Elevations (continued)

West Elevation
Involvement

The preliminary plans for the gymnasium addition to Burning Tree Elementary School were developed based on the educational specifications prepared by Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staff. Through a series of conferences with the Facility Advisory Committee, several design alternatives were developed and evaluated. The proposed plans were reviewed and subsequently modified in accordance with recommendations and suggestions from the committee which unanimously approved the proposed plans presented herein.

Membership Committee

- Dr. Helen Chaset | Chair/Principal | Burning Tree Elementary School
- Mr. David Chia | Intern Principal | Burning Tree Elementary School
- Mr. Rakesh Bagai | Project Manager | Division of Construction, MCPS
- Ms. Helene Granof | Staff | Burning Tree Elementary School
- Ms. Brenda Hoyle | Facility Planner | Division of Construction, MCPS
- Mr. Mike Lenkiri | Parent | Burning Tree Elementary School
- Ms. Susan Loftus | Staff | Burning Tree Elementary School
- Ms. Lola Maduro | Neighbor | Burning Tree Elementary School
- Mr. Joe Okon | Parent | Burning Tree Elementary School
- Ms. Maria Prawirotarihdo | Architect | Maryland State Department of Education
- Ms. Maria Richter | Staff | Burning Tree Elementary School
- Ms. Dorene Rosenthal | Parent | Burning Tree Elementary School
- Mr. Michael P. Shpur | Architect | Division of Construction, MCPS
- Mr. James Song | Director | Division of Construction, MCPS
- Ms. Margaret Uhar | Neighbor | Burning Tree Elementary School
- Ms. Janet Weed | PTA President | Burning Tree Elementary School
MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 1, 2006

TO: Kristin O'Connor, Community Based Planning Division

VIA: Mary Dolan, Countywide Planning Division, Environmental

FROM: Marion Clark, Countywide Planning Division, Environmental

SUBJECT: Mandatory Referral No. MR-06202-MCPS-1
Burning Tree Elementary School

Recommendation: Approval

Forest Conservation
A two-acre forest stand dominated by mature Tulip Poplars was left after construction of the existing building. Thirty-three trees (1 specimen and 21 significant) were cataloged on the Natural Resource Inventory/Forest Stand Delineation (NRI/FSD). Montgomery County Public Schools proposes to remove two trees that are smaller than significant trees, one in fair condition, and the other a 23" White Ash off site on MNCPPC property.

A Forest Conservation Plan exemption was issued because this is a modification of an existing developed property with no more than a total of 5000 square feet of forest cleared; no forest clearing within a stream buffer or on property subject to Special Protection Area Water Quality Plan requirements; and it does not require a new subdivision plan. A Tree Save Plan was submitted with the application and must be approved prior to issuance of sediment and erosion control permit.

Stormwater Management
A Stormwater Management Concept Plan is approved for this project.

Green Building Design
Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) submitted a strategic plan entitled Green Schools Focus to the County Council, as required by the County Environmental Policy. MCPS pledged in the strategic plan, to “improve system design through introducing the latest high performance green building technologies (LEED) to improve sustainability and performance of buildings and reduce operating costs.”

Environmental Guidelines
There are no streams, wetlands, steep slopes, or erodible soils present on the subject site. The site is not in a Special Protection Area or Primary Management Area.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Kristin O'Connor, Planner, Community Based Planning

VIA: Mike Riley, Division Chief, Park Development
      Doug Alexander, Project Management Supervisor, Park Development

FROM: Ellen Masciocchi, Planner Coordinator, Park Development
      Parviz Izadjoo, Project Manager, Park Development

SUBJECT: Comments on Burning Tree Mandatory Referral

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide specific comments on the mandatory referral for the expansion of the parking lot at Burning Tree Elementary School.

RECOMMENDATION:

The points listed below must be incorporated into a revised plan submitted for Park Development Division approval prior to issuance of the park permit for this project and the proposed construction work.

1. The expansion of parking into park property would cause a major impact on the three large shade trees located north of the parking area. Some of the proposed parking spaces causing the impact should be eliminated. The parking area could be extended in an westward direction in order to accommodate the additional spaces.

2. The infiltration trench should be relocated to school property.

3. The number of proposed parking spaces might be insufficient to accommodate simultaneous activities at both the park and the school. MCPS must submit a parking management plan for M-NCPPC review showing regular school use, special events, park use, and projected
periods of peak demand, number of peak parking paces, and demonstrating that the number of spaces provided will be adequate to serve reasonable demand.

4. The storage of materials or equipment will not be allowed on park property without prior approval from the Park Manager or Inspector.

