

FEBRUARY 14, 2022

draft

LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS, AND
RECREATION PLAN

MNCPPC, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS OF RECREATION

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Executive Summary

Program Open Space has provided significant recreation lands, open space, natural resources, and ways for the residents of Prince George's County to connect to exceptional outdoor recreational opportunities since the program began in 1969. This report not only compiles, summarizes, and meets the criteria established by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for the 2022 *Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan* (LPPRP), a requirement of Program Open Space, but also includes the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation's (the Department's) specific goals as it relates to delivering an award-winning parks and recreation system.

To that end, Chapter 1 provides an overview of the park system in Prince George's County and highlights the new park and recreational opportunities that the Department has delivered to the citizens of Prince George's County since the 2017 LPPRP submission. Subsequently, M-NCPPC has added 1,250+ acres of parkland and completed 120 facilities projects as well as adopted a comprehensive recreation program that addresses emerging recreation and leisure trends and changing population characteristics, among other efforts. Approximately 15% of Prince George's County's total land area is dedicated to parks, recreation, and open space. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is the largest provider of open space and parks in Prince George's County and one of the largest providers in the State of Maryland. The Department, on behalf of the M-NCPPC, manages over 28,000 acres of parkland. There are more than 13,500 acres of undeveloped, and 12,500 acres of developed parkland in the County. The chapter introduces the overall layout of the park system and two major plans that influence decisions related to parks and recreation growth patterns. These are the Plan Prince George's County 2035 Approved General Plan (Plan 2035) and the Formula 2040 Functional Master Plan for Parks and Recreation (Formula 2040).

Chapter 2 of this document provides detailed statistics and facts regarding the park inventory, the park service areas, and a summary of park categories. The Department offers a variety of indoor and outdoor oriented programming that promotes physical and mental health while exposing patrons to natural environments and open spaces. The chapter also looks at the Level of Service (LOS) standards used by the Department to determine the required acreage of parkland and number of facilities needed to serve the residents in the County. This includes a proximity analysis that involved examining the locations of parkland and existing facilities in relation to population density to identify gaps in service. Chapter 2 concludes with an overview of the Department's Proposed \$123 million FY23-FY28 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), an update on parkland acquisition over the past five years and a list of acquisition priorities for the next five years influenced by survey findings which rank maintaining existing parks and facilities as most important to residents, next the purchase more land for parks, followed by building new indoor facilities such as: pools, ice arenas, and indoor sports fields as significantly important to residents. Natural Resources and Land Conservation are covered in Chapter 3. Since its founding in 1927, natural resource land conservation has been at the forefront of M-NCPPC's mission. Plan 2035 also recognizes the importance of balancing growth and the benefit of protecting and restoring environmental features. Over 18,000 acres of M-NCPPC parklands remain undeveloped and serve to protect important stream valley buffers, sensitive habitats, rare, threatened, and endangered species, critical floodplains, and tidal and non-tidal wetland areas. Chapter 3 also provides an update on the Department's progress towards natural resource goals and objectives. The Department increased its natural resource lands by 690.43 acres since the 2017 LPPRP submission. This sum represents 54%, or slightly more than half of all the land acquired for

parks and recreation in the last five years. This total does not include additional easement lands discussed in Chapter 4 related to the Historic Agricultural Resource Preservation Program (HARPP) Chapter 4 summarizes the County's local efforts regarding Agricultural Land Preservation. Rural and agricultural areas equal 91,810 acres or 29% of the County. Prince George's County has a long-standing commitment to preserving agricultural land. As we continue to retool from being the largest tobacco producing County in the State to becoming a diverse food and agricultural crop producing economy, the effort is showing progress and gaining momentum. This effort to produce food is not only happening in the Rural Tier, but Prince George's County is producing locally grown food countrywide. The County is making inroads and progress in the areas of urban farming and community-oriented programs that deliver fresh food products to residents in highly developed areas as well as our important agriculturally zoned lands. We are rethinking and delivering new ways to provide food to our residents. According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, during the past five years, the number of farms in Prince George's County has increased by six percent, and the number of acres of land in farms has increased by five percent. Multiple strategies presented in the 2017 LPPRP have been implemented as of 2021. There are more than 1,140 acres of M-NCPPC land leased for farming and urban agriculture activities have grown in the County.

This year, the Department elected to dedicate a chapter in the LPPRP to our trails system. Chapter 5 discusses the Department's extensive system of paved and natural surface trails. The three major goals of Formula 2040 are: connectivity, health, and wellness, and contributing to the economic prosperity of the County. Trails touch all three of these goals, and these amenities are a priority in the development pattern of the parks and recreation services that will be delivered to our residents. To support these findings, the Department has conducted three statistically valid surveys since 2012. The outcome of these surveys consistently identifies trails as being the number one desired and used amenity among park patrons. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an uptick in trail use and the request for new and improved trails has never been higher. In response to the findings in Formula 2040 to grow and improve the trail system, the Department prioritized the development of a Strategic Trails Plan. This plan, that was completed in 2018, is presented in Chapter 5 along with information that the Department will take to implement strategies for growing the countywide trail network. While these features will be recreation and include natural surface and paved trails, the Department is also documenting a need to provide commuter trails like the East Coast Greenway, State trails like the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Trail, and important local connector trails like the Central Avenue Corridor Trail.

The document finishes with a series of complimentary Appendices that provide detailed information, inventories and data that support the discussions in Chapters 1-5. This is an excellent overview of the way M-NCPPC in Prince George's County is responding to preserving natural and agricultural resources while delivering an award-winning park system with a variety of indoor and outdoor facilities, and programs that respond to the residents need for recreation, health, and wellness, and improving our open space and green environment.

Chapter 1 Introduction

Introduction to the Park System of Prince George's County

Parks and public open space in Prince George's County are important. More than 50,000 acres of federal, state, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), and municipal land have been dedicated to the pursuit of parks, recreation and the preservation of open space. The Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation (the Department) has an inventory of more 28,000 acres of parkland which house a wide array of facilities and amenities to meet the active and passive recreational needs of County residents and visitors. Fitness programs and outdoor experiences such as trail walks, photography, wildlife viewing, camping, are in greater demand due to the recent pandemic. Based on the County area of 498 square miles and a population of 909,327 (U.S. Census Population Estimate Program Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2019 (PEPANNRES)), approximately 15% of the County's total land area is dedicated to parks, recreation and open space or approximately 50-acres of parkland (Federal, State, County, and HOA land combined) per every 1,000 county residents.

M-NCPPC is a six-time winner of the National Gold Medal Award for excellence in park and recreation management, awarded annually by the National Recreation and Park Association. The Department, on behalf of the M-NCPPC, manages 28,608 acres of parkland in the county. Therefore, the M-NCPPC owns approximately 9% of the County. This equates to a Level of Service (LOS) standard of 31 acres of M-NCPPC parkland per county resident.

From this point forward in the report, all numbers and calculations for parkland use and level of service will be based on ONLY this figure for land that is owned by the M-NCPPC. To be clear, the M-NCPPC provides a Level of Service of 31 acres of parkland for every 1,000 people.

There are several ways the M-NCPPC acquires parkland for public use. These include:

- Capper Cramton Lands – provided in the 1930's – 1980's by the federal government in the form of a loan to acquire open space of stream valleys for conservation and parkland development.
- Donation
- Fee-Simple
- Historic Agriculture Resource Preservation Program (Easements Only)
- Mandatory Dedication
- Program Open Space

The lands owned by M-NCPPC in Prince George's County support a robust, diverse, and growing parks and recreation system. Consisting of 28,587 acres of land, the system includes more than 18,000 acres of forest canopy, tidal and non-tidal wetland area and habitat, floodplains, 27 stream valley parks protecting 3rd order and higher streams and rivers, sensitive habitats that are home to rare, threatened, and endangered species, meadows, bogs, forest interior dwelling bird species, and more.

Additionally, the parkland in the County supports an extensive recreation program with more than 10,000 acres of open space that is home to more than 250 playgrounds and 300 fields including baseball, softball, football, multi-purpose fields, and cricket. The Department also has 4 regional parks, more than 45 historic sites, numerous house museums, runs the world's oldest continuously operated airport, and the Jug Bay Natural Area at Patuxent River Park. There are more than 300 hard courts that in addition to serving the tennis community, the Department is adding new striping to several courts, adding the opportunity for

patrons to play pickleball or Futsal. The Department has 3 golf courses, 45 community centers, an equestrian center, a world-class Trap and Skeet Center, two ice rinks, a Sports and Learning Complex, disc golf course, over 160 miles of trails, and a host of other venues that support our “Live more, Play more” tagline.

In addition, the Department has numerous successful partnerships that focus on sports and various recreational opportunities. The Prince George’s Parks and Recreation Foundation, created in 2013, positioned the Department to leverage new public and private partnerships and seek additional grant funding. The partnership with the Board of Education increases the access to facilities along with health and wellness programs delivered to our residents. Currently, there are 18 combination school/community centers in the county, and the Department has collaborated with the Board of Education on many occasions by providing athletic fields and play areas either on school property or on parkland adjacent to a school. The Tennis Center at College Park and the Gardens Ice House are additional examples of facility partnerships with private entities. The Department has several countywide partnerships, most notably with the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland and the Prince George’s County Boys and Girls Club.

Since the 2017 submittal of the Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), the Department has delivered the following new and renovated parks, and recreational amenities to the citizens of Prince George’s County:

- Southern Area Aquatics and Recreation Complex (SAARC)
- Southern Regional Aquatic Wellness Center*
- Westphalia Community Center
- Peppermill Community Center
- Woodmore Town Center Park
- Replaced 30 Playgrounds
- Provided irrigation on more than 6 athletic fields
- Provided 2 stream restoration projects
- Opened 4 new trails
- Provided new fitness equipment and fitness pads in two parks
- Delivered a new state of the art Tucker Road Ice Rink*
- Added 248 acres of Mandatory Dedication Lands
- Added 491 acres of Fee-simple acquisitions
- Added 943 acres of land through the HARPP
- Added 690 acres of Natural Resources Lands

*Indicates projects in which Program Open Space funds were utilized.

Some of the biggest opportunities since the 2017 LPPRP are:

- Following the 2014 General Plan, Plan Prince George’s 2035 Approved General Plan (Plan 2035) and new development around the county’s Metro Stations.
- Developing master plans to guide the long-term investment in the County’s regional parks.
- Revising the sections of the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance to support the implementation of developer-built parks (or fee-in lieu of development) in areas of residential growth.
- Expanding the trail network, especially in the central and southern parts of the County.

- Providing adequate locations and opportunities for youth sports at the recreational, developmental, and travel levels.

Some of the biggest challenges since the 2017 LPPRP are:

- Meeting the increased demand for access to trails, outdoor gathering places, and trails caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- Finding large open spaces inside the beltway for acquisition to improve access to parkland for denser areas.
- Developing and implementing an urban park model for areas of walkable urban development.
- Balancing staffing at a level that meets the needs of new park development and park renovations.
- Maintaining and enhancing developed parkland while investing in the growth and expansion of the system.

1.1 Purposes of the Plan

The 2022 *Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan* (LPPRP) for Prince George’s County has been prepared for submission to the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in accordance with the requirements of Title 5, Subtitle 9 [per Section 5-905 (b) (2) of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland]. Each local jurisdiction is required by Maryland’s Program Open Space legislation to revise a local land preservation and recreation plan every five years. The information contained in the LPPRP serves as a guide for land conservation, parks and recreation planning and decision making within each county. This document is principally a synthesis of previously adopted plans, recommendations, goals, objectives, policies, updated statistical data, and summaries of studies reviewed, approved, or adopted by the Prince George’s County Planning Board. The information included has been compiled, updated, and summarized to conform to the state’s guidelines for preparing an LPPRP. In the area of level of service (LOS) standards, this LPPRP advances and refines the policies and objectives of the Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation’s (the Department’s) system master plan, 2013 *Formula 2040 Functional Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space* (Formula 2040).

The Prince George’s County LPPRP serves the following purposes:

1. Guides policies and actions throughout Prince George’s County to ensure that the recreational needs of County residents and visitors will be met in ways that are efficient and cost effective.
2. Helps ensure that local actions in Prince George’s County related to land preservation and recreation are an integral part of the state and local growth management strategy.
3. Emphasizes the need for preserving and protecting valuable natural, agricultural, cultural, and historical resources in Prince George’s County.
4. Promotes the significance of contributions that recreation and land preservation make to the economic, social, and physical well-being of the citizens of Prince George’s County, in part, and the State of Maryland, in whole.
5. Contributes to the preparation of state plans, policies, and programs for land preservation and recreation.
6. Qualifies Prince George’s County for State Program Open Space grants pursuant to Title 5, Subtitle 9 of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to assist local governments with acquiring and developing parks, recreation, open space, and resource lands.

7. Provides a comprehensive overview of the plans, policies, guidelines, and programs as they relate to parks, recreation, and open space in Prince George's County.

The 2022 LPPRP provides a logical, systematic framework of goals, objectives, and policy guidelines for the provision of parkland, open space, and recreation opportunities countywide. The document provides a classification system for categorizing and naming parkland according to acreage and facilities. The LPPRP also specifies LOS standards to help identify need for parkland and recreation facilities by geographic area in the ongoing effort to equitably provide opportunity and benefit to all Prince Georgians. The LOS standards are indicators of potential or anticipated need that will be further studied to determine actual need.

1.2 Geography

Prince George's County is 498 square miles in size and is located mostly in the Atlantic Coastal Plain physiographic province. Only a small portion of the County, west of Route 1 in the northern portion of the County is in the Piedmont Plateau.

The Atlantic Coastal Plain has unconsolidated deposits of gravel, sand, silt and clay. In the northern reaches, the Coastal Plain is gently rolling with broad floodplains and valleys. In central and southern portions, the Coastal Plain is comprised of a near level to gently sloping plateau that extends into Charles County. Near the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers, the Coastal Plain plateau is cut by V-shaped valleys with steep slopes. Coastal Plain elevations in the County range from sea level along the waterfronts to 400 feet near Laurel. The Piedmont Plateau, the area generally west of the fall line (along US 1), is characterized by low rolling hills with elevations that span 200 to 800 feet above sea level. The soils are typically well drained with a clay-like composition and are moderately fertile. The geology of the Piedmont is complex with numerous rock formations and materials. The highest point in Prince George's County is 445 feet above sea level, in the Piedmont Plateau just north of Fairland Regional Park near Brooklyn Bridge Road in Laurel.

Approximately 67 percent of Prince George's County is located on well drained soils, 21 percent of the soils are moderately well drained, and 10 percent of the County soils are poorly drained. Less than 3 percent of land is swamp, tidal marsh, or floodplains of streams.

The County is located immediately east of the nation's capital – Washington, D.C. It is 30 miles southwest of Baltimore City and is 12 miles west of the state capital, Annapolis, Maryland. Prince George's County is the third most populated jurisdiction in the State following Montgomery County and the City of Baltimore. While this county was once revered for rich agricultural fields and tobacco production, the county has transitioned to one of the region's most densely developed jurisdictions.

Prince George's County has three major watersheds - Anacostia, which encompasses the top western third of the County and is home to the most intense development. The Potomac River watershed that comprises most of the central and southwestern portions of the county, and the largest and most protected areas make up the Patuxent River watershed which consists of the entire eastern border of Prince George's County.

From a recent survey by the Prince George’s County Planning Department, the County has a tree canopy coverage of 50 percent.

1.3 Role of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1927 to serve the bi-county area of Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties. The purpose, powers, and duties of M-NCPPC are found in Division II, Land Use Article, of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Land Use Article empowers M-NCPPC to:

1. Acquire, develop, maintain, and administer a regional system of parks, defined as the Metropolitan District.
2. Prepare and administer a general plan for the physical development in the areas of the two counties, defined as the Regional District.
3. Conduct a comprehensive recreation program for Prince George’s County.

The M-NCPPC operates in Prince George’s and Montgomery County through a Planning Board appointed by and responsible to the County government. All local plans – including this LPPRP, zoning amendments, administration of subdivision regulations, and general administration of parks are the responsibilities of the Planning Boards.

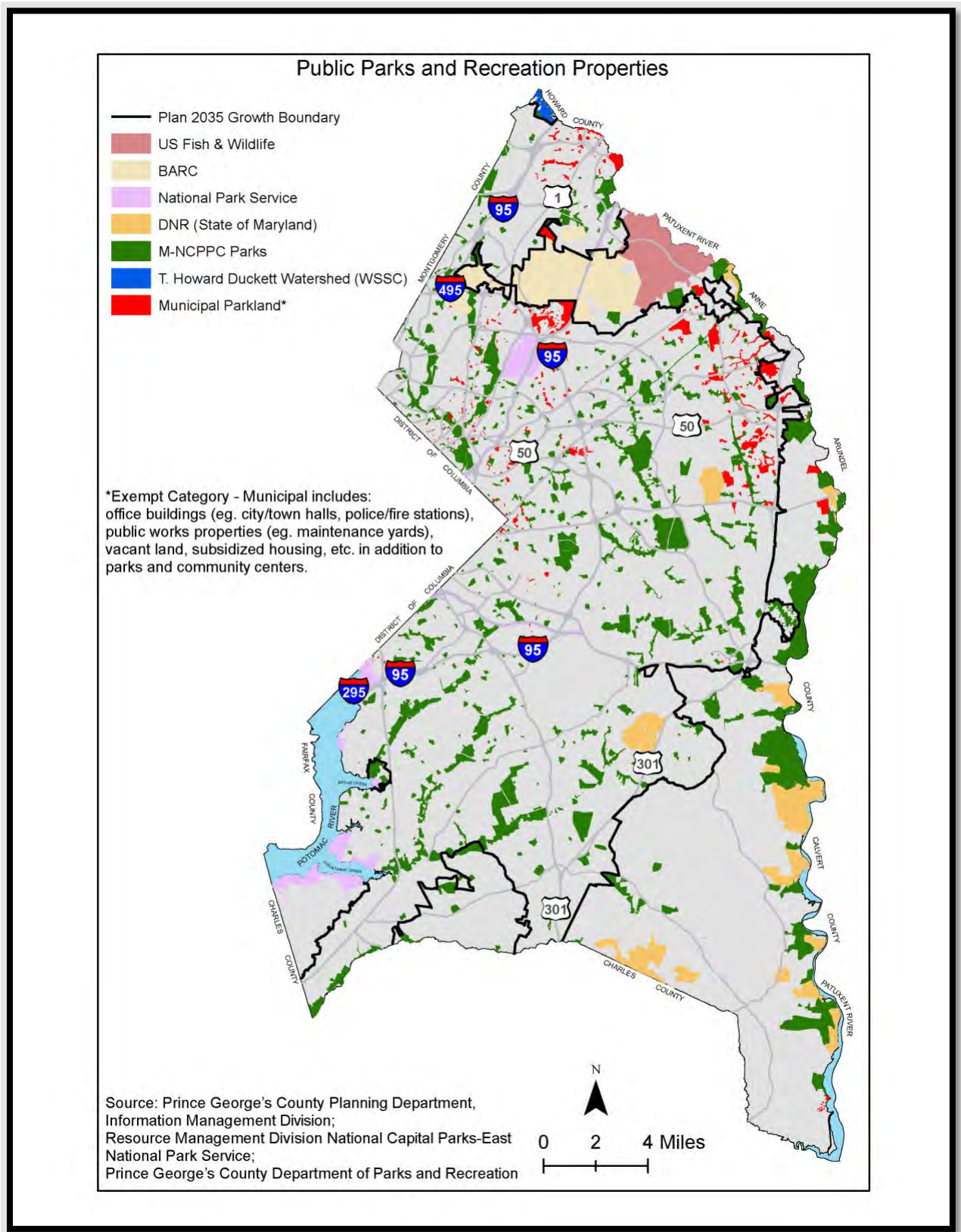
Organizationally, there are seven departments within M-NCPPC, which include the Department of Planning and the Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County. M-NCPPC in Montgomery County is comprised of the Department of Parks and the Montgomery County Planning Department. Recreation in Montgomery County is administered by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation. There are three central administrative service departments for both counties: Department of Human Resources, Finance Department, and Legal Department. M-NCPPC acts collectively on regional and administrative issues and divides into two respective county planning boards to conduct all other matters.

The Prince George’s County Planning Department performs countywide technical analysis and offers advice and recommendations about matters pertaining to existing and future land use, and provision of public facilities and services. Planning Department staff works on projects and tasks annually set forth in a work program and budget adopted by the Prince George’s County Council. The Planning Department works under the direction of the Prince George’s County Planning Board to serve the residents of Prince George’s County. The Planning Department concentrates on 11 major program areas, which include Countywide Planning, Community Planning, Public Facilities Planning, Transportation Planning, Environmental Planning, Development Review, Countywide Database Management, Intergovernmental Coordination, County Trend Analysis, Community Outreach and Public Information, and General Administration and Supporting Services Management.

The Department of Parks and Recreation (the Department) in Prince George’s County is responsible for overall planning, supervision, and coordination of all park services for a comprehensive system of over 28,608 acres (See Map 1.1 Park Properties). This includes acquisition of land for parks and conservation areas, developing park and recreational facilities, maintaining and policing park property, and conducting a wide array of athletic and leisure activities. The Department’s Director implements the policies of the Prince George’s County Planning Board and serves as liaison to the Planning Board, the public, and state and local agencies. The mission of the Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide comprehensive

park and recreation programs, facilities, and services that respond to changing needs within our communities; preserve, enhance, and protect public open spaces; and enrich the quality of life for the present and future generations in a safe and secure environment.

The Department’s vision is to provide stewardship of our county’s natural, cultural, and historical resources; foster the need of our citizens for recreational pursuits in a leisure environment; and provide the highest standard of excellence in public service through cooperative partnership with our diverse community.



Map 1.1 Park Properties

1.4 Role of the Prince George’s County Council

The Legislative Branch of the County is the Prince George’s County Council. Consisting of 11 members (two new at-large members were added in 2017) elected by the County’s registered voters, the County Council acts as the District Council on zoning and land use matters. The 3 main responsibilities of the Prince George’s County Council regarding the planning process include setting policy, approving plans, and implementing plans. Applicable policies are incorporated into area plans, functional plans, and the general plan (Plan 2035).

After holding hearings on plans adopted by the Prince George’s County Planning Board, the County Council may approve the land use plan as adopted, approve the plan with amendments based on the public record, or disapprove the plan and return it to the Planning Board for revision.

The Prince George’s County Council also reviews and approves the annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget that is submitted by the Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation (the Department). The Department’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a six-year plan that guides the building and renovating of park facilities, and the acquisition of land for future parks and conservation.

1.5 Guiding Plans

There are two major plans in addition to the LPPRP that influence Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County. These are the Prince George’s County General Plan (Plan 2035) and the Formula 2040 Functional Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space adopted by the Department in 2013. These plans are supplemented with Area Master Plans, Sector Plans, and studies. In addition, the Department drafts Master Park Development Plans to plan for individual park facilities like regional parks. Each plan includes recommendations on the location and types of parks to guide how parks are developed and delivered to the residents of Prince George’s County.

Plan 2035

Plan Prince George’s 2035 Approved General Plan (Plan 2035) is a comprehensive, 20-year blueprint for long-term growth and development in Prince George’s County. Adopted in 2014, the plan states a vision, establishes priorities, and requires the County staff to commit to a clear course of action.

It is envisioned that, in 2035, Prince George’s County will be the community of choice for families, businesses, and workers in the region. The County will be distinguished by strong, green, and healthy communities; a competitive, innovative, and adaptive economy; vibrant and walkable mixed-use centers; restored ecosystems; and iconic destinations that will meet the diverse needs of all Prince Georgians. This vision will be achieved through commitment to the five guiding principles of developing sustainably, thinking holistically, investing strategically, growing equitably, and preserving all that County residents value. Plan 2035 translates these guiding principles into three themes:

- In 2035, Prince Georgians work in a thriving and diverse economy.
- In 2035, Prince Georgians live in safe, walkable, and healthy communities.
- In 2035, Prince Georgians sustain our natural resources and rural areas.

The framework to achieve the Plan 2035 goals is laid out in two maps—the Growth Policy and Strategic Investment Maps. The Growth Policy Map provides a framework for future growth in the County, including

Regional Transit Districts and Employment Areas. The Strategic Investment Map identifies where the County should invest the majority of County, state, and federal resources in the near- to mid-term to realize meaningful long-term change and increase the County's commercial tax base. Six principles guide the Plan 2035 vision, policies, and strategies. They are:

- **Concentrate Future Growth**—Plan 2035 commits to concentrating future growth to achieve the 2035 vision and illustrates where and how we should grow in the Growth Policy Map.
- **Prioritize and Focus County Resources**—Plan 2035 commits to aligning work programs across County agencies, supporting financial incentives and infrastructure improvements, and streamlining processes to accelerate growth in our Priority Investment Districts.
- **Build on County Strengths and Assets**—Plan 2035 commits to capitalizing on these advantages as County staff plan for future growth and development and allocate resources.
- **Create Choice Communities**—Plan 2035 commits to supporting neighborhood reinvestment in existing public infrastructure, services, and facilities, and designing diverse and distinct communities that promote walkability and convenient access to employment, retail, and entertainment options.
- **Connect County Neighborhoods and Significant Places**—Plan 2035 commits to improving mobility and connectivity by investing in transportation infrastructure (including sidewalks and trails), building on the underutilized transit network, and coordinating land use and growth management with transportation improvements.
- **Protect and Value the County's Natural Resources**—Plan 2035 commits to proactively greening the built environment, restoring degraded resources, and promoting a more sustainable development pattern that reduces the reliance on driving and shifts development pressures away from Greenfields.

Formula 2040 Functional Master Plan

Formula 2040, adopted in 2013, is a Functional Master Plan that sets the agenda for the development, maintenance, and use of parks and open spaces in Prince George's County through the year 2040. It is the result of the collective efforts of engaged residents, staff, and leadership. At each stage of the planning process stakeholders including elected officials, community members and staff contributed their thoughts and ideas, helping to identify key issues and recommendations.

Formula 2040 is part of the County's general plan—the 2013 *Plan Prince George's 2035 the Approved General Plan*. Many action steps will be implemented over the next three to five years with regards to Formula 2040; others will take more time and a higher revenue base (developed through plan implementation) to support the capital and operational costs required to achieve them. The key to effective implementation will be to incorporate the range of strategies into the ongoing management practices of the Department of Parks and Recreation (the Department) and its partners within the M-NCPPC and Prince George's County government. Plan 2035 incorporates other functional masters plans such as those for preservation, transportation, natural resources and public safety. The development of Formulas 2040 provides a wealth of information on how the Department can improve its recreation program and services. As a result, the Department set up staff teams in several areas to work on recommendations that resulted from this process. These include a recreation programming think tank that addresses training, marketing, program planning, evaluation, and cost recovery; a facility maintenance work group that looks at ways to improve how we perform maintenance activities and the adequacy of our

maintenance yards; and park planning and development teams that have updated LOS standards, developed a trails master plan, created a design and construction template for a new generation of multigenerational centers, and is working with the Planning Department to update land dedication procedures, develop urban park guidelines, and institute an Adequate Public Facilities (APF) test for park and recreation facilities.

1.6 Prince George’s County Demographic Profile

Per the U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program, Prince George’s County has an estimated population of 909,327 as of July 1, 2019. Overall, these figures show the County is growing slightly slower than projections contained in other key Department documents (Formula 2040 for example.) The County is the third most populated jurisdiction in the Washington Metropolitan Area and its population is racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse. Prince George’s County is a African American county at 61.7 percent in 2019. This is a slight decrease in the majority population of 64 percent that was reported in the 2017 LPPRP. The number of Hispanic residents continues to increase in the County, growing at a rate of 2.5 percent from 15.9 percent in 2015 to 18.4 percent in 2019.

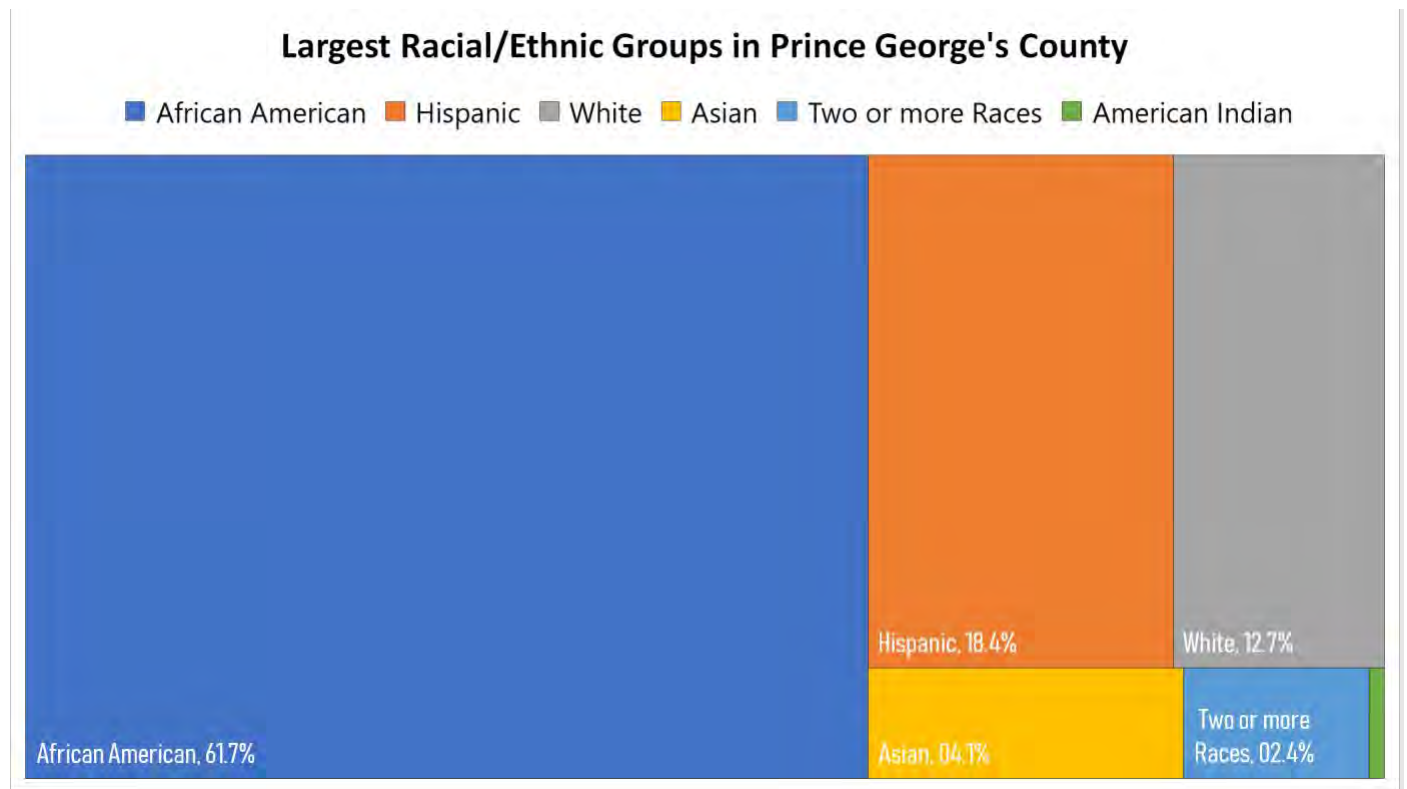


Chart 1.1 - Racial Composition of Prince George’s County

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates Accessed, May 2021

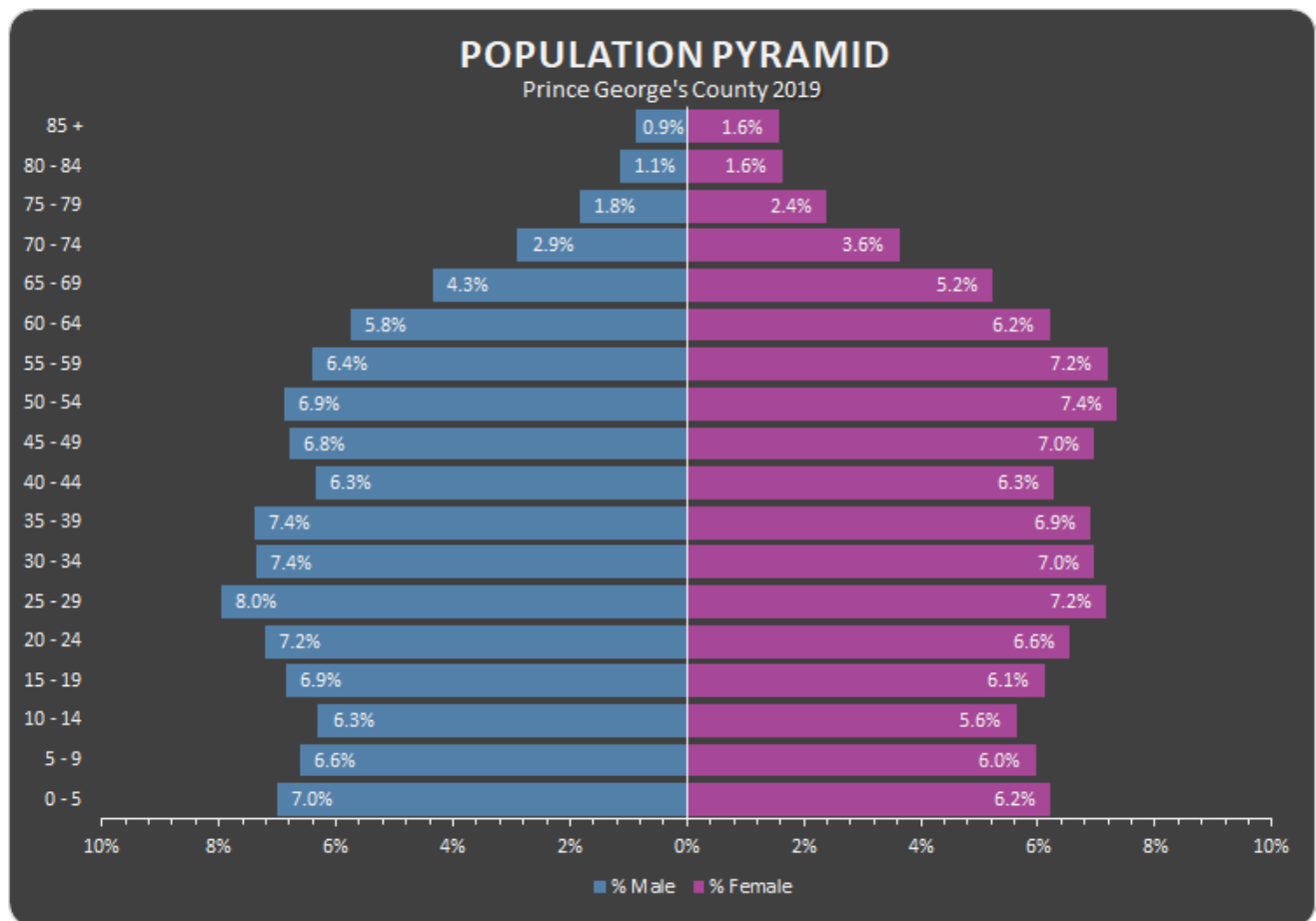
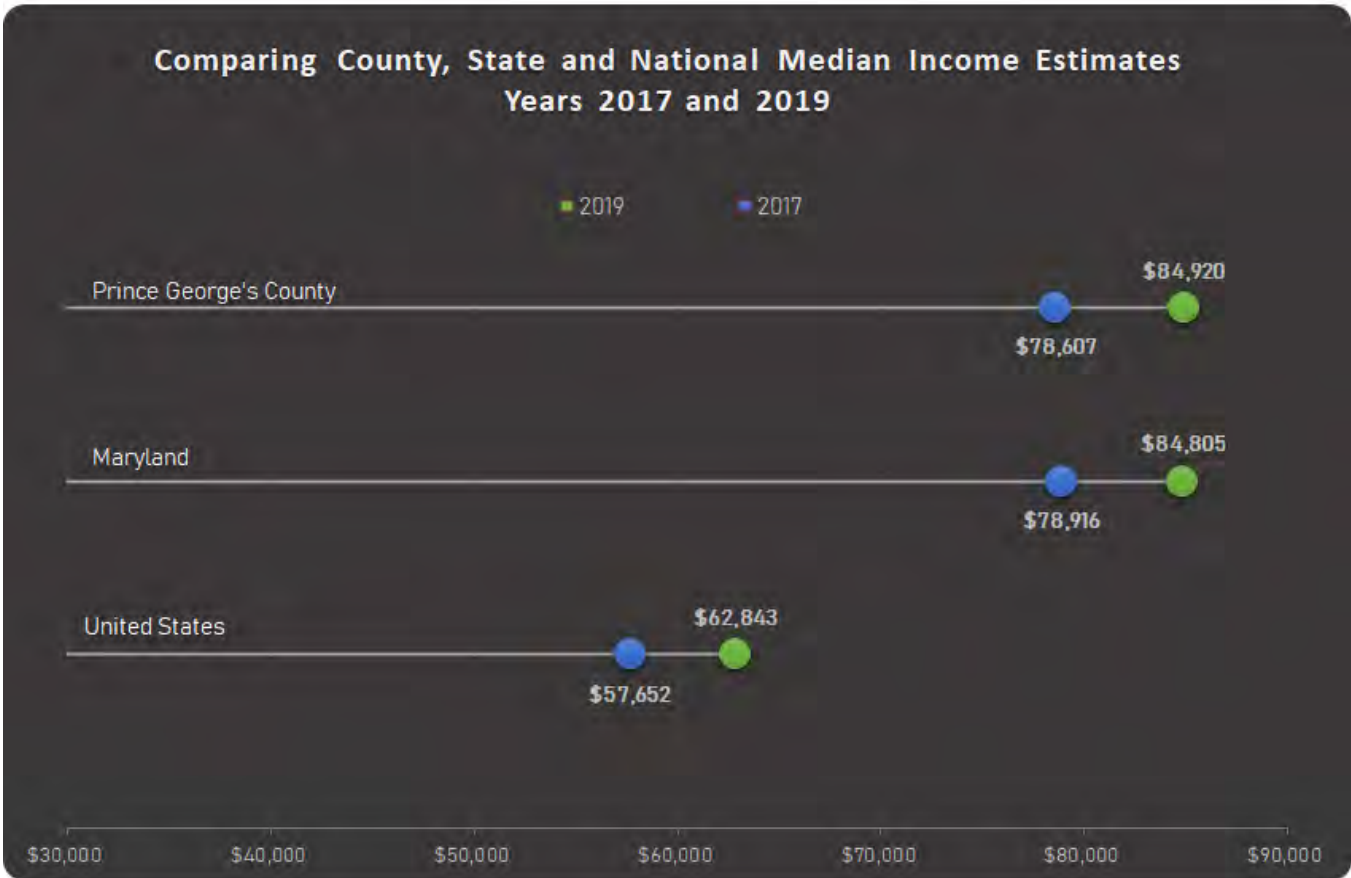


Chart 1.2 - Prince George's County Population by Age

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates Accessed, May 2021

Overall, the County has a balanced age distribution. Prince George's County has an even mixture of youth, families, and active adult and senior populations. The median age in the County is 37.1 years. This is unchanged from the information in the 2017 LPPRP.

The gender distribution for the County is similar. Currently, females account for 51.9 percent of the total population with a median age of 38.8, and males account for 48.1 percent of the total population with a median age of 35.4. This distribution is projected to remain constant throughout the years to come.



Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates Accessed, May 2021.

Chart 1.3 - Prince George's County Residents Income Profile

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2015–2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate shows that the median household income of County residents is \$84,920.00 compared to the U.S. median income of \$62,843. This is a 14% increase from the last reporting session.

Chapter 2: Parks and Recreation

2.1 Executive Summary/overview of parks and recreation system in the county

The Department is dedicated to the community in ensuring a wide range of services and facilities to provide to diverse populations. A goal to meet people's needs while focusing on quality of life is an essential part of the overall wellness objective in the Department.

Park attractions, green space, play areas, and community recreation parks are a common and important part of our communities. The history of the importance of parklands is extensive. Parks and playgrounds that are not well maintained can be detrimental to communities and neighborhoods, including attracting illicit activities, threatening behaviors, and impacting life expectancy. However, well developed, and preserved parkland provide economic benefits, safe clean spaces for public interaction, and improve the quality of life of the residents. Two-thirds of Americans agree that their quality of life would improve with better access to a park or green space within a 10-minute walk of their homes (10minutewalk.org). Time spent in parks increases physical and mental health for children and adults alike.

Parks have become increasingly important during the COVID-19 pandemic as some people seek to recreate and socialize exclusively outside. This increases the urgency of enhancing our parks to meet the changing needs of the population. Short-term enhancements could be extending operating hours, installing more lighting, and making small short-term investments like painting courts and adding shade and seating concurrently with the larger capital investments outlined in this chapter.

The Department provides a wide range of facilities and services to meet the needs of a diverse population. The Department relies upon an accurate and complete inventory of our land and amenities to ensure the equitable distribution of land, facilities, and resources and provide parks for future generations. Understanding the existing and future needs of county residents allows the Department to set meaningful goals. While the established methodology focuses on land and facilities, like playgrounds and fields, there are other potential measures that focus on access and experience. They seek to answer questions like:

- How many ways can a resident access the park and how many different experiences could they have while there?
- Is this park part of a network of parks, connected through a bicycle/pedestrian network?
- Are other civic and private uses part of this network, creating an interconnected public realm?

2.2 Park Inventory Overview and Summary of Amenity Types

M-NCPPC is the largest provider of open space, parks, and recreational amenities in Prince George's County. Out of the 45,562 acres of total parkland within the County, M-NCPPC owns 28,608 acres. Federal, State, and Municipal agencies along with a variety of quasi-public and private owners provide the rest of the parkland within the county, including, but not limited to, Homeowner Associations (HOAs) and the Boys and Girls Club. M-NCPPC Parkland is categorized into two categories, undeveloped and developed, and then further into subcategories that define the types of activities and level of use that is provided and supported at each location.

M-NCPPC Parkland

Undeveloped Parkland

The Commission owns over 18,000 acres of undeveloped parkland, which are mostly located within the 4 regional parks, 27 stream valley parks, and along the Patuxent River. The Commission owns over 7,500 acres of regional stream valley parkland, which provides open space, natural beauty, and protection of rare, threatened, and endangered species, habitats for diverse ecosystems, watershed protection, along with opportunities for recreation. These Patuxent River Park is the largest SVP comprised of more than 6,000 acres of natural area park lands along the eastern boundary of Prince George's County. Most of the land within the Patuxent River Park is protected and contains valuable natural and historical resources, which are governed by a "limited-use" policy. The M-NCPPC also provides many opportunities for residents to connect with nature through recreation within undeveloped parkland including boating, fishing, camping, natural surface trails for hiking and mountain biking, bird watching, and much more

Developed Parkland

The M-NCPPC owns, operates, and maintains more than 13,723 acres of developed parkland in Prince George's County, which encompasses both indoor and outdoor recreational facilities and amenities. These are provided to the county residents through various categories of developed parkland including neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, trails, and specialty facilities. Countywide, M-NCPPC has over 120 diamond fields, 170 rectangular fields, 5 futsal courts, 217 outdoor basketball courts, 280 outdoor tennis courts, 20 volleyball courts, 238 playgrounds, 5 golf courses, 7 outdoor pools, 2 campgrounds, 5 dog parks, a trap and skeet shooting range, and over 300 picnic areas.

In addition to the active uses described above, developed parks also provide opportunities for passive recreation such as walking and hiking, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, camping, birding and other wildlife viewing. M-NCPPC manages three nature centers, provides special programming geared to nature enthusiasts, operates more than a dozen specialty facilities that focus on wetland interpretation, unique habitats, equestrian pursuits, public archeology, paleontology, historic interpretation, farming, gardening, agricultural interests, and more.

Local Parks

Local Parks (also known as Neighborhood or Community Parks) are less than 200 acres in size and are meant to provide recreational opportunities to their immediate communities. The amenities offered at local parks vary from site to site and respond to the needs of each community. Local parks make up over 5,500 acres of M-NCPPC parkland, and typically include combinations of playgrounds, picnic areas, ballfields, basketball and tennis courts, and walking trails. They are also designed to be accessible on foot or bike for the surrounding residents but may contain small parking lots. Some also include a recreation building, which are small, unstaffed buildings accessible by permit. Recreation buildings are typically used for community meetings, events, and celebrations.

Regional Parks

M-NCPPC currently owns and operates four regional parks. These parks are dispersed geographically throughout the county; Fairland Regional Park (154 acres, not including the portions in Montgomery County) in the northern area of the county, Watkins Regional Park (805 acres) and Walker Mill Regional Parks (504 acres) in the central area, and Cosca Regional Park (790 acres) in the southern area. Regional Parks are developed parkland which encompass more than 200 acres and offer diverse opportunities for experiences and activities that cannot be found or supported at smaller local parks. Common attributes of

regional parks include multiple athletic fields, imagination playgrounds, picnic shelters, regional road and trail networks that provide access to and from adjoining communities, and large parking areas for signature events. Each regional park also contains unique facilities and natural features that express the local environment or culture, which include historic structures, stream valleys, and rare, threatened, and endangered plant species.

The Department is in the process of developing Master Development Plans for each of the M-NCPPC regional parks. The plan for Watkins Regional Park was completed in 2018. The plans for Walker Mill and Cosca Regional Parks will be completed in 2022, and the plan for Fairland Regional Park will begin in 2022. Master Development Plans establish comprehensive visions for the future of the county's regional parks by developing blueprints that balance competing demands on the park's resources, and shape recommendations that responsibly guide development through the next 20-25 years.

Watkins Regional Park is planned to utilize the existing agriculture fields to expand on the existing educational programming at the Watkins Nature Center and Old Maryland Farm, while Walker Mill Regional Park will create opportunities to retell and expand on the history and legacy of the African American and Black history through the lens of the Historic Concord Site and the families that settled in the area. The Cosca Regional Park Master Development plan builds upon the natural beauty and topography of the site to immerse residents in nature, connecting the various areas of the park along a spine trail. The plans are shaped by recommendations generated from an analysis of the park's existing conditions and natural resources, an evaluation of the level of service needed to provide various levels of recreation, and continual input collected from community and internal stakeholders. Current undeveloped, but future regional parks include Westphalia Central Park and Green Branch Athletic Complex.

Trails

Prince George's County has 1760 miles of trails in the park system, which traverse many settings. Urban and suburban greenways run through the stream valley parklands, rails-to-trails conversions follow old trolley lines, and a mixed assortment of trails have been built in our regional parks and conservation lands. The trail network includes:

- 85 miles of paved multi-use trails for walking, biking, running, skating, routine transportation, daily exercise, and weekend recreation
- 47 miles of natural surface trails for hiking, loving nature, mountain biking and horseback riding
- 60 loop trails (~33 miles) in neighborhood parks for walking, jogging, staying healthy and fit, and learning to ride a bike
- Water trails along the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers for canoeing and kayaking.

Regional Sports Facilities

M-NCPPC owns and operates many indoor and outdoor sports facilities including fields that serve various levels of permitted and free programs. Currently, the department is focused on providing premiere sports venues through Multigenerational (multi-gen) Centers that are meant to serve the nine Park Service Areas outlined in the Formula 2040 Functional Master Plan for Parks and Recreation. All multi-gen centers will be at least 80,000 sq ft in size and will provide amenities that smaller community and recreation centers cannot. Multi-gen centers will include indoor courts with a running track, weight and fitness rooms, multipurpose rooms, indoor and outdoor aquatics, outdoor sports fields, and unique programs that fill the needs and interests of each specific region they will be serving. The Southern Area Aquatics & Recreation Complex (SAARC) and the Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex (South Tech Rec) were the 2022 Prince George's County Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan DRAFT

first two multi-gen centers opened in Prince George's County, and both serve the southern region of the county. The Department of Parks and Recreation recently completed a feasibility study to develop a strategy to design and implement the next three multi-gen centers within the county for Service Areas 2, 3, and 4. Other sports fields and venues can also be found at smaller local community centers and parks like Woodmore Towne Centre Park.

Specialty Facilities

M-NCPPC also owns some unique facilities in Prince George's County. These include the Prince George's Equestrian Center/Show Place Arena which includes a Victorian-style multipurpose entertainment facility with flexible exhibit space, banquet rooms, in-house catering, and seating for up to 5,800 people. The facility hosts several large horse shows, which utilize indoor and outdoor facilities, the county fair, and several other large festivals per year. Five art centers and galleries throughout the County provide space to learn, create, and exhibit works of art; The Publick Playhouse is a restored theater that offers a variety of programs for all ages; and The College Park Aviation Museum, located adjacent to the World's Oldest Continuously Operating Airport, is a state-of-the-art facility that focuses attention on the many significant achievements that have occurred in aviation since the time of the Wright Brothers. Other unique amenities include nine memorial sites, tour boats, launches, and boat ramps along the Anacostia and Patuxent Rivers.

Federal Parkland

The United States Department of Agriculture, the United State Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service (NPS) provide 15,444 acres of parkland and open space. This comes through the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (6,271 acres), the National Wildlife Visitors Center (4,282 acres), and seven federal parks operated by the NPS (4,889 acres).

Other federal lands providing some recreation opportunities include Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility, which is a 4,346-acre federal land military complex located in Prince George's County immediately east of the Capital Beltway near Route 4. The base has a population of 16,225, including military dependents, and has a variety of open spaces and recreation facilities. While developed to support military transportation operations, there are quasi-public recreation areas on base, including two 18-hole golf courses. These facilities are available to all members of the military and their guests.

State Parkland

The State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources oversees 14 units of natural resource land including 1 natural environment area, 1 state forest, 1 state park, 2 wildlife management areas, and 9 natural resource management areas that total 6,780 acres. Additional state landholders in the county include the University of Maryland, which is a 1,250-acre research university that provides both indoor and outdoor recreation venues available for recreation including a natatorium, an outdoor pool complex, athletic clubs, and a variety of formal and informal green spaces. Most venues prioritize students, staff, alumni, and any member of the University Club. Other venues, such as the 18-hole golf course, are available to the general public and include an entrance fee.

Municipal Parkland

There are 27 municipalities in the County with parkland totaling more than 1,000 acres. Three jurisdictions—Bowie, Greenbelt, and Laurel—own and operate more than 200 acres of land each. These communities offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities and open spaces including outdoor swimming pools, playgrounds, rental facilities, athletic fields, dog parks, trails, picnic facilities, playgrounds,

and skate parks. Indoor facilities include swimming pools, museums, an ice arena, and performing arts centers. Each jurisdiction offers a lake with a loop trail and a wide variety of programming to complement the parkland facilities. There are also currently undeveloped park and preservation lands along the Patuxent River or adjacent to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

An additional 9 municipalities provide 10 to 50 acres of recreational space. The largest provider in this category, The Town of Cheverly, has its own green infrastructure plan and 38 acres of parkland. The Town of New Carrollton offers outdoor swimming and a variety of active recreation and passive green space opportunities for its residents. The Town of University Park has a developed stream valley park with trails and play areas. College Park, Landover Hills, District Heights, Seat Pleasant, and Hyattsville offer playgrounds, athletic facilities, and tot lots along with green spaces. The Town of Eagle Harbor, located in the far southeastern portion of the County owns historic Trueman's Point along the Patuxent River waterfront and maintains some smaller areas around the Town Hall for its residents. Lastly, 14 municipalities offer residents 10 acres or less of municipal-owned green space. Partnerships

DPR often enters partnerships to provide recreational amenities that may not otherwise be available or feasible for the department to build or operate. Examples of this type of partnership include the Prince George's (Baysox) Stadium in Bowie, the College Park Junior Tennis Champion Center facility, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland in College Park, the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, and the Gardens Ice House at Fairland Regional Park. Successful partnerships with the EYA Gateway Arts Center and the Brentwood Arts Center are helping to revitalize the US 1 corridor south of East West Highway. M-NCPPC also partners with the Prince George's Boys & Girls Club to support their athletic programs and activities throughout the county.

Since the early 1970s, M-NCPPC and the Prince George's County Board of Education (BOE) agreed to have shared indoor and outdoor recreation spaces by creating Park Schools. Currently, with regards to outdoor programming, the Department utilizes rectangular and diamond fields at elementary and middle schools for afterschool and summer camp programming. High school fields and facilities are generally not used or counted as in M-NCPPC property. Some park schools also share buildings where community centers and schools are built within the same structure. There are currently over 40 park schools within Prince George's County. In 2019, the Department established the Youth and Countywide Sports Division, whose mission is to expand opportunities for youth to participate in sports at all levels of competition and improve access to and ease permitting at schools and M-NCPPC fields, courts, and facilities.

M-NCPPC also receives parkland through the development review process which requires the mandatory dedication of parkland during the subdivision process. As new residential housing is developed, developers are required to convey land for active and passive recreation, monetary fee-in-lieu, and/or build recreational facilities deemed needed by DPR. DPR and developers negotiate to determine what is feasible and appropriate for each development. Developers can also offset the total dedication by agreeing to construct recreation facilities within the development, where typically the HOA's are responsible for the operation and maintenance of those facilities. Since 2017, M-NCPPC received 248 acres of land, \$1.3 million in fee-in-lieu funds, and three developer-built parks including Woodmore Town Center, Marlboro Pointe Trail Connector to Foxchase Park, and Amber Ridge Trail Connector to South Bowie Community Center.

2.3 Measuring User Demand

Prince George’s County has a vast system of parks, recreational and aquatic facilities, as well as nature centers, which include natural areas with amenities such as paved and natural surface trails, fishing ponds, camp sites and more. The Department offers a variety of indoor and outdoor oriented programming. These facilities and programs work to connect communities and neighborhoods throughout the County. These unique outdoor recreational opportunities enhance the quality of life and promote physical and mental health while exposing patrons to natural environments and open spaces. Patrons often utilize the amenities for community connection, leisure, and social activities in their areas.

M-NCPPC has established a programs policy which maximizes the value of park and recreation program offerings. A key programmatic goal is to balance community needs and interests with maximum levels of productivity in facility space and staffing capacity. The Department’s operational and capital spending generates positive impacts and contributes to the local economy. Current partners and other entities ensure effective programming takes place in areas in which we serve. Countywide there are several system components which include: parkland, trails, playgrounds, and many other outside amenities.

Data on Usage, Demand, and Participation Rates

Data is collected at program locations. The following tables give examples of various types of information. It provides a summary of facility usage that helps guide future decisions. Programs can track demand trends, performance needs, and programming value. The Department currently measures enrollment use in a variety of ways including, aquatic facilities, fitness studios, day camps, sports leagues, and before & after care. We have historical use data for facility park building rentals. Overall, we are measuring all paid activities, but we do not have records of passive or non-paid park usage.

	2017	2018	2019	*2020	*2021
Golf Course Daily Admissions from all Department of Parks and Recreation Golf Courses	77,883	61,172	93,044	63,176	52,413

	2017	2018	2019	*2020	*2021
Aquatic Rentals	30,658	140,510	73,101	34,312	0
Attendance— from facility rental bookings (includes: funbrellas, patios, swimming pools, gazebos, patios)	378,095	1,557,364	558,241	225,399	0

	2018	2019	*2020	*2021
Onsite Event	6,757	7,288	170	632
Offsite Private Event	2,642	2,039	282	345
Nature Programs	753	749	0	0
Day Camps	181	198	0	24

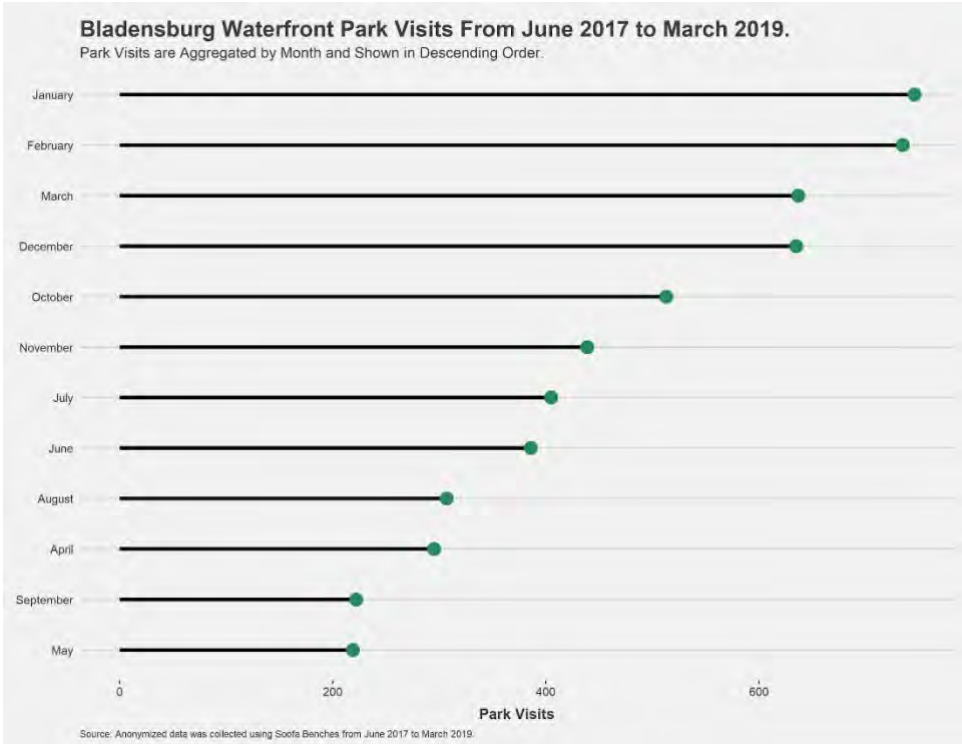
	2017	2018	2019	*2020	*2021
Special Events: Old Maryland Farm	2,717	4,846	4,977	0	0

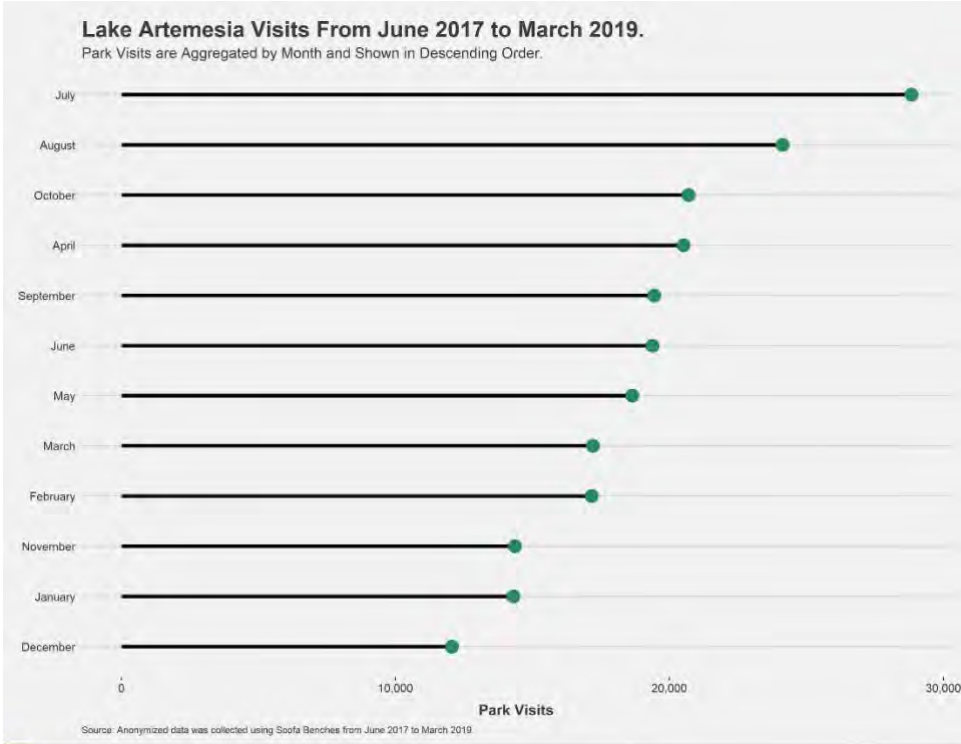
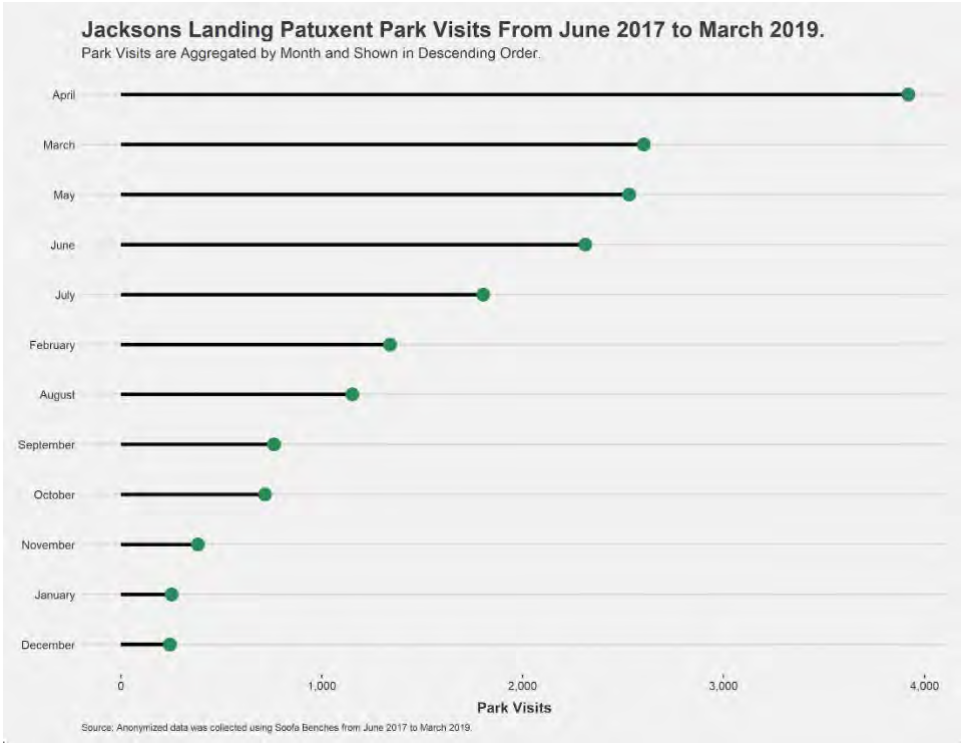
	2018		2019		*2020		*2021	
	Revenue	Rentals	Revenue	Rentals	Revenue	Rentals	Revenue	Rentals
Regional Picnic Shelter	155,287	996	155,950	999	0	0	60,750	580
Open Shelter	73,500	404	79,175	411	0	0	69,380	462
Park Buildings	618,022	3014	630,200	3,084	105,315	725	109,500	727

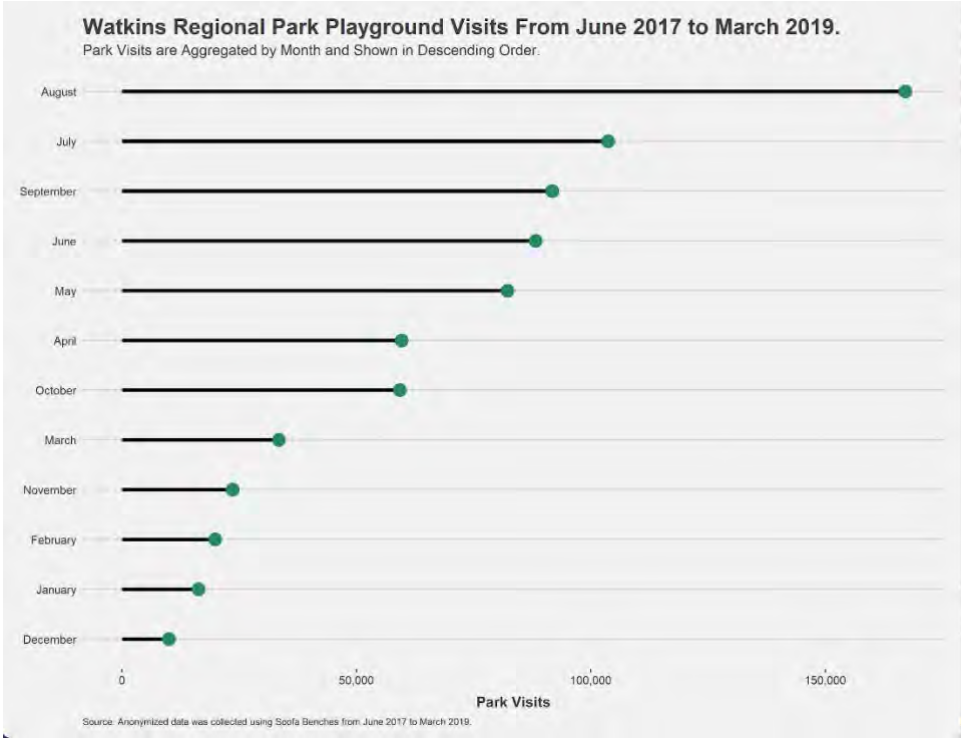
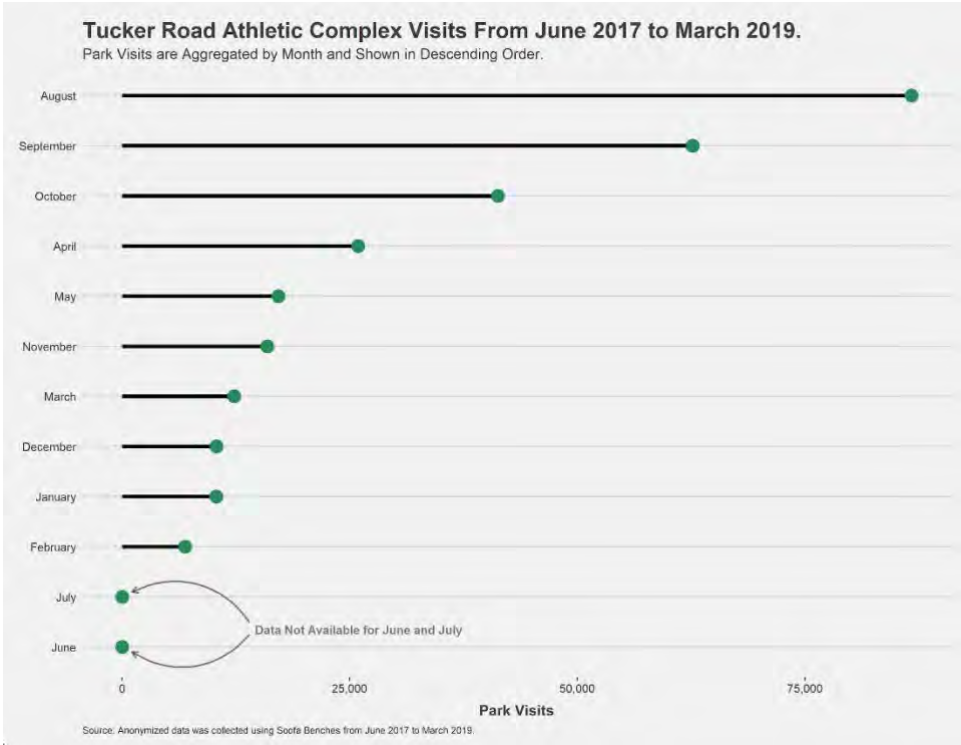
**Denotes the COVID-19 pandemic, numbers are not typical.*

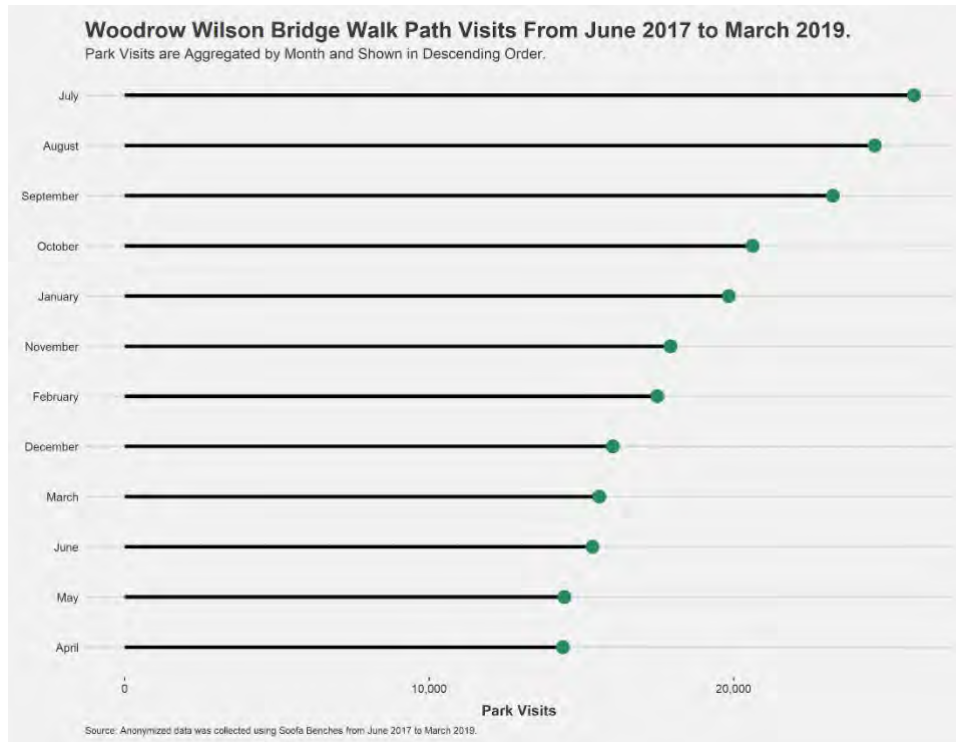
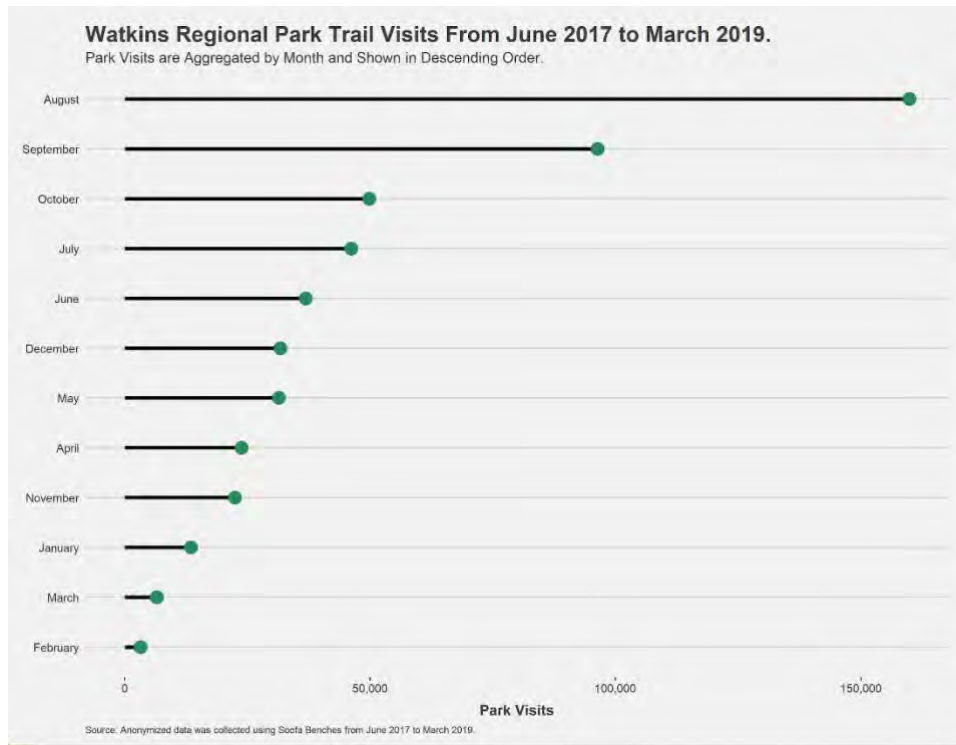
There are 35 permitted picnic shelters and 99 non-permitted shelters. The Department has a total of three golf courses, 12 aquatic facilities and more than 250 parks. There are 46 historic sites. The Natural and Historic Resources Division (NHRD) has a broad mission focused on education, recreation, conservation, and overall preservation. Old Maryland Farm centers on farm life. Visitors can interact with agricultural exhibits, farm animals like livestock, and display gardens to get a taste of a real farming experience. Interpretive programs for students visiting the farm are correlated to the Maryland State Curriculum for grades K-12. Between 2020-2022 there are several programs at Watkins National Center. The Department was limited between these two years due to the Coronavirus pandemic. There were 126 in person programs with 821 participants and 54 virtual programs with 413 participants.

SOOFA Data









As stated, there are more than 350 parks, owned and operated by M-NCPPC. Many of them are active and thrive with residents, events, activities, and overall support. In 2016-2019, the Department installed several SOOFA benches at various locations to better understand park and facility usage. Eleven benches were installed, and four signs incorporated on various properties. At the peak of the information gathered, Watkins Regional Park Playground had more than 150,000 guests in one month. Lake Artemesia had an

estimated 30,000 visitors and Tucker Road Athletic Complex had more than 75,000 people. The analysis incorporated real time attendance, engagement, and duration of stay.

SOOFA is a woman founded company out of the MIT Media Lab. The SOOFA benches are informally described as smart solar powered furniture equipped with sensors that measure how people use public spaces. There are four main ways they can guide economic development: measure the success of events, analyze the impact of capital improvements, inform master plans, and design strategies, and tell a story to the community. The solar-powered bench that charges phones and monitors its environment. Launched in Boston in 2014, they are now in 27 states, 5 countries, and 65 cities.

2.3.a Public Engagement and Outreach

The Department engaged a consultant team, Civic Brand, to develop a virtual public engagement tool that was available to the community for two weeks. The tool allowed residents to visit a virtual meeting room on their own time and provide valuable feedback on their use and interest in the park system's programs and facilities.

The virtual room was promoted via email, social media, and the department website. The Department held two live Zoom sessions in November 2021. Participants were able to get a live demonstration of the virtual room and ask any questions they had about the project or how to use the room. The virtual room was set up to be easily accessible from mobile phones, tablets, and computers. The goal was for the experience to be the same as if they visited an open house and explored different stations that covered different topics in person.

The virtual room consisted of six different stations that each had a set of questions. The six stations were as follows:

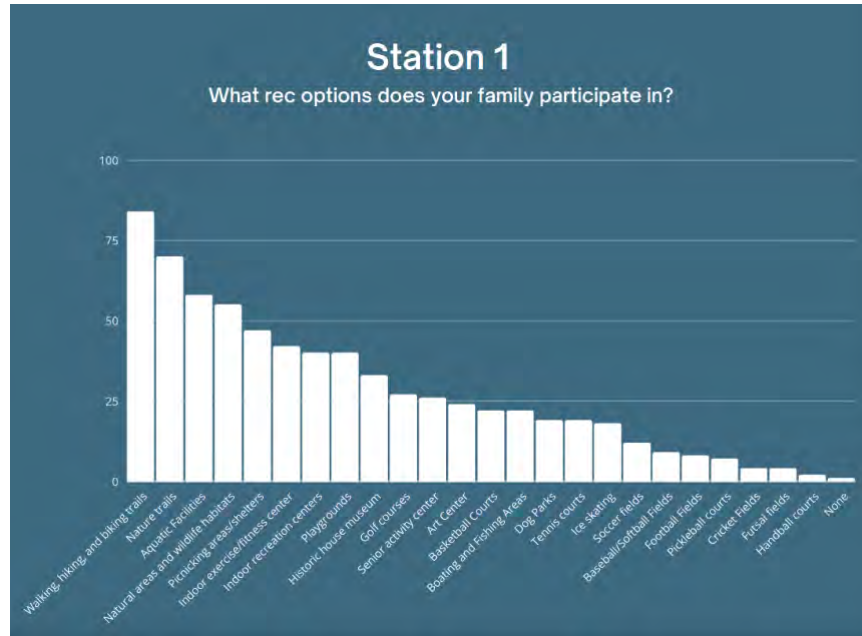
- Recreation & Programming
- Parks & Facilities
- Accessibility & Inclusivity
- Walkability
- Priorities & Budget
- The Recreation and Programming station, called Final Thoughts asked questions around which recreation options their family participates in and how they would rate those offerings.

The Parks and Facilities stations asked which parks the users have visited in the last two years. The station allowed the user to drop a pin on the map for each park they have visited and leave a comment about that park. On the Accessibility and Inclusivity station users were questioned about how well their needs were met and if there were any accessibility issues that they thought needed to be addressed. The Walkability station asks users how they get to the different parks they select in Station 2 and allows them to leave comments about how they access the various parks. The Priorities and Budget station presented users with several different improvements and asked the users to drag and drop to place the various improvements in order of priority. The final station asked users how they receive information about the programs and facilities offered by the Department. The results are listed below:

Results of Community Engagement

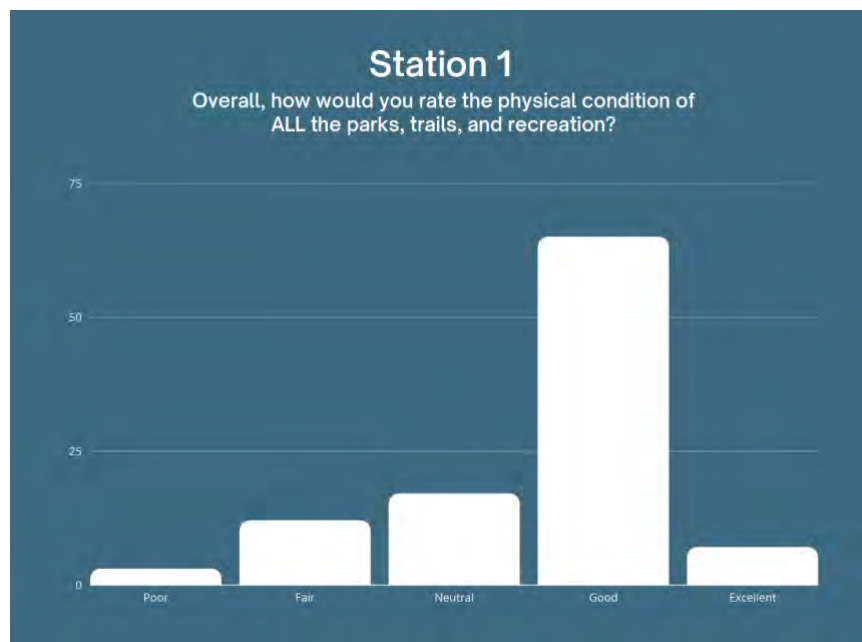
Station #1-RECREATION:

a. Question - From the following list, please CHECK ALL the parks, trails, and recreation facilities operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in Prince George's County that you or members of your household have used or visited over the past 2 years.



b. Question - Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of ALL the parks, trails, and recreation?

The top five choices were all outdoor recreation options. Walking, hiking, biking trails, nature trails, aquatic facilities, nature areas and wildlife habitats, picnicking and area shelters. Most of the participants felt the conditions were favorable. More than 100 people responded to this question.

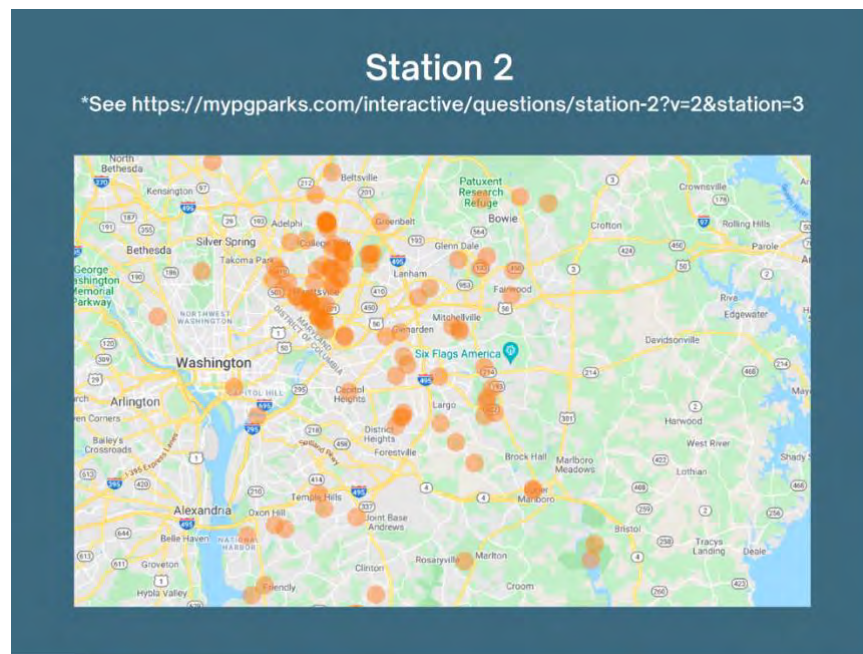


Station #2-PARKS:

Question - What parks do you use? Use the interactive map tool to locate.

There were 295 pins dropped on the map: many playgrounds, use of facilities, regional parks, golfing, and more received comments. For more detailed information on comments please see the appendices section.

- Residents also answered the following questions:
- How well needs met (Likert scale with comment option)?
- What do we need (Choose top 3 with comment option)?

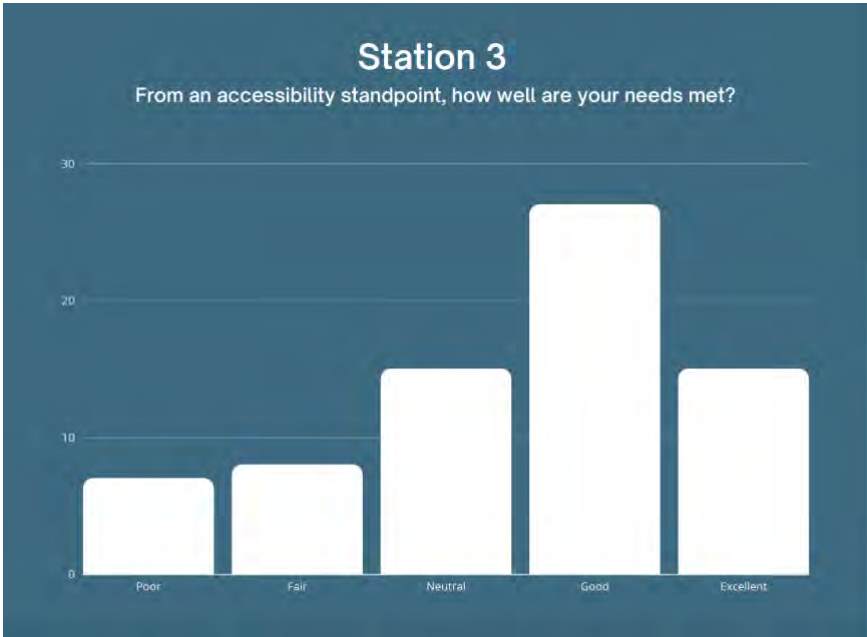


Station #3 - ACCESSIBILITY

Question - How well are your needs met? (Likert scale with comment option)

Question - Are there accessibility issues you think need to be addressed? (Select with comment option)

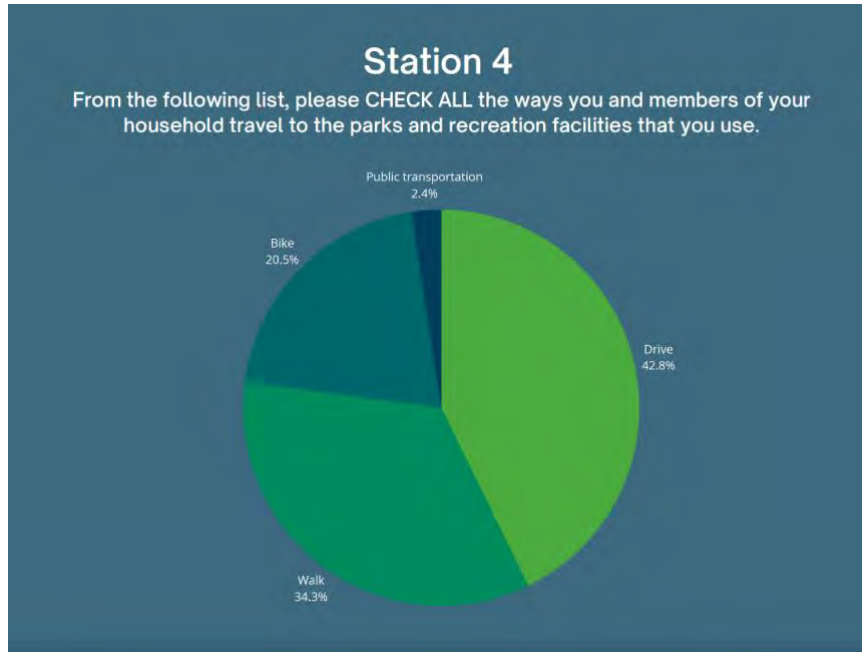
There were just over 70 responses. Most of the respondents felt that the accessibility offered to visitors and residents with disabilities is good. There are comments that are related to sensory, playground accessibility, and transportation for seniors or those who may need additional support. For a list of the results, see the appendices.



Station #4-WALKABILITY:

Question - From the following list, please CHECK ALL the ways you and members of your household travel to the parks and recreation facilities that you use. [Check all that apply.]

A total of 76 respondents answered this question. The majority residents drive to the facilities almost 43%, while 34% walk and 20% bike.

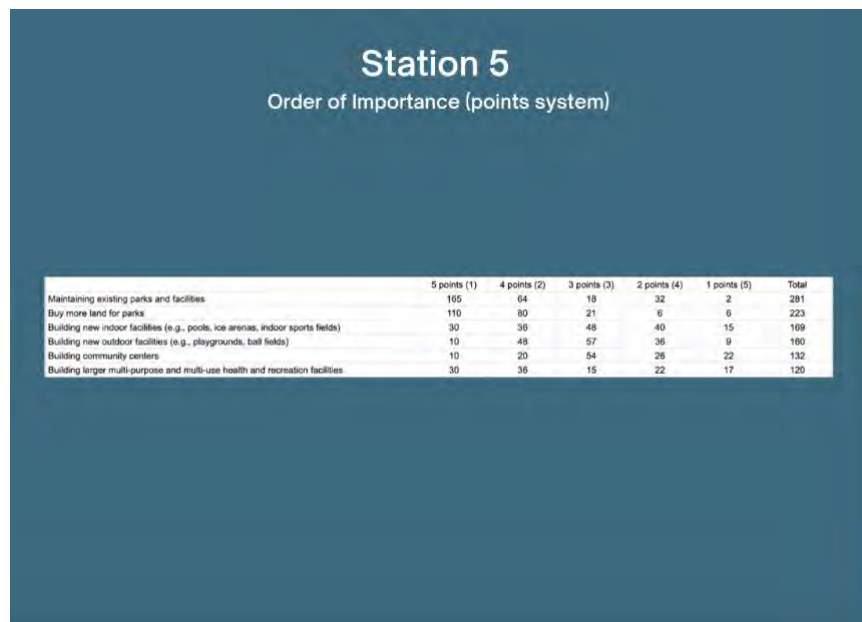
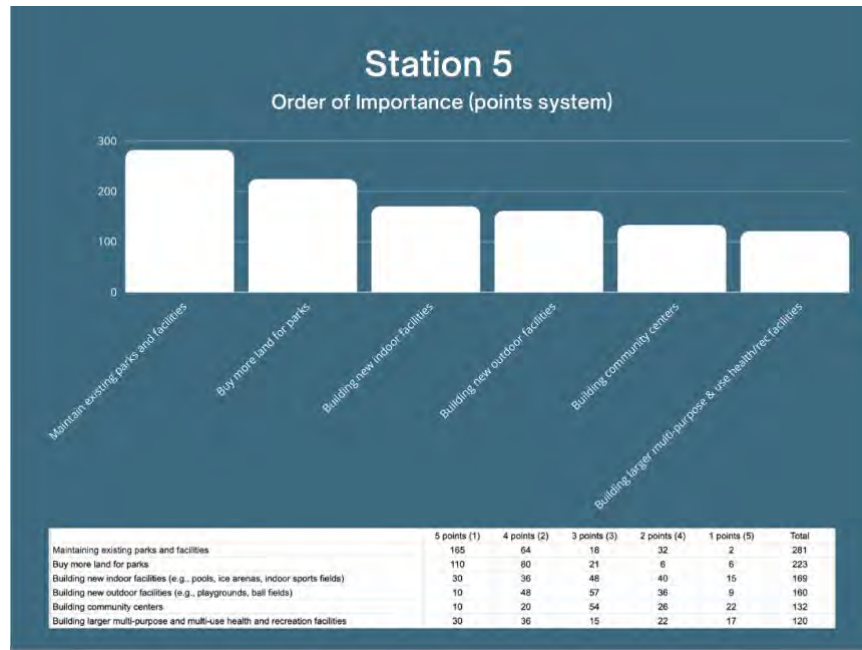


Station #5 - PRIORITIES & BUDGET

Question -How would you spend \$15

The user must allocate funds across a range of topics from acquiring land, fixing up existing facilities, building new, etc. All dollar amounts are \$1 - \$5 to keep it simple. This helps surface not just wants but priorities.

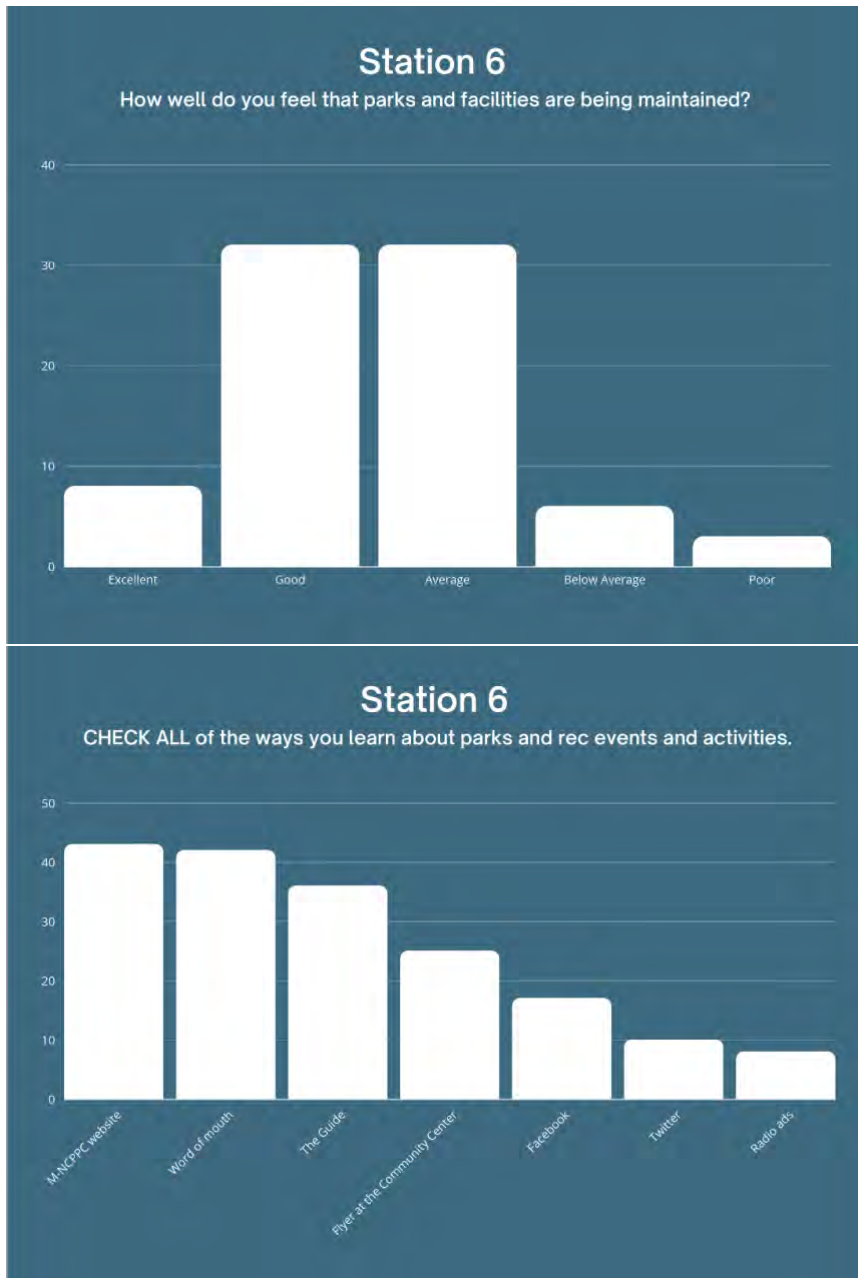
Almost 300 people participated in this survey question. Maintaining existing parks and facilities was the most important to residents, next purchase more land for parks, followed by building new indoor facilities such as: pools, ice arenas, and indoor sports fields.

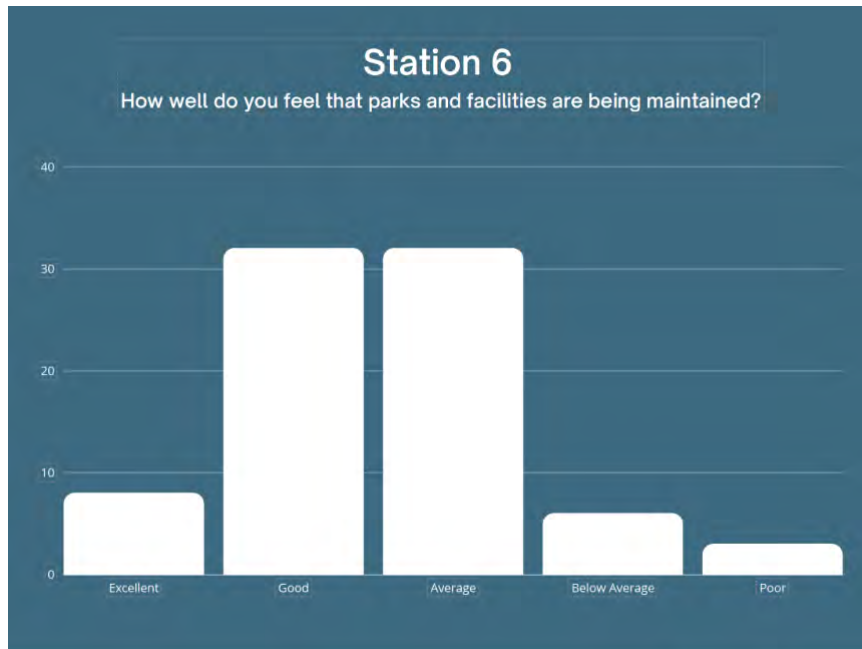


Station #6: - ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

1. Please CHECK ALL the ways you learn about parks and recreation events and activities.
2. How well do you feel that parks and facilities are being maintained?
3. Do you have any comments regarding maintenance of parks or facilities?

There are benefits of event programming for county residents. Whether music, performance, art, activities, or sporting events for the entire family, planning is necessary. It can only be as successful as possible with participants. So better understanding of how people receive their information is vital. Many of the residents receive their information from the M-CPPC website, word of mouth and the department guide with the events and activities. An estimated 70 respondents shared their comments on this question. The maintenance of the parks and facilities received a good and average score. For a list of the additional comments, see the appendices.





2.3 b: Data on Usage, Demand and Participation Rates

2. Can an educated estimate of the potential overall level of casual or non-documented usage of county parks and recreation facilities be deduced?

The statistically valid survey can assist in understanding facility use and participant interest. Tools such as trail counters can aid with observation on overall usage. Incorporating Park staff members to note high peak times of day or weeks can also be of assistance.

3. Are there unmet needs and demands for additional programs or facilities that are known but not easily identified or quantified by these figures?

There are two trail counters at Anacostia River trail and Bladensburg waterfront park & cottage city, the Strategic Trails Plan identified we have no useful trail usage data. Developing a data collection and the usage system is necessary for future planning and development. Currently, counts do not factor into the capital budget/project prioritization and do not help forecast demand. Most of the need derived from survey responses come from community requests. Additional locations are necessary for comparative utility. There are challenges with counters in the field, lack of maintenance, grass and insect obstructions, current data is not usable. An overall new management system and staff operators will help manage the data collection/gathering + analysis.

2.3c Interpretation of Studies

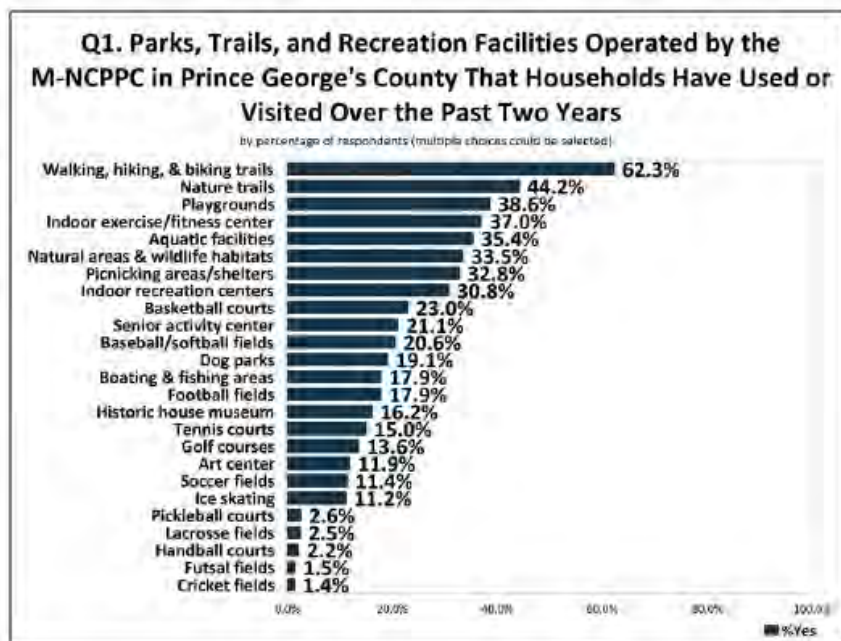
National organizations such as National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) understand the importance of strengthening linkages between the public park and healthcare sectors. There are several elements to this concept of “park prescriptions.” Engaging health professionals, community, and public lands. This concept strives to bring families closer together, engage medical physicians, create resources. One example of this concept is ParkRx. ParkRx focuses on programs and interventions that encourage community members to spend time in nature, with the goal of improving their health and well-being. There are several benefits of nature including physical, mental, and social. The Department has partnered with ParkRx on several occasions to spread the mission and benefits of the program.

