



MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 12, 2012

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Mary Bradford, Director of Parks *M Bradford*
Michael F. Riley, Deputy Director, Administration *MR*

FROM: John E. Hench, Ph.D., Chief, Park Planning and Stewardship Division (PPSD) *JE Hench*
Brooke Farquhar, Master Planner Supervisor, Park and Trail Planning (PPSD) *Brooke Farquhar*

SUBJECT: July 19, 2012 Worksession on 2012 Park, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan

Staff Recommendations:

- Review changes per Board guidance from June 28, 2012 Worksession
- Discuss Agricultural Preservation Chapter, reviewing comments from May 24, 2012 Public Hearing and staff responses to them
- Approve Final Draft Plan to publish and transmit to the State with any further changes requested by the Board and completion of the Plan Executive Summary, and final editing.

Discussion

This Worksession will respond to comments and testimony, and will focus on:

1. **Urban Parks** – addition of subcategory of Community Use Urban Recreational Park to the revised Park Classification System.
2. **Value of Natural Resource-based Recreation** – additional information on participation rates for natural resource-based vs. facility-based recreation activities; additional information on benefits of natural areas for health, education, and stewardship.
3. **Agricultural Preservation** - an expanded section on Public Commitment to Investment in Land Preservation; a new section on Support by Parks in the Agriculture Reserve including information on important heritage sites in agricultural areas; a new section on Master Plan Support; an expanded list of State Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation; and, an expanded section on Strategies for Agricultural Land Preservation.

A chart of the May 24, 2012 Public Hearing testimony along with staff's responses is included in **Attachment 1**.

Summary of testimony at June 28, 2012 Planning Board meeting

The first Worksession on the 1012 PROS Plan was held on June 28, 2012. Therein staff proposed changes to the Plan based on May 24, 2012 Public Hearing testimony and Planning Board comments. Six additional people testified at the June 28, 2012 meeting. Their comments included the following:

- Trails are beneficial for many reasons including viewing nature, bird-watching, exercise, dog walking, etc., but users are hard to quantify.
- Parks are needed for environmental reasons, health, education, etc. Water quality is improved by stream valley and other types of parks. Suggested strengthening language in Plan on environmental preservation in parks.
- People need contact with nature in urban and local parks and also need larger countywide parks.
- Conservation and stream valley parks are not suitable for development. Some preserve unique environmental areas such as Serpentine Barrens.
- People need natural resource- based recreation to provide relief of stress from the urban environment; and help educate them on the importance of natural resources.
- Parks and close-to home trails are particularly important to military families. Libraries should include park information like "Nutshell News".

In response to the above testimony, information has been added to the plan and is detailed below.

Urban Parks

COMMENTS AND TESTIMONY

At the June 28 Worksession, the Planning Board directed staff to add a subcategory to the Community Use Urban Parks for hardscaped urban parks that would provide active recreation facilities such as sport courts and skate spots in urban settings including rooftops or other constrained urban sites.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff agrees and has added the additional park type to the revised Park Classification table in the Plan. The proposed Community Use Urban Recreational Park description is as follows:

- **Community Use Urban Recreational Park:** These parks serve the residents and workers from the surrounding neighborhood or district, and are designed for more active recreation than an urban

buffer park or a neighborhood green. These typically contain sport courts, skate spots, and may include lawn areas, playgrounds or similar neighborhood recreation facilities. Minimum size is 1/10 acre.

