

PRINCE WILLIAM

Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Brodie Freer, Chair, Occoquan District
Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, At Large Member
Vida Carroll, Brentsville District
Jane Beyer, Vice Chair, Coles District
Rick Berry, Gainesville District
Ross W. Snare, IV, Neabsco District
Oriella Mejia, Potomac District
Sharon Richardson, Woodbridge District

June 18, 2025, 7:00 PM

George Hellwig Administrative Bldg. Board Room
14420 Bristow Rd. Manassas, VA

Commission Members Present

Rick Berry
Jane Beyer
Vida Carroll
Brodie Freer
Oriella Mejia
Benita Fitzgerald Mosley
Sharon Richardson
Ross Snare

Staff Present

Seth Hendler-Voss
Janet Bartnik
Joe Portell
Rob Orrison
Frances Bridges
John Blevins

Commission Members Absent

Secretary

Shannon Jaenicke

Guests

None

Citizens

See Sign In Sheet

Call to Order

At 7:00 p.m. Chair Brodie Freer called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order and Sharon Richardson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Administrative Items

RES 25-16 Approve Minutes of May 21, 2025. **APPROVED.** (RS:JB, Unanimous, Absent from Vote OM,)

Community Time

Joseph and Shawna King, Brentsville District residents adjacent to Prince William Golf Course, requested a meeting with staff regarding the function of their.

Presentations

Land Acquisition Process

Deputy Director Janet Bartnik and Planning Manager Patti Pakkala presented an informational overview of the department's process for acquiring park land. [Presentation is available from Secretary to the Commission]

Parks Needs Assessment

Director Seth Hendler-Voss presented the results of the 2024 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment. [Presentation is available from Secretary to the Commission].

Ms. Mosley suggested that an explanation of how the priority investment ratings were calculated be provided when sharing these results with the public.

Ms. Carroll asked if the data could be provided by magisterial district.

Committee Reports

None

Old Business

None

New Business

RES 25-17 Appoint Ross Snare and Vida Carroll to Officer Nominating Committee. **APPROVED (SR: JB, Unanimous)**

The Commissioners discussed a future Joint meeting of Parks and Recreation Commission and Trails and Blueways Council in August.

RES 25-18 Motion to plan and schedule a joint meeting of the Trails and Blueways Council. **APPROVED (JB:RS, Unanimous)**

Director Time

Director Seth Hendler-Voss provided the following updates:

- Some exciting award announcements are coming soon!
- All pools are open. We had a few partial closures over the weekend but hopefully the kinks are worked out. Pools will be open tomorrow for Juneteenth.
- Camps are running smoothly, we are really proud of our aquatic and summer camp staff
- There is a Juneteenth and Me event tomorrow at the Connaughton Plaza at 4:00 with fireworks, festivities and music.
- There will be a community resource fair on June 28th from 10 to 1:30 at the Chinn Library parking lot. We will be there with our sister agencies to share all the great resources that we provide the community
- The fiscal year 27 budget will kick off in August
- July is parks and Recreation month. DPR has exciting things planned including 3 mobile Rec On Wheels Outreach events, a Parks and Rec Month proclamation at the BOCS meeting on July 8th, at 2 pm, please join us for come out for a big photo in the atrium ; our second Fridays at 5 concert July 11t with special activities planned including debuting the Sona Arch, a piece of interactive play equipment.
- The employee engagement survey results are in. The department engagement score has increased to 77 up from 73 last year.
- Trail work at Featherstone Wildlife Refuge has resumed, we had a pause there for eagle nesting.
- The accessibility project behind Dale City Rec Center is underway
- The Howison park accessibility improvements and building project is moving along \
- The Chinn Center pool rehab will start in August 11 to Dec 1. The rest of the facility will be open

during the duration of the project. Alternative pools are available, and patrons will have the option to pause their fitness plan passes.

Commissioner's Time

Ms. Carroll	Tried to attend Trails Master Plan but could not due to a flat tire. She followed up with Liz and had a productive conversation; John, Ryan and Veronica have been helping with I Can Swim Camp next week at Colgan, thank you; she asked for an update on Chair Jefferson's Directive on a Recreation Center Feasibility Study (Seth responded that staff is working on a the project scope of work to issue a request for proposals)
Ms. Mosley	None.
Ms. Beyer	Attended Trails Master Planning Charette on the 29th, very effective facilitation by staff, the meeting went very well; she attended Dumfries Tavern night, which was well attended in spite of threat of rain, she was impressed with the new exhibits at the Ordinary. She met Lori from Communications at the event and the exhibits Lori helped to create at the Ordinary are very well done. As Lori is retiring this Friday, she was happy to meet Lori's replacement, Mark.
Mr. Berry	Attended the Trails Master Planning Charette, the citizens participation and staff facilitation was really well done.
Mr. Snare	None
Ms. Mejia	Thanked staff for follow-ups provided from last month's meeting; she is unsure of her attendance for the July meeting.
Ms. Richardson	Commended staff on tonight's presentations and the very good overview of what is coming; She attended the Trails Master Plan Charette and found it fascinating to see the needs and common interests of those in attendance, she hopes that staff received good data and input.
Chair Freer	Thanked Patti and Kathryn for their work in Planning. He attended the Trails Master Planning Charette and looks forward to what information is developed. He thanked DPR staff for all that they do, with special thanks to the staff involved with summer seasonal facilities and programs.

Closed Session

None.

Adjournment

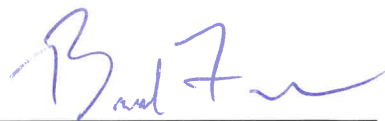
RES 25-19

Motion to Adjourn at 9:15 pm. **APPROVED (RS: SR, Unanimous, Absent from Meeting-BM)**

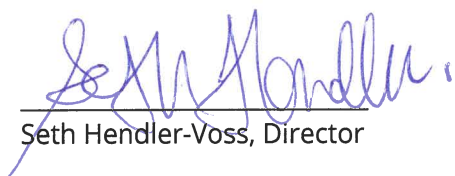


The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held on July 16, 2025, at the Hellwig Park Administration Building.

Minutes **APPROVED** at Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on July 16, 2025.



Brodie Freer, Chair


Seth Hendler-Voss, Director
Shannon Jaenicke, Secretary

- Parks, Recreation & Tourism

SIGN-IN SHEET

Please Print Name / Address / Phone Number / Email

Name

Phone #

Email

[illegible]



LAND ACQUISITION PROCESSES

PARKS COMMISSION PRESENTATION - MAY 21, 2025

4 TOOLS FOR BEHAVIOR CHANGE



Programs

Good stuff, but watch
for self-selection



Practices

This is truly all about
modeling



Policies

Can be a “carrot” or a
“stick” and are
generally effective



Built Env.

