



Silver Spring Intermediate Neighborhood Park - Updated Concept Plan

July 10, 2019, 1:21 PM

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Silver Spring Intermediate Neighborhood Park - Updated Concept Plan

Tell us what you think of the updated concept plan

Summary Of Registered Responses

As of July 10, 2019, 1:21 PM, this forum had:		Topic Start
Attendees:	77	June 10, 2019, 2:49 PM
Registered Responses:	18	
Minutes of Public Comment:	54	

QUESTION 1

Please leave your feedback on the updated concept design.

Answered	18
Skipped	0

- 2 all area areas basketball construction could court courts design equipment etc even futsal having little looks more multiple one open options other park pickleball play playground public see so soccer some t tennis time up use very while

QUESTION 2

How far do you live from the park?



		%	Count
Less than 1/2 mile		61.1%	11
More than 1/2 mile but less than 1 mile		22.2%	4
More than 1 mile		16.7%	3

QUESTION 3

How often do you visit the park?

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		%	Count
Several times a week		33.3%	6
Once a week		33.3%	6
A couple times in a month		16.7%	3
Less than once in a month		16.7%	3

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Survey Questions

QUESTION 1

Please leave your feedback on the updated concept design.

QUESTION 2

How far do you live from the park?

- Less than ½ mile
- More than ½ mile but less than 1 mile
- More than 1 mile

QUESTION 3

How often do you visit the park?

- Several times a week
- Once a week
- A couple times in a month
- Less than once in a month

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Individual Registered Responses

Dave Grossman

inside Silver Spring

June 10, 2019, 4:49 PM

Question 1

My comments will echo what I said at the May meeting. Three key points:

First, thank you all for the process you've run. This design is way better than the ones at the very beginning and have been very responsive to community input in preserving the character of this park.

Second, while I understand and sympathize with the desire for a futsal / multi-purpose court, I believe that amenity could be located at a nearby park instead of here. You indicated that your own surveys showed that these tennis courts are the most used in the area. It does not make sense to therefore cut the number of courts here in half (and having a hitting wall available is not the same). These courts are also in better shape than many of the ones in the area (though I appreciate you resurfacing them, which will improve the drainage and unevenness issues). I understand that there are no plans to redevelop other nearby parks in the near future, but you do not need to redevelop a whole park in order to convert one of their tennis courts into a futsal/multi-purpose court. Perhaps a futsal court could be located at Jesup Blair Park. Or, as someone at the meeting noted, at Takoma Park Middle School, which is currently doing renovations. It would be great for the folks who want a futsal court to have that option in the area. But please keep the tennis courts in our park. I am strongly opposed to this late change to the park design.

Third, you mentioned at the meeting that construction would start sometime next year (perhaps summer or fall) and last for a year -- and that the whole park would be closed the entire time during construction. I understand the desire for safety, but this park is used a lot by those in the neighborhood. In particular, that playground is near-essential for those with little kids, and you stated at the meeting that the playground equipment is not being updated. I urge you to adopt a construction approach that keeps as much of the park open as much as possible (fencing off the parts being worked on at that moment but keeping the rest open), or at least an approach that keeps the playground accessible (e.g., putting a fence around the playground and having it accessible from Boston Ave.).

Question 2

- Less than ½ mile

Question 3

- Several times a week

Name not shown

inside Takoma Park

June 10, 2019, 8:55 PM

Question 1

I am happy that both soccer and tennis players will be accommodated!

Question 2

- Less than ½ mile

Question 3

- Several times a week

Name not shown

inside Takoma Park

June 11, 2019, 3:43 PM

Question 1

As a TP resident, I just wanted to say I looked at the SSI plans and was very excited to see a futsal court included. This is a great and much needed addition - my two soccer-playing daughters will love it - and I respectfully request that it be included in the final design. Thank you for all our hard work on this project.

Question 2

- More than ½ mile but less than 1 mile

Question 3

- Less than once in a month

Andrew Malone

inside Silver Spring

June 11, 2019, 9:21 PM

Question 1

The updated concept design looks good to me. I am eager to continue spending time in the park after these upgrades have been completed.

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Question 2

- More than ½ mile but less than 1 mile

Question 3

- Less than once in a month

Elliott Vanskike

inside Takoma Park

June 12, 2019, 10:54 AM

Question 1

I'd like to thank the Department of Parks staff for being flexible and accommodating in adapting their design (several times!). I think the neighborhood will benefit from having a futsal court in the park. I understand that many in the community are resistant to change, but I think the futsal court will be a great resource for neighborhood kids and even grownups! I live half a block from the park and I will definitely use the new court to play soccer with my two sons.

Question 2

- Less than ½ mile

Question 3

- Several times a week

Mustafa Unlu

inside Takoma Park

June 13, 2019, 8:38 AM

Question 1

I really like and support the futsal court idea. We have nothing like it in this neighborhood (or even close by).

