From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: Who decides on capital improvements to parks?? CRM:0237319
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 3:00:00 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Reed Dewey;
Received: Wed Nov 25 2020 11:25:01 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: Who decides on capital improvements to parks??

Hi Casey:

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Reed Dewey and I live in Chevy Chase West, near Norwood Park. Regarding the proposed dog park, once the public comment period is over, who makes the decision as to whether it will go forward or not?
Is it one person? The Planning Board? Thanks for letting me know.

I am a community leader and have studied the proposal and sat in on the video community meeting that left many questions unanswered. There is much concern about the proposed dog park. This park is already heavily used and its open space is a treasure for everyone not only for those who live close by but also for those who drive to the park to enjoy its beauty. And now, the planners are only giving 6 weeks for comments during these COVID times.

Thank you for getting back to me and have as good thanksgiving as you can!

With appreciation,

Reed

Reed Dewey
WWW.WHATS-NEXT.ORG
Certified Midlife/Retirement Coach
reedconnect@gmail.com (240) 454-1992
4618 De Russey Pkwy, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: Unnecessary and ill-advised proposal to ruin Norwood Park by building a costly fenced-in dog park with concrete walks CRM:0373167
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:58:25 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Margaret House;
Received: Tue Dec 29 2020 20:21:14 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Delegate Marc Korman; County Executive Marc Elrich; Mike Riley; MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; Mike Riley; ;
Cc: Delegate Marc Korman; County Executive Marc Elrich;
Subject: Unnecessary and ill-advised proposal to ruin Norwood Park by building a costly fenced-in dog park with concrete walks

Good Evening,

I agree with Jane Dealy. No dog park in Norwood Park! It's a terrible idea for all the reasons listed in the article. In addition, the community nearest the park (Chevy Chase West) was not consulted about the overwhelmingly negative impact this would have on our neighborhood.

I urge you to stop the dog park.

Margaret House
4896 Chevy Chase Blvd
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
240-494-6286

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: WashPost Metro Section - Local Opinion December 27, 2020 CRM:0237318
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:59:44 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Jane Dealy;
Received: Sun Dec 27 2020 12:44:48 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: WashPost Metro Section - Local Opinion December 27, 2020

To: Chair Casey Anderson and Board Members:
Please include and confirm via email that my letter below will be included in the MCPB record regarding the proposed dog park at Norwood Local Park.
Thank you.
Jane Dealy

We teachers long to return to our ... the coronavirus has disproportion- ... increased risk of harm. We believe ... Park Middle School.

A wasteful plan to ruin a Montgomery County park

BY JANE DEALY

As Montgomery Parks is gearing up to spend $500,000 of taxpayer funds for a dog park in Bethesda-Chevy Chase, the coronavirus pandemic has left many Montgomery County residents in dire need: unemployed, unable to pay rent and relying on food banks to feed their families.

Some background: In June 2019, Montgomery Parks conducted a feasibility study for a proposed dog park in Norwood Local Park. An open town hall meeting by Zoom was held on Nov. 10 to gather community input about the project. All attendees were muted. A survey on the parks department website allows for comments, with a Jan. 14 deadline. If the decision is made to build the dog park, construction will begin in the Spring of 2021.

Norwood Park's 17 acres are a treasure for the community. It has two playgrounds, five tennis courts, a lighted basketball court, two softball fields, an activities building and the Norwood Park Preschool.

The park's remaining undesignated space is earmarked for the 18,000-square-foot dog park — equal to one-third the size of a regulation football field. The dog park would be enclosed by a six-foot-high black metal fence, 50 feet from the lower playground, primarily used for toddlers. The surface of the dog park would be a combination of synthetic materials, which would replace more desirable and more environmentally friendly grass.

For Montgomery Parks to satisfy its commitment to be compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act, eight-to-10-foot-wide concrete sidewalks will be installed on the grassy area leading to the dog park. By creating a fenced-in dog park in the center of the park, the natural beauty of the park would be taken away.

Today, this undesignated space is an open, bucolic vista that offers setups for Frisbee, volleyball and soccer. Children learn to ride their two-wheelers on the grass. Families gather informally for reunions and picnics in the open space. Schools hold their annual field days there. Summer camps use the space for activities. Sports clubs depend on that space as well.

Norwood Park is heavily used with a serious parking problem. Parking was not addressed in the feasibility study. Nor has there been an acoustic study done as to dog park noise interfering with neighbors.

When the Dog Park Site Suitability Study was approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board in June 2019, the impact of a global pandemic was inconceivable. Almost a year into the worse economic disaster in the history of the United States, the planning board, with Montgomery Parks input, will review and decide, either later this winter or in early spring 2021, if $500,000 should be allocated to build a dog park.

The Montgomery County Planning Board and Montgomery Parks have a moral imperative to reconsider this undertaking. It would be morally wrong to spend half a million dollars on a dog park when there are people in Montgomery County, who, through no fault of their own, are in a desperate situation.

The right decision would be heart felt. It is a time to give — and a time to give thanks in this holiday season.

The writer lives in Chevy Chase.

...13. For those who ...penous and people ...OC), this may be ... and board of the ...nprofit Advance- ... year has meant ...aining our own ...ing an anti-racist ...at every level ... operations, pro- ...but also launch- ...or Race, Equity, ...usion to address ... month later, many of those newly "woke" organizations gave their employees the day off for Juneteenth.

What have they done since then? If, in their public proclamations, they committed to action steps (few did), have they achieved any of their short-term goals? Do they have a race equity plan in place for 2021? An informal scan of local nonprofit websites reveals it's rare to find a stated commitment to racial jus- ... Black-led nonprofits significantly more likely to have to furlough staff than their White-led counterparts. These same organizations are at greater risk of closing altogether.

What is the makeup of the board of trustees at nonprofits you are supporting? If the board is predominantly White, are members willing to give up their seats to make room at the table for people from underrepresented groups, including people with ... discussions about giving, not only to create a family tradition of philanthropy but also because we have much to learn from our children, nieces and nephews. Keep an open mind when they suggest funneling support to people most affected by inequity and injustice. Listen when they recommend organizations leading racial justice movements, mutual aid societies or BIPOC-led organizations built on collec- ... journey with your friends, challenging them to give through a racial justice lens. In fact, use the topic as a starting point to talk about broader issues of race and class.

Philanthropy plays many roles in our lives. It makes us feel good. It allows us to take a charitable tax deduction. It gives us an opportunity to support causes that are near and dear to us, have an impact and create social

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Unnecessary and ill-advised proposal to ruin Norwood Park by building a costly fenced-in dog park with concrete walks CRM:0237316
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:59:10 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Richard Whittle;
Received: Tue Dec 29 2020 13:45:34 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Mike Riley; MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; Mike Riley; ;
Cc: Delegate Marc Korman; County Executive Marc Elrich; chevychasewest@groups.io;
Subject: Unnecessary and ill-advised proposal to ruin Norwood Park by building a costly fenced-in dog park with concrete walks

Dear Casey Anderson and Mike Riley:

As you have recently heard from quite a few of us who live near Norwood Park and love it just as it is, we want you to drop the proposal to spend up to $500,000 of our tax dollars to enclose 18,000 square feet of our park within a six-foot black fence, destroy the grass inside with synthetic covering, and build concrete walks across more grass to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act. This is environmental degradation for no valid purpose, pure and simple.

Children of all ages use and enjoy our park to capacity as it is, and as Jane Dealy wrote in her excellent article about this in the Washington Post on Dec. 27, Norwood Park is a treasure to our neighborhood. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/local-opinions/a-500000-dog-park-in-bethesda-chevy-chase-is-a-waste-of-money-in-a-pandemic/2020/12/24/4fe16972-3a49-11eb-9276-ae0ca72729be_story.html

My wife and I have lived in Chevy Chase West since 1984. Our children played in Norwood Park as toddlers and as members of youth baseball and soccer teams, as hundreds of of other children do today – but as fewer children will be able to if the dog park is built. We have enjoyed neighborhood July 4 celebrations and school and other events that often use the very space at Norwood designated for the proposed dog park, an area that forms a natural amphitheater facing a stone wall that creates a natural stage. Destroying this to attract dog owners from other areas to a park that already has inadequate parking would be a travesty.

We are also dog owners and have walked our dogs and played with them in Norwood for three decades with no need of an enclosed dog park. There is absolutely no need for a dog park in Norwood Park today, and pursuing such an extravagant and superfluous use of taxpayer dollars in a time when thousands of Montgomery County residents are suffering the effects of the pandemic defies common sense and decency.

You should use the bulldozers needed for this work to instead dig a deep hole in a far off place and bury this absurd, wasteful lamentable proposal.

Sincerely,
Richard Whittle
4709 Hunt Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: STOP the Norwood Dog Park from being built!!! CRM:0237312
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:55:27 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Wed Dec 16 2020 08:53:31 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: STOP the Norwood Dog Park from being built!!!

-----Original Message-----
From: Karen Hoffman <karenshoffman8@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 12:48 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: STOP the Norwood Dog Park from being built!!!

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Mr. Riley:

I live next door to Norwood Park and am appalled at the idea of the last remaining parcel of unused parkland being proposed for a dog park. Currently dog owners/walkers have the entire open beautiful park in which to walk and play with their dogs. The huge area proposed for the dog park is used for families playing with their children, picnicking and general enjoyment. Fencing off this area - right next to the playground for toddlers would be a huge mistake. There is not enough parking as is and this would make matters worse. The noise it will create would be a nuisance to the neighbors and would attract dog owners from areas outside of the immediate vicinity - thus further crowding the park.

STOP THE HUGE DOG PARK FROM BEING BUILT!!!!!!!

Karen S. Hoffman
4720 Chevy Chase Drive
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: Yes to a dog park at Norwood Park CRM:0237313
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:55:45 PM
Attachments:	image007.jpg image008.jpg image005.jpg image006.jpg

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---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Mon Dec 28 2020 11:01:19 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Christie Ciabotti; Christie Ciabotti;
Cc: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Yes to a dog park at Norwood Park

Morning Christie,

I hope you and your family had a nice Christmas!

I'm sharing this supporter's email just in case you didn't receive a copy already.

Thank you,

Shelby Bowers (Geraci), M.S. | **Public Information & Customer Service Manager**
Montgomery Parks | The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Mobile: 240.315.6964 | Office: 301.670.8013
2425 Reedie Drive | Wheaton, MD 20902
MontgomeryParks.org

@MontgomeryParks

From: David Givens <davidpgivens@outlook.com>
Date: December 27, 2020 at 5:56:16 PM EST
To: "Riley, Mike" <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Yes to a dog park at Norwood Park

To: Mike Riley, Head of parks, Montgomery County, Maryland
12/27/20

Dear Sir:

I understand that a dog park is being considered at Norwood Park. I am in favor of the proposal. It is good use of public resources in a densely populated area. I am a dog owner and live 1.5 miles away in the county.
I will do what is recommended in terms of public input to make sure this becomes a reality. I am heading to the web site for public input now.
I am willing to speak at public events, etc., in favor, sign documents, or whatever is needed.
Thank you.
Sincerely,

David Givens
240-460-7243

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: RE: Yes to Norwood Dog Park! CRM:0237314
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:56:04 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Mon Dec 21 2020 13:45:42 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Yes to Norwood Dog Park!

From: edward starr <edwardstarr226@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 10:54 AM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Yes to Norwood Dog Park!

I have lived in the neighborhood for 35 years and am strongly in favor of the proposed dog park.
My dog and I use the dog park at Cabin John about once a month and we both are glad for its existence. Fresh air, exercise, and the opportunity to socialize with other like minded people. For us the new dog park in Norwood would be more convenient and allow us to meet other dog owners.
Also I am put off by the arguments made by the opponents of the park.
Any project proposed anywhere down county causes parking to become a worse problem than it already is.
I find this objection generally worthless as a guide to any new construction.
Those who currently use Norwood for "off leash"

activities are law breakers, and should not be valued in your consideration. It is simply forbidden to let you pet run free anywhere in Norwood Park and those who do should not be rewarded.
Green space is desired; the baseball field probably gets fewer hours of use than any dog park contemplated for Norwood.
I am impressed with the organizing skills of the anti-dog park people but I find their arguments unconvincing and I hope you will support the position of those who love their dogs and respect basic logic.
Thanks for your consideration.

Ed Starr
4604 Davidson Dr
Chevy Chase, Md 20815
301-986-0980
--
Ed Starr
4604 Davidson Dr
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: Please do NOT build a dog park in Norwood Park CRM:0237307
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:53:42 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Thu Jan 07 2021 11:44:37 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Please do NOT build a dog park in Norwood Park

From: Bruce Blaylock (bblaylock@blaylocklaw.com) <bblaylock@blaylocklaw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 9:50 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Please do NOT build a dog park in Norwood Park

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

I am a longtime resident of the community. Norwood Park has played a central role in our lives and in the raising of our two wonderful daughters.

I object in the strongest possible way to the proposed building of a dog park in Norwood Park.

Please do not look at this beautiful space and think – “Oh, we can put it here”.

Because when you put it there, you are taking something enormous away. And that something you are taking away fills our hearts and souls with love, warmth and nourishment.

Please do NOT build a dog park in Norwood Park.

There is no need for this. Our family owns a dog and we walk her and play with her and she lives a fabulous life, all without a $500,000 dog park. It is not just a waste of money in the midst of economic, job crushing pandemic, but it would permanently damage one of the jewels of our county. We should protect Norwood Park so the generations that come after us can enjoy it just the way we have.

Please do not build that dog park!

Bruce Blaylock
4812 Drummond Ave.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: Please do not pursue the proposed Norwood Park dog park project CRM:0237308
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:53:57 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Thu Jan 07 2021 11:45:38 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Please do not pursue the proposed Norwood Park dog park project

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From: Patrick Moulding <pamoulding@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 7:41 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Cc: jlkronstadt00@hotmail.com
Subject: Please do not pursue the proposed Norwood Park dog park project

Hello Mr. Riley,

Our apartment in Chevy Chase overlooks Norwood Park and we visit the park multiple times each week. We are delighted to see our neighbors (including those with pets) enjoying the park. It provides a setting for residents of all ages to exercise and to congregate together, which has been especially important during the pandemic. We admire the trees and love having an expanse of green space nearby, particularly because we have no lawn of our own. We are opposed to a dog park being inserted in the middle of this park. It would greatly disrupt this community resource. It would wall off one of the key remaining open areas, when one of Norwood Park's strengths is its flexibility for large group activities, facilitating multiple well-spaced exercise classes, picnics, or soccer/frisbee games at once. We are also concerned that the plan may stress the already limited vehicle parking, especially if the expectation is that it will be the only such dog facility in the area and so likely draw significantly increased traffic over the current baseline. Please do not pursue the dog park proposal.

Sincerely,
Patrick Moulding and Jessica Kronstadt
Chevy Chase, MD

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: RE: Proposed Dog Park CRM:0237309
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:54:12 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Wed Dec 16 2020 08:53:22 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Proposed Dog Park

From: Deb Sim <dsim@vt.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 4:23 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Proposed Dog Park

Dear Mr. Riley,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I imagine there is much on your plate these days, with the increased use of outdoor spaces. I won't take much of your time.

I grew up in Montgomery County. I spent a good part of my childhood summers running around Norwood Park. I learned to play softball in that lower field. Norwood is a gem with the right mix of dedicated and undedicated areas. To build a fenced, restricted concrete and metal environment in the middle of it would be a disgrace. The pick-up soccer games, the frisbee matches, kite flying on a blustery spring day, all gone so that people can let their dogs run loose. So silly, such a waste of resources. I have lived all over the east coast and have tried many dog parks. I have yet to find one that does not smell, that does not encourage aggressive dog behaviors and create a general nuisance for the neighborhoods that were cursed with them. To see that happen to Norwood would be a great loss to the fabric to that neighborhood. I return time and again when I am in the DC area to walk those fields, to remember those days of art lessons and softball games. Not the sounds of dog fights and the in effective owners voices above the din. What a ridiculous waste of money to destroy an already perfectly managed space.
Dog Parks are a waste of finances, and a mis-use of open park space. They encourage un-trained chaos among the canine populace. Are they're endless problems with the dogs at Norwood? I have not encountered them. If you build this dog park, more people from other locations will be encouraged to come to Norwood. What kind of parking solutions are included with this proposal? Have you been to Norwood on a summer's day? Have you driven in the neighborhoods that border the park? Already there is a parking problem, add the dog park and you create additional parking nightmares for park goers and the neighbors who live in the area. What a shame. I only hope that

this proposal, that was quietly making its way through the system is stopped before this gem of a park, in wildly growing Bethesda gets stopped before the bulldozers appear, and the astroturf is laid. I appreciate your time and attention to my thoughts.

