Attachment D: Summary of Planning Commission and Board Input

The following is a summary of previous Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors input on Parks, Recreation, and Open Space topics:

Prioritize public parks in the Development Areas

- October 10, 2023 PC work session: The Commission highlighted the importance of increasing access to parks in the Development Areas, including by creating additional small or 'pocket' parks. The Commission recommended using data to identify 'park deserts' in the Development Areas and to use that data to inform where parks and amenities are needed.
- October 10, 2023 PC work session: The Commission expressed concern that relying primarily on developers to provide greenspace with new development was not creating adequate greenspace or parks in the Development Areas. The Commission recommended considering additional funding sources for public parks, such as public bonds or tax revenue.
- January 17, 2024 Board work session: The Board agreed with the Commission on the need to provide more parks (especially pocket parks) and trails in the Development Areas. The Board recommended assessing County-owned land for potential parks. The Board also highlighted the need for more parks with recreation opportunities for teenagers and not only having playgrounds/amenities for younger kids.

Improve the connectivity of the parks and greenways system

- October 10, 2023 PC work session: The Commission emphasized the need to better connect the parks and greenways system, citing the Atlanta Beltline greenway as an example.
- October 10, 2023 PC work session: Several Commissioners noted that Rural Area roads are used for walking, running, and biking, and recommended using data (e.g. Strava) to identify locations for potential safety improvements.
    - *Note: Recreation on rural roads will be addressed with the Transportation chapter.*

Community centers

- October 10, 2023 PC work session: The Commission emphasized the importance of parks as public gathering spaces that support community events, staying active, and meeting up with fellow community members.
- January 17, 2024 Board work session: The Board highlighted the importance of community centers as potential community resilience hubs.
    - *Note: Community resilience hubs will be addressed with the Resilient Community and Rural Area chapters.*

Maintaining park facilities

- October 10, 2023 PC work session: The Commission noted that additional maintenance and staffing will be needed as park facilities increase. The Commission recommended considering a Public Works Department to aid in parks/greenways maintenance and to prioritize maintaining existing park facilities over parks expansion.

- January 17, 2024 Board work session: The Board agreed with the Commission on the importance of maintaining existing parks facilities.