

FREDERICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

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, one community and two neighborhood parks. Additionally, one community park is planned adjacent to the Snowden Bridge development where the County has taken possession of 25 acres of land.

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. Rose Hill Park, a public park located 1/3 mile south of the intersection of Cedar Creek Grade and Jones Road, offers visitors the opportunity to enjoy the historic and scenic features of the museum of the Shenandoah Valley's Rose Hill Farm. 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 goals for each park, identify unmet recreational needs, provide unified facility plans, and propose a development program for each park.

FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE

In order to meet the future service demands on the County's two district parks, the Parks and Recreation Department intends to continue implementing the improvements adopted on the Master Plans and in the Department Strategic Plan. Additionally, in support of Neighborhood Design, new parks and usable open spaces should be located within the UDA, near or at the center of Neighborhood Villages and Urban Centers or in Rural Community Centers in the Rural Area to help create more walkable, livable communities. The construction of additional trails throughout the Community is also important. Additional trails would provide residents with the ability to travel safely from their homes to schools, stores, and work or recreation areas without having to share roadways with vehicle traffic.

Frederick County is fortunate to have multiple entities providing publicly accessible land citizens can use for recreation and leisure purposes. Frederick County currently manages 431 acres of park land with almost half of those acres yet to be developed for active and passive recreation purposes. Additionally thousands of acres of publically accessible land is provided by Federal, State, school system and non-profit entities within the borders of Frederick

PUBLIC FACILITIES

County, and adjoining jurisdictions allow the use of their facilities for County residents. In combination these publically accessible lands provide an outline of current conditions from which remaining needs are determined.

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.

GOALS/STRATEGIES

GOAL: 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.

STRATEGIES:

- Maintain a County-wide recreation plan which identifies recreational, park, trail, bikeway and open space needs.
- Identify recreation needs associated with the Rural Community Centers.
- Continue to utilize State and Federal grants and loans for financing and programming County recreational needs and especially for major capital projects.
- Continue to expand our cooperative relationship with the Frederick County School Board in jointly meeting identified County recreational needs.
- Review land development regulations to ensure that appropriate standards are provided for open space recreational facilities in new developments.

GOAL: TO HAVE EVERY RESIDENT OF FREDERICK COUNTY'S URBAN DEVELOPMENT AREA (UDA) WITHIN WALKING OR BIKING DISTANCE OF A RECREATION AREA.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

STRATEGIES:

- Inventory the County's natural and environmental resources to identify appropriate locations for greenways, Community, Neighborhood and Mini Parks including connectivity consistent with the 2014 Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
- Strategically locate parks in or near Neighborhood Villages and Urban Centers to meet population-based needs. 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.
- Ensure that development recreation and open space requirements are adequate.
- Actively pursue parkland in areas where publically accessible land does not or is not anticipated to meet citizen needs.

Existing County Parks

- District Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park

Publicly 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