Respectfully,
Deb

Deborah A. Sim
Curator/Armory Gallery/SOVA
Instructor/School of Visual Arts/VT
Coordinator/Art Collection Management

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: RE: Opposition to Dog Park in Norwood Park CRM:0237305
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:53:09 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Thu Jan 07 2021 11:45:49 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Opposition to Dog Park in Norwood Park

From: Nancy Young <nnyoung64@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 5:56 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Opposition to Dog Park in Norwood Park

Dear Mr. Riley:

I write to directly register my opposition to the MOCO Parks proposal to take a part of Norwood Park and create within in a dedicated dog park structure. I have lived in my home adjoining the park for 26 years. My family and I use the park frequently, mainly for walking but also for recreation and respite. This has been particularly important during COVID.

Norwood Park is highly used, by those playing sports on and off the fields and courts, by families picnicking, by people flying kites, by children using the playgrounds, and people running, jogging, playing catch, etc. Also, lots of people walk their dogs in the park, many communing as they do. I am concerned that taking a big chunk of the park – as planned – will interfere with other activities, concentrate annoying noise, ruin the relatively pastoral view (as pastoral as it can be with all the structures already there and the fact that the park is ringed by buildings that have been there for decades) and increase foot and road traffic. On the traffic side, the streets around the park are already jammed and parking is limited. I am concerned that a dedicated dog park would exacerbate that and greatly increase the number of people who already are ignoring public ingress and egress and are cutting through others' property to access the park. And, as noted, people already have access to the park to walk and exercise their dogs, so they already have reasonable use.

Finally, why a dog park and why here? At the virtual public meeting I attended, there was really no answer to that, though it was implied that it might be in light of all the dense, multi-level residential construction the County has authorized and the

County’s failure to require developers to dedicate land to new green space in exchange for those building permits. I think it would be wrong to over-pressure Norwood Park with this proposed dog park. The County needs to preserve the park for current uses and be more responsible in managing new development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Young

4850 Chevy Chase Drive

Chevy Chase. MD 20815

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: Norwood park proposed dog park CRM:0237303
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:52:34 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Wed Dec 16 2020 08:52:59 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Norwood park proposed dog park

From: Jesse Gordon <jessegordon1@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 10:36 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Norwood park proposed dog park

I think it's a great idea. Pls move forward!

Jesse Gordon, LMT
Live Awake Therapeutic Massage
Lee Building
6935 Wisconsin Ave Suite 318
Bethesda, MD 20815
Tel: 301.787.5318
Web: https://liveawake.amtamembers.com

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From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: Opinion against dog park at Norwood Park CRM:0237304
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:52:52 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Thu Jan 07 2021 11:46:21 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Opinion against dog park at Norwood Park

From: Megan Meyer <MeganMeyer@westat.com>
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 1:20 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Opinion against dog park at Norwood Park

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Hello – This email is to express my opinion against the proposed dog park at Norwood Park. I live approximately 50 feet from the park. Many people already use the park to walk their dogs (I see many people walking through my courtyard into the park every day) and there is no need to have a designated dog park area when they are already enjoying the park with their dogs. I believe the dog park would interrupt the existing open beauty of the park which needs to be preserved. I see many families using that open space for other activities like picnics, playing frisbee, etc. I believe the park can continue to be enjoyed by all without this construction project.

Thank you for considering my opinion,
Megan

Megan Meyer
Project Director
Westat | 1600 Research Blvd. | Rockville, MD 20850
301-610-5147
MeganMeyer@westat.com

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: RE: Norwood Park proposal for a dog park CRM:0237302
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:52:19 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Mon Dec 21 2020 13:46:46 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Norwood Park proposal for a dog park

From: Gloria Malkin <Gloria_Malkin@ao.uscourts.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Norwood Park proposal for a dog park

I am strongly opposed to the Dog Park. I live adjacent to Norwood Park and use it several times a week. I walk through the park almost daily, and spend time relaxing, reading, and exercising in the park. The preservation of Norwood Park's open space must be a priority for now and future generations. This 17 acre treasure offers bucolic vistas, serenity and open space for everyone to enjoy the beauty and green of the park. The park is already heavily used by individuals, families, and sports teams as well as many people with dogs. The proposed dog park location would cut off use to a significant portion of the park and would destroy one of the few open green spaces remaining in our neighborhood. Already, apartment and condo development is intruding on the little amount of green space in our area. The establishment and preservation of green space is a key goal of Montgomer County Parks and to build a dog park right in the middle of Norwood would destroy the ability of most people to fully enjoy the park. Moreover, I question the potential use of a dog park and am skeptical that it would be used by most neighborhood residents with dogs.

Please oppose the proposal for the dog park.
Sincerely,
Gloria Malkin
4800 Chevy Chase Drive
Chevy Chase, MD

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: RE: Norwood Park - NO to the Dog Park CRM:0237301
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:51:59 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Wed Dec 16 2020 08:53:39 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Norwood Park - NO to the Dog Park

From: lhbodie@aol.com <lhbodie@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Norwood Park - NO to the Dog Park

Dear Mike Riley,

I have lived adjacent to Norwood Park for 21 years and I am writing to ask you to preserve the park's open space and do not build a dog park here. The park is very heavily used for recreational and relaxation activities and sticking a dog park here would be detrimental to this important community resource. The park can be so full at peak use times, that visitors park illegally on the grass and the oval plot of land with trees, and also crowd neighborhood streets. There is such little open space left in this part of the county, it would be terrible to take some away. When my kids went to B-CC High School, I remember people often commented that it was one of the largest schools in the county, yet sits on the smallest amount of property. We are already short on places to recreate and be outside in open space, please do not make it any worse.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lorelei Bodie
4905 Chevy Chase Blvd.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: RE: Norwood Park CRM:0237300
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:51:39 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Thu Jan 07 2021 11:44:48 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Norwood Park

From: Anita O'Reilly <aorinmd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 3:36 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Cc: councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject: Norwood Park

Dear Mr. Riley,

I have heard that a large dog playground is proposed for Norwood Park. I hope this is just a nasty rumor.

I live one block from the park and visit it often. Always well used, the park has become even more popular since the onset of the pandemic and social distancing. With all the construction of apartment/condo buildings in Bethesda I expect to see even more people there in the future.

There is no unused space in Norwood Park.
The area not designed as playground or sports field does attract many people who enjoy a variety of activities from sunset viewing to informal games to kite flying and much more. A large fenced-in construction would be a radical, offensive intrusion in this beautiful landscape which is important to so many Bethesda citizens.

Yours truly,

Anita O'Reilly
4700 Bradley Blvd #309
Chevy Chase MD 20815

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: Norwood Dog Thoughts CRM:0237297
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:50:36 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Thu Jan 07 2021 11:45:28 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Norwood Dog Thoughts

From: Henry Lebard <hlebard@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 10:31 AM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Norwood Dog Thoughts

Hi Mike,
Happy Holidays.
My family lives 5 minutes walking from Norwood park and have done for 30 years.
While we recognize that designated spaces for certain activities can be beneficial for park users, we vehemently oppose the construction and use of funds to build a dog park at Norwood with the current plans in place.
Please listen to locals, and notice the large ratio of locals voting against this park.
We feel it would be unfair, unfit, and not right for the council to accept dog park plans given the feedback and the heavily outweighing disagreement that the large majority of local residents have on this.
Thank you for your time and consideration.
Very best,
Henry Lebard
4620 langdrum lane
Chevy Chase, MD

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: RE: Norwood Park CRM:0237298
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:50:54 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Mon Dec 21 2020 13:45:31 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Norwood Park

From: Siegal, Jackson C. <JSiegal@cozen.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>; councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov; marc.korman@house.state.md.us
Subject: Norwood Park

Dear Mike, Andrew, and Mark,

My name is Jackson Siegal and I live in the townhouse community of Kenwood Forest II that backs up directly onto the beloved Norwood Park. Norwood Park has been a source of unlimited joy for everyone who frequents it for as long as I've lived here, albeit I've lived here only 3 years. That being said, what I find most appealing about the park is the serenity. You have the hustle and bustle of Bethesda all around, but then tucked away is this beautiful park with just the right amount of commotion. You have picnics, kids, basketball, softball, and tennis. I run through the park every single day. There are also dogs walking with their owners and dogs playing in the open field when it isn't too buys. I am not opposed to dogs in the park by any means, but taking away a significant chunk of our beautiful park for what would inevitably be a loud, ugly, and smelly dog park is simply a terrible idea. The park is a beautiful escape, cherished by so many of its visitors. I fear that a minority of people who have dogs have somehow gained an outsized voice and advocated for the tax payer to fund a park that would make the park so much less enjoyable for little kids, families picnicking, and the visitor looking for a quiet place to get away from it all. I am strongly opposed to the park and I firmly believe a large majority of our neighborhood is against the park as well.

Thanks,
Jackson

COZEN O'CONNOR

Jackson Siegal
Associate Attorney | Cozen O'Connor
1200 19th Street NW | Washington, DC 20036
P: 202-471-3439 F: 202-559-7311 C: 561-345-0151
Email | Bio | Map | cozen.com

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: Norwood dog park proposal CRM:0237294
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:49:29 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Thu Jan 07 2021 11:44:39 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Norwood dog park proposal

-----Original Message-----
From: Fernando Cruz-Villalba <fvillacruz79@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 7:15 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Norwood dog park proposal

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

I have lived on Chevy Chase Blvd since 1983, my home abuts Norwood. The proposal for enclosing an open park area for an enclosed dog park is, simply put, outrageously irresponsible . An environmental impact of a watershed area, is needed for public review.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: RE: Norwood Dog Park CRM:0237288
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:23:38 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Wed Dec 16 2020 08:52:40 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Norwood Dog Park

-----Original Message-----
From: Jocelyn Witt <sk8witt@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:07 AM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Norwood Dog Park

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Mr Riley,
I am writing in support of the Norwood Dog Park. I really appreciate Montgomery parks consideration of this park. As you know, there are many dogs that live in this area and many of us drive to Cabin John or other dog parks in the area. I am finding these parks to be over crowded and an additional park is very necessary. Thank you so much

Lyn Witt
301-642-8908
Pardon any typos, sent from my phone.

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: Norwood Dog Park CRM:0237289
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:24:06 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Mon Dec 21 2020 13:48:25 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Norwood Dog Park

-----Original Message-----
From: Susan J Haine <sjhaine@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 5, 2020 12:04 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Norwood Dog Park

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Please approve the park. It is desperately needed. I moved to Chevy Chase 3 years ago from Alexandria. From my home I could reach 4 parks within 10 minutes. Two were large , one small and semi-urban in Old Town, and one was split into large and small dog areas. It worked well to have variety to select the best fit. Cabin John is inadequate for the current and growing number of dogs in this area.
Dog owners pay taxes and vote.
We are an underserved population.
Please Approve the Park!
Susan Haine

Sent from my iPad

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: RE: Norwood Dog Park CRM:0237290
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:24:26 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Thu Jan 07 2021 11:45:20 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Norwood Dog Park

From: Timothy McGrath <mcgrathtimothy@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Norwood Dog Park

Mr. Riley,

One can argue about the aesthetics, acoustics, funding priorities, and the overall cost of a dog park at Norwood Local Park, but one stunning and persistent omission is that of safety. The County has never effectively addressed traffic and parking patterns at this location for several decades and, in the intervening time, use of the park has grown exponentially

For example, nearly 7 years ago, in May of 2014, a spokesman for the Maryland-National Capital Park Police is quoted as saying Norwood Park "has kind of outgrown itself." *See* Bethesda Magazine, 'Outgrown' Chevy Chase Park Attracts Neighbors' Ire, by Aaron Kraut, May 22, 2014. Citing the high demand for the park, the MNCPP spokesman, who grew up in Bethesda and attended BCC High School, personally witnessed the continuous growth in demand for use of the park. The Park Manager at the time the article was written explained that "[u]nfortunately, the number of parking spaces simply can no longer accommodate the amount of use the park receives." One of the reasons given for not immediately addressing adequate parking is that "[c]apital improvements can't happen overnight", but government officials promised to upgrade the park through the agency's facility update process set to begin in fiscal year 2015. That was 6 years ago, yet the same troubling conditions persist, only with greater severity. The

reality is the Park Commission, seemingly stymied as to what to do about parking, has simply chosen to ignore the problem rather than attempt to manage it. By turning a blind eye, the Parks Department will compound this safety issue with the installation of a dog park.

Another example can be found 22 years ago when a local guide to parks cautioned readers not to "crash drive into the place" due to traffic patterns off Wisconsin Avenue as you enter the more serene neighborhood of single-family homes. It is interesting to note that the author comments on the "one-lane entrance" and the need to be "safely parked" before you can enjoy this neighborhood park. *See* The Dog Lover's Companion to Washington DC and Baltimore by Ann and Don Oldenburg, Avalon Travel Publishing (2nd Edition, Oct. 1998) at page 230. So once again, traffic patterns, parking, and safety issues cited over two decades ago are conveniently ignored today.

I happen to have the dog lover's guide cited above because I am a dog owner. We use Norwood Park to walk our dog responsibly on leash and without incident. So it is not as if the park is off limits to our four legged family members. Used responsibly, Norwood Park is a great place to walk with your dog. My greater concern when using the park is walking the roadway into the facility when there is congestion in the parking lot.

Government should be responsive to the needs of its citizenry. Promising more while failing to responsibly manage existing but limited resources only panders to the public. The failure to address serious traffic deficiencies in this congested facility demonstrates a level of malfeasance that is troubling, and due to the passage of time rises to the level of wanton neglect for the public safety concerns of our community. That said, the County should not move forward with this proposal.

Tim McGrath

Sent from my iPad

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: See attached letter opposing dog park in Norwood Park CRM:0237315
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:59:00 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Anne White;
Received: Wed Apr 07 2021 17:29:19 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: See attached letter opposing dog park in Norwood Park

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Chair Anderson:

Please see attached letter opposing the proposed dog park in Norwood Park.

Very truly yours,

Anne (Jan) W. White
Pasternak & Fidis, P.C.
Please note that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our offices are closed to the public. We are working remotely. We remain available to you via email, phone, and video conference. Please assist our staff by sending us your documents electronically when possible.
7735 Old Georgetown Road | Suite 1100 | Bethesda, MD 20814
T 301.656.8850 x 440 F 301.656.3053
janwhite@pasternakfidis.com

pasternakfidis.com | bio | vCard | map

Family Law, Collaborative Law, and Mediation
Named to Top 100 Attorneys and Top 50 Women Attorneys by Super Lawyers
Named Best Collaborative Family Lawyer by Best Lawyers
Named to Washingtonian and Bethesda Magazine Top Divorce Lawyers

November 16, 2020

Michael F. Riley
Director, Department of Parks
Montgomery County
9500 Brunett Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Re: Opposition to dog park in Norwood Park

Dear Mr. Riley:

I am writing to express strong opposition to the proposed dog park in Norwood Park. My first opportunity to learn of this proposed dog park and to express an opinion was the November 10, 2020 Zoom presentation open to residents. I live at 4832 Chevy Chase Blvd., about a 3 minute walk to Norwood Park.

Norwood Park is currently heavily used and has a serious parking shortage and overflow that interferes with neighborhood parking. The planners acknowledged that there is a shortage of parking and a problem for residents due to users of Norwood Park parking on neighborhood streets. *They acknowledged that the dog park plans do not address the parking problem. They also incorrectly assumed that, since Norwood Park is a local park, users of the dog park will walk to it; this is contrary to current usage of Norwood Park, which draws from non-residents. It is also contrary to the presenters' statements that a dog park in Norwood would serve people coming from downtown Bethesda.* The presenters said that there are future plans to restore the historic building at Norwood Park that might add a few parking spaces by reconfiguring the spaces, but, even if this is done, no additional parking area will be added to the footprint. This shortage of parking has been acknowledged since at least 2014, when Bethesda Magazine published an article on this subject.

The planning presentation indicated that the planners had not made a careful analysis of the existing use of Norwood Park. Rather, they had visited the park on several occasions. Indeed, since March 2020 it would have been impossible to obtain reliable data on the use of the park. The park is heavily used during the pandemic, but not at the same volume. The planners identified an area for the dog park that is heavily used by park patrons—one of the few parts of the park not dedicated to sports fields, tennis courts, or playgrounds. The designated space is very close to the tot playground and only 130 feet from nearby residents' homes. The presenters on the Zoom call had no answer for residents who objected to loss of this park space.

There has been no acoustic study as to noise interfering with residents. When asked, the presenters said there has been no acoustic study, but they looked at other dog parks placed about 150-200 feet from property lines of nearby residents and located the proposed Norwood Park dog park 130 feet from nearby residents. There is no place in Norwood Park that is sufficiently far from residences to avoid noise from multiple dogs' barking interfering with residents' daily lives. If the presenters took seriously the needs of residents, they would need some measurements to deal with this problem. They have overlooked this, apparently not taking this problem seriously.

The presenters also did not address the developer's proposal for a dog park at the site of the nearby Farm Women's Market, when that site is redeveloped. The developer of the Farm Women's Market has proposed a dog park for that site. The redevelopment of the Farm Women's Market will have extensive parking available and is about ½ mile from Norwood Park. The presenters of the November 10 Zoom program did not mention this alternative and may not have been aware of it.

