

Resolution No.: 18-1036
Introduced: February 13, 2018
Adopted: February 13, 2018

**COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION
OF THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT
WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Approval of September 2017 Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan

1. On October 2, 2017, the Montgomery County Planning Board transmitted to the County Executive and the County Council the September 2017 Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan.
2. The September 2017 Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan amends all area master and sector plans countywide approved as of the date of the final adoption of this Plan, to the extent that this Plan's methodology will designate additional sites that may be considered for park acquisition and facility renovation or redevelopment. It also amends the 2017 Recreation Guidelines for Private Residential Development and other functional master plans.
3. On January 16, 2018, the County Council held a public hearing on the September 2017 Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan. The Master Plan was referred to the Council's Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee for review and recommendations.
4. On January 29, 2018, the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee held a worksession to review the issues raised in connection with the September 2017 Planning Board Draft Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan.
5. On February 13, 2018, the County Council reviewed the September 2017 Planning Board Draft Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan and the recommendations of the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, sitting as the District Council for that portion of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following resolution:

The Planning Board Draft Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan, dated September 2017, is approved with revisions. County Council revisions to the Planning Board Draft Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan are identified below. Deletions to the text of the Plan are indicated by [brackets], additions by underscoring. All page references are to the September 2017 Planning Board Draft Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan.

Page 15: Add two new paragraphs after the second paragraph under “Today’s Challenges” as follows:

The comprehensive integration of parks and open space into the built environment is also key to supporting the County’s efforts to address global climate change. The Montgomery County Council recently passed Resolution 18-974, Emergency Climate Mobilization, setting an ambitious target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2027. Climate resiliency and greenhouse gas reductions are addressed in area master/sector plans, development review recommendations, and park plans and projects through recommendations that include site context, landscaping, waste reduction/management, building materials, renewable energy, heating and cooling, and other means to reduce climate impact.

Parks and open space can play an important role in reducing climate impact, since their many benefits to local environmental quality also provide a larger benefit to the global climate. Adding more green spaces and tree canopy provides shade and comfortable places for people to relax and play, while also absorbing more carbon and heat than an impervious surface open space. By increasing the ease with which residents can walk or bicycle to parks, the subsequently fewer auto trips reduce particulate pollution and carbon emissions. By providing green spaces that help to cool the urban heat island effect, parks and open space contribute to a decrease in the energy necessary to make building interiors comfortable, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions from energy producers. Future studies may be conducted to identify the best ways to site, build, and operate parks and open space so that these spaces contribute as much as possible to addressing the climate crisis. The creation of these open spaces as a part of sustainable and resilient communities plays a role in benefiting our country and the globe, not just Montgomery County.

Page 55: Add a new paragraph before subheading “Proposed CIP Funding” as follows:

Implementation of the strategies and opportunities identified through this plan will require additional funding and other resources. As described throughout this Plan, a variety of implementation tools will be pursued to stretch the public dollar and bring new resources to the table. Increasing efficiencies in designing and operating new public parks will be a key element of this process. The Parks Department also will explore opportunities for alternative funding sources to support new and upgraded public parks. However, to achieve the Plan goals regarding certain significant new public parks and upgrading existing urban parks, some additional public funds will be required.

Page 59: Amend the third paragraph under “Application to Pilot Area: Silver Spring CBD” as follows:

When a property is developed in Montgomery County, the zoning ordinance and applicable master and sector plans may require that a certain portion of the property is used for public open space or recreational [space] amenities without changing the ownership of the property. This functional plan does not increase the amount of open space or recreational space otherwise required for a property’s development, nor is it intended to modify requirements for the operation and maintenance of privately owned public spaces established through existing regulatory approvals. However, if land identified through the EPS method is subsequently developed for private use, this plan and the EPS method may provide recommendations on the type of open space or recreational amenities that would be beneficial to the community through the *2017 Recreation Guidelines for Private Residential Development*.

Page 76: Amend the description for Whole Foods Parking Lot as follows:

Create open space or park during any future significant redevelopment of site to meet open space requirements of the zoning code. Provide green space and/or recreational amenities to complement Veterans Plaza.


Page 77: Amend the footnote as follows:

Sites identified in the Matrix for possibly creating a new open space are preferred locations based on the quantitative and qualitative analysis; alternative locations within the vicinity of these sites may be appropriate to meet the identified needs and may substitute for the identified sites. If future analysis using the EPS methodology indicates changes to the level of service and preferred sites to meet the needs, a revised Matrix of Opportunities will be presented to the Planning Board for review and approval per the implementation process in Chapter 5.

General

All illustrations and tables included in the Plan will be revised to reflect the District Council changes to the Planning Board Draft Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan (September 2017). The text and graphics will be revised as necessary to achieve and improve clarity and consistency, to update factual information, and to convey the actions of the District Council. Graphics and tables will be revised and re-numbered, where necessary, to be consistent with the text and titles.

This is a correct copy of Council action.


Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq.
Clerk of the Council