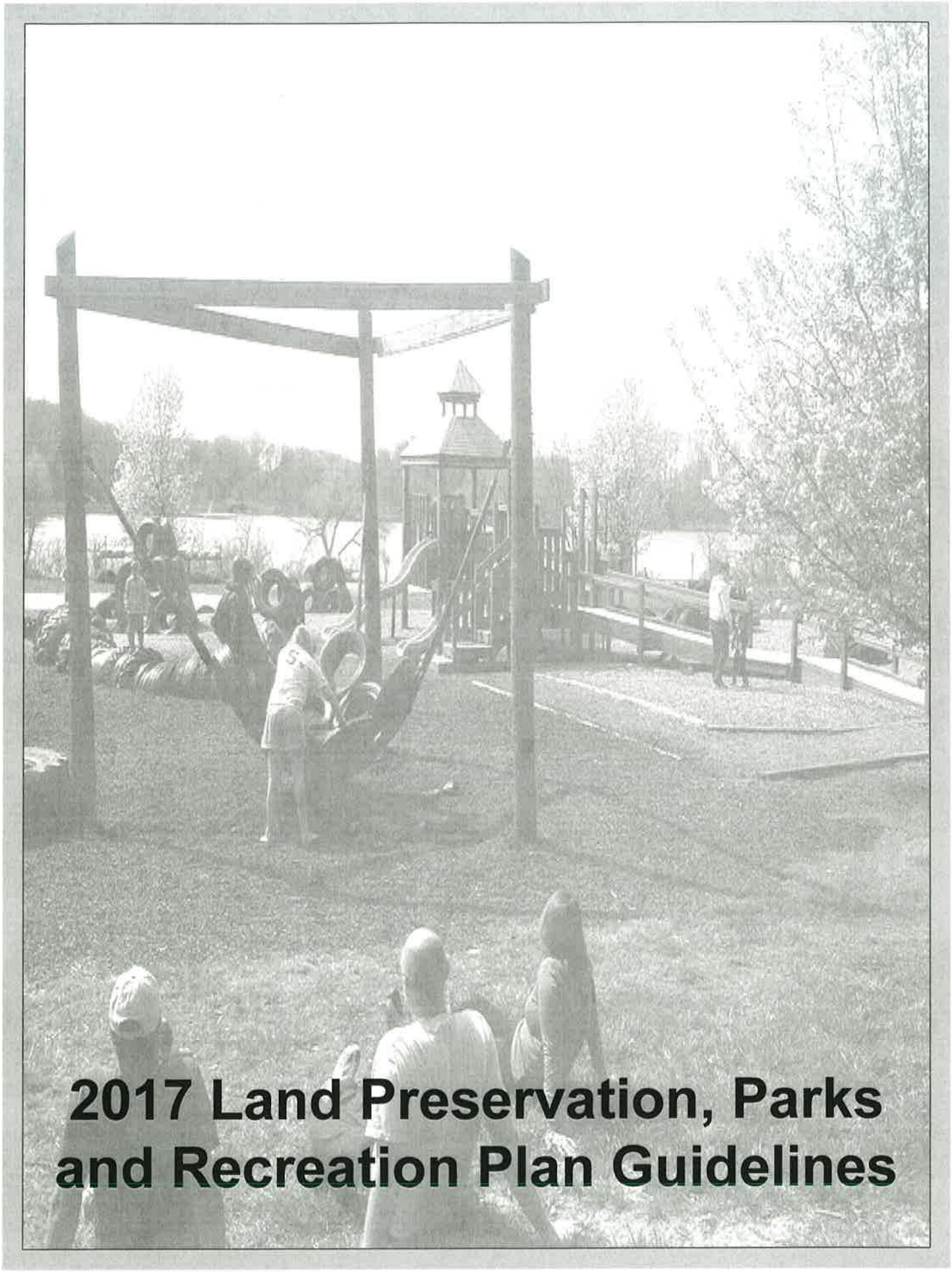

2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Guidelines

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Introduction

Public parks and recreation facilities, and lands preserved for their agricultural and natural resource values provide Maryland residents and visitors with a wide array of services that benefit their quality of life. These places and amenities help create healthier communities, stimulate local economies and are vital pieces of community infrastructure. Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plans (LPPRPs) are an important resource and mechanism through which county governments and the City of Baltimore can evaluate and update their baseline information on key issues, trends and plans for managing and enhancing the systems of preserved public lands, parks and recreation facilities in their jurisdictions. These Plans can and should be a resource that provides county and state leaders and the general public with a "snapshot" of the status of issues outlined in these Guidelines, as well as provide a clear understanding of the county or City's goals, strategies and priorities for investing to improve parks and recreation facilities and open spaces for the public benefit.

