

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PARKS + RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Vision + Implementation Framework | January 2015







The Critical Path

An Executive Summary

Play DC is an ambitious, long-range vision to transform the District's parks and recreation system into one of the best systems in the nation. It is the first comprehensive plan of its kind in the District, and its reach is truly citywide.

Implementing the plan will require years of investment and continued commitment from residents, city leaders, and local and regional partners. Additionally, it will require the adoption and strategic initiation of 5 key components. The critical path for realizing the Vision includes:

1

Putting in place systems to track the great work being done by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR): maps to show progress in closing Level of Service gaps; visitor data to observe trends in program participation and popularity; and other systems to inform real-time, data-driven decisions for the future.

2

Investing first in capital improvements to existing facilities, especially targeting deferred maintenance; and then expanding and building new facilities to meet the demands of a growing population.

3

Increasing the operating budgets of both DPR and the Department of General Services (DGS) to ensure indoor and outdoor facilities are programmed and maintained at high-performing levels.

4

Adopting guidelines for the design and construction of new or renovated indoor and outdoor facilities to ensure that the park and recreation system is not only functional, but also beautiful and inspirational.

5

Partnering with the private and non-profit sectors, as well as District and Federal agencies, to achieve broader goals that DPR cannot do alone, such as creating riverfront active recreation areas.

Attending to these critical path objectives will not only help meet the parks and recreation needs of District residents, but will also help to generate economic, social, and environmental benefits for the entire DC community.

As a master plan, the **Play DC** framework cannot prescribe exactly how large to make every new recreation center or park, or which programs to offer at a particular site ten years from now. The framework does, however, establish important expectations: the system should evolve to offer a variety of facilities located within a reasonable distance of each resident and provide a range of programs in spaces designed to flex as residents' needs and interests change.

Play DC charts a course ahead, steeped in the belief that great park systems make great cities. The pages that follow evaluate the system, define community priorities, and provide a compass for making strategic and equitable investments through the year 2030.

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WHERE ARE WE HEADED?



OUR CITY + OUR PARKS

The District of Columbia is an exciting place to be! More than just a backdrop for national politics, the city teems with the energy of diverse neighborhoods, job growth, and the enjoyment of the District's impressive legacy of monuments and civic spaces.

With renewed focus on improving the quality of life for all District residents and ensuring a sustainable future, the city has also turned its attention to a foundation of what makes DC a great place to live: its **parks and recreation system**.

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is the primary provider of recreation services and a leading steward of the parks legacy in the District. DPR believes that everyday living should be filled with activity and engagement for all ages and abilities; neighbors helping neighbors learn new skills; inspiration for children's imagination; pride and satisfaction in creating a more sustainable city; and the many benefits of a robust park system.

Play DC is a long range plan for the District's parks and recreation resources. It celebrates what the District has already achieved and defines a path for improving parks and services in a dense, growing city.

5 PROJECT GOALS

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation and DC Office of Planning launched the **Play DC** Master Plan in the spring of 2013. Since that time, the project has followed an ambitious course, gathering residents' needs and evaluating conditions and service levels. Through this in-depth process, five key project goals have emerged:

- 1 Deliver equitable access, great spaces, and world class experiences.**
All residents will be able to reach outstanding parks and facilities close to home. These spaces will be designed for beauty and function, and support creative and diverse activities for all kinds of users.
- 2 Foster community health and sustainability.**
The District's parks and facilities will be places where people go to get active and lead healthier lifestyles. These resources will help boost the local economy, strengthen civic bonds, and enhance environmental quality.
- 3 Respond to existing residents' needs and priorities.**
Although the District has many parks and recreation assets, there are still needs to be met. It is imperative to first take care of our existing system and tackle long-standing deficiencies as identified by residents.
- 4 Address changing demographics and other trends.**
The District's parks and recreation system must be flexible enough to change with population growth and other emerging issues. Programs, in particular, will adapt to changing interests, and facilities will be designed for multiple purposes.
- 5 Fulfill the DPR mission to Move. Grow. Be Green.**
All projects and programs in the District's parks and recreation system will champion the principles of Move, Grow, and Be Green.

3 DEPARTMENT PRINCIPLES

Through our parks, recreation facilities, and programming efforts, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation encourages residents and visitors to **Move. Grow. Be Green.** This is the Department's mission, motto, and philosophy. It frames agency decisions and underpins the **Play DC** Vision.



MOVE.

Provide all residents affordable, enjoyable opportunities for physical fitness and recreation.

DPR invites you to activate our spaces, both indoors and out, through programs and self-directed play and fitness.



GROW.

Support personal development among residents through self-enrichment activities—like classes, clubs, tours and lessons.

DPR encourages you to participate in our programs, decision-making, and partnerships to develop the diverse services most important to you.



BE GREEN.

Promote practices that connect residents to their local environment and economy.

DPR uses our facilities and programs to help sustain and strengthen your community—by championing public health, job growth, ecological quality, neighborhood investment, and civic engagement.

7

ELEMENTS

Targets

Parkland



Every resident will be able to access a meaningful greenspace within a 1/2 mile (10-minute walk) of home.

Every neighborhood cluster will have access to at least 4 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents (2 acres for every 1,000 residents in the downtown core).

Recreation Centers



Every resident will be able to access a DPR Neighborhood Center—or the equivalent—within 1 mile of home.

Aquatics Facilities



Every resident will have access to an indoor pool within 2 miles, an outdoor pool within 1.5 miles, and a splash pad within 1 mile.

Outdoor Facilities



80% of District residents will rate their access to desired outdoor facilities as Good or Excellent.

Develop service targets for specific types of outdoor facilities.

Programs



25% of DC residents will participate in a DPR program.

90% of participants will rate their experience in DPR programs as Good or Excellent.

Bikeways + Trails



100% of DPR parks will be accessible by foot.

90% of DPR parks will be accessible by bicycle.

Environmental Lands + Natural Areas



Increase natural features on DPR properties, such as trees, gardens, or wetlands, by 40%.

21 BIG MOVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

UPGRADE Make the best of existing District-owned parks. Develop an enhanced maintenance and improvement schedule to upgrade the quality of passive and active spaces.	INTEGRATE Make green space owned by District government agencies available and accessible to DC residents for recreation purposes—with an emphasis on opening DC Public School facilities to the community.	EXPAND Acquire more parkland under District jurisdiction through strategic property transfers, purchases, and private development proffers.	Parkland
RECLASSIFY Develop and consistently apply a new classification system for DPR Recreation Centers, establishing minimum design standards based upon program needs.	REINVEST Invest capital funds to bring all Recreation Centers up to the minimum standards of the new classification system, prioritizing those centers where gaps in the network exist.	PARTNER Request formal proposals from private and non-profit organizations to manage select DPR Recreation Centers.	Recreation Centers
STABILIZE Make necessary renovations and upgrades to extend the life of DPR's generous network of pools to meet growing demand.	EVALUATE Conduct an in-depth study of each type of Aquatics Facility to refine needs and priorities.	MODERNIZE Transform the District into an Aquatics destination by making key strategic investments that will enrich offerings for residents and draw customers from surrounding jurisdictions.	Aquatics Facilities
IMPROVE Raise the bar on the condition of our existing outdoor facilities: re-invent playgrounds across the city; convert some fields to artificial turf; and add lighting, seating, and other support features.	MULTIPLY Increase the access to high-quality outdoor facilities by building new athletic fields and courts in areas of demonstrated need.	UTILIZE Be creative - take advantage of the rich network of urban infrastructure to meet recreational needs and promote exercise.	Outdoor Facilities
ORGANIZE Develop a framework to guide DPR in the recreation programs marketplace and how to invest and prioritize funds.	ANALYZE Collect and analyze participation data regularly, and apply to future decision-making on program operations.	DEVELOP Develop a detailed Program Action Plan that elevates, standardizes and expands the quality of offerings of DPR programs.	Programs
LINK Add perimeter multi-use trails within select parks that can connect to the city-wide trail system, and provide secure bike parking and trailheads.	SUPPORT Support proposed transportation projects with recreation benefits such as the Metropolitan Branch Trail, Oxon Run Trail, and the Fort Circle Parks + Greenway.	COOPERATE Forge agreements to open up other opportunities for walking and biking, such as school tracks and trail easements.	Bikeways + Trails
CONNECT Provide more places for people to access the waterfront and better opportunities to experience natural areas within the DPR system.	RECLAIM Within the larger parks, establish healthier tree cover and green landscapes. Weave plantings and other natural features into mini and pocket parks, especially in areas with inadequate open space.	COORDINATE Work with the National Park Service and other expert providers to offer nature programs, particularly in neighborhoods where natural areas are limited.	Environmental Lands + Natural Areas





THE BIG PICTURE

Why do we love parks and recreation centers? For many of us, they are where we meet friends, where we exercise, where we teach our children to dance, or where we learn how to grow and prepare healthy foods. Our indoor and outdoor recreation and leisure spaces are central to what makes a city great.

The District's parks system is one of its most valuable resources. Research nation-wide has shown that parks and recreation improve public health, protect natural ecology, raise property values, and foster civic bonds and quality of life:

- A wide body of academic and medical research has shown that access to parks and greenways can lead to a 50 percent increase in the frequency of physical activity, improve mental and social health, and even reduce hospitalization recovery rates.
- A city's tree canopy can enhance the city's ability to address stormwater, reduce heat island effects, and improve air quality.
- Academic and professional research has demonstrated that homes located within 1/4 mile of a park benefit from an increase in property values ranging from 5 percent to over 22 percent depending on the proximity and quality of the park.
- Cities such as Los Angeles, Phoenix, Philadelphia and our own Washington D.C. have seen juvenile related crimes drop to record lows when injecting recreation programs into troubled neighborhoods and extending program hours late into the night.

Our parks system is part of a greater network of public space. Experts estimate that the public realm accounts for 25 to 50 percent of every community's land area. "Through the parks window," we can make significant impacts in our neighborhoods by approaching every improvement to the public realm as an opportunity to make the District a friendlier, healthier, and more beautiful place. Although these improvements may be small and incremental, together they have the power to be truly transformative.

Play DC defines a vision for the future of the District's parks and recreation system and its role as a leader in the public realm. It champions and builds upon a unique legacy. We already have a good system—this plan charts a course to make it great.

FOUNDATIONS

Play DC is not starting from scratch. It is rooted in a rich foundation of plans starting as far back as 1791, when Pierre L'Enfant first sketched out the District's wide boulevards and grassy open spaces. L'Enfant's plan was not 100 percent realized, but its intent was carried on through a plan in 1901 by the McMillan Commission. Led by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr, the McMillan Plan looked at parks beyond the National Mall; it envisioned a robust system of parks that would serve the region. Special places such as the District's waterfronts and Rock Creek Park were just some of the outcomes.

These historic plans set the stage for the next era of the District's parks. Building upon more recent planning efforts such as the Comprehensive Plan, Sustainable DC, and the CapitalSpace Plan, the **Play DC** Master Plan focuses specifically on elevating DPR parks, facilities, and programs to the next level.



ENGAGEMENT

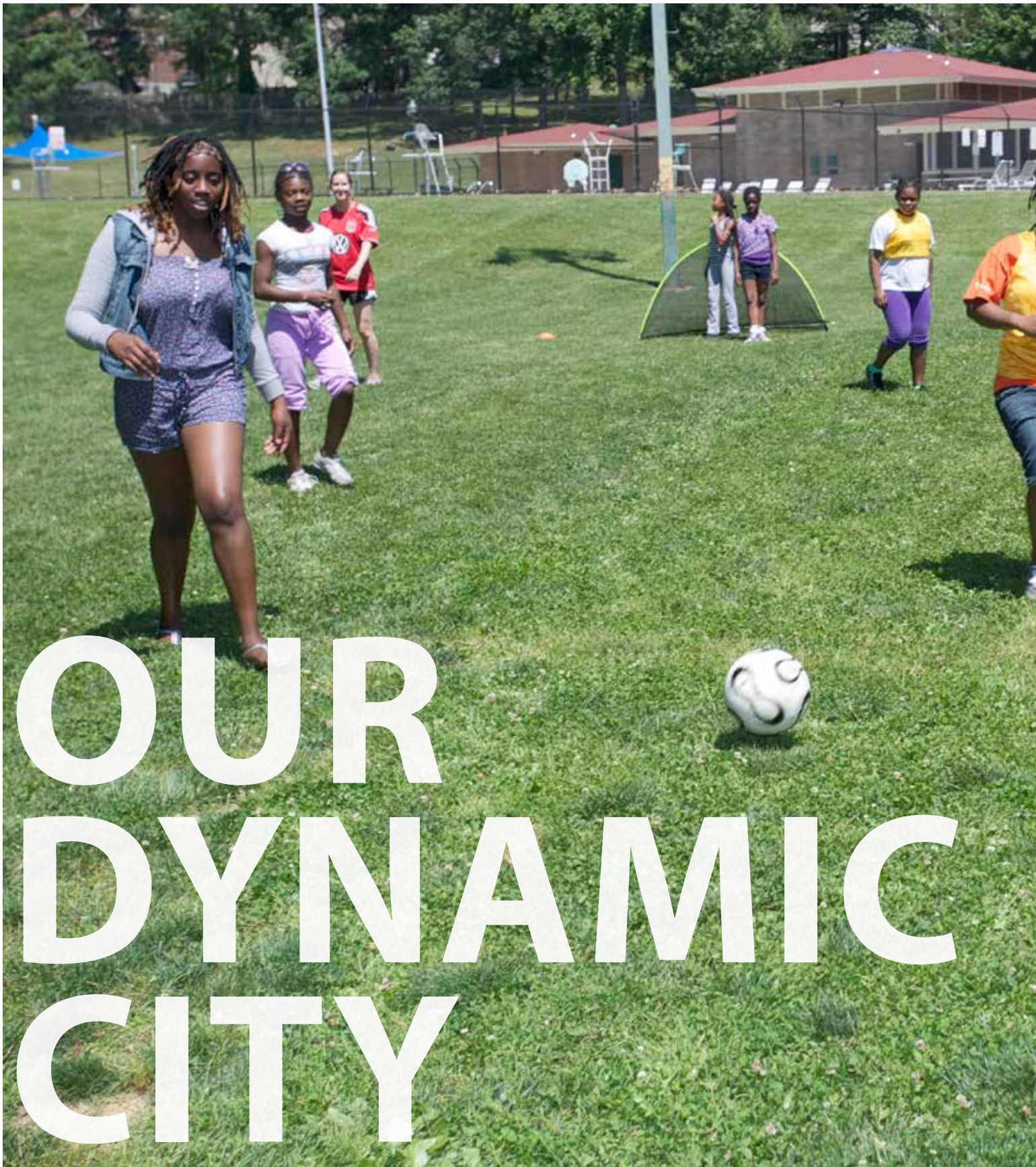
Play DC's priority is District residents. How do we meet their needs, and provide the best possible recreation experience? There's no better way to find out than to ask residents directly. Public input was gathered in eight ways:

- Statistically-valid mail / telephone survey
- Public workshops and events
- Customer survey available online and at recreation centers
- Focus group meetings
- "MindMixer" interactive online forum
- Senior staff executive workshops
- One-on-one stakeholder interviews
- Advisory committee

These meetings and surveys attracted the **input of over 4,600 residents** from across the District. Residents participated in a number of ways:



Figure A: Number of Participants by Type of Engagement





WHAT WE HAVE

Parks are everywhere in the city: from the small triangles along DC's grand avenues to large, sweeping monumental spaces that frame national icons. In total, there are **7,821 acres** of parks and open spaces in DC—the equivalent of almost **6,000 NFL-sized football fields**.

One of the most unique characteristics of parks in DC is that they are not all owned by the same agency or department. As illustrated in Figure B on page 12, the National Park Service (NPS) owns the bulk of parks acreage in the city at 74 percent, DPR owns 10 percent, and District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and other organizations own the rest (16 percent). Although there are some advantages to having multiple agencies in the mix, coordination among everyone can be challenging.

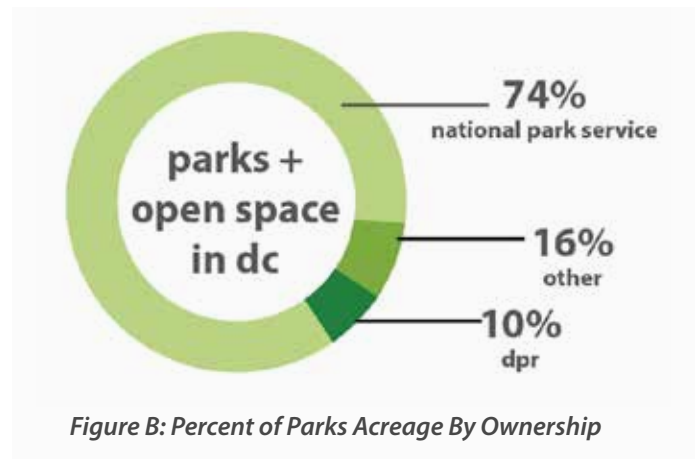
Recreation centers are also everywhere in the city. While DPR does not own the majority of parkland, it does provide essential recreation services to residents, workers, and visitors. The District owns and manages **73 recreation centers** throughout the District's neighborhoods, which gives it one of the highest number of recreation centers per capita nationwide.

The District features a host of other active recreation opportunities, including **11 indoor** and **18 outdoor pools**, **4 children's pools** and **20 splash pads**, **22 community gardens**, over **340 fields and courts**, and **5 skate parks**. DPR animates many of these places with a diverse array of recreation programs, offering more than **400 events and programs** over the course of a year to make it the foremost recreational provider in the District.

The District's parks and facilities are well-served by the city's robust network of trails and bikeways. They are also made up or bounded by extraordinary natural features such as beautiful rivers and wooded areas. All of these elements together form a special system that allows people in the District to recreate, relax, and connect to nature.

The numbers of parks, acres, and programs just scratch the surface. What are these parks actually like? Do they provide a great experience? Are some a lot better than others?

As part of developing the **Play DC** plan, the project team visited and collectively evaluated a spectrum of District-owned parks and recreation centers across the city. Below we highlight strengths observed and challenges.



STRENGTHS

- The District has an impressive number of recreation centers that are assets to District residents, many with unique amenities and state-of-the-art spaces.
- Parks can easily be spotted throughout the District and are generally easy to walk to.
- The District offers a large number of youth camps, after school programs, youth sports, and self-improvement/character-building programs, as well as a nationally recognized summer meals program.



New play space at Fort Greble in Ward 8

CHALLENGES

- Some District parks are under-used because they don't have amenities or things to do.
- Some parks are showing their age, and maintenance across the city is inconsistent.
- Because of the large number of recreation centers, there are overlaps in service and upkeep is expensive.
- The quality of experiences at parks and recreation centers can vary widely.



Old play space, pre-renovation at Banneker Recreation Center in Ward 1

HOW WE WILL GROW

The Washington, DC metropolitan area is one of the fastest-growing urban areas in the country. Between 2010 and 2020, the District is expected to gain 114,390 people—not including other cities in the surrounding suburbs. Since the year 2000, the population of the District has grown steadily, with a significant spike upward over the last few years. As of July 2014, it was estimated that 658,893 people now live in DC. See the graphic below to get a sense of how much our DC family is expanding.

2010 POPULATION

601,723
residents
in 2010



Source: DC Office of Planning State Data Center, U.S. Census Bureau

For the purposes of our plan, it is important to understand the characteristics of the District's population growth. Here are some highlights:

- The city is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse, especially in the center.
- On average, household size is increasing (unlike the U.S. trend).
- The influx of young professionals (age 25-34) is expected to continue.

Because youth and senior programming is especially important to the Department of Parks and Recreation, the graphics on the right depict where these age cohorts are showing especially strong growth.

PEOPLE 0-9 YEARS OLD

We are experiencing a mini baby boom, and the number of children is climbing.

**+ 40,000
children
by 2020**



PEOPLE 55 YEARS AND OLDER

The number of older adults is rising

**+ 61,000
older
adults
by 2020**



Source: DC Office of Planning State Data Center, U.S. Census Bureau

WHAT WE NEED

Parks and recreation needs are different in every city. To find out what District residents need most, the **Play DC** Plan used public surveys, meetings, workshops, and other engagement techniques (detailed on page 15) as well as three additional methods:

- **Level of Service (LOS) analysis:** This method determines how far residents must travel to reach parks and recreation resources, and how much space is in the system per capita.
- **Benchmarking to other cities:** This method compares the District's parks and recreation resources with cities known for their great park systems, such as San Francisco and Minneapolis, as well as with "peer" cities, such as Philadelphia, Seattle, and Los Angeles.
- **Project team site visits:** This method observes and evaluates a spectrum of parks and recreation centers across the District for facility quality, accessibility, and sociability.

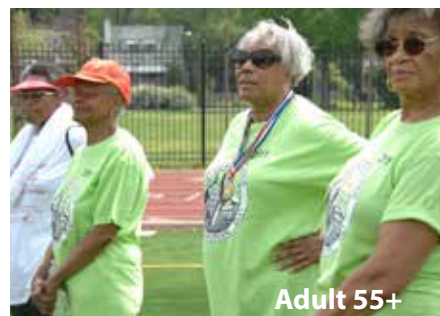


Figure C: Priority Recreation Program Needs in the District

Once all of these methods were completed, we tallied up the results. Figure E on the next page shows how different program, facility, and operations needs stacked up. On the left side of the table are all the possible parks and recreation needs in the District and across the top are the 11 different assessment methods. Every time that a need was identified via a

particular source, it was noted with a green dot in this matrix. The method that carries the most weight is the Mail/Telephone Survey. Needs identified through this statistically valid method are considered high priorities. The more a specific need is identified in the other assessment methods, the better confirmation there is that it is a high priority need.

