

Chapter II Recreation and Parks

State Parks and Recreation Goals

Maryland's principal source of funding for its parks, recreation, agricultural preservation, and natural resource conservation programs is revenue raised through the real estate transfer tax, which is assessed when real property is sold. Commonly referred to as Program Open Space (POS) funds, the real estate transfer tax supports not only POS but also substantial portions of State funding for the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), the Rural Legacy Program, and numerous other conservation programs.

POS funds are used for a variety of purposes, including acquisition of land for State parks, development of State parks and protection of natural resource lands. A portion of POS funds are passed on to local jurisdictions and are the principal State funding source for land acquisition, facility development, and rehabilitation for many local parks and recreation programs.

The Maryland state goals for recreation and parks are:

1. Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens, and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.
2. Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the State more desirable places to live, work and visit.
3. Use State investment in parks, recreation, and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans.
4. To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile, and help to protect natural open spaces and resources.
5. Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities.
6. Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a statewide level.

County Parks and Recreation Goals

The County's goals, policies, strategies and thresholds clearly support the State goals for recreation, parks and open space. As with the State goals, the County goals, policies, and strategies emphasize providing recreational opportunities for all citizens while at the same time directing most of the effort to provide these opportunities towards the areas of greatest population concentration. These are the

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county's nine designated growth areas, planning for which is done through individual comprehensive plans. Parks, recreational facilities, and open space are recognized in the goals of these plans, as well as those of the County Master Plan, as essential components of quality living environments, just as they are in the State goals. Appropriately, and consistent with the State goals, funding for recreational projects primarily is directed towards these designated growth areas in order to fulfill the goals of the plans and serve the greatest number of people.

The 2000 Carroll County Master Plan contains the following County goal:

Provide a coordinated and comprehensive system of public and private parks, recreational facilities and programs, and open space that will meet the active and passive recreational needs of all citizens of the County and enhance community design, identity, and vitality.

Goals contained in each of the comprehensive plans are found in Appendix I

County Parks and Recreation Programs

Carroll County utilizes a number of tools for providing parks, recreational facilities and programs, and open space. Chief among them are: planning; land acquisition and facility development; impact fees; designated open space, set asides and facilities as required by zoning and the subdivision process; joint use agreements; area recreation councils; and special facilities.

Planning

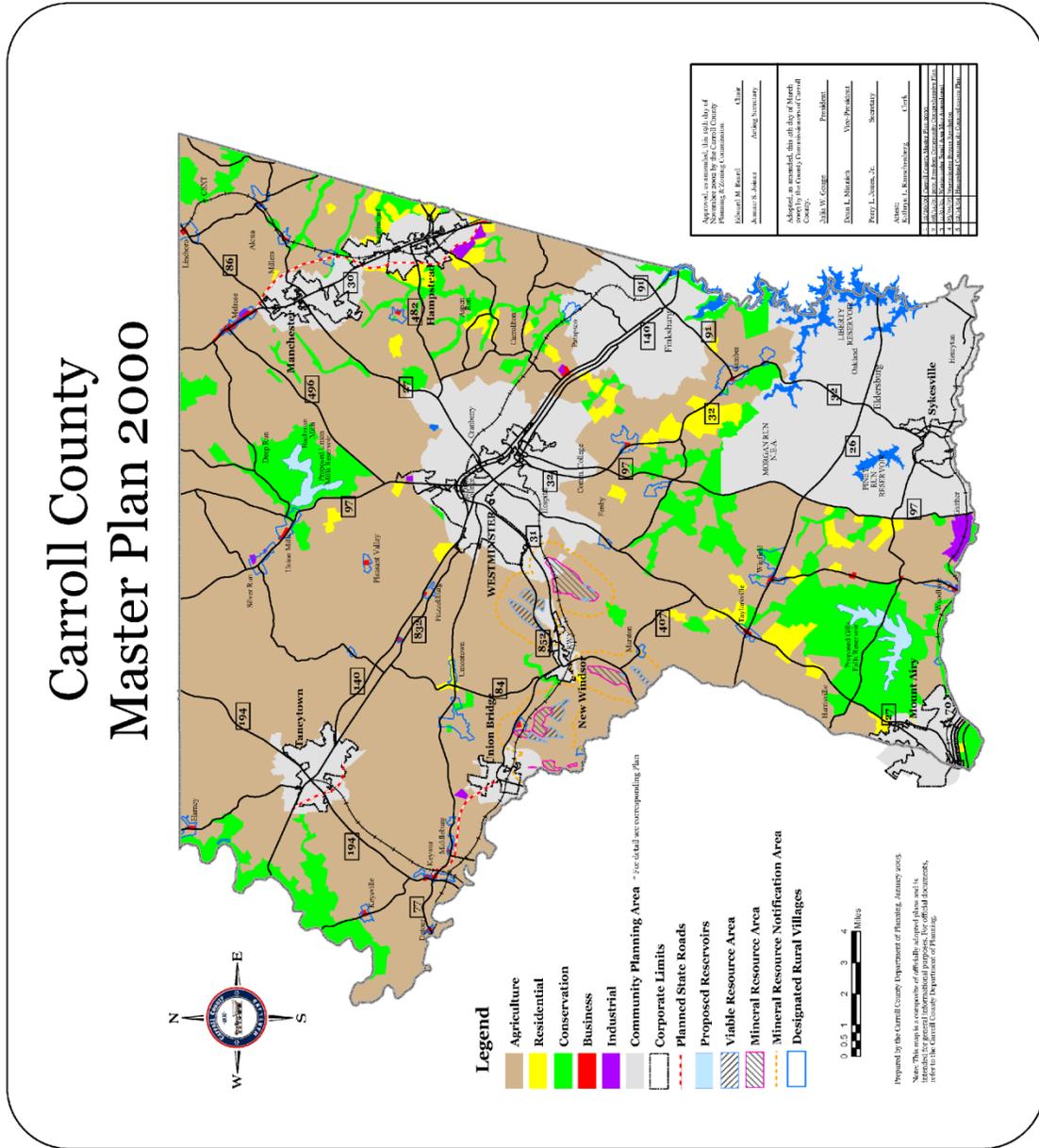
Open space, park and recreational facility planning takes place through the County Master Plan and community comprehensive plans, all of which are undertaken by the county Department of Land Use, Planning, and Development.

The County Master Plan and community comprehensive plans contain goals and strategies related to the provision of open space, parks, and recreational facilities. Because these local planning initiatives have significant public input opportunities, ranging from public workshops to formal public hearings, they reflect the community's desires for their local parks and recreational opportunities. The plans vary in levels of specificity about these desires, sometimes identifying specific improvements needed at specific facilities and other times broadly stating a desire to meet various recreational needs. In the County Master Plan, the emphasis is on providing regional facilities and preserving open space on a large scale, while in the community comprehensive plans the emphasis is on meeting the specific needs of a local population. As a result, planning for parks and recreational facilities in Carroll County meets the twelve visions of State Planning Policy by focusing on providing most of the parks and recreational facilities in and around the community planning areas, where the largest population concentrations exist. Parks and recreational facilities outside of these areas are designed to meet countywide needs or to serve rural populations that do not fall within the service area of a designated growth area. Because this planning takes place in the context of the local plans, the proximity of open space, parks and recreational facilities to local populations and their integration into the surrounding landscape is an inherent result. (Refer to Maps 1 through 4)

During the development of the County Master Plan and community comprehensive plans, the Department of Land Use, Planning, and Development staff collaborates closely with staff from other county agencies. Meetings are held with Recreation and Parks staff to identify sites and facilities already planned, as well as new sites and facilities that might be needed.

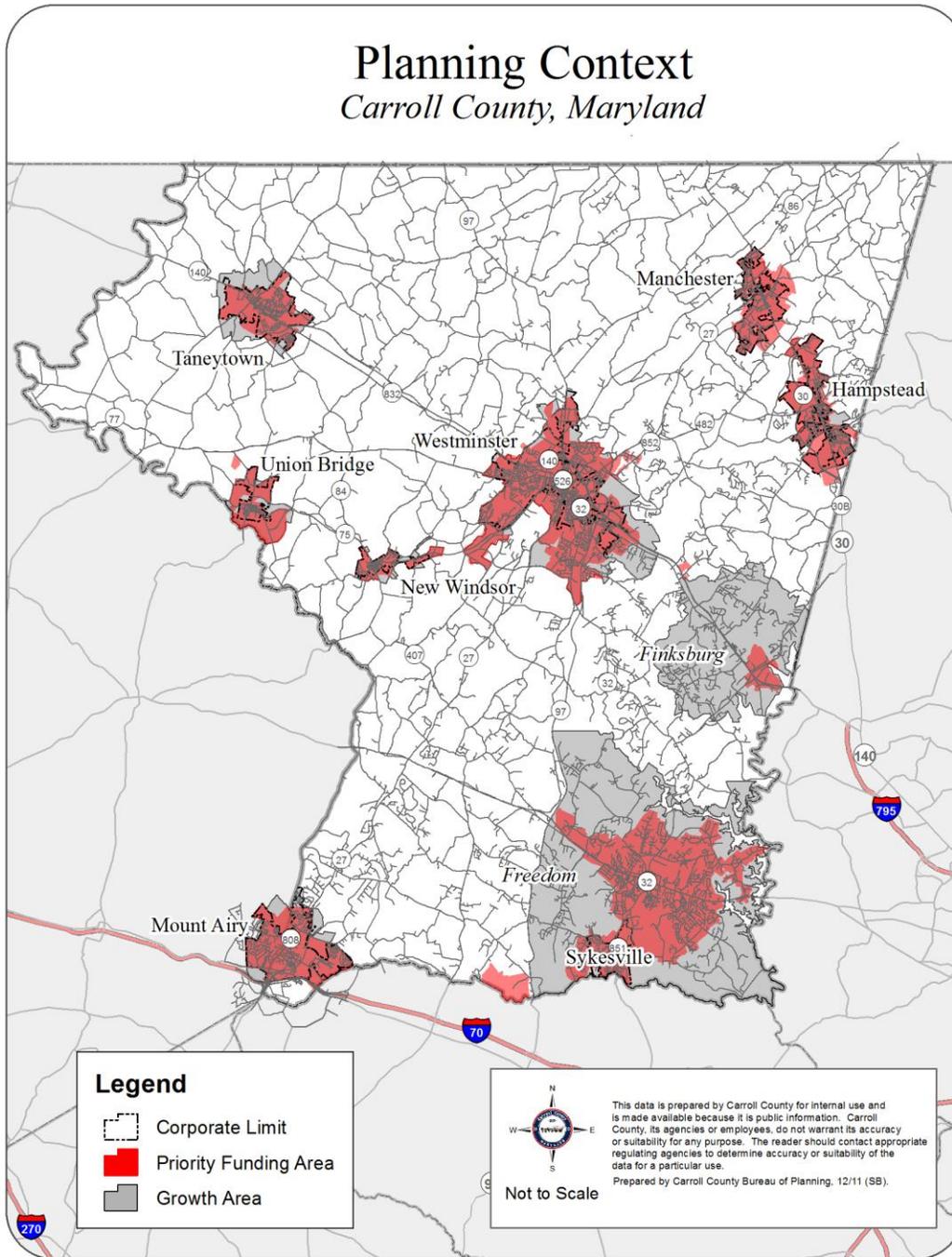
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Map 1



