

# Semi-Annual Report





Fall 2012

# Semi-Annual Report



**P**resident Berliner and Members of the Council:

It is my pleasure to summarize the latest efforts of the Planning Department and Department of Parks in our fall 2012 semi-annual report.

We have worked hard over the last six months to stay on track with our ambitious work programs, which we have detailed in the pages that follow.

Jointly, representatives from the Planning Board, Planning Department and Department of Parks worked on the Program of Requirements for the proposed headquarters move. The POR work included beginning discussions with the Department General Services, and getting information from our division chiefs and department heads for the architectural consultant that both we and DGS are working with on the POR. We plan to bring you an update on that process in late November.



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Similarly, staff from both Planning and Parks participated in a process to improve school site selection with the Department of Education. The joint Park & Planning, MCPS, Council and County Executive staff working group continued to meet last spring, followed by briefings to the Planning Board and the Board of Education and a presentation to the two bodies at our annual joint meeting in July. At the joint meeting, we had a very productive discussion among board members and decided to accept our staffs' recommendations to pursue a countywide public facility co-location study, to include a functional master plan and operational recommendations. The next task for the joint working group is to craft a proposal for such a study to present to the Council.

At the Planning Department, we rolled up our sleeves and accomplished much since last spring. Highlights included delivering the 2012 Subdivision Staging Policy, including a new traffic test. The Transportation Policy Area Review (TPAR) test provides tools to match funding of improvements where growth pressure is highest.

In August, we transmitted the Planning Board draft of the Burtonsville Crossroads Neighborhood Plan. The plan emphasizes a complete community with a main street, public green and village center, yet retains the area's rural character.

Working with our consultant, we made progress on the Countywide Transit Corridors project, which will occupy much of the Planning Board's time in the coming months.

And perhaps our biggest task over the last six months, as well as the next four, is advancing the Zoning Code Rewrite Project. Staff created a consolidated draft of all of the revised sections of the code, put it out for public review, and will be bringing each section to the Planning Board for discussion throughout the fall. We plan to transmit the draft Code to the Council in December.

Learn more about these projects and other Planning Department work in the front half of this report.

We are very excited to announce that M-NCPPC has been nominated by the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) for its sixth National Gold Medal for Excellence in the Field of Park and Recreation Management! We are the only agency in the entire country to have been awarded this honor five times so far, and a sixth nomination speaks volumes about the professionalism and dedication of our Parks staff. The winner will be announced in October at the NRPA Annual Congress. We'll keep you posted!

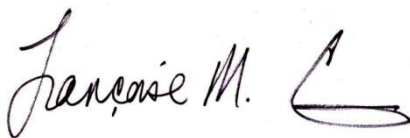
Speaking of medals, 2012 Summer Olympic Bronze medalist Nick McCrory was one of the Olympians who received training at the new dryland diving training facility in Wall Park prior to the 2012 Games in London. This training facility, now available to the thousands of County youth participating in aquatic and dive programs, is the Department of Parks' latest public-private partnership, paid for in full by the partner, the Montgomery Dive Club, and approved by the Planning Board in June.

We are pleased to report that the Montgomery County Parks Foundation (MCPF) has made great strides over the past six months, generating more than \$150,000 in private contributions on behalf of the Department of Parks through various charitable programs and awaiting decisions on five new grant proposals with an anticipated value of \$370,000 (\$300,000 of which is private funding). Foundation staff and Parks staff are exploring additional future funding sources as well, and we'll continue to keep you informed as new programs develop.

One of the Department of Parks' biggest challenges over the next six months will be complying with the requirements mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) Consent Decree. These mandates represent a significant amount of additional work for the Department that will be challenging to balance with the regular workload supported by a reduced workforce.

We look forward to sharing our other accomplishments and discussing these and other issues at the semi-annual presentation on October 9.

Respectfully submitted,

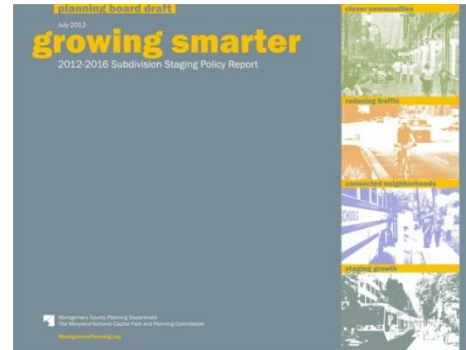
A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Françoise M. Carrier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "C" at the end.

Françoise M. Carrier  
Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board  
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

## planning

Throughout 2012, the Planning Department has advanced many projects that have a real impact on Montgomery County's quality of life.

Last summer, the Planning Board transmitted the 2012 Subdivision Staging Policy, formerly called the Growth Policy, following a number of worksessions with staff. By matching vital services like transportation and schools to growth, the policy outlines what infrastructure should be provided to support anticipated growth and provides a framework to calculate associated development fees. (see page 9)



