

## Parks, Open Space, and Trails

Proposed Changes	Comment
<p><b>INTENT</b></p> <p><u>The quality of life for residents of Prince William County is linked closely to the development and management of a well-maintained system of parks, open space, and trails. Prince William County contains a diversity of park, open space, and trail resources that play a key role in shaping both the landscape and the quality of life of Prince William County residents through the conservation of natural and cultural resources, protection of environmental quality, and provision of recreational facilities. Prince William County’s parks and open spaces have evolved into a diversified mosaic of public parks, public open space and recreation facilities, ranging from smaller local parks to extensive, regionally and nationally significant land holdings. Privately managed parks, open space, and facilities provide additional components of the open space and recreation system serving County residents. The integrated park system serves as the primary mechanism for accomplishing two equally important purposes: (1) to protect and preserve environmentally sensitive land, habitat connectivity, and water resources, and areas of archaeological, historical and/or cultural significance; and (2) to provide opportunities for residents, workers and visitors to pursue leisure activities in safe, accessible, and enjoyable parks and community recreational facilities.</u></p>	<p>Replaced intent section.</p>
<p><del>A Countywide system of well-maintained parks, park and recreation facilities, and public open space that meet a variety of the active and passive recreational needs of Prince William County citizens of all ages is an important service the County provides to its residents. These parks and open space also preserve trees and green areas that make the County more attractive to those who live here, those who visit, and those who wish to invest in the County.</del></p> <p><del>This chapter defines parks and open space, establishes goals and level of service standards, and provides objectives and action strategies for achieving those goals and standards. The goal for parks is 15 acres of land per 1,000 population and construction of adequate facilities. Achieving this goal requires acquisition of adequate land as well as construction of facilities to allow the use and enjoyment of that land. Half of the park acreage goal should be passive recreation area which contributes to the county open space goal. In addition to the large amount of regional, state and federal open space in the county the goal for open space is to protect 10% of the remaining county land along with creating valuable corridors for recreation, environmental protection, and cultural resources.</del></p>	<p>Expanded the intent to provide a broader definition of open space to include recreation, environmental protection, and cultural resources preservation.</p>

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<p><u>Prince William County’s parks contain recreation facilities, natural and cultural areas, public open space, and trails that meet a variety of active and passive recreation and conservation needs for county residents of all ages. Parks in Prince William County are to be provided countywide according to facilities level of service (LOS) standards contained within this Plan. These standards address the kinds and size of parks and facilities needed to meet the park and recreational facilities needs of county residents. In addition to county parks, public schools help provide a variety of active recreation facilities to meet recreational needs of residents.</u></p>	
<p><u>A system of open space and corridors will protect water quality in streams and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay (including sources of public drinking water); enhance the ability of wildlife to find food, water, and shelter; minimize environmental damage from development on excessively steep slopes, floodplains, Resource Protection Areas (RPA's), or inappropriate soils; conserve cultural sites and scenic vistas; and enhance connections between neighborhoods. These open spaces and corridors can be used for recreation; wetlands and forests supply storm-water drainage and wildlife habitat; farms and forests provide aesthetic benefits to surrounding residents. And in rapidly growing urban and suburban areas, any preserved land can offer relief from congestion and other negative effects of development.</u></p>	
<p><u>A network of multi-use trails will connect residential areas with county, state, and national parks, forests, and wildlife management areas as well as with places of cultural and historical interest, schools, retail areas, and transportation nodes. Recreational trails will include appropriate designation of selected county streams and rivers as "blueways" for recreational use, and satisfy a need to provide public access to waterways that can support canoes and boats for recreation and fishing. A network of trails provides a range of economic, aesthetic, environmental and recreation benefits to citizens of a community, beyond the benefits that accrue to private landowners. A trails network (including blueways) can increase residential and commercial property values, encourage the revitalization of declining areas, attract tourists, and provide an alternative to the use of automobiles that can help reduce traffic congestion.</u></p>	
<p><u>DEFINITIONS</u></p>	

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<p><b>Parks:</b> Lands set aside for recreation and/or the preservation and management of natural and cultural resources.</p>	
<p><del>For the purposes of this chapter the term parks shall refer to county owned park land. Parks provide opportunities for both active and passive recreation. Active recreation includes areas improved and reserved for the many active recreational activities including sports fields, pools, tennis courts, and basketball courts. Passive recreation includes the natural portions of county parks that are used for activities such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, picnicking, fishing and other unprogrammed activities. There are currently 3,217 acres of parks owned by the Prince William County Park Authority. A full analysis of park level of service is found in Table 1.</del></p>	<p><del>Provide definitions for parks.</del></p>
<p><b>Open space:</b> Land that is protected through public ownership or by a binding legal instrument such as: (1) permanent conservation easement held by a land trust or similar conservation-oriented nonprofit organization with the legal authority to accept such easement; (2) a permanent restrictive covenant for conservation purposes; (3) an equivalent legal tool that provides permanent protection.</p>	
<p>In general, Open Space is made up of these categories of properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portions of county owned property: the passive recreation portions of county parks; recreational, cultural, heritage and wildlife corridors; specified historic and environmental resource lands;</li> <li>• State and Federal parks, forests, and wildlife preserves;</li> <li>• Land designated as a Resource Protection Area under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, excluding intensely developed areas (IDAs);</li> <li>• Land protected by easements or covenants that limit residential or commercial development.</li> </ul>	
<p>Whether a specific property would be considered open space is clarified by the following examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing state and federal park acreage in PWC is included (although it is recognized that some portions of these parks are dedicated to active recreation);</li> <li>• The passive recreation areas of county park land are included; active recreation areas of county parks (recreation centers, water parks, swimming pools, golf courses, tennis</li> </ul>	

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<p>courts, athletic fields, etc) are excluded;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Military bases are excluded;</li> <li>• Home Owner Association land and utility rights-of-way would be included if protected by Resource Protection Areas, covenants for conservation purposes, or appropriate easements;</li> <li>• Highway rights-of-way would also be excluded, since they are intended for future development rather than long-term protection.</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Open space also includes recreational, heritage, and environmental corridors. Recreational corridors are areas that connect parks and open spaces through a network of trails and/or bicycle facilities. Heritage Corridors are areas that connect or contain resources of cultural significance and consist of trails and/or roadways with interpretive signage. Environmental Corridors are areas of natural landscape that are permanently protected. The primary purpose of an environmental corridor is for both open space and environmental protection. Other secondary opportunities such as recreation, education, and cultural resource protection will be pursued where possible.</u></p>	<p>Added the concept of recreational, heritage and environmental corridors.</p>
<p><b>Blueways</b> are rivers, lakes, or streams with public access for recreation that includes fishing, nature observation, and opportunities for boating.</p>	
<p><b>Trails</b> are designated routes on land or water with public access for recreation or transportation purposes such as walking, jogging, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, and backpacking. For safety or other management purposes, some Prince William public trails and blueways may be restricted to particular uses. Trails may be located on land or water bodies of any size including, but not limited to, urban, suburban, subdivided, and rural land.</p>	
<p><del>There are four types of parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and special use parks. Neighborhood parks are relatively small local parks designed to serve their immediate neighborhood and include specialized equipment and facilities. Community parks are larger recreation parks designed to serve several neighborhoods and that include a wider range of equipment and facilities. Regional parks are large parks designed to serve a wide geographic area with a diverse range of equipment and facilities. Special use parks are highly specialized parks designed to serve the entire County with unique facilities and activities, such as marinas, historic areas, recreation centers, golf</del></p>	<p>Parks definition continued.</p>

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<p><del>courses, equestrian facilities, equestrian trails, multi-use trails and similar facilities and may be included in community and regional parks.</del></p>	
<p><u>LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS</u></p>	
<p><u>County-owned parks, open space, and trails</u> <del>parks and open space in Prince William County</del> are to be provided Countywide according to level of service (LOS) standards adopted by the Prince William County Park Authority <u>and the Board of County Supervisors</u> and contained within this Plan. These standards address the kinds and size of parks, and recreation facilities, <u>open space, and trails</u> needed to meet the needs of County residents.</p>	
<p>The LOS standards are based upon existing conditions within the County and on recognized and accepted national, state, and County standards. They also reflect resident demand for these facilities. The LOS standards ultimately quantify monetary costs for providing Countywide parks, <del>and other</del> recreation facilities <del>and</del> <u>open space, and trails</u> for new residential and non-residential development in the County. These LOS standards are the basis for the County’s Capital Improvement Program and for County requests for monetary contributions for parks, <del>and</del> recreation facilities, <del>and</del> <u>open space, and trails</u> to serve new development.</p>	
<p><del>For purposes of this chapter open space includes land areas permanently protected from development by a number of means including county owned land held for historic and environmental preservation purposes, passive recreation areas of county parks, and subdivision lands set aside for open space purposes. There are currently about 8,438 acres of open space in Prince William County or about 4.89% of the County’s land area less regional, state and federal lands. A detailed listing of these lands is provided in Table 2 and depicted on the Parks and Open Space Map (Map 1).</del></p>	<p>Added a definition of open space.</p>