Acquisition of Parkland for Natural Resource-based Recreation and for Facility-based Recreation

COMMENTS AND TESTIMONY

A section on the recreational value of natural areas has been added to the Plan as a result of Public Hearing and Planning Board comments. At the June 28 Worksession the Board directed staff to compare participation rates for activities that occur in natural areas, such as bird-watching, wildlife viewing, and fishing to some of the facility-based activities most popular in the County, such as rectangular field sports.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

In response to the request for additional participation rate comparisons and to the public testimony on the value of natural areas for recreation and health, Staff has added the following language to the Final Draft:

Natural Areas are important not only for conservation of ecosystems, but for a form of recreation referred to as natural resource-based recreation. Natural resource-based recreation is defined as any leisure activity conducted outdoors that is dependent on a particular element or combination of elements in the natural environment. These elements cannot be easily duplicated by man. In contrast, facility-based recreation can generally be provided anywhere, assuming the availability of space and funds for development. Natural resource-based recreation includes a vast range of pursuits. Some of our County's more popular resource-based recreation activities include land-based activities such as bird watching, nature photography, wildlife viewing, and aquatic-based activities such as kayaking, rowing, canoeing, and fishing. Other activities that can occur in natural areas on trails are covered under the service delivery strategies for hard surface trails and natural surface trails, above.

Calculation of Need

There is very little data available to determine precisely how much land can support a specific amount of natural resource-based activities.

The Vision 2030 survey indicates natural areas, which are the platforms for natural resource-based recreational activities, rank higher than athletic fields, tennis courts and basketball courts and many other facilities across several survey questions. Natural areas ranked third highest (74%) amenity for which County residents have the highest need, exceeded only by natural surface and hard surface trails. In importance of adding, expanding, or improving future park facilities, natural areas ranked sixth. As the County's population grows, it is reasonable to assume the need for natural areas will increase.

U.S. Census projections indicate that by 2050, one in every four Americans will be over age 65 with a mean age of 45. As the population pyramid shifts and individuals age, use will likely shift from facility-based to

natural resources-based recreation. Individuals tend to put down their cleats and bats and pick up Field Guides and walking shoes.

Quality of life in Montgomery County is significantly enhanced when adults have easy access to natural areas where they can de-stress and unplug from fast-paced lives. As our population grows older, the importance of access to natural areas increases. In a recent white paper, the International Council on Active Aging cited many research studies showing the benefits nature has on adult health. One study concluded that spending time in natural environments promotes stress reduction and mental recovery from mentally demanding activities.

In addition, natural resource-based recreation forms the backbone of the meaningful experiences children and youth have in nature outside of school. Scout groups, religious youth groups, summer campers and teens fulfilling service learning requirements flock to parkland. Park-based out of school experiences ensure that Montgomery County's children have the opportunity to step away from screens and video games, and connect with the natural world.

A comparison of the participation rates of various natural resource-based vs. facility-based activities supports the popularity and future need for natural areas.

Participation rate is defined as percent of the population estimated to participate in an activity.

Bird-watching is estimated to have a participation rate of 19%, which is equal to dog parks and slightly higher than the participation rate for basketball (18%).

Fishing, at 7%, ranks higher than tennis at 5%.

Nature photography and wildlife watching have estimated participation rates of 7% and 4%, which exceed baseball (3.58%) and soccer (3.25%).

Percentages were determined based on surveys and reports from a variety of sources including Vision 2030, the Sporting Goods Manufacturing Association, the Maryland section of the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife, 2006 Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis, and Wildlife Watching Trends: 1991- 2006.

Frequency, or how many times a year the participants engage in the activities, was not considered because the available data is inadequate for a valid comparison.

Service Delivery Strategy

This PROS Plan assumes that the need projected to the Year 2022 for natural areas will be met by the natural areas acquisition priorities recommended in Planning Board approved master plans and functional plans (see Chapter 4, Natural Resource Conservation.) Parkland in Montgomery County's system currently totals over 35,000 acres, 26,000 acres of which are classified as natural areas. There are approximately 5,000 additional acres of natural areas master planned for future acquisition. Additional lands will be identified for park acquisition as their importance to the public realm is identified. Priorities for future acquisitions (not currently master planned) will include additions to existing parks, areas with identified

needs, and acquisition of strategic acreages in priority watersheds. In addition, future large donation opportunities will avail themselves. Specific criteria and priorities for natural resource conservation are described in the PROS Plan, Chapter 4.

