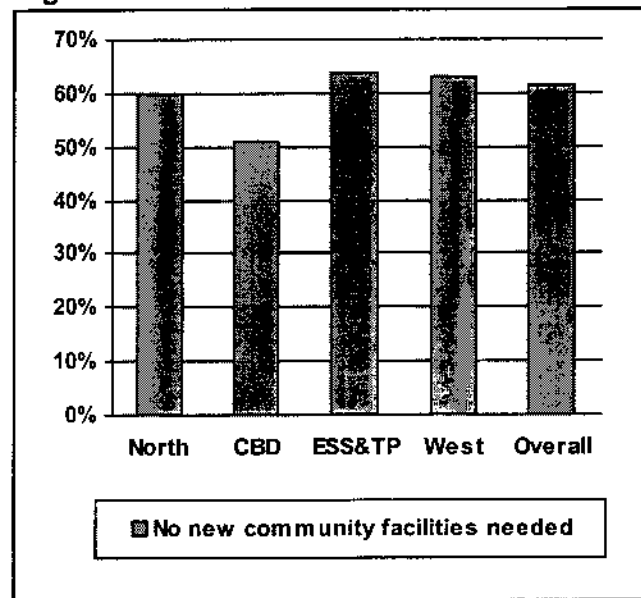


CHAPTER 4

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- The majority, 61 percent, reported that there were **no** new community facilities that they would like to have in their neighborhoods. Among those who wanted new facilities, there was no clear mandate. The strongest support was for new parks, 9 percent. The area most interested in more parks was the CBD, 12 percent, followed by a community center, 7 percent. As an older area of the County, Silver Spring/Takoma Park appears to have the basic public facilities in place.

Figure 4-1 Content with Public Facilities



Additional Community Facilities Needed by Moving Status

- A slightly higher percentage of those who plan to remain in their current homes for more than two years said they think that no new community facilities are needed. Sixty-six percent of non-movers did not suggest new facilities, compared to 61 percent of those who plan to move. There was no appreciable difference between two groups in the facilities mentioned by those who offered suggestions, however. Parks and a community center remain the leading suggestions. Support for a library is higher among non-movers than movers but is still very low. Potential movers had more demands and suggestions than non-movers, indicating that part of their motivation to move may be to obtain additional facilities. (This was an open-ended question and respondents were not responding to lists of specific facilities.)

Improvements to Parks

- *More than half of the respondents, 55 percent, indicated that there were no specific improvements they would like in the area's parks.* "Better park maintenance" was the most popular improvement mentioned, 13 percent of the respondents. Another 9 percent suggested "improved security." No other suggestion received more than 5 percent of the responses, although there were some interesting and practical recommendations, such as areas specifically for dogs, completion of the Capital Crescent Trail, and organized activities for elementary school age children. There were no significant differences among the planning areas.

- *Eighty-two percent said that they were familiar with bike and walking trails in the parks in their community.* Sixty-one percent report that they use them. North Silver Spring residents are the heaviest trail users, 66 percent. CBD residents use them least, only 42 percent say they do.

One series of questions addressed Sligo Creek Park specifically:

- *Ninety-one percent of the respondents said that they are familiar with Sligo Creek Park.* Of these, 62 percent report using the park and its facilities. Among the 29 percent who are familiar with the park but do not use it, 29 percent said they are not close enough, 21 percent said they do not have enough time, and 18 percent said they are not interested. North and West Silver Spring residents were particularly likely to say they were too far away, 38 percent and 43 percent respectively. CBD residents were least likely to know about the park; 14 percent were not familiar with it. CBD residents were also most likely to plead no time to use it, 28 percent. While 70 percent of East Silver Spring and Takoma Park residents use the park, those who do not say distance, 24 percent, and lack of interest, 25 percent, are their reasons.

- *More than half, 56 percent, of respondents believe that bike and pedestrian access to Sligo Creek Park is adequate but 36 percent say it needs improvement.* West Silver Spring residents most often said access needs to be improved, 53 percent. Because of their distance from the park, they may mean that they need better bike and pedestrian links to the park from their neighborhoods rather than better direct entrances to the park. While a majority do not think there are access problems, the percentages of those suggesting improvements are probably high enough to warrant further study.

