

Q&A from Norwood Dog Park Community Meeting

November 10, 2020

This document contains responses to input received during the virtual community meeting about a proposed dog park at Norwood Local Park. Parks staff reviewed all questions and comments posted during the meeting and organized them by topic area below.



If you find your question was not answered or if you need additional information, please contact Christie Ciabotti, Project Manager, at Christie.Ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org

SITE SUITABILITY STUDY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

QUESTIONS – Site Suitability Study:

Q: When did the Norwood proposal receive favorable input from the public?

ANSWER:

The [2019 Site Suitability Study for Dog Parks](#) identified Norwood Local Park as a recommended location for a dog park in Bethesda. As part of that study, Montgomery Parks obtained public input through the Open Town Hall forum on preferred sites in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Service Area. Norwood Park was one of the top sites chosen by community members for a dog park in this area. As outlined in the study, public input on sites was one of several pieces of information that informed recommendations in the study. The Open Town Hall forum was a first public input opportunity with the knowledge that there would be several additional public input opportunities for sites chosen to move forward towards design and development.

Q: I believe that your slide showed 66 people who responded favorably. This makes it a done deal?

ANSWER:

The 66 people who responded favorably were answering survey questions regarding potential sites in the Bethesda area as part of the Site Suitability Study. The Site Suitability Study for Dog

Parks identified Norwood Local Park as one of the preferred locations for a dog park in Bethesda due to its proximity and walkability for residents in downtown Bethesda. In response, Montgomery Parks is now exploring the feasibility of developing a dog park at Norwood Park.

QUESTION – Public notification:

Q: The first I heard of this is when I got a postcard, postmarked October 20, 2020. I have lived in Kenwood Forest II for 26 years. I question your assertion that this was sufficiently noticed to area residents.

ANSWER:

The first step in the public outreach process for the proposed dog park at Norwood Local Park was the community meeting on November 10, 2020. The postcard notifying residents about the meeting was sent approximately one month ahead of time so that it would give residents two to three weeks' notice and time to plan to attend the virtual meeting. This is our current practice for public notification for park projects. In addition, we reached out to neighboring associations at the end of September before we set the date of the meeting to confirm that it did not conflict with other planned community events.

QUESTION – Community input from HOAs:

Q: Have you asked the homeowners associations for the apartments, townhouse communities and single-family homes abutting the park for the entities' input?

ANSWER:

Before the general announcement of the community meeting on November 10, Parks staff reached out to the neighboring HOAs and stakeholders to notify them of the project and check that the meeting date didn't conflict with any known community events. We sent notification to all registered associations in the Commission's database, including Chevy Chase Drive Condo Association, Bethesda Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce, Bethesda Urban Partnership, Bradley House Condo Association, Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Association, Kenwood Forest, and Sacks Neighborhood Association. At that time, Parks received considerable feedback from the neighboring communities and HOA representatives. If specific neighborhood groups would like to provide additional coordinated input, they should e-mail the project manager, Christie Ciabotti, at Christie.Ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org

QUESTIONS – Publishing public input:

Q: You will "assess" feedback. How about full transparency. Make all feedback public.

Q: There are a lot of good comments this evening. Will you be posting these comments on the website?

ANSWER:

This document contains community input provided to Montgomery Parks during the Norwood Dog Park Community meeting on November 10, 2020. Parks staff reviewed all questions and comments from the meeting and arranged them by topic of interest. A full transcript of all comments from the meeting is also available on the project website.

In addition, the Open Town Hall Survey results are available for all web site visitor to see. Scroll to the bottom of the Norwood dog park Open Town Hall page (https://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/public-input/#peak_democracy), and click on View Responses at the bottom left.

ALTERNATIVE SITES

QUESTIONS – Alternative location at Little Falls Park:

Q: Have you considered Little Falls park at Arlington road and Little Falls Parkway as an alternative to Norwood?

Q: The Little Falls Park is so little used and Norwood is over used. Why lose the "bucolic" nature of the park which is a goal of Parks?

Q: Has there been a study of how much little falls park is used versus Norwood? you may be missing a better site on a false assumption that little falls park is 'heavily' used.

ANSWER:

Little Falls Park was considered during the site suitability selection process, but there is not adequate space within the park to support a dog park without removal of existing facilities. This park includes a permitted rectangular athletic field and a playground. The remaining open space is sloped, not large enough, and too close to nearby residences. There have been suggestions to use the parking lot. While this would be a creative solution, the parking lot serves as trailhead parking for commuters and recreational users on the Capital Crescent Trail as well as overflow parking for the Bethesda Pool.

QUESTIONS – Alternative locations in downtown Bethesda:

Q: I previously submitted my preference for a location that is used less, Wall Park at the K-S Indoor Pool. Unlike Norwood, Wall Park has sufficient parking. Wall Park is walkable with multi-family properties nearby. A dog park at Wall Park would have much less displacement of current activities: individuals and groups are not using the Wall Park for recreation to the same level as the Norwood Local Park.

ANSWER:

Wall Park is a candidate site and may include a dog park when it is developed in the future. However, it is located further from downtown Bethesda than the Cabin John Regional Park dog park, so it would not achieve the goal of serving downtown Bethesda.

Q: Why not make a dog park in a corner park in downtown Bethesda, such as what you frequently see in DC?

ANSWER:

Montgomery Parks does not currently own a corner park or pocket park that could accommodate a dog park in downtown Bethesda. There may be opportunities in the future for private developers to incorporate dog parks or other community amenities in urban developments.

Q: Is Elm Street Park no longer being considered for dog park?

ANSWER:

Elm Street Park is still being considered, but it is not our first choice at this time because of uncertainties with the park's development due to the construction of the Purple Line. Elm Street Park is more constrained in size than Norwood Park so a dog park built at Elm Street would be much smaller in size. [Future development plans](#) south of the existing park may include a public dog park.

QUESTIONS – Alternative location within Norwood Park:

Q: Are there other areas in the park that could be considered as alternative sites?

Q: Are other locations in Norwood or nearby being considered?

Q: This plan is flawed-putting the dog park in the center of the park. the dog park will degrade the open character of the park. Can it be moved an extreme end of park, away from homes?

Q: My question was accidentally split in 2....can we still consider other locations within Norwood that aren't right in the middle of the open space. Seems unattractive. Why not off to the side... closer to tennis courts? Or other peripheral area?

Q: The only area which is truly unused is the West side at the extreme end of the outfield

ANSWER:

The proposed location for a dog park at Norwood was carefully studied within the context of the current park configuration, existing park amenities, distance from surrounding residences, and access to the dog park for both pedestrians and utilities. The criteria for development included Montgomery Parks recommendations for dog park size, distance from nearby residences, offsets for tree preservation, offsets for playgrounds, topographic considerations including accessibility requirements, utilities, and location of existing park amenities. Once these criteria were factored in, the proposed location emerged as the most viable area. Most zones at the perimeter of the park, including the far west side of the park beyond the outfield, are too close to adjacent residences and have additional challenges of construction or maintenance that ruled them out as candidates for a dog park site.

COMMENTS – ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS:

- Elm street park and North Chevy Chase Local Park might be a little further from residential properties so there might be less pushback. Parking is going to be an issue anywhere in Bethesda and should not prevent the parks from moving forward to accommodate Moco resident's needs.
- Elm Street Park is just as close to residences...if not closer. And the yappy hour there was awesome!
- I really hope you'll take our comments about looking at different parts of Norwood. Please reconsider your criteria AND how people use the park AND aesthetics. This could really be an eyesore in a beautiful spot enjoyed by 1000s.

PARKING

QUESTIONS – Improvements to existing parking:

Q: Has anyone done a study of the current usage of Norwood Park for various activities and the adequacy of the parking?

Q: Similar question about parking - has there been a demand study (present and future) as well as any thoughts on reconfiguring the existing parking lot? It's a very inefficient and poorly laid out lot as it is.

Q: Am I hearing correctly that the parking will NOT be studied or addressed until a later project is started? Dog park feasibility study will not consider parking at all?

Q: Why can't you be specific about surfaces and provision for parking? Obviously, you recognize that this will draw added auto traffic to the park

Q: Do improvements create additional parking spots?

Q: As a resident of Norwood Drive the access road to the park currently overrun by excess cars I am concerned about more cars. Can you indicate how many additional spaces will be added?

ANSWER:

The dog park project will include at least one accessible parking space, but will not increase parking capacity as part of the project. Upcoming improvements to the Park Activity Building will include upgrades to the parking lot for improved capacity, efficiency, and accessibility.

Q: It sounds like this is a done deal although you say there are still studies and plans to come. Is Parks committed to a dog park here, even if accommodating the increased need for parking will likely eliminate some green space?

ANSWER:

As mentioned above, the improvements to parking will be undertaken by a separate Parks design team as part of a different project effort. While the scope of that project has not yet been defined, elimination of the park's green space is not an objective. We anticipate increasing the number of spaces through reconfiguration of the existing parking lot.

QUESTION – Future communication about parking improvements:

Q: Fantastic to hear there's plans and funding to improve the parking situation. It seems park capacity is much higher than parking capacity. The existing lot seems to be able to be reconfigured to accommodate much more parking. Can you provide a follow up on that parking design with those who sign up for updates to the dog park as they are fairly related?

ANSWER:

Yes! Montgomery Parks will update interested community members with Norwood Local Park project news and progress via web site updates and email announcements.

QUESTIONS – Parking impacts to neighborhood streets:

Q: Will the parking reviews assess the overflow impacts on the 4800-4900 block of Chevy Chase Blvd and Offut Drive?

Q: Don't you need to address parking and traffic issues before going forward? If you're familiar with the parking facilities here, it's difficult to see how you could add more than a few spaces. When the park is being fully used, parking spills over onto narrow neighborhood streets, in some cases making navigating both the streets and driveways considerably more difficult. How can you possibly go forward with this without a better understanding of parking and traffic issues for the immediate neighborhood on all sides?

ANSWER:

As mentioned above, Parks is studying improvements that will provide additional parking capacity.

QUESTION – Parking for residents:

Q: Is the intent that this serve the immediate neighborhood or all of Bethesda? I walk through the park twice a day and the majority of cars are from DC, Virginia or out of state. Perhaps parking should be for residents.

ANSWER:

Montgomery Parks, associated parking areas, and the amenities in the parks are public facilities available to all users. That being said, the intent for this dog park is to provide a local, walkable amenity for nearby park users.

COMMENTS – PARKING AND TRAFFIC:

- I would ask that you base any assumption that people will walk rather than drive to this park on actual data. People routinely drive to the park to let their dogs off leash -- not a parking problem because that is generally just early in the morning. If people start driving now at all hours, a terrible parking situation will be worse. Please make sure that you have data to support you if you are assuming that dog park users will walk rather than drive to the park.
- Today the parking lot was overwhelmed, and the fields and playgrounds taxed to the limit. The logistical issues, particularly parking and traffic, are substantial.
- There are several Qs of where the users of Norwood Park dog users come from. In my daily experience, most of the users come from the immediately surrounding areas.
- Please address in your FAQs the impact of traffic on Norwood Drive. Cars speed and run the stop signs all the time.
- Would also respectfully suggest that you analyze the projected parking increase and solve that before installing an expensive built structure that may cause an exponential increase in the already overloaded parking situation. Except for neighborhood dogs, most users will be driving their dogs to the proposed park.

CONFLICTING ACTIVITIES

QUESTIONS – Athletic field conflicts:

Q: Has the study consulted with the high volume of youth sports activities/organizations that utilize that portion of the park currently? On an average weekend, nearly all fields are full.

ANSWER:

The dog park proposal as presented will not use any of the existing recreational fields including the unprogrammed open space closest to the parking lot. All fields will continue to be available for sport activities.

Q: Will the parks department consider permitting less of the Park to sports clubs if this space is taken away from casual/unstructured use by our kids?

ANSWER:

No, the dog park proposal still allows for sufficient unprogrammed open space throughout the park for park users who are not directly involved in permitted park activities.

QUESTIONS – Volume of existing park activity:

Q: Is there a study on the amount of current park usage?

Q: why is a current usage study not important before you tear up the park?

Q: Have you surveyed the use of the park on weekends and weekday afternoons? It's already overcrowded

Q: The use of the park is lower now in the time of COVID than it was before. Have you considered the pre-COVID use statistics?

ANSWER:

Montgomery Parks is aware of the large volume of activity at Norwood and has information regarding park usage from permitting data, community input, Park Police information, and staff site visits. We know the park is extremely well-used and well-loved for a wide variety of activities. We agree the park is heavily utilized, but we don't find it over-used or overcrowded relative to other parks in urban settings.

QUESTIONS – Loss of unprogrammed open green space:

Q: Although the area identified for the dog park apparently does not utilize any formal recreational areas as marked on Park Plans, the area is heavily used by multiple sports activities including soccer, volleyball, and more.

Q: Are you considering "sports fields" to encompass only the baseball diamonds? The area demarcated in the map is frequently used by park users to engage in soccer, football, frisbee and many other sporting and other leisure activities. Large organizations will still be able to get their permits, but our children and neighbors will lose the ability to use the space they have left for recreation

Q: Appreciate the response to the field question. What about the non-organized activities by other residents who currently utilize that zone as an "unclaimed" area for playing catch or other activities. In other words, it's a great open area for CCW and other residents to enjoy the park when other activities are ongoing in the actual regulated fields. There are currently a number of dogs that gather in that space already, but that space does get a substantial amount of use.

Q: It seems you're not aware that it's not just the ball fields that are used but also the open green space - including the area where you plan to place the dog park - by various practice groups including toddler/elementary age soccer clinics and other sport organizations, not just from Montgomery County?

Q: As a resident whose home backs into the park, we love the current situation. Dog owners currently use the park early in the morning, when few others (sports teams, kids playing, picnic-ers etc.) are present. Condoning off the area would make it unusable dead space for most of the day. What is the problem we are trying to fix?

Q: The delineated "Dog Park Enclosure appears to be in the most heavily used section of the open area. For example; this is the precise location of the CCW annual 4th of July celebration.

Q: The area being proposed for the dog park is smack dab in the middle of the park, where children play all the time. Have you done a study of what parts of the park are currently used most frequently and whether there are parts of the park that would make more sense to take away from their current use?

Q: Aren't you taking virtually the only open area left in the park?

