

# SPECIAL TOPIC WORKSHOP #1 CHAT AND POLL SUMMARY

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES – OPEN SPACE & RECREATION



The purpose of this workshop was to solicit input from the community on topics related to the comprehensive plan as it relates to Environment and Transportation. Below is a summary of the chat conversations and poll responses received during this meeting, held on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1:30pm.



### Chat Conversation Transcript:

1. 1:18 PM Welcome to PlanQAC's 1st Special Topic Workshop! We'll get started in just a few minutes – please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the Webex features. All attendees are muted to limit background noise.
2. 1:56 PM greatest facilities include amount of public space and the bike trails
3. 1:56 PM We have a terrific library system and staff.
4. 1:57 PM Greatest assets - water & open space access
5. 1:58 PM needs include sidewalks/trail along 50 from Grasonville to KI and further and parking at the end of the bike trail extension and possibly a new park on the open space at the end.
6. 1:59 PM We have excellent Parks and Rec facilities and services, even though there may be an over emphasis on field facilities for organized leagues. Good to see more emphasis recently on passive recreation facilities like trails at Conquest and Whitemarsh.
7. 1:59 PM Greatest needs - more of an emphasis on Career and Technology Education
8. 2:00 PM access to water and nature via parks and trails is excellent
9. 2:01 PM The facilities at the Fire Companies throughout the County are important assets too.
10. 2:01 PM Agree we need more walkable areas; side walks, trails, esp in North, walkable and bikeable areas.
11. 2:02 PM Assets: Parks, Schools, Libraries
12. 2:02 PM kind of weird that we don't have a community center
13. 2:02 PM agree library is great and very excited for expansion which will include meeting spaces for public
14. 2:03 PM Expand public transportation options for county residents for medical appointments and basic needs for seniors and those without transportation. Need CTE/VoTech programs in our schools.
15. 2:03 PM The scenic public landings nature parks and trails at Kent Narrows are assets. Trails to nowhere need to be connected.
16. 2:03 PM traffic in the summer is a huge problem that continues to worsen
17. 2:03 PM Assets: Parks, Schools, Libraries Needs: Entertainment venue, Inclusive and multi-age park facilities.
18. 2:04 PM yes [Verbal Commenter]!!!
19. 2:04 PM The Watermen's Boat Basin at Heritage Harbor is a major asset, unique to our County.
20. 2:07 PM like to see parks provide a more senior adult need like a low impact outdoor exercise gym
21. 2:10 PM not sure 'quality of life' is a function as much as it is the result of these functions holistically
22. 2:11 PM "Adequate public facilities" remains vague and needs to be defined.

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23. 2:11 PM It would be good to emphasize and verify that new development is compensating the County for the infrastructure impact they have.
  24. 2:11 PM Maybe to maintain and/or improve present functions?
  25. 2:12 PM I would say the county should look to improve instead of just maintain present functions when necessary and possible.
  26. 2:13 PM Chapter 28: Adequate Public Facilities (contains extensive definitions and standards).
  27. 2:14 PM is there something the county could do to raise awareness on litter control. Realize it's not their responsibility to collect trash, but maybe some more public awareness.
  28. 2:14 PM The APO ordinance needs to be modernized to accommodate for retirement communities.
  29. 2:15 PM is there any requirements for county buildings to be sustainable? (certified leed, for example?)
  30. 2:16 PM Litter is a big problem especially from Grasonville and going west. Even if it's dropped by visitors, it's the citizens who have to deal with it somehow.
  31. 2:19 PM re: healthcare: it's crazy that we no longer have an urgent care center!!
  32. 2:19 PM RE Litter: The County should have some leverage with businesses to help control litter, especially on their own premises.
  33. 2:20 PM There is an urgent care center coming, most likely in the next 6 months or so. Choice One Urgent Care
  34. 2:20 PM no LEED requirements, but must address MDE, best management practices, etc
  35. 2:21 PM I do not believe that it is a requirement but it is definitely encouraged. With new County building planning and construction, energy efficiency practices are definitely implemented (though not necessarily to LEED standards).
  36. 2:21 PM Oops...joint typing efforts.
  37. 2:24 PM transportation goals addressed to better serve the population re: safety, emergency services especially during peak seasonal times
  38. 2:25 PM Perhaps satellite offices for police and EMS can be established to better access local emergencies during the summer weekends.
  39. 2:28 PM Having lived in another county on the Shore for 20 years, I think the communication and outreach of county officials is excellent. They are accessible and professional.
  40. 2:30 PM The need and expectation of communication has changed and increased in recent years. Thought to expand the communications department would be something to think about.
  41. 2:31 PM Agreed, no criticism intended in my comments. With all that our Emergency Services and first responders do, I want to make sure folks in the county are aware of the
  42. 2:31 PM [Commenter 44], you do a great job and never lose your cool.
  43. 2:31 PM Thanks :)
  44. 2:32 PM More attention to tracking the numbers of visitors and when and how they travel and reporting that information out to emergency services will help to better predict staffing and service levels and areas where and when a temporary concentration of services is needed.
  45. 2:34 PM Increasing need for vocational training facilities
  46. 2:35 PM it's definitely changed due to the pandemic, and with the planned library renovations, but i would love to see more places to sit and work in both the libraries