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<p>The components of the Parks, <del>and</del> Open Space <u>and Trails</u> Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intent, Goals, Policies, and Action Strategies</li> <li>• <del>Baseline LOS standards and criteria guidelines</del></li> <li>• <del>Current Park Needs by Park Type (Figure 1)</del></li> <li>• Projected Park Land Needs (Table 1)</li> <li>• Projected Open Space Needs (Table 2)</li> <li>• Level of Service Standards for Parks and Open Space (Appendix A)</li> <li>• <u>Corridor Plan (Appendix B)</u></li> <li>• <del>Map 1: Parks and Open Space Map (fold-out map)</del></li> <li>• <u>Map 2: Parks and Open Space and Corridors Map</u></li> <li>• <u>Map 3: Trails Map</u></li> </ul>	<p style="color: red;">Didn't know what "baseline LOS standards" were</p>
<p>The Parks and Open Space <u>Corridors</u> Map is conceptual in nature and does not show the actual alignments of the Class I, Class II, and Class III trails along public roadways and/or publicly owned and/or privately conveyed or donated "<u>greenway</u>" <u>corridor</u> alignments. Individual land features, unsuitable terrain, property ownership, and citizen needs will dictate specific alignments. <u>The Parks and Open Space Corridors Map (Map 2) shows parks and open spaces and the general locations of existing and potential connections between the open spaces, which should be developed as one of the three types of corridors – recreational, heritage and environmental.</u></p>	
<p><del>The Parks and Open Space Plan Map delineates already dedicated or proposed public walking, biking, hiking, and horse riding trails adjacent to public rights of way and already dedicated or donated greenways—or linear corridors of open space that connect and protect natural, recreational, and cultural resources in the County. Additions to the Parks and Open Space Plan Map</del> <u>Development of trails plans in accordance with the Corridors Map</u> may take place on public property, within the public right of way, or on private property—through voluntary donations by citizens and through negotiated proffers from landowners and/or the development community, as development occurs. Private property owners are not obligated to participate in the <del>trails and greenways</del> corridors program. Private property immediately adjacent to <del>the a proposed trail or greenway within a corridor</del> shall not be <u>adversely</u> affected by that trail <del>or greenway</del> without <u>the consent of</u> <del>by</del> the owner of that property.</p>	

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<p>Implementation of the Parks and Open Space <u>Corridors Map</u> shall not negatively affect the environment. <del>Neither the County nor the Park Authority will condemn private property to implement the Park Authority's Greenways and Trails Master Plan, as approved by the Park Authority Board.</del></p>	<p>Relocated to corridors policy section, POS 4, AS 16.</p>
<p><b><u>PARKS GOAL 1:</u></b> Provide <u>park lands and recreational facilities</u> a park system and programs of a quantity, variety, and quality appropriate to meet the needs of the residents of Prince William County.</p>	
<p><del><b>GOAL:</b> Meet established level of service standards to ensure adequate sites and facilities needed to carry out an effective park and recreation program are provided. <u>Provide an open space system that preserves natural and cultural resources for the use and enjoyment of the residents of Prince William County.</u></del></p>	<p>New goal related to open space. <b>Relocated to the open space section.</b></p>
<p><del><b>PARKS REC-POLICY 1:</b> Ensure the consistency and coordination of interagency planning techniques to provide for an appropriate quantity, variety, and quality of park sites and facilities. <u>Acquire and maintain park acreage at a rate consistent with population growth and in accordance with development standards through the development process and other means as appropriate.</u></del></p>	<p>Reorient the first policy to apply to park acreage standards.</p>
<p><b>ACTION STRATEGIES:</b></p>	
<p>1. Implement <del>baseline</del> LOS standards and criteria for park sites <del>and facilities</del> <u>to achieve a standard of 15.0 acres of county park land per 1,000 population</u>, as outlined <u>in Appendix A</u> below, based on the characteristics of the development and proximity of park sites <del>and facilities</del>. Such standards shall be applied Countywide throughout the development review process. <u>See the Schools chapter for guidance on the size of school open space.</u> <del>The standards are as follows:</del></p>	<p>Limited this strategy to only park land. Facilities have a separate set of strategies.</p>
<p><b>ACREAGE STANDARDS FOR PARK SITES:</b></p>	<p><b>Relocated to Appendix A</b></p>

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<p><b><u>Countywide:</u></b>  <del>County park land should be provided at a rate of 15 acres per 1,000 population. Included within this total should be all neighborhood, community, regional, and special use parks. Fifty percent of the total combined park land should provide active recreation facilities and the remainder should be reserved for open space. This passive open space shall contribute to the countywide open space goal. This amount of parkland is in addition to those parks and open spaces provided by the federal government, state government, private property owners and HOAs.</del></p>	<p>Added a countywide standard, establishing 15 acres/1,000 population as the cumulative standard.  Relocated to Appendix A</p>
<p><b><u>Neighborhood Parks:</u></b>  General Definition: <del>Relatively small local parks designed to serve its immediate neighborhood densely populated areas and that includes specialized equipment and facilities. County owned neighborhood parks should be located to serve those areas of the County developed at a density greater than 1 unit per acre and not served by HOA facilities.</del></p>	<p>Acknowledge the contribution of HOA facilities to neighborhood park needs.  Relocated to Appendix A.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres/1000 persons: _____ 1.0 acres</li> <li>• <u>Minimum Size:</u> _____ 5 to 20 acres</li> <li>• Service Area: _____ 1.5 to 2 miles <u>1 mile (at a density &gt; 1 du/ac)</u></li> <li>• Population served: _____ 3,000 <del>7,000</del></li> </ul>	<p>Decreased the service area to 1 mile.   Eliminated the “population served” standard. Parks in more densely populated areas would have to be designed in a way that can accommodate a more intensive use.  Relocated to Appendix A.</p>
<p><b><u>Community Parks:</u></b> General Definition: <del>Larger recreation parks designed to serve several neighborhoods urban and rural residents and that include a wider range of equipment and facilities.</del></p>	<p>Relocated to Appendix A.</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres/1000 persons: ----- 4.0 acres</li> <li>• <u>Minimum Size</u>: ----- 20 to 100 acres</li> <li>• Service Area: ----- 2 to 10 <u>5</u> miles</li> <li>• Population served: ----- 7,000 – 17,000</li> </ul>	<p>Eliminated the “population served” standard. Parks in more densely populated areas would have to be designed in a way that can accommodate a more intensive use. Clarified the service area standard.</p>
<p><b>Regional Parks:</b> General Definition: Large parks designed to serve a wide geographic area with a diverse range of equipment and facilities.</p>	<p style="color: red;">Relocated to Appendix A.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres/1000 persons: ----- 6.0 acres</li> <li>• <u>Minimum Size</u>: ----- 100+ acres</li> <li>• Service Area: ----- 10+ miles</li> <li>• Population served: ----- 17,000</li> </ul>	<p>Eliminated the population served standard.  <span style="color: red;">Relocated to Appendix A.</span></p>
<p><b>Special Use Parks:</b> General Definition: <del>Highly specialized parks designed to serve the entire County with unique facilities and activities, such as marinas, historic areas, recreation centers, golf courses, equestrian facilities, greenway and equestrian trails, <u>multi use trails</u> and similar facilities and may be included in community and regional parks.</del></p>	<p style="color: red;">Relocated to Appendix A.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres/1000 persons: ----- 2.8 <del>4.0</del> acres</li> <li>• <u>Minimum Size</u>: ----- Dependent on activity/use</li> <li>• Service Area: ----- Countywide/20+ 10 miles</li> <li>• Population served: ----- 25,000+</li> </ul>	<p>Eliminated the population served standard.  <span style="color: red;">Relocated to Appendix A.</span></p>

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<p><b>Standards for Neighborhood and Community Park Facilities:</b></p> <p><b>PWCPA Std. _____ (facility/pop. served)</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVE FACILITIES</b></p> <p><b>PLAYFIELDS</b></p> <p>Baseball _____ 1/6,000</p> <p>Little League _____ 1/4,000</p> <p>Softball _____ 1/4,000</p> <p>Football _____ 1/15,000</p> <p>Soccer _____ 1/2,000</p> <p><b>COURTS</b></p> <p>Tennis _____ 1/5,000</p> <p>Basketball _____ 1/5,000</p> <p>Volleyball _____ 1/10,000</p> <p><b>OTHER</b></p> <p>Gymnasium _____ 1/35,000</p> <p>Fitness/Trail _____ 1 mi./10,000</p> <p>Playground/Tot Lots _____ 1/5,000</p> <p><b>PASSIVE FACILITIES</b></p> <p>Nature Centers _____ 1/100,000</p> <p>Nature/Greenway Trails _____ 1 mi/500</p> <p>Amphitheaters (stage and seating for approx. 300) _____ 1/100,000</p>	<p>Facility standards have been separated from park land standards and have been relocated to Policy 2, AS 1.</p>
<p><del>2. Create and maintain records of participation rates and demand for services for use in future park analysis.</del></p>	<p>This strategy is facility related and therefore was relocated to Policy 2, AS 2.</p>
<p><del><u>2. A community park, regional park, or special use park shall be considered to meet the definition of neighborhood park when considering service area.</u></del></p>	<p><b>Deleted in favor of amendment to AS 3 below.</b></p>

