

ASSESSING PARKLAND AND FACILITY NEEDS

A required component of the LPPRP is the assessment of needs for parkland and recreational facilities. The processes utilized to assess these needs involve mathematic formulas and traditional methodologies that result in numeric estimations of how many additional acres of parkland are needed, and how many of various types of recreational facilities are needed. Both the acreage and recreation facility needs assessment utilize forms of supply and demand analysis.

Supply data is captured from County park and facility inventories, which include certain specific data fields to adhere to State of Maryland standards. As part of the LPPRP formulation process, the County provides the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) with digital data for its park and facility inventory, with the data utilized at the State level within the formulation of the Maryland LPPRP. It is important to recognize that while the parkland and facility needs analysis processes provide numeric data that gives a general picture of the needs, further qualitative assessments need to take place in order to gain a better sense for actual needs.

Supply of Parklands and Recreational Facilities

The two types of resources that are considered when performing supply and demand analysis for parks and recreation purposes are *parklands* and *recreational facilities*.

Parklands: The full process for enumerating parkland acreage needs is presented in *Appendix D*. Baltimore County presently adheres to the State-established goal of providing 30 acres of county parkland per thousand population. The County’s parkland acreage needs are presented in further detail within the “needs assessment” section of this chapter. Following is a summary of the existing supply of parkland within Baltimore County. The information is broken down by each of the four recreation regions that comprise the County (see map on page 10). It is important to note that the figures provided reflect the *creditable parkland acreage*, which is the amount of land that may be counted towards the parkland acreage goal based on the standardized “30 acres per thousand” analysis process. These figures differ from the *gross* amount of parkland, as certain types of lands may only be counted on a partial basis towards the parkland acreage goal.

- **Countywide and Regional Acreage**: This type of parkland is “shared” in terms of acreage credit, with countywide parks and open spaces assumed to serve all four recreation regions, and regional parks each having designated primary service areas, some of which cross recreation region borders (for example, the primary service area of Meadowood Regional Park is deemed to be the Pikesville, Towson, Towson towne, Lutherville-Timonium and Cockeysville recreation councils. The creditable acreage breakdown is as follows, representing the full (100%) acreage of all regional and countywide parks, and one-third of the acreage of countywide open spaced (the three reservoirs and Essex Sky Park property):

Parkland Type	# of Sites	Creditable Acres
Countywide Parks	17	3,879
Countywide Open Space	4	5,037
Regional Parks & Facilities	9	977
Totals:	30	9,893

- Local Acreage by Recreation Region: The following table displays the various types and amounts of *creditable* “local” parkland acreage by recreation region.

	# of School Recreation Centers	School Recreation Center Acreage	# of Local Parks*	Local Park Acreage	# of County Open Spaces/Natural Sites**	County Open Space/Natural Acreage	# of Private Open Spaces/Natural Sites***	Private Open Space/Natural Acreage	Total # of Local Sites	Total Local Acreage
Region 1	57	793.6	49	1,066.2	341	388.3	94	100.4	541	2,348.5
Region 2	33	488.6	33	489.8	202	283.1	102	108.1	370	1,369.6
Region 3	28	394.1	40	590.6	321	311.8	84	77.6	473	1,374.1
Region 4	43	497.0	58	974.6	116	128.6	32	42.1	249	1,642.3
Totals:	161	2,173.3	180	3,121.2	980	1,111.8	312	328.2	1,633	6,734.5

*- includes existing and proposed neighborhood and community parks

**- incl. County LOS, undeveloped parks and greenways, and drainage & forest buffer reservations

***- includes private homeowners association (HOA) and condo-owners assoc. (COA) local open space

Site Classification Changes/Notes: The process of evaluating parkland site classifications as they relate to parkland acreage needs assessments involves occasional changes to how sites are classified. The following summarizes some of the key recent changes, which have transpired since the prior LPPRP:

- Robert E. Lee Park (leased from the City) and the BeeTree Preserve Conservation and Public Recreation Access Easement have been added to the County’s parkland inventory and classified as parks, reflecting their public recreation opportunities.
- Ten greenways, open spaces and other public properties in the Owings Mills area have been reclassified as parks as a result of the construction of the Red Run Trail, which runs through or along each of the properties.
- A number of previously unimproved sites that were classified as open space have been developed since the writing of the last LPPRP, and have thus been reclassified as parks. This includes Sweet Air Park, Wilson Point Park, the Fields at Renaissance Park, Cowenton Ridge Park and Perry Hall Park.
- Numerous presently unimproved sites (e.g., Gough Park Site, Tidewater Village Park Site, Hazelwood Park Site, Ashmere Road Park Site) have been reclassified from open spaces to parks to better reflect their *ultimate* anticipated use and to be counted more accurately within parkland acreage needs assessments.
- Park classifications were changed in numerous instances to better reflect the role of the parks. For example, Fort Howard Park, despite its size (92.8 acres) was reclassified from a regional park to a community park since its types and quantity of facilities are more akin to a community park.
- Minor site acreage adjustments were made to correct errant records/data.
- Park acreage was split in cases where most of a large park serves a region or the County, while part serves local recreation needs. For example, County Home Park has a golf course (countywide appeal) as well as a section with local recreation facilities.

Recreational Facilities: The process of estimating recreational facilities needs is not nearly as basic and direct as the acreage needs evaluation methodology. Numerous formulas and processes exist for estimating recreational facility needs. The two most common methods are straightforward per capita recommendations, and a more complex supply-demand methodology. The per capita process provides recommended service levels for various types of recreational facilities (e.g., one tennis court to serve every 2,000 population, or 0.5 miles of multi-use trail for every 1000 population). The supply-demand method uses recreation demand survey results to estimate the overall “demand” for various facilities based on the estimated number of times survey respondents participated in recreational activities, then compares these figures with the “supply” accommodated by available recreational facilities. Both types of assessment methods provide general estimations of need that must be further analyzed and adjusted based on local conditions and variations in recreational demand (not all communities have the same recreational preferences). A qualitative analysis of the results must take place after formulation of the base needs numbers in order to reflect local factors. The County’s recreational facility needs assessment, as well as a description of the supply-demand methodology utilized, is presented later in this chapter.

The following is a synopsis of the types of recreational facilities provided throughout the County, as well as a count of these facilities. The “primary provider” for each type of facility is included within the facility descriptions. In cases where “Baltimore County” is listed as a provider, the facilities may be situated at parks, school recreation centers and leased recreation sites.

- **Ball Diamonds and Athletic Fields:** Ball diamond is the generic term that refers to facilities designed with infield and outfield areas, a pitcher’s mound, three bases, and home plate, and used for sports including baseball, softball and t-ball. Diamonds can be built with grass or “skinned” (i.e. dirt) infields, and are constructed to support one or more distances between bases. The County typically constructs 60’ diamonds, 60’/75’ diamonds (which can be set up for any distance between bases of 60’ to 75’), and 90’ diamonds. The difference in base path distances varies by sport, age group and league type/rules. Athletic fields are rectangular multi-purpose fields constructed to support such activities as soccer, football, lacrosse, field hockey, rugby, etc. Baltimore County does not construct athletic fields for one express sport, but rather to accommodate many types of field sports. The configuration of ball diamonds and athletic fields varies widely by site and greatly impacts the manner in which these facilities may be utilized. A relatively small number of diamonds and fields are “stand alone,” which means that they are single physical entities that are not encroached upon by other fields or diamonds. The vast majority of diamonds and athletic fields in Baltimore County are “overlays.” This means that the diamond(s) and athletic field(s) intersect, so that the diamond(s) and field may not be used concurrently.

The significance of stand-alone versus overlay is important to understand, as it greatly impacts the potential use of facilities. Traditionally, most recreational sports have been played in very defined and regimented seasons. Spring and early summer were the domains of baseball, softball and lacrosse. Fall and late summer were the seasons in which soccer and football programs took place. The allocation and scheduling of ball diamonds and athletic fields was fairly straightforward. Baseball and softball were by far the most highly

demanding spring activities, and only a relatively small number of athletic fields would be needed to provide for lacrosse, whose appeal was generally isolated in terms of geography. In fall the vast majority of ball diamonds would no longer be needed, as soccer and football dominated. Recreational demands have shifted vastly over the decades, so that the concept of sports seasons has faded somewhat. This has led to various sports being played in non-traditional times of the year, such as fall baseball and softball, and spring soccer. This, combined with a boom in girls' sports and year-round demand, has made the process of field and diamond allocation far more challenging. Diamonds that would have been shut down in fall are now needed to serve fall baseball and softball. More and more athletic fields are needed in spring to accommodate year-round demand for many field sports, and to serve activities such as lacrosse that have grown immensely over the years. It is therefore important to understand that raw counts of ball diamonds and athletic fields can be misleading since so many of these facilities are overlaid and cannot be used to support different activities at the same time.



Girls lacrosse game under the lights at Perry Hall Park. According to U.S. Lacrosse, there was a growth of over 9% in youth lacrosse participation from 2009 to 2010 alone. Additionally, the number of girls varsity lacrosse programs grew by over 48% over the past five years, the largest such increase in girls' high school sports.

Other factors impact the usability of ball diamonds and athletic fields. Many diamonds situated on the same site, particularly those built decades ago, are arranged in a manner that could restrict the use to one diamond or the other at any given time. The prime considerations are the sport being played, the age group of the participants, and the distance between the home plates of the diamonds. When this distance is short, there would be few options to use both diamonds at the same time -- perhaps only if younger age groups and/or t-ball were taking place on each.

Athletic fields offer a different set of challenges and opportunities. In some cases full-sized athletic fields are not needed to support an activity—lacrosse games for younger age groups,

for example. Rather than having one such game occupy a full athletic field, two or more smaller “temporary” fields are sometimes laid out atop a single “regulation” athletic field. Athletic fields are also prone to becoming de-vegetated much more quickly than ball diamonds, especially if used heavily for lacrosse and/or football. Clear wear patterns develop around the goal areas for lacrosse, and lengthwise in the middle of football fields. Such wear can lead to a need to reconfigure the field boundaries (where possible), or even result in the field being taken out of service for a period of time so that it may be rehabilitated. The replacement of grass fields with synthetic turf surfaces took place at thirteen sites since the prior LPPRP, thereby resolving the issue of field wear at those recreation venues.

Another factor impacting level of use is facility lighting. Diamonds and athletic fields with lighting systems can be used for an extended period of time, past daylight hours, and are particularly useful in early spring and late fall when daylight hours are shorter. Such diamonds and fields can thus support many more games than unlit sites each year.

Both ball diamonds and athletic fields are essential to the programs offered by the local recreation councils. In some cases, certain programs of the councils have leased private land on which to operate as a result of an inadequate number of County-owned facilities. Nearly all diamonds and athletic fields also receive unscheduled use for informal recreation. Baltimore County is the primary provider of this type of recreational facility within the County.

- **Outdoor Courts:** Traditionally DRP has provided two basic types of outdoor courts at parks and school recreation centers—tennis courts and multi-purpose courts. While multi-purpose courts are intended to be used for a variety of purposes, their main feature has long been basketball goals. Much has changed over the decades that has impacted upon the use of existing courts. Tennis has been on a steady decline since its heyday in the 1970’s. The basketball goals at multi-purpose courts have often been removed as a result of neighbor complaints of disorderly conduct. To date no perfect solution to this problem has been formulated, frustrating the neighbors of multi-purpose courts, those who wish to use outdoor basketball courts, and DRP. The most recent approach taken at some courts has been the removal of one goal from each court, thereby transforming the courts into half-courts. The half-courts are seemingly less attractive to the older teens and young adults that local residents have identified as the chief transgressors.

The County’s courts have long been used for a wide range of other recreational activities, regardless of whether the courts were designed or conducive for same. Multi-purpose courts are sometimes furnished with painted game lines for activities such as the games hopscotch and four square. Many tennis and multi-purpose courts are used as a makeshift “indoor” soccer fields, roller hockey courts, or hard-surface lacrosse fields. Roller skater/bladers and bicyclers, particularly children, have long utilized the courts as alternative to skating or riding on sidewalks or the road. Some such activities have led to court evolutions in Baltimore County. DRP has installed a plastic surface outdoor court, complete with dasher boards, for soccer, lacrosse and roller hockey at North Point Government Center, constructed

three roller hockey courts, and developed “street-style” skateboard and rollerblade facilities at four parks.

The extent of use offered by courts varies widely. Courts at school recreation centers are restricted to use by students during school hours. Some courts have been lighted to provide extended hours of use. Skatepark use is regulated and restricted to specific use hours. Baltimore County is the primary provider of various types of recreational courts throughout the County.

- **Indoor Facilities:** The demand for indoor recreational facilities such as gymnasiums and activity rooms has seen a marked increase over years. This increased demand may be attributed to a number of factors. Some of the activities that have long taken place in these facilities—basketball, volleyball, dance, aerobics and fitness, etc.—have substantially grown in popularity. Certain sports that traditionally take place outdoors have developed indoor variations (e.g., indoor soccer or indoor lacrosse) that allow participants to play their sport of choice virtually year-round. Some recreation and parks councils have extremely popular cheerleading and dance programs that use indoor facilities either year-round or seasonally. Tot centers and camps also often utilize indoor recreation space. In many communities there is insufficient indoor recreation space to meet all recreational demands.

