



MONTGOMERY COUNTY

PARKS + PLANNING

FALL 2017 SEMIANNUAL REPORT

■ MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

PRESIDENT BERLINER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL:

I am pleased to present the Fall 2017 Semiannual Report on the work of the Planning Board, Planning Department and Department of Parks. We continue to focus on making sure that our efforts align with the county's economic development goals, increase the quality and quantity of citizen engagement, and improve our community's quality of life.

New Suburbanism remains a central theme as we seek to promote walkability, a mix of uses, open spaces and design excellence. Both the Grosvenor-Strathmore and White Flint 2 plans, now in the hands of the Council, emphasize these principles, as do the recently approved design guidelines for downtown Bethesda.

We have begun work on the Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills Sector Plan, with an emphasis on improvements to the Georgia Avenue corridor in the vicinity of the Beltway. We are finalizing our Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan to lay the groundwork for activating parks and open spaces in the county's most densely populated communities, where residents can interact to build a strengthened sense of community and participate in outdoor activities.

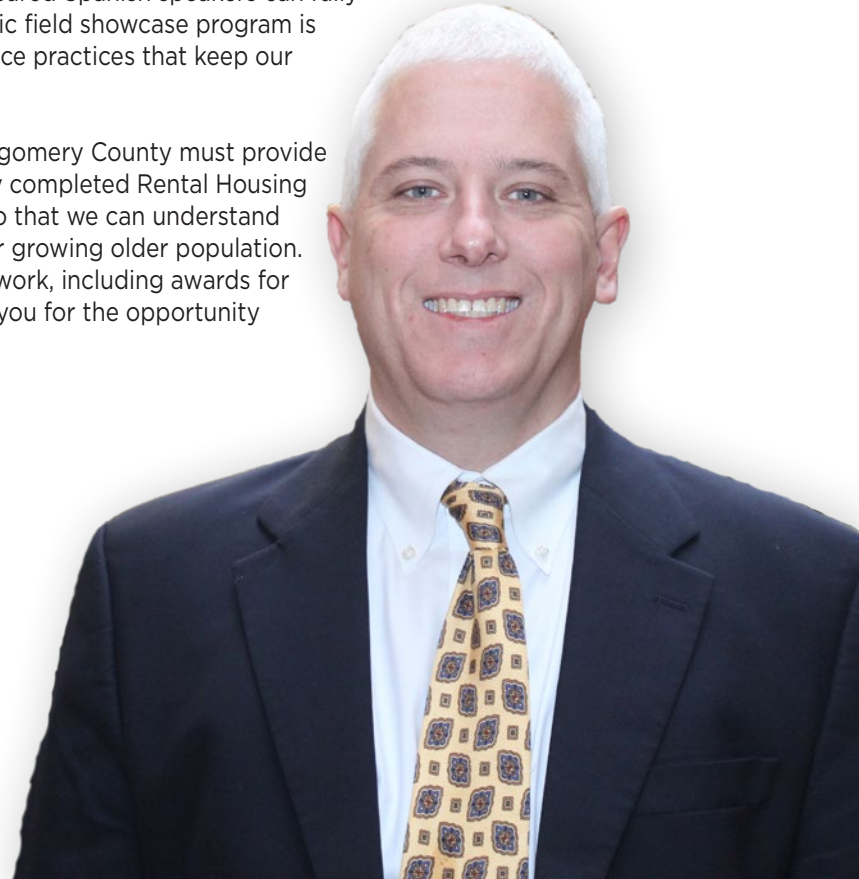
We continue to expand and strengthen our community outreach efforts. For example, as work progresses on the Veirs Mill Corridor Master Plan, we have engaged a broad array of residents and ensured Spanish speakers can fully participate in the process. In the Department of Parks, our athletic field showcase program is educating interested residents on the state-of-the-art maintenance practices that keep our high-demand fields safe and ready for use.

In order to meet the needs of our residents and workforce, Montgomery County must provide housing options at every income level. In addition to the recently completed Rental Housing Study, we are researching "Missing Middle" and senior housing so that we can understand and accommodate the housing needs of both millennials and our growing older population. I am proud of the recognition we have received recently for our work, including awards for the Bicycle Stress Map and four communications awards. Thank you for the opportunity to share this report with you and for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,



Casey Anderson
Planning Board Chair
Vice Chair, M-NCPPC



NEW SUBURBANISM

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As land becomes scarcer in Montgomery County and residents seek walkable, vibrant neighborhoods, planners are developing alternatives to auto-oriented sprawl. This new suburbanism embraces infill development, mixed uses, active parks and streets shared by cars, bicycles and pedestrians. This approach is improving communities and public spaces throughout the county, from downtown Bethesda to Rock Spring and White Flint's Wall Park.



