

Attachment D - Part A
Community Correspondence to Project Manager

From: [+1 301-656-0930](tel:+13016560930)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Voice Mail (1 minute and 49 seconds)
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 10:40:23 AM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

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

Christie this is SYLVIA FUBINI i mean or would park liaison from four chevy chase west and i got your note about setting up a meeting for the about the dog park and it looks to me like you're the architect side Frankly, I'm sort of shocked that it's just sort of coming like this because I've been in touch with. you know montgomery county about the dog park problem for oh maybe a year and a half and have gotten nowhere nobody seemed to know anything and now suddenly you are coming up with and i really think that before you open this up to a community meeting that you might want to have a meeting with the leadership of the people who have been already working on this project in the neighborhood or at least a smaller group because there are a number of issues that we pointed out That might. change how you develop this anyway i would appreciate a call myself three oh one eight zero one two five five three or my landline is three oh one six five six oh nine three oh Or my email is S as in Sam Fubini F as in Frank UB as in boyini@gmail.com, thank you.

You received a voice mail from [FUBINI SYLVIA](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

From: [Gunilla Ekberg](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Park
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 2:50:13 PM

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

Dear Christie,

I am a resident and owner of a house on Chevy Chase Drive. I welcome your initiative to a dog park in Norwood Park!

I also have two other improvements I would like to propose to Norwood Park officials. If these are not under your umbrella please forward to the appropriate person/s in the MOCO organization.

1. Norwood Park is used by multi-generations. I have lived here myself with my family for 25 years. My son played ball and tennis in the park when he could walk. I recommend the Park install a narrow walk path leading from the back of the tennis courts around the park's perimeter to where the bike and walk path comes up at the end of the park. This would be so beneficial for moms with strollers, and seniors who cannot walk On the uneven ground surrounding the park and fields. I am envisioning a close to the county/ Park outer perimeter, just an asphalt path.

2. Pickle Ball is the fastest growing sport in the US for people 60+. I recommend the Park paint blending lines on the tennis courts allowing for pickle ball as well.

Please contact me should anyone need more information I'll be happy to assist!

Many Thanks,

Gunilla
Gunilla Ekberg

REALTOR,
Leasing Specialist.
Licensed in Maryland (MD) and District of Columbia (DC)
Executive Housing Consultants, Inc., / Ekberg International, Inc.,
www.executivehousing.com
gunilla@executivehousing.com

Operations and Events Manager
Somerset House Management Association
5620 Wisconsin Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Work 301 654 6780

cell +301 806 3476



Sent from my iPad

From: [Sylvia Fubini](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Norwood Local Park - Dog Park?
Date: Thursday, October 1, 2020 3:04:35 PM

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

I am forwarding to you their email in case it got lost somewhere.....Sylvia

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <vsyeutter@verizon.net>
Date: Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 11:22 AM
Subject: Norwood Local Park - Dog Park?
To: <Christie.ciabotti@montgomerycountyparks.org>, <Alex.Girr-Borrayo@montgomerycountyparks.org>, <Joe.Foehrkolb@montgomerycountyparks.org>, <Jerome.Harris@montgomeryparks.org>
Cc: <Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov>, <Rose.Hacking@montgomerycountymd.gov>, Joan Barron <jmbarron479@gmail.com>, Shelley Yeutter <vsyeutter@verizon.net>, Sylvia Fubini <sfubini@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Ciabotti and Montgomery County Parks leadership,

Thank you for reaching out to inform us about a dog park at Norwood Local Park, and asking for a community meeting on the subject. Frankly, we were quite shocked to receive your email (copied below) announcing Norwood Park has been selected for the development of a dog park.

We have been inquiring about the likelihood of such a prospect, and asking for the opportunity to have some input on the matter while under consideration, but to no avail.

We are contacting you as co-presidents of the Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Association whose single family homes border the entire east-west side of Norwood Local Park, and whose streets lead to access to the Park.

We have significant concerns about the practicality and safety of having Norwood Park designated as a county dog park.

Before elaborating, can you please inform us whom we can contact to express our concerns?

Norwood Park is one of the most over-used, crowded parks in the county and is teeming with children at the playground, attending soccer clinics, baseball, flag football, etc.

We will not elaborate at this point, but parking is a serious issue already.

We have also wanted to draw the Parks department's attention to the possibility of what we believe could be an excellent alternative that is nearby, yet more isolated, safe, and appropriate for a bordered space with dogs off leash.

Little Falls park, the park above the overflow parking lot for Bethesda Outdoor Pool on Little Falls Parkway and Arlington Road, is an under-utilized, potentially more appropriate space for a dog park. We are wondering if Parks personnel could study that site as an alternative.

We would very much like to speak with the decision-makers on this issue. We are dog owners who walk our dogs daily in Norwood Park, and are very familiar with the usage of the park and its designated spaces for numerous athletic fields.

Please let us know who we can contact on this matter as soon as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Shelley Yeutter

Joan Barron

Co-Presidents, (and dog owners)

Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Association

From: [Gunilla Ekberg](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [Jimenez Oriel](#); [Melanie Schwabe](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Park- Community Task Force
Date: Saturday, October 3, 2020 6:28:14 PM

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

Christie,

Thank you for your response. I would enjoy to be on the task force to speak on the neighborhood's desire to develop Norwood Park into a multi-generational outlet for all living in the Norwood Park's area. When we developed Chevy Chase Land's development in Friendship Height I served on that task force as well.

I am the Operations and Events Manager of Somerset House in Chevy Chase as well as being a neighbor, house owner, and a daily park user of Norwood Park.

Please let me know when your task force will be formed, and I will submit my application for your review.

Many Thanks,

Gunilla
Gunilla Ekberg

REALTOR,

Leasing Specialist.

Licensed in Maryland (MD) and District of Columbia (DC)

Executive Housing Consultants, Inc., / Ekberg International, Inc.,

www.executivehousing.com

gunilla@executivehousing.com

VIBER cell +301 806 3476



Sent from my iPad

From: Gunilla Ekberg <gunilla.ekberg@ekberginternational.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 2:50 PM

To: Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org>

Subject: Norwood Park

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

Dear Christie,

I am a resident and owner of a house on Chevy Chase Drive. I welcome your initiative to a dog park in Norwood Park!

I also have two other improvements I would like to propose to Norwood Park officials. If these are not under your umbrella please forward to the appropriate person/s in the MOCO organization.

1. Norwood Park is used by multi-generations. I have lived here myself with my family for 25 years. My son played ball and tennis in the park when he could walk. I recommend the Park install a narrow walk path leading from the back of the tennis courts around the park's perimeter to where the bike and walk path comes up at the end of the park. This would be so beneficial for moms with strollers, and seniors who cannot walk on the uneven ground surrounding the park and fields. I am envisioning a close to the county/ Park outer perimeter, just an asphalt path.
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Please contact me should anyone need more information I'll be happy to assist!
Many Thanks,

Gunilla
Gunilla Ekberg

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gunilla@executivehousing.com

Operations and Events Manager
Somerset House Management Association
5620 Wisconsin Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Work 301 654 6780

cell +301 806 3476



Sent from my iPad

From: [Bren Lizzio](#)
To: [Paul](#), [Susanne](#); [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Dog Park Progress
Date: Friday, October 16, 2020 9:06:16 PM

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

Susanne, thank you for the connection, and thanks for mentioning my <https://town-dog.org/>!

Hi Christie,

The possible addition of a DEA in Norwood Park is exciting. This would be a true neighborhood amenity (10-minute walk) for people and dogs living in the southwest corner of the Town of Chevy Chase.

My dog Lewis has taken me to a lot of dog parks in five years. I am interested in the components of dog parks, the materials, and aesthetics. From the perspective of a dog park user, I would like to share a few things I've observed. Maybe we can chat at some point? Can you add me to any community news updates on Norwood Park?

Thank you so much,

Bren Lizzio
4218 Oakridge Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
202-669-4999

On Oct 16, 2020, at 3:51 PM, Paul, Susanne <susanne.paul@montgomeryparks.org> wrote:

Hi Bren,

Nice to speak with you just now. I am connecting you with Christie Ciabotti, who is the Project Manager in our Park Development Division for the Norwood Dog Park concept planning.

Christie, Bren is a dog park advocate in the B-CC area and has great ideas to share. She also made this site called Town Dog <https://town-dog.org/>.

Thanks, all!

Susanne

-----Original Message-----

From: Bren Lizzio <bren@brenlizzio.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 9:44 AM

To: Paul, Susanne <susanne.paul@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Dog Park Progress

Dear Susanne,

Mike Riley suggested I contact you regarding the current status of Montgomery Parks' next step toward another dog park in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area.

I am with a group of residents in the Town of Chevy Chase who formed the organization TownDOG. Our group's mission is to enhance the well-being of dogs and promote good dog stewardship in the Town of Chevy Chase.

Our dog group wants to be informed on progress going forward. Has the next B-CC dog park site been chosen? Do you have a mailing list I could be added to?

Thanks for your help,

Best regards,

Bren Lizzio
4218 Oakridge Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
202-669-4999

From: [FUBINI SYLVIA](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Voice Mail (2 minutes and 37 seconds)
Date: Thursday, October 22, 2020 1:26:51 PM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

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

Christie this is SYLVIA FUBINI calling i just got a copy of the email about a community meeting about a dog park at norwood and i suspect you've already seen the email traffic from the coordinators the the president well co presidents of the chevy chase west association which is basically surrounds the park although ken wood forest is on the other side ... I never heard back from you. I, as far as I know there was minimal email from anyone else to the coordinators as well. I just hope you realize that opening this, I hope you have a plan. Or are you willing to have all have it break out? I mean this is not. An easy thing to do at the park and it might be worth it for you to have our input before you get to a meeting about it, because we've had some talk in the past, both pros and cons. But remember, the park is surrounded by houses. We have the poop and anti poop group. We have the noise and Anti Noise Group and we also have the fact that that Park is heavily utilized already on all fronts so you know just to say we I think I could speak for the other people as well that it might be worth it. For you to get a little. Understanding of what the issues are and what some of our alternatives would be before you get into a community meeting, but I certainly. understand if you if the parks department chooses not to do so if you want to meet you reach me at three oh one eight zero one two five five three that's my cell and of course you have the And the other peoples names already. and it might not be nice to have a conversation before the tenth but if you choose to do it that way i totally get it anyway thank you for i just thought i would give you my opinion thanks sylvia fubini again by

You received a voice mail from [FUBINI SYLVIA](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

From: [James Spletzer](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Question about proposed dog park n Norwood park
Date: Thursday, October 22, 2020 2:26:25 PM

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

Dear Ms. Ciabotti,

I just received the flyer about the November 10th online meeting to hear about the proposed new dog park at Norwood Park. My house borders Norwood Park, so I may be impacted by this new dog park.