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<p><del>3. Create and maintain an inventory of existing private sector and other jurisdictional parkland and facilities for use in future park analysis.</del></p>	<p>This strategy was moved to Policy 2, AS 3.</p>
<p><u>2. At the time of rezoning and special use permit, ensure adequate pedestrian access to the nearest neighborhood parks and other parks as appropriate.</u></p>	<p>Added to reinforce neighborhood park connections to development.</p>
<p><del>4. Apply current and future population data by Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) Analysis Zones to determine needs analysis based on individual park LOS, rather than by magisterial district. Provide current and updated demographic data relevant to parks and facilities to the Park Authority on a regular and ongoing basis.</del></p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p><u>3. At the time of rezoning or special use permit, ensure that new residential development with a density greater than 1 unit per acre is within one mile of a neighborhood, <u>community, or regional</u> park, or provide adequate recreational facilities to meet neighborhood park standards on subdivision land within the proposed development.</u></p>	<p>Added to reinforce neighborhood park connections to development.</p>
<p><del>5. Assist the Park Authority in soliciting funding from appropriate governmental agencies for the purpose of acquisition, development, renovation, and maintenance of County parks, trails, open space, and recreational sites and facilities.</del></p>	<p>This strategy was moved to Policy 5, AS 1.</p>
<p><u>4. Develop a drive-time model for community, regional, and special use park service areas and transition the park LOS standards to drive-time standards rather than service area standards.</u></p>	<p>New policy to provide a more accurate method of determining park service area.</p>
<p><del>6. Coordinate, where feasible, park and facility planning with the recommendations of the Virginia Outdoor Plan, to optimize the informational gains and other benefits associated with coordinated intergovernmental planning.</del></p>	<p>This strategy is replaced by new policies in Policy 5, AS 3.</p>
<p><u>5. During rezoning and special use permit applications, accept land dedications and/or monetary contributions adequate to offset the impacts of the proposed development on the park and open space system.</u></p>	

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<p><del>7. Coordinate interagency planning efforts to implement a Countywide, comprehensive trails and greenways system—including trails for pedestrian, non-motorized vehicles, and horses under saddle and on harness. Connectivity between parks via trails, sidewalks, greenways, and linear corridors shall be encouraged.</del></p>	<p>This strategy is superseded by the new Policy 4 on trails and Policy 5 on coordination.</p>
<p><u>6. Land dedications for parks and open space should meet the location, access and use needs of the park system.</u></p>	
<p><u>7. Periodically update the Policy Guide for Monetary Contributions to reflect accurate costs for land acquisition and facility construction.</u></p>	
<p><u>8. Locate, where possible, community and regional parks on major collector and arterial roadways, to minimize the potential traffic impacts on residential neighborhoods.</u></p>	
<p><u>9. Neighborhood park sites and facilities should be provided primarily by HOAs and other community organizations and built to neighborhood park standards.</u></p>	
<p><del><b>PARKS REC-POLICY 2: Acquire and maintain park acreage and facility development at a rate consistent with population growth and in accordance with adopted standards, through the development process and other means, as appropriate. <u>Active recreation/facilities policy – Meet the established LOS standard to ensure adequate facilities to carry out an effective park and recreation program.</u></b></del></p>	
<p><b>ACTION STRATEGIES:</b></p>	

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<p><b>Standards for Neighborhood and Community Park Facilities:</b></p> <p><b>PWCPA Std. _____ (facility/pop. served)</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVE FACILITIES</b></p> <p><b>PLAYFIELDS</b></p> <p>_____ Baseball _____ 1/6,000</p> <p>_____ Little League _____ 1/4,000</p> <p>_____ Softball _____ 1/4,000</p> <p>_____ Football _____ 1/15,000</p> <p>_____ Soccer _____ 1/2,000</p> <p><b>COURTS</b></p> <p>_____ Tennis _____ 1/5,000</p> <p>_____ Basketball _____ 1/5,000</p> <p>_____ Volleyball _____ 1/10,000</p> <p><b>OTHER</b></p> <p>_____ Recreation Centers _____ 1/50,000</p> <p>_____ Gymnasium _____ 1/35,000</p> <p>_____ Fitness/Trail _____ 1 mi./10,000</p> <p>_____ Playground/Tot Lots _____ 1/5,000</p> <p><b>PASSIVE FACILITIES</b></p> <p>_____ Nature Centers _____ 1/100,000</p> <p>_____ Nature/Greenway Trails _____ 1 mi./2500</p> <p>_____ Amphitheaters (stage and seating for approx. 300) _____ 1/100,000</p>	<p>Relocated from Policy 1. Relocated to Appendix A.</p>
<p><b>1. <u>Recreation facilities should be located within county parks, at schools, and within private park facilities. Facilities should be provided at an amount and rate adequate to serve the residents of Prince William County as provided in Appendix A.</u></b></p>	
<p><b>1. Update the number of persons/dwelling unit size coefficient within the Design and Construction Standards Manual to reflect figures derived from the Prince William County population forecasts for MWCOG.</b></p>	

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<p><u>2. The Park Authority should create and maintain records of participation rates and demand for services for use in future facilities park analysis</u></p>	<p>Relocated from Policy 1, AS 2.</p>
<p><del>2. Update periodically the property value coefficient—upon which the calculation of fair share contributions is based—to more accurately reflect existing and varying property values throughout the County.</del></p>	
<p><u>3. The Park Authority should create and maintain an inventory of existing private sector and other jurisdictional facilities for use in future park facilities analysis.</u></p>	<p>Relocated from Policy 1, AS 3.</p>
<p><del>3. Encourage voluntary monetary contributions from developers where land dedications would not meet minimum acreage standards for each park category.</del></p>	
<p>4. Renovate and expand, where possible - in accordance with the guidelines of the Community Design Plan – existing park acreage and facilities to address identified demands.</p>	
<p><del>4. Accept only those dedications of public park sites and facilities that are readily accessible to the general public and not just to residents of the proposed development.</del></p>	
<p><u>5. Upgrade and expand facilities to meet the population expected to be served by such facility.</u></p>	
<p><del>5. Encourage the use of conservation easements or restrictive covenants—as appropriate—by private landowners, in order to protect and preserve historic sites and sensitive environmental areas.</del></p>	<p>Moved to POS 3 – open space</p>
<p><del>6. Encourage the use of public-private partnerships for the purposes of acquiring, constructing and/or operating parks and park facilities.</del></p>	<p>Moved to POS 5 - coordination</p>
<p>7. 6. Encourage developers incorporating pools in new developments to construct 25-meter, six-lane community pools designed to meet the needs of community and competitive swimming.</p>	
<p><u>7. Account for private recreational facilities, facilities on subdivision lands, and facilities at elementary and middle schools when evaluating facilities LOS needs.</u></p>	

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8. <u>Amend the schools chapter to provide standards for number, type and design of recreational facilities.</u>	
9. <u>Update the DCSM to establish facility standards for private facilities built to meet neighborhood park standards.</u>	
<b><u>OPEN SPACE GOAL: <del>Meet established level of service standards to ensure adequate sites and facilities needed to carry out an effective park and recreation program are provided. Provide an open space system that preserves natural and cultural resources for the use and enjoyment of the residents of Prince William County.</del></u></b>	New goal related to open space. <b>Relocated from above.</b>
<b><u>REOPEN SPACE-POLICY 1: Promote and encourage the establishment of a countywide system of open spaces to meet the passive recreation needs of county residents and to preserve important natural and cultural resources.</u></b>	
<b><u>ACTION STRATEGIES</u></b>	
1. <u>Thirty-nine percent of the County’s land (excluding Quantico Marine Corps Base) shall be preserved as open space. In addition to the federal and state park land that the residents of Prince William County currently enjoy acquire or designate as open space additional land so that 10% of the land area in the county excluding state and federal lands is open space.–This open space goal can be achieved through a number of means including park land acquisition, preservation of open space through the subdivision process, acquisition of lands containing cultural and environmental resources and purchase of development rights.</u>	
<u>2. County parks should have about 50% of their area in open space or passive recreation.</u>	<b>Deleted in favor of new AS 2 below.</b>
2. <u>At least 50% of county park land system shall be left undeveloped for resource protection, open space or passive recreation.</u>	
3. Consider incorporating scenic vistas and natural viewsheds – identified through the Cultural Resources and Environment chapters – into the parks and open space <del>trails and greenways</del> system, as appropriate.	Moved from Policy 4, AS 12, updated terminology.

