



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable City Council President Nick Mosby Members of the City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Reginald Moore, Executive Director, Baltimore City Recreation & Parks
<b>DATE</b>	October 3, 2024
<b>SUBJECT</b>	City Council Bill 24-0583 - Adoption of 2024 Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Baltimore

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Baltimore City Recreation & Parks (BCRP) has been assigned City Council Bill 24-0583, for the purpose of reviewing, revising, and adopting the 2024 Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Baltimore; and providing for a special effective date

In the proposed plan: Trees and Forests, the plan includes the following:

- a. Increase public education and awareness for the City's natural resources to create a more informed public that can support conservation efforts
- b. Increase the City's tree canopy using native and heat-tolerant species in the neighborhoods experiencing frequent instances of extreme heat to reduce heat island effects
- c. Increase the survival rate of trees planted by the City to better maintain the tree canopy and its cooling effects
- d. Preserve the City's existing canopy, including street trees, forested areas, and other natural areas as a way to manage heat, water runoff, and improve overall quality of life

The efforts to increase public awareness, increase and preserve the City's tree canopy, and to better maintain our existing trees are in line with BCRP's mission and are a primary focus of BCRP's Forestry Division.

The section highlighting: *Access to Parks, Opens Spaces and Recreation* aligns closely with the Department of Planning's Comprehensive Plan. BCRP has participated in the development of the DOP plan, attended public meetings and actively contributed to providing data. Their plan aligns with our present work to develop an agency 10–15-year comprehensive vision and plan for recreation and parks programs and facilities.

This plan, known as the *BCRP Playbook*, is an equity-driven comprehensive planning effort for

the recreation and parks and system. The plan will incorporate three key components: A Capital Investment Strategy, Operations Plan, and Funding Plan (for Capital and Operations as well as a Strategy for Agency Revenue Generation and Cost Recovery). These components will inform and support one another as part of the overall 10–15-year comprehensive vision and plan for the citywide recreation and parks system.

BCRP would like to request that the plan reflect the additional funding required to support the increased capital improvements and maintenance operations. The BCRP Playbook lays out specific recommendations to support the agency’s overall need for additional funding.

Baltimore City Recreation & Parks respectfully requests a favorable report for this bill. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Morgan at [jmorgan@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:jmorgan@baltimorecity.gov)