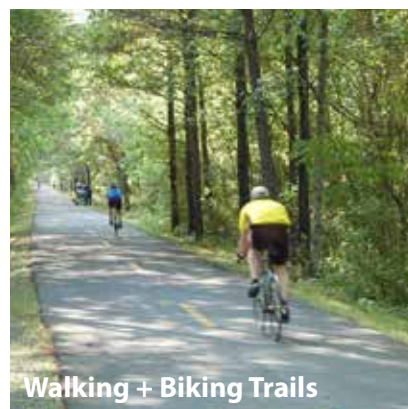
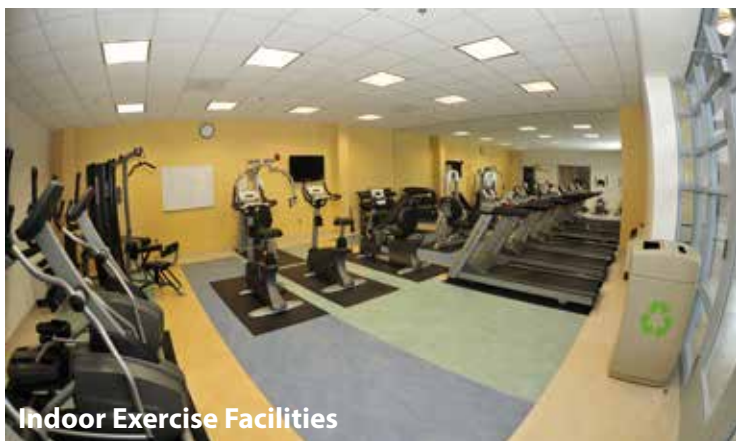


Figure D: Priority Parks and Recreation Facility Needs in the District

Figure E: Summary of Needs
Assessment Findings

		Needs Assessment Techniques										
		Site Visits	Advisory Committee	Stakeholders	Staff Interviews	Focus Groups	Public Workshops	MindMixer	Rec. Center Survey	Level of Service	Mail/Phone Survey	2006 Survey
*Top Priority Facilities or Programs												
PROGRAMS	Adult Fitness + Wellness*	●	●		●		●		●	●	●	●
	Nature Programs*	●	●		●		●	●		●	●	
	Youth Learn-to-Swim*			●	●				●	●	●	●
	Community Special Events*			●	●		●	●	●		●	
	Programs for Adults 55+ *		●	●			●	●		●	●	
	Youth Arts, Dance, Performing Arts	●	●		●		●			●		●
	Adult Arts, Dance, Performing Arts*	●			●					●	●	
	Adult Continuing Education Programs for Degree/Trade Certification*				●		●		●		●	
	Before / After School		●				●		●	●		
	Youth Athletic Leagues (Recreation)						●		●	●		●
	Youth Fitness / Wellness	●			●					●		●
	Water Fitness*								●	●	●	
	Adult Learn-to-Swim*			●	●				●	●	●	●
	Youth Athletic Leagues (Competitive)						●			●		●
	Teen Programs				●					●		●
	Programs for People with Disabilities				●					●		
	Tennis Lessons / Leagues									●		●
FACILITIES	Natural Areas / Wildlife Habitat*		●	●			●			●	●	●
	Indoor Swimming Pools*						●		●	●	●	●
	New Indoor Facilities		●		●	●				●		
	Playgrounds		●	●			●	●		●		
	Flexible Outdoor Space		●	●	●		●	●				
	Walking Trails*		●						●		●	●
	Small Neighborhood Parks*						●		●		●	●
	Indoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities*						●		●	●	●	
	Outdoor Swimming Pools*								●	●	●	●
	Community Gardens		●				●	●		●		
	Soccer Fields			●	●	●				●		
	Youth Softball / Baseball Fields			●	●	●				●		
	Adult Softball Fields			●	●	●				●		
	Football / Lacrosse Fields			●	●	●				●		
	Running / Walking Track*				●	●					●	
	Picnic Shelters / Areas*	●	●								●	
	Biking Trails*			●							●	
	New Outdoor Facilities (General)					●		●		●		
	Dog Parks			●	●					●		
	New Parks / Open Space (General)									●		●
	Slash Parks							●		●		
OPERATIONS	Improve / Maintain Existing Facilities*	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Marketing*	●		●	●	●	●		●		●	●
	Coordination / Partnerships	●	●	●	●	●	●					
	Internal Coordination	●			●	●	●					
	Staff Training / Professional Development	●		●	●							
	Consistent Program Delivery	●			●		●					
	Consistent / Simple Rec Facility Hours	●					●					



OUR VISION



7 ELEMENTS

Our vision for the future is simple yet ambitious: an equitable, top-notch system of parks and recreation resources District-wide. To break this vision down into more manageable pieces, we focus on seven key elements.

Parkland



Recreation Centers



Aquatics Facilities



Outdoor Facilities



Programs



Bikeways + Trails



Environmental Lands + Natural Areas



Parkland



BIG MOVES

UPGRADE

Make the best of existing District-owned parks. Develop an enhanced maintenance and improvement schedule to upgrade the quality of passive and active spaces.

INTEGRATE

Make green space owned by District government agencies available and accessible to DC residents for recreation purposes—with an emphasis on opening DC Public School facilities to the community.

EXPAND

Acquire more parkland under District jurisdiction through strategic property transfers, purchases, and private development proffers.



Targets

Every resident will be able to access a meaningful greenspace within a 1/2 mile (10-minute walk) of home.

Every neighborhood cluster will have access to at least 4 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents (2 acres for every 1,000 residents in the downtown core).

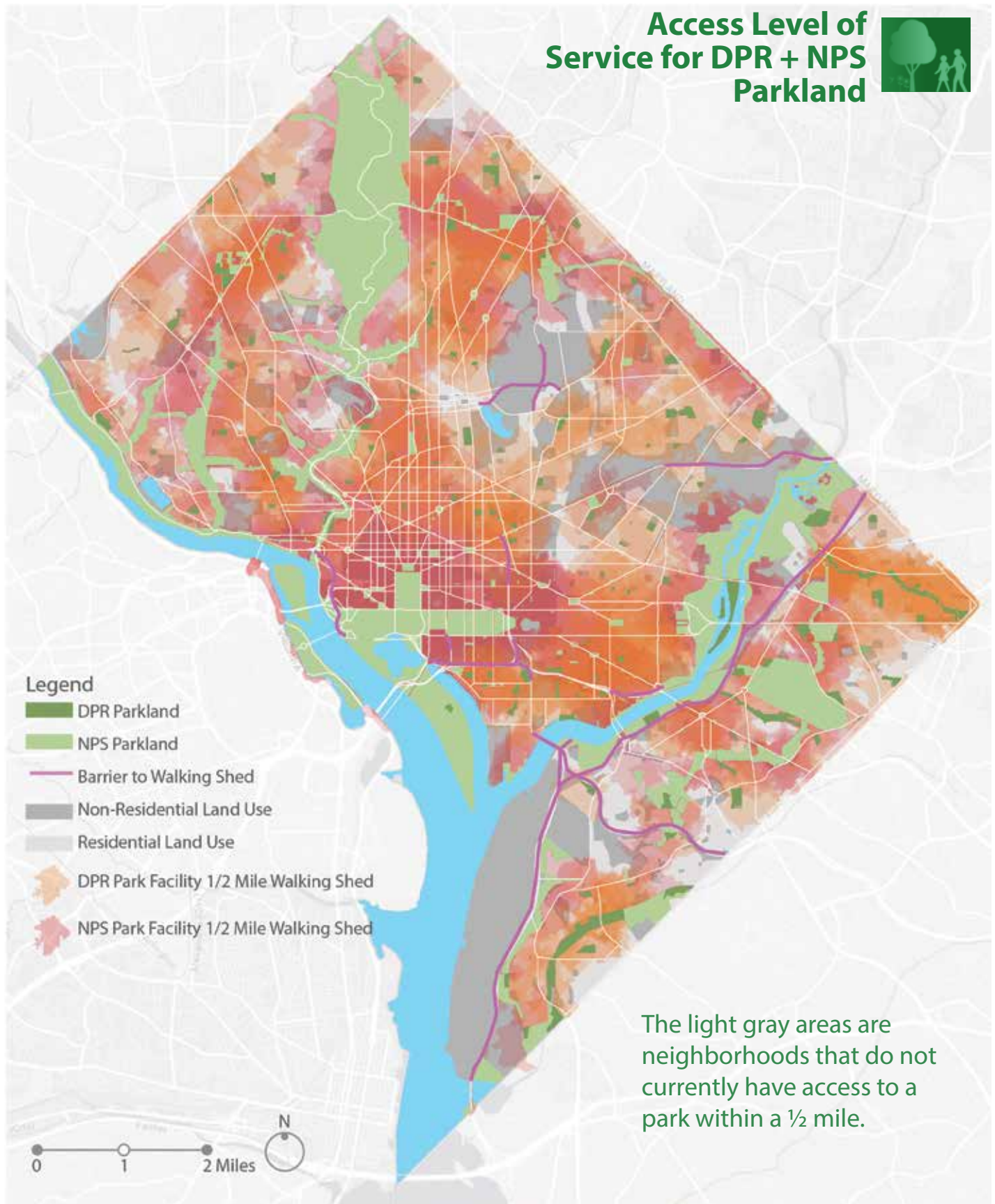
As a rule of thumb, the more parkland a community has, the better its quality of life. Typically, the amount of park space a city has is measured by a Level of Service (LOS) ratio. This ratio tallies up all of the parks acreage, and divides it by the city's population—usually in units of 1,000 people.

The District currently has a great LOS ratio: 12.4 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. It is even higher than cities known for their park systems, such as Seattle and San Francisco (see Figure F on page 28). With new residents expected over the next decade, the District's ratio would slide down to 10.89 acres per 1,000 residents—which is still a good number. But throughout **Play DC's** meetings, people consistently talked about the lack of equity of parks, programs, and facilities in the District.

One way to measure equity is to look how far people have to travel to reach a "meaningful" park. By "meaningful," we mean a park that is at least 1/3 of an acre in size. When these parks in the city are mapped with a 1/2 mile trip around them (the longest many people are willing to walk), there are at least a dozen neighborhoods that are not served well. The map on the next page illustrates that even though there are many acres of parkland in the District, not everyone is benefiting equally. The light gray areas are neighborhoods that do not currently have access to a park within a 1/2 mile. The areas in dark orange and red have the most parks in walking distance.

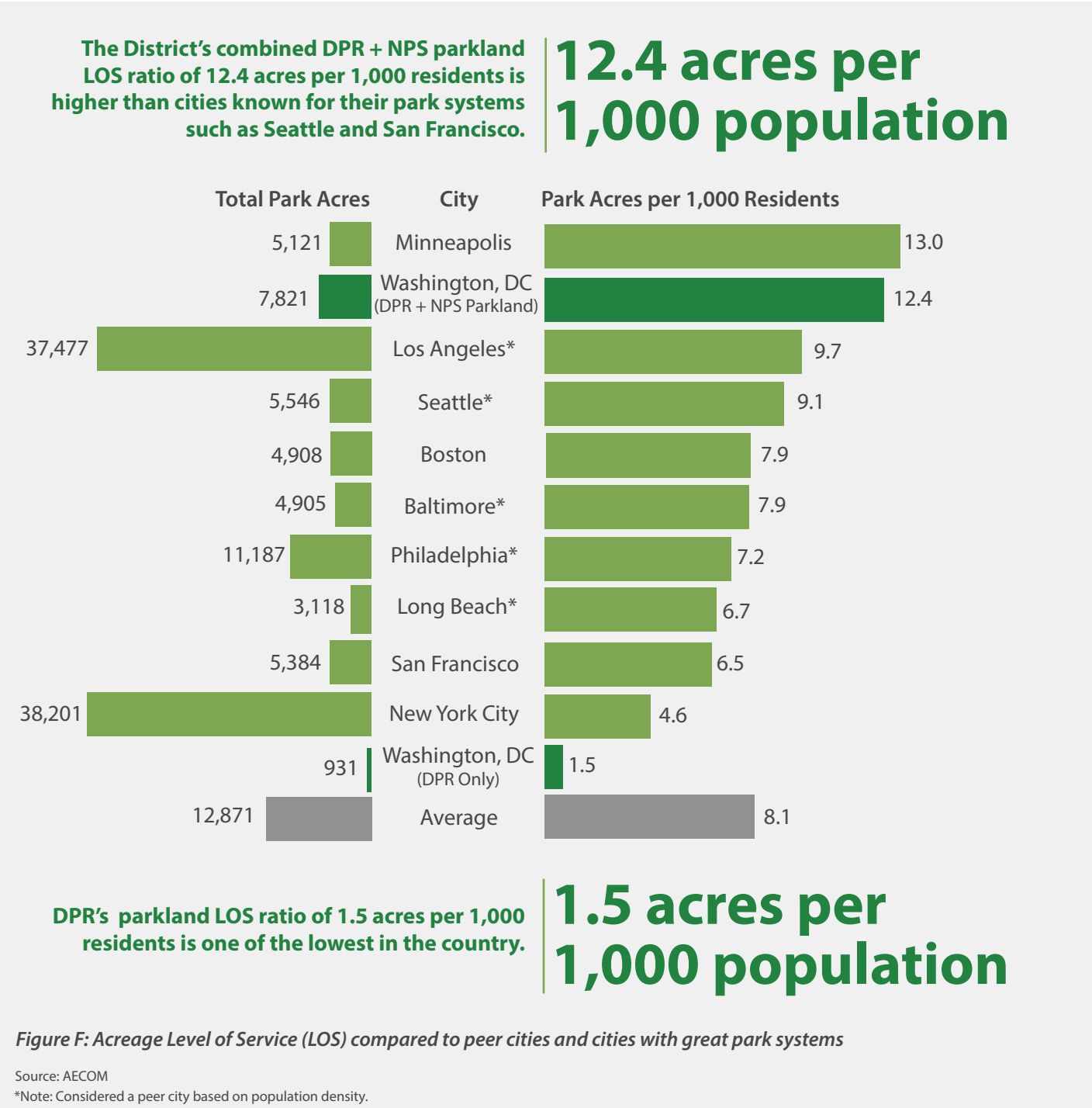


Access Level of Service for DPR + NPS Parkland

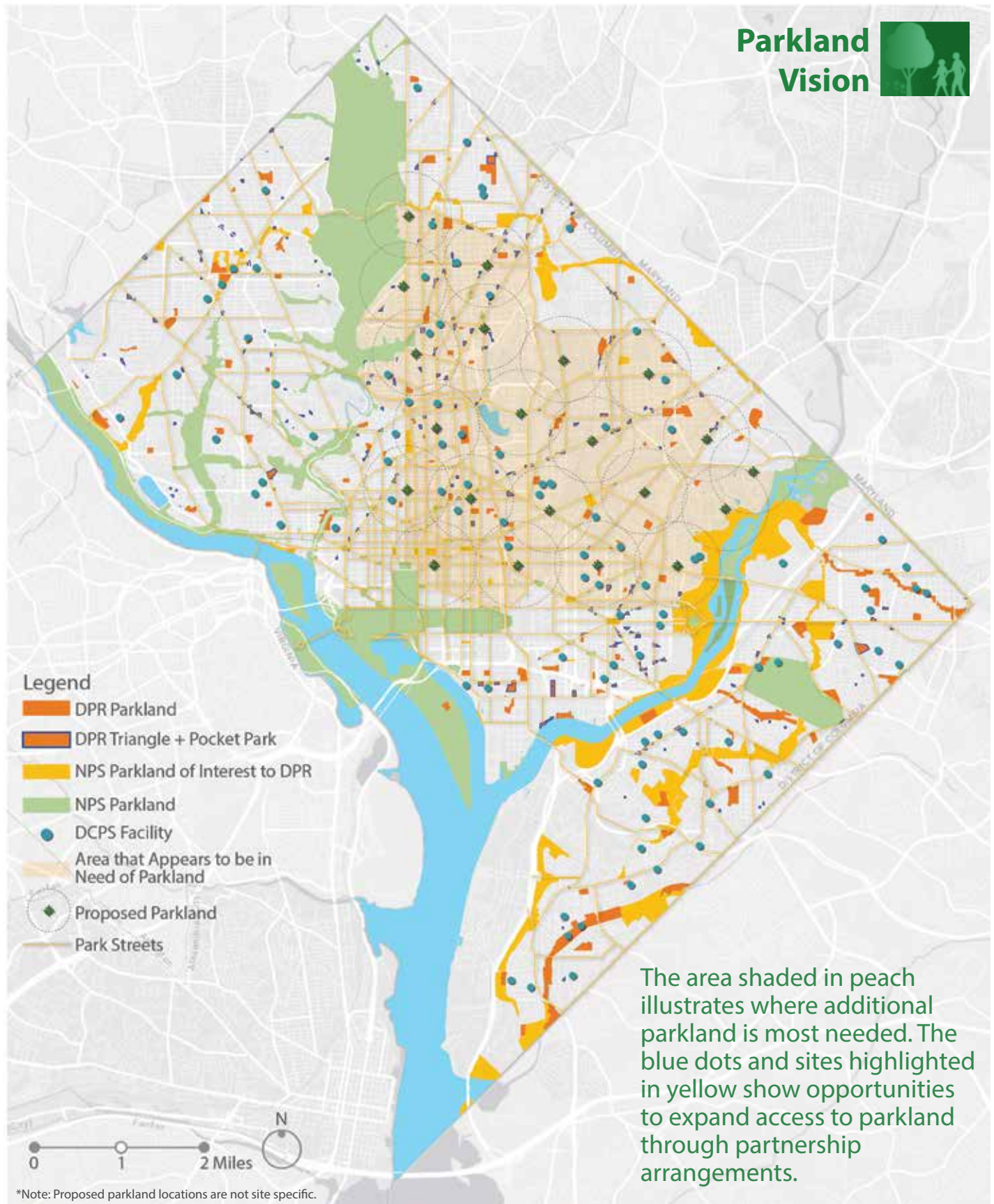


The targets highlighted on page 26 aim to ensure that every resident has a neighborhood park close to home, and that each neighborhood has adequate park space. To meet these targets, the District will need to provide about 180 acres of new parkland. The vision map on the next page illustrates where this new parkland is most needed, and should be acquired through leasing, buying, or partnering.

One major partnership opportunity is with DC Public Schools (DCPS). If DCPS facilities were open to the public after school hours and during the weekend, many residents that currently do not have access to a park within ½ mile would be served.



Parkland Vision



The area shaded in peach illustrates where additional parkland is most needed. The blue dots and sites highlighted in yellow show opportunities to expand access to parkland through partnership arrangements.

Recreation Centers



BIG MOVES

RECLASSIFY

Develop and consistently apply a new classification system for DPR Recreation Centers, establishing minimum design standards based upon program needs.

REINVEST

Invest capital funds to bring all Recreation Centers up to the minimum standards of the new classification system, prioritizing those centers where gaps in the network exist.

PARTNER

Request formal proposals from private and non-profit organizations to manage select DPR Recreation Centers.



Every resident will be able to access a DPR Neighborhood Center—or the equivalent—within 1 mile of home.

One of the biggest assets of the District's parks system is its number of recreation centers. Similar to parkland, one way to measure recreation centers is through a Level of Service (LOS) ratio that compares the number of recreation centers to the District's population. As illustrated in Figure G below, DC currently has one of the highest numbers of recreation centers of any city in the country.

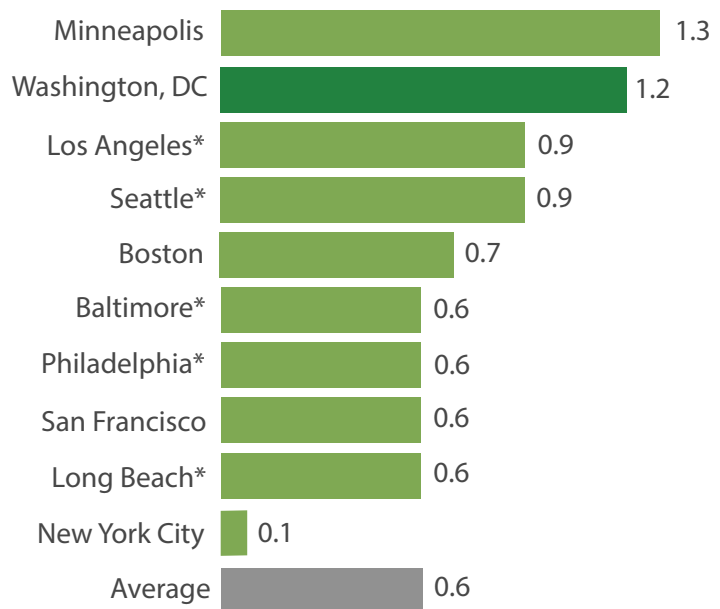


Figure G: City Recreation Centers per 10,000 population

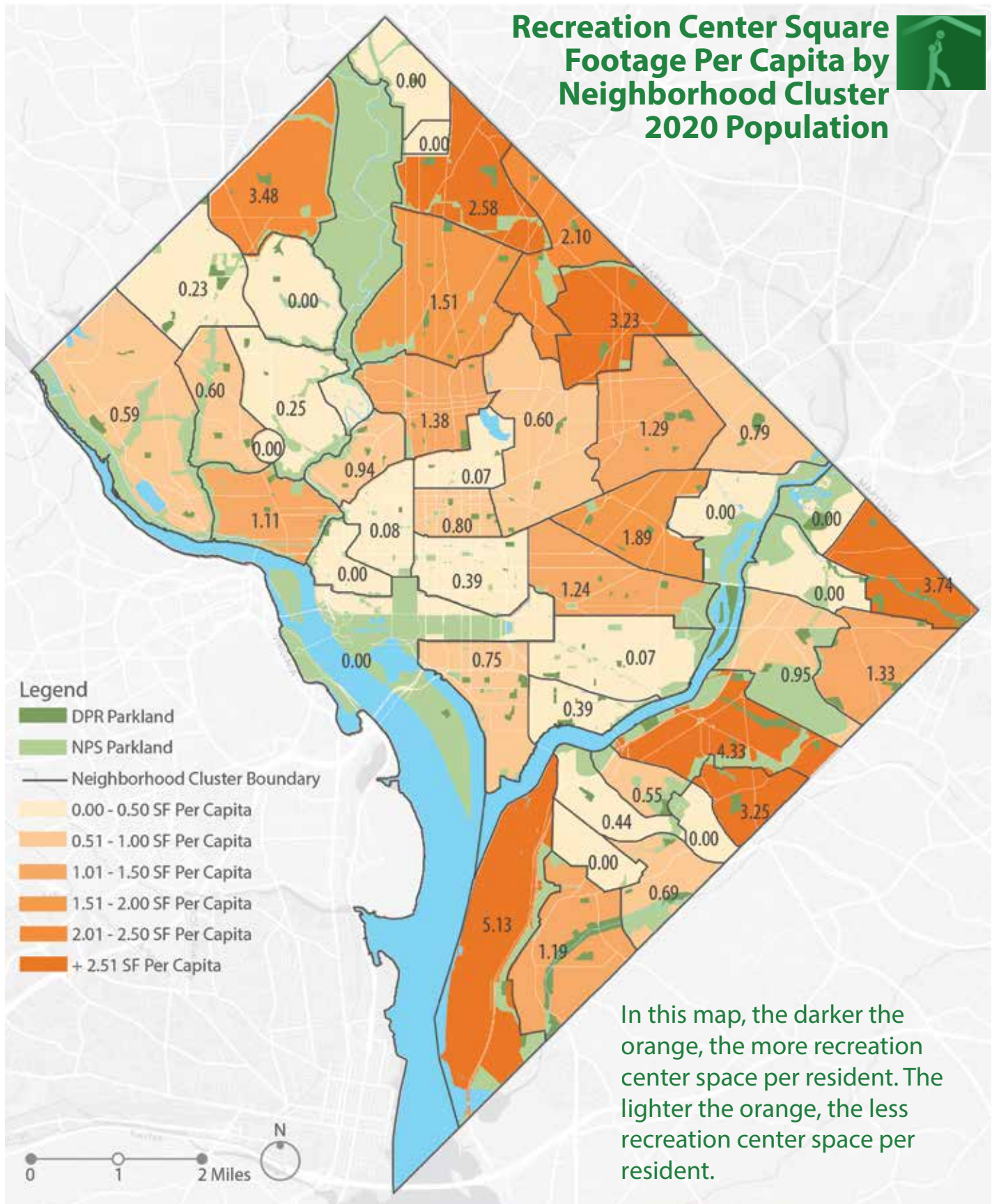
Source: AECOM

*Note: Considered a peer city based on population density.

