



# Baltimore City Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan 2022 - 2027

December 2022



BALTIMORE CITY  
RECREATION & PARKS  
REGINALD  
MOORE  
DIRECTOR



Brandon M. Scott  
Mayor





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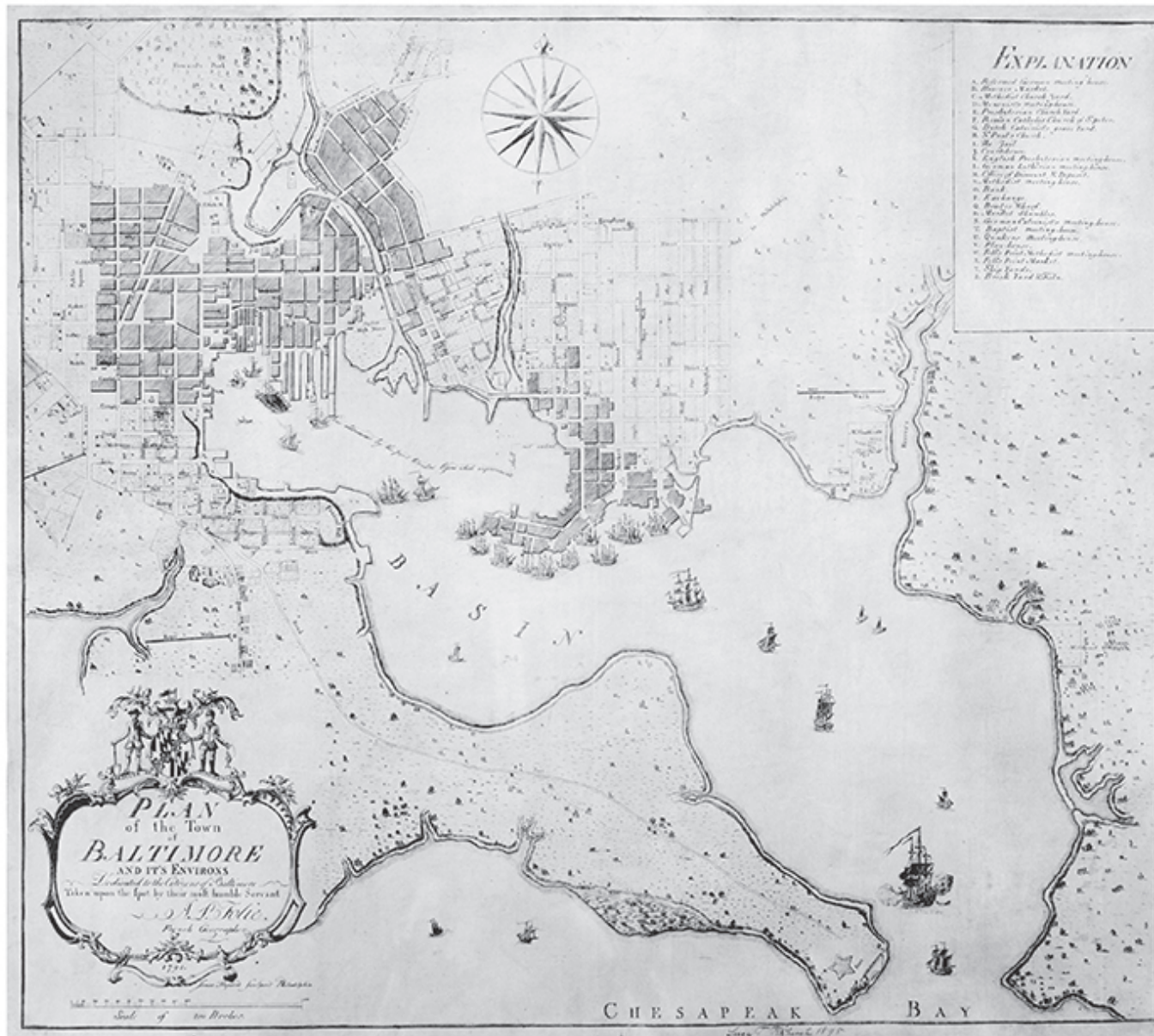
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1792 Plan of the Town of Baltimore and It's Environs by A. P. Folie

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Figure 1.0 1792 Plan of the Town of Baltimore and It's Environs

# 01. INTRODUCTION

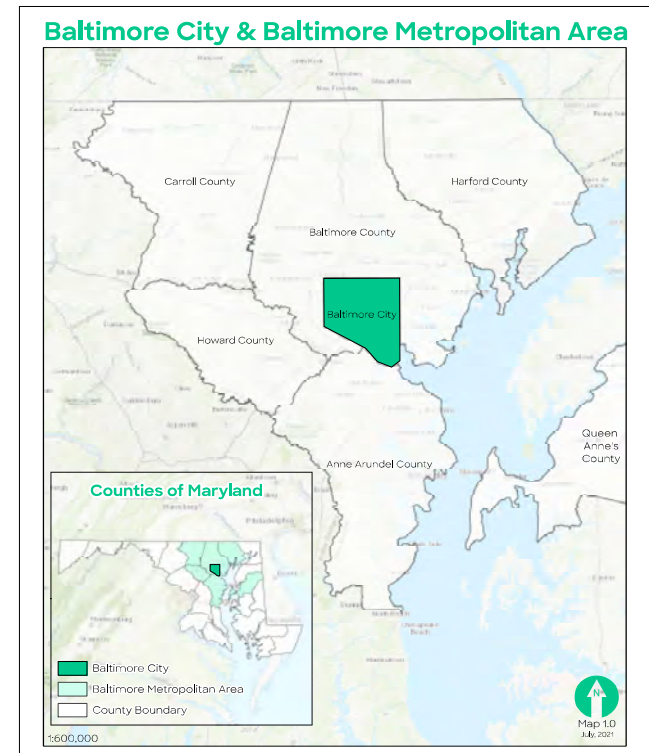
## BALTIMORE CITY HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Baltimore City, located on the Patapsco River, a deep-water tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, serves as the geographic and economic hub of the State of Maryland. Encompassing 82 square miles, Baltimore is the largest city in Maryland with a population of 585,708. One of 24 counties in the State, Baltimore is the only municipality that shares the same jurisdictional county boundary since the adoption of the Maryland Constitution in 1851.

The Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area constitutes the southern end of the eastern seaboard megalopolis, and it is the furthest west of any port on the entire East Coast. The Baltimore metropolitan region includes Baltimore City and the surrounding counties of Anne Arundel, Howard, Carroll, Baltimore, and Harford (Map 1.0).

Baltimore was founded in 1729 via a town charter passed by the Maryland Legislature and was named after the State's first governor, Leonard Calvert, who had been appointed by his brother Cecil, Lord Baltimore, who had received a charter for the colony of Maryland from King Charles I of England in 1632. The area had been inhabited by several Native American tribes, prior to settlement by Europeans.<sup>1</sup>

One of the oldest cities in Maryland, Baltimore town was initially laid out in 1730 on the north side of the Inner Harbor, with 60 lots of one-acre each. Sited on the fall line of the Piedmont and Tidewater regions, Baltimore's deep-water harbor (the western-most deep-water port on the East Coast) provided an important geography for the economic development of the city. The importance of the harbor and access by ship to facilitate trade also informed the establishment of two other settlements nearby, that of Jonestown, located east of the Jones Falls, and of Fells Point, situated further east along the north shore of the Baltimore Harbor. Both settlements subsequently were merged into Baltimore Town in 1745 and 1773, respectively (Figure 1.0).



Map 1.0 Baltimore City and the Surrounding Counties of Maryland

The economy of Baltimore was initially formed around agriculture, including tobacco and wheat, manufacturing, skilled craftsmen, and other trades, due to the influx of German immigrants to the city in the 1730s and 40s.<sup>2</sup> Baltimore's intricate pattern of streams, including the larger Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls and Herring Run stream systems, served as the basis for much of the early development patterns, providing water for the growth of tobacco and wheat as well as water-based power for the mills built in the stream valleys.

2 Baltimore City Dept. of Planning. LIVE • EARN • PLAY • LEARN; The City of Baltimore Comprehensive Master Plan, 2006, Chapter III.

1 History of Baltimore, Maryland. U-S-History.com. <https://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h3856.html>.



Advances in technology over time, fueled both the physical development and geographical expansion of the city along with fluctuations and shifts in population density. Between 1752 and 1773, the economy expanded from the trade of tobacco to the processing of wheat into flour. Baltimore's port fueled development associated with shipping on the Chesapeake Bay and Eastern Seaboard in addition to transporting flour to ports in Ireland, Europe, the Caribbean, and South America. The growth of the ship building industry, which was instrumental to the Revolutionary War (1775-83) and the connection of Baltimore to the National Road in 1806 allowed the City to create direct economic line west to the natural resources of the Ohio Valley. New industries along the streams emerged after 1808, including textile mills producing sail cloth, sawmills, spinning and paper mills, foundries, and powder mills.<sup>3</sup> The city of Baltimore and its port hosted the largest flour market in the world by 1827.

Between 1776 and 1816, Baltimore grew in population from about 6,000 to 46,000. With a population of 13,500 in 1790, Baltimore was the fourth largest city in the United States.<sup>4</sup> Without the ability to self-govern under the Maryland legislature, Baltimore citizens drafted a charter in 1795 which was adopted by the State in 1796.

In 1816, Baltimore expanded its boundaries from three to ten square miles, the need generated by expanded economic growth and immigration. A plan was drawn up to control the future street extensions and established a basic rowhouse development pattern on a street grid, with various sizes accommodating different economic classes.<sup>5</sup>

Further technological advances stimulated the growth of Baltimore, as it did many colonial cities. In Baltimore, a growth spurt began with the construction of the B & O Railroad in 1828 and continued with the construction of a national transcontinental railroad into the 1900s. Other technological innovations dramatically impacted the shape of the city, starting in the 1880s, included the introduction of cast iron building materials, elevators, the creation of the motor, and the construction

of a local streetcar system. The new streetcar system and the introduction of the telegraph in 1843 allowed people to commute to work downtown and spurred new residential on the outskirts of town, which resulted in the creation of suburban developments. The introduction of the telephone in 1876 further encouraged opportunities for new residential and commercial development beyond the center city. At the same time, Baltimore was expanding its manufacturing capabilities and national reach.

The advent of steam power in the 1820s allowed new industries to locate near the harbor, Sparrows Point and along the shoreline of Fairfield, Brooklyn, and Curtis Bay so as to facilitate distribution. Baltimore's connection to the fishing industry, nearby farmland and the innovative development of new large-scale machinery gave rise to canning factories, fertilizer, and metal manufacturing plants. By the 1880's Baltimore had become one of the world's largest suppliers of oysters, canned fruit and vegetables, and chrome, copper, and steel manufacturing.<sup>6</sup> The population of the city continued to grow with the steady influx of immigrants to the United States seeking opportunities, placing pressure on the city's infrastructure. By 1888, the city had continued to grow.<sup>7</sup> The steady influx of immigrants to the United States seeking opportunities, pushed the state legislature to enlarge the city's boundaries which increased the city's total land area from ten to thirty square miles.

The twentieth century marked both significant accomplishments and setbacks for Baltimore. Inspired by the City Beautiful Movement, the Municipal Art Society was formed in the early 1900's with a mission to guide the physical development of the city. Some of its major accomplishments included commissioning artists to create public sculptures, hiring the Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architecture firm to create the 1904 park system plan, advocating for a comprehensive sewer system (1914), additional land annexation (1918) and for a comprehensive zoning ordinance (1923).<sup>8</sup>

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3 Ibid., Chapter III.

4 Crenson, Matthew. Baltimore; A Political History, 2017, Chapter 5.

5 Baltimore City Dept. of Planning. LIVE • EARN • PLAY • LEARN; The City of Baltimore Comprehensive Master Plan, 2006, Chapter III.

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6 Ibid, Chapter III.

7 The population of Baltimore City in 1890 (including the area of Baltimore County that was annexed to the City) was 434,439. The population of Baltimore City in 1880 (prior to the annexed area) was 332,313. US Census Bulletin 28. Population of Maryland by Counties and Minor Civil Divisions, January 3, 1901.

8 Baltimore City Dept. of Planning. LIVE • EARN • PLAY • LEARN; The City of Baltimore Comprehensive Master Plan, 2006, Chapter III.

A devastating fire in 1904 in Baltimore's downtown resulted in the destruction of 1,526 buildings, over 140 acres of land and burned-out 2,500 companies. Concerted efforts to rebuild inspired redesign and modernization of the downtown. Reconstruction took ten years and spurred significant residential development in the northeast area of the city.<sup>9</sup>

In 1918<sup>10</sup>, the city completed another annexation and enlarged its boundary to include almost 80 square miles. At that time, the state legislature introduced a constitutional amendment prohibiting Baltimore City from extending its boundaries without the consent of those about to be annexed.<sup>11</sup> This amendment effectively ended the likelihood of future Baltimore City annexations, resulting in the current city boundaries remaining as established in 1918 (Figure 1.1).

Development and the city's population continued to grow. At its peak in 1950, Baltimore ranked as the 6th largest city in the United States with a total population of 949,708.

While Baltimore grew and prospered, the city's population of color remained poor and segregated. Hindered by bank redlining practices (beginning in the 1930's) which added difficulties to obtaining mortgages and blockbusting tactics which further segregated neighborhoods and inflated house prices for African American families eager to own a home.<sup>12</sup> These practices remain visible in the physical and social fabric of Baltimore City.

The decline of Baltimore's peak population began in the 1950s with increased housing development in the suburbs beyond city boundaries, and the slow steady out migration of population. The city lost 10,000 people in the 1950s and 35,000 in the 1960s.<sup>13</sup> Population loss was further exacerbated by demolition of neighborhood and downtown areas deemed blighted resulting in the forcible relocation of poor residents,

9 Ibid., Chapter III.

10 The population of Baltimore in 1920 was 733,826. Baltimore City Dept. of Planning. 2010 Census-Baltimore: 2000 to 2010 Changes. Slide presentation January 2012.

11 Arnold, Joseph L. Suburban Growth and Municipal Annexation in Baltimore, 1745 -1918. Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol 73., No. 2., June 1978.

12 Baltimore City Dept. of Planning. LIVE • EARN • PLAY • LEARN; The City of Baltimore Comprehensive Master Plan, 2006, Chapter III.

13 Ibid., Chapter III.

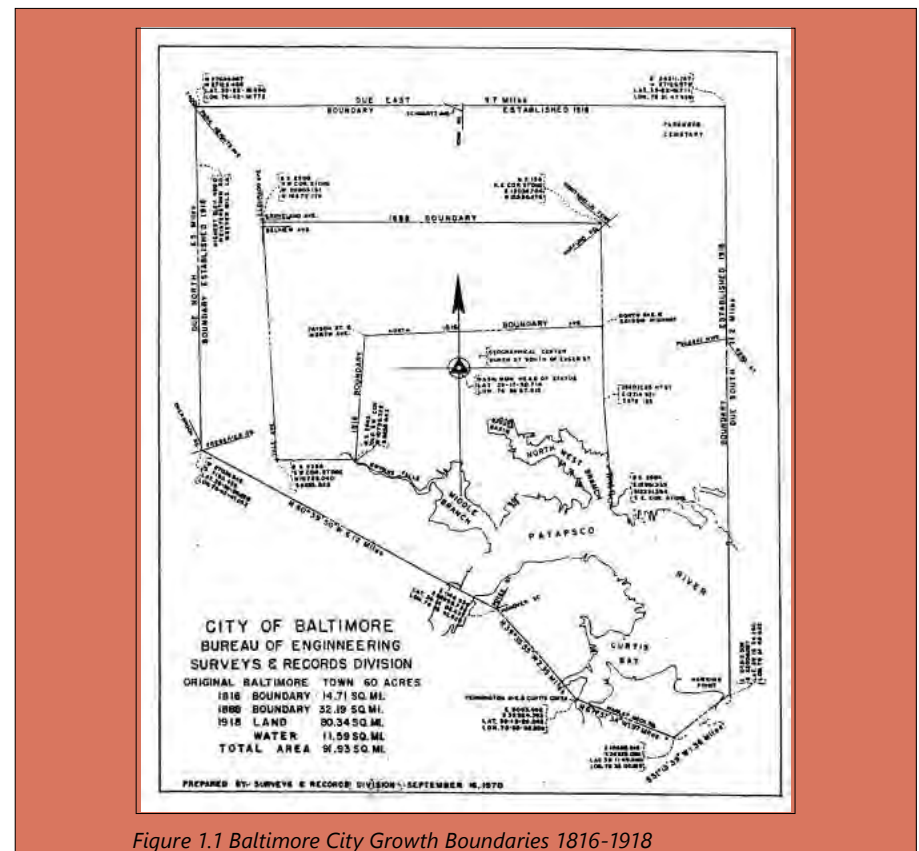


Figure 1.1 Baltimore City Growth Boundaries 1816-1918

predominantly of color, as part of the urban renewal and highway projects which were funded through Federal, State and City dollars in the late 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. The number of demolitions reached 2,600 per year in the late 1960s.<sup>14</sup> While the intent was to “modernize” and improve these areas with new public housing, schools, recreation centers, highways, roads and cultural institutions, the social fabric, and economic livelihood for residents in these areas was irreparably severed.

14 Ibid., Chapter III.

The rise of resident opposition to demolition of neighborhoods and plans to build highways through the downtown (along the harbor front and Inner Harbor) led in 1964 to the creation of the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) along with the designation of National Register and local historic districts. Many of these harbor front neighborhoods, including Fells Point, Federal Hill, Otterbein, Ridgely's Delight and Barre Circle had been condemned as part of an urban renewal area resulting in houses remaining vacant. The city created a successful homesteading program to attract people to reoccupy these homes by selling each of the properties for a dollar and with the requirement that purchasers renovate and live in the houses for a minimum of five years. With the successful repopulation of downtown neighborhoods, later redevelopment projects focused on additional downtown economic development as well as tourism opportunities, resulting in the rebuilding of the Inner Harbor and the opening of Harborplace in 1981.

The redevelopment of the Inner Harbor spurred ongoing development and the conversion of Baltimore's formerly industrial waterfront to more residential and leisure uses. During the 1990s, the city built the Canton Waterfront Park on former railyards, and private developers converted warehouses into waterfront condominiums and townhomes. Other developments along the waterfront have included condominiums, a restaurant and a hotel along Key Highway, as well as a mix of offices, retail establishments, and restaurants at Harbor East as well as more recent mixed use development on the now decontaminated waterfront site previously owned by Allied Chemical.

Today, despite ongoing population decline and issues with crime, the city continues to improve. The population in neighboring Canton has grown, and the Brewers Hill neighborhood continues to expand with new residential units, former warehouse conversions as well as a suburban style shopping center along Boston Street. Locust Point, located on the other side of the harbor (from Fort McHenry) has also seen the conversion of a former grain silo and other industrial buildings into residential units. On Baltimore's downtown Westside, former office and department store buildings are slowly being redeveloped and

renovated along Howard Street from a vacancy plagued former commercial shopping district, into residences, theaters, and arts related uses in support of an Arts District. Public investment has been targeted to create improvements with greater impact in neighborhoods with vacant properties and an ambitious East Baltimore – Perkins, Somerset, Oldtown (PSO) redevelopment project funded in part with a grant from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods program is currently underway north of Harbor East to revitalize public housing with a mix of new public (full unit replacement), affordable and market rate housing, new and renovated parks, an expanded recreation center and commercial development.

Baltimore City continues to have a dense urban development pattern. According to the Baltimore City Department of Planning's most recent land use data (2017), approximately 14 percent of Baltimore's land area is vegetated open space. This is a roughly the same amount that was calculated from 2009 data in the previous 2017 LPPRP report. The remainder has been developed into industry, commercial and residential land uses (Map 1.1). As a result, the City's natural resource areas are substantially different in scale and type than that of Maryland's more suburban and rural counties. Baltimore's recreation assets are described in detail in Chapter 2. The City's natural resources (steep slopes, tree canopy, wetlands, streams, the Inner Harbor and Middle Branch of the Patapsco, and the Chesapeake Bay shoreline) and its efforts to conserve and expand its natural land resources are described in detail in Chapter 3.

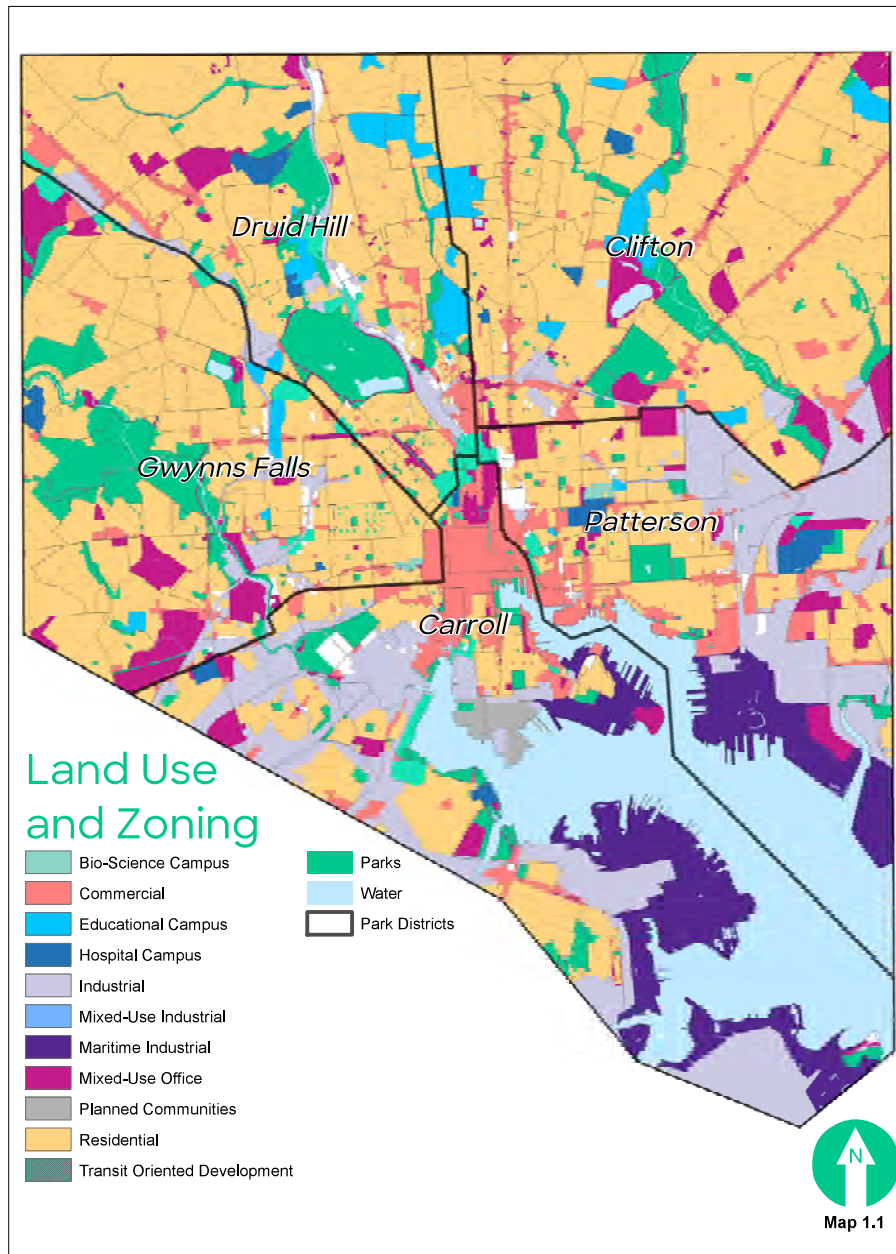
Baltimore has no areas specifically zoned for agricultural use. However, the city does have community gardens and supports and encourages the establishment of urban farms, particularly in areas lacking access to supermarkets. These efforts are discussed in Chapter 4. The level of protection of natural areas, however, does not approach that of rural and more suburban areas since much of the city was "built out" before the environmental movement gained momentum and before legislation was created to protect open spaces. Baltimore continues to maintain and enhance its natural resources and recognizes that this is critical as climate change becomes an increasing part of everyday life.

## CURRENT AND PROJECTED DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Baltimore City's most recent demographic and socioeconomic characteristics allow for a general picture of past, current, and expected population changes. 2020 Census data augmented by the 2019 American Community Survey, population forecasts by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, and analyses by the Baltimore City Department of Planning, the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicator Alliance and other sources provide a demographic profile of Baltimore. Other population characteristics, such as home ownership, household income, vehicle ownership, health statistics, vacant lots and buildings, provide additional information that is relevant to planning for the provision, use, and design of park and recreation programs and facilities in the City of Baltimore. Many of these population and socioeconomic characteristics create specific demands on Baltimore's urban parks and recreation services that differ from other jurisdictions in Maryland.

As of 2020, with a population of 585,708,<sup>15</sup> Baltimore is ranked as the 31st largest city in the United States. This represents a downward shift from its ranking of 29 in 2015, with an estimated population of 621,849. At its peak population in 1950, Baltimore ranked as the 6th largest city in the United States with a total of 949,708 residents. The City's 2020 population represents a 38.3 percent decrease since 1950. Baltimore's decline in population was not unique; it was part of a much larger trend that took place in many major East Coast and Midwest cities after 1950, as people left the cities to buy larger houses in the suburbs, made possible by the expansion of infrastructure and roads thus making it easier to commute to work. Federal funding for the expansion of the interstate highway system as well as the demolition of "blighted" areas in the service of urban renewal, also resulted in the destruction of many closely-knit neighborhoods and the displacement of many African American and other residents of color. (Chart 1.0)

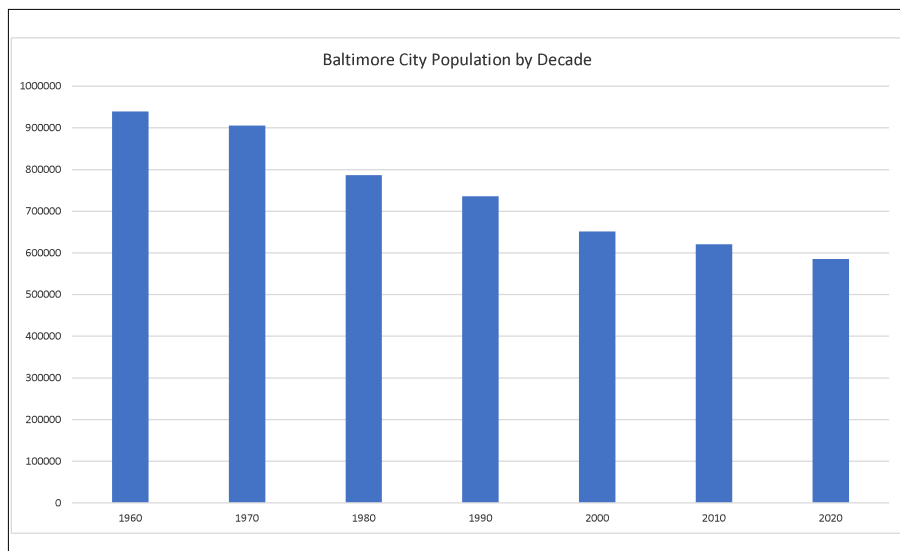
<sup>15</sup>2020 Census (P.L. 94-171) Redistricting Data Summary Files. Released August 12, 2021.



Source: Baltimore City Department of Planning

Map 1.1 Baltimore City Land Use and Zoning





Source: Baltimore City Dept of Planning

Chart 1.0 Population of Baltimore City by Decade 1960 – 2020

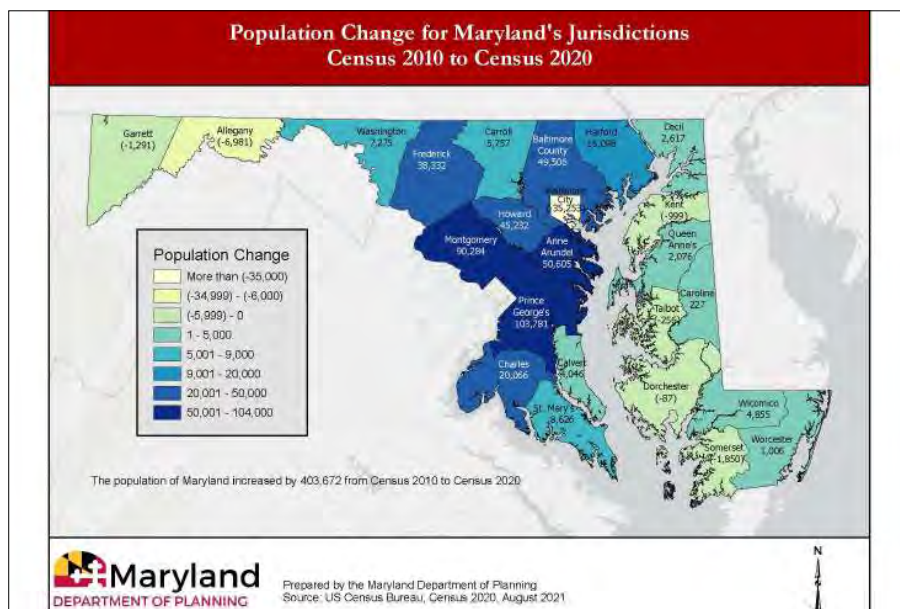


Figure 1.2 Population Change for Maryland's Jurisdictions

Between 2000 and 2010, Baltimore's population experienced a 4.6 percent drop, which represented the smallest decennial decline since 1970.<sup>16</sup> At the writing of the 2017 LPPRP report, intermediary population estimates had forecast a slight population growth between 2010 and 2020 and there were signs that Baltimore's population decline was slowing and possibly reversing.

Unfortunately, the latest 2020 census data does not confirm this forecast, indicating instead that Baltimore City experienced a -5.7% population loss between 2010 and 2020.<sup>17</sup> Baltimore's 2020 population of 585,708 represents the City's lowest population in a century. Baltimore was one of only 7 counties in Maryland to lose any population, and the only one to do so along the I-95 corridor that connects the Baltimore region and Washington DC<sup>18</sup> (Figure 1.2).

Nationwide, according to analysis done by the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance – Jacob France Institute (BNIA-JFI), nearly all the 40+ US cities with population greater than 400,000 in 2010 gained population by 2020. It also indicates that every East Coast city, except for Baltimore, gained population from Washington, DC to Boston.

Since 2000, the pattern of population change in Baltimore City has remained consistent, with declines in communities east and west of the city and gains in communities along I-83 and around the Inner Harbor. Between 2000-2010 and 2010-2020, 44 out of the 55 community statistical areas (CSAs) in Baltimore maintained the same pattern.

Three CSAs saw population loss between 2000 and 2010, but population gain from 2010 -2020: Greater Charles Village/Barclay, Orchard Ridge/Armistead and Southeastern. Conversely, CSAs that gained population between 2000 and 2010, but lost population between 2010 and 2020 included some stable areas of the northeast such as Hamil-

<sup>16</sup> Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance – Jacob France Institute (BNIA-JFI), "Grow Baltimore, Brief #1: Understanding Migration in Baltimore City", April 2015.  
<sup>17</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 and 2010 Census Data Prepared by the Maryland Department of Planning from U.S. Census Bureau's P.L. 94-171 data. Released August 12, 2021  
<sup>18</sup> Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance – Jacob France Institute (BNIA-JFI). Population Data from the 2020 Census. <https://bniajfi.org/2021/08/12/population-data-from-the-2020-census/>.

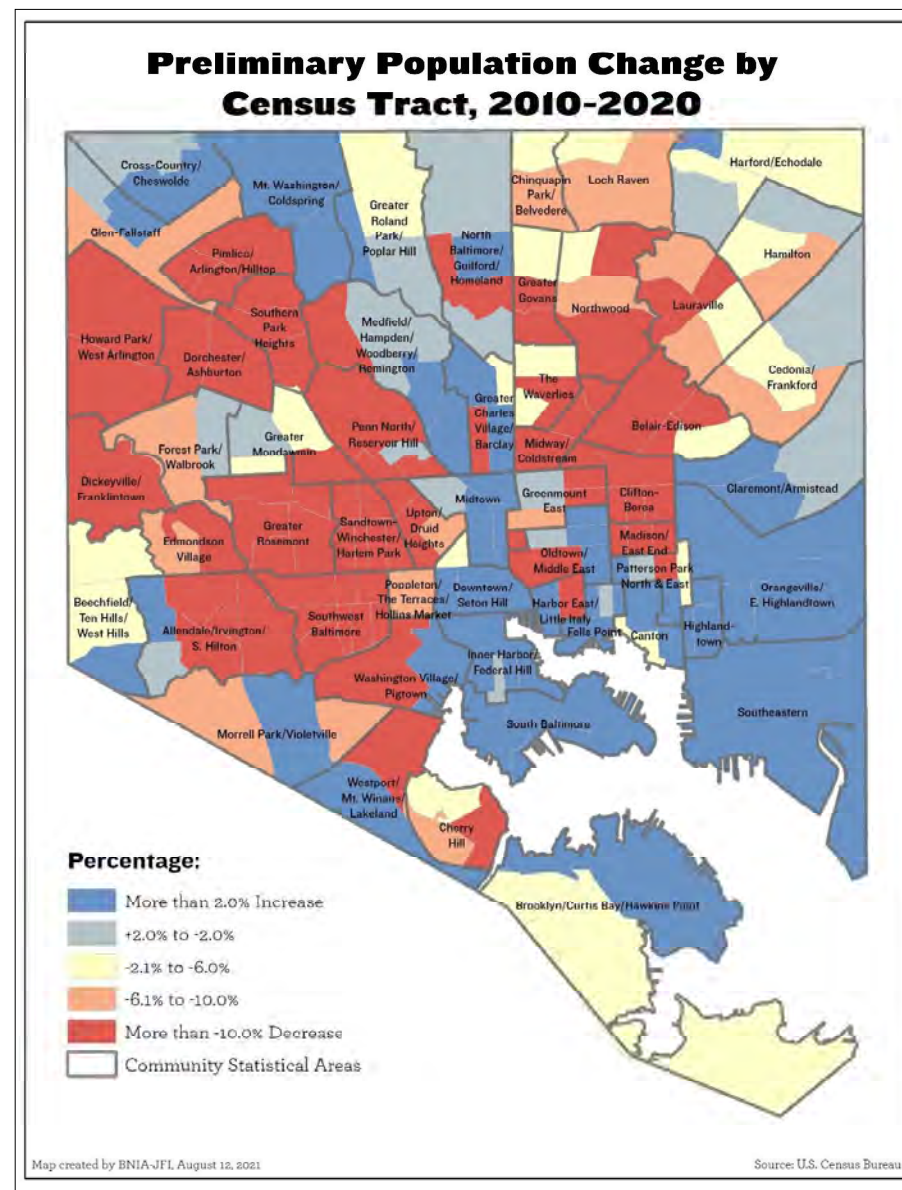
ton (+2.9% to -4.7%) and Belair-Edison (+0.4% to -13.4%). The southern peninsula experienced even wider swings between the two decades in communities such as Cherry Hill (+7.0% to -8.6%) and Brooklyn/Curtis Bay/Hawkins Point (+6.8% to -5.4%).<sup>19</sup>

The top five CSAs that experienced population growth between 2010 and 2020 included: Downtown/Seton Hill (46.6%), South Baltimore (28.1%), Orangeville/ East Highlandtown (26.0%), Highlandtown (21.7%) and Fells Point (17.7%).<sup>20</sup> The top five Community Statistical Areas seeing the most residential population declines include: Madison/ East End (-21.7%), Midway/Coldstream (-23.2%), Clifton-Berea (-23.3%), Southwest Baltimore (-26.3%), and Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park (-29.3%).<sup>21</sup> (See Figure 1.3).

Increases and decreases in population density inform the use and need for parks and recreation services. Historically, the provision of parks and recreational services in the Downtown and Canton among other areas was less than in other parts of the City due to the density of commercial and industrial development which made up a larger share of the City's economy. Fewer people lived in these areas and the need for parks and recreational services was not of concern. In other areas of the city, such as those redlined by banks in the 1930s, the provision of few parks and recreational services was the result of inequitable and discriminatory public policies and priorities.

Analyses of population growth within the communities redlined by banks in the 1930s (by the Baltimore Neighborhood Alliance, Jacob France Institute), show that many are among the fastest growing neighborhoods in Baltimore, including Canton, Federal Hill, Remington, and South Baltimore. Analysis of the four classification categories from the 1930s map - best, still desirable, declining, and hazardous- (See Figure 1.5), indicates that many of the redlined areas had the most population

<sup>19</sup>Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance – Jacob France Institute (BNIA-JFI), Issue Brief #1: Baltimore Community Change 2010-2020, <https://communitychange-bniajfi.hub.arcgis.com/apps/how-have-population-and-socio-demographics-changed/explore>  
<sup>20</sup>Preliminary population change by Community Statistical Area. <https://bniajfi.org/2021/08/12/population-data-from-the-2020-census/>  
<sup>21</sup>Ibid.



Map created by: Baltimore Neighborhood Alliance, Jacob France Institute.  
 Figure 1. 3 Preliminary Population Change by Census Tract

growth between 2010 and 2020, 39 percent of historically redlined areas grew by more than 2 percent. With more people currently residing in these areas, there is a need to provide adequate services.

Between 2010 and 2020, nearly half (49.0%) of the communities identified on the 1930s map as “Declining”, experienced more than a 10.0% population decline. Even 40.1 percent of the areas that were considered “Desirable” experienced moderate population decline (between -2.0% and -6.0%) over the last decade.<sup>22</sup>

To understand the demands upon an urban recreation and park system it is necessary to look beyond population loss and gain. The following more detailed analyses of race, ethnicity, income, age, health, car ownership and disability provide a detailed look at the City’s population and how it influences the objectives of the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks.

### Population Distribution: Race, Ethnicity and Diversity

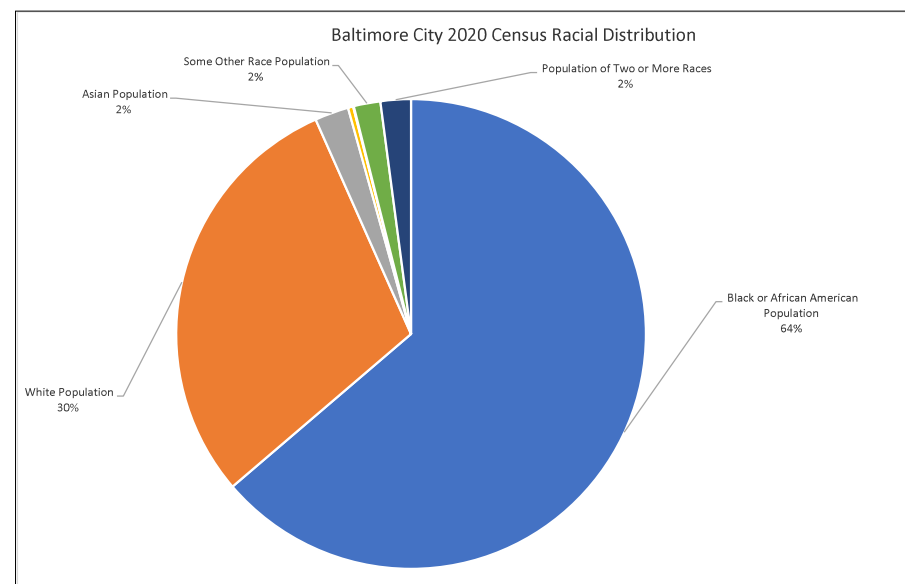
The pie chart below shows the racial composition of Baltimore City in the year 2020 (Chart 1.1). Black residents make up the largest racial group in the city at 58 percent. Whites are the second largest group at 28 percent, followed by Asians at 4 percent.

While the city’s overall population decreased by 5.7 percent between 2010 and 2020, Black residents left the city in higher numbers (-15%) than White residents (-11%). The number of Asian residents increased by 46 percent (Table 1.0).

Residents who identified as “Some Other Race” made up 5 percent of the population in 2020. This race category was provided in the U.S. Census for those who did not identify with the five race categories.<sup>23</sup> This category showed a significant 148 percent increase since 2010. Residents who identified as “Two or More Races,” account for 5 per-

cent of the total Baltimore population, which resulted in a 126 percent change from 2010. The US Census Bureau found significant shifts in these categories across the United States which shows the population is much more racially diverse. The US Census Bureau has attributed these increases to be more than likely due to changes in the 2020 Census that made use of two separate questions- one for race and one for Hispanic origin- in order to gain a more accurate picture of race and ethnicity and the way in which people self-identify (Since persons of Hispanic or Latino origin may be of any race).

In 2020, 8 percent of Baltimore City residents identified themselves as of Hispanic or Latino origin. The number of Hispanic or Latino residents has increased by 77 percent since 2010. This significant increase has implications for the way in which the Department of Baltimore City Recreation and Parks addresses the needs of this segment of the population, such as Spanish language communication and targeted programming.



Prepared by Baltimore City Department of Planning, U.S. Census Bureau, 2020

Chart 1.1 City of Baltimore Racial Composition, 2020.

<sup>22</sup> Baltimore Neighborhood Alliance, Jacob France Institute, Issue Brief #1: Baltimore Community Change 2010-2020, Impacts of Redlining - <https://communitychange-bniajfi.hub.arcgis.com/apps/how-have-population-and-socio-demographics-changed/explore>

<sup>23</sup> The official five US Census race categories are: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.



Geographically, Baltimore saw an increase in racial and ethnic diversity within communities across the city between 2010 and 2020, however, the city continues to be relatively segregated (See Map 1.2).

Baltimore City Census 2010-2020 Racial & Hispanic/Latino Origin Changes	2010	2020	% Change
Total Population	620961	585708	-6%
Black or African American Population	395781	338478	-14%
White Population	183830	163026	-11%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	25960	45927	77%
Asian Population	14548	21210	46%
American Indian and Alaska Native Population	2270	2312	2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population	274	186	-32%
Some Other Race Population	11303	28046	148%
Population of Two or More Races	12955	29306	126%

Prepared by Baltimore City Department of Planning, data source from U.S. Census Bureau, 2020  
Table 1.0 2010-2020 Changes Racial and Hispanic Origin

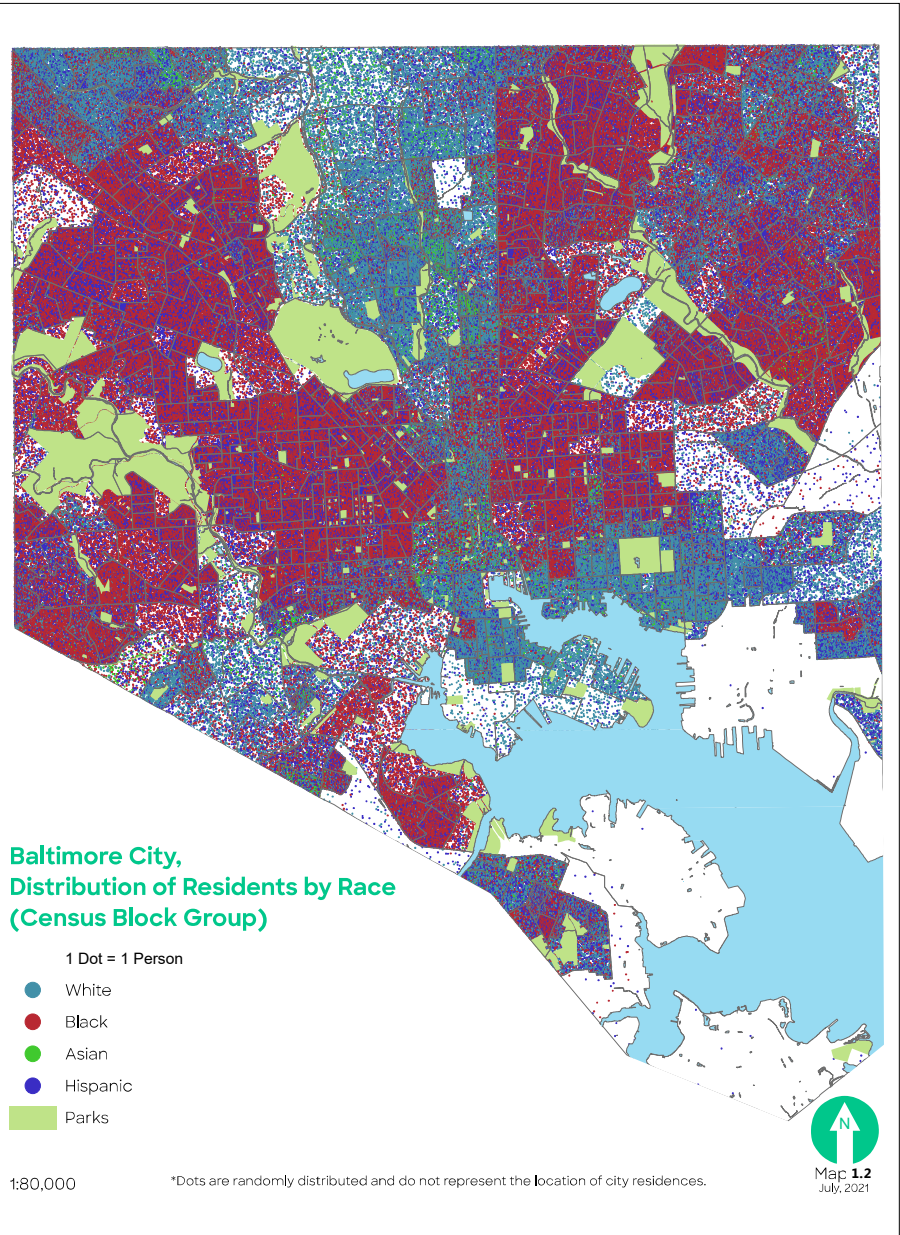
Many parts of east and west Baltimore have more than 82.7% African American households whereas the center has more than 50 percent White households.<sup>24</sup> Nearly all communities saw an increase in Hispanic residents, with significant concentrations in the southeast, particularly in the Greektown/Bayview area, with more than 50 percent Hispanic residents. This is the first time Baltimore has had a majority Hispanic community.

Asians represent 4 percent of Baltimore’s overall population but comprise more than 15 percent of residents in North Baltimore/Guildford/Homeland, Greater Charles Village/Barclay and Downtown/Seton Hill (See Map 1.3 for predominant race density by neighborhood).

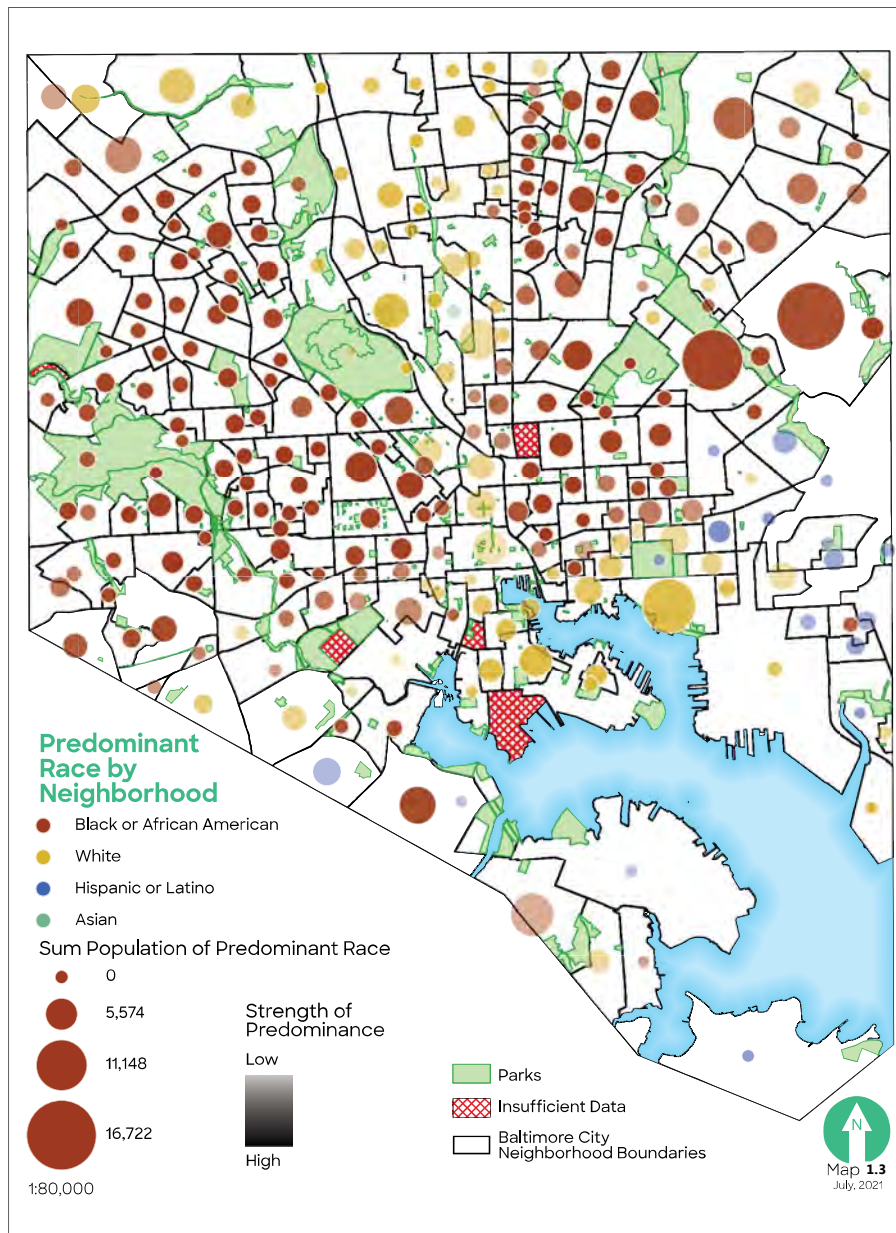
As previously noted, Baltimore has a long history of structural racism, (underlying racial discrimination against Black, African American, and other residents of color), redlining by banks which effectively prevented homeownership in non-White neighborhoods, and inequitable public policies and investment.

While many efforts are underway to correct these structural imbalances, particularly in the past four to five years, the results of this history

24 Baltimore Neighborhood Alliance, Jacob France Institute, Issue Brief #1: Baltimore Community Change 2010-2020, Race, Ethnicity and Diversity. <https://communitychange-bniajfi.hub.arcgis.com/apps/how-have-population-and-socio-demographics-changed/explore>



Map 1.2 Distribution of Residents by Race



Map 1.3 Predominant Race Density by Neighborhood

are still reflected in the City's current patterns of racial distribution, household income and poverty, home ownership and rental, location of vacant properties, health indicators and provision of public facilities including recreation and parks. These issues will be discussed in more depth in later sections.

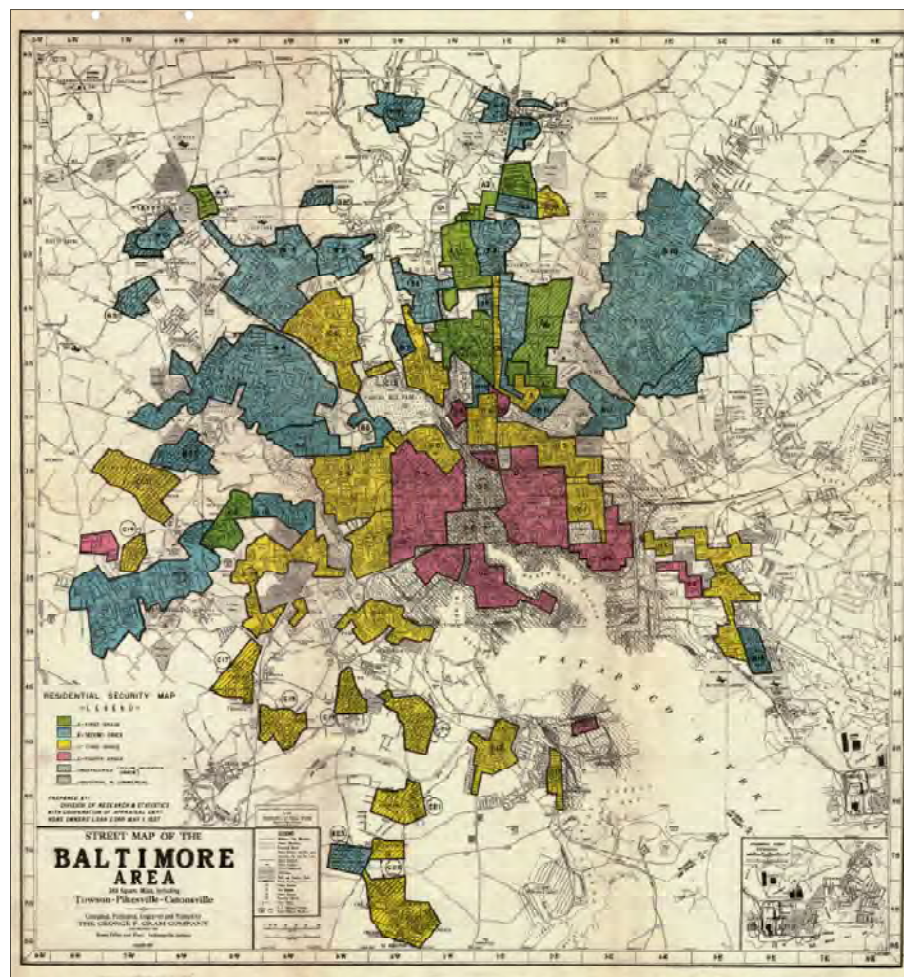
Dr. Lawrence Brown, a professor at Morgan State University, School of Community Health and Policy<sup>25</sup>, coined the term "the Black Butterfly" to describe the contrast between the central "White L", an area around the Inner Harbor and stretching straight North along York Road to the wealthy neighborhoods of Homeland and Guilford, with the majority "Black Butterfly" neighborhoods that make up large swaths (the wings) of East and West Baltimore. The predominantly White residents of the central L areas of the city have benefited as recipients of structured advantages built into public and private policies and practices, while predominantly Black residents of the east and west wing areas have been structurally disadvantaged by these same policies and practices. Examples of some of these structural advantages in policies and practice include a free bus service (Charm City Circulator), a highway built for downtown access, the selection of bank locations, home mortgage lending, small business lending, the location of public housing sites and of quality public schools, access to grocery stores, and normal policing, to name a few.

Figure 1.5 shows areas that were redlined starting in the 1930s. Clear correlations are still visible between the redlined areas and the geographic areas occupied by predominantly White, Black/African American, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino residents today. Residential segregation persists with higher densities of Whites residing along the central "White L" and higher densities of Blacks and People of Color residing in the east and west "Black Butterfly" neighborhoods in the city (Map 1.4).

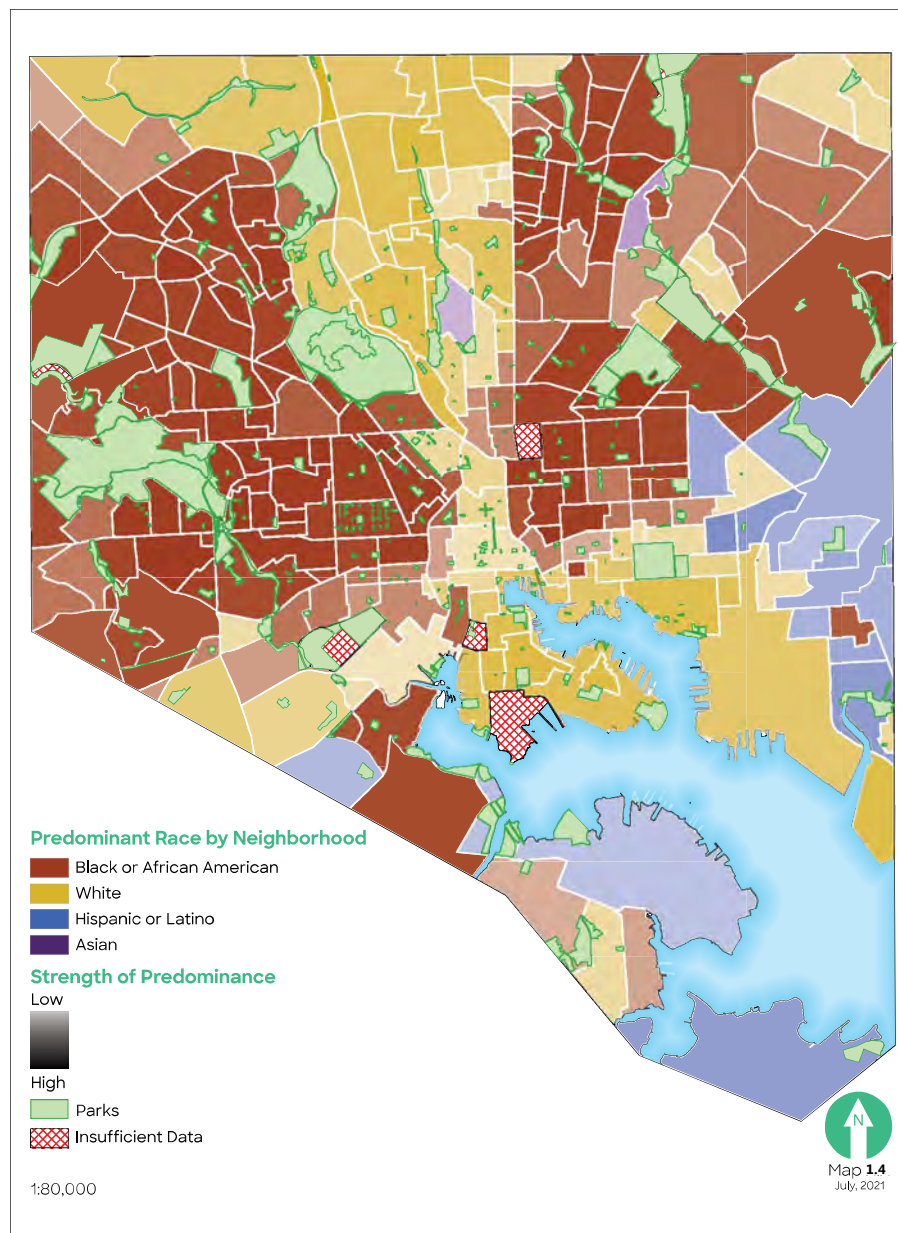
The distribution of Baltimore's population by race and potential Spanish speakers (Hispanic/Latino) among City Park District indicates that Black or African American residents far outnumber Whites and other races in the Clifton and Gwynns Falls Park Districts (Chart 1.2). Interestingly, in 2020, a marked change is visible in the numbers of

<sup>25</sup> Author of "The Black Butterfly: The Harmful Politics of Race and Space in America." Founder of the Black Butterfly Project.



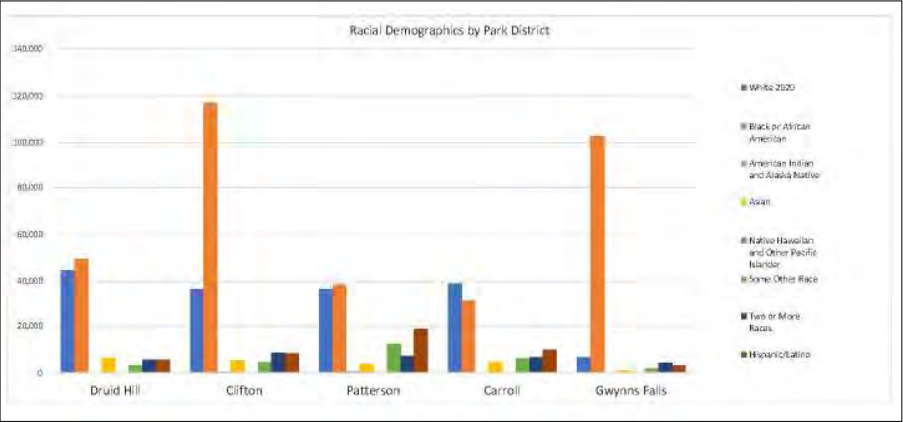


Source: Johns Hopkins Library. <https://jscholarship.library.jhu.edu/bitstream/handle/1774.2/32621/Residential%20Security%20Map%201937.JPG?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>



*Map 1.4 Predominant Race by Neighborhood Overall*

Blacks or African Americans residing in the Clifton Park District compared to the Gwynns Falls Park District when compared to 2015, where the numbers of Blacks or African American residents was higher in the Gwynns Falls than in the Clifton Park District. One reason for this may be the renovation of previously vacant lots and homes in the Coldstream Homestead Montebello neighborhoods and provision of incentives to attract new homeowners to the area.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020  
Chart 1.2 Racial and Hispanic/Latino Origin Composition by Park District, 2020.

It is notable that the number of White residents in the Gwynns Falls Park District is the smallest number of all the districts, which was also the case in 2015. The 2020 Census also shows a shift in the concentration of Whites to the Druid Hill Park District from that of the Carroll Park District in 2015. One reason for this may be the historic Reservoir Hill neighborhood, located adjacent to Druid Hill Park in the Druid Hill Park District, which has been a predominantly lower middle income African American neighborhood, has seen steady revitalization over the past decade and has seen an uptick in both upper middle income White and African American families moving into the neighborhood. Overall, the Patterson, Druid Hill and Carroll Park Districts have a more even

split between African American and White residents. Patterson Park has the larger number of residents who are of “Two or More Races” as well as residents who identify as Hispanic/Latino origin.

It should be noted that the five park management districts in the city vary in total land area and population size due in part to the distribution of industrial lands. The Clifton Park District has the largest number of residents and the largest amount of overall land area. On the other hand, the Carroll Park District has the least number of residents, but second largest land area (Table 1.1).

Baltimore City Population & Land Area by Park District		
Park District	Population	Land Area
Druid Hill	109,665	9,472.05
Clifton	172,556	13,311.75
Patterson	98,965	8,042.15
Carroll	87,562	10,405.21
Gwynns Falls	116,960	10,326.38
Total City Population	585,708	
Total City Land Acreage		51,557.55

Table 1.1 Population and Land Area by Park District, 2020

Age

Different age groups and genders have varied needs and preferences in their use of parks and recreational facilities. Populations such as older adults, youth in poverty, and the disabled are groups with specific needs and challenges to accessing parks and recreation programs and facilities.

Trends in age and disabilities have implications for Baltimore’s parks and recreation facilities as they will need to fully accommodate and be accessible to older adults, people with disabilities as well as the range of middle-aged residents and families. Identifying how these important groups of residents are distributed in the city allows programs and services to be targeted where there is the most need.



The most recent American Community Survey Demographic and Housing Census data estimates from 2019<sub>26</sub> show that there are slightly more females (53.1%) than males (46.9%) in the population of the city, despite population loss in the city overall.

The highest increase (18.2%) in population since 2010 was in the number of people over the age of 65 (Table 1.2). It will be important in the upcoming years to provide additional recreation programming as well as facilities that address older adults particular needs and preferences to ensure that they remain healthy and enable them to age in place.

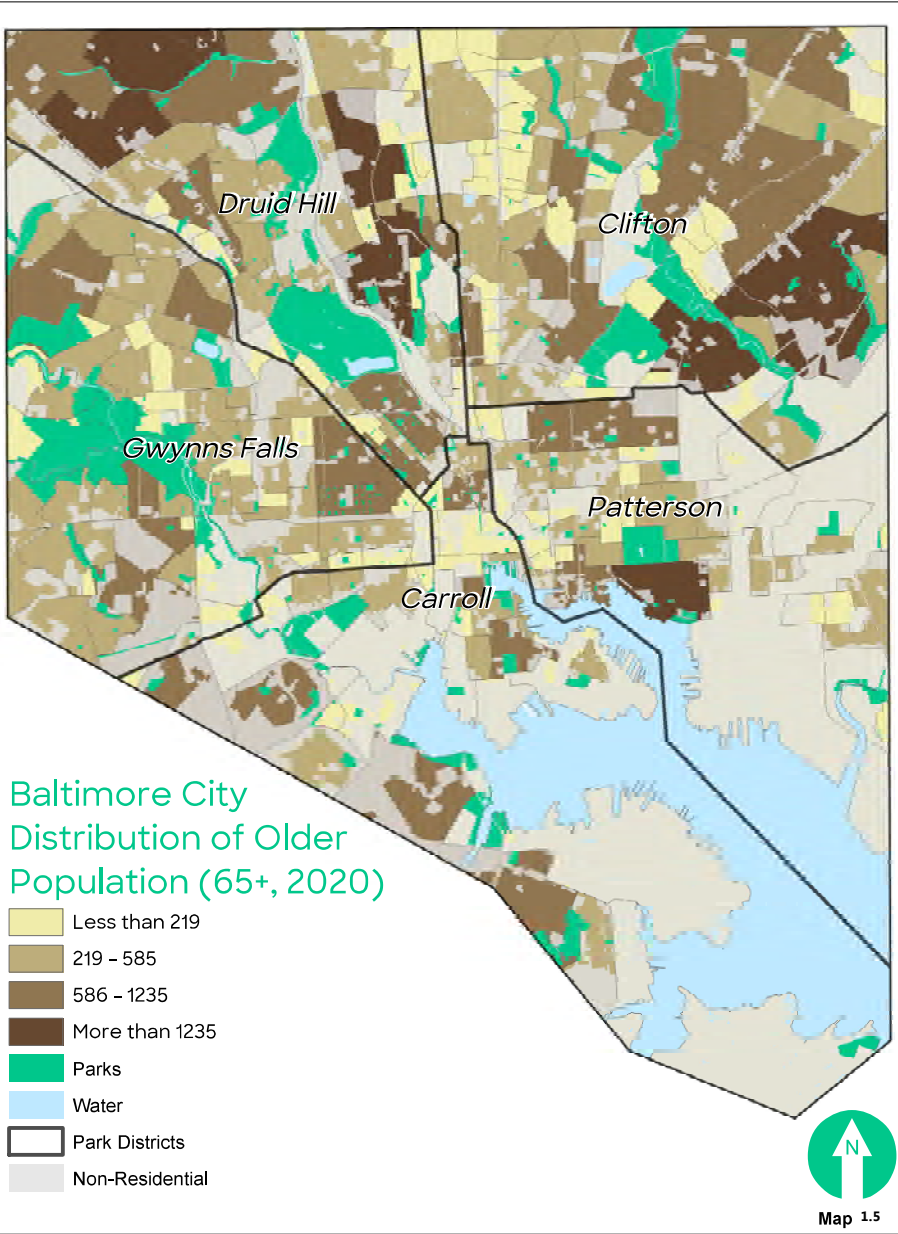
Age Demographics of Baltimore					
Age	2010		2019		% Change
	Total	% of Total	Total	% of Total	
Total Population	620,583		593,490		
Male	292,446	47.1%	278,188	46.9%	-4.8%
Female	328,137	52.9%	315,302	53.1%	-3.9%
Under 5 years	41,033	6.6%	36,449	6.1%	-11.2%
5 to 9 years	35,646	5.7%	33,167	5.6%	-6.9%
10 to 14 years	34,093	5.5%	32,339	5.4%	-5.1%
15 to 19 years	43,592	7.0%	35,044	5.9%	-19.6%
20 to 24 years	56,704	9.1%	38,941	6.6%	-31.3%
25 to 34 years	104,021	16.8%	112,273	18.9%	7.9%
35 to 44 years	76,272	12.3%	77,086	13.0%	1.1%
45 to 64 years	156,221	25.2%	75,707	12.8%	-51.5%
65+	73,001	11.8%	86,265	14.5%	18.2%
Median age (years)	34.4		35.9		
Under 18 years	132,939	21.40%	119,567	20.1%	-10.1%
18 years and over	487,644	78.6%	473,923	79.9%	-2.8%

Source: American Community Survey - Demographic and Housing 2010, 2019 1- Year Estimates

Table 1.2 Change in Age Demographics 2010-2019

A map of the distribution of the population over 65 years of age indicates densities in neighborhoods including Fells Point, Canton, Belair Edison, Frankfort, Roland Park, Medfield, Mt. Washington, Cheswolde, and Glen neighborhoods among others (Map 1.5). A comparison among park districts shows that higher percentages of older adults reside within the Druid Hill (10%) and Gwynns Falls (8%) districts (Chart

<sup>26</sup> 2019 American Community Survey Demographic and Housing Data, 1 Year Estimate is the most current data at this writing. Age data from the 2020 Census is anticipated to be released sometime in 2022. In its absence this report refers to the 2010 and 2019 ACS Demographic and Housing Data, 1 Year Estimates.



Map 1.5 Distribution of Baltimore City Residents 65 and Over, 2020

1.3). The lowest percentages of Older Adults are within the Patterson (5%) and Carroll Park (5%) Districts.

Significant losses occurred in the 45 to 64 age groups (-51.5%) and the 20-24 (31.3%) years populations. Much of the 45-64 age population can likely be attributed to families moving out of the city to other locations, while the decline in 20-24 age population may be due to relocation to college and other opportunities or a more unfortunate loss of life because of increased levels of crime. The losses of these midlife and young adult age groups offer opportunities for recreation and parks programming and facilities to appeal to and engage these groups.

The 2019 estimates continue to show an increase in the 25-34 age population since 2010 (7.9%) and the 35 to 44 age group (1.1%). Single individuals within this population group have different needs than do families. There are needs for both social, competitive/team and family oriented recreational activities. The Baltimore's recreation and parks system provides a wide variety of active recreation facilities and programming in indoor and outdoor settings, including recreation centers, outdoor pools, basketball courts, team sports, hiking and environmental education that serve both individuals and families.

The total number of youth in Baltimore City under the age of 18 has continued to decrease since 2010 (-10.1%), which reflects the declining birthrate and is consistent across the United States. A comparison among park districts shows a more even distribution of youth percentages among the park districts. The highest is Clifton Park (21%), and the lowest are within the Druid Hill (18%) and Carroll Park (18%) Districts (Chart 1.3).

## Disabled Population

Baltimore City continues to have a large population of disabled individuals, although it is important to note that disability is self-reported and includes a wide range of conditions. In 2010, 15.1 percent of the city's population reported being disabled and was fairly evenly distributed across city neighborhoods. As of 2019, the estimate for this

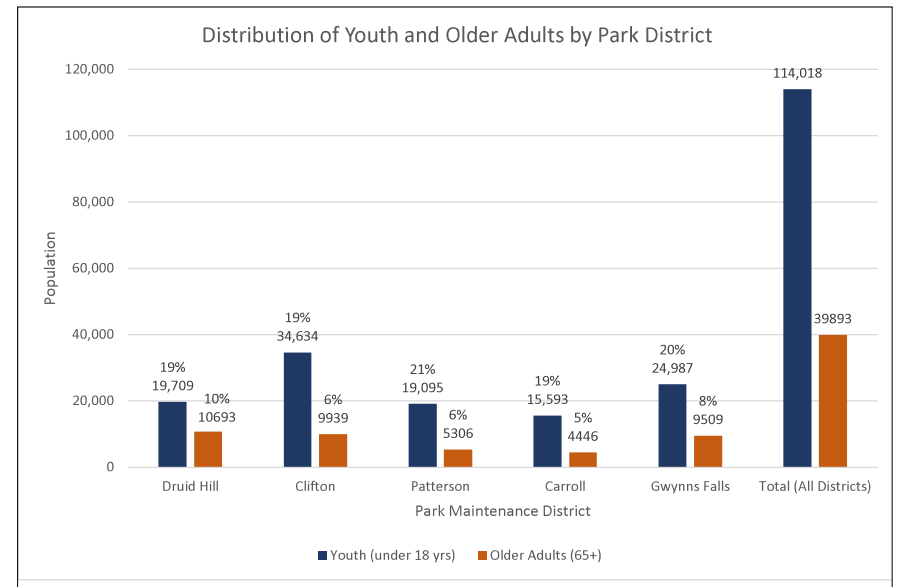


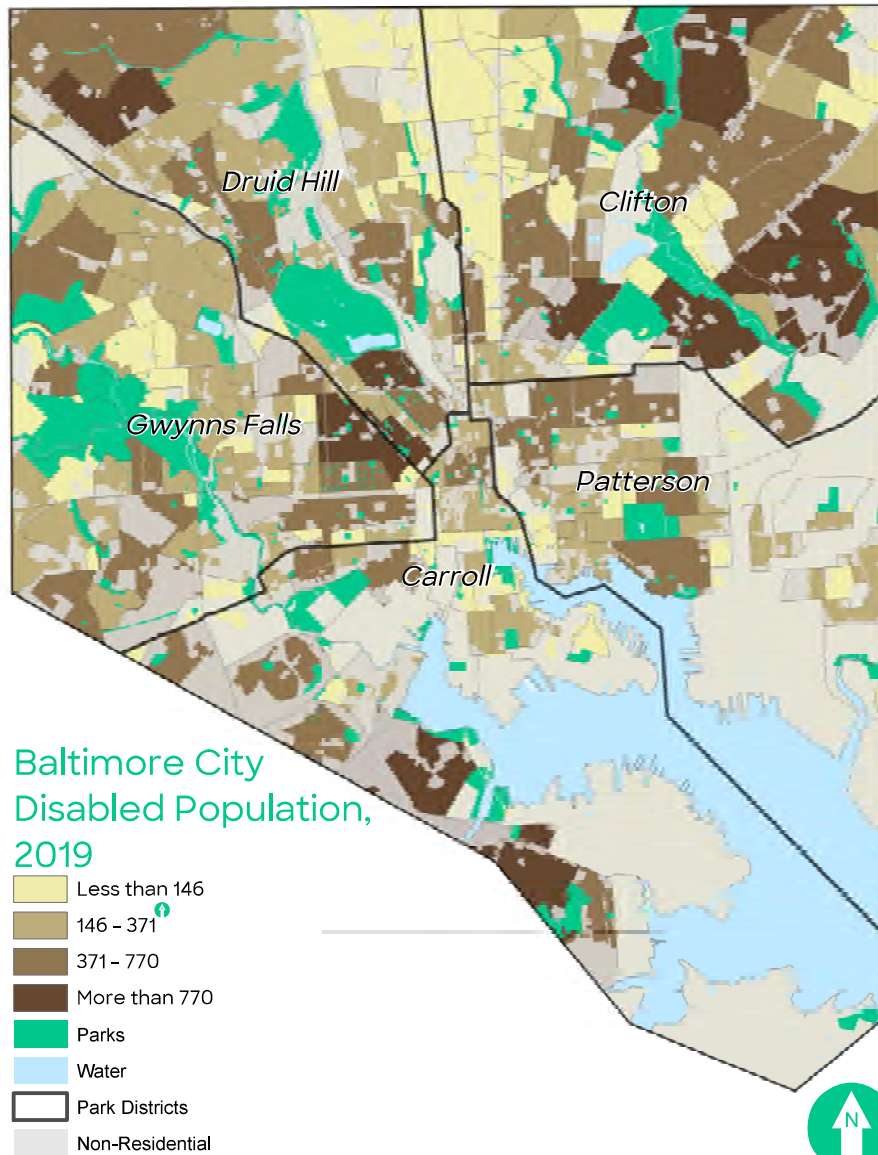
Chart 1.3 Distribution of Youth and Older Adult Populations by Park District, 2020

population has increased to 16.5 percent of the city population (Table 1.3), showing higher densities in the Clifton, Gwynns Falls, and Druid Hill Park Districts (Map 1.6).

## Household Income and Poverty

Map 1.7 shows the distribution of household income in Baltimore. Households with the highest median incomes (greater than \$108,000) are concentrated in the north (Roland Park, Guilford, Homeland, Mt. Washington), adjacent to Lake Montebello (Mayfield) and in the neighborhoods around the Harbor (Harbor East, Canton, Fells Point, Federal Hill, Locust Point) and moderately high median incomes (\$62,424 – \$108,133) are located around Patterson Park, northeast of Lake Montebello (Arcadia, Beverly Hills). These neighborhoods are located within the “White L”, neighborhoods which have historically been White, favored recipients of investments and structured advantages provided through public and private policies and practices.

1.6



Map 1.6 Distribution of Disabled Resident Population, 2020



Percent of Population with Disability in Baltimore City	
Year	% of Population with Disability
2010	15.1%
2011	15.6%
2012	15.5%
2013	16.1%
2014	14.6%
2015	15.5%
2016	14.9%
2017	15.5%
2018	15.6%
2019	16.5%

Source: 2010 to 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates for Baltimore City

Table 1.3 Percent of Population with Disability in Baltimore City 2010-2019

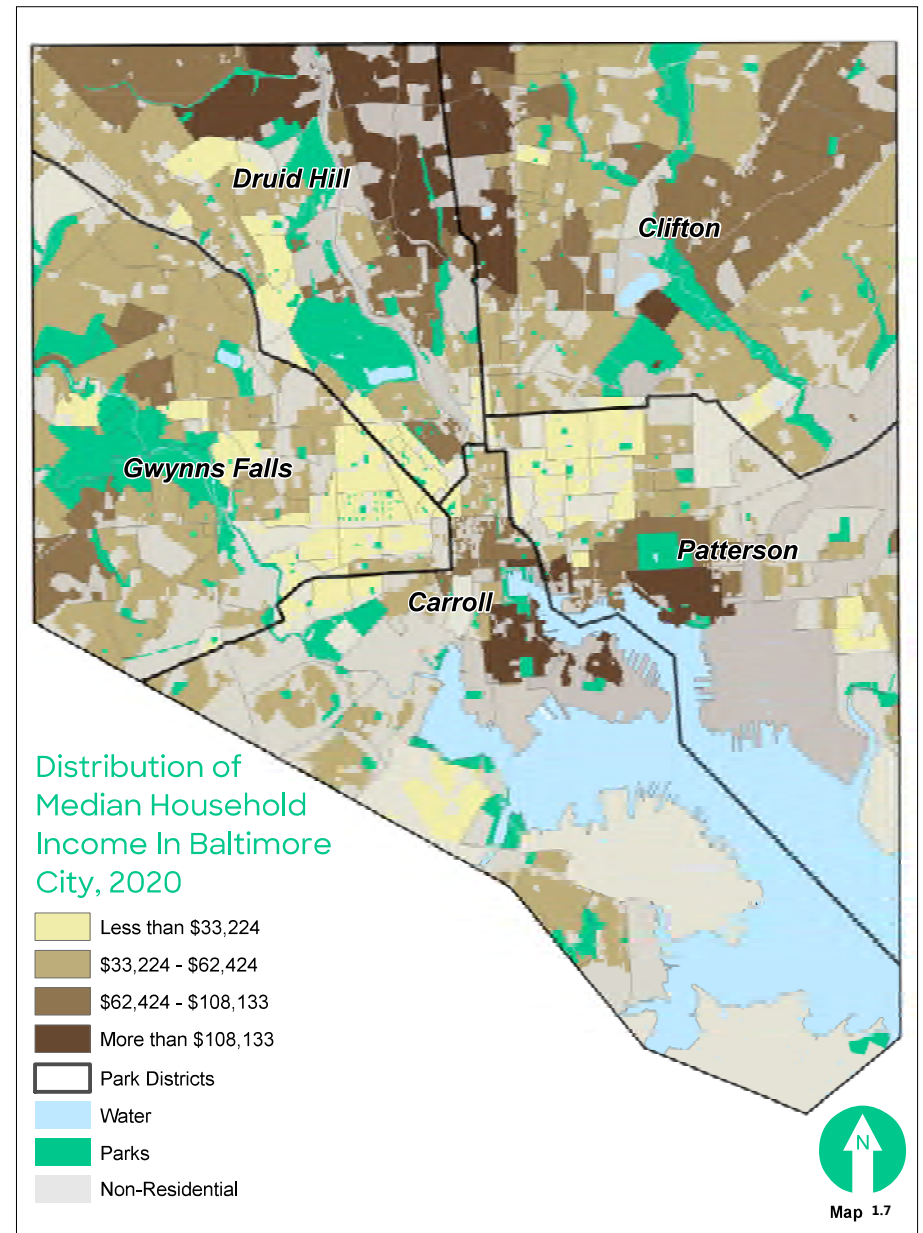


Households with the lowest median incomes (less than \$33,224) are located west and east of downtown, between Carroll and Druid Hill Parks on the west and Clifton and Patterson Parks on the east. These neighborhoods include those of Sandtown-Winchester, Rosemont, Penn North, Broadway East, Middle East, and Oliver, to name a few. There are also a few neighborhoods just northwest of Druid Hill Park, which include Park Circle and Greenspring. The next lowest median income tier (\$33,224-\$62,424) includes neighborhoods northwest of Druid Hill Park, such as Ashburton, Central Park Heights and in the northeast, east of Belair Road, such as Frankford and Belair-Edison. These are the “Black Butterfly” neighborhoods that have historically been structurally disadvantaged by public and private policies and practices and which still reflect that historic underinvestment.

The City of Baltimore has a large population of residents living in poverty. As Table 1.4 indicates, it is estimated that 20 percent of City residents were living in poverty in 2020, which represents a 3 percent overall decrease from 2010. Residents in poverty are distributed across all five park districts, with Gwynns Falls containing the highest percentage of the District’s population in poverty (24%), and second highest total number of residents. Carroll Park and Patterson Districts tied in terms of percentage of residents relative to total population (21%) but lower total numbers of residents (Chart 1.4).

Fortunately, the number of youth living in poverty has decreased by roughly 9 percent, from approximately 131,784 in 2012 to 121,306 in 2020.<sup>27</sup> The total number of adults 65 years and older who are in poverty, however, is estimated to have increased significantly (17%) during the same time period, from 70,080 in 2012 to 82,010.

Three out of five park districts show 7 percent of the youth population living in poverty relative to the overall district populations (Chart 1.5). Youth poverty percentages are lower in the Druid Hill (4%) and Clifton Park Maintenance Districts. The high levels of youth poverty are seen in Map 1.8, where youth poverty is concentrated in the oldest neigh-



Map 1.7 Median Household Income in Baltimore City, 2020

<sup>27</sup> 2012 and 2020: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables- Poverty Status in the last 12 months. The analysis of 2020 Census data was not available as of the time of writing.

Baltimore City Residents Living in Poverty						
	2012			2020		
	Total Baltimore City population	Below Poverty Level	% Below Poverty Level	Total Baltimore City Population	Below Poverty Level	% Below Poverty Level
<b>Poverty Status in the Last 12 Months</b>						
Total population	597239	139915	23%	580311	116258	20%
Under 18 years	131784	43983	33%	121306	33763	28%
18 to 34 years				157252	28379	18%
35 to 64 years				219743	39582	18%
18 to 64 years	395375	83404	21%	376995	67961	18%
65 years and over	70080	12528	18%	82010	14534	18%
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>						
White alone	177748	25376	14%	171827	20530	12%
Black or African American alone	382969	103984	27%	362937	88067	24%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1990	627	32%	1787	551	31%
Asian alone	13647	3825	28%	13679	2444	18%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	260	50	19%	141	59	42%
Some other race alone	7617	2562	34%	11795	2102	18%
Two or more races	13008	3491	27%	18145	2505	14%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	24262	5962	25%	31339	5893	19%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	165399	23146	14%	157964	17747	11%

Source: 2012 and 2020: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables- Poverty Status in the last 12 months

Table 1.4 Baltimore City Resident Poverty Status in the Last 12 Months

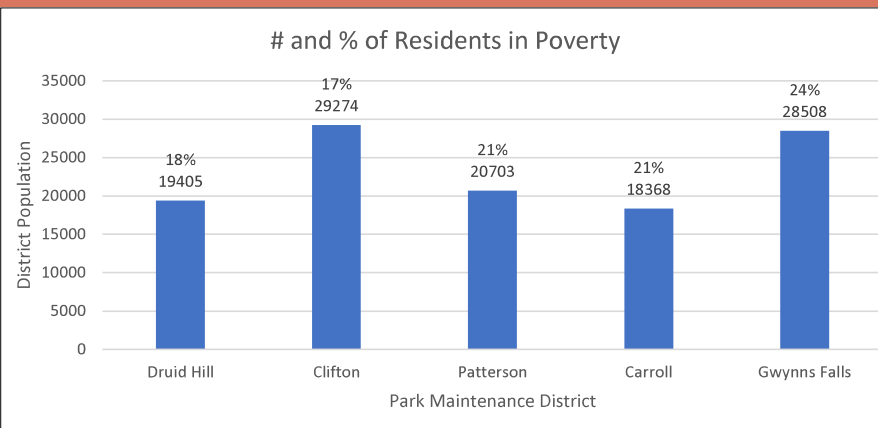


Chart 1.4 Baltimore City Residents in Poverty by BCRP Park District

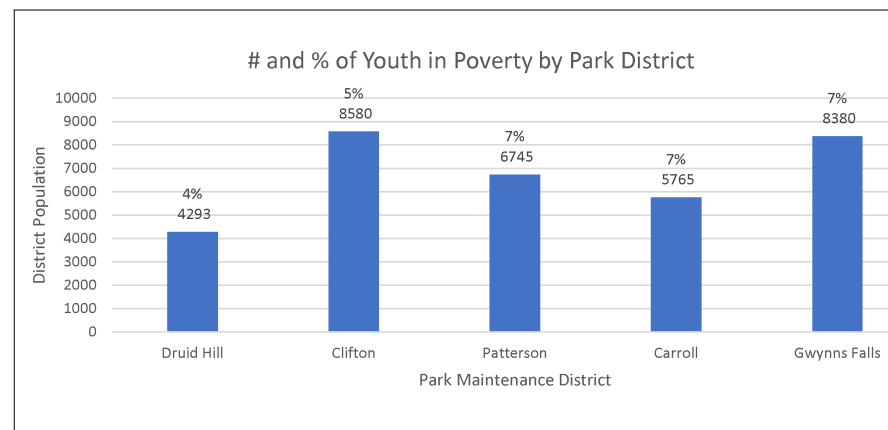


Chart 1.5 Baltimore City Youth (under 18 yrs.) in Poverty by BCRP Park District

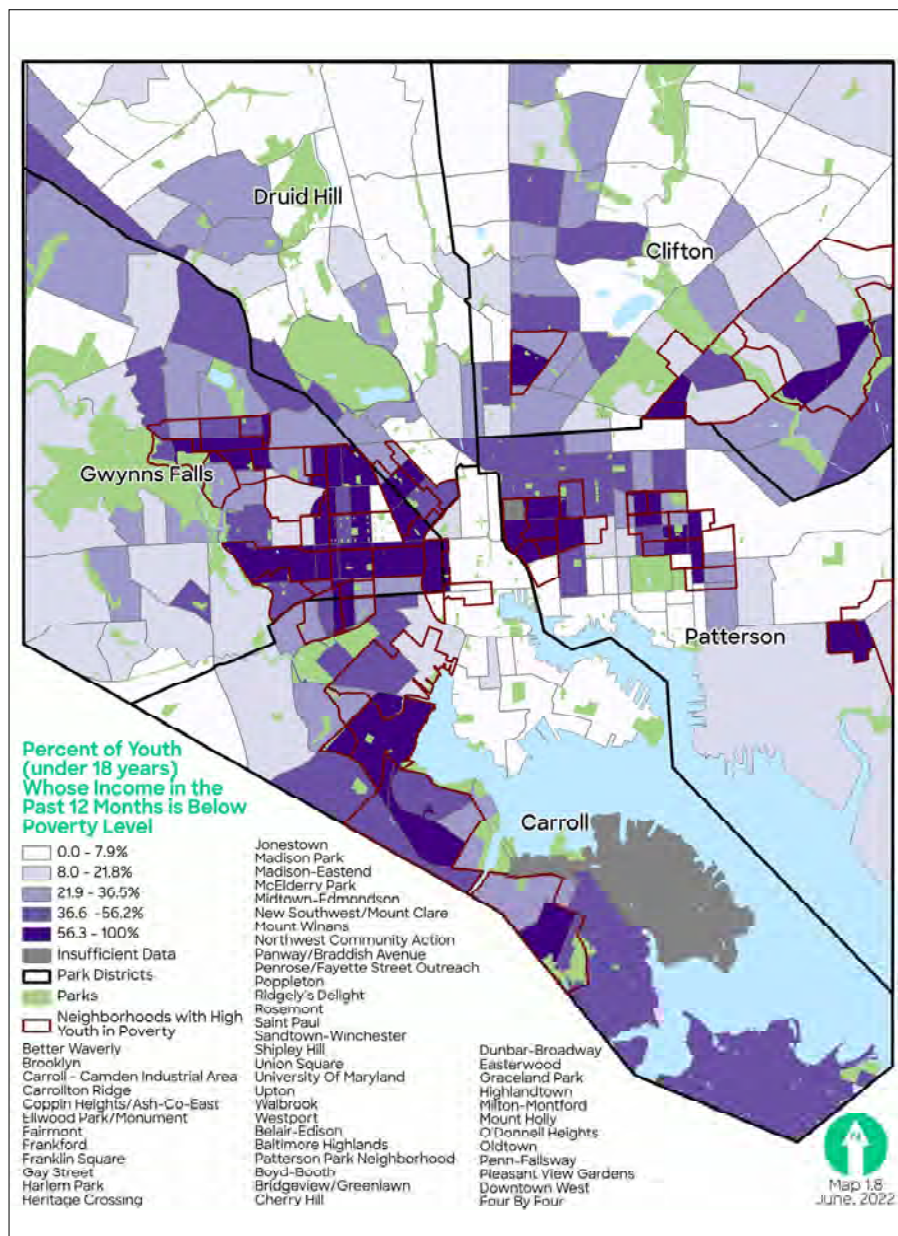
borhoods of east and west Baltimore.

## Health

Baltimore City's population has some serious health issues which strongly support the provision of and access to parks and recreation facilities. The onslaught of the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020 further highlighted the critical importance of access to outdoor park and recreation infrastructure, and which remains necessary for residents' health and social welfare given the ongoing nature of the pandemic as of this writing.

As noted in Baltimore City Health Department's current strategic health plan, Healthy Baltimore 2020- a blueprint for health, a discussion of the health and wellbeing of Baltimore City residents must be viewed through the lens of health equity and systemic disparities.<sup>28</sup> The plan, issued in 2017, identifies four key areas of focus: 1) Behavioral Health - drug or alcohol abuse and childhood trauma/ Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), 2) Violence, 3) Chronic Diseases - obesity, asthma, smoking and lead poisoning, 4) Life Course and Core Services- low birth rate, HIV and Seniors living below the poverty line. Baltimore

<sup>28</sup> Healthy Baltimore 2020, A Blueprint for Health, May 2017. <https://health.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/Healthy%20Baltimore%202020%20updated%20branding%20FINAL.pdf>



City also continues to have a long-term strategy to improve maternal health and birth outcomes coordinated by the B'More for Healthy Babies initiative.<sup>29</sup>

The city has seen improvements in the numbers of teen birth and lead poisoning rates since 2000. As of 2019, teen births are at the lowest levels in two decades. The number of children who test positive for elevated blood lead levels has dropped to just a fraction of communities reporting any children at all.<sup>30</sup>

Violence is another issue that impacts the mental and physical health and wellbeing of Baltimore residents. The number of homicides has been within the 300 range on an annual basis since 2015. Despite a dip between 2019 and 2020, during the pandemic, the city homicide rate has remained steady. The opioid epidemic also contributes to a great number of preventable overdose deaths. In 2020, there were 954 opioid-related overdose deaths in Baltimore. Violence prevention is a major priority for the current Mayor, Brandon Scott, who developed a five-year comprehensive violence prevention plan that aims to treat violence as a public health strategy. The strategy centers on three pillars: Public Health Approach to Violence, Community Engagement and Inter-agency Coordination, and Evaluation and Accountability. Successful implementation of this plan strives to sustainably reduce gun violence (fatal and non-fatal shootings) by 15 percent per year and will be measured by the number of serious victimizations (fatal and non-fatal shootings) and the community's perception of safety and trust.<sup>31</sup>

The disparity in life expectancy rates between different neighborhoods and communities in the city continues (Map 1.9). Analysis by the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance found that difference between the Community Statistical Area (CSA) with the highest and lowest life

29 B'more for Healthy Babies. <https://health.baltimorecity.gov/maternal-and-child-health/bmore-healthy-babies>

31 Mayor Brandon Scott, Baltimore City Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan, July 1, 2021-June 30, 2026. <https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/MayorScott-ComprehensiveViolencePreventionPlan-1.pdf>



expectancy increased from a 19.4-year disparity in 2012 to a 21.5-year disparity in 2018.<sup>32</sup> BNIA also found that CSAs with lower life expectancy saw larger population losses between 2010 and 2020.

One example of this disparity can be found in comparing the life expectancy rates between Oldtown/Middle East area and Canton. Between 2012 and 2018, Oldtown/ Middle East saw the largest decrease in life expectancy (74.0 to 68.9, 5.1% decrease), while Canton saw the largest increase in life expectancy (77.4 to 80.8, 3.4% increase). The contrast between these neighborhoods reflects the city's ongoing class and race-based disparities, with Oldtown/ Middle East residents being predominantly Black with lower incomes compared to Canton residents who are predominantly White and with higher incomes.

The COVID 19 pandemic has also contributed to an increased death rate in the city – since the pandemic began there have been more than 50,000 positive cases<sup>33</sup> and more than 1,100 deaths<sup>34</sup> in Baltimore City.

### Public Transportation and Household Car Ownership

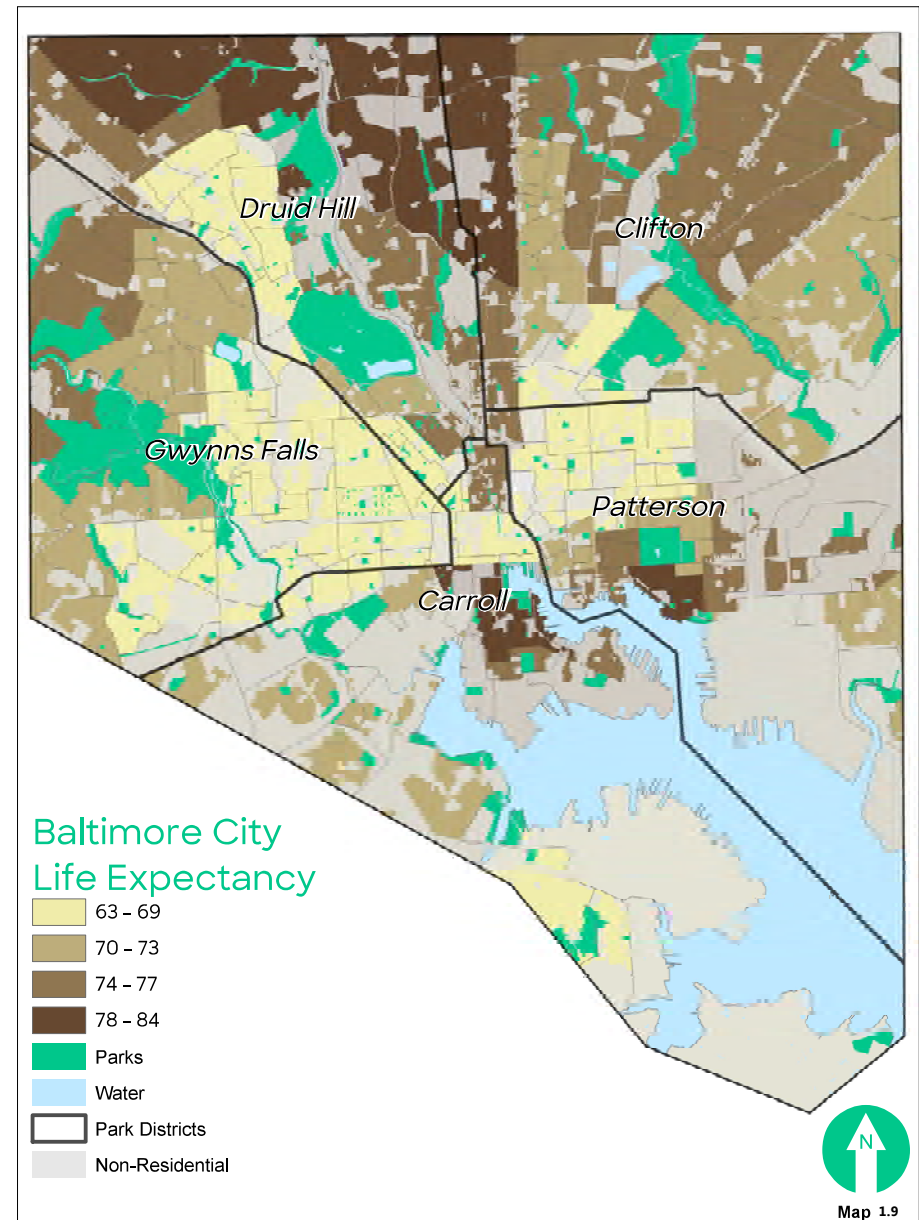
Although the public transportation in Baltimore City comprises of a network of buses, subway, light rail, and transport for the disabled, all operated by the Maryland Transportation Administration (MTA), it is not a robust system compared to other East Coast municipalities (Map 1.10). The Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT) additionally operates the Charm City Circulator, a free shuttle service that focuses primarily within the downtown core of the city, between Martin Luther King Boulevard and I-83, with short spurs beyond the core to the north, southeast, and west.

In 2017, the MTA introduced a redesigned and structured system of bus routes known as *BaltimoreLink*. The new system promised updated buses and technology, routes to strengthen connections with

32 Baltimore Neighborhood Alliance, Jacob France Institute, Issue Brief #6: Baltimore Community Change Project 2010—2020, Life Expectancy, <https://communitychange-bniajfi.hub.arcgis.com/apps/how-have-baltimores-communities-improved-quality-of-life/explore>.

33 Exploring the Impacts of COVID 19 on Baltimore's Neighborhoods <https://coronavirus-bniajfi.hub.arcgis.com/>

34 Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map>



Map 1.9 Baltimore City Life Expectancy

bus and rail and improved reliability. While the bus technology was improved, the reconfigured routes has proved difficult for many riders who need to transfer between multiple routes to reach their desired destinations<sup>35</sup> (Map 1.11 and Map 1.12).

The lack of a robust public transportation system is a problem, both in terms of access to jobs as well as to city amenities, including parks and recreation programs. As a result, many people must rely on private vehicles to access areas of the city and the region. This is not a solution for many. As of 2019, roughly 29 percent of Baltimore City residents did not have access to a vehicle.<sup>36</sup> Residents without access to vehicles reside in communities throughout the city – many in the areas with lower median incomes to the east and west downtown, but also in areas of the south, north-west, and northeast (Map 1.13). Communities where 50 percent or higher of residents do not have access to vehicles include: Oldtown/Middle East (61%), Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park (60%), Upton/Druid Heights (57%) Southwest Baltimore (55%), Cherry Hill (54%), Madison/East End (52%), Greenmount East (52%), and Southern Park Heights (51%).

## Home Ownership

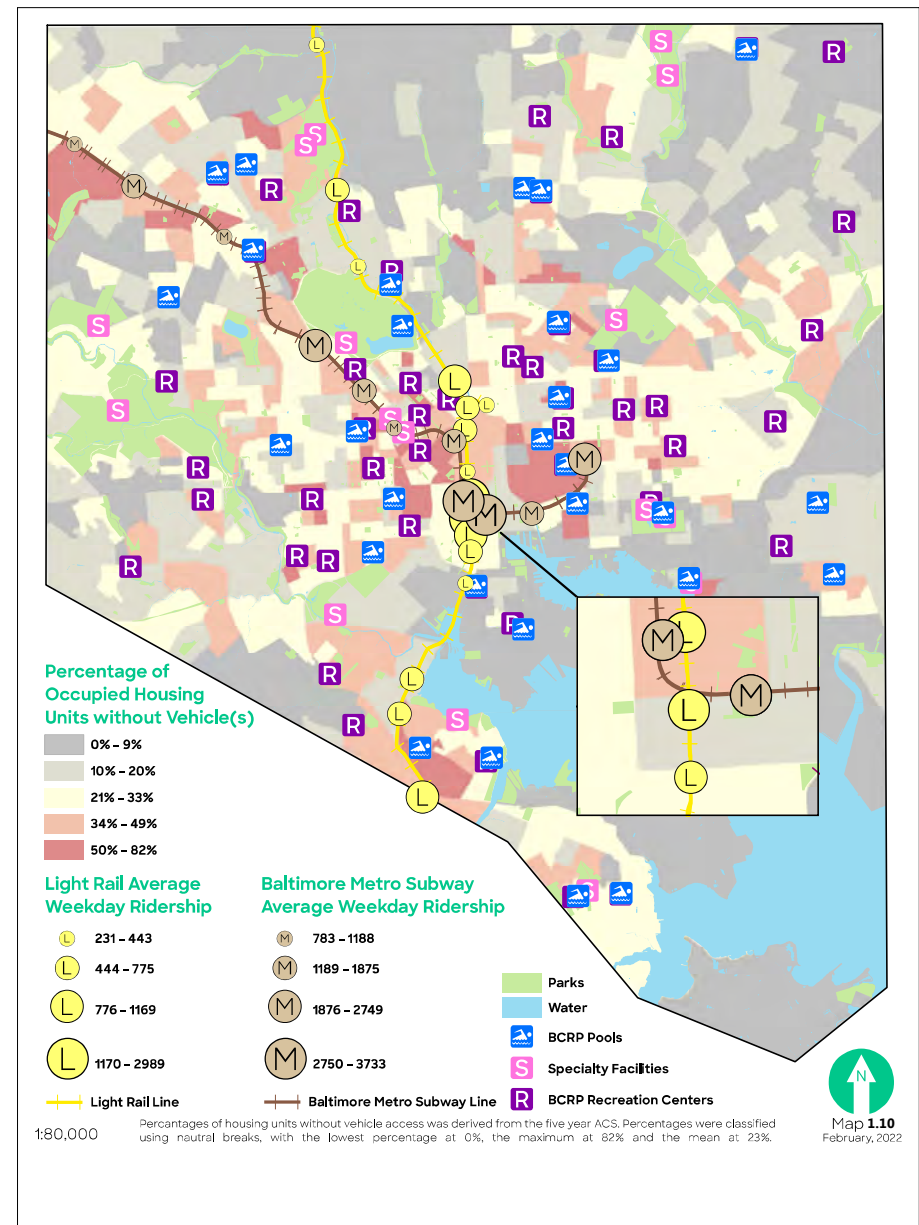
In 2020, roughly 53 percent of residential properties in Baltimore City were owner-occupied, which represents a 3.6 percent decrease in residential owner occupancy since 2014<sup>37</sup> and a 7.7 percent decrease in homeowner occupancy since 2010.<sup>38</sup> In 2019/ 2020 the Community Statistical Area neighborhoods with the highest percentage of owner occupancy were Claremont/ Armistead (82.4%), Cross-Country/ Cheswolde (80.9%), and Mount Washington/ Coldspring (79.7%). The CSA neighborhoods with the lowest percentage of owner occupancy

35 Based upon information gathered from focus groups conducted as part of BCRP's 2019 Vision Plan.

36 Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance – Jacob France Institute (BNIA-JFI). U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019, Percent of Households with No Vehicles Available. <https://bniajfi.org/indicators/Sustainability/novhcl/2019>

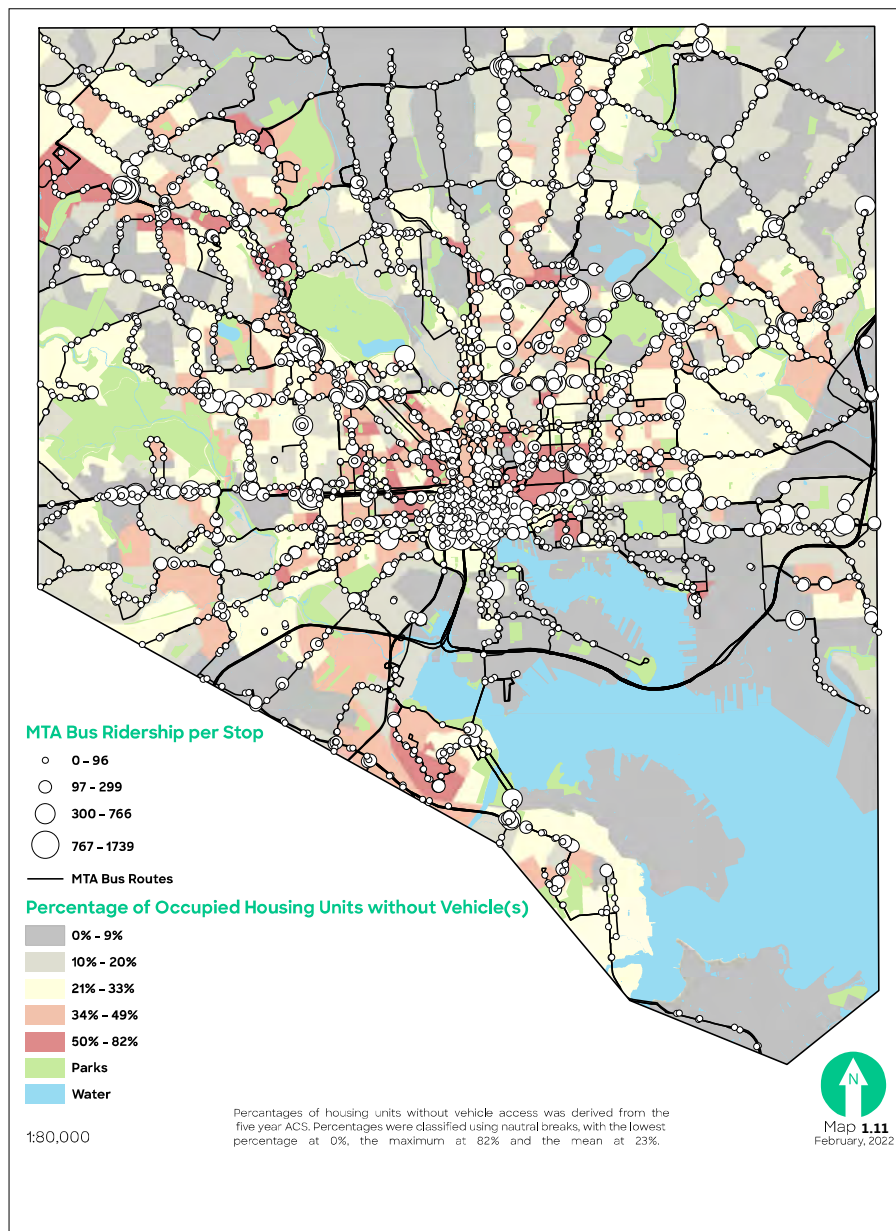
37 2014 was the year reported in the previous 2017-2022 LPPRP Report.