Making healthy
choices the easy
choices - proximity

4 TOOLS FOR BEHAVIOR CHANGE



Programs

Good stuff, but watch
for self-selection



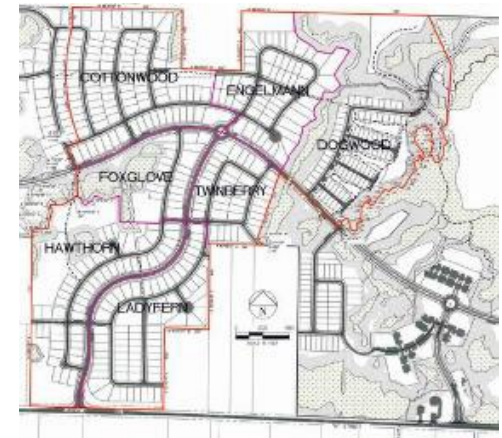
Practices

This is truly all about
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Policies

Can be a “carrot” or a
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Built Env.

Making healthy
choices the easy
choices - proximity

Prince William County Comp Plan – Parks Chapter

Policy 1: Retain and Acquire a minimum of 5% of County land area for County parks and trails

Policy 3: Encourage others to help mitigate park development needs

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan

Strategy 1: Growing the Park System

Strategy 3: Park Development through Private Sector Partnerships



PRINCE WILLIAM
— Parks, Recreation & Tourism

**Parks, Recreation & Open Space
Master Plan
2020**



Typical Land Acquisition Methods:



Dedication

Donation

Purchase

Condemnation

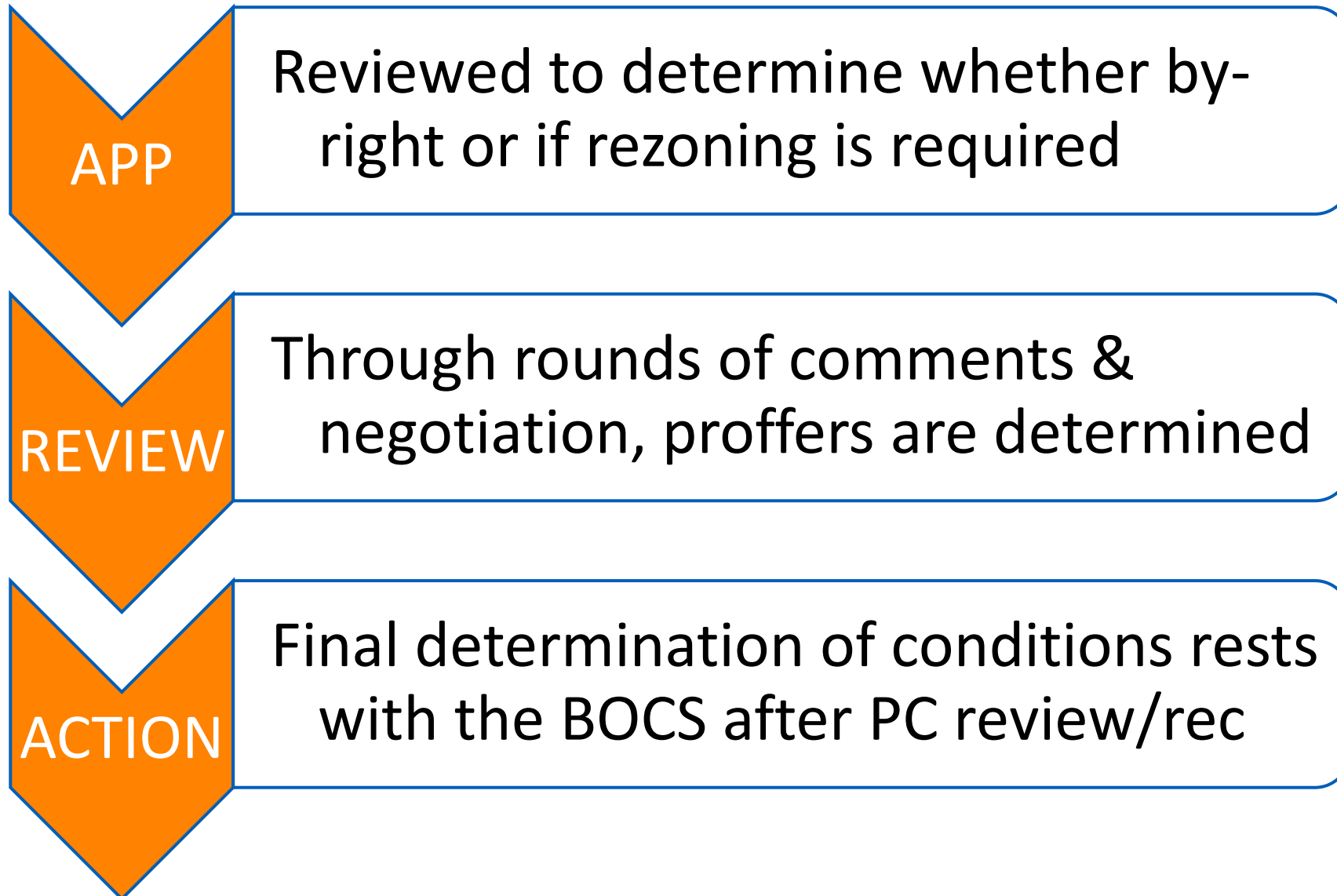
Lease

Basis for Land Dedication:

New residential development generates a need for additional park land and/or amenities.

Those creating the need should bear a proportionate share of the cost.







Nollan & Dolan:

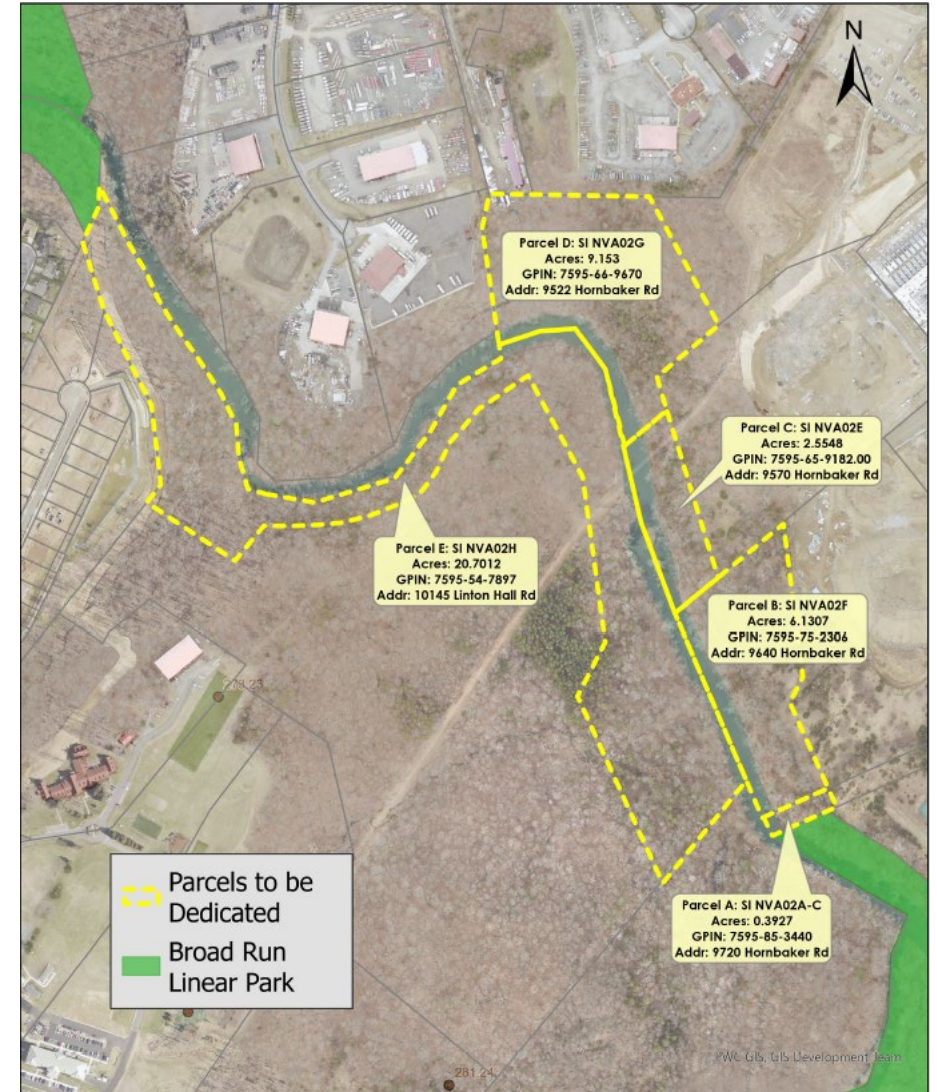
The Nollan-Dolan Standard refers to a two-part test used by courts to evaluate the constitutionality of exactions imposed on property owners seeking development permits.