Table 4-1 Is there some type of community facility that you would like to see added to your neighborhood?

Question 5.5	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
No	2092	59.9%	2585	51.2%	12691	63.8%	2758	63.0%	20127	61.3%
Park	311	8.9%	602	11.9%	1841	9.3%	292	6.7%	3046	9.3%
Other	312	8.9%	602	11.9%	1076	5.4%	459	10.5%	2449	7.5%
Community Center	244	7.0%	246	4.9%	1502	7.6%	219	5.0%	2212	6.7%
Playground	97	2.8%	274	5.4%	699	3.5%	167	3.8%	1237	3.8%
Don't know	41	1.2%	230	4.6%	636	3.2%	279	6.4%	1186	3.6%
Swimming Pool	122	3.5%	131	2.6%	218	1.1%	142	3.2%	614	1.9%
Rec center	95	2.7%	197	3.9%	266	1.3%	49	1.1%	607	1.9%
Library	90	2.6%	66	1.3%	135	.7%			292	.9%
Basketball Court	20	.6%	49	1.0%	214	1.1%			283	.9%
Gym					245	1.2%	13	.3%	258	.8%
Ball/soccer fields	16	.5%			214	1.1%			230	.7%
Tennis Court	20	.6%			153	.8%			173	.5%
YMCA	32	.9%	66	1.3%					98	.3%
Total	3491	100.0%	5050	100.0%	19890	100.0%	4378	100.0%	32810	100.0%

Table 4-2 Additional Community Facilities Needed by Moving Status

Question 3.4 Plan to move in the next two years

Question 5.5	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
No	363	53.8%	1194	53.7%	3223	51.9%	954	58.4%	5734	53.4%
Park	45	6.7%	323	14.5%	673	10.8%	123	7.5%	1164	10.8%
Other	83	12.3%	131	5.9%	521	8.4%	195	11.9%	930	8.7%
Community Center	16	2.3%	82	3.7%	546	8.8%	53	3.2%	697	6.5%
Playground	27	4.0%	131	5.9%	242	3.9%	63	3.9%	464	4.3%
Don't know	8	1.2%	66	3.0%	218	3.5%	130	7.9%	422	3.9%
Swimming Pool	62	9.2%	99	4.4%			89	5.5%	250	2.3%
Rec center	28	4.2%	131	5.9%	109	1.8%	26	1.6%	295	2.7%
Library	12	1.7%							12	.1%
Basketball Court			33	1.5%	162	2.6%			194	1.8%
Gym					245	3.9%			245	2.3%
Ball/soccer fields					162	2.6%			162	1.5%
Tennis Court					109	1.8%			109	1.0%
YMCA	32	4.7%	33	1.5%					65	.8%
Total	675	100%	2224	100%	6210	100%	1634	100%	10742	100%

Greater Washington Consumer Research, "Survey of Silver Spring/Takoma Park Residents" (1/98); Research & Technology Center, Montgomery County Department of Park & Planning.

Table 4-3 Is there some improvement that you would like to see made to your local parks?

Question 5.51	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total Respondents	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		# of Respondents	%
	# of Respondents	%	# of Respondents	%	# of Respondents	%	# of Respondents	%		
No change	1942	55.7%	2459	48.7%	11069	55.5%	2536	57.6%	18005	54.8%
Better maintenance	313	9.0%	575	11.4%	2874	14.4%	532	12.1%	4294	13.1%
Other	536	15.4%	602	11.9%	1363	6.8%	562	12.7%	3062	9.3%
Improved security	218	6.2%	444	8.8%	1852	9.3%	344	7.8%	2857	8.7%
Don't know	141	4.0%	526	10.4%	732	3.7%	352	8.0%	1751	5.3%
More/better playground equipment	110	3.2%	66	1.3%	1346	6.7%	84	1.9%	1606	4.9%
Ball fields	100	2.9%	33	.7%	777	3.9%	28	.6%	939	2.9%
Better lighting	88	2.5%	131	2.6%	647	3.2%	46	1.0%	913	2.8%
More bike/hike trails	82	2.3%	263	5.2%	397	2.0%	76	1.7%	818	2.5%
Basketball courts	84	2.4%	131	2.6%	537	2.7%	37	.8%	790	2.4%
Swimming pools	85	2.4%	164	3.3%	430	2.2%	23	.5%	702	2.1%
General expansion	82	2.3%	115	2.3%	240	1.2%	101	2.3%	538	1.6%
Tennis courts	62	1.8%	99	2.0%	179	.9%	23	.5%	362	1.1%
More parking	53	1.5%	33	.7%	162	.8%	63	1.4%	311	.9%
Ice skating rinks	31	.9%	66	1.3%	186	.9%			283	.9%
Golf course	39	1.1%	33	.7%	159	.8%			232	.7%
Total Respondents	3483	13.9%	5050	13.7%	19947	15.1%	4404	09.1%	32884	113.9%

