrich et al | 84.18 |
| AEP/ FRPP | 3 | 34436 | 36708 | Willard | WILLARD, WILLIAM F SR & A M | 514.25 |
| | 3 | 1874111 | 35370 | Gordon | GORDON, ALEXANDER R & B D | 50 |
| Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) | 3 | 34618 | FY80 | Schaeffer | M P M INC | 214.3924 |
| | 3 | 40973 | FY80 | Spates | DES SPATES, ERIC C | 295.3896 |
| | 3 | 37667 | FY81 | KEPHART | KEPHART, GEORGE O ET AL | 134.15 |
| | 3 | 39347 | FY82 | O'Hanlon | NAUGHTY PINE PLANTATION PTNSHP | 316.6 |
| | 3 | 37018 | FY82 | Hopkins | HOPKINS, MASON R SR | 158 |
| | 3 | 33636 | FY82 | ALLNUTT | ALLNUTT, BENONI D JR & M | 229.1454 |
| | 3 | 36105 | FY83 | Patton | LEWIS LEGACY LLC | 128 |
| | 3 | 3158128 | FY84 | Keshisian | WALSH, JAMES V | 42.13 |
| | 3 | 33955 | FY84 | Keshishian | KESHISHIAN, HAROLD M | 119.84 |
| | 3 | 2093766 | FY84 | Yolken | YOLKEN, HOWARD T ET AL TR | 50 |
| | 3 | 44047 | FY97 | WILLARD | WILLARD, WILLIAM F ET AL | 268.5227 |
| | 3 | 37441 | FY02 | Evans | EVANS, JAMES B & M B | 234 |
| | 8 | 717538 | FY84 | Stephens | 18201 BROOKE ROAD LLC c/o Gil Hasty | 115 |

| Program | Election Districts | Primary Tax Account # | Date Acquired | Grantor | Owner | Size (Acres) |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| | 11 | 916302 | FY03 | Cerino, Conners Laney | LANEY, ANNE H & JAMES A | 109.21 |
| | 11 | 2790062 | FY03 | LANEY, JAMES A & A H | LANEY, JAMES A & A H | 12.18 |
| | 11 | 3266478 | FY03 | Cross Farm LLC | CROSS FARM LLC | 100.7 |
| | 11 | 3302384 | FY03 | Carlin Farm LLC | CARLIN FARM LLC | 130.3375 |
| | 1 | 1152 | FY03 | Stabler | STABLER, W DREW ET AL | 170 |
| | 3 | 36594 | FY05 | Mihm | MIHM, BERNARD A & K A | 272.84 |
| | 11 | 917693 | FY06 | Shiloh LLC | Shuangxi | 140 |
| | 12 | 923967 | FY08 | Richard and Nancy Biggs | John and Mary Fendrick | 137.85 |
| | 12 | 927817 | FY08 | Doody | Joanne Leatherman et al TR | 163.13 |
| | 12 | 933716 | FY09 | Luther | Lonne Luther et al | 145.1 |
| | 12 | 930746 | FY09 | Haines | Lewis Haines | 102.75 |
| | 12 | 927863 | FY10 | Luther | Lonne Luther et al | 98.4842 |
| | 1 | 00005310 | FY10 | W. Drew Stabler | Tricia Stabler Holland | 55.28 |
| | 3 | 00037532 | FY11 | WILLARD | ISDA LLC | 168.7 |
| | 2 | 00023865 | FY12 | Roy and Kathy Stanley | Roy and Kathy Stanley | 75.74 |
| | 12 | 937292 | FY13 | Moxley Farm LLC | Moxley Farm LLC | 70.6 |
| | 11 | 03363894 | FY19 | Nancy and Paul Baker | Nancy and Paul Baker | 101.0027 |
| | 1 | 00010511 | FY20 | Roy and Kathy Stanley | Roy and Kathy Stanley | 114.24 |
| | 11 | 03363872 | FY21 | Ida Dayhoff | Ida Dayhoff | 106.07 |
| MALPF/FRPP | 11 | 3350892 | FY04 | MDR Friends Advice | Michael Rubin | 150.9797 |
| | 11 | 921480 | FY04 | MDR Friendly Acres | Michael Rubin | 109.539 |

| Program | Election Districts | Primary Tax Account # | Date Acquired | Grantor | Owner | Size (Acres) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|
| | 11 | 918312 | FY04 | MDR Friends Ahoy | Michael Rubin | 231.0764 |
| Maryland Rural Legacy Program (RLP) | 1 | 01685483 | 3/2002 | George Simms | SIMMS, GEORGE E JR | 127.78 |
| | 1 | 7238 | 1/2004 | Robert Stabler | STABLER, ROBERT N ET AL | 85.7951 |
| | 1 | 02798570 | 1/2004 | Robert Stabler | STABLER, ROBERT N ET AL | 67.3674 |
| | 3 | 00038081 | 4/2001 | Batchelor's Purchase | Hughes Road Trust | 352.58 |
| | 3 | 0037144 | 5/2001 | Izaak Walton League | IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE BCC | 369.19 |
| | 3 | 41911 | 7/2001 | Mary Williams | WILLIAMS, MARY S ET AL TR | 238.132 |
| | 3 | 41523 | 9/2001 | Patricia Vajda | J A K E ENTERPRISES LC | 212.008 |
| | 3 | 40643 | 5/2002 | David Scott | SCOTT, DAVID O & J N | 270.509 |
| | | 40687 | 5/2002 | David Scott | KIMBERLY BETZ | (part of above) |
| | 3 | 3349346 | 8/2002 | Charles H Jamison, Inc | CHARLES H JAMISON INC | 210.51 |
| | 3 | 33762 | 9/2002 | William Anderson et al | ANDERSON, WP FAMILY TRUST, HITCHCOCK, SARAH ANDERSON ET AL | 431.8364 |
| | 3 | 33671 | 1/2004 | Sarah Hunter | Sarah Dorsett | 82.126 |
| | 11 | 00913844 | 4/2001 | James O'Connell | O'CONNELL, JAMES R | 154.7176 |
| | 11 | 916687 | 11/2001 | Peggy Kingsbury | KINGSBURY, PEGGY H | 133.1371 |
| | 6 | 00402261 | 2/2003 | MDR RCS LLC | C/O CAPITOL INVESTMENTS | 886.7073 |
| | 11 | 03369947 | 2/2003 | MDR RCS LLC | C/O CAPITOL INVESTMENTS | |
| | 11 | 919715 | 2/2003 | MDR RCS LLC | C/O CAPITOL INVESTMENTS | |
| | 11 | 919726 | 2/2003 | MDR RCS LLC | C/O CAPITOL INVESTMENTS | |