I have two questions:

- (1) Are there drawings of where in Norwood Park the proposed new dog park will be? If yes, I would appreciate receiving these drawings.
- (2) Has there been discussion regarding the hours of the proposed new dog park? I am concerned about noise early in the morning and in the evenings.

Thank you in advance for responding to my two questions,
- Jim Spletzer
Chevy Chase MD

From: helensaxenian@gmail.com
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [MCP-DogParks](#); ["Pat Jackson"](#)
Subject: RE: Norwood park question
Date: Thursday, October 22, 2020 3:47:52 PM

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

Hi Christie,

There are a large group of use who currently walk to Norwood Park with our dogs and I've let them know about the meeting (about 50 people, I have their emails if you ever need them).

Some were wondering if there is any possibility of having designated hours (such as very early in the AM) when it would be legal to have dogs off leash but under the owner's control versus a fenced off dog park where dogs could play at any time?

Also, others were wondering what the surface of the dog park area would be...gravel? Looking forward to the meeting!!

Thanks,

Helen

From: [SKINKER MICHAEL](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Voice Mail (36 seconds)
Date: Friday, October 23, 2020 11:50:45 AM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

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

Hi, this is Michael SKINKER my number is 301-652-4764. I'm just calling in response to this public notice about the proposed a dog park at Norwood Park. I've lived here for 40 years. I live adjacent to the park. i am opposed to this but i'm trying to find out how i can get a copy of the feasibility study i couldn't really find it but i'm sure it's on the website somewhere i will send you an email thank you very much bye

You received a voice mail from [SKINKER MICHAEL](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

From: [Seth Goldman](#)
To: [Friedson, Andrew](#); [Ciabotti, Christie](#); "[Julie Farkas](#)"
Subject: comment on proposed dog park in Norwood Park
Date: Saturday, October 24, 2020 3:18:35 PM

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

Dear Andrew and Christie,

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

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

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

Best regards, Seth Goldman and Julie Farkas



SETH GOLDMAN Co-Founder & CEO

[Eat the ChangeTM](#) • [PLNT Burger](#) • [ETC Impact](#)
4827 Bethesda Ave. Bethesda, MD 20814

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From: [Lucy Freeman](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Park dog plan
Date: Sunday, October 25, 2020 4:00:52 PM

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

Christie: Could you please add me to the emails about the plans for dogs at Norwood Park.

Lucy Freeman dorset4708@yahoo.com

From: [Elaine Akst](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 9:28:53 AM

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

Hi Christie,

I'd like to add a comment to the planning for the dog park at Norwood Local Park. While I am in favor of permitting dogs, I think the current plan as it has been presented in placards and postcards is an expensive and unnecessary addition to the park. There are many better uses for tax payer dollars.

Norwood Park is a beautiful park with large areas that are currently multi-use. Throughout the day, there are yoga classes, soccer games, volleyball games, kids running free and dogs chasing balls. These activities can all take place in the same areas at different times; the wide-open spaces are part of what makes Norwood so beautiful and an attraction to so many people. The open spaces that are not designated for one specific activity allow people's imaginations to use the space as they wish.

A dedicated dog park will remove some of that free area, and it will no longer be useful for any other activities. In addition, dog parks with fenced-in areas frequently become hard-packed mud pits that attract unsocialized and more aggressive dogs.

Currently, there are dog owners that use the park in early mornings when there are no other activities. By in large, these are well socialized, well trained dogs that are good with recall commands. Their owners are responsible about cleaning up after them and keeping them quiet. The dog activities end before other groups arrive to use the park. Children always take priority. However, there are the occasional calls to police that break up the dog activities. My guess is that any neighbors concerned about noise or dogs now will be less happy with a permanent dog park and more dogs.

Formalizing the use of Norwood Park with set hours and rules for dogs (eg. 7:30-9:00 am, no barking, etc) would continue the current usage at no cost. By allowing the dogs and setting rules, dog owners could better police themselves and report dogs or owners that do not follow those rules.

The money spent fencing, adding shade structures, seating and plumbing could very well be spent on other county needs in these tough financial times.

Please consider the free option to continue current usage, with permission rather than police interference. As a tax payer, I would prefer any county money go towards safely reopening schools rather than building dog fencing and water fountains.

Thank you,
Elaine Akst
Norwood Drive

From: [Joanna Thomas](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Park dog park meeting question
Date: Monday, October 26, 2020 4:25:34 PM

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

Dear Ms Ciabotti,

Would it be possible to submit a suggestion for the meeting on November 10th about a potential dog park in Norwood Park, please?

I would like to suggest as an alternative to building a designated dog park area, that there could be designated off leash times? This could be restricted to either field 1 or field 2. I would propose 7.30-8.30 am as this is a popular dog walking time. This would be a lot cheaper than building any structures, and I think it would be agreeable to most.

Many thanks in advance,
Best wishes,

Joanna Thomas

Bethesda Resident

From: [kim.hamilton](#)
To: [Elaine Akst](#)
Cc: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 9:52:21 AM

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

Hi all,

Thank you for including me in the conversation Elaine. Your comment about a dog park in Norwood Park is spot on. Mixing a designated dog run in a park frequented by unsupervised kids, surrounded by family homes, and quite frankly overused, creates a recipe for disaster.

A better space would be Little Falls Park off Arlington and Little Falls Parkway. There is designated parking, it is already fenced in on three sides and unused before 3:30 when the field becomes practice space for various sports. There are protected walking paths to this space and centrally located to all local neighborhoods. The most appealing aspect of this space is that it is not surrounded by homes and children's playground equipment, which are directly impacted by the sheer volume of dogs that a designated "dog park" attracts.

Please give Little Falls Park a look! I believe it is viable space for the needs of dog owners and the dog community. Putting a dog run in the middle of a park which is already overused is not a fair position for our four legged friends to be put in. Screaming children, balls rolling, children running, and adrenaline pumping (produced during play) are all major distractions and triggers for our fur babies. Let's do what is best for our best friends and give them a space that better protects them and allows them to be their best selves. Little Falls Park is a great alternative!

With respect,

~Kim Hamilton

- Certified professional Master DogTrainer:National Canine School for Professional Dog Trainers
- American Kennel Club: Canine Good Citizen Evaluator
- Dog/breed behaviorist

On Oct 27, 2020, at 9:28 AM, Elaine Akst <elaineakst@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Christie,

I'd like to add a comment to the planning for the dog park at Norwood Local Park. While I am in favor of permitting dogs, I think the current plan as it has been presented in placards and postcards is an expensive and unnecessary addition to the park. There are many better uses for tax payer dollars.

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Children always take priority. However, there are the occasional calls to police that break up the dog activities. My guess is that any neighbors concerned about noise or dogs now will be less happy with a permanent dog park and more dogs.

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The money spent fencing, adding shade structures, seating and plumbing could very well be spent on other county needs in these tough financial times.

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Thank you,
Elaine Akst
Norwood Drive

From: [DEALY J](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Voice Mail (50 seconds)
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 12:44:08 PM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

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

Good afternoon, my name is Jane daily. I live very close to Norwood Park and I'm calling about the community meeting that's going to be held on Tuesday, November 10th. I have a few questions. Is it going to be an interactive meeting? And if you could give me some information about the budget plan? For this park and how many other dog parks are in Montgomery County, if you could give me that information or call me back, I was so appreciated. Again, my name is Jane Daily D as in David Ely, my phone number is 301654. 0385 thank you very much. I look forward to talking with you. Christy bye bye.

You received a voice mail from [DEALY J](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

From: [Michelle High](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: against a Norwood dog park
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 9:53:49 PM

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

Hello Christie,

Just writing because I hear they are considering a dog park in Norwood Park. This park already doesn't have enough parking; the poor people coming in to drive their kids to after-school sports (in normal times), competing with the people playing tennis, and those coming to have their kids play - the rest of the streets outside the park start filling in like crazy. It's not very practical. Early morning free-roam hours would be best, before others are out and about.

Just ask most neighbors.

Thanks,
Michelle

From: [michael skinker](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Dog Park Feasibility Study
Date: Friday, October 30, 2020 1:52:16 PM

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

Christie:

I received the post card notice of the Community Meeting on November 10th to discuss the dog park proposal for Norwood Park. Your name was listed as the Project Manager. Would you please email me a copy of the Feasibility Study or a link to it on the website. I have been unable to find it. Obviously, the post card is not very clear on specifically what is being proposed. I assume at some point there will be an opportunity for formal public comments on the plan.

I used Norwood Park as a kid and have lived directly adjacent to the park for a little over 40 years. I am particularly interested in where in the park grounds you are proposing to place the dog park and how large the fenced area will be.

Basically, I am opposed to the creation of a dog park in Norwood Park and so are the other adjacent homeowners in Kenwood Forest II that I have spoken with about it. Dog owners are now free to use the park area along with other recreational users. I don't think it is appropriate to single out one recreational use over others for special treatment.

If the fenced area is small and it is located up near Field #1 and away from many of the houses, it may not be as objectionable. However, I, and the other owners I've spoken to, would strongly object if the fenced dog park area is to be placed anywhere near Field #2 and the lower park grounds.