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4. Encourage the use of conservation easements or restrictive covenants – as appropriate – by private landowners, in order to protect and preserve historic sites and sensitive environmental areas.	Moved from Policy 2, AS 5.
<u>5. Pursue development of a purchase of development rights <u>and/or a Transfer of Development Rights</u> program.</u>	Added language in response to new authorizing legislation.
6. Use the capital improvement plan to prioritize acquisition of open space.	
<u>7. Amend the zoning ordinance and DCSM to implement the open space goals of this chapter.</u>	
8. Maintain information on type, amount and location of open space.	
<u>9. As part of a rezoning or special use permit, accept open space donations to <u>help</u> achieve the county’s open space preservation goals.</u>	
<b><u>RECOPEN SPACE-POLICY 2 3: Ensure that park sites are located and designed in a manner that optimizes their accessibility, safety, and usefulness to the populations intended to be served. Promote and encourage the establishment of a countywide system of environmental, cultural, and recreational corridors that include biking, hiking, equestrian, and water trails.</u></b>	Struck the trails portion of the policy.
<b>ACTION STRATEGIES:</b>	
<del>1. Locate, where possible, community and regional parks on major collector and arterial roadways, to minimize the potential traffic impacts on residential neighborhoods.</del>	Moved to Policy 1, AS 12.
<del>3.2. Utilize the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) practices of the Prince William County Police Department for points of access to trails and greenways and in trail and greenway designs.</del>	Moved to new trails section.
<u>1. Establish environmental, recreational and heritage corridors consistent with the corridors plan as shown on Map 2.</u>	Relocated from AS 7 below.



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<p><u>2. As part of the rezoning and special use permits process seek land dedication to implement identified environmental, recreational and heritage corridors.</u></p>	<p>Relocated from AS 8 below.</p>
<p>3. Increase access for boating, fishing, and beach activities along the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers and along other public waters in the County.</p>	
<p>5.4. Assist and support state efforts to locate and develop public fishing access sites in Prince William County.</p>	
<p><u>5 Link public property and the County's natural/historic/recreational resources to neighborhoods, employment centers, transit facilities, and other public facilities</u></p>	
<p><del>6. Coordinate with the Prince William County Area Agency on Aging to ensure that there are adequate park facilities— located in the proximity of senior citizen centers—to serve the specialized needs of senior citizens.</del></p>	<p>Moved to Policy 5, AS 6.</p>
<p><del>6. Include existing utility and conservation easements, abandoned railroad beds, and other appropriate sites as potential trail and/or greenway segments</del></p>	<p>Moved to new trails section.</p>
<p><del>7. Collocate parks and schools to optimize the shared use of facilities.</del></p>	<p>Moved to Policy 5, AS 7.</p>
<p><del>9. The Park Authority should maintain a set of standards for corridors and trails including topographic standards, environmental concerns and trail destinations recognizing the need for consistency, connections, accessibility, maintenance and liability</del></p>	<p>Moved to new trails section.</p>
<p><del>10 Update the DCSM standards governing the construction of trails including materials widths, access points, lighting, environmental conditions, and ADA accessibility.</del></p>	<p>Moved to new trails section.</p>
<p><u>6. Promote connections between existing and planned trails/corridors.</u></p>	<p>Struck trails.</p>

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<p><del>12. Coordinate regional trails development including the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and the East Coast Greenway, and other regional trails identified through cooperation with adjoining localities.</del></p>	<p>Moved to new trails section.</p>
<p><del>13. Assure the construction of Class I and Class II bicycle trails within the public right of way as development occurs and/or as roadways are upgraded. Encourage linkages of these trails with established trails in accordance with the Transportation Plan.</del></p>	<p>Moved to new trails section.</p>
<p><del>14. Encourage developers to collocate—where appropriate—trails and greenways within sewer line easements, utility corridors, utility easements, and buffers alongside stream valleys and roads, to minimize land acquisition and disruption of the natural environment</del></p>	<p>Moved to new trails section.</p>
<p><del>15. Encourage the construction and maintenance of trails and greenways within private developments that feed into the Countywide trails and greenways system.</del></p>	<p>Moved to new trails section.</p>
<p><del>16. Neither the County nor the Park Authority will condemn private property to implement the Park Authority’s Greenways and Trails Master Plan, as approved by the Park Authority Board. trails plans.</del></p>	<p>Moved to new trails section.</p>
<p><del><b>REC-POLICY 4: Promote and encourage the establishment of a Countywide system of biking, hiking, and horse trails and greenways, consistent with the Park Authority’s Parks and Open Space Map and Trails Plan.</b></del></p>	<p>Replaced by Policy 4, AS 5.</p>
<p><del><b>ACTION STRATEGIES:</b></del></p>	
<p><del><b>1. Promote the implementation of the Park Authority’s trails and greenways system with the assistance of citizen groups, the development community, and the Virginia Department of Transportation in order to link public property and the County’s natural/historic/recreational resources, neighborhoods, employment centers, transit facilities, and other public facilities.</b></del></p>	<p>Replaced by Policy 4, AS 5.</p>

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<p><del>2. Include in planning for the trails and greenways system and working with the various public and private groups assisting the Park Authority in implementing that system all floodways existing utility and conservation easements, abandoned railroad beds, and other appropriate sites as potential trail and/or greenway segments.</del></p>	<p>Replaced by the new Map 2 and Policy 2, AS 7.</p>
<p><del>3. Create designated stream valley (linear) parks to be incorporated into the Countywide trails and greenways system, to be provided through voluntary contributions by landowners or through Park Authority purchase of the land within the proposed stream valley park.</del></p>	<p>Replaced by the new Map 2 and Policy 2, AS 7.</p>

## Parks, Open Space, and Trails

~~4. Coordinate efforts between the Park Authority and the County to establish standards and guidelines for the dedication of land and the acquisition of easements from private property owners for the Countywide trails and greenways system. Such standards should recognize that the system will provide a variety of benefits including recreation, environmental protection, economic development and non-motorized transportation. These standards shall address:~~

- ~~• Topographic standards for trail construction, including maximum slopes and drainage.~~
- ~~• Environmental concerns for wildlife, water quality, and plant life.~~
- ~~• Trail destinations and connections.~~

~~Such standards should recognize that the system will provide a variety of benefits including recreation, environmental protection, economic development, and non-motorized transportation. Such standards should include, but not be limited to, the following:~~

- ~~• **Consistency**—The acquisition of alignments for additional trails and greenways should be consistent with the County’s Long Range Land Use Plan Map and the standards established for the Park Authority’s Parks and Open Space Plan Map.~~
- ~~• **Connections**—Proposed land or easements to be dedicated should provide connections to existing or future trails or greenways.~~
- ~~• **Accessibility**—Proposed land dedications and easements should serve multiple needs and be accessible to the general public. Potential sites and easements should be judged on location criteria that include linkages to existing trails, trip origins, service to the greatest number of users, and linkages to public and private facilities.~~
- ~~• **Maintenance and Liability**—Responsibilities for maintenance and liabilities associated with the type and use of a trail should be clearly defined, prior to construction of each segment.~~

Replaced by Policy 1, AS 9.

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<p><del>5. Maintain and update standards governing construction of trails. Standards should consider, but not be limited to, the following factors:</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• <b>Surfaces and Widths</b>—Trail surfaces and widths should be appropriate to the expected user types, intensity of use, and maintenance levels expected.</del></li> <li><del>• <b>Access Points</b>—Frequency and location of access points should relate to activity centers and transportation facilities.</del></li> <li><del>• <b>Lighting</b>—Adequate lighting should be provided where trails traverse security risk areas and serve users of public transit facilities.</del></li> <li><del>• <b>Environmental Conditions</b>—Trails should be designed and constructed with minimal impact to the County’s environmental, cultural, and historic resources.</del></li> </ul>	
<p><del>6. Encourage the use of tax benefits as an incentive for property owners to provide trails and greenways and/or restrictive and conservation easements to promote connections between existing and planned trails and greenways where such facilities are identified on the Long Range Land Use Plan Map.</del></p>	
<p><del>7. Cooperate with local, state, regional, and federal planning agencies to seek private donations of land or other voluntary means and conveyance of public property to develop the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail corridor along Prince William County’s eastern boundary as a segment of a regional trails and greenways network.</del></p>	
<p><del>8. Provide—through private donations of land or other voluntary means and conveyance of public property—trails and greenways for passive recreational purposes along the Occoquan Reservoir and Lake Manassas, to provide for passive recreation needs, with the added benefit of protecting the public drinking water supply.</del></p>	
<p><del>9. Assure the construction of Class I and Class II bicycle trails within the public right-of-way as development occurs and/or as roadways are upgraded. Encourage linkages of these trails with established trails in accordance with the Transportation Plan</del></p>	
<p><del>10. Promote cooperation with surrounding jurisdictions and regional planning authorities, to provide an inter-jurisdictional trails and greenways system through the cooperation and participation of the private and public sectors.</del></p>	<p>Replace by Policy 5, AS 3&amp;4.</p>