BETHESDA DOWNTOWN SECTOR PLAN

The Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan was transmitted to the Council in 2016 and Council work sessions and vote were held in 2017 on the plan and the Bethesda Overlay Zone. Design guidelines for building massing and streetscapes were issued for the plan in July 2017. The Design Advisory Panel to oversee the quality of new development in the Bethesda Overlay Zone will be established in fall 2017.

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ENERGIZED PUBLIC SPACES FUNCTIONAL MASTER PLAN

This plan applies innovative methodologies to identify locations with the highest need for parks and open spaces in areas with the highest population density, and recommends opportunities to increase the number of parks and open spaces in those communities.

UPDATE ON PLANS

Rock Spring Master Plan

Rock Spring Master Plan was transmitted to the County Council in March 2017. This vision for transforming an office park into a walkable, mixed-use community will be approved by the Council in fall 2017 after work sessions to refine the plan recommendations.

White Flint 2 Sector Plan

White Flint 2 Sector Plan was transmitted to the County Council in July 2017 after 11 Planning Board work sessions. The Council Public Hearing was held in September 2017.

Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Area Minor Master Plan

Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Area Minor Master Plan has been drafted and the Planning Board has transmitted the plan to the County Council for further review. The Council Public Hearing will be held in October 2017.

Bicycle Master Plan

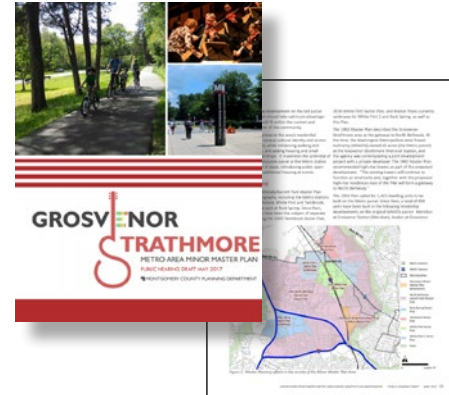
Bicycle Master Plan will be ready in fall 2017 for Planning Board review of the initial draft. Five community outreach meetings were held in June 2017; the digital Bike React Map was launched in June and July to solicit comments on proposed bikeways. The Great MoCo Bicycle Summit with Councilmember Hans Riemer is being planned.

MARC Rail Communities Plan

Preliminary recommendations for the MARC Rail Communities Plan will be presented to the community and Planning Board in October 2017. The plan evaluates the areas around the MARC stations in Boyds and Germantown. Recommendations are based on several agency and independent studies of MARC ridership and parking facilities, new Ride On facility alternatives, roadway realignment options, signal warrant analyses, a road diet study, a pedestrian road safety audit and extensive community feedback.

Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills Sector Plan

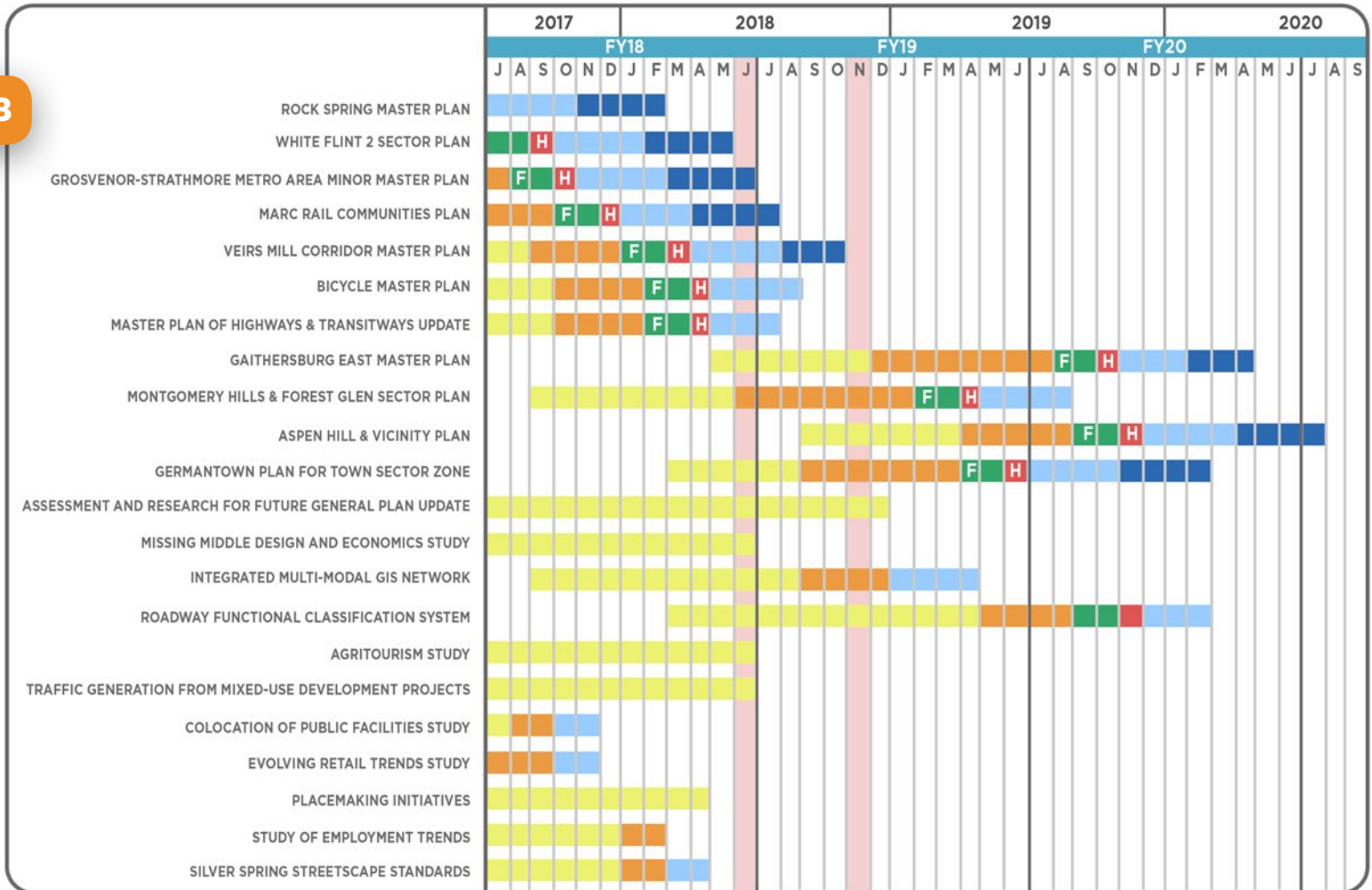
Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills Sector Plan was launched in fall 2017 with an analysis of Georgia Avenue corridor related to State Highway Administration improvements in the area.



**YOU CAN
VIEW MORE
PLANS +
PROJECTS AT
MONTGOMERYPLANNING.
ORG/COMMUNITIES.**

FY18 ADOPTED MASTER PLAN + MAJOR PROJECTS SCHEDULE

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STAFF

PLANNING BOARD

F PLANNING BOARD DRAFT

CE REVIEW + PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

H HEARING

COUNCIL REVIEW

COMMISSION ADOPTION, SMA

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ELECTIONS



The Pike and Rose development in White Flint.

NEW PARK RULES + REGULATIONS

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On July 1, 2017, updated rules and regulations went into effect for park visitors. These standards, last updated in March 2001, were revised to better reflect today's use of county parks, facilities and amenities. Substantial updates and greater flexibility in our rules helps to improve access to parks and amenities, while providing safer and more inclusive parks.

Highlights include:

- Permission to bicycle on paved trails for extended hours (5 a.m. to 12 midnight).
- Permission to bicycle on all official paved and natural surface trails, unless otherwise posted.
- Prohibition of smoking and vaping in parks.
- Permission to fish in all park locations with a state fishing license, except where signs prohibiting such activity are posted.

WALL PARK

Thanks to funding recently approved by the Council, the long-standing vision of transforming the surface parking lots serving the Shriver Aquatic Center into a green, vibrant community park for White Flint will be realized. A public / private partnership will deliver public parking for the Shriver Center and park as part of an adjoining development, and an interim park with a large central lawn, looped recreation trail, and attractive landscaping. A subsequent phase will deliver additional active recreational amenities.

Wall Park Concept Plan ►



PEPCO TRAIL PLAN

Montgomery Parks has partnered with the Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) to implement a Pilot Natural Surface Trail Project. Phase one of the project is a five-mile section that will begin near Quince Orchard Road and end at Shaeffer Road, adjacent to South Germantown Recreational Park. The project will extend 13 miles from Cabin John to South Germantown and include both natural surface and paved trails and will be open to hikers, equestrians and cyclists. The Department of Parks has been working closely with Pepco, Montgomery County Department of Transportation and local non-profit organizations to finalize the design and coordinate the necessary permitting. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2017.



ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

12



Research into rental and affordable housing, retail, employment trends, agritourism and colocation of public facilities is informing our planning efforts to attract residents and businesses. Partnerships with other public agencies, sustainability efforts and program efficiencies are helping to engage growing numbers of county residents and employees in activities within our parks.