| Program | Election Districts | Primary Tax Account # | Date Acquired | Grantor | Owner | Size (Acres) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| | 11 | 00919885 | 3/2004 | Full Circle LLC | MDR FULL CIRCLE LLC | 181.69 |
| | 11 | 01969431 | 6/2004 | Rubin and Crawford | RUBIN, MICHAEL D ET AL | 100.3503 |
| | 11 | 1969442 | 6/2004 | Potomac Hunt | Potomac Hunt | 59.97 |
| | 3 | 1892894 | 3/2006 | MDR Polo | MDR Polo | 451.0478 |
| | 11 | 914837 | 6/2005 | Poss | Poss | 30.83 |
| | 3 | 35167 | 2/2008 | Cochran | Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary Inc | 427.91 |
| | 8 | 00713074 | 44248 | MCB Farm, LLC | MCB Farm LLC | 229.7371 |
| | 8 | 00704800 | 44248 | MCB Farm, LLC | MCB Farm LLC | 67.873 |
| | 8 | 00704822 | 44248 | MCB Farm, LLC | MCB Farm LLC | |
| | 3 | 00034323 | 44276 | Greenfield View Farm, LLC | Greenfield View Farm, LLC | 130.8548 |
| Building Lot Termination (BLT) | 1 | 9090 | FY12 | W Drew Stabler | W Drew Stabler | 200.97 |
| | 12 | 926983 | FY12 | Damascus Limited Partnership | Damascus Limited Partnership | 54.17 |
| | 1 | 3507930 | FY12 | William Hilton | JEFFREY L HARRISON | 53.38 |
| | 12 | 3327737 | FY13 | Taylor Paskowitz LLC | Morning Run Horse Park Corp | 100.71 |
| | 2 | 16541 | FY14 | Thomas Hartsock | Thomas Hartsock | 103.83 |
| | 8 | 3497407 | FY14 | Our House INC | Our House INC | 98.9491 |
| | 1 | 9168 | FY14 | Charles and Bertha Stanley | Charles and Bertha Stanley | 105.72 |
| | 1 | 3003 | FY15 | Robert and Besty Stabler | Robert and Besty Stabler | 160.77 |
| | 2 | 3584436 | FY15 | Lynwood Farm LLC | Brinklow-Blocktown LLC | 226.51 |
| | 3 | 36754 | FY15 | Twin Ponds Farm LLC | Twin Ponds Farm LLC | 77.16 |
| | 11 | 916437 | FY16 | Walter Prichard | Timothy & Vickie Shaw | 75.1554 |
| Total | | | | | | 1257.3245 |

| Program | Election Districts | Primary Tax Account # | Date Acquired | Grantor | Owner | Size (Acres) |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Private -BLT | 12 | 924585 | | Montgomery Horse, LLC | | 82.5 |
| | 12 | 1728630 | | Montgomery Horse, LLC | | |
| | 1 | 3399410 | | Jones Farm, LC | | 25.1 |
| | 3 | 3683851 | | Potomac Estates Corporation | | 48.951 |
| | 3 | 37270 | | Potomac Estates Corporation | | 25.6361 |
| | 2 | 1573625 | | A.S. McGaughan, Jr | | 5 |
| | 2 | 1607958 | | A.S. McGaughan, Jr | | 5 |
| | 2 | 1607947 | | A.S. McGaughan, Jr | | 5 |
| | 3 | 34961 | | David Bolten | | 65.7471 |
| | 8 | 706898 | | Farmers Collective Preservation LLC | | 176.34 |
| | 3 | 34004 | | MDR Budd One, LLC | | 87.6 |
| | 1 | 3292205 | | Tusculum Farm Trust | | 47.62 |
| | | | | ASM Realty, Inc. | | 71.19 |
| | 6 | 2998234 | (Lot 1) | ASM Realty, Inc. | | |
| | 6 | 2998245 | (Lot 2) | ASM Realty, Inc. | | |
| | 6 | 2998256 | (Lot 4) | ASM Realty, Inc. | | |
| | 6 | 3634281 | (Lot 5) | ASM Realty, Inc. | | |
| Total | | | | | | 645.6842 |
| Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) | 3 | 35214 | | | Richard Hill & Ronnie Hay | 17 |
| | 3 | 33897 | 35795 | Izaak Walton League | Izaak Walton | 127.31 |
| | 11 | 917215 | 29313 | Johnston | Ross | 171.58 |
| | 11 | 3247704 | 29313 | Johnston | JianJun Feng & Chunmei Zhang | 47.28 |
| | 11 | 3279460 | 29313 | Johnson | Choukas-Bradley | 2.35 |
| | 11 | 3272105 | 29497 | Johnson | Choukas-Bradley | 68.436 |
| | 11 | 3248275 | 29497 | Johnston | Langstaff Farm LP | 92.92 |

| Program | Election Districts | Primary Tax Account # | Date Acquired | Grantor | Owner | Size (Acres) |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | 11 | 3272093 | 29497 | Johnston | Sheaffer | 55.08 |
| | 11 | 915444 | | | Pleasants | 1124 |
| | 11 | 921398 | 33337 | Watkins | Law B. Watkins | 286 |
| | 2 | 20942 | | | Montgomery County | 16 |
| | 2 | 23397 | 40533 | Knapp | Barbara Knapp | 10.07 |
| | 8 | 1709044 | | | Hussman | 17 |
| | 8 | 708614 | | | Hartge | 59 |
| | 8 | 1726482 | | | Thomas | 3 |
| | 8 | 1726493 | | | Coutts | 22 |
| | 8 | 714490 | | | Williams | 28 |
| | 5 | 270452 | | | Polisar | 16 |
| | 3 | 2930213 | 42726 | Izaak Walton League | Izaak Walton League | 100.4188 |
| | 2 | 36993 | | Milmoe | Milmoe | 27.46 |
| Total | | | | | | 2290.9048 |

Appendix 12. Implementing Programs

Montgomery County relies upon the State of Maryland Program Open Space (POS) grant program as a critical component of the funding structure for acquisitions. A significant portion of the M-NCPPC Montgomery County park system has been acquired using state POS funds since the program's inception in 1970. Of the total of \$186.3 million in POS grant payments received, half has been allocated to purchase parkland while half was used for facility development. In addition to State POS funding, Montgomery County General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds and M-NCPPC G.O. Bonds (aka Commission or Park and Planning Bonds) are issued by the controlling agency and provided to acquisition CIP projects. For certain types of acquisition expenses and in strong economic times, County Current Receipts are also provided to the acquisition CIP.

