Upper Paint Branch Limited Area Trail Plan Public Meeting # 2

M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
Public Meeting
Marilyn J. Praisner Library
November 8, 2017
Chuck Kines, Trail Planner & Acting Supervisor
Upper Paint Branch Limited Area Trail Plan

The Plan Boundary

- The plan area is located in eastern Montgomery County, near Burtonsville, Fairland, Cloverly, and White Oak.
  - South of MD 198
  - East of New Hampshire Avenue
  - North of Fairland Road
  - West of Old Columbia Pike

Area Master Plans

- Cloverly
- White Oak
- Fairland

Functional Plans

- 2016 Countywide Park Trails Plan
- 2005 Countywide Bikeways Functional Master Plan (and current Master Plan update currently in-progress)
- 2009 ICC Limited Functional Master Plan Amendment
Plan Objectives

1. Provide natural surface trail access to the Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley Park

2. Link new park trails to community destinations and also to the larger countywide park/trail system

3. Offer loop experiences where possible

4. Strike the right balance between public access and resource stewardship
Best Natural Areas and Biodiversity Areas

Biodiversity Areas are significant natural communities that enhance the biodiversity of the County.

Best Natural Areas feature the best habitats for biodiversity on parkland in the County.

- Nearly all the parkland in the Upper Paint Branch is designated as Best Natural Areas.
Best Natural Areas (BNA)

- Contain the best examples of park natural resources in Montgomery County. Features such as large wetlands, high quality aquatic resources and forests, diverse native vegetation, uniquely spectacular topography and bedrock formations and/or unique habitats that are scarce and/or fragile.
Special Protection Area (SPA)

A part of the County that has high-quality or unusually sensitive water resources

(i.e. high quality streams, sensitive wetlands, and soil prone to erosion) or other environmental features)

Pervious cap of 8% for entire area, both public and private land
Existing conditions

Desirable destinations

- Columbia Local Park including the Marilyn Praisner Community Center and Library.
- Other destinations: Maydale Nature Center, Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School, Cloverly Elementary School, Briggs Chaney Middle School, Benjamin Banneker Middle School, Fairland Elementary School, and Paint Branch High School.
Existing Facilities & Policies

The Cloverly, White Oak and Fairland Master Plans include recommendations for new or proposed natural surface trails in the Upper Paint Branch.

- A natural surface trail along the right fork from Fairland Road to the Patuxent River
- A natural surface trail along the left fork between the right fork and New Hampshire Avenue
Existing Facilities & Policies

Off-street bikeways with highly desirable connections are also proposed/recommended in functional and area master plans

- ICC Bike Path
- Shared Use Path along MD 198
- Shared Use Path along US 29
- Shared Use Path along Fairland Road
- Shared Use Path along Briggs Chaney Road
- Shared Use Path along Greencastle Road
Phase 1 Trails (2-5 years)

- Fairland to Briggs Chaney
- Bradshaw to Columbia Local Park
  - Parkland Ownership Gap
- Right fork trail to Maydale Nature Center
- Extension to Peach Orchard Rd at U.S. Post Office
- Cloverly Local Park Loop Trail
- Peachwood Neighborhood Park Loop Trail
Phase 2

Implementation Difficulties
- Briggs Chaney Crossing Gap
- Patuxent Connector
- Maydale CP to NH Ave. Connection
- Parkland Ownership Gap (most likely will be addressed during Phase I)
The Proposed Plan Map
Three Broad Questions Tonight

1. What do you think about the proposed natural surface trails on parkland in the Upper Paint Branch?

2. Do you agree with the destinations/connections, and proposed access locations?

3. Have we struck the right balance between providing access and protecting natural resources?
Plan Schedule

- **Community Meeting #1** – June 22, 2017

- **Community Meeting #2** – November 8, 2017

- **Planning Board Presentation** - Preliminary recommendations and Working Draft Plan – Winter 2018

- **Planning Board Public Hearing** – Spring 2018
Thank you.

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