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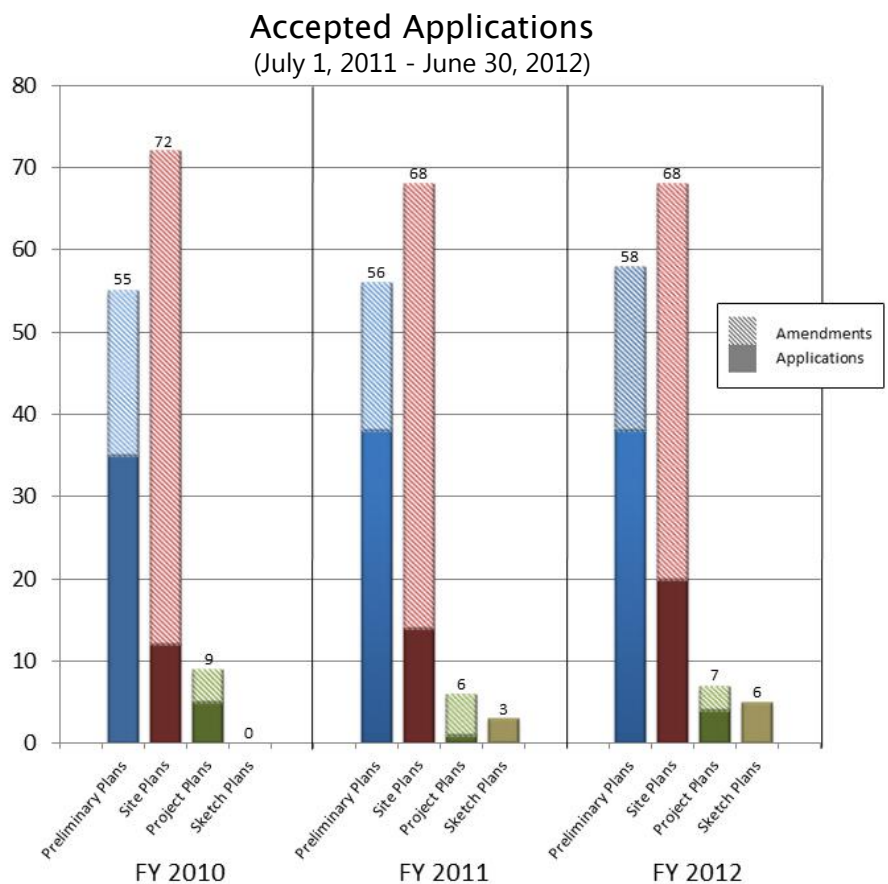
Work continues on the Countywide Rapid Transit Study. Planners are working to identify the routes and how they should be configured. Planning Board sessions on staff preliminary recommendations will begin in November. (see page 9)

Community planning efforts occurred throughout the three area teams. In Area 3, the Planning Board transmitted the Burtsonville Crossroads Neighborhood Plan for County Council review. (See page 7)

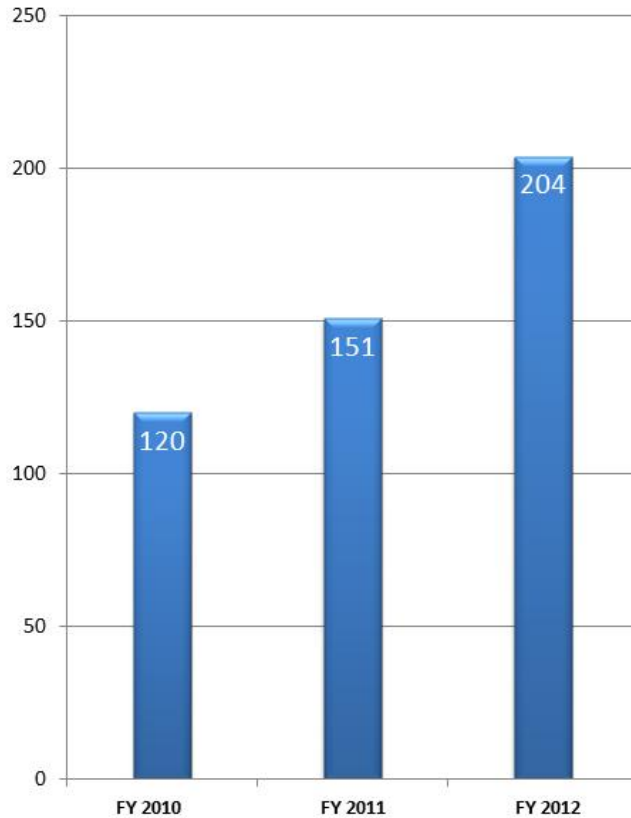
Major advancements occurred on the Zoning Rewrite Project, which is now in a consolidated draft review stage. (see page 9)

## applications

Staff in the Department's Development Applications and Regulatory Review Division analyzed FY12 application submittals and report that the number of submitted projects has remained fairly constant over the last three years. This was particularly true with respect to preliminary, project and site plans, as well as forest conservation plans. However, the number of record plats accepted increased by more than a third.

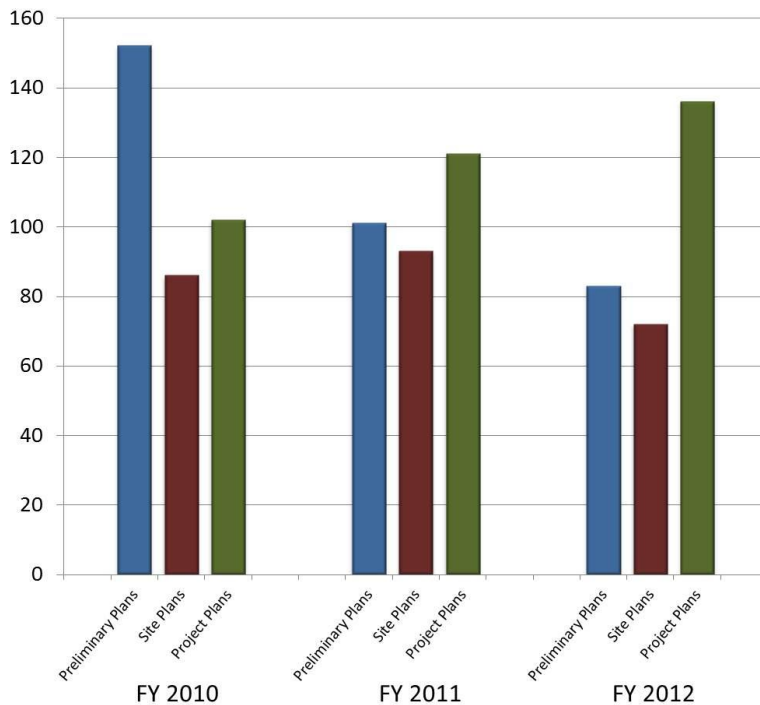


## Record Plats



The number of submitted record plats, the last step for developers before they apply for building permits, continued to rise. The increase might be attributed to County Council action that extended the preliminary plan validity period to April 2013, or it might be related to an increased demand for new houses.