Multiple neighbors on the November 10 Zoom call pointed out this was the first they heard of the proposal for a dog park in Norwood Park. I take at good faith the attempts made by the presenters to publicize the dog park plans. However, it was striking how many neighbors, including myself, learned of this proposal only from the November 10 Zoom call and the postcards that went out shortly before the call. There was no successful earlier attempt to obtain the opinions of neighbors in the immediate area of Norwood Park. It would have been simple to use the neighborhood directory and send notices early in the process—or distribute flyers in the neighborhood, but this was not done.

Norwood Park is a well used treasure for our community. Without better study and understanding of the many uses of Norwood Park as well as future development plans, such as the redevelopment of the Farm Women's Market and the proposed dog park there, disruption of current Norwood Park use and the surrounding community is a real risk. The dog park at Norwood Park should be rejected or delayed until these impacts can be adequately assessed.

Very truly yours,

Anne (Jan) W. White

Anne (Jan) W. White
4832 Chevy Chase Blvd.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

cc: The Honorable Andrew Friedson
Casey Anderson, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board
Cindy Gibson, Chief of Staff to Councilmember Friedson
Christie Ciabotti, Project Manager

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: No to the Dog Park - Preserve Norwood Park"s Open Space CRM:0237284
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:22:16 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Wed Dec 16 2020 08:53:10 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: No to the Dog Park - Preserve Norwood Park's Open Space

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From: Lynn <lynnmweinstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 9:28 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: No to the Dog Park - Preserve Norwood Park's Open Space

I live on Chevy Chase Drive next to Norwood Park and I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed dog park.

Norwood is a beautiful park and the land this dog park would occupy is important open space. I strongly feel that a dog park should be located on land that is not being used for other purposes - such as the overflow parking near the Bradley pool, or you could create a couple of pocket parks for dog parks in downtown Bethesda, like is available in much of D.C.

The people who designed this ugly dog park, clearly do not understand how this open space is used for a variety of purposes, from kids playing soccer to kids playing frisbee, to summer camp and BCC students using it for a variety of purposes, to neighbors who use it for 4th of July and other celebrations. I walk through the park a couple of times a day and enjoy the open spaces.

There is clearly no parking currently available in Norwood, and the drainage was never corrected when the playgrounds were put in. There is no maintenance money dedicated to this project. Why should so much of the park be permanently taken up by a structure to provide an amenity to people who have chosen to acquire dogs and at a cost of $500k when we are going to be facing a big squeeze due to costs associated with COVID? There has been no study regarding the noise that this park would create, and another dog park in Chevy Chase was closed down due to noise.

I strongly oppose the park, and hope that if a dog park is built, it will occupy land that is not successfully being used for multiple purposes.

Lynn Weinstein

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: NO to the Dog Park at Norwood Park CRM:0237285
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:22:31 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Mon Dec 21 2020 13:45:58 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: NO to the Dog Park at Norwood Park

From: Diego Cerdeiro <diegocerdeiro@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2020 8:49 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>; Councilmember <Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov>; marc.korman@house.state.md.us
Subject: NO to the Dog Park at Norwood Park

Head of Montgomery County Parks
Mike Riley

Montgomery County Council Member
Andrew Friedson

Maryland State Delegate
Mark Korman

Dear Messrs. Riley, Friedson and Korman,

I am writing to you with regards to the proposal to construct a dog park in Norwood Park.

I am a Norwood Park neighbor. My wife, my 3-year-old daughter and I use the Park every day. It is central to our life in the neighborhood. We moved to the neighborhood less than two years ago, and one major reason we fell in love with it was largely the beauty of Norwood Park.

I would like to express my emphatic opposition to the proposal to construct a dog park. The construction of the dog park would severely affect the landscape of this neighborhood landmark. I sincerely hope that this proposal does not move forward.

Sincerely yours, and with best wishes for the holiday season,
Diego A. Cerdeiro

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: No dog park in norwood park! CRM:0237281
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:21:21 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Mon Dec 21 2020 13:47:58 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: No dog park in norwood park!

-----Original Message-----
From: Suz Brown <suzbrown@me.com>
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 6:09 AM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: No dog park in norwood park!

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

We love the huge space the park offers - I live in a small space nearby there with my 2 sons, 5 and 3. We use the open space more than the playgrounds - we have been there every day since COVID started, rain, shine, or cold - and love every inch of that place. Please don't break it up!

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: NO to a dog park in Norwood Park CRM:0237282
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:21:39 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Thu Jan 07 2021 11:46:29 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: NO to a dog park in Norwood Park

From: Huong <huongdc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 1:12 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>; councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov; marc.korman@house.state.md.us
Subject: NO to a dog park in Norwood Park

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this to ask you to reconsider the dog park project which is planned to build in Norwood Park. As a local resident, we strongly believe that the dog park is a bad idea because the area for green space in the Park is not enough for human activities, for children to play sports and games individually. I've always seen the park crowded. Most of the open space is rented out to many educational or sport businesses. Families do not have space to play sports for parents and children. We need more green space prioritized for children and families to enjoy the beauty and green of the park. Plus, there is no enforcement on the leash law and other rules in the park. Once this park becomes a hot spot for more dog owners and their dogs to gather, this will pose a danger to children and residents living nearby. I personally have been under distress a few times when unleashed big dogs jumped on me, and had to clean dog waste thrown in our private trash bin. Please protect our children and give parents a peace of mind when we bring our kids to the park. And even without a dog park, people still walk their dogs in the park anyway. I would personally advocate for a project like this once I could see dog owners strictly follow the leash rule and pose no danger to others in the park.

In essence, the park does not have enough space for children and families to enjoy and play sports and recreational activities, especially during the covid pandemic. We need more green space or tennis courts. Residents nearby need a peaceful living environment without dog barking all the time. Safety for children and people in the park to be compromised because many dog owners do not follow the leash law and respect the personal space and safety of others which is usually threatened and bothered by their dogs.

Sincerely,
Huong Mills
4854 Chevy Chase Drive, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: No to Dog park in Norwood Park CRM:0237283
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:21:58 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Mon Dec 21 2020 13:46:08 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: No to Dog park in Norwood Park

From: Aparna Lele <aparna.lele@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2020 6:27 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>; councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov; marc.korman@house.state.md.us
Subject: No to Dog park in Norwood Park

Hi,

I live in Kenwood Forest II community and want to stop the dog park development in Norwood Park. Please take this for consideration.

Thanks,
Aparna

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: in support of the Norwood dog park proposal CRM:0237279
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:20:48 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Mon Dec 21 2020 13:48:08 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: in support of the Norwood dog park proposal

From: Ellen Gadbois <elg6215@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 5, 2020 3:10 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>; councilmember.riemer <councilmember.riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject: in support of the Norwood dog park proposal

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Mr. Riley and Councilmembers Riemer and Friedson,

I am writing in support of the idea to build the Norwood dog park. I live in Bethesda and have two boys, so I support parks for children. But it is a 15-20 minute drive from where I live in Bethesda to get to the nearest fenced/official dog parks, and I would really value something closer. Less driving is better for everyone, and the dog would get to go more often. It might also reduce the number of dogs that are off-leash in regular parks.

One other idea: the Newark St. dog park on DC has motion-activated lights, which makes that the only dog park we can go to after dinner in the winter. Please consider that for any new dog park--it would make the investment even more useful.

Thanks for considering my input.

Sincerely,
Ellen Gadbois
6215 Redwing Ct.
Bethesda, MD 20817

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: Dog Park at Norwood Park CRM:0237276
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:20:00 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Mon Dec 21 2020 13:46:33 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Dog Park at Norwood Park

-----Original Message-----
From: Margaret Simmons <margaretsimmons@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 1:36 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Dog Park at Norwood Park

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Mr. Riley,

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed dog park in Norwood Park. I am a resident of Montgomery County and live on Chevy Chase Boulevard which abuts the park.

Currently, dog owners are free to use the park with their dogs on a leash. Taking precious open space in the park to create a special zone for dog owners to have their dogs off leash diminishes the park for the benefit of the few. Also, I live close enough to walk, but parking appears to always be a challenge which the dog park will exacerbate as people outside of Montgomery County, like upper NW DC will likely drive to use the park and thus the parking spaces.

In any event, I would hope that the dog park remains just a bad idea and does not get implemented.

Best,

Margaret Simmons.

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: Dog Park in Norwood Park, Chevy Chase - PLEASE CANCEL CRM:0237277
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:20:16 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Thu Jan 07 2021 11:44:41 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Dog Park in Norwood Park, Chevy Chase - PLEASE CANCEL

From: Korman, Marc Delegate <Marc.Korman@house.state.md.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 6:06 PM
To: 'Jan Kaliba' <jan.kaliba5@gmail.com>; Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>; councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject: RE: Dog Park in Norwood Park, Chevy Chase - PLEASE CANCEL

Jan,

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on this proposal. Be sure to formally submit your comments using this link: https://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/public-input/#peak_democracy

Right now, the project is at the staff level and does not require a vote of the County Council or state legislature.

Thanks,

Joseph Swit
Legislative Aide
Office of Delegate Marc Korman
6 Bladen Street, Room 210
Annapolis, MD 21401
Cell: 410-409-1047
Office: 301-858-3649

From: Jan Kaliba [mailto:jan.kaliba5@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 3:32 PM
To: mike.riley@montgomeryparks.org; councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov;

Korman, Marc Delegate <Marc.Korman@house.state.md.us>
Subject: Dog Park in Norwood Park, Chevy Chase - PLEASE CANCEL

Dear all,

I hope you are well and healthy during these demanding times.

I am reaching out to you regarding the proposed dog park in Norwood Park, Chevy Chase. I´d like to let you know that I and my family (as residents of nearby Hillandale Rd.) strongly oppose the construction of this dog park.

We use Norwood Park literally every day, especially the playgrounds with our little kids. We consider the great open space of Norwood Park as a treasure of not only our neighborhood and community, but all our local region.

The dog park would destroy a big part of natural beauty, natural surface and complexity of Norwood Park and would be very disturbing especially for the smaller playground next to the proposed dog park where the youngest kids are playing. Those are our great and sincere concerns as it is part of our everyday life. We would be very sad and upset if the project would go through and based on my conversations with our neighbors, many of them (even the dog owners) feel it the same way.

Please, consider cancelling construction of the dog park in Norwood Park, Chevy Chase.

Best regards and Happy New Year.

Jan Kaliba
6607 Hillandale Rd., Chevy Chase, MD, 20815

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: I want to vote not to have the dog park in Norwood Park. CRM:0237278
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:20:34 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Wed Dec 16 2020 08:53:51 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: I want to vote not to have the dog park in Norwood Park.

-----Original Message-----
From: diverbobbi@gmail.com <diverbobbi@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 29, 2020 7:24 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: I want to vote not to have the dog park in Norwood Park.

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

The. Park is very well used by many people of all ages; there are many afternoons when there aren't enough parking places, so the extra cars park on Chevy Chase Blvd and Offutt. Many well-behaved dogs come in and out with their owners.

We have enjoyed the park for 57 years! The expanse of the lovely area and the trees offer a place to sit, walk, ski, rest and play games for many people of all economic levels. Being able to look out over the park, especially at sunset is a treat we all appreciate. A high fenced in area for dog's would not be attractive and it would disturb tre scene.

Dog parks provide a place for dogs to run and play, bark, and tangle with each, but the commotion is not conducive with what many people want to do in this park. Today, I looked at the rather large piece of land chosen for the dogs right in the middle of the play area, where I watched two dads and their sons throwing and catching balls. During this Covid time, the park has been a godsend for Nannies and little children, who need a calm place.

Back when the playground for handicapped children was built, I went door to door to collect money to renovate the playground for the very young children, (Tot Lot). People were generous and pleased that we were allowed to have two playgrounds, because we payed for the the small one.

Please do not approve of this Dog Park.

Sincerely,

Roberta K. Brown
4801 Chevy Chase Blvd

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: "No" to a dog park in the Norwood Local Park CRM:0237273
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:18:45 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Thu Jan 07 2021 11:44:32 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: "No" to a dog park in the Norwood Local Park

From: William Center <willncenter@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2020 4:58 PM
To: Anderson, Casey <Casey.Anderson@mncppc-mc.org>; Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>; Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org>; marc.korman@house.state.md.us; councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject: "No" to a dog park in the Norwood Local Park

I participated in the November 10 on-line meeting and was dismayed to observe the summation of the comments as if there were equal sides to the question. It was not an equivocal discussion. Not even close.

The overwhelming number of participants on that call did not want this dog park and numerous issues about it have been raised. I wish to highlight that many of the objections come from dog owners themselves, who are not only against the proposal but if it went ahead would not use the facility. If this project proceeds, it will ruin a precious resource and would only satisfy the needs of a distinct minority.
What draws people to Norwood Local Park are the uninterrupted views and the possibilities that open spaces provide. The proposed dog park would have a chilling effect on this attraction. It would be for a single purpose, used intermittently, and it would nullify the opportunities this space provides for any other activity.

It has been noted by the community how much this space is currently used, and so it was disappointing on the November 10 call to discover that the Parks Department was not fully briefed on this point. What also has not been emphasized is that a great many of the users of Norwood Local Park use it as a public right of way. Walking the length and breadth of parkland is a vital tonic in many people's daily lives, and having an ugly dog park would discourage some from even entering the park.

For the minority who want the dog park, the primary reason seems to be that the Cabin John or

Ellsworth dog parks are too far away. Fair enough. But instead of ruining a heavily used space, wouldn't it be better to design a dog park around new developments, eg the proposed development around the Farm Women's Market, where the disruption is already part of the equation?

Respectfully,

William Center
4623 Morgan Drive
Chevy Chase, Md 20815

From: Seth Goldman <seth@eatthechange.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2020 3:18 PM
To: Friedson, Andrew <Andrew.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org>; 'Julie Farkas' <indigobunting62@yahoo.com>
Subject: comment on proposed dog park in Norwood Park

Dear Andrew and Christie,

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the idea of putting a dog park inside of Norwood Park. Norwood Park is an amazingly valuable and cherished community resource (our house backs onto the park), but it is currently operating at full capacity for humans already. On many weekend days the park is totally filled with recreational games, picnics and family outings. And now since the pandemic, there are several days where there aren't safe spaces for families to gather in a socially distant and safe manner. Further reducing the space available for humans by installing a fenced-in area for dogs would create unnecessary health and safety risks.

We are fine with dogs in the park, when they are on a leash and are not able to bother, scare children or disturb others. For those interested in creating a fenced in park, we encourage the Park and Planning Commission to explore locating a dog park at the corner of Arlington Road and Little Falls Parkway. That location has more unused space and far fewer families visiting it on a daily basis. There also might be an opportunity to locate a dog park in the parking lot near that park, since it is vacant most of the time.

Please let us know if you need more information or would like to discuss our concerns. We would be happy to walk through the park with you on a Saturday afternoon so you can see how crowded the park already is, as well as show you the suggested alternate space at Arlington Road and Little Falls Parkway.

Best regards, Seth Goldman and Julie Farkas

SETH GOLDMAN Co-Founder & CEO
Eat the Change™ • PLNT Burger • ETC Impact
4827 Bethesda Ave. Bethesda, MD 20814

@HonestSeth • Climate change is real. So is our power to act.

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: RE: Dog Park CRM:0237275
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:19:40 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Mon Dec 21 2020 13:46:21 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: RE: Dog Park

-----Original Message-----
From: Michael Konefal <mjkonefal59@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Dog Park

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Sir

I recommend against the dog park as the space within Norwood Park is already limited with the number of sport games and athletics that take place during the warmer months. Such action would impede the ability of all Chevy Chase residents from enjoying this open space and other benefits that the park has to offer.

I also believe that the proposed funding could be better used by donating the Allocated budget in it's entirety to Nourish Now that is working diligently to put food on the table for those who are suffering from COVID and can not put food on the Table

Regards

Michael

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Public Notice (MC-21-002): Uniform Dog Park Rules CRM:0237271
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:17:58 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Donald Tobin;
Received: Tue Apr 06 2021 16:38:59 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)
To: Partap Verma; Natali Fani-Gonzalez; Gerald Cichy; MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; tina.patterson@mncppc-mc.org; Gerald Cichy; Partap Verma; Tina Patterson; MCP-Chair #; Natali Fani-Gonzalez; ;
Cc: Casey Anderson; Casey Anderson;
Subject: Public Notice (MC-21-002): Uniform Dog Park Rules

Dear Planning Board Member -
The April 8 Planning Board Agenda includes a Public Notice about Park Directive MC-21-002. That directive includes a new set of Uniform Dog Park Rules (effective April 8, 2021). I have several concerns with those Rules.

1. Uniform Dog Park Rule No. 1 states that Dog Park **"Users assume all risk of harm."** This is an extraordinarily broad liability waiver and is clearly intended to shield the County from liability in the event someone is injured seriously in a County operated dog park. Rule No. 1 also serves as a rather ominous warning by the County that dog parks are inherently dangerous. It makes one wonder why the County is in the dog park business - particularly since they cost over $500,000 to build and require constant maintenance.

