Community Chat: Parks
How to Participate - Teams

• This meeting will be recorded and shared on the website
• Please mute yourself and turn off your video, until called on
• If you have a comment or question, raise your hand or type it in the chat
• Unmute yourself, if you are called on
Community Check-In

• How are feeling right now?

• What most concerns you?
Today’s Presentation

What is Thrive Montgomery 2050?

Overview of Parks’ Draft Goals, Policies and Actions

Questions for residents and stakeholders

Conclusion and next steps
What is Thrive Montgomery 2050?

- Update to the General Plan, last comprehensively updated in 1969.
- Long-range vision for the future of growth in the county.
- Thrive Montgomery 2050 plan will help guide:
  - Countywide policies
  - Future initiatives
  - Land use planning infrastructure
  - Community amenities
  - Private development
Vision

In 2050, Montgomery County is a web of **complete communities** connected by **vibrant corridors**.

- **Complete communities**: Individual and unique centers of neighborhood activity and urban nodes optimize land use with a variety of housing types and price points are located close to transit, workplaces, needed goods and services, public amenities and active park spaces.

- **Vibrant corridors**: comfortable, safe corridors of multimodal transportation and services; and corridors of green parks, stream valleys and trails.
Big Shifts

Where are we heading?

Urbanism – Corridors are the future
15-minute living
Active lifestyles = Health
Social – Connections of people and places
Housing is a right and a value
Major roads transformed into boulevards
Sustainable and Resilient

Stop planning for cars
De-pave the county
Varieties of commercial uses
Regional solutions to problems
Diversity is our strength
Embrace importance of place

Source: https://www.sasaki.com/projects/the-blairs/
Categories of Goals

- Design, Arts and Culture
- Complete Communities
- Connectedness
- Diverse and Adaptable Growth
- Healthy and Sustainable Environment
- Affordability and Attainability
- Safe and Efficient Travel
- Diverse Economy
- Community Equity
- Economic Health
- Environmental Resilience
About M-NCPPC
Montgomery County Department of Parks

Our park system includes:

- 422 parks across
  37,000+ acres
- 457 miles of streams
- 302 tennis courts
- 294 athletic fields
- 285 playgrounds
- 215 basketball courts
- 238 miles of paved
  and natural surface trails
- 134 picnic shelters
- 117 historic structures
- 102 campsites
- 28 park activity buildings

- Battery Lane Urban Park
- Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park

[Map of Montgomery County parks and trails]
Why are park and open spaces important?

- **Our parks and recreation system promotes...**
  - Healthy, active living
  - Economic health because it attracts people to live and work here
  - Sense of community and civic pride
  - Social gathering and cohesion
  - Healthy, safe, green communities
  - Connections to nature, areas for contemplation
  - Natural and cultural resources stewardship
Parks
Goals, Policies and Actions
Complete Communities

Promote active lifestyles by making parks and open spaces a central element of the community.

Ensure all people in urban and suburban communities have access to parks or public spaces that provide opportunities for vigorous physical activity, social engagement, and quiet contemplation or connections to nature within a comfortable 15-minute walk from their homes or from transit.
Complete Communities
Create strong neighborhoods and communities that foster communication and interaction among residents and create a culture of inclusion.

Use parks and public space to facilitate active lifestyles, physical connections and interactions amongst diverse populations.

Establish a culture of inclusion and that encourages people to linger and connect socially.
Healthy and Sustainable Environment

Improve health and well-being for all Montgomery County residents and address the health disparities that currently exist.

Create convenient and safe opportunities for physical activity for residents of all ages, cultures, abilities and income levels by... ensuring safe, convenient connections to **parks and open spaces**.

Promote active and healthy lifestyles and active transportation... by... ensuring that all county residents in urban and suburban communities have access to a **park or open space** within walking distance from their homes.
Safe and Efficient Travel

Get people out of their cars. Transform Montgomery County into a community of walkable, people-centric places where public transit, walking and bicycling are the preferred travel mode for daily trips and the need for personal vehicles is substantially reduced.