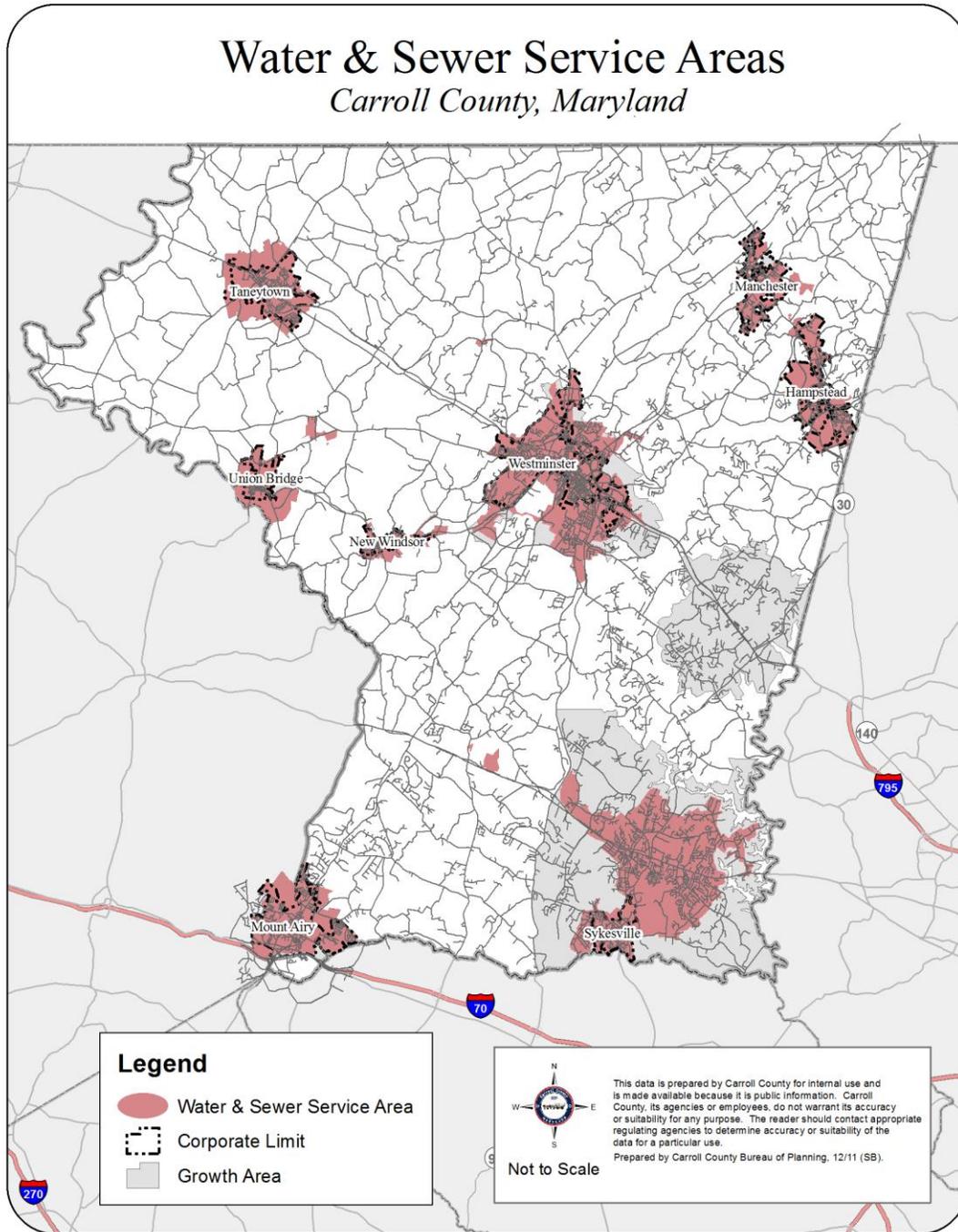
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Map 2



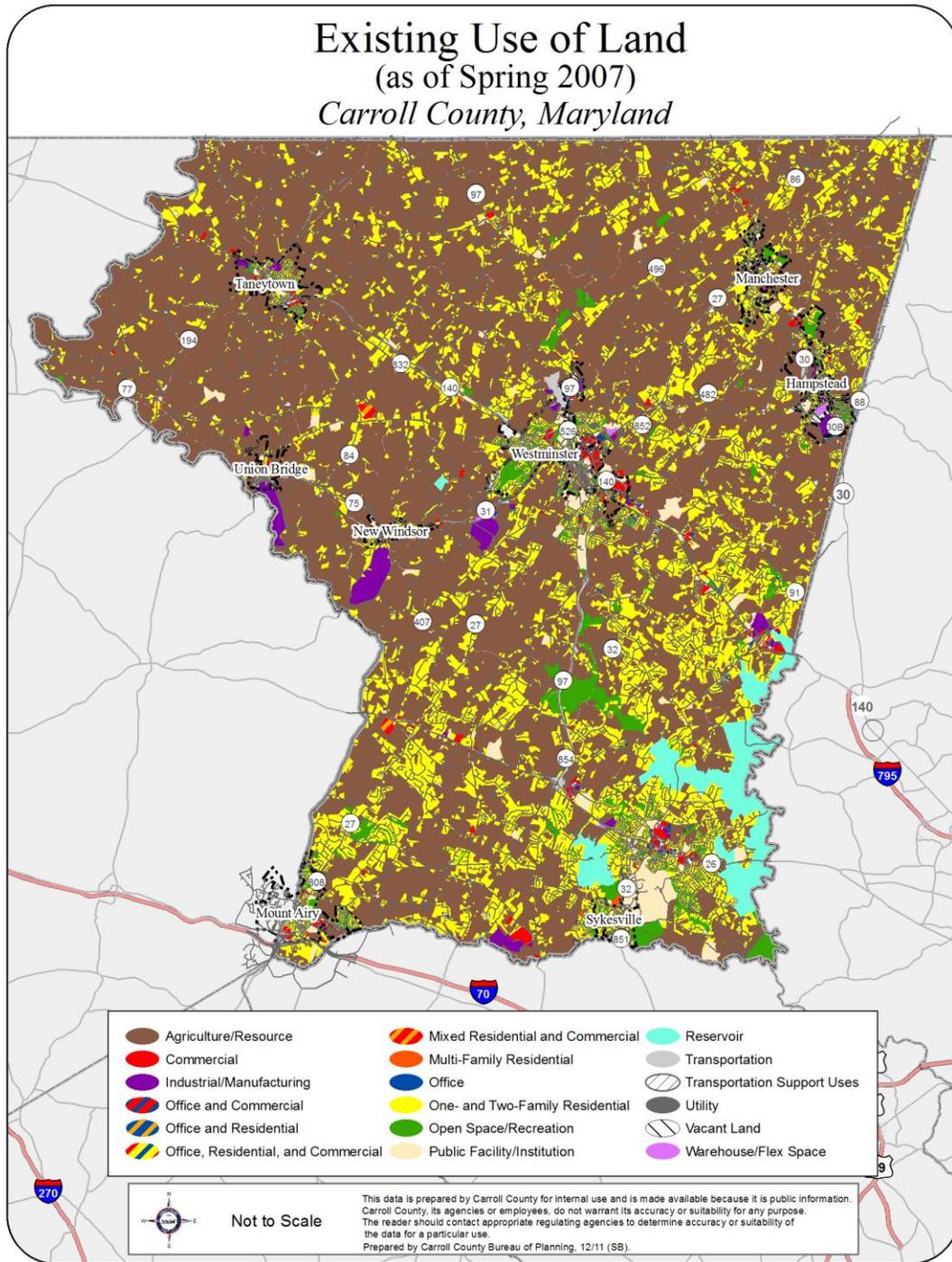
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Map 3



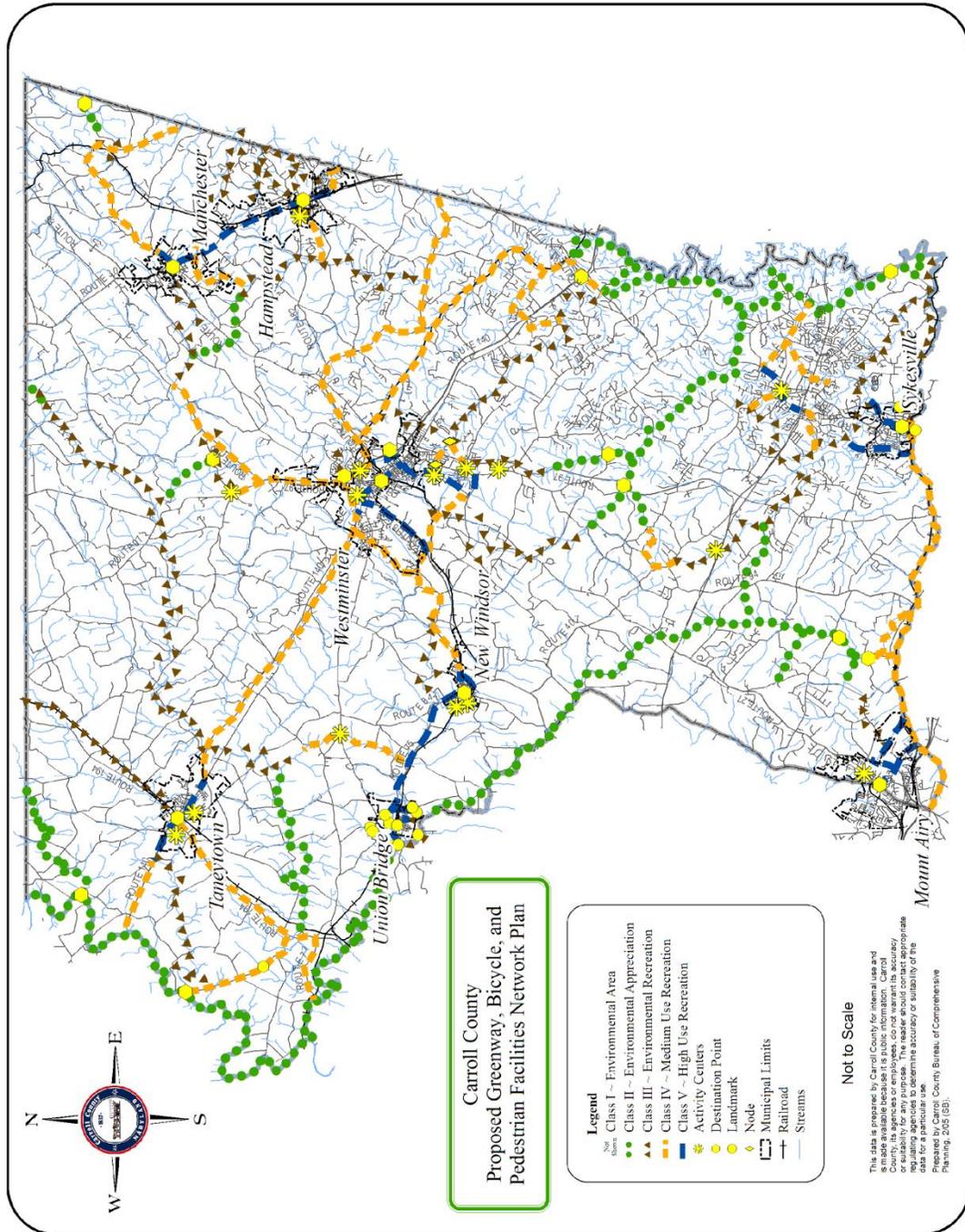
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Map 4



