

## Appendix I - Comprehensive Plan Goals and Objectives Related to Parks & Recreation and Natural Resources

### ***Hampstead***

In 2004, the Hampstead Community Comprehensive Plan was adopted. It contains the following goals and recommended actions as part of the Community Facilities and Natural & Agricultural Resources chapters:

#### Goal

- To develop a community park and provide recreational opportunities for all age levels

#### Recommended Actions

- Identify and acquire a site for a future community park, including a site for additional ballfields and basketball courts

#### Goals

- To strive for outcomes in environmental protection that provide a benefit to all stakeholders
- To support farmland preservation and creation of open space

#### Recommended Actions

- Support the county and state Agricultural Land Preservation Program through strict compliance with the Growth Area Boundary
- Support the Upper Patapsco Rural Legacy area application and implementation to help preserve the Liberty Reservoir Watershed, its headwaters, and other resources and culture of that area; enforce the Town's Growth Area Boundary; and provide a buffer between Westminster and Hampstead
- Adopt a town water supply and recharge area protection ordinance to protect Hampstead's community water supply

### ***Freedom***

The 2001 Freedom Community Comprehensive Plan contains the following parks and natural resource-related goals and objectives:

#### Goal

- To provide adequate public facilities and services

#### Recommended Actions

- Pursue the construction of a public swimming facility
- Pursue federal, state, county, and other funds to develop a greenway system that ties into the Town of Sykesville

- Encourage private development and management of commercial recreational centers including swimming centers
- Prioritize parkland acquisition to complete existing greenways
- Pursue the development of a public golf course and community park on the grounds of the Springfield State Hospital Complex
- Conduct a detailed evaluation of recreational opportunities in the Freedom area and prepare a prioritized listing of needed facilities
- Identify and acquire available parcels of land for the future expansion of existing recreational and environmental facilities

Goal

- To protect and enhance the environment

Recommend Actions

- Create wildlife corridors linking environmental features in the community.
- Design stormwater management facilities that are creative, effective, and sensitive to existing environmental features.
- Review and revise the Landscape Manual to maintain environmental quality and wildlife.
- Implement the recommendations contained in the countywide Environmental Resources Element.
- Review roadway design standards to reduce stormwater runoff.
- Maintain and expand forested areas throughout the community.
- Review regulations to make sure they are consistent with the intent of the Conservation zoning district.
- Continue stream monitoring to identify and quantify changes and their significance.
- Develop a watershed management plan for Piney Run Reservoir.
- Develop a wellhead protection plan for new community water supply wells.

The Town of Sykesville adopted its own Master Plan in 2003. It does not contain goals or objectives related to parks or natural resources, though the town adopted the Environmental Resources Element in 1997.

**Mount Airy**

The Mount Airy Environs Community Comprehensive Plan (in the process of being adopted at the time of the LPPRP’s writing) contains the following parks and natural resource-related goals and objectives:

Goals

- To secure land for the future provision of additional recreational facilities within the community
- To provide appropriate recreational opportunities at the Gillis Falls Reservoir site

### Recommended Actions

- Promote the coordination of the Town and Board of Education to share school athletic facilities
- Create policies that require developers to provide parking facilities with the parkland requirements for residential subdivisions
- Determine a location for an additional 40- to 50-acre regional park in close proximity to Watkins Regional Park. This would be developed as a Town “regional facility” where multiple recreational facilities could be built to serve the town and surrounding population
- Continue to provide pedestrian ways and bikeways within subdivisions to dedicated open space areas
- Do not allow any dedication of “unusable” open space to fulfill the Town of Mount Airy parkland dedication requirements.

### Goals

- To protect environmentally sensitive areas and preserve open spaces
- To preserve the scenic views and natural landscape of the area
- To preserve agricultural land around the community to provide distinction between the built environment and the rural landscape
- To foster alternative agricultural uses to help insure sustainability of agriculture within the area

### Recommended Actions

- Consider adoption of stream buffer standards based on the Carroll County Water Resource Management Standards and other available resources
- Facilitate goals of the Forest Conservation Act by identifying priority forestation areas in the town and making available appropriate additional public property for offsite forestation
- Consider adoption of the Water Resource Management Standards developed by Carroll County or other legislation to better protect groundwater resources
- Support Carroll County efforts to develop the Gillis Falls Reservoir
- Follow the guidelines for the State NPDES program and track the sources of local illicit discharge points
- Require additional well exploration and development for any future expansion of the Town boundaries because the current well system is obligated to existing planned development
- Complete land acquisition for and preserve the Gillis Falls Reservoir site as a potential future water supply
- Work with the Town on adoption of the environmental ordinances and associated manuals adopted in the spring of 2004 by the Board of County Commissioners and identify enforcement responsibilities