2. There are nine rules governing the actions of the dogs, dog handlers or users while in the dog parks. The County, however, does not staff its dog parks, meaning that compliance

with these rules is primarily voluntary. For example, Rule 5 prohibits aggressive dogs and/or dogs in heat. If someone ignores this rule, what can the other park users do about it. Calling the Park Police is not a realistic option.

3. The current Dog Park rules provide that "Dog owners are liable for any injuries and damage caused by their dogs." New Uniform Rule No. 7, however, states that Dog Park Users are only "responsible for repairing/replacing any damage caused by them or their dog." This means that (as of April 8, 2021) dog owners will no longer be liable for injuries **(harm)** caused by their dogs - regardless of the cause. This is consistent with Uniform Rule No. 1 which requires dog park users to assume the risk of such injuries **(harm)**. While I am confident that Montgomery County carefully vetted the new Uniform Dog Park Rules, I am not aware of a public policy which is advanced by protecting dog owners from liability when their dog(s) seriously **harms** someone.

I understand that Park Directive MC-21-002 does not require any Planning Board action, but I thought that the above concerns might be of interest.

Donald Tobin
6403 Offutt Road
Chevy Chase, MD
20815

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: RE norwood dog park FW: Voice Mail (2 minutes and 31 seconds) CRM:0237272
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:18:20 PM
Attachments: audio.mp3

From: WIRELESS CALLER <+13018078671>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Voice Mail (2 minutes and 31 seconds)

Oh hi Christie, my name is Sandra Rest a I received your phone number from Park Scepter asking a question of the people who entered the Sun. Anyway, I'm calling to find out about the proposed dog Park in Norwood. I wanted to know if the budget has actually been approved in the money set aside for it. I have some concerns or I'm a dog owner in. I personally would prefer to not have that Dog Park there because I think it's going to be a real potential mess for mixing lots of children with dogs and having to walk through near the plane fields and near the playground. And then there's a preschool. There's issues with parking. I just think there must be a better location than this so that we don't have to potentially have it shut down. I, I fear, dog bites that kind of thing. I understand that the women's farm market is something that perhaps down the road might be an option, but I'm wondering if for now until that's built, if one of the smaller parks could be used, one of these kind of parts that don't get used for practically anything at all, there is a few small ones over by the way. Lawton Center I'm sorry not want in center I mean oh goodness, it's behind the CVS on Wisconsin Ave in Bethesda. Sort of like the CVS where the 711 is. If you go behind CVS, there's a little park there that would be just perfect and there's a few other parks scattered through Montgomery Bethesda area and that would be perfect to have just for dogs that were not mixing children and dogs. 'cause I think that will really cause a serious problem and the shutting down of dog parks. My phone number is 301-807-8671 in my name is Sandra are Ester. Thank you.

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Proposed Norwood dog park is a travesty CRM:0237269
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:17:22 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Barron WILLIAMS;
Received: Sun Jan 03 2021 08:45:36 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Mike Riley; MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; Mike Riley; ;
Subject: Proposed Norwood dog park is a travesty

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Greetings:

Norwood Park is a jewel of the park system and a treasure of the community.

Your departments propose to inflict a horrible scar upon this historic, sweeping, landscape. As one of my neighbors so succinctly put it: "Olmsted is rolling over in his grave".

Don't let ideology agenda-driven data-mining (faux outreach) justify this heinous project. You don't wound an asset of generations based on top-down analysis conceived to bolster flavor-of-the-day orthodoxy.

I have lived in Somerset and Chevy Chase West since 2004. I have four children and have always used the park heavily. I currently own a home directly adjacent to the park. I have a degree in Landscape Architecture from Cornell University (1994). I think we can take for granted what a survey of the ASLA would have to say about this proposal.

Sincerely,
Barron Williams
4906 De Russey

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Proposed Norwood Dog Park, hearing date May 6 2021 CRM:0237270
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:17:38 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Chessa Lutter;
Received: Wed Mar 31 2021 14:58:26 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: Proposed Norwood Dog Park, hearing date May 6 2021

Dear Casey Anderson,

I am writing to register my support for the proposed dog park at Norwood Park. Many surrounding neighbors enjoy walking their dogs in the park and would benefit from proposed dog park to let their dogs romp. Although I live a mile or so away from the park, I often use the Crescent Trail to walk my dog there. It Is by far the largest park in the area and I believe the proposed design would not detract from its beauty that so many in the community, with and without dogs, enjoy.

Sincerely yours,

Chessa Lutter
5024 Newport Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20816

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Proposed Dog Park in Norwood Local Park CRM:0237266
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:16:27 PM
Attachments:	NorwoodParkDogPark.12082020.docx

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Ruthann Bates;
Received: Tue Dec 08 2020 12:26:24 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Delegate Marc Korman; Councilmember Friedson; Mike Riley; Christie Ciabotti; MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; Christie Ciabotti; MCP-Chair #; Mike Riley; ;
Cc: ccwboard@groups.io;
Subject: Proposed Dog Park in Norwood Local Park

Attached please find a letter from the Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Association (CCWNA) expressing our strong opposition to the proposed dog park, and our reasons for taking this position.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Ruthann Bates
Secretary, CCWNA

Mike Riley, Head of Montgomery County Parks
Andrew Friedson, Montgomery County Council
Christie Ciabotti, Landscape Architect, Montgomery County Parks
Marc Korman, Maryland State Delegate
Casey Anderson, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board

December 8, 2020

Dear Mr. Riley, Council Member Friedson, Ms. Ciabotti, Delegate Korman, and Chair Anderson:

The Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Association, which represents more than 450 homes in a neighborhood that borders Norwood Park and provides its only vehicular access point, strongly opposes the proposed dog park in Norwood Park. During the study period, we have asked multiple times to meet or speak with Parks staff to share our knowledge of park use and discuss options, but to no avail. We appreciate your attention to and consideration of our comments below.

We support the Montgomery County strategic priority of establishing green space in the lower county. Much successful effort has been invested by Montgomery County in preserving open space in the upper county. Down county, there is significantly less green space and therefore, it becomes more important to preserve what little is left. Given the density of the lower county, significant green space is now and will be for the foreseeable future, at a premium. Norwood Park's open green space is a unique and treasured asset benefiting the entire Bethesda-Chevy Chase and lower-county region. The community benefit of this green space would be forever altered by the construction of a fenced-in, mulch-surfaced space for dogs nearly one-third the size of a football field, right at its heart. This construction would permanently disrupt and diminish the present natural beauty and multi-use functionality of this cherished space, and would contradict the very purpose of Parks' mission "to improve the quality of life for all citizens."

In addition to the premium on the green space Norwood Park provides to the county, as our residents are contiguous to Norwood Local Park, we are extremely familiar with its usage patterns, and observe the heavy, continuous use and enjoyment that takes place specifically in

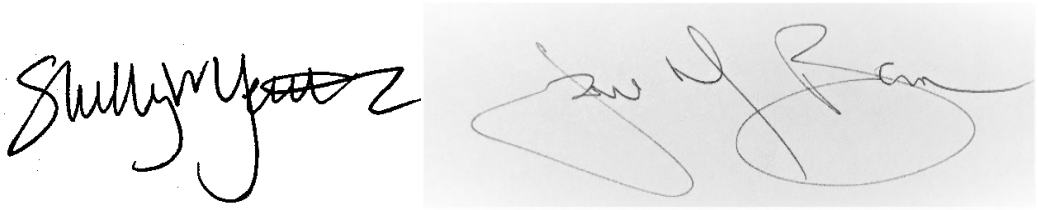
the proposed dog park area on a regular basis year round. The very space of the proposed dog park is the one sought for a variety of K-12 sports practices, school field days, organized Ultimate Frisbee League practice, and community-based Frisbee, yoga, campouts, picnics, Turkey Bowl football, Fourth of July races, and – yes -- dog socializing and community building. While this heavy level of activity has an impact on our street parking and traffic in the neighborhood, as citizen-neighbors we are supportive of community needs and the enjoyment of the park by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase community. On a more practical level, the lack of sufficient parking at Norwood has been an ongoing issue for years both within the park and its surroundings. Illegal parking occurs on a regular basis most afternoons and weekends, and spills repeatedly onto our residential streets. This problem would only intensify with the added feature of a dog park, and reconfiguring parking would add only a handful of spaces and might even subtract further from the precious green space.

In addition, the proposed site is less than the recommended 200 feet from adjacent residences and less than the recommended 65 feet from an adjacent playground. Norwood Park already suffers from a significant maintenance problem due to a lack of funds. The use of $500,000 of taxpayer funds towards a project with significant opposition is greatly misplaced. Furthermore, spending money on a water source and shelter for a dog space is a flawed priority in the wider range of needs within the park system. It seems ultimately counter-intuitive to establish a costly concrete/mulch construct in the middle of an established green space used by children and families every day.

In sum, Norwood Park constitutes the last significant open space in this very dense area of the county, and is a crucial benefit for the health and enjoyment of so many county residents. It would be sorely missed. We believe the plan for a fenced-in area here for socializing of dogs is faulty at the outset, and there is far greater need for open space for both dogs and humans to enjoy. Please move to dismiss this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Your sincerely,



Joan Barron and Shelley Yeutter, Co-Presidents

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: proposed dog park in Norwood Park CRM:0237267
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:16:15 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Erica Brown;
Received: Wed Jan 06 2021 18:02:04 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: proposed dog park in Norwood Park

Dear Members of the Planning Board,

Although I greatly appreciate the work of the Parks Department in creating and maintaining important recreation spaces for Montgomery County residents, I am strongly opposed to the proposed dog park in Norwood Park. My reasons include:

1) **Severe lack of parking**: The streets bordering the park are already under strain from heavy use of the park by sports teams, and a dog park would greatly increase that demand.

2) **Destruction of rare open space**: Norwood Park is one of the few large downcounty parks that offers abundant green space. An 18,000 sq. ft. fenced structure would be a terrible scar on this natural setting.

3) **Proximity to an existing tot lot**: The proposed dog park would be right next to a tot lot. With excitable dogs and small children coming and going into adjacent areas, there could be safety issues.

4) **Excessive costs during a time of extreme fiscal uncertainty:** Spending $500,000 on a dog park is not a good look for the County when unemployment and hunger are at a record high.

5) **Lack of sufficient outreach to the neighboring community**: There has been just one community meeting, no notification to our neighborhood association or to residents whose homes border the park, and an insufficient response to requests for details by the Parks Department.

Thank you for your consideration of the many reasons to oppose this plan.

Regards,

Erica Brown
4609 Hunt Ave
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Proposed Norwood Dog Park CRM:0237268
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:16:48 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Sing-huen Morgan;
Received: Thu Apr 15 2021 21:53:21 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: Proposed Norwood Dog Park

Dear Planning Board Members,

I am writing to you as a long-time resident in Chevy Chase West to let you know that I adamantly oppose the Parks Department's proposed location of a 18,000 sq. ft. dog park in the middle of Norwood Park. Based on my experience over the past 40 years as parent and grandparent living near Norwood Park, the currently proposed Norwood Dog Park location has a high potential for trauma and injury for toddlers and young children, and will displace a high-use, much valued area for children games, sports teams, and family activities.

The reasons for my conclusion are:

1) The proposed dog park will be just 50 feet from the toddler playground. The access path from the Little Falls Park Trail to the proposed Dog Park entails going right next to the toddler playground on one side and through the toddler-young children play area on the other side.
2) Walking from the parking lot to the dog park without going on the Park Trail will involve walking through a high-use game and sport area, and a much-used route between the toddler playground and the older-children playground for children and parents.

So, instead of a dog park, why not have the dog-owners bring their dogs to the open park in the morning or evening as they currently do, or if a formal dog park is a must, choose an area that is currently not in such high use, such as the western edge of Norwood Park that can be accessed directly from the park trail? Or an area along the park trail that can be accessed directly from Hillandale Road?

Sincerely,

Sing-huen Morgan

4712 Morgan Drive, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

301-652-1935

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Proposed Dog Park at Norwood Park CRM:0237265
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:15:35 PM
Attachments:	page1image26918080.png page1image26916928.png page1image26909056.png

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---------- Original Message ----------
From: Stacey Wolf;
Received: Mon Apr 12 2021 18:00:38 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Cc: Stacey Wolf;
Subject: Proposed Dog Park at Norwood Park

April 12, 2021

ATTN: Park and Planning Board Members

Re: Proposed Dog Park at Norwood Park

Dear Chair Anderson:

On behalf of the residents at Bradley House Condominiums, we are opposed to the Parks Department's recommendation that the Planning Board approve a dog park in Norwood Local Park; which is scheduled to be discussed at the May 6, 2021 Planning Board Meeting. Residing in a building with no backyard finds us and many of our neighbors at Norwood Park daily. The children and grandchildren of the residents love running across the fields, relaxing, playing on the playground, partaking in sports-related activities, and picnicking on the available green space; in usual times and especially in these pandemic times.

The proposed location of the Dog Park on the Norwood Park property is of the utmost concern:

As mentioned during the Parks Department November 10, 2020 Community Meeting, **the proposed Norwood Dog Park creates safety issues, particularly for young children, and a liability issue for the County. The proposed proximity of the Dog Park and walkway to the Dog Park would be positioned only 50 feet from the unenclosed Tot Playground, therefore, creating an imminent danger to toddlers and young children.**

This is poor planning; especially when other green space exists at the park that could be considered and the Tot Playground needs updating *(pictures attached).* Pictures were taken during typical "nap time", as to not photograph any adults or

children without their permission.

As a parent of two children, 5 and younger, and a former educator and school administrator; there are serious concerns for the safety of children (and or students) given the proximity of the Toddler (Tot) Playground and the proposed Dog Park location. Toddlers and young children routinely run around the Tot Playground and the surrounding park area. Some children, including one of my own are hesitant around dogs due to fears of being licked, jumped on, and attacked. Many residents purchased in this building to enjoy the recreation options that Norwood has to offer, but with a dog park in this location, the Tot Playground will be rendered uninviting and not usable.

On behalf of the residents at Bradley House Condominium, thank you for time and attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Stacey Band

Stacey Band, MPA
Community Liaison, Bradley House Condominium 4800 Chevy Chase Drive, Chevy Chase, MD, 20815

Toddler Playground, Norwood Park, Chevy Chase, Maryland

Older Equipment, the only “true” Toddler equipment

Rust on some equipment

Flooring/ground challenges and hazards

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Opposition to proposed dog park in Norwood Park CRM:0237263
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:15:23 PM
Attachments:	Mike Riley dog park 11 16 20 signed.pdf

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Anne White;
Received: Mon Nov 16 2020 23:00:32 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Mike Riley; Mike Riley;
Cc: Councilmember Friedson; Christie Ciabotti; MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; Christie Ciabotti; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: Opposition to proposed dog park in Norwood Park

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Mr. Riley:

Please see attached my letter in opposition to the proposed dog park in Norwood Park.

Very truly yours,

Anne (Jan) W. White
Pasternak & Fidis, P.C.
Please note that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our offices are closed to the public. We are working remotely. We remain available to you via email, phone, and video conference. Please assist our staff by sending us your documents electronically when possible.
7735 Old Georgetown Road | Suite 1100 | Bethesda, MD 20814
T 301.656.8850 x 440 F 301.656.3053
janwhite@pasternakfidis.com

pasternakfidis.com | bio | vCard | map

Family Law, Collaborative Law, and Mediation
Named to Top 100 Attorneys and Top 50 Women Attorneys by Super Lawyers
Named Best Collaborative Family Lawyer by Best Lawyers
Named to Washingtonian and Bethesda Magazine Top Divorce Lawyers

November 16, 2020

Michael F. Riley
Director, Department of Parks
Montgomery County
9500 Brunett Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Re: Opposition to dog park in Norwood Park

Dear Mr. Riley:

I am writing to express strong opposition to the proposed dog park in Norwood Park. My first opportunity to learn of this proposed dog park and to express an opinion was the November 10, 2020 Zoom presentation open to residents. I live at 4832 Chevy Chase Blvd., about a 3 minute walk to Norwood Park.

Norwood Park is currently heavily used and has a serious parking shortage and overflow that interferes with neighborhood parking. The planners acknowledged that there is a shortage of parking and a problem for residents due to users of Norwood Park parking on neighborhood streets. *They acknowledged that the dog park plans do not address the parking problem. They also incorrectly assumed that, since Norwood Park is a local park, users of the dog park will walk to it; this is contrary to current usage of Norwood Park, which draws from non-residents. It is also contrary to the presenters' statements that a dog park in Norwood would serve people coming from downtown Bethesda.* The presenters said that there are future plans to restore the historic building at Norwood Park that might add a few parking spaces by reconfiguring the spaces, but, even if this is done, no additional parking area will be added to the footprint. This shortage of parking has been acknowledged since at least 2014, when Bethesda Magazine published an article on this subject.