## Parks, Open Space, and Trails

<p><del>11. Work with local citizens and private organizations with an interest in trails and greenways, to assist in encouraging private participation in and maintenance of the trails and greenways system.</del></p>	<p>Moved to Policy 5, AS8.</p>
<p><del>12. Consider incorporating scenic vistas and natural view sheds identified through the Environment Plan into the trails and greenways system, as appropriate.</del></p>	<p>Moved to Policy 3, AS2.</p>
<p><del>13. Encourage developers to collocate — where appropriate — trails and greenways within sewer line easements, utility corridors, utility easements, and buffers alongside stream valleys and roads, to minimize land acquisition and disruption of the natural environment.</del></p>	<p>Moved to Policy 4, AS14.</p>
<p><del>14. Encourage the construction and maintenance of trails and greenways within private developments that feed into the Countywide trails and greenways system.</del></p>	<p>Moved to Policy 4, AS15.</p>
<p><del>15. Consider conveying to the Park Authority any unused rights of way or other unused, abandoned County land.</del></p>	<p>Moved to Policy 5, AS9.</p>
<p><del>11. Neither the County nor the Park Authority will condemn private property to implement the Park Authority’s Greenways and Trails Master Plan, as approved by the Park Authority Board. trails plans.</del></p>	<p><del>Deleted.</del></p>
<p><del><b>REC-POS POLICY 5:</b> Optimize the use of existing parks and related facilities. <u>Ensure the consistency and coordination of interagency planning techniques to provide for an appropriate quantity, variety, and quality of open space, park sites and facilities.</u></del></p>	<p>Added a new policy and associated action strategies to emphasize coordination of park and open space planning, acquisition, construction, and maintenance. <b>Moved under coordination goal.</b></p>
<p><b>ACTION STRATEGIES:</b></p>	
<p><del>1. Utilize, where possible, monetary contributions to provide needed facilities to existing park sites.</del></p>	

## Parks, Open Space, and Trails

<p><del>1. Assist The Park Authority should solicit grants and other funding opportunities for the purpose of planning, acquisition, development, renovation, and maintenance of parks, open space, and trails, and recreational facilities.</del></p>	<p>Moved from Policy 1, AS 5.  <b>Moved under coordination goal.</b></p>
<p><del>2. Renovate and expand, where possible—in accordance with the guidelines of the Community Design Plan—existing park acreage and facilities to address identified demands.</del></p>	
<p><del>2. Coordinate park and open space planning with the recommendations of the Virginia Outdoors Plan, the Virginia Wildlife Plan, and the Virginia Natural Heritage Resources Assessment, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources’ Cultural Resources Inventory.</del></p>	<p><b>Moved under coordination goal.</b></p>
<p><del>3. Coordinate park and open space planning with the plans for Quantico, PWF, Manassas National Battlefield Park, Leesylvania Park, Conway Robinson, Bull Run Mountain Conservancy, NVRPA, and the Occoquan Bay and Featherstone National Wildlife Refuges.</del></p>	<p>Replaces, with Policy 5, AS4,  Policy 4, AS10.  <b>Moved under coordination goal.</b></p>
<p><del>4. Coordinate park and open space planning with adjoining jurisdictions and with the towns of Occoquan, Quantico, Dumfries, and Haymarket.</del></p>	<p>Replaces, with Policy 5, AS4,  Policy 4, AS10.  <b>Moved under coordination goal.</b></p>
<p><del>5. Encourage the use of public/private partnerships for the purposes of acquiring, constructing and/or operating parks and park facilities, and open space.</del></p>	<p>Moved from Policy 2, AS 6.  <b>Moved under coordination goal.</b></p>
<p><del>6. Coordinate with the Prince William County Area Agency on Aging to ensure that there are adequate park facilities—located in the proximity of senior citizen centers—to serve the specialized needs of senior citizens.</del></p>	<p>Moved from Policy 3, AS6.  <b>Moved under coordination goal.</b></p>
<p><del>7. Collocate parks and schools to optimize the shared use of facilities.</del></p>	<p>Moved from Policy 3, AS7.  <b>Moved under coordination goal.</b></p>
<p><del>8. Work with local citizens and private organizations with an interest in trails and greenways <u>heritage, environmental, and recreational corridors</u> to assist in encouraging <u>encourage</u> private participation in <u>planning and maintenance of the trails and greenways system corridors</u>.</del></p>	<p>Moved from Policy 4, AS11.  Clarified text.  <b>Moved under coordination goal.</b></p>

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<p><del>9. Consider conveying to the Park Authority any unused rights-of-way or other unused, abandoned County-owned land or land intended as a park that meet land, facility, or corridor needs identified in this chapter or the Park Authority Comprehensive Plan.</del></p>	<p>Moved from Policy 4, AS 15. Policy broadened to include non-county-owned land that may be available to meet park and open space needs. <b>Moved under coordination goal.</b></p>
<p><del>10. Consider re-designating from Public Land (PL) to Parks and Open Space (P&amp;OS) any unused rights-of-way or other unused, abandoned County land or land intended as a park that meet land, facility, or corridor needs identified in this chapter or the Park Authority Comprehensive Plan.</del></p>	<p>New strategy based on citizen input and PC work session comments <b>Moved under coordination goal.</b></p>
<p><b><u>TRAILS GOAL 1: Preserve the existing trails network (including blueways) within the County.</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>TR-Policy 1: Complete and maintain an accurate inventory of trails (including blueways) in Prince William County.</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>ACTION STRATEGIES:</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>1. The County shall prepare a current comprehensive inventory of existing trails (using the classification system in Appendix A). The inventory will include, but is not limited to trails within public parks and open space, paved multi-use trails alongside roadways, natural surface trails, and other paths open to the public for non-motorized travel. The inventory will also include existing blueways and public access points to lakes and streams in the county.</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>2. Periodically update inventory to include newly constructed trails.</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>3. Develop and maintain a publicly available online inventory of all trails.</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>TRAILS GOAL 2: Plan and implement a comprehensive countywide network of trails</u></b></p>	



**Parks, Open Space, and Trails**

<p><b><u>TR-Policy 1:</u></b> Establish a Trails Commission to serve as the focal point for developing <del>and protecting</del> a comprehensive network of trails (including blueways) in Prince William County.</p>	
<p><b><u>ACTION STRATEGIES:</u></b></p>	
<p>1. <u>The Board of County Supervisors should consider the creation a Trails Commission to advise and assist the Park Authority Board and the Board of County Supervisors in efforts to create, implement and protect a Countywide Trails Network. The Trail Commission shall be responsible for developing baseline criteria for creating public trails as well as recommending priorities for inclusion in the Prince William County Capital Improvement Program, the Prince William Park Authority Capital Improvement Program, reviewing comprehensive plan amendments, rezoning and special use permit applications and recommending trail development opportunities, and actively seeking to establish a broad range of partnerships to ensure a high quality and comprehensive Countywide trail network.</u></p>	<p><u>This appendix, along with Map B, represent the proposed corridors plan.</u></p>
<p>2. <u>The Trails Commission, with staff support from the Prince William County Park Authority, Planning Office, and other agencies as directed by the Board of County Supervisors, shall new trails that connect residential areas, county, state, and national parks, forests, and wildlife management areas, places of cultural and historical interest, schools, retail areas, and transportation nodes, and provide their recommendations to the Board of County Supervisors for inclusion in the County’s Comprehensive Plan.</u></p>	
<p>3. <u>The Trails Commission shall identify opportunities to increase public access to blueways, and to create safe portage paths around obstacles (dams, low bridges, etc.).</u></p>	
<p>4. <u>The Trails Commission shall create benchmarks to measure progress in completing Prince William's comprehensive trail network.</u></p>	
<p><b><u>TR-Policy 2:</u></b> Maximize partnerships and public participation in all phases of the County trail and blueways programs.</p>	

**Parks, Open Space, and Trails**

<p><u><b>ACTION STRATEGIES:</b></u></p>	
<p><u>1. Invite input from county/state/regional/Federal agencies, adjacent jurisdictions, landowners and developers, as well as community and regional organizations (including athletic leagues, civic groups, conservation and environmental groups, plus hiking, cycling and equestrian groups), to-update the Trail Map, develop high-quality facilities, and attract alternative sources of land and funding.</u></p>	
<p><u>2. Ensure that the County’s plans for a comprehensive trail network are included in the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) "Northern Virginia Bikeway and Trail Network", the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (MWCOC) "Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the National Capital Region," plus other relevant state and regional planning documents.</u></p>	
<p><u>3. Facilitate arrangements with Virginia Railroad Express (VRE) and Omnilink for transport of bicycles, to increase access to trails in other Northern Virginia jurisdictions.</u></p>	
<p><u>4. Encourage willing Home Owner Associations whenever possible, to incorporate existing trails into the public trail system.</u></p>	
<p><u>5. Work with the Prince William County Service Authority to co-locate trail easements in utility corridors and on Service Authority properties.</u></p>	
<p>6. Include existing utility and conservation easements, abandoned railroad beds, and other appropriate sites as potential trail <del>and/or</del> <del>greenway</del> segments</p>	<p>Relocated from Policy 4, AS 6 above. Struck the term greenway.</p>
<p><u>7. Work with utilities and other private property owners to incorporate existing trails, not open to the public now, into the county’s comprehensive trail network. Landowners are generally not liable for injury or death occurring on their property when they have given public access easements for certain recreational purposes, including trails (see Appendix B).</u></p>	