To address the lower levels of traditional acquisition funding sources (State POS, County and Commission Bonds, tax receipts) over the past decade, innovative funding strategies have been established to keep the land acquisition program moving forward. New funding sources have been created over the past decade to implement proposed new urban parks through master plan and zoning recommendations (Bethesda Park Impact Payment and Mid-County Park Benefit Payment). A new capital project was created in FY 2021 funded primarily with State POS to implement the goals of the Energized Public Spaces Plan to create parks within walking distance in our most populated communities (Legacy Urban Space). Other tools help to make expensive acquisitions more feasible, such as negotiating installment contracts to stretch current funding, seeking additional funding sources, and requesting supplemental appropriations when necessary for significant urban acquisitions.

Acquisition Program Structure

Maintaining a variety of acquisition funding sources – from the locally funded Legacy Open Space to the development funded Bethesda PIP and MidCounty PBP to the State POS-funded Legacy Urban Space and Park Acquisition programs -- is a key element to ensure we can purchase and preserve open spaces to provide active, social, and contemplative public amenities in our growing County.

Acquisition via Development Review Process

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

Legacy Urban Space Capital Project

The *Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan* (EPS Plan; see Chapter 3 for more detail) is a countywide plan to provide public spaces within walking distance in the county's most densely populated areas. With rising populations in mixed use and higher density residential neighborhoods, parks and open space serve as "outdoor living rooms" that play a critical role in promoting livable and healthy communities, social interaction, and equity for residents of all ages and incomes.

Legacy Open Space Capital Project

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

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

Bethesda Park Impact Payment (PIP) Capital Project

The *Bethesda Downtown Plan* (BDP, 2017) created a new approach to providing funds for parks that are critical to livable and healthy communities for the residents of Bethesda and the County. With an increasing population of residents and workers in the Bethesda Downtown Plan area, parks and open spaces have become "outdoor living rooms" and de facto backyards that play an increasingly important role in promoting healthy living, social interaction, and equity. A new zoning tool -- the Bethesda Overlay Zone or BOZ -- requires a Park Impact Payment (PIP) for portions of certain development approvals within the BDP boundary.

Mid-County Park Benefit Payment (PBP) Capital Project

The central portion of Montgomery County continues to experience population and economic growth. The 2010 White Flint Sector Plan, the 2017 Rock Spring Sector Plan, the 2018 White Flint 2 Sector Plan, and the 2018 Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Area Minor Master Plan support this growth by creating livable communities that offer a range of benefits such as walkable neighborhoods and access to community facilities including parks. Specifically, these sector plans focus on creating new parks with central gathering spaces and active recreational amenities to support the quality of life.

Park Acquisition Capital Project

In the upcoming FY23-28 CIP, a new Park Acquisition capital project will be created that merges the current Non-Local and Local Park Acquisition CIP projects. This new project will be funded primarily with State Program Open Space (POS) grants to acquire all types of parkland to serve residents on a countywide (Non-Local) and community use (Local) basis. This project is intended to fund park acquisitions that are not funded by the more targeted land acquisition funds. The new Park Acquisition project will also include small amounts of County and Commission funds for program expenses and site cleanup.

Waterway Improvement Program

The Department of Natural Resources administers several state and federal grant programs that support the general boating public in Maryland. Maryland's Waterway Improvement Fund (WIF) provides financial support to local governments, to the department, and to federal agencies in the form of grants and/or loans for a wide variety of capital projects and services for the boating public. Montgomery Parks received \$99,500 for Seneca Landing Special Park for boat ramp project and construction is expected in FY 23.

Appendix I3. Capital Improvement Plan

Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) FY22-26

County and Commission Bonds fund 47% of the CIP, and County Current Revenue provides another 14% of the six-year budget. State Program Open Space dollars are estimated to fund 20% of the total CIP over the next 6 years. Program Open Space is a critical contribution to the CIP that supports the necessary development and acquisition efforts of the Commission to provide parks, recreation and open space resources to the residents of the County.

The most recent CIP was approved by the Montgomery County Council on May 27, 2021. The table below summarizes the expenditures for the years included in PROS 2022 (FY22-26) and also provides some estimated projections for the mid-term planning horizon (FY27-31) and long-term planning horizon (FY32-36) based on growth trends over time. As the coordinating agency for Program Open Space in Montgomery County, Montgomery Parks apportion a share of the development half of the county’s allocation to incorporated municipalities. The percentage of the allocation to each municipality is based on population. Projects sponsored by municipalities may include development of new parks, enhancements to existing parks, or acquisition of parkland.

(Dollar amounts in \$1,000)

