

Preface

This document is a far-reaching and exciting view into Westmoreland County's future park, recreation and open space opportunities. **Parks Horizons: A Legacy of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space** is a county-wide comprehensive park, recreation and open space plan initiated by the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation. The Plan strives to enhance the County's quality of life by expanding the everyday role of parks, recreation and open space within each and every community. It goes beyond the basic park planning traditions by developing a long-term "blueprint" for an integrated park, recreation and open space system.

Parks Horizons:

- Identifies the major issues and problems facing the County now and in the future;
- Defines a long-term vision for the County's various park, recreation and open space opportunities;
- Formulates policies and strategies to guide the planning, development and integration of the County's park, recreation and open space opportunities;
- Establishes a framework for cooperation and collaboration between the various recreation and open space providers; and
- Provides priorities for implementing short-term and long-term actions.

The **Parks Horizons** project is founded upon 1) thorough research and inventory of physical and socio-economic factors 2) a clear perception of needs and relationships and 3) a realistic expression of all the elements working well together. While **Parks Horizons'** recommendations may seem bold in comparison to previous park planning efforts, many concepts are based upon innovative and progressive initiatives currently used in comparable county park systems across the United States.

Residents, community leaders, County Commissioners and the Bureau of Parks and Recreation are committed to the future health of the County's parks, recreation and open space. Their interaction and contributions throughout the project's sixteen-month planning process has produced a new direction for Westmoreland County. This Plan establishes a flexible framework upon which the County park system may grow for the next 50 years.