I look forward to getting an opportunity to review the feasibility study and joining the online meeting. Thank you.

Mike Skinker
6623 Hillandale Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
303-652-4764

From: [Lou Balodemas](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Friday, October 30, 2020 9:57:16 AM

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

Christie,

My home borders the south side of Norwood Park and I saw the notice regarding the upcoming online meeting. The calendar shows a survey and preliminary site assessment ahead of the meeting. Has that been performed and is the assessment available to review? Thank you.

Lou Balodemas, AIA
4870 Chevy Chase Blvd
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
301-775-7729 (cell)

From: [Jane Dealy](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Community Mtg to discuss dog park at Norwood Park
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 12:54:02 PM

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

Dear Christie, This is a follow-up to a voice mail that I left you. Please confirm receipt and that the following questions will be addressed at the community meeting.

How many dog parks currently exist in MC?

What is overall cost?

How are funds for this project to be allocated, in other words taken out of the budget for beautification, repair of equipment, and overall maintenance of the MC parks ?

What data does Montgomery Parks have on dogs parks---in Montgomery County, in Maryland, or from around the country--on their costs, whether they improve or deteriorate the parks and surrounding neighborhoods?

Thank you for addressing these and other questions.

Jane Dealy
4800 Chevy Chase Blvd.

From: [Elaine Akst](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [kim.hamilton](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 3:19:03 PM

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

Thanks so much for your response, Christie.

You write as if this is predetermined - you're not looking for feedback as much as telling us what is already decided. Is that the case? To the best of my knowledge, there was never an open comments period before a decision was made. Is Montgomery Parks open to moving the dog park, or permitting loose dogs in Norwood?

Thanks,
Elaine

From: [Victor Cha](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Dog park plan for Norwood Park
Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 2:57:47 PM

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

Hi Christie,

I am a dog owner in West Chevy Chase and resident of the area for 26 years.

I have heard that the County is considering plans for a fenced dog park in Norwood Park.

With all due respect, I prefer that my tax dollars not be expended for this purpose. The costs would include design, permitting, fencing, landscaping, plumbing, sanitation, signage, among other necessities.

A more economical solution would be to create morning hours (e.g., 7am-8am) for dog use in the park. I can attest that the only users of the park at that hour are dog owners.

If the issue is noise from a congregation of dogs, then a dog park would only amplify the problem as it would attract dog owners from outside of the immediate neighborhood at all hours of the day.

All of the neighborhood dog owners are respectful of the park, clean up after their pets (as well as clean up after the kids soccer practices that litter the fields daily), and maintain safe control of their animals.

An alternate location for a dog park might be the park on Little Falls Parkway and Arlington Road as that space is already partially fenced and might pose less noise issues given its location adjacent to two major roads.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
[Dr. Victor Cha](#)
[Derussey Parkway](#)

From: [Elaine Akst](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [kim.hamilton](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 3:35:24 PM

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

So helpful, thanks for explaining it.

I do agree with Kim Hamilton that the rarely used park at Little Falls should be in the running.

Take care,
Elaine

From: [Naomi Spinrad](#)
To: [Garland, Hyojung](#)
Cc: [McManus, Patricia](#); [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: FW: Agenda for Nov. 6, Bethesda Implementation Advisory Committee
Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 5:42:43 PM

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

Hi Hyojung,

Will you be at the Friday meeting? If so, you can make the announcement at the end of the meeting. Norwood Park is actually not within the Bethesda Plan area.

My neighborhood, Chevy Chase West, is adjacent to Norwood Park. I'm told by our civic association co-presidents that Parks has not been responsive to requests to meet, or to hear what they hope would be constructive comments on the proposal - Parks responses have been form emails. This is very disappointing and frustrating for the community.

Best,
Naomi

From: [Joan Wathen](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Accepting Community Comments?
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2020 12:13:38 PM

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

To: Ms. Ciabotti, Project Manager / From: Joan Wathen, Resident near Norwood Local Park. I plan to attend the online meeting about the proposed dog park next Tuesday (Nov. 10, 2020). Is the Parks Department accepting written comments now? Should they be e-mailed to you? Or is there some other time or place for public comments? Last year (2019), I checked out all the proposed locations and submitted my choice -- Wall Park -- in the "Town Hall" forum. FYI, my contact info is Joan Wathen, 6726 Fairfax Rd, Chevy Chase MD 20815, joan.d.wathen@comcast.net / 301-652-9017 (land line - cannot text)

From: [michael skinker](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Dog Park Feasibility Study
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2020 8:52:57 PM

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

I will try and attend the virtual meeting, although I am not sure I understand how it's actually going to work. I assume we will just be listening to the presentation as opposed to participating like at an in-person meeting. Also not sure how the Open Town Hall Q&A is going to work.

I look forward to getting the specifics on the changes being proposed for Norwood Park and will supplement my original email comments once I have heard the presentation.

Please include my earlier email comments as part of the record on the proposal. Thank you.

Mike Skinker

From: michael skinker <mtsgolf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 1:52 PM
To: Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Dog Park Feasibility Study

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

Christie:

I received the post card notice of the Community Meeting on November 10th to discuss the dog park proposal for Norwood Park. Your name was listed as the Project Manager. Would you please email me a copy of the Feasibility Study or a link to it on the website. I have been unable to find it. Obviously, the post card is not very clear on specifically what is being proposed. I assume at some point there will be an opportunity for formal public comments on the plan.

I used Norwood Park as a kid and have lived directly adjacent to the park for a little over 40 years. I am particularly interested in where in the park grounds you are proposing to place the dog park and how large the fenced area will be.

Basically, I am opposed to the creation of a dog park in Norwood Park and so are the other adjacent homeowners in Kenwood Forest II that I have spoken with about it. Dog owners are now free to use the park area along with other recreational users. I don't think it is appropriate to single out one recreational use over others for special treatment.

If the fenced area is small and it is located up near Field #1 and away from many of the

houses, it may not be as objectionable. However, I, and the other owners I've spoken to ,would strongly object if the fenced dog park area is to be placed anywhere near Field #2 and the lower park grounds.

I look forward to getting an opportunity to review the feasibility study and joining the online meeting. Thank you.

Mike Skinker

6623 Hillandale Road

Checy Chase, MD 20815

303-652-4764

From: [Naomi Spinrad](#)
To: [Garland, Hyojung](#)
Cc: [Ciabotti, Christie](#); [Joan Barron](#); [McManus, Patricia](#); [shelley \(WSC\)](#)
Subject: Re: FW: Agenda for Nov. 6, Bethesda Implementation Advisory Committee
Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 10:33:57 PM

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

Hyojung, your email is about two separate things that involve Chevy Chase West.

It is the lack of responsiveness from Parks to Chevy Chase West's desire to provide input on the dog park in Norwood Park that has been disappointing and frustrating to the civic association. Our neighborhood association officers feel it would have been helpful to Parks to hear the thoughts, including constructive suggestions, from the neighborhood immediately adjacent to the park, before beginning a planning process there. CCW is directly affected by activity in the park, as Norwood Drive is the direct vehicular entrance to the park, and other narrow neighborhood streets are often used as overflow parking. In addition, a number of houses here back directly onto the park. It sounds as if Parks has already decided to put a dog park in Norwood Park. I'm copying the co-presidents, Shelley Yeutter and Joan Barron, on this email so if you or someone else wants to reach out to them you can do so directly.

CCW has also been involved in the regulatory process regarding 4702 Chevy Chase Drive, because that project extends to Nottingham Drive, which is part of the northern border of CCW. I spoke for the Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Association at the DAP meeting, reiterating CCW's support for the connector from Chevy Chase Drive to Nottingham, and for a sidewalk from the connector into Norwood Park. We are in agreement with Parks about the desirability of the connector and sidewalk, and hope someday there will be a more attractive entrance to the park there. The residents on the south side of Nottingham are overwhelmingly in favor of the connector, sidewalk, and beautification of the park entrance.

I hope this clarifies things. I can certainly announce the dog park community meeting if you're unable to attend the meeting.

Naomi

From: [Pat Jackson](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Park Dog Park -- a Proposal
Date: Monday, November 9, 2020 12:56:43 PM
Attachments: [Norwood Park Dog Park Proposal -- P. Jackson 11-09-20.pdf](#)
[Norwood Park Dog Directory Cover.pdf](#)

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

Dear Ms. Ciabotti,

I greatly appreciate you reaching out to the community about the planning for a future dog park in Norwood Park. We are daily users of the park with our Schnauzer Reggie and believe that it is a treasured resource for many in the community -- human and canine alike!

I wanted to share two things with you.

First, I strongly favor establishing designated hours each morning during which dogs can legally be off-leash within the park *instead of* creating a permanent fenced off section of the park. The park as you know is used heavily, and I believe instituting a dog park with designated hours would maximize its use for all. It also would provide the best dog park experience for those of us who come together each day.


To safeguard those who wish to walk along the park without any risk of being approached by any off-leash dogs, I would suggest installing a fence that runs along the border of the paved path and which includes multiple gates as points of entry between the path and the larger park. I have attached a diagram to reflect this proposal.

Secondly, as I believe Helen Saxenian has communicated previously, many of the dog owners who use Norwood Park have come to form a cohesive community. The extent of this community is reflected in part by the creation of the Norwood Park Dog Directory which was produced last month (see attached cover). (Helen and I led that effort.) I raise this to suggest that this community would be an active partner with Montgomery Parks to help ensure that an off-leash zone during designated hours operates successfully for all involved.

Thank you for your consideration, and I'll look forward to sharing in the meeting tomorrow evening.

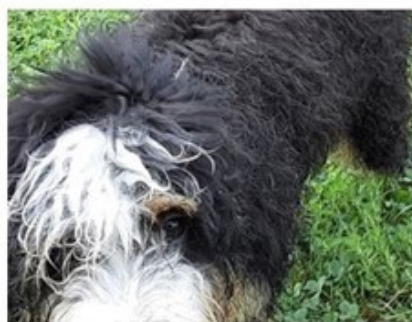
best regards,

Pat Jackson

An aerial photograph of a park area. A large rectangular area in the center is outlined with a dashed yellow line. Below this area, a solid yellow horizontal line spans the width of the image, with four yellow arrows pointing upwards from it towards the dashed rectangle. The park contains two baseball fields, a basketball court, and is surrounded by residential buildings and streets.

