

**Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks
Reimagine Recreation and Parks
Comprehensive List of Public Questions**

This is a complete and verbatim list of questions submitted to the Department by community members at a series of Open House and Community Listening Sessions. For more detailed information about Reimagine Recreation and Parks, please consult the Frequently Asked Questions.

Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks

We need to build trust with CVP Trail Crew so we have their help at events. I point blank had several volunteers say to me, they will not work events if the money goes to the county. How can I help?

Councils will continue to generate revenue from programs that they organize, staff, and run. Each Council is responsible for its own governance and funds.

Why change? It has been working for 75 years +.

The Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks programs and places that celebrate and build community through innovative, sustainable, and inclusive recreation opportunities, partnerships and facilities. To perform that mission, we are modernizing our delivery of programs, providing equitable opportunities to all communities, and streamlining services. After a series of Open House and Community Listening Sessions, as well as extensive consultation that included invitations to the Nature and Recreation Councils, we compiled this document to address many of the community's most frequently asked questions about our changes.

What are we expected to do when the Gifts and Grants program ends? We have a few paid instructors.

Recreation and Nature Councils are separate entities outside of Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Department. Council-run programs will be run by Council employees, independent contractors or volunteers. The instructors do not operate as County employees in practice; therefore, the Gifts and Grants program must end.

Catonsville Lacrosse – If changed, when will they be written in Black 'n White? What is being done to enforce contract services weekly spot-a-pots being cleaned on a weekly basis and parking lots being restriped. Can we be sent this Powerpoint?

The [slide deck](#) is posted on the Reimagine Recreation and Parks website for public review.

For the first time, the Department has posted policies on the public-facing website. Please continue to share feedback regarding park amenity conditions and the Department will continue to work with purchasing on corrections to vendor issues.

Will Defenders Day be at Ft. Howard Park in 2024?

Defenders' Day took place in August and September 2024.



Are you looking to keep growing per capita funding?

The Department's goal is to continue to grow at an appropriate rate to improve programs and park facilities that meet the need of the communities served.

How do you make community events especially for low-income residents equitable?

The Department will focus on providing equitable programs in communities to address program or event gaps. Please share ideas and requests for events your community may be interested in seeing take place in a park or facility near you.

Who asked for the major change in the department? Who will staff the changes? If the reason for all these changes is CAPRA, what does that certification mean for us, other than a huge cost increase for established programs?

What Benefits will CAPRA accreditation give the average Baltimore County program participant? (Why should we want it?)

The Department, assisted by a variety of reviews, determined that change was necessary to modernize our delivery of programs, provide equitable opportunities to all communities, and streamline services. The Department will staff the changes. Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) is considered the gold standard for recreation and park management. The Department has pursued this mark of excellence while incorporating feedback from the public, a consultant review, a legal review, and an internal review.

If the thought is the R & P should provide equipment, etc., why didn't the CE prioritize funding to make that happen? Instead isn't the plan to fund many of these enhancements with fee income charged to county residents/tax payers?

Much of the funding for the equipment identified is covered in one-time funds. Fees will be used to improve staffing as well as upkeep for additional equipment necessary for the change in operations.

How many nature councils are there in the county and how did you choose the two representatives to interview?

There are four Nature Councils in the County. A representative group of them were picked to be interviewed by the consultant. Additionally, all of the Recreation and Nature Council presidents, as well as the general public were invited to the open listening sessions.

How many public surveys were completed? Where was it and how were County residents made aware of it?

The Department held a series of Open House and Community Listening Sessions, as well as extensive consultation that included invitations to the Nature and Recreation Councils. The Department is hosting twice each year a series of Open House and Community Listening Sessions to hear feedback including concerns. Department leadership also holds regular meetings with stakeholder groups and the Board of Recreation and Parks (the Board). Residents are invited to take part in program



surveys, email requests and attend local community meetings with Department representatives. Information on upcoming sessions is posted to [the Department's website](#) as soon as it is available.