Table 4-4 Are you familiar with bike and walking trails in the parks near your community?

Question 10.4	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Familiar, use	2306	66.1%	2142	42.4%	12916	64.8%	2648	60.0%	20012	60.8%
Familiar, do not use	705	20.2%	1430	28.3%	3592	18.0%	1119	25.3%	6846	20.8%
Not familiar	461	13.2%	1479	29.3%	3337	16.7%	637	14.4%	5914	18.0%
Don't know	19	.5%			102	.5%	11	.3%	132	.4%
Total	3491	100.0%	5050	100.0%	19947	100.0%	4416	100.0%	32904	100.0%

Greater Washington Consumer Research, "Survey of Silver Spring/Takoma Park Residents" (1/98): Research & Technology Center, Montgomery County Department of Park & Planning.

SURVEY OF SILVER SPRING & TAKOMA PARK RESIDENTS

Table 4-5 Are you familiar with Sligo Creek Park?

Question 10.5	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Not familiar	168	4.8%	690	13.7%	950	4.8%	756	17.1%	2564	7.8%
Familiar, do not use	882	25.3%	2191	43.4%	4710	23.6%	1771	40.1%	9554	29.0%
Familiar, use	2413	69.1%	2169	43.0%	13960	70.0%	1888	42.8%	20430	62.1%
Don't know	28	.8%			328	1.6%			356	1.1%
Total	3491	100.0%	5050	100.0%	19947	100.0%	4416	100.0%	32904	100.0%

Table 4-6 What is the most important reason for which you do not use Sligo Creek Park?

Question 10.51	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Not close	334	37.9%	526	24.0%	1151	24.4%	763	43.1%	2774	29.0%
No time	123	14.0%	619	28.2%	920	19.5%	300	16.9%	1962	20.5%
No interest	105	11.9%	345	15.8%	1161	24.6%	125	7.1%	1736	18.2%
Safety	53	6.0%	241	11.0%	507	10.8%	63	3.6%	864	9.0%
Age/Handicap	110	12.5%	99	4.5%	373	7.9%	118	6.6%	700	7.3%
Other	70	7.9%	148	6.8%	273	5.8%	175	9.9%	666	7.0%
Hard to get to	41	4.6%	148	6.8%	109	2.3%	101	5.7%	399	4.2%
Don't know	27	3.0%	66	3.0%	107	2.3%	78	4.4%	277	2.9%
Don't like it	19	2.1%			109	2.3%	49	2.7%	177	1.8%
Total	882	100.0%	2191	100.0%	4710	100.0%	1771	100.0%	9554	100.0%

Table 4-7 Do you think that bike and pedestrian access to Sligo Creek Park is adequate?

Question 10.61	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Adequate	1459	60.5%	1126	52.0%	8127	58.2%	667	35.6%	11381	55.7%
Needs improvement	800	33.1%	893	41.2%	4564	32.7%	888	52.7%	7245	35.5%
Don't know	154	6.4%	148	6.8%	1269	9.1%	221	11.8%	1792	8.8%
Total	2413	100.0%	2169	100.0%	13960	100.0%	1877	100.0%	20418	100.0%

Greater Washington Consumer Research, "Survey of Silver Spring/Takoma Park Residents" (1/98); Research & Technology Center, Montgomery County Department of Park & Planning.