38 The percentage of properties that were owner occupied in 2020 was 60.2 in 2010 compared to 52.6 in 2020. BNIA-JFI, Vital Data Signs 19 and 20, Housing and Community Development, Owner Occupancy. See <https://vital-signs-bniajfi.hub.arcgis.com/apps/vital-signs-19-20-housing-and-community-development/explore>

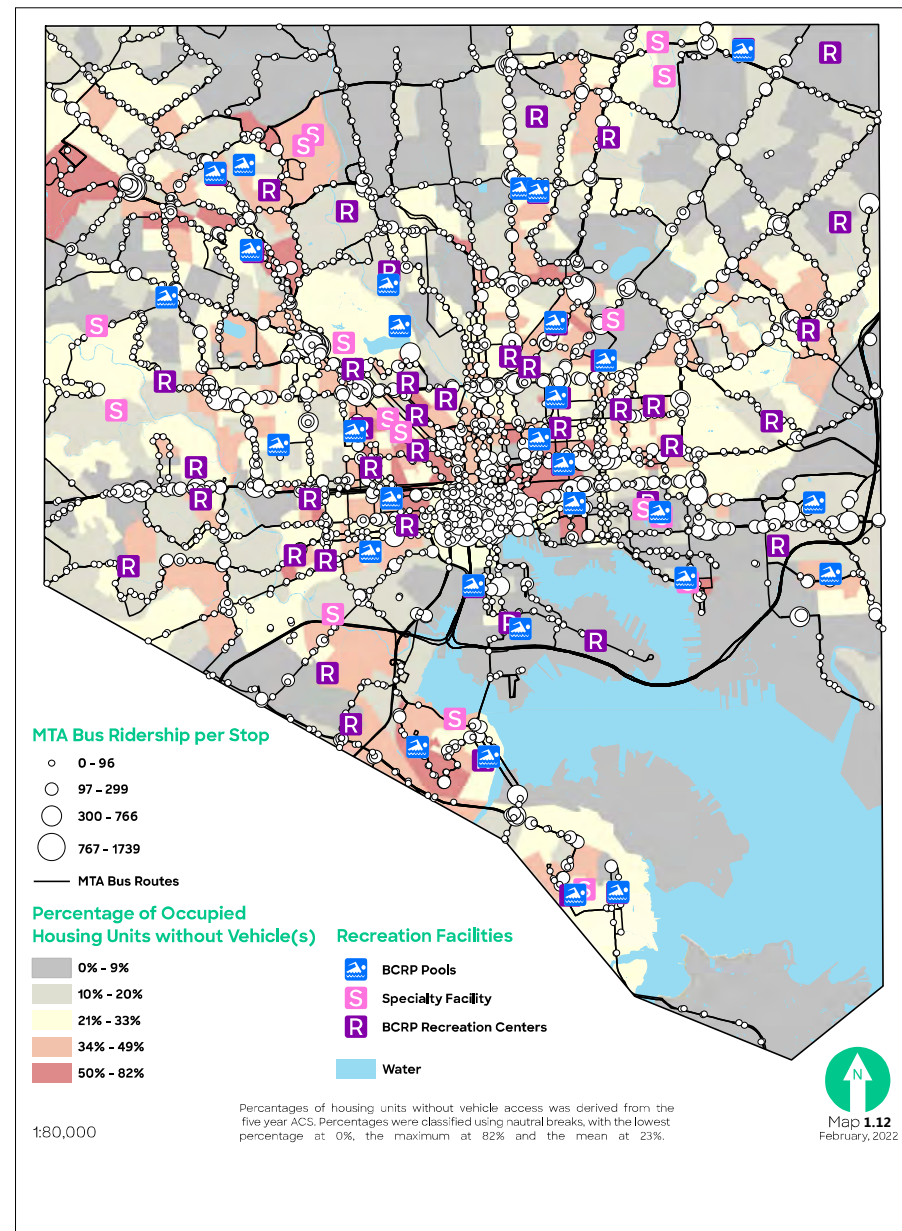


Map 1.10 Metro Subway and Light Rail Ridership with BCRP Recreation Centers, Special Facilities and Pools

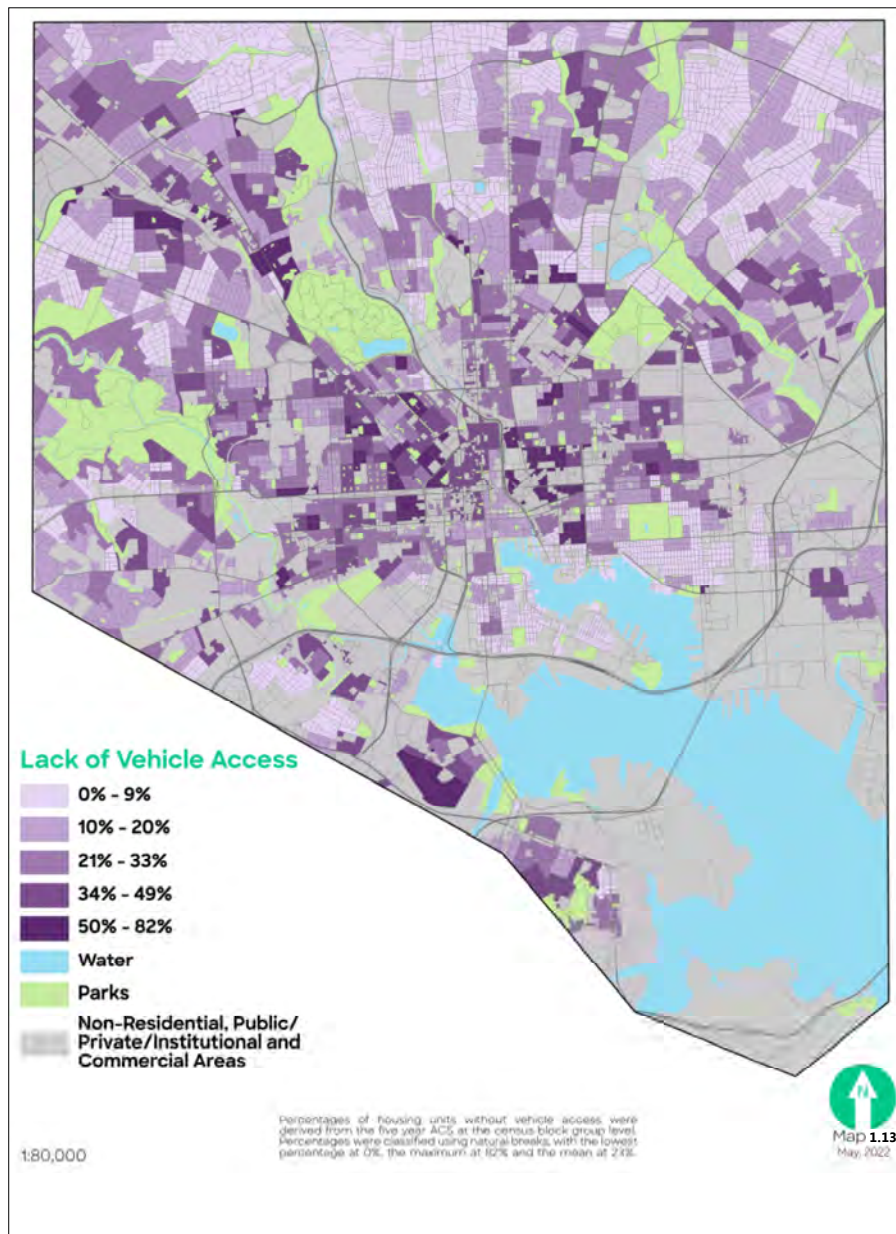




Map 1.11 Vehicle Ridership with MTA Bus Stops and BCRP Parks



Map 1.12 Vehicle Ridership with MTA Bus Ridership and BCRP Recreation Facilities



Map 1.13 Lack of Access to Vehicles in Baltimore City (Ownership)

were in Southwest Baltimore (21.0%) and Madison/East End (22.1%)<sup>39</sup> (Map 1.14).

A deeper analysis of homeownership trends by neighborhood and race undertaken prior to the COVID 19 pandemic by Sally Scott, the Director of Community Leadership Programs at the University of Maryland Baltimore County; and Seema Iyer, Associate Director of the Jacob France Institute, University of Baltimore in 2020<sup>40</sup> found that between 2007 and 2017, the homeownership rate in Baltimore City fell from 51% to 47%, and the Black homeownership rate sank to 42%.

However, even more dramatic declines (more than 12%) occurred in neighborhoods, particularly in the Southwest part of the city (Saint Paul, Irvington, and Lakeland being the specific neighborhoods with the greatest declines). These trends represent the loss of Black middle-class families in Baltimore, and increasing inequality between predominantly white and predominantly Black neighborhoods.

In 2020, 25 Community Statistic Areas contained 50% of their housing units occupied by owners. Neighborhoods with 30% or less of owner-occupied housing units are listed in Table 1.5.

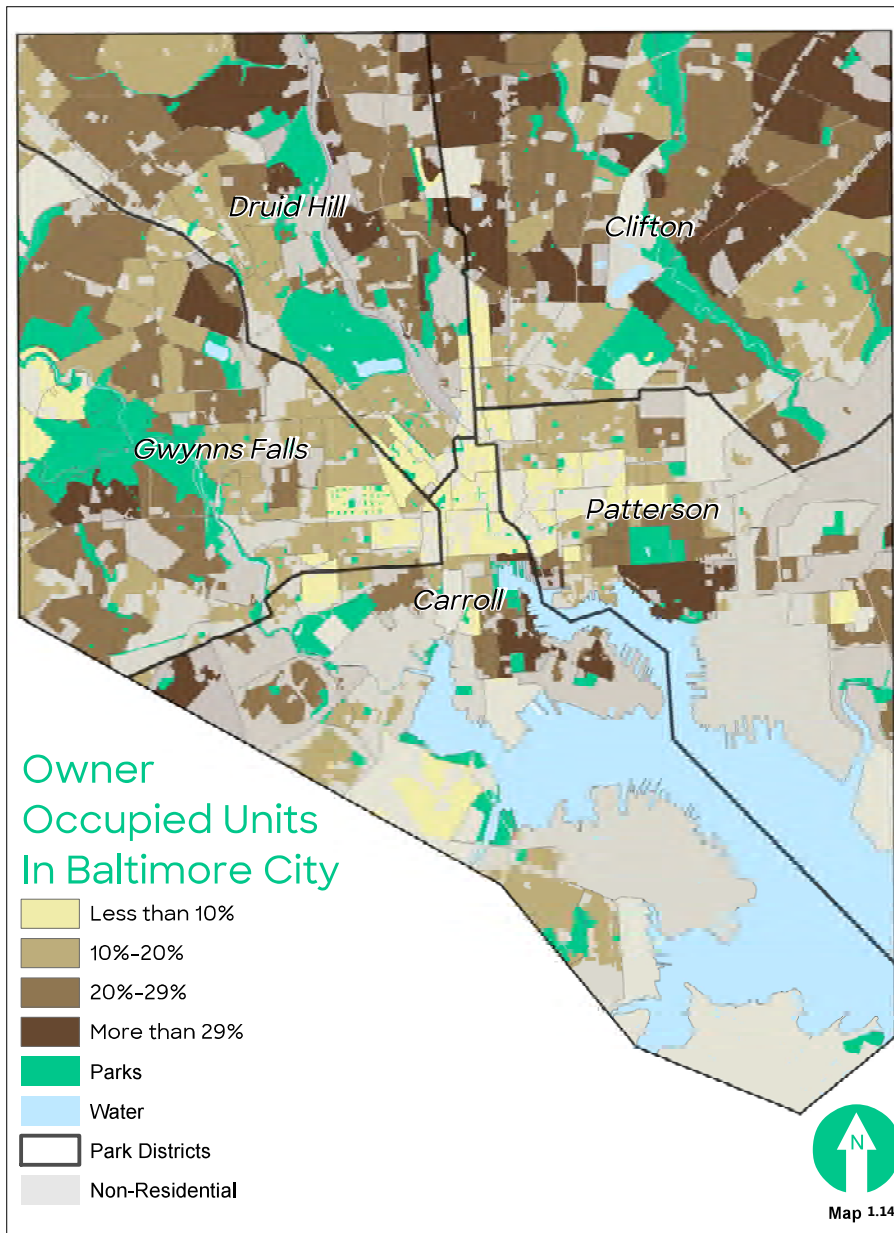
Another means to look at home ownership patterns neighborhoods as well as racial lending patterns is through credit accessibility, fair lending, and the mortgage market. Information on residential mortgage lending is collected under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA). Only banks that are located within a metropolitan statistical area, are federally insured, regulated, and make loans insured by a Federal agency or intended for sale to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac are required to report this information. In 2019, HMDA data makes up only 49 percent of all mortgages that were originated and approved nationwide.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Scott, Sally J. and Seema Iyer, July 2020 Abell Foundation Report. Overcoming Barriers to Homeownership in Baltimore. [https://abell.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020\\_Abell\\_Homeownership20Report\\_FINAL2\\_web20dr.pdf](https://abell.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020_Abell_Homeownership20Report_FINAL2_web20dr.pdf)

<sup>41</sup> Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Data Point: 2019 Mortgage Market Activity and Trends; A First Look at the 2019 HMDA Data, June 2020. [https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb\\_2019-mortgage-market-activity-trends\\_report.pdf](https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_2019-mortgage-market-activity-trends_report.pdf)





Map 1.14 Owner Occupied Housing Units in Baltimore City, 2020

Baltimore City Owner-Occupied Housing Units in CSA's with 30 Percent and Under	
Community Statistical Area (CSA)	2020 Data
Southwest Baltimore	21.0%
Madison/East End	22.1%
Greenmount East	24.8%
Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park	25.7%
Clifton-Berea	27.5%
Upton/Druid Heights	27.7%
Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market	27.8%
Midway/Coldstream	30.3%

Source: Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance- Jacob France Institute. Vital Signs Indicator, Data Source from Md Property View (<https://bniajfi.org/indicators/Housing%20and%20Community%20Development/ownroc/2020>)

Table 1.5 Community Statistical Areas with 30 Percent and Under Owner-Occupied Housing

In 2019, the CSAs with the highest percent of originated or approved mortgage applications were South Baltimore (98.6%), Medfield/Hampden/Woodberry/Remington (95.9%) and Canton (95.8%). The CSAs with the lowest percent were Southern Park Heights (67.4%) and Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park (71.4%).<sup>42</sup>

Rental housing is an alternative for people who do not want to buy, are saving to do so or those unable to access credit for any number of reasons. Rental occupied units are distributed throughout Baltimore, with dense concentrations found within or adjacent to the downtown area. This reflects the continued conversion of former office and commercial buildings into residential units as well in neighborhoods, such as Charles Village, Mt. Vernon, Seton Hill, Ridgely's Delight, and East Baltimore, which are centered around major educational and health institutions (See Map 1.15).

<sup>42</sup> BNIA-JFI, Vital Data Signs 19 and 20, Housing and Community Development, Percent of Mortgages Originated or Approved. <https://vital-signs-bniajfi.hub.arcgis.com/apps/vital-signs-19-20-housing-and-community-development/explore>

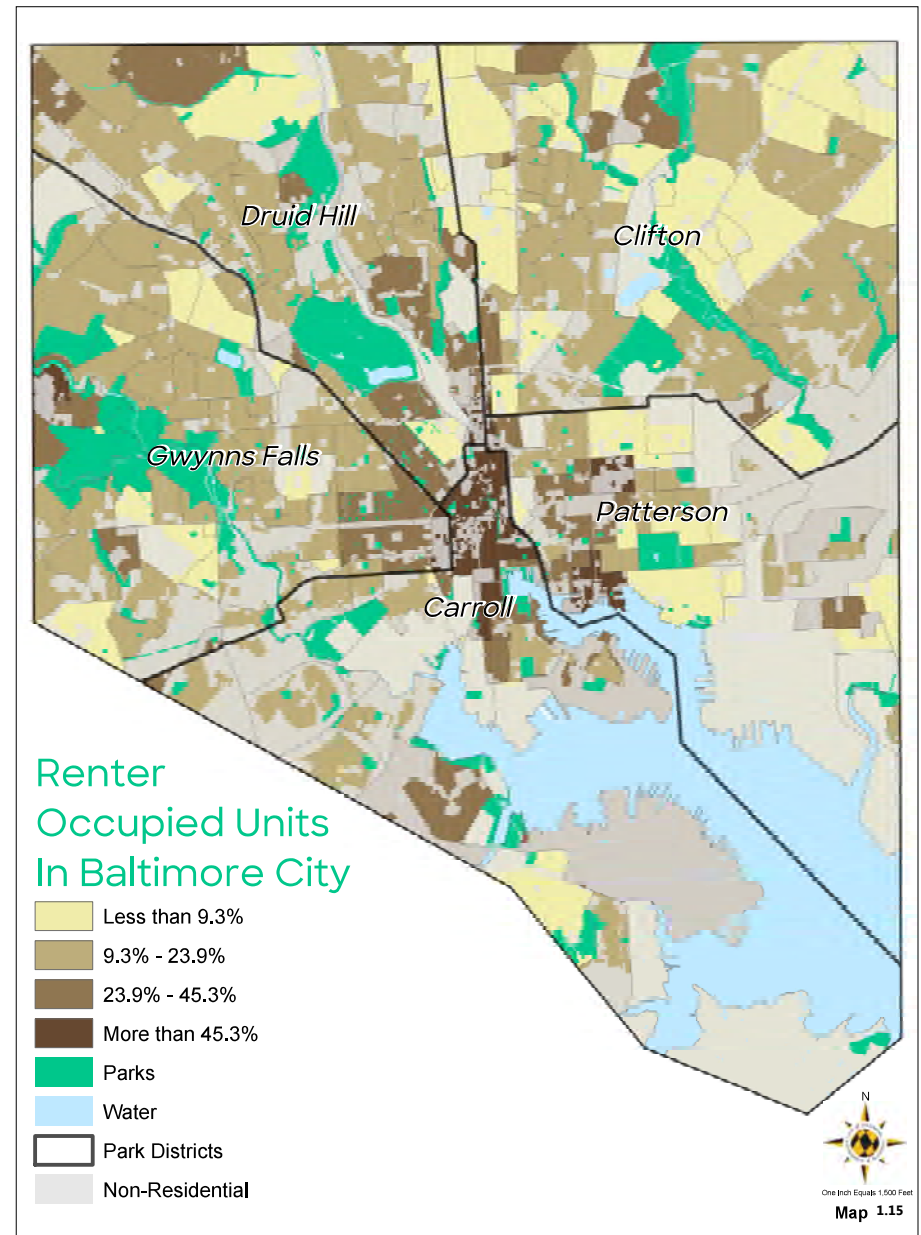
## Vacant Properties

Baltimore City currently has 18,665 vacant lots and 14,784 vacant buildings that are heavily concentrated in areas with severely distressed real estate markets (Map 1.16). There is some positive news. These total numbers reflect a 10.5 percent decrease in vacant buildings and a 1.5 increase in vacant lots when compared to the 2016 figures in the previous LPPRP report. These changes are a direct result of the city's ongoing efforts to demolish vacant and abandoned buildings. Efforts to repurpose the vacant lots has been a much slower and complex process. In 2020, 7.7 percent of residential properties were classified as vacant and abandoned in Baltimore City, with 16 communities (CSAs) containing higher percentages. The top five communities with the highest percentages of residential vacancy included: Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park (32%) Southwest Baltimore (29.9%), Greenmount East (29.2%), Upton/Druid Heights (27%), and Clifton-Berea (23.7%). The five communities with the lowest percentage of vacant and abandoned residential properties were: Greater Roland Park/ Poplar Hill (.1%), Claremont/Armistead (.1%), South Baltimore (.2%), Mount Washington/Coldspring (.2%), Cross-Country/Cheswolde (.2%).<sup>43</sup> The same communities had the highest and lowest percentages of vacant residential properties in 2016,<sup>44</sup> described in the prior 2017-2022 LPPRP report.

2020 U.S. Census data shows while the total number of housing units decreased by 1 percent between 2010 and 2020, the number of vacant and abandoned housing units decreased by 11 percent - a far greater amount (Table 1.6).

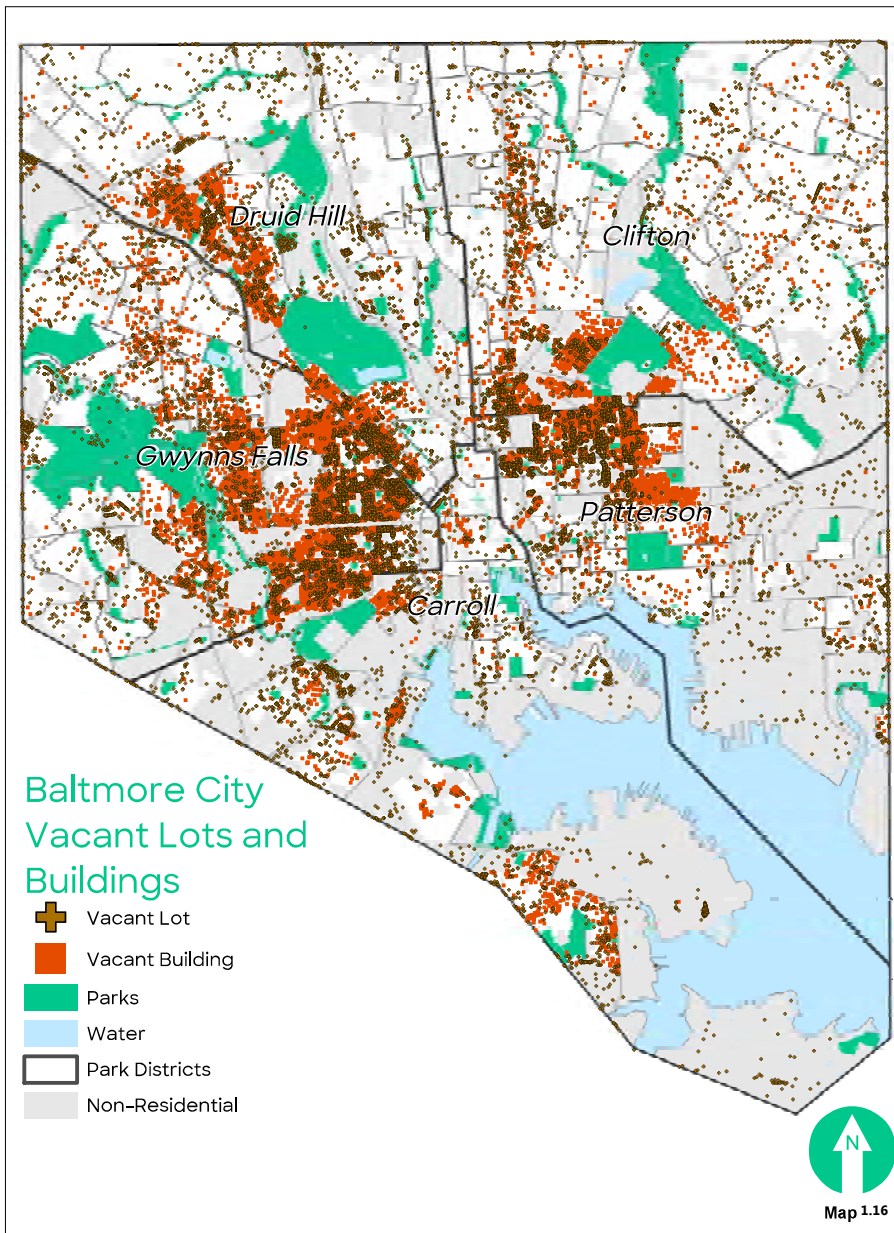
A comparison between the 2016 and the 2020 vacant lots and buildings by park district continues to show the highest number of property vacancy within the Gwynn Falls Park District (Table 1.7).

43 BNIA-JFI, Vital Signs Data Indicator, Percentage of Vacant Properties Owned by Baltimore City. Source: Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development. [https://bniajfi.org/indicator/Housing%20And%20Community%20Development/?chkYears\[\]=2020](https://bniajfi.org/indicator/Housing%20And%20Community%20Development/?chkYears[]=2020)  
44 In 2020, South Baltimore replaces North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland community in the list of lowest percentages of vacant residential properties.



Map 1.15 Renter Occupied Units, Baltimore City, 2020





Map 1.16 Baltimore City Vacant Lots and Buildings, 2020

Baltimore City Housing Unit Changes, U.S. Census, 2010-2020					
	2010	% Totals 2010	2020	% Totals 2020	% Change 2010-2020
Total Housing Units	296,685	100%	293,249	100%	-1%
Occupied Housing Units	249,903	84%	251,479	86%	1%
Vacant Housing Units	46,782	16%	41,770	14%	-11%

Table 1.6 Baltimore City Housing Unit Changes, U.S. Census, 2010-2020

Park District	Vacant Lots	Vacant Buildings
Carroll	2,461	1,943
Clifton	3,011	1,818
Druid Hill	2,868	2,111
Gwynns Falls	6,078	5,985
Patterson	4,247	2,927
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,665</b>	<b>14,784</b>

*\*Source: Baltimore City Department of Planning*

Table 1.7 Baltimore City Vacant Lots and Buildings by Park District, 2020

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS AND ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Population Projections

Projections indicate that Baltimore City's 2020 population makes up roughly 21.5 percent of the total population within the Baltimore Region<sup>45</sup> and 9.8 percent within the State of Maryland.

The most recent population projections<sup>46</sup> available for the City of Baltimore, show that the city can anticipate a 5.06 percent increase in population between 2020 and 2045<sup>47</sup> (Table 1.8). The forecast, while reflecting a positive increase in population, predicts that it will take Baltimore City roughly 20 years (until 2040) to recover the population numbers it lost over the past ten years (2010 - 2020). Delays in the release of US 2020 Census data analysis has impacted the ability of the Baltimore City Planning Department, Regional Transportation Board, Maryland Department of Planning and other Maryland organizations to revise and undertake more detailed population analyses and

projection estimates. Additional US Census data is anticipated to be released later in 2022 or 2023.

### Economic Trends

Baltimore City serves as both an employment center and part of a regional labor market. People who live outside of Baltimore work at jobs located within the city and city residents may work at jobs located in the city or commute to jobs elsewhere in the region.

Of all the workers in Baltimore City, 32 percent live within Baltimore City, 32 percent live in Baltimore County, 8 percent are from Anne Arundel County, 6 percent from Howard County and 5 percent from Harford County. Employed Baltimore City residents work both within the city and commute to the surrounding counties. In 2018, 26 percent

Historical and Projected Total Population for Maryland's Jurisdictions (December 2020)												
	Census 1970	Census 1980	Census 1990	Census 2000	Census 2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
<b>MARYLAND</b>	3,923,897	4,216,933	4,780,753	5,296,486	5,773,552	5,982,810	6,074,750	6,244,980	6,413,690	6,588,760	6,739,410	6,873,330
<b>BALTIMORE REGION</b>	<u>2,071,016</u>	<u>2,173,989</u>	<u>2,348,219</u>	<u>2,512,431</u>	<u>2,662,691</u>	<u>2,737,380</u>	<u>2,762,890</u>	<u>2,814,290</u>	<u>2,864,350</u>	<u>2,914,680</u>	<u>2,964,210</u>	<u>3,001,930</u>
Anne Arundel County	298,042	370,775	427,239	489,656	537,656	562,870	582,880	595,010	608,990	620,350	632,200	645,190
Baltimore County	620,409	655,615	692,134	754,292	805,029	827,770	830,310	838,560	846,590	858,920	873,130	883,980
Carroll County	69,006	96,356	123,372	150,897	167,134	167,550	169,000	171,700	174,150	177,490	180,800	184,150
Harford County	115,378	145,930	182,132	218,590	244,826	250,030	257,680	264,870	271,860	280,560	289,220	294,250
Howard County	62,394	118,572	187,328	247,842	287,085	313,350	327,990	344,150	356,860	364,640	368,830	369,220
Baltimore City	905,787	786,741	736,014	651,154	620,961	615,810	595,030	600,000	605,900	612,720	620,030	625,140

Table 1.8 Projected Population for Maryland's Jurisdictions

Source: Maryland Department of Planning, December 2020

<sup>45</sup> In addition to Baltimore City, the Baltimore Region includes Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County and Howard County.

<sup>46</sup> Projections for the Baltimore Region based on Round 9A from the Baltimore Metropolitan Council of Government's Cooperative Forecasting Committee. Prepared by the Maryland Department of Planning, Projections and State Data Center, December 2020. It should be noted that total population figure used as the basis for the 2020 projection for Baltimore City (595,030) is slightly different from the official US Census count for Baltimore City (585,708) as of this writing.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

of all employed Baltimore City residents worked in Baltimore County, 9 percent in Anne Arundel County, 6 percent in Howard County and 3 percent in Montgomery County. Of the 197,000 city residents that were employed in private sector jobs – 57 percent of those jobs were located outside of Baltimore City and 43 percent were located within Baltimore City.<sup>48</sup>

Between 2010 and 2020, despite the decrease in population, Baltimore City saw a 4.4 percent increase in the total number of jobs and a 2.9 percent increase in wage and salary jobs over the same period. Comparatively, counties in Maryland with the highest percentage increases in total job numbers between 2010 and 2020 were Anne Arundel, Howard, Frederick, Queen Anne’s and Cecil (Figure 1.5). Cecil (51.7%), Anne Arundel (12.4%), and Howard (11.5%) Counties saw the highest

48 Baltimore Development Corporation, Baltimore Together: A Platform for Inclusive Prosperity- A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2022. Data derived from the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program of the U.S. Census Bureau.

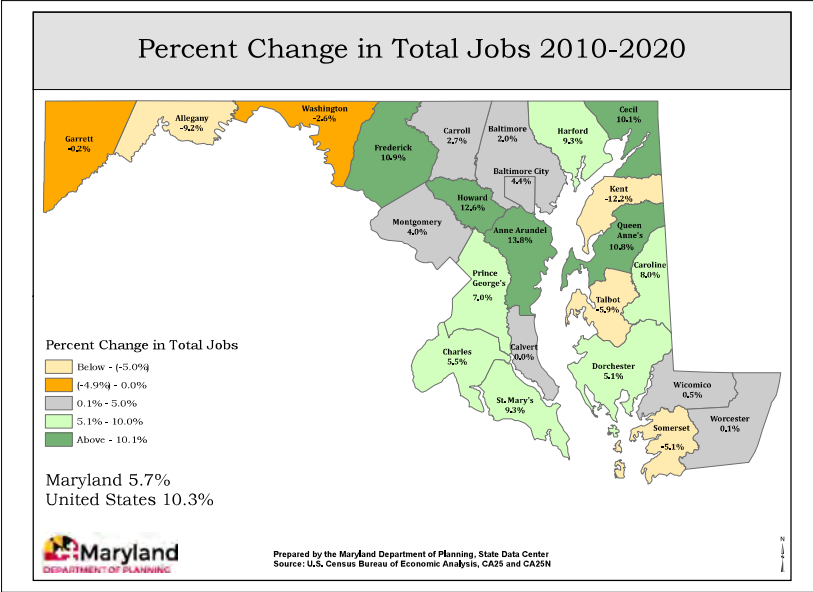


Figure 1.5 Percent Change in Total Jobs in Maryland’s Jurisdictions, 2010-2020

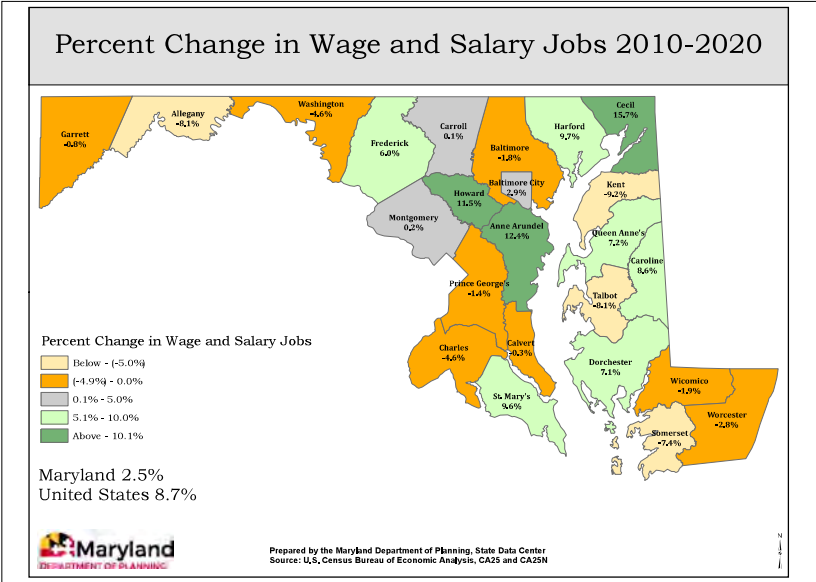


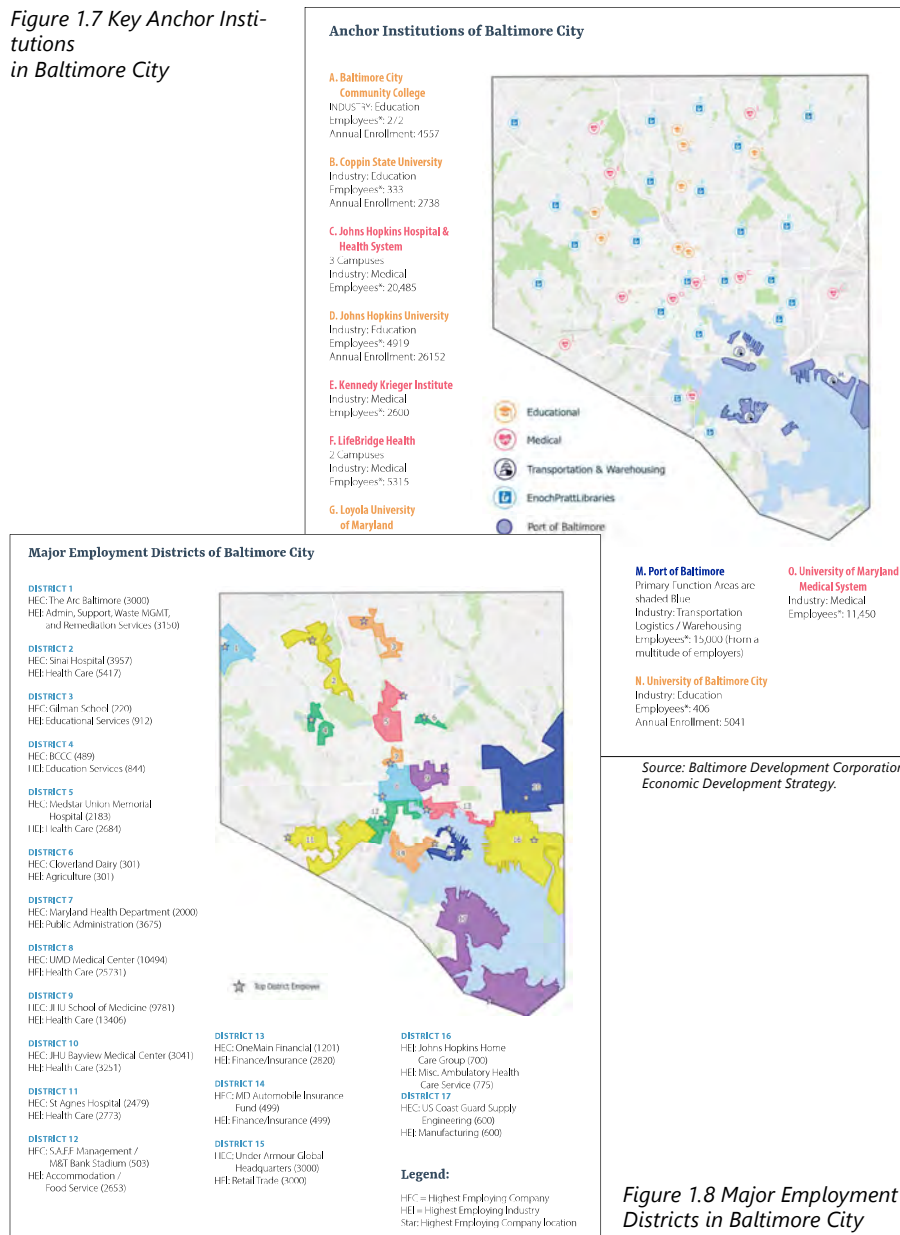
Figure 1.6 Percent Change in Wage & Salary Jobs in Maryland’s Jurisdictions, 2010-2020

increases in wage and salary jobs during that time period (Figure 1.6).<sup>49</sup> While modest, Baltimore’s labor force showed notable percent growth in total jobs and wage and salary jobs over Carroll, Montgomery and Baltimore Counties.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Baltimore City’s job growth showed a steady cumulative increase, particularly in large companies and institutions with over 500 employees, from 2011 through the first quarter of 2020. Of Baltimore’s 12,500 business establishments, 94 percent (11,700) are small companies with less than 50 employees and 52 percent (6,552) have less than five employees. There are also 39,600 businesses are sole proprietors with no employees. Despite the number of small businesses, job growth has been driven by large companies. In addition, while census data indicates that over half of Baltimore’s privately held businesses are owned by Black-and Brown-owners,

49 Maryland Department of Planning, State Data Center. Source: U.S. Census Bureau of Economic Analysis, CA25 and CA25N.

**Figure 1.7 Key Anchor Institutions in Baltimore City**



**Figure 1.8 Major Employment Districts in Baltimore City**

these businesses account for only 12 percent of Baltimore City's total business revenue.<sup>50</sup>

Baltimore's economic strategies focused on building on the strengths of its education, health, tourism and the arts sectors- in partnership with key anchor institutions (Figure 1.7). Other important industries are maritime and port related. Major employment districts in the city are located along north-south and east-west cross sections (Figure 1.8).

The onslaught of the pandemic significantly impacted Baltimore City's economy with severe unemployment in the arts and culture, tourism and hospitality, and healthcare sectors- all major Baltimore employers. The city also had many BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color)-owned businesses that had difficulty accessing pandemic relief programs at the federal and state level.

On the flip side, the dramatic rise in e-commerce has resulted in a growth in logistic-related industries, including a record year for the Port of Baltimore. Increases in investment and employment in Baltimore's life sciences sector has resulted in nearly 400 biotechnology obs in 2020.<sup>51</sup>

Employment projections by the Cooperative Forecasting Group<sup>52</sup> of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council are positive. Baltimore City-based jobs are estimated to increase from 418,102 in 2020 to 505,068 in 2045 with a projected 4.3 percent job growth between 2020 and 2025 and a 21 percent increase in the number of jobs overall between 2020 and 2045 (Table 1.9).

Baltimore City's recently completed economic development plan, Baltimore Together: A Platform for Inclusive Prosperity- A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2022) identifies seven goals to strengthen Baltimore City's economy and create new opportunities for

<sup>50</sup> Baltimore Development Corporation, Baltimore Together: A Platform for Inclusive Prosperity- A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2022.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> The Cooperative Forecasting Group (CFG) is a subcommittee of the Technical Committee of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB).



## Round 9A Employment

JURISDICTION	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	CHANGE				PERCENT CHANGE			
								2015-2025	2025-2035	2035-2045	2015-2045	2015-2025	2025-2035	2035-2045	2015-2045
Anne Arundel County	369,580	382,795	397,236	413,039	431,305	451,373	474,511	27,657	34,069	43,206	104,931	7.5%	8.6%	10.0%	28.4%
Baltimore City	401,082	418,102	436,252	454,948	466,906	485,731	505,068	35,170	30,654	38,162	103,986	8.8%	7.0%	8.2%	25.9%
Baltimore County	462,770	479,680	500,515	515,752	528,684	540,935	550,843	37,745	28,168	22,159	88,073	8.2%	5.6%	4.2%	19.0%
Carroll County	74,313	77,411	79,760	82,268	84,419	86,815	89,281	5,447	4,658	4,862	14,968	7.3%	5.8%	5.8%	20.1%
Harford County	115,560	125,454	136,745	147,685	158,761	170,668	183,468	21,185	22,015	24,707	67,908	18.3%	16.1%	15.6%	58.8%
Howard County	204,050	219,050	234,050	249,050	259,050	269,050	279,050	30,000	25,000	20,000	75,000	14.7%	10.7%	7.7%	36.8%
Queen Anne's County	20,748	22,454	24,251	24,790	25,778	26,406	27,050	3,503	1,527	1,273	6,303	16.9%	6.3%	4.9%	30.4%
<b>Baltimore Region</b>	<b>1,648,103</b>	<b>1,724,946</b>	<b>1,808,811</b>	<b>1,887,531</b>	<b>1,954,902</b>	<b>2,030,979</b>	<b>2,109,271</b>	<b>160,708</b>	<b>146,092</b>	<b>154,369</b>	<b>461,168</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>28.0%</b>

Note: Anne Arundel County data includes the City of Annapolis.

Source: Local jurisdictions; Cooperative Forecasting Group; forecasts endorsed by the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board on July 28, 2020.

Table 1.9 Projected Employment for Maryland's Jurisdictions, 2015-2045

residents and businesses. The goals and objectives build on the city's key strengths and opportunities.

The plan identifies city strengths including Baltimore's central location in the region with proximity to other major cities, lower cost of living, an active port, an international airport, a station on the Amtrak Northeast Corridor, a regional rail connection to Washington, D.C., a well educated-workforce, world renowned health research institutions, strong arts, culture and creative sectors, waterfront recreation, historic architecture and high entrepreneurship.

Opportunities include access to passionate BIPOC business leaders, current and future city and neighborhood developments to accommodate growth (UMD and Johns Hopkins bioparks, Port Covington, Pimlico Racecourse, Northwood Commons, Main Street Districts, Black Arts and Entertainment District), research institutions to commercialize technology and create new companies, and to improve public transportation access, to name a few.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>53</sup> Baltimore Development Corporation, Baltimore Together: A Platform for Inclusive Prosperity- A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2022.

### Baltimore City's Economic Development Strategy Goals and Objectives are to:

- Build an equitable economy by eliminating economic racial disparities,
- Be world class leaders in the key industries of life sciences, logistics, digital services and creative industries,
- Build a thriving innovation and small business ecosystem by increasing job growth and investment in small businesses,
- Build a stronger workforce system by ensuring that residents have career opportunities at a living wage,
- Grow the city's population by creating a more equitable tax base,
- Support equitable neighborhood development through increased investment in formerly redlined communities, and
- Recover stronger from COVID-19 by rebuilding and growing negatively impacted business sectors.



Figure 2.0 1904 Olmsted Brothers Map of Baltimore and Vicinity

## 02. PARKS AND RECREATION

### BALTIMORE CITY PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Much of the rationale and development of Baltimore City's early park and recreation system was guided by the Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects (OBLA). In 1902, The Municipal Art Society of Baltimore and the City Parks Board commissioned the Olmsted Brothers firm, to create a municipal park system plan. Influenced by the City Beautiful movement, which was prevalent at the time, civic leaders believed that a park system would provide Baltimoreans more access to natural, recreational space, improve their mental and physical health while at the same time, direct urban growth away from the city center and toward the northwest suburbs (which had been annexed in 1888).<sup>1</sup> Published in 1904, the plan, *Report Upon the Development of Public Grounds for Baltimore*, analyzed development patterns, natural features of the city, and identified parcels for large park development, stream valley parks, boulevards, small parks, and water supply reservoirs (see Figure 2.0). The plan envisioned the park system to serve as a social and economic engine for the region. Key features of the plan included stream valley parks along the Jones Falls, Gwynns Falls and Herring Run together with a system of interconnected planted boulevards linking Druid Hill Park to other large parks and recreational areas around the city. Some of the recently purchased lands at the time included Gwynns Falls, Wyman, Swann, and Latrobe Parks. The planted boulevard corridors- including the Gwynns Falls Parkway, 33rd Street and the Alameda - also served to connect playgrounds, squares, and stream valley reserves and other public spaces.<sup>2</sup>

The 1904 plan was largely overseen by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and his colleagues P.R. Jones and Percival Gallagher, all of whom worked with the City Parks Board President Major Richard Venable and William

Manning, the city's superintendent of parks. Despite the enthusiasm of city leaders and the public, the park system was slow to develop. The fire of 1904 had destroyed much of downtown Baltimore and delayed the project for two years. Budget cuts and rapid urban growth presented further challenges to the original plan, not all of which came to fruition.<sup>3</sup>

In follow up reports in 1919 and 1926, the Olmsted firm recommended a green network of additional neighborhood parks and a full range of recreational opportunities. The recommendations derived from an appreciation of the natural landscape of stream valleys and created the framework for Baltimore's Park and Recreation system. A follow up report by the Olmsted firm in 1941 reiterated the 1926 plan's recommendations, urging that further land acquisition be undertaken both within and outside the city, that roads bringing traffic to the park be designed as parkways, and strongly stressed that it was undesirable for major roadways to cut through park areas. Baltimore's early park system preserved much of the environmentally sensitive land of the city; however, the recommendations were only partially implemented, resulting in an uneven development of parks and recreation facilities across the city. The City's history of structural racism and the lack of investment in predominantly African American neighborhoods (in the form of redlining), contributed to a dearth of quality parks and recreation facilities in these neighborhoods.

In 1965, a parks and recreation study (undertaken by Simonds and Simonds) reiterated the need for an additional 2,270 acres of city-wide and neighborhood park and recreation land along with new 51 neighborhood recreation centers to serve residents by 1985. The study

<sup>1</sup> The Cultural Landscape Foundation, 1904 Plan for Baltimore. Landscape Information Web-page. <https://tclf.org/1904-plan-baltimore>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> The Cultural Landscape Foundation, 1904 Plan for Baltimore. Landscape Information Web-page. <https://tclf.org/1904-plan-baltimore>



recommended that the City continue to acquire, preserve, and restore stream valleys and other natural resource areas. The study also supported recommendations for water-based and waterfront recreation areas that had been put forward in Wallace-McHarg Associates' 1965 Inner Harbor Study.

Plans undertaken in 1982 and 1988 by the Department of Planning, highlighted the need for additional funding sources to assess and rehabilitate existing recreation facilities and to re-evaluate recreation services. The 1988 report recommended that priority be given to the restoration of large city parks as well as multiple use facilities and parks rather than single use facilities. In 1991, two plans - one prepared by Joseph Caverly for the Parks and People Foundation and the other by Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP)—recommended changes to the internal organizational operations of the department. The Caverly report, *Meeting the Challenges, A Plan for Action for the Baltimore City Recreation Centers*, further advocated for coordination and expansion of recreation services between the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Board of Education, including additional center hours and programming. Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks' 1991 report, *Strategic Plan for Action*, recommended specific strategies for organization of the agency, employee skills, park management, partnerships and communication and marketing.

In 2019, the Department developed both a vision plan (2019 Vision Plan) and a strategic plan (Rec2025) to guide its organizational, programmatic, and capital strategies and investments. Both plans undertook community engagement efforts to connect with, and better understand, residents' needs and desires for the park and recreation system. These plans stressed the importance of improving accessibility, reducing barriers, ensuring equity, and increasing transparency in BCRP's approach to capital planning and investment. They also included operations and maintenance, program offerings, funding and revenue generation, as well as marketing, communication, and advocacy.

In 2022, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks will undertake a new comprehensive planning effort for the recreation and parks system. This

will build on the work to date, which includes this current LPPRP document and will incorporate four key components: Capital Investment Strategy, Operations Plan, Funding Plan (for Capital and Operations) and a Strategy for Agency Revenue Generation and Cost Recovery. These components will inform and support one another as part of an overall 10-year comprehensive vision and plan for recreation and parks programs and facilities.

As of 2021, The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) manages and maintains a total of 5,026.55 acres. This acreage includes the city's park, playground, playing field system and trails (4,434.35 acres), in addition to the city's 5 golf courses (467.13 acres) and zoo (125.08 acres located within Druid Hill Park), all of which are managed by separate entities. The City owns another 965 acres of parks just across the city line in Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties but has agreements with those counties to manage and maintain these. In addition to park land, BCRP maintains an inventory of buildings ranging from unique historic mansions and simple park comfort stations to modern recreation centers and special facility buildings.

The Department is responsible for managing facilities such as swimming pools, senior centers, soccer arenas, ice rinks, a boxing center, a nature center, and therapeutic recreation facilities. BCRP provides indoor and outdoor recreation programs at 49 recreation centers and, in conjunction with private sector non-profit partners, provides recreation and heritage facilities in support of complementary missions. The Department also incorporates urban horticultural and forestry management and operations, which include: an arboretum and conservatory, planting and maintenance of street trees, and maintenance of the urban forest.

While Baltimore City Recreation and Parks is the primary land holder, there are some properties under the jurisdiction of other city agencies, such as Baltimore Housing, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Public Works. Baltimore City Public Schools maintains its own athletic fields and playgrounds. There is one state park facility inside Baltimore City limits, the Maryland Korean War Memorial. While



the memorial is located within Canton Waterfront Park, it is defined by a distinct parcel of land and is managed by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. There is also one federally owned property in Baltimore, Fort McHenry, which serves as a public park. There are also some recreational facilities that are managed by private institutions and community organizations. All of these are discussed in more detail later in the inventory section of this chapter.

## Accomplishments and Challenges

### Accomplishments

Between 2017 and 2019, BCRP undertook the development of a **vision plan** to identify opportunities to create a more equitable and enhanced recreation and parks system for the future. This plan was funded by a federal planning matching grant of \$75,000 (through the National Park Service) to identify citywide issues of equitable park access.

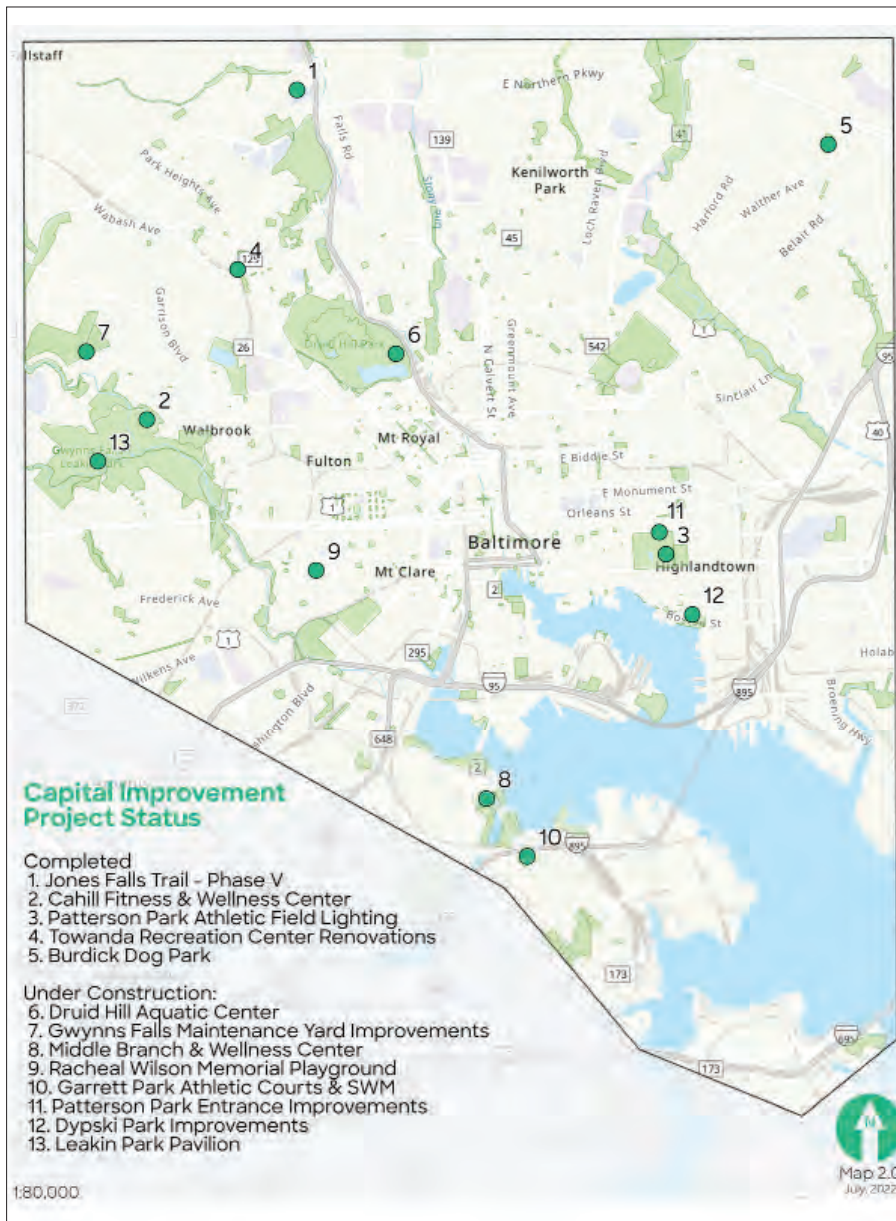
The 2019 Vision Plan, *Building Upon the Olmsted Legacy: A Vision for Baltimore's Recreation and Parks System*, incorporated extensive public and staff engagement in order to identify issues and opportunities for the Department to enhance the parks and recreation system. Input was gathered through a citywide resident opinion survey, a survey of users of Baltimore City Recreation and Parks facilities and programs, focus groups, and advisory committees of residents, city agency representatives, and organizational stakeholders. This information together with additional data collection and analysis, and GIS mapping resulted in a technical report. The subsequent Vision Plan identifies broad goals and guiding principles and priorities to guide the agency in its approach and includes specific recommendations for its facilities, programs, and assets in order to best serve residents.

The Vision Plan's recommendations focus on current and future need based innovative, accessible, and equitable Capital Planning and Investments. Also included are Operational and Maintenance Improvements, Program Offerings, Funding and Revenue Generation, Marketing, Communication and Advocacy, and an Implementation Strategy. The

Plan serves as a guide to current decision making for improvements within the above areas. Discussion of the survey findings and goals from this plan can be found in the **MEASURING USER DEMAND and GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR PARKS AND RECREATION** sections of this chapter.

In 2019, BCRP created an organizational **strategic plan**, *Rec 2025: A Strategic Plan for Baltimore City Recreation & Parks 2020-2025*, to guide the organizational development of the agency. The Rec2025 Plan identified organizational improvements within the agency and worked with elected officials, local partners, community stakeholders, residents, and staff to define agency priorities for the next five years. The plan focuses on the agency's: Culture, Community, Work and Spaces. Recommendations focus on professional development of employees, increasing morale, creating an ideal work environment, relationships with residents and partners, organizational infrastructure and inter-agency policies, and the recreation and parks physical inventory. Each priority and performance measure integrates diversity, equity, access, and inclusion. Discussion of the public engagement process from this plan can be found in the Measuring User Demand section of this chapter.

BCRP has made significant progress since 2017 in its Capital Improvement Program (Map 2.0). One key focus has been to upgrade and expand the reach of Baltimore City's recreation center network. Projects identified in the 2015 Recreation and Aquatic Facilities Plan, which called for a higher quality, greater variety of programs for all ages and the facilities necessary to deliver these programs, included the development of larger multi-neighborhood (regional) Fitness and Wellness facilities as well as upgrades to local neighborhood facilities. Of the larger facilities, the newly constructed Cahill Fitness and Wellness Center in Gwynns Falls Park opened in Spring 2021 (Figure 2.1). This \$18.1 million project included a FY15 \$5.2 million award from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to expand facilities, outdoor recreation programming and nature education at the center. The center also includes a black box performance space, fitness area, multipurpose rooms, an indoor pool, outdoor splash pad, and outdoor playground and basketball courts.



Map 2.0 Recreation and Parks Capital Improvement Project Status, as of January 2022

Completion of the new \$26 million Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center at Cherry Hill in Reedbird Park is anticipated by Fall 2022 (Figure 2.2). The Middle Branch facilities include an indoor pool and splash pad, a gym with indoor track, a stretch/fitness area, multipurpose rooms, and a maker space. The indoor pool complements an existing outdoor pool adjacent to the Center. Outdoor spaces include an event lawn, turf field accommodating football, lacrosse, and soccer, a basketball court, walking paths and a playground. Designs are in process for an upgraded and expanded Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center (\$20.76 million) in East Baltimore as part of the larger Perkins Somerset Old Town (PSO) redevelopment area, funded in part through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Choice Neighborhoods Initiative program. Concept designs were also developed to upgrade City Springs Park and Madison Square Park and Recreation Center. Improvements to City Springs Park will include an enhanced outdoor pool, improved entrances, pathways, a playground, and reconfigured community garden. Design for the pool upgrade and reconfigured community garden (phase I) is anticipated to begin in Fall 2022. Madison Square Park improvements will reorient an existing football field to create an open green space that can accommodate a regulation size field, a new playground, sitting area and central spine connection to a new Madison Square Recreation Center. It is anticipated that Madison Square Park and Recreation Center will be implemented in phases, with the first phase to be focused on the park improvements within the next five years.

A major \$11 million upgrade to the Druid Hill Park pool is nearing completion, with an opening during Summer 2022 (Figure 2.2). Major pool improvements include a new kiddie splash pool, renovated main pools and mechanical systems, aquatic play structures, and shade features. To complement the aquatic upgrades, a brand-new bathhouse will include restrooms, locker rooms, and concessions.

Upgrades to existing neighborhood recreation centers include renovations to the Harlem Park Recreation Center (2019) and Bocek Recreation Center (2020). A gymnasium addition for Bocek Recreation Center is currently in design for a phase II. Both recreation centers had been



*Cahill Fitness and Wellness Center*



*Towanda Recreation Center*



*Jones Falls Trail - phase V*



*Figure 2.1 Recreation and Parks Recently Completed Projects*

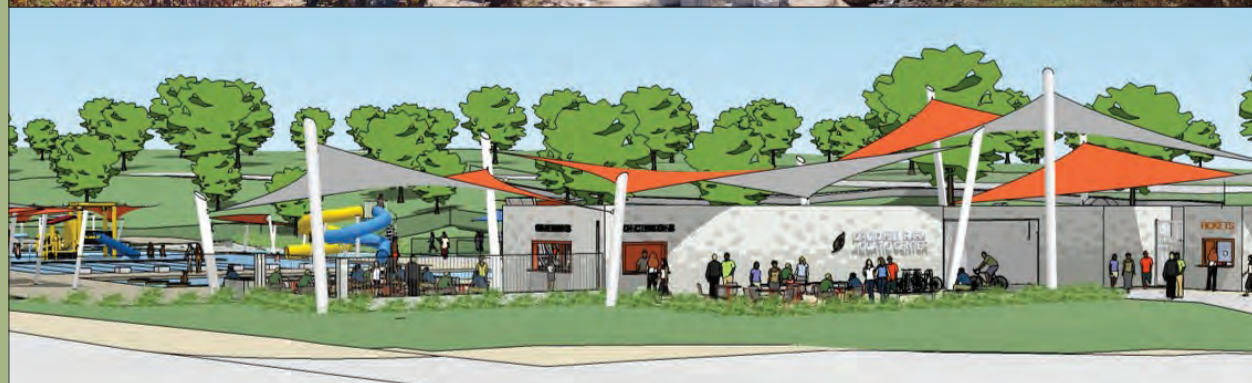




*Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center at Cherry Hill*



*Druid Hill Aquatic Center*



*Figure 2.2 Recreation and Parks Projects Under Construction*



closed for many years and their reopening allows for the provision of recreation services in underserved neighborhoods. Towanda Recreation Center, another center in an underserved area near Park Heights, was recently completed in October 2021 (Figure 2.1). Upgrades to Mary E Rodman, and James D Gross Recreation Centers are currently in advertisement. Design is in process for a new \$15 million Parkview Recreation Center and park near Druid Hill Park. This is being built in coordination with investment efforts in the Penn North neighborhood by Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development.

Other significant projects that have been completed include a segment of the Jones Falls Trail from Cylburn Arboretum to Mt Washington and Western Run (phase V opened in 2020, Figure 2.1), an upgrade to Mt. Pleasant Ice Arena (2021), a new Burdick dog park (2021) renovation of Catherine St/ABC park (2019 and 2020), renovation of Clifton Park tennis courts (2020), and Henrietta Lacks Park (formerly known as Ambrose Kennedy Park) in 2018.

Several park projects under construction or in design include improvements to Dypski Park, with a new playground, shelters, benches, bike rack, and decorative water fountain, Easterwood Park Improvements, Garrett Park improvements, and a new Racheal Wilson Memorial Park, among others.

Recently completed master plans for parks include Canton Waterfront, C.C. Jackson, Solo Gibbs, and Florence Cummins parks. High profile vision plans are currently in process to recreate both the Druid Lake Park Reservoir in Druid Hill Park and the Middle Branch Waterfront into active recreation facilities.

2021 also saw Baltimore City Recreation and Parks earn reaccreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). First accredited in 2016, the agency received high marks for compliance to national parks and recreation recommended standards and policies.

In 2022, BCRP will be undertaking a new comprehensive planning ef-

fort for the recreation and parks system. This effort will build upon the goals, guiding principles and recommendations identified in the 2019 Vision Plan, the REC2025 Plan, and the present LPPRP report, to incorporate four key components: A Capital Investment Strategy, Operations Plan, Funding Plan (for Capital and Operations) and a Strategy for Agency Revenue Generation and Cost Recovery. These components will inform and support one another as part of an overall 10-year comprehensive plan for recreation and parks programs and facilities. The planning process will include a conditions assessment of BCRP's park land as well as incorporate a separate effort to complete condition assessments for all BCRP's building facilities.

## *Challenges*

The demand for capital improvements in both parks and recreation facilities continues to be far more than the available capital funds. Significant assets are at risk of being lost or incurring severe damage creating health and safety risks to visitors and staff. Historic structures continue to exhibit structural issues and at many sites, basic infrastructure such as lighting, water, drainage structures and pathways are not functional or approaching the end of their life cycle. While BCRP is making progress on upgrading park and recreation facility signage, many sites still do not have basic identification signs. Functioning recreation centers that are attached to closing schools are a major obstacle as well as the fact that many facilities are dated and uninviting. This makes it difficult to attract certain users and to compete with privately operated facilities.

## **Deferred Maintenance**

Recreation and Parks spends \$975,000 annually on over 200 system maintenance and repair projects including roof repair/replacement, building painting, door replacement, heating and air conditioning preventative maintenance, floor replacement, and plumbing and electrical maintenance.

BCRP anticipates completing conditions assessments of all its buildings (recreation centers and other facilities) in 2022. Approximately 34 have been completed to date, resulting in an inventory list of items for repair reflecting deferred maintenance as well as regular capital replacements over a 5-year period. Another 30 buildings are in the pipeline to be assessed. Data from the assessment of the 34 buildings to date indicate \$10.75 million is necessary to address deferred maintenance for FY21 and \$18.42 million is needed to address annual capital replacements for FY22-26.

In 2020, Recreation and Parks undertook a separate assessment of the conditions of its pool facilities. BCRP tasked aquatic, MEP, civil engineer, and architectural consultants with analyzing and reporting on 19 outdoor pools/ splash pads, citywide. They reviewed the pool systems, code compliance, ADA accessibility, and overall user experience to identify priorities, phasing opportunities, and requirements to meet code. The categories were scored to give each pool an overall ranking. BCRP aims to systematically address each pool working from worst to best over the next 8 years. The average total cost to complete all the recommendations is \$16,120,450, with an average cost per pool of \$848,444.

The Department operates 49 recreation centers; most of the buildings are over 40 years old. Many of the recreation centers need basic building renovations (electric, mechanical, doors, windows, floors, ceilings, interior paint, ADA restroom & entrance remodeling and roof replacement). Many do not address current and future recreation programming needs. Some of the stand-alone facilities do not include indoor gym facilities at all and in many cases do not provide space for spectators. Needs are for deferred facility maintenance, basic renovations, and upgrades (including new gym additions), to accommodate modern recreational needs.

BCRP has begun to address some smaller renovation and upgrade projects, including Bocek Park, Towanda, and Mary E Rodman Recreation Centers, but there are many more. Other recreation centers will require the construction of new buildings, which BCRP has already begun to

address, such as the Cahill Fitness and Wellness Center (completed in Spring 2020) and the Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center (anticipated completion Summer 2022). As noted previously, the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center and the Parkview Recreation Center are currently in design. Other new construction projects, which have been identified to replace existing recreation center facilities in Solo Gibbs and Madison Square parks are currently unfunded.

The Department also has extensive capital funding needs to upgrade its park maintenance facilities. Park maintenance crews are based in 5 maintenance yards (with over 30 individual structures). The repair shops, mower storage barns, locker rooms and offices are all past their life cycle, ADA challenged, inefficient and at high risk for health and safety violations. A first phase of improvements has been completed to the Clifton Park District maintenance yard, and the construction of new buildings at the Gwynns Falls maintenance yard are currently in process. Renovation of the main office building of the Druid Hill yard was completed in 2007 but the shop and garage buildings need renovation or replacement. In addition to the Druid Hill, Carroll, and Patterson maintenance yards there are another 30-small maintenance/storage structures scattered among individual parks across the city. The parks contain a variety of structures which include field houses, bridges, shelters, and comfort stations, all requiring renovation. There are over 35 individual comfort stations and only about 10 percent have been renovated to meet ADA codes. At least 28 comfort stations need a complete renovation at an estimated cost of \$5.6 million (28 x \$200,000).

Conditions assessments for parks, park amenities (basketball and tennis courts, athletic fields, pathways, playgrounds, etc.) and park structures, such as pavilion and restrooms are sorely needed to better understand maintenance and capital needs. BCRP anticipates that it will be able to undertake park conditions assessments for these facilities in 2022 in support of work on the recreation and parks system comprehensive plan.

The Department continues to plan and work with communities to

address current and future park and recreation needs. The South Baltimore Gateway Partnership has committed to provide funding to implement capital improvements to Solo Gibbs and Florence Cummins Parks from the recently completed master plans, but additional funding is needed. The plans for the Canton Waterfront Park and Middle Branch Waterfront present bold visions with little committed funding as of plan writing.

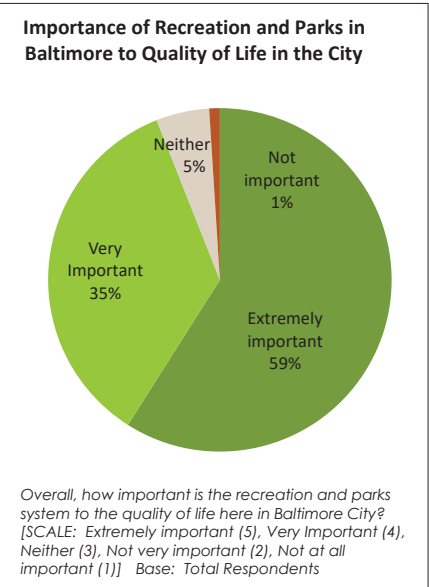
## Benefits of Baltimore City’s Parks and Recreation System

### Benefits to Residents

As part of the work to inform BCRP’s 2019 Vision Plan, the agency engaged a consultant team to conduct a multi-stage research program during the summer and fall of 2017 and spring of 2018 to understand City residents’ perceptions of and the value they place on the assets BCRP maintains and manages.

The research found that residents *see value in what BCRP offers* to the city and its residents and they see a *connection between the services BCRP provides and the quality of life* in the city. Relative to quality of life, 94 percent of the citywide survey respondents rated the recreation and parks system in Baltimore as either “extremely” (59%) or “very” (35%) important (Figure 2.3).

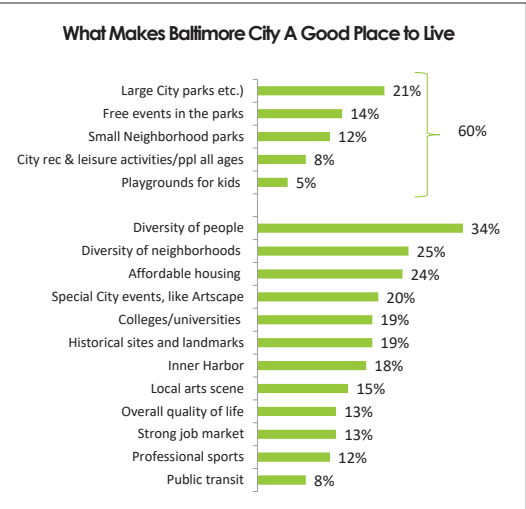
- Those most likely to say rec and parks are “extremely important” in Baltimore City are:
- Residents aged 25 and older
  - Residents with household incomes of \$100,000 or more
  - Women
  - People with responsibility for children
  - Long tenured (25 yrs +) residents
  - Not surprisingly, respondents who use parks and rec facilities monthly or more frequently feel the system is “extremely important” (average of 67%).



Source: The Melior Group  
Figure 2.3 Importance of Parks to Quality of Life

Relative to other aspects, 60 percent of respondents to the citywide survey identified *recreation facilities and parks amenities as a top aspect that makes Baltimore City a good place to live*. The diversity of its people was selected by a third (34%); diversity of neighborhoods and affordable housing were selected by one-quarter of respondents (25%) (Figure 2.4).

Residents also see that *parks and recreation services provide environmental benefits* to the City and help to *improve the physical and mental health of residents* (82 percent agreed that with each of these statements). 79 percent of



Source: The Melior Group  
Figure 2.4 Top Things that Makes Baltimore a Good Place to Live

respondents agreed that the parks and recreation system in Baltimore helps to revitalize the City’s neighborhoods and 74 percent feel that the system provides educational opportunities. More than half agree that Baltimore’s parks and recreation system encourages tourism (62%) and prevents crime (58%) (Figure 2.5).

## Perceptions of Recreation and Parks in Baltimore

*The recreation and parks system in Baltimore is important to most residents and provides many benefits.*

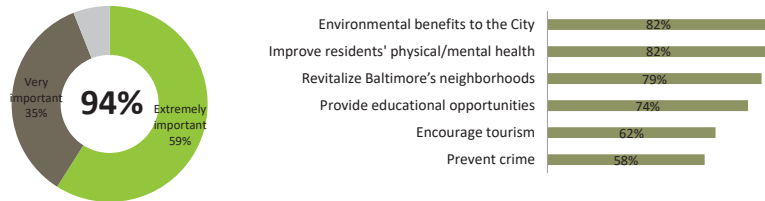


Figure 2.5 Perceptions of Recreation and Parks in Baltimore

Source: The Melior Group

And, about half say recreation facilities and parks meet their needs. BCRP *parks, events, facilities, and activities rank highly among other quality of life aspects* (diversity of people, neighborhoods, and affordable housing) as reasons Baltimore is a good place to live.

In terms of long-term goals and vision for a Baltimore City Recreation and Parks System, residents agree that **BCRP should provide activities and programs that promote a fun, active lifestyle while also providing nature education and programming**. Although the roles are generally equally important, providing a fun, active lifestyle (24%) and providing places for recreation and sports (20%) top the list of roles that BCRP can play in the City.

Residents feel **BCRP should be the City's experts on all things nature and environmental**, by conserving and protecting natural resources and educating residents with opportunities to learn about nature. Two in ten residents (18%) want this to be the primary role. And, it's clear that residents from the user survey, particularly, want to see BCRP as the city's go-to resource on nature education, by providing programming, promoting environmental awareness, and protecting natural resources. When respondents in the user survey were asked about future programming, 73% want to see activities for children to support the natural environment and habitat, 56% want wildlife education, and 67% want to see BCRP include eco-friendly programming.

## Other Research on Benefits

Research on the value of parks and other public spaces has found that green space and recreational opportunities provide a multitude of benefits for individual mental and physical health, city economies and the environment.

Recreational activities in parks and green spaces have a positive impact upon one's physical and mental health as well as improve opportunities for child play, exercise, and learning. Baltimore residents, like those in other cities and states in the U.S. face severe health problems such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. A report from Health and Human Services, *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity 2001* (HHS, 2001)<sup>4</sup> connects recreation activity and health on a national level. Recommended strategies in a 2009 report by the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDC), *Recommended Community Strategies and Measurements to Prevent Obesity in the United States*<sup>5</sup> are those that improve access to places for physical activity such as recreation areas and parks and improving infrastructure to support bicycling and walking. The report recommends that recreation facilities provide spaces for physical activity, such as parks and green space, outdoor sports fields, and facilities, walking and biking trails, public pools, and community playgrounds. It also suggests that improving access to recreation facilities through proximity to home or schools, cost, hours of operation, and ease of access, may increase physical activity among children and adolescents.

Economic impact studies identify a variety of economic benefits generated by parks, including increased property values, increased tax revenues, decreased medical costs through increased exercise,

4 Health and Human Services, U.S. (HHS). (2001). The Surgeon General's call to action to prevent and decrease overweight and obesity. Rockville, MD

5 Khan, L. K., Sobush, K., Keener, D., Goodman, K., Lowry, A., Kakietek, J., Zaro, S., & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2009). Recommended community strategies and measurements to prevent obesity in the United States. MMWR. Recommendations and reports: Morbidity and mortality weekly report. Recommendations and reports, 58(RR-7), 1–26. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19629029/>



increased tourism revenue, improved attractiveness of communities to homebuyers and businesses, and decreased stormwater treatment costs. The Trust for Public Land's 2009 report, *Measuring the Economic Value of a City Park System*<sup>6</sup>, analyzes the economic contribution of seven major factors of a city park system—property value, tourism, direct use, health, community cohesion, clean water, and clean air. These factors are discussed in the form of direct income to the city treasury (increased property and sales taxes derived from property value and tourism) direct savings to city residents (through direct park usage, savings in medical costs, and neighborhood preservation through community cohesion), and environmental savings (park vegetation and planting reduces storm water treatment costs and reduces air pollution through absorption).

In addition to the above economic benefits, a 2020 study prepared by the Center for Regional Analysis George Mason University for the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)<sup>7</sup> estimates the economic impacts of park and recreation system spending on total output (value of transactions expressed in producer prices), value added (gross domestic product), labor income (wages and salaries), and jobs (number/head count). The study examines the impact from national and statewide levels. In 2017, the economic impacts of local and regional park spending in the State of Maryland totaled 17,931 jobs, \$827,208,357 in labor income, \$1,333,781,732 in gross domestic product (value) and \$2,361,648,085 in total value of transactions expressed in producer prices (output).

Research on the value and benefits of urban parks to the environment as well as land conservation, includes studies on stormwater/water management, reduction of the urban heat island effect/cooling, air quality and carbon sequestration, and preserving fish and wildlife habitats, endangered species, and biodiversity. Other benefits to land conservation include:

- Managing and protecting watersheds and wetlands,
- Maintaining scenic landscapes and recreational amenities,
- Preventing soil erosion and improving soil quality,
- Reducing the negative impacts of flooding,
- Improving resilience to drought and invasive species,
- Helping to sequester greenhouse gases,
- Protecting sustainable capacities to produce food and fiber, and
- Limiting fragmentation of natural areas.

## Community Conditions Impacting the Provision of Parks and Recreation in Baltimore City

Findings from the 2017 and 2018 surveys identified five key factors considered as barriers to using parks/facilities and/or participating in programs. While the usage of facilities and parks may be quite high, there is still a large portion of residents who don't visit/participate as frequently (about 20-25%).

1. Accessibility
2. Safety
3. Maintenance and Upkeep
4. Inaccurate Perceptions
5. Lack of Knowledge

Accessibility and safety are issues that BCRP can work together with other agencies to improve. Maintenance, perceptions, and lack of knowledge are issues BCRP has been working on since 2018 and is pleased to report that it has made significant progress.

<sup>6</sup> Harnik, P and B. Welle (2009). *Measuring the Economic Value of a City Park System*, Washington, D.C.: The Trust for Public Land. [https://conservationtools.org/library\\_items/1062](https://conservationtools.org/library_items/1062)  
<sup>7</sup> Center for Regional Analysis, George Mason University prepared for the NRPA (2020). *The Economic Impacts of Local Parks: An Examination of the Economic Impacts of Local and Regional Park Agency Spending on the United States Economy*. <https://prps.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Research%20Reports/economic-impact-study-full-report-2020.pdf>

## Accessibility

Parks and facilities that are not easy to walk to and not easy to get to from public transit prevent residents from participating.

Recreation centers and parks are dispersed throughout the city but are more densely located in the areas east and west of central downtown. In these areas, the facilities are more easily accessible on foot or by bicycle which provides increased access to the system. This works for residents, however, accessing these facilities by public transportation is more difficult.

- *Only 4 in 10 city residents agree that recreation facilities are easy to get to. Another 27% say this about recreation activities.*
- *Many user survey respondents tend to drive to large parks and activities and facilities. About 10% mentioned a lack of adequate parking at facilities and activities.*

Rail transit in the city is not as broadly available since it generally operates north-south or northwest-downtown (see Maps 1.10-12). The stops are further apart outside of the downtown business district, and many are not particularly close to recreation centers. The proximity of rail transit to parks also varies, and the details of where entrances are relative to these stops has not been mapped, nor have bus route connections between rail transit stops and recreation facilities and parks, although transferring from one mode of transportation to another to access a recreation facility or park is not desirable.

There are many bus stops shown throughout the city that are in relative proximity to recreation and park facilities. However, many participants in the 2018 focus groups indicated that while the BaltimoreLink bus routes may pass recreation facilities that they are interested in visiting, the routes are not along roadways that the participant regularly uses to move through the city.

As noted in Chapter 1 and visible on Map 1.13, there are large areas of the city where individuals do not have access to a private vehicle.

The survey findings indicated that most individuals access recreation and park facilities outside of their neighborhoods using private vehicles. The choice to use private vehicles to visit recreation centers or parks is often difficult because of the lack of sufficient parking at BCRP facilities. For many others, they are limited in their ability to regularly access the system because they do not have private vehicles (33%). These factors provide clear indicators of gaps in providing full access to the system.

## Safety

Feeling safe in and around parks and recreation facilities is important to residents, and there is an expectation that BCRP should keep large city and neighborhood parks safe. If residents perceive parks and facilities to not be safe, then they will not visit them. Whether accurate or not, it is important for BCRP to address these safety concerns in its communications with residents, explaining what steps are being taken to make facilities and parks safe.

People are more encouraged to participate in activities in or near recreation facilities and parks when they feel welcome and safe in those environments. As part of the research for the 2019 Vision Plan, the team solicited 2017 data from the Baltimore City Police Department about the crime activities citywide as well as in, and around, BCRP recreation and park facilities.

- *2 to 3 in ten residents who do not visit parks or participate in recreation activities say they don't feel safe visiting or attending.*
- *Among user survey respondents, personal safety is less of an issue, with 75-81% of users rating BCRP's parks, facilities and activities rating this as excellent or good.*

Despite the concerns from some survey respondents that parks are not safe, an analysis of City crime data indicates that most crimes appeared to occur outside of park boundaries. While citywide crime remains at an alarming level, statistically, some of the safest places are within the Parks. Of the more than 50,000 crimes that occurred in the city in 2017,

only 0.006% of them occurred in Recreation facilities or in parks. This finding was notable enough that the team requested additional information from the Baltimore City Police Department about how crimes were reported and coded within their GIS data. BCPD indicated that officers are instructed to geocode the actual location of any reported incidents for more accurate reporting of crime data.

An additional item of note is that the crimes occurring outside of recreation facilities still create a problem for the system because they are a deterrent for some individuals to visit the facilities if they do not feel safe traveling to recreation centers or parks. Participants indicated that the areas adjacent to these facilities are not always well lit.

### *Maintenance and Upkeep*

There is an expectation that BCRP should keep all parks and rec centers clean and well-maintained. Visitors want an optimum experience when they visit a park, participate in a recreation activity, or attend a program. Cleanliness/lack of trash/more trash cans in tandem with maintaining and/or renovating existing facilities.

- *About a quarter of residents in the citywide survey mentioned maintenance and upkeep as reasons not to use facilities and parks – it is the single most important thing to improve.*

BCRP has been working steadily since 2017 to improve its maintenance of parks and facilities. The Park Maintenance division has historically been understaffed. Since 2019, the division has a full staff of 90 personnel, including Park District Managers, Assistant Managers, maintenance staff, a playground coordinator, a work force development coordinator, 2 trail managers and office support. The Department also reorganized and consolidated its facility maintenance operations into a one division responsible for all facilities. The new Facility Maintenance division has roughly 15 personnel who focus on building repairs in coordination with the park maintenance division. A new turf management division was also created specifically to focus on athletic field

maintenance. The Parks Maintenance division also partners with other organizations and programs such as an inmate workforce, Roca, summer Youth Works, and interested volunteer groups to provide ongoing trash pick-up, routine park maintenance activities and special projects, such as trail reconstruction, planting, and vegetation removal.

### *Inaccurate Perceptions*

Perception is everything. There are misperceptions about the provision or lack of programs, the conditions of facilities and problems with the recreation and parks system. It is important to find ways to address inaccuracies and misperceptions in communications with residents.

Since 2019, the Department has updated its website to include more information about current capital projects – renovations, new construction and planning projects, facilities with amenities and staff contact information. Enhanced social media and public relations efforts have made the Department more visible to the public and an end of

#### *2017 and 2018 survey respondents...*

- *Believe stories, especially bad ones, that get repeated for years (even if the information is wrong or out of date).*
- *Remember when programs were cut, recreation centers were closed.*
- *Hear about certain parks and facilities that are not safe, not well-maintained or cleaned and they don't want to visit.*

the year annual report showcases accomplishments from the past year. There are openings of new facilities, recreation program guides and promotion of special events. A new office of community engagement was created to proactively communicate and outreach to communities and associations. Existing recreation centers and pools have been renovated and new ones built.

## Lack of Knowledge

The citywide resident opinion survey found that residents had a lack of knowledge about facilities and services and/or information about the types of events, programs, and activities that BCRP offered (and for whom - kids, youth, seniors), where they were held and at what times).

Promotion of and communication about BCRP's parks and recreation

- *Citywide survey respondents cited a lack of knowledge about facilities, services or information about parks (35%) and recreation activities (46%).*

facilities and programs are key to addressing lack of knowledge. In addition to the website, community outreach, program guide and promotion efforts discussed above to provide information about where recreation activities take place, where facilities are located times for programs, etc., BCRP has been working to create new partnerships with organizations such as the Family League, University of Maryland, and others to receive funding to provide additional or joint programming. These partners additionally promote BCRP programs and activities through their own networks.

## INVENTORY OF PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

### Baltimore City-Owned Parks and Recreation Properties

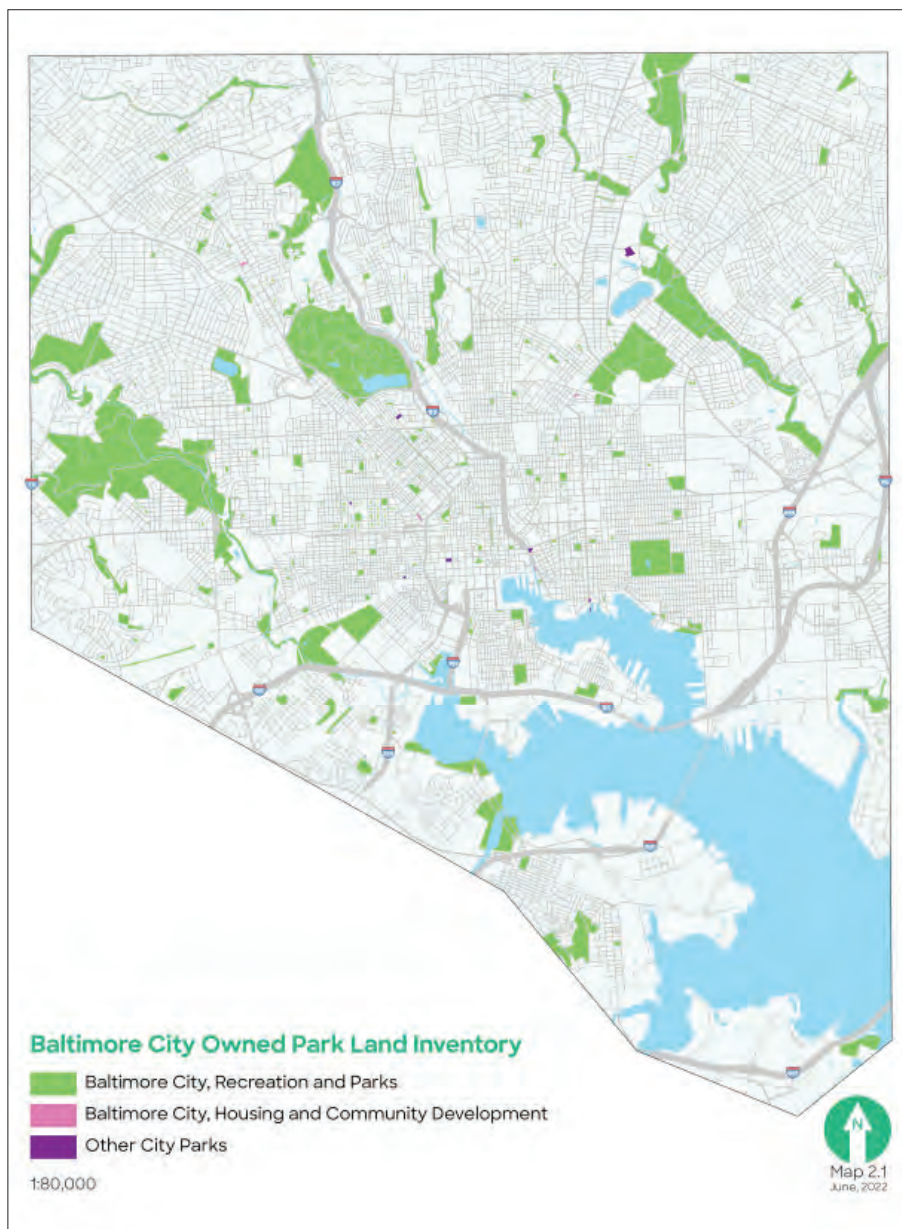
Baltimore City Recreation and Parks is the primary provider and caretaker of public parks and recreation facilities in Baltimore City. The City also maintains and operates some properties under the jurisdiction of Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore Housing, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Public Works (Map 2.1). Baltimore City Public Schools maintains their school yards, playgrounds, and athletic fields. The Department of Transportation generally maintains medians and traffic circles and Baltimore Housing maintains a few playgrounds and parks that were developed as part of their properties.

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks is responsible for or owns 5,026.55 acres of public park land<sup>8</sup>, which makes up 260 individual parks. The Department is responsible for a wide range of recreational facilities including 119 playgrounds, 25 swimming pools, 80 tennis courts, 104 basketball courts, 202 athletic fields (baseball and multi-purpose fields), 18+ miles of greenway and bike trails, 49 recreation centers, a number of 14 specialized recreation facilities (including 2 ice skating rinks, a roller rink/bowling alley, 2 soccer pavilions, and a rowing and water resource center) and thematically programmed facilities (Carrie Murray Nature Center, Howard Peter Rawlings Conservatory and Gardens, the Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum) (see Table 2.2).

BCRP will be undertaking a systemwide conditions assessment of all its park land in 2022 to identify and geolocate all park assets, including benches, lights, trash receptacles, athletic fields and courts, playgrounds, pavilions, and other amenities. The inventory will also provide an updated evaluation of the conditions of Baltimore City's park and recreation capital assets as well as a database that will be used by the Parks Maintenance and Facilities Divisions as a management and maintenance tool. A separate effort will be undertaken to complete

<sup>8</sup> This acreage number includes that of the Maryland Zoo and 5 golf courses that are managed and maintained by separate entities.





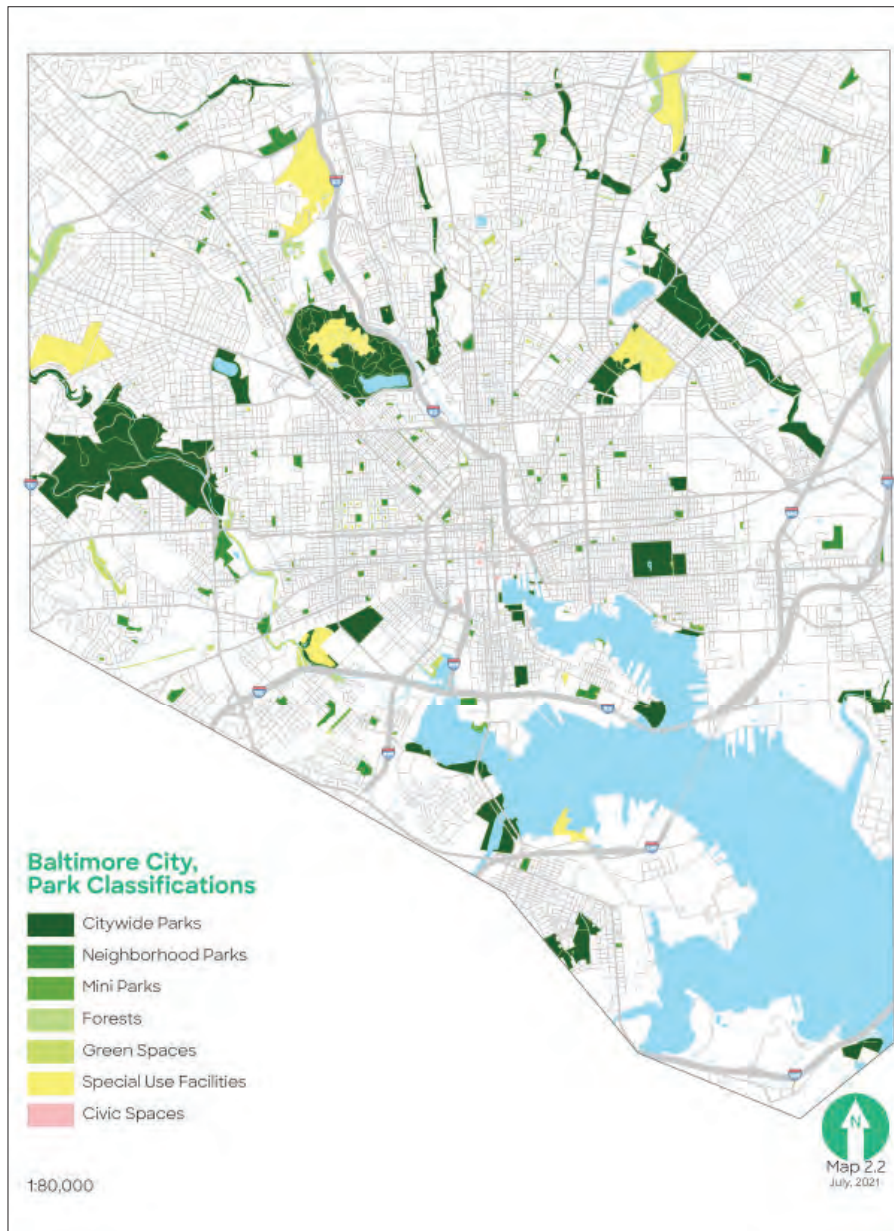
Map 2.1 Baltimore City Owned Park Land Inventory

the effort already begun to assess the conditions of BCRP's building facilities. This effort is being coordinated with and will tie into Baltimore City's effort to assess its entire building and structure inventory.

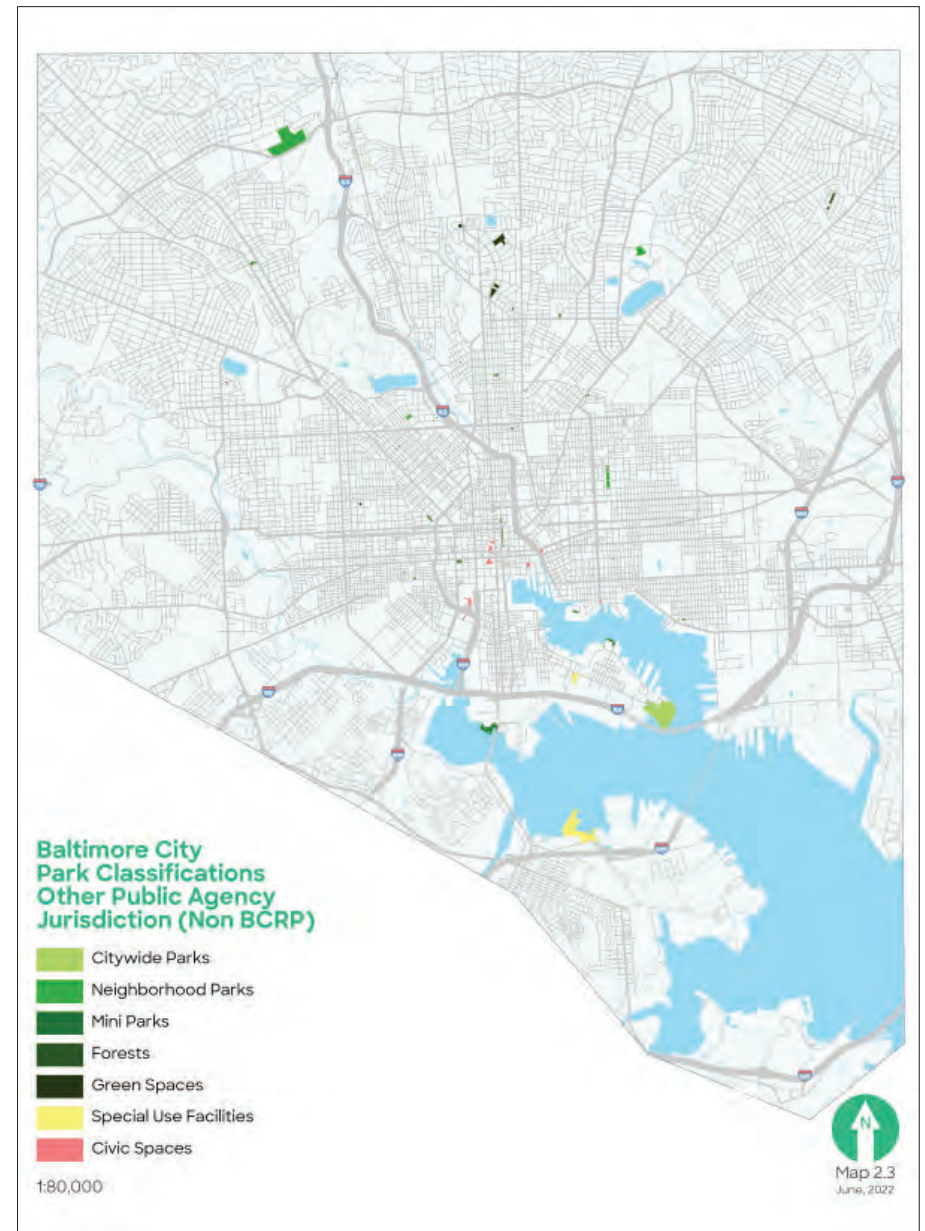
### *Park land and Open Spaces*

Baltimore residents have a variety of parks, recreation facilities and natural open spaces (see Maps 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4). Large, wooded parks and boulevards are interwoven across the city, forming a network of open spaces. Playfields, playgrounds, courts, and recreation centers are found distributed across the city. Athletic fields, playgrounds and courts are offered in a variety of settings. Many playgrounds and basketball courts have been developed in small urban parks but they are also found in more natural settings in the city's large parks. Multi-use athletic fields have been developed in many neighborhood parks and schools. BCRP has categorized its network of parks according to size, function and use as follows: Citywide Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Mini Parks, Green Spaces, Special Use Parks, Forested Spaces, and Civic Spaces (Map 2.2). The categorization of park spaces presented in this report differs from those identified in the 2017-2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP)<sup>9</sup> to better represent a broader, more nuanced range of park land space types, uses and functions. New categories include Forested Spaces and Civic Spaces. Table 2.0 summarizes the acreage/number and variety of these BCRP owned and operated parks and open space resources by park district as well as total citywide. This report also categorizes city park land that is owned by other city/state/federal agencies, as well as those that are privately owned. Map 2.3 and Table 2.1 summarize the number and variety of these parks and open space resources. BCRP's full inventory of parks and recreational properties, along with the amenities provided within each property is provided in Appendix A.

<sup>9</sup> The 2017-2022 LPPRP categorized the park spaces as: Citywide Parks, District Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Mini Parks, Green Spaces and Special Use Parks. The category of District Parks was eliminated this year.



Map 2.2 Baltimore City Park Classifications - Recreation & Parks Jurisdiction



Map 2.3 Baltimore City Park Classifications - Other Public Agency Jurisdiction (Non BCRP)



Parks Operated and Owned by Baltimore City, Recreation and Parks	Park Maintenance District										Citywide		
	Carroll		Clifton		Druid Hill		Gwynns Falls		Patterson		Total Acreage	Total # of Parks	Total Population
	Acres	Number of Parks	Acres	Number of Parks	Acres	Number of Parks	Acres	Number of Parks	Acres	Number of Parks			
Citywide Park	464.17	13	757.26	4	650.37	5	1,078.79	2	211.00	6	3,161.59	30	
Neighborhood Park	102.05	13	78.64	12	90.32	15	121.88	21	57.69	12	450.58	73	
Mini Park	12.61	8	11.51	17	10.54	20	10.07	19	17.94	19	62.67	83	
Green Space	17.36	13	4.24	3	6.55	12	108.54	23	0.08	1	136.77	52	
Special Use	0.63	1	160.20	1	362.65	2	180.84	2	0.00	0	704.31	6	
Forested Space	6.85	1	132.03	4	43.37	3	87.20	2	0.00	0	269.46	10	
Civic Space	6.37	6	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.59	1	0.00	0	6.96	7	
Totals	610.04	55	1,143.89	41	1,163.80	57	1,587.91	70	286.71	38	4,792.35	261	
Total Population	87,562		172,556		109,665		116,960		98,965		585,708		
Ratio of Acreage per 1000 Residents	6.8		6.6		10.6		13.6		2.9		8.2		
Total Land Acreage Per District	10,405.21		13,311.75		9,472.05		10,326.38		8,042.15		51,557.55		

Table 2.0 Baltimore City Parks managed and operated by Recreation and Parks

Parks NOT Operated and Owned by Baltimore City, Recreation and Parks		Park Maintenance District										Citywide	
		Carroll		Clifton		Druid Hill		Gwynns Falls		Patterson		Total # of Parks	Total Acreage
		Acres	Number of Parks	Acres	Number of Parks	Acres	Number of Parks	Acres	Number of Parks	Acres	Number of Parks		
Citywide Park	Privately Owned	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
	Other Public (City/State/Federal)	46.72	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.45	1	2	47.17
	Total	46.72	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.45	1	2	47.17
Neighborhood Park	Privately Owned	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	4.67	1	1	4.67
	Other Public (City/State/Federal)	0.00	0	5.25	1	49.10	2	0.00	0	0.00	0	3	54.35
	Total	0.00	0	5.25	1	49.10	2	0.00	0	4.67	1	4	59.02
Mini Park	Privately Owned	11.81	4	1.49	2	0.30	1	0.00	0	1.16	2	9	14.76
	Other Public (City/State/Federal)	4.16	2	0.62	1	1.46	2	1.86	2	0.00	0	7	8.11
	Total	15.98	6	2.11	3	1.76	3	1.86	2	1.16	2	16	22.87
Green Space	Privately Owned	0.02	1	10.37	5	1.75	6	0.47	2	1.27	6	20	13.88
	Other Public (City/State/Federal)	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.70	3	0.00	0	3	0.70
	Total	0.02	1	10.37	5	1.75	6	1.17	5	1.27	6	23	14.58
Special Use	Privately Owned	3.90	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	1	3.90
	Other Public (City/State/Federal)	60.88	2	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	2	60.88
	Total	64.77	3	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	3	64.77
Forested Space	Privately Owned	0.00	0	3.28	1	0.69	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	2	3.97
	Other Public (City/State/Federal)	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
	Total	0.00	0	3.28	1	0.69	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	2	3.97
Civic Space	Privately Owned	8.83	6	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	6	8.83
	Other Public (City/State/Federal)	1.69	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	2.30	3	4	3.99
	Total	10.52	7	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	2.30	3	10	12.82
Totals		138.01	18.00	21.01	10.00	53.30	12.00	3.03	7.00	9.85	13.00	60.00	225.20

Table 2.1 Baltimore City Parks Under Other Public Agency Jurisdiction or Privately Owned (Non BCRP)



**Citywide Parks** are parks that serve residents across the entire city and host a variety of permitted and non-permitted recreational activities or facilities. They tend to be the larger parks in the city ranging from ten acres to over 990 acres in size. While this represents a wide range in size, several of the smaller parks are part of a larger contiguous park network.

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks has 30 Citywide Parks. The number of parks within this category increased from the 19 identified in the 2017-2022 LPPRP. The increase in overall number is due to a revised definition of the Citywide Parks category to consider the popularity and demand for permitted facilities.<sup>10</sup> In 2021, the Department eliminated the 2017 category of District Parks. While some of the Citywide Parks are smaller in size and may have previously been classified as District Parks in 2017,<sup>11</sup> the revised definition captures several parks that, in practice, host recreational activities that serve people citywide, revealing a broader geographical distribution of citywide park use in neighborhoods across the city.

In addition to hosting a variety of recreational facilities, many of the larger parks in this category provide significant areas of undeveloped woods (Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, Druid Hill Park, Herring Run Park) or mature tree groves (Patterson Park, Carroll Park, Clifton Park). While these parks cannot be considered “truly wild”, they are “natural” in contrast to the surrounding urban development, and they successfully support a variety of natural resource-based recreation. Hiking, kayaking, and fishing are popular activities utilizing the trails and streams of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. Druid Hill Park, Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, Patterson Park and Cylburn Arboretum (which is classified as a Special Use Park) are well known locations for bird watching. The National Audubon Society has established a year-round office adjacent to Patterson Park to allow its staff to take advantage of the mature tree groves and the nat-

10 In 2017, Citywide Parks were defined as being over 100 acres or part of a larger network of park spaces as well as the ability to host a variety of recreational facilities. Permitted facilities in the 2022 definition include multipurpose fields, ball fields, pavilions, tennis courts, and other facilities that require reservation and or a permit to use.

11 In 2017, District Parks were defined as ranging between 15 and 100 acres, smaller in size than Citywide Parks, but serving multiple neighborhoods or a geographic section of the city.

urally landscaped lake for urban nature and bird watching programs. The Canton Waterfront and Anchorage Promenade Parks are part of the City’s waterfront park and pedestrian network. The waterfront parks provide opportunities for boaters to launch or moor their boats, pedestrians to enjoy their leisure, and serve as venues for summer concerts and programs.

