Park & Trail Planning in Greater Lyttonsville

M-NCPCC Montgomery Parks, Montgomery County, MD
Park Planning and Stewardship Division
Chuck Kines, AICP, Park & Trail Planner/Coordinator
June 9, 2014
Overview

- The Park & Trail Planning Section
- M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
- The role of park and trail planning staff in area and sector master plans
- Topics considered to analyze and develop recommendations
- Analysis and Methodology
- Specific issues for Greater Lyttonsville
Park Planning & Stewardship Division, Park and Trail Planning Section

About me

- One of seven park planners in the P&TP Section
- One of two certified planners (AICP)

About the Park and Trail Planning Section

- Five planners, two landscape architects, one graphic designer
- Coordinate and oversee all long-range land use and long-range facility planning for the entire countywide park system
- Manage/coordinate Park and Trail Master Plans
- Participate in project teams for area master and sector plans
PARK SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS
Total number of parks: 420
Total acres of parkland: 35,301
Total developed acreage: 8,947
Open and environmental preservation acreage: 26,354

TYPES OF PARKS
Local 153 Regional 5 Neighborhood Conservation Areas 40
Neighborhood 95 Recreational 11 Miscellaneous Recreation/ 6
Urban 27 Special 25 Non-Recreation Facilities
Stream Valley 38 Conservation 20

PARK FACILITIES
Archery: 1 Driving Range (Stand Alone): 1 Picnic Shelters - Non-Permitted: 45
Athletic fields: 298 Golf Courses: 4 Picnic Shelters - Permitted: 83
Cricket Field: 2 Gymnasiums: 1 Large Group Picnic Areas: 2
Overlay football/soccer fields: 50 Historic Sites: 43 Playgrounds: 291
Basketball Courts: 207 Historic Structures: 117 Skate Park: 3
Campgrounds – Full Service: 1 Ice Rinks: 2 Splash Playground: 1
Campgrounds – Primitive: 2 In-Line Skate: 1 Sports Center: 1
Campsites: 104 Lakes: 4 Sports Pavilion: 1
Carousel: 1 Boating Facility - Rentals: 2 Tai Chi Court: 1
Dog Parks: 5 Boating Landing Ramps: 3 Tennis Centers - Indoor: 2 (12 Courts)
Equestrian centers: 6 Miniature Golf: 1 Tennis Courts - Outdoor: 303
Event Centers: 5 Miniature Trains: 2 Trails - Canoe: 2.4 miles
Exercise Courses: 13 Nature Centers: 4 Trails - Natural Surface: 146.99 miles
Formal Botanical Gardens: 2 Outdoor Ropes Course: 1 Trails - Paved: 78.95 miles
Community Gardens: 11 Park Activity Buildings: 29 Volleyball Courts: 25
M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks Mission:

“Protect and interpret our valuable natural and cultural resources; balance the demand for recreation with the need for conservation; offer a variety of enjoyable recreational activities that encourage healthy lifestyles; and provide clean, safe, and accessible places for leisure-time activities.”

“Manage the county park system so it best meets the needs of current and future generations”

“Offer a range of leisure activities that strengthen the body, sharpen the mind, and renew the spirit”
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Methodology

Vision 2030 Strategic Plan
- Shows where in the County we need more park and recreation facilities and services
- Sets priorities for programs, park operations, marketing, management, and park planning and development

PROS Plan
- Estimates how many and what type of recreation facilities are needed for the next 10 years
- Recommends how to deliver the facilities to meet the needs
- Provides basis for recommendations in each master plan area
- Recommends land acquisition priorities
- Recommends priorities for preserving natural and historic/cultural resources, and agricultural lands

Together, these two documents
- Will help us to set clear priorities for acquisition and development
- Guide input to park and area master plans, and the CIP
How does PROS guide our other plans?

Service Delivery Strategies for Countywide Plans

- Countywide Park Trails Plan
- Site Selection Studies for Needed Facilities

Park Recommendations in Community Master/Sector Plans

- Urban Park Plans, Guidelines, and Standards
- Master Plans for Individual Parks and Trail Corridors
- Regulatory Review – Developer provided Parks and Public Use
- Repurposing and Renovation Studies
- Programs of Requirement to guide Facility Plans
- CIP Prioritization
- Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030
Urbanization of Montgomery County - Sector Plans

1. Twinbrook (January 2009)
2. Germantown (October 2009)
3. White Flint (April 2010)
4. Great Seneca Science Corridor (June 2010)
5. Wheaton (November 2011)
6. Kensington (March 2012)
7. Takoma-Langley Crossroads (April 2012)
8. Burtonsville Crossroads
9. Chevy Chase Lake
10. Gaithersburg East
11. Glenmont
12. Long Branch
13. Lyttonsville
14. White Flint 2
15. White Oak Science Gateway

- approved master plan
- underway master plan
- top growth policy areas
- bottom growth policy areas
Long Range Park Planning Considerations

- What are the existing conditions?
- What do residents like to do outdoors?
- What do residents want to do outdoors now that they can’t (not enough land, need more facilities, etc.)?
- Where is the civic center of a community? Is there more than one?
- What opportunities will be available as part of future land redevelopment?
- What should be the ultimate overall pattern of parkland and open space?
Preliminary park planning issues in Greater Lyttonsville
Urban Park Pattern and Role (Hierarchy)

Each area master plan should include a system & hierarchy of open spaces based on the roles of each type of open space

- For Sector Plan Areas:
  - **active recreation destinations** located within or near the plan area, including courts, playgrounds, and lawn areas large enough for pick up soccer, festivals or events, etc.
  - a central “civic green” urban park (see Chapter 3), ranging in size from ½ to 2 acres, depending on projected densities, located in close proximately to a public transit hub, next to activating uses, with a mixture of hard and soft surfaces including a central lawn area for events
  - an interconnected system of sidewalks and trails to connect parks and open spaces
  - **wooded areas** that will provide a sense of contact with nature