TARGETED OUTREACH + MARKETING

PARKS OF THE FUTURE TARGETED OUTREACH INITIATIVE

This multi-faceted outreach campaign engaged diverse audiences to share ideas about creating and renovating parks and facilities. Work featured a consolidated public outreach campaign and its outcomes informed the Capital Improvements Plan; Park, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) five-year update; and the Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan. Parks obtained community input via a new online open town hall. The initiative gathered information from under-represented communities using a multi-faceted, multi-lingual approach that would be hard to get without such a focused and strategic effort.

TARGETED MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES

More than one third of Montgomery County's residents are foreign-born and approximately 14 percent have limited English proficiency. As a result, Montgomery Parks faces marketing and outreach challenges when looking to attract and develop long-term engagement with specific underrepresented groups. Barriers include language, culture, geographic location, economic status, values and perceptions.

We are addressing these challenges and how to better meet the needs of the county's diverse makeup. Our goal is to improve long-term engagement through cost-efficient, effective and sustainable strategies that will over time better serve underrepresented populations in Montgomery County.



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TRANSIT ADS

To reach non-English speaking residents, the Planning Department has launched Spanish language media pitching and advertising to promote plans and projects. Spanish language ads for the Bicycle Master Plan and Veirs Mill Corridor Master Plan recently appeared on Ride-On buses in the county to engage the Hispanic community.



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VEIRS MILL CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN

Spanish language interpretation at community meetings and for outreach materials helped planners engage a broad spectrum of residents in the planning effort. At one of the community meetings, a graphic artist recorded participants' comments in a drawing illustrating proposed improvements (shown above).

Find out more about the plan at montgomeryplanning.org/veirsmill.

“THIS PROCESS
MADE US FEEL
LIKE WE WERE
BEING HEARD.”

- MEETING ATTENDEE



MONTGOMERY MODERN



BUS TOUR



DISCUSSION SESSIONS



TRAVELING EXHIBIT

Montgomery Modern initiative to educate the public about the county's significant modern architectural legacy gained momentum with a traveling exhibit and public presentations based on the award-winning book written by staff preservationist Clare Lise Kelly. A bus tour of modern landmarks designed by Cohen, Haft and Associates, including the 1968 Jewish Community Center in Rockville, was held in October 2017.

ACCESSIBILITY

16

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Final Transition Plan is currently underway. The plan addresses our ADA compliance, including physical and program access, communications, website compliance, employee training, public outreach and policies. It identifies and outlines the procedures, priorities, timelines and anticipated costs to bring the park system into compliance. Access to open space and trail usage designed for disabled users are additional opportunities we have identified to enhance accessibility and inclusion.

Our accomplishments include:

- Removal of more than 1,200 barriers.
- Completion of more than 80 projects.
- Establishment of an ADA Access Team to provide oversight, intra-divisional coordination, training and policy review.
- Establishment of a barrier removal and documentation protocol for tracking.
- Approval for a new position, ADA technician.



ATHLETIC FIELD SHOWCASE

The Athletic Field Showcase is a community event that highlights the multiple ways used by Parks to improve the quality of our athletic fields. The event provides demonstrations of our state-of-the-art equipment and techniques to show the community how we manage and maintain county athletic fields.

Through specialized turf equipment, Montgomery Parks continues to improve athletic field playing conditions while enhancing the community and the environment. Field improvements, including aeration, lead to a decrease in sediment and nutrient runoff in our waterways, and increased replenishment of ground water.

Improved turf grass assists in improving air quality by acting as a filter to remove air impurities and soil microbes. It can provide enough daily oxygen for a family of four in a 50-foot-by-50-foot area, with an acre of turf grass producing enough oxygen for more than 64 people per day.

SILVER SPRING PLACEMAKING

The Montgomery County Planning Department kicked off a series of placemaking events in downtown Silver Spring during August and September 2017. The “pop-up” events, including outdoor yoga and silent discos, are free and open to the public.

This series is being held in partnership with County Councilmembers Hans Riemer and Tom Hucker, and the Silver Spring Regional Services Center to implement some of the ideas generated during the fall 2014 Silver Spring Placemaking Workshops. The goal of these events is to activate existing underutilized and hidden public spaces in downtown Silver Spring, and encourage community interaction.



The third **Design Excellence Award** competition was held in summer 2017. The two top awards, one for buildings and another for landscapes, will be announced at an awards celebration held at the Silver Spring Civic Building on October 19, 2017. This annual event is co-sponsored with the Potomac Valley chapter of the American Institute of Architects.



SPECIAL EVENTS + ACTIVATION

SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the year, we host hundreds of permitted public and private events, such as the Friendship Picnic, MoCo Epic, Persian Festival and Parks Half Marathon. In August 2017, Montgomery Parks hosted Total Eclipse in the Park to celebrate the solar event, which brought in thousands of visitors. Parks is planning to expand its presence in the community by providing more special events throughout the county such as this one.