Information from the LPPRPs guides land conservation and parks and recreation planning and decision making within each county, City of Baltimore and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and is important to the work of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). The preparation and/or regular update of an LPPRP is a prerequisite for county participation in Maryland's Program Open Space (POS) Localside program *[per Section 5-905(b) (2) of the Natural Resources Article – Annotated Code of Maryland],* which provides annual grants for the acquisition of land for conservation and park purposes as well as for the development of public recreation facilities. LPPRPs are also used as key sources of information in the preparation of Maryland's Land Preservation and Recreation Plan, which serves as the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Regular five-year updates to the Statewide Land Preservation and Recreation Plan are required to maintain Maryland's eligibility to receive funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a federal program that provides cost-share funding to state agencies for the acquisition, development and planning of public outdoor recreation opportunities. Draft updated LPPRPs are due for submission to DNR and MDP by December 31, 2016. **Revised and county approved final LPPRPs are due to be submitted to DNR and MDP by July 1, 2017.** The next statewide Land Preservation and Recreation Plan is due to be submitted by DNR to the federal Department of Interior in early 2019.

The 2017 LPPRP Guidelines were released in Final Draft form in July 2015 pending the results of the legislatively directed "Comprehensive Workgroup-led Review of State Land Preservation and Easement Acquisition Programs". The Workgroup completed its review and issued their findings and recommendations in December 2015, which resulted in no substantive changes being made to these finalized 2017 Guidelines.

Preparing or Updating LPPRPs for 2017

These Guidelines outline **minimum** planning and documentation requirements to be followed in the preparation or update of an LPPRP. The LPPRP Guidelines have been updated in 2015/2016 for this next planning cycle. The 2017 Guidelines replace the previous Guidelines dated October 2010. The 2017 Guidelines are the first since primary responsibility for preparing the next (2019) Statewide Land Preservation and Recreation Plan was moved from MDP to DNR via statute (*per Chapter 410 {HB 1025} of 2011*), which took effect in 2011.

Updating of these Guidelines was completed through a collaborative process among DNR, MDP and the parks and recreation and planning staff from every county government and the City of Baltimore. State and county staff met through a series of individual meetings and six regional

workshops held across the state. A draft set of Guidelines was distributed for comment to all county staff participating in the process and staff from DNR and MDP, as well as the Maryland Association of Counties' Parks and Recreation Administrators. All comments were considered and Final Draft Guidelines were released for the use of counties and the City of Baltimore in July 2015 and finalized in January 2016.

2017 LPPRP Planning Timeline Recommendation

It is recommended that counties begin the LPPRP planning process as early as possible. County staff have advised DNR and MPD that a minimum of twelve to eighteen months is necessary to gather information, analyze and synthesize data, craft goals and develop strategies, engage the public in the process, draft the plan and usher it through the review and approval process with county or City leadership, prior to final submission to DNR and MDP. ***The 2017 LPPRPs are due, with final approvals from local leadership by July 1, 2017.*** Draft reports are due by December 31, 2016. As such, following general timeline for preparing an LPPRP is suggested:

Summer/Fall 2015
Assemble planning team, review Guidelines and develop a general outline of the Plan and timeline for Plan preparation; begin inventory data collection, prepare and open recreational survey to the public;

Winter 2015/Spring 2016
Continue inventory data collection and public engagement, begin level of service analysis using inventory and user demand data, develop and refine overarching goals; begin assembling draft portions of the plan;

Summer 2016
Continue inventory and user needs and demand data collection, level of service analysis and public engagement; refine goals and develop strategies for reaching goals; continue preparation of text, maps, graphics, etc;

Summer/Fall 2016
Complete a first draft of the LPPRP; solicit county internal and public input as needed per county requirements and revise the draft as necessary. Counties should also provide municipalities adequate opportunity to review draft LPPRPs and should consider municipal comments;

Fall/Winter 2016
Submit the draft LPPRP to DNR and MDP for review and feedback by December 31, 2016. Upon receipt of draft Plans, DNR will provide legislators from applicable districts with a copy of the draft LPPRP for their review and comment. DNR and MDP will also review the Plans and provide feedback to the county within 30-45 days of receipt.

Draft Plans should be submitted electronically, via email, to DNR and MDP in either Microsoft Word or PDF formats. If the draft Plan file is too large to send via email, arrangements can be made for submission via CD or another means of electronic transfer. Specific instructions on who to send the documents to will be provided to counties by late 2016.

Winter2016/Spring 2017
Edit and finish the LPPRP. Usher the final Plan through all necessary county approval processes.

