

## Chapter I

# Introduction to the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

### **Purpose of the Plan**

In accordance with Title 5, Subtitle 9 of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (also known as the Program Open Space Law), the 2012 *Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan* (LPPRP) has been prepared to inventory and assess Carroll County's recreational, agricultural, and natural resources, and the programs and policies that affect them. The plan seeks to identify the extent to which these programs and policies are helping to reach state and local goals for preserving and enhancing the resources.

The 2012 LPPRP consists of three elements: Parks and Recreation, Agriculture, and Natural Resources. The Parks and Recreation element is the major focus of the 2012 LPPRP, and addresses the recommendations for parks and recreation made in the 2009 State LPPRP. The Agriculture and Natural Resources elements provide a brief update on the progress of local programs since the 2005 LPPRP.

The overall purpose and specific objectives of the 2012 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) are to:

- Review the goals and objectives of state and local programs for Parks and Recreation, Agriculture and Natural Resources;
- Identify the implementation programs and funding strategies for each element to achieve related goals and objectives;
- Identify desirable improvements to policies, plans, and funding strategies, to better achieve goals and improve return on public investment;
- Identify the needs and priorities of the current and future state and local population for outdoor recreation;
- Achieve legislative goals of state and local land preservation programs; and
- Ensure that public investment in land preservation and recreation supports and is supported by local comprehensive plans, associated implementation programs, State Planning Policy, and state and local programs that influence land use and development.

### **LPPRP Relationship to the Comprehensive Planning Process**

The 2012 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan is based upon the goals and priorities established in the most recent county master plan, *Carroll County: Challenges and Choices – A Master Plan for the Future*, which was adopted on December 20, 2000.

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Additionally, it incorporates goals and actions recommended in the comprehensive plans for the county's nine Designated Growth Areas (DGAs) and eight municipalities. These include:

- *Finksburg Environs Comprehensive Plan* (adopted 1981; currently under review)
- *Freedom Community Comprehensive Plan* (adopted August 2001)
  - *Town of Sykesville Master Plan* (adopted January 2011)
- *Hampstead Community Comprehensive Plan* (adopted 2010)
- *Manchester & Environs Community Comprehensive Plan* (adopted 2009)
- *Mount Airy Environs Community Comprehensive Plan* (adopted 2006)
  - *Town of Mount Airy Master Plan* (adopted April 2004)
- *New Windsor Community Planning Area Comprehensive Plan* (adopted 2007; amended 2010)
- *Taneytown Community Comprehensive Plan* (adopted 2010)
- *Town of Union Bridge Master Plan* (adopted September 2008; amended December 2009, April 2010)
- *Westminster Environs Community Comprehensive Plan* (adopted 2007)
  - *City of Westminster Comprehensive Plan* (adopted 2009)

The 2012 *Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan* draws from the county plans that already have been adopted or are in the process of being updated. Future plan updates will include reviews of the LPPRP, and will include recommendations for incorporating the appropriate components.