The County continues to invest in indoor facilities in an effort to better meet the needs of the recreation councils and the general public. DRP often participates in the funding of new public school construction, often investing a larger amount of funding to allow for recreational enhancements such as the construction of a middle school-sized gymnasium at new elementary school recreation centers (in lieu of a smaller and less usable elementary school-sized gym). Numerous older and somewhat defunct community buildings, some of which were formerly schools, have been replaced with new community centers with more and/or better-configured recreation space. New community centers have been constructed, some of which are much larger than typical, and feature special facilities such as theaters or technology labs.

Other indoor facility types are also provided by the County, including interpretive centers, arts buildings, and a number of historical structures. Since the writing of the prior LPPRP, the County’s first regional indoor recreation facilities with indoor multi-purpose fields have been established at three sites—the Southeast Regional Recreation Center, the Northeast Regional Recreation Center, and the Reisterstown SportsPlex (which also features a Baltimore County Revenue Authority-operated indoor ice rink). Indoor swimming pools, operated by the YMCA, were provided at the Dundalk Community Center and Randallstown Community Center. Baltimore County is the primary provider of public indoor recreational facilities throughout the County.

- **Picnic Facilities:** Baltimore County offers designated picnic areas at dozens of parks throughout the County, each featuring a collection of picnic tables and grills, and some also including picnic pavilions/shelters. These areas are available for reservations through various DRP offices from spring through fall. Additionally, one or more picnic table(s) are provided at well over 100 sites for informal, unscheduled picnicking. Picnic pavilions are in

great demand during “picnicking season,” with weekend reservation schedules filling up quickly each year. Picnic areas provide excellent venues for gatherings of friends, families and groups, offering an opportunity to cook out and enjoy a day in a park. Where possible, pavilions are constructed at parks with other recreational amenities so as to offer additional recreational opportunities. Both Baltimore County and Maryland DNR serve as the main providers of picnic facilities.

- **Playgrounds:** “Playground” is the term used to describe areas with apparatus such as swings, climbers, spring-toys and slides. These areas are sometimes called “tot lots,” but are designed for a number of different youth age groups. Playgrounds are available at more than 240 sites countywide, constructed and managed by both DRP and Baltimore County Public Schools. The County has developed a comprehensive playground renovation program that has resulted in the replacement of hundreds of outdated systems, and which has a regular inspection process to ensure the safety of all playground equipment. Playgrounds are situated in virtually all types of parks, including small neighborhood “walk to” sites that do not offer on-site parking. In some cases multiple playgrounds are situated at the same site, often targeted to different age groups. Significant efforts and resources have been invested into making playgrounds more accessible, and in providing support amenities such as park benches. Baltimore County is the primary provider of playgrounds within the County.
- **Trails and Paths:** An assortment of trails and paths may be found at parks throughout the County. Trail and path surfaces vary, and include natural and unimproved; semi-pervious woodchip, stone and stonedust; and paved. The types of activities that are permitted or are appropriate also vary, and generally depend upon the type of surface and character of the trail or path. Uses could include walking, jogging, hiking, roller skating/blading, skateboarding, bicycling, horseback riding, and wheelchair riding. Motorized vehicles are prohibited, and some of the listed activities are not allowed on certain trails. The County is making a concerted effort to develop paths and trails in new park development and park improvement projects, seeking to meet expanding demand for many linear-based forms of recreation. The County’s paths and trails supplement the far more extensive path and trail networks provided at the City-owned reservoirs and within state parks and the Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area.
- **Waterfront Facilities:** Baltimore County offers numerous waterfront facilities that take advantage of the County’s water resources, both on the Bay and its tributaries, and on the reservoirs. These include boat ramps, fishing piers, canoe launches, and public beaches. Additionally, miles of shoreline are available for fishing, viewing waterfowl and other wildlife, or the simple enjoyment of waterfront vistas. The Marshy Point Nature Center and Park utilizes its coastal location as the central theme in educating the public about the Chesapeake Bay and its ecosystem. Waterfront parks and facilities form one of the centerpieces of the County’s park system, and efforts continue to provide additional waterfront recreation opportunities. Baltimore County is the leading provider of free public waterfront access in the County. Many private marinas provide assorted boating services for a fee, and thousands of piers and docks are situated on private properties. The State also offers the Dundee Creek Marina in eastern Baltimore County. The County operates the Loch Raven Fishing Center at Loch Raven Reservoir through a lease with the landowner,

Baltimore City. Public swimming beaches are provided by both DNR (Hammerman Area of Gunpowder Falls State Park) and the County (Oregon Ridge Park lake and Rocky Point Park).

- **Swimming Pools:** At present DRP does not provide outdoors swimming pools, though County-owned indoor pools run by the YMCA have been established at the Dundalk Community Center and at Randallstown Community Center. Public swimming programs are, however, offered by a few recreation councils, and hosted at community colleges. Other opportunities for pool swimming are provided by YMCA's and private swim clubs, and many citizens have constructed pools on their own property. The private sector and citizens are considered to be the primary providers of swimming pools, with the County's two indoor pools and those at the community colleges providing access to the general public.
- **Golf Courses:** Public golf courses with driving ranges are provided for County citizens by the Baltimore County Revenue Authority, a quasi-public entity. The Baltimore City-owned Pine Ridge Golf Course at Loch Raven Reservoir is also a public course. These public courses supplement the golfing opportunities provided by private courses and driving ranges, which are the primary providers of golf within the County. It should be noted that a number of courses, both public and private, have been closed. The former Bonnie View Golf Course (private) was closed and redeveloped with a mixture of land uses, while the former Gunpowder Falls Golf Course (Baltimore County Revenue Authority) was closed and transferred to the County to serve as a public park. This reflects a national trend, as significant numbers of golf courses are being closed for reasons ranging from economic difficulties to reduced demand to prospects to sell courses for redevelopment.
- **Other Facilities:** A variety of other facilities that provide recreational opportunities are provided within Baltimore County recreation sites and parks, including:
 - Amphitheaters
 - Community Gardens
 - Disc Golf Courses
 - Dog Parks
 - Horseshoe Pits
 - Historical and Interpretive Areas
 - Model Aircraft/Car Facilities
 - Fishing Ponds
 - Jogging Tracks
 - Sand Volleyball Courts

In addition to recreational facilities, a wide range of support amenities are constructed at parks, including: access roads and parking lots; park benches, bleachers, and other types of seating; comfort stations, concessions and storage buildings; drinking and ornamental fountains; fencing; security lighting; trash receptacles; and landscaped areas.

The following table displays the supply of various types of facilities by each of the County's four recreation regions (revised from six recreation areas that existed as of the prior LPPRP).

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Total
Ball Diamonds	193	128	115	174	610
Athletic Fields	110	117	99	113	439
Tennis Courts	83	69	51	67	270
Multi-Purpose Courts	69	45	39	67	220
Picnic Pavilions	12	17	18	37	84
Playground Sites	76	46	52	67	241
Paths and Trails (miles)	11.0	11.7	21.3	9.0	53.0
Boat Ramps	1	1	0	8	10
Fishing Piers	2	0	1	17	20

Notes regarding facility counts: The above counts include facilities on County-owned parklands (including school recreation centers) and leased recreation sites. Facilities within non-leased portions of state parks, within the reservoir properties, or situated on privately owned open spaces are not counted. For the sake of simplicity, those facilities situated at countywide parks are tabulated in the matrix by the region in which the parks are geographically situated, and those for regional parks are assigned to the region the park primarily serves. The numbers of ball diamonds and athletic fields are the raw quantities of these facilities regardless of usability factors-- size, configuration (stand-alone or overlay), surface type, lighted/not lighted. The number of multi-purpose courts reflects the quantity of hard surface multi-use courts, regardless of their size or the number of intact/usable basketball goals. The quantities for playgrounds are the number of sites with one or more grouping of playground/tot lot apparatus. It is difficult to accurately enumerate the exact *number* of playgrounds, as they vary widely in size, layout, appropriate age ranges for use, etc. The listed trail lengths are rough estimations, as not all trails and path systems within the County have been precisely measured via the use of geographic positioning systems (GPS) technology. The majority of trails are of a natural surface and have not been formally mapped or delineated. The trail counts include various types of trails, ranging from natural/unimproved, to surfaces such as mulch or stone, to paved paths. The quantity of boat ramps is actually the number of individual ramp locations, some of which have been constructed with more than one lane.

Recreational Demand

The second factor utilized in completing the recreational facility needs analysis most commonly utilized by counties throughout Maryland is “recreational demand.” This term refers to an estimation of the public’s need for various types of recreational facilities, and is often calculated through the use of a “recreation demand survey.” The most recent statewide recreation demand survey, titled “Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland,” was conducted in January of 2003 by Mason-Dixon Polling and Research, Inc. The polling company utilized a survey instrument designed by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County’s (UMBC’s) Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (MIPAR) and Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education, in consultation with MDP, DNR, and a committee of park planners from throughout the State.

The Survey: A total of 2800 households were surveyed, with an equal sampling from each of seven distinct regions throughout the State. Baltimore County was one of five counties within the “Baltimore Suburbs” region, which also included Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties. The central component of the survey was a series of questions that asked Marylanders to indicate whether or not they had participated in various recreational activities over the past year, and how many times they had done so. These questions actually provide an estimate of recreational *participation*, which is used as an approximation of existing recreational demand. While this is an imperfect method for assessing recreational needs, it is widely accepted as the best available methodology.

The two factors that are calculated based on survey responses to the participation questions are “participation rate” and “frequency rate.” Participation rate is the percentage of individuals surveyed that have participated in the given activity at least once in the previous year. Frequency rate is the average (mean) number of *times* or *occasions* that those individuals participated in the activity within a one-year period. For example, if 20 of 100 individuals said they played softball within the past year, the participation rate would be 20% (i.e., 20/100). If those 20 individuals responded that they played softball a total of 200 times combined, the frequency rate would be 10 (i.e., 200 occasions/20 respondents). These factors are then applied to the population being analyzed to estimate the overall recreational demands, which are expressed in “total occasions demanded.” Recreation activities with the largest total occasions demanded would be considered to be the most popular recreational pursuits. The total occasions demanded is also used within the supply-demand analysis to estimate how many additional facilities may be needed to satisfy demand.

The table titled “Top 50 Recreational Activities” on the following page presents the fifty most “popular” activities (based upon total occasions demanded) listed in the prior LPPRP. This table applies the Baltimore Suburbs Region’s participation and frequency rates derived from the January **2003** statewide survey to the County’s estimated 2010 population of 816,547. It is important to note that recreational demand and participation varies not only by county, but also from community to community.

TOP 50 RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
(based on total occasions demanded)

Rank	Recreational Activity	Participation Rate	Frequency Rate	Total Occasions Demanded- 2005*
1	Walking	44.8%	22.31	8,161,289
2	Swimming (at pool)	45.8%	11.57	4,326,932
3	Jogging	12.3%	28.14	2,826,249
4	Dog Exercising	17.2%	18.80	2,640,386
5	Running	9.2%	32.33	2,428,705
6	Swimming (at beach/river/lake)	49.6%	5.57	2,255,891
7	Visiting playgrounds	29.3%	9.06	2,167,589
8	Soccer	13.0%	19.93	2,115,592
9	Basketball	11.3%	19.60	1,808,488
10	Hiking	29.2%	6.62	1,578,418
11	Pleasure/Recreational biking	16.8%	11.23	1,540,530
12	Weight training	7.1%	24.19	1,402,411
13	Aerobics/Fitness classes	5.4%	30.47	1,343,530
14	Golf	13.0%	12.25	1,300,351
15	Nature/gardening programs	12.2%	13.10	1,305,005
16	Skate boarding	7.0%	22.16	1,266,628
17	Lacrosse	6.9%	22.15	1,247,970
18	In-Line skating	8.4%	17.17	1,177,689
19	Softball	6.5%	21.16	1,123,079
20	Picnicking	36.6%	3.72	1,111,745
21	Tennis	10.3%	13.11	1,102,608
22	Attending fairs or festivals	52.4%	2.53	1,082,513
23	Baseball	7.1%	18.11	1,049,924
24	Power boating	14.5%	7.09	839,451
25	Football	6.3%	13.96	718,137
26	Fishing (from boat)	12.4%	7.08	716,863
27	Attending outdoor concerts	25.0%	3.29	671,610
28	Fishing (from shore/bank)	12.6%	6.13	630,685
29	Volleyball	4.8%	15.82	620,053
30	Ice skating	11.6%	5.48	519,063
31	Mountain biking	4.4%	11.92	428,263
32	Birdwatching	3.9%	12.49	397,748
33	Field hockey	1.8%	27.85	409,335
34	Sailing	4.7%	10.02	384,545
35	Fishing (from pier)	5.0%	9.12	372,345
36	Camping (in tent)	14.5%	3.08	364,670
37	Target shooting	5.3%	8.42	364,392
38	Canoeing	5.9%	6.81	328,080
39	Hunting	4.8%	8.15	319,433
40	Horseshoes	5.3%	7.26	314,191
41	Ice hockey	1.8%	20.10	295,427
42	Downhill skiing	8.2%	4.05	271,175
43	Nature walks	3.7%	8.55	258,315
44	Other fitness activities	1.8%	17.90	263,091
45	Skeet or trap shooting	2.8%	10.47	239,379
46	Yoga	0.8%	32.11	209,755
47	Kayaking	3.7%	6.48	195,775
48	Horseback riding (on trails)	2.6%	7.97	169,205
49	Snow boarding	3.6%	4.80	141,099
50	Bicycle touring	1.1%	15.92	142,994

*. Occasions demanded calculated by multiplying population (in this case the estimated 2010 population of 816,547) by the participation rate, then multiplying the frequency rate.

