



DESTINATION ACTIVE BALTIMORE

PLAN FOR A NEW COMMUNITY CENTER NETWORK

In response to the directives outlined in the 2011 Mayor's Task Force for Recreation Centers Report, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP) has developed an updated Recreation and Aquatics Facilities Plan. It features 1) substantial capital investment, 2) improved programming for more diverse audiences and increased operating hours per week, and 3) improved facility maintenance. The plan was informed by 10 stakeholder meetings, a review of national trends, a geographic gap analysis of recreation facilities coverage and an assessment of services currently offered by Recreation and Parks and other providers.

QUICK FACTS —UNDER THIS PLAN

- The Department has already appropriated over \$49 million to build or extensively renovate five (5) new community centers and one park pool;
- More than \$136 million in additional investment in fitness and wellness, community centers, indoor/outdoor pools and splash pads, and athletic field complexes would be made. **Garage Sale proceeds are anticipated to comprise one-third to one-half of the capital funds needed;**
- The Department currently operates 40 recreation centers. Under the new plan no centers will close. The Department will add over 299,000 sq. ft. of new recreation space to the existing inventory through new and transformed centers, including 11 fitness and wellness centers.
- The Department will triple the number of indoor pools from three (3) to nine (9).
- Staffing and operating hours will be increased at most City recreation centers;
- Program improvements will expand fitness classes and activities for all ages;
- The Department has already expanded our summer camp programming, Camp Baltimore, to eight weeks in 2014;

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN

1. Plan for Capital Investment

Projects Completed, In Design or Under Construction

- **Morrell Park Community Center** — This new 17,000-square foot two-story facility, includes a gymnasium, locker rooms and four activity/ exercise rooms with a mezzanine level containing a reception area, office, computer lab, activity room, community meeting space with a kitchen, restrooms, storage space and an outdoor deck. This project was completed in June 2014. **Cost: \$4.5 million**
- **Rita Church (Clifton Park) Fitness and Wellness Center** — An existing historic pavilion was converted into a recreation facility equipped with locker rooms, lounge, computer lab, kitchen, craft room, multipurpose room, game room and office space. The first phase of this project was completed in July 2013. A second phase, currently under construction, will add 11,500 square feet and include a gymnasium, and restrooms. The project is scheduled to open July 2016. **Cost (phase I and II): \$8 million**
- **C.C. Jackson Fitness and Wellness Center** — The existing recreation center, located in Park Heights, will be upgraded and expanded, adding a 7,000 s.f. building addition, parking and sport lighting at Ripken Field. The new addition will include an enlarged gymnasium, locker rooms, fitness area, program and game rooms. An earlier phase of the project completed in November 2013, in partnership with the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, create a new baseball field that replaced vacant housing on the site. The center project is scheduled to open June 2016. **Cost (phase I and II): \$7.25 million ▶**
- **Cherry Hill Fitness and Wellness Center**— This new facility will be located on the 800 block of Roundview Road in a campus like setting adjacent to Cherry Hill ES/ MS (#159) and replace both the existing Patapsco Recreation Center and Cherry Hill indoor pool facilities. The center will be 32,500 square feet and include an indoor pool, gymnasium, indoor track, multipurpose rooms, and fitness area. In final design, project completion is anticipated to be Fall 2018. **Cost: \$11.5 million**
- **Cahill Fitness and Wellness Center**—The existing center located in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park will be expanded or newly built. Presently in the early stages of design, the form of the new facility is yet to be determined. The center will be 32,000 square feet and will include performing arts facilities, an indoor pool, fitness area and provide a new focus on outdoor recreation and environmental programming. Project completion is anticipated for Spring 2019. **Cost: \$12 million**



- **Druid Hill Park Outdoor Aquatic Center** – The existing Druid Hill Outdoor Park Pool and bathhouse will be renovated to convert the pool to a water park. Bathhouse improvements will include restrooms, showers, locker rooms, staff offices and a concession space. Site and pool improvements will include new pool configuration, water park features, spray pad and outdoor volleyball courts. **Cost: \$6 million** ▶



Projects for Future Capital Investment

Fitness and Wellness Centers - Newly Construct and Substantially Rehabilitate Facilities

- The Department will expand facility size, programs and activities for all ages, operating hours and offer six to seven day operations at a total of 11 Fitness and Wellness Centers, both newly constructed and substantially rehabilitated. Similar to the center designs underway for Cherry Hill and Cahill, these centers represent a new approach to recreation for the Department emphasizing year-round programming. Most facilities will feature indoor pools, fitness areas, dance and multipurpose rooms, a gymnasium and locker rooms. These state-of-the-art 21st century centers will be multi-activity and multi-generational complexes providing a wide variety of recreation and aquatic programming for residents citywide. **Cost: \$84 million**

Community Centers – Renovate Existing Facilities (Total: 5)

- The Department will expand facility size, programs and activities for all ages, operating hours and offer six to seven day operations at five (5) facilities, including the newly constructed Morrell Park Community Center. These smaller centers will vary in size and programming depending upon location. Expanded spaces may include a fitness room, dance spaces, multi-purpose rooms, lobby and circulation areas, and locker rooms. Programming will likely serve more local residents. **Cost: \$20 million**

Create New or Upgrade Existing Outdoor Athletic Facilities

- The Department will create four (4) outdoor athletic centers focused around team field sports, playgrounds and fitness facilities located in parks. They will feature a field house, lighted athletic artificial turf fields, grass fields, a playground, an outdoor spray pad, walking loops, fitness stations and parking. These facilities will offer additional BCRP programs, opportunities for team league play, individual and family fitness and play. **Cost: \$20 million**

Upgrade Existing Outdoor Pools and Spray Pads

- The Department will upgrade four (4) existing outdoor pools, create three (3) new spray pads, renovate and improve bathhouse and pool facilities and provide new water park features. This will bring our facilities up to current industry standards. **Cost: \$13 million**

School-Based Recreation Spaces

- School-based recreation spaces will offer local recreation programs and activities operated in multi-purpose spaces housed within Baltimore City Public Schools' new 21st Century school buildings. BCRP will provide recreation programming at levels to be determined in conjunction with the local community and school needs. A total of 23 spaces are anticipated; implementation will follow the schedule and funding for the Baltimore City Public Schools' 21st Century Building Plan.

2. Recreation Program Strategy

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks is the leading provider of affordable, year-round leisure and recreational activities for citizens of all ages and abilities. BCRP has made great strides in its efforts to expand and improve quality program offerings. Programming at the new community center complexes and facilities will build upon the Department's vision to support active, healthy lifestyles. Communities will be encouraged to participate in the design and program development of the centers.

We have expanded operating hours during the summer and on scheduled Baltimore City Public School System school closings. We have introduced new initiatives such as Healthy U which provides professional fitness trainers and classes in recreation centers.

We remain committed to and focused on the development of:

- fitness and wellness programs and initiatives
- youth and teen programs
- youth and adult team sports
- active older adult programs
- family programs
- aquatic programs

3. Facility Maintenance

Since 2012 BCRP has implemented an aggressive facility maintenance program to make our recreation centers, and aquatic and special facilities brighter, more inviting, and safer. Almost all rec centers have been repainted, and more than half have new energy efficient lighting. Additional areas of concentration are roof repairs, floor replacements, and preventive maintenance programs for heating and air conditioning systems.