Agenda

- Background
- Outreach and Needs Assessment
- Major Themes from Needs Assessment
- Recommendations
  - Policy for Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate, Compensate
  - Revised Park Classification System / New Park Types
  - Park Equity
  - Improve Field Service Delivery
  - Natural Resources Stewardship
  - Cultural Resources
  - Agricultural Preservation
- Plan Schedule
- Requested Actions
  - Approval of Working Draft as the Public Hearing Draft
  - Set the Public Hearing date for May 25, 2017
Background

Parks and open spaces are needed now more than ever to serve not only the leisure needs of residents and employees but to ensure a strong sense of community, while protecting open space and natural resources for future generations.

Given the scarcity of available land, utilizing our existing lands and facilities to their maximum potential is more critical now than ever.
Purpose of the PROS Plan

- Helps deliver the “right parks in the right places”, using a data-driven approach
- Updates policies
- Identifies future facility needs and resource conservation priorities
- Guides priorities for park acquisition, renovation, development and preservation
The Changing Role of Parks

In the mid-1980’s, we began the transition away from a growing suburban to a more urban county.

- **1930 to 40’s - Stream Valley Parks:** unprecedented expansion of park facilities in the major stream valleys
- **1950 to 60’s - Regional Parks and Athletic Fields:** services to the growing suburban population + drive to parks + wedge and corridors plan
- **1970’s - Focus on Neighborhood Parks:** daily services to smaller social structures; Urban Parks as buffer from commercial areas; adequate public facilities ordinance; environmental stewardship
- **1980’s - Agricultural Reserve:** preservation of farmland and growth management
- **1990 and 2000’s: Smart Growth:** a return to urban areas, Legacy Open Space Plan: preservation of the best of the best
- **2010’s: 2012 PROS, Urban Parks Guidelines, Vision 2030:** parks in growing urban areas and redefinition of urban park type
- **Today : Energized Public Spaces FMP:** parks + public spaces implementation of the right parks in the right places
## The Changing Role of Parks

### Park Benefits

**HEALTH**
- Increase Exercise
- Reduces Health Risks
- Reduces crime
- Reduces cost of healthcare
- Increases sense of community and cultural history

**ENVIRONMENT**
- Improves air quality
- Keeps places cooler
- Improves water quality

**ECONOMY**
- Attracts residents & businesses
- Increases property values (15-20%)
- Savings in infrastructure costs
- Increases sales
- Increases commercial leasing rates
State Requirement

Produce every five years for Maryland’s Program Open Space (POS) Local-side program

Key source for Maryland’s Land Preservation and Recreation Plan (LPPRP)

“LPPRPs (PROS Plans) provide a means for creating meaningful and defensible goals to support local priorities for resource allocation in state programs focused on providing land and facilities for public parks, recreation areas and natural resource conservation.”

- LPPRP Guidelines Final Draft, July 17, 2015
PROS Guidance

Decision making guidance

- Park and recreation recommendations in area and park master plans
- Priorities for park acquisition, renovation and development
- Recreation facility needs in the county up to the year 2030
- Urban parks acquisition and development
- Priorities for stewardship of natural resources
- Priorities for stewardship of important historic resources
- Local agricultural land preservation programs
State Requirements

Plan Introduction
  a. a general overview of county geography, population
  b. an introduction to the existing system of preserved lands

Parks and Recreation
  a. updated inventory of assets and user demand information
  b. a level of service analysis to identify deficiencies and opportunities
  c. strategies for meeting recreational goals, addressing deficiencies, improving and managing county parks and recreation facilities over the next five years

Natural Resource Land Conservation
  a. update information, analysis, goals and strategies for managing and improving county natural resource conservation land networks

Agricultural Land Preservation
  a. Update data on preserved lands
  b. provide the goals and strategies for improving the local program. Montgomery County has a certified Agricultural Preservation Program under MDE and MALPF, thus can provide a more compact chapter that refers to the certification documents for details.
State Requirements

Optional

a. An economic analysis of parks, recreation and land conservation in the county

b. Discussion of cultural resource and historic preservation*

c. Tourism

d. Education and environmental literacy**

* Items b., Cultural Resources Stewardship, is its own dedicated chapter
** Item d. will also be addressed
Sources

