

# 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  
Fall / Winter 2018



# 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?

## Current Trends and Demands

- Dog parks are one of the fastest-growing segments of city parks nationally\*
- Approximately 40% of U.S. households own at least one dog\*
- There are now more pet-owning households than there are those with children Statista\*\*\*

\*Trust for Public Land

\*\*American Veterinary Medical Association

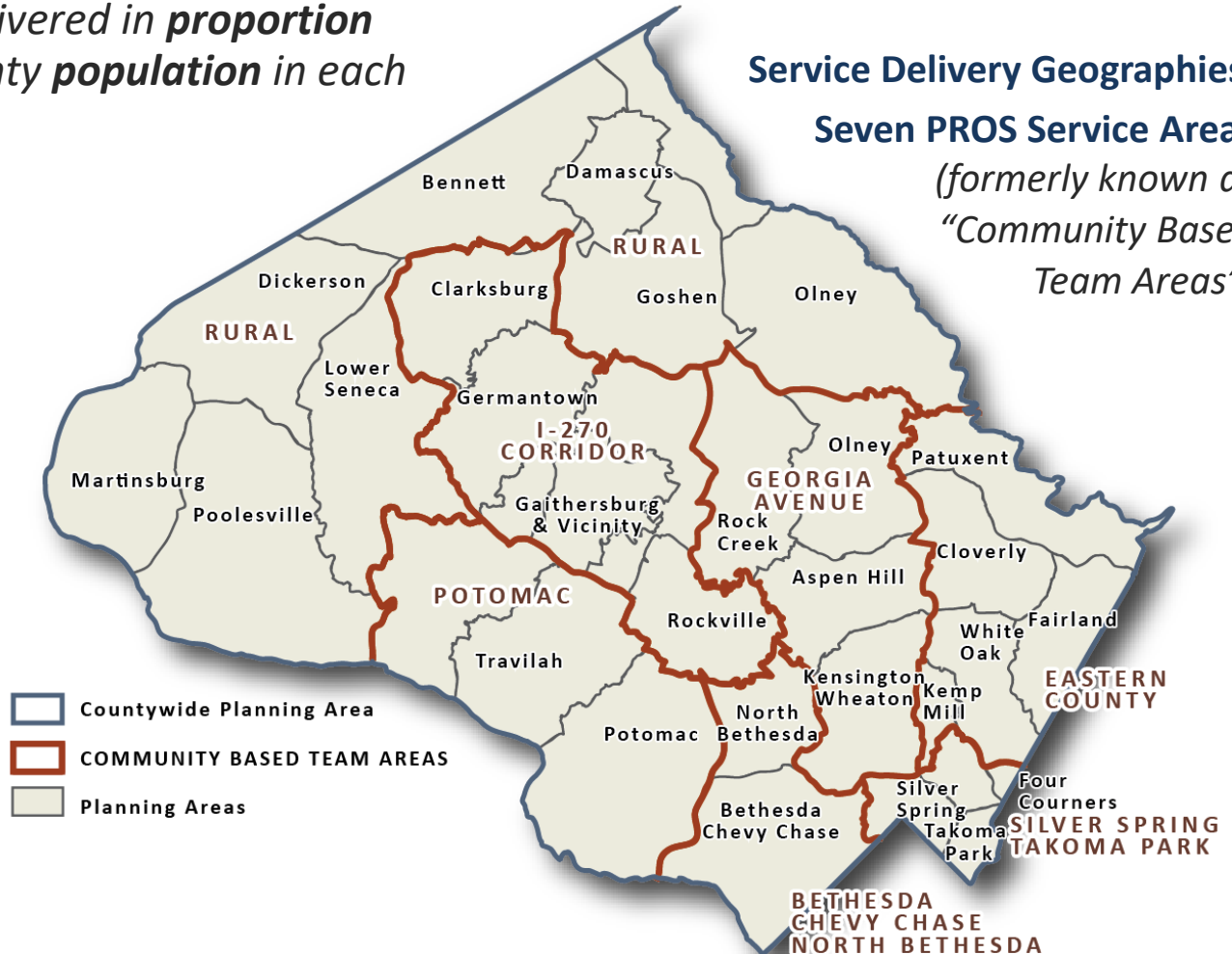
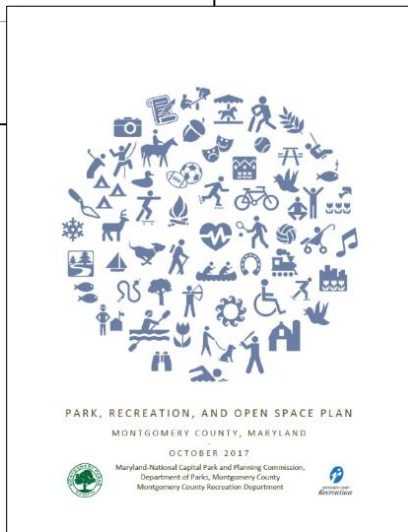
\*\*\*Forbes Magazine/Statista



