



**DRAFT**

**PUBLIC FORUM DOCUMENT**

2012 PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE  
(PROS) PLAN UPDATE

**RECOMMENDED SERVICE DELIVERY  
STRATEGIES**

01.19.12

**Document description**

This public meeting document was prepared to obtain input on recommended facility needs and service delivery strategies prior to preparation of the 2012 PROS Plan Staff Draft.

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## Project Overview

### INTRODUCTION

This public meeting document was prepared to obtain input on recommended facility needs and service delivery strategies prior to preparation of the 2012 PROS Plan Staff Draft.

Parks and open spaces are essential to the high quality of life for Montgomery County residents. Now and in the future one of the greatest challenges will be to balance recreation facilities needed for the active lifestyles of a growing population with the stewardship of our park system's sensitive environmental and cultural resources. The 2012 update of the *Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan*, is required by the State to maintain Program Open Space funding. It estimates needs for and recommends strategies for the delivery of recreation facilities, protection of natural resource areas, and preservation of historic/cultural areas and agricultural lands.

The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation (Vision 2030)*, completed in June 2011, has guided the preliminary recommendations of the *PROS Plan Update*. Based on broad consensus among the public, staff, and county leadership, *Vision 2030* addressed how to maintain the appropriate level of service for people who live, work, and engage in recreation in Montgomery County now and in the future, while effectively and efficiently delivering the parks and recreation services that are most important to the residents of Montgomery County. Planning for recreational, natural, and cultural resources in an urbanizing county was one of five themes from *Vision 2030*. Many of the specific objectives and actions recommended under this theme are further developed in this *PROS Plan Update* through a service delivery approach. The recommendations of the *PROS Plan Update* will guide the Department of Parks in finding appropriate platforms for the needs estimated for current and future populations, and to ultimately help to ensure that Montgomery County's parks and recreation system continues to play a major role in shaping the high quality of life enjoyed by county residents.

The *Vision 2030* Inventory and Level of Service Analysis showed that Montgomery County has an extensive system of high quality parks and associated recreation programs. *Vision 2030* recommended that to maintain this high level of quality into the future, the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Montgomery County Department of Recreation will need to:

- Maintain and strengthen the current parks and recreation system.
- Prioritize tax resources on core services.
- Ensure operational sustainability.
- Balance new construction with maintenance and repair of existing facilities.
- Respond to emerging trends and changing priorities.
- Strengthen stewardship of natural and historical resources.
- Continue to "green" the park system – including facilities, equipment, and operational programs.
- Continue the current focus on customer service and public safety.
- Collaborate to efficiently deliver quality services.
- Plan for future growth.
- Respond to changing demographics.

Growing demands and shrinking resources will continue to be a challenge. With strong leadership and the guiding vision developed by *Vision 2030*, the Department of Parks and the Recreation Department are committed to maximizing operational sustainability. Specific actions recommended by *Vision 2030* to address this include:

- Co-location of facilities of two or more public agencies where appropriate
- Repurposing of existing underutilized facilities, where supported by detailed analysis (e.g., strategically converting underutilized tennis courts to a skateboarding park or other popular facility).
- Strengthening marketing efforts in order to increase revenue, awareness, and use.

### **PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE UPDATE**

The following purposes of the *2012 PROS Plan Update* address several of the challenges identified by *Vision 2030*:

- To provide guidance regarding recreation facility needs in the county for the next 10 years.
- To recommend priorities for important natural and historic areas in the County that need to be preserved and interpreted.
- To provide input to area and park master plans regarding the need for public parkland and recreation facilities.
- To help establish park acquisition and development priorities in the six-year Capital Improvements Program

The PROS Plan serves as the County's Local Land Preservation and Recreation Plan. In order to keep pace with changing patterns of need, updates to the Plan have been required by the State every six years, with the last update occurring in 2005. The PROS Plan represents a refinement of the overall framework for parks and recreation contained in the County's *1964 General Plan for the Maryland-Washington Regional District within Montgomery and Prince George's County* and in existing park acquisition and development guidelines. It compares facility needs for different areas of the County so that decision makers have the information necessary to establish priorities in an era of high competition for limited resources. It includes chapters on Recreation Needs, Natural Resource Conservation, Historic/Cultural Resource Preservation and Agricultural land Preservation. The Planning Board and County Council have directed the Department of Parks to prioritize the maintenance and renovation of existing facilities in the work program of the department. Balancing renovation of the existing aging facilities with expenditures for new construction was a key recommendation of the *Vision 2030* Plan.

### **PLAN OUTREACH**

A great deal of the input for the *2012 PROS Plan Update* is based on Outreach from the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*, including the statistically valid mail survey, public meetings, summits, and focus groups. Additional proposed outreach includes:

- Providing a **Web page and e-mail access** with opportunity for input.
- Obtaining input from **Recreation and Park Advisory Boards**

- Holding **Public Meetings** on Draft Service Delivery Proposals.  
Currently scheduled public meetings include: Tuesday January 24, 2012 , 7pm Montgomery Regional Office Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring, MD.; Wednesday, January 25, 7pm Upcounty Government Center, Germantown

## **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The Plan will adhere to the following schedule:

- Work Program submitted to State Planning – February 1, 2011
- Draft Plan Discussed by Montgomery County Planning Board and Submittal to MDP/DNR - March 2012
- Public Hearing - Spring, 2012
- Work sessions - June 2012
- Plan Approval by Planning Board - June/July 2012
- Final Local Plan Submission - July 2012

## Mission, Vision and Values

### VISION 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

The following values and vision statements for the *Vision 2030* project were developed based on input from community leaders and stakeholders that participated in a *Vision 2030* Summit in February 24, 2010. These strategies helped guide the proposals in the 2012 PROS Plan Update.

# Vision 2030

## VALUES

*The M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Montgomery County Department of Recreation serve the County to:*

- *Promote healthy living through diverse recreation and leisure activities.*
- *Protect natural, historical, and archaeological resources.*
- *Promote economic competitiveness of Montgomery County as a place for businesses to locate through a robust parks and recreation system that attracts knowledge workers and families.*
- *Promote sense of community and civic pride.*
- *Nurture an appreciation for our natural, cultural legacy.*
- *Provide lifelong learning opportunities.*
- *Shape healthy, safe, green communities.*
- *Collaborate with partners to provide sustainable, accessible, and diverse leisure opportunities.*
- *Engage a diverse community and proactively respond to changing demographics, needs, and trends.*
- *Acquire, maintain, and manage the parks and recreation built environment.*

## VISION 2030

*Vision 2030 will guide the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Montgomery County Department of Recreation to provide:*

- *Stewardship of natural and historic resources.*
- *Opportunities for active life-long learning, leisure, and recreation.*

## **M-NCPPC DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

Following are the vision, mission, and values statements for M-NCPPC Department of Parks, Montgomery County.

### **VISION**

*“An enjoyable, accessible, safe, and green park system that promotes a strong sense of community through shared spaces and experiences and is treasured by the people it serves.”*

### **MISSION**

*“Protect and interpret our valuable natural and cultural resources; balance the demand for recreation with the need for conservation; offer a variety of enjoyable recreational activities that encourage healthy lifestyles; and provide clean, safe, and accessible places for leisure-time activities.”*

### **VALUES**

- **Stewardship** – Manage the county park system so it best meets the needs of current and future generations.
- **Recreation** – Offer a range of leisure activities that strengthen the body, sharpen the mind, and renew the spirit.
- **Excellence** – Deliver the highest quality product, service, and experience possible.
- **Integrity** – Operate with an objective, honest, and balanced perspective.
- **Service** – Be courteous, helpful, and accessible to each other and the public we serve.
- **Education** – Promote opportunities for continuous learning among staff and the public we serve.
- **Collaborations** – Work in cooperation with all stakeholders including residents, communities, public and private organizations, and policymakers, as well as interdepartmentally.
- **Diversity** – Support and embrace the differences among our employees and the public we serve, and offer suitable programs, activities, and services.
- **Dedication** – Commit to getting the job done the right way, no matter what it takes.

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION**

Following are the mission and operating principles and objectives for the Montgomery County Department of Recreation.

### **MISSION**

The mission of the Montgomery County Department of Recreation is to provide high quality, diverse, and accessible programs, services, and facilities that enhance the quality of life for all ages, cultures, and abilities.

**Operating Principals:** In support of the mission, the Department will readily serve the community by providing:

- Leisure activities that enhance skills, health, and self esteem.
- Activities that incorporate current leisure trends and population demographics.

- Ways to stimulate growth in knowledge through leisure experiences.
- Opportunities to build sense of community.
- A network of services linking the community through collaboration and partnerships.
- Safe havens where participants feel welcome.
- Fun for all.

**Operating Objectives:** The Department will continuously strive for optimal participant experiences.

- **Teamwork:** Essential to achieve success for our staff, our programs, our families, and our community.
- **Objectivity:** We will maintain a positive approach to all challenges we face.
- **Growth:** Change will be embraced, and used to expand our opportunities.
- **Imagination:** We will cultivate new ideas into exciting programs and services.
- **Value:** We will understand and appreciate the wealth of diversity of our community.
- **Excellence:** We will meet our participants' expectations of quality and performance.

