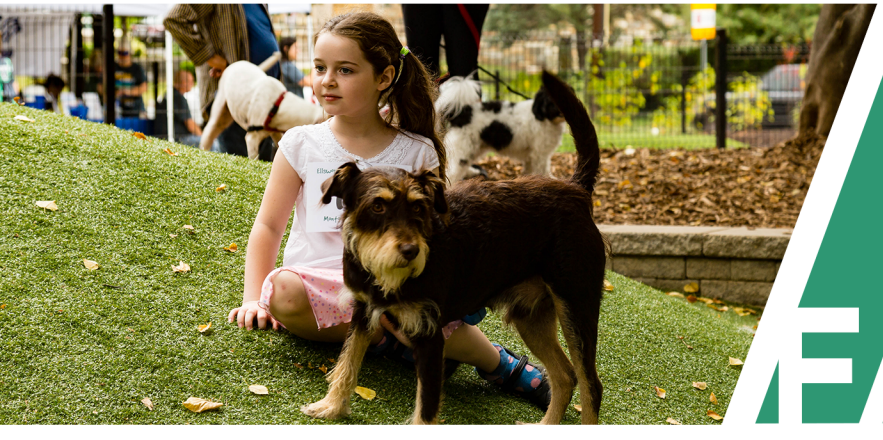

FALL 2016

PARKS + PLANNING

SEMIANNUAL REPORT

MONTGOMERY COUNTY (M-NCPPC)

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MEET NEW PLANNING BOARD MEMBER GERALD R. CICHY

In July, transportation engineer and planner Gerald R. Cichy, PE, AICP, joined the Planning Board. He was appointed by the County Council to replace Board member Amy Presley, who served the maxiumum of two consecutive terms. Cichy is well prepared to serve on the Board, having worked at the Maryland Transit Administration/Maryland Department of Transportation on projects such as the Corridor Cities Transitway, Purple Line light rail and regional transit-oriented developments. From 1979 to 1984, he was director of transportation for Montgomery County and collaborated with federal, state and county agencies as well as developer and citizen groups to solve mutual challenges.

LETTER FROM THE **PLANNING BOARD CHAIR**

DEAR PRESIDENT FLOREEN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL:

I am pleased to present this Fall 2016 Semiannual Report summarizing the recent work of the Planning Board, Planning Department and Department of Parks. We remain focused on transportation, housing and community outreach to strengthen Montgomery County's economic competitiveness. We have made major strides over the past six months to complete plans and develop new policies aimed at improving our performance in each of these areas, and making our communities even more attractive, livable and strong.

The newly drafted Subdivision Staging Policy advances our push toward better transportation planning by recognizing modes of travel other than the automobile through performance metrics. At the same time, our planners are developing the Bicycle Master Plan to encourage more citizens to reach their destinations on two wheels. Already, one of the tools aiding this data-driven bicycle plan has been recognized with an award from the local chapter of the American Planning Association.

A study of rental apartments and plans to diversify office parks in Rock Spring and White Flint 2 with residential development are broadening our efforts to provide housing for residents of all incomes. At the same time, we want to raise the bar for livability through stronger design standards, as exemplified by the Downtown Bethesda Sector Plan. Design excellence is important for adding economic value as much as for improving aesthetics.

Improved connectivity is another area of concentration for both the Planning Department and Department of Parks, which has opened several new trails in recent months. Efforts are being made to connect people in urban, suburban and rural areas to our parks and world-class amenities. We are steadily increasing our efforts to activate urban parks through programming geared to where people live, work and want to spend time.

Community outreach gained ground over the past six months through new digital tools, community workshops and even Parks programs geared to the Pokemon Go craze.

All this work has helped us move closer to delivering diverse housing opportunities, transportation alternatives and enjoyable parks for our County. This semiannual update presents some of those results for your review. Thank you for the opportunity to present this report and for your continued support our important mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Anderson
Planning Board Chair

PARKS NOTABLE **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Project Recognition
Several projects and parks have been recognized for a variety of awards. Recognitions were bestowed upon Little Bennett Regional Park Day Use Area Phase I and Evans Parkway Neighborhood Park from the Potomac Chapter of the American Landscape Architects, East Norbeck Local Park was recognized by the Maryland Recreation & Parks Association and the Maryland Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Montgomery Preservation Awards were given to Woodlawn Visitor Center and the Darby Store. Additionally, our annual Arbor Day event won the International Society of Arboriculture's Harry J. Banker Gold Leave Award for the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Staff and Volunteer Honors
Maryland-National Capital Park Police Lieutenant Shibu Philipose was awarded a Silver Medal of Valor at the 42nd Annual Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards for his role as a responder to a car that was crushed by a tree in Takoma Park. Longtime Montgomery Parks volunteer Sarah Morse was named Community Volunteer of the Year by the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association and the County-wide Recreation Advisory Board Outstanding Parks Volunteer in recognition of her dedication and service to local parks, environment and community.

Project Recognition
Montgomery Parks has celebrated the opening of several acclaimed facilities and trails over the past six months, including Woodlawn Visitor Center, Ten Mile Creek Trail and Ellsworth Dog Park. These popular facilities have welcomed thousands of visitors, providing them with access to additional places to learn about history, enjoy hiking and biking, and enjoy time with their dogs.

Montgomery Parks Foundation
The Montgomery Parks Foundation has had a very successful year, raising enough funds to purchase a climbing wall, a mobile pump track for use at park events and facilities, and signage that will be installed on trails. The Parks Foundation is still in the "quiet phase" of the capital campaign for the Josiah Henson Special Park and held two successful Leadership Conferences to promote the project to targeted funding sources.