Data Sources: Participation and frequency rates from MDP corrections to survey data presented in "Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland." 2005 population from Baltimore County Office of Planning projections (February 2011).

The table of top recreational activities is intended to serve as a guide to the general recreational preferences of the population. Not all of these activities would take place within Baltimore County (downhill skiing, for instance), and all or some of the occasions demanded are typically provided outside the County, or at non-County facilities. Some of the activities are clearly facility or resource-dependent (e.g., swimming at beach/river/lake, golf, baseball), while others could take place within or outside of parks and recreation sites (e.g., walking, dog exercising, skate boarding, attending fairs and festivals). The vast majority of these activities are, however, supported by County and State parklands and facilities, and the programs of the local recreation councils.

The following section, “Needs Analysis,” will provide a detailed assessment of the need for various types of recreational facilities that are most often provided at the local level (that is, by Baltimore County).

Needs Analyses

Detailed assessments of the estimated “need” for additional parklands and recreational facilities are presented herein. Data is provided for both the County as a whole, and for each of Recreation and Parks’ four recreation regions (as configured as of March, 2012).

Parkland Acreage Needs Analysis: This section provides an estimation of parkland acreage needs based on the projected 2010, 2015, 2020 and 2025 County population, and the State goal of 30 acres of parkland per thousand population. This data is based upon population projections prepared by the Baltimore County Department of Planning in February of 2011, extracted from the Baltimore Metropolitan Council’s (BMC) Round 7C population forecasts. The following is the population breakdown for each of the four recreation regions, and for the County as a whole. See the recreation councils and regions map on page 10 for a depiction of how the regions are configured.

	2010 Pop	2015 Pop	2020 Pop	2025 Pop
Region 1	292,360	298,306	302,213	305,844
Region 2	194,283	199,990	203,164	205,562
Region 3	168,062	171,508	174,467	176,517
Region 4	161,842	164,815	167,133	169,015
Totals:	816,547	834,618	846,977	856,938

The table on the following page summarizes the supply and demand for parkland, based upon the goal of 30 acres of parkland per thousand citizens. The acreage numbers provided reflect the amount of creditable acreage within each classification of parkland. The method for presentation of the acreage analysis figures varies from the 2005-2006 LPPRP, in that local acreage is presented by region, but regional and countywide acreage is presented for the County as a whole. *Appendix D* outlines the full process for calculating the creditable parkland acreage.

PARKLAND ACREAGE NEEDS ANALYSIS

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	TOTAL
1. LOCAL ACREAGE					
Neighborhood & Community Park Acreage	1,066.2	489.8	590.6	974.6	3,121.1
School Recreation Site Acreage	793.6	488.6	394.1	497.0	2,173.2
Open Space/Nat'l. Resource Acreage-Local	388.3	283.1	311.8	128.6	1,111.8
Private Open Space Acreage-Local	100.4	108.1	77.6	42.1	328.2
TOTALS:	2,348.4	1,369.6	1,374.1	1,642.2	6,734.3
2010 Local Acreage per 1,000 population	8.0	7.0	8.2	10.1	8.2
2015 Local Acreage per 1,000 population	7.9	6.8	8.0	10.0	8.1
2020 Local Acreage per 1,000 population	7.8	6.7	7.9	9.8	8.0
2025 Local Acreage per 1,000 population	7.7	6.7	7.8	9.7	7.9
2. REGIONAL & COUNTYWIDE ACREAGE					
Regional Park Acreage	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	975.6
Countywide Park Acreage	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,879.1
Countywide Nat'l. Res./Open Space Acreage	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,037.2
TOTAL:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9,891.9
2010 Reg'l. & Countywide Acre per 1,000 pop.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.1
2015 Reg'l. & Countywide Acre per 1,000 pop.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.9
2020 Reg'l. & Countywide Acre per 1,000 pop.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.7
2025 Reg'l. & Countywide Acre per 1,000 pop.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.5
3. CUMULATIVE ACRES & AC./1,000 POP.					
Cumulative Parkland Acreage	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16,626.2
2010 Cumulative Acres per 1,000 population	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.4
2015 Cumulative Acres per 1,000 population	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	19.9
2020 Cumulative Acres per 1,000 population	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	19.6
2025 Cumulative Acres per 1,000 population	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	19.4
4. PARKLAND ACREAGE DEFICIT					
2010 Cumulative Parkland Acreage Deficit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7,870
2015 Cumulative Parkland Acreage Deficit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8,412
2020 Cumulative Parkland Acreage Deficit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8,783
2025 Cumulative Parkland Acreage Deficit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9,082

NOTES PERTAINING TO PARKLAND ACREAGE NEEDS ANALYSIS TABLE

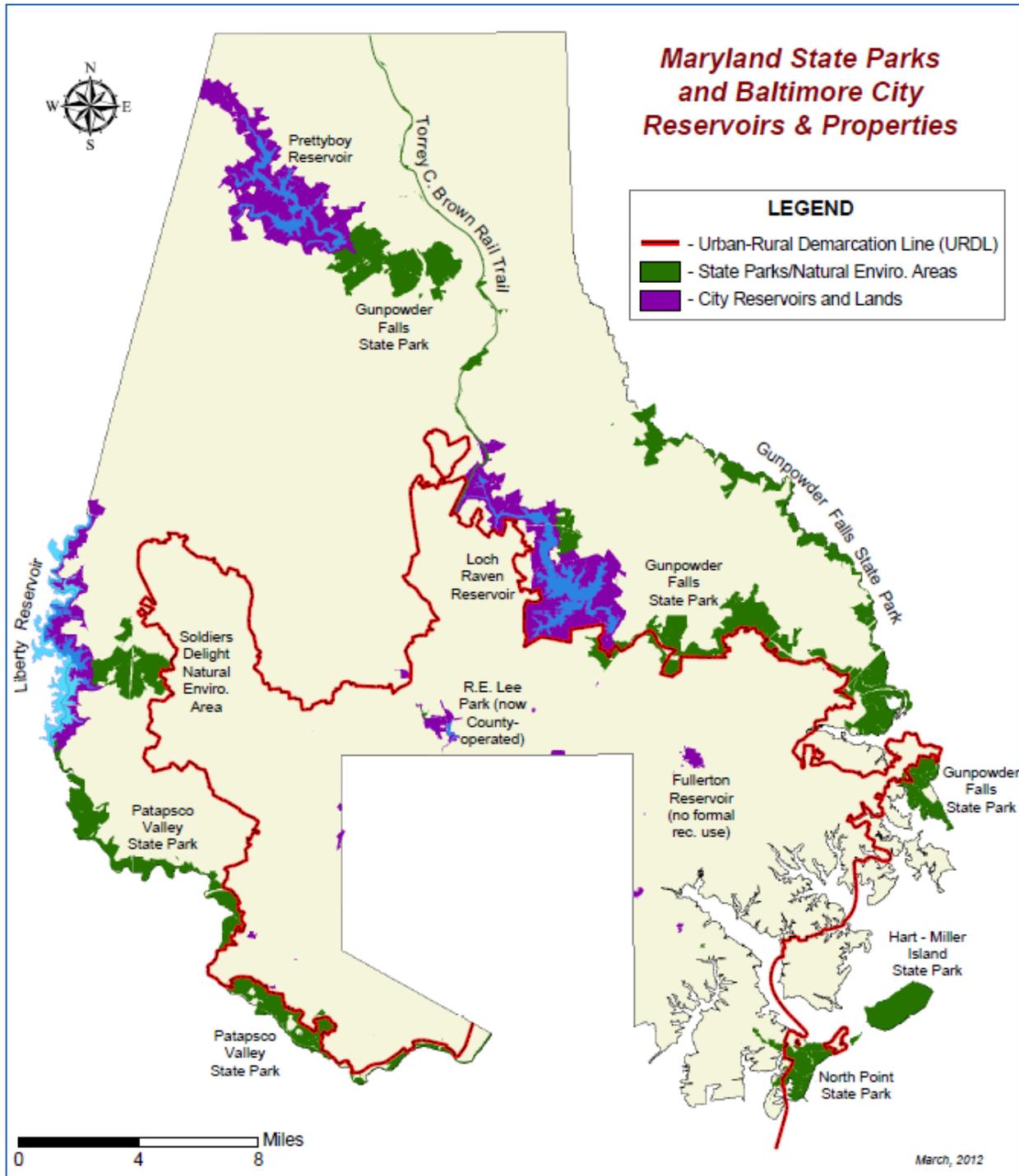
- All acreage listed under parts 1 and 2 of the table are the amount of “creditable acreage” for the various classes of parklands. 100% of the acreage of neighborhood, community, regional and countywide parks is credited towards the parkland acreage goal; 60% of school recreation center acreage is creditable; and only one-third of open space/natural resource lands (whether County-owned, private, or countywide) are creditable.
- Creditable parkland acreage per thousand population is listed regionally for local parkland acreage only. Regional and countywide acreage is not summarized/split by region.
- The parkland acreage per thousand population and the acreage deficit figures are based on the current amounts of parkland, and do not assume, estimate or count potential future parkland acquisitions.
- Neither State Parks and Natural Environment Areas nor lands preserved for agricultural purposes may be counted within the above analysis, and are thus excluded. The portions of the Baltimore City-owned reservoir properties within Baltimore County are included as countywide natural resource/open space acreage.
- The acres per thousand population figures are rounded within each section of the table, so that the cumulative figures may not match the sum of local and countywide acres per thousand.

Parts three and four of the table on the preceding page provide the most generalized data on the overall parkland acreage needs for the years 2010, 2015, 2020 and 2025 based on the standardized analysis methodology associated with the 30 acres of parkland per thousand population goal. Since this methodology is a population-based formula, the overall parkland acreage goal expands as the population increases. The County's overall parkland acreage per thousand population has increased since the 2005-2006 LPPRP, from a level of 19.0 acres per thousand to the year 2010 amount of 20.4 acres per thousand. Some of this change is attributable to continued refinements to the parkland acreage classification methodology used to calculate creditable parkland (see "site classification changes and notes" on page 84 for details). However, parkland acquisitions since the prior plan have likewise helped to achieve the increase, particularly the addition of three park sites that were each 100 or more acres in size—the Baltimore County Center for Maryland Agriculture and Farm Park, Robert E. Lee Park (previously counted as open space prior to being operated by the County, but now classified as a park for acreage needs assessment purposes), and the BeeTree Preserve Conservation and Public Recreation Access Easement.

Part four of the table shows the amount of acreage that would need to be added to meet the acreage goal based on population data and projections. It is important to recognize that the indicated amounts (e.g., 7,870 acres as of 2010) are the *creditable* acreage that would be needed to achieve the goal, and that only parks or sites intended to be developed as parks may be counted at a rate of 100% of their acreage. Making progress towards the goal via the acquisition of additional unimproved open space is a slower process, as open space/natural resource lands may only be counted at a rate of one-third of their acreage towards the goal. There are multiple means for increasing parkland acreage to reduce the parkland acreage deficit. The first is property acquisition via purchase, donation, or some other means. The second is by improving (where suitable) sites presently classified as open space/natural resource lands with recreational facilities, thereby changing their classification to parks and reaping a higher acreage credit benefit. A recent example of this took place at the site now named Red Run Greenway Park and Trail in Owings Mills-Reisterstown, where ten previously unimproved greenway parcels totaling ~180 acres were improved with a variety of trails, interpretive signs, a parking area and other facilities that made it logical to combine the parcels into a single park entity. Thus, the parkland acreage credit was tripled from 60 acres (one-third of 180 acres) to 180 acres.

There are numerous challenges faced by Baltimore County in its efforts to achieve the standardized 30 acres of parkland per 1,000 population goal. First, the urban portion of the County, within the URDL, is heavily developed and offers only limited opportunities for the acquisition of large land parcels that could be transformed into parks to make substantial strides towards the goal. Such sizeable tracts of land are often prohibitively expensive and also often represent the County's present growth management solution, with many such areas being targeted for higher-density mixed-use development. Meanwhile, the rural part of the County outside of the URDL is an area where investment in public infrastructure is intended to be somewhat limited as a result of the much lower population density and widespread distribution of the rural populace. Further, the County is nationally recognized for the vast portions of the rural area that have already been protected within agricultural land preservation and other conservation programs. Such lands may not be counted towards the parkland acreage goal. Finally, there are vast land areas and resources, as well as substantial recreational facilities, at the

state parks and reservoirs within the County. Most such lands and facilities are easily accessible to the more densely populated urban areas, and clearly contribute an abundance of recreational opportunities that complement those provided at County parks and facilities (see following map).



Only a few of the State and City properties displayed on the map are counted towards the County’s parkland acreage goal. Robert E. Lee Park, now operated by the County under a long-

term lease, is counted as parkland. The Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy Reservoir properties, meanwhile, are presently counted as open space/natural resource land (at a rate of one-third of their acreage).

A strategic approach to future park site selection is the analysis of the distribution/availability of local and regional parks. Part one of the table on page 95 provides data on the supply of local parkland acreage, along with the applicable amount of local acreage per thousand population within each of the County’s four recreation regions. The local parkland acreage per thousand population for 2010 ranges from a low of 7.0 (Region Two) to a high of 10.1 (Region Four), with an overall average (mean) of 8.2 acres of local parklands per 1,000 population. These figures could be translated to mean that Regions One and Three have about an average amount of local parkland in comparison to the County as a whole, while Region Two has a measurably smaller amount and Region Four has a demonstrably larger amount. However, the *size* of the local parks, school recreation centers and open spaces can have a large impact that may provide a skewed impression of the overall access to local parklands. For example, the 92.8-acre Fort Howard Park in Region Four and the 230-acre Southwest Area Park in Region One are both classified as community parks based on their present use, yet other smaller community parks may offer a larger number of recreational opportunities each year based on the facilities that are present and the nature of facility use.