## Review Time (days)



Planners reviewing development applications continued to process applications efficiently. Countywide streamlining efforts underway jointly with the County Executive's office are expected to further improve review times.

Planning staff ran training sessions for future users of ePlans, the electronic submittal system to come online this fall. The application makes it easy for users at all technical skill levels to communicate throughout the review process. All project information is centralized, visible and accessible to all users, so multiple reviewers at Park & Planning and other agencies can access the information simultaneously. The new software is integrated with the Department's existing database management system and will track the time required for each stage of the review process. Programming is complete for preliminary and site plans, and staff is now accepting a limited number of applications for these file types as part of an initial soft launch phase. Programming for an early winter soft launch for record plat applications is ongoing with the system vendor.

The County Executive and County Council's initiatives to streamline development through inter-agency cooperation continue, and the department continues to participate. We anticipate that these changes will save applicants both time and money and will help make the County more attractive for development.

## master plans

Since the spring semi-annual presentation, planners have made significant progress on master and sector plan drafts. The proposed master plan schedule (see page 12) reflects the Council-approved version from July 2012.

### Burtonsville Community Plan

This neighborhood plan, which emphasizes a complete community with a main street, public green and village center, while retaining the area's rural character, was transmitted to the Council by the Board following a public hearing last spring and a number of summer worksessions. The plan, reflecting input received over more than a year from members of the community, recommends new mixed-use zoning, a series of street and trail connections, and parks and open space to protect the headwaters of the Patuxent River.

### White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan

Planners concluded a series of Citizens Advisory Committee meetings and several community outreach sessions to focus on preliminary plan recommendations, which were presented to the Planning Board last month. The plan will explore options for a new research and biotechnology node that capitalizes on the growing presence of the FDA and is complemented by mixed-use development, as well as the taking fuller advantage of existing development nodes. The Board will hold a public hearing on the draft plan in January 2013.



The White Oak Center is among the nodes being considered as part of the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan in progress.

### Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan

A staff draft of the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan was presented to the Planning Board in July and again in September, when the Board set a public hearing for mid-October. The plan focuses on reinforcing

community assets to create a better town center in a way that fits with the community's character. The plan also introduces new alternatives for getting around in Chevy Chase Lake, including the planned light rail system, the Purple Line.

### Glenmont Sector Plan

After presenting preliminary recommendations to the Planning Board last summer, Glenmont planners are reviewing the Board's input as well as information from three well-attended community visioning sessions, and a consultant's financial feasibility analysis of mixed-use developments in Glenmont. The Glenmont Staff Draft is scheduled for the Planning Board in November, with a public hearing tentatively scheduled for December 20.

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### Long Branch Sector Plan

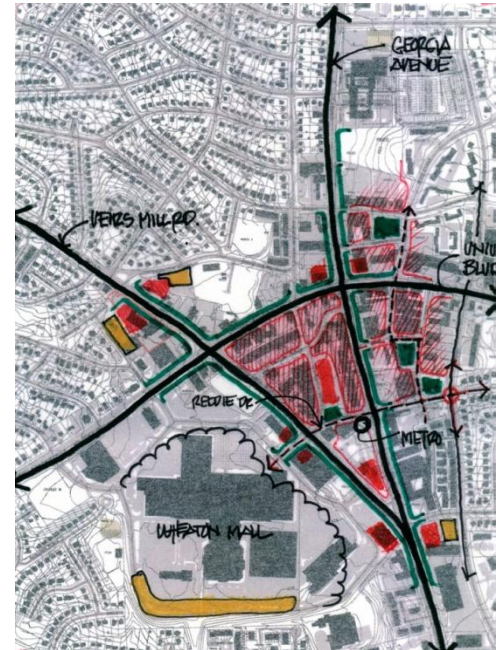
Plan delivery was postponed by the Council last summer during a schedule review. The staff draft of the plan goes to the Planning Board in November. A community meeting held in June will help inform the staff's recommendations.

### Plans for the Future

Plans in progress, such as White Flint 2 and Greater Lyttonsville, were deferred by the Council until 2014 to accommodate the Planning Department's ambitious work schedule. Planners on both projects held well-attended community meetings last spring.

### Wheaton Design Guidelines

Concurrent with the production of the Approved and Adopted Wheaton Sector Plan, staff completed a final version of the Wheaton Design Guidelines, which were approved on September 13 and provide guidance on how future development should enhance the public realm.



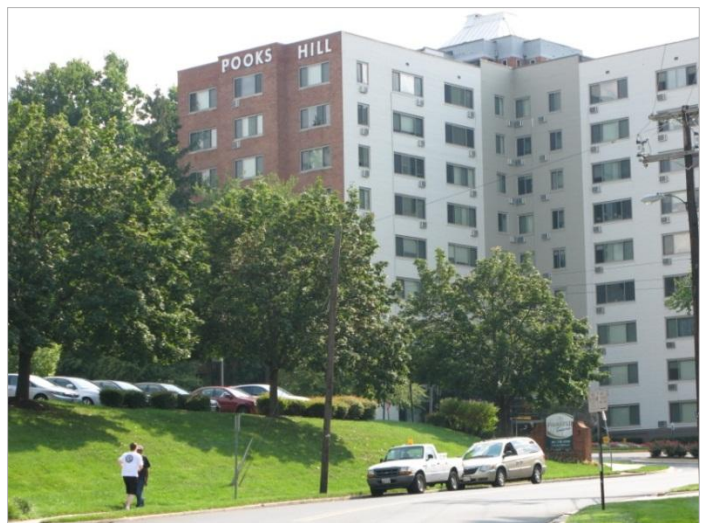
The Wheaton Design Guidelines features recommendations for how to treat the public realm.

### Sectional Map Amendments

In recent months, planners filed sectional map amendments to implement zoning in the Wheaton Sector Plan, the Kensington Sector Plan and the Takoma Langley Crossroads Sector Plan.