## The Montgomery County Park System

The preservation of open space and recreation in our parks is essential to the quality of life in Montgomery County. Recreation includes both nature-oriented experiences such as nature walks and bird watching, as well as those activities needing specific facilities such as athletic fields, playgrounds, etc.

Montgomery County currently has approximately 35,000 acres of parkland and 410 park and open space areas. The following table outlines the Park Classification System and gives a brief description of each type of park.

Most of the County's park acreage is found in large countywide parks that serve all residents and form the framework of our Park system. These include Regional and Recreational Parks, Special Parks (focusing on historic/cultural areas) and Conservation Oriented Parks in stream valley and Conservation Area Parks. County residents also have the benefit of many Community Use Parks that are closer to home and consist of neighborhood, local and neighborhood conservation areas.

Within the park classification system, the Urban Parks type is proposed to be relocated from the Community Use Parks category to the Countywide Parks Category. Community Use Parks serve primarily residents of surrounding communities, whereas Countywide Parks serve the whole county. The newer role and design of Urban Parks draws people from beyond the immediate community.

Based on the approved *Issues, Objectives and Outreach Report* of the Urban Parks Guidelines (MCPB, June 3, 2010), the definition of an urban park should be, "... updated to reflect the open space needs of urban communities, including places for gathering, environmental health, human health, and economic vitality." It is no longer the case that urban parks serve mostly as a buffer between adjacent residential, office and commercial districts... (2005 Park Recreation & Open Space Plan / Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan (PROS / LPPRP) p. III-12) ". The updated definition will "... highlight the vision and role of urban parks to serve mixed-use, densely developing communities."

**Figure 1: Proposed Montgomery County Park Classification System – October 2011**

PARK TYPE	PARK TYPE DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL FACILITIES*	APPROXIMATE SIZE
<b>COUNTY-WIDE PARKS – Parks in this category serve all residents of Montgomery County</b>			
<b>- Recreational Oriented Parks</b>			
<b>Regional Parks</b>	Large Parks that provide a wide range of recreational opportunities but retain 2/3 or the acreage as conservation areas.	Picnic / playground areas, tennis courts, athletic fields, golf course, campgrounds, water-oriented recreation areas.	200 acres or more
<b>Recreational Parks</b>	Parks larger than 50 acres in size that are more intensively developed than Regional Parks, but may also contain natural areas.	Athletic fields, tennis courts, multi-use courts, picnic/playground areas, golf course, trails, natural areas.	50 acres or more
<b>Special Parks</b>	These parks include areas that contain features of historic and cultural significance.	Vary, but may include agricultural centers, garden, small conference centers, historic structures, etc.	Varies
<b>Urban Parks</b>	Parks in this category serve residents, workers, and visitors of the high density mixed use districts. These parks are “walk to” and are more “green” than paved. (subtypes to be discussed/ determined)	Depends on subtype: active urban recreation, central civic gathering space, urban green space, etc. (to be determined)	Varies
<b>- Conservation Oriented Parks</b>			
<b>Stream Valley Parks</b>	Interconnected linear parks along major stream valleys providing conservation and recreation areas.	Hiker-biker trails, fishing, picnicking, playground areas.	Varies
<b>Conservation Area Parks</b>	Large natural areas acquired to preserve specific natural archaeological or historic features. They also provide opportunities of compatible recreation activities.	Trails, fishing areas, nature study areas, informal picnic areas.	Varies
<b>COMMUNITY USE PARKS – Parks in this category serve residents of surrounding communities</b>			
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	Small parks providing informal recreation in residential areas.	Play equipment, play field, sitting area, shelter, tennis and Multi-use courts. (Does <b>not</b> include regulation size ballfields).	2.5 Acre
<b>Local Parks</b>	Larger parks that provide ballfields and both programmed and unprogrammed recreation facilities.	Ballfields, play equipment, tennis and multi-use courts, sitting/picnic area, shelters, buildings and other facilities.	15 Acre
<b>Neighborhood Conservation Areas</b>	Small parcels of conservation oriented parkland in residential areas, generally dedicated at the time of subdivision.	Generally undeveloped, may include a storm water management pond and related facilities.	Varies

## Recommended Service Delivery Strategies

The *2012 PROS Plan Update* recommends service delivery strategies as an approach for delivering Park and Recreation facilities for which it estimates future needs. The strategies are based on approved plans and policies such as the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*, the *Environmental Guidelines (M-NCPPC)*, and past PROS plans, as well as emerging trends and benchmarking.

*Vision 2030* recommended the following guiding principles for meeting future park and recreation needs in the County, which are reflected in the service delivery strategies:

- Balance renovation and conversion of older, deteriorated parks and facilities with new construction in un-served areas.
- Respond to changing priorities by re-defining existing land and facilities to provide different kinds of services.
- Deliver services to areas of highest need.

*Vision 2030's* statistically valid survey assessed and prioritized needs for facilities for the next 20 years. The methods used by the *PROS Plan Update* for estimating future needs for each facility are similar to past PROS plans; most are based on participation rates of various sports or activities and adjusted to census projections to the year 2022. A service delivery strategy that typically proposes a platform, type and size, and geography is proposed for each facility in **Attachment A**.

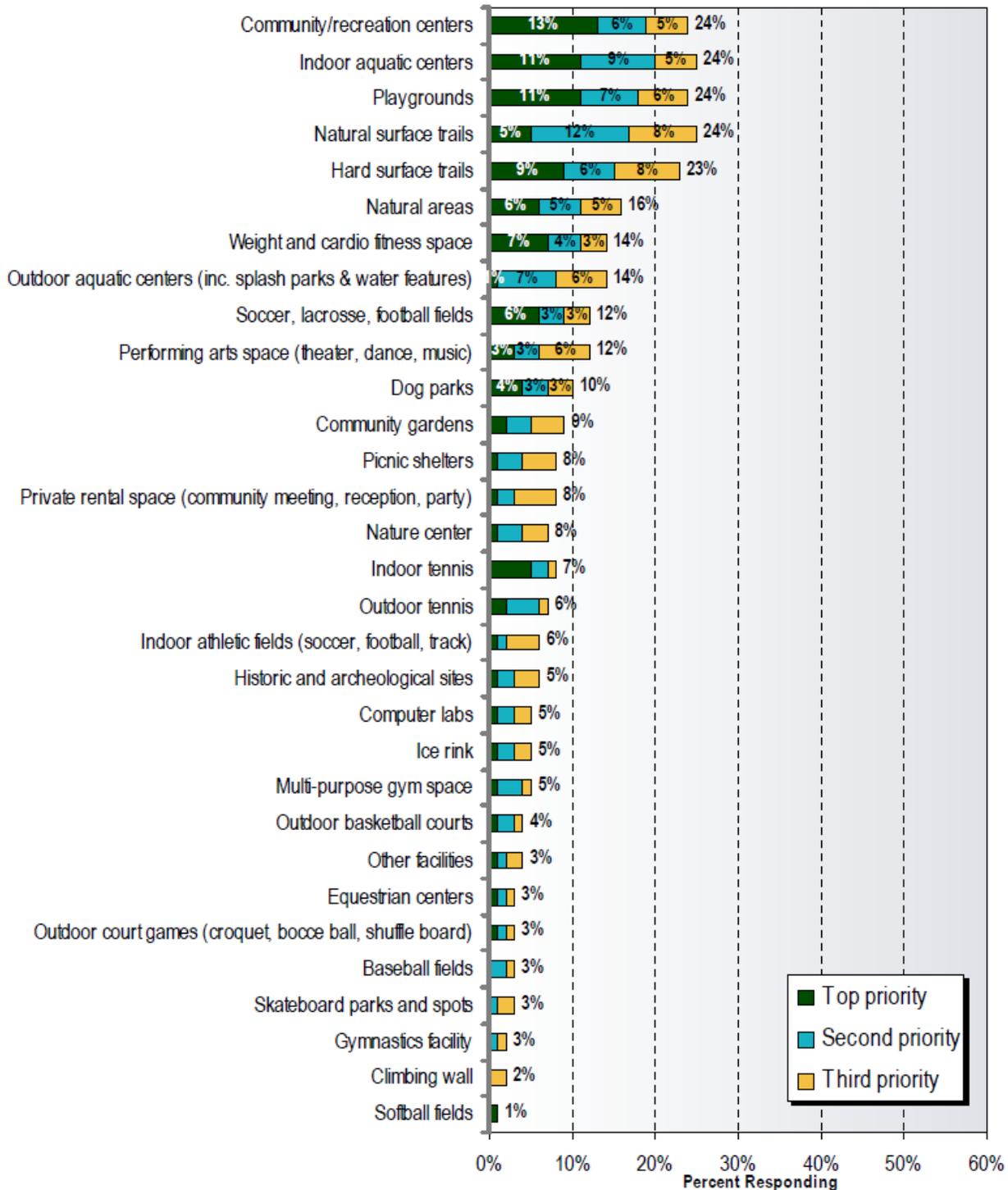
Needs are estimated to the year 2022 for a selection of the most popular park and recreation facilities, as required by the State guidelines for inclusion. The Park and Recreation system also has many facility types that are not specifically addressed in the analysis of needs in this document, some of which are highly unique such as public gardens, therapeutic facilities, equestrian parks, nature centers, and an agricultural history farm park. Some of these, such as nature centers, should have an objective and data-based analysis to determine if and where any new nature centers or renovations should be constructed in the park system. This would include analysis of the existing facilities, a calculation of need, a service delivery strategy, and a site selection study (see Appendix A: Facilities in Need of Further Study.) Making facilities available and accessible to existing and future populations should be an integral part of all park and recreation planning and development and is therefore not detailed in the individual service delivery strategies. The Department of Parks is committed to incorporating the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design, ADA, into planning and development and upgrading of park and recreational facilities.