Another option for gaining a rough indication of the relative need for additional local parks is to analyze the overall population that is served per local site, accomplished by dividing the regional population by the number (quantity) of local sites. Being that most recent acquisition projects have been initiated to acquire lands that will be improved and utilized as parks, and that the majority of open spaces are provided in conjunction with the County development process (i.e., are not purchased), it is most logical to base the count of facilities on local parks and school recreation centers only, and exclude unimproved open spaces within this particular analysis process.

POPULATION SERVED PER LOCAL PARKS AND SCHOOL REC. CENTERS					
	REG.1	REG.2	REG.3	REG.4	TOTAL
Population per neighb. & community park	5,967	5,887	4,202	2,790	4,536
Population per school rec center	5,129	5,887	6,002	3,764	5,072
Population per local park & src (combined)	2,758	2,944	2,472	1,602	2,395

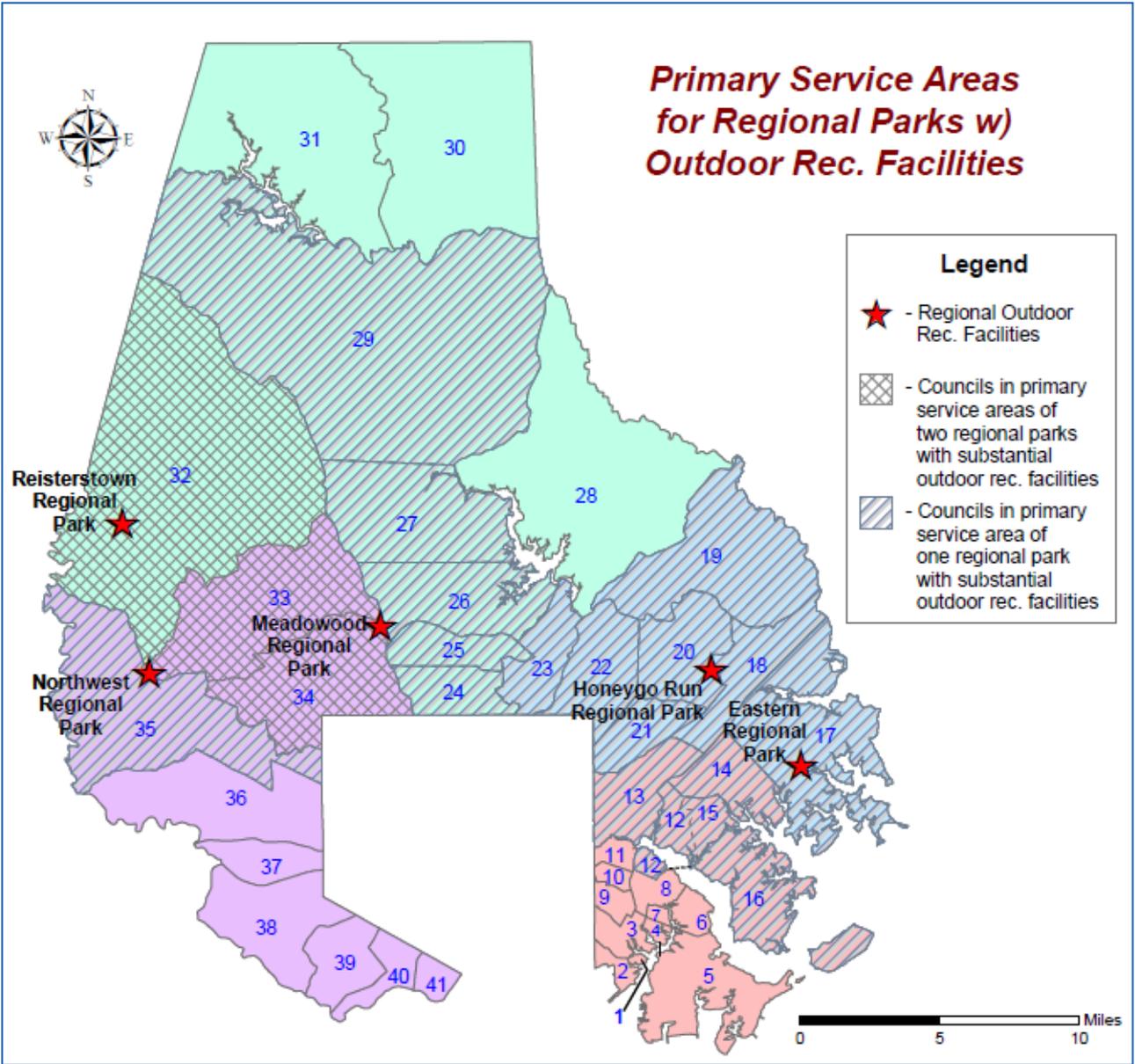
The table above shows - by region and countywide - the population served per neighborhood and community park, per public school recreation center (SRC), and per local parks and SRC’s combined. The smaller the number, the better served the region is in terms of local sites. The figures for the combined sites reinforce that Region Four is the best served of the four regions in terms of local parks and recreation sites (last row on table)-- one site per 1,602 population, compared to the countywide average of 2,395 population served per site. It likewise validates that Region Two has the lowest quantitative supply of local sites, which combined with the results of the local acres per thousand evaluation shows that the region is least served in terms of local parks. Meanwhile, Region Three is supplied with local sites at a rate very near the countywide average, and Region One trails only Region Two as the least served by local parks and SRC’s.

Based solely on the local parklands acreage per thousand population and the amount of population served by site (both of which are quantitative analyses) the regional priority for additional local parks and recreation sites would appear to be Region Two, followed by Regions One and Three, with Region Four having the least need in terms of these two quantitative assessments. However, there are other factors that may impact the need for additional local parks, including:

- The need for additional recreational facilities to meet local recreation demands, and ability/inability of existing local parks or undeveloped sites to support those needed facilities;
- Related to the prior bullet, the nature of existing local parks—their size, the number and types of facilities, etc. (some communities may have numerous small neighborhood parks with facilities such as playgrounds, but be lacking in community parks with a larger number and diversity of recreational facilities);
- The geographic distribution of the existing local sites, whereby some communities and recreation councils have numerous local parks and recreation sites, while other communities/councils have very few;
- Projected population growth, particularly if a given area within a region will be impacted by significant population growth as a result of a large planned unit development (PUD) or community enhancement area (CEA) that has a substantial residential component;
- A County-promoted initiative such as community revitalization or the expansion of waterfront recreation opportunities;
- The presence of and local proximity to regional parks (as explained below)

The last bullet mentions that regional parks may have an impact upon the need for local parks and recreation facilities. Regional parks and facilities each feature some form of major outdoor and/or indoor recreation facilities intended to offer intensive use to geographic areas that each include “primary service areas.” As an example, Meadowood Regional Park features numerous outdoor recreation facilities whose primary service area encompasses the bounds of the Towson, Towsontowne, Lutherville-Timonium, Cockeysville, Pikesville and Owings Mills Recreation and Parks Councils. Since the service areas cross regional boundaries, the acreage of the regional parks is not included within any given region, but instead grouped with countywide parks for basic park acreage needs assessments. It is nonetheless helpful to consider the presence and service areas of regional parks and facilities when seeking to strategically target where additional regional and local park sites are needed and should be acquired.

The maps displayed within the next few pages display the primary service areas designated to regional parks throughout Baltimore County. As mentioned previously, the service areas are recreation and parks council-based and cross regional boundaries. The first map shows which councils are served by regional parks with significant numbers of outdoor facilities such as ball diamonds and athletic fields. The second map shows which councils are served by regional indoor recreation facilities (which does not count standard community centers that happen to be situated at regional parks, as is the case at Honeygo Run and Eastern Regional Parks).



**Primary Service Areas
for Regional Parks w)
Outdoor Rec. Facilities**

Legend

- ★ - Regional Outdoor Rec. Facilities
- ▨ - Councils in primary service areas of two regional parks with substantial outdoor rec. facilities
- ▧ - Councils in primary service area of one regional park with substantial outdoor rec. facilities

- REGION 4
 - REGION 3
 - REGION 2
 - REGION 1

- 1. Watersedge
- 2. Turner Station
- 3. Dundalk-Eastfield
- 4. West Inverness
- 5. Edgemere-Sparrows Point
- 6. North Point Village
- 7. Bear Creek
- 8. Gray Charles
- 9. Patapsco Neck-Norwood
- 10. Berkshire-Eastwood
- 11. Colgate-Eastpoint
- 12. Essex
- 13. Rosedale
- 14. Middle River
- 15. Stembridge
- 16. Back River

- 17. Bengies-Chase
- 18. White Marsh
- 19. Kingsville
- 20. Perry Hall
- 21. Overlea-Fullerton
- 22. Parkville
- 23. Greater Loch Raven

- 24. Towsontowne
- 25. Towson
- 26. Lutherville-Timonium
- 27. Cockeysville
- 28. Carroll Manor
- 29. Hereford Zone
- 30. Seventh District
- 31. Prettyboy
- 32. Reisterstown

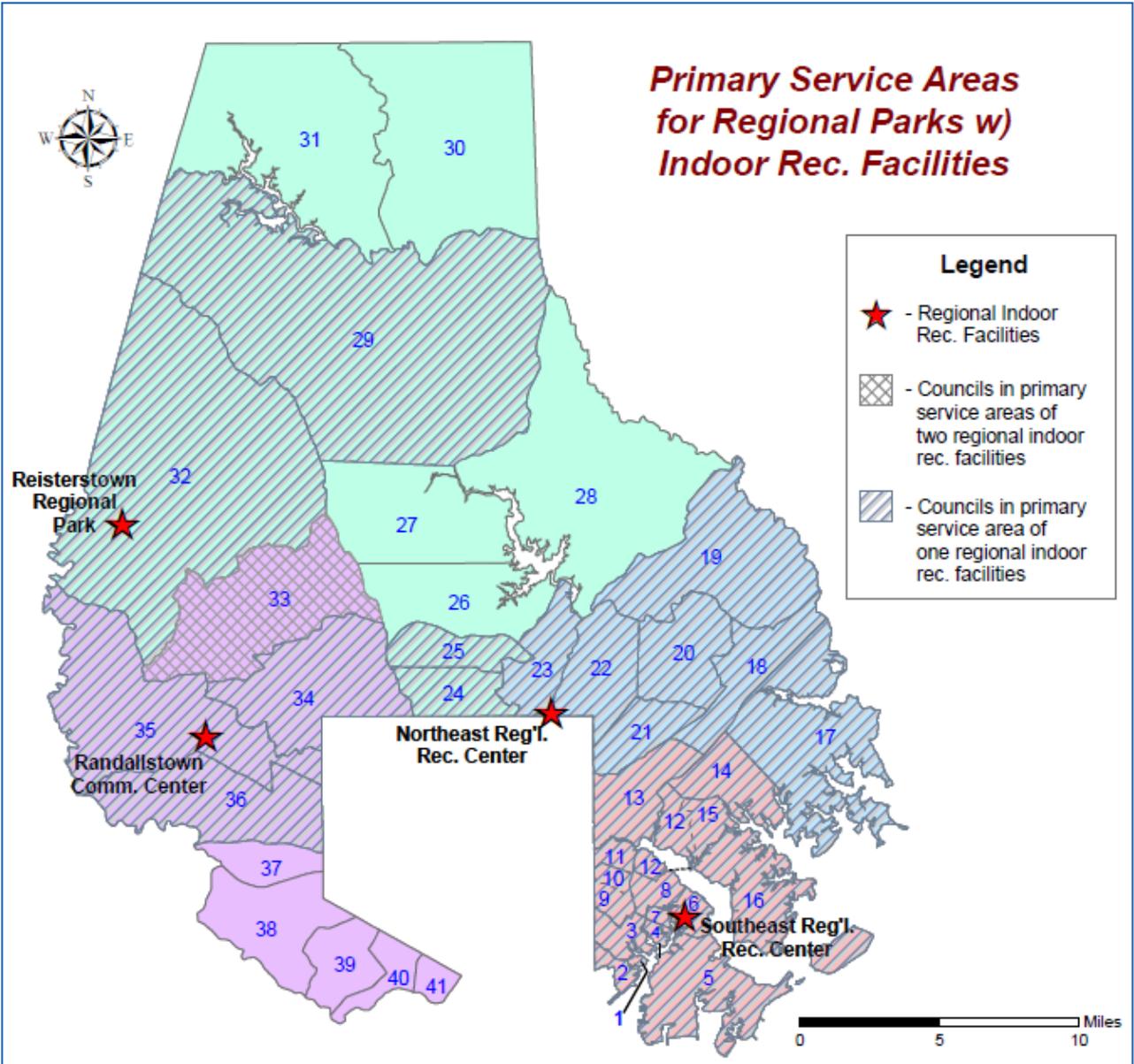
- 33. Owings Mills
- 34. Greater Pikesville
- 35. Liberty Road
- 36. Woodlawn
- 37. Edmondson-Westview
- 38. Catonsville
- 39. Arbutus
- 40. Lansdowne-Riverview
- 41. Baltimore Highlands

March, 2012

Referring to the first map of the primary service areas for regional parks with significant outdoor recreation facilities, the Reisterstown, Owings Mills and Pikesville Recreation Councils, which are situated along the border between Regions One and Two, are each within the primary service areas of two regional parks. Reisterstown, Northwest and Reisterstown Regional Parks thus help to make up for some of the relative lack of local parks and facilities in parts of Regions One and Two. Conversely, much of Region Four is not presently served by a regional park with major outdoor facilities, but the relative abundance of local parks and facilities may diminish the need for a regional park. Three of the rural recreation councils (Carroll Manor, Seventh District and Prettyboy) are likewise outside of the primary service areas of the existing regional parks. Some conclusions that may be drawn from the map, combined with the prior analysis of local parks and recreation sites, are:

- The southern portion of Region One (from Woodlawn southwards) should be a priority area for the procurement and development of a regional park with outdoor facilities.
- While much of Region Four is presently outside of the primary service areas of regional parks with outdoor facilities, the need for a regional park in that area is not pressing since that region is presently the best served/supplied in terms of local parks and recreation sites.
- The other two councils not presently within a regional park's primary service area, Seventh District and Prettyboy, are rural and not heavily populated, and thus may not appear to merit a need for a large regional park. However, since Region Two is the least served in terms of local parks and recreation sites, and there are recognized unmet recreational needs in the rural recreation councils of northern Baltimore County, the Department of Recreation and Parks continues explore options for acquiring and developing one or more park sites to help serve that area. It is envisioned that a well-sited park of either large community park scale or small regional park scale could provide sufficient facilities to meet area needs.

