

Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

A Local Land Preservation and Recreation Plan

July 1998

Prepared by the

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

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NOTICE TO READERS

The Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Plan) provides a set of comprehensive recommendations and guidelines for the use of publicly owned parkland in Montgomery County. The PROS Plan also fulfills the State of Maryland's requirement to assess the park system every five years in order to maintain eligibility for Program Open Space funds. Though updated each five years, projections are carried out 10+ years for planning purposes.

Within The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) the term "park" is used to describe a variety of land owned by the Commission. "Parkland," as it is called, is used for recreation, conservation, and historic preservation purposes, and often serves a combination of these uses. Readers will notice that the PROS Plan is organized primarily on the status of facilities (e.g. "Current Status, Trends, and Projections," "Facility and Resource Needs," etc.). As a result, recreation, conservation and historic preservation topics are not consolidated, but instead are found within each chapter as appropriate.

A word of clarification about the distinction between the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Commission. "Board" refers to the Planning Board, a five-member group appointed by and responsible to the Montgomery County Council for advising and assisting in planning, zoning, subdivision, and other duties. In Montgomery County the Planning Board also acts to plan, acquire, maintain and operate the county's park system. "Commission" refers to The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), which is comprised of the Planning Board members from both Montgomery and Prince George's County. The Commission is cited as the owner of non-municipal parkland within Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

It is also useful to understand the relationship between M-NCPPC, the Montgomery County Recreation Department, and other providers. Generally speaking, the Recreation Department coordinates and conducts programs, often at Commission owned recreation facilities, and is in charge of facilities such as swimming pools and staffed recreation centers. Activities that fall under M-NCPPC's purview include site improvements such as playgrounds, trails, ballfields, and campgrounds; enterprise endeavors, including golf courses, ice skating rinks, and indoor tennis facilities; and other location-related facilities such as nature centers and historic sites. There are also private concessionaires who, through agreements with M-NCPPC, operate facilities such as boat docks and horseback riding stables.

The PROS Plan focuses on overall community needs as well as services and facilities throughout the park system in the context of how to best meet demand. It does not focus on the entity delivering those services.

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