SERVING with HEART

Parks & Recreation

live more, play more









ANNUAL REPORT





BRIEF OVERVIEW

AND MISSION

Live more. Play more. That's how The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County helps our community thrive — by inspiring active, connected, and joyful living every day.

The Department provides over 1000 programs and services that enrich the lives of 900,000+ residents and endless visitors annually. Comprised of more than 5000 career and seasonal staff that take pride in serving as experts in a range of fields - creating, building and teaching

In Fiscal Year 2025 (July 2024–June 2025), the Department continued its commitment to providing safe and welcoming spaces where everyone can grow, learn, and truly experience what it means to Live More, Play More.



The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County is a well-respected leader in the field with an unprecedented six gold medals for excellence from the National Recreation and Parks Association.

900,000+

Residents and endless visitors



5,400 Career & Seasonal Employees



BRIEF OVERVIEW

AND MISSION

The Department operates and maintains more than 30,000 acres of parkland throughout the county, including land developed to provide parks, picnic areas, athletic fields and facilities, historic sites, community centers, aquatics facilities and recreation facilities. To maintain the county's natural beauty, a large percentage of the Department's park property is left undeveloped to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.

With cooperation and input from diverse communities throughout the county, the Department operates a comprehensive park and recreation system that offers programs and facilities designed to meet the needs and interests of patrons of all ages and abilities. The impact of the partnership with the community and staff help each resident and visitor live more, play more.

The Department's work is anchored by seven strategic pillars which embody its core values, practices, and priorities. These pillars shape its operations, inform the decisions, and ensure that the residents and visitors of Prince George's County community are treated with care and served with heart—always aligning with the Department's mission and vision.



30,000+ acres

parks, senior
centers, aquatics
facilities,
picnic areas,
athletic fields,
historic sites,
community
centers, and
recreation
facilities for
families, youth
and seniors.



STRATEGIC PILLARS



Fiscal Accountability and Responsibility

Utilizing public funds prudently to deliver programs, facilities, and services.



Innovative Programming

Providing equitable programming through access to unique, safe, and engaging facilities and spaces.



Efficiency of Management

Committing to efficiency in work program management and staff resource utilization.

This annual report demonstrates how these pillars can be seen

STRATEGIC PILLARS



Prioritize Public Safety

Focusing on crime prevention, civic engagement, and fostering collaborative community partnerships.



Stewardship of Current Infrastructure

Undertaking countywide planning to maintain and enhance robust infrastructure.



Trails, Infrastructure and Athletic Field Maintenance

Developing a comprehensive plan for trail system upgrades, enhancing athletic field maintenance, and renovating or replacing playgrounds.



Conservation and Sustainability

Executing the
Sustainability Plan,
including pesticide
reduction and
minimizing the
Department's
carbon footprint.

FY 2025

FOCUS/HIGHLIGHTS



Trails

In addition to repairing 26 existing bridges and boardwalks along trails, the Department installed new map signage for wayfinding along trails at Cosca Regional Park and a new bridge along the natural surface trail at Watkins Regional Park. A total of 27,005 linear feet (5.11 miles) of paved trail was renovated or resurfaced. The initial layout plans for the new Charles Branch Natural Area with an accessible natural surface trail loop were completed.





FY 2025

FOCUS/HIGHLIGHTS



Trails

Working in collaboration with Anne Arundel County's Recreation and Parks, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), and the State Highway Administration (SHA), the Department opened the WB&A Trail's Patuxent River Bridge unifying approximately 13 miles of existing trail across both counties and strengthening major national trail routes. More than just a convenient connection between the two counties, the bridge extends several regional trail systems including American Discovery Trail, East Coast Greenway, 9/11 Memorial Trail, and City of Bowie's Heritage Trail. This project received support and funding from federal, state, and local agencies and was championed by several bike and trails advocacy groups throughout the region.





Playground, Athletic Field Management and Programming

The Department replaced 13 playgrounds across the County, installed a new turf field at Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex, and built pickleball courts at Fairland Sports & Aquatics Complex.