Nexus – there must be a clear connection between the permit condition and the legitimate public interest pursued

Rough Proportionality – the requirement must be proportionate to the burden created by the development

Landowners may voluntarily donate property to a public park agency for preservation or recreational use.

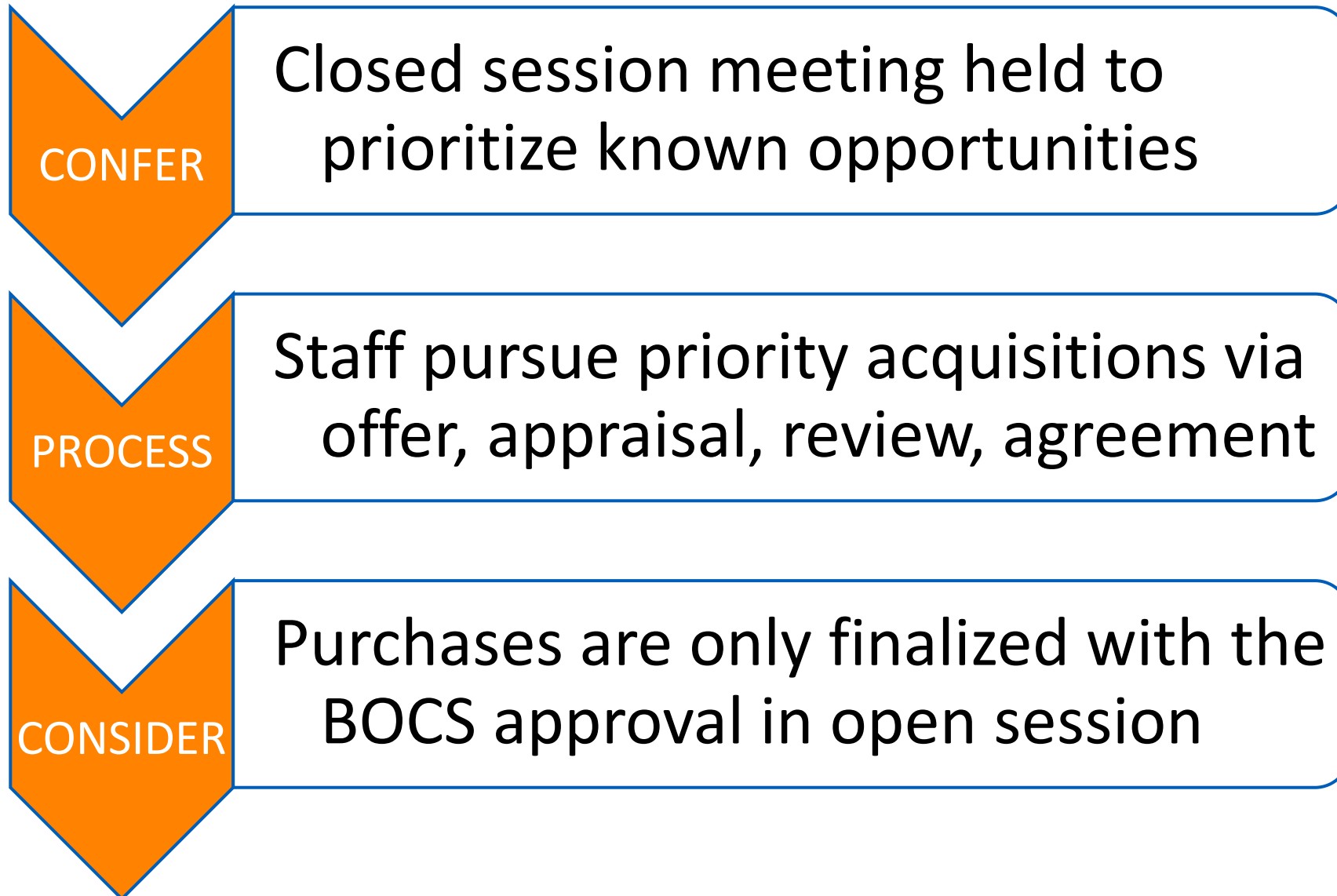
- Land
- Easements

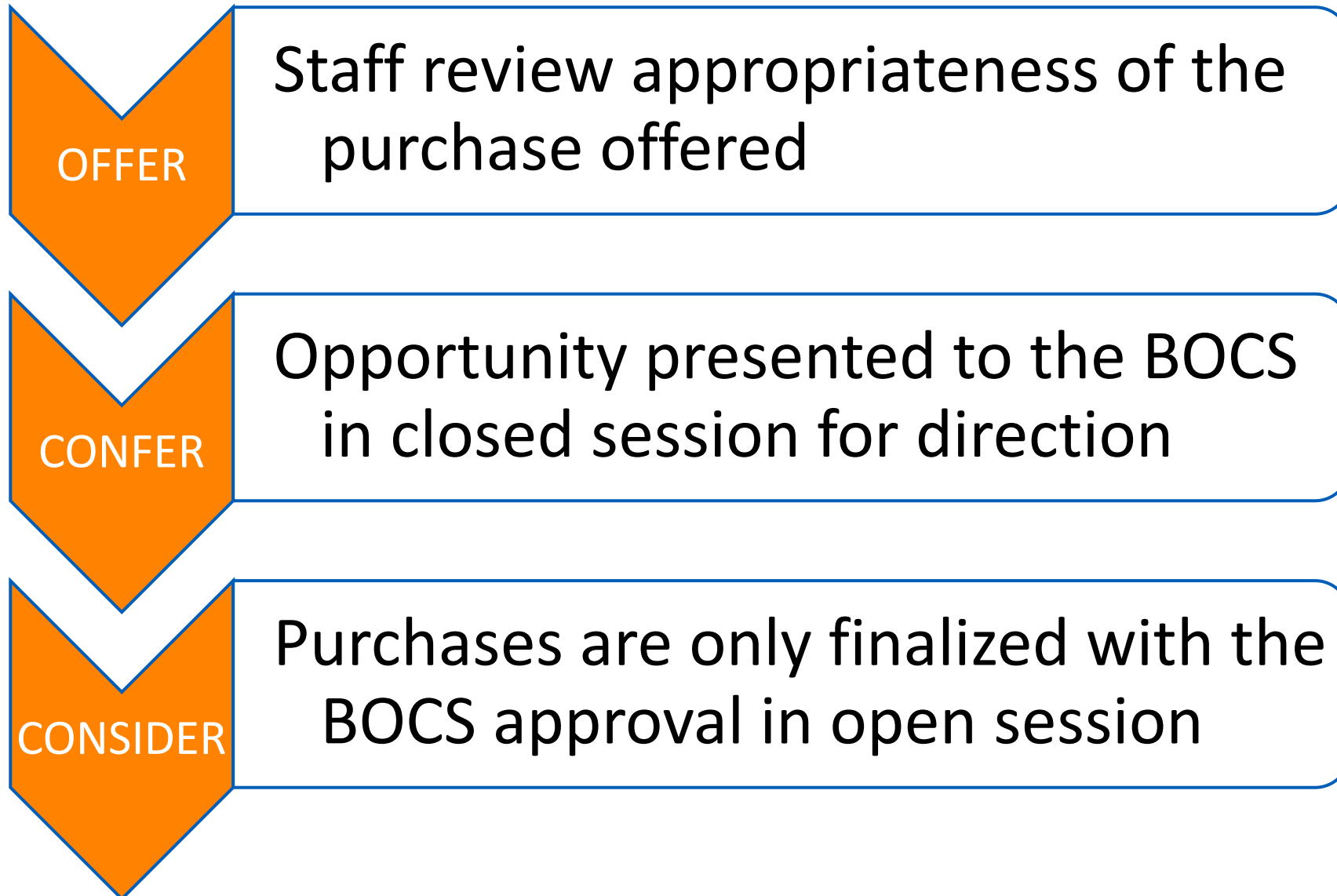




Landowners may voluntarily sell property to a public park agency for preservation or recreational use.

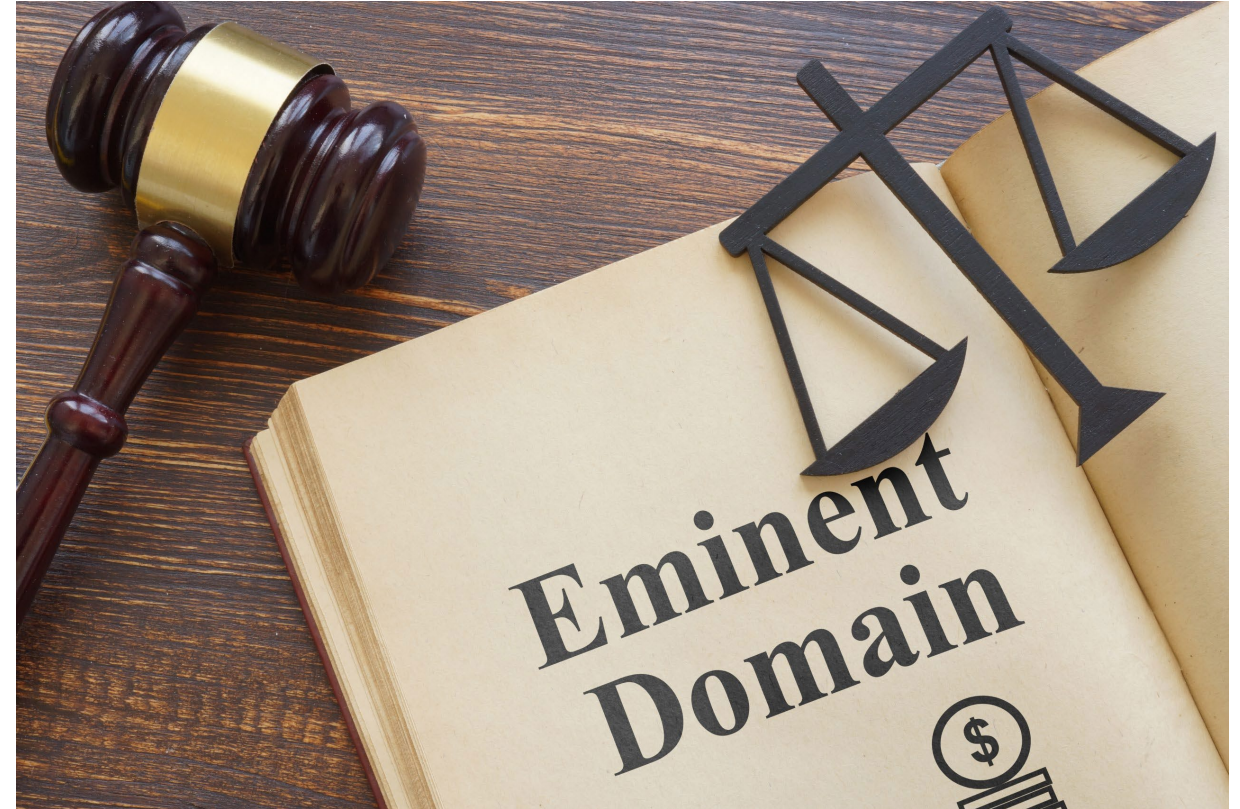
- Planned property purchases
- Opportunities for purchase
- Easements





When voluntary negotiations fail, public agencies may invoke the power of eminent domain.

- Last resort
- Highly structured process
- Rarely used for parks





K9 Gunner Dog Park is leased from LRPRA.

Sometimes ownership is not feasible. Leasing property can be an option.

- Temporary solution
- Lease agreement needed

ACQUISITION/DONATION

Neabsco Regional Park – addition

Doves Landing Park – addition

Thoroughfare Historic Site

Williams-Dawe House

Veterans Park – addition

Ned Distiller Home

Prior Proffer Donations - transferred

ACQUISITION/DONATION - COMING

Preserve at Long Branch / Sinclair Mill

Avanti Parcels – Broad Run Greenway

Rollins Farm

Prince William County's efforts to grow park acreage are showing results.

