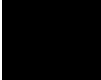


PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (PRAB) ANNUAL REPORT



MARCH 2024 - JUNE 2025





PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (PRAB)

ANNUAL REPORT



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Prepared For:

Prince George's County, Office of the County Executive
Ms. Aisha Braveboy, County Executive

Prince George's County Council
Mr. Edward Burroughs, III, Chair

Prince George's County Planning Board
Mr. Darryl Barnes, Chairman

Submitted:

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Executive Summary

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Prince George's County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) was revitalized following a period of inactivity, emerging with a renewed commitment to transparency, community-centered governance, and strategic collaboration. Composed of appointed volunteer members, PRAB reestablished its bylaws, refined its committee structure, and prioritized direct engagement with residents and stakeholders. Through monthly meetings held in community centers, site visits, and the launch of a Community Engagement Subcommittee, the Board actively gathered public input and strengthened its advisory role. PRAB also partnered with county leaders and planning officials to deepen its understanding of infrastructure, equity, and strategic initiatives such as Formula 2040. This report documents PRAB's efforts to engage, understand, assist, visit, and advocate for inclusive and sustainable recreation services, while laying the groundwork for future impact and continued partnership with The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Prince George's County Council.



Overview

The Prince George's County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) is pleased to present its Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, in accordance with its bylaws and responsibilities as an advisory body to Prince George's County Council. This report is submitted to the Prince George's County Executive's Office, Prince George's County Council, the Prince George's County Planning Board, and is also made available to the public to provide a transparent account of PRAB's activities, insights, and recommendations throughout the FY.

This document outlines the role of the Advisory Board and summarizes the initiatives, engagements, and accomplishments undertaken during FY2025. The report reflects the Board's commitment to enhancing the quality, accessibility, and effectiveness of Department of Parks and Recreation's programs and services. It includes updates on Board membership, committee work, community engagement efforts, governance revisions, and strategic priorities for the future.

As the Advisory Board continues to evolve, this annual report serves as both a record of progress and a tool for ongoing accountability and collaboration between PRAB, Prince George's County Council, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the broader Prince George's County community.

On March 5, 2024, 10 new board members were appointed to PRAB by the Prince George's County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

Background

PRAB was established to advise the County Executive, County Council, and Prince George's County Planning Board on matters related to parks and recreation. PRAB serves as a bridge between the community and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Department of Parks and Recreation, ensuring that the needs, interests, and voices of residents are considered in decision-making processes.

The Board is composed of volunteer members who are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. PRAB members serve staggered terms and represent various regions across the county. A full board consists of 11 members. The Board convenes monthly at rotating locations to engage with communities and maintain awareness of the Department's programs and facilities. These meetings are open to public attendance.

In FY2025, following a period of inactivity, PRAB (henceforth "the Board") was reestablished with a renewed focus on transparency, accountability, and community-centered governance. The Board revisited its bylaws, refined its committee structure, and recommitted to its **foundational responsibilities**:



Engage

Engaging the public to gather and relay feedback.



Understand

Understanding and supporting strategic plans such as Formula 2040.



Assist

Assisting with reviews of partnerships and naming requests.



Visit

Visiting facilities and attending events to observe programs firsthand.



Advocate

Advocating for equitable, inclusive, and sustainable recreation services.

Board Members

While ten board members were appointed on March 5, 2024, the current Board consists of eight board members as of the date of this report due to two members resigning in June 2024. The remaining members have worked diligently over the course of the FY 2025 to reestablish the Board and set a new standard for operations. Each board member has been appointed to a specific region in the county (North, Central, or South as depicted below) for a specified and staggered term.

Note: Per the county code, appointments remain despite expiration until a new appointment has been made.