ANSWER:

Norwood Local Park has approximately 17.5 acres of open space. The project will preserve unprogrammed space for the various activities that take place in the park. The dog park proposal, as presented, will not use any of existing recreational fields, courts, or the large area of unprogrammed open space near the lower parking lot. In addition, the open space throughout the center of the park under groves of large trees will be retained. All existing sports fields will continue to be available for activities.

QUESTIONS – Other potential conflicts:

Q: Are there any existing dog parks in Montgomery County that would share the siting characteristics of Norwood Park -- in terms of proximity to people's homes and a parking lot that is frequently overwhelmed? If so, can you share how parking and noise conflicts have been resolved?

ANSWER:

Each Montgomery County dog park is unique in its siting and characteristics so we can't point to one that matches the exact characteristics of Norwood. The dog parks that have been built in Montgomery Parks are popular and, in our experience, these facilities have not created detrimental impacts to the park or surrounding neighborhoods.

Q: Are you aware that there is a preschool behind the activity center?

ANSWER:

Yes, we know about the preschool and don't anticipate any conflict with the dog park area.

QUESTIONS – Impact to amphitheater:

Q: This renders the Amphitheater useless, as the dog park is plopped so close to it that you cannot use it for concerts, assemblies, etc.

Q: How many times a year is the "amphitheater" actually used?

ANSWER FROM A COMMUNITY MEMBER: The amphitheater is also been used during vigils and summer camps as well. The amphitheater is used for concerts, for award ceremonies for BCC high school kids, etc.

ANSWER:

The proposed dog park area is 115' from the amphitheater and does not encroach on the sloped lawn for seating in front of the amphitheater. Assemblies, concerts, camp activity, etc. will still have ample space for performers and audience members.

QUESTIONS – Conflicts with playground:

Q: The adjacent playground is highly used by toddlers and young children. Some kids are allergic to dogs. Some children are afraid of dogs. The dog park site seems too close to these young children and their caretakers.

ANSWER:

We expect that having a designated, enclosed area for dogs will help reduce conflicts between different types of users. The proposed dog park is 50' from the edge of the playground and would be contained by fencing. The entrance to the dog park would be double gated to prevent unwanted interactions and to prevent dogs from escaping. Fifty feet is a reasonable distance from the playground to allow for a buffer between children playing and the edge of the dog park. In addition, the main playground area for the park is removed from the proposed location of the dog park, which provides opportunity for children and their families to remain separated from dogs if they wish.

COMMENTS - PARK OPEN SPACE AND EXISTING ACTIVITIES:

- Having frequented the park since the 1960's, I can say that the open spaces are the key aspect to preserve. Open spaces are used heavily for informal activities and building on this space will create an eyesore that most of the current dog owners won't use.
- Not expecting visiting experts to know this, but the location of the proposed area completely cuts off the much-used path between the two playgrounds. We are also, with this alteration, forever damaging the open space that is one of the treasured aspects of this park. No built amenity can replace this.
- "We don't have a dog park yet." We already have a park which includes dogs, children and sports players.
- There are plenty of other open spaces to do soccer and other sports on the lower field
- There is a value to open space!!!
- There is a value to open space, yes! There's also a value to dog parks. Different people like different things and use spaces differently. Just like you.
- Intramural teams from BCC high school use the park because there is virtually no green space at the high school.
- I love baseball. And the two baseball diamonds sit unused most of hours of most days of most weeks. I would never suggest getting rid of the diamonds. AND, for comparison, a dog park at Norwood would be filled DAILY!
- Unclear how this differs substantially from the Little Falls site in usage? The proposed Norwood enclosure is located right in the area most heavily used by groups for soccer and abuts the playground for smaller children.
- Park usage is highest from 3-7 pm all days of week.
- By protecting only the permitted fields, you are displacing the informal use of space. The space you have marked out IS used by park users, for sports and otherwise. Please visit the park on a busy day

and you will see that. The sports clubs will keep their permits. Kids that just want to play will lose out.

- This exact area is currently used every afternoon for soccer, volleyball and football classes.
- The county's understanding of how the various fields are used on weekends differs somewhat from what the local residents observe, including significant numbers of spectators extending outward from the heavily used playing fields.
- The amphitheater is used for concerts, for award ceremonies for BCC high school kids, etc.
- I would implore the county to do a design charrette that includes the various types of current users....this plan seems to have very little understanding of how to optimize given current uses.
- Please consider that the concerns being raised about the dog park are primarily concerns about competing uses of the park. If a dog park is built in the proposed space, a significant part of the park's open space would be permanently taken out of use for anything other than those using the dog park. Before prioritizing that use for this space, please make every effort to determine what is being given up -- that is, how many people use that area of the park in a given week -- versus how many people would use the dog park. Having visited many dog parks, I've noticed that they are frequently empty for hours each day. It is rare for that space to be unused during normal times.
- The CCW Fourth celebration occurs precisely where the dog enclosure has been shown. It extends east as far as and including the Recreation Building, north as far as the "Sport Field" south to the paved path and west to the eastern edge of the underutilized "Sport Field" shown at the west extremity of the park. The Fourth celebration includes numerous field games for children and adults, taking advantage of the flat surface and wide-open space.
- The 4th of July celebration is a sleep over tent event that uses that entire area....
- I have serious concerns about your criteria. The northern side of Norwood abuts large apt buildings. I would very much like a study of the tenants concerns about proximity. I think you might find much greater objection to destroying the aesthetics of Norwood. The ballpark on the northern field is also much less used than the open space for soccer, football, frisbee. This is an example of criteria dictating a terrible outcome.

OFF-LEASH DOG ACTIVITY

QUESTIONS – Designated hours/area for off-leash activity:

Q: In addition to serious parking issues on Norwood Drive as well, has the park considered doing nothing and allowing the current situation of dogs before 9 am to continue legally? Why spend money in a year with a huge budget deficit?

Q: Thank you for this meeting tonight. I wanted to share the list of people and dogs that use Norwood Park and support the proposal for an unfenced / designated hours dog park proposal instead of a more restricted fenced in area.

Q: The open area is heavily occupied by youth camps and activities right now. This would take away from children/students being able to access open areas in the park. Couldn't hours be set for dog owners and have the park maximize the usage for everyone?

Q: Would it be possible to have a dog area that is not fenced in?

ANSWER:

Off-leash dog activity is currently prohibited by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Park Rules and Regulations for both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. This project would create fenced areas for off-leash dog exercise and play similar to the size and type of facilities we provide in other dog parks. In addition, a designated dog park designed to withstand heavy use by dogs helps protect other areas of the park from damage.

QUESTIONS – Changing M-NCPPC Leash Law:

Q: what needs to be done to change law regarding ability to have dogs off leash in parks at designated hours?

Q: Just curious what sort of resource intensive management would be needed for an off-leash concept. Thank you.

Q: Why can't law be amended to allow off leash dogs in designated areas from 7-9 am ONLY?

Q: As someone else asked, why can't Montgomery county change its rules regarding timed slots for off leash activity? There's no reason that rule is set in stone. If it were changed, you could have multi uses without upsetting the aesthetic of Norwood

ANSWER:

Our park rules have been established to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all park users. With 424 parks with 37,000 acres of park land, monitoring off-leash activity would be infeasible. In order to provide safe opportunities for off-leash dog play, Montgomery Parks currently offers seven dog parks across the county and has completed a Dog Park Site Suitability Study to identify locations for future dog parks.

QUESTION – Enforcement of leash regulations:

Q: Would there be an intention to increase enforcement of leash regulations outside of the dog park area if this project did move forward? As noted, there is a substantial volume of off leash activity already in Norwood, as well as a substantial volume of dog gathering activity within the park already.

ANSWER:

The presence of a new dog park in an area where many dog owners already exercise their dogs will be a beneficial addition to the park. Many dog owners will choose to use a safe, fenced area for dog exercise instead of open park areas where off-leash activity is prohibited. If Park Police receive complaints about off-leash dog activity in Norwood Local Park or observe this during patrols, they will increase enforcement as needed.

QUESTION – Public input regarding off-leash activity:

Q: So, according to MNPPC letting your dog off-leash is prohibited. Why bother pretending you want public input?

ANSWER:

We are very interested in public input about the dog park. We understand that many people and dogs are already using Norwood Park for play and exercise, which indicates that a dog park would be a desirable amenity in this area.

Q: You alluded to problems and user conflicts relating to the current situation. Can you please elaborate on that, with some more specific information? Thanks.

ANSWER:

We have received input from some community members who are uncomfortable using the park when dogs are off leash in the park, and some have had direct conflicts with unleashed dogs and/or their owners.

COMMENTS - OFF-LEASH ACTIVITY:

- The off-leash activity will continue, don't fool yourself.
- I believe those that dog owners who requested off leash ALSO support the dog park.
- This park is currently, successfully used for multiple purposes. Dropping this fenced space into the middle of the park is problematic. Many dog owners will continue to use this area for off leash access.

- The leash laws are not enforced. This will not solve the problem
- I can tell you that the Park Police are totally embarrassed about having to caution dog owners.
- As a resident whose home backs into the park, we love the current situation. Dog owners currently use the work
- It's a very good idea IF current dog owners use the dog park rather than continue allowing their dogs off-leash, county rule be damned. Off-leash dogs have presented at least three recurring issues that a dog park would mitigate: 1) dogs chasing after people who don't want to be approached by a dog and 2) dogs chasing after a leashed dog, being walked by their owner , with an unfortunate confrontation between the two dogs, 3) bad track record by owners not picking up after their off-leash dog.
- excellent points to folks who are asking for off-leash times/changes in MoCo leash laws (which is not relevant to this presentation). It is completely unfair to my leashed dog when a leashed dog comes running up to her, even if the owner says the unleashed dog is 'friendly.' While some folks will always ignore leash laws, a dog park will provide a much-needed amenity to downtown Bethesda area. Thank you for the planning and presentation.
- If there are currently a pack of doggies playing in the park and noise ordinances haven't been routinely impacted, why are we worrying about a dog park impacting them?
- Here's a petition to extend the off-leash w/permission to Mont. county (what's currently operating in Rockville MD)https://www.change.org/p/montgomery-county-councilmembers-extend-off-leash-with-permission-to-all-of-montgomery-county?source_location=topic_page
- It would be nice if Bethesda could employ an off-leash license like Rockville
- <https://www.wusa9.com/article/life/pets/know-the-laws-dog-leash-laws-in-dc-md-and-va/65-441227232>

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCESS FROM BETHESDA

QUESTION – Community building accessibility:

Q: When will the community building be made fully accessible, including accessible rest rooms, for equitable utilization? Why is a dog park superseding that requirement?

ANSWER:

Montgomery Parks has funding available for improvements to the Park Activity Building that will include accessibility upgrades. This project will be undertaken by a separate Parks design team and has not been initiated yet.

QUESTIONS – Dog park accessibility and pathways:

Q: In order for seniors or disabled residents to access the proposed dog area it would need to provide a pathway, maybe by woodchips in the bumpy grassy area. Actually, my recommendation is a pathway around the entire perimeter of the park

Q: I encourage more handicap access to the park. There is not even handicap access to the playground, which I supposed to be handicap accessible or friendly. I do not see how you could adequately construct ramps, especially with no dedicated handicapped parking.

Q: Must the pathways be impervious?

Q: What would be the material of the dog park access walk?

ANSWER:

The paved route to the proposed dog park from the parking area will be constructed to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility guidelines, and at least one accessible parking space will be added. Pathways within the dog park will also be accessible.

The surface for the pathways has not yet been specified. As the project progresses, materials will be selected that meet the requirements for accessibility and specific site characteristics.

QUESTIONS – Park access from the north:

Q: The "closeness" of Norwood to downtown Bethesda depends on walking paths that are not public rights of way

Q: So, you want people to trespass on private property to get to the park even more than they do now?

Q: Where exactly are the public access points?? Living in Kenwood Forest II, we are the ONLY access points to the Park from Bethesda. This will lead to unwanted traffic in our neighborhood.

Q: Are you proposing to have more people walk through Kenwood Forest II property and property lots of private homes than already do?

Q: The 4702 development has NO connection to the park. I need to correct a prior post. They do not even have access for the people in their own building. There needs to be more cut throughs throughout Chevy Chase Drive for those in the neighborhood to get into the park, and there should be handicapped access as well.

ANSWER:

A designated connection to the north would be desirable for the overall function of the park, but it would not be part of this dog park project. It could be accomplished as a separate project in the future but would need to compete for funding with other similar countywide needs. Currently, an approved preliminary plan for multifamily housing at [4702 Chevy Chase Drive](#) that includes [through-block pedestrian connection from Chevy Chase Drive to Nottingham Drive, along with a sidewalk connection to Norwood Local Park.](#)

COMMENTS –PARK ACCESS FROM THE NORTH:

- There is only one public access site envisioned from downtown Bethesda to Norwood Park.
- Currently, there is a development proposal on 4702 Chevy Chase Drive, and the applicant agreed to provide a through-block connection from Chevy Chase Dr. to Nottingham Dr. and extend the connection with a sidewalk up to Norwood Local Park. This was an excellent collaboration with the applicant to promote connectivity for the pedestrian environment.
- There is a connector likely to be created just west of the field by the fire station. This will probably replace the connector recommended in the Bethesda Downtown Plan further west. Norwood Park does not fall within the downtown Bethesda boundaries, fyi.
- Development is required to pay a Park Impact Payment for additional density. That payment goes into a fund for downtown Bethesda parks. While this funding would be coming from a different budget, yes development is paying for some parks - now to get them delivered!
- 4702 Chevy Chase Project submitted revised proposal as of 10/9, which is yet to be publicized. Here is excerpt from their statement of justification: In addition, the Applicant is proposing to extend the sidewalk offsite along Nottingham Drive to the west to Norwood Park and to the east to connect to the existing sidewalk on the Fire Department site and along Chevy Chase Drive to the east along the frontage of the Fire Department site to Bradley Boulevard. The Nottingham Drive right-of-way west of the Property will also be improved with the extension of curb and gutter and the widening of the pavement section.
- 4702 does not provide access to the park for their own proposed new 70 residential units. That does not seem acceptable to me, who neighbors that proposed building
- The sidewalk is going to be built behind 4702, BUT there is no access through the 4702 property for the residents or from other residents to the park!! Research this point!
- 4702 will use the side of their building that faces the fire house property for their own owners to have patios. The fire house will likely have a separate development proposal in the near future

- Naomi Spinrad - I am co-chair of the Bethesda Implementation Advisory Cmte and familiar with the plans for 4702 CCD. Nothing has been approved yet, but the application includes a connector on the east side of the building from Chevy Chase Drive to Nottingham, and a sidewalk on the north side of Nottingham that extends to the park. The building itself would have an exit on its west side near Nottingham for its residents to access the park. This connector may replace the one recommended in the Bethesda Plan further to the west.
- Bethesda Sector plan (p69) talks about throughblock recommendations to enhance pedestrian connectivity: https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/BDP-COUNCIL-ADOPTED-MAY2017_SMALL-FOR-WEB.pdf

DOG PARK FACILITY AND OPERATIONS

QUESTIONS – Dog park size comparison:

Q: To give us a sense of size, how large is the Cabin John dog park?