The planning presentation indicated that the planners had not made a careful analysis of the existing use of Norwood Park. Rather, they had visited the park on several occasions. Indeed, since March 2020 it would have been impossible to obtain reliable data on the use of the park. The park is heavily used during the pandemic, but not at the same volume. The planners identified an area for the dog park that is heavily used by park patrons—one of the few parts of the park not dedicated to sports fields, tennis courts, or playgrounds. The designated space is very close to the tot playground and only 130 feet from nearby residents' homes. The presenters on the Zoom call had no answer for residents who objected to loss of this park space.

There has been no acoustic study as to noise interfering with residents. When asked, the presenters said there has been no acoustic study, but they looked at other dog parks placed about 150-200 feet from property lines of nearby residents and located the proposed Norwood Park dog park 130 feet from nearby residents. There is no place in Norwood Park that is sufficiently far from residences to avoid noise from multiple dogs' barking interfering with residents' daily lives. If the presenters took seriously the needs of residents, they would need some measurements to deal with this problem. They have overlooked this, apparently not taking this problem seriously.

The presenters also did not address the developer's proposal for a dog park at the site of the nearby Farm Women's Market, when that site is redeveloped. The developer of the Farm Women's Market has proposed a dog park for that site. The redevelopment of the Farm Women's Market will have extensive parking available and is about ½ mile from Norwood Park. The presenters of the November 10 Zoom program did not mention this alternative and may not have been aware of it.

Multiple neighbors on the November 10 Zoom call pointed out this was the first they heard of the proposal for a dog park in Norwood Park. I take at good faith the attempts made by the presenters to publicize the dog park plans. However, it was striking how many neighbors, including myself, learned of this proposal only from the November 10 Zoom call and the postcards that went out shortly before the call. There was no successful earlier attempt to obtain the opinions of neighbors in the immediate area of Norwood Park. It would have been simple to use the neighborhood directory and send notices early in the process—or distribute flyers in the neighborhood, but this was not done.

Norwood Park is a well used treasure for our community. Without better study and understanding of the many uses of Norwood Park as well as future development plans, such as the redevelopment of the Farm Women's Market and the proposed dog park there, disruption of current Norwood Park use and the surrounding community is a real risk. The dog park at Norwood Park should be rejected or delayed until these impacts can be adequately assessed.

Very truly yours,

Anne (Jan) W. White

Anne (Jan) W. White
4832 Chevy Chase Blvd.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

cc: The Honorable Andrew Friedson
Casey Anderson, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board
Cindy Gibson, Chief of Staff to Councilmember Friedson
Christie Ciabotti, Project Manager

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: Opposing the dog park @ Norwood Park CRM:0237261
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:14:04 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Jessica Mailloux Kelly;
Received: Tue Dec 29 2020 21:03:50 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: Opposing the dog park @ Norwood Park

I'm writing as a concerned resident of Chevy Chase West to oppose the proposed dog park planned for Norwood Park.

We live on Ruffin Road, a cul-de-sac that abuts the park. We use Norwood Park daily with our 4 children, who play on the two playgrounds, use the tennis courts and do various organized sports activities on the open fields. We are also dog owners who use the park with our pup on a regular basis. We love the park and view it as one of the best assets of our neighborhood.

As a neighborhood dog owner, I don't see a need for a formal dog park. I use the park with my dog every day without having a dog park. I see others doing the same. I am not a supporter of spending taxpayer dollars for something as frivolous and unnecessary as a new dog park, especially at a time when so many are struggling to make ends meet in a pandemic.

I implore you to oppose its construction and the permanent change that it will bring to our lovely neighborhood park.

Thank you for your time,

Jessica Mailloux Kelly
6407 Ruffin Road

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Opposition to Norwood Park dog park CRM:0237262
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:14:19 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Linda Dreeben;
Received: Sun Dec 27 2020 13:27:52 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; Casey Anderson; Casey Anderson; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: Opposition to Norwood Park dog park

Mr. Anderson,

I live on Norwood Drive and, while a dog lover and former and future dog owner, I have a strong view about the dog park proposed for Norwood Park. Along with many neighbors and our neighborhood association, I am opposed to taking away this last open space in the park which we know is enjoyed by people across the county and DC residents as well.

The park is already heavily used with parking often unavailable during peak times. I accept the overflow on the street because I recognize that the benefit from living near the park comes with some burdens. However, the assumption that people using the dog park will only or primarily walk to the park I believe is wrong. Dog owners already drive to the park to let their dogs run loose--to which I'm also opposed and a violation I wish the County would address. (I'm also not convinced that the dog park will eliminate that problem.)

The proposed dog park location is used informally by numerous sports and educational groups - and will take up virtually all the remaining open space in the park.

It also seems that there is no coordination between various planning agencies with respect to the park, as there seem also to be plans at some point to renovate the building within the park by the parking areas.

While the above concerns justify not going forward with this proposed dog park, in the shorter term, the money budgeted for this project could be spent on more critical problems and needs arising from the impact the pandemic has taken on county residents. And as is often the case, construction costs often increase as projects are undertaken.

Thank you for considering my views. I hope the County will explore other and better suited locations for a dog park and leave Norwood Park as it is.

Respectfully,
Linda Dreeben
4610 Norwood Drive
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: No to dog park in Norwood Local Park CRM:0237258
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:12:39 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Ellen Grant;
Received: Thu Feb 11 2021 09:27:41 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: No to dog park in Norwood Local Park

Montgomery County Commissioners' Office -

I agree completely with the author of the article lined below. Please, no dog park in Norwood Local Park! What is the status of the dog park project?

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/local-opinions/a-500000-dog-park-in-bethesda-chevy-chase-is-a-waste-of-money-in-a-pandemic/2020/12/24/4fe16972-3a49-11eb-9276-ae0ca72729be_story.html

--Ellen Grant
6506 Stratford Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: Norwood Local Park CRM:0237259
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:13:00 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Elaine Akst;
Received: Thu Mar 18 2021 12:31:15 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)
To: Partap Verma; Natali Fani-Gonzalez; Gerald Cichy; MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; tina.patterson@mncppc-mc.org; Casey Anderson; Gerald Cichy; Partap Verma; Tina Patterson; Casey Anderson; MCP-Chair #; Natali Fani-Gonzalez; ;
Cc: Shelley Yeutter; Stacey Wolf; Barbara Fredericks;
Subject: Norwood Local Park

Dear Montgomery County Planning Board Commissioners,

I represent a group of citizens who live in homes and apartment buildings that surround Norwood Local Park. We have questions and concerns about the Parks Department's proposal to build a dog park in the center of the park. One of our concerns, although by no means the only one, is that the proposed dog park would occupy most of the remaining open space in the park, displacing many important community activities. This concern in particular was the focus of many of the comments from the public at large after the Town Hall and has not been adequately addressed by the Parks Department. We would like the opportunity to discuss our concerns with you before the Planning Board hearing in May.

We feel strongly that you will get an understanding of our concerns when you have an opportunity to see the Park as it is currently configured, and I'd like to invite you to meet at Norwood Local Park with a few representatives of our community. A number of us have attempted to have this type of meeting with senior Parks Department management to ask questions and express our concerns, but our requests for a dialogue have been unsuccessful.

We know that you take stewardship of the Parks system seriously, and some of you have visited all of the Montgomery County parks. We think that seeing the space at Norwood Local Park with the specifics of the current dog park plans in mind will highlight our concerns in a way that written arguments and testimony cannot.

Thank you for considering our request. Someone from our group will be available to meet with you whenever it is best for your schedule – preferably on a beautiful spring day! We are very appreciative of your time.

Take care,

Elaine Akst

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Norwood Park Dog Area Testimony CRM:0237260
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:13:58 PM
Attachments:	Letter of reconsideration for proposed Norwood Park dog area - Jenna Grubman - 4.12.2021.docx

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Jenna Grubman;
Received: Wed Apr 14 2021 20:37:16 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: Norwood Park Dog Area Testimony

Hello,

Please find my letter attached that explains why I am against the current dog area plans in Norwood Park.

--
Best,

Jenna Rose Grubman

April 14, 2021

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing today regarding the proposed dog park for the Norwood Local Park. I am not in favor of the current plans for the dog park.

My family visits Norwood Park almost daily to use many of the great facilities. It is one of the reasons we moved to the area. From the basketball courts, open fields, picnic tables, baseball fields to the playgrounds, we love playing in each area and seeing friends and neighbors enjoy each element as well.

My two-year-old daughter's first reaction is to run to the "little kid" playground, or small playground as outlined on the concept map. It is perfect for her age and allows her to explore all while staying safe from the sports going on, and other activities.

While we enjoy watching the dogs on their walks or while they play fetch, I am concerned about the proposed location of the fenced in dog area and its proximity to the small playground. With the walking path on the other side of the park, dog owners will need to cross adjacent to the small playground to enter the dog area. I am concerned that condensing multiple dogs and their owners to a major thoroughfare may cause issues with dogs coming on to the small playground. This could be unintentional, but by placing the dog area in the proposed area, it has a higher chance of happening.

We have had 3-4 unfortunate interactions with dogs who have gotten away from their owners and charged through the small playground. This has scared my daughter and caused frightening experiences for many children. I do not want my daughter to grow up with a fear of dogs as we do hope to become owners one day.

I propose the location of the dog park be moved to the far end of the park, near the opposite side of one of the baseball fields. Not only would this alleviate the fear of dogs interrupting the smaller kids who are playing on the nearby playground, it would also assure that the barking coming from the dog area be less of an issue for the one-, two-, and three-year-old who may fear those noises.

Finally, while it may be considered silly, I do have concerns about dog poop near the small playground. Toddlers and little kids are still trying to find their footing and easily fall. It is one thing to step in dog poop and have it on your shoes, it is something else entirely to fall and get it on your hands. Again, moving the dog area to another part of Norwood would decrease the potential of this happening.

I appreciate the time and effort that goes into planning and maintaining our beautiful Norwood Park. I hope you will take this letter into consideration and move forward with a different location for the dog area.

Thank you,

Jenna Grubman

4800 Chevy Chase Drive, 20815

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Letter concerning the dog park at Norwood Park CRM:0237255
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:11:51 PM
Attachments:	Dog Park letter of concern.docx

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Jo Ann Moran Cruz;
Received: Mon Jan 11 2021 16:02:02 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Delegate Marc Korman; Councilmember Friedson; Mike Riley; MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; Mike Riley; ;
Subject: Letter concerning the dog park at Norwood Park

Please see the attached letter. We live directly in front of the proposed dog park, whose access walk would be directly behind our house. As you can see from the letter, this is threatening to us and undesirable, at best, to the neighbors.

Best, JHMoran Cruz

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: Proposed Norwood Dog Park, hearing date May 6 2021 CRM:0237256
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:11:54 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Helen Saxenian;
Received: Wed Mar 31 2021 14:04:15 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: Proposed Norwood Dog Park, hearing date May 6 2021

Casey Anderson, Chair
Montgomery County Planning Board
2425 Reedie Drive
Wheaton, MD 20902

Dear Casey Anderson,

I am writing to register my strong support for the proposed dog park at Norwood Park. The surrounding area does not have a fenced dog park within walking distance. I believe that many households would benefit and enjoy the dog park if it were to go forward. I live adjacent to Norwood Park, and go there every day, weather permitting. It is a jewel of a park, with wide open spaces and many beautiful trees. Many people would like to see it remain "as is". My view is that the proposed design fits in well with the topography and would not detract from the beauty of the park. Instead, it would add an important amenity to the surrounding community.

Sincerely yours

Helen Saxenian
6676 Hillandale Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: Fwd: Proposed Dog Park at Norwood CRM:0237253
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:11:04 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Natali Fani-Gonzalez;
Received: Wed Apr 14 2021 22:22:17 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Dog Park at Norwood

Natali Fani-González

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Craig Morgan <craighmorgan@gmail.com>
> **Date:** April 14, 2021 at 9:51:11 PM EDT
> **To:** "Anderson, Casey" <Casey.Anderson@mncppc-mc.org>, "Fani-Gonzalez, Natali" <Natali.Fani-Gonzalez@mncppc-mc.org>, "Patterson, Tina" <tina.patterson@mncppc-mc.org>, "Cichy, Gerald" <Gerald.Cichy@mncppc-mc.org>, "Verma, Partap" <Partap.Verma@mncppc-mc.org>
> **Subject: Proposed Dog Park at Norwood**
>
>
>
> Dear Montgomery County Planning Board,
>
> I am writing as a Chevy Chase West resident who has long loved and had wonderful enjoyment of Norwood Park---for picnics, for camp-outs, for concerts, for jogging, and for taking our grandchildren to play on the equipment. I am alarmed by the plans to build a fenced dog park right in the middle of the Norwood Park's lower reaches. Not only does it add unsightly clutter, noise, and congestion. It also seeks to solve a problem that does not exist. Without all the heavy fencing Norwood already serves as a dog park. Owners take their dogs there early in the morning, when there is no interference with other activity, and the dogs have a blast. It is a great scene-- dogs playing with each other, owners sociallzing, with no fences required. Why are we going to all this expense to create something ugly and unneeded??
>
> Sincerely,
> ---Craig Morgan

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Fwd: [ccwboard] FYI: [The Washington Post] Opinions | A $500,000 dog park in Bethesda-Chevy Chase is a waste of money in a pandemic CRM:0237251
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:10:29 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Carl Thomsen;
Received: Thu Dec 31 2020 13:32:32 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Cc: Jane Dealy;
Subject: Fwd: [ccwboard] FYI: [The Washington Post] Opinions | A $500,000 dog park in Bethesda-Chevy Chase is a waste of money in a pandemic

Dear MCP-chair@mncppc-mc.

Pls direct your staff to stop wasting their time/efforts and tax payer $$ on planning this expensive and unwanted Dog Park!!!

Carl Thomsen
4614 DeRussey Pkwy
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

-----Original Message-----
From: Shelley Yeutter via groups.io <vsyeutter=verizon.net@groups.io>
To: ccwboard@groups.io
Cc: elaineakst@gmail.com
Sent: Sun, Dec 27, 2020 9:20 am
Subject: [ccwboard] FYI: [The Washington Post] Opinions | A $500,000 dog park in Bethesda-Chevy Chase is a waste of money in a pandemic

FYI

Jane lives on the circle at CC Blvd and is a long-time resident of CCW and involved with dog park group:

Opinions | A $500,000 dog park in Bethesda-Chevy Chase is a waste of money in a pandemic

A proposed dog park is the wrong way to spend money when people are hurting.
Opinion by Jane Dealy

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/local-opinions/a-500000-dog-park-in-bethesda-chevy-chase-is-a-waste-of-money-in-a-pandemic/2020/12/24/4fe16972-3a49-11eb-9276-ae0ca72729be_story.html

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Strongly Oppose Norwood Dog Park CRM:0237250
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:10:30 PM
Attachments:	Strongly Oppose Norwood Dog Park.eml

---------- Original Message ----------
From: catherine.coello@mncppc-mc.org;
Received: Tue Apr 13 2021 12:36:08 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: FW: Strongly Oppose Norwood Dog Park

-----Original Message-----
From: Anleu, Brian <brian.anleu@mncppc-mc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:55 AM
To: Coello, Catherine <catherine.coello@mncppc-mc.org>
Subject: FW: Strongly Oppose Norwood Dog Park

Please include in the public record.

Brian Anleu
Senior Advisor to
Chair Casey Anderson

-----Original Message-----
From: Jane Dealy <jdthree@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 11:57 AM
To: Anderson, Casey <Casey.Anderson@mncppc-mc.org>
Cc: Anleu, Brian <brian.anleu@mncppc-mc.org>
Subject: Strongly Oppose Norwood Dog Park

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Thank you for taking the time to read my brief account of my opposition to the dog park.

- 23 Projects are on the boards for downtown Bethesda, approved or scheduled for approval by MCPB, adding thousands of condos, apartments, and town houses. The increased population will put even more pressure on areas of the park usable by people for exercise, gatherings, and the recognized benefits of green space.

- The M-NCPPC's mission states "as a protector and preserver of more than 52,000 acres of parkland, trails and open space".

- Diversity is a key component of Norwood Local Park. There is regulated affordable housing on Chevy Chase Drive owned by the Housing Opportunity Commission, and offers an outdoor environment for the families there to enjoy sports and picnics in a healthy green space setting.

- Frederick Olmsted, father of American landscape architecture emphasis was on his desire to have his designs produce an effect on the whole human organism. He believed that such service to human needs was the embodiment of his design.

- Norwood Local Park was designed with open space in mind. Looking west across the park is truly a balm to the soul. With the increase population as seen in the 23 Projects, preserving the serenity of open space is critical.

- Olmsted's vision was the sense of calmness that would come from the park, he wanted harmony, places where people would go to escape life and regain their sanity. As stewards of Olmsted's vision, a single use purpose for a dog park with its hardscape and high chain link fences and barking from sunup to sundown is the antithesis of what he had in mind for America.