### Minor Master Plan Amendments

Montgomery County planners recommended a minor master plan amendment process to respond quickly to current and pressing planning issues facing a community. While typical master plans create a planning framework designed to last 15 to 20 years, minor master plan amendments are smaller and nimbler and can more quickly address potential land use changes and other priorities identified by community stakeholders.



Planners have begun analyzing the Pooks Hill community as part of a Minor Master Plan Amendment.

After posting an online process for application submittal, the Department received three applications in FY12, of which the Council chose two to add to the work program: Pooks Hill and Sandy Spring/Ashton Rural Village. Staff has begun working on the Pooks Hill Minor Master Plan Amendment, delivering a scope of work to the Planning Board in early October and planning a community meeting for early November. The Sandy Spring/Ashton plan amendment is slated to begin early in 2013.

A third application was filed for the 58-acre Halpine properties on Twinbrook Parkway just south of Veirs Mill Road. The Planning Board did not consider this application to be fully consistent with minor master plan review criteria since a major traffic study is needed. Instead, it recommended expanding the boundaries of the Aspen Hill Master Plan area to include these properties. That would allow the implications of a potential rezoning to be thoroughly examined in the context of a complete master plan process.

### Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan of Highways

Transportation planners are working with a consultant to model and analyze ridership forecasts for the 16 transit corridors included in the county Department of Transportation's Countywide Bus Rapid Transit Study, as well as three additional corridors recommended by the Rapid Transit Task Force. Staff and its consultant continue to work on the analysis of the recommendations for right-of-way requirements for the Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan. The modeling component has been enhanced to provide better information on the ridership potential for each corridor, the interface with the local bus network, and the potential for alternative treatments for bus priority. Stakeholder coordination with other agencies and jurisdictions is underway. The preliminary recommendations will be discussed with the communities and presented to the Planning Board in November, with the staff draft scheduled for presentation to the Board in January.

### key initiatives

#### Subdivision Staging and Transportation Tests

The Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP) manages growth over the next four years by setting policies and establishing tests to measure the impact of development. Per the Council, as part of the 2012 SSP, planners introduced the Transportation Policy Area Review traffic test, which analyzes roadway congestion and transit service and provides tools to match funding of improvements with areas where they are most needed. As mandated, staff delivered the draft SSP to the Planning Board in the spring. The Board, in turn, transmitted the SSP draft to the County Council on August 1.

#### Zoning Rewrite Project

Last summer, staff created a consolidated draft of all sections of the revised Zoning Code and posted it for public review online, at several regional service centers and at regional libraries. The Planning Board will discuss sections

of the document throughout the fall in a combination of worksessions – some designed for public input, others for Board-only discussion. All meetings are open to the public, and feedback is



**ZONING MONTGOMERY**

**Zoning Rewrite Project Open Houses**

Planners are rewriting the Zoning Code to modernize antiquated, redundant zoning regulations and create new tools to help achieve goals in community plans. Attend an open house this spring to learn more about:

- what's being considered
- how new zones might apply in your community
- how your community master plan relates to potential zoning changes

Montgomery County Planning Department  
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

April 10: Silver Spring Area  
April 12: East County  
April 16: Bethesda-Chevy Chase  
April 23: Upcounty  
April 24: Mid-County  
May 1: Rockville Area

All meetings run 5-8 p.m. Each Zoning Rewrite Project Open House will provide information on six different master plan areas. View information about which master plans will be featured at each meeting location at [zoningmontgomery.org](http://zoningmontgomery.org)

encouraged through the Zoning Rewrite Project's online comment board. The current schedule calls for delivery of the entire code to the County Council in December.

### CR Incentive Density Guidelines

In July, the Planning Board approved the *Commercial/Residential Zones: Incentive Density Implementation Guidelines* to address the range of benefit options for mixed-use development in the C/R Zone and how the number of points allocated in each case should be calculated. The CR guidelines ensure that developers provide benefits to the community commensurate with their allowed density.

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With a Historic Area Work Permit, owners of this Takoma Park house put on a rear addition and renovated a formerly condemned structure following preservation guidelines.

### Historic Preservation

Historic preservation planners reviewed 77 Historic Area Work Permits in the first half of 2012, down slightly from 2011, but on pace with 2010. They also evaluated 56 tax credit applications, representing more than \$740,000 of investment in historic properties in the county.

### Center for Research & Information Systems

Research staff completed a comprehensive overview of county demographic trends, broken into the five council districts, that were packaged into the Montgomery County Snapshot and Data Atlas publications. Staff produced data analyzing the county's housing, population, and jobs, which was incorporated into the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments latest regional forecast. CRIS researchers completed an analysis of the county's pace and pattern of growth for the 2012 Subdivision Staging Policy. This analysis examined the implications of forecasted growth given the the current supply of vacant land. GIS staff also completed an update for 141 square miles of county

digital mapping information. This planimetric update supplies basic information for an array of features, such as building footprints, airports, sidewalks and parking lots, used in computer-based mapping analysis. GIS staff continued to provide programming support for the integration of ePlans with existing databases and land use monitoring software applications.

## partnerships and collaborations

### Locating Schools with MCPS

The Department worked closely with the county Board of Education on school site selections and the process by which new school sites are located. Recommendations included requiring mandatory referral cases for new school sites before MCPS makes its final selection and for the Planning Department to consider developing a master plan for future county facilities.

### Development Tiers for Septic Systems

The Sustainable Growth & Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012 requires local jurisdictions to establish and adopt growth tiers to control the number of new subdivisions on septic fields. Working quickly to meet a state deadline, staff collaborated with Council staff on the adoption of the required Tiers map and prepared an extensive analysis for a request for exemption from Tier IV requirements for residential subdivisions on septic systems. The request included the adopted map showing the proposed Tier IV area dominated by the Agricultural Reserve, Rural Legacy and heavily forested areas. The analysis highlighted the significant protection for resource uses and development trends that will keep new septic systems below the thresholds.