◆ **Jocelyn Alexander**

South Area

Term Expiration: 6/30/2025

◆ **Patricia Bobbitt***

North Area (Vacant)

Term: 3/5/2024 - 6/12/2024

◆ **Sean Floyd**

Central Area

Term Expiration: 6/30/2027

◆ **Harryette Irving**

At Large

Term Expiration: 6/30/2027

◆ **Oladunni Oni**

North Area

Term Expiration: 6/30/2025

◆ **Kelvin Smith**

South Area

Term Expiration: 6/30/2027

◆ **Gloria Snowden***

North Area (Vacant)

Term: 3/5/2024 - 6/10/2024

◆ **Rochelle Thompson**

Central Area

Term Expiration: 6/30/2026

◆ **Betty Tingle**

Central Area

Term Expiration: 6/30/2025

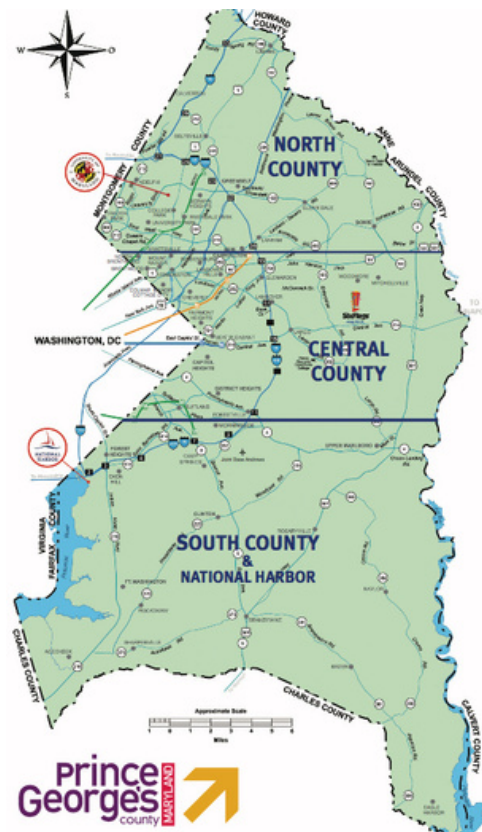
◆ **Tamara Williams**

At Large

Term Expiration: 6/30/2026



Top Row: J. Alexander, H. Irving, K. Smith, G. Snowden*, R. Thompson
Front Row: S. Floyd, P. Bobbitt*, O.Oni, T. Williams, B. Tingle, A. Jackson (Department Liaison)



*Member resigned as of the development of this report.

Board Officers



Above: Board Chair, Jocelyn Alexander
Below: Board Recording Secretary, Dr. Rochelle Thompson

The officers of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board shall be Chair, Vice Chair, and Recording Secretary who shall be elected by and from the members biennially at the regularly scheduled meeting held in June of the year following a Maryland gubernatorial election or a Federal presidential election, as the case may be. The officers shall serve a two-year term.

“My primary objective for this term is to ensure the board is fully reestablished and empowered to operate actively and effectively by cultivating strong, strategic relationships with key stakeholders and points of contact.”

- Jocelyn Alexander

The following board officers were elected by the Board September 2024.

Chair Jocelyn Alexander

The duties of the Chair shall be to preside at all meetings of the Board, to sign such official papers as may be required, to appoint committees, to call special meetings when needed, and to perform all duties incidental to the position and office which are required.

Vice Chair Sean Floyd

The duties of the Vice Chair shall be to serve in the absence of the Chair and perform those duties normally handled by that person.

Recording Secretary Dr. Rochelle Thompson

The duties of the Recording Secretary shall be to record issues, statuses, and actions taken during meetings. Written minutes shall be compiled and submitted to the Chair within one week of the recorded meeting.

FY25 Accomplishments

In its first full year of reactivation, the Board laid a solid foundation for long-term impact by reestablishing its governance structure, deepening community engagement, and forging strategic relationships with key stakeholders. The initial months focused on prioritizing listening, learning, and rebuilding. Rather than rushing into action, the Board focused first on cultivating awareness—examining structural gaps, reaffirming governance responsibilities, and redefining its role in partnership with the communities and systems shaping the county’s parks and recreation landscape. Early meetings centered on rediscovery, including a review of past practices and the county code authorizing the Board’s existence, prompting critical reflection on accountability, impact, and community needs.

To establish structure, the Board revived the **Governance Committee**, a PRAB standing meeting, to revise outdated bylaws and align its mission with evolving responsibilities. Through a series of intentional actions, including revising bylaws, launching new committees, conducting site visits, and gathering resident feedback, the Board demonstrated its renewed **commitment to the Board’s foundational responsibilities**. The accomplishments outlined below reflect the Board’s dedication to serving as a responsive and effective advisory body for the residents of Prince George’s County.