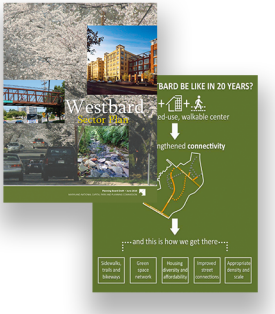
Accessibility
Montgomery Parks continues work to enhance the accessibility of our parks, facilities, programs and services. In August, Parks submitted the Final Transition Plan to the United States Department of Justice. We have completed corrective work at 18 DOJ-audited sites and 57 other park facilities. We also completed self-evaluations of all parks to identify barriers limiting access to programs and activities. The Final Transition Plan describes the methods, actions and strategies needed to make facilities accessible and establishes a prioritization for physical barrier removals throughout the park system and the schedule and timeline for barrier removals.

PLANNING NOTABLE **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Updating the Subdivision Staging Policy
Balancing growth and infrastructure in the County is achieved through the Subdivision Staging Policy, which is updated every four years. The Planning Board approved a draft of the Subdivision Staging Policy in July for the County Council's review by November 15. Innovative ideas include transportation policies addressing modes of travel other than automobiles. Learn more: montgomeryplanning.org/ssp

Planning Great Communities
The Westbard Sector Plan was approved and adopted in May and the Greater Lyttonsville and Bethesda Downtown Sector Plans have been transmitted to the County Council. Plans currently underway include the Rock Spring Master Plan, White Flint 2 Sector Plan, Bicycle Master Plan, MARC Rail Communities Plan for Boyds and Germantown, and Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Area Minor Master Plan.

In addition, the Planning Board approved significant regulatory cases over the past six months, including the mixed-use East Village at North Bethesda Gateway; the Sligo Artspace renovation of a former Silver Spring police station into creative studios and affordable housing; and Brightview assisted living facilities in Bethesda.

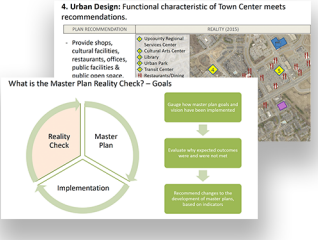


Advancing Design Excellence
Building on last year's successful Design Excellence Awards program, a second awards competition was judged in September with the winners announced in October. The Department is forming a Design Advisory Panel to provide feedback on significant development projects being considered for additional density in Bethesda.

Convening Makeover Montgomery 3
The Planning Department collaborated with the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education at the University of Maryland to host Makeover Montgomery 3: Balancing Change in America's Suburbs. The three-day conference in May drew more than 300 attendees who heard from 90 speakers on three topics: the sharing economy, beyond transit-oriented development and equity and opportunity in the suburbs.

MAKEOVER MONTGOMERY 3

Evaluating Master Plan Realities
By assessing the difference between a plan's aspirations and on-the-ground facts, the Master Plan Reality Check study is shedding light on why some plans materialized as envisioned and others did not. The analysis of the 1989 Germantown Master Plan has been completed and the study will continue by focusing on plans for Silver Spring and Friendship Heights.



NEW SUBURBANISM

PARK POTOMAC, POTOMAC, MD

Transforming isolated, car-centric suburbs into connected, walkable and mixed-use communities is a priority for the Parks and Planning Departments. Recent efforts focus on **improving infill development, activating parks, diversifying athletic fields and expanding trails**. We are providing **better urban parks in areas of most need, improving bicycle safety**, recommending ways of **revitalizing office parks** and **studying the rental housing market** to inform future plans.

ACTIVATING PARKS

We believe active, vibrant parks create healthy communities. Hosting dynamic pop-up events like Climb-A-Tree, Bollywood Dancing and Tai Chi, and adding features like food trucks, Jumbo Jenga games and colorful outdoor furniture to select parks create inviting settings. They supply a broad range of new reasons for people to visit and play in our parks, meet their neighbors and become part of a vibrant, healthy community. Local community associations and partners have embraced our pop-up events and amenities, and played a pivotal role in helping us engage audiences and bring them together.

REINVENTING THE SUBURBAN OFFICE PARK

The Rock Spring Master Plan and White Flint 2 Sector Plan, both due to be reviewed by the Planning Board in fall 2016, identify opportunities to reinvigorate suburban office parks in North Bethesda. In Rock Spring, a central street for cars, bicycles and pedestrians is planned to connect identified districts: a village center, a mixed-use business campus and a mixed-use regional marketplace. In the White Flint 2 Sector Plan, new development is encouraged to reinvigorate vacant office buildings and introduce street-activating uses and new open spaces for the public.

ROCK SPRING OFFICE PARK

1

ESTABLISHING TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES

The Bicycle Master Plan aims to increase the number of people who bicycle in the County by creating a highly connected, low-stress bicycling network and improving safety. In July, the Planning Board reviewed the framework for the plan, including new classifications for bikeways, such as trails, separate bikeways, striped bikeways, shoulders and shared roads. To ensure each objective of the Master Plan will be met, a detailed monitoring program is proposed to determine the access to low-stress bicycling networks from residential units, schools and public facilities.

2

PROVIDING NEW TRAILS

Trails continue to be among the most popular amenities in our parks system. We have completed work on the Countywide Park Trails Plan Amendment and are continuing to provide new trails, enhance connectivity and build pathways that are more usable, sustainable and functional. We are working to improve the user experience and studying how we can make trail crossings safer for all users. Work continues with our dedicated volunteers and partners to build new trails like the Ten Mile Creek Trail and a new natural surface trail in PEPCO's Bethesda-Dickerson Corridor.

