

### Chapter 10 – The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Plan

#### Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Plan Goals

- Provide recreational opportunities for county residents and tourists to meet both current and future needs.
- Coordinate and expand recreational planning, development and marketing, including private recreational development, to provide residents with a wide variety of recreational resources that are both easily accessible and available the entire year.
- Enhance the quality of life through the conservation, promotion, and interpretation of cultural and historic resources.
- Conserve the features and sites, including historic buildings and cemeteries that define the historic and cultural character of Berkeley County.
- Encourage sensitive community development in the vicinity of identified cultural and historic resources.
- Increase the awareness and inter-relationships between Berkeley County’s history, its residents and the tourism economy.
- Promote the arts, culture, and history throughout the county.

#### Parks and Recreation Profile

##### State Parks Profile

Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area is owned and operated by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and covers the western edge of Berkeley County. This 23,000 acre area is a large, remote, passive area in contrast to the more active parks and recreation areas managed by the Parks and Recreation Board. Sleepy Creek includes camping areas, an extensive system of trails and a 200 acre lake on Meadow Branch.

##### City and County Parks Profile

Parks and recreation facilities in Berkeley County are provided by the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks and Recreation Board (<http://www.mbcparcs-rec.org/>). It is comprised of nine members representing the City of Martinsburg, Berkeley County Council and the Berkeley County Board of Education. The Board’s activities are run by a staff of full and part-time employees. Park facilities run from one acre parks to the 137 acre Poor House Farm Park. In looking at Berkeley County, most of the current parks and recreation facilities are clustered in the greater Martinsburg area. As the population in the county grows, especially in the north and south, additional park lands and recreation opportunities will be needed. These include the Inwood, Hedgesville, Marlowe/Falling Waters areas, as well as the Back Creek Valley area. The Parks and Outdoor Areas Map in the appendices illustrates the various existing park areas throughout the county.

Municipal standards published by the National Recreation and Parks Association suggest there should be 10 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents. There are many factors to consider in this ratio including active and passive recreation areas and open space areas. Currently, the combined total of parks and recreation facilities under the Parks and Recreation Board is about 395 acres. Using the standard of 10 acres of park land per thousand residents and the 2014 estimated population of 110,497 persons, it would appear that Berkeley County, as of the writing of this plan, needs a total of over 1,100 acres of park land.

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There are nineteen parks and recreational facilities located in Berkeley County; Table 10-1 lists each site its location, size, owner and available facilities. The Parks and Recreation Board also offers a variety of recreation classes, including swimming, tennis, gymnastics and dance. Summer programs include soccer, cheerleading, summer basketball leagues, summer day camps and programs such as Hershey Track & Field. There are also ten sports leagues that are offered to children of all ages during the year. The Summer Playground Program & Passport to Fun are two programs that are partially funded through the United Way of Berkeley & Morgan Counties.

### Recreation Centers Profile

The Berkeley 2000 Recreation Center is located in Lambert Park on Woodbury Avenue, Martinsburg. It has been expanded twice since the original structure was built. The facility includes administrative offices, a main gym, Quad Graphics Gymnasium, Flip Over Gymnasium, Turning Pointe Centre for Dance, and the Marshall Mason Multipurpose wing.

The W. Randy Smith Recreation Center is an 18,200 square feet facility which opened in the Fall of 2013. The facility includes a gymnasium, bleacher seating, reception area and office and concessions. There are plans for a proposed phase II and phase III when funding allows.