| | | Current funding, FY22-26 | | | Mid-Term, FY27-31 | | | Long-Term, FY32-36 | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Capital Project | Description | Acquisition | Development | Maintenance & Renovation | Acquisition | Development | Maintenance & Renovation | Acquisition | Development | Maintenance & Renovation |
| ACQUISITION | | | | | | | | | | |
| Acquisition: Local Parks | Acquisitions that serve county residents on a neighborhood or community basis, including related costs for land surveys, appraisals, settlement expenses and other related acquisition costs. | 4250 | | | 4467 | | | 5338 | | |
| Acquisition: Non-Local Parks | For non-local parkland acquisitions, including related costs for land surveys, appraisals, settlement expenses and other related acquisition costs. | 3700 | | | 3889 | | | 4647 | | |
| ALARF: M-NCPPC | A revolving fund to enable the Commission to acquire rights-of-way and other property needed for future public projects. | 5000 | | | 5256 | | | 6280 | | |
| Bethesda Park Impact Payment | Acquisitions and development in the Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan area. | 250 | | | 263 | | | 314 | | |
| Legacy Open Space | To acquire or obtain easements or make fee-simple purchases on open-space lands of countywide significance | 11,443 | | | 12028 | | | 14372 | | |
| Legacy Urban Space | To acquire parkland to fill needs identified in the Energized Public Spaces Study Area using State of Maryland Program Open Space grants | 16,875 | | | 17738 | | | 21194 | | |
| Mid-County Park Benefit Payments | Acquisition of new parkland and the development of park facilities on newly acquired land to serve the White Flint, Grosvenor-Strathmore, and Rock Spring areas | 2,500 | | | 2628 | | | 3140 | | |
| DEVELOPMENT | | | | | | | | | | |
| ADA Compliance: Local Parks | Removes existing barriers and ensures that park facilities are built and maintained in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. | | 818 | 3,272 | | 860 | 3439 | | 1027 | 4110 |
| ADA Compliance: Non-Local Parks | Removes existing barriers and ensures that park facilities are built and maintained in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. | | 990 | 3,960 | | 1041 | 4163 | | 1243 | 4974 |
| Ballfield Initiatives | Improves existing athletic fields, creates new fields, and converts field types to meet needs | | 2,345 | 9,380 | | 2465 | 9860 | | 2945 | 11781 |
| Black Hill Regional Park: SEED Classroom | Converting maintenance yard to an environmental-friendly educational site using the principles of Sustainable Education Every Day (SEED) Classroom design and construction. | | 250 | | | | | | | |
| Blair HS Field Renovations and | Renovation of two fields for multiple sports for both school use and | | | 2,900 | | | | | | |

| | | Current funding, FY22-26 | | | Mid-Term, FY27-31 | | | Long-Term, FY32-36 | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Capital Project | Description | Acquisition | Development | Maintenance & Renovation | Acquisition | Development | Maintenance & Renovation | Acquisition | Development | Maintenance & Renovation |
| Lights | community use. | | | | | | | | | |
| Brookside Gardens Master Plan Implementation | This project implements multiple phases of the 2004 Brookside Gardens Master Plan. Next phases of infrastructure work – Visitors Center & Conservatory (POR), renovations to the Formal Gardens, and facility planning for Propagation Area B of the maintenance area. | | | 1,700 | | 0 | 1787 | | 0 | 2135 |
| Cost Sharing: Local Parks | This PDF funds development of local park projects in conjunction with public agencies or the private sector. | | 75 | 300 | | 79 | 315 | | 94 | 377 |
| Cost Sharing: Non-Local Parks | This PDF funds development of local park projects in conjunction with public agencies or the private sector. | | 50 | 200 | | 53 | 210 | | 63 | 251 |
| Energy Conservation - Local Parks | This project funds modifications of existing park buildings and facilities to modernize equipment, produce energy, control and utility costs. | | 479 | | | 504 | | | 602 | |
| Energy Conservation - Non-Local Parks | This project funds modifications of existing park buildings and facilities to modernize equipment, produce energy, control and utility costs. | | 700 | | | 736 | | | 879 | |
| Enterprise Facilities' Improvements | This project funds renovations or new construction at M-NCPPC-owned Enterprise facilities. | | 720 | 180 | | 757 | 189 | | 904 | 226 |
| Facility Planning: Local Parks | Concept design and facility planning of Local Parks. | | 400 | 1,600 | | 420 | 1682 | | 502 | 2010 |
| Facility Planning: Non-Local Parks | Concept design and facility planning of Local Parks. | | 290 | 1,160 | | 305 | 1219 | | 364 | 1457 |
| Hillandale Local Park | This project renovates the existing 25.35-acre Hillandale Local Park.. | | | 5,700 | | | | | | |
| Minor New Construction - Local Parks | Provides new amenities within existing parks | | 381 | 1,524 | | 400 | 1602 | | 479 | 1914 |
| Minor New Construction - Non-Local Parks | Provides new amenities within existing parks | | 770 | 3,080 | | 809 | 3238 | | 967 | 3868 |
| North Branch Trail | Hiker-biker trail, 2.2 mi, through Lake Frank and the North Branch of Rock Creek | | 4,672 | | | | | | | |
| Northwest Branch Recreational Park-Athletic Area | Phase II to include Lighting and irrigation for adult fields, playground, maintenance building, restroom building and two picnic shelters, sensory loop trail, landscaping and miscellaneous amenities. | | 4,600 | | | | | | | |
| Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park | This project expands the active recreation area in Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park and relocates the Ovid Hazen Wells Carousel from Wheaton Regional Park and provides supporting recreational amenities and parking to create a destination recreational area. | | 8,200 | | | | | | | |
| Park Refreshers | This project funds design and construction of renovations, modifications, and modernizations of local parks, with projects generally between \$1 to \$3.5 M. | | 3,408 | 13,632 | | 3582 | 14329 | | 4280 | 17121 |
| Planned Lifecycle Asset Replacement: Local Parks | This project schedules renovation, protection, modernization, conversion, and/or replacement of aging, unsafe, or obsolete local park facilities and features. Subprojects: Boundary Markings, Minor Renovations, Park Building Renovations, Play Equipment, Resurfacing Parking Lots and Paths, and Court Renovations. | | | 16,905 | | | 17770 | | | 21232 |