### PRIORITIZATION OF FACILITIES

A statistically valid survey was completed as part of the *Vision 2030* analysis. Question four, "Future Facilities and Programs" asked the respondents to indicate which of the potential facilities were the three most important to them and their household, and then to indicate the three facilities they felt "are most in need of addition, expansion, or improvement." This provided the opportunity to not only see what amenities are important to respondents, but also to get an idea of how the same amenities are viewed in relation to each other, allowing priorities to become more evident.

Figure 2: Montgomery County Survey Final Report 2010

FIGURE 21  
IMPORTANCE OF ADDING, EXPANDING, OR IMPROVING FACILITIES (TOP 3 PRIORITIES)



### SERVICE DELIVERY GEOGRAPHIES

The Service Delivery Recommendations in this document are grouped into facilities serving Countywide needs, Athletic Field Area needs, and Local Planning Area needs. The following service area map illustrates the boundaries of the Athletic Field Areas used to estimate all types of fields, and Planning Areas, which are used to estimate local area needs for basketball, tennis and playgrounds. The remaining facilities are estimated for the entire county. The facilities within each geographical group are listed in order of *Vision 2030* Survey ranking.

**Figure 3: Service Areas Map**



## **METHODOLOGIES**

The methodologies used in the 2012 *PROS Plan Update* for estimated future needs are based on guidance from approved policies and plans such as the *Countywide Park Trails Plan* (M-NCPPC 1998, 2008), the *Vision 2030 Survey* (M-NCPPC, 2011), the 2003 M-NCPPC Park User Survey, 2010 M-NCPPC and CUPF permit data, and recent benchmarking.

Service delivery strategies for each facility are included to guide the type and distribution of facilities according to *Vision 2030* recommendations and historic need patterns. These strategies will provide policy guidance to recommendations in area master plans, park master plans, partnership proposals, site selection studies, and prioritization of future CIP work programs.

Detailed descriptions of each facility, the assumptions for calculation of needs to the year 2022, and the service delivery strategy are located in **Attachment A**.

### **Countywide Park and Recreation Facilities**

The following table lists preliminary estimates for future additional needs for facilities that are served on a *Countywide Basis*. Facilities are listed in order of the order of importance of adding, expanding or improving facilities as indicated by the *Vision 2030 Survey*. Countywide facilities listed are recreation/aquatic facilities, natural and hard surface trails, natural areas, dog parks, community gardens, picnic shelters, group picnic areas, historic/cultural areas, ice rinks, skateboarding facilities, and outdoor volleyball. These facilities are projected on a total countywide basis because most facilities are located in regional or recreational parks and serve large portions of the County. Several of these facility needs are based on master plans or special studies. Estimates account for existing inventory and population projections for all publically owned areas of the County, including municipalities.

Where there is a documented need for a facility, alternative providers such as the Olney Boys and Girls Club will be examined to determine if they have capacity to help fulfill unmet needs. For combined community recreation centers/aquatic facilities, the Montgomery County Recreation Department's *2010-2030 Recreation Facility Development Plan* provided the basis for the needs projections. The *Countywide Park Trails Plan* (M-NCPPC, 1998, 2008) is the basis for needs for trails to serve walkers, runners, bikers and equestrians. Key environmental resources or natural areas are formally defined in the Planning Board approved *Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan* (M-NCPPC, 2005: page V-14) and are predicated on the Sensitive Areas Element of *Article 66B of Maryland's Annotated Code*. These key environmental resources include Sensitive Areas, Biodiversity Areas, and Best Natural Areas. The three aforementioned resource areas may include smaller areas of High Quality Forest and Forest Interior Habitat.

The needs for natural areas are determined through detailed staff analysis that culminates in Planning Board approved recommendations in area master plans, sector plans, park master plans, and countywide functional plans. Dog park needs are based on participation rates from the *Vision 2030 Survey*. Community garden needs are estimated using benchmarking from national research. The needs for picnic shelters and group picnic areas are derived from 2010 M-NCPPC permit data. Cultural Resources include both historic and archaeological sites. Most cultural resources are defined in the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites* (M-NCPPC, 1976) and/or the *Master Plan of Historic Preservation* (M-NCPPC, 1979). Properties that are designated on the Master Plan are thereby protected under the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code. As noted in the *Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan* (M-NCPPC, 2005: page VI-4), the needs for new cultural resources are determined through detailed staff research and follow-up analysis in connection with the regular updates of area master plans or sector plans.

Skate park needs were estimated based on the participation rates derived from the 2003 State telephone survey. Volleyball and cricket needs are based on a placeholder estimate to be verified with benchmarking from national research and local user groups.

Detailed descriptions of each facility, the assumptions for calculation of needs to the year 2022, and the service delivery strategy are located in **Attachment A**.

**Figure 4 - PROS Service Delivery Matrix: Countywide**

V2030 SURVEY RANK	FACILITY	CALCULATION OF NEED				SERVICE DELIVERY
	Type	Method /Data Source	2005 Inventory	2011 Inventory	Add'l Need by 2022	Service Delivery Strategy
<b>PROS COUNTYWIDE - Indoor Facilities</b>						
1	<b>Combined Community Recreation and Aquatic Multipurpose Centers</b>	Per Montgomery County Recreation Facility Development Plan 2010-2030, (MCRD, 2011)	-	-	4	Add fewer, larger centers, and combine typical elements of Community Recreation Centers and Aquatic Centers into combined structures, ( <i>Vision 2030</i> , M-NCPPC, 2011). Redefine two existing and add two additional strategically located combined Community Recreation and Aquatic Multipurpose Center projects to serve the North & South Central Sub-Areas.
2	<b>Indoor Aquatic Centers</b>		-	-	0	See above
<b>PROS COUNTYWIDE – Outdoor Facilities</b>						
4	<b>Natural Surface Trails</b>	Per Countywide Park Trails Plan (M-NCPPC, 2008).	To be verified	To be verified	TBD	Per <i>Vision 2030</i> (M-NCPPC, 2011): Expand distribution of multi-use trails: high density areas with limited trail access; & where existing trails are over ½ mile apart;
5	<b>Hard Surface Trails</b>	Per Countywide Park Trails Plan (M-NCPPC, 2008).	To be verified	To be verified	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Re-examine planned regional trails as part of the CWPTP Amendment.</li> <li>▪ Convert limited use trails to multi-use where appropriate.</li> <li>▪ Identify and fill gaps in regional trail system.</li> </ul>
6	<b>Natural Areas</b>	Per Planning Board approved area master plans, park master plans, and Countywide functional plans	To be verified	To be verified	TBD	Key environmental resources, i.e., natural areas, include Sensitive Areas, Biodiversity Areas, and Best Natural Areas. These three key resource areas may include smaller areas of High Quality Forest and Forest Interior Habitat. Criteria for identifying these resources are found in the <i>Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan</i> (M-NCPPC, 2005: page VI-14). Once identified in a Planning Board approved plan, natural areas are prioritized for acquisition according to their potential for loss through development, their opportunity for acquisition, or their dedication through the regulatory review process.
11	<b>Dog Parks</b>	Participation rates per Vision 2030 Survey (M-NCPPC, 2011)	3	5	12 dog parks or 24 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Give priority to areas where level of service per population is lowest.</li> <li>▪ Provide three types of facilities defined by size, platform, and service area.</li> <li>▪ Priority platform is dog parks (3 acres) in regional and recreational parks, followed by dog parks (.5-3 acres) in local parks. Consider dog spots (.25-.5</li> </ul>