July 1, 2017

Final, county approved/adopted LPPRP to be submitted to DNR and MDP. The final submission package must consist of a single, bound hardcopy and single electronic copy (PDF format preferred) on a compact disk. One final submission package must be submitted to DNR and a separate final submission package must be submitted to MDP. Specific instructions on who to send the documents to will be provided in early 2017.

LPPRP Content Overview

Preparation of 2017 LPPRPs should address the items outlined below and described in greater detail in the corresponding sections of these Guidelines:

1. Plan Introduction: Provide a general overview of county geography, population and an introduction to the existing system of preserved lands.

2. Parks and Recreation: Include an updated inventory of assets and user demand information; a level of service analysis to identify deficiencies and opportunities; and strategies for meeting recreational goals, addressing deficiencies, improving and managing county parks and recreation facilities over the next five years.

3. Natural Resource Land Conservation: Update information, analysis, goals and strategies for managing and improving county natural resource conservation land networks.

4. Agricultural Land Preservation: Update data on preserved lands; provide the goals and strategies for improving the local program. Counties whose farmland preservation programs have NOT been certified by MDP and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation will need to provide more information than certified counties.

5. Optional/Other: Consider reviewing relevant topics of significance in the county including but not limited to an economic analysis of parks, recreation and land conservation in the county, discussion of cultural resource preservation, historic preservation, tourism, education and environmental literacy, etc.

Plan Introduction

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

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

Guidelines for Content on Parks and Recreation

LPPRPs should include a summary of the following parks and recreation focused information. Counties should include relevant summary information from existing county plans and other pertinent public information and clearly direct readers to these other plans, program documents, reports or resources that provide more in-depth information.

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

Include narrative, images, maps and/or other data to provide a general overview of the public parks and recreation system in the county. Counties are encouraged to highlight any major accomplishments or challenges associated with the public parks and recreation system or specific amenities, programs or needs. Explain the environmental, economic and health benefits of maintaining and enhancing parks and recreation systems that provide opportunities and amenities

for both "active" field/court based recreation (such as baseball and football fields, basketball courts, skate parks or aquatic centers) and for "outdoor" or natural resource based recreation (such as trail hiking, boating, hunting or fishing). Discuss community conditions that impact the provision of public parks and recreation amenities within your jurisdiction, whether densely populated and developed urban areas or sparsely populated rural areas.

2. Goals and Objectives for Parks and Recreation

a. General context information: Explain the types of public parks and recreational facilities in the county and the services and benefits they provide to residents and visitors. Focus on county managed infrastructure.
    1. What roles, services and benefits do public parks and recreational amenities and associated programming provide within the county?
    2. Explain why the provision of public parks and recreation facilities is important in the county.

b. County Goals: Define and explain county goals for the provision of public parks and recreation facilities. Provide an update of the county's work to reach the goals established in the 2012 LPPRP for parks and recreation.

c. State Goals: Include the list of state goals for parks and recreation in this section of the county's LPPRP. Describe how county goals complement statewide goals and how the implementation of county goals simultaneously helps implement state goals. If state and local goals differ, please explain how. A list of current state goals is included in Appendix B.

3. Implementing Programs

Provide a list and summary description of programs/funding sources used by the county to help achieve parks and recreation goals. Briefly explain how these programs are used to benefit the public. Examples include: Program Open Space, Rural Legacy, Land and Water Conservation Fund, county ordinances, etc.

4. Inventory of Existing Public Parks and Recreation Facilities

Provide an updated inventory of existing public parks and recreation facilities in the county. All counties and Baltimore City completed this inventory as part of the 2012 LPPRPs and are encouraged to build from those existing data sets. Generally the use of a spreadsheet or database is recommended for compiling and updating the inventory. A sample inventory template is included in Appendix C. In addition to the inventory itself, a summary narrative should be provided that generally describes the county parks system and the different types of recreational amenities and opportunities that are available to the public. The summary should also make note of any land or facilities that have been added to the inventory since the completion of the 2012 LPPRP inventory. All inventories should include the following baseline information:

a. Public Parks and Recreation Properties
    Publically owned by municipal, county, state and/or federal government
        i. Examples include publically owned neighborhood parks, state parks, sports complexes, county recreation centers, greenways, etc.
        ii. Counties are encouraged to utilize the most recent DNR Land Acreage Report to determine the extent of DNR owned parkland in their jurisdictions.