The Department delivered top-tier golf experience for County residents. In FY25, nearly 80,000 rounds of golf were played across four public golf courses. The Department's aquatic facilities played a critical, lifesaving role in teaching swim skills, water safety and aquatic fitness. More than 13,000 residents participated in swim lessons and over 11,000 took part in water fitness classes. The Department supported 34 competitive-level teams across multiple sports, including gymnastics, swimming, golf, hockey, and figure skating – helping athletes develop skills and compete at the highest levels and hosted local, regional, and national competitions.

The Department provided year-round opportunities for County residents to get active, have fun, and grow through sports. Designed to build teamwork, leadership, and lifelong fitness, programs include NFL Flag Football in partnership with the Washington Commanders, Major League Soccer, Boys and Girls Club, Intercenter Basketball, In the Water Basketball Tournament, and seasonal soccer, lacrosse, baseball, basketball, futsal clinics and leagues.

FY 2025

FOCUS/HIGHLIGHTS



Arts and Culture

Residents and visitors continue to connect with the natural, historical, and cultural heritage of Prince George's County through the Department's rich offerings. Across 25 public sites, the Department welcomed more than 625,000 visitors last year —each experience deepening community pride and appreciation for the County's unique legacy.

The Department amplified Black history and culture more than any other organization in the County—sharing powerful stories of faith, freedom, labor, love, and enterprise across 20 historic sites. One of its most meaningful initiatives, the Descendent Network, brought together the Department's museums and more than 50 descendants of once-enslaved people in Prince George's County. This collaboration provided valuable insight to guide interpretation and enhance visitor experiences, offering a deeper understanding of the lives and legacy of their ancestors.

In FY25, the Department delivered more than 1,500 engaging programs to 40,000 participants. Among these was the exciting new Science on a Sphere installation at Clearwater Nature Center—an interactive, animated globe that helps audiences visualize and understand global issues such as climate change.



625,000 visitors last year







more than **50**

descendants of once-enslaved people in Prince George's County. **1,500** engaging programs

40,000 participants



FY 2025

FOCUS/HIGHLIGHTS





27 visual ar

visual art exhibits



hosted nearly

1,000

weddings, receptions, and community events & celebrations

Arts and Culture

The Department also brought the arts to life across Prince George's County by supporting local artists and making creative expression accessible to all. Managing four arts centers, five historic venues, an equestrian center, and a mobile arts unit, the Department provided countless opportunities for residents to experience culture firsthand.

From Shakespeare in the Park apprenticeships to music ensembles and visual art contests, the Department offered hands-on creative jobs and leadership experiences for teens and young adults. In FY25, it hosted more than 27 visual art exhibits, live performances, murals, and signature cultural celebrations, including Hispanic Heritage Month, Celebrate Africa, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and the International Dance Experience.

The Department takes pride in preserving County history while creating lasting memories. Five historic rental venues hosted nearly 1,000 weddings, receptions, and community events—celebrations that connect people to the County's past and future. In addition, the Department's Public Art Team completed new installations in four community centers, launched eight commemorative projects, and unveiled vibrant murals at Bladensburg Waterfront Park and Paint Branch Golf Course—continuing the Department's commitment to beautification, storytelling, and community pride.





FY 2025 FOCUS/HIGHLIGHTS

Environmental Stewardship

During FY25, the Department advanced several major initiatives, including updates to the Walker Mill Regional Park Master Plan, the Fairland Regional Park RFP, and the initiation of the Formula 2040 Plan update. Key accomplishments included the finalization of the Lake Arbor Master Plan and securing County Council approval for the first Recreational Facility Design Guidelines update since 1984.

Notable land development efforts included the Cross Creek acquisition (anticipated completion September 2026), managing the Westphalia Central Park Implementation, and executing the National Harbor Public Safety Building land agreement. The Department also strengthened its GIS capabilities through the ArcGIS migration and updates to PGAtlas, enabling improved planning and analysis.

The Department led impactful community engagement, including Council District 3 briefings and stakeholder outreach for trail and park projects, ensuring resident input helped shape the County's recreational and open space developments. Additionally, the Department lead the way with the creation of our first Nature Exploration Area (NEA) behind the Sustainability Center at Randall Farms. NEAs are spaces made from select natural materials arranged in an inviting way to encourage frolicking and exploration and spark imagination.