Some of the smaller, more urban parks such as Bocek, Riverside and Roosevelt<sup>12</sup>, range from 17 to 19 acres, but serve multiple neighborhoods and residents from across the city obtain reservations and permits to use their fields and other recreational facilities. Other parks, such as Stony Run and Western Run, follow streams and provide walking trails within residential areas. Federal Hill Park overlooks the Inner Harbor and serves as a citywide visitor destination.

In addition to these City Parks, which are under the jurisdiction of Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, there are two (2) other parks in the City that function and serve as Citywide Parks but are under the jurisdiction of other public entities. Fort McHenry, the only National Park in Baltimore, is owned, managed, and maintained by the National Park Service. The Korean War Memorial is a state owned parcel situated adjacent to Canton Waterfront Park.

**Neighborhood Parks** serve as basic units of the park system for users within a quarter to half-mile distance. They range between 1 and 28 acres in size and typically offer two or more amenities such as a playground, basketball court, athletic field, and green spaces. Many of the Neighborhood Parks are informal in design, are clearly visible and located along well trafficked streets. There are 73 of these parks owned and maintained by Baltimore City Recreation and Parks. Due to the newly revised definition of Citywide Parks and the elimination of the District Parks classification, the total count of BCRP Neighborhood Parks increased by 8 parks compared to the 2017-2022 LPPRP.

There are four (4) other non BCRP Neighborhood Parks that serve the residents of Baltimore; three are publicly owned and the other is under

12 In Baltimore City’s 2017-2022 LPPRP, these parks were classified as District Parks.

quasi-public ownership. Of the three (3) publicly owned parks, two are under city ownership (DPW and Baltimore City Public School System -BCPSS), and one is under State ownership.

DPW's Montebello Wastewater Treatment facility includes a parcel of land with a baseball field. The field, called the Northwood Baseball League baseball field, is managed, and maintained by the Northwood Baseball League. John Eager Howard Park, located on the grounds of the Dorothy I. Heights Elementary School consists of a playground and park space, and serves as a Neighborhood Park. The park is maintained by BCRP. The third publicly owned non BCRP Neighborhood Park is Northwest Park. BCRP leases Northwest Park from the State and operates and maintains the park.

The fourth non BCRP Neighborhood Park park is a linear park, known as Eager Park, that is owned, and operated by the quasi-public non-profit entity, the East Baltimore Development Initiative (EBDI). Eager Park was originally developed as part of a larger mixed-use redevelopment area that was part of the East Baltimore Development Initiative partnership with Johns Hopkins Hospital. EBDI manages the park (See Map 2.3).

The larger parks such as Burdick, Radeke, and Northwest Parks include athletic fields, playgrounds, and open grass spaces. Smaller parks such as City Springs Park and Henrietta Lacks Park include a pool, basketball courts or an athletic field. Garrett Park contains a playground and paved courts. Other spaces include the city's older public squares and spaces, such as Union Square, Lafayette Square and Harlem Square Park. A few parks, such as Easterwood, DeWees and Robert C. Marshall, include recreation center facilities, fields, community gardens or other amenities.

**Mini Parks** are small parks with amenities that may include one or two amenities such as a pavilion, seating area, playground, or basketball court. Many of the Mini Parks are sited off the beaten path, some are located behind houses or bordered by less trafficked streets. These parks are typically less than 3 acres in size. There are 83 of these small local park types. Some of these, like Henry Garnet, Saint Mary's, Saint

Casmir, and Park Avenue Median are passive parks or park like medians with seating; others like Thames Street and Dypski Parks contain small playgrounds.

In addition to BCRP's owned parks, there are six (6) Mini Park spaces owned by other public entities. Three are formerly vacant lots, two, under the jurisdiction of Baltimore City Housing and Community Development were former housing sites, and the third was part of a street right-of-way. These were improved and are currently maintained by community groups (Darley and Mosher Street Parks, Classen & Park Heights). Another Mini Park is under the jurisdiction of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City and is part of a public housing development. A fifth, is a large median between two segments of St. Paul Street in front of Mercy Medical Center. This is maintained by the Downtown Partnership. There is also a parcel owned by the State of Maryland that is part of the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus. Another nine (9) small parks are owned and maintained by nonprofit entities.

**Green Spaces** are open lawn spaces without amenities and of varied size. These spaces serve as flexible spaces for active or passive use. Some include community gardens. Baltimore City Recreation and Parks owns and maintains 52 of these types of spaces. Many are small green neighborhood spaces that may or may not provide sitting areas: They are right-of-ways, medians, or inner block parks. The 2017-2022 LPPRP included forested or wooded areas as part of this Green Spaces category, but a new Forested Spaces category was created to address these properties separately in 2022.

In addition to BCRP owned and maintained properties, there 23 spaces that are under the jurisdiction of non BCRP private or public entities. The Green Spaces under public ownership include two under the jurisdiction of Baltimore City Housing and Community Development, and one under the Department of Sanitation. Another 20 spaces are owned and maintained by private entities; 13 of these properties are managed by Baltimore Green Space, a nonprofit land trust, 6 are managed by local Community Associations, and one is owned by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.

**Forested Spaces** are spaces that are wooded or forested that may or may not be accessible to the public. BCRP owns and maintains 10 of these spaces which contribute to the overall tree canopy, and to reducing urban heat islands in the city. Another two (2) spaces are owned and maintained by Baltimore Green Space and a local Community Association.

The city also owns undeveloped watershed lands in the surrounding counties (17,580 acres: Loch Raven Reservoir and Pretty Boy Reservoir in Baltimore County and Liberty Reservoir in Baltimore & Carroll Counties). These park lands have extensive trail networks that are open to the public for recreation activities such as hiking, cross country skiing, horseback riding and mountain biking.

**Special Use Parks** are stand-alone park spaces that have a specific use or role associated with them. BCRP has five (5) of these stand-alone types of spaces which include Cylburn Arboretum, Howard's Street Dog Park, Forest Park and Mount Pleasant Golf Courses, and Carlton Street Park.

While BCRP owns other dog parks, they are located within larger parks and are counted as part of those park land acreages. Only one of BCRP's dog parks is a stand-alone park. Similarly, two of the City's four golf courses— Carroll and Clifton are situated within larger park settings and are counted as part of that land acreage. Forest Park and Mount Pleasant, are stand-alone golf course parks and are counted as Special Use Park facilities. Carlton Park, functions as a park space associated with the City's Arabber Community - a group of vegetable and fruit sellers who use horse drawn carts to service neighborhoods across the city.

Other Special Use Parks are owned or managed by other entities. The Liberty Dog Walk is operated and managed by the Downtown Partnership. Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center is owned by the State of Maryland Port Authority and operated by Living Classrooms Foundation, which provides environmental education experiences for area students. A third Special Use Park, located on a parcel adjacent to

the Locust Point Industrial Area is owned and managed by the South Baltimore Little League.

**Civic Spaces** are spaces that are significant to the City's history, host monuments or contain paved plazas that are used for citywide events and gatherings related to recreation and parks or other non BCRP related activities. Seven (7) of these spaces are within BCRP's jurisdiction. Mt. Vernon Square Park and the Washington Monument, for example, includes four park segments that encircle the Washington Monument. These spaces are managed by the Mt Vernon Conservancy. Other spaces include: War Memorial Plaza- a park and public gathering space in front of City Hall, Veteran's Park - a small green space with a monument adjacent to President Street and the Police Dept, Pennsylvania Triangle Park - a paved area with grass and a fountain, and McKeldin Square - a space adjacent to the Inner Harbor. Battle Monument Park is a technically a BCRP park, but is maintained by the nonprofit Downtown Partnership. There are 9 Civic Spaces that are maintained and managed by other city and private nonprofit entities, including the Shot Tower (Dept of General Services), Broadway Pier and Market Square in along Broadway in Fells Point (Dept of Real Estate and Baltimore Public Markets Corporation, respectively). Several downtown spaces including Russell Street Park and plazas - Hopkins, Center and Courthouse - are managed by the nonprofit Downtown Partnership. Other spaces include the Holocaust Memorial Park, owned, and managed by Board of Trustees of the New Community College of Baltimore, and Ravens Walk which is connected to Ravens Stadium which is owned and managed by the Maryland Stadium Authority. Charles Plaza (which is part of an office development complex), is the only space that is owned by the private entity: Charles Plaza, LLC.

### *Greenways and Trails*

In the last two decades, Baltimore City has been successful in planning and constructing a new greenway trail system that expands our existing park system by making new connections between communities and open space. The three main trails follow the city's major stream valleys: Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls and Herring Run. These three separate greenways work as a network whose hub is downtown Baltimore, linking

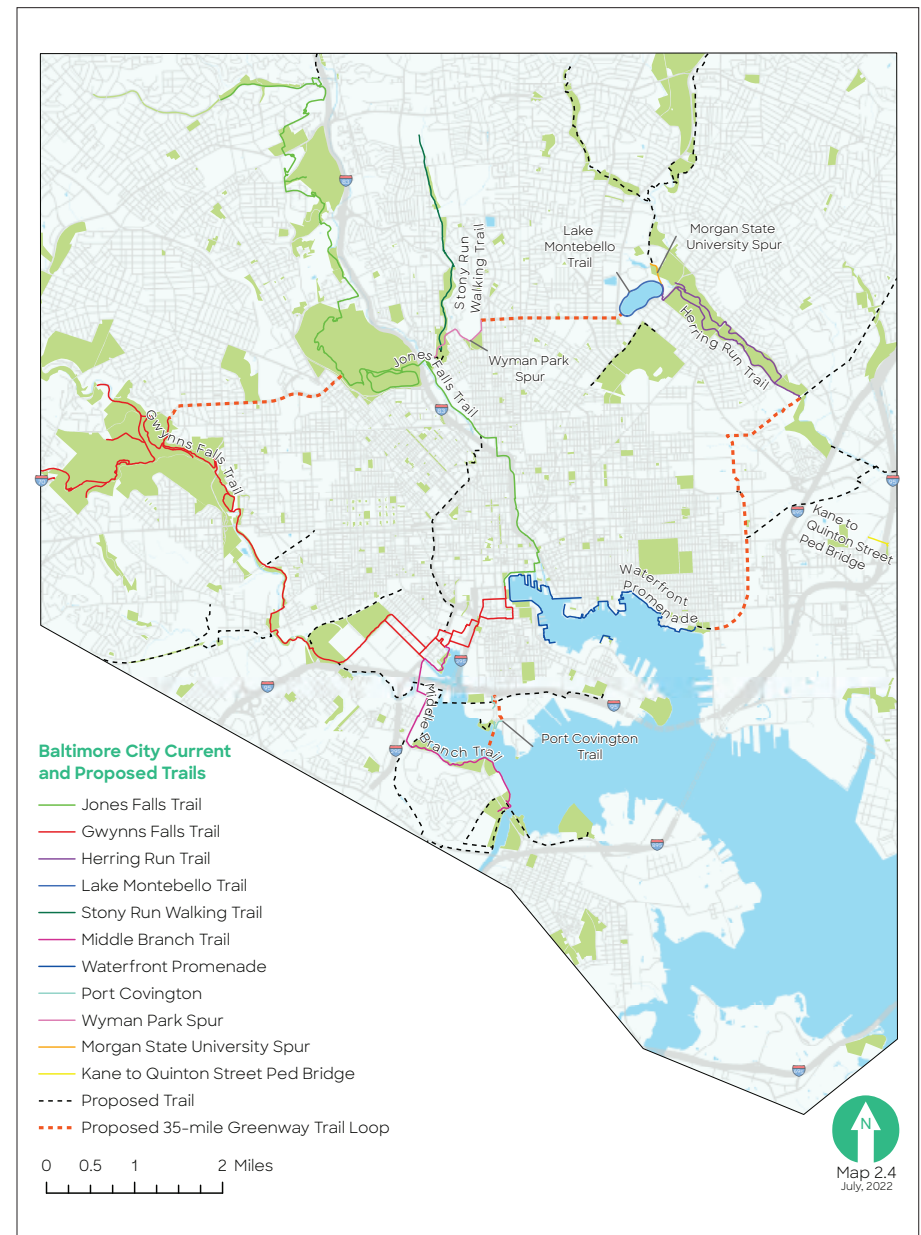


residents with points of interest at the neighborhood level (schools, parks, and shopping areas) as well as the major cultural attractions of the Inner Harbor (Map 2.34). The greenway network alignment has been designed to allow connections to trail projects of the surrounding communities in Baltimore County and the East Coast Greenway, a national trail system traveling from Maine to Florida.

The Department of Recreation and Parks, with support from the Department of Planning and the Department of Transportation, is responsible for trail construction and management. The Gwynns Falls Greenway was completed in 2008, The final segment (phase V) of the Jones Falls Greenway started construction in 2017 and was completed in 2020. The first phase the Herring Run Greenway was completed in 2015. The greenway network offers “off road” trail opportunities for both recreational use (bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, walking) and daily commuting. Aspects of the three existing stream valley trails are described as follows:

**Gwynns Falls Greenway:** The Gwynns Falls Greenway extends 14 miles along the Gwynns Falls stream valley, linking over thirty neighborhoods with 2000 acres of parkland. Parks located along the Trail’s route include Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, Leon Day Park, Carroll Park, Middle Branch Park, and the Inner Harbor. A spur trail (2 miles) connects the Gwynns Falls Greenway to the I-70 park-n-ride in Baltimore County.

The landscape character of the northern and southern sections of the Gwynns Falls Greenway is quite distinct. From Gwynns Falls Park to Carroll Park, the trail weaves along the steep slopes of the stream valley. The trail is surrounded by mature woodlands full of birds and wildflowers with dramatic views of the rushing stream from the trail bridges. New visitors to this section of the trail are amazed to find so much natural beauty inside the city limits. From Carroll Park south to the Inner Harbor and Middle Branch Park, the trail is a completely different experience. The trail weaves through the streets of row house communities and industrial areas. One spur cuts through Ravens Stadium to reach Federal Hill and the Inner Harbor while the main trail continues south along the industrial shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay to reach Middle Branch Park and the Baltimore Rowing Club.



Map 2.4 Baltimore City Current and Proposed Greenway Trails

**Jones Falls Greenway:** The master plan for the Jones Falls Greenway (2000) proposed a new 10-mile bicycle trail for central Baltimore City, roughly following the Jones Falls Stream Valley from the city line to the Inner Harbor. This trail system connects over 20 neighborhoods and 1500 acres of parkland, including Druid Hill Park, Cylburn Arboretum and Lake Roland Park in Baltimore County. The northern portions of the trail pass through a series of wooded parks (Cylburn Arboretum, Woodberry Park and Druid Hill Park), while the southern portion of the trail is a side path separated from vehicular traffic from Pennsylvania Railroad Station, south through the residential and commercial streets of the Midtown Cultural District and the Inner Harbor. Phase I of the Trail, between Druid Hill Park and Penn Station was completed in 2005. Phase II, from Penn Station to the Inner Harbor was completed in 2014. Phase III, 2 miles of Trail through Druid Hill Park was completed in 2008. Phase IV, Druid Hill to Cylburn Arboretum was completed in 2016. Construction for the final phase V, Cylburn Arboretum to Mt Washington, was completed in 2020.

**Herring Run Greenway:** Baltimore plans to design and build the Herring Run Greenway. The trail will connect Herring Run Park, Chinquapin Park, Moore's Run Park and Clifton Park as well as the Lake Montebello water treatment facilities (1,122 acres) to Morgan State University. The trail will wind through low-density residential neighborhoods to connect a series of parks that have popular athletic fields. With new wastewater improvements along upper Herring Run and Chinquapin Run, the City of Baltimore will investigate converting construction access roads to viable trails. Given recent construction disturbance, the access road trails would minimally affect environmental features while creating a low-cost trail improvement to areas of the city currently void of trail options. Extending the Herring Run Trail southward to the Bayview Medical Campus would provide a multi-modal connection with the MARC systems. From here, the potential exists for extending a trail system south of the Waterfront Promenade through the "rail with trail" development of the unused Norfolk Southern rail line. Baltimore City has been in negotiation with Norfolk Southern to obtain their right of way. Phase I of the trail, completed in 2015, extends from the Halls

Spring Area (Harford Rd & Argonne Dr.) to Sinclair Lane, providing opportunities to walk or bike along the stream bed. A full loop extends from Harford to Belair Road and the trail runs along the South side of the stream from Belair Road to Sinclair Lane. Funding for the design and construction of additional phases has not been determined.

In addition to the existing trails, several new greenway trails and bicycle routes are proposed. In 2015, the national nonprofit Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC), began to form the Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition, bringing public agencies, nonprofit organizations, private firms, and public health agencies together to help connect Baltimore's existing trails and create new safe avenues for nonmotorized travel. The envisioned network will encompass 35 miles of bike and pedestrian-friendly routes that weave through the stream valleys and along Baltimore's popular waterfronts – both downtown and along the Middle Branch—realizing a dream set forth by the Olmsted Brothers more than a century ago. RTC has been working closely with the City's Departments of Planning, Transportation and Recreation and Parks, and the public to develop concepts and construction documentation for the missing trail links and to actively advocate for construction funding.

Also, in 2015, the City issued a Bicycle Master Plan to promote safe bicycling routes on city streets. The Bicycle Master Plan has been guiding the Department of Transportation (DOT) as it adds signs and designated bicycle lanes to promote use of bicycles for daily errands and commuting to work. The Department of Transportation constructed an additional 10 miles of bicycle facilities in the downtown area within the last five years, guided by the Bicycle Master Plan. This includes 6 miles of on-street, protected bike lanes. In 2017, DOT issued The Separated Bike Lane Network Plan as an addendum to the 2015 Bicycle Master Plan. The Separated Bike Lane Network plan seeks to build on that work by identifying and prioritizing a set of projects that will dramatically increase the number of people in Baltimore City who can meet many of their basic travel needs by bike over the next two to five years. The report recommended a network of 77 miles of separated bicycle lanes, with an expected cost between \$2 million and \$6 million each year. Baltimore is integrating the Separated Bike Lane Network plan

with the trail network so that people of all ages and abilities can bike anywhere in the city safely and comfortably.

The increasing popularity of bicycle riding in Baltimore can be seen each year with the growing demand for bicycle racks at the train station and downtown, increasing numbers of greenway trail users and increasing participation in local bicycle events. In 2016, the City launched Phase I of Baltimore bike share to provide options for short, one-way trips to be made by bicycle, but this was discontinued due to issues with the vendor. In 2019, the program was replaced by a new Dockless Vehicle Program. Dockless Vehicles are small vehicles, such as scooters, bikes, and e-bikes, available for rent to transport you to where you want to go. “Dockless” Vehicles do not need to be parked in a bike rack or any other designated location (the dock). They are equipped with GPS technology and can be parked nearly anywhere.

The “Tour de Parks” is sponsored by the Friends of Carroll Park and the Mayor’s Bicycle Advisory Committee (since 2001). The event includes a race and family ride on a 30-mile loop that passes through the city’s 5 large parks including 7 miles of the Gwynns Falls Greenway. “BikeJam” has been sponsored by Friends of Patterson Park since 1998. The day-long festival includes 11 races held on roads within Patterson Park. The events range from a 40-mile race for professional road racers (the KBS Cup ProRace Circuit), to 5 and 10 mile amateur and youth races and a sprint for city messenger bikes. The Kinetic Sculpture Race has become a Baltimore tradition as uniquely fabricated bicycles travel the streets and waters of Baltimore encouraging cyclists of all ages to ride along. These events were not held in 2020 due to the pandemic but were reconvened in 2021.

### *Recreation Facilities and Programs*

The City’s recreation system includes recreation centers, pools, specialized recreation facilities, thematically programmed facilities and a citywide network of courts, fields and playgrounds in parks and school sites (Maps 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7). Table 2.2 summarizes the number of recreational facilities by type in Baltimore City.

## **Recreation Facilities**

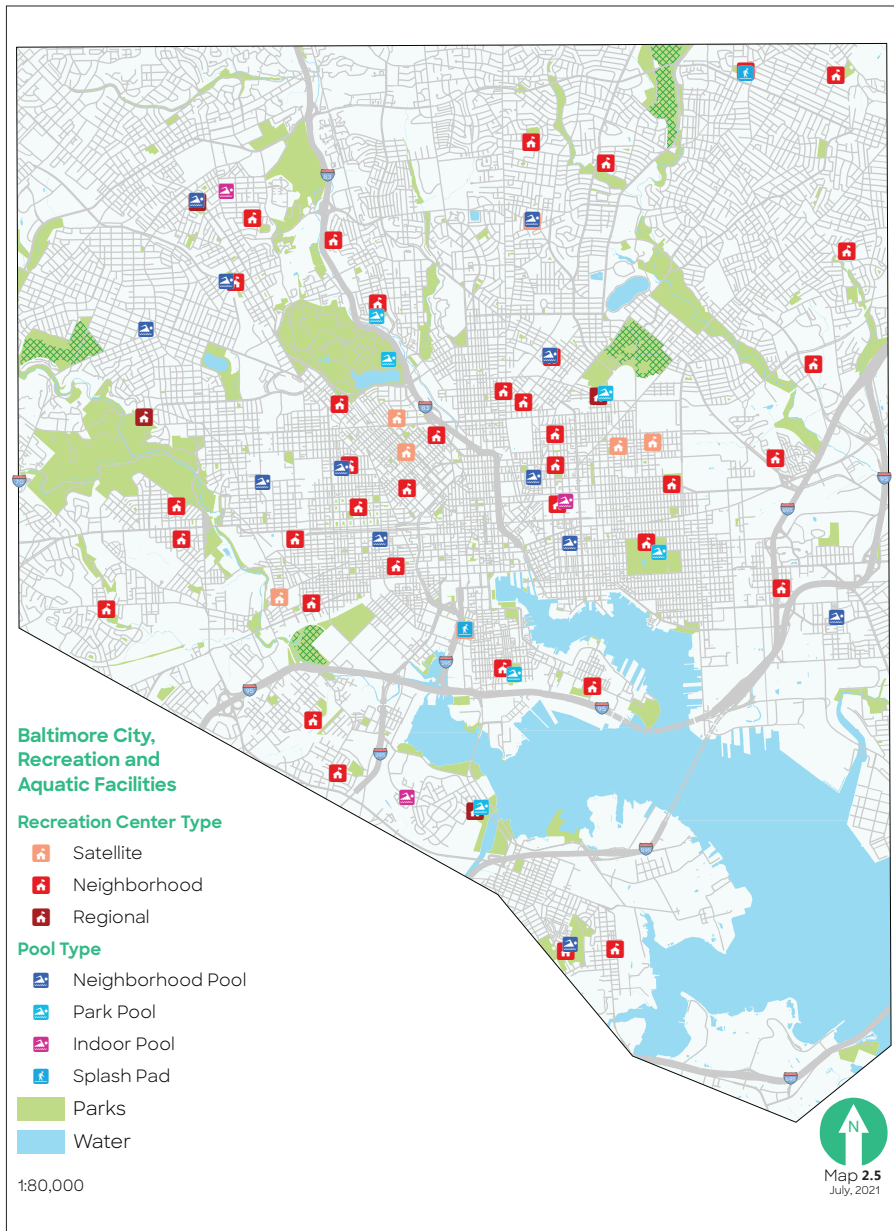
### *Recreation Centers*

The Department currently operates 49 recreation centers distributed throughout the city. The Recreation Division is in the process of reorganizing the centers into the following categories: Regional Facilities, Neighborhood Facilities, Satellite Facilities and Community Spaces within seven regions of the city (See Map 2.5).

**Regional Facilities** are larger facilities that offer more than one major amenity, such as a gym, pool, park, track, etc. These facilities serve as hubs that connect surrounding communities with recreational services. There are 4 Regional centers in the BCRP system, ranging in size between 19,000 and 35,000 sf. All four of these larger state-of-the-art centers, represent the Department’s commitment to providing higher quality of recreation facilities and programming: Rita R Church Community Center (completed 2013), CC Jackson Community Center (completed 2016), Cahill Fitness & Wellness (completed 2021) and Middle Branch Fitness & Wellness Center (anticipated Spring 2022). Both Cahill and Middle Branch Centers include an indoor pool, track, and fitness studio. Cahill also includes a performance theater, outdoor splash pad, playground, and basketball court. A second outdoor phase of the Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness project will focus on the outdoors, include amenities including a synthetic turf multipurpose field, grass athletic fields, walking trails, a playground, dog park, and basketball courts. Renovation and expansion of the Chick Webb Recreation Center as part of the City’s Perkins, Oldtown, Somerset Redevelopment area, funded in part with a U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development Choice Neighborhood Grant, is currently in design, with construction start anticipated to the start in January 2023.

**Neighborhood Facilities** are smaller facilities that service specific communities throughout the city. There are 38 Neighborhood Centers in the BCRP system, ranging in size between 9,000 and 12,000 sf. These facilities serve area residents, many of whom are within walking distance of the centers. The Department has been investing in renovating





Map 2.5 BCRP Recreation Center and Aquatic Facilities

and upgrading many of these neighborhood facilities since 2017 with repairs, renovations, and gymnasium additions. Most recent improvements have been completed at Lakewood, Harlem Park, Bocek, and Towanda Recreation Centers. Projects are currently in process for James D Gross and Mary E Rodman, and Parkview Recreation Centers.

**Satellite Facilities** are the smallest recreation center facilities that service a local community. These facilities have shorter hours of operation and are connected to a nearby sister facility which offers or extends programming within the community. There are 7 Satellite Facilities in the BCRP system, ranging in size from 2,000 sf to 4,000 sf. Some of these facilities are located within schools, while others are small stand-alone buildings. Recently upgraded or additions to these facilities include spaces within Fort Worthington and Franklin Elementary Schools.

**Community Spaces** are facilities located throughout the city that afford community groups the opportunity to provide programs, classes, and meetings inside a recreation facility. The facilities are managed and maintained by BCRP, but programs are offered and run by community groups and other organizations. These facilities are the newest category of BCRP's recreation facilities. They are still to be identified and the operational policies are currently in development.

### Aquatic Facilities

The Department currently operates 25 aquatic facilities distributed throughout the city. The facilities are categorized as: Park Pools, Neighborhood Pools, Splash Pads, and Indoor Pools (see Map 2.5). Most of Baltimore City Recreation and Parks aquatic facilities are located outdoors. Many of the Neighborhood Pools, were constructed in the early 1970s and are in poor condition or no longer meet current needs. An assessment of pool conditions, completed in 2020, is guiding ongoing pool renovations.

**Park Pools** are large outdoor pools located within city parks. These pools are central to numerous communities and draw residents from all over the city. There are six (6) of these facilities located in Druid Hill, Clifton, Patterson, Riverside, Cherry Hill Splash, and Roosevelt Parks.

The Druid Hill Park Pool, renamed the Druid Hill Aquatic Center, is currently under renovation and expansion, with a new changing/locker room facility and expanded pool areas to allow for swim team competition. The new facility is anticipated to open for use in Summer 2022. The Cherry Hill Splash pool is located next to the new Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center, which also includes an indoor pool.

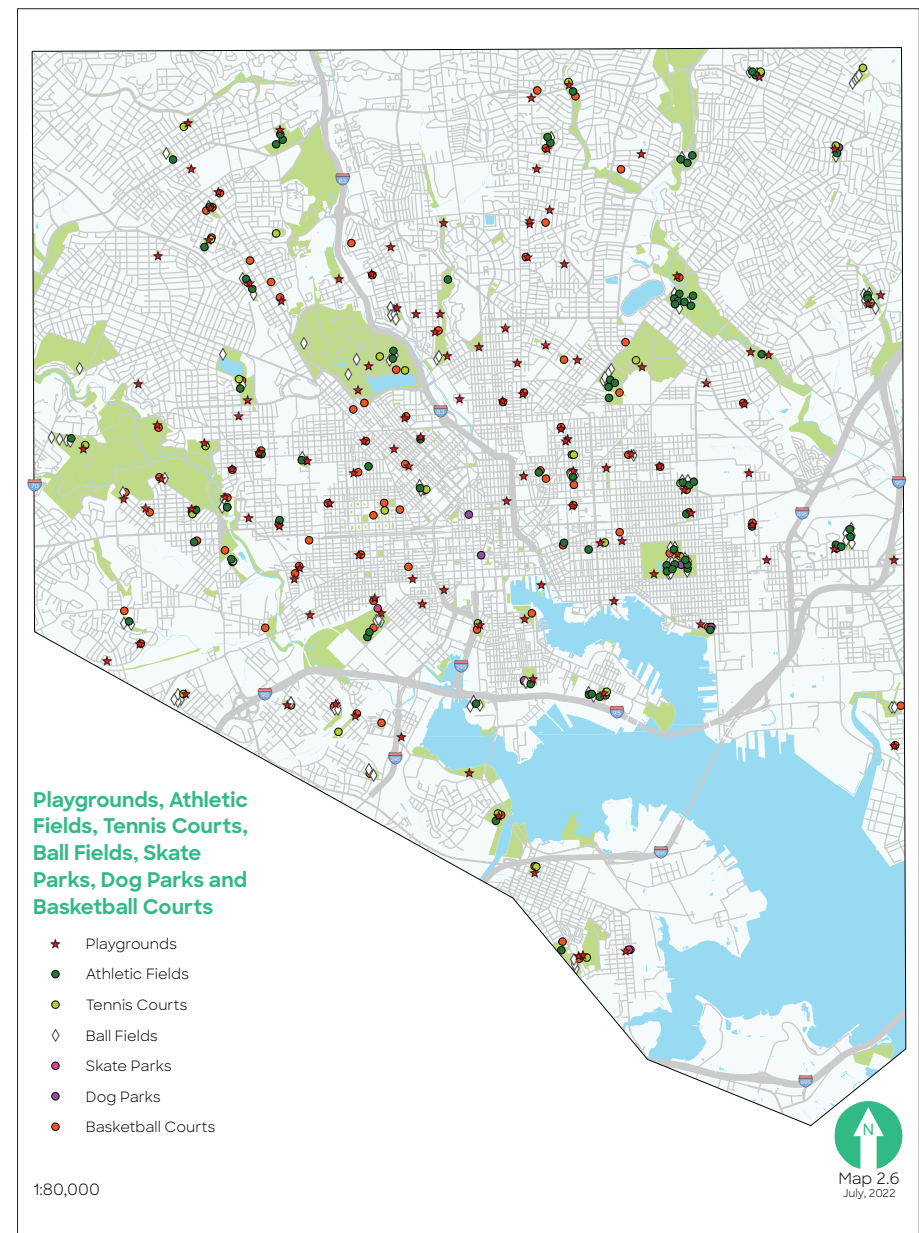
**Neighborhood Pools** are smaller outdoor pools located within communities throughout the city often within walking distance from where people live. There are 11 of these pools. Pool redesigns and or renovations are in design or are planned for Walter P. Carter, Greater Model and Greater Rosemont pools.

**Splash Pads** are playful water spray elements situated at grade surfaces. These are designated water spray areas, that allow for cooling water surface play without a pool. There are four (4) of these facilities, located at Solo Gibbs, Henrietta Lacks (formerly Ambrose Kennedy), Catherine/ABC and North Harford Parks. Both Henrietta Lacks and Catherine/ABC were newly constructed since 2017. The North Harford Spray Pad is sorely in need of renovation.

**Indoor Pools** are located inside a facility. There are four (4) of these facilities -one, Callowhill Pool, is a stand-alone single use facility, and the other three – Cahill, Chick Webb and Middle Branch are located inside recreation centers. Cahill and Middle Branch pools are the newest additions to the BCRP system.

### *Athletic Fields, Tennis and Basketball Courts, Playgrounds, Skate and Dog Parks*

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks has an inventory of 193 Athletic Fields (baseball, softball, multi-use), 124 Basketball Courts, 71 Tennis Courts, 129 Playgrounds, 4 Skate Parks and 4 Dog Parks. Most of these recreational amenities are located within existing city parks, with the others being stand-alone amenities (see Map 2.6). The conditions of the athletic fields, basketball and tennis courts and playgrounds vary, requiring regular maintenance. In addition, a select number of fields, courts and playgrounds are identified annually as part of BCRP's Capital Improvement Program, for



Map 2.6 BCRP Athletic Fields, Tennis and Basketball Courts, Playgrounds, Skate and Dog Parks

improvements. Fields are regraded and improved with irrigation systems, basketball and tennis courts and playgrounds are resurfaced repaired or replaced to meet current needs.

The athletic fields, basketball courts and tennis courts are dispersed throughout the city parks system. Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Athletic Division provides a wide array of athletic programming for all age groups, including clinics and competitive team league play. The fields and courts are regularly permitted for play amongst BCRP and nonprofit partnerships that promote competitive team sports and offer citywide league play.

The city has four (4) skate parks, located in Roosevelt and Carroll Parks: a small one located adjacent to the Curtis Bay Recreation Center, and a newly opened facility at Rash Field adjacent to the Inner Harbor. The largest and most popular by far is Roosevelt Skatepark, an 11,000-square-foot paved skate park with many ramps, surfaces and rails, functions as a playground for the city's skateboard, rollerblading, and BMX enthusiasts. The skate park was created through a partnership between the Mayor's Office, BCRP, Hampden community and Skatepark of Baltimore organization. The skate park at Rash Field, opened in November 2021, was created in partnership with the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore and a public private partnership of funders, including the City of Baltimore, the State of Maryland, the Baltimore National Heritage Area and private donors.

There are five (5) dog parks under the auspices of BCRP which serve as popular social destinations for dogs and their owners. The Department stipulates that a local community organization take responsibility for general maintenance. Latrobe, Patterson, Canton and Burdick dog parks are located within or adjacent to park spaces in the south (Latrobe Park in Locust Point), southeast (Patterson Park in Patterson Park and adjacent to Bonvegna Field in Canton), and northeast (Burdick Park in the Hamilton/Westfield neighborhoods). The Howard Street dog park is located downtown along Center Street at Howard Street, as a stand-alone amenity, which is very popular with Mt Vernon and other downtown residents.

Burdick Park dog park is the newest facility, having opened in December 2021. Located within park open space, the dog park includes a customized fence and gates, and play features consisting of repurposed boulders and logs.

### *Special Recreation and Thematic Programmed Facilities*

Special recreation and thematic programmed facilities provide focused activities and programs for youth and adults around specific recreational activities: indoor soccer and team sports, ice skating, roller skating and bowling, boxing, kayak and canoeing, golf, nature and environmental education.

Distributed across different neighborhoods in the city, these facilities are available for use by all interested residents (Map 2.7). Activities at many of the special use facilities are structured to offer casual recreation use during "public" sessions and also support team-based athletics during "reserved" sessions. Two indoor soccer venues, Myers Soccer Pavilion in Farring Baybrook Park and Du Burns Soccer Arena in Canton Park/Bonvegna Field are programmed to allow reserved time for team practice and competition, as well as free-play time. Du Burns Arena is owned by the city but leased to a private operator.

The two indoor ice rinks, Mimi DiPietro in Patterson Park and Mt Pleasant Ice Arena in Mt Pleasant Park, provide opportunities for skating lessons and general recreation, as well as reserved time for figure skating lessons, ice hockey and broomball team competition and practices. The Department also operates two special facilities in the Upton neighborhood: Shake & Bake Family Fun Center, a place for bowling and roller skating, and the Upton Boxing Center, a boxing training facility which has produced youths who have moved on to professional boxing.

The Baltimore Rowing and Water Resources Center at Middle Branch Park in Cherry Hill serves as a location for outdoor kayaking and boating programs, environmental education, and an active senior citizen program. The senior program takes place two days a week at the facility.





Map 2.7 BCRP Specialized Recreation and Thematic Programmed Facilities

As mentioned previously, the City owns four (4) golf courses located in city parks – Carroll, Clifton, Gwynns Falls (Forest Park Golf Course) and Mount Pleasant. Managed by the Municipal Golf Corporation, these public golf courses are open to everyone and historically were some of the first public golf courses. Northwest Driving Range is an outdoor golf driving range located in Northwest Park.

The Pete Rawlings Conservatory and Gardens, located within Druid Hill Park and the Cylburn Mansion and the Vollmer Center, located with Cylburn Arboretum provide a range of programming about horticulture, gardening and plants in partnership with friends groups. The Carrie Murray Nature Center in Gwynns Falls Park offers environmental education and hosts a nature based early childhood center. Other, more specific facilities that connect people with nature, including boat ramps, canoe/kayak launches, fishing piers and a campground are shown on Map 3.2. BCRP's total number of recreational facilities is shown in Table 2.2.

BCRP Recreation Facility Inventory			
Recreation Facilities - 584		Pool Facilities - 25	
Recreation Centers	49	Stand Alone Spray Pads	3
Basketball Courts	104	Indoor Pool Facilities	4
Tennis Courts	80	Park Pool Facilities	6
Multiuse Fields	86	Neighborhood Pool Facilities	12
Ball Fields (baseball/softball)	116	Connecting People with Nature - 48	
Volleyball Courts	11	Camp Ground	1
Skate Parks	5	City Farms	11
Bocce Courts	4	Community Gardens	4
Horseshoes	1	Educational Gardens	4
Dog Parks	5	Wetland Viewing Areas	6
Disc Golf Courses	4	Boat Ramps	3
Playgrounds	119	Fishing Piers	9
Special/Thematic Programmed Facilities - 14		Kayak/Canoe Launches	5
Ice Rink	2	Greenway Trails	6
Indoor Soccer	2	Other Facilities - 34	
Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	1	Park Pavilions	13
Rowing & Water Resource Center	1	Park Restrooms	21
Boxing Center	1		
Nature Center	1		
Conservatory	1		
Arboretum	1		
Golf Courses	4		

Table 2.2. Total Numbers of BCRP Facilities Inventory

## Recreation Programming

### *Core Areas of Programming*

BCRP offers a variety of recreation programs and activities to Baltimore City residents of all ages and abilities. Recreation Operations has developed Seven (7) Core Areas of Programming to ensure the agency's mission, vision, values and philosophy of Conservation, Health and Wellness and Social Equity are incorporated into the many program types and services offered by the Department. The Seven Core Areas of Programming are discussed below.

### **Sports Health and Wellness**

Sports Health and Wellness programs focus on developing the whole individual through sports by fostering good sportsmanship in an environment that is both fun and competitive. These programs aim to create opportunities for healthier lifestyles through activities focusing on the body, mind, and spirit.

### **Cultural and Creative Arts**

Cultural and Creative Arts activities use a multi-disciplinary approach to instruct and encourage children and adults in the cultural aspects of music, dance, theater and visual arts. The arts facilitate connections between people from a variety of backgrounds, and support the development of imaginative ideas, creative expression and technical skills in visual and performing arts.

### **The Environment and the Outdoors**

Environment and Outdoor activities foster healthy lifelong leisure activities that can be pursued at any age and which foster a sense of connection to Nature. These activities provide social, personal, economic, and environmental benefits for all.

### **Early Childhood**

BCRP provides multiple environments for infant/parent programs and toddler programs which help with child development. These programs

provide children and youth with a range of supervised activities designed to encourage learning and development beyond the typical school day.

### **Personal Growth and Development**

Personal growth and development programs promote mental, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual growth that allow a people to live productive and satisfying lives.

### **Aquatics**

Aquatic programming provides instructional and recreational aquatic opportunities to residents of all ages to support a variety of water-focused activities that promote healthy water-friendly lifestyles.

### **Civic Engagement and Volunteerism**

Civic Engagement and Volunteer activities create opportunities for communities to make a difference in the civic life of one's community, while developing a combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference.

### *Genders, Life Stage/Age Groups*

BCRP's recreation program divisions/units provide and encourage programs and services that strengthen cultural diversity, equity, and inclusion. All recreation program units provide for the recreational needs of the citizens of Baltimore City by ensuring opportunities for all ages, abilities, genders, and stages of life. As evidenced in the seven core areas of programming, Recreation Center Operations provide leisure services and program opportunities for toddlers to adults promoting family and civic engagement. The Active Aging Adults programs provide services for the senior population and the Therapeutic Division provide programs and activities for individuals with disabilities to ensure service and accessibility to physically and mentally disabled community members. Many recreation divisions/units also provide programs, services, and opportunities to all genders, ages, and life stages. These varied divisions and programs are:

- Aquatics- open swim, learn to swim
- Outdoor Recreation- biking, hiking, canoeing
- Athletics- youth and adult sports league
- Recreation Centers- a wide variety of programs within over 40 centers
- Special Facilities- roller skating, bowling, ice skating
- Carrie Murray Nature Center/Environmental Education- Wild Haven Program, Connecting Children to Nature
- Horticulture- Howard P. Rawlings and Botanical Gardens and Cylburn Arboretum
- Special Events- AFRAM, Movies in the Park

### *Program Opportunities and Class Formats*

BCRP provides diversified recreation opportunities in multiple program areas for various skill levels and abilities ensuring that everyone is provided opportunities to participate in all department programs and services at facilities in an inclusive environment. All program divisions promote the positive use of leisure time throughout Baltimore City and contribute to the physical, mental, and social well-being of Baltimore City residents. A variety of recreational activities and classes are offered to a wide spectrum of ages and interests at an affordable to no-cost basis. These programs offer exposure and initial experience in a variety of areas so participants can enjoy the scope and variety of recreational experiences in order to promote lifelong learning and the enjoyment of these recreational pursuits. Programs are designed to introduce and open the door to new experiences by teaching basic skills and fundamentals of various activities and offer opportunities for participation.

Programs fit within the seven (7) core programming areas ensuring Conservation, Health and Wellness and Social Equity initiatives are present in the many program types and services offered.

The Recreation and Parks divisions listed below provide programming within these program areas and contribute to the many program services offered to the citizens of Baltimore City.

- Special Facilities
- Outdoor Recreation
- Recreation Centers
- Horticulture
- Aquatics
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Environmental Education
- Active Aging Adults
- STEM Programs
- Athletics
- Special Events
- Forestry

A few examples of programming are described below.

### **Athletics**

The Athletics division oversees Myers Pavilion, which offers a full-size indoor turf field surrounded by dasher boards that is used as a multi-purpose field. Throughout the year the field is utilized for indoor soccer and lacrosse as well as a training facility for the softball and baseball organizations in the area. It is one of the locations within Recreation and Parks that hosts multiple events for BCRP's therapeutic programs. Outside Myers Pavilion, the site includes a full-size outdoor fenced synthetic turf field used for soccer, football and lacrosse as well as other events. Other programs planned and implemented by the Athletics team include flag football, track and field and youth baseball.



## Special Facilities

BCRP is lucky to count numerous special facilities among its assets. Special Facilities is a division within the recreation department which houses five facilities offering a variety of activities to the citizens of Baltimore.

Mimi DiPietro Family Skating Center is a seasonal ice rink used for public skating throughout the fall and winter seasons, running from October through the beginning of March. The center is used by numerous community groups and neighboring schools, and hosts local Special Olympics Speed Skating training and events for Baltimore City's Public-School system. Public and private schools use the rink as their home ice for their ice hockey programs as well as numerous adult clubs and a program for at-risk youth in the community. Adult Broomball is one of the larger leagues that utilizes the facility, playing Fall and Winter seasons here. Because it is seasonal, the ice is taken out in March and the facility is used as an indoor arena for tennis, camp, roller, and floor hockey. Though Mimi DiPietro is a seasonal rink, BCRP does have a year-round ice rink dedicated to public ice skating, figure skating and ice hockey for both youth and adult users.

Mt. Pleasant Ice Arena is a full-size NHL ice rink that is home to numerous local ice hockey teams ranging from age 5 through collegiate and adult pick-up leagues. The facility is the proud home of Baltimore Youth Hockey and the Baltimore Figure Skating Club. Local universities use the ice for their hockey teams and figure skating teams. Mt. Pleasant has one of the area's largest Learn to Skate programs, running sessions year-round, multiple times a week. This facility hosts Broomball leagues in the Spring as hockey season wanes. In the upcoming season, Mt. Pleasant will be offering yoga for youth through active older adults, and a modified chair yoga for the physically challenged and wheelchair bound.

Shake & Bake Family Fun Center is the largest of BCRP's Special Facilities covering more than 70,000 square feet. The center features a brand new, state-of-the-art, Brunswick Bowling Alley with 24 lanes, electronic scoring at each lane, interactive sound, and light system, two DJ booths, a

billiards room, a gaming area, two full-size concession areas, multiple banquet rooms and a full-size wooden-floored roller rink. Programming at this facility includes learn to skate modules, beginner & intermediate bowling instruction and summer camp activities. It is utilized by BCRP as a hub of programming and serves as a great source of additional revenue for private rentals.

Upton Boxing Center has hosted numerous boxing events sanctioned by USA Boxing, the Junior Olympics and both the Silver & Golden Gloves organizations. It remains a true gem in the boxing community and one of the very few gyms where you will find BCRP's youth boxing club training right next to today's pro boxers. The facility is home to the boxing club, but it is expanding its programming to offer classes in wrestling, grappling, MMA and self-defense and personal development.

Baltimore Rowing & Water Resource Center is a BCRP jewel that serves as the centerpiece of the Middle Branch Park. This facility is located on a tributary to the Baltimore Harbor with a beautiful view of the city skyline. The center is home to the BCRP's Outdoor Recreation Programs and the Baltimore Community Rowing Club. In addition to the rowing, there are hiking, biking, canoeing and kayaking programs that are programmed from this facility. Its amenities include fishing piers, boat ramps, picnic areas, and wetlands. It is a facility that hosts weddings, conferences, birthday parties, family reunions and meetings.

## Outdoor Recreation

Baltimore City Outdoor Recreation maintains its role as the gateway between Baltimore City Residents and the vast natural resources available to them. Throughout the year residents can join Outdoor Recreation for hiking, biking, camping and boating experiences within the city. Programs are available for all ages and skill levels, with the hopes of engaging and educating citizens in healthy lifestyles, as well as experiencing the natural resources available throughout Baltimore City.

Outdoor Recreation programs are a natural fit for our city park system: from hiking and biking the urban wilderness of the Gwynn's Falls

trail to canoeing and kayaking opportunities on the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. Programs such as Guided Bike Rides, Canoe N' Scoop, Gentle Hikes, Moonlight Hikes, Sunset/Sunrise Paddles, the Pump Track and Recreational Canoeing & Kayaking serve thousands of children and adults every year. Slightly different from our need to play organized sports, outdoor recreation appeals to our sense of adventure. When participants engage in outdoor recreation, it becomes an educational experience by default, particularly in an urban environment where human impact on the environment is readily observed.



*Figure 2.6 Outdoor Recreation Canoe and Scoop Program at Middle Branch*



*Figure 2.7 Outdoor Recreation Bicycle Program along Gwynns Falls Trail*

For example, during our Canoe N' Scoop program on the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River (Baltimore City Harbor), participants can enjoy the often-unseen natural beauty and wildlife present there, but also observe and clean up the pollution and trash that lines the shores and flows from the urban stream outfalls. The result of these two contrasting experiences very often sparks conversations that evolve from deep appreciation of nature to what can be done to restore and protect it. In the past three years, 838 people attended Canoe and Scoop programs and 1,906 bags of trash have been collected.

## Environmental Education

Environmental Education has taken on an increasingly pivotal role today. New generations are receiving an education that was not available to past generations. Environmental education is now paramount in the developing world. At Carrie Murray Nature Center, BCRP teaches the exploration of environmental issues, engages students and adults in problem solving situations and encourages individuals to take action to improve their environments and natural resources. In an urban environment such as Baltimore City, fostering a love for the environment can be a difficult task. However, anyone who develops a strong relationship with nature will likely want to preserve it. This theory is supported by Louise Chawla's study that suggests a correlation between adult environmental behavior and the quality and quantity of childhood experiences in nature. Because of this many of our programs at Carrie Murray are for children, most notably the Wild Haven Day Care service. Other programs include stream searches, family campfires, hikes, and a summer nature camp.

## STEM Programs

BCRP's STEM Education programs offer a variety of experiences for all ages. Opportunities include Rec2Tech Digital Learning Centers and Makerspace/Maker Education programs, Environmental-STEM (E-STEM) outdoor and nature-based learning programs, and recreation center-led STEM/STEAM Exposure Experiences. All programs offer participants the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning, participate in

problem-solving activities, collaborate with peers, and explore careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Design Thinking, and Maker-space and Maker Education.

### **Recreation Centers**

Each of the 49 recreation centers offers a wide array of programs for children, teens, adults, older adults, and special populations. Programs include sports and fitness, educational and nutritional development, mentoring, environmental and civic engagement, and volunteerism. These programs fall within BCRP's seven core programming areas of sports, health & wellness, cultural arts, the environmental & outdoors, early childhood/out of school time programs, personal growth and development, aquatics, and civic engagement and volunteerism that are designed to foster and develop a range of educational, recreational, cultural, health, fitness, and life skills with a focus on Conservation, Health and Wellness, and Social Equity. Recreation Center programs are developed by BCRP staff with the assistance of the community, recreational councils and participants. Recreation centers offer a substantially wide range and number of programs at a given time from fitness, dance, personal enrichment, crafts, social events, community engagement and family activities. The Department is committed to providing recreation opportunities to every community. The after-school program provides youth with recreational experiences for school-age children in a supervised, fun environment. Daily scheduled activities include topics such as nutrition and physical fitness, arts and crafts, music and drama, games, special events, homework assistance. Nutritional meals (snack & supper), provided by a partnering organization, are served daily. These programs typically use a 15:1 child to staff ratio to meet best practices.

The summer camp programs are certified through the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene/Youth Camp. They operate under COMAR regulations and guidelines and meet health and safety standards. These programs provide instructional summer day camp experiences that are designed to increase social, physical, recreational skills and engage in enrichment activities that keep youth learning

all summer, exploring new leisure and fitness interests, developing a greater sense of independence, while having fun!

Finally, BCRP programming for teens includes journalism, DJ and music production, mentoring, entrepreneurship, college-bound preparation, SAT preparation, workshops, and various life skills classes in pursuit of obtaining skills for future careers and development. Participants work towards the achievement of individual goals through a variety of activities. Youth also participate in recreational activities such as crafts, group games and competitions, dance, music, fitness, social events, swimming, community outings, civic engagement, and sports, provided by the department's Athletics Division offering sports, leagues, and clinics.

### *Outreach to Diverse and Underserved Populations*

BCRP always considers the issues of accessibility, affordability, and participant capability when planning and modeling programs and services. The department has a longstanding history of proactively identifying and serving underserved individuals and communities within the city. To address financial barriers, BCRP made a commitment in 2014-2015 to ensure that economic barriers would not prevent Baltimore city youth from accessing recreation opportunities. To that end, the department made all "out-of-school time" programs (after school and camps) free to youth. That commitment holds true and stands firm to date. Additionally, citizens can take advantage of the many opportunities offered through the following programs and services, at little to no cost.

**Parks Division:** Visitors can take a peaceful walk in the woods on the back roads of Druid Hill Park, sit quietly and watch birds by the lake at Patterson Park or play a relaxing round of golf in Clifton, Carroll and Forest parks. Smaller community parks provide areas to meet and greet your neighbors. There is something for everyone - senior artists who enjoy painting quietly by a fountain, the young urban professionals interested in biking or hiking the trails, as well as the youth ball players who hit the courts daily at the basketball, baseball and tennis courts.



**Active Aging Adults:** The Active Aging Adults Program offers a variety of life-enriching recreational program, trips, classes and events designed to promote good health, vitality, fun and fellowship. The program partners with local and private government agencies and businesses to host several city-wide health events to promote healthy, active lifestyles. Programs and activities are offered free or at a minimal cost. Baltimore adults 50yrs. and older can participate in crab feasts, splash parties, overnight and day trips, arts and crafts activities, exercise classes, lectures, screenings and more.

**Meal Program:** BCRP collaborates with non-profit and other city agencies to provide the United States Department of Agriculture's "Child and Adult Care Meal Program". Administered through a partnering non-profit to provide this Meal Program to youth eighteen years and younger in low economic areas to ensure nutritional meals are available. To ensure accessibility, all 49 recreation centers located throughout Baltimore city participate in the Meal Program.

**BCRP Fun Wagon:** BCRP takes recreational activities and fun to city neighborhoods. The Fun Wagon is our mobile recreation unit that provides recreational programming in neighborhoods across Baltimore with athletic equipment including hula-hoops, jump ropes, basketball hoops, tennis nets w/rackets and balls, assorted balls games, nature exploration activities and a nature chest of wildlife specimens. The Fun Wagon visits Baltimore City neighborhoods and community events sponsored by non-profits organizations based in Baltimore City at no cost to participate. Events sponsored by for-profit groups and those outside of city limits are charged a small fee.

**Therapeutic Recreation:** Another programming unit assisting with these barriers is the Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusion Services division. This unit provides a wide variety of recreation opportunities and services for individuals with disabilities in both specialized and inclusive environments in accordance with federal law mandated by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). This unit provides citywide youth and adult recreation programs and activities as well as inclusion services that provide individuals with disabilities the equal opportunity

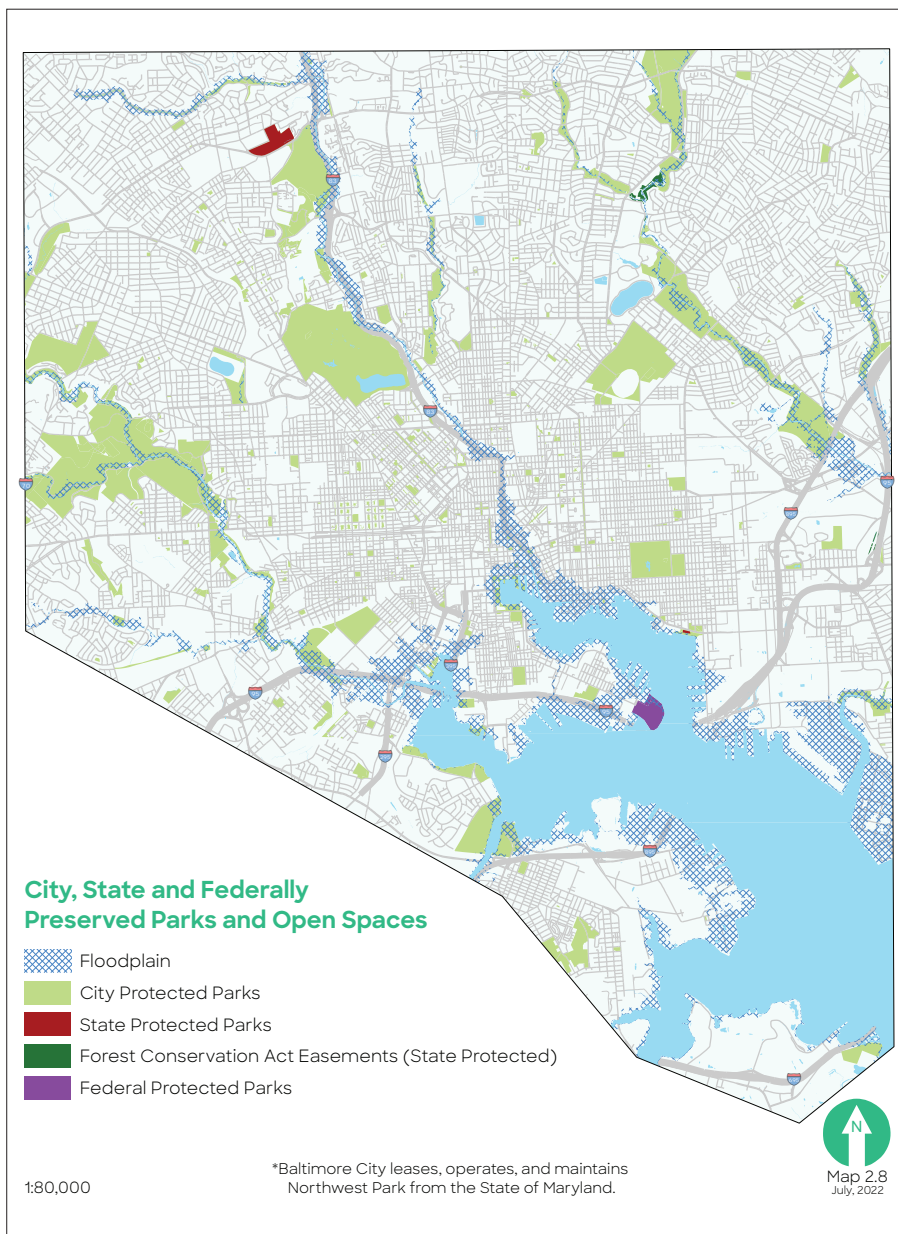
to participate in recreational activities with adaptations and reasonable accommodations while ensuring an inclusive environment.

**Language and Cultural Barriers:** In recognition of the emerging Hispanic population in Baltimore city, BCRP has begun to outfit programs and facilities with the ability to serve participant whose first language is Spanish. Recreation and Aquatic facilities began providing translated registration forms. Aquatic facilities have posted multilingual facility rule signage so that Spanish speakers are aware of facility protocols. BCRP engaged in producing cultural programming that promotes the diversity of the citizens of Baltimore City, with each recreation center producing Black History month programs and /or ethnic heritage events which highlight the demographics of the center. BCRP also hosts and partners in citywide festivals such as the Latino Fest, Polish Fest, Caribbean Carnival Festival, Stone Soul Festival, Pride Festival and more.

## State & National Park Properties in Baltimore City and Vicinity

There are two state park properties inside Baltimore City limits: Northwest Park and the Maryland Korean War Memorial. Baltimore City Recreation and Parks leases, operates, and maintains Northwest Park from the State of Maryland. The site was formerly occupied by the University of Baltimore. BCRP has made capital improvements to this park since 2017, including extending the Jones Falls Trail through the park, creating a playground and entrance to the park. Plans to expand the playground, and pathway system and improve access to the community garden are anticipated to begin design in late 2022. The Korean War Memorial, located in Canton Waterfront Park, is owned, managed, and operated by the Maryland Veterans Administration.

More substantial nearby State parks include Gunpowder Falls, Patapsco Valley, Patuxent River, Rocky Gap and Sandy Point. Recreational opportunities in the State parks offer a variety of activities including, hiking, fishing, swimming at a beach, nature study, and other passive recreational experiences that complement the recreational activities



Map 2.8 City, State and Federally Preserved Parks and Open Spaces

found in more urban parks. City visitors reach these State parks by private automobile, as well as organized school, camp, and club bus trips.

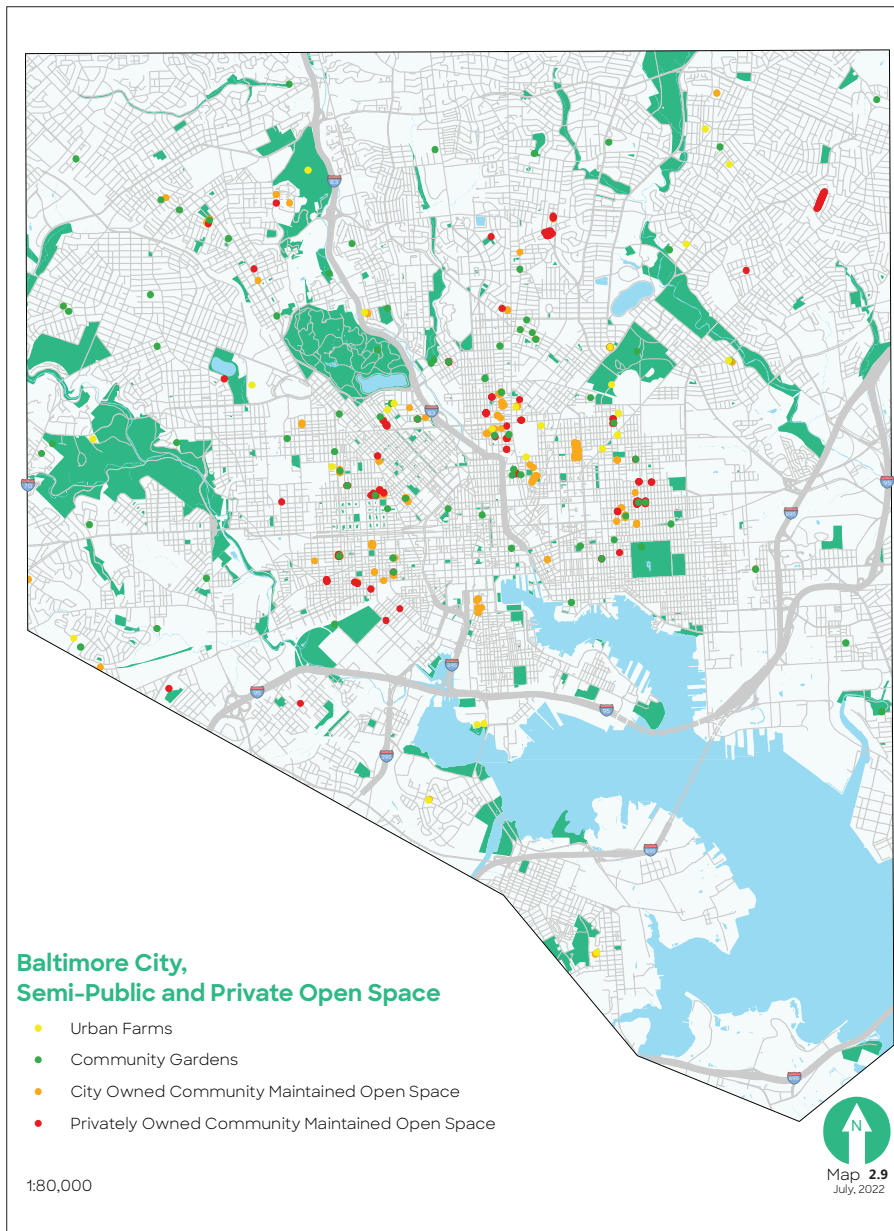
Fort McHenry is the only national park located within Baltimore City boundaries. The grounds around the fort are free to the public, and low impact recreation activities. Picnicking, fishing, bird watching, walking, and jogging are allowed during operating hours. The Hampton National Historic Site in neighboring Baltimore County also provides spacious grounds and gardens, as well as a glimpse of how an historic mansion (equivalent in stature to those in Baltimore City Parks, such as the Hopkins Mansion in Clifton Park,) can be preserved and tell a story (Map 2.8).

## Quasi-Public & Private Open Space and Recreation Facilities in Baltimore

Baltimore City is home to many universities, colleges, and private schools. These institutions have extensive recreational facilities and open spaces. Universities such as Johns Hopkins University, Morgan State University and Loyola College are often generous about allowing the public to utilize their playing fields, courts and running tracks during "off-peak" hours. Private and Catholic secondary schools also allow informal public use of their outdoor athletic facilities outside of school hours. In addition, Baltimore has many historic cemeteries that act as passive open space for walking and bird watching. Combined, these facilities provide an additional 1,975 acres of open space and recreational opportunities.

Other open spaces (not counted as part of the 1,975 acres noted above) include 17.3 acres of urban farms, and 10.3 acres of community gardens. The city leases another 5.8 acres of city-owned vacant parcels to qualified farmers.<sup>13</sup> Some of these and other types of community managed open spaces, such as pocket parks and green patches, are managed under the auspices of nonprofit groups. One such group,

<sup>13</sup> Note: the number of community gardens listed in the 2017 LPPRP was an estimate based on the number of vacant lots adopted by community members; the new number represents better inventorying of the total number of food-producing community gardens confirmed to be currently active and not necessarily a decrease in agricultural activity.



Map 2.9 Baltimore City Quasi-Public and Private Open Spaces

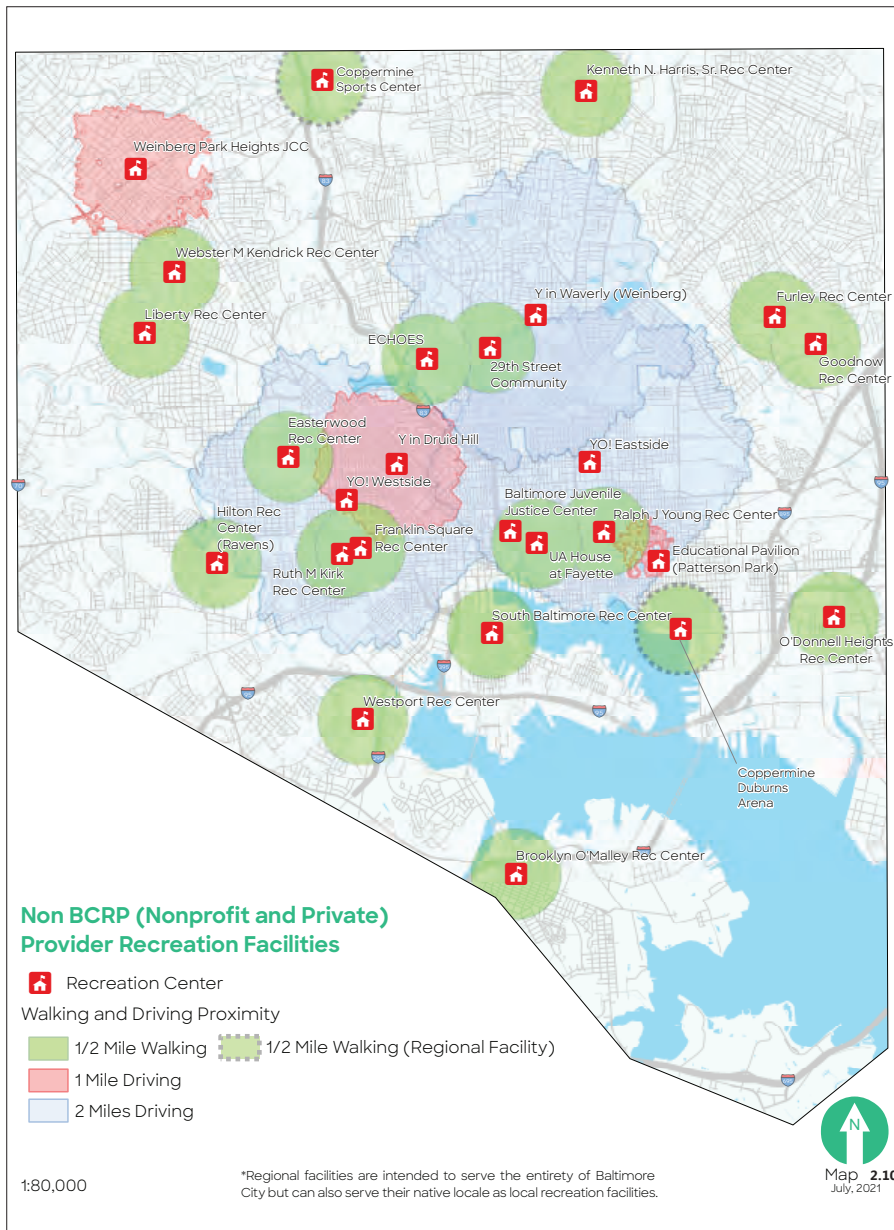
Baltimore Green Space, is a nonprofit land trust that “...partners with communities to preserve and support community gardens, forest patches, pocket parks, and other community managed open spaces.”<sup>14</sup> While the acres and facilities of the additional open spaces discussed in this section are not included within BCRP’s calculated land inventory, we recognize that these assets compliment and expand the public park system (Map 2.9). The City’s programs supporting the development of community gardens and urban farms are discussed in more detail as part agricultural land preservation in Chapter 4. The full inventory of City owned garden and urban farm properties is provided in Appendix C. Another set of semi-public open spaces are privately owned open spaces located in flood plains and preserved as public easements (Refer to Map 2.8).

“Uncounted” but contributing recreation facility resources for the citizens of Baltimore City are privately operated recreation facilities. The 2015 Recreation and Aquatics Facilities Plan identified 17 providers of recreation services with “brick and mortar facilities,” amenities and recreation programs similar to those provided by BCRP. These were mapped to indicate supplemental recreation service area coverage. In 2022, this list has been revised and updated to a total of 31 facilities to reflect a more recent set of non BCRP nonprofit and for-profit privately-operated recreation facilities and services. Additional private facilities include both leased BCRP recreation facilities as well as non BCRP privately owned facilities such as indoor and outdoor fields and an indoor and outdoor competition pool<sup>15</sup> (Table 2.3 and Map 2.10).

<sup>14</sup> Baltimore Greenspace website.

<sup>15</sup> This list does not include the host of private universities, colleges, and private schools, gyms and swim clubs that exist in Baltimore City.





Map 2.10 Non BCRP Provider Recreation Facilities

Non-BCRP Recreation Provider and Facility Type			
Provider Type	Non BCRP Recreation Provider	Facility Type	Count
Nonprofit & For Profit	BCRP Partner or Contractor	Recreation Centers, Educational Center, and Fields (Outdoor, indoor)	12
Nonprofit	Y of Central MD (YMCA)	Recreation Center	2
Nonprofit	Jewish Community Center (JCC)	Recreation Center	1
Nonprofit	Youth Opportunity Centers (YOC)	Job Training and Youth Recreation Programming	2
Nonprofit	Living Classrooms (Carmelo Anthony Center)	Recreation Center	1
Nonprofit	Civic Works (Goodnow Community Center)	Recreation Center	1
Nonprofit	Boys and Girls Club	Recreation Center	3
For Profit	Coppermine (Coppermine Sports Center and Field House)	Indoor Multisport Fields	2
For Profit	Coppermine (Coppermine Norris Field)	Outdoor Multisport Field	1
Nonprofit	Y of Central MD (Babe Ruth Field - Outdoor Multisport Field)	Outdoor Multisport Field	1
For Profit	Meadowbrook Aquatic Center	Outdoor and Indoor Pools and Fitness	1
For Profit	Municipal Golf Corporation	Golf Courses	3
Total			31

Table 2.3 Non BCRP Recreation Providers and Facilities

A list of approximately 260 non BCRP recreation service/program providers was also compiled as part of a separate services assessment exercise in 2015 in order to evaluate the market position and strategies for BCRP recreation programs and services moving forward. While this information has not been updated, many of these providers are still in business and the information continues to provide a useful operational context of recreation service providers in Baltimore City.

Many of these alternative providers offer recreation programs at many different sites across the city and are not housed in one drop-in location, yet they greatly contribute to the universe of recreation programs and services offered to Baltimore City residents. The ability to map this universe of recreation programs across the city is complex and is constantly shifting based upon the variable nature of programs offered. While these programs are not reflected in the non-BCRP alternative provider maps in this report, they contribute greatly despite their transitory nature to the number and variety of recreation programs serving all age groups in Baltimore City. The nature of these program offerings is temporal, changing by season or year, based upon demand, staff, funding, etc. They provide a snapshot of programs that are current at any one given point in time.

Research conducted by BCRP of the overall universe of non BCRP providers in Baltimore City, those with “brick and mortar” locations and those without, identified five categories of Providers:

**Larger Legacy Recreational Organizations (nonprofit)** – These non-profit groups have missions that have historically focused on youth development. Some have their own physical facilities, while others are program providers. They include organizations like the 33rd Street Y of MD, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) and the Boys and Girls Clubs of MD.

**Social/Civic Organizations (non-profit)** – These non-profit groups focus on the social and civic needs of at-risk, low income, or marginalized populations. Many charitable, non-profit organizations were established to meet these challenges and gaps in services, and to serve as intermediaries for private foundation and donor funds to support these efforts. The size of these groups vary from smaller organizations, such as the Clayworks, to larger capacity entities, such as Child First Authority (in the city charter) and the Parks & People Foundation. Many have specific missions and provide only music (Orchkids) or visual arts (Art with a Heart). Some of these organizations are site specific operations, while others provide services city wide. Many of the smaller groups have been quickly mobilized to respond to immediate needs, have limited access to resources, and lack the capacity to sustain themselves over the long run.

**Community-Based/Volunteer Youth Athletic Organizations** – These community-based, youth athletic programs range from Baseball (James Mosher and Roland Park Little Leagues) to girls’ volleyball teams like the “Starlings.” In 2015, over 90 organizations provided a wide variety of sports teams, leagues, and clinics in Baltimore City serving well over 1,000 children, most of which are in specific neighborhoods. Some groups are organized and sponsored by larger organizations, such as the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and the United States Tennis Association (USTA). BCRP helps to facilitate many of the leagues and coordinates field usage. This list does not include school-based high school athletics programs.

**City Agency Social Service Providers** – In 2015, there were many other agencies besides BCRP that delivered over 70 recreational, developmental, and leisure programs, from seniors’ programs at CARE centers to youth development at Youth Opportunity (YO!) Centers and Head Start programs that were sponsored by the Mayor’s Office of Economic Development and Human Services, respectively. The major provider of afterschool enrichment continues to be through the Family League as part of the Community Schools Initiative. As of 2020, the Family League contracts with program providers for the delivery of afterschool services at 46 locations. Many are of the “social/civic” and “legacy” classification. Such programming mirrors that of the BCRP Community Recreation Centers, which often provide similar programming at a recreation center which is attached to the school.

**Private, Fitness, Leisure, and Recreation Companies (for-profit)** – There are many for-profit, fee- based program service providers to accommodate an existing gap in services or to meet the needs of the economy, new population influx, demographic shifts, and new target markets. In 2015, there were well over 100 of these businesses, including fitness trainers providing fitness training to urban professionals and their families, private gyms and pools, recreational clubs, for profit youth sports clinics, day care providers, and after school centers. These groups are market driven and focused on a specific target market. One example is Coppermine which provides youth and adult classes, clinics, camps, leagues, and tournaments, nationally competitive club teams, and before and after school programs. Another example is Meadowbrook Swim Club which focuses on swim programs for all ages, but also offers fitness and wellness classes at their facility. Most of these companies serve a younger professional demographic, which is different than the populations and demographics that BCRP traditionally serves.

## MEASURING USER DEMAND

### User Experience, Preferences and Priorities

Information about the ability of Baltimore City's Park and Recreation system to meet the needs of Baltimore City residents is gathered both from people who make use of city parks and amenities, recreational facilities, and programs (users) and those that do not (non-users). The Department undertakes a variety of methods to engage users and non-users as a way to better understand what works, does not work and what is needed, how we can do better, what goals or vision we should strive to achieve, and what should be system priorities. These methods include: public meetings and outreach, surveys of residents citywide, surveys of BCRP users and participants of specific programs, the formation of project or program specific advisory and stakeholder groups, and social media and website feedback opportunities.

#### *Public Meetings and Outreach*

Between 2017 and 2019, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks undertook two significant outreach efforts to engage Baltimore residents in creating two plans: a **vision plan** for the recreation and parks system, *Building Upon the Olmsted Legacy: A Vision for Baltimore's Recreation and Parks System* (2019 Vision Plan) and an organizational **strategic plan** for the agency, *Rec2025: A Strategic Plan for Baltimore City Recreation & Parks 2020-2025* (Rec2025).

The 2019 Vision Plan identifies opportunities to create an enhanced recreation and parks system for the future. The vision for Baltimore City's Recreation and Parks system is based upon an analysis of system assets, issues and opportunities, and builds upon input received from residents and visitors to the system so as to enhance the services offered by the department.

The development of the plan was based upon extensive public and staff engagement to identify issues and opportunities for the Department to enhance the parks and recreation system. BCRP convened

two advisory groups – one made up of city agency partners and the other of residents and community leaders – to guide the planning process and help envision a future system. Resident opinions were obtained through two initial market research groups to help shape the development of the surveys, two surveys – one citywide and the other soliciting users of BCRP recreation and park facilities, and from four focus groups – two with adults and two with youth.<sup>16</sup>

The data collection and analysis process also included GIS mapping and resulted in a technical report.<sup>17</sup> The subsequent Vision Plan identifies broad goals and guiding principles and priorities to guide the agency in its approach and in specific recommendations for its facilities, programs, and assets in order to best serve residents. The goals and guiding principles will be discussed in the Goals and Objectives Section of this chapter. The recommendations focus on current and future need based innovative, accessible, and equitable Capital Planning and Investments, Operational and Maintenance Improvements, Program Offerings, Funding and Revenue Generation, Marketing, Communication and Advocacy, and an Implementation Strategy. The plan guides current decision making for improvements within the above areas.

The Rec2025 Strategic Plan identifies organizational improvements within the agency. The planning process involved discussions with elected officials, local partners, community stakeholders, residents, and staff to define agency priorities during the plan's five-year period between 2020 and 2025.

The planning process involved a review of 26 BCRP master plans, interviews with BCRP leadership and staff, surveys, community meetings and stakeholder meetings to define the following areas of BCRP agency focus: Our Culture, Our Community, Our Work and Our Spaces.

The key findings from the town halls, surveys, partner roundtables,

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<sup>16</sup> More discussion of the survey results and other outreach methods will be discussed in subsequent sections.

<sup>17</sup> The Technical Report for the project contains a detailed discussion of the survey findings, data analysis, maps and issues and opportunities.



staff focus groups, and leadership interviews helped shape how BCRP envisioned its future. Additionally, the past master plans highlighted the ongoing needs of various Baltimore communities and what gaps still needed to be addressed. All the information provided shaped five at-large categories:

- ***Our Culture***, which focuses on BCRP staff;
- ***Our Community***, which concentrates on residents and partners;
- ***Our Work***, which shapes BCRP's infrastructure;
- ***Our Spaces***, which directs how the Department cares for the physical structures and green spaces; and
- ***Looking Back to Move Forward***, which concentrates on capital projects.

Each category has five goals per year, except for ***Looking Back to Move Forward***, which has one goal per year, totaling 21 goals a year. The goals build on one another each year. Upon completion of all the goals, the Department will meet the performance measures for the category as well as the performance measures for Rec2025 as a whole.

2019 also saw Baltimore City Recreation and Parks establish a new division of Community Engagement & Strategic Partnerships within the agency. This objective is to improve communication and transparency between the BCRP and the Community as well as to increase and efficiently utilize resources and talents available for goals shared between the agency and the Community. The Community Engagement & Strategic Partnerships division attends local community association meetings and participates in facilitating a range of public meetings, community, commercial and institutional partnerships, and handles ongoing communication with city and state elected officials.

BCRP's Capital Development and Planning division regularly incorporates community engagement and input as part of its ongoing capital improvement projects, which may include recreation centers, pools,

parks, and playgrounds. Advisory stakeholder groups and or public meetings are normally held during the conceptual design stage and occasionally during the design development phase (prior to the completion of the construction documents), on a project-by-project basis. Park and facility masterplans typically involve more meetings, with the formation of an advisory steering committee, community wide public meetings, surveys and other public feedback opportunities. Information about capital plans and projects are posted on the agency website.

The City's annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) preparation process is another opportunity for the public to make suggestions and to comment on BCRP's funding requests (for City Bond and General Funds) for capital improvement projects. BCRP accepts capital project recommendations and suggestions year-round through a form on its website as well as written email requests. Results from Department surveys, public meetings, and other community engagement opportunities also contribute to the list of capital projects considered every year. BCRP staff are additionally solicited for project input. Projects are selected for requests by using rating-criteria developed by the Department of Planning, and a few more identified by BCRP. The criteria seek to ensure that capital projects consider equity, safety, environmental conservation/resilience, city administration priorities, and state and city mandates.

The Baltimore City Planning Department administers the CIP process and requires city agencies to submit requests in late November/ early December. These requests are published on the Department of Planning's website for public comment. Agencies are invited to make public presentations of their requests to the City Planning Commission in January. Details about this process are discussed in the Implementing Programs and Funding Resources section of this chapter.

## Opinion Surveys and Focus Groups

### 2019 Vision Plan

As noted in the previous section, BCRP undertook a citywide resident opinion survey in 2017 and a BCRP user focused survey in 2018 to inform the development of the 2019 Vision Plan. The survey research program involved the following stages<sup>18</sup>:

Stage 1 – Qualitative focus group research with Baltimore City residents to guide the formation of survey questions.

Stage 2 - Quantitative Citywide Survey of Baltimore City residents

Stage 3 - Quantitative survey of users of Baltimore City's recreation facilities and programs as well as visitors to the City's large and neighborhood parks.

Stage 4 – Qualitative focus group research with Baltimore City residents (conducted post survey results) to better understand specific issues identified by the surveys.

The overarching objective of the research was to incorporate the voices of residents into the long-term goals and vision for the BCRP System, along with assuring that City residents' and Recreation and Parks users' issues, interests and concerns were addressed in planning efforts. As previously mentioned in the section of this chapter pertaining to the Benefits of Parks and Recreation, the goals for both the User survey and the Citywide surveys were similar and were designed to learn:

- How residents value Baltimore's parks and recreation facilities and services – perceived satisfaction and level of priority as related to other services provided by the City;

- What residents view as long term goals/vision for a 21st century BCRP system, including program additions and enhancements;
- How residents use recreation and parks services now – exploring usage of specific parks and recreation programs and how City parks and recreation services enhance residents' quality of life; and
- What barriers exist to accessing and using the parks and recreation system.

Stage 1 involved two market research focus group sessions comprised of 15 residents with geographically and socioeconomically diverse backgrounds. Held on July 20, 2017, these sessions were intended to gain a preliminary understanding of resident perceptions of city recreation and parks facilities and to help identify the value participants place on these spaces. The findings from this market research informed the development of the citywide and user survey instruments.

The citywide opinion survey of Baltimore City residents was conducted between October 17, 2017, and December 6, 2017. The target audience was any individual living in Baltimore City with access to the recreation and park system who could provide insight into their thoughts about the system. The survey methodology made use of online, telephone and paper surveys to attempt to reach as many residents as possible, ensuring inclusion of areas of the city often overlooked using traditional survey research methods. Paper surveys were available in city libraries, recreation centers and at public events and meetings. Additional efforts were made to distribute paper surveys in neighborhoods where insufficient responses were received by other methods. The survey responses were weighted to ensure a proportionate representation of Baltimore City's population. The total weighted number of residents responding to each question on the survey was 2,284. The survey was available in English and Spanish.

The Recreation and Parks users' opinion survey was conducted between May 8, 2018, and June 15th, 2018. This survey targeted those users of

<sup>18</sup> Stages 1-3 were managed by the Melior Group, resulting in a series of summary reports for each stage as well as a Project Summary and Conclusions. Stage 4 was managed and conducted by Assedo Consulting together with additional analysis and reported in separate Technical and Vision Reports (2019).

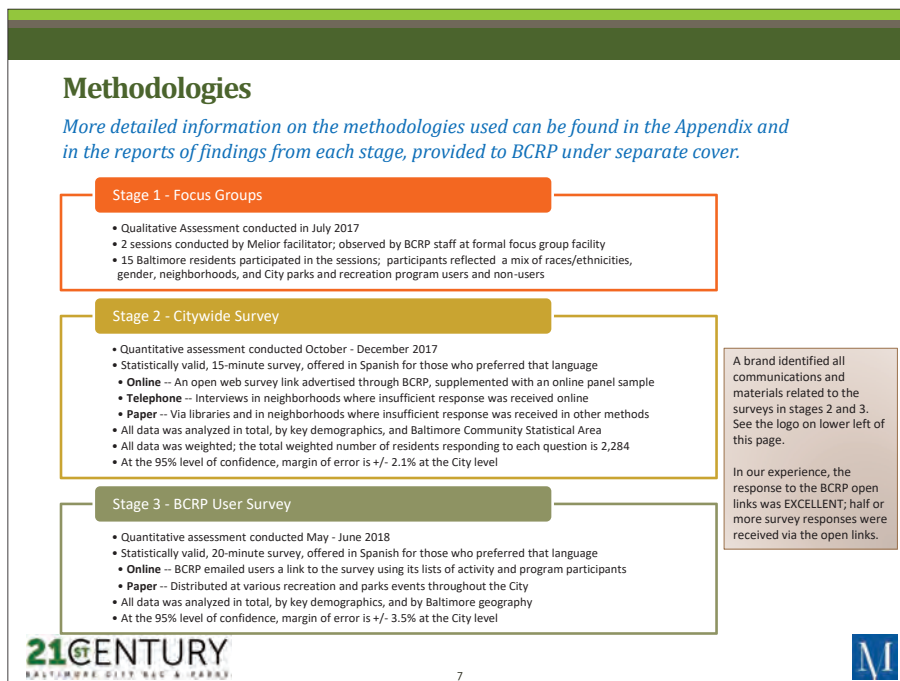


Figure 2.8 2019 Vision Plan Survey Methodology

the system interested in providing insight into how and why they used specific recreation facilities or parks in the city. The survey was conducted online and distributed in paper form at recreation centers and park events. A total of 802 surveys were completed. The survey was available in English and Spanish. A summary of the methodology is shown in Figure 2.8. Copies of both survey instruments and their findings may be found in Appendix B.

Following the results from the surveys, four (4) focus group sessions were conducted – two with youth and two with adults. These sessions delved deeper into the survey findings to learn more details from stakeholders about system conditions, program offerings and availability and overall satisfaction. The results from these focus groups contributed to the overall findings of issues and opportunities, and informed the Vision Plan recommendations.

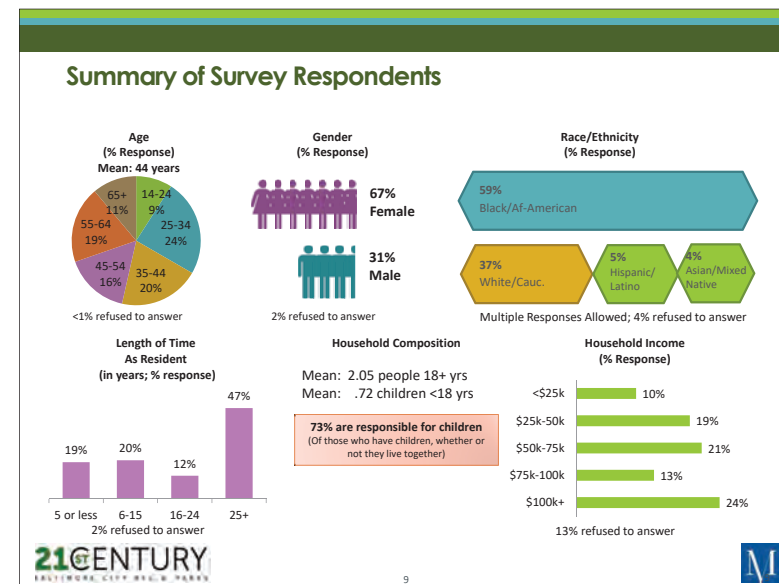


Figure 2.9 Citywide Opinion Survey Respondents Demographic Characteristics

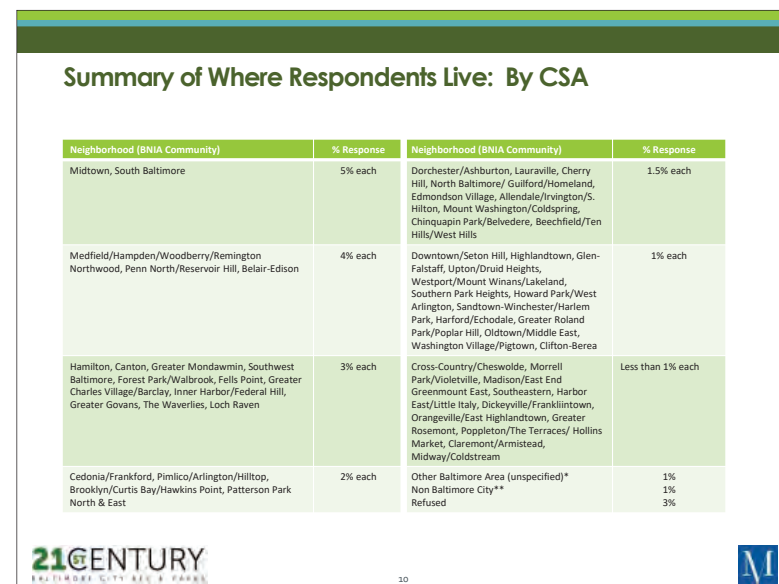


Figure 2.10 Citywide Opinion Survey Respondents by Neighborhood



## Citywide Survey (2017)

The citywide surveys were conducted with city residents to better understand their knowledge about, patterns of use, preferences, issues, and priorities for improvements to large city parks, neighborhood parks, recreation facilities and recreation programs.

### Parks

- 94 percent of respondents have visited at least one large city park in the past two years and 50 percent visit one of these parks once a month or more.

### Recreation Facilities

- 80 percent of respondents indicated that they have visited a recreation facility within the past two years, with recreation center, playgrounds and multi-use trails being the most used.

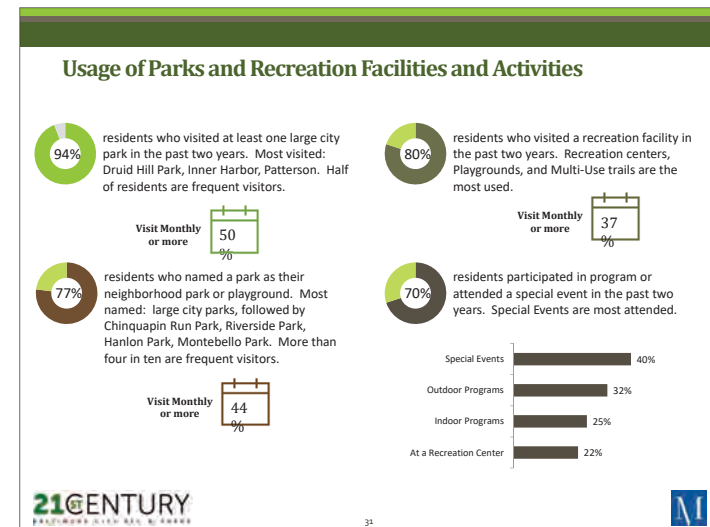


Figure 2.11 Citywide Survey Parks, Recreation Facilities and Activities Usage

Characteristics of the 2,284 survey respondents and where they live are shown in Figures 2.9 and 2.10.

Some of the key findings include:

### Park and Recreation Facility/Program Use and Participation

Baltimore City parks and recreation facilities are generally well used by residents (Figure 2.11).

### Citywide Park Usage

- More than half of the respondents noted three large city parks - Druid Hill Park (68%), the Inner Harbor (61%) and Patterson Park (53%) - as ones they visited in the past two years.

### Visit Frequency Characteristics

- Frequent visitors to large city parks (monthly or more) tend to be:
  - Higher income residents (\$75k or more)
  - Younger residents (age 34 or younger)

### Citywide Park Usage Characteristics by Age, Race, Income and Length of Residency

- By Race** – Three-quarters (74%) of Black respondents visit Druid Hill Park – more than any other park and significantly more than respondents of other racial groups visit. White respondents visit Inner Harbor (74%) and Patterson (65%) significantly more than Black respondents. Patterson Park is first choice among H/A/N/M\* respondents (67%).
- By Age** – Younger residents (under age 34) tend to visit Inner Harbor and Patterson Park while older residents (age 35 and older) visit Druid Hill.
- By Income** – Residents with incomes over \$100k (74%) say they visit Inner Harbor and Druid Hill Park more than residents with lower incomes.
- By Tenure** – Significantly more newer residents (<5 yrs) say they visit Inner Harbor (75%), Patterson, Federal Hill, and Canton Parks, than residents who have lived in Baltimore longer.

\* Hispanic/Latino, Asian, Native American, Mixed Races

- Newer residents (5 years or less)
- Residents with children <18 for whom they are responsible
- Less frequent visitors to large city parks tend to be:
  - Residents aged 65 and older
  - Long tenured residents (25 years or more)
  - Residents with incomes of \$50k or less

#### Neighborhood Park Usage

- Many respondents (77%) named a park they considered to be their neighborhood park or playground, but 23% were unable to identify the park or playground in their neighborhood.
- While 44% of residents say they visit their neighborhood park/playground monthly or more frequently, more than a quarter (28%) of respondents say they don't visit their neighborhood park at all.

#### Recreation Amenities and Facilities Usage

- Recreation Centers, Playgrounds, and Multi-Use Trails are the most used recreation facilities that residents have visited in the past two years; 20% have not visited any facilities in the past two years.
  - *By Race* – Black residents use recreation centers and basketball courts significantly more than White residents. White residents cite multi-use trails, athletic fields and dog parks more than residents of color (Black/H/A/N/M).
  - *By Age* – Youngest residents (<25) say they use recreation centers, playgrounds, basketball courts, and dog parks the most and use skate parks significantly more than residents of other ages. Residents aged 25-54 use multi-use trails more than residents of other ages. While oldest residents

(age 65+) are more likely than residents of other ages to visit the conservatory, and are significantly more likely than others to say they use none of the recreation facilities.

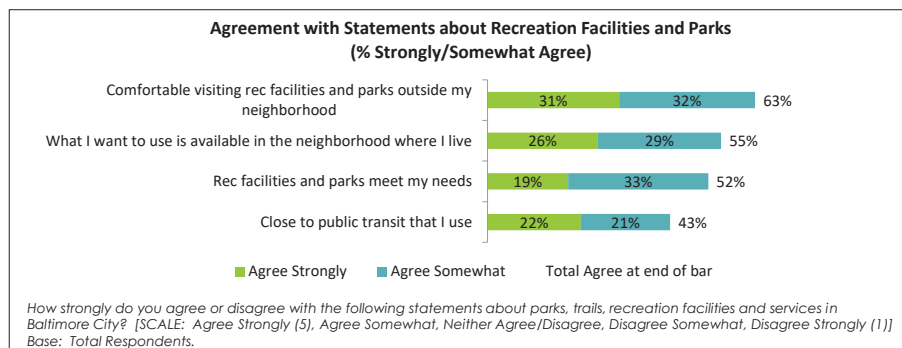
- Residents say they visit a recreation facility monthly or more frequently (37%), with 16% saying they visit weekly or more.
- Seven in ten (70%) residents have participated in some type of recreation activity in the past two years. 40% of those are for Special Events and 33% for Outdoor Programs; Two in ten (22%) say they don't visit at all.

#### **Recreation Activity/Event Participation Characteristics by Age, Race, Income and Length of Residency**

- ***By Race*** – Black residents are most likely to have participated in activities at a city recreation center and in Indoor Recreation programs. White and H/A/N/M residents are most likely to have participated in Special Events.
- ***By Age*** – Younger residents (<24) are most likely to have participated in programs at a city rec center. Those age 25-54 are more likely to participate in special events. Older residents (65+) are most likely to say they don't participate at all.
- ***By Income*** - Residents with household incomes of more than \$75k are most likely to say they participate in Special Events.
- ***By Tenure*** - Newer residents of Baltimore (<5 yrs) are most likely to say they participate in Special Events.

#### Park and Rec System Knowledge

- Apart from parks, sizable portions of residents know only a little or don't know at all, what BCRP offers. This suggests there is room for resident education about programs and services.



Source: The Melior Group

Figure 2.12 Citywide Opinion Survey Perceptions of Rec. & Parks Facilities

### Perceptions of BCRP Parks and Recreation Facilities

- Most people feel comfortable with visiting parks and recreation facilities throughout the city, even outside of their neighborhoods (63%).
- People say that recreational facilities are not accessible by public transit options (only four in ten (43%) agree that rec facilities/parks are close to the transportation they use) (Figure 2.12).

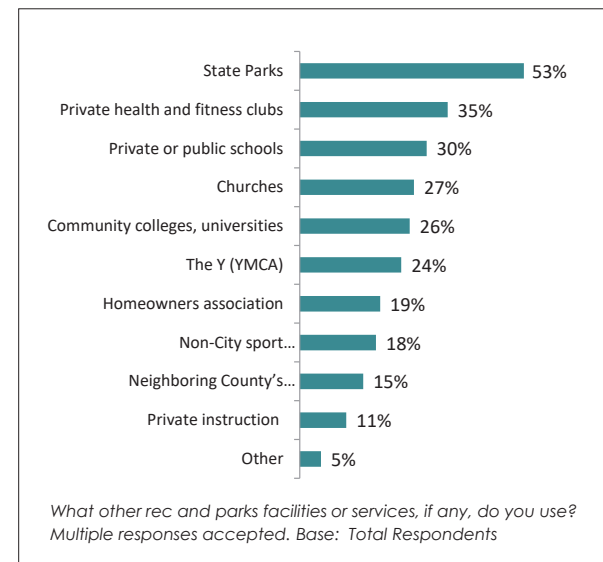
### Why People Don't Use BCRP Parks and Recreation Facilities

- The primary reason respondents don't use parks/ recreation facilities is due to an overall lack of awareness of activities offered (46%). A lack of free time is a reason for three in ten (30%) and lack of access by public transit (27%). Lack of safety (21%) and perceived high cost (21%) are other reasons cited.
- The top activities that residents would like to participate in, but do not are: adult fitness and wellness programs (44%), special events (35%), and concerts/films in parks (31%);
- The single most important thing respondents think should be improved is communication about recreation activities and opportunities in the City (24%). While to a much lesser extent (14% each), but important to note, residents are

also looking for activities that will **bring the communities across the city together** and for **additional programming for youth and young adults**.

### Other Types of Recreation and Parks Facilities Used

- More than three-quarters (77%) say they use recreation facilities and parks that are not BCRP. About six in ten of these are also BCRP parks and facilities users (Figure 2.13).



Source: The Melior Group

Figure 2.13 Citywide Opinion Survey -Other Types of Recreation & Parks Facilities Used by Respondents

#### **Users of State Parks (53%) tend to be:**

- **White and H/A/N/M**
- **Upper income (\$75k+)**
- **Age 25-54**
- **Have responsibility for children under 18**
- **Shorter term residents (<25 years)**



- *By Race* – Black residents are more likely than White residents to say they use churches, college/universities and the YMCA.
- *By Income* – Upper income residents (\$75k+) are more likely to use private health and fitness clubs, private instructors, and participate in non-City sports leagues. Lower income residents (<\$50k) are more likely to use the Y.

### BCRP User Survey (2018)

The survey of recreation and parks users provided an opportunity to capture more detailed information on how users interact with the recreation and park system. The participants were screened to ensure that they currently use the system, but they were not required to be city residents.

Characteristics of the 802 survey respondents are shown in Figures 2.14 and 2.15. Analysis by individual neighborhood area was not conducted because of insufficient response to this question for the analysis to be reliable. As such, communities were grouped into seven (7) larger geographic areas within the City of Baltimore for analysis.

A list of the seven geographic areas, with the CSAs and the neighborhoods that comprise them, along with the responses received from each geographic area and CSAs are contained in Appendix B.

The findings of the BCRP user survey were consistent with those extracted from the Citywide survey. Key findings include:

- Users of Baltimore’s Recreation programs and Parks are relatively satisfied with current recreation activities in the city (63%) and more than 75% of visitors/participants use the parks and facilities at least once a month, visiting weekday evenings or weekend afternoons;
- Driving is the most common method for getting to large parks, recreation facilities, and activities;
- More than half of respondents can get to their preferred park within 10 minutes;

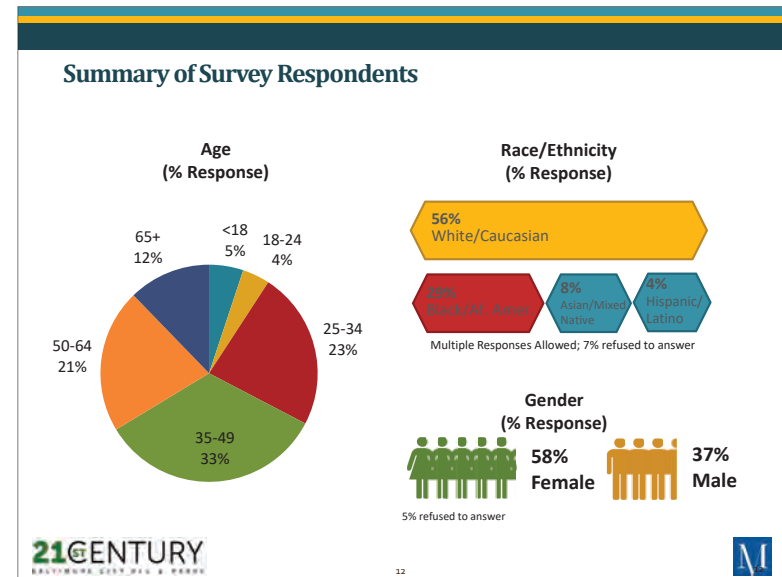


Figure 2.14 BCRP User Survey Respondents Demographic Characteristics – Part 1

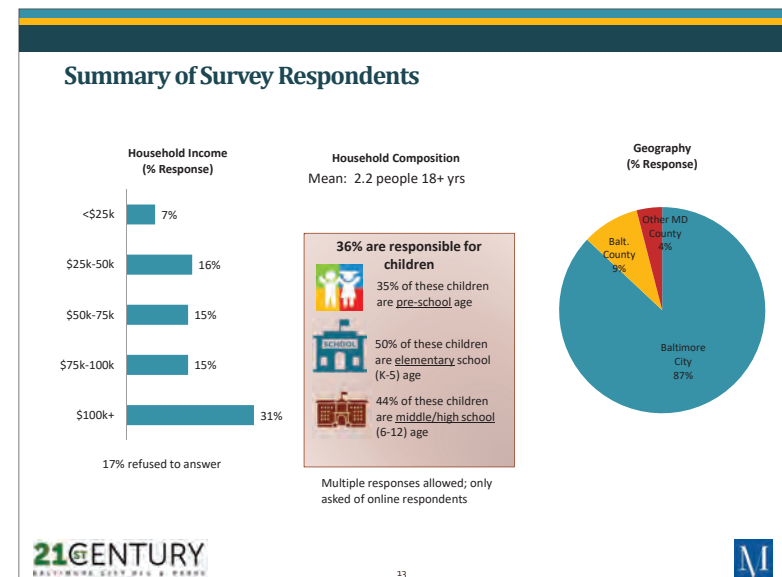


Figure 2.15 BCRP User Survey Respondents Demographic Characteristics – Part 2

- Users are concerned about the maintenance and upkeep of recreation center assets and large and neighborhood parks;
- Parks are used for relaxation (people watching and attending a special event) and exercise (walking or running/jogging);
- Neighborhood parks promote wellness and fitness activities. Walking is the predominant activity that people do when visiting parks (53%), with another 27% indicating that they either run or jog as well.
- The top three items receiving fair or poor ratings in neighborhood parks included:
  - Overall cleanliness, trash collection, trash cans (to prevent litter) (25%);
  - Visibility of park staff, more presence of park staff (16%); and
  - Maintenance/ make repairs to specific places/parks/ equipment (12%).

The user survey offered additional insights into desired programs and facilities for the system. Ideas gathered about preferences included:

- **Top desired park activities or features:** A track and field facility (46%); a competitive pool and fitness facility (38%); a skate or BMX park (30%); and a dog park (29%).
- **Top desired programming:** Natural or environmental (49%); Community gathering/social (45%); Outdoor theater (45%); Board games (36%); and Older adult programs (32%).
- **Ideas to support natural environment and habitat:** Activities for children (73%); Wildlife education (56%); Guided hikes (52%); Guided trail/forest walks (47%); Stormwater demonstrations (41%); and Nature play spaces (41%).
- **Ideas to support community gathering/social activities:** Festivals (72%); Art festivals/shows (68%); Outdoor painting classes (42%); Meet up events (41%).

- **Ideas to encourage exercise:** Walking or exercise loop (59%), Sunrise or sunset yoga (47%), Beginner level exercise classes (46%), Outdoor fitness stations (41%)
- **Ideas to make visitors feel safer:** Major pathway lighting (71%), Park rangers (57%), Park perimeter lighting (56%), Emergency call boxes (54%), Neighborhood street lighting (52%) and Increased police presence (49%) - (the highest percentages within these categories were from the northwest of the city)
- **Ideas to relieve mental stress:** Yoga (57%), Gardening (51%), Meditative forest walks (47%), Meditation (43%), and Tai Chi (36%).
- **Ideas to make BCRP programming more innovative and welcoming:** Eco-friendly policies/features (use of recycled materials, storm water rain gardens) (67%), free wi-fi (59%), Park Ambassadors or rangers (57%), mobile charge stations (44%), and multilingual staff (32%).

#### Issues and Opportunities

Key findings from the surveys and follow up focus groups revealed strengths and weaknesses which were used to identify issues and opportunities for system improvements.

- Most residents identified large City Parks, free events, neighborhood parks, and recreation and leisure activities as important to making Baltimore City a good place to live.
- People love Baltimore and the recreation and parks system and view it as a value to their health and well-being.
- Recreation centers, playgrounds, and multi-use trails are the most used facilities in the system.
- The majority of recreation and park users would like to see more activities for children and families with an aim to connect with and learn about nature.