Norwood Park is a treasure with two playgrounds, five tennis courts, a lighted basketball court, two softball fields, an activities building, and the Norwood Park Preschool. It is my hope that you will visit again and observe the gatherings, the enjoyment, and the beauty of Norwood Local Park. It is a treasure. Once this green space is gone, it will be gone forever. Thank you for considering this urgent request not to build a dog park in the middle of Norwood Local Park.

Jane Dealy
4800 Chevy Chase Blvd
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Serious Concerns with Waste of $500,000 of MoCo Taxpayer Funds, Destruction of Natural Resources CRM:0237248
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:59:57 PM
Attachments:	Analysis of Waste by County Park Department.pdf

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Wed Dec 02 2020 15:36:03 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: FW: Serious Concerns with Waste of $500,000 of MoCo Taxpayer Funds, Destruction of Natural Resources

---

From: SD <sarahdeco2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 29, 2020 3:42 AM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>; councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov; marc.korman@house.state.md.us
Cc: reedconnect@gmail.com
Subject: Serious Concerns with Waste of $500,000 of MoCo Taxpayer Funds, Destruction of Natural Resources

Dear Director Riley, County Council Member Riley, and State Delegate Korman,

I am writing to bring to your attention serious concerns about the waste of significant taxpayer funds, as well as the needless destruction of invaluable county space at a historic site, driven by the misguided performance of Montgomery Parks staff in supporting a proposal to build an artificial dog park in a site that has served as a successful de facto dog park for well over a decade. I most appreciate your attention to the concerns raised here and welcome the opportunity to address any follow up questions that you may have.

Thank you for your attention to this time sensitive matter,

Sarah DeCosse
Montgomery County Resident

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Norwood Park Proposed Dog Park CRM:0237246
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:59:10 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Christie Ciabotti;
Received: Thu Dec 17 2020 09:39:07 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: FW: Norwood Park Proposed Dog Park

Please reply

From: Jim Roumell <jroumell@roumellasset.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Re: Norwood Park Proposed Dog Park

Dear Ms. Ciabotti-
I am a regular user of Norwood. I've been playing frisbee at the part on Friday mornings for years in a game that goes back over 20 years.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed dog park at Norwood park. And, I speak as a dog owner. My opposition is twofold:

1. The parking would be woefully inadequate to such a "magnet" destination.
2. A fenced in area would be aesthetically an eye sore. Norwood Park is the only large open-space area in the Bethesda/Chevy Chase area. Surely, we can save this beautiful, and unique, landscape.

Thank you for considering my input.

Jim Roumell

James C. Roumell
President
Roumell Asset Management, LLC
2 Wisconsin Circle, Suite 640
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Phone: (301) 656-8500 x301
Fax: (301) 656-8501

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Proposed Dog Park in Norwood Local Park CRM:0237247
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:59:27 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Wed Dec 02 2020 15:35:35 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: FW: Proposed Dog Park in Norwood Local Park

From: Jpmpbp <jpmpbp@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2020 9:56 AM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>; marc.korman@house.state.md.us; Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject: Proposed Dog Park in Norwood Local Park

Gentlemen:

We are writing to request your help in reconsidering an apparent decision to create a dog park in the middle of Norwood Local Park in Chevy Chase. For the reasons discussed below, we ask that the decision on this matter be delayed until there can be further study of the effects of that decision on the current uses of the park and until further input and comments can be obtained from the current users of the park, including the affected neighboring communities.

We believe that the current process for making this decision has been flawed and has failed to adequately consider the input of the affected groups,

including the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the park. To date, input appears to have been based primarily on a county online survey, which asks only whether the respondent is in favor of having a dog park at Norwood, without describing the proposed size or location of the dog park or suggesting that there could be other locations under consideration. Thus it is presented as an "all or nothing" done deal. The remainder of the survey asks only questions of those in favor of the dog park. While the survey does ask how close one lives to the park, it is not clear whether this information will be considered in making a decision to proceed. This survey is clearly inadequate to obtain actual community input about the specifics of a Norwood dog park in the location and of the size proposed.

To date, the first and only attempt to obtain significant community input about the proposed dog park at Norwood occurred in November, with an online public forum discussion of the Norwood Park proposal. This forum, which was conducted by three representatives of the Parks department, was frankly quite disappointing as the presenters stated they had been working on this matter for many months, had drawn up plans, obtained water studies, had already decided to proceed with the dog park at Norwood, and had chosen what they described as the "only feasible location," would site it directly in the middle of the only current open green space in

Norwood park, all without notifying or obtaining comments from the affected users.

The Parks representatives clearly viewed their role now as one of "selling" the dog park, rather than soliciting meaningful input. Thus, questions or observations about the studies of current use patterns of the park, particularly in the proposed dog park area, the overall park maintenance requirements, the adequacy of parking, or consideration of other sites around Bethesda, such as the Women's Farm Market development, or any question about the timing of or process for making the decision to proceed were brushed aside, given only vague responses, or not answered at all. Often the Parks representatives responded by saying that consideration of such other factors was not part of the Parks Department mandate or its decision-making process and that they had no control over such matters. While a "transcript" of the discussion was promised, we have not seen any such document to date. We would hope that the transcript would show the actual questions asked and how the moderator "recharacterized" those questions she did discuss to make them fit the preferred narrative.

Also not explained was the need to end public comment on this matter by December 31, despite the fact that community members were not even made aware of this proposal until November. (This is assuming that most people do not regularly scan

announcements on the Montgomery County Parks website.) This short comment period fails to take into account the difficulty of having a meaningful exchange of ideas and inspection of the site during the current period, which is limited both by the pandemic restrictions and the Holiday season.

Our substantive concerns about the dog park are based upon several factors related to the current use of Norwood Park and the proposed siting of the dog park within it. First, as noted above, it appears that the overall usage patterns within the park have not to date been studied or considered as part of the decision-making process. Even in this time of limited public gatherings and interaction, an inspection of the park would show heavy and continuous use of all of its areas. This is not limited to the permitted areas, such as the ball fields. It includes the playgrounds, the tennis courts, and, most importantly, the very limited open space, which is exactly where the dog park is proposed to be located. (The presenters in fact expressed their satisfaction that they had identified the only open, flat space in Norwood to be used for the dog park.) The problem is that that location is the only space in the park where families can currently have a picnic, throw a Frisbee, or just let their children run free. It is used for informal team practices, exercise, neighborhood events, and just enjoyment of scarce open vistas in an increasingly urbanized area. It is also regularly used by the local Somerset

Elementary School for school activities that need open space, as Somerset has less field space than almost any other elementary school in the county. The park already has many structures and structured uses. This is the only area of unstructured use – one of the primary functions of a park. It appears that none of this has been factored into the decision.

Placing the dog park in the proposed location would not only eliminate the availability of that space for the many current uses described above, it would also drastically disrupt and diminish the natural beauty of Norwood Park. The proposed dog park would be a large constructed island surrounded by a high chain-link fence in the center of Norwood Park.

The presenters made a point of stating that the proposed location was the only one that would meet the standards for distance from playgrounds and residences. However, we have subsequently learned that in fact the County's preferred standards, set forth in their own planning documents, outline greater distances (65 feet from playgrounds and 200 feet from residences) than the proposed site would allow. The presenters did not disclose that they had already compromised those standards in selecting the proposed site.

A second concern is maintenance. Although there appears to be budgeted money for the construction of the dog park, nothing was said about the future maintenance budget or plan for Norwood in general

or for the dog park specifically, despite these questions being asked. Given the current heavy use of the park, maintenance already appears to be suffering, as an examination of the bare eroding ground in the upper part of the park, between the playground and tennis courts, would reveal. The courts themselves are poorly maintained, with debris and dirt from the eroding ground often covering them. (Ironically, there are currently inadequate water sources for park patrons, although we understand that would be provided for the dogs.)

Parking is a third concern. Already, illegal parking frequently spills into the neighborhood. And adding more parking spaces within Norwood Park would further reduce green park space.

Finally, as mentioned, there was scant discussion of any alternative sites, either within Norwood or in other areas, such as at the Women's Farm Market / Elm Street development site. Other sites would certainly be more accessible and convenient for many residents of downtown Bethesda. Norwood is designated as a "Local" park, not a regional park like Cabin John, which has much more space and parking and can support multiple recreational uses, while also preserving open space. Crowding large, obtrusive facilities like the dog park into the only remaining open space in Norwood would be undermining the very thing that makes Norwood attractive and desirable.

For all of these reasons, we are requesting that the decision to place a dog park in Norwood Park at least be postponed until proper consideration can be given to a thorough study of the current park usage and until all affected users have time to express their opinions. There is no reason to rush this decision in the time when the pandemic and the impending Holiday season makes communication particularly difficult.

As representatives of a group of concerned neighbors, we would very much like to discuss these matters with you. Since many in our neighborhood have only recently become aware of this proposal, there has been increasing concern about this matter and its effect on the regular users of Norwood Park. We are therefore relaying these concerns to you and asking that you give them your serious attention. In that regard, we understand that Delegate Korman has been made aware of this situation and has already contacted the Parks Department to discuss it, which we appreciate. We would hope that all involved would consider the value of preserving the open green space in Norwood Park in their deliberations and would ensure that the decision is not made until input can be received by all affected groups.

Very truly yours,

Jim Petrick and Barbara Fredericks
Chevy Chase

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	Fw: Norwood Dog Park CRM:0237243
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:57:29 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Natali Fani-Gonzalez;
Received: Tue Apr 13 2021 15:55:41 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: Fw: Norwood Dog Park

can you please confirm staff is also seeing these emails on the dog park?

Natali Fani-González
Vice Chair
Montgomery County Planning Board, M-NCPPC
www.montgomeryplanningboard.org

From: max.merriman@cinnovas.com <max.merriman@cinnovas.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 2:20 PM
To: Fani-Gonzalez, Natali <Natali.Fani-Gonzalez@mncppc-mc.org>
Subject: FW: Norwood Dog Park

Dear Ms. Fani-Gonazlez,
Thank you for your service on the Planning Board. I appreciate your commitment and dedication to the county. I write because I want to express my strong opposition to the Norwood Dog Park that will be before the Planning Board on May 6th. I know how much Norwood Park is already used and would hate to see even more cars trying to park where there often are no spaces available (cars have to park on the grass). My wife and I take our little boy there every day. Norwood Park is our favorite neighborhood place to go and putting a huge dog park in the middle of it would destroy the park for the community. The neighborhoods are greatly against this proposed effort. Please vote against this dog park for the benefit of future generations in our neighborhood.

Thank you,

Max Merriman
Eliana Lamadrid
4813 DeRussey Parkway
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Norwood Dog Park CRM:0237245
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:58:34 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Wed Dec 02 2020 15:35:55 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: FW: Norwood Dog Park

From: Reshma Patel <Resh-Patel@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 9:25 AM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Norwood Dog Park

Hi Mike,

I hope you and your family are doing well.

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed plan for a dog park at Norwood Park, Chevy Chase.
As a dog owner myself, I'm sympathetic to those who would want a dog park in walking distance but as a daily user of Norwood here are just a few reasons why I'm opposed to the current plan;

1- Astronomical cost. At a time when we have record hunger and homelessness in our county, spending $500K to build a dog park seems wrong. Our taxpayer money could be used towards real problems in our community. Based on Naomi's explanations, this money might be "use it or lose it", but it seems as if people are comfortable with it going back to the general county coffers. If it must stay in the parks system, it could be used to upgrade and maintain existing facilities.

2 – Overcrowding. The park is currently over-used, with cars parked in the grass and crowding neighborhood streets during peak times. While the parks department seemed to think that the dog park would be a locally used feature, there are often cars from DC and VA at the park, and there is no reason to believe that a dog park wouldn't draw more people in cars. Montgomery Parks has not addressed the parking issue.

3 – Location, size and current use of space earmarked for dog park. The plans call for three flat open areas in middle of park: 18,000 sq. ft. total to include seating, water for drinking and cleaning up, including a water run off.

This space is currently multi-use; every space is not defined with a purpose, which enables kids to play, set ups for numerous sports from volleyball to frisbee and soccer. Somerset Elementary uses the space for field day, as do local private schools, CCW uses it for the annual camp out and camps use that space for games. Sports clubs squat in the space as well - very little of the park is permitted, which allows everyone to enjoy the space as they wish.

4 - Bucolic vistas. The preservation of open space is a reason in and of itself. There are very few open spaces of this type down-county. The county has put efforts into preservation upcounty, with little regard for the mental benefits that the quiet, scenic space gives to those who come to Norwood.

5 - There are alternatives for a dog park. The park currently planned for Elm Street will be paid for with developer money. This can incorporate a dog park from the inception, which can therefore be better planned. The location is also more central to many of the condominiums in Bethesda.

I thank you for your time,

Reshma Patel & Cooper.

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Dog Park at Norwood Park CRM:0237241
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:56:29 PM
Attachments:	clip_image002.jpg clip_image001.jpg

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Wed Dec 02 2020 15:35:37 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: FW: Dog Park at Norwood Park

From: Richard House <richhouse@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 6:31 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Dog Park at Norwood Park

Mr. Riley,
My name is Richard House and I live on Chevy Chase Blvd. Many citizens know me as "Mr. House." I have been the Somerset Elementary physical education teacher for the past 26 years. I live adjacent to Norwood Park, in a home right off the trail, near the lower parking lot, so we actually observe quite a bit of the park activities. Giving you my perspective on the issue of a dog park I can tell you, as someone who lives in close proximity, here are a few points that I'd like to make, some of which I haven't heard in discussions … the first of which (I have seen discussed) is the lack of parking. I can personally attest to the limited parking at Norwood Park, and the subsequent overflow onto Chevy Chase Blvd (some of the homes have shared driveways), which causes traffic and parking issues for homeowners. I see this overflow of traffic spill onto our block, almost every night of the week and for the most of the weekends.
Unless I am mistaken, it is my understanding that Norwood Park is roughly 19 acres in size. The size of the dog addition is roughly planned to occupy 18-20K sq. feet., or just shy of 1/2 acre. When dividing the park into three main areas, one can guess the following rough-acreage estimates:

Top Acreage – 7 Acres – (6-½ used)

Upper playground & Upper Picnic Area – 2 Acres
Upper parking lot and sidewalk space – 1 Acre
Tennis courts – 1-1/2 acres
Preschool building, shubs, surrounding activity space, with Preschool play area (fenced space) and Basketball Court – 1-3/4 Acres
Adjacent abandoned building, surrounding grass and shrubs – 1/3 Acre

Middle Acreage – 8 Acres – (6-1/4 used)

Mansion, lower parking lot & grassy circle – 2 Acres
Lower (tots) playground – ¼ acre
Shaded Tree Grove Area – 1-1/2 acres
Softball field & outfield area – 1-1/2 Acres
Stone Wall with designated Amphitheater – 1 Acre

Lower Acreage – 4 Acres – (2-1/2 used)

Lower Softball Field & outfield area – 1-1/2 Acres
Circular Tree-grove/wifdlife area, and space adjacent to townhomes – 1 Acre

Based on the above approximations, 15-1/4 Acres of Norwood Park is currently unavailable, for a dog park. Although approximate, the designated dog space cuts into, what I estimate as the only remaining 4-5 acres, of green space. Within this "available space" are roughly eight picnic tables, and while the tables are small, the families and neighbors frequently use these for gatherings such as birthday parties, reunions, pick-up soccer and volleyball games, family games of tag – all of which use the remaining green space. Fencing in a dog park anywhere within Norwood Park cuts deeply into the green picnic spaces of the park.
Additionally, with obesity as a serious health hazard for sedentary families and children and with the increasingly, shrinking, green space availability, dozens of fitness, yoga, and sports vendors (yes, even fly-fishing lessons!) and neighborhood teams squat in whatever available space they can squeeze into. Soccer and other sporting teams, as well as many children living in the adjacent apartment communities may only be able to play pick-up games, or on teams that practice here, at Norwood Park, due to financial and /or single-parent / and time and driving constraints. Vulnerable children will lose space close to where they live and this is counterproductive to increasing children's physical activity levels. Recreational team squatting, coached by parents in our community, saves teams and their families hundreds of dollars in fees. And in all cases, sufficient greenspace helps to fight video game and smartphone addiction and use and counters obesity and sedentary lifestyle choices. We even have a resident youth bicycle club and in the winter snow, we have cross country skiers.
There are many casual and formal pickup games of Frisbee which spread people out throughout the available large spaces and provides many children, teens, and adults with exercise and stress relief. If a dog park is added, and there are softball games and soccer teams playing, where will the frisbee players and golfers and ultimate frisbee players play?
There are memorial benches, and many trees, which provide rest and reprieve from the hot summer sun at various events, camps, and clinics. In the shade it can be 20 degrees cooler. Several trees will be lost to the dog park because they will be inside the chain link fencing. And planting more trees elsewhere takes away surface area that people might otherwise use for playing games and other vigorous physical activities.
Above all else, I don't think it is wise for considering the aesthetics of installing a chain link fence, in any part of our park. One of the best features of our park is the natural rolling, open, beautiful landscape, of our limited space. Aside from a chain link, fenced in, area becoming a potential eyesore, when following "a deductive view of real space," there just isn't that much space, left over, frankly.
I do not feel this is good for the majority of citizens who are not dog owners and who cherish their green spaces. And although I recognize the need for space so that dogs can exercise, this could very

well end up as a blight to what is currently, one of the last few remaining beautiful green spaces, in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area. If Norwood Park were larger – say, like Wheaton or Cabin John Parks I could rationalize such an installation, and the subsequent greenspace subtraction.