Instead of focusing on how much our funding is lower than other jurisdictions, please contemplate “how are we able to deliver better programs at a lower cost?” Reimagine Recreation and Parks considers how the Department can deliver equitable, modern programs with reduced barriers to participation. Previously, the Department delivered very few programs. Most programs were developed and hosted by the Recreation and Nature Councils. The Department's focuses include filling programming gaps, expanding public access to Department facilities, increasing transparency, and putting renewed effort into stewarding natural resources.

PROS Consulting spent very little time actually understanding the programming and recreation councils. Their recommendations seemed pre-determined and misguided. Will you be hiring them to do more work in the future, since they are not respected?

The Department engaged PROS Consulting because of its reputation and body of work with Recreation and Parks agencies nationwide. The team visited Department facilities, completed an extensive review of Department documents and Council program inventories, interviewed employees and volunteers, and held meetings with the public, Councils, and Board of Recreation and Parks.

Since there are 91 new positions for BCRP in the proposed budget, where will these funds come from? It has been stated that fees have not been determined, but what is the proposal to fund those positions?

How will the Department pay for “what's to come?” Are there existing or planned ballot initiatives that will cover these costs?

The Department is growing its employee headcount to provide high-quality recreation programs, excellent customer service to organizations and individuals using the facilities, and appropriate stewardship to natural resources. The funding comes from a variety of sources, including fees from facility rentals, permits, and programs. The Baltimore County Council has also appropriated General Fund monies for additional staff positions.

Information on [working or volunteering with us](#) is available on our website.

Why is 75 years an impressive milestone for the Department of Rec & Parks, when 75 years of rec council programming means they are outdated? (Surely, it's the very same 75 years) According to the PROs report.

The Department is proud of our staff and the incredible inventory of parks, facilities and services provided to the community. We are also thankful to the tremendous volunteerism and dedication by the Recreation and Nature Councils and do not take for granted the vital role these organizations have played and will continue to play. The Department is in the process of developing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with each Recreation and Nature Council to guide the relationship.

How will you accomplish increased outreach?

How often can we expect outreach & engagement seasons?

The Department is hosting twice each year a series of Open House and Community Listening Sessions to hear feedback including concerns. Department leadership also holds regular meetings with stakeholder groups and the Board of Recreation and Parks (the Board). Residents are invited to take part in program surveys, email requests and attend local community meetings with Department representatives. Information on upcoming sessions is posted to [the Department's website](#) as soon as it is available.

Admittedly, I am not as educated on the minutiae of the wheels in motion, but can you please talk about the decision to seemingly blow everything up and start from ground zero? It seems like there would have been an opportunity to invest in and maximize all the things the councils really do well, while incrementally addressing deficiencies? Now, in an attempt to fix EVERYTHING, new problems/issues are simply being created and replacing the old ones.

The Department identified areas of concern and developed plans with feedback from the public, a consultant review, a legal review, and an internal review. The results are streamlined internal procedures responsive to the community's needs, regular review of our operations, consistency with legal requirements, and informed by best practices. The Department is thankful to the input and guidance of the stakeholder groups, the Board of Recreation and Parks (the Board), our staff, and other County officials as we navigate needed changes and address new issues as they arise, with a transparent and equitable approach.

Are you still planning to bring maintenance directly under R & P and away from Property Management?

A dedicated in-house maintenance team will soon begin working on recreation and park projects. The Property Management Division of the Baltimore County Office of Budget and Finance will assist with grass cutting in high-use areas. Both agencies will continue to work together to improve services countywide.

For a 501c3 organization whose corporate charter and 501c3 approval show a Baltimore County address where we paid for park upkeep, salaries, and benefits thru our taxes. Why are we charged a fee to use a park for a 5K or other community event? Harford County or city should be charged but not those of us whose taxes already pay for parks and rec centers.

It is not considered a best practice for any organization without an established agreement to be allowed exclusive access a public amenity with the ability to generate and collect revenue and to identify its business location as County property.

Is there a master plan document accessible to the public?

Yes. The Department's [Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan \(LPPRP\)](#) and [Strategic Plan](#) are both available on the Department's website.

Why does Baltimore County citizens pay so little compared to other counties? If other counties are willing to pay, why not us?