- Promoting wellness and fitness initiatives, activities and programs should be a priority. This was a top ranked role that residents feel BCRP should play. While respondents mentioned many programs BCRP already offers, it confirmed that these specific programs should continue.
- Most feel comfortable with using recreation and park facilities throughout the city, even outside of their own neighborhood.
- Communications about offerings do not always reach all audiences.
- Direct access to recreation centers, events and activities is unavailable via public transportation.
- Parks are relatively safe compared to the citywide crime.
- People are not clear on the process by which specific activities and programs are identified and assigned to be offered at specific recreation facilities.
- Parks and open spaces are highly desirable destinations.
- People are not familiar with all the assets, amenities, and programs BCRP has to offer.
- Program data collected by BCRP is not consistent across the system.
- Facilities are not maintained at the same baseline across the city.
- Many recreation and parks facilities lack fundamental amenities.
- The criteria used to develop program costs/fees is not available to the public.
- Individuals support additional funding for the Recreation and Parks system.
- There is support for BCRP to use a variety of funding mechanisms (including grants, private investment, and public-private funding partnerships, as well as user fees) to support programming and capital improvements.

## Rec2025 Plan Survey (2019)

Building on the 2019 Vision Plan, BCRP reviewed past plans and met with BCRP leadership, staff, and the community to reassess the various interests and needs. BCRP reviewed 26 past master plans from May to June 2019 to identify what capital projects and programmatic services had been promised to various communities in Baltimore. From June to August 2019, interviews took place with each member of the then-Executive Team (19 total) to determine the vision for their respective Division, as well as to identify any issues and opportunities that might affect the Division's work; trends from the interviews were also analyzed during this time.

The Rec2025 plan process was publicly launched on September 11, 2019. It included a public survey, open until October 25, 2019, and received approximately 900 responses. During this time, resident town hall meetings, partner roundtables, staff focus groups, and youth pop-ups at recreation centers took place. BCRP created a Steering Committee comprised of staff and external stakeholders to help guide the Agency while building the plan. There were a total of eight town hall meetings; five were location-based and three specifically focused on seniors, youth, and accessibility. BCRP engaged approximately 300 residents through these interactive town halls. Three partner roundtables took place with "Friends Of" groups, non-profit and for-profit businesses, and City Agencies. Two staff focus groups were held for each BCRP Bureau, (a total of six). Finally, six youth pop-up meetings took place at our recreation centers. These engaged over 130 youth, aged between 13 and 19 years old. BCRP also met with then-Mayor Bernard "Jack" Young and then-City Council President Brandon Scott (now Mayor Brandon Scott) to understand their vision for BCRP and the City.

From October to November 2019, BCRP worked with its Steering Committee to analyze the results from the various meetings and surveys and to identify key findings. These were used to build out the performance measures, at-large categories, goals, and financial implications. In November 2019, the draft Plan was developed and open for public comment. On December 31, 2019, Rec2025 was published (in English and Spanish) and made available to the public, staff, and stakeholders.



A summary of the survey findings and the top responses are broken down by type of meeting. These findings are provided in Appendix B.

### **Recreation and Park Program and Facility Surveys**

Surveys of visitors to individual recreation facilities and parks, as well as surveys of program participants, are undertaken as needed. These are designed to elicit feedback on specific issues, to identify priorities, and desired programs or improvements, and to evaluate current programs. Findings from surveys inform maintenance priorities, program design and future capital improvements. Outdoor Recreation, Horticulture, Therapeutic and Senior Programs undertake surveys and evaluations to inform program improvements (Figure 2.16). As of 2022, surveys will be sent for every program through CivicRec, BCRP's program registration software, and will be ongoing throughout the year.

Recent surveys have focused on:

#### *The Chick Webb Recreation Center*

Design for the renovation and expansion of the Chick Webb Recreation Center began in the Spring of 2019. Construction documents are currently in process and construction is anticipated to start in January 2023. The community engagement process began in May 2019 with the formation of a Working Advisory Group made up of area residents, representatives from the broader Perkins, Somerset, Oldtown East Baltimore redevelopment area (partially funded with a HUD Choice Neighborhoods Grant), city agency representatives, and a mix of community organizations and institutions. This group met regularly between 2019 and 2020 to provide input at key decision points in the conceptual design phase of the building. A total of four (4) public meetings were held to discuss the project. Two public surveys were conducted online and through distributed paper forms, to elicit input about the key building, landscape features and programming. Results from the surveys helped inform building features and program priorities. An advisory Exhibit Working Committee is ongoing to provide input on the historical exhibits and art that will be incorporated into the building and on the exterior wall to commemorate Chick Webb, East Baltimore, and the history of the building.

#### *FY21 Family League Programming*

In Fiscal Year 2021, the Family League of Baltimore provided a \$1 million investment to support the addition of quality, community-based out-of-school-time programming at 43 Baltimore City Recreation and Parks centers across the city. The funds were designated by statute to be awarded through the Children's Cabinet – by way of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services – to the Family League in its role as the Local Management Board for Baltimore City.

While a portion of the funding, thanks to this grant, has been invested in enriching BCRP's summer camp programs, BCRP is also offering evening and Saturday programs from July-September as well. All told, there were over 290 new sessions of new youth programming in 2021 due to this grant.

BCRP programming provided engagement opportunities targeting the full spectrum of children, youth, and young adults. These cover a variety of focus areas including math, music, dance, mentorship, culinary and nutrition, journalism and more. Examples include kids joining in Bocek Recreation Center's Hip Hop & Poetry class, learning about Math through Music while discovering the Art of Being a DJ at the Hilton Recreation Center, and visiting the Harlem Park Recreation Center to participate in a Financial Literacy and Youth program.

A sampling of other programs offered included:

- Young Queens in Training Mentoring
- Adolescent Recreational Social and Emotional Skills
- Beat the Streets Wrestling
- Mobile Journalism
- Moving, History, Dance

Surveys were conducted in-person with youth participants between August 1-August 13, 2021 to evaluate the summer camp programming. Additional surveys were conducted with youth participants between Sept 20-30, 2021, to evaluate the September programming. A few findings from the survey include:

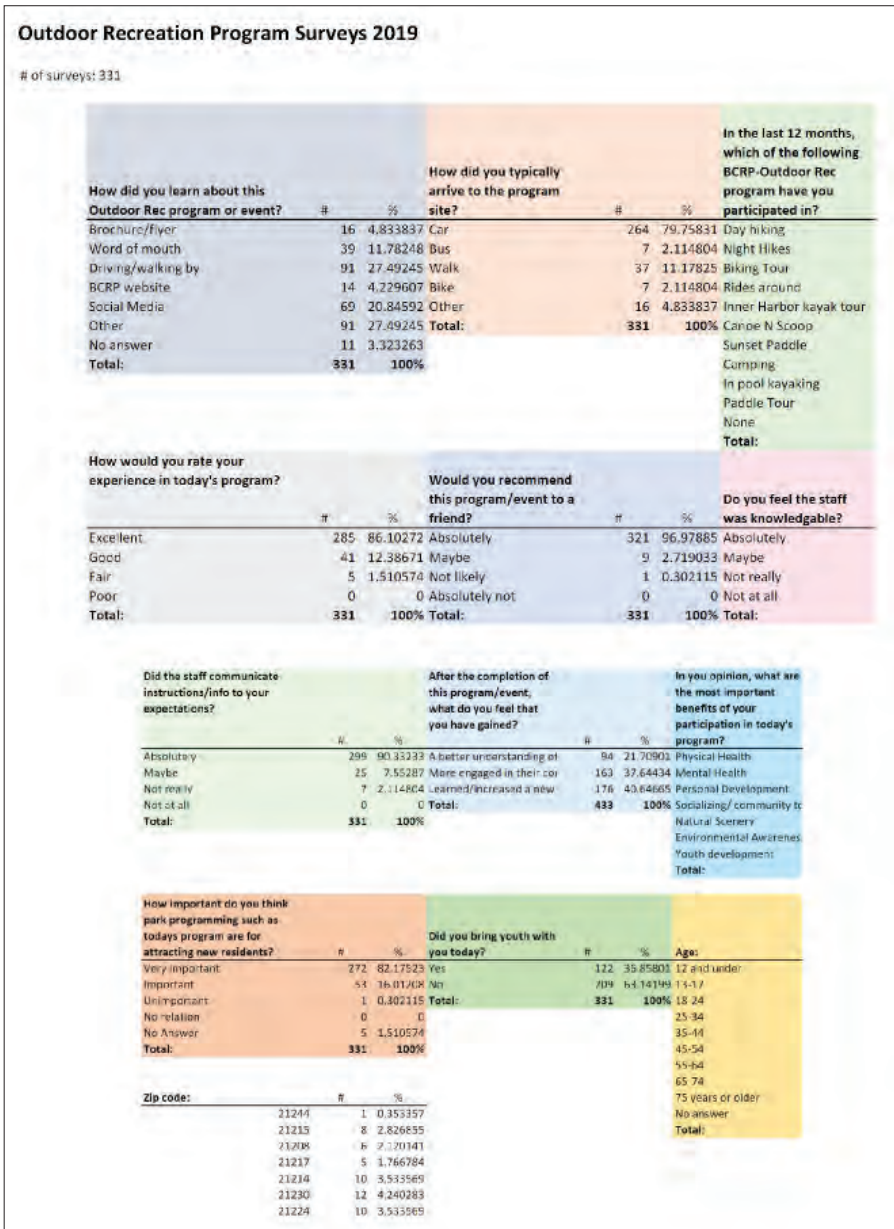


Figure 2.16 Outdoor Recreation Program Survey Results, 2019

- 92% of youth feel safe in our programs.
- 84% said they get to choose at least one activity they like.
- 90% said the adults are good examples for the youth participants and 89% said BCRP staff cares about them.
- 63% said the programs can help them get better grades in school.

Results from this survey will be fed into 2022 programming, with a goal of 75% for grade improvement.

## Facility Usage, Demand and Program Participation Rates

### Parks and Recreational Facilities

#### Parks

People visit and use Baltimore City's Park system by and for different means: casual drop in visits (for exercise workouts, families using playgrounds, trail or path walks, spur of the moment or planned), participation in park programs (BCRP and non BCRP organized) and by reserving/permitting the use of park facilities for athletic league play or events, special events or social gatherings. Estimates for these types of visits are not entirely clear cut.

Casual drop in park visits can be statistically estimated by conducting counts on representative weekdays, weekends during different times of the day and seasons of the year. A more recent method involves tapping into cell phone data. BCRP does not currently collect or make use of this data.

BCRP collects registration data from program participants and facility rentals. During the 2021 calendar year, an estimated 69,538 people were either enrolled in a park program or rented a facility, such as a pavilion or area within 26 different parks (Table 2.4). The Department also has data on the number of permits that have been issued to reserve a field, pavilion, park area or other amenity. These are recorded by park (See Appendix B for table). Not surprisingly, Patterson Park and Druid Hill Parks had the largest number of permits, 2,922 and 2,835, respectively

in 2021. In 2019, BCRP switched over to using the CivicRec software to track registrations and permits. While this is a great improvement over the previous software (RecPro) the Department was using, there have been some issues with the data collection. As a result, BCRP does not have a consistent record of the number of participants who use the facility per approved permit. This hinders the ability to reach a full picture of overall park usage.

## Recreation Centers

In 2021, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks launched over 290 brand new sessions of free youth programming in 2021. These were made possible thanks to a \$1 million investment from the Family League of Baltimore to support the addition of quality, community-based out-of-school-time programming at over 40 BCRP recreation centers across the city. As described previously, programming provided engagement opportunities covering various focus areas such as math, financial literacy, music, dance, mentorship, and anti-violence workshops, culinary and nutrition classes, journalism and more. Total attendance at recreation centers in 2020 and 2021 were significantly lower due to the global Covid-19 pandemic and reflect reductions in recreation center operations, hours, and the switch to virtual programming. During the 2021 calendar year, total attendance at 44 recreation centers was 175,810 visits. This reflects both registrations for programs as well as walk in for general center usage (Tables 2.5 and 2.6).

## Aquatic Facilities

Usage of BCRP aquatic facilities has fluctuated over the past few years. Total visits at pools in 2020 and 2021 were significantly lower due to the global Covid-19 pandemic and reflect the introduction of online pre-registration, reductions in operations and hours, as well as the closure of some facilities to allow for renovations and upgrades (Table 2.7). Druid Hill Park pool, the most popular outdoor pool in the system, has been closed since 2020 to facilitate a major expansion.

The pool reopened during the summer of 2022 and it is anticipated

2021 Program and Rental Participants by Park		
Park	Number of Participants	% of Total Head Count
Baltimore Rowing Center @ Middle Branch Park	4973	7.15%
Bocek Park	165	0.24%
Canton Waterfront Park	3000	4.31%
Carroll Park	3770	5.42%
Clifton Park	1687	2.43%
Cloverdale	18	0.03%
Druid Hill Park	25623	36.85%
Farring Baybrook Park	81	0.12%
Ft. Holabird Park	875	1.26%
Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park	2377	0.34%
Hanlon Park	679	0.98%
Herring Run Park	1049	1.51%
Inner Harbor Park	5000	7.19%
Irvin Luckman Park	90	0.13%
Lakeland Park	139	0.20%
Latrobe Park	1964	2.82%
Montebello Park	322	0.46%
Northwest Park	975	1.40%
Patterson Park	11230	16.15%
Riverside Park	3100	4.46%
Roosevelt Park	1098	1.58%
Solo Gibbs Park	340	0.49%
St. Mary's Park	11	0.02%
Swann Park	838	1.21%
Thames Street Park	145	0.21%
Towanda Park	34	0.05%
<b>Total Head Count</b>	<b>69538</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Table 2.4 Program and Facility Participants by Park

Year	Recreation Center Visit Totals
2018	532,426
2019	526,894
2020	197,589
2021	155,037

Table 2.5 Recreation Center Visit Totals 2018-2021



2021 Recreation Center Attendance by Visit Type			
Recreation Center Name	Program Attendance	General Admission	Total Visits
Bentalou Recreation Center	1790	0	1790
Bocek Recreation Center	604	0	604
C.C. Jackson Recreation Center	2033	1783	3816
Cahill Fitness & Wellness Center	4587	7321	11908
Carroll F. Cook Recreation Center	1182	863	2045
Cecil Kirk Recreation Center	4411	0	4411
Chick Webb Recreation Center	727	82	809
Coldstream Recreation Center	1748	254	2002
Collington Square Recreation Center	389	0	389
Curtis Bay Recreation Center	1541	0	1541
Deweese Recreation Center	553	0	553
Edgewood Lyndhurst Recreation Center	1788	396	2184
Ella Bailey Recreation Center	1799	0	1799
Farring Baybrook Recreation Center	2539	888	3427
Fred B. Leidig Recreation Center	2327	0	2327
Gardenville Recreation Center	912	0	912
Greenmount Recreation Center	1208	100	1308
Harlem Park Recreation Center	5774	0	5774
Herring Run Recreation Center	2003	0	2003
Hilton Recreation Center	1234	0	1234
James D. Gross Recreation Center	4907	0	4907
Lakeland Recreation Center	3354	0	3354
Lillian Jones Recreation Center	1238	0	1238
Locust Point Recreation Center	1224	0	1224
Madison Square Recreation Center	5613	250	5863
Mary E. Rodman Recreation Center	2281	0	2281
Medfield Recreation Center	2616	2116	4732
Mora Crossman Recreation Center	2439	0	2439
Morrell Park Recreation Center	3863	0	3863
Mt. Royal Recreation Center	3292	2	3294
Northwood Recreation Center	2344	0	2344
Oliver Recreation Center	331	0	331
Parkview Recreation Center	2544	0	2544
Patapsco Recreation Center	211	175	386
Rita Church Recreation Center	2680	1213	3893
Robert C. Marshall Recreation Center	7012	0	7012
Roosevelt Recreation Center	1575	575	2150
Samuel F. B. Morse Recreation Center	52854	140	52994
Solo Gibbs Recreation Center	1962	0	1962
Towanda Recreation Center	380	418	798
Upton Boxing Center	9469	1377	10846
V.S. Baker/Patterson Park Recreation Center	2419	1865	4284
Walter P. Carter Recreation Center	277	0	277
Woodhome Recreation Center	1958	0	1958
<b>Total Recreation Center Visits</b>	<b>15,6053</b>	<b>19,818</b>	<b>17,5810</b>

Table 2.6 Recreation Center Attendance by Visit Type

to be a regional draw. The redesigned pool includes the following upgrades:

- Increased capacity from 300 to 500 users
- Seven USA Swimming regulated lap lanes (high school competition length) making it the city's first competition pool
- Zero-depth entry allows ease of access into the pool regardless of skill level or physical ability
- Multi-level water play features; slides, buckets, and sprays
- New aquatic climbing wall and three-quarter meter diving board

Usage by Pool and Calendar Year			
Pool Name	2019 Visits	2020 Visits	2021 Visits
Ambrose Kennedy Pool	0	430	1952
C.C. Jackson Pool Total	2003	48	4025
Callowhill Aquatics Center Total	5403	2568	3748
Cherry Hill Splash Park	8689	3978	0
Clifton Park Pool Total	12045	3362	11764
Coldstream Pool Total	3699	0	0
Druid Hill Park Pool Total	22699	0	0
Farring Baybrook Pool			890
Greater Model Pool Total	38	0	0
Liberty Neighborhood Pool Total	2341	160	1043
Middlebranch Aquatics Center Total	211	498	452
O'Donnell Heights Pool	0	1346	2210
Oliver/ Murdock Pool	0	324	1034
Patterson Park Pool Total	15499	4543	12967
Riverside Park Pool	16565	5461	10071
Roosevelt Park Pool Total	2862	4090	8026
Towanda Neighborhood Pool Total	1510	0	0
William McAbee Pool	0	254	3133
<b>Annual Totals</b>	<b>93564</b>	<b>27062</b>	<b>61315</b>

Table 2.7 Pool Visits by Calendar Year

## Special Recreation Facilities

Myers Soccer Pavilion hosts a variety of indoor field permitted events as well as programs centering around soccer, lacrosse and rugby. The Center also offers summer camp and after school programs. In 2021, Myers had over 5,000 visits that included spectators for permitted rentals. Program registrations included 38 for an After School program, 33 for summer camp and 35 for rugby program. 2021 participant

numbers were hampered due to the uncertainty of facility hours and by the inability to plan new programs due to the pandemic.

Participant numbers are already trending upwards for the early part of 2022 and in the upcoming year, BCRP will be developing and administering its own league play in addition to offering permitted programs and events. The facility has the potential to attract greater numbers of participants, however it is old and needs renovation to meet current standards and amenities.

BCRP's two ice rinks – Mt Pleasant and Mimi DiPietro, played tag team over the past two years. Mt Pleasant Ice Arena was closed for renovation in 2020 and Mimi DiPietro opened to serve the public. With the reopening of Mt. Pleasant in 2021, Mimi DiPietro has closed due to the long- time poor condition of the facility.

In 2020, Mimi DiPietro served a total of 3,598 visits over a three-month period. Upon opening in 2021 for the month of December, Mt Pleasant hosted a total of 1,165 visits (including spectators), for a variety of skating programs.

BCRP is currently exploring the feasibility of redeveloping an existing golf course in order to create a revenue generating, self-supporting regional sportsplex facility. This would house a new ice facility with hockey rinks, a 10-lane 50-meter competition pool, multipurpose fields with a field house, 9-hole 3-par golf range, driving range, parking and concessions. This long-term project is in the early stages of design and funding feasibility.

The Middle Branch Rowing and Water Resource Center served a total of 16,800 visits over an eight-month period in 2021, compared to 800 visits over a three-month period in 2020.

Shake & Bake Family Fun Center hosted 12,421 visits to the facility for bowling and roller skating over a seven-month period in 2021.

## *Recreational Program Participation*

### **Summer Camps**

Summer camp programs are a popular recreation activity that are built around a combination of academic enrichment, field trips, nature outings, sports and swimming. Each recreation center camp session covers four days a week, on the fifth day (day of the week varies by camp) the recreation centers go on offsite trips. Participation in the offsite trips is available for an optional fee. A separate tennis camp (All-Star Tennis Camp) focuses on teaching the fundamentals of tennis and is packed with fun activities for learners of all skill levels. The camp is staffed by knowledgeable tennis staff who have many years of experience in playing and instructing youth. In 2018, Camp Baltimore summer programs were held at X recreation centers and in 2019 at 43 different recreation center sites across the city, serving a total of 2805 and 3119 participants, respectively.

During the summer of 2020, programs were scaled back due to the pandemic. Health and safety precautions were in place in response to the latest COVID-19 guidance, including extremely limited registration spots to ensure proper social distancing. The B'More Summer Fun program was structured as a predominantly outdoor program for youth ages 5 to 12 and was hosted at 19 sites citywide, including at recreation centers and other locations including Carrie Murray Nature Center. The program included games, nature exploration, STEM activations, pick-up sports, crafts and more. The Summer Fun program had 8 total swim days but there were no scheduled field trips. A total of 910 people participated in the programs.

In 2021, the BCRP's summer camp programs expanded to 44 sites and included an increased number of programs - Camp Baltimore, B'More Summer Fun and Camp Elevate – along with the popular All-Star Tennis camp, Carrie Murray camp, and William Myers sports camp. As in 2020, health and safety precautions will be in place in response to the latest COVID-19 guidance, including extremely limited registration spots to ensure proper social distancing.

The Camp Baltimore program offered academic enrichment, field trips, nature outings, sports and swimming. The camp provided 8 total swim days and 4 field trip days. Specialty personal development and enrichment programming presented by local community partners was offered as a new feature in 2021.

The Carrie Murray Nature Camp, located in Gwynns Falls Park, provides fun outdoor learning experiences including active inquiry, hands-on play and exploration of the natural treasures of Gwynns Falls Park. The program also includes stream studies, insect investigation, creative arts and games.

The Sports & Fitness Summer Camp hosted by William J. Myers Soccer Pavilion is a healthy mix of sport curriculums and fitness for 8 weeks. Participants will have a sport of the week and learn the fundamentals for that sport while competing in fun activities throughout the week. Sports & Fitness Camp participants also enjoy field trips, guest speakers, video games, swimming, STEM activities, and more.

Year	BCRP Summer Camp Participants
2018	2805
2019	3119
2020	910
2021	1845

Table 2.8 Summer Camp Participation by Year

Youth and Adult Sports

BCRP offered a variety of athletic programs for various athletes in 2021. Basketball is one of the most popular athletic offerings from BCRP. Charm City Games saw a total of 168 participants this year, B'More

Night Hoops had 140 participants and our BNBL league fielded 43 teams with 602 participants. Softball is another popular BCRP Athletics offering.

Our spring softball league had 692 participants while our fall league had 590. This was another banner year for our youth leagues. The youth football and Patterson Park youth soccer and baseball teams had a combined 562 participants. Other athletic offerings from BCRP included soccer, tennis, rugby and track and field.

Older Adults/Seniors and Special Needs

BCRP’s Senior Division offers a variety of life-enriching recreational programs, trips, classes and events for Baltimore City’s older adults, ages 50 and older. The Therapeutic Recreation Division provides a wide variety of recreational opportunities and services for individuals with disabilities in specialized and inclusive environments.

Older Adults/Seniors

The Senior Division understands the importance of keeping seniors physically, mentally and socially fit. The Senior Division activities, prior to the 2020 pandemic, included crab feasts, classes, line dancing, cultural arts, regional day trips and “a day at the races” at Pimlico Racetrack, just to name a few. Group transportation to these events is included in the ticket price. Since March 2020, the Division’s primary base of operations for the Middle Branch area has been the Cherry Hill Senior Center, located at the Middle Branch Rowing and Water Resource Center.

Due to the pandemic the Senior Division had to pivot from in-person programming to virtual programming. Classes were offered in Zumba, line dancing, cooking, jewelry making, card making, book talks, Bingo, beginner painting, entertainment (bands, impersonators, comedians), lectures (elder abuse, social security, Wills, diabetes), virtual tours (Aquarium, Howard P. Rawlings Conservatory, Portugal). The most popular classes were Line dancing, ceramics, and Bingo.



Understanding that technology was a challenge for seniors. The Cherry Hill Senior Center offered free tablets to their members and one-on-one computer training as well as some virtual classes. The center hosted Mayor's walks for seniors, vaccine clinics and distributed farmer market coupons. For the period between October 2020 and September 2021, the Senior Center had a total of 47 registered participants, with an average attendance of between 25 and 30 people. The total estimated program attendance for 2021, was 182 people, with a total of 859 visits.<sup>19</sup> A table of participation rates is provided in Appendix B.

To ensure that Seniors are receiving a well-balanced program, the division will be expanding programming and services offered. Seniors will have the opportunity to participate in exercise classes, art & crafts, trips, health screenings and lectures. The Division will be a host site for a new program called the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). This program will provide paid on the job training opportunities for older adults 55 and older to help them gain the skills needed to re-enter the work force. Training opportunities include clerical, janitorial, instructors, programming, among others. Seniors will be assigned to private and government agencies throughout Baltimore City. It is anticipated that the program will begin sometime in 2022.

The pandemic has catapulted Baltimore seniors into the age of technology leaving many of them behind. For seniors living on a fixed income, the additional cost of internet access and equipment is not an option. Seniors with limited or no access to computers are unable to access on-line services geared toward their generation: doctor's appointments, prescription services, food delivery, leisure activities. To keep seniors connected and equipped for this new era, the Senior Division has provided free tablets and one-on-one computer classes, provided free hearing amplifiers, and food drops. With rising instructor, equipment, and vendor costs, providing free or low-cost quality programming is becoming a challenge. Additional funding would allow the division to cover more of the cost associated with these types of events/activities resulting in free or lower cost to seniors and allow the division to reach more seniors.

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<sup>19</sup> Based on Title IIIB Close Out Report: Oct 2020-Sept 2021.

### *Special Need Populations*

The Therapeutic Recreation (TR) Program provides a wide variety of recreational opportunities and services for individuals with disabilities in both specialized and inclusive environments in accordance with federal law mandated by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The focus of the TR Program is providing programs that promote a healthy lifestyle and physical activity, conducted in a fun and enjoyable manner. On a city-wide basis, it provides recreational activities (sports, fitness, arts & crafts, dances, outdoor, and social activities), Special Olympics programs, and special events for 20,000+ participants each year (pre-COVID). The TR Program also provides city-wide inclusion services.

The Therapeutic Division operates primarily out of the Farring Baybrook Recreation Center in South Baltimore, but also provides activities at different locations throughout the city including Myers Sports Pavilion, Patterson Park, Clifton Park, Middle Branch Park, and recreation centers throughout the city.

Therapeutic Recreation programs are designed to meet the needs and facilitate the development of individuals with disabilities. Programs are comprised of trained staff, adapted activities and equipment, small groups, and a low staff to participant ratio. Therapeutic Recreation programs provide skill development, leisure education, recreation participation, fine motor skill development and refinement, as well as a creative outlet for individuals with various disabilities. The programs also encourage peer socialization among participants to nurture relationships and strengthen social skills. Many of the programs also provide participants with the opportunity to improve their cardiovascular and muscular systems through physical activity. The Fitness and Wellness programs work to enhance participants' motor coordination through dance, arm and leg movements and stretching. Programs offered as a partnership program with Special Olympics of Maryland also help participants to build upon their ability to work with others in a team setting.

The TR Division also offers inclusion services to youth and adults with disabilities who would like to participate in BCRP recreation, parks,

and specialty programs. Inclusion services provide accommodations / modifications to facilitate opportunities for individuals with and without disabilities to engage in recreation and leisure activities together, wherever the program is being offered. Disability accommodations provided may include (but are not limited to): use of companions, sign language interpretation, large print / braille, support staff, adaptive equipment, accessible transportation (if part of the program; i.e. field trips), disability and sensitivity training, and notification to instructors / program directors of participant's disability accommodation information.

During each programming cycle, the TR Division conducts 30 – 40 programs in the following areas of emphasis: art & music programs, outdoor/nature programs, social programs, and sports & wellness programs, including partnership programs with Special Olympics Maryland. Programming includes weekly programs and programs that are one time in nature. During the summer of 2018, the TR Program shifted focus to provide inclusion services for recreation center summer camp programs versus, providing a summer camp devoted to children with disabilities, in south Baltimore. This allowed children with disabilities to participate in camps located in close proximity to their homes instead of being bussed to the Farring Baybrook Recreation Center at a significant cost.

During the pandemic the Therapeutic Recreation program was a leader within the agency, and in the entire city, with regards to providing virtual programming options and to returning to in-person programming in a safe manner (the TR program was among the first to offer in-person programming). The TR Program Manager led the team which developed the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for returning to in-person programming and served on the Return to Play committee for Special Olympics Maryland.

The challenges of providing virtual programs and the constraints of in-person programming in a pandemic environment has resulted in a significant drop in the number of participants each month but the number of programming opportunities remains relatively the same. Despite our efforts, many of the typical participants in our programs

are at a greater risk for COVID-19 and are unwilling to attend even small number, in-person programs. Additionally, for our virtual programming, many of the participants lack the technical ability or the support system to participate.

The TR Program has been extremely effective at continuing to provide programming opportunities despite the numerous changes that have occurred over the last two years. Program participation rates between Fiscal Years 2017 and 2022 are shown in Table 2.9.

	FY17		FY18		FY19		FY20		FY21		FY22
Jul-16	528	Jul-17	914	Jul-18	489	Jul-19	1030	Jul-20	120	Jul-21	573
Aug-16	327	Aug-17	470	Aug-18	434	Aug-19	601	Aug-20	101	Aug-21	391
Sep-16	2084	Sep-17	2475	Sep-18	2210	Sep-19	2232	Sep-20	372	Sep-21	844
Oct-16	2109	Oct-17	2553	Oct-18	2685	Oct-19	2545	Oct-20	718	Oct-21	887
Nov-16	1832	Nov-17	2390	Nov-18	2089	Nov-19	2349	Nov-20	475	Nov-21	883
Dec-16	1306	Dec-17	1509	Dec-18	1262	Dec-19	1444	Dec-20	245	Dec-21	620
Jan-17	2083	Jan-18	2196	Jan-19	2389	Jan-20	2644	Jan-21	640	Jan-22	
Feb-17	2409	Feb-18	2426	Feb-19	2040	Feb-20	2900	Feb-21	639	Feb-22	
Mar-17	2029	Mar-18	2120	Mar-19	2453	Mar-20	1343	Mar-21	753	Mar-22	
Apr-17	2259	Apr-18	2988	Apr-19	2970	Apr-20	0	Apr-21	744	Apr-22	
May-17	2284	May-18	2962	May-19	2850	May-20	0	May-21	808	May-22	
Jun-17	1079	Jun-18	927	Jun-19	1039	Jun-20	7	Jun-21	490	Jun-22	
Total	20329	Total	23930	Total	22910	Total	17095	Total	6105	Total	4198

Table 2.9 Therapeutic Program Participation Rates FY17- FY22

Therapeutic Recreation programming is well attended, highly rated (consistently over 95% satisfaction rating, and done efficiently (approximately 1% of the agency's budget) despite the significant challenges the Program faces:. These include:

- Small full-time staff (three positions with all three positions filled less than 50% of the time over the last eight years)
- Small budget
- Sharing of a primary programming facility that is aging and in need of significant upgrades; the facility is not conveniently located for the majority of city residents with a disability.

The TR Program continues to increase specialized programming opportunities through increased intra-departmental and external partnerships with contractors. The TR Program accomplishes many of its programming initiatives utilizing staff, equipment, and facilities already in the BCRP inventory allowing the TR Program to add to the programs at a minimal cost.

The TR Program has continued to excel in providing services to a population that is often marginalized or ignored. The goal of the TR Program is to provide a continuum of services that range from specialized programming to inclusive programs so that participants and their caregivers have a choice when it comes to their leisure activities. Research has shown that choice is a key factor in positive recreation experiences, whether specialized or inclusive [Neumeyer, R., Smith R. W., & Lundegran, N. (1993). Leisure-related peer preference choices of individuals with Down Syndrome. *Mental Retardation*, 31 (6), 396-402]. Inclusive programming also has significant benefits including the development of friendships, increased self-image when accepted by peers, feeling a part of the community, increased self-esteem, increased physical fitness, greater self-sufficiency, decreased negative stereotypes, and other outcomes. Inclusion focuses on the activity, not the disability, resulting in a greater respect between people of various abilities [Mayer, W. E. & Anderson, L. S. (2014).<sup>20</sup>

A new, state of the art facility with a focus on participants with disabilities in a central location would greatly benefit participants with disabilities in Baltimore City. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 15.5% of Baltimore City residents have a disability. This is significantly higher than the state of Maryland average of 10.9% and higher than any other city in the state. The current, shared facility is inadequate to meet the needs of the citizens with a disability in Baltimore City.

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<sup>20</sup> Perceptions of People with Disabilities and their Families about Segregated and Inclusive Recreation Involvement. *Therapeutic Recreation Journal*, Vol XLVIII (2), 150-168].

## Outdoor Recreation

As reported by Outdoor Recreation Manager:

"In 2021, Outdoor Recreation offered a range of biking and boating activities. These activities were immensely popular and are sure to bring Baltimore City residents back for a more robust programming in 2022.

A total of 1,654 people participated in the 2021 biking programs, which included Druid Hill bike tours, Gwynns Falls Trail and Jones Falls Rec Center bike rides/hike tours, Rides Around Lake Montebello, Herring Run bike tours, and the Bocek Rec Center Pump Track.

The Druid Hill bike tours took place every Wednesday during the summer in conjunction with the Druid Hill Farmers Market at the Rawlings Conservatory. These tours included a 3-mile guided ride around Druid Hill Park for experienced riders which included a gorgeous view of downtown Baltimore from the opposite side of the lake. A total of 159 people participated in the Druid Hill bike program over the course of the summer.

The Gwynns Falls and Jones Falls Rec Center Rides were provided exclusively to summer camps through BCRP's recreation centers. These rides were a ton of fun and allowed the younger generation to follow a beautiful stream from the I-70 Park and Ride all the way to Leon Day Park, traversing a large swath of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. Youth who were not proficient on a bike, were taken on a shorter trail experience - a 2-mile hike down the trail to Winans Meadow. These rides and hikes were very popular among the campers and Center staff, with a total of 291 participants over the course of the Rec Center bike/hike program.

Rides Around Lake Montebello and Herring Run were by far the most popular activity, taking place Thursday evenings and all-day Saturday from Spring 2021 to Fall 2021. This was the perfect activity for residents of all ages. The program provided bike riding training to those new to biking, unlimited riding to those who wanted a workout and everything in between. A total of 1, 154 people participated in the Lake Montebello and Herring Run bike programs.



The BCRP pump track was placed in the Madison East community from September to November at Bocek Recreation Center after Bocek’s renovation and grand opening. The center had been closed for over twenty years. Outdoor Recreation provided bikes and helmets to Bocek Rec Center staff to lend out on days when Outdoor Recreation staff were not present. This resulted in more traction at the newly renovated Recreation Center. Outdoor Recreation staff taught youth how to ride on Thursday afternoons from 3pm-6pm. Over the course of the Thursday afternoon Pump Track program, there were 50 participants, however, this number does reflect the total number of participants who utilized the pump track outside of the formal Thursday afternoon program.” (See Table 2.10).

Biking Program	Program Participants
Druid Hill	159
Rec Center Hiking/Biking	291
Lake Montebello	1154
Pump track at Bocek	50*
Biking Program Total	1,654

\*does not include participants who used the pump track on days BCRP staff was not present.

Table 2.10 Outdoor Recreation Biking Program Participation Rates, 2021

“The main boating programs offered were: Inner Harbor Kayak Tours, Sunday Afternoon Paddle Tours, Sunset Paddles, and Canoe & Scoops. Smaller events included: Full Moon, Sunrise Paddles, Special Olympics paddling and a one-off special event to support the Middle Branch community. Indoor kayaking and outdoor hiking programs are offered during the fall and winter months. In 2021, the boating programs served a total of 862 participants, not including Indoor Kayaking, which will continues throughout the winter 2021/2022 months.

The Outdoor Recreation Manager reports that “(T)he Inner Harbor Kayak Tours took place every Sunday morning (9am-12pm) and afternoon (1pm-4pm). These tours provided an up close and personal look at Baltimore’s stunning Inner Harbor. The tours left from the Maryland Science Center promenade and paddled to the Domino Sugar factory and back, with many interesting stops along the way to explore the rich cultural, historical, and ecological heritage of Baltimore. Over the course of the Inner Harbor Kayak program, we had 212 participants.

The Sunday Afternoon Paddle Tours at Middle Branch Park were a family friendly activity that allowed time to teach the basics of canoeing and kayaking to a wide range of folks. Over the course of the Sunday Afternoon Paddle Tour program, we had 44 participants.

The Sunset Paddle program at Middle Branch Park was very similar although it took place exclusively on Friday nights as the sun was going down. This activity was a great opportunity for kayakers and canoers to de-stress from a busy work week with gorgeous views and meditative exercise. This activity was so well regarded that even Mayor Brandon Scott came to see what it was all about. A total of 275 people participated over the course of the Sunset Paddle program.”

The Canoe & Scoop program at Middle Branch Park and Masonville Cove brought in 230 participants from a wide variety of college groups, church and community groups who collected roughly 5,578 pounds of garbage.

“The Full Moon paddle tour at Middle Branch Park was simply beautiful with the sun setting and transitioning with the full moon rising over the Hanover Street Bridge. The one full moon Paddle program had 6 participants. Sunrise Paddles at Middle Branch Park were equally peaceful with the transition from darkness to a new day rising. However, this was a slower program, our participants enjoyed the tranquility of the sunrise on the water. Over the course of the two Sunrise Paddle programs, we had 7 participants.”

In partnership with BCRP Therapeutic Recreation and Maryland Special Olympics, Outdoor Recreation provided boats and coached 7 Olympians to compete in 2 competitions throughout 2021 summer at Middle Branch Park.

During “The Reimagine Middle Branch Park” community event was held to bring the South Baltimore neighborhoods together for a waterside experience as Middle Branch Park is undergoing a transition over the next few years. Over the course of the special event, we had 81 participants.

During the transition from warm to cold weather, activities do not stop. The fall 2021/2022 winter we are providing indoor kayaking opportunities for both Recreation Centers and the public along with hiking programs along Baltimore’s premier hiking trails. The indoor kayaking is a great way for participants to learn the basics of being on the water in a safe environment, so they are better prepared to join us in the summer in the open water of the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River and the beautiful Baltimore Inner Harbor. The Middle Branch Aquatic Center is the venue for the Indoor Learn to Kayak sessions. Unfortunately, the Center was under construction between September and November 2021, which resulted in months of cancelled programs. Throughout 49 days of Indoor Kayaking, we had 209 individuals from Rec Centers registered to learn to kayak.” (See Table 2.11)

“The hiking programs take place at Baltimore’s premier hiking trail systems including Gwynns Falls, Herring Run and Cylburn. These op-

portunities allow residents an opportunity to hike trails they may never have experienced otherwise. Throughout the six hiking programs, we had only five people signed up; however, Outdoor Recreation has communicated with the BCRP Marketing and Communication Division, neighborhood groups, BCRP Rec Centers and programs, and partners to boost participation.

Outdoor Recreation plans to expand its services throughout Baltimore for 2022. The bike program expansions include a new bike program at Carroll Park, many more Recreation Center learn to ride bike programs, a mountain biking program at Druid Hill Park, 3-4 communities that will receive the pump track for a few months at a time and a partnered trail program with the Baltimore National Heritage Area called Kids on Trails with Baltimore National Heritage Area. Our boating program expansions include Stand Up Paddle Boards offerings at Middle Branch Park, boating at Middle Branch Park paired with fishing, and a more advanced paddle along the shores of South Baltimore into the Patapsco River from Middle Branch Park. Other expanded Outdoor Recreation opportunities include fishing at different parks, disc golf, and skateboarding.

Outdoor Recreation has many other program expansions currently on hold. There is a need to bolster staff with additional full and part-time positions. The increased staffing will allow more programs to run concurrently with appropriate personnel to ensure participant safety and enjoyment. Additionally, we believe that further promotion of our programs by the Department’s marketing division will serve to engage a larger portion of participants, both City residents and those who live outside of Baltimore. We hope to provide more outdoor opportunities for Baltimore residents as we continue to grow our Outdoor Recreation Division. Plans to improve the campground in Gwynns Falls Park will provide additional opportunities to expand outdoor programming in 2023.”

Boating Program	# of Participants
Inner Harbor	212
Sunday Afternoon	44
Sunset	275
Canoe and Scoop	230
Full Moon	6
Sunrise	7
Special Olympics with Therapeutic Rec	7 (weekly participants)
Reimagine Middle Branch	81
Learn to Kayak	209*
Boating Program Total	862 (not including Learn to Kayak)

\*Unable to run this program due to pool closure. Number reflects participants who ordinarily would have participated.

Table 2.11 Outdoor Recreation Boating Program Participation Rate, 2021



Figure 2.17 Outdoor Recreation Druid Hill Reservoir Biking Program, 2021



Figure 2.18 Outdoor Recreation Inner Harbor Boating Program, 2021

## Nature Education

A variety of nature-based educational programming and activities are offered by several BCRP facilities: Carrie Murray Nature Center, Cylburn Arboretum and the Howard P. Rawlings Conservatory and Gardens. The Forestry Division also offers programs through its Tree Baltimore and Weed Warrior programs.

### *Carrie Murray Nature Center*

The Carrie Murray Nature Center provides nature education city-wide to all ages. Located in Gwynns Falls Leakin Park, the Nature Center is situated among 1216 acres of the largest urban old growth forest east of the Mississippi River.

The center's programs serve an estimated 30,000 visitors annually, serving individuals and families as well as groups from schools, faith-based groups, recreation centers, and camps. During the school year, the nature center offers field trips and outreach programs for students of all ages including the Wild Haven forest immersion program for preschool-age children. The center also offers summer camps, public programs, special events, and volunteer opportunities.

Programs focus on hands-on learning with offer opportunities to meet live animals, explore the park, and develop a relationship with the natural world in Baltimore City. While the Nature Center building was closed during the pandemic in order to ensure public and staff safety, staff continued to serve individuals, groups, schools and families outdoors throughout the year. With guidelines and successful protocols, a new homeschool program served students weekly, summer camp happened, nature birthday parties continued at the campfire circle, and the Forest Preschool operated every day of the week. The Center still provided over 10,000 nature experiences during 2021.

One of the goals in 2021 was to increase opportunities for Recreation Center youth in the green spaces near their centers. The Center also increased opportunities for Recreation Center field trips to the nature center.



In addition, the nature center staff developed virtual content (videos and online activities). Teachers sought this alternative way to engage students with live chats and videos and we continue to offer this successful program even as in-person visits become possible again.

Numbers served in registered programs:

- 6 Forest Preschool families every day, all year-round
- 573 Recreation center youth served during summer camp or afterschool rec center hours
- 1138 residents with outdoor public outdoor programs of limited group sizes - events, birthday parties, and weekend activities
- 160 homeschool students
- 860 students served with virtual or in-person field trips

Hundreds of families and individuals walked to the nature center from the surrounding neighborhoods during the pandemic. Staff handed out maps and water to everyone with the hope that the healthy activity they experienced in Gwynns Falls Leakin Park will continue into the future.

### *Cylburn Arboretum and Howard P. Rawlings Conservatory*

Baltimore's two public gardens, the Rawlings Conservatory and Cylburn Arboretum, continue to be places of respite in a COVID world. The outdoor setting at Cylburn Arboretum and the strict capacity limits at the Conservatory created safe spaces for folks to get out and explore. After the accelerated interest in gardening from 2020, the City Farm Community Gardening program continued its success with 99% of all garden plots in use during the 2021 season. Much of the year had capacity limits for the number of people in these spaces for programs, activities, and rentals. To accommodate that, the staff initiated a range of hosted virtual programs, small group hikes and environmental programs and new for 2021, micro-weddings and elopements.

Highlights include:

- The Rawlings Conservatory hosted the Annual Spring Flower show after last year's hiatus and entitled it "Spring Takes Flight". The show had extended hours to help manage capacity, nearly 1400 people visited and enjoyed tulips, daffodils and hyacinths.
- Cylburn Arboretum hosted 75 elopements, micro-weddings and small weddings, many entirely outdoors. The Rawlings Conservatory hosted 35 similar wedding events.
- The Rawlings Conservatory also hosted 57 photoshoots while Cylburn permitted 134 outdoor photoshoots.
- Nature and Art programming resumed at Cylburn in spring 2021 with an afterschool "Nature and Art Club", monthly hikes and botanical art classes (both virtually and in person). In partnership with the Maryland Daffodil Society, there were in-person daffodil displays and virtual workshops.
- The annual Rawlings Conservatory Bulb sale and Market Day at Cylburn Arboretum repeated last year's success with online sales and "curbside" pick-up.
- Both Cylburn Arboretum and the Rawlings Conservatory participated in the art installation "A Cicada Parad-a,". Several giant cicadas decorated by local artists were installed on-site for the summer months.
- The Rawlings Conservatory hosted the 11th annual Druid Hill Farmers Market for 23 weeks every Wednesday through the summer, managed by a great group of volunteers.

### *Forestry Division*

Environmental stewardship remains critical to the Forestry Division's ongoing efforts to preserve Baltimore's tree canopy. In 2021, 83 people attended Weed Warriors classes to help remove non-native invasive plants from city parks and street trees. The Weed Warriors program supported 32 volunteer events in parks citywide. The TreeKeepers program

had a strong year with 200 virtual students, 95 attended in-person, and 50 completed certifications. Other notable Forestry highlights included planting 5,000 new trees.

As the recipient of a \$900k Innovation Fund Award, Camp Small continues to produce valuable and sustainable products from our city's downed and removed trees. Through a newly added woodshop, Camp Small has increased wood production by producing over 20,000 board feet of lumber and furniture from recycled city logs in 2021 alone.

Other projects include:

- Standing dead White Oak trees were removed at Burdick Park for the construction of its new dog park. Camp Small turned the wood from those trees into benches for the park.
- Camp Small worked closely with Baltimore City Public Schools to produce seating for outdoor classrooms. We have now helped implement over a dozen outdoor classrooms throughout the city.
- City Farms helped to distribute over 50 tons of wood chips and compost to public farms and community gardens

## Parks and Recreation Issues and Trends

Recreational trends were analyzed for the Department in 2019 as part of a feasibility study conducted for two regional sports complexes being considered as alternative reuses for an existing golf course and a former city school property. The recreational trends analysis was undertaken to understand national, regional, and local recreational trends as well as generational participation trends. Trends data used for this analysis was obtained from Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA), National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). All trend data is based on current and/or historical participation rates, statistically valid survey results, or NRPA Park Metrics. Areas of focus included general sports, general fitness, aquatics, outdoor recreation, participant and non-participant demographic preferences, and national and regional programming trends. A copy of this analysis is included in Appendix B.

## LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

### Proximity Analysis

To determine where the public can readily access parks and recreation facilities and where they cannot, BCRP mapped a 10-minute walking distance from all BCRP parks (Map 2.11), from parks classified as Neighborhood Parks (Map 2.12), BCRP recreation centers (Map 2.13), all BCRP and non BCRP recreation provider facilities (Map 2.14), and Playgrounds, Multiuse and Ball Fields, Tennis and BB Courts, Skate Parks, Trails, and Dog Parks (Map 2.15).

For the purposes of this initial analysis, all 321 parks, under the jurisdiction of BCRP and non BCRP, regardless of size, were assigned a 10-minute walking distance buffer.<sup>21</sup> The non-colored/white areas on the map are those areas that are outside of the 10-minute park walkshed. The neighborhood boundaries within which these areas fall are outlined in red. The proximity map simply shows distance from parks; it does not incorporate neighborhood socioeconomic or physical variables, such as walkability, crime, housing vacancy, park size or condition, health factors or access to additional park resources that may influence the level of need for park access.

The results of this park proximity analysis indicate that most areas of the city have park coverage, except for areas within 16 neighborhoods. Only two neighborhoods are fully out of the 10-minute walkshed: Bel-lona-Gittings (north) and Medford (adjacent to O'Donnell Heights) in the east. Some other neighborhoods touch the 10-minute walkshed but have sections that are excluded. These include Homeland, North Roland Park/Poplar Hill, Reisterstown Station (which is predominantly non-residential), Waltherson, Dorchester, Callway-Garrison and O'Donnell Heights. Based upon knowledge of these neighborhoods, Medford, O'Donnell Heights, and Waltherson contain areas with residents with greater needs for park access.

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<sup>21</sup> This analysis does not include park and green spaces that are owned by educational institutions (private schools, colleges, universities) as well as some community association owned/maintained green spaces, which allow access to residents. Many of these spaces are within the north, northwest, and northeast sections of the city.

Neighborhood areas outside of the 10-minute park walkshed are generally situated in clusters on the outer edges of the city. The clusters are Medford/Graceland Park/O'Donnell Heights, Dorchester/Callaway-Garrison/Glen, Westgate, and Walterson/Cedmont and Glenham-Gelhar (Map 2.11).

A second proximity analysis was undertaken to examine the 10-minute walkshed from only those parks classified as neighborhood parks - since these parks serve as local amenities used by neighborhood residents.<sup>22</sup> This finer analysis reveals sections of 98 neighborhoods where residents are outside of a 10-minute walk to a local neighborhood park space. Neighborhood park spaces tend to be lacking in the areas clustered in the outer edges of the city in the west, northwest, north, northeast, and east (Map 2.12, Table 2.12).

Proximity and access to BCRP recreation facilities was also considered (Map 2.13 and Table 2.13). As noted earlier in the chapter, all 49 BCRP recreation centers are classified according to their service area/reach - regional, neighborhood and satellite (Map 2.5). For the purposes of the proximity analysis, all the recreation centers regardless of their service area/reach were assigned a 10-minute walking buffer. Pools and specialty recreation facilities were also given the same 1/2 mile walking distance buffer.<sup>23</sup> Results of this analysis indicate that the facilities provide good coverage and are densely located on the west, east and south section of the city. Gaps exist down the central spine and at the outer extents of the city - clustered in the northwest, north and northeast- as well as areas of the west. Areas within 95 neighborhoods<sup>24</sup> were identified where residents lack BCRP recreational facilities within a 10-minute walk. Many of these same areas also lack access to neighborhood parks within walking distance (Map 2.12), although they more likely have some category of park nearby (Map 2.11). Key neighborhood clusters include: Belair-Edison/Lower Herring Run, Park Circle/Cedonia (Northeast), Westport/Irvington/Violetville (South), Panway

Bradish Avenue/Northwest Community Action (West), Grove Park/Howard Park/Cross Country/Fallstaff (Northwest).

While there may not be BCRP recreation centers in all areas, some areas have access to non BCRP recreation facility providers which enable recreational access needs, however, there are still 43 neighborhoods that are further than a 1/2 mile walking or 1-2 mile driving distance (Map 2.14 and Table 2.14).

Another proximity analysis was run for other recreation facilities, including playgrounds, multiuse and ball fields, tennis and Basketball courts, skate parks, trails, and dog parks (Map 2.15). BCRP has a wide range of these facilities distributed across the city. The analysis indicated that there are 9 neighborhoods outside of the one half-mile service radius that have sections lacking a 10-minute walk access to the above facilities. Residents of other neighborhoods, such as Homeland, Bello-na-Gittings, Cross Country, and Fallstaff, may not have BCRP facilities nearby, but have other, private facilities at schools, universities, and other recreation providers within a 10-minute walking distance that are available to them.

Based upon the above proximity analyses, it is clear that the outersections of the city stand out as lacking a 10-minute proximity to any category of park and recreation facility (either BCRP or a non BCRP provider). While this analysis is useful to examine distances and geography of facility locations within the city, it does not provide information about the socioeconomic situation of people who live in the neighborhoods, their ability to access alternative recreational resources beyond city facilities, or physical aspects within the neighborhood that may inhibit access to recreational opportunities,

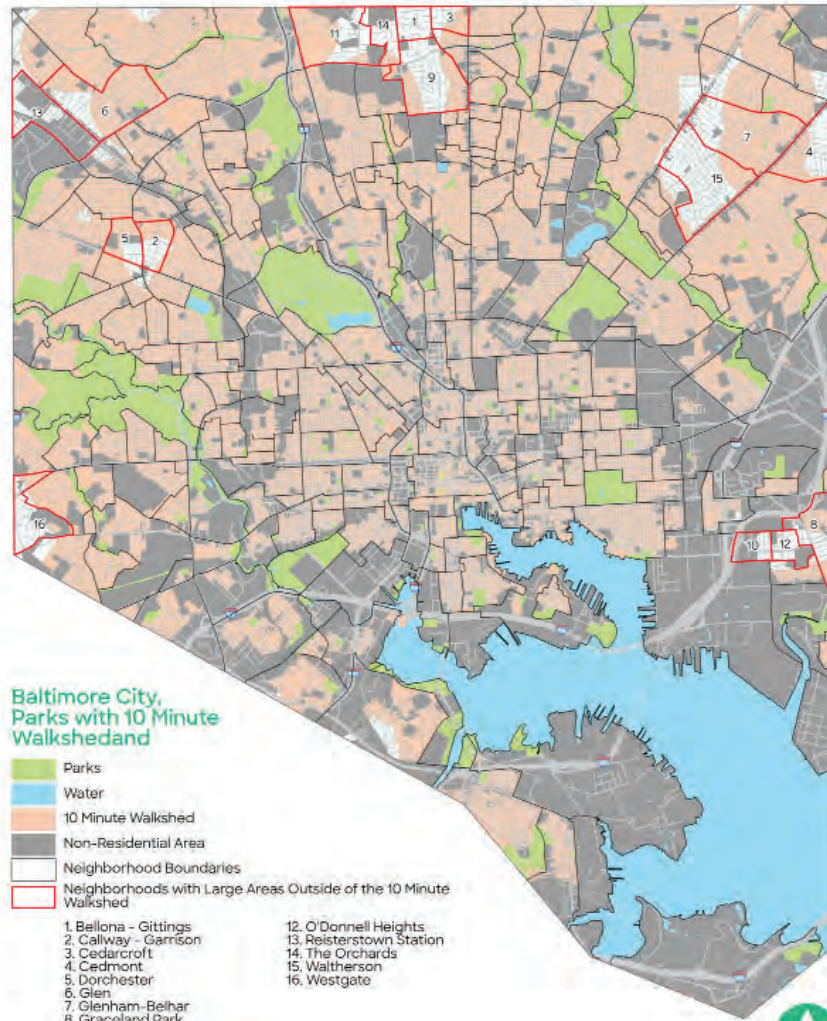
A separate proximity analysis was run for water related recreational resources (Map 2.16). The map, created by DNR, and shows 1/2, 1, and 3-mile access. Given that the Baltimore City harbor is located within the south and southwest geography of the city, the map shows best access for residents who live within those areas, although water recreational activities are of citywide interest. The City's Reimagine Middle Branch Plan calls for future expansion of kayak and water based activities in Middle Branch Park and along the Middle Branch waterfront.

<sup>22</sup> In this analysis only those parks classified as neighborhood parks are shown as green in the map. All other parks are shown as non-residential.

<sup>23</sup> It should be noted that the regional and special recreation centers and facilities are frequented by residents citywide.

<sup>24</sup> This total does not include 1 predominantly non-residential area.

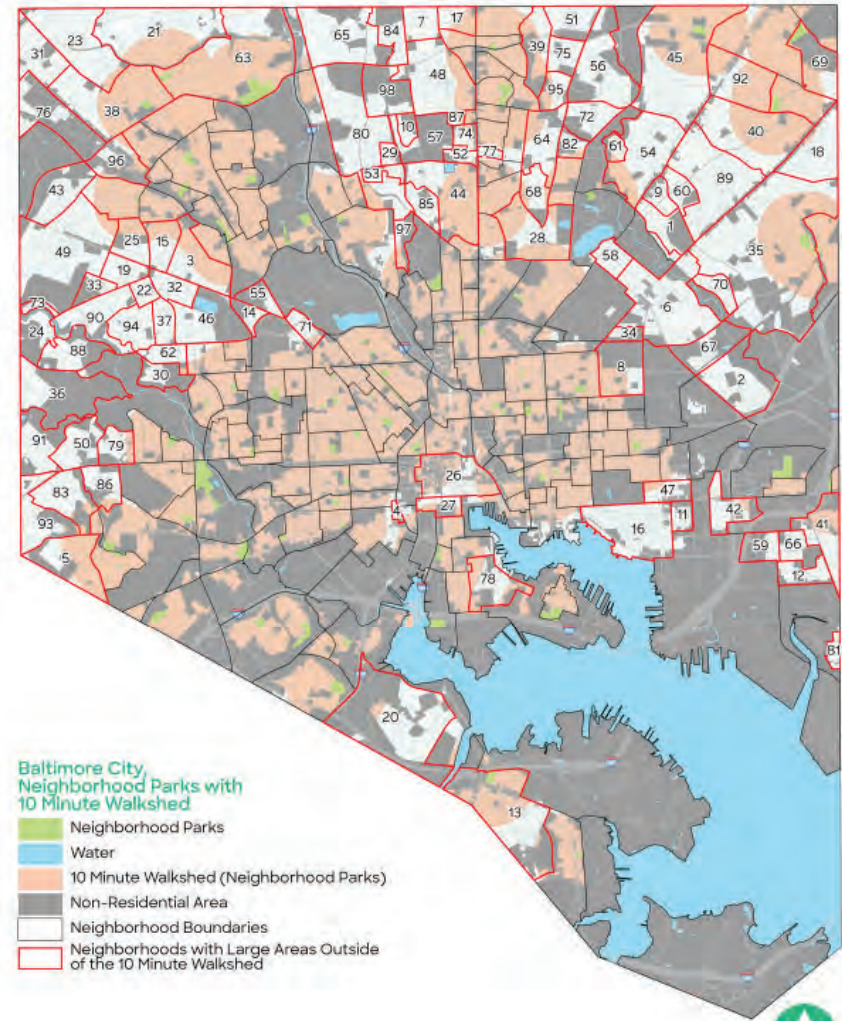




1:80,000



Map 2.11 Proximity Analysis of Parks (BCRP and Non BCRP) within a 10-minute Walking Distance with list of Low Park Equity/High Need Neighborhoods



1:80,000

\* Neighborhood key in accompanying table



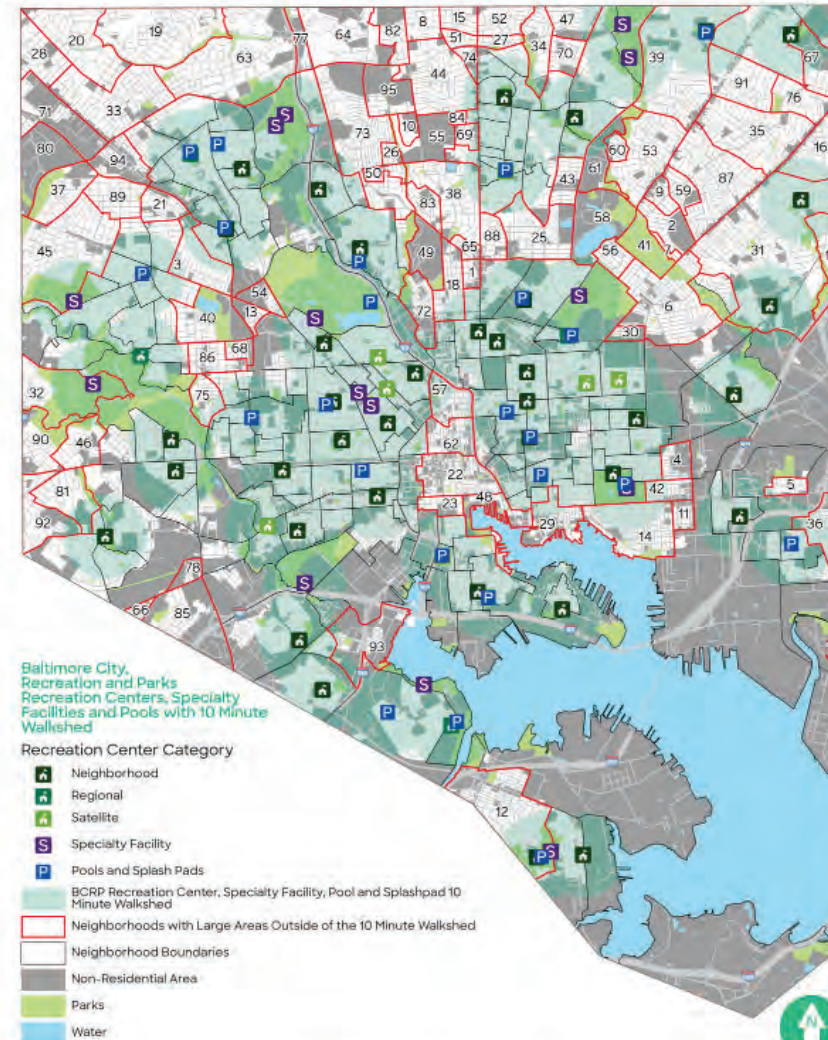
Map 2.12 Proximity Analysis of Neighborhood Parks (BCRP and Non BCRP) within a 10-minute Walking Distance



**Proximity Analysis -Areas Outside of a 10-Minute Walkshed  
(Map 2.12)**

ID	Neighborhood	ID	Neighborhood
1	Arcadia	50	Hunting Ridge
2	Armistead Gardens	51	Idlewood
3	Ashburton	52	Kernewood
4	Barre Circle	53	Keswick
5	Beechfield	54	Lauraville
6	Belair-Edison	55	Liberty Square
7	Bellona-Gittings	56	Loch Raven
8	Berea	57	Loyola/Notre Dame
9	Beverly Hills	58	Mayfield
10	Blythewood	59	Medford
11	Brewers Hill	60	Moravia-Walther
12	Broening Manor	61	Morgan Park
13	Brooklyn	62	Mount Holly
14	Burleith-Leighton	63	Mount Washington
15	Callaway-Garrison	64	New Northwood
16	Canton	65	North Roland Park/Poplar Hill
17	Cedarcroft	66	O'Donnell Heights
18	Cedmont	67	Orchard Ridge
19	Central Forest Park	68	Original Northwood
20	Cherry Hill	69	Overlea
21	Cheswolde	70	Parkside
22	Concerned Citizens Of Forest Park	71	Parkview/Woodbrook
23	Cross Country	72	Perring Loch
24	Dickeyville	73	Purnell
25	Dorchester	74	Radnor-Winston
26	Downtown	75	Ramblewood
27	Downtown West	76	Reisterstown Station
28	Ednor Gardens-Lakeside	77	Richnor Springs
29	Evergreen	78	Riverside
30	Fairmont	79	Rognel Heights
31	Fallstaff	80	Roland Park
32	Forest Park	81	Saint Helena
33	Forest Park Golf Course	82	Stonewood-Pentwood-Winston
34	Four By Four	83	Ten Hills
35	Frankford	84	The Orchards
36	Franklintown	85	Tuscany-Canterbury
37	Garwyn Oaks	86	Uplands
38	Glen	87	Villages Of Homeland
39	Glen Oaks	88	Wakefield
40	Glenham-Belhar	89	Waltherson
41	Graceland Park	90	West Forest Park
42	Greektown	91	West Hills
43	Grove Park	92	Westfield
44	Guilford	93	Westgate
45	Hamilton Hills	94	Windsor Hills
46	Hanlon-Longwood	95	Woodbourne Heights
47	Highlandtown	96	Woodmere
48	Homeland	97	Wyman Park
49	Howard Park	98	Wyndhurst

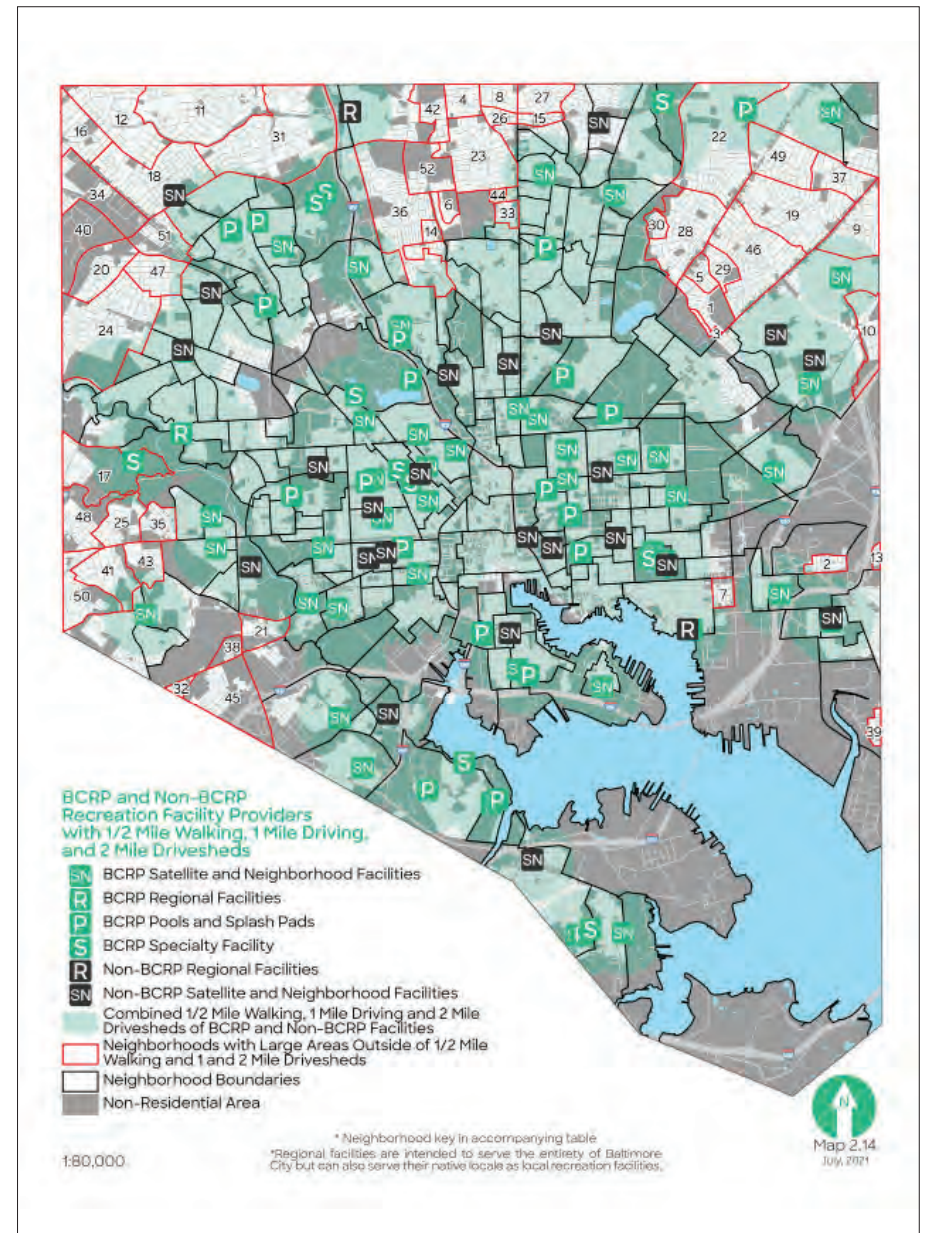
Table 2.12 Proximity Analysis of Neighborhood Parks - Areas Outside of a 10-minute Walkshed (Map 2.12)



Map 2.13 Proximity Analysis of BCRP Recreation Facilities within a 10-Minute Walking Distance

BCRP Recreation Facilities			
Proximity Analysis - Neighborhoods with Large Areas Outside of a 10-Minute Walkshed (Map 2.13)			
ID	Neighborhood	ID	Neighborhood
1	Abell	49	Johns Hopkins Homewood
2	Arcadia	50	Keswick
3	Ashburton	51	Lake Evesham
4	Baltimore Highlands	52	Lake Walker
5	Bayview	53	Lauraville
6	Belair-Edison	54	Liberty Square
7	Belair-Parkside	55	Loyola/Notre Dame
8	Bellona-Gittings	56	Mayfield
9	Beverly Hills	57	Mid-Town Belvedere
10	Blythewood	58	Montebello
11	Brewers Hill	59	Moravia-Walther
12	Brooklyn	60	Morgan Park
13	Burleith-Leighton	61	Morgan State University
14	Canton	62	Mount Vernon
15	Cedarcroft	63	Mount Washington
16	Cedmont	64	North Roland Park/Poplar Hill
17	Cedonia	65	Oakenshawe
18	Charles Village	66	Oaklee
19	Cheswolde	67	Overlea
20	Cross Country	68	Panway/Braddish Avenue
21	Dolfield	69	Radnor-Winston
22	Downtown	70	Ramblewood
23	Downtown West	71	Reisterstown Station
24	Eastwood	72	Remington
25	Ednor Gardens-Lakeside	73	Roland Park
26	Evergreen	74	Rosebank
27	Evesham Park	75	Rosemont
28	Fallstaff	76	Rosemont East
29	Fells Point	77	Sabina-Mattfeldt
30	Four By Four	78	Saint Agnes
31	Frankford	79	Saint Helena
32	Franklinton	80	Seton Business Park
33	Glen	81	Ten Hills
34	Glen Oaks	82	The Orchards
35	Glenham-Belhar	83	Tuscany-Canterbury
36	Graceland Park	84	Villages Of Homeland
37	Grove Park	85	Violetville
38	Guilford	86	Walbrook
39	Hamilton Hills	87	Waltherson
40	Hanlon-Longwood	88	Waverly
41	Herring Run Park	89	West Arlington
42	Highlandtown	90	West Hills
43	Hillen	91	Westfield
44	Homeland	92	Westgate
45	Howard Park	93	Westport
46	Hunting Ridge	94	Woodmere
47	Idlewood	95	Wyndhurst
48	Inner Harbor		

Table 2.13 BCRP Recreation Facilities - Neighborhoods with Large Areas Outside of a 10 Minute Walkshed (Map 2.13)

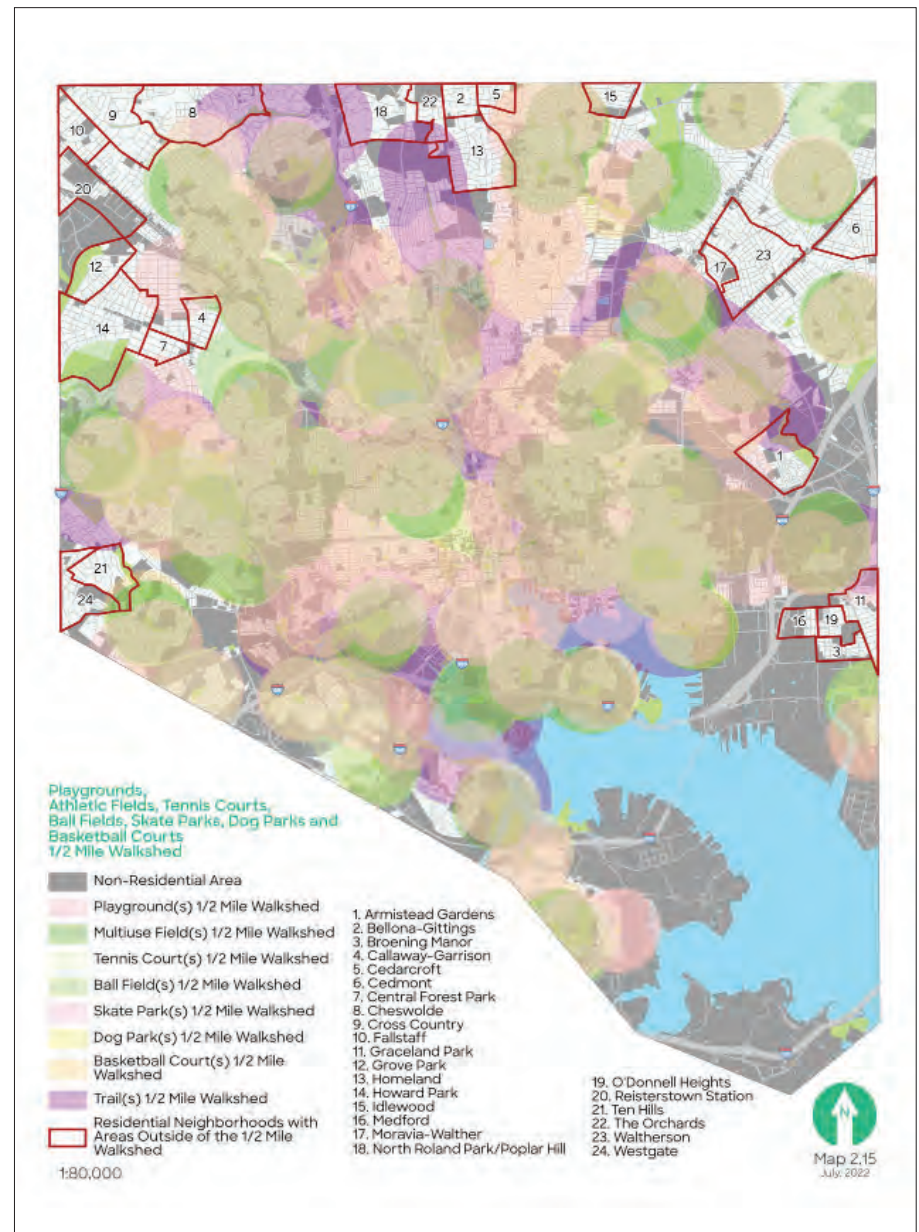


Map 2.14 Proximity Analysis of Recreation Facilities (BCRP and Non BCRP) within Walking and Driving Distance

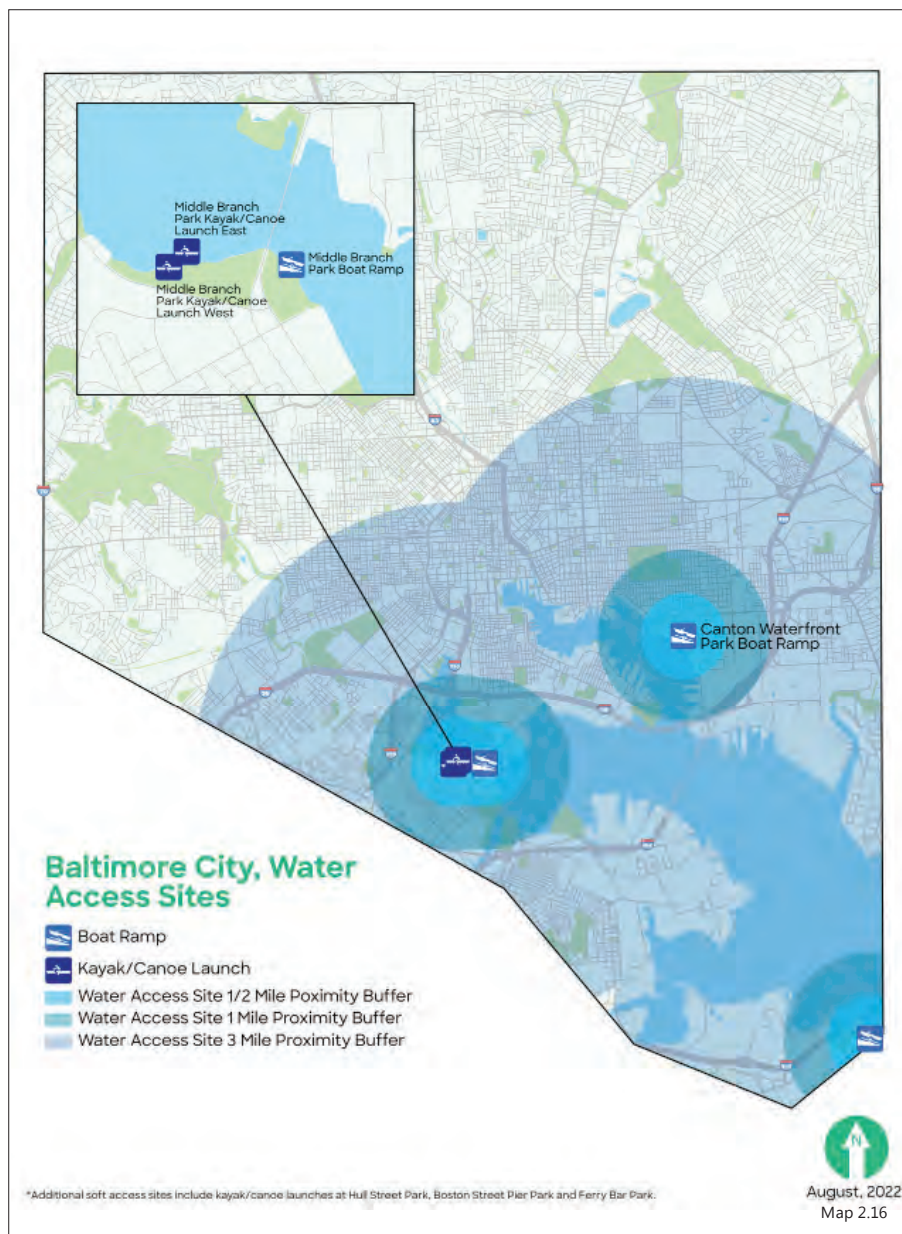


<b>BCRP and Non BCRP Recreation Facilities</b>			
<b>Proximity Analysis - Neighborhoods with Large Areas Outside of a 1/2 Half Mile Walk and 1 -2 Mile Driving Distance (Map 2.14)</b>			
ID	Neighborhood	ID	Neighborhood
1	Arcadia	27	Lake Walker
2	Bayview	28	Lauraville
3	Belair-Parkside	29	Moravia-Walther
4	Bellona-Gittings	30	Morgan Park
5	Beverly Hills	31	Mount Washington
6	Blythewood	32	Oaklee
7	Brewers Hill	33	Radnor-Winston
8	Cedarcroft	34	Reisterstown Station
9	Cedmont	35	Roguel Heights
10	Cedonia	36	Roland Park
11	Cheswolde	37	Rosemont East
12	Cross Country	38	Saint Agnes
13	Eastwood	39	Saint Helena
14	Evergreen	40	Seton Business Park
15	Evesham Park	41	Ten Hills
16	Fallstaff	42	The Orchards
17	Franklinton	43	Uplands
18	Glen	44	Villages Of Homeland
19	Glenham-Belhar	45	Violetville
20	Grove Park	46	Waltherson
21	Gwynns Falls	47	West Arlington
22	Hamilton Hills	48	West Hills
23	Homeland	49	Westfield
24	Howard Park	50	Westgate
25	Hunting Ridge	51	Woodmere
26	Lake Evesham	52	Wyndhurst

Table 2.14 Neighborhood Parks - List of Low Park/High Equity and High Park/ Low Equity Neighborhoods (Map 2.14)



Map 2.15 Proximity Analysis of BCRP Playgrounds, Courts, Fields, Skate and Dog Parks within a 1/2 Mile Walking Distance



Map 2.16 Proximity Analysis of BCRP Water Access Sites within a 1/2, 1, and 3 Mile Distance

## Park and Recreation Equity Analysis

To gain a more nuanced understanding of areas of the city that are inequitably or underserved by parks and recreation facilities, multiple data sets of general equity data, park and recreation facility access data were combined and weighted to create several equity score types.<sup>25</sup> Separate equity analyses and maps were undertaken for parks and for recreation facilities. The analyses resulted in the identification of low equity/high need areas and high equity/low need areas. Areas that ranked in the lowest 25 percent are identified as being low equity/high need. Areas that ranked in the highest 25 percent are identified as high equity/ low need.

Low equity/high need is defined by a variety of broader social needs and issues of which the provision of parks, recreation facilities and recreation programming is one factor that can help to address the larger puzzle that requires a concerted effort among public agencies and others. The areas defined as high equity/low need represent areas that are best served and have access to park and recreation and other social resources at their disposal beyond what is provided by Baltimore City public services. A detailed methodology for developing this work is provided in Appendix B.

### Park Equity

To consider the equity of availability and access to park land in the City, three separate park equity analyses/maps were produced. The first map replicates DNR's "Maryland Park Equity Mapper" (Map 2.17). DNR's Park Equity Mapper provides good insight into the possible disparities in park access and quality at the state level, however, only 30 (mostly large citywide and neighborhood parks) of the total 321 Baltimore City parks were included in this analysis. To better represent

<sup>25</sup> The data sets include three categories of data variables – General, Park Equity/Neighborhood Park Equity and Recreation Equity. The 18 General Equity Variables include population density, percent of minority populations, age, health, lack of vehicle and internet access, percent of vacant housing units, crime density, poor mental health, and obesity, among others. The Park Equity/Neighborhood include average distance to the closest park/neighborhood park and percent of park cover in a census tract. The Recreation Equity Variables include average distances and densities to the different types of BCRP facilities and non BCRP facilities.

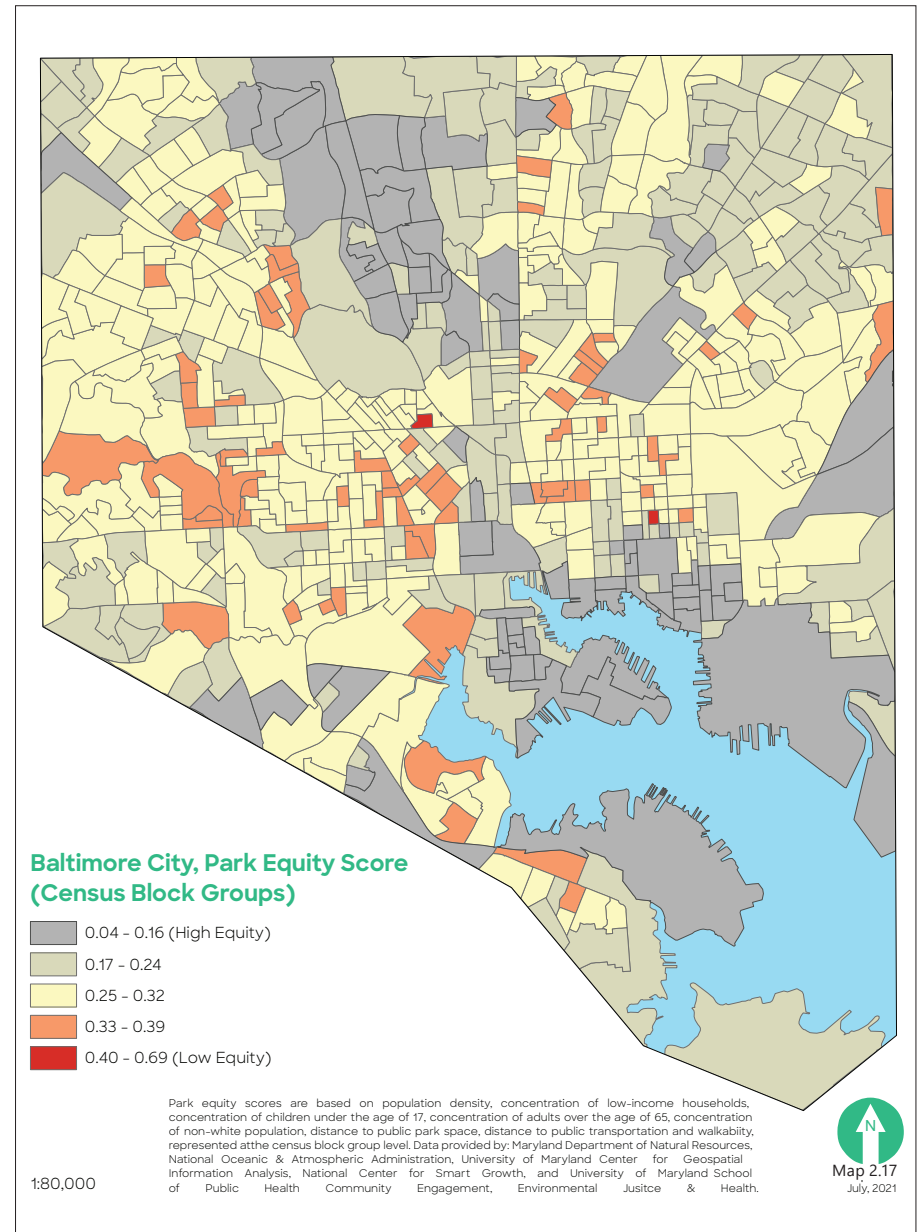


park equity in Baltimore City, the second analysis included all Baltimore City parks- those under the jurisdiction of BCRP as well as non BCRP providers (both public and private), finer resolution transit data and health data (Map 2.18). A third analysis singles out neighborhood parks for equity consideration, to be consistent with the Proximity Analysis (Map 2.12).

The three park equity maps support one another in indicating similar Baltimore City neighborhoods and geographic areas with low park equity/ high park need and high park equity/low park need rankings. There are distinct geographies of the city showing contrasts between areas of low and high equity. The lower equity areas correspond to many of the neighborhoods where residents of color were the subject of bank redlining and long-standing public and private disinvestment. It is not surprising, given the smaller number of parks included, that the map using the DNR park equity analysis data (Map 2.17) shows fewer areas in the city with a lower equity ranking compared to the map prepared by BCRP, which factors in accessibility, health indicators, age, population density, crime density and housing vacancy among other variables (Maps 2.18 and 2.19).

In considering equity relative to all categories of parks, low equity/ high need areas were identified in some of the same outer edge neighborhood clusters found in the proximity analysis— Woodmere, Reisterstown Station, and Arlington (northwest), Waltherson (northeast), Cherry Hill (south) and Medford, Broening Manor (east). Also showing up in the analysis, however, are areas in some neighborhoods closer to the center that have been historically underserved, such as Sandtown-Winchester, Easterwood, Evergreen Lawn, Poppleton, Boyd-Booth (West) and Madison-East End, McElderry Park, Middle East, Milton-Montford (East) to name a few. The number of low equity/high need neighborhoods increases when the analysis is narrowed to consider the presence of neighborhood parks only (Maps 1.20 and 1.21, Table 2.15 - pages 100-101).

In the 1930s through the 1950s these areas were more densely populated than they are at present and the parks are smaller with fewer amenities.



Map 2.17 Replication of DNR's Maryland Park Equity Map Analysis



The dearth of park land in these areas is likely due to the absence of political will and a lack of undeveloped land to invest in park amenities in areas populated by communities of Color. Many of the large parks, donated to the city by their wealthy landowners, originated as residential estates in neighborhoods that were populated by White citizens.

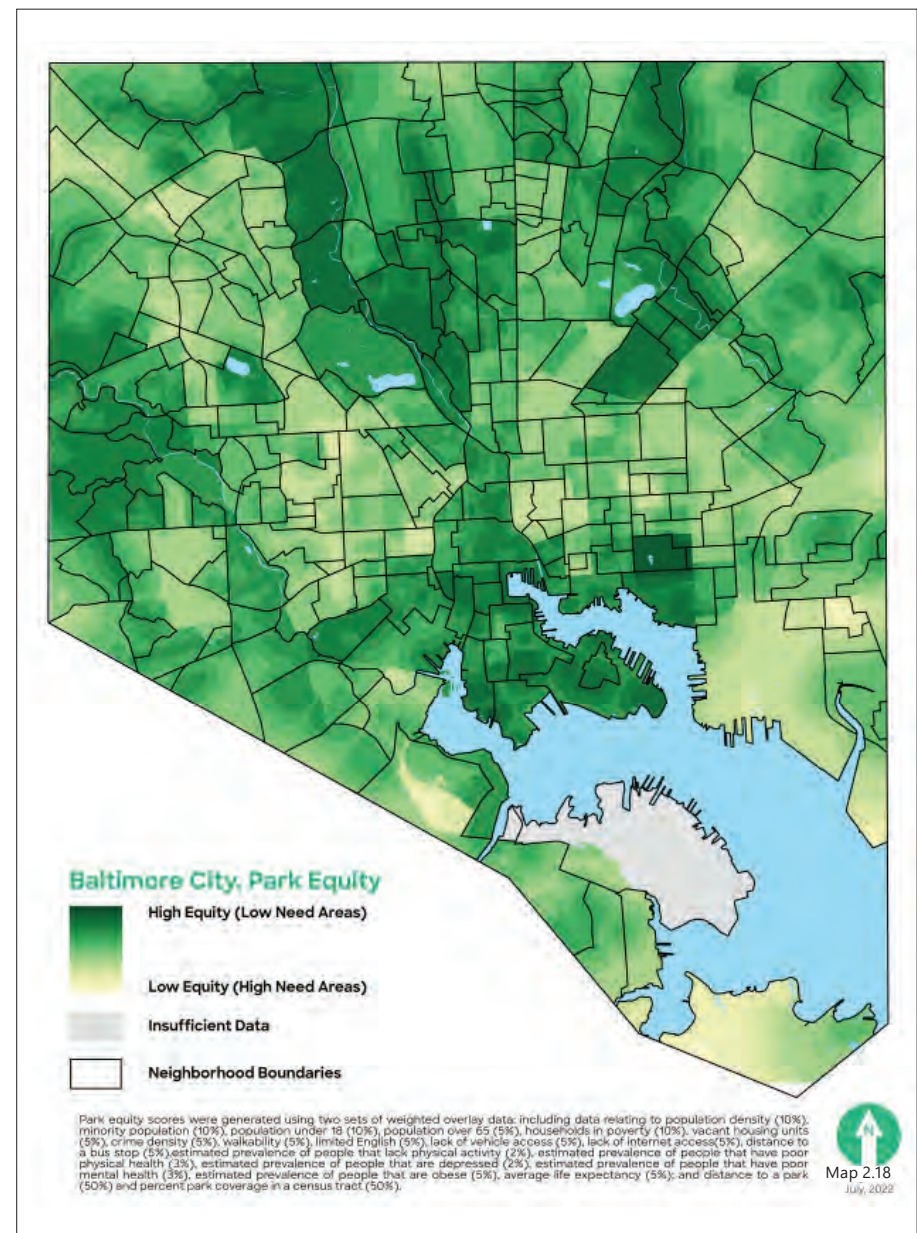
While there are areas that lack publicly owned park spaces within a 10-minute walk (such as Hampden, Woodberry, Guilford, Federal Hill, Baltimore-Linwood, Canton, and Ridgely's Delight), these neighborhood residents are able access parks spaces elsewhere through their association with private institutions or they have the means to travel beyond their area or neighborhood. Proximity to a park is only a single measure of accessibility. Based on the park equity analysis, we can deduce that these neighborhoods are better off socio-economically and thus have better accessibility to a park, despite not having a park nearby. Similarly, some neighborhoods with park spaces nearby are identified as low equity areas. Accessibility in terms of travel distance, travel mode, safety, and park amenity and quality are all factors we must consider in identifying the equitability of BCRP resources.

Table 2.15 shows the neighborhoods containing the lowest park equity/high need areas in the city for any park (Maps 2.18 and 2.19) and for a neighborhood park (Maps 1.20 and 1.21). The areas within these neighborhoods ranked within the lowest 25 percent of all neighborhoods.

## Recreation Equity

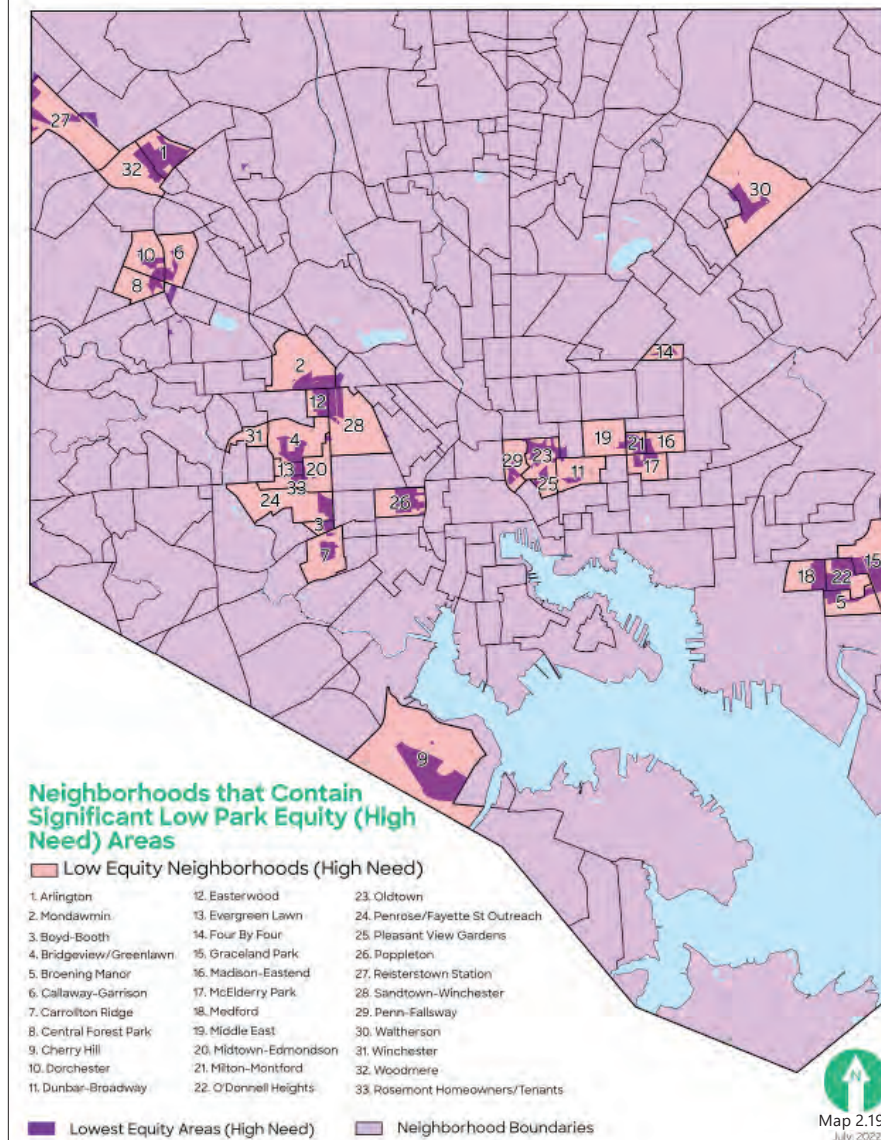
To consider the equity of availability and access to brick-and-mortar recreation facilities in Baltimore City, separate recreation equity analyses/maps were created. The analysis considered both BCRP and non BCRP facilities. BCRP facilities included recreation centers, pools, and specialty recreation facilities. Non BCRP facilities included those listed in Table 2.3.

Many of the recreation centers and pools were built in the late 1960s and early 1970s with the aid of Federal Urban Renewal funds, with a focus on the central west and east sides of the city. The citywide special recreation and theme programmed facilities show greater distribution in the lower

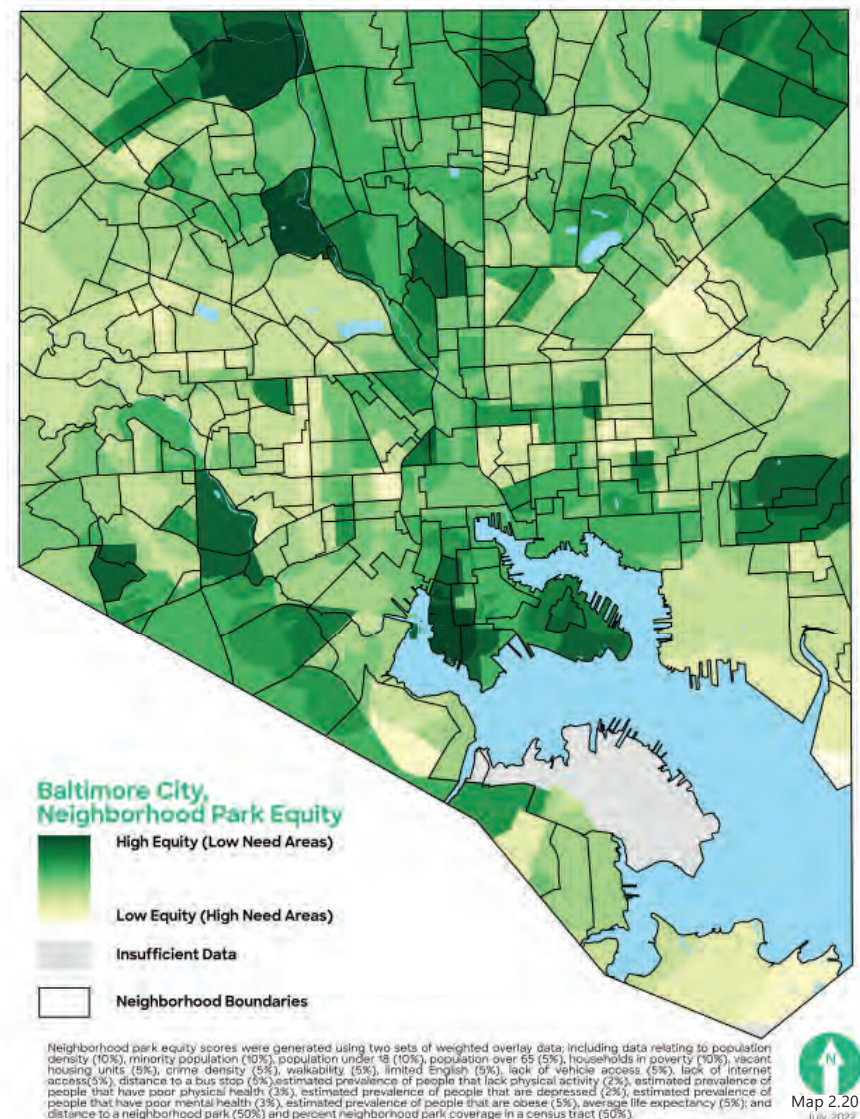


Map 2.18 Park Equity Analysis - All Parks





Map 2.19 Park Equity Analysis - All Parks with Areas of Lowest Equity/High Need



Map 2.20 Park Equity Analysis - Neighborhood Parks





*Table 2.15 Park Equity Analysis - Parks and Neighborhood Parks with Areas of Lowest Equity/High Need*



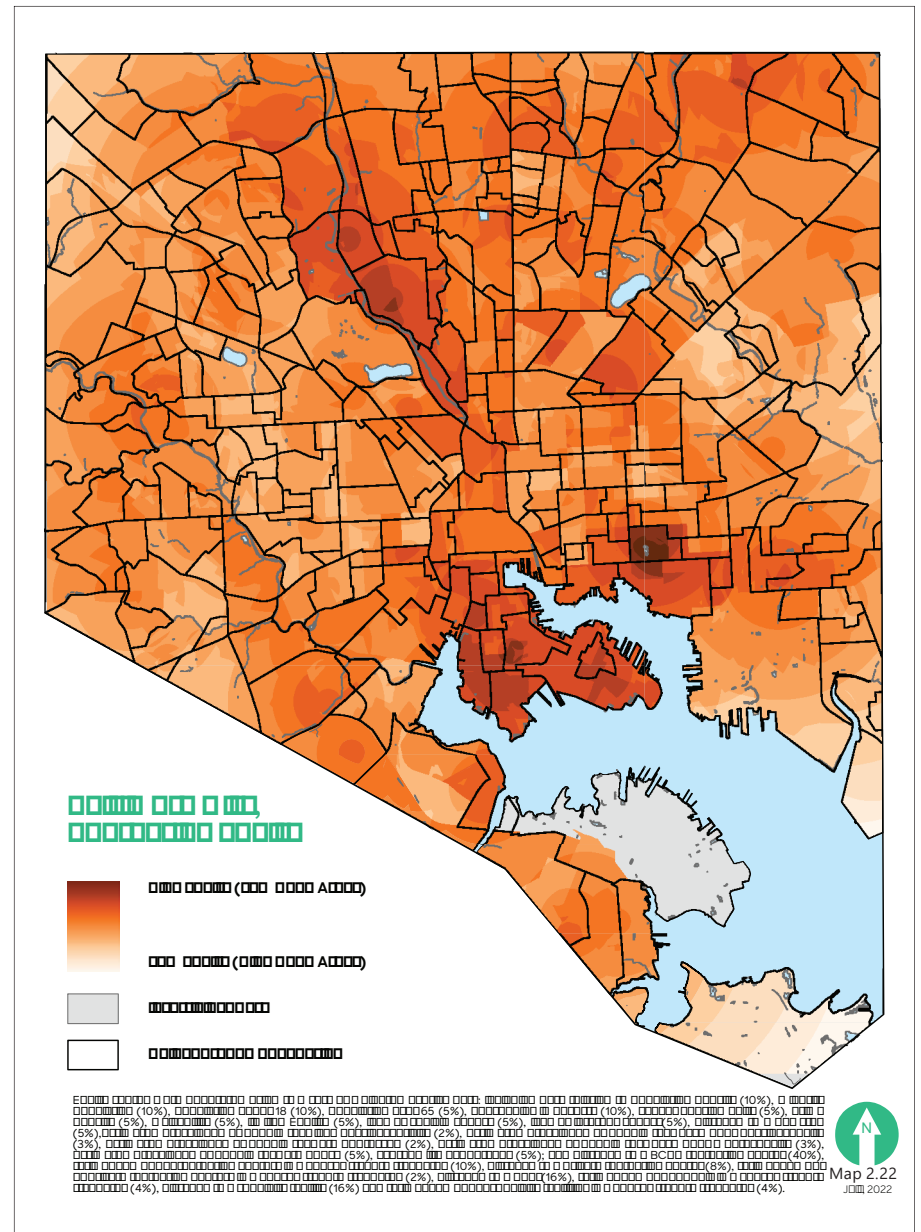
equity areas, but are more spread out from the center city in the west, northwest, and northeast areas of the city. Some of the golf courses, however, are in higher equity areas, as they were developed on land in the larger parks which were parts of former estates.

Despite a plethora of recreation facilities distributed across the city, the recreation equity analysis indicates clusters of low equity/high need areas in the northwest (Cross Country, Fallstaff, Glen, Grove Park), in the northeast (Beechfield, Lower Herring Run Park, Parkside, Cedonia), on the west (Mosher, Rosemont, Winchester, Northwest Community Action, Walbrook), on the south (Saint Josephs, Irvington, Violetville, Cherry Hill) and on the east (Milton-Montford, McDerry Park, and Madison-Eastend), (Maps 2.22 and 2.23, Table 2.17).

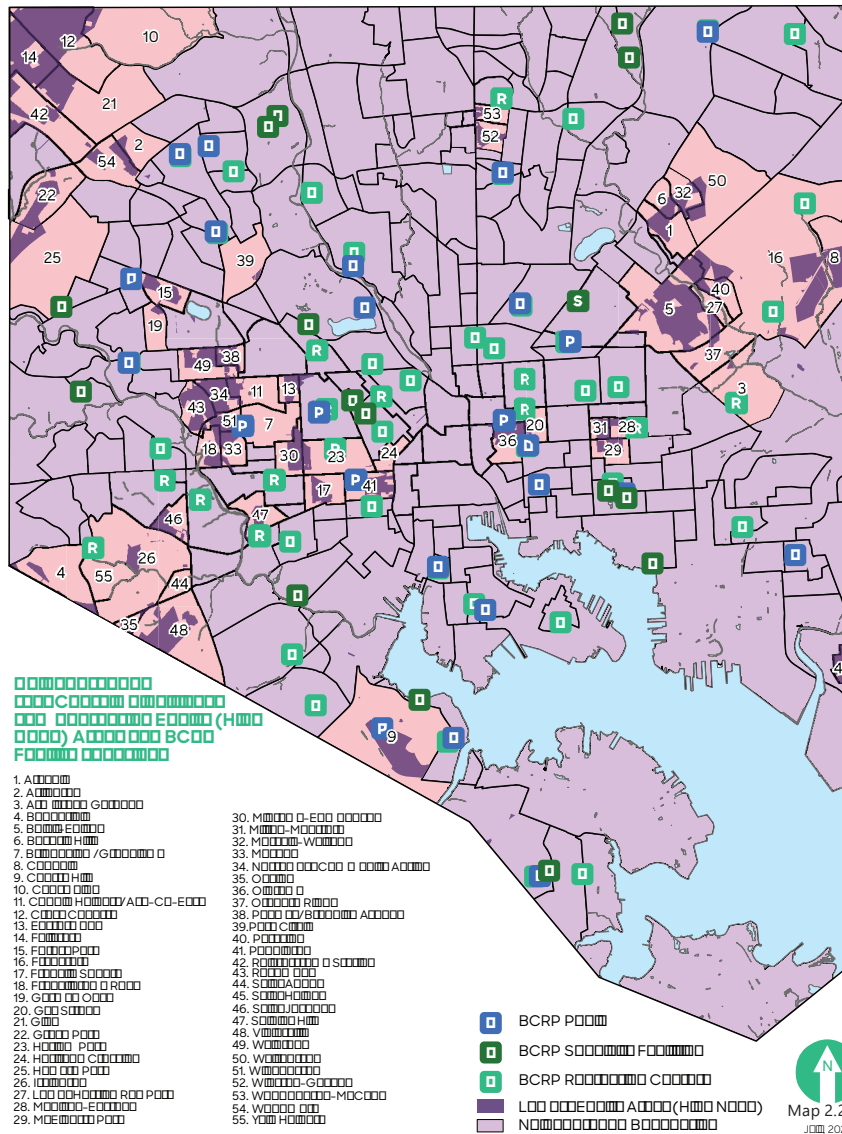
Many of these same low equity/high need neighborhoods also lack access to parks and neighborhood parks (Maps 2.19 and 2.21). While the analysis shows that there are recreation centers in areas of low equity/high need, there are larger sections lacking access to recreation facilities in the northwest, northeast, and south (Map 2.23).

