

FREDERICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

“The Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department is committed to promoting and providing quality parks and recreational facilities, programs, and leisure opportunities for our community” (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 building community with community facilities.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Facilities

There are five classifications of parks including Mini, Neighborhood, Community, and 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 four neighborhood parks. Both 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. The four County neighborhood parks are located at the Reynolds Store Fire Company

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and Gainesboro Fire Company in the Gainesboro District, the Round Hill Fire Company in the Back Creek District, and the Frederick Heights subdivision in the Red Bud District. These neighborhood parks consist primarily of playground equipment for young children.

Master development plans were adopted for both Clearbrook and Sherando Parks which established development goals for each park, identified unmet recreational needs, provided unified facility plans, and proposed a development program for each park. The Master Plans for these parks reflect the recommendations of the County residents and national standards as outlined in the Virginia Outdoor Plan. These plans emphasize the development of a swimming pool complex, additional sports venues, picnic areas, and maintenance support facilities. Since the adoption of the Master Plans, the County has completed the construction of: two outdoor swimming pool complexes, four irrigated soccer fields, a maintenance building, three shelters, a gazebo, two playground areas, two sand volleyball courts and two fields of a four field softball complex. The County has also purchased an area to house the maintenance operations for Clearbrook Park. Additional recreational facilities currently provided are athletic fields, playground, and picnic areas with a variety of recreational opportunities such as horseshoes, fishing, paddleboats, volleyball, open space areas, and support facilities. Clearbrook Park, Sherando Park, neighborhood parks and all public schools are maintained by the Parks Division of the County Parks and Recreation Department.

In addition to the improvements completed at the park sites, the County has also constructed a 3mile bicycle/pedestrian trail that serves several residential areas east of Stephens City.

Programs

The Recreation Division of the Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department was created to provide a comprehensive and accessible program of recreational services and activities for the residents of Frederick County. A diverse range of recreational and enrichment programs is provided for all age groups. This broad base of activities includes, but is not limited to, instructional classes, outdoor adventure programs, sports and athletics, lifetime leisure and fitness programs, cultural and community events, as well as, trips and excursions.

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Programming responsibilities are assigned within the Division's four interest sections:

1. Community Events
2. Before and After School Programs
3. Sports and Athletics
4. Lifetime Leisure and Fitness

Staff members work together to identify, develop, and implement those activities which most closely meet the interests and desires of the community. The Division typically implements programs within age categories such as preschool, youth, teen, adult and senior adult.

The majority of recreation programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department are held within the Parks and Recreation Department's Community Centers, District Parks and the Frederick County Public Schools. The joint efforts of the Frederick County Public Schools and the Parks and Recreation Commission/Department resulted in the inclusion of recreational facilities within Sherando High School, Orchard View Elementary, Evendale Elementary, Gainesboro Elementary, and Greenwood Mill Elementary.

FUTURE FOCUS

In order to meet the future service demands on the County's two district parks, the Parks and Recreation Department plans to continue implementing the improvements adopted on the Master Plans. 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 the ability to travel safely from their homes to schools, stores, work or recreation areas without having to share the overcrowded arterial and collector roads with automobiles.

As suggested by the 2007 Virginia Outdoor Plan, the area standard for local recreation and park sites in Virginia is ten acres of developed park land per thousand populations. Frederick County has a population of approximately 77,864 (based on 2010 estimates provided by the Planning Department) and currently manages 401 acres of park land. Of the 401 acres assigned to the parks, about 220 acres are developed for both active and passive uses.

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Using the population projections provided by the Frederick County Planning Department, an additional 559 acres of developed park land are needed to meet the current demand; another 178 acres by 2020, and a further 189 acres by 2030 will be required if we are to keep pace with the recommended standards of the ten acres per thousand population. It is estimated by the Parks and Recreation Department that by the year 2030, Frederick County will need approximately 1,145 acres of developed park land to adequately serve the County's projected population of 114,539.

There are five classifications of parks including Mini, Neighborhood, Community, and District Parks and Greenways. The classification depends on the size, service area, purpose, character, and location. Maps illustrating potential park locations based on population estimates and tables illustrating the current and existing facility standards and shortfalls are included within Appendix II of this Plan.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department is building a sense of community through people, parks, and recreational opportunities. Families and organizations alike look to Frederick County Parks and Recreation to meet their leisure needs. Over 1.1 million recreational contact hours to youth, senior, and family programs are provided through programs offered by or facilitated through Frederick County Parks and Recreation in 2010. An estimated 430,000 people visited the two District Parks in that same year.

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:

- Continue to solicit public opinion in planning parks and recreation.
- Promote the completion of a County-wide recreation plan which identifies recreational, park, and open space needs.

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- Use a County-wide recreation plan to develop standards for open space and recreational facilities in new urban development.
- Identify recreation needs associated with the Rural Community Centers.
- Continue to encourage the participation and financial support of civic groups businesses, and other organizations and individuals for recreational needs.
- 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.
- Continue to cooperate with the private sector, the semi-public sector and other public providers of recreation in meeting identified recreational needs.
- Promote the development of a comprehensive trail system and bikeway plan.
- Review land development regulations to ensure that appropriate standards are provided for open space recreational facilities in new developments.

POLICY: CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THE COUNTY'S DISTRICT PARKS AS THE MAJOR SOURCE OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Use the capital improvements planning process to provide improvements to the district parks.
- Seek alternative sources of funding for park improvements.