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Map 5



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Occasionally, plans are supported by studies or reports that are not adopted but contribute to the implementation of the plan. An example of this is the Greenways, Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Network Technical Report that was produced in 1994 and has been incorporated incrementally into area plans (see Map 5). Once the plan is adopted, identified projects are pursued through the capital programming process of the budget by being recommended by one of the recreation councils, by Recreation and Parks staff, or through joint discussions between the Office of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Land Use, Planning, and Development. The priority is always on serving the areas with the highest populations and implementing the comprehensive plans, both of which go hand-in-hand.

A similar process is undertaken at the municipal level. During the development of municipal plans, town and/or County staff coordinate with municipal parks and recreation staff or other stakeholders to identify the community's needs. Identified capital projects are funded through local CIPs from the most part, typically timed to coincide with the cyclical distribution of the POS money to the jurisdiction.

The County Master Plan, community comprehensive plans, and capital budgets will continue to be used as the primary tools for achieving parks and recreation goals and priorities. The documents lay out a blueprint, both financially and theoretically, for how the recreational goals will be met. Going through the planning process allows the County and local jurisdictions to look at a broader scope and determine what needs to be done in order to provide a coordinated and comprehensive system of public and private parks. Since these documents are updated on a regular basis, they provide the opportunity to review the various targets and to make any revisions to state and local goals as they are achieved.

The County Department of Land Use, Planning and Development and Office of Recreation and Parks staff are funded through the County's General Fund. The Bureau of Planning undertakes the bulk of the long-range planning for the county. The bureau is staffed by four full-time planners, as well as three GIS staff, and the bureau chief. The FY12 budget contains \$548,880 in personnel, operating, and capital outlay expenses for the bureau.

In FY12, Recreation and Parks Administration and the Bureau of Recreation received \$184,450 and \$324,930 respectively for personnel and operating costs. Recreation and Parks Administration includes the Bureau Chief of Parks, the Director, as well as an office assistant, while the Bureau of Recreation oversees the recreation programming in the county through three contractual community coordinators, a bureau chief, two recreational specialists, and an office assistant. Several of the county's special facilities receive budget appropriations through their own line items. In FY12, the General Fund provided personnel, operating, and capital outlay funding for the Sports Complex (\$200,390), Hashawha (\$628,620), and Piney Run (\$386,790).

Land Acquisition and Facility Development

Land acquisition and facility development for parks and recreational facilities are funded through several sources. Program Open Space (POS) funds are combined with revenue collected from developer-paid impact fees and money from the County or municipal General Funds that is budgeted for capital projects through the Community Investment Program (CIP).

In the County's FY12-17 CIP, \$5,370,716 was budgeted for Culture and Recreation projects. The following table shows how the money is allocated for future years in both the current adopted and the proposed CIPs, and which sources of funding are anticipated.

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Culture and Recreation Funding								
Proposed Capital Improvement Plan FY2012-2017								
Funding Source	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Prior Allocation	Total
Transfer from General Fund	\$159,900	\$157,500	\$172,300	\$168,200	\$184,400	\$179,800	\$36,311	\$1,058,411
Impact Fee – Parks	\$0	\$146,000	\$0	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$446,000
Reallocated Impact Fee - Parks	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,000
POS-Reallocated	\$180,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,700,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,880,000
POS-Unallocated	\$86,878	\$245,000	\$262,000	\$281,000	\$320,000	\$356,000	\$147,927	\$1,698,805
POS-Park Development	68,400	\$0	\$84,600	\$0	\$94,500	\$0	\$0	\$247,500
Total	\$535,178	\$548,500	\$518,900	\$2,499,200	\$598,900	\$535,800	\$184,238	\$5,370,716

Source: Carroll County FY12-17 CIP

Approximately 62.7% of the County’s FY2012 capital budget for Culture and Recreation projects came from POS funds, about 29.9% came from the General Fund, and the remaining 7.4% came from development impact fees. Additionally, the County provides funding for town projects through its Town Fund line item, which is set aside to correlate with Program Open Space funds directed toward town projects. Program Open Space covers 90% of the cost of a project, the County covers 5% of the cost, and the town covers the remaining 5% of the cost. This money is allocated to each of the towns on a rotating basis determined by the Maryland Municipal League representatives.

Impact fees levied for new home construction account for a significant amount of revenue for the development of parks and recreational facilities. Impact fees generally are applied to projects that increase recreation and park inventory in response to growth. Funds from the General Fund typically go towards maintenance, repair, or replacement of recreational facilities and equipment. Currently, the parks and recreation impact fee is \$533 for single family homes, \$538 for mobile homes, \$604 for townhouses, and \$530 for multi-family units. This fee is charged for projects both in the county and in incorporated municipalities. Each of the municipalities charges an additional parks and recreation impact fee as detailed below:

- Hampstead: Single-family residential - \$309 per unit
 Other residential - \$ 228 per unit

- Manchester: Single-family residential - \$200 per unit
 Other residential - \$200 per equivalent dwelling unit

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Mount Airy:	A development fee of \$1,500 for park improvements is charged for each water connection permit that is issued for residential, commercial, and industrial development. Funds derived from this fee are used for the construction, reconstruction, improvement, and repair of parks, recreational equipment, and recreational projects; and the acquisition of land or rights-of-way in connection with these projects.
New Windsor:	Single-family residential - \$450 per unit
Sykesville:	General development impact fee of \$1,584 for each new dwelling unit or addition to an existing dwelling unit that results in an additional unit, which can be used towards services, roads, or capital projects listed in the CIP (including parks and recreational facilities)
Westminster:	A Special Capital Benefit Assessment fee is charged for each dwelling unit and may be used for capital recreation projects. Single-family homes are charged \$3,840, and multi-family units are charged between \$3,072 for a one-bedroom unit to \$3,648 for a four-bedroom unit. Industrial, commercial and other non-residential uses are charged varying fees as well.
Taneytown:	Taneytown has a \$1,500 Park Impact fee per dwelling unit. However, where a subdivision is proposed, open space may be provided in lieu of the fee.
Union Bridge:	As a public works fee for Open Space Maintenance: \$1,000 per acre of open space conveyed, or to be conveyed, to the Town, including only areas which require mowing or landscaping by the Town.

Impact fees are collected by municipalities and allow for recreational facilities to be funded within the local jurisdiction where the impact from development is felt the most. create funding for park land to be developed and for recreational projects to be completed. All capital improvement projects in the County budget are funded by Project Open Space Funds, General fund, Impact Fees, or a combination of all three. The use of the impact fees because of development help to expand other infrastructure projects that are being constructed through the development process.

Designated Open Space, Set Asides and Facilities (as required by zoning and the subdivision process)

In the county, open space and park facilities can be created through the subdivision process in several ways. Clustered subdivisions and planned unit developments both require a certain percentage of land for open space or recreation. Additionally, the County's environmental regulations require that certain environmental features be protected during the development process, thereby resulting in undeveloped open space as well.

Clustering is permitted in the County's Conservation zone, the Heritage zone, and the residential zones R-40,000, R-20,000, and R-10,000. In the Heritage zone and the residential zones, the land that results

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from smaller lot sizes in a cluster subdivision is maintained as “open space” or “recreational areas.” This open space must meet several requirements:

- It shall not be less than 15 percent of the gross acreage of any tract using clustering
- A maximum of 50 percent of the required open space can be steep slopes, streams, ponds, watercourses, or floodplains
- A minimum of 10 percent of the required open space or 1.5 acres, whichever is greater, must be suitable for active recreational use and may not exceed a grade of 3 percent.

In a Conservation zone cluster subdivision, the land resulting from smaller lot sizes also is maintained as “open space” or “recreational areas,” but there are additional stipulations that relate to environmental features that are not applied in the Heritage or residential zones. In the Conservation zone, all land within 300 feet of a planned reservoir flood pool and all land within 100 feet of a tributary of a public water supply (planned or existing) must be designated as open space.

Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) are permitted in the residential zones of R-10,000 and R-7,500 if they meet certain requirements and are approved by the Planning Commission. One of the requirements that must be met is that no less than 25 percent of the gross area of the development is to be common open space.

Each of the towns in Carroll County has its own requirements related to the provision of open space. They are summarized in Appendix III.

The County has a set of environmental regulations that are designed to protect sensitive environmental features. These are explained in greater detail in Chapter IV, but are mentioned here because the land that is set aside to protect these environmental features can be considered open space. The requirements for cluster developments may or may not allow for these areas to be counted towards open space minimums, but in conventional subdivision developments the protection of these features undoubtedly provides open space where otherwise there might be none. Features that are protected include wellheads and well sites, streams, floodplains, wetlands, steep slopes, carbonate rock areas, and surface water supply areas. Typically a buffer around these resources is required, which results in a certain amount of open space creation.

Development requires that open space and resource land be set aside through clustering development or through the regular subdivision process. This makes open space accessible to everyone who lives within the community.

Joint-Use Agreements

The Board of Education has a joint-use agreement with the County to permit town and County-sponsored recreational activities on school properties when school groups are not using them. In exchange for this, Carroll County Office of Recreation and Parks uses POS funds to install recreational hardware such as backstops, goal posts, tot lots, etc.

The Office of Recreation and Parks also works with the Board of Education to plan their recreational facilities in the early stages of designing school sites. The goal of this effort is to create fields and facilities that can be used equally as well by adults as by children, therefore maximizing the usefulness of the investment. For instance, recently constructed elementary schools have been designed to have

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full-sized basketball courts that can be used by others during non-school hours. Additionally, schools are designed to have restrooms that can be accessed from outside so that the school itself can be locked but users of the recreational fields can still access the restrooms.