2020 Master Plan GOAL:
10,000 acres (5%)

2020 Acreage Total – 4510 ac.

2025 Acreage Total – 5311 ac.
+801 acres in 5 yrs



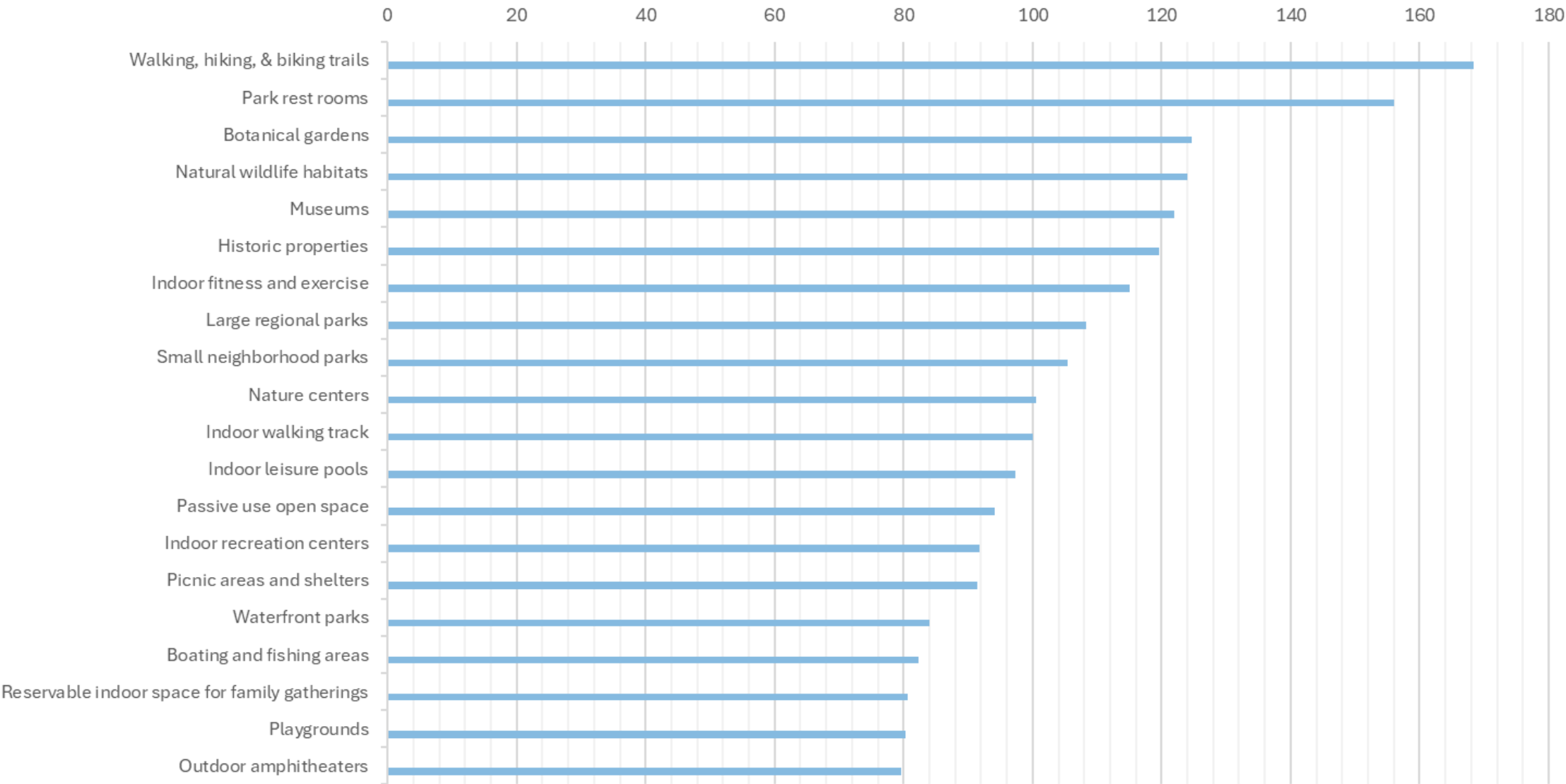
Needs Assessment data can inform the types of land sought.

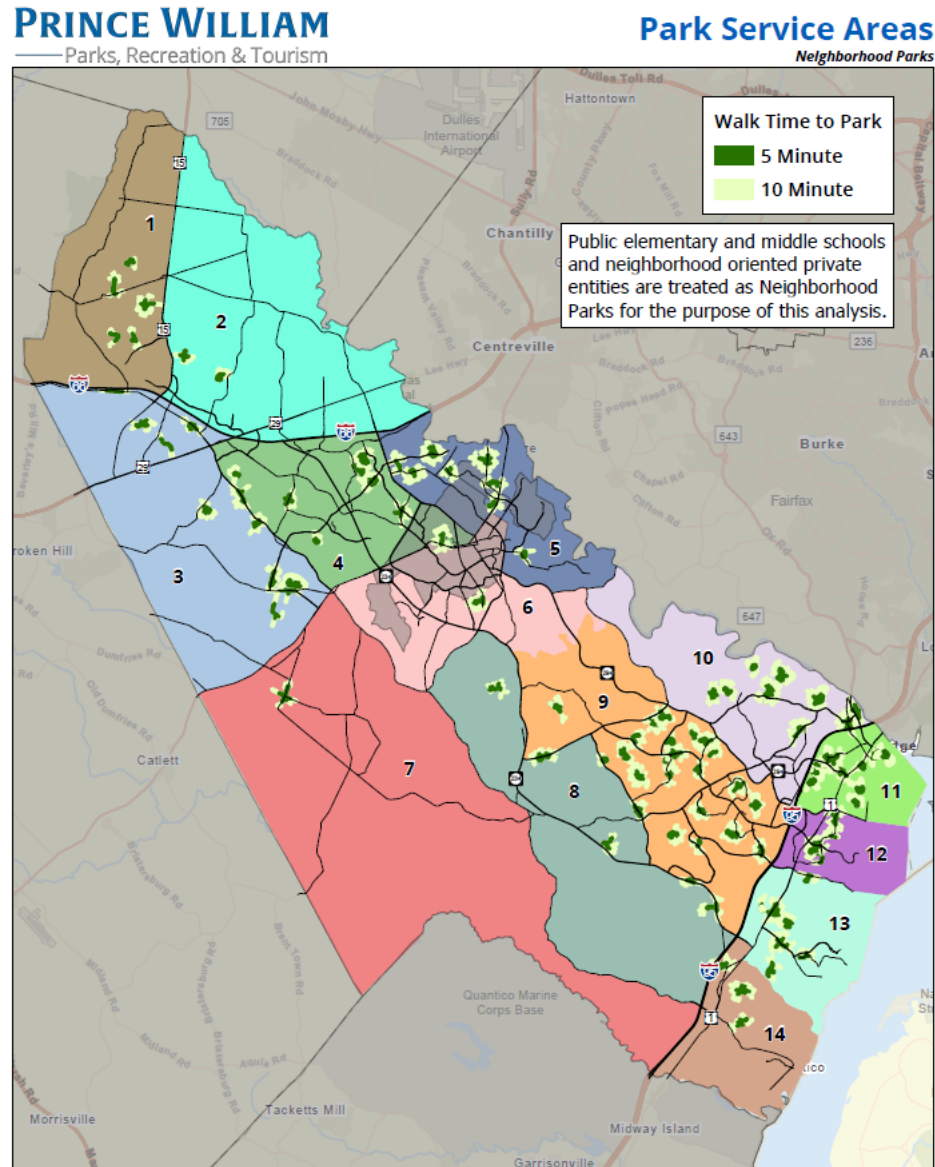
Priority Investment Ratings:

1. Walking, hiking, and biking trails
2. Park rest rooms
3. Botanical gardens
4. Natural wildlife habitats
5. Museums
6. Historic properties
7. Indoor fitness and exercise



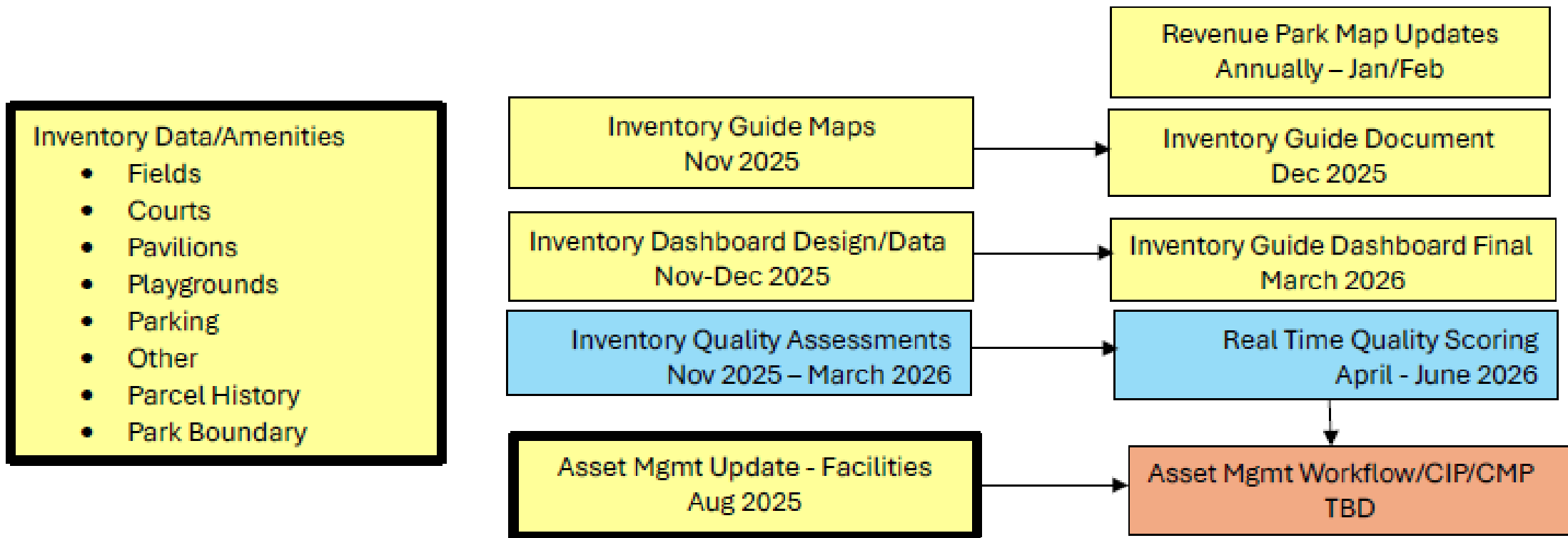
Priority Investment Rating



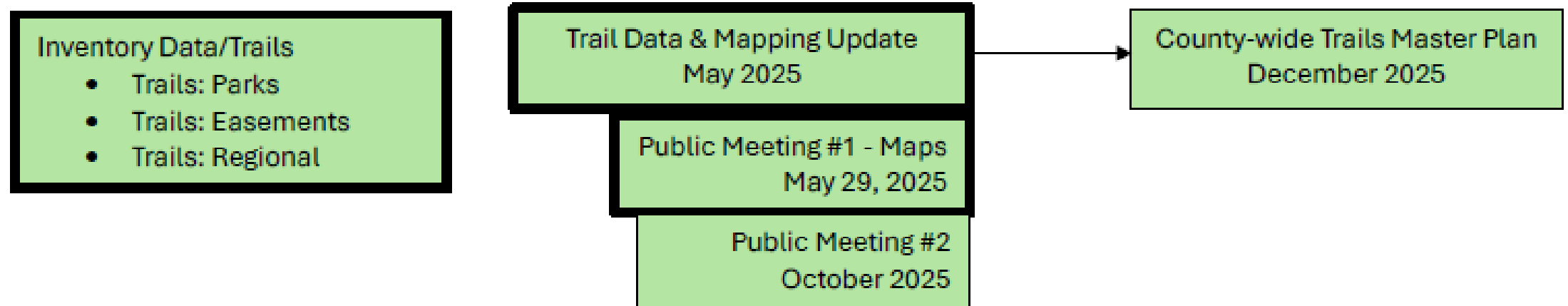


- GIS-based tracking of the walk/drive time to a park assists in identifying investment priority locations.
- Work is under way to update this analysis from the 2020 Comp Plan.

Park Land and Facility Update



Trail Corridor Assessments



Level of Service Standards

Comp Plan Level of Service

- Park Type
- Level of Development
- Park & Amenity Quality
- Percent of Land Area
- Service Area
- Park Planning Districts

Service Area Map/Data
May-July 2025

Park Type/Level of Dev. Analysis –
Annually

% Land Area Analysis – Annually

Park Planning District Analysis

- Level of Service (5 factors)
- Demographics- from others
- Facility Needs (?)

Mag. District Reports - TBD
Annually - July




LAND ACQUISITION PROCESSES

Questions?



May 22, 2025

TO: Christopher Shorter, County Executive

FROM: Seth Hendler-Voss, Director of Parks and Recreation 

THRU: Elijah Johnson, Deputy County Executive

RE: 2024 Needs Assessment Survey Report Summary

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with accreditation requirements, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) conducts a Needs Assessment Survey (NAS) every five (5) years to assess resident usage and demand for park facilities, amenities, and programs. The survey results are used to guide future funding and prioritization decisions in the county's park system to meet both current and future community needs. The DPR conducted a NAS in 2019, and the latest NAS was conducted at the end of 2024 and finalized in February 2025. Polco/National Research Center (NRC) implemented the survey on the Department's behalf and prepared the findings report. NRC is the same firm that conducted the county's 2024 Community Survey.

Two survey methods were used to solicit community input. The first is the statistically valid random sample survey, which resulted in 194 completed responses from 7,000 mailed surveys to county households. The second was an open participation survey made available to all residents in Prince William County and resulted in an additional 564 completed surveys.

The 95% confidence level for this survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 7%, which is within the standard range for surveys of this kind.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Prince William County's parks and parks facilities are heavily used by residents.

- Around 50% of respondents reported using Prince William County parks or parks facilities at least once per month, and more than 1 in 5 indicated they visited at least once per week.
- Newer county residents, homes without children, and older residents indicated significantly lower levels of use.

