Suitability Study for Dog Parks

M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
Susanne Paul, Park and Trail Planner
Park and Trail Planning Team
Park Planning and Stewardship Division
Winter 2018 / Spring 2019
Agenda

- Why Dog Parks?
  - Trends
  - Policy Framework
- Project Status
- Determining Need
- Methodology and Analysis
- Candidate List
- Public Outreach, Next Steps, and Recommendations

Orange County Museum of Art
Public Art, Newport Beach, CA
Why Dog Parks? National Trends and Studies

Current Trends and Demands

- Approximately 40% of U.S. households own at least one dog*
- Dog parks are one of the fastest-growing segments of city parks nationally*
- Dog ownership can lower blood pressure and increase physical activity**
- Dog parks can act as a community gathering “third space”

*Trust for Public Land

**American Heart Association and Journal of Physical Activity and Health
Why Dog Parks? Parks Department Policy Framework

- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan: Additional dog parks needed and “Future facilities to be delivered in proportion to the percent of the County population in each subarea of the County”
**Project Status**

**Define Terms**
- Determine Need
- Establish Study Area
- Create Evaluation Criteria

**Analyze Parks**
- Evaluate Parks using GIS and suitability criteria
- Reviewing with Park Managers and PDD staff

**Public Outreach**
- Open Town Hall
- Regional Service Centers

**Recommend Sites**
- Present to Planning Board

**Implement**
- Program into CIP for design and construction
Determining Need

Current Supply

- 10 public Dog Parks overall
- 6 M-NCPCC, 4 Municipal
- 3 new facilities in-progress (M-NCPCC)
Determining Need

Future Demand – Current Supply = Future Need

- PROS 2017 estimates the need for approximately 25 facilities total by 2030 (which provides a goal)

- PROS 2017: Deliver the facilities in proportion to County population

- First calculate Demand based on County population

- Then factor in existing county facilities to calculate the Need
Methodology Example

Mid-County / Georgia Ave Corridor Area
Methodology

Parks in Proximity to Urban and Urbanizing = INITIAL LIST

Inventory and Data Collection of INITIAL LIST

Analyze and Evaluate Initial List, Narrow down to a Refined List

Review Refined List with Staff (mini-PDCO) into Candidate List

Candidate List posted for Public Input and prioritized for Implementation
Methodology

Parks in Proximity to Urban and Urbanizing = **INITIAL LIST**

- Inventory and Data Collection of **INITIAL LIST**
- Analyze and Evaluate Initial List, Narrow down to a **REFINED LIST**
- Review **REFINED LIST** with Staff (mini-PDCO) into **CANDIDATE LIST**
- **CANDIDATE LIST** posted for Public Input and prioritized for Implementation
Methodology: Defining Study Area

Initial Criteria

- Proximity to Urban and Urbanizing Areas creates an initial list of potential locations
Methodology: Defining Study Area

Defining Initial Criteria

- “Urban and Urbanizing Areas” defined using zoning code.

- Zones used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CR-2.0, 2.5, 3, 4, 5, 6</th>
<th>R-H</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRN-1.0, 1.5</td>
<td>RT-6, 8, 10, 12.5, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRT-1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0</td>
<td>TLD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD-75, 100</td>
<td>TMD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-10, 20, 30</td>
<td>THD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Methodology: Defining Study Area

- Proximity defined as parks within a half-mile of urban and urbanized areas
Methodology: Initial List of Parks

- Initial list of parks that are within a half-mile of urban and urbanizing areas
Methodology

Parks in Proximity to Urban and Urbanizing = INITIAL LIST

Inventory and Data Collection of INITIAL LIST

Analyze and Evaluate Initial List, Narrow down to a Refined List

Review Refined List with Staff (mini-PDCO) into Candidate List

Candidate List posted for Public Input and prioritized for Implementation
### Analysis

