





September 27, 2024

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

TO: Jennifer A. Jenkins  
Council Administrator

Colette R. Gresham, Esq.  
Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: Josh Hamlin   
Director of Budget and Policy Analysis

FROM: David Noto   
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement  
CR-084-2024, Parks and Recreation Facilities Guidelines Update

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**CR-084-2024** (*Proposed and introduced by:* The Chair by request of the Planning Board)

Assigned to the Committee of the Whole

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A RESOLUTION concerning The Department of Parks and Recreation Parks and Recreation Facilities Guidelines for the purpose of adopting updated Parks and Recreation Facilities Guidelines.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**Direct Impact:**

*Expenditures:* No anticipated expenditures.

*Revenues:* No anticipated impact on revenues.

**Indirect Impact:**

Likely favorable.

### **Legislative Summary:**

CR-084-2024<sup>1</sup> was introduced by the Chair at the request of the Planning Board, cosponsored by Councilmembers Harrison, Hawkins and Oriadha, and was referred to the Committee of the Whole on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This resolution would mandate that updated Parks and Recreation Facilities Guidelines be implemented and maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Planning Department to enhance and standardize parks and recreational facilities in the county. These updated guidelines are meant to replace the 1983 version and will be regularly revised to meet current needs and best practices.

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### **Current Law/Background:**

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) serves most of the bi-county area of Montgomery County and Prince George's County, Maryland. The purpose, powers, and duties of M-NCPPC are found in Land Use, Division 2 of the Annotated Code of Maryland<sup>2</sup>. The mission statement of the M-NCPPC, Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, is to provide comprehensive park and recreation programs, facilities, and services which respond to the changing needs within the local community.<sup>3</sup>

The Department of Parks and Recreation manages a park system that includes more than 27,000 acres of parklands.<sup>4</sup> In addition to the network of parks, County residents also have access to over 300 miles of trails, hundreds of athletic facilities, 46 community centers and more<sup>5</sup>. Stewardship of these resources requires in-depth planning, and sustainable construction, maintenance, and operations.

The Parks and Recreation Facilities Design Guidelines set common standards and quality benchmarks for both public and private recreation facilities, ensuring consistency and modernity in their development. Subdivision Regulation 24-4507(b)(2) mandates that the Department of Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with Planning Department staff, develop the Parks and Recreation Facilities Design Guidelines<sup>6</sup>. These Design Guidelines were last updated in 1983<sup>7</sup>.

On July 18, 2024, the Department of Parks and Recreation staff briefed the Planning Board on updating Parks and Recreation Facilities Design Guidelines<sup>8</sup>. This comprehensive document was updated to be consistent with the *Prince George's Plan 2035*, the *Formula 2040 Master Plan*, Area Master Plans and the *Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan*, and is meant to serve as a companion resource to the current Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Ordinance<sup>9</sup>. The

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<sup>1</sup> <https://princegeorgescountymd.legistar.com- CB-084-2024>

<sup>2</sup> [MARYLAND CODE AND COURT RULES | Public Access | Main Page \(lexis.com\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Who We Are - The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission \(mncppc.org\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> CR-084-2024 Attachment A ([Prince George's County Council - Reference No. CR-084-2024 \(legistar.com\)](#))

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> CR-084-2024 Transmittal ([Prince George's County Council - Reference No. CR-084-2024 \(legistar.com\)](#))

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

Planning Board voted 3-0 to transmit the 2023 Parks and Recreation Facilities Design Guidelines<sup>10</sup>.

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**Resource Personnel:**

- Kristen Maneval, Senior Counsel, M-NCPPC
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**Discussion/Policy Analysis:**

The proposed update to the Parks and Recreation Facilities Design Guidelines sets forth common standards and quality benchmarks for both public and private recreation facilities, ensuring consistency and modernity in their development. The proposed updates include M-NCPPC standards, sport-specific standards, and national standards. This update replaces the 1983 version and will be regularly revised to meet current needs and best practices. The Parks and Recreation Facilities Design Guidelines provides the foundation for the Development Community to develop public and private outdoor recreation facilities in the County. It is meant to be a living document and will be updated regularly to remain current.

The purpose of the Design Guidelines for Parks and Recreation Facilities is to ensure that public and private recreation facilities in the County are developed and constructed in a safe, functional, and long-lasting manner to meet residents' recreational needs, while conserving public open space, natural resources, historic resources, and cultural resources. The updated guidelines promote design consistency, aim to exceed minimum quality standards, and provide an appropriate level of service for park facilities. The Design Guidelines cover common park and trail features, including athletic facilities, natural resource areas and pet facilities, as well as other site elements such as restrooms, furniture, bridges, and a list of preferred plantings in M-NCPPC parkland<sup>11</sup>.

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**Fiscal Impact:**

- *Direct Impact:*

Adoption of CR-084-2024 is not likely to have any direct fiscal impact.

- *Indirect Impact:*

Adoption of CR-084-2024 is not likely to have any indirect fiscal impact.

- *Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget:*

N/A

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> CR-084-2024 Attachment A ([Prince George's County Council - Reference No. CR-084-2024 \(legistar.com\)](#))

**Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:**

The proposed Resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

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If you require additional information or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please call me.