

Parks and Recreation

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Overview

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation ~~Element~~Chapter is to connect Frederick's land use planning process and the City's ~~planning for development of~~ parks and recreational facilities. This ~~element~~chapter identifies several areas ~~of where coordination between land use and recreation-related policies are necessary:~~

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- ~~Analyzing demographic trends to determine the amount, types and location of parks to serve future populations;~~
- ~~Providing safe access to parks with sidewalks, shared-use paths and bicycle routes;~~
- ~~Identifying opportunities, such as: for acquiring appropriate and usable parks for future populations;~~
- ~~The need~~Generating income, for a long-range parks plan to identify through fee in lieu of parkland dedication and prioritize opportunities for additional parks impact fees; and active recreation facilities.
- ~~The opportunity to dedicate and develop new park facilities.~~
- ~~The opportunity to improve the distribution of neighborhood parks.~~
- ~~The~~Coordinating the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and Parks and Recreation Master Plan to change policies, City of Frederick Code and the Land Management Code.

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The City has ~~6473~~ public parks, totaling ~~440800~~ acres, with an average size of ~~811~~ acres. Frederick's parks fall into three categories, as defined by equating to approximately 11.1 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, thereby exceeding the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA): neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and special facilities. These definitions are based on park size, function and service area of the parks and are noted further in Table 1. ~~[Insert Table 1 NRPA Parkland Classification and Standards Table]~~

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The City has about eight acres of park land per 1,000 residents, slightly less than the guidelines of 10 acres per 1,000 residents recommended by the NRPA. To attain this recommended standard, approximately . The projected population in the year 2040 is 93,100 additional requiring at least 931 acres of parkland to will be needed to comfortably serve the existing population residents. As the City reaches its year 2030 projected population prepares for future growth, approximately 500131 additional acres of parkland will be needed, in the next 20 years.

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Beyond the City boundaries, Frederick is located close to a number of several County, state and national parks, including Gambrill State Park, Cunningham Falls State Park, Pinecliff Park, Shookstown Park, Braddock Heights Park, Ballenger Creek Park, Catoclin Mountain Park, and Monocacy National Battlefield. These regional resources provide

additional recreational opportunities for City residents. Although not maintained by the Parks and Recreational Department, the Frederick Watershed also serves as a regional recreational amenity.

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In general, the existing community parks are well distributed throughout the City; particularly in the City's older, established neighborhoods. Map PR-1 shows the existing park service areas. However, newer neighborhoods could benefit from an improved distribution of parks. For a more in-depth analysis of the City's parks and recreation facilities, see the Park's Inventory Manual. The recent acquisition of the Harrget Farm for a regional park will assist in improving the parks service area. an inventory of the parks will be provided as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
Insert Map PR-1

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West Side Regional Park-Element

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In 2008, the City purchased a 148-acre parcel of open space on its southwestern border with the intent of creating its first regional park. The property contains an historic farm complex and great views toward the Catocin Mountains. It is surrounded by an increasingly dense urban environment and bounded on the south by I-70.

In 2012, an agreement was reached with the Frederick County Board of Education to transfer a 12-acre portion of the site for the new Butterfly Ridge Elementary School and provide for an access right of way. The remaining 130 acres of the land underwent further planning in 2014 in the form of an in-house concept plan with opportunity for public comment, all while interim uses were occurring (leasing portions for commercial agricultural use and community gardens).

In late 2015, consultant services were requested for a detailed feasibility study for a regional park and G.E. Fielder & Associates was selected to do this work. In 2016, they presented their findings, including a park master plan with an estimated cost for completion. In January 2017, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen officially adopted the Westside Regional Park Plan under Resolution 17-01.

The Westside Regional Park Plan has several distinct major attractions in separate areas;

1. Farmstead Complex and Open Space
2. Natatorium
3. Multipurpose Fields
4. Maintenance Yard

Important ancillary uses include accessible walking/biking trails and significant forest conservation areas.

In 2018, the City entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the nonprofit Sophie and Madigan's Playground, LLC to construct a destination playground in memory of Sophie and Madigan Lillard. It is anticipated that the park will be constructed by the end of 2020.

[Insert Master Plan Concept]

Park and Recreation Master Plan

The City is currently seeking a qualified consultant to prepare a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The goal of the project is to develop a community supported plan that provides guidance for future development and redevelopment of the City's parks, recreation programming, and facilities. The master plan will guide policy development, delivery of City services, prioritize demand and opportunities and generate a strategic action plan. It will support expansion opportunities through a need's assessment using population growth and public demand. In addition, the plan will seek to incorporate energy efficiency and other sustainability strategies, opportunities to collaborate with other entities, accessibility issues, and capital repairs and replacements.

This chapter is not intended to replace the Parks and Recreation Master Plan; rather, it provides a forum for coordinating park and open space polices across multiple City departments.

It is important to note that the goals and policies of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan are intended to support the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Park and Recreation Policies

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PR Policy 1

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~~Continue to identify opportunities for additional parks~~ **Adopt a Parks and open space.**

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Implementation

1. ~~Analyze development applications~~ **Recreation Master Plan to provide land suitable for open space uses that are a framework for consistent with:**
 - a. ~~the policies~~ **planning, acquisition, development and administration of the environmental element; parks and**
 - b. ~~current and future approved planning documents.~~

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2. ~~Increase the amount of active open space and public~~ **recreation amenities** ~~consistent with state and national standards.~~ **resources, programs and facilities.**

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1. Conduct outreach through interactive surveys to determine the community's demands and desires for facilities and programs.