- For each Urban Neighborhood: a neighborhood green, urban buffer park, or community use recreational park
- For each Block: an urban square, plaza, or green area
- For each Building: outdoor recreation space
- For each Residence: private outdoor space
Public and Private Sector Roles in Open Space Systems

AREA MASTER PLAN

PROS
Urban Park Guidelines
- Pattern & Role
- Ownership
- Design elements
- Programming
- Operations

Public Ownership: Parks

Private Ownership: Public Use Space

Facility Plan

Site Plan

Open Space System

Zoning Requirements
- Public Use Space
- Public Amenities

Recreation Guidelines
# Needs Estimated by Geographic Areas

## Countywide Needs
- Recreation / Aquatic Centers
- Trails
- Natural Areas
- Dog Parks
- Picnic Shelters / Group Picnic Areas
- Cultural Resources
- Ice Rinks
- Skate Parks
- Volleyball Courts
- Cricket Fields
- Civic Greens
- Community Open Space
- Urban Wooded Areas

## Athletic Field Area Needs
- Adult Rectangular Fields
- Youth Rectangular Fields
- Baseball Fields
- Adult Softball Diamonds
- Youth Softball Diamonds

## Planning Area Needs
- Playgrounds
- Basketball Courts
- Tennis Courts
# White Flint Open Space Hierarchy

## PUBLICLY OWNED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Everyone</th>
<th>Wall Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>swimming sports, recreation, and fitness activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>White Flint Neighborhood Park Expansion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>rectangular field space for multiple sports</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For the Sector Plan Area</th>
<th>A central civic green</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>gathering, ceremonies, and celebrations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PRIVATELY OWNED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Each Neighborhood</th>
<th>A neighborhood green</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>meeting place and landmark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Each Block</th>
<th>An urban plaza</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at each cluster of offices, residences, and shops provide plazas, pocket parks, green streets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Each Building</th>
<th>Private recreation space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>public use space, community garden, green roof</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Parks, Trails and Open Space Overview

Example: Long Branch Sector Plan
Parks Recommendations

- Relocate pool and recreation center to library site
- Establish a new Central Civic Green Urban Park during redevelopment
- Expand Flower Avenue Urban Park with HOC development
- Delete recommendation for new urban park (8426 Piney Branch)

Example: Long Branch Sector Plan
Purple Line Issues and Recommendations

Resolve vehicular access issues to pool and recreation center caused by the Purple Line

Acquire 8417 Piney Branch Road (Glass Company)

Expand park to county-owned property south of New Hampshire Estates Neighborhood Park

Example: Long Branch Sector Plan
Thank you.

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ParkPlanning.org
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Environmental Assessment
Lyttonsville, Maryland

Tina Schneider, Senior Environmental Planner
Overview

☑ Purpose
☑ Findings
☑ Continued Research
☑ Design Solutions
☑ Next Steps
Purpose

Making good decisions for the future

Protecting, restoring, and preserving natural resources

Good master planning has to be sustainable

- Social equality
- Economic vitality
- Environmental integrity
Existing Conditions
Watersheds

- **Rock Creek Watershed**
- **Lyttonsville**
  - Lower Rock Creek
    - “poor water quality”
- **Rock Creek D.C.**
  - “fair water quality”
Streams: 1951 & Today
Impervious Cover: 43%
Stormwater Runoff

Image source: http://bettercities.net/images/14862/drainage-diagram
TREE CANOPY COVER 42.4

42% Total Canopy Cover

- Existing Streams
- Sector Plan Boundary
- Right of Way: 8.16%
- Residential: 31.23%
- Industrial: 2.72%
- Commercial: 0.28%

Legend:
- Blue: Existing Streams
- Magenta: Sector Plan Boundary
- Green: Residential: 31.23%
Brownfields
Design Solutions

Buildings

Streets

Community
Greener Buildings

Greener Surfaces
Tree Planting
Stormwater Treatments
Preservation Areas
Habitat Improvements
Restoration
Brookville Road
Stormwater Treatment

- Porous pavement in parking lanes
- Catch basin receives overflows
- Flow-through or infiltration planters at corners
- Street trees for shading and stormwater interception
- LIDA swales, flow-through planters or infiltration planters
- Pedestrian crossing over swale
HOW HIGH POINT DRAINAGE WORKS TO RECHARGE OUR GROUNDWATER AND PROTECT THE CREEK

**HOUSES** use different strategies to collect, infiltrate, and cleanse rainwater.
- splashblocks
- rocks
- furrows or channels
- stormwater pop-ups
- planted depressions (raingardens)
- yard drains

**STREETS** slope to one side and cuts in curb direct rainwater into planted and grass swales.

**SWALES** collect, absorb, and filter rainwater from streets and houses into the ground before going into the city storm drain.

**CONVEYANCE FURROWS** direct water away from the house via a path of gravel and crushed rock.

**stormwater pop-ups** release water into the yard

**swales** are designed with crossing points.

32nd Street north of Raymond Street is porous concrete to allow water to pass through into the ground before it goes to the swale.

**city storm drain** to carry bigger rainstorms to the large pond which slowly releases cleaner stormwater to Longfellow Creek.

**porous concrete sidewalks** allow water to pass through into the ground.

**yard drains** direct rainwater to swales or a pipe.

**slotted pipes** enable water to seep into the ground while moving away from the house and into the rain garden.

**stormwater flows** across sidewalks toward swales.

**filter soil mix**

**slotted pipe (underdrain)**

**rocky soil** holds water until it seeps into the pipe.

**splash blocks** slow and direct water away from the house and should be kept clean of leaves.