

RURAL OPEN SPACE, PARKS, TRAILS, and COMMUNITY FACILITIES

M-NCPPC Staff Facilitators

Parks Element - Tanya Schmieler 301-650-4392

Recreation Element - Gene Elliott 301-650-4384

Trails Element - Lynn Coleman 301-650-4391

Legacy Open Space Element - John Turgeon 301-495-436

Community Facilities Element - Maria Martin 301-495-4734

Issues and recommendations discussed and presented:

Recreation Opportunities:

- The following undeveloped school sites should provide future recreation opportunities. If recreation needs are not needed, these sites should be retained as Parkland.
 - Middle School Site next to Damascus Recreational Park. (Will be recreational use by park or school).
 - Elementary school site across from Baker Middle School for future active recreation.
 - Elementary school site on Hawkins Creamery Road.
- Damascus Recreation Center on Oak Drive: Facilities should include fields, skateboard parks, and roller hockey court. Sidewalks should connect recreation center to surrounding schools and town center.
- Existing local parks: Future active recreation opportunities should be developed for the following parks:
 - Seneca Springs Local Park: Soccer field, playfield, and playground.
 - Woodfield Local Park: Athletic fields, playground, and multiuse court.

Legacy Open Space Opportunities

Conservation of the following natural resource areas is proposed by the County's Legacy Open Space program

- Bennett Creek headwaters area north of Damascus town center and west of Ridge Road
- Little Bennett Creek headwaters area and stream valley, between Oak Ridge Conservation Park and Little Bennett Regional Park
- Large forest tract in upper Patuxent River watershed located off Gue Road

Trails Opportunities

- Consider potential for trail connections through potential development sites.
- Consider potential for linking trails to countywide trail network.

Community Facilities

- Review of existing facilities, and status of planned and proposed schools, fire protection, and other county funded facilities.

TASK FORCE MEETINGS COMPLETED

The last meeting of this Task Force was held on Tuesday, September 9, 2003. Park and Trail recommendations for this master plan will be presented and discussed during the MPRC meeting in November.

Issues for MPRC Review and Evaluation:

- Parkland dedication for properties that are proposed for cluster development.
- Park proposals related to proposed development of sites next to parks. (such as Oak Ridge Conservation Park).
- Location of proposed urban parks.
- Magruder Branch Trailhead Park— park planning and discussion of adjacent properties. Related to Town Center plans.
- Legacy Open Space Recommendations.