2.3. Survey

The Department engaged with a consultant, ETC Institute, to administer a Parks and Recreation Facilities and Services Community Interest and Opinion Survey. The community interest and opinion survey was conducted in Prince George's County to help establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services in the County. ETC Institute conducted similar surveys on behalf of the Department in 2012 and 2017 using a similar questions and format. In order to achieve a statistically valid sample, a goal was set to collect 1,200 completed surveys from County residents. That goal was exceeded; a total of 1,590 surveys were completed. The overall results for a sample of 1,590 surveys have a precision of at least +/-2.4% at the 95% level of confidence. The survey report is included in Appendix A.

Most questions were framed to reflect user experiences over the prior two years, to encourage respondents to consider their use and opinion of park and recreation facilities both prior to and during the Covid-19 pandemic. Survey responses help identify issues of equitable provision of services and compare similarities and differences of responses regarding usage, satisfaction, needs, unmet needs, and priorities for various current and potential services from various areas. The analysis was also compared and benchmarked against a database of over 500 parks and recreation surveys of city and county park systems in 49 states. In most categories, DPR fared well against the national average benchmarks. For example, 78.3% of respondents rated that the conditions of Parks and Recreation facilities as Excellent or Good (compared to a national average of 79.6%).

The survey asks several questions regarding current use, need, and relative importance of recreation facilities both indoor and outdoor. The Department's most used visited facilities include walking, biking, and hiking trails, nature trails, playgrounds, indoor exercise/fitness centers, aquatic facilities, and natural areas and wildlife areas. The top eight categories were similar in 2012, 2017, and but the order shifted. There has been an increased emphasis on outdoor activities on this list and interest has grown in aquatic facilities.

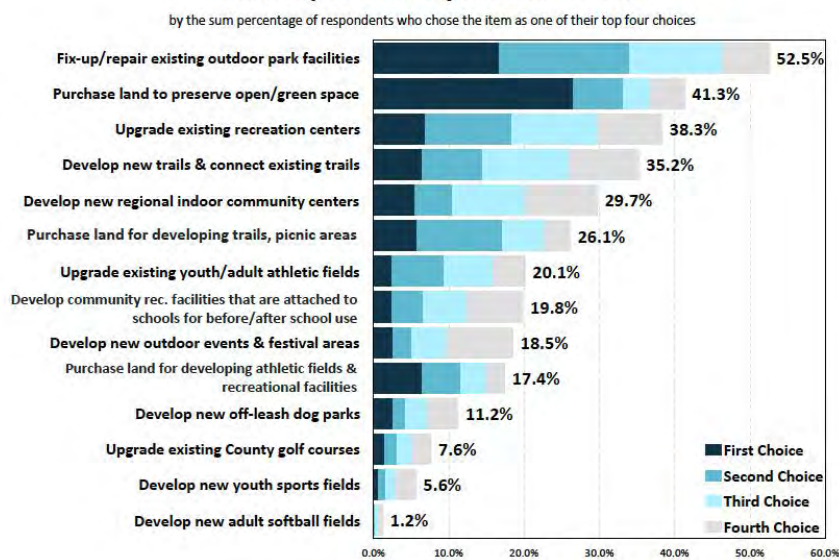


Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for recreation facilities and amenities and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. The four recreation facilities with the highest percentage of households that indicated a need for the facility were walking, hiking, and biking trails (63 percent); indoor exercise and fitness centers (47 percent); indoor aquatic facilities (46 percent); and nature trails (50 percent). The responses reflect that the overall “need” for facilities generally decreased from 2017 to 2022. The ETC Institute estimates that a total of 200,573 of the 316,361 households in Prince George’s County have unmet needs for walking, hiking, and biking. However, there has been a reduction in the expression of needs for several key facility types from 2012 and 2017 to 2022. In 2012, 53 percent of households indicated a need for indoor recreation centers, in 2017 it was 45% and 33% in 2022. Playgrounds were estimated to be a need for 49 percent of households in 2012, 39% in 2017, and 34.8% in 2022.

In addition to assessing the needs for each facility, the survey assessed the importance that residents placed on each facility. Based on the sum of respondents’ top four choices, the three most important facilities to residents were walking, hiking, and biking trails (49 percent); indoor aquatic facilities (32%), and indoor exercise/fitness center. In 2017 outdoor facilities, nature trails (25 percent) and playgrounds (25 percent), were ranked most important. Nature trails dropped to number four in 2022 (23.8 percent) and playgrounds were number seven with 19.2 percent of residents ranking them as important. This drop in importance is of note, given the heavy reliance on parks, open spaces, and outdoor facilities during the Covid-19 pandemic. Interest in nature areas & wildlife habitats grew from 12% in 2017 to 20.4% in 2022, which is more consistent with expectations.

Respondents were asked to prioritize the Department’s investment in facilities both by ranking their top four choices and “spending” \$100 to allocate funds among categories of facilities. In both instances, maintaining existing park and facilities was deemed the highest priority with \$28.91 of the \$100 and 52.5% of the top four choices. Purchasing additional parkland was ranked second.

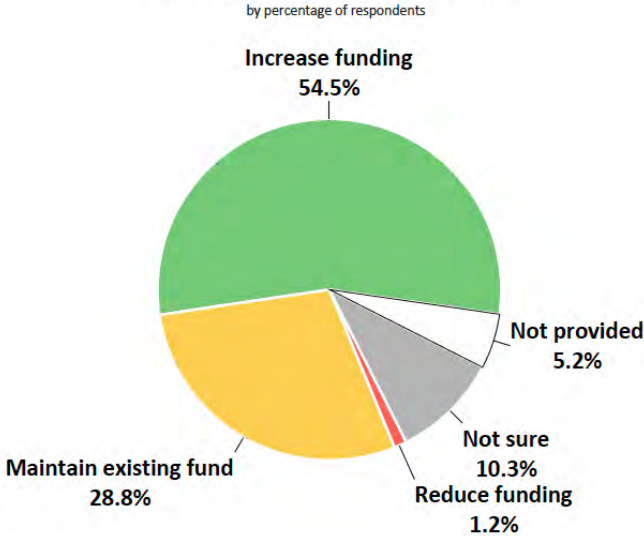
Q14. Which FOUR of the actions from the list in Question 13 are most important to your household?



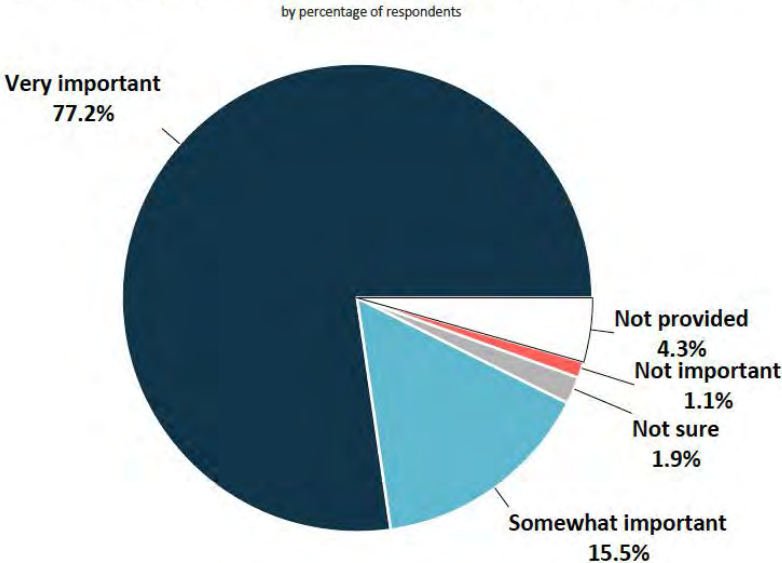
The 2022 survey included a series of questions to gage the importance of parks and recreation facilities and programs given the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. More than half of the survey’s respondents (59.4%)

indicated that their perspective of the value of parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation significantly or somewhat increased. Significantly, 54.5% of respondents recommended increasing funding based on their increased perception of the value of parks and open space, along with 28.8% of respondents who recommended that existing funding be maintained. Overall, the survey validated consistent, and increased investment in parks, recreation facilities, and open space in Prince George’s County.

Q17. Based on your perception of value in Question 16, how would you want Prince George's County to fund future parks, recreation, trails, and open space needs?



Q18. How important do you feel it is for Prince George's County to provide high quality recreation programs and facilities?



2.4 Level of Service Analysis

Park classifications and level of service (LOS) standards criteria have traditionally helped Departments of Parks and Recreation nationwide, with park planning, land acquisition, and capital improvement planning. These types of standards help establish a baseline and set expectations for residents and elected officials. For simplicity and ease of use across the country, these NRPA-developed standards were presented in terms of facilities needed for a defined population i.e., 1 soccer field for every 10,000 people, or 10-acres of parkland for every 1,000 people. These standards are now 50 years old and new approaches are being applied. Planners have long embraced that each community is constantly changing and has varied and unique needs. There are also considerations such as equity, and fiscal and operational capacity that need to be considered. Each community must determine its own standards, LOS metrics, and long-range vision based on community issues, values, needs, priorities, and available resources. Prince George’s County has met the level of service target of 35 acres per person and is currently providing a total of 50 acres per person when including Federal, State, Municipal, and M-NCPPC parkland.

The Department will use the traditional level of service standards of acres or facilities per resident to determine the required acreage of developed, undeveloped parks and number of facilities. In addition, the Department will also analyze proximity to residents and use demographic and socio-economic data to recommend equitable investment. We have named this approach the Holistic Level of Service (HLOS) analysis.

Holistic Level of Service (HLOS) = Quantity & Proximity & Equity

Quantity

The Department currently uses a traditional LOS analysis to determine the number of facilities or acres of parkland per person that exists within a geographic service area. The Formula 2040 Plan established 9 service areas which the Department uses to collect and assess data regarding level of service provision. It is

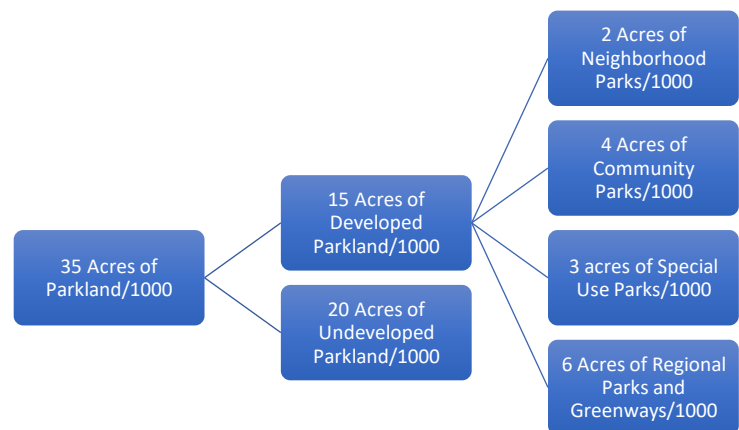
important to include federal,

state, and municipal parks¹ in the analysis because, from a resident’s perspective, ownership is irrelevant.

From a countywide perspective, we have met our level of service goal of 35 acres per 1,000 residents for parkland. However, when we drill down to the service area level, specifically for neighborhood and

community park classifications, we can look at the distribution of that parkland at a more granular level. The data then tells us which service areas we need to focus our acquisition dollars on for neighborhood and

community level parks. Though the tables below include numbers of Regional and Special use parks at the service area level, it is more appropriate to view those parks on a countywide scale since these are



¹ Federal parkland, state parkland, and parkland for the municipalities of Laurel, Greenbelt, Bowie, Hyattsville, and College Park were used in this analysis.

regionally serving facilities. Prince George’s County has met the level of service target of 35 acres per person and is currently providing a total of 50 acres per person when including Federal, State, Municipal, and M-NCPPC parkland.

Table 1 and Table 2 display target amount of parkland and the existing amount of parkland, both countywide, and by service area, based on 2020 population.

Table 1

2020 Target Parkland (Acres)										
	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	Countywide
Total Parkland	3,538	5,640	4,588	2,847	3,309	3,555	3,011	3,598	1,966	32,052
Undeveloped Parkland	2,022	3,223	2,622	1,627	1,891	2,032	1,721	2,056	1,123	18,317
Developed Parkland	1,516	2,417	1,966	1,220	1,418	1,523	1,290	1,542	843	13,735
Neighborhood	202	322	262	163	189	203	172	206	112	1,831
Community	404	645	524	325	378	406	344	411	225	3,662
Special Use	303	483	393	244	284	305	258	308	169	2,747
Regional/Greenway/Linear	607	967	787	488	567	609	516	617	337	5,495

Table 2

M-NCPPC, Federal, State, and Municipal Parkland in Prince George’s County (Acres)											
	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	Outside Metropolitan Area	Total
Total Parkland	7,633	2,701	7,051	1,420	1,268	11,664	1,377	4,011	6,149	2,288	45,562
Undeveloped Parkland	962	1,527	2,480	73	80	6,855	264	1,973	4,705	149	19,068
Developed Parkland	6,671	1,174	4,571	1,347	1,188	4,809	1,113	2,038	1,444	2,139	26,494
Neighborhood	159	337	414	162	196	165	107	197	37	0	1,774
Community	419	657	611	83	374	934	555	313	437	0	4,383
Special Use	264	180	981	23	113	952	1	679	157	7	3,357
Regional/Greenway/Linear	5,829	0	2,565	1,079	505	2,758	450	849	813	2,132	16,980

Table 3

Total Parkland (Acres) By Public Ownership				
M-NCPPC Parkland	Federal Parkland	State Parkland	Municipal Parkland	Total
28,608	5,771	10,109	1,074	45,562

Table 4

Gap Between Target and Existing Parkland per Service Area Based on 2020 Population (Acres)										
	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	Countywide
Total Parkland Gap	4,095	2,939	2,463	1,427	2,041	8,109	1,634	413	4,183	11,222
Undeveloped Parkland	1,060	1,696	142	1,554	1,811	4,823	1,457	83	3,582	602
Developed Parkland	5,155	1,243	2,605	127	230	3,286	177	496	601	10,620
<i>Neighborhood</i>	43	15	152	1	7	38	65	9	75	57
<i>Community</i>	15	12	87	242	4	528	-211	98	212	721
<i>Special Use</i>	39	303	588	221	171	647	257	371	12	603
<i>Regional/Greenway/Linear</i>	5,222	967	1,778	591	62	2,149	66	232	476	9,353

*Green means we have exceeded the goal and red means the goal has not yet been met.

The table above shows which service areas have more access within a 15-minute drive and which service areas have less. For example, service areas 2 and 4 are located inside the beltway and are more densely populated. There is less access to large tracts of parkland in these service areas and they are more likely to rely on access to neighborhood and community parks. This information is used to prioritize the Land Acquisition Plan and influence the mandatory parkland dedication program. Acquisition is prioritized in service areas where the LOS targets have not yet been met.

Park Facilities

In addition to land, it is valuable to designate a LOS for facilities in order to equitably distribute fields, playgrounds, etc. Throughout the County. Designation of LOS standards require accurate inventories of facilities and facility conditions. Once inventories are available, facility classifications must be determined. Classifications define the characteristics and amenities that must be present (e.g., lighting, fencing, comfort stations, irrigation, and parking). A classification may also establish maintenance standards. In many cases, two or three levels of classification are established (e.g., practice field (Level 1), game field (Level 2), sports venue (Level 3).

The next step is to assess the current distribution of facilities in each class. This analysis determines apparent service gaps that must be verified with on-site research. The Department used both calculation of number of facilities by service area and population projection to determine future gaps in service. We then looked at the density of facilities to refine that analysis and focus on locations most in need of these additional facilities. This analysis provides information to assist in the prioritization of construction of new amenities and subsequent CIP funding. Table 4 displays the target LOS by facility type and compares it to the existing LOS based on 2020 population numbers. Table 5 details the existing number of facilities, by service area, and Table 6 displays the gap between the existing LOS and the target.

Detailed tables that include the various facility types, classifications, and characteristics are in Appendix B.

Table 4

Comparison of 2020 Countywide Target and Existing Facilities			
Facility Type	Classification	LOS Target	LOS Existing
Diamond Fields	Level 3	1 per 22,500 population	0.8 per 22,500 population
	Level 2	1 per 29,000 population	1.3 per 29,000 population
	Level 1	1 per 18,500 population	1 per 18,500 population
Dog Parks	Level 1, 2	1 per 25,000 households	0.5 per 25,000 households
Hard Surface Courts	Level 2	1 per 1,000 households	0.9 per 1,000 households
	Level 1	1 per 1,200 households	0.8 per 1,200 households
Picnic Facilities	Level 3	1 per 14,900 population	0.3 per 14,900 population
	Level 2	1 per 2,400 population	0.3 per 2,400 population
	Level 1	1 per 1,600 population	0.3 per 1,600 population
Playgrounds	Level 1, 2	11.3 sq ft per 1 school aged child	39 sq ft per 1 school aged child
Rectangular Fields	Level 3	1 per 31,000 population	0.4 per 31,000 population
	Level 2	1 per 12,500 population	1.1 per 12,500 population
	Level 1	1 per 12,500 population	1.1 per 12,500 population

Table 5

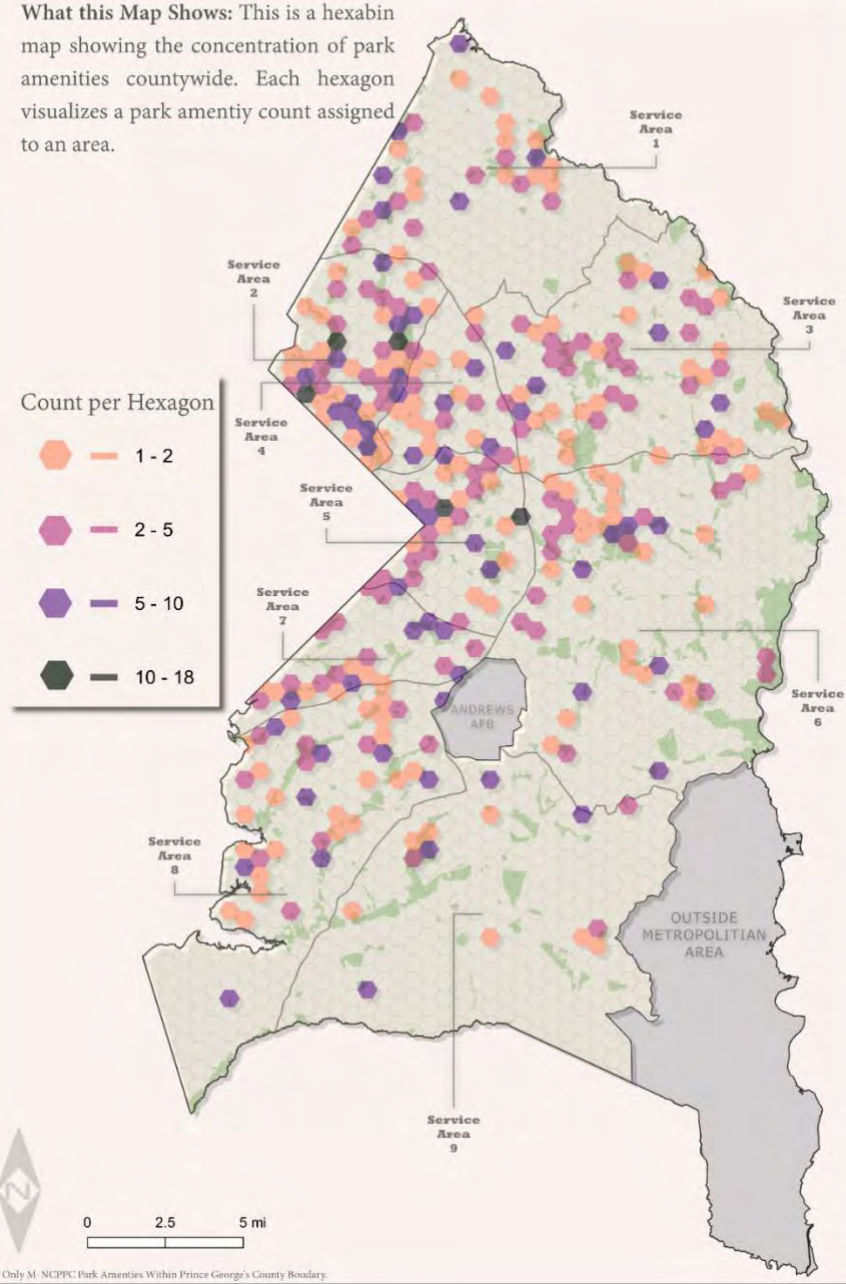
Existing LOS for Facilities per Service Area Based on 2020 Population											
Facility Type	Classification	LOS Recommended	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9
Diamond Fields	Level 3	1 per 22,500 population	0.9	1.5	0	0	0.5	1.6	0	1.1	2
	Level 2	1 per 29,000 population	1.1	1.3	1.1	0	0.3	2.6	1.7	2.5	1
	Level 1	1 per 18,500 population	2.2	0.7	0.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.3	0
Dog Parks	Level 1, 2	1 per 25,000 households	0	1.5	0	0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Hard Surface Courts	Level 2	1 per 1,000 households	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.8	1.5	1.4	1	1.1	0.5
	Level 1	1 per 1,200 households	0.8	1.2	1.4	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.2
Picnic Facilities	Level 3	1 per 14,900 population	0	0.2	0	0	0.2	2.2	0.2	0.1	0
	Level 2	1 per 2,400 population	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.5
	Level 1	1 per 1,600 population	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.1
Playgrounds	Level 1, 2	11.3 sq ft per 1 school aged child	32.5	47.4	50.8	20.2	52.6	40.3	31.5	26.6	35.1
Rectangular Fields	Level 3	1 per 31,000 population	0.3	0.6	0.2	0	1.3	0.3	0	0.6	0
	Level 2	1 per 12,500 population	1	1	1.3	0.6	0.7	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.3
	Level 1	1 per 12,500 population	1.1	1.2	1.4	0.5	0.9	2.1	0.7	0.7	0.9

Table 6

Gap Between Needed and Existing Facilities per Service Area Based on 2020 Population										
Facility Type	Classification	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9
Diamond Fields	L 3	1	0	6	4	2	0	4	0	0
	L 2	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0
	L 1	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	3
Dog Parks	L 1,2	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	1
Hard Surface Courts	L 2	24	0	22	6	0	0	2	0	11
	L 1	6	0	0	10	6	10	12	14	14
Picnic Facilities	L3	7	9	9	6	5	0	5	6	4
	L 2	28	39	39	26	27	30	33	33	12
	L 1	45	59	57	43	42	43	43	46	32
Play-grounds	L 1,2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rectangle Fields	L 3	2	2	3	3	0	2	2	1	2
	L 2	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
	L 1	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	2	1
Skate Park		11,121	17,721	14,423	8,948	10,402	11,173	9,465	11,305	6,178

M-NCPPC Park Amenity Counts *

What this Map Shows: This is a hexabin map showing the concentration of park amenities countywide. Each hexagon visualizes a park amenity count assigned to an area.



The facility concentration map above shows us where residents have access to parks, but not necessarily a lot of park-related facilities. For example, the peach color indicates parks with only one or two facilities (i.e., ballfields; playgrounds) but some of these parks may have space for additional facilities. By examining the facility concentration alongside the facility gaps, the Department can determine existing park locations where additional facilities could be constructed.

Expanded Access to Board of Education Facilities

In 2019, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks signed an Executive Order expanding access to and delivery of youth sports experiences in Prince George’s County by centralizing and streamlining scheduling of all Prince George’s County publicly owned fields, facilities, and gyms. As part of that initiative, M-NCPPC is working with Prince George’s County Public Schools to streamline access to and enhance the maintenance of their courts and fields.

County Executive’s Youth Sports Goals:

- Substantially increase funding to existing community youth sports organizations.
- Centralize and streamline scheduling of all Prince George’s County publicly owned fields, facilities and gyms.
- Create and maintain a central database and website of all sports organizations, leagues, boys & girls clubs, & teams in the county so parents can easily find opportunities for their children.
- Create close partnerships between our county’s youth sports organizations, colleges and universities.
- Diversify sports offerings across the county to include all collegiate scholarship sports that are currently not widely available—lacrosse, volleyball, field hockey, swimming, etc.
- Dedicate fundraising personnel to assist youth athletic organizations with foundation grant applications and other fundraising.
- Seek public private partnerships to build more high quality indoor and outdoor sports facilities in Prince George’s County.

DPR’s mission includes providing a recreation program to all county residents. This program includes a robust, comprehensive sports program currently delivered throughout the county. DPR is fully committed to the vision and goals laid out by the County Executive and embraces the opportunity to improve the coordination and delivery of youth sports among stakeholders to create a better system.

Indoor and Outdoor Aquatics Facilities Level of Service

The Department worked with a consultant on a countywide aquatics study to understand the current inventory, the condition of that inventory, and the market demand for various aquatics components to help determine the type of aquatic facilities we need throughout the County. The initial findings and recommendations for individual Service Areas presented below are derived by reconciling programmable time and space through data analysis and primary research.

Existing Aquatic Facilities Square Footage									
	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9
Existing Indoor Sq Ft	32,000	14,000	0	6,500	34,000	0	0	9,000	9,000
Existing Outdoor Sq Ft	0	18,025	7,700	0	13,250	0	4,151	18,000	0
Existing Total Sq Ft	32,000	32,025	7,700	6,500	47,250	0	4,151	27,000	9,000
Target Aquatic Square Facilities Footage									
Splash Pad	0	1,950	4,200	3,000	0	3,000	1,500	0	0
Splash Park	3,000	9,925	3,875	0	2,000	0	4,250	1,500	3,000
Other Recreational	2,000	9,450	3,850	1,500	3,600	2,100	6,401	13,500	1,500
Lap Pool	0	9,000	8,375	6,500	3,400	6,500	1,500	18,500	0
Competitive Pool	30,000	15,200	33,000	8,250	38,250	10,000	30,000	0	6,000
Demanded ² Sq Ft	35,000	45,525	53,300	19,250	47,250	21,600	43,651	33,500	10,500
Net Needed Sq Ft (Existing - Demanded)	3,000	13,500	45,600	12,750	0	21,600	39,500	6,500	1,500
Recommended Indoor Aquatic Facilities Square Footage									
Splash Pad	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,500	0	0
Splash Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	0
Other Recreational	0	1,500	0	1,500	0	0	6,000	0	0
Lap Pool	0	0	6,500	0	0	6,500	0	6,500	0
Competitive Pool	0	12,000	33,000	8,250	0	10,000	30,000	0	0
New Indoor Total	0	13,500	39,500	9,750	0	16,500	39,500	6,500	0
Recommended Outdoor Aquatic Facilities Square Footage									
Splash Pad	0	0	3,000	3,000	0	3,000	0	0	0
Splash Park	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,500
Other Recreational	0	0	3,100	0	0	2,100	0	0	0
Lap Pool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Competitive Pool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Outdoor Total	3,000	0	6,100	3,000	0	5,100	0	0	1,500

² Demanded square footage is based on proprietary model developed by Brailsford & Dunlavey
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Trail Network Level of Service

Formula 2040 established goals for the miles of trails based upon a desired level of service. The recommended level of service measure is by population: 0.4 miles of hard surface trail and 0.1 miles of natural surface trail per 1,000 population. Prince George’s County’s population is estimated to be one million by 2040 and thus, 400 miles of hard surface trail and 100 miles of natural surface trail are recommended.

The table below illustrates what is needed in additional trail mileage to meet 2040 goals. For natural surface trails, the goal of 100 miles is already met by the existing trail network. For hard surface trails an additional 182 miles are needed over a 22-year period.

Table 5 Meeting Formula 2040 Goals for the Trail Network						
	Existing		Needed to meet 2040 Goal		In Planned/Proposed Network	
	DPR M-NCPPC	Other	DPR	Other	DPR M-NCPPC	Other
	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Miles</i>
Primary Trails	46.2	17.3	53.8	40.0	53.8	190.6
Secondary Trails (+ park rds)	39.1	79.0	27.2	57.6	27.2	352.3
Recreational Trails						
Paved Loop Trails in Parks	32.6	3.7	3.2	--	3.2	--
Totals:	117.9	100.9	84.2	97.6	84.2	542.9
2040 Goal for Paved Trails	218.2 Existing + 181.8 Planned = 400					
Recreational Trails						
Natural Surface Trails	47.1	68.0	0.0	0.0	30.5	67.0
Total:	115.1					
2040 Goal for Natural Surface Trails	100					

Countywide trail level-of-service targets can be met by building out 100 percent of the planned/proposed trails in DPR parkland (84.2 miles), and by building 20 percent of the planned/proposed trails outside of DPR parkland (110.9 miles). While on the face of it, this appears to be a reasonable expectation; however, many of the trails recommended in the County’s MPOT (Master Plan of Transportation) for M-NCPPC/DPR parkland, may be difficult to build due to wetlands and other environmental constraints in the stream

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valleys. For this reason, a larger percentage of the overall trail network may need to be built outside of the park system, such as along major roadways and within new residential and commercial developments. It is recommended that the Department seek opportunities to partner on the development of some of these trails.

(Source: 2018 Strategic Plan for DPR Trails)

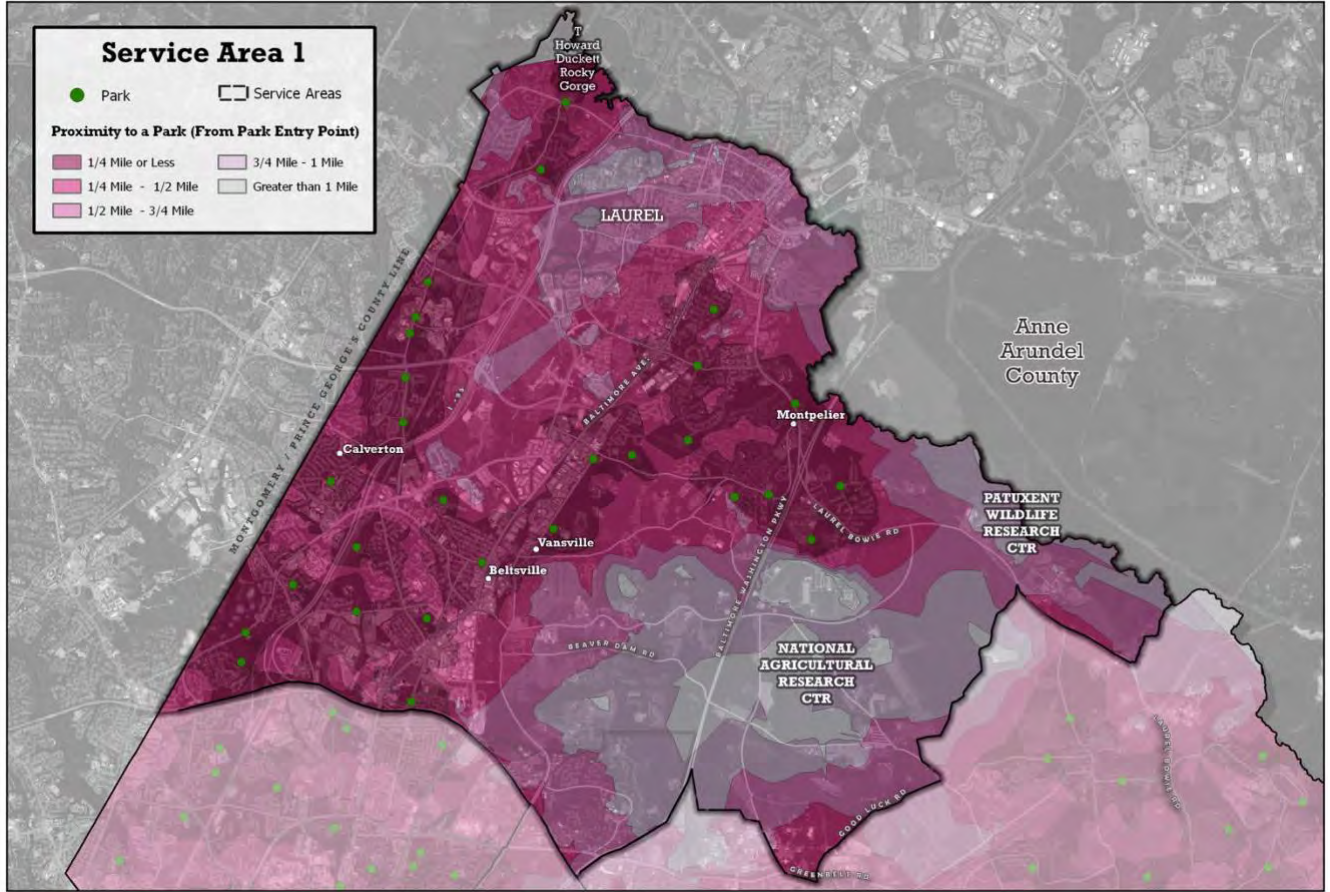
2.4.a Proximity Analysis

Proximity

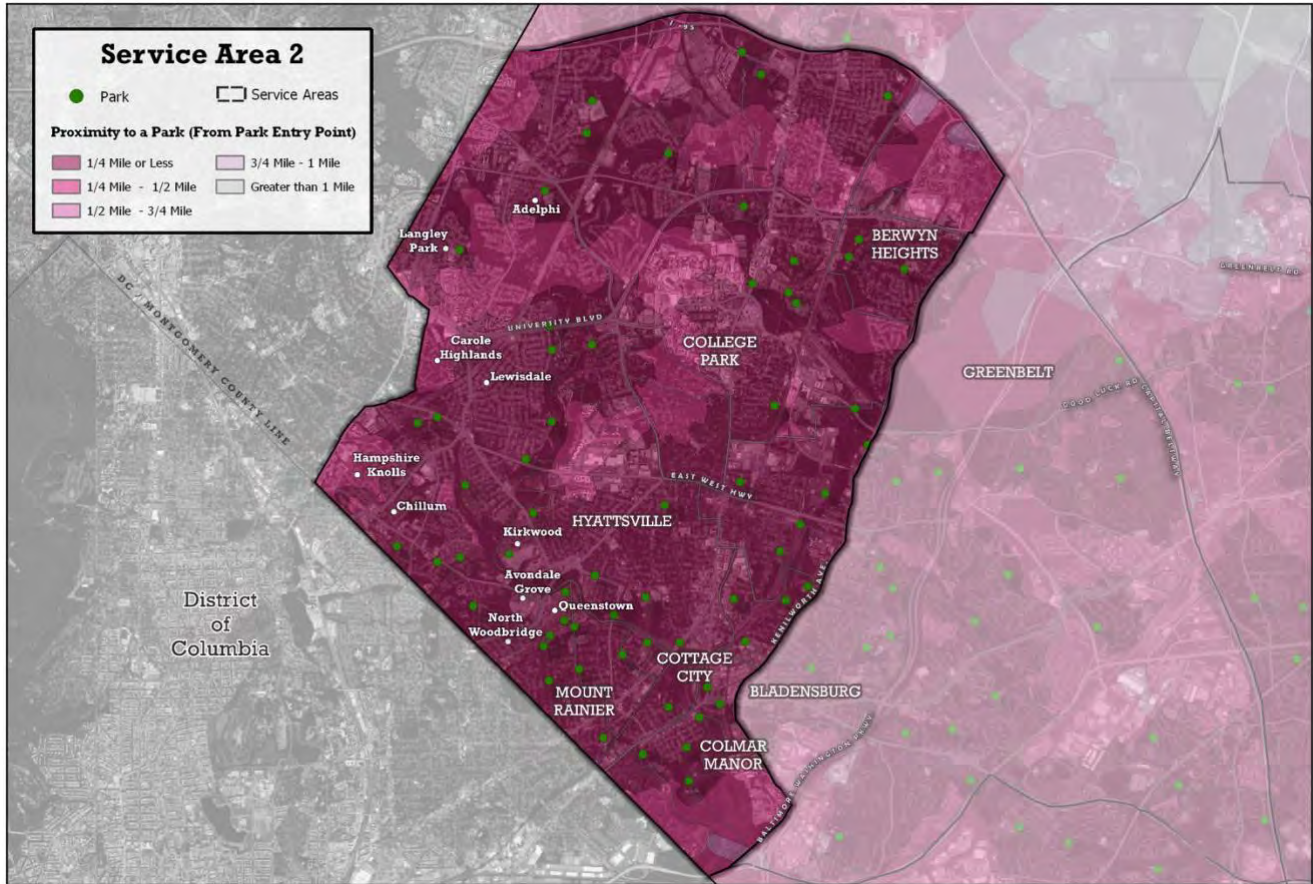
After determining the recommended amount of parkland and facilities per resident, the Department examined the locations of land and facilities in relation to population density. Neighborhood and community park access was analyzed within a ¼ mile, ½ mile, ¾ mile, and greater than 1 mile of a park entrance. The voids in this analysis provide us with more granular data on where we need to focus park-related funding. The maps below highlight the number of parks within a 10-minute walk of a park per service area. Upon further analysis, most areas shown as farther than ¼ mile from a park are either outside of the Metropolitan District, predominantly non-residential land uses, or large tracts of federal, state, or municipal land.

In the 2018 Strategic Trails Plan, a similar analysis was done relating to proximity to paved trails, both within and outside of the M-NCPPC park system. This analysis was conducted in 2017 based on the latest trail inventory and County population as of the 2010 Census. It found that 71 percent of County residents live within a 10-minute walk of a paved trail. The full methodology for the proximity analysis can be found in Appendix C.

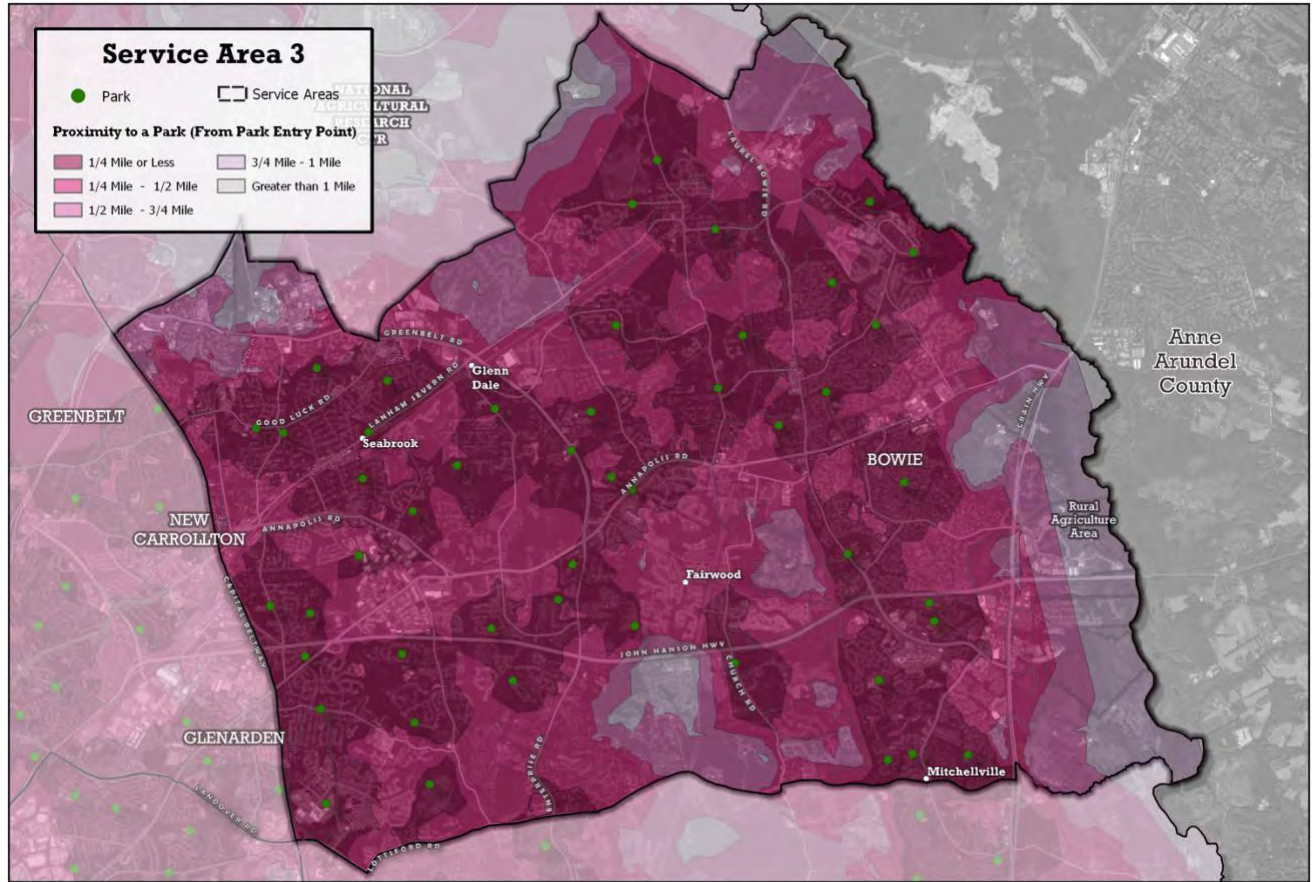
Proximity Map – Service Area 1 Isochrone Analysis



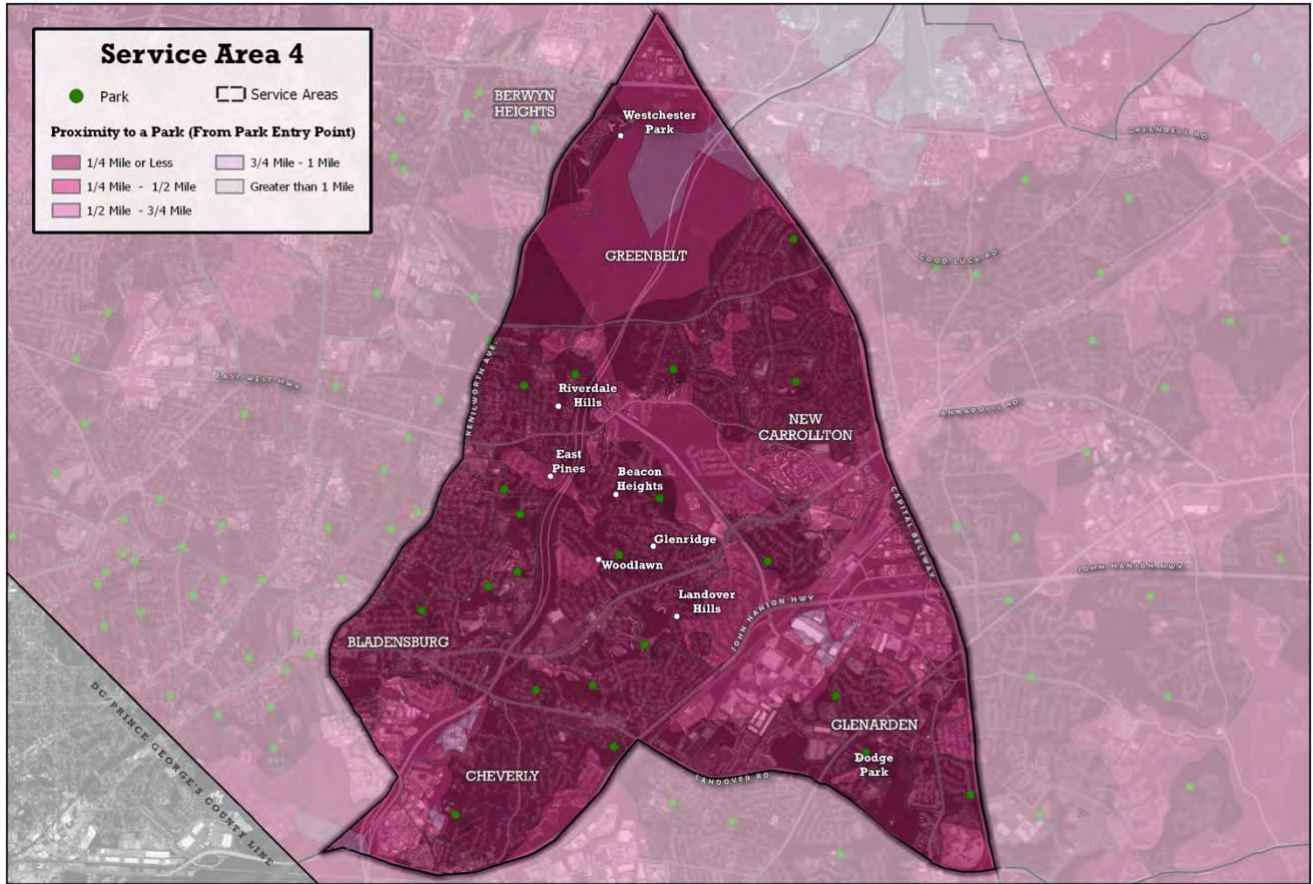
Proximity Map – Service Area 2 Isochrone Analysis



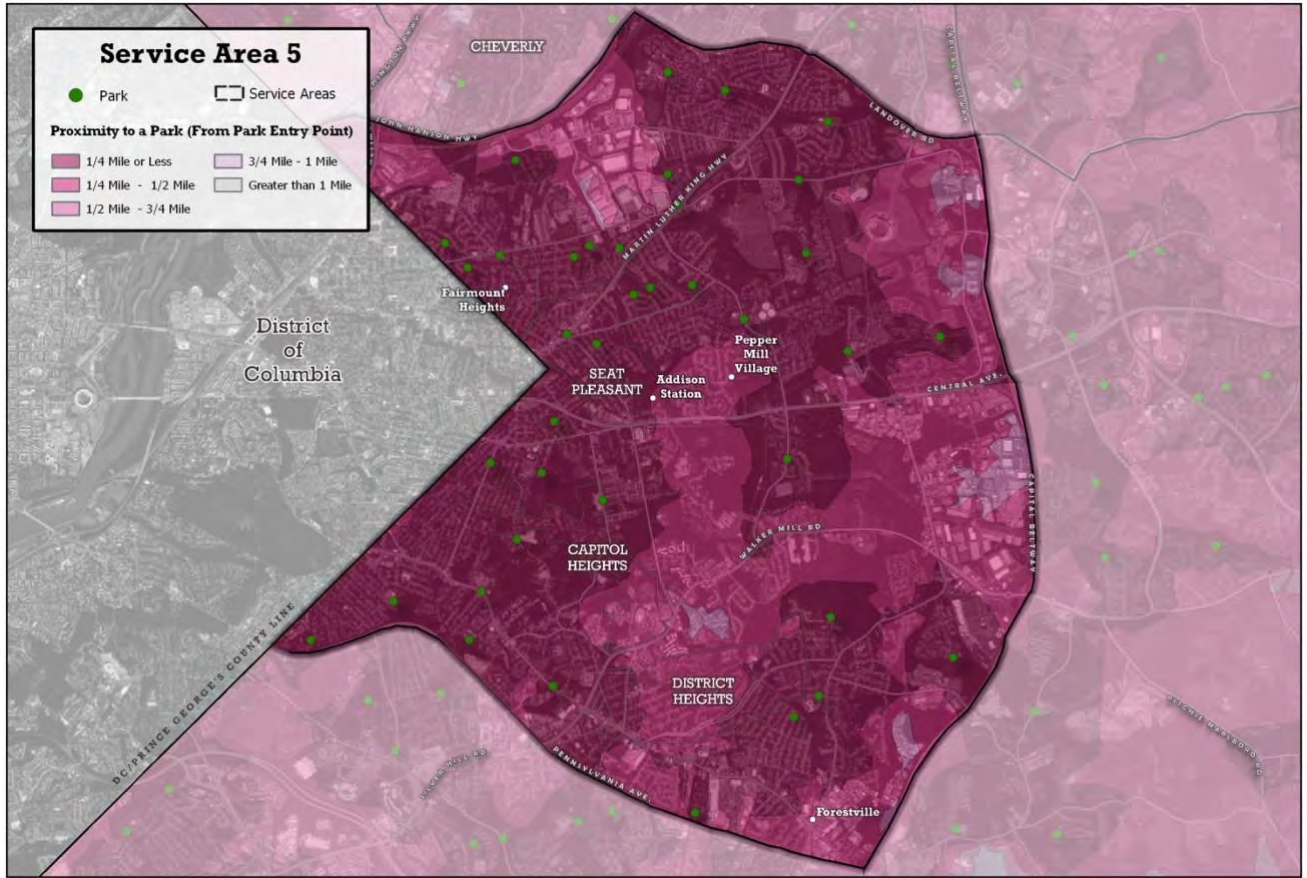
Proximity Map – Service Area 3 Isochrone Analysis



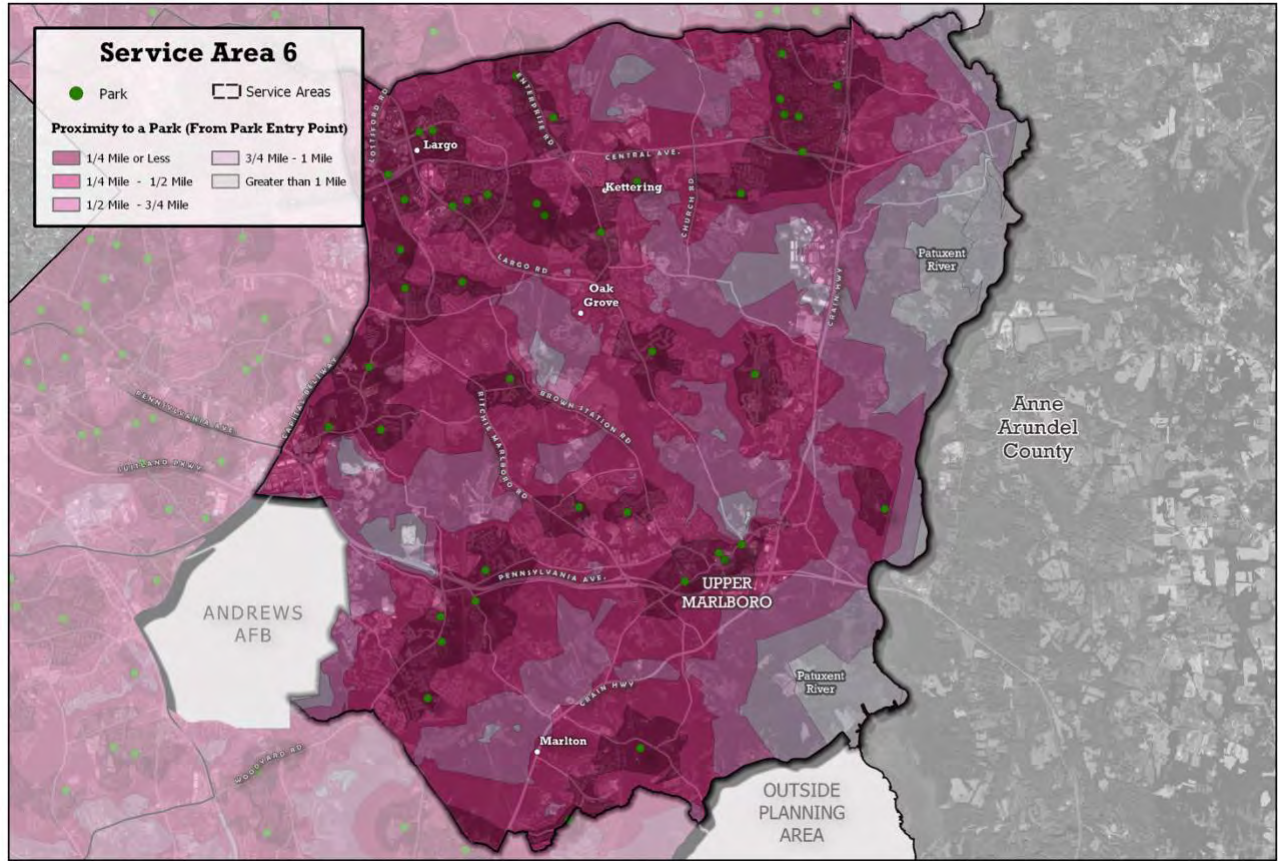
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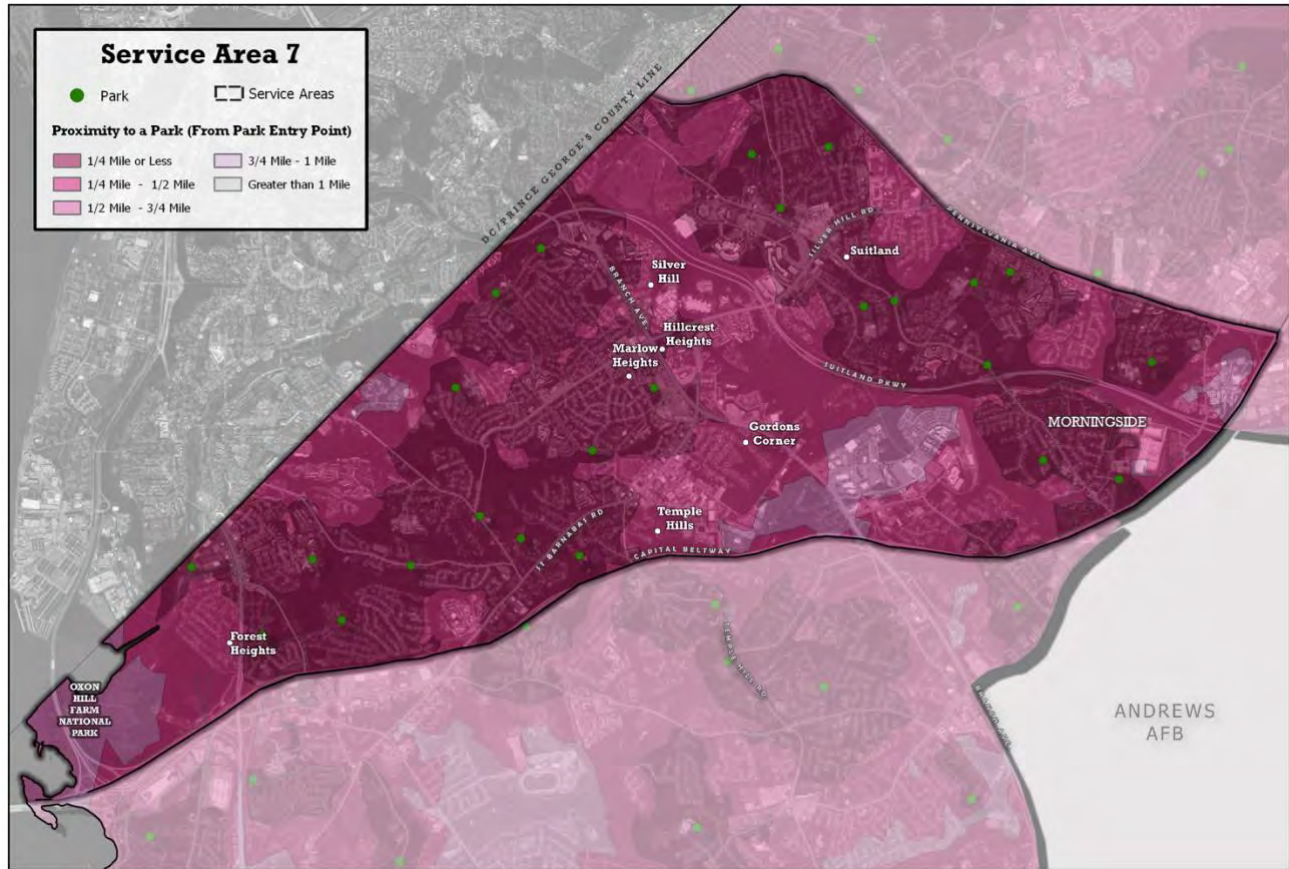
Proximity Map – Service Area 5 Isochrone Analysis



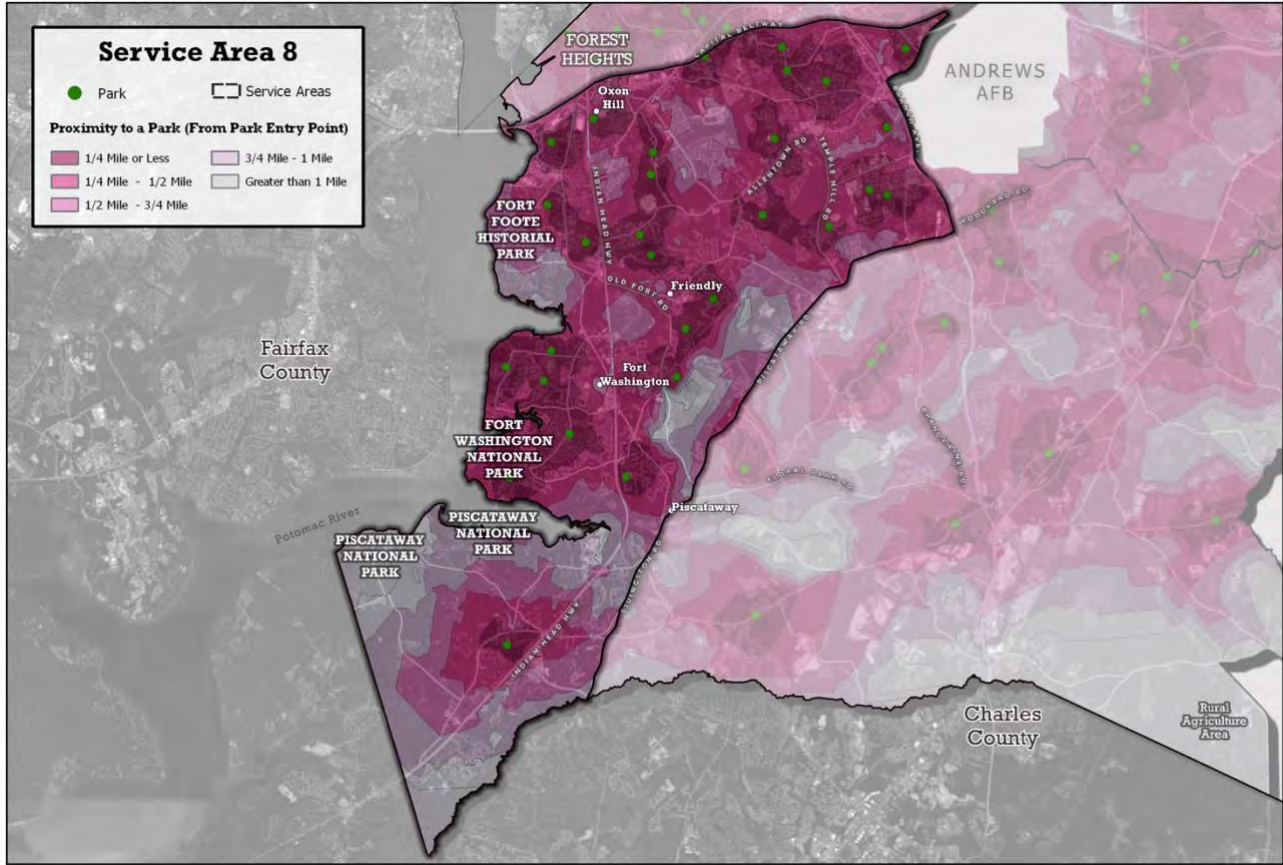
Proximity Map – Service Area 6 Isochrone Analysis



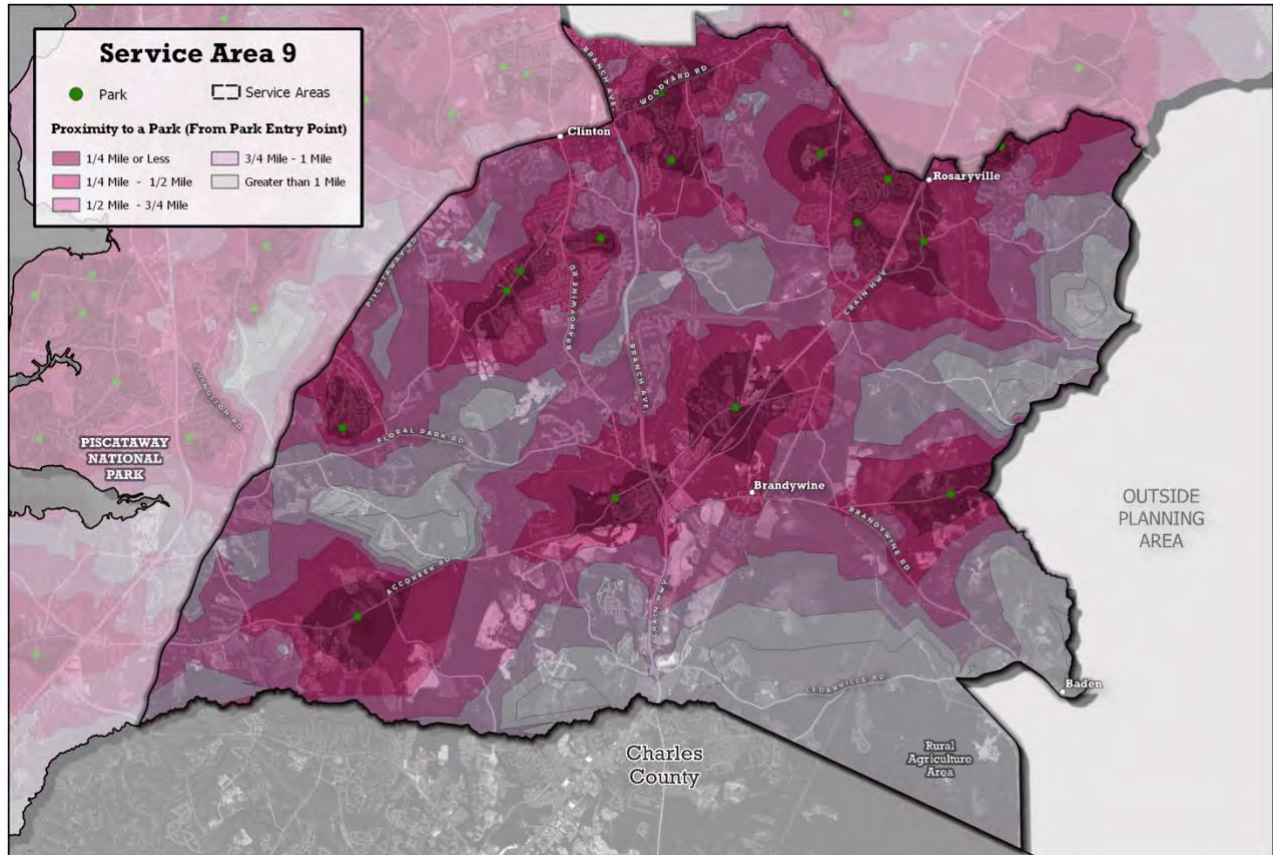
Proximity Map – Service Area 7 Isochrone Analysis



Proximity Map – Service Area 8 Isochrone Analysis



Proximity Map – Service Area 9 Isochrone Analysis



2.4.b Park Equity Analysis

Equity

Access to opportunities and resources vary by place, income, race, ethnicity, age, etc. It is not enough to document inequalities at the county level, it is important to understand disparities at the service area level to inform how we provide parkland and facilities to residents through the CIP. The State of Maryland provided access to the statewide Park Equity Analysis, an interactive, web-based, geospatial tool that helps identify areas where underserved populations do not have easy access to parks and recreation facilities. The Department used the state-provided tool which combines the following layers to generate a total park equity score:

- Population Density
- Concentration of Low-Income Households
- Concentration of Children Under the age of 17
- Concentration of Adults over the age of 65
- Concentration of Non-White Population
- Distance to Public Park Space
- Distance to Public Transportation
- Walkability
- Linguistic Isolation

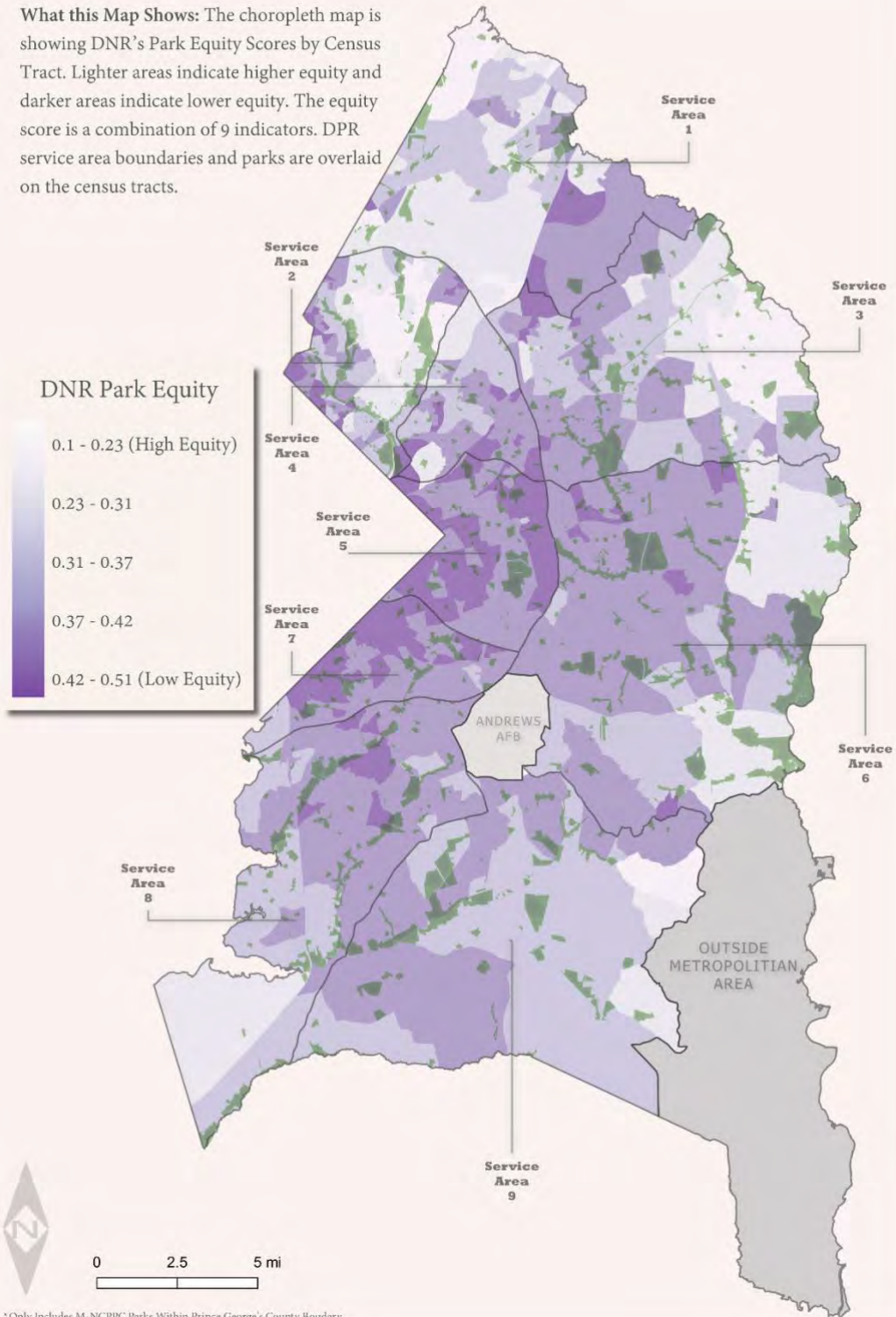
The analysis results in the identification of Equity Focus Areas (EFAs) which are areas with the highest concentrations of vulnerable populations. The M-NCPPC park system is a large, aging system, with many facilities competing for finite resources. Data-driven equity criteria can be used to prioritize under resourced parks in high need areas investment. As the Department examines both acquisition and development priorities, based on the above level of service analysis, an examination of expenditures over part 20 years and map areas of major investment, minimal investment, or no investment.

The detailed maps below indicate the areas of low equity within the county according to the criteria in the Maryland Park Equity Mapper.

*All proceeding maps will be updated to include municipal boundaries, major roads, and community names.

Park Equity Analysis*

What this Map Shows: The choropleth map is showing DNR's Park Equity Scores by Census Tract. Lighter areas indicate higher equity and darker areas indicate lower equity. The equity score is a combination of 9 indicators. DPR service area boundaries and parks are overlaid on the census tracts.



Holistic Level of Service (HLOS) = Quantity & Proximity & Equity



To assess park access and LOS more holistically, the traditional level of service of metric, a measure of the quantity of park land (or amenities) per person was mapped by service area and overlaid with the mapping of park proximity and the park equity mapping. Looking at quantity, proximity, and equity holistically will illuminate the implementation steps that need to be taken to reach our level of service goals.

There are additional considerations, beyond the quantitative level of service analysis, that impact the decision to invest in new parks and facilities including:

1. Land availability
2. Facility condition
3. Alternative providers (municipalities, public schools, state, and federal governments)
4. Existing land use pattern (density, availability of backyards, and common greenspace)
5. Expressed interest from residents

These additional considerations are part of the implementation process and further assist the prioritization and funding of projects.

In Appendix D you will find a summary of each service area and recommendations for future park investment.

2.5 Goals and Objectives for Parks and Recreation

2.5.a General Context Information

County Goals and Objectives

The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County adopted the Formula 2040 Functional Master Plan for Parks and Recreation in 2013. It was the first planning document to address parks and recreation planning in Prince George's County since the establishment of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1927. It defines a vision and establishes goals and policies to guide the

delivery of parks, programs, and facilities until 2040 when the county's population is projected to be well over one million residents.

The Formula 2040 Functional Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space was based on a simple formula: Parks + Recreation = Experience. This formulation was not only intended to recognize the intricacy between park facilities and programs but also to ensure that this relationship was strengthened to enhance the quality of life, promote social equity, and provide the most satisfactory experiences for residents now and into the future. As the Department assesses what progress the Department has made to date in implementing the plan's recommendations, there is a greater appreciation for the formula as well as the comprehensive efforts to fully implement the Plan. It informs the Department's approach to program development, planning new parks and park facilities, maintenance and use of parks and open space in the county. Connectivity, Health and Wellness and Economic Development remain the overall goals of the plan. Each one is an essential element of the Department's strategy to provide recreational service to our ever growing and changing diverse community. How to best engage the community, through our various programs, to enhance their use of both existing and new recreation spaces continues to be a challenge. A key part of meeting this challenge will be how to increase residents' awareness of the breadth of programs offered, of physical and mental benefits of exercise, the expansiveness of our trail system, and the enjoyment that can be found in the county's open spaces.

Formula 2040 Goal of Connectivity: Connect Prince George's County residents to quality parks, trails, recreation facilities, programs, and schools. Connect patrons socially and physically to their neighborhoods and communities.

The Connectivity goal includes connecting residents to quality parks, trails, recreation facilities and programs, and schools. It also means connecting residents both socially and physically to their neighborhoods and communities. As part of the goal of physically connecting residents, Formula 2040 recommends the development of a 500-mile network of hard- and soft-surface trails in Prince George's County. Currently there are 333 miles of existing trails in the County. DPR recently completed the Strategic Trails Plan, which will guide the M-NCPPC's contributions toward this countywide goal. For example, the Department recently completed both the Paint Branch Connector Trail and the College Park Woods Connector Trail. Both projects provide critical links to our northern suburban communities from the expansive Anacostia Tributary Trail System. In addition, the goal of 100 miles of natural surface trails has already been met by the existing trail network. For hard surface trails an additional 182 miles are needed over a 22-year period.

Connectivity can also be increased by closing physical gaps in the system through strategic land acquisition. M-NCPPC owns 28,163 acres in Prince George's County. To meet the 2040 goal for land acquisition, the Commission must seek to acquire 312 acres annually. The acreage acquired for developed parkland should focus on underserved areas, including areas Equity Focus Areas, gaps in the trail, and green infrastructure networks.

There are other ways to connect a community beyond physical connections like trails. DPR continues to develop innovative ways to take our parks and recreation services to underserved communities and strengthen relationships with residents. Our mobile vans that promote recreational programs such as "Arts on a Roll" and "Skate Mobiles" will be complemented in the future with "PopUp" Parks, and "Store Fronts" that offer opportunities for recreation related classes in communities that are currently underserved by traditional parks and recreation facilities. The Department has prioritized maintaining strong connections

with the community. For example, the Park Police Division is one of a handful of policing agencies in the country to be awarded the Community Policing Award by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Recommendations:

- Meet countywide trail level-of-service targets by building out 100 percent of the planned/proposed trails in DPR parklands (84.2 miles), and by building 20 percent of the planned/proposed trails outside of DPR parkland (110.9 miles).
- Complete missing gaps in the regional trail network.
- Complete repairs to the existing trail network.
- Begin feasibility studies in areas of the County currently underserved by trails.
- Take advantage of opportunities presented by public works projects and private development activities to leverage development of trails.
- Focus land acquisition for developed parks in underserved areas of the county, identified through the level of service, proximity, and equity analyses.

Health and Wellness: Improve the physical, mental, environmental, and cultural health of Prince George's County residents and promote a wellness ethic for the community by integrating fitness and wellness into facilities, programs, and events.

Obesity concerns and poor health rankings in the County are significant and DPR has been increasingly focused on repositioning its role in Health and Wellness. M-NCPPC has been at the forefront in creating and implementing programming that responds to community needs and offers people of all ages recreational activities and facilities that enrich and enhance their physical health and well-being, as well as their mental and social development, while also fostering an appreciation for the environment. The Department's role has grown to promote competencies and skills to support the development of youth into healthy, productive, and civically responsible adults. Thus, many County youth services and programs build on that philosophy, integrate the developmental assets approach to the Department's core services, and charges the Department to be more focused on the outcomes across the lifespan to ensure that a quality experience and intentional outcomes are achieved.

Recommendations:

- Aggressively pursue the goal of 70 percent registration for each program.
- 75 percent of programs should incorporate a wellness or fitness component.
- Continue to expand outdoor health and wellness events like Yoga in the Parks and Club 300, a free program for senior citizens interested in walking.
- Fill the gaps in the level of service analysis by focusing the acquisition and facility construction in underserved areas.

Economic Development: Contribute to the Prince George's County economy and the financial sustainability of the community.

Formula 2040 calls for a business-like, strategic approach to programming that includes a financial and service sustainability plan. To meet the Formula 2040 Economic Development goal, the Department is working toward a more intentional process for developing programs, while still adding value to parks and open spaces, which have traditionally been accessed for free. The Department's intentional approach has evolved into a more business-oriented initiative with defined core services and programs based on the value and level of community benefit versus individual benefit. This approach to service delivery is also

more aligned with a defined financial management approach toward cost recovery. It is estimated that cost recovery is currently at 34 percent, just shy of the 35 percent goal. The Department has developed a methodology that captures direct and indirect costs for each program delivered and applies the “Stop Light Model” to the total cost to operate the program, to determine the socially equitable price to charge users.

Formula 2040 notes the timing and location of capital investments that can stimulate additional development. An effort will be made to plan and coordinate projects to complement countywide economic development priorities. For example, DPR recently opened the Woodmore Town Center Urban Park and Largo Town Center Park, unique park models that provide urban amenities such as a Jumping Jewels splash pad, a performance space, an artificial turf field, etc. in the heart of a new urban areas of Prince George’s County.

Implementation Strategy:

- Continue looking for ways to design unique, award-winning facilities that benefit the communities and businesses that surround them.
- Maximize the value and quality of our regional and specialty parks through the Master Development Plan Process.
- Work with the Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation, Prince George’s County Planning Department, Prince George’s County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and other relevant entities to determine ways of measuring the current and future economic impact of our parks and programs.
- Seek opportunities for collaboration with prominent groups like the University of Maryland, Prince George’s County Hospital, and Kaiser Permanente.
- Evaluate existing sites that could become signature parks or locations for signature attractions.
- Continue to measure demand for new and existing facilities

In addition to goals, Formula 2040 establishes the following objectives and policies:

Objectives:

Level of Service—Match the provision of parkland, trails, indoor recreational facilities, and outdoor amenities (e.g., playgrounds and ballfields) to the needs of residents within the nine Formula 2040 service areas.

Cost Recovery—By 2022, recover 35 percent of parks and recreation system operating costs from generated revenue.

Capital Improvements—Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of 100 percent of new park and recreational facilities proposed for inclusion in the Prince George’s County Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Use the Capital Project Evaluation Model to set CIP and major maintenance investment priorities.

Capital Reinvestment—Reinvest two percent of asset value (construction or facility replacement costs) each year in asset protection and preventative maintenance using a Capital Asset Lifecycle Monitoring Plan.

Programs—Ensure that at least 70 percent of all programs requiring registration through Parks Direct will meet or exceed the minimum number of participants set by DPR to deliver the program, and that at least 75 percent of the programs include a health or wellness component by 2017.

Parkland—Increase the parkland acreage owned by M-NCPPC to 34,745 acres in 2040 to meet the countywide LOS standard of 35 acres per 1,000 persons for the projected population of

992,701.

Recreation/Aquatic Centers—Implement a standard of 1.5 square feet of indoor recreation center space and 0.5 square feet of indoor and outdoor aquatic center space per population served. This will require DPR to invest in 500,000 square feet of regional, multigenerational indoor space to serve the recreational and aquatic needs of County residents by 2040.

Trails—Increase M-NCPPC park trail network to 500 miles of hard and soft surface trails by 2040 to meet the LOS standard of 0.5 miles per 1,000 persons. This objective requires development of approximately 8.5 miles of trail per year over 20 years.

Economic Impact—Increase the fiscal benefits generated by the parks and recreation system for the County’s economy. Studies show the positive economic impacts of parks and recreation in terms of increased property values, employment, visitor/tourism spending, and business activity. This plan recommends the creation of signature facilities and events designed to attract out-of-County visitors.

Health and Wellness—By 2022, reduce the percentage of obese adults (currently 32 percent) in Prince George’s County by 10 percent. DPR is partnering with the public health community and other service providers to promote a healthy, active lifestyle among County residents.

Policies:

System Policy—Establish objective and transparent processes, standards, and criteria for decision-making to effectively meet the goals of connectivity, health and wellness, and economic development.

Programs Policy—Maximize the value of park and recreation program offerings by matching them with facility space and community needs to achieve the highest level of productivity.

Land Policy—Strengthen and integrate regulatory and decision-making processes related to the acquisition of parkland and open space to more effectively grow the system to meet residents’ needs.

Facilities Policy—Maximize the value of park and recreation facilities by cost-effectively meeting residents’ needs for services and generating community pride and economic impact.

2017 LPPRP County Goals

Progress on each goal is described below.

Goal 1: Provide an equivalent mix of facilities and public lands across the County to meet residents’ needs and desires.

- Since the last LPPRP was developed in 2017, it is estimated that M-NCPPC alone has added 1,253 acres of parkland and completed 120 facilities projects that vary widely in scope from playgrounds, sports fields, dog parks, trails, and aquatic facilities.
- Use the service areas and level of service analysis to guide CIP investment by prioritizing feasibility studies, park refresh candidates, playground replacements, etc. Furthered the implementation plan to develop a network of nine multigenerational centers to produce an equivalent mix of indoor facilities, including aquatics, throughout the County. The first multigenerational center, Southern Area Aquatic and Recreation Complex (SAARC), opened in February 2020 and the aquatics component of the second multigenerational center, Southern Technology and Recreation Complex, opened in August of 2021. A feasibility study was completed in the Fall of 2021 location and conceptual design for the multigenerational centers in three more service areas.
- Developed a Strategic Trails Plan to help meet the Formula 2040 goal of promoting connectivity by increasing our trails inventory to 400 miles of trails by the year 2040.

- Completed a master plan for one of four regional parks. Substantially completed the master plans for 2 additional regional parks and began the planning of the fourth regional park.
- Updated the parkland dedication program to ensure that new residential developments equitably incorporate parks and recreation facilities.
- Adopted LOS standards for both parks and facilities that analyze available acreage or square footage, proximity, and equity to provide facilities where they are most needed.
- Planned feasibility studies for the major golfing venues, the amenities for the planned Westphalia Central Park, and for several specialty facilities such as a tennis facility, amphitheater, and science center. These studies will provide the information necessary to support future facility development as funds become available
- Drafted a Playground Renovation Plan to prioritize the replacement of equipment and surfacing, improved access, and additional amenities for playgrounds that have surpassed their useful life, in addition to a strategy to ensure the equitable delivery of accessible playgrounds.

Goal 2: Preserve, protect, and enhance or restore woodlands, natural areas, open spaces, and waters managed by DPR in Prince George’s County.

- Utilizes M-NCPPC’s extensive geographic assets of parkland, trails, and facilities to positively affect physical and environmental health and wellness outcomes countywide. Recently, the organization launched several new initiatives that will help address climate change and promote physical activity, nutrition education, and social interaction.
- The Carbon Offset Initiative, launched as a pilot in FY18 to address climate change, is part of a larger effort to zero out DPR’s carbon footprint by ensuring that 100 percent of DPR’s energy use is from renewable sources. Carbon is captured by planting 10,000 trees to help address climate change.
- Engaged a consultant to review the existing parkland dedication ordinance and make recommendations to ensure that the public obtains maximum benefits from all new development as well as redevelopment projects
- Used the following criteria from the Land Acquisition Evaluation Framework to develop the annual acquisitions plan:
 - Context — General criteria that allows an evaluation of how a specific property can contribute to systemwide goals, ease of public access, connectivity, and external threats such as development pressures.
 - Resource Type — Specific criteria associated with three resource types (recreation, natural environmental, and historic) that reflect each type’s goals and priorities.
 - Sustainability — General criteria relating to acquisition, development costs, and short- and long-term operation costs.
- Reorganized the Department to establish a division to focus on land planning and environmental stewardship.

Goal 3: Engage the community in outdoor and environmental activities.

- Engaged with small business owners to lease more than 1,100 acres of farmland, made more than 140 garden plots available on an annual basis through its community garden program, and leased one urban agricultural site in Riverdale, Maryland.
- Developing a strategy for pollinator gardens and developing a farm incubator site that will provide start-up opportunities for first-time farmers.

- Implementing a marketing plan to target volunteer opportunities offered through the Natural and Historical Resources Division in resource stewardship.
- Developed and implemented the Yoga in the Parks program, one of our most successful annual summertime events. Nine additional sites were added in 2020.
- Increased environmental stewardship and education curricula in community center programming.
- Expanded sponsorship of health and wellness events. Most notably, the Department sponsors a variety of runs and walks to promote healthier lifestyles. Often these runs and walks benefit a community organization, for example, the Run for Wildlife which supports conservation efforts and the annual Turkey Trot which provides food and resources for people who are homeless.

Goal 4: Implement a service delivery model that is responsive and relevant to County residents' leisure behaviors, interests, and needs, as they cope with dynamic social and economic conditions.

- Adopted a Comprehensive Recreation Program Plan that addresses emerging recreation and leisure trends and changing population characteristics.
- Performance measures were established during the development of Formula 2040. These measures are: Five program measures to be analyzed quarterly: Program Attendance, Facility Use, Course Delivery Rate, Customer Satisfaction, and Cost Recovery.
- Developed a methodology that captures direct and indirect costs for each program delivered and applies the "Stop Light Model" to the total cost to determine the socially equitable price to charge. The model focuses on essential and important programs, as well as those activities that add value to the community. This standard helps to determine priority need, individual and community benefit.

Goal 5: Position DPR as a collaborative provider of leisure service delivery.

- Joined forces with the USA Swimming Foundation's "Make a Splash" initiative to offer FREE water safety and swim lessons to youth in Prince George's County
- DPR has been a key player on many projects that will grow the economy of the County, such as Purple Line, SAARC, storm water management, and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Education (BOE) supports our ongoing partnerships with BOE. Additionally, several separate agreements are underway to develop joint-use facilities such as playfields and gymnasiums on M-NCPPC and school sites.
- Entered into recreational use agreement with Green Branch Management Group in 2018. Green Branch Management Group is developing a multiuse rectangular field complex of 10 fields (synthetic and natural turf) called Liberty Park. In return for a capital development payment, DPR will receive 20 years of programmatic time to offer classes and events for residents and visitors.
- The Department is heading a multiagency team in the development of construction documents and construction of the Central Avenue Corridor Trail.

Goal 6: Collaborate to maintain safe and accessible park and recreation facilities.

- An aquatic facilities condition assessment was completed in 2017. Staff have evaluated the recommendations and are incorporating many of the improvements into the CIP each year. Conduct a Phase II evaluation of community centers and make recommendations including criteria to determine disposal or repurposing of facilities and sites
- Developed a Recreation Without Walls program during the COVID-19 pandemic to increase access to safe, outdoor recreational programming.

Goal 7: Enhance access to facilities and programs.

- Completed a Strategic Trails Plan and continues to fund and build trails projects that provide connections to recreation facilities, commercial areas, workplaces, and residential communities.
- DPR adopted a policy to locate multigenerational centers, community centers and other park facilities on bus lines and near Metro stations, so facilities will be conveniently served by public transportation.
- Complemented by the partnership work with the District of Columbia on the Anacostia Tributary Trail, trail users can now navigate from the District of Columbia north through Port Towns, Riverdale Park, and College Park, across the Beltway all the way to Fairland Regional Park.
- Initiated the master plan for the Central Avenue Corridor Trail (CACT). The CACT is being planned to complement the ongoing economic, community, and cultural revitalization of the Central-Avenue Metro Blue Line corridor, which includes four Metro stations. The trail construction seeks to stimulate economic development and make the corridor highly desirable for residential and commercial redevelopment.
- Developed a series of Imagination Playgrounds that were installed in various sites around the County specifically targeting communities at risk based on quantitative measures. These uniquely themed playgrounds include superheroes, white water rafting, Gilligan's Island, and more innovative ways for youngsters to explore outdoor play.
- DPR has included the Watkins Regional Park Master Plan recommendation to create a trail connection between the park and the Largo-Kettering-Perrywood Community Center in the current CIP and will continue to look for opportunities to create trail connections between parkland and community centers.

Goal 8: Provide opportunities for meaningful community engagement and partnering.

- Continued to develop innovative ways to take our parks and recreation services to underserved communities. Our mobile vans that promote our programs such as "Arts on a Roll" and "Skate Mobiles" will be complemented in the future with "PopUp" Parks, and "Store Fronts" that offer opportunities for recreation related classes.
- The Park Police Division is one of a handful of policing agencies in the country to be awarded the Community Policing Award by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. This is an example of how The Department has prioritized maintaining strong connections with the community.
- Delivered the Cosca Skate Park. This state-of-the-art skate park was envisioned and requested by the youth of the community. Working with the community, the DPR provided a unique blend of ramps, half-pipes, grind rails, site signage, and other fun features to make this a truly worthwhile regional destination.
- Redeveloped the Walker Mill Regional Park, the only regional park located west of the Beltway. With the help of the community, our landscape architects took this aging park down to the bare ground and redesigned an Imagination Playground complete with interactive toys, spray ground features, and an adventurous slide
- A partnership policy was developed in 2018, and DPR has implemented an online partnership proposal system via Community Connect.

Goal 9: Enhance communications and outreach efforts to increase community awareness of, and involvement in Department programs, services, and facilities.

- In the 2017 LPPRP, 35 percent of residents indicated that they are unaware of programs being offered by the Department. This is above the national benchmark of 24 percent. One thousand course descriptions have been rewritten to appeal on a more content-marketing aspect, and additional staff have been hired to achieve this goal.
- A strategy is currently being developed to engage immigrant groups to better understand their needs.
- The Department has increased its social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We currently have 14,000 Facebook followers, 7,900 Twitter followers, and 2,300 Instagram followers.

Goal 10: Adopt management practices that will produce long-term organizational sustainability while maintaining service quality.

- In 2017, the Department successfully implemented ParksDirect to replace an older system. ParksDirect enhances the Department’s ability to track and report on program registration. This foundational action will enable The Department to pursue the goal to ensure that all programs are more the 70 percent full more aggressively in the coming years.
- The Department’s commitment is to the long-term maintenance of its existing infrastructure. This objective will be tracked by using existing financial systems to measure the value of assets, less the land value and budget amounts to maintain those assets.
- The M-NCPPC incorporates sustainable practices in both our architecture and landscape architecture projects. The Department selects building and playground materials that are locally available (to minimize energy consumption and emissions) and good for the environment and will have longevity. These include materials that are low in volatile organic compounds and are composed of recycled materials and those that can be ultimately recycled or upcycled. We also look at site orientation and natural ventilation to minimize energy costs, and we analyze life cycle costs to efficiently use resources.
- A Database Relationship Manager position was created to oversee and coordinate data reporting across the Department.
- The Department hired both an Assistant Budget Manager and a Cost Recovery Management Analyst. The Cost Recovery Management Analyst will be focused on the direct support of overseeing cost recovery implementation, evaluating cost recovery programs, and providing recommendations for effective return on investment.

New Goals and Implementation Strategies for 2022

- Support our newly created Parks Divisions to enhance and grow our maintenance programs and continue to provide high quality parks and trail systems throughout the County.
- Align with the Newly Created Youth and Countywide Sports Division to implement their strategic plan by increasing access to courts and fields.
- Improve our data collection tools and processes to improve our strategic planning and analysis efforts.
- Develop a strategic acquisition plan to focus on neighborhood level parks, particularly urban parks, in areas with the highest need for additional parks in locations identified through proximity analysis.
- Identify existing parks in need of park enhancements and prioritize using the equity focus areas identified in this plan.

- Intensify active recreational uses at existing community parks and plan for expansion of our regional parks and park facility complexes.
- Acquire natural areas that provide stormwater management and flood control, preserve habitat, and fill gaps in the County’s Green Infrastructure Plan.

State Goals for Parks and Recreation

The six State of Maryland goals for parks and recreation are consistently supported and reinforced by Prince George’s County goals, objectives, and policies.

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

M-NCPPC is accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). CAPRA standards require M-NCPPC to provide activities that contribute to the fulfillment of basic physical, emotional, social, and intellectual requirements of individuals. MNCPPC is required to consider what is offered by the whole community, including opportunities provided by private, public, and nonprofit organizations.

2. 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.

Formula 2040 has three goals that strive to enhance the attractiveness of Prince George’s County as a place to live, work, play, and visit:

- Connect county residents physically and mentally to recreational facilities and programs.
- Improve the health of County residents and promote a wellness ethic.
- Contribute to the County economy and the financial sustainability of the community.

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

M-NCPPC strategically directs Program Open Space funds for important land acquisitions (such as the Patuxent River Park) and facility improvements (such as the Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Center).

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

The Department has developed the 2018 Strategic Trails Plan to implement ambitious trails connectivity goals in Formula 2040 and the county’s Master Plan of Transportation. The Department also conducted an analysis for locating its next multigenerational centers in areas of the county with the highest level of need, and conducted a proximity and equity analysis, as part of this document, to further guide investment in parks and recreation facilities.

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

Prince George's County is in the process of updating zoning and subdivision regulations. Consistent with Formula 2040 objectives, the requirements for developer contributions and standards for the provision of parks and green spaces are being updated. Special emphasis is being placed on supporting the development of parks in urbanizing areas.

6. 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.

It is anticipated that Prince George's County will experience significant development over the next 20 years. By 2040, few remaining large tracts of privately owned open space will be available for acquisition. Therefore, Formula 2040 established aggressive land acquisition and preservation objectives. Where fee-simple acquisition is not feasible, easements and other tools will be employed.

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 on resource lands when development occurs.
 - Incentives for resource-based economies that increase the retention of forests, wetlands, or agricultural lands.
 - Avoidance of impacts on natural resources by publicly funded infrastructure development projects; and
 - Appropriate mitigation response, commensurate with the value of the affected resource.
- Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas, according to a strategic framework such as the Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) in GreenPrint (which is not to be confused with the former easement program also called GreenPrint).
- Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that may fall outside of designated green infrastructure (examples include rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shall 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.

2.6 Implementing Programs

The Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation works with several programs and funding sources to achieve our parks and recreation goals. The largest of these are the two separate assessments levied on residential properties that are used to fund parks and recreation opportunities in Prince George's County. These two opportunities account for approximately 95% of the Department's funding.

The levied taxes known as the Park Fund and the Recreation Fund are applied in two different ways. It should be noted that while all county residents are subject to the Park Fund, only residents in the Metropolitan Planning District pay the Recreation Fund. Residents of Laurel, Greenbelt, District Heights, and areas in the far southeastern portion of the County (Acquasco and vicinity) are located outside the

Metropolitan District and are not subject to the Recreation tax. As a result, the Department can buy land in these areas, but does not provide facilities. Of course, anyone regardless of where they live can participate in programs and recreational events offered by the Department.

The Park Fund provides for the maintenance, development, expansion, security, and natural resources management of the park system operated by the M-NCPPC. Additionally, this fund is used for physical improvements and largely supports the six-year Capital Improvement Program. This money is also used to pay principal and interest on bonds sold to acquire and develop park land. Under the laws of the State of Maryland, Prince George's County is required to include taxes on real and personal property to provide for the debt service for parkland acquisition and development bonds. Excess collections beyond these expenses are to be used for park development.

The Recreation Fund provides support for the operating programs including a wide range of recreation, education, and leisure-oriented activities. These activities include aquatics, youth sports, adult sports, summer camps, and programming for elderly and persons with disabilities. This fund also supports the operation of 45 community centers.

Other funding sources include:

POS: Program Open Space provides several million dollars to Prince George's County each year to help expand the park system. While used mostly for acquisition, the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation has also used this money for the development of new facilities and amenities. Seven local jurisdictions use the County's POS allocation to fund park land expansion and facilities in their own jurisdiction. POS accounts for approximately three quarters of the land acquisition budget for the County over the past five years.

Bonds: At times, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will sell bonds to raise capital. Because of the concerns for the financial capacity of the MNCPPC, this method is used with great care and in a limited and heavily scrutinized capacity.

Grants: The Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation also tracks and credits Capital Development Grants. Usually, these grants are in the form of State of Maryland Bond Bills that are added to the CIP each fiscal year in May. Land Acquisitions from this source of funding are minimal, however, each year there are a variety of State Bond Bill introduced to provide facility development. Other sources of grants that have been used on capital improvement projects include:

Maryland Bikeway Program: The Bikeways Program provides technical assistance and grant support for a wide range of bicycle network development activities. By building connections to work, school, shopping and transit using local roads and shared-use paths, the program supports the Cycle Maryland initiative to promote biking as a fun, healthy transportation alternative that is great for our environment.

Department of Aging Capital Improvement Grant: The Senior Center Capital Grant Program provides financial assistance to local governments for the acquisition, design, construction, renovation and equipping of senior centers. These centers provide programs and services to support seniors with health screening, congregate meals, continuing education, recreational programs, and information and assistance programs. The state may provide a grant of up to 50

percent of the projected cost, not to exceed \$800,000, and local governments are required to match state funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Historic Preservation: Preservation of Maryland’s Heritage Fund provides direct assistance for the protection of endangered cultural resources and promotes innovative educational projects that can inform best practices across the state. Nonprofit organizations and local jurisdictions are eligible to apply. Eligible projects fall into three categories. Education and Research, Planning and Feasibility, and Repair and Rehabilitation. The minimum grant of \$1,000 and the maximum grant is \$10,000.

Kaboom Playground Renovation Grant: KABOOM! has collaborated with partners to build, open or improve more than 16,700 playgrounds across the country. Their work is community-driven, which means that projects seek to build trusting relationships, center community voices, and engage diverse stakeholders. Kaboom does this by working hand in hand with local organizations, kids and adults to design, plan for, and build community play spaces. Kaboom builds play spaces in partnership with child-serving nonprofits and municipal agencies. Projects are an incredible opportunity to provide exciting places for kids and teens to play. Funded through a variety of local partners and endowments, Kaboom uses these opportunities to collaborate with local entities to rebuild or introduce new play spaces. Grant opportunities range in size and value and Kaboom generally strives for a 50-50 match.

Prince George’s County Watershed Implementation Program: Prince George’s County in cooperation with the Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation has implemented many watersheds improvement projects on parkland. The plan is mandated by the Federal government under the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program for the Chesapeake Bay and Urban Watershed Restoration Plan to comply with impervious area treatment requirements. In collaboration with the Prince George’s County Department of the Environment, several projects are located on parkland to improve water quality runoff from impervious surfaces located in the parks and surrounding areas. Concentrating mostly on outfall and stream restoration projects, the program has delivered millions of dollars in needed storm water retrofits.

PAYGO: While the Department of Parks and Recreation uses PAYGO which is the same as cash, this revenue is generated from the park tax. Through PAYGO, the CIP receives direct project funding from the operating budget through this form of capital financing. This reduces the reliance on long-term debt such as bonds. The following table illustrates funding allocations over the past 5 years.

2.7 Capital Improvement Plan

The Department’s Proposed FY22-FY27 CIP recommends that only critically essential projects be included. The priorities of the proposed CIP are:

- Renovation of some critical parks, playgrounds, fields, facilities, and other amenities
- Trail renovations and support for new trail extensions and development
- Park facility safety improvements
- ADA and code compliance improvements
- Projects with minimal impact on the operating budget

Overview of the Proposed FY22-FY27 CIP

Enclosed (Attachment A) is the Department of Parks and Recreation’s Proposed FY22-FY27 CIP for your consideration. The CIP is a six-year program for park acquisition, development, and maintenance. The first year (FY22) represents the Capital Budget with the remaining five years targeted for planning purposes. The FY22 Budget Year request is \$58.18 million. The total six-year request is \$215.28 million.