Park types that provide natural-resource based recreation include Regional Parks, Conservation Parks, Stream Valley Parks, and natural areas in all other park types. This PROS Plan does not attempt to quantify the amount of land needed into the future for natural resource-based recreation, because it is difficult to determine how much space is needed, unlike more facility-based activities such as fields and courts.

Natural resource-based recreation requires land and resource preservation far beyond the actual space for trails, wildlife viewing and other activities. Water quality capable of sustaining a diversity of fish and amphibian species, forests large enough to harbor forest interior dwelling birds, geological and soil conditions diverse enough to provide habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species – all are dependent on large tracts of land. Even urban wildlife accessible to people near their homes depend on threshold amounts and strategic locations of natural habitat.

By acquiring and preserving parkland, M-NCPPC ensures that children and youth can experience free-flowing streams, roll over logs to look for beetles or salamanders, follow butterflies through meadows and make the formative connections with nature that foster environmental stewardship over the long term.

In the midst of an obesity epidemic among children and teens, and diabetes on the rise among our youngest citizens, natural resource-based recreation provides an antidote to sedentary lifestyles among our county's children. The US Forest Service is working with the National Environmental Education Foundation to train health care providers to give children and their guardians a written prescription for outdoor activity, connecting them with a particular forest, park, wildlife refuge, nature center or other public land near their neighborhood. This 'prescription for nature' can help prevent serious health conditions in children including obesity and diabetes and can serve as a support mechanism for attention disorders. By expanding the acres of natural-resource based recreation areas available to area children, M-NCPPC delivers health benefits to Montgomery County's youngest residents.

The best resources will attract the greater numbers of visitors and the quality of a natural recreational experience is directly related to the quality of the environment within which the activity is taking place. High quality natural environments are characterized by a diversity of animals and plants, an absence of invasive plants, a general absence of manmade features and often include varied topography and hydrologic features, and the necessary quiet and solitude to enjoy nature. Large natural areas are needed to insure ecological function and sustainability, be it preserving watersheds or limiting fragmentation and edge effects to forested areas. Successful public acquisition of key acres can take decades due to available funding, negotiating with multiple owners, reaching agreements with willing sellers, etc.

Agricultural Preservation

COMMENTS AND TESTIMONY

The Public Hearing Testimony included requests that the *PROS Plan* add information on the environmental, recreational and aesthetic benefits of the Agricultural Reserve. The Reserve is not only significant as an

existing and future food producing asset; it contains many natural and educational resources that must be stewarded.

Testimony was also received requesting reference to important heritage sites, and for recognition that the Agricultural Reserve is a benefit to all Montgomery County residents. The Reserve provides very significant open spaces, and the *PROS Plan* should address aspects such as cultural resources and un-programmed recreational activities.

Finally, testimony was received requesting an expansion of comments regarding goals, accomplishments and strategies for agricultural land preservation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff concurs with the constructive comments made during public testimony and recommends the following changes to the draft Agricultural Preservation Chapter:

- an expanded section on 'Public Commitment to Investment in Land Preservation'
- a new section on 'Support by Parks in the Agriculture Reserve' including information on important heritage sites in agricultural areas
- a new section on 'Master Plan Support'
- an expanded list of 'State Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation'
- an additional graphic to summarize 'Accomplishments and Farmland Preservation Goals'
- an expanded section on 'Strategies for Agricultural Land Preservation'

The revised chapter (see **Attachment 2, Chapter 6**) expands on the following:

Montgomery County's vision and commitment to agricultural land preservation and stewardship of the Agricultural Reserve continues. Since the *2005 PROS Plan*, the County has exceeded its goal of preserving 70,000 acres of farmland, has established a new program, (Building Lot Termination (BLT)), to further protect farmland, has preserved environmentally sensitive and culturally significant properties through programs such as Legacy Open Space, and has initiated an Agricultural Incubator program as a resource to support farmers.