Why is the funding amount (per resident) so low for Baltimore County? How is the funding determined-by who? Where does the funding come from (state/fed)?

While we appreciate that sentiment and question, the Department is hopeful to demonstrate the importance and need for community support and advocacy for continued funding for the Department. As stated, Recreation and Parks funding has not been a priority for funding in Baltimore County until recently. Some of that is due to the amount of support that the current model of Recreation and Parks has required from the Recreation and Nature Councils. It is our hope that with the Fiscal Year 2025 increased funding, in addition to the ability to collect revenue, continued advocacy of future funding will be proven warranted, necessary and desired by those we serve.

Is there really a high demand for a cricket pitch in the area? Never have seen an organized group in this area.

Yes. A cricket pitch was a frequent ask as part of the Budget Town Hall series.

What is your definition of a club team?

Travel/Club teams or programs are formed exclusively of participants who are selected after passing some level of ability-based screening process such as a tryout. This does not include programs that hold evaluations so that they can attempt to evenly distribute talent throughout all competing teams within a rec program. This definition was reached in partnership with stakeholders including the recreation Councils.

Where can we find the county and rec council budgets?

Further information on [the Department's budget](#) – which is separate from the Councils – is available through the Baltimore County Office of Budget and Finance.

Each Council is responsible for its own governance and funds. The Department is not involved in setting Council program registration fees nor determining how Councils spend their revenues.

Can specific rec centers do community surveys to assess what new offerings that are desired.

The Department hopes to do a system-wide needs assessment. A needs assessment is one of the consultant's recommendations.

Is there any thought to offering programs in off times of the year like fall baseball?

Yes. The Department anticipates adding additional programs in non-traditional seasons.

What will BCRP do to provide youth lacrosse leagues after this new strategy kills recreational lacrosse clubs with its fees?

The department is not eliminating youth leagues.

What happens to school programs ran through rec council. Ex. Dumbarton sports (after school) through Towson Rec.

Will we still have first on fields that are associated w/our area?



Following robust feedback from Recreation and Nature Councils, other stakeholders, and the public, the Department will maintain the current Permit Process and Priority Access Policy. Recreation and Nature Council programs will continue to have priority access to Department facilities.

Savemore Super League – We have a soccer league, how can we receive help from rec & parks?

The Department is interested in working with non-Council groups to further improve program access.

CivicRec

Will community organizations have priorities for their annual dates?

How will online requests to use facilities be determined (first-come, first-served basis)? Will community residents have priority?

Following robust feedback from Recreation and Nature Councils, other stakeholders, and the public, the Department will maintain the current Permit Process and Priority Access Policy. Recreation and Nature Council programs will continue to have priority access to Department facilities. The Department will establish priority windows in the CivicRec system for specific groups to allow appropriate access. After that window, facilities will become available to other groups and the public.

Lots of locations are not listed, when should we expect all locations to be online?

How do you reserve non-traditional/non-field areas? e.g. the parking area at Oregon Ridge and the upper (Old Frederick Rd) area at Bannker?

The Department is continually updating the CivicRec system. If you do not see a location, please let us know.

Open scheduling dates earlier for more lead time promoting events. More responsive.

The Department is continually looking for ways to improve the system and will review that recommendation.

CivicRec – “space sits vacant, permitted out” who is checking, that still can happen. Is someone checking?

Who polices these groups?

We will be deploying staff to regularly check and report out on sites regarding permitted and unused time.

What happens if there is a dispute during our permitted court times? For instance, if we play at 9 am and there is some on the court who doesn't want to leave, who do we call?

Is there risk of double-booking?

CivicRec will not allow two reservations for the same facility at the same time. In the event of a dispute, please see the on-site Department staff or contact your local recreation office.



Where are community associations in the stakeholder meetings? We advocate for funding, park improvements, we do cleanups, etc. I went onto CivicRec to apply for a permit to clean the stream at Linover Park; and it wants to charge us \$300 to volunteer to clean up a stream. That is a problem. Community associations are limited on budget and we already don't have accessible bathrooms or facilities when we are in a park; why are we getting charged hundreds' now on CivicRec? Especially when we aren't even using the fields? –

We will review and address this issue in the system. Park clean up days should not have a charge.