Q: How does the size of your proposal compare to the dog exercise area at Cabin John?

Q: What are the sizes of other dog parks in Montgomery Parks?

ANSWER:

Approximate sizes are listed below:

Norwood Local Park – (proposed) 18,000 square feet

Ellsworth Urban Park – 20,000 square feet

Dewey Local Park – 22,000 square feet

Wheaton Regional Park – 25,000 square feet

Cabin John Regional Park – 50,000 square feet

Olney Manor Recreational Park – 42,000 square feet

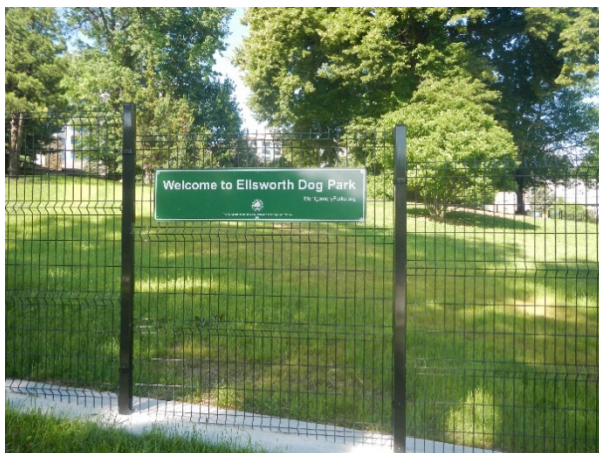
Black Hill Regional Park – 22,000 square feet

Ridge Road Recreational Park – 22,000 square feet

Q: Do you have a photo of a comparable 18,000 sf facility with a 4.5- foot chain link fence so we can visualize that? Sounds very industrial looking.

ANSWER:

Ellsworth Dog Park is the most comparable example in terms of overall size and potential materials. See photos below taken at Ellsworth for park character and fencing examples.



QUESTION – Visualizing space at Norwood:

Q: is it possible to mark off the proposed area in the park so people can visualize the space?

COMMENT: Echoing the comment that it'd be great if you all could temporarily mark off the proposed site so folks can visualize it better. The graphic is one thing. Seeing it in person is another. Thanks.

ANSWER:

This proposal is in the very early planning stages and the ultimate location and scale of the dog park are not yet determined. Please note that stakes, signs, and paint present in the park during the month of November were installed without authorization by someone unaffiliated with the Parks Department. This activity is strictly prohibited and does not reflect the location or size of the dog park. If the project moves forward, Parks staff will continue communication with the community and may initiate a site visit or install a visual exhibit to discuss dog park location and size.

QUESTIONS –Function of proposed area:

Q: How big is the large dog area? Will it be sufficient for multiple large dogs to run / play fetch? these dogs need a lot of space to run and shouldn't feel forced to socialize with other dogs if they don't want too.

Q: It is hard to determine from the information, how many dogs would this park accommodate at a time?

Q: Do you have any estimate of how many dogs could be in either section of the proposed park. This area looks so much smaller than the Cabin John park, I worry that there wouldn't be much running of the dogs.

Q: how many dogs does each fenced area accommodate well?

Q: What is sq. footage distribution between large dog area and small dog area in proposed park area?

Q: How many dogs use this grassy Ellsworth surface, compared with the number of dogs you project to be using Norwood? Please answer this.

ANSWER:

The area for large dogs is currently planned at 13,000 square feet, which is large enough to accommodate numerous dogs at the same time and allows space for fetch games and other active play. The small dog area is planned at about 5,000 square feet. For reference, Ellsworth Dog Park is of comparable size at 20,000 square feet total and Newark Street Dog Park in Washington, DC is smaller at roughly 10,000 square feet. Visiting those parks will give you an idea for the size of the space and the possibilities for dog play within it.

QUESTIONS – Dog park size

Q: If we have to have a designated dog park, why not make it bigger? If this is indeed for all of Bethesda, then why not make it BIGGER??? This is a very small dog park for all the dogs that are regulars!!!

Q: is there a way to make the space bigger so the dogs can run?

Q: Can this dog park be made larger?

ANSWER:

If the project moves forward at Norwood, the size of the dog area will be refined through further site surveys and development of the design. The size would likely remain in the same square foot range because of siting requirements including distance from nearby residences, offsets for tree preservation, offsets for playgrounds, topographic considerations including accessibility requirements, utilities, and location of existing park amenities.

Q: have you looked at smaller dog parks?

ANSWER:

Yes, many urban dog parks are smaller than the proposed dog park at Norwood. Washington DC provides some good, successful examples such as the S Street Dog Park (7,500 sq. ft.) and Swampoodle Park (5,000 sq. ft.).

QUESTIONS – Timing of project:

Q: This is a great proposal. How soon can it be finished?

Q: This is a great idea. What is the timing to completion assuming approval?

Q: How soon might this project start and be completed?

Q: what is the timing of the project? When will it start and how long will it take to build?

ANSWER:

Upon review of the Open Town Hall survey results, comments from the community meeting on November 10, and individual correspondence, Parks staff and leadership will make a recommendation about how to proceed with the dog park proposal. We anticipate presenting the project to the Planning Board in the spring of 2021 for a final decision and there will be opportunity for the community to participate and provide additional input and testimony. If the dog park project is approved, construction could begin in Spring/Summer 2022.

QUESTIONS – Noise:

Q: Have you assessed the potential impact relative to the MoCo Noise Ordinance, given how close the apartments, townhouses and houses are?

Q: I agree that there was not prior adequate community involvement and you seem to have made up your mind, despite what you say to the contrary. What acoustics studies have been done? There is no place in Norwood Park that can avoid noise bothering residents.

Q: Someone asked a question about the noise impacts, but you haven't answered it. Will there be a noise assessment of a contained dog park so close to residences?

ANSWER:

We have sited the proposed dog park in order to minimize noise impacts on nearby residences. There is already a large contingent of dogs using the park in roughly the same area for off-leash play, and the noise from a planned dog park would likely be no greater than the existing dog play in the park. Dog park rules prohibit persistent barking and require dog handlers to be in control of their dogs. The dog parks that have been built in Montgomery Parks are popular and, in our experience, these facilities have not created detrimental impacts to the park and surrounding neighborhoods.

QUESTIONS – Surface Materials:

Q: It is interesting that all the photos you post show dogs and children playing on grassy lawns, without leashes. Not very honest advertising, is it?

Q: Are you seriously proposing a grassy surface as shown at Ellsworth, I think?

ANSWER:

Specific surface materials will be determined in future design phases if the project moves forward. As outlined in our presentation, the surface would likely be a combination of materials which may include dog-specific artificial turf (used at Ellsworth and Dewey Dog Parks), wood fiber, crushed stone, and hardscape pathways.

QUESTIONS – Rules and maintenance:

Q: What hours would the dog park be open? We sometimes have issues with people being in the park at night and I don't want lights in the park to keep there late into the night.

ANSWER:

The park hours for Norwood Local Park are from sunrise to sunset and would not change. The dog park will not be lighted.

Q: How will users be screened and how will rules be enforced? The Park Police are overwhelmed and cannot be expected to keep clean and orderly dog parks. I have visited all the dog parks in Montgomery County and sorry to say, the rules are NOT enforced. I also know the dog parks operated by the City of Rockville and the

Gaithersburg City parks. In my view, a model is the Dog Park operated by the Columbia Assn, where an attendant is at the gate at all times. People bring food into the MoCo dog parks. Some handlers have more than the minimum number of dogs (more than two dogs). The Cabin John dog park could be great, but it is so over-used that it is dirty and chaotic. I frequently see dog fights breaking out there.

ANSWER:

Rule enforcement is largely self-administered in dog parks and most dog owners are responsible and respectful. Montgomery Parks has official dog park rules posted at each dog park. They are enforced by Park Police as needed. Complaints for rule violations can be filed with Park Police at 301-949-8010. Maintenance of dog parks is challenging and is something we continue to improve upon and consider seriously in the planning and design of new facilities. We include both Park Police and Park Managers as part of our design and construction teams. We recognize the challenges of policing and maintaining dog parks, but in our experience, dog parks are a positive asset to the community.

COMMENTS – DOG PARK FACILITY:

- good that it would be open from dawn to dusk, makes sense
- Wood chips are the ideal surface for a dog park, as in Cabin John. Would a wood chip surface be considered ADA safe?
- Precisely where your arrow shows the Dog Park Access Walk is a permanent mudhole.
- Just a comment - Given that this park is plunked down in the middle of a very active area, I wonder if this will present a distraction for the dogs and a lot of barking at people outside the park. Any information about how this works in other areas? Most dog parks I have been to have been off to the side and away from people.
- A grassy surface would make a big difference to me, but I doubt it is practical for intended intensive use.
- The rules for Dog Parks in Montgomery County include requirements that dogs be licensed and up to date on rabies vaccinations. I am NOT asking to screen people who use Norwood to play in the fields. The existing MoCo dog parks appear to have zero enforcement of these rules. In contrast, the City of Gaithersburg sends animal control officers to their Dog Exercise Area to check on the permits of persons using the City dog park. The MoCo Park Police do not appear to be doing any checks like that.
- Maintenance costs seems pretty darned relevant to a decision!
- Stone dust is terrible. Gets into the paws, and then they lick it off and ingest.

PARK DRAINAGE

Q: There are tremendous problems with drainage/run off in the playgrounds that have never been addressed? What makes us comfortable thinking that these problems will be addressed with the dog park?

Comment: I have lived here for 20 years and the drainage issues have not been properly addressed in all that time - especially near the playgrounds

Q: I agree with a previous poster that adequate drainage will make or break the usability and enjoyment of the park, hopefully the budget will not determine the outcome.

Q: Please include a strategy for rain runoff and storm water management in the study and fiscal year. In a rain event in September, the reservoir in the park was inadequate and flooded the courtyard and residential units on Hillandale road. More parking will result in higher impervious areas and increased runoff. Thank you.

ANSWER:

The dog park design will incorporate stormwater management for the dog park specifically and will go through permitting to meet county requirements for the facility itself. Drainage at or near the playground areas will not be addressed as part of this project, except as it pertains to the design and construction of the dog park access walks.

As for the larger park stormwater management and the storm events that flood neighbors to the west, our park engineers are currently working with downstream neighbors and are investigating improvements to help address storm events. For more information, contact:

Point of Contact for Norwood Park Drainage Improvements:

Andrew Tsai, Project Manager

Andrew.Tsai@montgomeryparks.org , 301-495-2508

COST

Q: The county's finances have changed tremendously since 2018 when this was proposed. How can MoCo justify putting \$500K into a dog park at this time?

Q: Wait, this costs \$500,000? How the heck does this cost \$500,000?!? Ha

Q: As a resident, these seems like a terrible use of \$500k when there is a budget crisis and we will be cutting back schools and social services. I do not see this as a need.

Q: Montgomery County and the entire state are in the midst of a dangerous pandemic that has crushed budgets and endangered renters. There is no evidence of any compelling need for a dog park at Norwood Park. How can anyone justify this expenditure and show any evidence for a dog park?

ANSWER:

The estimated cost of this project is \$500,000, which is comparable to the cost of recently constructed dog park projects. The funding comes from Montgomery Parks' capital budget through our Urban Park Elements program, which provides funding each year for new dog parks, skate parks, and community gardens. Dog park amenities require careful planning and have specific construction requirements for sustainable maintenance.

Q: Why not use that money to have multiple, smaller pocket dog parks in downtown Bethesda?

ANSWER:

The Site Suitability Study for Dog Parks identified Norwood Local Park as one of the preferred locations for a dog park in Bethesda due to its proximity and walkability for residents in downtown Bethesda. Other potential sites were identified, but none fits the description of a "smaller pocket" park. Montgomery Parks does not currently own a corner park or pocket park that could accommodate a dog park in downtown Bethesda. Future private developments in Bethesda may incorporate public dog parks that will help meet the demand for dog parks in the area.

Q: What is the likelihood that the cost will stay within the budget?

ANSWER:

Our project budget, which is funded through the Urban Park Elements program in the capital budget, is approximately \$500,000. The dog park size, materials, and the amenities will be specified to fit within the budget parameters of the project. We anticipate the project cost to stay within budget.

MISCELLANEOUS

QUESTIONS – Norwood Park Renovations:

Q: Is the parks department considering spending money on the maintenance of the existing Norwood park facilities, which are deteriorating.

Q: What are the capital improvement, historic preservation, and deferred maintenance needs of the park and its building? Why is a dog park superseding these needs?

Comment: I'm struck by how piecemeal the various projects for this park are. You're working on a dog park, a separate effort is dealing with the historic building and parking lot, and there's at least one other to deal with accessibility. This sounds like a recipe for poor planning overall.

ANSWER:

There are no plans for a major redevelopment of Norwood park. In order to be able to provide meaningful improvements to a greater number of parks with our limited capital funding, the Department of Parks has shifted to more cost effective and efficient methods for improving existing parks. Recent projects are focusing on component renovations and additions, such as the proposed dog park, rather than large scale park renovations. Maintenance and component renovations are funded out of our Planned Lifecycle Asset Replacement program (PLAR), while new urban parks amenities like dog parks are funded out of the Urban Parks Elements program. Upcoming improvements for the park funded from PLAR include improvements to the park activity building, parking lot, and replacement of deteriorating utilities.

QUESTIONS and COMMENTS - MISC:

Q: You cite a principal complaining about dog droppings. What about the Bethesda Elem principal who welcomes dogs when students are not using the field?

Community Member Response: the Bethesda Elementary community does not "welcome" off leash dog droppings on the field playing area.

Q: Can the survey require people to say how close they live to the dog park? We might see a pattern.