The second map (on the following page), displays the primary service areas of regional indoor recreation facilities, including facilities that are either within or separate of a regional park with outdoor recreation facilities. For instance, the Reisterstown Sportsplex is a regional indoor recreation facility within Reisterstown Regional Park, whereas the Northeast and Southeast Regional Recreation Centers are stand-alone facilities. Some of the presently un-served councils and areas on this map are also outside the service areas of regional parks with outdoor facilities, as shown on the first map.



- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>▨ - REGION 4</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watersedge 2. Turner Station 3. Dundalk-Eastfield 4. West Inverness 5. Edgemere-Sparrows Point 6. North Point Village 7. Bear Creek 8. Gray Charles 9. Patapsco Neck-Norwood 10. Berkshire-Eastwood 11. Colgate-Eastpoint 12. Essex 13. Rosedale 14. Middle River 15. Stembridge 16. Back River | <p>▧ - REGION 3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Bengies-Chase 18. White Marsh 19. Kingsville 20. Perry Hall 21. Overlea-Fullerton 22. Parkville 23. Greater Loch Raven | <p>▧ - REGION 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 24. Towsontowne 25. Towson 26. Lutherville-Timonium 27. Cockeysville 28. Carroll Manor 29. Hereford Zone 30. Seventh District 31. Prettyboy 32. Reisterstown | <p>▧ - REGION 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 33. Owings Mills 34. Greater Pikesville 35. Liberty Road 36. Woodlawn 37. Edmondson-Westview 38. Catonsville 39. Arbutus 40. Lansdowne-Riverview 41. Baltimore Highlands |
|---|--|--|--|

March, 2012

Some conclusions that may be drawn from the service area map for regional indoor facilities include:

- The southern portion of Region One, which was identified as a priority area for a future regional park site with outdoor facilities, is likewise not served by a regional indoor recreation facility. It is thus sound to conclude that the acquisition of a property capable of supporting both indoor and outdoor regional facilities would represent a good solution for meeting area needs. In the event that is not possible, multiple region-serving sites may be necessary.
- The procurement/provision of a regional indoor recreation facility in the Cockeysville or Lutherville-Timonium area could help serve those communities and Carroll Manor, as well as providing additional indoor recreation opportunities for other nearby densely populated and growing communities/councils such as Towson and Towsontowne (each of which has little suitable land inventory available to serve as local park sites).
- The nature/type of indoor recreation facilities will have an impact upon the need for additional regional indoor facilities. The Reisterstown, Northeast and Southeast facilities each feature at least one indoor sports field, whereas the Randallstown Community Center is something of a hybrid facility that features a large gymnasium with encircling walking track, Olympic-size swimming pool, technology lab, and activity/meeting rooms. Thus, that facility's primary service area (the Liberty Road, Woodlawn, Owings Mills and Pikeville councils/communities) and the other councils in southwest Baltimore County do not have priority access to an indoor sports field.

In summary, there are many factors that must be considered when selecting and prioritizing prospective park acquisitions. The previously presented analysis should be used as a tool to guide the County's future park acquisition efforts, with the end objective being a relatively equitable distribution of parklands countywide based on the guiding goal of 30 acres of creditable parkland per thousand citizens.

Recreational Facility Needs Analysis

This section provides an analysis of the need for a variety of recreational facilities. This analysis utilizes a traditional “supply and demand” needs estimation methodology (see *Appendix B*) to develop baseline needs figures for ten select types of recreational facilities that were specified within the plan guidelines for the 2005-2006 LPPRP. These baseline figures provide a starting point for a more qualitative assessment of actual needs based upon local conditions and experience, and are not a literal indication of need.

The first table, Table B-1: Supply Report, is presented on the following two pages. This table provides “supply-side” figures for the ten facility types to which the supply-demand methodology is being applied, as was presented in the prior LPPRP, but organized by the revised regional structure of DRP’s Recreation Services Section. The numeric factors used for “season length” and “daily capacity per facility” generally reflect local facility use patterns and management practices. The numeric factors utilized by other suburban Baltimore jurisdictions (Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties), as well as those applied within the State of Maryland’s 1993 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan, were utilized to help establish these figures. Important notes are inserted for certain types of facilities to better describe contributing factors that impact the actual need for such facilities. Definitions of the terms featured within Table B-1 are as follows.

Activity: Types of recreational activities supported by the recreational facility type.
Facility Type: Recreational facility on which the listed recreational activities would normally take place.
Facility Quantity: Quantity of the given type of recreational facility within the County (listed as “total”) and the four recreation regions. In general, only County-owned or leased facilities are counted.
Season Length: The approximate number of days each year that the given type of recreational facility would be utilized. Weather, seasonal recreational demand patterns, facility layout and other factors impact this figure. The season length is that utilized in the 2005-2006 LPPRP.
Daily Capacity per Facility: The average number of uses the given type of recreational facility would support on a given day (note that one person playing two games on a facility would be considered *two* uses). The amount of use provided varies from day to day, with weekends assumed to offer extended use. This factor would thus represent the average (mean) number of uses provided per day over the period of a week. For sports-related facilities such as ball diamonds and athletic fields, this factor assumes that facilities are not *always* being utilized to their maximum capacity (e.g., when used for practice these facilities often serve a single team). The daily carrying capacity is that utilized in the 2005-2006 LPPRP.
Annual Capacity per Facility: This factor is simply the facility’s season length times its daily capacity.
Total Supply- All Facilities: This factor is the annual capacity per facility multiplied by the facility quantity.

TABLE B-1: SUPPLY REPORT

Activity	Facility Type	Facility Quantity	Season Length	Daily Capacity per Facility	Annual Capacity per Facility	Total Supply-All Facilities
Field Sports	Athletic Fields					
Region 1		110	160	54	8,640	950,400
Region 2		117	160	54	8,640	1,010,880
Region 3		99	160	54	8,640	855,360
Region 4		113	160	54	8,640	976,320
Total:		439	160	54	8,640	3,792,960

"Field Sports" include survey activities of: soccer, lacrosse, football, field hockey, and "other field sports." The facility quantity is for outdoor fields only.

Diamond Sports	Ball Diamonds					
Region 1		193	84	40	3,360	648,480
Region 2		128	84	40	3,360	430,080
Region 3		115	84	40	3,360	386,400
Region 4		174	84	40	3,360	584,640
Total:		610	84	40	3,360	2,049,600

"Diamond Sports" include survey activities of: softball, baseball, and t-ball.

Tennis	Tennis Courts					
Region 1		83	210	19	3,990	331,170
Region 2		69	210	19	3,990	275,310
Region 3		51	210	19	3,990	203,490
Region 4		67	210	19	3,990	267,330
Total:		270	210	19	3,990	1,077,300

The facility quantity is for outdoor courts only.

Basketball	Multi-Purpose Courts					
Region 1		69	210	37	7,770	536,130
Region 2		45	210	37	7,770	349,650
Region 3		39	210	37	7,770	303,030
Region 4		67	210	37	7,770	520,590
Total:		220	210	37	7,770	1,709,400

The facility quantity is for outdoor courts only. It is important to note that many outdoor multi-purpose courts no longer have basketball goals in place, and that the figures for this facility type are not realistic (the 2005-06 LPPRP guidelines required calculation of multi-purpose court supply and demand, however).

Picnicking	Picnic Pavilions					
Region 1		12	180	14	2,520	30,240
Region 2		17	180	14	2,520	42,840
Region 3		18	180	14	2,520	45,360
Region 4		37	180	14	2,520	93,240
Total:		84	180	14	2,520	211,680

Pavilion size (and thus carrying capacity) varies widely. Additional factors pertaining to picnicking supply and demand are outlined later in this section.

TABLE B-1: SUPPLY REPORT

Activity	Facility Type	Facility Quantity	Season Length	Daily Capacity per Facility	Annual Capacity per Facility	Total Supply-All Facilities
Swimming (Pool)	Swimming Pools					
Region 1		0	90	900	81,000	0
Region 2		0	90	900	81,000	0
Region 3		0	90	900	81,000	0
Region 4		0	90	900	81,000	0
	Total:	0	90	900	81,000	0
Above figures pertain to outdoor pools only, of which the County owns and operates none.						
Trail/Path Activities	Trails & Paths (miles)					
Region 1		11.0	270	100	27,000	297,000
Region 2		11.7	270	100	27,000	315,900
Region 3		21.3	270	100	27,000	575,100
Region 4		9.0	270	100	27,000	243,000
	Total:	53.0	270	100	27,000	1,431,000
Includes the survey activities of: walking, jogging, dog exercising, running, hiking, pleasure/recreational bicycling, in-line skating, mountain biking, nature walks, trail riding (horseback), roller skating and backpacking.						
Visiting Playgrounds	Playgrounds					
Region 1		76	210	68	14,280	1,085,280
Region 2		46	210	68	14,280	656,880
Region 3		52	210	68	14,280	742,560
Region 4		67	210	68	14,280	956,760
	Total:	241	210	68	14,280	3,441,480
The facility quantity is the actual number of sites with one or more grouping of playground equipment. The size, type and carrying capacity of playgrounds varies widely.						
Boating Activities	Boat Ramps					
Region 1		0	198	70	13,860	0
Region 2		0	198	70	13,860	0
Region 3		0	198	70	13,860	0
Region 4		0	198	70	13,860	0
	Total:	10	198	70	13,860	138,600
Includes the survey activities of: power boating, fishing from boat, and water skiing. Note: Boat ramps are considered countywide facilities, and are not listed by recreation area.						
Golf	Golf Courses (18-hole)					
Region 1			233	300	69,900	0
Region 2			233	300	69,900	0
Region 3			233	300	69,900	0
Region 4			233	300	69,900	0
	Total:	6	233	300	69,900	419,400
Golf courses are considered countywide facilities, and are not listed by recreation area. Facility count includes the six public golf courses operated by the Baltimore County Revenue Authority, and the City's Pine Ridge Golf Course.						

The data from table B-1 is later used as part of a “needs report” in which it is compared with the demand data provided in Table B-2: Demand Report (next four pages). The Demand Report table utilizes an assortment of information extrapolated from the January 2003 statewide recreation survey, and applies it to Baltimore County population projections for the 2010, 2015, 2020 and 2025. The results (2010 Demand, 2015 Demand, etc.) are the estimated total number of individual occasions demanded for each given activity, meaning one individual participating on a single occurrence, whether playing one game of an organized sport, or visiting a facility for some length of time for unscheduled recreational use.

The demand figures used in Table B-2 and in the following Table B-3: Needs Report, are based on the May 2003 report titled “Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland,” by Don Norris of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County’s (UMBC’s) Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (MIPAR), and Royce Hanson (with the assistance of Stephen Coleman) of UMBC’s Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education. The Table B-2 terms “participation rate” and “frequency rate” are described in detail on page 92.