Table 10-1 County and City Parks and Recreational Facilities

Park	Location	Owned by:	Acres
Allensville Acreage	1 mile north of Hedgesville, currently undeveloped	County	78
Ambrose Park	Rocky Lane & Porter Ave	City	4.3
Dupont Soccer Complex	US Rt 11 North, next to Spring Mills High School	County	28
E. Burke Street Park	Along Tuscarora Creek in Martinsburg	City	0.5
Gerrardstown Athletic Field	1 mile south of Gerrardstown on Dominion Road	County	3
Hedgesville Park	Property between Hedgesville Elementary and Middle Schools	Board of Education	10
Inwood-Bunker Hill Lions Park	Property on south side of Mill Creek Intermediate School	Board of Education	20
Lambert Park	Woodbury Avenue	City	12
Leeland Playground	West Main Street	City	1.5
Martin Luther King Jr. Park	West Main Street	City	1
Oak Street Park	Oak Street	City	2
Oatesdale Park	Corner of Baltimore & William Street	City	22
P.O. Faulkner Park	Sycamore & Ryneal Streets	County	30
Pikeside Park	US Rt 11 South in Pikeside	Leased through WVANG 167th	5
Poor House Farm Park	Poor House Road	County	137
Rooney (Tomahawk) Park	Back Creek Valley Road behind Tomahawk Ruritan Club	County	17
Rousch Field	Between South Georgia Ave & South Alabama Ave	City	1.5
W. Randy Smith Recreation Center	Excellence Way	County	3
War Memorial Park	North Tennessee Ave	City	19.5

Source: Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks and Recreation Board

### Parks and Recreation Funding

The Parks and Recreation Board understands the need to expand opportunities for the growing population of Berkeley County. The Board would like to expand current facilities such as the Poor House Farm area and also purchase additional acreage and build new facilities to meet current and future needs. The Board has been frustrated in trying to expand their facilities due to the lack of funding sources that can be targeted for parks and recreational facilities. The Board is completely dependent on

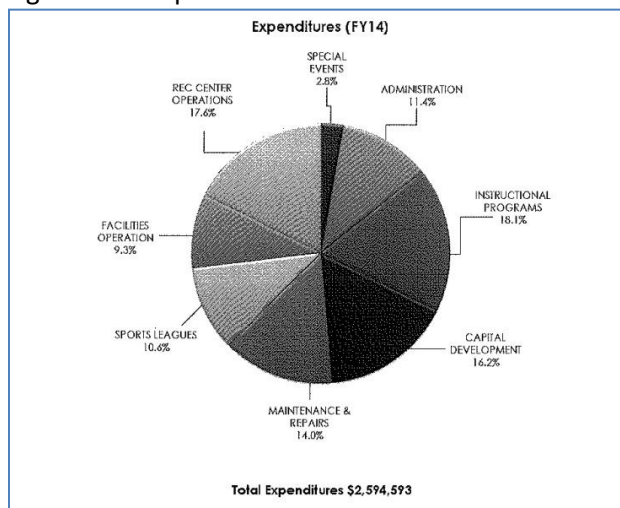
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budget appropriations by the County, City and Board of Education. Attempts to gain a steady source of funding for parks and recreation facilities have been unsuccessful.

- Excess Levy Tax – An option to consider but this requires 60% voter approval. Funds could be used for maintenance and operation.
- Bond Levy – Could be used to build facilities such as an indoor aquatic center. This also requires 60% voter approval.
- Impact Fees – Not available in Berkeley County unless a Zoning Ordinance is adopted.
- Property Transfer Tax – State Legislature would need to approve allowing more of this tax to be returned to counties where tax is generated.
- State of West Virginia – No dedicated funding stream for public parks. Community Participation Grants that have provided small funding amounts over the past decade are being eliminated entirely.
- New Home Rule – State Legislation could provide funds for public parks. The City of Martinsburg qualifies to increase sales tax by 1% under a trial basis. City Council would have full authority to dictate how this revenue will be disbursed. County Council could potentially qualify as well.
- Martinsburg Berkeley County Parks and Recreation has two endowments in the EWW Community Foundation encouraging private donors to dedicate funds through estates and other gifts dedicated for enhancement of local parks.
- Research land dedications or “fees in lieu of community open space” as part of the subdivision approval process.

The lack of funding sources has frustrated the Parks and Recreation Board. If the County is to respond to the future needs for Parks and Recreation facilities one of the above described funding streams will need to be made available for the purchase of park land and the operation and maintenance of these facilities. This could be complimented with a larger percentage of the property tax collected by the county. When compared to other areas in West Virginia, the Berkeley County Parks and Recreation is underfunded in terms of appropriated dollars. Efforts should be undertaken to fund this at a level commensurate with the rest of the state. The board’s 2014 Fiscal Year Expenditures are shown in the pie chart in Figure 10-1.