ANSWER:

Yes, that information is important to us and was included as part of the survey. The majority of survey responders live within ½ mile of Norwood Local Park.

Q: So you have already planned to "redevelop" housing on the north side?

ANSWER:

Currently, there is an approved preliminary plan for private development at [4702 Chevy Chase Dr.](#), which provides a [through-block pedestrian connection from Chevy Chase Drive to Nottingham Drive](#), [along with a sidewalk connection to Norwood Local Park](#).

Q: Do you have any data on the extent of dog ownership in the county, or in the immediate area? It would seem to be a minority of residents.

ANSWER:

There is no reliable data on dog ownership in the county or in the immediate area. Not all owners license their dogs and there is no dog census. There are some very general estimates about dog ownership nationwide, such as organizations like The Humane Society of the United States, which reports 40 percent of households in the United States own at least one dog (<https://www.nrpa.org/blog/meeting-demands-of-our-two-and-four-legged-residents>).

Q: Will the tremendously huge apartment buildings and other developments that MoCo has authorized and continues to authorize in Bethesda be asked to either help pay for this or purchase or set aside green space for residents and dogs? It seems like MoCo is all about authorizing density and making long-term residents suffer the consequences as well as using their tax dollars to pay for such things ...

ANSWER:

As a result of the Bethesda Downtown Plan, there is a required Park Impact Payment (PIP). The PIP is a fund that helps to implement the Sector Plan's recommendations for new Parks in Downtown Bethesda. This project would not be funded directly through the PIP. Dog parks, skate parks and community garden projects are funded through the Urban Park Elements budget in our Parks CIP.

Q: And also, have you incorporated any lessons learned from the Chevy Chase Village dog park?

ANSWER:

Our Suitability Study for Dog Parks project was completed when the Chevy Chase Village dog park gained media attention and public scrutiny. Staff has communicated regularly with staff at the Town of Chevy Chase and Chevy Chase Village about dog parks and their specific dog-related issues and concerns.

General Comments IN OPPOSITION AND SUPPORT:

COMMENTS – OPPOSITION TO THE DOG PARK:

- This proposal is a horror. It is ugly. I do not support dedicating this budgeted money to build these ugly structures with no additional parking
- I think this dog park is a terrible idea, for the record. I agree that the money can be better spent elsewhere, such as making the main building accessible.
- Children love to play with my dog. This too is apparently prohibited according to you.
- I'm definitely against this plan and hope it does not go forward but I appreciate all your hard work and how you've handled these questions tonight. Thank you!

- No matter how many dog owners there are in the neighborhood, this prioritizes their needs (but more truthfully, their desires) over the MANY, MANY people who use this park daily and love it for its beauty and openness. This amounts to true VANDALISM and explains why people resent "planners".
- This is diabolical. By creating a fenced-in dog park in the center of the park the natural beauty of the park will be taken away. Dog parks are not for all dogs, and I already know I will just keep my dog off leash outside the dog park.
- Thanks for a clear presentation and thoughtful approach to siting dog parks. I am not sure what I think about the proposal, but I appreciate the county's work.

COMMENTS - SUPPORT FOR THE DOG PARK:

- Downtown Bethesda desperately needs a dog park. Yes - address the parking issue - but also address the dog park issue. It is possible to do more (and better) with our urban park space.
- There are tons of dog parks in DC in VA that are on smaller sites closer to homes and schools. It is entirely possible....and ultimately a great community amenity.
- Downtown Bethesda could use multiple dog parks. With Norwood being one of the biggest parks it seems like a great place to start. As a large dog owner, having a dog park accessible to me is definitely preferable to letting my dog run around in an open field.
- Yes- I would love a dog park here. It would be great to let them off leash- so full fencing. And it would be great to have a few agility features... Water of course.
- We love the dog park at Norwood idea we can walk to Norwood instead of driving to Cabin John
- Seriously people. Have a look at other urban dog park sites. Norwood has 17 acres! There is room for everyone. Dog parks are very beneficial for humans too!
- Bethesda is getting a ton of new walkable development and apartments. People have dogs. Let's be welcoming of two legged and four legged friends! Stop with the dog park fear mongering.
- i think the dog park will work just fine and people will get used to it...most dogs will be walked, not driven, to the park, and the morning only practice is not sufficient... I like the design!
- I think this would be wonderful for the many dog owners that live within walking distance of the park. The people with dogs in the adjacent neighborhood are some of the most frequent users of the space and would benefit greatly from this usage of merely TWO "and change" of the 17 acres at Norwood park.
- Please everyone read the background material on this project before asking for surveys and questionnaires. This is sorely needed in the Bethesda area. Give Bethesda at least one dog park!

- Thanks for this presentation. The proposal seems to be well thought out with all details considered. I support going forward.
- Well thought out and logical presentation
- People want to be OUTSIDE! With their dogs!! This is a worthwhile investment.
- I support a dog park at Norwood and I'd like to think it would be used by walkers, but given the existing overuse by sports groups (well beyond the permit levels) and those who drive to Norwood, I am concerned that a dog park will be overwhelmed and the cars will be a nuisance to surrounding neighbors.
- Please make more dog parks- I lived in Boston previously and there were dog parks everywhere for residents. I can't believe the dearth of dog parks in the DMV area- especially considering the leash laws are so strict....
- We need more dog parks not fewer. It is ridiculous that we don't have any dedicated dog parks in Bethesda.
- Norwood Park is exceptionally beautiful. I support the dog park idea but encourage fencing/shade etc. to be as aesthetic as possible.
- It seems like the research has been done on the site feasibility, taking into consideration community concerns, and addressing a demand for a dog park in the area. This dog park would relieve current issues related to off leash activity and school park usage. The park is at a great location and half a mile from downtown (high density area with no yard) which is a perfect walking distance for dogs and owners.
- I wholeheartedly support the research to date and plan forward (dog owner of 12 years)
- I take my dog to another park (Dewey) every day and for many years there was no designated dog park area and there were regular conflicts between dog owners and non-dog owners. Since the dog park was introduced, the conflicts are reduced or non-existent, as almost all the dog people chose to use the dog park. Although I loved letting my pup romp on the soccer field, I love the fenced-in security of the new dog park.
- I would love to be able to bring my dog to the park in the afternoon, but right now this is not possible, I welcome a park that my dog can use safely.
- Love dog parks, love pickleball. Thanks for all your hard work park planners!
- thank you for the thoughtful and careful work on this. Must be frustrating!! I think that we will adapt and love it!
- This is a fantastic idea and long overdue for the Bethesda area!
- Nearby dog parks often raise property values.

- <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.marketwatch.com/amp/story/these-housing-markets-are-going-to-the-dogs-in-a-good-way-2018-03-29>
- Ellsworth is great. Great people. Many dog and people friendships made there. And good space. Have an open mind, everyone.
- Thanks so much for bringing positive change to this park, although many resist change at first , eventually they will accept that it's for the greater good if planned well.
- i really appreciate the County's planning and consultation process. Not easy! I expect we will come to love this dog park. Norwood Park will still be beautiful. So many specimen trees, such beautiful open sky.
- Thanks for your presentation. Lots of logistical issues identified.
- Folks want paralysis by analysis. I applaud the Parks staff.
- The team has been thoughtful and thorough. It will make the park's current use by dog owners better and safer for everyone, dogs included. We've lived in the community for 32 years. Go forth and thank you for your service to the community.
- I appreciate the Parks Dept folk's professionalism and respect for all questions. thank you
- Thank you so much for the thorough planning and presentation, as well as the open solicitation for input. It's very clear to us how much care and consideration has gone into this initiative.
- The park IS a jewel. And it's only fair that dog owners are recognized for their needs as well as the needs others may have/want/desire/demand
- This is wonderful. By creating a fenced-in dog park in the center of the park the beautiful and varied use of the park will be enhanced. Dog parks are not for all dogs, and I already know I will just keep my dog on-leash outside the dog park. Again, thanks to all the planners' time and effort.
- Cuddle your pups close!

Norwood Dog Park Community Meeting Q&A Comments* - November 10, 2020

*Please note: This document is a transcript of comments and questions received through the Q&A chat during the Norwood Dog Park Community Meeting on November 10, 2020. Parks staff will address each question in a separate document that will be posted to the project web site as soon as possible.

Type	Identity	Content	Timestamp
Announcement	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	Welcome! We will start the meeting at 7:00. If you would like to sign in your attendance for the meeting, please do so through the following link: http://mcp-events.org/norwooddogparkform . We will contact you only to notify you of future project updates and opportunities to provide input.	11/10/2020 23:39
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Hello. Started?	11/11/2020 0:01
Question	Barbara (Unverified)	Has anyone done a study of the current usage of Norwood Park for various activities and the adequacy of the parking?	11/11/2020 0:01
Response	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	We will be starting momentarily(Hello. Started?)	11/11/2020 0:01
Announcement	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	We will be starting momentarily	11/11/2020 0:02
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Similar question about parking - has there been a demand study (present and future) as well as any thoughts on reconfiguring the existing parking lot? It's a very inefficient and poorly laid out lot as it is.	11/11/2020 0:03
Announcement	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	Please feel free to submit questions and comments as you think of them. We will address them at the end of the presentation.	11/11/2020 0:03
Response	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	We are aware of the significant pressure on parking within the park, and another design team is looking at a separate project for renovating and potentially expanding the parking in this area. We have funding available this fiscal year for improvements to the Park Activity Building and will include upgrades to the parking lot to improve efficiency and capacity, as well as provide accessibility improvements. This project has not been initiated yet but will likely begin after the new year.(Brad Longley (Unverified) asked "Similar question about parking - has there been a demand study (present and future) as well as any thoughts on reconfiguring the existing parking lot? It's a very inefficient and poorly laid out lot as it is.")	11/11/2020 0:04
Announcement	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	Point of Contact for Norwood Dog Park Improvements: Christie Ciabotti, Project Manager, Christie.Ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org , 301-650-4365 Point of Contact for Suitability Study for Dog Parks: Susanne Paul, Planner Coordinator, Susanne.Paul@montgomeryparks.org , 301-650-4392	11/11/2020 0:05

Question	Erin (Unverified)	Will the parking reviews assess the overflow impacts on the 4800-4900 block of Chevy Chase Blvd and Offut Drive?	11/11/2020 0:05
Announcement	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	Project Webpage: https://mcp-events.org/norwooddogpark Open Town Hall Webpage: https://www.opentownhall.com/9955 Site Suitability Study for Dog Parks: https://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/dog-parks-site-suitability-study/	11/11/2020 0:05
Question	Pat Jackson (Unverified)	Thank you for this meeting tonight. I wanted to share the list of people and dogs that use Norwood Park and support the proposal for an unfenced / designated hours dog park proposal instead of a more restricted fenced in area. 51 Owners (43 Dogs) Alexandria Barlowe (Winnie) Anjali & Gautam Prakash (Nala) Ben Forman (Willa) Betsy Lamond (Frank & Annie) Blair & Chris Budd (Bellroy) Charlotte & Alastair Lawler (Calvin) Colby Bishop & Brendan McCarthy (Trubsee) Elaine Akst (Chester) Eli Dresner (Ruthie) Emily & Eric Tempchin (Tudder) Erik Lindenauer (Akiva) Franziska Ohnsorge & Shekhar Shankar (Polo) Helen Saxenian (Ellie) Jan Rosenberg (Java) Jan Stohlman (Jesse & Eli) Karen Rapley (Jo Jo) Kimberly Strandberg (Gigi) Laura Jappe (Cora & Zoe) Lauren Lieberman (JJ) Lilly Adams (Chester) Lucy Freeman (Louie) Matt Holland (Graham)	11/11/2020 0:07
Question	Naomi Spinrad (Unverified)	It sounds like this is a done deal although you say there are still studies and plans to come. Is Parks committed to a dog park here, even if accomodating the increased need for parking will likely eliminate some green space?	11/11/2020 0:07
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Fantastic to hear there's plans and funding to improve the parking situation. It seems park capacity is much higher than parking capacity. The existing lot seems to be able to be reconfigured to accommodate much more parking. Can you provide a follow up on that parking design with those who sign up for updates to the dog park as they are fairly related.	11/11/2020 0:08

Response	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	<p>Off-leash activity is currently prohibited in parks by the Commission's Park Rules and Regulations for both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Montgomery County has a leash law as well. Montgomery Parks has received similar requests for designated off-leash areas in other parks, but management of this activity would be impractical in a large park system. Montgomery Parks has chosen to designate fenced areas for off-leash dog exercise areas and to keep them separate from other recreation facilities. This project is proposing a fenced dog park for Norwood Park similar to the size and type of facilities we provide in other parks.(Pat Jackson (Unverified) asked "Thank you for this meeting tonight. I wanted to share the list of people and dogs that use Norwood Park and support the proposal for an unfenced / designated hours dog park proposal instead of a more restricted fenced in area.</p> <p>51 Owners (43 Dogs) Alexandria Barlowe (Winnie) Anjali & Gautam Prakash (Nala) Ben Forman (Willa) Betsy Lamond (Frank & Annie) Blair & Chris Budd (Bellroy) Charlotte & Alastair Lawler (Calvin) Colby Bishop & Brendan McCarthy (Trubsee) Elaine Akst (Chester) Eli Dresner (Ruthie) Emily & Eric Tempchin (Tudder) Erik Lindenauer (Akiva) Franziska Ohnsorge & Shekhar Shankar (Polo) Helen Saxenian (Ellie) Jan Rosenberg (Java) Jan Stohlman (Jesse & Eli)</p>	11/11/2020 0:08
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	has the meeting started, or is it my computer acting up?	11/11/2020 0:09
Question	Barbara (Unverified)	When did the Norwood proposal receive favorable input from the public?	11/11/2020 0:09
Question	Elaine Akst (Unverified)	In addition to serious parking issues on Norwood Drive as well, has the park considered doing nothing and allowing the current situation of dogs before 9 am to continue legally? Why spend money in a year with a huge budget deficit?	11/11/2020 0:09
Question	Erin (Unverified)	Would there be an intention to increase enforcement of leash regulations outside of the dog park area if this project did move forward? As noted, there is a substantial volume of off leash activity already in Norwood, as well as a substantial volume of dog gathering activity within the park already.	11/11/2020 0:09
Response	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	<p>Yes, here are the meeting connections Phone Line Connection (to listen only): +1 443-961-1463 United States, Baltimore (Toll), Conference ID: 436 630 638#</p> <p>Direct Link to Microsoft Teams Meeting: http://mcp-events.org/norwooddogparkmeeting (has the meeting started, or is it my computer acting up?)</p>	11/11/2020 0:10
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	not a question. I would like to "sign-in" Sarah Morse, morsekathan@gmail.com	11/11/2020 0:10

