

# 2012 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

## Appendix I - Comprehensive Plan Goals and Objectives Related to Parks & Recreation and Natural Resources

### Hampstead

The Hampstead Community Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2010. It contains the following goals and recommended actions as part of the Community Facilities and Natural & Agricultural Resources chapters:

#### Goals:

- To allow new development only when all community facilities are available or can be expanded to serve that development.
- To ensure that new and existing users of community facilities pay their fair share for expansion and impacts.
- To ensure that the Town and County's parks are used efficiently and effectively by promoting the cooperation of different user groups including the North Carroll Recreation Council, the Hampstead Lion's Baseball and Softball Association, the Hampstead Ravens and other user organizations.
- To support County-operated community facilities such as the North Carroll Senior and Community Center and the North Carroll Library.

#### Recommended Actions:

- Encourage cooperation between the Town and County on evaluation of adequacy of public facilities and commitment to providing facilities.

#### Goals:

- To strive for outcomes in environmental protection that provide a benefit to all stakeholders.
- To support farmland preservation and creation of open space.
- To protect rare, threatened or endangered species.
- To protect the aquifer and manage the use of groundwater.
- To promote water conservation, demand management and water reuse.
- To support urban reforestation.
- To promote the planting of native species.

#### Recommended Actions:

- Adopt Carroll County's Water Resource Code.
- Support the County and State Agricultural Land Preservation Program through strict compliance within the GAB.
- Support the implementation of the Upper Patapsco Rural Legacy area to help preserve the Liberty Reservoir Watershed, its headwaters, and other resources and culture of that area; enforce the Town's GAB; and provide a buffer between Westminster and Hampstead.
- Work with the County to draft, adopt, and implement a Water Resources Element.

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## Freedom

The 2001 Freedom Community Comprehensive Plan contains the following parks and natural resource-related goals and objectives:

### Goal:

- To provide adequate public facilities and services

#### Recommended Actions:

- Pursue the construction of a public swimming facility
- Pursue federal, state, county, and other funds to develop a greenway system that ties into the Town of Sykesville
- Encourage private development and management of commercial recreational centers including swimming centers
- Prioritize parkland acquisition to complete existing greenways
- Pursue the development of a public golf course and community park on the grounds of the Springfield State Hospital Complex
- Conduct a detailed evaluation of recreational opportunities in the Freedom area and prepare a prioritized listing of needed facilities
- Identify and acquire available parcels of land for the future expansion of existing recreational and environmental facilities

### Goal

- To protect and enhance the environment

#### Recommend Actions

- Create wildlife corridors linking environmental features in the community.
- Design stormwater management facilities that are creative, effective, and sensitive to existing environmental features.
- Review and revise the Landscape Manual to maintain environmental quality and wildlife.
- Implement the recommendations contained in the countywide Environmental Resources Element.
- Review roadway design standards to reduce stormwater runoff.
- Maintain and expand forested areas throughout the community.
- Review regulations to make sure they are consistent with the intent of the Conservation zoning district.
- Continue stream monitoring to identify and quantify changes and their significance.
- Develop a watershed management plan for Piney Run Reservoir.
- Develop a wellhead protection plan for new community water supply wells.

## Mount Airy

The Town of Mount Airy Master Plan, adopted in 2003, contains the following parks and natural resource-related goals and objectives:

### Goals:

- Preserve and Protect the Town's Environmental and Cultural Resources

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## Recommended Actions

- Protect existing naturally sensitive areas from the detrimental effects of development by encouraging sensitive land development.
- Protect the Town's groundwater resources.
- Concentrate development so there is minimal conflict between the man-made and natural environment.
- Establish land uses that are compatible with designated open space or historic areas.
- Recognize the value of existing historic structures by providing proper buffering or preservation of immediately surrounding land.
- Create guidelines for building development that maintain the Town's historic character.
- Protect existing streams or tributaries from development by providing adequate physical buffering.

