ITEM #2: AREA-WIDE PARK FACILITIES

Plan Vision and Challenges
The Plan's park recommendations seek to preserve and enhance existing facilities, create new facilities to serve existing and new residents, and integrate these parks facilities with trails, sidewalks, and bikeways.

Existing Parks

Staff Recommendations
- Preserve Blueberry Hill Park as a recreation park and provide passive recreational facilities in the wooded portions of the site.
- Maintain the existing active recreational uses at Redland Road Local Park.

The planning area's existing parks provide needed active and passive recreational facilities for the existing neighborhoods. These parks will be maintained and enhanced by a network of new parks and connections through the community.

Testimony
Residents strongly support maintaining Blueberry Hill as a park site.

Analysis
The undeveloped portion of Blueberry Hill Park, which was originally intended as a school site, is needed for passive recreation and potentially for active recreation.
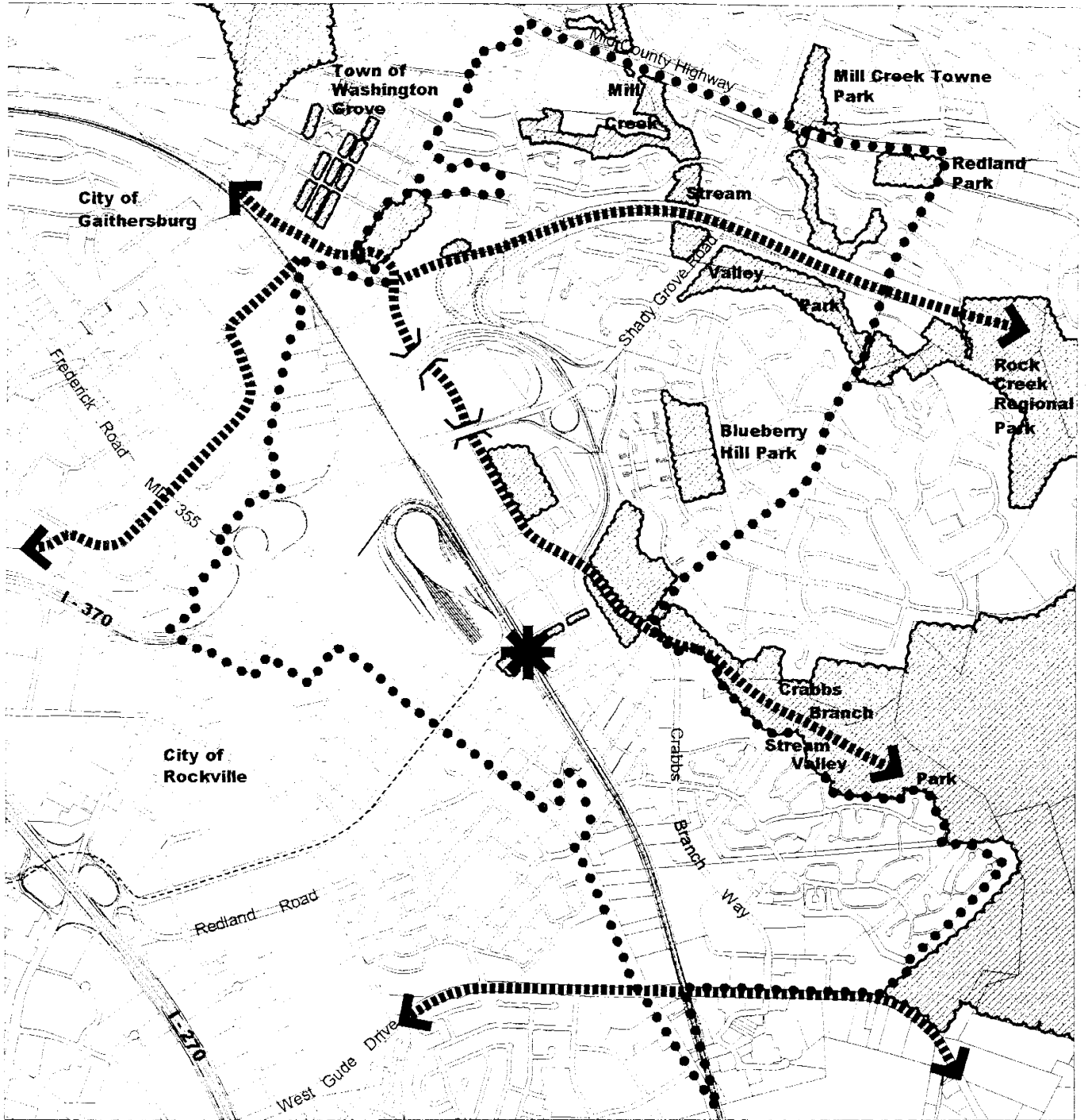
The planning area's population will increase from 7,236 to more than 17,000 people, placing new demands on existing parks and requiring the provision of new parks. Plan language should be altered to state that the undeveloped portion of this park might be needed to serve long-range active recreation needs.