Just like parks acreage, simply looking at quantity is not enough. Another way to look at it is by analyzing the LOS ratio of recreation center square footage to population. Currently, the District has 1.40 square feet of recreation center space per resident. Considering that the parks and recreation industry suggests 1 square foot of recreation center space per capita, the District's overall recreation center square footage LOS is excellent.

However, not all the neighborhoods in the District have equitable access to this amount of space, especially if you consider the additional residents the District is expected to gain by the year 2020. Furthermore, some of the District's recreation centers are top-of-the-line, while others have not been updated in decades and are very small—some are smaller than a typical two-bedroom apartment in DC. The map on page 31 shows the distribution of recreation center square footage per resident. It's clear to see that some neighborhoods have more recreation center square footage than others.

Recreation Center Square Footage Per Capita by Neighborhood Cluster 2020 Population



In this map, the darker the orange, the more recreation center space per resident. The lighter the orange, the less recreation center space per resident.

The map on the next page is the Recreation Center Vision. Although each neighborhood's needs are unique and will need to be explored individually, areas outlined in orange are prime candidates for additional recreation center square footage. Areas outlined in blue likely have a surplus of square footage and may have opportunities to transition smaller centers over to other organizations for management.

Moving to a more streamlined, equitable system of recreation systems will likely be tough. Having some guidelines, however, will help. Going forward, recreation centers should be at least 7,500 square feet in size. Starting at this minimum, a new tiered system of recreation center types is recommended (see Figure H below).

Types of Indoor Spaces per Recreation Center Classification

Neighborhood Center

Multipurpose room; Classroom(s); Support spaces (restrooms, storage, office space, etc).

Community Center

Gym or multipurpose room; Kitchen; Classrooms (2); Computer Lab; Fitness Center; Lounge area (teen or senior); Aquatics (indoor or outdoor) could be included; Support spaces (locker rooms, restrooms, storage, office space, etc.)

District Center

Gymnasium; Elevated track; Multipurpose room; Kitchen (teaching); Classrooms (2); Computer Lab; Arts & Crafts Room; Fitness Center; Lounge area (2 - teen and senior); Game room; Aquatics (indoor or outdoor) most likely included; Support spaces (locker rooms, restrooms, storage, office space, etc.)

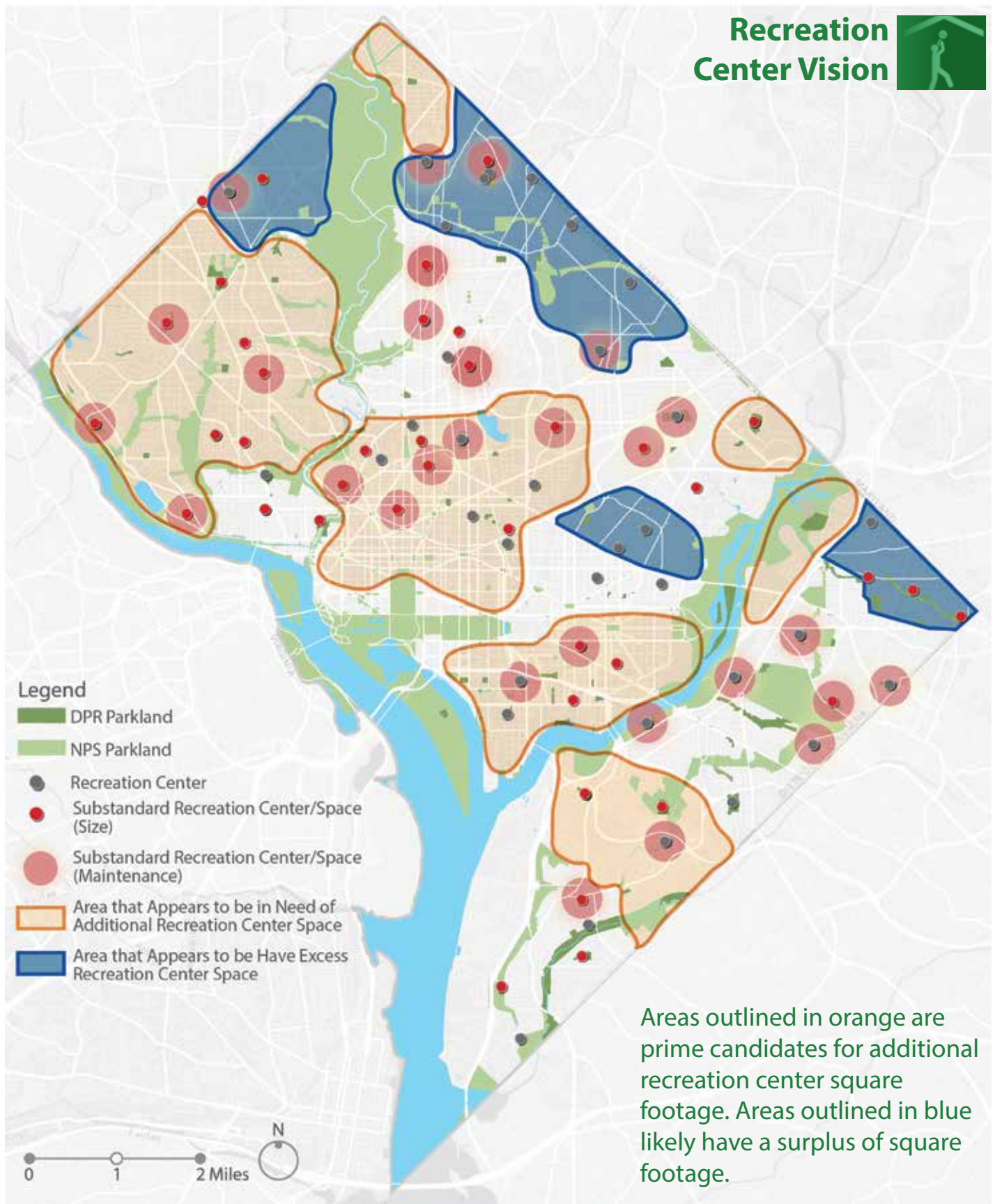
Specialty Center

Specialty facilities designed to accommodate a specific user group or activity, usually on a City-wide basis.



Figure H: Recreation Center Guidelines By Classification

Recreation Center Vision



Aquatics Facilities

BIG MOVES

STABILIZE

Make necessary renovations and upgrades to extend the life of DPR's generous network of pools to meet growing demand.

EVALUATE

Conduct an in-depth study of each type of Aquatics Facility to refine needs and priorities.

MODERNIZE

Transform the District into an Aquatics destination by making key strategic investments that will enrich offerings for residents and draw customers from surrounding jurisdictions.

Targets

Every resident will have access to:

- An indoor pool within 2 miles;
- An outdoor pool within 1.5 miles; and
- A splash pad within 1 mile.

On a hot, humid DC day, few things can beat jumping into the cool water of a swimming pool or splash pad. Compared to its peer cities, DC has one of the highest number of aquatics facilities per capita in the country. Despite this wealth of indoor and outdoor pools, residents have expressed their desire for more or better facilities and more aquatics programs during the Play DC planning process. Why?

Over the years, the District has built an impressive array of aquatics centers, to include centers with Olympic-sized racing pools, water slides, and therapeutic facilities. Yet, sometimes these facilities are not in the best location, best condition, or of the best size to meet demand. To promote equitable access and excellent aquatics experiences, the District must continue investing in its baseline network of pools, and should aim for the service targets shown in Figure I (below).

These targets can help the District establish an interconnected system of facilities to meet demand across the city, especially when planning for new construction. The good news is: the foundation is largely in place. Still, there are a handful of areas where we'll want to consider new pools or splash pads to keep up with population growth. The Vision Map on the following page shows what to keep an eye on.

Other big possibilities for aquatics include a consolidated Aquatics Complex and/or family Water Park that serve as regional draws. Not only would these offer terrific destinations for District residents, they could produce revenue to support the system. Lastly, we must not forget our riverfronts, which are undergoing a remarkable renaissance. Opportunities abound for additional outdoor recreation, such as canoeing, kayaking, swimming, fishing, and more.

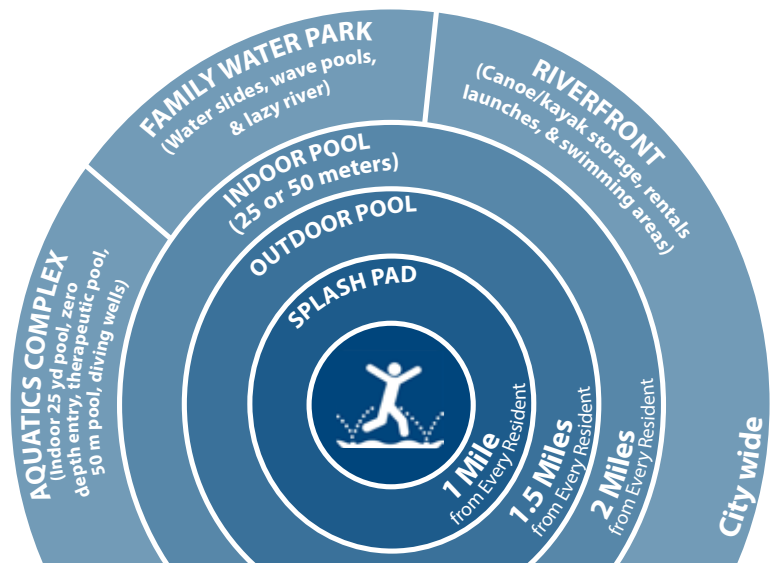
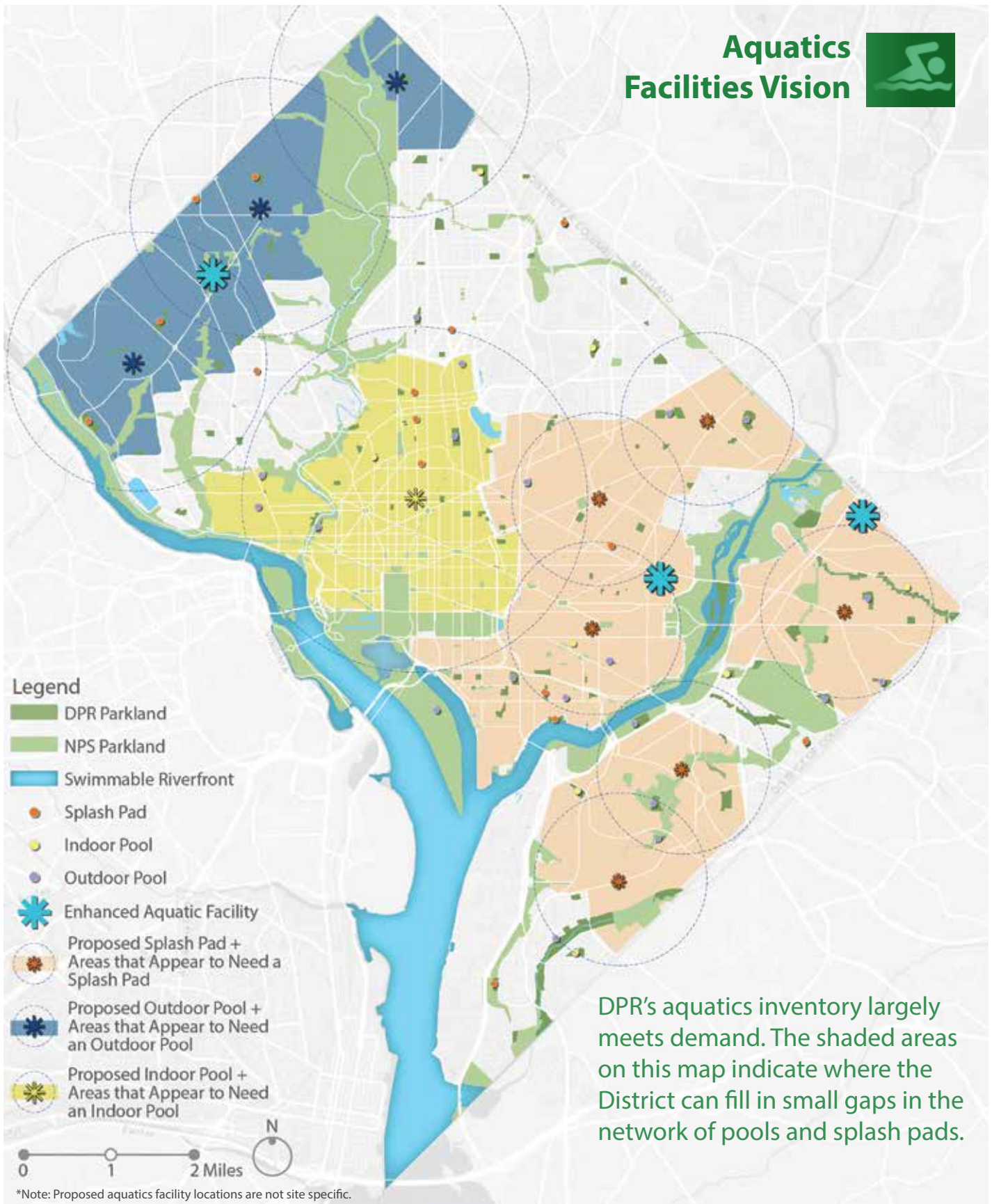


Figure I: Aquatics Facilities Guidelines

Aquatics Facilities Vision



DPR's aquatics inventory largely meets demand. The shaded areas on this map indicate where the District can fill in small gaps in the network of pools and splash pads.

Outdoor Facilities



BIG MOVES

IMPROVE

Raise the bar on the condition of our existing outdoor facilities: re-invent playgrounds across the city; convert some fields to artificial turf; and add lighting, seating, and other support features.

MULTIPLY

Increase the access to high-quality outdoor facilities by building new athletic fields and courts in areas of demonstrated need.

UTILIZE

Be creative - take advantage of the rich network of urban infrastructure to meet recreational needs and promote exercise.



80% of District residents will rate their access to desired outdoor recreation facilities as Good or Excellent.

Develop service targets for specific types of outdoor facilities.

Facilities in parks bring green space alive with activity: people exercising at DPR fitness zones, children playing on swing-sets, and players fielding ground balls. This activity not only makes for better parks, but also for better neighborhoods.

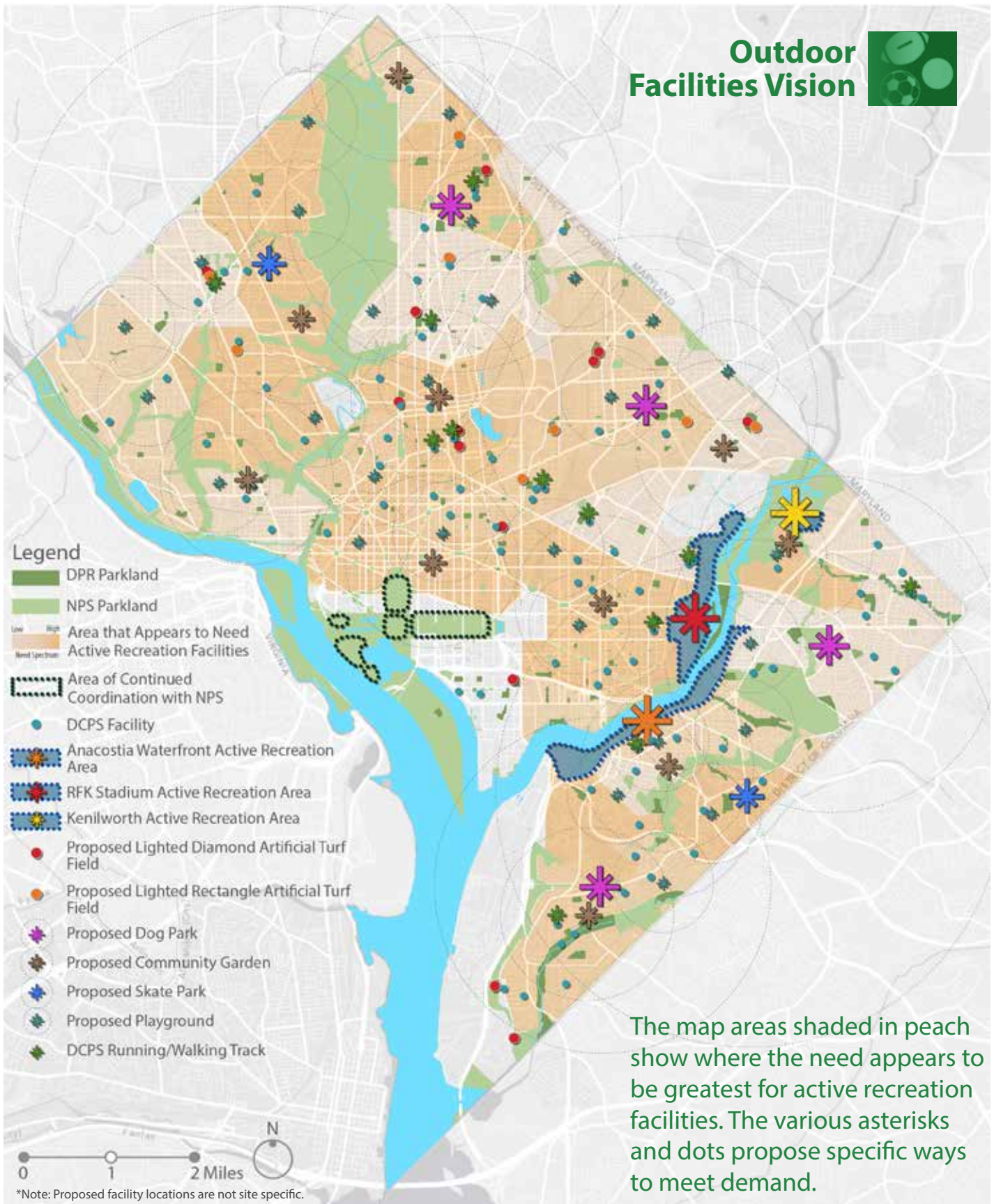
Across the District, our parks have hundreds of facilities, ranging from various kinds of fields and courts to community gardens and skate parks. But big questions persist. Are there enough? Are they spread out evenly and generally of the same quality no matter what neighborhood you are in?

The short answer is...no. Not yet. When these facilities are all mapped and measured for service areas, it is clear that certain kinds are not meeting likely demand. As the population of the District increases and shifts in age over the next ten years, there appears to be a significant shortfall in active recreation facilities including softball/baseball fields, football/soccer fields, basketball courts, tennis courts and playgrounds.

Over the last two years, we have tackled playgrounds in a big way. Thirty-two sites and counting have been completely transformed to meet pent-up demand, attracting scores of children and enlivening neighborhoods. Improving the quality of playgrounds has shown how raising the bar on the design of outdoor facilities can have a dramatic impact on both the number of people served and the way communities come together. We can do the same for fields in the District by focusing on improvements such as artificial turf and lighting—which will extend their hours of play time significantly.

Field improvements alone, however, cannot satisfy the demand of the District's active and expanding population. We also need to secure more outdoor facilities in an environment where space is at a premium. This means getting creative. It means using the urban infrastructure that already exists—such as streets and schools—for exercise. It means partnering with other agencies to maximize field and court spaces. And it means seeking opportunities to build new outdoor facilities. Since land is scarce, the District may need to find ways to serve a wider radius of residents at fewer sites. Consolidating facilities at an active recreation area such as those shown in the Vision Map (next page) would be a bold and effective way to go.

Outdoor Facilities Vision



The map areas shaded in peach show where the need appears to be greatest for active recreation facilities. The various asterisks and dots propose specific ways to meet demand.

Programs

BIG MOVES

ORGANIZE

Develop a framework to guide DPR in the recreation programs marketplace and how to invest and prioritize funds.

ANALYZE

Collect and analyze participation data regularly, and apply to future decision-making on program operations.

DEVELOP

Develop a detailed Program Action Plan that elevates, standardizes and expands the quality and offerings of DPR programs.

Targets

25% of DC residents will participate in a DPR program.

90% of participants will rate their experience in DPR programs as Good or Excellent.

In the past year, DPR offered over 400 different programs or events to District residents ranging from youth sports to cultural arts and enrichment programs. Despite these options and benefits, only about **18 percent of residents** participate in DPR programs. When asked why they don't join in, most people said they don't know what's offered, there aren't enough programs, or they think the quality isn't up to par. Due to limited financial resources, sometimes decisions have to be made about which programs offer the most bang for the buck, and which programs may be better left to other providers. To help the District determine its own approach by program, three types of roles are possible:

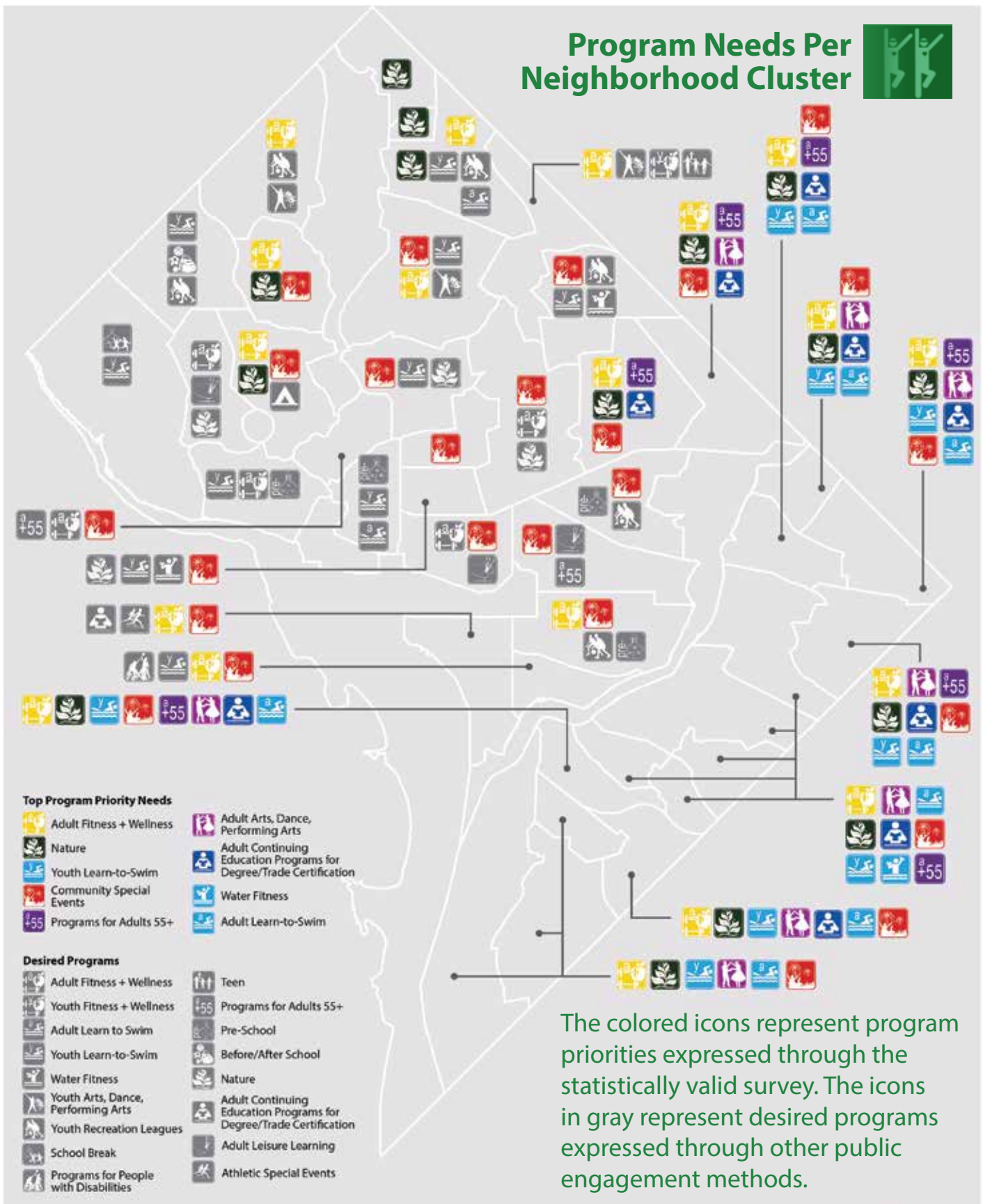
- **Leading Provider:** These are the programs where DPR excels and are seen as the "bread and butter" of the department's program offerings. As a leading provider, DPR would directly run these programs.
- **Shared Provider:** DPR may or may not provide the program directly, depending on factors such as staff expertise, market supply, and customer demand.
- **Support Provider:** DPR does not run these programs but may support them through promotion, monitoring, or facility provision.