**Initial list of parks that are within a half-mile of urban and urbanizing areas**

- **Park type**
- **Acres**
- **PROS Service Area**
- **Existing facilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park type</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>PROS Service Area</th>
<th>Existing facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basketball or Tennis Courts</td>
<td>Natural Resource constraints</td>
<td>Parking - Maybe excess Parking?</td>
<td>Potential Conflicts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>OWNER</th>
<th>PARK_NAME</th>
<th>PARK_TYPE</th>
<th>PARK_TYPE</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
<th>PROS_AREA</th>
<th>EXISTING_FAC</th>
<th>COURTS</th>
<th>NAT. RECONST</th>
<th>PARKING</th>
<th>CONFLICTS</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Norwood LP</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.713</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Managed Open Space, Youth Soccer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>4 spaces</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Wall LP</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11.77</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Playground, Basketball Court, Picnic</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>This park is located in a historic district.</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Garrett Park-Waverly NP</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Tennis Courts (2), Municipal Open Space</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>This site is in steep slope.</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Greenwich NP</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.59</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Tennis Courts (2), Playground, Baske</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possible conflicts with the landscape.</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Stratton LP</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.58</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Soccer Field (2), Softball Field, Mesh</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>This site is located in the Northwest section.</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Timberlawn LP</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13.71</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Soccer Fields (2), Basketball Court, Tennis</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Some areas of steep slope, approx 70 spiritual impression.</td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Battery Lane UP</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Basketball Court, Tennis Court, Playse</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Directly adjacent to this site is</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Elm Street UP</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Playground, Basketball Court, Operat</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>White Flint NP</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Playground, Tennis Courts (2), Baske</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Directly adjacent to this site is</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Brookmont NP</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Tennis Court, Basketball Court, Playse</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>This is a hidden site visit.</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Leeland NP</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.09</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Playground (1), Basketball Court (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Appro 100 parking assuming that this site is</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>North Cherry Chase LP</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50.46</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Baseball Field, Softball Field, Soccer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Stream in the NE corner</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>This park looks like it is a site visit.</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Maplewood-Alta Vista LP</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.16</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Softball Fields (2), Tennis Courts (2)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Area of steep slope</td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Ken-Gar Park &amp; Pool</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12.59</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Tennis Courts (2), Playground, Base</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>All of the site is in steep slope</td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Brookdale NP</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Playground, Multiuse Court, Half Bays</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>This has single fami Visiting the</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Fleming UP</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12.55</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Playground, Picnic Shelter, Tennis Courts</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Forested area has 80, 26 spaces</td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Lynnbrook LP</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.82</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Managed Open Space, Playground</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>This park is adjacent. Does not list</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Randolph Hills LP</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13.96</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Tennis Courts (2), Softball Field (2),</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Most of park is in steep slope.</td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Sangamon UP</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.46</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Park (2), Tennis Courts (2), Soft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Southern and west no</td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Willard Avenue NP</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.12</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Hard surface trail, playground, fitness</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Most of this site is in steep slope.</td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Glen Mar NP</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Playground, Tennis Courts, Baske</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Some deep slopes</td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Jones Mill Road NP</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.13</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Half basketball court, Forested Area</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>This entire parcel is in steep slope.</td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Westmoreland Hills UP</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.07</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Soccer Field, Softball Field, Playg</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>This site has historic designation.</td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Caroline Freeland UP</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>Playground, Gazebo, Open Space, S</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>This is an urban park.</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>M-NOPPC</td>
<td>Chevy Chase Open Space UP</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>BCC-North Bethesda</td>
<td>None - park in development</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>This is a passive par</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Analysis

Program of Requirements for Dog Parks

*Can Parks on list support the program of requirements for each facility?*

- Minimum Size: 10,000 sf (already meets criteria if on the list)
- Fencing
- Double gate entry system
- Surface: various, but washable
- Small and large dog areas
- Seating
- Shade
- Water fountain for dogs
- Water hookup for hose
- Dog waste bags, receptacles
- Signage
- Lighting if possible
Analysis

Apply Resource Atlas Map

- A GIS mapping tool for creating an analysis map similar to Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) required by Forest Conservation Law
Analysis

Resource Atlas Map Legend

- Special Protection Area Outlines
- Parks Biodiversity Areas
- Best Natural Areas Parks
- Parks - Agricultural Leases
- Erodible Soils
- 15-25%
- 25%+
- Forest Conservation Easements
- Reforestation
- Treatments Areas
- Stream/Lake Outline
- Wetlands
- III
- IV
- Springs & Seeps
- WSSC Prestressed Concrete Mains
- Hard Surface Trail
- Natural Surface Trail
- Hard Surface Connector
- Natural Surface Connector
- Park Owned Historic Sites
- National Register Historic Districts
- Master Plan for Historic Preservation
- Cultural Resources Locational Atlas
- MNCPPC known Archaeological Sites
- M-NCPCC Proposed
- M-NCPCC
- Municipal
- State of Maryland
- United States
- WSSC
- Revenue Authority
- Park Facilities (being updated)
- Park Management Regions
- Property Outlines
- Stream/Lake Outline
- Hidden Hydrologic Feature
- Water Areas
Methodology