FOOTBALL

Plans in Progress

Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Area Minor Master Plan will determine the appropriate strategies for transforming the Metro station parking lot and nearby properties into a mixed-use neighborhood.

Rock Spring Master Plan identifies opportunities to reinvigorate a suburban office park. Planners are examining new uses, including residential development, public spaces and pedestrian and transportation connectivity.

White Flint 2 Sector Plan aims to close the gap between the 2010 White Flint and Twinbrook Sector Plans, and the City of Rockville plan for Rockville Pike with new land use, zoning and transportation strategies.

MARC Rail Communities Plan focuses on improving the transit station areas in Boyds and Germantown in ways sensitive to these historic places. Public design workshops held in March 2016 helped to identify community concerns.

Bicycle Master Plan will propose a Countywide network of high-quality bikeways, some separated from vehicular traffic. An active advisory group, interactive feedback maps and community meetings are helping to guide the plan recommendations.

CREATING VIBRANT PARKS

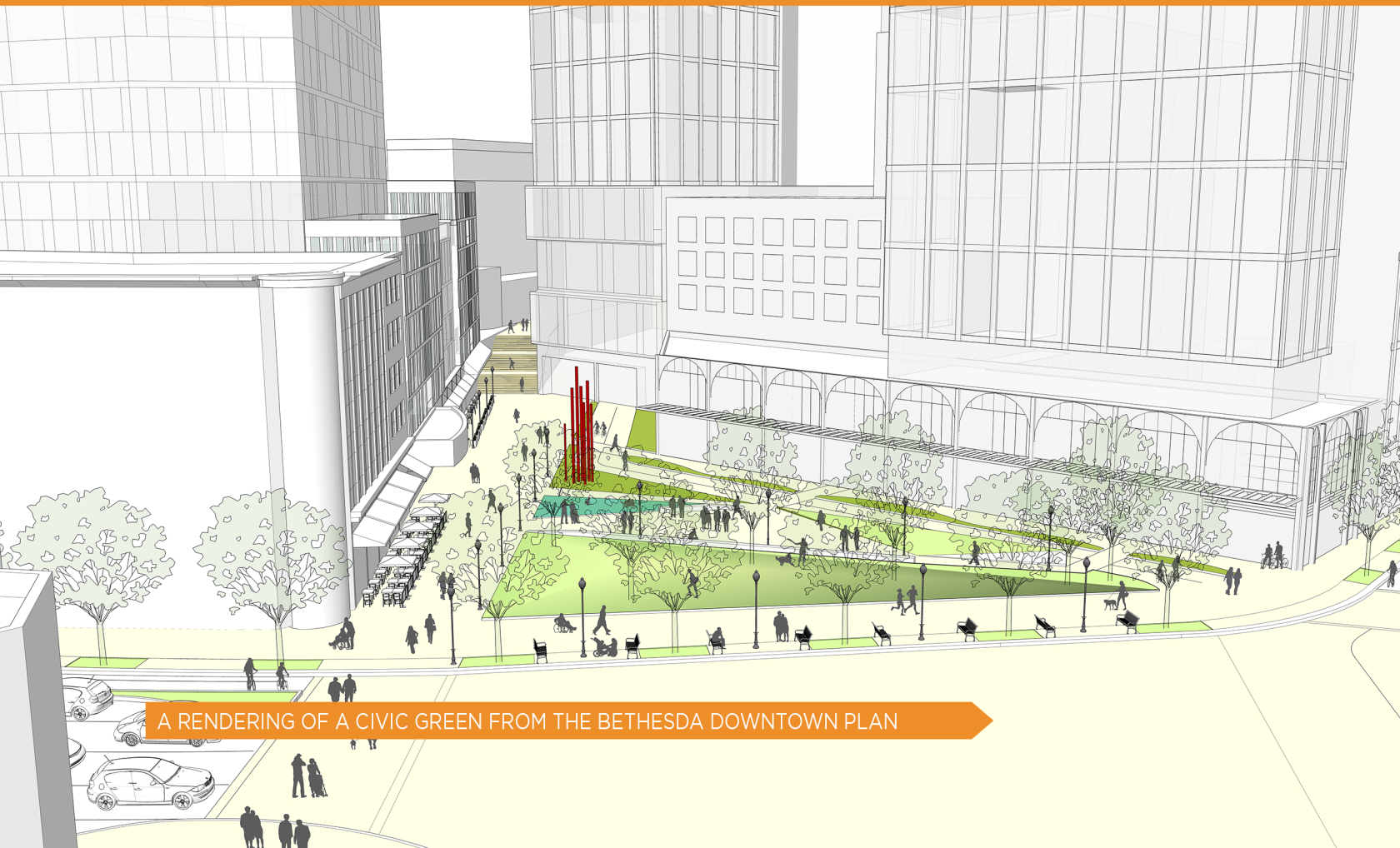
Parks are vital to creating livable, healthy communities, so it is essential that we deliver parks that meet the needs of all residents. To do that, we need to make sure parks are located in the right places and provide the right types of facilities and services. We use community input and data-driven analysis to help create parks that promote healthy communities, social interaction and equity, and we look closely at important factors, including walkability, connectivity and trends in the parks and recreation fields.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO ATHLETIC FIELDS

Montgomery County residents should have convenient access to quality athletic fields no matter whether they live in a suburban or urban area – and no matter what sport they want to play. We have collected information about field conditions and user data to determine maintenance and user trends and needs, developed standard maintenance practices for our fields and purchased new equipment to help us do our jobs more efficiently. We are also planning an organic athletic field pilot study for our parks, the results of which will be a critical to the development of a pesticide-free maintenance plan for athletic fields. Finally, we are launching a user-friendly Athletic Field RainoutLine to make it easier for users, parents and coaches to determine if a field is open and available for play or not.