PARK ACTIVATION

More people are getting out into parks, thanks to Pop Up Parks– part of an ongoing initiative to activate urban parks. The program launched in fall 2016 and is designed to bring people into parks to relax and reconnect with their communities. With a full schedule of fun outdoor activities throughout the year, there are plenty of opportunities to discover or rediscover a local park. With more than 90 events scheduled for spring and summer 2017, more than 550 people took part in activities such as Touch a Truck, Tree Climbing, Rock Wall climbing and Pop Up Recess.





PARK(ING) DAY 2017

Members of the Montgomery County Planning Department and Department of Parks took to downtown Silver Spring to highlight their work at Park(ing) Day 2017. The Bicycle Master Plan featured cut-outs from their Bicycle Master Plan coloring book, which focuses on bicycle facility classifications. The goal of Montgomery Planning's Bicycle Master Plan is to recommend a low-stress bicycle network that cyclists of any ability can feel comfortable riding.

STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS



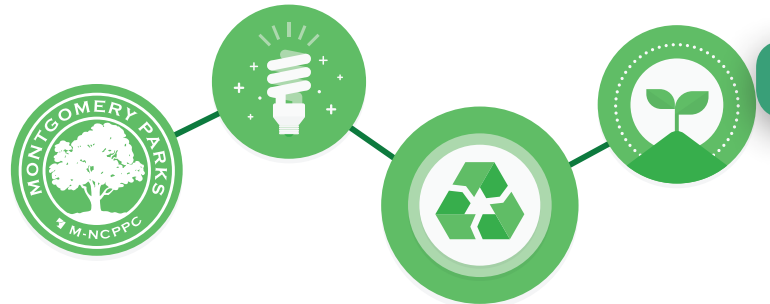
A rendering of the new Marriott headquarters in downtown Bethesda.

Attracting residents and businesses to Montgomery County, and retaining major employers, such as Marriott International, are important to the work of the Planning and Parks Department. Helping this effort is new research with a strong, data-driven approach, including the study of rental housing, retail trends and information related to athletic fields, applied to our plans and programs. New regulatory cases, including large developments in Bethesda and Silver Spring, evidence continuing growth in the densest areas of the county.

SUSTAINABILITY PLANS

The Park and Planning Sustainability Plan promotes a sustainable community and park system by recommending ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving and efficiently managing water and energy resources, and improving waste reduction and recycling efforts.

In fall 2017, construction will begin on two ground-mounted solar fields in South Germantown Recreational Park and Rock Creek Regional Park. This renewable energy project will allow us to reduce the agency's operational impact on the environment while lowering utility bills. The energy that will be produced by these solar fields is equivalent to an annual greenhouse gas emission reduction of 2,450 metric tons or the removal of 517 passenger vehicles from the road for an entire year.



INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

Montgomery Parks is working hard to improve both park and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) athletic fields. Parks currently maintains approximately half of the MCPS middle and elementary school fields, and is renovating 10 additional fields this year. Our goal is to maintain all MCPS elementary and middle school fields.



RESEARCH STUDIES + PROJECTS

1

RENTAL HOUSING STUDY - Rental housing accounts for about 30 percent of the housing supply in Montgomery County and is concentrated around Metro lines and employment centers, as shown in this report, which was presented to the County Council in July 2017. Research shows the rental market is short about 20,000 units for households earning less than 30 percent of the area median income, but a surplus of units is available for households earning 50 percent to 100 percent of area median income. The report includes recommendations for changing the moderately priced dwelling unit requirements to meet the growing need for affordable rentals in the county. Revisions to this inclusionary zoning policy will be considered by the County Council in fall 2017.

2

SENIOR HOUSING STUDY - This study is now underway to research the growing demographic segment of seniors in response to a strong interest in housing for the elderly in Montgomery County. The purpose of this study is to collect data on the current and planned supply of senior housing, trends in the drivers of demand and implications for land use policy.

3

COLOCATION OF PUBLIC FACILITIES STUDY - Planners have been working closely with the County Executive's office and a Director's Oversight Committee of senior staff from a range of agencies to research and develop new tools to enhance colocation of the county's public facilities, including schools and government buildings. The study, due to be completed in fall 2017, includes a survey of national colocation policies and practices.

4

MISSING MIDDLE DESIGN AND ECONOMICS STUDY - This study will be launched in fall 2017 to explore the housing types needed in the county, including small houses and apartment buildings, that could provide affordable alternatives for millennials and other residents. Urban design studies of sites within the county will present options for such "missing middle" housing within the context of current zoning and building code policies to reveal strategies for bridging high-density districts and residential neighborhoods.