TABLE B-2: DEMAND REPORT

Activity	2010 Population	Participation Rate	Frequency Rate	2010 Demand	2015 Demand	2020 Demand	2025 Demand
Field Sports (total)	816,547			4,538,932	4,639,383	4,708,083	4,763,453
<i>Soccer (total)</i>	816,547	13.0%	19.93	2,115,592	2,162,412	2,194,433	2,220,241
Region 1	292,360	13.0%	19.93	757,476	772,881	783,004	792,411
Region 2	194,283	13.0%	19.93	503,368	518,154	526,378	532,591
Region 3	168,062	13.0%	19.93	435,432	444,360	452,027	457,338
Region 4	161,842	13.0%	19.93	419,316	427,019	433,025	437,901
<i>Lacrosse (total)</i>	816,547	6.9%	22.15	1,247,970	1,275,588	1,294,477	1,309,701
Southwest	292,360	6.9%	22.15	446,828	455,916	461,887	467,437
Northwest	194,283	6.9%	22.15	296,932	305,655	310,506	314,171
North	168,062	6.9%	22.15	256,858	262,124	266,647	269,780
Northeast	161,842	6.9%	22.15	247,351	251,895	255,438	258,314
<i>Football (total)</i>	816,547	6.3%	13.96	718,137	734,030	744,899	753,660
Region 1	292,360	6.3%	13.96	257,125	262,354	265,790	268,984
Region 2	194,283	6.3%	13.96	170,868	175,887	178,679	180,788
Region 3	168,062	6.3%	13.96	147,807	150,838	153,440	155,243
Region 4	161,842	6.3%	13.96	142,337	144,951	146,990	148,645
<i>Field Hockey (total)</i>	816,547	1.8%	27.85	409,335	418,394	424,590	429,583
Region 1	292,360	1.8%	27.85	146,560	149,541	151,499	153,320
Region 2	194,283	1.8%	27.85	97,394	100,255	101,846	103,048
Region 3	168,062	1.8%	27.85	84,249	85,977	87,460	88,488
Region 4	161,842	1.8%	27.85	81,131	82,622	83,784	84,727
<i>Other Field Sports (total)</i>	816,547	0.7%	8.38	47,899	48,959	49,684	50,268
Region 1	292,360	0.7%	8.38	17,150	17,499	17,728	17,941
Region 2	194,283	0.7%	8.38	11,397	11,731	11,918	12,058
Region 3	168,062	0.7%	8.38	9,859	10,061	10,234	10,354
Region 4	161,842	0.7%	8.38	9,494	9,668	9,804	9,914

Diamond Sports (total)	816,547			2,193,417	2,241,959	2,275,158	2,301,915
<i>Softball (total)</i>	816,547	6.5%	21.16	1,123,079	1,147,934	1,164,932	1,178,633
Region 1	292,360	6.5%	21.16	402,112	410,290	415,664	420,658
Region 2	194,283	6.5%	21.16	267,217	275,066	279,432	282,730
Region 3	168,062	6.5%	21.16	231,152	235,892	239,962	242,781
Region 4	161,842	6.5%	21.16	222,597	226,687	229,875	232,463
<i>Baseball (total)</i>	816,547	7.1%	18.11	1,049,924	1,073,160	1,089,051	1,101,859
Region 1	292,360	7.1%	18.11	375,919	383,565	388,588	393,257
Region 2	194,283	7.1%	18.11	249,811	257,149	261,230	264,314
Region 3	168,062	7.1%	18.11	216,096	220,527	224,331	226,967
Region 4	161,842	7.1%	18.11	208,098	211,921	214,901	217,321
<i>T-Ball (total)</i>	816,547	0.1%	25.00	20,414	20,865	21,174	21,423
Region 1	292,360	0.1%	25.00	7,309	7,458	7,555	7,646
Region 2	194,283	0.1%	25.00	4,857	5,000	5,079	5,139
Region 3	168,062	0.1%	25.00	4,202	4,288	4,362	4,413
Region 4	161,842	0.1%	25.00	4,046	4,120	4,178	4,225

TABLE B-2: DEMAND REPORT

Activity	2010 Population	Participation Rate	Frequency Rate	2010 Demand	2015 Demand	2020 Demand	2025 Demand
Tennis (total)	816,547	10.3%	13.11	1,102,608	1,127,010	1,143,698	1,157,149
Region 1	292,360	10.3%	13.11	394,782	402,812	408,087	412,990
Region 2	194,283	10.3%	13.11	262,346	270,052	274,338	277,577
Region 3	168,062	10.3%	13.11	226,939	231,592	235,588	238,356
Region 4	161,842	10.3%	13.11	218,540	222,555	225,685	228,226

Basketball (total)	816,547	11.3%	19.60	1,808,488	1,848,512	1,875,885	1,897,946
Region 1	292,360	11.3%	19.60	647,519	660,688	669,341	677,383
Region 2	194,283	11.3%	19.60	430,298	442,938	449,968	455,279
Region 3	168,062	11.3%	19.60	372,224	379,856	386,410	390,950
Region 4	161,842	11.3%	19.60	358,448	365,032	370,166	374,334

Picnicking (total)	816,547	36.6%	3.72	1,111,745	1,136,349	1,153,176	1,166,738
Region 1	292,360	36.6%	3.72	398,054	406,150	411,469	416,413
Region 2	194,283	36.6%	3.72	264,520	272,290	276,612	279,877
Region 3	168,062	36.6%	3.72	228,820	233,512	237,540	240,331
Region 4	161,842	36.6%	3.72	220,351	224,399	227,555	230,117

Swimming-Pool (total)	816,547	45.8%	11.57	4,326,932	4,422,691	4,488,182	4,540,966
Region 1	292,360	45.8%	11.57	1,549,233	1,580,741	1,601,445	1,620,686
Region 2	194,283	45.8%	11.57	1,029,517	1,059,759	1,076,578	1,089,285
Region 3	168,062	45.8%	11.57	890,571	908,831	924,511	935,374
Region 4	161,842	45.8%	11.57	857,610	873,365	885,648	895,621

Trail/Path Activ. (total)	816,547			21,309,786	21,781,393	22,103,931	22,363,888
Walking (total)	816,547	44.8%	22.31	8,161,289	8,341,907	8,465,433	8,564,992
Region 1	292,360	44.8%	22.31	2,922,103	2,981,533	3,020,583	3,056,874
Region 2	194,283	44.8%	22.31	1,941,835	1,998,876	2,030,600	2,054,568
Region 3	168,062	44.8%	22.31	1,679,760	1,714,202	1,743,777	1,764,266
Region 4	161,842	44.8%	22.31	1,617,591	1,647,306	1,670,474	1,689,285
Jogging (total)	816,547	12.3%	28.14	2,826,249	2,888,797	2,931,574	2,966,051
Region 1	292,360	12.3%	28.14	1,011,922	1,032,503	1,046,026	1,058,593
Region 2	194,283	12.3%	28.14	672,456	692,209	703,195	711,495
Region 3	168,062	12.3%	28.14	581,700	593,627	603,869	610,964
Region 4	161,842	12.3%	28.14	560,171	570,461	578,484	584,998
Dog Exercising (total)	816,547	17.2%	18.80	2,640,386	2,698,821	2,738,785	2,770,995
Region 1	292,360	17.2%	18.80	945,375	964,602	977,236	988,977
Region 2	194,283	17.2%	18.80	628,234	646,688	656,951	664,705
Region 3	168,062	17.2%	18.80	543,445	554,588	564,156	570,785
Region 4	161,842	17.2%	18.80	523,332	532,946	540,441	546,527
Running (total)	816,547	9.2%	32.33	2,428,705	2,482,454	2,519,215	2,548,842
Region 1	292,360	9.2%	32.33	869,584	887,269	898,890	909,690
Region 2	194,283	9.2%	32.33	577,868	594,842	604,283	611,415
Region 3	168,062	9.2%	32.33	499,877	510,127	518,928	525,025
Region 4	161,842	9.2%	32.33	481,376	490,219	497,114	502,711

TABLE B-2: DEMAND REPORT

Activity	2010 Population	Participation Rate	Frequency Rate	2010 Demand	2015 Demand	2020 Demand	2025 Demand
Trail/Path Activ. (ctd.)							
<i>Hiking (total)</i>	816,547	29.2%	6.62	1,578,418	1,613,350	1,637,240	1,656,495
Region 1	292,360	29.2%	6.62	565,144	576,637	584,190	591,209
Region 2	194,283	29.2%	6.62	375,557	386,589	392,724	397,360
Region 3	168,062	29.2%	6.62	324,871	331,532	337,252	341,214
Region 4	161,842	29.2%	6.62	312,847	318,594	323,075	326,713
<i>Pleasure/rec Biking (total)</i>	816,547	16.8%	11.23	1,540,530	1,574,624	1,597,941	1,616,734
Region 1	292,360	16.8%	11.23	551,578	562,796	570,167	577,018
Region 2	194,283	16.8%	11.23	366,542	377,309	383,297	387,821
Region 3	168,062	16.8%	11.23	317,072	323,574	329,156	333,024
Region 4	161,842	16.8%	11.23	305,338	310,947	315,320	318,870
<i>In-Line Skating (total)</i>	816,547	8.4%	17.17	1,177,689	1,203,753	1,221,578	1,235,945
Region 1	292,360	8.4%	17.17	421,665	430,241	435,876	441,113
Region 2	194,283	8.4%	17.17	280,210	288,442	293,019	296,478
Region 3	168,062	8.4%	17.17	242,392	247,363	251,630	254,587
Region 4	161,842	8.4%	17.17	233,421	237,709	241,053	243,767
<i>Mountain Biking (total)</i>	816,547	4.4%	11.92	428,263	437,740	444,222	449,447
Region 1	292,360	4.4%	11.92	153,337	156,456	158,505	160,409
Region 2	194,283	4.4%	11.92	101,898	104,891	106,555	107,813
Region 3	168,062	4.4%	11.92	88,145	89,953	91,504	92,580
Region 4	161,842	4.4%	11.92	84,883	86,442	87,658	88,645
<i>Nature Walks (total)</i>	816,547	3.7%	8.55	258,315	264,031	267,941	271,092
Region 1	292,360	3.7%	8.55	92,488	94,369	95,605	96,754
Region 2	194,283	3.7%	8.55	61,461	63,267	64,271	65,030
Region 3	168,062	3.7%	8.55	53,166	54,257	55,193	55,841
Region 4	161,842	3.7%	8.55	51,199	52,139	52,873	53,468
<i>Trail Riding-horse (total)</i>	816,547	2.6%	7.97	169,205	172,950	175,511	177,575
Region 1	292,360	2.6%	7.97	60,583	61,815	62,625	63,377
Region 2	194,283	2.6%	7.97	40,259	41,442	42,100	42,597
Region 3	168,062	2.6%	7.97	34,826	35,540	36,153	36,578
Region 4	161,842	2.6%	7.97	33,537	34,153	34,633	35,023
<i>Roller Skating (total)</i>	816,547	2.8%	3.84	87,795	89,738	91,067	92,138
Region 1	292,360	2.8%	3.84	31,435	32,074	32,494	32,884
Region 2	194,283	2.8%	3.84	20,889	21,503	21,844	22,102
Region 3	168,062	2.8%	3.84	18,070	18,441	18,759	18,979
Region 4	161,842	2.8%	3.84	17,401	17,721	17,970	18,172
<i>Backpacking (total)</i>	816,547	0.5%	3.17	12,942	13,229	13,425	13,582
Region 1	292,360	0.5%	3.17	4,634	4,728	4,790	4,848
Region 2	194,283	0.5%	3.17	3,079	3,170	3,220	3,258
Region 3	168,062	0.5%	3.17	2,664	2,718	2,765	2,798
Region 4	161,842	0.5%	3.17	2,565	2,612	2,649	2,679
<i>Visit. Playgrounds (total)</i>	816,547	29.3%	9.06	2,167,589	2,215,560	2,248,368	2,274,810
Region 1	292,360	29.3%	9.06	776,093	791,877	802,249	811,887
Region 2	194,283	29.3%	9.06	515,740	530,889	539,315	545,681
Region 3	168,062	29.3%	9.06	446,134	455,282	463,137	468,578
Region 4	161,842	29.3%	9.06	429,623	437,515	443,668	448,664

TABLE B-2: DEMAND REPORT

Activity	2010 Population	Participation Rate	Frequency Rate	2010 Demand	2015 Demand	2020 Demand	2025 Demand
Boating Activities (total)	816,547			1,676,559	1,713,663	1,739,039	1,759,491
<i>Power Boating (total)</i>	816,547	14.5%	7.09	839,451	858,029	870,735	880,975
Region 1							
Region 2	Boat ramps are assumed to have a countywide service area. As such, supply and demand are measured at County level only.						
Region 3							
Region 4							
<i>Fishing from Boat (total)</i>	816,547	12.4%	7.08	716,863	732,728	743,578	752,323
Region 1							
Region 2	Boat ramps are assumed to have a countywide service area. As such, supply and demand are measured at County level only.						
Region 3							
Region 4							
<i>Water Skiing (total)</i>	816,547	3.7%	3.98	120,245	122,906	124,726	126,193
Region 1							
Region 2	Boat ramps are assumed to have a countywide service area. As such, supply and demand are measured at County level only.						
Region 3							
Region 4							
Golf (total)	816,547	13.0%	12.25	1,300,351	1,329,129	1,348,811	1,364,674
Region 1							
Region 2	Golf courses are assumed to have a countywide service area. As such, supply and demand are measured at County level only.						
Region 3							
Region 4							

It is important to remember that the participation and frequency rates listed in Table B-2 are for the “Suburban Baltimore” region as a whole (defined within the survey report as Baltimore County and Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties), and to understand that there are substantial localized variations in recreational demand. Additionally, as noted previously, these are raw estimates of recreational demands that may be satisfied at County facilities, by facilities offered by the State or private entities, or at facilities outside of the County.

The next three pages present Table B-3: Needs Report. The needs report assimilate tables B-1 and B-2, with the end result being an estimation of the need for the ten types of recreational facilities featured in the supply-demand analysis. Positive numbers in the “unmet demand” columns indicate there is a level of need/demand that exceeds the supply of recreational opportunities provided by existing County facilities. Numbers in parenthesis (#) mean that there is an estimated excess of that type of recreational facility based on the demand formula. All needs figures are based upon the *present* supply of recreational facilities.