Do neighborhood associations need a permit to have events at parks?

Yes, a permit is required to guarantee use of a facility.

How far in advance to you have to reserve fields?

Following robust feedback from Recreation and Nature Councils, other stakeholders, and the public, the Department will maintain the current Permit Process and Priority Access Policy. Recreation and Nature Council programs will continue to have priority access to Department facilities.

If someone cancels, when does I become available on the site?

Facilities become available in CivicRec as soon as the cancelation is processed.

Is the agency going to be hands-on and available at the field?

While it would be impossible to be at every site each day our goal is to be on site as much as possible to be available for assistance. The department is adding positions to help with this to include a mobile Park Ranger team.

Councils

Does the recreation council fund the Turner's Station Annual Parade?

Yes. That is Council event funded by the Recreation Council. The department provides some support, as we do for many Council programs, but it is funded completely by the Recreation Council.

Can recreation councils offer day programs? If so, what are the hours?

Yes. Councils can work with the Department to identify times.

Is the general rec council meeting for the public?

Is it the law that when in a general rec council meeting that no questions are allowed? We have to follow the agenda given and the president decides whether to allow questions, but the president does all the talking.

When can by-laws be amended immediately, especially when a rec council is not moving forward after over five years?

Council meetings are open to the public. The Board of Recreation and Parks is responsible for approving Council by-laws.



From a member of Lake Roland Nature Council – I am concerned that formalized agreements between the County and our Nature Council will unbalance a system that has worked historically. How can nature councils be kept whole?

Who from BCRP will sign the NC/RC MOU's?

For legal, ethical and other reasons, the Department must formalize agreements with the Councils. The Department is in the process of developing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with each Recreation and Nature Council to guide the relationship.

When complete, the agreements will be signed by the Department's director.

What are the “gap activities” that you think are missing at the nature councils?

While each Council has different program offerings, there is always room for additional programs. A community-wide needs assessment that takes account of both internal and external programs and services offered in each community, in addition to gaining input on what each community wants to see and finally with consideration of national trends is needed for the Department to begin to assess, determine and address identified gaps.

I've heard a rumor that sports teams organized through rec councils will be charged fees to reserve field space. Is this true and what kind of fee structure is planned.

Following completion of robust stakeholder engagement, the Department has released the Fiscal Year 2025 fee schedule. Additionally, fees for each program and permit are listed in CivicRec.

How will these changes affect the financial resources of nature councils?

Do you have dollar numbers on how much money nature councils spend per year in total and/or monies spent per park? Do you know this number per capita?

As the councils are nonprofits, why are funds being allocated from them as they reduce tax payers funds for park maintenance? And programs.

How will donations and partnerships developed with individual rec councils be handled moving forward? Will that money no longer go directly to them or will it be earmarked for those groups?

Councils will continue to generate revenue from programs that they organize, staff, and run.

Each Council is responsible for its own governance and funds. The Department is not involved in setting Council program registration fees nor determining how Councils spend their revenues.

We have amazing volunteers that enable us to have the best programs at a low cost. Why are we looking to break what is working and increase cost?

The Department and Councils have amazing volunteers. For legal, ethical and other reasons, the Department must formalize agreements with the Councils.

What happens to employees that work for Rec Councils? Do they stay w/rec council and still get paid through the county?



Both the Department and Councils offer programs to the public. Department-run programs will be staffed by Department employees. Council-run programs will be run by Council employees, independent contractors or volunteers.

What happens to the equipment rec councils own?

Council-owned equipment will continue to belong to the Council.

Therapeutic Recreation

What plans are there to increase accessibility to Parks and Rec programs in the County for multi-capable individuals? (Blind, disable, autistic, etc.)

Tell me more about the expanded focus on therapeutic recreation?

