

spring 2012

semi annual

report to council



montgomery county planning department | montgomery county department of parks
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President 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 spring 2012 semi-annual report.

From the Planning Department, we are pleased to report an improvement in our development review times. Staff is analyzing and bringing reports to the Planning Board faster, dropping as much as 30 percent in review times for preliminary plans in the last full fiscal year. Staff also is working more quickly to analyze site plans, showing a 10-percent decrease in review time.

Our work on the Zoning Rewrite Project is progressing, with staff completing the three final modules in the last six months. As we have throughout the multi-year project, staff is emphasizing public outreach, holding more than 80 community meetings. In April, we plan six open houses throughout the county. Staff will release a consolidated public review draft in June that will go to the Planning Board in the fall.

Transportation planners continue to review and analyze 16 corridors recommended for study for rapid transit. The Planning Board in January directed staff to consider the impacts of using existing traffic lanes as BRT lanes where it would not overly impact traffic levels. We recommend delaying the study by three months to allow planners and the Board to consider additional corridors expected to be recommended by the countywide Rapid Transit Task Force.

The proposed master plan schedule (see page 13) reflects a number of proposed changes, including our recommendations to reprioritize the next set of plans. Those recommendations reflect important needs in the community. We also recommend unveiling a minor master plan amendment process. We look forward to discussing that process and our proposed schedule with the Council on April 10.

The Planning Department's fiscal year 2013 budget request is lean, reflecting our goal to maximize efficiencies and focus on the core work program.

Like the Planning Department, the Department of Parks has done a commendable job adjusting to the significant budget cuts of the past few years and the loss of almost 10% of its workforce. A few highlights:

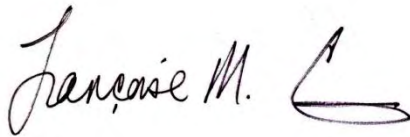
- The Enterprise Division is projected to be fully self-sufficient for the fourth year in a row;
- Changes in how we manage fuel, irrigation, renewable energy, lighting controls, and HVAC systems will result in additional energy savings this year, supported by more than \$100,000 in grant-funded improvements;
- The cost recovery targets developed through the Vision 2030 project are helping us be better stewards of our tax dollars and allocate them to those services and programs where they are most needed and appropriate; and
- Our reprioritization of renovation projects over new construction in the CIP has reduced the impacts on our operating budget.



We are changing the way we do business. We continually seek creative and innovative ways to reduce expenditures, increase revenues and find outside funding. The rebirth of the Montgomery Parks Foundation represents a significant step forward in our ability to generate funds through grants, donations, sponsorships, naming rights, and other programs. The number of volunteers and the hours they contribute has grown steadily every year since 2006. And our revamped public-private partnership program is well positioned to leverage private funding for mission-aligned projects that enhance and expand the services available to the public through our parks.

I continue to be impressed with the breadth and quality of work produced by both the Planning Department and the Department of Parks and their thoughtful and resourceful approach to getting the job done, especially during these difficult fiscal times. We are looking forward to discussing these and other issues at the semi-annual presentation on April 10.

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 fiscal year 2012, the Planning Department has renewed – and in many cases, improved – efforts to analyze and process development applications and advance master plans. The last six months have seen improved processing times, reflecting the Council's investment in staff resources. Other projects – such as the Rapid Transit study and Zoning Rewrite Project – met important milestones.

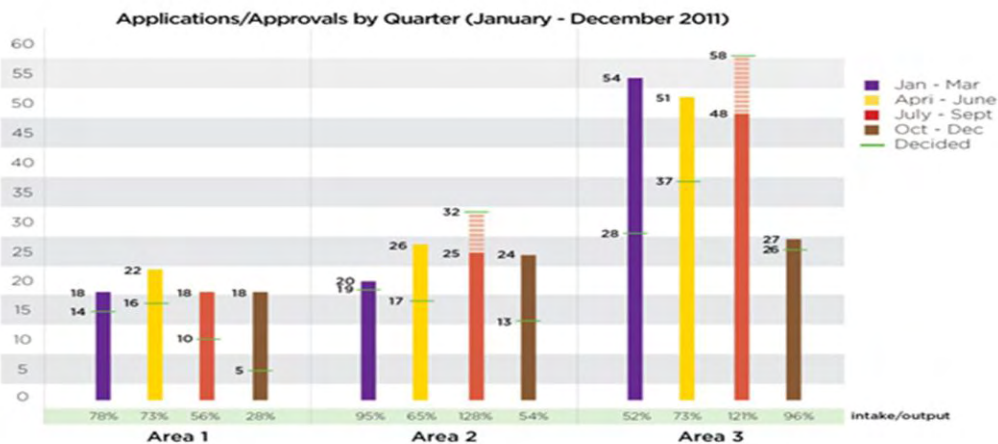
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The Planning Department's budget request is slightly below the level allocated by Council last year. This decrease is attributed to the drop in consultant funding for FY 13.

applications

We expect more applications over the next year and are tracking the impact on funding and level of service. The Department has reduced fees for applications filed jointly, such as preliminary and site plans. Applicants in the new Commercial Residential mixed-use zoning category see lesser fees as they file subsequent plan applications.

Applications/approvals by quarter (January – December 2011)



