

State of Maryland - Charter Amendment Petition

We, the undersigned voters of Baltimore City, hereby petition to have this amendment of the Baltimore City Charter submitted to a vote of the registered voters of Baltimore City, for approval or rejection at the next general election. *The full text of the proposed amendment appears on the back of this signature page and its subject and purpose are as follows:*

To establish the Inner Harbor Park and nineteen other identified parks as a system of city parks forever dedicated to public use and to protect those parks from certain private, commercial development. This amendment to the Baltimore City Charter would establish a system of 20 public parks that would be maintained by the City for public uses including to provide recreational and educational opportunities and to safeguard natural resources and the environment. The City may later designate additional city parks but cannot reduce or alter the area, limitations, and permitted uses of public parks established by the amendment, which include, among others, Carroll Park, Clifton Park, Druid Hill Park, Inner Harbor Park, Middle Branch Park, and Patterson Park. The amendment prohibits in these city parks industrial activities, residential development, private office space, buildings exceeding 100 feet, and any other private use inconsistent with the parks' public nature, except that these restrictions do not apply to structures already in place as of January 1, 2024. Subject to reasonable regulations, permitted in city parks are athletic and recreational facilities, cultural institutions, public events and gatherings, and other public infrastructure and amenities such as monuments, gardens, parking, restaurants, and retail establishments.

NOTICE TO SIGNERS: Sign and print your name (1) as it appears on the voter registration list, OR (2) your surname of registration AND at least one full given name AND the initial of any other names. Please print or type all information other than your signature. Post Office Box addresses are not generally accepted as valid. By signing this petition, you support the purpose of the petition process of placing this charter amendment on the ballot as a question at the next general election and that, to the best of your information and belief, you are registered to vote in Baltimore City and are eligible to have your signature counted for this petition.

Please Note: The information you provide on this petition is public information and may be used to change your voter registration address.

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|----------|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|----------|--------------------|-------|------|------|
| 1 | Print Name: | First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | | Month | Date | Year | |
| | | | | | | Birth Date: | | | |
| | Signature: | | | | | Date of Signature: | Month | Date | Year |
| | Maryland Residence Address: | Street Number | Street Name | | Apt. No. | City or Town | | Zip | |
| 2 | Print Name: | First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | | Month | Date | Year | |
| | | | | | | Birth Date: | | | |
| | Signature: | | | | | Date of Signature: | Month | Date | Year |
| | Maryland Residence Address: | Street Number | Street Name | | Apt. No. | City or Town | | Zip | |
| 3 | Print Name: | First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | | Month | Date | Year | |
| | | | | | | Birth Date: | | | |
| | Signature: | | | | | Date of Signature: | Month | Date | Year |
| | Maryland Residence Address: | Street Number | Street Name | | Apt. No. | City or Town | | Zip | |
| 4 | Print Name: | First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | | Month | Date | Year | |
| | | | | | | Birth Date: | | | |
| | Signature: | | | | | Date of Signature: | Month | Date | Year |
| | Maryland Residence Address: | Street Number | Street Name | | Apt. No. | City or Town | | Zip | |

Individual Circulator's printed or typed name _____

Residence Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (including area code) _____

Circulator's Affidavit Under penalties of perjury, I swear (or affirm) that:

- (a) I was at least 18 years old when each signature was obtained;
- (b) the information given to the left identifying me is true and correct;
- (c) I personally observed each signer as he or she signed this page; and
- (d) to the best of my knowledge and belief: (i) all signatures on this page are genuine; and (ii) all signers are registered voters of Maryland.

Circulator's Signature

Date (mm/dd/yy)

Sign and Date when signature collection is completed.

ARTICLE I – General Provisions

[Sections (1) through (19) remain unchanged and are thus omitted.]

Section 20. Public City parks.

(a) In general.

It is hereby established a system of open city parks forever dedicated to public use for the benefit of the people. That system shall include, at a minimum, those public parks designated in subsection (b) of this section and any additional parks designated by the City pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.

The City of Baltimore shall maintain these dedicated public city parks in perpetuity. These parks are intended to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors by permanently preserving open space for public use. These parks may provide reflective, cultural, historical, educational, and recreational opportunities; encourage neighborhood investment in and stewardship of natural green spaces and native flora and fauna; protect and enhance natural resources including forests, habitat, and water quality; and ensure the environmental benefits of adequate light, air, and water in City neighborhoods.

(b) Dedicated public city parks.

The areas in the City listed in this subsection, described by their common and customary name and boundaries enumerated in this subsection, are hereby established and designated as dedicated public city parks:

- 1) Bocek Park. The 17-acre portion of the City known as Bocek Park that lies south of Penn Central railroad, west of Edison Highway, north of E. Madison Street, and east of N. Linwood Avenue.
- 2) Canton Waterfront Park. The 9-acre portion of the City known as Canton Waterfront Park that lies south of Boston Street to the water's edge, west of S. Linwood Avenue, and east of S. Clinton Street.
- 3) Carroll Park. The 155-acre portion of the City known as Carroll Park that lies south of the B&O railroad, southwest of Bayard Street, northwest of Washington Boulevard, and north of Interstate 95.
- 4) Chinquapin Run Park. The 81-acre portion of the City known as Chinquapin Run Park that follows Chinquapin Run stream southeasterly from near Northern Parkway to Perring Parkway.
- 5) Clifton Park. The 246-acre portion of the City known as Clifton Park that lies southeast of Harford Road, southwest of Erdman Avenue, northwest of Belair Road, and north of Sinclair Lane, except an area set aside for and known as Saint Vincent Cemetery.
- 6) Druid Hill Park. The 607-acre portion of the City known as Druid Hill Park that lies south of Druid Hill Drive, west of the Jones Falls Expressway, north of Cloverdale Road and Druid Park Lake Drive, and east of Reisterstown Road, including Druid Lake and an approximately 125-acre portion that shall remain in use as the Maryland Zoo.
- 7) Farring Baybrook Park. The 91-acre portion of the City known as Farring Baybrook Park that lies southwest of Park Circle and Tompkins Street, west of Pascal Avenue and West Bay Avenue, north of Cherry Hill Road, and northeast of the Anne Arundel County line.
- 8) Federal Hill Park. The 11-acre portion of the City known as Federal Hill Park that lies south of Key Highway, west of Covington Street, north of Warren Avenue, and east of Battery Avenue, including a southern panhandle along Covington Street to Grindall Street.