## Additional Recommended Actions (Natural Resources):

- Comply with the requirements of the 1992 Planning Act and the 1997 Smart Growth Legislation for Priority Funding Areas.
- Consider adoption of stream buffer standards based on the Carroll County Water Resource Management Standards and other available resources.
- To facilitate goals of the Forest Conservation Act, identify priority forestation area in the Town and make available appropriate additional public property for off-site forestation.
- Consider adoption of the Water Resource Management Standards developed by Carroll County or other legislation to better protect groundwater resources.
- Support Carroll County efforts to develop the Gillis Falls Reservoir.
- Follow the guidelines for the State NPDES program and track the sources of local illicit discharge points.
- Require additional well exploration and development for any future expansion of the Town boundaries because the current well system is obligated to existing planned development.
- Endorse Hazard Mitigation Plans for both Frederick and Carroll Counties.

## Additional Recommended Actions (Parks and Recreations):

- Work to establish the "Rails to Trails" path from the downtown to Watkins Regional Park.
- Create policies that require developers to provide parking facilities with the parkland requirements for residential subdivisions.
- Develop a connecting rail-trail south to the Twin Arch Bridge. A trail should be developed alongside the South Branch of the Patapsco River. This trail should be coordinated with Carroll County, Howard County, and State of Maryland to reflect the "Greenways" corridor for the regional area.
- Encourage a pedestrian route interconnecting the west and east sides of Town south of Prospect Road. This route should utilize sidewalks within existing road rights-of-way. If sidewalks along this route are not adequate, they should become priority projects when the Town considers such improvements.
- Determine a location for an additional 40-50 acre regional park in close proximity to Watkins Regional Park. This would be developed as a Town "regional facility" where multiple recreational facilities could be built to serve the town and surrounding population.
- Continue to provide pedestrian ways and bikeways within subdivisions to dedicated open space areas.

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- Do not allow any dedication of "unusable" open space to fulfill the Town of Mount Airy parkland dedication requirements.
- The Town will work to increase the designated portion of open space.

### Manchester

The Manchester and Environs Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2008 and contains the following parks and natural resource-related goals and objectives:

#### Goal:

- Design the land use plan to reflect the constraints on providing public water and sewer service areas given financial and physical limitations, topography, location of the planning area with respect to reservoir watersheds, and arrange for a mix of land uses with minimal conflict between uses.

#### Recommended Actions:

- Encourage development of neighborhood and general business enterprises; as well as professional office type enterprises.
- Ensure Low Density Residential use (R-40,000) for those locations where public water and sewer service areas will not be planned within the Town, as well as in the unincorporated environs of the Community Planning Area.
- Where public sewer and water is planned for undeveloped areas, foster subdivision and lot design which not only provides area for private space (yards), but also results in an efficient utilization of utilities by clustering lots and creating common open space when possible and appropriate.
- Encourage clustering, good land design and architecture in new residential development to protect environmentally sensitive areas, and build attractive stable neighborhoods which will be assets to the Town.

#### Goal:

- Protect groundwater and the environment as development occurs.

#### Recommended Actions:

- Review all development plans with groundwater protection as a priority.
- Implement landscape regulations to enhance the community with plantings in all new development, and whenever possible, by the preservation or replacement of existing mature trees.
- Continue to acquire lands for the development, use and protection of the community's water supply resources.

#### Goal:

- Encourage creative and harmonious development in the community.

#### Recommended Actions:

- Preserve the community's natural features wherever possible and try to integrate new development into the existing environment by diminishing aesthetic intrusions and environmental alterations, by increasing open space, and by instituting good development design under flexible regulation.

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- Promote environmentally sensitive development that utilizes and enhances existing site features without detracting from scenic views and historically significant areas, and adheres to adopted Environmental Resource Protection measures.
- Provide illustrated guidance and recommended standards for new development that encourages development which avoids repetition and rigidity, but draws instead on the wealth of architectural character which is particular to Manchester.
- Publicly and officially commend and recognize architectural design and development that is historically harmonious, typical of the locality and unique to Manchester.