New Parks

Staff Recommendations
- The Plan recommends using the stormwater management pond as a passive recreation resource and as a southern anchor to the proposed linear park system.
- Jeremiah Park is a centerpiece of the Plan's park recommendations, providing a community focal point, needed recreational facilities, and space for a possible library or community center.
- A neighborhood park in the Amity Drive area will serve communities north of Shady Grove Road and will be complemented by the fields and courts of the proposed elementary school.
- The proposed Town Common and Town Square are the focal points of a network of urban green spaces, and of the public and private recreational facilities that will serve the new Metro communities.

Park, Trails and Open Space Concept

Town of
Washington
Grove

Mill
Creek

Mill Creek Towne
Park

Redland
Park

City of
Gaithersburg

Stream

Valley

Park

Rock
Creek
Regional
Park

Frederick Road

MD 355

I-370

Blueberry
Hill Park

City of
Rockville

Crabbs
Branch

Stream
Valley

Park

Crabbs Branch Way

Redland Road

I-270

West Gude Drive

IIIIIIII Countywide Trails

Public Park System

✳ Urban Parks at Metro

●●●●● Shady Grove Sector Plan Boundary

------- Corridor Cities Transitway

0   2200'

Staff Draft Shady Grove Sector Plan

September 2003

The Plan's recommendations expand recreation opportunities by creating a linear network of parks along the Buffer Area and a network of small, urban parks. This system is intended to serve existing unmet needs, the needs of new residents, and to create a green image and resource for the proposed residential community.

Testimony

Residents support the Plan's proposed new parks, citing the need to serve existing and new residents. The County Executive Staff questions the need for Jeremiah Park.

Analysis

Estimating the current and future need for parks and recreation facilities in Shady Grove is particularly difficult because of its relationship to the entire Gaithersburg area and the municipalities of Rockville and Gaithersburg. People from one jurisdiction often use parks in another jurisdiction. Analysis in the 1998 *Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan* assumes the number of people going out of the planning area to use parks is equal to the amount coming in.

An analysis of future *PROS* needs for Shady Grove shows that the addition of 5,400 dwelling units, a population increase from 7,236 to more than 17,000 people, would generate an estimated need for three additional fields, one multi-use/basketball court and nearly three playgrounds.

These needs are met by the Plan's recommendations for two fields, a playground, and a multi-use court at Jeremiah Park; one field and a playground at the elementary school; and one playground on the new neighborhood park on the Casey at Mill Creek property. The undeveloped portion of Blueberry Hill Local Park may also be needed to provide long-term active recreation needs.

Two urban parks that will be constructed by developers, as amenities will become public parks maintained by the M-NCPPC and provide passive recreation in the metro area.

Trails

Staff Recommendations

- Provide an east-west greenway connection through Mill Creek Stream Valley Park.
- Explore opportunities for a trail connection from Crabbs Branch Stream Valley Park to Rock Creek Park.
- Extend a bike route along Crabbs Branch Way to connect with Washington Grove.
- Provide bikeway access via the Rockville Bicycle Beltway connection that will eventually connect to Rock Creek Regional Park.
- Retrofit existing residential neighborhoods with pedestrian trail connections to link communities with each other and with community destinations.
- Design new residential communities with path and trail connections to park and transit facilities.
- Provide internal trails in all local parks to improve access to all users.

