

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT
Accomplishments for FY23 and 2 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025)

Administrative

- Conducted 20 RPAB meetings, including regular reviews from Swim and Fitness Center, Arts, Redgate, and Recreation and Parks Foundation subcommittees.
- Elected new chair effective April 2025.
- Visited and toured Dawson Farm Park, Glenview Mansion and Civic Center, Maryvale Park, Preserve Parkway Park, Welsh Park, and College Gardens Park with City staff and heard highlights about recent CIP implementations.
- Served on the artist nominating committees for murals or artwork to be installed at the following locations: College Gardens Park, Lincoln Park Community Center, Rockville Swim and Fitness Center and Twinbrook Community Recreation Center Annex.

Formal Recommendations and Advocacy

- Submitted recommendations on the FY2026 budget, emphasizing prioritization of “need to have programs,” support for affected federal workers, and consideration of greater differentiation in user fees between City residents and non-residents amid potential long-term revenue challenges.
- Considered City recommendation on two beaver dam removals, gathered information on the 1) specific sites and 2) State of Maryland best practices on beaver management, contributed to broader review effort on beaver dams, and recommend City updating of its legacy beaver management policies.
- Submitted letter to Mayor and Council encouraging fast action (instead of long consultation) to better utilize the King Farm Farmstead property and deliver benefits to Rockville residents.
- Alongside the Swim and Fitness Center Advisory Committee, provided recommendations on the recreation pool design, including differentiated spaces for visitors with different needs and increased shading in seating areas.
- Recommended change in name from RedGate Park to RedGate Park and Arboretum.

Informal Program Reviews, Information Gathering, and Volunteering

- Received two briefings on the status of the City’s Recreation Leagues, including enrollment trends, costs, and feedback from the public.
- Served alongside Department leads in Staff Appreciation Breakfasts.
- Volunteered with Recreation and Parks Foundation booths at City events to help raise funds for City recreation and park activities.

FY2026 Plans and Priorities

- Develop priority list for long-term capital investment projects (e.g., Redgate construction, Talbott Street Playground, second City swimming pool in East Rockville).
- Establish regular annual review of various programs, including youth sports leagues and swim and fitness center uses and programs.