### Streamlining Development

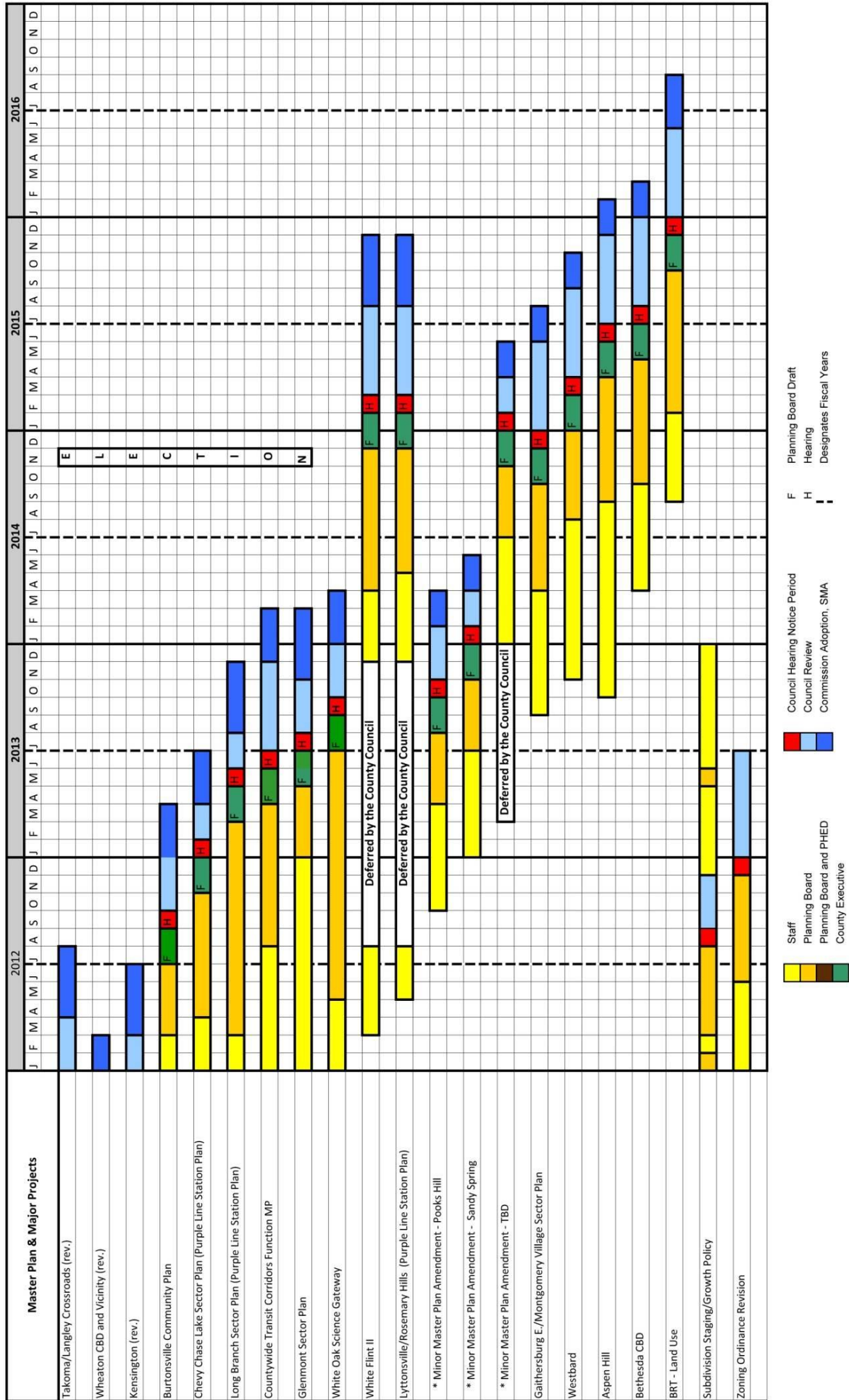
The Planning Department has been actively involved with the interagency streamlining effort initiated by the Department of Permitting Services. This effort has focused on process changes that could be implemented in the short term, without legislative change. Planning Department staff have paid particular attention to how the pre-Development Review Committee (DRC) and DRC processes could be changed to ensure that conflicts are identified earlier and resolved more quickly. Moving intake of Historic Work Permit applications from Rockville to the Planning Department is another substantive change.

The Planning Board has already instituted a significant change related to the resolution process; in the majority of applications, the Board is approving the resolution on the same day that it makes a decision. This single change can reduce the post approval process by up to three months.

### outreach

Community outreach continued to be a priority for the Department. Communications staff co-produced Montgomery Plans cable shows highlighting the Burtonsville Crossroads Neighborhood plan, development application trends, a planner-guided walking tour of the White Oak area, and a segment tying the new Commercial/Residential Zone to agricultural preservation. The communications team continued to maintain and upgrade the award-winning [MontgomeryPlanning.org](http://MontgomeryPlanning.org) webpage, adding features like a captioned, scrolling slide show on the Zoning Rewrite page; a comment blog on the Countywide Rapid Transit page; and colorful animated banners to the home page. Communications staff helped organize and support community meetings for the White Oak Science Gateway, White Flint II and Greater Lyttonsville plans. Finally, staff organized and publicized a Department-wide Open House scheduled for Saturday, October 6 intended to inform the public about the connection between good planning and great communities. The Open House will feature 11 displays staffed by planners on topics including the Zoning Rewrite Project, Countywide Rapid Transit, three community plans and recently approved projects.

# Master Plan and Major Projects Schedule



\* Assumes minor master plan amendments have staggered delivery

## parks

### what we've done

#### storm impacts

Devastating storm damage resulted from the June 29 derecho, with extended closures of many parks and facilities. More than 500 work requests for service were generated, and 200 (or 48%) of our parks required intensive clean-up work – some of which is still ongoing and will be for many months to come. Thousands of fallen trees flattened picnic shelters and closed entire parks including Rock Creek Regional, Cabin John Regional, and Johnson Local. Our runner-up County Champion Linden Tree



snapped in the storm and dropped onto Woodlawn Manor (which fortunately did not suffer any significant structural damage). As of September 19, parks staff had logged in 12,176 hours cleaning up downed trees, limbs and debris, as well as securing structures that were damaged or deemed unsafe as a result of the summer's massive storm.