Reallocate some street space dedicated to motor vehicle travel to other uses such as walking, bicycling and transit.
Create and preserve great places with attractive streets and public spaces, inspired urban design and high-quality architecture that delivers lasting beauty.

Use a variety of existing and new parks and trails to support communities with compact, walkable development and sustainable design.
Complete Communities

Orient communities around convenient social gathering places accessible to neighborhood residents by walking and biking.

Locate and design...parks...as places where social gathering is encouraged.

Maximize co-location, redevelopment... partnerships and a focus on design excellence.
Complete Communities: Co-location
Connectedness

Assess racial equity and social justice impacts across all Montgomery Parks and Montgomery Planning initiatives.

Employ strategies to assess racial equity and social justice impacts of master, functional, regulatory, and parks
Connectedness

Public Parks are platforms for democracy and for equity and social justice

MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK POLICE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DIVISION
12731 LAYHILL ROAD
SILVER SPRING, MD 20906

Press Release

For immediate release:
June 5, 2020

For more information, contact:
Captain Jeffrey Coe
Public Information Officer
Maryland-National Capital Park Police-Montgomery County Division
301-929-2722/Jeffrey.Coe@MNCPPC.org

Suspect Charged with Second-Degree Assault

Victor Stoddard @VicStoddard 6.9.20
They were putting up signs to commemorate the death of George Floyd. He wasn't having it.
Healthy and Sustainable Environment

Preserve, restore, enhance, expand and sustainably manage natural and other green areas to support human communities and healthy, diverse populations of native animals and plants, while providing appropriate and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities for all.
Diverse and Adaptable Growth

Transform land uses surrounding rail and BRT transit corridors to accommodate future population growth and varied lifestyle preferences in attractive, walkable and mixed-use communities.
Diverse and Adaptable Growth: Park Near Transit

(Wheaton Urban Creation Park)
Design, Arts and Culture

Provide every resident in the county with a variety of opportunities to experience art and culture daily by making public art an integral part of the public realm and physical infrastructure.

Activate **parks, public spaces** and civic facilities like libraries, post offices and schools with art and interactive design that reflects the history and unique characteristics of the place, stimulates the mind and encourages physical activity.
Design, Arts and Culture: Josiah Henson Park
Questions for the Community
Questions # 1

• What do you like most about County parks?

• What are we doing well?
Questions # 2

• What is currently missing from County parks?

• How could we improve?
Questions # 3

• How do you think parks and recreation will change in the County 30 years from now?

• What will be important 30 years from now that may be less important today?
Project Timeline

- **Issues Report**
  - Presented to the Planning Board on February 27th

- **Draft Vision and Goals**
  - Presented to the Planning Board on April 16th

- **Draft Policies and Actions**
  - Will be presented to the Planning Board on June 11th

- **Working Draft Plan**
  - September 2020

- **Planning Board Review + Transmittal**
  - October 2020 – March 2021

- **Council Review + Approval**
  - April 2021 - TBD
Stay involved!

- Testify at the June 11th Planning Board Meeting on the Draft Policies and Actions
  - Written testimony - send email to MCP-Chair@mncppc-mcp.org by June 11th at 12pm
  - Virtual video testimony – sign up on www.MontgomeryPlanningBoard.org
- Sign-up for the Thrive Montgomery 2050 e-letter at www.ThriveMontgomery.com
- Send your comments to Thrive2050@montgomeryplanning.org
- Connect with us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram
- Participate in upcoming Community Chats – through June 30th
Community Chat Schedule

June 9, Noon to 1 p.m. Parks
June 10, Noon to 1:30 p.m. LGBTQ Communities
June 10, 5 to 6 p.m. Diverse Economy
June 17, 7 to 8 p.m. Healthy Communities
June 22, 7 to 8 p.m. Safe and Efficient Travel
June 23, Noon to 1 p.m. Complete Communities
June 23, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Bilingual Healthy and Sustainable Environment
June 24, All day. Twitter Town Hall. Housing
June 24, 5 to 6 p.m. Pints with a Planner on Housing with Casey Anderson
June 29, Noon to 1 p.m. Culture and Design
June 30, 7 to 8 p.m. Diverse and Adaptable Growth