



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD'S **RECREATION GUIDELINES** FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

## **What is the purpose of the Recreation Guidelines?**

The Recreation Guidelines, last adopted by the Planning Board in 1992, help determine safe, adequate and efficient recreational facilities for private residential developments in the County. During site plan review, they are used to evaluate the amenities proposed for a development, as required in the new County Zoning Ordinance. By offering recreation facilities, property owners and developers can provide amenities required to achieve project approval and ensure future recreational opportunities for building occupants and communities.

## **Why are the Recreation Guidelines being updated?**

Today, changing demographics in the County and greater concentration of development in urban centers like Bethesda and Silver Spring point to the need for updated Recreation Guidelines responsive to these shifts. The revised guidelines will provide an expanded list of recreation facilities to serve infill development and a variety of age groups, from small children to seniors, through a flexible point system which considers recreation demand and supply.

## **How will the new Recreation Guidelines differ from the 1992 version?**

The 1992 guidelines were originally created for low density, suburban residential developments and included only a limited list of facilities, such as small tot lots, tennis courts and playing fields. The updated Recreation Guidelines will expand the list of facilities to include rooftop areas, indoor fitness centers, community gardens, urban plazas, walkable connections and other spaces appropriate for urbanized areas of the County.

## **What is the goal of updating the Recreation Guidelines?**

The new Recreation Guidelines aim to create a more effective recreation plan for each site instead of a recreation plan that only meets the required points. They are meant to encourage a wide range of design solutions to meet the needs of various age groups. By expanding the potential of private recreation facilities, the guidelines will improve the quality of development in Montgomery County by providing wider access to recreational opportunities.

## **When will the updated Recreation Guidelines become effective?**

The Planning Board will review the proposed Recreation Guidelines in a spring 2016 work session. In summer 2016, the Planning Board will adopt the finalized Guidelines by resolution.

## **How can property owners, developers and community residents get involved?**

The Planning Department is currently holding brainstorming sessions with developers, architects and others directly affected by the guideline revisions to solicit their ideas about the most appropriate and effective private recreation facilities. In addition, a public meeting will be held in spring 2016 to allow community residents to offer ideas about the facilities and policies being considered for the updated guidelines. For more information, check out the [Recreation Guidelines web site](#).