Examination of the distribution of private (non BCRP) recreation facilities together with BCRP recreation facilities (Map 2.24) indicates the presence of several private and BCRP facilities that are located within low equity/high need areas – in the northwest edge (Glen/Arlington), in the northeast (Frankfort), the west (Coppin Heights/Ash-Co-East, Easterwood, Harlem Park, Franklin Square), and the south (Cherry Hill, Irvington).

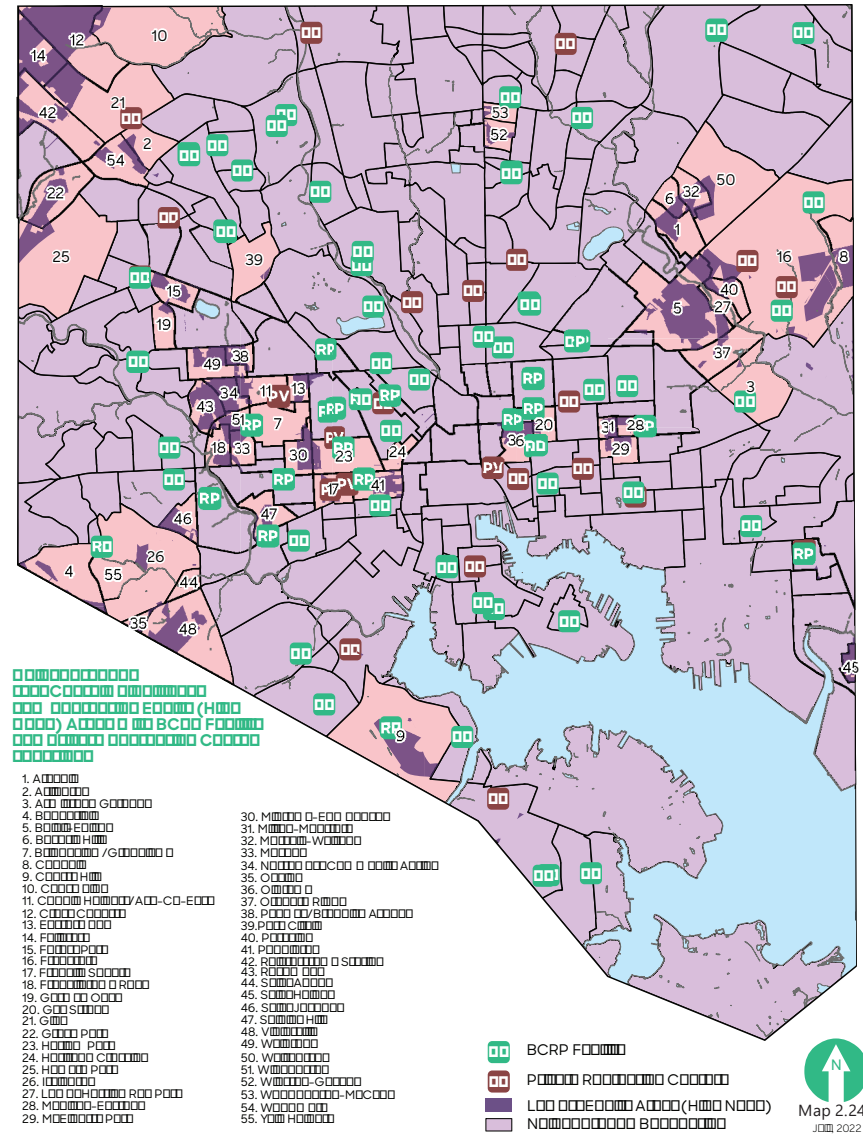
There are, however, 43 low equity/high need areas within neighborhoods that lack access recreation facilities (Tables 2.16 and 2.17). The analysis suggests that the Department evaluate the recreation center programs and services in these low equity/ high need areas to see how the facilities and programs could facilitate better access for residents and unmet needs. The analysis also highlights some sections of neighborhoods to be considered for new facilities, or to partner with other groups to provide recreation programming.



Map 2.22 Recreation Equity Analysis - BCRP and Non BCRP Recreation Centers, Pools, Specialty Facilities



Map 2.23 Recreation Equity Analysis - Lowest Equity/High Need Areas and BCRP Recreation Centers, Pools, Specialty Facilities



Map 2.24 Recreation Equity Analysis - Lowest Equity/High Need Areas with BCRP and Non BCRP Recreation Centers, Pools, Specialty Facilities

Recreation Equity Analysis - Neighborhoods with Areas of Low and High Recreation Equity ( Maps 2.23 and 2.24)			
Neighborhoods with Low Recreation Equity/High Need Areas		Neighborhoods with High Recreation Equity/Low Need Areas	
1	Arcadia	1	Brewers Hill
2	Arlington	2	Butcher's Hill
3	Armistead Gardens	3	Canton
4	Beechfield	4	Charles North
5	Belair-Edison	5	Coldspring
6	Beverly Hills	6	Coldstream Homestead Montebello
7	Bridgeview/Greenlawn	7	Cross Keys
8	Cedonia	8	Downtown West
9	Cherry Hill	9	Federal Hill
10	Cheswolde	10	Fells Point
11	Coppin Heights/Ash-Co-East	11	Greektown
12	Cross Country	12	Guilford
13	Easterwood	13	Hamilton Hills
14	Fallstaff	14	Hampden
15	Forest Park	15	Highlandtown
16	Frankford	16	Hoes Heights
17	Franklin Square	17	Hollins Market
18	Franklinton Road	18	Inner Harbor
19	Garwyn Oaks	19	Jones Falls Area
20	Gay Street	20	Kernewood
21	Glen	21	Locust Point
22	Grove Park	22	Locust Point Industrial Area
23	Harlem Park	23	Medfield
24	Heritage Crossing	24	Mid-Town Belvedere
25	Howard Park	25	Mount Washington
26	Irvington	26	Otterbein
27	Lower Herring Run Park	27	Patterson Park Neighborhood
28	Madison-Eastend	28	Remington
29	McElderry Park	29	Ridgely's Delight
30	Midtown-Edmondson	30	Riverside
31	Milton-Montford	31	Sharp-Leadenhall
32	Moravia-Walther	32	South Baltimore
33	Mosher	33	South Clifton Park
34	Northwest Community Action	34	Upper Fells Point
35	Oaklee	35	Woodberry
36	Oldtown	36	Wyman Park
37	Orchard Ridge		
38	Panway/Braddish Avenue		
39	Park Circle		
40	Parkside		
41	Poppleton		
42	Reisterstown Station		
43	Rosemont		
44	Saint Agnes		
45	Saint Helena		
46	Saint Josephs		
47	Shipley Hill		
48	Violetville		
49	Walbrook		
50	Waltherson		
51	Winchester		
52	Winston-Govans		
53	Woodbourne-McCabe		
54	Woodmere		
55	Yale Heights		

Table 2.16 Recreation Equity Analysis - Neighborhood Areas of Lowest Equity/High Need that Lack Recreation Facilities

Recreation Equity Analysis - Neighborhoods with Areas of Low Recreation Equity / High Need	
Region	Low Recreation Equity Neighborhood Areas
North	Winston-Govans Woodbourne-McCabe
North East	Arcadia Armistead Gardens Belair-Edison Beverly Hills Cedonia Frankford Lower Herring Run Park Moravia-Walther Orchard Ridge Parkside Waltherson
Northwest	Arlington Cheswolde Cross Country Fallstaff Forest Park Garwyn Oaks Glen Grove Park Howard Park Park Circle Reisterstown Station Woodmere
West	Bridgeview/Greenlawn Coppin Heights/Ash-Co-East Easterwood Franklin Square Franklinton Road Harlem Park Heritage Crossing Midtown-Edmondson Mosher Northwest Community Action Panway/Braddish Avenue Poppleton Rosemont Shipley Hill Walbrook Winchester
Southwest	Beechfield

Table 2.17 Recreation Equity Analysis - Neighborhood Areas of Lowest Equity/High Need that Lack Recreation Facilities



## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

### Baltimore City Recreation & Parks Context

Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks' (BCRP) mission is to improve the health and wellness of Baltimore through maintaining quality recreational programs, preserving our parks and natural resources, and promoting fun, active lifestyles for all citizens of Baltimore. To that end, BCRP's vision is to build a stronger Baltimore one community at a time, through Conservation, Health and Wellness, and Social Equity. We define these components as:

- **Conservation:** Parks are critical to the preservation of natural resources that have real economic benefits for communities. The Department serves as a strong voice in communities as we advocate for protecting open space, connecting children to nature, improving our tree canopy, and providing education and programming that helps communities engage in conservation practices.
- **Health and Wellness:** Recreation and Parks lead the nation in improving the overall health and wellness of communities. They are essential partners in combating some of the most complicated and expensive challenges our country faces – poor nutrition, hunger, obesity, and physical inactivity. We must be dedicated to this fight.
- **Social Equity:** Universal access to public parks and recreation programming is a right, not a privilege. Every day, the Department must ensure that all members of the community have access to the resources and programming offered. We must do a better job of developing programs and facilities for the communities we aim to serve.

BCRP's mission and vision guide the Department's approach to recreation programming, park land and facility maintenance, capital development and planning. The statements are revisited periodically to ensure that they reflect the standards of the National Recreation and Parks Association's Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) as well as the aspirations of both the

Department and Baltimore City residents. CAPRA accredits park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service providing assurance to the public that the agency meets national standards of best practice. Baltimore City received CAPRA reaccreditation in October 2021.

The Baltimore City Recreation & Parks agency comprises 17 different divisions and employs 694 people. Divisions within the agency include Recreation Center Operations, Therapeutic, Seniors, Programming, Marketing & Communication, Safety & Risk, Special Events & Permits, Community Engagement & Strategic Partnerships, Forestry, Horticulture, Information Technology, Parks Maintenance, Facility Maintenance, Administration, Capital Development & Planning, Fiscal and Human Resources.

BCRP manages and maintains the city's park, playground and playing field system consisting of over 5,026 acres of open space. The Department is responsible for the care of all buildings and facilities on park property. Another key agency responsibility is to provide a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities and programs in parks as well in facilities such as recreation centers, swimming pools, senior centers, soccer arenas, ice rinks, a nature center, therapeutic recreation facilities, a conservatory and arboretum. The agency's divisions of Horticulture and Forestry, manage and maintain care for land in street right of ways, city street trees and the urban forest.

### *Baltimore City Recreation & Parks Goals*

Baltimore City's recreation and parks system is uniquely positioned for advancement into the 21st Century. Political will has begun to shift and there is a strong desire to support an enhanced quality of life through infrastructure investments. Recreation and park facilities are assets that increase investor interest, and along with businesses and residents, lead to a stronger economy that boosts jobs and communities with well-maintained and desirable amenities.

The 2019 Vision Plan for Baltimore City's recreation and parks system is based on the analysis of system assets, issues and opportunities and

builds upon input received from residents and visitors to the system in order to enhance the services offered by the Department. The plan laid out the following **Broad Goals** for the provision of public parks and recreation facilities:

- **Improve Access and Reduce Barriers** to using the recreation and parks system.
- **Promote Physical and Mental Health** of all recreation and park visitors and participants.
- **Provide a Safe and Welcoming Environment** for all.
- **Ensure Equity** by way of recreation facility and park distribution, capital investment, transportation access and affordability.
- **Provide Opportunities for Social Connections**, especially places where visitors may **Conserve and Experience the Natural Environment**.
- **Ensure Financial Stability** for long term maintenance, staffing and capital investment in the whole recreation and park system.

Several principles and priorities further guide the Vision Plan recommendations for the provision of capital planning and investments, operational and maintenance improvements, program offerings, funding and revenue generation, and marketing/communications & advocacy. These **Guiding Principles and Priorities** are:

- *Distribute Facilities Equitably Citywide.* While this principle was developed prior to the proximity and equity analysis undertaken for this report, it supports the goal to improve access to the recreation and parks system and those areas and neighborhoods in the city that are deemed low equity/ high need.
- *Invest Equitably.* Prioritize capital improvements and the provision of recreation activities in areas that have received fewer previous public investments. This principle also supports the goal to ensure recreation access to residents in areas of low equity/ high need.

- *Increase Support to Areas Targeted for Public Investment.*
- *Promote Nature Education and Outdoor Park Experiences.*
- *Program for all Age Groups and Socio-Economic Levels.*
- *Ensure that all Facilities and Recreation Activities are Accessible, including people with differing abilities, languages of origin, financial capacities, and socio-economic backgrounds.*
- *Promote Transparency and Communication.*
- *Provide Safe and Welcoming Facilities.*
- *Promote Health and Recreation.*
- *Promote Recreation Facilities and Parks as Social Destinations.*
- *Integrate Technology to Attract and Engage Users.*
- *Provide Amenities.*
- *Create additional Funding and Revenue Sources for the Long Term.*

Considering the park and recreation facility proximity and equity analyses undertaken for this report, the areas deemed low equity and in high need of parks and recreation opportunities will be considered more consciously in the Department's capital and operating investments moving forward. As previously mentioned, in 2022/2023, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks will undertake a new comprehensive planning effort for the recreation and parks system. This effort will build upon the goals, guiding principles and recommendations identified in the 2019 Vision Plan, the REC2025 Plan, and the present LPPRP report. This will incorporate four key components: A Capital Investment Strategy, Operations Plan, Funding Plan (for Capital and Operations) and a Strategy for Agency Revenue Generation and Cost Recovery. These components will inform and support one another as part of an overall 10-year comprehensive vision and plan for recreation and parks programs and facilities. The Comprehensive Plan document will define the overall goals, vision and distinct role of the Department

of Recreation and Parks within the broader context of Baltimore City over the next 10 years. It will clearly identify what the Department wants to accomplish within this time-frame and how it will go about doing so. The plan will include resident opinion surveys and will coordinate with the Department of Planning's comprehensive planning efforts.

### *Aligning City and State Goals for Parks and Recreation*

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources identified six (6) goals for Parks and Recreation in its 2014-2018 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan which continue to remain relevant in its updated 2019-2023 Plan. These goals guide statewide efforts to conserve open spaces and enhance outdoor resources on State lands. These statewide goals continue to reflect and align with Baltimore City Recreation & Parks mission, vision goals and plans which serve to guide agency policies, programs, and projects. The State goals are to:

1. Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all its citizens and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.
2. Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the State more desirable places to live, work, play and visit.
3. Use state investment in parks, recreation, and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans.
4. To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile and help to protect natural open spaces and resources.
5. Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth, through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities.

6. Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a statewide level

Baltimore City provides a wide variety of recreational environments and opportunities for its residents. Accessibility, whether it be by way of mode of transportation, cost, geographic location, communication method, or available opportunities is a key issue that Baltimore City Recreation & Parks strives to address in the provision of its programs and the locations of its facilities. Services provided to the public are at no cost or generally below market rate. These include summer camp programs; facility permit fees and event and single program fees. The Department continues to promote its programs and facilities more widely to ensure that residents are aware of the range of recreational opportunities available to them citywide.

Parks and recreation facilities in Baltimore City are recognized as key amenities to improve the quality of life, both in neighborhoods and citywide. Priorities in capital and program investments are determined based on criteria that consider issues of safety, state and federal mandates, equitable geographical distribution of past investments in neighborhoods, and populations (with a focus on prioritizing areas and city residents that are, and have been, underserved), environmental benefits, and the coordination of multi-agency public investment and plans.

Due to the urban nature of Baltimore City, new facilities are often provided through the expansion of existing facilities or developed in conjunction with other city plans and initiatives on previously developed properties (such as Baltimore Housing and Community Development (DHCD) projects, Baltimore Department of Transportation (DOT) complete street improvements, the State's Project CORE funds, and planning for the City's vacant properties as part of the Department of Planning's Green Network Plan). During 2022 and 2023, both the Departments of Planning and Recreation & Parks will undertake the development of comprehensive plans that, working together, will coordinate planning processes and support city priorities.



The Department of Recreation & Parks is also working with Maryland's Department of Natural Resources to improve an underutilized youth campground and will apply to the National Park Service for ORLP Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to support the construction of an improved trail along the Middle Branch shoreline between Middle Branch Park and the Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center in Reedbird Park. The Department is working with other City agencies, including the departments of Health and Planning, Office of Sustainability, and others on a variety of issues, including increasing the amount of park space on vacant land in underserved areas, providing health and wellness programming and increasing access to environmental programming on public lands.

## IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS AND FUNDING RESOURCES

The Department of Recreation & Parks manages operating and capital funds for recreation and open space in Baltimore. Both operating and capital improvement plan (CIP) budgets are ordinances that are officially approved by the Baltimore City Council legislature on an annual basis. The approved allocated Fiscal Year budgets begin July 1st and run through June 30th.

The Department's operating budget is facilitated annually through Baltimore City's Finance Department. All divisions within Baltimore City Recreation & Parks must prepare annual operating budget requests which outline populations served and include performance criteria to measure success and effectiveness. These requests are reviewed internally, prior to submission to the Finance Department which in turn, administers a round of administration reviews before going to the mayor, followed by the City Council.

Funding sources for the Department of Recreation & Parks' operating budget include the City's General Revenue as well as partnerships with organizations such as the Family League of Baltimore, University of Maryland Baltimore City (UMB), University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and others. In the most recent four fiscal years (FY20-23), the operating budget has averaged \$58.1 million (80% General Funds, 20% other funds, private grants, and donations). The current operating budget for FY23 totals \$60.8 million.

The Department's Capital Budget is facilitated through Baltimore City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which is approved on an annual basis for all city agencies by the Baltimore City's Department of Planning to ensure project coordination between agencies and overall compatibility with citywide goals. Planning Department staff work closely with the Capital Development and Planning Division at BCRP to prepare the annual and six (6) year Capital Improvement Program as well as a variety of small community plans that impact park issues.

The Department of Recreation and Parks, Capital Development and Planning Division, has several "long-term" Capital Development programs that help the City to remain focused on the goals of the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Planning and State Goals. These programs were developed to ensure steady progress on all aspects of providing open space and recreation opportunities in Baltimore City. They support care, operation, and improvement of general neighborhood recreation facilities, special recreation facilities, and our citywide network of open space greenways. The seven (7) programs for capital development are:

1. Recreation Facility and Park Building Modernization - the renovation and new construction of recreation, special facilities, park field houses, restrooms, picnic shelters, historic structures, and agency maintenance facilities.
2. Pool Facility Modernization – the renovation and new construction of pool and aquatic facilities.
3. Park Rehabilitation and Development – the renovation and new construction of park features, greenways, ADA upgrades, etc.
4. Baltimore Playground Program – playground renovation and new construction for park and recreation sites.
5. Athletic Field and Court Rehabilitation and Development (including lighting).
6. Park Plazas, Fountains, and Medians-including street tree planting.
7. Park Land Acquisition.

Suggestions for park and recreation capital improvement projects come from many sources:

- *Department of Recreation and Parks' Citywide Plans and Individual Park Master Plans:* Capital projects identified as part of individual park plans (Solo Gibbs Master Plan, Canton Waterfront Master Plan, Patterson Park Master Plan), citywide plans (2019 Vision Plan, Pool Assessment), and agency programming and facility needs. All agency plans incorporate citizen participation as part of planning and design processes.
- *User Survey, Demand Data and National Research:* Generated by the Department of Recreation and Parks, other city agencies or organizations that pertain to parks and recreation preferences or needs.
- *Community or City Staff Generated Plans:* Recommendations from neighborhood master plans, Small Neighborhood Action Plans (SNAP), Urban Renewal Plans, Commercial Corridor Plans (LINCS), Urban Land Institute Plans, INSPIRE plans for areas around the locations of new 21st century School Building projects, and other plans and community assistance projects from the Department of Planning.
- *Individual Suggestions from City Agencies and Citizens:* Suggestions from Recreation and Parks staff, Planning Department staff, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods, individual park "friends" organizations, private citizens, elected officials, and community organizations. This includes requests received through the BCRP website's capital project request form.

Every fall, the Division of Capital Development and Planning, the Director of the Department of Recreation & Parks and BCRP staff from all divisions evaluate the suggestions received during the past year from the previously listed sources. The Department receives a funding range from the Department of Planning that is determined by the Department of Finance. All agency project requests must stay within the set funding cap they have received. Staying within the set capital budget funding

range, BCRP submits project requests that enhance the park system and support recreation programming. The completed capital budget is submitted by the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks to the City's Department of Planning.

Baltimore City Recreation & Parks employs evaluation criteria to determine its capital project requests or land acquisition proposals. These criteria are assigned weighted values on an annual basis and uses criteria used by the Planning Commission as well as other more specific criteria related to BCRP's values.

The scope of projects covered in the seven capital programs and the evaluating criteria used by BCRP, work together to identify projects which will have the greatest value for the public, while finding a balance between all the competing goals of the Department.

**Criteria and (Weights) Used to Evaluate FY23 Capital Improvement Project Requests:**

- Does it fulfill a State or Federal mandate? (Yes/No)
- Does it promote equity? (5)
- Will this improve air or water quality or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote conservation? (5)
- Is it necessary to protect public health and safety? (5)
- Will a lack of investment now result in exponentially higher costs later or the loss of an asset? (5)
- Will City funding leverage other fund sources or fill a funding gap? (3)
- Has the agency prioritized the project? (3)
- Does it implement the City's Comprehensive Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, area master plans and/or agency master plans (Equity Assessment, Community Development Framework, INSPIRE, CHOICE, 1% for Art, Disaster Preparedness & Resilience, Greenway Trail Network, etc)? (3)
- Does it promote private-public partnerships? (2)
- Will Capital investment result in operating savings or revenue increases? (2)
- Is it necessary to implement a priority housing or economic development initiative? (1)

The close coordination between BCRP and the Department of Planning ensures that capital investments in park and recreation facilities will meet the recreation programming needs of the public as well as support environmental community enhancement or economic development projects initiated by other City agencies. Each year, there are far more suggestions for capital improvement projects than available funding. Projects are given a higher funding priority based upon the previously mentioned BCRP criteria, contribution to citywide goals, and overall community support.

After revisions are made to the capital improvement requests to meet citywide goals, the Planning Department submits the requests of all city agencies to the City’s Planning Commission for public review and the formal acceptance process. Once the City Planning Commission approves the Capital Improvement Program in early March, the program moves on for required approvals by the Board of Finance in late March, followed by the Board of Estimates in May and the City Council in June (see Figure 2.19).

Funding for Baltimore City Recreation & Parks’ CIP comes from of a mix of City, State and Federal sources. City funding sources include

City Bond and General Revenue funds.<sup>26</sup> State funding sources include grants from Program Open Space (POS Direct and Matching Grants), Community Parks and Playgrounds, Local Parks and Playground Infrastructure (LPPI), Waterway Improvement Grants, Pimlico Local Impact Aid (Slots funds), Casino Local Impact Grants (Video Lottery Terminal funds), and State Bond funds (allocated by State Bond Bill). Federal funding sources vary depending upon the capital project, but have included Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants, LWCF-Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grants, Section 108 loans from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to Baltimore City’s Department of Housing and Community Development and Department of Recreation & Parks, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and infrastructure grant funds from the SAFETEA-LU Act (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users).

The Department also receives private funds for capital projects as part of partnerships with organizations such as the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, Under Armour, the Baltimore Ravens, the National Football League, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Washington Capitals Hockey.

The Department’s Capital Improvement Program budget between FY 18 and FY22 has averaged \$20.86 million per year, with 49 percent coming from the State of Maryland, 38 percent coming from Baltimore City funds, 10 percent from the Federal government and 2 percent from other grants. A more detailed breakdown by program and funding sources for FY18 through FY22 is provided in Table 2.18.

For FY 23, BCRP’s Capital Improvement Program budget is an unprecedented \$97.681 million, with major surpluses allocated from the State as well as from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The FY23 capital budget has the highest allocations from the State of Maryland (52%), followed by the Federal government (48%) and Baltimore City (7%). A more detailed breakdown of the funding source program and allocations is in Table 2.19.

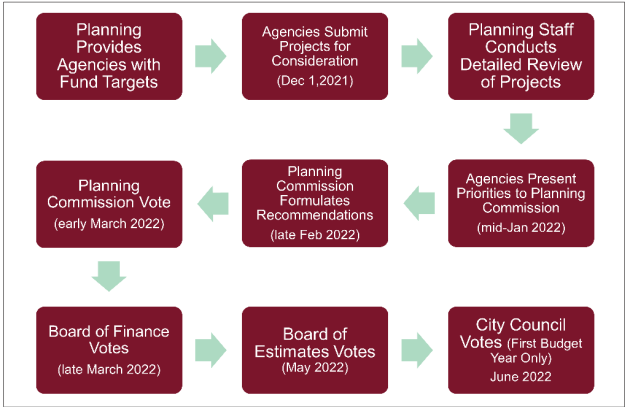


Figure 2.19 Baltimore City CIP Approval Process

26 General Revenue Funds have not been available as a source for the capital budget since FY21.



BCRP FY 18-22 Capital Improvement Program Budget by Funding Source																	
		City			State						State- Slot/Casino				Federal	Other	
Fiscal Year	Year Total*	City Gen	City Surplus (Gen)	GO Bonds (City Loan) #100	POS Match (Local) #604	POS Direct #603	POS CP&P	State Bond	HUR	State Grant (LPPI)	Pimlico Local Impact #612	Table Games	LDC Local Impact	SBGP	Federal Loan Funds #550	Other	
FY18	15048	325		5400	3922	2000	177	1500	675							1049	
FY19	24234	3046	400	7325	4278	3175	175		600		250		1000	2930		1055	
FY20	27606			7300	3838	2900	260				1200			108	12000		
FY21	17756			9300	3500	2500	256				1550					650	
FY22	32042			11392	4250	3000				13000	400						
5 Yr Total	116686	3371	400	40717	19788	13575	868	1500	1275	13000	3400	0	1000	3038	12000	2754	
% of 5Yr Total	100%	3%		35%	17%	12%	1%	1%	12%		6%					10%	2%
	100%	38%			49%											10%	2%

\* Numbers are in thousands

Table 2.18 BCRP FY 18- FY22 Capital Improvement Program Budget by Funding Source

BCRP FY23 Capital Improvement Program Budget by Funding Source										
	FY23 Funding Source									FY 23 Totals
	City	State						Federal		
	GO Bonds (City Loan)	POS Match (Local)	POS Direct	State LPPI	Pimlico Area Local Impact Aid (VLT Revenue)	SBGP(Casino Impact Funds)	Other State Grants	CDBG Grant	ARPA Grant	
FY 23 Funding	\$ 6,832,000	\$ 6,526,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 22,200,000	\$ 9,000,000	\$38,073,000	\$ 97,681,000
% of Total FY23 Budget*	7.0%	7%	3%	10%	0%	2%	23%	9%	39%	100%
% Total by Public Entity*	7%	52%						48%		100%

\* Percentages have been rounded to the nearest full percentage point

Table 2.19 BCRP FY 23 Capital Improvement Program Budget by Funding Source

Program Open Space funds are generally used to fund renovation of existing facilities (recreation center renovation, renovation projects in the city's large urban or community parks, neighborhood playground renovation). Occasionally, Program Open Space funds are used for park acquisition or new development. Other funds include grants from organizations such as the National Recreation and Parks Association, LWCF grant funds as part of the NPS' Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program, and private funds as part of partnerships with organizations such as the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, Under Armour, the Baltimore Ravens, the National Football League, and the Baltimore Orioles.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: FY 2023 - FY 2028

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks' Capital Improvement Plan is presented in detail for Fiscal Year 2023, which begins July 1, 2022. Capital Improvements for FY2024 - FY2028 are discussed by program area. The focus of the Capital Improvement Plan is on the development and improvement of parks and recreation facilities on land that the city already owns as opposed to the acquisition of privately owned land.

1. Recreation Facility and Park Building Modernization
2. Pool Facility Modernization
3. Park Rehabilitation & Development
4. Playground Program
5. Athletic Field and Court Rehabilitation & Development (including lighting)
6. Park Plazas, Fountains, and Medians (including street tree planting)
7. Park Land Acquisition

## Fiscal Year 2023

Individual projects are listed under the appropriate program area. A total of 29 projects, totaling \$20.250 million dollars were submitted for funding requests for FY23 as part of Baltimore City's annual Capital Improvement Program budget process in January 2022. As of June 2022, 36 projects were approved for FY23 funding by the city with a total budget of \$59.608 million dollars. An additional 50 projects were identified within the categories of pools, recreation centers, playgrounds, trails, and athletic courts to be awarded ARPA funding (\$38.073 million dollars). The total budget for FY23 is \$97.681 million dollars.

Table 2.20 categorizes the FY23 capital projects by program area and includes only those FY23 capital projects that were approved as of June 2022 (Table 2.21).

The identification of these FY 23 projects was based upon the evaluation criteria, prioritization, review, and approval processes discussed as part of the earlier Implementing Programs and Funding Resources section. Table 2.21 lists the approved FY23 capital projects by funding sources. Table 2.22 provides the full list of capital projects by ARPA funding category. It should be noted that while the ARPA funds are approved for FY23, the individual projects will be undertaken over a three-year period. Maps 2.25 and 2.26 show the approved FY23 capital project locations listed in Tables 2.21 and 2.22. Maps 2.27 and 2.28 show the capital project locations in relation to the lowest park and recreation equity/ high need areas identified in the equity analysis.

FY23 Capital Improvements by Program Area			
Capital Improvement Program Area	Project Name	Capital Improvement Program Area	Project Name
Recreation Facility and Park Building Modernization	Mary E Rodman Rec Center – CM	Playgrounds	Hamilton Elementary School- Playground
	Bocek Park Athletic Center – Const.		Flowerton Playground (ARPA)
	Parkview Rec Center – Const. & CM		Luzerne & Biddle Playground (ARPA)
	Chick Webb Rec Center – Const. & CM (CHOICE neighborhood Rec Facilities)		Morrell Park Playground (ARPA)
	Mary E Rodman Rec Center - Construction (ARPA)		Shipleigh Hill Playground (ARPA)
	Parkview Rec Center – Const. (ARPA)		Deweese Playground (ARPA)
	Gardenville Rec Center (ARPA)		Elmley Playground (ARPA)
	Curtis Bay Rec Center (ARPA)		North Harford Playground (ARPA)
	Furley Rec Center (ARPA)		Cumberland & Carey Playground (ARPA)
	Druid Hill Reptile House – CM		Curtis Bay Playground (ARPA)
	Howard P Rawlings Conservatory – Palm House -Const.		Bonview Playground (ARPA)
	Patterson Observatory – Assessment & Repairs		Clifton Playground (ARPA)
	Latrobe Park Longhouse Renovation – Const.		Roosevelt Playground (ARPA)
Pool Modernization	Walter P Carter Pool – Const. & CM		Edgewood Lyndhurst Playground (ARPA)
	Pool Improvements- Central Rosemont & Greater Model pools		Collington Square Playground (ARPA)
	Patterson Park - Pool & Bathhouse		Carroll & Archer Playground (ARPA)
	Riverside Park – Bathhouse and Pool		Betty Hyatt Playground (ARPA)
	Towanda Pool (ARPA)		Rev Quille Playground (ARPA)
	Coldstream Pool (ARPA)		Lake Montebello Playground (ARPA)
	Central Rosemont Splash Pad (ARPA)		Patterson - Linwood Ave Playground (ARPA)
	Greater Model Pool (ARPA)		Pimlico Playground (ARPA)
	William McAbee Pool (ARPA)	Athletic Field and Court Rehabilitation & Development (including lighting)	Robert C Marshall Field – CM
	O'Donnell Heights Pool (ARPA)		Riverside Athletic Field Lighting – Const. & CM
Park Rehabilitation & Development	Northwest Park Improvements – Const.		Hard Court Resurfacing – Const.
	Solo Gibbs – Phase I Const.		Gwynns Falls Athletic Field Renovation – Const & CM
	Cab Calloway Square/Legends Park – Const. & CM		Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation-South Baltimore Youth Development Park
	Middle Branch Trail – Design		Greenmount Park-Johnston Square Football Field
	Garrett Park Improvements – Const. & CM		Carroll Park Courts (ARPA)
	Druid Hill Park -Druid Lake – Phase I Design		Queensbury Courts (ARPA)
	Leon Day Park Baseball Field Improvements – Design		Johnston Square Courts (ARPA)
	Farring Baybrook Park Improvements – Design		Clifton Park - Basketball Relocation Courts (ARPA)
	Winans Meadow Nature Center- Const.		Wilbur Waters Courts (ARPA)
	Florence Cummins Park – Design		Evesham Park Courts (ARPA)
	Alhambra Park Improvements		Warwick Ave Park Courts (ARPA)
	Hanlon Park Improvements		Kevin & Woodbridge Park Courts (ARPA)
	Mount Vernon Place Conservancy- North and South Square Restoration		Curtis Bay Courts (ARPA)
	O'Donnell Heights Park		Luzerne Ave Park Courts (ARPA)
	Nathaniel J. McFadden Learn and Play Park		Caroline & Hoffman - Tennis Courts Courts (ARPA)
	Union Square Park		DeSoto Park - Mini Pitch & 2 Basketball Courts Courts (ARPA)
	Gwynns Falls Trail Repairs & Signage Trails (ARPA)		Briscoe Park (ARPA)
	Jones Falls Trail Improvements & Signage Trails (ARPA)		Druid Hill - Tennis Courts Courts (ARPA)
	Herring Run Trail Signage Trails (ARPA)		Pimlico - New Basketball (ARPA)
	Middle Branch Trail Improvements & Signage (ARPA)	Park Plazas, Fountains, Medians, Street Trees	Tree Baltimore Program

Table 2.20 FY23 Projects by Capital Improvement Program Area



Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Improvement Program																	
			Project Total	HUR	City Gen	GO Bonds (City Loan) #100	Pimlico Local Impact #612	POS Match (Local) #604	POS Direct #603	POS CP&P	State LPPI	State Bond	Other State Grants	LDC Local Impact	SBGP	Federal Loan Funds (ARPA)	Federal Loan Funds (CDGB)
Priority	Account	Project Name/ Project Description															
1	474-119	Construction Management - Mary E Rodman Rec Center	800			200		600									
2	474-052	Construction Management - Druid Hill Reptile House	500			500											
3	474-123	Construction Management - Robert C Marshall Field	200			200											
4	474-147	Parkview Rec Center - Construction & CM - (Baltimore City DHCD to contribute add'l \$2.3M CDGB funds for Demolition of existing building)	11250			1650		600									9000
5	474-163	Cab Calloway Square - Construction & CM	400			400											
6	474-167	Middle Branch Trail - Design	300			300											
7	474-079	Boeck Park Athletic Center - Construction	2400			600		1800									
8	474-165	Rawlings Conservatory - Palm House - Construction	2000			500		1500									
9	474-116	Walter P. Carter Pool - Construction & CM	650			650											
10	474-017	Riverside Athletic Field Lighting & CM, See LPPI, below	0			0		0									
11	474-095	Gwynns Falls Athletic Field Renovation - Construction & CM	1200			300		900									
12	474-114	CHOICE Neighborhood Rec Facilities - Chick Webb - Construction & CM	3500			500			2500		500						
13	474-066	Northwest Park Improvements - Construction	75			0					75						
14	474-168	Solo Gibbs Park- Phase I Construction - (2.5 M for Rec Center- Phase II)	4500			0		0					3500		1000		
15	474-135	Garrett Park Improvements - Construction & CM	250			250											
16	474-170	Patterson Park Observatory - Assessment & Repairs	125			0					125						
17	474-172	Leon Day Park Baseball Field Improvements	725			0					725						
18	474-106	Druid Lake - Phase 0 & 1A DD/CD;	17983			457		526					17000				
19	474-160	Latrobe Park Longhouse Renovation	300			0					100		200				
20	474-128	Tree Baltimore Program	200			200											
21	474-155	Farring Baybrook Park Improvements - Design	375			125					250						
22	474-051	Winans Meadow Nature Center- City match from previous years	600					600									
23	474-176	Florence Cummins Park - Design	1300												1300		
24	474-162	Towanda Recreation Center	250				250										
25	474-183	Alamبرا Park Improvements- Woodbourne- McCabe Community Association	125								125						
26	474-184	Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation-South Baltimore Youth Development Park	500								500						
27	474-185	Greenmount Park-Johnston Square Football Field	500								500						
28	474-186	Hamilton Elementary School- Playground	100								100						
29	474-187	Hanlon Park Improvements	150								150						
30	474-188	Mount Vernon Place Conservancy- North and South Square Restoration	2500								2500						
31	474-189	O'Donnell Heights Park	500								500						
32	474-190	Parks & People Foundation Inc.- Nathaniel J. McFadden Learn and Play Park	1000								1000						
33	474-191	Patterson Park - Pool & Bathhouse	2000								500		1500				
34	474-194	Riverside Park - Bathhouse and Light Installation	1350								1350						
35	474-195	Riverside Park - Pool	250								250						
36	474-196	Union Square Park	750								750						
		TOTAL Capital Program for FY23	59608	0	0	6832	250	6526	2500	0	10000	0	22200	0	2300		9000
		Max. Range		0		14000		6526	2500								9000
		Anticipated		0		7432		6526	2500		10000		75				9000
	9921	APRA - Pool Improvements	9950													9950	
	9921	ARPA - Recreation Center Improvements	19875													19875	
	9921	ARPA - Playgrounds	5050													5050	
	9921	ARPA - Park trail repair and signage	1000													1000	
	9921	ARPA - Athletic Courts	2198													2198	
		TOTAL ARPA Funded Capital Program	38073													38073	
		TOTAL Capital Program for FY23 with ARPA Projects	97681														

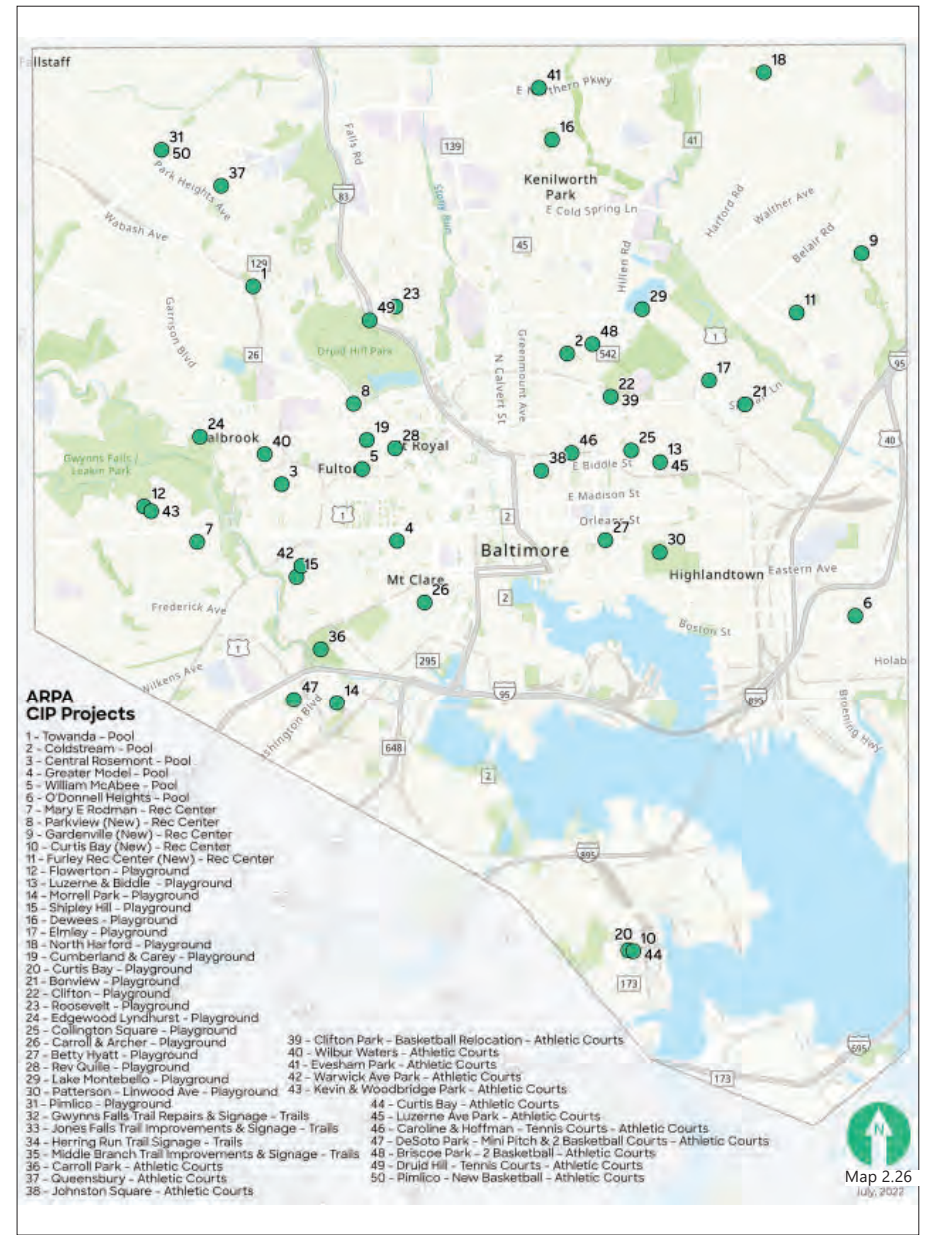
Table 2.21 FY 23 Capital Projects by Funding Source

BCRP - ARPA PROJECTS by CATEGORY									7/6/2022
Project #	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	PROJECT TYPE PRIORITY	LOCATION	Neighborhood	STATE DISTRICT	COUNCIL DISTRICT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
POOLS									
1	Towanda	Pool	1	4100 Towanda Ave.	Park Heights	40	6	Replacement of existing facilities with a new 6-lane lap pool, wading pool, restrooms, mechanical, and staff buildings.	
2	Coldstream	Pool	2	1400 Fillmore St.	CHM	43	14	Replacement of existing facilities with a new 6-lane lap pool, wading pool, restrooms, mechanical, and staff buildings.	
3	Central Rosemont	Pool	3	2621 Winchester St.	Winchester	40	9	New Splash pad with spray features and all associated recirculating water systems.	
4	Greater Model	Pool	4	1055 W. Saratoga St.	Poppleton	40	9	Expansion of existing facilities to include a new wading pool, restrooms, mechanical, and staff buildings.	
5	William McAbee	Pool	5	1323 N. Gilmore St.	Sandtown-Winchester	40	7	Renovation of the existing pool, gutters, pool decking, and associated mechanical systems.	
6	O'Donnell Heights	Pool	6	1200 Gusryan St.	O'Donnell Heights	46	1	Renovation of the existing pool, gutters, pool decking, and associated mechanical systems.	
POOLS SUBTOTAL		\$9,950,000							
RECREATION CENTERS									
7	Mary E Rodman	Rec Center	1	3600 W Mulberry St.	Allendale	41	8	Renovation of existing rec center to include roof replacement, HVAC upgrades, ADA compliant bathrooms, and modernized user spaces.	
8	Parkview (New)	Rec Center	2	2235 N Fulton Ave.	Penn North	40	7	Replacement of existing rec center with new building, park, and playground. Rec center to include gym, community space, and open fitness.	
9	Gardenville (New)	Rec Center	3	4517 Hazelwood Ave.	Frankford	45	2	New rec center adjacent to an existing school. Rec center to include gym, community space, and open fitness.	
10	Curtis Bay (New)	Rec Center	4	1630 Filbert St.	Curtis Bay	46	10	Replacement of existing rec center with new building. Rec center to include gym, community space, and open fitness.	
11	Furley Rec Center (New)	Rec Center	5	4633 Furley Ave	Frankford	45	2	New rec center as part of a 21st Century School construction to include community space, and open fitness.	
RECREATION CENTERS SUBTOTAL		\$19,875,000							
PLAYGROUNDS									
12	Flowerton	Playground	1	4249 Flowerton Rd.	Rognel Heights	41	8	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
13	Luzerne & Biddle	Playground	2	2601 E Biddle St.	Biddle Street	45	13	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
14	Morrell Park	Playground	3	2415 Tolley St.	Morrell Park	40	10	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
15	Shipley Hill	Playground	4	2502 Boyd St	Shipley Hill	40	9	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
16	Deweese	Playground	5	5501 Ivanhoe Ave.	Mid-Govans	43	4	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site. Improved pedestrian pathways and exercise equipment.	
17	Elmley	Playground	6	3347 Clifftown Ave.	Belair - Edison	45	13	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
18	North Harford	Playground	7	6800 Hamlet Ave.	Harford-Echodale-Perring Pkwy	43	3	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
19	Cumberland & Carey	Playground	8	1641 N Carey St.	Druid Heights	40	7	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
20	Curtis Bay	Playground	9	1630 Filbert St.	Curtis Bay	46	10	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
21	Bonview	Playground	10	3800 Sinclair Ln.	Belair - Edison	45	13	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
22	Clifton	Playground	11	2801 Harford Rd.	Clifton	45	14	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
23	Roosevelt	Playground	12	1201 W 36th St.	Hamden	40	7	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
24	Edgewood Lyndhurst	Playground	13	1900 Edgewood St.	Fairmount	41	7	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
25	Collington Square	Playground	14	2131 E Hoffman St.	Broadway East	45	13	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
26	Carroll & Archer	Playground	15	838 Carroll St.	Pigtown	40	10	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
27	Betty Hyatt	Playground	16	1710 E Baltimore St.	Washington Hill	46	13	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
28	Rev Quille	Playground	17	510 Prestman St.	Druid Heights	44	11	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
29	Lake Montebello	Playground	18	Lake Montebello Dr.	Montebello	43	14	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
30	Patterson - Linwood Ave	Playground	19	2601 E. Baltimore St.	Patterson	46	1	Replacement of playground in existing location and footprint to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
31	Pimlico	Playground	20	3425 Trainor Ave	Glen	41	5	Design and installation of new playground to include various play structures and swings designed specifically for the site.	
PLAYGROUNDS SUBTOTAL		\$5,050,000							
TRAILS									
32	Gwynns Falls Trail Repairs & Signage	Trails	1	Gwynns Falls Trail				Design and installation of wayfinding signage for the Gwynns Falls Trail. Trail repairs and resurfacing of the Gwynns Falls Trail.	
33	Jones Falls Trail Improvements & Signage	Trails	2	Jones Falls Trail				Design and installation of wayfinding signage for the Jones Falls Trail. Improvements to the JFT around Druid Lake.	
34	Herring Run Trail Signage	Trails	3	Herring Run Trail				Design and installation of wayfinding signage for the Herring Run Trail.	
35	Middle Branch Trail Improvements & Signage	Trails	4	Middle Branch Trail				Site surveying, design, and installation of wayfinding signage for the Middle Branch Trail.	
TRAILS SUBTOTAL		\$1,000,000							
ATHLETIC COURTS									
36	Carroll Park	Courts	1	1500 Washington Blvd.	Carroll Park	40	10	Asphalt resurfacing, color coat, lining, goal replacement, and new fencing.	
37	Queensbury	Courts	2	3009 Spaulding Ave	Central Park Heights	41	6	Asphalt resurfacing, color coat, lining, goal replacement, and new fencing.	
38	Johnston Square	Courts	3	800 E Biddle St	Johnston Square	45	12	Asphalt resurfacing, color coat, lining, goal replacement, and new fencing.	
39	Clifton Park - Basketball Relocation	Courts	4	2801 Harford Rd	Clifton Park	45	14	New basketball court with asphalt surfacing, color coat, lining, goals, and perimeter fencing.	
40	Wilbur Waters	Courts	5	1600 N Dukeland St	Northwest Community Action	40	7	Asphalt resurfacing, color coat, lining, goal replacement, and new fencing.	
41	Evesham Park	Courts	6	Clearspring	Evesham Park	43	4	Asphalt resurfacing, color coat, lining, goal replacement, and new fencing.	
42	Warwick Ave Park	Courts	7	2 N Warwick Ave	Shipley Hill	44	9	Asphalt resurfacing, color coat, lining, goal replacement, and new fencing.	
43	Kevin & Woodbridge Park	Courts	8	4210 Woodbridge Rd	Rognel Heights	41	8	Asphalt resurfacing, color coat, lining, goal replacement, and new fencing.	
44	Curtis Bay	Courts	9	4416 Curtis Ave	Curtis Bay	46	10	Asphalt resurfacing, color coat, lining, goal replacement, and new fencing.	
45	Luzerne Ave Park	Courts	10	2601 E Biddle St	Biddle St	45	13	Asphalt resurfacing, color coat, lining, goal replacement, and new fencing.	
46	Caroline & Hoffman - Tennis Courts	Courts	11	1351 N Eden St	Oliver	45	12	Asphalt resurfacing, color coat, lining, post/net replacement, and new fencing.	
47	DeSoto Park - Mini Pitch & 2 Basketball Courts	Courts	12	1600 DeSoto Rd	Morrell Park	40	10	Asphalt resurfacing, color coat, lining, goal replacement, and new fencing.	
48	Briscoe Park - 2 Basketball	Courts	13	1441 E 28th St	CHM	43	14	Asphalt resurfacing, color coat, lining, goal replacement, and new fencing.	
49	Druid Hill - Tennis Courts	Courts	14	2700 Madison Ave	Druid Hill Park	40	7	Asphalt resurfacing, color coat, lining, post/net replacement, and new fencing.	
50	Pimlico - New Basketball	Courts	15	3425 Trainor Ave	Glen	41	5	New basketball court with asphalt surfacing, color coat, lining, goals, and perimeter fencing.	
ATHLETIC COURTS SUBTOTAL		\$2,197,684							
Design & Construction Total: \$38,072,684									
Additional Capital Staffing: \$2,927,316									
GRAND TOTAL: \$41,000,000									

Table 2.22 Capital Projects Funded by ARPA

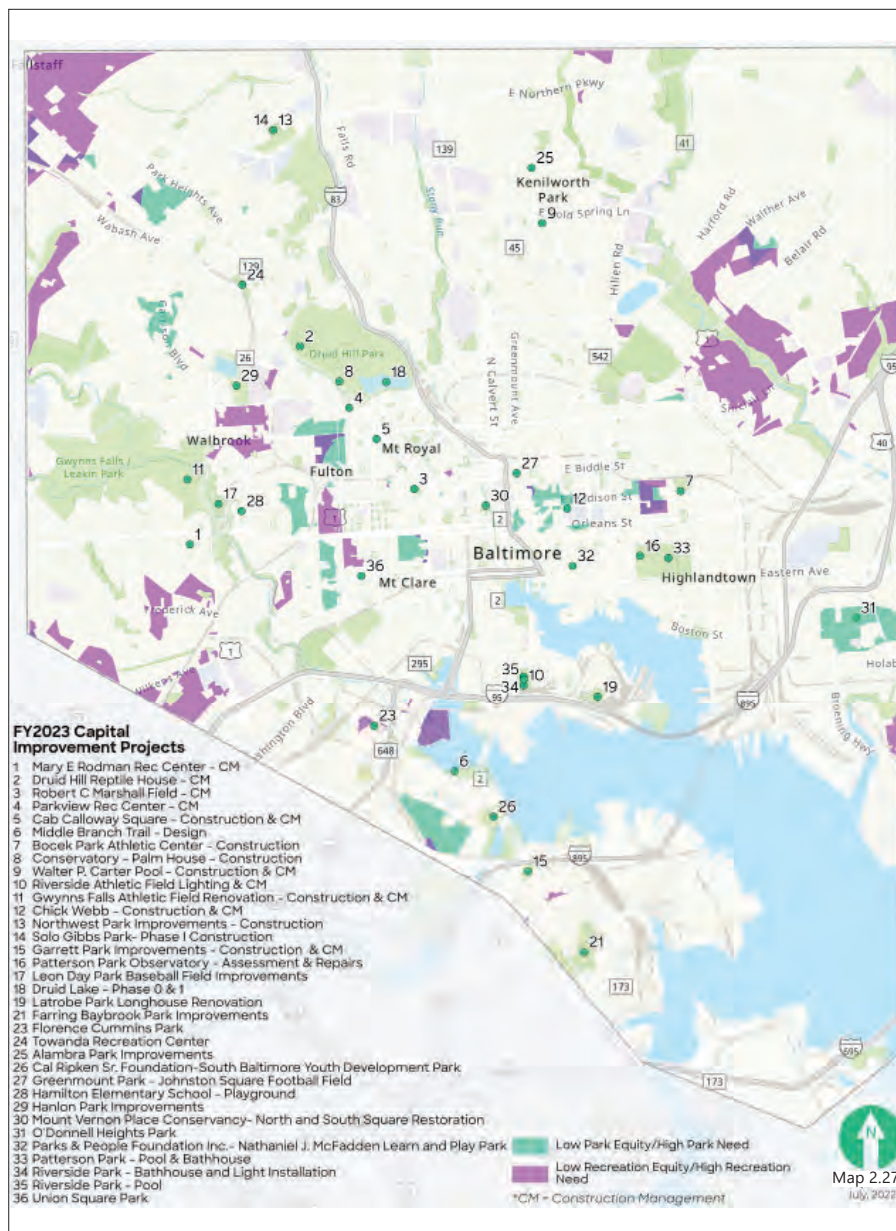


Map 2.25 Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2023

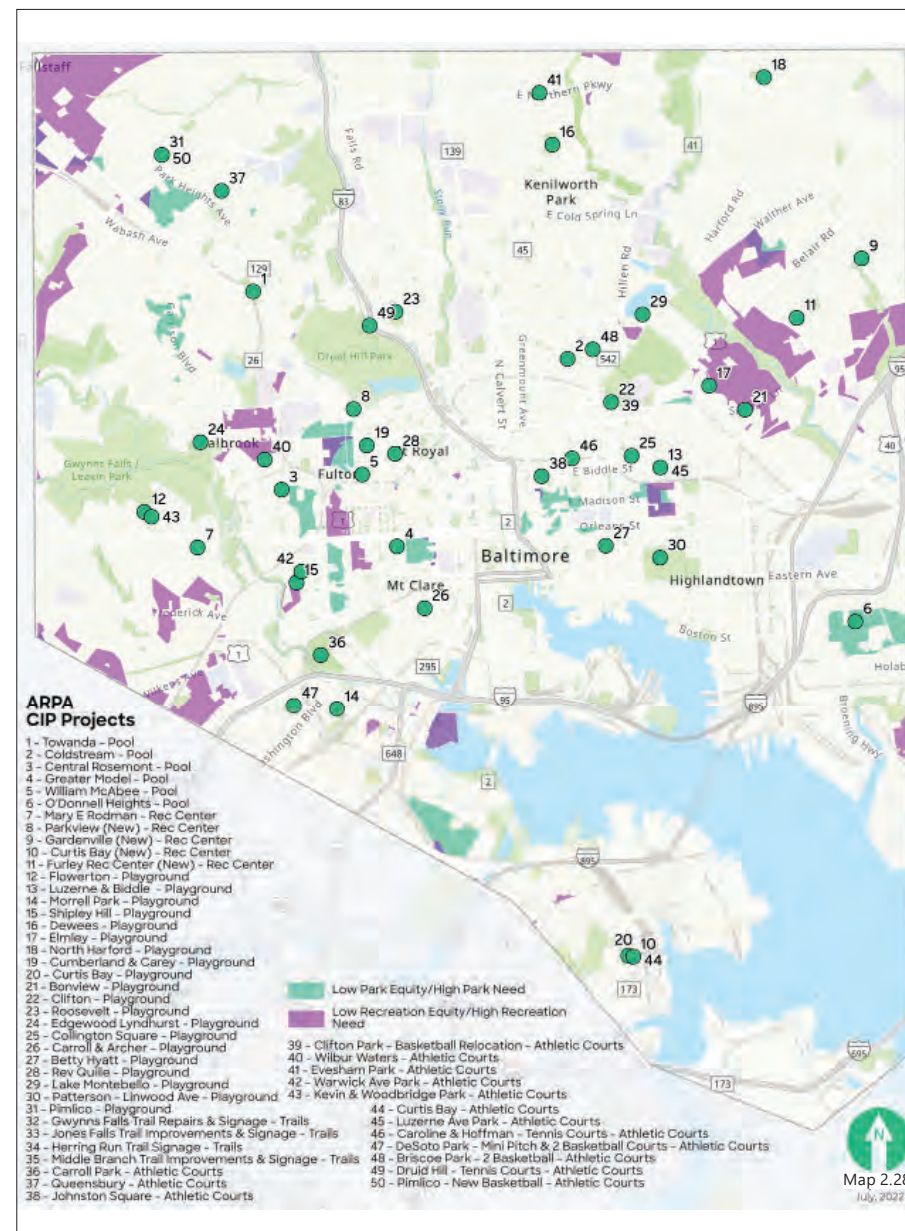


Map 2.26 ARPA Funded Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2023





Map 2.27 FY 23 Capital Improvement Program with Low Equity/High Need Park and Recreation Facility Areas



Map 2.28 ARPA Funded Capital Improvement Program with Low Equity/High Need Park and Recreation Facility Areas

## Fiscal Years 2024 – 2028

### Recreation Facility and Park Building Modernization

Recreation Facility and Park Building Modernization FY24- FY28					
Funding Source	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
City Bond (#100)	\$600,000	\$1,500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,700,000
POS – Direct (#603)		\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,700,000</b>

Table 2.23 Projected Future Funding for Recreation Facility and Park Building Modernization FY24-28

### Recreation Facilities

Future recreation facility projects will expand, renovate, and upgrade recreation centers and other recreation buildings to create a network of high-quality recreation facilities and sustainable recreation services for Baltimore City. The majority of BCRP recreation facilities were constructed in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when the City's population was nearly double its current population. More than 50 years later, many centers need substantial capital repairs and are obsolete for providing today's recreational services which have changed significantly over the last five decades. The current focus will be on recreation facilities located in low equity/high need neighborhoods.

The Department has been making steady progress on improvements to recreation centers over the past nine years with the construction of three new regional recreation centers - Rita Church at Clifton Park, Cahill Fitness & Wellness Center in Gwynns Falls Park, and Middle Branch Fitness & Wellness Center in Cherry Hill – and the renovation or expansion of several neighborhood centers, including Lakeland, Bocek, and Towanda recreation centers to name a few. Upgrades have also been made to the Mt. Pleasant Ice Arena in Mt. Pleasant Park and to Shake & Bake Family Fun Center. Projects currently in design are for the renovation and expansion of Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center, the construction of a new Parkview Recreation Center, and renovation of Mary E Rodman Recreation Center.

Future recreation facility projects include the renovation and or replacement (new construction) of several existing recreation centers. Identification of the centers for renovation will be identified closer to the fiscal year, based upon the completion of a facilities conditions assessment to be undertaken in 2022.

Projects identified for FY23 ARPA funding will be undertaken over a three-year period and include Curtis Bay, Gardenville and Furley Recreation Centers. Future projects for renovation may include the Riverside Park Field House, Cecil Kirk, Northwood, Woodhome and Bentalou Recreation Centers. New construction may include Solo Gibbs Recreation Center in Solo Gibbs Park and Madison Square Recreation Center in Madison Square Park. Both centers are in parks that have been part of a community-based master planning process. Renovation of the associated parks are included as part of the Park Rehabilitation & Development Program. Most if not all of these centers are located within low equity/high need neighborhoods.

### Park Buildings

Future park building projects include renovation of park restrooms, park maintenance buildings, park pavilions and other park facilities including ADA upgrades and more energy efficient building systems.

The park system contains a variety of structures, all requiring upkeep and renovation. There are over 35 individual comfort stations, and only about 10% have been renovated to meet ADA codes. At least 30 comfort stations need a complete renovation. Park pavilions are one of the most popular amenities in the park system. Many of these are historic and contribute not only to the aesthetic quality of the park, but enable social activities as well, enhancing the overall park experience.

Park maintenance crews are based in 5 maintenance yards (with over 30 individual structures). The repair shops, mower storage barns, locker rooms and offices are crumbling and inefficient. Upgrading the maintenance yards improve the ability of Department staff to keep the parks properly maintained. Currently the maintenance facilities do not meet the needs of modern maintenance efforts. Many of the facilities are over 50 years old, are severely out of date and are not only up to building code, but are often unsafe and unhealthy places for city



employees to work. The buildings were not designed to properly store modern day equipment and chemicals. Providing appropriate work environments for city employees results in better maintained, cleaner and more user-friendly parks for all citizens. Costs to renovate these yards will save operational costs in the long term. Renovations have been completed to date on the Clifton Park Maintenance Yard, and construction is underway on the Gwynns Falls Maintenance Yard. Completion is anticipated in 2022.

Older park buildings do not comply with ADA codes or current building codes and often contain asbestos and/or lead paint. Renovations for ADA, changes in building layout and upgrades to more efficient building systems allow the City to adapt existing buildings for modern uses. The Department will undertake the remainder of its building conditions assessment in 2023. This will create a priority list of systems and structures for capital improvements.

Site selections in the budget year are based upon building condition assessments, programming and operational needs as expressed by Recreation, Youth & Adult Sports, Parks Maintenance, Facility Maintenance, and Permits & Special Events Divisions as well as community requests. Anticipated future projects may include upgrades to the Rawlings Conservatory Palm House and the Myers Soccer Pavilion.

### Pool Facility Modernization

Pool Facility Modernization FY24-28					
Funding Source	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
City Bond (#100)	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
POS- Matching (#604)	\$750,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$500,000
POS- Grant (#603)				\$2,000,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>

Table 2.24 Projected Future Funding for Pool Facility Modernization FY24-28

Future projects will expand and upgrade aquatic facilities to create a network of high-quality aquatic facilities and sustainable recreation services for Baltimore City. The majority of BCRP aquatic facilities were constructed in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when the City's popu-

lation was nearly double its current population. More than 50 years later, many pools need substantial capital repairs and are obsolete for providing today's aquatic services which have changed significantly over the last five decades.

A pool assessment was completed in 2020 to evaluate the conditions of all pool facilities and identify capital repairs. Improvements will renovate, redesign and repair leaking swimming pools and bathhouses and bring pools into ADA compliance. Improvements will also seek to build greater pool use and programming for a broader range of age and user groups based upon the recommendations of the 2020 BCRP Pool Assessment. Pools improvements currently in design include Towanda, Coldstream, and Greater Model. ARPA funding will also contribute to future upgrades to Central Rosemont, William McAbee, and O'Donnell Heights pools.

The future program anticipates 2-3 pool repairs/renovations per year. Locations will be determined in sequence, based on their 2020 BCRP Pool Assessment grading and will focus on neighborhoods of low equity/high need.

### Park Rehabilitation & Development Program

Park Rehabilitation & Development Program FY24-28					
Funding Source	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
City Bond (#100)	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$500,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,500,000
POS- Matching (#604)	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>	<b>\$4,500,000</b>

Table 2.25 Projected Future Funding for Park Rehabilitation & Development FY24-28

Instead of repairing worn out or damaged signs, benches, trash cans and other park features, the Department will continue its comprehensive effort to replace these basic park amenities by using products that are adapted to modern park uses and which incorporate recycled materials in their design. Older features that are worn beyond repair, such as drinking and ornamental fountains will be modernized to reduce water waste and meet ADA codes. Comprehensive replacement and re-design of park walks allows the Department to meet ADA goals,



reduce impervious surfaces, and increase the size of sidewalk street tree pits. In addition, special areas within the park system will be renovated to meet the needs of modern park programs, including dog areas. These upgrades will be based on the priority established in individual Park Master Plans and will improve the visual quality of the parks, support Tree Baltimore, reduce maintenance costs and increase trash recycling. FY23 ARPA funds identified four trail systems for repairs, improvements, and signage to be completed within a three-year period. Future capital improvements projects will prioritize parks located in low equity/high need neighborhoods.

Specific sites will be determined in the budget year but anticipate the following future projects in the approximate budget year needed.

FY24: Funded as individual projects (not specifically identified as part of this program category), these include Solo Gibbs Park, Florence Cummings Park, N. Harford Park, and Traci Atkins Park.

FY25: Canton Waterfront, Solo Gibbs Park, Druid Hill Reservoir, Middle Branch Park improvements.

FY 26: Union Square Park, Cumberland & Carey Park, Solo Gibbs Park Master Plan Improvements- phase I, Florence Cummins Park Master Plan Improvements- phase I, Bocek, Herring Run at Halls Springs

FY 27: Solo Gibbs Park Improvements -phase II, Northwest Park, North Harford Park, Madison Square Park, Halls Springs in Herring Run Park.

FY 28: Dewees Park, Canton Waterfront Park, Florence Cummins Park – phase II, Druid Hill Park Lake area improvements.

## Playgrounds

### Maryland Community Parks and Playgrounds Program

#### Baltimore Playlot Program

Baltimore Playlot Program FY24-28					
Funding Source	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
City Bond (#100)	\$450,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$700,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$450,000</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>

Table 2.27 Projected Future Funding for Baltimore Playlots FY24-28

Maryland Community Parks and Playground Program FY24-28					
Funding Source	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
State CPP (#690)	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

Table 2.26 Projected Future Funding for Community Parks and Playgrounds FY24-28

Playgrounds are funded through two different sources: The Maryland Community Parks and Playground Program (CP&P) and Baltimore City's Baltimore Playlot Program.

Future renovated playgrounds will include installing new playground structures and site improvements to meet all CPSC, ASTM and ADA guidelines for safety and accessibility. Department staff in consultation with surrounding neighborhood and PTA groups will develop all new playground designs.

To make parks and schoolyards safe and inviting play spaces for children, worn out playground equipment must be removed and replaced. Providing safe, attractive outdoor recreation spaces in our neighborhoods contributes to the stability of neighborhoods and increases recreational opportunities for children and families alike.

Sites are selected from the priority list developed by recommendations from the Department's Playground Safety Coordinator in the Park Maintenance Division and by community requests. FY23 ARPA funds identified 20 playgrounds for improvements over the next 3 years, many of which are located within low equity/high need neighborhoods. Additional playground sites will be selected nearer to the fiscal year.

## Athletic Field and Court Rehabilitation & Development

### Athletic Field Rehabilitation & Development

Athletic Field Rehabilitation & Development FY24-28					
Funding Source	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
City Bond (#100)	\$0	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
POS – Direct (#603)	\$0	2,000,000	\$0	1,000,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

Table 2.28 Projected Future Funding for Athletic Field Rehabilitation & Development FY24-28

### Athletic Court Rehabilitation & Development

Athletic Court Rehabilitation & Development FY24-28					
Funding Source	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
City Bond (#100)	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$800,000	\$600,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>

Table 2.29 Projected Future Funding for Athletic Court Rehabilitation & Development FY24-28

Future basketball & tennis courts renovations include court resurfacing, seal-coat, new fences and lights. Wherever necessary, paths will be added to meet ADA requirements.

Basketball and tennis courts need periodic resurfacing to remain in playable condition. With time, courts settle and crack, lines fade, goal posts deteriorate, and fences require repair or replacement. Renovation will return these worn-out athletic facilities into attractive park amenities as well as modernize them for ADA access.

Tennis and basketball court renovations in parks is necessary to provide settings for recreational activities. These are sponsored by the Department's recreation centers and division of Youth and Adult Sports as well as by club and team organizations (for profit and non-profit) by use of a permit fee. These improvements will also benefit the Department's camp programs such as the All-Star Tennis Academy and partnerships with groups such as the Cloverdale Athletic Club - Baltimore Basketball Association.

Site selections in the budget year are based upon programming needs expressed by Recreation, Youth & Adult Sports, and Parks Maintenance divisions, Amateur Athletic, and by community requests. FY 23 ARPA funds will be used to resurface 15 courts primarily in low equity/high need areas of the city over the next three-years. Future court projects will continue to prioritize improvements in low equity/high need neighborhoods.

### Park Plazas, Fountains, and Medians

#### Tree Baltimore Program

Tree Baltimore Program FY24-28					
Funding Source	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
City Bonds	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>

Table 2.30 Projected Future Funding for Tree Baltimore FY24-28

Tree Baltimore is the City's coordinated program for all tree plantings within Baltimore and is managed by the Urban Forestry Division. The funding is to support tree purchase and installation. The Department's Tree Baltimore staff and Forestry Division shall determine locations for new trees including city sidewalks, grass medians, parks and private property.

The Tree Baltimore program also maintains the City's public-private partnership among non-profits, community associations, other city agencies, and the state and federal governments. The partnerships harness citizen participation and stewardship while also providing additional local manpower and the support needed to increase the city's tree coverage with limited funds. Annually, over three thousand large shade trees are planted under contract as part of streetscape and park projects. Tree Baltimore also provides thousands of trees to its partners and residents for additional plantings in underserved neighborhoods.

Tree Baltimore's goal of creating safer and healthier neighborhoods dovetails with the City's long-standing goal of achieving 40 percent

tree canopy coverage across the City by 2037. Through current capital development funding, Baltimore has seen an increase in canopy cover to 28 percent – an upward trend not enjoyed by most other large cities. This green infrastructure improvement specifically enriches the lives of Baltimore residents through lowered utility costs, reduction in water and air pollution, creation of local jobs, increased property values, reduced flooding, buffering of noise and reduction in violent crime.

Capital funds are the only source for afforestation tree planting and purchasing. As tree plantings are a capital asset, there is no general fund to support their purchase and planting. Operating funds are restricted to pruning, removal, and stump grinding. Current spending exceeds \$500,000 for contractual planting and for trees which are provided to the City's partners and residents. Additional funds needed to cover these costs are supplemented with grants, when possible.

Challenges such as emerald ash borer, severe storms, development and repair projects, and other urban stressors pose serious threats to Baltimore's tree canopy. It is therefore important to invest in afforestation – and not just in mitigating for the loss of tree canopy. The US Forest Service assisted Tree Baltimore by creating a prioritization map targeting neighborhoods that would benefit the greatest from tree plantings.

## *Land Acquisition*

Baltimore City is exempted from the restrictions on spending for land acquisitions (Natural Resources Article 5-905(b)(1), because the city was fully developed when Program Open Space laws were enacted.

Baltimore's environment is overwhelmingly developed and opportunities to purchase quality natural resource lands are unusual. Land acquisition is undertaken as land becomes available and is evaluated on a per site basis. While the focus is on developing and acquiring properties that are already in city ownership, the city does consider opportunities to acquire privately owned land in areas of need.

With a renewed priority and focus on the recreational needs in low equity/high need neighborhoods, the Department will seek opportunities in the future to enlarge existing park parcels, provide recreational programs and/or facilities to serve residents in these areas. Opportunities to add parcels to the existing park land are identified through a variety of methods, including City agency plans and Mayoral priorities, such as the Department of Planning's 2018 Green Network Plan, which identified vacant parcels in neighborhoods that would benefit with additional green space, recreational facilities, reforestation, or the exchange of several small open spaces for larger, more functional open space. Other initiatives, such as the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)'s Impact Investment Areas Strategy prioritizes public investment in certain geographies of the city. Many of these parcels are already owned by Baltimore City. As neighborhoods are redeveloped, each public parcel, including open space, is evaluated for its ability to enhance access to park space; host recreational amenities; enhance conservation efforts; be maintainable and become a safe, attractive community asset. In some cases, the city may acquire additional park land through private donation or purchase.

The focus for natural resource protection in the future will be limited to those lands that are important for habitat enhancement, are required for the development of our Greenway trail systems or will benefit existing park and recreation facilities. Funds for land acquisition will be applied for as the need arises.







*Tree Canopy*

*Photo Credit: Andy Cook*

# 03. NATURAL RESOURCE LAND CONSERVATION

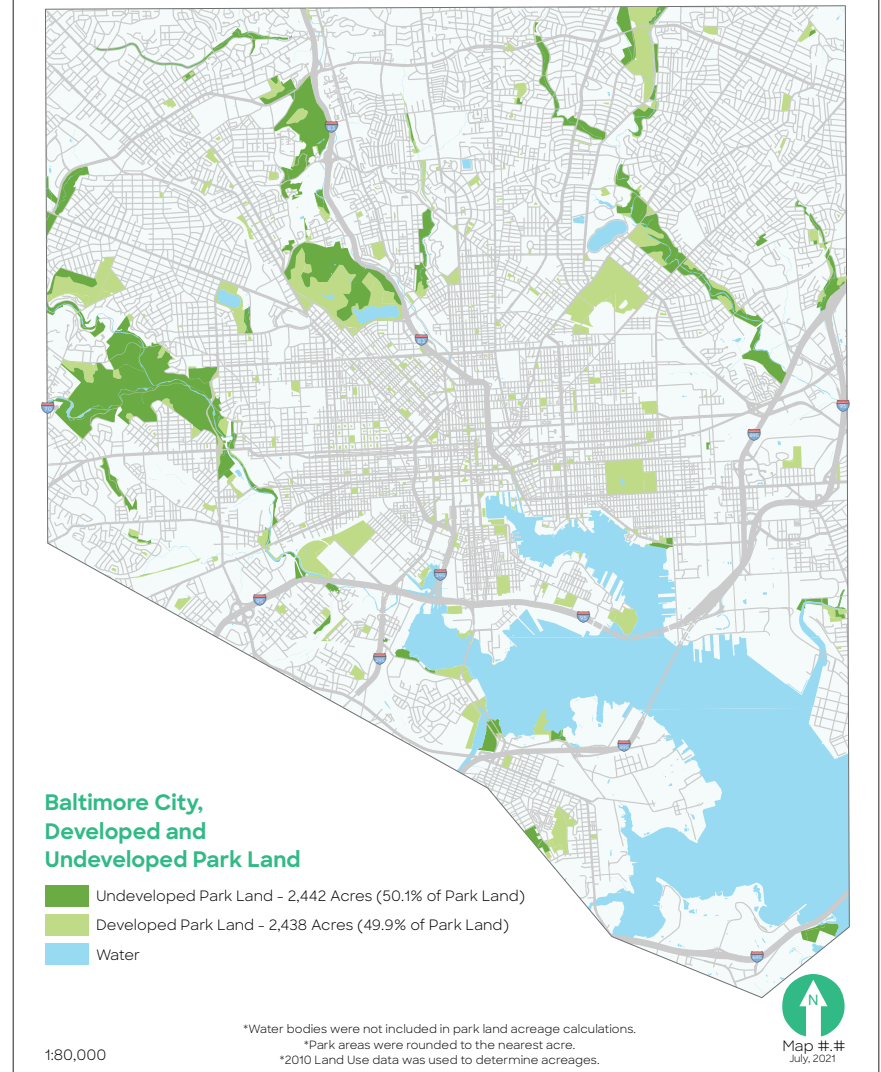
## OVERVIEW OF NATURAL RESOURCE LAND

Baltimore is the oldest, fully developed jurisdiction in the State of Maryland. As noted in Chapter I, 14 percent is vegetated open space and over 5.7 percent of Baltimore's total land area is made of up forested natural areas. Of the total acres of park land managed and maintained by Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, 49.9 percent is developed, maintained, and actively used by the public, and 50.1 percent is natural areas, available for use, including forested land, wetlands, trails, etc. (Map 3.0).

Baltimore City has a variety of natural resources that contribute to the biodiversity of Baltimore City and the State of Maryland. These include designated conservation areas, forested areas and street trees, old field/shrub and scrub vegetation areas, wetlands, streams and the 100-year floodplain, steep slopes, critical habitat for endangered species, designated habitat protection areas and protection of rare, threatened, and endangered species. These areas will be discussed in more detail in later sections.

The preservation and conservation of natural resources is a shared priority throughout Baltimore City and is addressed through programs and projects managed by several Baltimore City agencies in addition to Recreation and Parks. These include the Department of Planning, Office of Sustainability, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Transportation, Baltimore City Public Schools, and the Department of General Services.

Other means of conserving land, whether it be for active recreation or for natural resource conservation is through State programs such as the Maryland Environmental Trust, the Department of Natural Resources' Program Open Space funding and the State administered Land Water Conservation Fund program through the U.S. Department of Interior's National Park Service. Forests on private property are con-



Map 3.0 Baltimore City Developed and Undeveloped Park Land



served through forest conservation easements under the City's forest conservation program. The land trust Baltimore Green Space<sup>11</sup> also has several forest patches protected as part of their inventory (Springfield Woods and Fairwood Forest).

## Accomplishments and Challenges

### Accomplishments

Until the 1970's, Baltimore, like the rest of America, did not value natural resources and water quality as highly as we do today. In the past we used our wetlands for dumping trash. Our streams and floodplains were repositories for industrial waste and sewerage. Trees were entirely removed from development sites.

In the 1970's, Baltimore's leadership embraced a new vision for our natural environment, recognizing the benefits of our harbor, streams, and open spaces as places for citizens to recreate and enjoy, rather than as dumping grounds for wastes and industrialization. The Inner Harbor was restored as a destination for tourism and recreation. The junkyards along the southern Middle Branch waterfront were removed, and a waterfront park with small boat access created in their stead. Plans were put into place for a greenway trail system along the Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls and Herring Run stream valleys.

The new vision for Baltimore's natural resources continued with the City's adoption of the Critical Area Management Program in the 1980's as well as the Forest Conservation Act and Sensitive Areas Plan in the 1990's. In 2009, Baltimore City adopted a Sustainability Plan that established 29 goals across seven core themes: Cleanliness, Pollution Prevention, Resource Conservation, Greening, Transportation, Education and Awareness and Green Economy. The plan identified a range of specific strategies and projects with a projected implementation timeline which has resulted in the City's progress in all seven areas as of 2019.

Baltimore recently updated its Sustainability Plan. Adopted in 2019,

<sup>11</sup> <https://baltimoregreenspace.org/preservation/our-protected-spaces/>

### Key Accomplishments of the 2009 Sustainability Plan:\*

- *Passing an Urban Agriculture Tax credit in 2015*
- *Adopting in 2010 the Baltimore City Green Building Standards and, in 2015, the International Green Construction Code.*
- *Reducing residential gas use by 2.7 percent and electric use by 8.1 percent from the 2007 baseline through the Baltimore Energy Challenge.*
- *Weatherizing more than 10,000 units inhabited by low-income families, collectively saving these families \$10 million in reduced utility bills.*
- *Training more than 820 residents for green construction careers, maintaining an 85 percent graduation rate and 87 percent job placement rate, with average wages of \$13 to \$18 per hour.*
- *The solar installation training program alone trained 55 residents, with an average wage placement of \$15 per hour.*
- *Serving over 1 million pounds of local produce in 2015 in Baltimore City Public Schools, and using composting trays, instead of polystyrene, starting in June 2018.*
- *Passing a ban on the use of disposable food serve ware made from polystyrene foam.*
- *Reducing the cost of flood insurance by up to 25 percent for almost 2,000 properties.*
- *Introducing citywide street sweeping, and citywide municipal trash cans.*

\* as of 2019

*the Sustainability Plan* makes use of an equity lens, a transformative tool to improve planning, decision-making, and resource allocation leading to more racially equitable policies and programs. Using the STAR Community Rating System<sup>12</sup> framework as a basis, the plan incorporates feedback gathered from residents. The Sustainability Plan includes new topics, more intentionally addressing all three legs of sustainability: people, planet, and prosperity. The plan is also globally inspired by Baltimore's selection and participation in the USA Sustainable Cities Initiative (UA-SCI) to pilot the implementation of 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>13</sup>. The connections between the plan and the Sustainable Development Goals are highlighted for each topic. The plan also serves as an umbrella document and framework coordinating and building upon the work of other plans including:

*The Baltimore Green Network (2018)* – a plan for transforming vacant properties into green community assets, connecting these spaces to schools, homes, retail districts, and other activity centers.

*The Baltimore Food Waste and Recovery Strategy (2018)* – a strategy that lays out the rationale for rescuing edible food, recovering food waste, and composting; defines potential solutions; highlights seven local case studies; and sets ten major goals and 69 short, medium, and long-term strategies around the following themes: Commercial & Institutional Food Waste Reduction & Recovery, Composting at Home & in the Community, Creating Scalable Composting Infrastructure, and Composting in K-12 Schools

*The Baltimore Climate Action Plan (2012)* – identifies strategies to help the City reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent below 2010

12 <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

13 The SDGs, adopted by UN member countries in September 2015, form a cohesive and integrated package of global aspirations the world commits to achieving by 2030. The ambitious vision is a universal call to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Baltimore community members worked in collaboration with city agencies, higher educational institutions, and other stakeholders to identify 54 concrete measures that track Baltimore's progress towards each of these goals. Mayor Catherine Pugh endorsed the initiative when she took office in December 2016.

levels by 2020. Strategies include protecting and enhancing Baltimore's urban forest and encouraging walkable and bike-able infrastructure.

*The Disaster Preparedness and Planning Project (DP3) (2018)* - addresses existing hazards including flooding, coastal hazards (such as hurricanes and sea level rise), extreme wind, and extreme heat, while also preparing for the anticipated threats of climate change.

*Homegrown Baltimore (2013)* - is the city's urban agriculture plan and aims to increase production, distribution, sales, and consumption of locally grown food within our city.

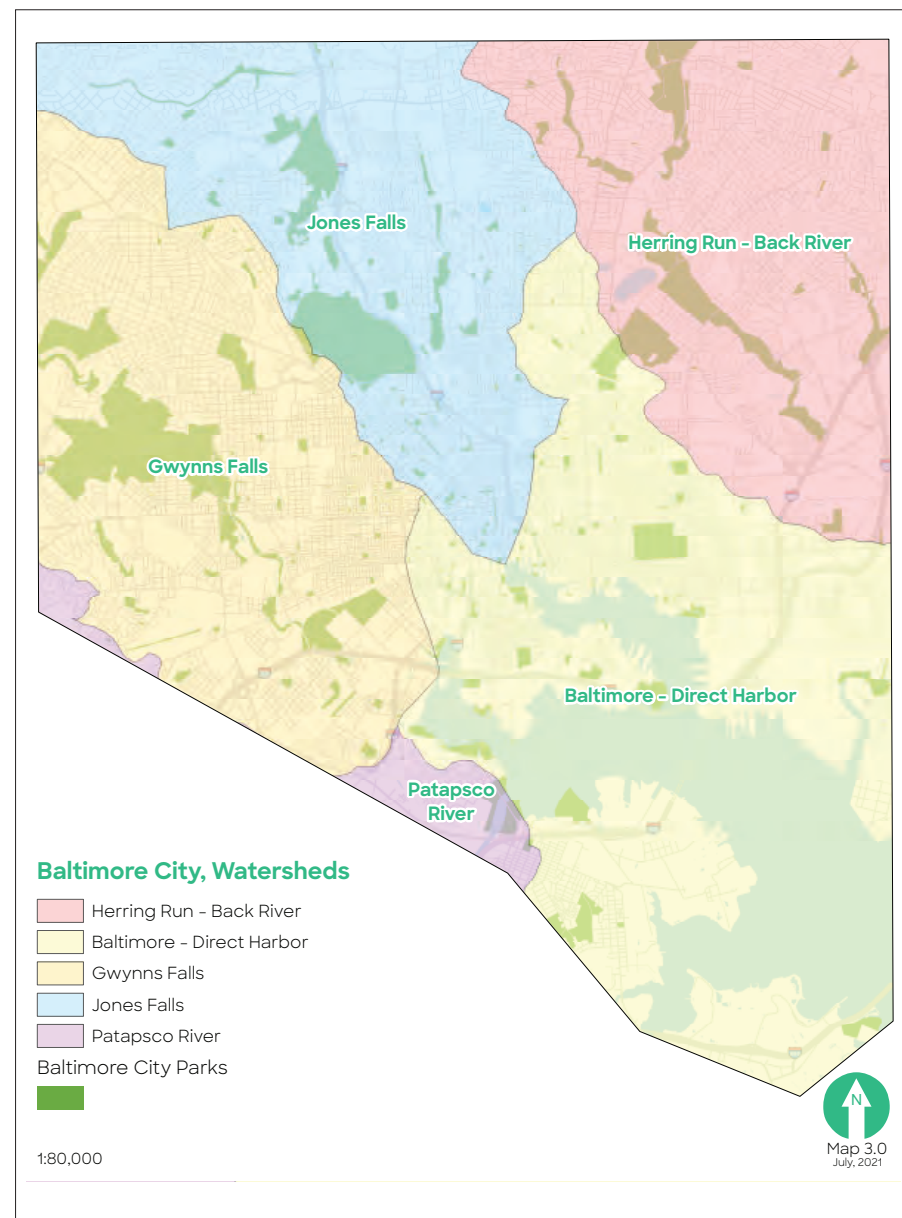
The 2019 Sustainability Plan identifies a range of strategies, actions, and measures of success within five key themes: Community, Human-Made Systems, Climate & Resilience, Nature in the City, and Economy (Figure 3.0). Specific goals, outlined within the Community and Nature in the



City themes, set out the City's goals and objectives that relate to natural resource land conservation and programing. These specific goals will be discussed in a later section.

In November 2021, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)'s issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permit to the City of Baltimore. This permit covered stormwater discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer system owned or operated by Baltimore City and expires at the end of 2026. Natural resource protection in Baltimore extends beyond regulations that protect our remaining resources and waterways from the impacts of development pressures. The City of Baltimore, community groups and non-profits are also very active in restoring the natural resources that remain. Blue Water Baltimore, a nonprofit organization addresses water quality issues in Baltimore and is dedicated to restoration and clean-up of the stream valleys and major watersheds (the Jones Falls, Gwynn's Falls, Herring Run-Back River and Baltimore Harbor) and the Chesapeake Bay (Map 3.1). Blue Water Baltimore's Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper program monitors the Tidal Patapsco and its major tributaries, the Jones Falls and the Gwynn's Falls watersheds, for water quality and pollution on a weekly basis and utilizes the data to produce the Healthy Harbor Report Card and the Baltimore Harbor Water Alert. The data is also used to identify major incidents of water pollution, to inform legal advocacy priorities, and to identify restoration opportunities within the watersheds.

The Waterfront Partnership is another organization that has been involved in cleaning up the harbor. In 2009, the organization set a goal to make the harbor swimmable and fishable by 2020. To accomplish this goal, they have instituted several efforts including the installation of four Water Wheel Trash Inceptors (one in the Inner Harbor on the Jones Falls, one in the Middle Branch along the Gwynns Falls, one at Masonville Cove, and one in Canton), the launch of the Greater Baltimore Oyster Partnership, planting floating wetlands and water quality monitoring. Other projects include native plant gardens in the Inner



Map 3.1 Baltimore City Watersheds



Harbor<sup>14</sup>, alley makeovers and other greening grant projects along with the ongoing improvements to the Inner Harbor's Rash Field.

City of Baltimore, Department of Planning also collects fees through its Critical Area Management and Forest Conservation Programs that are targeted for use to restore habitat, replant riparian forest buffers and green urban neighborhoods.

In calendar year 2021, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks' Community and Engagement and Strategic Partnerships division reported 7,863 hours of volunteer work by community volunteers, friends, and coaches, in our parks and recreation centers. The Independent Sector values one volunteer hour at \$31.29/hour; a monetary contribution equaling close to \$250,000.

This year's projects included the newly installed Carroll Park's Pigtown Sculpture project, and hosting community charrettes in Park Heights in order to ensure community input in the redesign and programming of the Towanda Recreation Center. Another project worked with the Armistead Garden community and the LatinX community to ensure safe public access to the park respecting both public health measures and conservation practices.

Most recently Baltimore City initiated large-scale, proactive steps to retain and improve its urban forests. In addition to completing a comprehensive, city-wide, GIS-based tree inventory in 2018, BCRP's Forestry Division embarked on a program to preserve and restore our woodlands through the development of forest management plans, a 1.25-million-dollar integrated vegetation management contract, and through their growing "Weed Warriors" stewardship program. The implementation of the forest management plans remains largely unfunded; however, these are nonetheless critical to forest conservation within our parklands.

These Forestry programs for our parklands are designed to dovetail with other new proactive initiatives that are partially funded and on-

going. Most relevant is the program to prune all street trees within the City (an initiative we need to extend to our parklands) and our Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan. The Division has and continues to treat or remove and replace over 4,000 of the City's Ash trees – although currently it does not include any treatment or mitigation of ash trees within our woodlands. Replacing this woodland canopy is also linked to successful invasive vegetation management and forest preservation.

All Forestry work, in turn, connects to the *TreeBaltimore Strategic Action Plan* which was adopted by the City in 2011. A highlight of the plan is a planting prioritization map, which was designed to target streetscape and vacant lot plantings where most needed - based on a variety of factors. A planting prioritization map, which utilizes the *Leakin Park Forest Management Plan (FMP)* and the current tree inventory, is being developed for 2022. Thus, the "missing piece" is the protection and expansion of our urban tree canopy found within our parklands and their forests.

BCRP seeks to support improved protections for public parkland that will restrict the sale of public parks and curb deforestation associated with utility installation. In 2021 BCRP established a Natural Resource Conservation Policy with associated procedures. The policy ensures an extensive review process prior to the disturbance of natural areas on public parkland and requires up-to-date best management practices for environmental protections and restoration. BCRP also submitted a decision memo for the Office of the Mayor to request a declaration that, *"Forested natural areas on parkland serve as essential public infrastructure and should not be disturbed or destroyed except when all options have been exhausted."* In addition, the City passed an amendment to the Tree Ordinance under Council Bill 20-0546, making updates to the Code and the City's manual to comply with state law, codify existing policies, as well as to coordinate with other City environmental regulations. These updates are intended to help curb future tree canopy loss due to development and build toward a greener, healthier city.

## Challenges

As noted under "Accomplishments," our Forestry Division's crucial

<sup>14</sup> See <https://www.waterfrontpartnership.org/waterfront-fun/waterfront-walks-native-plant-gardens/>

challenges remain the funding of invasive species management, impacts associated with new utility construction and alternative MS4 stormwater crediting projects (e.g., stream stabilization) in natural areas, and the maintenance and replacement of trees within our parklands. To fund long-term integrated vegetation management alone, an additional \$350,000 dollars is needed annually –to target specific parkland areas. Pruning maintenance within our developed parkland would cost approximately \$3,750,000 dollars for the estimated 25,000 trees. Replacement of ash trees within our parks' woodlands will cost \$3,200,000 dollars.

The Forestry Division will begin preparing Forest Management Plans for the remaining large forests in the city in 2022. Funding to implement these plans will be a challenge, especially considering the excessive White-Tailed deer population and associated impacts within City natural areas. Deer management and Integrated Vegetation Management are two key programs the agency is looking to expand.

Forestry Division Education and Community Engagement initiatives also remain over-burdened: staff expansion is required to coordinate stewardship activities, outreach to schools, and to deliver programming and service-learning opportunities for youth. The Weed Warriors and TreeKeepers program annually train an average of 120-160 volunteers through extensive seminar courses and would benefit from additional staff to support these park stewards.

Through the Department of Planning, Office of Sustainability's *Green Network Plan*, the city has been transforming some of the city's inventory of vacant properties into green spaces, including community gardens, neighborhood parks, stormwater management, and urban agriculture. Some of the challenges of this endeavor include the limited capacity of city agencies, non-profit organizations, and communities to fund the creation, maintenance, and programming of additional green spaces. Capital Improvement Program funds and grant funding have supported design and initial implementation of new city parks on vacant lots in Boyd Booth and Druid Heights. The city continues to work to identify creative funding and financing strategies to help address these challenges.

Challenges also remain to maintain and expand Baltimore's urban agriculture sector. These include growers' lack of security with obtaining a long-term land lease, insufficient water access, safe urban soils, insufficient funding to assist grower operations, and complex permitting regulations.

As our region continues to experience climate change, the city will increasingly experience hot weather events and short but intense rainfall events. Continuing to implement the recommendation set in the DP3, including increasing our tree canopy, reducing impervious surfaces, and implementing higher floodplain standards can help to address these challenges.

An ongoing challenge is trash in streams and in the harbor. In 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the report entitled, *Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) of Trash and Debris for the Middle Branch and Northwest Branch Portions of the Patapsco River Mesohaline Tidal Chesapeake Bay Segment, Baltimore City and County, Maryland (Trash TMDL)*. The Trash TMDL requires that Baltimore City reduce the amount of trash and litter in the Jones Falls, Gwynns Falls and Direct Harbor Watersheds. An implementation plan developed by the Department of Public Works was approved in 2016. Trash reduction initiatives include expanded street sweeping, debris collectors, volunteer activities and public education. Changing behaviors is, by far, the biggest challenge.

## Public Benefits of Maintaining and Enhancing Natural Resource Lands

Natural lands offer many benefits for cities. From a social standpoint, they provide visual relief from the built environment; offer free, democratic places for recreation, socializing, and gathering; provide opportunities for young people to connect to and learn about the natural world; and, when well maintained, have a positive effect on property values. From a human health standpoint, forests and natural lands filter air pollution; provide shade and lower temperatures to combat

the urban heat island effect; encourage exercise and active living; offer space for growing fresh, local food; and even improve our cognitive and emotional functioning via the positive impacts of exposure to nature (various studies have linked time spent in natural environments to all sorts of positive results, for example reduced effects of ADHD on the ability to retain information). Finally, from an environmental standpoint, healthy, intact forests help reduce stormwater impact; filter pollutants before they reach our waterways; sequester and store carbon; and promote healthy, functioning ecosystems for important flora and fauna.

Baltimore City has a variety of existing opportunities and areas in the city for people to connect with nature both in terms of facilities and programs. On the program side, Baltimore was selected in 2018 by the National League of Cities (NLC) and Children & Nature Network (C&NN) to join a cohort of 18 cities participating in the Cities Connecting Children to Nature (CCCN) initiative. The national initiative is focused on increasing equitable access to nature for all children and aims to create systems-level change by activating City leadership and leveraging interagency and cross-sector partnerships. Baltimore CCCN (BCCCN) is led by a Core Team with representatives from the Baltimore Office of Sustainability (BOS), the Baltimore City Recreation & Parks Department (BCRP), Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS), the National Aquarium, and the Y in Central Maryland. Now in the implementation phase of the grant, Baltimore's CCCN initiative is focused on 2 key strategies to promote equitable nature access for children. The first strategy is to strengthen partnerships between the health, early childhood, education, and environmental communities. This will include:

- Establishing the Baltimore Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.
- Increasing trauma-informed care practices among the environmental community and increasing nature-based experiences among the childcare community (i.e. healthcare, early childhood, education, and out of school time programming).
- Creating a comprehensive plan to engage cross-sector partners to create and expand green schoolyards in Baltimore City Public Schools.

The second strategy is to Green Career Exploration to connect youth to jobs and nature. The aim is to increase green job opportunities and green career development for Baltimore youth through expanding the number of outdoor and nature-based partners for programs such as YouthWorks, as well as compiling and disseminating information on local green jobs training opportunities.

On the facility side, the most notable facilities to support nature-based experiences include Gwynns Falls/ Leakin Park, Cylburn Arboretum, and Middle Branch and Canton Waterfront Parks, and 50.65 miles of greenway trails.<sup>15</sup> Recreation and Parks aims to continue to expand its outdoor facilities and programs in the upcoming years.

Baltimore City's Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, at just under 1,000 acres, is one of the nation's largest urban forests; a unique and hidden resource within Baltimore City. The park is underutilized but with tremendous potential to provide outdoor recreation and environmental education to City residents and visitors. While Gwynns Falls/ Leakin Park attracts people from across the City, the park is a particularly important resource for West Baltimore residents who are underserved with local outdoor recreational facilities and programs. Neighborhoods adjacent to the Park include Windsor Hills, Fairmont, Mount Holly, Garwyn Oaks, Wakefield Park, Rosemont, and Franklinton Road, among others. There is an outpouring of support for this park from the community, and BCRP is working to build resources that support their efforts.

The park includes several facilities that support or incorporate outdoor recreation and nature environmental education programming, including the Carrie Murray Nature Center, Cahill Fitness and Wellness Center, segments of the Gwynns Falls Trail, the Baltimore Chesapeake Outward Bound School (a nonprofit outdoor adventure leadership development program), Winans Meadow and the Cardin Pavilion, tennis courts, athletic fields, a few heritage buildings, and a youth campground. The youth campground is the only urban outdoor campground in Baltimore City.

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<sup>15</sup> This total includes the recent addition of a 3.47-mile trail segment to the Jones Falls Trail (known as Phase V), between Cylburn Arboretum, Mt Washington Village and along the Western Run. This new segment opened in 2020.



Baltimore City Recreation and Parks has several projects in the works to rehabilitate, upgrade or develop the facilities and programs within Gwynns Falls/ Leakin Park, including improvements to facilitate more use of its outdoor assets and make more areas of the park accessible. The objective is to create more opportunities for outdoor recreation, expand environmental and educational programs, and increase access and visibility of these resources by way of the trails and facility cross-programming. Forest conservation initiatives are underway by the Forestry Division, and the site now serves as one of the nation's first pollinator meadows atop a gas pipeline right-of-way. The pollinator meadow is being established through a partnership with the Forestry Division and Baltimore Gas and Electric.

The new Cahill Fitness and Wellness Center, recently completed and opened in Spring 2021 with partial funding in FY15 from DNR, is nestled among the woodland and incorporates outdoor recreation and environmental programming. This \$18 million-dollar, 32,000 sf. facility includes a splash pad, climbing wall, black box theater, fitness area, multipurpose rooms, gym, and track. The Center is located adjacent to one of the park trails and to an existing youth campground. Other projects recently completed with Gwynns Falls Park include an improved entrance along Sloman Drive with a parking area and the installation of a pavilion, under construction. The enlargement of a ropes challenge course used by the Baltimore Chesapeake Outward Bound School was also completed in 2017 with funding from Maryland DNR.

Recreation and Parks aims to continue to expand its outdoor facilities and programs in the upcoming years. In FY16, Recreation and Parks received a Land Water Conservation Fund \$750,000 capital grant from the National Park Service (with a \$750,000 City match) to make improvements to the youth campground in Gwynns Falls Park. A 2020 feasibility study focused on campground access, existing water and electrical conditions, and design options for a new pedestrian bridge over the Gwynns Falls. Design is now underway for the campground improvements which will include group and individual camping areas with fire rings, a new composting restroom, an outdoor sink, and a redesigned amphitheater. Areas of the campground will facilitate use

for those with disabilities. The pedestrian bridge is planned for a second phase of the project, which is not currently funded.

The Winans Meadow Visitor Center, is another project within the same park, that is currently in design. The center as envisioned will anchor outdoor environmental programming supported by Carrie Murray Nature Center, and will function as a visitor center for the western side of the park (This project is anticipated to begin construction in 2022).

In the last few years, the Carrie Murray Nature Center has restructured its programming on nature and environmental education programs for children, families, and adults. It also hosts 'the Forest', a nature-based pre-school and childcare center located in one wing of the Nature Center. A future capital project, to construct a proper pedestrian crossing from Winans Meadow across Franklinton Road to the Rognell Heights trail head, is needed to connect neighbors on the south side of the park to the north, with all of its associated amenities.

Another project in design is reconfiguring the fields along Windsor Mill Road to accommodate 2 baseball fields and one artificial turf multipurpose field with sport lighting. Other anticipated site improvements include pedestrian walkways, fencing, a scoreboard, as well as spectator seating. Also included is the development of a nature trail network plan to improve the connections between areas within the park and ways to deepen visitor' outdoor experiences of the natural resources.

Cylburn Arboretum is a public garden and nature preserve that encompasses more than 200 acres. The arboretum includes more than three miles of nature trails, wetland areas, a state of the art "environmentally green" Vollmer Visitor Center and the historic Cylburn Mansion. The arboretum contains an extensive collection of trees and woody shrubs based loosely on the original plantings established by the Tyson family on their private estate. Collections include azaleas, bamboo, beeches, boxwoods, chestnuts, conifers, hollies, Japanese maples, magnolias, maples, Maryland oaks, and viburnum. The arboretum also includes several flower and vegetable gardens, as well as greenhouses designed

and built in the 1960s. The greenhouses are used to grow plants for the city's parks, and are not open to the public. The Forestry Division is coordinating a 2022 survey and developing a management plan, in order to further enhance the arboretum and its surrounding 195-acre forest.

Middle Branch Park is a 150 acre-park that was created by Baltimore City in 1977 by consolidating existing parks along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River shoreline during a time when the city began restoring environmentally degraded sites. The park offers a clear view of the Baltimore City skyline, as well as a wildlife observatory area and a boardwalk. In 1987, the City built the Baltimore Rowing and Water Resources Center which revived a prior tradition of rowing competitions. From Middle Branch Park, visitors can scull with the Baltimore Rowing Club, participate in the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Canoe and Kayak programs, paddle in one's own craft, or participate in recreational fishing or crabbing. The park connects to the Gwynns Falls Trail and has biking or walking access to Gwynns Falls Leakin Park (14 miles to the west) or to the city's Inner Harbor (1 mile to the north). New private development is planned at Port Covington and at Westport, both key sites along the Middle Branch shoreline.

The City is in the process of undertaking a master plan for the Middle Branch waterfront – from Port Covington to Masonville Cove in order to develop a network of natural and recreational spaces to revitalize the Middle Branch shoreline as a citywide waterfront destination. The plan importantly incorporates the 12 adjacent neighborhoods that are disconnected from one another and lack access to the waterfront. Many of these neighborhoods have historically received little investment in recreation facilities and opportunities. The plan will identify a range of capital improvements that create access and connect the neighborhoods to the waterfront and expand the recreational activities and opportunities in the water and along the shoreline.<sup>16</sup> One of

these projects is an 11-mile continuous shoreline trail that will connect to the existing Gwynns Falls trail and provide access to existing and new recreational amenities, including the new Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center, currently under construction in Reedbird Park. This new \$26 million dollar recreation center, outdoor athletic field and park complex is scheduled to open in Fall 2022. A segment of the trail will connect the Baltimore Rowing and Water Resources Center to the Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center along the shoreline. Recreation and Parks anticipates applying to the National Park Service for Land Water Conservation Funding (LWCF) to construct this segment of the trail in FY 24.

Canton Waterfront Park is another park resource for outdoor recreation in the city. Positioned as one of the eastern-most access points to the harbor, the park has a boat ramp and fishing pier to encourage access to water-based recreation activities. It is a convenient starting point for traversing the Waterfront Promenade, and offers a range of festivals, and outdoor concerts during the warmer months. The park also contains the Maryland Korean War Memorial, a separate state facility that features a history of the war and contains the names of 527 Marylanders who died in the conflict.

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<sup>16</sup> The restoration of Ridgely's Cove, behind the Horseshoe Casino will restore the natural shoreline, habitat and connect to the Gwynns Falls Trail. While this was initiated prior to the plan, the trail will connect to the rest of the Middle Branch shoreline.-

## GOALS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE LAND CONSERVATION

### Baltimore City Goals

The Department of Recreation and Parks, Forestry and Capital Development Divisions, and the Department of Planning, Office of Sustainability work closely to shape the goals and objectives to manage and improve the City's natural resources.

The Department of Recreation and Parks Forestry Division cares for trees in the parks, on the sidewalks and in the medians (this includes over 125,000 street trees and a large inventory of park trees). The Division also prunes and removes trees to ensure public safety and clears roadways after major storms. Through the TreeBaltimore program, Recreation and Parks partners with organizations and volunteers to plant over 8,000 new trees every year. The Division completed a tree inventory in 2018 to evaluate the health, document the changes in the City's tree canopy over time and determine future tree planting goals and objectives. The Division is working to establish an official Natural Areas Unit to further the agencies goals regarding environmental policy and protection, forested natural area conservation, and volunteer stewardship. The Department of Recreation and Parks' mission and vision, outlined in Chapter II, articulates preservation and conservation of natural resources as key components to improve health and wellness, protect natural resources, connect children to nature and provide education and programming to help communities engage in conservation practices.