However, not only will this greenspace subtraction be disruptive to family outings and picnics, teams, and recreational activities, in the remaining acres, but this will disrupt Somerset's Annual Field Day, which I know first-hand, uses every inch of the entire 19-acre park, over two days. And although this is only two days, there are other schools, camps, special events, and clinics who also make good use of the remaining green spaces. Reducing any parts of the remaining green space inhibits the traditions which help Norwood Park function as an important resource to children and exercise.

Back to overflow parking: A dog park will place a gigantic strain on the already strained – lack of parking – (see photo #1 from a typical Saturday, at 3:40 PM) – cars are literally parking on the circular grass space, because there are NOT enough parking spaces.) Due to the high volume of current park use, neighborhood parking, adjacent to the park is at the tipping point. Adding a dog park is going to bring hundreds of more people from around the county and overwhelm not only the already small parking lots further, but the surrounding streets, outside of the park – particularly on Chevy Chase Blvd., Offutt Road, Norwood Rd., and Ruffin Rd. If a dog park is added to Norwood Park, parking will be even more disruptive than it is now. What are we going to do – pave over more greenspace for a larger parking lot?

In the words of Joni Mitchel, and clearly dating my age, "They paved paradise, and put up a parking lot."

Photo #1 – This is actually lighter than earlier, Saturday use – this was taken late in the day, after many park patrons already left for the day.

A car parked on the side of a road Description automatically generated

Also, I am not sure if dog owners are aware of this, or not, but many dogs considered "problematic," can frequent dog parks and the owners are essentially held harmless for letting them off leash within the barriers – and for their behavior in the worst case scenario, albeit rare, dog fights. These types of dogs need a good home, too, but they just need to stay on leash, away from other dogs, not mixed into the dog park. The biggest dog issue our neighborhood has right now – is not dogs off the leash from our immediate community members – despite common stereotyping and labeling, these owners (actually, for the most part) take good care of our park. Mostly, the biggest issue we have with dog's in our neighborhood, are the few, selfish, dog owners, from outside our immediate neighborhood, who have no vested interest in, nor care for obeying the clean-up-after-your-pet-rules, of Norwood Park, and therefore, selfishly, do not clean up their dog's messes. Do you honestly think that the selfish dog owners are going to obey the rules of staying within the confines of a chain linked space? No, I don't think so. And, further, if they don't obey staying inside the chain link fence, will they start obeying the clean-up rules, outside of the chain link fenced dog park? No, again. A dog park is not going to solve as many issues as people may think, nor will the dog park result in 100% compliance, from all pet owners, good and bad.

For 26 years we've run our annual field day, with our whole school, at Norwood Park, a tradition that went on 26 years before me. Field day is a large, two-day, event. Other schools also reserve Norwood Park for their special events, too. I can tell that we use every inch of the park, too.

All that said, out of respect for those who are insisting that we have a dog park, because they fear an off-leash dog will attack another dog or a person, or God-forbid - a child, I propose that if the dog park is built, if at all within Norwood Park - that the area (currently occupied by the unappealing abandoned building, adjacent to the preschool - photo #2, attached) is a better use of "already-used" space. This is an abandoned building area that hasn't been used in 15 years. Knock the abandoned building down and do not use up the current remaining 4-5 acres, of green space, because when one does the math, and subtracts the "already used" acreage, there really isn't as much space left over to build onto, as it might appear, at first blush. And even if we do replace the abandoned building, this will STILL NOT RESOLVE the current parking dilemma, which is horrible, as is. Maybe Permit Parking on the residential adjacent streets can be implemented for our residents, who live on the adjacent street to the park, as a concession.

Photo #2 – Abandoned Old Senior Services Building

I hope that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season.
“Mr. House”

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Dog park in Norwood Park CRM:0237242
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:57:03 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Shelby Bowers;
Received: Wed Dec 02 2020 15:35:38 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: FW: Dog park in Norwood Park

From: Victor Cha <chav@georgetown.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 6:15 PM
To: Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Dog park in Norwood Park

Dear Mr. Riley,

I am a resident of West Chevy Chase for over 20 years and use Norwood Park on a daily basis.

I respectfully submit that the proposed dog park, as marked on the fields currently and as posted on the website, does not reflect an informed understanding of the current use of the park by those inside and outside of the immediate neighborhood.

In the area of the proposed dog park, the following activities take place:

- Morning pilates workout by the children's playground (spring, summer, fall).
- Children's soccer practice on the sports field adjacent to the parking lot (daily: spring, summer, fall).
- Picnicking on the tree-lined area inside of the dog park perimeter (mostly on the weekends).
- 30 minute full body workouts around the picnic tables inside the dog park perimeter (men: daily spring, summer)
- Ultimate frisbee teams on the fields north of the dog perimeter (fall)
- Girls volleyball practice two teams daily in the spring and summer in the field area south of the dog park perimeter and east of the children's playground.

These are some specific examples of activities that would be disrupted by the dog park. I have not included the daily after-school activities of scores of families. In addition, the parking lot for Norwood regularly has illegally parked cars in the grass island by the lower parking lot due to lack of space. It is already a dangerous situation for preschool children entering and exiting the pre-school from the parking lot. A dog park would attract many from outside the area and exacerbate the situation.

With the growth of apartment structures in the Bethesda area, use of Norwood will only increase further stretching the park's capacity. This really precludes the feasibility of a dog park.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Victor Cha

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Dog park CRM:0237240
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:55:58 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Christie Ciabotti;
Received: Wed Dec 30 2020 14:35:03 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Shelby Bowers; Customer Service; Customer Service; Shelby Bowers;
Subject: FW: Dog park

-----Original Message-----
From: Mary Cahill <marycahill888@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 6:39 PM
To: Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Dog park

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

I am a 34-year resident of the Kenwood Forest condo immediately connected to the thruway to the back common area which leads to the park. I am opposed to the creation of a dog park so close to my property. I DO NOT HAVE A DOG, and I am irritated when a dog owner uses my front lawn for their dog to "do his business", even if they clean up afterwards. My niece's children like to use the back area of my house. I have told them they cannot go up the hill with the rocks leading directly to the park. It is not safe for my 5 year old great nephew or his siblings. In my law school studies this was referred to as an "attractive nuisance" in property law. If someone is injured climbing up that hill with the rocks, I believe the park would be liable. My back yard and deck directly overlooks that hill which leads into the park and I see increasing numbers of dogs, owners, children using that to get to the park. I am certain that a my condo (in our restricted parking) in order to walk their dog in the park. Our landscaping efforts in our back common area will be harmed by a stream of people crossing from the thruway to get to the park. And I fear the environmental damage to the park and my property, as the water runs from the park into my back yard. Please sign me up as OPPOSED to the dog park in our lovely adjacent park. Thank you Mary Cahill, JD, 6663 Hillandale Rd., Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: "No" to a dog park in the Norwood Local Park CRM:0237237
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:54:53 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Christie Ciabotti;
Received: Mon Jan 04 2021 09:55:17 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Shelby Bowers; Shelby Bowers;
Cc: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: FW: "No" to a dog park in the Norwood Local Park

From: William Center <willncenter@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2020 4:58 PM
To: Anderson, Casey <Casey.Anderson@mncppc-mc.org>; Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>; Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org>; marc.korman@house.state.md.us; councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject: "No" to a dog park in the Norwood Local Park

I participated in the November 10 on-line meeting and was dismayed to observe the summation of the comments as if there were equal sides to the question. It was not an equivocal discussion. Not even close.

The overwhelming number of participants on that call did not want this dog park and numerous issues about it have been raised. I wish to highlight that many of the objections come from dog owners themselves, who are not only against the proposal but if it went ahead would not use the facility. If this project proceeds, it will ruin a precious resource and would only satisfy the needs of a distinct minority.
What draws people to Norwood Local Park are the uninterrupted views and the possibilities that open spaces provide. The proposed dog park would have a chilling effect on this attraction. It would be for a single purpose, used intermittently, and it would nullify the opportunities this space provides for any other activity.

It has been noted by the community how much this space is currently used, and so it was disappointing on the November 10 call to discover that the Parks Department was not fully briefed on this point. What also has not been emphasized is that a great many of the users of Norwood Local Park use it as a public right of way. Walking the length and breadth of parkland is a vital tonic in many people's daily lives, and having an ugly dog park would discourage some from even entering the park.

For the minority who want the dog park, the primary reason seems to be that the Cabin John or Ellsworth dog parks are too far away. Fair enough. But instead of ruining a heavily used space, wouldn't it be better to design a dog park around new developments, eg the proposed development around the Farm Women's Market, where the disruption is already part of the equation?

Respectfully,

William Center
4623 Morgan Drive
Chevy Chase, Md 20815

To Public Information Office,
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Fr Philip Kopper
4610 DeRussey Pkwy
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
301/318-2885
PosPress@AOL.com

Re Norwood Park

Dt 02/15/2021

A citizen and resident of Chevy Chase West hard by Norwood Park, I am vitally interested in the absurd proposal to create a dog park in Norwood Park, presently a delightful amenity that seems to do perfectly well vis a vis dogs already.

Said proposal seems to have proceeded apace, driven by forces and parties that so far as I can tell have not been usefully identified. Consequently, I would like to know who initiated the *idea* for a dog park here. Did some citizen(s) or local resident(s) start the ball rolling? Was it initiated by Park&Planning folk. What? Pls addvise.

Philip Kopper
Posterity Press, Inc.

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: dog park proposal for Norwood Park CRM:0237234
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:53:53 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Michelle High;
Received: Thu Dec 31 2020 14:25:11 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Delegate Marc Korman; County Executive Marc Elrich; Mike Riley; MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; Mike Riley; ;
Subject: dog park proposal for Norwood Park

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

No one in our neighborhood recalls “extensive community outreach about this proposal prior to the last 1-2 months, fyi.

This dog park idea is not a good one. Norwood Park is filled with young children - my kids are 12 and 15 now but played there for years - and there are invariably people who have their dogs off-leash, a danger to the kids. You are inviting people from all over the place to come to our park with their dogs, and many of them will no doubt disrespect the on-leash rule. Have you seen how close the proposed dog park is to the “little playground”? It’s literally right next to it! This is a playgroud for the smallest of children, including babies crawling around. Can you imagine the reisk you are posing to these young ones by inviting people from all over to come with their dogs, and just hoping they’ll follow the rules? People don’t more and more these days. And it’s uglier and uglier these days. And you’re putting the smallest children in the path of this ugliness.

This park is wide open and for good reason: there are people using that open space in all sorts of ways. There are sporting events there constantly during normal school sports seasons. How can you overrule these uses and decide to throw a ton of taxpayer money at a dog park that our very neighborhood does not want?

I live on Norwood Drive. People driving to the park often speed on the street while heading to the park; you are inviting MORE people to come from far away who aren’t connected to our neighborhood and many of them will no doubt speed.

I am just guesing you’ve never drive to Norwood Park at 4 pm after school during non-covid times. There’s not enough parking by far - cars have to spill out of the park into the neighborhood and it’s always a mess. Everyone is rushing to get their kids to a ball game or practice; they should not have to contend with dog owners coming from far and wide. This park is not meant for that purpose.

Can’t you find a piece of land that can be used mainly for this dog park - and not truncate a beautiful park that is in high demand, being used by so many families in the vicinity in so many ways, with small children crawling all over??? This does NOT serve our community.

Michelle

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Dog run in Norwood Park is definitely not a good idea CRM:0237235
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:54:19 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Kate Tapley;
Received: Fri Nov 20 2020 16:43:49 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Christie Ciabotti; Christie Ciabotti;
Cc: Partap Verma; Natali Fani-Gonzalez; Gerald Cichy; MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; tina.patterson@mncppc-mc.org; Casey Anderson; Gerald Cichy; Partap Verma; Tina Patterson; Casey Anderson; MCP-Chair #; Natali Fani-Gonzalez; ;
Subject: Dog run in Norwood Park is definitely not a good idea

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Ms. Ciabotti

Building a permanently fenced-in area is a great way to ruin a gem of a multi-use park. Norwood Park is currently used, and overused, by a plethora of groups and individuals of all ages. Some, like me, can walk to the park; but most drive. Adding a dog run with its human visitors would only exacerbate the chaotic weekend and afternoon parking.

Please visit the park on weekday afternoons or weekends to see how busy it is with all sorts of users. Intramural teams from BCC high school hold practices there because BCC has virtually no green space of its own — except for a field used by the football team. The local elementary school uses it for annual Field Days events. Families from all over use it to fly kites on windy days and older men and women use it to practice their fly fishing skills on calmer days. Camps are there after school and all summer. Most early mornings it is used by yoga and tai chi practitioners. And on snowy days it is filled with X-country skiers and sledders.

In my experience, a successful dog run is built in an area with plenty of tree coverage so that the human spectators can observe the activities while being protected from the sun; not in the middle of a sunny and much used and much beloved park.

I urge you to reconsider this plan. Please don't ruin this peaceful park that is so full of life.

Katherine Gonzales-Tapley
4811 Morgan Drive
Chevy Chase, MD

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: DON"T waste scarce Mont County $$ on a DOG PARK in Norwood Park CRM:0237236
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:54:33 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Carl Thomsen;
Received: Mon Dec 28 2020 11:31:43 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Cc: ctthomsen@aol.com;
Subject: DON'T waste scarce Mont County $$ on a DOG PARK in Norwood Park

The proposal for a dog park
-will eliminate the wonderful open area that is already heavily used for many Bethesda/Chevy Chase family activities, for kids running around, for informal sports activities, etc
-will exacerbate the already crowded parking area for the many current park and nursery school users,
-will waste scarce Mont County $$ resources that could better be used to fund more critical Mont County programs, eg; education, unemployment, heath care, etc....particularly in the eastern part of Mont County.

There is already plenty of area in Norwood Park and along the adjoining walking trails for people and their dogs

If you insist on spending $$ in Norwood Park, it could be much better used to renovate the small brick building adjoining nursery school, or the large activity building

In sum, don't let my/our tax $$ go to the dogs!! Spend it on any of the more critical programs for Mont County tax payers

Thank you,
Carl Thomsen and family
4614 DeRussey Pkwy
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: Dog park at Norwood CRM:0237231
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:52:32 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Anne Richeson;
Received: Sat Jan 09 2021 12:21:50 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: Dog park at Norwood

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Mr. Casey Anderson,
I have lived on Chevy Chase Blvd next to Norwood Park since 1983 when I moved in with my husband and was expecting my daughter in December. We always have big dogs (German Shepard/retriever mix, 2 labs and one golden retriever) and I have walked that park since I was 29 years old with my dear furry friends. My husband Jim, who is now passed away, played soccer, frisbee, and any manner of sport or team in that park. I have played tennis for years and hope they resurface the courts soon as they are in need of it.

The dog park is not a good idea. Right now if you drove to the park all the spots are full. Where would these people park but in our neighborhood? I have taken my dogs to cabin John's dog park and never enjoyed the experience. They have been bitten and the people are not so friendly either, so I rarely went back.

We have the space around to walk our dogs. Lots of it. Please do not bring a noisy addition to our lovely park. We hear the soccer games and the swim teams and life guards at the pool during each season. It is a comfort to hear the joy around us. As much as I adore my dogs, the park would turn into a very different place with all manner of dogs/people being drawn to overcrowd this treasures resource.

If you have cash to spend, resurface the courts or keep building children's playgrounds.

Thank you for listening.

Anne Richeson
4827 Chevy Chase Blvd

Sent from my iPhone

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: Dog Park in Norwood Park CRM:0237232
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:53:07 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Philip Kopper;
Received: Wed Dec 30 2020 13:28:35 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Delegate Marc Korman; County Executive Marc Elrich; Mike Riley; MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; Mike Riley; ;
Cc: pospress@aol.com;
Subject: Dog Park in Norwood Park

My Dear Officials,

Whether you are appointed or elected, I trust you regard public opinion as an important factor in your job performance.

Local opinion in the neighborhoods surrounding Norwood Park is clearly on one side of the proposal to build a dog park here. The neighbors are hugely against it!

It is a lousy idea on several counts. For one, this park is heavily used already. Often all the athletic fields are in use simultaneously, and the playgrounds--one for toddlers, another for older kids--are filled to the gentle max. Further, visually appealing open spaces are few in urban areas; here we have one in the contiguous athletic fields, picnic spaces and undedicated grassy areas. A double dog park (for canines of two sizes) with its black fencing would destroy the open expanse.