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

Properties open to the public for recreational use via legal agreements, Joint Use Agreements, deed restrictions or other covenant, where regular public access for recreational purposes is guaranteed. Such properties may include those owned by land trusts, school properties, etc.

c. Inventory Map

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

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

5. Measuring User Demand

Collecting and analyzing a variety of data about the use of existing county public parks and recreational facilities is important in estimating the level of service parks and recreational infrastructure are providing. Thoughtful, planned investment in parks and recreation sites can take place after the county establishes a baseline of data about the locations of amenities in relation to populations and the quantity and types of use that the facilities receive. It is also important to gain an understanding of the quality of a user's experience in order to help identify trends, deficiencies and opportunities for improvements to the parks and recreation system. At a minimum, counties should gather and analyze information through a combination of the means and sources, including those outlined below. Findings from the analysis of the different data sets should then be reviewed and a composite view of the level of service provided by the county parks and recreation system should be provided through narrative, maps and other supporting graphics (These replace the onerous but less-than-helpful data tables from previous LPPRPs). This summary, resulting from your analysis, should note any trends, strengths, weaknesses and opportunities that may impact the implementation of local recreational goals or otherwise influence the management of the county parks and recreation system or capital improvement programming from 2017 – 2022.

a. Public Engagement and Outreach

1. Public Meetings: Public meetings are crucial for engaging interested members of the community. Counties should conduct public meetings as part of the LPPRP planning process and are advised to follow existing county laws, policies and protocols for civic engagement in this public planning process.

2. Survey: Feedback from the users of county parks and recreation facilities and other members of the community should be actively sought and documented as part of the LPPRP planning process. Counties should create and administer a survey which seeks public input on the use of county owned parks and recreation facilities and programming. Surveys do not need to be administered following strict methodology for statistical validation. A summary of survey findings should be provided in the LPPRP and the use of visual aids (graphs, charts, etc.) to help explain findings is encouraged.

i. Survey questions should seek information on the full array of county parks and recreation offerings.
ii. Links to sample surveys can be found in Appendix D. Counties are also encouraged to share sample surveys.
iii. Counties are encouraged to utilize internet-based resources, including free or low cost web-survey hosting services, to help administer surveys and track results.

b. Data on Usage, Demand and Participation Rates
Counties should provide a summary of parks and recreation participation rates, known or estimated facility usage figures and other associated information the county may collect through program registration, field or amenity permitting, ticket sales or other related means that answer the following questions:
i. How many people are known to use the parks and recreation system and/or specific parks or recreational amenities?
ii. Can an educated estimate of the potential overall level of casual or non-documented usage of county parks and recreation facilities be deduced?
iii. Are there unmet needs and demands for additional programs or facilities that are known but not easily identified or quantified by these figures?

c. Interpretation of Studies from Federal, State, Local, Academic or Industrial Sources:
Many government, university and interest groups provide detailed information on parks and recreation issues and trends. Some of these studies and reports are likely relevant to county parks and recreation operations, facilities and planning. Where applicable, counties are encouraged to consider using these resources **to supplement locally sourced data** to inform the LPPRP planning process. Examples of several relevant studies are included in Appendix E. Counties are encouraged to explore any reputable source of information relevant to their parks and recreation programs, management and planning.

6. Level of Service Analysis

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

Historically in Maryland this analysis was completed using only a single metric of # acres per 1,000 population; with the state's default goal for all counties and the City of Baltimore to provide 30 acres of parks and recreational land per 1,000 population. Advancements have been made in technology and methods for considering multiple factors (user demand, population density, facility distribution) to identify the level of service provided by parks and recreation facilities since the adoption of the 30 acres /1,000 population acreage goal. Evolving from this single metric to an analysis that accounts for additional factors is essential to improving our understanding of how accessible park and recreation systems are to the public and how well these facilities are meeting user needs. By analyzing and mapping a county's parks and recreation

inventory in relation to population density and taking into consideration the known needs and demands of users (as determined via surveys, participation rate figures, public input, etc.), a more accurate determination of deficiencies in service can be made and better plans formulated to address them; versus reliance on the single acres/population metric.

In seeking to improve our understanding of the level of service provided by public parks and recreation facilities in Maryland, two innovative means for conducting this analysis, that incorporate the use of geographic information systems, are suggested for counties to utilize in preparing their 2017 LPPRPs. Not only do these two methods provide means for analyzing multiple factors impacting the level of service provided by public parks and recreation amenities, they also are used to create maps that illustrate existing conditions and findings. These visual tools can help clearly convey key level of service related information to decision makers and general public.

a. Proximity Analysis
   Conduct a geospatial analysis utilizing the county's inventory of parks and recreation facilities and population data to generally determine where the public can readily access these amenities and where they cannot. Provide a map (or maps) and brief narrative that discusses findings from the analysis and identifies any deficiencies, and consider how the findings should shape the county's goals for parks and recreation. The Department of Natural Resources completed this type of analysis to help gauge the level of service provided by state and national parks in Maryland as part of the 2014-2018 Statewide Land Preservation and Recreation Plan. A link to this Plan is included in Appendix E.