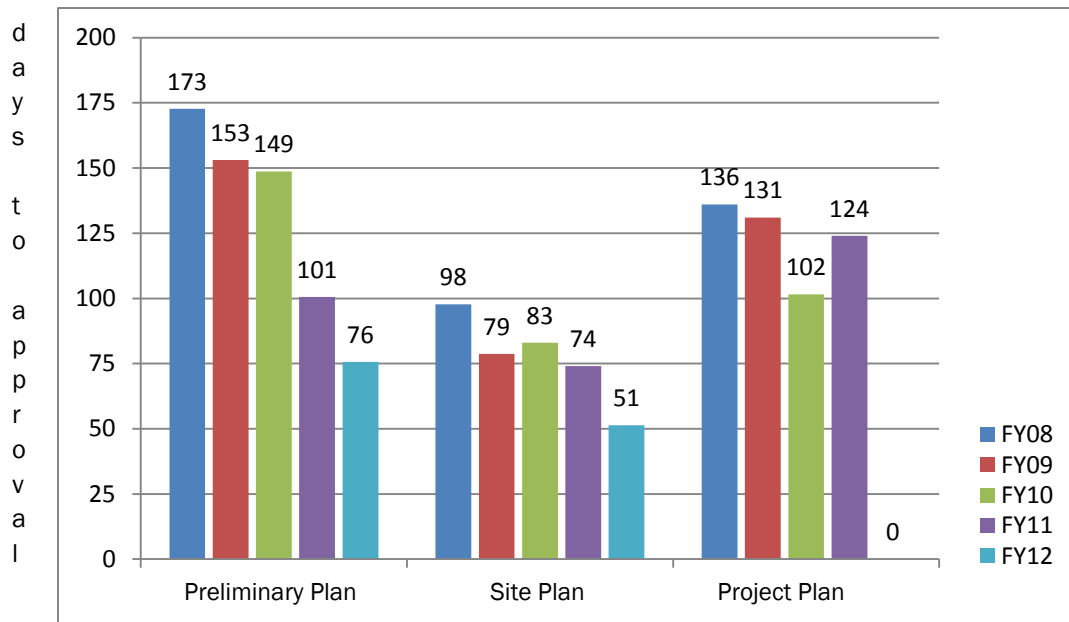
Planning Areas – Montgomery County, Maryland



This graph shows the number of applications received by the Planning Department in each quarter for each of the three planning areas. The green line cutting across each bar indicates how many applications were processed and taken to the Planning Board in the period. The completed applications are not necessarily the same ones received, as the data also includes applications from previous quarters.

Review Time (days)

Applications submitted by Fiscal Year



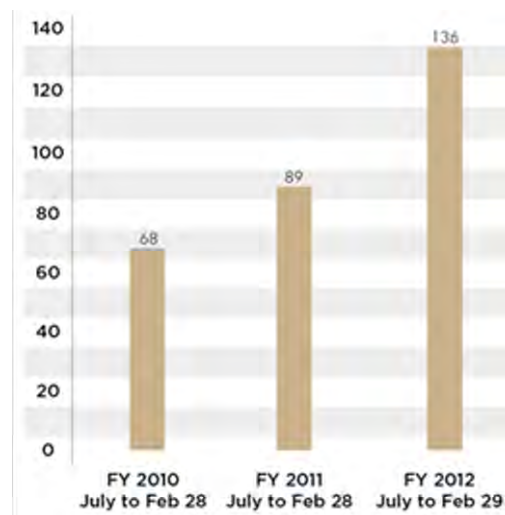
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Planners have improved review times on most application types. Review times for preliminary plans between FY 10 and FY 11 decreased by 30 percent. Even though we received more site plan applications, site plan review times dropped by 10 percent. In the first seven months of FY12, review times continued to decrease, reflecting increased efficiency realized through the Departmental re-organization of 2011.

In the last seven months, the Planning Department saw a notable increase in record plats, the last step for developers before applying for building permits. Record plats jumped from 89 in the same period in FY11 to 136 in FY12, a 35-percent increase. Additional staff hired in fall 2011 enabled the Department to reduce the backlog of record plat applications substantially, from nine weeks to four weeks. New staffers also help expedite street addressing requests and ensure compliance with plan conditions established by the Planning Board.

Since the Department began encouraging joint applications from landowners, many plan reviews have been undertaken concurrently, combining applications such as preliminary and site plans. Applicants seem to be taking advantage of reduced fees for submitting combined applications. The effect of concurrent reviews in lessening review times should be further improved when the County Executive and County Council's initiatives to streamline development review through inter-agency cooperation is implemented.

Record plats, July 2009 – February 2012





The Information Counter, which serves walk-in customers seeking answers about property information, plans and other issues is now fully staffed. To provide help to customers who may not be able to visit Park and Planning Headquarters, the Department developed an online HELP page that provides links to frequently sought information as well as an inquiry form designed for rapid responses.

master plans

Planners in the last six months have continued to develop master and sector plan drafts. The proposed master plan schedule reflects a number of proposed changes.

Burtonsville Community Plan

The plan boundary was doubled in size and delivery has been pushed back from January to June. Planners will present their staff draft to the Planning Board in April. This neighborhood plan has benefited from ambitious outreach, including staff attending 25 meetings and events. The Board will hold a public hearing this spring, then begin work sessions.

White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan

For this plan, formerly called the East County Science Center Master Plan, staff members have participated in 15 outreach events plus regular Citizens Advisory Committee meetings. Two open houses drew close to 200 people. An online survey, also distributed in hard copy at the library and aquatic center, resulted in about 140 responses that highlighted the area's issues. Preliminary recommendations are expected in summer.

Long Branch Sector Plan

The plan was to be delivered in April, however, that date has been pushed back to September, partly to accommodate personnel changes. A community meeting scheduled for mid-April will provide input on the staff's preliminary recommendations.

Fill out at montgomeryplanning.org/community/ecsc or return to Nancy Sturgeon, Montgomery County Planning Department, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20912.

Community Questionnaire for the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan

1. Which community are you answering questions about:
 - ☐ White Oak
 - ☐ Hillandale
 - ☐ Burnt Mills
 - ☐ Cherry Hill Road/Tech Road/Industrial Parkway area
2. If you live here, do you rent or own your home?
 - ☐ Rent
 - ☐ Own
3. If you are a resident, how long have you lived in the area?
 - ☐ 1 year or less
 - ☐ 1-5 years
 - ☐ 5-10 years
 - ☐ 10 years or more
4. Do you operate a business or own commercial property in the area? If yes, what is the name of the business
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
5. What type of transportation do you use most often to get to work? Check all that apply
 - ☐ Bus
 - ☐ Metrorail
 - ☐ Bus/Drive to Metrorail
 - ☐ Car
 - ☐ Walk
 - ☐ Bike
 - ☐ Taxi

Gaithersburg East / Montgomery Village Sector Plan

While this plan is scheduled to begin in May 2012, the central issue that could impact its recommendations is the status of the M-83 highway. The County Department of Transportation (DOT) is undertaking a study of the highway, but the results have been delayed until summer 2013. Since the plan needs to be synchronized with the M-83 study, the Department proposes delaying the plan until DOT's position on this major highway is clear. We recommend that the time allotted for this plan in fiscal year 2012 be reassigned to the Lyttonsville Plan, which had been scheduled to start in June of 2013.