5

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS STUDY - Employment Trends Study is being undertaken to increase the understanding of changes in the labor market and firm location preferences that impact land use planning. The study will assess the tools and strategies that support a range of employment opportunities. The study is being conducted by the Regional Economic Studies Institute at Towson University with support from Baltimore-based Advanced Placemaking and Living Design Lab.

6

RETAIL MARKET STUDY - As large chain stores close and more people shop online, retail is undergoing fundamental changes. This comprehensive countywide study finds that stores in the county are generally well balanced in terms of types with 19.7 million square feet of occupied retail, amounting to 24 square feet of retail per person. The study, which will be reviewed by the Planning Board in fall 2017, includes detailed submarket analyses and recommendations on how to further enhance the retail environment, now and in the future, to serve the county.

7

AGRITOURISM STUDY - Agritourism Study explores the growing interest in agricultural education, tourism and entertainment to enhance the economic benefits of the county's award-winning Agricultural Reserve. The Planning Department is working closely and cooperatively with county agencies to develop a comprehensive, countywide approach to land use and zoning strategies for agricultural economic and cultural development.

8

ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH FOR FUTURE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE - The guiding land use policy for the county was last refined in 1993 and needs to be updated in response to recent changes in development patterns, demographics and transportation modes. This "plan for the plan" will analyze the county's residential market, housing and economic trends, and economic development indicators to pave the way for future revisions to the General Plan.



PARK UPDATES

CHIEF PERFORMANCE OFFICER

Taking a department-wide view, the new Chief Performance Officer (CPO) works with leadership and stakeholders to develop program priorities and implement departmental efficiencies. Each of the identified program priorities begins with an initial assessment of performance measures to establish baseline activities. Additional assessments will be conducted at pre-determined intervals following the implementation of efficiencies to determine overall impact. The CPO also works with division leadership to monitor current performance targets and propose targets for future fiscal years.



PROGRAM EFFICIENCIES

We have been identifying and implementing department-wide efficiency initiatives, while also monitoring performance metrics and cost recovery targets. These efforts include the use of digital signatures to save time and money, environmental and sustainable practices, a searchable archive of documents and reducing network server requirements through cloud-based storage.



PALS PROJECT

Montgomery Parks is collaborating with The Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS), part of the National Center for Smart Growth at the University of Maryland. PALS enlists faculty expertise and student ingenuity to offer solutions to help local communities secure a more economically, environmentally and socially sustainable future.

Parks has sought high-quality, low-cost assistance from PALS, such as the Targeted Marketing and Outreach Plan. In addition, the program is working to support eight studies and other projects that will help us plan for the future needs of our parks and better serve the public. This partnership allows us to implement programs, gain insight and develop best practices that we otherwise would not be able to accomplish in such a short time and at a very minimal cost. As an added benefit, students and faculty are introduced to the vast array of programs and amenities available throughout our park system. This initiative creates a pipeline of prospective new hires as the students are exposed to the varied employment opportunities within the Department.



PARK REFRESHER PROGRAM

To address the urgent need of maintaining and renovating the park system's aging facilities in a more effective way, the Department of Parks started an alternative project delivery method that focuses on targeted improvements in high priority parks. With its limited scope, the Park Refresher program will be able to provide needed improvements to more parks at a lower cost and within a shorter time frame.

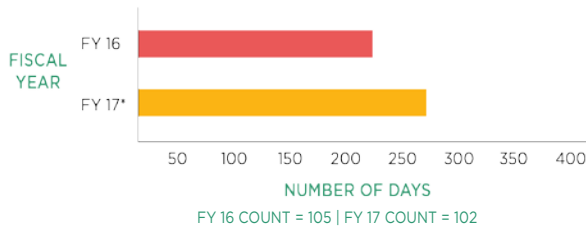
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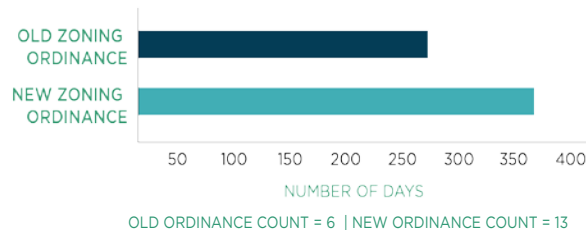
REGULATORY STATISTICS