### Urban Forestry Goals

1. Increase Baltimore's urban tree canopy to 40 percent by 2037 (See Sustainability Goals).
2. Improve the quality of Baltimore's woodlands to ensure native biodiversity by improving environmental protections in natural areas and by decreasing the adverse effects of non-native invasive species.

3. Advance the quality of life for all residents by providing an improved parkland experience through healthy, "low risk" trees and through supplemental and replacement plantings.
4. Spearhead Baltimore City's effort in the appreciation and acceptance of trees by all residents through education and community engagement.
5. The city-wide comprehensive tree inventory (excluding woodland trees) was completed as of 2018 and adopted as the Division's primary tree maintenance management tool. The goal is to update the inventory on a rotational basis across city quadrants, every 5 years.
6. The conversion of Camp Small, the City's wood dump, into an urban wood reclamation and repurposing site has been under way since 2016. Recent advancements have enabled the Camp Small program to produce and market wood products, including lumber, into the local economies. Camp Small's current goal is to further expand capabilities through equipment and a Workforce Development Program. By 2025, Camp Small will be a sustainable enterprise, employing five individuals while generating enough revenue to support additional tree plantings.

### Sustainability Strategies

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, the 2019 Sustainability Plan identifies a range of strategies, actions, and measures of success within five key themes: Community, Human-Made Systems, Climate & Resilience, Nature in the City, and Economy. Specific goals, outlined within the Community and Nature in the City themes, set out the City's goals and objectives that relate to natural resource land conservation and programming. The strategic goals most related to parks, recreation and natural resources are outlined below.



## Community

### *Neighbors*

People in Baltimore value their neighbors and want to work together to improve their neighborhoods.

1. Support the promotion of stronger connections between and among neighborhoods.
2. Increase public participation in collective community activities.
3. Increase the number and use of safe, well-maintained indoor and outdoor public gathering places.

#### Success will be measured by:

- Number and distribution of housing renovation permits granted.
- Number of renovation tax credits issued.
- Number and distribution of neighborhood improvement grants applied for and received—including both individual neighborhoods and neighborhoods working together.

### *Urban Agriculture*

Urban agriculture can increase social capital, community well-being, and engagement in the food system.

1. Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production.
2. Ensure farmers and gardeners can produce food, flowers, fiber, and fuel in ways that are safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible—and educate residents on opportunities to support and engage with them.
3. Support growers to create financially viable urban agriculture.

#### Success will be measured by:

- Number, location of projects, and amount of land used for urban agriculture.

- Number, location of growers (both new and experienced) as well as number of residents participating in educational opportunities.
- Improvements in overall agricultural infrastructure available to urban growers of historically disinvested communities.

## Nature in the City

### *People and Nature*

Connecting people to nature in our neighborhoods, parks, and open spaces can lead toward increased quality of life for all.

1. Increase community connections to nature. Ensure it is done in culturally competent ways with early and frequent engagement.<sup>17</sup>
2. Build stronger neighborhoods and stronger social connections.
3. Improve and grow our natural systems and support increased management of them by residents, communities, organizations, and city government.

#### Success will be measured by:

- Number of residents reached annually through organized programs; specifically track youth exposure and engagement
- Number and distribution of natural areas, lots, and acres of land that are transformed into well-maintained gathering spaces, gardens, parks, quiet places, and play spaces
- Number of acres and distribution of land conserved (including easements, land trusts, parks, and Community Managed Open Spaces) and maintained both publicly and privately.

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<sup>17</sup>Cultural competence is the ability of individuals and systems to respond respectfully and effectively to people of all cultures, classes, races, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, and faiths or religions in a manner that recognizes, affirms, and values the worth of individuals, families, tribes, and communities, and protects and preserves the dignity of each.

### *Nature for Nature's Sake*

Protecting the plant and animal species in Baltimore is necessary for the health of our ecosystems.

1. Increase restoration, creation, and maintenance of habitat for native species on public and private land; ensure it is done in culturally competent ways with early and frequent engagement.
2. Encourage and increase sustainable land management policies and practices on public and private land, taking into account the context of surrounding neighborhoods and the impacts to residents.
3. Increase the acreage of maintained and protected land.

#### Success will be measured by:

- Acres of habitat restored, created, and maintained
- New policies and/or plans to require use of safer, non-chemical alternatives to chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides in certain park contexts, and to increase use of organic land care, where appropriate
- Number of natural areas that are a) located in areas with demand for redevelopment and b) protected through the development review process

### *Trees and Forests*

We need to protect Baltimore's existing trees and greatly increase their number in order to make our neighborhoods more comfortable, livable, and sustainable.

1. Plant and establish more trees to ensure equitable planting distribution.
2. Assess and manage the city's tree canopy for long-term health.
3. Preserve the city's existing tree canopy.

4. Manage non-native invasive species and develop a white-tailed deer management program
5. Support relationships with external agency partners focused on these joint goals

#### Success will be measured by:

- Active management of 75 percent of forests and trees by 2030
- Number of acres of controlled invasive management and subsequent reforestation
- Number of trees planted by neighborhood and percentage of trees maintained for 2 years.
- Percent of area covered by trees.

### *Water in the Environment*

Pollution in Baltimore's streams hurts our ecosystem and prevents us from enjoying the natural, historic parts of our city.

1. Increase positive and safe connections to public waterways, along with awareness of how litter and other pollutants enter them.
2. Improve aquatic habitats through riparian restoration and water quality monitoring and creating policies to eliminate sources of pollution.
3. Ensure access to safe and affordable drinking water.

#### Success will be measured by:

- Number and demographic makeup of participants at programs on the water's edge
- Total area of invasive species removal and native species plantings along waterways and shorelines
- Amount of nutrients and sediment in waterways (using State-approved protocols)

## Green Infrastructure

Baltimore can transform vacant lots into community green spaces that also help clean and protect our waterways.

1. Increase green infrastructure throughout the city, targeting neighborhoods with limited access to large parks and green spaces and high disparities in health outcomes.
2. Ensure green infrastructure is functional, proactively maintained, and an asset to neighborhoods.
3. Increase awareness of stormwater runoff and the benefits of green infrastructure.

### Success will be measured by:

- Acres of impervious surface removed.
- Number and square feet of green infrastructure projects implemented.
- Amount and geographic distribution of funding provided for environmental stewardship and maintenance to public-private partnerships.

Every strategy is accompanied by a set of recommended actions and ways to measure success. The Baltimore Office of Sustainability monitors the progress of plan goals and produces annual reports. Figure 3.1 illustrates the specific strategies within the five key themes and 23 topic areas together with actions that residents can take to help Baltimore fulfill the Sustainability Plan goals.

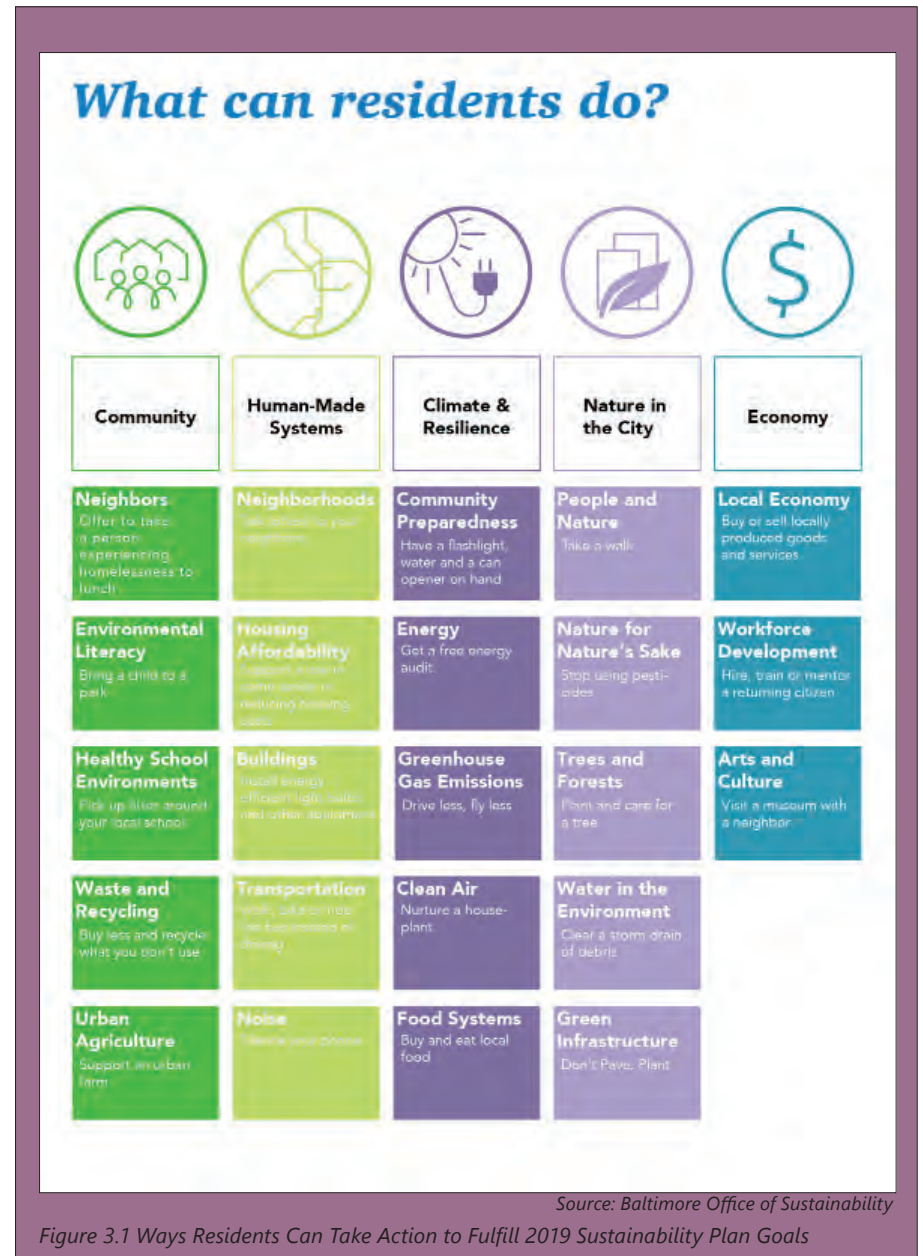


Figure 3.1 Ways Residents Can Take Action to Fulfill 2019 Sustainability Plan Goals



## Implementing Baltimore City's Natural Resource Land Preservation Goals to Date

Since 2017, the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Department of Planning Office of Sustainability, and the Department of Public Works have implemented a variety of programs and projects to further the preservation and conservation of the city's natural resources.

The Department of Recreation and Parks includes natural resource protection and habitat enhancement as part of the criteria used to determine funding priorities for capital improvement projects and land acquisition. Recreation and Parks' Forestry Division has several programs for improving the quality of the urban forest. These efforts help preserve, expand, and enhance the remaining natural systems of stream valleys and linked open spaces in Baltimore.

To date, Recreation and Parks Forestry's established implementation projects include: vibrant forest stewardship and invasive vegetation management volunteer programs ("TreeKeepers" and "Weed Warriors," respectively); recycling much of the city's brush and logs through the Camp Small Urban Wood Recycling Program; and removing the backlog of residential pruning and tree removal requests. BCRP's Forestry Division coordinates all city-wide tree planting efforts through its TreeBaltimore Partnership and gives away and/ or plants 6,000-8,000 trees through the same program, annually and plays a key role in energy conservation through extensive plantings. Forestry also addresses the loss of ash trees along city streets and developed park land; combats storm water pollution through targeted plantings and removal of impervious surfaces by way of creating new sidewalk tree wells. The Forestry Division also raises awareness of the importance of trees for climate change adaptation, heat island reduction, utility cost savings, and for quality-of-life improvement in underserved neighborhoods and parks.

Baltimore Recreation and Parks Forestry Division has also taken a lead role in providing review and oversight of projects impacting our natural areas. The Forestry Division has recently hired full time staff

to assist in reviewing and providing oversight of proposed and active construction projects on parkland. This specific effort helps the Forestry Division, and Recreation and Parks, ensure that work on public lands is done in a responsible way.

The Camp Small Urban Wood Recycling program produces wood products from Forestry-managed trees. The products are made available to City agencies and residents. The program has worked with Baltimore City Schools to produce seating and materials for over 20 outdoor classrooms. Camp Small has also produced over 75,000 board foot of lumber. Over 30,000 board feet of Camp Small lumber has been utilized in Recreation and Parks' Capital projects such as for the interior cladding of the award-winning Cahill Wellness Center. Not only does the program work to capture the highest value from our City's fallen trees but it is also beginning a paid-training program that will provide valuable skills to City residents facing employment barriers.

Between 2017 and 2018 the Forestry Division managed a team of certified arborists to collect data and inventory every street tree in the city street right of way as well as locations where trees could be planted. All trees within maintained areas of the City's parks were also surveyed. The data collected was mapped using GIS and is used to prioritize tree plantings, plan tree maintenance work and is assisting the city in improving the health of the urban forest. The GIS database is regularly updated by the City's urban forestry staff as tree work is completed and new trees are planted. Forestry is currently planning future citywide updates to the inventory.

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks also provides a variety of programs that introduce participants to natural resources through outdoor recreation activities. These include canoe and kayaking, hiking, fishing, and bicycle riding as well as nature and environmental education programming which are offered at the Carrie Murray Nature Center in Gwynns Falls Park, the Rawlings Conservatory in Druid Hill Park and

at Cylburn Arboretum. Capital improvements planned include those projects considered for Druid Hill Park which will convert the former reservoir into an active recreational water resource for residents. Other improvements include those along the Middle Branch, both in the park and along the shore. These will support and expand access to natural resources for recreational activities as well as implement the goals of the City's Sustainability Plan.

In 2017 the Department of Planning adopted a citywide Landscape Manual along with an updated Zoning Code, based upon recommendations proposed as part of Baltimore City's 2006 Comprehensive Master Plan. Both were coordinated with the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland Critical Areas, Forest Conservation, and Stormwater Management regulations. The landscape manual supports the goals of the City of Baltimore Comprehensive Master Plan, the Baltimore Zoning Code and the Baltimore Sustainability Plan through the regulation and provision of landscape elements in development and redevelopment projects in Baltimore. Updates to the City's Critical Area Management Program maps and manual and Forest Conservation regulations were completed in 2020.

Progress on the City's 2019 Sustainability Plan goals are documented annually by the Department of Planning Office of Sustainability and involve implementation by multiple agencies and partners.

Figures 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5 show progress that has been made on implementing the plan's goals from 2019 through 2021. As previously noted, the Department of Recreation and Parks is involved in implementing several programs and projects to fulfill the plan goals, particularly in the areas of Neighbors, Urban Agriculture, People and Nature, Nature for Nature's Sake, Trees and Forests, Water in the Environment and Green Infrastructure. Urban Agriculture is discussed in more detail in Chapter 4.

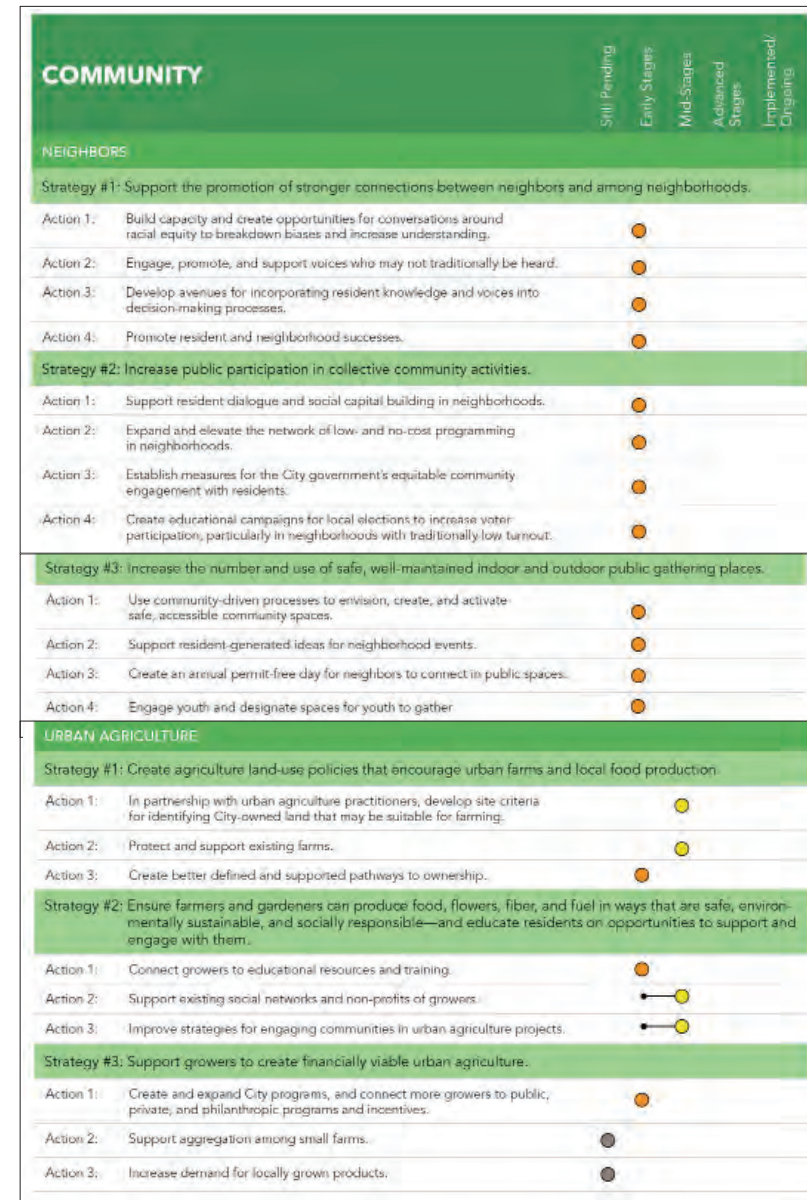


Figure 3.2 Community/Neighbors and Urban Agriculture Sustainability Plan Goals, Progress as of 2021



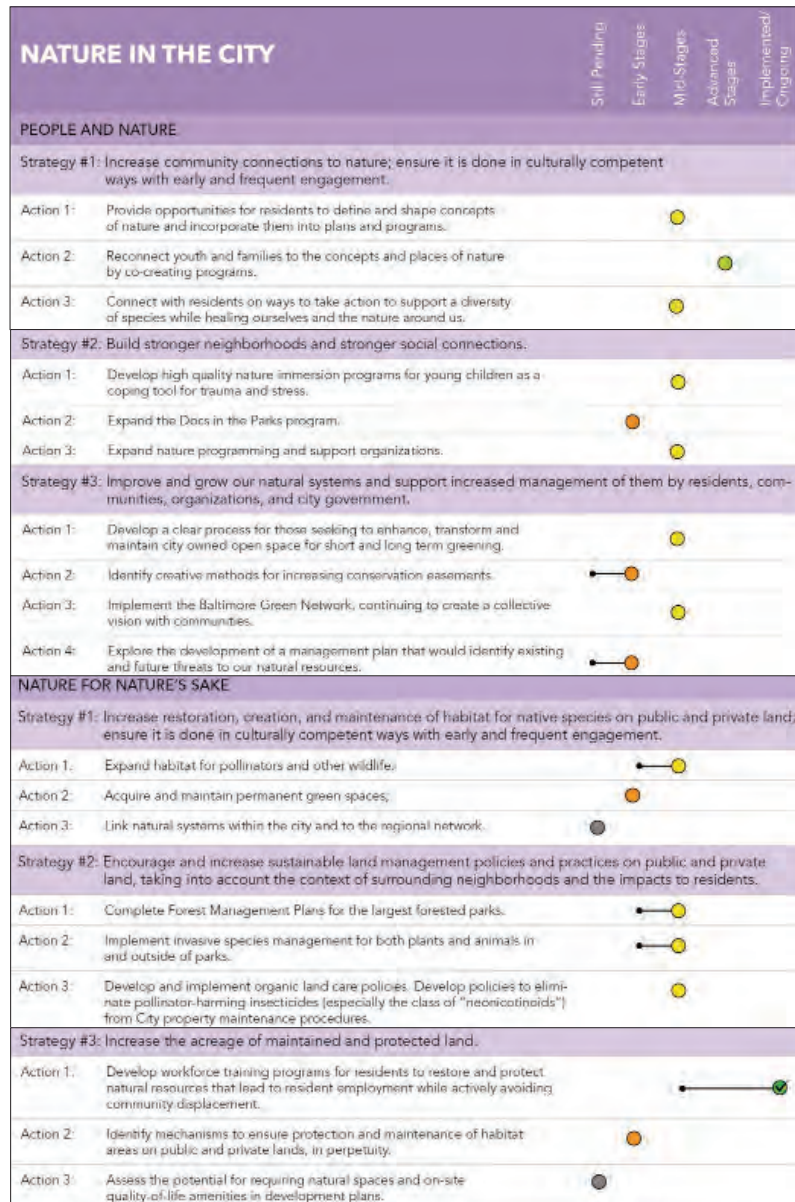


Figure 3.3 Nature in the City/ People & Nature, Nature for Nature's Sake Sustainability Plan Goals, Progress as of 2021

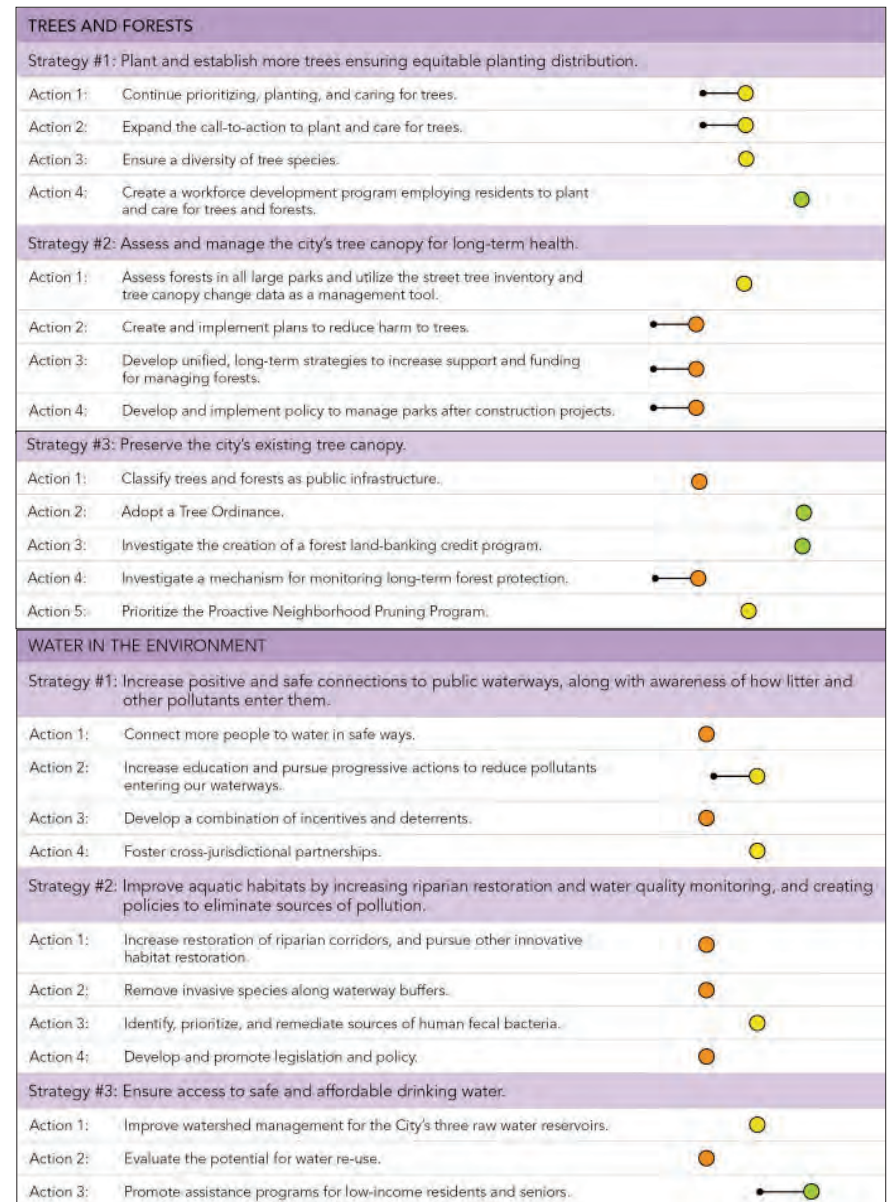


Figure 3.4 Nature in the City/ Trees & Forests, Water in the Environment Sustainability Plan Goals, Progress as of 2021



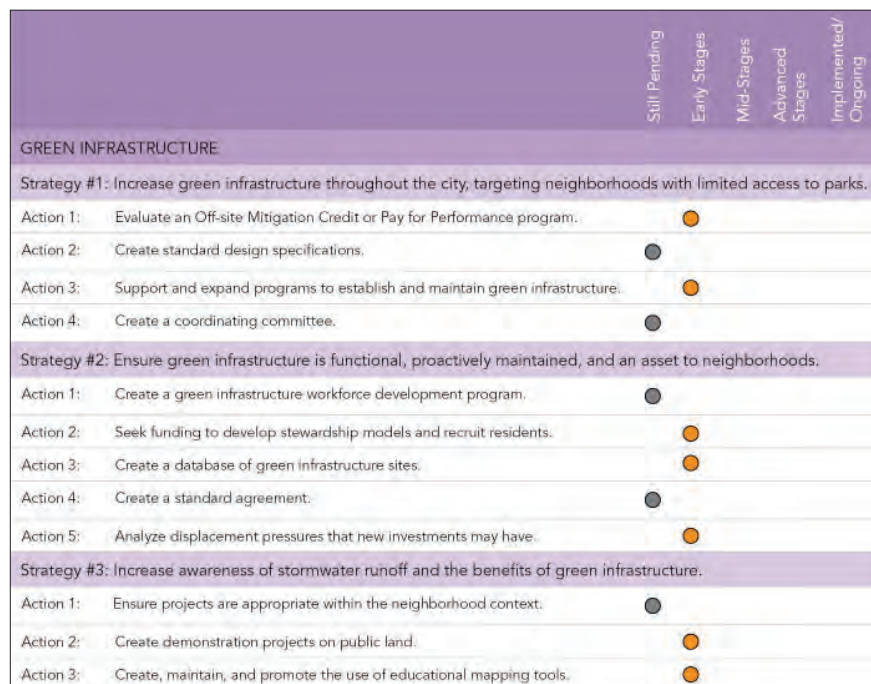


Figure 3.5 Nature in the City/Green Infrastructure Sustainability Plan Goals, Progress as of 2021

Actions that advanced in status during 2021 are indicated with a black line showing how the action advanced in status from 2020 to the end of 2021. A gray circle indicates that a strategy is “still pending,” and the green check mark indicates that the strategy has been “implemented and/or is ongoing.” A strategy may fall somewhere in between, and will be noted by orange, yellow, or light green. The charts are updated every year to demonstrate plan progress.<sup>18</sup>

## Aligning Baltimore City and State of Maryland Natural Resource Land Conservation Goals

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources identified six (6) goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation as part of its 2014-2018 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan to guide statewide efforts to preserve and conserve public lands for natural resource protections and outdoor recreation use. These goals remain relevant as part of the State’s 2019-2023 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan:

1. Identify, protect, and restore lands and waterways in Maryland that support important aquatic and terrestrial natural resources and ecological functions, through combined use of the following techniques:
  - Public land acquisition and stewardship;
  - Private land conservation easements and stewardship practices through purchased or donated easement programs;
  - Local land use management plans and procedures that conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas and minimize impacts to resource lands when development occurs;
  - Incentives for resource-based economies that increase the retention of forests, wetlands or agricultural lands;

<sup>18</sup> Baltimore City Department of Planning, Office of Sustainability, 2019-2020 Annual Report for Implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan

- Avoidance of impacts on natural resources by publicly funded infrastructure development projects; and
  - Appropriate mitigation response, commensurate with the value of the affected resource.
2. Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas, according to a strategic framework such as the Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) in GreenPrint (which is not to be confused with the former easement program also called GreenPrint).
  3. Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that may fall outside of designated green infrastructure (examples include: rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shale barren communities, grasslands, shoreline beach and dune systems, mud flats, non-forested islands, etc.)
  4. Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas to assist state and local implementation programs.
  5. Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated state/local strategy to achieve them through state and local implementation programs.
  6. Assess the combined ability of state and local programs to achieve the following:
    - Expand and connect forests, farmland and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure;
    - Protect critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats, biological communities and populations;
    - Manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands, floodplains and aquifer recharge areas and their associated hydrologic and water quality functions;

- Adopt coordinated land and watershed management strategies that recognize the critical links between growth management and aquatic biodiversity and fisheries production; and
- Support a productive forestland base and forest resource industry, emphasizing the economic viability of privately owned forestland.

The State goals clearly reflect and align with the mission and goals that guide the policies, programs and projects of Baltimore City's Department of Recreation and Parks as well as across Baltimore City agencies. Given Baltimore City's urban environment, there are not many opportunities to acquire additional natural resource land. However, the city prioritizes creating connections between existing spaces in order to improve access to and diversity of the natural resources for recreation, food production, and stormwater management. The city also works to increase wildlife and its habitat, as well as to expand the urban tree canopy.

During 2017 and 2018, the Department of Recreation and Parks undertook a citywide advocacy and data collection process to educate the public on the role of urban parks and engaged people in the process of identifying issues which address equitable access to parks and recreation. This process resulted in the Department's 2019 Vision Plan which highlighted residents' desire for expanded outdoor recreation activities. BCRP in partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received an Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program planning grant from the National Park Service (NPS) to fund this project.

In 2018, the Department of Recreation and Parks together with the DNR received capital funding<sup>19</sup> to rehabilitate and reactivate an existing youth campground in Gwynns Falls Park. The project, currently in design, will provide camping facilities with enhanced program support

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<sup>19</sup> Capital grant funding was provided by the National Park Service (NPS) from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program.

to introduce urban youth to natural environmental experiences and education. Given a delayed project schedule and an increase in overall construction costs, additional funding will be needed.

Work is currently underway on a master plan for the entire Middle Branch Waterfront which will create physical and programmatic connections to the waterfront as well as between the 11+ neighboring communities, some of which include Brooklyn, Curtis Bay, Cherry Hill, Mt. Winans, Lakeland, Westport, Saint Paul, Carroll-Camden, and South Baltimore. Components of this plan include parks, an 11-mile shoreline trail, boardwalks, and piers. The plan will expand outdoor recreation opportunities, rehabilitate sections of the shoreline, and preserve habitat. In 2020, BCRP submitted a preliminary application for Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program capital grant funding to rehabilitate and expand the recreational amenities along an existing segment this 11-mile shoreline trail. The trail runs between the Baltimore Rowing and Water Resource Center in Middle Branch Park, and the new Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center's athletic field, and park complex in Reedbird Park. BCRP anticipates beginning work on design development and construction documents in Spring/Summer 2023 and submitting a formal application together with DNR to NPS in Winter 2024.

The Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore will be undertaking a feasibility and master planning process to create a Blueway, a water-based trail within the Harbor. The Blueway will improve access to the water, engage with the natural resource of the Harbor and develop a more intimate relationship with the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay as a whole. The plan will span two basins of the Inner Harbor, public (federal, state, and city) and private property owners, dozens of neighborhoods, dynamic physical and ecological systems, regulatory considerations and changing land use.<sup>20</sup> Work on the plan is anticipated to begin in 2022 and extend over a year period.

Adopted by the City Planning Commission in 2018, The Department of Planning's Baltimore Green Network is a plan to connect the city's parks and green spaces with paths and mobility lanes, improve and

protect natural habitat, create new parks in underserved areas, and improve the maintenance of vacant lots. The Baltimore Green Network's corridor network will ultimately connect every major park, but also Universities, Hospitals, and commercial areas. The corridor network will comprise paths or complete streets that allow for walking, jogging, bicycling, or scooter riding. They will help provide health benefits for users and a recreation network for Baltimore's citizens. The network will double as a transportation network for those not using a vehicle to get to destinations around the city. This work is closely coordinated with the Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition's work, together with the Rails to Trails Conservancy, and will create a 35-mile network of urban trails that will link diverse neighborhoods, cultural amenities and outdoor resources in Baltimore City, as well as the Department of Planning, Office of Sustainability's 2019 Sustainability Plan.

An outgrowth of the plan has been the creation of two BCRP new park spaces, making use of vacant city owned lots in neighborhoods with low equity scores for park and recreation facilities. The Racheal Wilson Memorial Park, located in the Boyd-Booth neighborhood in southwest Baltimore, is a .72-acre park is named after Racheal Michelle Wilson, the first woman firefighter to die in 2007 in the line of duty. She was from the Boyd-Booth community. The park includes a mural and playground space and was completed in Spring 2022. The second new park space is Cab Calloway Legends Park. Located in the Druid Heights neighborhood in west Baltimore, the 2.7-acre park space will be created by removing the street surface of the 2200 block of Etting Street and the associated alleys. Phase I construction is anticipated to be completed by 2024, Additional funding is needed to complete the second phase.

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<sup>20</sup> BioHabitats, Baltimore Blueway Master Plan Proposal, October 22, 2021.



## PROTECTED NATURAL RESOURCE LAND INVENTORY AND MAPS

### Natural Resource Land Inventory

#### *Designated Conservation Areas*

Natural resources, or resource areas that contribute to the overall biodiversity of the City, may be protected public parklands owned and managed by the Department of Recreation and Parks, or they may be designated and protected as special areas of environmental interest through regulatory programs managed by the Department of Planning.

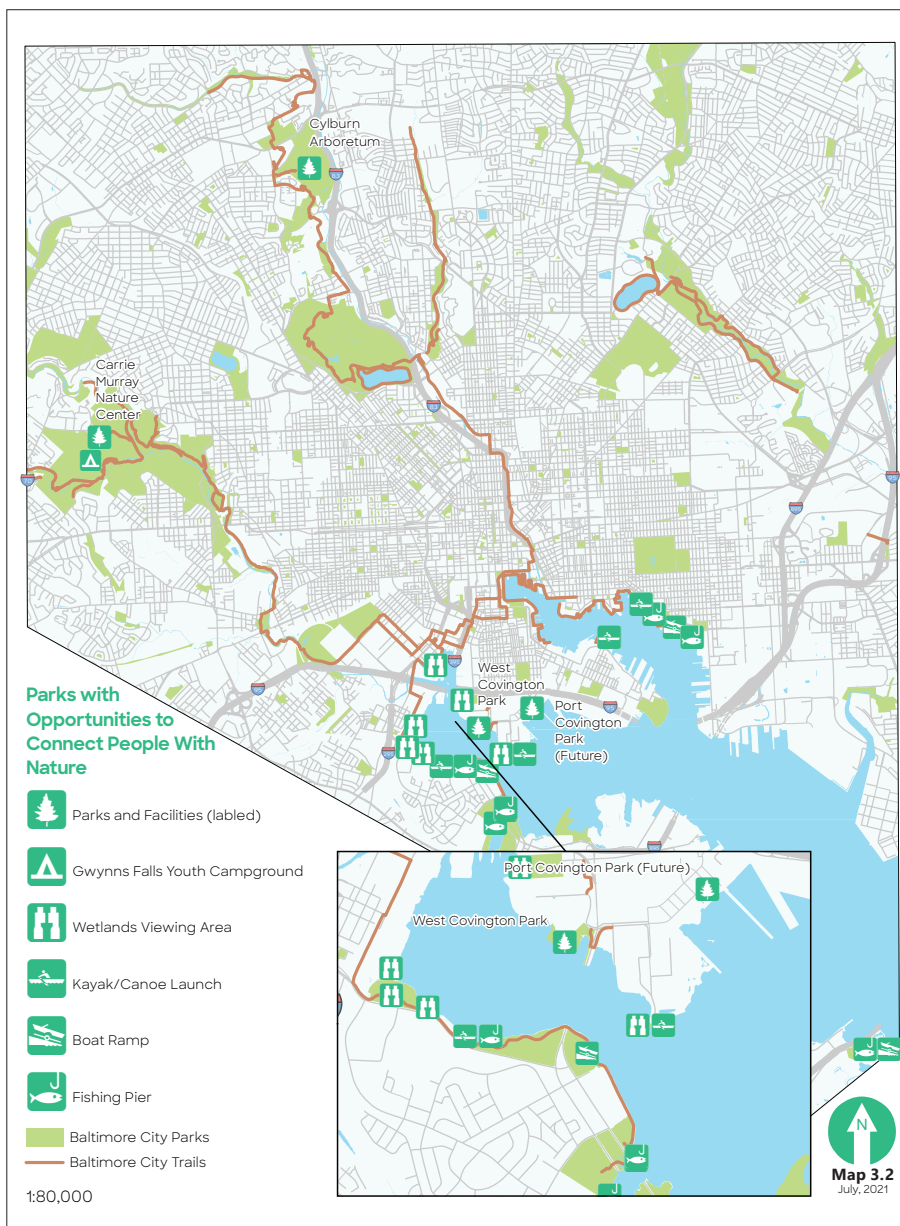
Baltimore City's 82 square miles of land are more highly developed than any other comparable region in the State. As mentioned previously, The Maryland Department of Planning's land use data (2019), indicates that only 14 percent of the City's land remains undeveloped open space or parkland. Despite this loss of natural lands, the city has preserved some important lands that have a unique natural resource value in the City's highly urbanized area.

During the late 19th Century, as the rate of urbanization increased, the City began acquiring land to be set aside for parks. This effort, stimulated by the 1904 Olmsted Brothers plan, emphasized the need for a comprehensive park plan to link and expand the City's existing parks with landscaped boulevards and scenic wooded slopes within the stream valleys. To a great extent, the 1904 Olmsted plan was implemented, and the stream valleys have become the foundation of Baltimore's extensive park system. Today, large parks protect the wooded stream valleys of the Gwynns Falls (Gwynns Falls/ Leakin Park), the Jones Falls (Druid Hill Park and Cylburn Arboretum) and Herring Run (Herring Run Park and Chinquapin Park). Carroll Park, Farring Baybrook Park, Clifton Park, and Patterson Park are not associated with streams, but they have enough wooded acreage to provide significant opportunities for recreation and habitat protection in Baltimore City.

The majority of Baltimore City's Patapsco River and harbor shoreline has been developed. In the 1970's, Baltimore began to acquire shoreline parcels to create a public waterfront along the Patapsco River. Reedbird Park and the Middle Branch Park both preserve important habitats along the Patapsco River estuary of the Chesapeake Bay. Other waterfront parks that preserve important waterfront open space include Canton Waterfront Park, Swann Park and Ridgely's Cove. West Covington Park, along with new parks being developed in conjunction with Under Armour's Port Covington campus, will preserve additional waterfront land and habitat areas.

Shoreline and wooded areas provide important recreational and educational opportunities. The waterfront provides recreational opportunities for boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and bird watching. The network of developed trails along the Jones Falls, Gwynns Falls, Herring Run and Stony Run stream offer hiking and biking recreational opportunities in addition to the local park-based trails contained within Gwynns Falls Park, Herring Run Park, Cylburn Arboretum, Druid Hill Park, and other parks. The youth campground in Gwynns Falls Park, once improvements are completed, will offer group and individual primitive camping experiences. Environmental programs offered at the Carrie Murray Nature Center in Gwynns Falls Park and by the National Audubon Society in Patterson Park provide important recreational and educational opportunities for residents to connect with nature (Map 3.2).

Baltimore's Critical Area Program monitors both public and private lands that extend 1000 feet from the shoreline. The Department of Planning has identified twelve sites as Designated Habitat Protection Areas (DHPA) within the Critical Area. The DHPA status highlights and protects waterfront areas that have special value for migrating shorebirds and other wildlife that depend on the estuary environment.



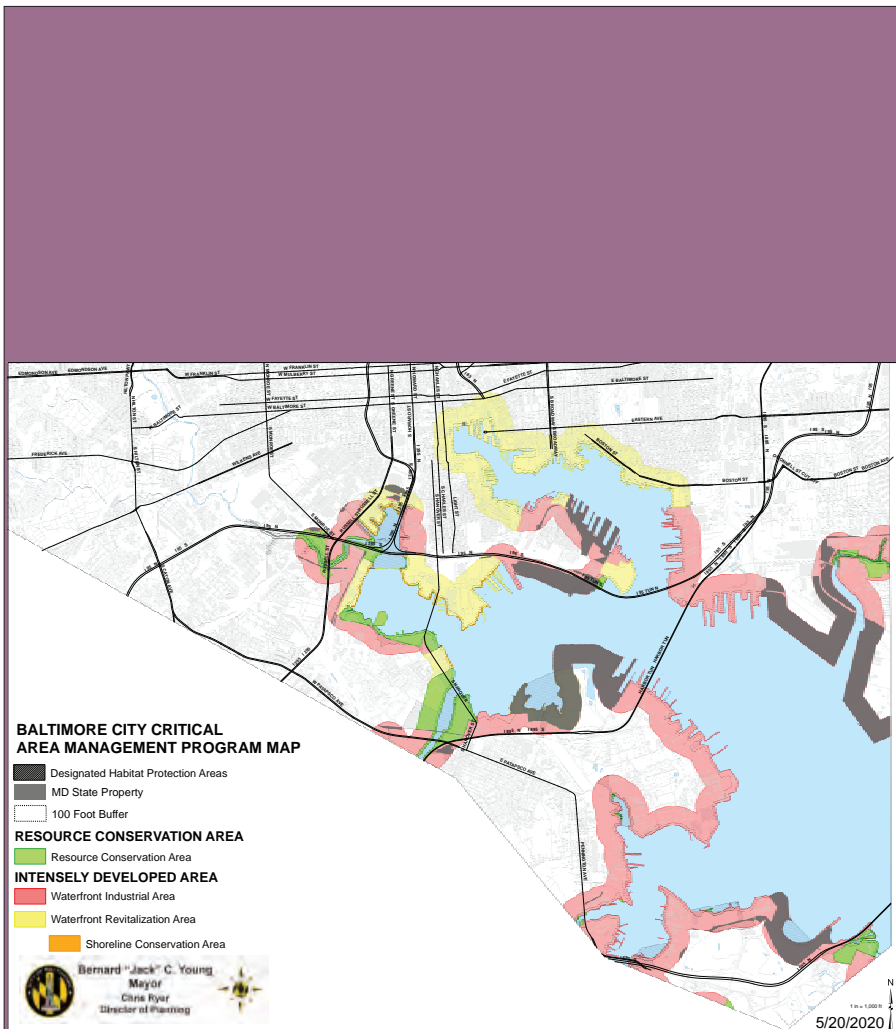
Map 3.2 Parks with Opportunities to Connect with Nature

The Department of Planning updated its Critical Area Management Program Manual in 2020 with an effective date of September 9, 2020. Figure 3.6, Figure 3.7, and Table 3.0 show the areas under the Critical Area Management Program, and the Designated Habitat Protection Areas (DHPA). Additional information about each area is included in Appendix C.

These wooded and shoreline natural resource areas have an important value to the environment of the city. Aside from their recreation benefits, parks, and natural lands function to moderate the climatic conditions in the city. The trees, fields and natural stream valleys offer an aesthetic alternative to a continuous landscape of roads and buildings. These areas also provide habitat for many species of animals and plants including migratory woodland birds and waterfowl. In the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, a few relatively small pockets of vegetated open space comprised of various stages of secondary growth vegetation and wetlands, serve to support migratory and resident waterfowl. Because the park system includes large, forested areas, stream valley parks and medians with mature tree canopy, the city's open space network has preserved significant north/south wildlife corridors that lead to adjacent County open space and the Chesapeake Bay.

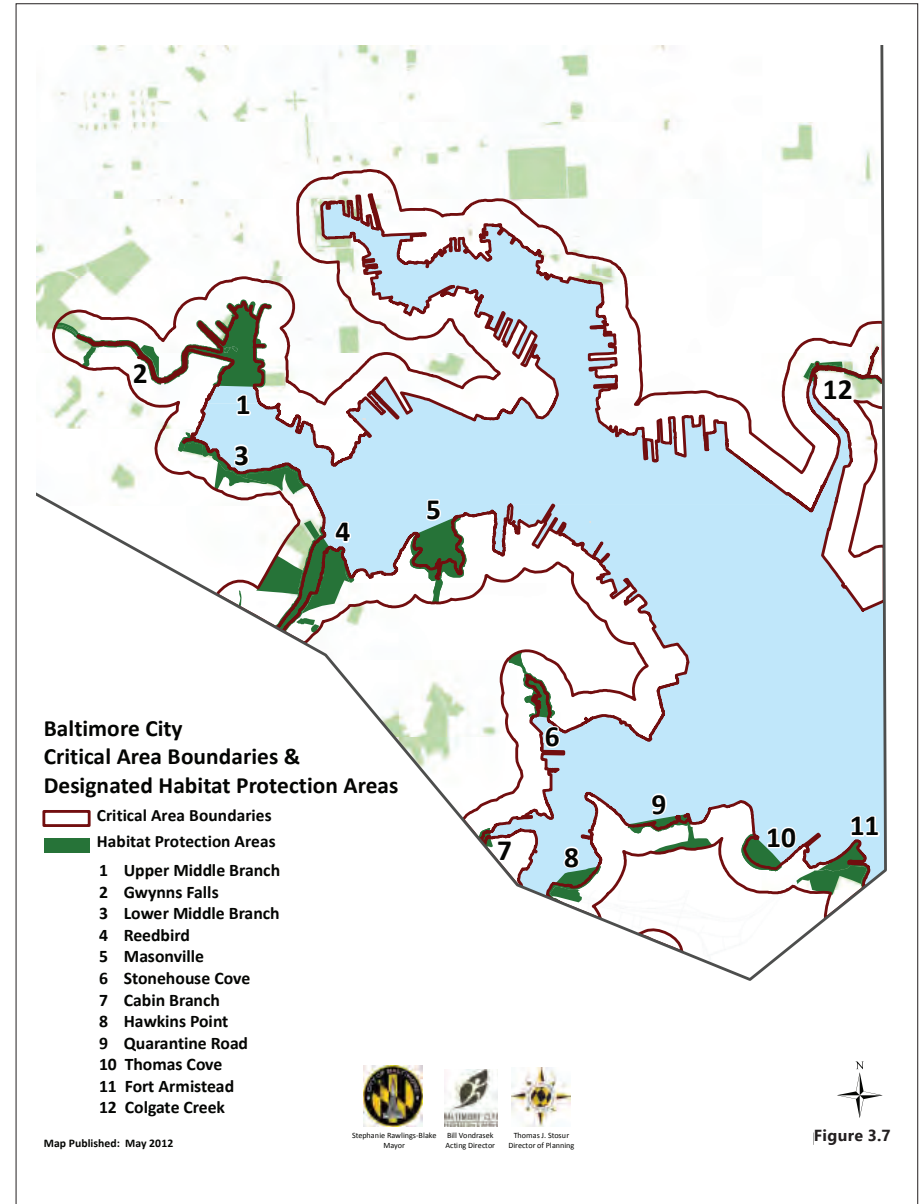
In addition to preserving land as parks and establishing specific sites as important habitats for protection, Baltimore has a variety of environmental regulations and policies to protect sensitive natural resources that are privately owned.

The 2020 Critical Area Manual includes a new Shoreline Conservation Area designation to the Critical Area. Areas designated as Shoreline Conservation are intended to protect the city's existing green/soft shorelines and cannot be converted into bulkheads or other hardened edges. Natural shorelines are important because they provide benefits including wildlife habitat, the maintenance of shoreline dynamics, attenuation of storm surge and flood control, filtration of nutrients and other pollutants, and the creation and protection of carbon sinks through the maintenance of wetlands.



Source: Baltimore City Department of Planning

Figure 3.6 Baltimore City Critical Area Management Program



Source: Baltimore City Department of Planning

Figure 3.7 Baltimore City Critical Area Boundaries & Designated Habitat Protection Areas



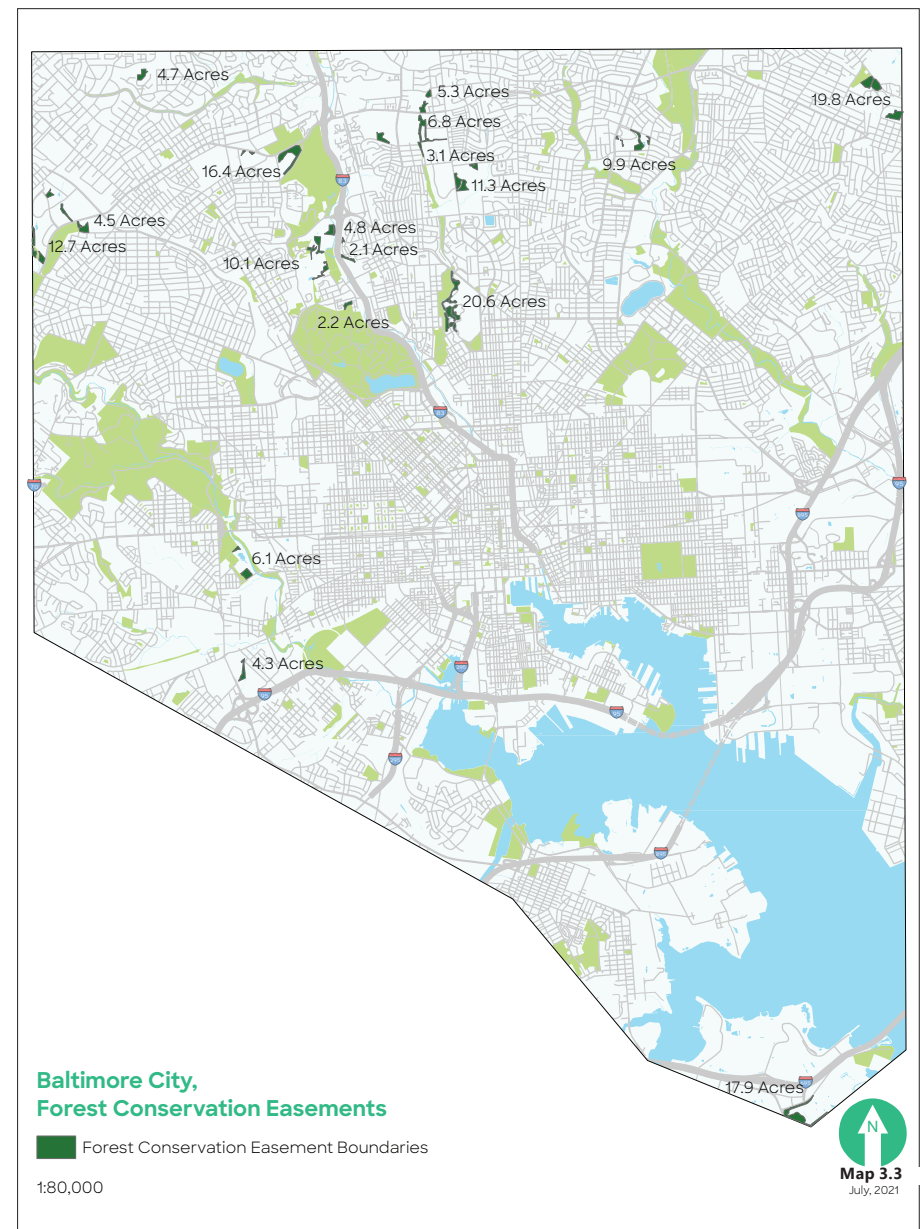
<b>Baltimore City Designated Protection Areas</b>		
	<b><u>Habitat Protection Area</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
1.	Upper Middle Branch	The site of an historic waterfowl staging and concentration area. In addition, portions of this shallow water area have been used as wetland mitigation sites for various waterfront development projects (Public & Private ownership).
2.	Gwynns Falls	The site of a greenway trail, needing protection as a wildlife corridor. This corridor connects the upland forests of the upper Gwynns Falls watershed with the wetlands and tidal waters of the upper Middle Branch (Public ownership).
3.	Lower Middle Branch	The site of tidal wetlands and waters of a tributary stream and an adjacent area of mature oak forest on steeply sloped land (Public ownership).
4.	Reedbird	The site of tidal wetlands, reforested meadows and active recreation facilities (ball fields, courts, pools, greenway trail). (Public ownership).
5.	Masonville	The site of an historic waterfowl staging and concentration area with wetlands. This is the largest waterfowl staging area in the City, and one of the largest in the State of Maryland (Private ownership).
6.	Stonehouse Cove	The site of an historic waterfowl staging and concentration area. The cove contains vegetated tidal wetlands bordering upland forested areas. The upper reach of the cove contains an intermittently tidal stream that is heavily vegetated along both banks (Private ownership).
7.	Cabin Branch	The site of vegetated tidal wetlands along a stream bank (Private ownership).
8.	Hawkins Point	The site of an historic waterfowl staging and concentration area (Private ownership).
9.	Quarantine Road	The site of an historic waterfowl staging and concentration area and a wooded drainage area adjacent to a forest (Public & Private ownership).
10.	Thoms Cove	The site of an historic waterfowl staging and concentration area (Private ownership).
11.	Fort Armistead	The site of a large tidal wetland with an adjoining upland forest (Public & Private ownership).
12.	Colgate Creek	The site of a tidal tributary stream with vegetated shoreline (Public & Private ownership).

Table 3.0 Baltimore City Designated Habitat Protection Areas

Source: Baltimore City Department of Planning

Forest Conservation Easements are another tool Baltimore City uses to preserve and conserve natural land. This option is administered in conjunction with the Forest Conservation Act which establishes rules for development sites that minimize the loss of existing forests and replenish tree cover. Where an amount of forest is being retained that is equal to or greater than the “break-even point” for the site (calculated as per the State law), site owners may choose to place the forest into permanent conservation via an easement. When this is done, no additional forest retention is required for the site, even if more than 5,000 square feet of land is disturbed again in the future. The City’s Forest Conservation Easement regulations were revised in 2020, to reduce the review trigger from 20,000 square feet of disturbance to 5,000 square feet of disturbance to incorporate changes in City policies, and align with changes to City and state codes.

The City’s current Forest Conservation Easements are shown in Map 3.3. An inventory of these properties is provided in Appendix C.



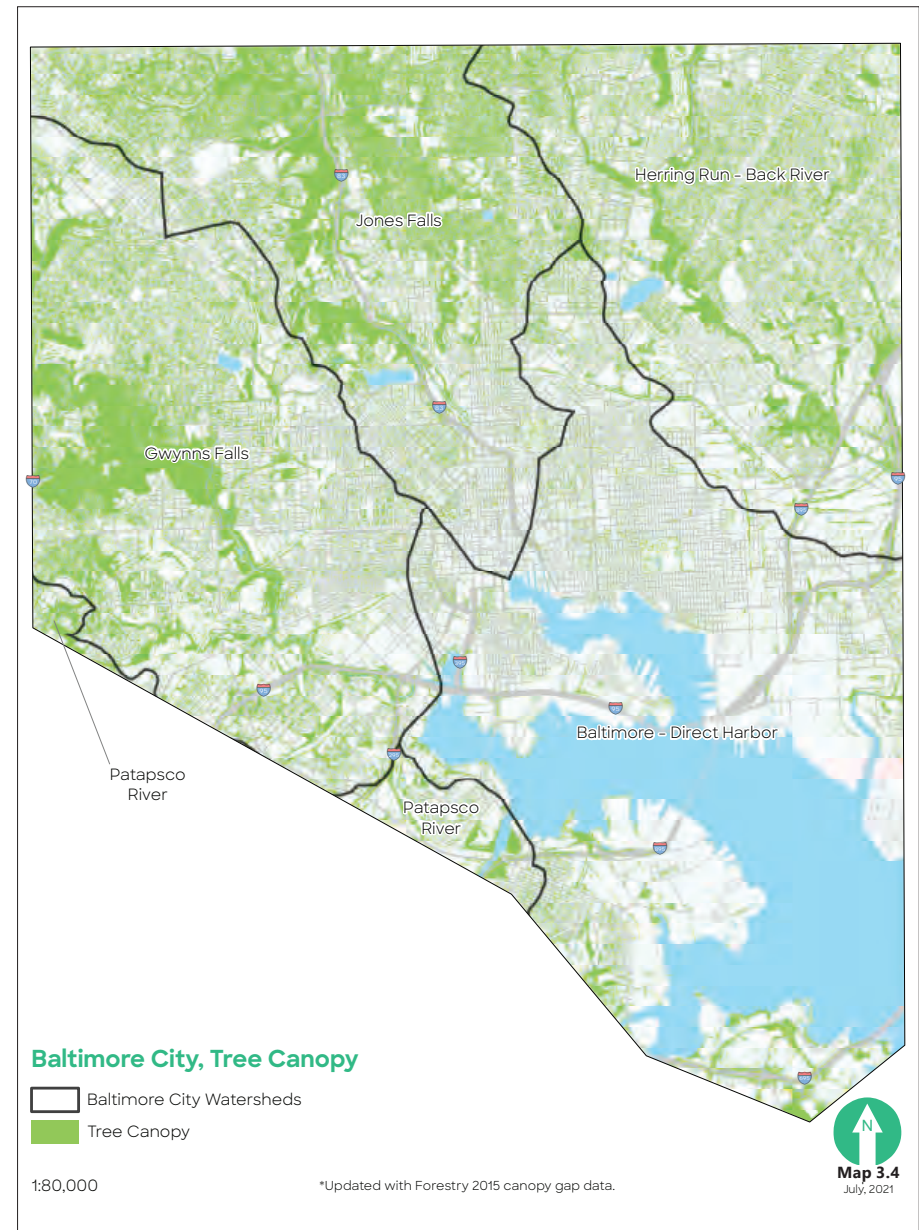
Map 3.3 Baltimore City Forest Conservation Easements

## Forested Areas and Street Trees

Analysis of the most recently available data from 2017, indicates that Baltimore's urban tree canopy cover is 28 percent, up from 27 percent in 2007. This tree cover is spread over all types of land uses, not just parks. The largest stands of forest in Baltimore are clustered around the major stream valleys of Herring Run, Jones Falls and Gwynn's Falls.

Not surprisingly, of the four major watersheds in Baltimore, the Baltimore-Direct Harbor watershed has the greatest amount of impervious surface at 74 percent and the lowest amount of tree canopy at a little over 6.5 percent. The Jones Falls watershed, largely due to the presence of Druid Hill and Cylburn Parks and the leafy residential neighborhoods in the northern part of the city, has the highest percent of tree canopy at 28 percent (Map 3.4). The Gwynns Falls stream valley has the highest concentration of forest, contained primarily within Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park (Figure 3.8). In Baltimore City 5,521 acres of land have been included in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, however, due to Baltimore's history as a waterfront industrial city, it is estimated that only 85 acres of this is forested

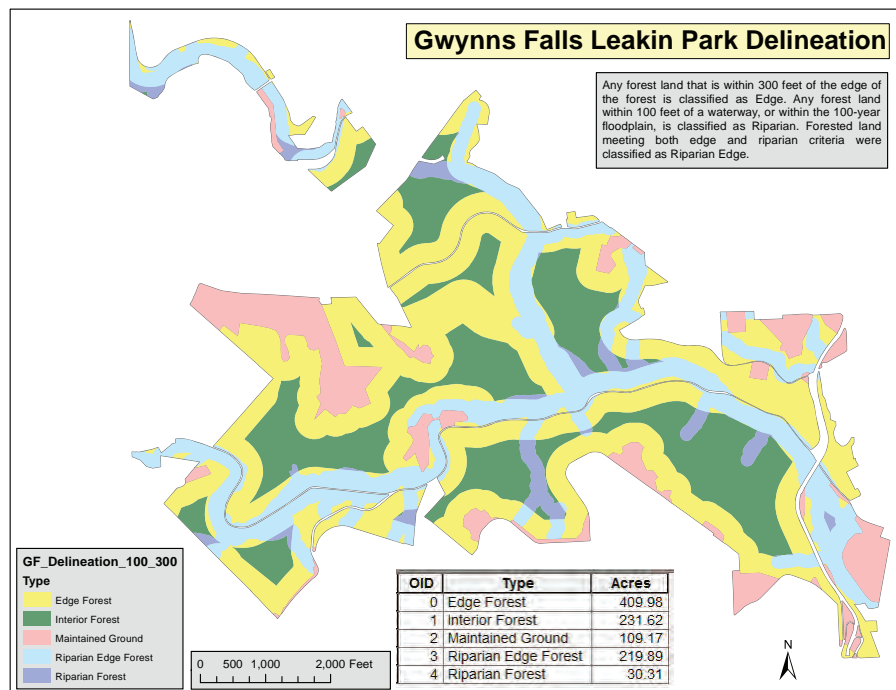
The forest composition within the City's major parks reflects the different soils and microclimates of the parks. Lake Roland Park, Cylburn Arboretum, Druid Hill Park and Wyman Park are all located within the steep and rocky valley of the Jones Falls. The dominant forest species of these parks are Beech/Tulip Poplar. The Gwynns Falls stream valley is also steep and rocky, but the extensive wooded parkland has been less disturbed by development. Three tree associations are found in Gwynns Falls Park: Oak-Hickory, and Maple-Ash-Box Elder. While portions of the stream valley of Herring Run include steep slopes, most of the stream valley is wide and flat. The forest associations found in Herring Run Park and Chinquapin Park are Oak-Hickory and Maple-Box Elder.



Source: Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks

Map 3.4 Baltimore Tree Canopy





Source: Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks

Figure 3.8 Gwynns Falls Leakin Park Forest Delineation

## Old Field/Shrub and Scrub Vegetation Areas

An inventory of land cover (DNR 1993) and a Habitat Assessment Study (Baltimore City Department of Planning 1989) both discuss the presence of shrub/scrub habitat in the city. The DNR report classified 760 acres as shrub/scrub vegetation and the Habitat Assessment Study identified the largest concentration of this habitat type in lower Herring Run Park and Middle Branch Park (within the Critical Area).

## Wetlands

Baltimore has both tidal and non-tidal wetlands. These systems are but a fraction of what was found in the area before development of the city. Today, Tidal wetlands are located on the Patapsco estuary, extend-

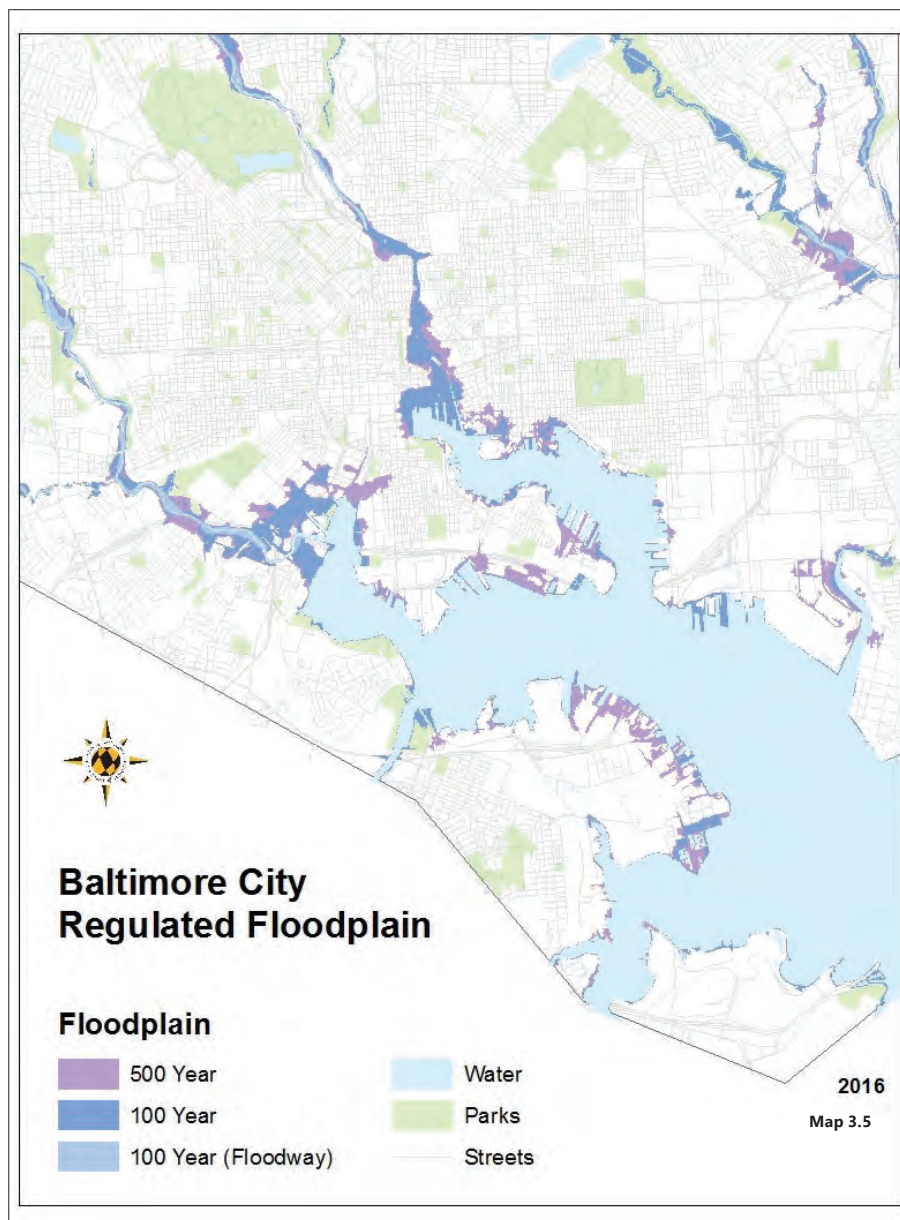
ing for a short distance upstream into the tributaries of the Patapsco. These areas consist of a few fragments associated with the remaining natural shoreline of Baltimore. Non-tidal wetlands in the city are associated with streams and are usually narrow and linear in configuration as they follow the stream channels. The tidal wetlands are classified as estuarine according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service classification system. Tidal water is brackish, ranging in salt content from less than one part per thousand to ten parts per thousand and decreasing in salinity on the upstream end of the estuary. The non-tidal wetlands include riverine, palustrine, and lacustrine systems.

Using air photos, field surveys and information from the 1981 National Wetlands Survey data, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative inventoried wetlands in the Critical Area. This study identified approximately 110 acres of tidal marsh and 10 acres of non-tidal wetlands remaining within the Critical Area. The most significant habitat is found in Masonville Cove (70 acres), a dredge material disposal site that includes high and low marsh habitat (see Figure 3.7 for Masonville Cove location).

## Streams and 100-Year Floodplain

Baltimore lies within two major drainage basins: the Patapsco River and the Back River basins. The Patapsco's two main tributaries are the Gwynns Falls, which drains the northwest part of the city, and the Jones Falls, which drains the central part of the city. Herring Run drains the eastern part of the city, emptying into Back River in Baltimore County. These three major stream systems are fed by several tributaries: Herring Run is fed by Chinquapin Run and Moore's Run, Jones Falls is fed by Stony Run and Western Run, and the Gwynns Falls is fed by Maiden's Choice and Dead Run (Map 3.5).

Baltimore historically was crossed by an intricate pattern of small streams. However, many of these tributaries have dried up due to urbanization or have been channelled and piped into the city storm water system. The remaining major streams and tributaries have been impacted by urbanization with stormwater outfalls at most stream



Map 3.5 Baltimore City Regulated Floodplain

sources. Throughout many segments, sedimentation and erosion result from the immense pressure put on these systems from unstable outfalls and upstream impervious areas.

Between 2017 and 2021 the following stormwater management / water quality projects have been completed by the Department of Public Works:

- Impervious removal at 13 schools
- Two bioretention projects
- Three stream restoration projects

Seventy bioretention and impervious surface removal projects are expected to be constructed between late 2022 – 2023. Additionally, six stream restoration projects have been proposed on public forested parkland (to begin in late 2022 and 2023) to meet the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. These projects remain under review by BCRP due to concerns of significant deforestation associated with the construction activity, as occurred during the stream restorations from 2017 to 2021.

The 1% annual chance of flood areas of the streams and shoreline of Baltimore vary, depending on the topography of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain formations. The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) has mapped all riverine and tidal floodplain areas in Baltimore City. To facilitate accessing the FEMA data, the Department of Planning has transferred the information onto GIS topographic base maps and has completed an inventory of all property, private and public, within the designated floodplains.

### Steep Slopes

Baltimore is located within two physiographic regions: the Piedmont Plateau and the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The juncture of these two provinces is called the "fall line." This line roughly bisects the city in a northeast/southwest direction. Extending northwest from the "fall line" is the Eastern Division of the Piedmont Plateau. This area is under-

lain with a complex series of metamorphic rocks that result in a highly diverse topography. In contrast, the Atlantic Coastal Plain topography is relatively flat and consists of unconsolidated sand, clays and gravel.

Many of the City's steep slopes (20% slope or greater) are located in the Piedmont portions of the major stream valleys of the Jones Falls, Gwynns Falls, Herring Run and their tributaries. For the most part, undisturbed steep slopes are found within or adjacent to city-owned park lands. For example, most of the steep stream banks of the Gwynns Falls and the Dead Run are found within the mature forests of Gwynns Falls Leakin Park or within undeveloped private land associated with residential areas adjacent to the park. Significant areas of steep slopes in the Jones Falls stream valley are currently protected as mature forested parkland within Cylburn Arboretum and Druid Hill Park. Industrial and institutional land uses are more common than residential lands in the Jones Falls valley. Many of these privately held slopes appear to have been disturbed in the past but have stabilized with the naturally re-vegetated woods (while these re-generated woods are dominated by invasive species, they are still valued for their ability to stabilize steep slopes). Steep slopes are only found in the northern sections of the Herring Run. About a third are found in wooded land held by institutions, a third are found in Herring Run Park and another third in wooded residential property. The few steep slopes in South Baltimore are the result of landfill development, as the natural topography of this area is level coastal plain.

### *Critical Habitat for Endangered Species*

The only known natural habitat for endangered species on public park land in the city is Cylburn Arboretum, where an important State-listed species is known to occur. The endangered Peregrine Falcon has nests on both the USF&G building in downtown Baltimore and the Interstate-695 Bridge. The falcon's choice of food sources depends on the feeding habits of the fledgling bird's parents. As a result, the falcons nesting at the USF&G building prefer the abundant downtown pigeon population and those on the I-695 Bridge prefer waterfowl found in the Middle Branch environs.

Lake Roland Park, a Baltimore City-owned park located on the edge of the City that is leased to and managed by Baltimore County, includes extensive areas of a rare serpentine barren ecosystem that harbors a unique and rare natural plant community. This park has an official COMAR<sup>11</sup> designation as a State Natural Heritage Area, one of only 32 in Maryland.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

The Maryland Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act lists three bird species and thirteen plant species as rare, threatened, or endangered. Our Green Infrastructure (GI) Hubs, Cylburn Arboretum and Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park (Figure 3.7) are all potential habitat or resting areas for migration of these species. These Green Infrastructure Hubs are integral to providing flyways, natural habitat corridors, and blocks of contiguous forest for a wide variety of plant and animal species. The City protects the following Green Hubs as well as other significant areas of woodland habitat through park ownership and the following forest management plans:

- Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park - A designated State Green Infrastructure Hub with 999 acres of mature forest (Figure 3.8).
- Druid Hill Park - A park area of 744 acres, including natural forest and lawns with mature tree canopy.
- Cylburn Arboretum - A designated State Green Infrastructure Hub with 100 acres of natural forest and meadows.

Among these City parks, Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park and its stream valley are the most significant in terms of wildlife habitat. There are sections of the Gwynns Falls stream that pass through highly resistant rock and forested buffers. These segments have not been as severely impacted by urbanization as other streams and can support a surprisingly large population of fish (27 species were identified in a 1989 study).

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11 The Code of Maryland Regulations, often referred to as COMAR, is the official compilation of all administrative regulations issued by agencies of the state of Maryland.



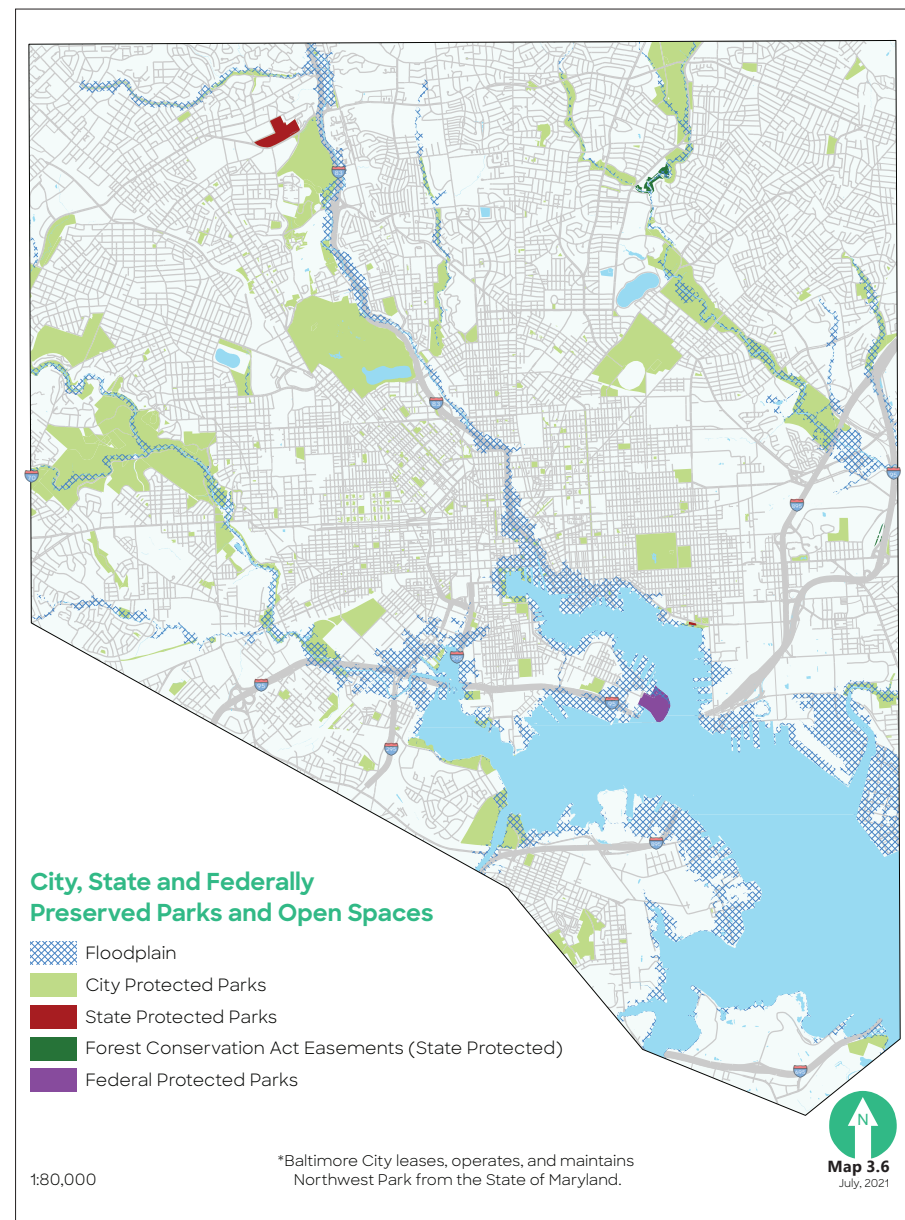
Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, Cylburn Arboretum and Druid Hill Park each contain large, forested areas where trees have not been disturbed for over 100 years. The presence of water and the size and diversity of the plant communities are the most significant features in these parks, which are known to support a variety of wildlife populations including forest interior dwelling birds.

## Natural Resource Lands Mapping

The Department of Planning and the Department of Recreation and Parks, Forestry and Capital Development Divisions, work closely to utilize the latest natural resources mapping technology to study the conditions of natural resources in the City. The two most recent sources of natural resources information for Baltimore City, include a GIS based Sensitive Areas Plan (created by the Department of Planning 2002), and the data derived from the October 2001 Ikonos multi -spectral image of Baltimore City. With assistance from MD-DNR, this image was used to extract a high resolution, generalized land cover grid for Baltimore. The resolution of the image, 4 meters near infrared and 1 meter panchromatic, far exceeds any previous mapping of Baltimore's "green infrastructure. "

The Mayor's Office of Information Technology (MOIT) maintains the city's GIS based information for all agencies. Data sharing occurs through MOIT for Statewide information (DNR, MDP), urban tree canopy mapping studies through the US Forest Service, a variety of student research projects and miscellaneous private requests. The Forest Service conducts a fly over approximately every three years. Fly over data collected in 2015 and 2016, was analyzed in 2017.

Baltimore City creates a range of maps, shown in this chapter and in Chapter 4 that illustrate the preserved natural resource lands discussed in this chapter. Map 3.6 shows the publicly owned preserved natural resource and open space lands.



Map 3.6 Publicly Preserved Parks, Open Spaces and Natural Lands (same as Map 2.8)

## IMPLEMENTING ORDINANCES AND PROGRAMS

The Department of Planning and the Department of Recreation and Parks employ a variety of planning, management, and regulatory strategies to preserve and restore the natural resources of Baltimore City. Both agencies include protection and enhancement of natural resources in their Department goals, but the implementation tools and scope of influence are different.

As stated in the City Charter of Baltimore, the Department of Recreation and Parks is responsible for the care and maintenance of all city parklands, from small paved passive parks to large areas of undisturbed woodlands. The Department has identified protecting and enhancing natural resources found within the park system as part of the agency's mission statement. Day to day park operations in park maintenance, forest management and street tree care as well as capital projects for park acquisition, tree canopy expansion and habitat restoration all contribute to improving the quality of the natural resources on publicly held lands.

As stated in the City Charter, the Department of Planning is responsible for shaping the character of Baltimore City including the stewardship of natural resources on both public and private land. Sensitive natural resources throughout the city are mapped by the Department of Planning and regulations are triggered anytime that change is proposed for individual parcels. The Sensitive Areas Plan, Forest Conservation Program, Critical Area Management Plan, and Flood Plain Management Program were all crafted to protect as much of our sensitive natural resources as possible while also allowing for continued economic growth and redevelopment in Baltimore.

The Disaster Preparedness and Planning Project Plan was developed to address the growing need to mitigate hazards and the effects of climate change on city infrastructure, buildings, natural systems, and public services. Land acquisition is another mechanism to protect

important habitats and natural resources, particularly with properties that may be adjacent to existing woodlands and meadow, or filling gaps in stream valley/wildlife corridors. This may occur through city acquisition of property or through the State's land trust: Maryland Environmental Trust.

As a composite system, public ownership (city parkland), public easements and designated protected areas (public and private lands) support each other to preserve open space and provide essential habitat for plants and animals in the city.

### Sensitive Areas Plan

The Baltimore City Sensitive Areas Plan, adopted in 1998, identifies and describes protection policies for the following natural resource systems:

- Streams and their buffers
- 100-year floodplains
- Habitats of threatened and endangered species
- Steep slopes
- Urban Forests including parkland forests, landscape trees in parks, forest on private lands, the tree canopy in residential neighborhoods, and the 500,000 street trees maintained by the City.

Every public or private development or renovation project in Baltimore is required to file site plans as part of the building permit process. Projects must be adjusted if the Planning Department review determines that the work cannot meet city standards for each of these sensitive natural features.

## Forest Conservation Program

### *Forest Conservation Act*

The Maryland Forest Conservation Act was passed by the General Assembly in 1991 and is intended to conserve the State's forest resources. The Forest Conservation Act regulates all development proposals (on public or private land) that disturb or subdivide parcels 40,000 square feet of land or more. However, Baltimore City's reviews trigger with 5,000 square feet of disturbance. For each development project, the owner must submit a Forest Stand Delineation (FSD) and Forest Conservation Plan (FCP) or Landscape Plan for review by the Department of Planning as part of the City's building permit review process. If a site is forested, the applicant may not present the project to the Site Plan Review Committee until the Department of Planning has approved the FSD.

For forested sites, the applicant is required to submit a full Forest Stand Delineation (FSD) for the site that contains a detailed environmental assessment according to the guidelines found in the State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources Forest Conservation Manual. The applicant is also required to submit a Forest Conservation Plan (FCP), which may include preservation of existing trees and on-site or off-site planting.

If no forests exist on the site, the applicant may provide a simplified FSD and landscape plan to meet the Forest Conservation requirements. Specimen trees located on these sites may also be required to be preserved. The City cannot issue construction until the Forest Stand Delineation and Forest Conservation Plan are reviewed and approved.

### *Forest Management and Urban Street Trees*

BCRP Capital Development and Planning is responsible for drafting and implementing forest management plans for Baltimore. While the tree species mix is different in individual parks, the management issues are similar across the city: removal and control of invasive species in the forest, regeneration of mature tree canopies where trees are planted

in lawn areas, increasing species diversity and improving the survival rate of new tree plantings. Many of the wooded parks, including the City's two Green Infrastructure Hubs, already have forestry management plans (Gwynns Falls 1990 and update 2017, Druid Hill 1995 & update 2006, Cylburn 2005, Wyman Park 2005, Chinquapin 2006 and Herring Run 2007) See Figure. Baltimore park staff has worked closely with park managers from New York City to develop "entitiation" forest management plans that break down large forest areas into distinct management strategy areas (closed canopy, invasive dominant, herbaceous dominant, etc). Classifying the forest areas by dominant species and plant type allows better project scheduling and prioritization of work as well as more efficient use of volunteers and grants.

BCRP Forestry works with the Department of Planning to match developers that cannot meet their Forest Conservation Plan or Critical Area Mitigation Program requirements "on site" with park areas that can benefit from habitat restoration/expansion projects. Private developers have funded a variety of reforestation and invasive removal projects in the park system. BCRP Forestry's TreeBaltimore Program also trains and leads volunteers (from watershed associations, school groups, park friends associations, etc.) in identification and removal of invasive trees and vines in the forests, and park tree plantings. Volunteers interested in assisting with street tree care and pruning are trained in the TreeKeepers program.

Baltimore City's Sustainability Plan includes an urban tree canopy goal of 40 percent cover by 2037. The goal is also integral to the City's Climate Action Plan and greenhouse gas reduction goals. These goals, which were updated with the 2019 Sustainability Plan call for a 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020 and 30 percent by 2025. The City is in the process of an update to its Climate Action Plan, which will include new GHG reduction targets and actions for the City and partners to implement in pursuit of the updated targets.



## Critical Area Management Plan

In 1984, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Protection Law. This law requires all jurisdictions abutting the Chesapeake Bay, including Baltimore City, to designate all lands within 1,000 feet of tidal waters as Critical Areas and to require environmental protection and mitigation for the effects of development and redevelopment within these zones (Figure 3.1). This law also designates all lands within 100 feet of tidal waters as the Critical Area Buffer and requires the City to restrict development within the Buffer. The program has been successful in contributing to a reduction of phosphorus and other pollutants into the Bay as well as increasing and enhancing shoreline wildlife habitat.

Baltimore City's Critical Area Management Program (CAMP) is administered by the Department of Planning. Development or redevelopment projects that are within the Critical Area may be subject to restriction or mitigation at the building permit stage, or at an earlier stage of approval if any of the following public actions are required:

- Subdivision
- Rezoning
- Zoning variance
- Conditional use or special exception
- Building permit
- Building permit within a Designated Habitat Protection Area (DHPA) or certain changes in use or expansion of existing uses in a Designated HPA.

All building, grading and use permit applications for properties in the Critical Area are reviewed by the Department of Planning. The Department of Planning works with owners of each project to improve the habitat of the shoreline of the redevelopment parcel, or alternatively, to provide funding that can be used to enhance the habitat and water quality across the city.

## Floodplain Areas

To minimize the incidence of flood damage, the City has enacted special provisions of the Building Code, Natural Resources Code, Zoning Ordinance, and Subdivision Regulations applying to all public or private properties that lie within floodplain areas. The federal government has defined floodplain areas within Baltimore City and these areas are described generally on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) available for reference at the Department of Planning.

Because these FIRM maps are only approximations, the Office of Sustainability of the Department of Planning carefully reviews any development proposal for property in or near a known floodplain area. The precise elevation and coordinates of the proposed development are submitted, and the proposed grading changes evaluated to determine if the improvement is inside a flood-hazard area. If the property and the proposed development lie within a floodplain area, all the special requirements of the Natural Resources Code, Building Code, Zoning Ordinance, and Subdivision Regulations must be met. Included among the floodplain regulations (Article 7, Floodplain Management, Baltimore City Code) are:

- Private development, including residential, commercial, and industrial development, may not take place within the floodway.
- Selection, placement, and stabilization of fill materials must be done in accordance with the specifications of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Water and Science Administration.
- The lowest floor elevation of new or substantially improved residential structures must be at a minimum of two (2) feet above the 1% annual chance of flood elevation in the non-tidal floodplain and above the 0.2% annual chance of flood elevation in the tidal flood plain. A certificate confirming the "as built" elevation for new construction projects is required prior to issuance of a use and occupancy permit.

- Any floodplain development approved shall be in conformance with the requirements of the permit programs of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Water and Science Administration, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Buildings constructed within the flood plain area must meet requirements for resistance to flotation and ability to resist hydrostatic forces, as detailed in the United States Army Corp of Engineers Flood proofing Regulations #EP 1165-3-314.

## Disaster Preparedness and Planning Project Plan

Created in 2013 and updated in 2018, the Disaster Preparedness and Planning Project Plan develops a unified approach to hazard mitigation and climate adaptation. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires every local jurisdiction to adopt an All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (AHMP). DP3 was created as a way to address existing hazards while simultaneously preparing for those predicted by climate change.

Baltimore identified the following natural hazards that pose a threat:

- Flooding
- Coastal Hazards—Hurricanes, Sea Level Rise, Storm Surge, Coastal Inundation
- Precipitation Variability—Precipitation, Winter Storms, Drought, Dam Failure
- Extreme Wind
- Extreme Heat
- Air Quality

The plan focuses strategies and actions for climate adaptation and hazard mitigation on four key sectors: Infrastructure, Buildings, Natural Systems and Public Services.

## Habitat Protection through Land Acquisition

The existing natural resources and the potential to contribute to the overall environmental quality of the park system are as important as the potential for recreation facility development. Baltimore City continues to consider land acquisition for park expansion when there is an opportunity to protect important natural resources. BCRP looks for opportunities to add woodlands, with significant habitat value and limited maintenance needs, and preferably located adjacent to existing park land, in order to avoid adding to the Department's operating costs. By focusing most acquisition funds on the expansion of existing woodlands and meadows, or filling gaps in the stream valley/wildlife corridors, the City can protect natural resources and improve the habitat quality of our park system.

## Maryland Environmental Trust

Established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1967, the Maryland Environmental Trust is a land trust and quasi-public entity affiliated with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and is governed by a private Board of Trustees. The Trust works with landowners, local communities, and citizen land trusts, to protect Maryland's landscapes and natural resources for future generations, and provides grants for environmental education projects through the Keep Maryland Beautiful Program.

In Baltimore City, there are 35 acres of private land that have been preserved through the Maryland Environmental Trust program.





*Audubon Society School Program*

*Courtesy of Baltimore Department of Planning, 2019 Sustainability Plan*



## 04. AGRICULTURAL LAND CONSERVATION

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### SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Baltimore City does not have agricultural land. However, it is home to a strong, innovative, and growing agricultural effort. There are approximately 75 community gardens and 29 urban farms in Baltimore, as well as 11 City Farms. Residents may rent plots through the Department of Recreation & Parks. [Note: the number of community gardens listed in the 2017 LPPRP was an estimate based on the number of vacant lots adopted by community members; the new number represents better inventorying of the total number of food-producing community gardens confirmed to be currently active and not necessarily a decrease in agricultural activity] The city is a national leader in supporting urban agriculture through policy, with emphasis on production farming. This includes the Homegrown Baltimore: Grow Local Urban Agriculture Plan, an urban agriculture tax credit, the Land Leasing Initiative, improved regulations for animal husbandry, and hoop houses, updated guidance for soil safety, updated policy and guidance for community engagement in selecting sites for agricultural production, a fund for watering infrastructure, the creation of a Baltimore Community Composting Network at community gardens and farms, and the development of a Farm Incubator site on city park land to serve as the home for a new urban agricultural training program.

Urban agriculture has a long history in the City of Baltimore and can offer solutions to address a wide range of problems. Numerous urban agriculture projects are currently underway in the city, including urban farms (both community-oriented and commercially oriented), community gardens, school gardens, home and rooftop gardens, aquaculture projects, apiaries, and orchards. New policies related to urban agriculture support the development of these projects, are discussed within a new chapter on urban agriculture in the 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The 2017 adopted revision of Baltimore's Zoning Code further promotes agricultural uses of land lying within the city boundaries.

A wide range of government agencies and partners also provide critical resources to support these projects. The City's Office of Sustainability convenes a monthly working group with other city agencies, including the Departments of Housing & Community Development, Public Works, and the Environmental Control Board, to coordinate on educational offerings, policies, and specific issues related to agricultural production in the city.

The Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI) – an intergovernmental collaboration between the Department of Planning (DOP), Office of Sustainability (BOS), Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD), and Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) – was established in 2010 to “improve health outcomes by increasing access to healthy affordable food in Baltimore City's food deserts.” With each agency lending its expertise, the City creates comprehensive strategies that tackle food access from many perspectives and implements programs and policies with multi-sector support. The Department of Planning has led the effort to refine the City's food agenda and priorities on sustainability and food access and has incorporated food into a variety of plans and policies. The Baltimore City Health Department is committed to making Baltimore a city where all residents can realize their full health potential, through cross collaborations and innovative community-based food access programming. The Baltimore Development Corporation, recognizing that food is a catalyst for economic development, offers retailers, small food businesses and food entrepreneurs, access to information, resources, and incentives.

BFPI partners with many other city agencies, as well as community organizations, nonprofits, academic and research institutions, businesses, and others. Recent efforts include creating a panel of Resident Food Equity Advisors made up of City residents from neighborhoods

impacted by food deserts. This ensures that the voices of those most affected by food insecurity are included in our decision-making about how to address the problem. The 2020 cohort convened throughout six meetings and provided recommendations regarding urban agriculture and community gardens. Their recommendations included dedicated community garden space at Family Development sites, updating HABC rules to allow residents to grow food and flowers, and partnering with local organizations and farmers to provide gardening education and on-site food sales.

BPFI is part of the City's Food Policy & Planning Division, which now includes a Food Access Planner, a Food Resilience Planner, a Food Systems Planner, and a Food Policy Director. This team leads the strategic planning for the City's food security response, conducts mapping and data analysis, oversees food box distribution, coordinates with the City's Emergency Operations Center and state and federal agencies, leverages public and private funds for food and transportation, expedites access to SNAP for city residents, convenes the Resident Food Equity Advisors and Food Policy Action Committee, and supports urban agriculture and local food system resilience.

## Accomplishments and Challenges

### Accomplishments

Stemming from key strategies specified within the Baltimore Sustainability Plan, Homegrown Baltimore is an initiative of the City of Baltimore to increase the production, distribution, sales, and consumption of locally grown food on the City's vacant land. The City is highly committed to building a robust local food system that provides equitable access to healthy foods for all residents; supports Baltimore's gardeners, farmers and businesses; promotes environmental sustainability; and utilizes vacant space productively.

Baltimore's Urban Agriculture Plan, *Homegrown Baltimore: Grow Local*, was adopted by the Baltimore City Planning Commission in 2014. The plan documents the history, benefits, and types of urban agriculture in Baltimore; lays out current local urban agricultural efforts and the

policies that affect them; and identifies challenges and provides recommendations for creating a more robust urban agriculture sector for our city.

To encourage urban agriculture on vacant land, the City, through its Land Leasing Initiative, has leased out five acres of City-Owned land at four sites to non-profit farms. These are five-year leases at \$100 per year, with capital bond funds available for infrastructure improvements.

In 2014, the State of Maryland updated its Tax Code to allow for tax credits for urban agriculture. In 2015, the Baltimore City Council enacted new legislation to implement this tax credit here in Baltimore City. This credit gives farmers 90% off their property taxes, if the parcel is used for urban agriculture for five years, produces a minimum threshold of value, and is not used for any other purpose that would normally subject it to property taxes. As of 2021, three properties are taking advantage of the credit, saving \$2,350.96 per year.

In 2016, the Baltimore Office of Sustainability commissioned a report to investigate opportunities for flower farming on vacant lots in Baltimore. The report, *Baltimore in Bloom*, issued in January 2016 explored the current state of flower farming in Baltimore and made recommendations on how community organizations and the City can support flower farming. The report found that the demand for locally grown flowers is gaining traction and there is an opportunity to develop this sector. Baltimore Office of Sustainability, Growing Green Initiative developed a booklet, *How to Grow and Sell Cut Flowers on Vacant Land*, which introduces growing and selling cut flowers in Baltimore City's to community gardens and green spaces.

The City has also been actively promoting urban agriculture through policies and regulations. Revisions to the Building Code allow for the construction of hoop houses without a permit. As part of the 2017 update to the Zoning Code, new use categories and standards were added for community gardens and urban farms to allow community gardeners and farmers access to formal recognition for their land use. Temporary structures are permitted during the growing season

in community managed open spaces, while permanent or temporary structures such as greenhouses and hoop houses are permitted to extend the growing season for the purposes of urban agriculture sites.

The City updated its animal regulations in 2013 to be friendlier to farmers by increasing the number of chickens, rabbits and goats and waiving the permit fees for beehives. The City has also created a report and pamphlet on rainwater harvesting for gardens and farms, and is working with the University of Maryland Extension to better understand the opportunities for rainwater capture and support local agricultural sites in taking advantage of them.

In 2018 and 2019, the City's Departments of Planning and Public Works worked together to use city capital bond funds to install new water lines at four sites, two urban farms and two community gardens. In 2021, the Office of Sustainability raised \$30,000 from private sources for new water infrastructure, surveyed local farms and gardens about their needs, and assessed sites for suitability in partnership with the City's Department of Public Works. The funds will be used to install new water meter connections and lines for agricultural sites for the spring 2022 growing season.

In 2020, in order to help reduce food waste, increase community access to composting, and support local agricultural producers in creating healthy soil, the Office of Sustainability worked with the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance to create the Baltimore Community Composting Network. Twelve sites, including one community garden and eight urban farms, have participated in and received composting training, tracking sheets, three-bin systems, tumblers, signage, and composting tools like mixing tubs, scales, aerators, and temperature gauges. The City's Department of Public Works held composting trainings at gardens and farms in 2021, with plans and funding to hold more, including at city public schools with food gardens, in 2022 in partnership with the Department of Planning.

In 2021, the City published a new policy laying out requirements for

community engagement for new urban agricultural projects on city-owned land. A literature review of policies and best practices from around the country was performed as well as a series of interviews with local agricultural producers and community leaders. This information is being turned into a new guidance document to help urban growers create projects that mesh with the desires and priorities of the neighborhoods in which they are located.

The Office of Sustainability collaborated with Johns Hopkins University's Center for a Livable Future and several community-based partners on the groundbreaking *Safe Urban Harvests Study*, which was released in 2021. This report characterizes the soil, water, and produce characteristics of community gardens and urban farms in the city. Levels of heavy metals in produce were assessed at 104 Baltimore City agricultural sites and compared to produce samples from farmers markets and grocery stores. Findings showed that the Baltimore's urban-grown produce was just as safe as produce from other sources, a milestone result that increases confidence in the consumption of locally grown foods.

In 2014, the Baltimore Office of Sustainability developed a Soil Safety Policy, with support from the Abell Foundation, Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, and other partners. The policy provides guidance to anyone wishing to grow food safe for human consumption in Baltimore and lays out requirements for those seeking a use permit for a new community garden or urban farm under Baltimore's newly adopted Zoning Code. This policy was updated in 2021 to reflect data from the *Safe Urban Harvests Study*. In partnership with John Hopkins University, the City helped create video guidance tutorials on assessing soil safety and following the updated Soil Safety Policy, now available to the public online.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City's Food Policy and Planning division has implemented a comprehensive network for distributing boxes of produce, partnering with community organizations and government agencies. Since April 2020, 29 million pounds of food



have been provided at over 200 sites and through home delivery. The City received 100% FEMA reimbursement for all food box distributions through December 2021, totaling \$33.6 million. Of the over 1.5 million boxes distributed, 1.2 million have been produce boxes, and regional vendors supplied approximately 44% of the produce. Multiple urban farms are involved as produce box distribution sites for their neighborhoods. The division has also supported urban agriculture efforts through grants from the Healthy Food Priority Area Funds. The grants helped direct over \$80,000 from philanthropy to urban farms, supporting them in maintaining essential operations and safety during COVID-19. Historically, the City has used a Healthy Food Priority Area map and food environment data to show food access needs based on income, access to transportation, and access to grocery stores. However, with the pandemic causing widespread unemployment, supply chain issues, and increasing other barriers to access, this indicator became less relevant. SNAP applications reached a record high in April 2020, flagging SNAP as a critical indicator to follow and map through the pandemic.

In 2020, the Office of Sustainability and the Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks identified 6 acres of land in Farring-Baybrook Park for a new Farm Incubator site. Food Policy & Planning worked with Recreation & Parks to secure a Right of Entry agreement for the site for the Farm Alliance of Baltimore in 2021, provided seed funding for infrastructure for the site, and is working to secure a long-term lease. The Farm Alliance of Baltimore in 2021 launched a new training program for aspiring local farmers, known as the Black Butterfly Urban Farmer Academy. This program will be based at the new incubator.

## Challenges

Challenges remain that must be addressed in order to maintain and expand Baltimore's urban agriculture sector. Progress has been slower than expected in connecting urban farmers to city-owned land, and those sites currently in operation have tended to experience conflicts with neighbors at one time or another (over maintenance concerns and over concerns about whether residents are able to take advantage

of access to food grown at the sites). The City needs to do more to make suitable land available for long-term agricultural production, to ensure positive community-farm relations, and to support farms for long-term success.

Financing for new farms remains challenging, with little funding for start-up costs available during typical times. For example, water access can be challenging at sites without an available water meter pit. The COVID-19 emergency brought temporary support from local philanthropic and private entities for urban farming, as the need for local food resilience was brought into greater prominence, however most local community gardeners and farmers still struggle to identify and access the financial resources to get started and maintain their operations.

While urban soils in Baltimore City have been found to be largely safe for food production through the 2021 *Safe Urban Harvests Study*, some sites will still find elevated levels of heavy metals or other contaminants. The City is seeking to provide better access to local sources of soil testing and for local soils. Urban soils are often rocky, and growers also need access to equipment to help clear and prepare land.

Farmers in Baltimore find it challenging to make their operations profitable, with many relying on volunteer labor and grants to keep their operations going. Those local farms that are able to turn a profit are not always those producing food; for example, flower farming in the city has been demonstrated to be profitable. The City needs to consider options for subsidizing local food production, and for helping farmers that are producing food to diversify into other types of luxury or value-added products.

## Public Benefits of Urban Agricultural Land

Urban agriculture has gained significant attention in recent years as it has come to be seen as a way to address multiple urban issues with the potential to provide numerous benefits to cities, including the following:

- **Increasing the availability of fresh produce near to consumers.** Urban agriculture may help alleviate the lack of access to healthy fresh foods in food desert neighborhoods and may help individual households increase their food security. It can also contribute to community food security by augmenting a community's food self-reliance through an increased local food supply.
- **Developing the local economy and creating jobs.** Money spent on local agriculture stays within the local economy, yielding benefits for local economic development. Urban agriculture can also create new jobs and/or training opportunities for individuals interested in starting their own urban agriculture projects or working in related sectors.
- **Improving the natural environment.** Urban farms and gardens minimize waste by using their own organic waste and the waste of residents and industries, to produce compost, which is recycled back into the soil, enriching the soil and thus the productivity of the farm or garden.

Local production and distribution of food can also reduce waste by minimizing packaging. With improvements to the soil structure and the provision of plants with extensive root systems, urban farms and gardens can better absorb storm water run-off, decrease the burden on wastewater treatment plants and the contamination of groundwater and waterways, by allowing for groundwater recharge.

Plants can reduce air pollution by absorbing pollutants through their foliage. Greenery and permeable land also regulate the microclimate by controlling humidity, lowering summer tempera-

tures, acting as windbreaks, and creating shade. Urban agriculture also can increase a city's biodiversity by creating habitat for, and attracting beneficial soil microorganisms, insects, birds, and animals, and providing food and resting spaces along birds' migratory flight patterns.

- **Contributing to the environmental sustainability of cities.** Growing food in cities can decrease the distances food must travel to get to consumers. Furthermore, less food is wasted when travel is minimized, and the more sustainable practices typically used in urban agriculture offer greater efficiency in production inputs such as the use of farm machinery, fertilizers, and pesticides. With fewer energy requirements, urban agriculture can provide food to cities in a manner that contributes fewer climate change-inducing greenhouse gas emissions. Gardens and farms also sequester carbon, reducing atmospheric carbon that contributes to climate change.
- **Making productive use of vacant lots.** Using vacant lots for community gardens and to produce food, reduces the prevalence of vacant abandoned land that contributes to neighborhood decay and attracts crime, vagrancy, and rodent infestation. Research on community gardens shows that urban agriculture has significant positive effects on surrounding property values, particularly in low-income neighborhoods, producing additional property tax revenues from the neighborhood.
- **Greening of cities.** Urban agriculture can have a regenerative effect on neighborhoods, transforming weedy, trash-ridden vacant lots into productive green space within the urban landscape. Increased access to green space is linked to improved health outcomes including longevity, self-reported health, better immune functioning, reduced stress, and milder symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder among children. Green space has also been shown to play an important role in residents' feelings of attachment towards a community and their interactions with other residents.

- **Strengthening community resilience.** Urban agriculture and other efforts to re-localize the food system returns control of food production to communities, helping to increase a community's resilience to natural and human-created disasters, as well as disturbances such as an economic downturn. Community gardening efforts can bring neighbors together, creating stronger bonds and demonstrating community investment in the neighborhoods in which they are located.
- **Providing educational opportunities about the food system.** Field trips and hands-on experiences, urban gardens and farms provide opportunities for young people to better understand where food comes from. Urban agriculture sites can also function as informational hubs for nutrition, healthy eating, cooking, and food-growing for community members of all ages.



*Courtesy of Baltimore Department of Planning, 2019 Sustainability Plan*

*Children with Vegetables*

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND CONSERVATION

### Baltimore City Goals

As previously mentioned, the Department of Planning, Office of Sustainability together with the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI) – an intergovernmental collaboration between the Department of Planning (DOP), Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD), and Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) to shape the City's goals and objectives for agriculture, support the production of agricultural land, and increase access to healthy affordable food.

Goals for expansion of the City's agricultural land resources have focused on making use of the city's vacant land. The Department of Planning has taken the lead in identifying goals to stimulate the agricultural and flower industries through Baltimore's Urban Agriculture Plan, Homegrown Baltimore: Grow Local, and its Baltimore in Bloom report on flower farming. The Green Network Plan has focused on recommending a variety of greening opportunities as part of a network throughout the city.

