Stronger, Healthier and Happier Communities
Access to Experiences, Not Acres
Energized Public Spaces (EPS) Plan

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Vision

In the EPS Study Area, everyone can walk to a public space.

Integrated Public Spaces Network with centrally located parks
Platform of Community Experiences: Residents, workers and visitors
Presentation Outline:

1. Why are we doing it this way?
2. How are we doing it?
3. Next Steps from here
NEED FOR URBAN PARKS

Last Century:
Commercial hubs separated from Residential → Parks on edges

This Century:
CBDs becoming mixed-use → Need more parks within new communities
PAST THINKING

Q: How did we measure access to parks and public spaces?
Q: How do we measure access to parks and public spaces?
CURRENT THINKING:
Application of the 10-min walkshed to all parks
Parks/Public spaces are not equal. All park experiences (supply) are not created equal for everyone (demand).
Active Recreation – Physical Health

What to do - Experiences:
- Kick a Ball
- Run/Walk
- Play Games
- Exercise

Where - Facilities:
- Field: Open space/Grass
- Trails
- Hard Courts & Surfaces
- Nature-inspired Interactive Elements (climbing)
- Playgrounds
What to do - Experiences:
▪ Enjoy Nature
▪ Relax, Meditate, Reflect
▪ Escape Chaos

Where - Facilities:
▪ Natural Areas
▪ Historic Sites
▪ Benches
▪ Trees for Shade
▪ Community Open Space
▪ Gardens
▪ Small Green Spaces
▪ Trails
Social Gathering – Social Health

What to Do - Experiences:
- Community Festivals
- Farmer’s Market
- Lunch Places
- Concert, Parades
- Outdoor Movies
- Historic Sites

Where - Facilities:
- Plazas with Seating
- Stages/Amphitheaters
- Cluster of Picnic Tables
- Community Open Spaces
- Dog Parks
EPS PLAN
We measure access to experiences, not acres.
The diagram illustrates the relationship between supply, demand, and level of service in a geographic area. It shows how different access levels (lower, medium, higher) correspond to lower, medium, and higher levels of demand, ultimately affecting the service level (lower level of service). The maps indicate areas with lower access, less people, and lower demand equate to a lower level of service.
SUPPLY OF EXPERIENCES

1-acre Focus Area

Parks, Trails and Facilities within the Walkshed

10-min Walkshed

Barriers

Pilot Area Boundary
SUPPLY OF EXPERIENCES
from each experience type, then total of all 3

Lower Access

Higher Access
DEMAND OF EXPERIENCES

sample demand for one square
DEMAND OF EXPERIENCES
residents, workers, visitors

Less People

More People
SUPPLY

DEMAND

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Lower Access

Lower Level of Service

Higher Access

Less People

More People
Q: How does this tool help prioritize which areas in the County to invest first?
SHORTAGES MAPPING

comparison of aggregated shortages in districts
not all shortages have the same weight.

- Lesser Shortage
- Medium Shortage
- Greater Shortage
SHORTAGES MAPPING

comparison of aggregated shortages in districts

- Lesser District Shortage
- Medium District Shortage
- Greater District Shortage
SHORTAGES
TOTAL

District A
- Total: 2,319

District B
- Total: 888

District C
- Total: 5,365
Analyze Supply/Demand Countywide
  Identify Areas with Shortages
  Lower Level of Service/Shortages
  Prioritize Areas by Social Equity
    Lower Income

Identify Opportunities to Increase Service in the Priority Areas
Organize Opportunities into Strategies
  activate, connect, renovate/repurpose, develop and create
Implement Recommendations
Pilot Area

Identification of lower levels of services areas

Quantity

☐ Lower Level of Service
   (measured by accessibility to experiences)
Pilot Area

Park Hierarchy + Design Guidelines

Quality
Pilot Area
Implementation Strategies
Recommendations

- Lower Level of Service
- Activate
- Renovate/Repurpose
- Connect
- Develop
- Create
ACTIVATION
Montgomery Pop-Up

https://www.montgomeryparks.org/pop-up/

Source: PACP, M-NCPPC
ACTIVATION

Yappy Hour

https://www.montgomeryparks.org/events/yappy-hour-pop-dog-park/

Source: PACP, M-NCPPC
EPS RECAP

measure and map access to park experiences

prioritize where to spend limited funds

create an integrated network of public spaces

Source: Carl Morgan, M-NCPPC
Questions?

www.montgomeryparks.org

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Source: ForsythWoman.com