Joint-use agreements help to achieve both a state goal and a local goal. The State recognizes that using facilities which are already established for recreational activities, such as schools during non-school hours, ensures that these activities are going to continue to take place within population centers where growth is concentrated. In addition, the County can continue to maximize its return on investment by incorporating full-sized gymnasiums and activity rooms into new schools and senior centers and constructing trails in conjunction with the development of new parks and playing fields.

Area Recreation Councils

The county has eight community recreation councils, three countywide councils, and two facility-based councils. These councils are extremely valuable because they are the primary source for input on project planning and the development of the recreation portion of the CIP. Their broad geographic range and interest base ensures that projects are (more or less) evenly distributed throughout the county and represent both the wide spectrum of recreational interests countywide, as well as the specific needs of a targeted area.

Two recreation councils (Charles Carroll and North Carroll) operate in the northern portion of the county, three recreation councils (West Carroll, Central Carroll, and Westminster Area) operate in the central portion of the county, and three recreation councils (Freedom Area, Winfield, and Woodbine) operate in the southern portion of the county. The Carroll County Arts Council, Carroll County Equestrian Council, and Seniors in Action Recreation Council operate countywide. The Friends of Hashawha/Bear Branch Council and the Piney Run Recreation & Conservation Council specifically address programs and issues associated with those two facilities.

Each year in April, the county Office of Recreation and Parks begins its capital planning process by mailing a capital request letter to all of the recreation councils, department facility administrators, and the Director of School Support Services for projects to be included in the countywide Community Investment Program (CIP). In this way, the recreation councils are involved in influencing the provision of parks and recreational facilities locally. Projects are submitted to the Office of Recreation and Parks for review and technical assistance with development, after which they are presented to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board for review. This board ranks all of the projects submitted, then presents its recommendations to the County Planning Commission. The Planning Commission reviews the projects then makes its recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners for projects to be included in the CIP. The CIP is adopted following standard procedures for public hearing, review and approval of the annual budget.

The recreation councils are volunteer organizations that have an elected Board, which typically meets on a monthly basis. In FY 2011, 840,386 volunteer hours were dedicated to the operation and administration of recreation council programs. This equates to \$18,757,404 worth of volunteer contributions. The councils raised \$4,797,635. Citizens and businesses can also donate money to the Park Legacy Fund to improve and enhance the county's park system. Contributors can earmark their donations to support specific parks, trails, nature centers, recreational facilities, and recreational programs.

The Friends of Carroll Recreation and Parks is composed of an elected member from each of the councils. It meets every other month to discuss issues that are common to all of the recreation

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councils and serves as an advisory group on certain policy issues. Additionally, the organization solicits donations for various facility improvements, equipment purchases, and sponsorships. The County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board advises on policy issues and community recreation needs. It is a 12-member board, with eleven members that are appointed by the County Commissioners and one Commissioner serves as ex-officio. The primary responsibility of the Board is to review and make recommendations on all of the capital project requests.

Area recreation councils help to achieve the state goal of making a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens. Participation exists amongst all age groups and throughout the entire county, which contributes to the physical and mental well being of all of the citizens of Carroll County. In addition, the state recognizes the use of parks and recreational facilities as amenities make communities, counties, and the State a more desirable place to live, work, and visit.

Special Facilities

In an effort to address the recreational needs of special populations and interests, a number of unique facilities are provided throughout the county. These facilities reflect the diversity of interests and age groups that make up the recreational user population. In general, they either are located centrally or are evenly dispersed throughout the county, so as to be easily accessible to the greatest number of people. Six of these facilities (Hashawha Environmental Center and Bear Branch Nature Center, Piney Run Park and Nature Center, the Carroll County Sports Complex, the Carroll County Farm Museum, the Hap Baker Firearms Facility, and the Union Mills Homestead) have their own operating budgets and generate revenue through user fees and special events. Capital expenditures are included with other recreation projects in the overall Culture and Recreation or General Government portions of the CIP. Funding for the senior centers is provided through the county operating budget, state and federally funded grant positions, and the General Government portion of the CIP.

The county's five senior centers, administered by the County Bureau of Aging, are located in South Carroll, Hampstead, Mt. Airy, Taneytown, and Westminster. The centers offer activities such as games, crafts, and fitness programs as well as educational programs and trips. The general public can arrange to use the senior centers when they are not in use by seniors, and many Recreation Council programs take place there.

The Carroll County Sports Complex, just north of Westminster, contains 7 fields that are used by a variety of teams to supplement the fields available at local facilities. Adjacent to the Sports Complex is one of two nature centers in the county, Bear Branch Nature Center located at the Hashawha Environmental Center. The Nature Center provides environmental education opportunities for visitors, school groups and youth groups that focus on native plants and animals. It has a library, Bird Observation Room, Discovery Room, Exhibit Hall, a forty-seat planetarium, live reptiles, amphibians, and raptors, and a nature gift shop. The Nature Center has a wheel chair-accessible trail and links into other trails at Hashawha Environmental Center. Hashawha Environmental Center provides cabins and conference facilities for private groups. It hosts numerous events throughout the year as well and has four trails totaling about 5 miles.

Piney Run Nature Center, located at Piney Run Park, is the other nature center in the county. It is located in the southern portion of the county and contains exhibits and meeting rooms. The nature center also hosts a variety of nature-oriented programs for all ages and groups. Piney Run Nature Center is located at Piney Run Park, a County-owned park surrounding Piney Run Reservoir. Fishing, boating, picnicking, and recreational courts are available at the park. Two other planned reservoir sites

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– Union Mills reservoir in the north central part of the county and Gillis Falls reservoir in the southwestern part of the county – contain hiking and equestrian trails.

The Hap Baker Firearms Facility (formerly known as the Carroll County Firearms Facility) is another special facility operated by the County. It offers county residents a safe place to learn and practice shooting. It is located on the same property as the Northern Landfill just outside of Westminster.

The Robert Moton Center is located in Westminster. Renovated and opened in 2008, the Center contains community recreational facilities that are available for Rec Council groups and other organizations. The facility provides indoor recreational facilities and activities, including indoor archery, fitness classes, youth programs, preschool programs, summer camps, adult enrichment programs, basketball, volleyball, indoor tennis lessons, pickleball, meeting rooms, and a stage for productions.

The New Windsor Community Room is located next to the Carroll County Library Administration Building in New Windsor. Opened in 2009, it is used by the West Carroll Rec Council for programs and meetings, and by the community, as well.

Heritage programming is conducted at two of the county's most popular tourist attractions: Union Mills Homestead and the Carroll County Farm Museum. The Union Mills Homestead and Grist Mill are historic landmarks in the county that date to the colonial era. The Grist Mill has been restored to working condition and corn, buckwheat, and whole wheat flour ground at the mill are for sale on site. Additionally, tours are offered of the Homestead, and the entire property is host to special events throughout the year. The Carroll County Farm Museum also is a historic property that is open for tours and hosts special events. The museum uses the 1850s farmhouse, barns and outbuildings, and grounds to promote the county's rural heritage through displays, demonstrations, and traditional arts classes. The special events held at the Farm Museum are among the most popular in the county and include the Maryland Wine Festival, Fall Harvest Days, an Old-Fashioned 4th of July Celebration, Traditional Arts Week, the Fiddler's Convention, and Common Ground on the Hill's American Music and Arts Festival.

The Community Recreation Program continues to expand the variety of programs offered to the public. The Program's activities supplement the programs available through the volunteer recreation councils, and provide a source of revenue. Program Guides are published four times a year and include activities for adults, youth, and families. In fiscal year 2011, over 730 programs were offered at 35 locations throughout the county. Activities include bus trips, arts and crafts instruction, health and wellness classes, home and garden instruction, and cooking classes.

The special facilities meet the state goal of making a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens, and thereby contribute to their physical and mental wellbeing. These areas are unique to Carroll County and offer a sense of place that is not available anywhere else.

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Needs Analysis and County Priorities for Lands, Facilities, and Rehabilitation

Supply

Carroll County contains a great diversity of parks, recreation, and open spaces. Mini-parks and neighborhood parks are found in the densely developed towns and larger subdivisions in the county, and are designed to serve a small, localized population. Community parks that are somewhat larger in size can be found throughout the county and in the towns, and provide a more diverse set of recreational opportunities to reflect the broader population base they serve. The county's two regional parks and its sports complex appropriately are located in the two most populous areas, Freedom and Westminster. Two largely undeveloped future reservoir sites, along with the existing buffer lands of Liberty Reservoir and the state lands of Morgan Run Natural Environmental Area and Patapsco Valley State Park, provide countywide access to more natural settings and miles of multi-use trails open to hikers, horseback riders, and cross-country skiers. School facilities located throughout the county provide recreational facilities as well, and many county residents enjoy open space adjacent to their homes that is provided as a requirement of the subdivision process.

Map 6 illustrates the location of town and county park facilities and public school locations. From this map, two things are evident. The first is that the majority of the sites are focused in and around the designated growth areas, where the majority of the county's population resides. Additionally, the map reveals that county's designated growth areas are fairly evenly distributed geographically across the county. When combined with several school sites and major natural resource areas located outside of the growth areas, this has the result of making parks and recreational facilities easily accessible to most county residents regardless of whether they live in the rural parts of the county or in its community planning areas.

As an additional benefit, this geographic distribution of facilities provides regional opportunities to make interjurisdictional connections between Carroll County and its gateway municipalities including Sykesville, Eldersburg, Taneytown, and Detour with Howard, Baltimore and Frederick Counties, respectively. The majority of these efforts relate to trail corridors as a means to enable physical connectivity; current efforts are focused on developing both multi-use land trails and, where feasible, expanding and enhancing water trail opportunities.

Recent efforts have included work in southeastern Carroll on the Freedom Area Trail project (soon to be renamed the "Gov. Frank Brown Trail") connecting residential, recreational and community destinations in Eldersburg and the Town of Sykesville with the various county and state park/wildlife resource lands along the Patapsco River Valley. Connected resources include the county's regional Freedom Park, South Branch Park (located in Howard County), which is being developed cooperatively by the Town of Sykesville, Patapsco Valley State Park and the Hugg-Thomas Wildlife Management Area. This trail project will both connect adjoining resources and infill gaps to ultimately link with trails/greenways into Howard County to the west/south and with Baltimore County to the east. Trail users will be able to travel east as far as the Jones Falls Trail and the Baltimore harbor.

In the northern and western portions of Carroll, on-going efforts will extend the county's existing Double Pipe Creek Water Trail and expand new public access points to the Monocacy River, while helping promote its unique status as a designated Scenic River. The Double Pipe Creek Water Trail's eastern terminus is a public access point on Hapes Mill Road in Middleburg; its original western end-

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point was Double Pipe Creek Park in Detour on the Carroll/Frederick county line. Currently, coordination efforts are underway to promote travel westerly to link it with the main stem of the Monocacy and the existing Monocacy River Water Trail, which is part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways water trail network. Further, through a partnership initiative with Frederick County, property acquisition is being pursued to extend the Monocacy water trail further north an additional 11 miles, capturing the starting point of its officially designated Scenic corridor. This will allow residents from both Frederick and Carroll counties, as well as visiting regional recreational users and tourists, open public water access to the Monocacy, with numerous connections to Frederick County along the entire 58-mile course of the main stem south to its confluence with the Potomac.