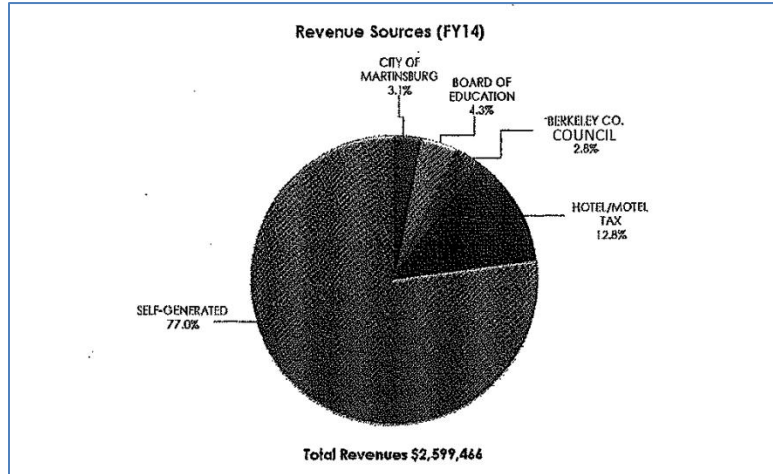
Figure 10-1 Expenditures



Source: Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks and Recreation Board Annual Report

In addition to setting recreation and park service policy in Berkeley County, the Parks and Recreation Board receives annual allocations from each of the three governing bodies to operate recreation programs and to maintain the parks and facilities. This revenue is illustrated in Figure 10-2.

Figure 10-2 Revenue Sources



Source: Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks and Recreation Board Annual Report

### Historic and Cultural Resources Profile

Berkeley County has a wealth of historic and cultural resources. The Berkeley County Historic Society has identified and documented over three thousand historic sites in the county, many of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are also twenty-two historic districts, a variety of historic monuments, and two markers erected by the Berkeley County Landmarks Commission. There are also a variety of museums and events that celebrate the history and culture of the county.

Cultural resources consist of prehistoric and historic districts, sites, structures, artifacts, and other physical evidence of human activities considered important to a society. A wealth of cultural resources may be found throughout Berkeley County, as well. Knowledge of these resources increases our understanding and appreciation of the local heritage and improves the overall quality of life of local residents. This section provides a basic inventory of the cultural resources located within Berkeley County and gives particular attention to local historic preservation efforts.

These resources represent opportunities and some challenges for Berkeley County as it grows. They are opportunities in that they provide an excellent base for heritage tourism in the county; challenges because their protection and continued value depends primarily on their owners.

### National Register of Historic Places

Listing in the National Register contributes to preserving historic properties in a number of ways:

- Recognition that a property is of significance to the nation, the state, or the community.
- Consideration in the planning for federal or federally assisted projects.
- Eligibility for federal tax benefits.
- Qualification for federal assistance for historic preservation, if funds are available.

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Like many state and federal preservation programs, the interest in National Register listing originates with the land owner. Once approved by the state, the state historic preservation agencies can nominate the property to the national level. Listing in the National Register does not interfere with a private property owner's right to alter, manage, or dispose of property. However, it often changes the way communities perceive their historic resources and give credibility to efforts to preserve these resources as irreplaceable aspects of the community. According to the Berkeley County Historical Society, there are over 3,000 sites in Berkeley County that are on the National Register, as well as 45 additional sites that are not included in the following list of properties.