Agricultural land serves many important functions including preservation of the County's agricultural heritage, cultural resources, open spaces, and sensitive natural areas. Farmland is important for protecting ecosystems, maintaining biological diversity, reducing storm water runoff, and providing open spaces and places for unstructured recreational activities. In addition, agricultural land is important for protecting ecosystems, maintaining biological diversity, reducing storm water runoff, and providing open spaces and places for unstructured recreational activities. It is top priority for Montgomery County to encourage the continuation of farming through land preservation efforts and public policies and programs.

NEXT STEPS

PROS Final Documents: Staff will prepare final edits to the *2012 PROS Plan*, including any changes requested by the Planning Board, final corrections to the Appendices, and an Executive Summary. The final plan, Executive Summary and State requested GIS material will be transmitted to the Maryland State Department of Planning and the Department of Natural Resources.

Future Plans to implement the *2012 PROS Plan* include the *Countywide Park Trail Plan Amendment*, the *Urban Parks Guidelines*, the *Athletic Field Study*, and the *Implementation Plan* (system-wide).

Attachments:

- 1. Public Hearing Testimony and Related Staff Comments**
- 2. 2012 Park Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan Final Draft**

PC:

Gene Giddens – Acting Deputy Director of Parks for Operations
MaryEllen Venzke – Management Services
Kate Stookey – Public Affairs and Community Partnerships
Mitra Pedoeem – Park Development
John Nissel – Facilities Management
David Vismara – Horticulture, Forestry, and Environmental Education
Stephen Chandlee – Acting Chief, Southern Parks
Mike Horrigan – Northern Parks
Antonio DeVaul – Acting Chief, Park Police
Christine Brett – Enterprise
Rose Krasnow - Interim Director, Department of Planning

Attachment 1

Public Hearing Testimony and Related Staff Comments

Public Testimony - The 2012 Pros Plan Public Hearing, M-NCPPC Planning Board - Thursday, May 24, 2012

SPEAKER/ ORGANIZATION	TESTIMONY	STAFF RESPONSE
MAY 24, 2012 PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS		
<p>Laura Mol Downcounty Resident Oral And Written Testimony</p>	<p>Agriculture Chapter missing 3 major points that need to be added to draft.</p> <p>1) Importance of Agriculture land as a contribution to Environmental Protection, ecosystems, and biological diversity (SWM, Open Space, etc.)</p> <p>2) Ag. Lands include many important natural resources that we must steward for future generations</p> <p>3) Ag lands are an aesthetic treasure and provide an important part in unstructured recreation activities</p> <p>P. 106 - need more information in Plan on accomplishments and how much more is needed.</p> <p>Replace State goals on agriculture on p. 99 with those in the 2009 Maryland LPPRP.</p>	<p>Agreed. Added language to Plan.</p> <p>2009 goals added</p>
<p>Joe Fritsch "MORE"- Trail Working Group Oral Testimony</p>	<p>Generally In favor of plan, and its focus on more multi-use trails and the CWPTP. Could add more on how mountain biking provides high quality exercise and opportunity to view nature. Add to new trends section: mountain biking skills areas and pump tracks, BMX tracks. Paved trails are needed for commuting. Need linkages to county bikeways</p>	<p>Added language to Plan.</p> <p>The CWPTP Amendment will address the need for more multi-use trails, including identifying more trails, and building new sustainable trails, suitable for mountain biking. Staff is constructing a second bicycle skills areas suitable for both mountain biking and BMXers at South Germantown Recreational Park and is identifying a site for a future facility at Fairland Regional Park. The CWPTP Amendment will be well-coordinated with the bikeways master plan.</p>
<p>Dolores Milmoie Audubon Naturalist Society</p>	<p>Commends inclusion of Vision 2030 material.</p> <p>Supports trails- they are adequate.</p> <p>Supports Urban Parks especially urban wooded area. Veterans Plaza gets less use since it was paved over. They help with SWM.</p> <p>Parks are teaching labs for students. "Green Kids" education outreach.</p> <p>Add more specific info on important resources - heritage sites, rustic roads, equestrian programs,</p>	<p>Montgomery County is generally well-served by trails, but they are not spatially distributed equally across the county and therefore some areas have better access to the trail system than others.</p> <p>Information was added to Plan</p>