### Additional Recommended Actions (Parks & Recreation):

- The recreation facilities available to residents in and around Manchester are community assets and as the community grows, so does the demand for their utilization.
- Additional land will be needed to be set aside for open space and recreational use, both passive and active, as the Manchester community continues to grow toward build-out.
- The County's Agricultural Land Preservation Programs which are a major implementation measure of the County Comprehensive Master Plan, will have a significant beneficial effect on the Town of Manchester, and fully complement and help preserve the small town atmosphere that Manchester strives to maintain, to the extent that permanent farmland preservation occurs at the edge of the community and its outer environs.
- Through cluster subdivision, common open spaces can be created. Some of these open spaces could be added to the open space network of public holdings, thereby creating possibilities for connections of the open spaces, including pedestrian paths and bike trails. Protecting existing stream buffers or creating buffers through the subdivision development design contribute to the conservation of sensitive areas, the quality of surface and groundwater and a natural open space network that enhances the livability of the neighborhoods and the value of property within the community.
- Through cooperative efforts and working closely with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the County Department of Recreation and Parks and the Town of Manchester, a plan for open space links and funding referred to previously in Chapter 3, under Section 3.2 Watershed and Streams, could be pursued. Such links could eventually form an overland open space corridor that essentially connects the natural greenways at the headwaters of three individual watersheds that Manchester sits atop. These corridors would not necessarily be accessible by the general public, but could be protected with purchased or donated conservation easements expressly for the environmental and aesthetic purposes. Given the outstanding attributes of Manchester's elevations and topography, such linkages would be unique major assets for the community and to the local environment.
- Maryland Program Open Space has been good to Carroll County and funds have been reallocated to Manchester by the County to match Town funds. As is usually the case, there are more needs than there are available public funds. Many of these needs have been and continue to be met by the efforts of civic clubs or organizations like the Manchester-Lineboro Lions Club, who have contributed outstanding first class swimming pools at their Recreation Center; and the Manchester Fire Company with its Activity Building. Volunteers and community leaders give their time and talent to use what is available. Individuals who wish to remain unknown donate funds to help with needs.
- Through the process of subdivision development and review, the Manchester Planning Commission and the private sector can jointly arrange for common open space and/or land to be transferred to the Town for public use.
- With all sectors of the community pitching in—private, public, civic and individual citizens, the park and recreational needs will be met and the whole community will benefit.

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## New Windsor

The New Windsor Community Planning Area Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2007 and amended in 2010. The following goals and recommended actions related to parks and recreations and natural resources were included in the plan:

Goals:

- Provide community recreational facilities that provide opportunities for residents of all age levels.

Recommended Actions:

- Identify Sites for CIP Projects and Begin Land Acquisition and Land Banking.
- Support the development of a Community Park/Linear Park.

Goal:

- Preserve and make wise use of environmental resources.

Recommended Actions:

- Continue to Support Little Pipe Creek Rural Legacy Area applications.
- Work with the County to draft and adopt a Water Resources Element.
- Identify any agricultural or forest lands intended for resource protection or conservation.

## Sykesville

The Town of Sykesville Master Plan was adopted in 2011. The plan contains the following goals related to parks & recreation and natural resources:

Recommended Actions:

- Improve Parks and Open Space.
- Consider additional improvements to (Millard) Cooper Park.
- Continue to maintain a linear trail, connecting it with other parks and installing fitness equipment at opportune sites.
- Connections should also be pursued to connect to major recreation and conservation areas such as Piney Run Park, Freedom Park, Warfield Center, Springfield Hospital Center, Hugg Thomas Wildlife Management Area and South Branch Park.
- Develop a Hiker/Biker trail along riverfront as part of the RiverPlace development and connect other pathways in Town.
- Adopt a tree conservation ordinance.
- Review current Town codes to ensure adequacy and compatibility with State requirements incorporating new environmentally sensitive design techniques.