Engage

From this foundation, the Board’s engagement strategy emerged—not as passive outreach, but as intentional presence and meaningful collaboration. Initially, Board members captured community feedback by engaging with citizens during the course of their outings and attending events or through general conversations with neighbors and other community members. To facilitate and expand a true engagement strategy, the Board deemed necessary the establishment of the **Community Engagement Committee** to strengthened public outreach through surveys and open dialogue, fostering transparency and trust.

On one occasion, former Planning Board Chair Peter Shapiro joined the meeting and shared insight into capital projects, land use planning, and community equity. His perspective offered a broader understanding of planning and infrastructure. The PRAB has embraced its role not merely as an observer but as an active partner building relationships, gathering feedback, and creating space for community voices.

“We are not just attending events. We are building relationships. We are not just offering feedback. We are collecting it. We are not just filling seats. We are creating space. The work of engagement is not performative. It is active, ongoing, and foundational to how we serve.”
- Dr. Rochelle Thompson



Board member, Harryette Irving, pictured on the right at the department’s Senior Line Dance Party, a premier annual event.

FY25 Accomplishments (cont.)

Understand

Over the course of the 16 meetings held during this reporting period, the Board received a plethora of information and resources to (a) establish a basic understanding of the Department of Parks and Recreation and (b) answer initial questions posed by board members. The Board's liaison, Ms. Anika Jackson, Division Chief, Public Affairs and Community Engagement Division, along with her team, arranged for briefings from subject matter experts throughout the Department of Parks and Recreation. These briefings and resources were vital to the reestablishment of the Board and fundamental to ensuring a shared, basic understanding of this new domain.

Briefing topics included (but were not limited to) overviews of:

- Department of Parks and Recreation's Structure and Leadership
- Budget
- Prince George's County Park and Planning Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
- Formula 2040
- Park Planning and Environmental Stewardship Division

The Board's commitment to understanding extended beyond these briefings. Board members also attended public forums and hearings hosted by the County Council as well as the Planning Board. These engagements provided another way for the Board to hear directly from citizens about the issues most pressing to their communities.

As we deepened our understanding, our meetings began to evolve. We intentionally shifted our gatherings into recreation centers and community spaces instead of the Parks & Recreation Administration Building. This decision placed us in the heart of the neighborhoods we represent. Each meeting included a facility tour, staff introductions, and opportunities to observe programming in real time. We prioritized being accessible and visible, while also learning directly from those on the ground.

At the April 2025 meeting, the Board was joined by Councilmember Calvin Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins was assigned as the County Council Liaison to the Board by former County Council Chair, Jolene Ivey. This liaison role was reconfirmed and recommitted by Mr. Edward Burroughs, the current County Council Chair. During this initial meeting, Mr. Hawkins shared candid reflections on the role of community voices in policy decisions and emphasized the importance of advisory boards like ours in shaping outcomes that reflect real resident needs.

FY25 Accomplishments (cont.)

Assist

The Board has not yet been asked to assist with any reviews of partnerships or naming requests. We stand ready to support this responsibility should the need arise.

Visit

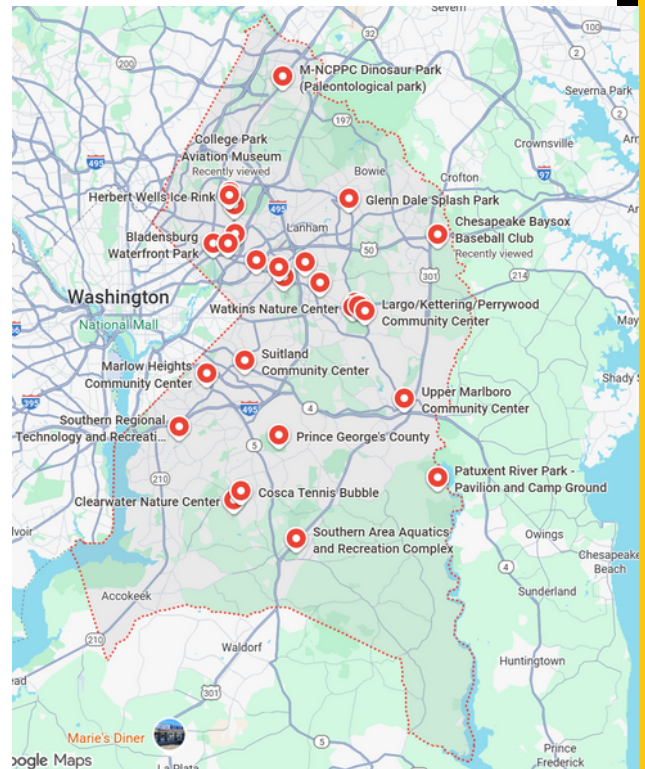
Throughout 2024 and 2025, the Board prioritized direct community connection and visibility, engaging in more 25 site visits and community events, including both formal board-led engagements and public events attended independently by members.