In the northern most reaches of the county, key staff are continually monitoring opportunities to establish a rail-to-trail conversion running northerly across the Mason-Dixon Line into southern Pennsylvania. The former Genesee Wyoming Railroad line running north from Angell Road in Taneytown would make an excellent hiker/biker trail. Staff continues regular, open conversations regarding this possible redevelopment effort.

Appendix IV contains a more detailed inventory of existing parks and recreational facilities in the county.

County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data related to parks and preserved lands is being provided to the State in shapefile format projected in Maryland State Plane 83 feet, along with the corresponding metadata. The most recent submissions of the required data for this plan were transmitted electronically in March 2011 and March 2013. Due to the cyclical nature of Carroll County's acquisition of agricultural easements, GIS updates are typically transmitted at various intervals throughout the plan's lifecycle.

The "Supply Report," found at the end of this chapter, quantifies the number of existing fields and courts for specific sports. It also estimates the number of uses possible for each facility based upon the number of players that can be accommodated per game, the number of games that can be played per day, and the number of days the facility is available during the year. This yields an annual carrying capacity per facility and, when multiplied by the number of fields or courts countywide, a total supply of potential annual uses.

Demand

A number of information sources were used to determine the demand for parks and recreational facilities in Carroll County. The May 2003 reports issued by the Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research at UMBC entitled "Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland" and "State Parks and Natural Resource Areas in Maryland: A Survey of Public Opinion" provided substantial quantified data with respect to demand. Additionally, statistical and empirical evidence from area recreation councils, and the results of surveys conducted as part of the comprehensive planning process provided a better understanding of the local demand for these facilities. The targeted measure of demand that these local sources provided is reflected in the "Demand Report" in the Tables section. The Demand Report multiplies the current population by the participation rates cited in the state survey for particular sports and the frequency of participation rates reported by the county's recreation councils. The recreation councils track actual attendance of registered participants for baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, basketball, and football, therefore providing a more accurate measure of the frequency of participation than the generalized regional numbers provided by the State survey. By dividing the total attendance for a given sport by the total number of registrants, it is possible to calculate the average frequency of participation and obtain a more accurate assessment of

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the demand for playing space. Since the local numbers for frequency of participation were significantly higher than those cited in the state survey, these numbers were used in calculating demand. Projected demand was calculated by using projected population numbers and multiplying them by the same participation and frequency rates.

The “Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland” report randomly sampled 400 households in each of seven regions in the state, as well as 1105 households throughout the state. It contained the following generalizations about the participation in and preferences for recreational activities statewide and in the Baltimore suburbs (Carroll County was classified into this sub-region):

- Statewide: More people take part in individual, family or group activities than in organized sports. The most popular activities for individuals were attending fairs and festivals (55.8%), walking (49.5%), swimming (45.6%), picnicking (37%), visiting playgrounds (34%), and going to outdoor concerts (26.9%). Walking and swimming were done most frequently. Less than 10% of those surveyed participated in organized sports, but those that did participated in those activities frequently. A majority (53.6%) of those surveyed statewide said there were not enough bike lanes on roads, about 40% of those surveyed said there were not enough indoor recreation facilities and swimming pools, and about 30% said there were not enough trails and pathways, playgrounds, and picnic facilities.
- In the Baltimore suburbs: The regional differences that distinguished the Baltimore suburbs from the other six regions of the state included an increased popularity in golf, jogging, and dog exercising as favorite activities and a preference for the sports of soccer and lacrosse. The facilities most cited as lacking were natural parks and wildlife areas in suburban Baltimore, trails and pathways, and swimming pools.

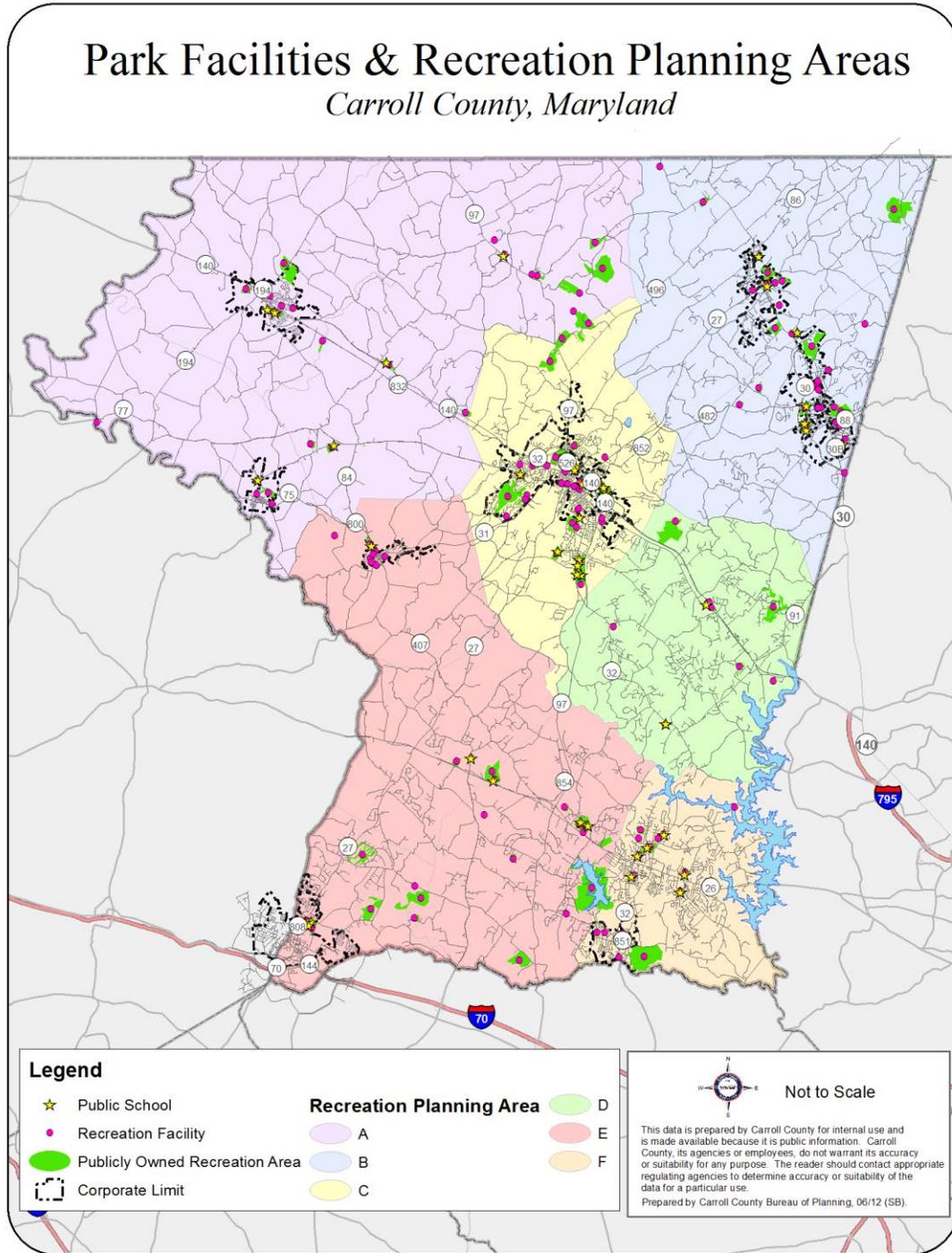
The “State Parks and Natural Resource Areas in Maryland” report describes the results of a survey that randomly sampled 800 households statewide and 1080 households in four regions (Western, Central, Southern, and Eastern). 450 households were sampled in the Central region, the region in which Carroll County was placed along with Baltimore City and Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, Howard, and Montgomery counties. It contained the following generalizations about visits to and experiences at Maryland state parks and natural resource areas and out-of-state parks.

- Statewide: About two-thirds of those surveyed had visited a state park or natural resource area in the past year. Of these visitors, 90+ percent rated their experiences with specific activities in the parks as excellent or good. A majority of those who had not visited a state park or natural area cited a lack of interest or desire as the reason for not visiting. This indicates a fairly high visitor rate to the state’s parks and a high level of satisfaction with the state park experience. It also indicates that little could be done to entice those who didn’t visit to do so, since they simply are not interested. Additionally, while just over half of the respondents had visited another state’s parks or natural areas in the past year, the majority had done so because of a unique natural feature, a special or one-of-a kind experience, or a planned trip. This indicates that people don’t necessarily visit other state’s parks because Maryland’s state parks and natural areas are lacking a particular activity or feature.

Of those who had visited a state park or natural resource area, they most frequently participated in walking, family outings, nature appreciation activities and hiking. Other popular activities were picnicking, fishing from a pier or shore, bicycling, nature center activities or naturalist programs, picnicking with organized groups, fishing from a boat, and camping at a campsite.

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Map 6



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Participants also were surveyed on their thoughts regarding governmental action concerning open space and on growth management in the state. Their responses were nearly split in terms of whether government was doing enough or not enough to protect open space for recreation and natural resources. Approximately 90 percent of respondents felt that governmental action to acquire parkland, preserve farmland, and provide public access to the Bay or rivers was very or somewhat important. An even greater percentage placed high importance on governmental action to protect lands for the protection of wildlife and the environment. With respect to growth management, over 70 percent of those surveyed were either not very familiar or not familiar at all with the state's Smart Growth initiative. Yet, over 50 percent did not feel that government was doing enough to manage growth and development. There was strong support for governmental actions that would manage growth and protect the environment. In particular, more than 80 percent of those surveyed agreed or strongly agreed with government limiting growth and development through planning and land use regulation. Nearly as many agreed or strongly agreed that government should buy more land for parks and resource protection. More than 90 percent agreed or strongly agreed that government should require developers to preserve more natural areas and open space when they develop, and nearly as many agreed or strongly agreed that government should provide economic incentives to private land owners for conservation and resource protection.

- **Central Region:** For the most part, the answers that respondents in the central region gave did not vary significantly from the statewide response rates. Slightly more people in the central region felt that government was not doing enough to protect open space or to manage growth than the statewide rate. Central region respondents also were slightly more in agreement that government should use planning and land use regulation to limit growth and should buy more land for parks and resource protection.

The recreation councils serve the critical function of being in touch with the needs of local populations and recommending inclusion of appropriate projects in the proposed budget requests. Because they are keenly aware of the need for improvements at existing facilities, the shortage of specific facilities to meet programmatic needs, and the overall desires of their particular community for recreational facilities, the recreation councils provide one of the best measures of demand. Because participation on the councils or at council meetings is open to the general public, there is ample opportunity for input on projects or programs that are needed.