26

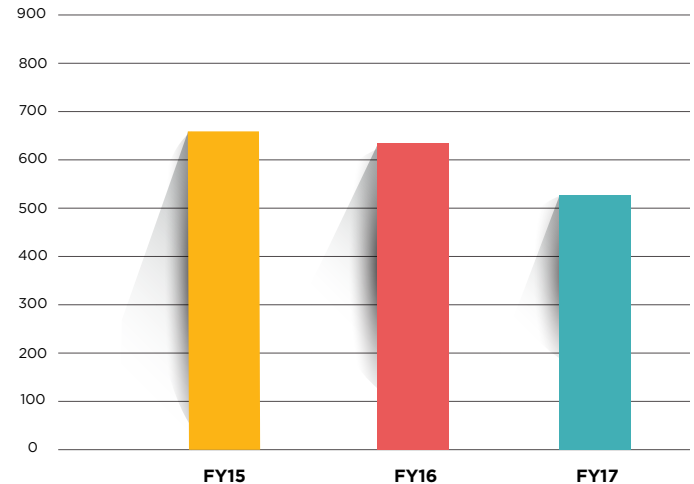
AVERAGE RECORD PLAT REVIEW TIME



AVERAGE SITE PLAN REVIEW TIME (FY 17)



ALL PLANS TYPES ACCEPTED BY FISCAL YEAR



7272 WISCONSIN AVENUE (SHOWN AT RIGHT)

This nearly 1 million square foot building will include office, retail and residential uses on a prominent site at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Elm Street in downtown Bethesda. Access to the Bethesda Red Line Metro Station, a future Purple Line station and the Capital Crescent Trail will be provided within the structure, which will conform to the design guidelines for the Bethesda Downtown Plan.

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

A 22-story office building and a 246-room flagship hotel will comprise this headquarters on Wisconsin Avenue within two blocks of the Bethesda Metro Station. A landscaped mid-block open space will connect the office building and hotel, and generous terraces and green roofs will maximize outdoor spaces and stormwater management. Building setbacks, streetscape improvements, public and private open spaces, and a bikeshare station will meet the goals of the Bethesda Downtown Plan.

UNITED THERAPEUTICS

The third phase of the United Therapeutics campus in downtown Silver Spring is underway at the corner of Spring Street and Colesville Road. The development provides public amenities, including plazas, planting beds and artwork. The contemporary building is designed according to a net-zero energy concept with varied heights and setbacks to be compatible with the surrounding residential structures.

PIKE AND ROSE PHASE 2

This mixed-use center at Rockville Park and Old Georgetown Road comprises nearly 1.7 million square feet of retail, restaurants, office, entertainment and residential uses to extend the Pike and Rose development. A public park, streetscape improvements, green roofs, public artwork and other benefits are part of the project, a portion of which is now reaching completion.


An architectural rendering of a modern, multi-story glass skyscraper at dusk. The building features a complex, stepped design with multiple setbacks and cantilevered floors. The glass facade is highly reflective, showing the surrounding environment and the interior lights of the building. The building is situated in an urban environment with a wide street, trees, and other buildings in the background. The sky is a deep blue, and the city lights are visible in the distance.

Photo Courtesy: Shalom Baranes Architects
Robert Sponseller, Design Principal | Laura Croce, Senior Designer



CO-LOCATION OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

This past year, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission celebrated a ribbon-cutting and ground-breaking for two award-winning building projects that realize efficiencies and bring together public agencies. Construction of the Wheaton Headquarters began in July 2017 and is expected to be completed in 2020. The Multi-Agency Service Park in Gaithersburg opened in May 2017 and currently houses more than 170 Parks employees.

PROS UPDATE



Our greatest challenge is to equitably provide enough of the right parks and recreation in the right places for our growing population of residents and employees. The 2017 Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan serves as the primary policy for parks and recreation in Montgomery County to the year 2030 and beyond. The focus of the 2017 PROS Plan is on equitably providing activated, central community spaces while meeting recreational needs and protecting and managing natural and cultural resources for future generations.

29

PARKS BIKE SHARE

Montgomery Parks has teamed with Zagster, Inc. to bring a bike share program to our parks. The program, launched in August 2017 in Black Hill and Wheaton Regional Parks, makes it easier to connect visitors with trails, amenities and nature.



OTHER PROJECTS + ACCOMPLISHMENTS



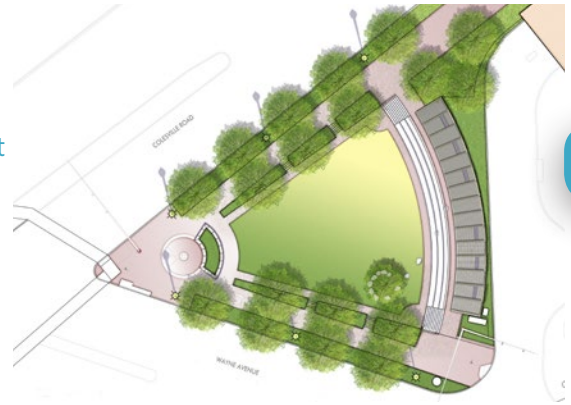
A rendering of the the Montgomery County Parks and Planning's Wheaton headquarters.