- Data collection and analysis
- Park customer input – community meetings, surveys, online comments, etc.
- Research of park strategic plans in other jurisdictions of similar context
- Past M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks PROS Plans, Vision 2030 Strategic Plan, and other M-NCPPC plans
- Emerging trends – demographic, lifestyle, facility and program
- State Guidelines (Final Draft LPPRP Guidelines, July 2015)
- Staff experience
Demographic Influences

Race and Hispanic Origin 1990-2015
- Large population - over 1 million people since 2012

Historical and Forecasted Racial Change
- Continuing racial and ethnic diversity

Source: 1990-2010 U.S. Census, 2015 American Community Survey

Source: 1960-2010 U. S. Census; 2010-2040 Racial Forecast, MD Dept. of Planning
Demographic Influences

Continuing racial and ethnic diversity

- One third of population is foreign born
- Wide diversity in country of origin
- Many languages and varying level of English speaking ability

Top 15 Countries of Origin

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Birthplace</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>El Salvador</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>22,203</td>
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<td>Korea</td>
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<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<td>Brazil</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>5,408</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Demographic Influences

Aging Baby Boomers

- Driving a rise in age 65+

Demographic Influences

Wealthy county, but not all households
- 1 in 4 households have incomes less than $50,000
- 76,900 people below poverty level (7.5%)

Source: 2015 American Community Survey, 1-year estimate
Community Outreach

Parks of the Future: Voice your Vision!
The combined outreach vision for the three plans of similar scope

- 2017 PROS Plan
- CIP
- Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan

Critical outreach to minority communities

- El Salvador
- India
- China
- Korea
- Ethiopia
- Vietnam
- Philippines
Community Outreach

- Traditional and ethnic media, ads and press releases
- A project web page and open town hall
- Postings to e-newsletters, social media channels like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and the Parks Department Media Center
- Online Calendars
- Collecting comments at regularly scheduled public events
- Meetings with civic associations, citizen advisory boards, other organized groups
- Public meetings
- Planning Board sessions
Outreach and Needs Assessment

Project Team

- **PROS Consulting**
  - National, full-service management consulting and planning firm specializing in government and not-for-profit agencies
  - National experience: 1,000+ projects, 47 states, 7 countries with 100+ years combined experience in the public sector
  - Clients have included: Fairfax County Parks, (Virginia), Metro Parks Tacoma (Washington), Miami-Dade County Regional Parks Strategy, (Florida), Dakota County Parks Visitor Services Plan (Minnesota)

- **ETC Institute**
  - Specialize in the design and administration of statistically valid surveys
  - Conducts market research for more major U.S. cities than any other firm

- **Communities Connect**
  - Focus group facilitation with a specialization in outreach to minority communities typically underrepresented in public input process

- **Peak Democracy**
  - Online forum for collecting location-specific community input and feedback
Comprehensive Outreach, Unique to Montgomery County

The Community Outreach and Needs Assessment is a part of:

- 2017 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan
- Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan
- Capital Improvement Program

- Key findings are analyzed alongside and integrated with guidance from previous plans, including:
  - Vision 2030 Strategic Plan and the 2012 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

- Montgomery County Parks provides a higher level of community engagement than many park agencies,
  - Take a deeper dive into demographic groups and key issues
  - Design intensive outreach to ensure comprehensive feedback
  - Staff are responsive, proactive, analytical, and engaged
Project Process and Methodology

Needs Assessment is focus of the initial phase of the 2017 Montgomery County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan Update.

- **Goal:** Engage a broad range of demographic segments in Montgomery County to better understand characteristics, preferences, and satisfaction of residents in relation to parks.

The team used six community input methods to inform an analysis of priorities:

- Statistically Valid Survey (705 respondents)
- Intercept Survey #1 (174 participants)
- Intercept Survey #2 (534 participants)
- Focus Groups (61 participants)
- Internet Forum for Usage & Needs (300+ participants)
- Parks & Recreation of the Future Survey (300+ participants)

The team then analyzed the qualitative and quantitative data to prioritize community needs; these key findings were then aggregated into Priority Rankings.
Project Process and Methodology

Feedback and ideas were gathered from nearly 3,000 Montgomery County residents, including:

- 950 reached via in-person methods, including community meetings, focus groups, and interviews
- 1000+ comments and feedback received via online survey and interactive maps
- 705 respondents to the statistically valid survey