IMPROVING THE PUBLIC REALM BY CREATING COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES

Both the Bethesda Downtown and Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plans, now with the County Council, recommend new parks and open spaces in close proximity to public transit. These landscaped public areas allow for community events, casual picnics and "breathing" room. In Downtown Bethesda, strategically placed civic greens are planned to extend existing open spaces such as Veterans Park, Elm Street Park and Battery Lane Urban Park. In addition, new parks are proposed near Bethesda Row and in the Pearl District. In Lyttonsville, new civic plazas placed adjacent to future Purple Line stations are recommended, as well as new parks and trails.



A RENDERING OF A CIVIC GREEN FROM THE BETHESDA DOWNTOWN PLAN

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

FRIENDSHIP PICNIC

From community workshops to wildlife management, the plans, projects and programs recently undertaken by Planning and Parks involve a wide variety of citizens. Public participation is increasing through the use of new digital tools and social media in addition to numerous community meetings. This outreach is intended to engage a broad audience of all ages and residents with diverse needs. In addition, we are improving accessibility for the disabled in our parks and civic spaces. The Planning Board is touring County neighborhoods on bikes and on foot to better understand the potential effects of recent plans on our communities.

MARC RAIL COMMUNITIES PLAN OUTREACH

Citizen-collaborative community workshops called charrettes have resulted in valuable public feedback about planning goals. They proved to be successful in the development of the MARC Rail Communities Plan in helping staff to understand community concerns about the transit station areas in Boyds and Germantown. The workshops enabled stakeholders to have a voice in the ultimate vision. Residents and stakeholders who didn't attend the workshops could record comments from their phones or computers on an interactive digital map of the station areas.

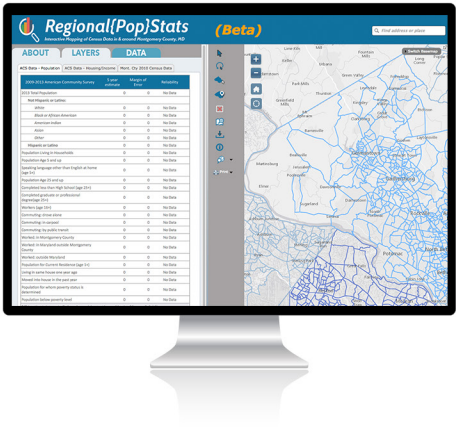
MARC RAIL COMMUNITIES MAP
MCATLAS.ORG/MARC

ENGAGING AUDIENCES WITH POKEMON GO

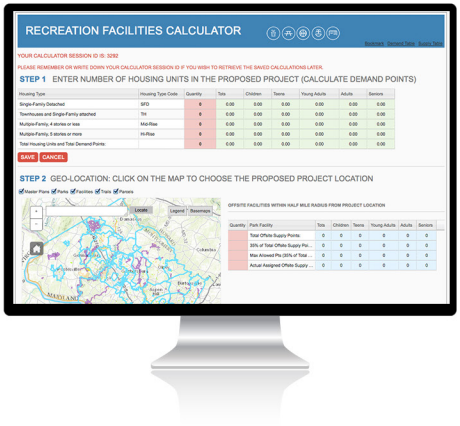
Montgomery Parks leveraged Pokemon Go and social media to guide audiences of all ages to get outdoors into County parks to play this popular game. We created a video about the game as well as content on safety, playing together, staying on trails and observing nature while playing the game. We plan to include more Pokemon GO in programs, such as nature hikes and events at Brookside Gardens, using the game as a way to encourage new visitors to explore our parks and facilities and create new memories together.

NEW DIGITAL TOOLS

Data drives our planning work. One of the latest efforts to harness information is an interactive map that reports US Census demographic, income, housing, and commute mode data by block group – one of the smallest Census boundaries. This new map, titled **RegionalPopStats**, is valuable in providing data for Montgomery County and neighboring jurisdictions, and allowing the public to access the data and better understand communities.



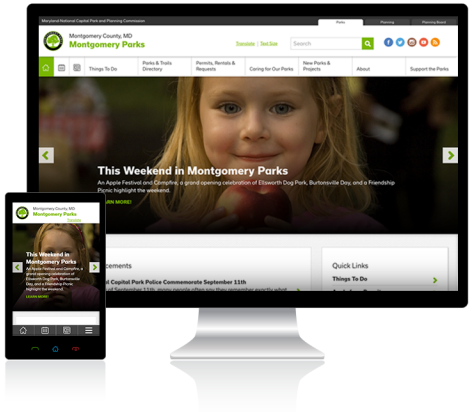
REGIONALPOPSTATS
MCATLAS.ORG/ACS



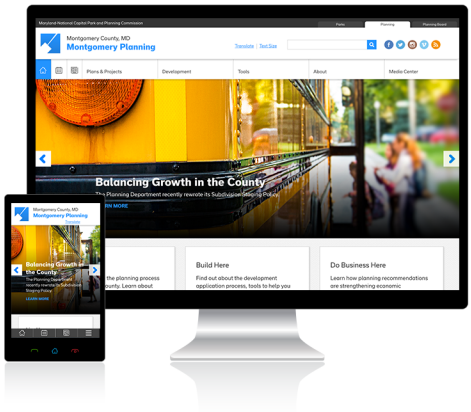
The **Recreation Guidelines** are used to evaluate recreational amenities for private residential development. Currently, the 1992 guidelines are being revised in response to the County's demographic changes and need for more diverse spaces, particularly for urban, mixed-use development. Planners have proposed a variety of new types of recreation facilities to address all age groups. An interactive web tool allows developers to easily create different recreation scenarios, matching recreation supply and demand in areas of the County.