The current fiscal outlook combined with the multi-funding support from the CIP creates projected fund balances that allow most projects in the Proposed CIP to be undertaken using Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) funds support. In fact, nearly 80% of the Proposed FY 22-27 CIP be PAYGO funded, which is a more cost-effective way to fund capital projects. Projections for new debt issuances to allow the Department to address the backlog of prior approved projects place negative pressure on the embedded cost structure of the Park Fund risking structural deficits. Consequently, bond funding has been used to a limited extent with only 18% of the plan assuming bond financing. The remaining project funding is through Program Open Space and developer contributions.

The table below shows the funding sources for the Proposed FY22-FY27 CIP.

Summary of Adopted FY22-27 CIP By Funding Source			
	FY22 Budget year	FY23-FY27 Planned CIP	6 YR Totals
Commission General Obligation Bonds	15,600,000	22,500,000	38,100,000
PAYGO	38,550,000	138,600,000	177,150,000
Grants	25,620,000	-	25,620,000
Program Open Space	6,803,244	-	6,803,244
Developer Contributions	2,030,000	-	2,030,000
Totals	88,603,244	161,100,000	249,703,244

The CIP can generally be broken down into five categories: Acquisition, Infrastructure Maintenance, New Construction/Development, Trails, and Other with subtypes in the Acquisition and Infrastructure categories. The table below summarizes the funding for the Proposed CIP by project type.

Summary of Adopted FY22-27 CIP Funding by Project Type						
	FY22 Budget Year	% of Total	FY23-27 Planned CIP	% of Total	6YR Totals	% of Totals
Acquisition						
Acquisition-Parkland	8,803,244	9.9%	10,000,000	6.2%	18,803,244	7.5%
Acquisition-HARP	1,000,000	1.1%	5,000,000	3.1%	6,000,000	2.4%
<i>Subtotal Acquisition</i>	<i>\$9,803,244</i>	<i>11.1%</i>	<i>\$15,000,000</i>	<i>9.3%</i>	<i>\$24,803,244</i>	<i>9.9%</i>
Infrastructure Maintenance						
Aquatic	1,500,000	1.7%	5,000,000	3.1%	6,500,000	2.6%
Facilities	28,200,000	31.8%	94,600,000	58.7%	122,800,000	49.2%
Historic Property	2,800,000	3.2%	5,000,000	3.1%	7,800,000	3.1%
Park -Playground-Fields	4,875,000	5.5%	15,000,000	9.3%	19,875,000	8.0%
Stormwater	2,795,000	3.2%	9,000,000	5.6%	11,795,000	4.7%
<i>Subtotal Infrastructure</i>	<i>\$40,170,000</i>	<i>45.3%</i>	<i>\$128,600,000</i>	<i>79.8%</i>	<i>\$168,770,000</i>	<i>67.6%</i>
New Construction/Development	17,000,000	19.2%	6,750,000	4.2%	23,750,000	9.5%
Other	280,000	0.3%	1,250,000	0.8%	1,530,000	0.6%
Trails	21,350,000	24.1%	9,500,000	5.9%	30,850,000	12.4%
Totals	<i>\$88,603,244</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>\$161,100,000</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>\$249,703,244</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

The above table shows that the Department continues to invest in renovating and maintaining the existing infrastructure that supports an expansive parks and recreation system including more than 370 parks, 238 playgrounds, 46 community centers, 12 aquatic facilities, and 46 historic sites, plus many other specialty recreational facilities. The Proposed CIP targets an investment of 76% of the total plan toward renovating and maintaining the parks and recreation system.

Overall, the spending in the Proposed FY22-FY27 CIP balances the needs of a changing and growing county with the goal of maintaining the existing park infrastructure that residents have come to rely on and enjoy. Policies in the Formula 2040 plan will continue to be used to help prioritize needs within the constraints of other priorities and available funding. When financial capacity increases, capital budgets will focus on achieving more LOS goals identified in this LPPRP, while continuing to maintain the current infrastructure.

Program Open Space

Established in 1969, Program Open Space (POS) represents Maryland’s long-term commitment to conserving natural resources while providing exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities. Funded by the real estate transfer tax, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the program to the local jurisdictions through a statutory formula.

Locally, the M-NCPPC receives the statewide allocation and administers to the seven local jurisdictions that are also eligible for funding. Table 2.3 shows the POS funding to Prince George’s County over the past five years.

Program Open Space 2017-2021 Funding Allocations									
Year/Full Allocation		M-NCPPC	Bowie	Cheverly	College Park	District Heights	Greenbelt	Laurel	Forest Heights
		82.87%	6.34%	0.71%	3.52%	0.68%	2.67%	2.91%	0.3%
2018	5,590,935)	4,633,208	354,465	39,696	196,801	38,018	149,278	162,696	16,773
2019	8,213,690)	6,806,685	520,748	58,317	289,122	55,853	219,306	239,018	24,641
2020	7,435,990)	6,162,205	471,442	52,796	261,747	50,565	198,541	216,387	22,308
2021	6,811,645)	5,644,810	431,858	48,363	239,770	46,319	181,871	198,219	20,435
2022	8,209,539)	6,803,245	520,485	58,288	288,976	55,825	219,195	238,898	24,629
Total		\$30,050,153	\$2,298,998	\$257,460	\$1,276,416	\$246,580	\$968,191	\$1,055,218	\$108,786

Under the state statute, local jurisdictions may spend 50% of the funding on parkland acquisition and 50% on parkland improvements until the jurisdiction meets the accepted parkland threshold of 30 acres per 1,000 persons. After a jurisdiction reaches that point, 100% of the POS allocation can be used on facility development.

Population	Level of Service Target for POS	Total Acres of All Parkland	Total Parkland Acres / 1000	Total Acres of M-NCPPC Parkland	Total M-NCPPC Acres/1,000
909,327	30 acres/1,000	45,562	50 acres/1,000	28,608	31 acres/1,000

During the past five years, Prince George’s County has spent POS funding on both land acquisition and facility development, including the Tucker Road Ice Rink and Recreation Center and Boyd Park in Bowie. Allocations are utilized to develop recreational facilities, protect stream valleys and floodplains; expand 2022 Prince George's County Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan DRAFT

existing parks; preserve green spaces in growing areas; preserve historic sites, and acquire and convert old rights-of-way to hiker/biker trails.

2.8 Land Acquisition Programing

Parkland Acquisition

Over the past five years, through policies and legislative regulations, the Department of Park and Recreation (DPR) has added over 770 acres of M-NCPPC owned parkland to the system.

M-NCPPC land acquisition in Prince George’s County can be accomplished by a variety of methods, with the policy and authority governed by the Annotated Code of Maryland Article on Land Use, to acquire land or other property, parkways, forests, roads, boulevards, or other public ways, grounds, or spaces by means of donation, purchases, or condemnation.

Secondly, through the Mandatory Dedication requirement in the Prince George’s Subdivision Ordinance, private residential developers are required to dedicate parkland, or provide park facility development, (or pay a fee in lieu of land dedication) through the subdivision process. Mandatory Dedication process is monitored and administered by staff from the Department of Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with the staff of M-NCPPC’s Planning Department, Development Review section. Department staff participates in the Development Review process by providing written referrals and recommendations to the Planning Board for decisions on development applications within the county. Referrals include recommendations on park design such as identifying amenities, connections to the trail system, and conservation areas.

Within Prince George’s County, candidates for Parkland Acquisition are solicited or submitted to the Land Acquisition Supervisor for review and consideration. Additional candidates for parkland acquisition may be included from the Area Master Plans as coordinated with the Prince George’s County Planning Department. Individual candidates are evaluated based on established criteria. On an annual or bi-annual basis, the worthy candidates are presented to the Planning Board for informational purposes.

Listed below is a detailed summary of the Department of Parks and Recreation acquired properties since 2017 using all the means and methods as described above:

Summary of FY 2017-2022 Acquisition Priorities:

2017 LPPRP Goals	Description	Acreage Acquired Since 2017
Acquisition of Stream Valley Parks (particularly the Patuxent River Park, Henson Creek, and Piscataway Creek)	8 properties were acquired in Patuxent River Park, Piscataway Creek, Southwest Branch, Cabin Branch and Northwest Branch Stream Valley Parks. The acquisition of the properties at Patuxent River Park added 5,800 linear feet (1.1 miles) of river frontage for public waterfront recreational opportunities.	428.5
2017 LPPRP Goals	Description	Acreage Acquired Since 2017
Create larger parks designed for active recreation, available land to facilitate the development of multi-generation recreation centers	9 properties were acquired in Westphalia Central Park, Cosca Park and Brandywine Area Community Park. The 13.3 acres acquired at Brandywine Area Community Park is adjacent to our Southern Area Aquatics & Recreation Complex, which will contribute to any future developmental needs at our first completed multi-generation recreation center.	217.9
Land areas to facilitate trail and pedestrian corridors development	5 properties were acquired for the Little Paint Branch Trail Extension, the Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail, the Turkey Branch Trail, and the Chesapeake RR Trail. The properties acquired for Little Paint Branch Trail helped facilitate the development of the trail extension which provides connectivity of Little Branch Stream Valley Park to Beltsville Community Park.	28.1
"Other" Acquisitions	9 other miscellaneous various properties were acquired which included existing Park in-holdings or tracts adjacent to existing Parks, Additional parkland to Accokeek East, Riversdale Historic Mansion, Windsor, and Brandywine Road Park were successfully acquired.	97.2
	TOTAL ACRES ACQUIRED:	771.7

FY 2022-2027 Acquisition Priorities

Priorities for the acquisition of parkland within Prince George’s County include complementing the land acquisition of the Stream Valley Parks (particularly the Patuxent River Park, Henson Creek, and Piscataway Creek), creating larger local parks designed for active recreation, available land to facilitate the development of the multi-generational recreation centers as identified in Formula 2040. Other acquisition initiatives and objectives include opportunities for dog parks, urban public open spaces along with areas to facilitate trail and pedestrian corridors, especially, the Central Avenue Connector Trail corridor.

Park Name/Project Description	Acreage		Comments
	Existing	Ultimate	
Countywide Local Park Acquisitions			
Adelphi Park	0	14.9	Multiple Owners, New park
Avondale Park	11.84	25	
Brandywine Area Community Park	73.17	100	
Central Avenue Connector Trail	0.7	21.2	Multiple Owners
Glenn Dale Sports Plex	0	2.78	New Park
Good Luck Park	0	12	New Park
North College Park	0	2	New Park
Prince George's Plaza Community Center	2.1	5	
Publick Playhouse Cultural Arts Center	4	5	
Riversdale Historic Site	8.3	12	
Wilmer's Park	80	640	
Regional Stream Valley Park Acquisition			
Anacostia River Stream Valley Park	795.78	1,000	
Charles Branch Stream Valley Park	342	400	
Chesapeake Beach Railroad Trail	12	20	
Collington Branch SVP	786	1000	
Green Branch Athletic Complex	380	450	

Henson Creek Stream Valley Park	1103	1200	
Mattawoman Watershed Stream Valley Park	497	850	
Paint Branch Stream Valley Park	463	470	
Patuxent River Park	7271	10,000	
Piscataway Creek Stream Valley Park	1491	2,000	
Potomac River Park	25	100	
Walker Mill Regional Park	504.6	600	
WB&A Railroad Trail	104	130	
Western Branch Stream Valley Park	380	500	

Chapter 3 Natural Resource and Land Conservation

3.1 Executive Summary/Overview of Natural Resource Land in the County

Natural Resource land conservation is deeply rooted in the history of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). Natural Resource land conservation has been in the forefront of the mission of the M-NCPPC since its founding in 1927. Created to plan for orderly development, acquire and maintain park land and open space, and protect the natural resources in the two suburban Maryland Counties – Prince George’s and Montgomery, M-NCPPC is an outgrowth of the early planning initiatives of Washington, D.C. – namely the McMillan Plan.

The McMillan Plan of 1901 provided a strong framework for many projects, both in the core (Washington DC) and extending into the region (Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties and Northern Virginia). The plan formalized the National Mall’s design, established key national parks, and created federal precincts such as the Federal Triangle. The McMillan Plan addressed two main issues: building a public park system and designating sites for groupings of public buildings.

By connecting the existing parkland and extending the capital’s park system into the outlying areas of Washington, Maryland, and Virginia, the McMillan Plan established a unified character for regional open space. Scenic drives and parkways would trace the shorelines of the area’s rivers and streams. These parkways would rise through the valleys and along steep hillsides to connect the larger parks and unite the old Civil War forts into a great circle encompassing L’Enfant’s axial organization. In Prince George’s County the protection of stream valleys as the suburbs began to develop would be a key concern.

In the 1910s and 1920s, the planning field was becoming a more established component of modern urban management. Federal legislation in 1924 created the National Capital Park Commission, later renamed the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) to develop a comprehensive plan for the park, parkway, and playground systems of Washington. NCPC was responsible for all planning matters within the District of Columbia and had limited planning responsibilities extending into the region.

Three years later as a direct compliment and outgrowth of the McMillan plan and the creation of NCPC, planning bodies at the adjoining county and state level were also created, including the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, established by the state with authority in both Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties. These federal and state agencies worked together on planning initiatives throughout the following decades. Beginning in 1930, the Capper-Cramton Act was adopted and authorized NCPC and the M-NCPPC to acquire land for a regional park and parkway system, including coordinated acquisition of stream valley parks in coordination with Maryland and Virginia planning authorities.

Seven threatened stream valley parks were established in Prince George’s County because of the influencing Capper Crampton legislation. These seven stream valley parks are the oldest conservation lands in the M-NCPPC system. Today these seven stream valleys have grown to more than 2,285 acres of natural resource lands inside the Capital Beltway and provide trails, a nature center, canoe and kayaking, boat launches for river excursions, wildlife viewing opportunities and more.

In 1961, NCPC produced the influential overall land use plan - A Plan for the Year 2000, proposing a model for long-term regional growth. M-NCPPC then incorporated and expanded on this recommended model in its own comprehensive plan, titled On Wedges and Corridors. The 1964 On Wedges and Corridors Plan established an important growth pattern for Prince George’s County (and Montgomery County) and that

reinforced the efforts of the Capper Cramton legislation by recommending the preservation of buffers around stream corridors.

As a result of these early and impactful planning actions guiding the transition of Prince George's County from an agricultural-based economy to a growing, largely suburban, residential community, the M-NCPPC now owns and maintains 27 stream valley parks. These 18,201+ acres of stream valley make up more than two thirds of the 28,587-acre park system in Prince George's County. Much of this land is adjacent to the Patuxent River (7,620 acres) and contains rare, threatened, and endangered species, forest interior dwelling bird species, and critical habitats. These natural resource lands also provide users with a regional greenway, a respite that sits squarely within the growing Baltimore-Washington and Annapolis region.

2014 Approved General Plan – Plan 2035

While land development continues to redefine the local landscape that was once renowned for tobacco and agriculture. The County's most recent general plan, Plan Prince George's 2035 Approved General Plan (Plan 2035) adopted in 2014, designates eight Regional Transit Districts, which have the capacity to become major economic generators. Plan 2035 and the Growth Policy Map suggest more than 60 percent of the County is eligible for water and sewer service. This suggests a denser and modern development pattern.

Plan 2035 is not only a guide for future economic activity. This Plan also recognizes the importance of balancing growth and the benefit of protecting and restoring environmental features. Guiding principles for future growth in Plan 2035 include:

- Concentrate future growth to limit impacts
- Prioritize and focus resources
- Build on strengths and assets
- Create choice communities
- Connect neighborhoods and significant places
- Protect valuable natural resources

Prince George's County will continue to undergo urbanization and redevelopment. However, growth will be concentrated around our existing infrastructure, particularly the Metro stations. Priority for new infrastructure and service in the County will be given to the existing built-up areas and established communities, rather than expanding in undeveloped rural areas of the County. Preserving and improving established local neighborhoods and communities is the priority. By redirecting growth, the pressure to impact remaining lands and habitat areas with development should lessen.

Prince George's County will maintain 52% of the County in tree canopy. This goal is outlined in the County's most recent general plan, Plan Prince George's 2035 Approved General Plan (Plan 2035) adopted in 2014. Much of this canopy coverage will be realized through large tracts of land including floodplains and stream valleys as being preserved or managed as woodland conservation areas. Federal, State, M-NCPPC, municipalities and Homeowner's Association lands contribute to this goal.

Currently, the County identifies resource land conservation by geographic areas. This geography is illustrated in Map 3.1 (See mapping at the end of this Chapter) as four unique Environmental Strategy Areas. Area 1 is defined by developed areas within the Capital Beltway. Area 2 is comprised of the areas of Prince George's County that are still developing and are geographically defined as the area between the Capital Beltway and Route 301. Area 3 is comprised of the rural and those areas inside the Priority Preservation Area of the County. The geographic land area is loosely defined as the area east of Route 301.

This area is also outside of the designated water and sewer envelope. The final Environmental Strategy Area or Area 4 consists of the land area of the County that is within the designated Chesapeake Bay Critical Area.

2017 Resource Conservation Plan

In 2017, the 2005 Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan (GI Plan) was updated and renamed the 2017 Approved Prince George's County Resource Conservation Plan: A Countywide Functional Master Plan (RCP). The goals of the RCP are to achieve the framework established in Plan 2035 by:

- Preserving, enhancing and/or restoring an interconnected network of significant countywide environmental features that retain ecological functions and improve water quality.
- Increase connectivity between natural and built spaces.
- Improve wildlife habitat.
- Address energy efficiency and increase the number of green buildings and jobs.
- Improve human health by providing equitable access to connected open and green spaces throughout the County.

Improving the environment of our neighborhoods is a key planning concern. In addition to the conservation of natural resource lands, prime agricultural areas, and significant habitats, including tree conservation and forest retention, the County also focuses on improving its air quality and its water resources.

The 2017 RCP has three measurable objectives for 2035:

- Water quality in most of the County's watersheds will be improved.
- There will be 52 percent forest and tree canopy coverage countywide.
- Ninety percent of the strategies in Greening the Built Environment will be implemented.

Newer planning initiatives that ensure walkable communities, public trails, accessible amenities, and more green spaces are taking shape; they replace outdated land planning and development practices. Effort is being made to manage new growth and redevelopment in ways that evaluate important environmental features comprehensively and minimize adverse impacts to the greatest extent practical. Where possible, woodlands, forested areas, and trees that have been impacted by growth are being replaced, reestablished, or improved. Today, Prince George's County requires a natural resource inventory (NRI) on all land parcels over 40,000 square feet in size prior to development. Impacts on vegetation, habitat area, wetland area, and water resources are routinely evaluated as a first step in the land development process.

Zoning Ordinance Rewrite

Other efforts to manage growth include the recent revision of the County's 56-year old Zoning Ordinance (Subtitle 27) which was approved in 2021 and will be implemented through a countywide Zoning Map Amendment in 2022.

Subdivision Ordinance Rewrite

The County's Subdivision Regulation (Subtitle 24) is also being revised. These regulations, which stipulate developers of new residential subdivisions provide mandatory dedication of parklands, facilities, or fees-in-lieu, are being comprehensively updated. Realizing that larger land areas are not as common for subdivision, and that the "large lot, large house" model is not what our residents want, the new ordinance will encourage the development of urban green spaces, urban parks, and, in cases of redevelopment, will focus on incentives as an alternative to parkland dedication.

While these initiatives aim to connect and improve habitat and focus new growth and development inward, another key step was taken in 2012 when the County approved its 2012 Priority Preservation Area (PPA) Functional Master Plan. (See Map 3.2) This key step shows continuing progress with preserving natural resource land. The PPA establishes policies and strategies for a viable agricultural area in the County that will ensure forestry, wildlife habitat areas, passive recreation, and rural character preservation. The PPA is part of the Rural and Agricultural Area as defined in the County's Growth Policy Map that was approved as part of Plan 2035 in 2014. The Rural and Agricultural Area is 91,810 acres in size and consists of approximately 29 percent of County land area. See Chapter 4 – Agricultural Land Preservation for additional information.

Benefits of Maintaining and Enhancing Natural Resource Lands

Protecting and restoring natural resource lands contributes to water and air quality and is consistent with the broader regional goals throughout Maryland. There are numerous existing opportunities and areas in the County for people to connect with nature. Significant environmental benefits result from conserving natural resource land, including maintenance of systems that support the natural filtration of air and water. Studies show that green spaces have a positive impact on health and wellness, community sustainability, and improved economic conditions, along with providing clean air, healthy soils, and better water quality.

Green space and tree canopy is also important to the protection of wildlife habitat and sustaining species biodiversity. The 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation – Maryland report prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, estimated that 31 percent of all Maryland citizens participated in some form of wildlife-associated recreation. ³ The majority, or more than 1.4 million people, participated in wildlife watching activities, which included photographing, feeding, and observing wildlife. These activities generate direct, indirect, and induced effects on the economic vitality of the County. More than \$1.3 billion is spent on wildlife recreation throughout the state. The result is increased economic activity, more full-time and part-time jobs, sales, tax revenues, and visitors. Whether you have purchased a new home that is adjacent to parkland, enjoy a regional park that provides a respite away from busy everyday life, or actively participate in outdoor recreation, wildlife and wildlife habitat significantly improve the well-being and quality of life for residents.

The 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife while not specific to Maryland indicates that 101.6 million Americans or 40% of the United States population age 16 years and older participate in wildlife activities such as hunting, fishing and wildlife watching. Wildlife watching around the home and fishing are on the rise while hunting is showing a modest decline. More than \$156 billion is spent on wildlife related activities annually. Watching wildlife surged nationally including observing and photography recording a 20% increase over the five-year period from 71.8 million participants to 86 million. Likewise, expenditures in this area also rose 20% from \$59.1 billion to \$75.9 billion nationally. Around the home wildlife watching increased 18% from 2011 from 68.6 million to 81.1 million participant in 2016. Away from home wildlife viewing increased 5% from 2011 to 2016 from 22.5 million to 23 million

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While this report has been produced and updated every 5 years since 1955. Typically, four states a year are highlighted. 2011 is the last year that Maryland was one of the four focus states. This report is widely considered to the industry standard on trends and data for uniting, fishing and wildlife viewing in the U.S.

participants. Nationally there is a 8% increase in fishing and for the first time ever the report indicates more than 12.4 people engage in archery as a sport. (The updated survey for 2021 is not yet available.)

The State of Maryland understands that more diverse ecosystems are more attractive to human interest. Wildlife diversity through the preservation of a wide variety of natural areas contributes to the overall economy by providing multiple opportunities for popular outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting, boating, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, camping, backpacking, biking, and bird watching. Prince George's County has preserved a variety of terrestrial and aquatic habitats. The preservation of open space and important habitat is a priority that continues to be refined.

3.2 Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation

State Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation

Current State of Maryland goals for natural resource land conservation are:

- 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 on resource lands when development occurs.
 - Incentives for resource-based economies that increase the retention of forests, wetlands, or agricultural lands.
 - Avoidance of impacts on natural resources by publicly funded infrastructure development projects; and
 - Appropriate mitigation response, commensurate with the value of the affected resource.
- Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas, according to a strategic framework such as the Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) in Green Print (which is not to be confused with the former easement program also called Green Print). The State of Maryland Green Print program is an inventory of Maryland's important ecological places. Biologists at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources have mapped where these important natural places occur based on the analysis of over 30-years of collected data and the scientific expertise of agency ecologists.
- 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

The green infrastructure network, including waterways, open spaces, and forested areas, are an integral part of our community. Protecting and restoring these features will not only contribute to our own water and air quality but are consistent with broader regional goals throughout Maryland. Plan 2035 acknowledges that environments that preserve open spaces, provide attractive parks and green spaces, and have increased walkability, are part of healthy lifestyles. These features are increasingly what county residents would like to see in their communities. By continuing to preserve, improve, and restore our green footprint, we can contribute to a more sustainable land use pattern.

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Goals

The mission of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is to “provide, in partnership with our citizens, comprehensive park and recreation programs, facilities, and services which respond to the changing needs within our communities. We strive to preserve, enhance and protect our open spaces, and to enrich the quality of life for present and future generations in a safe and secure environment.”

Matching level of service (LOS) standards for parkland, trails, and their collective indoor and outdoor amenities with the needs of the County residents is the first step. This includes adding new open spaces and natural conservation areas.

Formula 2040 goals for future parkland acquisition indicate an overall increase in land from 27,327 acres of land in 2014 to the desired level of 34,745 acres by the year 2040. This projection correlates to the LOS standard of 35 acres per 1,000 persons for the future projected population of 992,701. The effort will include 15 acres per 1,000 residents of local parkland and 20 acres per 1,000 residents of regional parkland, which has been the standard in Prince George’s County. This effort will be equitably distributed across the County and will address both natural resource conservation and active recreation opportunities.

Policies about parkland acquisitions indicate that the Department will “strengthen and integrate regulatory and decision-making processes related to the acquisition of parkland and open space to more effectively grow the system to meet the needs of our residents.” An objective of Formula 2040 is to develop an evaluation framework for natural and cultural resource acquisition to assist with determining appropriate new land acquisitions.

Prince George’s County Goals

Plan 2035 indicates that the broad goal of protecting the natural environment is to “preserve, enhance, and restore our natural and built ecosystems to improve human health, strengthen our resilience to changing climate conditions, and facilitate sustainable economic development.”

Two strategies relating to land conservation include:

- Reducing the rate of land consumed by greenfield development countywide.

- Preserving and enhancing existing forest and tree canopy coverage levels.

The goals of the General Plan are further refined in the RCP, which identifies three significant, measurable objectives for 2035 in addition to the goals mentioned in Section 3.1:

- The water quality in most County watersheds will be improved.
- There will be 52 percent forest and tree canopy coverage countywide.
90 percent of the strategies identified in Greening the Built Environment will be implemented.

County goals for natural resource conservation mirror those of the state. While M-NCPPC has consistently provided parks and active recreation amenities, we also have acquired open space, stream valleys, and large tracts of contiguous resource land. On a regional level, Prince George's County has also been a leader in planning initiatives related to natural resource conservation, water resource programming and related initiatives. For example, successful efforts by Prince George's County and M-NCPPC to establish a comprehensive Woodland Conservation and Tree Preservation Ordinance resulted in the state adopting similar legislation.

A variety of plans have been developed over the years to ensure there is not only local access to a diverse palette of recreational fields and facilities, but also access to a variety of open spaces and natural resource areas to enjoy. Key partnerships with agencies on every level, and frequent interaction with our residents, provide a substantial foundation that is delivering a diverse array of active and passive recreation opportunities consistent with state and federal plans.

County goals complement State goals for natural resource land conservation by discouraging development of greenfield land to protect forestland, priority habitat areas, and waterways. State and County goals recognize the need to build and maintain the available ecosystem services through enhancing existing forest and tree canopy coverage, improving water quality, adding green elements to the built environment, and using easement to preserve land.

Progress towards Natural Resource Goals and Objectives

Since the last submission of the LPPRP in 2017, DPR increased its park and open space land holdings by 690.43 acres. This includes two important acquisitions totaling 349.74 acres on the Patuxent River. These acquisitions are significant as they are contiguous and join larger tracts of M-NCPPC and DNR owned lands along the scenic river corridor. Other natural resource lands acquired during this period include 17-acres along Turkey Branch, 11.56 acres at Oak Creek along the Black Branch, 32.18 acres on the Collington Branch and almost 170 acres located at the Westphalia Central Park. The M-NCPPC also acquired a key in-holding located at our Mount Calvert Historic Site. The Brown residence which is a 2.29-acre site completes the land conservation efforts at this significant and historic project area.

The Historic Agriculture Resources Preservation Program (HARRP) continues to acquire easements from willing sellers in the PPA. (See Discussion in Chapter 4 – Agriculture Land Preservation for discussion.) Since 2017, The M-NCPPC secured 580 acres of easement lands. The HARPP easement program has acquired easements on 3, 553-acres of agricultural land in the County.

The 2019 Plan Prince George's 2035 Approved General Plan Five-Year Evaluation evaluated the County's progress toward meeting Plan 2035 vision and goals. This study indicates that there is positive performance and movement of the Countywide indicators of success within the five years since Plan 2035 was

published. For example, from 2014 to 2017 there was a one percent increase in the number of acres of forest planted and preserved which matched the intended positive target for this indicator of success. To date, the County has 4,643 acres in woodland conservation banks and has 3,653 acres under permanent easements. Additionally, between 2015 and 2018 there was a four percent increase in the number of preserved agricultural land acres. The trend in the County according to the 2019 “report card” is positive.

3.3 Inventory of Protected Natural Resource Land

In 2005, the County developed its first ever Green Infrastructure Plan (The GI Plan). This Plan identified 13 Special Conservation Areas (SCAs) in need of attention in Prince George’s County. These SCAs, which were updated by the RCP in 2017, and include:

- Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
- Patuxent Research Refuge
- Greenbelt National Park
- Anacostia River
- Belt Woods
- Suitland Bog
- Patuxent River Corridor
- Jug Bay Complex
- Patuxent River Park/Jug Bay Natural Area (M-NCPPC owned and managed)
- Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary (State owned and managed)
- Piscataway National Park and Mount Vernon Viewshed
- Mattawoman Creek Stream Valley
- Cedarville State Forest and Zekiah Swamp Watershed
- Potomac River Shoreline
- Broad Creek

See Appendix E, Special Conservation Areas, for a description of each SCA.

In addition to the 13 SCAs, the Code of Maryland (COMAR) lists 21 areas designated as Wetlands of Special State Concern (WSSC) (COMAR 26.23.06.01, 26.23.06.02) (18 non-tidal areas, 3 tidal areas) and one Natural Heritage Area (COMAR 08.03.08). The National Audubon Society also identifies four areas as Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Most of the sites identified as SCAs, in COMAR or as IBA’s, are currently located on publicly

Climate change is increasing vulnerability to flooding and erosion. Maryland is particularly vulnerable to sea level change because of a combination of rising seas and sinking land. The 2016 Maryland Coastal Resiliency Assessment projects that Prince George’s County will experience moderate sea level rise of up to 1.48 meters, and storm surge of up to 3.5 feet. Conservation of natural habitats can help buffer shorelines from these impacts through wave attenuation, increased infiltration, and sediment stabilization. Although considerable progress has been made on managing storm water runoff and protecting supplies of potable water, more needs to be done to understand how best to protect areas most vulnerable to shoreline erosion and flooding due to sea level rise. Coastal habitats along each shoreline segment need to be studied to determine the potential magnitude of hazard reduction.

Currently, there are approximately 52,685 acres of publicly owned parkland in the County. This land, owned by federal, state, M-NCPPC, and local municipalities, represents approximately 17 percent of the County’s total land area (498 square miles or approximately 320,000 acres). While not all public parkland is

held as resource conservation land, most of the land is held in conservation. One study suggests that 65 percent of these public lands remain in tree canopy.

M-NCPPC is the largest holder of public parkland in Prince George's County, followed by the federal government. Federal parkland holdings include the combined land holdings of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Park Service (NPS), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. See Tables 3.1 to 3.6 for completed inventories.

More than 18,000 acres of M-NCPPC parklands remain undeveloped. These lands are contained mostly in our four regional parks or within 27 stream valley park sites. The Patuxent River Park, more than 7,600 acres in size, has the largest concentration of natural resource lands, with approximately 6,600 acres containing forested area, 800 acres dedicated to agriculture, and the remaining 100 acres left for passive recreation, interpretation, and historic preservation.

Outdoor recreation on natural resource properties is provided through a variety of opportunities. Ways to connect with nature include water trails and water-related amenities, including boating, canoeing, and kayaking. Fishing is provided from the open water, shorelines, and several ponds or lakes located throughout the region. Camping opportunities also exist, including tent, primitive, reserved pads, and RV. There are places for bow hunting, leasable duck blinds, and some areas offer managed gun hunts depending on land ownership and agency policies.

Birding and other wildlife viewing is available in many locations, and some areas offer pontoon boat ride excursions. There are natural surface trails, equestrian trails, hiking opportunities, exercise trails, and shorter loop trails located in many public parks. Long range trails provide excellent opportunities for walking, jogging, or bicycling, including mountain biking. Beyond these prospects, M-NCPPC manages three nature centers, provides special programming geared to nature enthusiasts, operates more than a dozen specialty facilities that focus on wetland interpretation, unique habitats, equestrian pursuits, public archeology, paleontology, historic interpretation, farming, gardening, agricultural interests, and more.

Federal Parklands

The National Wildlife Visitor Center located on the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Beltsville, Maryland is operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This science and environmental education-based facility offers visitors from all over the world an opportunity to discover and explore wildlife and learn about the center's important research operations. The visitor center provides unique opportunities for programmed events, classes, and wildlife viewing in the natural environment. It also has indoor activities including an exhibit area, interactive kiosk, movies, bookstore, and wildlife gallery.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) operates the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) headquartered in Beltsville. This world-renowned scientific research facility houses the National Agricultural Research Library, the

USDA Agricultural Research Service National Visitor Center, and the George Washington Carver Center. These three facilities are available to the public for scheduled events and viewings. During the summer months, the USDA sponsors a farmers' market at the George Washington Carver Center. BARC consists of 6,541 acres of agricultural open space. Any significant change in land use requires legislative approval. The Maryland Annotated Code, Article 28 8-126 classifies BARC as a permanent agricultural open space. It is a SCA; ample areas of open space provide ecological hubs and wildlife corridors. Since the 2017 LPPRP, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) Replacement Currency Production Facility is approved to develop approximately 105 acres of land within BARC.

The NPS also operates six national parks in Prince George's County—Greenbelt National Park, Piscataway National Park, Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm, Harmony Hall, Fort Foote, and Fort Washington National Park. Except for Greenbelt Park, located near the Capital Beltway in Greenbelt, all NPS parklands are along the Potomac River shoreline. (Suitland Parkway and Baltimore-Washington Parkways are not included in this discussion but are also under NPS authority).

According to NPS Visitor statistics, Greenbelt National Park in Greenbelt, Maryland receives the lowest number of visitors within this County. This 1,105-acre park located just 12 miles from Washington, D.C., recorded a little over 28,300 visitors in 2020. In 2019, during the pandemic, the visitation increased more than 80 percent to 128,702 visitors. The park offers trails, camping, wildlife watching, and a variety of family-oriented programs. Visitors include local enthusiasts and tourists to the national capital region that prefer overnight park accommodations.

Piscataway National Park in Fort Washington recorded 166,484 visitors in 2020. In 2019, during the global pandemic, park visitation increased more than 40% to 329,729 visitors. The park attracts local and international visitors. The national park spans both Prince George's and Charles Counties with 1,035 acres of the National Park located in Prince George's County. The park offers wildlife viewing, a public fishing pier, hiking, trail walking, programming, and is home to the National Colonial Farm.

This is the busiest National Park in the County and was founded in 1962 to protect the historic view from George Washington's Mount Vernon home and is unique in the National Park System because of its ownership. Of the 4,251 acres that make up the Park, 2,786 are privately-owned residential properties. Scenic easements held by the Federal government on these properties ensure that the existing tree cover will be preserved. More recent digital topographic analysis has delineated a Mount Vernon Viewshed Area of Primary Concern, which is evaluated for viewshed impacts when development is proposed and should be prioritized for conservation.

State of Maryland Parkland

While NPS has significant land holdings along the Potomac River, the State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has concentrated its holdings in the Patuxent River watershed. DNR holdings in Prince George's County include 6,786 acres of land on 14 land units, including three parks not located on the Patuxent River: Rosaryville State Park, Cedarville State Forest, and Belt Woods Natural Environmental Area. Since 2017, the DNR holdings in Prince George's County have increased by 6 acres.

M-NCPPC and Municipal Parkland

M-NCPPC, along with the 27 municipalities, manage 30,162 acres of recreation lands, open space, and resource conservation lands. M-NCPPC does not provide parks within the city limits of Laurel and

Greenbelt, the Town of District Heights, or the Town of Eagle Harbor. However, these jurisdictions have provided their own parklands and residents in these jurisdictions have full access to all federal, state, and local parks within the County.

Local Municipalities contribute more than 1,575 acres of local parkland. While most of these local parks are managed more for active recreation, the cities of Laurel, Greenbelt, and Bowie each have active lake areas and provide more than 600 acres of public parklands that include forest areas, natural parklands, and nature-oriented activities.

Through the efforts of M-NCPPC and our municipalities, Prince George's County residents have access to parks and recreation areas that allow residents to connect with nature. The following are examples of local, natural, and resource-based landscapes.

Suitland Bog (M-NCPPC) - This coastal plain bog provides a trail through unique flora and fauna. Visitors can see native and introduced plant specimens that are special to bog habitats including sundews and carnivorous pitcher plants.

Jug Bay Wetland Sanctuary (M-NCPPC) - More than eight miles of hiking and equestrian trails are available through this wooded parkland setting. Boardwalks, public boat ramps, fishing areas, camping, canoe and kayak rental, group picnic, history programs and ecology boat tours are just a few of the amenities available on this 1,898-acre property.

Lake Artemisia (M-NCPPC) - This 38-acre man-made lake located inside the Capital Beltway near the University of Maryland, College Park provides easy access, paved surface loop trails, access to the Anacostia Heritage Trail, opportunities for fishing and wildlife observation. Recently the loop trail was dedicated to Luther Goldman who is known for his photographs of endangered species of birds. Mr. Goldman was the chief photographer of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and was a native of the Washington, D.C. area.

Greenbelt Lake at Buddy Attick Park *(City of Greenbelt) This 23-acre lake, owned and managed by the City of Greenbelt, is available for citizens and businesses located in Greenbelt. The park features natural areas, picnic, and playground facilities, and allows fishing with a license. DNR stocks the lake in the spring and canoes and kayaks are allowed with a permit. There is a 1.25-mile natural surface trail around the lake that makes the amenity a favorite with residents.

White Marsh Park (City of Bowie) - Owned and operated by the City of Bowie, this 185-acre multiuse park provides natural area and active recreation. While the site is home to the Bowie Playhouse, a performing arts theater, there are lighted ballfields, family picnic areas, a pavilion for outdoor events, a campfire circle, as well as hiking and mountain biking trails.

Allen Pond (City of Bowie)- This 85-acre site owned and operated by the City of Bowie is one of the city's premier park sites. The focal point is a 10-acre DNR stocked fishing lake that also provides boat rentals. The park has a wide variety of trails and open space amenities including a popular amphitheater, picnic shelters and group picnic rental areas, fitness loop, horseshoe pits and other recreation features. During a recent event hosted by the City of Bowie, Allen Pond was identified by the residents as one of the areas favorite places to spend time.

Dinosaur Park (M-NCPPC) - This unique park allows visitors to connect with nature in a unique way. Under the direction of knowledgeable paleontologists and docents, adults and children can

observe the local geologic strata to explore the remains of ancient plants. Carbon lignite and iron ore are prevalent on this small site located in Laurel. Interpretive signs provide information on the unique geology, the industrial history associated with natural ore found in this area, and Maryland’s dinosaurs including *Astrodon johnstoni*, known as Maryland’s State Dinosaur. (In 1998, a dinosaur bone believed to be from *Astrodon johnstoni* measuring three feet in length and weighing 60 pounds was recovered from the former clay pits that occupied this site. M-NCPPC secured the parkland by working with the land developer who donated the land and amenities rather than pursuing industrial site developments.)

Nature Centers – The M-NCPPC has three nature centers that provide hands-on exhibits, environmental education, and programming. The Mount Rainier Nature/Recreation Center located in Mount Rainier is the County’s only urban nature center featuring live animals, educational displays, and outdoor gathering space. Watkins Nature Center, part of Watkins Regional Park located in Upper Marlboro, features live animals, songbird feeding area, butterfly/hummingbird garden, and programs that attract over 90,000 visitors each year. Clearwater Nature Center, part of Cosca Regional Park located in Clinton, the oldest of the three centers, features live animals, small indoor pond, and seasonal gardens.

Water Access – There are seven water access points on the Patuxent River, four of which are canoe/kayak only launches and three are motorboat and canoe/kayak launches. These launch points are coordinated with Anne Arundel, Calvert and Charles Counties so that there is water access approximately every 7 miles along this important scenic waterway. Additionally, Bladensburg Waterfront Park provides water access to the Anacostia River.

River	Name	Location	Boats
Patuxent River	Governor Bridge Natural Area – Gardner Canoe Launch	Bowie	Canoe/Kayak only
	Queen Anne Canoe Launch	Upper Marlboro	Canoe/Kayak only
	Jackson’s Landing	Upper Marlboro	Motorboat Canoe/Kayak
	Selby’s Landing	Upper Marlboro	Motorboat Canoe/Kayak
	Nottingham (Patuxent River Keeper)	Upper Marlboro	Canoe/Kayak only
	Clyde Watson Boating Area	Brandywine	Motorboat Canoe/Kayak
	Cedar Haven Fishing Area	Eagle Harbor	Canoe/Kayak only
	Iron Pot Landing	Upper Marlboro	Canoe/Kayak only
	Mt. Calvert Historical & Archaeological Park	Upper Marlboro	Canoe/Kayak only
Anacostia River	Bladensburg Waterfront Park	Bladensburg	Motorboat Canoe/Kayak
	Anacostia River Park – ANA 11 Wetlands	Hyattsville	Canoe/Kayak only
Potomac River	National Colonial Farm at Piscataway Park	Accokeek	Canoe/Kayak only

Camping – There are ten campsites managed by the M-NCPPC in the Patuxent River Parks near Upper Marlboro. Other campgrounds can be found at Watkins-Regional Park in Upper Marlboro and Cosca Regional Park in Clinton.

Park	Area Name	Location	Number of Campsites
Patuxent River Park	Jug Bay Natural Area	Upper Marlboro	6
	Iron Pot Landing	Upper Marlboro	1
	White Oak Landing	Upper Marlboro	1
	Spice Creek	Brandywine	1
	Milltown Landing	Aquasco	1
Watkins Regional Park		Upper Marlboro	30 individual + 3 group
Cosca Regional Park		Clinton	23 individual + 2 group

Recreational Deer Hunting – The M-NCPPC offers recreational deer hunting opportunities in select parks throughout the County, designated Cooperative Wildlife Management Areas (CWMA) by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife & Heritage Service.

Area Name	Location	Activity Description
Aquasco Farm CWMA	Aquasco	- Mondays to Saturdays, Dawn to Dusk - Allowed to use all weapons depending on Deer Season (bow hunting, muzzleloader, shotgun, and primitive weapons)
Billinsley CWMA	Upper Marlboro	- Mondays to Fridays, 9am to Dusk - Bow Hunting Only - Access thru WSSC Treatment Plant-Western Branch, Upper Marlboro, MD
Gardner Road Park CWMA	Accokeek	- Mondays to Saturdays, Dawn to Dusk - Allowed to use all weapons depending on Deer Season (bow hunting, muzzleloader, shotgun, and primitive weapons)
Queen Anne Bridge Road CWMA	Bowie	- Deer Hunting Only - Mondays to Saturdays, Dawn to Dusk - Bow Hunting Only

Waterfowl Blind Lease Sites – The Patuxent River Park manages six waterfowl blind sites located at various locations along the Patuxent River that are leased out to hunters through a bidding process. Four are in Upper Marlboro, one is in Aquasco and another in Eagle Harbor.

See Map 3.3 Fishing Areas – The Department of Parks and Recreation also offers various fishing opportunities throughout the County.

Park	Area Name	Location	Activity Description
Riverfront Fishing Areas			
Patuxent River Park	Jackson's Landing	Upper Marlboro	Fishing pier
	Selby's Landing	Upper Marlboro	Fishing pier or fish-from-shore

	Queen Anne Fishing Area	Upper Marlboro	Fish-from-shore
	Clyde Watson Boating Area	Brandywine	Fish-from-shore or limited access on boat launch
	Cedar Haven Fishing Area	Eagle Harbor	Fish-from-shore
Bladensburg Waterfront Park		Bladensburg	Fishing pier or fish-from-shore
Lakes and Ponds			
	Lake Artemesia	College Park	
	Melwood Pond	Clinton	
	Schoolhouse Pond	Upper Marlboro	
Tucker Road Athletic Complex	Tucker Road Pond	Fort Washington	
Cosca Regional Park	Cosca Lake	Clinton	
	Ponds at Governor's Bridge Natural Area	Bowie	
	University Hills Duck Pond	Hyattsville	
	Fox Hill Recreation Center Pond	Bowie	
	Brandywine-North Keys Community Park	Brandywine	Closed
	Kings Grant Community Park Pond	Upper Marlboro	

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

The T. Howard Duckett Reservoir, managed by Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (Sanitary Commission) and located along the banks of the Patuxent River, is not public parkland but a managed reservoir that protects the drinking water supply for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The Sanitary Commission opens this property from March–November, via permit, for recreational pursuits including fishing, hiking, boating, canoes and kayaks, bird watching, horseback riding, and managed hunts. While the entire land area is over 3,000 acres in three counties, the land area in Prince George's County is slightly less than 400 acres.

3.3. Inventories of Protected Natural Resource Lands

The following information is a broad-based description of protected fee-simple natural resource lands in Prince George's County. These tables contain comprehensive lists of land ownership. See Appendix F for inventories of natural resource lands; see also Map 3.5. Publicly-Owned Land Designated for Natural Resource Conservation. See Chapter 4 on Agricultural Lands for a discussion regarding easement programs in the County.

Table 3.1 - Public Lands

Jurisdiction	Acres of Open Space
Federal	15,444
State of Maryland	6,786
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission	28,580
Municipalities (see Table 3.6 for calculation methods)	1,575
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission	374
Totals	52,759

Table 3.2 - Federal Lands

Site	Size in Acres
United States Department of Agriculture	6,271
United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service	4,284
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	4,889
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baltimore-Washington and Suitland Parkway—1,500 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fort Foot—66 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fort Washington Park—341 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenbelt National Park—1,105 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Hall—63 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm—779 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piscataway National Park—1,350 	
Total Federal	15,444

Table 3.3 - M-NCPPC Lands

M-NCPPC Major Classifications of Parkland			
Type	Number	Acres	Percent of Overall
Stream Valley Parks	27	18,201	66%
Regional Parks	4	2,613	10%
Developed Parks	366	2,907	11%
Undeveloped Parks	125	3,606	13%
Total	522	28,587	100%

Table 3.4 - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Land

T. Howard Duckett Reservoir Acres	
Total	374

Table 3.5 - State of Maryland DNR Lands

Site	Size in Acres
Belt Woods NEA	625
Billingsley NRMA*	430
Bowen WMA**	313
Cedarville State Forest	1,170
Chaney NRMA	7
Cheltenham WMA	10
Croom NRMA	101
Full Mill Branch NRMA	189
Honey Branch NRMA	174
Merkle NRMA	1,601
Milltown Landing NRMA	319
Rosaryville State Park	1,039
Spice Creek NRMA	639
Uhler NRMA	169
TOTALS: 14 areas	6,786

* Natural Resource Management Area

**Wildlife Management Area

3.4 Mapping

Map 3.7– Prince George’s County 2020 Tree Canopy

This map shows the existing tree canopy in the County. This is important as Plan 2035 indicates there will be 52% tree canopy in the County.

Map 3.1 Natural Resources Land by Environmental Strategy Area

This map shows the four Environmental Strategy Areas within Prince George’s County.

Map 3.2 – Sustainable Growth Act Adopted Tier Map and Priority Funding Areas

The 2012 “Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act” requires the County to designate Growth Tiers based on the priority preservation areas and existing or planned sewer service. In 1997, state legislation enabled the County to designate Priority Funding Areas. These geographic focus areas are intended to receive state investment to support future growth.

Map 3.3. – GreenPrint Areas

The GreenPrint Map is a product of Maryland DNR. Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) are a limited number of areas that rank exceptionally high for ecological criteria and have a practical potential for preservation.

The County uses GreenPrint and TEA designations as contributing information for delineating the green infrastructure network, rural Agricultural Areas, Priority Preservation Areas and Special Conservation Areas. These County generated delineations coincide significantly with the GreenPrint and TEA designations.

Map 3.4 –Public Parks and Recreation Properties

This exhibit shows all publicly owned land in Prince George’s County. The map indicates federal, state, M-NCPPC, and municipal-owned lands. Large federal non-parklands, like Joint Federal Andrews Air Force Base and other similar facilities, are not shown. The 6,000+ acre BARC is included. While this facility is dedicated to scientific research, it also has been incorporated into the County PPA.

Map 3.5 – Natural Resource Lands Protected through Long-Term Easements, Licenses, Agreements, Etc.

The County and our residents participate in a variety of programs that are geared toward long-term land preservation. This exhibit indicates the federal, state, and local land preservation efforts that occur through conservation easement programs.

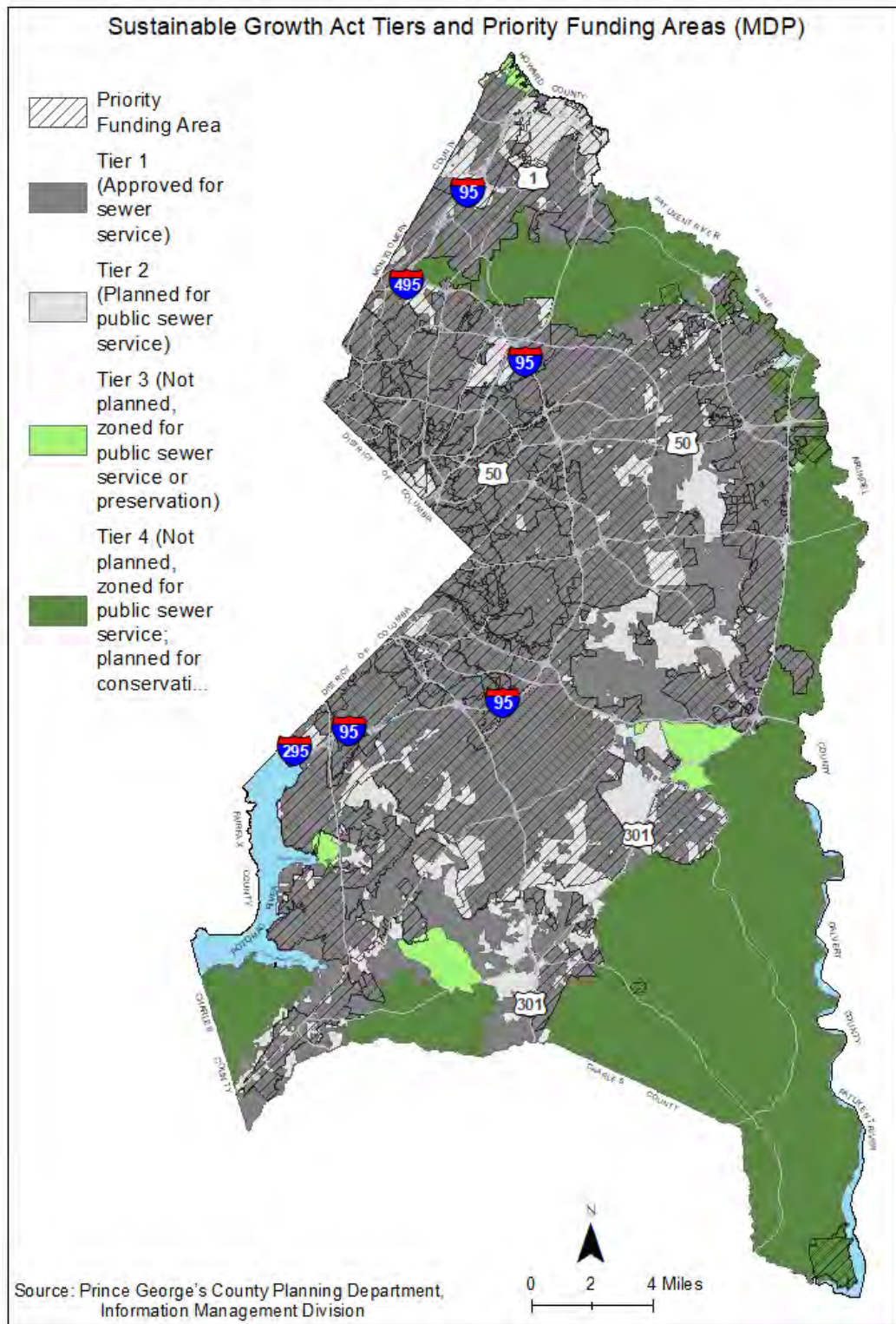
Map 3.6– Land preserved by deed covenants (HOA open space or land trust)

This exhibit shows lands that are owned and operated by private Homeowner’s Associations in Prince George’s County.

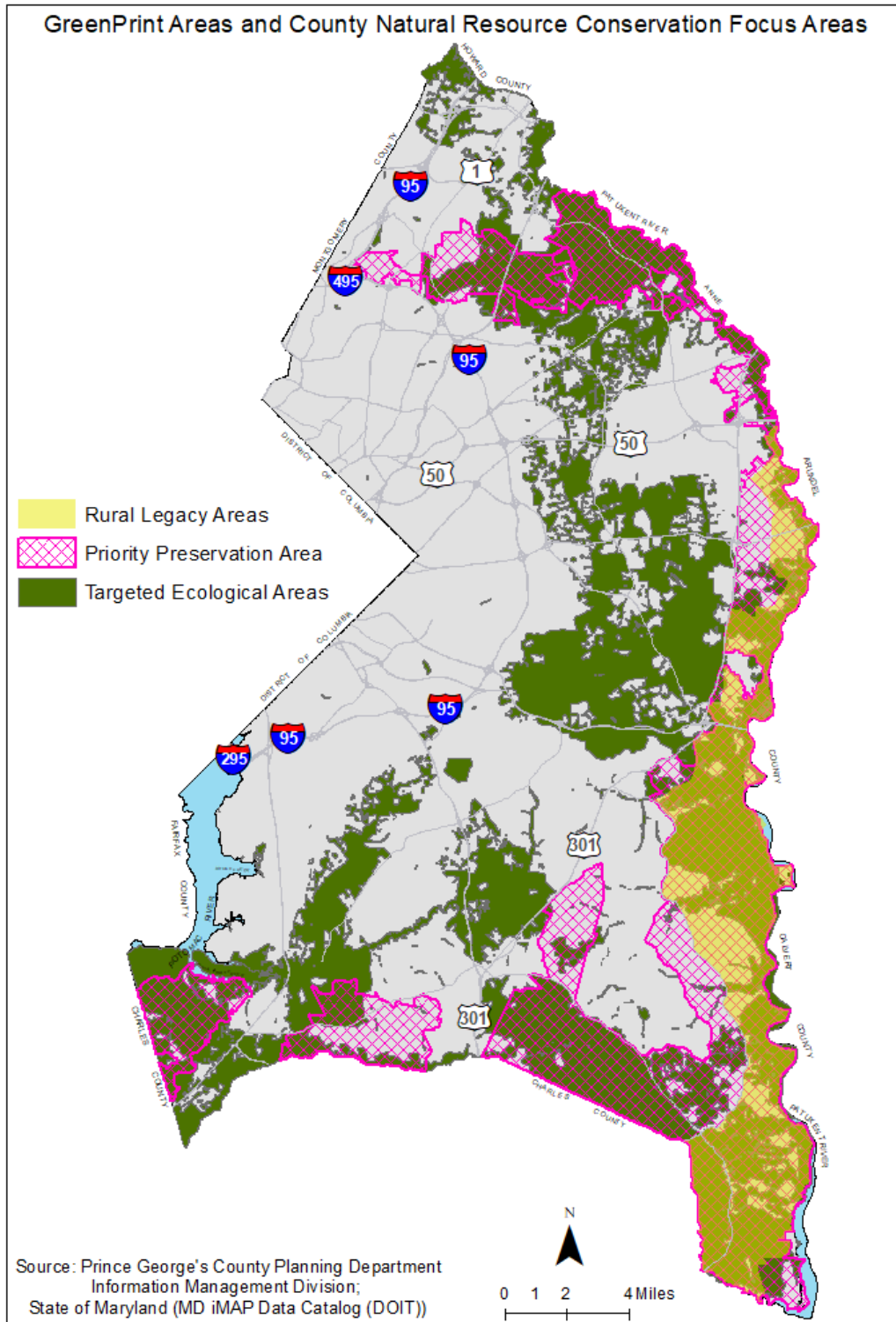
Map 3.7 – How Prince George’s County Residents Connect with Nature

Prince George’s County residents have many opportunities throughout the County to engage and connect with natural resources. This map shows locations of these opportunities. Not included on any map in this section are the tree conservation areas that are approved through the County’s Woodland Conservation and Tree Preservation Plan process, or approved Woodland Conservation Banks. These layers of information are available through the County’s GIS data system. However, the information is incomplete at this time, and is in the process of being reworked to be more meaningful.

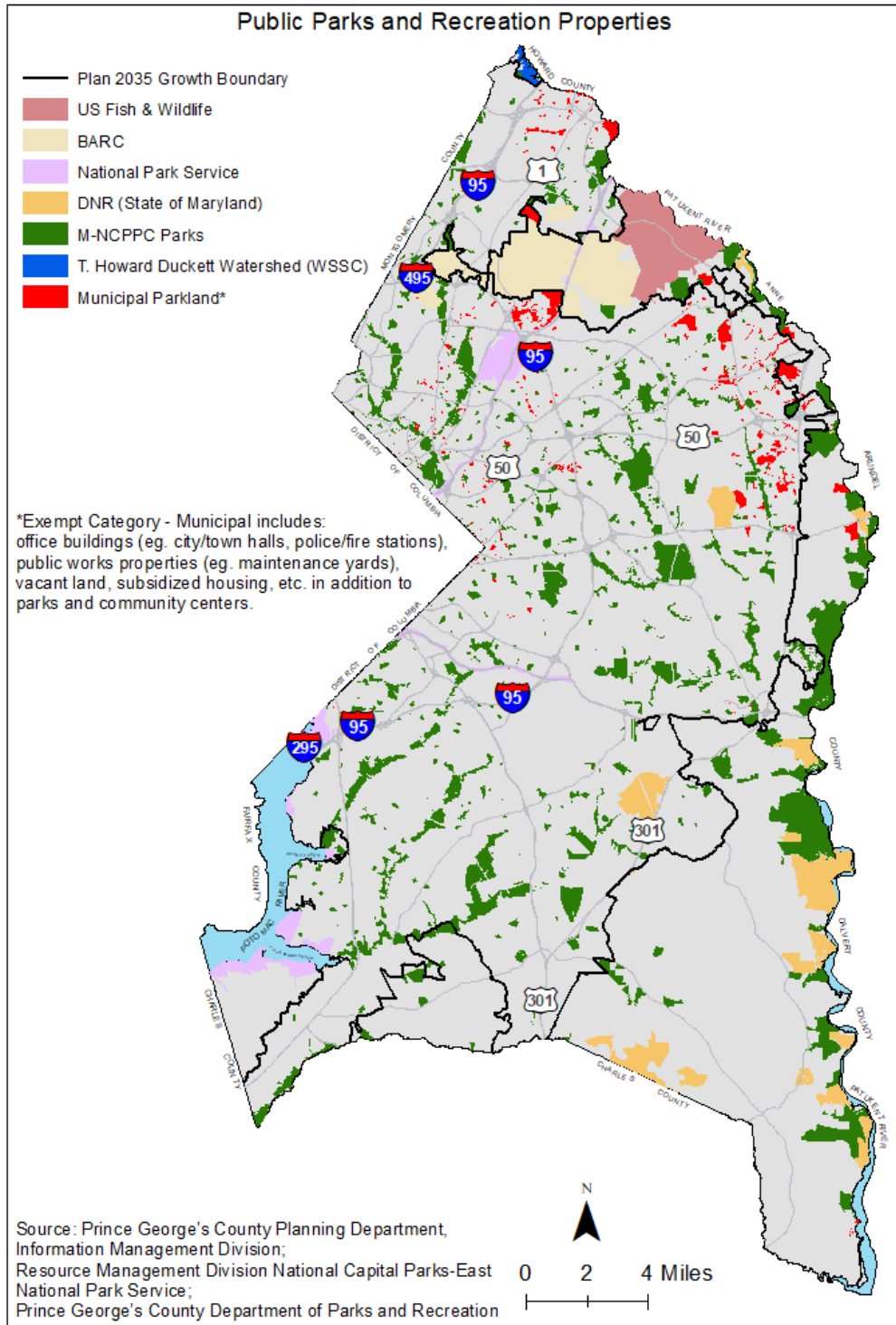
Map 3.1 – Sustainable Growth Act Adopted Tier Map and Priority Funding Areas



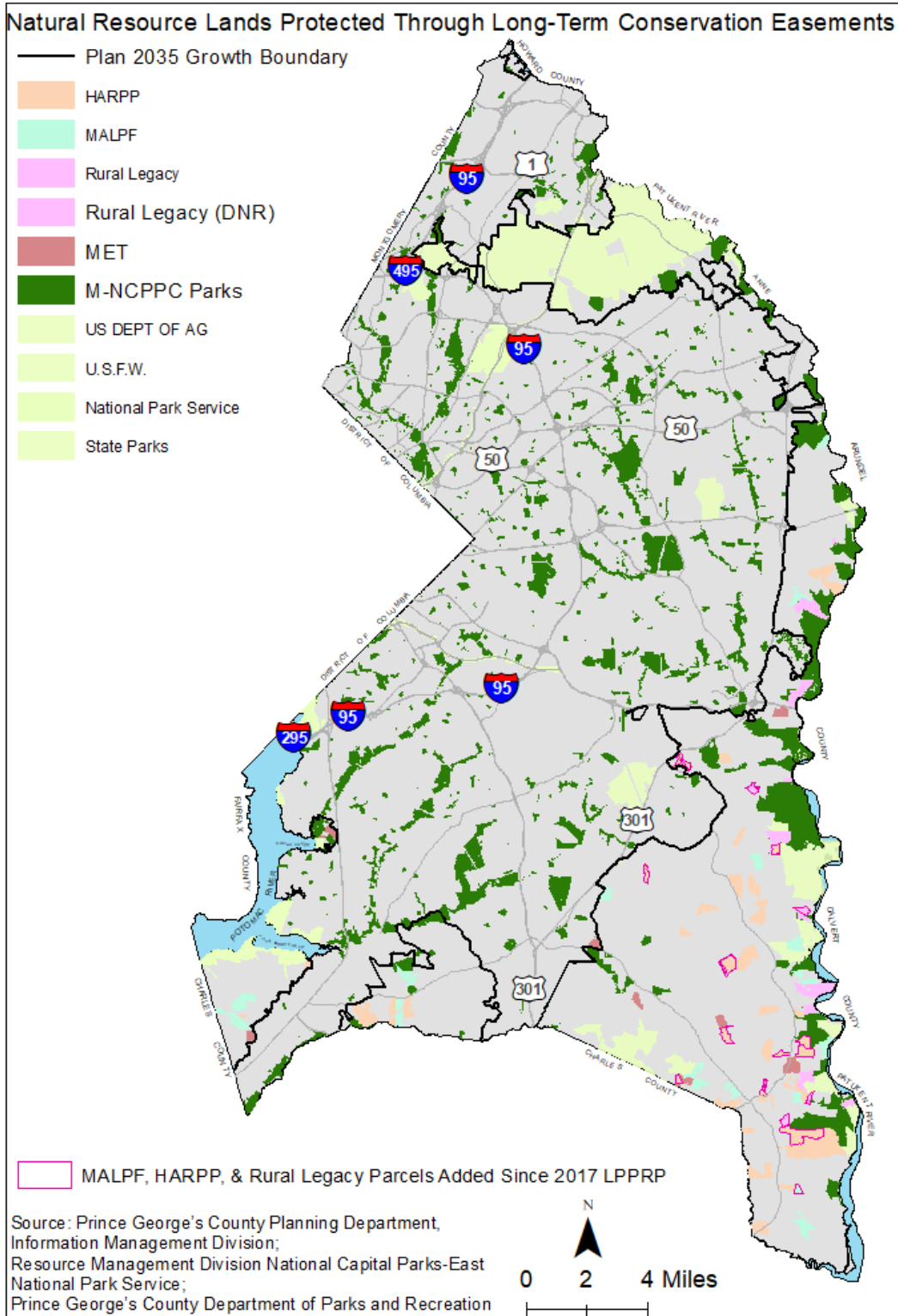
Map 3.2. – GreenPrint areas and county focus areas for natural resource land conservation



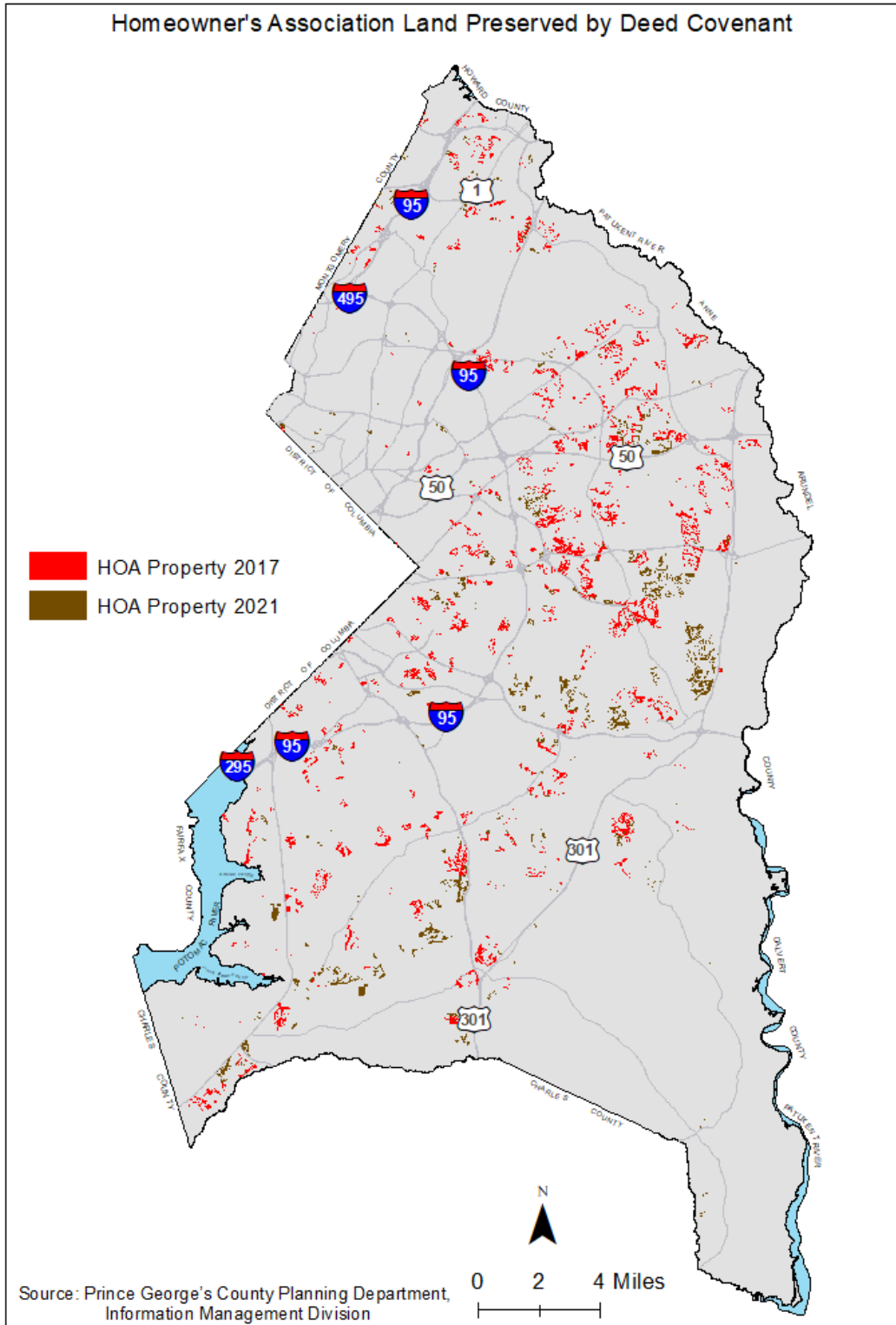
Map 3.3 – Public Parks and Recreation Properties



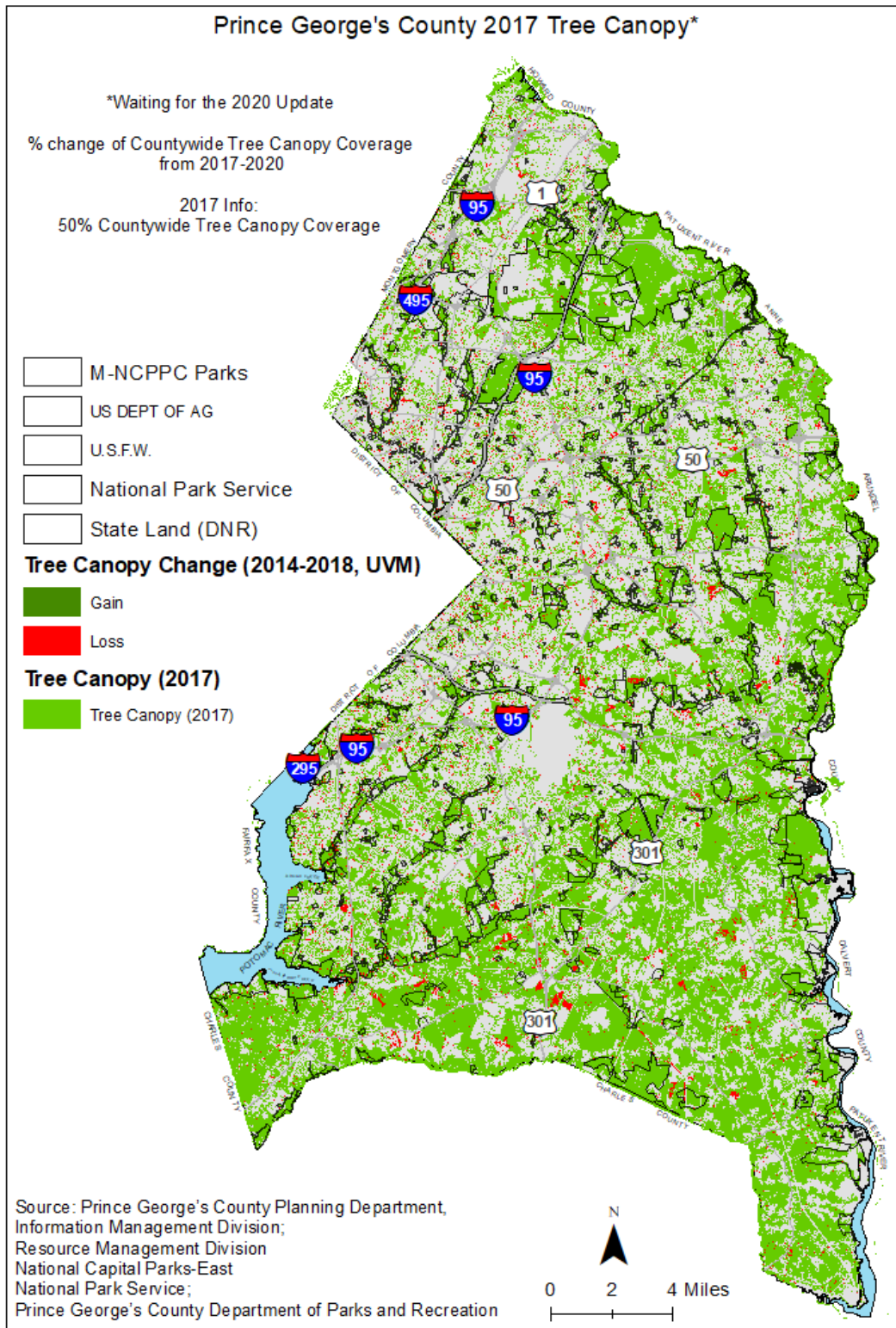
Map 3.4 – Natural Resource Lands Protected through Long-Term Easements, Licenses, Agreements, Etc.



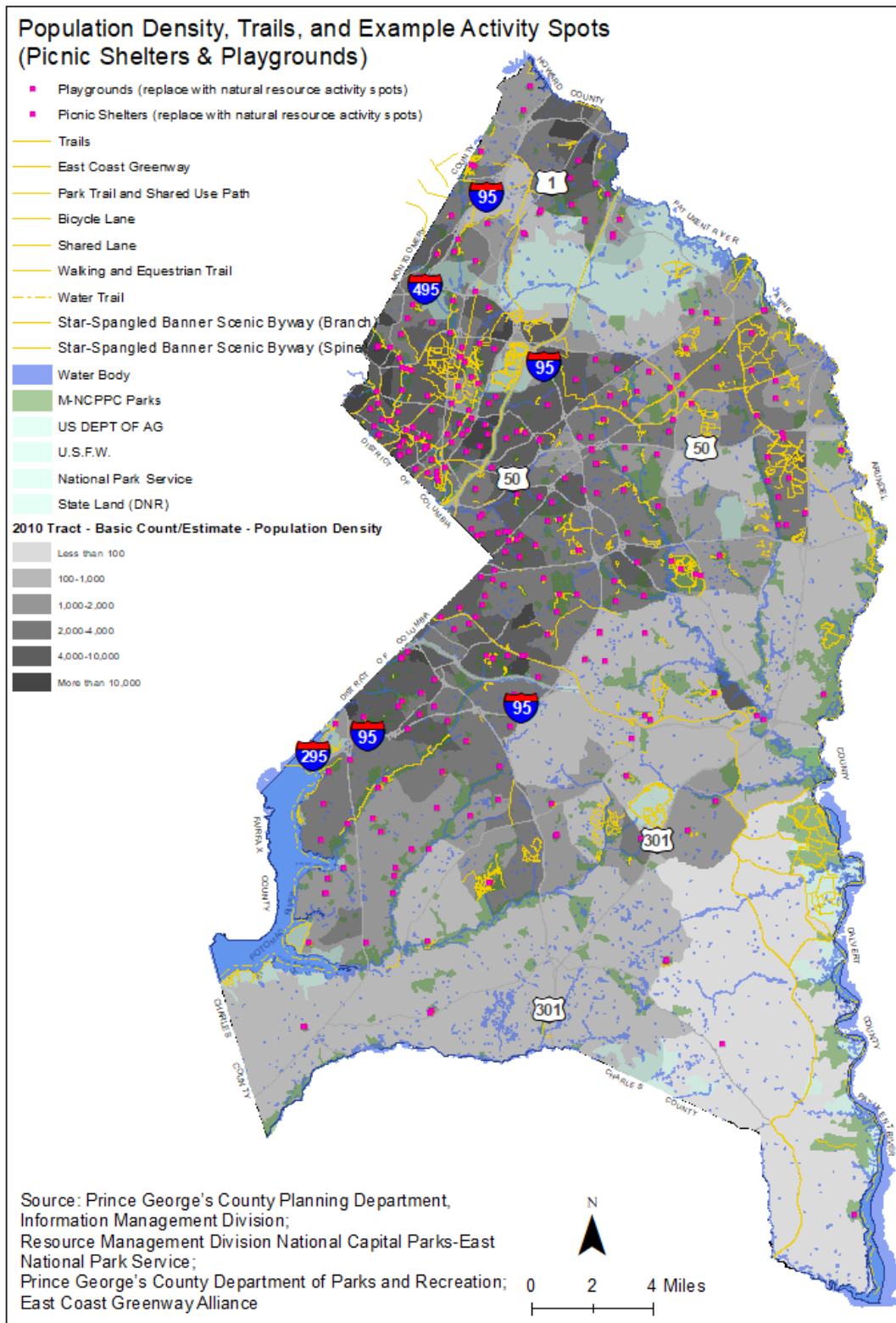
Map 3.5 – Land preserved by deed covenants (HOA open space or land trust)



Map 3.6 – Prince George's County 2020 Tree Canopy



Map 3.7 – How Prince George’s County Residents Connect with Nature



3.5 Implementing Ordinances and Programs

The county has continuously worked to adopt and enact legislation and regulations that are geared to improving environmental conditions. The county has refined its focus on the environment, parks, and open space and has the following recent documents to support the conservation of natural resource lands:

- M-NCPPC, Plan 2035 Prince Georges Approved General Plan, May 6, 2014
- Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance (2017 update pending approval)
- Prince George's County Subdivision Ordinance (2017 update pending approval)
- M-NCPPC, Formula 2040, Functional Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space, January 2013
- M-NCPPC, Resource Conservation Plan: A Countywide Functional Master Plan, March 6, 2017
- M-NCPPC Prince George's County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, 2017
- Prince George's County Floodplain Ordinance, 1980, updated 2016
- M-NCPPC, Woodland Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Ordinance, July 29, 2010
- M-NCPPC, Environmental Technical Manual, August 26, 2019
- M-NCPPC, Critical Area Program, 1989
- Patuxent River Watershed Act, 1961
- The Prince George's County and City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan, updated 2017
- Draft Climate Action Plan, November 2021

Each of these documents contains goals, policies, strategies and recommendations to guide future growth, including initiatives to further preserve, restore, redevelop, and conserve natural resources and natural resource lands throughout Prince George's County.

2014 Plan 2035 Prince George's Approved General Plan - This plan updates and amends the former General Plan approved in 2002. The new effort focuses on the core principles of the economic, social, and environmental impact our land use decisions have. Key concepts include Work, Live, and Sustain. These focal points guide the overall goals of capturing more job growth, creating walkable places, meeting the needs of a changing population, and preserving valuable natural and historic resources. A goal of the plan is to actively redirect the County's current growth pattern, most often described as "sprawl," away from the remaining open parcels. Instead, this plan recommends a more concentrated development pattern that centers on the County's 15 mass transit stations. One of six guiding principles for the plan includes protecting natural resources. In Fall of 2020 the 2019 Plan Prince George's 2035 Approved General Plan Five-Year Evaluation was published to provide an evaluation of the County's progress toward meeting the vision and goals of the long-range general plan. This report identified quantifiable changes in indicators of success and analyzed progress toward the targeted progress.

Zoning Ordinance - County Code Subtitle 27 Countywide Map Amendment was approved on Monday, November 29th, 2021. The new Zoning Ordinance and accompanying Zoning Map will take effect on April 1, 2022. It includes provisions for open space set asides, the construction of master planned trails, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, all of which enhance and connect parks and open spaces within the larger urban fabric of the county.

Subdivision Ordinance - County Code Subtitle 24 includes the mandatory dedication regulations that stipulate those residential subdivisions, through review of the local Planning Board, convey suitable and adequate land for active and passive recreation. Section 24-134 (a)(4) also provides for stream valley parkland dedication provided the approved master plan indicates this option. Such land may be preserved in-lieu of active recreation if there is a reasonable amount of existing active recreation land available within the community and all master plan trails are constructed. Updates and improvements to the Subdivision Regulations, County Code Subtitle 24, were approved by the County Council on November 29, 2021. The changes go into effect on April 1, 2022.

2013 Formula 2040, A Functional Master Plan for Parks Recreation and Open Space - The plan takes an innovative approach to parks and recreation that goes beyond the typical land use plan. The plan's goals of Health, Wellness, Connectivity and Economic Development focus on strengthening our sense of community. The plan also calls for 400 miles of shared use trails and acquisition of more than 7,000 acres of land by the year 2040 to meet the LOS goals associated with population growth projections.

2017 Resource Conservation Plan: A Countywide Functional Master Plan - This plan combines the Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan, the Countywide Rural Character Functional Master Plan, and the Priority Preservation Area Functional Master Plan into one document that provides broad countywide strategies and recommendations for green infrastructure, agriculture conservation, and rural character conservation to help guide future development and preservation. The updated green infrastructure network map provides a vision of interconnected natural areas to guide decision-making while the three measurable objectives for water quality, tree canopy coverage, and greening the built environment identify the long-term outcomes.

2017 Land Preservation and Park and Recreation Plan - This plan was developed for the State of Maryland as a condition of the County's participation in Program Open Space local side programming per the Natural Resource Article-Section 5.905(b)(2) as recorded in the Annotated Code of Maryland. The plan established recommendations for future acquisitions, park development priorities, and progress toward natural resource and agricultural land preservation.

Floodplain Ordinance (2016) - Under this ordinance, also known as County Code Subtitle 32, provisions for restricting development from the 100-year floodplain have been adopted and the floodplain areas are encouraged to be preserved as open space, public use, parklands, conservation easement, or active floodplain, as appropriate. Approved in 1980, the ordinance was updated in 2016, with Council Bill 38-2016.

Woodland Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Ordinance (2010) - The 1990 Woodland Conservation Ordinance was a major milestone for woodland conservation and tree canopy conservation. It was updated and renamed in 2010 to include the technical manual. All parcels that are greater than 40,000 square feet in size that propose development, must complete a natural resources inventory and prepare a tree conservation plan. This process allows for the most significant natural resources to be identified, and if warranted, protected through an appropriate plan. Protection areas include stream valleys; 100-year floodplains; steep slopes; wetland areas; champion trees; rare, threatened, and endangered species; specialized habitats; forest interior dwelling birds; and other unique or valuable resources and habitat. These efforts identify the most appropriate natural resources that should be conserved early in the development process.

Environmental Technical Manual (2018) - In addition to the technical woodland and wildlife habitat conservation information, the technical manual provides an overview of how to prepare a natural resource inventory, discusses the preservation, restoration, and enhancement of regulated environmental features, and provides guidelines for tree canopy coverage. Tree Canopy Coverage allows for sites that cannot meet

the woodland conservation requirements to benefit from tree planting. It also helps the County meet forest and tree planting goals.

Critical Areas Program - This local program effort is in conformance with the State Guidelines set out by the Critical Area law passed in 1984 by the General Assembly. Prince George's County adopted it locally in 1989. Three general goals of the program include: 1) conservation of habitat including plant, animal, and fish; 2) minimize adverse effects on water quality because of runoff; and 3) establish land use policies that will address zoning, land use and development.

Patuxent River Watershed Act - Enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland in 1961, the Act authorized Prince George's County and other jurisdictions within the Patuxent River Watershed to purchase land within the watershed for conservation and public recreation. As a result of this Act, a Master Plan for the Patuxent River Watershed Park was developed to deal primarily with the 15,041 acres of land described within the text to be acquired by M-NCPPC in both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Under this bi-county master plan, Prince George's County was to acquire more than 14,845 acres of property along the Patuxent River waterfront. The acquisition of this land by the local park agency was meant to complement acquisition efforts being made by WSSC, the State of Maryland, the United States of America and other public agencies. Interest in the preservation of the Patuxent River continues to influence land use planning in this watershed as evidenced in the Patuxent River Policy Plan that was updated with the consent of the Patuxent River Commission in 2014.

The Prince George's County and City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan - Published to comply with the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 for hazard mitigation assistance grant program eligibility, the Hazard Mitigation Plan is a tool for Prince George's County, the City of Laurel, and the other incorporated municipalities to identify hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities. The plan presents a framework of mitigation policies, strategies, and actions intended to reduce the exposure of people and property to natural hazards and build long-term resiliency. Examples of recommended natural resource protection mitigation projects include floodplain protection, habitat preservation, and forest and vegetation management.

Draft Climate Action Plan - This draft plan presents eight commitments as well as action strategies to guide behavior as the County aims to reach its goal of 50% carbon emission reduction by 2030. Some broad themes include cleaning up internal County operations to prioritize climate-friendly systems and processes, transitioning to renewable energy, developing green businesses, and taking steps to prepare the community for pending climate change impacts with a focus on equitable community engagement, education, and outreach. The plan summarizes climate hazards and threats to the County, outlines the sources and trends contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, and describes progress toward County goals to date.

Municipal Initiatives

County municipalities have taken an even more localized approach to the protection of natural resources. In 2011, The Town of Cheverly published a Green Infrastructure Plan to help guide development and policy decisions. The City of Greenbelt has been designated as a Tree City USA city for the past ten years and in 2019 published its Forest Preserve Stewardship Guidelines to protect the 254.8-acre forest preserve. The City of College Park has been designated as a Tree City USA for over 30 years and has conducted tree canopy coverage data analysis starting in 2009 as reported in the Tree Canopy Assessment published in 2019. The City of Collee Park is seeking to implement a comprehensive tree conservation ordinance. Similarly, the City of Hyattsville has also been tracking changes in the urban tree canopy since 2009 as discussed in the UTC Assessment & Change Analysis report published in 2020. Hyattsville has also been recognized as a Tree City USA city for more than 25 years and has a urban forest city ordinance intended to maintain the tree canopy. The Town of Eagle Harbor purchased the historical Truman's Point in 2005 and seeks to maintain this historical open space as a preserve for its residents.

Adopted Municipal Plans

Finally, local landowners participate in a variety of state-funded programs that promote agriculture and resource conservation. These programs include Rural Legacy, Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund, Maryland Environmental Trust, and the locally administered Historic Agriculture Resource Preservation Program. Although this program was not funded for several years, funding has been re-established, and almost 3,000 acres of preservation easements were acquired between 2007 and 2014. Along the Potomac River adjacent to Piscataway National Park, the Mount Vernon viewshed has been also established as a local land conservation area. Development within the viewshed area is scrutinized. More than 2,300 acres of scenic land easements on private lands are held by the National Park Service.

3.6 Summary of Deficiencies and Recommendations

Natural resource conservation land in Prince George’s County is under the constant threat of development and invasive species degradation because of this rapid land conversion. Whether it be for mass-transit, private development, or new public infrastructure initiatives such as roads, schools, and new parkland facilities – even projects such as the Watershed Improvement Program (the WIP). Additionally, when mitigation is necessary to offset development, the parkland and open spaces are the first opportunities considered where these impacts can be offset. There seems to be a consistent struggle to use the same land for agriculture, natural resources, solar arrays, mitigation, among other uses and for different public benefit goals. To this end, several Deficiencies that link directly to the local County Goals have been identified:

Goal or Policy	Identified Deficiency
There will be 52% tree canopy coverage in the County (2017 Resource Conservation Plan Objective)	Currently the county tree canopy has been mapped to be at 51.2%. This equates to 63,536 acres less acres of tree cover than desired county-wide, not accounting for future development.
Reducing the rate of land consumed by greenfield development countywide. (Plan 2035 Goal)	This is goal that is currently not being tracked or mapped and is not specific to how much a reduction is desired to meet the requirement.
Preserving and enhancing existing forest and tree canopy coverage levels. (Plan 2035 Goal)	The goal is lofty building on the goal for 52% tree cover. Plan 2035 does not identify how this will be accomplished.
In 2035, water quality in most County watersheds will be improved. (2017 Resource Conservation Plan Objective)	The strategy is vague and does not indicate which watersheds should be targeted.
90 percent of the strategies identified in Greening the Built Environment will be implemented.	There are 16 policies in the Resource Conservation Plan with many supporting strategies. While these are notable, there is not a mechanism to track and if necessary, identify funding to implement these recommended strategies.

Recommendations

The County would benefit from new policy and funding initiatives to support redevelopment on existing sites. In particular, effort must be placed on predevelopment and to identify mitigation approaches that will not impact developed parks that are already heavily programmed either through active recreation, passive

recreation, or agricultural pursuits. While the State desires no net loss of agriculture lands, developers and elected officials often see the sizeable land holding that are being farmed along the Patuxent and in other areas as “idle lands.”

Development has continued to increase pace in Prince George’s County over the last five years. While high profile projects are desired, the tendency has become to explore using parkland to offset the environmental impacts, especially in growth centers and economic development corridors. This includes impacts on floodplains, tree mitigation and stormwater management. This results in the Department of Parks and Recreation feeling tremendous pressure to supply solutions for the desired development situation using existing park resources.

When projects such as the Managed Lanes study threatened to take mitigation outside the County to Anne Arundel County, the result is one of frustration and exasperation of how to meet all projects requirements and make certain the residents of the County are not relinquishing the rights to their green space. Projects like the MagLev threaten rare and unique habitats and watersheds that are among the best in the County. The project proposes to renegotiate lands that have been set aside for conservation purposes and redistribute these resources elsewhere. The department is truly struggling with ways to replace irreplaceable habitats. While these scenarios seem antidotal because the Managed Lanes Project and the MagLev projects are now sitting idle. The issues are ones that the Planning and Development of the M-NCPPC are faced with – even at less intense levels. The MNCPPC lands are often seen as “sizeable” and able to accommodate most mitigation requirements. These impacts range from floodplain impacts and providing compensatory storage on parkland to finding new opportunities for tree planting, stream restoration, wetland creation.

Recommendations to offset this pattern include:

- Developing a list of priority habitats that are highly valued and would benefit from additional preservation efforts
- Providing a list of private reforestation banks and enacting a statewide policy that preservation lands cannot be used to offset development.
- Expanding the rural legacy area along the southern border of Prince George’s County along the Mattawoman Creek to capture and provide opportunities for conservation of this valued and unique habitat. The Mattawoman Creek is identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (the SWAP) as Blackwater habitat that is unique and valued. Most often associated with high quality waters, every effort should be made to preserve this unique habitat and associated important interior forest bird habitat area.
- Funding preservation programs such as HARPP.
- Allocating a certain percentage of land acquisition monies to target specific preservation efforts annually. Establish preservation thresholds that must complement the Program Open Space program.
- Supporting efforts to link historic sites and their environmental settings, including viewsheds, with trails, parks, and open space through initiating land preservation efforts.
- Mapping the desired tree canopy, identify opportunities for expansion and refining ordinances to allow credit for establishing new canopy when reforestation goals cannot be met.
- Improving ordinances to recognize credit for protection for unique habitats and reducing opportunities to vacate or realign existing preservation areas.
- Prioritizing habitat restoration by offering incentives for opportunities that improve existing conditions and restore resources. For example, as development continues around metro stations, developers can be given density increments and incentives for improving conditions inside the 100-year floodplain.
- Support and bolster the County’s Climate Action Plan.
- Provide education and outreach as to the importance of habitat and the damage that can be done

by anthropogenic impacts including fragmentation, continuous development and human intrusion, pollution, and climate change.

Chapter 4 Agricultural Land Preservation

4.1 Overview of Agricultural Land Preservation in the County

Agricultural land preservation is vital to provide for the future resiliency of farm and forest land enterprises, increase food security, and protect rural character in Prince George's County. Preservation efforts enable the continuation of a long history of agriculture, often using perpetual easement programs. Plan Prince George's 2035 Approved General Plan (Plan 2035) identifies the Rural and Agricultural Areas (RAA, formerly the Rural Tier) as the eastern and southern portions of the County, the Beltsville Agricultural Resource Center, many federal and State land preservation areas, and the 7,435-acre Patuxent River Park owned by M-NCPPC. These areas, where traditional farming has taken place since the County was first settled, have valuable farm and forest resources, as well as important scenic and historic viewsheds, structures, and roads. The Prince George's County's RAA consists of 91,810 acres of land, roughly 29 percent of the County.

The priority preservation area (PPA) is included within the RAA that is outside the Plan 2035 Growth Boundary (see Map X, Agricultural Easements and the Priority Preservation Area, Prince George's County, MD). Due to the State's 2012 Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act, also known as "the septic bill," future growth through large subdivisions constructed on septic systems will be avoided in this area.

The County also has a long-standing commitment to preserving agricultural land and producing locally grown food countywide. The County has faced challenges in identifying farms that have Class I-III soils that qualify for Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) easement funds and processing smaller farms for the Historic Agricultural Resources Preservation Program (HARPP), managed by the Soil Conservation District for the County.

Beyond the boundaries of the RAA, there are other properties that are agriculturally assessed, and have existing farms on them. There are many public benefits for preserving these and other agricultural lands where possible. This includes protecting the natural resource lands for agricultural production; positively impacting the environment; creating local jobs and small business development in agriculture; preserving cultural practices that have historically defined an area; improving the health of those individuals participating in food production; offering an opportunity for educating the public about the source of their food supplanting how land use planning must balance land development with food production.

The increasing interest in growing plants and raising animals in and around urban environments has given rise to urban agriculture endeavors, a form of agriculture that consists of intensive production methods and that avoids hazardous chemicals in the process of producing food for local consumption. The M-NCPPC publication, 2012 Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, Maryland, documents how urban agriculture enhances food security, provides for improved health outcomes for residents, supports a sense of community, and improves the quality of life with opportunities for learning and recreation for all age groups.

The 2017 Resource Conservation Plan (RCP) provides a foundation for urban and rural agricultural growth and development in Prince George's County. While incorporating policies and strategies for urban agriculture, the RCP serves as an update to and replacement for the 2012 Priority Preservation Area Functional Master Plan, which is a requirement by state law for counties establishing a certified agricultural preservation program. Prince George's County's agricultural preservation program was certified by MALPF and the Maryland Department of Planning in 2014. This designation allows the County to retain a larger portion of the agricultural transfer tax for use in preserving more land for agricultural uses. The MALPF, HARPP, and other agricultural easements and conservation areas that have been established thus far are noted on Agricultural Easements and Priority Preservation Areas Map in Chapter 3.

4.2 Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation

Prince George's County has established a certified agricultural preservation program with goals, policies, and strategies that are in harmony with the State of Maryland goals. Regarding agricultural land preservation, the implementation of the 2017 Agriculture Conservation Plan is articulated in its vision for the future of Prince George's County, as follows:

"In 2035, Prince George's County provides a wide variety of sources for healthy food from local sources. Land conservation programs are self-sustaining and the agricultural and green economy benefits rural and urban residents alike. The County has a well-functioning local food system from protection to nutrient and waste management, and a healthy population educated about growing their own food and reflecting healthier lifestyle choices. Prince George's County contains profitable working farms, growing a variety of crops of different scales that sustain agricultural and rural economies."

The County goals for agriculture and agriculture preservation are in keeping with Plan 2035 goals, and are as follows:

- Preserving, enhancing, and restoring priority agricultural lands and providing access to smaller parcels for farming countywide.
- Supporting an agriculture-based economy.
- Increasing opportunities and support for urban agriculture.
- Providing equitable access to healthy food options that support local growers.
- Improving overall human health.

In order to reach the stated County goals, objectives for the year 2035 have been established to:

- Conserve an average of 1,500 acres of land countywide per year, including an average of 20 acres conserved for urban agriculture inside the growth boundary.
- Preserve 80 percent of the undeveloped land within the designated Priority Preservation Area.
- Increase the level of participation in farm and forest conservation programs by owners of operations on 35 acres or less of land and participation by property owners of color to at least 15 percent of the overall acreage preserved.

The county policies for agriculture focus on continuing the advantages of conserving farm and forest land for its smart growth benefits as well as its health and environmental benefits. The policies for agricultural land preservation fall under three categories:

1-Conserve Agricultural and Forestry Lands

- Policy 1: Preserve, enhance, and where appropriate restore agricultural and forestry lands.
- Policy 2: Minimize development in areas of prime farm and forest acreage to preserve critical masses of the agricultural land base.
- Policy 3: Identify valuable mineral resources, seek methods to protect and manage access, and reclaim these areas where possible for future farm or forest enterprises, or agricultural support services.
- Policy 4: Support preservation of 80 percent of the Priority Preservation Area.

2-Promote an Agriculture-based Economy

- Policy 5: Seek opportunities to increase the value of farm and forest lands.
- Policy 6: Strengthen agriculture as a viable economic sector.
- Policy 7: Involve County and state agencies, municipalities, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations in the development of rural agriculture.

3-Support Urban Agriculture

- Policy 8: Include urban agriculture in land use planning and zoning.

- Policy 9: Increase awareness of and access to land suitable for urban agriculture uses.
- Policy 10: Involve County and state agencies, municipalities, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations in the development of urban agriculture.

For further information on these goals, the strategies designed to preserve agricultural land that enhance the agricultural economy, and the ways to integrate urban agriculture into land use planning, refer to the following documents:

- *2017 Resource Conservation Plan*
- *2015 Healthy Food for All Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland*
- *2012 Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County*
- *2009 Prince George's County Strategic Program for Agricultural Development*

Although the County has faced challenges, some associated with the global pandemic, progress has been made toward some of the goals. From 2017 to 2021, 799.3 acres of land have been placed under HARPP easements, where property owners continue to own their land and preserve it for agriculture into perpetuity. The County has expanded the definition of an urban farm, and because of County legislation, CB-14-2019 (Urban Farm Bill) and CR-78-2019, and with the support of the Prince George's Soil Conservation District (SCD), the Food Equity Council and other stakeholders, urban agriculture is allowed on 79 percent of land due to zoning changes. More agricultural pursuits such as rooftop farming, as well as in-ground and raised-bed farming, and Controlled Environmental Agriculture (CEA) operations such as aquaponics and hydroponics are allowed.

There is promise in urban agriculture for the county as evidenced by two efforts; M-NCPPC acquired a 14-acre parcel in Upper Marlboro and obtained Agricultural Agreements with three urban farmers, working to secure adequate physical infrastructure and funding for the operation. Another working group including the SCD, ECO City Farm, and M-NCPPC has established a new 11-acre Urban Incubator Training Facility at Watkins Regional Park with conservation planting, fencing, a well, and parking t (see Figure 1). The concept is to provide new urban farmers with a training area to farm ($\frac{1}{2}$ - 1-acre plots each), with the future goal of finding larger parcels for those farmers who demonstrate the ability to meet the challenge of managing a larger footprint. Thus, multiple entrepreneurs can lease land and launch urban farm operations.

Figure 1. Urban Incubator Training Facility at Watkins Regional Park

The County's urban agricultural property tax credit program has created incentives for farmers to improve access to healthy food and to enhance economic opportunity for themselves and farmworkers. To benefit from the property tax credit, a farmer must own or lease a parcel that is at least one-eighth of an acre to five acres in size and that is zoned for urban agricultural use or defined as an urban farm according to Subtitle 27 of the Zoning Ordinance of Prince George's County.



Statewide Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation:

The State of Maryland established a goal to equal or exceed land development with a comparable rate of land preservation. The statewide goals are:

- 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 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.

- o 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.

The County goals are supportive in terms of placing a high priority on farm and forest land in a variety of urban and rural settings, for a variety of locally grown and consumed produce. Protecting the County’s natural, farm, and forest land, with its historic resources and rural character is the cornerstone of the 2017 Resource Conservation Plan and underscores the importance of combining these goals into one plan to ensure that they are consistently supported. Most of the larger, contiguous blocks of land have been preserved, and the emphasis is on protecting and enhancing those lands while extending conservation efforts to additional agricultural resource lands that can support new, niche markets for farming. The long-standing preservation of rural character in the County, in conjunction with limits on residential development legislated by the Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012, have created a cooperation between the State of Maryland and Prince George’s County emphasis on wise public investments and prudent land use management programs, policies, and practices.