Figuring out an approach for every program is no simple task. Before the provider type can be determined, DPR will need to consistently gather participation data and feedback over a number of program seasons. This data will help the District identify where it provides the most value, and where other organizations may be the better option. Figure J below is an initial framework to help guide DPR in prioritizing its programs.

Program Type	Age	Leading Provider	Shared Provider	Support Provider
Sports + Fitness	Youth			
	Adult			
	Senior			
Cultural Arts + Enrichment	Youth			
	Adult			
	Senior			
Nature + Environment	Youth			
	Adult			
	Senior			

Figure J: DPR Program Prioritization Framework

Program Needs Per Neighborhood Cluster



Bikeways + Trails



BIG MOVES

LINK

Add perimeter multi-use trails within select parks that may connect to the city-wide trail system, and provide secure bike parking and trailheads.

SUPPORT

Support proposed transportation projects with recreation benefits, such as the Metropolitan Branch Trail, Oxon Run Trail, and the Fort Circle Parks + Greenway.

COOPERATE

Forge agreements to open up other opportunities for walking and biking, such as school tracks and trail easements.



100% of DPR parks will be accessible by foot.

90% of DPR parks will be accessible by bicycle.

Bikeways and trails are a top wish in cities across the country: from remote rural counties to dense cities, residents everywhere are looking for more trails where they can exercise and get around town safely without a car.

In this case, the District is no different. In fact, 38% of households do not own a vehicle, so having transportation options is essential. Although DPR is not the lead agency for transportation, there are ways to add to bike and trail facilities through parks. For example, opportunities exist to build perimeter paths in larger parks, creating internal loop trails that double as park circulation.

But the opportunities extend beyond park boundaries. By partnering with other agencies, DPR can work to build new bike lanes, trails and pedestrian paths to its parks. This not only expands the city-wide trails system, but will improve access to parks and programs.

Play DC heartily endorses extension and rehabilitation projects proposed by the District Department of Transportation, including the Anacostia Riverwalk, Metropolitan Branch, Oxon Run, Klinge, and Rock Creek Park trails. In the same vein, trail concepts like the Fort Circle Parks and Greenway project would not only establish a near-loop trail of the District, but attract more visitors and activity to its parks.



Bikeways + Trails Vision



Legend

- DPR Parkland
- NPS Parkland
- Fort Circle Greenway
- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Existing Bike Lane
- Proposed Bike Lane
- Proposed Cycle Track
- Park with Proposed Internal Trail Network



This map shows the system of existing and planned bikeways and trails in the District. It also highlights DPR parks that could construct internal trails that connect with the citywide network.

Environmental Lands + Natural Areas

BIG MOVES

CONNECT

Provide more places for people to access the waterfront and better opportunities to experience natural areas within the DPR system.

RECLAIM

Within the larger parks, establish healthier tree cover and green landscapes. Weave plantings and other natural features into mini and pocket parks, especially in areas with inadequate open space.

COORDINATE

Work with the National Park Service and other expert providers to offer nature programs, particularly in neighborhoods where natural areas are limited.



Increase natural features on DPR properties, such as trees, gardens, or wetlands, by 40 %.

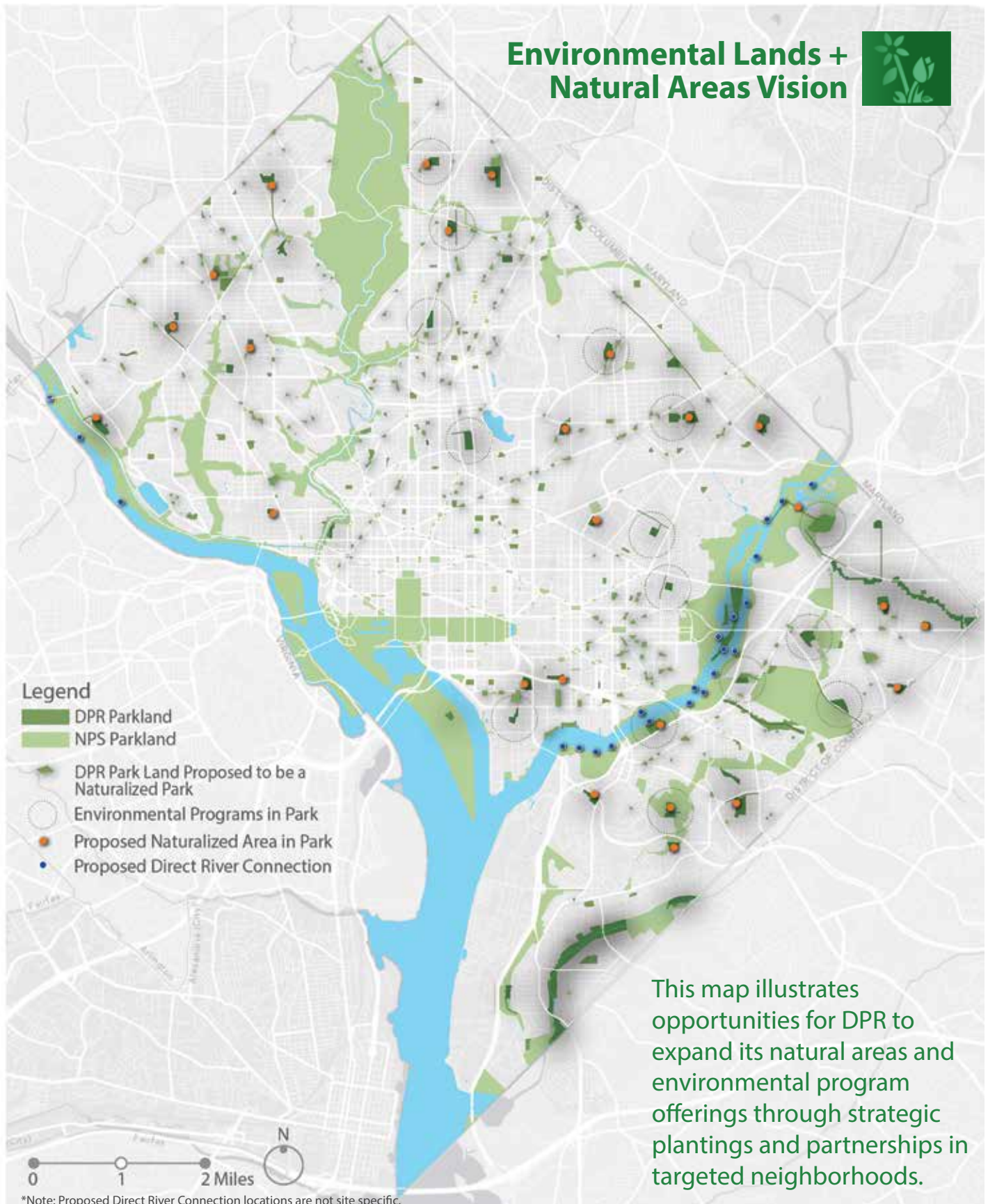
Urban parks not only provide opportunities for recreation, but also are ways for people to experience nature close to home. Natural areas present a particular challenge for parks agencies—unlike playgrounds or ball fields, they cannot be simply established. The District can, however, better connect and draw people to these special places to celebrate them and build constituencies for their protection.

Further, **Play DC** recommends using native plantings and other restorative landscaping techniques to support a strong, local ecosystem. Even in small parks in dense neighborhoods, it is possible to design features that allow residents to enjoy glimpses of nature and provide environmental services such as shade and storm water capture.

The map on the following page illustrates some opportunities for DPR to expand its natural areas and environmental program offerings. These improvements are mostly in currently under-utilized patches of open space and along the riverfronts. In larger parks, there is also potential for some acreage to be “reclaimed” and reverted to a more natural look and experience.



Environmental Lands + Natural Areas Vision



This map illustrates opportunities for DPR to expand its natural areas and environmental program offerings through strategic plantings and partnerships in targeted neighborhoods.

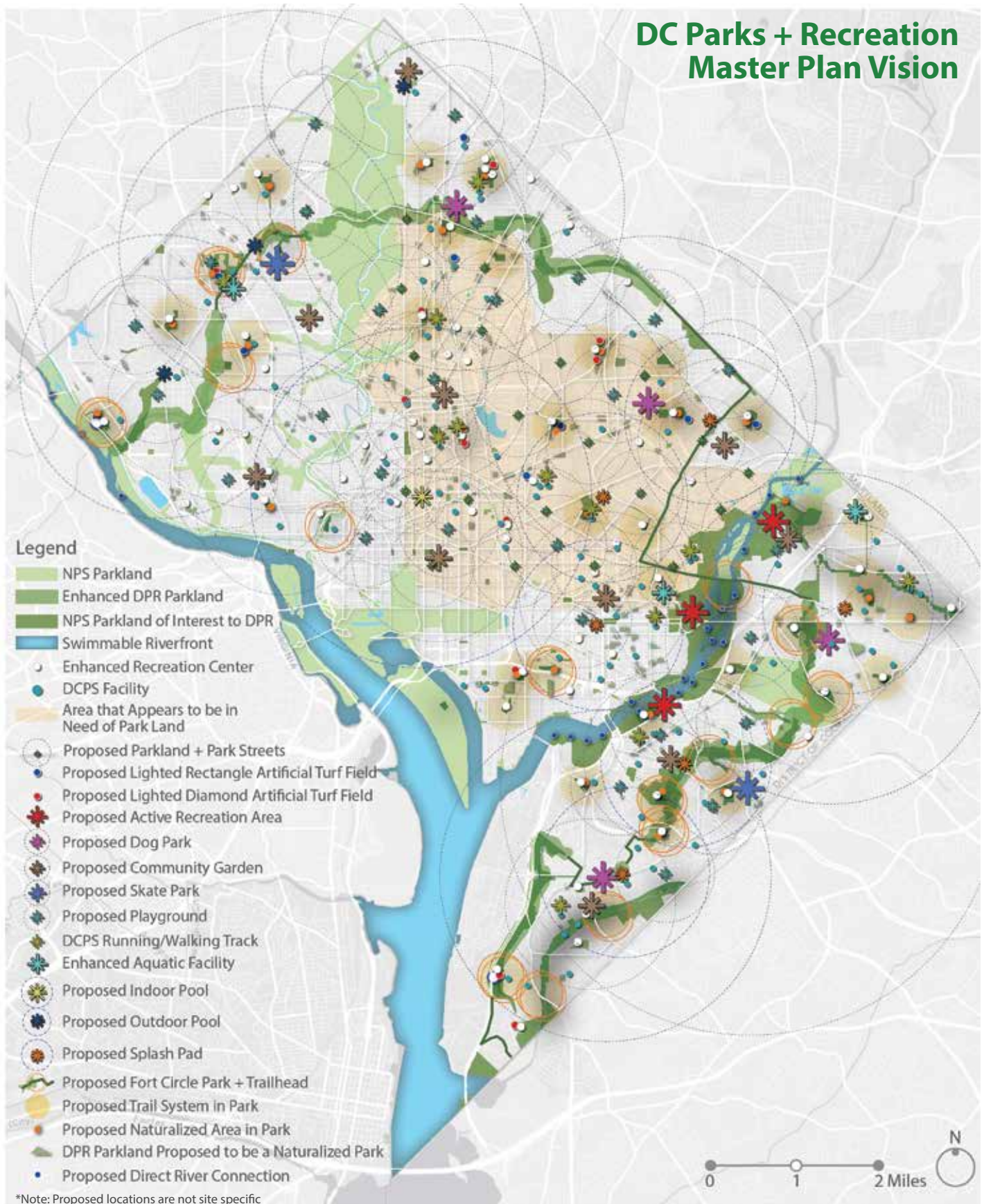
An Integrated Vision

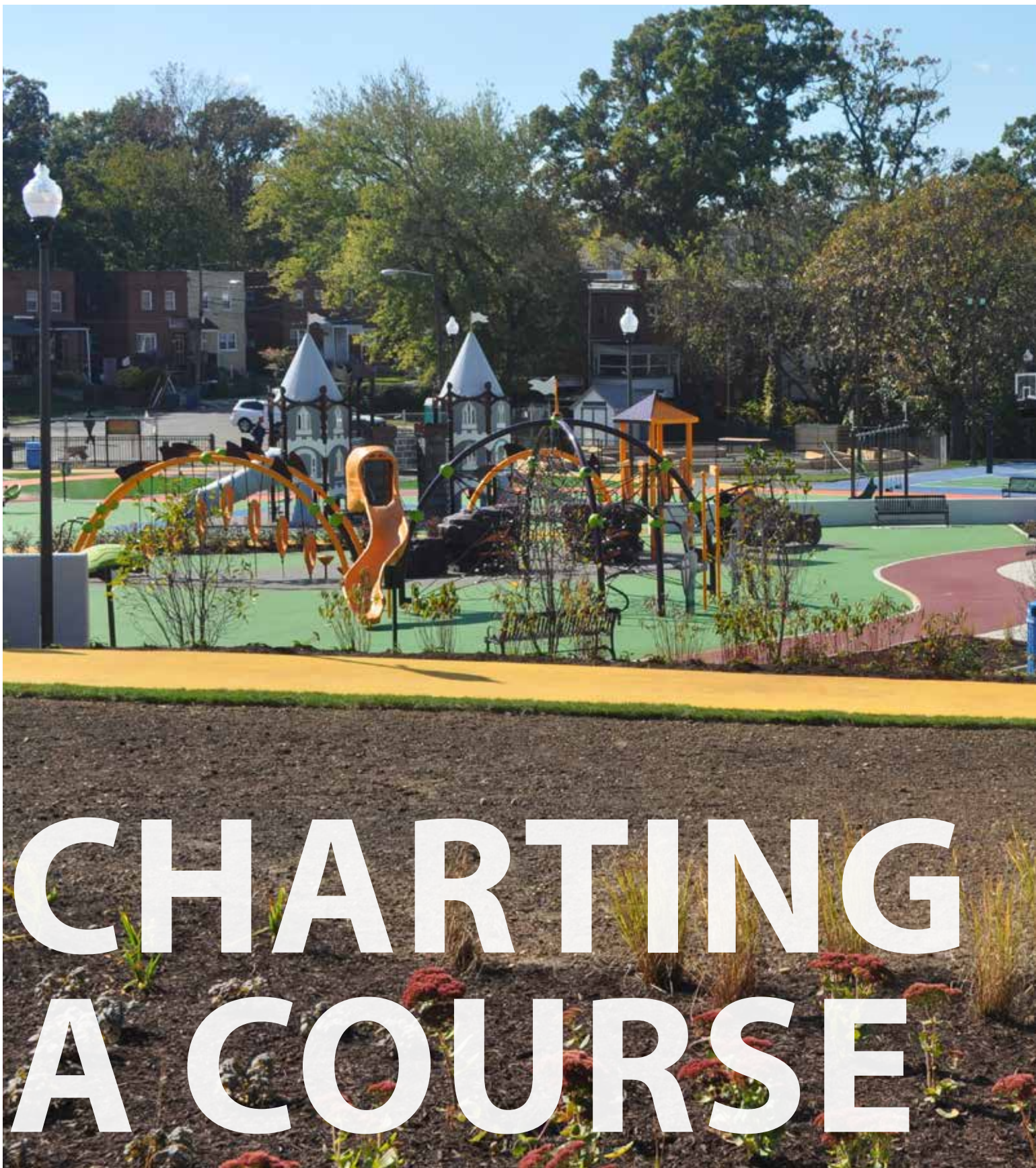
At its heart, the **Play DC** Vision is based on bringing about meaningful benefits for all of our residents in every neighborhood. Its implementation will lead to beautifully designed parks within a short walk from everyone's home. It will mean splash pads and swimming pools around the District, and a range of recreation center types designed to support DPR programs. Most importantly, it is a commitment to a high quality of life for all of us.

The Elements presented in the Vision can stand alone, but are even more powerful when they are addressed as an integrated whole. The map on the next page demonstrates what the District's fully-realized Vision would look like as an interconnected network. It stitches together the various parks and recreation resources to achieve a better functioning system and ultimately to strengthen communities throughout the city.

Achieving the Vision will take time. It will take investment. And it will take dedication. Moving from our current path to a new, more ambitious one requires a compass to help guide our way. The remainder of this document turns its attention to the Implementation Framework, to chart a course that keeps our integrated Vision on the horizon.

DC Parks + Recreation Master Plan Vision







IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

The Implementation Framework is a way to organize actions to most equitably and efficiently realize the **Play DC** Vision. It is NOT a step-by-step manual for every possible project and program. Rather, it is a set of guideposts that will keep us moving in the right direction. It makes recommendations about what key projects can best fill the gaps in the parks and recreation system, and when it makes sense to undertake them.

If we imagine Washington as a single house, the Vision is the foundation and the Implementation Framework is the scaffold. The Implementation Framework does not tell us how to arrange and furnish every room, but it does help us determine what rooms to build, and in what order to meet the most pressing needs of our growing family. This Implementation Framework is made up of two key components: Agency Actions and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The Agency Actions are a collection of management and coordination tasks that are necessary to move the implementation of the **Play DC** Vision forward. They focus on actions DPR can lead through its own operations and staff assignments. Examples of Agency Actions include coordinating with other agencies and organizations to establish partnerships; developing District-wide design and maintenance standards; and estimating costs to improve facilities to meet new classification criteria.

The CIP is a program of concrete projects that make physical improvements to the District's parks and recreation assets. These capital projects range from the repair, renovation, or replacement of existing facilities to the construction of entirely new facilities.

The **Play DC** Implementation Framework is derived from Agency Actions with over 100 tasks and a CIP with over 300 possible projects! The Agency Actions were developed by breaking down the Big Moves in the **Play DC** Vision into concrete pieces, and then evaluating and prioritizing those tasks with DPR leadership. The CIP was developed to respond to the results of the **Play DC** Needs Assessment (summarized on page 23) and to address priority areas shown in the Vision maps (on pages 24-45). The selection of capital projects reflects factors from all the **Play DC** Elements (Parkland,

Recreation Centers, Outdoor Facilities, Aquatics Facilities, Programs, Bikeways + Trails, Environmental Lands + Natural Areas). These factors include resident needs and desires, as well as Level of Service (LOS) gaps in the Access, Quantity, and/or Quality of programs and facilities.

Underpinning the creation of both the Agency Actions and CIP is a careful study of industry best practices, guidelines, and trends. These benchmarks provide context for making decisions about performance targets and, in turn, tasks and projects. Similar to how a recreation center can only function well when the programs and structure are sound, so too are the Agency Actions and capital projects interrelated. The Agency Actions and CIP should be coordinated regularly to maintain focus on Master Plan priorities and deliver outcomes efficiently.

For example, if the renovation of existing recreation centers is a top CIP priority, then the analysis of the existing recreation centers – and development of a new recreation center classification system and prototypical models – should be a top Agency Action priority. Similarly if building new playgrounds to improve equity is a top CIP priority, then a top Agency Action priority should be to confirm facility gaps and/or identify opportunities for joint use of school properties to leverage available resources.

Both the Agency Actions and CIP should be reviewed each year to reflect evolving priorities and/or funding levels. Each capital project will also require additional analysis, input from local residents, and more detailed planning and design before it can be implemented. More information about how a project moves from identification to plan to design and finally construction can be found in the Project Development Process section on page 62.

Following is a summary of the top priority short, medium, and long term tasks that comprise the DPR Agency Actions, and will be required to implement the **Play DC** Vision.

FROM INVENTORY TO IMPLEMENTATION



INVENTORY

+



NEEDS

+



BEST PRACTICES

=



VISION

+



GAPS

+



PRIORITIES

+



BEST PRACTICES

=



IMPLEMENTATION
FRAMEWORK

AGENCY ACTIONS



A world-class parks and recreation system is fostered through multiple means, including the practices that an agency, government, and partners adopt to deliver services. These Agency Actions may require operational shifts such as reallocation of staff time or budget to achieve goals in the short, medium, and long term.

While each Element and Big Move has specific actions to help achieve the Targets, there are some actions that are common to more than one Element. These general actions run the gamut from establishing systems by which to track progress on implementation of **Play DC** to ensuring that our actions contribute to a more sustainable city. The chart below indicates which common actions apply to which Element. The following pages further lay out a course of action for DPR by Element.

(G) General Actions	Time frame	Parkland	Recreation Centers	Aquatic Facilities	Outdoor Facilities	Programs	Bikeways + Trails	Environmental Lands + Natural Areas
1. Establish an internal agency system to manage Play DC data and maps.	Short Term	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙
2. Update baseline data and maps annually to track progress toward Targets.		⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙*	⊙	⊙
3. Develop a marketing plan to increase public awareness.		⊙	⊙			⊙		
4. Identify opportunities to use resources more efficiently.		⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙			⊙
5. Identify opportunities to enhance community stewardship, residents' environmental awareness, and maintenance of parks and facilities.		⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙			⊙
6. Identify opportunities to generate revenue and create new jobs.	Medium Term	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙		
7. Provide new opportunities for health and fitness as well as social gathering, art, performance, and community or civic events.		⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙		⊙
8. Identify opportunities to improve surface or ground water quality.	Long Term	⊙**	⊙	⊙	⊙			⊙**

* Monthly, quarterly, and annually

** And improve biodiversity

Parkland



Targets



- Every resident will be able to access a meaningful greenspace within a 1/2-mile (10-minute walk) of home.
- Every neighborhood cluster will have access to at least 4 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents (2 acres for every 1,000 residents in the downtown core).