Lyttonsville / Rosemary Hills Sector Plan

In place of Gaithersburg East/Montgomery Village, the Department recommends that Lyttonsville be undertaken in the current fiscal year. While Lyttonsville was delayed by the Council at the fall 2011 semi-annual presentation to accommodate the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) deliberations on the alignment of the Purple Line and transit maintenance facility, recent announcements by state transit officials have solidified a new proposed alignment and rail yard location. The decision is a direct result of input from the Lyttonsville community and the Planning Department, which heard from residents, then framed the discussion for county and state policy-makers. Planners held an information open house in late March to engage residents on how they see their community evolving over the next two decades. The interactive meeting generated lots of ideas and will help frame the discussion as the plan continues into next year.

Communities of Kensington / Wheaton Master Plan

This plan, scheduled to begin in May 2013, encompasses the Wheaton, Kensington, Glenmont, and Forest Glen Sector Plans areas. The first of these two plans are done, the third is underway, and the Forest Glen plan presents no pressing issues. The remaining plan area covers the corridors linking these communities. The Planning Department sees no reason to retain this plan in the schedule and will be discussing alternatives with the Council. The Planning Board recommends that this slot be taken by an update of the Aspen Hill Plan. This area includes several large properties, strip shopping centers and future rapid transit routes. In addition, there are two sites just outside the plan area where owners have expressed an interest in change.

Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan

A well-attended series of community informational sessions last summer provided substantial input on staff's preliminary recommendations, expected this spring.

Glenmont Sector Plan

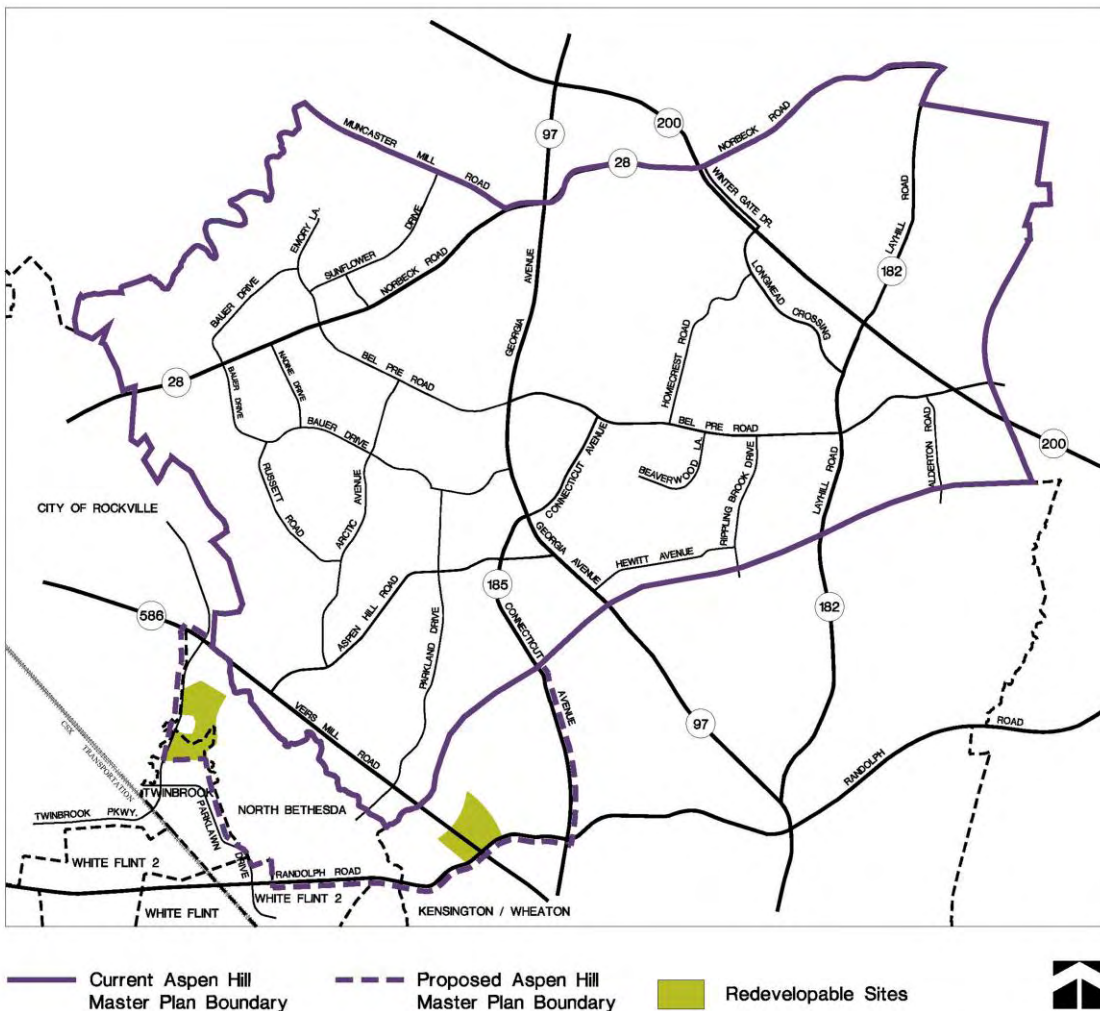
Working with a consultant, retained by a grant from the Washington Council of Governments, planning staff hosted three well-attended community visioning sessions in Glenmont. Turnout exceeded expectations, with about 80 people attending each session.

White Flint 2 Sector Plan

Planners began laying the groundwork for the White Flint 2 Sector Plan, which will examine land use in the area between the boundaries of the City of Rockville and the White Flint Master Plan area. Planners have launched an introductory webpage and are scheduled to present the plan scope of work to the Planning Board in April.



Proposed planning area boundary for Aspen Hill and Vicinity



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Minor Master Plan Amendment Process

The goal of the minor master plan amendment process would be to allow for a comprehensive, focused consideration of an amendment to address an issue that had become a challenge to current community building principles, that may not have been considered in a master planning process, or for which circumstances may have changed since the master plan was approved.

The Department and Board propose to allocate time in our work plan for undertaking three minor amendments over the current fiscal year and fiscal year 2013. Each amendment is scheduled to be completed within one year.