#### Enterprise Division

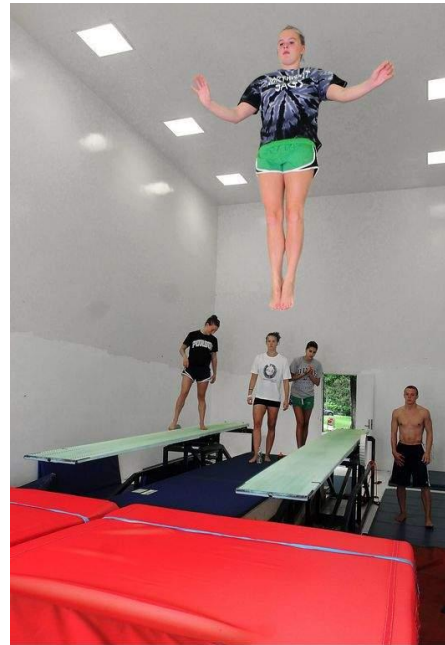
The Enterprise Division continues to operate in the black, with net revenues of \$350,000 in FY12. This was primarily due to increased revenue at the ice rinks, tennis centers and event centers. This summer, more than 1,000 participants signed up for our 72 camp programs, resulting in gross revenues of \$260,550. In May, the Enterprise Division made the final debt payment of \$357,231 on revenue bonds issued to build the Wheaton Ice Arena.

#### Montgomery County Parks Foundation

Since April 2012, the Montgomery County Parks Foundation (MCPF) has raised over \$150,000 in private contributions through the Friends of Montgomery Parks program, tribute benches, bricks and trees, philanthropic and commemorative naming rights and dedications, and restricted gifts for specific Park programs and facilities. In the past five months, MCPF staff have submitted five grant proposals with an anticipated value of more than \$370K (\$300K of which is private funding) and taken over the management and administration of more than \$1.8M in active federal, state, local, and private grants on behalf of Montgomery Parks. In addition, MCPF has secured \$12K in funding from Whole Foods to support our Community Gardens program.

### Public-Private Partnerships

Two recent public-private partnerships were approved by the Planning Board: the Montgomery Dive Club's proposal to convert an underutilized handball court in Wall Park into a dryland diving training facility to support its popular dive and swim programs, and the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail's proposal for the development of a Trail Plaza. The development costs of both projects will be fully funded by the partner. The Wall Park dryland diving training facility was used for training by the U.S. Olympic Diving Team prior to the 2012 Olympics in London, including Nick McCrory, who bronzed in the synchronized 10-meter platform diving event. The CCCT Plaza project will provide users of the trail with a shaded rest area that includes benches, ornamental and shade trees, bike racks, and a water fountain, among other features. Our treetop adventure partner, GoAPE, is working with us to design a complete trail realignment due to the significant damage their course sustained during the derecho event in June. In addition, discussions are underway with County budget staff to identify ways to manage IRS private use restrictions on property acquired or improved with tax-exempt funding, to facilitate and prepare for future partnerships and collaborations with non-governmental organizations.



### Park Activity Buildings

Two of the remaining seven vacant park activity buildings are now under single-tenant leases, successfully removing the burden of maintenance for those structures from the taxpayer. Efforts to find tenants for the remaining five are underway, and separate Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are being prepared for each of the remaining buildings. Revenue generated in FY12 from the rentals of the park activity buildings permitted through the Park Permit Office was up \$68,198 over FY11 numbers, an increase of 14%. This is due to increased marketing efforts which include search engine optimization and the distribution of promotional flyers to elementary and middle schools located around the permitted buildings.

### Cultural Resources

We continue to make great strides restoring and interpreting our county's valuable cultural resources: The History in the Parks program ([www.HistoryintheParks.org](http://www.HistoryintheParks.org)) has been expanded to include the Kingsley School, the Woodlawn Barn Visitors Center RFP for construction will be advertised this fall, and stabilization work continues on the Darby Store. Our newly enhanced interpretive Underground Railroad hikes are now led by talented volunteer "conductors" who lead groups on a simulated "freedom seeker" experience and educate them about the various techniques used to elude trackers, find food, and navigate the way North to freedom.

### Volunteer Services

In FY12, more than 8,000 volunteers contributed the equivalent of 34 work years in 24 distinct program areas supporting a wide variety of programs throughout the parks system. The dollar value of this volunteer activity is estimated at over \$1.5 million.



### Conservation Job Corps

Montgomery Parks is proud to have once again participated in the Conservation Job Corps program this summer. This program works with disadvantaged youth to cultivate the next generation of environmental stewards by teaching them green job and team building skills, and promoting a stewardship ethic and appreciation for Maryland's natural resources. More than 25 youth participated in projects organized by Montgomery Parks staff during the six-week program.

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

We are currently making improvements at 19 parks to resolve access deficiencies specifically identified by the Department of Justice in the Settlement Agreement. A recent audit for the Cabin John and Wheaton Management Areas identifies all access barriers within park properties, facilities and programs; recommends solutions to remove these barriers; and provides a phasing strategy for removing these barriers. We are committed to providing the resources needed to comply with the Settlement Agreement and serve all park patrons. To ensure current and future compliance with the new guidelines, an ADA Project Manager was hired in August. A consultant will be selected to audit all park properties, facilities and programs by 2016 and prepare annual Interim Transition Plans and Site Reports and a Final Transition Plan. In addition to meeting the requirements of the Settlement Agreement, these Transition Plans and Site Reports will serve as a guide to making Montgomery County Parks a national model for recreation accessibility and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.



### Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature

Montgomery Parks is playing a key role in the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature, which provides links between school teachers and administrators and local outdoor environmental education providers. Staff from Brookside Gardens and our Nature Centers participated in the third annual Maryland Green Schools Youth Summit at Sandy Point State Park. Youth participating in the Summit learned about garden pollinators and created their own nature journals.