Question	Nancy Young (Unverified)	There are hundreds of dogs walked in Norwood Park every day. Why would they need an especially designated area in the park when they have full access in an appropriate and non-overwhelming way now?	11/11/2020 0:10
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Hi Naomi, I thought they haven't done the design study yet for parking? Where do you see that it will take away green area?	11/11/2020 0:11
Response	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	<p>The Site Suitability Study for Dog Parks identified Norwood Local Park as one of the preferred locations for a dog park in Bethesda due to its proximity and walkability for residents in downtown Bethesda. This project is exploring the feasibility of developing a dog park at Norwood Park. While the Department of Parks recommends this site as the first candidate in the Bethesda area, we are seeking your input and ideas about the project before a decision is made to move forward with this project.</p> <p>(Naomi Spinrad (Unverified) asked "It sounds like this is a done deal although you say there are still studies and plans to come. Is Parks committed to a dog park here, even if accomodating the increased need for parking will likely eliminate some green space?")</p>	11/11/2020 0:11
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Barbara - I believe Pat just listed "51 favorable input from the public"	11/11/2020 0:11
Response	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	The Site Suitability Study for Dog Parks had an open public process, including obtaining public input through an Open Town Hall forum on preferred sites in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Service Area. There were 699 visitors to the Open Town Hall page, and 565 responses. Of those responses, Elm Street Park and Norwood Park were the top two preferred sites for a possible dog park in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area. (Barbara (Unverified) asked "When did the Norwood proposal receive favorable input from the public?")	11/11/2020 0:12
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Nancy - what makes a dog park "overwhelming" to you?	11/11/2020 0:12
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Downtown Bethesda desperately needs a dog park. Yes - address the parking issue - but also address the dog park issue. It is possible to do more (and better) with our urban park space.	11/11/2020 0:13
Question	Gautami (Unverified)	<p>Thank you for organizing this meeting.</p> <p>Please include a strategies for rain runoff and storm water management in the study and fiscal year. In a rain event in September, the reservoir in the park was inadequate and flooded the courtyard and residential units on hillandale road. More parking will result in higher impervious areas and increased runoff.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	11/11/2020 0:14

Response	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	Our park engineers are currently working with downstream neighbors and investigating improvements to help address the increasing storm events. A point of contact for more information is listed below. Point of Contact for Norwood Park Drainage Improvements: Andrew Tsai, Project Manager, Andrew.Tsai@montgomeryparks.org , 301-495-2508 (Gautami (Unverified) asked "Thank you for organizing this meeting. Please include a strategies for rain runoff and storm water management in the study and fiscal year. In a rain event in September, the reservoir in the park was inadequate and flooded the courtyard and residential units on hillandale road. More parking will result in higher impervious areas and increased runoff. Thank you. ")	11/11/2020 0:15
Question	Waiting (Unverified)	Are we going to get started?	11/11/2020 0:15
Question	Shelley Yeutter, Chevy Chase West (Unverified)	Have you considered Little Falls park at arlington road and little falls parkway as an alternative to norwood?	11/11/2020 0:15
Question	Elaine Akst (Unverified)	The names that Pat listed are not favorable to a dog park. They are favorable to allowing off-leash dogs in the early morning hours.	11/11/2020 0:16
Question	Nancy Young (Unverified)	The first I heard of this is when I got a postcard, postmarked October 20, 2020. I have lived in Kenwood Forest II for 26 years. I question your assertion that this was sufficiently noticed to area residents.	11/11/2020 0:16
Question	Laurie (Unverified)	Are there any existing dog parks in Montgomery County that would share the siting characteristics of Norwood Park -- in terms of proximity to people's homes and a parking lot that is frequently overwhelmed? If so, can you share how parking and noise conflicts have been resolved?	11/11/2020 0:17
Response	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	Susanne is explaining that now(Shelley Yeutter, Chevy Chase West (Unverified) asked "Have you considered Little Falls park at arlington road and little falls parkway as an alternative to norwood?"	11/11/2020 0:18
Question	Patrick Carr (Unverified)	The "closeness" of Norwood to downtown Bethesda depends on walking paths that are not public rights of way	11/11/2020 0:18
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Nancy, who was it that made the "assertion that this was sufficiently noticed to area residents"?	11/11/2020 0:19
Response	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	You are in the meeting now(Waiting (Unverified) asked "Are we going to get started?"	11/11/2020 0:20
Question	Erin (Unverified)	Has the study consulted with the high volume of youth sports activities/organizations that utilize that portion of the park currently? On an average weekend, nearly all fields are full.	11/11/2020 0:21
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Laine - There are tons of dog parks in DC in VA that are on smaller sites closer to homes and schools. It is entirely possible....and ultimately a great community amenity.	11/11/2020 0:21
Response	Patricia McManus (patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org)	We are not proposing to utilize any of the existing recreational fields(Erin (Unverified) asked "Has the study consulted with the high volume of youth sports activities/organizations that utilize that portion of the park currently? On an average weekend, nearly all fields are full. ")	11/11/2020 0:22
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	The Little Falls Park is so little used and Norwood is over used. Why lose the "bucolic" nature of the park which is a goal of Parks?	11/11/2020 0:22

Question	Gunilla Ekberg (Unverified)	In order for seniors or disable residents to access the proposed dog area it would need to provide a pathway, maybe by woodchips in the bumpy grassy area. Actually my recomendation is a pathway around the entire perimeter of the park	11/11/2020 0:23
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	I encourage more handicap access to the park. There is not even handicap access to the playground, which I supposed to be handicaped accessible or friendly. I do not see how you could adequately construct ramps, especially with no dedicated handicapped parking.	11/11/2020 0:23
Question	Patrick Carr (Unverified)	And also, have you incorporated any lessons learned from the Chevy Chase Village dog park	11/11/2020 0:23
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Are there other areas in the park that could be considered as alternative sites?	11/11/2020 0:23
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Anonymous, yes, they should put a dog park at BOTH locations! Excellent idea!	11/11/2020 0:24
Question	Diana (Unverified)	Although the area identified for the dog park apparantly does not utilize any formal recreational areas as marked on Park Plans, the area is heavily used by multiple sports activities including soccer, volleyball, and more.	11/11/2020 0:24
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Just a wild out of nowhere question - those who oppose this park - where do you happen to live?	11/11/2020 0:25
Question	Lou Balodemas (Unverified)	What are the capital improvement, historic preservation, and deferred maintenance needs of the park and its building? Why is a dog park superseding these needs?	11/11/2020 0:25
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	This park is currently, successfully used for multiple purposes. Dropping this fenced space into the middle of the park is problematic. Many dog owners will continue to use this area for off leash access.	11/11/2020 0:25
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Are you considering "sports fields" to encompass only the baseball diamonds? The area demarcated in the map is frequently used by parkusers to engage in soccer, football, frisbee and many other sporting and other leisure activities. Large organizations will still be able to get their permits, but our children and neighbors will lose the ability to use the space they have left for recreation	11/11/2020 0:25
Question	Emily (Unverified)	What hours would the dog park be open? We sometimes have issues with people being in the park at night and I don't want lights in the park to keep there late into the night.	11/11/2020 0:26
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Must the pathways be impervious?	11/11/2020 0:26
Question	Lou Balodemas (Unverified)	When will the community building be made fully accessible, including accessible rest rooms, for equitable utilization? Why is a dog park superseding that requirement?	11/11/2020 0:26
Question	Gunilla Ekberg (Unverified)	At the time contractors are on site there is a great demand for painting pickle ball lines on at least two of the tennis courts. Pickle ball is the fastest growing sport in the US, and would be in great demand for residents in the immediate neighborhood.	11/11/2020 0:27
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	This proposal is a horror. It is ugly. I do not support dedicating this budgeted money to buiild these ugly structures with no additional parking.	11/11/2020 0:27
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	There are plenty of other open spaces to do soccer and other sports on the lower field	11/11/2020 0:27
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Anonymous @ 7:25 "Many dog owners will continue to use this area for off leash access." - Does this happen at other dog parks? Or is that just a wild guess without supporting evidence?	11/11/2020 0:27
Question	Erin (Unverified)	Appreciate the response to the field question. What about the non-organized activities by other residents who currently utilize that zone as an "unclaimed" area for playing catch or other activities. In other words, it's a great open area for CCW and other residents to enjoy the park when other activities are ongoing in the actual regulated fields. There are currently a number of dogs that gather in that space already, but that space does get a substantial amount of use.	11/11/2020 0:28
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	There are tremendous problems with drainage/run off in the playgrounds that have never been addressed? What makes us comfortable thinking that these problems will be addressed with the dog park?	11/11/2020 0:28

Question	Naomi Spinrad (Unverified)	It seems you're not aware that it's not just the ball fields that are used but also the open green space - including the area where you plan to place the dog park - by various practice groups including toddler/elementary age soccer clinics and other sport organizations, not just from Montgomery County?	11/11/2020 0:29
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Are you aware that there is a Preschool behind the activity center?	11/11/2020 0:29
Question	Shelley Yeutter, Chevy Chase West (Unverified)	what needs to be done to change law regarding ability to have dogs off leash in parks at designated hours. ?	11/11/2020 0:29
Question	Maureen H (Unverified)	Do you have a photo of a comparable 18000 sf facility with a 4.5 foot chain link fence so we can visualize that? Sounds very industrial looking.	11/11/2020 0:29
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	So, according to MNPPC letting your dog off-leash is prohibited. Why bother pretending you want public input?	11/11/2020 0:29
Question	Hannah (Unverified)	Downtown Bethesda could use multiple dog parks. With Norwood being one of the biggest parks it seems like a great place to start. As a large dog owner, having a dog park accessible to me is definitely preferable to letting my dog run around in an open field.	11/11/2020 0:29
Question	Marilyn (Unverified)	Well thought out and logical presentation	11/11/2020 0:30
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Anonymous @7:28 - "There are tremendous problems with drainage/run off in the playgrounds that have never been addressed? What makes us comfortable thinking that these problems will be addressed with the dog park?" Wouldn't a dog park without drainage issues being resolved be equal to the status quo of current drainage issues?	11/11/2020 0:30
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Seriously people. Have a look at other urban dog park sites. Norwood has 17 acres! There is room for everyone. Dog parks are very beneficial for humans too!	11/11/2020 0:30
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Children love to play with my dog. This too is apparently prohibited according to you.	11/11/2020 0:30
Question	Jan White (Unverified)	I agree that there was not prior adequate community involvement and you seem to have made up your mind, despite what you say to the contrary. What acoustics studies have been done? There is no place in Norwood Park that can avoid noise bothering residents.	11/11/2020 0:30
Question	Shelley Yeutter, Chevy Chase West (Unverified)	Do improvements create additional parking spots?	11/11/2020 0:30
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Anonymous @ 7:29: "Are you aware that there is a Preschool behind the activity center?" Aw that's fantastic. Little kids get to see animals and become socialized and learn to overcome any unfounded fears.	11/11/2020 0:30
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	I believe those that dog owners who requested off leash ALSO support the dog park.	11/11/2020 0:32
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Why can't you be specific about surfaces and provision for parking? Obviously, you recognize that this will draw added auto traffic to the park	11/11/2020 0:32
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	How big is the large dog area? Will it be sufficient for multiple large dogs to run / play fetch. these dogs need a lot of space to run and shouldn't feel forced to socialize with other dogs if they don't want too.	11/11/2020 0:32
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Anonymous @ 7:30: "So, according to MNPPC letting your dog off-leash is prohibited. Why bother pretending you want public input?" What does public input about a fenced in dog park have to do with off-leash laws?	11/11/2020 0:32
Question	Russell (Unverified)	This is a great proposal. How soon can it be finished?	11/11/2020 0:32
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	assuming this is approved, what is the timing?	11/11/2020 0:33
Question	Barbara (Unverified)	Is there a study on the amount of current park usage?	11/11/2020 0:33
Question	Jan White (Unverified)	How do we find the Open Town Hall survey?	11/11/2020 0:33
Question	Joan Glickman (Unverified)	Are other locations in Norwood or nearby being consists	11/11/2020 0:33

Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Just curious what sort of resource intensive management would be needed for an off-leash concept. Thank you.	11/11/2020 0:33
Question	Chris Ruffing (Unverified)	The delineated "Dog Park Enclosure appears to be in the most heavily used section of the open area. For example; this is the precise location of the CCW annual 4th of July celebration.	11/11/2020 0:33
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Bethesda is getting a ton of new walkable development and apartments. People have dogs. Let's be welcoming of two legged and four legged friends! Stop with the dog park fear mongering.	11/11/2020 0:33
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	I never received a survey--how can one access it ?	11/11/2020 0:34
Question	Joan Glickman (Unverified)	Sorry...being considered? I missed the earlier segment	11/11/2020 0:34
Question	Allison (Unverified)	To give us a sense of size, how large is the Cabin John dog park?	11/11/2020 0:34
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	I agree with a previous poster that adequate drainage will make or break the useability and enjoyment of the park, hopefully the budget will not determine the outcome.	11/11/2020 0:34
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	You cite a principal complaining about dog droppings. What about the Bethesda Elem principal who welcomes dogs when students are not using the field?	11/11/2020 0:34
Question	Will Center Ch Ch West (Unverified)	Having frequented the park since the 1960's , I can say that the open spaces are the key aspect to preserve. open spaces are used heavily for informal activities and building on this space will create an eyesore that most of the current dog owners won't use.	11/11/2020 0:34
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	Is the intent that this serve the immediate neighborhood or all of Bethesda? I walk through the park twice a day and the majority of cars are from DC, Virginia or out of state. Perhaps parking should be for residents.	11/11/2020 0:34
Question	Christina (Unverified)	Yes- I would love a dog park here. It would be great to let them off leash- so full fencing. And it would be great to have a few agility features... Water of course.	11/11/2020 0:34
Question	Ed (Unverified)	We love the dog park at Norwood idea we can walk to Norwood instead of driving to Cabin John	11/11/2020 0:35
Question	Elaine Akst (Unverified)	The county's finances have changed tremendously since 2018 when this was proposed. How can MoCo justify putting \$500K into a dog park at this time?	11/11/2020 0:35
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	You will "assess" feedback. How about full transparency. Make all feedback public.	11/11/2020 0:35
Question	Tim McGrath (Unverified)	Is there a link to the survey and is it still open?	11/11/2020 0:35
Response	Andrew Tsai (Andrew.Tsai@montgomeryparks.org)	It is available at https://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/public-input/?pd_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.opentownhall.com%2Fportals%2F260%2Fissue_9955#peak_democracy (Jan White (Unverified) asked "How do we find the Open Town Hall survey?")	11/11/2020 0:35
Question	Joan W. (Daughter Joan) (Unverified)	Please give us the "Town Hall" URL again. The Town Hall forum was closed on May 31, 2019, more than one year ago.	11/11/2020 0:35
Question	Ed (Unverified)	how does the size of your proposal compare to the dog exercise area at Cabin John?	11/11/2020 0:36
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Wait, this costs \$500,000? How the heck does this cost \$500,000?!? Ha	11/11/2020 0:36
Question	Barbara (Unverified)	Is the parks department considering spending money on the maintenance of the existing Norwood park facilities, which are deteriorating.	11/11/2020 0:36
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	I believe that your slide showed 66 people who responded favorably. This makes it a done deal?	11/11/2020 0:36
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	As a residence, these seems like a terrible use of \$500k when there is a budget crisis and we will be cutting back schools and social services. I do not see this as a need.	11/11/2020 0:36
Question	anonymous (Unverified)	i think the dog park will work just fine and people will get used to it...most dogs will be walked, not driven, to the park, and the morning only practice is not sufficient... I like the design!	11/11/2020 0:36
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	To a previous poster - the Bethesda Elementary community does not "welcome" off leash dog droppings on the field playing area.	11/11/2020 0:37