Therapeutic Programs with staff trained to provide instructions not just regular programs that are inclusive but don't really provide enrichment. (Council programs currently may not have trained staff)

The Department is working to increase the therapeutic recreation programs. These efforts include restructuring the Therapeutic Recreation team, identifying and establishing strong community partnerships, and providing training and development opportunities for Department staff. Adding appropriately trained staff is important for the improvement of Therapeutic Recreation programs. Residents are encouraged to contact the Department at tr-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov with suggestions and ideas.

Is there a written plan accessible to the public?

Not at this time. As part of the CAPRA process, the Department has begun ADA-accessibility inspections of existing facilities aimed at improving access.

Capital Projects

Why doesn't EDRECO have a dedicated community center of its own? Why wasn't this meeting promoted/advertised stronger to the actual public?

The Department is expanding its facilities. Details on the currently-open facilities are available in our [Park Finder](#) tool, as is [a list of upcoming projects](#). Members of the public have successfully advocated for funding new projects at the Budget Town Hall Meetings.

What is the current plans for the Barnatorium at Cromwell Valley Park? What is the status of this plan? What information about this plan is available to the public?

There are a variety of improvements occurring at Cromwell Valley Park. [Details are available](#) on the site's website.

Montgomery County has 15 indoor tennis courts through parks and rec. Prince George's County has 19 indoor courts. Question: Are there plans to create more indoor courts for Baltimore County? Also, When will the roof be repaired at NERRC to correct the leaks on three courts (of the four courts) at NERRC? What are the plans to alleviate the extreme lack of adequate parking at NERRC?



(Especially between 6:30 – 10 p.m.? Suggestion: Utilize the adjacent filed beside NERRC and buildup the flood plain to provide additional parking spaces.

The Department does not currently have any plans to create new indoor tennis courts. PG and Montgomery County have a long history of significant capital investment in their park systems that Baltimore County only recently begun to match. We will continue to seek ways to improve our facilities including NERRC, and members of the public have successfully advocated for funding new projects at the Budget Town Hall Meetings.

What archeology and history research do you plan to do making sure you aren't developing on historic cemeteries?

The Department performs site evaluations as part of each new park project process.

Why no public restrooms at Catonsville Elementary and Hillcrest Elementary Schools?

BCPS constructs schools including whether there are public restrooms as part of the building construction.

Will the Woodlawn Rec Center floors be redone –

We are working on replacing recreation center floors based on facility condition. Woodlawn is not currently on the list.

Are there any plans to make Campfield Early Learning Center a recreational/community center after this school year, because it's closing and it's already not being used at night? How do we go about getting a rec center in the Campfield/Lochearn community?

Campfield Early Learning Center will remain a BCPS Property and not become a recreation center. It is still owned by BCPS. [Details on the currently-open RACs](#) is on our website, as is [a list of upcoming projects](#). Members of the public have successfully advocated for funding new projects at the Budget Town Hall Meetings.

What are the plans to increase parking availability and access at Danils and on Ilchester Road near the pedestrian bridge? Parking has been severely restricted in recent years, making it difficult to use these parks!

We believe that to be an access issue for the State Park system not County.

Have you looked at installing any splash pads at parks/playgrounds?

We are planning our first splash pad at Northwest Regional Park.

Needed updates: Shaw's Discovery Boat Ramp, Ft. Howard Park bathrooms, Kayak launch-Ft. Howard Veteran's Park.

The Department is looking at all of those sites as part of our Capital projects plan. Details on [current Capital projects](#) are available on the Department's website.

Anything new on Bike/Pedestrian access to the new Sparrows Point Park? Park progress updates.



Bike/Ped lanes are the responsibility of the Department of Public Works and Transportation. The Department of Recreation and Parks is not aware of any updates.

Will taking over facilities management include better amenities like fences on baseball fields and soccer goals that aren't chained to the side fences?

Yes.

Are there any current plans to build a Rec Center of any size on Western Hills Park?

There have been discussions but no concrete plans. Details on [current Capital projects](#) are available on the Department's website.

Are there any plans for additional turf fields?

Currently the Department has three synthetic field sites either in construction or design: Renaissance Park, Sparrows Point Park and Belfast Road. Details on [current Capital projects](#) are available on the Department's website.