Public input used to gauge demand for parks and recreation facilities also is generated through the comprehensive planning process. Surveys and workshops are standard tools used throughout the various stages of plan development, and the topics of parks, recreational facilities and open space are included to determine community needs and emerging issues. Additionally, population and demographics projections are used to measure potential future demand.

Needs Analysis

The "Needs Analysis" table used the data tabulated in the Supply Report and the Demand Report to calculate current and projected demand for facilities. The current annual demand for facilities was subtracted from the current supply of facilities to determine the current unmet need for facilities (calculated in "number of uses"). The total surplus or deficit of available uses was then divided by the annual carrying capacity per facility to obtain an estimate of the surplus or deficit of actual facilities. The projected demand for facilities that was calculated in the demand report was then applied to the same set of calculations to arrive at projected unmet demand and, therefore, the unmet need for facilities based upon the current supply.

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The Needs Analysis table shows that, statistically, the number of baseball/softball fields and the number of fields used for lacrosse countywide are adequate, while soccer and football fields are greatly needed and basketball courts are needed as well. These calculations are supported by observations made “on-the-ground” by towns, area recreation councils, and Office of Recreation and Parks staff, which constantly vie for space to accommodate recreational programs and have to juggle the use of limited facilities.. While funds to upgrade existing tennis courts have been requested on occasion by recreation councils, there are few requests for more tennis courts and few observations that there is a demand for additional courts countywide.

The mid-range and long-range demand projections show these needs continuing to grow, in some instances to an extreme. Based upon population projections through 2025, the county could need as many as 53 soccer fields, 19 basketball courts, and 4 softball fields. As a result, the primary emphasis in the CIP is, and will continue to be, on providing new and/or upgraded fields and indoor basketball courts. Additionally, the maintenance of existing facilities is an on-going priority that cannot be underestimated; poorly maintained facilities only undermine the system because they remain in the inventory but are not useable. Maintaining the investment made in these facilities is essential.

The need for several other types of facilities is not as easily quantified because user data is more difficult to obtain. However, data from the state surveys, input from the towns and area recreation councils, surveys conducted as part of the comprehensive plan update process, and requests made in other public forums provide a more complete picture of the types of facilities that are desired by the community. The need for hiker/biker trails is an ever-present request, and the growing equestrian population is generating an increased demand for bridle trails (see Carroll County Proposed Greenway, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Facilities Network Plan Map and county park trail maps at the back of the plan). Additionally, passive recreation and family-oriented activities such as picnic facilities, areas for wildlife observation, and community centers have been noted as important. Specialized facilities including public swimming pools, an indoor ice rink, a large skate park, and an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) park also have been identified as established and emerging recreational needs. Because of their highly specialized nature, these facilities lend themselves to a greater likelihood of being constructed as private enterprises or public-private ventures.

The results detailed in the Needs Analysis table figured prominently in identifying the County’s top ten recreational priorities. The top five priorities include most of the needs shown in the Needs Analysis table. They are:

1. Hiker/ Biker Trails
2. Multi-Purpose Fields (soccer/football/lacrosse/ rugby) fields
3. Baseball diamonds
4. Softball diamonds
5. Dog Parks/off leash areas

Additional priority needs identified through the area recreation councils, towns, Office of Recreation and Parks, and the comprehensive planning process include:

6. Indoor Sports facility
7. Picnic Facilities
8. Equestrian/multi-use (natural surface) trails
9. ATV/ Motor cross facilities
10. Expanded boat launch/ water trails

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It is anticipated that these facilities will be funded with Program Open Space funds, developer impact fees, and the county General Fund, as well as through public-private ventures. Some facilities, such as the construction of full-sized basketball courts in elementary schools and senior centers and the integration of hiker/biker trails into other active recreation projects, are being programmed in to maximize multi-use potential and to leverage public investment to the greatest degree possible.

County Priorities for Land Acquisition, Facility Development, and Rehabilitation

The “Acquisition, Development, and Rehabilitation Priorities” table outlines short-term, mid-term, and long-term priorities for land acquisition, facility development, and facility renovation. The short-term projects are those listed in the 2012-2017 CIP and generally reflect the needs identified in the needs analysis and through observation. They include playing fields, trails, picnic facilities, and the maintenance and upgrade of existing facilities. Currently, the county has well-established mechanism and partnerships for maintenance of its single site, single owner facilities such as ballfields and multipurpose fields or its various park properties. Maintenance and operations plans for existing and proposed trails where multiple parcels held by various owners are following very similar models. Maintenance and operations agreements provide that all trails are open from sunrise to sunset and that all current trails within County parks are maintained by Carroll County and funded through the County operating budget. Coordination efforts are ramping up to provide interconnections to other existing trails and multiuse corridor network, which are frequently developed by the various municipalities. Those portions of current trails within the municipalities are maintained by that jurisdiction or through existing municipal agreements with homeowners associations, property management or other similar entities. Current multi-use/equestrian trails at Morgan Run (part of Patapsco Valley State Park) are maintained in part by the Carroll County Equestrian Council with additional maintenance from the State. Current multi-use/equestrian trails at Gillis Falls and Union Mills are maintained by the County with assistance from the Carroll County Equestrian Council

The Carroll County/Frederick County proposed extension of the water trail would result in shared acquisition costs for a parking and launch area and ongoing maintenance would be the responsibility of Frederick County. Regular grass cutting on the Freedom Area Trail would be maintained by Carroll County (on County owned property), by Springfield Hospital Center (on SHC property) and the town of Sykesville (on town property). Maintenance of the trail itself (such as repaving, repairs, etc.) would be the responsibility of Carroll County and funded through the capital budget as a park of park restoration. Additional funds are available to local recreation councils for trail maintenance and repairs through the Recreation & Parks Self Help program that matches local funds and volunteer effort with county funds.

Additional focus is being turned to developing sustainable trails as a key priority in greenways and environmentally sensitive areas. Stream valleys are often the most scenic areas to travel and they also offer terrain and grades making them ideally suited for universally accessible facilities. However, these areas are often the most environmentally sensitive and require more extensive design and compatibility analysis to develop appropriately. With careful planning and development, these corridors enable low-impact use while providing opportunities to increase awareness of the community’s unique environmental assets. Stream valleys also have the most potential as greenways and trail corridors as they often cannot be developed for other purposes.

Promoting sustainable trail design as part of capital development process will be emphasized as it provides both environmental benefits while supporting lower costs for ongoing maintenance.

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By utilizing trail design and development guidelines including:

- The Half Rule: trail grade should not exceed half the grade of the side slope the trail is traversing;
- Ten Percent Average Grade Rule: ideally the average grade is less than 10% and ADA trail guidelines will be followed;
- Encourage the use of Grade Reversals allowing water to leave trail at low points and Outsoles allowing water to sheet across trail rather than down the center)

Various trail projects will continue to seek new alternatives to expand opportunities, broaden a stewardship ethic through enabling environmental appreciation and provide a wider geographic scope for residents and tourists seeking to connect with these distinctive natural spaces.

To help support efforts by the individual municipalities, a line item for town projects that accounts for the County's 12.5% contribution toward town projects appears as an annual sum and is divided evenly between the towns on a rotating basis.

Mid- and long-term priorities focus on the on-going need for playing fields and hiker/biker trails predicted by growth projections and past trends. They also reflect the expressed and/or anticipated desires of a diverse population. Facilities such as an ice-skating rink, an ATV park, and equestrian trails exemplify the breadth of interests in the county and the County's desire to provide opportunities for a wide range of recreational activities.

The short-, mid-, and long-range priorities aim both to keep up with traditional demands and maintenance obligations and to fill existing or emerging gaps in the number and variety of recreational opportunities that exist in the county. In keeping with established policy, the bulk of the projects in all time periods are or are expected to be in the areas where the largest populations exist – the towns and designated growth areas. The exception to this is with facilities that, by their nature, require large amounts of open space or are to be located in already established parks outside of the towns and designated growth areas.

The funding for short-term projects comes from three sources: the County General Fund, a parks impact fee, and Program Open Space acquisition and development funds. The 2012-2017 CIP allocates 19.7 percent of the total costs to the General Fund source, 9 percent of the total costs to parks impact fees, and the remaining 71.3 percent of the costs to Program Open Space funds. Projected funding levels vary from year to year. In fiscal years 2012 - 2017, POS funding is projected to increase at small increments.

Acquisition (Acreage) Goal

In keeping with its Master Plan, Carroll County has a goal to maintain a minimum of 30 acres of public recreation area per 1,000 citizens. The September 2011 population estimate (used to calculate demand and, therefore, serving as the baseline population for this plan) was 168,089. Using the minimum recreation acreage goal of 30 acres per 1,000 citizens, the County should have 5042.67 acres of public recreation area.

The calculation of land that can be counted towards this goal to determine if it is being met is somewhat complex but logical. All of the land contained within local parks of the following nature may be counted:

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- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- City/Countywide Parks
- Metro/Regional Parks
- Educational Recreation Areas (60% of the total acreage of school sites)

Additionally, local natural resource areas can be counted towards the acreage goal. However, only 1/3 of this acreage qualifies and it must fall within one of the following categories:

- Natural Resource Areas
- Historic Cultural Areas
- Private Open Space (if permanently preserved and accessible to the community)

Finally, state and federal lands may be counted towards the acreage goal, but only that portion of which exceeds a ratio of 60 acres per 1,000 people. For example, if the total state and federal lands in Carroll County equaled 75 acres per 1,000 people, then only 15 acres per 1,000 people could be used towards the goal of 30 acres per 1,000 people.

The parks in Carroll County fall into a wide range of classifications. The table below breaks down the number and acreage of parks in the county by classification, as defined in the *Guidelines for State and Local Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Planning* produced by the state.

Carroll County Parks by Classification		
Classification	Number of Facilities	Acres
Local Recreation*		
Mini-Park	4	8.51
Neighborhood Park	12	43.1
Community Park	38	746.50
Large Urban/Regional	2	1204.40
School Recreational Area	43	714.54
Special Use Area	15	596.90
Sports Complex	1	84.80
Undeveloped Parks	7	2485
Other Public Land	1	32.50
Total	123	5916.25
<i>Acreage Calculation</i>	$5916.25 / (168,089 / 1,000) = 35.20$ acres per 1,000 people	
Local Natural Resource		
Natural Resource Area	2	6195.10
Historic/Cultural Areas	2	116.10
Total	4	6311.20
<i>Acreage Calculation</i>	$(1/3 \times 6311.20) / (168,068 / 1,000) = 12.39$ acres per 1,000 people	
Source: Recreational Facility Inventory 2011		
* Recreational facilities generally considered to be "private" and/or not accessible to the general public were not included in these counts		

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The County goal of providing 30 acres of recreational land per 1,000 people is the same as that recommended by the State. By combining the calculations for local recreation land and for local natural resource land, it is shown that the County currently provides 47.59 acres of land per 1,000 people. It should be noted that a substantial number of acres fall within the “Undeveloped Parks” category, which includes both the Gillis Falls and Union Mills reservoir areas.