| | | Current funding, FY22-26 | | | Mid-Term, FY27-31 | | | Long-Term, FY32-36 | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Capital Project | Description | Acquisition | Development | Maintenance & Renovation | Acquisition | Development | Maintenance & Renovation | Acquisition | Development | Maintenance & Renovation |
| Planned Lifecycle Asset Replacement: NL Parks | This project schedules renovation, protection, modernization, conversion, and/or replacement of aging, unsafe, or obsolete local park facilities and features. Subprojects: Boundary Markings, Minor Renovations, Park Building Renovations, Play Equipment, Resurfacing Parking Lots and Paths, and Court Renovations. | | | 24,105 | | | 25338 | | | 30275 |
| Pollution Prevention and Repairs to Ponds & Lakes | Provides water quality enhancements and environmental restoration | | | 5,750 | | | 6044 | | | 7222 |
| Power Line Trail | This project will design, construct, and equip portions of the ultimate 13-mile paved and natural surface trail within the Pepco powerline corridor that connects South Germantown Recreational Park to Cabin John Regional Park as well as community and park connectors along the corridor. | | 10,000 | | | | | | | |
| Restoration Of Historic Structures | Restores historic sites and structures and provides for community access and interpretation. | | 544 | 2,176 | | 572 | 2287 | | 683 | 2733 |
| Seneca Landing Boat Ramp | Boat ramp project which will use Waterway Improvements Funding to partially fund the project. Construction is expected in FY23 | | 99.5 | | | | | | | |
| S. Germantown Recreational Park: Cricket Field | Provides the second cricket pitch envisioned as part of phase II of this overall project. | | 3,118 | | | | | | | |
| Small Grant/Donor-Assisted Capital Improvements | Appropriation to receive non-agency contributions. | | 1,090 | 4,360 | | 1146 | 4583 | | 1369 | 5476 |
| Stream Protection: SVP | Provides water quality enhancements and environmental restoration. | | | 5,150 | | | 5413 | | | 6468 |
| Trails: Hard Surface Design & Construction | Creates community connections to existing trails, trail signage, and trail amenities. | | 1,500 | | | 1577 | | | 1884 | |
| Trails: Hard Surface Renovation | Renovates hard surface trails. | | | 4,050 | | | 4257 | | | 5087 |
| Trails: Natural Surface & Resource-based Recreation | Creates access to natural, undeveloped parkland and natural resource-based recreation. | | 2,500 | | | 2628 | 0 | | 3140 | |
| Urban Park Elements | Provides new amenities within urban park settings. | | 1,156 | 495 | | 1215 | 521 | | 1452 | 622 |
| Vision Zero | Creates improvements to trails, roads, access routes to enhance safety and calm traffic. | | 540 | 2,160 | | 568 | 2271 | | 678 | 2713 |
| Wheaton Regional Park Improvements | Based on the Wheaton Master Plan update and ongoing needs assessments, this project provides planning, design and construction for the renovation, conversion, and modernization of a wide range of park amenities and infrastructure throughout Wheaton Regional Park. | | 600 | 2,400 | | 2202 | 8808 | | | |
| Municipality Projects | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blohm Park Trail Enhancement Project | Two sections of trails within the City of Gathersburg’s 25 acre Blohm Park. There will also be two boardwalk sections and an educational overlook that will allow the trail to provide not only recreation uses but expand to provide educational uses as well. | | 194 | | | | | | | |
| Bohrer Park Pump Room Renovation | City of Gathersburg Water Park: Due to the age of the facility, it has become imperative to replace the existing filters, motors, controllers, valves and other water treatment equipment to meet current standards and requirements. | | | 680 | | | | | | |

| | | Current funding, FY22-26 | | | Mid-Term, FY27-31 | | | Long-Term, FY32-36 | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Capital Project | Description | Acquisition | Development | Maintenance & Renovation | Acquisition | Development | Maintenance & Renovation | Acquisition | Development | Maintenance & Renovation |
| Zimmerman Park Multi-Use Public Recreation Area | Town of Chevy Chase: Proposed park amenities include a natural play area for children, a picnic/seating area, a broad lawn area with improved drainage for sports and recreation activities, better landscaping to shield the park from East West Highway, and a perimeter fence that can be fully enclosed to permit occasional off-leash dog events. The existing park is a passive space, and these improvements will fulfill the needs of area residents for an active recreation area. | | 450 | | | | | | | |
| E.E. Halmos Park | Town of Poolesville: The restrooms and concession facility needs to be demolished and replace with restrooms only at the same location. | | 110 | | | | | | | |

Acquisition Details Table

Historically in Maryland, Level of Service Analysis was completed using only a single metric of the number of acres per 1,000 population, with the state's default goal being 30 acres of parks and recreational land per 1,000 population. In that single metric, Montgomery County meets the state goal on a countywide scale. Montgomery Parks believes that a more granular and detailed approach to Level of Service Analysis yields more accurate and useful information on which to base acquisition needs. Therefore, Montgomery Parks uses various methods (i.e., Energized Public Spaces Analysis, Equity Focus Area designation, specific park needs, easy access for the public, etc.) to assess the comprehensive acquisition needs and guide prioritization.

This table includes information on the specific sites identified for parkland acquisition. Priority 1 acquisitions are the highest priority acquisitions that are also most likely to occur in the short term (2021-2025). Priority 2 acquisitions are likely to occur in the mid-term (2026-2030) and Priority 3 acquisitions are likely to occur over the long term (2031+).

Estimated costs were developed for Priority 1 acquisitions using data on comparable sales and recent market assessments. For Priority 2 and 3 acquisitions, the cost estimates are a more general level-of-effort value based on average costs per acre for the location and zone of the proposed acquisition. When estimated cost shows '0', it means exaction (i.e., conveyance or dedication) through development proposal.

| PARK NAME | PARK TYPE | AUTHORITY | ACRES | ESTIMATED COSTS (\$1,000) | Short Range Priority (2021-2025) | Mid Range Priority (2026-2030) | Long Range Priority (2031+) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Arliss Civic Green | Civic Green | Long Branch Sector Plan | 0.578 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Battery Lane Urban Park | Countywide Urban Recreational | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 0.682 | 2,700 | 1 | | |
| Broad Run Stream Valley Unit 2 | Stream Valley | Legacy Open Space Master Plan | 519.293 | 3,000 | 1 | | |
| Clarksburg Local Park | Local | Clarksburg Master Plan | 10.518 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Clarksburg Stream Valley Park | Stream Valley | Clarksburg Master Plan | 74.257 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Clarksburg Village Local Park | Local | Clarksburg Master Plan | 8.146 | 0 | 1 | | |