Of the 77% of residents who have visited a park, trail, or facility in the past 12 months, 93% report having a “good” or “excellent” experience.

Walking, hiking, and biking trails remain the MOST IMPORTANT facility to provide. Respondents indicate that several of these amenities are meeting respondents’ needs at least at a 50% level.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2024</u>
Walking, hiking, and biking trails	1 (43%)	1 (41% of respondents)
Park Restrooms*		2 (26%)
Natural wildlife habitats	2 (22%)	3 (18%)
Indoor fitness and exercise facilities	3 (20%)	4 (18%)

* Park restrooms were not included as an amenity to rate in the 2019 survey.

Adult fitness and wellness programs remain the MOST IMPORTANT programs to provide. Community special events rose in importance from 2019 results. Respondents indicate that several of these programs are meeting respondents’ needs at least at a 50% level.

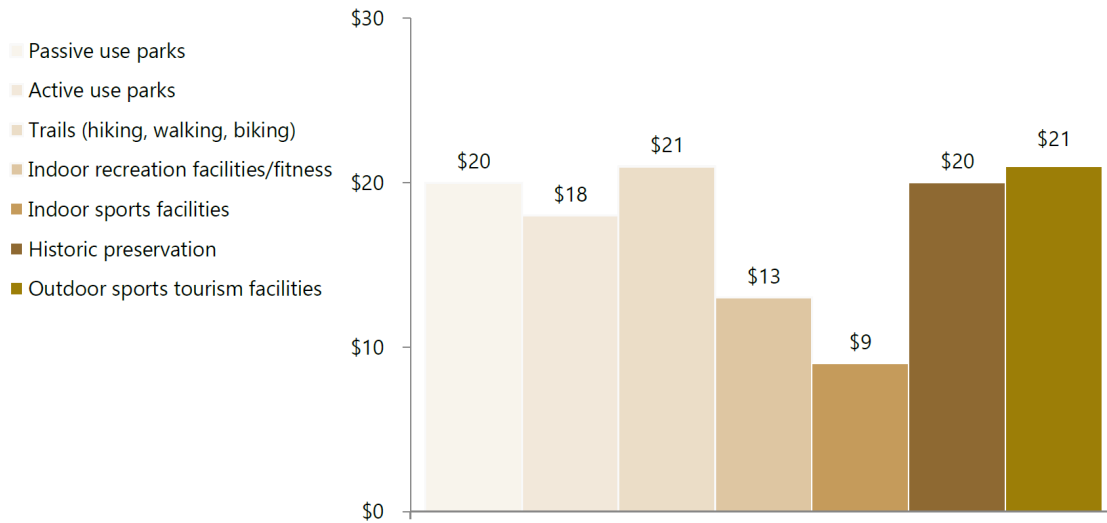
<u>Program</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2024</u>
Adult fitness and wellness programs	1 (40%)	1 (37% of respondents)
Community special events	5 (17%)	2 (31%)
History programs*		3 (25%)
Active older adult programs	4 (20%)	4 (25%)
Nature programs	2 (22%)	5 (18%)

* History programs were not included as an amenity to rate in the 2019 survey.

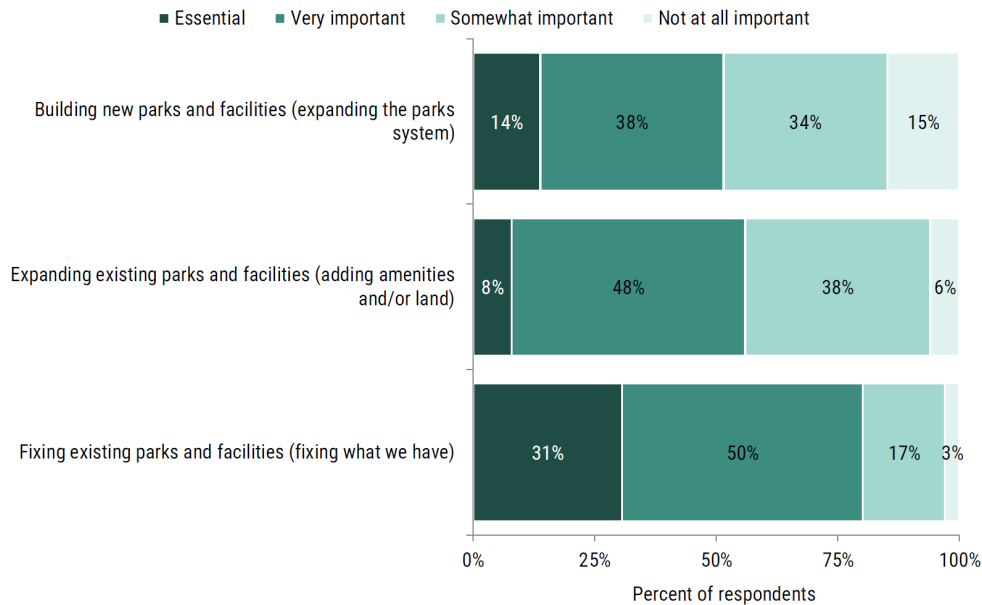
When asked to prioritize amongst possible investment categories, “outdoor sports tourism facilities (e.g. large baseball complex)”, “trails,” “historic preservation,” and “passive use parks” were ranked as the top four.

FIGURE 7: FUNDING AND SPENDING PREFERENCES, 2024

If you were given \$100 to spend on the Parks and Recreation System, how would you split the amount?
You may split the funding any way you wish; however, the sum **MUST** equal \$100.
(Note: The average investment for each is shown below)



