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# Howard County

## Internal Memorandum

**SUBJECT:** Council Resolution to Adopt the 2012 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan

**TO:** Lonnie Robbins  
Chief Administrative Officer

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

**DATE:** September 7, 2012

The 2012 Land Preservation 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, the Department of Planning and Zoning and our consultant, Urban Research and Development Corporation, Inc. (URDC), prepared this Plan. The citizens of Howard County participated in this process via the following methods:

1. Public Meetings

One public meeting was held before the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board on April 24, 2012. One public meeting was held by the Planning Board on June 7, 2012. Written and verbal comments were accepted during and after all public meetings.

2. Web Postings

The draft Plan and meeting dates were posted on the Recreation and Parks Website two weeks prior to the April 24<sup>th</sup> Recreation and Parks Advisory Board meeting. We enhanced the methods of soliciting public comment by providing an on-line sign-up link from the County website for the meeting, as well as on-line testimony.

This Plan is compatible with Plan Howard 2030 and it has been reviewed by the Maryland Department of Planning and 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 both State agencies. Further State changes are not anticipated, but remain a possibility.

The Department of Recreation and Parks respectfully requests approval of the 2012 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan. Our Department is available to provide additional information if needed. Thank you for your consideration of this Resolution.