RECREATION GUIDELINES CALCULATOR
MCATLAS.ORG/RECREATION

NEW M-NCPPC WEBSITES



EXPLORE AT
MONTGOMERYPARKS.ORG



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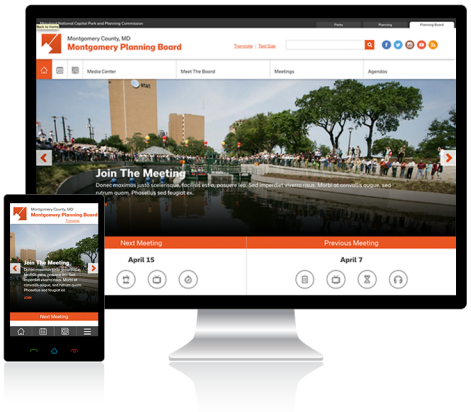


EXPLORE AT
MONTGOMERYPLANNINGBOARD.ORG

New website designs were launched in summer and fall 2016 for the Montgomery County Planning Board, Planning Department and Department of Parks. The digital pages present more visually appealing, accessible and user-friendly content for the public. The improved visual interface is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The site makes it easy for users to find plan documents, news, classes, events, parks and facilities to visit, and more. geographic information systems provide access to maps of parks, planning areas and community developments that are updated in real time.

HIGHLIGHTS

Mobile-friendly design & mobile responsiveness

Ease of information & user experience (UX)

Higher level of ADA compliance

IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

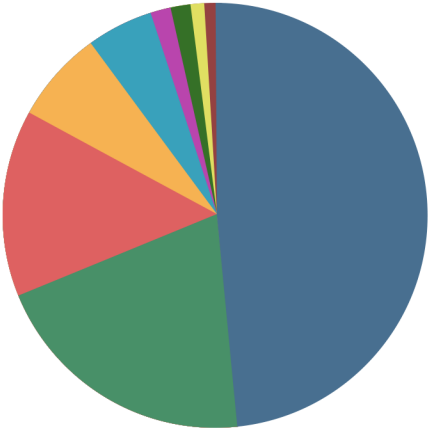
Ensuring programs and activities are accessible to all is a priority for Montgomery Parks. Our Program Access Office offers and coordinates inclusion services for individuals with disabilities to be successfully included in our programs.

Year in Review:

- Of visitors, 138 individuals who registered for programs were identified as having a disability.
- Of those individuals, 41 received direct services from trained support staff to provide modifications or assistance such as braille/large print materials, sign language interpretation or adaptive equipment.
- Thirty-two participants required indirect services where a trained staff person redirected a participant's behavior or made indirect modifications. Sixty-five participants were identified as having a disability but did not require support services.
- Program Access staff has trained 785 career and seasonal staff since November 2015 in ADA/program access, disability characteristics, sensitivity awareness, communication and documentation, customer service and behavior management.

Individuals With Disabilities Who Attended Programs And Events

- **19.51%**: Austism Spectrum
- **17.89%**: ADHD, ADD or Other Attention Disabilities
- **14.63%**: Consultation Request Or Unknown at Time of Registration
- **13.01%**: Multiple Disabilities
- **11.38%**: Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- **8.13%**: Physical Disabilities
- **5.69%**: Developmental Disabilities
- **4.88%**: Emotional/Behavioral Disability
- **3.25%**: Seizures
- **0.81%**: Blind or Low Vision
- **0.81%**: Speech Disability



Corinne
WHEATON

STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

RENDERING OF UNITED THERAPEUTICS' UNISPHERE BUILDING IN SILVER SPRING

PHOTO COURTESY OF EWINGCOLE

T**he quality of life achieved through our parks, community plans and policies** plays an important role in our economy. A study recently published by the National Recreation and Parks Association found that America's local and regional public park agencies "generated nearly $140 billion in economic activity and supported almost 1 million jobs from their operations and capital spending alone in 2013."

Other work to strengthen our economic competitiveness includes **updating the Subdivision Staging Policy** to ensure the capacity of schools and roads is adequate for County growth. **Regulatory statistics** show the number of development applications increased by nearly 200 from FY15 to FY16. **Research into retail and housing trends** is helping to ensure our plans and programs meet future needs.

SUBDIVISION STAGING POLICY

With a draft approved by the Planning Board in July, the updated Subdivision Staging Policy ensures that road and school capacity will keep pace with new development. Planners recognize that there is not a "one size fits all" set of rules and have revised the transportation policies to recognize current land use patterns, modes of travel other than cars and planning visions for different parts of the County. After extensive outreach efforts starting in 2015 with the Infrastructure Forum, the new draft policy recommends a hybrid annual school test combining cluster utilization tests with new individual school capacity deficit tests to determine adequate school capacity. The tests are used to determine those school clusters with inadequate capacity overall as well as whether individual schools greatly exceed the capacity for which they were built. The policy also proposes a system to regularly update the school facility payment formulas to better keep up with the latest student generation rates and school construction costs.