5. Submit an easement agreement to M-NCPPC for the parking use.

6. During the parking lot construction, MCPS must take steps to minimize any impact on ballfield use.

Parking Lot Addition

Burning Tree Elementary School is located in the Burning Tree Valley subdivision and is bordered on the west and south sides by residential properties. It fronts Beech Tree Road on the east side and on the north side is bordered by Park property. Access to the school is through an entrance on Beech Tree Road. The school site is 6.78 acres and it contains two playgrounds and multi-use courts. Two softball fields with a football/soccer overlay, and two tennis courts are located on the adjacent Park property owned by Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC). The joint property line runs along the northern edge of the school property.

The existing school has a total of thirty-eight parking spaces including three handicap parking spaces and staging area for approximately ten school buses in the bus loop. The parking area on the north of the existing building will be reconfigured to provide 24 additional parking spaces. Approval of an easement is required from M-NCPPC since the spaces will extend into park property.

Park staff visited Burning Tree Elementary School twice to look at the site for the proposed addition to the parking lot and to assess potential impact on the adjacent park. The school project will affect trees on park property adjoining the school. In addition, during both site visits to the park during the week, almost all of the parking spaces were in use. Current guidelines suggest that fifty spaces per ballfield should be provided. In order to ensure that the parking can accommodate events at both facilities, MCPS should submit a parking management plan for M-NCPPC review.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Kristin O'Connor, Planner/Coordinator Development Review

VIA: Daniel K. Hardy, Supervisor Transportation Planning

FROM: Scott A. James, Planner/Coordinator Transportation Planning

SUBJECT: Mandatory Referral Petition 06202-MCPS-1 Burning Tree Elementary School gymnasium and parking addition 7900 Beech Tree Road, Bethesda Bethesda – Chevy Chase Master Plan Policy Area

This memorandum is Transportation Planning staff’s adequate public facilities review of the subject mandatory referral petition to permit the construction of the Burning Tree Elementary School gymnasium an expanded parking lot (“Burning Tree School Renovation”).

RECOMMENDATION

Transportation Planning staff recommends approval with the following comments:

1. Coordinate with Park Development Division staff to identify shared parking arrangements and acquire necessary park permits.

2. Coordinate with Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) to insure the proposed parking lot design and site circulation plans provide adequate and sufficient access for school staff, visitors and park patrons when shared parking arrangements are finalized.
3. Submit a Local Area Transportation Review (LATR) study for subsequent mandatory referral submissions if improvements are contemplated that would increase the number of students above the 525 students currently served.

DISCUSSION

The school campus is located at 7900 Burning Tree Road in Bethesda. The school grounds occupy land owned by the Montgomery County Public School District (MCPS) and are adjacent to the local park owned by the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). MCPS and M-NCPPC are discussing terms by which shared-use of the adjacent recreational fields and associated surface parking can be managed.

School Location, Access, Circulation, and Parking

Burning Tree Elementary School is located at 7900 Beech Tree Road, Bethesda, within the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan Policy Area. The proposed gymanium construction and associated parking lot expansion will increase the total gross building square footage to 67,265 square feet (up from 60,848 SF). The expanded parking lot will add twenty-four new spaces for a total of sixty-two spaces, four of which are to be Americans for Disabilities Act compliant.

MCPS will request an easement of M-NCPPC to allow a portion of the expanded parking lot and storm water management facilities to occupy Commission property. The applicant’s submission to M-NCPPC states that the proposed design will also relocate a portable classroom onto the existing rear paved play area behind the school. The current location of the service vehicle access and delivery vehicle staging areas will remain unchanged, as will all student and visitor circulation patterns.

The proposed parking lot design increases the number of available parking spaces however, M-NCPPC suggests that MCPS discuss with the Parks Department how best to share the surface parking lot(s). One option would be to consider allowing school staff and visitors access to the park surface lot during normal school operating hours. In exchange, park patrons would be able to use the expanded school parking lot when school is not in session. In addition, staff recommends that MCPS coordinate with DPS to ensure all revisions result in efficient operational guidance regarding both circulation and shared parking arrangements for both staff and park patrons (e.g. appropriate signage and pavement markings) is included in the renovation.

Local Area Transportation Review

Staff determined no need for a traffic study to meet LATR requirements, as the proposed school improvements are not expected to increase peak hour trips to the site. The total number of students is to remain the same (currently 525 enrolled with facilities designed to accommodate 428 students). Future enrollment projections anticipate a student population of 438 by September 2011. A traffic study would be required if future expansion and/or renovation plans increase student enrollment or the number of anticipated peak hour trips above their current levels.
Master Plan Roadways and Bikeways

Beech Tree Road intersects River Road (MD 190) between Wilson Lane (MD 188) and Burdette Drive approximately 1,500 feet south of the school campus. Beech Tree Road is a primary residential street with sidewalks on both sides. A designated school crossing is located at the intersection of Maryknoll Avenue and Beech Tree Road. There are no existing or proposed bicycle lanes for these facilities.

SAJ:gw