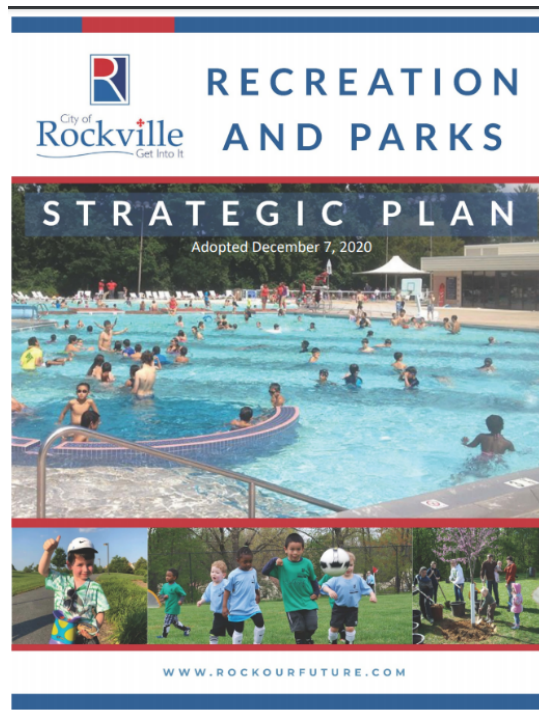


## Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan

In 2020, the Mayor and Council adopted the Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan to provide a roadmap for addressing community needs for the next five years. The Strategic Plan details the current state of the system while identifying focus areas based on a comprehensive assessment of the community's vision and their priorities.

The City of Rockville engaged the services of PROS Consulting LLC to develop the Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan (Plan) as a guide for ensuring an appropriate balance of programs, facilities and amenities that will represent the needs and desires of the community and key stakeholders, while also reflecting industry best practices. As part of the process, a Consulting team conducted a combination of focus groups, stakeholder interviews, two community forums, and a community forum survey hand-out which included over 235 participants representing over 20 groups. The focus groups, stakeholder interviews, and community forums enable the Department to learn what users of the system value, are concerned about, and feel are unmet needs that the department could be providing.



*The following reoccurring themes emerged as top priorities for the Strategic Plan:*

- Ongoing outreach to the diverse community that will increase awareness of the system and promote offerings across cultures and languages.
- Allocate resources equitably across the City.

### *Top Facility Priorities*

- Repurpose the RedGate Golf Course and develop signature facilities within the property (i.e., amphitheater, trails, open space, arboretum, etc.)
- Multi-generational indoor recreation spaces, to replace older aging facilities
- Connectivity and trails (Rockville Pike should be more bike and pedestrian friendly)
- Existing restrooms need to be open and new ones need to be added to existing parks
- Seasonal cover at the Swim Center Outdoor Competitive Pool for year-round use

### *Top Recreational Priorities*

- Keep up on recreational trends and community needs as they evolve
- Continue offering senior programs across the City to help address aging population
- Continue to offer opportunities in the evening
- Enhance performing arts and cultural event opportunities
- More programming for developmentally challenged residents and seniors

**Strategic Plan Resources:**

- Adopted Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan:  
[www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/41331/Recreation-and-Parks-Strategic-Plan?bidId=](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/41331/Recreation-and-Parks-Strategic-Plan?bidId=)
- Planning process: <https://rockourfuture.com/>
- Budget: The FY20 Adopted Budget included \$141,220 for the development of the strategic plan.

**RedGate Park Planning**

In order to implement one of the top facility priorities identified in the Strategic Plan, the City subsequently launched a Redgate Park planning initiative. RedGate Park is a former golf course which was closed by the City of Rockville in 2018 and is currently a public park. When the 131-acre RedGate golf course closed, the City of Rockville Mayor and Council voted unanimously to keep the land — one of the city's largest remaining areas of open space — as a park.

At the March 30, 2020, Mayor and Council meeting, Recreation and Parks staff were asked to lead a process for reimagining the future of RedGate Park. A team including staff from Recreation and Parks, Public Works and Planning and Development Services are managing the project.

On March 23, 2021, the city launched a new website with a survey at [engagerockville.com/redgate-park](http://engagerockville.com/redgate-park) to gather thoughts and ideas about RedGate Park's future. The survey, which is translated into Spanish and Simplified Chinese, was open until April 16, 2021. Through EngageRockville, users can sign up to receive updates and share ideas, as well as find a central hub for information about RedGate Park and the planning process. The city recently contracted with a consultant to help prepare design concepts incorporating resident response to the survey that will ultimately assist the Mayor and Council in their decision-making process for the next steps in making Rockville's vision for RedGate Park a reality.

Over the next year, the community is invited to join the city to envision — and design — the details.