The County is well on its way to meeting many of the agricultural goals and implementing strategies and actions discussed in the 2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, while some objectives have yet to be accomplished. The County continues to preserve land through its main easement programs, with 3,670 acres preserved from CY2016-2020 through woodland conservation on-site preservation and planting. Approximately 24,933 acres have been preserved in total. Off-site woodland conservation banking of 505 acres were preserved from CY2016-2020, bringing the total of off-site woodland conservation acres preserved to 10,206 acres (through CY2020) HARPP easements have preserved 799.3 acres through the end of 2020, which brings the total to 4,170 acres The MALPF program has helped the County preserve 396 acres of land in the same period, with a total of 2,047 acres preserved countywide.

Prince George’s County Land Preservation				
	On-Site Woodland Conservation	Off-Site Woodland Conservation	Historical Agricultural Resource Preservation Program (HARPP)	Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund (MALPF)
CY2016-2020	3,670 acres	505 acres	799.3 acres	369 acres
Total	24,933 acres	10,206 acres	4,170 acres	2,047 acres

The target acreage protection goal for the PPA has been reduced by 5,370 acres between 2016 and 2020, bringing the remaining protection goal to 15,076 acres, down from 20,446 in 2016. or an average of over 1,000 acres per year to the year 2035. This is within the scope of the established objective for the PPA to conserve an average of 1,500 acres of land countywide per year. Some of those acres are conserved for urban agriculture inside the growth boundary.

Prince George’s County continues to put in place policies that help to preserve farmland and open space, as indicated by the updates in the 2017 *Resource Conservation Plan*. In addition, several bills and resolutions have been passed in the last four years, as well as several actions which encourage agricultural endeavors, which help sustain agricultural enterprises. Definitions for growing and processing agricultural products have been established.

Market development, business development, economic development, and regulatory strategies continue to be implemented from the *Strategic Program for Agricultural Development* by the agricultural marketing specialist for the County. Evaluation of sand and gravel extraction plans continues, with goals to update post-mining land use and restoration practices.

County agencies continue to implement strategies of the 2017 *Resource Conservation Plan (Chapter III, Agricultural Conservation Plan)*

including increasing funding for programs to expeditiously preserve agricultural land and retain healthy forests in private ownership. Work still needs to be done to coordinate with local land trusts and nonprofit organizations to support their roles in preserving land for agriculture, although some progress is being made to work with farmers of color and other disadvantaged farmers in the County.

4.3 Inventory of Preserved Agricultural Land

Prince George's County is also the world leader in the agricultural research industry. The County is home to notable agricultural resources such as the University of Maryland and the United States Department of Agriculture's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), the largest (6,541 acres) and one of the most diversified agricultural complexes in the world. In addition, approximately 367 active farms and tens of thousands of acres of privately held land remain dedicated to agriculture.

According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, during the past five years, the number of farms in Prince George's County has increased by six percent, and the number of acres of land in farms has increased by five percent. Preserved agricultural land in the County has increased by close to 1,700 acres from xxxx acres to xxx acres in xxx year. Prince George's County is the only county among the five Southern Maryland counties with an increase of land in farms (by five percent) compared to losses in farmland ranging from 4 to 24 percent in the other four counties.

Local farmland remains in demand. Both for agricultural uses, due to this recent growth of the agricultural economy, and alternately for subdivisions, shopping centers, military installations, support services and other government facilities. The area in and around Prince George's County, because of its proximity to the nation's capital, supports diverse employment opportunities that offer a higher and more secure wage than one based solely on farming. These factors, including the steady increase in land development and better paying jobs based in modern convenience and technology, have replaced the agricultural way of life in the areas closest to Washington, D.C.,. Despite these changes the desire to manage private farmland to support agriculturally based crops in urban and rural settings is still strong.

Consistent with State requirements, the County has established Priority Funding areas (PFA) consisting of established communities, municipalities, areas inside metropolitan beltways, and other areas designated for population growth, Priority Preservation Areas (PPA) are defined as areas that are large enough to support profitable agricultural endeavors, are governed local policies that support agriculture, and that can include designated Rural Legacy Areas. To ensure that agricultural interests thrive, counties seeking to have a certified agricultural preservation program are required to establish a goal of protecting at least 80 percent of the remaining undeveloped land in their PPA using perpetual agricultural easements, donations, and other long-term means of protecting land for the future agriculture industry. The 2017 Resource Conservation Plan updated the 2012 Priority Preservation Area Plan for the County, and presents goals, policies, and strategies to guide the preservation of land for rural and urban agriculture. Prince George's County's PPA, including the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the Patuxent Research Refuge, still comprises more than 85,000 acres or approximately 27 percent of county land.

Local land use policies are utilized to stabilize the land base so that private agricultural interests can continue the strong agricultural tradition within the County. The local agricultural economy has adjusted to

a new crop production base, including crops for local consumption. Local farms produce hay, corn, soybeans, onions, salad greens, landscape and nursery-based products, among other popular commodities. There are several berry producing operations, and an increased interest in organic practices, including egg production. Additional farmlands are devoted to cattle, the equine industry and silviculture, and an increased interest in hydroponics (growing plants without soil) and aquaponics (a subset of hydroponics that uses fish by-products). According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture (produced by the United States Department of Agriculture) Prince George's County has a \$18 million market value of all agricultural products sold. The average market value of all products sold is \$47,871 per farm and the average farm size is 94 acres.

Broad policies and goals related to the County's agricultural pursuits are identified in the Plan Prince George's 2035 Approved General Plan including the policy to "Preserve and protect the Rural and Agricultural Area. Conserve agricultural and forest resources on undeveloped land in the Priority Preservation Area." A spreadsheet documenting existing preserved agricultural lands is Appendix H.

Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund

The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), in existence since 1977, is one of the most successful programs of its kind in the country. Its primary purpose is to preserve larger tracts of agricultural land to maintain a viable local base of food and fiber production for all Marylanders. The program purchases conservation easements to preserve active agriculture on eligible farmland throughout the state.

The minimum easement size that can be purchased is 50 contiguous acres. Properties less than 50 acres in size may be eligible on a case-by-case basis. If a property is contiguous to an existing easement, the landowner is eligible to apply for MALPF regardless of the acreage. Prince George's County has participated in MALPF program since 2004. Eighteen easements preserving more than 2,047 acres in the Priority Preservation Area have been purchased.

Historic Agricultural Resources Preservation Program

Started in 2007, the Prince George's County Historic Agricultural Resource Preservation Program (HARPP) focuses on preserving historic agriculture, rural and natural resources on those agriculturally zoned properties located in the Rural and Agricultural Area of the County. The program seeks to preserve, protect, and enhance properties that provide historic agricultural character, culture, and practices; promote interest in, and the study of, historic properties, and, maintain the historic rural character, and way of life in the rural areas of the County.

To date, close to 50 property owners have participated in the program and 4,170 acres have been preserved. The program administered by the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation has funded the acquisition of these easements.

Rural Legacy

The Patuxent Rural Legacy Area (RLA) was approved by the Rural Legacy Board in 1998 and contains 34,984 acres of land in the south and eastern portions of Prince George's County. The Patuxent RLA begins south of John Hanson Highway (State Highway Route 50) and extends approximately 35 miles along the Patuxent River shoreline to the southern tip of Prince George's County. The western boundary of the Rural Legacy Area meanders along existing rural roads, streams, and property lines. The approved boundary stays east of Crain Highway (State Highway Route 301) and Croom Road (State Highway Route 382) encompassing the most scenic and historic portions of the County. Prince George's County has set aside over 1,200 acres of land through the State funded Rural Legacy Program since 1998. These lands are adjacent to the Patuxent River or are adjacent to other protected lands.

Program Open Space

M-NCPPC has participated in Program Open Space (POS) funding since the program began in 1968. To date, more than 2,253 acres of land in the Rural and Agricultural Area are protected using POS funding. (Many more acres of POS acquired land are contained in the Growth Tier.) POS acquired lands serve as a basis for acquisitions along the Patuxent River and protect the scenic value of the waterfront. Today, the Patuxent River Park, owned by M-NCPPC, totals more than 7,435 acres of land. Of this land, more than 6,700 acres remain in forested. There is 700 acres dedicated to active agriculture, and a little more than 100 acres is utilized for a variety of recreation-oriented pursuits including three boat ramps, the Jug Bay Visitor's Center, Rural Life Museums, and land area to support the Patuxent River Keeper. In addition, the Department of Natural Resources has purchased additional lands along the Patuxent River in Prince George's County. These purchases total 5,048 acres making the Patuxent River corridor the largest publicly accessible natural preservation area in the County.

Maryland Environmental Trust

The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET), established in 1967 was created "to conserve, improve, stimulate, and perpetuate the aesthetic, natural, health and welfare, scenic, and cultural qualities of the environment, including, but not limited to land, water, air, wildlife, scenic qualities, [and] open spaces." Today, MET is a State-wide leader in land conservation.

Created as a quasi-public entity, MET is governed by a private Board of Trustees, and is a unit of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. This distinctive arrangement allows MET the resources and flexibility necessary to be a trusted land conservation partner. Its programs now include Land Conservation, Monitoring and Stewardship, Local Land Trust Assistance, and the Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants Program. In Prince George's County there are 672 acres of lands protected using the Maryland Environmental Trust.

Other Lands and Protection Mechanisms of Preserving Land for Agriculture

Federal Land

Federal land holdings devoted to nature and recreation are in the northern portion of the Rural and Agricultural Area. The Patuxent Research Refuge contains 4,284 acres of land in Prince George's County. This area is devoted to protecting wildlife, passive recreation, and wildlife education. The preserve was started in 1936 and is the nation's only preserve dedicated to protecting and conserving the nation's wildlife through research.

Patuxent Research Refuge is divided into three areas: 1) North Tract, which offers hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, trails, and programs open to the public; 2) Central Tract, where the offices and research sites for the biologists are located. This area is closed to the public. 3) South Tract, where the National Wildlife Visitor Center is located.

The second federal property, Beltsville Agriculture and Research Center (BARC) is located in Beltsville. The facility covers 6,541 acres, and is owned and operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Ongoing research at this facility addresses soil, water and air conservation, human nutrition, and integration of agricultural systems as well as plant and animal science. Land use varies from large fields of agricultural use to wooded and wetland areas. There are more than 800 buildings on the premises including research laboratories, administrative offices, maintenance facilities, greenhouses, barns, and several houses. Overall, the BARC landscape creates a feeling of open space and agricultural preservation as contrast to the growing suburban areas of the county.

Piscataway National Park is located entirely along the Potomac River in the far western portion of the County's Rural and Agricultural Area. This 4,216-acre park located in Prince George's and Charles Counties, contains agricultural farm areas, and woodlands and many other environmental features. There are two boardwalk features, walking trails, meadows and a public fishing pier. The Piscataway National Park is also

home to the National Colonial Farm. This living history museum, operated by the Accokeek Foundation, is a working farm that provides examples of farming practices that were implemented nearly 250 years ago. Heirloom seeds and livestock highlight this highly recognized agricultural area.

In addition, Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Cove Farm, located in southern Prince George's County near the Capital Beltway, are part of a national historic district. There is a living farm museum, managed by the National Park Service. There has been no change to Federal Owned agricultural related holdings between 2022.

State Land

The State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has more than 6,700 acres of land in Prince George's County. Most of these land ensembles are managed conservation areas that are located within the Rural and Agricultural Area. DNR's holdings in the Rural and Agricultural Area include the expansive Cedarville State Forest, two Wildlife Management Areas, and nine Natural Resource Management Areas. The largest of DNR's land holdings located entirely in Prince George's County is the Merkle Natural Resource Management Area along the Patuxent River. This NRMA consists of 1,567 acres of land. Public access is available on a limited basis. The area remains managed for the primary benefit of a diverse blend of wildlife.

The Cedarville State Forest, a much larger State-owned land holding, is largely located in Charles County. The portion of this park within Prince George's County is approximately 1,176 acres in size. This important State Forest is managed for multiple purposes including water quality protection, wildlife enhancement, sustainable forestry products, recreation, and scenic value. Perhaps the most important management strategy is to protect the headwaters of the Zekiah Swamp. The area is home to more than one rare, threatened, and endangered species.

The University of Maryland Experimental Station in Upper Marlboro is a 202-acre area that specializes in the growth and development of alternative crops to become a staple, like the tobacco industry was in the County and the rest of Southern Maryland. Its activities support the University of Maryland Extension initiatives, such as researching horticultural and agronomic produce. Flower production, vegetable crops, fruits such as melons, raspberries, and pumpkins; and other nutritious foods such as soybeans are investigated in terms of maximizing their nutrition and growth potential. In addition, the Applied Poultry Research Laboratory facilities are a part of the Experimental Station.

In addition, the University of Maryland Terp Farm is a 2-acre farm at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center in Upper Marlboro that produces vegetables year-round for consumption at the University, for a food truck, and for food donations. Students work the high tunnels there, and provide a variety of produce such as broccoli, collards, herbs, peppers, squash, and tomatoes.

Local Park Land – Patuxent River Park

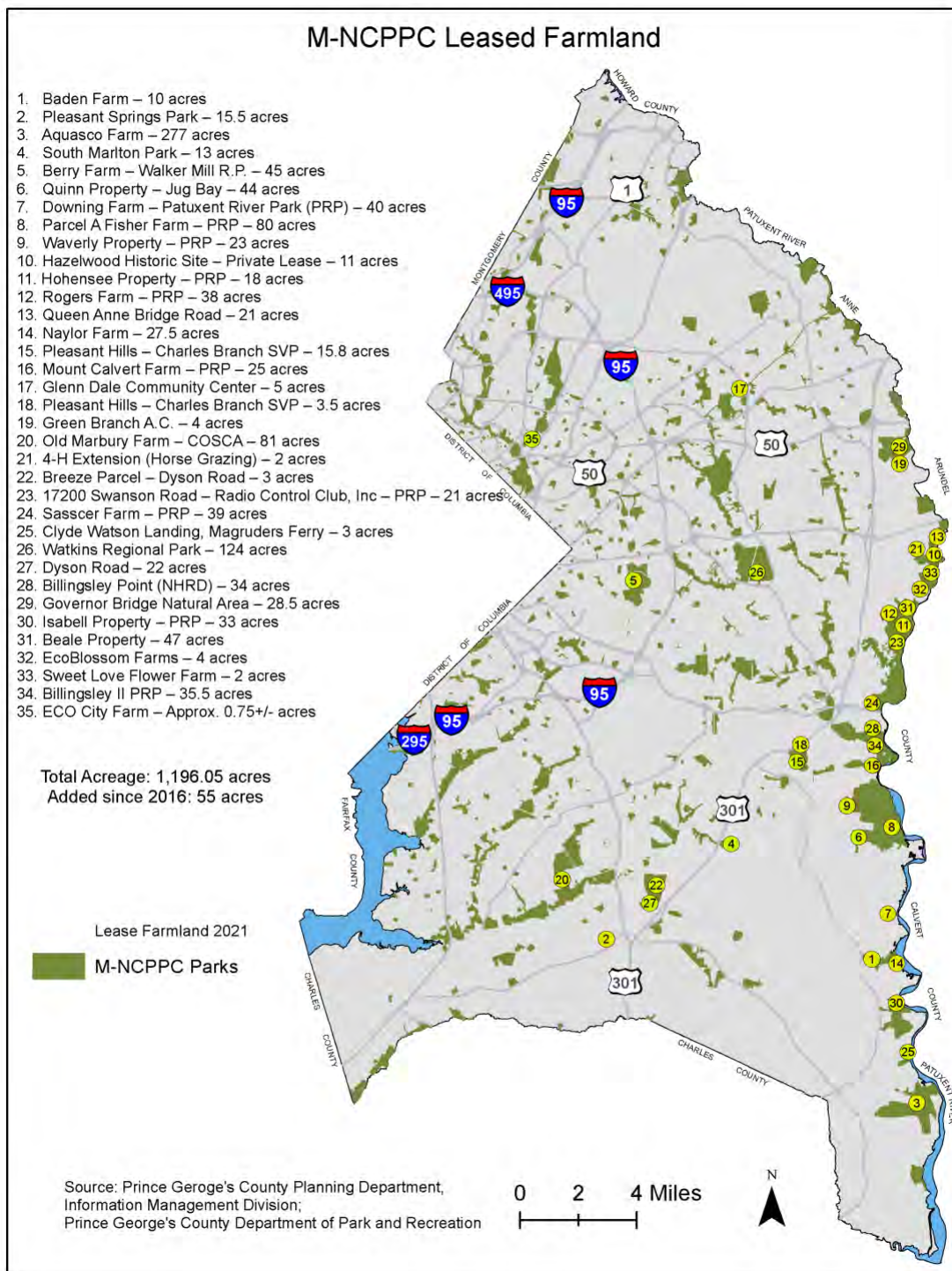
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission owns 7,435 acres of land along the Patuxent River waterfront. These lands are managed for wildlife, agriculture, and scenic and natural beauty. Public access is permitted at the main Visitor's Center at Jug Bay and through three public water access areas that are managed by permit only. There is also a Chesapeake Bay Driving tour that is open on Sunday afternoons for a limited time. More than 3,200 acres were purchased through Rural Legacy and Program Open Space funding. Combined with the State of Maryland holdings along the river, more than 12,500 acres of open space add wildlife protection, forested lands, sustainable agriculture, and passive recreation including: fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and hiking.

Parkland Leased for Farming

The M-NCPPC parkland that is leased for farming is a key component of the agricultural activities in Prince George's County (see Map 2, M-NCPPC Leased Farmland). There are more than 1,140 acres of M-NCPPC land leased for farming. In addition, there is room for growth of the urban agricultural endeavors in the County. Community gardening programs and urban farms are possible uses for leased farmland in an urban farm lease program that benefits the County with locally grown food and thriving agricultural enterprises focused on enhancing food security.

4.4 Mapping

Chapter 3 features the agricultural land preserved in the County and existing Priority Preservation Areas. In addition, the M-NCPPC Leased Farmland Map, Map XX below, indicates that the total acreage of M-NCPPC/DPR land leased for farming is ____ acres, countywide.



Map 2. M-NCPPC Land Leased for Farming

4.5 Additional Agricultural Land Preservation Guidelines

Multiple strategies presented in the 2017 LPPRP have been implemented as of 2021. The Priority Preservation Area is protected and enhanced through the MALPF and HARPP easements that continue to be established in the Rural and Agricultural Areas of the County (Appendix I). The Commission and other collaborative agencies, task forces, and nonprofit entities have joined forces to preserve, enhance and

restore large and small agricultural parcels, thus giving support to the local agricultural economy. The County Council established and inaugurated the Agricultural Resources Advisory Committee (ARAC) as a liaison group of farmer residents and other representatives of the real estate industry and the University of Maryland Extension, to provide feedback to the County Council on agricultural issues. With support from the Council staff and the Food Equity Council, the Soil Conservation District, and the agricultural marketing specialist for the County, the first ARAC meeting was held in late 2018. Some of the functions it serves include reviewing County legislation that is related to agriculture, addressing matters pertaining to farmer and non-farmer issues, and supporting urban agriculture goals and policies.

Urban agriculture activities in the County have grown and prospered due to sustained interest and steps taken to establish the 11-acre Urban Incubator Training Facility at Watkins Regional Park mentioned above. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, many local and regional nonprofit organizations have stepped up to help provide equitable access to healthy foods that support local growers, through their projects and alliances. There is increased effort to organize and reach out to farmers of color and others who have been underrepresented and marginalized, to assist them in increasing their profitability and sustainability. Agricultural parcels large and small have been restored to agricultural use, growing a variety of food and fiber crops.

Through the Commission's Mandatory Referral process, proposed projects for development are reviewed for impacts to prime farmland, which are minimized and discouraged so that critical masses of the agricultural land mass can be preserved. This process also analyzes impacts on mineral resources. The 2020 Sand and Gravel Mining in Prince George's County: Past, Present, and Future is a study that identifies valuable mineral resources and reclaimed extraction sites, some of which have been utilized for solar energy systems where native species including grasses and/or herbaceous seed mixes provide increased pollinator values.

4.6 Summary of Deficiencies and Recommendations

In summary, the County's goal is to continue the process of permanently preserving agricultural land in the Rural and Agricultural Areas of the County and to reduce the target acreage protection goal as more parcels are permanently preserved through MALPF, HARPP easements, and other available programs. The objective to conserve an average of 1,500 acres of land countywide per year was not reached in the last several years, including an average of 20 acres conserved for urban agriculture, but the work continues to strive for that objective. The commitment remains to increase the level of participation of property owners of color to at least 25 percent of the overall acreage preserved, with a renewed focus on meeting all stated objectives. The increased focus on food equity and ensuring access for all Prince Georgians to healthy food will fuel the drive to continue strengthening agriculture as a viable economic sector, working with County and state agencies, municipalities, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations to do so.

Chapter 5: Trails

5.1 Background

DPR has an extensive system of both paved and natural surface trails. The paved trail system serves a mix of activities, including recreation, physical fitness and health, transportation, social cohesion, eco-tourism, heritage tourism, and providing opportunities for residents develop and maintain a relationship with the natural world. The natural surface trails serve the same, with the exception of transportation.

The public park trails in Prince George's County play an instrumental role in building community at a human scale and fostering physical, social, and economic connectivity for every subset of the community, regardless of class, economic status, age or ability. In the years of COVID (2020 -2021), they played a vital role for many residents as the primary means of maintaining mental health amid intense personal and social stress.

The Formula 2040: Functional Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space (Formula 2040) emphasized the need to grow and improve the trail system and develop a new long-term vision for trails as a major component of DPR's overall mission to provide parks, recreation, and open space for county residents and visitors. Based on a 2016 inventory of natural surface trails, the County has already met its 2040 goal of 100 miles of existing natural surface trails (1 mile per 10,000 residents). The level of service for paved trails is 1 mile per 2,500 residents, and 180 additional miles are needed by 2040. Due to the cost of building a mile of trail in a largely developed county of almost a million people (\$1-\$2 million per mile), and complexity of paved trail development, meeting this level of service is unlikely to be met. None-the-less, the Department and political leadership of the County as a whole, is committed to ensuring close-to-home trail recreation for all residents in the county as well as a connected network of paved trails that can be used for recreation and transportation.

As a response to the findings of the Formula 2040 planning process, DPR prioritized development of a Strategic Trails Plan to provide more detailed guidance related to trail implementation and program development for the agency. The Strategic Trails Plan was completed in 2018 and endorsed by the M-NCPPC Prince George's County Park and Planning Board, soon after our previous LPPRP submission in 2017.

5.2 Challenges for Trail Development

The Strategic Trails Plan helped to identify the primary challenges that need to be addressed to pursue trail development more aggressively over the next twenty plus years. Despite their popularity with the public and numerous and varied societal benefits, the Department faces several significant challenges for future development of paved linear trails, including the following:

1. The Department continues to receive from developers' dedications of land for parks that are predominantly in un-buildable stream valley floodplains and include wetlands and precious forested areas. In the Atlantic Coastal Plain in which the County is located, with existing environmental regulations, and impacts of climate change, these areas are no longer ideal for the location of long linear trails. Moreover, the increased frequency of flooding and meandering nature of coastal streams in sand and gravel soils has made it extremely costly to maintain some of the existing stream valley trails.
2. Paved Trails require some clearing, excavation, and the introduction of impervious surface. As such, they are regulated as part of the built environment like roadways, yet they do not have the same level of negative impact as highway construction. They do require precise design and engineering and often re-arrangement of some existing land uses. These factors lengthen the planning, design and funding process and require elevated levels of staffing and public attention, which again drive-up costs and time needed to get through the development process.
3. Maintenance of the existing and future paved trail system requires a greater level of effort given the environmental factors described above. Maintenance efforts are also increased by adding growing

transportation usage to the traditional recreation use. While greater usage is desirable for both the Department and community, maintenance needs are greater and made more urgent.

4. With increased public use of trails and attention on this component in the park system, public expectations regarding trail design and the quality of experience is changing. Lighting is being requested in some communities because traditional dawn to dusk park hours is too limiting for urban living. Increased safety is needed at roadway crossings. Counting trail users and tracking our usage patterns and trends is critical for management. Ensuring public safety requires more sophisticated methods for accessing and providing emergency services. Trail design upgrades are required to meet national standards for accommodation and safety.

5.3 Taking a Strategic Approach

While trail development faces significant challenges, the successes of the past in Prince George's County have proved that this community loves them and wants more. (Two statistically valid recreation surveys of County residents, undertaken by the Department have shown this to be true.)

Providing efficient and safe bicycling and walking options is good for combatting climate change. Active transportation allows people to multi-task and save time, i.e., get exercise while conducting the transportation needs of daily living. Active transportation in a park or park-like setting has mental health benefits and keeps people connected to the natural world and outdoors, a requirement of overall healthy living. Trails are a major component of providing livable communities in 21st Century urban America. Trails have been shown to have significant economic benefit. They drive local, regional, and sometimes national tourism, and visitation spending.

Because the pluses tend to outweigh the challenges, and because trails are central to achieving our Formula 2040 Goals of connectivity, health and economic impact, the Strategic Trails Plan has articulated a strategic approach to ramping up trail development and activation.

Build a Trails Culture within the Department of Parks and Recreation

The second recommendation for the Department was to raise the profile of trails within the twelve different divisions that structure the agency's work and increase staff awareness and understanding of trails as a major component of our park and recreation resources. The STP identified ninety-six (96) specific action items advance this effort. They were organized around the following themes:

- Improve Intra- and Inter-agency Coordination of Trail Planning and Development
- Adopt New Policies to Improve Trail Implementation
- Manage the Park Trail Network Effectively
- Maintain the Trail Network
- Activate the Trail Network
- Create Trail Partnerships
- Pursue a Capital and Operations Spending Strategy that Addresses the Greatest Needs

The following strategies were developed in the Strategic Trails Plan adopted by the Department in 2017. They guide investment of capital funds in trail development as well as increases in operational spending, especially in the areas of trail maintenance and management.

- Priority 1: Complete Projects Already Underway (Ensure full funding)
- Priority 2: Continue Phased Development of Major Trails in the Design and Development Process
- Priority 3: Develop a Trail Management Team and Address Trail Lighting & Security Needs
- Priority 4: Fund Natural Surface Trail Rehabilitation and Development
- Priority 5: Fund and Conduct Trail Safety Audits & Rehabilitation Action Plans

- Priority 6: Plan and Implement Trails to Fill Remaining Small Gaps
- Priority 7: Revive Stuck Projects Needed for a Connected Network
- Priority 8: Fund and Conduct Major Feasibility Studies, with a focus on the Southern Part of the County
- Priority 9: Support Non-Park Trail Proposals and Studies

5.4 Status Report on Plan Implementation

Between 2017 and 2022, DPR has been implementing the Strategic Trails Plan (STP). A summary of progress follows. It is presented in two parts: 1) Building a Trails Culture and Program, and 2) Identify and Focus on Capital Projects and Spending Undertaken by Operational Divisions.

Part 1: Implementing Institutional Strategies and Actions to Strengthen the Trails Program

Part one is organized around six areas of DPR activity which were set forth in the Strategic Trails Plan.

Coordinate Trail Planning and Development

Historically, this area of activity has involved both the Department of Parks and Recreation staff, as well as the staff of the Planning Department, both of which are components of the Maryland-National Capital Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). The Strategic Trails Plan identified a total of over 90 recommended strategies and actions (see Part 2 of the STP—in Appendix J). Over the past five years, eleven (11) of the twenty-one (21) Planning strategies and actions assigned to the DPR and Planning Department have been continued, strengthened, or accomplished.

- **Major progress** in this area has focused on clarifying and strengthening responsibilities for trail functions within the DPR, as well as improving coordination between DPR staff and Planning Department staff.
- **Areas of future focus** that should receive attention in the coming five years include staff expansion, staff training, planning policy actions related to the updating of the Countywide Master Plan of Transportation and continuing to refine and build a robust natural surface trail management program.

Another thirteen (13) planning strategies and actions relate to Planning Coordination with government agencies outside of M-NCPPC, community groups and private sector partners. Nine (9) of these have been undertaken and have resulted in ongoing relationships and coordination.

- **Major progress** has been made in this area as illustrated by the following accomplishments: Strong coordination and collaboration has been developed with local and state transportation agencies, especially related to the State’s and County’s adoption of a Vision Zero approach to traffic deaths and fatalities, which includes bicyclists and pedestrians. Other agencies have responded to invitations to collaborate with DPR around trail development, including a) the utilities Excelon/PEPCO and WSSC, b) regional planners at WashCOG and NCPC, and Federal regulators such as the Army Corps of Engineers. In addition, regular coordination and collaboration takes place with the University of Maryland, the College Park/University Partnership, trail managing agencies in neighboring jurisdictions, the Capital Trails Coalition, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, and many community/neighborhood-based groups engaged in trail development and use.
- **Areas of future focus** will look at how to grow the program’s relationship with the private sector, building on recent engagements with the PGC Chamber of Commerce, Petersen Group and Tangier Outlet Malls at National Harbor, and Franklin’s Restaurant in Hyattsville.

Adopt New Policies to Improve Trail Implementation

Historically, the management style of the DPR is based more on family and social values than on policy and a bureaucratic approach. While this is a plus in many ways, in the area of trail development and management, it has resulted in a lack of an organized and programmatic approach, and full understanding of trails as one of our most popular outdoor park resources enjoyed and desired by County residents. In this area, of the eight strategies and actions outlined in the Implementation plan, only three have received attention in the first five years. None of these have progressed to formal policy development and adoption. None-the-less, the importance of policy development is being recognized among upper management and executive staff. Large numbers of changes in agency leadership and the COVID pandemic slowed progress in this area but set the stage for addressing these needs over the coming five-year period.

- **Progress** has been made in trail lighting, culminating with completion of a pilot lighting project in two locations on the Anacostia River Trail System. While formal policy has not been set, the programming of CIP funds for trails has remained strong and continues to be a high priority. The new trail classification system has been recommended for adoption as a part of the updated Countywide Master Plan of Transportation.
- **Areas of future focus** will include trail maintenance standards, trail design standards, and addressing county and state regulations that unnecessarily make paved trail development expensive and overly time consuming.

Manage the Park Trail Network Effectively

Improved management of the park trail network is well underway, but most of the fifteen (15) strategies and actions in this area of work are only partially implemented. Key steps in structural change have been set in motion, including consolidating three maintenance divisions into two and restructuring personnel to provide dedicated trail maintenance teams in each division with supervisors that have trail-specific knowledge and experience.

- **Major Progress** has been made on three action items: a) starting a Trail Ambassador Program within the Park Ranger Unit, b) conducting formal safety audits on our existing trails, c) implementing increased security infrastructure where needed (lighting, cameras and/or patrol adjustments).
- **Work has begun**, but is not completed, on nine trail management initiatives in the following areas: a) wayfinding and emergency response signs, b) providing user-friendly and effective communication channels with trail users to both accept reports of maintenance needs, and report out trail closures and other trail status information needed by users, c) establishing lead staff in all key divisions, d) developing a robust trail user counting program, and e) improving use of our Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) system and Trail Bridge Inspection program, to log and track trail management and maintenance needs, establish annual budgets for major trail maintenance activities and develop asset status reports for system management and long term planning.
- **Areas of future focus** include completion of the initiatives noted above and then addressing: three remaining Strategic Trails Plan recommendations: a) improvements to trail incident and crime reporting by Park Police, b) improving the transportation function of the Primary Trail System, and c) conducting economic impact assessments using actual user counts from the park trail system.

Maintain the Trail Network

The STP established ten (10) strategies and actions focused on trail maintenance. Full staffing of the Trail Maintenance Teams is expected by the end of calendar year 2021. Many of these strategies and actions will be undertaken by these new trail-focused maintenance teams.

1. **Major progress** has been made on three key maintenance initiatives, even prior and amidst major reorganization of maintenance staff teams. These include a) continued resurfacing of older sections of trail pavement in particularly poor condition, b) timely attention to other spot maintenance

needs identified by the trail safety audits, c) establishing and hiring dedicated trail maintenance team leaders in our now three primary maintenance divisions, as well as in the Natural and Historic Resources Division which oversees the natural surface trail system.

2. **Immediate future priorities** will focus on five (5) recommended action items and be undertaken by the reorganized maintenance divisions, including: a) determining how to further organize and deploy trail maintenance staff, b) development of maintenance routines and standards, c) providing appropriate new equipment and IT tools, d) providing staff training and, e) determining how to use the Adopt-A-Trail program most effectively, which is oriented to involving volunteers from the public.
3. **Future actions** include two (2) more challenging recommendations provided in the Strategic Trail Plan: a) initiating and operating a long-term invasive species removal campaign, and focused effort on forest, woodland, and riparian zone restoration along stream valley parks with trails, and b) establishing a job training and employment skills development program for local youth in the field of trail and trail corridor maintenance and ecological restoration.

Activate the Trail Network

Fourteen strategies and actions were recommended to increase the integration of our trail facilities with DPR's health, recreation, and educational programming. These recommendations relate to a variety of DPR Divisions which have recently been engaged through a new Trail Management Team.

- 3 **Major progress** has been made on only two recommendations in this area: a) continuing existing health and fitness programs organized around trail assets, and b) establishing a trails point person in our recreation program divisions.
- 4 **New opportunities** have recently emerged in three (3) areas, including a) child bicycle safety education--spurred by leadership from the County Department of Public Works and Transportation, b) active promotion of our trail system for transportation through increased participation in the Regional Bike-to-Work Day activities sponsored by WashCOG and WABA, and c) development of branding and promotional activities for 60 existing loop trails in our parks, as close-to-home health and fitness assets.
- 5 **Some progress** has been made in the following areas: a) updating trail brochures and maps and b) better utilization of the DPR website to provide trail user and trail program information. More focus will be placed on this in the upcoming year.
- 6 **Future emphasis** needs to be placed on up to nine (9) STP recommendations to determine if and how they might fit into DPR's overall recreation program. Most of these action items have not been fully explored with the relevant DPR staff. These include the following: a) b) using social media to organize existing trail users and market trails to increase use, c) pursue targeted marketing campaigns to constituencies within the County and outside the County but in the metropolitan region, d) provide adult courses related to bike commuting, biking for fitness, bike repair, bike safety, bicycle lifestyle, etc. e) provide special trail programming for those with physical and/or mental disabilities, f) develop a Park Rx initiative specifically related to trail use, g) use trails for No Child Left Inside programs, h) use trails for environmental education, climate change education, and teaching Prince George's History, especially that of African Americans, race relations and immigration history.

Create Trail Partnerships

Four (4) strategies were recommended in the Strategic Trails Plan for developing stronger partnerships that can help leverage the positive economic impacts of trails, and potentially include cost recovery for what is, and will remain, a free-to-use park resource. Cost recovery can be realized by bringing in the business community, health care industry and other partners from the private sector to financially support trail development and/or maintenance of the trail infrastructure or its components.

The following strategies should be investigated over the next five years to determine their potential: a) formalizing relationships with the largest and strongest non-profit organizations that are focused on development and use of the trail network, such as ATHA, WABA, Parkrun, sponsors of large participant fundraising events, etc., b) partnerships with the fitness, wellness and health care industry, c) partnerships with businesses in the County that are near trails and/or serve trail visitation activity, d) development of a corporate partnership program with the leading corporations in the County.

Part 2: Implementing Priority Trail Projects

The Strategic Trails Plan identified a set of Priority Trail Projects and grouped them in categories to emphasize the key tasks necessary to transform the growing network of trails into a cohesive and effective trail system. These priorities are also used annually to guide CIP development and identification of needs and funding sources (see Table X).

Summary of Progress: In the five years since our last LPPRP update, considerable progress has been made.

- Priorities 1-3 have advanced and remain our top project implementation focus.
- Priority 4 has dropped a bit because our Natural Surface Trail system is not as heavily used as the paved trails.
- Priorities 5-7 have been raised in importance due to public input and new executive leadership at DPR.
- Priorities 8 and 9 continue to move forward with support from outside agencies such as WashCOG National Park Service, and the M-NCPPC Planning Department. Municipalities within the county continue to request help with local trail development projects.

Priority Trail Projects for Continued System Development

- Priority 1: Complete Projects Already Underway (Ensure full funding)
- Priority 2: Continue Phased Development of Major Trails in the Design and Development Process
- Priority 3: Develop a Trail Management Team and Address Trail Lighting & Security Needs
- Priority 4: Fund Natural Surface Trail Rehabilitation and Development
- Priority 5: Fund and Conduct Trail Safety Audits & Rehabilitation Action Plans
- Priority 6: Plan and Implement Trails to Fill Small Gaps
- Priority 7: Revive Stuck Projects
- Priority 8: Fund and Conduct Major Feasibility Studies
- Priority 9: Support Non-Park Trail Proposals and Studies

For information about each project and its status see the table below.

2022 Status Update of the DPR Priority Trail Projects

The Strategic Trails Plan Priority Project List was established in 2018.

List and Map #	Project Name	Project Limits	Length	Description	Cost Estimate or Actual	Work Completed 2017-2021
Priority 1: Complete Projects Already Underway (Ensure full funding)						
1-A	WB& A Trail Connection	Bridge from Anne Arundel County to Prince George's	560 ft	Bridge over Patuxent River to fill trail gap	\$5.5 million (funded)	100% Design, Permitting

		County				
1-B	Little Paint Branch Trail Extension Phase 1	Beltsville Community Center to Little Paint Branch Trail	2 miles	Completes trail gap between Paint Bridge Trail at Cherry Hill Rd to the Little Paint Branch Trail at Beltsville Com. Ctr.	\$5,500,000 Actual Cost	Trail completed and open
1-C	College Park Woods Connector Trail	DePauw Place to Paint Branch Trail	0.4 miles	Connector trail	\$1,600,000 Actual Cost	Trail completed in 2020.
1-D	Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail	Farragut St to Armentrout Drive & Northwest Branch Trail at Melrose Park.	0.5 miles	Completes trail gap	SHA in lead for design and construction . (\$3-4 million)	2021--100% Design and of funding completed

List and Map #	Project Name	Project Limits	Length	Description	Cost Estimate or Actual	Work Completed 2021
Priority 2: Continue Phased Development of Major Trails in the Design and Development Process						
2-A	Central Avenue Corridor Trail Phase 1	Addison Plaza to Peppermill Road	1 mile	New trail	\$5,800,000	30% Design Complete Final Design and Construction is fully funded.
2-A	Central Avenue Corridor Trail (Additional Phases)	Capitol Heights Loop & Peppermill Road to Largo Town Center	6.5 miles	Includes 2.5-mile loop west of Addison Rd Metro to Seat Pleasant and Capital Heights and 4-mile segment to Largo at Lottford Road.	\$37 million, partially funded, Federal grants being sought.	30% Design complete Alignment alternatives for select segments being explored.
2-B	Bowie Heritage Trail Phase	Falling Water Ct. via Adnell Park to Jericho Park	1/2 mile	New trail. Design and construction managed by City of Bowie	\$100,000 (DRP Share of funding)	Design, permitting funding completed
2-B	Bowie Heritage Trail Phase	Old Town Bowie trail segment and playground	¼ mile	New trail. Design and construction managed by City of Bowie	?	Completed and opened in 2020
2-B	Bowie Heritage Trail Phase	Bowie State Loop Road to DNR Property Line	400 feet	New trail: Design and construction completed by DPR	Actual Cost: \$40,000	Completed in 2019
2-B	Bowie Heritage Trail Phase	On DNR property--BSU Property to WB&A Trail Spur	0.5 miles	Fills trail gap near the new bridge. Managed by DPR.	NA	Needs an MOU with State DNR
2-C	Piscataway Creek - Fort Washington	Ft. Washington Park (NPS) at King Charles Terrace to Piscataway Drive	1 mile	Partnership with NPS. Improved natural surface trail for hiking.	\$925,000 (\$500,000 DPR)	No Progress

List and Map #	Project Name	Project Limits	Length	Description	Cost Estimate	Work Completed 2017-2021	Status as of 2022
Priority 3: Develop a Trail Management Team and Address Trail Lighting & Security Needs							
3-A	Trail Addressing System for Emergency Response	Phase 1 implement on Anacostia Tributaries Trail System (ATTS)	System-wide	Design and install a set of trail address signs to help trail users locate themselves accurately when calling 911.	~\$50,000	Research and consultation with local and regional stakeholders.	Remains in planning stage.
3-B	Anacostia River Trail System - Wayfinding Signage	Anacostia River Trail System of six connected trails.	35 miles	Install replacement wayfinding signage	\$1.2 million (funded)	Procurement of Design Contractor	Planning and design underway.
3-C	Install Trail Lighting	ART in Cottage City and NW Br Tr in Langley Park	1-2 miles	Based on study findings install trail lighting in select locations on the ATTS.	\$800,000 (funded)	Research, 100% Design and Permitting	Next steps include bidding and construction
3-D	Develop and Deploy Pilot Trail Ambassador Program	Anacostia River Trail System (ARTS)	NA	Hire and train two part-time trail ambassadors dedicated to work on the ARTS	NHRD Operational budget	Planning and program initiation. 2021 was the first year of operation.	2022 is the second year of operation.

Priority 4: Fund Natural Surface Trail Rehabilitation and Development							
List and Map #	Project Name	Project Limits	Length	Description	Cost Estimate	Work Completed 2017-2021	Status as of 2022
4-A	Cosca Regional Park Trails	Cosca Regional Park		Complete construction of planned mountain biking trails.	Under \$25,000	Completed 3 out of 4 Mt. Bike / Hiking Trails.	Waiting for completion of Park Master Plan to address 5 th Trail
4-B	Jug Bay Hiking Equestrian Trails	Jug Bay Natural Area		Implement planned upgrades to natural surface trails.	TBD		
4-C	Watkins Regional Park Hiking/Mt. Biking/ Equestrian Trails	Watkins Regional Park		Implement upgrades to natural surface trails identified in the WRP Master Plan	TBD		
4-D	Cosca to Rosaryville Trail	Powerline and Stream Valley Corridors	6.5 miles	Study alignment options for un-paved trail linking Cosca RP to Rosaryville State Park	TBD	Field walk of corridor completed.	Found to be infeasible due to terrain and wetlands.
4-E	DPR Natural Surface Trail Plan and Development Guide	DPR Park System		Develop a plan that includes needs assessment, study of user groups, design manual and management guidelines.	\$150,000	Outline of SOW prepared.	Under consideration by NHRD.

Priority 5: Fund and Conduct Trail Safety Audits & Rehabilitation Action Plans							
5-A	System wide Bridge Inspection and Repair Program	System wide	NA	Repair or replace aging bridges, and bridges damaged by flood waters	TBD	5 bridges were repaired or replaced.	NW and NE Branch Bridges were replaced.
5-B	Safety Audits and Rehabilitation Activities for Major Trails	Existing Older Trails—WB&A, Folly Branch, Black Branch	~50 miles	Staff bicycle rides have identified major and minor maintenance needs that are being documented and addressed.	NA	10 major trails have been reviewed.	Minor repairs are being addressed on an ongoing basis.
5-B-a	Anacostia Tributaries Trail System (ATTS)	NW Br., NE Br., Paint Br., Indian Cr., Sligo Cr. Anacostia River Trail	35 miles	See above	NA	Major rehabilitation on Underpasses; Re-striping, re-surfacing.	Inventory of bollards completed. Future Rehab plans being made.
5-B-b	WB&A Trail	Race Track Road to MD 450.	5 miles	Minor repairs and safety striping/signage needed.	~\$100,000	Funding request for design submitted to WashCOG TLC program. Not Granted.	DPW&T and DPR will partner to do the work.
5-B-c	Henson Creek Trail	Oxon Hill Road to Temple Hill Road	3 miles	Major trail washouts persist. Major streambank stabilization and trail rehabilitation needed.	\$1,000,000	Multiple staff reviews.	Capital funding established in FY 2022

List and Map #	Project Name	Project Limits	Length	Description	Cost Estimate	Work Completed 2017-2021	Status
Priority 6: Plan and Implement Trails to Fill Small Gaps.							
6-A	Little Paint Branch Trail Extension Phase 2	Along Old Gunpowder Road from Denim Road to I-95 bridge	900 feet	Completes trail gap	TBD	None	Remains a Priority.
6-B	Old Calvert Road Park Connector Trail	NE Branch Stream Valley Park near CP Airport	0.1 miles	The City of College Park has asked for trail access improvements	TBD	Preliminary field assessment and agency coordination	DPW&T & DPR may partner to address safety on park access road.
6-C	Fairland Regional Park	Maintenance Yard to Aquatic Center.	0.25 miles	Connector trail	\$100,000 actual.	Trail paving, small bridge and striping.	Open and fully functioning.
Priority 7: Revive Stuck Projects							
7-A	Prince George's Connector Trail/Anacostia Gateway	Avondale Park to NW Branch Trail near West Hyattsville Metro Station	0.7 mile	Completes trail gap	\$3,500,000	Secured 30% Design Funding	Seeking RAISE Grant for Final Design and Construction funding.
7-B	Henson Creek Trail Extension	Temple Hill Road to Branch Ave Metro Station	2 miles	Trail extension including crossing of I-495 & MD 5	NA	Funding sought through Managed Lanes Project	Managed Lanes Project expansion of Beltway dropped by MDOT
7-C	Oxon Cove/ Oxon Run Trail	Oxon Cove / Oxon Run near Forest Heights and Oxon Hill Farm.	2,200 feet	Rehabilitation of Trail on NPS land and extension on DPR land to Audrey Lane,	\$700,000	Feasibility Study Completed; CIP funding secured in FY 2021 and FY	Ready for procurement of design consultant.

				includes bridge.		2022 budgets	
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List and Map #	Project Name	Project Limits	Length	Description	Cost Estimate	Work Completed 2017-2021	Status
Priority 8: Fund and Conduct Major Feasibility Studies							
8-A	Piscataway Creek Trail	Piscataway Drive to Westphalia Central Park	15 miles	New trail	NA	Concept Plan by UMD Students	Phasing plan and formal feasibility study is needed.
8-B	Oxon Run Trail (Northern Extension)	Southern Avenue to Naylor Road.	1.0 mile	Connects Suitland Parkway Trail in DC with Naylor Road with Naylor Road Metro. Also links in Hillcrest Heights CC.	NA	Planning Dept. initiated alignment study in 2021.	Under Study
8-C	Folly Branch Trail	--Atwell Ave to Lottsford Vista Rd and Enterprise Golf Course Loop. --Sunflower Place to Old Lottsford Vista Rd. --Enterprise Golf Course Loop east side.	3.0 miles	Completes trail gaps including crossing US 50 and gaps on east and west sides of Enterprise Golf Course	NA	No Activity	Phasing plan and formal feasibility study needed. Existing Folly Branch Trail north of MD 450 needs to be repaved.
8-D	Western Branch Trail	Canterbury Court to Watkins Regional Park and Kettering Perrywood Community Center	2 miles	Completes trail gap including crossing MD 214	NA	No Activity	May not be feasible.
8-E	Chesapeake Rail Trail	DC Boundary to MD 214 just east of Seat Pleasant and PEPCO segment near Shady Glen		Part of the Central Avenue Trail	NA	Integrated into the Central Avenue Connector Trail Project.	Town of Upper Marlboro interested in developing trail on a segment

		Road				Consulted with Town of Upper Marlboro	of corridor within the town.
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List and Map #	Project Name	Project Limits	Length	Description	Cost Estimate	Work Completed 2017-2021	Status
Priority 9: Support Non-Park Trail Proposals and Studies							
9-A	Cheverly to Anacostia Trail	Cheverly-Euclid Neighborhood Park to Bladensburg Waterfront Park	1.6 miles	Connector trail	TBD	Consulted with Town of Cheverly	Phasing Plan, Cost Estimates and Project Manager needed.
9-B	WB&A Trail Extension to District of Columbia	MD 450 to DC Boundary	6.5 miles	Study feasibility to reduce two lanes and/or add side path to create a continuous trail.	TBD	Feasibility study completed.	Consultation with trail advocates needed.
9-C	ATTS to WB&A Trail Connector	Feasibility Study of potential alignments to connect WB&A Trail with Indian Creek Trail outside of the Beltway.	8.5 miles	Study potential alignments such as Beaver Dam Road Good Luck Road, the BARC, Greenbelt Park, and other public landsto determine if a feasible trail/low volume road route can be created.	TBD	Concept Plan prepared by UMD Landscape Architecture Class.	



live more, play more

2021 PARKS & RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY Findings Report

Prepared By
ETC INSTITUTE
OLATHE, KANSAS

Presented To The
**MARYLAND-NATIONAL
CAPITAL PARK AND
PLANNING COMMISSION
OF PRINCE GEORGE'S
COUNTY, MARYLAND**

JANUARY 2022



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Section 1: Executive Summary

Purpose

ETC Institute administered a Parks and Recreation Facilities and Services Community Interest and Opinion Survey, on behalf of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and the Department of Parks and Recreation in the Fall of 2021. The community interest and opinion survey was conducted in Prince George's County to help establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services in the County. Data compiled from the survey will be used to help leaders make decisions based on what best reflects the needs and opinion of the community.

Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in Prince George's County. Each survey contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. Households who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it online at PGParksSurvey.org.

To encourage participation, approximately ten days after the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute sent emails/text messages to the households that received the survey. The email/text contained a link to the online version of the survey to make it simple for households to complete.

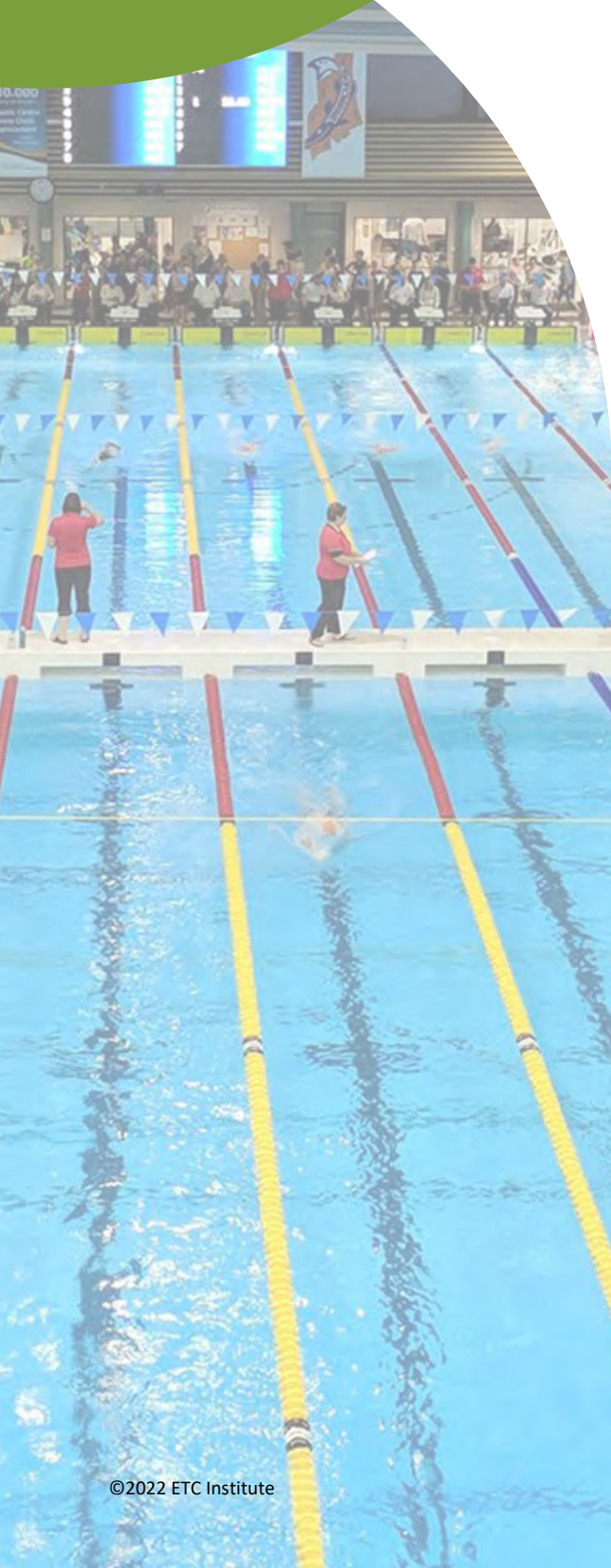
Methodology

To prevent people who were not a part of the random sample, everyone who completed the survey online were required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with the addresses that were originally selected for the random sample. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not counted.

The goal was to collect 1,200 completed surveys from County residents. The goal was exceeded in a total of 1,590 surveys being completed. The overall results for a sample of 1,590 surveys have a precision of at least +/-2.4% at the 95% level of confidence.

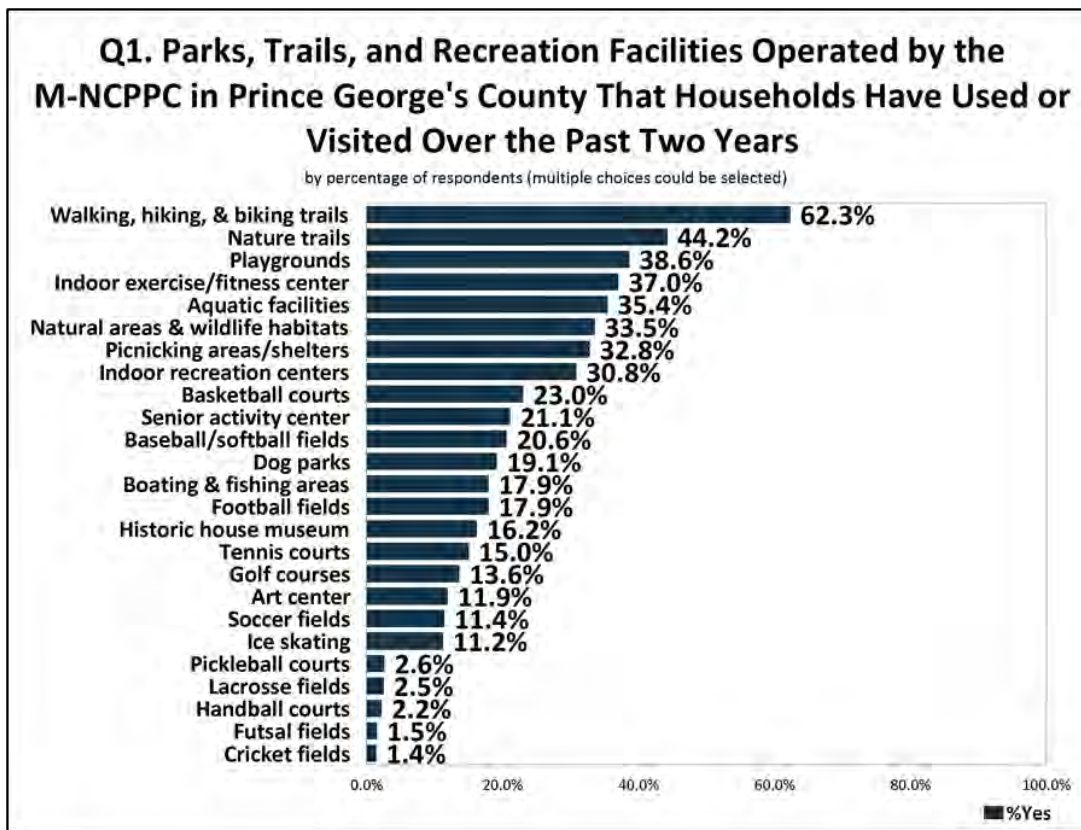
This Report Contains:

- An executive summary of the needs assessment survey findings
- Charts and graphs showing the overall results of the survey
- Benchmark analysis comparing the County's results to the national averages
- Priority investment analysis, which identifies priorities of investment by the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), for facilities/amenities and parks and recreation programs
- Tabular data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey
- A copy of the cover letter and survey instrument



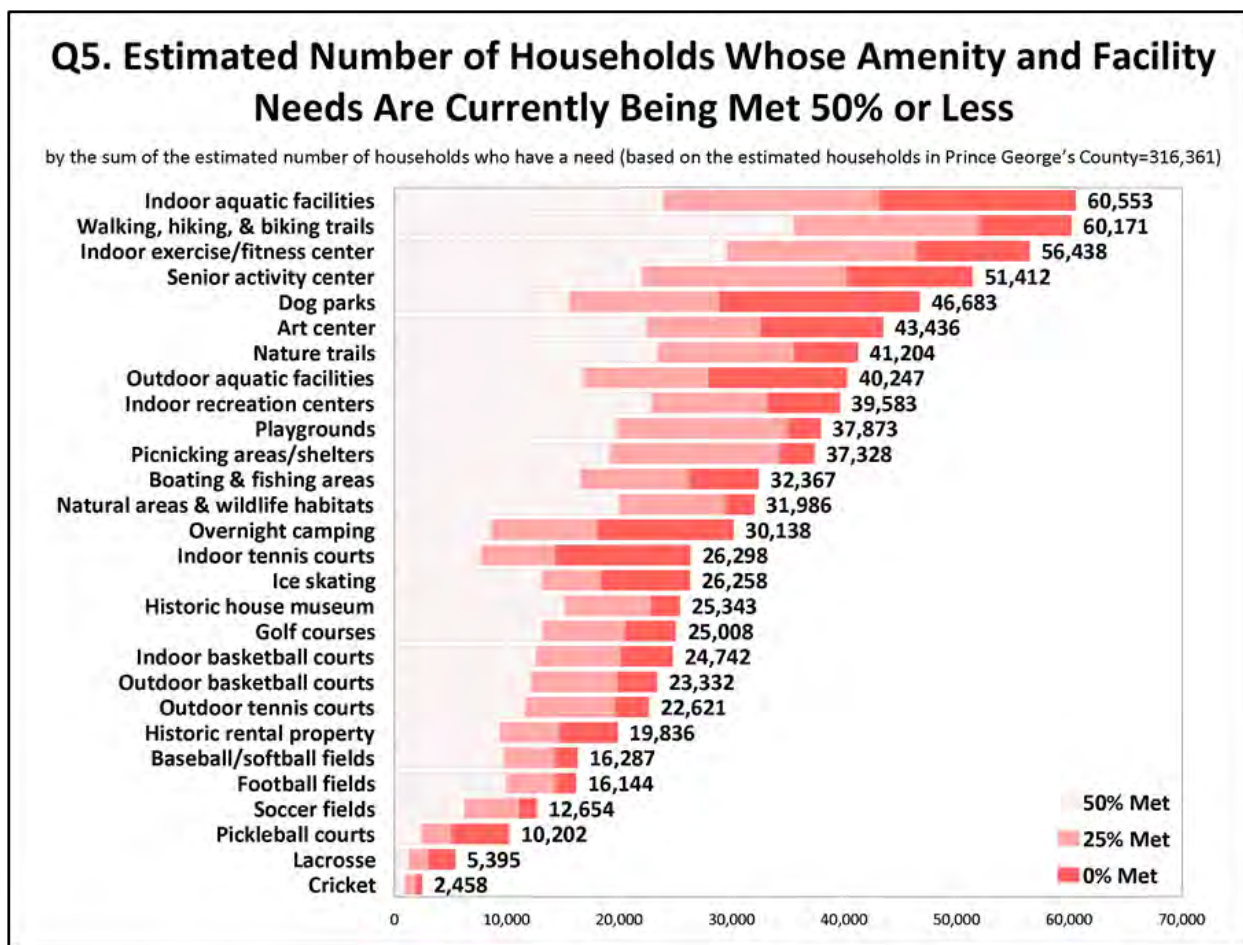
M-NCPPC Parks, Trails, and Recreation Facility Use & Ratings

- Walking, hiking, and biking trails were used by 62.3% of households over the past two years.
 - 44.2% nature trails
 - 38.6% playgrounds
 - 37.0% indoor exercise/fitness center
 - 35.4% aquatic facilities
 - 33.5% natural areas and wildlife habitats
- The graph below shows the percentage of households that have used/visited each of the parks, trails, and recreation facilities operated by the M-NCPPC in Prince George's County, over the past two years.
- 78.3% of households rated the physical condition of the parks, trails, and recreation facilities, operated by the M-NCPPC, as being in either excellent or good condition.
- 84.5% of households typically drive to parks and recreation facilities, 40.7% walk, and 20.6% bike.



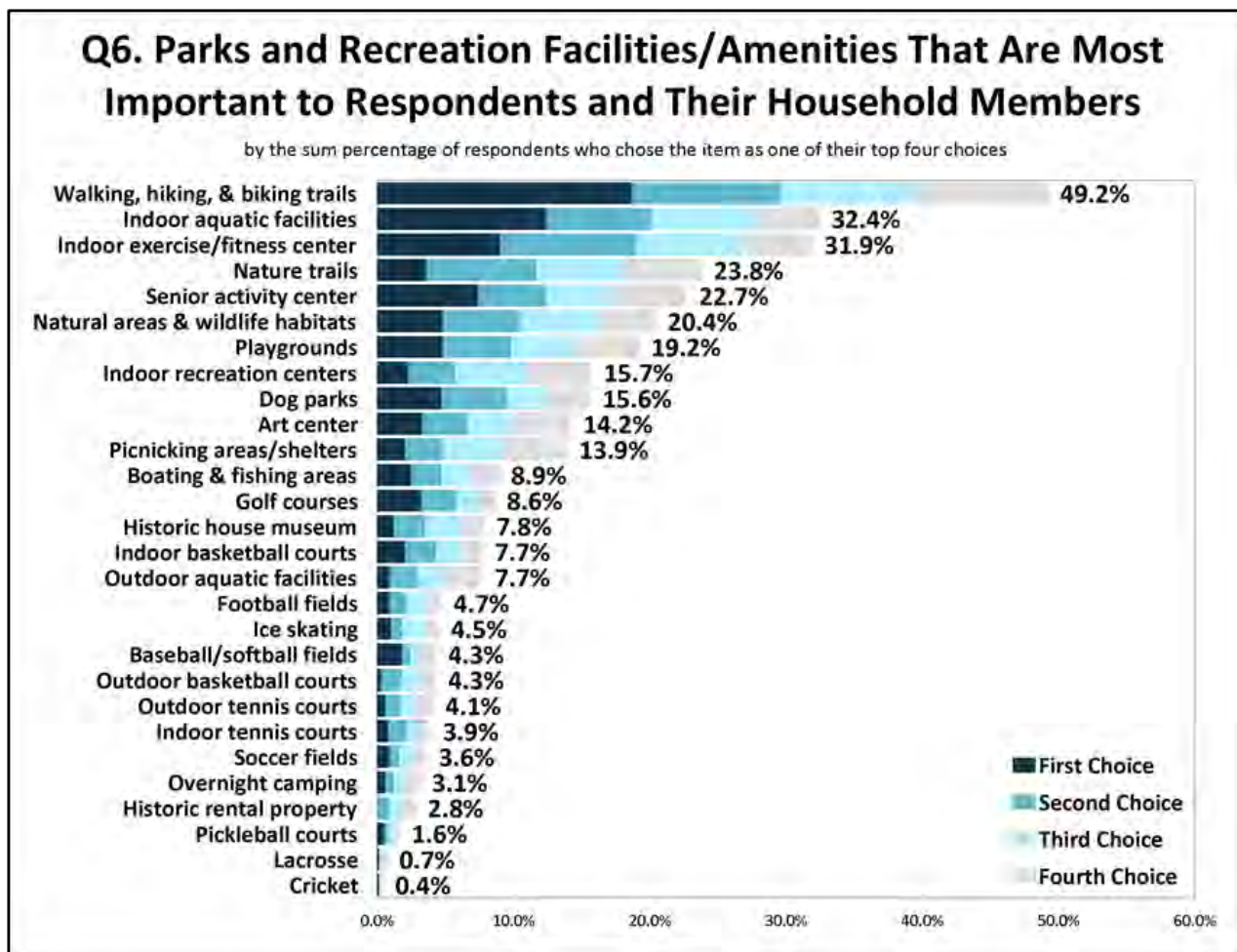
Parks and Recreation Facility/Amenity Needs

- Households were asked to identify if they had a need for 28 facilities/amenities and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest “unmet” need for various facilities/amenities. The four facilities/amenities with the highest percentage of households whose needs are currently being met 50% or less.
 - Indoor aquatic facilities - 60,552 households (19.1%)
 - Walking, hiking, and biking trails - 60,172 households (19.0%)
 - Indoor exercise/fitness center - 56,438 households (17.8%)
 - Senior activity center - 51,413 households (16.3%)
- The graph below shows the estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 28 facilities/amenities.



Parks and Recreation Facility/Amenity Importance

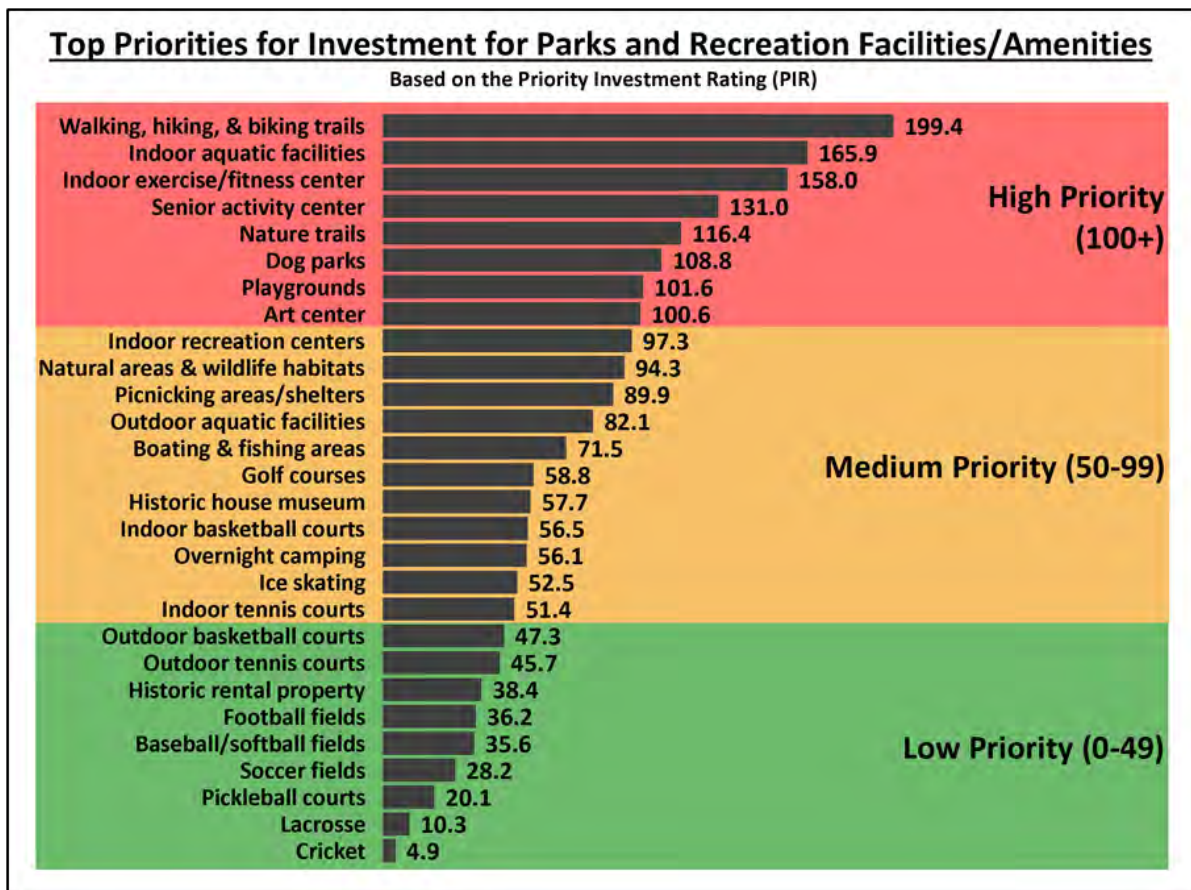
- In addition to assessing the needs for each parks and recreation facility/amenity, ETC Institute also evaluated the importance that households placed on each one. Based on the sum of households' top four choices, the following were the top four most important to households.
 - Walking, hiking, and biking trails (49.2%)
 - Indoor aquatic facilities (32.4%)
 - Indoor exercise/fitness center (31.9%)
 - Nature trails (23.8%)
- The percentage of households that selected each facility/amenity as one of their top four choices is shown in the graph below.



Parks and Recreation Facility/Amenity Priorities for Investment

- The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on Parks and Recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weighs:
 - the importance that households place on each facility/amenity/program and
 - how many households have unmet needs for the facility/amenity/program.
- Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided in Section 4 of the Findings Report. Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the eight facilities/amenities that were rated as high priorities for investment are in the table to the right.
- The Priority Investment Ratings for each amenity/facility is shown below.

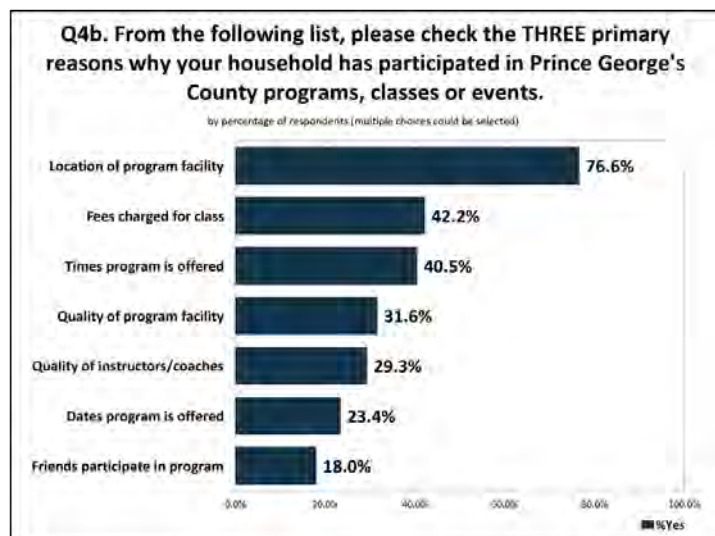
Priority Investment Ratings (PIR) - High Priorities	
Parks & Recreation Facilities/Amenities	PIR
Walking, hiking, & biking trails	199.4
Indoor aquatic facilities	165.9
Indoor exercise/fitness center	158.0
Senior activity center	131.0
Nature trails	116.4
Dog parks	108.8
Playgrounds	101.6
Art center	100.6



M-NCPPC Recreation Programs, Classes, & Events Participation

- One-third (33.3%) of households indicated they have participated in recreation programs, classes, or events offered by the M-NCPPC in Prince George's County during the past two years.
- Of these households, 71.5% participated in 1 to 3 programs, 25.5% participated in 4 or more programs, and 3.0% did not know.
- Of the 33.3% of households that had participated in programs, during the past two years, 76.6% indicated one of the primary reasons they participated in the programs was because of the location of the program facility.
 - 42.2% indicated it was because of the fees charged for the class
 - 40.5% because of the times the program was offered
 - 31.6% because of the quality of the program facility
 - 29.3% because of the quality of the instructors/coaches
 - 23.4% because of the dates the program was offered
 - 18.0% because friends participated in the program

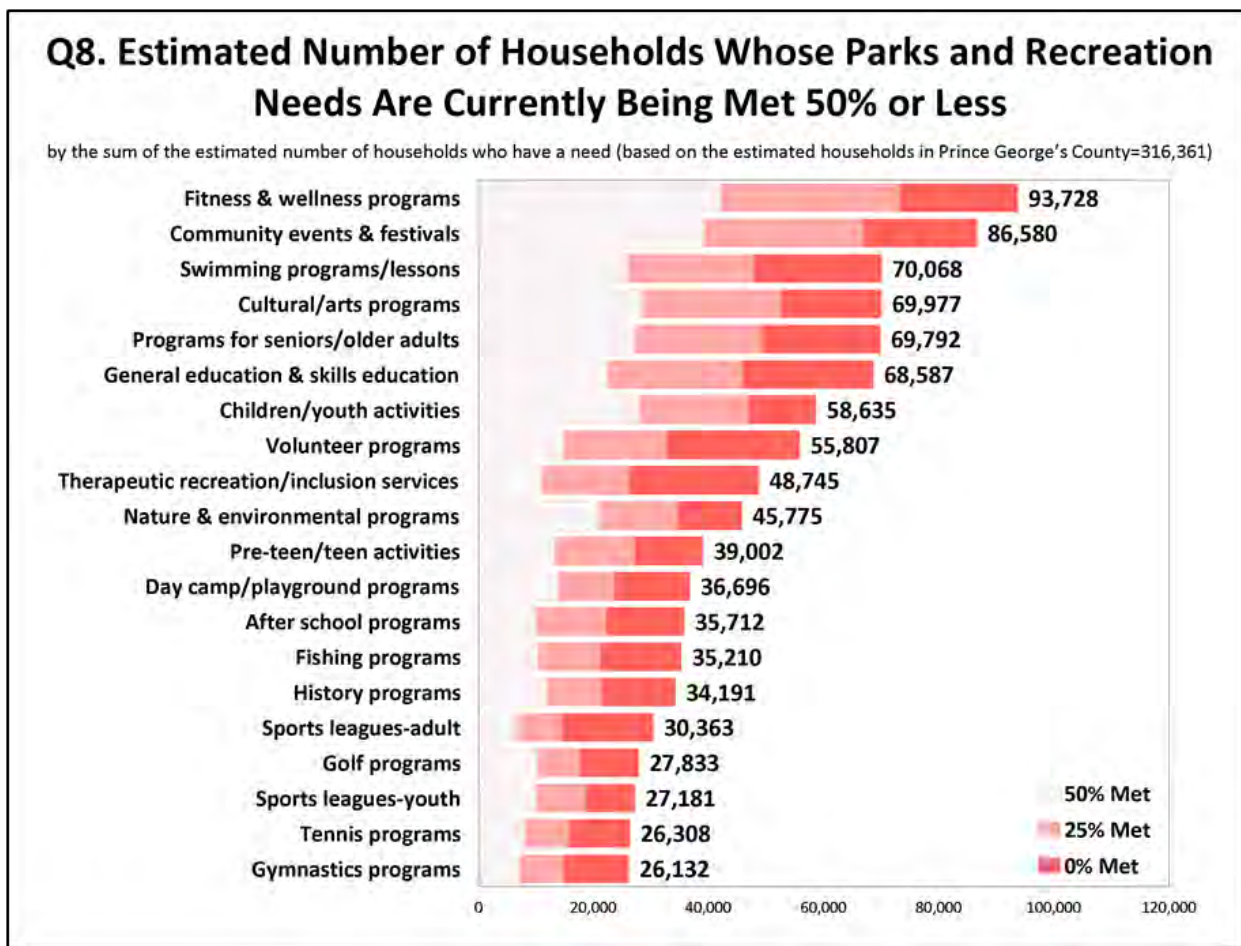
- The graph to the right shows percentage of households that chose the reason as one of their three primary reasons for participating in County programs, classes, or events.



- Households were asked how they learn about parks and recreation events and activities. Majority learn through the M-NCPPC website (57.3%) and/or word of mouth (56.5%).
 - 37.4% use The Guide
 - 27.0% learn through flyers at te Community Center
 - 20.3% use Facebook
 - 8.2% learn through radio ads
 - 3.2% use Twitter

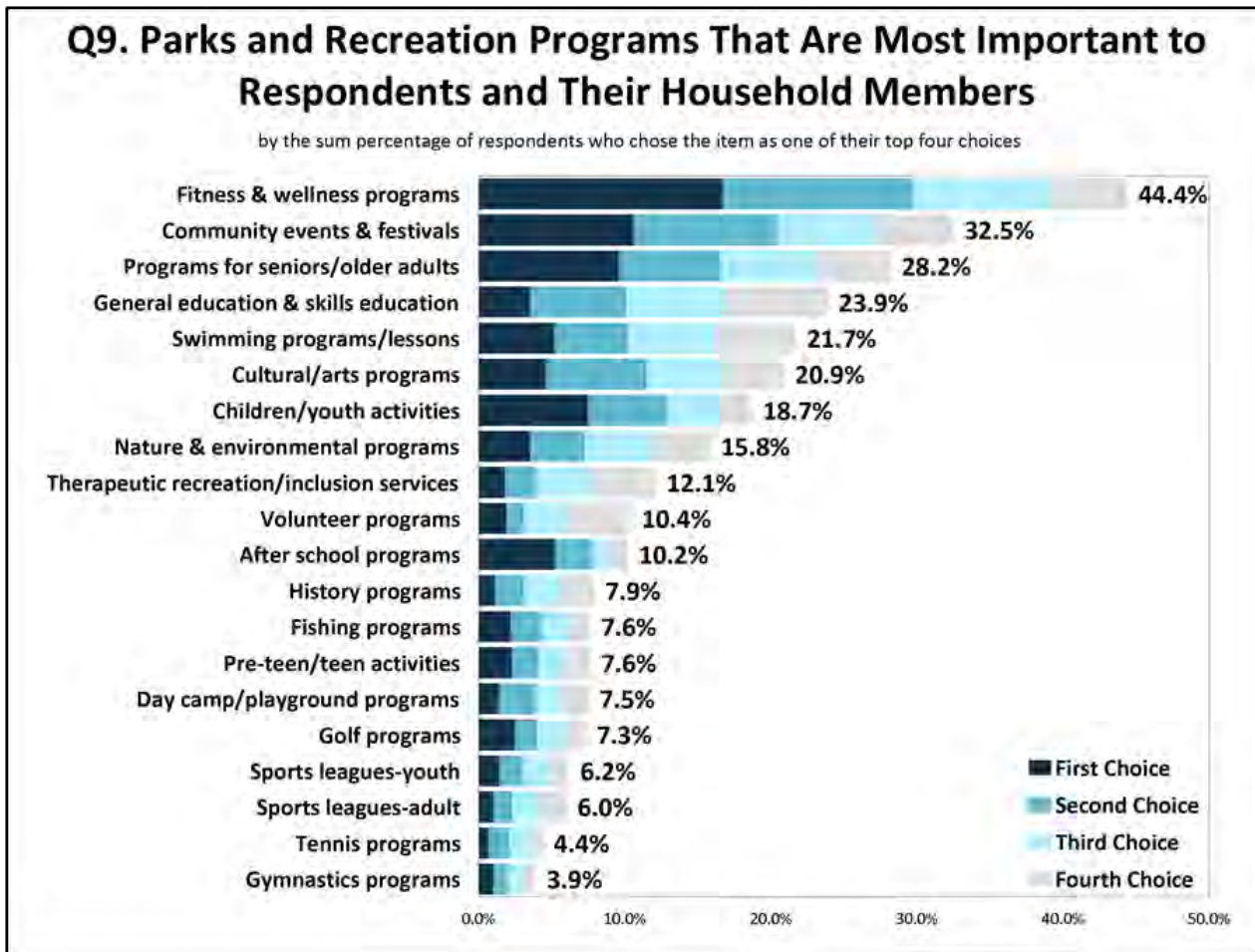
Parks & Recreation Program Needs

- Households were asked to identify if they had a need for 20 parks and recreation programs and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest “unmet” need for these various programs. The five programs with the highest percentage of households whose needs are currently being met 50% or less are listed below.
 - Fitness and wellness programs - 93,728 households (29.6%)
 - Community event and festivals - 86,580 households (27.4%)
 - Swimming programs/lessons - 70,068 households (22.1%)
 - Cultural/arts programs - 69,976 households (22.1%)
 - Programs for seniors/older adults - 69,792 households (22.1%)
- The graph below shows the estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 20 parks and recreation programs.



Parks & Recreation Program Importance

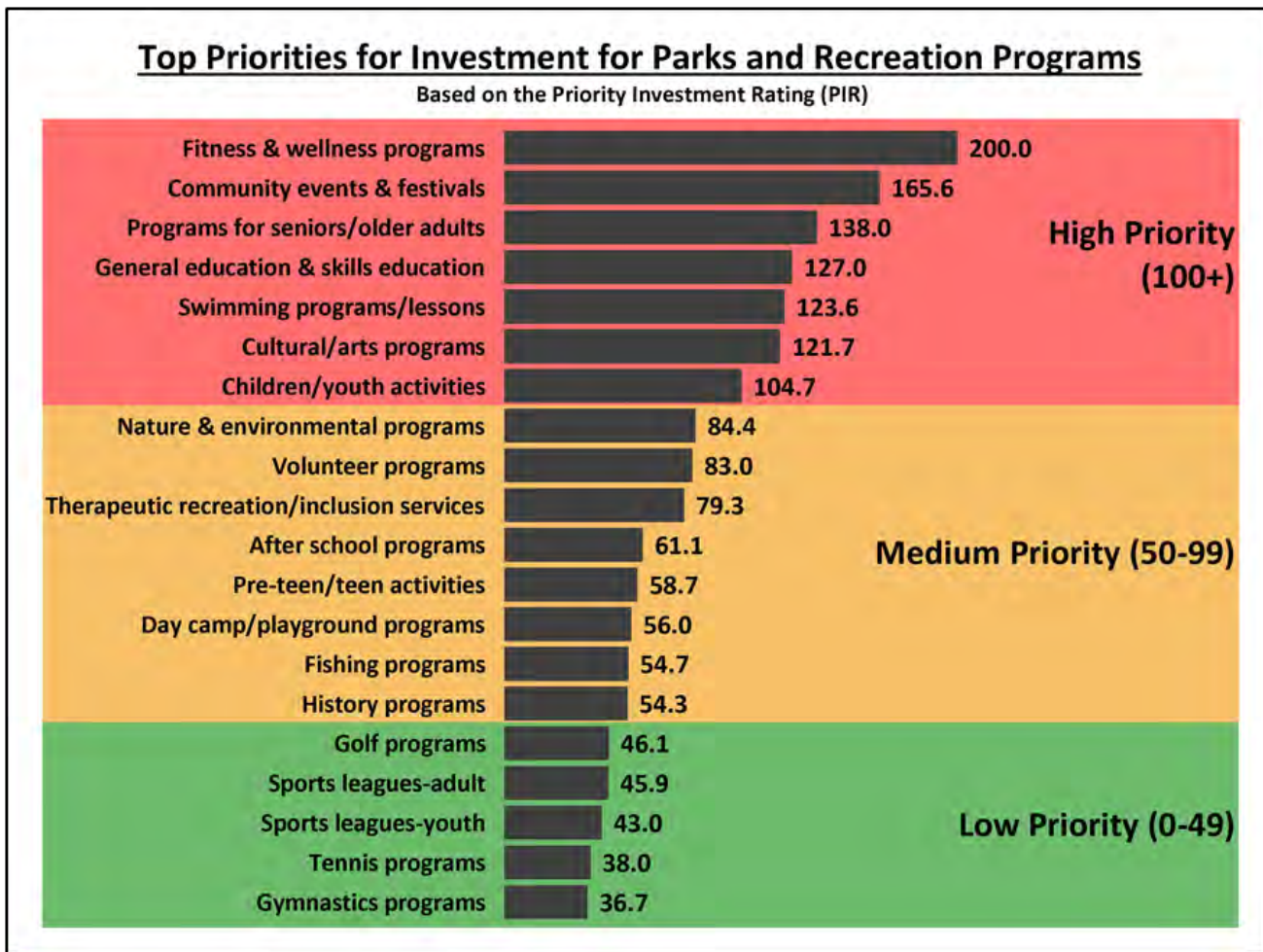
- In addition to assessing the needs for each recreation program, ETC Institute also evaluated the importance that households placed on each one. Based on the sum of households’ top four choices, the following four programs were rated as most important to households.
 - Fitness and wellness programs (44.4%)
 - Community events and festivals (32.5%)
 - Programs for seniors/older adults (28.2%)
 - General education and skills education (23.9%)
- The percentage of households that selected each parks and recreation program as one of their top four choices is shown in the graph below.



Parks & Recreation Program Priorities for Investment

- Priorities for Parks and Recreation Program Investments. Details regarding the methodology for this analysis is provided in Section 4 of the Findings Report. Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the seven parks and recreation programs were rated as high priorities for investment are shown to the right.
- The Priority Investment Ratings for each parks and recreation program is shown below.

Priority Investment Ratings (PIR) - High Priorities	
Parks & Recreation Programs	PIR
Fitness & wellness programs	200.0
Community events & festivals	165.6
Programs for seniors/older adults	138.0
General education & skills education	127.0
Swimming programs/lessons	123.6
Cultural/arts programs	121.7
Children/youth activities	104.7



Additional Findings

Community Centers & Improvements

- 53.0% of households indicated that, over the past two years, they have used/visited community centers operated by the M-NCPPC in Prince George's County.
- 58.9% of households indicated they would be willing to drive between 10 to 20 minutes to use a multi-use community recreation center that had the program spaces that are most important to them and 35.2% indicated they would be willing to drive 21 minutes or more. 6.0% did not provide their opinion.
- One-third (33.7%) of households indicated the reason they have not used M-NCPPC parks, recreation facilities, or programs more often was because they did not know what was being offered, 22.2% because a program/facility they were interested in was not offered, 19.6% because they were too busy, 18.9% because program times were not convenient, and 17.1% because it was too far from their residence.
- When asked to rate their level of support for actions the M-NCPPC could take to improve the parks and recreation system, the following four were the top improvements with the highest ratings of support.
 - Fix-up/repair existing outdoor park facilities (89.6%)
 - Upgrade existing recreation centers (87.1%)
 - Develop new walking/biking trails and connecting existing trails (85.2%)
 - Purchase land to preserve open space and green space for the future (84.4%)
- Households were asked which four actions were most important to them and the top four actions were:
 - Fix-up/repair existing outdoor park facilities (52.5%)
 - Purchase land to preserve open space and green space for the future (41.3%)
 - Upgrade existing recreation centers (38.3%)
 - Develop new walking/biking trails and connecting existing trails (35.2%)
- Given the recent COVID-19 Pandemic, 59.4% of households indicated their perception of value of parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation has significantly/somewhat increased, 26.9% had no change, 8.6% indicated their perception somewhat/significantly decreased, and 5.1% did not provide a response.

Conclusions

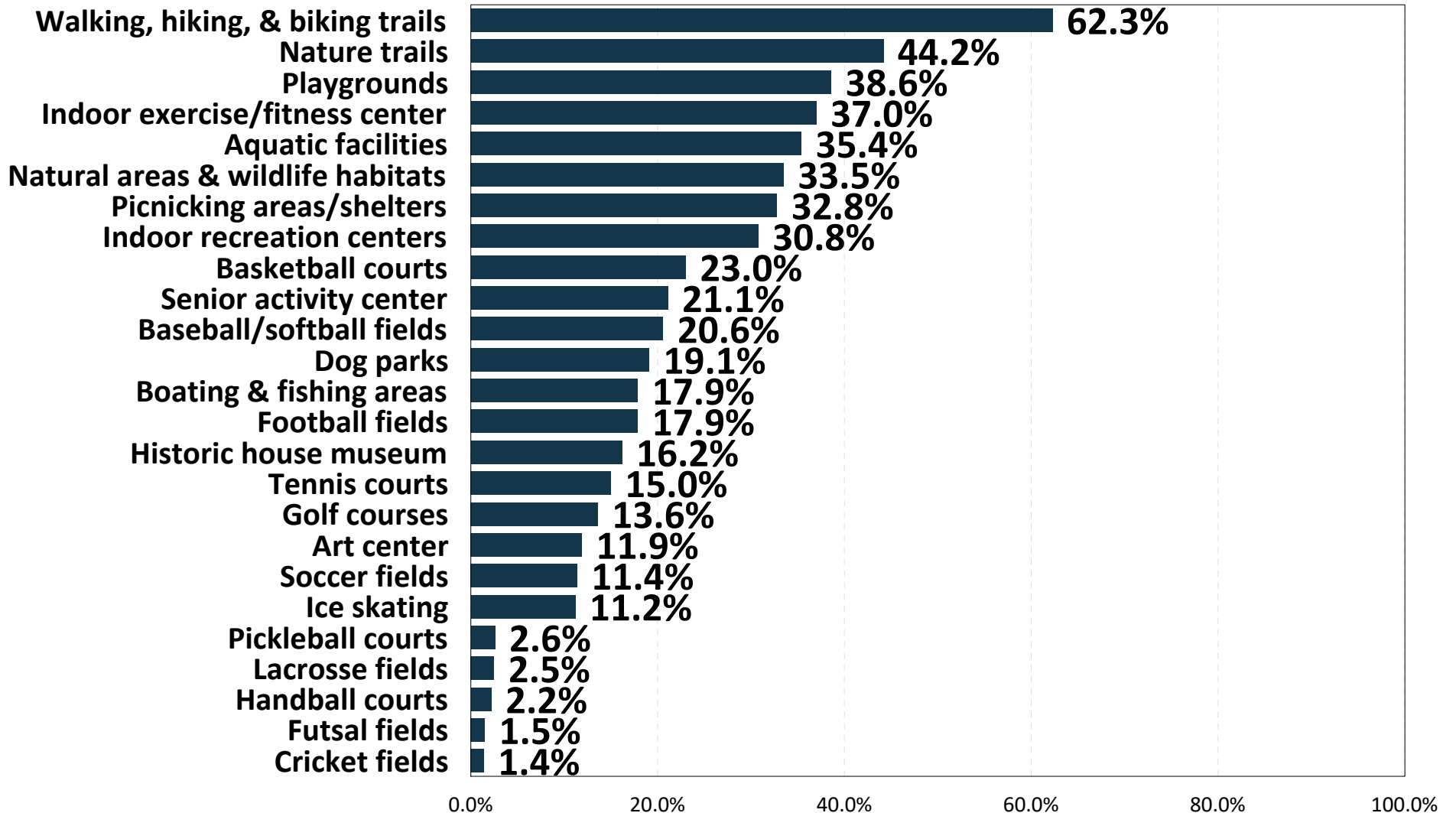
- To ensure that the Parks and Recreation Department continues to meet the needs and expectations of the community, based on our Priority Investment Rating (PIR) Analysis, ETC Institute recommends that the Parks and Recreation Department and the County sustain and/or improve the performance in areas that were identified as High Priority Areas (by the PIR). The ratings for Parks and Recreation facilities/amenities, parks and recreation programs are listed below.
- Priorities of Investment - Facilities/Amenities
 - Walking, hiking, and biking trails (PIR=199.4)
 - Indoor aquatic facilities (PIR=165.9)
 - Indoor exercise/fitness center (PIR=158.0)
 - Senior activity center (PIR=131.0)
 - Nature trails (PIR=116.4)
 - Dog parks (PIR=108.8)
 - Playgrounds (PIR=101.6)
 - Art center (PIR=100.6)
- Priorities of Investment - Parks and Recreation Programs
 - Fitness and wellness programs (PIR=200.0)
 - Community events and festivals (PIR=165.6)
 - Programs for seniors/older adults (PIR=138.0)
 - General education and skills education (PIR=127.0)
 - Swimming programs/lessons (PIR=123.6)
 - Cultural/arts programs (PIR=121.7)
 - Children/youth activities (PIR=104.7)



Section 2: Charts and Graphs of Overall Results

Q1. Parks, Trails, and Recreation Facilities Operated by the M-NCPPC in Prince George's County That Households Have Used or Visited Over the Past Two Years

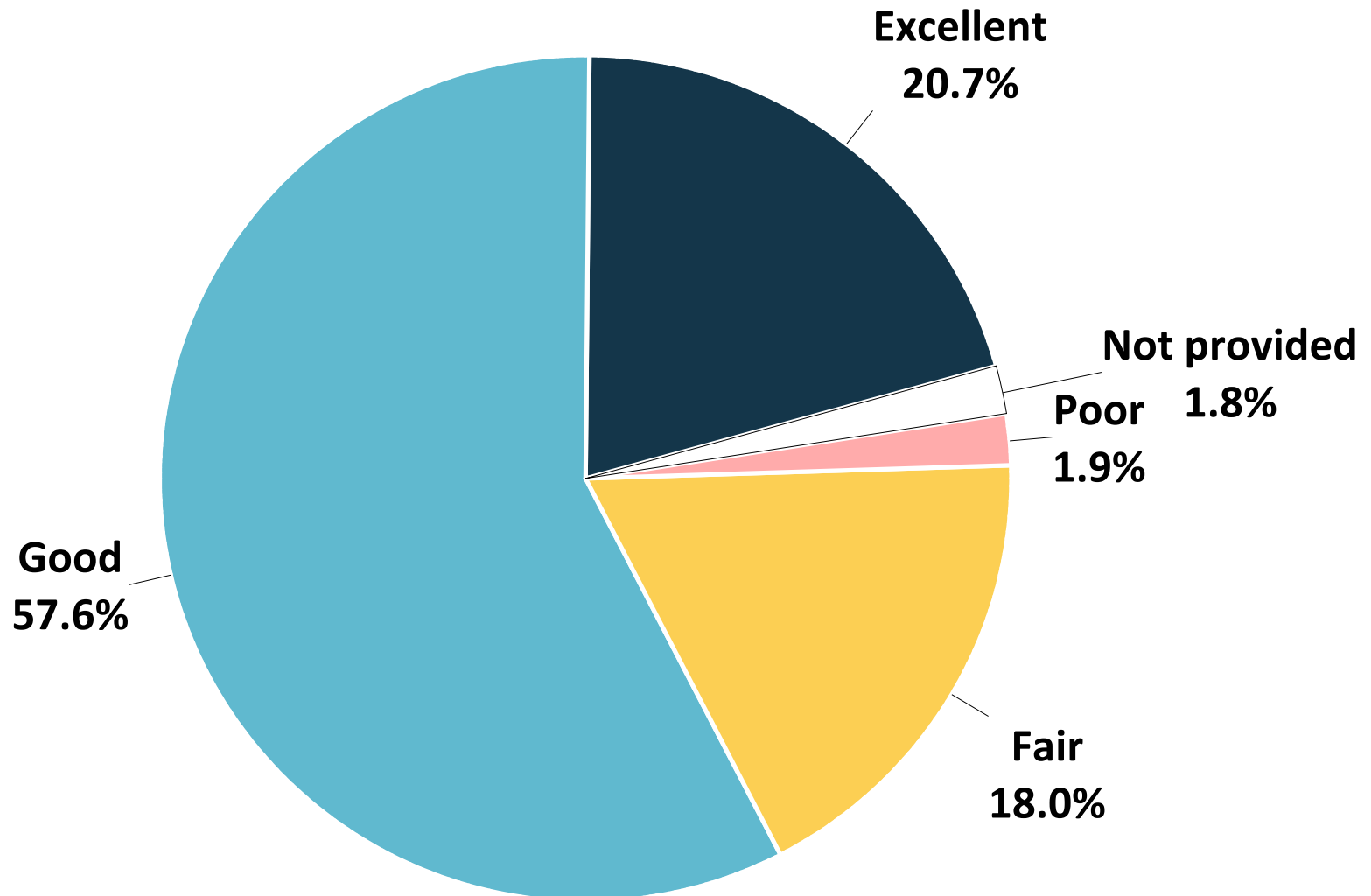
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)



■ %Yes

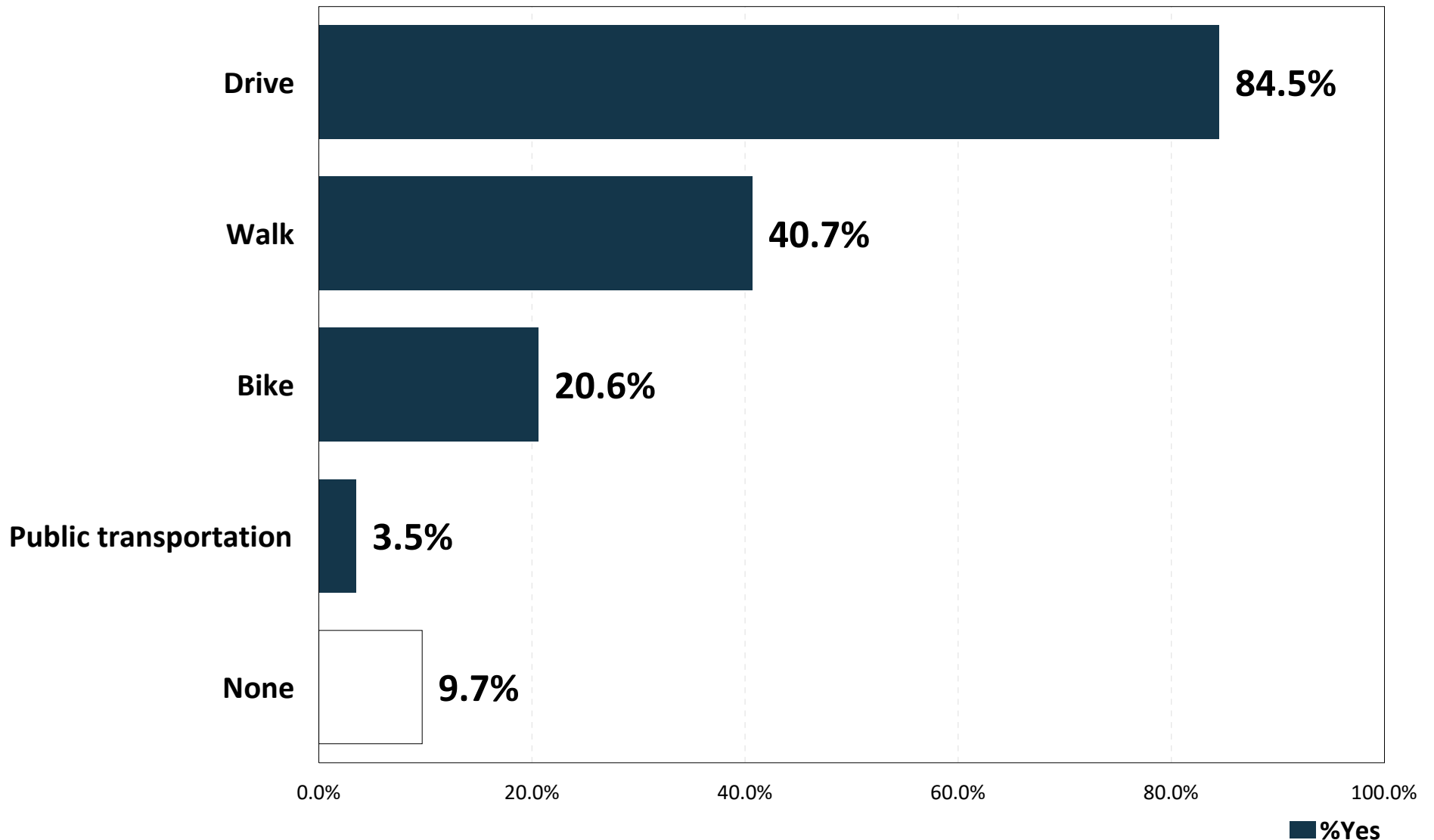
Q2. Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of ALL the parks, trails, and recreation facilities operated by the M-NCPPC in Prince George's County that you have visited?

by percentage of respondents



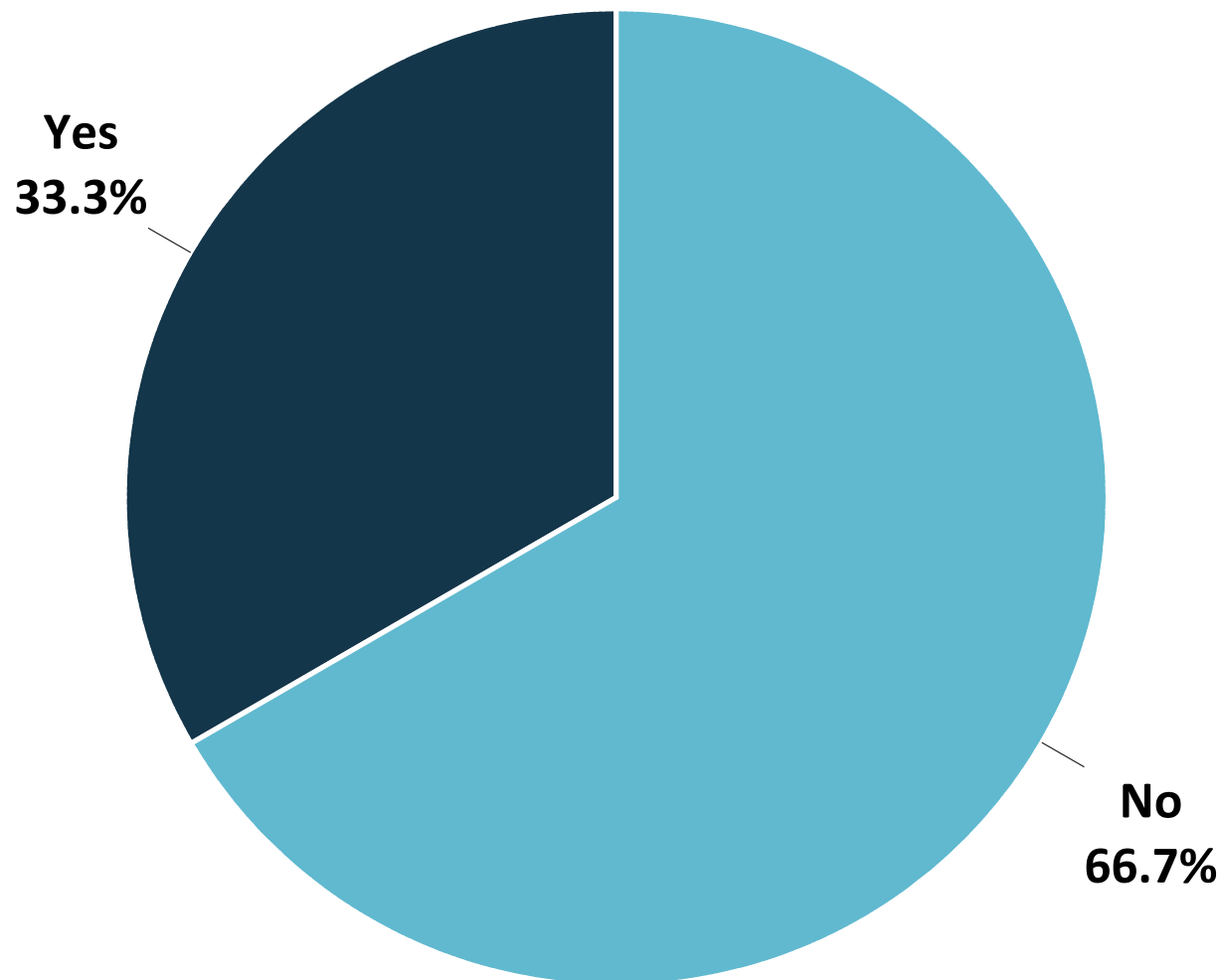
Q3. From the following list, please CHECK ALL of the ways you and members of your household travel to the parks and recreation facilities that you use.

