**White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan**

**September 2013**

**Appendix E: Park Classification System**

Appendix F is from the 2012 *Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan.*

The table (Figure 4) represents the New Park Classification System and is in

Chapter 2 – Background, Existing Policies, and New Guidelines for Urban Parks of the 2012 PROS Plan, which can be viewed at <http://www.montgomeryparks.org>.

For more information, call the Park Planning and Stewardship Division

at (301) 650-4380



Figure 4 - New Park Classification System

| **PARK TYPE** | **PARK TYPE DESCRIPTION** | **TYPICAL FACILITIES\*** | **APPROX. SIZE** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COUNTYWIDE PARKS - Parks in this category serve all residents of Montgomery County** | | | |
| **- Recreational Oriented Parks** | | | |
| **Regional Parks** | | Large Parks that provide a wide range of recreational opportunities but retain 2/3 or the acreage as conservation areas. | Picnic / playground areas, tennis courts, athletic fields, golf course, campgrounds, water-oriented recreation areas. | 200 acres or more |
| **Recreational Parks** | | Parks larger than 50 acres in size that are more intensively developed than Regional Parks, but may also may also contain natural areas. | Athletic fields, tennis courts, multi-use courts, picnic/playground areas, golf course, trails, natural areas. | 50 acres  or more |
| **Special Parks** | | These parks include areas that contain features of historic and cultural significance. | Vary, but may include agricultural centers, garden, small conference centers, historic structures, etc. | Varies |
| **Countywide Urban Parks** | Serve residents, visitors, and workers of an entire urban high-density transit-oriented development area, and may be programmed with numerous activities that attract residents from other parts of the County. Parking is located in structures underground or in nearby public parking lots, garages or along adjoining streets, rather than on-site. Parks may be lighted at night along major walkways and for certain activities such as events, or court sports. Subcategories include Civic Greens, Countywide Urban Recreational Parks, and Urban Greenways. | | |
|  | **CIVIC GREENS** |  |  |
|  | 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. | A central lawn is often the main focus with adjacent spaces providing complementary uses. May include gardens, water features and shade structures. | 1/2 acre minimum |
|  | **COUNTYWIDE URBAN RECREATIONAL PARKS** |  |  |
|  | Oriented to the recreational needs of a densely populated neighborhood and business district. They provide space for many activities. | May include athletic fields, playing courts, picnicking, dog parks, sitting areas and flexible grassy open space.  Programming can include farmer’s markets, outdoor exercise classes, and community yard sales. There is space for a safe drop-off area and nearby accessible parking for those who cannot walk to the park. | Varies |
|  | **URBAN GREENWAYS** |  |  |
|  | Linear parks that provide trails or wide landscaped walkways and bikeways and may include other recreational and natural amenities. May occur along road rights of way or “paper” streets. | Trails, walkways and bikeways, with extra space for vegetative ground cover and trees. Should link other green spaces, trails and natural systems. | Varies |
|  |  |  |  |
| **- Conservation Oriented Parks** | | | | |
| **Stream Valley Parks** | | Interconnected linear parks along major stream valleys providing conservation and recreation areas. | Hiker-biker trails, fishing, picnicking, playground areas. | Varies |
| **Conservation Area Parks** | | Large natural areas acquired to preserve specific natural archaeological or historic features. They also provide opportunities of compatible recreation activities. | Trails, fishing areas, nature study areas, informal picnic areas. | Varies |
| **COMMUNITY USE PARKS** - Parks in this category serve residents of surrounding communities | | | |
| **Community Use Urban Parks** | Serve residents and workers in urban neighborhoods and districts. These parks may be programmed for more localized events, but not countywide events. No parking is available on the park property. Subcategories include Urban Buffer Parks, Neighborhood Greens, and Community Use Urban Recreational Parks. | | |
|  | **URBAN BUFFER PARKS** |  |  |
|  | Serve as green buffers at the edges of urban, high density development adjacent to lower density residential areas. They provide a green space within which residents and workers of an urban area may relax and recreate. | Landscaping, sitting/picnic areas, play equipment, courts, and shelters. | 1/4 acre Minimum |
|  | **NEIGHBORHOOD GREENS** |  |  |
|  | Serve the residents and workers from the surrounding neighborhood or district, but may be designed for more activity than an urban buffer park. These formally planned, flexible open spaces serve as places for informal gathering, lunchtime relaxation, or small special event gatherings. | Lawn area, shaded seating and pathways. May include a play area, a skate spot, a community garden, or similar neighborhood facilities. | 1/4 acre Minimum |
|  | **COMMUNITY USE URBAN RECREATIONAL PARK** |  |  |
|  | These parks serve the residents and workers from the surrounding neighborhood or district, and are designed for more active recreation than an urban buffer park or a neighborhood green. | Sport courts, skate spots, and may include lawn areas, playgrounds or similar neighborhood recreation facilities. | 1/10 acre Minimum |
| **Neighborhood Parks** | | Small parks providing informal recreation in residential areas. | Play equipment, play field, sitting area, shelter, tennis and Multi-use courts. (Do not include regulation size ballfields). | 2.5 Acre |
| **Local Parks** | | Larger parks that provide ballfields and both programmed and un-programmed recreation facilities. | Ballfields, play equipment, tennis and multi-use courts, sitting/picnic area, shelters, buildings and other facilities. | 15 Acre |
| **Neighborhood Conservation Areas** | | Small parcels of conservation oriented parkland in residential areas, generally dedicated at the time of subdivision. | Generally undeveloped, may include a storm water management pond and related facilities. | Varies |

*\* This list is not all-inclusive, but includes facilities typical of each park type.*