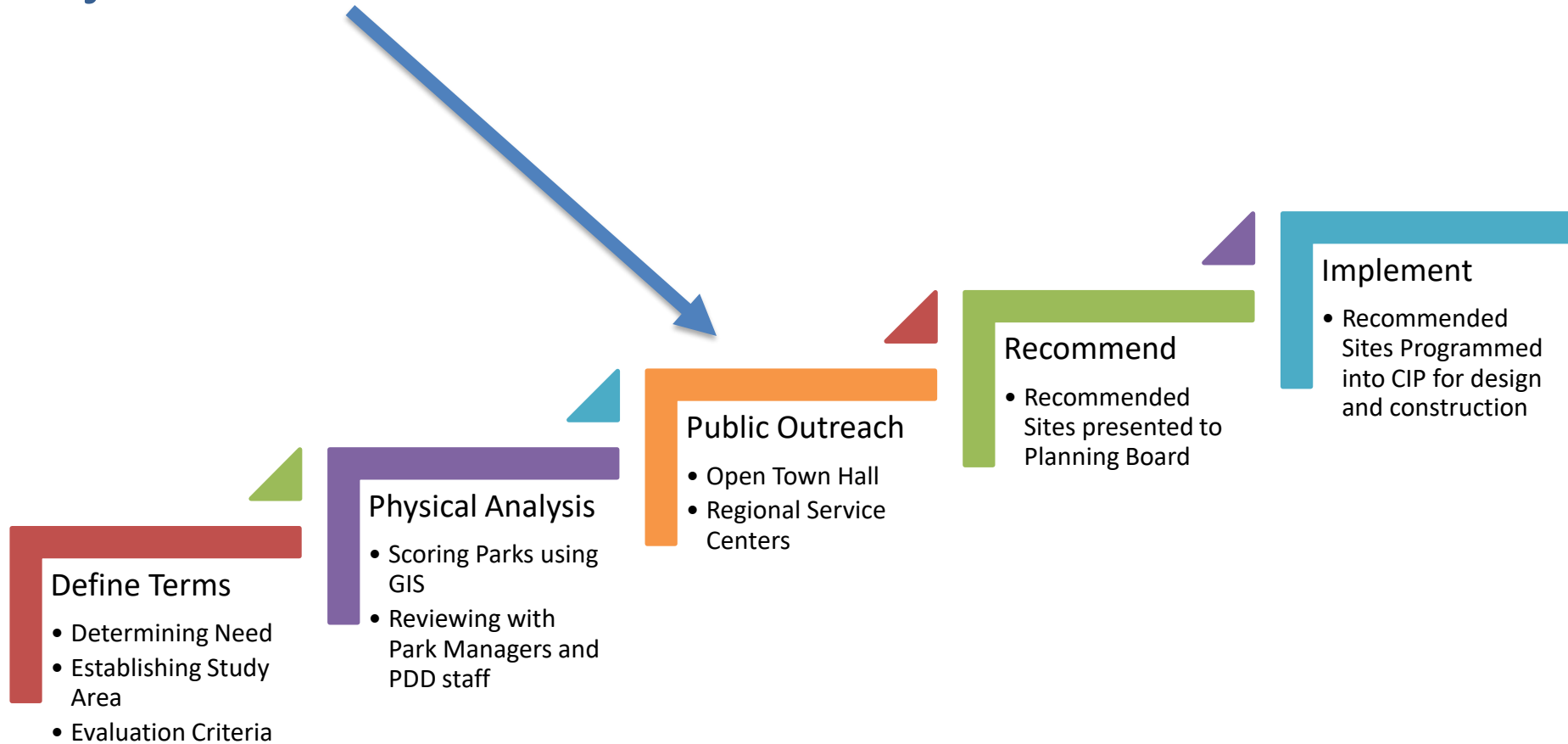


# Why Dog Parks? Parks Department Policy Framework

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

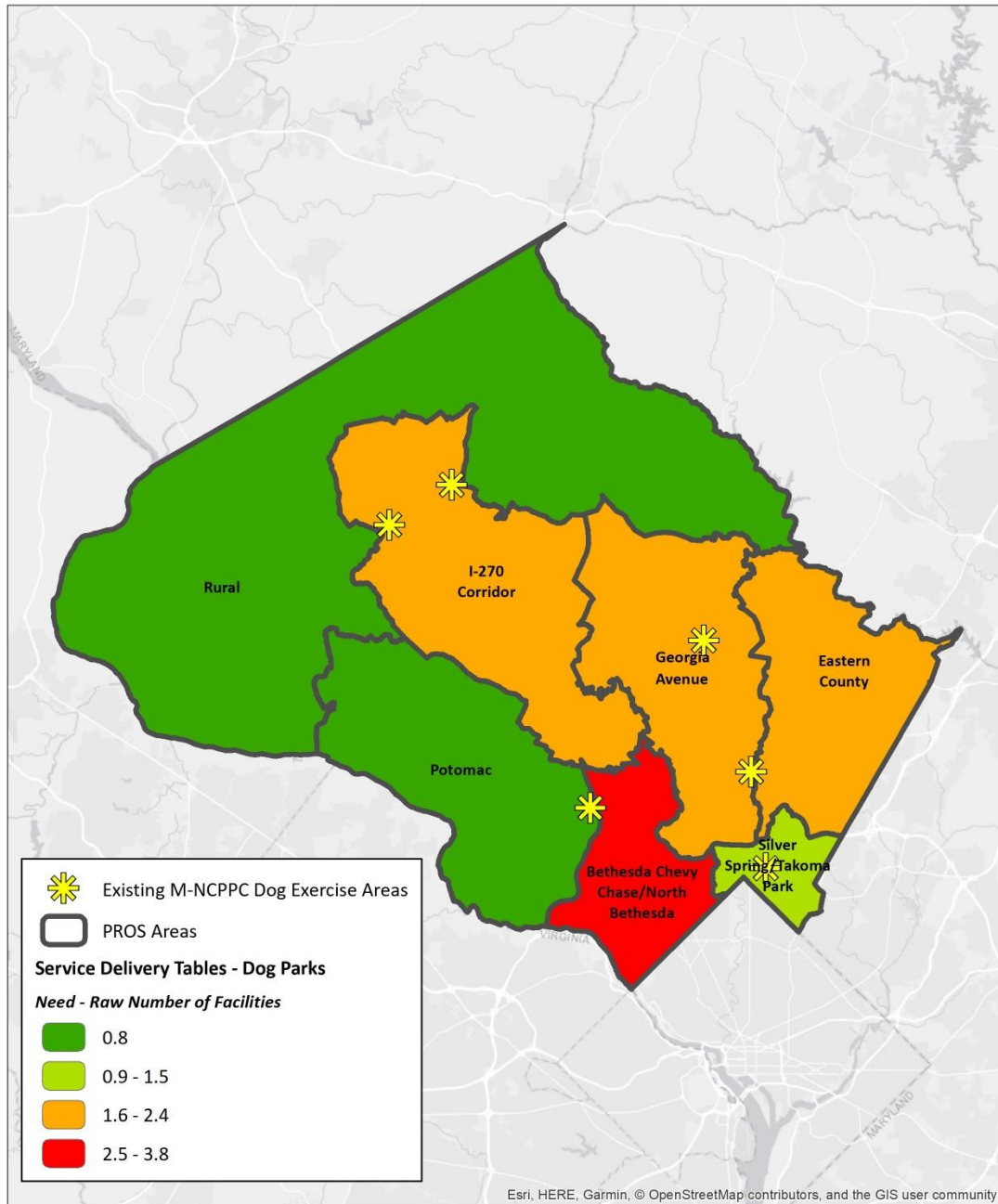


# Project Status



# Determining Need

- PROS 2017: Deliver the facilities in proportion to County population
- First calculate demand based on County population
- Then factor in existing M-NCPPC facilities to calculate the need