## Taneytown

The Taneytown and Environs Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2010. The plan contains the following goals related to parks & recreation and natural resources:

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## Goals:

- Provide a variety of excellent recreational facilities and programs for all age groups.
- Ensure that development plans manage growth in keeping with the community's ability and willingness to provide and maintain public services and facilities such as public water and sewer service, school facilities, police protection, fire and ambulance services, and recreational programs and facilities.
- Identify and protect ground water resources to ensure an ample municipal water supply for current and future users.
- Preserve, protect, and make wise use of environmental resources, including streams and stream buffers, steep slopes, 100-year flood plains, forested areas, habitats of threatened and endangered species, wellhead buffers, and wetlands.

## Recommended Actions:

- Institute active and passive recreations requirements into site and subdivision plans to ensure adequate facilities with the additional demand of future development.
- Ensure an adequate and diverse water supply.
- Address inconsistencies in environmental resources protection.
- Protect groundwater resources and acquire additional recharge area.
- Require developers to design their projects in a manner that will enhance and preserve the site's natural resources
- Plan for land uses that have a low-impact on farming operations in the vicinity of easements and other agricultural areas.

## Union Bridge

The last comprehensive plan for Union Bridge and Environs was adopted in 2008. It contained the following parks and recreation and natural resources-related goal and objectives:

## Goals:

- To monitor and address as appropriate the capacity of community facilities before they reach crisis levels.
- To secure funding for infrastructure expansion/improvements to meet the needs of planned new and existing development.
- To ensure availability of all needed community facilities within or close to the community.
- To move towards community facilities becoming at least self-sustaining or revenue-neutral.
- To provide a variety of recreational opportunities for all age groups.
- To mitigate the impacts of flooding on community residents and businesses.
- To mitigate the impact of mineral resource mining on community residents and businesses.
- To support farmland preservation as a means of preserving community heritage and small-town atmosphere.

## Recommended Actions:

- Tie the CIP to Planned Public Facilities Projects and a Development Phasing Plan.
- Support the development of the Little Pipe Creek Trail and other trails, greenways and parks.
- Continue to Support Little Pipe Creek Rural Legacy Area applications.
- Work with the County to draft, and adopt and implement a Water Resources Element.
- Identify any agricultural or forest lands intended for resource protection or conservation.
- Protect wellheads, especially those in the vicinity of known carbonate rock areas.



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- Implement proposed greenways along the GA's streams to mitigate runoff and reduce impacts from flooding.

## Westminster

The Westminster Environs Community Comprehensive Plan is in the process of being updated and contains a number of parks and natural resource-related goals and recommendations. These are:

### Goals:

- Provide facilities and services appropriate for serving the growing numbers and changing needs of the senior population.
- Create a range of recreational opportunities accessible to residents of all ages.
- Ensure that new development occurs concurrent with the provision of public facilities - including schools, roads, fire/EMS, police, and water and sewer - and pays a fair share of the costs to expand capacities where needed.
- Maintain an ecologically healthy and diverse natural environment.
- Preserve farmland, forests, and open spaces outside of the Growth Area Boundary by minimizing residential development within agricultural and rural areas.