Key accomplishments

Lake Arbor Master Plan and securing County Council approval



Notable land development efforts included

Cross Creek acquisition, managing the Westphalia Central Park Implementation, and executing the National Harbor Public Safety Building land agreement.



Led impactful community engagement

including Council District 3 briefings and stakeholder outreach for trail and park projects

FY 2025

FOCUS/HIGHLIGHTS



9,700 Registrations filled



440 Specialized programs



Supported nearly

4.000

patrons by providing accessibility services



Over

1.800

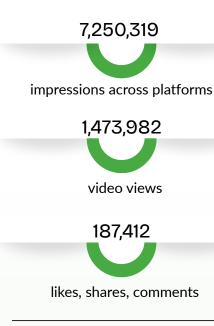
staff received ADA training

ADA, Compliance, and Administration

In accordance with and exceeding the requirements of the federally mandated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Department provided comprehensive services and programs for County residents with disabilities in specialized and inclusive settings designed to promote and facilitate developing leisure skills, socialization, and independence.

Through the Department, more than 9,700 registrations filled 440 specialized programs and supported nearly 4,000 patrons by providing accessibility services. Over 1,800 staff received ADA training, ensuring every resident can participate in the Department's programming and use the Department's facilities with confidence. An adult changing station was installed at Southern Area Aquatics & Recreation Center and Captain's Cove Playground was made ADA compliant.

FOOTPRINT AND IMPACT - BRANDING



Social Media Reach & Engagement

- 7,250,319 impressions across platforms
- 1,473,982 video views
- 187,412 total engagements (likes, shares, comments)
- 12,222 post clicks
- +8,187 net new followers



Media Coverage

- 5,592 total mentions across all outlets
- 1,190 mentions on television
- 1,780 mentions online

FOOTPRINT AND IMPACT - BRANDING

4,166,354

Meta (Facebook & Instagram) – Ads only

597,190

Spotify

129,863

Pandora/SiriusXM

Paid Advertising Reach

- Meta (Facebook & Instagram) Ads only:
 4,166,354 impressions
- Spotify: 597,190 impressions
- Pandora/SiriusXM: 129,863 impressions
- YouTube Ads only: 2,224,146 impressions
- Various Radio Stations to include (MAJIC/WAMU/PRAISE/WASH-FM/EI ZOL/WKYS/WPGC/WHUR/WTOP/Hot 99.5/ Approximately 4,500,000 impressions

2,224,146

YouTube - Ads only

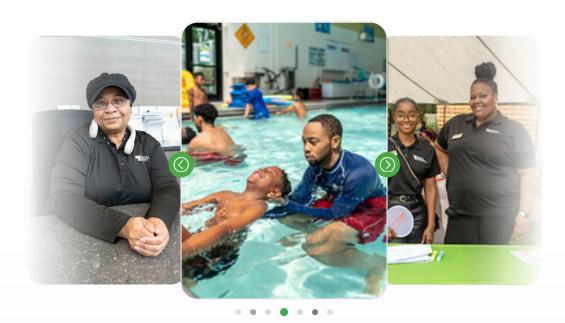
FOOTPRINT AND IMPACT

- Building a trusted brand in the County through engaging community partnerships, advocating for service to our community with more than 7,000 volunteers, and sharing Department resources and information on an average of 125 community events per year. In FY25, we had 1,187 volunteers reporting over 10,000 hours.
- The Department's communications and marketing efforts this fiscal year reached millions locally and billions globally through an integrated strategy of social media, media relations, and targeted advertising. This broad visibility reinforced our brand, engaged residents, and strengthened community awareness of our programs, events, and services.



