



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION9500 Brunett Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20901MCPB
Item: 4
Date: 02/24/05

February 17, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: William Mooney, Chief, Enterprise Division *WMM*
Michael F. Riley, Chief, Park Development Division *MR*

FROM: Kathleen Dearstine, Landscape Architect, Park Development Division *KD*

SUBJECT: Request by the Friends of Norwood Local Park to Enter into Partnership with M-NCPPC to Contribute to the Renovation of the Playground at Norwood Local Park

RECOMMENDATION

Approval – Staff recommends approval to accept a donation from the Friends of Norwood Park to contribute in the renovation of the playground at Norwood Local Park.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club is proposing to undertake the funding, acquisition, and installation of accessible playground equipment as their Rotary International Centennial Project to celebrate the worldwide eradication of polio. The Rotary Club, working with staff, selected Norwood Local Park as their preferred location, and would like to open the playground in June 2005. Norwood Local Park is located at 4700 Norwood Drive in Bethesda, Maryland. Refer to Attachments A and B for the Vicinity Plan and Existing Conditions Map.

The scope of the project with the Rotary Club included replacement and renovation of play equipment as shown on Attachment C. The total project cost was estimated to be in the range of \$80,000-\$95,000, with the Rotary Club contributing \$50,000-\$60,000 and the Commission funding \$30,000-\$35,000. This partnership was approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board on October 21, 2004.

The Commission held public meetings with the community in November and December 2004. The community expressed an interest in raising more money to add to the project. Four meetings were held between December 30, 2004 and February 1, 2005 to refine the playground plan. These meetings included staff, members of the community, the Director of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, the Montgomery Parks Foundation, and the Rotary Club. While the scope of the playground has expanded, staff believes that the revised plan is comparable to the scale of the existing playground. The revised plan is shown on Attachment D. Photos of the existing playground are included on Attachment E.

The Rotary Club and Commission partnership will fund construction of Area 1, for a total estimated cost of \$95,000. The community is fundraising for the following components of the plan:

AREA	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST
1	Resilient surfacing instead of wood fiber surfacing.	\$ 74,370
2	Relocate existing tot swing bay, add new tot swing bay, and renovate wood fiber surfacing and under-drainage system.	\$ 7,464
3	Add fitness center and whirl, renovate wood fiber surfacing and under-drainage system.	\$ 29,858
3	Install resilient surfacing under existing belt swings.	\$ 22,200
Tot Lot near Fields	Completely renovate small tot lot that would otherwise be taken out of service when the existing equipment becomes obsolete or unsafe.	\$ 25,000
TOTAL FUNDRAISING GOAL		\$158,892

The Friends of Norwood Park indicated that they have raised enough money to fund the resilient surfacing for Area 1, but they have not indicated whether this is their first priority. Staff is finalizing all equipment orders and plans in February for installation of the Rotary Club project by June. Staff intends to include the community component in the first phase of the project, if they are ready with their funding to place a materials order at the same time as the Rotary Club.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends approval to accept the donation from the Friends of Norwood Park to contribute in the renovation of the playground at Norwood Local Park.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A:	Vicinity Plan
Attachment B:	Existing Conditions Map
Attachment C:	Original Site Plan for the Playground Renovations
Attachment D:	Revised Site Plan for the Playground Renovations
Attachment E:	Photos of Existing Playground