**DRAFT** - Recommended Service Delivery Strategies for the 2012 Park, Recreation and Open Space (Pros) Plan Update

V2030 SURVEY RANK	FACILITY	CALCULATION OF NEED				SERVICE DELIVERY
	Type	Method /Data Source	2005 Inventory	2011 Inventory	Add'l Need by 2022	Service Delivery Strategy
						acres) for neighborhood and urban Parks only where compatibility with surrounding land uses, and increased operations are feasible.
12	<b>Community Gardens</b>	Participation rates from Benchmarking (National Research-National Gardening Assoc, 2009)	0	10	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conduct survey to guide site selection study.</li> <li>▪ Priority platform: local and neighborhood parks and public schools, followed by recreational parks.</li> <li>▪ Geographic Distribution: Current inventory and future need to be delivered in proportion to percent of County population in each area of the County.</li> <li>▪ Size: Optimal number of plots is 50.</li> </ul>
13	<b>Permitted Picnic Shelters</b>	Participation rates from M-NCPPC permit data, 2010	78	81	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Locate in regional and recreational parks near higher density in areas with lower levels of service for this facility, e.g., Northwest Branch Recreational Park, Wheaton Regional Park, Little Bennett Regional Park, Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park, and Cabin John Regional Park.</li> </ul>
NA	<b>Group Picnic Areas</b>	Participation rates from M-NCPPC permit data, 2010	2	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Locate in regional and recreational parks near higher density in areas with lower levels of service for this facility, e.g., South Germantown Recreational Park. Site selection should focus on the UpCounty area where there are currently no public facilities.</li> </ul>
19	<b>Cultural Resources: Historic &amp; Archaeological Sites</b>	Cultural Resources Asset Inventory Database, Maryland Historic Trust, and Archaeological Database	-	117 structures, approx. 600 archaeology sites	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Within a policy and regulatory framework provided by the <i>Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites</i> (M-NCPPC, 1976), the <i>Master Plan of Historic Preservation</i> (M-NCPPC, 1979), and Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code, identify, preserve, protect, and interpret historic and archaeological resources on M-NCPPC parkland; rehabilitate standing historic structures through either the CIP, major maintenance, or property management programs; and prioritize these efforts according to the ranked priority of cultural resources as determined in the Park Planning and Stewardship Division's <i>Cultural Resources Asset Inventory Database</i>.</li> </ul>
21	<b>Ice Rinks</b>	User data (M-NCPPC, 2010)	-	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Locate in a regional or recreational park in the I-270 Corridor, based on location of users from current turn-away data. Ridge Road Recreational Park most appropriate because of available infrastructure, grading, parking, etc.</li> </ul>

**DRAFT** - Recommended Service Delivery Strategies for the 2012 Park, Recreation and Open Space (Pros) Plan Update

V2030 SURVEY RANK	FACILITY	CALCULATION OF NEED				SERVICE DELIVERY
	Type	Method /Data Source	2005 Inventory	2011 Inventory	Add'l Need by 2022	Service Delivery Strategy
28	Skateboarding Facilities	Participation rates from State Planning Survey, 2003	0	6.5	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Give priority to areas where level of service per population is lowest, such as South Central Area (<i>Vision 2030</i>, M-NCPPC, 2011).</li> <li>▪ Locate within safe walking distance of middle or high schools, in areas of higher population density.</li> <li>▪ Provide three types of facilities defined by size, platform, and service area, with priority to be given to mid-size (10k-15k sf) skate parks in local parks, and larger skate parks (15k-20k sf) in regional and recreational parks. Provide smaller skate spots (5k-10k sf) in urban and neighborhood parks.</li> </ul>
NA	Volleyball Courts	Participation rates estimate to be verified with national research and local user groups	na	17	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Add sand volleyball, with an emphasis on co-locating two or more courts for tournament play, with lighting (<i>Vision 2030</i>, M-NCPPC, 2011).</li> <li>▪ Service delivery depends on where the most players are and where there is room in regional or recreational parks.</li> <li>▪ Locate two groups of 4-6 courts, lighted, in a regional or recreational park, with adequate restrooms, picnic tables, and parking.</li> </ul>
NA	Cricket Fields	Participation rates estimate to be verified with national research and local user groups	0	1*	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide 2 fields in the I-270 Corridor, and in East County, accessed by major road such as MD Route 29, MD Route 200 /ICC.</li> </ul>
NA	Civic Green		0	0	TBD	<p>Include in urban parks in the center of highest density in urban areas, near activating uses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide one in every transit-served urban sector plan area</li> </ul>
NA	Community Open Space		To be verified	To be verified	TBD	<p>Open, level, grassy area for a variety of informal recreational activities. 10,000 sf minimum, with 60' width, minimum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Designate Community Open Space in existing parks, and acquire additional lands that could include Community Open Space especially in areas with high population density and lower levels of service.</li> </ul>

\* Two temporary substandard fields.

## **Athletic Field Area Facilities**

The following table lists preliminary estimates for future additional needs for rectangular and diamond athletic fields. Facilities are listed in the order of importance of adding, expanding or improving facilities as indicated by the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan Survey*, and include future needs for rectangular and diamond fields (see **Figure 4**).

Needs are estimated for Athletic Field Areas, which are groups of Planning Areas, because most people drive to fields for league play. There are seven Athletic Field Areas in the County: Bethesda Chevy Chase, Potomac, Rural, Gaithersburg and Vicinity, Georgia Avenue, Eastern County, and Silver Spring Takoma Park (see **Figure 2**).

Assumptions for calculation of needs to the year 2022 will be examined based on the following factors, which have changed since 2005:

1. Permitting of fields has been consolidated to one data base with the Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF).
2. Hourly fees have been instituted for all community use parks (local and neighborhood parks that have fields).
3. Unpermitted use may have increased.

Detailed descriptions of each facility and the service delivery strategy are located in **Attachment A**.

**Figure 4 - PROS Service Delivery Matrix: Athletic Field Areas**

V2030 SURVEY RANK	Type	Method /Data Source	2005 Inventory	2011 Inventory	Add'l Need by 2022	Service Delivery Strategy
<b>Table 2: PROS ATHLETIC FIELD AREA FACILITIES</b>						
9	<b>Rectangular Fields: Large</b>	Participation rates from M-NCPPC Method, based on data from CUPF permits	70	TBD	73 (per 2005 PROS, to be updated)	In Athletic Field Areas showing a need for rectangular fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prioritize where level of service per population is lowest or where a historic need is demonstrated (I-270, Bethesda/Chevy Chase, and Silver Spring/Takoma Park).</li> <li>▪ Give priority to increasing number of rectangular fields when planning new fields.</li> <li>▪ Convert older softball fields to rectangles when it is determined that year-round rectangular use would increase and the site can fit a full-width field.</li> <li>▪ Maximize field use and minimize wear with the installation of synthetic turf.</li> <li>▪ Make acquisition and development of proposed recreational parks a top priority.</li> <li>▪ Gradually phase out field overlays by transitioning to year round diamonds and rectangles.</li> </ul>
9	<b>Rectangular Fields: Small</b>	Participation rates from M-NCPPC Method, based on data from CUPF permits	103	TBD	15 (per 2005 PROS, to be updated)	
27	<b>Diamond Fields: Baseball/Large</b>	Participation rates from M-NCPPC Method, based on data from CUPF permits	35	TBD	20 (per 2005 PROS, to be updated)	In Athletic Field Areas showing a need for diamond fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open high school fields such as Paint Branch to CUPF permitting</li> <li>▪ Build new fields where level of service per population is lowest or where a historic need is demonstrated (I-270, Bethesda / Chevy Chase, and Silver Spring / Takoma Park).</li> </ul>
31	<b>Diamond Field: Softball Large</b>	Participation rates from M-NCPPC Method, based on data from CUPF permits	164	TBD	15 (per 2005 PROS, to be updated)	
31	<b>Diamond Fields: Softball Small</b>	Participation rates from M-NCPPC Method, based on data from CUPF permits	91	TBD	0 (per 2005 PROS, to be updated)	

## **Planning Area Facilities**

The following table lists preliminary estimates for future additional needs for facilities that are served on a Community Planning Area Basis. Facilities are listed in order of the order of importance of adding, expanding or improving facilities as indicated by the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan Survey*, and include future needs for playgrounds, basketball, and tennis courts (see Figure 5).

Playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts are considered to be facilities needed “close to home” and are therefore calculated for each Planning Area. These public facilities will be supplemented by private homeowners’ association facilities that often serve as neighborhood parks particularly in more recently developed areas of the County. New schools will also supplement the supply of playgrounds and courts available to the public after school and on weekends.

Detailed descriptions of each facility, the assumptions for calculation of needs to the year 2022, and the service delivery strategy are located in **Attachment A**.

**Figure 6 - PROS Service Delivery Matrix: Planning Areas**

V2030 SURVEY RANK	Type	Method /Data Source	2005 Inventory	2011 Inventory	Add'l Need by 2022	Service Delivery Strategy
<b>PROS PLANNING AREA FACILITIES</b>						
3	<b>Playgrounds</b>	Participation rates per M-NCPPC	285**	319	32 (per 2005 PROS, to be updated)	<p>In Planning Areas that show playground needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a playground in every neighborhood and local park.</li> <li>• Provide an adventure playground in every regional and recreational park within the Planning Area.</li> <li>• Identify and document alternative providers.</li> <li>• Where the steps above do not satisfy the need, consider new playgrounds on existing or potential parkland where there are gaps in a walkable service area.</li> </ul>
23	<b>Basketball Courts</b>	Participation rates per M-NCPPC	317**	436	12 (per 2005 PROS, to be updated)	<p>In Planning Areas that show basketball needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and document alternative outdoor providers.</li> <li>• Assess the use of high school courts to meet needs.</li> <li>• Add court(s) to existing neighborhood and local park court areas if adequate parking, space, and visibility for policing are available.</li> <li>• Add court(s) to regional and recreational parks within the Planning Area, if local or neighborhood parks are not available and if adequate parking, space, and visibility for policing are available.</li> <li>• Where the steps above do not satisfy the need, consider new courts on existing or potential parkland where there are gaps in a walkable service area.</li> </ul>
17	<b>Outdoor Tennis Courts</b>	Participation rates per M-NCPPC	411**	497	4 (per 2005 PROS, to be updated)	<p>In Planning Areas that show tennis needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and document alternative outdoor providers.</li> <li>• Assess the use of high school courts to meet needs.</li> <li>• Avoid new single, stand-alone courts (<i>Vision 2030</i>, M-NCPPC, 2011)</li> <li>• If needs cannot be met by previous steps, add court(s) to existing neighborhood and local parks where feasible, or to existing regional and recreational park located in a Planning Area, if local or neighborhood parks are not available.</li> </ul>

## **Attachment A: Calculation of Need and Service Delivery Strategies**

- **Countywide**
- **Athletic Field Areas**
- **Planning Area**

The following pages detail the needs estimates and delivery strategies for each park and recreation facility included in the 2010 PROS Plan.