Table 10-2 National Register of Historic Places in Berkeley County

Historic Place	Location	Year Added to National Register
The John-David-Jacob Rees House	Bunker Hill, Route 11	1984
"Morgan Acres" – William G. Morgan House	Bunker Hill, Route 24	1984
"Golden Meadows" – David Morgan House	Bunker Hill, Route 26	1985
"Marshy Dell" – Gilbert McKown House	Gerrardstown, Route 51	1984
"Mountain View" – Washington Gold House & Rippy Cabin	Gerrardstown, Route 51/2	1984
James Nathaniel Burwell House	Ridgeway	1991
"Oban Hall" – Mary Park Wilson House	Gerrardstown, Route 51/2	1984
Teter M. French House	Hedgesville, Route 1 & 3 Junction	1980
"Maidstone Manor" – William Robinson Leigh House	Hedgesville, Route 1	1980
Harmony Cemetery	Marlowe, Route 1	1980
Decatur Hedges House	Hedgesville, Route 9	1984
"Fort Hedges" – Hedges-Leman House	Hedgesville, Route 4	1991
Mount Zion Baptist Church	Martinsburg, Opequon Lane	1980
"Allen Dale"	Martinsburg, southwest of Route 45/3 and Route 40 junction	1984
Susan Couchman House	East of Martinsburg, Warm Springs Road	1994
Smoketown School	East of Martinsburg, 45/4 East	1994
Rush-Miller House	Smoketown, WV 45	1985
Continental Clay Brick Plant	Southeast of Martinsburg, Route 9	1980
Kearfoot-Bane House	Baker Heights, Route 36/1	1985

Source: 2006 Berkeley County Comprehensive Plan Update

### Historic Districts

There are also a number of historic districts that have been identified within the county and placed on the register. They are listed below in Table 10-3 and illustrated on The Historic Districts Map in the appendices.

Table 10-3 Historic Districts in Berkeley County

Map Number	Historic District	Location	Date Added
1	Baltimore and Ohio and Related Industrial	Roughly bounded by B&O RR from south side of Burke St. underpass to north side of B&O & PA RR bridge	1980
2	Boomtown	Roughly along Winchester Ave. to Arden Rd., W. King St. to Red Hill Rd., W. Stephen, W. Addition St. and Raleigh St., Martinsburg	1980
3	Boydville	Roughly bounded by W. Stephen St, S. Spring St, and S. Queen St, including Boydville grounds, Martinsburg	1980
4	Bunker Hill	Jct. of US 11 and Rt. 26, Bunker Hill	1980
5	Clary's Mountain	North of Hedgesville	2004
6	Darkeville	US 11 at Middle Creek, Darkeville	1980
7	Downtown Martinsburg	Roughly bounded by W. Race St, Water St, Stephen St and Charles St, Martinsburg	1980
8	East Martinsburg	Roughly bounded by B&O RR right-of-way, N. Queen St., Moler Ave., and High., St., Martinsburg	1980
9	Gerrardstown	Roughly, along WV 51 and Virginia Line Rd., Gerrardstown	1991
10	Green Hill Cemetery	486 E. Burke St., Martinsburg	1980

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Map Number	Historic District	Location	Date Added
11	Harlan Spring	Harlan Spring, Hedgesville	1980
12	Hedgesville	Roughly bounded by N. and S. Mary St., and E. and W. Main St., Hedgesville	1980
13	Jones' Mill	9 acres along Dam #4 Rd, north of Scrabble	1980
14	Martinsburg, Mining, Manufacturing & Improvement Co.	Also known as MMM&I Historic District; Martinsburg	2002
15	Mill Creek	Runs along Mill Creek extending both E and W of Bunker Hill, Bunker Hill	1980
16	Ridge Road	S along Ridge Rd, from Nollville, Nollville	1980
17	Rosemont	Tennessee, Illinois, Georgia, Kentucky Avenues, Martinsburg	2002
18	Scrabble	Scrabble Rd, Dam #4 Rd	2006
19	South Water Street	Roughly bounded by E. John, Water, and E. Burke Streets, and B&O RR, Martinsburg	1980
20	Spring Mills	Portions of Hammonds Mill Rd and Harlan Spring Rd	2004
21	Swan Pond Manor	Swan Pond, Martinsburg	1980
22	Tabler's Station	North of Tabler's Station Road, west of US 11	2004
23	Tuscarora Creek	Roughly bounded by N. Tennessee Ave, S on Old Mill Rd to Route 15, Martinsburg	1980

