

## BI-COUNTY AGENCIES

### THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairman: Robert M. Watkins, 1955

Commissioners: Herbert W. Wells, 1955; Donald E. Gingery, 1955;  
Arnold McKee, 1955; Sydney M. Oliver, 1957; Carlton E. Pyles, 1957.

Jesse F. Nicholson, Secretary-Treasurer

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This Commission has general planning and park jurisdiction over the Maryland-Washington Metropolitan District created in 1927 and the Maryland-Washington Regional District created in 1939. Both districts are within Montgomery and Prince George's Counties adjoining the District of Columbia and embrace approximately 312 square miles. The 1953 estimated population of the entire Regional District in both counties exceeds 325,000 people.

The 1953 estimated taxable basis of the Montgomery County portion of the Regional District is \$568,000,000 and of the Metropolitan District \$560,000,000. The 1953 estimated taxable basis of the Prince George's County portion of the Regional District is \$340,628,507 and of the Metropolitan District \$289,682,845.

The Commission has been given, through bi-county enactments of the Maryland General Assembly definite jurisdiction over the planning of the Maryland-Washington Regional District, which includes all of suburban Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and a considerable portion of agricultural Montgomery County.

The Commission is composed of six members appointed by the Governor. Two members must be residents and taxpayers of that portion of the Maryland-Washington Metropolitan District within Montgomery County; one may be a resident of any part of Montgomery County; two must be residents and taxpayers of that portion of the District within Prince George's County; and one may be a resident of any part of Prince George's County. Members have six-year overlapping terms, the terms of two of the first appointees from each county having been for four years. The Commission appoints a Secretary-Treasurer and a General Counsel. Regional offices are maintained in both counties.

Within the Maryland-Washington Metropolitan District, the Commission is empowered to acquire, develop, maintain, and operate a park system with recreational facilities, the expense of which is paid from a separate park tax levied within the District. The Commission is authorized to cooperate and negotiate with Federal agencies for financial assistance under the terms of the Capper-Cramton Act, and with other agencies in the park development program.

Within the Maryland-Washington Regional District, which includes and extends beyond the Metropolitan District, the Commission is empowered to make, adopt, and amend a general plan for the physical development of the District, including all factors of urban, suburban, rural, and regional planning. Plans and specifications for the construction of public works improvements and facilities are authorized to be prepared by the Commission. It is given specific sub-division control power, and jurisdiction over street grades and locations, public buildings and utilities after the adoption of a major road plan,