The Town of Mount Airy adopted its own comprehensive plan in 2003 with the following parks and natural resource-related goals and objectives:

### Goal

- Provide a quality living environment in the Town of Mount Airy

#### Objectives

- Provide for public facilities and services in a timely manner to ensure efficient and orderly development
- Encourage neighborhood and community connections by integrating pedestrian networks throughout the Town and create or design for better neighborhood street connections

### Goal

- Preserve and protect the town's environmental and cultural resources

#### Objectives

- Protect existing naturally sensitive areas from the detrimental effects of development by encouraging sensitive land development
- Protect the Town's groundwater resources
- Concentrate development so there is minimal conflict between the man-made and natural environment
- Establish land uses that are compatible with designated open space or historic areas
- Recognize the value of existing historic structures by providing proper buffering or preservation of immediately surrounding land
- Create guidelines for building development that maintain the Town's historic character
- Protect existing streams and tributaries from development by providing adequate physical buffering

## ***Manchester***

The Manchester and Environs Comprehensive Plan was adopted in February 1998. The town adopted the Environmental Resources Element in 1997, and this is what is referenced in the plan under natural resources. The following additional goals and objectives relate to parks and natural resource protection:

### Goal

- Protect groundwater and the environment as development occurs

#### Objectives

- Review all development plans with groundwater protection as a priority
- Implement landscape regulations to enhance the community with planting in all new development, and whenever possible, by the preservation or replacement of existing mature trees
- Continue to acquire lands for the development, use, and protection of the community's water supply resources

### Goal

- Encourage creative and harmonious development in the community

#### Objectives

- Preserve the community's natural features wherever possible and try to integrate new development in to the existing environment by diminishing aesthetic intrusions and environmental alterations, by increasing open space, and by instituting good development design under flexible regulation
- Promote environmentally sensitive development that utilizes and enhances existing site features without detracting from scenic views and historically significant areas, and adheres to adopted Environmental Resource Protection measures

## ***New Windsor***

The New Windsor Community Planning Area Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1997. The Environmental Resources Element was adopted concurrent with the comprehensive plan, and this is what is referenced in the plan under natural resources. The following goals and recommended actions related to parks and natural resources were included in the plan:

### Goal

- To provide adequate public facilities

#### Recommended Actions

- Continue joint use agreement with the Board of Education for school facilities
- Support the Greenways Plan developed by Harms & Associates

### Goal

- To preserve and make wise use of environmental resources

## ***Taneytown***

The Taneytown and Environs Comprehensive Plan was adopted in September 1997. The town adopted the Environmental Resources Element in 1997, and this is what is referenced in the plan under natural resources. The plan also contains the following goals related to parks & recreation and natural resources:

### Goals

- Provide a development plan that will manage growth in keeping with the community's ability and willingness to provide and maintain public services and facilities such as public water and sewer service, school facilities, police protection, fire and ambulance services, and recreational programs and facilities

- Provide a development plan that will ensure that all development is sensitive to the existing physical and man-made environment by considering hydrologic and soil characteristics, topography, existing uses of land, availability of public facilities, and accessibility
- Provide a well-maintained, safe and efficient transportation network that...provides pathways for bicycle and pedestrian use
- Preserve, protect, and make wise use of environmental resources, including streams and stream buffers, steep slopes, 100-year floodplains, forested areas, habitats of threatened and endangered species, wellhead buffers, and wetlands.

## ***Union Bridge***

The last comprehensive plan for Union Bridge and Environs was adopted in 1990. It contained the following parks and natural resources-related goal and objectives:

### Goal

- Provide a well planned and pleasing physical and social environment

#### Objectives

- Encourage varied living, working, recreation and shopping activities
- Provide adequate public facilities, schools, cultural and recreational opportunities

### Goal

- Protect and maintain the community's natural and cultural resources

#### Objectives

- Minimize the environmental impacts of development on the quality of surface and ground water
- Protect stream valleys, minimizing flood hazards and providing open space
- Preserve the quality of air
- Protect areas of historical and cultural interest, fostering pride in the heritage of the Town of Union Bridge

Union Bridge also adopted the Environmental Resources Element in 1997, making it part of their plan.