### Recommended Actions:

- Create a regional park in the Westminster area by developing the proposed Union Mills.
- Reservoir park site, enhancing the facilities at the Carroll County Sports Complex/Bear Branch Nature Center/Hashawha Environmental Center, or creating a new park in the vicinity of the Agricultural Center.
- Implement the trail recommendations contained in this plan through subdivision, donations and easements, and capital projects.
- Establish a network of neighborhood parks, and pedestrian links between them, as part of the subdivision and development processes.
- Continue to acquire and protect land for the planned Union Mills Reservoir as a future community water supply source for the City of Westminster and the Towns of Hampstead and Manchester.
- Continue to work closely with the City of Westminster to explore and locate additional groundwater sources to supplement existing water capacity.
- Continue to support the Reservoir Watershed Management Agreement through compatible land use designations.
- Protect groundwater resources to ensure their continued good quality and quantity.
- Develop and adopt a countywide watershed management plan that would include measures to protect Westminster's groundwater and surface water resources.
- Continue to implement measures to safeguard land uses and protect groundwater resources within the sensitive carbonate rock areas.
- Preserve natural resource areas through the protection of existing forested tracts and the reforestation/afforestation of sensitive areas.
- Require developers to design their projects in a manner that will enhance and preserve the site's natural resources.
- Continue funding and/or promotion of agricultural preservation programs to reinforce the Growth Area Boundary edge and support the County Master Plan goal to preserve 100,000 acres of tillable agricultural land.



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- Support the Upper Patapsco Rural Legacy Area and Little Pipe Creek Rural Legacy Area Applications.

In 2009, the City of Westminster adopted its own comprehensive plan, which contained goals, objectives, and recommended actions related to parks and natural resources as well. The goals and objectives are:

**Goal:**

- Provide for Parks and Recreation facilities and services to enhance residents' quality of life

**Recommended Actions:**

- Develop a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to plan for high-quality parks and recreation facilities and services that benefit all residents
- Link Westminster area parks and open space with a system of trails, pedestrian pathways, and bicycle routes
- Ensure that recreational facilities are available for public use in a manner that is multi-generational and accessible to all residents
- Improve the Department of Recreation and Parks service efficiencies in partnership with public and private entities

**Goal:**

- Protect and maintain the environmental resources in the City of Westminster.

**Recommended Actions:**

- Maintain and enhance water quality in streams, groundwater, wetlands, and reservoirs
- Maintain and enhance water quantity in groundwater aquifers and reservoirs
- Preserve where possible and improve wildlife corridors, identified habitats of threatened and endangered species, and contiguous forested areas
- Identify the location of environmental resource areas in order to improve their protection

**Goal:**

- Reduce the adverse effects of development on environmental resources

**Recommended Actions:**

- Adopt and implement creative, flexible, and streamlined development regulations that protect the natural environment
- Integrate Best Management practices and appropriate mitigation measures where sensitive environmental areas cannot be avoided during the land planning and development process
- Protect streams and their buffers, minimize flood hazards, provide open space, and provide protection for other environmental resource areas through creative site design
- Adopt and implement innovative environmental resource design guidelines
- Assure the quality and quantity of community groundwater supplies through wellhead protection measures.

**Goal:**

- Coordinate efforts with Westminster environmental partners and local organizations to protect environmental resources

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### Recommended Actions:

- Develop and implement a coordinated natural resource protection strategy
- Standardize protective measures between the jurisdictions to ensure uniform protection.
- Develop a uniform regulatory and streamlined review process

### Goal:

- Protect and improve the environment by promoting forest preservation, urban and community forestry, and tree planting throughout the City of Westminster

### Recommended Actions:

- Develop and adopt a Westminster Urban Forestry Plan that promotes a healthy and thriving urban canopy and other desirable forms of vegetation
- Promote the National Arbor Day Foundation's vision of a community where trees and forests are abundant, healthy, and sustainable, and highly valued by all people
- Encourage trees and native vegetation as necessary components in the aesthetic and environmental quality of residential, industrial, and commercial areas

### Goal:

- Create a healthy, reliable, and sustainable future by continually increasing the effectiveness of how the City of Westminster utilizes and manages energy and water resources

### Recommended Actions:

- Lead and coordinate integrated energy resource planning
- Use less energy and water per capita than cities comparable in size to Westminster
- Ensure City Park and recreational facilities are environmentally responsible, where natural resources and open space within these sites are promoted and protected
- Enhance and market Westminster's commitment to a sustainable and environmentally responsible future