Source: USNPS National Register Information System

### State Historical Markers

There are 31 State Historical Markers located in Berkeley County according to the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. (See Table 10-4) Originally implemented in 1937, the West Virginia Commission on Historic and Scenic Markers worked with the state Road Commission, Works Progress Administration, and Federal Emergency Relief Administration to place 440 markers during the first year alone. After World War II, markers were placed at the sites of most state-run facilities and schools. The West Virginia Historic Commission took over the program in 1963 and since the late 1960s the program has been managed by the West Virginia State Archives, which is part of the West Virginia Division of Culture & History. <http://www.wvculture.org/history/archivesindex.aspx>

The State Archives maintains files on each of the markers. Unfortunately, many of these files are outdated because markers have been moved and road names have been changed. In 1996, the Division of Culture & History was awarded a federal intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) grant to survey the state's high way markers. The updated markers guidebook is now available online from the Division of Culture and History at [www.wvculture.org/history/markerbook](http://www.wvculture.org/history/markerbook).

The historical markers were funded by the state until 1985. All markers placed since then have been funded by groups or private individuals. There are two styles of markers, both of which include the State Seal. In order to place a new marker, the site, property, district, or community to be honored must possess some degree of significance in state or local prehistory (archaeology), history, natural history, architecture, or cultural life. A complete list of guidelines can be obtained from the State Archives.

There is no state funding to repair or replace markers. Some historical societies and civic groups assume the cost for refurbishing markers in their counties. Missing or damaged markers should be reported to the State Archives. More information about the Markers Program can be obtained by contacting Joseph N. Geiger, Jr., Director of the West Virginia State Archives or by visiting the archives website <http://www.wvculture.org/history/archivesindex.aspx>.

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Table 10-4 Historical Markers in Berkeley County

Marker Title	Location
Martinsburg	Intersection of North Queen Street and Eagle Schoolhouse Road, Martinsburg
Hedgesville	WV 9 in Hedgesville
West Virginia (Berkeley County)/Maryland	US 11 at West Virginia/Maryland border (marker missing)
Fort Neally	US 11, two miles north of Martinsburg
Boydville	600 block of S Queen St, Martinsburg
Martinsburg/Berkeley Riflemen	300 W King St at Old Federal Building, Martinsburg
General Adam Stephen	309 E John St, Martinsburg
Railroad Strike of 1877/Roundhouse and Shops	End of E Martin St and Roundhouse Dr at Caperton Station in Martinsburg
Tuscarora Church	Tuscarora Pike at entrance to church, about 0.5 miles west of I-81 Exit 13
Swan Pond Manor	WV 45 and Secondary Rd 45/2, four miles east of Martinsburg (marker missing)
Van Metre Ford Bridge	Needy Road (CR 36) at south east end of bridge, two miles east of Martinsburg
Veterans Administration Center	WV 9, 4.5 miles south of Martinsburg
Fort Evans	US 11, south of Martinsburg (marker missing)
Gerard House	Secondary road 51/2 about 0.1
Gerrardstown	WV 51 at Gerrardstown west of intersection with US 51/5
Darkesville	US 11 at Darkesville
Morgan Morgan	In Morgan Park, US 11 at Bunker Hill
Morgan's Chapel	US 11 and secondary road 26 in Bunker Hill (marker missing)
"Morgan Acres"	In Morgan Park, US 11 at Bunker Hill
Morgan Cabin	ON WV 26 2/2 miles west of US 11 on east side of Runneymead Road
Berkeley County/Jefferson County	On WV 51 (south side) at southwest corner of Opequon Creek Bridge WV 45 at Berkeley/Jefferson border (marker missing) WV 9 at Berkeley/Jefferson border (marker missing)
Berkeley County/Morgan County	WV 9 (northbound) at county line on Morgan side of creek
West Virginia (Berkeley County)/State of Virginia	WV 45 (marker missing) US 11 (marker missing)
Watkins Ferry	West side of US 11 North beside bridge across Potomac River
J.R. Clifford	Martinsburg
VA-2291 West Virginia	US 11 (southbound) at the Virginia and West Virginia state line
WV-WV016 Berkeley County	Location listed
WV-WV017 Gerrardstown	Location not listed

### Historic Monuments

In addition to the aforementioned markers, there are also a number of monuments located throughout Berkeley County. These monuments recognize a variety of significant events and individuals.