Un-fenced, off-leash area for the designated hours
of 6:30 a.m.—9:00 a.m. daily (precise hours to be determined)

A fence (with multiple gates for access to the park) could be added along the pathway to provide separation from any walkers thru the park in those hours.



The Norwood Park Dog Directory

-- October 2020 Edition --



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Page 20	Birthday Calendar!
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Pages 23 - 27	Joy in the Morning

From: [Pat Jackson](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Park Dog Park -- a Proposal
Date: Monday, November 9, 2020 4:07:08 PM

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

Hi Ms. Ciabotti,

I had one follow up Q about the dog park meeting tomorrow. Would I be able to briefly share a document on screen during the comment time of the meeting?

thanks,
Pat Jackson

From: [Jonathan Simon](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood dog park conceptual design?
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 12:15:31 AM

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

Ms. Ciabotti,

I am looking forward to tomorrow evening's meeting about Norwood Park. Is there an actual conceptual design you are able to share in advance of the meeting? It seems to me that something has been drawn up and that interested parties are being asked to comment on something we haven't seen. Unless I misunderstand and the idea is to solicit input up front to develop a conceptual design and then provide an additional opportunity to comment on that later. But it's not clear to me that this is the case. Thank you.

Best regards,
Jonathan Simon

Sent from my iPad

From: [Rekha M. Reddy](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [jeff](#)
Subject: Norwood Park Dog Park
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 4:55:44 AM

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

Dear Ms. Ciabotti:

I wanted to make my objection to proposed Norwood Park Dog Park known:

- 1) With the county facing a large projected budget shortfall (\$600mn!), families struggling with hunger due to job loss, and thousands of children out of school and struggling with virtual learning, it seems like a very poor choice of priorities to be designing a dog park to be used by a small minority of people, particularly when the park is already heavily utilized.
- 2) As the owner of a home on Norwood Drive which is adjacent to the entrance of the Park, I can attest that Montgomery County has not resolved the problem of sufficient parking at Norwood Park. Particularly on weekend days, we find non-residents without permits parking on Norwood Drive leaving Chevy Chase residents with no place to park. Montgomery County rarely tickets them, despite the street requiring permits. In other cases, those who run out of parking spots block entryways and park on the grass in Norwood Park, which is dangerous in case of emergency vehicles needing to enter and detrimental to the grass and plants of the park. This parking situation would only worsen in the case of adding a dog park.
- 3) Finally, I would like to point you to the updated literature on dog parks which finds them unsafe in many cases for dogs and their owners.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/06/smarter-living/the-dog-park-is-bad-actually.html>

Thank you for your consideration,
Rekha Reddy
Norwood Drive 20815

From: [Elizabeth Goozh](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Dog park at Norwood
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 10:26:27 AM

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

Hello.

I would like to offer my support for a dog park at Norwood Park. The number of residents with dogs is very high and it is in the best interest of the community to have a place to take these pets that is safe and close. It would reduce the number of off leash dogs in the community and provide a way to let our furry friends run free and safe.

Thanks
Liz Goozh
Town of Chevy Chase resident

From: [Miriam Simon](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:54:21 AM

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

Dear Ms. Cabotti,

I am of two minds regarding this dog park.

The last thing Montgomery County taxpayers should be spending money on is a dog park in Bethesda. As everyone knows, this is a time of financial uncertainty, and the money could be better and more effectively spent to fund much more necessary budget items, such as reopening schools and helping those who have been impacted by COVID-19, among other things.

At the same time, I live in a condo with the park directly behind me. I can't use the park in the mornings because of the many people who are already using the park as their own dog park and have their dogs off leash. They have decided they are above the law and don't need to abide by the leash laws that are clearly posted around the area where they take their dogs off leash. If giving them their dog park will make it so that everyone can use the park is what it takes to get them out of there, then maybe it makes sense.

Rewarding these Bethesda people who are flouting the law with their own dog park when there are so many other better ways that money could be spent goes against everything I believe in. The fact that it won't bring any revenue to the county just makes it worse.

So I guess in the end, I'm opposed to the County spending the money of a Bethesda dog park. And by the way, I own two dogs -- I'm by no means a dog hater.

Thanks for your time.

Take good care,

Miriam Simon
4800 Chevy Chase Dr
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
240 888 2257

--

MWS



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Elizabeth Gough](#)
To: [Gabriel Chavira](#)
Subject: Re: Dog park at Norwood
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 10:54:25 AM

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

I can not attend tonight but wanted to voice my support

> On Nov 10, 2020, at 10:40 AM, Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org> wrote:

> Hello Ms. Gooch,

> Thank you for your support!

<https://www.fishbase.org/links/doi/10.1093/oxfordjournals.oxfam.a0112111>

- > Best wishes,

> Chris

- ▷ 2425 Reedie Drive
- ▷ Park Development E

[illegible]

1. 10

>
> -----Original Message-----

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

> Hello.

> Thanks
> Liz Goren

From: [Amanda Farber](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [Riley, Mike](#); [Friedson, Andrew](#)
Subject: Dog Park at Norwood Park comments
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 1:10:16 PM

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

Good afternoon -

I am hoping to make it to the meeting this evening regarding the proposed dog park at Norwood Park. I am thrilled to hear the Parks Department is moving ahead with presenting a plan for a dog park in the downtown Bethesda area. I have long advocated for a dog park in the area including writing this opinion piece for Bethesda Magazine.

<https://bethesdamagazine.com/bethesda-beat/opinion-from-yappy-hour-to-permanent-park-dogs-deserve-a-place-to-play/>

In writing the piece I visited a number of dog parks all over the area and have seen firsthand that with a little flexibility and creativity they can be very successful. And I would point the Parks Department towards Guy Mason Park in DC as an example of how you can "pack a lot of park" (including a dog park) into parks which are even considerably smaller than Norwood Park. I regularly drive over to Ellsworth Park and Cabin John Park as those are the closest fenced dog parks to downtown Bethesda (while I can walk to Norwood Park). My dog enjoys those spaces, and I enjoy seeing all the dogs playing, but what I find to be the best part is the people I meet and strike up conversations with - I joke that it is also a "people park" (without the smelling each other and peeing) . Anyway, I just wanted to write in with my support and my appreciation.

Thank you!

Amanda Farber

From: [Pat Jackson](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Park Dog Park -- a Proposal
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 11:32:43 AM

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

Hi Christie,

I appreciate your responding to my email, although of course I'm quite disappointed at the indication that an off-leash park isn't an option. The current time & space usage of the park seems to me to be highly efficient with dogs in the a.m. and kids & families in the p.m. And we have significant concerns about the effects of creating a restricted area, which I expect would need to be a far smaller area than the dogs utilize now if you seek to preserve the multi-use nature of Norwood Park.

Thanks again for your email; I'll see you this evening.

best,
Pat

From: [Laura Hambleton](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Dog Park at Norwood Park in CC/Bethesda
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 5:25:27 PM

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

Ms. Ciabotti,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment about a possible dog park at Norwood Park.

I am a former dog owner and a resident of Chevy Chase West, the neighborhood that abuts the park. I walked the park for many years with my dog, both of us enjoying the outside space. Since my dog died, I continue to walk in the park, play tennis there and gather with friends.

Norwood Park is a much-used gem, an important open space in the growing urban environment of Bethesda. It also is a beloved place for children to play on the equipment and with their friends and sports teams. During the pandemic, Norwood Park also has become a gathering spot for families, picnicking and enjoying the outdoors.

So many community members use the park, which makes me question the wisdom of fencing off a precious part of the park for dogs exclusively.

I think a better solution is to allow dogs off leash early in the morning before people start to congregate at the park for specific activities. That happens now on an ad-hoc, and maybe illegal way. Most dogs are under the supervision of their owners and have a bit of time for free rein.

The rest of the day all of the park, which is in constant use, is available to children and families. This is how it should be, in my thinking.

Thanks so much for your consideration,
Laura Hambleton
Hunt Ave.

From: [Erica Antonelli](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Dog park Q
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 6:46:53 PM

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

Hello!

Did you consider the park near the excess parking near Bethesda Pool?

Thanks,

Erica

From: [Gary Friend](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Dog Park project - Thank you!!
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 8:50:14 PM

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

Christie,

My handle was Gary F on the chat board. I can't thank you and the others enough for the thorough, thoughtful work. We are residents of Chevy Chase West since 1988, have been and continue to be regular users of the park as a young couple, parents raising two sons, dog owner, tennis player, BCC baseball coach, and more.

The negative comments are NIMBY'ism without merit. Dog owners who ignore the leash law are objecting to the social pressure that an explicit dog park will create. There are plenty of alternative spots for the once per-year events that would be affected by the dog park's planned location.

Thank you again. Community service is hard work. We are grateful.

Kind regards,
Gary Friend
Langdrum Lane

From: [H. Gleicher](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:52:14 PM

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

Hi

Our property abuts Norwood Park, on the path by the lower ballpark. We have lived here for 25 years. Our property would be among the most impacted. We are also dog owners.

I just want to say that I generally support the proposal. It will make Norwood safer. Many people use the park as an unregulated off leash park. There is absolute no enforcement. I have been screamed at when asking folks to leash their dogs or clean up after their dogs. I have been jumped on by dogs. Unleashed dogs have made their way into our yard.

Park police do not enforce the leash laws. Trust me. I've tried contacting them. Just come out any morning to see the gatherings. It is often scary as no dog owner has 100% control over their dogs.

Also the petition you received included many residents from other neighborhoods such as Somerset. Maybe they too should have a dog park.

I do hope there will be specific hours and a way to control noise from barking.