Question	Steve H. (Unverified)	I think this would be wonderful for the many dog owners that live within walking distance of the park. The people with dogs in the adjacent neighborhood are some of the most frequent users of the space, and would benefit greatly from this usage of merely TWO "and change" of the 17 acres at Norwood park.	11/11/2020 0:37
Question	Naya (Unverified)	Please everyone read the background material on this project before asking for surveys and questionnaires. This is sorely needed in the Bethesda area. Give Bethesda at least one dog park!	11/11/2020 0:37
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Can the survey require people to say how close they live to the dog park? We might see a pattern. :)	11/11/2020 0:37
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	The off leash activity will continue, don't fool yourself.	11/11/2020 0:37
Response	Andrew Tsai (Andrew.Tsai@montgomeryparks.org)	It is available at https://mcp-events.org/norwooddogparktownhall (Jan White (Unverified) asked "How do we find the Open Town Hall survey?")	11/11/2020 0:37
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	This is a great idea. What is the timing to completion assuming approval?	11/11/2020 0:37
Question	Anita Sama (Unverified)	Not expecting visiting experts to know this, but the location of the proposed area completely cuts off the much-used path between the two playgrounds. We are also, with this alteration, forever damaging the open space that is one of the treasured aspects of this park. No built amenity can replace this.	11/11/2020 0:38
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	"We don't have a dog park yet." We already have a park which includes dogs, children and sportsplayers.	11/11/2020 0:38
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	Have you been in the park? You would need full time officers dedicated now or in the future to give citations to dog owners letting their dogs off leash	11/11/2020 0:38
Question	Vikki Wachino (Unverified)	Thanks for a clear presentation and thoughtful approach to siting dog parks. I am not sure what I think about the proposal but I appreciate the county's work.	11/11/2020 0:38
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	It is hard to determine from the information, how many dogs would this park accommodate at a time?	11/11/2020 0:38
Question	Patty Friedman (Unverified)	I think this dog park is a terrible idea, for the record. I agree that the money can be better spent elsewhere, such as making the main building accessible.	11/11/2020 0:38
Question	Steve H. (Unverified)	How soon might this project start and be completed?	11/11/2020 0:38
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	The area being proposed for the dog park is smack dab in the middle of the park, where children play all the time. Have you done a study of what parts of the park are currently used most frequently and whether there are parts of the park that would make more sense to take away from their current use?	11/11/2020 0:38
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	People want to be OUTSIDE! With their dogs!! This is a worthwhile investment.	11/11/2020 0:39
Announcement	Andrew Tsai (Andrew.Tsai@montgomeryparks.org)	The Open Town Hall is available at https://www.opentownhall.com/9955	11/11/2020 0:39
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	I can tell you that the Park Police are totally embarrassed about having to caution dog owners.	11/11/2020 0:39
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Do you have any estimate of how many dogs could be in either section of the proposed park. This area looks so much smaller than the Cabin John park, I worry that there wouldn't be much running of the dogs.	11/11/2020 0:39
Question	Joan Glickman (Unverified)	My question was accidentally split in 2....can we still consider other locations within Norwood that aren't right in the middle of the open space. Seems unattractive. Why not off to the side... closer to tennis courts? Or other peripheral area?	11/11/2020 0:39
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Thanks for this presentation. The proposal seems to be well thought out with all details considered. I support going forward.	11/11/2020 0:39
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	The leash laws are not enforced. This will not solve the problem	11/11/2020 0:39
Question	Patty Friedman (Unverified)	Where is the survey you have referred to?	11/11/2020 0:39

Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Have you assessed the potential impact relative to the MoCo Noise Ordinance, given how close the apartments, townhouses and houses are?	11/11/2020 0:40
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	I support a dog park at Norwood and I'd like to think it would be used by walkers, but given the existing overuse by sports groups (well beyond the permit levels) and those who drive to Norwood, I am concerned that a dog park will be overwhelmed and the cars will be a nuisance to surrounding neighbors.	11/11/2020 0:40
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	There, Naomi's concern about taking green space for parking is answered.	11/11/2020 0:40
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	If we have to have a designated dog park, why not make it bigger? If this is indeed for all of Bethesda, then why not make it BIGGER??? This is a very small dog park for all the dogs that are regulars!!!	11/11/2020 0:41
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Possible for Rockville, but not the county to have individual dogs licensed. Maybe this would be a good reason for Bethesda to leave the county and incorporate itself, like RV	11/11/2020 0:41
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Would it be possible to have an dog area that is not fenced in?	11/11/2020 0:41
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	There is a value to open space!!!	11/11/2020 0:42
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	You alluded to problems and user conflicts relating to the current situation. Can you please elaborate on that, with some more specific information? Thanks.	11/11/2020 0:43
Question	Will Center Ch Ch West (Unverified)	has there been a study of how much little falls park is used versus norwood? you may be missing a better site on a false assumption that little falls park is 'heavily' used.	11/11/2020 0:43
Question	Monica Brand Engel (Unverified)	As a resident whose home backs into the park, we love the current situation. Dog owners currently use the work	11/11/2020 0:43
Question	Barbara (Unverified)	Please answer the question about whether there has been a study of the overall park usage.	11/11/2020 0:43
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	"Where is the survey??" @ 7:42 - the moderator posted the survey at 7:41 - scroll up	11/11/2020 0:43
Question	Christina (Unverified)	Please make more dog parks- I lived in Boston previously and there were dog parks everywhere for residents. I can't believe the dearth of dog parks in the DMV area- especially considering the leash laws are so strict....	11/11/2020 0:43
Question	Shelley Yeutter, Chevy Chase West (Unverified)	Why can't law be amended to allow off leash dogs in designated areas from 7-9 am ONLY?	11/11/2020 0:43
Question	Have you considered the use of the park by BCC High School teams? That high school has very limited (Unverified)	Intramural teams from BCC high school use the park because there is virtually no green space at the high school.	11/11/2020 0:44
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	"Where is the survey??" @ 7:42 - there is a value to open space, yes! There's also a value to dog parks. Different people like different things and use spaces differently. Just like you.	11/11/2020 0:44
Question	Rob McGarrah (Unverified)	Montgomery County and the entire state are in the midst of a dangerous pandemic that has crushed budgets and endangered renters. There is no evidence of any compelling need for a dog park at Norwood Park. How can anyone justify this expenditure and show any evidence for a dog park?	11/11/2020 0:44
Question	Steve H. (Unverified)	I love baseball. And the two baseball diamonds sit unused most of hours of most days of most weeks. I would never suggest getting rid of the diamonds. AND, for comparison, a dog park at Norwood would be filled DAILY!	11/11/2020 0:44
Question	Don (Unverified)	Today the parking lot was overwhelmed and the fields and playgrounds taxed to the limit. The logistical issues, particularly parking and traffic, are substantial.	11/11/2020 0:44
Question	Naya (Unverified)	We need more dog parks not fewer. It is ridiculous that we don't have any dedicated dog parks in Bethesda.	11/11/2020 0:44
Question	Anita Sama (Unverified)	Unclear how this differs substantially from the Little Falls site in usage? These proposed Norwood enclosure is located right in the area most heavily used by groups for soccer and abuts the playground for smaller children.	11/11/2020 0:45

Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.marketwatch.com/amp/story/these-housing-markets-are-going-to-the-dogs-in-a-good-way-2018-03-29	11/11/2020 0:45
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Norwood Park is exceptionally beautiful. I support the dog park idea but encourage fencing/shade etc to be as asthetic as possible.	11/11/2020 0:45
Question	Monica Brand Engel (Unverified)	Private As a resident whose home backs into the park, we love the current situation. Dog owners currently use the park early in the morning, when few others (sports teams, kids playing, picnic ers etc) are present. Condoning off the area would make it unusable dead space for most of the day. What is the problem we are trying to fix?	11/11/2020 0:45
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	"Have you considered the use of the park by BCC High School teams? That high school has very limited" @ 7:44 - what's the relevance to a dog park being discussed now? could BCC teams not use the park now and in the future as well with a dog park there too?	11/11/2020 0:45
Question	Joan Glickman (Unverified)	As someone else asked, why cant montgomery county change its rules regarding timed slots forcoff leash activity? There's no reason that rule is set in stone. If itv were changed, you could have multi usex without upsettinf the aesthetic of norwood	11/11/2020 0:45
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	It is interesting that all the photos you post show dogs and children playing on grassy lawns, without leashes. Not very honest advertising, is it?	11/11/2020 0:46
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	I would ask that you base any assumption that people will walk rather than drive to this park on actual data. People routinely drive to the park to let their dogs off leash -- not a parking problem because that is generally just early in the morning. If people start driving now at all hours, a terrible parking situation will be worse. Please make sure that you have data to support you if you are assuming that dog park users will walk rather than drive to the park	11/11/2020 0:46
Question	Gary F (Unverified)	It's a very good idea IF current dog owners use the dog park rather than continue allowing their dogs off-leash, county rule be damned. Off-leash dogs have presented al least three recurring issues that a dog park would mitigate: 1) dogs chasing after people who don't want to be approached by a dog and 2) dogs chasing after a leashed dog, being walked by their owner , with an unfortunate confrontation between the two dogs, 3) bad track record by owners not picking up after their off-leash dog.	11/11/2020 0:46
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Have you surveyed the use of the park on weekends and weekday afternoons? It's already overcrowded	11/11/2020 0:46
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	There is only one public access site envisioned from downtown bethesda to Norwood Park.	11/11/2020 0:46
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	It seems like the research has been done on the site feasibility, taking into consideration community concerns, and addressing a demand for a dog park in the area. This dog park would relieve current issues realated to off leash activity and school park usage. The park is at a great location and half a mile from downtown (high density area with no yard) which is a perfect walking distance for dogs and owners.	11/11/2020 0:47
Question	Pat Jackson (Unverified)	There are several Qs of where the users of Norwood Park dog users come from. In my daily experience, most of the users come from the immediately surrounding areas.	11/11/2020 0:47
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	So you have already planned to "redevelop" housing on the north side.	11/11/2020 0:47
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Where exactly are teh public access points?? Living in Kenwood Forest II, we are the ONLY access points to the Park from Bethesda. This will lead to unwanted traffic in out neighborhood.	11/11/2020 0:47
Question	Gary F (Unverified)	I wholeheartedly support the research to date and plan forward (dog owner of 12 years)	11/11/2020 0:47
Question	Shelley Yeutter, Chevy Chase West (Unverified)	Park usage is highest from 3-7 pm all days of week.	11/11/2020 0:47
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Are you proposing to have more people walk through Kenwood Forest II property and property lots of private homes than already do?	11/11/2020 0:48

Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	By protecting only the permitted fields, you are displacing the informal use of space. The space you have marked out IS used by park users, for sports and otherwise. Please visit the park on a busy day and you will see that. The sports clubs will keep their permits. Kids that just want to play will lose out	11/11/2020 0:48
Question	Barbara (Unverified)	Aren't you taking virtually the only open area left in the park?	11/11/2020 0:48
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Do you have any data on the extent of dog ownership in the county, or in the immediate area? It would seem to be a minority of residents.	11/11/2020 0:48
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	I take my dog to another park (Dewey) everyday and for many years there was no designated dog park area and there were regular conflicts between dog owners and non-dog owners. Since the dog park was introduced, the conflicts are reduced or non-existent, as almost all the dog people chose to use the dog park. Although I loved letting my pup romp on the soccer field, I love the fenced-in security of the new dog park.	11/11/2020 0:48
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	This exact area is currently used every afternoon for soccer, volleyball and football classes.	11/11/2020 0:48
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	@ Rob McGarrah Yes we're in a pandemic. And during this pandemic, have you yourself enjoyed street closures for walking and biking and dining? Have you enjoyed any of the county efforts to make your life a little more enjoyable during the lockdown? Why not dog owners too? Do they not deserve some benefits too?	11/11/2020 0:48
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Anita - you're absolutely right. Little Falls would make for a GREAT second dog park!	11/11/2020 0:49
Question	Maureen H (Unverified)	Am I hearing correctly that the parking will NOT be studied or addressed until a later project is started? so dog park feasibility study will not consider parking at all?	11/11/2020 0:49
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	As a resident of Norwood Drive the access road to the park currently overrun by excess cars I am concerned about more cars. Can you indicate how many additional spaces will be added	11/11/2020 0:50
Question	Chris Ruffing (Unverified)	The county's understanding of how the various fields are used on weekends differs somewhat from what the local residents observe, including significant numbers of spectators extending outward from the heavily used playing fields.	11/11/2020 0:50
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	For the moderator and not a question to post-we live adjacent to Norwood Park. Our kids truly grew up there. We do not have a dog right now. We agree that the dog park as proposed would be beneficial to animals and humans. That being said, the parking and drainage issues are legitimate, so we strongly encourage you to take those comments seriously and get that right. Thank you for the program tonight. It was well done.	11/11/2020 0:50
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	I'm struck by how piecemeal the various projects for this park are. YOU're working on a dog park, a separate effort is dealing with the historic building and parking lot, and there's at least one other to deal with accessibility. This sounds like a recipe for poor planning overall.	11/11/2020 0:50
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	I would love to be able to bring my dog to the park in the afternoon, but right now this is not possible, I welcome a park that my dog can use safely.	11/11/2020 0:51
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	Why not make a dog park in a corner park in downtown Bethesda, such as what you frequently see in DC?	11/11/2020 0:51
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Anonymous @ 7:48 asked "Do you have any data on the extent of dog ownership in the county, or in the immediate area? It would seem to be a minority of residents." - Not moco, but "Sixty-seven percent of U.S. households, or about 85 million families, own a pet, according to the 2019-2020 National Pet Owners Survey conducted by the American Pet Products Association (APPA)"	11/11/2020 0:51
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	The open area is heavily occupied by youth camps and activities right now. This would take away from children/students being able to access open areas in the park. Couldn't hours be set for dog owners and have the park maximize the usage for everyone?	11/11/2020 0:51
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Don't confuse CC Village with T of CC	11/11/2020 0:52