THE PLANNING BOARD RECEIVED MORE THAN **75 LETTERS IN SUPPORT** OF THE SSP CHANGE.

> "GROWTH IS NO LONGER ABOUT SPREADING OUT, BUT RATHER IS ABOUT FILLING IN.
>
> SUBDIVISION STAGING POLICY
> PLANNING BOARD DRAFT

PARKS VISITATION + REVENUE

Montgomery Parks' facilities and events attract visitors from near and far to our parks and to the restaraunts, shops, businesses, and hotels that surround them. Tournaments held on our athletic fields, weddings and conferences held at our event centers, fun family festivals, educational symposiums and activities at our ice rinks, tennis centers, public gardens, nature centers, historic sites, lakes and more bring our parks to life and help drive activity to nearby destinations.

241,141 BROOKSIDE GARDENS VISITORS

133,158 NATURE CENTERS VISITORS

115,777 TENNIS CENTER VISITORS

532,732 ICE RINK VISITORS

DID YOU KNOW?

Little Bennett Campground in Clarksburg attracts 26 percent of its campers from out of state and 12 percent of visitors from outside of the County.

CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL USAGE

USAGE FOR SEPTEMBER 2015 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2016

BETHESDA COUNTER (COUNTER #1)

927,881 TOTAL USERS

DALECARLIA TUNNEL COUNTER (COUNTER #2)

730,909 TOTAL USERS

RENTAL HOUSING STUDY

According to this recent study, rental housing accounts for about 30 percent of the housing supply in Montgomery County and is concentrated around Metro lines and employment centers. Most of the County's supply consists of older units, with only 14 percent of rental units constructed later than 2000. The age of the housing supply has helped create "naturally occurring" affordable units. The study, due to be completed in late 2017, also reveals that the rental market supply is short about 20,000 rental units for households earning less than 30 percent of area median income. This information will influence future planning efforts as planners seek to ensure that the housing stock is meeting demand in the County.

22%

PERCENTAGE OF DEMAND FOR RENTAL HOUSING COMES FROM HOUSEHOLDS EARNING **LESS THAN $30,000**

4% CURRENT PERCENT OF DEMAND MET BY SUPPLY

38%

PERCENTAGE OF DEMAND FOR RENTAL HOUSING COMES FROM HOUSEHOLDS EARNING **LESS THAN $50,000**

19% CURRENT PERCENT OF DEMAND MET BY SUPPLY

RETAIL TRENDS STUDY

The Planning Department has commissioned a consulting firm to study the County's retail market dynamic. Current conditions, regional competitiveness and shopping trends are being assessed. The goal of the study is to recommend land use and regulatory strategies to help the County improve its existing retail and ensure its long-term competitiveness. The kickoff meeting for the study was held in August and a draft report is expected in early 2017.

“

LOCAL AND REGIONAL PUBLIC PARK AGENCIES GENERATED NEARLY **$140 BILLION** IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND SUPPORTED ALMOST **1 MILLION JOBS** FROM THEIR OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL SPENDING ALONE IN 2013.

NATIONAL RECREATION & PARKS ASSOCIATION

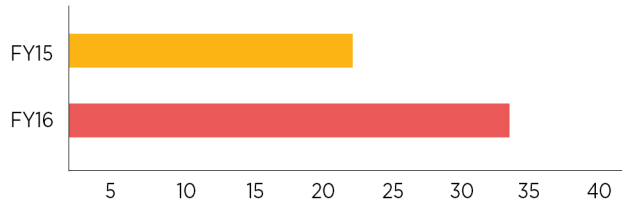
TRAILS DRIVING TOURISM

Trails and heritage sites play a large role in driving tourism in our communities. Our trails are some of the most popular amenities in our parks. From being used to connect people from their homes to parks, work, shopping, dining and other experiences, trails provide a wealth of economic opportunity. Popular trail events like the MoCo Epic draw thousands of mountain bike enthusiasts to South Germantown Recreational Park from up and down the East Coast. Other events like the Parks Half Marathon bring thousands of people out to parks and communities along the way.

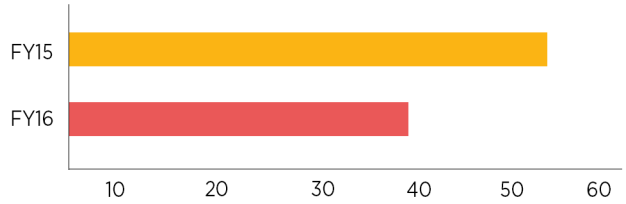
ECONOMIC VALUE OF PARKS

In addition to improving quality of life, parks play an important role in the economy. Proximity to quality park systems impact home-buying decisions and housing costs. A study published by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and conducted by the Center for Regional Analysis, housed in the School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs at George Mason University, found that America's local and regional public park agencies "generated nearly $140 billion in economic activity and supported almost 1 million jobs from their operations and capital spending alone in 2013." Providing vibrant, active parks in urban areas near dining, shopping and other activities make our communities more livable. Providing top-notch parks and fun, engaging festivals and events draws people to urban centers where there are lots of other activities and places to enjoy.

