

Boyds Civic Association

**COMMUNITY PREFERENCES FOR  
PARK USES AND FACILITIES AT  
THE BOYDS LOCAL PARK**

6/19/2015

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1) Context of report

- a) The Montgomery County Department of Parks has chosen the Boyds Local Park as a possible site for a cricket field.
- b) The 1985 Boyds Master Plan says that the Boyds Local Park is for the residents of the Lower Seneca Planning Area.
- c) The purpose of this report is to answer the question, "What do people in the Boyds Master Plan area and Lower Seneca Planning Area want in the Boyds Local Park?"

### 2) Data sets in report

- a) 26 responses to paper questionnaire distributed at the Boyds Civic Association special meeting about the Boyds Local Park on May 28, 2015.
- b) An on-line survey designed by the Boyds Civic Association and conducted June 3-11, 2015.
  - i) 44 responses from people who live in the Lower Seneca Planning Area and/or the Boyds Master Plan area.
  - ii) An additional 14 responses from unnamed respondents from IP addresses in Maryland or DC.

### 3) Results

- a) In the paper questionnaire, respondents preferred trails, picnic tables/grills, and a multigenerational playground.
- b) In the on-line survey, respondents preferred the following:
  - i) Playing fields: baseball/softball
  - ii) Recreational court uses: tennis
  - iii) Other recreational uses: frisbee golf, archery
  - iv) Leisure uses: multigenerational playground, trails
  - v) Overall preferred uses: multigenerational playground, trails

### 4) Conclusions and recommendations

- a) Cricket
  - i) The report strongly suggests that people in the Lower Seneca Planning Area/Boyds Master Plan area do not want cricket fields at the Boyds Local Park.
  - ii) The Department of Parks should remove the Boyds Local Park from the list of possible sites for a cricket field.
- b) Park planners and park designers should work with the community on a charrette for the Boyds Local Park.

## INTRODUCTION

The Montgomery County Department of Parks recently conducted a site selection study for new sites for cricket fields. The study area was parks along the I-270 Corridor. The study identified two sites: the proposed new addition to the Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park in Clarksburg and the Boyds Local Park in Boyds<sup>1</sup>.

According to the 1985 Boyds Master Plan<sup>2</sup>, the purpose of the Boyds Local Park is to serve people in the Lower Seneca Basin Planning Area. What do people in the Lower Seneca Planning Area want in the Boyds Local Park? To answer this question, the Boyds Civic Association held a special meeting on May 28, 2015, and conducted an on-line survey the following week, June 3-11, 2015.

The Boyds Civic Association (BCA) was founded in April 1965 to represent the members of the community of Boyds, Maryland, in their dealing with the county, state, and federal governments and to assure that Boyds develops as a rural, residential community. Any adult owning or residing on property served by the Boyds post office (zip code 20841) is eligible for membership. Note that the Boyds post office began serving a part of non-rural Germantown after 2000; however, there are currently no BCA members who live in Germantown.

## MEETING QUESTIONNAIRE

### Methodology

The Boyds Civic Association held a special meeting at 7:30 pm on Thursday, May 28, 2015, at the Earle L. Vail Education Building of the Boyds Presbyterian Church in Boyds, to talk about the community's wishes and ideas for the Boyds Local Park. 29 people signed the attendance sheet at the meeting, and there were at least 3 people at the meeting who did not sign the attendance sheet. Hammet Hough, president of BCA, introduced the topic and passed out paper copies of two maps of the Lower Seneca Basin Planning Area. A short discussion of ideas followed, including a proposal for a senior or multigenerational playground. Mr. Hough then passed out a paper questionnaire on park uses and collected the papers when people were done.