Some of the goals and objectives of the City specifically identified for overcoming challenges with urban agriculture in the City's Urban Agriculture Plan include:

1. **Offer solutions for increased land security to a relevant range of growers**
  - Develop Automatic Notification of License Renewal
  - Streamline Community Managed Open Space Process
  - Incorporate Community Farms into Existing Land Trust
  - Encourage Direct Land Purchasing
  - Improve Land Leasing Initiative
  - Strengthen Tenure of Adopt-a-Lot Program
  - Support Incentives for Gardens and Farms on Privately-Owned Vacant Land



2. **Ensure Maximum water access for growers by streamlining the process and preserving water supply lines**
  - Improve Payment Process for Water Access Programs
  - Develop Options for Winter Water Access
  - Provide Resource for Sites without a Water Meter Pit
  - Preserve Existing Water Infrastructure
  - Support the Development of Rainwater Capture Systems
3. **Build rich, safe urban soils through increased access to equipment, compost and local soil testing**
  - Increase Equipment Availability
  - Develop Soil Standards
  - Provide Soil Testing
  - Support Composting at All Levels
4. **Leverage Local and Regional Resources to help growers**
  - Expand Funding Assistance
  - Support Garden Irrigation Fund
5. **Streamline operations, regulations and staffing to support growers**
  - Designate a Department of Housing & Community Development Staff Position for Urban Agriculture
  - Create and Support Staff Positions
  - Support Farm Incubator Development
  - Assess New Zoning Code's Permit Process
  - Assess Animal Regulations
  - Explore Liability Insurance Options
  - Ensure Citizen Education and Engagement

In 2019, the Office of Sustainability released an updated *Baltimore Sustainability Plan* with a chapter devoted to Urban Agriculture. The updated plan lays out a vision for "A city where communities that have been historically excluded from access to land and to fresh, healthy, culturally appropriate foods are those that benefit most from urban agriculture opportunities." The strategies and actions of the new plan include:

***Strategy 1: Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production.***

- *Action 1: In partnership with urban agriculture practitioners, develop site criteria for identifying City-owned land that may be suitable for farming.*
- *Action 2: Protect and support existing farms.*
- *Action 3: Create better defined and supported pathways to ownership. Encourage private and institutional landholders to similarly establish agricultural space (both indoor and outdoor).*

***Strategy 2. Ensure farmers and gardeners can produce food, flowers, fiber, and fuel in ways that are safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible—and educate residents on opportunities to support and engage with them.***

- *Action 1: Connect growers to educational resources and training.*
- *Action 2: Support existing social networks and non-profits of growers.*
- *Action 3: Improve strategies for engaging communities in urban agriculture projects.*

### Strategy 3. Support growers to create financially viable urban agriculture.

- Action 1: Create and expand City programs, and connect more growers to public, private, and philanthropic programs and incentives.
- Action 2: Support aggregation among small farms.
- Action 3: Increase demand for locally grown products.

## Agricultural Preservation Work to Date

Baltimore City has made progress on its creation and preservation of agricultural land since 2017. In addition to the accomplishments noted in the accomplishments section of this chapter, the City has made progress on a number of actions.

Figure 4.0 identifies the level of completion for each of these Actions as of 2021.

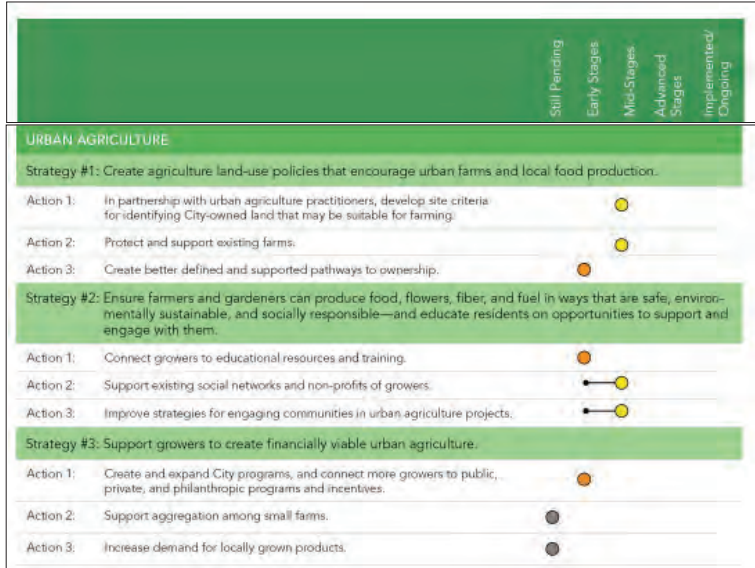


Figure 4.0 Urban Agriculture Sustainability Actions Progress, 2021

The City has taken the following actions, organized by strategy of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan (BSA), and by the recommendations of the city's Urban Agriculture Plan (UAGP):

### BSA/UAGP Strategy 1: Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production.

- **UAGP Action: Incorporate Community Farms into Existing Land Trust**
  - In 2020, for the first time, the City of Baltimore approved two Community Farms to be transferred to a land trust (Baltimore Green Space) for permanent preservation.
- **UAGP Action: Improve Land Leasing Initiative**
  - Two new sites have been added to the Land Leasing Initiative since 2017.
  - Lease terms have been updated to include more detail on maintenance standards and expectations for community engagement.

***BSA/UAg Strategy 2. Ensure farmers and gardeners can produce food, flowers, fiber, and fuel in ways that are safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible—and educate residents on opportunities to support and engage with them.***

- ***UAgP Action: Develop Soil Standards***
  - Working with researchers from the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, Office of Sustainability staff updated the City's soil safety standards in 2021 and created online guidance videos to help growers understand the steps to assess site history and test their soil.
- ***UAgP Action: Support Farm Incubator Development***
  - The City has identified a site on city-owned park land for a new incubator, finalized a Right of Entry agreement with the Farm Alliance of Baltimore for use of the site for a new farmer training program, and provided funding for initial infrastructure for the site.
- ***UAgP Action: Ensure Citizen Education & Engagement***
  - The City has created a new policy for community engagement for leasing city-owned land for agriculture and is in the process of creating a guidance document outlining best practices to help growers create strong relationships with neighboring residents.

***BSA/UAg Strategy 3. Support growers to create financially viable urban agriculture***

- ***UAgP Action: Support Composting at All Levels***
  - The City and its partners have provided community composting infrastructure and training to eight urban farms and one community garden
  - The City is providing composting workshops for city residents in partnership with local gardens and farms, and developing a new program to connect urban farms to local city public schools for composting and gardening education
- ***UAgP Action: Support Incentives for Gardens and Farms on Privately-Owned Vacant Land***
  - Three urban farm properties are now receiving the City's urban agriculture tax credit
- ***UAgP Action: Provide Resource for Sites without a Water Meter Pit***
  - The City used dedicated \$68,994 in city funds to install water lines at two urban farms and two community gardens in 2018 and 2019, and has raised \$30,000 for new water line installations.
- ***UAgP Action: Preserve Existing Water Infrastructure***
  - The City has updated its demolition standards to preserve water infrastructure for potential future greening projects,
- ***UAgP Action: Expand Funding Assistance***
  - The City connected urban farms with \$80,000 in philanthropic funding during the Covid-19 pandemic to assist with maintaining operations and safety.



## Aligning Baltimore City and State of Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Goals

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources identified six (6) goals for Agricultural Land Preservation in its 2014-2018 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan to guide statewide efforts to preserve public lands for agricultural production. These goals are:

1. Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting a reasonable diversity of agricultural production;
2. Protect natural, forestry and historic resources and the rural character of the landscape associated with Maryland's farmland;
3. To the greatest degree possible, concentrate preserved land in large, relatively contiguous blocks to effectively support long-term protection of resources and resource-based industries;
4. Limit the intrusion of development and its impacts on rural resources and resource-based industries;
5. Ensure good return on public investment by concentrating state agricultural land preservation funds in areas where the investment is reasonably well supported by both local investment and land use management programs;
6. Work with local governments to achieve the following:
  - Establish preservation areas, goals and strategies through local comprehensive planning processes that address and complement state goals;
  - In each area designated for preservation, develop a shared understanding of goals and the strategy to achieve them among rural landowners, the public-at-large and state and local government officials;
  - Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by ensuring sufficient public commitment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs;

- Use local land use management authority effectively to protect public investment in preservation by managing development in rural preservation areas;
- Establish effective measures to support profitable agriculture, including assistance in production, marketing, and the practice of stewardship, so that farming remains a desirable way of life for both the farmer and public-at-large.

While the State goals clearly focus on large tracts of agricultural land and preserving the rural character and legacy of Maryland's farmland, Baltimore City's goals clearly align to create and support agricultural land. Due to the City's dense urban development, the city is making use of its underutilized vacant land to stimulate economic development, create jobs and meet the needs for healthy food in areas of the city underserved by supermarkets and availability of fresh and healthy foods. The City is working to help support profitable agriculture by making land available for a new Farm Incubator site to be used for farming training, by providing low-cost access to city-owned land for other farms, by transferring some community-oriented farms into long-term land trust stewardship, by supporting farmers in accessing urban agriculture tax credits, by providing support with infrastructure for composting and water access, and by connecting farms to financial assistance.

## AGRICULTURAL LAND INVENTORY AND MAPS

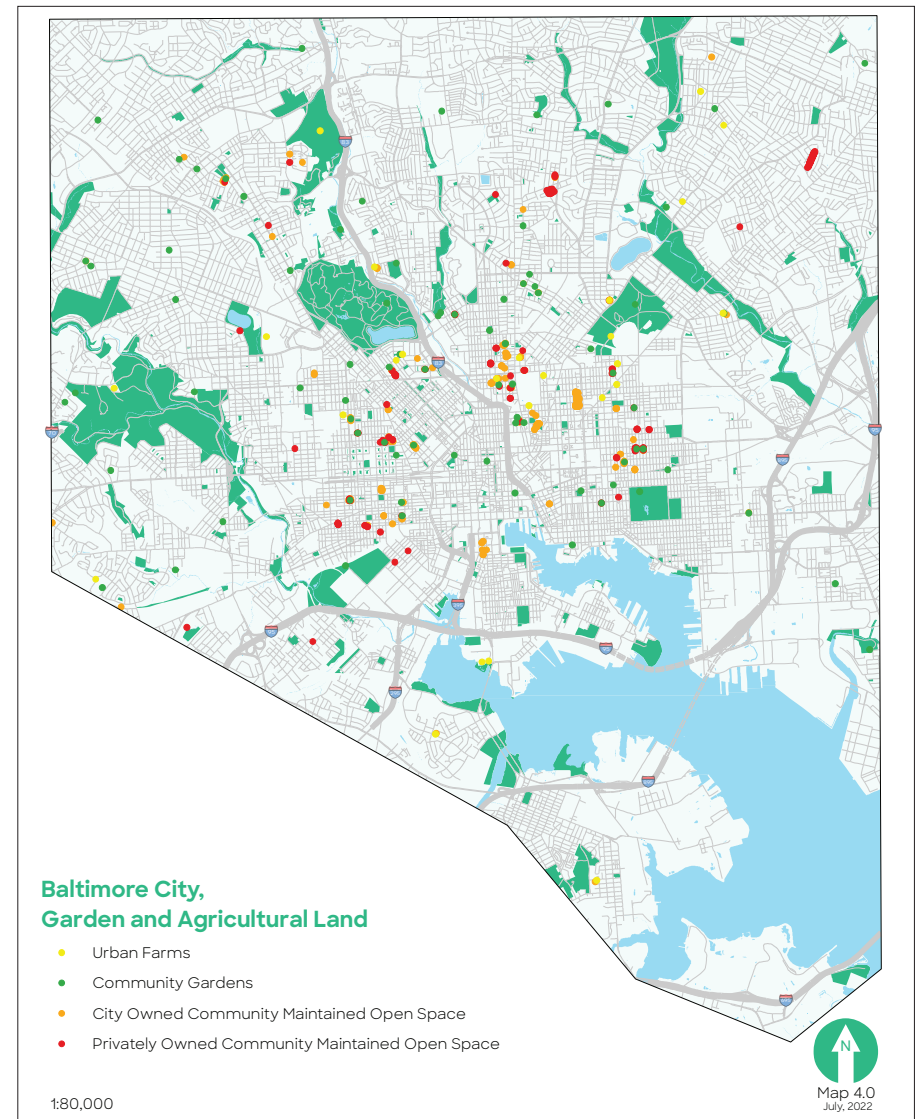
### Agricultural Land Inventory

Baltimore City has approximately 32 acres of land cultivated for garden or agricultural production. A total of 75 community gardens, make up 10.3 acres of land in production. Gardens range from 0.1 to 1.5 acres in size, with the great majority being 0.1 or 0.2 acres in size. The City also has 29 urban farms, totaling 17.3 acres of land in production, ranging in size from 0.1 acres to 3.8 acres. Through the City's Homegrown Baltimore Land Leasing Initiative, the City provides leases for 5.8 acres consisting of 199 city-owned vacant parcels to qualified farmers. The City has also entered into a Right of Entry agreement for a new Farm Incubator educational site on city-owned park land which will consist of 6 acres of additional land.

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks operates city farming plots in 11 parks around the city. These 11 City Farms provide nearly 800 garden beds to urban gardeners. Each gardener pays a one-time nonrefundable application fee of \$10, signs a City Farms' agreement, and pays a nominal annual rental fee, depending upon the location and size of the individual garden bed—a standard 10'x15' bed, or a smaller raised 9'x6' bed. There are also a few raised beds for gardeners with limited mobility. The rental fee covers some of the cost of city water and other incidentals—wheelbarrows, leaf compost to enrich the soil, and wood chips used to mulch the pathways in the garden. Maintaining garden beds and participating in community garden cleanups occurring twice a growing season are two requirements of all participants. These sites comprise an additional 4.3 acres of land in agricultural production. An inventory of these properties is provided in Appendix C.

### Agricultural Land Mapping

The tracking and mapping of agricultural land is mapped by the Department of Planning, Baltimore Office of Sustainability. Locations of gardens and agricultural land, which is made up of urban farms, community gardens, city-owned and privately-owned community maintained open spaces are identified on Map 4.0 (the information on this map is the same as provided in Map 2.9).



Map 4.0 Baltimore City Garden and Agricultural Land

## AGRICULTURAL LAND CONSERVATION ORDINANCES AND PROGRAMS

Baltimore City does not have an agricultural land preservation program certified by MDP and MALPF. The city has implemented multiple strategies presented in the 2017 LPPRP, as discussed earlier in this chapter under the Agricultural Preservation Work to Date section. The effect has been to increase the supports available for local agricultural producers, and a modest increase in the overall number of urban farms in the city limits.

Actions presented in the 2017 LPPRP that have not yet been implemented include:

- Develop Automatic Notification of Adopt-a-Lot License Renewal
- Streamline Community Managed Open Space Process
- Strengthen Tenure of Adopt-a-Lot Program
- Improve Payment Process for Water Access Program
- Develop Options for Winter Water Access
- Support the Development of Rainwater Capture Systems
- Increase Equipment Availability
- Provide Soil Testing
- Designate a Department of Housing & Community Development Staff Position for Urban Agriculture
- Create and Support Staff Positions
- Assess New Zoning Code's Permit Process
- Assess Animal Regulations
- Explore Liability Insurance Options

All the above actions remain in active conversation between the Departments of Planning, Housing & Community Development, Health, and Public Works, but limited financial resources and staff time have hindered our simultaneous pursuit of their completion while we have worked on other aspects of supporting local agriculture.

Baltimore City has not established PPAs (priority preservation areas) in its comprehensive plan. The Baltimore City Zoning Code was updated in 2017 to include categories for Community-Managed Open Spaces (including community gardens) and Urban Agriculture. These categories allow agricultural projects to be sited in almost all zoning districts of the city, except for Heavy Industrial and Maritime Industrial Zones. The City of Baltimore monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of these programs by tracking the development of new agricultural projects within city limits, communicates with growers and with stakeholder organizations that represent growers throughout the year to understand what is working and not working, and updates policies accordingly. While progress has been made in creating new agricultural land without city limits, development in this area has been slower than expected. In addition, some agricultural land has been lost to competing land uses. More guidance and supports, and more agricultural-friendly policy changes, are needed to maximize the potential of urban agriculture in Baltimore City.

### Building Code

Baltimore City Building Code, Section 105.2 Permits are not required for shade cloth or plastic film structures commonly known as hoop houses, constructed for nursery or agricultural purposes, not including service systems. The covering of the structure must be a material that conforms to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 701 standards.



## Zoning Code

Baltimore City's 2017 approved zoning code includes use categories and standards for community gardens and urban farms. The Community-Managed Open Spaces use category permits temporary greenhouses, including high tunnels/hoop-houses, cold-frames, and similar structures to extend the growing season. Accessory structures, such as sheds, gazebos and pergolas, are also permitted. The Urban Agriculture use category allows for greenhouses, both permanent and temporary, high tunnels/hoop-houses, cold-frames, and similar structures used to extend the growing season. There is no limit on the number or square footage of these structures. More information about the zoning code can be found at the following online link: <https://planning.baltimorecity.gov/programs/transform-baltimore>.

## Animal Regulations

Baltimore City animal husbandry regulations allow for bees, chickens, rabbits, and goats. For more details, see the following online link: [http://health.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/AC%20Reg%20-%20Wild%20Exotic%20Hybrid%20Animals%20-%20September%2026,%202013\\_1.pdf](http://health.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/AC%20Reg%20-%20Wild%20Exotic%20Hybrid%20Animals%20-%20September%2026,%202013_1.pdf).

## Soil Safety

The Soil Safety Policy provides guidance to anyone wishing to grow food for human consumption in Baltimore City. It also provides the requirements necessary to obtain a use permit for a new community garden or urban farm as part of the new Baltimore City Zoning Code.

Based upon an analysis of Baltimore City's inventory of agricultural lands and implementing ordinances and programs against its goals for agricultural preservation, the following deficiencies have been identified with follow up recommendations.



*The Plantation Park, Park Heights*



*Composting Workshop, 2019*

*Images Courtesy of Baltimore Department of Planning, 2019 Sustainability Plan*

## SUMMARY OF DEFICIENCIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Deficiency 1:** There has been slow progress in identifying suitable city-owned land for long-term agricultural use and getting community buy-in for urban farming.

**Recommendation:** The Homegrown Baltimore Land Leasing Initiative, as a separate program from the City's normal process for identifying surplus land and offering it for development, has been slow to gain momentum. The City should explore alternative models, such as offering land for agriculture through an Expressions of Interest and Request for Proposals process that more closely mirrors how land is offered for traditional development. This should be done after working with neighborhood associations to ensure that agricultural use of specific sites is wanted and valued, and that local residents have a chance to apply and to receive support in crafting strong applications and identifying partnerships.

**Deficiency 2:** Some City policies still hinder agricultural development.

**Recommendation:** In 2021, the Black Yield Institute and the Farm Alliance of Baltimore released a report entitled Community Control of Land: The People's Demand for Land Reparations in Baltimore City, which lays out detailed policy recommendations around land access, long-term land protection, financial and material support, and water and sanitation service access that would apply to new urban farms, community gardens, and other green spaces. The City should respond to these recommendations with an updated policy agenda and publish annual data on progress.

**Deficiency 3:** Limited resources available to support the infrastructure needs of urban agriculture.

**Recommendation:** The City should seek new sources of private, local, state, and federal funds to ensure that sufficient resources are available for both start-up costs and ongoing funding needs of local farms and gardens.



Photo Credit: Richie Francis

The Plantation Park, Black run Urban Farm, Park Heights





*Herring Run Tree Planting*

*Courtesy of Baltimore Department of Planning, 2019 Sustainability Plan*





## 05. APPENDICES

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# APPENDIX A

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## BALTIMORE CITY OWNED RECREATION & PARKS PROPERTY INVENTORY BY PARK TYPE

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Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																		
Property Type	Totals	Recreation Facilities - 687														Pools - 30				Connecting People with Nature - 57						Specialty Facilities - 10								
		Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory	
Park Properties	261	49	104	80	86	116	2	4	1	5	5	11	4	2	119	8	4	6	12	11	4	11	6	3	5	9	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	
Other Provider	60	26	15	6	7	12	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Properties	321	75	119	86	93	128	2	4	1	5	6	15	4	2	147	8	4	6	12	11	12	11	6	3	5	9	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	



Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																		
Citywide Parks	Acreage	Recreation Facilities - 229													Pools - 11				Connecting People with Nature - 31						Specialty Facilities - 5									
		Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory	Arboretum
Anchorage Promenade Park	0.3																				1													
Bocek Park	16.82	1	3	1	4	1								1																				
Canton Waterfront Park	8.56																				1		1		1									
Carroll Park	155.13	1	4		2	6			1			1		1					1		1													
Chinquapin Run Park	80.97		1	1	1									1																				
Cimalgia (Fort Holabird Park)	45.8					2													1															
Clifton Park	246.18	1	1	11	3	4						1		1	1	1	1		1															
Columbus Park	0.87																																	
Druid Hill Park	609.05		2	17	2	5					2		1	2			1		1		1											1		
Farring Baybrook Park	91.18	1	3	1	1	5		1						1				1									1							
Federal Hill Park	10.64		1											1																				
Fort Armistead Park	37.42																						1		1									
Gwynns Falls / Leakin Park	993.55	1	5	8	2	8								6					1												1			
Hanlon Park	85.24				1	1								1																				
Herring Run Park	387.91		0.5		8	4								3							1													
Middle Branch Park	96.28				1									1							1	3	1	1	4					1				
Mount Pleasant Park	42.2				3	1																												
Patterson Park	138.66	1	4	8	9	10					1			2	1		1		1							1								
Pier V Waterfront Garden	1.19																																	
Pierce's Park	0.86													1																				
Rash Field	7.27								1		7			1																				
Reedbird Park	40.71	1			1										1	1**	1				1													
Riverside Park	20.16		1		2	1			1					1			1																	
Roosevelt Park	16.99	1			1	4			1					1			1		1															
Stoney Run Park	27.12					1								1							1													
West Shore Park	2.5																			1														
Western Run Park	50.65																				1													
World Trade Plaza	0.83																				1													
Wyman Park	71.63		1		3	3								3							1													
Fort McHenry	46.72																																	
President & Pratt St Park	0.45																																	
Totals (BCRP)	3286.67	8	26.5	47	44	56	0	1	0	4	1	9	2	1	29	3	1	6	1	7	1	10	3	3	1	6	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Totals (Non-BCRP)	47.17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	3333.84	8	26.5	47	44	56	0	1	0	4	1	9	2	1	29	3	1	6	1	7	1	10	3	3	1	6	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0

\*Inner Harbor Park Network

\*Non-BCRP Park

\*\*Under construction

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																		
Neighborhood Parks	Acreage	Recreation Facilities - 271													Pools - 11				Connecting People with Nature - 4							Specialty Facilities - 0								
		Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory	Arboretum
Alexander Odum Park	1.36		2											1																				
Arnold Sumpter Park	2.97				1									1																				
Barclay Park	1.33																																	
Betty Hyatt Park	1.76						1																											
Briscoe Park	1.01		1.5	1				1						1																				
Buena Vista Park	2.82		3			1								1																				
Burdick Park	11.03			2	1	1				1				1																				
C.C. Jackson Park	9.75	1	1		1	1								1				1																
Caroline & Hoffman Park	1.05		1	2																														
Catherine St Park	2.19		1			1								1	1																			
City Springs Park	3.85				1													1		1														
Coldstream Park	3.45	1	1															1																
Collington Sq Park	5.66		3			1								1																				
Cumberland & Carey Park	1.18		1											1																				
Curtis Bay Park	2.24	1	1			1			1					1																				
Daisy Field	28		1			1																												
Desoto Park	6.45		2			1	1							1																				
Deweese Park	15.84	1	2		1	2								1					1															
Easterwood Park	7.82	1	2		1	2								1																				
Edgecombe Park	5.49			2																														
Edgewood / Lyndhurst Park	7.26	1		2	1									1																				
Ellwood Ave Park	5.86		1		1									1																				
Eutaw Place Median Park	5.44																																	
Evesham Avenue Park	4.11		1								1			1																				
Florence Cummings Park	4.37		1			1								1																				
Franklin Square Park	2.94																																	
Garrett Park	7.8	1	2	1		1								1																				
German Park	1.07		1											1																				
Harlem Square Park	3.88																																	
Helen Mackall Park	3.09		1			1								1																				
Henrietta Lacks Educational Park (formerly Ambrose Kennedy Park)	1.73		1.5												1			1																
Hilton Park	8.47	1	3	1	1																													
Hooper & Rockrose Park	8.43													1					1															

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																		
Neighborhood Parks	Acreage	Recreation Facilities - 271													Pools - 11				Connecting People with Nature - 4							Specialty Facilities - 0								
		Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory	Arboretum
Irvin Luckman Park	6.1			2				1																										
Irvington Park	12.52				1	2								1																				
Jack Paulsen Park (Lucille Park)	6.73		2	2	1									2																				
Johnston Square Park	3.02		1			1																												
Joseph E. Lee Park	24.32		1		9	5																												
Keyes Park	13.57			2		4																												
King & Kennedy Park	0.27		1											1																				
Lafayette Square Park	3.34																																	
Lakeland Park	12.55		3		1	2								1																				
Latrobe Park	18.06	1	2	3	4	2				1	1			1																				
Lower Gwynns Falls Park	16.09		1		1	1																												
Madison Square Park	4.63				1	2																												
McKim Park	1.29		1		1									1																				
Morrell Park	14.53	1	1		1	3																												
Mount Olivet & Phelps Lane	6.07																																	
Mullan Park	1.07		1											1																				
Mund Park	1.92		3											1																				
North Harford Park	9.09	1	2	2	2	4								1	1																			
Oliver Park	1.38	1												1				1																
Pauline Faunteroy	3.07					1																												
Penhurst Park	1.39													1																				
Pimlico Safety Academy	6.52				1	1																												
Quinton St Park	3.16													1																				
Radecke Park	15.97				2	5								1																				
Robert C. Marshall Park	5.81	1	1	2	1	2																												
Saint Joseph's Park	6.45																																	
Saint Mary's Park	5.06																																	
Solo Gibbs Park	4.97	1	2	1		1								1	1						1													
Stricker & Ramsey Park	1.71		1											1																				
Swann Park	11.22				1	3																												
Towanda Park	9.23	1	2		2	2								1				1																
Union Square Park	2.68																																	
Violetville Park	10.92			4		4								1																				
Warwick Avenue Park	1.05		1											1																				
Wilbur H. Waters Park	2.55		1	1	1									1																				



Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																		
Neighborhood Parks	Acreage	Recreation Facilities - 271														Pools - 11		Connecting People with Nature - 4						Specialty Facilities - 0										
		Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory	Arboretum
William McAbee Park	1.44		2											1				1**																
Wilson & Etting Park	1.27		1											1																				
Woodberry Park	5.1																																	
Wyman Park Dell	13.59													1																				
Yale Heights Park	1.23		0.5											1																				
Eager Park	4.66527													1																				
John E. Howard Park	1.52293		3											1																				
Northwest Park	47.5764				4	2																												
Northwood Baseball League	5.25216					3																												
Totals (BCRP)	450.58	12	59.5	30	39	60	2	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	44	4	0	0	7	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals (Non-BCRP)	59.01676	3	3	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	509.6	15	63	30	43	65	2	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	46	4	0	0	7	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Non-BCRP Park

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																		
Mini Parks	Acreage	Recreation Facilities - 80														Pools - 0				Connecting People with Nature - 7						Specialty Facilities - 0								
		Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory	Arboretum
32nd St Park	0.17													1																				
Adams Park	0.62													1																				
Alhambra Park	0.99				1									1																				
Andover & North Hill Park	0.6													1																				
Belnor Squares Park	1.11																																	
Bishop Square Park	0.88																																	
Bonview Park	0.38		1											1																				
Boston Street Pier Park	0.73																				1			1	1									
Broadway East Park	0.97																																	
Bucknell & Moores Park	0.33													1																				
Calvert & Federal Park	0.25																																	
Calvert & Madison Park	0.16													1																				
Canton Soccer Park	3.5		1		1					1																								
Carroll & Archer Park	0.11													1																				
Castle St Park	0.68													1						1														
Chestnut Hill Park	0.38																			1														
Contee-Parago Traffic Island	0.33																																	
Conway Street Park	2.12																																	
Cottage Ave Park	0.53		1											1																				
Dypski Park	2.92													1																				
Eden & Eager Park	0.72		1																															
Elm Park	0.26													1																				
Elmley Avenue Park	1.41		1											1																				
F. Scott Fitzgerald Park	0.3																																	
Fawcett & Hampden Park	0.12													1																				
Ferry Bar Park	0.57																					1		1										
Flowerton Road Park	0.29													1																				
Forrest Street Park	0.27													1																				
Harlem Inner Block Park B 85	0.53																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park D 87	0.29																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park F 90	0.25		1																															
Harlem Inner Block Park L 102	0.35			1																														
Harlem Inner Block Park M 103	0.32																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park S 114	0.38																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park ZA 125	0.54																																	

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																	
Mini Parks	Acreage	Recreation Facilities - 80													Pools - 0				Connecting People with Nature - 7						Specialty Facilities - 0								
		Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory
Harwood Avenue Park	0.37													1																			
Hoes Heights Park	0.45													1																			
Hyde Park	0.87																																
Indiana Ave Park	1.06													1																			
Janney St Park	1.71																																
Kevin & Woodridge Park	0.58		1																														
Keyworth Ave Park	0.2		1																														
Kimberleligh Road Park	0.28													1																			
Lafayette & Aiken Park	0.16													1																			
Lafayette & Payson Park	0.4		1											1																			
Lehigh & Gough Park	0.09													1																			
Little Lithuania Park	0.79																																
Luzerne Ave Park	0.63		1											1																			
Madison & Whitelock Park	0.37																			1													
Maple Leaf Park	1.29																																
Newington Avenue Park	0.11																																
O'Donnell Square Park	0.66																																
Orangeville Park	0.31													1																			
Paca St Park	6.07		1	2										1																			
Pall Mall & Shirley	0.52													1																			
Park Avenue Median Park	1.09																																
Pearlstone Park	2.17																																
Penn & Melvin Street Park	0.35													1																			
Poplar Terrace Park	0.09													1																			
Queensbury Park	1.17		1											1																			
Reservoir Hill Park	0.38																																
Rosemont Park	0.58													1																			
Rutter's Mill Park	0.21																																
Saint Casmir's Park	1.62																																
Saint Charles Park	1.08													1																			
Saint Helena Park	0.84		0.5											1																			
Saint Leo's Bocce Park	0.13							2																									
Shipley Hill 1	0.73		1.5																														
Shipley Hill 2	1													1																			
Thames Street Park	0.66													1																			



Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																		
Mini Parks	Acreage	Recreation Facilities - 80													Pools - 0				Connecting People with Nature - 7							Specialty Facilities - 0								
		Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory	Arboretum
Vincent St Park	0.99	1	1											1																				
Waverly Mini Park	0.3													1																				
William McGill Park	0.4													1																				
Winner Avenue Park	0.3													1																				
Woodbourne Avenue Park	0.83													1																				
B & O Museum Park	0.48													1																				
Baltimore Immigration Memorial Park	0.73																																	
Canton Square	0.34																																	
Classen & Park Heights Park	1.26		1											1																				
Darley Park	0.62													1																				
Harbor Point Central Plaa	0.82																																	
Margaret Brent Park	0.71		1											1																				
Memorial Stadium Park	0.78																																	
Pope John Paul II Prayer Garden	0.12																																	
Preston Gardens Park	2.78																																	
Reverend Quille Park	0.3													1																				
Under Armour Waterfront Park	1.58																																	
University Square Park	1.38																																	
West Covington Park	9.37										4																							
Totals (BCRP)	62.67	1	16	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	44	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals (Non-BCRP)	22.87	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	85.54	1	18	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	4	0	49	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Non-BCRP Park

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																		
Green Spaces	Acreage	Recreation Facilities - 4														Pools - 0				Connecting People with Nature - 15						Specialty Facilities - 0								
		Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory	Arboretum
Asbury Park	2.8													1																				
Atlantic Ave Park	1.61																																	
B & O Slope Park	0.92																																	
Belvedere & Sunset St Park	0.17																																	
Congressional Medal Of Honor Traffic Island	0.42																																	
Cotwood Pl Traffic Island	0.13																																	
Douglas R. Morrison Park	0.07																																	
Elgin Park	1.22																																	
Fox Street Park	0.05																																	
Francis X. Gallagher Park	2.61																																	
Frederick & Brunswick Traffic Island	0.2																																	
Gateway Park	0.62																																	
Gelston Park	0.37																																	
Gwynns Falls Trail	61.84																				1													
Gwynns Falls Trail South	10.23																				1	1												
Hadley Square Park	0.7																																	
Harlem & Dennison Park	0.65																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park A 84	0.22																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park E 89	0.42																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park H 96	0.25																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park I 97	0.49																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park K 101	0.25																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park N 104	0.82	1																																
Harlem Inner Block Park P 110	0.21																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park Q 112	0.66																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park R 113	0.56																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park U 120	0.64																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park V 121	0.77																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park W 122	0.64																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park X 123	0.59																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park ZB 126	0.32																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park ZC 127	0.56																																	
Heath St Park	0.11																			1														
Henry Street Park	0.31																																	
Light St City Farm	0.11																			1														
Howard St. Park	0.07																																	

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																		
Green Spaces	Acreage	Recreation Facilities - 4														Pools - 0				Connecting People with Nature - 15						Specialty Facilities - 0								
		Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory	Arboretum
Mosher, Franklinton & Rosedale	1.03																																	
Mount Royal Terrace Park	1.92																																	
North & Woodbrook Park	0.16																																	
Pentwood Park	2.08																																	
Pleasant Place Park	0.4																																	
Robert & Mcculloh Park	0.17																																	
Rokeby Road Park	0.37																																	
Rozena Ridgley Park	0.19																																	
Schroeder & Lombard Park	0.16																																	
St Mary & Paca Traffic Island	0.06																																	
Uplands Park	35.51																																	
Warner Street Park	0.45																																	
Ash Street Community Garden	0.11																			1														
Bedford Square	0.08																																	
Brentwood Commons	0.08																																	
Charles M. Halcott Square	0.09																																	
Duncan Street Miracle Garden	0.67																			1														
Guilford Gateway Park	2.41																																	
Harlem Inner Block Park C 86	0.52																																	
McAllister Park	0.3													1																				
Mount Clare Street Community Garden	0.2																			1														
North Duncan Street Community Garden	0.02																			1														
Oakenshawe Green Space	0.34																																	
Pigtown Horseshoe Pit	0.02							1																										
Remington Village Green	0.1																			1														
Rosedale & Belmont Park	0.04																																	
Saint Katherine's Park	0.18																																	
Totals (BCRP)	0.14																																	
Sherwood Gardens	6.18																			1														
Singer Park	0.14																																	
Sunken Park	1.12																																	
The Little Park	1.36																																	
The Secret Garden	0.11																																	
Totals (BCRP)	136.77	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals (Non-BCRP)	14.58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	151.35	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	8	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Non-BCRP Park



Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																	
Special Use Parks	Acreage	Recreation Facilities - 9														Pools - 0				Connecting People with Nature - 4						Specialty Facilities- 1							
		Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory
Carlton St Park	0.13																																
Cylburn Arboretum	237.57																				1												1
Forest Park Golf Course	180.71											1																					
Howard's Park	0.63									1																							
Maryland Zoo	125.08																																
Mount Pleasant Golf Course	160.20											1																					
Liberty Park Dog Walk	0.17									1																							
Masonville Cove Environmental Center	60.70																				1	1		1									
South Baltimore Little League	3.90					4								1																			
Totals (BCRP)	704.31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals (Non-BCRP)	64.77	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	769.09	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

\*Non-BCRP Park

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																	
Forested Spaces	Acreage	Recreation Facilities - 0														Pools - 0				Connecting People with Nature - 1						Specialty Facilities - 0							
		Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory
Barbara & Parkwood Park	6.83																																
Catonsville Short Line Park	9.79																																
Greenspring Ave. Park	8.15																																
Jones Falls Trail	15.91																				1												
Maisel St Park	6.85																																
Moore's Run Park	68.86																																
Mount Pleasant Woods	48.54																																
Perring Parkway / Pioneer Drive	7.80																																
Powder Mill Park	77.41																																
Woodberry Woods	19.31																																
Fairwood Forest	3.28																																
Poplar Hill Park	0.69																																
Totals (BCRP)	269.46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals (Non-BCRP)	3.97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	273.43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Non-BCRP Park

\*Non-BCRP Park

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																	
Civic Spaces	Acreage	Recreation Facilities - 0													Pools - 0				Connecting People with Nature - 1							Specialty Facilities - 0							
		Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory
Battle Monument	0.20																																
McKeldin Plaza	1.73																																
Mt Vernon Square Park	2.32																																
Pennsylvania Triangle Park	0.59																																
Veteran's Park	0.54																																
War Memorial Plaza	1.32																																
Washington Monument	0.26																																
Broadway Market Square	0.75																																
Broadway Pier	0.26																				1												
Center Plaza	1.69																																
Charles Plaza	1.11																																
Courthouse Plaza	0.21																																
Holocaust Memorial Park	1.20																																
Hopkins Plaza	2.02																																
Ravens' Walk	3.70																																
Russell Street Park	0.59																																
Shot Tower	1.29																																
Totals (BCRP)	6.96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals (Non-BCRP)	12.82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	19.79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Non-BCRP Park

\*Non-BCRP Park

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																	
Recreation Centers	Recreation Facilities - 94														Pools - 11				Connecting People with Nature - 1						Specialty Facilities - 1								
	Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory	Arboretum
Bentalou	1	1*												1*																			
Bocek	1																																
C.C. Jackson	1																1																
Cahill Fitness & Wellness	1														1	1				1													
Carroll F. Cook	1													1*																			
Cecil Kirk	1													1*																			
Chick Webb	1	1												1		1																	
Coldstream	1																	1															
Collington Square	1													1*																			
Crispus Attucks	1													1*																			
Curtis Bay	1																																
Deweese	1																																
Dorothy I Heights	1																																
Edgewood Lyndhurst	1																																
Ella Bailey	1	2*	1*											1*																			
Farring-Baybrook	1																	1									1						
Fort Worthington	1																																
Fred B. Liedig	1	1*												1*																			
Frederick	1													2*																			
Gardenville	1													1*																			
Greenmount	1																																
Harlem Park	1																																
Herring Run	1		5*	1*	2*																												
Hilton	1																																
James D. Gross	1													1*																			
James McHenry	1	1*												1*																			
Lakeland	1													1*																			
Lillian Jones	1	1*												1*																			
Locust Point	1																																
Madison Square	1	1*												1*																			
Mary E. Rodman	1	1		1										1																			
Medfield	1	1*		1*	1*																												
Middle Branch Fitness & Wellness	1															1**																	
Mora Crossman	1			1*										2*																			
Morrell Park	1																																



Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																	
Recreation Centers	Recreation Facilities - 94														Pools - 11				Connecting People with Nature - 1						Specialty Facilities - 1								
	Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory	Arboretum
Northwood	1																																
Rita Church	1																1																
Robert C. Marshall	1																																
Roosevelt	1																1																
Samuel F. B. Morse	1													1*																			
Solo Gibbs	1																																
Towanda	1																1																
V.S. Baker (Patterson Park)	1																																
Walter P. Carter	1																1**																
Woodhome	1																																
Totals (BCRP)	44	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	4	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals (Schools)	0	9	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	49	11	6	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	1	3	4	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Recreation centers may be affiliated with nea  
 \*\*Under Construction

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																	
Pools	Recreation Facilities - 0														Pools - 30				Connecting People with Nature - 0						Specialty Facilities - 0								
	Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory	Arboretum
ABC Park															1			1															
Henrietta Lacks Educational Park															1			1															
C.C. Jackson																		1															
Cahill															1	1																	
Callowhill																1																	
Middle Branch															1	1*	1																
Chick Webb																1																	
City Springs																		1															
Clifton															1		1																
Coldstream																		1															
Druid Hill																	1																
Farring-Baybrook																		1															
Greater Model																		1															
Liberty																		1															
North Harford															1																		
O'Donnell Heights																		1															
Oliver																		1															
Patterson															1		1																
Riverside																	1																
Roosevelt																	1																
Solo Gibbs Park															1																		
Towanda																		1															
Walter P. Carter																		1*															
William McAbee																		1															
Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4	6	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Under Construction

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Facilities Summary																																		
Specialty & Thematic Centers	Recreation Facilities - 4													Pools - 0			Connecting People with Nature - 6						Specialty Facilities - 10											
	Recreation Center	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Athletic Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)	Soccer Mini Pitch	Bocce	Horseshoe Pit	Skate Park	Dog Park	Volleyball Court	Golf Course	Disk Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Indoor Pool	Park Pool	Neighborhood Pool	City Farm	Community Garden	Trails	Wetland Viewing Area	Boat Ramp	Kayak/Canose Launch	Fishing Pier	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Bowling Alley/Roller Rink	Boxing Center	Rowing Resource Center	Nature Center	Conservatory	Arboretum	
Baltimore Rowing & Resource Center																					1									1				
Carrie Murray Nature Center																					1										1			
Carroll Park Golf Course												1									1													
Clarence "Du" Burns Indoor Soccer																											1							
Clifton Park Golf Course												1																						
Cylburn Arboretum																					1												1	
Dominic "Mimi" DiPietro Family Skating Center																										1								
Forest Park Golf Course												1																						
Howard Peters Rawlings Conservatory																					1											1		
John Booth Senior Center (Currently Closed)																																		
Mount Pleasant Golf Course												1																						
Mt. Pleasant Ice Arena																										1								
Shake & Bake Family Fun Center																												1						
Upton Boxing Center																													1					
Vollmer Center																					1													
William J. Myers Pavillion																										1								
Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

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# APPENDIX B

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**BALTIMORE CITY RECREATION & PARKS SAMPLE SURVEYS AND SURVEY RESULTS**

**BALTIMORE CITY RECREATION & PARKS PARK PERMIT & SENIOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION DATA**

**RECREATION TRENDS ANALYSIS**

**EQUITY MAPPING ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY**

## BALTIMORE CITY RECREATION & PARKS SAMPLE SURVEYS AND SURVEY RESULTS

### 2019 Vision Plan Opinion Surveys and Focus Group Findings

#### Citywide Opinion Survey



#### BALTIMORE CITY RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT WANTS YOUR OPINION!

We're planning for the future. Tell us what you think about Baltimore City's Recreation and Parks Services!

1. How much do you know about the following services and facilities that Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks provides?

	Know A Lot	Know A Little	Don't Know
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation centers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special facilities (e.g. ice rinks, boxing center, arboretum, soccer arenas, conservatory, launches & piers, urban farms and gardens)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf Courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multi-use trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation programs and camps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special events and programs (e.g. 5k Fun Runs, concerts, Weed Warriors, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How important is the recreation and parks system to the quality of life in Baltimore City? *CIRCLE ONE*

Extremely important      Very Important      Neither      Not very important      Not at all important

3. How much do you agree with these statements about parks, trails, recreation facilities and services in Baltimore?

	Agree Strongly	Agree Somewhat	Neither	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree Strongly
Helps to improve the physical and mental health of residents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provides a variety of educational opportunities for residents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourages tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provides environmental benefits to the City	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helps to revitalize Baltimore's neighborhoods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helps to prevent crime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Which LARGE CITY PARKS IN BALTIMORE CITY have you been to in the past two years? **WRITE IN THE NAME BELOW.** (Large City Parks are over 100 acres or part of a larger network of parks including waterfront access.)

☐ None

5. How frequently would you say you visit the LARGE CITY PARKS IN BALTIMORE CITY?

☐ At least once a week (or more frequently)      ☐ Once every few months      ☐ Don't visit at all  
☐ At least once a month (or more frequently)      ☐ Once a year (or less frequently)

6. What's the name of your NEIGHBORHOOD PARK/ PLAYGROUND? Check "Don't Know" if you're not sure.

☐ Don't Know

7. How frequently would you say you visit your NEIGHBORHOOD PARK/ PLAYGROUND?

☐ At least once a week (or more frequently)      ☐ Once every few months      ☐ Don't visit at all  
☐ At least once a month (or more frequently)      ☐ Once a year (or less frequently)

8. Which **RECREATION FACILITIES IN BALTIMORE CITY** have you been to/used in the past two years?

- |  |   |   |  |                               |
|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic fields     | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog parks        | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature centers     | <input type="checkbox"/> Skate parks         | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball courts   | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf courses     | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor pools      | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer arenas       |                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat launches/piers | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice rinks        | <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds        | <input type="checkbox"/> Splash pads         |                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boxing center       | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor pools     | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation centers | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis courts       |                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservatory        | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-use trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Rowing center      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban farms/gardens |                               |

9. How frequently would you say you visit these **RECREATION FACILITIES IN BALTIMORE CITY**?

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> At least once a week (or more frequently)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Once every few months            | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't visit at all |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At least once a month (or more frequently) | <input type="checkbox"/> Once a year (or less frequently) |   |

10. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Baltimore City's **RECREATION FACILITIES AND PARKS**?

	Agree Strongly	Agree Somewhat	Neither	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree Strongly
The ones I want to use/visit are close to the public transportation I use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The ones I want to use/visit are in the neighborhood where I live	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation facilities and parks meet my recreation needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm comfortable visiting recreation facilities and parks outside of my neighborhood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Which **RECREATION FACILITIES/PARKS** in Baltimore City would you like to use but haven't?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks in my neighborhood         | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation facilities in my neighborhood         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks in other parts of the City | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation facilities in other parts of the City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None                             |   |

12. In general, why don't you use Baltimore City's **RECREATION FACILITIES OR PARKS**?

13. What is the single most important feature of **RECREATION FACILITIES OR PARKS** to improve?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications to the public about locations and facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Making parks/facilities safer and more welcoming     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring facilities and equipment are in working condition  | <input type="checkbox"/> More low cost recreation opportunities for residents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Litter and trash removal                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Renovate existing facilities                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prune and maintain trees                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mowing and lawn care                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Build new facilities  | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance trail networks between parks & neighborhoods |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Add public transit stops at parks and recreation facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |

14. Over the past two years, have you or any household member participated in any of the following types of **RECREATION ACTIVITIES** organized through the City of Baltimore's Recreation and Parks department?

- ☐ Programs or activities offered at a City Recreation Center (*out of school time, summer camp, sports, educational, etc*)
- ☐ **Indoor** programs or activities provided in parks or other recreation facilities (*swim lessons, ice skating, nature educ., etc*)
- ☐ **Outdoor** programs or activities at a park or a recreation facility (*kayaking, sports leagues, swim/tennis lessons, gardening, hiking, bicycle rides, etc*)
- ☐ Special events (*SK Fun Runs, Friends and Family Days at the Pools, Concerts, etc.*)
- ☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ None of these

15. Which Baltimore City Recreation and Parks organized **RECREATION ACTIVITIES** would you like to do, but don't? **CHECK ALL THAT APPLY**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SK Fun Run series                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice skating lessons                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Water fitness programs              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult fitness and wellness programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature/environmental programs         | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth development                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult sports programs               | <input type="checkbox"/> Out of school time                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth fitness and wellness programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe/kayaking                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs for older adults             | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth learn to swim                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community gardening                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs for people with disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth sports programs               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerts/films in parks             | <input type="checkbox"/> Special events (eg. concerts, movies) | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth summer camp                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf lessons and leagues            | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis lessons and leagues            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____               |

16. Why don't you participate in these organized **RECREATION ACTIVITIES**?

17. What is the single most important feature of the **RECREATION ACTIVITIES** in Baltimore City that could be improved? **ONLY CHOOSE ONE**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere                                 | Additional programming and activities for   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improve staff training (customer service, skills, knowledge)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Kids               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional therapeutic programs and activities for people with disabilities  | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth/young adults |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increased communications to residents about activities and opportunities     | <input type="checkbox"/> Adults             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional activities to bring the neighborhood, community and city together | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> Families           |

18. What is the **single most important thing** that Baltimore City Recreation and Parks department can do to improve the parks and recreation system in the City?

19. What other provider recreation and parks facilities or services, if any, do you use?

20. Many **RECREATION ACTIVITIES** offered by Baltimore City are free and some require a fee to offset costs. For each, please indicate what you believe is the right mix of support from taxes versus user fees.

	Taxes Should Pay More	Should Be Even Mix	User Should Pay More
Social and active opportunities for ACTIVE OLDER ADULTS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional activities for ADULTS over age 24 (educational, vocational, recreational)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreational and athletic activities for FAMILIES	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional activities for OLDER CHILDREN and YOUNG ADULTS ages 15-24 (educational, vocational, recreational)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Activities for CHILDREN ages 3-14 to learn and grow	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional opportunities for people with DISABILITIES	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Activities to bring the neighborhood, community and city together	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. Additional funds are needed to supplement the City's current park and recreation budgets for operations and facilities. The additional funds will ensure a more predictable and sustainable system over the long term. Which funding options would you support? **CHECK ALL THAT APPLY**

- ☐ Create a Charm City philanthropic foundation for recreation and parks to raise funds to support Department initiatives
- ☐ Provide a sliding scale of fees for programs and services, based upon income level.
- ☐ Add concessions stands, vendors and rental opportunities
- ☐ Explore the creation of an annual tax revenue allocation to recreation and parks

22. Check the top three ways you would like to learn about Baltimore City's parks, recreation facilities or programs.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BCRP website       | <input type="checkbox"/> Brochures           | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth/friends and neighbors                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internet searches  | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyers              | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of parks groups                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Park kiosks/offices | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, Twitter) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio              | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow pages        | <input type="checkbox"/> Email blasts  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Television         | <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signs and Banners  | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools             |  |

Providing answers to the following questions will help us to analyze the results and ensure our responses are reflective of the citizens of Baltimore.

23. What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

24. What neighborhood do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

25. Are you... ?

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed in the private sector        | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed, not by choice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed in the government sector     | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed by choice      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed by Baltimore City government | <input type="checkbox"/> Student                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed by BCRP                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Employed             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed in the non-profit sector     | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired                   |

26. Do you...?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Own your home                | <input type="checkbox"/> Live with someone else who owns your home                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rent your home               | <input type="checkbox"/> Live with someone else who is the primary renter of your home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living in university housing |  |

27. How long have you lived in Baltimore City?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 year | <input type="checkbox"/> 16-24 years        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-5 years        | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 25 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-15 years       |   |

28. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_

29. How many people in your household who are...? \_\_\_\_\_ 18 and older \_\_\_\_\_ younger than 18

30. Whether or not they live with you, do you have children under 18 for whom you are responsible either full or part-time? ☐ Yes ☐ No

31. Are your children under 18..? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- |                                     |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-school | <input type="checkbox"/> Kindergarten to 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade | <input type="checkbox"/> Not in School |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|

32. What is your annual household income?

CHECK ONE

- ☐ Under \$25,000  
☐ \$25,000 – \$50,000  
☐ \$50,001 - \$75,000  
☐ \$75,001 - \$100,000  
☐ Over \$100,000

33. What is the highest grade or year of school that you

completed? CHECK ONE

- ☐ Less than High School  
☐ High School graduate or GED  
☐ Some College or Technical School (2 year degree)  
☐ College Graduate (4 year degree)  
☐ Graduate or professional education

34. What is your race/ethnicity? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian – Not Hispanic        | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American – Not Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic                              |  |

35. What is your preferred language? \_\_\_\_\_

36. Are you...? CHECK ONE

- ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other ☐ Prefer not to say

Please fill out and return to a BCRP staff member by 11/17/2017. Completed surveys can also be returned to:  
 Ms. Kate Brower, Baltimore City Dept. of Recreation and Parks, 2600 Madison Avenue, Baltimore. MD 21217

THANK YOU!

4

## Baltimore City Recreation & Parks User Survey





## Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Department wants your opinion!

We're planning for the future and want to know how you use the system and what kinds of improvements we should make to build a stronger, better parks and recreation system. If a question does not apply, just move to the next one.

### YOUR SATISFACTION WITH PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES

1. Overall, how satisfied are you with current recreation activities in the city in general? Think about the types of programs offered, frequency, locations. SELECT ONLY ONE

Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### PARKS

2. Which ONE park (large city or neighborhood park) do you visit most frequently? Please write the name on the appropriate line. If you do not know the name, write in the nearest street intersection. SELECT ONE PARK

Large City Park: \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood Park: \_\_\_\_\_

3. How frequently do you visit this park? SELECT ONLY ONE

Once a week or more	Once a month or more	Every few months	Once a year or less	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. How do you usually get to this park? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

<input type="checkbox"/> Bike	<input type="checkbox"/> Subway	<input type="checkbox"/> Car (drove myself)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Walk	<input type="checkbox"/> Light rail	<input type="checkbox"/> Car (someone gave me a ride)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bus			

5. How long does it take you to get to this park from home? SELECT ONLY ONE

10 mins or less	11-15 mins	16-30 mins	More than 30 mins	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. How would you rate this park on the following factors?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Applicable
Ease of getting to the park (transportation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ease of finding your way around within the park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Responsiveness/Friendliness of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleanliness/trash control/litter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance of grounds and facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landscape condition (grass, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Handicap/disability accessibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. When you visit, what do you usually do in this park? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle	<input type="checkbox"/> Read	<input type="checkbox"/> Use the playground
<input type="checkbox"/> Cookout/socialize	<input type="checkbox"/> Run/Jog	<input type="checkbox"/> Wait for my kids
<input type="checkbox"/> Family celebration	<input type="checkbox"/> Skateboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Walk
<input type="checkbox"/> People watch	<input type="checkbox"/> Special event/program	<input type="checkbox"/> Walk my dog
<input type="checkbox"/> Play basketball, tennis	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports spectator	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Play with a team/league	<input type="checkbox"/> Swim	

8. What activities or features do you wish were available in this park? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

<input type="checkbox"/> Benches	<input type="checkbox"/> Kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/> Rec staff-organized play in the parks
<input type="checkbox"/> Bike rental/share	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-lingual staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Restrooms
<input type="checkbox"/> Camping	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor	<input type="checkbox"/> Skate Park
<input type="checkbox"/> Dirt bike facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor fitness stations	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail and Canopy tours
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency call boxes	<input type="checkbox"/> Park ambassadors/rangers	<input type="checkbox"/> Trolley/Network connector shuttle
<input type="checkbox"/> Exercise equipment stations	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties in the park	<input type="checkbox"/> Using apps to explore park
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Pavilion	<input type="checkbox"/> Walking paths
<input type="checkbox"/> Food trucks or concessions	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical/sensory features for special needs populations	<input type="checkbox"/> Water features/fountains
<input type="checkbox"/> Free Wi-Fi	<input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Tables	<input type="checkbox"/> Zip line
<input type="checkbox"/> Gaming centers (digital)	<input type="checkbox"/> Play equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Grills		

### RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

9. Which ONE of these BCRP recreation facilities OR activities do you use/participate in most frequently (include those within the past two years)? SELECT ONE – EITHER FACILITY OR ACTIVITY

<b>FACILITIES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/> Canoe/kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/> Programs for people with disabilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Athletic fields	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation centers	<input type="checkbox"/> Community gardening	<input type="checkbox"/> Roller skating
<input type="checkbox"/> Basketball courts	<input type="checkbox"/> Rowing and water resource center	<input type="checkbox"/> Concerts/films in parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Special events (concerts, movies)
<input type="checkbox"/> Boat launches/piers	<input type="checkbox"/> Skate parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf (activity)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports Leagues
<input type="checkbox"/> Boxing center	<input type="checkbox"/> Soccer arenas	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservatory/Arboretum	<input type="checkbox"/> Splash pads	<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening/landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis lessons/leagues
<input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis courts	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf lessons/leagues	<input type="checkbox"/> Water fitness
<input type="checkbox"/> Dog parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban farms/gardens	<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth development
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf courses	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice skating	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth learn to swim
<input type="checkbox"/> Ice rinks	<input type="checkbox"/> 5K Fun Run series	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice skating lessons	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth sports
<input type="checkbox"/> Indoor pools	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult fitness/wellness	<input type="checkbox"/> Nature/environmental	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth summer camp
<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-use trails	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult sports	<input type="checkbox"/> Out of school time	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature centers	<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle rides	<input type="checkbox"/> Programs for older adults	
<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor pools	<input type="checkbox"/> Camping		
<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor fitness stations			

10. What is the name of the facility you use/place where you participate in the activity you chose above? If you do not know the name, write in the nearest street intersection. \_\_\_\_\_

11. How frequently do you usually visit this facility/participate in this activity? SELECT ONLY ONE

Once a week or more	Once a month or more	Every few months	Once a year or less	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. How do you usually get to this facility /participate in this activity? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

<input type="checkbox"/> Bike	<input type="checkbox"/> Subway	<input type="checkbox"/> Car (drove myself)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bus
<input type="checkbox"/> Walk	<input type="checkbox"/> Light rail	<input type="checkbox"/> Car (someone gave me a ride)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

13. How long does it take you to get to this facility/activity from home? SELECT ONLY ONE

10 mins or less	11-15 mins	16-30 mins	More than 30 mins	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. How would you rate this facility/activity on the following factors?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Applicable
Ease of getting to the facility (transportation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ease of finding your way to the facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Responsiveness/Friendliness of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety getting to the facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleanliness/trash control/litter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance and repair of facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of adequate parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Handicap/disability accessibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Program quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. BCRP wants to make the system more equitable to all. What other kinds of recreation facilities or activities (not parks) would you like to see provided by the City? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY AND FEEL FREE TO ADD YOUR OWN IDEAS**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board games (e.g. checkers and chess)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature and environmental programs for all ages | <input type="checkbox"/> Competition pool/fitness facility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community gathering events                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Older adult programs                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf course                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drone obstacle course                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor theater                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog parks                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-Sports (electronic sports) games          | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote control car course                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Skate or BMX bike parks           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More programs for special needs populations | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor recreation programs                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Track and Field facility          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-lingual programs                      | Specify: _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> Artificial turf ball fields       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                 |   |  |

#### THE FUTURE OF RECREATION AND PARKS IN BALTIMORE

16. Which of these things do you think we should be providing in parks to support the natural environment and habitat? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY AND FEEL FREE TO ADD YOUR OWN IDEAS**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities for children/families to learn about nature | <input type="checkbox"/> Storm water Demonstration Projects and Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meditative forest walks (forest bathing)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Lodge                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guided Hikes   | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail or Forest Walks (guided)                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Play spaces                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Education                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor campground                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                      |

17. Which of these things would make you feel safer in a park or recreational facility? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY AND FEEL FREE TO ADD YOUR OWN IDEAS**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Major pathway lighting      | <input type="checkbox"/> Increased police presence (along key park/facility access streets) | <input type="checkbox"/> Signage with staff contact info |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park perimeter lighting     | <input type="checkbox"/> CCTV/Security Cameras  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local neighborhood lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency call boxes   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park rangers                |   |  |

18. Which of these things do you think we should be providing in recreation centers? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY AND FEEL FREE TO ADD YOUR OWN IDEAS**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> After school programs         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music lessons                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer day camps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All day cafeteria/meals       | <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting classes                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Tutoring         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers/Internet access     | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor sports: Ping Pong, Pool Tables | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis lessons   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counselors for children       | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-defense classes                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf lessons     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic sports gaming area | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior activities                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yoga             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Etiquette lessons             | <input type="checkbox"/> Pick up sports                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal trainer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness center                | <input type="checkbox"/> Organized sports leagues/teams        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer and Saturday field trips       |   |

19. Which of these things would encourage you to visit our park and recreation system to get some exercise? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY AND FEEL FREE TO ADD YOUR OWN IDEAS**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner level exercise classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Power walks                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking/exercise loop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boot Camp classes               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunrise or Sunset yoga             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor fitness stations        | <input type="checkbox"/> Low impact activities older adults |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal trainers               | <input type="checkbox"/> Tai Chi classes                    |  |

20. Which of these things would encourage you to visit our park and recreation system to relieve mental stress? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY AND FEEL FREE TO ADD YOUR OWN IDEAS**

- |   |                                    |                                      |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest bathing | <input type="checkbox"/> Tai Chi   | <input type="checkbox"/> Meditation  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yoga           | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

21. Which of these things would encourage you to socialize and to meet people from all over the city? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY AND FEEL FREE TO ADD YOUR OWN IDEAS**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art Festivals/Shows | <input type="checkbox"/> Fun Wagon                | <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry readings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike party events   | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet Up events           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Festivals           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile library           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fun Runs            | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor painting classes |  |

22. Overall, what do you think would make Baltimore City's parks, facilities, recreation programming and activities and recreation system more innovative? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY**

- |                                       |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eco-friendly | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile charge stations | <input type="checkbox"/> Park ambassadors/rangers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free Wi-Fi   | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-lingual staff    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____              |

23. How would you like to find out about programs and events of interest to attend in parks and recreation facilities in Baltimore? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY**

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BCRP event                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Friends | <input type="checkbox"/> NextDoor            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports leagues     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BCRP Hump Day e-blast               | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends Group  | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks advocate org. | <input type="checkbox"/> Street banners     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brochures/Flyers in my neighborhood | <input type="checkbox"/> Google+        | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio advertising   | <input type="checkbox"/> Text from BCRP     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected officials                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram      | <input type="checkbox"/> Runners/Bikers Club | <input type="checkbox"/> TV advertising     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email from BCRP                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Library        | <input type="checkbox"/> School              | <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet Up        | <input type="checkbox"/> Snapchat            | <input type="checkbox"/> Visit BCRP website |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper      | <input type="checkbox"/> Specialty stores    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____        |

24. For each of the following, tell us whether we have too many, too few or just the right amount in the City.

	Too Many	Just Right	Too Few		Too Many	Just Right	Too Few
Band shells (bandstand)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Baseball fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature play spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tennis courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skate parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Soccer fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Football fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Softball fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Handicap accessible Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outdoor amphitheaters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### ABOUT YOU

25. Are you...? **SELECT ONLY ONE**

- ☐ Male  
☐ Female  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

26. What is your age? **SELECT ONLY ONE**

- ☐ Under 18      ☐ 35-49  
☐ 18-24      ☐ 50-64  
☐ 25-34      ☐ 65 and older

27. What is your zip code?

\_\_\_\_\_

28. What is your race/ethnicity? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.**

- ☐ Asian  
☐ Black/African American – Not Hispanic  
☐ Hispanic  
☐ Mixed race  
☐ Native American  
☐ White/Caucasian – Not Hispanic  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

29. What is your annual household income? **SELECT ONLY ONE**

- ☐ Under \$25,000      ☐ \$75,000 - \$99,999  
☐ \$25,000 – \$49,999      ☐ \$100,000 or more  
☐ \$50,000 - \$74,999

29. What Baltimore neighborhood do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

30. Want to participate in a focus group to discuss some of your experiences? Please provide your name and phone or email: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out and return to a BCRP staff member by 6/8/2018. Completed surveys can also be returned to: Ms. Kate Brower, Baltimore City Dept. of Recreation and Parks, 2600 Madison Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217

## 2019 Vision Plan -Citywide and User Survey, and Focus Group Findings

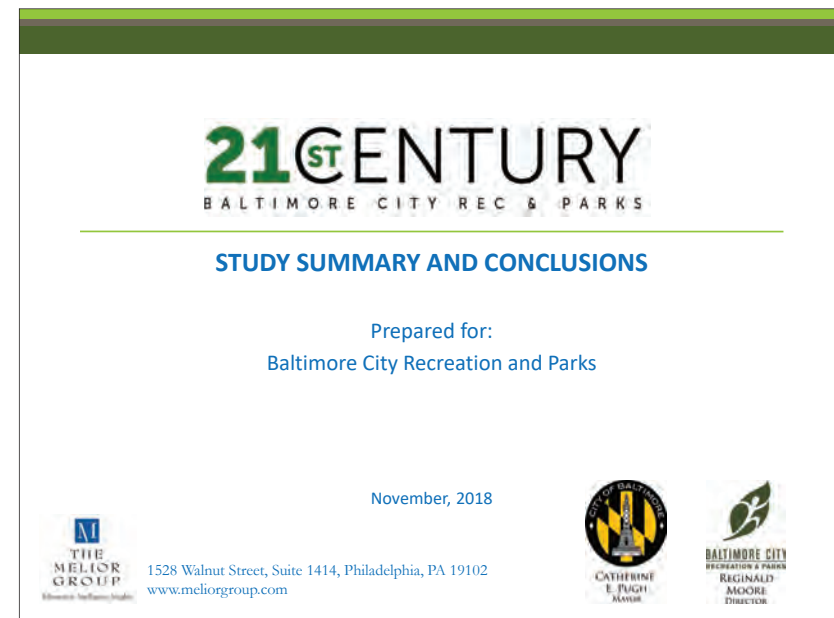


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## I. STUDY BACKGROUND

### A. INTRODUCTION

### Research Goals

#### *What did we want to learn?*

- The overarching objective of the research is to incorporate the voices of residents into the long term goals and vision for the BCRP System, along with assuring that City residents' and Recreation and Parks users' issues, interests and concerns are addressed in planning efforts. The goals for both the User survey and the Citywide surveys were similar and were designed to learn:
  - How residents value Baltimore's parks and recreation facilities and services – perceived satisfaction and level of priority as related to other services provided by the City;
  - What residents view as long term goals/vision for a 21<sup>st</sup> century BCRP system, including program additions and enhancements;
  - How residents use recreation and parks services now – exploring usage of particular parks and recreation programs and how City parks and recreation services enhance residents' quality of life; and
  - What barriers exist to accessing and using parks and recreation system.

### Research Purpose

#### *Why is this important?*

- Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP) is developing a plan for its 21st century recreation and parks initiative. The first phase of the planning process is to build citywide awareness of and support for the City's parks and its recreation programs. As such, BCRP wants to understand City residents' perceptions of and the value they place on the assets BCRP maintains and manages.
- BCRP engaged The Melior Group to conduct a multi-stage research program. Three separate reports have been provided at each stage of the research program.
  - **Stage 1** – Qualitative focus group research with residents of Baltimore City.
  - **Stage 2** – Quantitative Citywide Survey of Baltimore City residents.
  - **Stage 3** – Quantitative survey of users of Baltimore City's recreation facilities and programs and visitors to the City's large and neighborhood parks.
- This summary serves to pull the body of work together, providing key highlights from each phase as well as overarching conclusions.

### B. METHODOLOGIES



## Methodologies

More detailed information on the methodologies used can be found in the Appendix and in the reports of findings from each stage, provided to BCRP under separate cover.

### Stage 1 - Focus Groups

- Qualitative Assessment conducted in July 2017
- 2 sessions conducted by Melior facilitator; observed by BCRP staff at formal focus group facility
- 15 Baltimore residents participated in the sessions; participants reflected a mix of races/ethnicities, gender, neighborhoods, and City parks and recreation program users and non-users

### Stage 2 - Citywide Survey

- Quantitative assessment conducted October - December 2017
- Statistically valid, 15-minute survey, offered in Spanish for those who preferred that language
- **Online** -- An open web survey link advertised through BCRP, supplemented with an online panel sample
- **Telephone** -- Interviews in neighborhoods where insufficient response was received online
- **Paper** -- Via libraries and in neighborhoods where insufficient response was received in other methods
- All data was analyzed in total, by key demographics, and Baltimore Community Statistical Area
- All data was weighted; the total weighted number of residents responding to each question is 2,284
- At the 95% level of confidence, margin of error is +/- 2.1% at the City level

A brand identified all communications and materials related to the surveys in stages 2 and 3. See the logo on lower left of this page.

In our experience, the response to the BCRP open links was EXCELLENT; half or more survey responses were received via the open links.

### Stage 3 - BCRP User Survey

- Quantitative assessment conducted May - June 2018
- Statistically valid, 20-minute survey, offered in Spanish for those who preferred that language
- **Online** -- BCRP emailed users a link to the survey using its lists of activity and program participants
- **Paper** -- Distributed at various recreation and parks events throughout the City
- All data was analyzed in total, by key demographics, and by Baltimore geography
- At the 95% level of confidence, margin of error is +/- 3.5% at the City level

## Summary and Conclusions

How do residents value Baltimore's parks and recreation services?

- There is **value in what BCRP offers** to the City and its residents. Residents see a **connection between the services BCRP provides and the quality of life** in the City.
- Relative to quality of life, residents give the recreation and parks system in Baltimore very high importance ratings by residents in the Citywide survey -- 94% say that it is "extremely" or "very" important.
- Residents see that parks and recreation services provide environmental benefits to the City and help to improve the physical and mental health of residents (82% agree with each of these statements). And, about half say recreation facilities and parks meet their needs.
- BCRP parks, events, facilities, and activities rank highly among other quality of life aspects (diversity of people, neighborhoods and affordable housing) as reasons Baltimore is a good place to live.
- Users are generally satisfied with parks and recreation activities in the City -- 63% say they are very or somewhat satisfied. They find activities to be affordable, a great way to spend time with friends and family and to exercise. Facilities are convenient, easy to get to and safe.

## II. OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

## Summary and Conclusions

How do residents view long term goals/vision for a Baltimore City Recreation and Parks System?

- Residents agree that **BCRP should provide activities and programs that promote a fun, active lifestyle while also providing nature education and programming.**
- Although the roles are generally equally important, providing a fun, active lifestyle (24%) and providing places for recreation and sports (20%) top the list of roles that BCRP can play in the City.
- Residents feel **BCRP should be the City's experts on all things nature and environmental**, by conserving and protecting natural resources and educating residents with opportunities to learn about nature.
- Two in ten residents (18%) want this to be the primary role. And, it's clear that residents from the user survey, particularly, want to see BCRP as the city's go-to resource on nature education, by providing programming, promoting environmental awareness, and protecting natural resources.
- When respondents in the user survey were asked about future programming, 73% want to see activities for children to support the natural environment and habitat, 56% want wildlife education, and 67% want to see BCRP include eco-friendly programming.

## Summary and Conclusions

### *How do residents use recreation and parks services now?*

- Residents want an **optimum experience** when they use recreation services and parks and want the City to deliver on this expectation.
- Residents actively use parks and recreation services... although usage of parks is higher than recreation programs or activities. Active users (weekly or more) notice changes, issues, problems and are concerned about overall maintenance and upkeep.
- About half of respondents in the Citywide survey visit parks monthly or more, and half the respondents to the user survey visit weekly. Large City parks (Druid Hill, Patterson) are visited more than other parks and other facilities.
- As learned in the User survey, weekly visitors tend to go on weekday evenings or weekend afternoons. Driving is the method of choice to get to large parks, recreation facilities, and activities.
- Visitors use their parks for relaxation and exercise, but feel large and neighborhood parks should be cleaner and better maintained for optimum experiences. Participants in recreation activities are concerned about the same issues in the facilities where the activities occur.
  - Visitors' Ratings are relatively good on aspects of wayfinding and transportation to the recreation facilities, activities and parks, but much more fair or poor on aspects of cleanliness, maintenance and handicap accessibility.

## Summary and Conclusions

### *What are the barriers to accessing and using the existing recreation and parks system?*

2. **Safety** -- Feeling safe in and around parks and recreation facilities is important to residents. and there is an expectation that BCRP should keep large city and neighborhood parks safe. If residents perceive parks and facilities to not be safe then they will not visit them. Whether accurate or not, it will be important for BCRP to address these safety concerns in its communications with residents, explaining what steps are being taken to make facilities and parks safe.
  - Two to three in ten of residents who don't visit parks or participate in recreation activities say they don't feel safe visiting/attending. However, among user survey respondents, personal safety is less of an issue, with 75-81% of users rating BCRP's parks, facilities and activities rating this as excellent or good.
3. **Maintenance and upkeep** -- There is an expectation that BCRP should keep ALL parks and rec centers clean and well-maintained. As stated previously, visitors want an optimum experience when the visit a park, participate in a recreation activity or attend a program. Cleanliness/lack of trash/more trash cans in tandem with maintaining and/or renovating existing facilities.
  - About a quarter of residents in the citywide survey mention maintenance and upkeep as reasons not to use facilities and parks – it is the single most important thing to improve.

## Summary and Conclusions

### *What are the barriers to accessing and using the existing recreation and parks system?*

- There are **five key factors** that should be considered as **barriers** to using parks/facilities and/or participating in programs. Note that while usage of facilities and parks may be quite high, there is still a large portion who don't visit/participate as frequently (about 20-25%).
  1. Accessibility
  2. Safety
  3. Maintenance and Upkeep
  4. Inaccurate perceptions
  5. Lack of knowledge of what's on offer
- 1. **Accessibility** – Parks and facilities that are not easy to walk to and not easy to get to from public transit prevents residents from participating.
  - Only four in ten residents agree that recreation facilities are easy to get to and another 27% say this about recreation activities.
  - Note that many respondents to the user survey tend to drive to large parks and activities and facilities. About 10% mention a lack of adequate parking at facilities and activities.

## Summary and Conclusions

### *What are the barriers to accessing and using the existing recreation and parks system?*

4. **Perception is everything.** It will be important for BCRP to find ways to address perceptions in its communications with residents.
  - Stories, especially the bad ones, get repeated for years (even if the information is wrong or out of date). Addressing inaccuracies in its communications planning, perhaps comparing myths to reality.
  - Residents remember when programs were cut, recreation centers were closed. It will be important for BCRP to find ways to replace what's been lost.
  - Residents hear that parks and facilities are not safe and are not well-maintained and/or cleaned and then don't want to visit.
  - BCRP should manage residents' expectations in myriad ways: promoting clean-up days; enhanced police presence; promote renovations as they occur – so residents can feel more confident about what's happening in their City.
5. **Lack of knowledge** and/or information about types of events/programs/activities offered (and for whom – kids, youth, seniors), where they are held, times they are held.
  - Understanding where recreation activities take place, where recreation centers are located, times for programs will allow residents to start planning their activities. This reason was cited by 35% for facilities and parks and 46% for recreation activities in the citywide survey.

[see next page for more about communicating with residents]

## Summary and Conclusions

*What are the barriers to accessing and using the existing recreation and parks system?*

- Residents want **BCRP to communicate to them more about activities and opportunities** that exist for recreation, sports and to have a fun, active lifestyle. Developing social media plans to promote activities ahead of schedule, driving them to the BCRP site for more information (on a daily or multiple time a week basis) should be incorporated into existing marketing communications plans.
- In general, residents don't feel sufficiently informed about BCRP offerings, events or programs. Not knowing enough is a top reason residents cite for not participating in activities or attending events.
- While residents generally know about parks (only 7% don't know), 26% to 40% don't know at all about recreation centers, programs and camps, special facilities, trails and golf courses in the City.
- 84% agree that they'd like to know more about what available for recreation activities.
- 35% don't know what, where or when programs are offered at facilities and parks and 40% don't know about recreation activities and when/where they're offered.
- Social media, the BCRP website and email blasts are ways residents in the Citywide want to learn about BCRP. The top social media site mentioned in the User survey is Facebook (61% User, 40% Citywide); NextDoor, Instagram, and Twitter are cited by 20-26% of users.

## Summary and Conclusions

*What other improvements should be made?*

- **Residents want to feel more welcome** in all parks, at all rec centers, and all programming. Further discussions between BCRP and residents should include understanding what makes a park or activity "welcoming" – is it more than just a clean and maintained area or facility?
- Residents say the single most important feature to improve is making parks and recreation facilities safer and more welcoming (30%). Another 10% say they want activities to be more inclusive and with a welcoming atmosphere.
- When asked specifically what improvements should be made, users' top mentions included:
  - Large Parks – Free Wi-fi, Water features and fountains
  - Neighborhood Parks – Benches, Restrooms, Walking paths
  - Facilities – Track and field, Pool/fitness
  - Activities – Nature/environmental, Community gatherings, Outdoor theater
  - Special Events – Improve marketing of events, include information about how to get there, better signage in and around the event.

## Summary and Conclusions

*What programming additions or improvements should occur?*

- **Promoting wellness and fitness initiatives, activities and programs should be a priority. This was a top ranked role that residents feel BCRP should play.** While many programs mentioned are already offered, it confirms that the specific programs that BCRP offers should continue.
- Residents in the Citywide survey want to see more adult fitness/wellness programs offered (44%), along with Special events (35%), Concerts/films in Parks (31%), Water fitness programs (27%), and Nature/Environmental programs (25%).
- Of all the ideas evaluated by respondents in the User Survey, **activities for children/families to connect with and learn about nature** received the highest number of mentions at 73%. **Park concerts with a headline national performer** and **Festivals** (72% each) were also top mentions, along with major **pathway lighting at parks** for safety (71%), and an **outdoor theater** (70%).
- As learned in the focus groups, residents have pride in their City and want opportunities to talk about the great features of the City, such as parks and festivals. They ask for more festivals and concerts to keep momentum going.
- Also important, but to a lesser extent:
  - Arts festivals (68%), Eco-friendly programs (67%), Walking/exercise loop (59%), Yoga (57%), Wildlife Education (56%), and Gardening (for meditative purposes) (51%)

## III. SUMMARIES OF FINDINGS

### STAGE 1: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

## Perceptions of Baltimore and its Neighborhoods

- Residents want to feel proud of Baltimore and want to be able to tell people they know and meet about all the great things that the City of Baltimore has to offer.
- These residents live in the neighborhoods they do for many reasons, including atmosphere, convenience (to the things they want to do) and sense of community. And, most residents say they like where they live.
- The only real negative was as a result of the 2015 riots, which have brought changes to some neighborhoods, especially to those closest to where the riots occurred. The atmosphere in the neighborhoods has changed, with increased concerns about safety during the day and at night.

## Ideal Features in a Park

- When asked to describe the ideal characteristics of a park, most are those already found in Baltimore's parks – natural elements, water features, educational and athletic/play opportunities for children and adults. **This suggests that BCRP already provides the features and programs residents want.**

- Grass, Trees, Open Space in proportion to the other
- Flower gardens
- Water feature: pond, lake, fountains, sprinklers
- Good walking paths
- Benches
- Bike trails
- Playground
  - Swings, slides, jungle gym, monkey bars
  - Safe surfaces
- Fitness stations
  - Planned exercise paths with hills, trails
- Music theater/pavilion
- Outdoor movies
- Grills, Picnic Tables
- Playing fields
  - Football, baseball, volleyball, baseball, soccer, lacrosse
- Athletic courts
  - Basketball, Tennis
- Pools – indoor and outdoor, cleaned
- Drinking fountains (low and high)
- Accessible areas for seniors
- ADA compliant equipment and features
- Maintained equipment, facilities, benches, features, bathrooms
- Plenty of trash cans
- Good sanitation (outdoor and indoor)
- Additional bathrooms
- Charging stations for personal devices
- Charging stations for cars
- Emergency phones
- Lighting (at night)
- Restaurant/Café/Food Trucks
- Bike share stations
- Parking
- Dog Park areas
- Park Rangers: Knowledgeable, Accessible
- Nature preserve/Centers
- Boats/Canoes

## Perceptions of Parks

- Residents value the parks in the City and feel they add to their quality of life in Baltimore.
- Residents are very positive about City parks and have generally good perceptions of them. Most people are quite familiar with parks, having visited their nearest city park at least once in the past year. They can accurately cite the key features in each of these parks.
  - People are concerned about park safety at night.
  - Residents do share stories from the 1970s and 1980s about incidents in parks – these stories haven't faded. But, long time residents of Baltimore notice positive change over time.
- When residents think about parks in the City, they most often mention Baltimore's large city parks: Druid Hill, Patterson, Federal Hill, Carroll Park, Clifton Park.
  - Note that residents do not describe their neighborhood playgrounds as "parks" which is really a nomenclature/reference issue.

## Suggested Park Improvements

- Focus group participants' suggested many improvements to Baltimore's parks. Primary suggestions are for **better maintenance of parks, and increased sanitation.**
- Better overall maintenance
  - More frequent grass cutting (esp. Druid Hill)
  - Better sanitation, more trash cans
- Better maintained athletic courts – specifically basketball hoops
- More playground equipment
  - Better maintained playground equipment
- Fix sidewalks in and around the parks
- Repair the Druid Hill Fountain and Lights
- Enforcement of leash laws
- "Real" bathroom facilities (not porta-potties)
- More pools
- More athletic fields
- More pavilions with grills for family functions
- More music, street musicians
- More educational programming for kids
- Better overall security in all parks, especially at night
- More park rangers



## Awareness of Recreation Centers

- Recreation centers and programs are not known among these participants. The closing of some recreation centers five years ago is still fresh in their minds. And they don't know where recreation centers or programs are in the city or in their neighborhoods.
- However, many do have fond memories of "the rec" from their youth when many participated in the programs. They see value in offering these same types of programs today.
- None of the participants could speak to suggested improvements to the recreation programs, except to bring them back to the community.

## Pools

- Pools are well known and those that have used them have had positive experiences.
- Almost half of participants have used a City Pool this season.
- They especially enjoy after hours (night) swims, adult hours, cleanliness of the facilities.

## Priorities for Funding Allocation

- Residents' views were mixed regarding setting priorities for funding allocation for recreation programs and parks, but the priorities are:
  - Upkeep and maintain existing features and programs.
  - Funnel money to rec centers – to "bring them back" and add programming, especially for kids.
  - "Spread the wealth" – do it all, but evenly: Maintain existing assets, bring rec programs back into neighborhoods, and develop new programs.

## Ideal Recreation Programs

- The following are the features and programs described by participants when asked to describe ideal components of recreation centers/programs. Many features described by participants are already offered by BCRP (e.g., after school programs, summer day camps, sports). **This indicates that BCRP already offers what they want – residents just don't know BCRP offers them.**
  - Counselors for children
    - Guidance, Mentoring
  - Tutoring
  - Parenting classes
  - Sports (all types, basketball)
  - Etiquette
  - Music lessons
  - Scout meetings (boy and girl)
  - Fitness center
    - Treadmills, class space, weights, defense classes
  - Summer and Saturday sponsored field trips
  - Income-based fees for camps
  - All day cafeteria or meals – "too many kids can't eat at home"
  - Computers/Internet access
  - After school programs
  - Senior activities
  - Summer day camps
  - Indoor sports: Ping Pong, Pool Tables

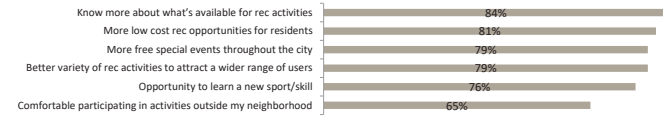
## Communicating with Residents

- The younger the residents, the more engaged in social media they are. All of the residents under 35 use Facebook to learn about what's happening in their communities and neighborhoods.
- The older the residents, the more likely they are to refer to the news (online, paper, tv, radio), and to talk about events and activities with friends and family.
- The following are the focus group participants' suggested methods of communication to promote Baltimore's parks and recreation programs as well as the upcoming citywide survey.
  - Social Media: Instagram, Facebook, Neighborhood Facebook pages
  - News outlets: Baltimore Sun, Baltimore City Paper (noting that it may be shut down soon), TV -- Channels 2, 11, 23
  - Radio
  - Schools, Libraries
  - Bus Advertising
  - BCRP Website
  - Various event/entertainment apps/websites: Eventbrite, Swarm, NextDoor

## STAGE 2: CITYWIDE SURVEY

## Recreation Activities

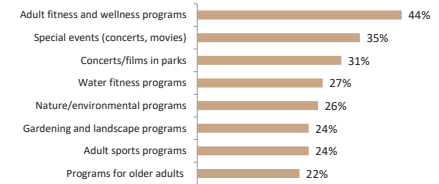
*Residents want to know more... about what's offered, about low cost/free activities and the variety of activities available.*



Graph shows percentages of top two ratings (on a five-point scale) about recreation facilities and parks.

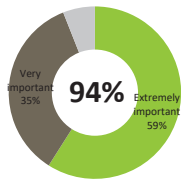
## Rec Activities Residents Want to Do, But Don't

*Residents want to attend more adult fitness/wellness programs, special events, and concerts/films in parks.*

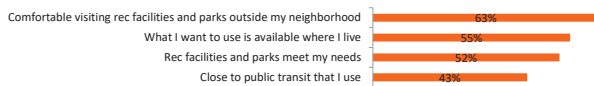


## Perceptions of Recreation and Parks in Baltimore

*The recreation and parks system in Baltimore is important to most residents and provides many benefits.*



*Residents are comfortable visiting rec facilities and parks outside of their neighborhood, but don't feel opportunities are close to the public transit options.*



Graphs show percentages of top two ratings (on a five-point scale) about recreation facilities and parks.

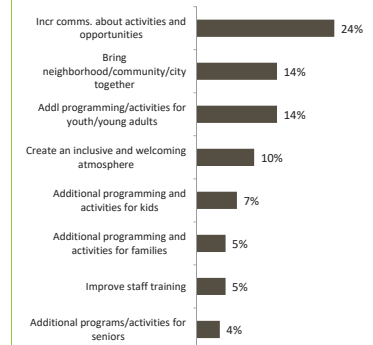
## Recreation Activities: Reasons for Not Participating

*Top reasons: Lack of knowledge of activities, free time, activities not easy to get to.*

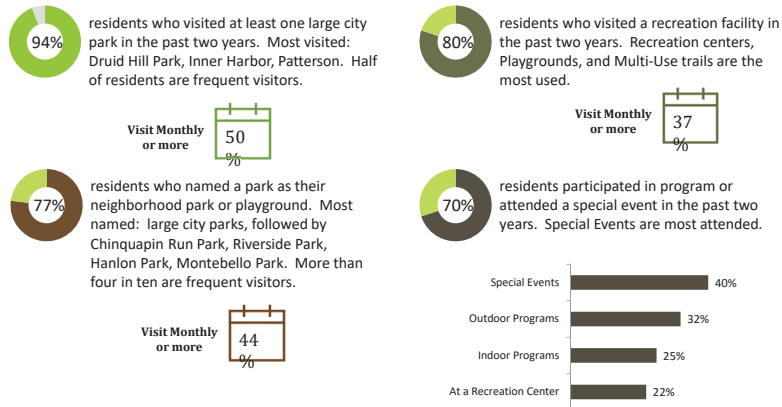


## Recreation Activities: Most Important Feature to Improve

*Residents want to know more.*

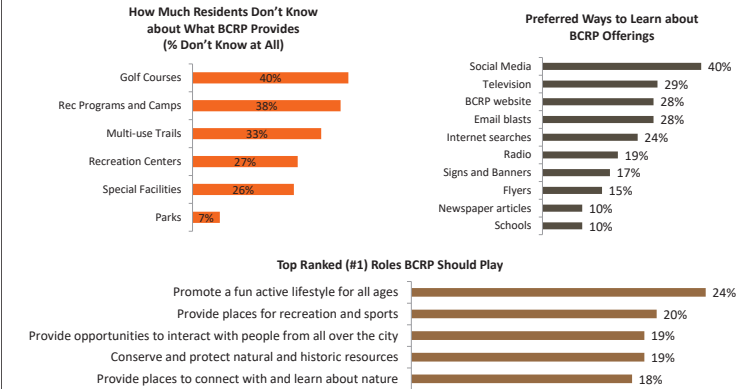


## Usage of Parks and Recreation Facilities and Activities



## Knowledge about BCRP and Its Offerings

*There is much that residents don't know about what BCRP provides, but there is equal agreement about the roles that it should play in the City. Social media, TV, the BCRP website and email blasts are ways residents want to learn about BCRP.*



## Recreation Facilities and Parks

*Two-thirds of residents say there's a park or rec facility that they would like to use but do not, mainly outside of their neighborhoods.*

### Reasons for Not Using

*Top reasons: Inaccessibility, Lack of Safety, Lack of Knowledge of programs*

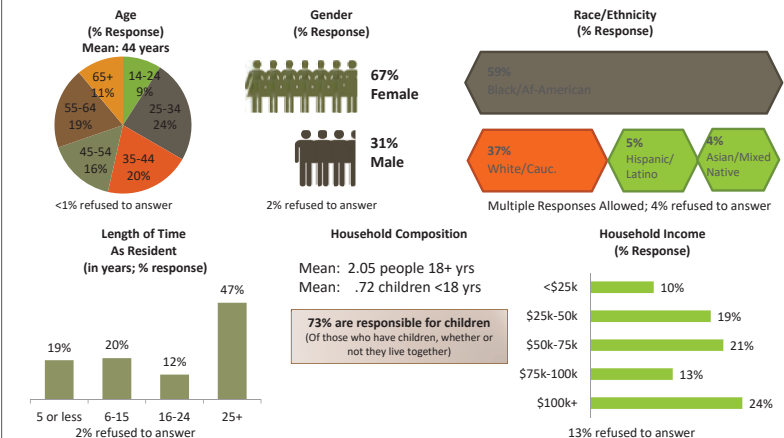


### Most Important Feature to Improve

*Make residents feel more welcome*



## Summary of Survey Respondents



## Summary of Where Respondents Live: By CSA

Neighborhood (BNIA Community)	% Response	Neighborhood (BNIA Community)	% Response
Midtown, South Baltimore	5% each	Dorchester/Ashburton, Lauraville, Cherry Hill, North Baltimore/ Guilford/Homeland, Edmondson Village, Allendale/Irvington/S. Hilton, Mount Washington/Coldspring, Chinquapin Park/Belvedere, Beechfield/Ten Hills/West Hills	1.5% each
Medfield/Hampden/Woodberry/Remington Northwood, Penn North/Reservoir Hill, Belair-Edison	4% each	Downtown/Seton Hill, Highlandtown, Glen-Falstaff, Upton/Druid Heights, Westport/Mount Winans/Lakeland, Southern Park Heights, Howard Park/West Arlington, Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park, Harford/Echodale, Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill, Oldtown/Middle East, Washington Village/Pigtown, Clifton-Berea	1% each
Hamilton, Canton, Greater Mondawmin, Southwest Baltimore, Forest Park/Walbrook, Fells Point, Greater Charles Village/Barclay, Inner Harbor/Federal Hill, Greater Govans, The Waverlies, Loch Raven	3% each	Cross-Country/Cheswolde, Morrell Park/Violetville, Madison/East End Greenmount East, Southeastern, Harbor East/Little Italy, Dickeyville/Franklinintown, Orangeville/East Highlandtown, Greater Rosemont, Poppleton/The Terraces/ Hollins Market, Clarendon/Armistead, Midway/Coldstream	Less than 1% each
Cedonia/Frankford, Pimlico/Arlington/Hilltop, Brooklyn/Curtis Bay/Hawkins Point, Patterson Park North & East	2% each	Other Baltimore Area (unspecified)*	1%
		Non Baltimore City**	1%
		Refused	3%

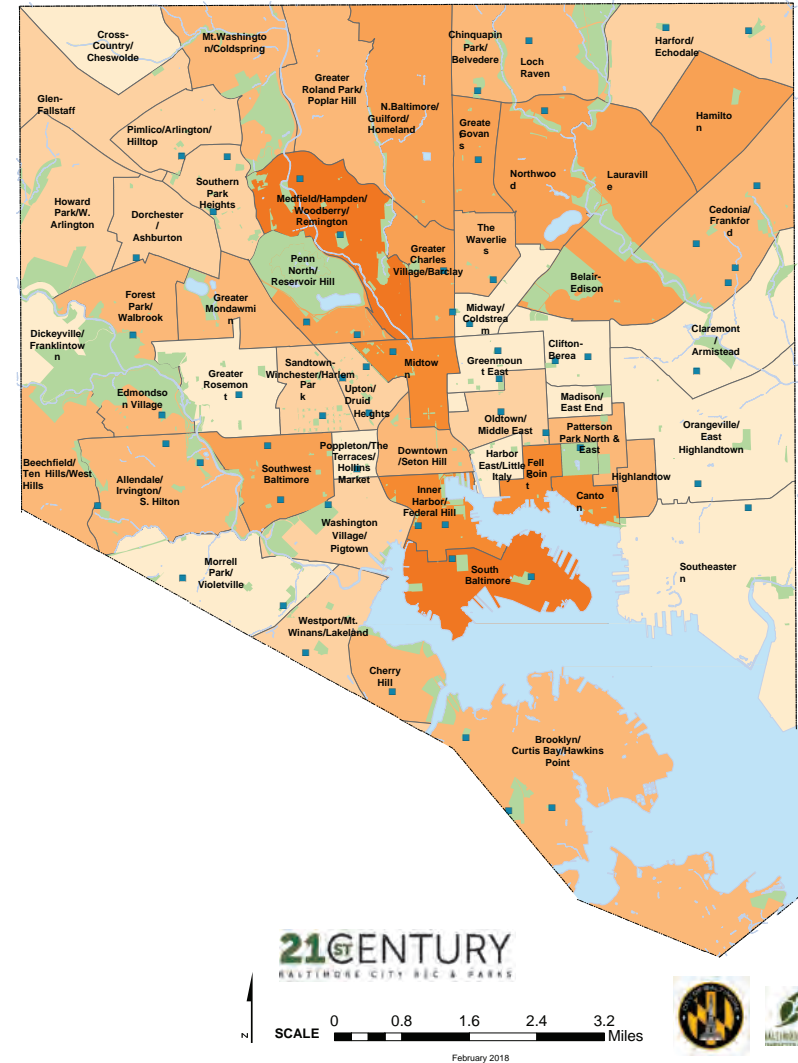
**21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**  
BALTIMORE CITY REC & PARKS

35



A VISION FOR BALTIMORE'S RECREATION & PARKS

Figure 6: Citywide Survey Takers by CSA





## STAGE 3: USER SURVEY

## Research Highlights

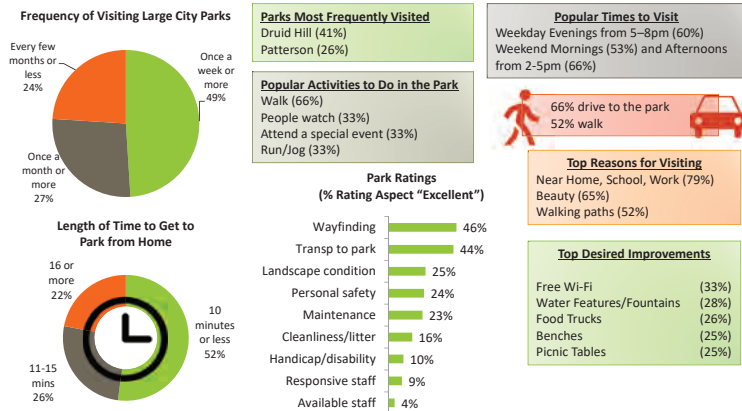
*Ideas, Innovations, Future Events*

- Of all the ideas evaluated by respondents, **activities for children/families to connect with and learn about nature** received the highest number of mentions... at 73%. Other ideas of high interest (70% or more):
  - Park concert with headline national performer (72%)
  - Festivals (72%)
  - Major pathway lighting at parks for safety (71%)
  - Outdoor theater (70%)
- Important, but to a lesser extent:
  - Arts festival (68%)
  - Eco-friendly programs (67%)
  - Walking/exercise loop (59%)
  - Yoga (57%)
  - Wildlife Education (56%)
  - Gardening (for meditative purposes) (51%)

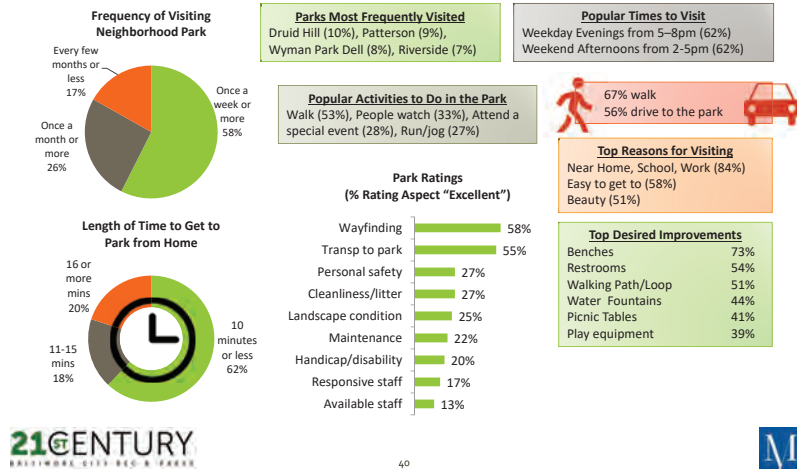
## Research Highlights

- Users of Baltimore's Recreation programs and Parks are relatively satisfied with current recreation activities in the City: six in ten (63%) say they are satisfied.
- Respondents to the survey, in general, are active users of BCRP recreation programs and parks, with over half saying that they visit/participate once a week or more.
- There is consistency of behavior in using Recreation and Parks facilities.
  - The majority of visitors/participants use the parks and facilities weekly or more frequently, visiting weekday evenings or weekend afternoons. Driving is the method of choice to get to large parks, recreation facilities, and activities.
  - Ratings are relatively good on aspects of wayfinding and transportation to the recreation facilities, activities and parks, but much more fair or poor on aspects of cleanliness, maintenance and handicap accessibility.
  - Visitors use their parks for relaxation and exercise, but feel large and neighborhood parks should be cleaner and better maintained for optimum experiences. Participants in recreation activities are concerned about the same issues in the facilities where the activities occur.

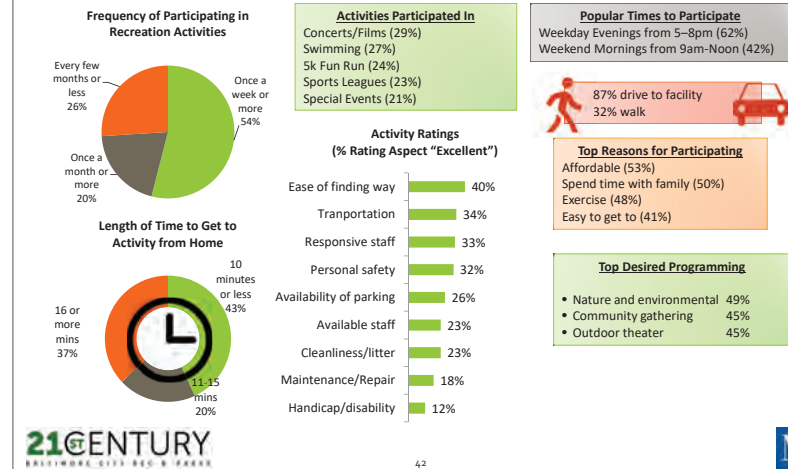
## Summary: Large City Park Behaviors and Perceptions



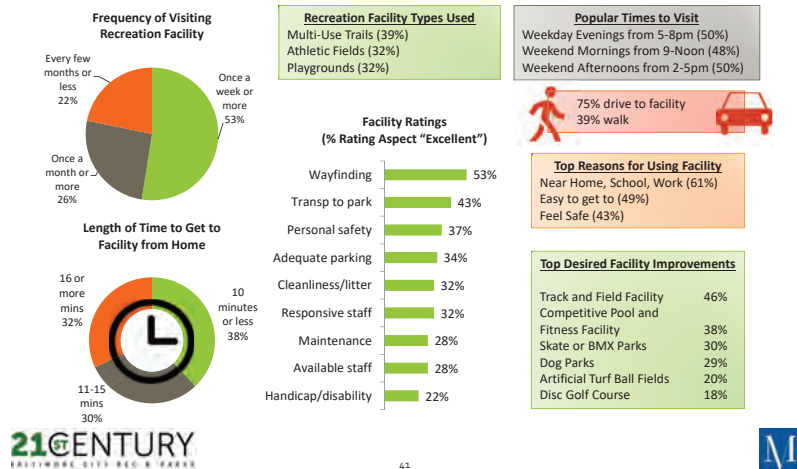
## Summary: Neighborhood Park Behaviors and Perceptions



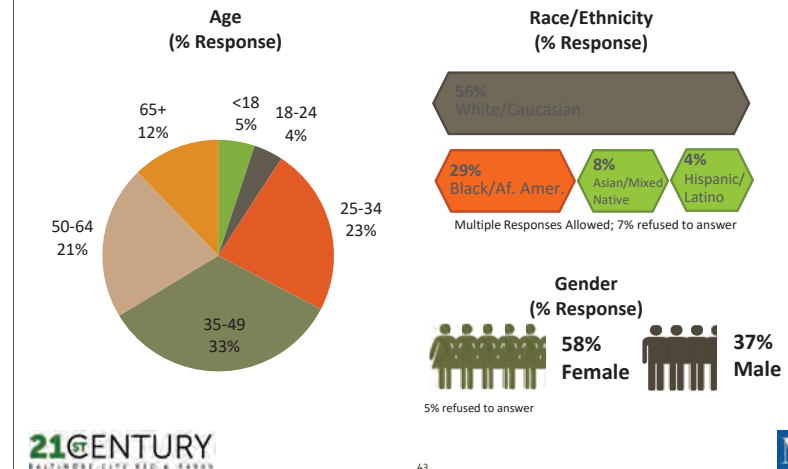
## Summary: Recreation Activity Behaviors and Perceptions



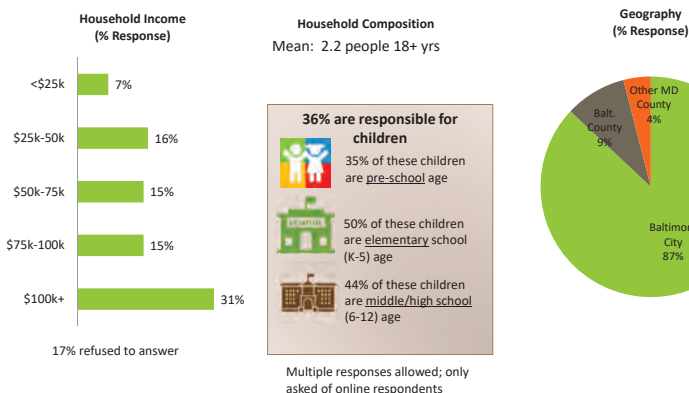
## Summary: Recreation Facility Behaviors and Perceptions



## Summary of Survey Respondents



## Summary of Survey Respondents



## Stage 1 - Focus Group Participant Profile

- 15 residents in total participated in the groups. (Information below presents numbers of respondents)

### Neighborhoods Represented

Canton  
Edison  
Federal Hill  
Howard Park  
Irvington  
Lake Walker  
Levindale  
Madison East  
Morrell Park  
Mt. Claire  
Mt. Vernon  
North East  
Patterson/McElderry Park  
Penn North  
Winchester

### Mean Age:

31.3 years

### Gender

Male	6
Female	9

### Race/Ethnicity

Black/African -American	10
White/Caucasian	4
Mixed	1

### Household Income

Under \$25K	4
\$25-50k	6
\$50-75k	3
\$75-100k	1
\$100k+	1

### Length of Time as Resident

Less than 5 years	2
6-15 years	2
16-24 years	1
25+ years	10

## APPENDIX ADDITIONAL DETAIL

## Stage 2: CITYWIDE SURVEY Response and Analysis Detail

- In total, 2,367 responses were collected in the Citywide study as of December 6, 2017.
  - In our experience with surveys conducted in this nature (open to all residents), the response to the BCRP open link in particular was EXCELLENT; nearly half (46%) of survey responses were received via the open link.
- At the 95% level of confidence, the maximum expected error range for a sample of 2,367 residents is +/- 2.1% at the City level.
- All data presented in the Citywide analysis is weighted and based to total responding unless otherwise noted.
  - The open-link yielded an over-response by residents who identified as Caucasian/White and under-response by residents who identified as African-American/Black when fielding compared to US Census data for the City of Baltimore.
  - Weights were applied to the information from the open-link methodology based on the distribution of Baltimore City's population, using race/ethnicity statistics from the 2010 US Census. See Appendix for weighting information.
  - Unless otherwise specified, the total weighted number of residents responding to each question is 2,284.