Question 2

- Less than ½ mile

Question 3

- Once a week

Paul McLeary

inside Takoma Park

June 14, 2019, 3:42 PM

Question 1

An all-weather futsal field would be a great addition to the park, and a huge benefit for the dozens of kids who live within walking distance who need a place to play when the ground is too soggy.

Question 2

- Less than ½ mile

Question 3

- Once a week

Arlene Koby

inside Takoma Park

June 14, 2019, 3:59 PM

Question 1

Design looks good.

Re: ...and during intense rainfall there are areas with ponding and standing water. The stormwater runoff from the park is not treated before being discharged into the adjacent public storm drain system. Current federal law requires that all public facilities, including public parks meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In addition, state and county laws require runoff generated by the site be treated before being safely conveyed through the public storm drain system.

I want to remind you that I dropped off a map showing an abandoned WSSC line in the park. It has been suggested that the rainwater going into the park and into the WSSC line contribute to flooding in the neighborhood. I hope that in re-doing the park grounds the referenced area will be dug up to determine if the abandoned WSSC line is or is not contributing to the flooding problems in the neighborhood, and, if so, mitigation efforts undertaken.

Question 2

- Less than ½ mile

Question 3

- Several times a week

Name not shown

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inside Silver Spring
June 17, 2019, 9:22 AM

Question 1

Design looks good, though please do not close the entire park during construction. I have small kids and next to no outdoor space at my house, so the park is pretty much our only option for outdoor play. If possible, please fence off areas that are under construction, while keeping other areas of the park open.

Question 2

- Less than ½ mile

Question 3

- Several times a week

Gregor Wallace
inside Takoma Park
June 20, 2019, 10:56 AM

Question 1

Delighted that mini-soccer/futsal has been included in the design. I think this plan represents the best compromise between different visions for the Park.

Question 2

- Less than ½ mile

Question 3

- Once a week

Name not shown
inside Takoma Park
June 20, 2019, 11:21 AM

Question 1

Looks great. Very glad to have the futsal court and bioretention for stormwater.

Question 2

- Less than ½ mile

Question 3

- Several times a week

Andy Sullivan
inside Silver Spring
June 20, 2019, 4:37 PM

Question 1

Thank you for this revised plan -- it looks fantastic. As a local resident who lives within walking distance to the park, I look forward to kicking the soccer ball around or playing other games (red light, green light, dodgeball, etc.) with my kids and their friends. This surface will also support many other uses that currently aren't allowed, such as learning to ride bikes, etc. Tennis players will still have plenty of other nearby options. The fact that this court is first-come, first-serve means it can't be used by organized leagues. I appreciate your hard work on this project!

Question 2

- Less than ½ mile

Question 3

- A couple times in a month

Kathleen Wallace
inside Takoma Park
June 21, 2019, 9:26 AM

Question 1

Thank you for all the time and effort that you have put into developing the concept design for the park. Really happy with the final designed - very excited to see the futsal court included! Agree with the previous comments that suggest a phased approach during construction (i.e. closing only parts of the park, while leaving some parts open to the public). If it is safe to do so - that would be ideal.

Question 2

- Less than ½ mile

Question 3

- A couple times in a month

Emer Daly

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inside Gaithersburg City
June 22, 2019, 3:15 PM

Question 1

I don't quite understand the need for yet another place to play tennis in Montgomery County. While I appreciate the addition of Pickleball lines, I think it is short sighted to yet again put in a designated tennis court but simply adding PB lines. When will MoCo accept that PB is growing in leaps and bounds and not tennis. Designated PB courts are needed in MoCo. And not just at one location.

Question 2

- More than 1 mile

Question 3

- Less than once in a month

Megan Knouff

inside Silver Spring
July 3, 2019, 9:59 AM

Question 1

Looks good. Will the bioretention areas be planted with native plants?

Question 2

- More than ½ mile but less than 1 mile

Question 3

- A couple times in a month

Sat Jivan SJ Ikle-Khalsa

inside Takoma Park
July 8, 2019, 7:40 PM

Question 1

See linked document with images here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-gx2StU192p7AmaiuSN9Trshei1TOHJXZQ7z0LanXoY/edit?usp=sharing>

At the May community meeting and via comments, there were many advocates for having hard court futsal/soccer options, and while I don't disagree with the idea and want to find compromises with the community,

I have some suggestions to include more sharing of resources AND get even more, lighted futsal/soccer and pickleball options in the area. My approach centers around having "multiple multi-purpose courts" -- and this is probably a design option that should become more prevalent throughout the county, offering more flexibility and diversity at existing and new facilities. Currently the design has only one tennis court which is multi-use with pickleball. The 2x basketball courts appear dedicated to basketball and the futsal/soccer court appears dedicated for that use. I'm hoping both flexible/universal design of all the courts and new signage will indicate more flexible options, and may even include some onsite storage options that can be used to house any needed equipment for quick activity conversions, and extra shared playing equipment. (Like the Little Free Tennis Libraries I've been promoting.)