(A) UPGRADE

Make the best of existing District-owned parks. Develop an enhanced maintenance and improvement schedule to upgrade the quality of passive and active spaces.



Short Term

1. Create District-wide parkland design standards.
2. Create District-wide parkland maintenance standards.
3. Complete an assessment of District Parkland based on design and maintenance standards.
4. Calculate the costs, prioritize, and update CIP to upgrade parkland to meet new standards.

(B) INTEGRATE

Make green space owned by District government agencies available and accessible to DC residents for recreation purposes—with an emphasis on opening DC Public School facilities to the community.



Short Term

1. Meet with partners to review and discuss alternative joint-use partnership model(s) for DC Public School (DCPS) facilities.
2. Develop proposed partnership models with each agency including capital, maintenance, and programming responsibilities for DCPS facilities.
3. Finalize and sign joint use agreements with DCPS/DGS.



Medium Term

4. Meet with partners to review and discuss alternative joint-use partnership model(s) for other facilities (i.e. NPS, Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, private providers, etc.).
5. Develop proposed partnership models with each agency including capital, maintenance, and programming responsibilities.
6. Finalize and sign joint use agreements with partners.

(C) EXPAND

Acquire more parkland under District jurisdiction through strategic property transfers, purchases, and private development proffers.



Medium Term

1. Update the District Development Review and Planned Unit Development processes to make sure that new development is meeting the recreational needs of existing and new residents.



Long Term

2. Identify and prioritize targeted areas for parkland acquisition.
3. Acquire additional parkland to meet parkland targets.

Recreation Centers



Targets



- Every resident will be able to access a DPR Neighborhood Center—or the equivalent—within 1 mile of home.

(D) RECLASSIFY

Develop and consistently apply a new classification system for DPR Recreation Centers, which establishes minimum design standards based upon program needs.



Short Term

1. Develop prototypical design standards for each of the proposed recreation center classifications including site plans, floor plans, and program plans.
2. Evaluate existing recreation centers to determine how each should be classified, as well as opportunities for expansion to a higher classification level.
3. Formalize the roles and expectations of Community Services & Programs Division and Community Recreation Division for developing, implementing, and evaluating recreation programs.

(E) REINVEST

Invest capital funds to bring all Recreation Centers up to the minimum standards of the new classification system, prioritizing those centers where gaps in the network exist.



Short Term

1. Identify opportunities to enhance community stewardship, residents' environmental awareness, and maintenance of parks and facilities.



Medium Term

2. Estimate the costs to improve each existing center to meet the new classification criteria.
3. Identify locations of proposed new facilities to meet community needs.
4. Prioritize and update the CIP to improve existing recreation centers to meet the new classification criteria.
5. Prioritize and update the CIP to build new facilities to meet community needs.

(F) PARTNER

Request formal proposals from private and non-profit organizations to manage select DPR Recreation Centers.



Medium Term

1. Establish criteria to determine which centers should be managed by DPR versus other agencies.
2. Evaluate existing centers to identify candidates for external management.



Long Term

3. Request proposals from other agencies to manage select DPR centers.

Aquatics Facilities



Targets



- Every resident will have access to an indoor pool within 2 miles, an outdoor pool within 1.5 miles, and a splash pad within 1 mile.

(H) STABILIZE

Make necessary renovations and upgrades to extend the life of DPR's generous network of pools to meet growing demand.



Short Term

1. Identify deferred maintenance needs in aquatics facilities.
2. Prioritize deferred maintenance needs and update CIP.

(I) EVALUATE

Conduct an in-depth study of each type of Aquatics Facility to refine needs and priorities.



Short Term

1. Develop a new aquatics facilities classification system, including pool size, building size, service area, and program offerings.
2. Develop prototypical design standards for each classification including site plans, floor plans, pool layouts, and program plans.
3. Evaluate existing pools and splash pads based on new aquatics facilities classification.
4. Identify opportunities to enhance community stewardship, residents' environmental awareness, and maintenance of parks and facilities.

(J) MODERNIZE

Transform the District into an Aquatics destination by making key strategic investments that will enrich offerings for residents and draw customers from surrounding jurisdictions.



Short Term

1. Increase program offerings and continue to enhance level of performance of aquatics facilities staff.



Medium Term

2. Estimate the costs to improve each existing aquatics facility to meet the new classification.
3. Identify locations of proposed new facilities to meet community needs.
4. Prioritize improvements, and secure funding for a phased capital improvement program.
5. Design and construct improvements and new facilities.

Outdoor Facilities

Targets

- 80% of District residents will rate their access to desired outdoor facilities as Good or Excellent.
- Develop service targets for specific types of outdoor facilities.

(K) IMPROVE

Raise the bar on the condition of our existing outdoor facilities: re-invent playgrounds across the city; convert some fields to artificial turf; and add lighting, seating, and other support features.



Short Term

1. Create District-wide parks and recreation facility design standards for outdoor facilities.
2. Create District-wide maintenance standards for outdoor facilities.
3. Evaluate condition of existing outdoor facilities based on new standards and establish schedule for future follow-up evaluations.
4. Calculate the costs, prioritize, and update CIP to upgrade the appearance, safety, and/or maintenance of outdoor facilities to meet new standards.
5. Identify opportunities to enhance community stewardship, residents' environmental awareness, and maintenance of parks and facilities.

(L) MULTIPLY

Increase the access to high-quality outdoor facilities by building new athletic fields and courts in areas of demonstrated need.



Medium Term

1. Prioritize the new outdoor facilities proposed in the Parks + Recreation Master Plan.
2. Update CIP to implement prioritized outdoor facilities.
3. Design and build proposed new facilities.

(M) UTILIZE

Be creative - take advantage of the rich network of urban infrastructure to meet recreational needs and promote exercise.



Medium Term

1. Identify opportunities to meet outdoor recreation needs through existing public or private facilities as an alternative to building new facilities.
2. Develop joint-use agreements to provide public access to facilities managed by others.

Programs



Targets



- 25% of DC residents will participate in a DPR program.
- 90% of participants will rate their experience in DPR programs as Good or Excellent.

(N) ORGANIZE

Develop a framework to guide DPR in the recreation programs marketplace and how to invest and prioritize funds.



Short Term

1. Establish an overall program philosophy for delivering programs and services.
2. Formalize the roles and expectations of Community Services & Programs Division and Community Recreation Division for developing, implementing and evaluating recreation programs.
3. Clarify a staffing structure and roles and expectations for program coordination (program management track) and facility management (facility management track) at recreation centers.
4. Establish a comprehensive staff training program for new overall philosophy for delivering programs and services.



Medium Term

5. Develop a clear fee policy to guide program rate structures. Move more to a fee-for-service concept.
6. Ensure that the required facilities and equipment are in place to support the programs.
7. Increase the level of annual funding for new recreation programs and services.

(O) ANALYZE

Collect and analyze participation data regularly, and apply to future decision-making on program operations.



Short Term

1. Formalize and institutionalize documentation system for program registration and facility utilization by program area, and center or facility. Report data by month, quarter, and annually.
2. Commit to tracking the latest trends for recreation programs and services on an annual basis and utilize this information for developing and updating the programs.
3. Improve both an internal (staff input) and external (participants) program evaluation plan that provides key information that can be utilized to measure not only goal attainment but levels of user satisfaction.



Medium Term

4. Formalize and institutionalize a program proposal development and reporting document for all recreation programs.
5. Incorporate all program data that is obtained into the annual performance measurement plan for DPR.



Long Term

6. Have the required computer software and hardware at all indoor locations where recreation programs and services are being conducted. Reintroduce the One Card or other mechanism as a way of tracking facility and program use and history.

(P) DEVELOP

Develop a detailed Program Action Plan that elevates, standardizes and expands the quality of offerings of DPR programs.



Short Term

1. Formalize and institutionalize a process to develop specific 2 year program plans for each recreation center or facility and ensure their completion.



Medium Term

2. Formalize and institutionalize a process to identify and vet other possible program providers and ensure its completion.
3. Formalize and institutionalize a process to thoroughly evaluate each program and ensure its completion.

Bikeways + Trails



Targets



- 100% of DPR parks will be accessible by foot.
- 90% of DPR parks will be accessible by bicycle.

(Q) LINK

Add perimeter multi-use trails within select parks that can connect to the city-wide trail system, and provide secure bike parking and trailheads.



Medium Term

1. Support District and Federal Agencies including District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and National Park Service (NPS) to develop a District-wide Multi-use Trails System Plan showing proposed upgrades and new linkages.
2. Support District and Federal Agencies including DDOT and NPS to develop a District-wide Trail Design Standards, including bike parking, signs and kiosks, and trailhead parking and amenities.
3. Support District and Federal Agencies including DDOT and NPS to develop, prioritize, fund, and build perimeter multi-use trails.

(R) SUPPORT

Support proposed transportation projects with recreation benefits such as the Metropolitan Branch Trail, Oxon Run Trail, and the Fort Circle Parks + Greenway.



Medium Term

1. Support District and Federal Agencies including DDOT and NPS to prioritize corridors with bikeways and trails funding.



Long Term

2. Support District and Federal Agencies including DDOT and NPS to develop feasibility studies and conceptual master plans for high priority corridors to help build support and acquire funding.

(S) COOPERATE

Forge agreements to open up other opportunities for walking and biking, such as school tracks and trail easements.



Short Term

1. Develop MOA with DDOT and/or other agencies for maintenance of bikeways and trails on DPR sites.



Medium Term

2. Identify opportunities to use school tracks, trail easements, abandoned rail lines, utility easements, and other corridors during the Trail Master Planning process.
3. Meet with corridor owners to discuss opportunities for joint use.
4. Develop joint-use agreements for high priority corridors.

Environmental Lands + Natural Areas



Targets



- Increase natural features on DPR properties, such as trees, gardens, or wetlands, by 40%.

(T) CONNECT

Provide more places for people to access the waterfront and better opportunities to experience natural areas within the DPR system.



Medium Term

1. Evaluate the feasibility of providing the new/ improved waterfront access proposed in Play DC.
2. Secure funding for a phased capital improvement program.



Long Term

3. Design and build proposed new facilities.

(U) RECLAIM

Within the larger parks, establish healthier tree cover and green landscapes. Weave plantings and other natural features into mini and pocket parks, especially in areas with inadequate open space.



Short Term

1. Develop design standards and criteria for natural areas within DPR Parks.
2. Identify opportunities to enhance community stewardship, residents' environmental awareness, and maintenance of parks and facilities.



Medium Term

3. Evaluate existing parks to identify opportunities to implement new standards.
4. Prioritize, fund, design and install new plantings and open lawn areas.

(V) COORDINATE

Work with the National Park Service and other expert providers to offer nature programs, particularly in neighborhoods where natural areas are limited.



Short Term

1. Identify targeted areas and population(s) for nature programs.
2. Develop formal arrangements, standards, and plans with Casey Trees, DDOT UFA, and others for tree plantings on DPR properties.
3. Formalize maintenance arrangements for new plantings on environmental lands.



Medium Term

4. Meet with the NPS and/or other providers to discuss opportunities to meet targeted needs.
5. Implement and evaluate the success of new programs.

CAPITAL PROJECT PRIORITIES

Funding all of the capital projects necessary to realize the **Play DC** Vision would cost over \$1 billion. This is no small bill, so it is critical to prioritize. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) below identifies high-priority capital projects that fill service gaps in the parks and recreation system, and directly address the greatest needs expressed by DC residents. The projects listed here are proposed for the period 2015-2021—defined in this document as the short-term. It is important to note that while the 2015 projects listed in this table are poised to move forward, the rest of the projects in the CIP table are only conceptual and their progress depends on the availability of capital funds. Some of these projects may experience shifts in scope, timing, and/or budget. Based on the financial baseline explained on pages 73-79, capital projects are distributed assuming a \$40 million annual budget.

	Proposed CIP (Short-Term)						
	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
ADA Compliance	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Anacostia Center			\$	\$			
Aquatic Facilities	\$		\$		\$ \$	\$ \$	
Arboretum Recreation Center					\$ \$		
Athletic Field and Outdoor Facilities	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Benning Park Recreation Center-Rehab	\$	\$ \$	\$ \$				
Benning Stoddert Modernization	\$						
Building Access and Security Screening			\$ \$				
Center City District Recreation Center					\$ \$	\$ \$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$
Chevy Chase Recreation Center			\$	\$ \$ \$			

\$ = \$0 - \$3 Million

\$ \$ = \$4 - \$7 Million

\$ \$ \$ \$ = \$8 - \$11 Million

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ = \$12 - \$15 Million

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ = \$16 - \$19 Million

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ = \$20 - \$23 Million

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ = \$24 - \$27 Million

	Proposed CIP (Short-Term)						
	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Cobb Park				\$			
Community Gardens				\$	\$		
Congress Heights Community Center Modernization		\$	\$ \$ \$	\$ \$			
Douglass Community Center	\$						
DPR Fleet Upgrades		\$					
East Potomac Pool		\$ \$					
Edgewood Recreation Center	\$ \$ \$ \$						
Fort Davis Recreation Center	\$						
Fort Dupont Ice Arena Replacement	\$	\$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$				
Fort Greble Recreation Center	\$						
Fort Stevens Recreation Center	\$						
Fort Lincoln Park				\$			
Franklin Park			\$ \$	\$ \$ \$			
Hardy Recreation Center	\$						
Hearst Park		\$	\$ \$				
Hillcrest Recreation Center	\$						
IT Infrastructure	\$	\$	\$				
Ivy City Community Center	\$						\$ \$
Joy Evans					\$	\$ \$	
Kenilworth Parkside Recreation Center	\$	\$					

	Proposed CIP (Short-Term)						
	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Lafayette Recreation Center						\$	\$ \$
Langdon Community Center					\$	\$ \$	
Lederer Environmental Center			\$	\$ \$			
Marvin Gaye Recreation Center	\$ \$	\$ \$ \$					
Mechanical Equipment Replacement		\$					
NoMa Parks and Recreation Centers	\$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$	\$ \$		\$ \$ \$ \$	\$ \$	
Palisades Recreation Center	\$ \$	\$ \$					
Park Improvements Project Management	\$	\$	\$				
Parkland and Playgrounds	\$ \$	\$ \$	\$ \$	\$ \$	\$ \$	\$ \$	\$ \$
Playable Art				\$			
Recreation Centers	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Southeast Tennis and Learning Center	\$ \$						
Square 238 DPR Facility Planning Study	\$						

\$ = \$0 - \$3 Million

\$ \$ = \$4 - \$7 Million

\$ \$ \$ = \$8 - \$11 Million

\$ \$ \$ \$ = \$12 - \$15 Million

\$ \$ \$ \$ = \$16 - \$19 Million

\$ \$ \$ \$ = \$20 - \$23 Million

\$ \$ \$ \$ = \$24 - \$27 Million

\$ \$

\$ \$ \$

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	Proposed CIP (Short-Term)						
	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Takoma Aquatic Center			\$	\$			
Therapeutic Recreation Center	\$		\$ \$	\$ \$ \$			
Urban Agriculture	\$	\$	\$				
Ward 3 Outdoor Pool	\$	\$ \$					
Ward 4 Outdoor Pool						\$	\$
William Rumsey Pool				\$	\$		

\$ = \$0 - \$3 Million

\$ \$ = \$4 - \$7 Million

\$ \$ \$ = \$8 - \$11 Million

\$ \$ \$ \$ = \$12 - \$15 Million

\$ \$ \$ \$ = \$16 - \$19 Million
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\$ \$ \$ \$ = \$20 - \$23 Million
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\$ \$ \$ \$ = \$24 - \$27 Million
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While having a clear set of capital projects is valuable and appropriate in the short-term, it becomes more challenging to select specific sites for improvement the further out in time we look. Future data on factors such as demographics, recreational trends, community needs, and facility condition and usage should drive project selection. That said, the **Play DC** Vision Framework still affords broad guidance about how to organize our investments in the medium- and long-term. The Needs Assessment (page 23) revealed that District residents overwhelmingly prefer enhancing assets we already have to building new facilities. Medium term investments should continue a strong focus on addressing existing, deficient parkland and facilities. Over time, investments should shift toward the development of new parkland and facilities to meet expanding demands from a growing population.

The two tables to the right break down recommended investment levels into project categories or “buckets”. Although the medium term and long term programs do not specify exact locations, the District should focus special attention on areas of the city still experiencing sub-par levels of service for access, space, and/or quality— (highlighted in the Vision Maps on pages 24 to 45). Individual projects that improve level of service where it is poor should rank highly in any future efforts to effectively prioritize funds.

Signature projects, such as the development of active waterfront recreation areas, are entwined in the general program of proposed investments above. We should not neglect these opportunities. They have enormous potential to provide both for needed outdoor recreation facilities as well as natural park spaces that protect water quality and give respite to residents. Projects of this magnitude are typically planned in the short term, designed and partially implemented in the medium term, and completed in the long term.

Proposed Investments: Medium Term (Years 2021 - 2025)		
Project Buckets	Description	Estimated Costs
Modernization of Existing Facilities	Small capital projects upgrading existing parkland, recreation centers, aquatics facilities and outdoor facilities to address deferred maintenance and improve quality and appearance.	\$190 million
Development of New Indoor Facilities	Significant expansions of existing recreation centers / pools or the construction of new facilities to address persistent service gaps and new gaps caused by population growth.	\$54 million
Development of New Outdoor Facilities	Strategic additions of athletic fields, courts and other outdoor facilities in areas of the city lacking the adequate number of these amenities.	\$48 million
Creation of New Parks and Open Spaces	Increase in the District's parks acreage through purchase, transfer, or partnerships, with a focus on neighborhoods where acreage per capita is low.	\$37 million
Other Enhancements	Projects geared toward improving trails and other bikeways, and the environmental quality of DPR properties.	\$10 million

Proposed Investments: Long Term (Years 2026 - 2030)		
Project Buckets	Description	Estimated Costs
Modernization of Existing Facilities	Small capital projects upgrading existing parkland, recreation centers, aquatics facilities and outdoor facilities to address deferred maintenance and improve quality and appearance.	\$105 million
Development of New Indoor Facilities	Significant expansions of existing recreation centers / pools or the construction of new facilities to address persistent service gaps and new gaps caused by population growth.	\$100 million
Development of New Outdoor Facilities	Strategic additions of athletic fields, courts and other outdoor facilities in areas of the city lacking the adequate number of these amenities.	\$75 million
Creation of New Parks Open Spaces	Increase in the District's parks acreage through purchase, transfer, or partnerships, with a focus on neighborhoods where acreage per capita is low.	\$50 million
Other Enhancements	Projects geared toward improving trails and other bikeways, and the environmental quality of DPR properties.	\$10 million

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Having a well-defined and transparent project development process is very important for moving effectively from a District-wide system plan to localized design and program decisions. A project development process ensures that many factors and questions are considered and answered. Questions such as: “Is a proposed project really what residents want? Are there other providers in the neighborhood that can offer residents a similar facility? If the project is indeed a high-priority need, where should it be located? What should it look like?”

A project development process will answer all these types of questions and many more. It also ensures that proposed projects are planned, designed, and constructed with ample opportunities for District residents to participate in the process. Figure K (below) illustrates how projects identified in **Play DC** will go from being a symbol on a map to a park, pool, or playground that District residents can enjoy.



Figure K: Project Development Process

While every capital project should consider all of the steps in the project development process, some projects may progress through the steps more quickly than others, depending on the complexity of the project scope and demands of the project schedule. For example, a project manager renovating a site would consult a system plan and neighborhood plan, if available, and then move directly to working with the community to develop a design. Creating a new parkland or expanding a recreation center (based on new, proposed classifications on page 32), may require a system-wide or neighborhood analysis before launching into the design and construction phases. Understanding the context, confirming the needs and considering alternative safeguard good investment decisions. At heart, the project development process allows stakeholders - from sister agencies to neighbors - to guide us to smart choices.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

A key part of the Project Development Process is designing parks and recreation spaces in ways that genuinely fulfill a community's recreation needs as well as enhance its beauty and function. The **Play DC** Guidelines help park professionals and interested stakeholders apply sound design solutions when they undertake projects to create new parks or enhance existing facilities.

The traditional approach to park design, using criteria found in the National Recreation and Park Association's, *Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines*, generally applies better to suburban and rural jurisdictions where land is relatively cheap and plentiful. In Washington, D.C. and other urban cities, acquiring undeveloped land to build new parks is often difficult and prohibitively expensive.

The **Play DC** Guidelines look at how residents in the District socialize and recreate in an urban setting. The truth is that most residents today do not identify strongly with the type of park they visit. Instead, people think in terms of activities. For example, a resident may ask, "where can my family go for a hike today?", "where can I take my dog to play?", "where can my child learn to play baseball?", or "where can I take a yoga class?" The focus is on the type of activity, not the park or the park size.

Using an "activity-based" approach to design requires less land and enables park planners to efficiently and effectively use available space to meet the recreation needs of residents.

For instance, a planner wishing to design a place to play pick-up field sports where athletic fields are scarce can look at a host of creative locations including an amply-

BASIC RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- Walk/run/jog/exercise
- Walk/curb a dog (On-leash)
- Ride a bike
- Sit outside: read, people-watch, eat lunch, talk with friends
- Picnic
- Tend a community garden
- Bird watch
- Interact/play with others in a playground
- Use an outdoor classroom
- Participate in outdoor fitness
- Interact/play with others on table games
- Let your dog run without a leash
- Play a game of catch, frisbee, sunbathe
- Play a game of bocce
- Play "Pick-Up Field Sports" or practice
- Play "Pick-Up Court Sports" or practice Basketball, Tennis, Racquetball, Sand Volleyball, Pickleball, Badminton
- Attend a local arts fair, festival, green market, or other special event
- Play organized competition sports including games and tournaments Baseball, Softball, Soccer/Football, Lacrosse, Basketball, Tennis, Racquetball, Pickleball, Badminton
- Swim recreationally in an outdoor pool
- Swim competitively in an outdoor pool
- Play with water sprays
- Fish from land
- Paddle a canoe/kayak/paddle board
- Go boating/sailing
- Go for a hike
- Participate in adventure sports Mountain biking, skateboarding

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

- Walk/run/jog/exercise
- Play organized competition sports including games and tournaments
- Play indoor "Pick-Up Court Sports" or practice Soccer, Basketball, Tennis, Racquetball, Volleyball, Pickleball, Badminton
- Play indoor organized competition sports including games and tournaments Soccer, Basketball, Tennis, Racquetball, Volleyball, Pickleball, Badminton
- Attend classes/lectures/social functions
- Swim recreationally in an indoor pool
- Swim competitively in an indoor pool
- Participate in aquatics program

sized triangle park, the front lawn of a cultural or institutional building, the parking lot of a school or church, or even the roof of a building redesigned as green space.

This approach begs the question: how do we know where various activities will fit? The **Play DC** Design Guidelines identify a spectrum of typical outdoor and indoor activities (listed on page 63) and outline their space parameters. Figure L on page 65 displays the square footage required for each of the outdoor activities, Figure M on page 66 displays the square footage needed for each of the indoor activities, and below are examples of Activity-Based Design Guidelines.

