



M A R Y L A N D

Office of Planning and Zoning

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Gustav S. Kurtz, Jr.
Chair, Planning Advisory Board

February 7, 2022

The Honorable Stuart Pittman, County Executive
Anne Arundel County
Arundel Center, P.O. Box 2700
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

RE: Planning Advisory Board Deliberation on
the 2022 Land Preservation, Parks
and Recreation Plan

Dear County Executive Pittman:

The Planning Advisory Board (PAB) is a citizen advisory board created by §532 of the Anne Arundel County Charter. Under § 533 (b) of the Charter, the PAB shall make advisory recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Officer and the County Council relating to various matters including Master Plans.

The PAB met on January 12, 2022 and received a briefing on the Draft of the 2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP). The briefing summarized the Plan in the following parts:

- Demand for parklands and recreational facilities based on need, proximity, and equity
- County priorities
- Agricultural goals and objectives
- Natural resources and land conservation goals and objectives

After the staff presentation of the Plan on January 12, the PAB opened the public hearing. The Board recognized one member of the public to provide oral testimony. The PAB accepted written testimony from January 12 through January 24, 2022, during which no testimony was submitted in reference to the PAB. The Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) is accepting public comments on the LPPRP from December 2021 through February 2022. DRP staff provided an overview of written comments received to date during the PAB meeting on January 26, 2022.

The PAB deliberated about the LPPRP during a public meeting on January 26, 2022. The PAB voted unanimously 6-0 to recommend the LPPRP move forward to the County Council for review and adoption. The PAB commended DRP on the quality of the plan, the analysis it provides, and the direction it sets for the future. The PAB also commended DRP for achieving accreditation from the National Recreation and Parks Association's Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). There are currently only 192 accredited parks and recreation agencies in the United States and DRP is one of them. The PAB provided the following specific recommendations for revision to the Plan.

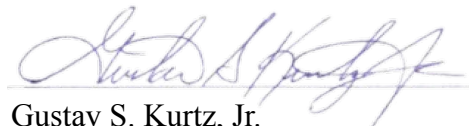
PAB Recommendations for the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

1. Addressing Equity Concerns. The PAB supports the LPPRP analysis and recommendations to address equity needs, including Guiding Policy 4. To more clearly show how proposed investments address areas identified as high need in the Equity Analysis, the PAB recommends amending Table III-15 to note projects located in areas of high need.
2. Sustainable Design. The PAB recommends that the language on green building in Guiding Policy 7 be strengthened. Revised language should be along the lines of the following: *As new facilities are built or existing facilities rehabilitated, integrative design and application of sustainable design principles will be applied to ensure the efficiency and resiliency of our investments into our County inventory.*
3. Public-private partnerships. The PAB recommends that DRP actively pursue public-private partnerships in development of recreation facilities as stated in Guiding Policy 10.
4. Climate Resiliency. The PAB suggests that the recommendations related to climate resiliency (page 123 of the LPPRP for example) be highlighted in the Executive Summary of the document to give them more prominence.
5. Mayo Peninsula Parks Master Plan. The PAB recommends that as the projects located in parks on the Mayo Peninsula move forward that the Mayo Peninsula Parks Master Plan be reviewed and refined to ensure that environmental resources receive appropriate levels of protection.
6. Agricultural and Woodland Preservation Program. The PAB supports the County's agricultural preservation efforts and recommends that the Agricultural and Woodland Preservation Programs regulations, created in 1999, be updated as soon as possible (page 7 of LPPRP).

The PAB appreciates the opportunity to provide you with its recommendations on the LPPRP.

If there are any questions regarding these comments, please contact Michael Stringer in the Office of Planning and Zoning, pzstri20@aacounty.org.

Sincerely,



Gustav S. Kurtz, Jr.
Chair

CC: Matt Power, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Lori Rhodes, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Land Use, Office of the County Executive
Matthew Johnston, Environmental Policy Officer, Office of the County Executive
Laura Corby, Administrative Officer, Anne Arundel County Council
Members of the Planning Advisory Board
Jessica Leys, Director, Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP)
Erica Jackson Matthews, Deputy Director, DRP
Bruce Bruchey, Capital Projects Manager, DRP
Steve Kaii-Ziegler, Planning and Zoning Officer, Office of Planning and Zoning (OPZ)
Christina Pompa, Deputy Planning and Zoning Officer, Planning Division, OPZ
Cindy Carrier, Planning Administrator, Long Range Planning Section, OPZ
Michael Stringer, Planning Board Administrator, Long Range Planning Section, OPZ