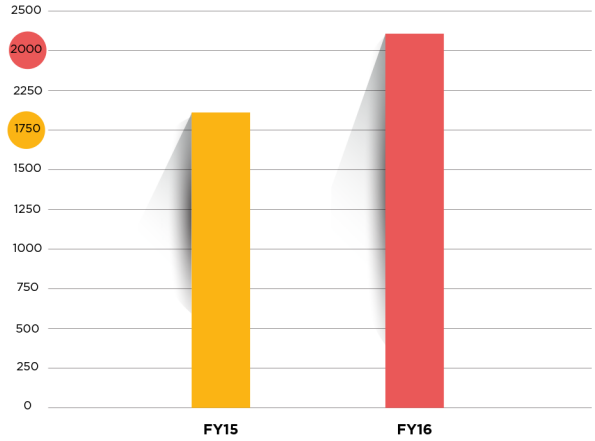
REGULATORY STATISTICS



NUMBER OF PRELIMINARY PLANS



NUMBER OF SITE PLAN AMENDMENTS*



REGULATORY APPLICATIONS

*Developers are submitting more new plans so the numbers of FY16 site plan amendments to previously approved but unbuilt plans have been reduced.

NOTABLE REGULATORY PROJECTS

Clarksburg Premium Outlets in Cabin Branch
A sustainable retail development west of Interstate 270 opened in October as a regional shopping destination. The outlet center is a joint venture between Simon, Streetscape Partners and New England Development. The property comprises approximately 8 percent of the larger, mixed-use Cabin Branch neighborhood now under construction. The 1994 Clarksburg Master Plan did not originally conceive of an outlet shopping center; however, this particular use met the plan's intent and goals for a major non-residential presence and employer along I-270.

Chevy Chase Lake Development:
New mixed-use developments for this area next to a future Purple Line station are now being built, following the recommendations of the 2013 Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan. Developer EYA and County Housing Opportunities Commission are collaborating on 62 townhouses and up to 200 units of multi-family housing. Sketch plan approval has been given to the Bozzuto Group and Chevy Chase Land Company to undertake the first phase of a 1.5-million-square-foot, mixed-use town center.

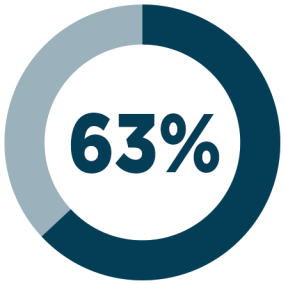
REGULATORY STATISTICS

126 RECORD PLATS APPROVED
IN FY16

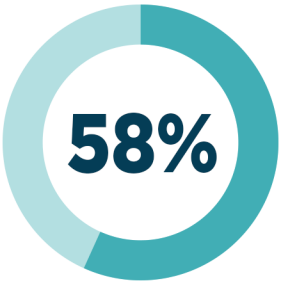
20
SUBMITTED ON PAPER

106
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

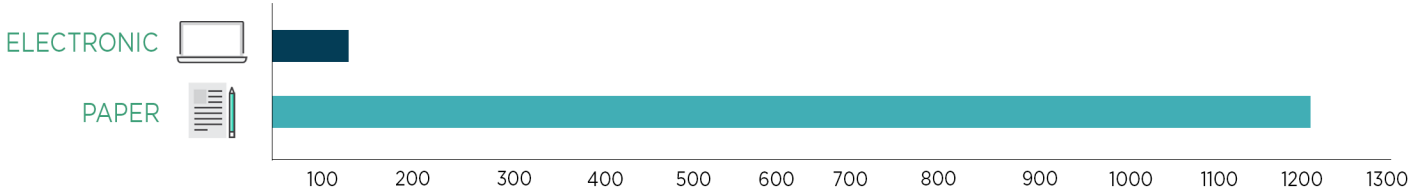
REVIEW TIME WHILE WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



FY15



FY16



AVERAGE NUMBER OF CALENDAR DAYS UNTIL APPROVAL

This project expresses a wonderful civic monumentality. We loved the concept of the Purple Line breaking through the building to make a statement about the importance of public transportation.

- 2016 DESIGN EXCELLENCE JURY

SILVER SPRING LIBRARY
2016 DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER
PHOTO BY ERIC TAYLOR

DOONYA, OR BOLLYWOOD INSPIRED DANCE, AT ELM STREET PARK IN BETHESDA

OTHER **PROJECTS**

County House Built by Former Slaves Preserved in National Museum of African American History and Culture
The Planning Department initiated an effort to save an 1870s house built by former slaves near Poolesville, MD. The home has been moved and reconstructed as an exhibit in the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened on the National Mall in September.

OTHER **PROJECTS**

Montgomery Modern Bus Tour
In October, the Planning Department co-sponsored a tour of mid-century modern houses and buildings with Docomomo-DC and the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Visitors explored the Montgomery County designs of Deigert and Yerkes, a local modernist architecture firm working from 1947 to 1967. On the itinerary were houses in Tulip Hill (1950-55) and Oak Spring (1966), The Primary Day School (1955) and Cedar Lane Unitarian Church (1958).

Community Bike Rides
In July, Casey Anderson joined staff and residents on a bicycle tour of the areas that are the subject of current plans –Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station, White Flint 2, Rock Spring -- and routes affected by the Bicycle Master Plan. The tour provided a firsthand view of the challenges facing planners.

M-NCPPC Central Administrative Services Study
As requested by the County Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee, the status onrecommendations from the 2009 CAS Study was reviewed with the committee in September. Only three recommendations relating to Human Resources, Procurement and IT services remain open for further discussion and work.

OTHER **PROJECTS**

Pesticide-Reduction Program
Beginning July 1, 2016, Montgomery Parks discontinued pesticide use on all Montgomery Parks playgrounds and began a pilot program to eliminate the use of pesticides in 11 of our local parks. We are modifying maintenance standards, amenity designs and pesticide usage protocols in order to reduce pesticide usage and emphasize the use of alternative strategies like propane flame weeding, more string trimming and mechanical weed pulling. We inform the public of pesticide applications on the Montgomery Parks website and via pre- and post- pesticide application signage at the site of the application.