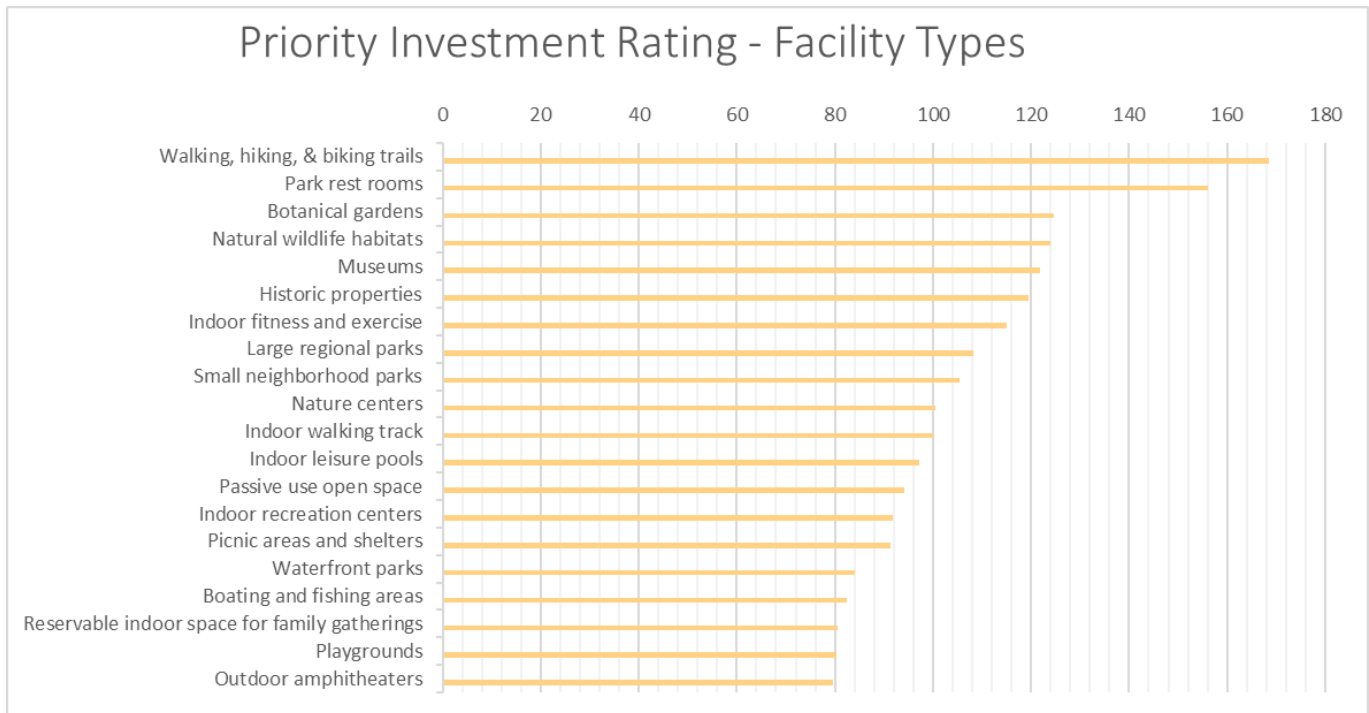
81% of respondents stated that fixing existing parks and facilities was “very important” to “essential,” versus 56% who selected expanding existing parks and facilities and 52% who stated building new parks and facilities were “very important” to “essential.”



30% of residents report traveling outside of Prince William County to have their recreation needs met, primarily for hiking, pools, and better playgrounds (based on those who reported the reason).

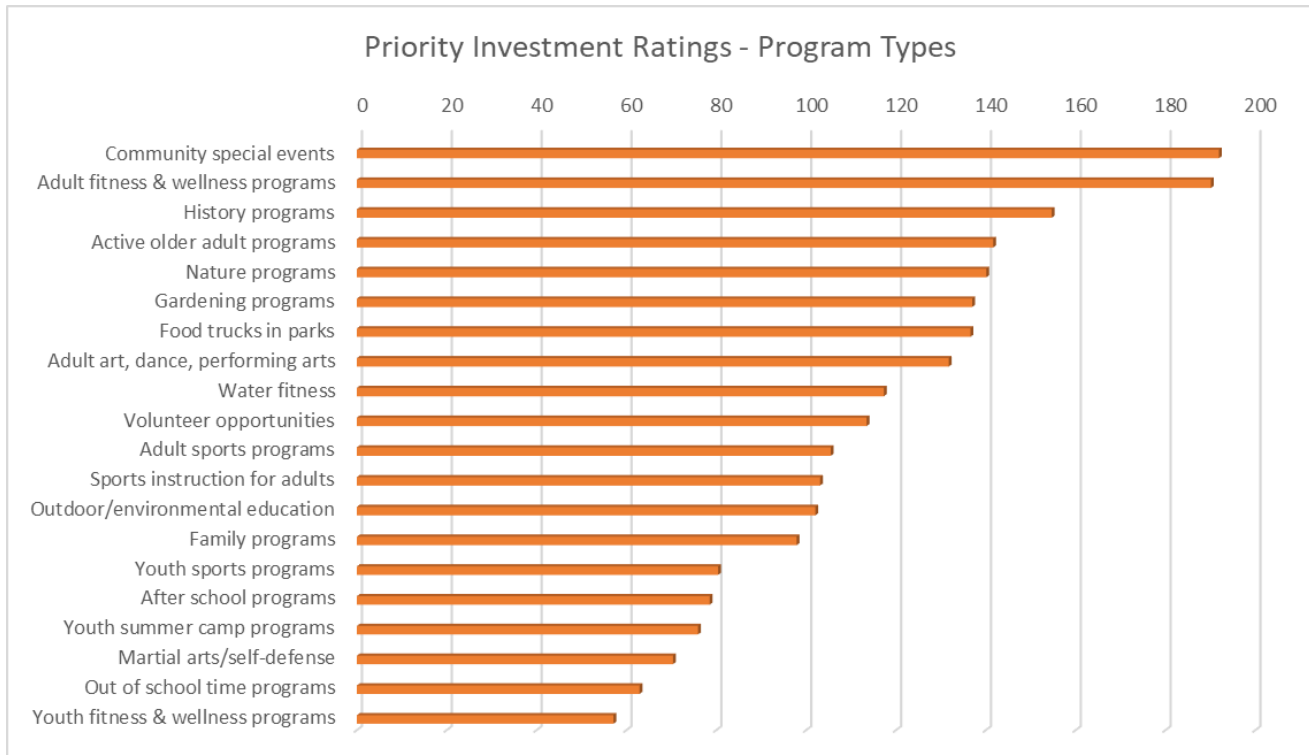
When factoring in overall resident need for a particular park type, park amenity, or facility with the importance they place on said things, the expressed level of importance, the top five community priorities are:

- ***Walking, hiking, and biking trails***
- ***Park restrooms***
- ***Botanical gardens***
- ***Natural wildlife habitats***
- ***Museums***



When factoring in overall resident need for a program with the importance they place on said programs, the top five community priorities are:

- **Community special events**
- **Adult fitness and wellness programs**
- **History programs**
- **Active older adult programs**
- **Nature programs**



ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

Regarding the most important park amenities, “walking, hiking, and biking trails,” “natural wildlife habitats,” and “indoor fitness and exercise facilities” continue to rank in the top four compared to the 2019 survey.

Regarding the most important programs, “adult fitness and wellness programs,” “nature programs,” “active older adult programs,” and “community special events” continue to rank in the top five compared to the 2019 survey.

Thanks to the actions of the Board of County Supervisors, the county’s current level of investment aligns with the following community priorities:

- “Fixing what we have.”
- Trail maintenance for “walking, hiking, and biking trails.”
- Dedicated annual appropriation for “community special events.”
- New historic properties to provide additional “history programs.”

Areas of opportunities where the county could strengthen alignment with the community priorities in the future include:

- Adding park restrooms (replacing port-a-johns)
- Building museums, indoor fitness centers and botanical gardens
- Building outdoor sports tourism facilities
- Addressing the 30% leakage from residents who report leaving the county to meet their recreation needs for hiking trails, pools, and larger, and modern playgrounds

NEXT STEPS

DPR will share the NAS results with the Parks and Recreation Commission, Trails and Blueways Council, and the Arts Council.

The official NAS summary will be published on the county website and DPR social media.

DPR will consider the NAS data when planning new program offerings and making capital project recommendations.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

(571) 358-4893

Shendler-voss@pwcgov.org

Attachment: 2024 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Report of Results, February 2025