The future population projections for the county are 176,175 by 2015, 184,828 by 2020, and 192,532 by 2025. Using these projections and assuming no change in recreational acreage from above, the County would still be well within the recommended state acreage goal. By 2015, there would be 45.41 acres per 1,000 people, which would fall to 43.28 acres per 1,000 by 2020 and 41.55 acres per 1,000 by 2025.

Supply Report

Activity	Facility Types	# of Facilities ¹	Season Length (days)	Daily Carrying Capacity/Facility ² (uses)	Annual Carrying Capacity per Facility (annual uses)	Total Supply, All Facilities (annual uses)
Baseball/ Softball						
	Ball Diamond	90	112	36.27	4,062.24	369,663.84
	Ball Diamond, Lighted	20	112	55.77	6,246.24	124,924.80
	Overlay	23.76	112	36.27	4,062.24	96,518.82
	Overlay, Lighted	6.6	112	55.77	6,246.24	41,225.18
	Total					632,332.65
Field Sports						
Soccer	Field, Multi-purp.	54.75	107	34.875	3,731.63	204,306.47
	Field, Multi-purp., Lighted	5.25	107	53.625	5,737.88	30,123.84
	Field, Overlay	27	107	34.875	3,731.63	100,753.88
	Field, Overlay, Lighted	7.5	107	53.625	5,737.88	43,034.06
	Total					378,218.25
Lacrosse	Field, Multi-purp.	73	76	34.875	2,650.50	193,486.50
	Field, Multi-purp., Lighted	7	76	53.625	4,075.50	28,528.50
	Field, Overlay	11.88	76	34.875	2,650.50	31,487.94
	Field, Overlay, Lighted	3.3	76	53.625	4,075.50	13,449.15
	Total					266,952.09
Football	Field, Multi-purp.	18.25	107	41.85	4,477.95	81,722.59
	Field, Multi-purp., Lighted	1.75	107	64.35	6,885.45	12,049.54
	Field, Overlay	9	107	41.85	4,477.95	40,301.55
	Field, Overlay, Lighted	2.5	107	64.35	6,885.45	17,213.63
	Total					151,287.30
Basketball						
	Court, Basketball	112	135	37.5	5,062.50	561,937.50
	Total					561,937.50
Tennis						
	Court, Tennis	67	365	7.5	2,737.50	183,412.50
	Total					183,412.50
Assumes the following allocations of usage based upon typical demand, age of participants, and time of games: Multi-purpose fields (3/4 soccer and 1/4 football in fall; all for lacrosse in spring); Overlay fields (3/4 soccer and 1/4 football in fall; 1/3 lacrosse, 2/3 baseball/softball in spring). Does not include facilities at privately owned sites not open to the general public						
2 Daily Carrying Capacity = # of games per day x # of people per game. Assumes the following: games/practices on unlit fields average 1 per weekday and 4 per weekend day (13 total per week or 1.86 per day); games/practices on lit fields average 2 per weekday and 5 per weekend day (20 total per week or 2.86 per day); basketball and tennis games/practices average 2.5 per day. Also assumes that fields are used by only one team for practices and two teams for games						

Demand Report

Activity	Current Population ¹	Participation Rate ²	Frequency Rate ³	Current Demand (annual uses)	2015 Population (est.) ⁴	2015 Demand (annual uses)	2020 Population (est.)	2020 Demand (annual uses)	2025 Population (est.)	2025 Demand (annual uses)
Baseball/Softball										
Baseball	168,089	6.50%	31.96	349,188.09	176,175	365,985.95	184,828	383,961.69	192,532	399,965.98
Softball	168,089	6.90%	18.68	216,653.27	176,175	227,075.48	184,828	238,228.51	192,532	248,158.35
Field Sports										
Soccer	168,089	13.00%	23.01	502,804.63	176,175	526,992.28	184,828	552,876.00	192,532	575,920.97
Lacrosse	168,089	7.10%	20.81	248,353.18	176,175	260,300.32	184,828	273,085.22	192,532	284,467.96
Football	168,089	6.30%	27.09	286,872.45	176,175	300,672.59	184,828	315,440.40	192,532	328,588.59
Basketball	168,089	11.30%	30.38	577,039.45	176,175	604,798.20	184,828	634,503.43	192,532	660,950.80
Tennis	168,089	10.30%	13.11	226,975.62	176,175	237,894.39	184,828	249,578.79	192,532	259,981.74
¹ Based upon September 2011 estimated population, Carroll County Planning Department, which differs from Round 7C BMC projections by 7,431										
² Based upon State survey, individual participation rate (annual)										
³ Based upon County Recreation Council attendance numbers for registered participants in all sports except tennis (tennis uses frequency rate from State survey)										
⁴ Future population estimates based on Round 7C of BMC Projections minus 7,431										

Needs Analysis

Activity	Current Supply (uses)	Annual Carrying Capacity per Facility ¹ (uses)	Current Annual Demand (uses)	Current Unmet Need (uses and fields)	2015 Demand	2015 Unmet Demand	2015 Unmet Need	2020 Demand	2020 Unmet Demand	2020 Unmet Need	2025 Demand	2025 Unmet Demand	2025 Unmet Need
Baseball, Softball	632,332.65	4,062.24	565,841.36		593,061.43			622,190.19			648,124.32		
uses				-66,491.28		-39,271.22			-10,142.45			15,791.68	
fields				-16.37			-9.67			-2.50			3.89
Field Sports													
Soccer	378,218.25	3,731.63	502,804.63		526,992.28			552,876.00			575,920.97		
uses				124,586.38		148,774.03			174,657.75			197,702.72	
fields				33.39			39.87			46.80			52.98
Lacrosse	266,952.09	2,650.50	248,353.18		260,300.32			273,085.22			284,467.96		
uses				-18,598.91		-6,651.77			6,133.13			17,515.87	
fields				-7.02			-2.51			2.31			6.61
Football	151,287.30	4,477.95	286,872.45		300,672.59			315,440.40			328,588.59		
uses				135,585.15		149,385.29			164,153.10			177,301.29	
fields				30.28			33.36			36.66			39.59
Basketball	561,937.50	5,062.50	577,039.45		604,798.20			634,503.43			660,950.80		
uses				15,101.95		42,860.70			72,565.93			99,013.30	
courts				2.98			8.47			14.33			19.56
Tennis	183,412.50	2,737.50	226,975.62		237,894.39			249,578.79			259,981.74		
uses				43,563.12		54,481.89			66,166.29			76,569.24	
courts				15.91			19.90			24.17			27.97
¹ Uses carrying capacity for unlit fields													

Acquisition & Development Recommendations

Project	Planning Area Location*	Estimated Total Cost	Acres to be Acquired	Estimated Short-Range (2015) Cost			Estimated Mid-Range (2020) Cost			Estimated Long-Range (2025) Cost		
				Acquisition (# of acs./ \$ est.)	Cap. Dvlt.	Rehab.	Acquisition (# of acs./ \$ est.)	Cap. Dvlt.	Rehab.	Acquisition (# of acs./ \$ est.)	Cap. Dvlt. ***	Rehab.
Items in FY 12-17 Carroll County CIP												
Community Self-Help Projects	community wide	\$414,200	n/a		\$414,200							
Landon C Burns Connector Trail Development	C*	\$70,000	Already Acquired		\$70,000							
Park Restoration	county wide	\$549,500	n/a			\$549,500						
Program Open Space Unallocated	county wide	\$1,550,878	n/a		\$1,550,878							
Tot Lot Replacement	county wide	\$459,238	n/a			\$459,238						
Town Fund	county wide	\$30,900	n/a		\$30,900							
Westminster Community Park	C*	\$2,146,000	Already Acquired		\$2,146,000							
Westminster Community Trail Development	C*	\$150,000	Already Acquired		\$150,000							
Items Budgeted in FY 12-17 Municipal CIPs												
Mount Airy Refurbishment of Town Parks	C*	\$160,000	n/a			\$160,000						
Mount Airy Future Ballfield Development	C*	\$130,000	TBD		\$130,000							
Town House Benches	F*	\$2,400	n/a			\$2,400						
Linear Park/Ashbrook Ct New Linear Trail	F*	\$40,000	Already Acquired		\$40,000							
Linear Trail Overlay Gray Way - Pond	F*	\$60,000	n/a			\$60,000						
Scarborough Woods Trail Overlay	F*	\$40,000	n/a			\$40,000						
Park Pathway - Norris to Oklahoma	F*	\$20,000	Already Acquired		\$20,000							
Cooper Park Sign Replacement	F*	\$5,000	n/a			\$5,000						
Sandosky & Main Corner Improvement	F*	\$20,000	Already Acquired			\$20,000						
Path Connection- Main to Carroll Fields	F*	\$50,000	Already Acquired		\$50,000							
Old Main Line Park Lights	F*	\$10,000	n/a			\$10,000						
Pedestrian Alleyway #2-Lights	F*	\$7,500	n/a			\$7,500						
Lights Pedestrian Alleyway #3	F*	\$35,000	n/a			\$35,000						
Union Bridge - General Park Projects	A*	\$30,000	Already Acquired			\$20,000		\$10,000				
Wakefield Valley Trail Extension	C*	\$90,000	TBD			\$90,000						
Community Trail Phase 3 Resurface	C*	\$15,000	n/a			\$15,000						
Rec Vehicle Replacement	C*	\$40,000	n/a			\$40,000						
Charles Street Tot Lot Improvements	C*	\$28,000	n/a			\$28,000						
Pool Community Building Improvements	C*	\$25,000	n/a			\$25,000						
Dutterer Park Improvement	C*	\$214,000	Already Acquired			\$214,000						
Fenby Farm Boulder Park Improvements	C*	\$7,000	Already Acquired			\$7,000						

Acquisition & Development Recommendations - cont'd.

