

Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) was awarded a grant from the National Park Service to develop an innovative vision and implementation plan to address the City's parks, open space and recreation system needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The final plan will be completed by October 2018.

The new plan will create a thoughtful and comprehensive agenda to:

- Guide the Department's acquisition of new assets, prioritization of capital projects and recreational activities and operations,
- Build advocacy and financial support for Baltimore's parks, open space and recreation system.

The year-long planning process will consist of three main tasks:

### **1. Public Engagement.**

This task will gather information from a cross section of residents and stakeholders to generate ideas for growing and maintaining an active recreation and park system accessible to all City residents. Public engagement will involve the following components:

- Resident Opinion Surveys (2 surveys - Citywide and of Recreation and Parks facility users)
- Public Outreach and Feedback - involving educational materials and community meetings
- A Community Advisory Group (CAG)- to ensure a diverse range of perspectives, provide input on key issues, guide specific study directions, review work products as needed; and help with public outreach.
- A City Agency Advisory Group (AAG) to align the project work with existing and ongoing city planning efforts.

### **2. Data Collection and Analysis**

This task will include collecting information about the existing recreation and parks system, population trends, user needs, and identify barriers to accessing recreation and parks. Data collection and analysis will involve the following components:

- Research innovative practices throughout the country to inform opportunities for Baltimore City
- Identify and map the recreation and park system's existing assets (GIS mapping and analysis)
- Assess needs, identify barriers and equity to access recreation and park resources (survey data, community feedback, city agency feedback and GIS mapping)

### **3. Recommendations and Implementation Priorities**

This task will develop recommendations and implementation priorities for investment in capital recreation and park facilities, recreation activities and programs as well as agency operations.

Recommendations and implementation priorities will include:

- Identify park facilities, programs and activities to be enhanced or modified
- Short, mid-and long-term implementation priorities and timeline
- Preliminary recommendations
- Final recommendations