The questionnaire asked the respondents to choose their top three preferences (1, 2, or 3) from among 30 uses for Local Parks. The uses were as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> see

[http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkPlanning/Projects/cricket\\_site\\_selection/cricket\\_site\\_selection.shtm](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkPlanning/Projects/cricket_site_selection/cricket_site_selection.shtm)  
(accessed June 14, 2015)

<sup>2</sup> see

[http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/plan\\_areas/rural\\_area/master\\_plans/boyds/toc\\_boyds\\_mp.shtm](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/plan_areas/rural_area/master_plans/boyds/toc_boyds_mp.shtm)

Table 1 Uses in the meeting questionnaire

General uses	Subcategory	Use choices
Sports uses	Playing fields	Baseball, softball, football, soccer, cricket, lacrosse
	Outdoor courts	Basketball, tennis, volleyball
	Outdoor court games	Bocce ball, four square court, tetherball, shuffleboard
	Outdoor course games	Croquet, frisbee golf
	Other outdoor sports	Archery, batting cages, in-line hockey rink, sand volleyball, skate park
Leisure uses		Pavilion/band shell/stage, picnic tables/grills, dog parks, exercise course, playground equipment, ADA accessible trails, natural or hard surface trails
Public uses		Farm museum, railroad community museum, museum about black communities established by former slaves after the Civil War

Some people at the meeting did not fill out the questionnaire because they are not members of the Boyds Civic Association and/or because they do not live in the Lower Seneca Basin Planning Area.

**Data**

Twenty-six people at the meeting returned a questionnaire. Their choices were as follows:

Table 2 Respondents' park use choices on the meeting questionnaire (q# = questionnaire number)

Park use	q 1	q 2	q 3	q 4	q 5	q 6	q 7	q 8	q 9	q 10	q 11	q 12	q 13	q 14	q 15	q 16	q 17	q 18	q 19	q 20	q 21	q 22	q 23	q 24	q 25	q 26
ADA accessible trails	1		3																							
Archery																	2	2								
Baseball																								1		
Basketball				3													2							2		
Batting cages																	3									
Bocce ball	3																									
Community conservation park*											2															
Cricket						1	1			3									1							
Exercise course			2	1							2															3
Former-slave communities museum							2																			
Hopscotch*																									3	
In-line hockey rink													3													
Natural or hard surface trails		1			3	2		1	1		2	3	3	3	1	1			1		1	2		2		
Other museums*																						3				
Pavilion/band shell/ stage					1								2													
Picnic tables/grills					2					1	1		1		2	3				2	2					1
Railroad communities museum																							3			
Rock climbing*																	3									
Sand volleyball																						3				
Senior/multi-generational playground*	2		1			3				2	3	1		1									1		1	
Skate park				2																	3					
Softball															2											
Target practice range*																		1								
Tennis																	1									2
Tetherball																		3								

One respondent (q17) did not make any specific choices, three respondents (q2, q8, and q9) made only one choice, and one respondent made only two choices (q7). Uses that were not on the questionnaire and were written in by the respondent are marked with an asterisk (\*).

**Results**

Overall, there were 25 park uses that at least one person chose for a first, second, or third choice, as follows:

Table 3 Uses that questionnaire respondents picked as first, second, and third choices

Park uses	Number of #1 picks	Number of #2 picks	Number of #3 picks	Number of total picks
ADA accessible trails	1	0	1	2
Archery	0	2	0	2
Baseball	1	0	0	1
Basketball	0	2	1	3
Batting cages	0	0	1	1
Bocce ball	0	0	1	1
Community conservation park	0	1	0	1
Cricket	3	0	1	4
Exercise course	1	2	1	4
Former slave communities museum	0	1	0	1
Hopscotch	0	0	1	1
In-line hockey rink	0	0	1	1
Natural or hard surface trails	7	4	4	15
Other museums	0	0	1	1
Pavilion/band shell/ stage	1	1	0	2
Picnic tables/grills	4	4	1	9
Railroad communities museum	0	0	1	1
Rock climbing	0	0	1	1
Sand volleyball	0	0	1	1
Senior/multigenerational playground	5	2	2	9
Skate park	0	1	1	2
Softball	0	1	0	1
Target practice range	1	0	0	1
Tennis	1	1	0	2
Tetherball	0	0	1	1
Total choices	25	22	21	68