TABLE B-3: NEEDS REPORT

Rec. Reg.	2010 Supply (occasions)	Annual Carrying Capacity	2010 Demand (occasions)	2010 Unmet Demand (occasions)	2010 Unmet Need*	2015 Unmet Need*	2020 Unmet Need*	2025 Unmet Need*
Athletic Fields								
Region 1	950,400	8,640	1,625,139	674,739	78	82	84	87
Region 2	1,010,880	8,640	1,079,959	69,079	8	12	14	15
Region 3	855,360	8,640	934,205	78,845	9	11	13	15
Region 4	978,320	8,640	899,630	(76,690)	(9)	(7)	(5)	(4)
total:	3,792,960	8,640	4,538,932	745,972	88	98	106	112
Ball Diamonds								
Region 1	648,480	3,360	785,340	136,860	41	45	49	52
Region 2	430,080	3,360	521,885	91,805	27	32	34	36
Region 3	388,400	3,360	451,450	65,050	19	22	24	26
Region 4	584,640	3,360	434,742	(149,898)	(45)	(42)	(40)	(39)
total:	2,049,600	3,360	2,193,417	143,817	43	57	67	75
Tennis Courts								
Region 1	331,170	3,990	394,782	63,612	16	18	19	21
Region 2	275,310	3,990	262,346	(12,964)	(3)	(1)	(0)	1
Region 3	203,490	3,990	226,939	23,449	6	7	8	9
Region 4	287,330	3,990	218,540	(48,790)	(12)	(11)	(10)	(10)
total:	1,077,300	3,990	1,102,608	25,308	6	12	17	20
Multi-Purpose Courts								
Region 1	536,130	7,770	647,519	111,389	14	16	17	18
Region 2	349,650	7,770	430,298	80,648	10	12	13	14
Region 3	303,030	7,770	372,224	69,194	9	10	11	11
Region 4	520,590	7,770	358,448	(162,142)	(21)	(20)	(19)	(19)
total:	1,709,400	7,770	1,808,488	99,088	13	18	21	24
Picnic Pavilions								
Region 1	30,240	2,520	398,054	367,814	146	149	151	153
Region 2	42,840	2,520	264,520	221,680	88	91	93	94
Region 3	45,360	2,520	228,820	183,460	73	75	76	77
Region 4	93,240	2,520	220,351	127,111	50	52	53	54
total:	211,680	2,520	1,111,745	900,065	357	367	374	379
Swimming Pools (outdoor)								
Region 1	0	81,000	1,549,233	1,549,233	19	20	20	20
Region 2	0	81,000	1,029,517	1,029,517	13	13	13	13
Region 3	0	81,000	890,571	890,571	11	11	11	12
Region 4	0	81,000	857,610	857,610	11	11	11	11
total:	0	81,000	4,326,932	4,326,932	53	55	55	56
Trails and Paths (miles)								
Region 1	297,000	27,000	7,629,848	7,332,848	272	277	281	285
Region 2	315,900	27,000	5,070,289	4,754,389	176	182	185	187
Region 3	575,100	27,000	4,385,988	3,810,888	141	144	147	149
Region 4	243,000	27,000	4,223,662	3,980,662	147	150	153	154
total:	1,431,000	27,000	21,309,787	19,878,787	736	754	766	775

*- Unmet need is expressed by quantity of the individual facility types. A figure in parenthesis indicates that there is an excess of that facility type based on the standardized formula.

TABLE B-3: NEEDS REPORT

Rec. Reg.	2010 Supply (occasions)	Annual Carrying Capacity	2010 Demand (occasions)	2010 Unmet Demand (occasions)	2010 Unmet Need*	2015 Unmet Need*	2020 Unmet Need*	2025 Unmet Need*
Playgrounds/Tot Lots								
Region 1	1,085,280	14,280	778,093	(309,187)	(22)	(21)	(20)	(19)
Region 2	658,880	14,280	515,740	(141,140)	(10)	(9)	(8)	(8)
Region 3	742,560	14,280	446,134	(296,426)	(21)	(20)	(20)	(19)
Region 4	956,760	14,280	429,623	(527,137)	(37)	(36)	(36)	(36)
total:	3,441,480	14,280	2,167,589	(1,273,891)	(89)	(86)	(84)	(82)
Boat Ramps								
Region 1								
Region 2	Boat ramps are assumed to have a countywide service area. As such, supply and demand are measured at County level only.							
Region 3								
Region 4								
total:	138,600	13,860	1,676,559	1,537,959	111	114	115	117
Golf Courses (18-hole)								
Region 1								
Region 2	Golf courses are assumed to have a countywide service area. As such, supply and demand are measured at County level only.							
Region 3								
Region 4								
total:	419,400	69,900	1,300,351	880,951	13	13	13	14

*- Unmet need is expressed by quantity of the individual facility types. A figure in parenthesis indicates that there is an excess of that facility type based on the standardized formula.

The following are more thorough assessments of the County’s recreational needs by facility type. These assessments present both quantitative and qualitative analysis of facility needs, applying other information such as staff input and associated County goals, where appropriate, to the numeric analysis from Table B-3. Further, one additional numeric analysis is applied for certain types of facilities—the population served per facility (the lower the number, the stronger the supply), which provides a snapshot view of the relative quantity of facilities by region. The population served by facility may represent an easier way to understand the relative need for additional facilities, reinforcing the numeric analysis presented in Table B-3 on the prior pages.

- **Athletic Fields:** The physical manner in which athletic fields and ball diamonds are typically configured played a major role in defining the season length for these facilities. The vast majority of ball diamonds and athletic fields in Baltimore County are overlaid upon each other, so that only diamond sports or field sports may be played at any given time. As the previously reported recreation demand numbers indicate, field sports are now approximately twice as popular as diamond sports. To reflect the usual overlay configuration of fields and diamonds, and the greater demand for field sports, two-thirds of the estimated number of days in which field and diamond-based activities take place were assigned as the season length figure for athletic fields, and one-third to the season length for ball diamonds. While doing so may seem arbitrary, this reflects the fact that overlay fields do provide the benefit of being able to change use from diamond sports to field sports, and vice-versa, depending upon need. For example, an overlay ball diamond that was previously used in spring for baseball might no longer be utilized as a result of diminished demand, but the athletic field which overlays the diamond (and which was unavailable for field sport use in prior years while the diamond was in use) could be put to use to accommodate expanded field sports demand.

Activity	Facility Type	Facility Quantity	2010 Population	Population per Facility
Field Sports	Athletic Fields			
Region 1		110	292,360	2,658
Region 2		117	194,283	1,661
Region 3		99	168,062	1,698
Region 4		113	161,842	1,432
	Total:	439	816,547	1,860

"Field Sports" include survey activities of: soccer, lacrosse, football, field hockey, and "other field sports." The facility quantity is for outdoor fields only.

Table B-3 shows that there is a quite substantial need for additional athletic fields in Region 1, a moderate need in Regions 2 and 3, and a minor surplus of fields in Region 4. This is reinforced by the population served per facility figures above, which show that Region 1’s fields serve about 1,000 greater population each that the other three regions. Region 1 had the largest number of athletic field related project requests (additional athletic fields, field lighting, and/or field conversion to artificial turf) of any region within the LPPRP formulation process, though it is believed that a comparably lower demand level for certain field sports – lacrosse perhaps the foremost – greatly reduces the overall need for additional fields. Within that region alone there were four requests for artificial turf fields, two requests

for the addition of field lighting at existing sites, one request for additional fields at the community level, and requests for the establishment of a regional park that would feature athletic fields and other recreational facilities. Field related requests from the other three regions were largely related to providing additional field use capacity in specific communities, including Towson/Towson towne, Cockeysville, and Northern Baltimore County (all Region 2); Perry Hall and Parkville (Region 3); and Edgemere-Sparrows Point, Rosedale (Region 4) and Region 4 itself. These requests involved a combination of additional fields and the addition of field lighting and/or artificial turf.

All told, there were a total of eight requests for the conversion of existing grass fields to artificial turf. The installation of artificial turf can be a highly desirable option for expanding field access, particularly in areas of the County where there are poor prospects for the acquisition of additional suitable park sites. Other requests submitted for consideration by staff and the public pertained to large scale field maintenance needs, including field surface refurbishment and irrigation systems.



Many athletic fields become worn as a result of heavy use and a lack of irrigation. It is difficult to rest such fields if there are insufficient local facilities to which programs may be relocated.

- **Ball Diamonds:** As indicated previously, numerous ball diamonds that are constructed in an overlay configuration are no longer being utilized as a result of the greater need for athletic fields in many locales. It is also important to note that a large number of ball diamonds were constructed in a manner in which their outfields merge, and that in many such cases one or more of the diamonds may not be used at the same time as the other-- adjacent diamonds are sometimes so close together that they may be simultaneously utilized by only the youngest of age groups.

The following table shows the population served by ball diamond for each of the four recreation regions.

Activity	Facility Type	Facility Quantity	2010 Population	Population per Facility
Diamond Sports	Ball Diamonds			
Region 1		193	292,360	1,515
Region 2		128	194,283	1,518
Region 3		115	168,062	1,461
Region 4		174	161,842	930
Total:		610	816,547	1,339

"Diamond Sports" include survey activities of: softball, baseball, and t-ball.

Regions 1, 2 and 3 have remarkably similar levels of population served per ball diamond, while Region 4's much smaller figure reinforces Table B-3's figures that show the region as the only area of the County that – based on the supply and demand methodology – has an excess of ball diamonds.

There were approximately two-thirds less staff and public requests for ball diamonds within the LPPRP process than for athletic fields, again reinforcing the relative dominance of field sports that persists, and indicating that the number of diamonds needed as per Table B-3 is likely excessive. The majority of the diamond related requests involved the conversion of existing smaller diamonds to 90' ball diamonds capable of supporting use by adult baseball leagues. In such cases one or more existing diamond would be retrofitted, if space allows, to create the larger diamond, which has a substantially larger space requirement. The only requests for additional ball diamonds were for the Catonsville, Northern Baltimore County, and Rosedale areas, as well as Region 1 (as part of the desired regional park).

- **Tennis Courts:** Overall the activity of tennis has been in decline within Baltimore County. The facility needs figures in Table B-3 show a small surplus of courts in Regions 2 and 4, a moderate shortage in Region 1, and a small shortage in Region 3. Only one specific request for courts was made as part of the LPPRP process, but was rejected as a result of the desired site being incapable of supporting such use. Few public requests for additional tennis courts have been voiced when DRP hosted public input meetings prior to park design and development projects over the past ten years. Future tennis court construction will continue to be limited, with courts being provided at new parks only when the community desires, and/or in conjunction with school recreation center construction.
- **Multi-Purpose Courts:** The figures presented in the needs report table show relative substantial needs in all but Region 4. It is important to understand, however, that these figures are based on the recreation demand statistics associated with the sport of basketball, and that this activity is predominantly supported in Baltimore County via basketball courts within gymnasiums (of which there are nearly 190 countywide). Thus, the figures pertaining to the need for multi-purpose courts to support basketball are not reliable and do not represent an accurate assessment of facility need. This dynamic is reinforced by the very small number of multi-purpose court requests that were received, versus a substantial number

of indoor recreation facility requests, within the LPPRP input process. There were, however, numerous requests pertaining to the need for renovations at existing multi-purpose courts, whether equipped with basketball goals or not.

The actual “need” for multi-purpose courts remains a difficult matter to accurately display and resolve. Those outdoor courts where basketball goals remain in place and nearby citizens and site administrators support that use provide valuable opportunities for general public use on an unscheduled, non-programmed basis. Even in cases where basketball apparatus has been removed, the courts are frequently utilized for a variety of recreational opportunities, many of which keep children out of the street and in a safer environment. As decades have passed and recreational interests have diversified, the multi-functional aspect of these courts has become more commonplace and defined. Baltimore County will continue to renovate its existing multi-purpose courts, in some case converting them to different configurations and uses to meet changing public demands. Similar to tennis courts, new multi-purpose courts will be provided at new parks only when the community desires, and/or in conjunction with school recreation center construction.

- **Picnic Pavilions:** At first glance, the needs table seems to indicate that there is a substantial inadequacy of picnicking opportunity within the County. The demand figures, however, are for *all* picnicking demand, not just that associated with pavilions. There are literally thousands of picnic tables provided in the County’s parks, both within picnic pavilions, and out in the open. Additionally, the Maryland state parks within the County have sizeable picnic areas with dozens of pavilions (these are not counted in the needs report, which features only the facilities on County-owned or leased sites). The additional State and County picnic areas and tables thus help to provide significant opportunities for picnicking. Regardless of whether the overall demand for picnicking is being met, there is an obvious demand for additional picnic pavilions. The majority of the County’s pavilions are fully booked/reserved on weekends throughout the “picnicking season,” and citizens must often be turned away in their efforts to secure a pavilion during the peak weekend demand period.

The following table displays the population served per picnic pavilion by region, allowing for a convenient comparative analysis of the supply of pavilions.

Activity	Facility Type	Facility Quantity	2010 Population	Population per Facility
Picnicking	Picnic Pavilions			
Region 1		12	292,360	24,363
Region 2		17	194,283	11,428
Region 3		18	168,062	9,337
Region 4		37	161,842	4,374
	Total:	84	816,547	9,721

Pavilion size (and thus carrying capacity) varies widely.

This table shows that there is a wide variability in the supply of pavilions within Baltimore County parks, with Region 4 having the most plentiful supply in comparison to population, and the Region 1 the least. There are a number of important factors that impact upon the

actual need for additional pavilions, however. One such factor that helps to explain Region 4's relative wealth of pavilions is the presence of waterfront. The waterfront parks tend to be exceedingly popular picnic destinations, and the vast majority of Region 4's pavilions are situated at waterfront parks (many of which feature two or more pavilions). Thus, the greater supply helps meet the greater localized demand. Another very large factor is the presence and nature of Maryland State Parks in the region. Patapsco Valley State Park, part of which is situated within Region 1's boundaries, features nearly 50 picnic pavilions of varying sizes. Gunpowder Falls State Park's Hammerman Area in Region 3 features four large pavilions, each with a capacity of 100 people. North Point State Park's (Region 4) single pavilion can serve up to 300 people. Finally, the size of the County's pavilions varies widely, with some only large enough for two picnic tables, to others that have capacities well over 100.