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<p>8. <u>Consideration regarding residential privacy will be included as a factor when siting trails. Provide adequate public parking at appropriate trail access points to ensure residential or commercial interests will not be inconvenienced inappropriately by trail users.</u></p>	
<p>9. <u>Establish an Adopt-a-Trail Program to stimulate community support and protection of individual trails, and to offset the need for county resources to build, monitor, and maintain trail facilities.</u></p>	
<p>10. Encourage developers to collocate – where appropriate – trails and greenways within sewer line easements, utility corridors, utility easements, and buffers alongside stream valleys and roads, to minimize land acquisition and disruption of the natural environment</p>	<p>Relocated from Policy 4, AS 14 above.</p>
<p>12. Encourage the construction and maintenance of trails <del>and greenways</del> within private developments that feed into the Countywide trails and greenways system.</p>	<p>Relocated from Policy 4, AS 15 above.</p>
<p>13. <u>Coordinate regional trails development including the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and the East Coast Greenway, and other regional trails identified through cooperation with adjoining localities.</u></p>	<p>Relocated from Policy 4, AS 11 above.</p>
<p>14. Provide convenient, well-marked, well-defined entrance points of access for trails within the Countywide <del>trails and greenways</del> corridors system. Where possible, locate these entrance points at activity centers—such as park locations, public facilities (schools and libraries), public transit, residential communities, and private businesses—and where such <del>trails and greenways</del> <u>connections</u> have been provided through voluntary conveyance or are on public property.</p>	<p>Relocated from Policy 4, AS 1 above.</p>
<p><u><b>TR-Policy 3: Make land use decisions that stimulate both private sector developments and public transportation improvements that are consistent with the county's desired trails network.</b></u></p>	
<p><u><b>ACTION STRATEGIES:</b></u></p>	

**Parks, Open Space, and Trails**

<p>1. <u>Assure that approvals for new development (such as rezonings, and Special Use Permits) will include appropriate proffers for trails (see "Guidelines for Trail Proffers," Appendix D). Assure that approvals for new development will not negatively impact existing trails, and that new developments will preserve public access to trails.</u></p>	
<p>2. <u>Review all Federal, state, regional, and county transportation projects in Prince William to ensure funding includes appropriate lateral crossings in the design and construction of bridges and road projects, as well as bicycle and pedestrian signage, crossing signals, and crosswalks that facilitate easy pedestrian and bike access across highways, streams, and railroads. Consider the suitability of sidewalks and on-road bicycle lanes as interim measures for completing a comprehensive network of dedicated trails.</u></p>	
<p>3. <u>Consider using existing county rights-of-way or other county-owned lands for trails, parks, and open space, prior to determining if other disposition is more appropriate.</u></p>	
<p>4. <u>Acquire easements and other property rights using donations, grants, General Funds, and proceeds from bond issues as well as proffers, to-implement the comprehensive trails network.</u></p>	
<p>5. Assure the construction of Class I and Class II bicycle trails within the public right-of-way as development occurs and/or as roadways are upgraded. Encourage linkages of these trails with established trails in accordance with the Transportation Plan.</p>	<p>Relocated from Policy 4, AS 13 above.</p>
<p><b><u>TR Policy 4: Develop and maintain standards and guidelines for trail planning, development, and maintenance.</u></b></p>	
<p>1. <u>Amend the DCSM to include construction standards for trail types identified in Appendix D, including materials, widths, access points, lighting, environmental conditions, and ADA accessibility.</u></p>	<p>Incorporated Policy 4, AS 10 above.</p>

## Parks, Open Space, and Trails

<p><u>2. Amend the Park Authority Comprehensive Plan to include trail guidelines, types, and standards consistent with this Plan, including topographic standards, environmental concerns recognizing the need for consistency, connections, accessibility, maintenance and liability.</u></p>	<p>Incorporated Policy 4, AS 9 above.</p>
<p>3. Utilize the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) practices of the Prince William County Police Department for points of access to trails and greenways and in trail and greenway designs.</p>	<p>Relocated from Policy 4, AS-2 above.</p>
<p><b><u>COORDINATION GOAL – Coordinate planning, acquisition, development, and maintenance of an integrated parks, open space, and trails network so these lands and facilities support one another and the environment, cultural resources, and land use policies of this Plan.</u></b></p>	<p>New coordination goal.</p>
<p><del>REC-COORDINATION POLICY 1: Optimize the use of existing parks and related facilities.</del> <b><u>Ensure the consistency and coordination of interagency planning techniques to provide for an appropriate quantity, variety, and quality of open space, park sites and facilities.</u></b></p>	<p>Added a new policy and associated action strategies to emphasize coordination of park and open space planning, acquisition, construction, and maintenance.</p>
<p><b>ACTION STRATEGIES:</b></p>	
<p><del>1. Utilize, where possible, monetary contributions to provide needed facilities to existing park sites.</del></p>	
<p><del>1. Assist</del> The Park Authority should solicit grants and other funding opportunities for the purpose of planning, acquisition, development, renovation, and maintenance of parks, open space, and trails, and recreational facilities.</p>	<p>Moved from Policy 1, AS 5.</p>
<p><del>2. Renovate and expand, where possible—in accordance with the guidelines of the Community Design Plan—existing park acreage and facilities to address identified demands.</del></p>	
<p><u>2. Coordinate park, and open space and trail planning with the recommendations of the Virginia Outdoors Plan, the Virginia Wildlife Plan, and the Virginia Natural Heritage Resources Assessment, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources’ Cultural Resources Inventory.</u></p>	<p>Added trails reference.</p>

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<p>3. <u>Coordinate park, <del>and</del> open space <b>and trail</b> planning with the plans for Quantico, PWFP, Manassas National Battlefield Park, Leesylvania Park, Conway Robinson, Bull Run Mountain Conservancy, NVRPA, and the Occoquan Bay and Featherstone National Wildlife Refuges.</u></p>	<p>Replaces, with Policy 5, AS4, Policy 4, AS10. <b>Added trails reference.</b></p>
<p>4. <u>Coordinate park, <del>and</del> open space <b>and trail</b> planning with adjoining jurisdictions and with the towns of Occoquan, Quantico, Dumfries, and Haymarket.</u></p>	<p>Replaces, with Policy 5, AS4, Policy 4, AS10. <b>Added trails reference.</b></p>
<p>5. Encourage the use of public/private partnerships for the purposes of acquiring, constructing and/or operating parks and park facilities, <del>and</del> open space <b>and trails</b>.</p>	<p>Moved from Policy 2, AS 6. <b>Added trails reference.</b></p>
<p>6. Coordinate with the Prince William County Area Agency on Aging to ensure that there are adequate park facilities – located in the proximity of senior citizen centers – to serve the specialized needs of senior citizens.</p>	<p>Moved from Policy 3, AS6.</p>
<p>7. Collocate parks and schools to optimize the shared use of facilities.</p>	<p>Moved from Policy 3, AS7.</p>
<p>8. Work with local citizens and private organizations with an interest in <u>trails and greenways heritage, environmental, and recreational corridors to assist in encouraging encourage private participation in planning and maintenance of the <del>trails and greenways system</del> corridors.</u></p>	<p>Moved from Policy 4, AS11. Clarified text.</p>
<p>9. Consider conveying to the Park Authority any unused rights-of-way or other unused, abandoned County-owned land or land intended as a park that meet land, facility, or corridor needs identified in this chapter or the Park Authority Comprehensive Plan.</p>	<p>Moved from Policy 4, AS 15. Policy broadened to include non-county-owned land that may be available to meet park and open space needs.</p>
<p>10. <u>Consider re-designating from Public Land (PL) to Parks and Open Space (P&amp;OS) any unused rights-of-way or other unused, abandoned County land or land intended as a park that meet land, facility, or corridor needs identified in this chapter or the Park Authority Comprehensive Plan.</u></p>	<p>New strategy based on citizen input and PC work session comments</p>