Creating a process to consider these amendments would have several benefits, including:

- enabling the Department to advise the Planning Board and Council more rapidly on emerging issues
- facilitating focused public engagement on issues with a defined scope
- overcoming circumstances where a regulatory environment precludes advancing public objectives and benefits
- limiting the proliferation of Zoning Text Amendments

The Department recommends designing an online process for application submittal, which would be open to the general public. Planning Department staff would consider each application and weigh several factors, such as the public benefit or interest in the amendment, the size of the subject area, the amount of traffic modeling required, the impact on the community, and how the amendment would advance land use objectives.

The Planning Board would consider the staff recommendations and forward its recommendation to the County Council to consider whether to add any submissions to the Department work program.

Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan of Highways

Planners have continued to follow up on the findings of the county Department of Transportation's Countywide Bus Rapid Transit Study by reviewing and analyzing recommendations for the 16 corridors in MCDOT's study. The Council soon will consider a request from the Executive Branch to add funding to this effort to expand the study to additional corridors identified by the Executive's Rapid Transit Task Force.

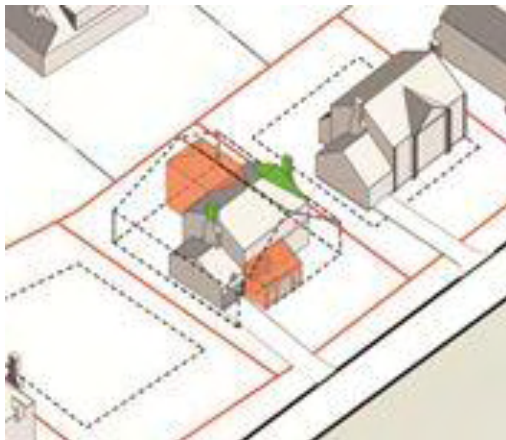
The scope of work the Planning Board approved last September included an evaluation of the final report from the Rapid Transit Task Force. That report is scheduled to be delivered to the County Executive by April and will contain recommendations to add seven corridors. The County Executive will request additional funds for Planning Department staff to review the seven corridors. Additional time would be needed to review that report, as well as to include those new routes in the transportation modeling and determine the ridership impacts and traffic impacts of repurposing lanes. If the Council decides to include the extra routes in the transit corridor study, we would expect to deliver the plan to the Council in December of this year.

other projects

Zoning Rewrite Project

Staff working on the Zoning Rewrite Project completed the three final modules in the last six months. A draft of development standards and uses for all zones was released in November, followed by a draft on general development regulations in January that addresses elements such as landscape, lighting, parking and signage. Also in January, a draft zone conversion chart was released after several months of review and analysis. The final section of the proposed ordinance, the procedures and administration of the code, was released in late March.

The Zoning Rewrite Project is complex. To provide more opportunities for public discussion, staff scheduled six public open house events throughout the county in April to be held at libraries and regional service centers. These meetings will feature general project information as well as the opportunity to discuss how the proposed conversion recommendations relate to the approved and adopted master plans.



This drawing shows the building envelope controls the zoning team has been discussing with community groups around the County. The "tent" depicted in the dashed line, would be a new maximum building envelope for houses, where projections beyond the envelope would be permitted to a certain size, as shown by the orange building envelopes. The goal is to limit the size of upper levels of houses, to reduce the perception of building bulk.

The Zoning Advisory Panel (ZAP) continues to meet and provide feedback on the draft content. Staff has been incorporating comments into the draft text and plan to release a consolidated public review draft in June. Discussions by the Planning Board are expected in the fall, with a January 2013 delivery to the Council.

Subdivision Staging and Transportation Tests

Staff was directed to accelerate work on the Transportation Policy Area Review (TPAR) test, the new countywide modeling tool. TPAR will measure the impacts of development on traffic flow and transit capacity in the county's 30 traffic policy areas.

Working with a consultant, staff will present the proposed TPAR test to the Planning Board for public discussion in April and deliver the draft report to the Council in May.

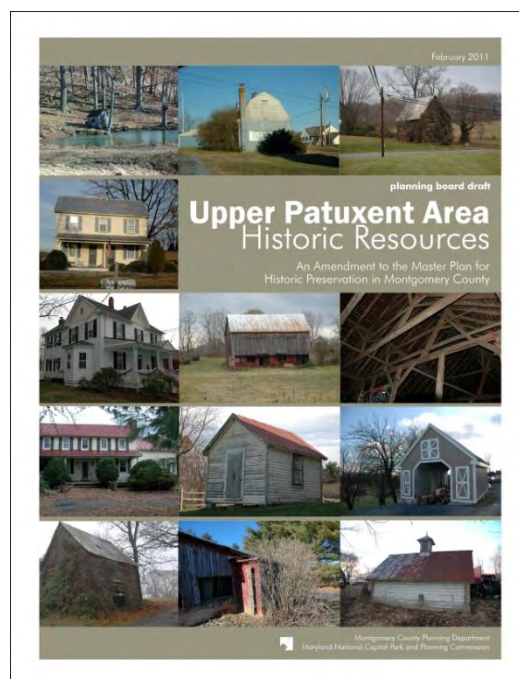
TPAR is an essential part of the 2012 Subdivision Staging Policy, which by law, must be approved by the County Council by July 2012. The report will ensure that transportation and school capacity keeps pace with growth.