- This year, the Department is partnering with The Hatcher Group to conduct a comprehensive branding study aimed at strengthening the Department's connection with the community. The study will help bridge the gap between understanding public perceptions and implementing strategies that create measurable, lasting impact. Through this effort, the Department seeks to gain deeper insight into its existing patrons, identify underserved populations within the County, and better understand how residents perceive and relate to the Department—its mission, values, and role in enhancing quality of life.
- The Department is excited about the opportunity to grow and will use the conclusions drawn from this study to integrate a comprehensive understanding of its brand into future marketing, communications, and database strategies and tactics.

FOOTPRINT AND IMPACT



CUSTOMER CARE

The Department launched a multi-year Customer Care Change Management Initiative to strengthen service excellence and foster a customer-centric culture across all divisions. The initiative establishes a standardized approach to customer care through a new feedback system, department-wide trainings, and clear service standards aligned with the Department's mission and vision. This initiative reinforces accountability, celebrates excellence, and ensures every interaction reflects the Department's commitment to providing the highest quality experience for Prince George's County residents.



>

40 CIP projects valued at \$53 \$53 million

more than 30+

- 30 sport courts;
- field upgrades at eight parks
- 14 playground replacements

\$3 million

\$3

invested in renovating and replacing bridges and boardwalks.

State-of-the-Art Recreational

Facilities. The Department constructed multigenerational facilities as components of 40 CIP projects valued at \$53 million. Projects include the new Marlow Heights Community Center; renovations at Stephen Decatur Community Center; updates to more than 30 sport courts; field upgrades at eight parks; 13 playground replacements; new trails; and preservation work at historic facilities like Riversdale Mansion, Mount Calvert, and Adelphi Mill. More than \$3 million was invested in renovating and replacing bridges and boardwalks.

Innovative Programming. The Department advanced its mission to enhance inclusivity and accessibility efforts with innovative programming while providing expanded exposure to the arts. The Department celebrated the inaugural year of the Teen Arts Council and relaunched the Young Artists Apprenticeship Program. Science on a Sphere debuted at Clearwater Nature Center, an innovative experience that displays planetary data on an animated globe. The expansion of senior and disability services offerings continued, with additional trips, social activities, fitness classes, and mobile programs.





Conservation and Preservation. The Department's first Sustainability Learning Center had its grand opening, affirming a commitment to sustainability education. Trail development began at newly acquired Charles Branch Park, marking the first in a "Trails for All" accessibility commitment. Concord Historic Site's Juneteenth Hard Hat Tour gave 100+ community members a look at the site's historic preservation work. Major renovations were completed at historic sites Newton White Mansion and Billingsley House, A "Descendant Network" was established of individuals who come from people who were enslaved at the Department's historic sites; the group will advise the interpretation and visitor experience while exploring the lives and legacies of their ancestors.

Modernization. The Wi-Fi 2.0 Project modernized aging wireless network infrastructure across the Department, and the Desktop Refresh Project deployed 600 new desktops and laptops to staff. GIS capabilities were enhanced through ArcGIS migration and PGAtlas updates. Energy-efficient HVAC systems, LEDs, and solar lighting projects were installed at multiple facilities. The first phase of the GPS program was initiated, with 150 units installed throughout the Department; phase two will bring the Department 280 units closer to its goal.



collaborated with George Washington University and the county's Aging and Disabilities Service Division on a comprehensive needs assessment; findings will be used to develop the county's Healthy Aging Strategic Plan. The Make a Splash program delivered swim and water safety lessons to more than 2,600 students at 46 schools. Prince George's County Sports & Learning Complex held 78 indoor track meets, serving 65,000 youth. The complex welcomed more than 13,000 visitors for non-sporting events and community programs. The Department's outreach team hosted

information tables at 126 events and provided materials for an additional 242, while 1,016 volunteers contributed more than

10,000 hours of service to the county.

Outreach and Community Service. The Department

Revenue and Economic Impact. The Department hosted the 66th Annual Washington International Horse Show, the 31st Annual Capital Challenge Horse Show, and the Maryland Horse and Pony Show at The Show Place Arena/Prince George's Equestrian Center. These events drew more than 18,000 spectators and 2,700 exhibitors, generating an estimated \$24.5 million in economic impact to the community. Tucker Road Ice Rink maintained a self-sustaining model, balancing rentals, classes, a growing hockey program, and public skating sessions.