Out of all of the park uses either on the questionnaire or written in by a respondent, the leading park usages by rank were natural hard surface trails, picnic tables/grills, and senior/multigenerational playground:

Table 4 Park usages in the top three ranks from the questionnaire

Park uses	Rank for #1 choice	Rank for #2 choice	Rank for #3 choice	Rank for total picks
Natural or hard surface trails	1	1	1	1
Picnic tables/grills	3	1	3	2
Senior/multigenerational playground	2	3	2	2

## **Discussion**

People at the BCA special meeting brought up two main ideas:

- Development of the Boyds Local Park, if there is any, should be low impact and consistent with the idea of "Boyds, Home In the Country".

- Development of the Boyds Local Park should take change and future generations' needs into account, as well as the present.

The preferences for trails, picnic tables/grills, and a senior/multigenerational playground reflect these ideas.

Trails and picnic tables were the lowest-impact use on the questionnaire, and several people said that they specifically supported trails for this reason. How would trails and picnic tables work in an otherwise undeveloped park that is currently farmed and already has the Hoyles Mill Trail between South Germantown Recreational Park and Black Hill Regional Park? The trail supporters said that they currently use the Hoyles Mill Trail for exercise. A new trail that loops around the park periphery might serve that purpose as well. In addition, a paved trail would serve people who prefer to use paved trails, for example people with strollers or runners who like to run on pavement. The Hoyles Mill Trail is unpaved in and near the Boyds Local Park, and the closest paved trails in the area are at Black Hill Regional Park. On the other hand, paved trails are a higher-impact use than unpaved trails.

A senior or multigenerational playground is also a relatively low-impact use, compared to playing fields, and would also account for change and future generations' needs. Recreational and park facilities for senior citizens will become increasingly important as people live longer and the proportion of older people in the population increases. There are currently no multigenerational playgrounds in Montgomery County.

## **ON-LINE SURVEY**

### **Methodology**

BCA conducted an on-line survey via Survey Monkey between June 3 and June 11, 2015. On June 3, BCA sent an e-mail with a link to the survey to everybody on the BCA e-mail list. There were also survey responses from people who are not on the BCA e-mail list; presumably they received the link to the survey from people on the BCA e-mail list.

The text of the e-mail explained that the purpose of the on-line survey was to gather information about BCA community members' preferences for park uses in the Boyds Local Park.

The instructions for completing the survey were that each person in a household may complete their own survey (one person, one vote) and that a person should also complete the on-line survey if they completed the questionnaire at the BCA special meeting the previous week.

The e-mail included a link to a regional map that shows the location of the Boyds Local Park ([http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkTrails/trails\\_MAPS/trailmap\\_pdfs/hoylesmill\\_trail.pdf](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkTrails/trails_MAPS/trailmap_pdfs/hoylesmill_trail.pdf)). The e-mail also had an appended map of the Lower Seneca Basin Planning Area, surrounding planning areas, and major roads, lakes, and streams.

The survey consisted of an introductory screen and ten questions. The text on the introductory screen was, "Do you live in the Lower Seneca Planning Area? If so, please complete this survey

to provide information on the facilities and uses you would like to have, if the Parks Department were to put park facilities at the Boyds Local Park. The purpose of the survey is to answer the question, "If the Parks Department were to put park facilities at the Boyds Local Park, what park facilities would you prefer to have?" Each member of your household may complete a survey. If you do not live in the Lower Seneca Planning Area, please do not complete this survey."

The questions were as follows:

1.\* Local Parks typically have one or two playing fields. If the Parks Department put playing fields at the Boyds Local Park, which ONE of these sports would you MOST prefer?

- Baseball/softball
- Cricket
- Football,
- Lacrosse
- Soccer

2. If there is a sport with playing fields that you would prefer more than baseball/softball, cricket, football, lacrosse, or soccer, please put the name of the sport in the comment box.