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

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inventory the County's Green Infrastructure resources to identify appropriate locations for greenways, Community, Neighborhood and Mini Parks including connectivity consistent with the 2007 MPO Bike and Pedestrian Plan.
- Strategically locate parks in or near Neighborhood Villages and Urban Centers to meet population based needs

POLICY: PROVIDE RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES BASED ON IDENTIFIED NEEDS AND AVAILABLE FUNDING.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Prepare a County-wide recreation plan identifying program needs.
- Develop and maintain citizen participation in the identification of recreational program and program facility needs.
- Actively solicit contributions for the provision of recreational programs and program facility needs, from all segments of the community, both private and public.
- Structure the provision of all program facilities, such as indoor community centers, to recognize land use decisions and policies.
- Actively utilize public, semi-public, and private facilities for the provision of recreational programs.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks and Recreation Commission is a citizen advisory board recommending the development of the countywide recreation plan. Recommendations are either implemented or approved by the Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Cosponsored Youth Recreation Providers.

These organizations provide recreation to county youth and are provided field space and other services.

- National Little League Baseball and Softball
- American Little League Baseball and Softball
- American Legion Baseball
- AAU Rising Stars Basketball
- AAU Mavericks Softball
- Blue Ridge Youth Soccer Association.

Frederick County Public Schools

Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) locations provide recreation areas for recreation programming and general public use. Under a cooperative use agreement with FCPS, Frederick County Parks and Recreation operates five community centers at FCPS sites and maintains a large percentage of FCPS open space and athletic fields.



SUPPORTING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

- 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan
- National Parks and Recreation Association, "Park, Recreation, Open Space & Greenway Guidelines"
- 2007 Frederick County Planning Department Planning Area Analysis
- Geographic Information System





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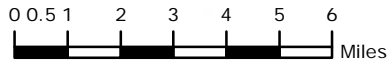
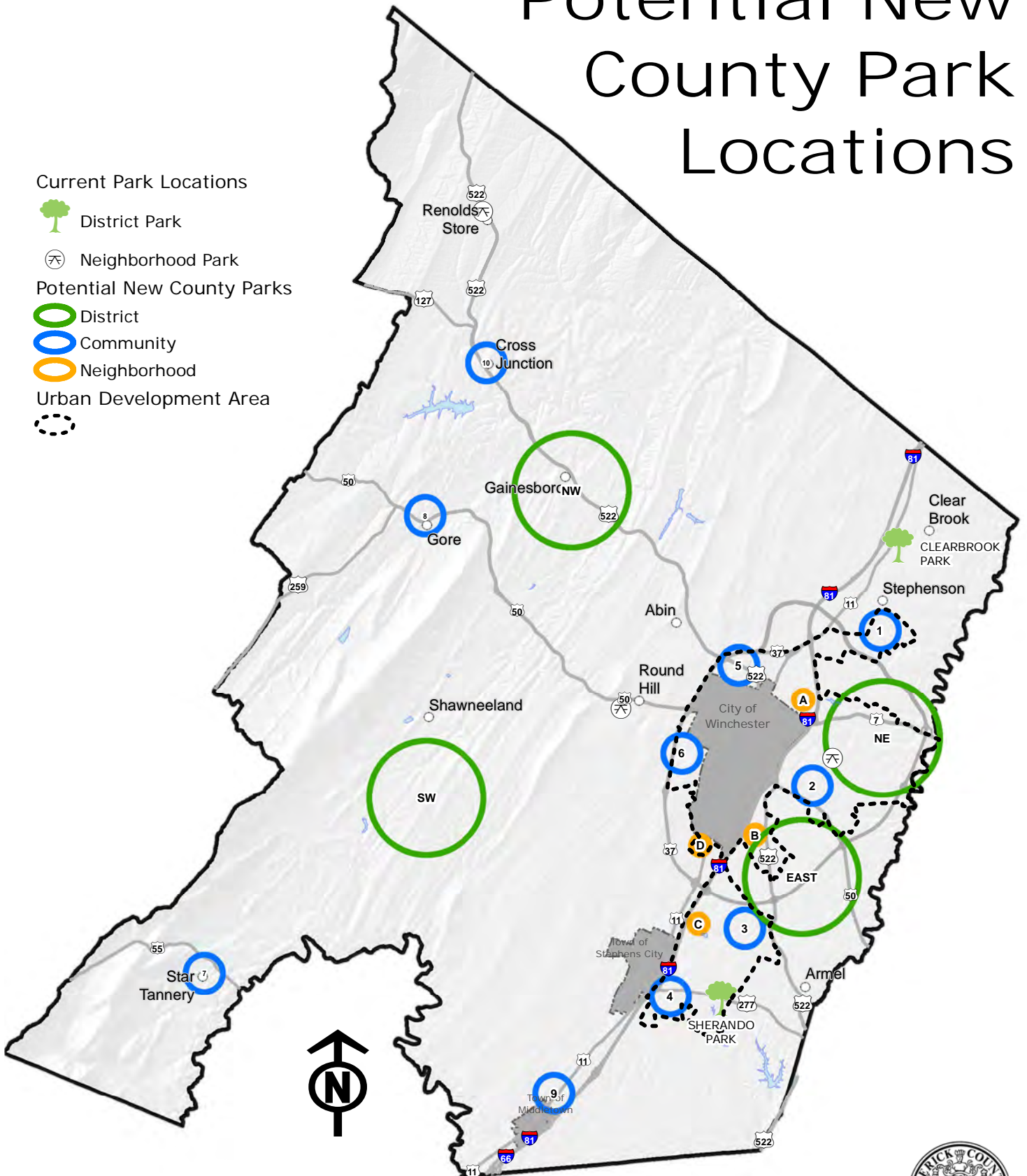
Potential New County Park Locations

Current Park Locations

-  District Park
-  Neighborhood Park

Potential New County Parks

-  District
-  Community
-  Neighborhood
-  Urban Development Area



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