## COUNTYWIDE FACILITIES

### Combined Recreation Center and Aquatic Facilities

A new *Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030* has been developed by the Recreation Department based on the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*, with the goal to provide an equitable distribution of public indoor recreation spaces in Montgomery County that is more sustainable. In addition to completing current planned facilities and renovations the Plan recommends refining the model for future indoor community recreation centers, adding fewer, larger regional centers and combining them with indoor aquatics. It indicated that new construction should be focused in the underserved North and South Central growth corridor. The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* indicated that no additional outdoor aquatics facilities are needed, and that no new stand-alone indoor aquatics facilities are recommended. Accordingly, the *Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030* recommends continued evaluation of renovations and modernization of centers and pools and potential consolidation/repurposing of older smaller community and neighborhood facilities as may be warranted.

The Recreation Department began constructing community recreation centers in the 1980s. The proposed prototype for these facilities meets residents' needs much more effectively. The Department currently has 24 Community/Neighborhood Recreation and Senior Centers located throughout the County which provide recreation and leisure programs and services and public use of facilities. These centers provide leisure activity, social interaction, family participation, neighborhood civic involvement, and promote community cohesion and identity. Services for all ages are available in centers. Centers and Aquatics facilities are among the most popular Montgomery County recreation facilities, being participated in by 61% and 43% respectively of the respondents to the 2010 survey. Additionally, Community Recreation Centers and indoor aquatic Centers were rated the highest facilities in importance to add, expand or improve in the *Vision 2030* survey.

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#### CALCULATION OF NEED

**Assumptions:** Total need based on the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* and the *Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030*, a total of four combined Community Recreation and Aquatic Centers are needed by the year 2030.

Facility size: 80,000+/- net square feet of programmable space (CRC – 35,000 & AC – 45,000). With a current calculation of 1.4 as the gross square foot adjustment factor the building will occupy around 110-115,000 gross square feet. Some portions of the facility can be developed as multi-floor space reducing the overall footprint to 90,000+/- gsf.

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#### SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGIES

- Priority platform for service delivery: With other institutional facilities (partner and/or co-locate with schools, libraries, park facilities, or other leisure service providers etc.), when appropriate, in highly accessible locations along multi-modal transportation corridors (e.g., public transportation routes, trails, major roadways, etc.)
- Size: 6.6 acres of programmable space (building: 110-115,000 gross sf; parking: 350-500 spaces; large multi-age playground structure and sprayground: 12-15,000 sf ; multipurpose hard surface court games area: 15,000 sf; multipurpose play field: 1.5 – 2 acres).

- **Geographic Distribution:** Prioritize adding public indoor recreation/aquatic centers in the North Central and South Central sub-areas where lower per capita level of service currently exists, and highest rates of growth are projected in the next 10 to 20 year (2010-2030):
  - **Silver Spring** - Explore reuse of available sites for development of an urban combined Community Recreation & Aquatic Center. This community has no other community recreation facilities, is well served by mass transit and significant pedestrian access.
  - **White Flint** - Pursue a public/private coordinated development project at Wall Park which could bring a Community Recreation Center to the site along with redevelopment/expansion of the Montgomery Aquatic Center and Park facilities including structured parking.
  - **Shady Grove** - Take advantage of the Metro Center redevelopment and locate an expanded Community Recreation Center here. Undertake a detailed feasibility study to determine the need for an additional aquatic facility at this location; review usage of Germantown Aquatic Center, Germantown Outdoor Pool, Upper County Outdoor Pool, and City of Gaithersburg aquatic facilities, current and proposed. It is possible that no additional aquatic services are required and the project could proceed as an enlarged community recreation center only.
  - **Clarksburg** - Continue Facility Planning, begun in 2008, and including Site Evaluation for a combined Community Recreation and Aquatic Center to serve the North-central County area.

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#### CURRENT ONGOING CIP PROJECTS

- **White Oak Community Recreation Center (CRC)**  
Under Construction, Spring 2012 Opening
- **Neighborhood Recreation Center (NRC) Construction**  
Plum Gar NRC Renovation - Construction – Spring 2011  
Scotland NRC Renovation - Construction – Winter, 2012  
Ross Boddy NRC Renovation - Design Development and Construction FY 13-18  
Good Hope NRC Renovation - Design Development and Construction FY 13-18
- **North Potomac CRC**  
Design Development

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#### FACILITY PLANNING / SITE EVALUATION PROJECTS

- **Western Outdoor Pool Renovation**  
Finalize Program of Requirements (POR) and Cost Estimates, FY 13
- **Wheaton Library and CRC**  
Facility Planning Revise / Update POR FY 13-18
- **Clarksburg CR and AC (Community Recreation and Aquatic Center)**  
Complete Planning and Site Evaluation (Update POR) FY 12-13
- **Recreation Facility Modernization**  
Update PORs, Needs and Feasibility Assessments FY 13-18
  - Schweinhaut Senior Center
  - Clara Barton NRC
  - Upper County CRC
  - Bauer CRC

- **White Flint CR and AC (Wall Park w/ MAC serving the North Bethesda region)**  
Facility Planning, Revise / Update POR FY 13-18
- **Silver Spring CR and AC**  
Site Selection and Facility Planning, Develop POR FY 13-18
- **Shady Grove CR and AC (Aquatic Needs Assessment)**  
Site Selection and Facility Planning, Develop POR
- **East Germantown CRC**  
Needs and Feasibility Assessments

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#### NEEDS ASSESSMENT, SITE SELECTION, AND FACILITY PLANNING

- **Sandy Spring CR and AC**
- **Western Co CR and AC**
- **Kensington CRC**
- **Kemp Mill CRC**  
Needs Assessment, Site Selection, and Facility Planning
  
- **Facility Modernization**  
Develop Assessment Process and POR Documents

Holiday Park SC	Glenmont Pool
Longwood CRC	Glenmont Pool
Germantown CRC and Pool	Long Branch CRC and Pool
Lawton CRC	East County CRC
Potomac CRC	Bethesda Pool
Olney AC	Praisner CRC
MLK AC	Damascus CRC
Coffield CRC	Wisconsin Place CRC

#### Hard Surface and Natural Surface Trails

Use of hard and natural surface trails is the County's most popular recreation activity according to the respondents of the 2010 *Vision 2030* Survey. Sixty-eight percent of the respondents reported using both types of trails, and nearly 75% considered them very important to their household. In addition, trails ranked highest on the survey as to overall importance of adding, expanding or improving facilities. There are *60.7 (to be verified)* miles of existing hard surface trails and *128.3 (to be verified)* miles of natural surface trails in the County. These figures include both major and minor trails, including connectors, and only include trails owned and operated by M-NCPPC.

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#### CALCULATION OF NEED

According to the 2005 PROS Plan there were 22 miles of additional hard surface trails and 105 miles of natural surface trails needed in the County by the year 2020. Since 2005, (TBD) miles of natural surface trails and (TBD) miles of hard surface trails have been provided, leaving (TBD) miles to be built by 2022 per the Countywide Park Trails Plan.

This number is being re-evaluated by the amendment to the *Countywide Park Trails Plan* currently underway.

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## SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGIES

The following strategies are recommended by the *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan*, M-NCPPC, 2011:

- Expand the distribution of multi-use trails by identifying new multi-use trails particularly in currently or projected underserved and high-density areas with limited trail access and where existing trails are over ½ mile apart.
- Increase trail connectivity by filling in gaps in the regional trail system and creating linked series of loops.
- Establish certain trails as limited-user trails to address the needs of hikers, bikers and equestrians.
- Improve trail connections to provide increased accessibility to natural areas.
- Re-examine planned regional trails as part of the CWPTP Amendment.