| PARK NAME | PARK TYPE | AUTHORITY | ACRES | ESTIMATED COSTS (\$1,000) | Short Range Priority (2021-2025) | Mid Range Priority (2026-2030) | Long Range Priority (2031+) |
|--|---------------------------|--|--------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Eastern Capital Crescent Urban Greenway Park | Urban Greenway | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 1.37 | 16,000 | 1 | | |
| Fenton Village Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | Silver Spring Master Plan | 0.9 | 3,000 | 1 | | |
| Flower Avenue Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | Long Branch Sector Plan | 0.3 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Hoyles Mill Conservation Park | Conservation | Legacy Open Space Master Plan | 14.764 | 300 | 1 | | |
| Hyattstown Forest Special Park | Special | Legacy Open Space Master Plan | 85.025 | 2,600 | 1 | | |
| Little Bennett Regional Park | Regional | Little Bennett Regional Park Master Plan | 7.846 | 500 | 1 | | |
| Muddy Branch Stream Valley Unit 2 | Stream Valley | Potomac Master Plan | 71.749 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Northwest Branch Stream Valley Unit 4 | Stream Valley | SHA Agreement | 15.083 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Olney Manor Recreational Park | Recreational | Olney Master Plan | 16.411 | 900 | 1 | | |
| Peach Orchard Neighborhood Conservation Area | Neighborhood Conservation | Cloverly Master Plan | 1.381 | 100 | 1 | | |
| Reddy Branch Stream Valley Unit 1 | Stream Valley | Olney Master Plan | 2.75 | 1,000 | 1 | | |
| Reddy Branch Stream Valley Unit 2 | Stream Valley | Olney Master Plan | 18.531 | 0 | 1 | | |

| PARK NAME | PARK TYPE | AUTHORITY | ACRES | ESTIMATED COSTS (\$1,000) | Short Range Priority (2021-2025) | Mid Range Priority (2026-2030) | Long Range Priority (2031+) |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| River Road Shale Barrens Conservation Park | Conservation | Legacy Open Space Master Plan | 80 | 1,500 | 1 | | |
| Stewart Avenue Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan | 4.019 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley Park | Stream Valley | Cloverly Master Plan | 59.039 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Veteran's Park Civic Green | Civic Green | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 0.3 | 7,500 | 1 | | |
| Westbard Central Civic Green | Civic Green | Westbard Sector Plan | 0.5 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Westbard Urban Recreational Park | Countywide Urban Recreational | Westbard Sector Plan | 0.8 | 3,000 | 1 | | |
| White Flint Civic Green | Civic Green | White Flint Sector Plan | 1.668 | 7,500 | 1 | | |
| White Flint Neighborhood Park | Neighborhood Park | White Flint Sector Plan | 2.602 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Willett Branch Urban Greenway | Urban Greenway | Westbard Sector Plan | 9.8 | 1,500 | 1 | | |
| WSSC Civic Green | Civic Green | Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan | 0.542 | 0 | 1 | | |
| 16th Street Urban Plaza | Plaza | Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan | 0.279 | 0 | | 2 | |
| B-CC East Neighborhood Green Park | Neighborhood Green | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 0.326 | 0 | | 2 | |
| Eastern Greenway Neighborhood Green South | Neighborhood Green | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 4.306 | 20,700 | | 2 | |
| Ednor Soapstone | Conservation | Cloverly Master Plan | 0.811 | 1,000 | | 2 | |

| PARK NAME | PARK TYPE | AUTHORITY | ACRES | ESTIMATED COSTS (\$1,000) | Short Range Priority (2021-2025) | Mid Range Priority (2026-2030) | Long Range Priority (2031+) |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Quarry Conservation Park | | | | | | | |
| Glenfield Local Park | Local | Glenmont Sector Plan | 25.143 | 2,500 | | 2 | |
| Glenmont Civic Green | Civic Green | Glenmont Sector Plan | 0.624 | 0 | | 2 | |
| Hawkins Creamery Road Local Park | Local | Damascus Master Plan | 13.175 | 400 | | 2 | |
| Limestone Conservation Park | Conservation | Legacy Open Space Master Plan | 107.547 | 2,000 | | 2 | |
| Little Bennett Creek Stream Valley Park | Stream Valley | Damascus Master Plan | 291.679 | 8,800 | | 2 | |
| Long Branch-Garland Neighborhood Park | Neighborhood Park | Long Branch Sector Plan | 0.24 | 0 | | 2 | |
| Magruder Stream Valley Unit 2 | Stream Valley | Damascus Master Plan | 0.844 | 100 | | 2 | |
| New Hampshire Estates Neighborhood Park | Neighborhood Park | Long Branch Sector Plan | 1.569 | 0 | | 2 | |
| Northwest Branch Recreational Park | Recreational | Cloverly Master Plan | 10.926 | 400 | | 2 | |
| Northwest Branch Stream Valley Unit 7 | Stream Valley | Cloverly Master Plan | 31.38 | 1,000 | | 2 | |
| Piedmont Woods Special Park | Special | Development Compliance | 65.779 | 0 | | 2 | |
| Reddy Branch Stream Valley Unit 2 | Stream Valley | Olney Master Plan | 196.664 | 2,500 | | 2 | |

| PARK NAME | PARK TYPE | AUTHORITY | ACRES | ESTIMATED COSTS (\$1,000) | Short Range Priority (2021-2025) | Mid Range Priority (2026-2030) | Long Range Priority (2031+) |
|--|----------------------------|---|--------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rock Creek Stream Valley Unit 12 | Stream Valley | Upper Rock Creek Master Plan | 21.168 | 700 | | 2 | |
| Rock Creek Stream Valley Unit 16 | Stream Valley | Upper Rock Creek Master Plan | 23.84 | 800 | | 2 | |
| Seek Lane Neighborhood Park | Neighborhood Park | Long Branch Sector Plan | 0.387 | 500 | | 2 | |
| Springfield Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | Westbard Sector Plan | 0.323 | 0 | | 2 | |
| Summit Hills Civic Green | Civic Green | Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan | 0.526 | 0 | | 2 | |
| Summit Hills Urban Recreational Parklet | Urban Recreational Parklet | Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan | 0.966 | 0 | | 2 | |
| Ten Mile Creek Conservation Park | Stream Valley | Clarksburg Ten Mile Creek Limited Amendment | 798.5 | 2,000 | | 2 | |
| Viva White Oak Civic Green | Civic Green | White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan | 0.939 | 0 | | 2 | |
| Viva White Oak Local Park | Local | White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan | 3.92 | 0 | | 2 | |
| White Oak Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan | 1.973 | 0 | | 2 | |
| Arlington South Gateway Plaza Urban Greenway | Urban Greenway | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 0.238 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Black Hill Regional Park | Regional | Boyd's Master Plan | 7.252 | 500 | | | 3 |