Outreach targeted a diverse range of audiences, from active park users to those typically under-represented in the public input process:

- Active park users and non-users
- Ethnically diverse communities and older populations
- Random sampling of residents
Project Process and Methodology

Tailored Outreach

- In general, Montgomery County has a more diverse population than the U.S.
  - Number of primary languages spoken much higher than average

- Needs Assessment methodology was tailored to correlate comprehensive, targeted outreach

- Areas of demographic concentration via mapping
  - Identify differences
  - Identify commonalities, in recreation preferences.
Statistically Valid Survey Highlights

705 respondent households
- 20% indicated that English was not their primary language
- 21 different primary languages were reported

95% of respondents said that high-quality parks, trails, and recreation facilities are Very or Somewhat Important to the quality of life in Montgomery County

51% of respondents learn about park programs and activities by word of mouth
- 29% use the Montgomery Parks website
- 40% use the Montgomery Recreation website
- 33% use the Recreation and Parks Program Guide
Statistically Valid Survey Highlights

Priorities for Park Facility Investments

The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) weights (1) importance residents place on facilities, (2) how many have unmet needs for the facility

1. Natural surface trails (walking, biking, horse-back riding) (PIR=193)
2. Paved, multi-use trails (walking, biking) (PIR=190)
3. Natural areas and wildlife habitats (PIR=150)
4. Public gardens (PIR=122)
5. Park shelters and picnic areas (PIR=105)

Funding Priorities

The four actions respondents are most supportive of funding with tax dollars are:

- Repair/renovate existing facilities (49%)
- Purchase land for natural resources conservation for future generations (40%)
- Develop new walking/biking trails and connect existing trails (40%)
- Purchase land for developing trails (29%)
Statistically Valid Survey Highlights

Top priorities for investment for park facilities

- Natural surface trails
- Paved, multi-use trails (walking, biking)
- Natural areas & wildlife habitats
- Public gardens
- Park shelters & picnic areas
- Community gardens
- Nature center with outdoor educational areas
- Museums & History Centers
- Dog parks
- Lawn areas for events/festivals/sports/etc.
- Nature play spaces
- Playgrounds
- Historic & cultural sites
- Rectangular sports fields
- Tennis courts
- Rentable space (for formal events)
- Basketball courts
- Volleyball courts
- Courts (Pickle ball, handball, bocce, etc.)
- Diamond athletic fields
- Paved plazas
- Skate parks
- Cricket fields
- Other
## Survey Response Comparison

### 2010 (Vision 2030) vs. 2017 Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Facility Types</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Surface Trails</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard Surface, Paved, Multi-Use Trails</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Areas &amp; Wildlife Habitats</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Gardens</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park Shelters &amp; Picnic Areas</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Gardens</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature Centers With Outdoor Ed Areas</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Museums &amp; History Centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dog Parks</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawn Areas For Events/Festivals/Sports, Etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature Play Spaces</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
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<td>Historic &amp; Cultural Sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rectangular Sports Fields</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental Space for Formal Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball Courts</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volleyball Courts</td>
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<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Courts (Pickle Ball, Handball, Bocce, Etc.)</td>
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<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Athletic Fields</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paved Plazas</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>Skate Parks</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cricket Fields</td>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Focus Group Highlights

- 61 Montgomery County residents participated in 6 focus groups over 4 weeks
- 30% reported as African American, African, or Black; 33% Hispanic and/or Latino, 37% Asian or Pacific Islander
- Participants resided in 16 different zip codes; participants were targeted based on census mapping of minority populations
- Participants have lived in the U.S. between 6 months and 10 years, and represent 13+ countries of origin
Focus Group Highlights

Major Themes

- Improve park safety and security
  *Eliminate illicit/illega activities, improve lighting, add visible security (cameras, personnel)*.