A dozen requests for picnic pavilions were made via the LPPRP input process. Five were for Region 1, including a desire to have one or more pavilions provided as part of the much demanded future regional park site. Region 4 likewise had five requests, three of which were for waterfront parks. Regions two and three had two pavilion requests each, including a recommendation that pavilions be constructed at Mount Vista Park, which functions as a local park at present, but could be improved to regional park level in the future.

- **Swimming Pools:** Swimming in pools was the second most popular activity in the "Suburban Baltimore" region, as reported in the summary of the statewide recreation demand survey. The figures within the needs report show the great demand for this activity. DRP does not currently operate any outdoor public swimming pools. Instead, limited public use is available (primarily through programs) at the swimming pools of the Community Colleges of Baltimore County and at the State's Rosewood Center. More recently, a partnership was established with the YMCA of Central Maryland to operate County pools at Randallstown Community Center and the Dundalk Center. The vast majority of outdoor pool swimming opportunities are provided by swim clubs, and within pools at private residences. No requests for additional pools were made within the LPPRP input process.
- **Trails and Paths:** The figures pertaining to demand for linear-based forms of recreation are staggering, and include more than half of the top 11 most demanded activities within the region. Much of the participation within many of these activities takes place along public roads and sidewalks. Trails and paths, however, generally provide the safest, most functional, and most attractive venues for a wide range of linear-based recreation. These facilities provide excellent recreation options for individuals that prefer more individual forms of recreation, don't have time to commit to formal recreation programs, or wish to recreate at their own convenience.

Baltimore County continues to make efforts to respond to the great demand for trails and paths, all the while understanding that the State Parks and reservoir properties offer the majority of the best options and opportunities for sizeable park-based trail networks (as an example, the 170 miles of trails at Patapsco State Park are more than three times the length of all paths and trails within Baltimore County's parks). The two bicycle and pedestrian access plans conducted by the County have established strategies to expand access for both recreational and transportation purposes, with the County's associated advisory committee

charged with setting priorities so as to best utilize the limited funding resources available. Approximately one dozen trail projects were requested through the LPPRP input process.

- **Playgrounds/Tot Lots:** As displayed in Table B-3, based on supply and demand analysis methodology there are sufficient playgrounds in place within all four recreation regions. Playground maintenance remains a high priority, as there are more than 240 playground sites countywide (owned and managed by both DRP and BCPS). At present DRP sees little need for additional playgrounds, though new playgrounds could be established as part of site development projects at new parks or school recreation centers. Additionally, citizens in some communities/neighborhoods where the only nearby playgrounds are situated at school recreation centers sometimes wish to have playgrounds constructed at parks, which are not restricted from public use during the school day. Only a handful of playground requests were received through the LPPRP input process.
- **Boat Ramps:** The needs report indicates that many more boat ramps would be needed to meet the projected demand for boating-related activities. However, the majority of boating opportunity is accommodated through private boating facilities such as marinas, and through piers/docks at private residences. The County's aim is to provide sufficient public boat ramps that are well distributed geographically, to help serve citizens that do not own their own pier/dock or may not be able to afford fees. The only present geographic area within which a site for a future public boat ramp continues to be explored is the North Point peninsula in Region 4.
- **Golf Courses:** The golfing opportunities offered at the Baltimore County Revenue Authority's courses, and at the City's Pine Ridge Golf Course, provide quality diverse golfing opportunities to the public. Numerous private courses throughout the County also provide for demand in golf. This plan has no golf-related recommendations, as the quasi-public Revenue Authority is responsible for providing public golf facilities.

The following facilities were not included in the supply-demand tables.

- **Gymnasiums and Other Indoor Recreation Facilities:** Demand for year-round recreation continues to increase, and competition for the available space provided by existing gymnasiums, activity rooms, and other indoor recreation facilities is fierce in many communities.
- **Arts Facilities:** The need for additional arts facilities has been expressed by both the general public and recreation councils. Auditoriums and combination cafeteria-auditoriums within school recreation centers are sometimes available for the use of recreation council programs, but can have use limitations and conflicts similar to those that impact school-based recreational facilities. Several arts related project requests were made as part of the LPPRP input process, including a proposed dedicated arts center for the greater Pikesville community, and suggestion for multi-function community centers that include areas for arts programs and recitals.

- **Interpretive Facilities and Natural Area:** There are no supply and demand factors that measure the number of interpretive facilities or acres of natural lands and areas that should be provided to meet public needs. Instead, the County has provided geographically dispersed interpretive centers, and has preserved sizeable natural areas within a large number of its parks. The LPPRP input process produced several requests relating to the need for additional, expanded, or renovated interpretive facilities, as well as a recommendation that more land should be acquired for general natural resource preservation and left undeveloped.
- **Miscellaneous Recreational Facilities:** An assortment of other recreational facilities are provided to meet the wide variety of recreational demands possessed by County citizens. This could include additional facilities such as dog parks, skate parks, sand volleyball courts, and specialized facilities for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Some such facilities are intended to respond to a direct need, while others are seen as amenities that can be provided to expand the recreational diversity of a park. Additionally, there are many recommendations for miscellaneous site improvements that would expand the functionality and integrity of existing parks and school recreation centers. These include such amenities as comfort stations, fencing, parking areas, storage buildings, seating and security lighting.

County Objectives and Priorities for Land Acquisition, Facility Development, and Rehabilitation

The “Updated County Goals and Objectives for Recreation, Parks and Open Space” starting on page 49, and deriving predominantly from the prior LPPRP and refined within the recently adopted Baltimore County Master Plan 2020, remain in place for this LPPRP.

Summary of Recreation, Parks and Open Space Priorities

Appendix C – Acquisition, Development, and Rehabilitation Priorities provides a matrix of recreation and parks capital projects that have been identified as priorities by the public through the plan input process and other platforms for public input, and by County staff. A range of specific projects are presented, as are “general projects” that would provide capital resources for projects not envisioned or specifically identified at present. A number of the general capital projects are rehabilitation programs that allow the County to renovate or repair outdated or worn recreational facilities, while others provide for miscellaneous park improvements that are too numerous to comprehensively list within this document. Project recommendations are typically less specific in the later two time periods, mid-range and long-range.

The “general parkland acquisition” project provides funding that should be strategically utilized to acquire additional lands not specifically identified, but which are key to achieving one or more acquisition related goal or objective (e.g., acquisition of additional waterfront parkland). The types of projects presented in the priorities matrix are summarized below, sorted by funding type (acquisition, development, rehabilitation). The dollar figures in parenthesis are the total amounts

of the given funding types within the matrix. A sum total of just under \$285 million in project costs for a 20-year time period are listed, an average of \$14.25 million per year. This is substantially less than the ~\$815 million included within the 2005-06 LPPRP, and represents a more realistic approach that acknowledges that not all needs may be fully addressed within the twenty year period that follows this plan. The general development and rehabilitation categories in particular feature funding amounts that are more representative of the traditionally available budgetary allocations.

- Parkland Acquisition (\$64.4 million, average of \$3.22 million per year): The capital projects priorities matrix features specific and general acquisition projects that, if accomplished, would result in the procurement of an approximately 1,560 acres of parkland over a 20-year period, an average of 78 acres per year. The estimated project cost varies for individually listed projects, based upon location and size and type of property required. The estimated costs for general acquisition projects is based on an average of \$46,000 per acre of land, which is the average (mean) cost per acre of land acquired for park purposes in Baltimore County since fiscal year 1996. Acquiring only 78 acres of parkland per year would achieve only slow progress towards the County's parkland acreage goal. The only realistic opportunity to achieve a stronger level of park acquisition is through a greater number of low/no cost acquisitions and increased levels of acquisition funding. The most likely means for securing the latter is through larger annual allocations of POS funding, via transfer tax growth and an absence of associated diversions.
- Park Development (~\$143 million): The capital development projects listed in the matrix feature a wide range of facilities needed to meet existing and projected recreational needs and public demands. Many of the projects involve the development of a certain type of park, and may include a number of specific facility types that the public or staff persons have requested. The demand for indoor recreation facilities, in the form of community centers and regional indoor sports complexes, continues to be very strong. This reflects numerous trends, including growing demand for year-round recreation, overall population growth, and competition for existing indoor recreation space—particularly at public school recreation centers.

New park development projects are typically among the most costly project types, almost always involving the expenditure of several million dollars or more, depending upon size and scope. Such projects sometimes involve both indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. Three general project categories are included within the park development section of the matrix. These include:

1. Regional Park Development, which involves the construction of region serving indoor and outdoor facilities, which help meet the recreational needs of multiple communities.
2. Community and Neighborhood Park Development, which involves the construction of indoor and outdoor facilities that help to meet the recreational needs of a community or neighborhood. Community parks tend to feature recreational facilities used by the local recreation and parks council, or some specialized facility that draws visitors from outside the immediate neighborhood. Neighborhood parks tend to have

very limited facilities, with the most frequently found amenity being playground equipment.

3. Path, Trail and Sidewalk Construction and Renovations, which provide facilities to help meet the strong demand for linear forms of recreation such as walking, jogging, hiking, cycling, and dog walking. This general project type involves both new facility development and existing facility renovation, and is listed under construction since the majority of the funding would likely be used for new path, trail and sidewalk construction.

The identified park and recreation facility development projects would require an average of approximately \$7 million in funding per year over the 20-year planning period. The most recent capital improvement program (CIP) has dedicated about \$9 million to the three primary park development general projects for FY'16, and such funding levels have been experienced regularly in the past.

- Park and Facility Rehabilitation (~\$77.2 million): As the County's park system has grown and aged, the perpetual need for park and facility rehabilitation has become more apparent. Park and facility rehabilitation projects within the priorities matrix include a number of specific sites, as well as general programs. The single largest rehabilitation project listed is the ongoing adaptation of the former Sollers Point High School Recreation Center property in the Turner Station community, which is being transformed into a public park and community/multi-purpose center.

Three general project categories are included within the park development section of the matrix. These include:

1. Recreation Facility Improvements and Renovations, which provides funding for a wide range of park improvements and renovations. This use of funding from this general project has been split variably from year to year between facility renovations or replacement and park improvements. Typical renovations include the refurbishment of sports courts, entry roads and parking lots, fencing and players benches, and miscellaneous buildings and structure. However, as is the case with a number of the specific projects listed in the matrix, larger scale and much more costly projects likewise take place. Some examples of park improvements include picnic pavilions, storage buildings, skate parks, and dog parks.
2. Field Renovations and Enhancements, Including Lighting, help the County and DRP to maintain and improve ball diamonds and athletic fields and their associated lighting systems, which are among the most heavily utilized recreational facilities across the County. The sports fields are especially essential to the programs of the local recreation and parks councils. Larger scale renovations often take place within this project, with current plans being in place for a comprehensive field renovation program that would result in major rehabilitation work at numerous sites each year. Large scale lighting renovations are also sometimes needed to comply with revised field lighting standards.

3. Playground/Tot Lot Renovations and Enhancements funding ensures that the County's tot lots and playgrounds remain safe for use, and is utilized for both the playground equipment and surfaces. The vast majority of funding in this project is used for rehabilitation of the 160+ County-maintained playgrounds countywide, and relatively few new playgrounds have been constructed since the time of the prior LPPRP. The majority of new playgrounds are constructed as part of larger park development projects, and are thereby funded as part of those park development projects.

Approximately \$3.9 million per year is proposed for rehabilitation projects. Public safety will remain the prime consideration in any and all prioritization processes, with other considerations including existing facility condition and use, and local recreation demand trends.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The input of Baltimore County citizens is essential to the planning process utilized by DRP, both within this plan, and on a regular, everyday basis. Whenever a new park is to be developed, or a major park renovation or redesign project is to occur, a series public meetings are held so that local citizens may provide input regarding site design and potential recreational facilities. This process results in the formulation of park concept plans, which are then used as the foundation for park design and construction. Regular public input that impacts the delivery of recreational opportunities comes from a wide range of other sources. The recreation councils voice their needs through the agency's community staff and through meetings with County administrators. The general public submits requests, recommendations and input directly to the agency, or through their local County Council representative or other elected officials.

The public participation process utilized to formulate this plan was as follows:

1. The public was notified of an input meeting and subsequent input process for the LPPRP. A press release about the meeting and input process was circulated, and further information was made available on DRP's web pages.
2. The LPPRP public input meeting was held on November 21, 2011 in Towson, with eleven individuals giving verbal testimony and more than that number attending offering written input, electing to do so at a later date, or simply listening.
3. Further input was accepted in the form of letters, input forms and e-mail through December, 2011.
4. The draft LPPRP is to be made publicly available, with citizens that offered input directly notified of its availability. The plan will be posted in pdf format on the County' web site, and made available in other hard copy and electronic format upon request. Public comment on the draft shall be accepted during the same time period as State and administrative review of the draft.
5. Once revisions are made to the plan, the proposed final version of the LPPRP shall be posted on the County's web site, and the plan adoption process will be initiated.

6. As the first step in plan adoption, the LPPRP will be brought before the County Planning Board, which shall host a public hearing as part of the adoption process.
7. Once approved by the Planning Board, the LPPRP will be brought before the Baltimore County Council for approval. This step also includes a public input component.