

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	EXISTING CONDITIONS	PUBLIC INPUT	GOALS AND POLICIES	PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS	MAINTAINING THE P.O.S.T. SYSTEM	IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
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# OVERVIEW

## WHAT IS A P.O.S.T. PLAN?

## Chapter 2

- 2.1 WHAT'S IN THE PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS PLAN?
- 2.2 BENEFITS OF A CONNECTED P.O.S.T. SYSTEM
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The Town of Frederick's system of parks, open space, and trails represents one of the community's greatest assets. It provides opportunities for a range of recreation activities -- from quiet contemplation to vigorous active sports. Park and open space amenities are within walking distance for the majority of the Town's residents, provide relief from urban development, and protect valuable natural resources. The existing network of trails offers safe, efficient access to a number of important park and open space facilities. Even with a strong existing system in place, there is still room for improvement and expansion. The following **Parks, Open Space, and Trails (P.O.S.T.) Master Plan** will provide a road map for improving existing facilities and accommodating future growth.



*Figure 2-1: An appealing mix of open space and single-family homes.*

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## 2.1 WHAT'S IN THE PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS PLAN?

This plan is the Town of Frederick's first Parks, Open Space and Trails (P.O.S.T.) Plan. It identifies the recreation needs of today's residents, anticipates those of tomorrow, and provides a framework for creating a vibrant system of parks, open space, and trails. To do so, the P.O.S.T. Master Plan:

- ✦ Evaluates the existing assets to understand how current residents are being served and creates a baseline against which future needs will be evaluated.
- ✦ Incorporates public input from a wide spectrum of sources to help determine the direction necessary for preserving and improving Frederick's quality of life and to establish a vision for the Plan.
- ✦ Projects future demographics and creates the planning process (policies, actions, etc.) to ensure that the P.O.S.T. system will grow in proportion to the Town.
- ✦ Creates a P.O.S.T. classification system and standards to assist in the evaluation of future parks.
- ✦ Builds on the policies established in the Comprehensive Plan.
- ✦ Defines maintenance criteria.
- ✦ Establishes potential costs and a prioritized implementation plan.



Figure 2-2: Residents of Frederick enjoy their parks in a variety of ways.

## 2.2 BENEFITS OF A CONNECTED P.O.S.T. SYSTEM

- ✦ A strong P.O.S.T. system offers a wide range of health, environmental, and economic benefits.
- ✦ P.O.S.T. facilities provide opportunities for people to remain active and healthy. Studies show that when people have access to both active and passive recreation facilities, they will exercise more. And of course, exercise contributes to physical and psychological health.
- ✦ P.O.S.T. facilities provide the opportunity to congregate and to strengthen communities. Access to well-designed and maintained parks offers a means for a variety of people to interact together and even been linked to a reduction in juvenile crime rates.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sherer, Paul. "Why American Needs More City Parks and Open Space."

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- ⌘ Well-maintained P.O.S.T. facilities increase economic value. They make neighborhoods and towns attractive places to live and work. Generally, they increase the value of adjacent properties.
- ⌘ The “green infrastructure” of a continuous and connected P.O.S.T. system provides environmental benefits. Parks and open areas offer relief from urban development. They create a sense of openness and visual corridors to the mountains. Trees and grasses together create a “green infrastructure” that reduces air and water pollution, helps to maintain cooler temperatures and helps to reduce/manage storm runoff. Green infrastructure can create edge habitat that increases species diversity and preserves wildlife corridors.

## 2.3 MAINTAINING AND UPDATING THE PLAN

To be effective, it is important that the P.O.S.T. Plan is consistent with other planning documents and is kept current to reflect any policy changes adopted by the Town.

The Plan is intended to be a “living document,” that reflects Frederick’s attitudes, conditions, and needs. Over time, circumstances will change, new opportunities will arise, and other opportunities will inevitably be foreclosed. The Plan needs to be adjusted to reflect these new conditions. If this is not done, it will gradually slip out of currency, and will cease to be an effective reference and guide for decision-making. To remain current, the Plan must be reviewed and updated at least annually.