Historic Preservation

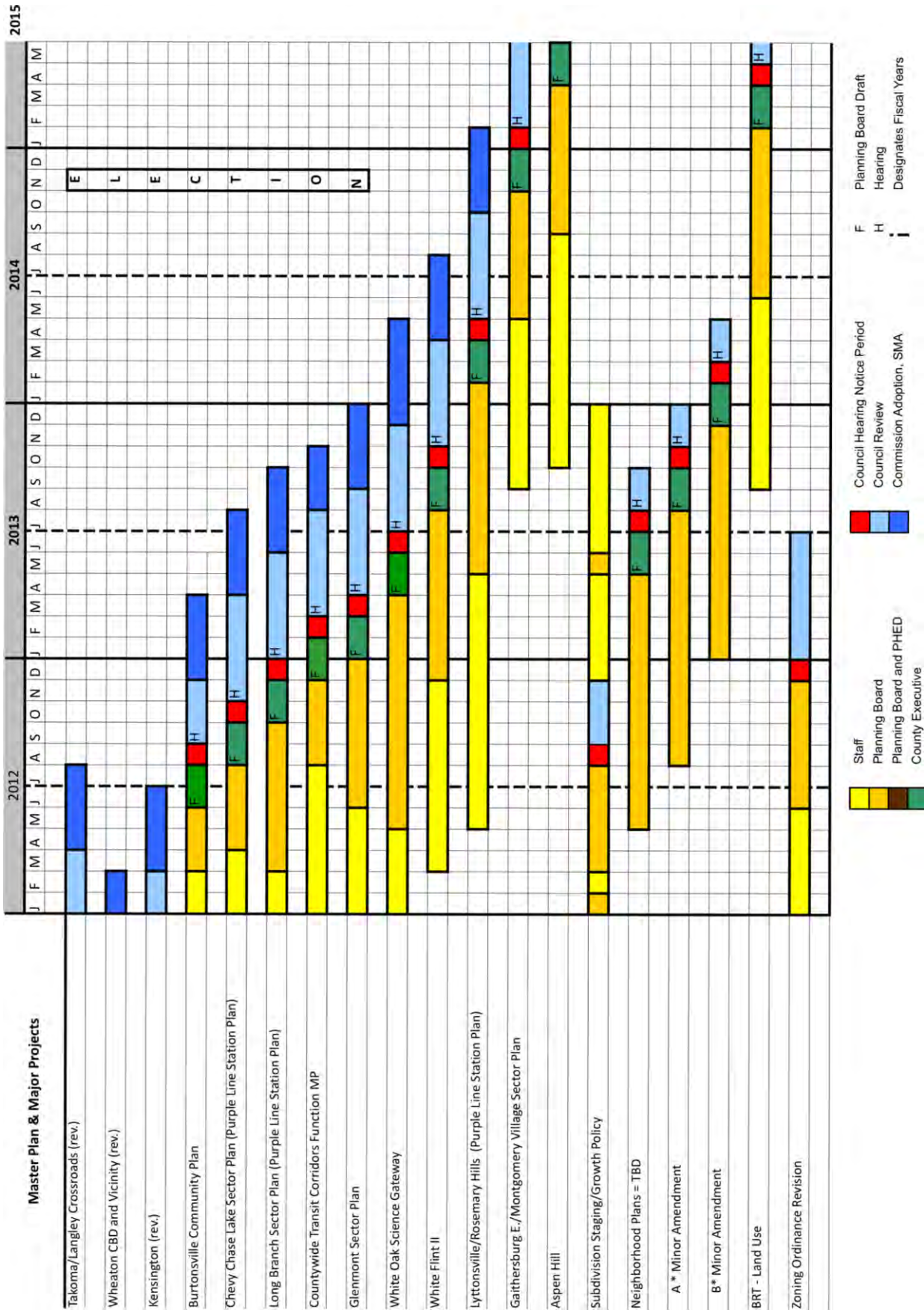
Historic preservation planners report an increase in the number of Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP) applications. In 2011, they processed 175 HAWPs, a 37-percent increase from 2010.

In January, the Planning Board approved a site plan application for the Falklands Chase property in Silver Spring. The project, for 1,250 multi-family and townhouses as well as 70,000 square feet of retail, represented a compromise between historic preservation and transit-oriented growth goals. The north parcel of the Falklands-Chase parcel was approved for redevelopment, while the south and west parcels were designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

The Planning Board sent a proposed amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation for the Upper Patuxent Area Historic Resources. Twelve resources are recommended for designation in the northernmost part of the County around Damascus.



Spring Semi-Annual Report: Master Plan and Major Project Schedule



* Assumes minor amendments start in FY12 and have staggered delivery

parks

The past few years have been a challenge for us, as budget cuts, the permanent loss of positions, and restricted resources have taken their toll.

In response, Montgomery Parks has reallocated resources to core services; prioritized renovation projects over new construction in the CIP to reduce the impact on our operating budget; made more use of seasonal staff; absorbed renovation and construction work formerly contracted out when it is more cost effective; and reduced or eliminated landscaping, tree planting, hard-surface trail inspections, and custodial services.

We looked very closely at how we do business, and implemented strategic changes to make us more efficient. While we remain optimistic that we can provide an overall outstanding park system to our patrons, due to difficult budget restraints we are falling behind in new trail construction, maintenance frequencies and standards, plantings and landscaping, and our ability to inventory and care for our cultural assets.

Rather than focus on the negative, we want to highlight how we have built our capacity to manage more efficiently, integrated new methods and technologies to improve service delivery, and leveraged greater support from external sources.

We will continue to seek creative and innovative ways to decrease expenditures, increase revenues, and find outside funding. Just one great example of a creative approach to conserving resources – we turned 1.2 million pounds of landscape waste into compost to support our nursery and garden operations, eliminating the costs of disposing of the waste and purchasing compost from a vendor.

We are also pleased to announce that the Montgomery County Parks Foundation has been reborn as a membership organization and fundraising partner. After months of hard work establishing the appropriate infrastructure, policies and procedures to manage funds raised on our behalf, we are delighted that grants, donations, sponsorships, tribute bricks, benches and trees, and all other Parks fundraising programs can now be managed directly by the Foundation, in coordination with Park staff to benefit our parks. We urge each Councilmember to become a contributing member and friend!