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47. 2:36 PM I agree with [Verbal Commenter] - move forward with the coordination with Chesapeake College and the school system. Also, coordination with the needs of the business community for education.
  48. 2:36 PM also more programming for adults at the library!!
  49. 2:37 PM Our schools and libraries are among our strongest assets. They deserve strong community support
  50. 2:37 PM We have some great resources in the area w/ Washington college, ches college - opportunities to exist in many areas to partner and provide educational opportunities in many ways
  51. 2:38 PM The Board of Education is requesting a new administrative office
  52. 2:40 PM Dedicated recreation facility
  53. 2:40 PM Funding to provide County-wide connectivity - both recreation and multi-modal to link parks, town centers, schools, etc
  54. 2:41 PM Dedicated Community Center, we rely entirely on the availability of school
  55. 2:41 PM Make it easier for our museums, outdoor attractions and historic sites and interpreters to work with our public schools and libraries. Make it easier for outdoor education and field trips to happen.
  56. 2:41 PM The current Bd of Ed building should not be abandoned and become a problem and eyesore for the Town and area residents. Rehabbing the building would seem a better alternative than building new and tearing up more open space. See what ESLC has done with older buildings.
  57. 2:41 PM Build an inclusive playground and park facility and tie it to the cross island trail. Market to wheelchair users who have difficulty accessing facilities
  58. 2:41 PM My family really enjoys the park in our Town (Queen Anne) it is beautiful and has a lot to offer.
  59. 2:42 PM Ferry Point Park is a gem
  60. 2:42 PM Add a water park similar to the one in Chesapeake Beach
  61. 2:42 PM We are fortunate to have a number of opportunities for access to state/county/local lands - continue to pursue connecting these spaces and making them available. Community center(s) are badly needed (I understand there is a YMCA on the way)
  62. 2:43 PM oh [Commenter 61] an accessible playground/park would be amazing!!
  63. 2:43 PM The goal of maintaining existing parks and public spaces. Its seems like the crews may be spread thinly. As we move forward, staffing for the department should evolve too.
  64. 2:44 PM Old Love Point Park is accessible and is adjacent to the Cross Island Trail
  65. 2:44 PM A new YMCA bldg as planned. will be a great addition if it comes through.
  66. 2:44 PM can we expand any of our parks through adjacent land acquisition. Larger parks offer greater recreation opportunities, hiking, running, etc.
  67. 2:45 PM Partner w/ other groups who can provide interpretive tours, trips, lectures, programming
  68. 2:45 PM The accessible playground is a great idea and would actually attract people from all around. I believe Howard County has one and it has been a bigger attraction than expected.
  69. 2:46 PM i would loooove more interpretive tours!!

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70. 2:48 PM The results of the recently completed public survey by Parks and Rec should be used in the Comp Plan update process.
  71. 2:50 PM Ensure that maintenance and staffing budgets are adequate to support the Parks, Rec and Public Landings units.
  72. 2:51 PM Survey prepared for incorporation in under-way LPPRP
  73. 2:55 PM <https://www.qacplan2021.com/>
  74. 2:56 PM Thank you all . Good opportunity for valuable public input!. Look forward to future meetings and a great Plan Update.
  75. 2:59 PM maybe suggestion of review of current impact fees and are they real
  76. 2:59 PM Thank You!
  77. 3:00 PM Thanks Lauren for managing the virtual conversation!
  78. 3:00 PM Thank you for the opportunity to participate.
  79. 3:01 PM I will post on the county social media pages as well
  80. 3:02 PM and county website