Making decisions that are not consistent with the P.O.S.T. Master Plan will undermine its effectiveness. When this happens, the master plan is no longer a reflection of the Town’s goals and policies -- reducing its usefulness and effectiveness as a guide for decision-making. To avoid this, the Town should adopt a “consistency policy” - that is, a policy that all parks, open space and trail decisions will be consistent with the Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan. The impact of this policy is that, when actions are proposed that are not consistent with the master plan, the Town will either modify the proposed action to be consistent with the Plan, or amend the Plan, or both.

Finally, since this Plan was developed comprehensively, (considering a broad range of factors and with broad public input) changes to the Plan should be considered in a similar comprehensive manner.

## 2.4 THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

In 2006, the Town of Frederick adopted its current Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is the Town’s guide for future land use and development decisions, both public and private.

The Comprehensive Plan includes projections for how Frederick will grow, which is critical for planning a P.O.S.T. system. In 2010, there are approximately 8,500 people living in the Town of Frederick. The town is primarily comprised of young and middle-aged heads of households and the average household size is 2.75 persons. Based on the future land uses in the Comprehensive Plan, Frederick’s population has been projected to reach 80,000 residents by the year 2030.

The Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan is a graphic representation that indicates where future residential development will take place -- essentially projecting the supply of housing that will be available as Frederick grows. In evaluating the Land Use Map for the P.O.S.T. Plan, it was determined that a more realistic projection is that the Town will add approximately 22,000 new households, with an average household size of 2.75, this translates into a buildout population of roughly 70,000. Figure 2.3 on the following page illustrates how homes are served by the Town’s existing park system and where growth is likely to occur.

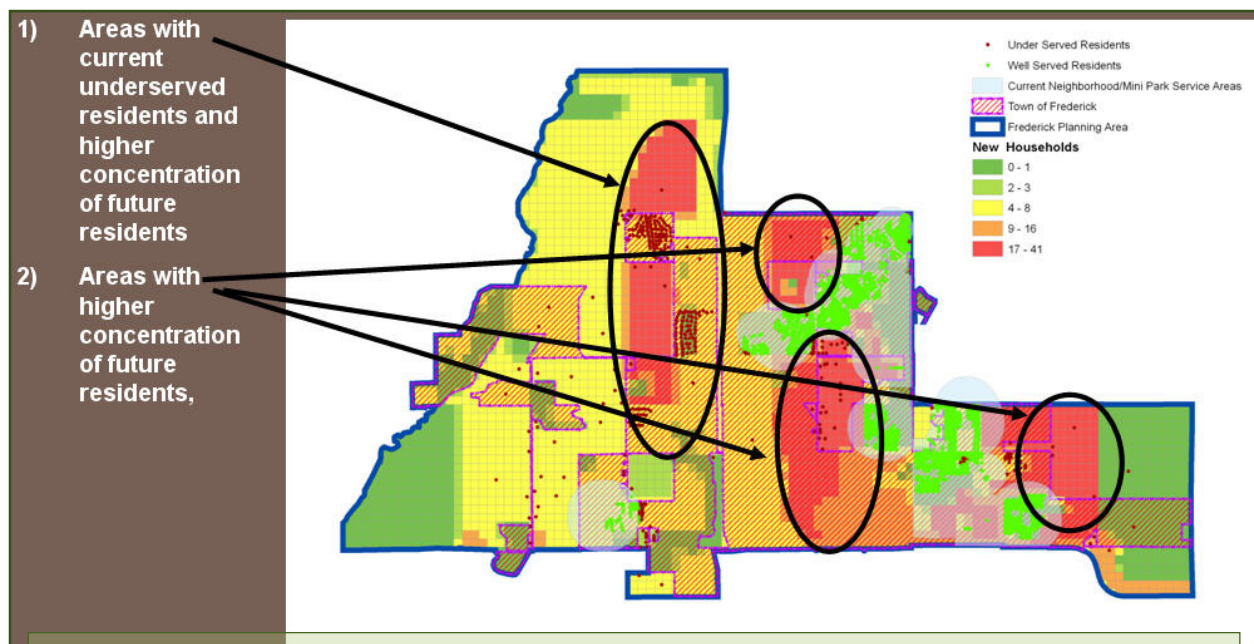


Figure 2-3: Comprehensive Plan map that illustrates general areas of increased households.