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)



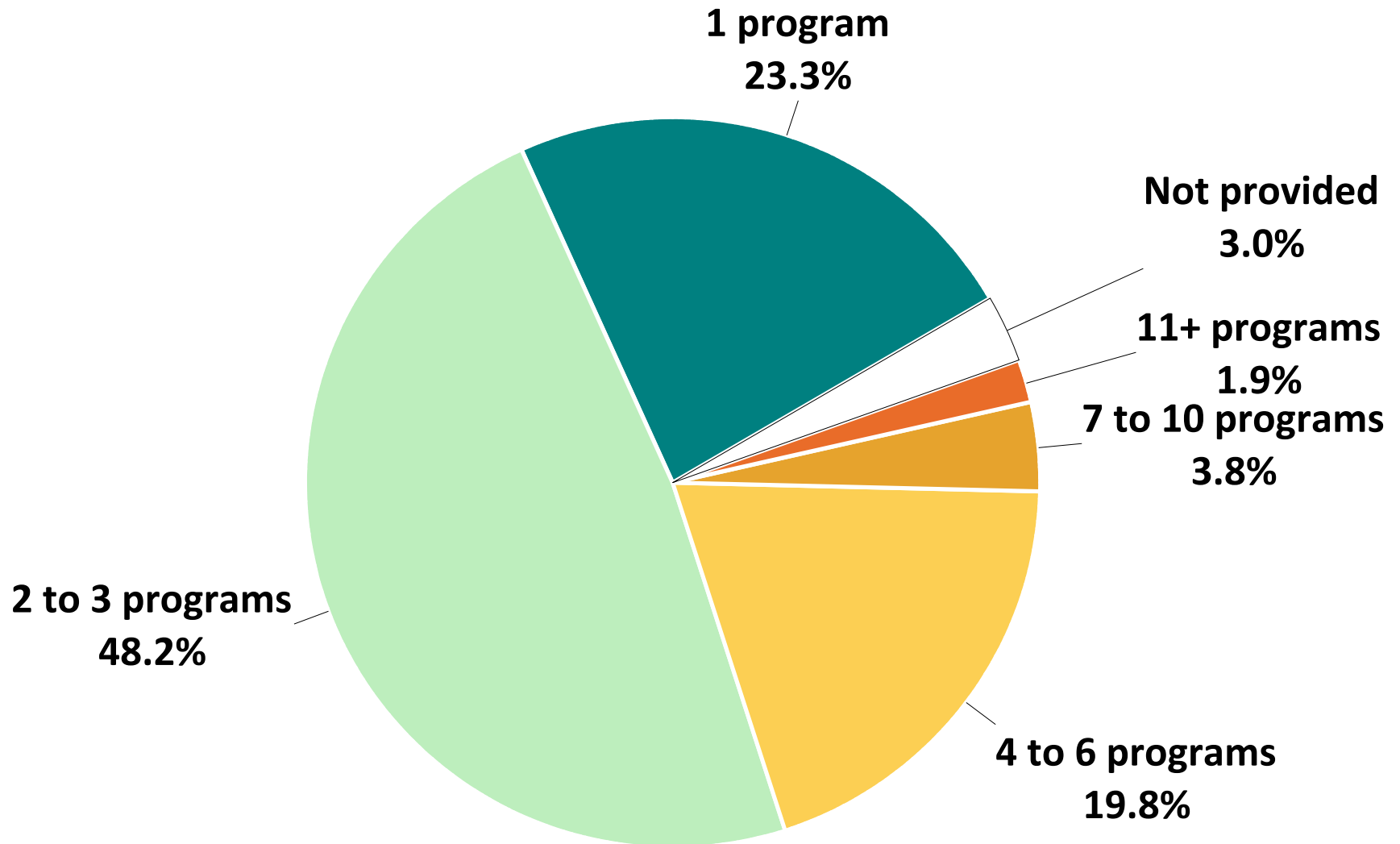
Q4. Have you or other members of your household participated in any recreation programs, classes, or events offered by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Prince George's County during the past 2 years?

by percentage of respondents



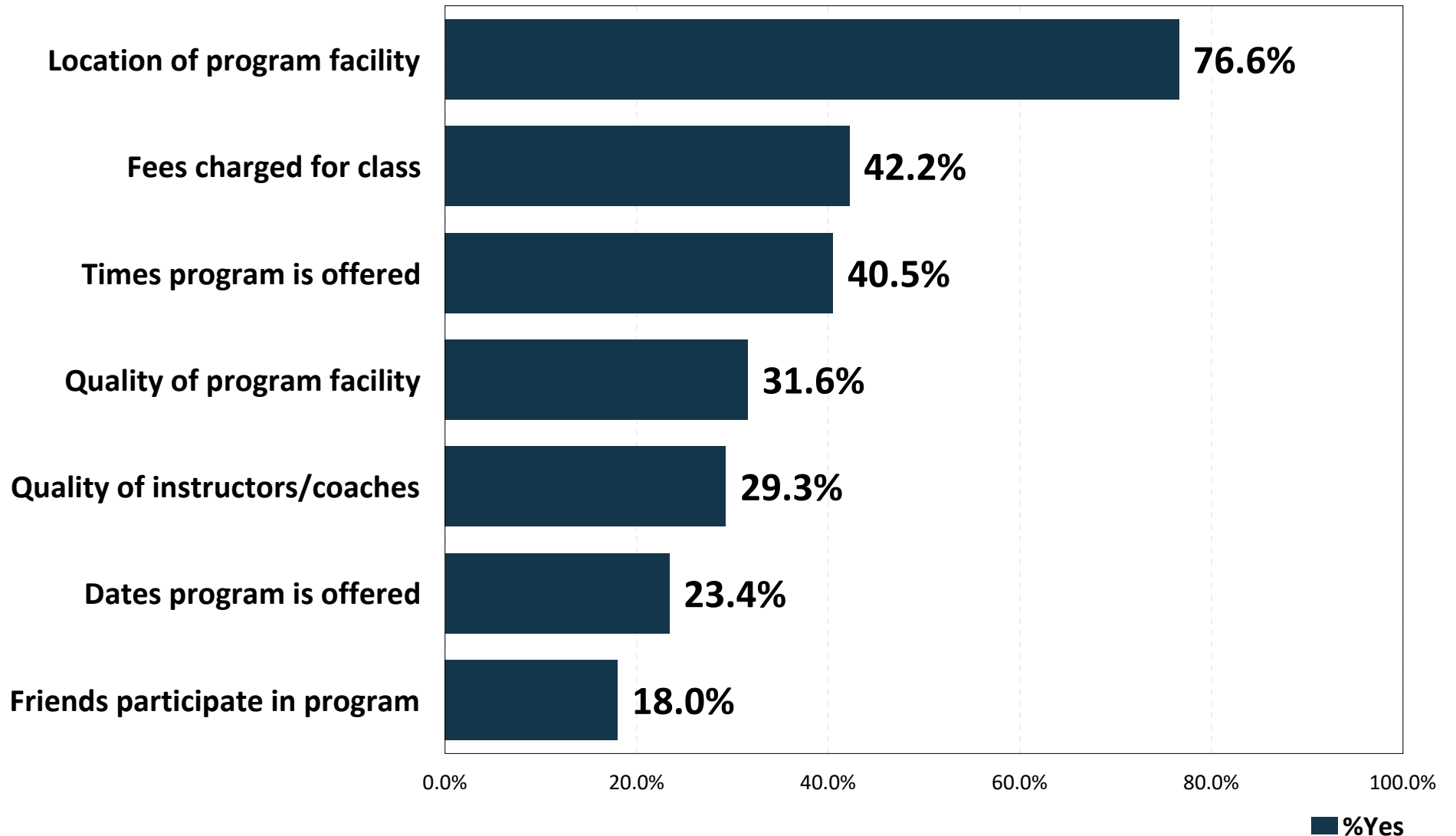
Q4a. Approximately how many different recreation programs, classes or events offered by Prince George's County have you or members of your household participated in over the past 2 years?

by percentage of respondents



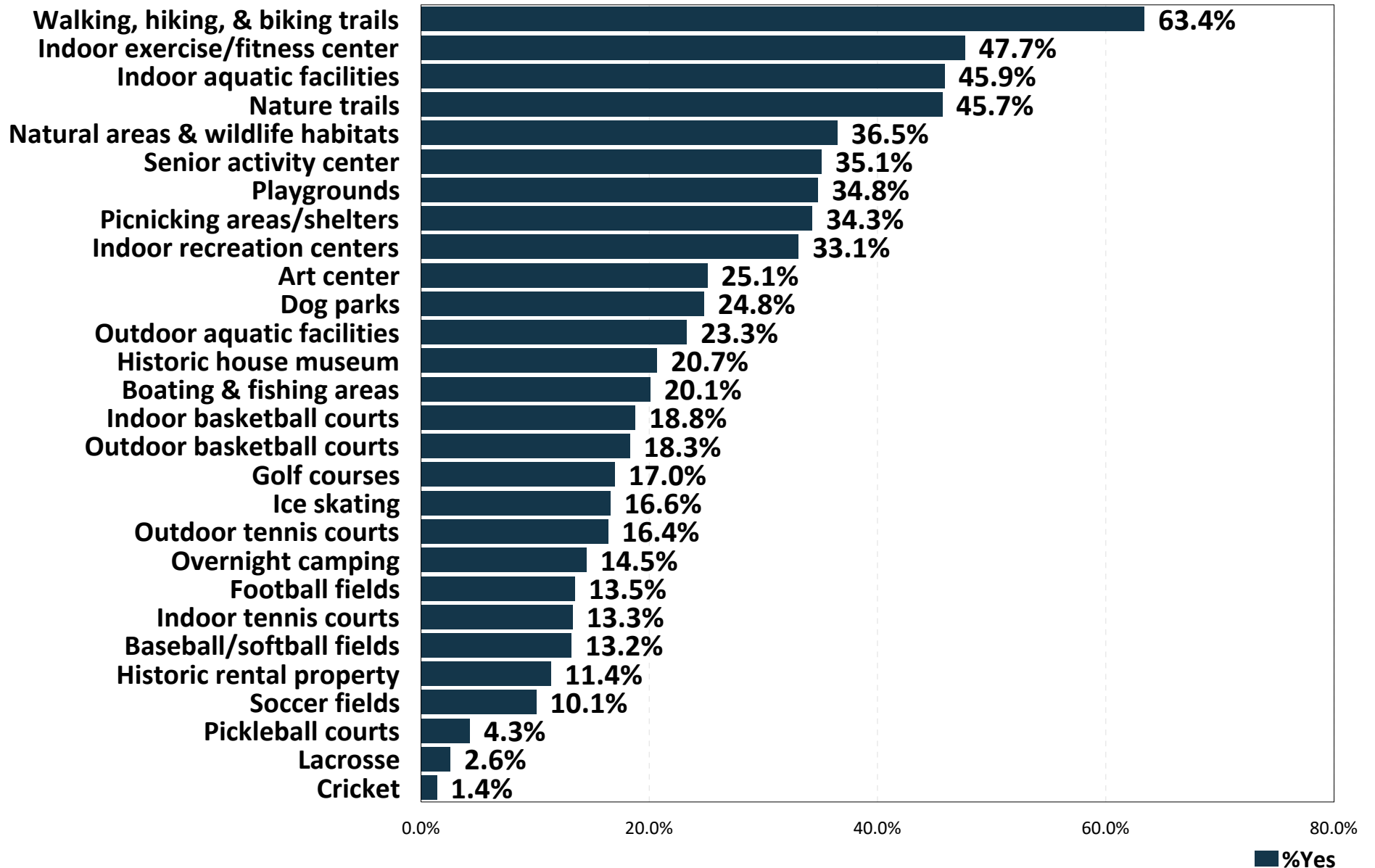
Q4b. From the following list, please check the **THREE** primary reasons why your household has participated in Prince George's County programs, classes or events.

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)



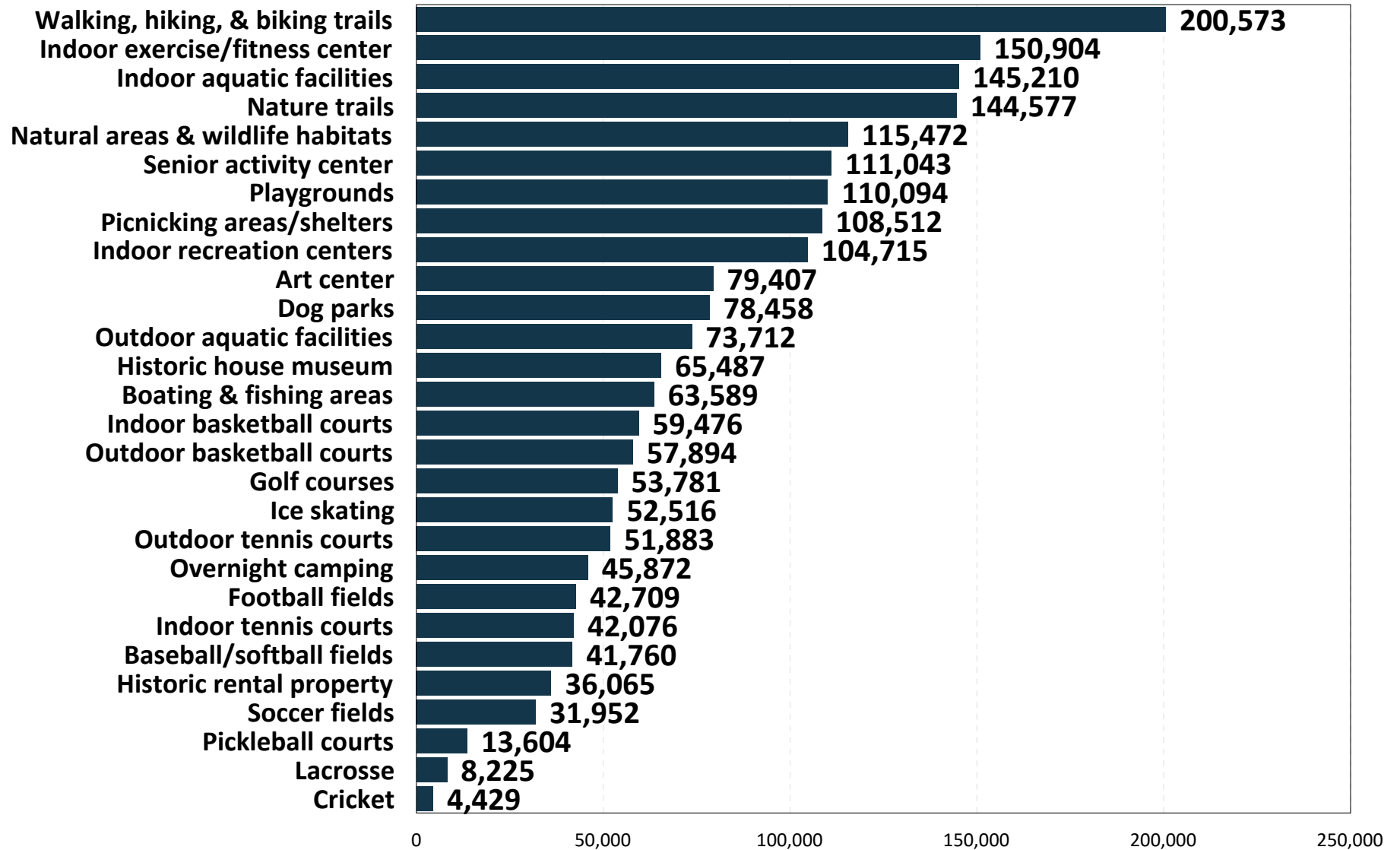
Q5. Percentage of Respondents That Have a Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities/Amenities

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)



Q5. Estimated Number of Households That Have a Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities/Amenities

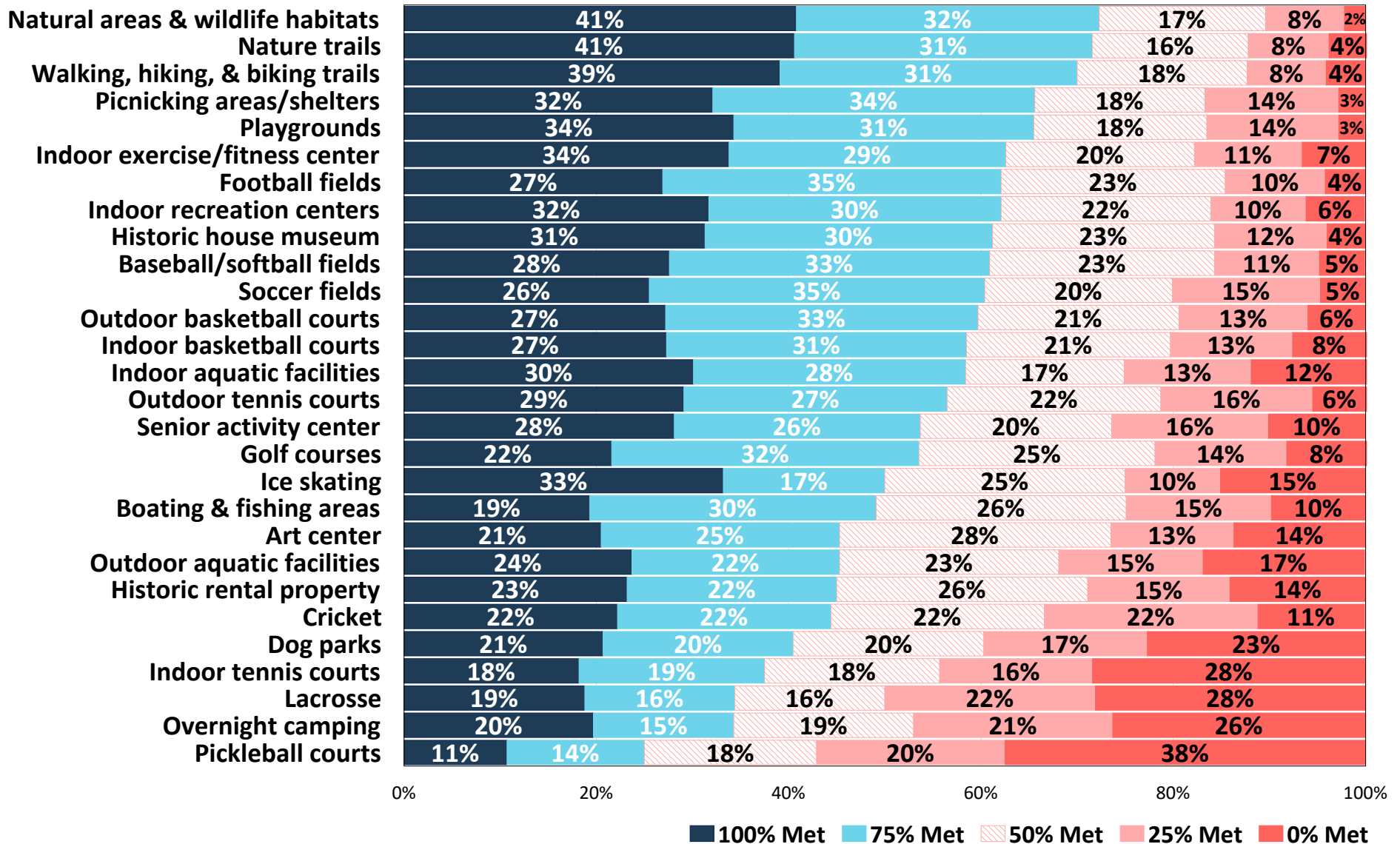
by estimated number of households that have a need (based on the estimated households in Prince George’s County=316,361)



■ Estimated Number of Households

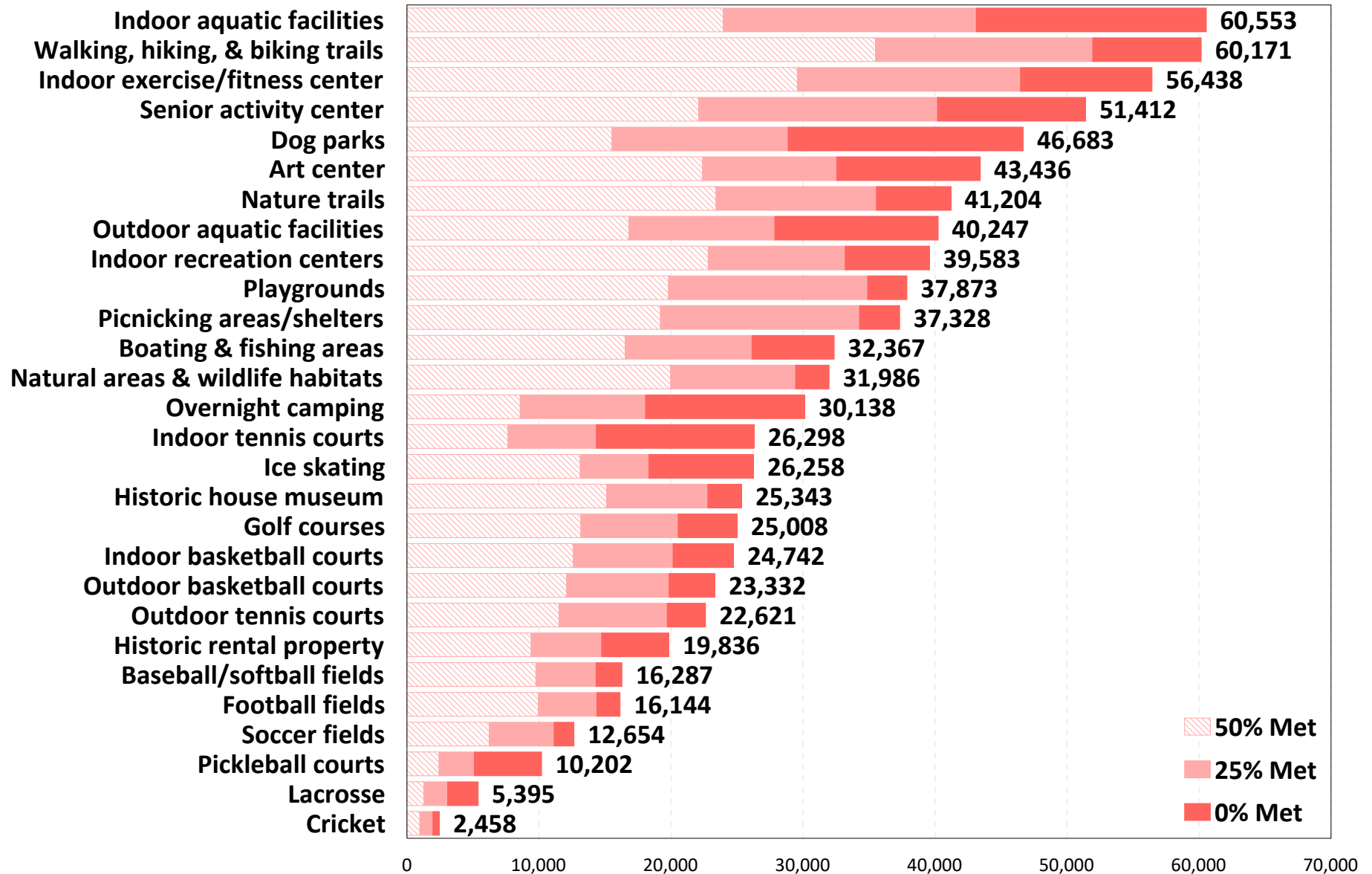
Q5. How Well Respondents' Parks and Recreation Facility/Amenity Needs Are Currently Being Met

by percentage of respondents using a 5-point scale, where 5 means **100% Met** and 1 means **0% Met**
(excluding *don't know* responses)



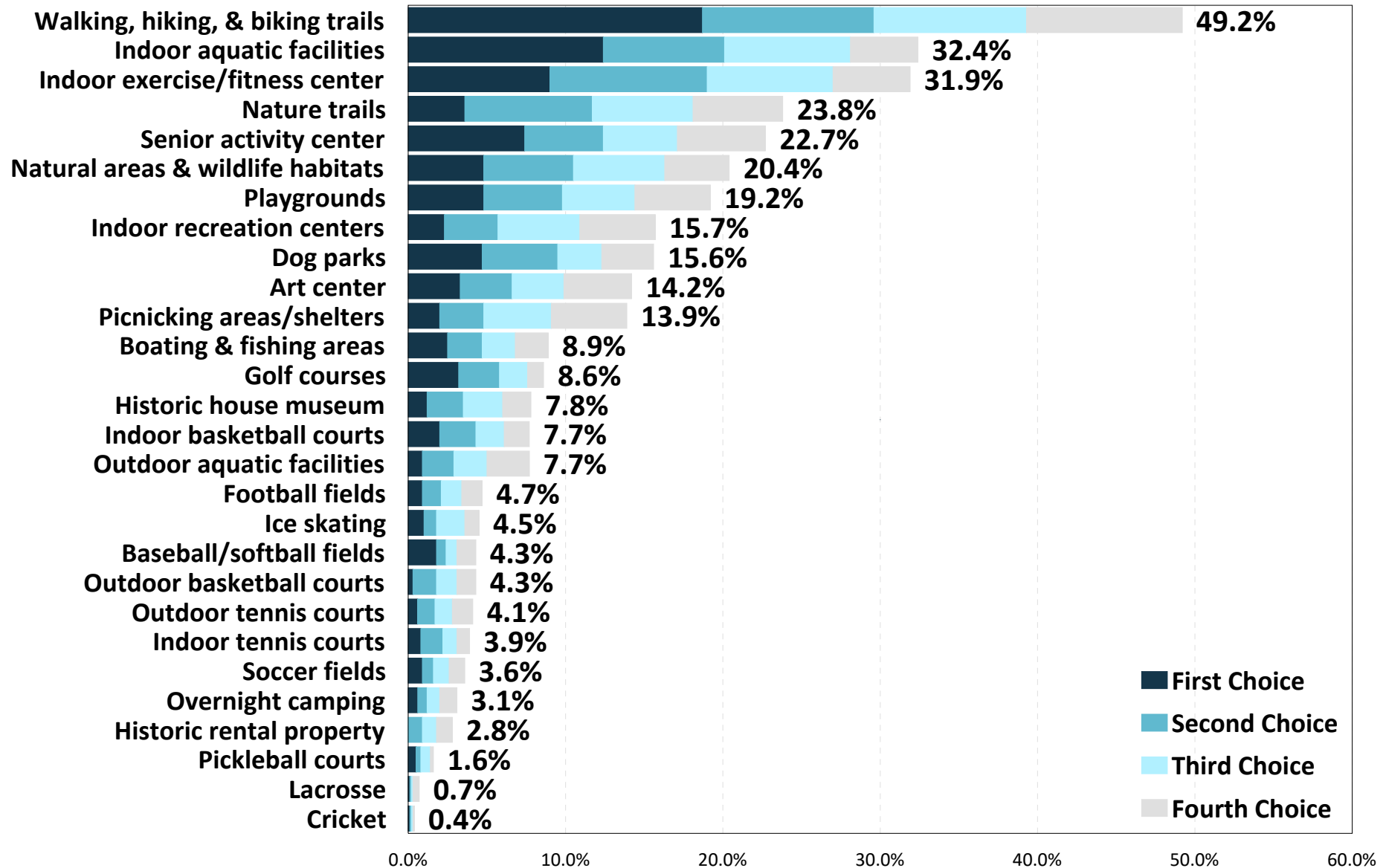
Q5. Estimated Number of Households Whose Amenity and Facility Needs Are Currently Being Met 50% or Less

by the sum of the estimated number of households who have a need (based on the estimated households in Prince George's County=316,361)



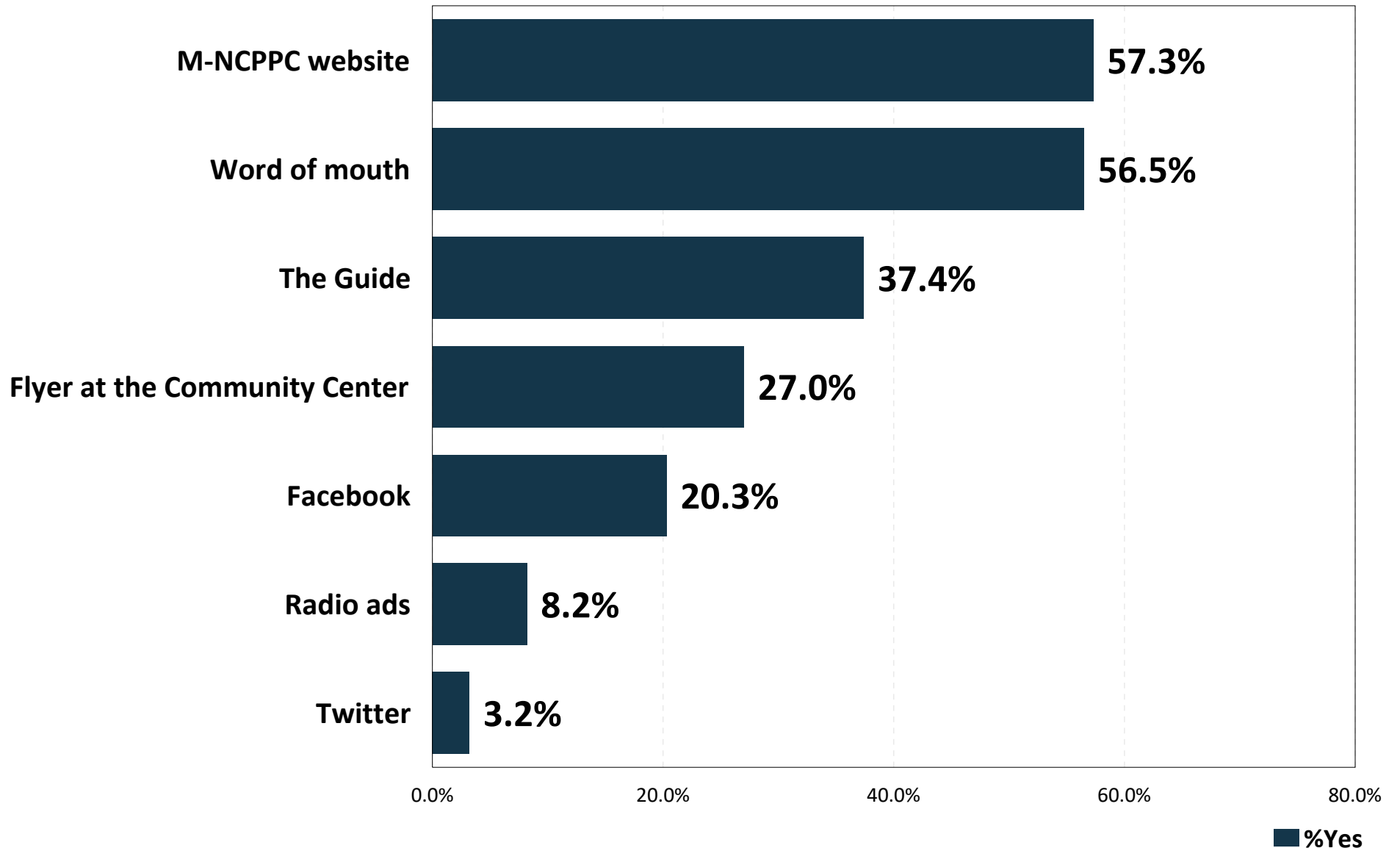
Q6. Parks and Recreation Facilities/Amenities That Are Most Important to Respondents and Their Household Members

by the sum percentage of respondents who chose the item as one of their top four choices



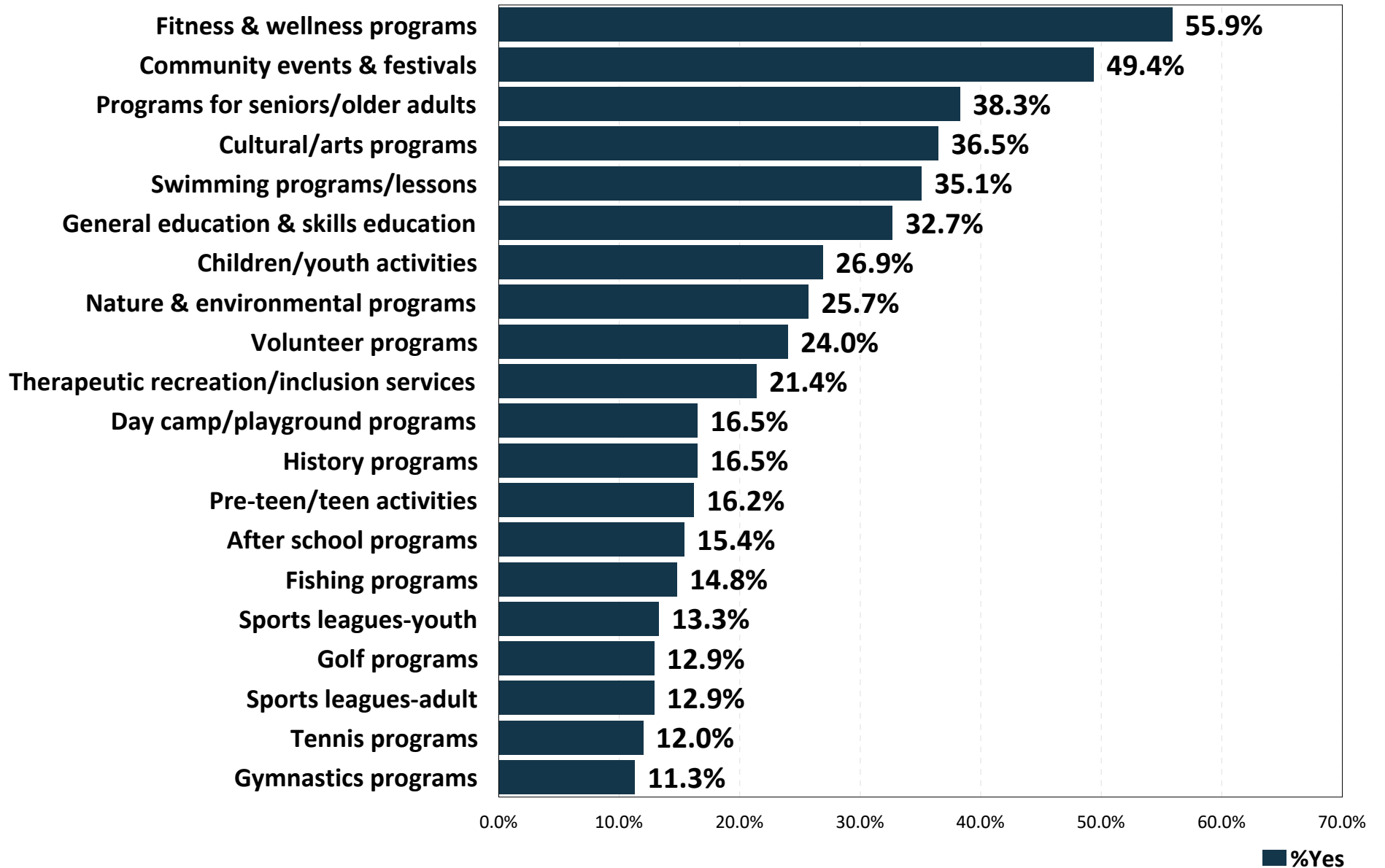
Q7. Please CHECK ALL of the ways you learn about parks and recreation events and activities?

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)



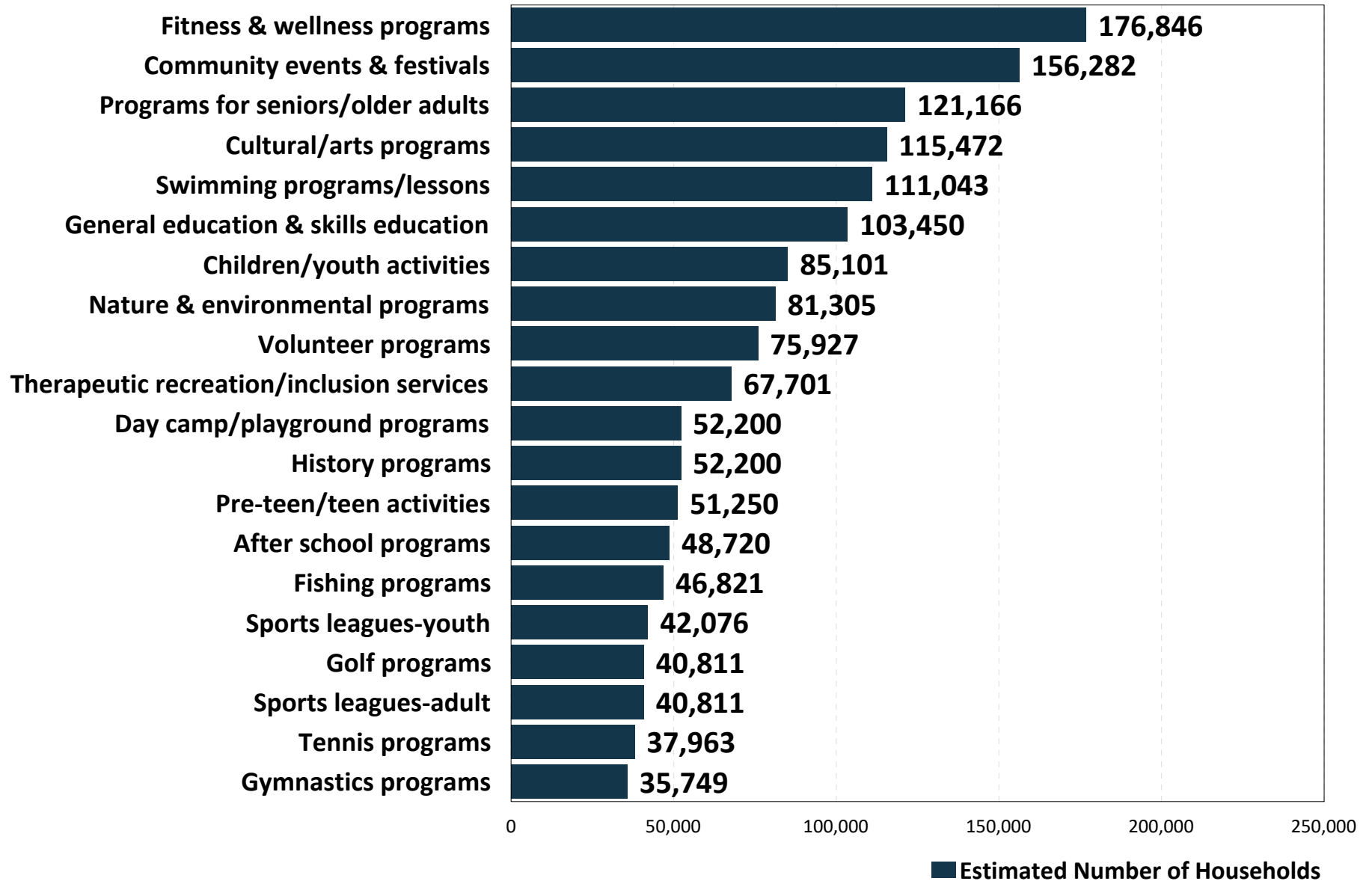
Q8. Percentage of Respondents That Have a Need for Parks and Recreation Programs

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)



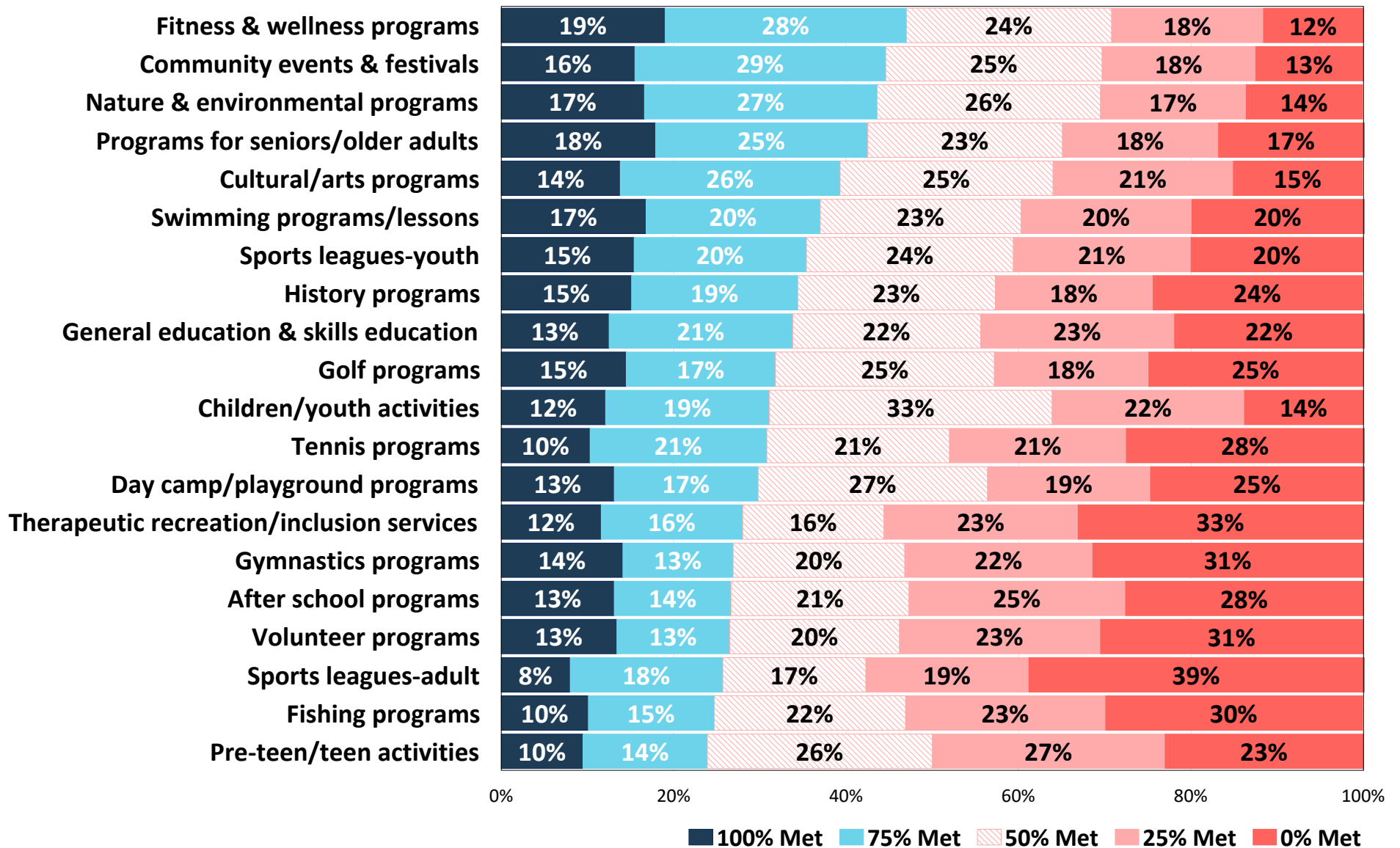
Q8. Estimated Number of Households That Have a Need for Parks and Recreation Programs

by estimated number of households that have a need (based on the estimated households in Prince George’s County=316,361)



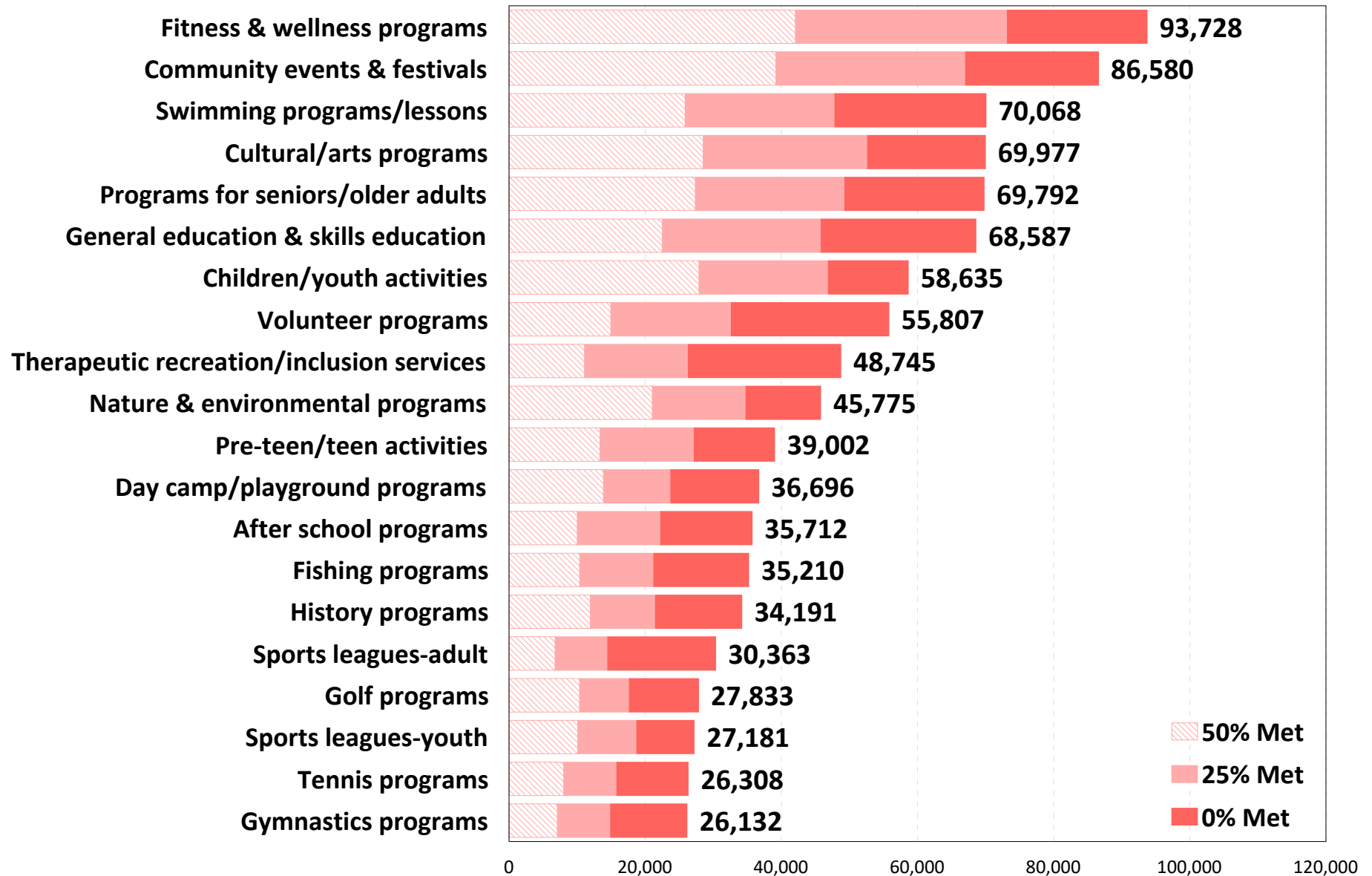
Q8. How Well Respondents' Parks and Recreation Program Needs Are Currently Being Met

by percentage of respondents using a 5-point scale, where 5 means **100% Met** and 1 means **0% Met** (excluding *don't know* responses)



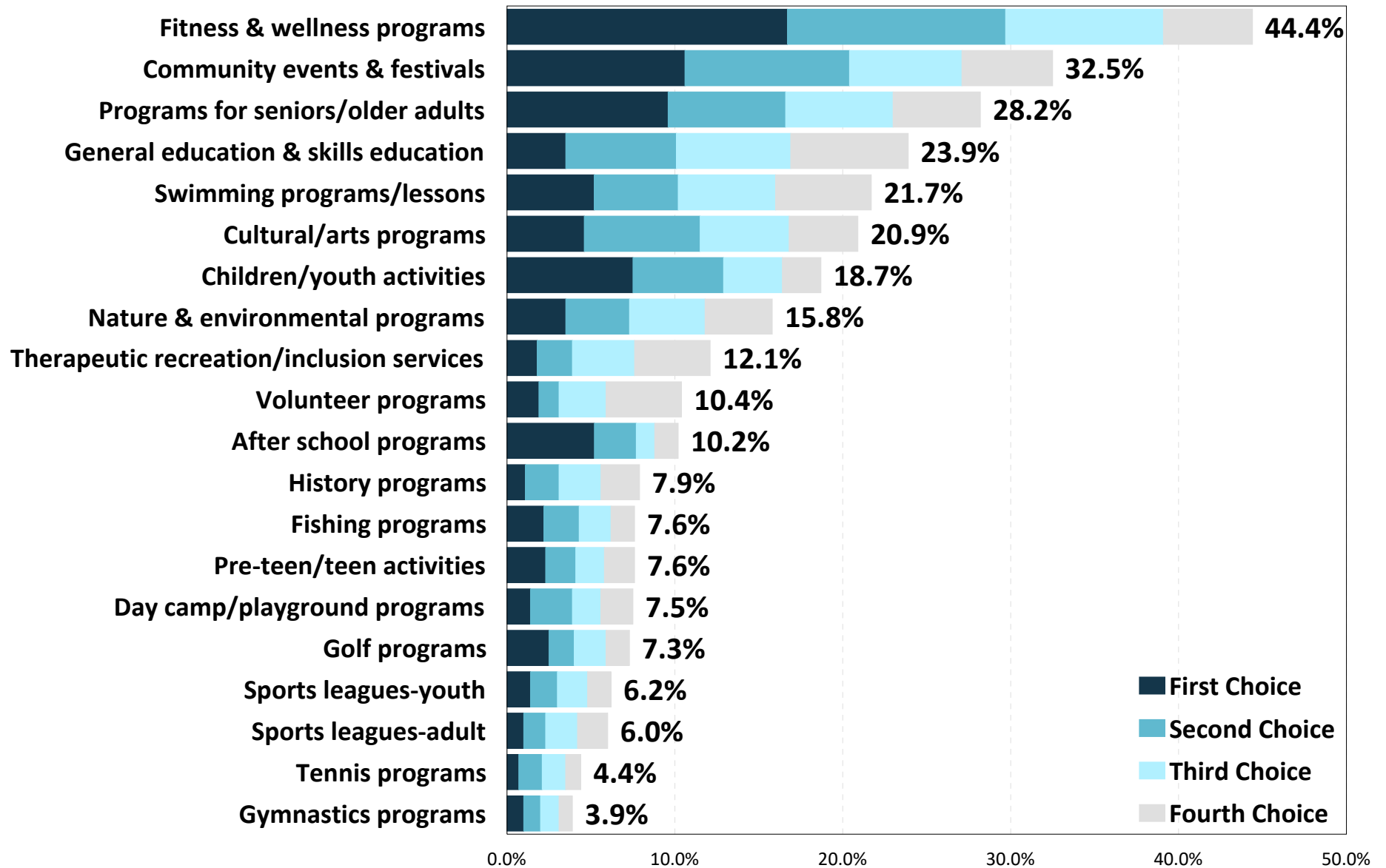
Q8. Estimated Number of Households Whose Parks and Recreation Needs Are Currently Being Met 50% or Less

by the sum of the estimated number of households who have a need (based on the estimated households in Prince George’s County=316,361)



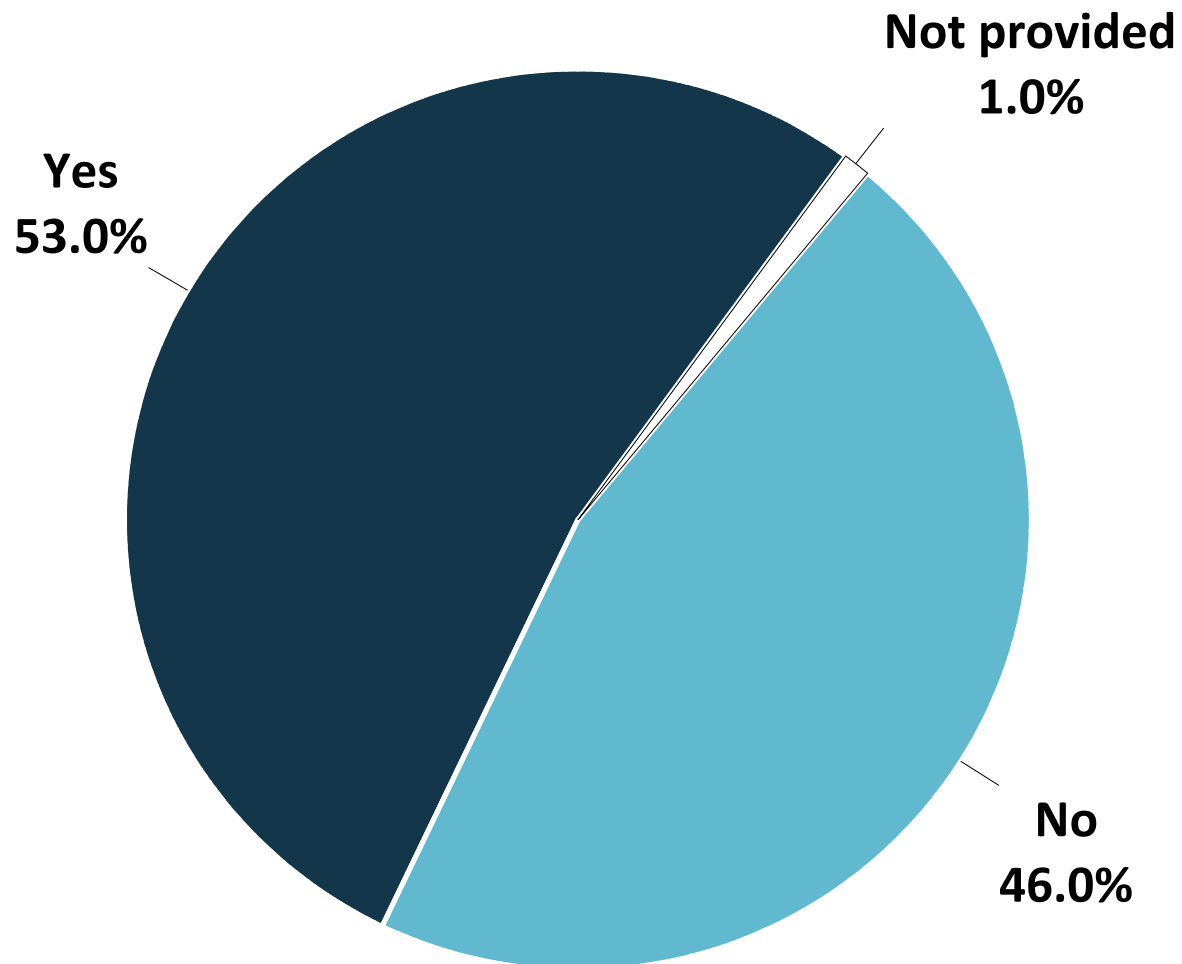
Q9. Parks and Recreation Programs That Are Most Important to Respondents and Their Household Members

by the sum percentage of respondents who chose the item as one of their top four choices



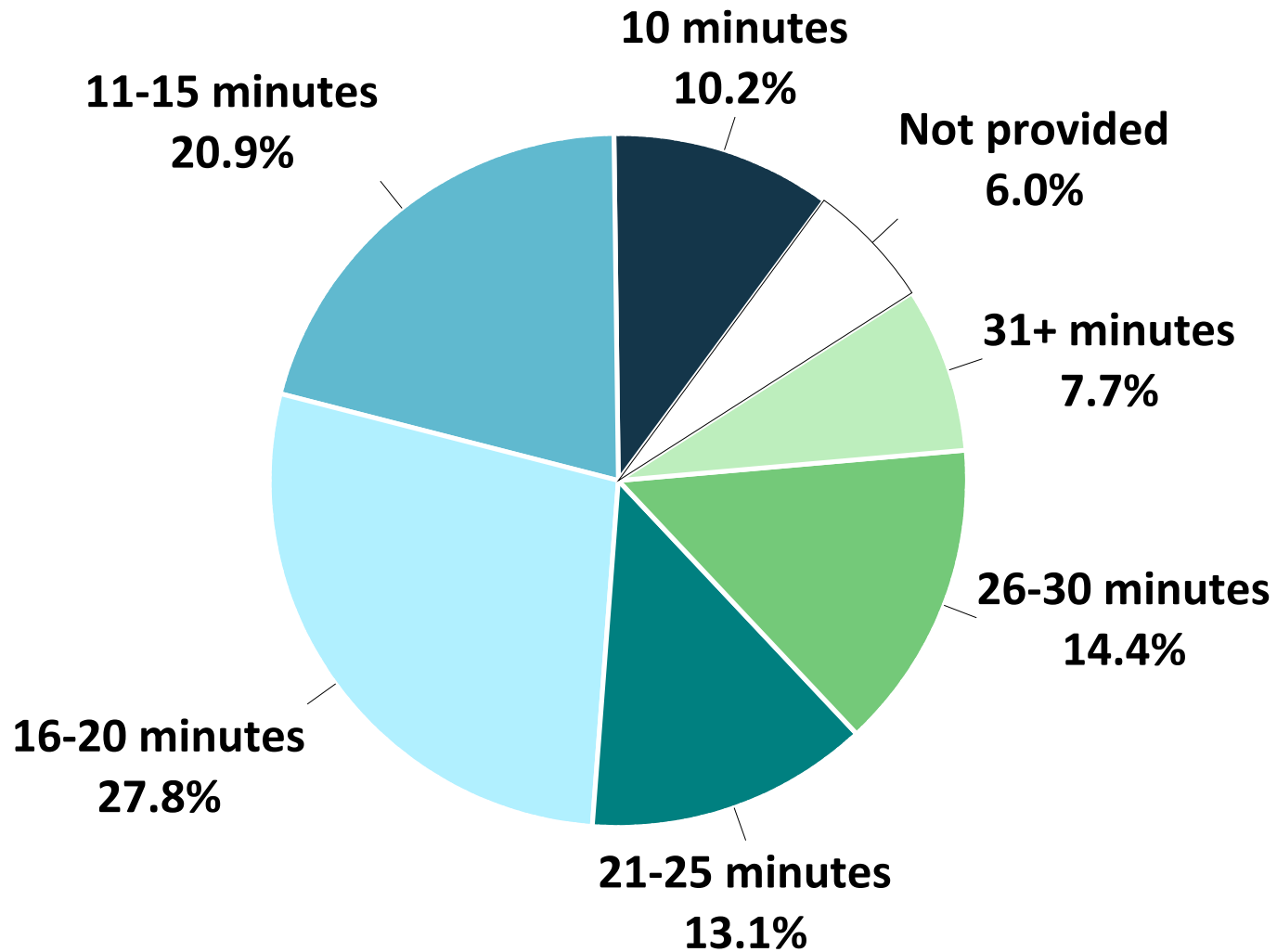
Q10. Over the past 2 years, have you or members of your household visited or used any of the community centers operated by the M-NCPPC (Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Department) in Prince George's County?

by percentage of respondents



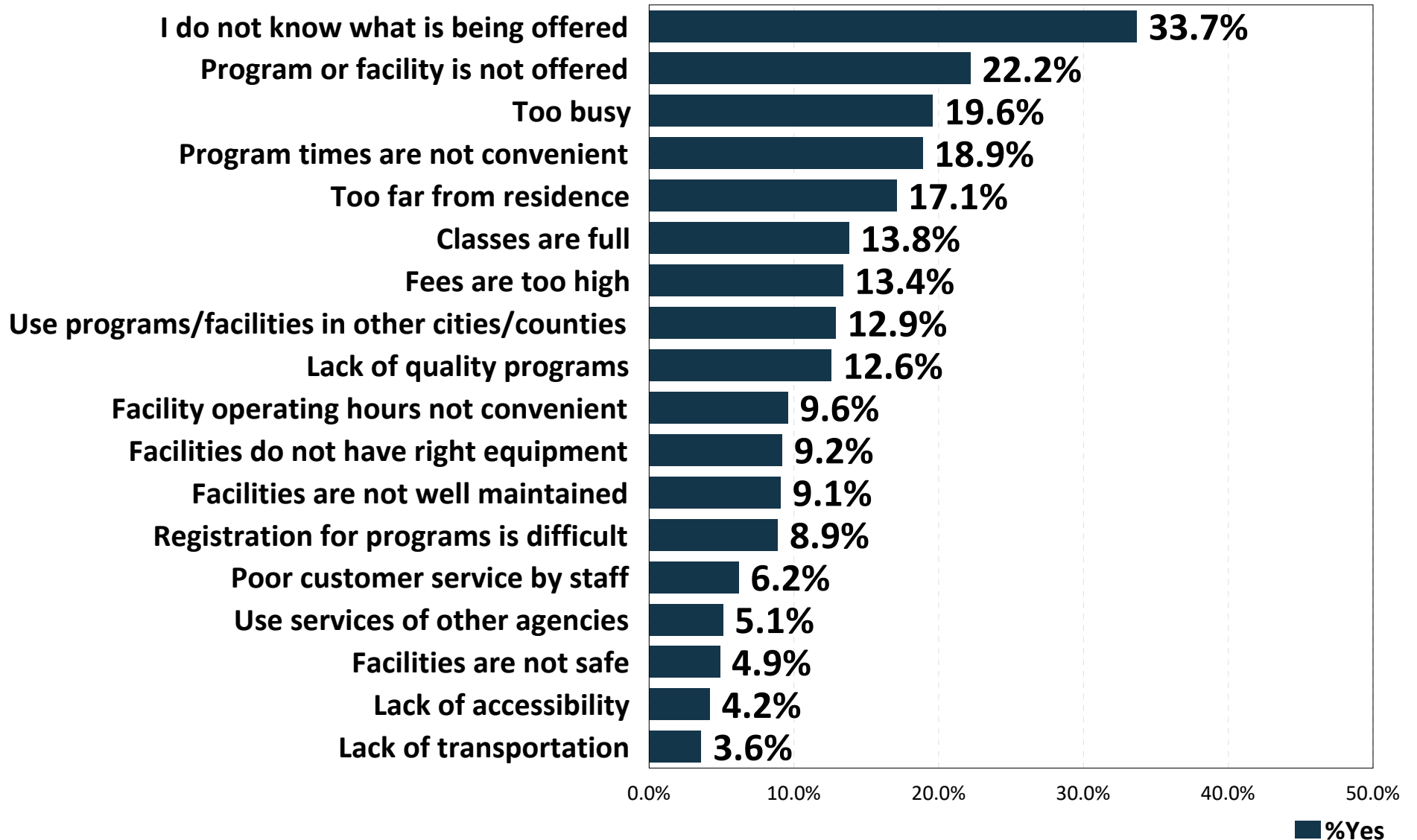
Q11. What is the **MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF TIME** you would be willing to drive to use a multi-use community recreation center that had the program spaces which are most important to you and your household?

by percentage of respondents



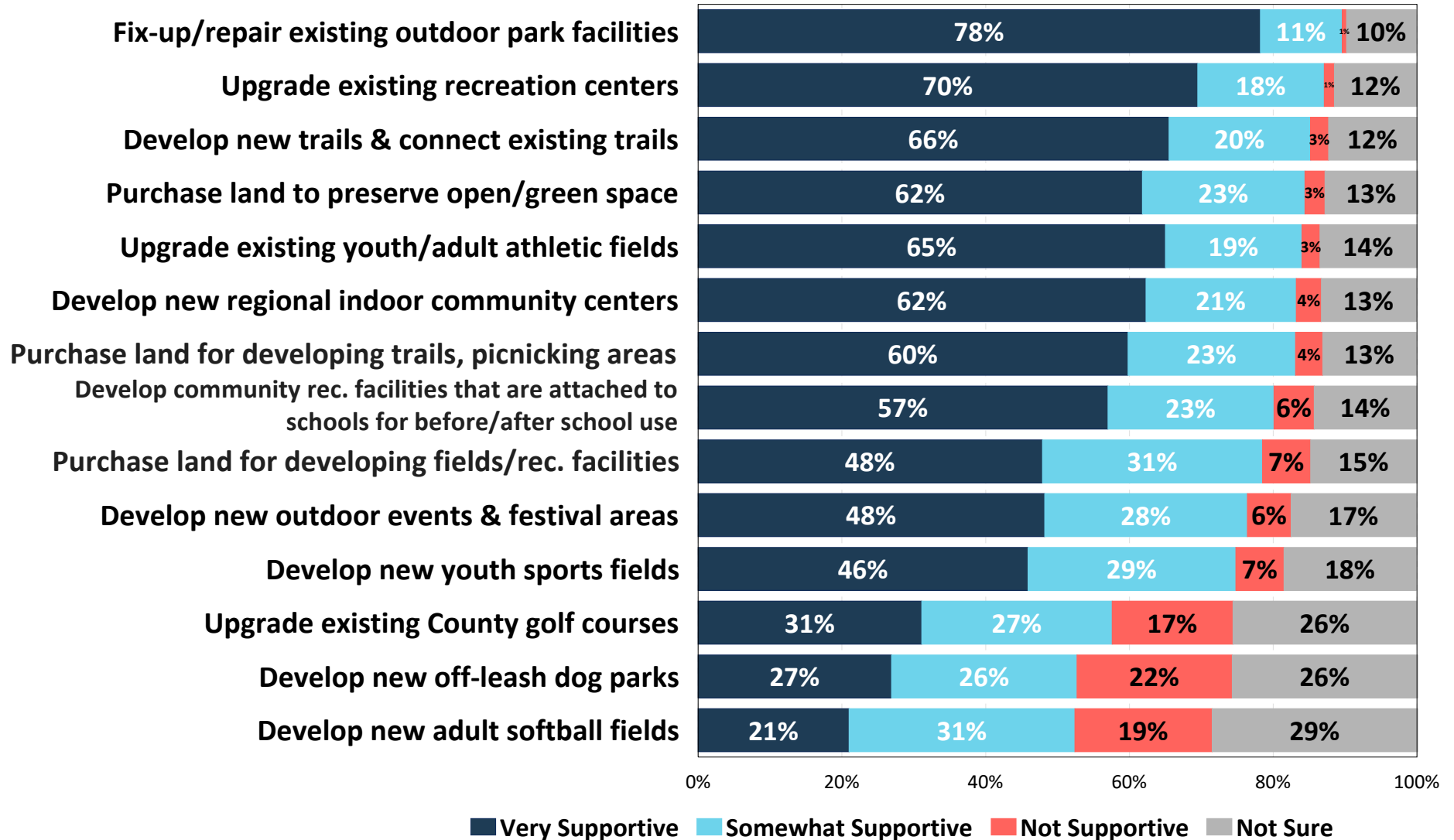
Q12. Please CHECK ALL the reasons why your household does not use M-CPPC (Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation) parks, recreation facilities or programs more often.

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)



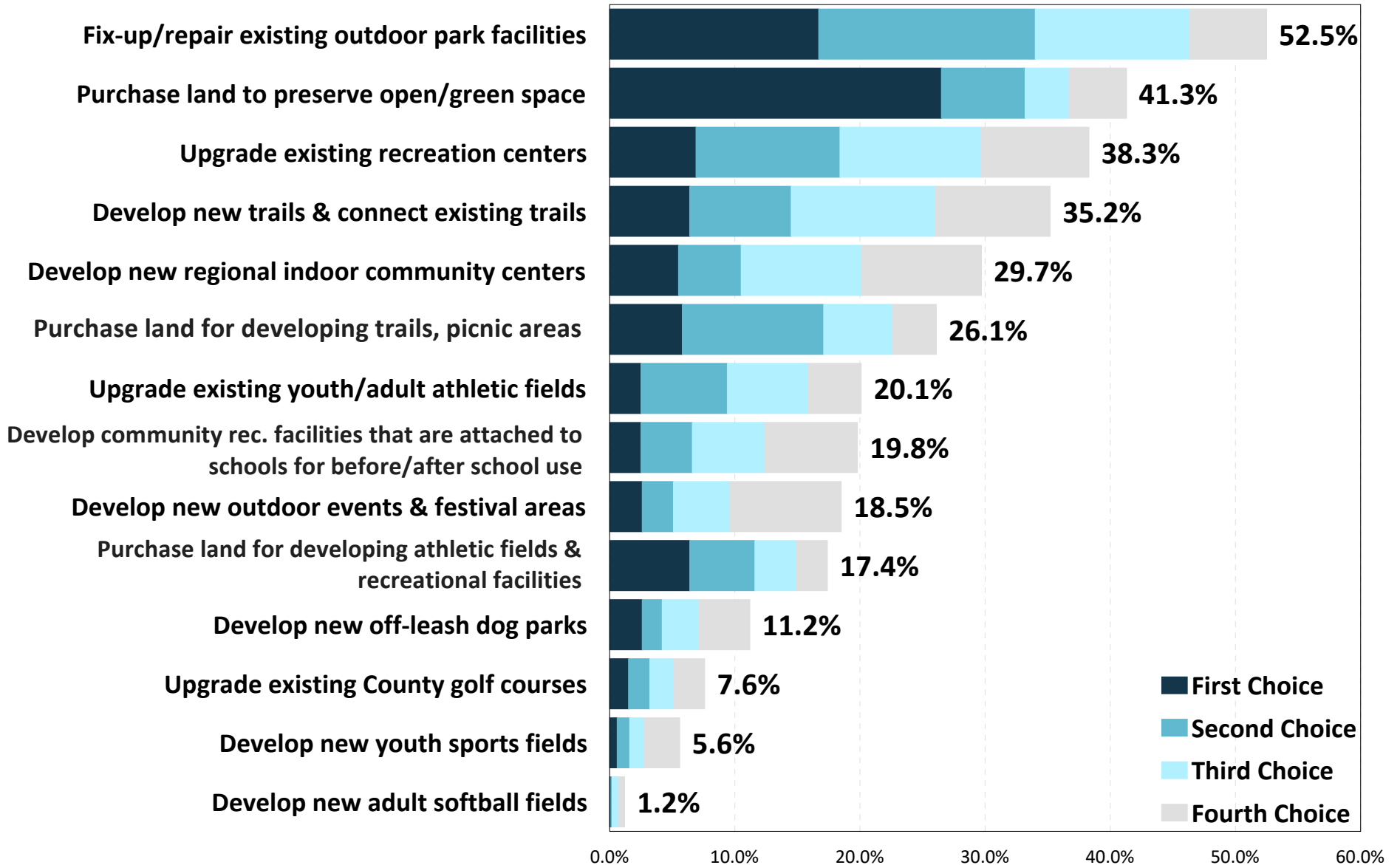
Q13. Please rate your level of support for each of the following actions the M-CPPC in Prince George's County could take to improve the parks and recreation system.

by percentage of respondents using a 4-point scale, where 4 means *very supportive* and 1 means *not sure*
(excluding *don't know* responses)



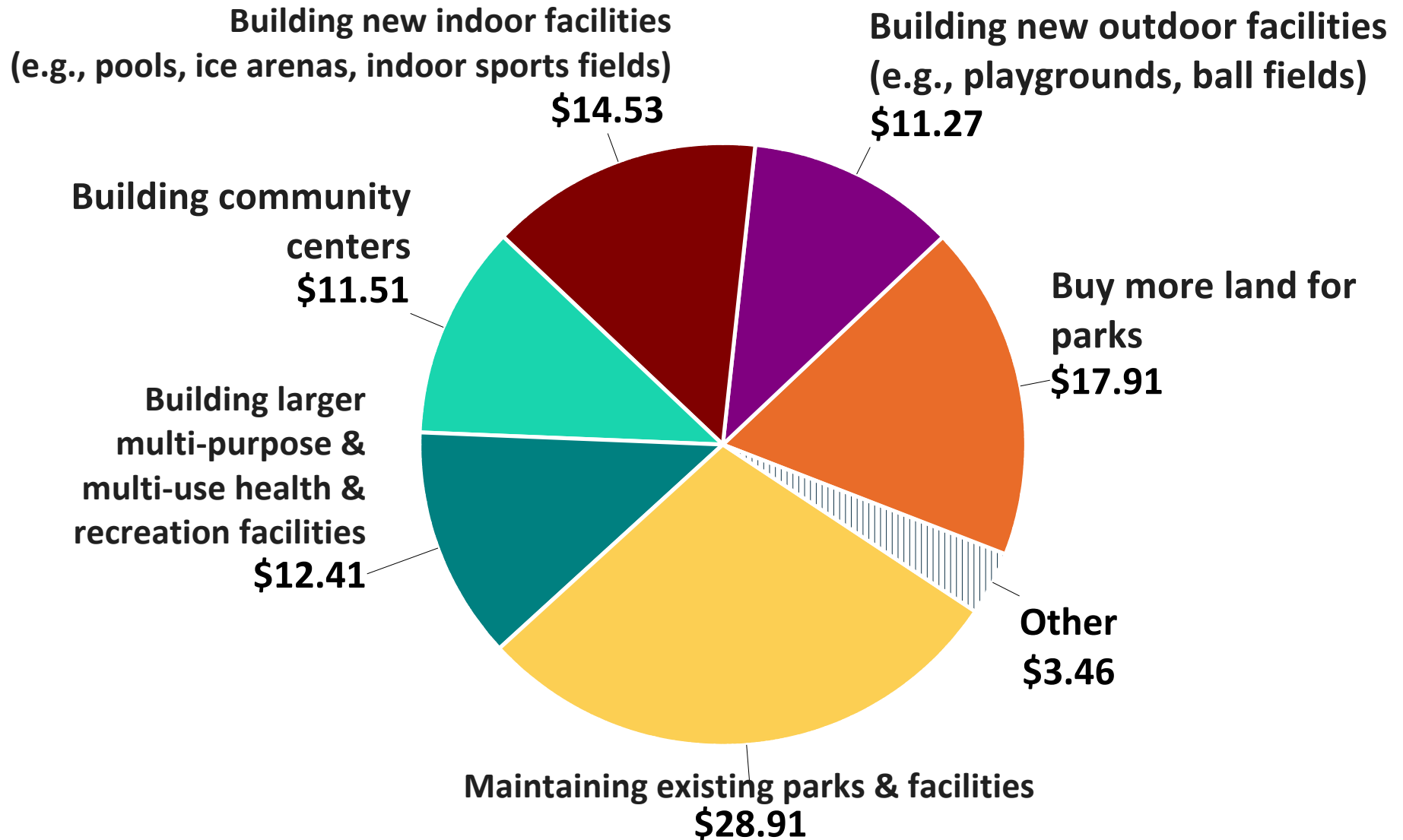
Q14. Which FOUR of the actions from the list in Question 13 are most important to your household?

by the sum percentage of respondents who chose the item as one of their top four choices



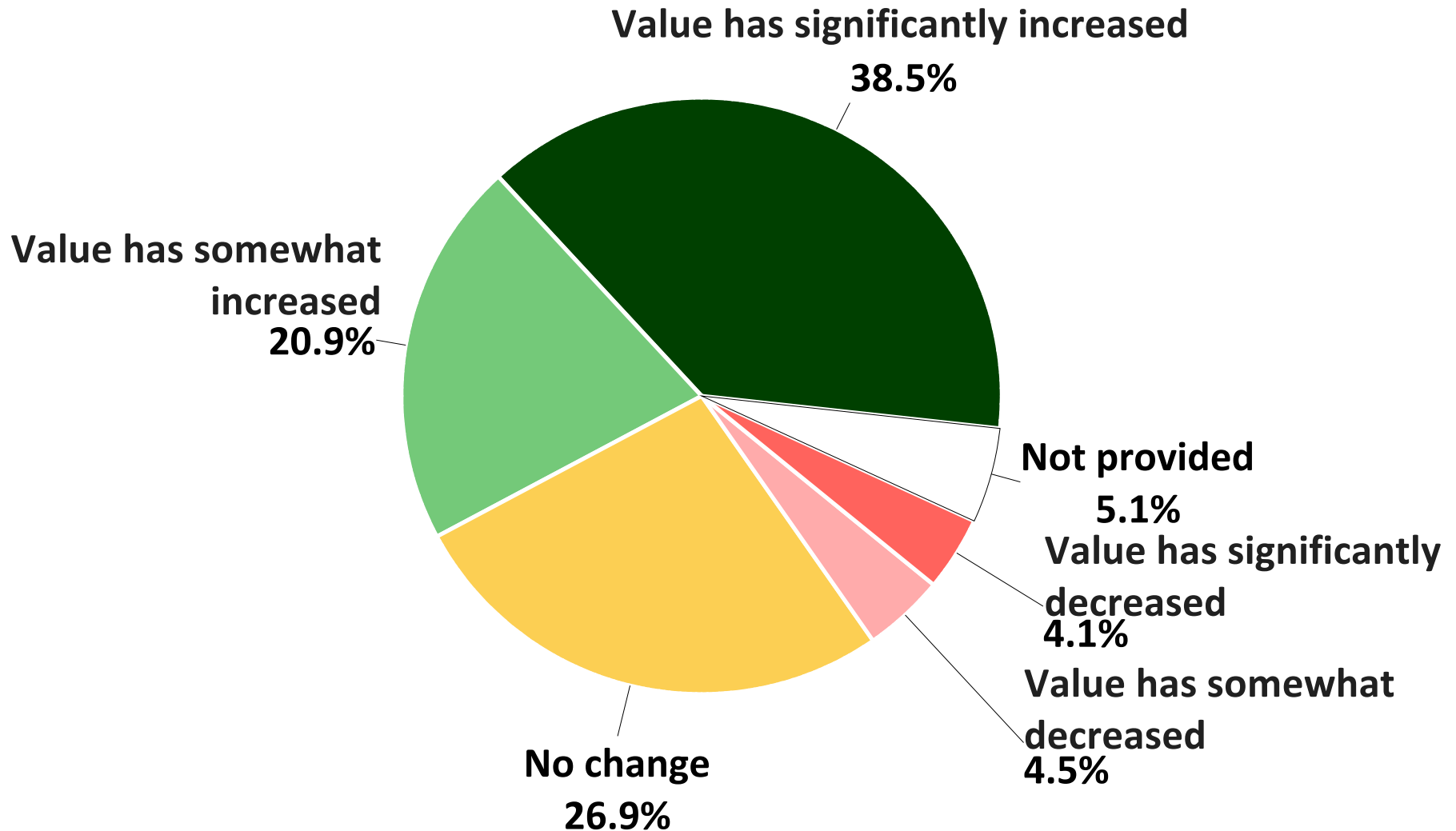
Q15. If an additional \$100 were available for Prince George's County parks, trails, sports, and recreation facilities, how would you allocate the funds among the categories of funding listed below?

by percentage of respondents



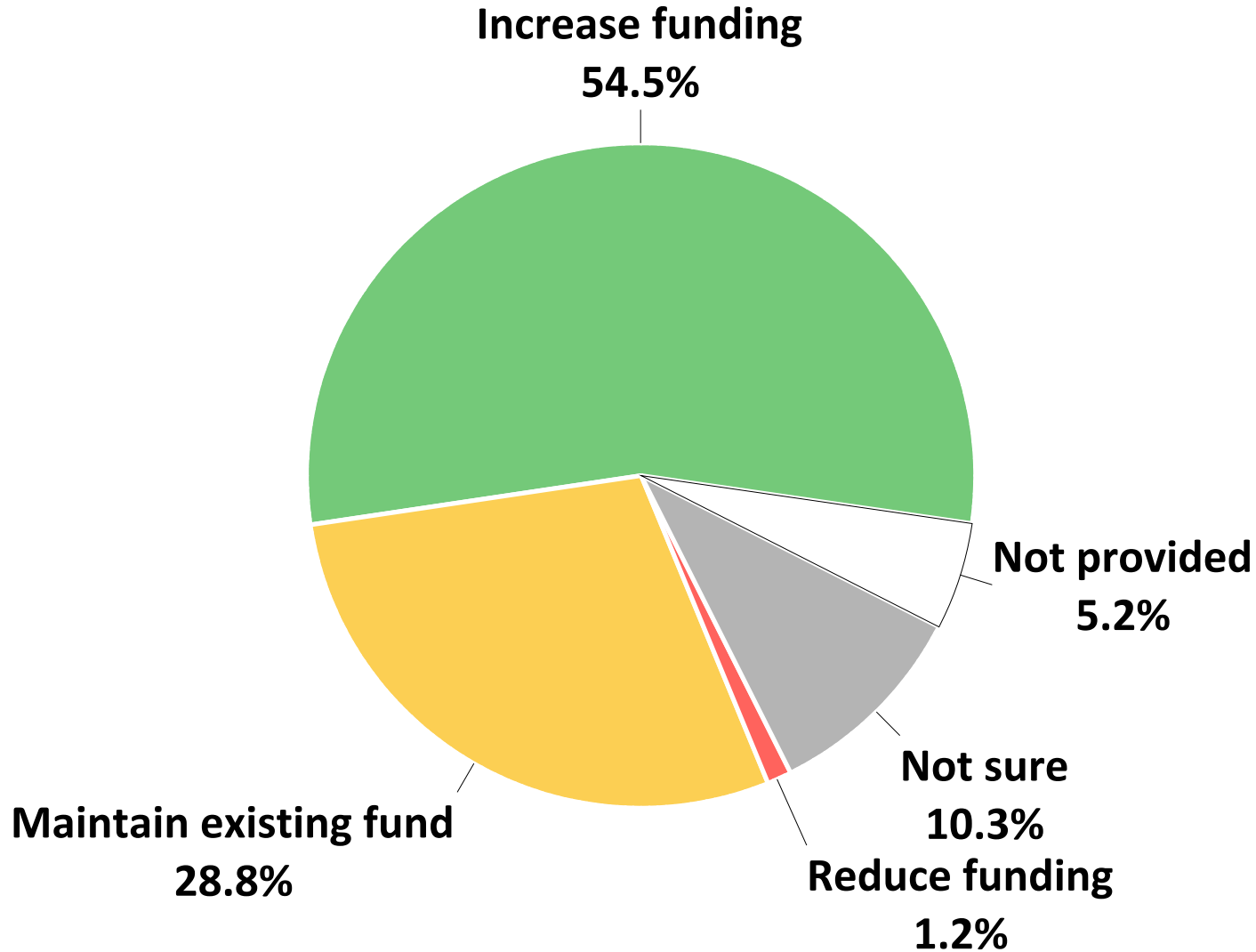
Q16. Given the recent COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic, how has you and your household's perception of the value of parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation changed?

by percentage of respondents



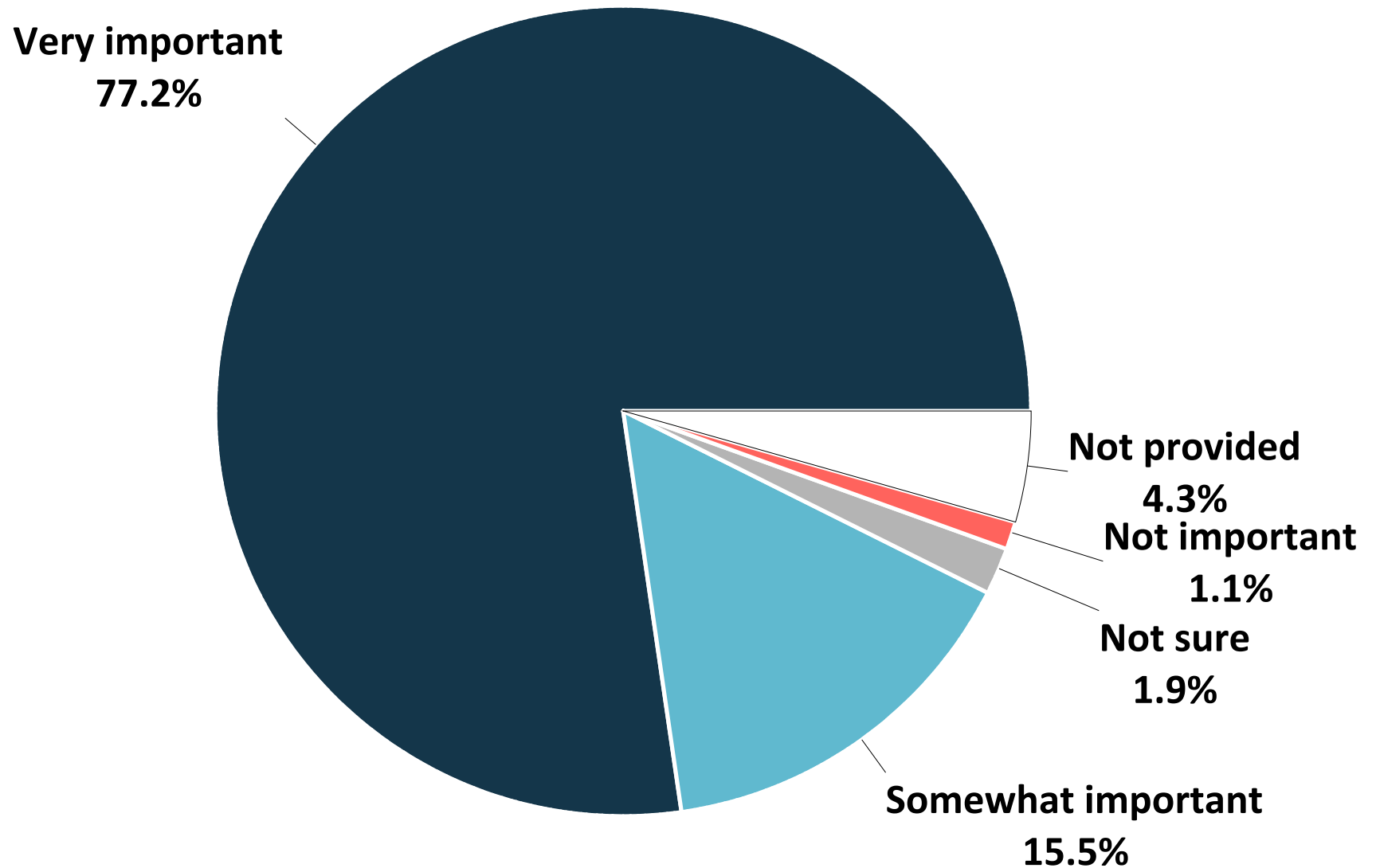
Q17. Based on your perception of value in Question 16, how would you want Prince George's County to fund future parks, recreation, trails, and open space needs?

by percentage of respondents



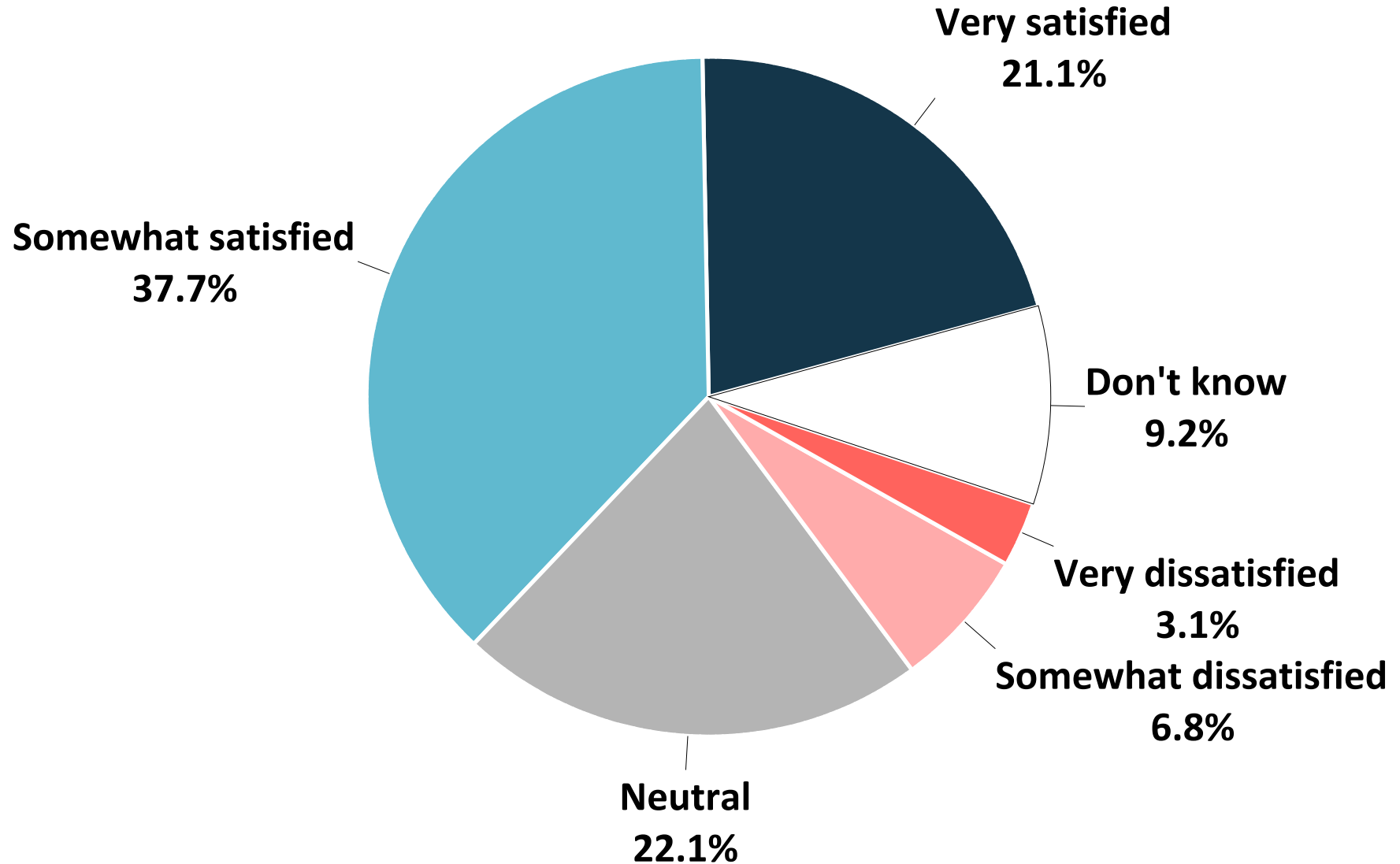
Q18. How important do you feel it is for Prince George's County to provide high quality recreation programs and facilities?

by percentage of respondents



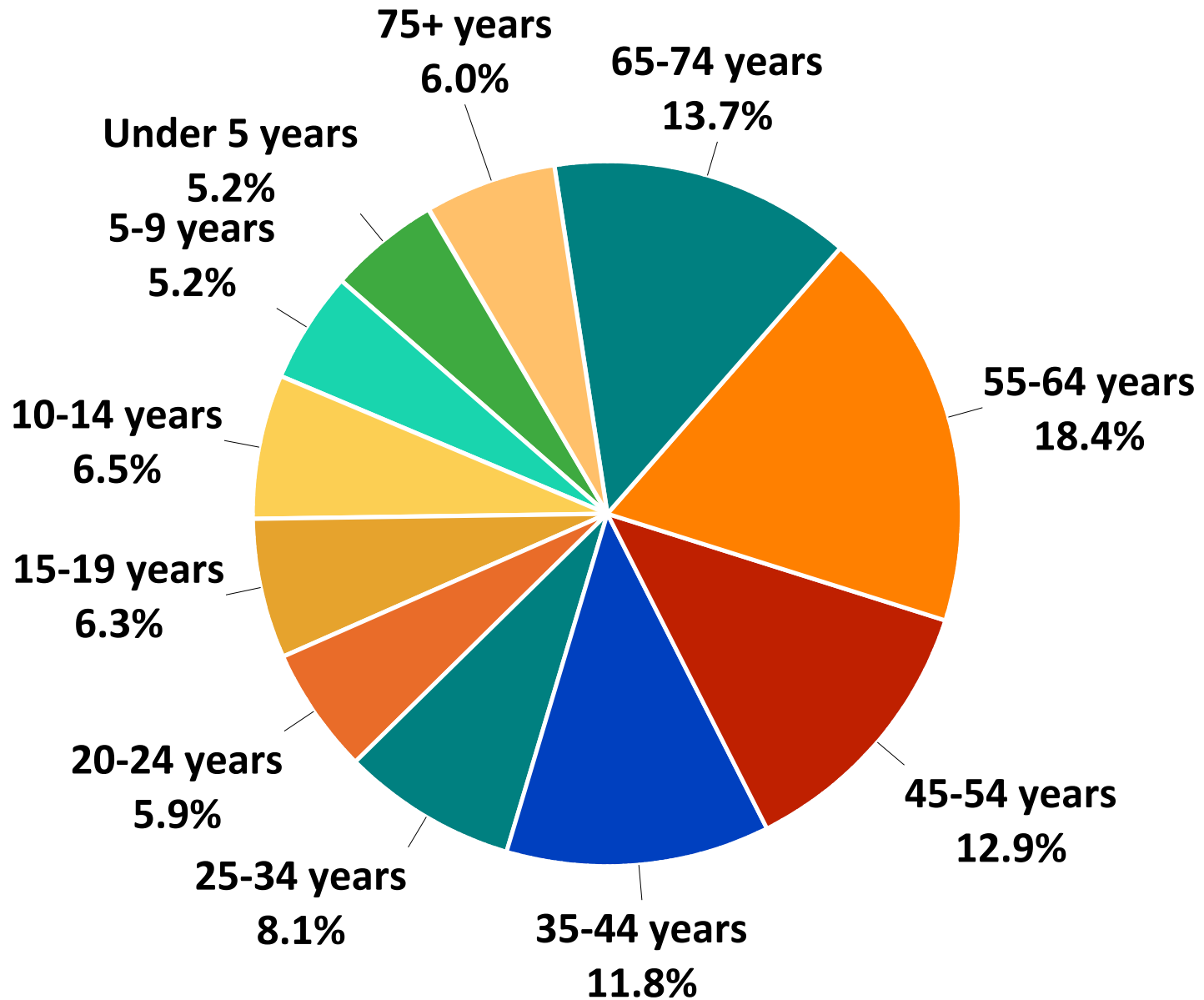
Q19. Rate your satisfaction with the overall value your household receives from the Maryland-Capital Park and Planning Commission in Prince George's County.