### Local Historic Preservation Efforts

In addition to sites of state and national significance, there are a number of properties in Berkeley County that signify county and local history or that represent cultural aspects of history. The Berkeley County Historical Society ([www.bchs.org](http://www.bchs.org)) has researched and documented over 3,000 individual properties, including cemeteries, and 22 historic districts in Berkeley County. The Historical Society's primary goals are to preserve county records and historically significant buildings. There are currently over 700 members who live across the country. The county Archives, Research Center, Book Store, and Herb Garden are located at 136 E Race Street in Martinsburg.

The Berkeley County Landmarks Commission was formed in 1975 by the Berkeley County Commission. There are five voting members. For several years the Berkeley County Landmarks Commission has reviewed grants for the state office to hire someone to write up the forms for a district or individual property to be listed on the National Register. As part of the review process, the Landmarks Commission supplies only the history. The commission has also done this for many of the buildings, 50-years or older, to determine if they may be eligible for the National Register. There were two requests into the state program for 2006, a district and eight individual properties in Berkeley County. The commission also had a \$12,000 grant. The purpose of this grant was to survey and establish two more

historic districts in Martinsburg. The city was putting up the match. For properties in Berkeley County, the County Council provided the necessary matching funds. The Landmarks Commission has also installed two additional historic markers in Berkeley County as shown below in Table 10-4.

Table 10-4 Additional Historical Markers

Marker Title	Location
Providence Quaker Cemetery	North side of Tuscarora Rd, ¼ mile from the I-81 Exit 13
Pack Horse Road	West of the intersection of Pack Horse Rd and US 11

### **Cultural Resources Profile**

#### Cultural Landscape

According to the National Park Service (NPS), a cultural landscape is a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

In the urban environment, the built features define the character of the local landscape. Building types, architectural styles, porch designs, window placement, and rooflines, particularly those prior to WWII, can be unique to a region or locale. These features can provide justification for historic significance and preservation as individual sites and collective districts.

In the rural environment, historic sites are often farmhouses and barns. Until recently, there was no broader attention given to the rural environment. The rural landscape, as a whole, is a representation of the past, in the way that historic districts recognize continuity in the urban environment. New efforts to designate rural historic landscape districts recognize continuity in the urban environment. New efforts to designate rural historic landscape districts have helped rural areas to protect their community, foster community cohesion, and speak with one voice to federal, state, and regional decision-makers.

Beyond the NPS definition, even ordinary neighborhoods are cultural landscapes as they reflect the ways of life and values of those that live there.

#### The Arts

While billboards advertising events in other areas can be seen as one drives through Berkeley County, there are many hidden gems that can be found within the county and only a few minutes from home or work. Wearing many names over the years, including, “The Town Cinema”, “The Berkeley County Civic Theatre” and currently “The Apollo Civic Theatre”, this venue, was built in 1913 and is located on Martin Street in Martinsburg. It houses a main auditorium floor with 509 seats and hosts a variety of events including the Annual ACT Community Talent Show, Apolloween, performances by the Apollo Youth Theater Company, and many other seasonal shows.

Performances drawing larger audiences are hosted by area high schools such as Musselman High School, with a 600-seat auditorium or Spring Mills High with a 750-seat auditorium. These performances range from school sponsored show choirs, talent shows, instrumental concerts, and plays to performances by the Inwood Performing Arts Company and other dance companies and entertainers throughout the region. Michael Stiles, Theatre Director at Musselman High School and High School Representative on the Board of Directors for the West Virginia Theatre Association ([www.wvtheatreassociation.org](http://www.wvtheatreassociation.org)), indicated that nearly 60 outside agencies have used and continue to use the school’s auditorium as a venue for their events.



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As of the writing of this plan, no venue exists within Berkeley County that is able to host events, such as high school graduations. Each year, the high schools plan to hold graduation at each school's stadium. However, in the event of inclement weather, graduations must be held in the school's auditoriums, with back-up seating in cafeterias where the commencement can be viewed via broadcast. This indoor option drastically reduces the number of family and friends that are able to attend their student's graduation. A larger venue within the county would be closer to the home schools than venues used in previous years and will provide the much needed space to host indoor high school graduations when weather prevents the outdoor stadium ceremonies from taking place. A larger venue will also attract a broader range of talent and performances into Berkeley County for community participation and enjoyment.