3.\* Local Parks often have one or two recreational courts. If the Parks Department put recreational courts at the Boyds Local Park, which ONE of these court games would you MOST prefer?

- Basketball
- Bocce ball
- Croquet
- Four square
- Shuffleboard
- Tennis
- Tetherball
- Volleyball/sand volleyball

4. If there is a court game that you would prefer more than basketball, bocce ball, croquet, four square, shuffleboard, tennis, tetherball, or volleyball/sand volleyball, please put the name of the court game in the comment box.

5.\* Local Parks can provide facilities for other recreational uses. If the Parks Department put other recreational uses at the Boyds Local Park, which ONE of these recreational uses would you MOST prefer?

- Archery
- Batting cages
- Frisbee golf
- In-line hockey rink/skate park

6. If there is a recreational use you would prefer more than archery, batting cages, frisbee golf, or in-line hockey rink/skate park, please put the name of the recreational use in the comment box.

7.\* Local Parks typically have facilities for leisure uses. If the Parks Department put leisure uses at the Boyds Local Park, which ONE of these leisure uses would you MOST prefer?

- Dog park
- Exercise course
- Pavilion/band shell/stage
- Playground for all ages (including seniors)
- Playground for children
- Trails

8. If there is a leisure use you would prefer more than a dog park, exercise course, pavilion/band shell/stage, playground for all ages (including seniors), playground for children, or trails, please put the leisure use in the comment box.

9.\* If the Parks Department put park facilities at the Boyds Local Park, which ONE of these facilities/uses would you most prefer?

- Court sports (basketball, tennis, volleyball/sand volleyball)
- Circular/oval playing fields (cricket)
- Rectangular playing fields (football, lacrosse, soccer)
- Diamond playing fields (baseball/softball)
- Games without courts (archery, batting cages, frisbee golf, Recreational non-court games)
- Court games (bocce ball, croquet, four square, shuffleboard, tetherball)
- In-line hockey rink/skate park
- Pavilion/band shell/stage
- Dog park
- Playground (for all ages or children)/exercise course
- Trails
- Other, please specify

10. Name, e-mail address, phone number

For questions marked with an asterisk, the respondent had to choose a facility/use in order to move to the next question and complete the survey, and the choices appeared in random order.

## **Data and results**

### **Response selection criteria**

Survey responses were selected for inclusion in the analysis if they met the following criteria:

1. The survey response included responses to all questions that required responses, AND
2. The survey response did not include an identifiable name as a response to question 10 AND the IP address was in Maryland or DC, OR
3. The survey response included an identifiable name as a response to question 10 AND
  - a. the respondent lives in the Boyds Master Plan area AND/OR

- b. the respondent lives in the Lower Seneca Basin Planning Area.

There were 88 survey responses with responses to all questions that required responses.

18 survey responses did not provide an identifiable name. Of those responses, 14 responses had IP addresses in Maryland or DC, according to <http://whatismyipaddress.com/ip-lookup>. Four responses (22%) were excluded for not meeting the second criterion, with IP addresses in Riverside, New Jersey; Augusta, Georgia; Greensboro, North Carolina, and Bogotá, Colombia.

Of the 70 survey responses with an identifiable name, 26 survey responses (37%) were excluded for not meeting the third criterion (response to question 10 and living in the Boyds Master Plan area and/or the Lower Seneca Basin Planning Area), based on a search at [www.whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com) of names associated with addresses.

Obviously, it was not possible to determine whether survey responses without identifiable names came from respondents who live in the Boyds Master Plan and/or Lower Seneca Basin Planning Area. It would have been possible to determine whether survey responses with identifiable names had IP addresses in Maryland or DC, but this was not done.

The final data set consists of 44 survey responses with an identifiable name ("named responses") and 14 survey responses without an identifiable name ("unnamed responses"), for a total of 58 survey responses ("combined responses").