| PARK NAME | PARK TYPE | AUTHORITY | ACRES | ESTIMATED COSTS (\$1,000) | Short Range Priority (2021-2025) | Mid Range Priority (2026-2030) | Long Range Priority (2031+) |
|---|--------------------|---|---------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Black Hill Regional Park | Regional | Clarksburg Ten Mile Creek Limited Amendment | 228.6 | 9,000 | | | 3 |
| Blockhouse Point Conservation Park | Conservation | Potomac Master Plan | 10.441 | 400 | | | 3 |
| Brickyard Road Local Park | Local | Potomac Master Plan | 20.281 | 700 | | | 3 |
| Bucklodge Branch Stream Valley Park | Stream Valley | Agricultural and Rural Open Space | 117.404 | 3,600 | | | 3 |
| Dry Seneca Creek Stream Valley Unit 1 | Stream Valley | Agricultural and Rural Open Space | 160.448 | 4,900 | | | 3 |
| Dry Seneca Creek Stream Valley Unit 2 | Stream Valley | Agricultural and Rural Open Space | 71.854 | 2,200 | | | 3 |
| Eastern Greenway North Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 2.34 | 14,000 | | | 3 |
| Gaithersburg West Local Park | Local | Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan | 13.961 | 500 | | | 3 |
| Norwood Local Park | Local | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 0.07 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Glen Hills Local Park | Local | Potomac Master Plan | 9.74 | 300 | | | 3 |
| Glenmont Greenway Urban Park | Urban Greenway | Glenmont Sector Plan | 2.126 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Great Seneca Stream Valley Unit 2 | Stream Valley | Agricultural and Rural Open Space | 5.945 | 200 | | | 3 |
| Great Seneca Stream Valley Unit 4 | Stream Valley | Damascus Master Plan | 47.467 | 1,500 | | | 3 |

| PARK NAME | PARK TYPE | AUTHORITY | ACRES | ESTIMATED COSTS (\$1,000) | Short Range Priority (2021-2025) | Mid Range Priority (2026-2030) | Long Range Priority (2031+) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---|---------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Great Seneca Stream Valley Unit 5 | Stream Valley | Damascus Master Plan | 158.502 | 4,800 | | | 3 |
| Great Seneca Stream Valley Unit 6 | Stream Valley | Damascus Master Plan | 100.169 | 3,000 | | | 3 |
| Great Seneca Stream Valley Unit 7 | Stream Valley | Damascus Master Plan | 1.039 | 100 | | | 3 |
| Great Seneca Stream Valley Unit 8 | Stream Valley | Damascus Master Plan | 16.351 | 500 | | | 3 |
| Great Seneca Stream Valley Unit 9 | Stream Valley | Damascus Master Plan | 18.722 | 600 | | | 3 |
| Gude Drive Recreational Park | Recreational | Upper Rock Creek Master Plan | 164.346 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Hawlings River Stream Valley Park | Stream Valley | Olney Master Plan | 211.165 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Hillandale Local Park | Local | White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan | 0.8 | 1,500 | | | 3 |
| King's Bridge Local Park | Local | Damascus Master Plan | 30.342 | 1,000 | | | 3 |
| Linthicum West Recreational Park | Recreational | Clarksburg Master Plan | 81.806 | 2,500 | | | 3 |
| Little Bennett Regional Park | Regional | Planning Board | 306.745 | 3,000 | | | 3 |
| Little Bennett Regional Park | Regional | Planning Board | 10.536 | 100 | | | 3 |
| Little Bennett Regional Park | Regional | Planning Board | 30.239 | 300 | | | 3 |
| Long Branch Stream Valley Unit 1A | Stream Valley | Takoma Park Master Plan | 1.199 | 100 | | | 3 |
| LSC West Civic Green | Civic Green | Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan | 0.505 | 100 | | | 3 |

| PARK NAME | PARK TYPE | AUTHORITY | ACRES | ESTIMATED COSTS (\$1,000) | Short Range Priority (2021-2025) | Mid Range Priority (2026-2030) | Long Range Priority (2031+) |
|--|--------------------|---|---------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| LSC West Local Park | Local | Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan | 15.534 | 500 | | | 3 |
| Muddy Branch Stream Valley Unit 1 | Stream Valley | Potomac Master Plan | 12.71 | 0 | | | 3 |
| North Bethesda Trail Urban Greenway | Urban Greenway | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 0.916 | 0 | | | 3 |
| North Branch Stream Valley Unit 2 | Stream Valley | Remainderment Interest | 5.889 | 100 | | | 3 |
| North Branch Stream Valley Unit 3 | Stream Valley | Olney Master Plan | 86.329 | 0 | | | 3 |
| North Branch Stream Valley Unit 4 | Stream Valley | Upper Rock Creek Master Plan | 23.3 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Oak Drive Local Park | Local | Damascus Master Plan | 13.002 | 400 | | | 3 |
| Oaks Landfill Recreational Park | Recreational | Olney Master Plan | 501.31 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Old Georgetown Road Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 0.301 | 6,000 | | | 3 |
| Ovid Hazen Wells Greenway Stream Valley Park | Stream Valley | Clarksburg Master Plan | 31.612 | 1,000 | | | 3 |
| Patuxent River Watershed Conservation Park | Conservation | Cloverly Master Plan | 34.597 | 350 | | | 3 |
| Patuxent River Watershed Conservation Park | Conservation | Fairland Master Plan | 39.057 | 400 | | | 3 |
| Patuxent River Watershed | Conservation | Olney Master Plan | 162.476 | 1,600 | | | 3 |

| PARK NAME | PARK TYPE | AUTHORITY | ACRES | ESTIMATED COSTS (\$1,000) | Short Range Priority (2021-2025) | Mid Range Priority (2026-2030) | Long Range Priority (2031+) |
|---|------------------------|--|--------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Conservation Park | | | | | | | |
| Rachel Carson Conservation Park | Conservation | Olney Master Plan | 14.84 | 200 | | | 3 |
| Rachel Carson Conservation Park | Conservation | Olney Master Plan | 8.969 | 150 | | | 3 |
| Red Door Store Special Park | Special | Legacy Open Space Master Plan | 16.346 | 500 | | | 3 |
| Rock Creek Stream Valley Unit 2 | Stream Valley | Legacy Open Space Master Plan | 14.289 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Rock Run Stream Valley Park | Stream Valley | Potomac Master Plan | 8.015 | 300 | | | 3 |
| Rosemary Hills-Lyttonsville Local Park | Local | Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan | 1.016 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Sandy Spring Village Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan | 0.5 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Selden Island Conservation Park | Conservation | Legacy Open Space Master Plan | 0 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Seneca Landing Special Park | Special | Agricultural and Rural Open Space | 8.582 | 300 | | | 3 |
| Seneca Meadow Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | Germantown Employment Area Sector Plan | 0.433 | 500 | | | 3 |
| South Bethesda Public Plaza Recreational Park | Community Recreational | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 0.152 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Summit Hills Urban Greenway | Urban Greenway | Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan | 4.91 | 0 | | | 3 |

