

# The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)

## FACT SHEET

### **THE M-NCPPC**

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is a body corporate of the State of Maryland, established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1927. The M-NCPPC is a bi-county agency, empowered to acquire, develop, maintain and administer a regional system of parks in a defined metropolitan district within the Montgomery and Prince George's counties, Maryland. It is also empowered to prepare and administer a general plan for the physical development of a larger regional district in the same area.

M-NCPPC administers a park system that currently contains over 59,000 acres. It is composed of stream-valley parks, large regional parks, neighborhood parks, and park-school recreational areas. Its staff consists of over 1,975 career employees—planners, park and recreation administrators, park police, and administrative staff. In addition, it employs approximately 4,880 seasonal workers, primarily for its numerous park and recreation programs.

The operating and administrative functions of M-NCPPC are financed primarily by property taxes levied by the two counties. M-NCPPC has the authority to sell general obligation bonds to fund approved park acquisition and development projects.

### **THE PLANNING BOARD**

M-NCPPC's board consists of ten members, five appointed by Montgomery County and five by Prince George's County. Each county designates one of its commissioners for the position of chairman of its respective Planning Board. M-NCPPC elects one of such designees as its Chairman and the other as its Vice-Chairman. Under M-NCPPC's rules of procedure, the chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of M-NCPPC rotate annually between the two designees. Terms of office are staggered and no more than three members from each county may belong to the same political party.

### **Montgomery County**

In Montgomery County, all five of the commissioners are appointed by the County Council and confirmed by the County Executive. Montgomery County Commissioners may not be appointed for more than two consecutive terms.

### **Prince George's County**

In Prince George's County, all five of the commissioners are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. Additionally, the County Executive also appoints a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, which works closely with M-NCPPC in setting policy.

Responsibility for public recreation in Prince George's County and the County Recreation Department was transferred to M-NCPPC in July, 1970 as a result of legislative action. This legislation provided that taxes to support recreation be imposed countywide and that the County Council may require M-NCPPC to institute new recreation programs.