SPEAKER/ ORGANIZATION	TESTIMONY	STAFF RESPONSE
	<p>Darby Store.</p> <p>Concurs with Laura Mol’s comments on Agriculture. Need more in Plan on importance of what we are doing. Agriculture needed as food source-school participation. 107,000 acres of Ag Preserve- and over 1/3 is parkland.</p>	<p>Added to Plan</p>
<p>Ron Welke Mid-Atlantic Volleyball Club (MAV)</p>	<p>Recommend change on p. 36 - Change additional needs to 8-12. Co-locate courts with restrooms, lighting and picnic tables.</p> <p>p. 46.47- Agree with Service Delivery strategy. MAV would assist staff to evaluate future locations</p>	<p>Revised p. 47. Needs are 6 additional courts in the next 10 years.</p> <p>Staff will contact MAV during implementation site selection study.</p>
<p>Natalie Goldberg White Flint Resident</p>	<p>Leave existing Urban Park Category to apply to existing Urban Parks that serve neighborhoods. Add new countywide “Civic Green” category that will serve future growth areas.</p> <p>Civic greens should be better defined. What will they provide for the public?</p>	<p>Urban park classification revised to include both a Countywide Category for Sector Plan or CBD areas and a Community Use Category for parks that serve a segment of an urban area such as a neighborhood or district.</p> <p>All urban park categories will have more detailed definitions in future Urban Park Guidelines.</p>
<p>Ginny Barnes Conservation Montgomery</p>	<p>Public Hearings should be at night to allow working residents opportunity to testify</p> <p>Many people don’t know about the PROS Plan and understand what it does.</p> <p>Calls for a new definition of “Recreation” People “re-create” themselves. Urban residents need natural areas too. Vision 2030 expressed how green spaces renew people.</p> <p>People want more access to natural areas and more trails, connectivity.</p> <p>Parks serve multiple functions, add tree canopy, provide storm water management.</p> <p>Praise new trail Plan for looking at connectivity and determining what is realistic- what trails can and cannot be implemented.</p> <p>Legacy Open Space acquired 2,550 acres (\$83 mil) on Recreation land and 5,250 acres (\$78mil) on conservation lands – which are lower maintenance.</p> <p>Urban Parks should be multi-functional - Serve SWM, add tree canopy</p> <p>People need to be encouraged to get out and explore our parks.</p>	<p>June 28 Worksession was at night and allowed testimony.</p> <p>Initiate discussions to determine how we can better outreach to the public about PROS, and get people out to enjoy the parks.</p> <p>Added material to Plan.</p> <p>Concur</p>
WRITTEN TESTIMONY		
<p>Carole Ann Barth</p>	<p>Commend new definition of urban parks</p>	

SPEAKER/ ORGANIZATION	TESTIMONY	STAFF RESPONSE
<p>Montgomery County Civic Federation</p>	<p>Providing un-programmed natural areas in high density areas enhances ecosystems within the built environment.</p> <p>Plan should recommend more co-located facilities</p> <p>Ballfield Needs Areas should be based on a demographic unit like council districts</p> <p>The proposed Athletic Field Study is long overdue. The 2005 PROS Ballfield needs should not be used as much has changed and the methodology was flawed.</p> <p>Suspend construction of new ballfields that were not initiated in response to community requests until study is completed and new estimates have been thoroughly vetted.</p>	<p>Added wording to Plan.</p> <p>Co- location recommendations added to Plan.</p> <p>Retain existing Areas. Demographics can be analyzed for PROS Athletic Areas.</p> <p>Use 2005 projections until the Athletic Field Study is complete.</p>
<p>Burt Hall Director of Recreation and Parks Rockville, Maryland</p>	<p>Add more photos of County parks and facilities</p> <p>The new Urban Parks category is important, and the Urban Park Guidelines, Objectives, Definitions and Recommendations are excellent.</p> <p>Appropriate for PROS to address challenges of urban wildlife management</p> <p>Support the focus on problems associated with non-native and invasive species.</p> <p>Recommend smaller, local special use facilities as opposed to regional drive- to facilities.</p> <p>Support re-purposing athletic fields and courts based on user trends. Support more rectangular fields, question need for any new tennis courts.</p> <p>Support efforts to coordinate bikeway planning and recommend County continue to grow the trail system.</p> <p>Recommend adding pickle ball and bocce courts to changing trends, as they are growing sports, particularly among senior citizens.</p> <p>How do PROS recommendations consider the regional differences in cultural diversity of the County</p>	<p>Will add to final Plan</p> <p>Both are needed</p> <p>Concur</p> <p>Concur . The CWPTP Amendment will be well-coordinated with the 2005 Countywide Bikeways Functional Master Plan, to ensure efficient and safe access between recreational trails on parkland and bicycle facilities in transportation rights-of-way.</p> <p>Added to trends in Plan</p> <p>(Vision 2030- met with groups from African, Latino, Chinese, Carribean, People with disabilities, teens and elderly to discuss future needs). We will address diversity to the extent possible in the Implementation Study</p>