EXAMPLE OF AN OUTDOOR ACTIVITY-BASED DESIGN GUIDELINE



Activity: Play “Pick-Up Field Sports” or Practice

Criteria:

Typical minimum 1 acre turf area/multi-purpose irrigated lawn open space that is well drained with shade trees surrounding the perimeter of the space.

Considerations:

- Limit understory plantings around the edges of the multi-purpose open space to low groundcovers that enable views into the space.
- Consider including seating areas such as benches, picnic tables, or movable tables and chairs along the perimeter of the space under tree canopy.

EXAMPLE OF AN INDOOR ACTIVITY-BASED SPACE DESIGN GUIDELINE



Activity: Learn or Practice Computer Skills

Criteria:

A space of approximately 800 sq.ft. that includes a computer center (at least 8 stations). A small office space of 100 sq.ft. should also be included. Storage of at least 150 sq.ft. must be included.

Considerations:

- A front desk should be provided to monitor computers.
- The computer room should have anti glare lights to prevent excessive glare on computer screens.
- Audio visual equipment storage/ outlets should be provided.

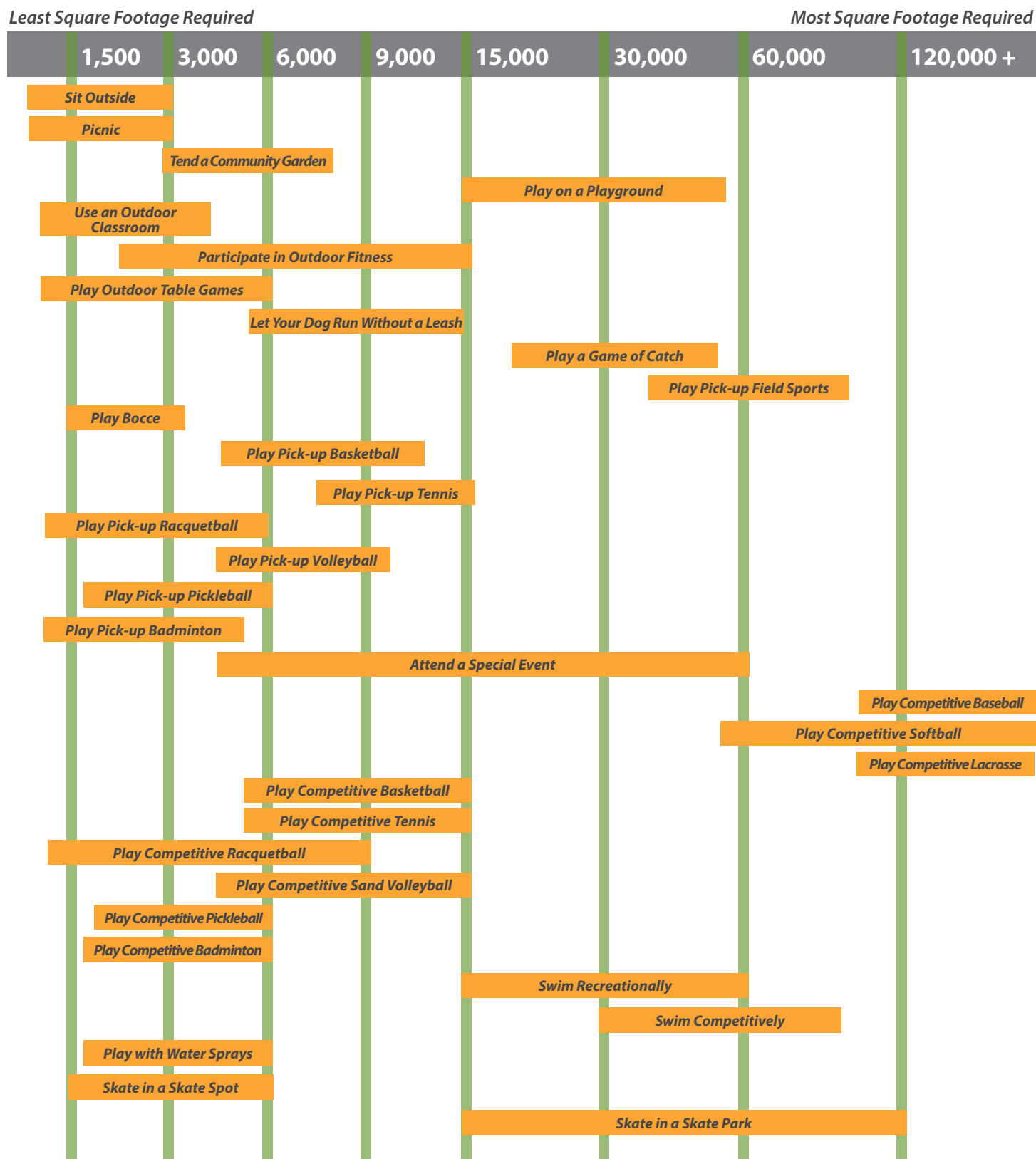


Figure L: Outdoor Activities and Required Square Footage

In addition to incorporating an “activity-based” perspective into the Project Development Process, it is also essential that we plan parks and other public spaces as valuable community resources that generate economic, social, and environmental benefits beyond pure recreation. Therefore, the **Play DC** Design Guidelines also include criteria for creating High Performance Public Spaces (HPPSs®), which should be kept in mind when remaking public spaces. These criteria are explained in greater detail on page 67.

Last but not least, because pictures are worth a thousand words, the **Play DC** Design Guidelines include diagrams to illustrate how we can apply the HPPS® criteria and activity-based ideas described above. A couple of examples—Triangle Parks and Community Recreation Centers—are sketched out on pages 68-71. More examples and additional information can be found in the complete set of Design Guidelines, available through DPR.

COMPONENT	NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION CENTER Square Footage	COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER Square Footage	DISTRICT RECREATION CENTER Square Footage
Multi-Purpose Rm.	4,400	Substitute a gym	5,500
Classroom	1,150	2,300 (2 spaces)	2,300 (2 spaces)
Kitchen		750 (teaching)	750 (teaching)
Computer Lab		1,050	1,050
Senior Lounge		1,200	1,200
Teen Lounge			1,200
Game Room			1,000
Arts & Crafts Rm.			1,500
Gymnasium		9,000 (single)	13,750 (double)
Run/Jog Track		3,500	7,000
<i>Fitness Center</i>			
Wt./Cardio		3,200	5,200
Group Fitness Rm.		2,300	2,300
Fitness Studio			1,200
Aquatics			14,000 (leisure)
<i>Support</i>			
Lobby/Lounge	400	1,000	1,500
Front Desk	100	300	300
Office Space	300	750	1,200
Locker Rooms		1000	3,000
Family Change		200	800
Early Childhood Education		1,100	1,100
Maintenance Office		200	300
Restrooms	400	800	800
Vending		100	100
General Storage	200	800	1,600
Mechanical Space	600	1,500	2,000
Sub-Total	7,550	31,050	70,650
Net/Gross (20%)	1,510	6,210	14,130
Grand Total	9,060	37,260	84,780

Figure M: Required Square Footage for Indoor Activities

HIGH-PERFORMANCE PUBLIC SPACES (HPPS®) CRITERIA

Each District park should be designed to 1) meet the recreation, education, and social needs of District residents, and 2) improve the resiliency and sustainability of the neighborhood and community. Challenges related to income and work force inequality, stormwater management, energy conservation, waste mitigation, food deserts, and sedentary lifestyles are but a few examples of the issues that parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities can help address. (Public spaces that generate economic, social, and environmental benefits for their community have been termed “High Performance Public Spaces HPPSs®” by David L. Barth at the University of Florida). Criteria for HPPSs® include:

Economic Criteria:

- The space creates and facilitates revenue-generating opportunities for the public and/or the private sectors
- The space creates meaningful and desirable employment
- The space indirectly creates or sustains good, living wage jobs
- The space sustains or increases property values
- The space catalyzes infill development and/or the re-use of obsolete or under-used buildings or spaces
- The space attracts new residents
- The space attracts new businesses
- The space generates increased business and tax revenues
- The space optimizes operations and maintenance costs (compared to other similar spaces)

Environmental Criteria:

- The space uses energy, water, and material resources efficiently
- The space improves water quality of both surface and ground water
- The space serves as a net carbon sink
- The space enhances, preserves, promotes, or contributes to biological diversity
- Hardscape materials are selected based on longevity of service, social/ cultural/ historical sustainability, regional availability, low carbon footprint and/or other related criteria
- The space provides opportunities to enhance environmental awareness and knowledge
- The space serves as an interconnected node within larger scale ecological corridors and natural habitat

Social Criteria:

- The space improves the neighborhood
- The space improves social and physical mobility through multi-modal connectivity – auto, transit, bike, pedestrian
- The space encourages the health and fitness of residents and visitors
- The space provides relief from urban congestion and stressors such as social confrontation, noise pollution, and air pollution
- The space provides places for formal and informal social gathering, art, performances, and community or civic events
- The space provides opportunities for individual, group, passive and active recreation
- The space facilitates shared experiences among different groups of people
- The space attracts diverse populations (Barth, 2014)

The District should strive to achieve as many of these criteria as possible in the design of parks and public spaces.

Neighborhood Serving Parks - Triangle Park

Size:

Generally less than 1 acre

Access Level of Service:

Walking distance, approximately ¼ mile

Function:

Triangle Parks are small spaces primarily serving nearby residents or framing transportation corridors. When surrounded by streets with low traffic volumes, Triangle Parks can accommodate limited activities such as sitting, playing, and/or small special events. They can also function as corridor beautification spots or as exhibition space for public art and historical monuments.

Triangle Parks can also provide small intervention opportunities that locally address environmental challenges such as stormwater management, biological diversity, and ecological and habitat restoration.

Permitted Activities include:

- Walk/ curb a dog (On-leash)
- Sit outside: read, people-watch, eat lunch, talk with friends
- Picnic
- Bird Watch

Conditional Activities include:

- Exercise
- Tend a community garden
- Interact/play with others in a playground
- Interact/play with others around table games
- Let your dog run without a leash in a designated area
- Play a game of catch, frisbee, sunbathe

Design Considerations:

Special care should be taken in the design of Triangle Parks to protect users from traffic and to create an enjoyable experience. Clear sightlines are imperative for example, to make sure that park users and passing drivers can easily see one another. Well-marked and signed crosswalks should be provided to help ensure safe access to the parks. *Park Zones* that encourage motorists to reduce their speed should be located around park areas. Depending on the site and proposed activities, low, open style ornamental perimeter fencing may be needed in the triangle park to help prevent small children or play elements from inadvertently going into the adjacent streets.





Neighborhood Serving Park - Prototypical Triangle Park Example | 9,500 sq.ft.



Legend

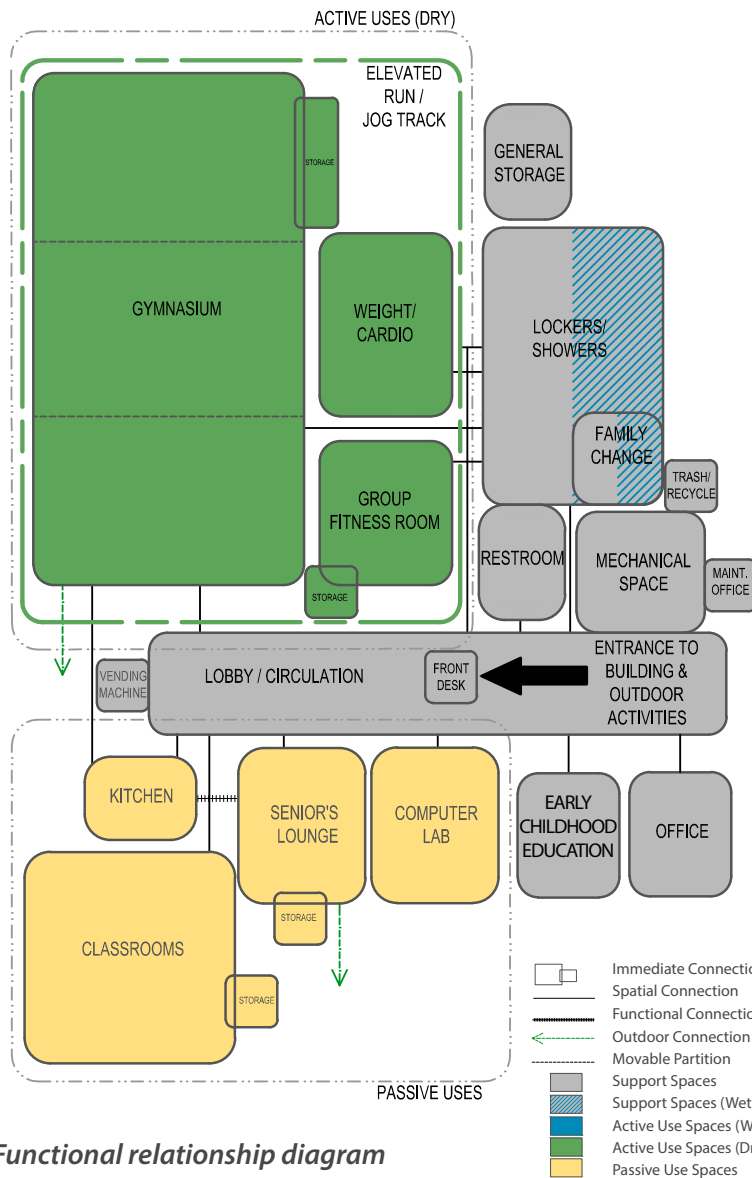
Example Park Amenities

- ① Picnic Table
- ② Movable Tables + Chairs
- ③ Chess + Checker Table Games
- ④ Outdoor Ping-Pong Table
- ⑤ Low Ornamental Fence

Park Context

- ⑥ Residential Land Use (Row Houses)
- ⑦ Commercial Land Use
- ⑧ Park Zone Traffic Calming
- ⑨ Crosswalk
- ⑩ On-Street Parking
- ⑪ Sidewalk + Tree Zone | Buffer

Community Recreation Center

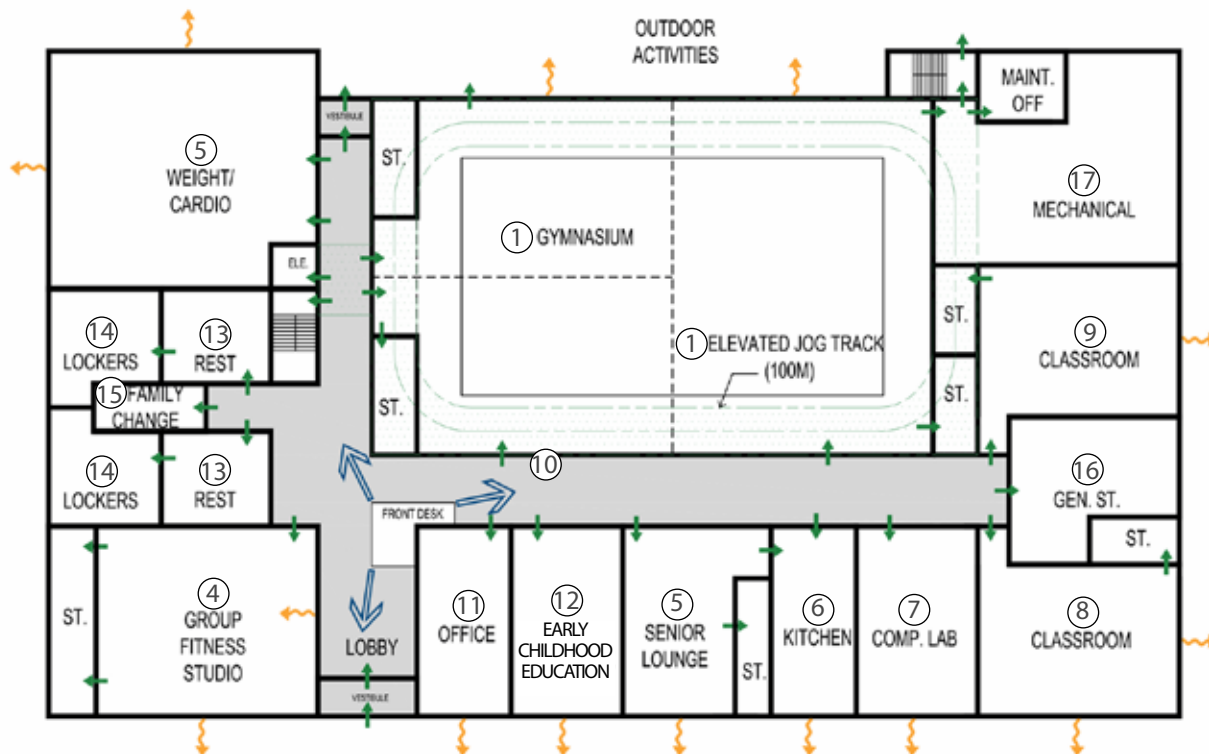


Functional relationship diagram

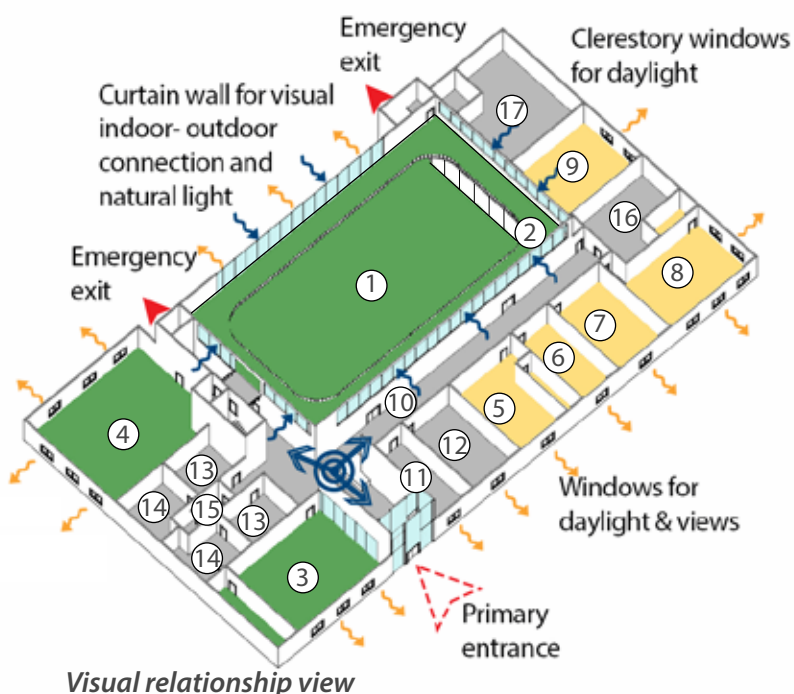
Functional Relationship of Spaces

- Front desk should be placed towards the front of the recreation center with sight lines to the entire facility
- Separate active use spaces from passive use spaces.
- Active use spaces such as gymnasium, weight /cardiovascular exercise room, and group fitness room should have access from the locker rooms, family changing room, and the lobby.
- Utilities such as restrooms, locker rooms, and mechanical room should be centralized and grouped together for mechanical ductwork.
- Senior lounge/activity room and early childhood education room should be placed towards the front of the recreation center.
- Kitchen should be placed close to the gymnasium and senior lounge/ activity room.
- Locker rooms should be divided into wet and dry areas to prevent accidents.
- Vending room should be close to active use spaces for easy access.
- Entrance and exit to the recreation center should be through a vestibule to prevent external air entrance.
- Gymnasium should be sufficient in size to support a full size basketball court with space to accommodate portable bleachers.

- Gymnasium should be divisible into multiple rooms, each with its own separate entrance, by means of movable partitions for conducting multiple sport activities and events. Each divided room should have access to the storage room.
- The elevated run and jog track can be placed over the gymnasium and other active use spaces.
- Quiet passive activities such as classrooms and computer labs should be placed away from the loud active use spaces.
- Restrooms and locker rooms should be interconnected to serve both active and passive uses.
- Mechanical rooms and maintenance office should have internal as well as external access.



Spatial relationship plan



Visual relationship view

Visual Relationship of Spaces

- Gymnasium height should have a clearance of more than 20 ft over the basketball court.
- High walls should be provided with clerestory windows or skylights for natural daylight.
- The elevated track over the gymnasium should have a minimum 12 ft inner radius.
- Active use spaces should have transparent walls for high visibility from front desk and to promote use of the activity space.
- Emergency exits should be provided as per the regulatory codes.



FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE



VISION COSTS

The **Play DC** Vision represents an unconstrained view of the future. It expresses where we wish to be, what the District's parks and recreation system could look like with the right investments. While a Vision requires imagination, ideally it also entails a firm understanding of what it would cost to implement it. The table below estimates the order-of-magnitude costs of the **Play DC** Vision in 2014 dollars, broken down by Element. It is important to note that these estimates are planning-level costs that will vary as projects move into a greater level of design detail.

Vision Element	Order of Magnitude Estimated Capital Costs
Parkland (Not including Land Acquisition Costs)	\$ 395 million
Recreation Centers	\$ 270 million
Aquatic Facilities	\$ 175 million
Outdoor Facilities	\$ 320 million
Bikeways + Trails	\$ 30 million
Environmental Lands + Natural Areas	\$ 15 million
Total	\$ 1.2 billion
Additional Annual Staffing, Programs and Operations + Maintenance Costs	\$ 20 - 40 million

The capital improvement estimates (for all categories except Staffing, Programs and Operations & Maintenance) are based upon general cost assumptions such as parkland per acre costs, recreation center per square foot costs. The estimates also take into account the actual building costs of facilities such as aquatic and outdoor facilities recently constructed in the District.

The cost estimate for enhanced Staffing, Programs and Operations & Maintenance is based on benchmark data comparing the District to cities with great park systems discussed later in this section. As Program data and work plans are honed over time, these numbers can be refined.

Implementing the **Play DC** Vision will require the continued commitment and support of residents, elected officials, community leaders, and local and regional partners. Critical to the successful implementation of the plan is a financial commitment to the District's Parks, both for capital projects as well as operations. The pages that follow help to describe the difference between the cost of the **Play DC** Vision and what the District government is currently spending on its parks and recreation system. Knowing the gap gives us insight into where the District can invest more and where we'll need assistance from our partners.



17



16



18



19

FUNDING

The **Play DC** project team evaluated District spending on parks and recreation services to determine approximate levels of parks and recreation funding over the past ten years. This serves two purposes:

- Allows the District to benchmark how much it spends on parks and recreation services against other park systems across the country, specifically those that were considered to either have great park systems or considered to be peer cities.
- Helps inform how much funding could be expected for DPR capital projects in the coming years and establish a time line for the complete implementation of the **Play DC** Vision.

There are three main metrics used to gauge whether a community is adequately funded to manage, operate, maintain, and build its parks and recreation system:

- Capital expenditures per resident,
- Operating expenditures per resident, and
- Total expenditures per resident (the sum of operating expenditures and the capital expenditures).