Parks in Proximity to Urban and Urbanizing = **INITIAL LIST**

Inventory and Data Collection of **INITIAL LIST**

Analyze and Evaluate Initial List, Narrow down to a **REFINED LIST**

Review **REFINED LIST** with Staff (mini-PDCO) into **CANDIDATE LIST**

**CANDIDATE LIST** posted for Public Input and prioritized for Implementation
## Analysis: Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>EXPLANATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Available Space</td>
<td>10,000 square feet of unconstrained land (e.g. under-utilized courts, plazas, or parking areas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground Proximity</td>
<td>Not directly adjacent to a playground (ideal min 65’)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Proximity (noise and disruption)</td>
<td>Not directly adjacent to residences (ideal distance is 200’ or more)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available Parking</td>
<td>Approximately 5 spaces per 10,000 square feet, but most of these are envisioned as primarily walk-to facilities, depending on the park type and location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)</td>
<td>Visibility and accessibility - “Eyes on the Park”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SU Itability Study For Dog Parks**
Analysis

Then, using GIS we can evaluate each park in the “Initial List” according to our analysis criteria for each facility type.
Methodology

Parks in Proximity to Urban and Urbanizing = **INITIAL LIST**

Inventory and Data Collection of **INITIAL LIST**

Analyze and Evaluate Initial List, Narrow down to a **REFINED LIST**

Review **REFINED LIST** with Staff (mini-PDCO) into **CANDIDATE LIST**

**CANDIDATE LIST** posted for Public Input and prioritized for Implementation
Analysis: Reviewing Refined List Sites

Refined List of parks reviewed by numerous staff:

- Meetings with:
  - Each Park Management Region team
  - Staff ADA experts
  - Park Police
  - PDD staff
  - Natural Resources staff
  - MRO Planner as needed
- Referencing active Sector / Master plans, Parks Functional Master Plans
- Field visits
Analysis: Management Realities of Dog Parks

- Surfaces are destroyed
- Increased amount of waste
- Additional trash receptacles that must be emptied more frequently
- Lingering smells
- Noise and commotion
- Fencing required to contain dogs must be strong and durable
- Double-gated entry is needed for safety
- Access to water

Not suitable for temporary or short-term facilities urban / higher density areas without additional elements installed and public input
Methodology

Parks in Proximity to Urban and Urbanizing = **INITIAL LIST**

Inventory and Data Collection of **INITIAL LIST**

Analyze and Evaluate Initial List, Narrow down to a **REFINED LIST**

Review **REFINED LIST** with Staff (mini-PDCO) into **CANDIDATE LIST**

**CANDIDATE LIST** posted for Public Input and prioritized for Implementation
Results and Next Steps

Public Outreach

- Using Regional Services Center geographies
- Meetings with Regional Services Centers Citizens Advisory Boards
- Open Town Hall pages for each Regional Service Center geography
- Results gathered and compared internally with Park Managers and Park Development Division for funding consideration
Results and Next Steps

Public Outreach

- Using Regional Services Center geographies
- Meetings with Regional Services Centers Citizens Advisory Boards
- Open Town Hall pages for each Regional Service Center geography
- Results gathered and compared internally with feedback from Park Managers and Park Development Division for funding consideration

Montgomery Parks recognizes the desire for additional dog park facilities. The purpose of the Site Selection Study for Dog Parks is to identify parks suitable for a future dog park facility. View candidate parks and tell us which candidate park you prefer.
Public Input and Open Town Hall

Open Town Hall

Montgomery Parks values input from the community. Whether we are in the development process of planning for parks or designing new parks or renovating existing parks, we are regularly seeking your suggestions and comments on various projects that are in progress.

Below is a list of current topics which are open for input or recently closed with details on the feedback we received and next steps.

Useful Links

- Montgomery Planning Board
- Montgomery County Council Meetings
Results: Recommended Sites

- Candidate sites that receive favorable input from Park Managers and the Public will move forward first into recommendations.

- Recommendations Presented to Parks Department Director and Planning Board.

Favorable Park Managers Input

Favorable Public Input

Meets physical criteria evaluation in GIS
Thank you! Questions?

Susanne Paul
Park and Trail Planning
M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
DogPark@montgomeryparks.org