SPEAKER/ ORGANIZATION	TESTIMONY	STAFF RESPONSE
	<p>Surprised that County has \$29.5 million in Legacy Open Space funds available from the State in the upcoming 5 year CIP when the amount for other park types is \$1.6 mil. State’s funding for PROS resources needs to be re-thought. Need to work with municipalities to discuss a more balanced approach to future State funding policies with more funds going to area where population densities are highest, and include a re-distribution of a portion of these funds annually to the municipalities.</p> <p>Add a section to the Plan that includes substantial information on municipal parks, and how they serve a large number of residents</p>	<p>Legacy Open Space is not getting its funds from the State of Maryland: it is a County program.</p> <p>LOS funds are for a variety of our normal park types with an emphasis on open space. Legacy Open Space funds have been used for acquisition of every park type but local and neighborhood parks, and for several park acquisitions in the dense urban corridors.</p> <p>LOS funds are used to acquire rare open spaces within dense urban communities as one of the main categories of the program (Urban Open Space), but other park acquisition funding is required to support facility-based recreation within the dense urban communities of the County (i.e., lobbying for more POS from the State).</p> <p>(Will add some information to Plan on Municipalities)</p>
<p>Julie Bloss Kelsey Resident</p>	<p>Include Waring Station Woods in the Legacy Open Space Program. 10 acre property includes mature hardwood forest and is ecologically and functionally connected to Seneca Creek State Park. Could be an Environmental classroom for Roberto Clemente Middle School across the street</p>	<p>Will be evaluated by Legacy Open Space Committee.</p>
<p>Michele Potter Director Department of Parks, City of Gaithersburg</p>	<p>Gaithersburg does not meet the state acquisition goal of 30 acres of recreation parkland per 1000 persons. Request additional Program Open Space Money to expand parks and meet goal.</p> <p>Plan suggests locating an expanded Community Recreation Center in Shady Grove and a feasibility study to determine need for an additional aquatic facility, and reviewing usage of the City of Gaithersburg Aquatic Facility. The City has completed a study for a new aquatic facility and design is 75% complete, funded in part by Montgomery County. Project should be added to PROS report, and the county should continue this partnership and construct and operate facility when economically feasible.</p>	<p>Recreation Dept. has suggested retaining current language as it gives them options, one of which is to review that project as part of any future decision making.</p>
<p>Ali White MCPS Special Education PTSA Rep. and Ha Makom Halom Founder, Upcounty Jewish Multicultural Interfaith Community</p>	<p>Add Waring Station Woods to Legacy Open Space Program</p>	<p>Will be evaluated by Legacy Open Space Committee.</p>
<p>Silver Spring Canines Written</p>	<p>Request recommending more dog parks in PROS</p>	<p>PROS Plan recommends 12 more or</p>