Are there systematic differences in park use choices between named and unnamed responses, and if so, what effect do these differences have on the park use choices in the combined responses? The three groups' park use choices are as follows:

Table 5 Comparison of park use choices for named, unnamed, and combined responses

Park facilities/uses	Named	# Named	Unnamed	# Unnamed	Combined	# combined
Playing fields (Q1)	Baseball/softball	23	Baseball/softball	3	Baseball/softball	26
	Soccer	9	Soccer	5	Soccer	14
	Cricket	9	Cricket	2	Cricket	11
	Lacrosse	3	Lacrosse	1	Lacrosse	4
	Football	0	Football	3	Football	3
Recreational courts (Q3)	Tennis	20	Tennis	3	Tennis	23
	Volleyball	7	Volleyball	3	Volleyball	10
	Basketball	4	Basketball	3	Basketball	7
	Bocce ball	4	Bocce ball	2	Bocce ball	6
	Croquet	4	Croquet	0	Croquet	4
	Four square	2	Four square	1	Four square	3
	Tetherball	2	Tetherball	0	Tetherball	2
	Shuffleboard	1	Shuffleboard	2	Shuffleboard	3
Other recreational uses (Q5)	Frisbee golf	19	Frisbee golf	1	Frisbee golf	20
	Archery	12	Archery	4	Archery	17
	Hockey/skate	8	Hockey/skate	6	Hockey/skate	14
	Batting cages	5	Batting cages	2	Batting cages	7
Leisure uses (Q7)	Multigen. play.	19	Multigen. play.	2	Multigen. play.	21
	Exercise course	7	Exercise course	3	Exercise course	10

Park facilities/uses	Named	# Named	Unnamed	# Unnamed	Combined	# combined
	Pavilion etc.	7	Pavilion etc.	2	Pavilion etc.	9
	Trails	7	Trails	4	Trails	11
	Child play.	3	Child play.	1	Child play.	4
	Dog park	1	Dog park	2	Dog park	3
Overall uses (Q9)	Playgr./exercise	16	Playgr./exercise	2	Playgr./exercise	18
	Trails	10	Trails	4	Trails	14
	Court sports	4	Court sports	2	Court sports	6
	Pavilion etc.	4	Pavilion etc.	1	Pavilion etc.	5
	No-court rec.	3	No-court rec.	1	No-court rec	4
	Court games	2	Court games	0	Court games	2
	Other	2	Other	1	Other	3
	Cricket	1	Cricket	1	Cricket	2
	Dog park	1	Dog park	1	Dog park	2
	Hockey/skate	1	Hockey/skate	0	Hockey/skate	1
	Rectang. fields	0	Rectang. fields.	1	Rectang. fields	1

Compared to the named responses, the unnamed responses slightly favored soccer and favored baseball/softball much less for playing fields (Q1), favored tennis much less for court games (Q3), favored frisbee golf less for other recreational uses (Q5), and favored multigenerational playgrounds much less for leisure and overall use (Q7, Q9). However, the ranking of the choices is the same for the named responses and the combined responses for the top ranks for all five questions, with one exception: for leisure uses (Q7), for the named responses, multigenerational playground was #1 and exercise course, pavilion/band shell/stage, and trails were #2 with 7 responses each, whereas for the combined responses, although multigenerational playground was likewise #1, trails were #2 with 11 responses, exercise course was #3 with 10 responses, and pavilion/band shell/stage was #4 with 9 responses.

Table 6 Comparison of top park use choices for named and combined responses

Park facilities/uses	Named responses	# Named responses	Combined responses	# Combined responses
Playing fields (Q1)	Baseball/softball	23	Baseball/softball	26
	Soccer	9	Soccer	14
	Cricket	9	Cricket	11
Recreational courts (Q3)	Tennis	20	Tennis	23
	Volleyball	7	Volleyball	10
Other recreational uses (Q5)	Frisbee golf	19	Frisbee golf	20
	Archery	12	Archery	17
Leisure uses (Q7)	Multigen. play.	19	Multigen. play.	21
	Trails	7	Trails	11
	Exercise course	7	Exercise course	10
	Pavilion etc.	7	Pavilion etc.	9
Overall uses (Q9)	Playgr./exercise	16	Playgr./exercise	18
	Trails	10	Trails	14

Because some aspects of the two sets of responses seem to be different, the following analysis will examine the results for just the named survey responses as well as for the combined survey responses.