I applaud you for trying to add this amenity.

I would add that we have tried unsuccessfully for many years to get Mont Parks to deal with a county walnut tree that is damaging our property and roof. We would love some attention to this!

Many thanks,

Hope Gleicher
4856 Chevy Chase Blvd

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Josh Sterling](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Park - Dog Parks and Equity
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:15:41 PM

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

Ms. Ciabotti,

Good evening. I am a proud resident of the Chevy Chase West neighborhood, which abuts Norwood Park. To be candid with you, I was quite alarmed to learn of plans for exploring a potential dog park at Norwood Park.

The reason is quite simple: I think it is important for all of us in such a privileged community to live our values. So, I am gravely concerned that the introduction of a dog park would do much to upset the social and racial equity of a public space that should be available to all.

To this point, it is my understanding from available literature that dog parks are most often frequented by more wealthy community members who have access to their own vehicles and can travel to congregate at them en masse. Doing so can crowd out other, less privileged community members — both by a reduction in “people space” and by restricting use of facilities such as benches, tables, and parking spaces. So reserving a space that, to my understanding, will most likely be dominated by fellow one-percenters seems likely to undermine gravely the important equity characteristics of a wide open space for all.

As you are no doubt aware, Norwood Park borders not only my tony neighborhood but also a number of condominium and apartment buildings that sit just off Bradley Boulevard. Residents of those buildings — many of whom are recent immigrants to the United States, including from Africa and Latin America — only have the Park for immediate access to green space. Reducing that space to favor the canine proclivities of rich white people would no doubt be off-putting to them, and understandably so.

(Also: While not my main point, I understand that the image of “dogs running loose” can be discomfiting to certain minority groups that have been subjected to authoritarian regimes that deploy dogs as instruments of intimidation. Not a good message for a public park, however unintended!)

The short of it is this: Very wealthy people like myself don’t need dedicated spaces to hobnob with our pooches. And certainly not at the expense of undermining what should be a safe, welcoming, and equitable space for all.

Thank you for your attention to this note. Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss any points.

Best,

Joshua Sterling

From: [Celia Josephs](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Community Meeting at Norwood Local Park
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 10:54:21 AM

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

I meant to listen to the Community Meeting to discuss a new dog park at Norwood Local Park yesterday - but I had not written it down on my calendar and I simply forgot. However, I use the park a lot and I wonder if it was recorded and if one can listen to it.

I wanted also to suggest at this meeting that allotments are considered at the bottom (west) end of the park - or possibly the north side. Could this be considered? I would certainly be interested in having an allotment as I live in an apartment nearby.

I look forward to your reply.
Celia Josephs

--

Celia

Celia Josephs

From: [Micek, Christina](#)
To: office@grovecentervet.com
Cc: [MCP-Parks](#); [Ciabotti, Christie](#); [Paul, Susanne](#)
Subject: Error on website: Cabin John Dog Park
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 9:40:08 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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

Hi

Hope this finds your team well!

We were part of a dog park conversation with parks yesterday about possibly starting a dog park at Norwood Park. In this meeting, people googled how big Cabin John dog park is for comparison, and your website was the only source. Bravo for trying to provide this information to the public! However, unfortunately, your information was confirmed incorrect by the parks and planning people at the meeting. The Cabin John Dog Park is actually 1 acre, not ½ an acre. Would you mind correcting this information on your website? It is currently the only information on the internet we could find that offers a size. I was surprised at how large it was, because it doesn't feel that big to me.

<https://www.grovecentervet.com/montgomery-county-dog-parks.pml>

I am not sure why this information is not included on the Cabin John park website. But I am requesting this also be added there. Parks website team- can you please add information to the Cabin John park page about the dog park? It is completely missing. Thanks.

<https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/cabin-john-regional-park/>

Thanks so much for your time and supporting dog parks in the area!

Have a lovely day!

Christina

From: [kerri davis](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Fw: [chevychasewest] Survey re: dog park in Norwood
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 1:36:15 PM

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

Hi Christie,

I tried to submit my comments on the survey but I'm not sure it went through. I don't agree with the current proposed location because (1) it's right smack in the middle of the park so disrupts key use areas; and (2) it will rely solely on Norwood Park parking which is already in short supply. The flat field space all around the proposed area is currently used by team/informal sports on a regular basis, so the area you're proposing is used as viewing areas by parents as well as recreation areas for picnics since it's one of the few areas of the park with mature trees for shade (that's why there is a bench there now). Taking this area up as a dog park would leave few/no other areas for parents to watch their kid's field activities or to recreate in shaded areas with mature trees. It would also (because it is located near the main parking area) would put most pressure on Norwood Parkin parking...which, as you know, is already very limited and requires many park users to street park on Stafford, Norwood and Chevy Chase Blvd, which is a problem for our neighborhood.

A PROPOSAL: I would suggest that you locate any dog park on the periphery of the park - either the flat area northwest of the upper baseball field or, even better, the far west side (north or south) of the lower baseball field. Those lower far-edge areas of the park are not used much for sports (indeed, this is where many families let their dogs run off leash now) AND using these westside areas can utilize multiple parking areas, including the ample parking available at the public swimming pool.

Kerri Davis
4616 Chevy Chase Blvd
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Joan Barron <jmbarron479@gmail.com>
To: "chevychasewest@groups.io" <chevychasewest@groups.io>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020, 01:08:17 PM EST
Subject: [chevychasewest] Survey re: dog park in Norwood

The take away from last night's meeting were many. Clearly Parks is eager to put in several dog parks around the county especially down county. Some of the issues that arose were parking, heavy use of the park, aesthetics of a dog park among others. Shelley and I wish to thank all the neighbors for participating and for the private messages we received.

Please make your voice heard. Again the survey and more info on the proposal can be found at <https://mcp-events.org/norwooddogparktownhall>

The moderator also said to email her with specific questions. Her contact is Christie.Ciabotti@MontgomeryParks.org

Joan Barron
Morgan Drive

CCWNA

From: [Pat Jackson](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Park Dog Park -- a Proposal
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 2:13:33 PM

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

Hi Christie,

I wanted to thank you for the meeting the last night, the explanations, and the intentionality of listening to all voices. I continue to have concerns which I'll share via the Town Hall platform, but I appreciate the process and professionalism of all the Parks staff.

regards,
Pat Jackson

From: [Thomas F. Barrett](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Dog Park meeting held yesterday -
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 2:34:29 PM

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

Ms Ciabotti,

People tried to be on the call last night and were very unhappy with the way the people were ignored and comments disregarded.

Myself and many others of my fellow park users who were online to express their disapproval with this boon-dog-gle were shocked to hear silence from the floor and your repeated words of "positive comments, positive comments".

WE ARE NOT POSTIVE on the reduction of our unique and open space park for limited use applications, particularly at the cost of a half a million bucks!

I have been to this park for 50 years and have not seen any issues other than the usual ones of any park.

Clearly this is a Solution in search of a Problem. The Parks have somehow obtained funding....Really need to look into how this was procured.

Even the Park Police I have spoken with are apologetic and think this is ridiculous but continue to do the good work of Cranky Lady who lives on the lane.

We have serious issues in Mongtomery County and fiscal responsibility is job one. Fencing off dogs for \$500,000 is somewhere around job 713...

Please just leave us alone. Everything is fine.

Thomas F Barrett III, CLU, QPA, ERPA
4701 Sangamore rd
Suite 205-S
Bethesda MD 20816

From: [Jane Dealy](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Local Park
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 2:15:07 PM

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

Christie,

Could you please email me the Survey and the Open Town Hall _____. I was unaware of their existence. Thank you.

Jane Dealy

From: [Laura Hambleton](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Dog Park at Norwood Park in CC/Bethesda
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 4:33:04 PM

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

Hello again,

This is a further response following the meeting last night. I could not add my response to the survey even though I accepted the "cookies."

There are so many assumptions about the dog park that have yet to be seriously considered by Montgomery Parks, and I question the timing of this venture given we are in the middle of a pandemic, with rising numbers of people infected with COVID-19. As a result, Montgomery Parks cannot fully assess the full use of Norwood Park.

My questions:

1. Why hasn't Montgomery Parks conducted a study of the parking, both use of and capacity for more cars.
2. Why hasn't Montgomery Parks conducted a study of the full use of the parks by county sports' teams and school groups.
3. Does Montgomery Parks know how many owners and dogs use the park now? Is there a number that would reach "capacity?"
4. Does MP know that another dog park is being considered for the Women's Farmer Market down the street on Wisconsin?
5. Is MP aware of all the development planned for Bethesda? Has anyone considered coordinating better?
6. MP is so good about planting new trees in Norwood Park. What is the wisdom in cutting down trees that provide shade to erect a man-made shade pavilion that could be an aesthetic eyesore?
7. From the meeting last night and more conversations on the neighborhood listserv, many people who live along or near the park were not aware of the MP's plan for a dog park until they received a postcard in the mail. I too had not heard of it, and I consume lots of news outlets—Bethesda Beat, Washington Post and local radio.
8. Why in this stressful time is MP making dogs a priority to children and families seeking playspace, and frankly, a tiny bit of open space?
9. The dog park in Chevy Chase Village seemed to pit neighbors and walkers against dog owners in a very negative way.

Thank you for consideration of my questions.

Laura Hambleton
Hunt Avenue

On Tue, 10 Nov 2020 at 17:25, Laura Hambleton <hambleton.laura@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Ciabotti,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment about a possible dog park at Norwood Park.

I am a former dog owner and a resident of Chevy Chase West, the neighborhood that abuts the park. I walked the park for many years with my dog, both of us enjoying the outside space. Since my dog died, I continue to walk in the park, play tennis there and gather with friends.

Norwood Park is a much-used gem, an important open space in the growing urban environment of Bethesda. It also is a beloved place for children to play on the equipment and with their friends and sports teams. During the pandemic, Norwood Park also has become a gathering spot for families, picnicking and enjoying the outdoors.