Existing and Proposed Parks and Open Space

Mid County Highway

Mill Creek Towne Park

Town of Washington Grove

Mill Creek Stream

Redland Park

City of Gaithersburg

⑨

⑤

Valley Park

⑦

⑧

Shady Grove Road

Blueberry Hill Park

①

⑦

Frederick Road

Mt 355

I-370

④

②

③

⑥

Crabbs Branch Stream Valley Park

⑧

City of Rockville

⑨

Crabbs Branch Way

I-270

Redland Road

West Gude Drive
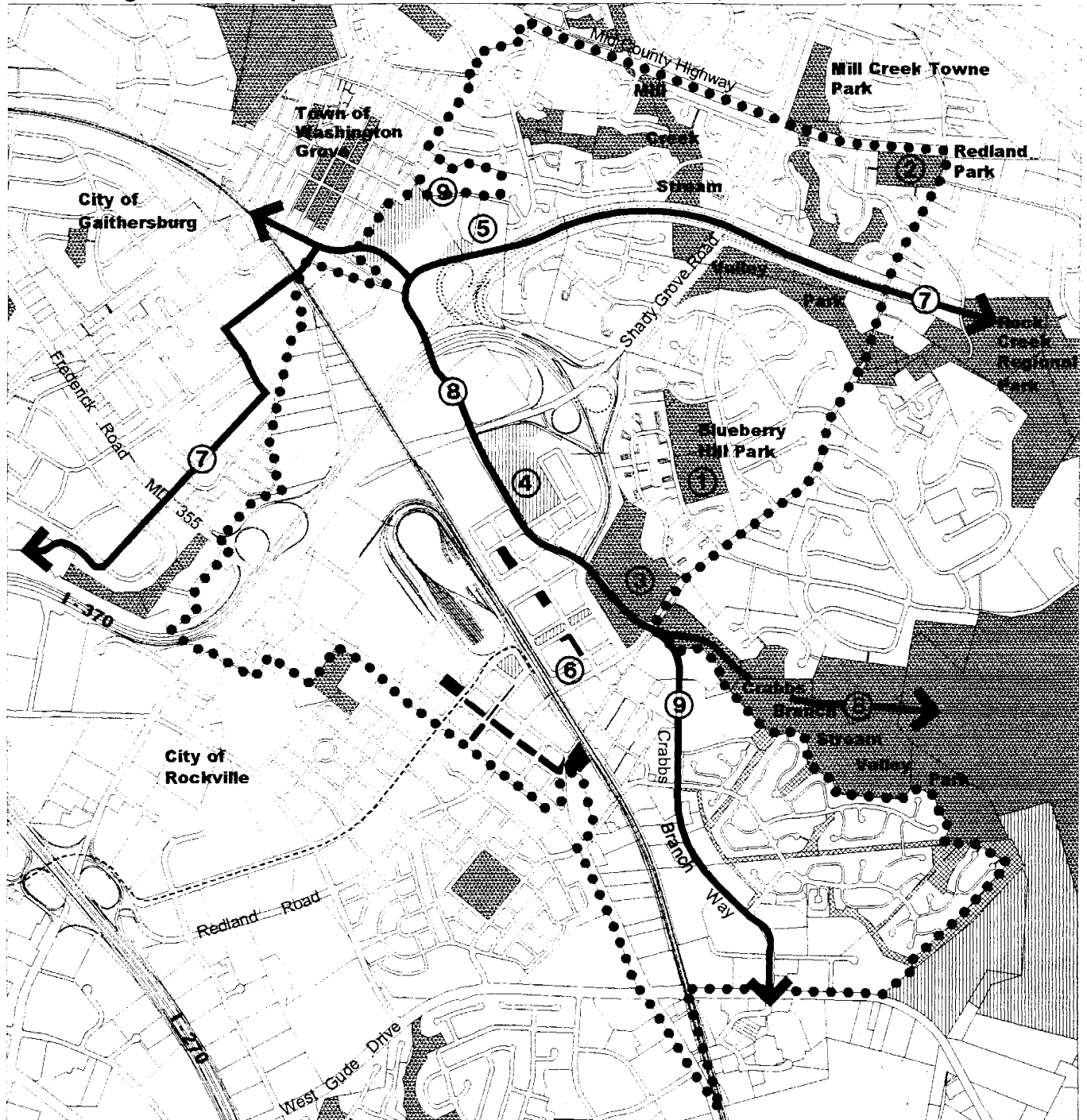
▨ Existing Public Parks and Open Space