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

b. Park Equity Analysis
   The Park Equity Analysis is an important new tool for identifying population centers that are lacking access to parks and recreational facilities. Counties are encouraged to use DNR's Park Equity Analysis to prepare a park equity map for inclusion in the LPPRP. The Park Equity Analysis is an interactive, web-based, geospatial and quantitative tool that can aid in identification of areas where underserved populations do not have easy access to parks close to home.

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

7. Capital Improvement Plan

Based on stated goals and review of analysis, a 5-year parks and recreation capital improvement plan for land acquisition, facility development and rehabilitation priorities must be developed and included in the LPPRP. Counties may choose to also include longer-term planning horizons, but it is not required. It is suggested that counties utilize a spreadsheet for this purpose and include approximate acreage to acquire, number, type and locations of facilities to develop or rehabilitate and estimated associated costs.

Guidelines for Content on Natural Resource Land Conservation

Land conserved for natural resource purposes typically serves multiple functions that benefit people and the communities where they live, work and play. Forests, wetlands, river corridors, open meadows and other landscapes preserved in their natural state provide ecosystem services like filtering water that we ultimately consume, enhancing local biodiversity and providing areas for outdoor recreation.

LPPRPs should include summaries of the following natural resource land conservation information. In providing such information, counties should include text to direct readers to other existing county plans, program documents, reports or resources that provide more in-depth information on this topic.

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

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

Explain the public benefits of maintaining and enhancing the county's system of natural resource lands and associated outdoor recreation amenities including:

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

2. Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation

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

b. County goals: List the county/local goals for natural resource land conservation. Explain why the preservation of land for natural resource conservation is important to the county. Provide a summary update on the status of the county's work to achieve goals for the preservation of natural resource land since the last LPPRP in 2012.

c. State goals: Include the list of state goals for natural resource land conservation in this section of the county's LPPRP. Provide a summary of how county/local goals are complementary or differ from the statewide goals. A list of current state goals is included in Appendix B.

3. Inventory of Protected Natural Resource Lands

a. Complete and provide a spreadsheet documenting existing preserved natural resource lands in the county. A sample template is included in Appendix C of these Guidelines.
b. Provide a copy of the county's adopted Tier Map showing Tiers I-IV across the county.
c. Counties may use a different spreadsheet than the template provided; however, at a minimum, it should include all items/information requested in the template.

4. Mapping

a. Mapping: Counties should create and/or utilize any number of maps that may be needed to clearly illustrate and convey the following information related to natural resource land conservation in their county:
    i. Local and State Targeted Growth and Conservation Areas
    ii. GreenPrint areas and county focus areas for natural resource land conservation;
    iii. Publicly owned parcels of land designated for natural resource conservation, greenways, park land or other public open space. Delineate parcels by ownership (federal, state and local);
    iv. Public parks and recreation properties (GIS dataset from the Parks and Recreation Inventory Map). Note if and how parks and natural resource conservation land complement one another. Are trails or other outdoor recreation amenities crossing between parks and conservation lands?
    v. Parcels protected for natural resource conservation purposes through long-term conservation easements, licenses, agreements, etc; that are held by public entities (federal, state or local). Delineate parcels by easement ownership;
    vi. Land preserved by deed covenants, such as homeowners association designated open space, land preserved by land trusts through ownership or easement, etc.;
    vii. Areas where landscape features are preserved or protected from development by zoning or other regulatory programs, such as wetlands, floodplains and steep slopes;

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

5. Implementing Ordinances and Programs

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

Guidelines for Content on Agricultural Land Preservation

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

The counties with agricultural land preservation programs certified by MDP and MALPF as of July 2015 are Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Talbot, Washington and Worcester.

Counties without agricultural land preservation programs certified by MDP and MALPF as of July 2015 are Allegany, Charles, Dorchester, Garrett, Howard, Somerset and Wicomico.

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

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

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

2. Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation

   a. County Goals for uncertified counties: Define and summarize county goals for agricultural land preservation. Provide a general update on the status of the county's work to achieve goals for the preservation of agricultural land since the last LPPRP in 2012.

   b. State Goals for uncertified counties: Include the list of state goals for agricultural land preservation in this section of the county's LPPRP (see Appendix B-3). Provide a summary of how county/local goals are complimentary or differ from the statewide goals.

3. Inventory of Preserved Agricultural Land

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

4. Mapping

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

a. In the map legend, distinguish between properties that are publicly owned and those under easements. Disaggregate easement by program, including MALPF, Rural Legacy, CREP, MET, and local PDR/TDR.

b. Explain any differences between properties highlighted in this map and those listed in the associated inventory of preserved agricultural lands in the county.