SPEAKER/ ORGANIZATION	TESTIMONY	STAFF RESPONSE
Testimony	<p>Plan, and including one at Nolte Park. Nolte Park is close to downtown Silver Spring and surrounded by a large apt. complex and homes. Request that the eastern most part of the park (1 acre) be considered for a dog park. It is currently a de facto dog park and has worked well, Would like it to stay grass and add amenities, but would accept a no-fence dog park.</p> <p>Need more dog parks in urban areas, and less in regional parks. Dog parks are important to good dog health and behavior, particularly in urban areas. Careful planning is important and should include: 1) Clear signage of rules, payment should be required;2) Fencing including separation of large and small dogs; 3) Adequate seating; 4)Effective surfacing- suggest decomposed granite or K-9 Grass- an artificial turf. Do not use rocks or gravel; 5) Lighting, if night use is anticipated; 6) Enclosed gazebo structures are nice but not critical; 7) Plant material is difficult to maintain-suggest tree pit; 8) Activities for dogs such as toys, jumps, or tunnels, and hose or water for swimming, if possible.;9) Water fountain for dogs and humans ; 10) Sanitary waste disposal to avoid storm water pollution; 11)rest rooms; 12) low maintenance design.</p> <p>Need proper supervision, enforced policies, attention to design, environment. They offer to partner with County to create a world class dog park inside Nolte Park.</p>	<p>24 acres of dog parks in next 10 years. The proposed Implementation Plan to locate sites for dog parks will consider Nolte Park.</p> <p>Service Delivery Strategy revised to recommend locating additional dog parks in urban areas.</p>
Boyd Reilly Resident	Consider a dog park at Nolte Park	The proposed Implementation Plan to locate sites for dog parks will consider Nolte Park.
Boris Muchnik	More Volleyball courts needed. Only 1 location with lighted courts, Olney Manor which is insufficient for thousands of volleyball in Montgomery County. When planning new sporting facilities or refurbishing old ones, volleyball courts should be added. Volleyball organizations and individuals would be happy to help with issues concerning need, site selection, specifications, etc. Contact Ron Welke	We will work with user groups and players during our Implementation Sites Selection Study.
Leo Buscher	M.C. Lacks sufficient outdoor volleyball courts, especially lighted courts. Groups of courts (2 or more) need to be placed in local parks so they are convenient to players. Lighted courts would allow 8 months outdoor play. When planning new sporting facilities or refurbishing old ones, volleyball courts should be added. Would be glad to help advise regarding issues of need, sites, specifications, etc.	We will work with user groups and players during our Implementation Sites Selection Study
White Flint Community Coalition	Support PROS goals and vision, but concerned about PROS definition of urban parks. Concerned about definition of a Civic Green. It should not	Revised definition of Urban Parks. Size is minimum, not maximum.

SPEAKER/ ORGANIZATION	TESTIMONY	STAFF RESPONSE
	have an upper size limit.	
Karen Hansel Resident	Replace playground equipment at Puller Park. It is only shaded playground in Kensington, and needs new equipment for different ages. If Rock Creek Hills is used as a middle school, there is no park to take on the extra volume and the residents at Kensington Park Retirement Community will lose a safe place to walk.	Playground equipment replacement at Puller Park in design process and scheduled for replacement after July 1, 2012. Added importance of shade and multi-age equipment to Plan.
Cherian Eapen Montgomery County Cricket Association	Need dedicated full- size field for exclusive cricket use. Concur with PROS projected need for 4 fields. Request plan recommend prioritize planning, design, development and delivery of either Barmakian Property or the Little Bennett Regional Park site for the exclusive use of cricket. Look forward to working with parks on site selection. Figure 15, p. 64 should include a cricket field in the short-range time frame, and another one in the mid-range time frame. This could be indicated with a footnote that acknowledges the proposed fall 2012 site selection study and the proposed facility planning project in FY 13/14.	Added a short term project to future facility development priorities for facilities serving countywide needs. A site selection study will be done shortly and there is a cricket field in the CIP for facility planning.

Last Updated: Wednesday, July 11, 2012