by percentage of respondents



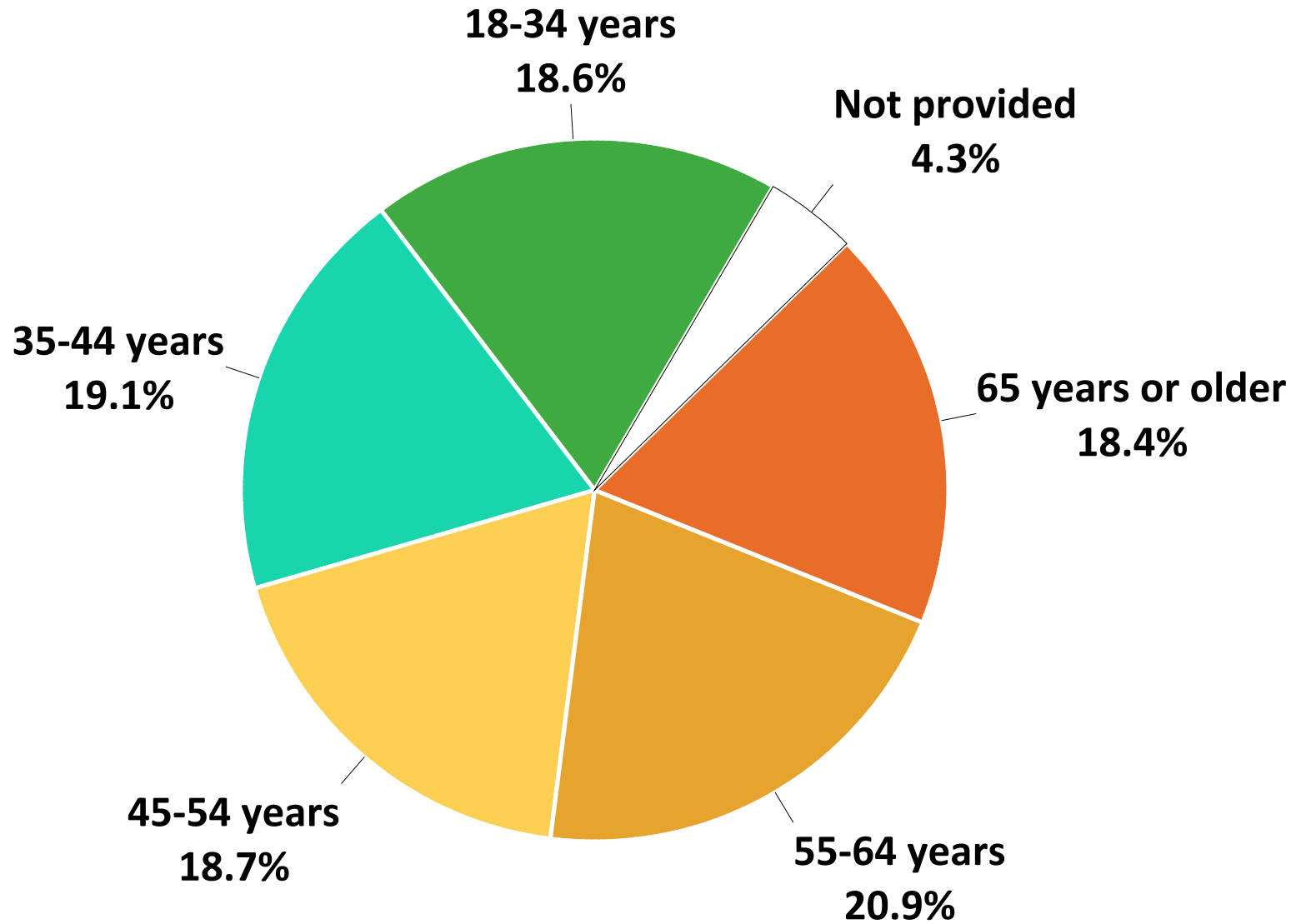
Demographics: Q21. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are...

by percentage of respondents



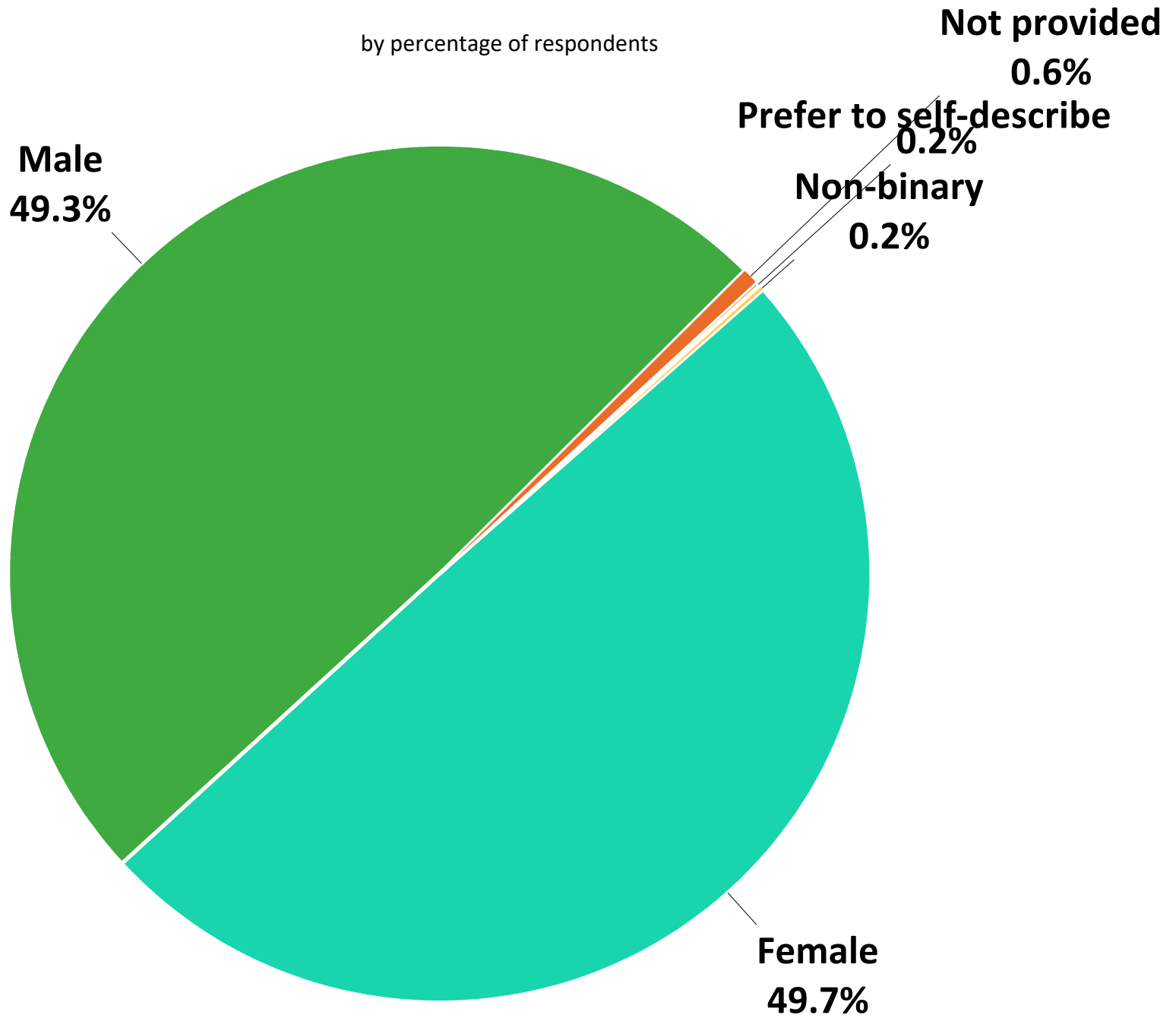
Demographics: Q22. What is your age?

by percentage of respondents



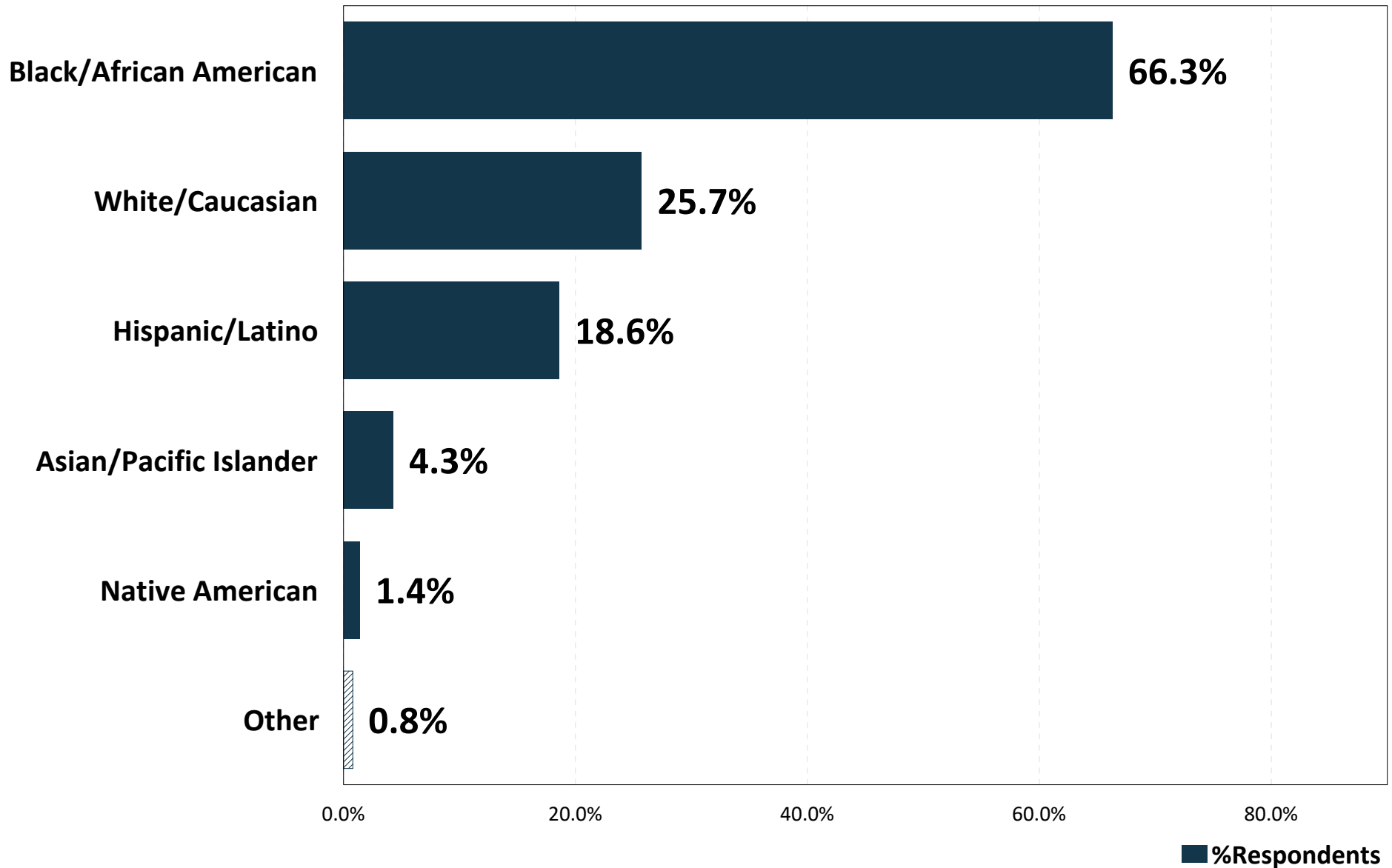
Demographics: Q23. Your gender:

by percentage of respondents



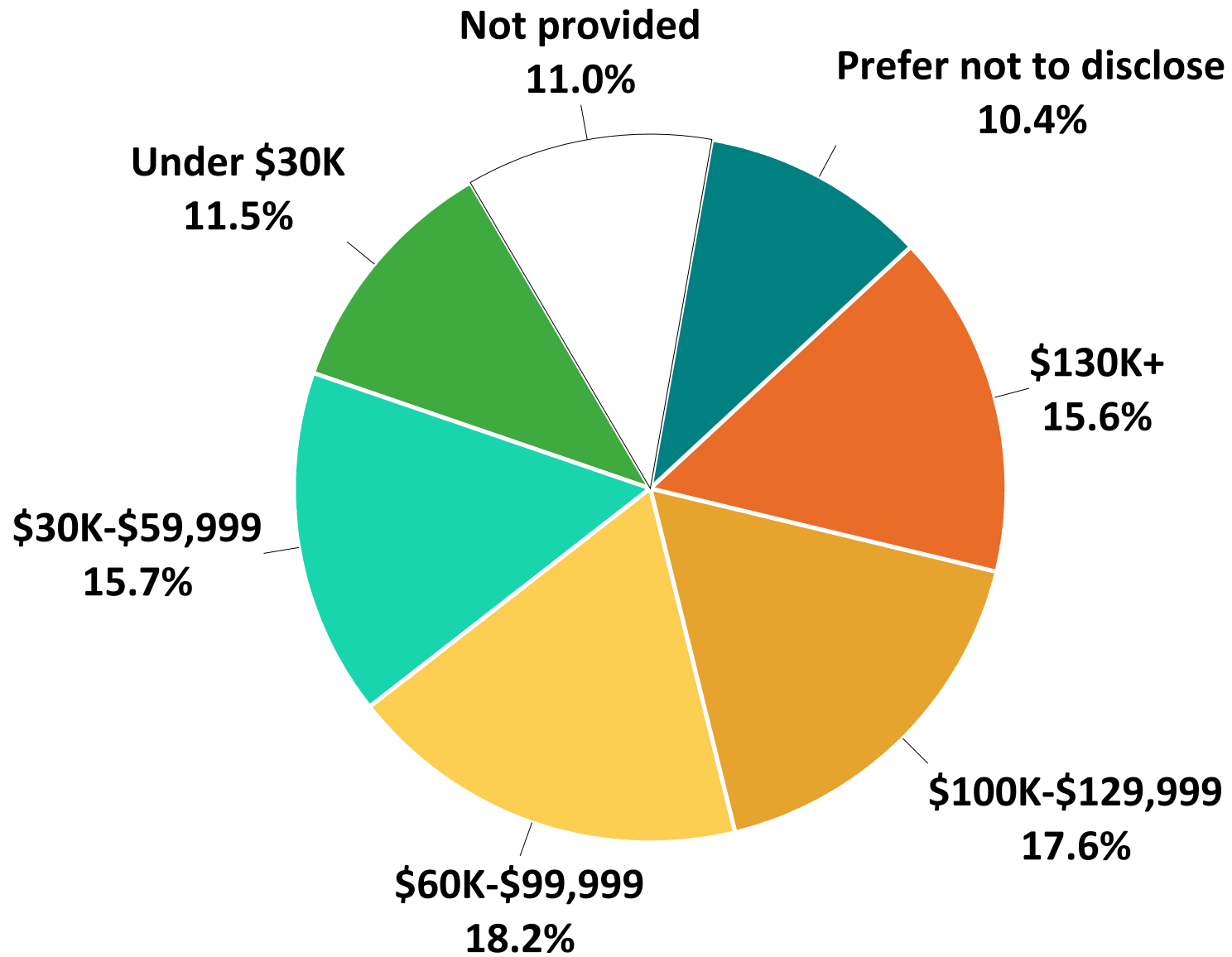
Demographics: Q24. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)



Demographics: Q25. What is your total annual household income?

by percentage of respondents



Section 3: Benchmark Analysis

Benchmark Analysis

Since 1998, ETC Institute has conducted household surveys for needs assessments, feasibility studies, customer satisfaction, fees and charges comparisons, and other parks and recreation issues in more than 500 communities in 49 states across the country.

The results of these surveys have provided an unparalleled data base of information to compare responses from household residents in client communities to “National Averages” and therefore provide a unique tool to “assist organizations in better decision making.”

Communities within the data base include a full range of municipal and county governments from 20,000 in population through over 1 million in population. They include communities in warm weather climates and cold weather climates, mature communities and some of the fastest growing cities and counties in the country.

“National Averages” have been developed for numerous strategically important parks and recreation planning and management issues including: customer satisfaction and usage of parks and programs; methods for receiving marketing information; reasons that prevent members of households from using parks and recreation facilities more often; priority recreation programs, parks, facilities and trails to improve or develop; priority programming spaces to have in planned community centers and aquatic facilities; potential attendance for planned indoor community centers and outdoor aquatic centers; etc.

To keep the benchmarking data base current with changing trends, ETC Institute’s benchmarking data base is updated on a regular basis. The “National Average” included on the following pages only include the results of surveys ETC Institute has administered over the past five years.

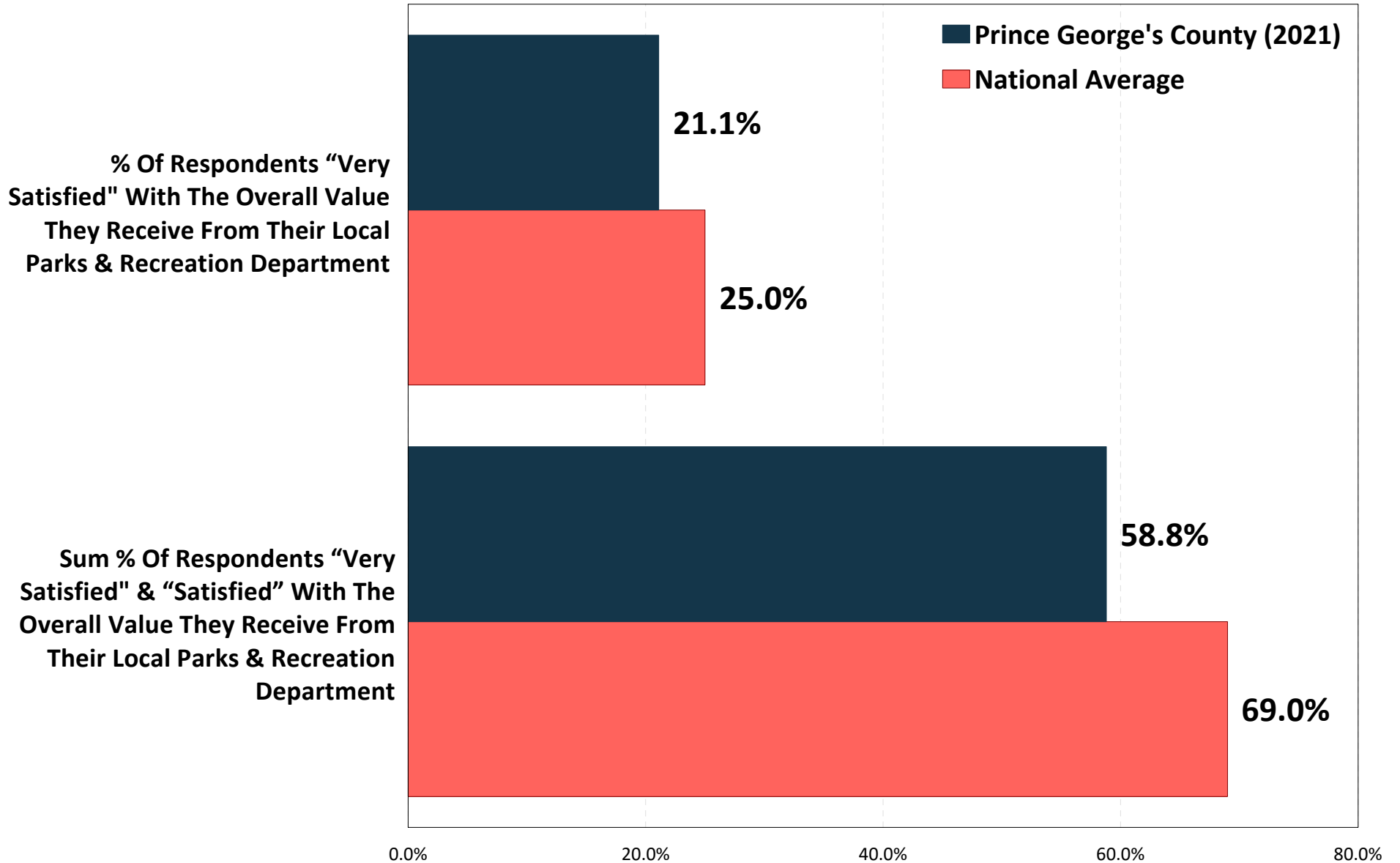
Results from household responses for Prince George's County, MD were compared to National Benchmarks to gain further strategic information. Graphs of all tabular comparisons are on the following pages.

The benchmarking data contained in this report is protected intellectual property. Any reproduction of the benchmarking information in this report by persons or organizations not directly affiliated with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission of Prince George's County, MD and Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Department are not authorized without written consent from ETC Institute.

**Benchmarks
PGC, MD (2021)
Compared to
National Averages**

Overall Satisfaction With the Parks and Recreation System

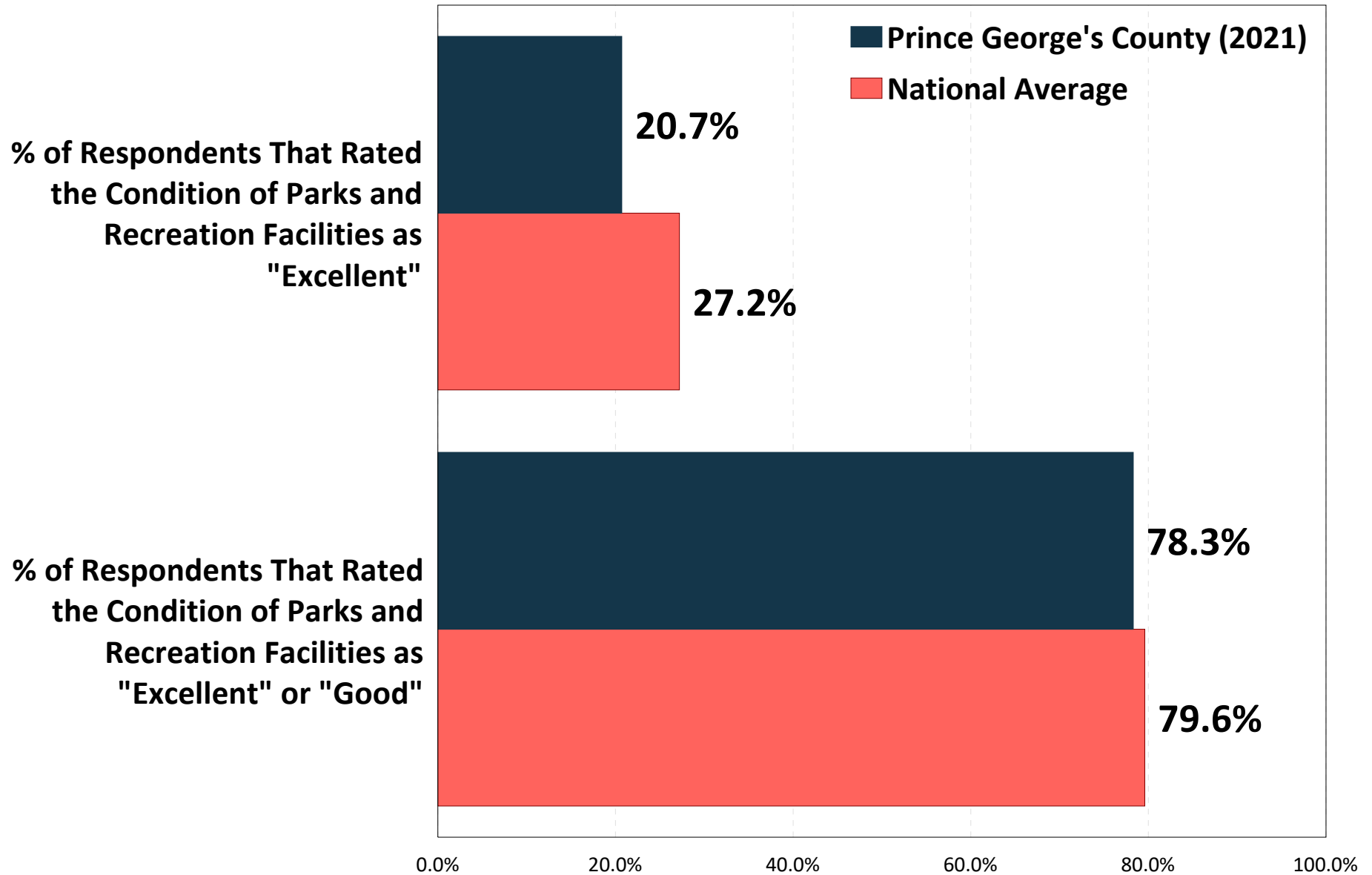
by percentage of respondents



**Benchmarks
PGC, MD (2021)
Compared to
National Averages**

Quality and Condition of Parks and Recreation Facilities

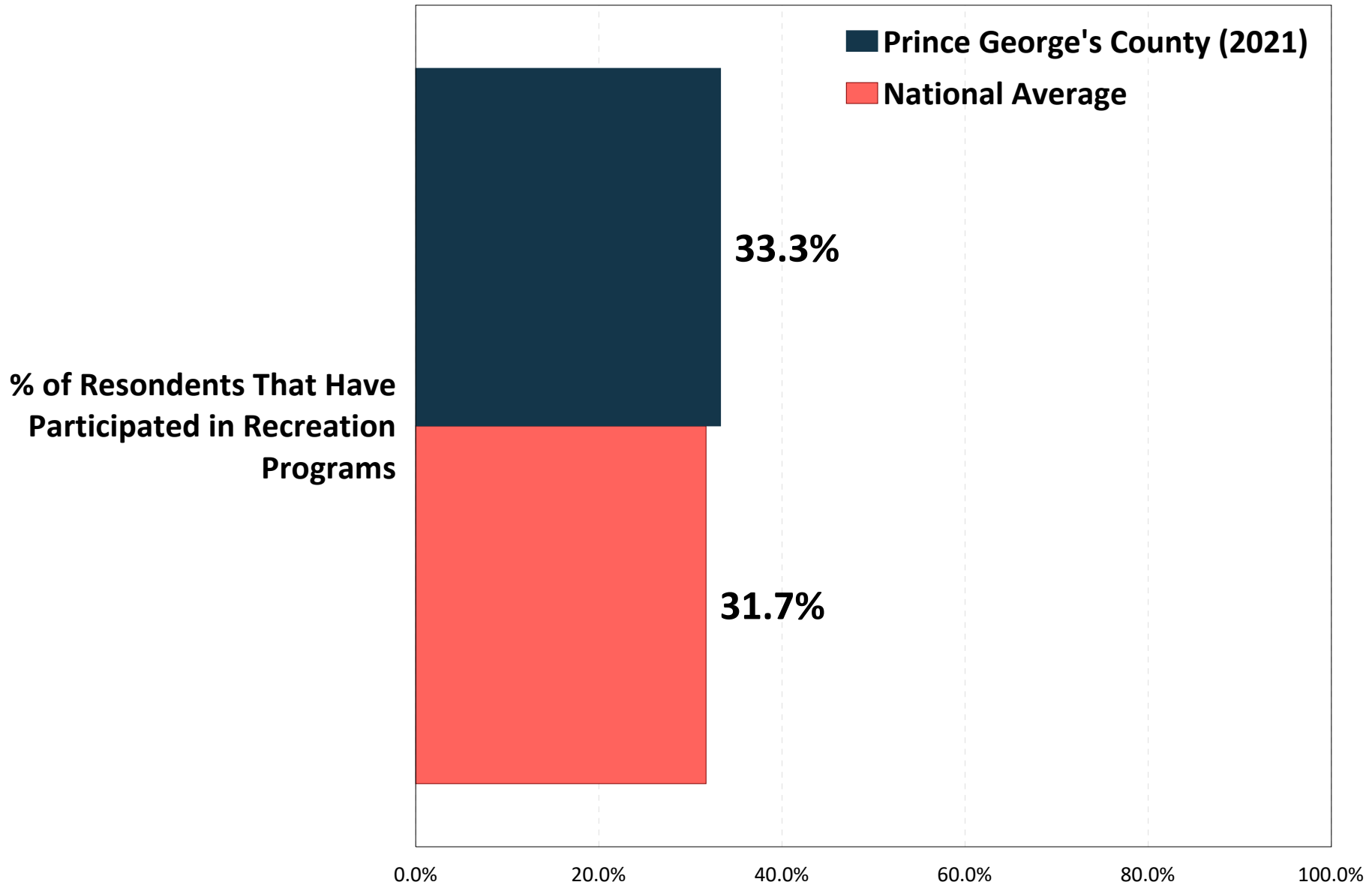
by percentage of respondents



**Benchmarks
PGC, MD (2021)
Compared to
National Averages**

Parks and Recreation Program Participation

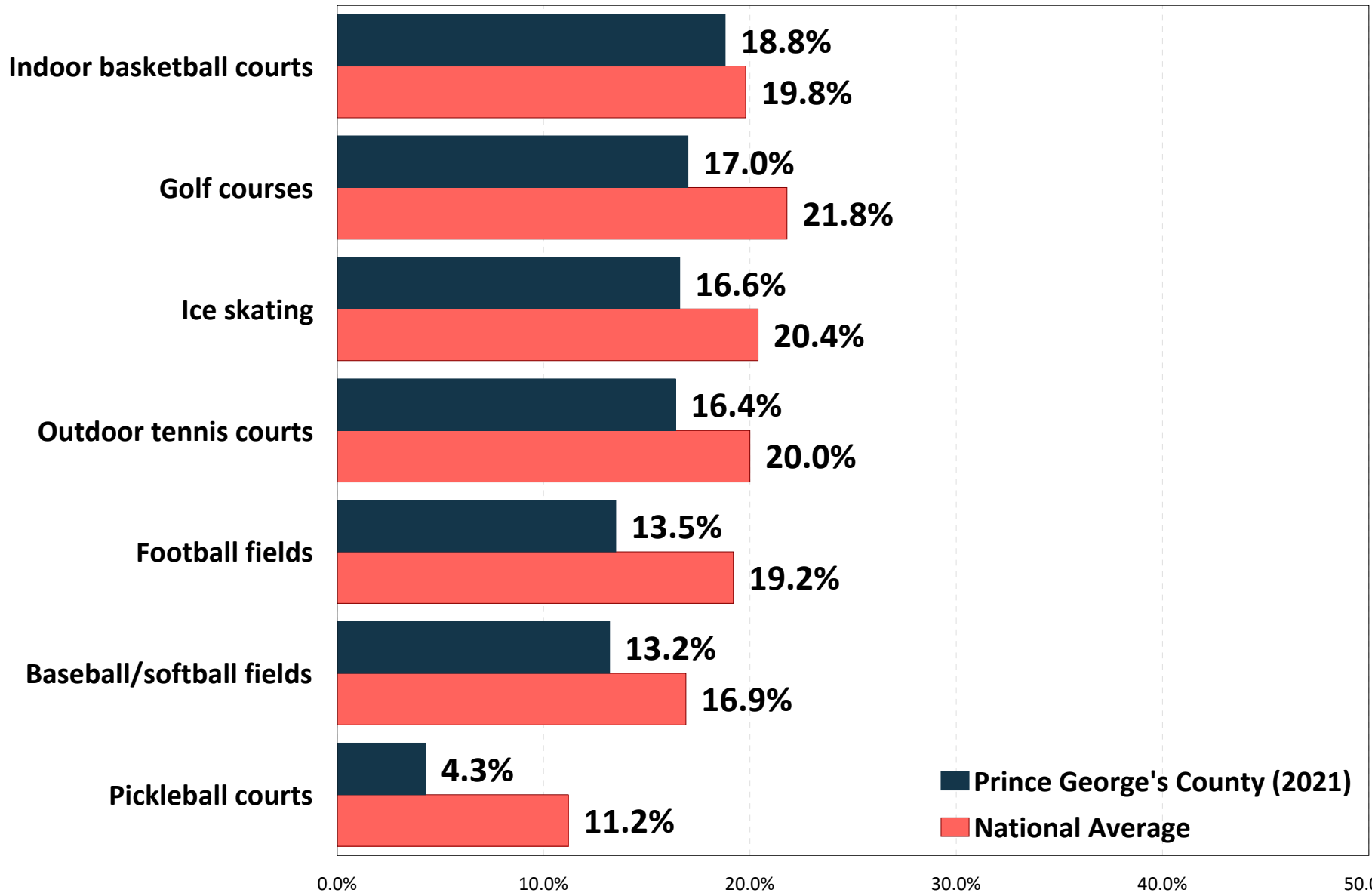
by percentage of respondents



**Benchmarks
PGC, MD (2021)
Compared to
National Averages**

Percent of Respondents With Needs For Sports Facilities

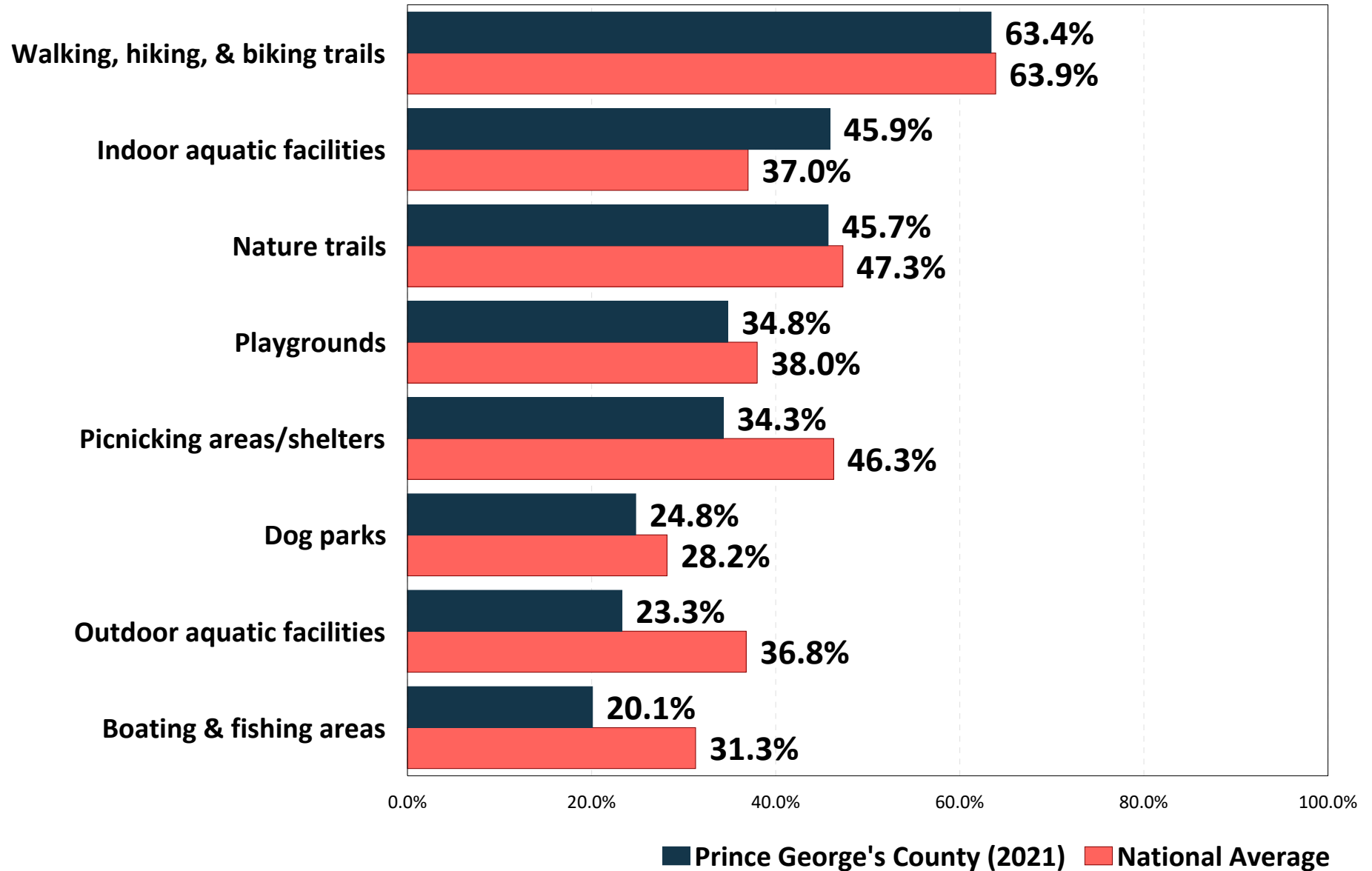
by %yes of respondents that have a need for sports facilities



**Benchmarks
PGC, MD (2021)
Compared to
National Averages**

Percent of Respondents With Needs For Other Recreation Facilities

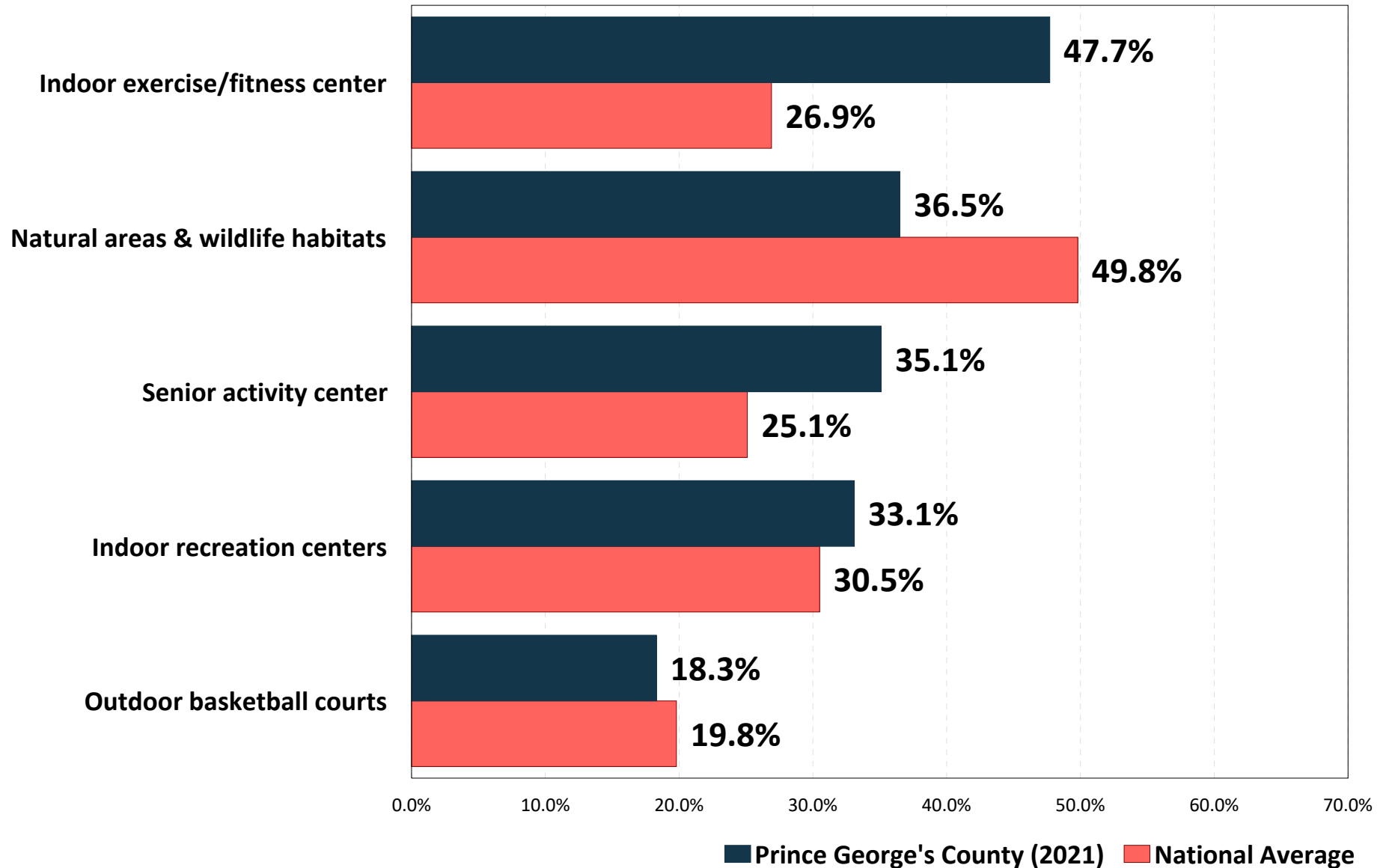
by %yes of respondents that have a need for recreation facilities



**Benchmarks
PGC, MD (2021)
Compared to
National Averages**

Percent of Respondents With Needs For Other Recreation Facilities

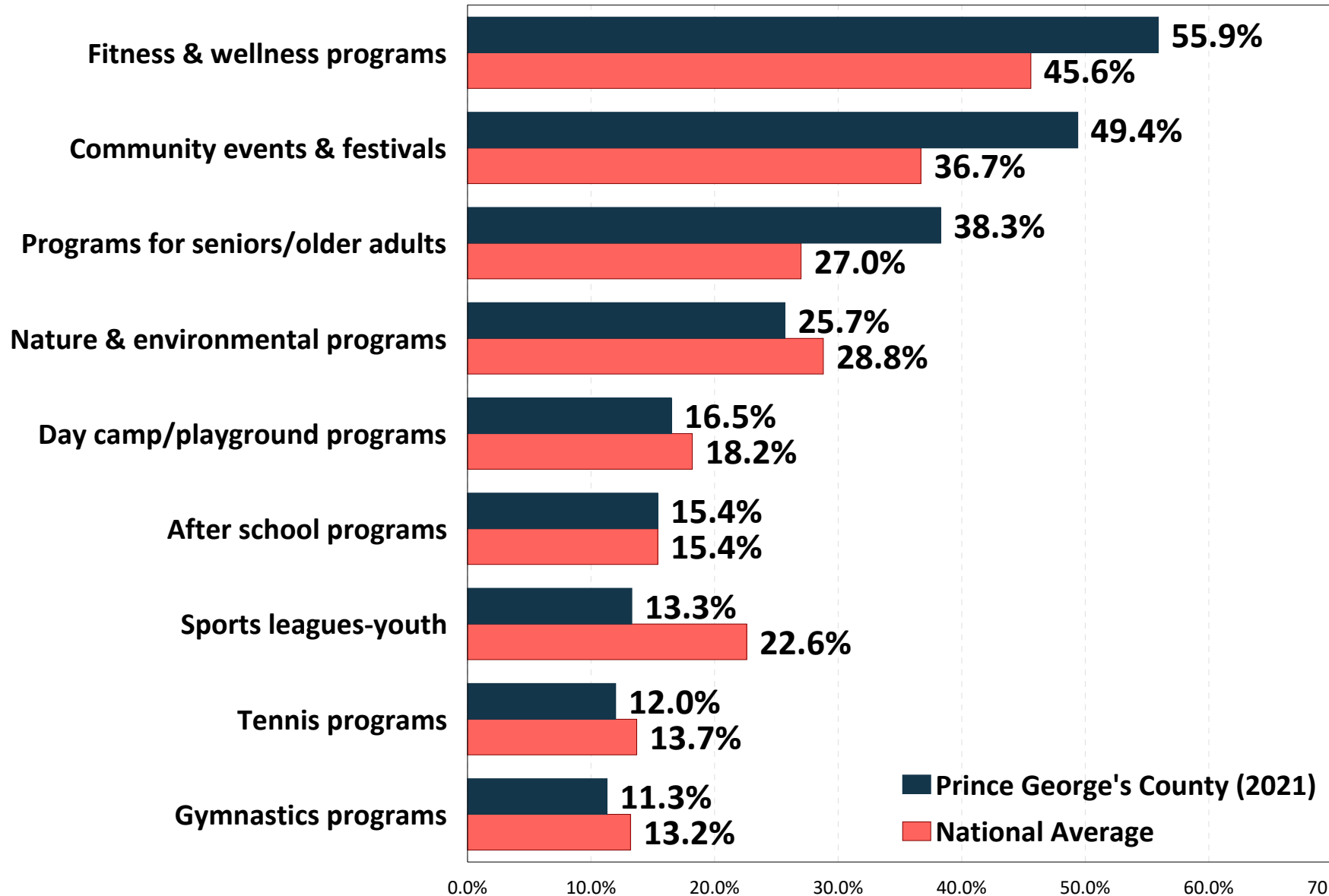
by %yes of respondents that have a need for recreation facilities



**Benchmarks
PGC, MD (2021)
Compared to
National Averages**

Percent of Respondents With Needs For Sports and Recreation Programs

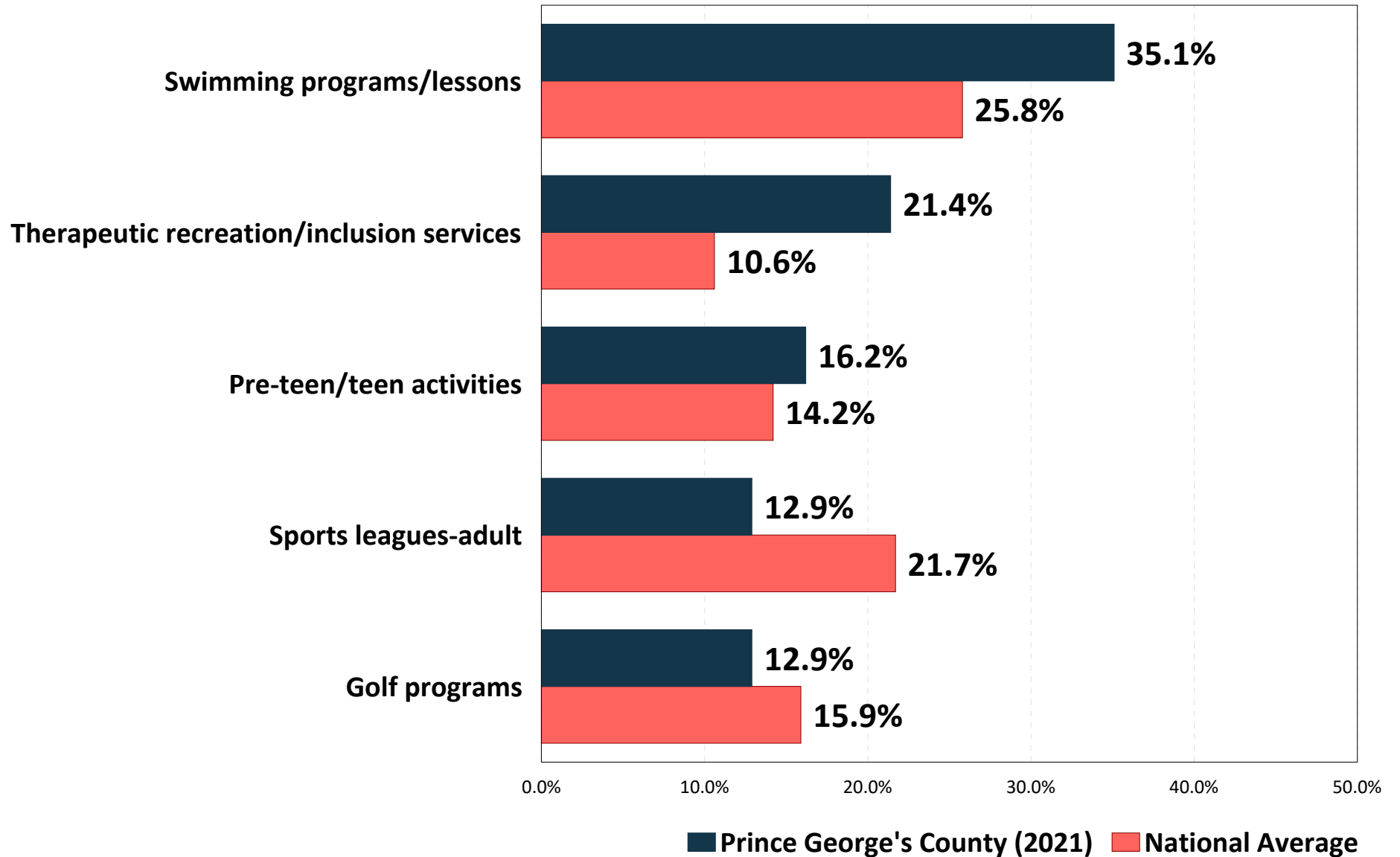
by %yes of respondents that have a need for sports/recreation programs



**Benchmarks
PGC, MD (2021)
Compared to
National Averages**

Percent of Respondents With Needs For Other Recreation Programs

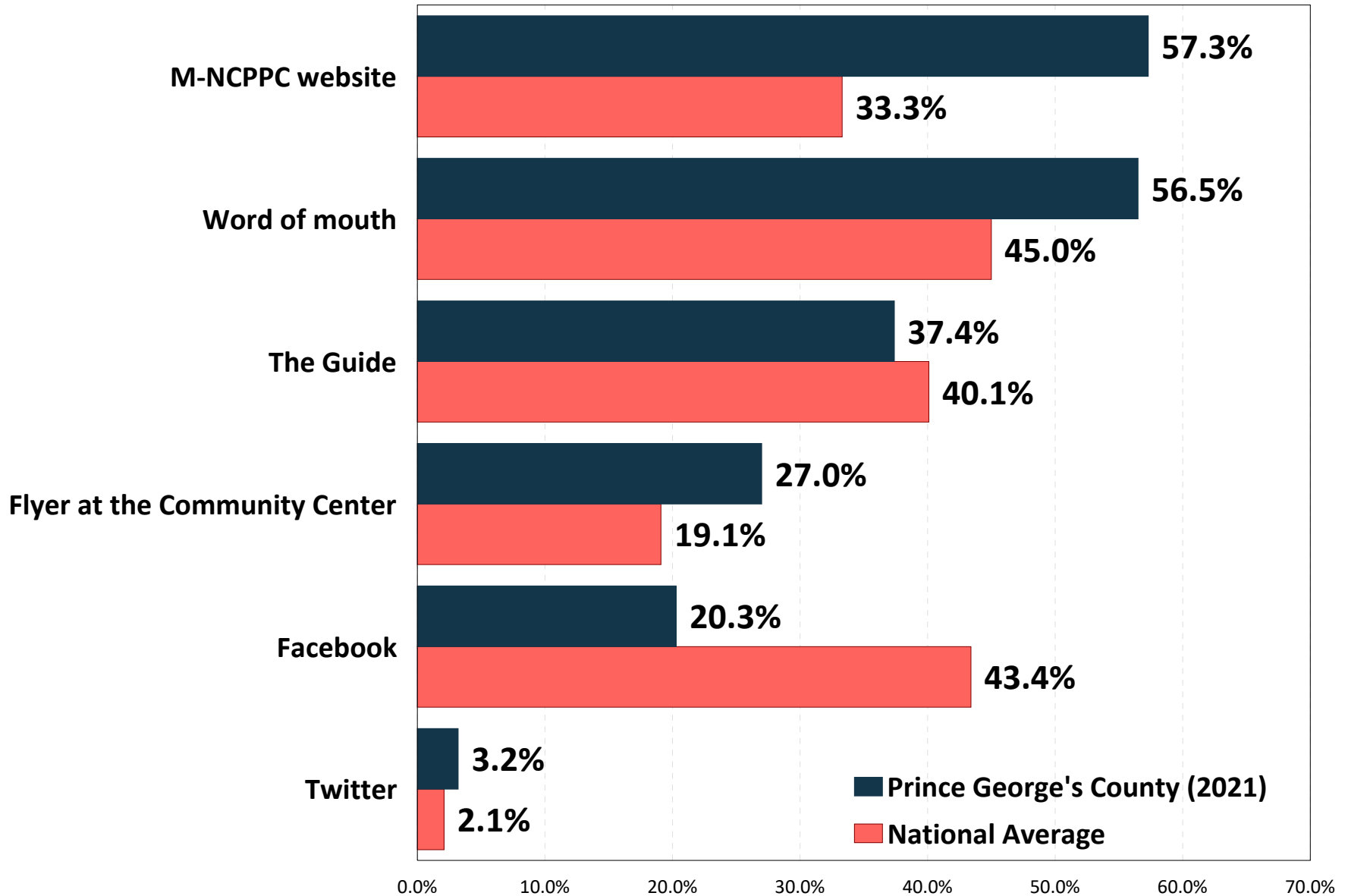
by %yes of respondents that have a need for other recreation programs



**Benchmarks
PGC, MD (2021)
Compared to
National Averages**

Sources Used To Find Information About Parks and Recreation Services

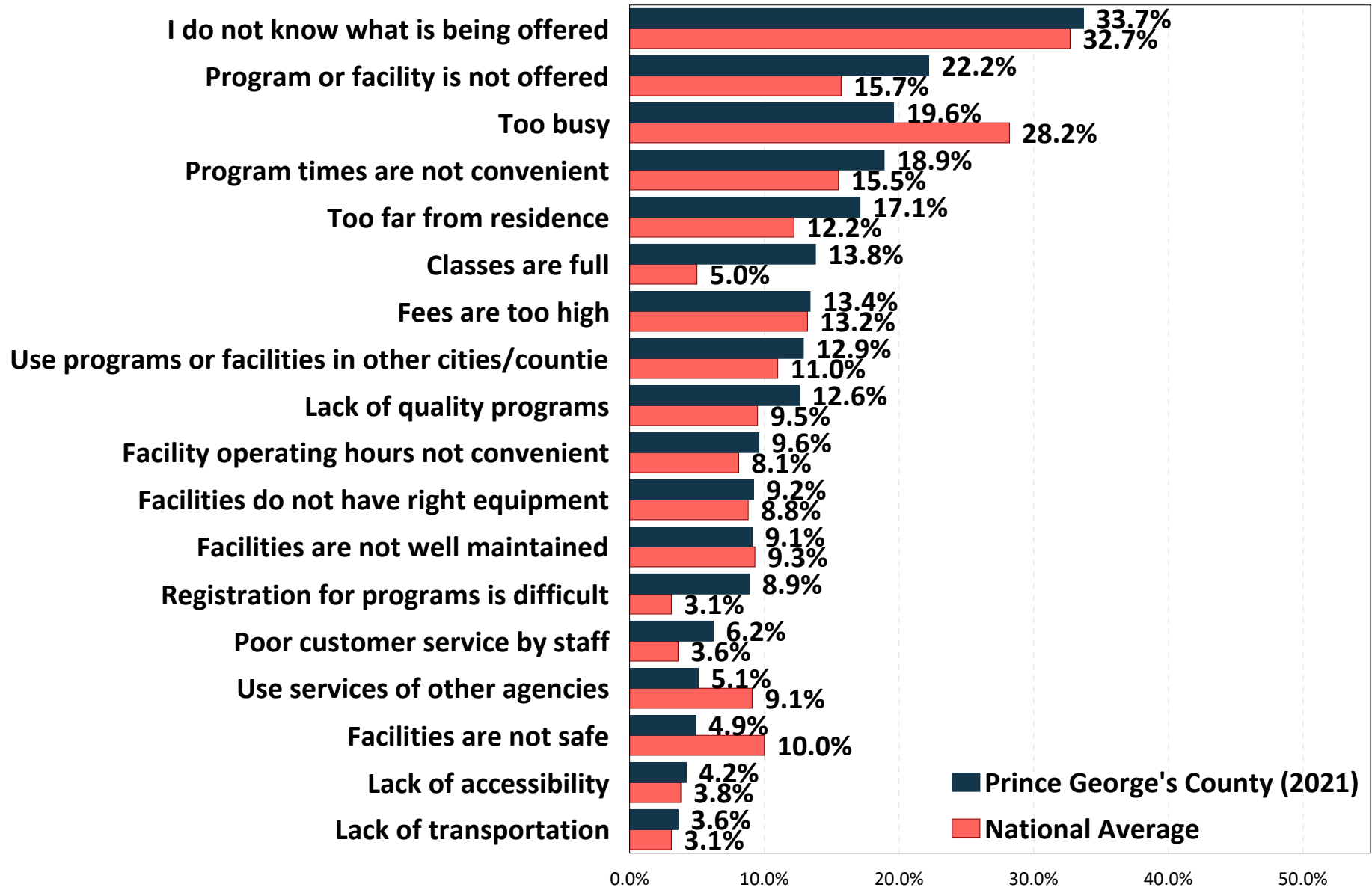
by percentage of respondents that reported using the method of information



**Benchmarks
PGC, MD (2021)
Compared to
National Averages**

Reasons Preventing Respondents Use of Parks & Recreation Facilities More Often

by %yes of respondents that reported the item as a reason



Section 4: Priority Investment Analysis

Priority Investment Analysis

The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide government leaders with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on parks and recreation investments. The primary purpose of the Priority Investment Rating is to identify the facilities, amenities, and programs households think should receive the highest priority for investment. The Priority Investment Rating has two components:

- the importance households place on items (sum of top four choices) and
- households' unmet needs (needs that are only being 50% or less).

Since decisions related to future investments should consider both the level of unmet need and the importance of facilities, amenities, and programs, the Priority Investment Rating weights each of these components equally. Essentially, the equation for the Priority Investment Rating is the sum of the Unmet Needs Rating (UNR) and the Importance Rating (IR) as shown in the equation below:

$$\text{PIR} = \text{UNR} + \text{IR}$$

For example, suppose the Unmet Needs Rating for an indoor aquatic facilities is 100.0 (out of 100) and the Importance Rating for an indoor aquatic facilities is 65.9 (out of 100), therefore the Priority Investment Rating for an indoor aquatic facilities is 165.9 (out of 200). A Priority Investment Rating of 165.9 would indicate that an indoor aquatic facilities is a High Priority for investment.

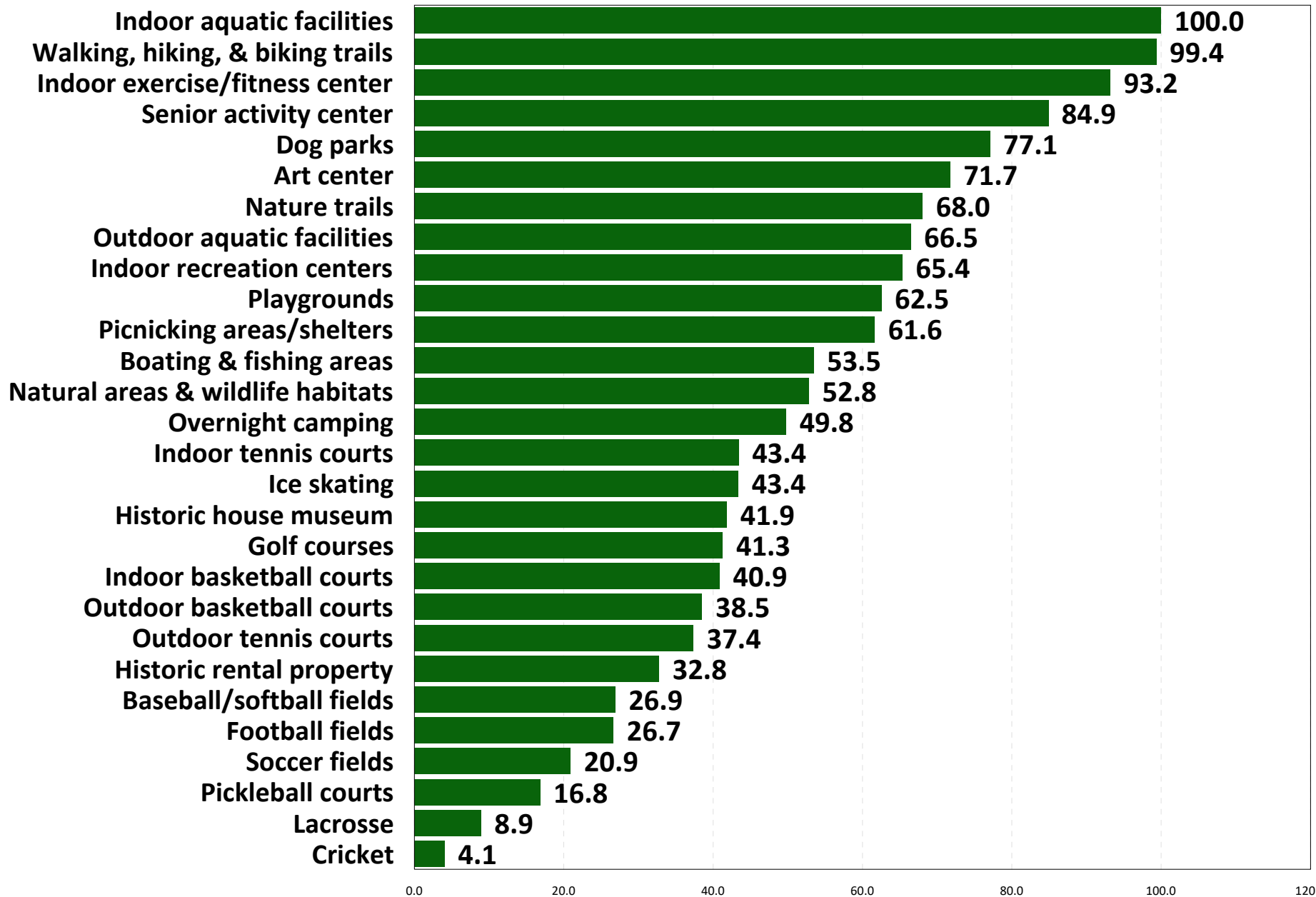
How to Analyze the Charts:

- High Priority Areas are those with a PIR of at least 100. A rating of 100 or above generally indicates there is a relatively high level of unmet need and households generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements in this area are likely to have a positive impact on the greatest number of households.
- Medium Priority Areas are those with a PIR of 50-99. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a medium to high level of unmet need or a significant percentage of households generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas.
- Low Priority Areas are those with a PIR below 50. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a relatively low level of unmet need and households do not think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements may be warranted if the needs of very specialized populations are being targeted.

The following pages show the Unmet Needs Rating, Importance Rating, and Priority Investment Rating (PIR) for Parks and Recreation facilities/amenities and parks and recreation facilities.

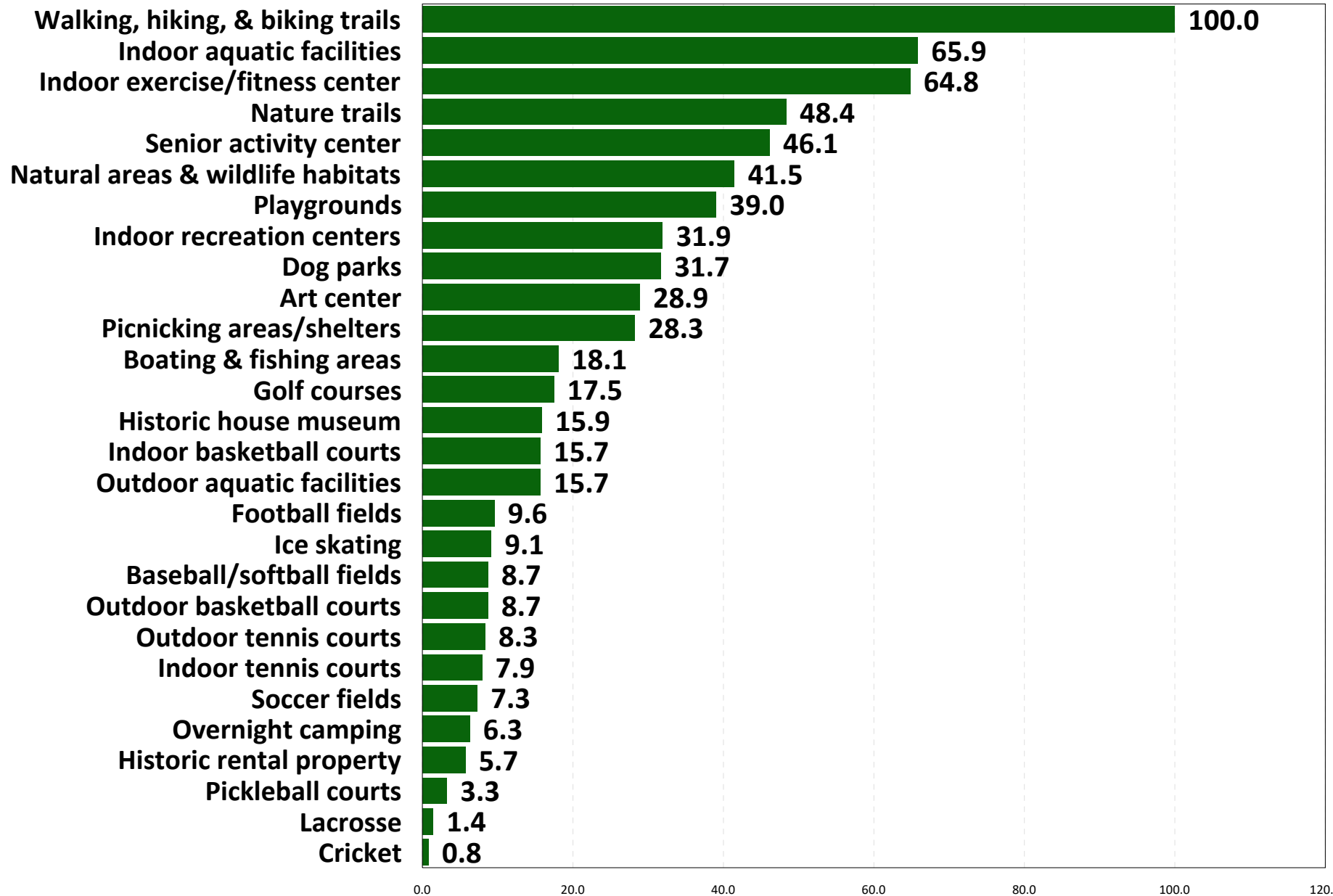
Unmet Needs Rating for Parks and Recreation Facilities/Amenities

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100
 the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need



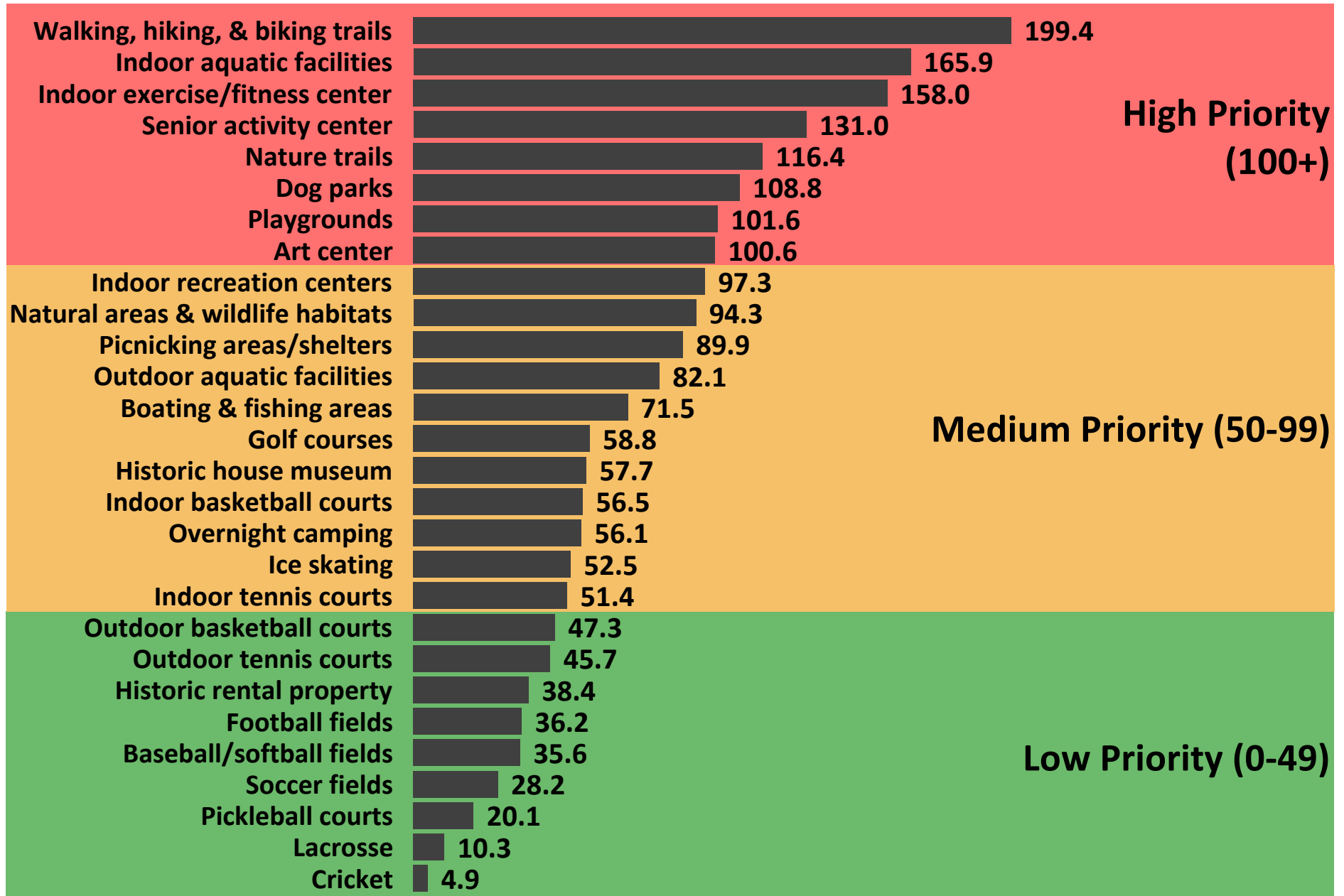
Importance Rating for Parks and Recreation Facilities/Amenities

the rating for the item with the most importance=100
 the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of importance for each item compared to the item with the most importance



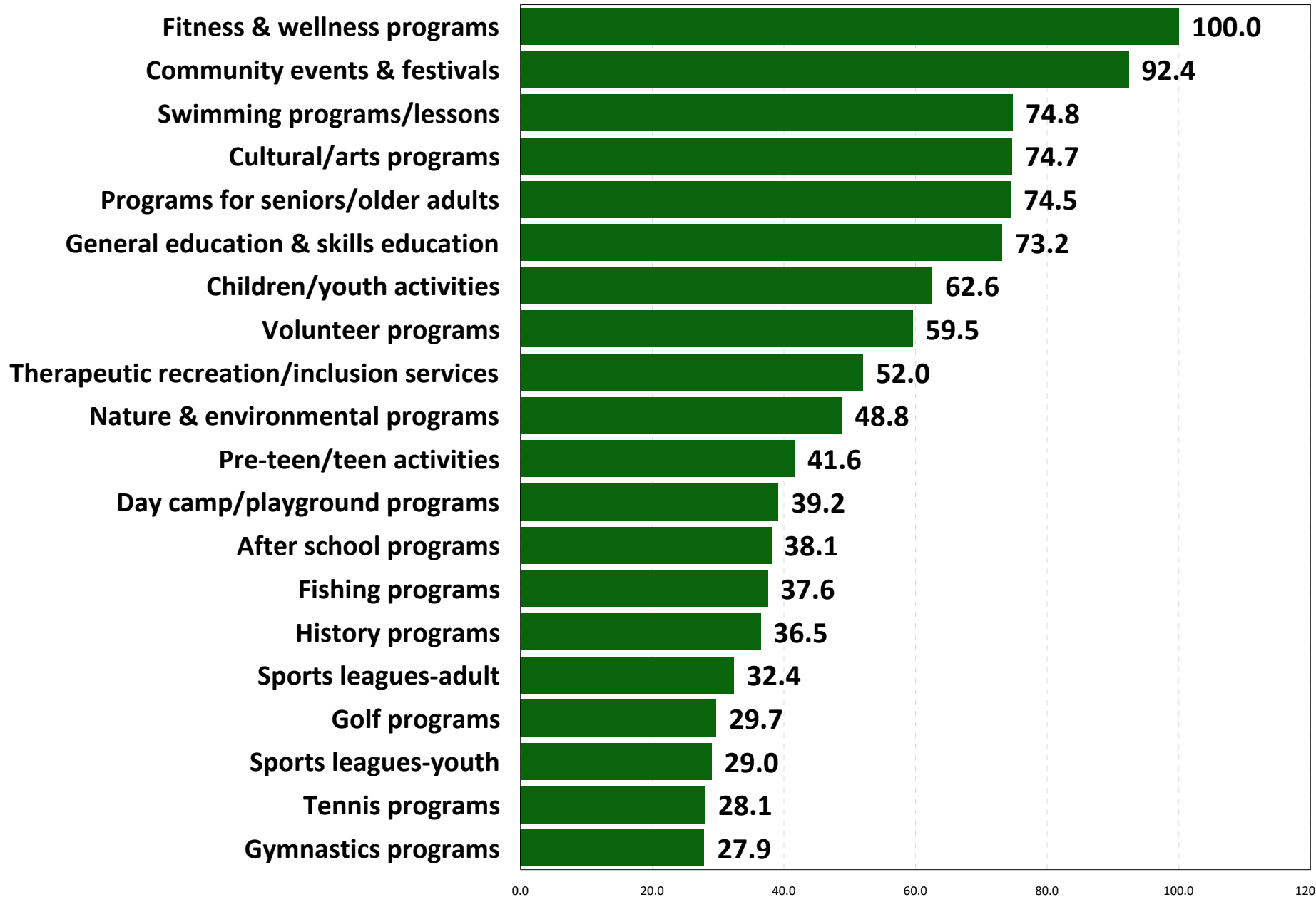
Top Priorities for Investment for Parks and Recreation Facilities/Amenities

Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR)



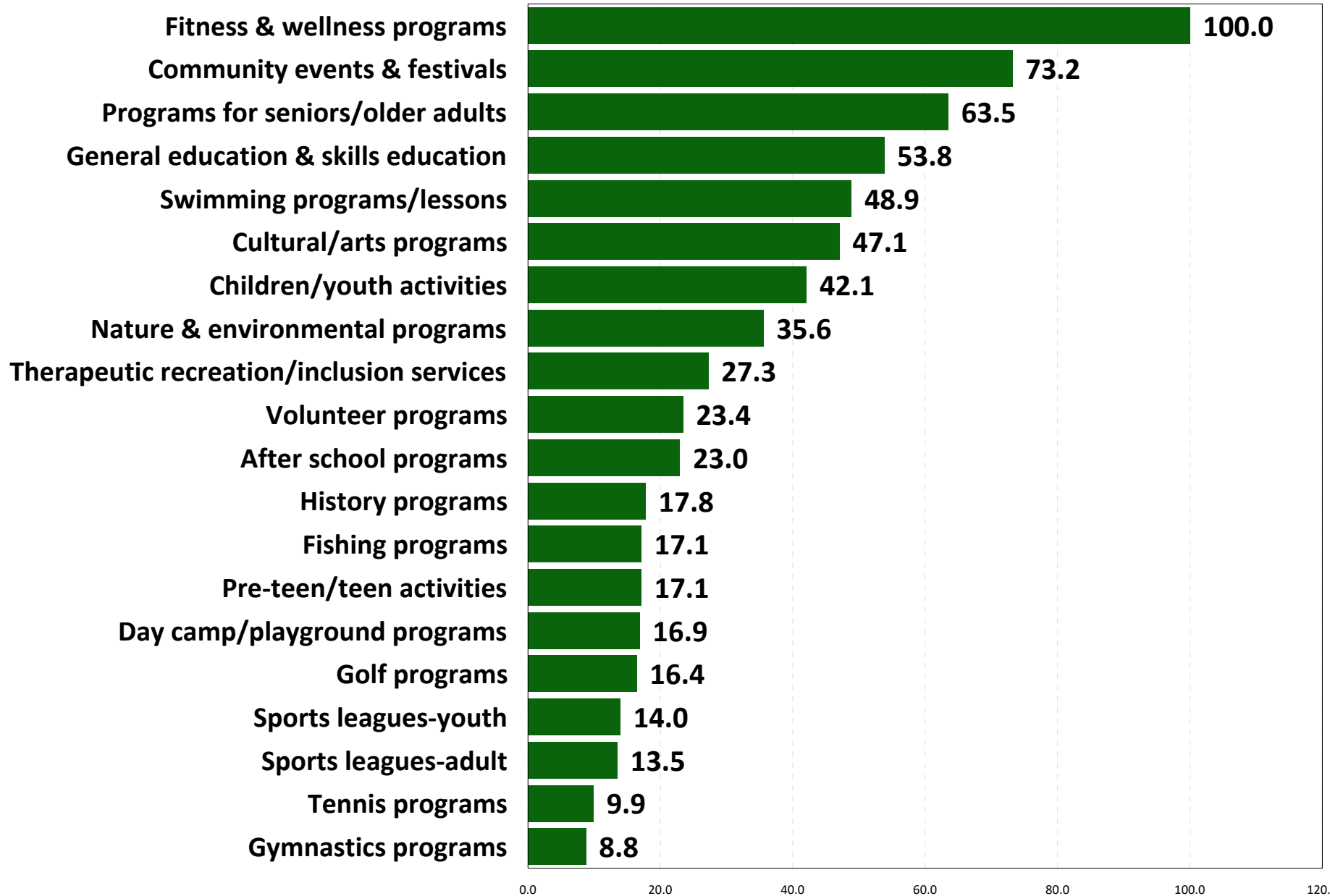
Unmet Needs Rating for Parks and Recreation Programs

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100
 the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need



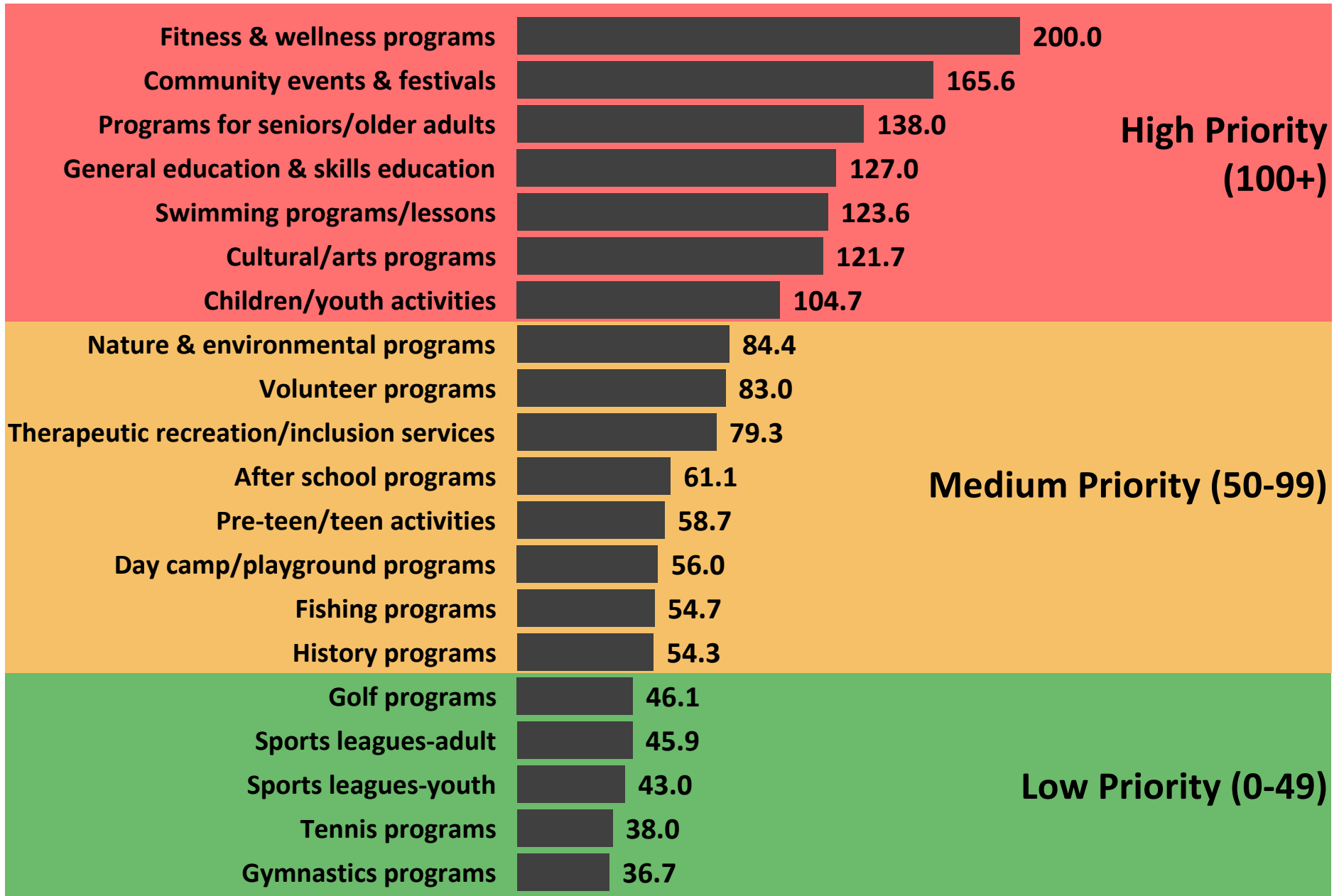
Importance Rating for Parks and Recreation Programs

the rating for the item with the most importance=100
 the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of importance for each item compared to the item with the most importance



Top Priorities for Investment for Parks and Recreation Programs

Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR)



Section 5: Tabular Data

Q1. From the following list, please CHECK ALL the parks, trails, and recreation facilities operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in Prince George's County that you or members of your household have used or visited over the past 2 years.

Q1. All parks, trails, & recreation facilities operated by Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission in Prince George's County your household has used or visited over past 2 years

	Number	Percent
Aquatic facilities	563	35.4 %
Art center	190	11.9 %
Baseball/softball fields	328	20.6 %
Basketball courts	365	23.0 %
Boating & fishing areas	284	17.9 %
Cricket fields	22	1.4 %
Dog parks	304	19.1 %
Football fields	285	17.9 %
Futsal fields	24	1.5 %
Golf courses	217	13.6 %
Handball courts	35	2.2 %
Historic house museum	258	16.2 %
Ice skating	178	11.2 %
Indoor exercise/fitness center	589	37.0 %
Indoor recreation centers	490	30.8 %
Lacrosse fields	39	2.5 %
Natural areas & wildlife habitats	533	33.5 %
Nature trails	702	44.2 %
Pickleball courts	41	2.6 %
Picnicking areas/shelters	521	32.8 %
Playgrounds	613	38.6 %
Senior activity center	336	21.1 %
Soccer fields	182	11.4 %
Tennis courts	238	15.0 %
Walking, hiking, & biking trails	991	62.3 %
None	155	9.7 %
Total	8483	

Q2. Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of ALL the parks, trails, and recreation facilities operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Prince George's County that you have visited?

Q2. How would you rate physical condition of all parks, trails, & recreation facilities	Number	Percent
Excellent	297	20.7 %
Good	827	57.6 %
Fair	258	18.0 %
Poor	27	1.9 %
Not provided	26	1.8 %
Total	1435	100.0 %

Q3. From the following list, please CHECK ALL of the ways you and members of your household travel to the parks and recreation facilities that you use.

Q3. All the ways your household travels to parks & recreation facilities you use	Number	Percent
Walk	647	40.7 %
Bike	328	20.6 %
Drive	1343	84.5 %
Public transportation	55	3.5 %
None	155	9.7 %
Total	2528	

Q4. Have you or other members of your household participated in any recreation programs, classes, or events offered by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Prince George's County during the past 2 years?

Q4. Has your household participated in any recreation programs, classes, or events	Number	Percent
Yes	529	33.3 %
No	1061	66.7 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q4a. Approximately how many different recreation programs, classes or events offered by Prince George's County have you or members of your household participated in over the past 2 years?

Q4a. How many different recreation programs, classes or events has your household participated in over past 2 years	Number	Percent
1 program	123	23.3 %
2 to 3 programs	255	48.2 %
4 to 6 programs	105	19.8 %
7 to 10 programs	20	3.8 %
11+ programs	10	1.9 %
Not provided	16	3.0 %
Total	529	100.0 %

Q4b. From the following list, please check the THREE primary reasons why your household has participated in Prince George's County programs, classes or events.

Q4b. Primary reasons why your household has participated in Prince George's County programs, classes or events	Number	Percent
Quality of instructors/coaches	155	29.3 %
Location of program facility	405	76.6 %
Quality of program facility	167	31.6 %
Fees charged for class	223	42.2 %
Times program is offered	214	40.5 %
Friends participate in program	95	18.0 %
Dates program is offered	124	23.4 %
Other	17	3.2 %
Total	1400	

Q5. Please indicate if you or any member of your household has a need for each of the parks and recreation facilities/amenities listed below.

(N=1590)

	Yes	No
Q5-1. Art center	25.1%	74.9%
Q5-2. Baseball/softball fields	13.2%	86.8%
Q5-3. Boating & fishing areas	20.1%	79.9%
Q5-4. Cricket	1.4%	98.6%
Q5-5. Dog parks	24.8%	75.2%
Q5-6. Football fields	13.5%	86.5%
Q5-7. Golf courses	17.0%	83.0%
Q5-8. Historic house museum	20.7%	79.3%
Q5-9. Historic rental property	11.4%	88.6%
Q5-10. Ice skating	16.6%	83.4%
Q5-11. Indoor aquatic facilities	45.9%	54.1%
Q5-12. Indoor basketball courts	18.8%	81.2%
Q5-13. Indoor exercise/fitness center	47.7%	52.3%
Q5-14. Indoor recreation centers	33.1%	66.9%
Q5-15. Indoor tennis courts	13.3%	86.7%
Q5-16. Lacrosse	2.6%	97.4%
Q5-17. Natural areas & wildlife habitats	36.5%	63.5%
Q5-18. Nature trails	45.7%	54.3%
Q5-19. Outdoor aquatic facilities	23.3%	76.7%
Q5-20. Outdoor basketball courts	18.3%	81.7%
Q5-21. Outdoor tennis courts	16.4%	83.6%

Q5. Please indicate if you or any member of your household has a need for each of the parks and recreation facilities/amenities listed below.

	Yes	No
Q5-22. Overnight camping	14.5%	85.5%
Q5-23. Pickleball courts	4.3%	95.7%
Q5-24. Picnicking areas/shelters	34.3%	65.7%
Q5-25. Playgrounds	34.8%	65.2%
Q5-26. Senior activity center	35.1%	64.9%
Q5-27. Soccer fields	10.1%	89.9%
Q5-28. Walking, hiking, & biking trails	63.4%	36.6%
Q5-29. Other	1.5%	98.5%

Q5. If "Yes," please rate how well your needs for facilities/amenities of this type are being met using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means they are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."

(N=1486)

	100% met	75% met	50% met	25% met	0% met
Q5-1. Art center	20.5%	24.8%	28.2%	12.8%	13.7%
Q5-2. Baseball/softball fields	27.6%	33.3%	23.4%	10.9%	4.7%
Q5-3. Boating & fishing areas	19.3%	29.8%	26.0%	15.1%	9.8%
Q5-4. Cricket	22.2%	22.2%	22.2%	22.2%	11.1%
Q5-5. Dog parks	20.7%	19.8%	19.8%	17.0%	22.7%
Q5-6. Football fields	26.9%	35.2%	23.3%	10.4%	4.1%
Q5-7. Golf courses	21.6%	32.0%	24.5%	13.7%	8.3%
Q5-8. Historic house museum	31.3%	29.9%	23.1%	11.7%	3.9%
Q5-9. Historic rental property	23.2%	21.8%	26.1%	14.8%	14.1%
Q5-10. Ice skating	33.2%	16.8%	25.0%	9.9%	15.1%
Q5-11. Indoor aquatic facilities	30.1%	28.3%	16.5%	13.2%	12.0%
Q5-12. Indoor basketball courts	27.3%	31.2%	21.2%	12.7%	7.7%
Q5-13. Indoor exercise/fitness center	33.8%	28.8%	19.6%	11.2%	6.6%
Q5-14. Indoor recreation centers	31.7%	30.4%	21.8%	9.9%	6.1%
Q5-15. Indoor tennis courts	18.2%	19.3%	18.2%	15.9%	28.4%
Q5-16. Lacrosse	18.8%	15.6%	15.6%	21.9%	28.1%
Q5-17. Natural areas & wildlife habitats	40.8%	31.5%	17.3%	8.2%	2.2%
Q5-18. Nature trails	40.6%	31.0%	16.2%	8.4%	3.9%
Q5-19. Outdoor aquatic facilities	23.7%	21.6%	22.8%	15.0%	16.8%
Q5-20. Outdoor basketball courts	27.2%	32.5%	20.9%	13.4%	6.0%
Q5-21. Outdoor tennis courts	29.1%	27.4%	22.2%	15.8%	5.6%

Q5. If "Yes," please rate how well your needs for facilities/amenities of this type are being met using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means they are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."

	100% met	75% met	50% met	25% met	0% met
Q5-22. Overnight camping	19.7%	14.6%	18.7%	20.7%	26.3%
Q5-23. Pickleball courts	10.7%	14.3%	17.9%	19.6%	37.5%
Q5-24. Picnicking areas/shelters	32.1%	33.5%	17.7%	13.9%	2.8%
Q5-25. Playgrounds	34.3%	31.2%	18.0%	13.7%	2.7%
Q5-26. Senior activity center	28.1%	25.6%	19.9%	16.3%	10.1%
Q5-27. Soccer fields	25.5%	34.9%	19.5%	15.4%	4.7%
Q5-28. Walking, hiking, & biking trails	39.1%	30.9%	17.7%	8.2%	4.1%
Q5-29. Other	15.8%	0.0%	15.8%	21.1%	47.4%

Q5-29. Other

<u>Q5-29. Other</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A beautiful sanctuary with a beautiful garden	1	4.2 %
An indoor or outdoor shooting range	1	4.2 %
Biking paths	1	4.2 %
Biking/walking trails	1	4.2 %
Clean areas to enjoy nature	1	4.2 %
Concert/theater facility like Harmony Hall	1	4.2 %
Garden for fruits & vegetables	1	4.2 %
Horse riding trails	1	4.2 %
Nature center	1	4.2 %
Outdoor and indoor track for running	1	4.2 %
Outdoor bathrooms	1	4.2 %
Outdoor BBQ/recreational spaces	1	4.2 %
Outdoor running track	1	4.2 %
Park for seniors walking area	1	4.2 %
Public shooting range	1	4.2 %
Roller skating, dancing	1	4.2 %
Swimming pools	1	4.2 %
Tracks for walking	1	4.2 %
Train, carousel and miniature golf	1	4.2 %
Trap & Skeet Center	1	4.2 %
Trap and Skeet	1	4.2 %
Update playgrounds	1	4.2 %
Volleyball courts	1	4.2 %
Waterfront trails	1	4.2 %
Total	24	100.0 %

Q6. Which FOUR of the facilities listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT for your household?

<u>Q6. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Art center	52	3.3 %
Baseball/softball fields	29	1.8 %
Boating & fishing areas	39	2.5 %
Cricket	2	0.1 %
Dog parks	75	4.7 %
Football fields	14	0.9 %
Golf courses	51	3.2 %
Historic house museum	19	1.2 %
Ice skating	16	1.0 %
Indoor aquatic facilities	197	12.4 %
Indoor basketball courts	32	2.0 %
Indoor exercise/fitness center	143	9.0 %
Indoor recreation centers	37	2.3 %
Indoor tennis courts	13	0.8 %
Lacrosse	2	0.1 %
Natural areas & wildlife habitats	76	4.8 %
Nature trails	58	3.6 %
Outdoor aquatic facilities	14	0.9 %
Outdoor basketball courts	5	0.3 %
Outdoor tennis courts	9	0.6 %
Overnight camping	9	0.6 %
Pickleball courts	8	0.5 %
Picnicking areas/shelters	32	2.0 %
Playgrounds	77	4.8 %
Senior activity center	118	7.4 %
Soccer fields	15	0.9 %
Walking, hiking, & biking trails	297	18.7 %
Other	8	0.5 %
None chosen	143	9.0 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q6. Which FOUR of the facilities listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT for your household?

<u>Q6. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Art center	52	3.3 %
Baseball/softball fields	10	0.6 %
Boating & fishing areas	35	2.2 %
Cricket	1	0.1 %
Dog parks	77	4.8 %
Football fields	19	1.2 %
Golf courses	41	2.6 %
Historic house museum	37	2.3 %
Historic rental property	14	0.9 %
Ice skating	13	0.8 %
Indoor aquatic facilities	122	7.7 %
Indoor basketball courts	36	2.3 %
Indoor exercise/fitness center	159	10.0 %
Indoor recreation centers	54	3.4 %
Indoor tennis courts	22	1.4 %
Lacrosse	1	0.1 %
Natural areas & wildlife habitats	91	5.7 %
Nature trails	129	8.1 %
Outdoor aquatic facilities	32	2.0 %
Outdoor basketball courts	24	1.5 %
Outdoor tennis courts	17	1.1 %
Overnight camping	9	0.6 %
Pickleball courts	5	0.3 %
Picnicking areas/shelters	44	2.8 %
Playgrounds	79	5.0 %
Senior activity center	79	5.0 %
Soccer fields	11	0.7 %
Walking, hiking, & biking trails	174	10.9 %
None chosen	203	12.8 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q6. Which FOUR of the facilities listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT for your household?

<u>Q6. 3rd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Art center	53	3.3 %
Baseball/softball fields	11	0.7 %
Boating & fishing areas	34	2.1 %
Cricket	1	0.1 %
Dog parks	44	2.8 %
Football fields	20	1.3 %
Golf courses	28	1.8 %
Historic house museum	39	2.5 %
Historic rental property	14	0.9 %
Ice skating	28	1.8 %
Indoor aquatic facilities	127	8.0 %
Indoor basketball courts	29	1.8 %
Indoor exercise/fitness center	127	8.0 %
Indoor recreation centers	82	5.2 %
Indoor tennis courts	15	0.9 %
Lacrosse	2	0.1 %
Natural areas & wildlife habitats	93	5.8 %
Nature trails	102	6.4 %
Outdoor aquatic facilities	33	2.1 %
Outdoor basketball courts	21	1.3 %
Outdoor tennis courts	17	1.1 %
Overnight camping	13	0.8 %
Pickleball courts	10	0.6 %
Picnicking areas/shelters	68	4.3 %
Playgrounds	73	4.6 %
Senior activity center	75	4.7 %
Soccer fields	16	1.0 %
Walking, hiking, & biking trails	154	9.7 %
None chosen	261	16.4 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q6. Which FOUR of the facilities listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT for your household?

<u>Q6. 4th choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Art center	69	4.3 %
Baseball/softball fields	19	1.2 %
Boating & fishing areas	34	2.1 %
Cricket	1	0.1 %
Dog parks	53	3.3 %
Football fields	21	1.3 %
Golf courses	16	1.0 %
Historic house museum	28	1.8 %
Historic rental property	16	1.0 %
Ice skating	15	0.9 %
Indoor aquatic facilities	68	4.3 %
Indoor basketball courts	25	1.6 %
Indoor exercise/fitness center	78	4.9 %
Indoor recreation centers	76	4.8 %
Indoor tennis courts	12	0.8 %
Lacrosse	6	0.4 %
Natural areas & wildlife habitats	65	4.1 %
Nature trails	91	5.7 %
Outdoor aquatic facilities	43	2.7 %
Outdoor basketball courts	19	1.2 %
Outdoor tennis courts	20	1.3 %
Overnight camping	17	1.1 %
Pickleball courts	3	0.2 %
Picnicking areas/shelters	76	4.8 %
Playgrounds	76	4.8 %
Senior activity center	89	5.6 %
Soccer fields	16	1.0 %
Walking, hiking, & biking trails	158	9.9 %
None chosen	380	23.9 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

SUM OF TOP 4 CHOICES**Q6. Which FOUR of the facilities listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT for your household? (top 4)**

<u>Q6. Sum of Top 4 Choices</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Art center	226	14.2 %
Baseball/softball fields	69	4.3 %
Boating & fishing areas	142	8.9 %
Cricket	5	0.3 %
Dog parks	249	15.7 %
Football fields	74	4.7 %
Golf courses	136	8.6 %
Historic house museum	123	7.7 %
Historic rental property	44	2.8 %
Ice skating	72	4.5 %
Indoor aquatic facilities	514	32.3 %
Indoor basketball courts	122	7.7 %
Indoor exercise/fitness center	507	31.9 %
Indoor recreation centers	249	15.7 %
Indoor tennis courts	62	3.9 %
Lacrosse	11	0.7 %
Natural areas & wildlife habitats	325	20.4 %
Nature trails	380	23.9 %
Outdoor aquatic facilities	122	7.7 %
Outdoor basketball courts	69	4.3 %
Outdoor tennis courts	63	4.0 %
Overnight camping	48	3.0 %
Pickleball courts	26	1.6 %
Picnicking areas/shelters	220	13.8 %
Playgrounds	305	19.2 %
Senior activity center	361	22.7 %
Soccer fields	58	3.6 %
Walking, hiking, & biking trails	783	49.2 %
Other	8	0.5 %
None chosen	143	9.0 %
Total	5516	

Q7. Please CHECK ALL of the ways you learn about parks and recreation events and activities?

Q7. All the ways you learn about parks & recreation events & activities	Number	Percent
Facebook	322	20.3 %
Twitter	51	3.2 %
The Guide	595	37.4 %
M-NCPPC website	911	57.3 %
Word of mouth	899	56.5 %
Radio ads	131	8.2 %
Flyer at the Community Center	429	27.0 %
Other	157	9.9 %
Total	3495	

Q8. Please indicate if you or any member of your household has a need for each of the parks and recreation programs listed below.

