

Parks & Recreation in Annapolis

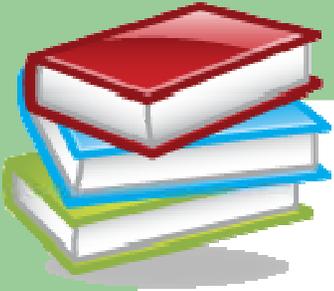
Presentation to the
Comprehensive Plan
Committee
Sept. 5, 2007



Parks, Recreation & Open Space

- Current Situation
 - Master Plan drafted in 2004, as an update to the Parks & Paths for People Plan (1987)
 - More of a management and maintenance plan for City's 40 park and recreation areas
 - Specific recommendations were made, but general policy was not specifically created.





Parks, Recreation & Open SpaceCurrent Policies

- **Current Planning Code**
References “...dedicating *open space* land to the City in furtherance of the goals and purposes of the Comprehensive Plan, Critical Areas Plan, and the Parks and Recreation Plan.”

Parks, Recreation & Open SpaceCurrent Policies

Current Planning Standards for **Planned Developments**

State:

Common *open space* may include parks, playgrounds, parkways, medians, landscaped green space, schools, community centers or other similar areas in public ownership or covered by an *open space* easement or controlled by a homeowners association.

The area of common *open space* provided shall be equivalent to **twenty percent of the total ground area** in residential planned developments and five percent of the total ground area in business and special mixed planned developments.



Parks, Recreation & Open Space ... Proposed Policy

Proposed APFO (Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance) legislation:

- Keeps LOS – 6 acres / 1,000 population
- Mitigation / Impact Options
 - Mitigation fee – based on population of development size
 - Optional Facility Improvement - Developer's mitigation obligation maybe satisfied by the purchase or improvement of currently held recreation and parks facilities
 - Optional Land Dedication – Developer's mitigation obligation maybe satisfied by the conveyance of land to the city for use as public park or open space*

* Land conveyance should be suitable in size, location, provide linkages to, and have public access for recreational facilities.

Primary Challenges

- Public demand for bigger & better
- Operations/maintenance budgets not keeping pace with growth in land & facilities; Maintaining park infrastructure without additional dedicated funding source
- Pressure to increase revenues



Does the City need more Parks?

National Standard (6.25-10.5 acres/1,000 pop)

Annapolis (5.71 acres*/1,000 pop)

LOS (level of service) deals with basic rec & park space as related to population; other factors such as location, service area, size, accessibility, and facility mix should be considered as local policy is determined.

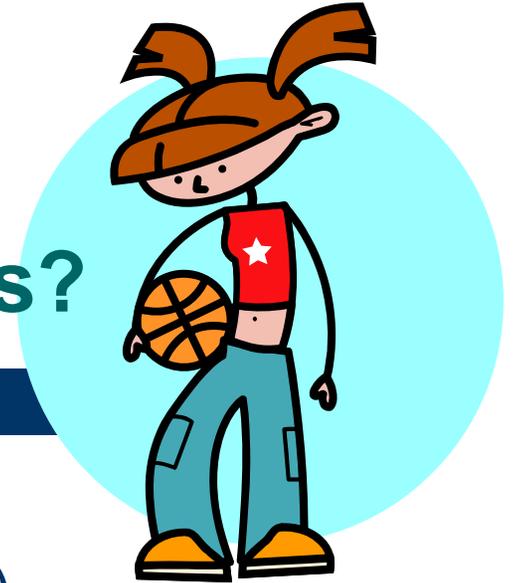
* City owned and/or maintained. Does not include all AACPS land, USNA property or other publicly held spaces.

Does the City need more Parks?

- What do we mean?
- Parks
 - Active & Passive recreation (sport fields, recreation centers, woodland trails, picnic areas)
- Open Space
 - Conservation Easements (~100 acres)
 - Natural Resources (open space void of man-made development)
 - Waterways (provide visual open space)



Does the City need more Parks?



- Considerations
 - Is the current LOS (5.71 acres/1000) enough?
 - Are other public/private areas available for recreational use? (Quiet Waters, USNA, school lots, private communities, etc.)
 - Balanced distribution (among wards) of park areas?

Does the City need more Parks?

Further Considerations:

- Need to preserve open space / vs park land development
- Extent that local facilities are used by non-residents (tourists)?
- Public demand: New trends, patterns, and activities
- Demographic, social, cultural, fiscal trends



Does the City need more Parks?



Fiscal Impact (More Considerations)

- Operating budget is approximately \$1,349/per acre (Does not include salaries.)
- Acquisition Costs – Land is Expensive!
Source of funds: Program Open Space (grants),
Capital budget, mandatory dedication

Decisions

- City policy on creating new parks?
- City policy on preserving open space?
- What is right balance between developing new vs. redeveloping what we have?



Food for Thought ...



- Maintain (increase/decrease?) the current ratio of park acres per capita (6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents)
- Complete the segments of pathways and trails. Balance commuter access vs recreational trails.
- Using needs assessments, renovate and/or re-program existing recreational facilities.
- Continue to build environmentally sustainable land management practices; protect valuable natural and historical resources.
- Establish a sustainable operating budget to adequately support expanded operations.