So many community members use the park, which makes me question the wisdom of fencing off a precious part of the park for dogs exclusively.

I think a better solution is to allow dogs off leash early in the morning before people start to congregate at the park for specific activities. That happens now on an ad-hoc, and maybe illegal way. Most dogs are under the supervision of their owners and have a bit of time for free rein.

The rest of the day all of the park, which is in constant use, is available to children and families. This is how it should be, in my thinking.

Thanks so much for your consideration,
Laura Hambleton
Hunt Ave.

From: [marilyn.marcosson](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood meeting
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 6:13:01 PM

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

I want to congratulate you and your staff for running a very professional and logical meeting last night. I want to commiserate with you and your staff for having to deal with the predictable, repetitive and mundane comments that dominated the responses. My heart goes out to you knowing you have to do this on every project. I wish my neighbors would not be so quick to “pull the ladder up behind them” while living in this lovely community. I completed the survey in active support of the dog park but I believe my answers got hung up at the email and password section at the end. Thank you and your staff.

Regards, Marilyn Marcosson

Marilyn Marcosson
4604 Davidson Dr
Chevy Chase, MD
C) 202-390-9161

From: [iona klayman](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [Elliot Klayman](#)
Subject: Norwood Park Dog Park
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 5:34:31 PM

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

Hi Christie,

Unfortunately I missed the meeting about the dog park at Norwood Park, but I wanted to let you know I think it's a great idea and can't wait! I live on Chevy Chase Blvd.

Can you please tell me when it will be done and where it will be?

Thanks for your work on this!

Best,
Iona

From: [Jane Dealy](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Norwood Local Park
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 12:01:46 PM

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

Christie, This is my second request. See email below. Thank you.

Jane Dealy

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jane Dealy <jdthree@mac.com>
Subject: Norwood Local Park
Date: November 11, 2020 at 2:15:00 PM EST
To: "Christie.Ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org"
<Christie.Ciabotti@MontgomeryParks.org>

Christie,

Could you please email me the Survey and the Open Town Hall _____. I was unaware of their existence. Thank you.

Jane Dealy

From: [Richard K Ashford](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Needs improvement
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 2:27:36 PM

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

Thank you for hosting the meeting on the Norwood Dog Park, and for making the recording available.

In order to register comments, one must have the exact URL however. People who go back through the hour and a half meeting can find it, but the public means to comment needs improvement.

Currently if you google Norwood Dog Park, or any variation, the URL is unavailable.

I appreciate your quick action in rectifying this.

Sincerely,

Richard Ashford
Chevy Chase

From: [Jane Dealy](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Local Park
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 12:59:00 PM

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

Thank you Christie, You mentioned a survey. May I have access to that also. What was the geographical area, how was it sent, and how many responses have you received.

From: [Joan Barron](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [Shelley Yeutter](#)
Subject: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Sunday, November 15, 2020 9:19:26 PM

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

Good evening,

Neighbors in Chevy Chase West have noticed a sign, with writing drawn in, and markings on an area of the park that seems to outline the perimeter of the proposed dog park. It doesn't seem quite right to us based on the map you shared during your presentation. Can you confirm that it is indeed the out line for the dog park?

Thanks much

Joan Barron and Shelley Yeutter
Co-Presidents CCWNA

From: [Michael Steiner](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Local Park - Dog Park
Date: Sunday, November 15, 2020 12:03:09 PM

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

Dear Ms. Ciabotti:

I am writing to add my comments regarding the proposed dog park at Norwood Local Park.

First off, thank you for your work with Montgomery Parks. I have great admiration for your profession, whose practitioners perform the essential function of complex land use planning and design. In fact, my daughter is a practicing landscape architect in San Francisco. Thus, I am aware of the types of issues that you work with in resolving often competing and conflicting goals within a community.

Regarding the Norwood Local Park proposal, and as a 34-year resident on Drummond Avenue in West Chevy Chase, I am very familiar with the open space and the essential recreational activities and opportunities that this park provides in our community. My children grew up playing sports there, attending birthday parties, participating in Independence Day festivities, and more. I, along with numerous friends, have played in a weekly Friday morning ultimate Frisbee game that has run for some 25 years. Currently, I see a large adult yoga group in the park on Saturday mornings, along with three- and four-year-olds learning soccer skills. And, of course, there are the normally intensively used children's play structures and tennis courts on the east end of the park. I say "normally", because the pandemic may have created the impression that Norwood is underutilized. I assure you that this is a temporary lull in its normally heavy use.

While Norwood Local Park serves a diverse clientele, I don't think that a dog park addition is a particularly good fit here, for the following reasons:

1. **Loss of play space:** A fenced dog park will both divide and take away space from the existing playing fields, including baseball, soccer, and other sports. In normal times, these fields are in daily use, year-round.
2. **Noise:** I refer you to the recent experience of Chevy Chase Village, which built a dog park, and then dismantled it several months later. The commotion and disruption it caused for neighbors was completely unforeseen. See the Washington Post article from September 10, 2019: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/a-controversial-dog-park-that-divided-chevy-chase-will-be-dismantled/2019/09/09/9e3385e6-d321-11e9-9343-40db57cf6abd_story.html. Norwood is surrounded by single family houses, townhouses, and apartments, and the barking of dogs in a fenced play area would not be a happy experience for the neighbors. While the proposed location, which appears to be dead center in the park, is farthest away from the residences that surround it, the barking of dogs will still carry across the open space to the houses and apartments to the south and north.
3. **Unintended consequences:** While a local county park is open to all residents of Montgomery County, it exists in an already tightly developed area. As in the recent

experience of Chevy Chase Village, a dog park would likely become a magnet for people to bring their dogs who don't live in the area, as there are so few public dog parks around. As an attraction to non-local dog owners, the noise and congestion would be increased for the permanent neighbors, not to mention the increased vehicular traffic on Norwood Drive.

4. **Shortage of parking:** Sadly, there is too-little parking at Norwood. On a busy day, visitors fill up the limited parking lots, and overflow parking occurs on the landscaped areas, or in the adjacent neighborhood streets of Offutt Road, Ruffin Road, Stratford Road, and Norwood Drive.
5. **Cost:** Finally, the proposed half-million-dollar budget seems excessive, particularly at a time when tax revenues are down across the region, and county resources are needed for more pressing concerns.

I am a dog owner and dog lover, who walks his dog daily along the neighborhood streets and trails, as well as in Norwood Park (on-leash.) And while constructing a dog park at Norwood appears to offer an amenity to the neighborhood, overall, there appear to be more disadvantages than advantages. Thus, I am opposed to its construction.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss the matter further.

Sincerely,

Michael Steiner, AIA

MSKM ARCHITECTS

4838 Drummond Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Office: 202/337-4466
Mobile: 703/795-6717
Facsimile: 202/338-2555

From: [Jonathan Jones](#)
To: [Christie Christie](#)
Subject: RE: Revisited the park conceptual design?
Date: Friday, November 12, 2022 2:21:40 PM

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

Thanks, Christie.

Appreciate your getting back to me. I found the presentation very informative. Definitely quite a few opinions out there. Thank you.

I will plan to submit.

Thanks again.

Best regards,
Jonathan

From: [Joan Barron](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 11:10:44 AM

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

Thanks, will let the neighborhood know

On Nov 16, 2020, at 10:38 AM, Ciabotti, Christie
<christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org> wrote:

Hi Ms. Barron,

Thank you so much for bringing this to my attention. We will have it removed as soon as possible as Parks did not place the sign or markings.

Whatever is out there now is NOT the outline for the dog park. We are still collecting citizen input before we consider next steps. We have not set dimensions or an on-the-ground location yet. The plan presented was very much a concept idea as a point of departure for discussion.

Again, thank you. I am grateful for the Chevy Chase West eyes on the park.
Christie

From: Joan Barron <jmbarron479@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2020 9:19 PM
To: Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org>
Cc: SHelley Yeutter <vsyeutter@verizon.net>
Subject: Norwood Dog Park

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

Good evening,

Neighbors in Chevy Chase West have noticed a sign, with writing drawn in, and markings on an area of the park that seems to outline the perimeter of the proposed dog park. It doesn't seem quite right to us based on the map you shared during your presentation. Can you confirm that it is indeed the out line for the dog park?

Thanks much

From: [Hope Gleicher](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 2:52:28 PM

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

Thank you for your response. Much appreciated. I can only imagine the input you are receiving.

If you have ideas about who can deal with the walnut tree that is a hazard to anyone in my yard and is damaging our roof, please let me know. I have begged and pleaded for years.

Thank you, Hope Gleicher

From: [White, Anne \(Jan\) W.](#)
To: [Riley, Mike](#)
Cc: councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov; [MCP-Chair](#); [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Opposition to proposed dog park in Norwood Park
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 11:00:33 PM
Attachments: [Mike Riley dog park 11.16.20 signed.pdf](#)

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

Dear Mr. Riley:

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

Very truly yours,

Anne (Jan) W. White

Pasternak & Fidis, P.C.

Please note that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our offices are closed to the public. We are working remotely. We remain available to you via email, phone, and video conference. Please assist our staff by sending us your documents electronically when possible.

7735 Old Georgetown Road | Suite 1100 | Bethesda, MD 20814

T 301.656.8850 x 440 F 301.656.3053

janwhite@pasternakfidis.com

pasternakfidis.com | [bio](#) | [vCard](#) | [map](#)

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November 16, 2020

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

Re: Opposition to dog park in Norwood Park

Dear Mr. Riley:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Very truly yours,



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

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

From: [Garland, Hyojung](#)
To: [Coello, Catherine](#); [McCarthy, Caroline](#)
Cc: [Ciabotti, Christie](#); [Paul, Susanne](#); [Cole, Jai](#); [McManus, Patricia](#); [Frank, Andrew](#)
Subject: RE: design of proposed Norwood Dog Park and PPC policy
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:41:14 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Thanks, I am also forwarding this email to the project manager, Christie.

This is one of big project in the department so for your reference, I am including the project webpage below.