2,600+ students 01 The Make a Splash program delivered swim and water safety lessons to more than at 46 schools. Prince George's County Sports & Learning Complex held 02 **78** indoor track meets serving 65,000 youth Prince George's County Sports & Learning Complex welcomed more than 03 13,000 visitors The Department's outreach team hosted information tables at 04 126 + events

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The Show Place Arena/Prince George's Equestrian Center

18,000+

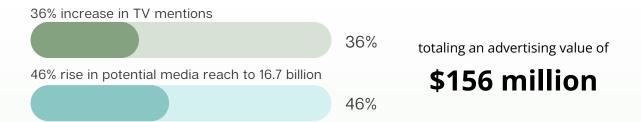
spectators

\$24.5 million

in economic impact to the community



Public Affairs and Community Partnerships. The Department secured year-long advertising partnerships with ABC, FOX, Univision, and others; launched the "Channel Your Inner Champion" campaign during the 2024 Olympics; and sponsored Kids' Day at National Harbor. Media highlights included FOX 5 Field Trip segments spotlighting Department facilities and a 36% increase in TV mentions totaling an advertising value of \$156 million. The Department received national coverage in Parks & Recreation magazine and attracted support from Telemundo for the 40th Anniversary Hispanic Festival. The Sound of DC exhibition at Brentwood Arts Exchange earned regional coverage from FOX5's Good Day DC and Prince George's Community Television. Social media saw growth across all platforms, culminating in 61,000+ followers and more than seven million impressions.



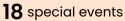
Park Police: The Department currently has 126 sworn officers on staff and 36 civilians. In FY25, Park Police responded to 134,848 calls for service. These range from simple parks and facility checks to more serious offenses. 224 arrests were made.

Park Police held over 200 community events. The events included movie nights in the park, come out and play events, bicycle rodeos, blood drives, self-defense classes and active shooter survival trainings. These events along with the signature Park Police Community Day truly embody who exemplifies the Park Police motto: Because We Care!





celebrated 50 years of Disability Services





2025 Gold Medal Finalists

in the prestigious Class I category for communities with more than 400,001 citizens.

reaccreditation, earning a flawless score of

across 154 standards



Awards and Notable Accomplishments. The

Department is pleased to report approval of \$673,560 from Chesapeake Bay Trust to plant 10,340 trees at the Lake Arbor Golf Course in FY26. The Department celebrated 50 years of Disability Services with 18 special events throughout the year, culminating with the 50th Anniversary Gala. The program received two state citations, a county executive proclamation, and a county council congratulatory letter for their dedication and commitment. M-NCPPC has been named one of the four 2025 Gold Medal Finalists in the prestigious Class I category for communities with more than 400,001 citizens. This remarkable recognition comes from the American Academy of Park and Recreation Administration, which honors park and recreation systems demonstrating outstanding administration of public funds to enhance residents' quality of life through diverse programs and initiatives. M-NCPPC also successfully completed a fifth CAPRA reaccreditation, earning a flawless score of 100% across 154 standards.





120+

lifequards to fully staff all 13 aquatic facilities



18,000+

hours of training





Workplace Training and Recruitment. Strategic hiring initiatives filled critical positions that bolstered effectiveness across the Department, including more than 120 lifeguards to fully staff all 13 aquatic facilities. The Department delivered more than 18,000 hours of training and nearly 150 instructor-led sessions aimed at enhancing organizational performance. All learning activities were centralized into the Cornerstone Learning Management System, enabling seamless data integration and resulting in cost savings exceeding.

Gathering Spaces

The Department's community centers, senior activity centers, arts, nature, and sports facilities are vibrant hubs where families, teens, adults, and seniors come together to learn, play, and connect. Each location offers a wide range of classes, drop-in activities, and special events designed for people of all ages and abilities. Inside guests will find well-equipped gymnasiums, spacious meeting and multipurpose rooms, and modern fitness areas. Step outside to enjoy playgrounds, athletic fields, and multipurpose courts — each site offering something unique for every visitor.