Here are some of our work program highlights:

increased revenue and support from external sources

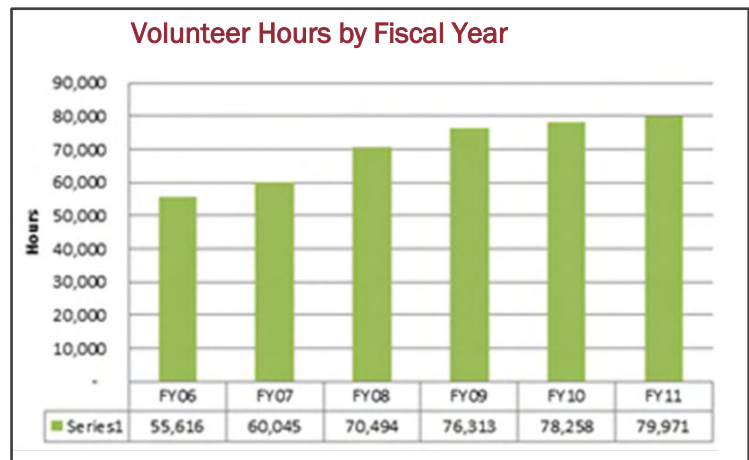
Montgomery County Parks Foundation: In the past six months, the Foundation made great strides toward creating sustainable alternative revenue sources. In December, the Planning Board adopted the “Individual Park Naming and Dedication Policy” to empower the Foundation to identify and steward significant donations in exchange for a park or park facility naming right or dedication. A Development Program Manager was hired in January to administer and grow the Friends of Montgomery Parks and Tribute Benches and Trees programs. Effective March 1, all Montgomery Parks fundraising programs were transitioned to the Foundation for administration. The Montgomery County Parks Foundation Board of Trustees now includes:

- Joseph Isaacs, President
- Scott Ritter, Vice President
- Jody Kline, Esq., Secretary
- John Robinson, Treasurer
- Edwin S. Grosvenor
- Dr. Royce Hanson
- Del. Tom Hucker
- Meredith Wellington
- Françoise M. Carrier (ex-officio)
- Mary R. Bradford (ex-officio)

Vision 2030 and Cost Recovery Efforts: Through the Vision 2030 initiative for parks and recreation, our staff worked with stakeholders to identify which parks services should be fully or partially tax-supported and which

should be self-sustaining through fees, charges, donations or grants. Using this resource allocation strategy, we analyzed the effectiveness of existing programs, and are using the findings to adjust costs and fees accordingly. The Council will see the results of this analysis for the first time when it reviews our supplemental FY13 proposed budget, showing targets, actual FY 11 performance, and FY12 and FY13 estimates.

Leveraging external support through partnerships, grants and volunteers: In October, our Public-Private Partnership process was revamped to more quickly identify prospective partners whose proposed projects have sufficient private funding and align with the Parks mission. Our biggest recent partnership was the creation and dedication of the Miracle League Field at South Germantown Recreational Park with the support of the Lerner Foundation, the County, and the Washington Nationals baseball team. More than 20 unsolicited inquiries have been received in the past six months, and two formal proposals have been submitted. Directed partnership projects will help us with CIP priority projects, including historic sites with the potential for active reuse. Our Volunteer Services Office, famous for its stream and trail community cleanup projects, is developing a framework for Friends Groups to establish, support and improve collaboration on common goals directly supporting parks and park amenities. Our Volunteer Services Office continues to be remarkably successful in recruiting and placing volunteers, with almost 80,000 volunteer hours in FY11 - up 44% since FY06.



Enterprise successes: Recent projections show the Enterprise Fund on track to meet its FY12 budget goals and remain self-sustaining for the fourth year in a row. Event Center revenue is up 26% over the same time period last year, and staff continues to seek ways to expand its funding base. This includes hosting a tour for event managers to attract corporate clients, as well as the popular "Brides on the Bus" event in April. The Wheaton Sports Pavilion is slated to open soon, and our ice rinks will also be hosting the 2012 US Figure Skating Eastern Adult Sectional Championships.



efficiencies and adjustments

Continued energy savings: A Comprehensive Energy Management and Green Parks Program Plan for Brookside Gardens and Wheaton Regional Park is in development and will be used as a model for similar programs and projects in upcoming years. Our fleet fueling stations utilize 100% B5 biodiesel, using oil byproducts in the fuel that would have otherwise been discarded. Efforts are underway to reduce domestic water use for irrigation by 15% and increase the use of renewable energy (solar, wind and geothermal) by 5%. New facilities and renovation projects are being designed to meet LEED Certification criteria, and staff remains committed to implementing the recommendations of the County Executive's Cross-Agency Resource Sharing Committee (CARS) wherever possible. New lighting controls and HVAC units have improved operating efficiency by 30% at our Parkside and Saddlebrook buildings. Parks staff leveraged CIP funding to secure a \$111,000 Department of Energy Grant to help fund these efforts. In addition, a pilot solar application for the Kentland Community Center was funded with \$80,000 from the CIP/Energy Project Funding. Our energy consumption of the last four years has been lower than 2001 levels, due to aggressive energy conservation efforts.

Improving our work order system: The SmartParks system, our primary asset management, inventory, and work order system, is undergoing a major upgrade this fiscal year. New web-based software which supports

mobile computing is planned to integrate with existing and planned financial systems, with easier reporting tools and dashboard displays of information. The primary goal is to provide a single source of departmental information for managing park operations and capital projects. Implementation of the new SmartParks is scheduled for this calendar year. This is a joint effort with M-NCPPC Prince George's Parks and Recreation.

natural resource protection

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Water Quality: The \$1.5 million in funding from the Water Quality Protection Fund has been invaluable, allowing the Department to proceed with stream stewardship, restoration and management activities, storm water management and environmental site design efforts, the implementation of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) industrial permit for 12 park maintenance yards and the Phase II NPDES permit for small, municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4), and a variety of volunteer stream clean up events. We thank the Council very much for their support.



Training on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): As part of the M-NCPPC NPDES permit, a number of training opportunities are currently available. More than 200 staff members participated in annual Storm Water Pollution Prevention Training already this year, and more opportunities are planned. Topics include best environmental practices for Sustainable Landscaping, Storm Water Reduction, and Ecological Resource Management.

inter-county connector (icc) update: As part of the ICC Environmental Stewardship and Compensatory Mitigation Program (ES/CM), the State Highway Administration (SHA) is completing a number of stream restoration, wetland creation, and storm water management projects throughout Montgomery County. Park staff works closely with the SHA to ensure that natural resource impacts are avoided or minimized. We have completed five projects that are now in the maintenance phase; 12 are in active construction; and 10 are in the design process and slated to be constructed by 2013.

Tree Work: The tree crew continues to work on removing high-risk trees and limbs county-wide. Crews have been working on this effort in Southern Parks since November; they will be focusing on Northern Parks now through April. The tree crew will also be removing hazardous trees and limbs at Revenue Authority managed Park Golf Courses over the next several months.

community engagement

Park openings: Openings for the newly-renovated Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park, the Black Hill Trail Extension, Darnestown Park, and the Woodstock Equestrian facility are tentatively scheduled for this Spring and Summer. Former NBA All-Star Steve Francis – who donated \$70,000 in exchange for naming rights and improvements – will be on hand for the reopening of the Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park. All events will be open to the public.