<https://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/norwood-local-park/>

From: Coello, Catherine <catherine.coello@mncppc-mc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:28 PM
To: McCarthy, Caroline <caroline.mccarthy@montgomeryplanning.org>; Garland, Hyojung <hyojung.garland@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: RE: design of proposed Norwood Dog Park and PPC policy

Thanks Caroline. I'll coordinate with PICs to make sure it goes to the right staff person/department.

Have a great evening!

Thanks,
Catherine

From: McCarthy, Caroline <caroline.mccarthy@montgomeryplanning.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:26 PM
To: Coello, Catherine <catherine.coello@mncppc-mc.org>; Garland, Hyojung <hyojung.garland@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: FW: design of proposed Norwood Dog Park and PPC policy

Hi Cathine and Hyojung,

I think this email should have gone to the Commissioner's office and Park Planning.

Thanks,
Carrie

From: Richard K Ashford <ashfordr@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:18 PM
To: McCarthy, Caroline <caroline.mccarthy@montgomeryplanning.org>
Subject: design of proposed Norwood Dog Park and PPC policy

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

Dear Commissioner:

I am concerned about the proposed plan for Norwood Park and about the Dog Park concept now in use. I am a Chevy Chase resident writing to you in your capacity as a Trustee of MNCPPC with policy oversight. You may know that the Commission has a rule that no dog may be allowed to be "at large" (off-leash) within Montgomery County. This policy does not seem well thought-out because it logically means that it is *illegal for dogs to chase balls*. The designers have a mandated budget to locate dog parks in all areas of the county, especially where there are large population concentrations.

While Norwood currently functions beautifully as a recreational spot for dogs, children, families, walkers and sportspeople of all types, there is a project to install a 17,000 sq. ft. dog exercise area with 4 ft chain-link fence in the middle of an area (see attachment) now used for volleyball, soccer, football and frisbee practice, as well as a 4th of July celebration which has taken place for the last 18 years .

The choice of location is dictated by the need for level ground, and the designers prefer to use a pavement of Crushed Stone because it offers the best drainage in clay soil. The likelihood that dogs will get stone into their paws, lick them and ingest it is of considerable concern. The loss of recreational space in the center of the park is regrettable, but necessary in their view.

An additional problem is access. Parking in Norwood has been inadequate for some years, with most spaces full at mid-day and afternoon, and about 15 cars parked illegally on grass when multiple sports events are taking place. Although the planners say that in future years the parking area will be redesigned, it seems impossible that it could do more than accommodate current use. The proposed design is called an "*Urban Dog Park*", as opposed to a "*Regional*" one, such as Cabin John. *Since Bethesda is urban, people will only walk their dogs to the park, not drive*. As a daily park user, I can say that this is not correct, since I drive about 20% of the time, even though Norwood is only 15 minutes from my house. If such a project were installed, it is obvious that more people from the area, including DC, would drive there, and end up parking on residential streets in Bethesda and Somerset.

Of course, no one likes stepping in dog poop, and children and others can be frightened by dogs running up to them. This is why many dog owners including myself carry multiple plastic bags for soil collection, and regularly teach the difference between a friendly dog (tail up, waving 'Hello') and a dangerous dog (tail straight back -> put hands in pockets and back away slowly). However, these two difficulties do not seem to call for the elimination of ball-chasing. I think the problem is caused by owners who are unlikely to change their behavior whether the Exercise Area is installed or not. Spending \$500,000 on this, when regular maintenance such as aerating the soil is being eliminated seems wrong. I note that the City of Rockville has a program to evaluate dogs, and those determined to be no threat are given license for off-leashing.

I sympathize with the members of MNPPC who have produced this design. I am sure that they are well-trained and dedicated public servants who are expert at designing dog parks. And they are needed in places where there are large concentrations of high-rise buildings and scant open space. The area around White Flint seems to be a perfect example. But are the dog parks needed everywhere? Policy dictates that 'amenities' will be provided in equitable fashion to all residents. What if the 'amenities' are not welcomed? The problem is that MNPPC has no budget for acquisition of land and can only place their structures in county-owned parks.

Can you move to see that MNPPC is given funds to purchase areas for dog parks where they will be welcomed by local residents and not resisted by dog owners? Animal Services in Montgomery and Prince George's need funds to identify and mark friendly dogs who pose no threat to the public.

My own dog is a 20 lb. Corgi-Pomeranian mix and as a herding dog he needs lots of exercise to run and chase. We typically spend 2 hours a day at Norwood or Cabin John. He actually plays soccer, treating a ball as if it is a small round cow to be prodded and directed. He loves to play with children and vice-versa.



(I let his leash trail after him, but don't hold it.)

My sincere thanks for your attention to a lengthy letter and a complex problem,

Richard Ashford, 4417 Walsh St, Chevy Chase, MD 20815-6007. 301.661.6741

From: [WIRELESS CALLER](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Voice Mail (2 minutes and 31 seconds)
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 9:18:29 AM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

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

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

You received a voice mail from [WIRELESS CALLER](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

From: [Joan Barron](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [Riley, Mike](#); councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov; [Aaron Kraut](#)
Subject: Fwd: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 8:04:57 PM

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

Christie,

After mulling this over we wished to make it clear that although we stressed in this letter that the location within the Park has gotten quite a bit of opposition there are many neighbors who would NOT like to see a Dog Park in Norwood under any circumstances.

Again please reach out with any questions.

Best,

Joan Barron
Shelley Yeutter
CCWNA

From: vsyeutter@verizon.net <vsyeutter@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:44 PM
To: 'Christie.ciabotti@montgomerycountyparks.org' <Christie.ciabotti@montgomerycountyparks.org>
Cc: Joan Barron <jmbarron479@gmail.com>; 'Van Yeutter' <v_yeutter@cargill.com>
Subject: Norwood Dog Park

Hello again Christie,

Joan and I wanted to reach out to you again as co-presidents of Chevy Chase West following the meeting last Tuesday. As you might imagine, there was a lot of “chatter” and “heightened concern” about the dog park plans following the presentation. As you undoubtedly are by now aware, people in our neighborhood of Chevy Chase West feel Norwood is already significantly overused (it is consistently packed on afternoons and weekends) and parking is a serious problem. Still, what is very clear in the aftermath of last Tuesday’s presentation is that folks reacted strongly to THE PROPOSED LOCATION of the park. We want to be in good communication with you and respect the fact that you are doing your job to try to meet a demand for dog parks

while listening to the concerns of the community. That is why we wanted to bring this to your attention.

We want you to be aware that there are groups forming that are in strong opposition to the dog park. While we don't wish for folks to get overly aggressive while this process plays out, there's a sense that if opposition is not aggressive enough, the plans will move forward as they are, and it will be too late. Once the park is built, that's that and the park is forever altered. There is a fear that despite this public input process time period, the decision has largely been made that Norwood is the next site location for a dog park in southern Montgomery County.

Again, **we believe the bulk of the strong, negative feelings are coming from the proposed central location of the dog park, and that location severely damages the visual beauty and openness of Norwood**- central characteristics of Norwood that make it so valued and precious to our community and its patrons. There is also great concern about the price tag and the ability of Parks to maintain the area long term, again, adding an unsightly space to what was open, green space enjoyed regularly by many.

You noted in the meeting the great effort that would be made to blend the dog structure into the environment and preserve that openness to the extent possible. However, no matter how nice a fence, (and a possible shelter, which again, many oppose) will be gone if placed where currently planned. Many citizens expected the dog park to be tucked back in a more discreet location farther away from the top portion of the park that is used so extensively. We would like to implore you to revisit options on the lower end of the park, even though I know there are many considerations and requirements to take into account.

Thanks for your attention to this important matter. Please let us know if you have any interest in meeting or having a phone call. We are very familiar with the space and how it is used.

Best regards,

Shelley Yeutter
Joan Barron
Co-presidents, CCWNA

From: [Kate Tapley](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [MCP-Chair](#); [Anderson, Casey](#); [Cichy, Gerald](#); [Verma, Partap](#); [Fani-Gonzalez, Natali](#); [Patterson, Tina](#)
Subject: Dog run in Norwood Park is definitely not a good idea
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 4:43:49 PM

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

Dear Ms. Ciabotti

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

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

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

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

Katherine Gonzales-Tapley
4811 Morgan Drive
Chevy Chase, MD

From: vsyeutter@verizon.net
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#); ["Joan Barron"](#)
Subject: RE: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 11:24:24 AM

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

Hi Christie,

Thank you for clarifying the email address issue on my end. I think I've got it straight now!
Thanks for taking all this in and we hope to stay in touch.

Best,
Shelley

From: [marilyn.marcosson](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood meeting
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020 3:43:36 PM

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

Hi Christie, just a follow up note. There was several back and forth comments about stakes in the ground and line markings. You or one of your colleagues said no one from Parks had put them up and you would look into it. This afternoon I had a conversation in the park with a gentleman who said he had put them up. He based his staking on the map you presented on the town hall web meeting. He used as his guide the trees shown in your representation. I don't know how much

your drawing was to scale nor could I judge the accuracy of his stakes. To get my own idea of what 18,000 sq ft looked like I paced off the 2 tennis courts at Norwood and his staked area looked bigger.

The same gentleman asked if I wanted crushed stone as the surface. I said I thought it was likely to be mulch such as used at Cabin John. With seeming assurance he said, "no, because of drainage they would use the stone. Cabin John has mountain soil and Norwood is different."

On another note I found the survey question on surfaces confusing. Was 1 the highest rating and 5 the least; or the reverse? I think that is the only way concrete becomes the preferred surface which is the preference on the results posted as of now. Good luck with the project and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Best, Marilyn Marcosson

Marilyn Marcosson
4604 Davidson Dr
Chevy Chase, MD
C) 202-390-9161

From: [Jim Roumell](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Park Proposed Dog Park
Date: Saturday, November 21, 2020 4:20:33 PM

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

Dear Ms. Ciabotti-

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my input.