# Methodology Example

## Bethesda-Chevy Chase / North Bethesda Service 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 passed on to Park Development Division



# Methodology

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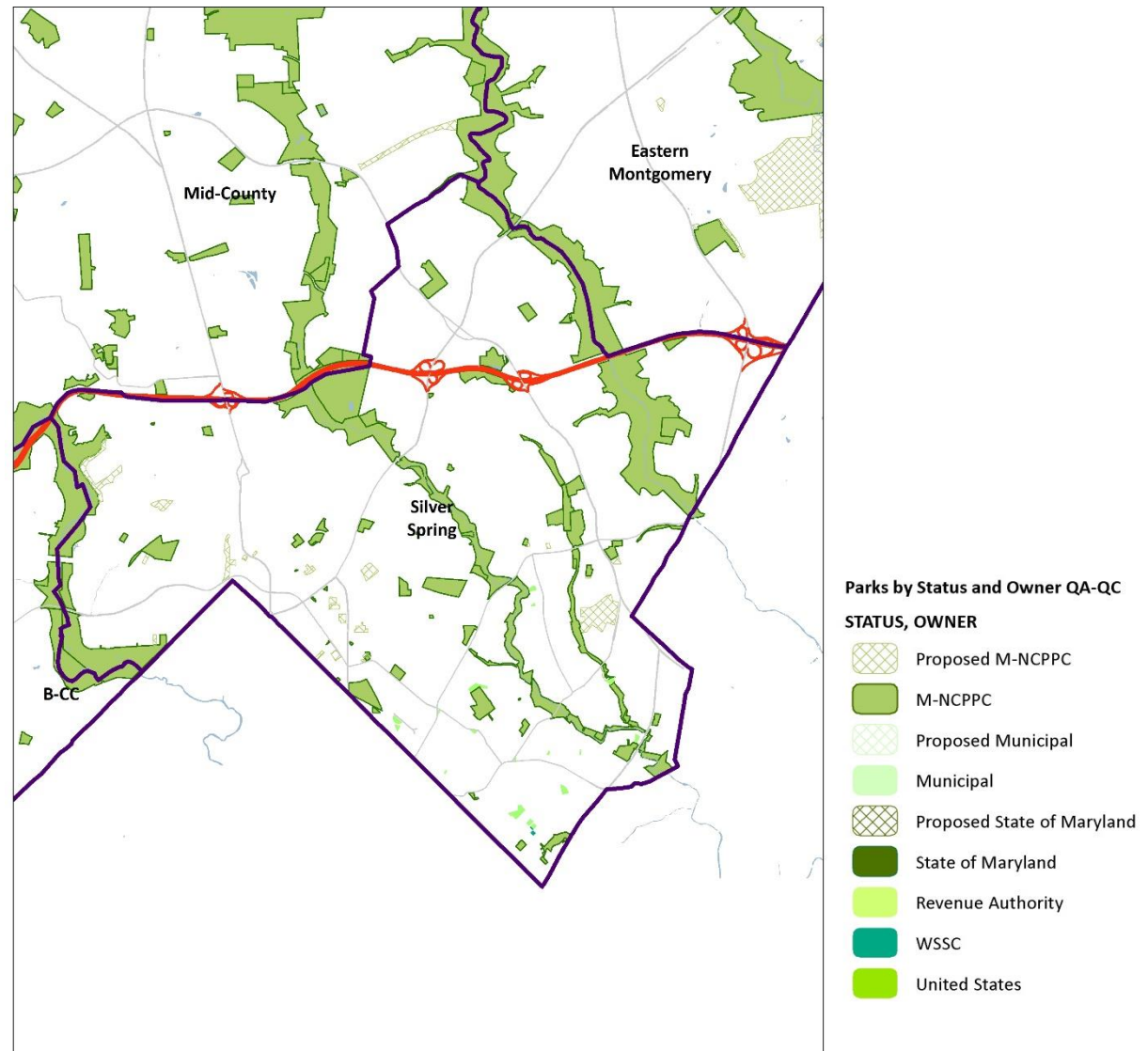


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# Methodology: Defining Study Area

## Initial Criteria

- Proximity to Urban and Urbanizing Areas creates an initial list of potential locations