## Playing fields

Table 7 Summary of leading choices for playing fields

Playing field use	Playing field question (Q1), named (n=44)	Playing field question (Q1), combined (n=58)	Overall most preferred use (Q9), named (n=44)	Overall most preferred use (Q9), combined (n=58)
Baseball/softball	23	26	0	0
Soccer	9	14	0	1
Cricket	9	11	1	2

The leading most preferred choice for playing fields in the first question (Q1) was baseball/softball among both named and combined survey responses. The second most preferred choice for playing fields was soccer.

Importantly for the Department of Parks's site selection study for cricket fields, in BCA's on-line survey, cricket accounted for only 9 of 44 named responses and 11 of 58 combined responses; that is, 35 of 44 named responses and 47 of combined responses did not prefer cricket as the playing field use for the Boyds Local Park.

In addition, of the 9 named responses that chose cricket for the playing field (Q1), none chose cricket as the overall most preferred use (Q9). Only two responses (one named, one unnamed) chose cricket as the overall most preferred use. The named response that chose cricket as the overall most preferred use chose baseball/softball for the playing field.

Of the additional ideas for playing fields in the second question (Q2), only one response is relevant: "something with no nighttime lighting, the least noise and fewest cars". The rest of the responses are either not for playing fields or are for choices that are already specifically included in the first question.

## Recreational courts

Table 8 Summary of leading choices for recreational courts

Recreational court use	Recreational court question (Q3), named (n=44)	Recreational court question (Q3), combined (n=58)	Overall most preferred use (Q9), named (n=44)	Overall most preferred use (Q9), combined (n=58)
Tennis	20	23	3	3
Volleyball	7	10	0	1
Basketball	4	7	1	2
Bocce ball	4	6	2	2

The leading most preferred choice among the eight choices for recreational courts in the third question (Q3) was tennis, among both named and combined survey responses. The second most preferred choice for recreational courts was volleyball/sand volleyball.

For overall most preferred use (Q9), there were two choices for recreational courts: court sports (basketball, tennis, volleyball/sand volleyball) and court games (bocce ball, croquet, four square, shuffle board, tetherball). For this analysis, the respondent's choice for recreational court use (Q3) was imputed to be the specific court sport/court game chosen for a grouped overall most preferred use (Q9). For example, four named responses chose court sports as overall most preferred use (Q9); of these, three chose tennis for recreational court use (Q3), and the fourth chose basketball. Similarly, two named responses chose court games as overall most preferred use (Q9); both chose bocce ball for recreational court use (Q3).

Of the additional ideas for recreational court games in the fourth question (Q4), two responses are relevant: badminton (from two named responses, both from the same household) and horseshoes (from one named response). Ping pong and racquetball, two other responses in the fourth question, are not suitable for outdoor courts.

### Other recreational uses

Table 9 Summary of choices for other recreational use

Other recreational use	Other recreational use question (Q5), named (n=44)	Other recreational use question (Q5), combined (n=58)	Overall most preferred use (Q9), named (n=44)	Overall most preferred use (Q9), combined (n=58)
Frisbee golf	19	20	0	0
Archery	12	17	2	3
In-line hockey rink/skate park	8	14	1	1

The leading most preferred choice among the four choices for other recreational use in the fifth question (Q5) was frisbee golf, among both named and combined survey responses. The second most preferred choice for playing fields was archery.

For overall most preferred use (Q9), there were two choices for other recreational uses: games without courts (archery, batting cages, frisbee golf) and in-line hockey rink/skate park. As above, the respondent's choice for other recreational use (Q5) was imputed to be the specific other recreational use chosen for a grouped overall most preferred use (Q9). For example, three named responses chose games without courts as overall most preferred use (Q9); of these, two chose archery for other recreational use (Q5). The third chose batting cages.

