

COUNTY of FREDERICK

Parks and Recreation Department

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MEMO

To: Brenda G. Garton, County Administrator
From: Jason L. Robertson, Director, Parks & Recreation Dept.
Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission Action
Date: April 13, 2016

The Parks and Recreation Commission met on April 12, 2016. Members present were: Randy Carter, Blaine Dunn, Christopher Fordney, Natalie Gerometta, Ronald Madagan, and Charles Sandy, Jr. Members absent were: Kevin Anderson, Patrick Anderson and Gary Longerbeam

Items Requiring Board of Supervisors Action:

None

Submitted for Board Information Only:

1. 2035 Comprehensive Plan Update – Mr. Sandy moved the Parks and Recreation Commission endorse the proposed Parks and Recreation component section of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan as submitted, second by Mr. Madagan, motion carried unanimously (5-0). Please find attached copy of the proposed Parks and Recreation component section of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan. The update will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisor's for their review.
2. Sherando Park North Master Plan - Mr. Madagan moved to accept the Sherando Park Master Plan concept maps for public input with the amended changes to move the Bike Pump Track to the northwest section in lieu of the open field, and move the Adult Fitness Course from area 1 to the playground area, second by Mr. Sandy, motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Attachments (1)

cc: Gary Longerbeam, Chairman
Blaine Dunn, Board of Supervisor Liaison

FREDERICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

"The Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department strives to enhance the quality of life through recreational opportunities and programs, parks, and facilities for the community and to protect resources for future generations." (Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department Mission Statement). Parks and other public places can provide focal points for walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods that are vibrant and community centered. Focusing development around walkable centers allows people to work, go to school, live, shop, and play in locations that are near each other.

As discussed in the Introduction to the Public Facilities section of the Comprehensive Policy Plan, through use of the principles of Neighborhood Design, provisions for new community facilities including parks, greenways, and other recreational facilities, can create opportunities to improve the quality of the community.

The location of public facilities and infrastructure and well planned provisions for public spaces, recreational areas, and open spaces are essential. Parks should be carefully planned to respect and take advantage of natural and historic resources as well as to enhance the natural, scenic, and cultural value of the Urban Areas of the County.

It is also important to promote the importance of small playgrounds and open spaces being near every dwelling. Accordingly, parks and recreation facilities are a critical component of developed residential communities.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Facilities

There are five classifications of parks including Mini, Neighborhood, Community, District Parks and Greenways. The classification depends on the size, service area, purpose, character, and location. The County currently owns and operates two district and two neighborhood parks. Additionally, two community parks are planned for the near future; one being created through a partnership with the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley at the historic Rose Hill location (opening 2016), and the other adjacent to the Snowden Bridge development where the County has taken possession of 25 acres of land for a future community park.

The two district parks currently serve the County's population with active and passive recreational programs and facilities. Clearbrook Park, located five miles north of Winchester on Route 11, consisting of approximately 55 acres (44 which are owned by the County) and Sherando Park, located two miles east of Stephens City on Route 277, consisting of approximately 334 acres. Two neighborhood parks include space at the Reynolds Store Fire Company, and the Frederick Heights subdivision near Senseny Road. These neighborhood parks consist primarily of playground equipment for young children.

Master development plans were adopted for both Clearbrook and Sherando Parks which establish development goals for each park, identify unmet recreational needs, provide unified facility plans, and propose a development program for each park. The Master Plans for these parks reflect the

thousands of acres of publically accessible land is provided by Federal, State, school system and non-profit entities within the borders of Frederick County, and adjoining jurisdictions allow the use of their facilities for Frederick County residents. In combination these publically accessible lands provide an outline of current conditions from which remaining needs are determined.

The Frederick County Parks and Recreation Community Survey provides insight into the park needs as determined by Frederick County residents. Survey results show Small Parks, Natural Areas, and Large Parks identified in the top 5 of desired facilities indicating a need for adding these facilities. Meeting the park land need will likely continue to be accomplished through the efforts of multiple private and government entities. Recognizing the capabilities and limits of potential partners will allow Frederick County to focus its efforts on ensuring citizen needs are met.

A map illustrating current parks, publically accessible land and potential park locations is included within Appendix II of this Plan.

PARTNERSHIPS:

Frederick County Parks and Recreation has a long history of utilizing partnerships to provide recreation and leisure activities. The Rose Hill Park project is one example of a partnership serving to address parkland needs. Another is the cooperative use agreement between Parks and Recreation and the Frederick County Public School system. Recognizing the wide variety of publically accessible land provides a comprehensive portrayal of partners addressing publically accessible recreation land. Growing existing or creating new partnerships to increase access for Frederick County residents will serve to advance the mission of the Parks and Recreation Department.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS




The Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department is building a sense of community through people, parks, and recreational opportunities benefitting all residents. Parks and recreation activities stimulate economic activity and property values are increased by proximity to parks and through the added quality of life and sense of community. Families and organizations alike look to Frederick County Parks and Recreation to meet their leisure needs. Approximately 1.5 million recreational contact hours for youth, senior, and family programs are provided through programs offered by or facilitated through Frederick County Parks and Recreation with nearly two-thirds of Frederick County households reporting they use Parks and Recreation services and facilities in the past year. Nearly ½ million visits are counted at the two District Parks on an annual basis.

POLICIES /IMPLEMENTATION










POLICY: CONTRIBUTE TO THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND CULTURAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY; ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING, AND ITS SENSE OF CIVIC PRIDE AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTEGRATED PLAN FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS AND PARK FACILITIES.

IMPLEMENTATION

Existing County Parks

-  District Park
-  Community Park
-  Neighborhood Park

Publically Accessible Land

-  Federal
-  State
-  Battlefield
-  Non-Profit
-  Local Park
-  Tuscarora Trail
-  School
-  Public Boat Launch
-  Urban Development Area

Proposed Parks

-  District
-  Community
-  Neighborhood
-  Abrams Creek Trail

Potential New County Park Locations