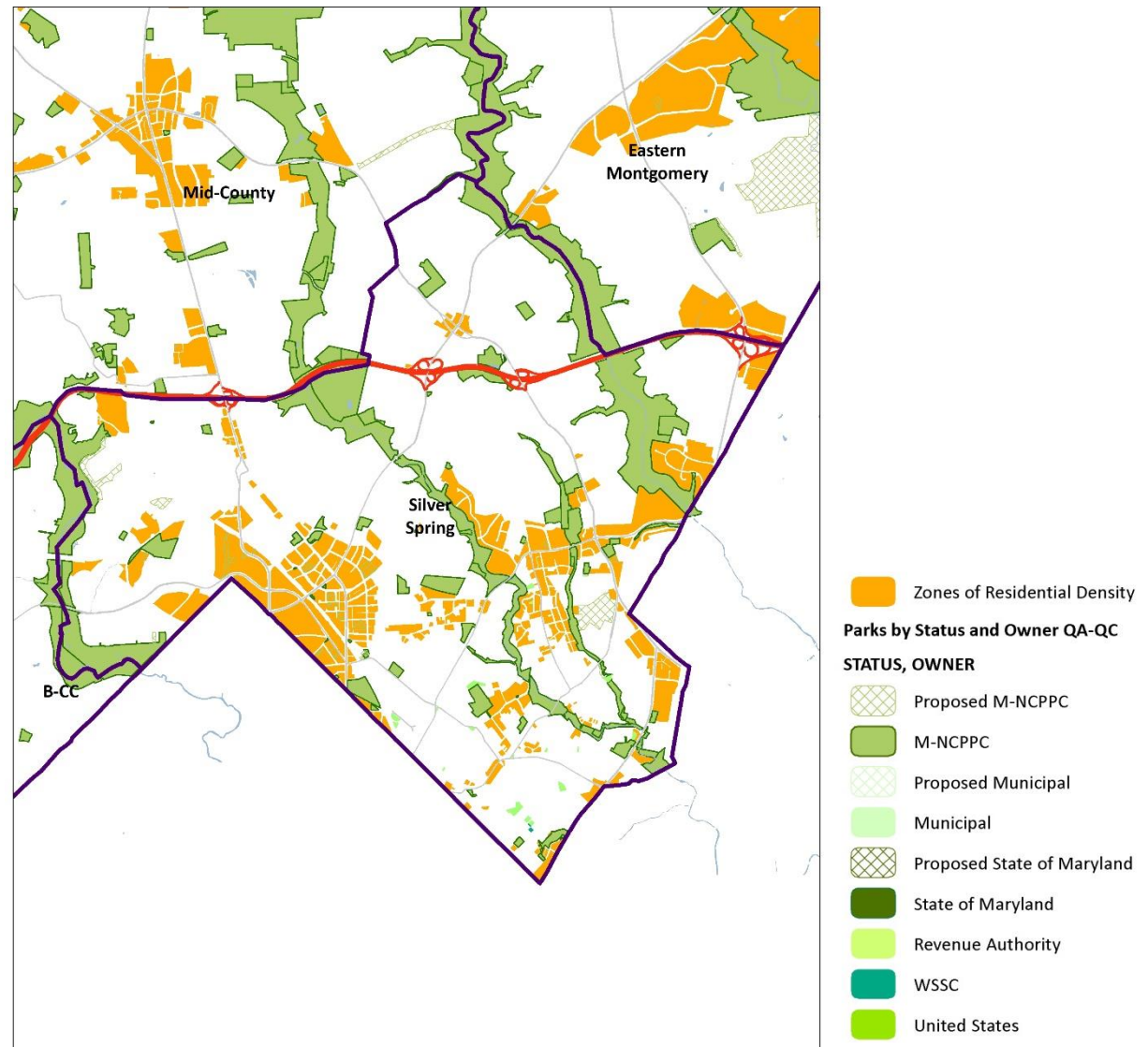
# Methodology: Defining Study Area

## Defining Initial Criteria

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

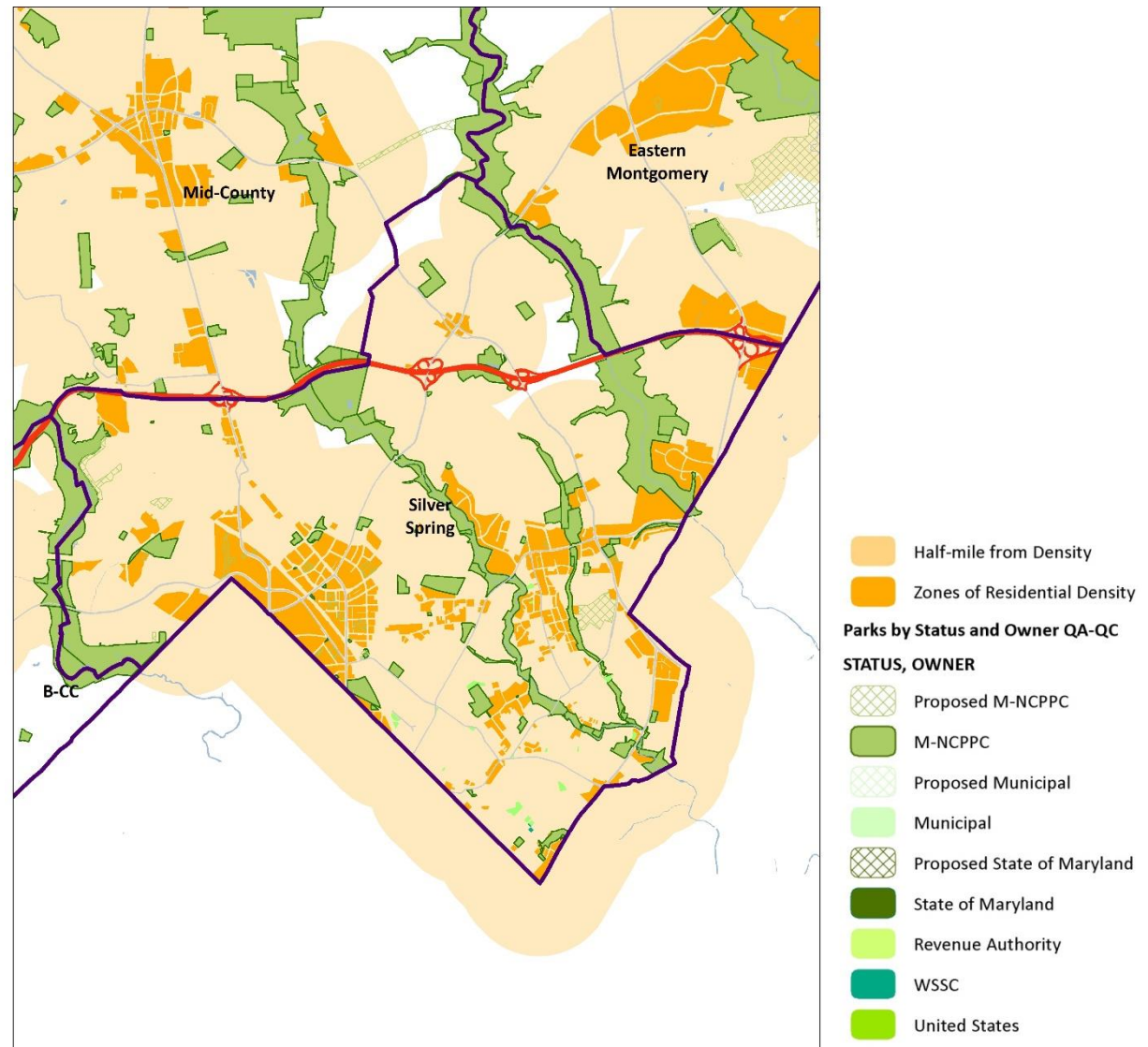
- Zones used:

CR-2.0, 2.5, 3, 4, 5, 6	R-H
CRN-1.0, 1.5	RT-6, 8, 10, 12.5, 15
CRT-1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0	TLD
PD-75, 100	TMD
R-10, 20, 30	THD