### National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

In FY 2012 Parks received Water Quality Protection Funding to offset the costs associated with the implementation of Parks' Phase II National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. Recent efforts include the development of educational resources for operations staff to provide a connection between work program duties and stewardship of natural resources, design and implementation of stormwater retrofits and stream restoration projects, and continued support of volunteer efforts in Parks. While many improvements have been initiated under the permit, major challenges remain. Significant improvements to stormwater management facility maintenance and tracking have been initiated; however, further progress is not as rapid as we would hope due to insufficient staffing or contract funding to focus on this



type of specialized maintenance.

### Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) Consent Decree

In 2005, The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) entered into a Consent Decree with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and several Citizens Groups with the purpose of minimizing and eliminating, where possible, sanitary sewer overflows within the WSSC service area. As required in the Consent Decree, WSSC must monitor, inspect, maintain, repair and replace failing infrastructure. Rehabilitation work is currently being inspected and planned in 13 watersheds in Montgomery County and 12 watersheds in Prince George's County. Coordination is occurring with all major government agencies, including Montgomery Parks, the Montgomery Planning Department, MCPS, MCDEP, the US Army Corp of Engineers, MDE, and the Maryland Historic Trust. This project is expected to begin construction before the end of 2012 and be completed by December 2015. WSSC has provided funding for a full-time environmental reviewer and monitor to be assigned to the Construction Section of the Park Development Division, and Parks has recently requested that they fund a second position due to the volume of work to be performed in parks.

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### Completed Capital Improvement Projects and Park Improvements

Montgomery Parks completed or opened eight playgrounds at various parks in FY12, including Wheaton Regional Park, South Germantown Regional Park (near the Miracle League grounds), and the new park at Manor Oaks. The South Germantown Splash Park was expanded to include three party rental areas in response to customer demand. Upgrades to the South Germantown Driving Range facility include a new synthetic turf putting green, a sand trap training area, elevated greens, and an updated club house with restrooms and direct TV.



### Park Dedication and Opening Events

A groundbreaking event for the new Jack Schore TennisPlex was held on April 11, followed just five months later by a very well-attended opening event on September 15 to celebrate this new public-private partnership project. The Germantown Town Center Urban Park groundbreaking was held on May 2. On May 31, Montgomery Parks hosted FEMA's National Dam Safety event at Lake Needwood. The opening of the newly renovated Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park in June was a huge success, and recognized the generous \$70,000 donation made by former NBA All-Star Steve Francis for the improvement of the basketball courts and the dedication of the court and the picnic pavilion. The playground at Norbeck Meadows Park was dedicated on September 8 to Ron Berger in recognition of his many contributions to the county. Following the guidelines established in the new Individual Park Naming and Dedication Policy, the dedication request was supported through gifts from the Greater Olney Civic Association and the Norbeck Meadows Community Association.



### Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) Site Selection

The Montgomery County Planning Board met with the Board of Education in July for a briefing from the workgroup formed to review the current site selection process. Specific topics included MCPS long range enrollment scenarios; the area master plan process as it relates to identification, dedication, or reservation of school sites; preferred size and location of school sites; and park/school co-location. At the July meeting, the two Boards endorsed the recommendation of the interagency work group to pursue a functional plan for the location of all public facilities in the County, including schools, parks, and recreation facilities, among others, in an effort to better manage and balance the future use of public land. The work group will formulate the goals and objectives of such a plan for future consideration.

### Park Recreation and Open Space (PROS) plan update

Building on the findings of *Vision 2030*, the *2012 PROS Plan* includes strategies to guide Montgomery Parks to locate the right mix of park and recreation facilities in the right places. Providing sufficient parks and open space will depend heavily on renovation and repurposing of existing lands and facilities while strategically acquiring new land. Future athletic field recommendations will be based on analyzing existing field use patterns, capacity and user demand to rebalance the existing mix, as well as assessing sites for new or reconfigured fields.



### External Sources of Support

Montgomery Parks is working with the Montgomery County Parks Foundation (MCPF) to identify and leverage funding from private and non-governmental sources. Staff is currently drafting a Corporate Park Naming and Sponsorship Policy to guide the development of a sponsorship program for the park system which will be administered by the Foundation. Efforts are underway to establish “sanctioned” relationships with existing and new Friends Groups to facilitate better coordination on projects, improvements, and fundraising activities that support select park assets and programs. The Foundation will launch Montgomery Park’s first capital campaign to generate a minimum of \$1M in private donations to implement priority development and improvement projects that are currently unfunded in the CIP. A mass annual appeal for Montgomery Parks will be mailed in the spring to generate support for various underfunded programs such as Weed Warriors and cultural and historic programs, among others.

### Deer Management Program

The Annual Deer Report is available online at [www.parksdeermanagement.org](http://www.parksdeermanagement.org) and contains 2011 data and recommendations for the current fiscal year. Managed shotgun hunting will be conducted in eight parks between October 2012 and January 2013. These parks will be closed from sunrise to sunset on hunt days according to a publicized schedule, and park entrances, trails and other high use areas are posted as “Closed” to public access. Park Police-based sharpshooting will be conducted in 25 parks from January 2013 through March 2013, including some new locations. There will be public outreach and a public comment period pertaining to these new locations prior to a final decision on implementation by the Director of Parks.

### Upcoming Openings and Events

In October, Montgomery Parks will celebrate the opening of the Enterprise Division's new Wheaton Sports Pavillion, an active, outdoor event space located in Wheaton Regional Park. This covered 200' x 80' synthetic turf field has been upgraded with new lighting, protective sports netting, bleachers and a sound system, and will be available for rental for community and sports events. The Darnestown Square Heritage Park Opening has been scheduled for October 27, Emancipation Day activities will be hosted at our historic sites on November 3 and 4, and Montgomery Parks staff will be preparing for another run in the Silver Spring Thanksgiving Day Parade on November 22.