As soon as they were appointed, board members began attending community events such as the Winter Festival of Lights, the Senior Line Dance Party, the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) & Backpack Drive, and mural unveilings at Columbia Park, to name a few and reporting back during meetings to provide constructive feedback on staff, facilities, logistics, etc.

Beginning in the fall of 2024, the Board implemented a rotating meeting locations schedule. In calendar year 2025, our meetings were held at Suitland Community Center, Bladensburg Community Center, Marlow Heights Community Center, Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex, the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex, and the Southern Area Aquatics & Recreation Complex (SAARC). These meetings doubled as site visits, offering board members the opportunity to tour the facilities, meet staff, and engage with the public before convening.

Additional FY25 site visits of the Department of Parks and Recreation assets included:

Watkins Regional Park (playground, farm, trails, tennis bubble, nature center, and ball fields), Cosca Regional Park, Clearwater Nature Center, Prince George's Stadium, Prince George's Publick Playhouse, Glenn Dale Splash Park, Dinosaur Park, Lake Arbor Community Center, Kentland Community Center, Largo/Perrywood/Kettering Community Center, and College Park Aviation Museum.



Above map with pinpoints depicts the 25 site visits the Board conducted in FY 25.

FY25 Accomplishments (cont.)

Advocate

In an effort to establish and promote our presence among the community and within the Planning Board, the Board Chair, Jocelyn Alexander, presented and submitted a statement for the record at the M-NCPPC 2024 Budget Forum. While the statement did not include any recommendations or requests, it served as an introduction/reintroduction to the Board and ushered in discussions that led to the Planning Board Chair attending one of our meetings.

The statement has been provided below for reference:

Planning Board Members,

This statement is being submitted on behalf of the Prince George's County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, or PRAB. After attending last week's in-person 2024 Budget Forum, the PRAB determined that it would be beneficial to provide a brief statement for this forum to identify for the board and community who we are, what we are hoping to accomplish, and how we are looking to partner with both the board and the community.

The PRAB is a group of committed community members who are passionate about Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County. PRAB members are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council, and we are tasked with providing advice to the County Executive, County Council, and Prince George's County Planning Board on issues related to parks and recreation, as appropriate. The current board consists of eight (8) members:

Jocelyn Alexander
Board Chair

Sean Floyd
Board Vice Chair

Dr. Rochelle Thompson
Recording Secretary

Harryette Irving

Oladunni Oni

Kelvin Smith

Betty Tingle

Tamara Williams

Parks & Recreation leadership, and our board liaison, Ms. Anika Jackson, in particular, have been overwhelmingly supportive of our efforts through this forming phase, and we have immense respect for the hard working department employees. We hope to expand that relationship while also establishing similar relationships with the community, the county council, this Planning Board, and the commission as a whole.

While we are a newly convened board, we are excited about the opportunity to support the county through engagement and advocacy based on fact-based information and direct exposure to the community's priorities and needs. We heard last week's passionate testimonies from fellow county residents, and while we are in no position to offer specific advocacy or recommendations at this time, we will connect with the community as well as the department and Planning Board to capture a complete picture and understanding of these concerns and others as well as their impacts to existing priorities and the overall budget. Ultimately, we will meet with the county council ahead of their budget discussions and approvals to provide our advocacy and recommendations based on information and facts gathered through our efforts. We hope that you – the board and the community – will work with us to ensure that our positions and statements are well-informed and benefit the county.