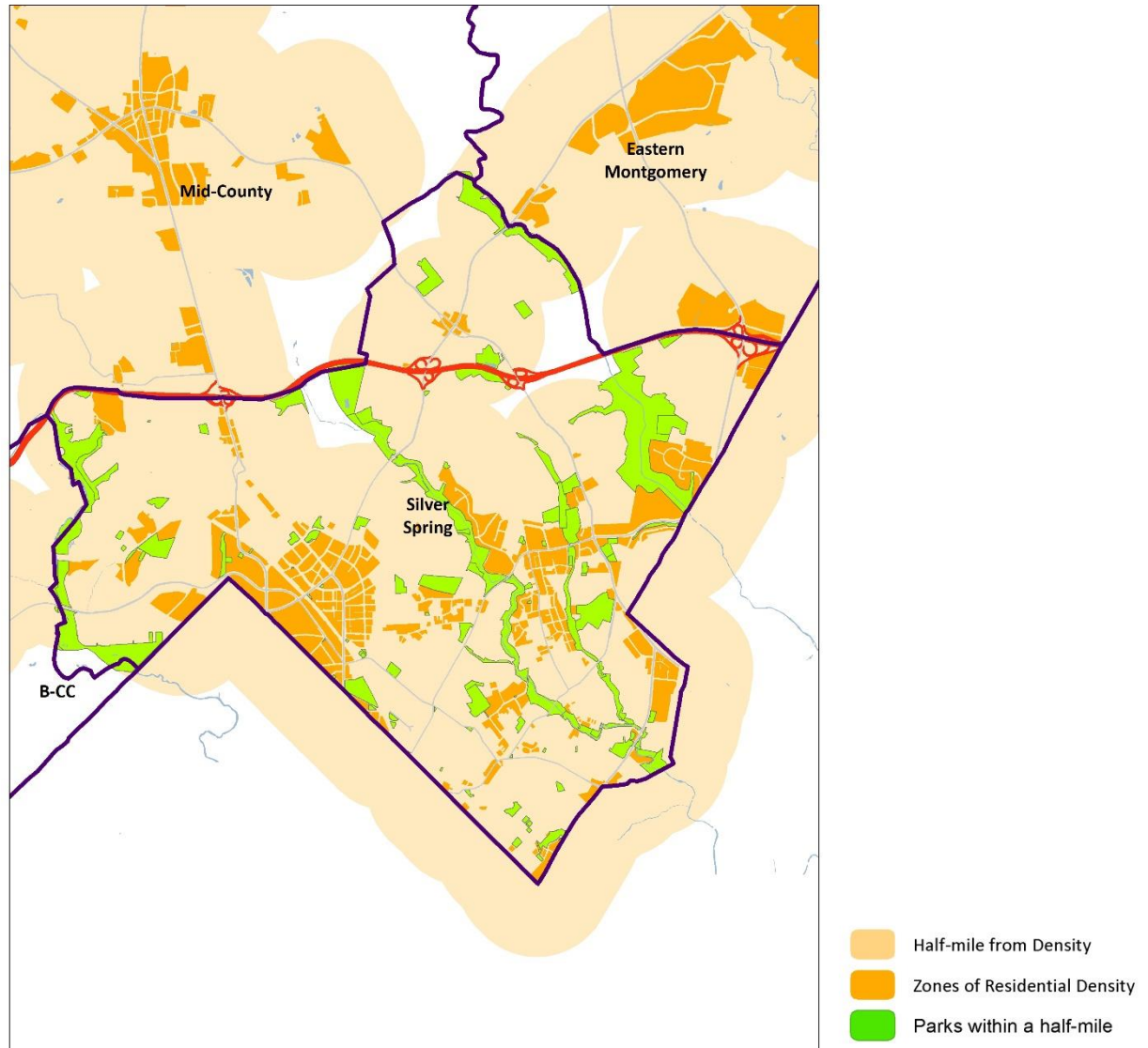
# Methodology: Defining Study Area

- 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**



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# Analysis

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

- Park type
- Acres
- PROS Service Area
- Existing facilities
- Basketball or Tennis Courts
- Natural Resource constraints
- Parking - Maybe excess Parking?
- Potential Conflicts