| PARK NAME | PARK TYPE | AUTHORITY | ACRES | ESTIMATED COSTS (\$1,000) | Short Range Priority (2021-2025) | Mid Range Priority (2026-2030) | Long Range Priority (2031+) |
|--|--------------------|--|---------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Takoma Academy Local Park | Local | East Silver Spring Master Plan | 25.829 | 2,600 | | | 3 |
| Unity Neighborhood Park | Neighborhood Park | Opportunity Acq | 2.143 | 200 | | | 3 |
| Upcounty Regional Services Center Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | Germantown Employment Area Sector Plan | 0.904 | 1,000 | | | 3 |
| Water Tower Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | White Flint Sector Plan | 0.731 | 1,000 | | | 3 |
| Wellington Drive Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 0.499 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Western Edge Neighborhood Green (Beth Elem - Bd Ed) | Neighborhood Green | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 0.504 | 1,000 | | | 3 |
| Western Edge Neighborhood Green (Caroline Freeland) | Neighborhood Green | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 0.153 | 1,000 | | | 3 |
| Western Edge Neighborhood Green (Private home) | Neighborhood Green | Bethesda Downtown Plan | 0.515 | 1,000 | | | 3 |
| Wildcat Branch Stream Valley Unit 1 | Stream Valley | Damascus Master Plan | 45.093 | 1,400 | | | 3 |
| Wildcat Branch Stream Valley Unit 2 | Stream Valley | Damascus Master Plan | 100.817 | 3,100 | | | 3 |
| Fenton Village Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan | 0.3465 | 2,000 | | | 3 |

| PARK NAME | PARK TYPE | AUTHORITY | ACRES | ESTIMATED COSTS (\$1,000) | Short Range Priority (2021-2025) | Mid Range Priority (2026-2030) | Long Range Priority (2031+) |
|---|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mayor Lane Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan | 2.19795 | 0 | | 2 | |
| East-West Highway Recreational Park | Countywide Urban Recreational | Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan | 1.6237 | 12,000 | 1 | | |
| Cameron Street Recreational Park | Countywide Urban Recreational | Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan | 1.78265 | 0 | | 2 | |
| Wayne-Fenton Neighborhood Green | Neighborhood Green | Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan | 4.82961 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Silver Spring Central Recreational Park | Countywide Urban Recreational | Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan | 2.60372 | 0 | | 2 | |
| Ripley District Civic Green | Civic Green | Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan | 1.69799 | 15,000 | | | 3 |
| Newell Street Recreational Park | Countywide Urban Recreational | Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan | 1.00017 | 9,500 | | | 3 |
| TOTAL ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED | | | 5,641.67 | | 1,010 | 1,610 | 3,021 |
| TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS | | | | \$213 Million | \$63 Million | \$43 Million | \$107 Million |

Appendix I 4. Funding Sources

Agricultural Transfer Tax

State Agricultural Transfer Taxes are collected when farmland is sold and converted to uses other than agriculture. The agricultural transfer tax assessed on real property is five percent of the consideration paid. Montgomery County's agricultural preservation program is certified by the State and is therefore able to retain 75 percent of the agricultural transfer taxes collected to fund the agricultural preservation program. A total of \$30,983,365 from FY1990 through FY2014 was retained by the County for agricultural land preservation.

The County Office of Agriculture estimates that only about 4,000 acres of farmland exist in the County that could be developed and trigger the collection of agricultural transfer taxes (i.e., land outside of the Agricultural Reserve in agricultural use with a preferential agricultural tax rate). Montgomery County is running out of farmland to develop, thus creating a funding dilemma for the preservation program: Montgomery County will have fewer farm conversions that generate agricultural transfer taxes to fund future easement acquisitions.

As the primary funding source for farmland preservation easements in Montgomery County, the significant decline in Ag Transfer Tax revenue over the past decade has resulted in a severe shortage of funds for farmland preservation easement programs.

Investment Income

Agricultural Transfer Taxes retained by Montgomery County are placed in an interest-bearing account. Beginning in FY1994, the income generated by the interest was invested back into the agricultural land preservation program. As of FY2020, a total of \$4,677,904 of interest had accrued. Investment income was used to fund preservation initiatives, agricultural economic development initiatives and staffing costs.

General Obligation Bonds

One alternative for funding farmland preservation in Montgomery County is through the use of General Obligation (or G.O.) Bonds. G.O. bonds are backed by the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the issuing jurisdiction. Because these types of bonds require debt servicing for repayment, the County has adopted a policy to limit their use for farmland preservation. This policy dictates that G.O. Bonds can only be used when the reserves of cash are significantly depleted. Declining collections of Agricultural Transfer Taxes in recent years necessitated an infusion of \$2 Million in G.O. Bonds in one year, but no additional G.O. Bonds are currently appropriated for farmland preservation.

State Grants

Beginning in 1997, the State's Rural Legacy Program was enacted as part of the Governor's Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation initiative to protect natural resources. Through this program, a grants program was established by which local governments and local land trusts could compete for State funds. These funds could be directed to either purchase sensitive lands in fee or acquire protection through conservation easements. Since the first grants were awarded during the FY1998-1999 grant cycle, Montgomery County has been awarded a total of \$21.6million in State Grant Funds.

Contributions to the BLT Program

As described above, a developer seeking to build an optional method development in the Commercial-Residential (CR) family of zones is incentivized to purchase BLTs to meet their project's density requirements. Purchase of partial BLTs from the public part of the BLT program helps return money to the easement acquisition fund that can then be used to purchase additional BLTs from interested landowners. Again, as more developments proceed in the coming decade in areas of the County under the CR family of zones, the BLT program is expected to accelerate and provide more funding to the public BLT program.