## CSA Composition

Used for the Citywide Survey

*Neighborhoods that comprise each CSA*

CSA	NSAs
Allendale/ Irvington/ South Hilton	Allendale, Carroll-South Hilton, Gwynns Falls, Irvington, Lower Edmondson Village, Saint Josephs, Uplands, Yale Heights
Beechfield/ Ten Hills/ West Hills	Beechfield, Hunting Ridge, Ten Hills, Tremont, West Hills Westgate
Belair-Edison	Belair-Edison, Clifton Park, Four By Four, Herring Run Park, Mayfield
Brooklyn/Curtis Bay/Hawkins Point	Brooklyn, Curtis Bay, Curtis Bay Industrial Area, Fairfield Area, Hawkins Point
Canton	Canton, Patterson Park
Cedonia/Frankford	Cedmont, Cedonia, Frankford, Parkside
Cherry Hill	Cherry Hill, Middle Branch/Reedbird Parks
Chinquapin Park/Belvedere	Belvedere, Cameron Village, Chinquapin Park, Evesham Park, Lake Walker, Mid-Govans
Claremont/Armistead	Armistead Gardens, Orchard Ridge
Clifton-Berea	Berea, Biddle Street, Broadway East, Darley Park, South Clifton Park
Cross-Country/Cheswolde	Cheswolde, Cross Country
Dickeyville/Franklinton	Dickeyville, Franklinton, Purnell, Wakefield
Dorchester/Ashburton	Ashburton, Callaway-Garrison, Central Forest Park, Dofield, Dorchester, East Arlington
Downtown/Seton Hill	Downtown, Seton Hill
Edmondson Village	Edgewood, Edmondson Village, Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, Rognel Heights



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## CSA Composition

Used for the Citywide Survey

*Neighborhoods that comprise each CSA*

Inner Harbor/Federal Hill	NSAs
Inner Harbor/Federal Hill	Downtown West, Federal Hill, Inner Harbor, Otterbein, Ridgely's Delight, Riverside, Sharp-Leadenhall, South Baltimore, Stadium Area
Lauraville	Arcadia, Belair-Parkside, Beverly Hills, Lauraville, Moravia-Walther, Morgan Park, Walthersom
Loch Raven	Glen Oaks, Idlewood, Loch Raven, Mt. Pleasant Park, Ramblewood, Woodbourne Heights
Madison/East End	Madison-Eastend, McElderry Park, Milton-Montford
Medfield/Hampden/Woodberry/Remington	Hampden, Hoes Heights, Jones Falls Area, Medfield, Remington, Woodberry, Wyman Park
Midtown	Bolton Hill, Charles North, Greenmount West, Mid-Town Belvedere, Mount Vernon
CSA Midway/Coldstream	Coldstream Homestead Montebello East Baltimore Midway
Morrell Park/Violetville	Morrell Park, Oaklee, Saint Agnes, Saint Paul, Violetville, Wilhelm Park
Mt. Washington/Coldspring	Coldspring, Mt. Washington, Sabina-Mattfeldt
North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland	Bellona-Gittings, Blythwood, Cedarcroft, Guilford, Homeland, Kernewood, Lake Evesham, Loyola/Notre Dame, Radnor-Winston, Rosebank, The Orchards, Tuscany-Canterbury, Villages Of Homeland, York-Homeland
Northwood	Hillen, Montebello, Morgan State University, New Northwood, Original Northwood, Perring Loch, Stonewood-Pentwood-Winston
Oldtown/Middle East	CARE, Dunbar-Broadway, Gay Street, Middle East, Oldtown, Penn-Fallsview, Pleasant View Gardens
Orangeville/East Highlandtown	Baltimore Highlands, Bayview, Eastwood, Greentown, Hopkins Bayview, Kresson, Orangeville, Orangeville Industrial Area, Pulaski Industrial Area
Patterson Park North & East	Ellwood Park/Monument, Patterson Park Neighborhood, Patterson Place



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## CSA Composition

Used for the Citywide Survey

*Neighborhoods that comprise each CSA*

CSA	NSAs
Fells Point	Butcher's Hill, Fells Point, Upper Fells Point
Forest Park/Walbrook	Concerned Citizens Of Forest Park, Fairmont, Forest Park, Garwyn Oaks, Mount Holly, West Forest Park, Windsor Hills
Glen-Falstaff	Fallstaff, Glen, Reisterstown Station, Woodmere
Greater Charles Village/Barclay	Abell, Barclay, Charles Village, Harwood, Johns Hopkins Homewood, Oakenshawe, Old Goucher
Greater Govans	Kenilworth Park, Pen Lucy, Richnor Springs, Wilson Park, Winston-Govans, Woodbourne-McCabe, Wrenlane
Greater Mondawmin	Burleith-Leighton, Hanlon-Longwood, Liberty Square, Mondawmin, Panway/Braddish Avenue, Walbrook
Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill	Cross Keys, Evergreen, Keswick, North Roland Park/Poplar Hill, Roland Park, Wyndhurst
Greater Rosemont	Bridgeview/Greenlawn, Coppin Heights/Ash-Co-East, Evergreen Lawn, Franklinton Road, Mosher, Northwest Community Action, Rosemont, Rosemont Homewoners/Tenants, Winchester
Greenmount East	Greenmount Cemetery, Johnston Square, Oliver
Hamilton	Glenham-Belford, Rosemont East, Westfield
Harbor East/Little Italy	Jonestown, Little Italy, Perkins Homes, Washington Hill
Harford/Echodale	Harford-Echodale/Perring Parkway, North Harford Road, Overlea, Taylor Heights
Highlandtown	Brewers Hill, Highlandtown
Howard Park/West Arlington	Forest Park Golf Course, Grove Park, Howard Park, Seton Business Park, West Arlington



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## CSA Composition

Used for the Citywide Survey

*Neighborhoods that comprise each CSA*

CSA	NSAs
Penn North/Reservoir Hill	Ellwood Park/Monument, Patterson Park Neighborhood, Patterson Place
Pimlico/Arlington/Hilltop	Arlington, Central Park Heights, Cylburn, Langston Hughes, Levindale, Pimlico Good Neighbors
Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market	Hollins Market, Poppleton
Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park	Easterwood, Harlem Park, Midtown-Edmondson, Sandtown-Winchester
South Baltimore	Locust Point, Locust Point Industrial Area, Port Covington
Southeastern	Canton Industrial Area, Dundalk Marine Terminal, Graceland Park, Holabird Industrial Park, Medford, O'Donnell Heights, Saint Helena, Spring Garden Industrial Area
Southern Park Heights	Greenspring, Lucille Park, Park Circle, Parklane, Towanda-Grantley
Southwest Baltimore	Booth-Boyd, Carrollton Ridge, Franklin Square, Milhill, New Southwest/Mt. Clare, Penrose/Fayette Street Outreach, Shipley Hill, Union Square
The Waverlies	Better Waverly, Ednor Gardens-Lakeside, Waverly
Upton/Druid Heights	Druid Heights, Heritage Crossing, Madison Park, Upton
Washington Village/Pigtown	Barre Circle, Carroll-Camden Industrial Area, Carroll Park, Washington Village/Pigtown
Westport/Mt. Winans/Lakeland	Lakeland, Mt. Winans, Westport



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### Stage 3: USER SURVEY Response and Analysis Detail

- In total, 802 usable\* responses were received as of June 15, 2018.
- At the 95% level of confidence, the maximum expected error range for a sample of 802 residents is +/- 3.5% at the City level.
- In addition to analysis of the results by the total number of respondents, cross-tabulations were developed.
- Statistical significance testing was conducted among analytic groups. Very few questions showed statistically significant differences by demographic or geographic group.
- The data was segmented by the following demographic, and behavioral measures:
  - Race/ethnicity (African-American/Black, Caucasian/White, Other races/ethnicities – Hispanic, Native, Asian, Mixed)
  - Age (less than 18 years, 18-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-54 years, 55-64 years, 65 years and older)
  - Household income (\$24,999 or less, \$25,000-\$49,999, \$50,000-\$74,999, \$75,000-\$99,999, \$100,000 or more)
  - Gender
  - Responsibility for children (living in or out of the immediate household)
  - Geography – Users who live in the City and in the counties surrounding it.

\*In total, 868 online and paper survey responses were collected. However 66 paper surveys were received but not sufficiently completed to be included in the analysis.



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### Geographic Area Composition

Developed for the User Survey

*CSAs that comprise each geographic category*

CSA	Geographic Category	CSA	Geographic Category
Allendale/ Irvington/ South Hilton	West	Fells Point	East
Beechfield/ Ten Hills/ West Hills	West	Forest Park/Walbrook	West
Belair-Edison	Northeast	Glen-Falstaff	Northwest
Brooklyn/Curtis Bay/Hawkins Point	South	Greater Charles Village/Barclay	North
Canton	East	Greater Govans	North
Cedonia/Frankford	Northeast	Greater Mondawmin	West
Cherry Hill	South	Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill	North
Chinquapin Park/Belvedere	North	Greater Rosemont	West
Claremont/Armistead	Northeast	Greenmount East	East
Clifton-Berea	East	Hamilton	Northeast
Cross-Country/Cheswolde	Northwest	Harbor East/Little Italy	East
Dickeyville/Franklinton	West	Harford/Echodale	Harford/Echodale
Dorchester/Ashburton	Northwest	Highlandtown	East
Downtown/Seton Hill	Downtown	Howard Park/West Arlington	Northwest
Edmondson Village	West		



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### Stage 3: USER SURVEY: Geographic Detail

*Where do respondents to the User Survey live?*

- At the request of BCRP, respondents to the user survey were asked to identify where they live...in the region and if appropriate, within Baltimore.
  - Baltimore City residents were asked to select from a list of 55 communities in Baltimore.
    - The list of communities was obtained from the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicator Alliance, Jacob France Institute, University of Baltimore (Bniajfi.org). These communities are groupings of neighborhoods by geography and other indicators, called Community Statistical Areas (CSA).
    - Respondents who could not indicate their community were asked to identify their street and block number. Responses were then matched back to communities using BNIA community definitions.
- After responses were received, analysis by individual community was not conducted because insufficient responses to this question were received for analysis to be reliable. As such, **communities were grouped into seven larger geographic area within the City of Baltimore** for analysis.
  - A list of the seven larger the geographic areas, with the CSAs and the neighborhoods that comprise them, along with the response received from each geographic area and CSA are contained in the Appendix.



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### Geographic Area Composition

Developed for the User Survey

*CSAs that comprise each geographic category*

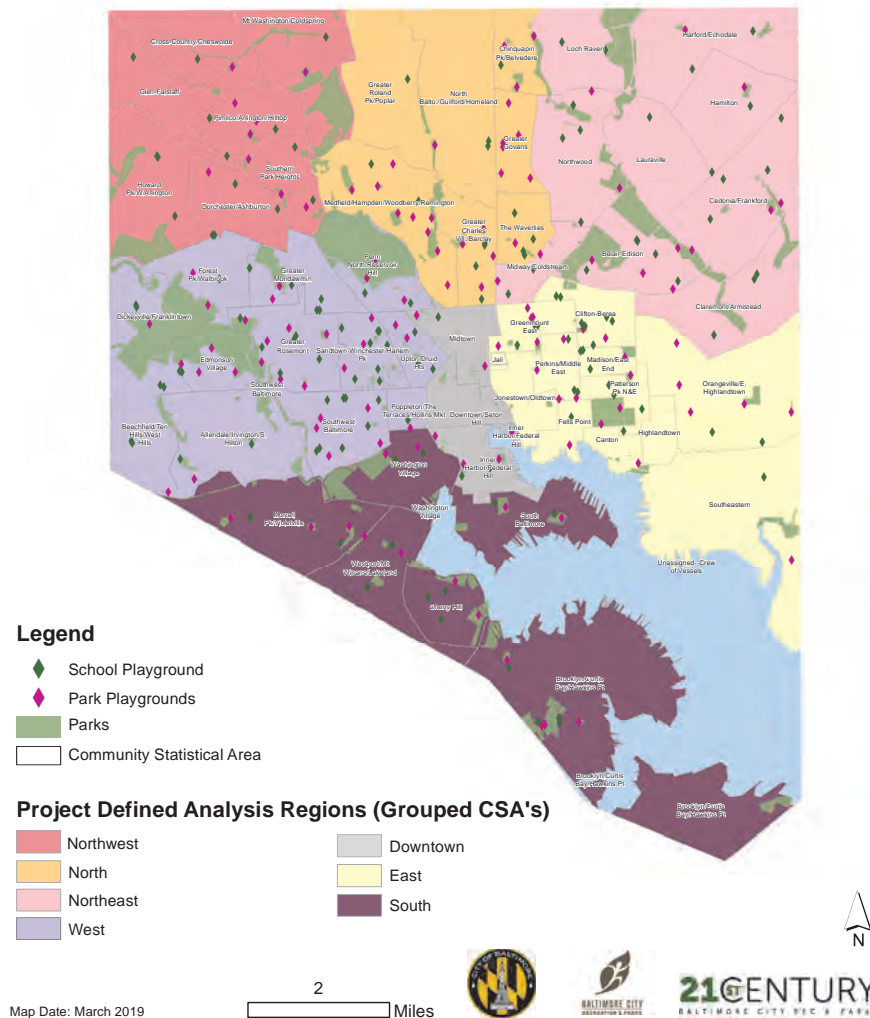
CSA	Geographic Category	CSA	Geographic Category
Inner Harbor/Federal Hill	Downtown	Penn North/Reservoir Hill	West
Lauraville	Northeast	Pimlico/Arlington/Hilltop	Northwest
Loch Raven	Northeast	Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market	West
Madison/East End	East	Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park	West
Medfield/Hampden/Woodberry/ Remington	North	South Baltimore	South
Midtown	Downtown	Southeastern	East
CSA Midway/Coldstream	Northeast	Southern Park Heights	Northwest
Morrell Park/Violetville	South	Southwest Baltimore	West
Mt. Washington/Coldspring	Northwest	The Waverlies	North
North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland	North	Upton/Druid Heights	West
Northwood	Northeast	Washington Village/Pigtown	South
Oldtown/Middle East	East	Westport/Mt. Winans/Lakeland	South
Orangeville/East Highlandtown	East		
Patterson Park North & East	East		



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**Figure 9: BCRP Parks by CSA's and Defined Regions**



## Rec2025 Plan - Process, Performance Goals and Survey Findings

## Rec2025 Plan Survey Findings, Process and Performance Goals

### Survey Findings:

- Q1. Frequency of BCRP use?
  - A few times a week (English)
  - Every day (Spanish)
- Q2. Transportation accessibility?
  - Unsure (English)
  - Easy (Spanish)
- Q3. Enjoy experience?
  - Strongly agree (English and Spanish)
- Q4. Park is most welcoming when...
  - Litter and trash removal (English and Spanish)
- Q5. Rec Center is most welcoming when...
  - Equipment at facility is in working condition (English)
  - Updates to the public about facility usage (Spanish)
- Q6. Facilities used most?
  - Multi-Use Trails (English)
  - Playgrounds (Spanish)
- Q7. Programs we want to see?
  - Concerts/films in the park (English)
  - Out of school time/After school care AND Swim lessons (Spanish)
- Q8. Most important to improve?
  - Activities to bring the neighborhood, community, and City together (English and Spanish)
- Q9. Top BCRP outreach effort?
  - Social Media (English)
  - BCRP Website AND Email Blasts (Spanish)

### Process:

The development of Rec2025 was a multi-layered approach. Building on the 2019 Vision Plan, BCRP reviewed past plans and met with our leadership, staff, and community to reassess the various interests and needs. BCRP reviewed 26 past master plans from May to June 2019 to identify what has been promised to various communities in Baltimore. From June to August 2019, interviews took place with each member of the then-Executive Team (19 total) to determine the vision for their respective Division, as well as identify any issues and opportunities that may affect the Division's work; trends from the interviews were also analyzed during this time.

On September 11, 2019, Rec2025 publicly launched and the survey opened up to the public; the survey closed on October 25, 2019 with approximately 900 responses. During this time, resident town halls, partner roundtables, staff focus groups, and youth pop-ups at recreation centers also took place; BCRP also installed a Steering Committee comprised of staff and external stakeholders to help guide the Agency while building the plan. There were eight town halls total; five were location-based and three were specialized focusing on seniors, youth, and accessibility. BCRP engaged approximately 300 residents through the interactive town halls. Three partner roundtables took place with Friends Of groups, non-profit and for-profit

businesses, and City Agencies. Six staff focus groups were held, two for each BCRP Bureau. Finally, six youth pop ups at our recreation centers took place, which engaged over 130 youth ages 13-19. BCRP also met with then-Mayor Bernard "Jack" Young and then-City Council President Brandon Scott (now Mayor Brandon Scott) to understand their vision for BCRP and the City.

From October to November 2019, BCRP worked with its Steering Committee to analyze the results from the various meetings and surveys to identify key findings that were used to build out the performance measures, at-large categories, goals, and financial implications. In November 2019, the draft Plan was developed and open to the public for comment until December. On December 31, 2019, Rec2025 was published in English and Spanish to the public, staff, and stakeholders.

### Key Findings:

Below are key findings/top responses broken down by type of meeting:

#### Leadership:

- Staffing Size
- Training
- Resources
- Internal Funding
- Communication

#### Staff:

- Communication
- Morale
- Programming
- Professional Development
- MarCom

#### Staff by Bureau:

##### Admin:

- Communication
- Morale
- Organization

##### Recreation:

- Programming
- Morale
- Communication

##### Parks:

- Morale
- Communication
- Staffing

#### Townhalls:

##### Central – Shake & Bake

- Rec Center Programming

##### NW – Vollmer Center

- Natural Resources
- NE – Northwood*
- Upkeep/Accountability
- SW – Fred B. Leidig*
- Renovate/Build Facilities
  - Youth Programming
- SE – Virginia S. Baker*
- Cultural Events
  - Park Lights
- Special – Special Population*
- Additional location
  - Partnership
- Special – Teen*
- Connecting with Youth
- Special – Seniors*
- Safety
  - Transportation

#### **Partners:**

##### *Engage community?*

- Show up to [community] meetings
- Faith-based Organizations
- Frequent engagement with community

##### *Partnerships?*

- Schools
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Community Organizations

##### *Disperse information?*

- Social Media (e.g., Next Door)
- Door-to-Door (Flyers/Handouts)
- Multi-format approach

##### *Community “buy-in”?*

- Transparency in process
- Listen
- Be present in the community

#### **Youth Pop-Ups:**

##### *CC Jackson*

- Later Recreation Center times
- More life experiences
- Academic and Mentoring

##### *Chick Webb*

- Better basketball court/space
- Vending Machines
- WiFi

##### *Rita Church*

- Mentoring
- Vending Machines
- Themed nights

##### *Mary E. Rodman*

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Life Skills (stress, hygiene, trauma, finances)
- Program variety

##### *Parkview*

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Life Skills (stress, drugs, trauma, hygiene)
- Program variety

##### *Medfield*

- Volunteer/Job Opportunities
- Program variety
- Changes in outdoor space

#### **Issues and Opportunities that informed the development of the Rec2025 Goals and Recommendations. Performance measures and Performance goals:**

The key findings from the town halls, surveys, partner roundtables, staff focus groups, and leadership interviews helped shape how BCRP envisioned its future. Additionally, the past master plans highlighted the ongoing needs of various Baltimore communities and what gaps still needed to be addressed. All of the information provided shaped our five at-large categories:

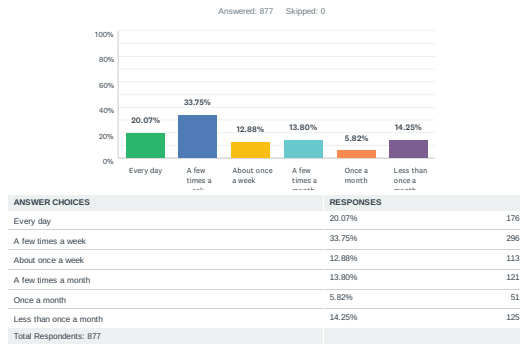
- ***Our Culture***, which focuses on our staff;
- ***Our Community***, which concentrates on our residents and partners;
- ***Our Work***, which shapes BCRP’s infrastructure;
- ***Our Spaces***, which directs how we care for the physical structures and green spaces; and
- ***Looking Back to Move Forward***, which concentrates on capital projects.

Each category has five goals per year, with the exception of Looking Back to Move Forward, which has one goal per year, totaling 21 goals a year. The goals build on each other each year. Upon completion of all the goals, we would meet the performance measures for the category as well as the performance measures for Rec2025 as a whole.



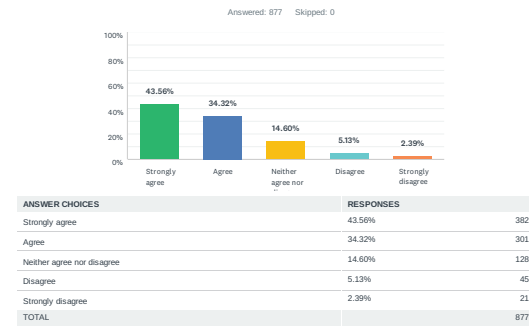
# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

Q1 How frequently do you use Baltimore City's parks, recreation facilities, or programs?



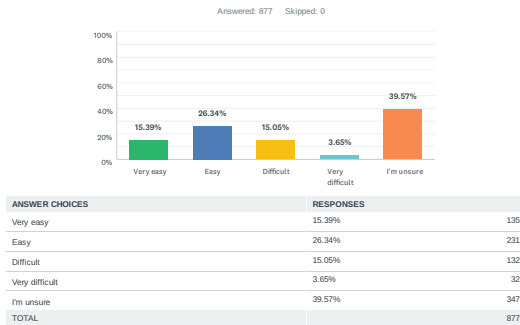
# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

Q3 I enjoy visiting the Baltimore City parks, recreation facilities, or programs in my neighborhood.



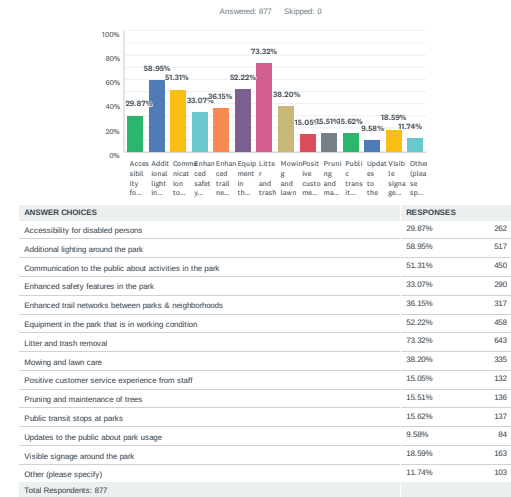
# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

Q2 Are the Baltimore City parks, recreation facilities, or programs you want to visit easily accessible by public transportation?



# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

Q4 I consider a park to be more welcoming when there is... (CHECK UP TO 5 RESPONSES)



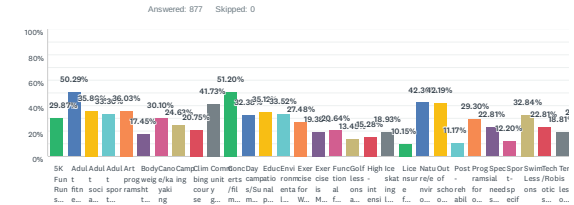
# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

Q5 I consider a recreation center to be more welcoming when there is...  
(CHECK UP TO 5 RESPONSES)



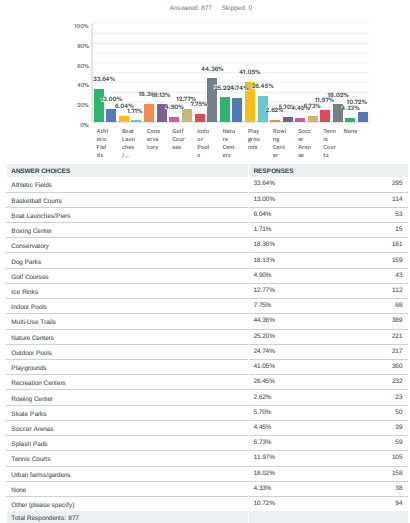
# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

Q7 Which programs would you like to see at BCRP? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)



# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

Q6 Which BCRP recreation facilities do you use the most? (CHECK UP TO 5 RESPONSES)

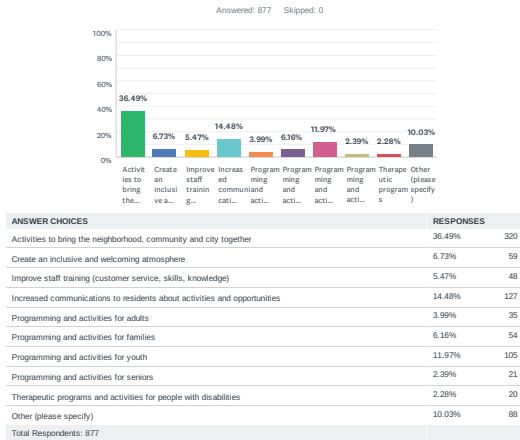


# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
SK Fun Run series	292
Adult fitness and wellness programs	441
Adult senior programs	314
Art programs	292
Bodyweight training	153
Canoe/kayaking	264
Camping	218
Climbing course	182
Community gardening	366
Concerts/festivals in parks	449
Day camps/Summer camps	284
Educational programs	368
Environmental education	294
Exercise for Weight Loss	241
Exercise to Medicine	170
Functional fitness training	181
Golf lessons and leagues	118
High-intensity interval training	134
Ice skating lessons	166
Literature for fitness professionals	89
Nature/environmental programs	371
Out of school time/After school care	370
Post-rehabilitation classes	98
Programs for older adults	297
Special needs programs	350
Sport-specific training	327
Swim lessons	288
Tech/Robotics/STEM	200
Tennis lessons and leagues	165
Water fitness programs	215
Yoga/Mindfulness	335
Youth fitness and wellness programs	321
Youth sports programs	360
Youth summer camp	357
None	8
Other (please specify)	91
Total Respondents: 877	

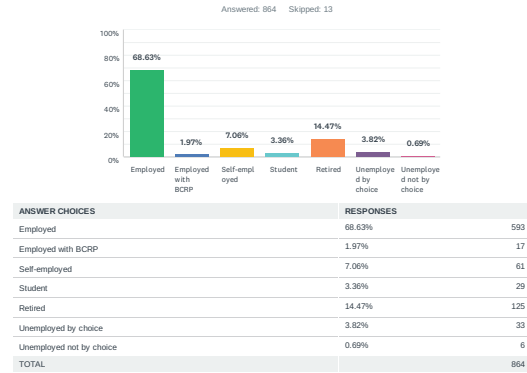
# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

Q8 What is the most important BCRP feature that could be improved?  
(ONLY CHOOSE ONE RESPONSE)



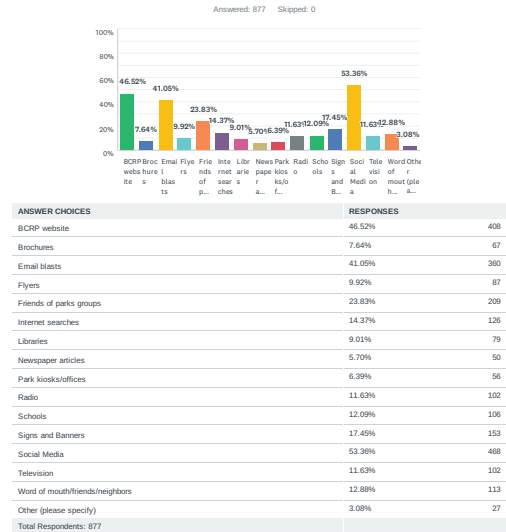
# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

Q11 What is your employment status?



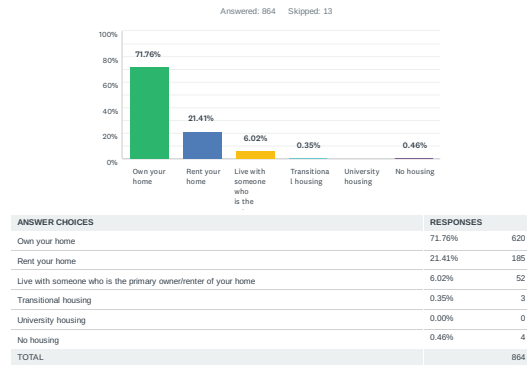
# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

Q9 Check the top 3 ways you would like to learn about Baltimore City's parks, recreation facilities, or programs.



# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

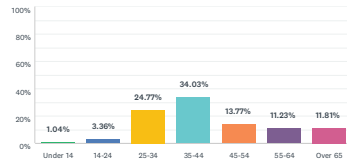
Q12 What is your housing status?



# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

## Q13 What is your age?

Answered: 864 Skipped: 13

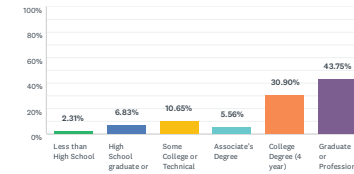


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 14	1.04%
14-24	3.36%
25-34	24.77%
35-44	34.03%
45-54	13.77%
55-64	11.23%
Over 65	11.81%
TOTAL	864

# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

## Q15 What is the highest grade or year of school that you completed?

Answered: 864 Skipped: 13

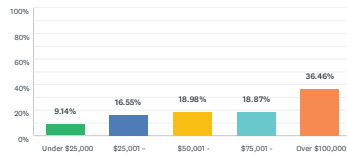


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Less than High School	2.31%
High School graduate or GED	6.83%
Some College or Technical School	10.65%
Associate's Degree	5.56%
College Degree (4 year)	30.90%
Graduate or Professional Degree	43.75%
TOTAL	864

# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

## Q14 What is your annual household income?

Answered: 864 Skipped: 13

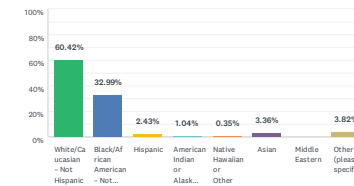


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under \$25,000	9.14%
\$25,001 - \$50,000	16.55%
\$50,001 - \$75,000	18.98%
\$75,001 - \$100,000	18.87%
Over \$100,000	36.46%
TOTAL	864

# Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

## Q16 What is your race/ethnicity?

Answered: 864 Skipped: 13



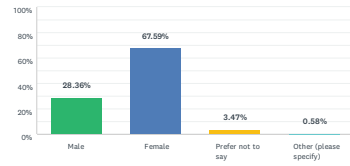
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
White/Caucasian - Not Hispanic	60.42%
Black/African American - Not Hispanic	32.99%
Hispanic	2.43%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.04%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.35%
Asian	3.36%
Middle Eastern	0.00%
Other (please specify)	3.82%
Total Respondents: 864	



Recreation 2025: Citizen Survey

Q17 What is your gender?

Answered: 854 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Male	28.36% 245
Female	67.59% 584
Prefer not to say	3.47% 30
Other (please specify)	0.58% 5
TOTAL	854

## Sample Program Evaluation Forms - Therapeutic Recreation and Family League Youth Programming

## Evaluation Form



Baltimore City Recreation and Parks  
Therapeutic Recreation Division  
**Program Survey**



From the choices below please select the one that best describes you:

- ☐ Program Participant      ☐ Group home supervisor  
☐ Parent/Guardian of participant      ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Day Center staff/supervisor

What Baltimore City TR programs have you (or your child/client) participated in over the last 12 months?

- |                        |                 |                      |                   |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Dance Movement         | Disc Golf       | Water Fitness        | Special Olympics  |
| Arts & Crafts          | Wheelchair      | Nature Education     | Community Program |
| Friday Social or Bingo | Basketball      | Therapeutic          | Other _____       |
| Fishing                | Goalball        | Gardening            |                   |
| TR Discos              | Children's      | Special Olympics Day |                   |
| Canoeing               | Performing Arts | Program              |                   |
| Bowling                | Summer Camp     |                      |                   |

Please rate the following by selecting your closest agreement with the following statements:

### Program

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
The registration process was relatively easy.	€	€	€	€	€	€
The program/event was accessible.	€	€	€	€	€	€
The quality of the program met my expectations.	€	€	€	€	€	€
I would highly recommend similar TR programs/events to others.	€	€	€	€	€	€

### Staff/Instructors

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
The TR staff (or guest instructors) treated me / participant with courtesy and respect.	€	€	€	€	€	€
The TR staff was involved and encouraged participation.	€	€	€	€	€	€
The TR staff was knowledgeable about program/event.	€	€	€	€	€	€

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### Facility

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The facility was clean and safe.	€	€	€	€	€

### Therapeutic Outcomes from participation

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
I / Participant demonstrated an improvement in physical fitness / overall health and well-being.	€	€	€	€	€	€
I / Participant demonstrated increased socialization.	€	€	€	€	€	€
I / Participant demonstrated improvement in a leisure skill.	€	€	€	€	€	€
I / Participant indicated having a positive recreational experience.	€	€	€	€	€	€

### Overall Experience

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Unsured	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
My overall feeling about BCRP Therapeutic Recreation Programming	€	€	€	€	€

Please add any comments or suggestions on how this program can be improved:

What suggestions do you have for new programs?

If you would like to be contacted regarding this program, please provide name and contact information:

Thank you for taking the time to participate in our survey. Please scan and return the survey via e-mail to Bob Signor at [Robert.signor@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Robert.signor@baltimorecity.gov) or mail a hard copy to the following address:

Farring Baybrook Recreation Center  
Attn: Bob Signor  
4501 Farring Court  
Baltimore, MD 21225

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## FY 2021 Youth Survey

1. Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. In this program, I...

	Yes 	No 	Don't Know 
a) feel safe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) work well with others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) fix my problems with others without fighting or yelling.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) help others when they need help.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) know people know and care when I am not here.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) get to choose at least one activity that I like.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) am treated fairly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. This program helps me...

	Yes 	No 	Don't Know 
a) get better grades in school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) finish my homework more times a week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) learn something new that I use in school and life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) learn about staying safe and staying out of trouble.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) find better ways to fix my problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) become a better leader.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) learn more about the place where I live.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. The adults in this program...

	Yes 	No 	Don't Know 
a) are good examples for me and others on doing the right things and treating others well.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) explain things so I can understand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) know my name.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) tell me when I do a good job.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) give me help in the ways I need it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) care about me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) give everyone the same chance to do things in the program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2

5. I want to...

	Yes 	No 	Don't Know 
a) make it to the next grade.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) get my high school diploma.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) go to college.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. I want to...

	Yes 	No 	Don't Know 
a) do this program again.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If "No" or "Don't Know," tell us why: \_\_\_\_\_

7. What kind of job would you like to have when you are older?

8. What is the best thing about this program?

9. What would make this program better?

10. Grade

<input type="checkbox"/> 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 <sup>th</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 <sup>th</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 <sup>th</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 <sup>th</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 <sup>th</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> 8 <sup>th</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 <sup>th</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 <sup>th</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> 9 <sup>th</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not in school

11. I am a...

<input type="checkbox"/> Boy/Man
<input type="checkbox"/> Girl/Woman
<input type="checkbox"/> Do not want to say
<input type="checkbox"/> I will write my answer:

12. I am... (please choose all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian American
<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
<input type="checkbox"/> White or Caucasian
<input type="checkbox"/> Do not want to say
<input type="checkbox"/> I will write my answer:

13. Did you go to this program last school year?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No

14. How many days a week do you come to this program?

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 day	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 days
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 days	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 days
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 days	

## BALTIMORE CITY RECREATION & PARKS PERMIT AND SENIOR PARTICIPATION DATA

### Permit Data by Park

# of Permits Issued Per Year by Park			
Location	2019	2020	2021
Alexander Odum Park	0	0	1
Alhambra Park	16	0	4
Ambrose Kennedy Park	26	0	1
Anchorage Promenade Park	0	0	1
Arnold Sumpter Park	23	5	9
Baltimore Rowing Center @ Middle Branch Park	277	206	241
Belnor Squares Park	1	0	0
Betty Hyatt Park	7	0	0
Bocek Park	122	12	103
Broadway Market Square	17	126	10
Broadway Pier	11	4	4
Buena Vista Park	0	0	2
Burdick Park	4	0	0
C.C. Jackson Park	411	9	380
Calvert & Madison Park	1	0	0
Canton Soccer Park	0	0	1
Canton Waterfront Park	62	38	34
Caroline & Hoffman Park	0	0	1
Carroll Park	558	690	621
Castle St Park	0	1	0
Chick Webb Park	0	0	2
City Springs Park	83	13	12
Clifton Park	430	771	512
Cloverdale	2	32	179
Collington Sq Park	2	0	0
Columbus Park	1	0	3
Conway St Park	2	0	0
Cottage Ave Park	0	0	3
Cumberland & Carey Park "Ellwood Brown"	1	0	0
Curtis Bay Park	4	0	7
Desoto Park	1	0	1
Deweese Park	70	36	155
Druid Hill Park	3152	1081	2835
Dypksi Park	1	0	0
Easterwood Park	138	122	111
Edgecombe Park	2	0	1
Elgin Park	0	0	1
Ellwood Ave Park	71	0	0
Elmley Ave Park	0	0	1
Eutaw Place Median Park	0	0	2
Farring Baybrook Park	405	85	517
Federal Hill Park	38	14	25
Florence Cummings Park	32	0	7
Fort Armistead Park	1	0	1



# of Permits Issued Per Year by Park			
Location	2019	2020	2021
Fort Holabird Park	232	14	154
Franklin Sq Park	3	3	0
Garret Park	9	9	1
German Park	0	0	1
Gwynns Falls Trail Head 2	0	9	2
Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park	339	610	720
Hanlon Park	6	0	5
Harbor Point	0	0	2
Harlem Square Park	7	4	3
Harwood Ave Park	1	0	0
Helen Mackall Park "Evergreen"	0	0	3
Henry H Garnet Park	1	1	2
Herring Run Park	531	839	324
Herring Run Trail Head	0	5	22
Holocaust Memorial Park	1	0	0
Hyde Park	0	0	1
Inner Harbor Park	1880	721	1202
Irvin Luckman Park	3	30	3
Irvington Park	95	0	26
Jack Paulsen Park "Lucille"	5	0	0
Johnston Sq Park	5	1	2
Jones Falls Trail	0	0	1
Jones Falls Trail North	0	0	1
Joseph E Lee Park	138	21	176
Keyes Field	676	488	1040
Lafayette Square Park	3	1	1
Lakeland Park	83	7	32
Latrobe Park	816	204	721
Madison Square Park	53	0	0
Mary E. Rodman Park	10	1	31
Mckim Park	1	1	0
Montebello Park	0	0	17
Morrell Park	0	15	0
Mount Pleasant Park	0	0	196
Mount Vernon Sq Park	37	44	150
Mullan Park	2	1	1
Mund Park	63	0	64
North Harford Park	116	20	103
Northwest Park	41	307	747
O'Donnell Sq Park	9	2	0
Patterson Park	2545	2126	2922
Pauline Fauntleroy	13	0	10
Pearlstone Park	51	1	0
Pennsylvania Triangle	3	4	37

# of Permits Issued Per Year by Park			
Location	2019	2020	2021
Powder Mill Park	0	0	4
Preston Gardens Park	5	0	0
Radecke Park	116	60	169
Reedbird Park	10	3	1
Reservior Hill Park	1	0	0
Riverside Park	172	12	109
Robert C Marshall Park	4	98	144
Roosevelt Park	409	344	720
Saint Casmir's Park	1	0	0
Solo Gibbs Park	77	19	41
St. Leo's Bocce Court	19	2	55
St. Mary's Park	1	0	0
Stoney Run Park "Linkwood"	2	1	2
Stricker & Ramsey Park "Traci Atkins"	4	5	1
Swann Park	275	256	237
Thames Street	5	0	3
Towanda Park	3	0	187
Union Sq Park	5	0	1
Violetville Park	2	0	0
War Memorial Plaza	14	42	10
Wilbur H. Waters Park	0	0	1
Willow Ave Park	2	0	1
Wyman Park	343	26	260
Wyman Park Dell	5	10	7
<b>TOTAL # OF PERMITS ISSUED</b>	<b>15,225</b>	<b>9,612</b>	<b>16,464</b>

BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF AGING AND CARE SERVICES

SUBGRANTEE – FY 2021 CLOSEOUT REPORT  
TITLE IIIB FUNDS

For Funding Period 10/1/2020 – 9/30/2021

Service Needs Form A

NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED FOR FY21  
SUPPORTED BY OAA TITLE III FUNDS

FY 2021

Name of Applicant: Cherry Hill Senior Center

A. Unduplicated Client Count by Type of Service	TOTAL
1) Unduplicated Count of Persons Served in <i>Registered</i> Services Supported by OAA Title III Funds. (Enter number from Form B1, last line, Total Unduplicated <i>Registered</i> Clients)	0
2) Unduplicated Count of Persons Served for <i>Other</i> Services Supported by OAA Title III Funds. (Enter number from Form B2, last line, Total Unduplicated <i>Other</i> Clients)	182
3) Total Unduplicated Count of Persons Served Through Services Supported by OAA Title III Funds. <b>This Total is not necessarily the Sum of 1 and 2. There may be duplicates between 1 and 2, that is, the same person may use both <i>Registered</i> and <i>Other</i> Services and that person may only be counted once.)</b>	182

B. Title III Unduplicated Clients by Characteristic	Clients for Registered Services	Clients for Other Services	Clients for All Services
<b>1. Total Clients by Minority and non-minority Status</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>182</b>
<i>African-American</i>		154	154
<i>Hispanic Origin</i>			
<i>American Indian/Native American</i>			
<i>Asian American/Pacific Islander</i>			
<i>Non-minority</i>		28	28
<b>2. Rural Clients</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>3. Clients in Poverty</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>4. Minority Clients in Poverty</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>108</b>

**Service Needs Form B1**

<i>Service</i>	<i>Total Unduplicated Persons Served in FY 2021.</i>	<i>Unit of Measurement and Definition of Service Unit</i>	<i>Units of Service Provided in FY 2021.</i>
1) Personal Care		1 hour of service = 1 unit of service	
2) Homemaker		1 hour of service = 1 unit of service	
3) Chore		1 hour of service = 1 unit of service	
4) Home Delivered Meals		1 Meal = 1 unit of service	
5) Adult Day Care		1 hour of service = 1 unit of service	
6) Case Management		1 hour of service = 1 unit of service	
7) Congregate Meals	0	1 Meal = 1 unit of service	0
8) Nutrition Counseling		1 hour of service = 1 unit of service (Counseling is on an individual basis.)	
9) Assisted Transportation		1 one-way trip = 1 unit of service (Person assisting must ride the vehicle and assist both to and from the vehicle.)	
Total Unduplicated Clients served in Registered Services. (Carry this figure to Form A Row A1.)	0	<i>This number should be no more than the sum of the column headed "Total Unduplicated Persons to be Served in FY 2021"; and may be less if some of the persons served use more than one service. That is, a person using more than one of these services should only be counted once in the Total Unduplicated Other Clients.</i>	

**Service Needs Form B2**

<b>Form B2 Title III of the Older Americans Act "Other Services"</b>			
<i>Service</i>	<i>Total Unduplicated Persons Served in FY 2021.</i>	<i>Unit of Measurement and Definition of Service Unit</i>	<i>Units of Service Provided in FY 2021</i>
10) Transportation	25	1 one-way trip = 1 unit of service	1500
11) Legal Assistance		1 hour of service = 1 unit of service	
12) Nutrition Education		1 session or class = 1 unit of service	
13) Senior Information and Assistance	47	1 contact, by phone or in person = 1 unit of service	736
14) Outreach		1 contact initiated by the organization = 1 unit of service	
15) Counseling		1 Hour of service = 1 unit of service	
16) Recreation	25	1 session or class = 1 unit of service	42
17) Education	20	1 session or class = 1 unit of service	12
18) Exercise /Physical Fitness	85	1 session or class = 1 unit of service	33
19) Health Promotion	50	1 session or class = 1 unit of service	36
20) Home or Roommate Matching		1 Match = 1 unit of service.	
18) Telephone Reassurance		1 Telephone contact = 1 unit of service.	
22) Friendly Visiting		1 home visit = 1 unit of service	
Total Unduplicated Clients served in Other Services. (Carry this figure to Form A Row A2.)	182	<i>This number should be no more than the sum of the column headed "Total Unduplicated Persons to be Served in FY 2021"; and may be less if some of the persons served use more than one service. That is, a person using more than one of these services should only be counted once in the Total Unduplicated Other Clients.</i>	

# RECREATION TRENDS ANALYSIS

## 2.3 RECREATIONAL TRENDS ANALYSIS

The Trends Analysis provides an understanding of national, regional, and local recreational trends as well as generational participation trends. Trends data used for this analysis was obtained from Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA), National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). All trends data is based on current and/or historical participation rates, statistically valid survey results, or NRPA Park Metrics.

### 2.3.1 NATIONAL TRENDS IN RECREATION

#### METHODOLOGY

The Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA) *Sports, Fitness & Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report 2019* was utilized in evaluating the following trends:

- National Sport and Fitness Participatory Trends
- Core vs. Casual Participation Trends
- Participation by Generation
- Non-Participant Interest by Age Segment



The study is based on findings from surveys carried out in 2018 by the Physical Activity Council (PAC), resulting in a total of 20,069 online interviews. Surveys were administered to all genders, ages, income levels, regions, and ethnicities to allow for statistical accuracy of the national population. A sample size of 20,069 completed interviews is considered by SFIA to result in a high degree of statistical accuracy. A sport with a participation rate of five percent has a confidence interval of plus or minus 0.31 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. Using a weighting technique, survey results are applied to the total U.S. population figure of 300,652,039 people (ages six and older). The purpose of the report is to establish levels of activity and identify key participatory trends in recreation across the U.S.

#### CORE VS. CASUAL PARTICIPATION

In addition to overall participation rates, SFIA further categorizes active participants as either core or casual participants based on frequency. Core participants have higher participatory frequency than casual participants. The thresholds that define casual versus core participation may vary based on the nature of each individual activity. For instance, core participants engage in most fitness and recreational activities more than 50 times per year, while for sports, the threshold for core participation is typically 13 times per year.

In a given activity, core participants are more committed and tend to be less likely to switch to other activities or become inactive (engage in no physical activity) than casual participants. This may also explain why activities with more core participants tend to experience less pattern shifts in participation rates than those with larger groups of casual participants.



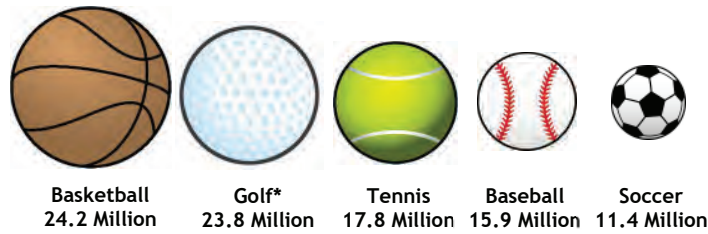
## 2.3.2 NATIONAL SPORT AND FITNESS PARTICIPATORY TRENDS

## NATIONAL TRENDS IN GENERAL SPORTS

## PARTICIPATION LEVELS

The most heavily participated in sports in the United States were Basketball (24.2 million) and Golf (23.8 million in 2017), which have participation figures well in excess of the other activities within the general sports category. This was followed by Tennis (17.8 million), Baseball (15.9 million), and Soccer (11.4 million).

Even though Golf has experienced a recent decrease in participation, it still continues to benefit from its wide age segment appeal and is considered a life-long sport. Basketball's success can be attributed to the limited amount of equipment needed to participate and the limited space requirements necessary, which make basketball the only traditional sport that can be played at the majority of American dwellings as a drive-way pickup game.



## FIVE-YEAR TREND

Since 2013, Roller Hockey (33.6%) and Rugby (31.9%) have emerged as the overall fastest growing sports. During the last five-years, Baseball (19.5%), Cheerleading (18.7%), and Flag Football (17.1%) have also experienced significant growth. Based on the five-year trend, the sports that are most rapidly declining include Ultimate Frisbee (-46.6%), Touch Football (-22.7%), Tackle Football (-16.4%), Badminton (-11.4%), and Outdoor Soccer (-10.4%).

## ONE-YEAR TREND

In general, the most recent year shares a similar pattern with the five-year trends; with Pickleball (5.4%), Basketball (3.5%), and Baseball (1.5%) experiencing the greatest increases in participation this past year. However, some sports that increased rapidly over the past five years have experienced recent decreases in participation, such as Roller Hockey (-5.5%). Other sports including Squash (-13.9%) and Ultimate Frisbee (-13.3%) have also seen a significant decrease in participants over the last year.

## CORE VS. CASUAL TRENDS IN GENERAL SPORTS

Highly participated in sports, such as Basketball, Baseball, and Slow Pitch Softball, have a larger core participant base (participate 13+ times per year) than casual participant base (participate 1-12 times per year). While less mainstream sports, such as Ultimate Frisbee, Roller Hockey, Squash, and Boxing for Competition have larger casual participation base. These participants may be more inclined to switch to other sports or fitness activities, which is likely why they have all experienced a decline in participation this past year. *Please see Appendix A for Full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.*

National Participatory Trends - General Sports					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2013	2017	2018	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Golf (9 or 18-Hole Course)	24,720	23,829	N/A	N/A	N/A
Basketball	23,669	23,401	24,225	2.3%	3.5%
Tennis	17,678	17,683	17,841	0.9%	0.9%
Baseball	13,284	15,642	15,877	19.5%	1.5%
Soccer (Outdoor)	12,726	11,924	11,405	-10.4%	-4.4%
Softball (Slow Pitch)	6,868	7,283	7,386	7.5%	1.4%
Football, Flag	5,610	6,551	6,572	17.1%	0.3%
Badminton	7,150	6,430	6,337	-11.4%	-1.4%
Volleyball (Court)	6,433	6,317	6,317	-1.8%	0.0%
Football, Touch	7,140	5,629	5,517	-22.7%	-2.0%
Soccer (Indoor)	4,803	5,399	5,233	9.0%	-3.1%
Football, Tackle	6,165	5,224	5,157	-16.4%	-1.3%
Volleyball (Sand/Beach)	4,769	4,947	4,770	0.0%	-3.6%
Gymnastics	4,972	4,805	4,770	-4.1%	-0.7%
Track and Field	4,071	4,161	4,143	1.8%	-0.4%
Cheerleading	3,235	3,816	3,841	18.7%	0.7%
Racquetball	3,824	3,526	3,480	-9.0%	-1.3%
Pickleball	N/A	3,132	3,301	N/A	5.4%
Ultimate Frisbee	5,077	3,126	2,710	-46.6%	-13.3%
Ice Hockey	2,393	2,544	2,447	2.3%	-3.8%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	2,498	2,309	2,303	-7.8%	-0.3%
Lacrosse	1,813	2,171	2,098	15.7%	-3.4%
Wrestling	1,829	1,896	1,908	4.3%	0.6%
Roller Hockey	1,298	1,834	1,734	33.6%	-5.5%
Rugby	1,183	1,621	1,560	31.9%	-3.8%
Squash	1,414	1,492	1,285	-9.1%	-13.9%
Boxing for Competition	1,134	1,368	1,310	15.5%	-4.2%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

<b>Legend:</b>	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
----------------	--------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------------------

Figure 14 - General Sports Participatory Trends

## NATIONAL TRENDS IN GENERAL FITNESS

## PARTICIPATION LEVELS

Overall, national participatory trends in fitness have experienced strong growth in recent years. Many of these activities have become popular due to an increased interest among Americans to improve their health and enhance quality of life by engaging in an active lifestyle. These activities also have very few barriers to entry, which provides a variety of options that are relatively inexpensive to participate in and can be performed by most individuals. The most popular general fitness activities amongst the U.S. population include: Fitness Walking (111.1 million), Treadmill (53.7 million), Free Weights (51.3 million), Running/Jogging (49.5 million), and Stationary Cycling (36.7 million).



**Fitness Walking**  
111.1 Million



**Treadmill**  
53.7 Million



**Dumbbell Free Weights**  
51.3 Million



**Running/Jogging**  
49.5 Million



**Stationary Cycling**  
36.7 Million

## FIVE-YEAR TREND

Over the last five years (2013-2018), the activities growing most rapidly are Trail Running (47.4%), Aerobics (24.8%), Barre (21.8%), Stair Climbing Machine (18.8%), and Yoga (18.2%). Over the same time frame, the activities that have undergone the biggest decline include: Dumbbell Free Weights (-12.0%), Running/Jogging (-8.7%), Fitness Walking (-5.3%), Traditional Triathlon (-4.2%), and Boot Camps Style Cross Training (-3.1%).

## ONE-YEAR TREND

In the last year, activities with the largest gains in participation were Trail Running (9.4%), Yoga (5.1%), and Elliptical Motion Trainer (3.0%). From 2017-2018, the activities that had the largest decline in participation were Non-Traditional Triathlon (-15.5%), Running/Jogging (-2.6%), and Cross-Training Style Workout (-2.1%).

## CORE VS. CASUAL TRENDS IN GENERAL FITNESS

It should be noted that many of the activities that are rapidly growing have a relatively low user base, which allows for more drastic shifts in terms of percentage, especially for five-year trends. Increasing casual participants may also explain the rapid growth in some activities. All the top trending fitness activities, for the one-year and five-year trend, consist primarily of casual users. This is significant, as casual users are much more likely to switch to alternative activities compared to a core user. *Please see Appendix A for Full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.*

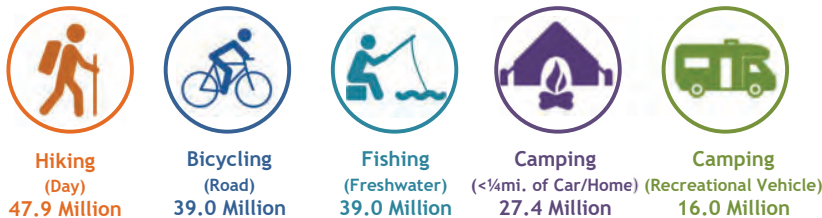
National Participatory Trends - General Fitness					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2013	2017	2018	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Fitness Walking	117,351	110,805	111,101	-5.3%	0.3%
Treadmill	48,166	52,966	53,737	11.6%	1.5%
Free Weights (Dumbbells/Hand Weights)	58,267	52,217	51,291	-12.0%	-1.8%
Running/Jogging	54,188	50,770	49,459	-8.7%	-2.6%
Stationary Cycling (Recumbent/Upright)	35,247	36,035	36,668	4.0%	1.8%
Weight/Resistant Machines	36,267	36,291	36,372	0.3%	0.2%
Elliptical Motion Trainer	30,410	32,283	33,238	9.3%	3.0%
Yoga	24,310	27,354	28,745	18.2%	5.1%
Free Weights (Barbells)	25,641	27,444	27,834	8.6%	1.4%
Bodyweight Exercise	N/A	24,454	24,183	N/A	-1.1%
Dance, Step, & Choreographed Exercise	N/A	22,616	22,391	N/A	-1.0%
Aerobics (High Impact)	17,323	21,476	21,611	24.8%	0.6%
Stair Climbing Machine	12,642	14,948	15,025	18.8%	0.5%
Cross-Training Style Workout	N/A	13,622	13,338	N/A	-2.1%
Trail Running	6,792	9,149	10,010	47.4%	9.4%
Stationary Cycling (Group)	8,309	9,409	9,434	13.5%	0.3%
Pilates Training	8,069	9,047	9,084	12.6%	0.4%
Cardio Kickboxing	6,311	6,693	6,838	8.4%	2.2%
Boot Camp Style Cross-Training	6,911	6,651	6,695	-3.1%	0.7%
Martial Arts	5,314	5,838	5,821	9.5%	-0.3%
Boxing for Fitness	5,251	5,157	5,166	-1.6%	0.2%
Tai Chi	3,469	3,787	3,761	8.4%	-0.7%
Barre	2,901	3,436	3,532	21.8%	2.8%
Triathlon (Traditional/Road)	2,262	2,162	2,168	-4.2%	0.3%
Triathlon (Non-Traditional/Off Road)	1,390	1,878	1,589	14.3%	-15.4%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over					
<b>Legend:</b> <span>Large Increase (greater than 25%)</span> <span>Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)</span> <span>Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)</span> <span>Large Decrease (less than -25%)</span>					

Figure 15 - General Fitness National Participatory Trends

## NATIONAL TRENDS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

### PARTICIPATION LEVELS

Results from the SFIA report demonstrate a contrast of growth and decline in participation regarding outdoor/adventure recreation activities. Much like the general fitness activities, these activities encourage an active lifestyle, can be performed individually or within a group, and are not as limited by time constraints. In 2018, the most popular activities, in terms of total participants, from the outdoor/adventure recreation category include: Day Hiking (47.9 million), Road Bicycling (39.0 million), Freshwater Fishing (39.0 million), and Camping within ¼ mile of Vehicle/Home (27.4 million), and Recreational Vehicle Camping (16.0 million).



### FIVE-YEAR TREND

From 2013-2018, BMX Bicycling (58.6%), Day Hiking (39.2%), Fly Fishing (18.1%), Backpacking Overnight (16.2%), and Recreational Vehicle Camping (9.8%) have undergone the largest increases in participation.

The five-year trend also shows activities such as In-Line Roller Skating (-17.8%), Birdwatching (-12.8%), Camping within ¼ mile of Home/Vehicle (-6.3%), and Road Bicycling (-4.5%) experiencing the largest decreases in participation.

### ONE-YEAR TREND

The one-year trend shows activities growing most rapidly being Day Hiking (6.6%), Camping within ¼ mile of Home/Vehicle (4.4%) and Fly Fishing (2.2%). Over the last year, activities that underwent the largest decreases in participation include: Adventure Racing (-12.4%), In-Line Roller Skating (-4.3%), and Overnight Backpacking (-4.0%).

### CORE VS. CASUAL TRENDS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

A large majority of outdoor activities have experienced participation growth in the last five- years, with In-Line Roller Skating, Birdwatching, Camping within ¼ mile of Home/Vehicle, and Road Bicycling being the only activities decreasing in participation. Although this a positive trend for outdoor activities, it should be noted that a large majority of participation growth came from an increase in casual users. This is likely why we see a lot more activities experiencing decreases in participation when assessing the one-year trend, as the casual users likely found alternative activities to participate in. *Please see Appendix A for Full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.*

National Participatory Trends - Outdoor / Adventure Recreation					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2013	2017	2018	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Hiking (Day)	34,378	44,900	47,860	39.2%	6.6%
Bicycling (Road)	40,888	38,866	39,041	-4.5%	0.5%
Fishing (Freshwater)	37,796	38,346	38,998	3.2%	1.7%
Camping (< 1/4 Mile of Vehicle/Home)	29,269	26,262	27,416	-6.3%	4.4%
Camping (Recreational Vehicle)	14,556	16,159	15,980	9.8%	-1.1%
Fishing (Saltwater)	11,790	13,062	12,830	8.8%	-1.8%
Birdwatching (>1/4 mile of Vehicle/Home)	14,152	12,296	12,344	-12.8%	0.4%
Backpacking Overnight	9,069	10,975	10,540	16.2%	-4.0%
Bicycling (Mountain)	8,542	8,609	8,690	1.7%	0.9%
Archery	7,647	7,769	7,654	0.1%	-1.5%
Fishing (Fly)	5,878	6,791	6,939	18.1%	2.2%
Skateboarding	6,350	6,382	6,500	2.4%	1.8%
Roller Skating, In-Line	6,129	5,268	5,040	-17.8%	-4.3%
Bicycling (BMX)	2,168	3,413	3,439	58.6%	0.8%
Climbing (Traditional/Ice/Mountaineering)	2,319	2,527	2,541	9.6%	0.6%
Adventure Racing	2,095	2,529	2,215	5.7%	-12.4%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

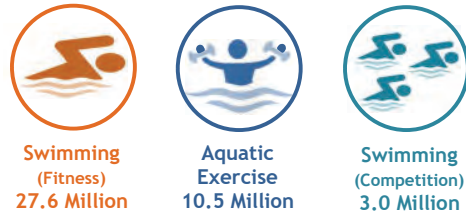
<b>Legend:</b>	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
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Figure 16 - Outdoor / Adventure Recreation Participatory Trends

## NATIONAL TRENDS IN AQUATICS

### PARTICIPATION LEVELS

Swimming is deemed as a lifetime activity, which is most likely why it continues to have such strong participation. In 2018, Fitness Swimming was the absolute leader in overall participation (27.6 million) amongst aquatic activities, largely due to its broad, multigenerational appeal.



### FIVE-YEAR TREND

Assessing the five-year trend, all aquatic activities have experienced growth. Aquatic Exercise stands out having increased 24.0% from 2013-2018, most likely due to the ongoing research that demonstrates the activity's great therapeutic benefit, followed by Competitive Swimming (15.4%) and Fitness Swimming (4.6%).

### ONE-YEAR TREND

Similar to the five-year trend, all aquatic activities also experienced growth regarding the one-year trend. Fitness Swimming (1.6%) had the largest increase in 2018, with Competitive Swimming (1.3%) and Aquatic Exercise (0.6%) not far behind.

National Participatory Trends - Aquatics					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2013	2017	2018	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Swimming (Fitness)	26,354	27,135	27,575	4.6%	1.6%
Aquatic Exercise	8,483	10,459	10,518	24.0%	0.6%
Swimming (Competition)	2,638	3,007	3,045	15.4%	1.3%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over					
Legend:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)		Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)

Figure 17 - Aquatic Participatory Trends

### CORE VS. CASUAL TRENDS IN AQUATICS

All aquatic activities have undergone increases in participation over the last five years, primarily due to large increases in casual participation (1-49 times per year). From 2013 to 2018, casual participants of Competition Swimming increased by 45.5%, Aquatic Exercise by 40.0%, and Fitness Swimming by 10.7%. However, all core participation (50+ times per year) for aquatic activities have decreased over the last five-years. *Please see Appendix A for Full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.*

## NATIONAL TRENDS IN WATER SPORTS / ACTIVITIES

### PARTICIPATION LEVELS

The most popular water sports / activities based on total participants in 2018 were Recreational Kayaking (11.0 million), Canoeing (9.1 million), and Snorkeling (7.8 million). It should be noted that water activity participation tends to vary based on regional, seasonal, and environmental factors. A region with more water access and a warmer climate is more likely to have a higher participation rate in water activities than a region that has long winter seasons or limited water access. Therefore, when assessing trends in water sports and activities, it is important to understand that fluctuations may be the result of environmental barriers which can greatly influence water activity participation.



### FIVE-YEAR TREND

Over the last five years, Stand-Up Paddling (73.3%) was by far the fastest growing water activity, followed by Recreational Kayaking (26.4%), White Water Kayaking (19.4%), Boardsailing/Windsurfing (17.5%), and Sea/Tour Kayaking (4.1%). From 2013-2018, activities declining in participation most rapidly were Surfing (-21.4%), Water Skiing (-20.0%), Jet Skiing (-17.0%), Wakeboarding (-15.7%), and Rafting (-11.3%).

### ONE-YEAR TREND

Contradicting the five-year trend, Surfing was the fastest growing of all water sports/activities increasing 7.2% in 2018. Recreational Kayaking (4.6%) and Stand-Up Paddling (3.8%) also had a spike in participation this past year. Activities which experienced the largest decreases in participation in the most recent year include: Wakeboarding (-7.0%), Snorkeling (-6.8%), and Water Skiing (-5.9%).

### CORE VS. CASUAL TRENDS IN WATER SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

As mentioned previously, regional, seasonal, and environmental limiting factors may influence the participation rate of water sport and activities. These factors may also explain why all water-based activities have drastically more casual participants than core participants, since frequencies of activities may be constrained by uncontrollable factors. These high causal user numbers are likely why a majority of water sports/activities have experienced decreases in participation in recent years. *Please see Appendix A for Full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.*



National Participatory Trends - Water Sports / Activities					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2013	2017	2018	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Kayaking (Recreational)	8,716	10,533	11,017	26.4%	4.6%
Canoeing	10,153	9,220	9,129	-10.1%	-1.0%
Snorkeling	8,700	8,384	7,815	-10.2%	-6.8%
Jet Skiing	6,413	5,418	5,324	-17.0%	-1.7%
Sailing	3,915	3,974	3,754	-4.1%	-5.5%
Stand-Up Paddling	1,993	3,325	3,453	73.3%	3.8%
Rafting	3,836	3,479	3,404	-11.3%	-2.2%
Water Skiing	4,202	3,572	3,363	-20.0%	-5.9%
Surfing	3,658	2,680	2,874	-21.4%	7.2%
Scuba Diving	3,174	2,874	2,849	-10.2%	-0.9%
Kayaking (Sea/Touring)	2,694	2,955	2,805	4.1%	-5.1%
Wakeboarding	3,316	3,005	2,796	-15.7%	-7.0%
Kayaking (White Water)	2,146	2,500	2,562	19.4%	2.5%
Boardsailing/Windsurfing	1,324	1,573	1,556	17.5%	-1.1%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over					
Legend:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)		Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)		Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)
			Large Decrease (less than -25%)		

Figure 18 - Water Sports / Activities Participatory Trends

### 2.3.3 PARTICIPATION BY GENERATION

Analyzing participation by age for recreational activities reveals that fitness and outdoor sports were the most common activities across all generations. Breaking down activity level by generation shows a converse correlation between age and healthy activity rates.

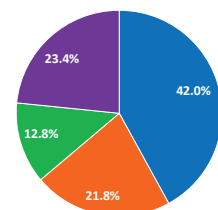
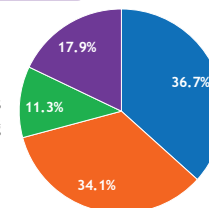
#### 2018 PARTICIPATION RATES BY GENERATION

U.S. population, Ages 6+



#### Generation Z (born 2000+)

Generation Z were the most active, with only 17.9% of the population identifying as inactive. Approximately 81% of individuals within this generation were deemed high calorie burning in 2018; with 36.7% being active high calorie and 34.1% being casual high calorie.

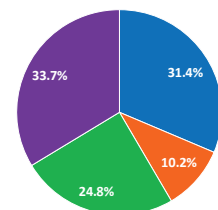
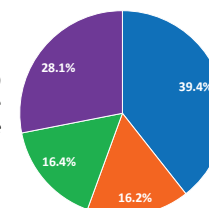


#### Millennials (born 1980-1999)

Almost half (42.0%) of millennials were active high calorie (35.4%) or active & high calorie (11.3%), while 24.0% claimed they were inactive. Even though this inactive rate is much higher than Generation Z's (17.6%), it is still below the national inactive rate (28%).

#### Generation X (born 1965-1979)

Generation X has the second highest active to a healthy level rate (35.0%) among all generations, only being 0.4% less than Millennials. At the same time, they also have the second highest inactive rate, with 28.1% not active at all.



#### The Boomers (born 1945-1964)

The Boomers were the least active generation, with an inactive rate of 33.3%. This age group tends to participate in less intensive activities. Approximately 34% claimed to engage in casual & low/med calorie (4.3%) or low/med calorie (29.6%) burning activities.

**Definitions:** Active (3+ times per week), Casual (1-2 times per week), High Calorie (20+ minutes of elevated heart rate), Low/Med Calorie (>20 minutes of elevated heart rate), Inactive (no physical activity in 2018)

### 2.3.4 NON-PARTICIPANT INTEREST BY AGE SEGMENT

In addition to participation rates by generation, SFIA also tracks non-participant interest. These are activities that the U.S. population currently does not participate in due to physical or monetary barriers, but is interested in participating in. Below are the top five activities that each age segment would be most likely to partake in if they were readily available.

Overall, the activities most age segments are interested in including: Camping, Bicycling, Fishing, and Swimming for Fitness. All of which are deemed as low-impact activities, making them obtainable for any age segment to enjoy.

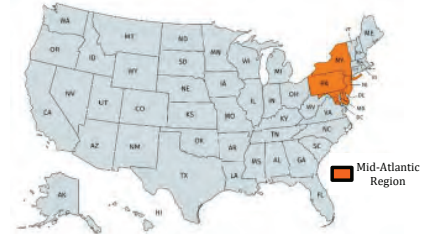


### NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMING TRENDS

#### PROGRAMS OFFERED BY PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES (MID-ATLANTIC REGION)

##### PROGRAMS OFFERED BY PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES (MID-ATLANTIC)

NRPA's *Agency Performance Review 2019* summarizes key findings from NRPA Park Metrics, which is a benchmark tool that compares the management and planning of operating resources and capital facilities of park and recreation agencies. The report contains data from 1,075 park and recreation agencies across the U.S. as reported between 2016 and 2018.



Based on this year's report, the typical agency (i.e., those at the median values) offers 175 programs annually, with roughly 63% of those programs being fee-based activities/events.

According to the information reported to the NRPA, the top five programming activities most frequently offered by park and recreation agencies, both in the U.S. and regionally, are described in the table below (Figure 19). A complete comparison of regional and national programs offered by agencies can be found in (Figure 20).

When comparing Mid-Atlantic Region agencies to the U.S. average, theme social events, social recreation events, team sports, fitness enhancement classes and Individual sports were all identified in top five most commonly provided program areas offered regionally and most nationally.

Top 5 Most Offered Core Program Areas (Offered by Parks and Recreation Agencies)	
Mid-Atlantic (% of agencies offering)	U.S. (% of agencies offering)
• Theme Special Events (90%)	• Themed Special Events (87%)
• Social Recreation Events (88%)	• Team Sports (87%)
• Team Sports (84%)	• Social Recreation Events (86%)
• Fitness Enhancement Classes (78%)	• Health & Wellness Education (79%)
• Individual Sports (75%)	• Fitness Enhancement Classes (77%)

Figure 19 - Top 5 Core Program Areas

## ALTERNATIVE PARK AND RECREATION REUSE STUDY

Overall, Mid-Atlantic Region parks and recreation agencies are very similar to the U.S. average regarding program offerings. However, utilizing a discrepancy threshold of +/-5% (or more), Mid-Atlantic agencies are currently offering martial arts, health & wellness and cultural craft programs at a lesser rate than the national average.

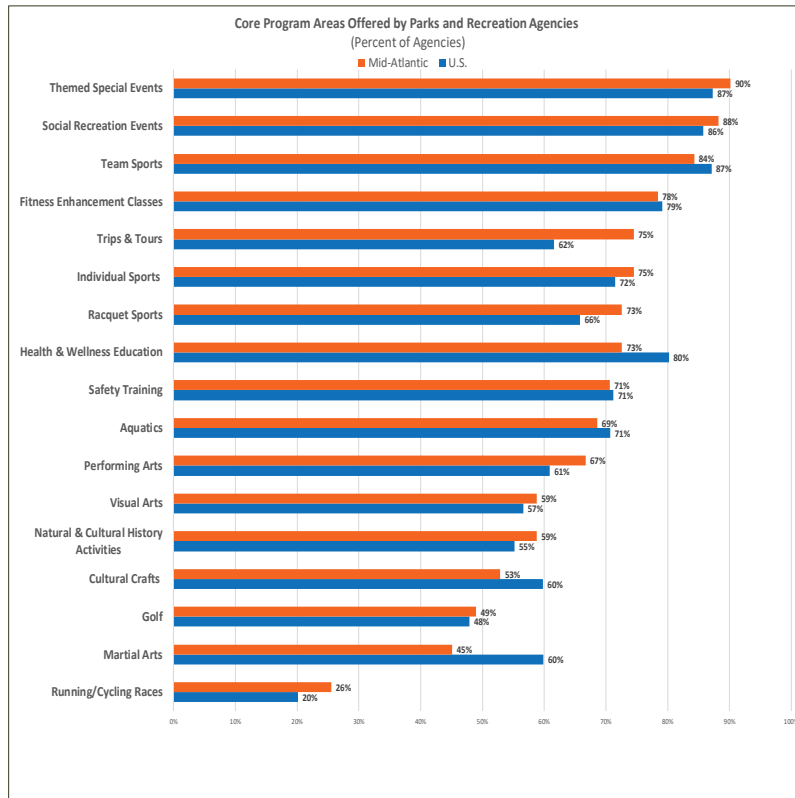


Figure 20 - Programs Offered by Parks and Recreation Agencies

## BALTIMORE CITY RECREATION & PARKS

### TARGETED PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, SENIORS, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

For a better understanding of targeted programs (programs that cater to a specific age segment, demographic, etc.), NRPA also tracks program offerings that are dedicated specifically to children, seniors, and people with disabilities. This allows for further analysis of these commonly targeted populations on a national and regional basis.

Based on information reported to the NRPA, the top three targeted programs offered by park and recreation agencies, nationally and regionally, are described in the table below (Figure 21). A complete comparison of regional and national targeted program offerings can be found in (Figure 20).

Top 3 Most Offered Core Program Areas (Targeting Children, Seniors, and/or People with Disabilities)	
Mid-Atlantic (% of agencies offering)	U.S. (% of agencies offering)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer Camp (81%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer Camp (82%)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senior Programs (75%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senior Programs (78%)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability Programs (65%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After School Programs (77%)</li> </ul>

Figure 21 - Top 3 Core Target Program Areas

## ALTERNATIVE PARK AND RECREATION REUSE STUDY

Agencies in the Mid-Atlantic Region tend to offer targeted programs at a lower rate than the national average. Mid-Atlantic agencies are currently offering After School Programs at a significantly lower rate than the national average but is within 5% of the national average for all other targeted programs.

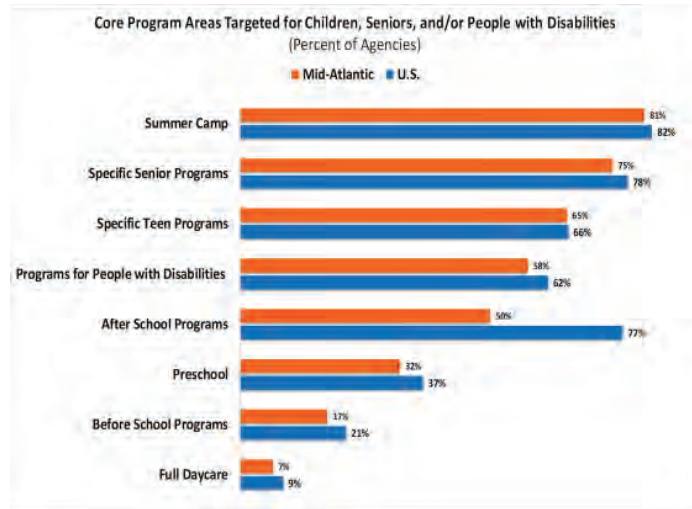


Figure 22 - Targeted Programs for Children, Seniors, and People with Disabilities



## EQUITY MAPPING ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY

### Appendix B: Equity Mapping Analyses and Methodology

To gain a more nuanced understanding of areas of the city that are underserved by parks and recreation facilities, multiple data sets were combined and weighted to create several equity score types. Several park equity score maps were produced. The first one (Map 2.17) is a reproduction of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Park Equity Analysis geospatial tool which uses data from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, University of Maryland Center for Geospatial Information Analysis, National Center for Smart Growth, and University of Maryland School of Public Health Community Engagement, Environmental Justice & Health. Specific data sets used in this analysis include population density, concentration of low-income households, concentration of children under the age of 17, concentration of adults over the age of 65, concentration of non-white population, distance to public park space, distance to public transportation and walkability, represented at the census block group level.

The second series of equity maps were generated using finer scale, city specific, demographic, health, and accessibility data to better identify areas in Baltimore City that are underserved and have low accessibility or availability of BCRP resources. The series includes park, neighborhood park, and recreation equity maps (Maps 2.18-2.24). The set of three equity maps attempt to identify areas in Baltimore City where citizens may not have access to parks in general, neighborhood parks specifically and recreation facilities (including BCRP recreation centers, pools and specialty facilities, and private recreation centers). The availability and accessibility of neighborhood parks are particularly crucial as they serve as the backbone of Baltimore City's Park system. They are intended to provide immediate recreation amenities to the neighborhoods throughout the city (mini parks and green spaces provide open space for recreation, they may not include amenities such as courts and fields).<sup>1</sup>

The input data layers had unique values, with different value ranges and units, each cell/pixel of each data layer was reclassified into a standardized point scale of 1- 10, with a value of 10 being designated as the least equitable and a value of 1 being the most equitable. Then each layer was weighted based on their estimated impact towards general equity, park equity and recreation equity. Variable definitions and weights are listed below.

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<sup>1</sup> Data for these maps were obtained from the Census Bureau, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Environmental Protection Agency, Maryland Transit Authority and Baltimore City agencies, including the department of planning, transportation and recreation and parks. Each data item was converted to raster format (every pixel in a census block group receives a value for each data layer), reclassified into a standardized point scale and finally overlaid together based on assigned weight values.

Data Layer	Layer Definition	Layer Data Source	Weight
General Equity Variables			
Population Density	Total population within a census tract divided by census tract area.	American Community Survey	10%
Minority Population	Percent of population in a census tract that are minorities (Black, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander & Other Minority).	American Community Survey	10%
Population Under 18	Percent of population in a census tract that is under 18.	American Community Survey	10%
Population over 65	Percent of population in a census tract that is over 65.	American Community Survey	5%
Households in Poverty	Percent of households in a census tract that are below the poverty level.	American Community Survey	10%
Vacant Housing Units	Percent of housing units that are vacant.	American Community Survey	5%
Crime Density	Total number of crime incidents within a census tract divided by census tract area.	Baltimore Police Dept.	5%
Walkability	Relative walkability of a census tract.	Environmental Protection Agency	5%
Limited English	Percent of households in a census tract that are limited English speaking households.	American Community Survey	5%
Lack of Vehicle Access	Percent of households in a census tract that do not have access to a motorized vehicle.	American Community Survey	5%
Lack of Internet Access	Percent of households in a census tract that do not have access to internet.	American Community Survey	5%
Distance to a Bus Stop	An average of distances of each location within a census tract to the closest bus stop (MTA and Charm City Circular stops)	Maryland Transit Authority/Baltimore City, Department of Transportation	5%
Lack Physical Activity	Estimated prevalence of adults over 18 that did not participate in physical activity outside of work.	Center for Disease Control and Prevention	2%

Poor Physical Health	Estimated prevalence of adults over 18 that do not have good health.	Center for Disease Control and Prevention	3%
Depression	Estimated prevalence of adults over 18 that are diagnosed with depressive disorder(s).	Center for Disease Control and Prevention	2%
Poor Mental Health	Estimated prevalence of adults over 18 that do not have good mental health.	Center for Disease Control and Prevention	3%
Obesity	Estimated prevalence of adults over 18 that a reported body mass index greater than or equal to 30.0 kg/m <sup>2</sup> .	Center for Disease Control and Prevention	5%
Life Expectancy	Average life expectancy per census tract.	Baltimore City, Department of Planning	5%
Park Equity/Neighborhood Park Equity Variables			
Distance to a Park/Neighborhood Park	An average of distances of each location within a census tract to the closest park/neighborhood park.	Baltimore City, Department of Recreation and Parks	50%
Percent Park/Neighborhood Park Cover in a Census Tract	Total park/neighborhood park area in a census tract divided by the total area of a census tract.	Baltimore City, Department of Recreation and Parks	50%
Recreation Equity Variables			
Distance to BCRP a Recreation Center	An average of distances of each location within a census tract to the closest BCRP Recreation Center.	Baltimore City, Department of Recreation and Parks	40%
BCRP Recreation Center Density	Total number of BCRP recreation centers in a census tract divided by census tract area.	Baltimore City, Department of Recreation and Parks	10%
Distance to a Private Recreation Center	An average of distances of each location within a census tract to the closest private recreation center.	Baltimore City, Department of Recreation and Parks	8%
Private Recreation Center Density	Total number of private recreation centers in a census tract divided by census tract area.	Baltimore City, Department of Recreation and Parks	2%
Distance to a Pool	An average of distances of each location within a census tract to the closest pool.	Baltimore City, Department of Recreation and Parks	16%

Pool Density	Total number of pools in a census tract divided by census tract area.	Baltimore City, Department of Recreation and Parks	4%
Distance to a Specialty Facility	An average of distances of each location within a census tract to the closest specialty facility.	Baltimore City, Department of Recreation and Parks	16%
Specialty Facility Density	Total number of specialty facilities in a census tract divided by census tract area.	Baltimore City, Department of Recreation and Parks	4%

*General Equity Weighted Overlay + Park Equity Weighted Overlay = Park Equity Result*

*General Equity Weighted Overlay + Neighborhood Park Equity Weighted Overlay = Neighborhood Park Equity Result*

*General Equity Weighted Overlay + Recreation Equity Weighted Overlay = Park Equity Result*

**Table 1.0 Equity Analysis Variable Information**

Recreation equity scores for recreation facilities were generated using data relating population density, minority population, children under 18, adults over 65, poverty, vacant properties, crime, walkability, limited English, vehicle accessibility, internet accessibility, distance to a bus stop, physical activity, obesity, physical health, mental health, depression, life expectancy, distance to a BCRP recreation center, private recreation center, pool, and specialty facility, and density of BCRP recreation centers, private recreation centers, pools and specialty facilities.

The same methodology, for the recreation equity analysis, including the reclassification and weighting methods was used for the park equity analyses. The same input data layers were used except the "recreation distance and density" layers, were replaced by "park distance and density" layers.





# APPENDIX C

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**BALTIMORE CITY DESIGNATED HABITAT PROTECTION AREAS**

**FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENTS**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND INVENTORY**

**BALTIMORE CITY DESIGNATED HABITAT PROTECTION AREAS**

**9 DESIGNATED HABITAT PROTECTION AREAS**

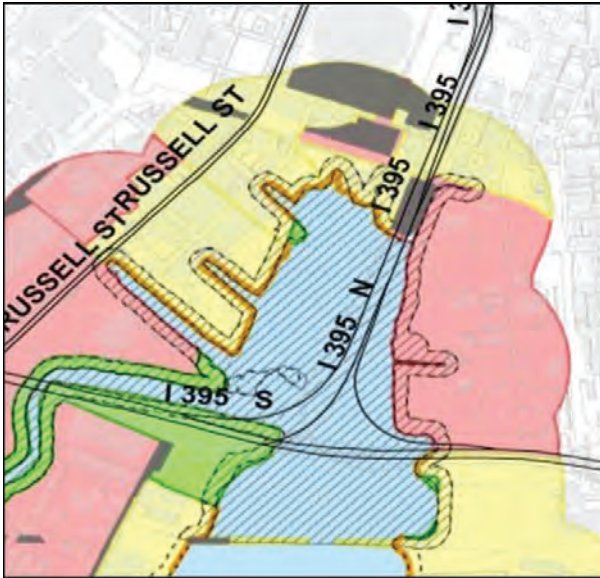
The Critical Area regulations require local jurisdictions to identify important natural and community resources within the Critical Area and to devise strategies for protecting and enhancing those resources. Twelve important natural areas within Baltimore have been identified as DHPA. Locations, maps, and types of habitats existing for each of the DHPAs are provided in this section.

**Legend for Habitat Protection Area Maps**



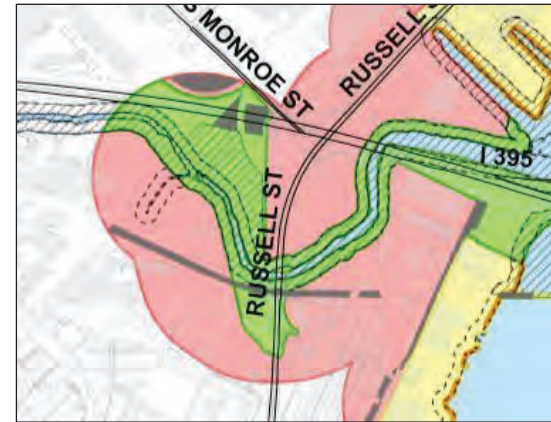
## 9.1 Upper Middle Branch

This DHPA has been identified as an historic waterfowl staging and concentration area. In addition, portions of this shallow water area have been used as wetland mitigation sites for various waterfront development projects. The Middle Branch area includes all waters to the mean high water line, which lie north of the Western Maryland Bridge and trestle. In addition, the area includes all uplands within 100 feet of the mean high water line of the waters described above. It also includes the wetland portion of Block #7612, Lot 2 and all lands lying within 25 feet of these wetlands.



## 9.2 Gwynns Falls

This DHPA has been identified as a major greenway, needing protection as a wildlife corridor. This corridor connects the upland forests of the upper Gwynns Falls Watershed with the wetlands and tidal waters of the upper Middle Branch. The area includes the waters of the Gwynns Falls from the upper Middle Branch continuing upstream to a point 1000 feet north and west of the southeast side of the Washington Boulevard Bridge. In addition, the area includes all lands within 100-feet of waters of the Gwynns Falls on the south side of the stream from the upper Middle Branch to the boundary of the Critical Area. On the north side of the stream, the area includes all lands within 100-feet of the waters of the Gwynns Falls extending from the upper Middle Branch to the point of intersection with the Russell Street bridge and then expands to various widths to be bounded on the north by the B & O Railroad right-of-way and continues along the I-95 right-of-way to the point where the I-95 right-of-way intersects Washington Boulevard. From this point, the area includes all lands within 100-feet from the waters of the Gwynns Falls on the north side of the stream continuing upstream to the boundary of the Critical Area. This area also includes the streambeds and all lands lying within 100-feet of the streambeds of the two tributary streams which intersect the Gwynns Falls on its south side. The first is located between Bremen and Berlin Streets and continues from the main stem of the Gwynns Falls southward to the Critical Area boundary and the second is located along the B & O Railroad right-of-way and also continues approximately 580 feet from the main stem of the Gwynns Falls.



### 9.3 Lower Middle Branch

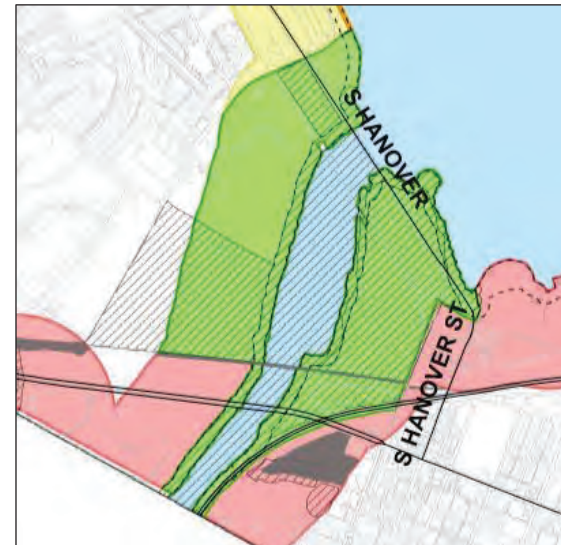
This DHPA includes two discontinuous areas including the following: 1) a tidal wetland and tidal stream on the lower Middle Branch; 2) a mature oak forest on the south side of Waterview Avenue. The first area includes the waters of the tidal stream which runs from Waterview Avenue northward to the lower Middle Branch; all lands within 100 feet of both sides of the stream; a 100-foot Buffer along the shoreline of Block #7611, Lot 1 and the entirety of Lots 2 and 7, and the shallow tidal waters of the lower Middle Branch which border these properties.

The second area includes a mature oak forest on portions of the following properties: Block #7612-E, Lot 10; Block #7610 including lots 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and the entirety of Lots 18 and 19.



### 9.4 Reedbird

This DHPA includes three discontinuous areas including the following: 1) tidal wetlands and City-owned open spaces along both banks of the Patapsco River; 2) a streambed flowing under the 500 block of West Patapsco Avenue; and 3) a streambed west of the intersection of Garrett and Potee Streets. The first area encompasses the following: the waters of the Patapsco river; tidal wetlands, Critical Area Buffer and portions of the publicly-owned vegetated open space in Block #7612-L including Lots 1 and that portion of Lot 2 which lies south of an imaginary line that would be created where Cherryland Road extended at its present alignment through Lot 2 to the Patapsco River; those portions of Block #7612-N, Lots 7, 8, and 10 which lie in the 100 foot Buffer; all lands extending from the south bank of the Patapsco River to the right-of-way of the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel Thruway and continuing from the City line to the point where the Harbor Tunnel Thruway intersects Potee Street; the entirety of Block #7612-M; and that portion of Block #7027, Lot 20 that is bounded by S. Hanover Street, Potee Street, and Frankfur Avenue. The second area includes 100 feet on either side of a stream flowing towards Baltimore County, located in Block #7612-G, Lots 1 and 4. The third area includes 100 feet on either side of a stream flowing northwesterly towards the Patapsco River starting from a point located 475 feet from the intersection of Potee and Garrett Streets, and 100 feet on either side of a small inlet tributary on the western side of the same stream, both of which are located in Block #7027-C, portions of Lots 3 and 4.



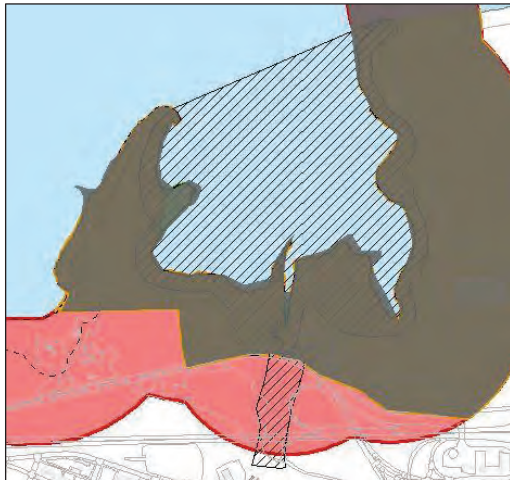


### 9.5 Masonville Cove

This DHPA has been identified as a historic waterfowl staging and concentration area with an extensive vegetated Buffer. The area includes all waters to the mean high water line which lie within the cove formed by the irregular shoreline of Block #7043, Lot 1 and all lands within 100 feet of the mean high water line. In addition, the area includes a 100-foot Buffer on both sides of the tributary stream that empties into this cove at the south end of the property. This 100-foot Buffer extends from the Critical Area line northward to the point where it intersects the Critical Area Buffer formed by the tidal waters of the Patapsco River.

It is important to note that the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) maintains and operates a dredge disposal site on the upland area immediately east of these waters. In addition, the MPA has for at least a decade now, identified this area for development as a major terminal similar to their Dundalk and Seagirt facilities. Part of the site has been developed by Mercedes Benz as an automobile Roll On / Roll Off. As mitigation for the dredge disposal site and the port development, the MPA is developing the Masonville Cove as wildlife habitat area with an environmental education center, a fishing pier and small boat launch.

In response to the complex balance that must be achieved between economic development for the benefit of the State and protection of habitat, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has developed a comprehensive plan to address future expansion areas for the Port. An important part of this master plan is an environmental element for the improvement in quality and/or quantity of habitat areas in a manner consistent with the policies established in [COMAR 27.01.09.04\(B\)](#). The plan is part of MPA's plans for marine terminal facilities and dredged disposal.



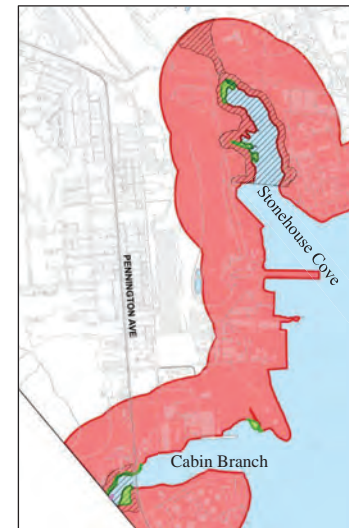
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### 9.6 Stonehouse Cove

This DHPA has been identified as a historic waterfowl staging and concentration area with an extensive vegetated buffer. The cove contains vegetated tidal wetlands bordering on upland-forested areas. The upper reach of the cove contains an intermittent stream, which is heavily vegetated along both banks. The area includes all the waters of the cove extending out into Curtis Creek to a point located approximately 1,750 feet south of the roadbed when measured perpendicularly from East Patapsco Avenue. The area also includes: all lands within 100 feet of the tidal waters described above; all lands within 100 feet of the intermittent tidal stream extending from the north side of the East Patapsco Avenue bridge and continuing upstream to the limits of the Critical Area; and the forested area lying in Block #7335-E, covering portions of Lots 1, 3, and 6. In addition to the above, this habitat protection area includes the forested areas along the western side of the cove extending from East Patapsco Avenue and bounded on the west by the access road to the CSX Transportation coal terminal, further extending southward along the access road to a point located approximately 1,200 feet where the access road intersects the 100-foot Buffer. From this point of intersection, the HPA includes the 100-foot Buffer southward extending to a point along the shoreline situated approximately 1,750 feet from East Patapsco Avenue when measured perpendicularly.

### 9.7 Cabin Branch

This DHPA contains vegetated tidal wetlands along both its banks extending from the west side of the Pennington Avenue bridge to the City line. The area includes the waters off Block # 7173 including portions of Lots 11A, 12, and 13, and Block # 7173A including portions of Land 1E. In addition, all uplands within 100 feet of these waters are included as well.



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### 9.8 Hawkins Point

This area on the Hawkins Point peninsula contains a historic waterfowl staging and concentration area and a densely vegetated Buffer. The DHPA includes the tidal waters off Block #7000, Lots 1, 7, 8, and 9, including I-695 right-of-way. The area also includes a 100-foot Buffer along the shoreline of these properties. In addition, the area includes the protection of woodlands adjoining the drainage areas located on Block #7000, Lots 7, 8, and 9.

### 9.9 Quarantine Road

This designated area contains a historic waterfowl staging and concentration area. The DHPA includes the waters off the vegetated portion of the shoreline of Block #7003, Lot 4 and a 100-foot Buffer along this same section of shoreline. The area also includes the wooded drainage area along the eastern side of the property and the forested portions of Block #7005, Lots 30 and 31 and Block #7002, Lot 3 which fall within the Critical Area.

### 9.10 Thomas Cove

The third designated area on the Hawkins Point Peninsula is Thomas Cove, also known as Thoms Cove. The cove has been identified as a historic waterfowl staging and concentration area. This DHPA includes the waters off the shoreline of Block #7005 Lot 35 as well as the 100-foot Buffer along the shoreline.



### 9.11 Fort Armistead

This DHPA contains a large tidal wetland that was created as mitigation for the construction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. The designated area includes the Fort Armistead Park (Block #7006, Lot 8) and a portion of the I-695 right-of-way extending northeasterly from the intersection of Dock Road and I-695.



### 9.12 Colgate Creek

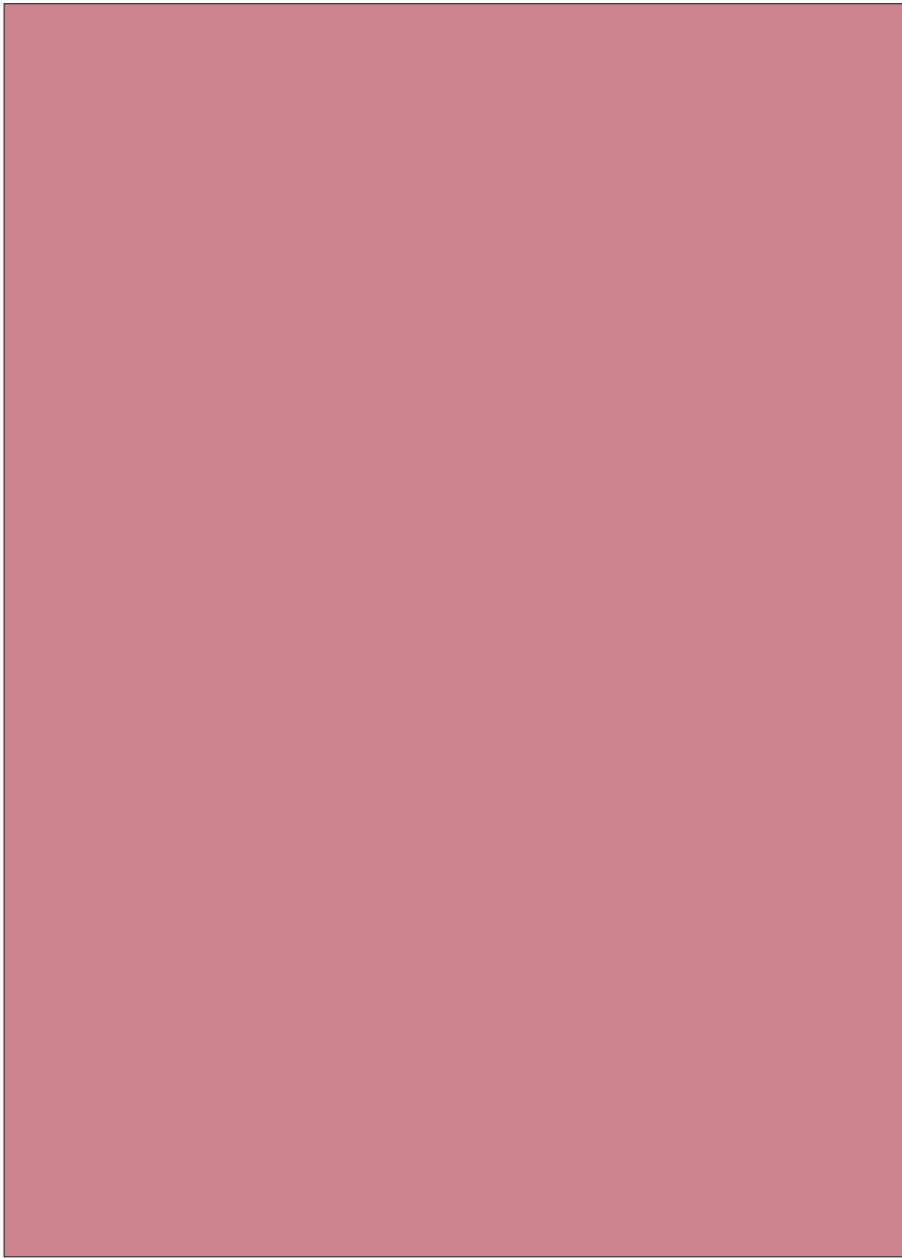
This DHPA is an important tidal tributary stream, which has a vegetated shoreline along most of its length. The designated area includes the following: Colgate Creek; the entirety of Block 6921, Lot #4; the entirety of Block #6922, Lots #1, #2 and #4, and the portion of Lot #5 which lies within 10 feet of mean high tide. Beginning at the point where Colgate Creek passes under Van Deman Street on its east side, the area includes all lands within 100 feet of mean high tide on the north, east and west sides of the stream as it traverses Block 6923, Lot #1. On the south side of Colgate Creek as it traverses Block 6923, Lot #1, the HPA shall consist of all lands within 100 feet of mean high tide.



## FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

<b>Forest Conservation Easements 2021</b>			
<b>Site and Address</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Year Established</b>
Arlington Housing	4501 W. Northern Pkwy.	4.5	2003
Bryn Mawr School	109 W. Melrose Ave.	5.3	2018
Calvert School	105 Tuscany Rd.	1.4	2021
City Logistics	1201 Caton Ave.	6.0	2021
Clipper Mill	3500 Clipper Rd.	2.2	2003
Friends School	5114 Charles St.	3.1	2004
Gibbons Commons/St. Agnes Hospital	900 S. Caton Ave.	4.3	2015
Gilman School	5407 Roland Ave.	6.7	1996
Gittings Marketplace	6300 York Rd.	0.5	2004
Good Samaritan Hospital	1650 Woodbourne Ave.	9.9	2002
Gwynns Falls Reclamation Site	2900 W. Baltimore St.	6.1	2013
Heather Ridge Condominiums	6200 Red Cedar Pl.	4.6	2014
Johns Hopkins University Homewood	3400 N. Charles St.	20.2	2000
Loyola University Athletic Campus	2221 W. Cold Spring Ln.	10.1	2008
Maryland School for the Blind	3501 Taylor Ave.	19.8	2013
Millenium Landfill	3601 Fort Armistead	17.8	2012
Notre Dame of Maryland University	4701 N. Charles St.	11.3	1998
Roland Heights Subdivision	1600 Roland Heights Ave.	2.1	2017
Roland Park Country School	5204 Roland Ave.	4.5	2000
Seton Business Park	4809 Mt. Hope Dr.	12.6	1998
Sinai Hospital	2401 W. Belvedere Ave.	16.4	1998
106 & 108 Sorrento Avenue	106 Sorrento Ave.	5.9	2021
The Woodberry	2105 W. Cold Spring Ln.	4.8	2017
<b>Total Acreage</b>		<b>180.1</b>	





## AGRICULTURAL LAND INVENTORY

# Inventory of Baltimore City Urban Agriculture Sites 2022

Address	Community Garden	Farm	City Farm	Homegrown Baltimore	Land Trust	Acres in Production (est.)
206 E 23rd St	1					0.1
502 N. Duncan Street	1					0.1
900-916 North Port	1					0.1
4204-4224 Park Heights Ave.	1					0.1
615-623 North Port St.	1					0.1
601-627 N Rose St	1					0.1
3707 Hayward Ave	1					0.1
1015 W Lombard Street	1					0.1
3509 Ash St.		1			1	0.25
2905 Whittington Avenue		1				0.25
6706 Overall Avenue		1				0.2
402 East Oliver Street	1					0.1
6013 Eunice Avenue		1				0.7
422 Nottingham Road	1					0.1
4610 Garrison Boulevard	1					0.1
1600 Bethel Street		1				0.3
1100 Wicomico Street		1				0.1
5105 Plainfield Avenue		1				0.2
1101 E. 33rd St	1					0.1
101-113 N. Fulton Ave.		1				0.5
2103 Boone Street	1					0.1
2100 Liberty Heights Avenue	1					0.1
3409-3415 Brentwood	1					0.1
802 S Caroline St	1					0.1
5120 Carmine Ave.	1					0.1
5322 Cuthbert Ave	1					0.1
820 Cherry Hill Rd.		1				1.2
1701 South Charles Street			1			0.1
1640 Light St			1			0.1
2601 E Baltimore			1			0.5
1221 W 36th St			1			0.2
1920 Eagle Dr.			1			0.2
720 S Monroe			1			0.2
6600 Pine Ave			1			0.4

Inventory of Baltimore City Urban Agriculture Sites 2022						
Address	Community Garden	Farm	City Farm	Homegrown Baltimore	Land Trust	Acres in Production (est.)
Hilltop Rd			1			1
812 Woodbourne Ave			1			0.6
3100 Swann Drive			1			0.5
3800 Clipper Park Road			1			0.5
800 Pontiac	1					0.1
Baltimore & Bethel	1					0.1
1523-1531 Cole Street	1					0.1
25 South Conkling Street	1					0.1
1823 N. Warwick Ave.	1					0.1
1125 N Patterson Park Ave	1					0.1
1801-1843 N. Duncan Street	1				1	1
Chase Street and Wolfe Street	1					0.1
111/103 South Exeter St	1					0.1
1618 Presbury Street		1				0.1
3301 Ferndale Ave.	1					0.2
1317 Filbert Street		1				0.7
Inner block: Lakewood, Kenwood, Oliver, Federal	1					0.1
723 N. Rosedale St.	1					0.1
1207-1227 Shields Place	1					0.1
1211 Mosher St.	1					0.1
516 Glenwood Ave	1					0.1
125 N. Hilton Street		1				0.3
455 Whitridge Ave	1					0.1
2324 E. North Ave.	1					0.1
4214 Heckel Avenue		1				0.2
1825 N. Calvert St.		1				0.2
1913 E. 28th Street		1				0.1
3500 Kenyon		1				0.2
1300 Hillman		1				0.2
2200 Homewood Avenue	1					0.1
1314-1316 Harlem Ave	1					0.1
4017 Chatham Road	1					0.1
506 S. Collins Ave.	1					0.1

# Inventory of Baltimore City Urban Agriculture Sites 2022

Address	Community Garden	Farm	City Farm	Homegrown Baltimore	Land Trust	Acres in Production (est.)
811 East Preston (rear)	1					0.1
1000 Wills Street		1				0.1
1420 W Lafayette st	1					0.1
728- 732 Lennox St.	1					0.1
1003-1009 N. Carrollton Ave.	1					0.1
403-429 N Madeira St.	1					0.1
2601-2605 Miles Ave	1					0.1
1301 Mooreland Street		1				0.5
2416 & 2414 Riesterstown Road	1					0.1
918 Montpelier St.	1					0.1
2602 Washington Blvd.	1					0.1
1017 Boyd St.	1				1	0.1
1920 Kelly Ave.	1					0.1
2400, 2405 Mura Street	1					0.2
5311 Goodnow Rd	1					0.1
W. Rogers & Wexford	1					0.2
3624 Old York Road	1					0.2
1400 North Bond Street		1				0.5
918 N. Carrollton Road	1					0.2
3809 Park Heights Avenue		1		1		1
3300-3325 Woodland Ave.	1					0.1
1130 W. Lexington Street	1					0.1
103 S. Payson Street	1					0.1
1425 West Ostend Street	1					0.1
1172 Carroll Street	1					0.1
5219 Todd Avenue		1				0.3
3101 Presbury Street	1					0.1
5002 York Rd.	1					0.1
2801 St. Lo Drive		1		1		3.8
1950 Perlman Place		1				2.3



# Inventory of Baltimore City Urban Agriculture Sites 2022

Address	Community Garden	Farm	City Farm	Homegrown Baltimore	Land Trust	Acres in Production (est.)
2019 St. Paul St.	1					0.1
942 Whitelock St	1					0.1
2701 Sisson Street	1					0.1
1825 Kavanaugh		1		1		1.7
1617 E Oliver	1					0.1
2239 Kirk Ave	1					0.1
5623 Mcclean Boulevard		1				0.3
623 Homestead St.	1				1	0.1
206-208 E 22nd St	1					0.1
2812 - 2822 Fox Street	1				1	0.1
602 S. Chapelgate Lane	1					1.5
1827 E. Pratt Street	1				1	0.1
3200 Vickers Ave	1				1	0.1
644 Parkwyrth Ave.	1					0.1
501 Wellesley Street	1					0.1
930-940 Whitelock St.		1		1		0.8
2400 Eutaw Place		1				0.2
4415 Mary Avenue		1				0.1
<b>TOTALS</b>						
<b>Acreage in Production</b>						<b>31.9</b>
<b># of Sites</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Site Acreage</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>40.95</b>



