



FREDERICK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
April 12, 2017

TITLE: Draft Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

FILE NUMBER:

REQUEST: Review for comment and recommendation to the County Council

STAFF: Jim Gugel, Planning Director

RECOMMENDATION: approval

Enclosures:

Staff memo
Draft Plan document
Map



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING Department of Planning

Steven C. Horn, Division Director
Jim Gugel, Director

TO Frederick County Planning Commission
FROM Jim Gugel, Planning Director
RE Draft Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan
DATE March 31, 2017

ISSUE

The Draft Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) is presented to the Planning Commission for review and comment and to provide a recommendation to the County Council.

BACKGROUND

The LPPRP is a state mandated plan and is required to be updated every five (5) years. Frederick County's previous plan was approved in 2012. All of the jurisdictions in the state are on the same update cycle since the state then prepares a statewide version of the LPPRP, which was last prepared in 2014. This plan is required in order for a jurisdiction to maintain eligibility for Program Open Space (POS) funding.

Update/Review Process

A Draft Plan was submitted to the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for review and comment. Following the receipt of comments from DNR this Final Draft Plan has been prepared for review and approval by the County. The Final Draft Plan will also be presented to the County Parks and Recreation Commission. Following the Planning Commission review in April it will be presented to the County Council for approval. The approved plan must be submitted to the state by July 1, 2017.

Plan Components

The Plan includes the same components as in prior plans. All of the components have been updated with the goals, policies, and action items from the 2010 County Comprehensive Plan. The Draft includes the following components:

- **Introduction** – updated with current population projections and references to the 2010 County Comprehensive Plan.
- **Parks and Recreation** – updated with current parkland inventory data and information on specific park facilities. The evaluation of parkland resources has been changed from using an acreage threshold per 1,000 population to allowing the use of one of two methodologies: proximity analysis or park equity analysis. This Plan uses the proximity analysis, which applies a 5-mile service radius around all of the regional parks to see if there are gaps in parts of the county that don't have close access to a regional park. This analysis does illustrate a gap in the northern part of the county. This gap is being

This is addressed through a planned park symbol on the Comprehensive Plan. This is also the top acquisition priority in the County's Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The appendix includes an updated inventory of all federal, state, county, and municipal parkland.

- **Agricultural Land Preservation** – updated with current information on preservation easement activity.
- **Natural Resource Land Conservation** – provides description of natural resource lands and conservation strategies. Provides a focus on land preservation programs that are oriented to natural resource protection instead of agricultural preservation.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission forward a recommendation of approval of the Draft Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan to the County Council.

Attachments

Final Draft Plan document
LPPRP map