These metrics are established by dividing the total dollars of each type of expenditure by the population of the jurisdiction served by the agency. Figure O on page 77 illustrates these costs and metrics for the District over the last ten years. It's important to note that the Department of General Services (DGS) began providing operations and maintenance services for DPR facilities in 2012. DGS expenditures are included in these figures. As illustrated by these figures, it is clear that funding for parks and recreation services in the District has fluctuated over the last ten years; mostly due to the changes in the overall economy.

While these numbers look impressive on their own, they don't mean much until you compare them with those from other cities. Figure P on page 78 benchmarks the District against peer cities as well as cities with great park systems.

The District has remained one of the top jurisdictions when it comes to funding parks and recreation capital projects. On average, DC has committed an annual amount of \$41M and almost \$66 per resident. If this level of capital funding is assumed, the District would complete the **Play DC** Vision in approximately 40 years. Continuing annual capital funding at 2015 levels (\$68M) would reduce the implementation window to less than 25 years.

Operating expenditures in the District also compare fairly well to peer cities—coming in just about average. But there is definitely room for improvement. Over the last 10 years, the District has spent, on average, \$58M per year on operating expenditures or about \$96 per resident. DPR's FY 2015 operating budget for programs and personnel is robust, but DGS spending levels for the operation and maintenance of DPR's properties is low compared to industry guidelines.

As noted in Figure N on page 76, when DGS spending on indoor DPR facilities is divided by the total amount of indoor space, we learn that the District spends approximately \$5.68 per square foot. Based on this data, DC is far behind industry guidelines, which suggest spending \$20-30 per square foot on the operation and maintenance of indoor facilities.

This analysis indicates that budget allocation for the operations and maintenance of DPR properties is

substantially lower than industry guidelines and possibly insufficient. To match District spending to industry guidelines (for indoor facilities alone), the operating budget would have to be increased between \$16M and \$24M per year.

In sum, the District is exceeding the average in overall spending on its parks and recreation system. Looking at the last 10 years, the District has allocated a total of \$162 per resident per year in parks and recreation dollars. If the District wishes to compete with cities that have great park systems such as Minneapolis and Seattle, it must increase its annual expenditures to between \$210 and \$240 per resident. With a projected District population of 716,113 by the year 2020, the District would have to increase its annual parks and recreation budget to \$150M - \$172M, which is \$20M - \$40M above 2015 funding levels.

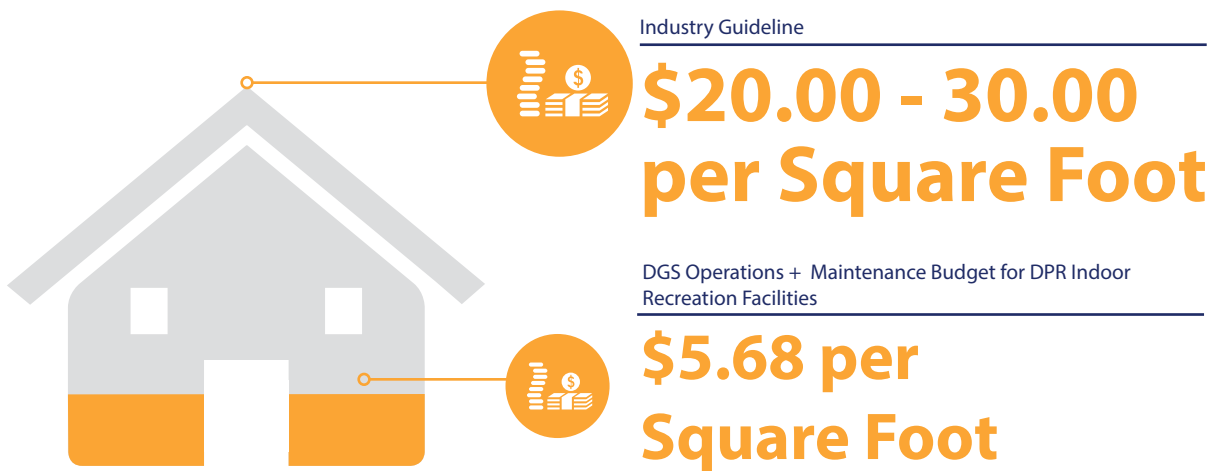


Figure N: FY 2014 DGS Operations and Maintenance Expenditures per Square Feet for Indoor Recreation Centers

[Source: DGS Office of Financial Officer + DPR]



On average, the District has spent a total of \$162 per resident per year on parks and recreation services.

\$162 per Resident

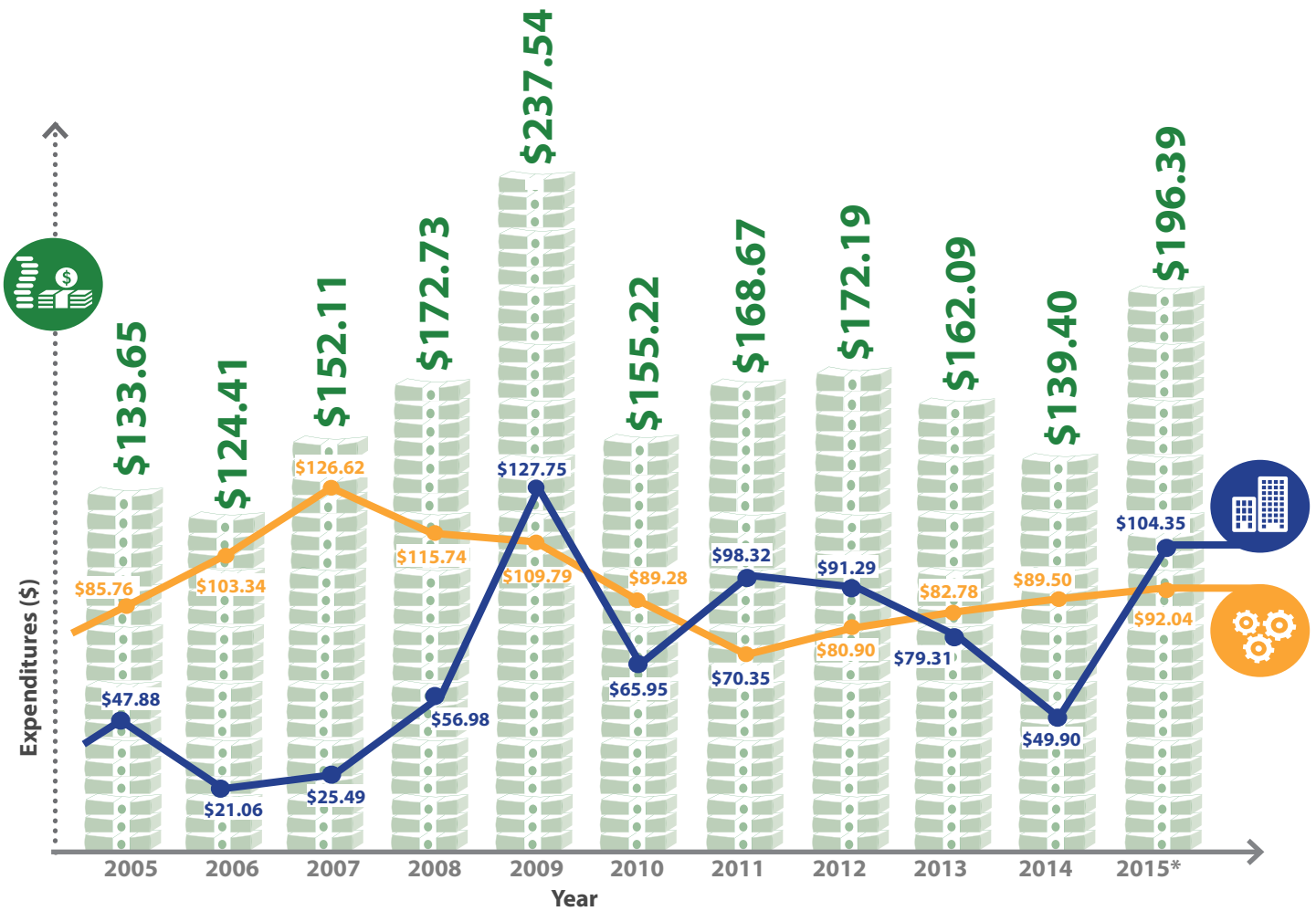


Figure O: Spending on Parks and Recreation Services Per Resident in Washington, D.C.



Total Expenditure Per Resident



Capital Expenditure Per Resident



Operating Expenditure Per Resident

Source: DC Office of the Chief Financial Officer

*This chart uses the District's annual operating budget and capital allotments to reflect historical funding levels.

The District's per resident spending is above average, but still less than the leading cities. Another \$50 per resident per year would put DC in elite company.

+ \$50 per Resident

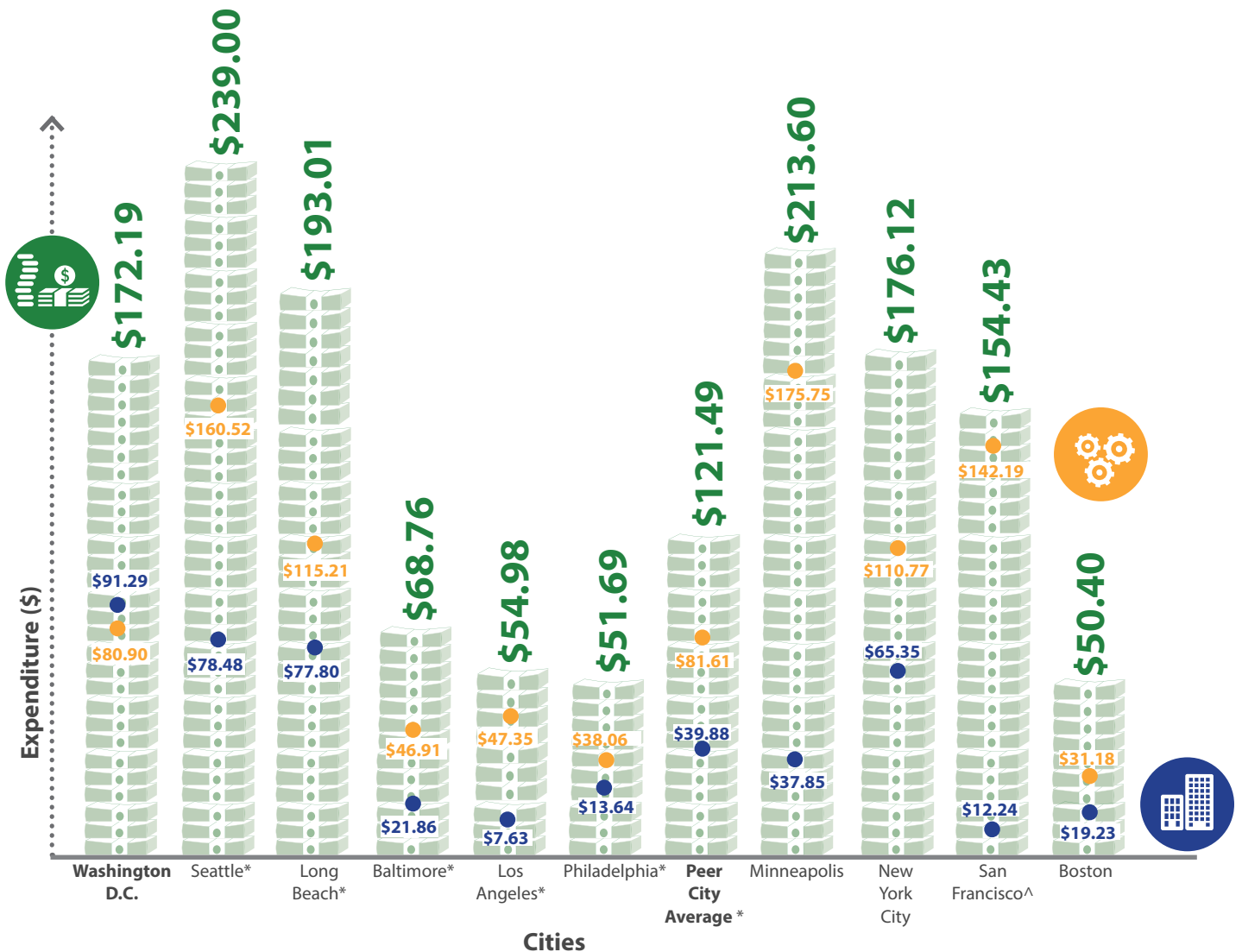


Figure P: Parks and Recreation Expenditure Benchmarks.



Total Expenditure Per Resident



Capital Expenditure Per Resident



Operating Expenditure Per Resident

Source: District budget allocations, DC Office of the Chief Financial Officer; Comparison city figures, Trust for Public Land.

* Considered a Peer City based on Population Density

^ 2013 Budget + Population Data

ALTERNATIVE SOURCES

In the District, funding for the parks and recreation operating budget comes from the District's General Fund. This general fund consists of Local Tax and Non-tax Revenue, Dedicated Taxes, and Special Purpose Revenue funds. Stated simply, it comes primarily from taxes that residents pay each year. Funding for parks and recreation capital projects comes mostly from long term financing / borrowing in the form of municipal General Obligation bonds. In some cases, the District funds capital projects by using money from the General Fund / operating budget (also known as Pay as you go).

Each year the Mayor and Council allocate a portion of the District's annual budget to parks and recreation for operating and capital expenditures. If the District wishes to exceed the available budget, it may ask residents whether they are willing to tax themselves to generate additional funding through special assessments, bonds, and/or other funding techniques. Voters in other cities, for example, have supported bonds or special assessments to pay for the renovation of existing recreation centers. They have also approved Special Purpose Local Option Sales Taxes, creating Tax Allocation Districts or Tax Increment Financing (TIF) areas to acquire and/or develop new parkland and recreation facilities. Where appropriate, the District could consider applying these tools to pay for important, but underfunded, parks and recreation needs.

The non-profit and philanthropic community can also play an important role in the implementation of the **Play DC** Vision. Non-profit organizations can be a vehicle for raising money from the philanthropic community. These funds can be used to support local advocacy groups such as "Friends of" groups to make park improvements. Additionally, since funding from non-profit organizations is derived from private funds, their projects do not carry the same regulatory restrictions that projects funded by public money have, including the requirement for competitive bids, low bidder selection, and other restrictions that sometimes extend project implementation schedules and ultimately, increase overall project costs.

Another strategy that the District may consider is obtaining funding through Public-Private Partnerships (P3s). P3s allow a public agency to leverage existing resources (such as land, capital, and/or staff) to generate greater benefits for the community than it could accomplish on its own. For example, rather than building a park with tax receipts only, the District may enter into an agreement with a private developer to construct a new park on public lands in return for some kind of benefit that the developer and the District deem appropriate. These benefits vary and could include future revenue from concessions, events, and programs in the park, or Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenue from properties surrounding the park. P3s are explored in more detail in the next chapter.





THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS



THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Recognizing that the District government cannot afford all of the recommended projects emerging from the **Play DC** Vision at current funding levels, it is critical to identify creative ways to leverage partners and external resources to complete, expedite, and even enhance implementation.

Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) are a particularly powerful strategy that the District may use to execute various parts of the **Play DC** Vision. While P3s are not especially common in the parks and recreation industry, they have been used effectively to deliver other needed infrastructure throughout the country. Many cities and states have improved facilities ranging from limited access expressways and transit projects to public schools, hospitals, and waterfronts. P3s can be used to facilitate the design, construction, and even operations and maintenance of these projects to offer a “win-win” partnership for government and private partners.

In a typical P3 structure, a private partner supplies capital funds, building expertise, and/or operational services in exchange for a return on this investment over the life cycle of the project or for some other important benefit. This “trade” can provide the public with desired facilities at a lower cost and reduced risk of project delays and cost overruns.

Although P3s can generate greater benefits for a community, they are not a silver bullet. Careful agreements tailored to specific communities and situations ensure that P3s are fair and offer significant public value. Possible disadvantages of P3s can include limited public input in the planning and design process, limited public bid opportunities due to specialized contractor requirements, limited control and influence on the operations and maintenance of the project, and, in some cases, risk that a private partner does not fulfill all commitments or performance expectations.

The District has already undertaken a handful of parks and recreation P3 projects where market conditions were favorable. In the Capitol Riverfront area, Canal Park, Yards Park, and Diamond Teague Park were constructed and operate as P3s; partners included the District and Federal governments, private real estate

developers, the Business Improvement District, and non-profit organizations. All three parks have faced challenges, including annual operating revenue shortfalls. Nonetheless, the parks have been successful in providing extremely high-quality public amenities at a fraction of the cost the District government would have incurred by providing them on its own.

Private sector and public sector managers continue to adjust operations at the Capitol Riverfront parks. These experiences are informing the approach in developing other park projects in the pipeline, such as Franklin Park, Fort Dupont Ice Arena, and NoMa Parks. Above all, signature parks must incorporate a business model for high-use parks that include excellent programming and maintenance plans.



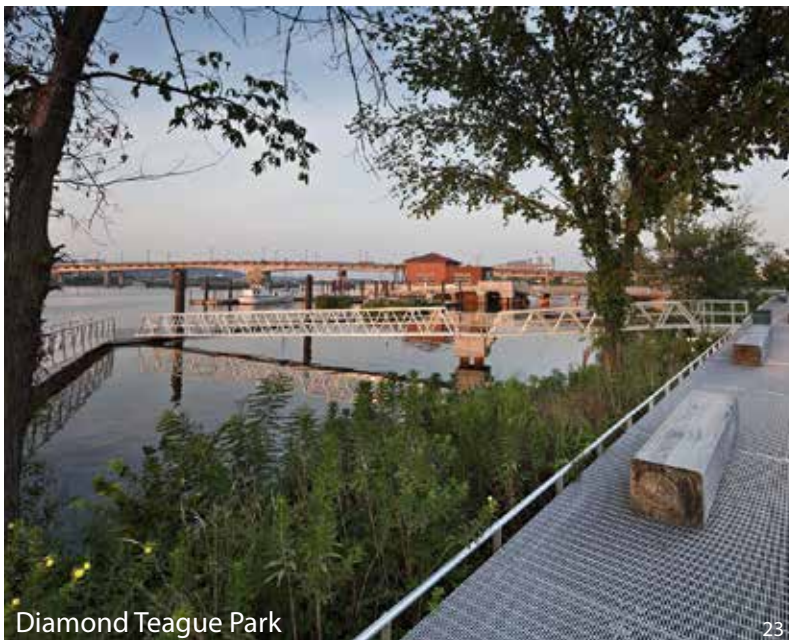
Yards Park

21



Canal Park

22



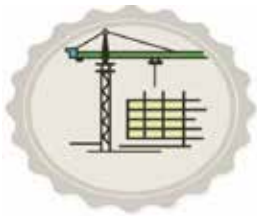
Diamond Teague Park

23

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TOOLKIT

The examples just discussed clearly demonstrate a capacity for P3 opportunities in the District. Thus far, most of the parks and recreation P3 projects have not been executed on DPR land, but research conducted as part of **Play DC** shows the potential for DPR to consider P3 arrangements.

The toolkit below describes four types of P3 tools. These tools, though not exhaustive, have the potential to attract private resources specifically to DPR properties, and elevate the quality of spaces and programs that the agency offers to District residents:



Real Estate Development

Some DPR properties, depending on market conditions, have the potential to add either a new residential development or mixed-use project that incorporates the existing park and recreation facility or facilities. Integrating a real estate development brings private funding to the site in order to replace and/or significantly improve a DPR asset such as a recreation center.



Expanded Operations

DPR may expand operations with new hours, additional staff, and, in some instances, additional building space. Expanding operations at strategic DPR sites will provide opportunities for more and/or improved recreation programs, and in turn can attract specialized user groups and increase revenue.



Concession Arrangements

A private entity (concessionaire) may provide programs or services on behalf of DPR in exchange for financial or other benefits. As part of this kind of arrangement, DPR may lease space to the concessionaire on a medium to long-term basis to facilitate the provision of desired services.



Corporate/Non-Profit Partnerships

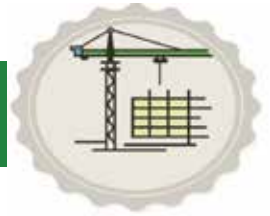
Where demand exists, DPR may rent space in selected facilities on a short-term basis to corporate or non-profit organizations to expand recreation program offerings and optimize facility usage. The corporate or non-profit sponsor may also supplement DPR operations with additional staff, equipment, or other operational needs in an effort to share costs and resources. In some cases, this relationship can extend to co-location and space sharing.

While these P3 tools may be viable for use on many DPR sites, in various permutations, the remainder of the Partnerships chapter focuses on showing how each of these tools might be applied in a specific setting.

Please note these examples are ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE—they are meant to show what is possible, not what is planned. Each of these DPR sites would require its own community planning and design process before any improvements are constructed.

These sites were selected both for their potential to test the feasibility of the P3 tools, and also for their similarity (with the exception of the Therapeutic Recreation Center) to other DPR properties, thus testing for potential replication.

REAL-ESTATE DEVELOPMENT (RITA BRIGHT)



Rita Bright is a modest recreation center located at 14th Street and Clifton Street NW situated between the rapidly growing neighborhoods of U Street and Columbia Heights. In light of current market conditions and increasing property values at this site, there is an opportunity for the District to partner with a private developer to redevelop Rita Bright as a multi-family residential building with a new recreation center that is four times the size of the existing facility.

Under this scenario, the District would issue a long-term lease for the Rita Bright property to a private real-estate developer. The developer would construct a residential building with 109-138 private units and a District Recreation Center valued at \$35 million and featuring 66,000 square feet of public recreation space. In addition to the creation of a first-class replacement facility, DPR could also expect the developer to invest the equivalent of \$5-7 million in a combination of additional equipment, furnishings, and on-going financial support for DPR programs. Figures Q through Z illustrate what this mixed-use development could look like.



Figure Q: Site Plan



Figure S: Bird's Eye View

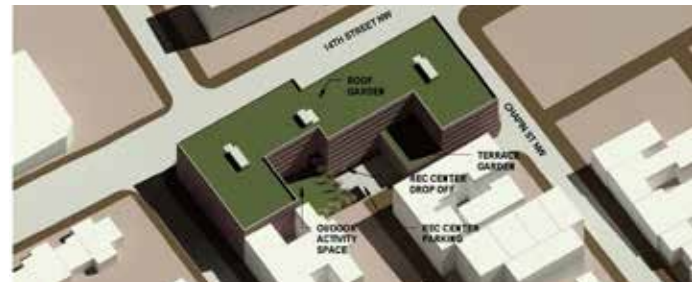


Figure T: Bird's Eye View

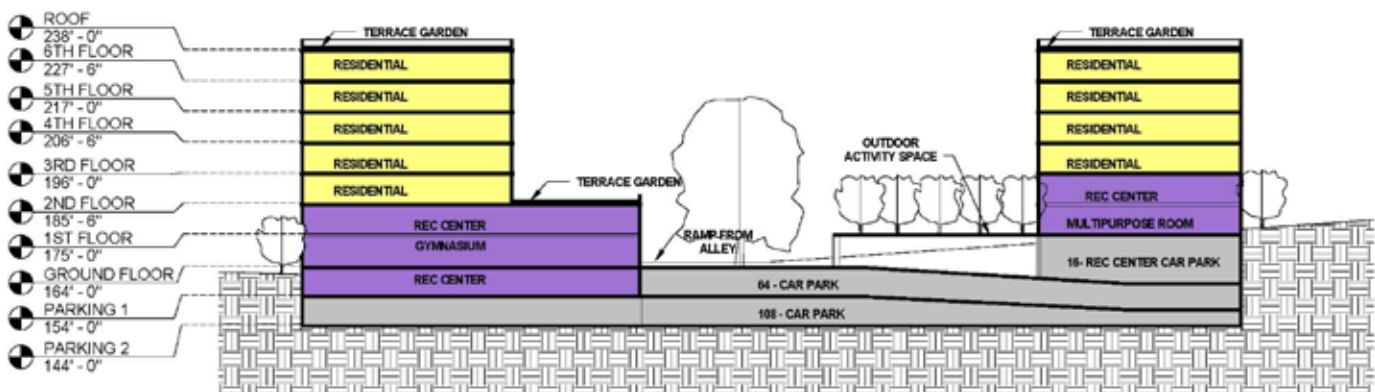


Figure R: Section

These examples are ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE. They are neither binding nor final.