Of the additional ideas for other recreational uses in the sixth question (Q6), three responses are relevant: hopscotch (although arguably a court game), golf, and a shooting range for rifles and handguns. All three ideas come from named responses. Darts are not suitable for outdoors, and the other the rest of the responses either do not belong in this category of park use or are for choices that are already specifically included in other questions.

## Leisure uses

Table 10 Summary of choices for leisure use

Leisure use	Leisure use question (Q7), named (n=44)	Leisure use question (Q7), combined (n=58)	Overall most preferred use (Q9), named (n=44)	Overall most preferred use (Q9), combined (n=58)
Multigenerational playground	19	21	14	15
Trails	7	11	10	14
Exercise course	7	10	2	4
Pavilion/band shell/stage	7	9	4	5

The leading most preferred choice for leisure use in the seventh question (Q7) was multigenerational playground, among both named and combined survey responses. (In addition, three named responses and four combined responses chose playground for children.) The next-leading most preferred choices were trails, exercise course, and pavilion/band shell/stage.

For overall most preferred use (Q9), there were four choices for other recreational uses: pavilion/band shell/stage, dog park, playground (for all ages or children)/exercise course, and trails. As above, the respondent's choice for leisure use (Q5) was imputed to be the specific leisure chosen for a grouped overall most preferred use (Q9).

Note that more respondents chose trails as overall most preferred (Q9) than as leisure use (Q7). That is the result of two named respondents who chose multigenerational playground as leisure use (Q7) but trails as overall most preferred use (Q9), and one named respondent who chose playground for children as leisure use (Q7) but trails as overall most preferred use (Q9). However, most of the respondents who chose multigenerational playground for leisure use (Q7) also chose playground/exercise course for overall most preferred use (Q9). (For the other respondents who chose multigenerational playground for leisure use (Q7), the overall most preferred uses (Q9) volleyball/sand volleyball, tennis, archery, and batting cages, each with one response, and trails, with two responses.)

There were no relevant additional ideas for leisure uses in the eighth question (Q8). However, one named response suggested the idea of a walking circuit with a meditation maze in the second, fourth, and sixth questions.

## Overall preferred park facilities/uses

Table 11 Summary of overall most preferred park uses

Overall most preferred use	Actual or imputed overall most preferred use (Q9), named (n=44)	Actual or imputed overall most preferred use (Q9), combined (n=58)
Multigenerational playground	14	15
Trails	10	14
Pavilion band/shell stage	4	5
Tennis	3	3
Archery	2	3
Bocce ball	2	2
Exercise course	2	4
Basketball	1	2
Batting cages	1	1
Cricket	1	2
Dog park	1	2
Grills/picnic tables	1	1
In-line hockey rink/skate park	1	1
Playground for children	1	1
Driving range	0	1
Soccer	0	1
Volleyball	0	1

The leading choice for overall most preferred park use among both named and combined responses was playground/exercise course, followed by trails, with court sports in third place. Again, the respondent's choice for a specific use (Q1, Q3, Q5, Q7) was imputed to their choice for overall most preferred use (Q9) where the choices for overall most preferred use were grouped (for example, "court sports (basketball, tennis, volleyball/sand volleyball)"). The relevant additional ideas for most preferred use (under "Other, please specify") were grills/picnic tables and a driving range.

## Discussion

### Named vs. unnamed responses

The survey did not require names so that respondents would be able to respond anonymously. However, anonymous responses made it impossible to exclude responses from respondents who live outside the Lower Seneca Basin Planning Area and/or the Boyds Master Plan area. It is clear in retrospect that the survey should have required names and addresses from all survey respondents.

The leading choices in each category were the same for named and combined responses, mostly because there were a lot more named (N=44) than unnamed (N=14) responses. Where there is a big difference between the named responses and the combined responses in proportion of responses for a most preferred use (e.g., 19/44 choices for multigenerational playground (43%) among named responses for leisure use, compared to 21/58 (36%) among combined responses),

the named responses probably better reflect the desires of the residents of the Lower Seneca Basin Planning Area and/or the Boyds Master Plan area.