- Cleanliness of facilities
  *Improve the cleanliness of the facilities, including trails, and trash removal.*

- Programming
  *Provide more varied and targeted sports, health, and wellness programs for all ages. Target and improve programs for children ages 2–3. More cultural programming and events.*

- Engage Communities
  *Partner with schools and non-profits. Parks for social gatherings. Parks as meeting points and vehicles for community building, gatherings, to promote cultural understanding.*

- Physical Facilities
  *Amenities and activities for small children/families. More urban parks to preserve existing green spaces located within walking distance. Accommodate large outdoor events.*

- Accessibility
  *Language barriers in staffing and signage. High cost of use, rentals, transportation. Consistent outreach to elderly and families through traditional print media.*
Intercept Survey #1 Highlights

- Intercept surveys consisted of a very brief interview about a topic including three questions on park usage, interest, and communication preferences.
- 174 responses were collected from 6 recreation centers, 3 ethnic supermarkets, 1 house of worship, and 1 park in December 2016 and February 2017.
- Preferred languages: English (49%), Mandarin (25%), Hindi (16%), Spanish (10%).

Results (Top 5 responses for each category)

- Participation Barriers
  *Too far from home, cleanliness (restrooms), too busy, hours not convenient, don’t know location*
- Programs and Amenities
  *Playground equipment, public restrooms, sport courts, fitness equipment, security*
- Communication Methods
  *Email, Phone (text), Montgomery County Website, Social Media, Flyers*
- Open-ended responses included 30% positive responses and concerns about maintenance, hours, and communication.
Intercept Survey #2 Highlights

- Fall 2016, Parks staff attended two events
  - World of Montgomery Festival
  - Silver Spring Tree Lighting
- 534 responses were collected on the topic of prioritization of park facilities and services
- Participants chose from a list of 7 topics via pictogram survey

Results

- Top 5 Facilities and Services
  1. Trails
  2. Events
  3. Sports
  4. Nature & Camping
  5. History & Education

- Open-ended responses included positive feedback as well as a focus on more in-park amenities (playgrounds, benches, water fountains), cleanliness and safety, and accessibility
Online Forums

- Online Forums can be geo-located and are used by communities to gather input and engage the public in community decision-making
- 600+ responses have been collected through the Montgomery County online forum and the Peak Democracy forum and survey
- Between the two forums, input has been gathered from 27 of the 28 planning areas

Results

- Mirrored other feedback methods with these themes:
  - Cleanliness and safety (litter, restrooms, lights, maintenance)
  - In-park amenities (playgrounds, picnic tables, trash cans, etc.)
  - Accessibility (connectivity and transportation, ADA, parking)
  - Connected, Urban Parks (trails, preserving green space, preserving/restoring habitat)
- Different feedback included:
  - Emphasis on art and history in parks
  - Desire for un-programmed open space
Analysis of Results

Community needs that were common across demographics and outreach methodology were:

- Identified based on both quantitative and qualitative results
- Prioritized according to frequency and importance in the Priority Rankings

Community needs resulting in Priority Rankings were also broken down by demographics:

- Language
- Race
- Ethnicity

Priority Rankings are calculated by looking at Unmet Needs for facilities and Importance Ranking for facilities:

- 60% from statistically valid surveys
- 40% from consultant evaluation of community focus groups, intercept surveys, online forums
Analysis of Results

Priority Rankings for Park Facilities/Amenities - Overall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITY/AMENITY</th>
<th>OVERALL RANKING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paved, Multi-use Trails (Walking, Biking)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Surface Trails (Walking, Biking, Horseback Riding)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Areas &amp; Wildlife Habitats</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Gardens</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Shelters &amp; Picnic Areas</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Center With Outdoor Educational Areas</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexible Lawn Areas For Events &amp; Festivals, Pickup Sports, Etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Museums &amp; History Centers</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Gardens</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Parks</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectangular Sports Fields (Soccer, Football, Ultimate Frisbee, Etc.)</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature Play Spaces</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic &amp; Cultural Sites</td>
<td>14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Analysis of Results

Common needs across all demographic groups

- Paved, multi-use trails
- Natural surface trails
- Public gardens
- Park shelters & picnic areas
- Events
- All ages programming
Build community through Parks and Recreation

Build community interactions and engagement

- Creating culturally-relevant programs and events
  - Program offerings that relate to the diverse demographics of the area
    - Parks as centers to promote cultural understanding through ethnic programs and events – Focus Groups
    - “Enjoy talking to the Chinese staff at the community center” – Intercept Survey

- Large-scale festivals and events (e.g., music)
  - “Please consider more regional events other than for sports” – Online Forum
  - 79% of survey respondents report and increase in special event participation in next 10 years
  - Events are third most important to survey respondents – Intercept Survey