▨ Existing Private Open Space

▥ Proposed Public Parks and Open Space

█ Proposed Public Use Open Space

━━━ Countywide Trails

●●●●● Shady Grove Sector Plan Boundary

------- Corridor Cities Transitway

0   2200'

Walking, biking, and hiking trails are among the most popular recreation activities and there is a perceived deficit in hiker-biker trails. The Plan's proposed trails are meant to provide passive recreation through natural areas, and to make connections to Metro and other community facilities. Part of creating a transit-friendly community is creating a safe and interesting pedestrian environment. All local parks should be developed with internal trails to improve access to all users.

Testimony
There was no testimony on park trails at the public hearing.

Analysis
The Plan's trail recommendations are intended to provide community recreation and transportation connections and follow the recommendations of the *County-wide Park Trails Plan*.

Inventory of all Facilities & Parkland Owned, Leased and/or Maintained by MNCPPC

AND SHADY GROVE AREAS

Local Parks

Existing Facilities

Plan Area	Park Stats	Park Name	Acreage	Playground	Soft Ball Field	Baseball Field	Multi Use	Lighted BB Cts	Tennis Cts	Lighted Ten Cts	F.S. Overlay	F.S. Field	Play Field	Gazebo	Picnic Area	Open Shelter	Rec Bldg	Restroom
20	D	Blueberry Hill Local Park	20.9	2	1		1			2		1				1		1
20	D	Canterway Local Park	21.1	1								1		1	1			
20	D	Flower Hill Local Park	14.5	1		1	1					1						
20	D	Hunters Woods Local park	20.0	1			1					1						
20	D	Johnson Local Park	10.0	1	1										1	1		
20	D	Mill Creek Towne Local Park	11.1	1	1			1		2	1							
20	D	Nike Missile Local Park	18.3	1	1													1
20	D	Redland Local Park	10.1	1	1		1		1			1			1	1		1
20	D	Stewartown Local park	12.2	2	1		3		2		1				1	2		
20	D	Strawberry Knoll Local Park	10.6	1	1		1		2			1						
		Subtotal	148.8	12	6	1	9	1	7	4	2	7	0	1	4	5	0	3

Neighborhood Parks

Existing Facilities

Plan Area	Park Stats	Park Name	Acreage	Playground	Soft Ball Field	Baseball Field	Multi Use	Lighted BB Cts	Tennis Cts	Lighted Ten Cts	F.S. Overlay	F.S. Field	Play Field	Gazebo	Picnic Area	Open Shelter	Rec Bldg	Restroom
20	U	Orchard Neighborhood Park	10.2															1
20	D	Quince Orchard Valley Neighborhood Park	75.9	1	1		1			2					1	1	1	
20	D	Washington Square Neighborhood Park	5.0	1	1		2		2						1	1		
		Subtotal	91.1	2	2	0	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1

Neighborhood Conservation Areas

Existing Facilities

Plan Area	Park Stats	Park Name	Acreage	Playground	Soft Ball Field	Baseball Field	Multi Use	Lighted BB Cts	Tennis Cts	Lighted Ten Cts	F.S. Overlay	F.S. Field	Play Field	Gazebo	Picnic Area	Open Shelter	Rec Bldg	Restroom
20	U	Emory Grove Hills Neighborhood Conservation Area	12.3															
20	U	Hunters Woods Neighborhood Conservation Area	28.6															
20	U	Mineral Springs Neighborhood Conservation Area	0.7															
		Subtotal	41.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Stream Valley