A second notable part of my suggestions includes the suggestion for a dual futsal and multiple pickleball option nearby at Jessup Blair with lights so permitted (planned matches, practice or teaching) sessions could occur next to an unreserved court and could occur later at night for either cooler temps in summer or beyond daylight hours in fall/winter when the sun is down before temps are too cool for futsal/soccer/pickleball etc. Those courts are only adjacent to residences on half of one side, whereas SSINP has three sides of residential area. And there is nearby parking at Montgomery College garage.

In summary, I think:

-4 pickleball courts should be painted per tennis court and 2 per basketball court. See sample multi use court image.

-new lines should be painted and signage posted at Jessup Blair park to almost immediately provide dual (2x) lighted futsal/soccer courts and 8-11 pickleball courts - while maintaining options for 2 tennis and 1.5 basketball courts. This could happen relatively quickly and for very little cost. After a bit of a pilot period and when additional parks/courts come up for renovation, a more robust upgrade could happen there or other downcounty locations.

-a more Multiple Multi-purpose Courts (MMC) design should be composed for SSINP, including signage indicating flexible use - which could be opened up to any sports with minimal negative impact on the surface: volleyball, hockey, handball, badminton, dodgeball, learning to bike, tag, etc. Resulting in 2 Tennis courts (and other mini tennis courts), 2 (and more?) Basketball courts, 3 futsal/soccer courts, up to 10 pickleball courts. The backstop walls should be sturdy enough and marked for use as rebound walls for all sorts of sports --for lacrosse, futsal/soccer, tennis, handball, pickleball, etc. (Each area could have one primary use court - i.e. 1x tennis, 1x futsal/soccer, 1x basketball.... yet all courts could have some markings or capacity to be converted for use for

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another couple activities. Note that soccer/badminton/volleyball could all be played on grass fields when dry enough... but tennis and basketball can't, unless it was firm artificial turf fields.)

-adding small storage shed structures (Little Free Sports Libraries), (some locked/some open air) should be explored for storing convertible court equipment (nets, cones... and maybe even community supported loaner/donor equipment). And these could even double up as benches and seating areas. (see image above)

This is a Little Free Tennis Library (something sturdier would be good) --

Lastly, I concur with ideas to try to stage the construction so that a year's worth of construction doesn't close the entire park, for the entire time. And to see about adding ADA playground equipment. Not just ADA walking paths. The playground may be able to stay open for the most time with access from Boston Ave, and other courts available alternately as each one is worked on. (and if they have multi-purpose uses, can be used for multiple activities.)

See linked document with images here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-gx2StU192p7AmaiSN9Trshei1TOHJXZQ7z0LanXoY/edit?usp=sharing>

Additional comments and Details and Images:

For both parks (SSINP and Jessup Blair), having multiple options of the same activity will solve issues of two or more groups wanting to play same activity for all but the busiest times. (i.e. two tennis groups could use the primary tennis court and convert the futsal/soccer court with a retractable net. And two groups of pickleball players could leave both futsal/soccer and tennis open if they were on basketball courts, or both basketball courts could still and either futsal/tennis be used.)

Having at least "2" of anything greatly increases potential for patrons to find an activity space when going to play -- I will rarely go to a park with only one tennis court because of the potential for waiting for an extended period of time.

I've included some of the current drawings with some suggested edits. Along with some sample images of other places/ways to make multipurpose courts add flexibility and diversity to our parks. I've probably maxed out the multiple court markings, so maybe that should be scaled back a bit, but you can see there's opportunity to do more via shared spaces in our ever dwindling public spaces per capita with more housing density in the area.

- SJ

Question 2

- More than 1 mile

Question 3

- Once a week

Name not shown

inside Takoma Park

July 8, 2019, 8:23 PM

Question 1

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-adding small storage shed structures (Little Free Sports Libraries), should be explored for storing convertible court equipment (nets, cones... and maybe even community supported loaner/donor equipment). And these could even double up as benches and seating areas.

Lastly, I concur with ideas to try to stage the construction so that a year's worth of construction doesn't close the entire park, for the entire time. And to see about adding ADA playground equipment.

Question 2

- More than 1 mile

Question 3

- Once a week

Name not shown

inside Takoma Park

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July 8, 2019, 10:26 PM

Question 1

I love playing tennis at Silver Spring Intermediate Park. The courts are in decent shape and are shaded. I want both courts to be kept because often one court is in use.

Question 2

- More than ½ mile but less than 1 mile

Question 3

- Once a week