- Events that demonstrate and celebrate the history of an amenity or area
  - Online forum participants had a strong rate of discussion regarding history in parks
  - 79% of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that Montgomery County parks should protect historic buildings or archaeological sites
Build community through Parks and Recreation

Build community interactions and engagement that supports and embraces cultural differences

- Using diverse community engagement methods and native language outreach
  - Outreach to demographic segments based on their preferred communication method
    - *Emails, consistent website updates, social media outreach, and flyers are preferred outreach methods* – Intercept Survey
    - *The top four ways that survey respondents learn about park programs and activities are:* *Word of mouth, Parks and County websites, Program Guide, and flyers at facilities.*
  - *Proactive outreach to diverse communities through native language and community partners; outreach to underserved communities*
    - *Eliminate language barriers in staffing and signage* – Focus Groups
    - *Better outreach for the elderly and families* – Focus Groups
    - *Work in partnership with non-profits to reach underserved areas* – Focus Groups
Build community through Parks and Recreation

Build spaces for community interactions and engagement

- Creating gathering spaces
  - Emphasis on benches and picnic shelters as a place for people to meet and groups to gather
    - 50% of survey respondents report a need for park shelters and picnic areas
    - Park shelters and picnic areas have a priority investment rating of 105/200 (#5 of 24)
    - Large picnic shelters for long-term rentals (1/2 day or longer) and bathroom facilities nearby – Focus Groups
    - “More pavilions are needed” – Intercept Survey

- Flexible adjacent lawn areas for large gatherings and pick-up sports
  - An estimated 49,208 households in Montgomery County (36%) have a need for flexible lawn areas for events/festivals/and pick-up sports that is being either not met or partly met
  - “Lots of area to have fun in” – Intercept Survey
  - Parks should function as a place for building community through social gatherings – places to hold small group events (alumni associations, churches, etc.) – Focus Groups
Plan for future generations

Balance the need for natural resources protection and conservation with recreation

- Develop recreational programs and services that work in harmony with efforts to steward natural and cultural resources
  - 72% of survey respondents report an increase in nature-oriented activities over next 10 years
  - “Separate area to promote animal habitat” – Intercept Survey

- Connect current open spaces, natural areas, and historic sites with surrounding communities using sustainable trails
  - Natural surface trails and paved, multi-use trails are both rated as having high priority investment ratings (193 and 150, respectively – out of a possible 200)
  - “Looking forward to ICC bike trail connecting to Needwood Park this spring” – Online Forum

- Land development and acquisition strategies that balance natural, cultural, or resource-based recreational activities (e.g., bird-watching, wildflower viewing, mountain biking, rock climbing, kayaking, canoeing) with facilities that cater to more traditional sports (e.g., soccer, basketball)
  - Natural areas and wildlife habitats have a priority investment rating of 150, while rectangular sports fields are at 72
  - “More isolated, natural spaces” – Intercept Survey
Optimize what we have

Utilize existing park assets to their maximum potential

- Enhance cleanliness, security, and accessibility
  - Continue to increase accessibility by adding pedestrian friendly traffic elements and connectivity to sidewalks and multi-use trails
    - 91% of survey respondents are very or somewhat supportive of developing new biking/walking trails or connecting existing
    - “Better access to parks by bike and safe roads” - Intercept Survey

- Maintain, repair, or renovate existing facilities; manage litter and keep restrooms clean
  - 49% of survey respondents consider repairing/renovating existing parks a funding priority.
  - “Facilities maintenance in small park areas” - Intercept Survey

- Increase safety and security elements, such as additional lighting or personnel
  - Many participants report “Security” as a missing amenity - Intercept Survey
  - Need for better lighting, concern for illicit activity - Focus Groups
Optimize what we have

Utilize park assets currently held to their maximum potential

- Provide programs and amenities for families and small children
  - Need for organized activities for younger children and families
    - 74% of survey respondents project an increase in their family activities over the next 10 years
    - “seem to be limited options for children and family activities” – Online Forum
  - Target and improve programs for younger children, ages 2-3 – Focus Groups