## Natural Resource Area Preservation

The natural environment of Montgomery County – including its bedrock, soils, streams, rivers, wetlands and woodlands -- supports a wide variety of plants and animals and forms the backbone of M-NCPPC's park system. Approximately 19,000 acres of the 34,000 acre park system are considered natural areas. Natural areas were initially defined in the Planning Board approved *Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan* (M-NCPPC, 2005: page V-14) and are predicated on the Sensitive Areas Element of *Article 66B of Maryland's Annotated Code*. Collectively, the park system's natural areas include Sensitive Areas, Biodiversity Areas, and Best Natural Areas. These key environmental resources may also include smaller areas of High Quality Forest and Forest Interior Habitat.

Natural areas throughout M-NCPPC's Montgomery County park system are used for a wide variety of activities including the management and preservation of biological diversity, general nature viewing, bird watching, wildflower viewing, nature study, drawing, painting, nature photography, stream study, fishing, nature interpretation, white-tailed deer management programs, and environmental research.

Visiting natural areas in M-NCPPC's parks is one of the five most popular recreation activities in Montgomery County according to the recent *Vision 2030 Survey*. And nearly 74% of county respondents indicated there is a need for additional natural areas throughout the county park system, especially in the rapidly urbanizing down-county and mid-county areas. In fact, the demand for additional natural areas countywide is greater than that for a wide variety of CIP-funded park improvements -- including dog parks, athletic fields, and tennis and basketball courts. It is important to note that M-NCPPC's extensive system of sanctioned natural surface and hard surface trails provides important, managed access to highly valued natural areas throughout the park system.

Staff in the Park Planning and Stewardship Division has taken a lead in preparing a *Countywide Natural Resources Management Plan* for natural areas throughout M-NCPPC's park system.

#### **CALCULATION OF NEED**

The needs for natural areas are determined through detailed staff analysis that culminates in Planning Board approved recommendations in area master plans, sector plans, park master plans, and countywide functional plans.

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#### **SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY**

Additional (TBD) acres will be proposed prior to the publication of the Staff Draft PROS document.

### **Dog Parks**

The County currently has 5 dog parks that are usable with an annual permit fee. The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommends addressing the growing demand for dog parks, especially in urban areas. Dog parks ranked 11th in importance for addition, expansion or improvement in the *Vision 2030 Survey*.

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#### **CALCULATION OF NEED**

##### **Assumptions:**

- Average size: 2 acres
- Season length: 365 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 2 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 5
- Capacity per session: 30 (15 dogs per acre per session)
- Daily carrying capacity: 150 dogs per day per facility
- Participation rate: 19%
- Frequency: 4.5 x/year

Total Need: 12 additional dog parks or 24 additional acres of dog parks

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#### **SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY**

- Priority platform for service delivery: Countywide (regional and recreational parks) based on operational and user capacity considerations. If no space is available in countywide parks, locate dog parks in local parks. Last priority is to locate in neighborhood or urban parks.
- Types and Sizes: The following 3 types of dog parks should be considered to meet needs:
  - Countywide Dog Facility: 3 acres, located in regional or recreational park
  - Dog Park: 0.5- 3 acres, located in local parks.
  - Dog Spot= 0.25-0.5 acre, located in neighborhood or urban parks

Geographic Distribution: Current inventory and future facilities to be delivered in proportion to percent of County population in each subarea of the County.

## Community Gardens

Montgomery County currently has 10 community garden sites including those on school property. The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommended strategically adding these facilities. Community gardens ranked 12th in importance for addition, expansion, or improvement in the *Vision 2030* Survey.

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### CALCULATION OF NEED

#### Assumptions:

- Average size: 50 plots
- Season length: 270 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 1
- Capacity per session: 100 (50 plots, average 2 persons per plot)
- Daily carrying capacity: 100 people per day
- Participation rate: 1.9% (based on National Gardening Association 2009 Study - 1 million currently community garden, and 5 million want to for a total of 6 million or 1.9% of 2010 US Population)
- Frequency: 36 (1x/week for 9 months)

Total Need: 18 additional community gardens or 900 plots

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### SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

- Priority platform for service delivery: Prioritize local and neighborhood parks and public schools, followed by recreational parks.
- Geographic Distribution: Current inventory and future gardens to be delivered in proportion to percent of County population in each subarea of the County.

## Permitted Picnic Shelters

Montgomery County currently has 81 permitted picnic shelters, ranging in capacity from 30 to 100 people per shelter. The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommended strategically adding these facilities. Picnic shelters ranked 13th in importance for addition, expansion, or improvement in the *Vision 2030* survey.

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### CALCULATION OF NEED

#### Assumptions:

- Daily carrying capacity: 47 persons per shelter average (M-NCPPC permit brochure)
- Season length: 100 days (30 days x 3 months -- June, July, and August plus 5 days end of May and 5 days early September)
- Number of turnovers per day: 1
- Participation rate: 7.95% (M-NCPPC Class Permit data, divided by 2010 County population)

- Frequency: 4.75x/year (State Telephone Survey, 2003)

Total Need: 7

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#### SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

- Priority platform for service delivery: Countywide (regional and recreational parks), with restrooms and attractions for families.
- Geographic Distribution: Augment existing service in countywide parks with highest current usage (Wheaton, Black Hill, Cabin John Regional Parks). Add new facilities in countywide parks closest to high concentrations of existing and future growth (Little Bennett Regional Park Day Use Area).

#### Group Picnic Areas

Montgomery County currently has 2 group picnic areas, which serve very large groups and allow alcohol. They are fenced for privacy and have a playground, playfield and rest rooms. They are located in Cabin John Regional Park, Valley Mill Special Park. The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommended no increase in the number of facilities. Group picnic areas were not included in the survey.

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#### CALCULATION OF NEED

##### Assumptions:

- Daily carrying capacity: 167 persons per site average (M-NCPPC permit brochure)
- Season length: 100 days (30 days x 3 months -- June, July, and August plus 5 days end of May and 5 days early September)
- Number of turnovers per day: 1
- Participation rate: 1.41% (M-NCPPC Class Permit data, divided by 2010 County population)
- Frequency: 1.75 x/year (estimate based on professional judgment that patrons come more than once but not likely twice a year, on average)

Total Need: One additional facility is needed to compensate for the closure of Parklawn.

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#### SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

- Locate in regional and recreational parks near higher density in areas with lower levels of service for this facility, e.g., South Germantown Recreational Park. Site selection should focus on the UpCounty area where there are currently no public facilities.

## Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources include both historic and archaeological sites. By and large, cultural resources are defined in the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites (M-NCPPC, 1976)* and/or the *Master Plan of Historic Preservation (M-NCPPC, 1979)*. Properties that are designated on the Master Plan are thereby protected under the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code. As noted in the Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (M-NCPPC, 2005: page VI-4), the needs for new cultural resources are determined through detailed staff research and follow-up analysis in connection with the regular updates of area master plans or sector plans.

There are currently 117 standing historic structures (divided among 40 designated historic sites) and approximately 600 archaeological resources on M-NCPPC parkland in Montgomery County. The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan (M-NCPPC, 2011)* indicated a need to “*promote awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Montgomery County’s natural and historical resources*” and to “*identify, stabilize, preserve, maintain, and interpret historic and archaeological resources on parkland.*”

A wide variety of cultural resources exist in M-NCPPC’s park system. Archaeological resources date from the prehistoric period to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Standing historic structures include schoolhouses, corner stores, manor houses, barns, other agricultural outbuildings, slave quarters, and the remnants of military installations and encampments spanning from the period of the Civil War to the Cold War. Some resources are as small as a smokehouse whereas others are as large as a three-story timber-frame and stone bank barn.

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### CALCULATION OF NEED

a) Continue to tell the county’s story through its best 8-10 public interpretive sites, including, but not limited to: Woodlawn Manor and the Underground Railroad Experience Trail, Oakley Cabin, Josiah Henson Special Park, the Agricultural History Farm Park, Kingsley School, and Blockhouse Point.

b) Maintain or reduce current inventory of historic structures. *Vision 2030* says, “Divest resources that do not qualify as significant on the Cultural Resources Asset Inventory. Resist acquisitions that include historic buildings without a maintenance endowment.”

The Cultural Resources Asset Inventory Database is an internal ranking tool based on a National Park Service Facilities Management model, but adapted to M-NCPPC’s Montgomery County park system. In the inventory, built cultural resources are ranked by a number of factors that cumulatively add up to an “Asset Priority Index” score. This score is considered alongside a building’s “Facility Condition Index” score. The top 25 historic sites on the Asset Priority Index are those that reflect the most important cultural resources type and size. These resources carry the greatest weight in protection. (See attached list of Top 25 cultural resources built sites as of December 2011.)

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### SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

Geographic Distribution: *Vision 2030* features a Cultural Resources map that confirms cultural resources are indeed scattered throughout the County. However, geographic location should not be the benchmark upon which new acquisitions are based or upon which resources are ranked. In fact, historical criteria supersede geographic location since resources are not being created anew, but already exist in the landscape. Should a new cultural resource become available that tells a part of Montgomery County’s history never told before--and should it come with a maintenance endowment (see item 1 above)--that resource should be considered for selection in the inventory, regardless of its geographic location.

The Cultural Resources Asset Inventory Database is a prioritized historic sites inventory. Some of the buildings were acquired in a near-complete state of disrepair. Below are the top 25 historic sites, according to preservation factors, in the inventory. The Top 20-25 properties in the inventory at any given time should be considered the priority sites for funding, preservation, and potentially programming.