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A1		fx		STATUS									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	STATUS	OWNER	PARK_NAME	PARK_TYPE	PARK_TYPE	ACRE	PROS_AREA	EXISTING_FAC	COURTS	NAT_RE_CONST	PARKING	CONFLICTS	NOTES
19	Existing	M-NCPPC	Norwood LP	Local	2	17.10	BCC-North Bethesda	Managed Open Space, Youth Soccer	Yes	Some areas of steep	Yes, approximate	This park is surround	Site visit ov
20	Existing	M-NCPPC	Wall LP	Local	2	11.77	BCC-North Bethesda	Playground, Basketball Court, Picn	Yes	None	The current site is	None	This park w
21	Existing	M-NCPPC	Garrett Park-Waverly NP	Neighborhood	3	0.70	BCC-North Bethesda	Tennis Courts (2), Municipal Open S	Yes	In a historic district	No	This site is very sma	May be wor
22	Existing	M-NCPPC	Greenwich NP	Neighborhood	3	3.69	BCC-North Bethesda	Tennis Courts (2), Playground, Bask	Yes	None	Yes, 4 spaces	Possible conflicts w/ the tenni	This is a pri
23	Existing	M-NCPPC	Stratton LP	Local	2	10.95	BCC-North Bethesda	Soccer field (2), Softball field, Man	Yes	Northwest section	Yes, approx 25 sp	Site visit needed.	I think ther
24	Existing	M-NCPPC	Timberlawn LP	Local	2	13.71	BCC-North Bethesda	Soccer fields (2), Basketball Court, P	Yes	Some areas of steep	Yes, approx 70 sp	Initial impression is	The basketb
25	Existing	M-NCPPC	Battery Lane UP	Urban	1	1.96	BCC-North Bethesda	Basketball Court, Tennis Court, Play	Yes	None	No	Directly adjacent to	This site is
26	Existing	M-NCPPC	Elm Street UP	Urban	1	2.11	BCC-North Bethesda	Playground, Basketball Court, Oper	Yes	No	No	This park is now pla	This is a pri
27	Existing	M-NCPPC	White Flint NP	Neighborhood	3	8.54	BCC-North Bethesda	Playground, Tennis Courts (2), Bask	Yes	Areas of steep slop	No	None	The manag
28	Existing	M-NCPPC	Brookmont NP	Neighborhood	3	1.79	BCC-North Bethesda	Tennis Court, Basketball Court, Play	Yes	Some areas of steep	No	This park is a hider	Site visit ne
29	Existing	M-NCPPC	Leland NP	Neighborhood	3	3.69	BCC-North Bethesda	Playground (1), Basketball Court (1)	Yes	None	Yes, approx 100 sp	I am assuming that	This site is
30	Existing	M-NCPPC	North Chevy Chase LP	Local	2	30.86	BCC-North Bethesda	Baseball Field, Softball Field, Socce	Yes	Stream in the NE co	Yes	This park looks like	Site visit ne
31	Existing	M-NCPPC	Maplewood-Alta Vista LP	Local	2	10.16	BCC-North Bethesda	Softball Fields (2), Tennis Courts (2)	Yes	Area of steep slope	Yes	This park is surroun	If these ter
32	Existing	M-NCPPC	Ken-Gar Palisades LP	Local	2	19.85	BCC-North Bethesda	Tennis Courts (2), Playground, Bask	Yes	All of the site is in t	Yes, approx 32 sp	Only the natural res	Not approp
33	Existing	M-NCPPC	Brookdale NP	Neighborhood	3	2.98	BCC-North Bethesda	Playground, Multiuse Court, Half B	Yes	None	No	This has single fami	Visiting thi
34	Existing	M-NCPPC	Fleming LP	Local	2	12.55	BCC-North Bethesda	Playground, Picnic Shelter, Tennis C	Yes	Forested area has s	Yes, 26 spaces	The forested area is	Maybe be s
35	Existing	M-NCPPC	Lynnbrook LP	Local	2	6.02	BCC-North Bethesda	Managed Open Space, Playground (Yes		None	No	This park is adjacen	Does not se
36	Existing	M-NCPPC	Randolph Hills LP	Local	2	13.06	BCC-North Bethesda	Tennis Courts (2), Softball Field (2), Yes		Most of park is in th	Yes, 31 spaces.	The tennis courts hi	Worth stud
37	Existing	M-NCPPC	Sangamore LP	Local	2	6.48	BCC-North Bethesda	Playground, Tennis Courts (2), Soft	Yes	Southern and west	No	There are houses or	Probably no
38	Existing	M-NCPPC	Willard Avenue NP	Neighborhood	3	6.12	BCC-North Bethesda	Hard surface trail, playground, fitne	Yes	Most of this site is i	No	This site is very con	Brooke, Sus
39	Existing	M-NCPPC	Glen Mar NP	Neighborhood	3	0.97	BCC-North Bethesda	Playground (2), Tennis Court, Bask	Yes	Some steep slopes	No	This park is adjacen	Does not se
40	Existing	M-NCPPC	Jones Mill Road NP	Neighborhood	3	2.13	BCC-North Bethesda	Half basketball court, Forested Area	Yes	This entire parcel is	No	This site is not appr	Not approp
41	Existing	M-NCPPC	Westmoreland Hills LP	Local	2	10.07	BCC-North Bethesda	Soccer field, softball field, Playgrou	Yes	This entire park has historic designati		Historic designatio	Probably no
42	Existing	M-NCPPC	Caroline Freeland UP	Urban	1	1.04	BCC-North Bethesda	Playground, Gazebo, Open Space, S	No	None	No	This is an urban par	This park cu
43	Existing	M-NCPPC	Chevy Chase Open Space UP	Urban	1	1.89	BCC-North Bethesda	None - park in development	No	None	No	This is a passive par	There is roo



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





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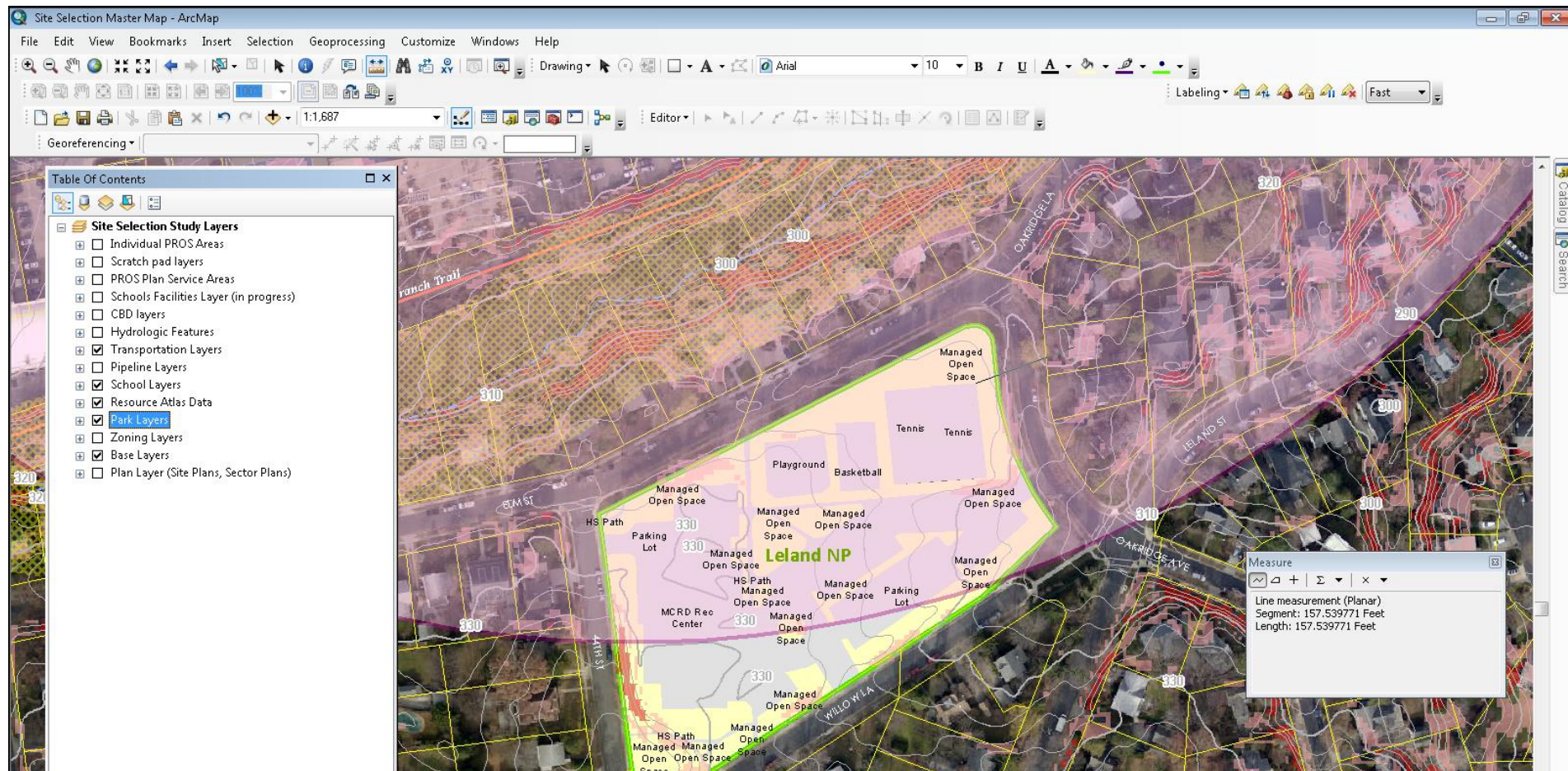
# Analysis: Evaluation Criteria