Can lines be added to the courts at Catonsville Elementary to allow groups with their own nets to play, when crowded. Ten courts could be available on the same surface. "Photo attached to card"

The Department will look to continue to improve amenities where possible. Details on [current Capital projects](#) are available on the Department's website.

Would love to see a more bike-oriented park – (pump track-??), mountain bike, cyclocross, velodrome. How can we do that?

The Department has long term plans to add a bike-oriented park. Details on [current Capital projects](#) are available on the Department's website.

Open Gym Time

Why don't you have gym hours open for children during the summer? What do you expect them to do? It is vitally important that gyms are open. When youth are out of school, they need positive programming. What can we look forward to Rec & Parks doing about it. As stated, part of your mission is to provide "accessible" programs! Recreation is critical for our youth.

Is it possible to have a time for open gym for young people? They really need things to do.

Can you have more open gym/recreation for youth at no cost to them this summer – four people from Bridge Maryland

Why don't you have the gym hours open at a more accessible time for youth?

Why don't you have open gym hours at your rec centers. I urge you to have open gym hours for youth.

Is it possible to open gyms during the days or times when school is closed?

We agree! The Department is adding open gym time at over 20 facilities in the next year.

Senior Citizens

I have a senior pickleball group through Dept. of Aging that is permitted. Could this be for a Dept. of Rec program? Any dates on a field for the Sunday Flyers?

We are always open to hosting new programs in the Department. Additionally, we have been in communications regarding a possible site for the Sunday Flyers.

Considering that seniors pay taxes and a seasonal fee to participate in pickleball play, why would the county feel it would be necessary to attach additional fees for those who (for the most part) live on a fixed income? –

I am a senior citizen (80 years old). I participate in the Lutherville pickleball group at Seminary Park. There are very few other opportunities for senior citizen's to be active in athletics. Bykota offers only very limited opportunities. Since Parks and Rec is considering raising participation fees significantly, will you be offering any senior discounts?

Following completion of robust stakeholder engagement, the Department has released the Fiscal Year 2025 fee schedule. Additionally, fees for each program and permit are listed in CivicRec.

Adult Programs

I play adult soccer. How much will I be charged in the future since I already pay taxes?

Taxes assist in funding the Department operations of public amenities. Permit fees grant a group exclusive access to a public amenity and restrict general public from enjoying the facility. Following completion of robust stakeholder engagement, the Department has released the Fiscal Year 2025 fee schedule. Additionally, fees for each program and permit are listed in CivicRec.

Ladies Tennis @ NERRC:

Are NERRC fees going to change?

How much will the fees be?

How will the court times that our teams have been using for years be affected?

Will there be limits set for how many block times each league may request per season?

Are year-long programs going to be able to secure courts for the year?

Will there be fees for using – school tennis courts? County Home courts? County courts, Seminary Park?

We have a 40-week indoor tennis season, with registration in August, how would a price increase in January be handled? We pay for the whole season in advance.

Other:

How will courts be organized at NERRC. Maybe keep the lottery.

What are the expected charges for recreation council adult tennis court fees? We are not in favor of hourly fees for recreation council players.



Following completion of robust stakeholder engagement, the Department has released the Fiscal Year 2025 fee schedule. Additionally, fees for each program and permit are listed in CivicRec.

Following robust feedback from Recreation and Nature Councils, other stakeholders, and the public, the Department will maintain the current Permit Process and Priority Access Policy.

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Does the Department recognize that CHILDREN who benefit from the exercise, camaraderie, sportsmanship, stress relief, and skill-building of sports such as soccer grow up to be ADULTS who benefit from the exercise, camaraderie, sportsmanship, stress relief, and skill-building of sports such as soccer? The concepts of “lifetime sports” is hollow if participants age out of field access and available programs at 18. Adult sports are rec sports.

I have played adult sports for over 16 years and with this new initiative, adult sports are in jeopardy. Why are adult sports so low on the totem pole and the county’s disinterest in adult sports by increasing fees to phase adult sports out and lose the bridge to inter-generational sports?

Where does that leave adult programs that have already been using the fields with permits? These are therapeutic activities for many adults with many different backgrounds and issues.