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<p><b>APPENDIX A – LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS</b></p>	<p>Relocated from body of text.</p>
<p><b>ACREAGE STANDARDS FOR PARK SITES:</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Countywide:</u></b>  <u>County park land should be provided at a rate of 15 acres per 1,000 population. Included within this total should be all neighborhood, community, regional, and special use parks. Fifty percent of the total combined park land should provide active recreation facilities and the remainder should be reserved for open space. This passive open space shall contribute to the countywide open space goal. This amount of parkland is in addition to those parks and open spaces provided by the federal government, state government, private property owners and HOAs.</u></p>	<p>Added a countywide standard, establishing 15 acres/1,000 population as the cumulative standard.</p>
<p><b><u>Neighborhood Parks:</u></b>  <u>General Definition: Relatively small local parks designed to serve its immediate neighborhood densely populated areas and that includes specialized equipment and facilities. County-owned neighborhood parks should be located to serve those areas of the County developed at a density greater than 1 unit per acre and not served by HOA facilities.</u></p>	<p>Acknowledge the contribution of HOA facilities to neighborhood park needs.</p>
<p><u>Neighborhood parks should be located to serve local residential neighborhoods, broader residential communities and/or urban employment or mixed-use centers. Pedestrian, bicycle and/or car access is appropriate depending on the setting and access features. Whenever feasible, locate these parks adjacent to elementary or intermediate schools to maximize co-location of recreation facilities; in mixed-use developments, proximity to retail/office areas is desirable for collocation of parking and minimum impact on residences. Areas designated for natural and cultural resource protection and management may be included within these parks.</u></p>	

**Parks, Open Space, and Trails**

<p><u>Neighborhood Parks serve a wide range of recreational needs within the community and are sized between five and twenty acres. The service area for a Neighborhood Park is up to a two mile radius. These parks serve as the recreational and social links within residential communities. Neighborhood Parks should accommodate a wide variety of recreational needs and ages. These parks can supply both passive and active needs within the community. Neighborhood Parks should provide both pedestrian access as well as vehicular access and the site is sized so that both passive and active recreation can coexist within the park. Where possible these sites should be located along a trail or open space corridor. Given site specific conditions, the Park Authority may accept parcels less than five acres. Typical facilities may include open play areas, playgrounds, courts, athletic fields, game areas, trails, trail connections, natural areas, picnic facilities and facility lighting. Features may also include urban style plazas, mini-parks, water features and trail connections, oriented to pedestrian and/or bicycle use by employees and residents.</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres/1000 persons: ----- 1.0 acres</li> <li>• <u>Minimum Size</u>:----- 5 to 20 acres</li> <li>• Service Area: ----- 1.5 to 2 miles 1 mile (at a density &gt; 1 du/ac)</li> <li>• <u>Population served</u>:----- 3,000 7,000</li> </ul>	<p>Decreased the service area to 1 mile.</p> <p>Eliminated the “population served” standard. Parks in more densely populated areas would have to be designed in a way that can accommodate a more intensive use.</p>
<p><b>Community Parks:</b> General Definition: Larger recreation parks designed to serve <u>several neighborhoods</u> <del>urban and rural residents</del> and that include a wider range of <u>indoor and outdoor</u> <del>equipment</del> and facilities.</p>	



**Parks, Open Space, and Trails**

<p><u>Access should be available by the major arterials and the countywide trail system to encourage pedestrian and bicycle trips; public transit access is also desirable. Community Parks may combine recreation-oriented complexes of developed facilities with areas of the park that are undeveloped. The extent of development will depend on actual site conditions, such as topography, amount of developable acreage, and access. Appropriate facilities include those that support active and passive recreation, often clustered together, areas for programmed activities and gathering places and areas designated for resource protection. Lighted facilities and extended hours of operation are the norm. Typical recreation activities at Community Parks include golf, skating, cultural and holiday events, performing arts, sports play and activities scheduled in recreation centers. Additionally, woodlands, open space, trails and open play areas are highly desirable features.</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres/1000 persons:----- 4.0 acres</li> <li>• <u>Minimum</u> Size:-----20 <del>to 100</del> acres</li> <li>• Service Area:----- 2 to 10 <u>5</u> miles</li> <li>• Population served:----- 7,000 <del>17,000</del></li> </ul>	<p>Eliminated the “population served” standard. Parks in more densely populated areas would have to be designed in a way that can accommodate a more intensive use. Clarified the service area standard.</p>
<p><b>Regional Parks:</b> General Definition: Large parks designed to serve a wide geographic area with a diverse range of <del>equipment</del> and facilities.</p>	

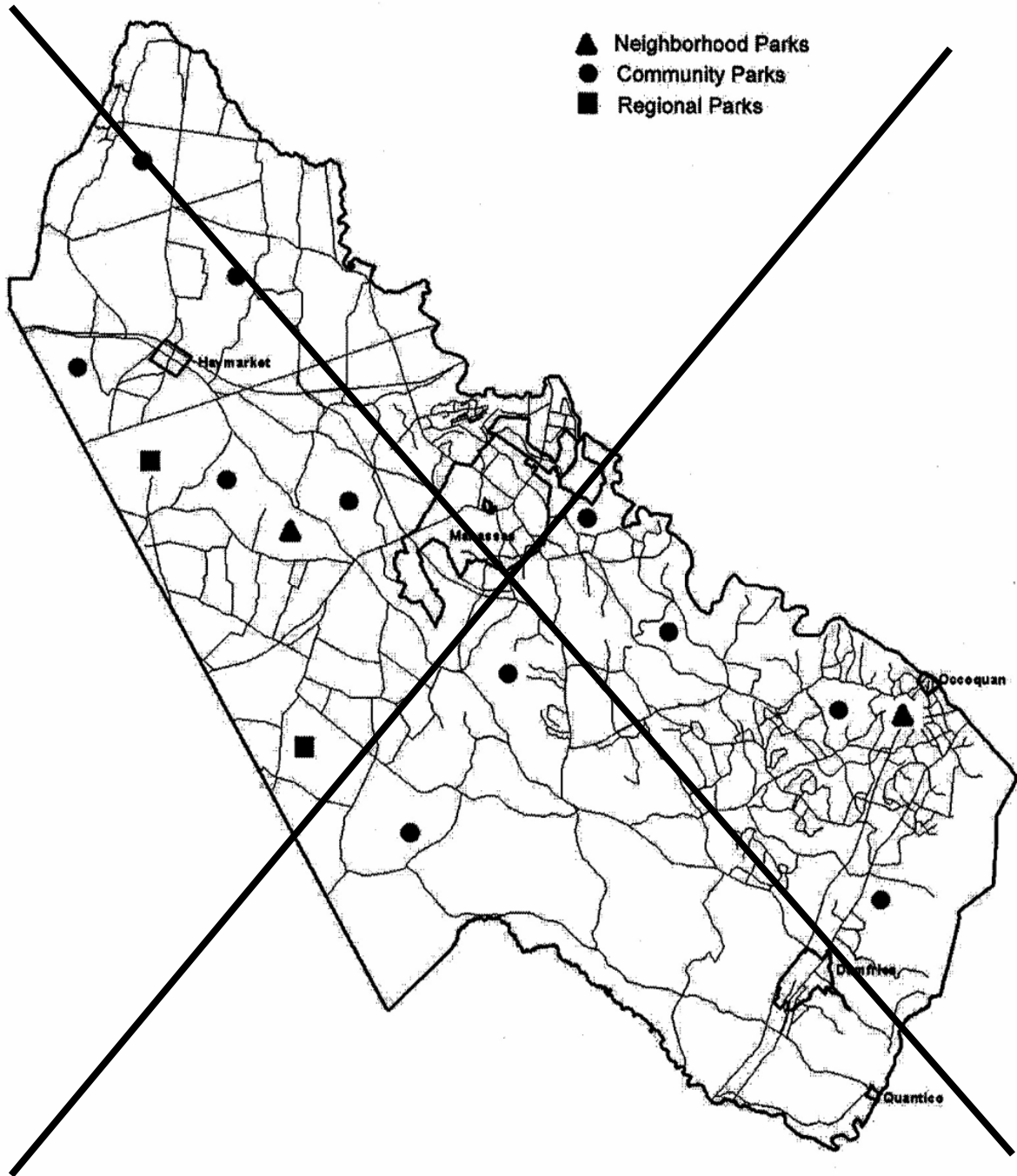
**Parks, Open Space, and Trails**

<p><u>Access should be available by the major arterials and the countywide trail system to encourage pedestrian and bicycle trips; public transit is also desirable. Regional Parks provide diverse opportunities for passive and active recreation uses to a wide range of simultaneous users. Generally, these parks provide complexes of intensively developed activity areas. The complexes may include multiple facilities for the same activity, an assortment of different activity focuses in one or more areas of the park, and/or unique facilities found in only one or a few parks within the entire park system. Facilities in these parks are larger in scale than those found in Community Parks. Appropriate facilities include those typically found in Community Parks as well as the facilities unique to Regional Parks and the support uses necessary for a full day activity such as concessions and restrooms. Formally scheduled community gathering places and areas for large programmed activities and events are also typical. Lighted facilities and extended hours of operation are the norm. These parks offer diverse experiences and activities that typically involve an individual or group for a time period of up to a day and which may attract large numbers of spectators or participants. Typical activities include those found in Community Parks as well as facilities such as sports complexes, indoor gymnasiums, field houses and lakefront parks.</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres/1000 persons:----- 6.0 acres</li> <li>• <u>Minimum Size</u>:-----100+ acres</li> <li>• Service Area:----- 10+ miles</li> <li>• <u>Population served</u>:----- 17,000</li> </ul>	<p>Eliminated the population served standard.</p>
<p><b>Special Use Parks:</b> General Definition: Highly specialized parks designed to serve the entire County with unique facilities and activities, such as marinas, historic areas, recreation centers, golf courses, equestrian facilities, <del>greenway</del> and equestrian trails, <u>multi-use trails</u> and similar facilities and may be included in community and regional parks.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres/1000 persons:----- <del>2.8</del> <u>4.0</u> acres</li> <li>- <u>Minimum Size</u>:-----Dependent on activity/use</li> <li>• Service Area:----- <del>Countywide/20+</del> 10 miles</li> <li>• <u>Population served</u>:----- 25,000+</li> </ul>	<p>Eliminated the population served standard.</p>

