



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County
6600 Kenilworth Avenue Riverdale, Maryland 20737

DATE: March 25, 2025

TO: Thomas Dernoga, Chairman
Planning Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee

FROM: Bill Tyler, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County

SUBJECT: Additional Highlights

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County is proud to serve more than 900,000 residents. Recognized as a national leader in the Parks and Recreation industry, the Department is accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies and has remained an accredited agency since 2004. M-NCPPC and the Department are known for excellence within the industry, winning a record six Gold Medals for management, long-range planning, resource management, and innovative approaches to delivering superb services with fiscally sound business practices.

The Department continues to be a central part of what makes Prince George's County an attractive place for people to live, work, and play. The recreation facilities, programs, and parks continue to be recognized in the industry as innovative and award-winning.

The Department's leadership is especially proud of these noteworthy FY 2025 highlights:

- **Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA)**
 - Gold Standard of Excellence: M-NCPPC completed another successful CAPRA Accreditation, confirming its position as a top national authority in parks and recreation management.
 - Mastering 154 Rigorous Standards: The CAPRA Self-Assessment Report fulfilled all requirements by providing thorough and precise documentation for every standard.
 - Seamless Accreditation Submission: The latest CAPRA Self-Assessment was successfully submitted in January 2025 representing a significant milestone towards operational excellence and continuous improvement.

- Benchmarking Against the Best: The Department achieved complete compliance with CAPRA's national best practices aligning top standards in recreational, programming, and community service activities.
- A Legacy of Excellence: The Department fortified its established reputation for superior parks and recreation services while showcasing its steadfast dedication to delivering quality services.
- **Summer Camp registrations**
 - The Help Desk Team successfully handled 10,119 Day Camp enrollments on the first day of open registration. 9,000 of those registrations occurred within the first couple of hours. This is over 1,000 more than the 2024 opening day for Day Camps.
- **Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex**
 - During the 2025 Winter Indoor Track Season, 75 track meets were held in the span of 98 days, serving approximately 65,000 competing athletes.
 - The Department provided quality running experiences for a range of ages and competitive skill levels, from championship level, to Masters, youth and club, as well as a collegiate.
 - Additionally, the Department provided practice accommodations for Prince George's County High Schools and Club Teams, University of Maryland, Howard University, Bowie State University, and Goucher College track teams.
- **Seniors**
 - To date, in FY 2025, more than 3,200 residents have enjoyed the Senior focused events: Senior Line Dance Party, Veterans Luncheon, Senior Picnic (partnership with the Department of Family Services), Holiday Concert, Black History in Motion
 - Over 45 programs were offered at senior centers, community centers, Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex, Fairland Sports & Aquatics Center and other M-NCPPC facilities during Active Aging Week (September 23-27, 2024).
 - Between now and the end of FY 2025, the Department will be offering the following events and programs exclusively for Seniors:
 - Senior Green Team – Stream Clean up at John E. Howard Community Center and Senior Center, April 1
 - Cycling Senior Club rides starting April 9
 - Club 300 weekly walk beginning April 7
 - Centenarian Luncheon – May 9 at Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center
 - Motown Get Down – May 15 at Southern Area Aquatics & Recreation Complex
 - John E. Howard/Evelyn Cole Hat and Tea Party – May 16 at Prince George's Ballroom
 - Senior Health and Fitness Day – May 21 at Southern Area Aquatics & Recreation Complex
- **Disability Services**