While the Department’s first focus is on youth activities, facility access for adult programs is also a priority for the Department. It is our intention to continue supporting lifetime sports for all residents to enjoy at all points in their life. We are always working to add additional program offerings for participants of all ages.

Explain the arrangement of adult programs when adult program is not part of recreation councils?

All outside groups will be charged a fee for facility usage. The fee structure includes a discount for non-profit groups.

Is it a requirement for adult programs to pay in the general fund to improve the children’s programs?

Fees that adult programs pay into a Recreation Council do not come to the County and are not a requirement from the Department.

Please describe how the permit order for adult sports will work in the future if a neighboring council recreation program wants to travel and use the same field?

Following robust feedback from Recreation and Nature Councils, other stakeholders, and the public, the Department will maintain the current Permit Process and Priority Access Policy.



Is it possible to relocate badminton from NERRC to another facility to alleviate the need to store flooring behind the curtains at NERRC? The flooring and dollies they sit on, make it impossible to walk to the courts safely.

Badminton has long been a program that operated at NERRC. However, as we look at facility use, all program use will continue to be evaluated.

CivicRec - Fees

Will non-profit agencies get a discount for renting?

Yes. The fee structure includes a discount for non-profit groups.

How will councils receive funds from registration through CivicRec?

Council program offerings will be [listed in CivicRec](#), but registrations for Council will take place on each Council's website.

What are the fees to rent Turner Parks? What are we paying for? – Unkept parks?

Fees are for the permit holder's exclusive use of a public amenity.

What are fees for non-recreation programs?

What will the increased fees look like for family's w/kids who play multiple sports? Fee per? Per sport? Per family? Per hour?

Is there a standard rate for renting a room or the park for an event or does each individual recreation center make up their own rental fees?

What is the rate per hour that adult programs will have to pay? Will this be on top of the assessment fee we pay to our council? When will we know what the cost structure will be?

On the news last night, a story indicated that rec travel will not be charged for field usage, but adult and club activities will be. Is this correct?

What happens with field schools? What is the charge for them? –

How and what would be the charge for travel program? Per head, lump sum? –

What happens to adult programs? Will they be charged?

Will club sports still be able to rent fields?

Will the youth be able to use these recreation facilities for a discounted price?

Following completion of robust stakeholder engagement, the Department has released the Fiscal Year 2025 fee schedule. Additionally, fees for each program and permit are [listed in CivicRec](#).

I received a bill going through CivicRec for Meadowood this summer - \$14,000 was that a typo? What are fees for facilities? –

That document showed what an outside group would pay for the same extensive access that a Recreation Council received at no cost.

Bilingual Resources

What are the strategies to make Latino's feel part of the projects, events, etc.?



What plans/work is being done to do more training in Spanish (other languages) for new hires? You mentioned that Park & Planning is looking to hire more bilingual staff.

Is there any support for non-English speakers to use the new portal to register for programs and camps?

The Department is hiring two bilingual staff members, as well as offering culturally appropriate programs and resources for all residents. Translation of CivicRec listings is available through the web browser's translation feature. The Department's efforts to develop and improve relationships with New American residents includes work with the Baltimore County Office of Immigrant Affairs. In addition to the hiring of bilingual staff members, Baltimore County also offers free language training for staff who are interested in participating.

Due to communities being diverse today, could we get bilingual signs placed in & around the community? Especially at Turner Station Park around the water.

Yes. The Department has begun adding bilingual signs to parks throughout the County and will continue to build on this progress to better serve residents.

Environmental Impacts

Our park needs cleaning; worst kept in the county.

The Department is working to improve the cleanliness of all parks and amenities, including with increased staffing. We have also asked our teams at facilities to continue addressing cleanliness issues. Please continue to share feedback so we can address issues accordingly.

Why does Seminary Park smell like roadkill?

We are unaware of that issue and will have staff investigate and work to improve the quality of the park.

Do you consider environmental concerns when designing parks? Why are you doing artificial turf fields in Sparrows Point?