**Figure 7 - Table of Top 25 Historic Sites in the Inventory**  
**CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSET INVENTORY – Historic Structures Top 25 as of 2011**

Site Name	Address	Regional Park
Henson (Josiah) House	11420 OLD GEORGETOWN RD	JOSIAH HENSON SPECIAL PARK
Woodlawn	16501 NORWOOD RD	WOODLAWN SPECIAL PARK
Hyattstown Mill & Miller's House	14920-21 HYATTSTOWN MILL RD	LITTLE BENNETT REGIONAL PARK
Kingsley School	CLARKSBURG ROAD	LITTLE BENNETT REGIONAL PARK
Oakley Cabin	3610 BROOKEVILLE RD.	REDDY BRANCH STREAM VALLEY
Zeigler Log House	25321 FREDERICK RD	LITTLE BENNETT REGIONAL PARK
Warner (Brainard) Property	10231 CARROLL PL	BRAINARD WARNER SPECIAL PARK
Waters House	12535 MILESTONE MANOR LN	WATERS HOUSE SPECIAL PARK
Jesup Blair House	900 JESUP BLAIR DRIVE	JESUP BLAIR LOCAL PARK
Needwood	NEEDWOOD ROAD	ROCK CREEK REGIONAL
Valley Mill House	1600 EAST RANDOLPH RD	VALLEY MILL SPECIAL PARK
Kensington Cabin	KENSINGTON PKWY	KENSINGTON CABIN LOCAL PARK
Bussard Farm	18400 MUNCASTER ROAD	AGRICULTURAL HISTORY FARM PARK
Darby House & Store	19812 DARNESTOWN RD	DARBY CULTURAL PARK
Seneca Stone Barn (Fisher Barn)	WASCHE RD	WOODSTOCK EQUESTRIAN PARK
Meadowbrook Stables	8100 MEADOWBROOK LN	MEADOWBROOK LOCAL PARK
Bureau of Animal Industry Building	4711 NORWOOD DRIVE	NORWOOD LOCAL PARK
Holland/Red Door Store	16400 LAYHILL ROAD	RED DOOR STORE HISTORICAL/CULTURAL PARK
Poole/Seneca Store and House	16401 OLD RIVER RD	SENECA LANDING SPECIAL PARK
Brewer Farm	20201 DARNESTOWN ROAD	WOODSTOCK EQUESTRIAN PARK
Meadowbrook Rec Center	7901 MEADOWBROOK LN	MEADOWBROOK LOCAL PARK
Morse Water Filtration Plant (WSSC)	10700-701 COLUMBIA PIKE	BURNT MILLS EAST AND WEST
Charles Browning Farm	13910 LEWISDALE RD	LITTLE BENNETT REGIONAL PARK
Oliver Watkins Farm	23400 RIDGE RD	OVID HAZEN WELLS RECREATION PARK
Joseph White House	17400 MOORE RD	RICKMAN HORSE FARM SPECIAL PARK
Cooke's Range	7400 AIRPARK RD	POPE FARM

## Skateboarding Facilities

There are currently 6.5 Countywide skate parks and skate spots, including those in municipalities. The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* indicated a need to address the growing demand for skateboarding facilities, especially in urban areas, to update policies, maximize partnerships and identify opportunities to add in areas of greatest need. There is a great demand for skateboarding facilities that are close to home, unfenced, and can be used informally. These can be built as small areas in parts of urban or local parks or be multi-purpose park elements designated to allow youth to use for skateboarding such as stepped small setting areas or amphitheaters, ramps, rails, edging, etc.

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### CALCULATION OF NEED

#### Assumptions:

- Facility Size – 10,000 square feet (average)
- Season length: 210 days (7 months)
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 2 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 5
- Capacity per session: 50 (10,000 sf divided by 200 sf per person)
- Daily carrying capacity: 250 persons per day per facility
- Participation rate: 3.2% (State of Maryland Telephone Survey, 2003)
- Frequency: 24.7 x/year (State of Maryland Telephone Survey, 2003)

Total Unmet Need: 10 skateboarding facilities or 100,000 sf

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### SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

- Priority platform for service delivery: Local parks - 10,000 -15,000 sf skate parks within safe walking distance of middle schools or high schools, and near public transportation. If no space is available in local parks, locate skate spots, 5,000-10,000 sf, in neighborhood or urban parks. Third priority is to locate largest skate parks, 10,000-20,000 sf in countywide parks.
- Geographic Distribution: By *Vision 2030* subarea, current inventory and future need to be delivered in proportion to percent of County population in each subarea.

## Cricket

Cricket fields have been requested by user groups for many years, but the space for one field is extremely large and the game lasts all day; thus fields only accommodate a small number of users. We currently have two temporary fields, one in East County and one in the I-270 Corridor.

The *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan* recommended that we provide a permanent adult-sized cricket field with supporting infrastructure.

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### CALCULATION OF NEED

#### Assumptions:

- Facility Size: 1 large oval
- Season length: 210 days (7 months)
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 10 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 1
- Capacity per session: 30 (2 teams, 15 players each)
- Daily carrying capacity: 30
- Participation rate: .10% (estimate tbv)
- Frequency: 1x/wk = 28x/yr (tbv)

Total Need: 4. 1,000 players in Montgomery County league today. Assuming one tenth of 1 percent of total population play cricket or want to = 3.9 total fields by 2025.

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### SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

- Priority platform: converted baseball fields in local parks; underutilized softball fields large enough for youth play or which are expandable; new fields in regional or recreational parks; or new property to be added to any park.
- Geography: I-270 Corridor, East County near Route 29 or other by major road such as Inter County Connector (not inside the urban ring because there is a great rectangular field deficit there).
- Potential sites: Calverton Galway Local Park, Little Bennett Regional Park, Barmakian property, Burtonsville area parks.

## Outdoor Volleyball Courts

Although volleyball has been a core service in Montgomery County for years, we have not estimated the demand for them. Input from user groups during *Vision 2030* indicated a demand for multiple courts for tournament play. There are 24 existing outdoor volleyball courts in the County, 17 of which are in M-NCPPC Park plus 7 by other providers. The trends show that casual/pick-up play exceeded organized play in grass and sand volleyball. Volleyball was not included in the *Vision 2030* survey.

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### CALCULATION OF NEED

#### Assumptions:

- Facility Size: 1 court
- Season length: 180 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 2 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 5
- Capacity per session: 12 (2 teams, 6 players each)
- Daily carrying capacity: 60 persons per day per court
- Participation rate: 2% (estimate to be verified)
- Frequency: 12 (2x a month for 6 months - estimate to be verified)

Total Need: 7 facilities

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### SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

Facility grouping: *Vision 2030* recommendation was to look for opportunities to add sand volleyball, with an emphasis on co-locating two or more courts for tournament play (with lighting when feasible).

- Priority platform: Two groups of 4-6 courts, lighted, in a regional or recreational park, with restrooms, picnic tables, etc.
- Geography: Dependent on future site selection study; near major roads; near where the most players are and where there is available space in regional or recreational parks.

Note: We also noted that indoor volleyball is also very popular. Users have an especially difficult time finding space to play in the winter months when gymnasiums are dominated by the overwhelmingly large basketball program.

## Civic Greens

A space that provides opportunities for outdoor community gatherings, ceremonies and celebrations, in the center of high-density, transit-served, mixed-use urban areas. The *Vision 2030* Survey ranked community events and festivals as the second most important program and activity to add, expand and improve.

#### **CALCULATION OF NEED**

##### **Assumptions:**

- Size: 1/4 to 2 acres, depending on the overall size and density of the sector plan or downtown area.
  - Characteristics: a mixture of hard and softscape with a central lawn area for events.
  - Future Need: Correlates with number of urban areas per community based master plans.
- 

#### **SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY**

- Priority Platform for service delivery: urban parks in the center of highest density in urban areas, near activating uses.
  - Geographic Distribution: one in every transit-served urban sector plan area.
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### **Community Open Space**

An open, level, grassy area for a variety of informal recreational activities. The Vision 2030 Survey did not assess the importance of this component; however, flexible, un-programmed areas in existing parks are heavily used.

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#### **CALCULATION OF NEED**

**Assumptions:** (from the definition of "Open Play Area I" in the *Recreation Guidelines for Recreation Amenities in Residential Developments*, M-NCPPC, September, 1992)

- Size: 10,000 sf minimum, with 60' width, minimum
  - Setbacks: 30' from buildings and curbs (add "other park facilities")
  - Slope: 2-5%
  - Future Need: Correlates with number of urban areas per community based master plans.
- 

#### **SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY**

- Priority Platform for Service Delivery: Existing parks of all types - As a part of regular planning processes, designate Community Open Space in existing parks. Prioritize efforts in areas with high population density and lower levels of service.
- Geographic Distribution: Look for opportunities to acquire additional lands that could include Community Open Space, especially in urbanizing areas.