- Add and better maintain playgrounds and accessible outdoor play amenities for children
  - 38% of survey respondents have used a playground 26+ times in the past 12 months
  - “More playgrounds for kids” – Intercept survey
Recommendation Highlights

Alignment with Needs Assessment

- Build Community through Parks and Recreation
  - Shelters, picnic areas, social gathering spaces
  - Fill gaps in walking system to parks and open spaces

- Plan for Future Generations - Increase land for natural resource protection and conservation
  - Protect and manage our natural resources
  - Meet resource-based recreation needs while minimizing impacts
  - Expand education about natural resources

- Optimize What We Have
  - Repurpose underutilized facilities with needed ones
  - Balance renovation with new development
  - Provide flexible, multi-use spaces
Alignment with Priority Rankings

- Implement Countywide Park Trails Plan, area plans
- Maintain & prevent degradation of natural resources
- Implement Brookside Gardens Master Plan
- Study shelter and picnic areas for site selection
- Develop Nature Centers Functional Plan
- Continue playgrounds as core amenities
- Provide more social gathering spaces, events, festivals
- Create premier experiences at heritage sites
- Select new community garden sites
- Select new dog park sites
- Expand field capacity
- Build pilot nature play spaces
- Preserve, restore, adapt high priority historic sites

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural surface trails (walking, biking, horseback riding)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural areas &amp; wildlife habitats</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public gardens</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park shelters &amp; picnic areas</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature center with outdoor educational areas</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexible lawn areas for events &amp; festivals, pickup sports, etc.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museums &amp; history centers</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community gardens</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog parks</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectangular sports fields (soccer, football, Ultimate Frisbee, etc.)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature play spaces</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic &amp; cultural sites</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendation Highlights

- Policy to Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate, Compensate
- Revised Park Classification System / New Park Types
- Park Equity
- Improve Field Service Delivery
- Natural Resources Stewardship
- Cultural Resources Stewardship
- Agricultural Preservation
Policy for Parks: Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate, Compensate

Addition to Policy for Parks’ section that deals with the relationship to other public agencies, education, and the private sector

- The Policy to Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate, Compensate will guide any public or quasi-public agency seeking to use parkland for non-park projects
- Applies to all aspects of the Parks system, including the built and un-built environment
Revised Park Classification System and New Park Types

Addition to the Park Classification System

- **CIVIC GREENS**

*The Plan recommends adding “1.5 ACRE IDEAL”*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK TYPE</th>
<th>PARK TYPE DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>TYPICAL FACILITIES*</th>
<th>APPROX. SIZE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COUNTYWIDE PARKS - Parks in this category serve all residents of Montgomery County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Countywide Urban Parks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIVIC GREENS</td>
<td>Formally planned, flexible, programmable open spaces that serve as places for informal gathering, quiet contemplation, or large special event gatherings. Depending on size, they may support activities including open air markets, concerts, festivals, and special events but are not often used for programmed recreational purposes.</td>
<td>A central lawn is often the main focus with adjacent spaces providing complementary uses. May include gardens, water features and shade structures.</td>
<td>1/2 ACRE MINIMUM</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5 ACRE IDEAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Park Types

PLAZAS

*Plazas will be allocated to areas with higher pedestrian traffic, usually adjacent to transit stops and commercial buildings, and with higher concentration of paved surfaces.*

- Formally planned, predominantly hardscaped open spaces for pedestrian traffic from nearby transit stops and commercial and higher density residential uses.
- Depending on size, they may support activities including open air markets, concerts, festivals, and special events, but are not often used for active recreational purposes.
- Consider access to sunlight and connection to the network of public spaces, and protection from the wind, traffic and noise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>PLAZAS</td>
<td>Formally planned, predominantly hardscaped open spaces for pedestrian traffic from nearby transit stops and commercial and higher density residential uses. Depending on size, they may support activities including open air markets, concerts, festivals, and special events, but are not often used for active recreational purposes. Consider access to sunlight and connection to the network of public spaces, and protection from the wind, traffic and noise.</td>
<td>Central hardscaped gathering area with public art/water feature as focal point. May include special lighting, shaded areas, and benches and tables. Consider temporary closure of local streets to enlarge the size of the plaza for special events. Playful and interactive elements are encouraged.</td>
<td>1/2 acre minimum 1 acre ideal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Park Types

**POCKET GREENS**

The *new park type of Pocket Greens* will play an important role in the network of public spaces that will be encouraged in higher density areas.