The Department considers environmental concerns and impacts in every project. As part of each project, the design and plan for the park is developed with community input, the results of environmental reviews, and consultation with other agencies. Synthetic Turf fields remain a popular request from the public which was the case for the Sparrows Point Park Project.

Shouldn't the Department's mission and vision statements include mention of environmental sustainability and protection of natural resources and eco-system? They seem to be more about recreation and not nature. Natural spaces in Baltimore County are disappearing.

How will Rec & Parks work more seamlessly with Environmental Protection & Sustainability to manage forest health in large wooded properties and increase tree canopy in smaller parks/rec fields?



Shouldn't your mission also include environmental stewardship and natural resource management?

The Department is putting renewed effort into stewarding natural resources. We have begun conversations with both the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Baltimore County Office of Environmental Protection and Sustainability about ways to work together in order to improve the health of our parks and open spaces. The Department plans to hire a natural resource specialist in the coming year to further advance these efforts. Sustainability is one of our agency's values and Goal 6 of our [Strategic Plan](#) speaks to focus on sustainability, natural resource management and conservation.

Turner Station

MRAF requests these slides to be sent to info@mraf.vip We will submit our questions in writing at the email provided.

The [slide deck](#) is posted on the Reimagine Recreation and Parks website for public review.

Was anyone from our unsecured community apart of the decision-making process? If not, why?

The listening sessions for the PROS Consulting review from Fall of 2023 were open to the public. Everyone was invited to attend and offer input. Additionally, all Recreation and Nature Council Presidents were invited to have input.

What are your plans for the parks in Turner Station?

The Department's goal is to improve overall customer service in all parks, including increased staffing and a focus on park improvements. This work is included as an objective of increased Fiscal Year 2025 funding.

How much money is allocated to Turner Station Parks?

Why can't Turner Station promote fishing (pier)? Can the piers be operational?

Replacement of the pier and additional site improvements at Fleming Park are currently in the design phase. Costs and a budget for the projects have not yet been determined.

When are the clean updates for Turner Station?

Community clean up dates are not set up by the Department.

How does this organization provide ready-to-serve to Turner Station?

The Agency's goal is to improve service to all residents. Our Department Values (Ready to Serve) are a guide to improve service and work to better respond to the public's needs.

The boat ramp is for other counties to use which causes extra traffic and less space for Turner Station residence to utilize. How can your organization assist this issue?



All County boat ramps, as well as all other amenities at our parks, are open to the general public regardless of where they live. They are considered public amenities.

We should be recognized as Turner Station Rec & Parks vs. Dundalk Rec & Parks. Both Turner Station Recreation Council and Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation Council are recognized by the Department.

This sounds forced. Here in Turner Station, we do things as a community and family. Traditions that our aboriginals meant to stay put, not to give up our vibe and our togetherness. Just like in families, we have our ups and downs, but we are family. As far as programs and access to the facility, we again have our own beliefs, cultural traditions that we like to participate in. All of your incentives & item & golf clubs sound good, by not for a cost of what we have here for just us. The cost isn't worth losing our sense of privacy in our community. So, I'd rather keep the small of our people that kept our home (community) together our way, instead of eventually being controlled by others. We have been bringing programs back and also, we will always need access for community events that Turner Station enjoys doing. So, this seems forced and pushed on, so I'm not for this plan, at all. Turner Station is worth us staying unmerged.

Each Recreation and Nature Council in Baltimore County is a separate entity. There is no Department plan to merge Turner Station Council with any neighboring Council or community.

Statements – No Questions Asked

I am an adult program chair for softball. 1. Based on what I hear, so far, the reimagine will make my program harder and more challenging to conduct. 2. It may also, make it too expensive to run. 3. Your registration windows are too early organizing the program.

Please recognize that nature councils are independent, nonprofit corporations with responsibility to members mission, funders and park users. Nature councils are partners to the county. Please keep that in mind in the MOU process. The Reimagining rollout timeline for nature councils MOUs is unrealistic. The kind of changes in business and operating model, etc. typically take months of careful strategic planning for a non-profit to do thoughtfully and well. Don't squander decades of resources and goodwill that work for the benefit of park users.