The Children in Nature Program: The Montgomery Department of Parks was honored to sign an agreement with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Maryland State Department of Education to support the Governor's Children in Nature Program to embed environmental literacy in schools and reach out to underserved populations. Director Mary R. Bradford is a member of the Governor's Leadership Team, and Stephanie Oberle, the facility manager for Brookside Gardens, sits on the Partnership Steering Committee.



Youth engagement: Montgomery Parks is partnering with The Maryland Conservation Corps, Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Economic Development for six weeks (June 25-August 2) to help at-risk youth explore and gain a better appreciation for parkland, acquire basic landscaping and construction skills, learn about environmental stewardship, and learn life skills through conservation service. The program was a youth initiative by Governor Martin O'Malley, started in Baltimore and expanded to Montgomery County in 2010.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance: In compliance with the settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice, we are required to correct ADA violations in 16 local parks. A consultant has been hired to begin the first phase of facility assessment and transition planning beginning in March 2012, and is expected to finish in August 2012.

Park Recreation and Open Space (PROS) plan update: Two very successful public meetings were held on January 24 and 25 to collect input for our future park and recreation needs and how they should be implemented. The primary purposes of the Plan update are to provide guidance regarding recreation facility needs for the next 10 years, recommend priorities for important natural and historic/cultural areas that need to be preserved and interpreted, provide input to area and park master plans regarding the need for public parkland and recreation facilities, and help establish park acquisition and development priorities in the six-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP). We are working in cooperation with the County's Department of Recreation and will be involving other County agencies and offices as well.



Brookside record attendance: This was the Garden of Lights' best year yet for attendance, drawing just over 10,000 cars and approximately 40,000 visitors between November 25 and January 8, 2012. More than \$200,000 in revenue was collected from the event. The Train Exhibit in the Conservatory holiday display recorded daily attendance at 12,200 from November 25 and January 8, 2012; this is in addition to the Garden of Lights attendance figures.

public protection

Theft Awareness Program at MLK Pool: Park Police eliminated locker thefts from Martin Luther King Jr. Pool through a successful education and awareness program. They also obtained a grant to purchase and provide locks for patrons. Locker thefts are often related to more serious vehicle and residential crimes since keys and IDs are usually stolen from lockers.

Law Enforcement Collaboration: Park Police participated with other law enforcement agencies throughout the Washington, D.C. area in the Checkpoint Strikeforce Program from December 12-26, 2011. It provided education to the public about the dangers and consequences of impaired driving, and officers watched for people who were driving impaired. Park Police also participated in Operation "Turkey Chase," a joint effort with Montgomery County Police, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Gaithersburg City Police and the Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control. The operation aimed to reduce drinking and driving on Thanksgiving Eve, which is traditionally one of the worst drinking and driving nights of the year. A total of 265 traffic stops were made, with 157 warnings issued, 138 traffic citations issued, 19 DUI arrests, and 15 criminal citations, among others.

Patrol Adjustments: Due to the redeployment of sworn staff from the night shift, less proactive patrolling and enforcement is being done between 2am and 6am. Officers have also been pulled from specialty assignments to patrol, slowing criminal investigative case clearances and reducing our ability to deliver water and bicycle safety programs to the public. Reductions in our civilian stable staff have resulted in our horse-mounted officers taking on more of the care for the horses, lessening the amount of time they are available for active patrol.

Deer Management: Our program is considered by the State Department of Natural Resources to be the exemplary program of its type in Maryland. The Deer Management Program harvested 479 deer this year, including 33 deer from Sligo Creek Golf Course, a new location initiated this year. This year's program was not quite as successful as in previous years due to permit limitations established by the Department of Natural Resources with respect to the proximity of residential homes. However, at least 16,000 pounds of meat was donated to area food banks.

interagency cooperation

Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF): January marked the one-year anniversary of athletic field permitting being consolidated under CUPF, a move we supported. Two Park Permit Office employees were relocated to the CUPF offices and manage the permitting of all park fields in coordination with CUPF staff. FY12 revenue from the permitting of Park fields is projected to exceed \$800,000. Park and CUPF staff members have worked together over the past year to streamline permitting processes to improve customer service and increase efficiencies.

Adopt-A-Field (AAF) Program: Park staff worked in collaboration with colleagues at MCPS and CUPF to transition the existing AAF program into a directed, competitive program that targets the fields most in need of additional maintenance support or improvements. Fields available for adoption will be identified on an annual basis by MCPS and Parks, and interested user groups will be invited to submit a proposal for consideration. Selection of the winning adopter will be competitive. The AAF fields available for FY12 were announced on March 6; the deadline for proposals is April 6. The program will be administered by CUPF.



MCPS expansion needs: On June 30, 2011, the Planning Board and Board of Education met to discuss items of mutual interest. One of the outcomes of this meeting was an agreement to form an interagency work group to formulate solutions to MCPS facility expansion needs, including an improved site selection process. The workgroup includes members from M-NCPPC, MCPS, and staff of the County Executive and County Council. The workgroup has met four times and members have agreed to continue to meet to seek collaborative solutions to MCPS facility expansion needs. The workgroup's discussions have focused thus far on the following issues:

- Current MCPS projects with park impacts
- MCPS short-term site needs (2-5 years)
- MCPS current modernization schedule
- Improvements to MCPS site selection process
- M-NCPPC, Department of Parks site selection process
- Montgomery County government site selection process
- Requirement and timing of mandatory referral in the site selection process
- Review of the County Council committee (joint PHED / Education) discussion on MCPS site selection process held on July 25, 2011

WSSC Consent Decree: WSSC, as a result of a US District Court ruling, is required to repair leaking assets such as manholes and sewer lines. Several stream valleys in the Montgomery County Park System will be affected. This work must be completed by December 2015. WSSC staff, consultants, and Park staff coordinate closely through the conception, design, and construction of the projects to ensure natural resources impacts are avoided or minimized to the greatest extent possible. As with other mandated legal requirements, this creates an added staff workload.

awards and recognition

National Park Service Recognition: The Riley/Bolten House, a historic structure located within Josiah Henson Special Park, has been added to the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places. Tours and special programs are given eight times per year, and extensive historical research continues on the property. Plans are currently underway to transform the Riley/Bolten House into a museum and educational center focusing on Reverend Josiah Henson and the history of slavery in Montgomery County.