- In 2024, the Department's industry-leading Disability Services program celebrated 50 years of service to the community. To date in FY 2025, the program has provided 5,480 people with disabilities recreational opportunities through inclusion and therapeutic programs.
- **Tennis Programming**
 - As a follow up to the USTA Assessment 2024, the tennis program has experienced a 63% increase in classes offered and a 38% increase in enrollment over previous years.
- **Aquatics Programming – Learn to Swim**
 - Through the Department's Make A Splash program, over 1,500 Prince George's County 2nd graders have received free swimming and land water safety lessons.
- **Cultural Arts**
 - The Young Artist Apprentices program visited Empact Art, a private studio, and took part in the Marlow Heights Community Mosaic Project. Students received hands-on mosaic training and shared insights about the apprenticeship program.
 - The Black History Month Poster Internship Program annually engages student artists to produce a widely circulated poster. During the summer interns worked with artists at Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center to create the 2025 poster titled "A Good Government Job: A History of Black Civil Servants and Federal Government Employment." The poster was unveiled at the Department's annual Black History Month Reception and available free of charge. Distributed 11,000 posters this year.
 - Young Stars is a unique, year-round program giving teens the opportunity to hone their skills as singers, rappers, and dancers on stage and behind the scenes in a professional recording studio. Teens receive vocal coaching and training in choreography, songwriting, video and audio-production, and media relations. Young Stars performed for over 1000-day campers (ages 6-12) enrolled in the Department's summer youth programs.
- **New Sustainability Learning Center**
 - Repurposed from the old greenhouse, the center will provide a creative space for environmentally friendly programs focused on recycling, upcycling, native plants, and food crops for Prince George's County Public Schools and other groups.
 - The Department will develop curriculums around stormwater specs, native planting design, landscape maintenance, sustainable crafts and germination stations.
 - The center is slated to open May 2025.
- **Natural and Cultural Programming**
 - The Department provided more than 1,100 nature-based and cultural-centered experiences for Prince George's County youth – engaging 36,620 participants in enrichment programs that aim to inspire a new generation of outdoor and history enthusiasts.
 -
- **Athletic Field Improvements**

- To ensure safety, accessibility, and sustainable athletic facilities, the Department collaborated with Prince George's County Public Schools and provided supervision of athletic field renovation and maintenance best practices.
- Beginning July 1, the Department will maintain eleven PGCPs artificial turf fields.
- The Southern Region Parks Division (SRPD) Athletic Field Team maintained and prepared athletic fields for 9,307 permits in 2024. These fields saw 31,050 hours of permitted play, reinforcing the necessity of routine turf maintenance and periodic closures to preserve field quality and allow recovery. The Team's diligent maintenance and preparation of athletic field permits ensured they were game-ready for extensive community use and fostered community engagement and satisfaction.
- **Environmental Stewardship**
 - In FY25 the Environmental Stewardship section of Park Planning and Environmental Stewardship (PPES) strengthened the Department's partnerships with local environmental organizations, hosting multiple events to remove invasive vines from trees on its properties. As a result, over 300 trees were freed from the invasive vines. Department staff will follow up to prevent regrowth.
- **Community Partners**
 - In FY24, the Department provided rental fee waivers for community partner organizations totaling \$98,900, and FY25 is on track to provide just as much support to its registered community partners.
- **Pickleball**
 - The Department built a state-of-the-art outdoor pickleball facility at Fairland Regional Park. Meticulously designed, the courts are wheelchair accessible. Remarkably, this facility stands out as possibly the only dedicated pickleball complex in the area featuring multiple courts for enhanced gameplay and community engagement.
- **IT Infrastructure in Recreation Facilities**
 - The Wi-Fi 2.0 project was a comprehensive initiative aimed at upgrading and enhancing the existing wireless network infrastructure across the Department. The goal was to ensure better connectivity and user experience in all facilities.
 - The Department accepted 24,000 unique users on the guest network in the last month. Averaging around 2,500 per day.
- **Park Police Community Day**
 - On Wednesday, August 13, 2024, the Maryland National-Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division hosted its annual Park Police Community Day at Watkins Regional Park. This marquee program was created to foster positive relationships between law enforcement and the various communities the Department serves by showcasing Mounted, Canine (K9), Motor, Patrol, Investigative and Community Engagement Units and others. Park Police invited other local and federal law enforcement agencies to participate in the event.

- At no cost to the community, Park Police provided live musical performances by Let it Flow, inflatables, numerous activities such as carnival style rides, free food, and numerous food and beverage vendors.
- In previous years, Community Day was held on the second Saturday of August and attracted approximately 1,000 attendees each year. In FY 2025, the event was held on a Wednesday evening and attracted nearly 2,000 residents from across the County.
- Agencies listed below participated in Community Day:
 - Prince George's County 311 services
 - Prince George's County States Attorney's Office of Community Relations
 - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Police (WSSC)
 - Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff
 - Greenbelt City Police Department
 - Maryland State Police Department- Aviation Unit, Highway Patrol
 - Prince George's County Police Department- Aviation Unit, Marine Unit, Community Services Team
 - Metro Transit Police Department
 - Seat Pleasant Police Department
 - My Sister's Closet
 - Tekau's Heart Foundation
 - Infinite Legacy
 - Dr. Rhonda Wood, International Mental Health Author, Speaker, Advocate