## ATHLETIC FIELD AREA FACILITIES

### Rectangular and Diamond Athletic Fields

Needs are estimated for Athletic Field Areas, which are groups of Planning Areas, because most people drive to fields for league play. There are seven Athletic Field Areas in the County: Bethesda Chevy Chase, Potomac, Rural, Gaithersburg and Vicinity, Georgia Avenue, Eastern County, and Silver Spring Takoma Park (see **Figure 2**). Needs for athletic fields are reported Athletic Field Areas because people are willing to travel further to use a ballfield than to a local facility such as a playground, tennis court or basketball court. There are 7 Athletic Field Areas in Montgomery County.

#### CALCULATION OF NEED

Future field needs are derived from estimated future demand minus current supply. Needs are estimated by sport, further defined by user age category --youth or adult. Current supply is assumed to be ballfields permitted through MNCPPC Parks or the Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF).

In the 2005 PROS Plan, needs were calculated as follows:

1. Future demand was extrapolated from data in the 2000 Park User Survey and the CLASS Permitting System. The park user survey determined the percentage of census age group users of each type of ballfield. The CLASS permitting system data yields the total number of hours demanded for parks and schools for the first full week in May (the time that the fields are at the highest use and weather is generally good. All sports were treated as a pool of hours in order to eliminate permitting policy bias for diamond sports priority in the Spring.) These two numbers were multiplied to determine the total hours per week by park user age range.
2. Age-based participation rates were developed and multiplied by the future population to derive the number of weekly field hours needed to accommodate future games and practices. The results were divided by the average weekly facility capacity of the entire athletic field system (parks and schools) to determine the total number of future fields needed in the County.
3. Facility Capacity is the maximum number of hours a facility can safely handle in any given week (takes into account daylight hours, on weekdays, after school and work, and weekends, field lighting, informal play/community use, and field resting).
4. Total need is the total number of future fields needed per sport types is adjusted according to participation popularity (from the "Super Study of Sports Participation – Geographic Supplement" for the State of Maryland data on the average participants per hundred people by sport). Those sports with the highest popularity are given the highest allocation within a projected future inventory. The future inventory is then compared to current supply to determine a future need, considering adjustments such as new field construction, conversion from a less popular sport, use of artificial turf, etc.

The following has changed since 2005, and may affect how current and future demand is estimated:

1. Permitting of fields has been consolidated to one data base with the Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF).
2. Hourly fees have been instituted for all community use parks (local and neighborhood parks that have fields).
3. Unpermitted use may have increased.

## **SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY**

Rectangular Fields in Athletic Field Areas showing a need:

- Prioritize North and South Central subareas (*Vision 2030*, M-NCPPC, 2011) where level of service per population is lowest or where a historic need is demonstrated (I-270, Bethesda / Chevy Chase, and Silver Spring / Takoma Park).
- Give priority to increasing number of rectangular fields when planning new fields.
- Convert older softball fields to rectangles when it is determined that year-round rectangular use would increase and the site can accommodate a field of appropriate size. As part of repurposing study, staff will develop minimum standards for width and length for conversions.
- Maximize field use and minimize wear with the installation of synthetic turf.
- Make acquisition and development of proposed recreational parks top priority.
- Gradually phase out field overlays by transitioning to year round diamonds and rectangles.

Diamond fields in Athletic Field Areas showing need:

- Open high school fields such as Paint Branch to CUPF permitting.
- Build new fields in North and South Central areas (*Vision 2030*, M-NCPPC, 2011) where level of service per population is lowest or where a historic need is demonstrated (I-270, Bethesda / Chevy Chase, and Silver Spring / Takoma Park).

**Notes:** As the service area goal calls for future needs to be met within the Athletic Field Areas, a surplus in an existing area is not subtracted from the needs in another. However, within the Athletic Field Area, field needs may potentially be lowered by converting fields to another use (where feasible). Field conversions should not be made, however, without careful analysis, body counts and consultations with user groups. (Field needs for specific sports may change over time, and field needs will also be re-evaluated from time to time allowing needs to be adjusted to provide for new trends, including effects of increased players from ethnic groups. Construction of new large level field areas will allow for field reconfiguration, if needed in the future.)

## PLANNING AREA FACILITIES

### Playgrounds

The *Vision 2030* Survey indicated that playgrounds are one of the County's most popular facilities, being used by 62% of the respondents. The county currently has approximately 319 playgrounds at parks and schools available to meet community needs after discounting time for school use. *Vision 2030* recommends maintaining a high level of service. Playgrounds are used by children, parents, and grandparents and they should typically be included in all new local and neighborhood parks.

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#### CALCULATION OF NEED

##### Assumptions:

- Facility Size: large enough to fit 8 children
- Season length: 180 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 1.5 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 7
- Capacity per session: 8
- Daily carrying capacity: 50 persons per day per facility
- Participation rate: proportional to percentage of children in planning area

Total Need: varies per planning area need totals (existing supply – future need)

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#### SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

In Planning Areas that show playground needs:

- Provide a playground in every neighborhood and local park.
- If needs cannot be met in neighborhood and local parks, provide an Adventure Playground in regional and recreational park(s) within the Planning Area, and attribute higher capacity to them.
- Identify and document alternative providers.
- Where the steps above do not satisfy the need, consider new playgrounds on existing or potential parkland where there are gaps in a walkable service area.
- Keep existing playground inventory and replace at end of useful life cycle.

## Outdoor Tennis

There are approximately 496 outdoor tennis courts currently available for community use in public parks and schools in Montgomery County. Tennis courts were reported as used by 36% of the population in the 2010 survey. At these parks where there are usually only 2 courts, they are generally used informally by the adjacent community and use is often low. They can be considered for re-purposing in some instances. The *Vision 2030* Plan recommended identifying strategic opportunities for larger groupings of tennis courts (indoor and/or outdoor). Tennis court complexes of 6 or more can be used more effectively than the local courts, for lessons, league play, and tournaments and experience much heavier use than the local park courts. New courts are constructed at all new middle (4 courts) and high schools (6-8 courts) that serve their educational and competitive program and serve community needs after school and on weekends. New single, stand-alone courts should not generally be built.

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### CALCULATION OF NEED

#### Assumptions:

- Facility Size: 1 court
- Season Length: 240 days
- Average day length: 10 hours
- Average stay length: 1.5 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 7
- Capacity per Session: 2.4
- Daily carrying capacity: 16 persons per day per court (based on ratio of singles to doubles, user observation survey, 1990)
- Participation rate: proportional to percentage of age groups that play tennis in planning area

Total Need: varies per planning area need totals (existing supply – future need)

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### SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

In Planning Areas that show Tennis needs:

- Identify and document alternative outdoor providers.
- Assess the use of high school courts to meet needs.
- Avoid new single stand-alone courts (*Vision 2030*, M-NCPPC, 2011)
- If needs cannot be met by previous steps, add court(s) to existing neighborhood and local parks where feasible, or to existing regional and recreational park located in a Planning Area, if local or neighborhood parks are not available.

## **Basketball (multi-use) Courts**

There are over 436 existing basketball courts at parks and schools in the County that are available for community use. They are particularly important to serve teens and young adults. The 2010 *Vision 2030* Survey indicated that basketball courts are used by 30% of the population. *Vision 2030* recommended a service delivery strategy to review use patterns of existing basketball courts and identify opportunities for multiple uses such as futsal, as well as possible re-purposing of underutilized courts.

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### **CALCULATION OF NEED**

#### **Assumptions:**

- Facility Size: 1 court
- Season Length: 240 days
- Average day length: 10
- Average stay length: 1.5 hours
- Number of turnovers per day: 7
- Capacity per session: 10
- Daily carrying capacity: 60
- Total Need: varies per planning area need totals (existing supply – future need)

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### **SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY**

In Planning Areas that show basketball needs:

- Identify and document alternative outdoor providers.
- Assess the use of high school courts to meet needs.
- Add court(s) to existing neighborhood and local park court areas if adequate parking, space, and visibility for policing are available.
- Add court(s) to regional and recreational parks within the Planning Area, if local or neighborhood parks are not available and if adequate parking, space, and visibility for policing are available.
- Where the steps above do not satisfy the need, consider new courts on existing or potential parkland where there are gaps in a walkable service area.

## **FACILITIES IN NEED OF FURTHER STUDY**

### **Nature Centers**

- The Montgomery County Department of Parks currently operates four nature centers, located around the County, in Black Hills Regional Park, Wheaton Regional Park, Cabin John Regional Park, and Rock Creek Regional Park. Their services include indoor, outdoor, and offsite nature education and interpretation, offered to a variety of participants ranging from school-aged children to adults. Our existing centers are in dire need of upgrading and or modernization.
  
- The recently completed *Vision 2030 Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation* (M-NCPPC, June 2011), recommends expanding outdoor nature programs. This function was ranked among the top priorities by the statistically valid *Vision 2030 Survey*. Another recommendation of Vision 2030 was to balance construction of new facilities with renovation of existing ones.
  
- The Park Department should perform an objective and data-based analysis to determine if and where any new nature centers or renovations should be constructed in the park system. This would include analysis of the existing facilities, a calculation of need, a service delivery strategy, and a site selection study.