

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2017 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 9

Resolution No. 95-2017

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION adopting the 2017 Howard County Land Preservation & Recreation Plan.

Introduced and read first time June 5, 2017.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on June 19, 2017.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments , Failed , Withdrawn , by the County Council on July 3, 2017.

Certified By Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 5-905(b)(2) of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated
2 Code of Maryland requires a local governing body to prepare a local land preservation and
3 recreation plan and to submit the plan to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources
4 (“DNR”) and the Maryland Department of Planning (“MDP”) for their approval; and
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6 **WHEREAS**, a local governing body shall revise its local land preservation and
7 recreation plan at least every six years and submit the revised local plan to the DNR and to the
8 MDP for their approval; and
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10 **WHEREAS**, by passage of Council Resolution No. 135-2012, the County adopted the
11 2012 Land Preservation, Recreation and Parks Plan (the “2012 Plan”); and
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13 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to criteria and goals set forth in guidelines prepared by DNR and
14 MDP, updates have been proposed to the 2012 Plan, substantially in the form of the attached
15 2017 Howard County Land Preservation & Recreation Plan; and
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17 **WHEREAS**, beginning in the fall of 2016 and monthly thereafter, the Recreation and
18 Parks Advisory Board has been briefed on the 2017 Howard County Land Preservation &
19 Recreation Plan; and
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21 **WHEREAS**, the Planning Board reviewed the 2017 Howard County Land Preservation
22 & Recreation Plan and, after public notice and a public hearing, recommended approval at its
23 meeting of April 20, 2017; and
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25 **WHEREAS**, the County Executive has reviewed and approved the 2017 Howard County
26 Land Preservation & Recreation Plan.
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28 **NOW, THEREFORE**
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BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 3rd day of July, 2017 that the County Council adopts the 2017 Howard County Land Preservation & Recreation Plan, substantially in the form attached to this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the adoption of this Resolution, the 2017 Howard County Land Preservation & Recreation Plan shall be sent to the Maryland Department of Planning and the Department of Natural Resources in accordance with Section 5-905 of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

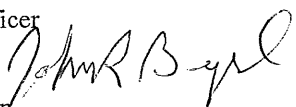


Howard County

Internal Memorandum

SUBJECT: Council Resolution to Adopt the 2017 Land Preservation, Park and Recreation Plan

TO: Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: John R. Byrd, Director
Department of Recreation
and Parks 

DATE: May 17, 2017

The Department of Recreation and Parks has been designated the coordinator for the preparation of testimony and fiscal impacts related to the above-referenced Council Resolution to adopt the 2017 Land Preservation, Park and Recreation Plan (LPPRP).

The 2017 Land Preservation, Park and Recreation Plan is required under Section 5-905(b)(2) of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Each local jurisdiction must have an approved Plan, updated every six years, in order to receive state grants from "Program Open Space", a state program to fund the acquisition and development of state and local parks.

The Department of Recreation and Parks and our consultant, Sasaki Associates, prepared this Plan. The citizens of Howard County participated in this process via the following methods:

1. Public Engagement Events

The LPPRP process included three public engagement events. On April 16, 2016, members of the Department staff and the consulting team attended GreenFest, an annual county festival focusing on sustainability, in order to generate project interest. More than 220 festival attendees completed a survey about their usage of parks and recreation offerings. On July 13, 2016, two public meetings took place at the Roger Carter Community Center and the North Laurel Community Center. Attendees at both locations submitted over 250 comments in the form of group discussions, activities, and one-on-one conversations. The third public engagement event took place on September 21, 2016 at the Department headquarters. Approximately 30 community members attended this open-house-style public meeting, which involved a presentation and small discussion groups around exhibit boards.

2. Statistically Valid Survey

In June 2016, the Department administered a phone survey to 800 households across the County to better understand user satisfaction and community needs. The statistically valid survey captured responses from 3 percent of the county population with a 95 percent confidence level. This high degree of confidence ensured that the survey captured a snapshot of the county's diverse population across geographic area, income, race, and age, among other factors.

3. Staff Interviews

The consulting team conducted two group interview sessions with employees who have direct contact with customers and leadership staff involved in managing programs and services. Staff shared insight on the Department's overall strengths and areas for improvement.

4. Focus Groups

The Department held six focus group sessions throughout the course of the LPPRP process, covering the topics of similar providers, seniors, land conservation, athletics and recreation, and youth concerns. These sessions included more than 20 local stakeholders.

5. Similar Provider Survey

As part of the LPPRP process, the Department sent an online survey to identify providers of similar services and received a total of 48 survey responses from 42 individual agencies.

6. Online Engagement

Throughout the duration of the LPPRP effort, the Department offered community members the opportunity to submit comments and suggestions through their website. The Department received a total of 195 online comments.

7. Advisory Board Presentations

The consulting team presented to the eight-member Recreation and Parks Advisory Board on two separate occasions to get feedback and general guidance on the analysis and visioning phases of the LPPRP.

All public meeting dates were advertised in three local newspapers for two consecutive weeks prior to each meeting. Social media was also utilized in the advertisement effort (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

This Plan is compatible with Plan Howard 2030 and it has been reviewed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for compliance with all state plans, regulations and guidelines. The County and its consultant have amended the Plan to incorporate recommended changes received from the State agency. Further State changes are not anticipated, but remain a possibility.

Sayers, Margery

From: James Miller <jamesmiller2@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:59 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Columbia Gardeners Support for County Resolution 95

Columbia Gardeners supports Council Resolution 95 to adopt the 2017 County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan because it recommends additional community garden sites in Howard County and recognizes the benefits of gardening to public health and well-being. Our organization's vision is to create an environment where people of all ages and cultural backgrounds share knowledge and experience in community gardening to enhance quality of life, cultivate a spirit of community and promote sustainable ways of living. This Resolution is consistent with these goals.

Columbia Gardeners has managed three community garden sites for over forty years in collaboration with Howard County Recreation and Parks. With increased interest in locally grown food and the growing population in Howard County, all our garden plots are rented and we have a waiting list. We expect demand for community garden sites in Howard County to continue to grow with the increased density in downtown Columbia and the Route 40 and Route 1 corridors. Columbia Gardeners is ready to continue working with the County to help meet the increasing demand for public gardens.

Betty Miller

President Columbia Gardeners