No Smoking
Montgomery Parks' staff and visitors are now no longer permitted to smoke cigarettes, cigars, pipes or other lighted tobacco in outdoor parks or venues or indoor facilities. Staff and visitors cannot use e-cigarettes, vaping devices and smokeless products such as chewing tobacco and snuff in any indoor facilities or designated outdoor areas. The new rules followed tobacco cessation programs for staff and outreach to park visitors, and adoption of the new rules has gone smoothly.

Volunteer Efforts

Volunteers are the heart of Montgomery Parks, making quality parks, trails, facilities and programs possible. In FY16, 10,983 individuals volunteered with Montgomery Parks, providing 82,250 hours of service (a 10 percent increase from FY15). The estimated value of our volunteers' service in FY16 equates to 40 work years and approximately **$1,937,810 estimated value**.

Park and stream cleanups are an important part of our volunteer efforts. In FY16, we held 261 cleanups with 5,161 volunteers and more than 135 groups and organizations, resulting in the following outcomes:

17,139
HOURS VOLUNTEERED

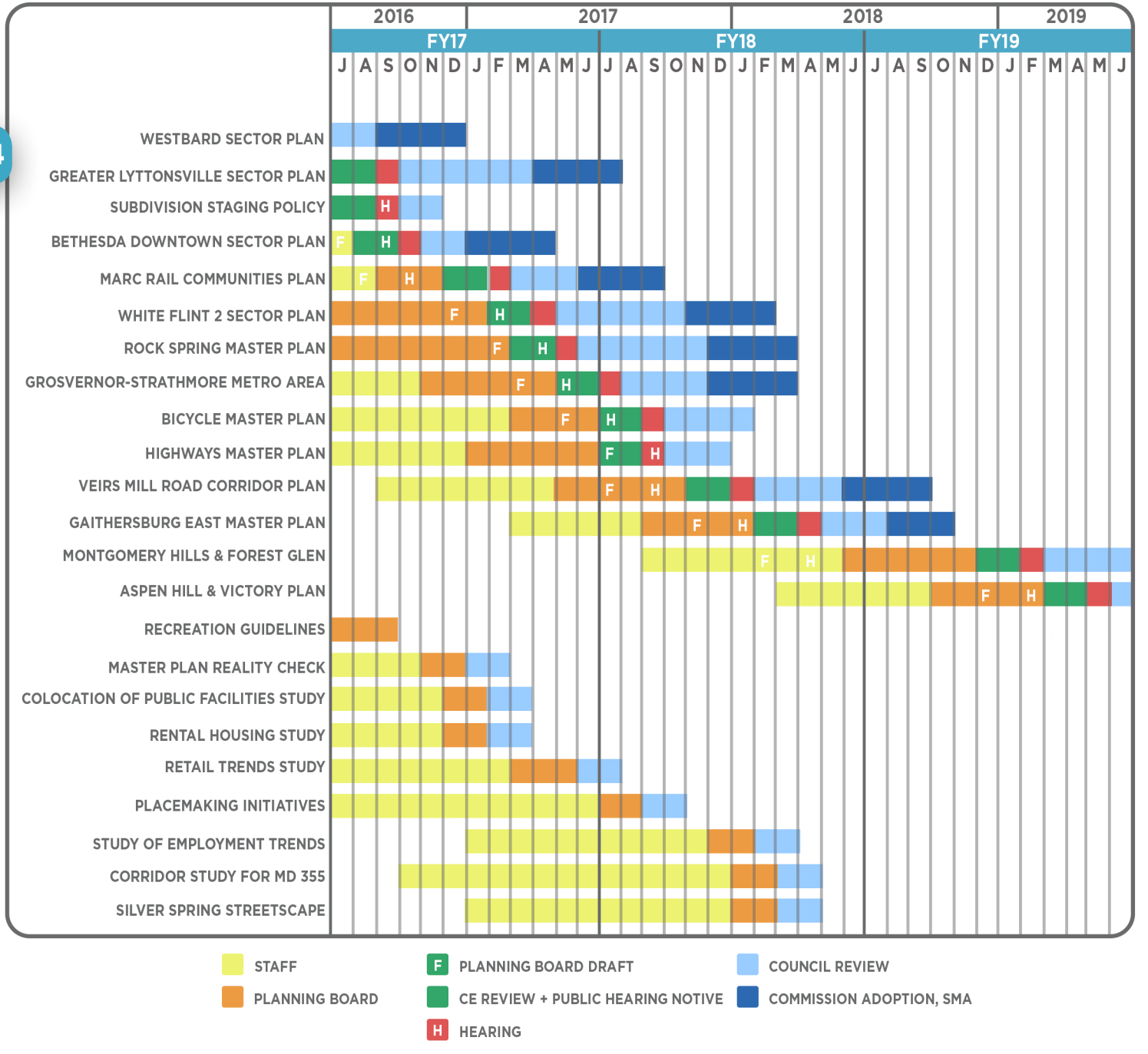
106,184
POUNDS OF TRASH

26,994
POUNDS OF RECYCLABLES (FY15)

65.5 TONS
OF LITTER REMOVED (TRASH & RECYCLING)

OTHER **PROJECTS**

FY17 ADOPTED MASTER PLAN + MAJOR PROJECTS SCHEDULE



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MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARKS + PLANNING

FALL 2016 SEMIANNUAL REPORT