- 9) Fort Armistead Park. The 37-acre portion of the City known as Fort Armistead Park that lies along Fort Armistead Road, mainly south of the road, extending to the west shore of the Patapsco River.
- 10) Fort Holabird Park. The 46-acre portion of the City known as Fort Holabird Park that lies south of the B&O railroad, west of the Baltimore County line, north of Maple Avenue, and northeast of the Penn Central railroad.
- 11) Hanlon Park. The 85-acre portion of the City known as Hanlon Park that lies south of Liberty Heights Avenue, east of N. Hilton Street and northeast of Powhatan Avenue, north of Gwynns Falls Parkway, and west of N. Dukeland Street, including Lake Ashburton.
- 12) Herring Run Park & Mount Pleasant Park. The 388-acre and 42-acre portions of the City known as Herring Run Park and Mount Pleasant Park that follow Herring Run stream south and then southeasterly from near Woodbourne Avenue by Morgan State University to Interstate 895.
- 13) Inner Harbor Park. The 34-acre portion of the City that lies along the north, west and south shores of the Inner Harbor, south of Pratt Street to the water's edge, east of Light Street including McKeldin Square to the water's edge, and north of Key Highway to the water's edge, from the World Trade Center around the shoreline of the Inner Harbor to and including Rash Field, except for an area of not more than 3.4 acres that shall remain set aside for use by the Maryland Science Center.
- 14) Middle Branch Park. The 96-acre portion of the City known as Middle Branch Park that includes a portion that lies along the south shore of the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River, north of Waterview Avenue to the water's edge, a portion that lies southeast of Reedbird Avenue to the water's edge and northeast of South Hanover Street to the water's edge, and a portion that lies along the east shore of the Patapsco River, north of the B&O railroad to the water's edge.
- 15) Patterson Park. The 139-acre portion of the City known as Patterson Park that includes a portion that lies south of E. Baltimore Street, north of Eastern Avenue, east of S. Patterson Park Avenue, and west of S. Linwood Avenue, and a portion that lies east of S. Linwood Avenue, west of S. Ellwood Avenue, south of E. Pratt Street, and north of Eastern Avenue.
- 16) Reedbird Park. The 41-acre portion of the City known as Reedbird Park that lies southeast of Reedbird Avenue to the water's edge, along the shoreline from S. Hanover Street to the B&O railroad.
- 17) Riverside Park. The 20-acre portion of the City that lies south of E. Randall Street, west of Covington Street, north of the B&O railroad, and east of Johnson Street.
- 18) Roosevelt Park. The 17-acre portion of the City that lies south of West 36th Street, west of Falls Road, north of Clipper Heights Avenue, and east of Poole Street.
- 19) Western Run Park. The 51-acre portion of the City known as Western Run Park that follows Western Run stream along Cross Country Boulevard, west from Gulley Road to the Jones Falls Expressway.
- 20) Wyman Park & Stony Run Park. The 72-acre and 27-acre portions of the City known as Wyman Park and Stony Run Park that follow Stony Run stream south from Deepdene Road to West 29th Street.

(c) Permitted uses.

Subject to zoning laws and reasonable regulations established by the City and its departments and agencies, these dedicated public city parks may accommodate athletic and recreational facilities including but not limited to tracks, courts, fields, playgrounds, and piers; historical, educational, and

cultural institutions including but not limited to galleries, museums, nature centers, and performance spaces; public events and gatherings including but not limited to festivals, markets, and outdoor exhibitions; and other public infrastructure and amenities such as gardens, trails, monuments, water tanks, pavilions, parking, restaurants, restrooms, retail establishments, and squares.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, all permitted uses under this subsection shall be open and accessible to the public.

(d) Limitations.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, to preserve the integrity and purpose of city parks established under this section, the following are prohibited in dedicated public city parks:

- 1) factories and industrial activities;
- 2) residential developments and private housing;
- 3) private office space, except offices used by government or nonprofit institutions;
- 4) any buildings or facilities exceeding a height of 100 feet; and
- 5) any other private use that limits access or detracts from the public nature and purpose of the parks.

(e) Exemption for nonconforming legacy structures.

Structures including but not limited to buildings, facilities, and monuments already in place as of January 1, 2024, in the public city parks designated in subsection (b) are not subject to the limitations set forth in subsection (d), except that these nonconforming legacy structures may not be expanded or modified in any manner, unless the changes conform to the limitations set forth in subsection (d).

(f) Authorization.

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Charter, the City may designate additional dedicated public parks by ordinance or legislation, but cannot in any way change the boundaries, reduce in size, or alter through zoning the area, limitations, or permitted uses of the dedicated public parks designated in subsection (b).

(g) Repeal of inconsistent provision.

Any provision of this Charter that is inconsistent with this section or that in any way changes the boundaries, reduce in sizes, or alters the area, limitations, or permitted uses of the dedicated public city parks established pursuant to this section is invalid and is hereby repealed.

This section goes into effect on January 1, 2025.

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