According to Kevin Green, CEO of Civic Sounds Incorporated, "The Board of Directors of Civic Sounds, in partnership with The Living Room, continues to pursue funding for Berkeley County's 4,000-seat Civic Center. Great progress is being made in the infrastructure that will support this facility as we are nearing the completion of our first building with seating capacity of 1,000. The timeline of the Civic Center greatly relies on funding as the land, site approvals and architectural drawings are secured. This progress has us optimistic that the beginning of the Civic Center is in the very near future."

Another concern expressed, is that many of our talented youth leave the county, after graduation, for performance and artistic opportunities outside of the county. Increasing the availability of art resources within the county would not only encourage these youth to remain in the county, but it would also provide more entertainment and cultural choices to all citizens of Berkeley County. "The U.S. Department of Commerce data indicates that the arts and culture industry has a national impact of \$699 billion, or 4.3% of GDP annually. This is greater than the tourism or agriculture industries. Berkeley County has a key resource in the already established Berkeley County Arts Council." (Alissa Novoselick, Executive Director of the Tamarack Foundation for the Arts. [www.tamarackfoundation.org](http://www.tamarackfoundation.org))

The Berkeley County Arts Council [www.berkeleyartswv.org](http://www.berkeleyartswv.org), is a non-profit organization whose members "Amplify the Arts" as indicated on their logo. This organization was founded in 2009 to provide support and resources for local artists, arts organizations, and the public. The Arts Council features a wide variety of programs including classes, youth photography contests, poetry readings, themed exhibits, and year-round juried shows by local and regional artists and artisans. Course listings and a schedule of events are made available on the Arts Council website.

### Cultural Events and Resources

Martinsburg Roundhouse Complex Events [www.martinsburgroundhouse.com](http://www.martinsburgroundhouse.com)

Berkeley County Historical Architectural Tours [www.bchs.org](http://www.bchs.org)

Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival [www.msahf.com](http://www.msahf.com)

Sumner-Ramer Heritage Archives [www.bchs.org](http://www.bchs.org)

Berkeley County Youth Fair [www.berkeleycountyouthfair.org](http://www.berkeleycountyouthfair.org)

House and Garden Annual Spring Tour, sponsored by the Shenandoah Potomac Garden Council

Morgan Cabin Spring Festival

Belle Boyd Annual Birthday Party

Adam Stephen Founder's Day

Christmas at the Belle Boyd House

Trolley Tours sponsored by the Berkeley County Landmarks Commission

Berkeley County Historical Society House Tour

Apollo Civic Theater [www.apollocivictheatre.org](http://www.apollocivictheatre.org)

The Berkeley Arts Council [www.berkeleyarts.org](http://www.berkeleyarts.org)

Inwood Performing Arts Company [www.inwoodperformingarts.com](http://www.inwoodperformingarts.com)

### **2006 Summary of Parks and Recreation Action Strategies**

- The Parks and Recreation Board should prepare a county-wide parks and recreation plan that assesses the future demand, determines the types of recreation facilities that are needed and their location in the county. This includes a careful look at strategies to acquire additional park lands and provide additional programs in order to meet future demands of a rapidly expanding population.
- Acquisition is only the first step to be evaluated, followed by design and construction of adequate facilities and then the annual burden of operating and maintenance of these facilities.
- The Parks and Recreation Board needs to develop a long range strategy to acquire and develop park lands at both the local and regional levels. Park lands can come from a variety of sources, including gifts from land owners or estates, acquisition of lands, and dedication by land developers. Acquire additional park lands in the Hedgesville, Inwood, Marlowe/Falling Waters and Back Creek areas.
- There are recommendations in the Growth Management Plan for the proposed county-wide land use tools to provide for the conservation of open space and natural areas. These areas would be mostly passive uses, but would contribute significantly to the open space needs and aesthetics of Berkeley County.
- A consistent theme of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan was to provide better access to facilities. This included providing parks and recreation facilities close to the more densely populated sections of the county. It would allow users to utilize pedestrian and bicycle trails to access park facilities.
- Develop a dedicated stream of funding for park acquisition through excess levy taxes, property transfer taxes, dedication of lands by developers, or possibly impact fees.
- Continue to look at funding sources such as the Federal Land and Conservation fund and others for park land acquisition.
- Private recreational providers are a big part of recreational programs. They provide for recreation demands that the public sector cannot meet. The Parks and Recreation Board should work with private providers to promote, facilitate, and coordinate the services they provide.
- Provide greenways and hiking trails by designating or acquiring right-of-way for biking and/or hiking trail.
- Develop community centers in conjunction with schools and libraries. The Parks and Recreation Board should continue to work cooperatively with the Berkeley County Board of Education to use school facilities for recreational programs.