(N=1590)

	Yes	No
Q8-1. After school programs	15.4%	84.6%
Q8-2. Children/youth activities	26.9%	73.1%
Q8-3. Community events & festivals	49.4%	50.6%
Q8-4. Cultural/arts programs	36.5%	63.5%
Q8-5. Day camp/playground programs	16.5%	83.5%
Q8-6. Fishing programs	14.8%	85.2%
Q8-7. Fitness & wellness programs	55.9%	44.1%
Q8-8. General education, skills education (computer classes, cooking, babysitting, etc.)	32.7%	67.3%
Q8-9. Golf programs	12.9%	87.1%
Q8-10. Gymnastics programs	11.3%	88.7%
Q8-11. History programs	16.5%	83.5%
Q8-12. Nature & environmental programs	25.7%	74.3%
Q8-13. Pre-teen/teen activities	16.2%	83.8%
Q8-14. Programs for seniors/older adults	38.3%	61.7%
Q8-15. Sports leagues-adult	12.9%	87.1%
Q8-16. Sports leagues-youth	13.3%	86.7%
Q8-17. Swimming programs/lessons	35.1%	64.9%
Q8-18. Tennis programs	12.0%	88.0%
Q8-19. Therapeutic recreation/inclusion services	21.4%	78.6%
Q8-20. Volunteer programs	24.0%	76.0%
Q8-21. Other	1.8%	98.2%

Q8. If "Yes," please rate how well your needs for facilities/amenities of this type are being met using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means they are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."

(N=1428)

	100% met	75% met	50% met	25% met	0% met
Q8-1. After school programs	13.1%	13.6%	20.6%	25.1%	27.6%
Q8-2. Children/youth activities	12.1%	19.0%	32.8%	22.3%	13.8%
Q8-3. Community events & festivals	15.5%	29.1%	25.1%	17.8%	12.5%
Q8-4. Cultural/arts programs	13.8%	25.5%	24.7%	20.9%	15.0%
Q8-5. Day camp/playground programs	13.1%	16.7%	26.6%	18.9%	24.8%
Q8-6. Fishing programs	10.1%	14.6%	22.2%	23.2%	29.8%
Q8-7. Fitness & wellness programs	19.0%	28.0%	23.8%	17.6%	11.6%
Q8-8. General education, skills education (computer classes, cooking, babysitting, etc.)	12.5%	21.3%	21.8%	22.5%	22.0%
Q8-9. Golf programs	14.5%	17.3%	25.4%	17.9%	24.9%
Q8-10. Gymnastics programs	14.1%	12.8%	19.9%	21.8%	31.4%
Q8-11. History programs	15.1%	19.3%	22.9%	18.3%	24.3%
Q8-12. Nature & environmental programs	16.6%	27.0%	25.9%	16.9%	13.5%
Q8-13. Pre-teen/teen activities	9.5%	14.4%	26.1%	27.0%	23.0%
Q8-14. Programs for seniors/older adults	17.9%	24.6%	22.6%	18.1%	16.9%
Q8-15. Sports leagues-adult	8.0%	17.7%	16.6%	18.9%	38.9%
Q8-16. Sports leagues-youth	15.4%	20.0%	24.0%	20.6%	20.0%
Q8-17. Swimming programs/lessons	16.8%	20.2%	23.3%	19.8%	20.0%
Q8-18. Tennis programs	10.3%	20.5%	21.2%	20.5%	27.6%
Q8-19. Therapeutic recreation/inclusion services	11.6%	16.4%	16.4%	22.5%	33.1%
Q8-20. Volunteer programs	13.4%	13.1%	19.7%	23.3%	30.5%
Q8-21. Other	20.8%	12.5%	8.3%	16.7%	41.7%

Q8-21. Other

Q8-21. Other	Number	Percent
Activities for senior citizens	1	3.4 %
Activities specifically for active people in their 50's, especially women	1	3.4 %
Autism outreach programs	1	3.4 %
Bike paths	1	3.4 %
Bike trails	1	3.4 %
Casual bike riding group for touring trails and sites around DMV	1	3.4 %
Ceramics	1	3.4 %
Christian fellowship with neighbors	1	3.4 %
Computer learning programs for seniors	1	3.4 %
ESL	1	3.4 %
Harmony Hall performances	1	3.4 %
Hunting, camping, hiking	1	3.4 %
Ice sports, hockey, adult skating and figure skating	1	3.4 %
Lacrosse clinics	1	3.4 %
Mental health such as therapy	1	3.4 %
More outdoor bathrooms	1	3.4 %
Outings	1	3.4 %
Performing art productions	1	3.4 %
Pickleball	1	3.4 %
Roommate matching to facilitate elderly to keep their county residence	1	3.4 %
Safe cycling events, pickleball	1	3.4 %
Senior activity	1	3.4 %
Shooting sports	1	3.4 %
Stained glass class, recreational swimming laps	1	3.4 %
Teen program	1	3.4 %
Trap & Skeet Center	1	3.4 %
Trap and Skeet	1	3.4 %
Tutoring programs, Bible study	1	3.4 %
Watercraft, kayak, canoe lessons and trips, outdoor survival skills	1	3.4 %
Total	29	100.0 %

Q9. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT for your household?

<u>Q9. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
After school programs	82	5.2 %
Children/youth activities	119	7.5 %
Community events & festivals	169	10.6 %
Cultural/arts programs	73	4.6 %
Day camp/playground programs	22	1.4 %
Fishing programs	35	2.2 %
Fitness & wellness programs	266	16.7 %
General education, skills education (computer classes, cooking, babysitting, etc.)	56	3.5 %
Golf programs	39	2.5 %
Gymnastics programs	16	1.0 %
History programs	17	1.1 %
Nature & environmental programs	56	3.5 %
Pre-teen/teen activities	36	2.3 %
Programs for seniors/older adults	152	9.6 %
Sports leagues-adult	16	1.0 %
Sports leagues-youth	23	1.4 %
Swimming programs/lessons	83	5.2 %
Tennis programs	11	0.7 %
Therapeutic recreation/inclusion services	28	1.8 %
Volunteer programs	31	1.9 %
Other	13	0.8 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>247</u>	<u>15.5 %</u>
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q9. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT for your household?

<u>Q9. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
After school programs	40	2.5 %
Children/youth activities	86	5.4 %
Community events & festivals	156	9.8 %
Cultural/arts programs	109	6.9 %
Day camp/playground programs	39	2.5 %
Fishing programs	34	2.1 %
Fitness & wellness programs	206	13.0 %
General education, skills education (computer classes, cooking, babysitting, etc.)	105	6.6 %
Golf programs	24	1.5 %
Gymnastics programs	16	1.0 %
History programs	32	2.0 %
Nature & environmental programs	60	3.8 %
Pre-teen/teen activities	29	1.8 %
Programs for seniors/older adults	112	7.0 %
Sports leagues-adult	20	1.3 %
Sports leagues-youth	25	1.6 %
Swimming programs/lessons	80	5.0 %
Tennis programs	23	1.4 %
Therapeutic recreation/inclusion services	34	2.1 %
Volunteer programs	19	1.2 %
Other	1	0.1 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>340</u>	<u>21.4 %</u>
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q9. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT for your household?

<u>Q9. 3rd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
After school programs	17	1.1 %
Children/youth activities	55	3.5 %
Community events & festivals	106	6.7 %
Cultural/arts programs	84	5.3 %
Day camp/playground programs	27	1.7 %
Fishing programs	31	1.9 %
Fitness & wellness programs	149	9.4 %
General education, skills education (computer classes, cooking, babysitting, etc.)	108	6.8 %
Golf programs	31	1.9 %
Gymnastics programs	18	1.1 %
History programs	39	2.5 %
Nature & environmental programs	71	4.5 %
Pre-teen/teen activities	27	1.7 %
Programs for seniors/older adults	102	6.4 %
Sports leagues-adult	31	1.9 %
Sports leagues-youth	28	1.8 %
Swimming programs/lessons	92	5.8 %
Tennis programs	23	1.4 %
Therapeutic recreation/inclusion services	59	3.7 %
Volunteer programs	45	2.8 %
None chosen	447	28.1 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q9. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT for your household?

<u>Q9. 4th choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
After school programs	23	1.4 %
Children/youth activities	36	2.3 %
Community events & festivals	86	5.4 %
Cultural/arts programs	65	4.1 %
Day camp/playground programs	31	1.9 %
Fishing programs	22	1.4 %
Fitness & wellness programs	84	5.3 %
General education, skills education (computer classes, cooking, babysitting, etc.)	111	7.0 %
Golf programs	22	1.4 %
Gymnastics programs	12	0.8 %
History programs	36	2.3 %
Nature & environmental programs	64	4.0 %
Pre-teen/teen activities	28	1.8 %
Programs for seniors/older adults	83	5.2 %
Sports leagues-adult	29	1.8 %
Sports leagues-youth	22	1.4 %
Swimming programs/lessons	91	5.7 %
Tennis programs	15	0.9 %
Therapeutic recreation/inclusion services	71	4.5 %
Volunteer programs	71	4.5 %
None chosen	588	37.0 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

SUM OF TOP 4 CHOICES**Q9. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT for your household? (top 4)**

<u>Q9. Sum of Top 4 Choices</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
After school programs	162	10.2 %
Children/youth activities	296	18.6 %
Community events & festivals	517	32.5 %
Cultural/arts programs	331	20.8 %
Day camp/playground programs	119	7.5 %
Fishing programs	122	7.7 %
Fitness & wellness programs	705	44.3 %
General education, skills education (computer classes, cooking, babysitting, etc.)	380	23.9 %
Golf programs	116	7.3 %
Gymnastics programs	62	3.9 %
History programs	124	7.8 %
Nature & environmental programs	251	15.8 %
Pre-teen/teen activities	120	7.5 %
Programs for seniors/older adults	449	28.2 %
Sports leagues-adult	96	6.0 %
Sports leagues-youth	98	6.2 %
Swimming programs/lessons	346	21.8 %
Tennis programs	72	4.5 %
Therapeutic recreation/inclusion services	192	12.1 %
Volunteer programs	166	10.4 %
Other	14	0.9 %
None chosen	247	15.5 %
Total	4985	

Q10. Over the past 2 years, have you or members of your household visited or used any of the community centers operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Department) in Prince George's County?

Q10. Has your household visited or used any community centers over past 2 years	Number	Percent
Yes	842	53.0 %
No	732	46.0 %
Not provided	16	1.0 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q11. What is the MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF TIME you would be willing to drive to use a multi-use community recreation center that had the program spaces which are most important to you and your household?

Q11. Maximum amount of time you would be willing to drive to use a multi-use community recreation center	Number	Percent
10 minutes	162	10.2 %
11-15 minutes	332	20.9 %
16-20 minutes	442	27.8 %
21-25 minutes	208	13.1 %
26-30 minutes	229	14.4 %
31+ minutes	122	7.7 %
Not provided	95	6.0 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q12. Please CHECK ALL the reasons why your household does not use Maryland-Capital Park and Planning Commission (Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation) parks, recreation facilities or programs more often.

Q12. All the reasons why your household does not use parks, recreation facilities or programs more often

	Number	Percent
Use programs or facilities in other cities/counties	205	12.9 %
Program or facility is not offered	353	22.2 %
Facilities do not have right equipment	147	9.2 %
I do not know what is being offered	536	33.7 %
Lack of quality programs	201	12.6 %
Too far from residence	272	17.1 %
Classes are full	220	13.8 %
Fees are too high	213	13.4 %
Program times are not convenient	301	18.9 %
Facility operating hours not convenient	152	9.6 %
Too busy	311	19.6 %
Poor customer service by staff	98	6.2 %
Facilities are not well maintained	144	9.1 %
Use services of other agencies	81	5.1 %
Lack of transportation	57	3.6 %
Registration for programs is difficult	142	8.9 %
Lack of accessibility	66	4.2 %
Facilities are not safe	78	4.9 %
Other	180	11.3 %
Total	3757	

Q13. Please rate your level of support for each of the following actions the Maryland-Capital Park and Planning Commission in Prince George's County could take to improve the parks and recreation system.

(N=1590)

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Not supportive	Not sure
Q13-1. Purchase land to preserve open space & green space for future generations	61.8%	22.6%	2.8%	12.9%
Q13-2. Purchase land for developing athletic fields & recreational facilities	47.9%	30.6%	6.7%	14.8%
Q13-3. Purchase land for developing trails, picnicking areas shelters, etc.	59.8%	23.3%	3.8%	13.0%
Q13-4. Fix-up/repair existing outdoor park facilities	78.2%	11.4%	0.6%	9.7%
Q13-5. Upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields	65.0%	19.0%	2.5%	13.5%
Q13-6. Upgrade existing recreation centers	69.5%	17.6%	1.4%	11.5%
Q13-7. Upgrade existing County golf courses	31.1%	26.5%	16.8%	25.6%
Q13-8. Develop new walking/biking trails & connect existing trails	65.5%	19.7%	2.5%	12.3%
Q13-9. Develop new regional indoor community centers with types of program features most important to you & members of your household, i.e., fitness areas, leisure pools, gyms, walking tracks	62.3%	20.9%	3.5%	13.2%
Q13-10. Develop new youth sports fields	45.9%	28.9%	6.7%	18.4%
Q13-11. Develop community recreation facilities (gyms, meeting rooms) that are attached to schools, to be used by students during school hours & all residents after school hours during week & on weekends	57.0%	23.1%	5.6%	14.3%
Q13-12. Develop new adult softball fields	21.0%	31.4%	19.1%	28.6%
Q13-13. Develop new off-leash dog parks	26.9%	25.8%	21.6%	25.8%
Q13-14. Develop new outdoor special events & festival areas	48.2%	28.2%	6.1%	17.4%

Q14. Which FOUR of the actions from the list in Question 13 are most important to your household?

<u>Q14. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Purchase land to preserve open space & green space for future generations	422	26.5 %
Purchase land for developing athletic fields & recreational facilities	101	6.4 %
Purchase land for developing trails, picnicking areas shelters, etc.	93	5.8 %
Fix-up/repair existing outdoor park facilities	266	16.7 %
Upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields	40	2.5 %
Upgrade existing recreation centers	109	6.9 %
Upgrade existing County golf courses	24	1.5 %
Develop new walking/biking trails & connect existing trails	102	6.4 %
Develop new regional indoor community centers with types of program features most important to you & members of your household, i.e., fitness areas, leisure pools, gyms, walking tracks	88	5.5 %
Develop new youth sports fields	9	0.6 %
Develop community recreation facilities (gyms, meeting rooms) that are attached to schools, to be used by students during school hours & all residents after school hours during week & on weekends	40	2.5 %
Develop new adult softball fields	2	0.1 %
Develop new off-leash dog parks	42	2.6 %
Develop new outdoor special events & festival areas	41	2.6 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>13.3 %</u>
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q14. Which FOUR of the actions from the list in Question 13 are most important to your household?

<u>Q14. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Purchase land to preserve open space & green space for future generations	107	6.7 %
Purchase land for developing athletic fields & recreational facilities	83	5.2 %
Purchase land for developing trails, picnicking areas shelters, etc.	179	11.3 %
Fix-up/repair existing outdoor park facilities	275	17.3 %
Upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields	109	6.9 %
Upgrade existing recreation centers	183	11.5 %
Upgrade existing County golf courses	27	1.7 %
Develop new walking/biking trails & connect existing trails	128	8.1 %
Develop new regional indoor community centers with types of program features most important to you & members of your household, i.e., fitness areas, leisure pools, gyms, walking tracks	80	5.0 %
Develop new youth sports fields	16	1.0 %
Develop community recreation facilities (gyms, meeting rooms) that are attached to schools, to be used by students during school hours & all residents after school hours during week & on weekends	65	4.1 %
Develop new adult softball fields	1	0.1 %
Develop new off-leash dog parks	26	1.6 %
Develop new outdoor special events & festival areas	39	2.5 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>272</u>	<u>17.1 %</u>
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q14. Which FOUR of the actions from the list in Question 13 are most important to your household?

<u>Q14. 3rd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Purchase land to preserve open space & green space for future generations	56	3.5 %
Purchase land for developing athletic fields & recreational facilities	52	3.3 %
Purchase land for developing trails, picnicking areas shelters, etc.	88	5.5 %
Fix-up/repair existing outdoor park facilities	195	12.3 %
Upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields	103	6.5 %
Upgrade existing recreation centers	180	11.3 %
Upgrade existing County golf courses	30	1.9 %
Develop new walking/biking trails & connect existing trails	183	11.5 %
Develop new regional indoor community centers with types of program features most important to you & members of your household, i.e., fitness areas, leisure pools, gyms, walking tracks	153	9.6 %
Develop new youth sports fields	19	1.2 %
Develop community recreation facilities (gyms, meeting rooms) that are attached to schools, to be used by students during school hours & all residents after school hours during week & on weekends	92	5.8 %
Develop new adult softball fields	8	0.5 %
Develop new off-leash dog parks	46	2.9 %
Develop new outdoor special events & festival areas	71	4.5 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>314</u>	<u>19.7 %</u>
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q14. Which FOUR of the actions from the list in Question 13 are most important to your household?

<u>Q14. 4th choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Purchase land to preserve open space & green space for future generations	73	4.6 %
Purchase land for developing athletic fields & recreational facilities	39	2.5 %
Purchase land for developing trails, picnicking areas shelters, etc.	55	3.5 %
Fix-up/repair existing outdoor park facilities	98	6.2 %
Upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields	67	4.2 %
Upgrade existing recreation centers	137	8.6 %
Upgrade existing County golf courses	40	2.5 %
Develop new walking/biking trails & connect existing trails	146	9.2 %
Develop new regional indoor community centers with types of program features most important to you & members of your household, i.e., fitness areas, leisure pools, gyms, walking tracks	153	9.6 %
Develop new youth sports fields	45	2.8 %
Develop community recreation facilities (gyms, meeting rooms) that are attached to schools, to be used by students during school hours & all residents after school hours during week & on weekends	118	7.4 %
Develop new adult softball fields	8	0.5 %
Develop new off-leash dog parks	65	4.1 %
Develop new outdoor special events & festival areas	142	8.9 %
None chosen	404	25.4 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

SUM OF TOP 4 CHOICES**Q14. Which FOUR of the actions from the list in Question 13 are most important to your household? (top 4)**

<u>Q14. Sum of Top 4 Choices</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Purchase land to preserve open space & green space for future generations	658	41.4 %
Purchase land for developing athletic fields & recreational facilities	275	17.3 %
Purchase land for developing trails, picnicking areas shelters, etc.	415	26.1 %
Fix-up/repair existing outdoor park facilities	834	52.5 %
Upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields	319	20.1 %
Upgrade existing recreation centers	609	38.3 %
Upgrade existing County golf courses	121	7.6 %
Develop new walking/biking trails & connect existing trails	559	35.2 %
Develop new regional indoor community centers with types of program features most important to you & members of your household, i.e., fitness areas, leisure pools, gyms, walking tracks	474	29.8 %
Develop new youth sports fields	89	5.6 %
Develop community recreation facilities (gyms, meeting rooms) that are attached to schools, to be used by students during school hours & all residents after school hours during week & on weekends	315	19.8 %
Develop new adult softball fields	19	1.2 %
Develop new off-leash dog parks	179	11.3 %
Develop new outdoor special events & festival areas	293	18.4 %
None chosen	211	13.3 %
Total	5370	

Q15. If an additional \$100 were available for Prince George's County parks, trails, sports, and recreation facilities, how would you allocate the funds among the categories of funding listed below?

	Mean
Buy more land for parks	17.92
Building new outdoor facilities (e.g., playgrounds, ball fields)	11.28
Building new indoor facilities (e.g., pools, ice arenas, indoor sports fields)	14.54
Building community centers	11.52
Building larger multi-purpose & multi-use health & recreation facilities	12.42
Maintaining existing parks & facilities	28.93
Other	3.46

Q16. Given the recent COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic, how has you and your household's perception of the value of parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation changed?

Q16. How has your household's perception of value of parks, trails, open spaces, & recreation changed given recent COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic

	Number	Percent
Value has significantly increased	612	38.5 %
Value has somewhat increased	332	20.9 %
No change	428	26.9 %
Value has somewhat decreased	72	4.5 %
Value has significantly decreased	65	4.1 %
Not provided	81	5.1 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q17. Based on your perception of value in Question 16, how would you want Prince George's County to fund future parks, recreation, trails, and open space needs?

Q17. How would you want Prince George's County to fund future parks, recreation, trails, & open space needs

	Number	Percent
Increase funding	867	54.5 %
Maintain existing funding levels	458	28.8 %
Reduce funding	19	1.2 %
Not sure	163	10.3 %
Not provided	83	5.2 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q18. How important do you feel it is for Prince George's County to provide high quality recreation programs and facilities?

Q18. How important is it for Prince George's County to provide high quality recreation programs & facilities

	Number	Percent
Very important	1227	77.2 %
Somewhat important	247	15.5 %
Not sure	31	1.9 %
Not important	17	1.1 %
Not provided	68	4.3 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q19. Please rate your satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Satisfied" and 1 means "Very Dissatisfied," with the overall value your household receives from the Maryland-Capital Park and Planning Commission in Prince George's County.

Q19. Your satisfaction with overall value your household receives from Maryland-Capital Park & Planning Commission in Prince George's County

	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	336	21.1 %
Somewhat satisfied	600	37.7 %
Neutral	351	22.1 %
Somewhat dissatisfied	108	6.8 %
Very dissatisfied	49	3.1 %
Don't know	146	9.2 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q21. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are...

	Mean	Sum
number	3.07	4652
Under 5 years	0.16	240
5-9 years	0.16	244
10-14 years	0.20	302
15-19 years	0.19	292
20-24 years	0.18	276
25-34 years	0.25	378
35-44 years	0.36	551
45-54 years	0.40	602
55-64 years	0.56	854
65-74 years	0.42	636
75+ years	0.18	277

Q22. What is your age?

<u>Q22. What is your age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
18-34	295	18.6 %
35-44	304	19.1 %
45-54	297	18.7 %
55-64	333	20.9 %
65+	292	18.4 %
Not provided	69	4.3 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q23. Your gender:

<u>Q23. Your gender</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	784	49.3 %
Female	790	49.7 %
Non-binary	3	0.2 %
Prefer to self-describe	3	0.2 %
Not provided	10	0.6 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

Q23-4. Self-describe your gender:

<u>Q23-4. Self-describe your gender</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Masculino	1	100.0 %
Total	1	100.0 %

Q24. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?

<u>Q24. What best describes your race/ethnicity</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Asian/Pacific Islander	69	4.3 %
Black/African American	1054	66.3 %
Native American	23	1.4 %
White/Caucasian	409	25.7 %
Hispanic/Latino	295	18.6 %
Other	12	0.8 %
Total	1862	

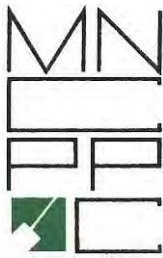
Q24-6. Self-describe your race/ethnicity:

<u>Q24-6. Self-describe your race/ethnicity</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Bi-racial	1	7.7 %
Caribbean	1	7.7 %
Caucasian, American Indian, Negro	2	15.4 %
Mixed	4	30.8 %
Multiple races	2	15.4 %
Native American/Caucasian	1	7.7 %
Negro	1	7.7 %
Nonya	1	7.7 %
Total	13	100.0 %

Q25. What is your total annual household income?

<u>Q25. What is your total annual household income</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Under \$30K	183	11.5 %
\$30K-\$59,999	249	15.7 %
\$60K-\$99,999	289	18.2 %
\$100K-\$129,999	280	17.6 %
\$130K+	248	15.6 %
Prefer not to disclose	166	10.4 %
Not provided	175	11.0 %
Total	1590	100.0 %

Section 6: Survey Instrument



A Few Minutes of Your Time Will Help Make Prince George's County a Better Place to Live, Work and Play!

Dear Prince George's County Resident:

The pandemic has highlighted the critical need for robust park and recreation amenities that meet the needs of County residents. Your response to the enclosed survey is extremely important...

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Department of Parks and Recreation is conducting a "Parks and Recreation Facilities and Services Community Interest and Opinion Survey" in Prince George's County to help establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services within the County.

Your household was one of a limited number selected at random to receive this survey therefore, it is very important that you participate.

We appreciate your time...

We realize that this survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, but each question is important. The time you invest in completing this survey will aid the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in taking a resident-driven approach to making decisions that will enrich the future of Prince George's County Parks and Recreation services and positively affect the lives of its residents. Please note this survey follows two prior surveys done in previous years, and your answers will provide valuable information on usage and trends future use as the County plans for future parks and recreation programs.

Please complete and return your survey within the next two weeks...

We have selected ETC Institute, an independent consulting company, as our partner to administer this survey. They will compile the data received and will present the results to the Department. Your responses will remain confidential. Please return your completed survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope addressed to ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061. If it is more convenient, you may also complete the survey online at www.pgparkssurvey.org.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation Customer Service Help Desk at 301-699 CALL (2255), TTY 301-699-2544 or customerservice@pgparks.com. Information about us is available www.pg parks.com. This Community Interest and Opinion Survey is a tool that will benefit all Prince George's County residents. Please take this opportunity to let your voice be heard!

Sincerely,

Bill Tyler

Bill Tyler, Director Department of
Parks and Recreation

Community Interest and Opinion Survey

Let your voice be heard today!

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission would like your input to help determine parks, trails, open space and recreation priorities in Prince George's County. This survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete. When you are finished, please return your survey in the enclosed postage-paid, return-reply envelope. We greatly appreciate your time and efforts to improve the quality of parks, trails, open space and recreation programs in Prince George's County.

1. From the following list, please CHECK ALL the parks, trails, and recreation facilities operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in Prince George's County that you or members of your household have used or visited over the past 2 years.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) Aquatic facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) Handball courts | <input type="checkbox"/> (19) Pickleball courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) Art center | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) Historic house museum | <input type="checkbox"/> (20) Picnicking areas/shelters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Baseball/softball fields | <input type="checkbox"/> (13) Ice skating | <input type="checkbox"/> (21) Playgrounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) Basketball courts | <input type="checkbox"/> (14) Indoor exercise/fitness center | <input type="checkbox"/> (22) Senior activity center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Boating and fishing areas | <input type="checkbox"/> (15) Indoor recreation centers | <input type="checkbox"/> (23) Soccer fields |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (06) Cricket fields | <input type="checkbox"/> (16) Lacrosse fields | <input type="checkbox"/> (24) Tennis courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (07) Dog parks | <input type="checkbox"/> (17) Natural areas and wildlife habitats | <input type="checkbox"/> (25) Walking, hiking, and biking trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (08) Football fields | <input type="checkbox"/> (18) Nature trails | <input type="checkbox"/> (26) None [Skip to Q3.] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (09) Futsal fields | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Golf courses | | |

2. Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of ALL the parks, trails, and recreation facilities operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Prince George's County that you have visited?

- (1) Excellent (2) Good (3) Fair (4) Poor

3. From the following list, please CHECK ALL of the ways you and members of your household travel to the parks and recreation facilities that you use. [Check all that apply.]

- (1) Walk (2) Bike (3) Drive (4) Public transportation (5) None

4. Have you or other members of your household participated in any recreation programs, classes, or events offered by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Prince George's County during the past 2 years?

- (1) Yes [Answer Q4a-b.] (2) No [Skip to Q5.]

4a. Approximately how many different recreation programs, classes or events offered by Prince George's County have you or members of your household participated in over the past 2 years?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) 1 program | <input type="checkbox"/> (3) 4 to 6 programs | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) 11 or more programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) 2 to 3 programs | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) 7 to 10 programs | |

4b. From the following list, please check the THREE primary reasons why your household has participated in Prince George's County programs, classes or events.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Quality of instructors/coaches | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Times the program is offered |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Location of the program facility | <input type="checkbox"/> (6) Friends participate in the program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Quality of the program facility | <input type="checkbox"/> (7) Dates the program is offered |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Fees charged for the class | <input type="checkbox"/> (8) Other: _____ |

5. Please indicate if you or any member of your household has a need for each of the parks and recreation facilities/amenities listed below by circling “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” please rate how well your needs for facilities/amenities of this type are being met using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means they are “100% Met” and 1 means “0% Met.”

	Type of Facility/Amenity	Do you have a need for this facility/amenity?		If “Yes,” how well are your needs being met?				
		Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
01.	Art center	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
02.	Baseball/Softball fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
03.	Boating and fishing areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
04.	Cricket	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
05.	Dog parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
06.	Football fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
07.	Golf courses	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
08.	Historic house museum	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
09.	Historic rental property	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
10.	Ice-skating	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
11.	Indoor aquatic facilities	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
12.	Indoor basketball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
13.	Indoor exercise/fitness center	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
14.	Indoor recreation centers	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
15.	Indoor tennis courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
16.	Lacrosse	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
17.	Natural areas and wildlife habitats	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
18.	Nature trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
19.	Outdoor aquatic facilities	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
20.	Outdoor basketball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
21.	Outdoor tennis courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
22.	Overnight camping	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
23.	Pickleball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
24.	Picnicking areas/shelters	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
25.	Playgrounds	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
26.	Senior activity center	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
27.	Soccer fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
28.	Walking, hiking, and biking trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
29.	Other: _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

6. Which FOUR of the facilities listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT for your household? [Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 5, or circle "NONE."]

1st: ____ 2nd: ____ 3rd: ____ 4th: ____ NONE

7. Please CHECK ALL of the ways you learn about parks and recreation events and activities?

- ____(1) Facebook ____ (4) M-NCPPC website ____ (7) Flyer at the Community Center
- ____(2) Twitter ____ (5) Word of mouth ____ (8) Other: _____
- ____(3) The Guide ____ (6) Radio ads

8. Please indicate if you or any member of your household has a need for each of the parks and recreation programs listed below by circling "Yes" or "No." If "Yes," please rate how well your needs for programs of this type are being met using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means they are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."

	Type of Program	Do you have a need for this program?		If "Yes," how well are your needs being met?				
		Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
01.	After school programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
02.	Children/Youth activities	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
03.	Community events and festivals	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
04.	Cultural/arts programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
05.	Day camp/playground programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
06.	Fishing programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
07.	Fitness and wellness programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
08.	General education, skills education (computer classes, cooking, babysitting, etc.)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
09.	Golf programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
10.	Gymnastics programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
11.	History programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
12.	Nature and environmental programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
13.	Pre-teen/Teen activities	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
14.	Programs for seniors/older adults	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
15.	Sports Leagues - Adult	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
16.	Sports Leagues - Youth	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
17.	Swimming programs/lessons	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
18.	Tennis programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
19.	Therapeutic recreation/inclusion services	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
20.	Volunteer programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
21.	Other: _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

9. Which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT for your household? [Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 8, or circle "NONE."]

1st: ____ 2nd: ____ 3rd: ____ 4th: ____ NONE

10. Over the past 2 years, have you or members of your household visited or used any of the community centers operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Department) in Prince George's County?

____(1) Yes ____ (2) No

11. What is the MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF TIME you would be willing to drive to use a multi-use community recreation center that had the program spaces which are most important to you and your household?

____(1) 10 minutes ____ (3) 16-20 minutes ____ (5) 26-30 minutes or more
 ____ (2) 11-15 minutes ____ (4) 21-25 minutes ____ (6) 31 minutes or more

12. Please CHECK ALL the reasons why your household does not use Maryland-Capital Park and Planning Commission (Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation) parks, recreation facilities or programs more often.

- ___(01) Use programs or facilities in other cities/counties
- ___(02) Program or facility is not offered
- ___(03) Facilities do not have the right equipment
- ___(04) I do not know what is being offered
- ___(05) Lack of quality programs
- ___(06) Too far from residence
- ___(07) Classes are full
- ___(08) Fees are too high
- ___(09) Program times are not convenient
- ___(10) Facility operating hours not convenient
- ___(11) Too busy
- ___(12) Poor customer service by staff
- ___(13) Facilities are not well maintained
- ___(14) Use services of other agencies
- ___(15) Lack of transportation
- ___(16) Registration for programs is difficult
- ___(17) Lack of accessibility
- ___(18) Facilities are not safe
- ___(19) Other: _____

13. Please rate your level of support for each of the following actions the Maryland-Capital Park and Planning Commission in Prince George's County could take to improve the parks and recreation system.

How supportive are you of having Prince George's County...		Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Not Sure
01.	Purchase land to preserve open space and green space for future generations	4	3	2	1
02.	Purchase land for developing athletic fields and recreational facilities	4	3	2	1
03.	Purchase land for developing trails, picnicking areas shelters, etc.	4	3	2	1
04.	Fix-up/repair existing outdoor park facilities	4	3	2	1
05.	Upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields	4	3	2	1
06.	Upgrade existing recreation centers	4	3	2	1
07.	Upgrade existing county golf courses	4	3	2	1
08.	Develop new walking/biking trails and connect existing trails	4	3	2	1
09.	Develop new regional indoor community centers with the types of program features most important to you and members of your household, e.g., fitness areas, leisure pools, gyms, walking tracks	4	3	2	1
10.	Develop new youth sports fields	4	3	2	1
11.	Develop community recreation facilities (gyms, meeting rooms) that are attached to schools, to be used by students during school hours and all residents after school hours during the week and on weekends	4	3	2	1
12.	Develop new adult softball fields	4	3	2	1
13.	Develop new off-leash dog parks	4	3	2	1
14.	Develop new outdoor special events and festival areas	4	3	2	1

14. Which FOUR of the actions from the list in Question 13 are most important to your household?
[Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 13, or circle "NONE."]

1st: ___ 2nd: ___ 3rd: ___ 4th: ___ NONE

15. If an additional \$100 were available for Prince George's County parks, trails, sports, and recreation facilities, how would you allocate the funds among the categories of funding listed below? *[Please be sure your total adds up to \$100.]*

- \$ _____ Buy more land for parks
- \$ _____ Building new outdoor facilities (e.g., playgrounds, ball fields)
- \$ _____ Building new indoor facilities (e.g., pools, ice arenas, indoor sports fields)
- \$ _____ Building community centers
- \$ _____ Building larger multi-purpose and multi-use health and recreation facilities
- \$ _____ Maintaining existing parks and facilities
- \$ _____ Other: _____

\$100 total

16. Given the recent COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic, how has you and your household's perception of the value of parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation changed?

- (1) Value has significantly increased (4) Value has somewhat decreased
 (2) Value has somewhat increased (5) Value has significantly decreased
 (3) No change

17. Based on your perception of value in Question 16, how would you want Prince George's County to fund future parks, recreation, trails, and open space needs?

- (1) Increase funding (2) Maintain existing funding levels (3) Reduce funding (4) Not sure

18. How important do you feel it is for Prince George's County to provide high quality recreation programs and facilities?

- (1) Very important (2) Somewhat important (3) Not sure (4) Not important

19. Please rate your satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Satisfied" and 1 means "Very Dissatisfied," with the overall value your household receives from the Maryland-Capital Park and Planning Commission in Prince George's County.

- (1) Very satisfied (3) Neutral (5) Very dissatisfied
 (2) Somewhat satisfied (4) Somewhat dissatisfied (9) Don't know

20. Please complete this sentence, "With regards to parks and recreation in Prince George's County, I would like to see..."

21. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are...

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under 5 years: <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 - 19 years: <input type="checkbox"/> | 35 - 44 years: <input type="checkbox"/> | 65 - 74 years: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 - 9 years: <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 - 24 years: <input type="checkbox"/> | 45 - 54 years: <input type="checkbox"/> | 75+ years: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 - 14 years: <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 - 34 years: <input type="checkbox"/> | 55 - 64 years: <input type="checkbox"/> | |

22. What is your age? _____ years

23. Your gender:

- (1) Male (2) Female (3) Non-binary (4) Prefer to self-describe: _____

24. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity? [Check all that apply.]

- (1) Asian/Pacific Islander (3) Native American (5) Hispanic/Latino
 (2) Black/African American (4) White/Caucasian (6) Other: _____

25. What is your total annual household income?

- (1) Under \$30,000 (3) \$60,000 - \$99,999 (5) \$130,000 or more
 (2) \$30,000 to \$59,999 (4) \$100,000 - \$129,999 (6) Prefer not to disclose

This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time!

Your responses will remain completely confidential. The information to the right will ONLY be used to help identify the level of need in your area. Thank you!

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed return-reply envelope addressed to:

ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061

M-NCPPC - Department of Parks and Recreation

Rectangular Field Classification Chart

Classification	General Description	Common Attributes	Level of Service
Level III - A: Artificial Turf B: Natural Turf	<p>Multiple fields within a park; Often includes rectangle and diamond fields which offers the ability to accommodate multiple game activity simultaneously. Generally designated as game-only and also has the ability to accommodate tournament play and sports clinics.</p> <p>Generally located within a Regional Park or Athletic Complex setting which offers a variety of facilities that may include playgrounds, picnic areas, pavilions, and walking trails.</p>	<p>Should meet 5 out of 7 attributes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comfort Station 2. Defined parking spaces 3. Goals on-site 4. Spectator Seating 5. Lighted fields 6. Irrigated fields 7. Perimeter fence 	1 per 31,000 population
Level II	<p>May have a single field or multiple fields within a park; rectangle and diamond fields available depending on park location. Generally allows practices and games.</p> <p>Typically located in Community Park setting. These parks may include combinations of sports courts, athletic fields, picnic areas and shelters, trails, sitting areas, horseshoe pits, fitness clusters, recreation buildings, and play equipment.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Defined parking spaces 2. Limited spectator seating 3. Restrooms 	1 per 12,500 population
Level I	<p>Most often a single diamond or rectangle field. Field may incorporate overlay play area. Generally designated as practice-only; field may also be placed in a non-permit status. Typically located in Neighborhood Park setting.</p> <p>These parks can be similar to Level II Fields with a reduction in amenities and smaller geographical area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible via Pedestrian/Bicycl e • Limited designated parking spaces • No spectator seating 	1 per 12,500 population

M-NCPPC - Department of Parks and Recreation

Hard Court Classification Chart

Classification	General Description	Common Attributes	Level of Service
<p>Level III -</p> <p>A: Artificial Turf</p> <p>B: Natural Turf</p>	<p>The sole purpose of these fields is to provide a sporting venue and should not be used for other purposes, particularly ones that would compromise the field integrity and safety.</p> <p>Generally located within a Regional Park or Athletic Complex setting which offers a variety of facilities that may include playgrounds, picnic areas, pavilions, and walking trails. Generally designated as game-only and also has the ability to accommodate tournament play and sports clinics. It is recommended that field lighting should be near 50fc intensity.</p>	<p>Should meet 5 out of 7 attributes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comfort Station 2. Defined parking spaces 3. Backstop/Outfield fence 4. Spectator Seating 5. Lighted fields: 30-50 foot candles 6. Irrigated fields 7. Perimeter fence 	1 per 22,500 population
Level II	Generally allows practices and games. Typically located in Community Park setting. These parks may include combinations of sport courts, athletic fields, picnic areas and shelters, trails, sitting areas, horseshoe pits, fitness clusters, recreation buildings, and play equipment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Defined parking spaces 2. Limited spectator seating 3. Restrooms 4. May have lights at 30fc 	1 per 29,000 population
Level I	<p>Generally designated as practice-only; field may also be placed in a non-permit status. Typically located in Neighborhood Park setting.</p> <p>These parks can be similar to Level II Fields with a reduction in amenities and smaller geographical area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible via Pedestrian/Bicycle • Limited designated parking spaces • No spectator seating 	1 per 18,500 population

M-NCPPC - Department of Parks and Recreation

Dog Park Classification Chart

Classification	General Description	Common Attributes	Level of Service
Level II	Typically located in a regional park setting.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Same as Level I, but should include a defining feature (i.e. agility equipment or a pool)2. Minimum of five acres3. Allows for grass rotation (resting areas)	1 per 25,000 households
Level I	Typically located in a community or neighborhood park setting.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fewer than five acres in size (typically 1 acre)2. Areas for both large and small dogs3. Drinking fountain4. Shade trees or structure5. Accessible by trail6. Parking7. May have agility equipment	

M-NCPPC - Department of Parks and Recreation

Hard Court Classification Chart

Classification	General Description	Common Attributes	Level of Service
Level II	Typically located in a community or regional park setting.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Courts are often located next to multiple courts, and are locations that are destinations that people within the community are willing to drive to.2. A variety of amenities such as parking, lighting, and comfort stations3. Perimeter fencing and other types of athletic fields.	1 per 1,000 households
Level I	Typically located in a neighborhood park setting.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Courts can be accessible via pedestrian or bicycle trails.2. Located within parks that have limited amenities.3. Perimeter fencing and other types of athletic fields.	1 per 1,200 population

M-NCPPC - Department of Parks and Recreation

Picnic Area Classification Chart

Classification	General Description	Common Attributes	Level of Service
Level III -	Typical picnic areas are permitted picnic areas and pavilions that facilitate more than 100 people.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Picnic shelters are mostly located in regional parks.2. They often have a grill, access to comfort stations, and designated parking.	1 per 14,900 households
Level II	Typical picnic area that facilitates less than 100 people, uncovered, and unpermitted.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Picnic shelters are located in a variety of parks. They often have a grill, access to comfort stations, and parking.	1 per 2,400 households
Level I	Typically located in a variety of parks that do not require a permit.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Picnic areas are uncovered picnic areas. May or may not have a grill, access to comfort stations, and designated parking.	1 per 1,600 Households

M-NCPPC - Department of Parks and Recreation

Playground Classification Chart

Classification	General Description	Common Attributes	Level of Service
Level II	Typically located in a regional park setting and include play equipment structure and free-standing equipment, resilient safety surfacing, concrete edging, seating, shade structures. 10,000 – 15,000 sq ft	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concrete borders 2. Age-appropriate signage 3. Safety surface is rubber resilient surfacing 4. Amenities include seating, shade, landscape, bike racks, fence (if required), drinking fountain, picnic area with concrete pad, grills 5. Restrooms 6. Parking lot 	66.5 sf per child based upon weighted average of 75 sq. ft. per child grades K–3 and 50 sq. ft. per child grades 4–5 = 66.5 sf per child. Research shows 11–17 percent of children, on average, will use a public park playground at one time. (17 percent of Service Area School Age Population x 66.5 sf/child = playground area needed)
Level I	Typically located in a community or neighborhood park setting and include play equipment structure and free-standing equipment, engineered wood fiber surfacing, concrete edging, seating, shade structures. 2,000 – 5,000 sq ft	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timber boarders 2. Age-appropriate signage 3. Engineered wood fiber mulch 4. Amenities include seating, shade, landscape, fence (if required), and bike racks 	

Park Proximity Methodology – Pedestrian Accessibility

The Park Proximity Analysis is a spatial illustration of pedestrian access to parks owned and managed by The Department. The analysis uses Isochrones to visualize how reachable neighborhood and community parks are at a distance less than one mile. Isochrones are commonly used to visualize geographic areas that are of equal time or distance for a location. For the Proximity Analysis, isochrones show how reachable neighborhood and community parks are within a walking distance of ¼ mile, ½ mile, ¾ mile, and greater than 1 mile from a park entrance using a pre-defined travel network. Park entrances are shown as points and were manually verified as an entry-way using 2020 4-inch orthoimagery. The travel network contains existing road and sidewalk features from the Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) database. Two assumptions were made to determine the types of roads to include in the proximity analysis. Assumption one, include road types that are likely to have paved sidewalks, which is the probable path pedestrians will use to access a neighborhood or community park. Assumption two, include road types with low vehicular speeds limits, which helps create a safer walking and bicycling environment for residents to access a park. Local trails, pedestrian and hard-surface, were added to the travel network as supplemental data. Highways and major thoroughfares were excluded from the analysis because high vehicular speeds limit the appeal as a safe walkable mode of transit. The list below itemizes the road and trail features included in the travel network.

Road and Trail Features in Travel Network

- Secondary roads
- Local neighborhood roads
- Rural roads
- City streets
- Sidewalks
- Walkways, stairways, alleys, and private roads.
- Trails – Pedestrian and Hard-Surface

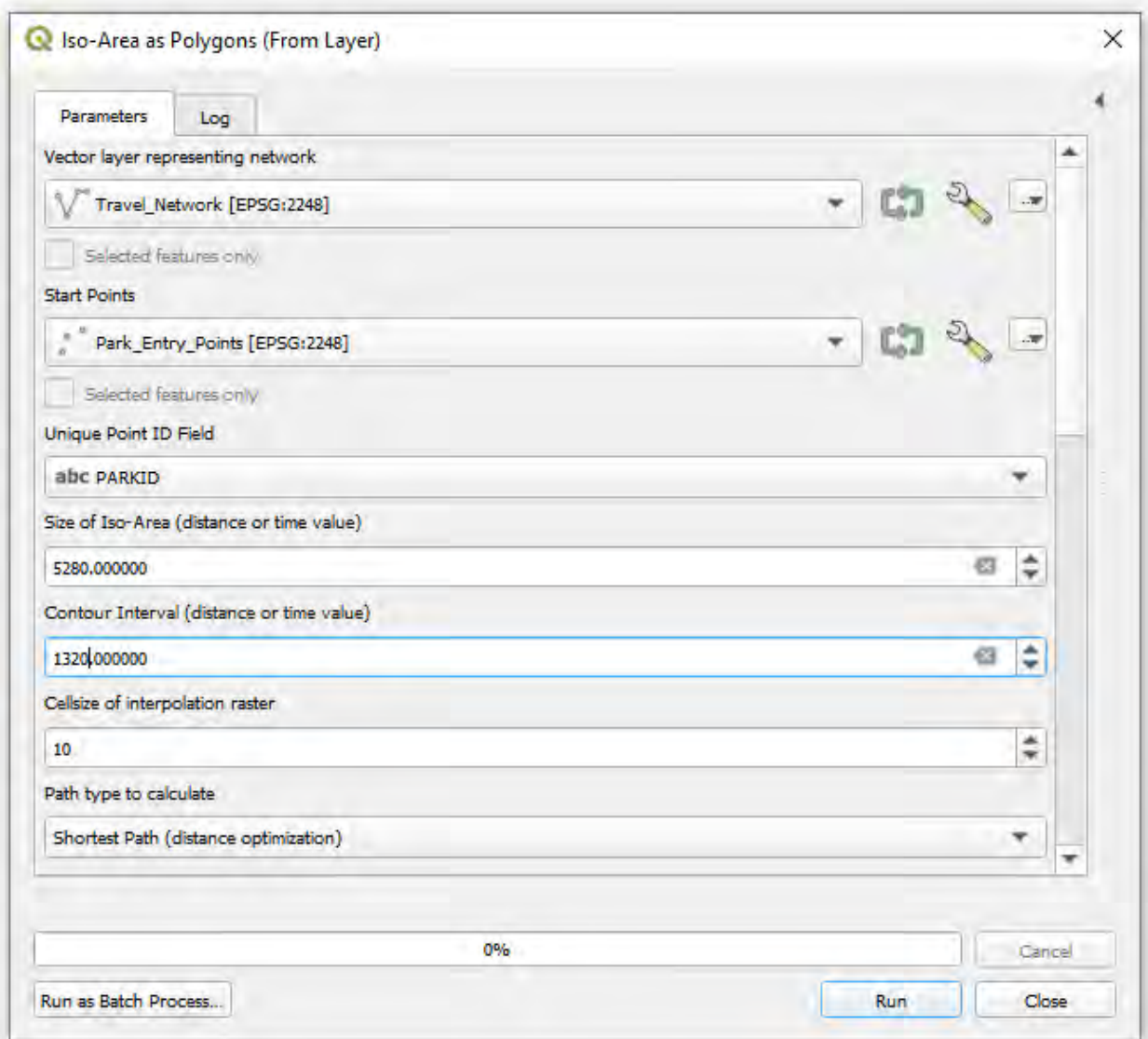
The next step in the proximity analysis is to compute the isochrone areas using the Iso-Area as Polygons (From Layer) algorithm in the QGIS Network Analysis Toolbox ([QNEAT3](#)). The Iso-Area Polygons is a point-based interpolation algorithm used to estimate isochrone areas. The graphical user interface (or GUI) requires five inputs to compute isochrones. The inputs are shown in the list below and in Figure XX.

Iso-Area as Polygons (From Layer) Required Inputs

1. Vector Layer Representing the Travel Network (As a Polygon Feature)
2. Starting Points (As a Point Feature)
3. Unique Point Field ID
4. Size of Iso-Area (in Feet)
5. Contour Interval (In Feet)

The algorithm outputs two final layers: a TIN-Interpolation Distance Raster, and the Iso-Area Polygons with cost distance intervals in the attribute table.

Figure XX: Iso-Area as Polygons (From Layer) GUI



Service Area 1 Summary

Parkland

While the analysis of M-NCPPC-owned parkland indicates that Service Area 1 has met its overall parkland targets, the targets have not been fully met for the subcategories of undeveloped, neighborhood, and special use parks. Further analysis indicates that this Service Area’s developed parkland needs are partially met by various other public entities. The City of Laurel and a portion of the City of Greenbelt, both of which provide additional parkland and recreation services to their residents, are in this Service Area. Additionally, the largest gap in the proximity analysis is centered at the 16,000-acre National Agricultural Research Center and 5,669 acres of the Patuxent Research Refuge. The other gaps are centered over the Cities of Laurel and Greenbelt, which are outside of the metropolitan district. Most residents in this service area are within 1 mile or less of a park.

Service Area 1 Targets	
Total Parkland	0
Undeveloped Parkland	1060
Developed Parkland	0
<i>Neighborhood</i>	43
<i>Community</i>	0
<i>Special Use</i>	39
<i>Regional/Greenway/Linear</i>	0
Diamond Fields	
<i>Level 3</i>	1
<i>Level 2</i>	0
<i>Level 1</i>	0
Dog Parks	2
Hard Surface Courts	
<i>Level 2</i>	24
<i>Level 1</i>	6
Picnic Facilities	
<i>Level 3</i>	7
<i>Level 2</i>	28
<i>Level 1</i>	45
Playgrounds	0
Rectangular Fields	
<i>Level 3</i>	2
<i>Level 2</i>	0
<i>Level 1</i>	0
Skate Parks	11,121
Indoor Aquatics	0
Outdoor Aquatics	3000

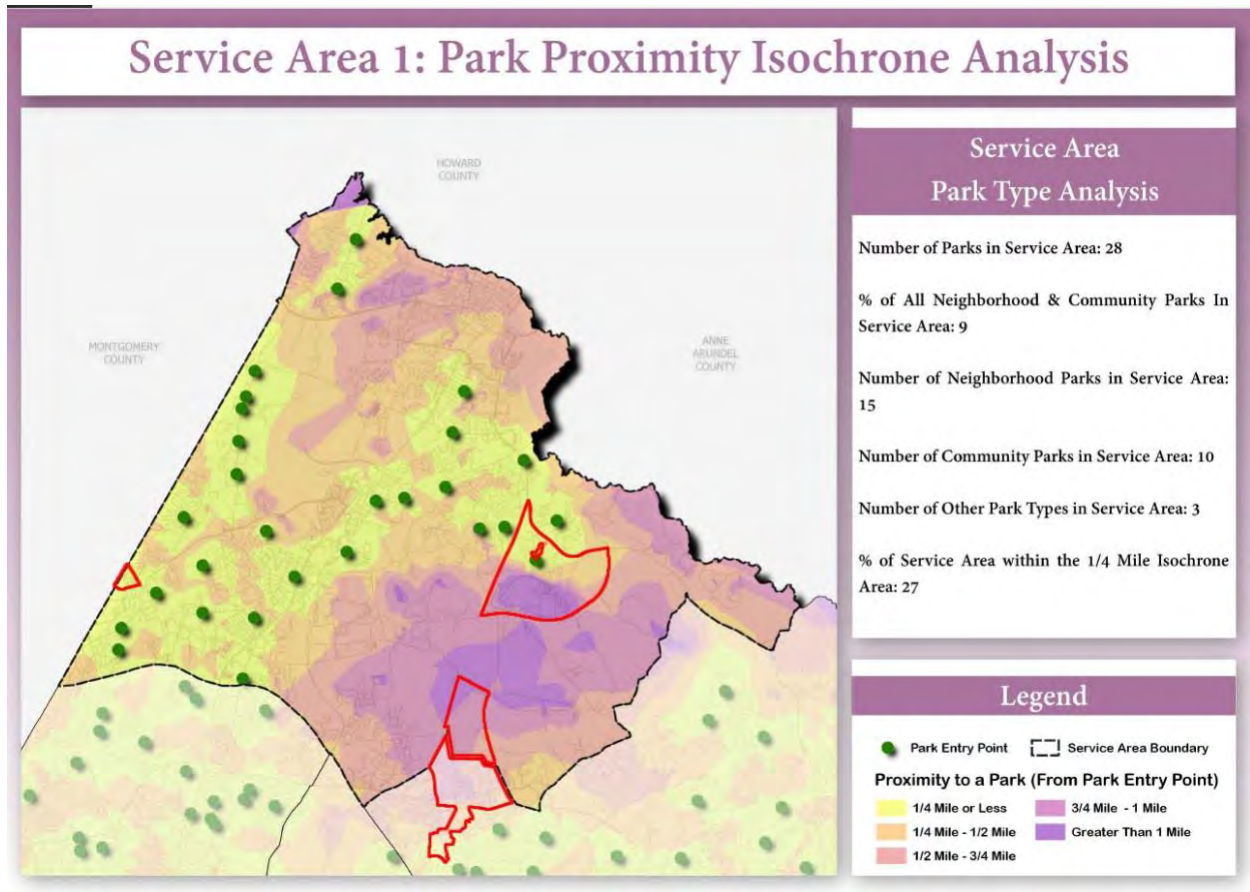
Facilities

Construction of new facilities in Service Area 1 should focus on level 1 diamond fields, dog parks, hard courts for basketball, tennis, or futsal, picnic facilities, trails, level 3 rectangular fields, and a splash park,

as well as unique facilities². There are many existing parks in this Service Area with space for additional facilities.

Recommendations

- Utilize the Park Enhancement Program to replace aging facilities and infrastructure and add new facilities, particularly in Equity Focus Areas like South Hill Manor, South Laurel, Ammendale, and Contee.
- Conduct a master plan for the Fairland Regional Park, including the adjacent 40 acres to be dedicated as part of the Parkland Dedication Program.
- Enhance connectivity by connecting trails to park facilities, schools, activity centers, transit hubs, and areas of new development.
- Utilize the Parkland Dedication Program to ensure new residents have adequate access to parks.
- Focus acquisition efforts on neighborhood and special use parks.



Service Area 2 Summary

Parkland

The targets for neighborhood and community parks in this Service Area have been met, however, the analysis indicates that the overall targets for developed and undeveloped parks have not yet been met due to the low number of regional, greenway, and special use parks. There are not many large parcels of developable land in this service area, therefore, it is unlikely that M-NCPPC will increase the amount of regional parkland in this area. However, many of the Department’s Stream Valley Parks are in this service area and it is well served by trails. The service area has 13 municipalities, many of which provide

additional municipal parkland. 74% of residents are within a ¼ mile of a park and 100% of residents in the service area are within 1 mile of a park, making it a very well-served Service Area.

Service Area 2 Targets	
Total Parkland	2,939
Undeveloped Parkland	1,696
Developed Parkland	1,243
<i>Neighborhood</i>	0
<i>Community</i>	0
<i>Special Use</i>	303
<i>Regional/Greenway/Linear</i>	967
Diamond Fields	
<i>Level 3</i>	0
<i>Level 2</i>	0
<i>Level 1</i>	3
Dog Parks	0
Hard Surface Courts	
<i>Level 2</i>	0
<i>Level 1</i>	0
Picnic Facilities	
<i>Level 3</i>	9
<i>Level 2</i>	39
<i>Level 1</i>	59
Playgrounds	0
Rectangular Fields	
<i>Level 3</i>	2
<i>Level 2</i>	0
<i>Level 1</i>	0
Skate Parks	17,721
Indoor Aquatics	13,500
Outdoor Aquatics	0

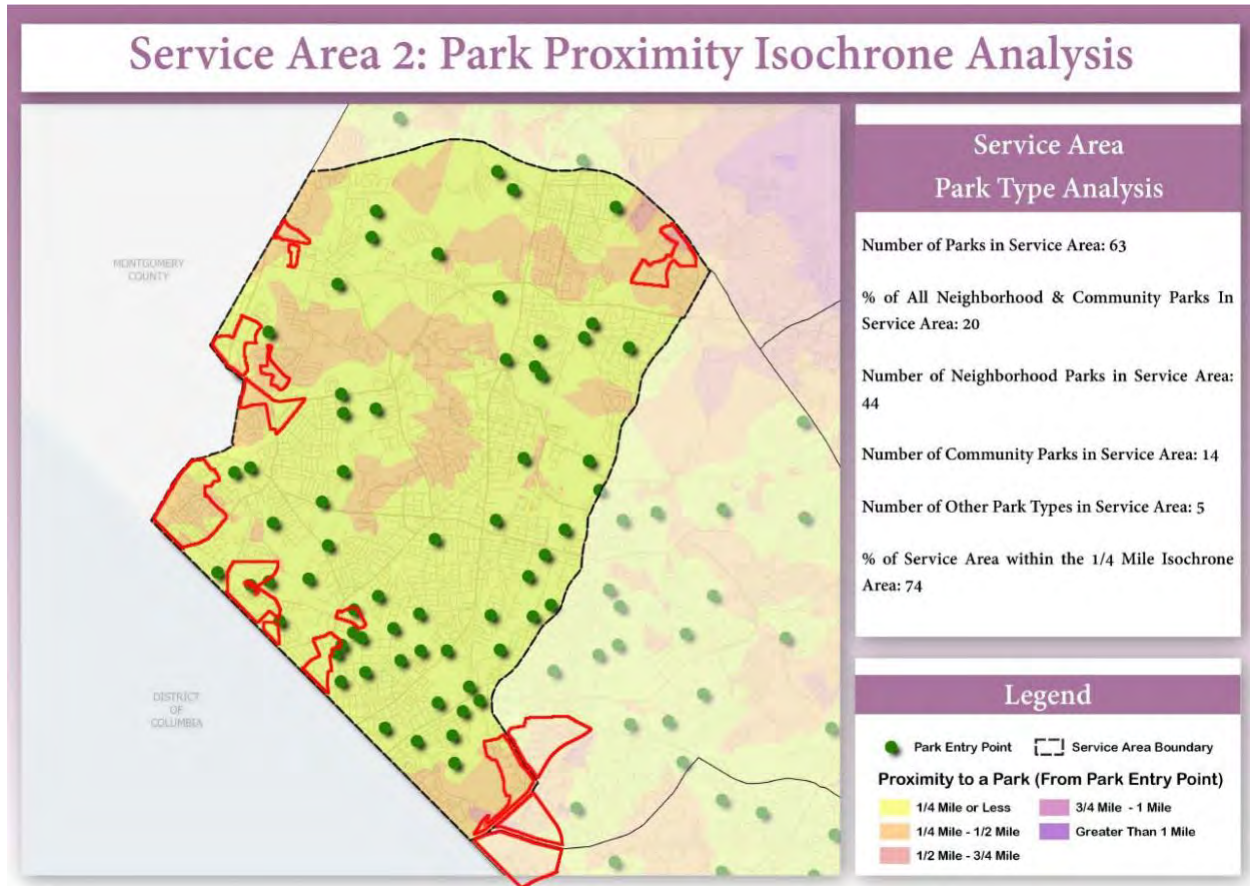
Facilities

Construction of new facilities in Service Area 2 should focus on level 1 diamond fields, trails, picnic facilities, and level 3 rectangular fields, as well as unique facilities. Due to its density of both population and facilities and the number of aging facilities, Service Area 2 has received consistent CIP investment from FY17 – FY21 and has the highest number of CIP projects in the current CIP.

Recommendations

- Acquire neighborhood parkland in the Lewisdale/Langley Park/Adelphi area in order to increase the walkability of parkland in some of these very densely populated areas.
- Enhance connectivity by connecting trails to park facilities, schools, activity centers, transit hubs, and areas of new development.
- Increase the number of urban parks serving these communities through the Parkland Dedication Program and explore opportunities to develop parks near metro stations.

- Utilize the Park Enhancement Program to replace aging facilities and infrastructure particularly in the low equity areas of Adelphi, Chillum, Langley Park, Avondale, Prince George’s Plaza, Kirkwood, Queenstown, Kaywood Gardens, and Bladensburg.



Service Area 3 Summary

Parkland

All residents of Service Area 3 live within 1.25 miles of a park. The municipalities of Bowie and Greenbelt also provide additional parkland and recreational services to residents in this Service Area. Our analysis indicates that this service area only needs undeveloped parkland. However, the currently undeveloped park surrounding the shuttered Glenn Dale Hospital, Enterprise Park, and the Patuxent River Park, which functions similarly to a regional park, are in this Service Area. The Department will be conducting Master Plans for all three parks prior to the next LPPRP (2027). The proximity analysis shows that the unincorporated communities of Mitchellville and Fairwood would benefit from additional parks.

Service Area 3 Targets	
Total Parkland	0
Undeveloped Parkland	142
Developed Parkland	0
<i>Neighborhood</i>	0

Community	0
Special Use	0
Regional/Greenway/Linear	0
Diamond Fields	
Level 3	6
Level 2	0
Level 1	5
Dog Parks	2
Hard Surface Courts	
Level 2	22
Level 1	0
Picnic Facilities	
Level 3	9
Level 2	39
Level 1	57
Playgrounds	0
Rectangular Fields	
Level 3	3
Level 2	0
Level 1	0
Skate Parks	14,423
Indoor Aquatics	39,500
Outdoor Aquatics	6,100

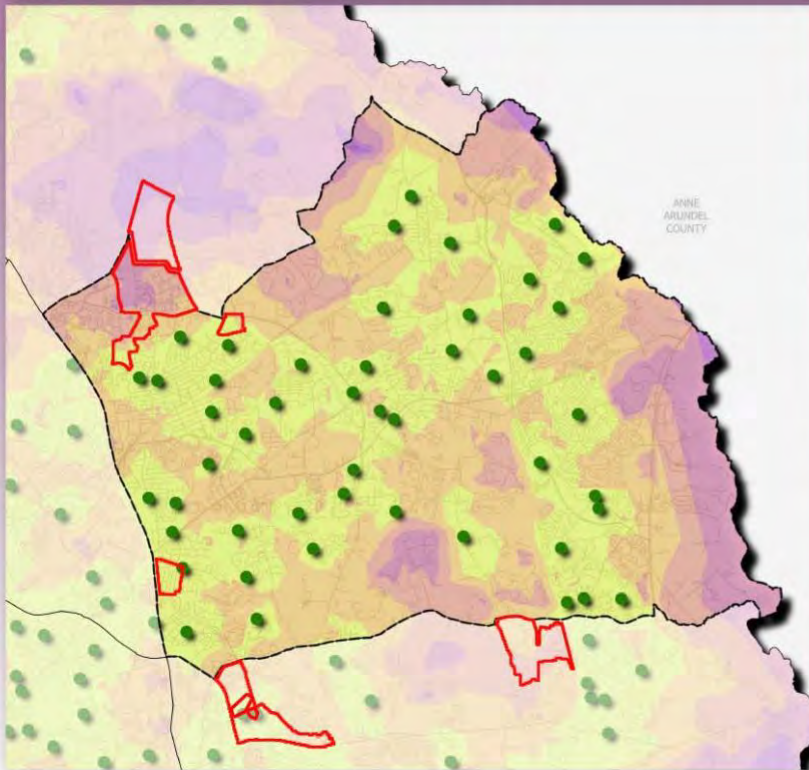
Facilities

Construction of new facilities in Service Area 3 should focus on level 1 and level 3 diamond fields, dog parks, level 2 hard surface courts for basketball, tennis, or futsal, trails, picnic facilities, level 3 rectangular fields, and splash pads, as well as unique facilities. Service Area 3 has received consistent CIP investment from FY17 – FY21.

Recommendations

- Redesign existing parks to include additional facilities and/or acquire community parkland in the area of Mitchellville or Fairwood.
- Conduct master plans for Patuxent River Park, and Glenn Dale Park and Enterprise Park.
- Utilize the Park Enhancement Program to replace aging facilities and infrastructure, particularly in the low equity areas of Goddard, Glenn Dale, and Lanham.
- Enhance connectivity by connecting trails to park facilities, schools, activity centers, transit hubs, and areas of new development.
- Utilize the Parkland Dedication Program to ensure these new residents are adequately served by parks.

Service Area 3: Park Proximity Isochrone Analysis



Service Area Park Type Analysis

Number of Parks in Service Area: 48

% of All Neighborhood & Community Parks In Service Area: 16

Number of Neighborhood Parks in Service Area: 34

Number of Community Parks in Service Area: 11

Number of Other Park Types in Service Area: 3

% of Service Area within the 1/4 Mile Isochrone Area: 40

Legend

- Park Entry Point
 - Service Area Boundary
- Proximity to a Park (From Park Entry Point)**
- 1/4 Mile or Less
 - 1/4 Mile - 1/2 Mile
 - 1/2 Mile - 3/4 Mile
 - 3/4 Mile - 1 Mile
 - Greater Than 1 Mile

Service Area 4 Summary

Parkland

While most of this service area is within 1 mile of a park, there is a very low amount of community and special use parks in Service Area 4 in relation to the population it serves. Greenbelt National Park, which is 952 acres in size, fills the regional park need for this service area. This service area is the smallest service area in land area and the second smallest in population.

Service Area 4 Targets	
Total Parkland	1,427
Undeveloped Parkland	1,554
Developed Parkland	0
<i>Neighborhood</i>	1
<i>Community</i>	242
<i>Special Use</i>	221
<i>Regional/Greenway/Linear</i>	0
Diamond Fields	
<i>Level 3</i>	4
<i>Level 2</i>	3
<i>Level 1</i>	0
Dog Parks	1
Hard Surface Courts	

Level 2	6
Level 1	10
Picnic Facilities	
Level 3	6
Level 2	26
Level 1	43
Playgrounds	0
Rectangular Fields	
Level 3	3
Level 2	3
Level 1	4
Skate Parks	8,948
Indoor Aquatics	9,750
Outdoor Aquatics	3,000

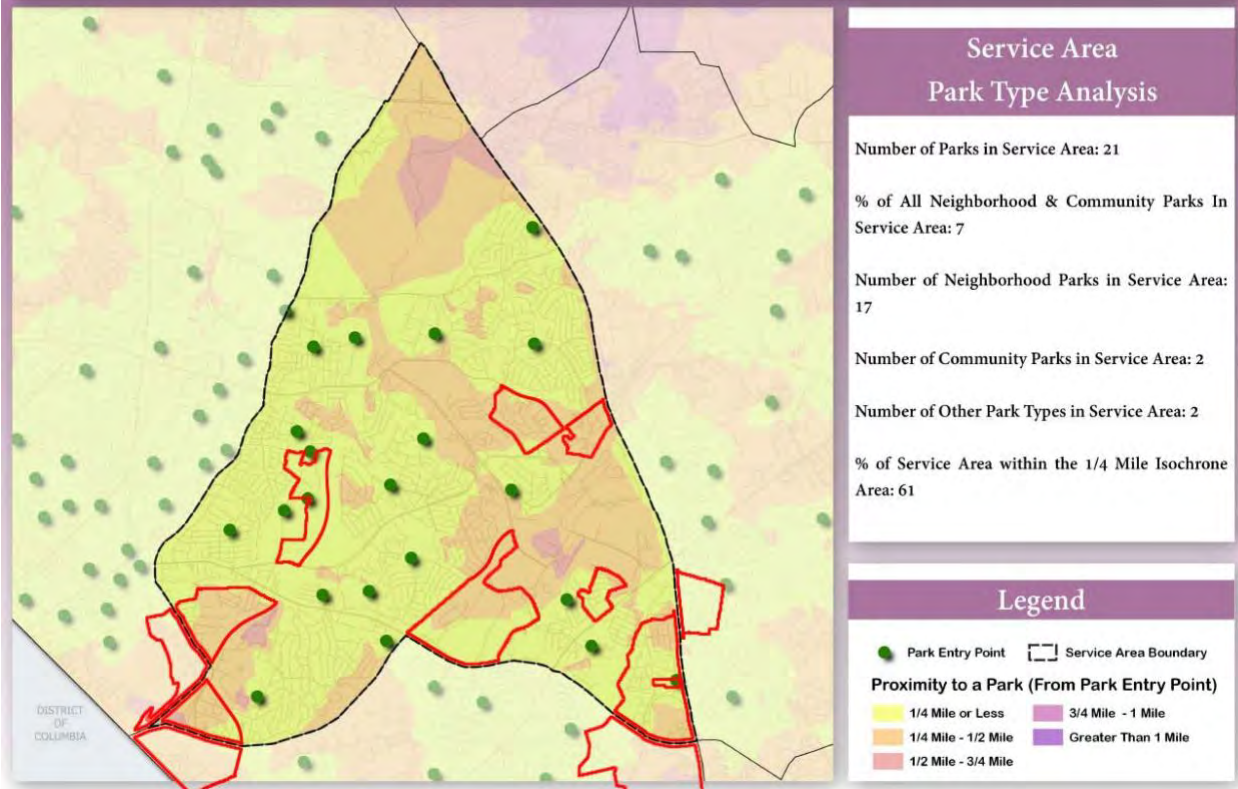
Facilities

Construction of new facilities in Service Area 4 should focus on level 2 and 3 diamond fields, dog parks, hard surface courts, trails, picnic facilities, level 1, 2, and 3 rectangular fields, and splash pads, as well as unique facilities. This service area had the lowest number of CIP projects completed from FY17 – FY21 and has the second lowest number of projects in the current CIP.

Recommendations

- Redesign existing parks to include additional facilities and/or acquire community parkland in the eastern or southwestern part of the service area.
- Utilize the Park Enhancement Program to replace aging facilities and infrastructure, particularly in the Equity Focus Areas Spring Hill Lake, Bladensburg, Dodge Park, Glenarden, and West Lanham Hills.
- Enhance connectivity by connecting trails to park facilities, schools, activity centers, transit hubs, and areas of new development
- Increase the number of urban parks serving these communities through the Parkland Dedication Program and explore opportunities to develop parks near metro stations

Service Area 4: Park Proximity Isochrone Analysis



Service Area 5 Summary

Parkland

While Service Area 5 has not met the targets for undeveloped parkland, this service area is very close to meeting the LOS goals for developed parkland types. The goal for specialty parks has been met. 60 percent of this service areas is within a quarter mile of a park and 100 percent is within ¾ mile.

Service Area 5 Targets	
Total Parkland	2,041
Undeveloped Parkland	1,811
Developed Parkland	230
<i>Neighborhood</i>	0
<i>Community</i>	4
<i>Special Use</i>	171
<i>Regional/Greenway/Linear</i>	62
Diamond Fields	
<i>Level 3</i>	2
<i>Level 2</i>	2
<i>Level 1</i>	0
Dog Parks	1
Hard Surface Courts	
<i>Level 2</i>	0

Level 1	6
Picnic Facilities	
Level 3	5
Level 2	27
Level 1	42
Playgrounds	0
Rectangular Fields	
Level 3	0
Level 2	3
Level 1	1
Skate Parks	10,402
Indoor Aquatics	0
Outdoor Aquatics	0

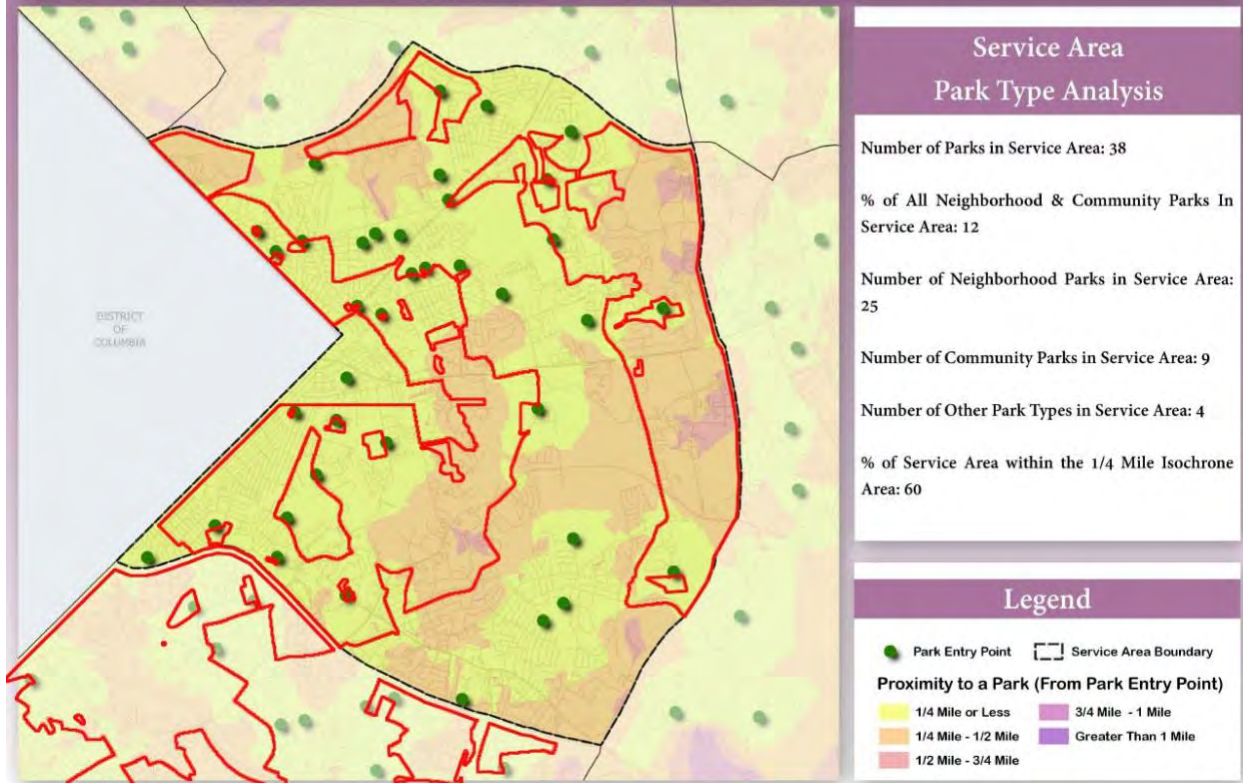
Facilities

Construction of new facilities in Service Area 5 should focus on level 2 and 3 diamond fields, dog parks, picnic facilities, and level 1 and 2 rectangular fields, as well as unique facilities. While this service area has been identified as an Equity Focus Area, there has been substantial CIP investment here.

Recommendations

- Redesign existing parks to include additional facilities and/or acquire neighborhood parkland in the central and eastern parts of the service area in communities like Peppermill Village, District Heights, Forestville, and the Addison Road Metro Station.
- Enhance connectivity by connecting trails to park facilities, schools, activity centers, transit hubs, and areas of new development and along the Central Avenue Connector Trail.
- Increase the number of urban parks serving these communities through the Parkland Dedication Program and explore opportunities to develop parks near metro stations
- Utilize the Park Enhancement Program to replace aging facilities and infrastructure.

Service Area 5: Park Proximity Isochrone Analysis



Service Area 6

Parkland

Service Area 6 has not met the target for neighborhood parks. Service Area 6 is outside the beltway and the built environment in the eastern and southern portions is suburban to rural. One of the large gaps in proximity is centered around the community of Westphalia where a new regional park is currently under construction to serve those residents. Many of the other gaps in proximity are in areas that are sparsely developed with residential uses.

Service Area 6 Targets	
Total Parkland	0
Undeveloped Parkland	0
Developed Parkland	0
<i>Neighborhood</i>	38
<i>Community</i>	0
<i>Special Use</i>	0
<i>Regional/Greenway/Linear</i>	0
Diamond Fields	
<i>Level 3</i>	0
<i>Level 2</i>	0
<i>Level 1</i>	0
Dog Parks	1

Hard Surface Courts	
Level 2	0
Level 1	10
Picnic Facilities	
Level 3	0
Level 2	30
Level 1	43
Playgrounds	0
Rectangular Fields	
Level 3	2
Level 2	0
Level 1	0
Skate Parks	11,173
Indoor Aquatics	16,500
Outdoor Aquatics	5,100

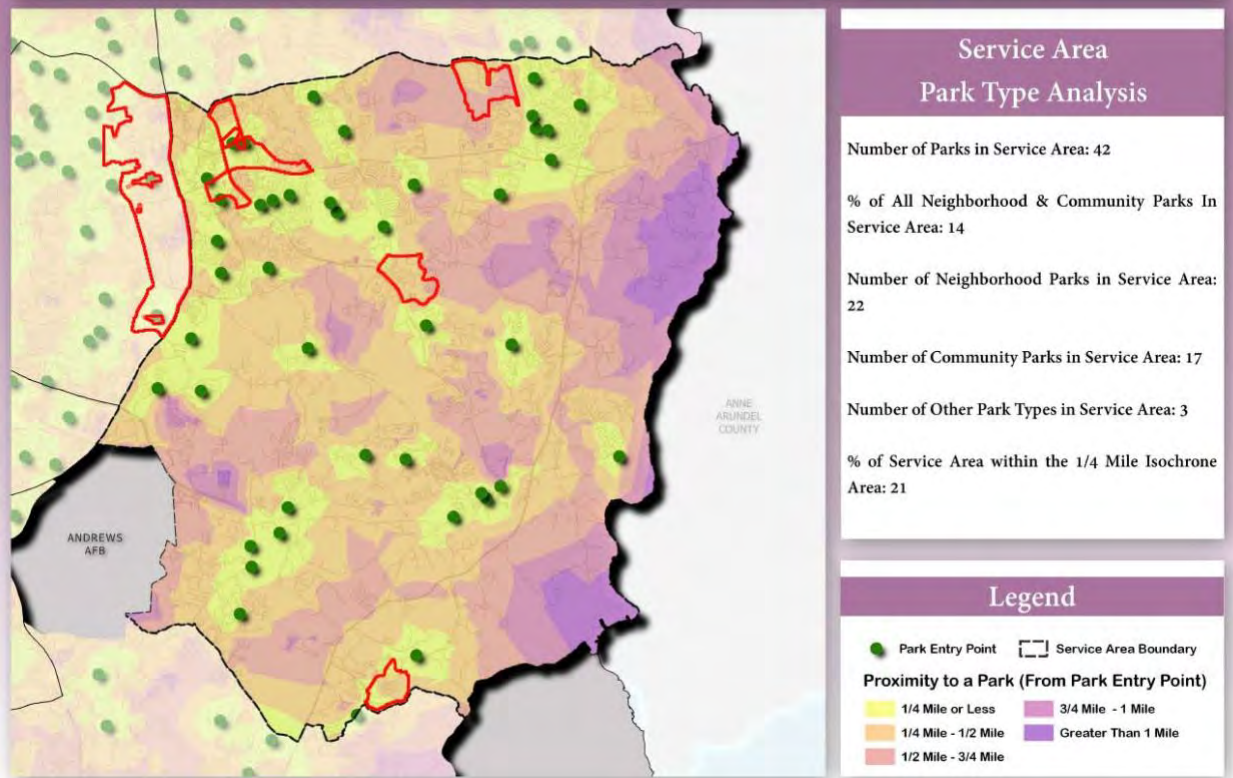
Facilities

Construction of new facilities in Service Area 6 should focus on dog parks, level 3 rectangular fields, picnic facilities, hard courts for basketball, tennis, or futsal, outdoor aquatics, and splash pads, as well as unique facilities. This Service Area has had substantial and consistent CIP investment from FY17-FY21.

Recommendations

- Acquire neighborhood parkland in the area along US 301 and near the Kettering community.
- Utilize the Park Enhancement Program to replace aging facilities and infrastructure particularly in the low equity areas near Largo, Oak Grove, and neighborhoods along the Western Branch Stream Valley Park.
- Continue to implement to recommendations of the Watkins Regional Park Master Plan and construct the new Westphalia Regional Park.

Service Area 6: Park Proximity Isochrone Analysis



Service Area 7

Parkland

Service Area 7 has not met the target for neighborhood, special use, or regional parkland. Due to the urban nature of the built environment, it is unlikely that additional regional parkland would be acquired in this service area. The 289-acre Oxon Cove and Oxon Hill Farm, which are owned and operated by the National Park Service, are in this service area and serve some of the regional/specialty park needs of these residents.

Service Area 7 Targets	
Total Parkland	1,634
Undeveloped Parkland	1,457
Developed Parkland	177
<i>Neighborhood</i>	65
<i>Community</i>	0
<i>Special Use</i>	257
<i>Regional/Greenway/Linear</i>	66
Diamond Fields	
<i>Level 3</i>	4
<i>Level 2</i>	0
<i>Level 1</i>	0

Dog Parks	0
Hard Surface Courts	
Level 2	2
Level 1	12
Picnic Facilities	
Level 3	5
Level 2	33
Level 1	43
Playgrounds	0
Rectangular Fields	
Level 3	2
Level 2	0
Level 1	0
Skate Parks	9,465
Indoor Aquatics	39,500
Outdoor Aquatics	0

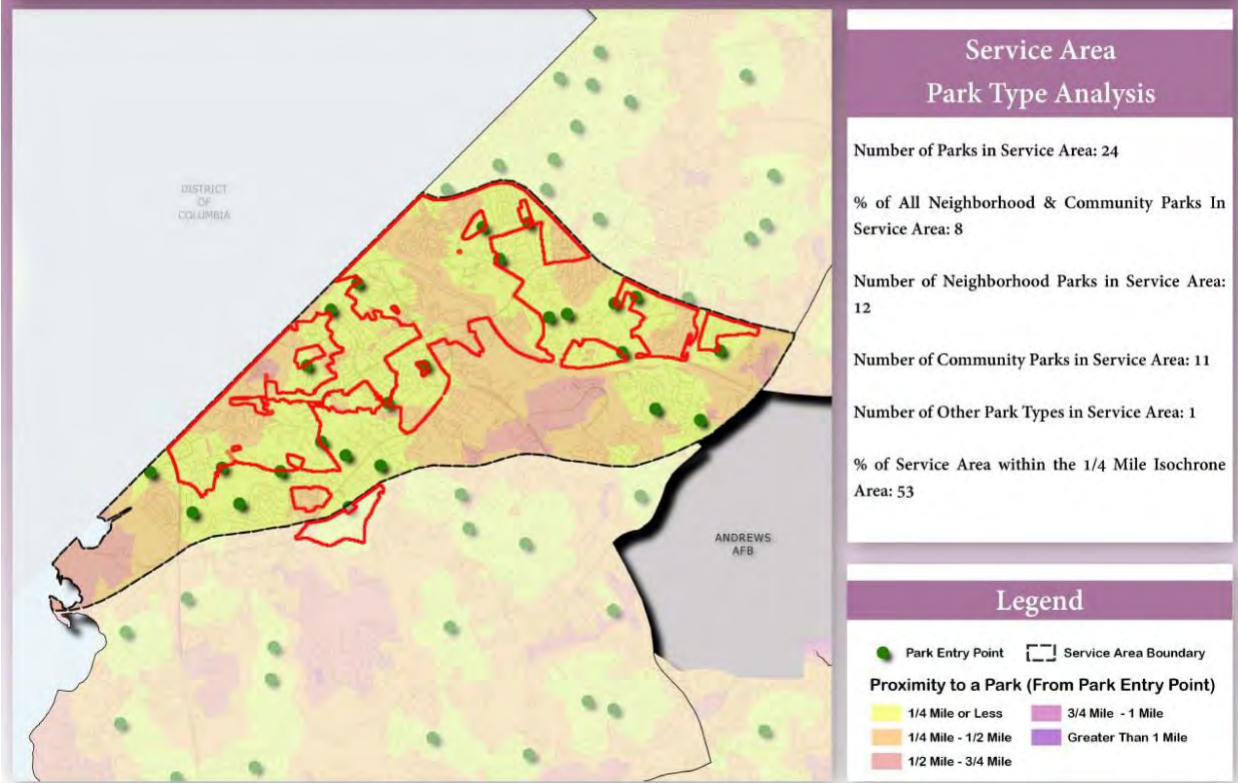
Facilities

Construction of new facilities in Service Area 7 should focus on 3 diamond fields, hard courts for basketball, tennis, or futsal, picnic facilities, trails, level 3 rectangular fields, and splash pads, as well as unique facilities. This service area had a low number of CIP projects completed from FY17 – FY21 and has the lowest number of projects in the current CIP. Most communities in this service area are within Equity Focus Areas.

Recommendations

- Redesign existing parks to include additional facilities and/or acquire neighborhood parkland near Suitland-Silver Hill, Gordon Corner, Marlo Heights, and near the Branch Avenue Metro Station.
- Increase the number of urban parks serving these communities through the Parkland Dedication Program and explore opportunities to develop parks near metro stations.
- Utilize the Park Enhancement Program to replace aging facilities and infrastructure.
- Enhance connectivity by connecting trails to park facilities, schools, activity centers, transit hubs, and areas of new development.

Service Area 7: Park Proximity Isochrone Analysis



Service Area 8

Parkland

Service Area 8 has not met the targets for community parks. Washington National Park and Piscataway Park, both operated by the National Park Service, serve the regional park needs of this area. Only 23% of the service area is located within ¼ mile of a park so additional neighborhood parks might be appropriate in addition to community parks.

Service Area 8 Targets	
Total Parkland	0
Undeveloped Parkland	0
Developed Parkland	0
<i>Neighborhood</i>	9
<i>Community</i>	98
<i>Special Use</i>	0
<i>Regional/Greenway/Linear</i>	0
Diamond Fields	
<i>Level 3</i>	0
<i>Level 2</i>	0
<i>Level 1</i>	0
Dog Parks	2

Hard Surface Courts	
Level 2	0
Level 1	14
Picnic Facilities	
Level 3	6
Level 2	33
Level 1	46
Playgrounds	0
Rectangular Fields	
Level 3	1
Level 2	0
Level 1	2
Skate Parks	11,305
Indoor Aquatics	6,500
Outdoor Aquatics	0

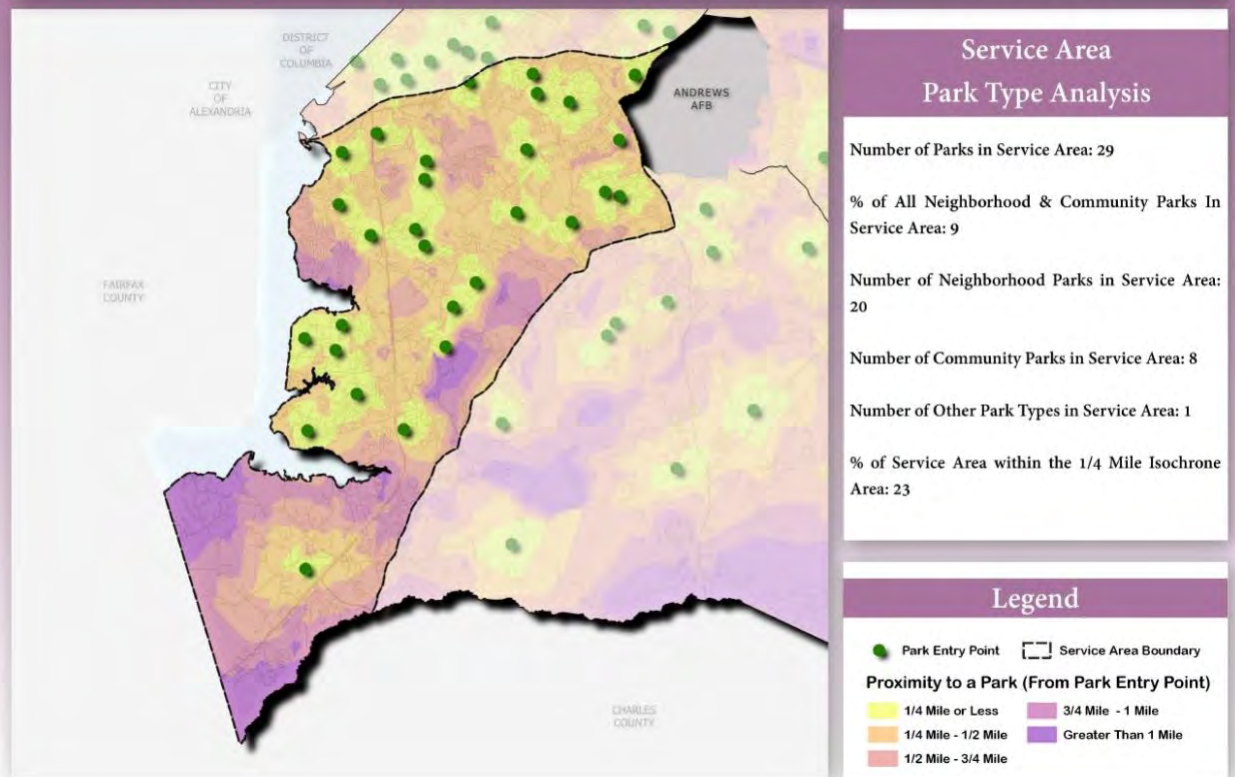
Facilities

Construction of new facilities in Service Area 8 should focus on Level 1 and 3 rectangular fields, dog parks, hard courts for basketball, tennis, or futsal, and picnic facilities, as well as unique facilities.

Recommendations

- Redesign existing parks to include additional facilities and/or acquire neighborhood parkland near the communities of Accokeek, Piscataway, and Friendly.
- Utilize the Park Enhancement Program to replace aging facilities and infrastructure, particularly in the low equity areas of Oxon Hill, Oaklawn, Windbrook and Henson Creek.
- Utilize the Parkland Dedication Program to ensure these new residents are adequately served by parks.
- Enhance connectivity by connecting trails to park facilities, schools, activity centers, transit hubs, and areas of new development.

Service Area 8: Park Proximity Isochrone Analysis



Service Area 9

Parkland

Service Area 9 has not met the targets for neighborhood parks. The residential development in this service area tends to be larger lot, single family homes with ample green space and HOA parks. Due to the suburban/rural nature of this service area, most of the gaps in the proximity analysis are in rural areas. This service area is home to Rosaryville State Park, Cosca Regional Park, a large portion of Patuxent River Park and multiple stream valley parks. The community of Clinton would benefit from an additional neighborhood park.

Service Area 9 Targets	
Total Parkland	0
Undeveloped Parkland	0
Developed Parkland	0
<i>Neighborhood</i>	75
<i>Community</i>	0
<i>Special Use</i>	12
<i>Regional/Greenway/Linear</i>	0
Diamond Fields	
<i>Level 3</i>	0
<i>Level 2</i>	0
<i>Level 1</i>	3

Dog Parks	1
Hard Surface Courts	
Level 2	11
Level 1	14
Picnic Facilities	
Level 3	4
Level 2	12
Level 1	32
Playgrounds	0
Rectangular Fields	
Level 3	2
Level 2	0
Level 1	1
Skate Parks	6,178
Indoor Aquatics	0
Outdoor Aquatics	1,500

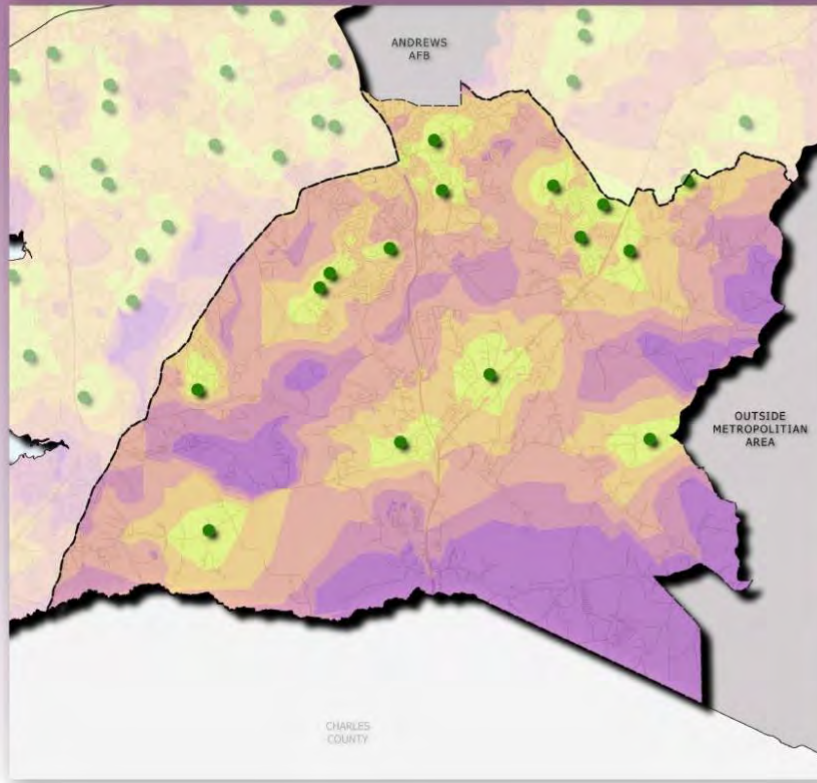
Facilities

Construction of new facilities in Service Area 8 should focus on level 1 diamond fields, dog parks, hard surface courts, picnic facilities, level 1 and 3 rectangular fields, and splash park, as well as unique facilities.

Recommendations

- Redesign existing parks to include additional facilities and/or acquire neighborhood parkland near the community of Clinton.
- Utilize the Park Enhancement Program to replace aging facilities and infrastructure, particularly in the communities of Rosaryville, Marlton, and Bradywine.
- Utilize the Parkland Dedication Program to ensure these new residents are adequately served by parks
-

Service Area 9: Park Proximity Isochrone Analysis



Service Area Park Type Analysis

Number of Parks in Service Area: 15

% of All Neighborhood & Community Parks In Service Area: 5

Number of Neighborhood Parks in Service Area: 2

Number of Community Parks in Service Area: 7

Number of Other Park Types in Service Area: 6

% of Service Area within the 1/4 Mile Isochrone Area: 10

Legend

Park Entry Point Service Area Boundary

Proximity to a Park (From Park Entry Point)

1/4 Mile or Less 3/4 Mile - 1 Mile
 1/4 Mile - 1/2 Mile Greater Than 1 Mile
 1/2 Mile - 3/4 Mile



Appendix E

Special Conservation Areas

Department of Parks and Recreation
M-NCPPC

Appendix C Special Conservation Areas

Currently, thirteen Special Conservation Areas (SCAs) have been identified throughout the County. The majority of these areas are in public ownership, but some areas are in private ownership, which implores careful environmental stewardship. The thirteen areas are:

1. Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC)—Among the world’s most expansive and diversified agricultural research complexes, USDA’s BARC is approximately 6,541 acres in size and includes experimental pastures, nurseries, orchards, gardens, fields, forests, and open space.
2. Patuxent Research Refuge (PRR)—Owned and managed by the US Department of the Interior’s Fish and Wildlife Service, PRR is a designated Important Bird Area (IBA), and is the nation’s only national wildlife refuge established in order to conduct wildlife research. It includes 12,841 acres in Anne Arundel and Prince George’s counties; the latter includes a 4,284-acre portion containing the National Wildlife Visitor’s Center. The Refuge is developing a Patuxent Waters Landscape Conservation Design based on regional habitat and green corridor maps in a multi-county area for a Patuxent Waters Conservation Area. The purpose is to expand the acquisition boundary of the Refuge for protection of the remaining water quality enhancing natural areas yet to be protected.
3. Greenbelt National Park—Located within the urbanized area of the County, Greenbelt National Park is one of the largest natural areas in the region. The park contains 1,105 acres for enjoying numerous outdoor activities including camping, hiking, cycling, and having cookouts under its mixed evergreen/deciduous forest canopy.
4. Anacostia River (Main Stem)—The main stem, which stretches from the County line to the confluence of the Northeast and Northwest Branches, contains tidal waters which serve as a rich fish and wildlife habitat. This fresh water habitat should be maintained so that spawning can continue for the anadromous fish such as herring, shad, and perch species that live most of their lives in saltwater but migrate to fresh water for the process of spawning, or releasing their eggs and depositing them for maturation. Substantial efforts have been expended to improve water quality, stabilize stream banks, and replant stream buffers that have become degraded due to land use development and redevelopment activities.
5. Belt Woods—Belt Woods, the “South Woods” portion of which was designated a National Natural Landmark by the NPS, is a unique upland hardwood forest with mostly tulip poplar and white oak trees providing a rich habitat for a wide variety of bird species. It has a bird breeding density that is among the highest on the Atlantic coastal plain, and is in a class of rare old-age upland forests. Owned by the State of Maryland (DNR) and managed by the Western Shore Conservancy, it is a designated IBA and also contains wetlands of special state concern and important wildlife corridors.
6. Suitland Bog—Classified as a rare Magnolia Bog, Suitland Bog is located inside the Capital Beltway and contains 60 acres with a trail through unique wetlands, rare plant life including sundews and carnivorous plants, as well as threatened plants. Owned by the M-NCPPC, efforts should be made to protect it from habitat loss, sedimentation, surface water flooding, and alterations of ground water flow.
7. Patuxent River Corridor—Since the 1960s, there have been ongoing efforts among the seven counties it borders, to protect the Patuxent River corridor, one of the premier greenways in Maryland, containing marshes, swamps, and woodlands. It is protected in Prince George’s County by The M-NCPPC which owns over 7,458 acres, called Patuxent River Park.