CRITERIA	EXPLANATION
Available Space	10,000 square feet of unconstrained land (e.g. under-utilized courts, plazas, or parking areas)
Playground Proximity	Not directly adjacent to a playground (ideal min 65')
Residential Proximity (noise and disruption)	Not directly adjacent to residences (ideal distance is 200' or more)
Available Parking	Park Development Division standards say 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.
CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)	Visibility and accessibility - "Eyes on the Park"



# Analysis

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



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# 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**



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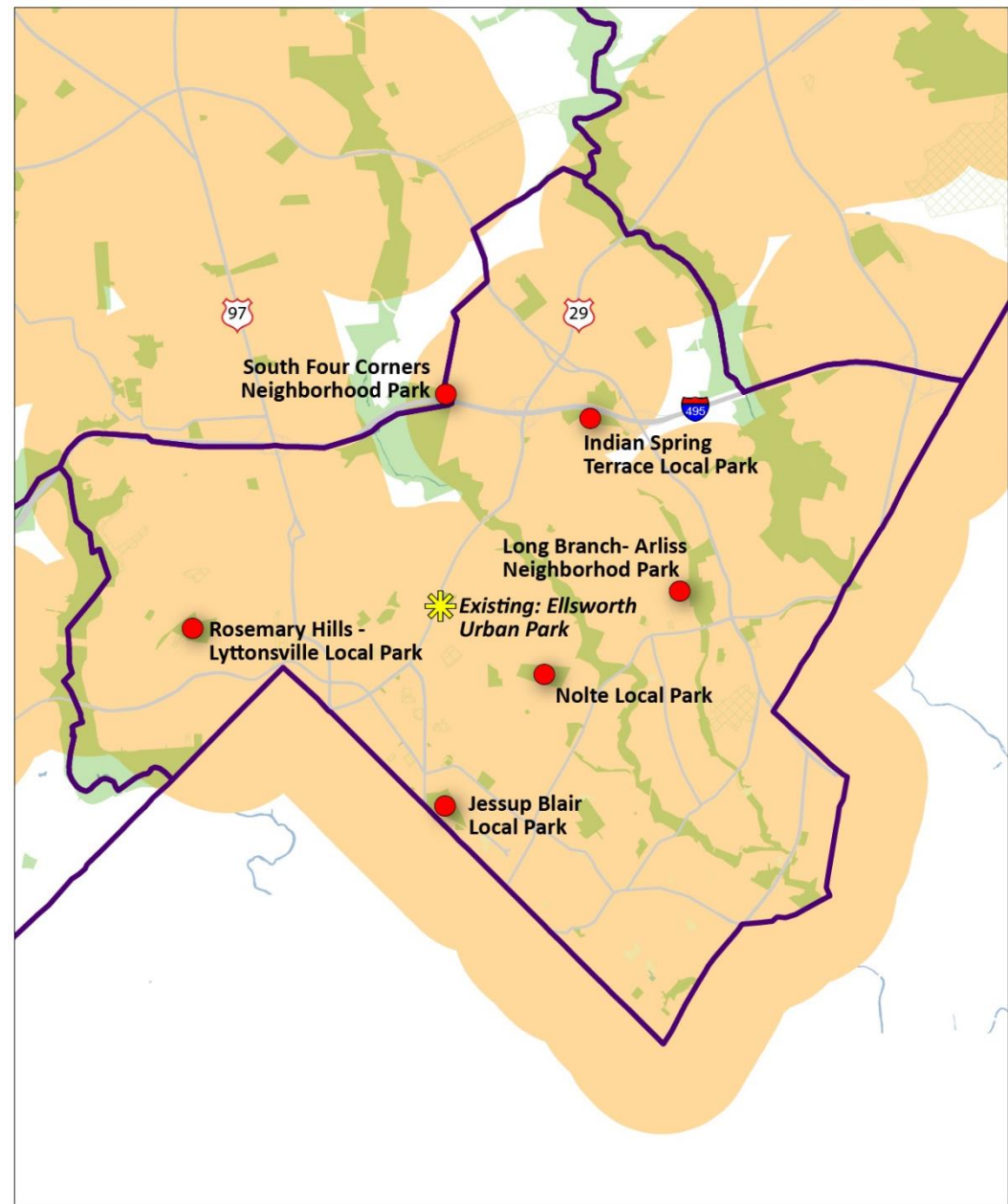
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# Results and Next Steps

## 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

Candidate Locations for Future Dog Exercise Areas: Silver Spring Region



# 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



### Candidate Locations for Future Dog Exercise Areas: B-CC Region



OPENGOV

HOME INFO PROFILE SIGN OUT HELP TOOLS

Admin Mode is On Turn Off

Welcome Susan

3

#### 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. PRIVATE

#### Introduction

##### Project Description

Montgomery Parks recognizes the desire for additional dog park facilities in the County. Resident input, research, park and recreation industry trends, and our Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plans, five-year strategic plans for parks and facilities, all indicate a growing demand for dog facilities in the park system. The purpose of the Site Selection Study for Dog Parks is to identify M-NCPPC Parks suitable for future dog park facilities in higher-density parts of the County. This study is intended as a reference tool for the Park Development Division in facility planning projects, park refreshers, park master plans, as well as a reference tool for the Public Affairs and Community Partnerships Division to help identify locations for temporary, pop-up dog park events, such as the “Yappy Hour” at Elm Street Park, that may be suitable for future permanent dog parks.