5. Additional Agricultural Land Preservation Guidelines

a. Counties WITH and WITHOUT agricultural land preservation programs certified by MDP and MALPF:
   i. Describe which strategies or actions presented in the county's 2012 LPPRP have been implemented and what the effect has been.
   ii. Which strategies or actions presented in the county's 2012 LPPRP were not implemented? Why?

b. Only counties WITHOUT certified agricultural land preservation programs:
   i. Has the county established priority preservation areas in its comprehensive plan? Are these areas mapped and is the map included in the comprehensive plan? If so, note where in the comprehensive plan this is discussed and if not, explain why.
   ii. How are the county's goals implemented though its zoning and other land use tools?
   iii. How is the county monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of these programs?
   iv. What are the findings and conclusions of the most recent evaluation of these programs or ordinances?

Appendices Content:

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

Appendix B:
Sample Inventory Spreadsheet

Appendix C:
Sample Survey Questions

Appendix D:
Parks and Recreation Studies to Consider

Appendix E:
Proximity Analysis – Level of Service
Park Equity Analysis Tool

Appendix F:
GIS Data Sharing

Appendix A: State Goals

A-1: State Goals for Parks and Recreation

- Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.

- Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties and the State more desirable places to live, work, play and visit.

- Use state investment in parks, recreation and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans.

- To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile and help to protect natural open spaces and resources.

- Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities.

- Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a statewide level.

A-2: State Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation

- Identify, protect and restore lands and waterways in Maryland that support important aquatic and terrestrial natural resources and ecological functions, through combined use of the following techniques:
    - Public land acquisition and stewardship;
    - Private land conservation easements and stewardship practices through purchased or donated easement programs;
    - Local land use management plans and procedures that conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas and minimize impacts to resource lands when development occurs;
    - Support incentives for resource-based economies that increase the retention of forests, wetlands or agricultural lands;
    - Avoidance of impacts on natural resources by publicly funded infrastructure development projects; and
    - Appropriate mitigation response, commensurate with the value of the affected resource.

- Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas, according to a strategic framework such as the Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) in GreenPrint (which is not to be confused with the former easement program also called GreenPrint).

- Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that may fall outside of designated green infrastructure (examples include: rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shale barren communities, grasslands, shoreline beach and dune systems, mud flats, non-forested islands, etc.)

- Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas to assist state and local implementation programs.

- Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated state/local strategy to achieve them through state and local implementation programs.

- Assess the combined ability of state and local programs to achieve the following:
    - Expand and connect forests, farmland and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure;
    - Protect critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats, biological communities and populations;
    - Manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands, floodplains and aquifer recharge areas and their associated hydrologic and water quality functions;
    - Adopt coordinated land and watershed management strategies that recognize the critical links between growth management and aquatic biodiversity and fisheries production; and
    - Support a productive forestland base and forest resource industry, emphasizing the economic viability of privately owned forestland.

A-3: State Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation

- Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting a reasonable diversity of agricultural production;

- Protect natural, forestry and historic resources and the rural character of the landscape associated with Maryland's farmland;

- To the greatest degree possible, concentrate preserved land in large, relatively contiguous blocks to effectively support long-term protection of resources and resource-based industries;

- Limit the intrusion of development and its impacts on rural resources and resource-based industries;

- Ensure good return on public investment by concentrating state agricultural land preservation funds in areas where the investment is reasonably well supported by both local investment and land use management programs;

- Work with local governments to achieve the following:
    - Establish preservation areas, goals and strategies through local comprehensive planning processes that address and complement state goals;
    - In each area designated for preservation, develop a shared understanding of goals and the strategy to achieve them among rural landowners, the public-at-large and state and local government officials;
    - Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by ensuring sufficient public commitment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs;

- Use local land use management authority effectively to protect public investment in preservation by managing development in rural preservation areas;
- Establish effective measures to support profitable agriculture, including assistance in production, marketing and the practice of stewardship, so that farming remains a desirable way of life for both the farmer and public-at-large.