Project	Planning Area Location*	Estimated Total Cost	Acres to be Acquired	Estimated Short-Range (2015) Cost			Estimated Mid-Range (2020) Cost			Estimated Long-Range (2025) Cost		
				Acquisition (# of acs./ \$ est.)	Cap. Dvlt.	Rehab.	Acquisition (# of acs./ \$ est.)	Cap. Dvlt.	Rehab.	Acquisition (# of acs./ \$ est.)	Cap. Dvlt. ***	Rehab.
Items in FY 12-17 Municipal CIPs, cont'd.												
Jaycee Park Improvements	C*	\$436,500	Already Acquired			\$436,500						
Family Center Improvements	C*	\$140,000	Already Acquired			\$140,000						
Westminster Pool Improvements	C*	\$102,500	Already Acquired			\$102,500						
Avondale Run Ballfield Improvements	C*	\$15,000	Already Acquired						\$15,000			
Uniontown Road Field Improvements	C*	\$150,000	Already Acquired						\$150,000			
Skate Park Improvements	C*	\$200,000	Already Acquired						\$200,000			
Belle Grove Square Improvements	C*	\$8,000	Already Acquired			\$8,000						
City Park Improvements	C*	\$723,000	Already Acquired			\$723,000						
Priorities												
Hiker/biker trails	county wide		3-1/2 acres per mile				Co-Located w/ Existing ROW or Easements	\$250,000				\$10,000
Multi-purpose fields	county wide		5 acres each				Already Acquired	\$400,000		25 acs. /\$350,000	\$400,000	\$15,000
Baseball diamonds	county wide		5 acres each				Already Acquired	\$525,000		15 acs. /\$300,000	\$525,000	\$65,000
Softball diamonds	county wide		5 acres each				Already Acquired	\$525,000		15 acs. /\$300,000	\$525,000	
Dog Parks/off leash areas	county wide		2 acres minimum				Co-Located at Existing Site	\$35,000				
Indoor sports facilities	county wide		4 acres							4 acs. /\$260,000	\$740,000	
Picnic facilities	county wide		1 acre per pavilion				Co-Located at Existing Site	\$56,000				
Multi-use trails**	county wide		3-1/2 acre per mile							98 acs.** /\$1,200,000	\$800,000	
ATV/ Motor cross facilities **	county wide		at least 30 acres							30 acs.** /\$650,000	\$176,000	
Expanded boat launch areas/water trails	county wide		1/2 acre each					\$120,000				
<p>* See Recreation Planning Areas Map (Map #6) on p. 1</p> <p>** These acquisition costs are site dependent and may be based, in part, on utilizing available ROW or existing easements in combination with in-fee</p> <p>*** Long-Range Capital Development costs are depicted as minimums; actual costs are too highly dependent on site conditions and location for accurate future projections</p>												

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State Goals Met by Acquisition and Development Recommendations

Project	Short-Range (2015)	Mid-Range (2020)	Long-Range (2025)	State Goal(s) Met (1-6)	Local Goal Met (7)	Notes
Community Self-Help Projects	√	√	√	1,2,5	7	Goals 1&2- The recreational councils/organizations know the improvements that need to occur within the community. The funds are best suited to go through them. Goal 5- These projects are taking place where infrastructure and public investment already exist. Goal 7- T The project will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal. Having the community finish projects aimed at local benefits makes it a more vital community.
Landon C Burns Connector Trail Development	√			1,2,3,4,5	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - Trails offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities which are readily accessible to all citizens. Trails are also recognized throughout the county as amenities that make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. This project will use state investment to create a multi-modal corridor that provides for physical activity options. Goal 5- The trail is working to connect different pieces of infrastructure that already exist within the community to make a cohesive network. Goal 7- The project will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal.
Park Restoration	√	√	√	1,2,3,4,5	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - Parks offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities which are readily accessible to all citizens. Parks are also recognized throughout the county as amenities that make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Park restoration projects make sure that all of the equipment is safe and up to code. Goal 5- Parks and open space connect different pieces of infrastructure that already exist within the community to make a cohesive network. Goal 7- Projects completed will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal.
Program Open Space Unallocated	√	√		1,2,3,4,5,6	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - Project Open Space Funds make it possible to offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities that are readily accessible to all citizens. The recreational spaces created with these funds are also recognized throughout the county as amenities that make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Since the funds are not tied to any particular project, they complement what is occurring throughout the community or complement something started by a developer, but are flexible enough to change with the needs of the citizens. Goal 5- These projects are taking place where infrastructure and public investment already exist. Goal 6- Project Open Space funds focus on preserving open space. Goal 7- Projects completed will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal. The County CIP is the primary tool that funds these projects.
Tot Lot Replacement	√	√	√	1,2,3,4,5	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - Tot Lots offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities that are readily accessible to all citizens. Tot Lots are also recognized throughout the county as amenities that make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Tot Lot replacement ensures that all of the equipment is safe and up to code. Goal 5- Tot Lots already exist within the community. Goal 7- Projects completed will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal. The County CIP is the primary tool that funds these projects.
Town Fund	√	√	√	1,2,3,4,5,6	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - The town fund provides funding for projects that are taken on by individual municipalities and then reimbursed by the Department of Recreation and Parks. These projects offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities that are readily accessible to all citizens. These projects are also recognized throughout the county as amenities that make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Goal 5- Town-funded projects already exist within the community. Goal 6- It is a State and County goal to maintain a minimum of 30 acres of recreation land per 1000 people. Goal 7- Projects completed will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to town and county residents, thereby meeting the goal. The Town and County CIP budgets are the primary tools that funds these projects.
Westminster Community Park	√			1,2,3,4,5,6	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - Community parks offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities that are readily accessible to all citizens. Community parks are also recognized throughout the county as amenities that make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Goal 5- The Westminster Community Park is an infill recreational parcel serving population in an underserved community. Goal 6- It is a State and County goal to maintain a minimum of 30 acres of recreation land per 1000 people. Goal 7- The project will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal.
Westminster Community Trail Development	√			1,2,3,4,5,6	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - Trails offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities which are readily accessible to all of its citizens. Trails are also recognized throughout the county as an amenity to make the county a more desirable place to live work and visit. Creating a multi-modal corridor using state investment that gets citizens walking. Goal 5- The trail is working to connect different pieces of infrastructure that already exist within the community to make a cohesive network. Goal 6- It is a State and County goal to maintain a minimum of 30 acres of recreation land per 1000 people. Goal 7- The project will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal.
Hiker/biker trails		√	√	1,2,3,4,5,6	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - These highly popular facilities would offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities that are readily accessible to all citizens. These additional facilities would be considered amenities that would make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. This project would expand the recreational options available to citizens. Goal 5- These trails would be built within the existing community. Goal 6- It is a State and County goal to maintain a minimum of 30 acres of recreation land per 1000 people. Goal 7- Projects completed will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal.

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Project	Short-Range (2015)	Mid-Range (2020)	Long-Range (2025)	State Goal(s) Met (1-6)	Local Goal Met (7)	Notes
Multi-purpose (soccer/football/lacrosse/rugby) fields		√	√	1,2,3,4,5,6	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - These highly popular facilities would offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities that are readily accessible to all citizens. These additional facilities would be considered amenities that make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. These fields would expand the recreational options available to citizens. Goal 5 - The fields would be built within existing communities. Goal 6 - It is a State and County goal to maintain a minimum of 30 acres of recreation land per 1000 people. Goal 7 - Projects completed will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal.
Baseball diamonds		√	√	1,2,3,4,5,6	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - These highly popular facilities would offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities that are readily accessible to all citizens. These additional facilities would be considered amenities that make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. These fields would expand the recreational options available to citizens. Goal 5 - The fields would be built within existing communities. Goal 6 - It is a State and County goal to maintain a minimum of 30 acres of recreation land per 1000 people. Goal 7 - Projects completed will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal.
Softball diamonds		√		1,2,3,4,5,6	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - These highly popular facilities would offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities that are readily accessible to all citizens. These additional facilities would be considered amenities that make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. These fields would expand the recreational options available to citizens. Goal 5 - The fields would be built within existing communities. Goal 6 - It is a State and County goal to maintain a minimum of 30 acres of recreation land per 1000 people. Goal 7 - Projects completed will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal.
Dog Parks/off-leash areas		√		1,2,3,4,5,6	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - These unique facilities would offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities that are readily accessible to all citizens. Dog parks would be considered amenities that would make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. These facilities would expand the recreational options available to citizens. Goal 5 - These facilities would be built within existing communities. Goal 6 - It is a State and County goal to maintain a minimum of 30 acres of recreation land per 1000 people. Goal 7 - Projects completed will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal.
Indoor sports facilities			√	1,2,3,4,5,6	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - These unique facilities would offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities that are readily accessible to all citizens. These additional facilities would be considered amenities that make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. These facilities would expand the recreational options available to citizens. Goal 5 - These facilities would be built within existing communities. Goal 6 - It is a State and County goal to maintain a minimum of 30 acres of recreation land per 1000 people. Goal 7 - Projects completed will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal.
Picnic facilities		√		1,2,3,4,5,6	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - These highly popular facilities would offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities that are readily accessible to all citizens. These additional facilities would be considered amenities that make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. They would expand the recreational options available to citizens. Goal 6 - It is a State and County goal to maintain a minimum of 30 acres of recreation land per 1000 people. Goal 7 - Projects completed will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal.
Equestrian/multi-use (natural surface) trails			√	1,2,3,4,5,6	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - These unique facilities would offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities that are readily accessible to all citizens. The additional trails would be considered amenities that make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. They would expand the recreational options available to citizens. Goal 5 - These facilities would be built within the existing community, as appropriate. However, the nature of this type of use may require location away from dense concentrations of population and activity. Goal 6 - It is a State and County goal to maintain a minimum of 30 acres of recreation land per 1000 people. Goal 7 - Projects completed will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal.
ATV/ Motorcross facilities			√	1,2,3,4,5,6	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - These unique facilities would offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities that are readily accessible to all citizens. These additional facilities would be considered amenities that make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. They would expand the recreational options available to citizens. Goal 5 - These facilities would be built within the existing community, as appropriate. However, the nature of this type of use may require location away from dense concentrations of population and activity. Goal 6 - It is a State and County goal to maintain a minimum of 30 acres of recreation land per 1000 people. Goal 7 - Projects completed will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal.
Expanded boat launch areas/water trails		√		1,2,3,4,5,6	7	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 - These unique facilities would offer a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities that are readily accessible to all citizens. These additional facilities would be considered amenities that make the county a more desirable place to live, work and visit. They would expand the recreational options available to citizens. Goal 5 - These facilities would be built within the existing community, as appropriate. However, the nature of this type of use may require location away from dense concentrations of population and activity. Goal 6 - It is a State and County goal to maintain a minimum of 30 acres of recreation land per 1000 people. Goal 7 - Projects completed will add to the inventory of recreational facilities available to county residents, thereby meeting the goal.

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State Goals:

1. Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens, and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.
2. Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the State more desirable places to live, work and visit.
3. Use State investment in parks, recreation, and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans.
4. To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile, and help to protect natural open spaces and resources.
5. Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities.
6. Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a statewide level.

Local Goal:

7. (CCMP) Provide a coordinated and comprehensive system of public and private parks, recreational facilities and programs, and open space that will meet the active and passive recreational needs of all citizens of the County and enhance community design, identity, and vitality.
 - a. Community Viability Threshold 1: A minimum of 30 acres of public recreation area per 1,000 county residents will be maintained.