The Planning Department was recognized by the American Planning Association and other professional organizations with prestigious national and local awards. The Department of Parks accomplished important facilities plans, hired a new performance officer and improved public safety with a program to eliminate high-risk ash trees.

PARK MASTER PLANS AND FACILITY PLANS

Concept and facility plans were completed for renovations to Dewey Local Park, Long Branch-Wayne Local Park and Wheaton Regional Park's Shorefield area. Concept plans are underway for renovations to Acorn Urban Park, Edith Throckmorton Neighborhood Park and Capital Crescent Trail connections from Arlington Road to the Little Falls Trail.

Upcoming projects include Carroll Knolls Local Park, renovations to Columbia Local Park and hard surface trail extension from Wheaton Regional Park to the Matthew Henson Trail. In summer 2017, the Parks Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan was completed. Master plans are nearly completed for the 2017 Park, and the Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan. A functional master plan for nature centers begins in FY 2018.



EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATE

Park tree crews and tree contractors continue to remove high-risk ash trees on parkland to improve public safety. The paved trail systems, parkways and trees adjacent to private residences were a priority for ash removal over the past year and will continue to be during the next fiscal years. In FY 2017, ash removals were focused on Sligo Creek Parkway and trail, Little Falls Parkway and Rock Creek Trail. In FY 2018, our Urban Foresters have prioritized ash removal operations to include Matthew Henson Trail, Wheaton Regional Park, upper Sligo Creek Trail and other high-risk ash trees throughout developed areas. Based on the number of high-risk ash trees left to be removed, ash removal operations will be required at least through FY 2019.



*Tree damage due to emerald ash borer.
Photo Courtesy Of Albert Sun*

LAND ACQUISITION

In the last six months, we have acquired 8.5 acres of new parkland.

- Magruder Branch Stream Valley Park | 7.94 acres
- Avenel Local Park | .034 acres
- Josiah Henson Special Park | .57 acres



AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION AWARDS

In May 2017, the Planning Department won two national APA awards, honoring the Agricultural Reserve and Bicycle Stress Map. The Department also won an award for the Bicycle Stress Map from the National Capital Area Chapter of APA.





RECYCLING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

As part of Montgomery County’s Recycling Awareness Week in May 2017, the Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Solid Waste Services recognized outstanding achievements in waste reduction, reuse and recycling. The Planning Department was honored in the Business Awards category with the 2017 Silver Award for outstanding programs to increase overall awareness and participation with recycling.



COMMUNICATOR AWARDS

The Planning Department won four 2017 Communicator Awards from the New York-based Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts. Staff was honored with an Excellence Award in the campaign promotional category for its work to publicize and support the Makeover Montgomery 3 conference through videos, a website, flyers and conference program. The Department won two Distinction Awards in the general government category for its brochures about the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve and the 2016 Montgomery Modern bus tour of significant mid-20th-century landmarks and neighborhoods. The campaign for the 2016 Winter Speaker Series on transportation, called Smart Moves, was also recognized with a Distinction Award for the posters and website promoting the three events.



NEW PARK FACILITIES AND RENOVATIONS

NEW FACILITIES AND RENOVATIONS

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Planning/Design Projects

- Final designs for renovations to Woodside Urban Park, Pinecrest Local Park and Seneca Store were completed.
- Final designs for renovations to Dewey Local Park and Hillandale Local Park are underway.
- Designs for playground renovations include Long Branch Wayne, General Getty, Hillandale, Newport Mills, Sundown, Centerway and Damascus Regional.
- Upcoming projects include Carroll Knolls Local Park, renovations to Columbia Local Park and hard surface trail extension from Wheaton Regional Park to the Matthew Henson Trail.

Construction Projects

- Renovation of two playgrounds at Southeast Olney Local Park and West Fairland Local Park.
- Construction of Kemp Mill Urban Park in Wheaton.
- Renovation of Pine Lake Trail, sections of the Rock Creek Hiker-Biker Trail and reconstruction of the trail connector at Olney Family Neighborhood Park.
- Stream restoration project at Little Falls as part of the stream bank protection program.
- Construction continues on the greenhouse at Brookside Gardens, Laytonia Recreational Park, Rock Creek Maintenance Yard, Parklawn North Trail and Western Grove Park.
- Completion of nine ADA projects and construction of five ADA projects are currently underway. Also completed are nine ADA improvements as part of other larger park projects.

WHEATON HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

Construction of the Wheaton Headquarters is underway in downtown Wheaton. The county-owned Wheaton Market Place parking lot is being replaced with a LEED Platinum (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) government office building, town square and underground public parking garage. This cost-effective, environmentally sensitive and publicly-owned building will house seven local agencies and be a one stop shop for the public seeking advice and information.





A rendering of the Gables White Flint.

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