The Town of Union Bridge adopted its own Master Plan in 2000. It affirmed and incorporated the goals from the 1990 comprehensive plan. One of the implementation items included addresses both parks and natural resources. It is for a greenway around town, that reads in part "...By promoting programs that preserve these green areas around the town, a large and permanent greenway can be established." The implementation strategy reads: "Little Pipe Creek, Sam's Creek, and Cherry Branch should have minimum buffers of at least 500 to 1000 feet in width (where possible), thereby fostering a linear park system along these waterways. If a proposed stream buffer area is part of a

planned development, where residential lots are lost due to an increased stream buffer areas, a bonus density may be granted.”

## ***Westminster***

The Westminster Environs Community Comprehensive Plan is in the process of being updated and contains a number of parks and natural resource-related goals and recommendations. These are:

### Goal

- Create a range of recreational opportunities accessible to residents of all ages

#### Recommendations

- Create a regional park in the Westminster area by developing the proposed Union Mills Reservoir park site, enhancing the facilities at the Carroll County Sports Complex/Bear Branch Nature Center/Hashawha Environmental Center, or creating a new park in the vicinity of the Agricultural Center
- Implement the trail recommendations contained in this plan through subdivision, donations and easements, and capital projects
- Establish a network of neighborhood parks and open spaces, and pedestrian links between them, as part of the subdivision and development processes and capital planning

### Goals

- Preserve farmland, forests, and open spaces outside of the Growth Area Boundary by minimizing residential development within agricultural and rural areas
- Maintain an ecologically healthy and diverse natural environment

#### Recommendations

- Continue to support the Reservoir Watershed Management Agreement through compatible land use designations
- Protect groundwater resources to ensure their continued good quality and quantity
- Develop and adopt a countywide watershed management plan that would include measures to protect Westminster’s groundwater and surface water resources
- Continue to implement measures to safeguard land uses and protect groundwater resources within the sensitive carbonate rock areas
- Preserve natural resource areas through the protection of existing forested tracts and the reforestation/afforestation of sensitive areas
- Require developers to design their projects in a manner that will enhance and preserve the site’s natural resources
- Continue funding and/or promotion of agricultural preservation programs to reinforce the Growth Area Boundary edge and support the County Master Plan goal to preserve 100,000 acres of tillable agricultural land

- Support the Upper Patapsco Rural Legacy area and Little Pipe Creek Rural Legacy area applications to help preserve the watersheds, their headwaters, and other resources and culture of the areas; to enforce the Growth Area Boundary, and to provide a buffer between Westminster, New Windsor, Hampstead, and Finksburg
- Plan for land uses that have a low-impact on farming operations in the vicinity of easements and other agricultural areas
- Require buffers and/or setbacks for non-agricultural land uses where they abut agricultural operations

In 2004, the City of Westminster adopted its own comprehensive plan, which contained goals, objectives, and recommended actions related to parks and natural resources as well. The goals and objectives are:

Goal

- Provide recreational opportunities that meet the needs of Westminster residents of all ages and abilities

Objectives

- Continue to develop a linear park in Westminster
- Investigate additional opportunities for recreation for senior citizens
- Investigate opportunities for disabled citizens
- Explore recreational opportunities that do not currently exist in Westminster
- Coordinate recreation and educational opportunities as appropriate
- Investigate and consider providing facilities for the recreational needs of teenager which are not currently being met

Goal

- Protect and maintain the environmental resources in the County and municipalities

Objectives

- Maintain and enhance water quality in streams, groundwater, wetlands, and reservoirs
- Maintain and enhance water quantity in groundwater aquifers and reservoirs
- Preserve where possible and improve wildlife corridors, identified habitats of threatened and endangered species, and contiguous forested areas
- Identify the location of environmental resource areas in order to improve their protection

Goal

- Reduce the adverse effects of development on environmental resources

Objectives

- Adopt and implement creative, flexible, and streamlined development regulations that are sensitive to the natural environment

- Integrate best management practices and appropriate mitigation measures where sensitive environmental areas cannot be avoided during the land planning and development process
- Protect streams and their buffers, minimize flood hazards, provide open space, and provide protection for other environmental resource areas through creative site design
- Adopt and implement innovative environmental resource design guidelines
- Assure the quality and quantity of community groundwater supplies through wellhead protection measures
- Coordinate with the County to limit development near surface municipal water supplies

### Goal

- Coordinate efforts between the County and municipalities to protect environmental resources

#### Objectives

- Develop and implement a coordinated natural resources protection strategy
- Standardize protection measures between the jurisdictions to ensure uniform protection
- Develop a uniform regulatory and streamlined review process