Appendix B: Sample Inventory Spreadsheet

See the attached LPPRP Inventory Sample Spreadsheet

APPENDIX C

LPPRP Inventory Sample Spreadsheet

Parks and Recreation Inventory

Site Name:	Property Size (Acres)	Outdoor Recreation Area (acres):	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Facilities	Trails	Hunting/ Fishing	Other	Field/Facility Recreation Area (acres)	Sports Fields	Playground/Play Structure	Basketball	Tennis	Activity Building/Recreation Center	Other	Notes:
County Parks and Recreation																
Example Regional Park	120	20	X	X	X	X			100	X	X	X		X		John J. Example Community Center onsite includes indoor sport courts, aquatic center/pool and senior center
Example Neighborhood Park	25	0			X				25	X	X	X				
State Parks																
Example State Park	1,200	1,200	X	X	X	X	X	Nature Center	0		X			X		Visitors Center offers nature based educational and interpretive programs
Federal Parks																
Example National Park	500	490	X		X	X		22 miles of maintained trails; 5 picnic areas, seasonal interpretive programs. Park is adjacent to Example State Park w/ trail access between both.	10	X				X	Disc Golf Course	Awesome National Park Visitor's Center includes nature and historical exhibits and programming. Disc Golf Course + Visitors Center = approximately 10 acre area of the Park.
Quasi-Public Parks/Recreation Sites																
NOTE: include only recreational acres open to the public in "property size" column																
Example School	50	5	X			X		Short nature trail/boardwalk through wetlands used by school science classes	40	X	X	X				MOU signed with County Education Dept. Parks/Rec schedules Little League use of fields all weekends and weekdays from 5-9pm. Playground and basketball courts open to public after school hours.
Other																
Totals:	1895 Acres	1715 Acres							175 Acres							

Natural Resource Lands Inventory

Site Name:	Property Size (Acres)	Outdoor Recreation Amenities (if any):	Trails/Interpretive Trails	Water Access				Other
Example Woodlands	500		X	X				Example Environmental Center at site
Example Natural Resource Area	11,000		X					Limited public access, habitat protection area
Totals:	11, 500 acres							

Preserved Agricultural Land Inventory

Site Name:	Property Size (Acres)	Acres Preserved	Protection Type (ownership or easement type)
Example North County Farm	1,000	500	MALPF
Example Farm	50	50	Rural Legacy
Totals:	1,050 acres		

Appendix C: Sample Parks and Recreation Surveys

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

Maryland Samples

Washington County Recreation Survey:
http://www.washco-md.net/parks_facilities/pr_survey1.shtm

Howard County Trail Use Survey:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/?sm=Ri45QXbAFYFEeCLYLnfuog%3d%3d

Montgomery Parks User Satisfaction Survey:
https://s.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22CMYNCAYF4/

Maryland DNR Land Preservation and Recreation Plan Survey 2013 Final Report (Appendix H):
http://www.dnr.state.md.us/land/Stewardship/pdfs/LPRP/Appendix.pdf

Samples from outside of Maryland

Appleton, WI – 6 parks, recreation, facility and satisfaction surveys:
http://www.appletonparkandrec.org/surveys

Columbia, MO – Parks and Recreation Survey:
https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/About_Us/documents/2015survey_section7.pdf

National Recreation and Park Association – Park and Recreation Month 2014 National Survey Findings:
http://www.nrpa.org/july-National-Survey-Findings/

Winston-Salem, NC Recreation Customer Service Survey:
http://www.cityofws.org/departments/recreation-parks/recreation-customer-service-survey

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

State of Maryland

Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan 2014-2018:
http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Stewardship/LPRP_2014-2018.asp

DNR Owned Lands Acreage Report:
http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/stewardship/land_unit_types.asp

Maryland Trail Atlas:
http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/MD_Trails/Trail_Atlas.asp

Maryland State Park Visitor Use and Services Goucher Poll:
http://www.goucher.edu/Documents/Maryland%20State%20Parks%20Survey%20Release%2012-2-14.pdf

2010 Maryland State Parks Economic Impact and Visitor Study:
http://dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/pdfs/economicimpactstudy2010.pdf

Maryland GreenPrint:
http://greenprint.maryland.gov/

Sustainable Communities:
http://www.mdhousing.org/website/programs/dn/communities.aspx

Federal Government

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation:
https://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/fhw11-nat.pdf

National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics:
https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/

Non-Governmental

American Planning Association – City Parks Forum Briefing Papers:
https://www.planning.org/cityparks/briefingpapers/

Outdoor Industry Association – Research Reports on Outdoor Recreation Participation and Economic Impacts:
https://outdoorindustry.org/research-tools/research-reports/

National Recreation and Parks Association – Various reports, studies and tools including:
Safe Routes to Parks:
http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications_and_Research/Research/Papers/Park-Access-Report.pdf

Prescribing Parks for Better Health:
https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Grants_and_Partners/Health_and_Livability/FINAL%20Prescribing%20Parks%20for%20Better%20Health%20Success%20Stories.pdf

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

Proximity Analysis

By more accurately pinpointing the places where parks and recreation facilities are most needed, the proximity analysis is valuable for enhancing the quality of life in existing communities. As a result, it helps local jurisdictions to meet both state and local smart growth objectives. The Department of Natural Resources completed this type of analysis to help gauge the level of service provided by state and national parks in Maryland in Chapter 3 of the 2014-2018 Statewide Land Preservation and Recreation Plan. A link to this Plan is included in Appendix E.