Existing Facilities

Plan Area	Park Stats	Park Name	Acreage	Playground	Soft Ball Field	Baseball Field	Multi Use	Lighted BB Cts	Tennis Cts	Lighted Ten Cts	F.S. Overlay	F.S. Field	Play Field	Gazebo	Picnic Area	Open Shelter	Rec Bldg	Restroom
20	U	Cabin Branch Stream Valley	120.3															
20	U	Mill Creek Stream Valley Park	111.8															
		Subtotal	232.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Total	513.6	14.0	8.0	1.0	12.0	1.0	9.0	6.0	2.0	7.0	0.0	1.0	6.0	7.0	1.0	4.0

U=Undeveloped   * Parks in the Shady grove Area

Recreation Facility Inventory by Planning Area — Table 3

3/17/2004

Planning Area	Ballfields				Tennis Courts				Basketball Courts				Playgrounds			
	Parks	Closed Schools	Open Schools	Total	Parks	Closed Schools	Open Schools	Total	Parks	Closed Schools	Open Schools	Total	Parks	Closed Schools	Open Schools	Total
Damascus FA (10, 11, 14, 15)	2	-	12.6	14.6	2	-	4.9	6.9	4	-	15	19	4	-	1	5
Poolesville FA (12, 16, 17, 18)	2	-	2	4	3	-	-	3	2	-	2	4	2	-	-	2
PA 13 Clarksburg	2	-	3.8	5.8	2	-	3.7	5.7	1	-	5	6	2	-	-	2
PA 19 Germantown	9.7	-	22	31.7	6	-	13.3	19.3	5.5	-	22	27.5	8	-	4	12
PA 20 Gaithersburg	11.7	-	22.8	34.5	14	-	12.2	26.2	10	-	24	34	11	-	5	16
PA 22 Rock Creek	2	-	7.3	9.3	-	-	4.9	4.9	1	-	5	6	-	-	2	2
PA 23 Olney	10.6	-	11.1	21.7	15	-	6.1	21.1	10	-	12.5	22.5	13.5	-	3	16.5
PA 24 Darnestown	4	-	3.3	7.3	6	-	4.9	10.9	3	-	5	8	3	-	1	4
PA 25 Travilah	5	-	3.3	8.3	8	-	-	8	2	-	4	6	5	-	-	5
PA 27 Aspen Hill	20.3	3.2	12.3	35.8	13	2	6.1	21.1	4	4.5	20	28.5	7.5	1	7	15.5
PA 28 Cloverly	9	-	8.2	17.2	12	-	6.1	18.1	5.5	-	8	13.5	6.5	-	2	8.5
PA 29 Potomac	10.5	3	18.3	31.8	11	-	7.3	18.3	7	2	21.5	30.5	10.5	-	6	16.5
PA 30 North Bethesda	12.9	5.1	6.7	24.7	12	2.4	7.4	21.8	7.5	4	11	22.5	13	-	1	14
PA 31 Kensington/Wheaton	23.6	5.6	12.2	41.4	28	2.4	9.8	40.2	19.5	7	22	48.5	25.5	-	6	31.5
PA 32 Kemp Mill	7.4	4.3	9.1	20.8	16	2.4	4.9	23.3	11	3	10	24	15	-	2	17
PA 33 White Oak	6	-	9.5	15.5	10	-	7.3	17.3	5.5	-	14.5	20	8	-	5	13
PA 34 Fairland	11	-	9.3	20.3	13	-	4.9	17.9	5	-	8	13	8	-	2	10
PA 35 Bethesda	27.6	2.5	14.7	44.8	43	2.4	9.2	54.6	19.5	3.5	21	44	29	-	4	33
PA 36 Silver Spring	13.1	0.8	3.1	17	21	2.4	4.3	27.7	7.5	-	4.5	12	15	-	1	16
PA 37 Takoma Park	6	-	3.5	9.5	6	-	2.4	8.4	3	-	5.5	8.5	13	-	1	14
TOTALS	196.4	24.5	195.1	416	241	14	119.7	374.7	133.5	24	240.5	398	199.5	1	53	253.5

1. Fractional amounts for ballfields accounts for non-regulation sized fields

2. Fractional amount for school tennis courts accounts for the fact that during the school year the courts are not available until after school hours.

3. Fractional amounts for basketball courts indicate half courts (50x80') instead of full sized courts.

4. Fractional amounts for playgrounds account for the fact that a specific playground is not comparable to a standard park playground