

**PLANNING BOARD DRAFT**

# **Upper Rock Creek Area Master Plan**

An Amendment to the Approved and Adopted Comprehensive Amendment to The Upper Rock Creek Master Plan 1985, as amended; The Master Plan of Bikeways 1978, as amended; The General Plan (On Wedges and Corridors) for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, as amended; and The Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County, as amended

Prepared by:

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION**

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July 2003

Approved by:

**THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**

Adopted by:

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION**

## ABSTRACT

TITLE: Planning Board Draft Upper Rock Creek Area Master Plan

AUTHOR: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

SUBJECT: Comprehensive update of the *Comprehensive Amendment to the Upper Rock Creek Master Plan*, 1985

DATE: July 2003

PLANNING AGENCY: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
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ABSTRACT: This master plan update is a comprehensive review of land use, housing, zoning, transportation, environmental resources, and community facilities in the Upper Rock Creek Master Plan Area.

## **CERTIFICATION OF APPROVAL AND ADOPTION**

## THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is a bi-county agency created by the General Assembly of Maryland in 1927. The Commission's geographic authority extends to the great majority of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties; the Maryland-Washington Regional District (MNCPPC planning jurisdiction) comprises 1,001 square miles, while the Metropolitan District (parks) comprises 919 square miles, in the two counties.

The Commission has three major functions:

- 1) The preparation, adoption, and, from time to time, amendment or extension of The General Plan (On Wedges and Corridors) for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties;
- 2) The acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of a public park system; and
- 3) In Prince George's County only, the operation of the entire County public recreation program.

The Commission operates in each county through a Planning Board appointed by and responsible to the county government. All local plans, recommendations on zoning amendments, administration of subdivision regulations, and general administration of parks are responsibilities of the Planning Boards.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the involvement and participation of individuals with disabilities, and its facilities are accessible. For assistance with special needs (e.g., large print materials, listening devices, sign language interpretation, etc.), please contact the Community Relations Office, 301-495-4600 or TDD 301-495-1331.

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## NOTICE TO READERS

An area master plan, after approval by the County Council and adoption by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, constitutes an amendment to the General Plan for Montgomery County. As such, it provides a set of comprehensive recommendations and guidelines for the use of publicly and privately owned land within its plan area. Each area master plan reflects a vision of future development that responds to the unique character of the local community within the context of a countywide perspective.

Area master plans are intended to provide a point of reference with regard to public policy. Together with relevant countywide functional master plans, master plans should be referred to by public officials and private individuals when decisions are made that affect the use of land within the plan's boundaries.

Master plans generally look ahead about 20 years from the date of adoption, although it is intended that they be updated and revised about every ten years. The original circumstances at the time of plan adoption will change, and specifics of a master plan may become less relevant as time passes.

## The Master Plan Process

**STAFF DRAFT PLAN** — This document is prepared by the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning for presentation to the Montgomery County Planning Board. The Planning Board reviews the Staff Draft Plan, makes preliminary changes as appropriate, and approves the Plan for public hearing. When the Board's changes are made, the document becomes the Public Hearing (Preliminary) Draft Plan.

**PUBLIC HEARING (PRELIMINARY) DRAFT PLAN** — This document is a formal proposal to amend an adopted master plan or sector plan. Its recommendations are not necessarily those of the Planning Board; it is prepared for the purpose of receiving public hearing testimony. The Planning Board holds a public hearing and receives testimony on the Draft Plan. After the public hearing record is closed, the Planning Board holds public worksessions to review the testimony and to revise the Public Hearing (Preliminary) Draft Plan as appropriate. When the Board's changes are made, the document becomes the Planning Board (Final) Draft Plan.

**PLANNING BOARD (FINAL) DRAFT PLAN** — This document is the Planning Board's recommended Plan and it reflects the revisions made by the Board in its worksessions on the Public Hearing (Preliminary) Draft Plan. The Regional District Act requires the Planning Board to transmit the Master Plan directly to the County Council with copies to the County Executive. The Regional District Act then requires the County Executive, within sixty days, to prepare and transmit a fiscal impact analysis of the Planning Board (Final) Draft Plan to the County Council. The County Executive may also forward to the County Council other comments and recommendations regarding the Planning Board (Final) Draft Plan within the sixty-day period.

After receiving the Executive's fiscal impact analysis and comments, the County Council may hold a public hearing to receive public testimony on the Master Plan. After the record of this public hearing is closed, the Council's Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee holds public worksessions to review the testimony and then makes recommendations to the County Council. The Council holds its own worksessions, then adopts a resolution approving the Planning Board (Final) Draft Plan, as revised.

**ADOPTED PLAN** — The Master Plan approved by the County Council is forwarded to The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for adoption. Once adopted by the Commission, the Plan officially amends the various master or sector plans cited in the Commission's adoption resolution.

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The listing of names of members of the Master Plan Advisory Group (MPAG) does not indicate approval or disapproval of this document by any committee member. The MPAG provides recommendations regarding the problems, needs, and views of the groups or areas they represent. These views are then considered by the Planning Board in its deliberations regarding the Master Plan.

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The contribution by staff of various Montgomery County agencies is also appreciated.