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Maryland Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) awards: Montgomery Parks won four out of the eight possible MRPA Agency Showcase awards this year. That means we won half of all the Statewide awards, against dozens of other County and municipal agencies! Awards are given each year for the best marketing and public affairs projects in the State in eight categories. Our team won for Best Program Logo, Best Website, Best Activity Guide, and Best Social Media. (check us out: www.MontgomeryParks.org) In addition, the stream restoration project at Maydale Conservation Park won the "Planning and Design with Environmental Protection in Mind" Award, presented by the Park and Recreation Conservation (PAR C) Branch of the MRPA. Finally, our staff was asked to teach educational sessions at this year's conference in recognition of our top-rated programs.

Green Practices: Brookside Gardens was awarded the Bethesda Magazine Green Award for significantly incorporating green practices into its culture and operations.

Weed Warriors: Carole Bergmann, our department's Forest Ecologist, was honored by the U.S. Forest Service and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for being "the most effective at engaging the public" champion and for creating the department's Weed Warrior program. To date, more than 800 Weed Warriors have been trained and have logged over 25,000 hours of work.

Archaeology: Recently retired Parks Archaeologist Dr. James Sorensen was honored by the Archaeological Society of Maryland for his outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology. Jim served as a Park Archaeologist for 23 years before retiring last year.



parkland acquisition

The items below are additions to the park system since the Fall 2011 Semi-Annual Report:

1. 5.84 acres were added to Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park
2. 2.46 acres were added to Upper Paint Branch Stream valley Park
3. 1.30 acres were added to Tilden Woods Stream Valley Park
4. 2.00 acres were added to Muddy Branch Stream Valley Park, Unit 1
5. 78.54 acres were added to North Branch Stream valley Park, Unit 2
6. 182.25 acres were added to North Branch Stream Valley Park, Unit 3
7. 1.66 acres were added to Bowie Mill Local Park
8. 1.35 acres were added to Black Hill Regional Park
9. 0.52 acres were added to South Germantown Recreational Park

New acquisitions totaled 275.92 acres.

Charts

- Park Master Plan Schedule
- Status of CIP Projects

Park Master Plan Schedule

PARK & TRAIL PLANNING MAJOR PROJECTS SCHEDULE															
2010				2011				2012				2013			
FY11				FY12				FY13				FY14			
J	A	S	O	J	A	S	O	J	A	S	O	J	A	S	O
COUNTY-WIDE PARK & TRAIL PLANS															
Urban Park Planning Guidelines															
PROS Plan Update															
Vision2030 Strategic Plan															
Countywide Park Trails Plan Amendment															
PARK MASTER PLANS															
Northwest Branch Rec. Park MP															
Josiah Henson Special Park MP															
Ovid Hazen Wells Rec. Park MP															
Wheaton Regional Park MP															
Agricultural History Farm Park Amendment															
TRAIL CORRIDOR PLANS															
To Be Determined by Countywide Park Trails Plan Update															
IMPLEMENTATION PLANS															
Field Use Capacity and Re-purposing Study															
Tennis Court Re-purposing Study															
Site Selection: Skate Parks, Dog Parks, Community Gardens, Cricket															
Maintenance Yards															
Nature Centers															
PRELIMINARY PROGRAMS OF REQUIREMENT AND/OR CONCEPT PLANS															
Chevy Chase Open Space Concept Plan															
Hillandale LP															
Wall Local Park, White Flint															
Civic Green Urban Park, White Flint															

Park Master Plan Schedule , continued

	2010				2011				2012				2013				FY14														
	FY10				FY11				FY12				FY13				FY14														
	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Caroline Freeland UP																															
Farquhar Middle School and Future Park																															
Seneca Crossing LP																															
PARK INPUT INTO PLANNING DEPARTMENT PLANS																															
Subdivision Staging/Growth Policy																															
Green Infrastructure																															
Zoning Ordinance Revision																															
Takoma/Langley Crossroads																															
Wheaton CBD and Vicinity																															
Water Resources Functional Plan																															
Purple Line Functional Plan																															
Purple Line Station Area (Long Branch)																															
Purple Line Station Area (Chevy Chase Lakes)																															
Purple Line Station Area (Brookville Rd-Lytonsville)																															
Glenmont Sector Plan																															
East County Science Center																															
White Flint II																															
Gaithersburg East/Montgomery Village Sector Plan																															
Burtonsville Neighborhood Master Plan																															
Westbard																															
Kensington/Wheaton																															

PH

PLANNING BOARD DISCUSSION

I

ISSUES/OUTREACH REPORT

S

STAFF DRAFT

AP

PLANNING BOARD APPROVAL

A

ADOPTION

COLOR KEY		INITIATION AND SUPPORT	I	ISSUES/OUTREACH REPORT	S	STAFF DRAFT
PLANNING BOARD DISCUSSION	P	PUBLIC HEARING	AP	PLANNING BOARD APPROVAL	A	ADOPTION

CIP Schedule

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

PDF	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	BSY
Takoma Piney Branch Local Park									
Black Hill Trail Renovation									
Rock Creek Sewer System Improvements									
East Norbeck Local Park									
Woodstock Equestrian Center									
Darnestown Square Heritage Park									
Evans Parkway Neighborhood Park									
Woodlawn Barn Visitors Center									
Laytonia Recreational Park									
Germantown Town Center Urban Park*									
Warner Circle Special Park (Facility Plan and Design)									
Greenbriar Local Park*									
Brookside Master Plan Implementation									
Falls Road Local Park - Parking Lot									
North Four Corners Local Park									
Rock Creek Maintenance Facility									
Magruder Branch Trail Extension									
Battery Lane Urban Park									

 Design
  Construction
  Procurement or Delay

*Delayed construction in an effort to reduce OBI through FY14

Major Projects Completed in FY12

S. Germantown SoccerPlex (Miracle League Field)
Tai Chi Court at Cabin John Regional Park
Adventure Playground at Wheaton Regional Park
Seneca Stone Barn restoration

semi
annual

spring 2012

report to council



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