2. Use demographic trends to forecast the amount, types and location of parks.

- a. Develop Establish a minimum standard of 10 acres of combined neighborhood and community parkland per 1,000 residents.
- 3. Implement criteria for acquiring and providing recreational opportunities to serve the National Recreation and Park Association (existing and future populations).

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- b.a. Continue to meet or exceed the NRPA classification guidelines and standards to provide a minimum of 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

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- b. Identify and prioritize future passive and active recreational needs of underserved portions of the City.

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- c. Review development applications to determine if the application provides suitable land to further the goals of the Master Plan.

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- d. Create a park inventory database to guide decisions related to future acquisition of parkland.

- 4. Examine the current fee structure for payments made in lieu of parkland dedication and the Park Facilities Development Impact Fee to determine if adjustments are necessary to meet acquisition and programming needs.

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- 5. Ensure maintenance and improvements of existing parks while expanding recreational facilities and programs for the community.

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- a. Allow for protection and regeneration of environmentally sensitive areas while providing educational opportunities to teach users on the value of these ecosystems.

- b. Encourage volunteerism in the maintenance of parks and recreational facilities including promotion of the "Friends of the Park" program.

- c. Establish an "adopt-a-stream" program to help protect and enhance the stream valley system.

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- 6. Establish and maintain a monitoring system that measures progress towards achieving the goals of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

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PR Policy 2.

Expand the City's green corridors and trail network to improve pedestrian and bicycle access to parks and regional trails.

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Implementation

- 1. Improve access from neighborhood and commercial areas to recreational facilities for all users.

2. Require the construction of ~~multishared~~-use paths consistent with the Transportation ~~Element of the Comprehensive Plan~~Chapter and the adopted Shared Use Path ~~Plan~~.
3. Work with TRANSIT to enhance bus connections to all community and regional parks.
4. ~~Work~~Collaborate with ~~Allegheny Power~~utility companies and Home Owner Associations (HOA's) to use easement space for bike paths where appropriate.

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PR Policy 3.

~~Develop~~ **Greenway Corridors**

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Implementation

1. ~~Implement applicable policies of the Shared Use Path Plan by and develop a list of remaining priorities and segments. [Insert E symbol here]~~
2. ~~Implement the open space strategies of the Environmental Element and the relevant policies for multi-use paths of the Transportation Element. [Insert E symbol here]~~

~~1.~~ **PR Policy 4.**

~~Ensure~~ **a balanced and adequate distribution of active recreation facilities throughout Frederick.**

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Implementation

1. ~~Seek contributions of land and recreational facilities from developers.~~
2. ~~Create a park inventory database in order to develop a programmed acquisition of additional parkland.~~

PR Policy 5.

Expand recreation center facilities and programs to accommodate growth.

Implementation

- 1.a. ~~Identify and prioritize future passive and active recreational needs of underserved portions of the City.~~

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~~3. Encourage volunteerism in the maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. An example of such a volunteer effort is the Promote the “Friends of the Park” program.~~

~~4. Establish an “adopt a stream” program to help protect and enhance the stream valley system. [Insert E symbol here] [Insert Adopt a stream bumpout]~~

~~5. Enable interactive surveys of park users and allow user comments on a parcel specific basis, using the City of Frederick’s Spires GIS system.~~

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PR Policy 6.

Expand the maintenance improvement plan for park and recreation facilities.

Implementation

~~1. Create management plans to support and maintain natural areas through environmental education to teach and educate users on the value of these natural areas. [Insert E symbol here]~~

~~2. Promote sustainable recreational activities that meet the policies of the Environmental Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Some examples include: [Insert E symbol here]~~

~~a. Treating landscapes as interdependent and interconnected spaces that share systems of soil, water, vegetation, and topography.~~

~~b. Preserve natural landscapes and protecting sensitive wildlife habitats.~~

PR Policy 7.

Establish a master plan for the park system.

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PR Policy 8.

Promote the appreciation of Frederick’s historic and cultural heritage in park system planning and design.

Implementation

1. Incorporate local history and heritage by incorporating significant historic resources into the design of parks and in park elements through signage interpretative signs and public art.

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2. Promote performing arts and cultural festivals in park facilities.

3. ~~incorporate~~ significant historic resources ~~exist on proposed park land,~~ ~~incorporate their preservation,~~ into ~~park development~~ the design of parks.

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PR Policy 9

Collaborate with Frederick County and other agencies to enhance parks and recreational facilities for the City's residents.

Implementation

1. Continue to work with the Board of Education on issues such as the development of joint use facility agreements to provide for shared use of school facilities for public recreational programs.
2. Establish partnerships with public, private, and non-profit organizations to enhance the variety, quality, and accessibility of recreation programming and facilities available to the City of Frederick residents.
3. Encourage Frederick County to provide additional resources for the enhancement and maintenance of the City park system.

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PR Policy 10

~~Establish and maintain a monitoring system that measures progress~~ **toward achieving the goals of the Parks and Recreation element.**

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Implementation

1. ~~Design and implement a parks and recreation monitoring system based on measurable results directly related to the policies of the Parks and Recreation Element.~~

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