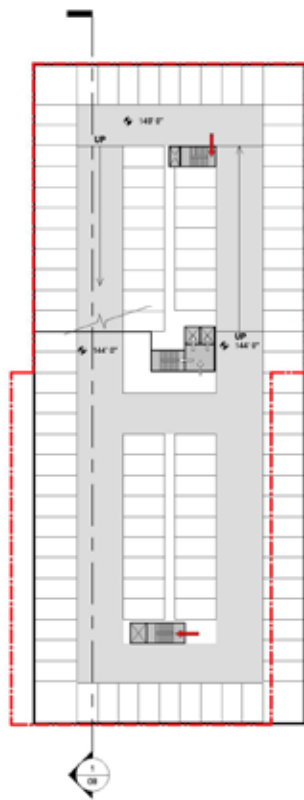


Figure U: Lower Level 2 Plan



Figure V: Lower Level Plan 1

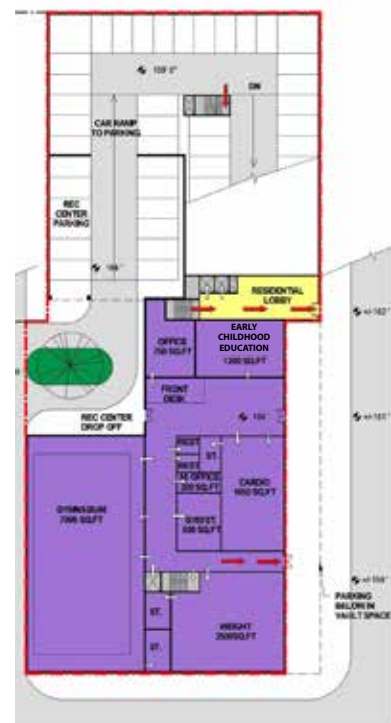


Figure W: Ground Floor Plan



Figure X: First Floor Plan

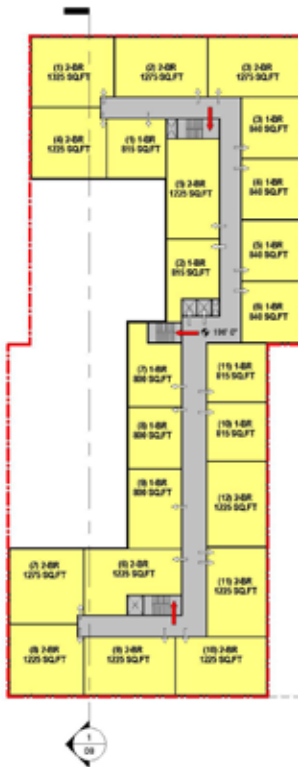


Figure Y: Second Floor Plan

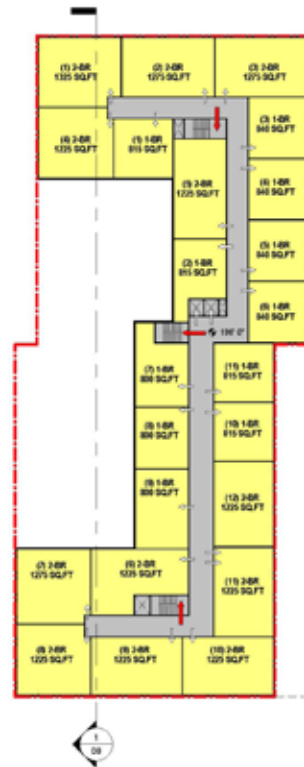
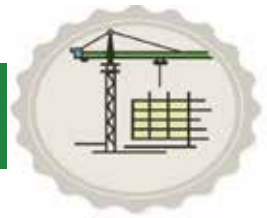


Figure Z: 3rd - 6th Floor Plan

These examples are ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE. They are neither binding nor final.

REAL-ESTATE DEVELOPMENT (UNION MARKET)



The Union Market neighborhood, bounded by Florida Avenue, New York Avenue, and 6th Street NE is girded by a historic market core, and an array of wholesale and commercial functions. On top of this canvas, a host of mixed use developments is poised to enter the neighborhood, creating what promises to be a unique place to live, work, and shop. Most of these new developments will seek District approval through the Planned Unit Development process, which allows additional real estate density in exchange for significant community benefits. Planned Unit Developments can be considered one of the most traditional, proven kinds of P3s in the District, where private developers earn greater property value through the funding of needed infrastructure and other amenities. Exceptional public spaces must be planned and built in order to ensure that the neighborhood can sustain the anticipated increase in population and can function with the kind of character and efficiency desired.

Figure AA (below) is an interpretation of the approved Florida Avenue Market Small Area Plan informed and expanded on by the social and recreational needs of the area as identified through **Play DC**. It lays out a system of parks and streets aimed at fostering the kind of activities that will make the neighborhood a success, including opportunities for social interaction and physical fitness. The sketch includes three traditional park spaces, but also imagines recreational amenities woven into an integrated street network: a pedestrian promenade to host special events certain times of day; generous sidewalks for games and exercise; moveable chairs and tables for leisure; and a healthy tree canopy that provides shade and comfort. Most of the public spaces proposed here would utilize city-owned property, but a few would require private property and therefore flexibility on the part of both the District and its private partners.



Figure AA: Union Market Public Realm + Greenspace Framework Plan

These examples are ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE. They are neither binding nor final.

EXPANDED OPERATIONS (TAKOMA)



The Takoma Aquatics and Recreation Centers, located in Ward 4 and just 5 blocks from a Metro station, attract a number of different users, to include swim teams and local and national tournaments. Takoma could attract additional user groups and earn additional revenue through targeted capital investments and expanded operating hours and staff resources.

A capital investment of approximately \$4 million could yield a new six-lane wellness pool, expanded locker rooms, and new aquatic equipment, with the aim of becoming a training and therapy destination. Potential users include existing groups such as DC Wave, the American Red Cross, or the United States Masters Swimming as well as new users such as aquatics therapist or nearby schools. The return on the investment is estimated at \$100,000 in annual revenue, with the potential for more depending upon marketing and specific partnership arrangements. Figure AB (below) illustrates how the existing Aquatic building can be expanded to integrate an additional pool. The complementary table summarizes how the revenue is anticipated to divide across the primary user groups.

Takoma Revenue Generating Opportunities

User Group	Annual Operating Revenue
District of Columbia Public Schools	10%
Lifeguarding and CPR Training	1%
Community Swim & Dive Teams	60%
United States Masters Swimming (Existing)	2%
Cross-Training Athletes	4%
Water Therapy Enthusiasts	23%

Source: Partners for Economic Solutions, 2014

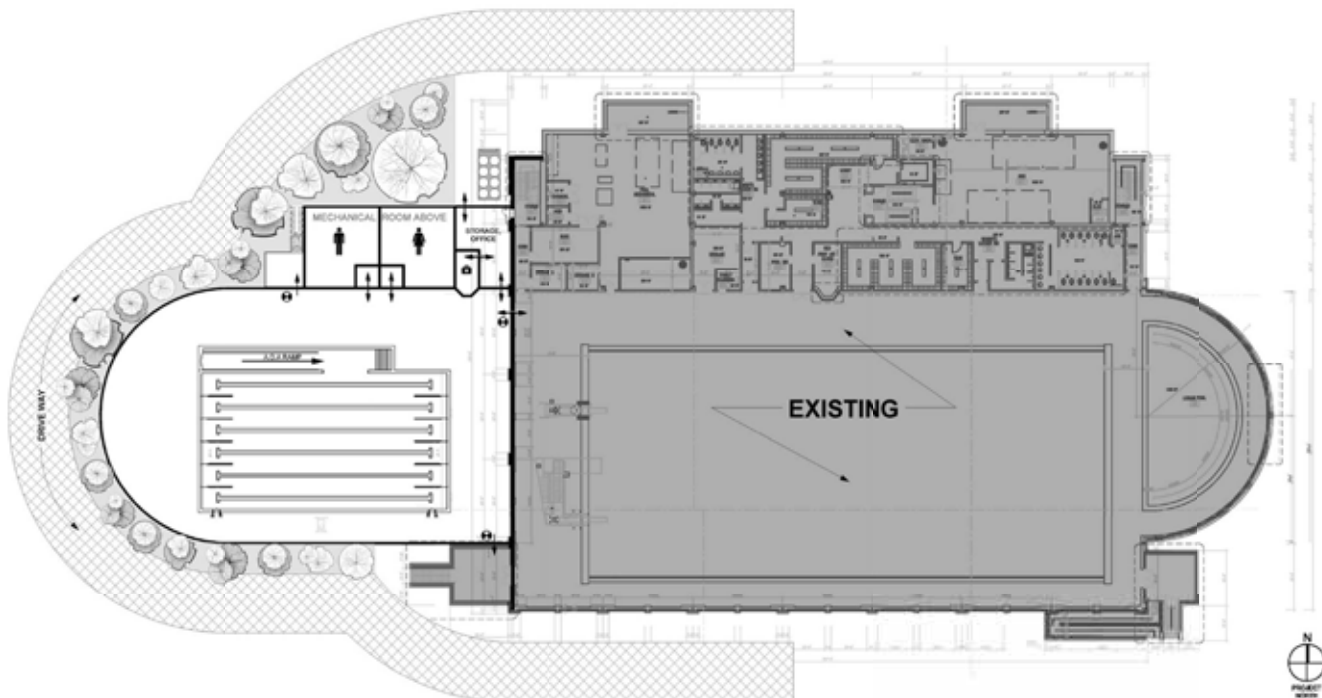


Figure AB: Takoma Plan

These examples are ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE. They are neither binding nor final.

CONCESSION ARRANGEMENTS (COBB PARK)



Cobb Park, a DPR triangle park bounded by H Street, 2nd Street, and Massachusetts Avenue NW, is the last remaining parcel of open park space in the dynamic Mount Vernon Triangle neighborhood. There are currently 3,628 residential units within the Triangle and upon buildout, the area will hold 3 million square feet of office, 4,628 residential units, 436 hotel rooms, and 345,254 square feet of retail. The neighborhood is home to a growing number of families, dog owners, as well as retirees and young adults. For years, these residents have sought to remedy the shortage of park space in the area—which ranks among the worst in the city, when measured in acres per capita. With the impending Capitol Crossing development on the I-395 Air Rights to the south, the streets around the currently underutilized Cobb Park will be realigned, improving both the size and access to the park.

The concept design shown in Figure AC (below) seeks to transform the DPR property into a viable park with a vibrant range of activities that respond to specific needs determined through the **Play DC** Needs Assessment. With activities that require management and spaces that could benefit from programming, the concept design assumes a role for a private group such as the Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District (MVT CID) to serve as a concessionaire. A concessionaire could be responsible for games equipment such as bocce, events such as movies or a farmer's market, and clean and safe services. DPR, along with the MVT CID and Capitol Crossing developer PGP, are actively collaborating to fund, plan for, and design the park. Continued community support from proven partners like the MVT CID will enable Cobb Park to receive the level of maintenance and programing needed to be become a world-class public space.



Figure AC: Cobb Park Plan

These examples are ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE. They are neither binding nor final.

CORPORATE | NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIP (THERAPEUTIC RECREATION CENTER)



DPR's Therapeutic Recreation Center (TR Center) is uniquely positioned in the market to capitalize on the demand for aquatic therapy facilities. Located at 3030 G Street SE in Ward 7, the TR Center currently serves all ages in a range of programs to include adaptive aquatics programs recommended by the Arthritis Foundation, leisure life skills programs, senior programs, community inclusion activities, and summer camps.

By making targeted capital investments, DPR could better equip the TR Center for therapy providers, who require certain facility specifications to deliver services and, in some cases, earn reimbursement from health insurance entities such as Medicare. Investing approximately \$7 million would fund a new locker room, specialized support facilities, and the addition of a lap pool to serve community recreation needs. Through these improvements, DPR could make the existing heated therapy pool available more often for health purposes, and allow the District to collect approximately \$87,000 in annual revenue from the renting of space to private therapists.

Other capital investments may be necessary at the TR Center, and further research should be done to ensure that design requirements meet the needs of both corporate and non-profit health care providers as well as the existing well-attended DPR programs. Early cost assessments indicate that an additional \$12 million could convert the TR center into an outstanding Specialty Center, aimed at serving the entire city. Figure AD below depicts what the TR Center could conceptually look like with an optimal level of funding, expanding the facility to 47,000 square feet.

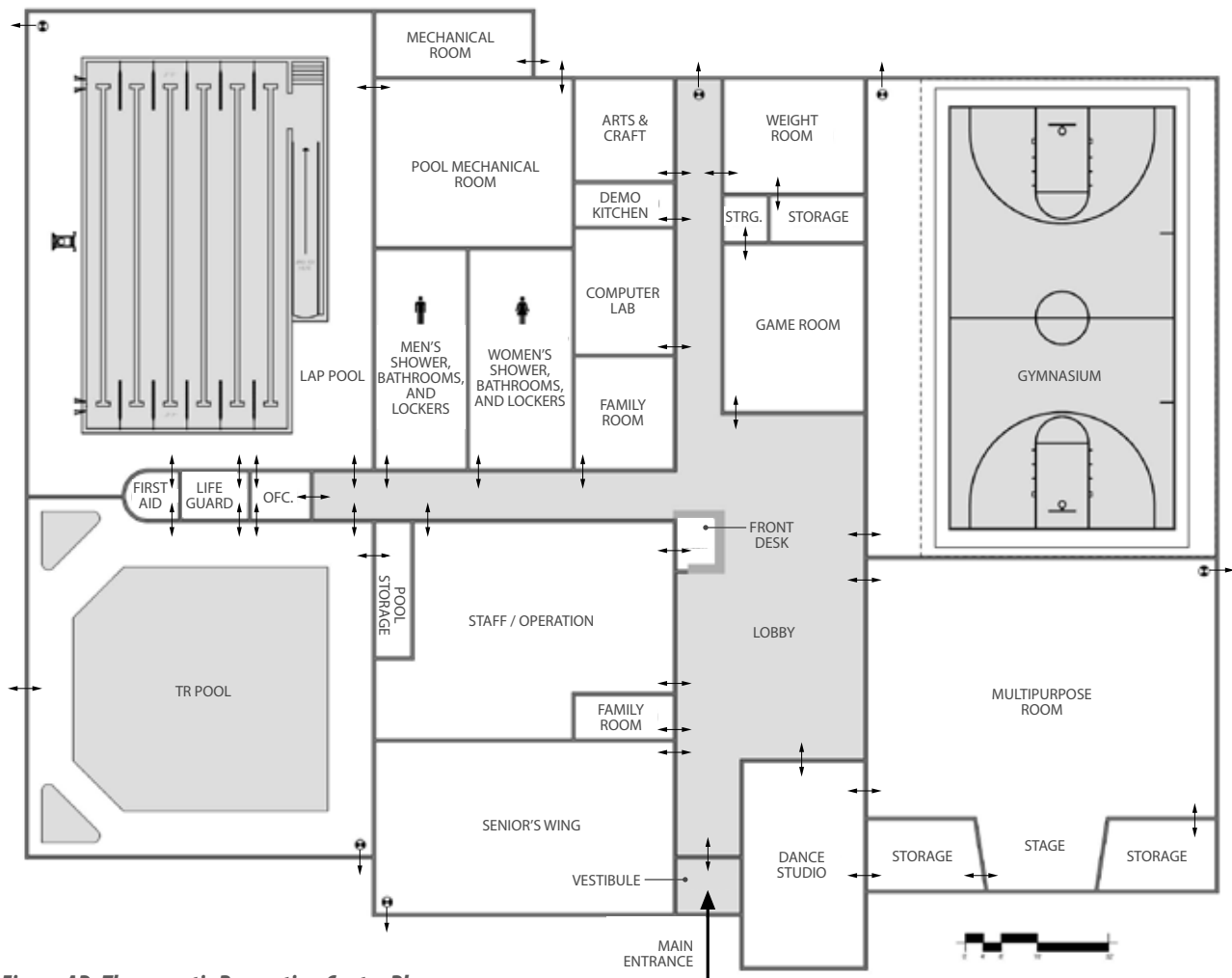


Figure AD: Therapeutic Recreation Center Plan

These examples are ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE. They are neither binding nor final.

THE PATH AHEAD

A Conclusion (And a Beginning...)

Successful endeavors are achieved by building upon a solid foundation, crafting a vision, laying out a course of action, and investing in key partnerships.

The public-private partnership examples shared in this report reflect the understanding that the development of a world-class park system is not a government responsibility alone. It is a collective effort requiring the contribution of private businesses, institutions, nonprofit groups, and our most essential partners: DC residents and their community organizations.

Still, the District government is dedicated to leading the charge. Since the launch of the **Play DC** master planning process, DPR has already taken steps toward the realization of the **Play DC** Vision. The partial list of operational improvements and capital projects on the next page exemplifies the efforts to fill service gaps and deliver excellent programs to residents. As you can see, there's progress throughout the District, and more to come!

The **Play DC** Master Plan has defined a Vision that builds upon the impressive parks and recreation assets of the past. It has evaluated the needs and priorities of residents; projected growth and anticipated changes in the coming years; and proposed data-driven actions to foster equitable access to outstanding parks, facilities, and programs. The path to achieve the Vision for the District's parks and recreation system is a long one, and the potential investment needed significant. But the benefits, for us all, are well worth the effort. We look forward to tackling the challenges ahead and reaping the rewards together!

Accomplishments

Parkland

Noyes Park opened in July 2013 in Ward 5 after many years of sitting idly as a vacant lot. Finally functional, this space provides opportunities for both passive and active recreation in an area of the District identified as needing more parkland.

Recreation Centers

The new Fort Stanton Recreation Center (opened in July 2013) in Ward 8 dramatically increased the amount of space available for indoor recreation. Similarly, the forthcoming Barry Farm Recreation Center (opening in 2015), also in Ward 8, will be a new large, inviting center, and includes a big change: the outdoor pool was converted to an indoor pool! These new centers reduce a significant gap in the desired amount of recreation center space in their neighborhoods.

New construction for Friendship Recreation Center (Ward 3) and Kenilworth Recreation Center (Ward 7) will begin in 2015, and both centers, through increased size and new features, will reduce service gaps in their neighborhoods.

Operationally, a shift from ward-based managers to new area managers at DPR (June 2014) enables each manager to better support the staff at his or her recreation centers, improving both staff morale and capacity as well as the quality of visitor experiences.

Aquatics Facilities

The opening of Dunbar High School in January 2014 in Ward 5 not only created an exciting new learning opportunity for students, but also narrowed a gap in the network of indoor pools around the District. Through a partnership with DPR, this DCPS facility is now open to the public on weekends.

Around the District, new or revitalized splash pads have popped up to help beat the summer heat. A new splash pad scheduled for the forthcoming (2015) King Greenleaf Recreation Center play space will help even more residents access this fun activity within a mile of their homes.

Outdoor Facilities

Before there was **Play DC**: The Master Plan, there was Play DC: The Playground Improvement Project! A down payment on the **Play DC** Master Plan, the playground improvement project has thus far resulted in the renovation of nearly 40 playgrounds across the city. In addition to updating the play equipment, the focus on creating age-friendly parks also means that many of the sites now include adult fitness equipment, community gardens, picnic areas, and refurbished or new playing courts and walking paths.

Programs

New and expanded use of program evaluation surveys as well as event evaluation surveys were piloted in April 2013 and standardized agency wide in October 2013 allowing DPR to better understand how well we're providing programs and which programs may be in high-demand. The results drive future program operations decisions.

Bikeways + Trails

Each new playground renovation also included the replacement or addition of bicycle parking, providing a safe place for park visitors to secure their bikes – which they are probably riding on one of the many new bike lanes or trails the District Department of Transportation has constructed.

In 2014, DPR also launched a trail master planning process for Marvin Gaye Park in Ward 7; the 1.6-mile long park will receive an updated trail to complement a new recreation center to be completed in 2016.

Environmental Lands + Natural Areas

Along with new equipment, each playground renovation also included new flora (and possibly urban fauna!). New native plantings at each site both provide attractive, low-maintenance glimpses of nature and absorb storm water, alleviating the pressure from run-off.

In partnership with other District government agencies and local non-profits, DPR is implementing a Sustainable DC grant to increase the city's tree canopy. Several parks received new trees in 2014, and more are scheduled for 2015.

Acknowledgments

Play DC Advisory Committee

Casey Trees
Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation
Cultural Tourism DC
DC Building Industry Association
DC Business Improvement District Council
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
DC Council Committee on Workforce + Community Affairs
DC Department of Employment Services
DC Department of the Environment
DC Department of Health
DC Department of General Services
DC Department of Transportation
DC Department of Transportation, Urban Forestry
DC Housing Authority
DC Metropolitan Police Department
DC Office on Aging
DC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education
DC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
DC Office of Disability Rights
DC Public Charter School Board
DC Public Library
DC Public Schools
DC Public Schools, Chancellor's Office
Downtown DC Business Improvement District
Events DC
Executive Office of the Mayor – Community Affairs
Executive Office of the Mayor – Budget and Finance
Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission
Montgomery County Department of Parks
Montgomery County Department of Recreation
National Capital Planning Commission
National Park Service
National Recreation and Parks Association
Prince George's County Parks and Recreation
University of the District of Columbia
Washington Parks and People

Play DC Project Team

DC Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services
DC Department of Parks and Recreation
DC Office of Planning
AECOM
David L. Barth, LLC
Ballard*King and Associates, Inc.
ETC Leisure Vision
Bell Architects, PC
Partners for Economic Solutions
MindMixer
History Matters

DC Department of Parks and Recreation Project Manager:
Stacie West
DC Office of Planning Contract + Project Manager:
Christopher Delfs, AICP
AECOM Contact + Project Manager: Carlos F. Perez, RLA

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Note: All the analysis included in this report is based on data provide by the DC Office of Planning and Department of Parks and Recreation prior to June 2013.





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