The Department offers a diverse portfolio of rental venues designed to accommodate a wide range of events, including weddings, meetings, family reunions, and corporate functions. These facilities exemplify the Department's commitment to providing high-quality spaces that enhance the experiences of both residents and visitors. Smaller park buildings continue to serve as suitable venues for more intimate gatherings, such as birthday celebrations, teen programs, and community-based events, ensuring equitable access to wellmaintained and versatile facilities across the County.

GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEERING IS A HEALTHY HABIT.

Volunteering is a healthy habit.

Opportunities to volunteer are almost unlimited.

Lend a helping hand at a one-day special event or assist on an ongoing basis. And YES, it takes a village!

The Department works alongside many organizations on a variety of community projects.





Award-Winning Agency

As part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Department proudly stands as a nationally recognized leader in parks and recreation. With six Gold Medals for Excellence in Parks and Recreation Management, the Department continues to set the standard for quality, innovation, and community impact. Rooted in a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, the Department holds national accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) for its exceptional programs and management practices. The Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division, also exemplifies excellence, maintaining international accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

CALEA



"Our daughter has been attending swimming lessons at Fairland Sports and Aquatics Complex for over three years, since she was 4 years old and it's been a wonderful journey for us, she's made tremendous progress," says parent Yasmine Solomon "We give the Department of Parks and Recreation staff all the credit for her progress. The 30-minute classes will be more beneficial for children to focus more."





"We went to these different places and were exposed to an essential extension of where I live and where I grew up. I just thought that to me, for lack of better terms, [it] was cool," says Somerville. "I wanted to do it again, and the more I surrounded myself in these areas, the more motivated I was to continue to learn more and to continue my interest in the world of politics and government."



- YASMINE SOLOMON, PARENT AQUATICS CLASSES-



-LEAH SUMMERVILLE, 13 SHE THE PEOPLE CAMPER -

Your Voice. Your Parks and Recreation...



"We love the social club," says Dorothy Walker. Her son Remington is a member of the Fun Bunch Social Club. "He speaks up more and is becoming more comfortable with people. That's a big deal for someone with autism. C.H.O.I.C.E.S gives him something to do every day."



-DOROTHY WALKER, PARENT FUN BUNCH SOCIAL CLUB-





"I started with Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission when I was about 15, and I was eager to work and I started working and I haven't been without a job since. They taught me how to get up and how to be to work on time. How to interact with authority figures and supervisors. Right here in my backyard."



-JOE CLAIRE, MEDIA PERSONALITY -



"Being a part of these programs is the most joyful part of our lives, and Mary has blossomed and flourished because of all the things she has experienced."



-PAT STAPLES, PARENT DISABILITY SERVICE'S -



"Why I personally love teen night, it's just a lot of activities, a lot of kids like to come to the gym, and it's not only about the basketball, but there are also arts and crafts, gaming there are gaming systems and just people wanting to hang out and have a good time."



-GABRIELLE, PARTICIPANT TEEN NIGHT-



"My FUN is watching the kids out here have a great time and learning the game."





-JEREMY K., PARENT YOUTH SPORTS -



CONNECT WITH US



Community engagement remains a core priority for the Department. Ongoing communication ensures residents are informed about park development projects, recreation programs, and services that serve individuals of all ages. Staff maintain regular dialogue with thousands of county residents, including civic and homeowners' association leaders, recreation councils, advisory boards, professional organizations, sports leagues, arts and history advocates, business owners, and elected officials. Through these relationships, the Department continues to strengthen connections with those who live and work near its parks and facilities, fostering transparency, collaboration, and shared stewardship of community resources. M-NCPPC's, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County has thousands of ways to help YOU live more, play more. Find your FUN at pgparks.com



Customer Service Help Desk: 301-699-CALL (2255)
Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday, 8 am-6 pm; Saturday, 8 am-4 pm



Have a comment or a concern? Email Public.Affairs@pgparks.com



Sign-up for our weekly newsletter at pgparks.com.



Park Police Emergency: 301-459-3232 Park Police Non-Emergency 301-459-9088 Park Police TTY 301-459-3051

Maryland Relay 7-1-1 for customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability.