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

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

c. *Large-scale/rural area/county wide area analysis catchment: 5 miles*
   This distance is suggested because it approximates a 15-minute drive and reflects how far a casual park or recreational facility user may travel by car, public transportation or via bicycle or foot to access a particular park or recreational amenity.

d. *Smaller-scale/urban/ highly developed area catchment: 1/2 mile (or some other fraction of a mile) or a set number of city blocks*
   Within urban or densely developed areas, it is anticipated that a higher number of park or recreational facility users live and/or work within fairly close proximity to public parks and recreation facilities and likely will not rely on an automobile to travel to and from these places.

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

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

Water Access – Identify areas where gaps in public access to water bodies and waterways exist. Public facilities that provide water access can include beaches, swimming areas, boat ramps and canoe/kayak launches, shoreline or piers open for fishing, etc.

Trails – Identify where gaps in public access to trails may exist. For this analysis, any/all types of trails may be examined separately or as a larger grouping. Types of trails to consider should include natural surface hiking or mountain biking trails, bike paths and rail trails, hard-surfaced

walking paths, equestrian and off-road vehicle trails and paddling/water trails. It is suggested that the catchment area for these linear amenities be set from managed trail heads or approved points of access where users would most likely gain access to the trail.

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

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

Park Equity Analysis

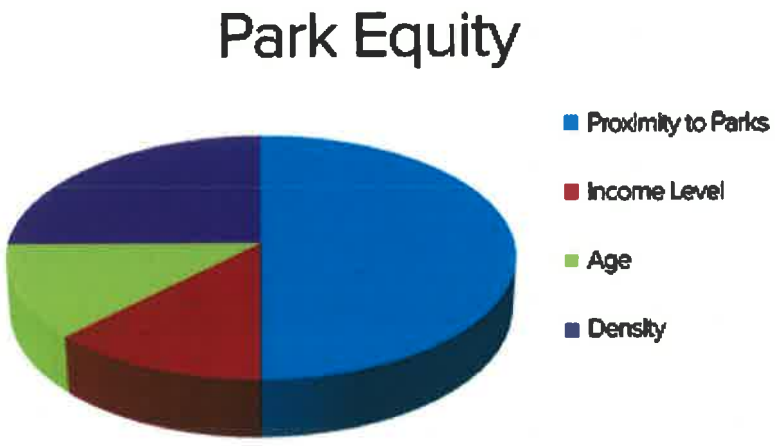
The Park Equity Analysis is an important new tool for identifying population centers that are lacking access to parks and recreational facilities. This tool uses national, statewide and local data in its analysis to illustrate areas of high population density, high concentration of children, high concentration of poverty and low access to public parks and natural areas. Through the Analysis, a combined score is computed for these four data sets and illustrated by census tract on a statewide map. Areas with higher combined scores that are illustrated in red or orange on the Park Equity Map are considered to be those with underserved populations in higher need of additional access to parks and natural areas.

Park Equity Analysis Tool Website: http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/park_equity.asp

Park Equity Model

The Park Equity Analysis is built upon the US Census data analyzed at the Census Tract Block Group level, combined with statewide maps of public and local parks. The model prioritizes underserved areas of Maryland in need of park space by identifying areas with:

- High concentration of children under the age of 17
- High concentration of populations below the poverty line
- High population density
- Low proximity to public park space



Each of these factors is represented in the model as a separate data layer. The layers include Census Tract Block Groups that are scored for the importance of these factors. The layers are added to produce a combined score for prioritizing need for park space.

Half of the combined score is based on these identifying population factors, while the other half is based on geographic proximity to park space and access to trails.

Appendix F: GIS Data Sharing

DNR maintained GIS datasets available for county use:

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

GIS datasets requested from counties for future statewide analysis:

1. County protected public lands (county owned parks, natural areas and lands with agricultural or conservation easements)
2. Public land and water trails in county parks and natural areas – preferably with any notes on use restrictions (ex. Hikers only, equestrian, mountain bike, etc.)
3. Parking at county parks and trailheads
4. Public hunting areas in county parks or natural areas (if applicable)
5. County park amenities – such as picnic areas, campgrounds, playgrounds, recreation centers or sports fields
6. Public fishing sites
7. County water access locations (boat ramps and canoe/kayak launches)

GIS datasets maintained by DNR can be downloaded from DNR's Geospatial Data Center website: http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/gis/data/