### **Cricket**

The survey results very clearly show that the respondents do not prefer cricket fields as a use for the Boyds Local Park. None of the responses that chose cricket as the most preferred playing field (Q1) chose cricket as the most preferred overall use (Q9). Only one named and one unnamed response chose cricket as the most preferred overall use (Q9), and the named response chose baseball/softball, rather than cricket, as the most preferred playing field (Q1). If the Boyds Local Park is to be for the residents of the Lower Seneca Planning Area, as the Boyds Master Plan calls for, then the survey results do not support cricket fields at the Boyds Local Park.

### **Other uses**

In addition to the respondents' non-preference for cricket, the tiny number of responses (1 of 44 named responses and 3 of 58 combined responses) that chose any kind of playing field for most preferred use (Q9) suggests that many respondents may prefer not to have any playing fields in the Boyds Local Park. That is, a question asking "Do you want the Department of Parks to put playing fields at the Boyds Local Park?" would probably have received a majority of "no" responses from these survey respondents.

For recreational court uses, there were 3 responses (all named) in favor of tennis as the overall preferred use, as well as 2 responses (both named) in favor of bocce ball. According to the Montgomery parks facility directory at <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/search/parks-search.php>, there are currently no parks in the Montgomery County Department of Parks that have bocce ball courts. There are tennis courts at Owens Local Park in Beallsville, which is the closest rural Local Park.

For other recreational uses, although frisbee golf was the most preferred use in the question about other recreational uses (Q5), no respondent chose frisbee golf for most preferred use (Q9). This suggests that the respondents are not enthusiastic supporters of frisbee golf at the Boyds Local Park. While the parks facility directory does not show any parks in the Montgomery County Department of Parks that have frisbee golf, Seneca Creek State Park (also on Clopper Road) has a 32-acre, 27-hole frisbee golf course. For the second-ranked most preferred other recreational use, namely archery, there were two named responses and one unnamed response that chose archery as the overall most preferred use (Q9); however, Montgomery County already has an archery range at the nearby South Germantown Recreation Park.

For leisure uses, there was strong support for a multigenerational playground. As discussed above in the section on the questionnaire, there are currently no multigenerational playgrounds in Montgomery County. There may not even be any multigenerational playgrounds in all of Maryland. There was also strong support for trails. As with the playing fields, the support for trails may indicate respondents' desire for low-impact uses at the Boyds Local Park. Finally, there was support for a pavilion/band shell/stage, but it is not clear what purpose this facility could serve without electricity, running water, and event parking.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The results of the questionnaire and the on-line survey both show that there is very little desire or demand for cricket fields at the Boyds Local Park among the residents of the Lower Seneca Basin Planning Area and the Boyds Local Park who responded to the questionnaire and/or survey. Because the Boyds Master Plan is still the controlling document, and the Boyds Master Plan says that the Boyds Local Park is for the residents of the Lower Seneca Basin Planning area, these results suggest that the Department of Parks should remove the Boyds Local Park from its list of possible sites for cricket fields in the I-270 corridor area.

What park uses do the results of the questionnaire and the on-line survey support? Assuming that a "local park" designation means playing fields, one possibility would be a baseball diamond (topography and geology permitting), a few tennis courts, a multigenerational playground with exercise opportunities for senior citizens, and a paved loop trail around the park periphery with additional exercise equipment. The front slope of the park site (from Clopper Road south to the first ridge) would remain in agricultural use, reflecting the respondents' wishes for low-impact park development; all of the park uses except perhaps the peripheral trail would be located south of the ridge, preserving the appearance of the rural character of Boyds.

After the Department of Parks removes the Boyds Local Park from its list of possible sites for cricket fields, a useful next step would be a charrette for the community, with park designers available to help residents visualize the various possible options.