As for parking, there are perhaps 25 designated spaces and often they are all occupied so that additional drivers must park on residential streets. A dog park would attract more people from beyond the neighborhood who would come by car. Where will they park?

Many of our socially-astute friends raise the financial issue. Is it sensible or responsible in these burdened times to spend $500,000 for the benefit of domestic pets? I think not.

Finally, I am curious to learn how this idea got started in the first place. What was its genesis? Did some interested citizen propose it? Or local dog-walking buddies? Or a puppy lobby, or PETA or the ASPCA? Or was this a bright idea hatched by the MNCPPC itself in its dedication to advancing its mission?

Please respond to this letter, and in particular answer the last question: Whose idea was this?

With good wishes,

Philip Kopper
4610 DeRussey Pkwy

Chevy Chase, MD 20815
301/652-2383

Philip Kopper
Posterity Press, Inc.

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: Dog park proposal (re-sent to correct print size error) CRM:0237233
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:53:23 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: rothder@yahoo.com rothder@yahoo.com;
Received: Tue Dec 29 2020 20:41:16 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: Dog park proposal (re-sent to correct print size error)

Regarding the proposal to put a dog park in Norwood park in Chevy Chase, we (and nearly everyone who has weighed in on the proposal on our Chevy Chase West listserve and who has responded to the

official website where comment was invited, including the dog owners) are unalterably opposed to this awful proposal. We agree with the excellent article against the proposal by community member Jane Dealy in the Washington Post, linked just below this letter. It would be the height of dereliction of duty for a governmental official to

approve this proposal especially in this time of Covid where free and unfettered outdoor space is especially needed and there are much more compelling needs for the money. The proposal is terrible for at least three main reasons: (1) Where does the need really lie? It is the height of irresponsibility to spend $500,000.00 dollars of taxpayer money on a

dogpark when there are people in need, especially now in the time of Covid. There are county schools without books and necessary equipment; county students without computers; and people in the county out of work, practically starving, and unable to pay their rent. (2) Environmental degradation. The park is an environmental treasure,

with fields of grass used by children, sports teams, family picnics, etc. Unobstructed outdoor space is needed more than ever right now, as there are currently restricted opportunities for indoor leisure and exercise. The proposed park paves over a HUGE portion of the grassy space, proposes obstructive fencing, and is near the toddlers

playground, presenting a danger to children, e.g. from putting their fingers through the fence. Further, auto traffic in the park will increase, and it is already a problem. (3) Almost no-one in the community who has weighed in, is in favor of this proposal. The op-ed below puts it well. — Respectively, Thelma McDermott-Rothstein and Paul Rothstein.

Opinion | A $500,000 dog park in Bethesda-Chevy Chase is a waste of money in a pandemic

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: Comment on proposed Norwood Park Dog Park CRM:0237228
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:51:26 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Celesta Jurkovich;
Received: Thu Jan 14 2021 14:26:04 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Mike Riley; Mike Riley;
Cc: Christie Ciabotti; MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; Christie Ciabotti; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: Comment on proposed Norwood Park Dog Park

Dear Mr. Riley:

I have a request to please include this comment in the record of citizen reaction to the proposed dog park to be constructed in Montgomery County's Norwood Park. I believe the information about the closing date for comments on the was confusing. It implied the survey was available and comments would be accepted through Jan. 14. As a result, I missed the Jan. 13 cutoff. However, I hope that it would be included in the record.

Norwood park already gets tremendous usage both by people living nearby and hundreds of regional residents, including participants in sports leagues. As a former resident for 13+ years of Chevy Chase West, and a member of the community association (CCWNA) for 9 years including the last 5 as president, I am well aware of the robust use the park receives and worked to solve some of the many issues its high usage created.

The 17- acre park is already very popular because it has many amenities (2 playgrounds, 5 tennis courts, a lighted basketball court, 2 softball fields, a historic multi-purpose building which the Parks Department rents for birthday parties, family gatherings and other events. It also houses a pre-school and has walking/biking trails. In addition, permits are available for scheduled field use by well-organized soccer and football leagues.) Besides permitted uses, space between the sites requiring permits was regularly used by teams who

"squatted" on available space for practices, increasing the park usage many times. The open space is also well used for non-organized activity such as frisbee, kite flying, picnicking, and summer camps, and even overnight campouts which were an annual end of school event for our CCWNA community (and which are available to other communities).

These multiple and often concurrent activities always attracted a great deal of vehicle traffic while the number of designated parking spaces is woefully inadequate. The Norwood Park Multi-purpose building is advertised on the Parks rental website as having 40 parking spaces (plus two handicapped accessible ones) which it notes are shared with all other park users on a first come/first served basis. This is really nowhere near enough for current usage. Adding a dog park will only add to the scramble for parking. Because parking is so inadequate, those who drive to Norwood Park often park their vehicles on adjacent grassy areas as well as in the nearby narrow residential streets, some of which do not have sidewalks, so residents walk in the streets. This creates a real danger for accidents, especially with the many families who use Norwood Park on a regular basis, as well as obstructing streets and driveways. The danger to children darting out from behind illegally parked cars was a real concern that CCW neighbors addressed in the past by calling Park and County police to ticket violators.

The proposal doesn't seem to have explored the issues related to dog waste or noise and their impact on nearby residents, who live on all sides of the park in a mix of apartments, condos, townhouses, and single-family houses.

Finally, the $500,000 cost estimate for creating a dog park also is a reason to hesitate to move forward with this project. Does Parks and Planning think that a half a million-dollar expenditure for a dog park is really the wisest use of scarce dollars when County residents hunger for use of broader recreational opportunities? Having the benefit of knowing the results of the online/town hall survey leads me to believe that the answer is a strong "no."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.

Celesta Jurkovich

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Customer Service - Report A Problem/Ask a Question Submission - 11161 CRM:0237230
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:52:07 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Service Center;
Received: Tue Dec 29 2020 13:15:49 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: Customer Service - Report A Problem/Ask a Question Submission - 11161

A submission to the Report A Problem/Ask a Question form on MontgomeryParks.org is below:

Subject:
Norwood Park
Please describe your question/problem:
As a lifelong resident of Montgomery County and a former 20 year resident of Bethesda, I write to express my opposition to placing a dog park in Norwood Local Park. Norwood is a treasure and adding a large, fenced in dog park is the exact opposite of what should be done to improve the park. Norwood's best asset is the wide open spaces. Fencing off a significant portion would be very unfortunate. Investing in the park is a worthy use of county funds. I would suggest improving the parking and entrance and exit from the park. That benefits everyone and keeps the open spaces open.
Park/Trail/Facility Name:
Norwood Local Park
Location within Park/Trail/Facility:
Proposed Dog Park
Your Name:
JOHN MANN
Email:
johncmann@gmail.com
Phone:
(301) 908-1459
Address:
14628 Chesterfield Rd Rockville, MD 20853 United States

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: Customer Service - Report A Problem/Ask a Question Submission - 11091 CRM:0237229
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:51:48 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Service Center;
Received: Tue Dec 22 2020 18:43:03 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Customer Service; Customer Service;
Subject: Customer Service - Report A Problem/Ask a Question Submission - 11091

A submission to the Report A Problem/Ask a Question form on MontgomeryParks.org is below:

Subject:
proposed Norwood Dog Park
Please describe your question/problem:
The public is being given an opportunity to have input. Would a simple majority vote against the park be conclusive, or would a higher percentage of no votes be required to halt the project
Park/Trail/Facility Name:
Norwood Park
Location within Park/Trail/Facility:
proposed Norwood Dog Park
Your Name:
Richard K Ashford
Email:
ashfordr@verizon.net
Phone:
(301) 661-6741
Address:
4417 Walsh St Chevy Chase, MD 20815-6007 United States Map It

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: 100% opposed to a dog park in Norwood Park CRM:0237226
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:50:41 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Jacqueline Crawley;
Received: Tue Dec 29 2020 21:58:59 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Mike Riley; Christie Ciabotti; MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; Christie Ciabotti; MCP-Chair #; Mike Riley;
;
Subject: 100% opposed to a dog park in Norwood Park

Dear Mr. Anderson, Mr. Riley, and Ms. Ciabotti,

As your decision-making proceeds about a destructive and unnecessary dog park in Norwood Park, I want to add my forceful, heartfelt objections. These are well described in the summary below.

Kindly enter my opposition into your Montgomery County Parks tally of community feedback.

With sincere appreciation,

Jacqueline Crawley
6203 Stratford Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Mike Riley, Head of Montgomery County Parks
Andrew Friedson, Montgomery County Council
Christie Ciabotti, Landscape Architect, Montgomery County Parks
Marc Korman, Maryland State Delegate
Casey Anderson, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board

Dear Mr. Riley, Council Member Friedson, Ms. Ciabotti, Delegate Korman, and Chair Anderson:

The Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Association, which represents more than 450 homes in a neighborhood that borders Norwood Park and provides its only vehicular access point, strongly opposes the proposed dog park in Norwood Park. During the study period, we have asked multiple times to meet or

speak with Parks staff to share our knowledge of park use and discuss options, but to no avail. We appreciate your attention to and consideration of our comments below.

We support the Montgomery County strategic priority of establishing green space in the lower county. Much successful effort has been invested by Montgomery County in preserving open space in the upper county. Down county, there is significantly less green space and therefore, it becomes more important to preserve what little is left. Given the density of the lower county, significant green space is now and will be for the foreseeable future, at a premium. Norwood Park's open green space is a unique and treasured asset benefiting the entire Bethesda-Chevy Chase and lower-county region. The community benefit of this green space would be forever altered by the construction of a fenced-in, mulch-surfaced space for dogs nearly one-third the size of a football field, right at its heart. This construction would permanently disrupt and diminish the present natural beauty and multi-use functionality of this cherished space, and would contradict the very purpose of Parks' mission "to improve the quality of life for all citizens."

In addition to the premium on the green space Norwood Park provides to the county, as our residents are contiguous to Norwood Local Park, we are extremely familiar with its usage patterns, and observe the heavy, continuous use and enjoyment that takes place specifically in the proposed dog park area on a regular basis year round. The very space of the proposed dog park is the one sought for a variety of K-12 sports practices, school field days, organized Ultimate Frisbee League practice, and community-based Frisbee, yoga, campouts, picnics, Turkey Bowl football, Fourth of July races, and – yes -- dog socializing and community building. While this heavy level of activity has an impact on our street parking and traffic in the neighborhood, as citizen-neighbors we are supportive of community needs and the enjoyment of the park by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase community. On a more practical level, the lack of sufficient parking at Norwood has been an ongoing issue for years both within the park and its surroundings. Illegal parking occurs on a regular basis most afternoons and weekends, and spills repeatedly onto our residential streets. This problem would only intensify with the added feature of a dog park, and reconfiguring parking would add only a handful of spaces and might even subtract further from the precious green space.

In addition, the proposed site is less than the recommended 200 feet from adjacent residences and less than the recommended 65 feet from an adjacent playground. Norwood Park already suffers from a significant maintenance problem due to a lack of funds. The use of $500,000 of taxpayer funds towards a project with significant opposition is greatly misplaced. Furthermore, spending money on a water source and shelter for a dog space is a flawed priority in the wider range of needs within the park system. It seems ultimately counter-intuitive to establish a costly concrete/mulch construct in the middle of an established green space used by children and families every day.

In sum, Norwood Park constitutes the last significant open space in this very dense area of the county, and is a crucial benefit for the health and enjoyment of so many county residents. It would be sorely missed. We believe the plan for a fenced-in area here for socializing of dogs is faulty at the outset, and there is far greater need for open space for both dogs and humans to enjoy. Please move to dismiss this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Joan Barron and Shelley Yeutter, Co-Presidents
Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Association

From: Bowers, Shelby
To: Bowers, Shelby
Subject: FW: Anti-Norwood Dog Park as Conceived CRM:0237227
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:51:03 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Linda Yoder;
Received: Wed Dec 30 2020 09:31:24 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: Mike Riley; MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; Mike Riley; ;
Cc: Delegate Marc Korman; County Executive Marc Elrich;
Subject: Anti-Norwood Dog Park as Conceived

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Casey Anderson and Mike Riley

As a thirty-five year resident of Chevy Chase West, I and my family have benefited from the use of Norwood Park from the time my children were small to today with my daily walks into the park. I am well aware of the intense use of Norwood Park for dog walking, sports practices, Somerset field days, kite flying and frisbee games, picnics, and even a memorial for George Floyd, which was held in the exact space proposed for a dog park. This park is a treasure as it now stands not only for me but for other local residents. One of the perks of the park is having enough open space that is not designated for one specific activity so that visitors can use it as they like.

At first, I thought a fenced dog area would be nice to have since dogs currently run free in the park in the early morning; however, the plan as envisioned is not what I assumed it would be. The location is wrong, the designated space is too large, the fence is too high, the ground cover is environmentally questionable, the amenities such as water sources, benches, and concrete walkways are superfluous, and most importantly, the cost is much too great. A decision to spend a half million dollars on an unneeded dog space at a time when so many people in Montgomery County are food insecure reveals a lack of empathy and bad decision-making on the part of our county administrators. I implore you to shelve this idea.

Sincerely
Linda Yoder
4624 Morgan Drive
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From:	Bowers, Shelby
To:	Bowers, Shelby
Subject:	FW: 1 minute video re: Proposed Norwood Dog Park CRM:0237225
Date:	Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:49:59 PM

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Rich House;
Received: Fri Apr 16 2021 11:37:02 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; MCP-Chair #; ;
Subject: 1 minute video re: Proposed Norwood Dog Park

Attachments available until May 16, 2021

Hello,

Just the other day I filmed the attached, 1:15 sec. video, which captures many of our neighborhood's biggest concerns of the proposed, Norwood Park Dog Park.

The video includes;
the current overcrowding,
"true" usable space for families and children,
far-too-inadequate parking,
overflow parking currently onto grassy areas and into the neighborhood
-- and even policing issues!

I wrote extensively in a previous email (attached), objecting to the proposed Norwood Dog Park, for several reasons. Although well-intended, I hope the 1-minute video proves that Norwood Park really does not have "19" available acres to build this project - all this project will do, in reality, is detract from several-hundreds of families and children's recreational usage and, additionally, the businesses and volunteer teams (in terms of space for camps, teams, and classes), in order to satisfy the wishes of a few citizens.

I happen to be the PE teacher at Somerset Elementary. I also run a small, neighborhood, summer camp in the park - The Healthy Kid's Workout. I pay for permits on both events. Based on my experience with running full-park, major events, in Norwood Park, I can say that this idea, will overcrowd and destroy the functionality of the park, as we know it to be, today, and then detract from the bucolic setting and natural rolling landscape that makes Norwood Park a true gem.

The objections are not just typical complaining you often get from Chevy Chase. I am a citizen who actually uses the park for both the commercial and the greater public good.

I also happen to live exactly adjacent to the park, right off the path, on the South side. I can tell you that the noise levels from dogs already in the park is high. This is because the park is not really that big - say, only 200 yards, from South side of the boundary to the North side. With the houses on the South side, and the “wall” of four-story apartments on the North side this creates an echo chamber, which transfers even normal "talking” clear-across the fields!! I know this first-hand, from living here, for over 15 years. Imagine what the increasing levels of morning dog barking will add to the current, already-barking-noise levels - for both the South-side home owners and the North-side apartment dwellers. Add the current mansion on the east side and the townhouses and stone wall amphitheater on the west sides and you have a legitimate, "noise-bowl!” In other words, this is a big idea “sandwiched” between the rebounding noise-walls of a small park!

Due to this current, "noise-bowl," impact, the residents, whose homes are located along the South-side bike path, of the park perimeter, incessantly complain, to the Park Police, about the noise. The idea of adding more dogs to the morning mix - and with this expanding idea - throughout the day and into the evening will only exacerbate these issues, resulting in degrading the quality of noise levels, further. This isn’t fair to the residents who live there, now.

I don’t think I have have heard the arguments against, framed, in this vein. I urge you to come out the the park and see these issues for what they really are - ask me about several specific times - and I urge you to not proceed further, until you have ALL of the facts. I will meet with you or your staff, and take you on a tour. In other words, although you’ve had your staff take a look at the park, during certain times, the reality of our neighborhood objections are far more reaching. The noise levels are far different than the weekday early afternoons. The weekday evenings, Saturday morning issues, the weekend Saturday and Sunday sports teams and clinics, and the weekday, evening, soccer clubs and teams will tell a different tale (or tail, as it were).

And with COVID - if your team has visited the park at peak use hours, in the past year, they wouldn’t have gotten a true picture of what the high usage and available space, actually is! And despite what my video demonstrates, we are STILL not back to full, normal, usage.

Thanks for your consideration on this idea of a dog park.

Respectfully,
Richard House
Somerset PE Teacher, park patron, and citizen with a home, located on the edge of the park.

Click to Download
Norwood Park Current Crowding.mov
213 MB

Click to Download
Dog Park at Norwood Park.eml
465 KB