### Awards/Recognition

#### Time Team America

Josiah Henson Special Park is one of four sites nationwide that will be featured on a 2013 PBS [Time Team America](#) episode. *Time Team America* shows archaeologists using the latest technology, decades of expertise and their own sharp wits to excavate historic sites. This site was selected because of Reverend Henson's compelling story of his slave experiences on the property as recorded in his 1849 autobiography, written after escaping to Canada. The filming took place August 13-15 and will document the search for evidence of Henson-era structures and related artifacts long lost to suburban development.



#### National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal for Excellence in the Field of Park and Recreation Management

M-NCPPC is pleased to announce it has been nominated for its sixth National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Gold Medal for Excellence in the Field of Park and Recreation Management. M-NCPPC is the only agency in the entire country to have won five of these medals. The winner will be announced at the NRPA Congress in Anaheim in October 2012.



### Parkland Acquisition and Dispositions (list of acreage acquired or disposed)

#### Parkland Acquired Between March 1 – September 1, 2012

- 21.9119 acres were acquired at Great Seneca Stream Valley Park, Unit 6
- 4.433 acres were acquired at Germantown Town Center Urban Park
- 5.04379 acres were acquired at Fairland Recreational Park
- 18.3293 acres were acquired at Serpentine Barrens Conservation Park

Total acquisition during this period is 49.71700 acres

## PARK & TRAIL PLANNING MAJOR PROJECTS SCHEDULE

PARK & TRAIL PLANNING MAJOR PROJECTS SCHEDULE	2 0 1 2					2 0 1 3					2 0 1 4							
	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
	FY -13					FY -14					FY 15							
COUNTY-WIDE PARK and TRAIL PLANS																		
Vision2030 Strategic Plan Implementation																		
Department-wide Implementation Plan Tracking										P								
2012 Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan Implementation																		
Site Selection for Skate Parks, Dog Parks, Community Gardens, Cricket							P				AP							
Athletic Field Study							P				AP							
Service Delivery Strategies: Maintenance Yards, Nature Centers, Park Police Headquarters																AP		
Urban Park Plans																		
Urban Park Guidelines: Definition, Pattern and Hierarchy		AP																
Urban Park Guidelines: Performance, Acquisition, Ownership, Operations				P			S		PH			AP						
White Flint: Wall Park Concept Plan												AP						
White Flint: Civic Green Concept Plan												AP						
Wheaton: Town Square Program of Requirements					P													
Chevy Chase Open Space Concept Plan					AP													
Trail Plans																		
Countywide Park Trails Plan Amendment				P			S		PH			AP						
Area Trail Plans (by Service Area priorities)												I			S		PH	AP
Regional And Recreational Park Plans																		
Northwest Branch Recreational Park MP																		I
Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park MP Limited Amendment												I			S		PH	AP
Wheaton Regional Park MP Amendment												I			S		PH	AP
Agricultural History Farm Park Amendment									I			S		PH		AP		
PROGRAMS OF REQUIREMENT																		
Caroline Freeland Urban Park																		
Farquhar Middle School and Future Local Park																		
MCAD Neighborhood Park																		
PARK, TRAIL, AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS in PLANNING DEPARTMENT PLANS																		
Zoning Ordinance Revision					AP					A								
Countywide Transit Corridors										AP						A		
Minor MP Amend A – Pooks Hill												AP				A		
Minor MP Amendment B – Sandy Spring													AP				A	
Subdivision Staging/Growth Policy					AP						A							
Purple Line Station Area (Long Branch)									AP					A				
Purple Line Station Area (Chevy Chase Lakes)					AP						A							
Purple Line Station Area (Lyttonsville/Rosemary Hills)																		AP
Glenmont Sector Plan										AP					A			
White Oak Science Gateway											AP					A		
White Flint II																		AP
Gaithersburg East/Montgomery Village Sector Plan																	AP	
Burtonsville Community Plan			AP						A									
Westbard																		AP
Aspen Hill																		
Bethesda CBD																		
BRT Land Use																		

<b>COLOR KEY</b>				
<b>P</b> PLANNING BOARD DISCUSSION		<b>PH</b> PUBLIC HEARING	<b>I</b> ISSUES/OBJECTIVES/OUTREACH REPORT	<b>S</b> STAFF DRAFT
		<b>AP</b> PLANNING BOARD APPROVAL		<b>A</b> COUNCIL ADOPTION

## Status of CIP and Master Plan Projects

Fall 2012 Semi-Annual Report: Schedule for Major CIP Projects

PDF	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	BSY
Battery Lane Urban Park									
Brookside Master Plan Implementation									
Darnestown Square Heritage Park									
East Norbeck Local Park									
Evans Parkway Neighborhood Park									
Falls Road Local Park - Parking Lot <sup>1</sup>									
Germantown Town Center Urban Park <sup>2</sup>									
Greenbriar Local Park									
Kemp Mill Urban Park									
Laytonia Recreational Park									
Little Bennett Day Use Area									
Magruder Branch Trail Extension									
M-NCPPC Headquarters Project									
North Four Corners Local Park									
Northwest Branch Recreational Park									
Rock Creek Maintenance Facility <sup>3</sup>									
Warner Circle Special Park (Facility Plan and Design)									
Woodlawn Barn Visitors Center									
Woodside Urban Park									
Woodstock Equestrian Center									

 Design
  Construction
  Procurement or Delay

<sup>2</sup>Delayed construction in an effort to reduce OBI

<sup>1</sup>Delayed construction due to lack of POS funds

<sup>3</sup>Delayed due to fiscal capacity.

### Major Projects Completed in FY12

Adventure Playground at Wheaton Regional Park  
 Black Hill Trail Renovation  
 Lake Needwood Modifications  
 Rock Creek Sewer System Improvements  
 Rock Creek Trail Pedestrian Bridge  
 S. Germantown SoccerPlex (Miracle League Field)  
 Tai Chi Court at Cabin John Regional Park  
 Takoma Piney Branch Local Park



Fall 2012

# Semi-Annual Report