- Serve residents and workers from nearby area, designed for relaxation, lunch breaks, small games, play area for children, and outdoor eating.
- Consider access to sunlight, important view corridors, connection to the network of public spaces, and protection from the wind, traffic and noise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK TYPE</th>
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<th>TYPICAL FACILITIES*</th>
<th>APPROX. SIZE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY USE PARKS - Parks in this category serve residents of surrounding communities</td>
<td>1/10-1/4 ACRE</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Community Use Urban Parks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POCKET GREENS</td>
<td>Serve residents and workers from nearby area, designed for relaxation, lunch breaks, small games, play area for children, and outdoor eating. Consider access to sunlight, important view corridors, connection to the network of public spaces, and protection from the wind, traffic and noise.</td>
<td>Program and design should reflect the demographics and culture of its surrounding users. Sunlit small gathering areas, shaded seating, small children play areas. May include movable furniture, focal point public art, and small-scale green areas and trees.</td>
<td>1/10-1/4 ACRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Park Equity

Higher concentrations of lower income households with low walkable access to park entrances and trailheads

- Replace components at end of life cycle
- Eliminate barriers to walking to existing parks
- Provide new needed facilities
- Re-think an entire park
- Add a new park
Park Equity

Add Park Equity to CIP evaluation criteria, along with:

- Renovates Aging Infrastructure
- Fulfills Required Mandates
- Stewards Natural or Cultural Resources
- Supports Plans or Studies
- Meets Public Request
- Enhances Safety
- Generates Revenue
- Minimizes Operating Budget Impact
Natural Resource Stewardship

- Identify, protect, and manage Priority Natural Resource Areas
  - Best Natural Areas
  - Biodiversity Areas
  - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Promote Environmental Literacy
- NPDES MS4 Permit
NPDES - MS4 Permit

The EPA’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater regulations established the requirement for States to administer the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit

- These permits were implemented by the EPA in two phases:
  - **Phase I** for large jurisdictions in urban areas generally serving populations of over 100,000 or greater
  - **Phase II** expanded coverage to smaller jurisdictions and land owners not covered by the Phase I permit

- Parks has an NPDES MS4 State/Federal Phase II Permit
- MDE has recently released their draft new Phase II NPDES General Permit that is proposed to go into effect winter of 2017
NPDES - MS4 Permit

Montgomery Parks State/Federal Phases II Permit: Develop and implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) for 6 minimum control measures:

1. Personnel Education & Outreach
2. Public Involvement & Participation
3. Construction Site Runoff Control
4. Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (IDDE)
5. Post Construction Stormwater Management
6. Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping
Cultural Resource Stewardship

Enhance educational programming through innovative and engaging tools

- Drone footage for 3-D modeling of archaeological sites
- Multimedia films
- Audio experiences
- iPADs for exploration of historical books
- “View tubes” into re-created historical landscapes
- More costumed interpretation

Thomas Mill foundations today (left) and Thomas Mill reconstructed based on photos and archaeology (right)
The Recreation Department

Needs Assessment reinforces Montgomery County Recreation Facility Development Plan 2010-2030 - 2017 Update

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/about/facility.html
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>SPRING</td>
<td>Preliminary Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SUMMER</td>
<td>Planning Board review of Outline, Schedule and Outreach Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FALL</td>
<td>Focus group meetings, Surveys, Public events, Begin writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>WINTER</td>
<td>Continued focus group meetings, Surveys, Public events, Continue writing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|      | MARCH 2017 | Transmit preliminary Draft to State March 1, 2017  
|      |        | Community meetings on preliminary content  
|      |        | Adjust document based on public input  
|      |        | Write Working (Staff) Draft |
|      | APRIL 27 | Planning Board review of Working (Staff) Draft |
|      | MAY - JUNE | **May 25, 2017 Public Hearing**  
|      |        | June 8 and 22, 2017 Work Sessions  
|      |        | Approval of final document |
|      | JULY 1, 2017 | Submittal of approved document to State |
|      | FALL    | Council Briefing |
Next Steps

Questions?
Guidance for Work Sessions?
Approve, with any changes, as Public Hearing Draft
Set Public Hearing for May 25
Thank you.