Question	Will Center Ch Ch West (Unverified)	There are a lot of good comments this evening. Will you be posting these comments on the website?	11/11/2020 0:53
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Currently, there is a development proposal on 4702 Chevy Chase Drive, and the applicant agreed to provide a through-block connection from Chevy Chase Dr. to Nottingham Dr. and extend the connection with a sidewalk up to Norwood Local Park. This was an excellent collaboration with the applicant to promote connectivity for the pedestrian environment.	11/11/2020 0:53
Question	Joan W. (Daughter Joan) (Unverified)	How will users be screened and how will rules be enforced? The Park Police are overwhelmed and cannot be expected to keep clean and orderly dog parks. I have visited all the dog parks in Montgomery County and sorry to say, the rules are NOT enforced. I also know the dog parks operated by the City of Rockville and the Gaithersburg City parks. In my view, a model is the Dog Park operated by the Columbia Assn, where an attendant is at the gate at all times. People bring food into the MoCo dog parks. Some handlers have more than the minimum number of dogs (more than two dogs). The Cabin John dog park could be great, but it is so over-used that it is dirty and chaotic. I frequently see dog fights breaking out there. I previously submitted my preference for a location that is used less, Wall Park at the K-S Indoor Pool. Unlike Norwood, Wall Park has sufficient parking. Wall Park is walkable with multi-family properties nearby. A dog park at Wall Park would have much less displacement of current activities: individuals and groups are not using the Wall Park for recreation to the same level as the Norwood Local Park.	11/11/2020 0:53
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Anonymous at 7:52 PM said "The open area is heavily occupied by youth camps and activities right now. This would take away from children/students being able to access open areas in the park." - aren't those camps and activities by permit now? seems reasonable to shift some of the allowed use to dog owners?	11/11/2020 0:53
Question	Will Center Ch Ch West (Unverified)	it only took 2 years plus to fix the steps down there. good luck.	11/11/2020 0:53
Question	Michael (Unverified)	Gary F at 7:46 - excellent points to folks who are asking for off-leash times/changes in MoCo leash laws (which is not relevant to this presentation). It is completely unfair to my leashed dog when a leashed dog comes running up to her, even if the owner says the unleashed dog is 'friendly.' While some folks will always ignore leash laws, a dog park will provide a much needed amenity to downtown Bethesda area. Thank you for the planning and presentation.	11/11/2020 0:54
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	T of CC dog park did not go forward because one family had young children "whose nap time would be disturbed". This, plus the ToCC govt, which would not proceed without UNANIMITY. There is certainly no unanimity here.	11/11/2020 0:54
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	the parking issue may go away if there is a dog park as it will result in less open space and therefore less noisy youth activities like soccer and volleyball will go e	11/11/2020 0:54
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	OMG Joan W. (Daughter Joan) said ""How will users be screened" - are you suggesting we profile and pat down dog owners using the park!? What about kids playing soccer? How do you screen them? Or young professionals playing touch football? Etc...	11/11/2020 0:55
Question	Chris Ruffing (Unverified)	The west end of the park is shown as a "sports area" i	11/11/2020 0:55
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Will the tremendously huge apartment buildings and other developments that MoCo has authorized and continues to authorize in Bethesda be asked to either help pay for this or purchase or set aside green space for residents and dogs? It seems like MoCo is all about authorizing density and making long-term residents suffer the consequences as well as using their tax dollars to pay for such things ...	11/11/2020 0:55
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	No matter how many dog owners there are in the neighborhood, this prioritizes their needs (but more truthfully, their desires) over the MANY, MANY people who use this park daily and love it for it's beauty and openness. This amounts to true VANDALISIM, and explains why people resent "planners".	11/11/2020 0:56

Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Someone asked a question about the noise impacts, but you haven't answered it. Will there be a noise assessment of a contained dog park so close to residences?	11/11/2020 0:57
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	There is a connector likely to be created just west of the field by the fire station. This will probably replace the connector recommended in the Bethesda Downtown Plan further west. Norwood Park does not fall within the downtown Bethesda boundaries, fyi.	11/11/2020 0:57
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	"Where is the survey??" needs a name change - it's been posted once or twice already.	11/11/2020 0:57
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	what is the timing of the project? When will it start and how long will it take to build?	11/11/2020 0:57
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	This renders the Amphitheater useless, as the dog park is plopped so close to it that you can not use it for concerts, assemblies, etc.	11/11/2020 0:57
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	is there a way to make the space bigger so the dogs can run?	11/11/2020 0:58
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	The Open Town Hall survey is available at https://www.opentownhall.com/9955	11/11/2020 0:58
Question	Chris Ruffing (Unverified)	(continued from above) Ive never in 28 years seen a game being played there.	11/11/2020 0:58
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Folks are worried about dog park noise and "where is the survey??" is worried about not being able to have concerts and assemblies. Which is it you all want again now?	11/11/2020 0:59
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Development is required to pay a Park Impact Payment for additional density. That payment goes into a fund for downtown Bethesda parks. While this funding would be coming from a different budget, yes development is paying for some parks - now to get them delivered!	11/11/2020 0:59
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	good that it would be open from dawn to dusk, makes sense	11/11/2020 0:59
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	@ where is the survey - the amphitheater is NEVER used. You must not live in the neighborhood.	11/11/2020 0:59
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	The use of the park is lower now in the time of COVID than it was before. Have you considered the pre-COVID use statistics?	11/11/2020 0:59
Question	There is already too much traffic on Norwood Drive, with drivers ignoring speed limits. This will m (Unverified)	make the problem much worse/	11/11/2020 1:00
Question	Jason Yang (Unverified)	Hi Chris, if we're thinking about the same "sports fields", I played in Social Sports of Bethesda and other leagues for the last ten years and we played there spring and fall 8 weekends each season. Great fun! But I'm too old now. :(11/11/2020 1:00
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	How many times a year is the "amphitheater" actually used?	11/11/2020 1:00
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	I agree, i have never seen the amphitheater used. I have always wondered about its origin.	11/11/2020 1:00
Question	Hannah (Unverified)	Love dog parks, love pickleball. Thanks for all your hard work park planners!	11/11/2020 1:01
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	The amphitheater is used for concerts, for award ceremonies for BCC high school kids, etc.	11/11/2020 1:02
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	thank you for the thoughtful and careful work on this. Must be frustrating!! I thik that we will adapt and love it!	11/11/2020 1:02
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Pickleball in Montgomery Parks: https://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/pickleball-in-montgomery-parks/	11/11/2020 1:02
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Have you done or will you do a noise study?	11/11/2020 1:02
Question	Jacki (Unverified)	The adjacent playground is highly used by toddlers and young children. Some kids are allergic to dogs. Some children are afraid of dogs. The dog park site seems too close to these young children and their caretakers.	11/11/2020 1:02
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	"Where is the survey??" - so you're ok with the dog park noise then?	11/11/2020 1:02
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Wood chips are the ideal surface for a dog park, as in Cabin John. Would a wood chip surface be considered ADA safe?	11/11/2020 1:03
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	The amphitheater is also been used during vigils and summer camps as well.	11/11/2020 1:03
Question	Gautami (Unverified)	Thank you for considering all aspects in your design!	11/11/2020 1:03

Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	I have lived here for 20 years and the drairage issues have not been properly addressed in all that time - especially near the playgrounds	11/11/2020 1:04
Question	Barbara (Unverified)	I have asked this three times. Has anyone done a study of the current usage, including the usage of the open space? You keep saying that is interesting. I want to know if anyone has done any kind of study of the current use of the park including the green space.	11/11/2020 1:04
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Nearby dog parks often raise property values.	11/11/2020 1:04
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Precisely where your arrow shows the Dog Park Access Walk is a permanent mudhole.	11/11/2020 1:04
Question	Sarah Morse (Unverified)	Just a comment - Given that this park is plunked down in the middle of a very active area, I wonder if this will present a distraction for the dogs and a lot of barking at people outside the park. Any information about how this works in other areas? Most dog parks I have been to have been off to the side and away from people.	11/11/2020 1:04
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	This is a fantastic idea and long overdue for the Bethesda area!	11/11/2020 1:05
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Anonymous (8:04) oh good it sounds like the permanent mudhole may get addressed with a new dog park access walk!	11/11/2020 1:05
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Sarah - have you been to any other urban dog parks? That is really not a problem. People love to watch dogs and dogs like to watch people. It's all good.	11/11/2020 1:06
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Here's a petition to extend the off leash w/permission to mont. country (whats currently operating in Rockville MD) https://www.change.org/p/montgomery-county-councilmembers-extend-off-leash-with-permission-to-all-of-montgomery-county?source_location=topic_page	11/11/2020 1:07
Question	Diana (Unverified)	What is sq. footage distribution between large dog area and small dog area in proposed park area?	11/11/2020 1:07
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Anonymous 8:07 come on now, off topic and you're taking away from the main priority and goal of this meeting.	11/11/2020 1:07
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Are you seriously proposing a grassy surface as shown at Ellsworth, I think?	11/11/2020 1:09
Question	Joan Glickman (Unverified)	I have serious concerns about your criteria. The northern sidw of norwood abuts large apt buildings. I would very much like a study of the tenants concerns about proximity. I think you might find much greater objection to destroying the aesthetics of norwood. The ballpark on the northern field is also much less used than the open space for soccer, football, frisbee. This is an exsmple of criteria dictating a terrible outcome	11/11/2020 1:09
Question	Naya (Unverified)	If there are currently a pack of doggies playing in the park and noise ordinances haven't been routinely impacted, why are we worrying about a dog park impacting them?	11/11/2020 1:10
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	How many dogs use this grassy Ellsworth surface, compared with the number of dogs you project to be using Norwood? Please answer this.	11/11/2020 1:10
Question	Steve H. (Unverified)	Can this dog park be made larger?	11/11/2020 1:10
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Lots of complaints about questions being unanswered - if you look at the position the moderator is in the queue, she's doing a great job of going through and hopefully will get to your question.	11/11/2020 1:11
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	A grassy surface would make a big difference to me, but I doubt it is practical for intended intensive use.	11/11/2020 1:11
Question	Joan Glickman (Unverified)	I would implore the county to do a design charette that includes the various types of current users....this plan seems to have very little understanding of how to optimize given current uses	11/11/2020 1:11
Question	Noah (Unverified)	What would be the material of the dog park access walk?	11/11/2020 1:11
Question	Will Center Ch Ch West (Unverified)	asking again: has a usage study been performed on norwood AND little falls park?	11/11/2020 1:11
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Why don't some of the folks with questions about other dog parks go visit them? Talk to the dog owners there, talk to the seniors that come to watch the dogs play and get some company, enjoy watching the dogs play?	11/11/2020 1:11

Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	There is not only pressure on the parking. There is pressure on the traffic.	11/11/2020 1:12
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	What would the approximate capacity be (in dogs) of a park that size?	11/11/2020 1:12
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Joan, I imagine a charette would end up with dog owners: "we want the entire park to be a dog park". neighborhood homeowners: "we don't want a dog park near us". and others" meh, whatever"	11/11/2020 1:12
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Presumably no more than a 30% increase in parking could be possible.	11/11/2020 1:13
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	What is size of large dog area at Cabin John which we understand	11/11/2020 1:14
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	have you looked at smaller dog parks?	11/11/2020 1:14
Question	Joanna (Unverified)	It would be nice if Bethesda could employ an off leash license like Rockville	11/11/2020 1:14
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Anonymous 8:13 PM "Presumably no more than a 30% increase in parking could be possible." - where in the blazes does that number come from? I thought they said they haven't done the parking study yet?	11/11/2020 1:14
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Really respect the questions and the comments to the county officials on all sides of this issue. I do not think it is appropriate for people to attack other people for their questions or views. Make America kind again.	11/11/2020 1:15
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Ellsworth is great. Great people. Many dog and people friendships made there. And good space. Have an open mind, everyone.	11/11/2020 1:15
Question	Christina (Unverified)	Let me google that for you: Cabin John dog park is 1/2 an acre.	11/11/2020 1:15
Question	Jason Yang (Unverified)	internet shows Cabin John to be half acre	11/11/2020 1:15
Question	Christina (Unverified)	1/2 an acre is 21780 sq feet- this one is slated at 15000 sq feet	11/11/2020 1:16
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Thanks so much for bringing positive change to this park, although many resist change at first , eventually they will accept that its for the greater good if planned well.	11/11/2020 1:16
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Ha Christina you're awesome. Thank you for Googling for those who can't	11/11/2020 1:17
Question	Barbara (Unverified)	why is a current usage study not important before you tear up the park?	11/11/2020 1:17
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Don't you need to address parking and traffic issues before going forward? If you're familiar with the parking facilities here, it's difficult to see how you could add more than a few spaces. When the park is being fully used, parking spills over onto narrow neighborhood streets, in some cases making navigating both the streets and driveways considerably more difficult. How can you possibly go forward with this without a better understanding of parking and traffic issues for the immediate neighborhood on all sides?	11/11/2020 1:17
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Is Elm Street Park no longer being considered for dog park?	11/11/2020 1:18
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Let's be honest. People would be equally upset about off-leash.	11/11/2020 1:18
Question	Hannah (Unverified)	Elm street park and north chevy chase local park might be a little further from residential properties so there might be less pushback. Parking is going to be an issue anywhere in bethesda and should not prevent the parks from moving forward to accomodate moco residents needs.	11/11/2020 1:18
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Please say out loud that that this will be 40% the size of Cabin John.	11/11/2020 1:18
Question	Joan W. (Daughter Joan) (Unverified)	Wrol Evans expressed dismay at my question about screening. The rules for Dog Parks in Montgomery County include requirements that dogs be licensed and up-to-date on rabies vaccinations. I am NOT asking to screen people who use Norwood to play in the fields. The existing MoCo dog parks appear to have zero enforcement of these rules. In contrast, the City of Gaithersburg sends animal control officers to their Dog Exercise Area to check on the permits of persons using the City dog park. The MoCo Park Police do not appear to be doing any checks like that.	11/11/2020 1:18