**Parks, Open Space, and Trails**

<b>Standards for Neighborhood and Community Park Facilities:</b>		<b>Relocated from Body of Text.</b>
<b>PWCPA Std.</b>	<b>(facility/pop. served)</b>	
<b>ACTIVE FACILITIES</b>		
<b>PLAYFIELDS</b>		
Baseball	1/6,000	
Little League	1/4,000	
Softball	1/4,000	
Football	1/15,000	
Soccer	1/2,000	
<b>COURTS</b>		
Tennis	1/5,000	
Basketball	1/5,000	
Volleyball	1/10,000	
<b>OTHER</b>		
Gymnasium	1/35,000	
Fitness/Trail	1 mi./10,000	
Playground/Tot Lots	1/5,000	
<b>PASSIVE FACILITIES</b>		
Nature Centers	1/100,000	
Nature/Greenway Trails	1 mi./2500	
Amphitheaters (stage and seating for approx. 300)	1/100,000	

Figure 1 ————— Current Park Needs by Park Type



**Parks, Open Space, and Trails**

**TABLE 1 [This table has not been reviewed or revised]**

**PROJECTED PARK LAND NEEDS BY  
EXISTING AND PROJECTED POPULATION**

Park Type	Standard in Acres/1000 population	Existing Acreage [2]	3rd Qtr. 2006 Estimated Population 374,678 Acreage Needed [1]	Current Surplus/Deficit	Proffered Acreage	Total Existing and Proffered Acreage	2025 Forecast Population 524,910 Acreage Needed [1]	2025 Surplus/Deficit (existing + proffered-need)
Neighborhood	1.0	335	375	-40	31	366	525	-159
Community	4.0	660	1,499	-839	223	883	2,100	-1,217
Regional	6.0	1,251	2,248	-997	299	1,550	3,149	-1,599
Special Use	4.0	1,051	1,499	-448	575	1,626	2,100	-474
Total [3]	15.0	3,297	5,621	-2,324	1,128	4,425	7,874	-3,449

Notes:

- [1] Source: PWC Planning Office Employment, Population, and Household 5-year forecasts (2000-2025 Employment, Population, and Household Round 7.0 (staff) forecasts
- [2] Existing acreage reflects only property owned by PWCPA or leased from government entity
- [3] Sums have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

**Parks, Open Space, and Trails**

**TABLE 2 [This table has not been revised based on the new definition of open space.]**

**PROJECTED OPEN SPACE NEEDS BY  
EXISTING AND PROJECTED POPULATION**

Resource	Existing Acreage	3rd Qtr. 2006 Estimated Population 374,678 Acreage Needed [1]	Current Deficit	Proffered Acreage [3]	Total Existing and Proffered Acreage	2025 Forecast Population 524,910 Acreage Needed [5]	2025 Deficit
County Parks – Passive [2]	1,649	2,810	1,161	564	2,218	3,937	1,759
County Historic and Environmental Resource Land	417				417		
Subdivision Land	6,629	12,327	5,698	[6]	6,629	13,332	6,703
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,695</b>	<b>15,137</b>	<b>6,859</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>9,264</b>	<b>17,269</b>	<b>8,253</b>
Total as % of County land[4]	5.0%	8.8%	4.0%	0.3%	5.4%	10%	4.8%

Notes:

- [1] The current acreage needed is based the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2006 population estimate of 374,678 and 7.5 acres/1000 for the passive area of parks and 32.9 acres/1000 for subdivision land.
- [2] The goal of 10% open space can be achieved through any combination of passive parkland, county historic and environmental resource land, and subdivision land.
- [3] Assuming 50% of proffered parkland was for open space.
- [4] The jurisdictional boundary of the County encompasses 222,615 acres of which approximately 6,295 acres is in water and 43,633 is in state and federal land leaving 172,687 acres of County land used in this calculation.
- [5] The 2025 acreage needed is based on the forecasted population estimate of 524,910 and 7.5 acres/1000 for the passive area of parks and 32.9 acres/1000 for subdivision land.
- [6] Proffered acres of subdivision open space is unknown at this time.

**Regional, State and Federal Open Space**

NOVA Regional Park Authority Land	81
Leesylvania State Park	490
Manassas National Battlefield	4,350
Prince William Forest Park	14,031
Conway Robinson Memorial State Park	439
NOVA Conservation Easements	78
VA Outdoors Foundation Easements	1,579
Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge	636
Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge	338
Marine Corps Base - Park	1,351
Marine Corps Base - Training	20,260
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,633</b>

## Environment

Proposed Changes	Comment
GOAL: Preserve, protect, and enhance the significant environmental resources and features of the County, including air quality, topography, soils, ground and surface water, biotic communities (stream corridors, forests, and wetlands), sensitive plant and animal species, and natural viewsheds.	
EN-POLICY 1: Consider environmental concerns at all levels of land use-related decision-making.	
7. <del>Thirty-nine percent of the County's land (excluding Quantico Marine Corps Base) shall be preserved as open space. Ensure that 39 percent of the County is preserved either with county open space, regional, state and federal open space, public and quasi-public conservation easements or private resource protection areas. open space is maintained in the County and that a minimum of 39 percent of the total land area in the County will be retained as open space by buildout of the Comprehensive Plan, through appropriate amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to increase open space requirements.</del>	Clarification based on the new definition of open space.
8. Amend the open space requirements in the Zoning Ordinance to ensure preservation/provision of open space within all developments.	
EN-POLICY 8: Ensure the protection of the County's groundwater and aquifers.	
<u>14. Consider locating open space where it can best protect groundwater/ aquifer recharge areas.</u>	Add action strategy to coordinate open space preservation and groundwater protection.
EN-POLICY 10: Ensure the high quality of public drinking water sources, such as Lake Manassas and the Occoquan Reservoir.	
6. Promote open space uses and—where practical—acquire land along the Occoquan Reservoir for special use parks that are designed to promote an appreciation of the natural environment and facilitate passive recreation (such as fishing, hiking, and nonmotorized boating).	No change proposed. This existing action strategy supports the park land, open space and corridor policies proposed in the Parks and Open Space chapter.

**Environment**

<p>EN-POLICY 11: Preserve natural vegetation—especially existing and mature trees—and provide for the replacement of trees.</p>	
<p>7. Consider acquisition of select sites for public parks/forests and/or encourage the dedication of such sites by private property owners.</p>	<p>No change proposed. This existing action strategy supports the open space policy of the proposed Parks and Open Space chapter.</p>
<p>EN-POLICY 12: Identify, manage, and protect all ecological communities and wildlife—especially critical habitats—as well as endangered and threatened species, and species of special concern, as identified in official Federal and State lists.</p>	
<p>4. To protect the biological diversity, processes, and functions of natural habitats, identify a network of preservation corridors or large woodland areas to be incorporated into an overall habitat protection network.</p>	<p>No change proposed. This existing action strategy supports the environmental corridor policy in the proposed Parks and Open Space chapter.</p>
<p>5. Investigate the benefits of establishing a private conservancy fund for the purpose of purchasing privately held lands for preservation purposes and seeking perpetual conservation easements to preserve open space.</p>	<p>No change proposed. This existing action strategy supports the coordination policy in the proposed Parks and Open Space chapter.</p>



## Cultural Resources

Proposed Changes	Comment
GOAL: Identify and protect Prince William County's significant historical, archaeological, architectural, and other cultural resources—including those significant to the County's minority communities—for the benefit of all of the County's citizens and visitors.	
CR-POLICY 2: Protect cultural resources that are important for documenting or demonstrating the prehistory or history of the county.	
<u>16. Identify opportunities to use open space preservation or acquisition as a means of protecting cultural resources.</u>	Added action strategy to coordinate open space preservation with cultural resource preservation efforts.
CR-POLICY 3: Enhance the awareness of Prince William County's history and the importance of the County in the historical development of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States.	
<u>11. Coordinate the development of heritage corridors as identified in the parks and open space policies.</u>	Added action strategy to coordinate development of heritage corridors with other cultural resource preservation efforts.
CR-POLICY 6: Encourage preservation and maintenance of known or discoverable cemeteries and gravesites, whether marked or unmarked.	
<u>6. Identify opportunities to protect cemeteries and grave sites through open space acquisition and/or preservation.</u>	Added action strategy to coordinate cemetery preservation with open space preservation.