### **2006 Summary of Cultural Resources Action Strategies**

- Work with the Berkeley County Historic Society and the Landmarks Commission to establish a dedicated funding stream to purchase historically significant properties in the county.
- Continue to work with the Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote the county's historic and cultural assets to visitors.
- Work with the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks and Recreation Board to include historic sites where appropriate as they begin to develop a greenways network for the county.
- Encourage property owners and developers to protect historic properties and cemeteries by providing incentives such as tax credits or streamlined review processes.

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- Include specific provisions in the proposed zoning ordinance and also within the subdivision and land development ordinance to protect historic resources. This could take the form of an overlay district in the zoning ordinance and conservation design requirements in the SLDO.
- Revise the subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to include language that would require adequate buffer zones around all sites and cemeteries listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### 2016 Highlights

- The Berkeley 2000 Recreation Center has been expanded twice since the original structure was built.
- The new South Berkeley Recreation Center was built in 2013.
- An ordinance including zoning options was shared with the public and was defeated in the general election on two separate occasions. The first attempt to pass a zoning ordinance was defeated several years prior to the writing of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan. The second attempt to pass a zoning ordinance was defeated in 2010.
- A Regional Bike Study, underway through the Hagerstown Eastern Panhandle MPO, is evaluating bicycle routes and trails throughout the area.
- The need for a 2,000 seat venue that would allow a group of this size to watch a performance or event has been expressed by multiple organizations and members of the community.
- The Berkeley County Arts Council was founded in 2009.

### Looking Forward to 2026

- Using the standard of 10 acres of park land per thousand residents, Berkeley County needs an additional 700 acres of park land. This need will continue to grow as the population grows.
- Major projects to consider, if funding can be identified to purchase, build, and then maintain and operate the facilities are as follows:
  - Regional parks of approximately 100 plus acres in both North and South Berkeley County. These would be multipurpose facilities, similar to Poor House Farm Park.
  - Expand the W. Randy Smith Recreation Center in South Berkeley County by building Phase II and Phase III to increase the size from 18,200 square feet to 50,000 square feet.
  - Indoor Aquatic Center – This type of project is too large for the local park and recreation organization to undertake, however an authority made up of many entities might be able to coordinate and fund it.
  - Public Access to Potomac River – Berkeley County owns quite a bit of property in what is known as “Sportsmans Paradise” located in North Berkeley County. Current budget does not allow funds for developing property or maintaining property. Serious issues faced include poor conditions of road, accessing the acreage and illegal/criminal behavior that has taken place within this area.
  - Need to develop an adult softball complex with a minimum of four fields with lighting.
  - Work with Eastern Panhandle Trailblazers to continue to build trails throughout the Eastern Panhandle connecting all three counties.
- Potential funding sources include the New Home Rule, the EWV Community Foundation endowments, and possible land dedications or a “fees in lieu of community open space” as part of a revised subdivision approval process.
- A new facility with a theater seating capacity of 1,000 is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2016. A “Civic Center” is to follow within the next ten years that will be able to hold up to 4,000-seats, depending on the needs of the performance or event, including sporting events. Both of these facilities are located on Creative Place between I-81 and Rock Cliff Drive.

- The Berkeley County Arts Council is preparing to survey both potential audiences and those who create various forms of art to provide guidance for this organization over the next ten years.