Question	What are the sizes of other dog parks in Montgomery Parks? Norwood – proposed 18,000 square feet, E (Unverified)	What are the sizes of other dog parks in Montgomery Parks? Norwood – proposed 18,000 square feet, Ellsworth – 19,800 square feet, Dewey – 22,000 square feet, Wheaton – 25,000 square feet, Cabin John – 50,000 square feet, Olney Manor – 42,250 square feet, Black Hill – 22,000 square feet, Ridge Road – 22,000 square feet	11/11/2020 1:19
Question	There is already too much traffic on Norwood Drive, with drivers ignoring speed limits. This will m (Unverified)	What is the likelihood that the cost will stay within the budget?	11/11/2020 1:19
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	"Public" means showing all the comments, not your interpretation of them.	11/11/2020 1:19
Question	Shelley Yeutter, Chevy Chase West (Unverified)	how many dogs does each fenced area accommodate well?	11/11/2020 1:19
Question	Joan Glickman (Unverified)	Please post all comments	11/11/2020 1:20
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Elm Street Park is just as close to residences...if not closer. And the yappy hour there was awesome!	11/11/2020 1:20
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Excellent idea, Hanna, Little Falls, and Elm Street - three dog parks!!!!!!	11/11/2020 1:20
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Please address in your FAQs the impact of traffic on Norwood Drive. Cars speed and run the stop signs all the time.	11/11/2020 1:20
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	The 4702 development has NO connection to the park. I need to correct a prior post. They do not even have access for the people in their own building. There needs to be more cut throughs throughout Chevy Chase Drive for those in the neighborhood to get into the park, and there should be handicapped access as well.	11/11/2020 1:20
Question	Maureen H (Unverified)	I appreciate the Parks Dept folks professionalism and respect for all questions. thank you	11/11/2020 1:20
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Joan, not dismay - bewilderment. Practically speaking, can you explain how you might implement screening?	11/11/2020 1:20
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Maintenance costs seems pretty darned relevant to a decision!	11/11/2020 1:20
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Joan - lots of folks break lots of rules, not just dog owners. How do we enforce all of the rules?	11/11/2020 1:21
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	i really appreciate the County's planning and consultation process. Not easy! I expect we will come to love this dog park. Norwood Park will still be beautiful. So many specimen trees, such beautiful open sky.	11/11/2020 1:22
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Have you asked the homeowners associations for the apartments, townhouse communities and single-family homes abutting the park for the entities' input?	11/11/2020 1:22
Question	Don (Unverified)	Thanks for your presentation. Lots of logistical issues identified.	11/11/2020 1:23
Question	Jim A (Unverified)	can you a aoomed-out view?	11/11/2020 1:23
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Folks want paralysis by analysis. I applaud the Parks staff.	11/11/2020 1:23
Response	Susanne Paul (susanne.paul@montgomeryparks.org)	Cabin John Dog Park is just over an acre.(Christina (Unverified) asked "Let me google that for you: Cabin John dog park is 1/2 an acre. ")	11/11/2020 1:23
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Anonymous 8:21 PM "Maintenance costs seems pretty darned relevant to a decision!" - sure. how much do you think maintenance is for other amenities? this park in its entirety for example for all of the people that use it?	11/11/2020 1:23
Question	Gary F (Unverified)	The team has been thoughtful and thorough. It will make the park's current use by dog owners better and safer for everyone, dogs included. We've lived in the community for 32 years. Go forth and thank you for your service to the community.	11/11/2020 1:24

Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	The 4th of July celebration is a sleep over tent event that uses that entire area....	11/11/2020 1:24
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Please consider that the concerns being raised about the dog park are primarily concerns about competing uses of the park. If a dog park is built in the proposed space, a significant part of the park's open space would be permanently taken out of use for anything other than those using the dog park. Before prioritizing that use for this space, please make every effort to determine what is being given up -- that is, how many people use that area of the park in a given week -- versus how many people would use the dog park. Having visited many dog parks, I've noticed that they are frequently empty for hours each day. It is rare for that space to be unused during normal times.	11/11/2020 1:24
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Will the parks department consider permitting less of the Park to sports clubs if this space is taken away from casual/unstructured use by our kids?	11/11/2020 1:25
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Anonymous 8:25 : how many of the concerns raised about other uses are raised by those that actually participate in those uses versus just use those are argument points?	11/11/2020 1:25
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	Why not use that money to have multiple, smaller pocket dog parks in downtown Bethesda?	11/11/2020 1:26
Question	Monica Brand Engel (Unverified)	Thank you so much for the thorough planning and presentation, as well as the open solicitation for input. It's very clear to us how much care and consideration has gone into this initiative.	11/11/2020 1:26
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Wrol the troll ...just sayin'	11/11/2020 1:27
Question	Park Staff (Unverified)	4702 Chevy Chase Project submitted revised proposal as of 10/9, which is yet to be publicised. Here is excerpt from their statement of justification: In addition, the Applicant is proposing to extend the sidewalk offsite along Nottingham Drive to the west to Norwood Park and to the east to connect to the existing sidewalk on the Fire Department site and along Chevy Chase Drive to the east along the frontage of the Fire Department site to Bradley Boulevard. The Nottingham Drive right-of-way west of the Property will also be improved with the extension of curb and gutter and the widening of the pavement section.	11/11/2020 1:28
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	The only area which is truly unused is the West side at the extreme end of the outfield	11/11/2020 1:28
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	"where is the survey?" @ 8:26pm - do you honestly believe small pocket parks would be better? do you have any supporting evidence? Or is that just an alternative you've come up with as an arguing point not to put one here at Norwood?	11/11/2020 1:28
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Honest questions. Just saying.	11/11/2020 1:28
Question	Elaine Akst (Unverified)	Wrol - why do you assume that people who live in the area don't use the park? These are legitimate concerns. The park is heavily used. You may disagree, but other points are valid.	11/11/2020 1:29
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	This plan is flawed-putting the dog park in the center of the park. the dog park will degrade the open character of the park. can it could be moved an extreme end of park, away from homes?	11/11/2020 1:29
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Wow Wrol -- no idea who you are or why you think other people are just wasting their time commenting on things they don't care about, but my kids use the park EVERY DAY. My dog uses the park every day. My friends use the park every day. My friends' dogs use the park every day. Not sure where your anger comes from at people discussing their own experiences, but lots of dog lovers recognize that the park is a jewel for families in the area, and that this will diminish the ability of those families to use the park.	11/11/2020 1:30
Question	There is already too much traffic on Norwood Drive, with drivers ignoring speed limits. This will m (Unverified)	The assumption that people won't drive is just that. So many people already drive to bring their dogs. Bethesda is a large area. Is there a minimum # of parking spaces that you would require?	11/11/2020 1:30
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Elaine, I don't assume these people who live in the area don't use the park.	11/11/2020 1:31
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Stone dust is terrible. Gets into the paws, and then they lick it off and ingest.	11/11/2020 1:32

Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	The park IS a jewel. And it's only fair that dog owners are recognized for their needs as well as the needs others may have/want/desire/demand	11/11/2020 1:32
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	The sidewalk is going to be built behind 4702, BUT there is no access through the 4702 property for the residents or from other residents to the park!! Research this point!	11/11/2020 1:32
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	So, you want people to trespass on private property to get to the park even more than they do now?	11/11/2020 1:32
Question	Jim A (Unverified)	zoomed-out is great! thanks!	11/11/2020 1:33
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	4702 does not provide access to the park for their own proposed new 70 residential units. That does not seem acceptable to me, who neighbors that proposed building	11/11/2020 1:33
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Foot traffic access is via the fire department and the residences	11/11/2020 1:33
Question	Jason Yang (Unverified)	https://www.nrpa.org/blog/meeting-demands-of-our-two-and-four-legged-residents/ he Humane Society of the United States reports 40 percent of households in the United States own at least one dog	11/11/2020 1:33
Question	Chris Ruffing (Unverified)	The CCW Fourth celebration occurs precisely where the dog enclosure has been shown. It extends east as far as and including the Recreation Building, north as far as the "Sport Field" south to the paved path and west to the eastern edge of the underutilized "Sport Field" shown at the west extremity of the park. The Fourth celebration includes numerous field games for children and adults, taking advantage of the flat surface and wide open space.	11/11/2020 1:34
Question	Joan Glickman (Unverified)	I really hope you'll take our comments about looking at different parts of norwood. Please reconsider your criteria AND how people use the park AND aesthetics. This could really be an eyesore in a beautiful spot enjoyed by 1000s	11/11/2020 1:34
Question	Steve Amber (Unverified)	This is diabolical. By creating a fenced-in dog park in the center of the park the natural beauty of the park will be taken away. Dog parks are not for all dogs, and I already know I will just keep my dog off leash outside the dog park.	11/11/2020 1:34
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	I determined that there were more dogs in ToCC than there are ToCC students at BCC. that is a numerical fact.	11/11/2020 1:35
Question	Where is the survey?? (Unverified)	4702 will use the side of their building that faces the fire house property for their own owners to have patios. The fire house will likely have a separate development proposal in the near future	11/11/2020 1:35
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Does the CCW Fourth celebration in that spot obtain a permit?	11/11/2020 1:35
Question	Park Staff (Unverified)	Bethesda Sector plan (p69) talks about throughblock recommendations to enhance pedestrian connectivity: https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/BDP-COUNCIL-ADOPTED-MAY2017_SMALL-FOR-WEB.pdf	11/11/2020 1:35
Question	Pat Jackson (Unverified)	Thank you for this forum.	11/11/2020 1:36
Question	Tom (Unverified)	Steve- but having your dog off-leash is illegal in Montgomery County. That is the problem here and the reason to have more dog parks....	11/11/2020 1:37
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Steve, if you were off leash before, and state you will continue to stay off leash, what's the difference then if the park is there or not?	11/11/2020 1:37
Question	Shelley Yeutter, Chevy Chase West (Unverified)	is it possible to mark off the proposed area in the park so people can visualize the space?	11/11/2020 1:37
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Thank goodness those RENTERS on the north side of the park are going to be displaced by planned development, so that we can have good dog park access,	11/11/2020 1:38
Question	Chris Ruffing (Unverified)	Would also respectfully suggest that you analyze the projected parking increase and solve that before installing an expensive built structure that may cause an exponential increase in the already overloaded parking situation. Except for neighborhood dogs, most users will be driving their dogs to the proposed park.	11/11/2020 1:38
Question	Brad Longley (Unverified)	Shelley, it's marked off in orange in the picture shown on screen right now.	11/11/2020 1:38

Question	Naomi Spinrad (Unverified)	Where is the survey 836 - I am co-chair of the Bethesda Implementation Advisory Cmte and familiar with the plans for 4702 CCD. Nothing has been approved yet but the application includes a connector on the east side of the building from Chevy Chase Drive to Nottingham, and a sidewalk on the north side of Nottingham that extends to the park. The building itself would have an exit on its west side near Nottingham for its residents to access the park. This connector may replace the one recommended in the Bethesda Plan further to the west.	11/11/2020 1:39
Question	Piling on to the comment that the big open areas (e.g., the outfields of the ball fields) (Unverified)	are highly used by dozens and dozens of us amateur athletes (soccer, frisbee, etc.) regularly	11/11/2020 1:39
Question	Michael (Unverified)	This is wonderful. By creating a fenced-in dog park in the center of the park the beautiful and varied use of the park will be enhanced. Dog parks are not for all dogs, and I already know I will just keep my dog on-leash outside the dog park. Again, thanks to all the planners' time and effort.	11/11/2020 1:39
Response	Andrew Tsai (Andrew.Tsai@montgomeryparks.org)	The link is https://www.opentownhall.com/9955 and also currently on the screen(Naomi Spinrad (Unverified) asked "Where is the survey 836 - I am co-chair of the Bethesda Implementation Advisory Cmte and familiar with the plans for 4702 CCD. Nothing has been approved yet but the application includes a connector on the east side of the building from Chevy Chase Drive to Nottingham, and a sidewalk on the north side of Nottingham that extends to the park. The building itself would have an exit on its west side near Nottingham for its residents to access the park. This connector may replace the one recommended in the Bethesda Plan further to the west.")	11/11/2020 1:39
Question	Jason Yang (Unverified)	Thank you all for your time today. Stay safe, everyone!	11/11/2020 1:39
Question	Tom (Unverified)	https://www.wusa9.com/article/life/pets/know-the-laws-dog-leash-laws-in-dc-md-and-va/65-441227232	11/11/2020 1:40
Question	Gautami (Unverified)	Thank you!	11/11/2020 1:40
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	I'm definitely against this plan and hope it does not go forward but I appreciate all your hard work and how you've handled these questions tonight. Thanks you!	11/11/2020 1:40
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Echoing the comment that it'd be great if you all could temporarily mark off the proposed site so folks can visualize it better. The graphic is one thing. Seeing it in person is another. Thanks.	11/11/2020 1:41
Question	Tim McGrath (Unverified)	Thank you.	11/11/2020 1:41
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Thank you for being so patient answering questions	11/11/2020 1:41
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Great presentation and helpful forum. Thank you!!	11/11/2020 1:41
Question	Tom (Unverified)	Thank you everyone for the wonderful work!	11/11/2020 1:41
Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	Appreciate your efforts - but it does seem you've made up your minds to just do this.	11/11/2020 1:42
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Have a good night, everyone	11/11/2020 1:42
Question	Wrol Evans (Unverified)	Cuddle your pups close!	11/11/2020 1:42