Retrospective

As Fiscal Year 2025 came to a close, the Board took deliberate time to reflect on the year's accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities for growth. This retrospective is a strategic exercise in learning, accountability, and continuous improvement. By examining what worked well, identifying areas where we can do better, and understanding the evolving needs of our community, we aim to shape more effective and inclusive recommendations for the future. Our commitment remains steadfast: to support the County Council in ensuring the Department of Parks and Recreation is delivering high-quality services, fostering community engagement, and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. Through thoughtful reflection and forward-thinking planning, we strive to ensure that each year builds upon the last—stronger, smarter, and more responsive to the people we serve.

1 Interaction with the County Council and Planning Board is vital

Observation(s): The Board did not have a direct interaction with any members of the County Council or Planning Board members until the second half of FY25. Without this interaction, the Board is not empowered or enabled to effectively share and communicate community concerns. Additionally, engaging with County Council members expands our ability learn community concerns from their perspective, as well as to hear their parks and recreation-related priorities as a council member and share information we have gathered from briefings and engagements with the Department and community.

Recommendation(s): (1) Schedule regular and recurring meetings with the members of the County Council and the Planning Board. (2) Invite council members to join PRAB meetings when a monthly meeting is in their district. (3) The County Council has appointed a liaison to the PRAB, and we must leverage this resource enhance our collaboration with the council.

2 PRAB needed to be rebuilt as if it was a new entity

Observation(s): The extended period of inactivity was detrimental to the transition of new board members in 2024. The Board was reconvened with 10 members who were given little to no guidance on how to function or who to interact with other than the Department of Parks and Recreation. The bylaws were reviewed and revised during this reporting year to more effectively represent the Board and its purpose. Additionally, a set of standards has been established that determine what it means to be an active board member (see page 10).

Recommendation(s): (1) Funding from the County Council to support Board efforts and engagements would help to expand outreach and community involvement.

3 Additional board members are still needed

Observation(s): The Board is currently operating with eight out of the requisite 11 members that should comprise this Board. While the current membership works very well together and has established a productive operating model, the Board is at risk of becoming inactive again if full membership totals are never achieved.

Recommendation(s): (1) The Board would like to work with the Office of the County Executive to ensure new appointments are appropriately prioritized. (2) The Board will also increase communication about what PRAB is to garner more interest in applicants.

Future Focus



Board members pictured with former M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Director, Bill Tyler.

FY2025 marked a pivotal year of renewal and reestablishment for the Prince George's County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Through intentional governance, community engagement, and strategic partnerships, the Board has laid the groundwork for a more responsive and impactful advisory body. As we look ahead, the Board remains committed to amplifying resident voices, strengthening relationships with stakeholders, and advancing equitable, inclusive, and sustainable recreation services across Prince George's County. We are proud of the progress made and energized by the opportunities that lie ahead.

Heightened Outreach

The Board will deepen its presence in neighborhoods through outreach, listening sessions, and tools that elevate resident voices in decision-making.

Enhanced Partnerships

The Board will strengthen partnerships with county leadership, planning bodies, and community organizations to amplify its advisory role and expand its reach.

Improved Alignment

Regular engagement with planning boards will ensure alignment on capital projects, land use, and long-term recreation strategies.

Increased Outputs

The Board will prioritize measurable outcomes and strategic contributions that directly influence policy, programming, and community well-being.

What does it mean to be an active board member?

To ensure the effectiveness and integrity of the Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, all members are expected to uphold the standards of active participation as noted below. Active membership also includes being prepared and contributing meaningfully to discussions.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Attend all scheduled board meetings unless excused in advance. Regular attendance is essential to maintain quorum, contribute to discussions, and fulfill advisory responsibilities.

SITE VISITS & EVENTS

Participate in site visits, public events, and outreach activities to maintain visibility, gather resident feedback, and foster trust between the Board and the community.

PARKS DIRECT REGISTRATION

All board members should have an active account in Parks Direct and experience at least one registration day per year to gain the perspective of the process.

GOVERNANCE & ETHICS

Uphold the Board's bylaws, adhere to ethical standards, and act in the best interest of Prince George's County residents.



Above (L to R): Board members Tamara Williams, Betty Tingle, and Oladunni Oni.
Below: Board member, Kelvin Smith