##### Background

The study focuses on higher-density parts of the County to better serve residents living in townhouses or multi-family housing are unlikely to have a yard. Additionally, Montgomery Parks recognizes the role that dog parks can play as community gathering spots.

*Sites identified in this study do not guarantee the construction of a future dog park facility nor do they preclude the possibility of a dog park facility at other parks in the County. This is a suitability study to identify options.* Please note: as an agency whose mission it is to balance stewardship and recreation, we will not build dog parks in environmentally sensitive areas, such as stream buffers, floodplains, forested areas, and steeply sloping land, for example.

##### Purpose

The study will:

- Help guide fu

##### Methodology

1. The Site Selection Study for Dog Parks identifies M-NCPPC parks in the higher-density parts of the County that may be suitable for a future dog park facility.
2. The study area used for this project is defined as a half-mile from areas zoned for townhouses or multi-family.
3. Parks within a half-mile of residential density were then inventoried for current facilities, natural resources constraints (such as stream buffers or floodplains), and other relevant
4. These parks were then scored according to the following criteria:
  - Adequate space available for the facility (approximately 10,000 square feet)
  - Adequate distance from playgrounds (65 feet or greater) to minimize conflicts
  - Adequate distance from homes to minimize noise transfer (200 feet being the ideal distance)
  - Available parking if needed
  - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Parks that scored highest according to the scoring criteria were then reviewed by Park Management and Operations staff for their day-to-day working knowledge of these parks.

##### Status/ Project Update

The following map shows candidate locations for future dog exercise areas in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center region. As stated above, sites identified in this study not guarantee the construction of a future dog park facility nor do they preclude the possibility of a dog park facility at other parks in the County. This is a suitability study to identify options.


### Candidate Locations for Future Dog Exercise Areas: B-CC Region











# Public Input and Open Town Hall




Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery County, MD  
**Montgomery Parks**

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## Open Town Hall

Projects

**Public Input**

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.

 HOME  INFO  SIGN IN  HELP



### Open Town Hall

Join the discussion. Montgomery County staff will consider all input submitted through Open Town Hall in their decision-making process.

[READ MORE](#)

Enter your Email Address  [Learn More](#)

## Useful Links

[Montgomery Planning Board](#)

[Montgomery County Council Meetings](#)



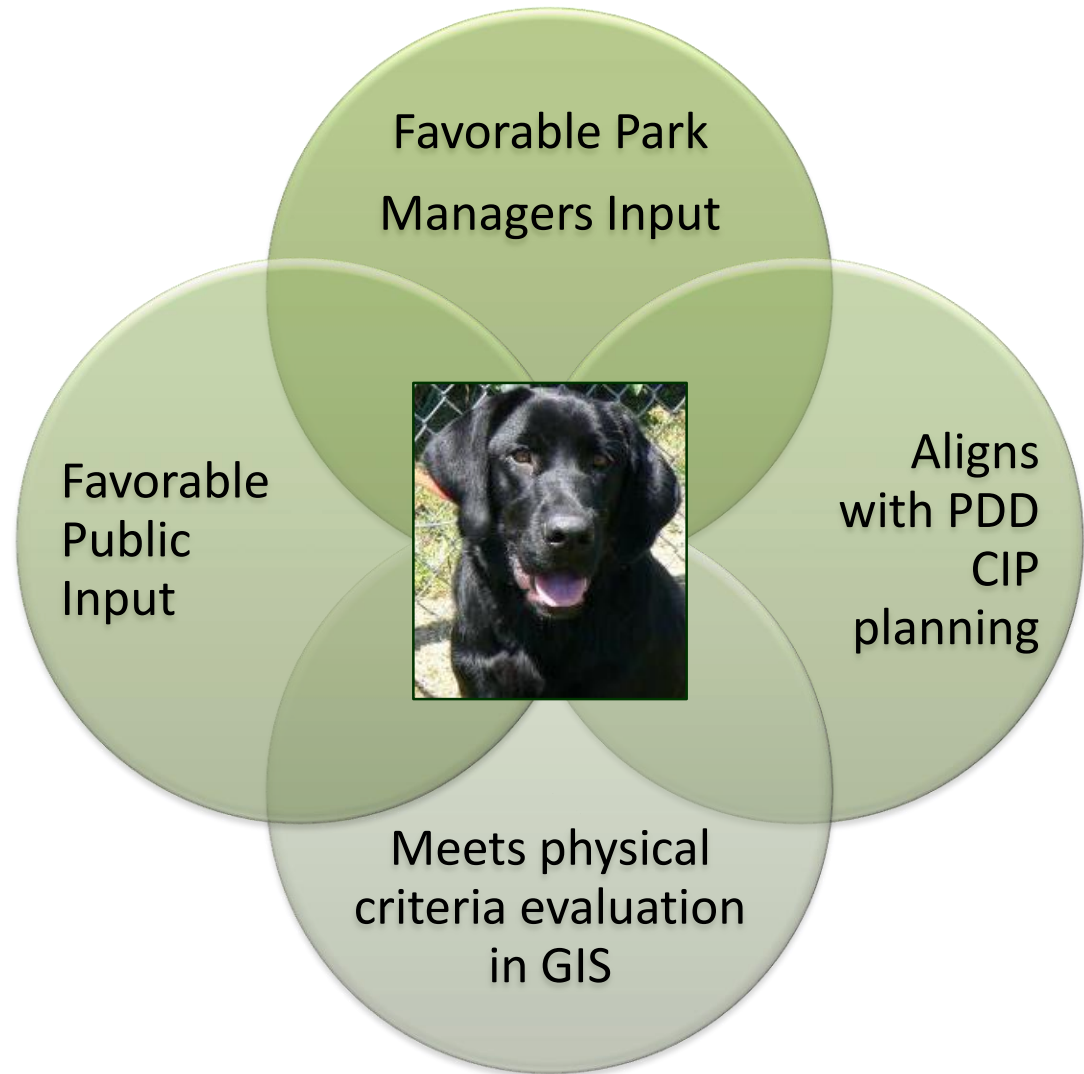


# Results: Recommended Sites

- Candidate sites that receive favorable input from
  - Park Managers,
  - the Public,
  - and align with CIP funding

will move forward first into recommendations

- Recommendations Presented to Parks Department Director and Planning Board



# Thank you! Questions?

Susanne Paul

Park and Trail Planning

M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks

[DogPark@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:DogPark@montgomeryparks.org)

