

NOTE:

The only proposed change to this chapter is to ADD Reference to Trail Corridor Plans

Trail Recommendations by Corridor

Overview

This Plan identifies eight significant trail corridors oriented to recreational and regional parks and Plan objectives for each (see Figure 4).

These corridors are the basis of a long-range vision for a well planned, organized, well maintained, and accessible trail network. This Plan focuses on trails of Countywide significance and builds upon existing or planned trail systems. New trails are proposed to extend trail systems, to provide new trail opportunities for existing and/or planned population centers, or to improve access to key recreational destinations. This Plan recommends generalized trail routes within each corridor. These routes are conceptual.

The level of field work and site analysis associated with trail location and design is beyond the scope of this Plan. More detailed planning and design studies will be needed. The Trail Corridor Plans and Implementation chapters discuss how and when these studies will be undertaken.

Plan Analysis

This section describes the process used to arrive at this Plan's recommendations.

Step #1: Identify Key Destination Points

The key destinations for the trail corridors are shown in Figure 3 and include:

- Major parks including Recreational and Regional M-NCPPC Parks as well as State and municipal parks;
- The Potomac River (C&O Canal);
- The Patuxent River; and
- Existing or planned park trails.

Step #2: Designate Corridors Which Link Key Destinations

After identifying destinations, potential linkages or corridors between the key destinations were mapped. Corridors may function as links between destinations but also as destinations themselves.

The Park Trail Corridors are depicted in Figure 4.

Step #3: Identify Generalized Trail Routes Within Each Corridor

This Plan proposes trails within each of the corridors for further study. These trails are

discussed by corridor in the next section. During the Master Plan process, public concern arose over environmental and other impacts of the proposed trails. It should be emphasized that the proposed trails, as described in the text and depicted on the maps are not specific alignments and are subject to further review of their feasibility. The feasibility review should consider a range of options that avoids environmentally sensitive areas.

Relation of Environmental Concerns to Recreational Trail Planning and Design

Environmental protection and recreational objectives must be balanced at every stage of the trail planning and design process. Environmental concerns which need to be addressed as trails are implemented include:

- Protection of stream and stream valley quality
- Protection of wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas
- Protection of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and wildlife species

These concerns and how they should be addressed are discussed in more detail in the "Trail Corridor Plans" Chapter

Trail Recommendations By Corridor

NOTE:

No changes are proposed to this section so it is not reprinted here.