8. Jug Bay Complex—Consisting of the Jug Bay Natural Area of the Patuxent River Park and the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, this complex is habitat to a wide variety of wildlife, and needs concerted efforts to protect its water resources in order to remain the rich and diverse wildlife refuge that it is.
 - a. An IBA that is ideal for bird-watching, the Jug Bay Natural Area is a Natural Resource Management Area (NRMA), and consists of marshes, river corridor, fields and forests, with more than 290 species of birds. This area, along with the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in Anne Arundel County, totals more than 2,000 acres. One of the largest stands of wild rice in Maryland exists at Jug Bay, which is also designated part of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve System. Jug Bay includes boardwalks, public boat ramps, fishing areas, camping, canoe and kayak rental, group picnic, history programs and ecology boat tours.
 - b. Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, the only one operated by DNR as an NRMA, is located adjacent to the Patuxent River Park/Jug Bay NRA and consists of more than 1,670 acres of marshland, woodlands, farm ponds, and fields. The Smithsonian Institution ranked it ninth in its list of significant natural areas in the Chesapeake Bay, and it has the largest Canada goose wintering ground on the Chesapeake's western shore.
9. Piscataway National Park/Mount Vernon Viewshed—in 1961, Congress established the Piscataway National Park to commemorate the Piscataway Nation of indigenous Native Americans who established their political center in a town called Moyaone, and to preserve the view of the Potomac River's Maryland shore from the historic home of President George Washington in Mount Vernon, Virginia.
 - a. Piscataway National Park consists of forests, fields, wetlands, and a 100-year floodplain, and protects Marshall Hall, the National Colonial Farm, and the Accokeek Creek Site, a designated National Historic Landmark. The earliest accounts of the area date back to narratives of Captain John Smith in his explorations of the landscape, and archeological evidence found at Accokeek Creek show that this area has been inhabited for 11,000 years. The Captain John Smith Trail runs along the shoreline of the 5,000-acre Piscataway Park, 1,000 acres of which are in Prince George's County. Piscataway Creek is known for its herring run, and several warbler species. These species among others are sensitive to waterway degradation and forest fragmentation; thus the park is an SCA.
 - b. Mount Vernon Viewshed is also known as an Area of Primary Concern, and is defined as the land in Virginia and Maryland that is visible from George Washington's Mount Vernon home. The Viewshed in Prince George's County includes the Moyaone Reserve, a wooded community of approximately 180 homes that is protected by scenic easements and is included in the County's priority preservation area. The Viewshed's protection is critical to maintaining the rural character and unique habitats, which provides multiple benefits to the residents of the area in addition to the national benefits of protecting a viewshed of national significance. The National Park Service holds 2,342 acres of scenic easement in this area which improves natural resource conservation.

10. Mattawoman Creek Stream Valley—This SCA is an IBA, known for its rich bird habitat, and it contains a 100-year floodplain, as well as tidal and nontidal wetlands which serve as habitat for a large population of fish-eating wildlife. Mattawoman Creek is mostly privately owned. Some of the most prolific finfish spawning and nursery streams in the Chesapeake Bay region are located in this stream valley. The tidal wetlands are inhabited by Maryland’s largest concentration of nesting wood ducks. The master plan for this area recommends increasing natural resource conservation in this stream valley by hundreds of acres.

11. Cedarville State Forest and Zekiah Swamp Watershed—The Cedarville State Forest has more than 50 species of trees and forest habitat, and is located within the Zekiah Swamp Watershed, known for being Maryland’s largest freshwater swamp.

Located at the headwaters of the Zekiah Swamp, the Cedarville State Forest consists of 3,625 acres of habitat that is very supportive of its varied flora and fauna. It is sustained by very effective forestry management practices, which has benefitted the Cedarville Bog, a unique wetland that supports a wide variety of flora such as sphagnum moss and insect-eating plants.

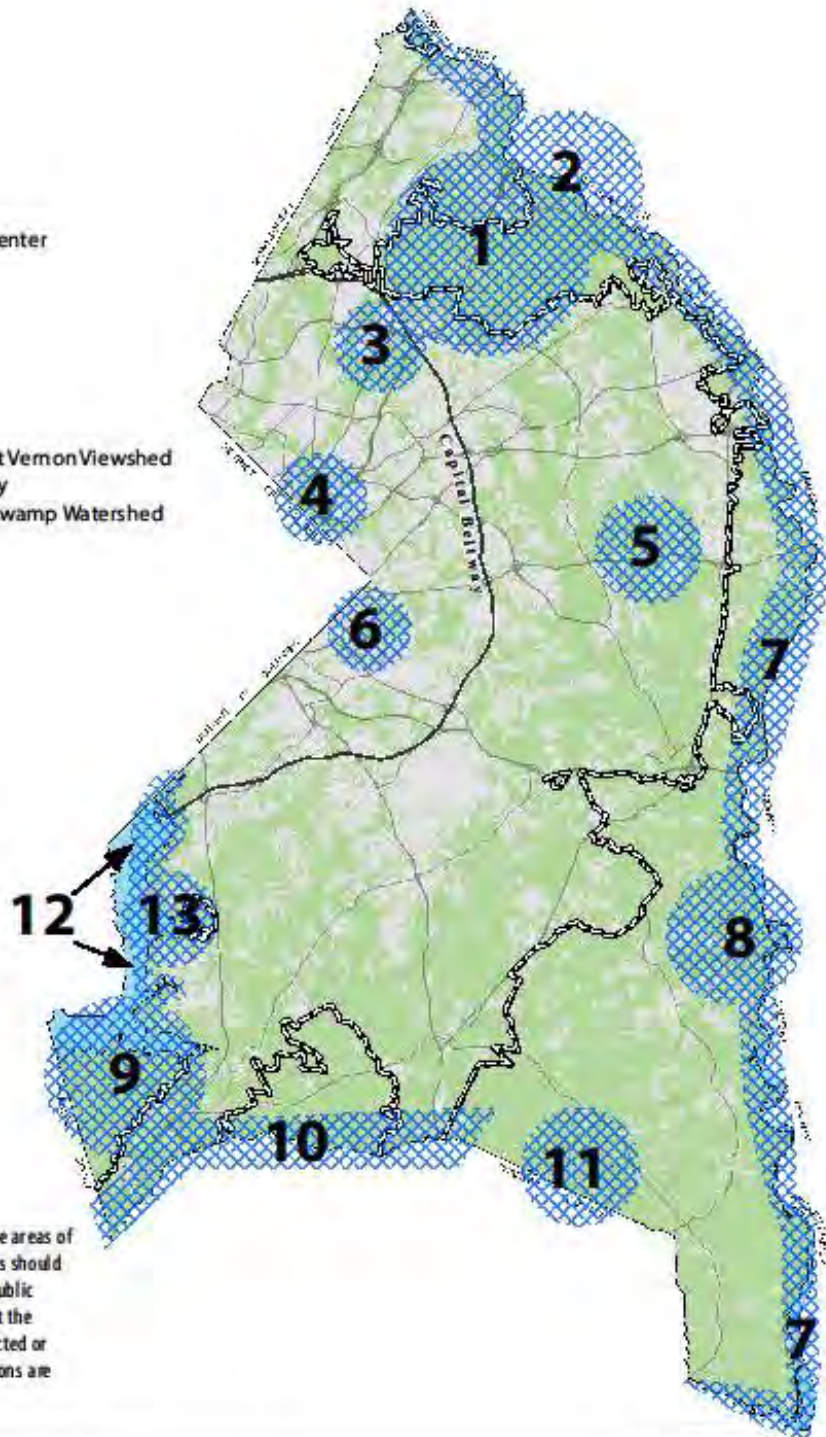
The Zekiah Swamp Watershed, with a small portion in Prince George’s County but mostly in Charles County, consists of hardwood swamp forests mixed with shrub swamps, wetlands, grass and sedge savannas, open beaver ponds and shallow pools. Located in the 8-digit Lower Potomac Watershed, the Zekiah Swamp is densely vegetated and supports a wide variety of flora and fauna, including RTE species. The Smithsonian Institution considers Zekiah Swamp Run—designated a wetland of special concern—as one of the most important wetlands on the East Coast.

12. Potomac River Shoreline—Longer term resource conservation is needed along the Potomac River Shoreline because it supports the main stem of the Potomac River as well as Piscataway Creek, Swan Creek, Broad Creek, and Oxon Cove. Along the shoreline, visitors will find the Piscataway National Park; Harmony Hall/Broad Creek Historic District; historic Fort Foote and Fort Washington, both built to defend the river approach to Washington, D.C.; and Oxon Hill Farm. The portion of the shoreline in Prince George’s County is located entirely within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, which helps to ensure that any development is sensitive to water quality and preservation of the natural and scenic features. However, challenges remain due to the smaller lot sizes and the increasing price of real estate. The approved master plan for this area recommends protection of unnamed tributaries to Broad Creek, Swan Creek and Piscataway in addition to ten or more acres of parkland acquisition along the Potomac River waterfront.

13. Broad Creek—Broad Creek has important tidal wetlands located at the mouth of the creek which contribute to the overall sustainability of the Lower Potomac River Basin. A variety of local and migratory fish, waterfowl, and marsh birds benefit from Broad Creek and its tidal wetlands which have been designated as an area of Critical State Concern, and which should be protected for its prime wildlife habitat.



Special Conservation Areas


1. Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
2. Patuxent Research Refuge
3. Greenbelt National Park
4. Anacostia River
5. Belt Woods
6. Suitland Bog
7. Patuxent River Corridor
8. Jug Bay Complex
9. Piscataway National Park / Mount Vernon Viewshed
10. Mattawoman Creek Stream Valley
11. Cedarville State Forest / Zekiah Swamp Watershed
12. Potomac River Shoreline
13. Broad Creek



Note: **Special Conservation Areas** comprise areas of significant conservation concern. These areas should be carefully considered when land use and public acquisition decisions are made to ensure that the ecological functions of these areas are protected or restored and that critical ecological connections are established and/or maintained.

Legend

-  Special Conservation Areas
-  Final Green Infrastructure Network

 Plan 2035 Growth Boundary





Appendix F

Natural Resource and Public Park Land Inventory

Department of Parks and Recreation
M-NCPPC

APPENDIX D INVENTORIES OF NATURAL RESOURCE AND PUBLIC PARK LANDS

Natural Resource Lands Inventory, Prince George's County –							
Federal Land Area:							
Site Name:	Property Size (acres)	Park Status	Outdoor Recreation Amenities	Trails	Water Access	Hunting / Fishing	Other
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center	6,541	D	X				National Visitor's Center
Patuxent Research Refuge	4,284	D	X	X	X	X	National Visitors Center, programming, ponds, trails

National Park Service Park Lands:							
Site Name:	Property Size (acres)	Park Status	Outdoor Recreation Amenities:	Trails	Water Access	Hunting/Fishing	Other
Baltimore Washington Parkway / Suitland Parkway	1,500	D					Baltimore Washington Parkway - 29 mile contiguous buffered transportation corridor extending from Prince George's County to Baltimore City.
Forte Foot	66	D	X	X	X	X	
Fort Washington Park	341	D	X	X	X	X	
Greenbelt National Park	1,105	D	X	X			Camping, Bird Watching, programming
Harmony Hall	63	D	X	X			Bird Watching
Oxon Cove Park & Oxon Hill Farm	778.5	D	X	X			Children's Farm
Piscataway National Park	1,035	D	X	X	X	X	National Colonial Farm

Natural Resource Lands Inventory, Prince George's County - State DNR Lands							
Site Name:	Property Size (acres)	Park Status	Outdoor Recreation Amenities:	Trails	Water Access	Hunting/Fishing	Other
Beltwoods NEA	625	U					Managed Habitat Area
Billingsley NRMA	430	D	X		X	X	Leased Site to MNCPPC. Agricultural Lease Area, Natural Areas, Water Access, Historic Site, Rental Facility.
Bowen WMA	313	D	X		X	X	
Cedarville SF	1176	D	X	X	X	X	
Chaney NRMA	7	U					
Cheltenham WMA	10	D					
Croom NRMA	101	U					
Full Mill Branch NRMA	189	U					
Honey Branch NRMA	176	U					
Merkle NRMA	1567	D	X	X	X	X	
Milltown Landing NRMA	319	U	X	X	X		Soft Landing for canoes and kayaks. Agricultural area and roads. Occasional Programmed activities allowed.
Rosaryville SP	1039	D	X	X	X	X	
Spice Creek NRMA	659	U					
Uhler NRMA	169	D	X	X			

Natural Resource Inventory Lands, Prince George's County - M-NCPPC Land Area:

STREAM VALLEY PARKS:

Site Name:	Property Size (acres)	Park Status	Outdoor Recreation Amenities	Trails	Water Access	Hunting / Fishing	Other
Patuxent River SVP							
Montpelier Unit	235.71	U					
Fran Uhler Natural Area	28.19	D	X	X			Birding, Informal Trails
Lemon's Bridge / WB&A Trail	324.06	D	X	X			Birding, Informal Trails
Saddlebrook East	124.68	D	X				Athletic Fields
Yorktown	115.14	U					Natural Surface Trails
Sherwood Forest	118.75	U					
Md Science Center	96	U					
Governor's Bridge Road Natural Area	121.97	D	X	X	X		Walking Trails, Birding, Fishing Ponds, Canoe and Kayak Launch
William Smith Tract	183.35	Agricultural Lease Area					Agricultural Lease
Glazer Property	95.4312	U					
Glazer and Queen Anne Bridge Fishing Area	119.12	D	X				Under Renovation Consideration
Hazelwood	153.87	D	X				Curatorship
Patuxent Four-H Center	133.82	D	X	X	X		Canoe / Kayak Launch, Cabin Camping by Appointment
Claggett Landing	30.00	U					
Marlboro Unit (Rogers to Sasscer)	1,500.03	D	X	X			Radio Fly Club Lease Area, Natural Surface Trails
Western Branch	206.82	U					
Mount Calvert	189.00	D	X		X		Historic Site, Public Archeology and Museum

Jug Bay	1,908.49	D	X	X	X	X	Canoe, Kayak Launch, Visitors Center, Tour Boat, Fishing Pier, Boat Ramp (2), Hsitoric Sites, Native American Exhibit Area, Rural Life Museums, Chesapeake Bay Driving Tour.
Nottingham School Historic Site	63.09	Agricultural Lease Area	X				Historic Site and Agricultural Lease Area
Spice Creek / River Airport Road	224.029	Agricultural Lease Area					Agricultural Lease
White's Landing	484.94	Agricultural Lease Area					
Clyde Watson Boating Area	79.42	D	X		X	X	Boat Ramp, Fishing Pier, Canoe, Kayak Launch
Aquasco Farm	962.87	Agricultural Lease Area	X				Bow-Hunting
Dyson Farm / Parrack Farm	153.97	U					
Cedar Haven Natural Area	7	D	X		X	X	Beach Area
Anacotia Stream Valley Park	795.7814	D	X	X	X	X	Water Trails
Back Branch Stream Valley Park	39.1557	U					
Bald Hill Stream Valley Park	87.2429	U					
Barnaby Run Stream Valley Park	1.7974	U					
Black Branch Stream Valley Park	96.667	U					
Cabin Branch Stream Valley Park	5.373	U					
Charles Branch Stream Valley Park	342.3198	U					
Collington Branch Stream Valley Park	786.4193	U					
Folly Branch Stream Valley Park	316.7136	D	X	X			
Gardner Road Community Park	149.4146	U					
Henson Creek Stream Valley Park	1103.4238	D	X	X		X	Tucker Road Pond Stocked DNR fishing Area
Indian Creek Stream Valley Park	94.3453	D	X	X			

Little Paint Branch Stream Valley Park	210.6937	D	X	X			
Northeast Branch Stream Valley Park	29.7627	U					
Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park	519.2786	D	X	X			Long Range Trail
Oxon Run Stream Valley Park	80.3921	D	X	X			
Paint Branch Stream Valley Park	463.201	D	X	X			Long Range Trail
Pea Hil Branch Stream Valley Park	25.5603	U					
Piscataway Creek Stream Valley Park	1592.5173	U					
Potomac River Waterfront Conservation Area	39.7461	U					
Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park	78.6275	D	X	X			Long Range Trail
Southwest Branch Stream Valley Park	263.6934	U					
Tinkers Creek Stream Valley Park	804.6835	U					
Western Branch Stream Valley Park	380.5697						

REGIONAL PARKS							
Site Name:	Property Size (acres)	Park Status	Outdoor Recreation Ammenities:	Trails	Water Access	Hunting/ Fishing	Other
Cosca Regional Park	790.071	D	X	X	X	X	Clearwater Nature Center, Cosca Lake stocked fishing by DNR
Fairland Regional Park	154.9319	D	X	X			Storm Water Demonstration Area; Long Range Trail
Walker Mill Regional Park	504.6048	D	X	X			
Watkins Regional Park	858.8031	D	X	X			Watkins Nature Center, Old Maryland Farm Interpretive Area

Community and Neighborhood Park Sites with Natural Area Focus

Site Name:	Property Size (acres)	Park Status	Outdoor Recreation Amenities	Trails	Water Access	Hunting/ Fishing	Other
Blue Ponds Conservation Area	84.2216	U					
Cheltenham Conservation Area	194	D	X	X			Wetland Trail; Intrepretation Area
Church Road Conservation Area	31.4823	U					
Dinosaur Park	4	D	X	X			Palentological Fossil Site, Interpretive Programming
Foxhill Community Park	45.5283	D	X	X	X		
King's Grant Community Park	38.422	D	X	X	X		
Lake Artemesia	43.0325	D	X	X	X	X	Trails; DNR Stocked Fishing Area
Mount Rainer Nature Center	0	D	X				
Pheasant Run Community Park	46.5956	D	X	X			
School House Pond	20.0317	D	X	X		X	DNR Stocked pond site
Suitland Bog	68.0277	D	X	X			Magnolia Bog and Interpretive site

Natural Resource Lands Inventory - Prince George County - Municipal Owned Lands

Municipality Name:	Total Municipal Owned Land: (acres) ¹	Outdoor Recreational Area by the Municipality (acres): ²	Outdoor Recreation	Natural Areas	Picnic Shelters	Trails	Hunting / Fishing	Other/ Notes:
Berwyn Heights	5.97	0.50	X					
Bladensburg	11.98	10.00	X	X				
Bowie	1,709.14	853.41	X	X	X	X	X	Multiple Natural Area Sites with trails, bike trails, Athletic Fields, Playgrounds, Community Gardens and Allen Pond Fishing Area
Brentwood	5.83	1.00	X		X	X		Town Hall Green Space
Capitol Heights	12.56	0.00						
Cheverly	55.13	37.66	X	X	X	X		11 Sites with multiple Natural Areas, natural spring sites, trails, picnic areas.
College Park	47.87	12.43	X	X	X	X		
Colmar Manor	2.40	0.50	X					
Cottage City	1.93	0.10	X					
District Heights	16.38	12.20	X	X	X			
Eagle Harbor	14.20	10.20	X	X				Truman's Point Historic site / waterfront area
Edmonston	0.86	0.00						
Fairmount Heights	5.64	0.00						
Forest Heights	2.94	0.00						
Glenarden	30.12							

Greenbelt	602.40	302.00	X	X	X	X	X	43 park and facility sites including Multiple Natural Areas, Buddy Attick Park with 23 acre DNR stocked fishing lake, trails, Community Garden, Picnic areas.
Hyattsville	27.46	14.00	X	X	X	X		
Landover Hills	10.15	10.40	X	X	X	X		
Laurel	300.73	222.00	X	X	X	X	X	19 Park sites including Natural Area sites, Laurel River Walk, Laurel Lake, Stream Valley Park and Passive Park Areas.
Morningside	5.38	0.00						
Mount Rainier	3.06	1.00	X					
New Carrollton	44.12	38.00	X	X	X	X		
North Brentwood	0.63	0.50	X					Tot lot
Riverdale Park	5.90	3.00	X					
Seat Pleasant	39.96	10.34	X	X	X	X		
University Park	16.82	24.00	X	X	X	X		
Upper Marlboro	4.04	0.00						
TOTALS:	2,983.60	1,563.24						

¹Data from a GIS query performed by MNCPPC Gis Division February 2016. Data reflects all municipal properties and could include City Buildings, Maintenance areas, vacant lots etc.

²Conversations with individual municipality representatives and from webpages.

Accessed September 20, 2015.

List of GIS Files Used

- M-NCPPC Parkland
- State Land
- Federal Land
- Tree Canopy Change
- Tree Canopy
- Primary Roads
- County Boundary
- County Boundary Anno
- Plan 2035 Growth Boundary
- MALPF HARPP Easement
- Rural Legacy DNR
- MET Easement
- Mt. Vernon Scenic Easement Area
- Priority Preservation Area
- Targeted Ecological Areas
- Rural Legacy Areas
- Priority Funding Area
- Sustainable Growth Act Tiers
- Census Tract 2010 MDP
- Hydro Area
- Greenway Water Trail DNR
- Park Trail
- Trail NPS
- Property
- Scenic Historic Road
- Transportation
- a .GPX file of the Interim Route from map.greenway.org
- a boundary file for National Capital Parks – East (from Mikaila Milton)
- HOA property layer from 2017 LPPRP
- Maryland Focal Areas - Targeted Ecological Areas (from [MD iMAP Data Catalog \(DOIT\)](#))



Appendix H

Preserved Agricultural Land Inventory

Department of Parks and Recreation
M-NCPPC

APPENDIX E PRESERVED AGRICULTURAL LAND INVENTORY				
PRESERVED AGRICULTURAL INVENTORY				
Site Name	Property Size (Acres)	Acres Preserved	Protection Type (ownership or easement)	
Beltsville Ag Research Center (Fed)	6,541		O (Fed)	
Canavan		23	HARPP	
Mersch/Richards		161	MALPF	
Wilson		117	HARPP	
Clagett Family Farm/Bald Eagle		296	Rural Legacy	
Lee		110	MALPF	
Wilkerson		118	HARPP	
Seay		97	HARPP	
Rosemount		45	HARPP	
Pyles		40	HARPP	
Potomac Farm LLC-85		40	HARPP	
Ducellier		75	HARPP	
Donohue, F.		149	MALPF	
Donohue, DC		21	MALPF	
Dobson Clagett Landing		174	HARPP	
Potomac Farms 90		99	HARPP	
Dinnison-Higgs Farm		149	HARPP	
Simmons		45	HARPP	
Tucker		186	HARPP	
Watson Cooksey Farm		73	HARPP	
Seger		107	HARPP	
Kaz Brothers-Dennison		124	HARPP	
Beall		114	HARPP	
Jenkins		134	Rural Legacy	
Stonestreet		49	HARPP	
Welch		39	HARPP	
Naylor		124	HARPP	
Moore, B.		61	HARPP	
Grimm		68	HARPP	
Soft Landing Stables		40	HARPP	
Leitch		65	MALPF	

APPENDIX D PRESERVED AGRICULTURAL LAND INVENTORY

PRESERVED AGRICULTURAL INVENTORY			
Site Name	Property Size (Acres)	Acres Preserved	Protection Type (ownership or easement)
Flynn		69	HARPP
Antonioli		160	MALPF
Kuehn		173	MALPF
Henderson		114	HARPP
DeVaughn		113	MALPF
Turner		46	HARPP
Leaf		78	HARPP
Maslin		23	MALPF
Buchheister-01		57	MALPF
Buchheister-03		57	MALPF
Washburn-Morrell		57	HARPP
Richardson		313	HARPP
Maenner		61	MALPF
Brooks		53	MALPF
Moore, D.		130	HARPP
McGuire		160	HARPP
Pimer		106	MALPF
Cheltenham-Welch		87	MALPF
Denison (16-04-02)		132	MALPF
Denison (16-02-02)		123	MALPF
Total	6,541	5,054	

APPENDIX I – POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

Examples of policy or strategy updates in the 2017 *Resource Conservation Plan* that preserve farmland, and steps to implement previous policies and strategies since 2017 include several under *Promoting an Agriculture-based Economy* and *Supporting Urban Agriculture*:

Promoting an Agriculture-based Economy--

POLICY 5: Seek opportunities to increase the value of farm and forest lands.

- 5.1 Allow a broad spectrum of new uses, including agritourism, on agricultural and forested lands, as long as those uses continue to focus on agriculture and forestry or related uses and do not take existing agricultural or forested land out of production.
- 5.2 Revise the Zoning Ordinance to allow appropriate agricultural and forestry uses in appropriate zones.

POLICY 6: Strengthen agriculture as a viable economic sector.

- 6.1 Add the economic viability of farm and forest enterprises to the County's overall economic development strategy.
- 6.9 Revise the Zoning Ordinance to allow food processing facilities and value-added activities in more zones.

POLICY 7: Involve County and state agencies, municipalities, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations in the development of agricultural and forestry-related businesses.

- 7.4 Support the work of the Prince George's County Food Equity Council and consider their policy recommendations.
- 7.5 Support the establishment of a food hub that includes agricultural distribution, processing, and support facilities, and a commercial kitchen. Partner with the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission and seek funding and technical assistance to support food hub development at the Cheltenham Warehouse Facility or other similar properties.
- 7.6 Collaborate with the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and other business development entities to facilitate farmer training programs such as incubators, agricultural enterprise development and marketing, and connecting small food retailers with local produce providers.

Supporting Urban Agriculture--

POLICY 8: Include urban agriculture in land use planning and zoning.

POLICY 9: Increase awareness of and access to land suitable for urban agriculture uses.

POLICY 10: Involve County and state agencies, municipalities, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations in the development of urban agriculture.

Relevant implemented actions since the 2017 *Resource Conservation Plan*:

- Establishing the Agricultural Resources Advisory Committee as a link between the farming community and local government (Policy 5, Strategy 5.1, and Policy 8)
- Establishing an On-Farm Brewery/Winery Task Force to implement progressive policies for breweries and wineries in the County (Policy 6, Strategy 6.9)
- Coordinated an effort with County Council support to establish a Regional Agricultural Center at the Cheltenham Warehouse Facility on U.S. 301, which had previously been a farmers' market and agricultural warehousing location. (Policy 7, Strategy 7.5)
- Establishing a new 11-acre Urban Incubator Training Facility at Watkins Regional Park for urban agricultural enterprises (Policy 9, Strategy 9.1)
- Searching for an urban agriculture coordinator/food system coordinator and policy specialist to coordinate among local, and regional parties. (Policy 10, Strategy 10.1)
- Engaging with the Prince George's County Agricultural Marketing Specialist, who works out of the University of Maryland Extension Service, to coordinate with County farmers and the Anne Arundel-Prince George's Urban Farming Work Group (Policy 10, Strategy 10.2)
- Enacting County legislation in support of agricultural uses, such as:
 - CB-22-2021: A bill providing a definition of Farm brewery, and permitting farm brewery uses in the Open Space (O-S) Zone. (Policy 6, Strategy 6.9)
 - CB-72-2020: A bill amending the requirements for limited Class 3 fill uses as a method of reclaiming former sand and gravel mining properties for public use in the R-A Zone. (Policy 4: Identify valuable mineral resources, seek methods to protect and manage access and reclaim those areas where possible for future farm or forest enterprises or agricultural support services, Strategy 4.2)
 - CB-61-2019: A bill defining a new use, "Aquaponics" among other changes. (Policy 6, Strategy 6.1)
 - CR-78-2019: a resolution to add "Urban Farm" to the Table of Permitted Uses under (2) Commercial, (D) Services as a permitted use in the Traditional Residential Neighborhood Character Area. (Policy 5: Seek opportunities to increase the value of farm and forest lands, Strategy 5.2)
 - CB-14-2019: A bill amending the definition of "Urban farm" uses in the Zoning Ordinance to generally align with the corresponding definition of "Urban farm" within the proposed new zoning laws approved via CB-13-2018, and permitting the use in certain Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Zones. (Policy 5, Strategy 5.2)
 - CB-16-2017: A bill amending the definition of "Agriculture" in the Zoning Ordinance to include the production of mulch. (Policy 5, Strategy 5.1 and 5.2)
 - CB-10-2017: An ordinance permitting the use of agritourism signs. (Policy 5, Strategy 5.1)

Strategic Trails Plan

Part 1: Plan Summary, Priorities and Recommendations

Department of Parks and Recreation
Prince George's County, Maryland



ABSTRACT

TITLE: Strategic Trails Plan
Part 1: Plan Summary, Priorities and Recommendations

SERIES NUMBER: XXXXX
NUMBER OF PAGES: XXX

ABSTRACT: This document contains text, figures, graphics and maps outlining a strategic approach to bicycle and pedestrian trail development in Prince George’s County, Maryland. The plan provides specific project priorities and recommended actions in the areas of trail planning, design, policy, management, maintenance and programming. It sets a specific course for achieving the trail-related goals established by the *Formula 2040 Functional Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces*. Developed with the assistance of stakeholders and the community, this compendium of four documents includes the following: Part 1—a summary; Part 2—a list of recommendations in table format; Part 3—extensive background material describing a countywide network of trails and a DPR park trail program that will serve transportation and recreation needs; and Part 4--documentation of public comments and existing conditions. Key Plan components include a new classification system for shared use paths and trails, trail design guidelines and a discussion of economic impacts.

DATE: Projected: October 2018

SOURCE OF COPIES: M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation
Prince George’s County

M-NCPPC

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Casey Anderson, *Chair*

Elizabeth M. Hewlett, *Vice Chair*

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is a bicounty agency, created by the General Assembly of Maryland in 1927. The Commission's geographic authority extends to the great majority of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties: the Maryland-Washington Regional District (M-NCPPC planning jurisdiction) comprises 1,001 square miles, while the Metropolitan District (parks) comprises 919 square miles, in the two counties.

The Commission has three major functions:

- The preparation, adoption, and, from time to time, amendment or extension of the General Plan for the physical development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District;
- The acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of a public park system; and
- In Prince George's County only, the operation of the entire county public recreation program.

The Commission operates in each county through a Planning Board appointed by and responsible to the county government. All local plans, recommendations on zoning amendments, administration of subdivision regulations, and general administration of parks are responsibilities of the Planning Boards.

The Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation (M-NCPPC)

Mission Statement

In partnership with our citizens, the Department of Parks and Recreation provides comprehensive park and recreation programs, facilities, and services which respond to changing needs within our communities. We strive to preserve, enhance, and protect our open spaces to enrich the quality of life for present and future generations in a safe and secure environment.

Vision Statement

The Department of Parks and Recreation pledges to:

- Provide stewardship of our county's natural, cultural, and historical resources.
- Foster the need of our citizens for recreational pursuits in a leisure environment.

Provide the highest standard of excellence in public service through cooperative partnership with our diverse community.

Prince George's County Planning Board

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Introduction

History of Trail Planning and Development

Since the early 1970s Prince George’s County has been on the forefront of trail planning and development. In 1975, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) developed one of the first trail plans in the Washington metropolitan region¹. It outlined a 112-mile trail system for bicycling and walking in the urban sections of the county including the Anacostia River Tributaries, Bowie, Oxon Hill and South Laurel, and additional mileage for connections into suburban areas. This trail system was envisioned to serve recreational cycling, hiking, access to nature, as well as bicycle transportation. At the time bicycling was seen as a logical, if not widely accepted, response to urban air pollution problems and the need to conserve non-renewable energy.



In the 1980s the public’s interest in trails waned somewhat, but gathered steam again in the 1990s. Since that time, the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) began a small, but intense effort to develop paved and natural surface trails in its growing inventory of parklands. In response to public demand, DPR also developed trails by taking advantage of land dedications and required public amenities related to development activities.

In the 1990s, the M-NCPPC Prince George’s County Planning Department (Planning) began to integrate trails recommendations into the Transportation chapters of master and sector plans and the *Countywide Master Plan of Transportation* (MPOT). These plans resulted in construction of many additional miles of trail, built by developers and state and county road agencies. Also during that time, DPR maintained a slow but steady emphasis on trail building within its stream valley park system and developed the WB&A rail-trail. The long-term planning for park trails was largely included in the Planning Department’s routine community and countywide planning processes. Trails were not singled out or emphasized when DPR established a 12-division institutional framework. Rather, they were included as one of many park components to be addressed through general park maintenance and operations.

By the 2010s, it became clear that over a 40-year period, a significant volume of trails had been built, and the vision for the trails system that was established in the 1970s had been fulfilled and surpassed. DPR staff recognized an acute need for a new plan to guide the trail development process over the next 20 years and beyond. Moreover, increased trail use for both transportation and recreation, aging trail infrastructure, and the physical extent of the trail system led to agency inadequacies in funding, development, management and maintenance of the DPR trails network. It was also recognized that DPR and the county as a whole was probably not fully taking advantage of the economic impact the trail system could have as a competitive advantage within the metropolitan region.

¹ *Adopted and Approved Countywide Trails Plan for Prince George’s County, Maryland*; M-NCPPC, 1975.

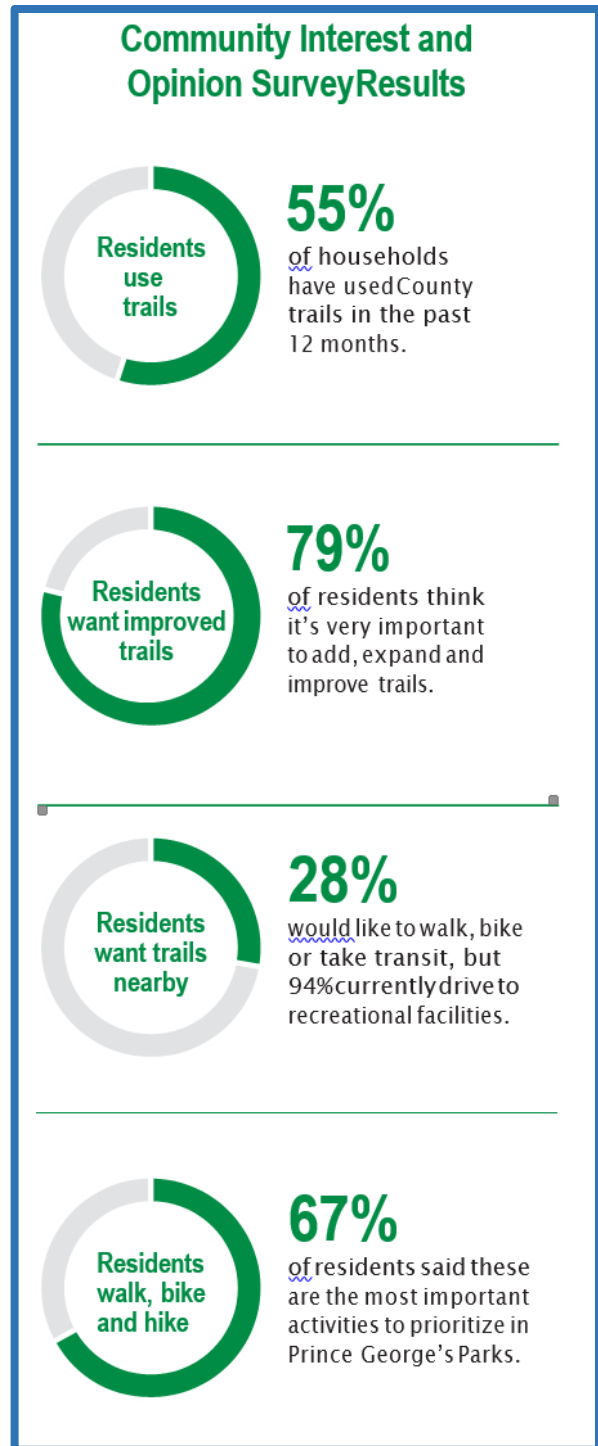
Specifically, ongoing management and maintenance of the network was not keeping up with the aging infrastructure, and a nationwide embrace of bicycle and pedestrian transportation generated national trail standards that were now far ahead of DPR. Moreover, the public was demanding features that had previously been seen as desirable but non-essential “amenities,” such as wayfinding signage, restrooms, safer road crossings and even greater network connectivity. In addition, the distribution of trails in this geographically large county (499 square miles) was heavily skewed to the north. Many of the densely-populated areas in central and south central parts of the county were not well served by the trail network.

Formula 2040 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

In 2013, *The Formula 2040: Functional Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space* (Formula 2040) was adopted. It emphasized the need to grow and improve the trail system and develop a new long-term vision for trails as a major component of DPR’s overall mission to provide parks, recreation and open space for county residents. Formula 2040 also underscored DPR’s need for trails to fully support the overall park and recreation goals. A statistically valid survey of citizens countywide showed that walking, hiking and biking trails are the single-most visited recreation facilities that DPR manages. It also found that maintaining and expanding the trail system is a top-three park development priority for residents (see side bar). Formula 2040 laid the foundation for developing a robust network of paved and natural surface trails as a key resource that will meet the service needs of the public and fulfill Formula 2040 goals.

Formula 2040’s three main goals are **connectivity**, **health and wellness**, and **economic development**. It is not hard to understand that trails are a perfect fit in this framework:

- **Connectivity:** Park trails, in all of their diverse settings, provide connectivity—linking people to people, people to places in their community and people to nature. And it is clear from public demand that even greater connectivity is desired for the trail system so that it can be used for



efficient transportation and that underserved communities want to get connected to the trail networks as well.

- **Health and Wellness:** Park trails also contribute to health and wellness in the most basic of ways, by providing safe and accessible places to walk, run or bike for daily exercise, activities in which people from 8 to 80 can easily partake. Loop trails in community parks and corridor trails in stream valley parks and along abandoned rail corridors offer close-to-home fitness centers. And natural surface hiking trails located in regional parks and conservation lands offer the mental health benefits that county residents need to maintain a loving relationship with the natural environment.
- **Economic Development:** Finally, in study after study over the past 30 years, park trails have been shown to contribute significantly to local and regional tourism, stable property values and tax revenues. They are a growing, yet sustainable contributor to economic development.

Keeping Prince George's County competitive means addressing the needs and desires of the two largest U.S. population groups—Baby Boomers and Millennials. National surveys have shown that both groups prefer walkable environments with recreation, shopping and other amenities that are close to home. They understand the value of trails and parks for their health and quality of life.

A Strategic Trails Plan

Upon completion of Formula 2040, DPR prioritized development of a strategic trails plan to provide more detailed guidance related to trail implementation and program development for the agency. This report is the culmination of that planning process. This plan recognizes that the context for trail planning and development has changed significantly since the 1970s, however, the essential role for trails in a suburban jurisdiction and multi-faceted park agency is much the same.

Trails are needed for recreation as well as transportation. Trails foster a healthy and happy population and natural environment. Public trails build community at a human scale and foster physical, social and economic connectivity and access for every subset of the community, regardless of class, economic status, age or ability.

Scope and Objectives

The scope of the planning process was varied and broad. It included the following activities:

1. Developing an accurate inventory of paved and natural surface trails throughout the county, including trails on DPR lands, and those owned and managed by other entities (federal, state, municipal and private).
2. Conducting a preliminary assessment of the physical trail infrastructure and demonstrating potential new methods for ongoing assessment of trail infrastructure.
3. Refining the network of existing and planned trails both inside and outside of parkland.
4. Developing a coherent framework for organizing and describing the various types of trails making up both the DPR and countywide network, their settings, owning/managing agencies, and purposes.

5. Identifying the following aspects of the physical trail network: a) physical and institutional barriers that make development of a connected network difficult; b) gaps in the physical network that diminish its potential impact and benefits; c) opportunities presented by new initiatives, both public and private; and d) discuss strategies for overcoming barriers, filling in gaps, and seizing opportunities over the next 25 years.
6. Assessing current policies, practices and activities (primarily within DPR) related to trail planning, funding, project prioritization, design, construction, maintenance, management, policing, programming, promotion and usage.
7. Developing recommendations for changes in policies and practices in these same areas, especially: a) prioritizing capital funding, b) project permitting, and c) trail design.
8. Engaging the trail-using park advocacy public to identify needs and ensure that plans and recommendations are prioritized and well supported by the constituencies served by DPR.



Captions and credits will be provided in the final publication.

This planning effort was countywide in scope and many of the recommendations span beyond the lands that are currently owned and operated by DPR. In some cases, the recommendations will be used to guide future acquisition priorities for the department; however, in order for the goals of the plan to be fully realized countywide, further planning and implementation efforts will need to be undertaken by key partners. Most importantly, the Planning Department will need to update the MPOT to formalize the recommendations for the proposed trail network in order to facilitate the expansion of the network through private development.

DPR Strategic Trails Plan Organization

- Part 1: Plan Summary, Priorities and Recommendations
- Part 2: Implementation Action Plan
- Part 3: Plan Elements (see box)
- Part 4: Summary of Public Outreach and Existing Conditions

What's Inside the Plan

Part 1 of the plan (this document) includes the following components:

- **The Planning Process**, which summarizes public input, includes an assessment of physical trail conditions as well as an assessment of trail operations, management and maintenance activities.
- **A Countywide Trail Network**, which introduces a new trail classification system and describes how the planned trails mapped in this process were identified and selected.
- **A List of Trail Development Project Priorities for DPR (10-year plan)**.
- **A Summary of Trail Program Recommendations: Strategies and Actions**.

Part 2 of the plan is an expanded list of the Implementation Action Plan needed to implement the plan, in a table format. Additional detail includes identification of responsible parties, projected timeframes and discussion of the approaches to be taken.²

Part 3 of the plan presents the planning analysis behind the network and provides additional tools to guide trail development in the areas of funding, design, management and maintenance (see box for details).

Part 4 documents a) the public comments that were received and used to guide network development and program recommendations, and b) the assessment process used to study physical trail conditions.

Other plan products delivered by the consulting team include GIS mapping data, a video inventory of select trails, environmental planning guidance, and a discussion of economic benefits and impacts of trails.

Part 3: Plan Elements

What is the Countywide Trail Network?

Trail Classifications

Network Goals and Objectives

Trail Overlays

Maps (existing and planned trails, by classification and ownership)

Trail Planning and Development Strategies

Cost Estimating and Funding Strategies

Project Development Strategies and Prioritization Criteria

Trail Design Policy

Guidelines

Wayfinding Signs

Waysides and Trailheads

Natural Surface Trails

Managing and Maintaining Park Trails

Data Gathering

Asset Management

Maintenance Schedules

New Technologies

² Parts 1 and 2 will be submitted to the Planning Board for endorsement.

The Planning Process

The planning process took place over three years, 2015–2018. It was led by DPR staff from the Planning Section of the Park Planning and Development Division (PP&D) and supported by an interdivisional staff team. Transportation planners from the Planning Department provided close collaboration with the park planners.

Public, Staff and Stakeholder Engagement

Staff and stakeholder engagement was facilitated through a series of meetings conducted in the spring of 2015, between March and June. A total of ten meetings were conducted involving staff from a diverse set of divisions and offices within the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation, as well as the Planning Department. Representatives from other county, state and federal agencies engaged in trail-related activities within the county were also involved, as were representatives from county and/or region-based trail user and advocacy organizations. Staff from municipalities within Prince George's County also participated in these meetings.

Community outreach took the form of three open houses in three distinct parts of the county and use of an online Wikimap, which received over 250 unique user visits. Meetings included discussions covering a wide range of topics related to trails and the location, desire for and ability to build and maintain new trails.

Technical Analysis

GIS maps of existing DPR trail inventories and previous Planning Department activities were compiled, reconciled, verified and consolidated into four distinct sets of data: 1) existing paved trails, 2) existing natural surface trails, 3) planned/proposed paved trails, 4) planned/proposed natural surface trails. This initial baseline inventory was used to create draft maps that were used in public meetings and with focus groups attended by DPR staff and other stakeholders. As the planning process progressed, the inventory was continually updated.

Updates included the following:

- Verification of the existing trail network.
- Verifying trails as paved or natural surface.
- Validating trails to be attributed as planned, which includes those formally adopted in plans; and those to be attributed as proposed, because they arose during this planning process.

Planned/Proposed Trails

In this plan, **planned** and **proposed** trails are addressed as a single unified set of trails and are referenced as **planned/proposed**; and symbolized on maps with the same line type.

This combined terminology is used because this set of unbuilt trails includes both those that have been approved in the Countywide *Master Plan of Transportation* (MPOT) or in various approved sector plans (planned), as well as trail concepts not yet formally adopted by the Planning Board or County Council (proposed). Proposed trails include those identified subsequent to the 2009 MPOT adoption process and new trail ideas proposed during this planning process by the public, stakeholders, or the consultant planning team.

- Classifying existing and planned/proposed trails as either Primary, Secondary or Recreational (see next section for discussion of the classification system).
- Assigning trail ownership to various agencies based upon underlying property ownership.

Using the consolidated and refined data set of existing and planned/proposed trails, an extensive functional analysis of the network was undertaken. The recommended network was evaluated using a set of ten objectives (see below). These included objectives related to the park and recreation goals established by Formula 2040, and Countywide objectives flowing from goals set in the *Plan Prince George's 2035 Approved General Plan* (Plan 2035) and the 2009 MPOT. These objectives are as follows:

Park and Recreation Objectives

- Proximity of residential population to the paved trail network.
- Geographic distribution of trails within the nine DPR park service areas, as defined in Formula 2040.
- Connectivity to priority M-NCPPC parks and facilities.
- Addressing challenges presented by environmental barriers.

General Planning Objectives

- Trail connectivity to existing and future activity centers.
- Trail connectivity to municipalities.
- Closing key gaps in the paved trail network.
- Addressing barriers created by the built environment.
- Providing trail connectivity between the county's trails and those in neighboring jurisdictions.
- Effective utilization of existing linear corridors: highways, railroads, utilities.

Toward the end of the planning process, a final round of adjustments was made in the network of planned/proposed trails to improve its ability to address all of the objectives listed above. Table 1 summarizes the mileage in the existing and planned/proposed trail network. [Appendix 1-1 and 1-Map A provides details about the Planned/Proposed Primary and Secondary Trail Network; i.e. paved trails.]

Existing Conditions

DPR and other trails in the county were assessed in general terms. The total length of the trail system was documented, ownership/management responsibility was studied, and trail surface was determined/verified. Pavement conditions, pavement width, road and stream crossings, and other features were reviewed in sample locations. Input from staff, stakeholders and the public was also key in verifying trail conditions. In addition to this general physical assessment, DPR's policies and practices related to trail operations, management and maintenance were reviewed.

Table 1			
Mileage in Existing and Planned/Proposed Trail Network			
	DPR	Non-DPR Owned	Total
	Miles	Miles	Miles
Existing Trails			
Paved	117.9	100.2	218.1
Natural Surface	47.1	68.0	115.1
Total	165.0	168.2	333.2
Planned/Proposed			--
Paved	82.5	542.9	625.4
Natural Surface	32.7	67.0	99.7
Total	115.2	609.9	725.1

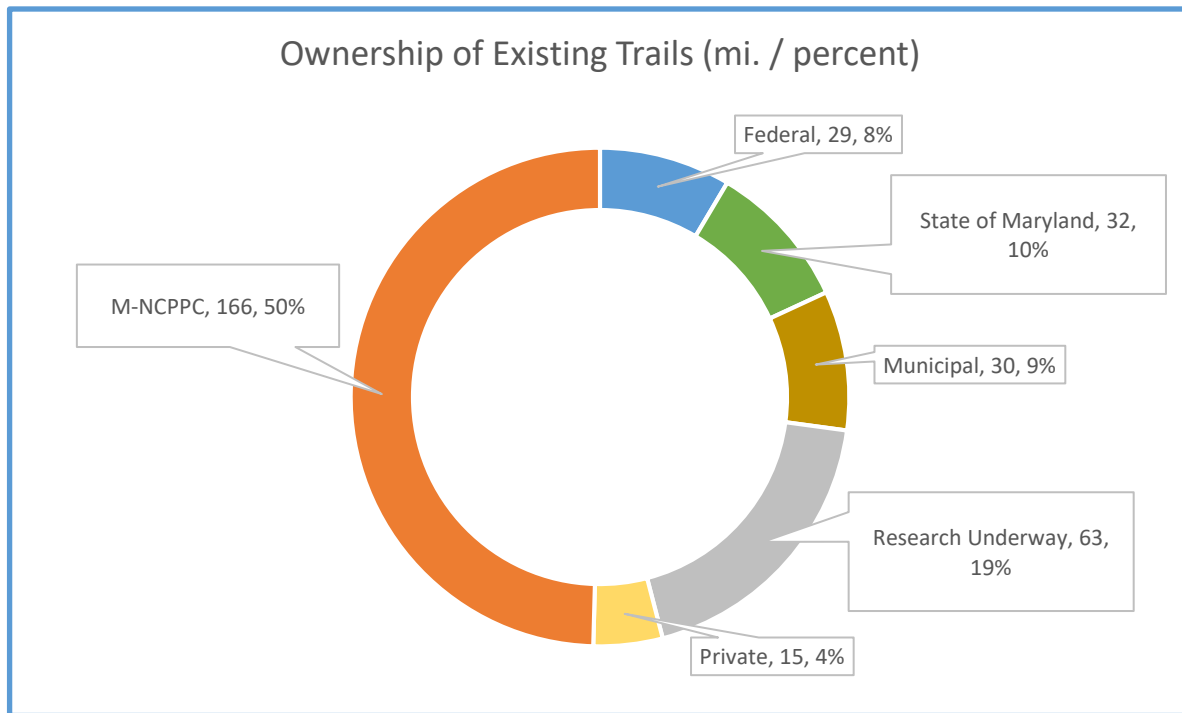
A general summary of conditions is provided in this executive summary. For additional background information about existing trail conditions see Strategic Trails Plan Part 4: Summary of Public Outreach and Existing Conditions.

The Existing Network

Over three hundred and thirty miles of existing trail were identified and mapped in this planning process (See Appendix 1-Map B). Forty-nine percent (165 miles) are owned by DPR. The remaining miles of trail are owned by a wide range of entities, including municipalities, state and federal agencies, and private organizations, such as homeowner’s associations (see Appendix 1-Map C). Figure 1 illustrates ownership/management responsibility for trails in the county.

- Municipalities own about nine percent of the existing trails in the county. The City of Bowie has the largest municipal trail network, with 19 miles of paved and unpaved pathways.
- The State of Maryland owns approximately ten percent of the existing trails in Prince George’s County, primarily in Rosaryville State Park, in state lands along the Patuxent River, and within state highway rights-of-way.
- The National Park Service (NPS) owns about 7.2 percent of existing trails, mostly in Greenbelt Park and in NPS lands along the Potomac River.
- Other federal agencies that own trails in the county include the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Beltsville Agricultural Research Center) and the Department of Defense (Joint Base Andrews).
- Private entities, such as conservation groups, civic associations, and homeowner’s associations, own 4.3 percent of trails in the county.

Future research by DPR or the Planning Department should identify ownership for about 19 percent of the existing trail network.



While the focus of this planning effort was on the existing and planned trails on DPR lands, or otherwise managed by DPR, recommendations are included for the countywide network. These recommendations and planned/proposed trails should be further reviewed for inclusion in an update of the Countywide *Master Plan of Transportation*.

Physical Trail Conditions

Concurrent with public and stakeholder engagement and technical analysis, a modest assessment of the physical conditions of the DPR trail system was undertaken.

Findings include the following:

- Much of the trail system was built more than 20 years ago, and typical pavement widths of six–eight feet are based on previous standards. Many of the trails were laid out prior to establishment of Americans with Disabilities Act guidance and thus are not compliant. Moreover, limitations based on environmental and levee regulations on the Anacostia Tributaries Trail System make achieving desirable design standards difficult.
- Operational signage, wayfinding signs and trail identity signs are intermittent and not uniform. In many locations, trails are not effectively branded as DPR/M-NCPPC facilities.
- Pavement quality should be upgraded in some locations; however, portions of the trail system have been resurfaced in recent years. Due to the presence of aggressive grasses and periodic flooding in stream valleys, in some areas pavement edges are crumbling or significantly covered by sand and silt.
- Invasive species are killing trail-adjacent tree lines and forested areas throughout the system.

Subsequent to the completion of the consultant phase of the planning process, DPR staff have begun a major initiative for system-wide bridge inspection, replacement and rehabilitation. The park and trail system has approximately 250 bridges, including some that are nearing the end of their life expectancy.

- The number of users participating in recreational bicycling (especially in small and large groups), as well as bicycling for daily transportation, has increased.
 - In response, the Commission changed its paved trail operational rules to allow legal transient bicycle use between 5 a.m. and midnight.
 - Additionally, the design and placement of existing bollards, boardwalks, and narrow highway bridge underpasses warrant safety assessments due to increased trail user volumes and expanded hours of operations.



- While some trail/roadway intersections have been upgraded in past years, design limitations dictated by the road management agencies [State Highway Administration (SHA) and Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T)] continue to make some crossings challenging for trail users. However, in one location (Queens Chapel Road and Northwest Branch Trail) the sheer volume of trail users crossing to and from the Metrorail station has resulted in greater stopping and yielding behavior by motorists.

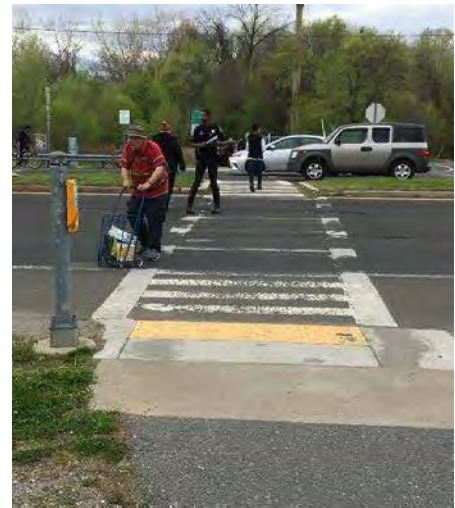


A primary product of the existing conditions assessment is a video inventory of 42 miles of trail in the DPR network. The purpose of this product was to demonstrate how bicycle-mounted video can be used to inventory trail assets and major maintenance needs. To enable DPR to make effective use of this resource, initial coordination was undertaken with the staff developing the agency’s Enterprise Asset Management system.

Trail Management: Operations and Maintenance

Given the limited scope of this study and the decentralized nature of DPR’s maintenance and management staff among four separate divisions, it was not possible to achieve an in-depth assessment of DPR’s operations and maintenance protocols. Subsequent to the consultant team’s work, DPR staff has gained a greater understanding of policies and practices related to trail management, which is reflected in the findings that follow. They are organized around four key trail management topics:

- Maintenance
 - Mowing of the extensive lawn areas adjacent to most of the park trails is well managed and executed.
 - Responding to maintenance requests from trail users is also generally timely and effective.
 - Addressing location-specific safety and structural issues is weak.
- Policing
 - Park Police presence on the trails is heavily focused on just a few areas where crime has been a major issue. However, countywide, crime and personal security on the trails has not been a system-wide problem.
 - Reporting and tracking of both incidents and crimes on the trail system is often indistinguishable from crime in the park system as a whole. As a result, trail-specific incidents and crimes against trail users require extensive research to identify, aggregate and assess on a system-wide basis.
 - When incidents happen, trail users and DPR staff both report that precise communication of the trail user's location is sometimes difficult; additionally, the best route for access is not always known by or obvious to the emergency responders.
- User Counts
 - The counting equipment used in past years has not been effective for evaluating trail usage due to technical issues. New equipment has been identified and is being deployed in phases.
- Communication with the trail-using public:
 - Print materials and maps used to market the major trails are largely excellent. However, due to the trail systems' constant expansion, updating these materials is a challenge and sometimes results in a lack of current and thus fully accurate materials.
 - Electronic communication such as the DPR website, social media and listserves are not well structured to serve the trail-using community.
 - Trails users increasingly need information about trail events, incidents, closures or detours in a very timely fashion, and the systems for providing this communication are not in place.



Creating a Countywide Network

This plan builds upon the MPOT, which includes a bicycle and pedestrian network that relies heavily on shared-use paths³ in a variety of corridors. The trail system located within the existing network of linear parks is nearly complete. Constructing trails in the remaining trail-less stream valleys parks present challenging environmental constraints. As a result, this plan attempts to chart a strategic path forward that merges what has been developed as part of the transportation system with what has been created through the park system.

Trails Vision

Prince George's County will create a trail system that provides residents and visitors with access to nature, recreation and daily destinations; promotes sustainability; and increases opportunities for health.

This new vision for trails calls for creation of a cohesive and connected countywide system of trails that can sustainably serve three missions: open space preservation, healthy recreation, and bicycle/pedestrian transportation.

A Countywide Network

While this plan does include continued development of the park-based trail network, it is important to recognize that increasingly, the majority of new trail mileage will be constructed outside of the DPR park system. On a trail-by-trail basis, a variety of arrangements may be made for land ownership, trail maintenance, infrastructure management, policing, etc.; yet as a whole, the countywide trail network will be woven more and more into the fabric of communities and cease to function solely as a park and recreation amenity.

To create this network, DPR needs, requires and requests considerable support from transportation agencies, public utilities, municipalities, educational institutions, and state and federal agencies, all of whom have jurisdiction over land, public infrastructure, regulations, funding and provision of public services that are critical to trail network development. And all of whom will also be served by the system by its contribution to community and employee health and environmental sustainability.

DPR is committed to provide leadership, overall coordination, development, and ongoing management and operations of the network; as well as full integration with the other components of park and

³ This plan uses the term “trail” to refer to all types of trails, paved and natural surface, shared use and single use. The term “shared-use path” is used to refer to hard surface (or engineered stone dust) trails that are used by bicycles and pedestrians. The terms “path” or “pathway” should be considered synonymous with hard-surface shared-use paths.

recreation services that are at the core of its mission. M-NCPPC as a whole (DPR and Planning) is committed to provide capital funding, planning and design expertise. Active support and engagement from other public agencies is needed in the areas of funding, engineering, maintenance, policing, access to public land through co-location of facilities, regulatory relief, and efficient permitting.

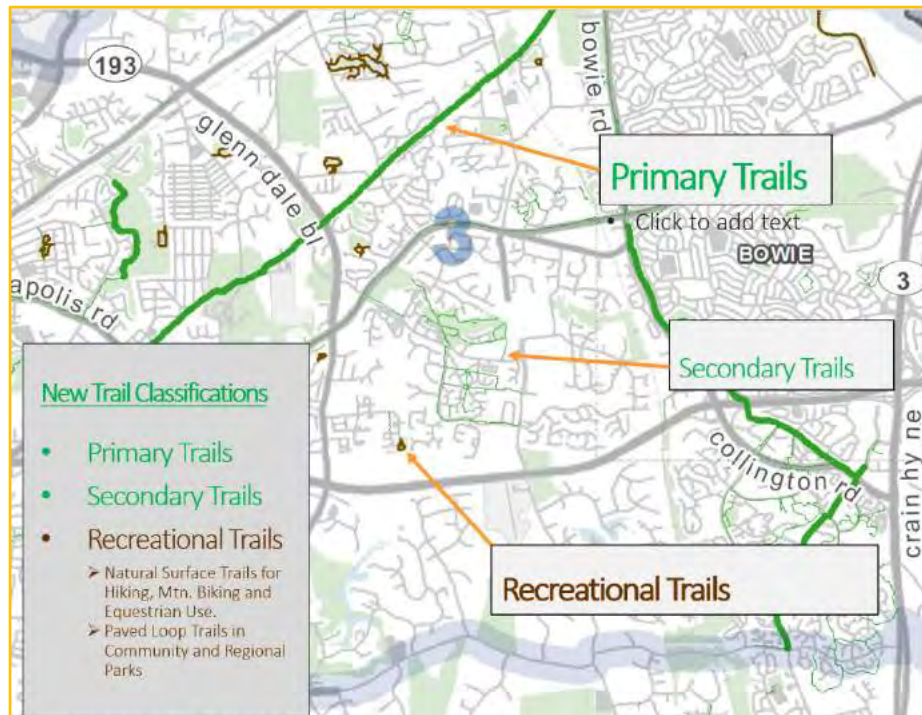
Trail Classifications

This plan describes the future countywide network in terms of existing shared-use paths and trails and planned/proposed paths and trails. Both existing and future trails are further subdivided into three basic trail classifications: Primary, Secondary and Recreational. Primary and Secondary trails together will make up the connected network. They will most often be hard surface facilities using asphalt or concrete. Recreational trails will most often be natural surface facilities but also include paved loop trails in parks that do not serve transportation purposes.

In general, these classifications are based upon the functional role each segment of trail plays in the overall network. The purpose of assigning classifications to trails is to ensure that when existing trails are upgraded and new trails are designed, their role in the overall network is defined and understood, and that role can be used to guide the decisions that are made about those projects. It is a simple framework that can be understood by the public, developers, agency staff at all levels, and trail advocates. It will serve these constituencies as they collaborate on trail planning, mapping, management and maintenance activities. (Table 2 provides a comprehensive breakdown of the countywide network showing trail mileage by status and classification.)

Primary Trails

Primary trails are shared-use paths developed and designed for bicycle and pedestrian use. They provide a contiguous network that serves all parts of the county for which M-NCPPC is responsible for providing parks. When fully built out, the primary network should link all of the activity centers as identified in Plan 2035, including the county’s traditional town centers and major suburban commercial nodes.



Primary trails are so designated to ensure that they are designed to the highest standards of safety, durability, aesthetic quality, and access for people with disabilities. They are generally characterized by

providing a high quality, park-like experience that will serve a variety of modal groups, trip purposes, ages and abilities.

Primary trails are designed to serve both recreation and transportation. They may be built with a variety of surface materials and widths, based upon their context and the amount of expected use; however, the typical Primary trail will be paved with asphalt, 10–12 feet wide. Based on need, context and available space, some may be designed with dual treadways⁴ (hard and natural surface) or otherwise configured to better serve recreational activities such as mountain bicyclists, runners, and/or equestrians.

Table 2 Primary and Secondary Trail Network				
	Existing		Planned/Proposed	
	DPR M-NCPPC	Other	DPR M-NCPPC	Other
	Miles			Miles
Primary Trails	46.2	17.3	53.8	200.5
Secondary Trails	35.4	77.5	27.2	367.5
Recreational Trails	79.7	71.7	33.8	67.0
Park Roads	3.7	1.5	--	--
Totals:	165.0	168.0	114.8	635.0
Grand Total:	333.0		749.8	

The Primary Trail Network includes a number of lengthy trails in higher density areas that serve as efficient bicycle/pedestrian transportation (commuter) routes. It should be noted, however, that few pathways (existing or planned) located adjacent to major highways, suburban arterials or rural roads (i.e., sidepaths) are designated as Primary. Sidepaths⁵ are designated as Secondary trails unless it is desirable that the character of the road and the design of the trail support a high quality park-like experience, i.e., it is comparable to other Primary trails in park and stream valley settings. Where and when sidepaths are designated as Primary trails, sufficient rights-of-way (ROW) should be reserved, required or allocated such that the trail and greenway is at least 25 feet in width; ideal widths are 30–40 feet.⁶

Secondary Trails

The network of Secondary trails includes both existing and planned trails. This classification includes most of the remaining paved pathways in the county and may include unpaved paths as well, where they are

⁴ “Treadway” refers to the portion of a trail corridor that is the travel surface. It may also refer to the surface material used for the travel surface.

⁵ The term “sidepath” is used to refer to shared use paths located alongside a roadway [typically within the public rights-of-way (ROW)]. It must be at least eight feet in width or else it is considered a sidewalk.

⁶ Research may need to be conducted to determine the appropriate range of ROW width needed for Primary trails proposed as sidepaths to state or county arterial roads.

built primarily to provide local access within the built environment. This classification includes spurs that connect the Primary trails to adjacent neighborhoods, homeowner’s association (HOA) trails built in residential communities, standard sidepaths along roads that enhance transportation access to destinations and extend the Primary Trail Network into adjacent communities. This category also includes short pathway links through parks and school grounds or along other easements that provide connections to M-NCPPC facilities, sidewalk networks and low-speed neighborhood streets.

Secondary trails will be designed for shared use among pedestrians and bicyclists and will serve both transportation and recreation users. However, many Secondary trails may be built to somewhat lower standards in terms of width, durability and surface materials because they typically serve shorter trips, support smaller user volumes, and do not need to accommodate bicyclists traveling at higher speeds. Generally, Secondary trails need to be ADA compliant, however, due to severe slopes in some areas, some exceptions may be needed. Where appropriate, Secondary trails may also be designed to serve equestrians.

Recreation Trails

Recreational trails are those that are used exclusively for recreation. These include 1) in-park fitness loop trails, 2) shared-use natural surface trails managed for hiking, mountain biking and equestrian use, and 3) natural surface trails that are managed for single- or limited-user groups (see Appendix 1-Map D).

1. Fitness loops are typically one mile or less in length and may be paved, stone dust or natural surface. They are designed primarily for walking, jogging and other exercise activities. They may be designed with fitness stations. Most are located in M-NCPPC parks; however, some may be located in municipal, national or state parks, or on other public lands.
2. Shared-use natural surface trails are typically used for hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use and nature observation. They exist in a variety of settings, including national parklands, state parks and wildlife management areas along the Patuxent River corridor, in M-NCPPC regional parks, and in some stream valley parks.
3. Single-use natural surface trails are designed and/or managed for a single use. Today all-natural

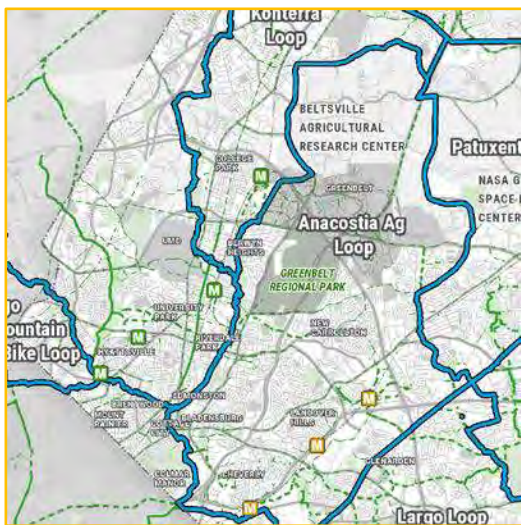
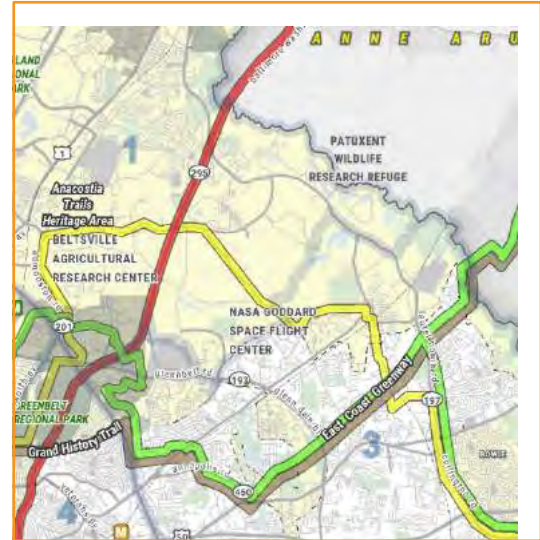
	Existing	Planned/Proposed
	Miles	Miles
Fitness Loop Trails in Parks	41.3	3.3
Existing paved	32.4	
Existing natural surface	8.9	
Linear Trails (Shared: Hiking, Mountain Biking & Equestrian)	38.4	30.5
Existing paved	0.2	
Existing natural surface	38.2	
Total:	79.7	33.8
	113.5	

surface trails in DPR parks are shared use, however, with increased use and the need for sustainability, it is expected that on select trails some uses may need to be restricted.

Trail Overlays

The classification framework is meant to be applied to all physical nonmotorized trails within the county that are open to the public, regardless of their location, owner or managing agency. However, another important way for DPR, other trail managing agencies and the general public to think about trails can be described as “trail overlays.” Trail overlays are essentially biking or hiking routes that are defined by special theme or purpose related to a recreational or educational experience. Trail overlays may use a combination of Primary, Secondary or Recreational trails in the Prince George’s County trail network. They may also be routed on roadways and sidewalks in order to achieve the experience around which the “trail” is organized.

- *Thematic Trails* (see map) are larger in geographic scope than Prince George’s County and are typically conceived of and developed by other organizations. Nonetheless they are routed on existing or planned trail alignments that pass through the county. Examples of these include the East Coast Greenway, the American Discovery Trail and the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.
- *Destination Trails* (see Table 4) are overlays of existing physical trails that offer such a unique and high-quality experience that they attract visitors from within and outside the county. These trails are sufficiently special that people plan intentional outings to bike, hike, run, stroll, birdwatch or ride a horse on these particular facilities. Examples include the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Trail, the Anacostia River Trail and the Rosaryville State Park Trails which attract scores of mountain bicyclists, hikers, and equestrians.



- *Recreational Bicycling Loops* (see map) can be identified as a way to use the trail system for promoting tourism and economic development. Cyclists, cycling organizations and nonprofits that use group rides as fundraisers are a growing constituency that seeks access to day-long recreational bicycle/running outings that can begin and end at one location.

Trail Overlays are discussed in greater detail in Part 3: Plan Elements. Existing thematic trails in the county have been mapped. A list of existing and potential destination trails and recreational bicycling loops have been mapped as well. Along with the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (Maryland Milestones), these trail overlays provide a framework for strategies that can help capture the economic benefits of a well-developed trail

system. The establishment of this system is helpful for DPR, but more importantly, it is recommended that the Planning Department adopt these classifications through an update to the MPOT.

**Table 4
Destination Trails**

Trail Name	Trail Users	Planned/Proposed Extensions
<u>Existing Destination Trails</u>		
Anacostia Tributaries Trail System	Bike & pedestrian	Extend Paint Branch Trail to Konterra, and Indian Creek Trail to Greenbelt
WB&A Rail-Trail	Bike & pedestrian	Extend along MD 704 to DC
Henson Creek Trail	Bike & pedestrian	Extend north to SuitlandBog, and south to Harmony Hall CC/Art Center
Woodrow Wilson Bridge	Bike & pedestrian	
Jug Bay Trails	Hiking & nature observation	
Cosca Regional Park Mountain Bike Trails	Mountain biking	Additional mountain biking loops are planned.
Rosaryville State Park Trails	Hiking, mountain biking, equestrian	
<u>Future Destination Trails</u>		
Piscataway Creek Trail	Bike & pedestrian	
Mattawoman Creek Trail	Hiking, mountain biking, Equestrian	
Chesapeake Beach Rail-Trail	Bike & pedestrian	
Tinkers Creek Trail	Bike & pedestrian	
Linked trails in the Patuxent River Park	Hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, nature observation	

Trail Network Level of Service Targets

Formula 2040 established trail network mileage goals based upon a desired trail level of service. The recommended level-of-service measure is by population: 0.4 miles of hard surface trail and 0.1 miles of natural surface trail per 1,000 population. Prince George’s County’s population is estimated to be one million by 2040 and thus, 400 miles of hard surface trail and 100 miles of natural surface trail are recommended.

Table 5 illustrates what is needed in additional trail mileage to meet 2040 goals. For natural surface trails, the goal of 100 miles is already met by the existing trail network. For hard surface trails an additional 182 miles are needed over a 22-year period.

	Existing		Needed to meet 2040 Goal		In Planned/Proposed Network	
	DPR M-NCPPC	Other	DPR	Other	DPR M-NCPPC	Other
	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Primary trails	46.2	17.3	53.8	40.0	53.8	190.6
Secondary trails (+park rds)	39.1	79.0	27.2	57.6	27.2	352.3
Recreational trails						
Paved loop trails in parks	32.6	3.7	3.2	--	3.2	--
Totals:	117.9	100.9	84.2	97.6	84.2	542.9
2040 Goal for Paved Trails	218.2 Existing + 181.8 Planned = 400					
Recreational trails						
Natural surface trails	47.1	68.0	0.0	0.0	30.5	67.0
Total:	115.1					
2040 Goal for Nat. Surf. Trails	100					

Achieving Formula 2040 Level-of-Service Targets.

Countywide trail level-of-service targets can be met by building out 100 percent of the planned/proposed trails in DPR parklands (84.2 miles), and by building 20 percent of the planned/proposed trails outside of DPR parkland (110.9 miles). While on the face of it, this appears to be a reasonable expectation; however, many of the trails recommended in the MPOT for M-NCPPC/DPR parkland, may be difficult to build due to wetland and other environmental constraints in the stream valleys. For this reason, a larger percentage of the overall trail network may need to be built outside of the park system, such as along major roadways and within new residential and commercial developments. It is recommended that DPR seek opportunities to partner on the development of some of these trails.

Trail Development Project Priorities

The planning effort culminated in a two-part process to develop priorities for investment of DPR Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds in trail development, trail rehabilitation and major management initiatives. To get input from trails users and advocates on trail network investment priorities, a series of meetings and online mapping strategies were used. The second step included a detailed review of the current capital and operating budgets and recent DPR spending history, conducted by the consultant team and DPR staff. This review established recommendations for funding priorities.

Public Input

The final public meeting in the planning process provided an opportunity for the stakeholders to weigh in on potential priorities in the area of trail development, management and maintenance. The following list of strategic priorities indicate the preferences of the people who attended the meeting (in priority order):



- *Building the Network*
 - Develop trails for transportation
 - Fill key gaps and link up disconnected trails
 - Address barriers like highways and waterways
 - Rehabilitate and upgrade old trails
 - Address underserved parts of the county
 - Address safety issues like trail/road crossings
 - Serve recreational uses such as hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking
- *Managing the Network*
 - Provide more trailheads, waysides and restroom facilities and improve signage and wayfinding systems
 - Increase personal security
 - Engage volunteers to support trail maintenance and management

Capital Program Review

The consultant team and staff studied the DPR Capital Improvement Plan, reviewed projects that DPR is currently involved in as a partner or coordinating party, and reviewed recently completed projects. Additional study of the overall DPR capital budget process was conducted during the FY17–18 and FY18–19 funding cycles and greater insight into the prioritization, development and funding process was gained. This additional review also identified that major maintenance expenses such as trail resurfacing and bridge rehabilitation and replacement are funded through the operations budget.

The review of the capital program looked primarily at projects in the M-NCPPC “pipeline” at DPR or in the Planning Department, as well as projects already identified by DPR planners from previous

community planning efforts. These projects were evaluated by project readiness, project type, general level of difficulty, their stage in the development process, and geographic location within the county.

Recommended Priorities

To develop a set of recommended priorities, the outcome from the stakeholder meetings was merged with a review of the Capital Improvement Program. Projects are grouped based on project type and relative size. Within each grouping, projects are categorized in a working priority order. For a detailed table that includes project scope, length, cost estimate and partners see Appendix 1-2; for a map see Appendix 1-Map E.

Priority 1: For multi-phase projects already underway, ensure funding for unforeseen project costs.

- Patuxent River Bridge for the WB&A Trail*⁷
- Little Paint Branch Trail Extension
- College Park Woods Connector Trail
- Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail*

Priority 2: Continue phased development of major trails in the design and development process, and act as a funding partner

- Central Avenue Corridor Trail*
- Bowie Heritage Trail*
- Piscataway Creek Trail—Fort Washington Segment*

Priority 3: Develop a trail management team and address trail lighting and security needs

- Design and implement trail addressing system for coordinated emergency response
- Design and implement Anacostia Tributaries wayfinding signs
- Develop and implement a Trail Lighting Policy
- Develop and deploy a trail ranger corps

Priority 4: Fund natural surface trail rehabilitation and development

- Complete construction of planned trails in Cosca Regional Park
- Implement planned trail upgrades at Jug Bay Natural Area
- Implement planned trail upgrades at Watkins Regional Park
- Connect Cosca Regional Park with Rosaryville State Park
- Develop a natural surface trail plan

Priority 5: Conduct and fund trail safety audits and rehabilitation action plans

- System-wide bridge inspection and repair program
- Anacostia Tributaries Trail system



⁷ The star (*) indicates that DPR is a partner on the project. DPR is the lead agency for unstarred projects.

- Oxon Cove/Oxon Run Trail
- WB&A Trail
- Henson Creek Trail

Priority 6: Address short gaps in the trail system and construct in-park connector paths

- Little Paint Branch Trail Extension at Denim Road*
- Old Calvert Road Park Connector*
- Fairland Regional Park Connector—Phase 2

Priority 7: Revive stuck projects

- Prince George’s Connector Trail/Anacostia Gateway Trail
- Henson Creek Trail Extension

Priority 8: Fund and conduct major feasibility studies of planned/proposed trails

- Piscataway Creek Trail/Potomac to Patuxent Trail
- Oxon Run Trail—Northern Extension
- Folly Branch Trail
- Western Branch Trail
- Chesapeake Beach Rail-Trail

Priority 9: Support non-park trail proposals and studies

- Cheverly to Anacostia Trail*
- WB&A Extension on MD 704*
- Anacostia Tributary Trails System to WB&A Linkage*

Key Actions to Achieve Plan Objectives

The priorities listed above represent a larger capital program effort than has been managed in past years. While DPR has been involved on a few multi-million-dollar trail projects, they tend to have been



spread out over many years. DPR typically does not manage spending multiple millions of dollars per year on a year-in/year-out basis.

To continue moving an increased volume of trail projects forward, a broad range of trail planning, design and construction management activities must be maintained. To do this, DPR will need to focus on five key areas:

1. Spend approximately \$5 to \$7 million per year on trail planning, design and construction.
2. Increase staff support for project management and major maintenance activities, including planning, design, construction management and infrastructure maintenance (i.e., building a division for trail development and management).
3. Continue leveraging additional funding from outside sources: state, local and private.
4. Increase funding for staff and equipment that is dedicated to management and maintenance of trails.
5. Receive stronger support from the Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspection and Enforcement (DPIE) and the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) regarding permitting, and coordinate with ongoing road system management activities, including planning, acquisition of rights-of-way, rehabilitation, funding and maintenance.

Summary of Recommendations

This summary of overall strategic recommendations supplements the spending priorities identified in the previous section. It lists strategies and actions for DPR in its role as the lead county agency engaged in trail development and as the trail planning partner to the M-NCPPC Planning Department. The strategies and actions are organized around six themes, each representing a relatively discrete stage in the trail development process:

Trail Planning and Development

Trail Policy

Trail Management

Trail Maintenance

Trail Programming

Trail Partnerships





Coordinate Trail Planning and Development

Trail planning and development is a joint responsibility shared within M-NCPPC by the Planning Department and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Historically, the departments have worked closely together. Planning typically provides planning support for trail projects that exist *outside* of the DPR park system, and DPR typically plans, funds, designs, constructs and manages trails *within* the park system. Regardless of the context, proposed trails at the planning stage have an agency with the authority to move them forward. However, proposed trails outside of (or unrelated to) the DPR park system do not have a County agency dedicated to move them through final design and into construction, nor maintain them once built.

DPR Planning and Development Actions

To address Formula 2040 goals, DPR needs to build increased capacity for trail planning and development. The following strategies will enable DPR to respond to a variety of park trail needs including upgrading and improving the design of older trails, planning for trails in underserved portions of the county, developing park trails in conjunction with new development, and dealing with sophisticated and challenging environmental regulations.

Strategy 1: Educate and expand DPR staff working on trails.

Actions:

1. Establish an internal trail planning and management staff advisory team.
2. Hire or designate a Trail Program Manager to coordinate implementation of the Strategic Trails Plan.
3. Hire or designate a Natural Surface Trail Manager to plan and coordinate development and management of natural surface trails.
4. Brief DPR staff about the Strategic Trails Plan, its recommendations and implications.
5. Implement a training program for DPR staff related to best practices in trail design and construction management.
6. Expand staffing in the areas of mapping and data management, consultant management, engineering and construction management.

Strategy 2: Maintain trail planning data.

Actions:

1. Complete and maintain the GIS inventory of trail planning data.
2. Transfer GIS data developed in the trail plan to Planning for use in current planning activities and future updates to the Countywide MPOT.
3. Utilize trail usage data gathered by trail counters to inform trail design decisions and funding priorities (see Trail Management strategy C-1d: Strengthen



the trail counting program by upgrading existing counters and strategically placing new counters throughout the trail system.)

Strategy 3: Evaluate new park trail opportunities using the following criteria:

1. Proximity of proposed new trail to unserved and underserved residential populations.
2. Potential for proposed new trail to serve the least well-served park service areas, as defined by Formula 2040.
3. Potential for proposed new trails to provide connectivity to a priority DPR park or recreation facility.
4. Environmental challenges including wetlands, special habitats, floodplains, forest conservation, steep slopes, need to acquire additional parkland, etc.



Strategy 4: Undertake targeted trail planning and feasibility studies.

Actions:

1. Prioritize study of stream valleys in underserved communities for development of paved shared-use paths.
2. Prioritize trail connectivity needs related to DPR facilities.
3. Plan Primary, Secondary and Recreational trails as part of regional park master plans.
4. Develop a recreational trails management and development plan.

Strategy 5: Act as a clearinghouse for trail issues and inquiries.

Actions:

Serve as the first point of contact for all trail issues in the county.

Role of the Planning Department

The Prince George's County Planning Department is the lead agency with regard to trail planning issues related to transportation (MPOT and sector plan updates) and development review. In recent years, PGP has worked closely together with DPR to ensure integration of all trails (park and otherwise) into a cohesive and connected network.

Strategy 1: Update the *Master Plan of Transportation* and formal facility design standards for trails.

1. Facilitate M-NCPPC Planning Board adoption of an amendment to the Trails Component of the MPOT with the updated existing and planned trails network developed in this strategic planning process.
2. Facilitate M-NCPPC Planning Board adoption of the new trail classification system and design standards for application to all shared-use paths built in the county.

Strategy 2: Coordinate plan implementation with the Planning Department and ongoing planning activities such as master plans and sector plans.

DPR Actions:

1. Inform Planning staff about the Strategic Trails Plan's new trail classifications, design standards and approaches to trail development.
2. Coordinate planned/proposed trails in the GIS data set with sector and community planning activities undertaken by Planning.
3. Communicate and coordinate Strategic Trails Plan components with neighboring jurisdictions in the region and Maryland.
4. Utilize the land-use planning and development approval process to advance development of the trail network.
5. Set policy, goals and priorities related to the countywide trail development issues identified in this planning process, including the following:
 - a. Trail proximity for residential populations
 - b. Trail connectivity to development and activity centers
 - c. Addressing barriers of the built environment
 - d. Filling gaps in the trail network
 - e. Connectivity to neighboring jurisdiction trail networks
 - f. Use of highway, railroad and utility corridors

Role of DPR with Other Agencies, the Public and Private Sector Partners

DPR can provide leadership in the trail planning, design and coordination process and facilitate robust public participation.

Strategy 1: Inform and engage partner agencies that are essential for effective trail development.

Actions:

1. Brief key agency partners about the Strategic Trails Plan's new approaches to trail development in Prince George's County.
2. Coordinate planned/proposed trails with partner park departments including the Montgomery County Department of Parks (M-NCPPC), other surrounding county park departments, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the National Park Service.
3. Coordinate trail/roadway crossing upgrades with WMATA, Amtrak, CSX, SHA and DPW&T, including at-grade crossings, grade separated crossings, railroad crossings, and crossings of the Beltway and other limited access highways.



4. Develop a template Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) allowing M-NCPPC to design, construct and maintain trails located on county ROW.
5. Cooperate with DPW&T regarding the development of a bike-share system in the county and coordinate use of DPR property for the siting of bike-share stations.
6. Coordinate with WSSC to determine how trails can be established with sewer line repair and replacement work.
7. Coordinate with PEPCO/Exelon and other utilities to utilize their utility ROW and construction projects to develop the trail network.
8. Coordinate with the Army Corps of Engineers and DPW&T regarding trail development and upgrades related to the levee system and floodways.
9. Coordinate trail development on Capper Cramton lands with the National Capital Planning Commission.



Strategy 2: In conjunction with the Planning Department, provide trail development guidance to developers.

Actions:

1. Implement a trail design and development training program for private sector partners.
2. Use the development review process to ensure that revitalized suburban commercial centers and new development around transit stations are connected to the trail network.



Strategy 3: In conjunction with the Planning Department, represent the County with regional and national organizations promoting trail development.

Actions:

1. Coordinate trail development and management issues related to national and regional thematic trails that pass through Prince George's County.
2. Represent the County in the Capital Trails Coalition.





Adopt New Policies to Improve Trail Implementation

To provide a solid foundation for future trail development, it is recommended that M-NCPPC and the DPR Director formally adopt a policy framework to guide trail development activities on DPR lands. Clear policies will ensure equitable development of trails geographically, and support DPR's and Planning's efforts to forge strong partnerships with County and State agencies as well as local communities, municipalities and trail user/advocacy groups.

Strategy 1: Adopt new policies at DPR to guide the trail development process.

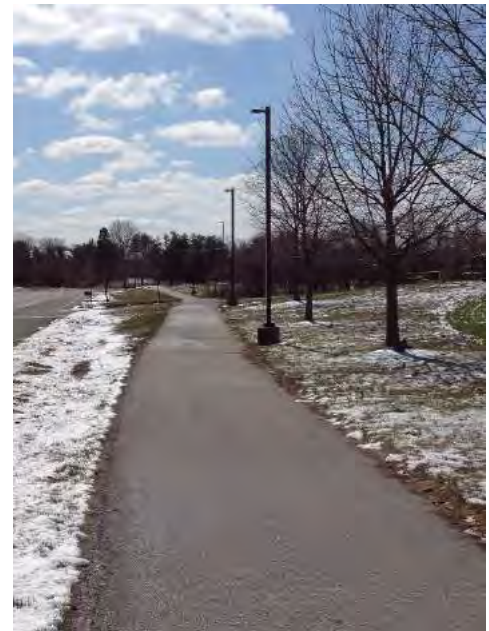
Actions:

- a. Adopt the new trail classification system for trails in the M-NCPPC park system.
- b. Adopt trail design guidelines and standards for the Primary and Secondary trail network in the M-NCPPC park system. (See Strategic Trails Plan Part 3: Plan Elements for details.)
- c. Establish a baseline for annual trail development spending and develop a prioritization process for programming DPR capital funds for development of new trails and rehabilitation of old and substandard trails.
- d. Establish a citizen-based DPR trail advisory committee to provide structured input on trail policy, development, management and maintenance.
- e. Adopt a Trail Lighting Policy, including lighting standards and guidelines.
- f. Develop and adopt other policies as may be needed to ensure equitable management and maintenance of the park trail system.

Strategy 2: Seek changes in County and State regulatory processes to reduce trail development costs and lessen the time it takes to move a trail project from planning to construction.

Actions:

- a. Streamline the permitting process at the policy and executive level.
- b. Address environmental regulations (County and State) that evaluate paved trails using the same environmental impact standards as streets, roads and highways.





Manage the Park Trail Network Effectively

In the past, DPR attention was primarily focused on trail development (planning—construction). Maintenance and operations of trails was simply part of maintenance and operation of parks in general. However, it is clear today that there is a need to communicate regularly and directly with users, ensure that safety matters are addressed in a timely manner, deal with public safety matters, and ensure that emergency response agencies know how to find trail users that call 911 for assistance.

Additionally, management tasks include working with constituent groups and DPR divisions to upgrade the network with signage, lighting and other amenities, and manage the impacts to the trail system that result from the work of infrastructure agencies and developers. The impacts to the trail system are significant because the volume of infrastructure and development activity is large, and the projects are frequently proximate to the trail system; activities include major upgrades to roads, transit systems, levees, water and sewer systems, as well as retrofits to stormwater facilities, in-fill development and public facility relocations.

Managing safety and access along the trail system is a daily activity and largely a separate function from managing safety and access to the park system through which the trails pass. As such, it needs a policy framework and newly focused attention on its unique needs. Park police and the park rangers will play a key role in developing and implementing this policy.

Improve Trail User Experience

Strategy 1: Upgrade trail infrastructure to enhance the user experience, especially along trails in urbanizing sections of the county.

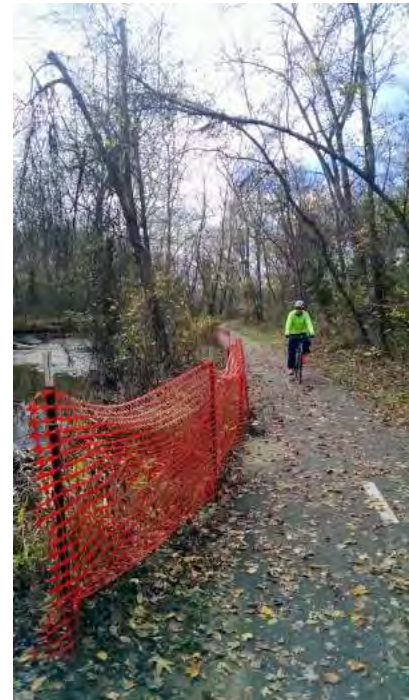
Actions:

- a. Improve the transportation function of Primary trails.
- b. Improve wayfinding on the network of Primary trails.

Strategy 2: Provide a higher grade of operational services for trail users, trail neighbors and trail partners, employing best practices used by other trail managing agencies

Actions:

- a. Establish a trail management point person in each Area Operations office and in each Park Police district.
- b. Provide a trail ranger program dedicated to the Anacostia Tributaries Trail System.
- c. Inform trail users and partner agencies and organizations about time-sensitive trail operations and management issues such as bridge closures and construction detours.



- d. Continue to manage issues arising from trails built and managed by developers, commercial property owners and homeowner’s associations (HOAs).

Increase Safety and Security

Strategy 1: Improve communication and coordination related to public safety and security.

Actions:

- a. Develop a trail address system to facilitate timely and efficient emergency response and implement it countywide.
- b. Conduct safety audits of the Anacostia Tributaries Trail System, the WB&A Trail and the Henson Creek Trail and develop remediation plans.
- c. Implement lighting, camera installation, patrol adjustments and other measures where appropriate to address public safety issues in particular areas.
- d. Compile and share crime, emergency response and user crash/incident data.



Establish Management Policies and Practices to Sustain Trail Infrastructure

Strategy 1: Develop systematic approaches for ongoing management of trail infrastructure.

Actions:

- a. Use the Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) system for data gathering, inspections and reporting of information related to trail management and maintenance.
- b. Continue the trail bridge inspection, rehabilitation and replacement initiative and develop an annual budgeting strategy based upon the results from the system-wide inspection.
- c. Separate the trail resurfacing budget from the general (M&D) asphalt resurfacing budget and establish a trail-specific needs assessment criteria and annual minimum level of investment.
- d. Strengthen the trail counting program by upgrading existing counters and strategically placing new counters throughout the system.
- e. Conduct periodic economic impact analysis using trail count data as a basis.



Maintain the Park Trail Network

Much of the park trail system follows stream valleys which are adversely affected by floods, changes in channel alignments, stormwater runoff, invasive species and stresses on forest stands due to urbanization and fragmentation. Much of the system was built in the 1990s or before and is now 20–30+ years old. These challenges, plus the steady increase of miles added to the system, make trail maintenance a challenge. To maintain trails to a standard commensurate with the agency’s national awards, expectations need to be raised, communications and coordination need to be improved, additional staff and equipment resources are needed, and volunteer/community contributions should be increased as well.

Strategy 1: Address a backlog of maintenance needs.

Actions:

- a. Continue resurfacing older sections of trail and sections with tree root upheaval.
- b. Address safety audit findings that can be categorized as routine maintenance.
- c. Initiate an invasive species removal campaign and reforestation efforts to reclaim and rebuild what remains of the riparian woodlands along stream valley trails.



Strategy 2: Establish a comprehensive trail maintenance program.

Actions:

- a. Establish a trail maintenance team leader in each of the three Area Operations offices, as well as in M&D and NHRD (Park Rangers).
- b. Determine if and how maintenance staff should be organized and deployed to make trail maintenance more efficient and effective.
- c. Determine what types of maintenance and communication equipment is needed for trail maintenance staff.
- d. Establish coordination and communication routines involving NHRD rangers, Area Maintenance staff, M&D specialists, police, trail planning and management staff and outside agencies (SHA and DPW&T).
- e. Establish and implement a trail operations and maintenance staff training program.
- f. Continue and increase activities in the Adopt-a-Trail Program.
- g. Develop a post-high school youth employment and job training program focused on trail maintenance.





Activate the Trail Network

The 300 Club, a walking club for seniors, is one of the most successful trail activation programs initiated by DPR programming staff. More programs like this should be initiated for

families, youth, and those with mental and physical disabilities served by DPR programs. Increasingly DPR trails are being used for fun runs, Washington Area Bicyclists Association (WABA) rides, and similar fitness and fundraising efforts. These programs demonstrate that trails can have an important economic impact for small businesses and nonprofit organizations that share DPR's health, fitness and environmental goals.

DPR trail map/brochures are gold standard, however, the website can be improved to provide more in-depth information, timely updates, and interactive maps. An upgraded website and continued updating of trail map/brochures will form a solid foundation for additional marketing initiatives targeted at the regional tourism and recreation market.



Strategy 1: Improve trail marketing.

Actions:

- a. Brand and promote the 35+ in-park fitness loop trails.
- b. Upgrade and expand trail information on the Prince George's County Parks website; keep it current as new trail segments are opened.
- c. Update trail brochures and maps on a regular basis.
- d. Use social media, the seasonal course catalog, and other communication channels to promote and market DPR trails.
- e. Tailor and target trail marketing to recent immigrants, ethnic groups, and other cultural subsets of Prince George's County's population.
- f. Pursue direct marketing of Prince George's County trails for local and regional tourism, especially in Northern Virginia where bicycling is very popular.

Strategy 2: Add educational and training offerings related to trail activities.

Actions:

- a. Offer child and adult bicycle safety courses.
- b. Offer bicycle commuting and lifestyle courses and workshops.

Strategy 3: Use trails as a venue that supports other DPR programs and program objectives.

Actions:

- a. Establish a trails point person in each of the programming and support divisions of DPR.
- b. Use trails as a venue for providing health and fitness and environmental education programs for people with disabilities.
- c. Ensure that the Park Rx initiative effectively references DPR and other trails as health resources to be prescribed by local health providers.
- d. Use trails as a venue for *No Child Left Inside* program initiatives; this effort focuses on ensuring that all children have opportunities to play outside and develop a positive relationship with nature.
- e. Continue to use trails as a venue for environmental education and teaching Prince George's County and Maryland history, especially focusing on African-American history, farming, and themes related to the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area.
- f. Continue successful trail-based programming, including the 300 Club, Passport to Family Wellness, Fitness in the Parks, Walk with Ease, etc.





Create Trail Partnerships

Trail development and managing agencies around the nation have developed new funding streams and broadened their base of support by creating strong partnerships with the private sector. This includes nonprofit organizations, major corporations, health care institutions, small businesses, the tourism and hospitality industry and business support groups such as Chambers of Commerce. DPR and the Park Foundation should develop initiatives that can be pitched to the private sector as activities that support mutual goals.

Strategy 1: Grow the community of constituencies that are active supporters of trails in Prince George's County and create local economic impact.

Actions:

- a. Partner with the many trail-user organizations based in the county and the region, to sponsor and promote on-trail activities, including the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (Maryland Milestones), Washington Area Bicyclists Association, Anacostia Watershed Society, Black Women Bike, parkrun, the Capital Trails Coalition, TROT and others.



Strategy 2: Develop formal partnerships with municipalities within the county and education institutions, including Prince George's County Public Schools, colleges and universities.

Strategy 3: Develop formal partnerships with private sector organizations, including the business community, and health care and tourism industries.

Actions:

- a. Establish and grow partnerships with the fitness, wellness and health care industry.
- b. Establish and grow partnerships with the business community.
- c. Develop a corporate partnership program to leverage additional trail funding from the private sector.



Conclusion

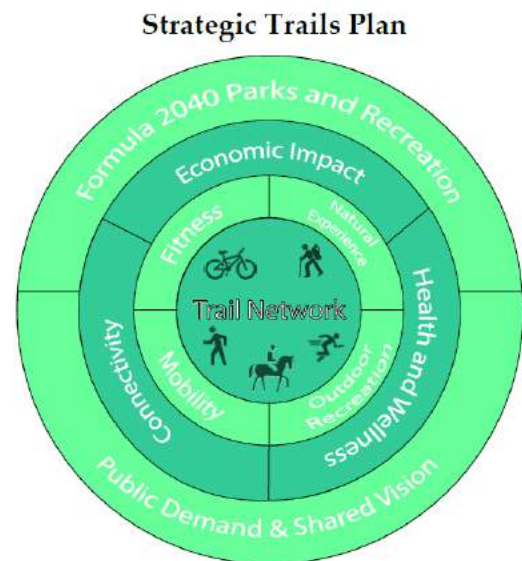
Prince George’s County has one of the largest and well-connected trail systems in the Washington metropolitan region. The Anacostia Tributaries Trail System now rivals the Washington & Old Dominion Trail and its connected trails in Northern Virginia.

In Prince George’s County, the challenges to trail development are similar in some ways to that of other Washington area jurisdictions and unique in others. Like Fairfax, Montgomery and Loudoun counties, Prince George’s County is largely suburban, making trails key as attractive bicycling and walking alternatives to large arterial roadways. However, these large roadways and other infrastructure divide the county into odd wedges and enclaves and crossing them is both critical to a functional system and costly.

Prince George’s County has two unique challenges that are not manifest in the same way in other parts of the region. First, it has strict and progressive stormwater treatment regulations. It is geographically located in the coastal plain and has wide stream valley floodplains where much of the parkland is located. This makes building trails and mitigating stormwater runoff a tremendous design challenge. Another unique challenge is the lack of a strong local transportation agency partner. DPW&T is still in the early stages of addressing multi-modal transportation and is just beginning to move beyond the 20th-century perspective about the importance of bicycling and walking in the mix of transportation options that urbanizing communities need to successfully compete in today’s economy.

Within DPR there is a need to continue building a strong trails culture. A culture where more DPR employees use the park trails and understand personally why surveyed residents say they are tops among important and needed recreation facilities. A culture where staff intuitively knows what makes a great trail and what they can do to support the trail network. A trails culture that wants every Prince Georgian to experience the outdoors, our outdoors, and enjoy the simple freedoms of walking, hiking, running, biking or horseback riding.

Finally, this culture needs to be contagious amongst residents. It needs to find and express its common cause with many other aspects of Prince George’s life, including physical health and fitness, mental health, history, tourism, economic development, strong neighborhoods and municipalities, environmental protection and conservation, youth development, sustainability and combating climate change, all the things that trails do. With such a culture, Prince George’s County will continue to lead this metropolitan region as it forges a new connection among all its communities and citizens.



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