Jim Roumell

James C. Roumell

President

Roumell Asset Management, LLC

2 Wisconsin Circle, Suite 640

Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Phone: (301) 656-8500 x301

Fax: (301) 656-8501

www.roumellasset.com

Roumell Asset Management, LLC is a registered investment adviser. The information contained herein is intended for the recipient of this email only. Please be advised that all investments are subject to risks. Past performance is not an indicator of future results. It should not be assumed that any of the investment recommendations or decisions we make in the future will be profitable. Roumell Asset Management, LLC and any third parties listed herein are separate and unaffiliated and are not responsible for each other's policies, products or services.

From: [Pat Jackson](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Follow up on those stakes/outline + a Q
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:35:02 AM
Attachments: [Exploring alternate dog park layout 12-03-20.pdf](#)

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

Hi Christie,

I hope you and your family had a great Thanksgiving.

I wanted to write for 2 reasons. First, one of our group members happened to meet an older man (70s?) who walks a small white dog who said that he had put up the stakes and drew the outline. I've asked the group member if the man said WHY he had done so (waiting to hear back). The man said that he typically goes to the park to walk his dog in the afternoon. So don't know if that info helps...

Second, we're having our own conversations about a follow up to Mr. Anderson. When we last spoke, I mentioned to you the suggestion one person had of fencing in the area around the lower, 2nd ball field and then posting off leash hours for that enclosed space so that the ball field could also be used for teams. I think I recall you noting that might be an alternative that could be considered. My Q today is whether you could UNOFFICIALLY indicate whether that LOCATION for a dog park would be possible within your planning parameters of distances from homes, playgrounds, etc. I'm not asking you to comment on whether an arrangement that involves specifying certain hours for off leash use is feasible or not.

Just so I'm clear, I'm attaching a map with the area I'm talking about.

Thanks much,
Pat



Possible off-leash
area for select
hours each day

From: [Elaine Akst](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#); [Riley, Mike](#); Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov; cindy.gibson@montgomerycountymd.gov; [Howerton, Leslye](#)
Cc: [Alan Seifert](#); [Reed Dewey](#); [Jmpbp](#); [barbara fredericks](#); [Sylvia Fubini](#); [Ellen Grant](#)
Subject: Discussion and extension of decision on dog park at Norwood Local Park
Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:54:51 AM

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

Dear Ms. Ciabotti,

We are a concerned group of citizens writing to you regarding the proposal for construction of a dog park in the center of Norwood Local Park. We are providing a copy of this correspondence to Leslye Howerton, Masterplan Supervisor for Bethesda, Michael Riley, Director of Parks, and at the request of his office, to Council Member Andrew Friedson and his chief of staff, Cindy Gibson. For the reasons stated below, we are requesting that the current December 31 deadline for participating in the relevant survey or to otherwise comment on the proposal be extended.

The current deadline does not provide adequate time for the community and affected businesses to become informed of, analyze and comment on the multiple serious issues raised by the dog park proposal. The first occasion for the community to become informed about the specific identification of Norwood Local Park as the site of a dog park was on November 11 during a virtual town hall with Parks staff. At that event, Parks staff presented the proposal as if it was a fait accompli and provided little or no information regarding many critical issues, including the following:

- preservation of the only open large space for recreational activities in Norwood;
- impact on the existing uses of the open space in Norwood, including current use by the two local schools, which themselves have very limited outdoor space;
- maintenance and parking problems resulting from current and future overuse of the Park as a whole; and
- possible alternative sites that could avoid the problems that placement of a dog park in Norwood would create.

The need for an extension is made even more compelling by the combination of the limitations imposed by the Covid pandemic and our being in the midst of the holiday season. On the other hand, we are unaware of any necessity for treating the dog park proposal for Norwood Local Park as a time sensitive or urgent matter. We need to better understand the process for making a decision and reviewing the decision on this proposal. As members of a community directly affected by this proposal, we have special insights on the use of the Park

that would provide a valuable input into that process.

Assuming that this reasonable request for an extension is granted, we would like to take advantage of the additional time to establish a substantive dialogue with Parks staff regarding the problems raised by the proposed placement of the dog park at Norwood Local Park.

Thank you for your consideration. We respectfully request that you provide us with your response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,
The Keep Norwood Green Group

Elaine Akst, 4609 Norwood Drive
Reed Dewey, 4618 DeRussey Pkwy
Barbara Fredericks, 4606 Chevy Chase Blvd
Sylvia Fubini, 4708 Chevy Chase Blvd
Ellen Grant, 6506 Stratford Rd
Jim Petricks, 4606 Chevy Chase Blvd
Alan Seifert, 4700 Hunt Ave

From: [AKumar](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 4:28:22 PM

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

Dear Christie,

As a resident of Chevy Chase, in the Town of Somerset, and as an owner of a dog, I would like to express my concern about the proposed project. Its negative impact on the community and the neighborhood is of deep concern. Even as a dog owner, I am not in favor of the project.

Thank you
Angie,
Dorset Avenue
Chevy Chase

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

Hi Christie,

I hope you and your family had a great Thanksgiving.

I wanted to write for 2 reasons. First, one of our group members happened to meet an older man (70s?) who walks a small white dog who said that he had put up the stakes and drew the outline. I've asked the group member if the man said WHY he had done so (waiting to hear back). The man said that he typically goes to the park to walk his dog in the afternoon. So don't know if that info helps...

Second, we're having our own conversations about a follow up to Mr. Anderson. When we last spoke, I mentioned to you the suggestion one person had of fencing in the area around the lower, 2nd ball field and then posting off leash hours for that enclosed space so that the ball field could also be used for teams. I think I recall you noting that might be an alternative that could be considered. My Q today is whether you could UNOFFICIALLY indicate whether that LOCATION for a dog park would be possible within your planning parameters of distances from homes, playgrounds, etc. I'm not asking you to comment on whether an arrangement that involves specifying certain hours for off leash use is feasible or not.

Just so I'm clear, I'm attaching a map with the area I'm talking about.

Thanks much,

Pat

From: [Mary Cahill](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Dog park
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 6:38:45 PM

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

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

From: [Ruthann Bates](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#); [Riley, Mike](#); councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov; [Marc Korman 2](#); [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: ccwboard@groups.io
Subject: Proposed Dog Park in Norwood Local Park
Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:26:14 PM
Attachments: [NorwoodParkDogPark.12082020.docx](#)

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

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

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Ruthann Bates
Secretary, CCWNA



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

December 8, 2020

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

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

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

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

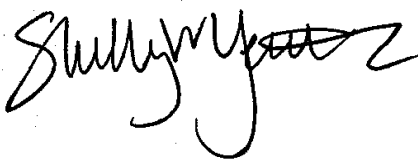
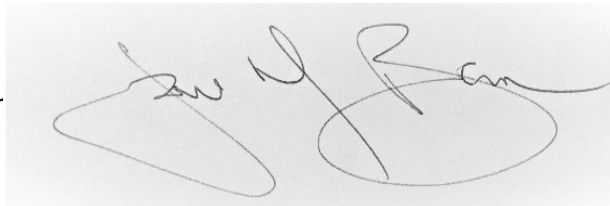
the proposed dog park area on a regular basis year round. The very space of the proposed dog park is the one sought for a variety of K-12 sports practices, school field days, organized Ultimate Frisbee League practice, and community-based Frisbee, yoga, campouts, picnics, Turkey Bowl football, Fourth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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelley Yeutter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan Barron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Joan Barron and Shelley Yeutter, Co-Presidents

From: [ELAINE AKST](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Voice Mail (1 minute and 1 second)
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 2:17:11 PM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

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

Hi Christie, this is Elaine Akst calling a my emailed you an other people in the parks permit numerous times and haven't gotten a response since your meeting which was in early November. As you know I'm against the current plan for the dog Park in Norwood Park and we have sent a pretty detailed letter explaining what some of the issues are. An requesting an extension just to understand some of the decision making process whether there were site studies of you switch. It sounds like there weren't. And just to kind of understand the process with the Park tab, I would really love to have a conversation with you, but it's really hard because I'm not getting any responses from anyone. If you could call me back I would appreciate it. My phone number is 202-302-2425 and that's my cell you can call are text Thank you bye bye.

You received a voice mail from [ELAINE AKST](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

From: pospress@aol.com
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 2:22:42 PM

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

Dear Ms Ciabotti--

Building a dog park there is one of the worst ideas I've heard this year. And it's already December.

I've heard neighborhood chitchat that there's a questionnaire to fill out somewhere on your website; sorry I cannot find it or I would sear the screen with my remarks-- about the burden on traffic/parking it will create, the visual blot; the loss of real open space; the attraction of folks from elsewhere to this neighborhood park.

Count me as a VOTE AGAINST!

Phil Kopper

4610 DeRussey Pkwy

301 652 2383

Philip Kopper
Posterity Press, Inc.

From: [Elaine Akst](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#); councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov; [Riley, Mike](#)
Cc: [Alan Seifert](#); [Reed Dewey](#); [Jpmpbp](#); [barbara fredericks](#); [Ellen Grant](#); [Sylvia Fubini](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood follow-up
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:27:35 PM
Attachments: [dog park extension request.docx](#)

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

Thank you, Christie.

In addition to the issues raised in the earlier letter from the Keep Norwood Green group (attached here as reference) as part of our need for an extension, we would like the Parks to address whether there has been a site use study during normal busy times of park use (afternoons and weekends that are not during the holiday and bad-weather season or during a pandemic when crowds are unable to gather).

We would also like to know if there has been any discussion or work with the individuals in your department who are actively working to have Norwood Park designated as an arboretum. This work has been on-going with members of our community, and the historic nature of the park and the specimen trees within it should be recognized as worthy of protection. That effort seems to be counter to paving a large area of the park.

The survey results do not indicate a community desire for a dog park. However, as stated in the earlier letter, we do not understand the decision making process, and hope to learn more about that. We certainly think that community input should be taken into account, and not merely a formality on the way to making an independent decision.

I look forward to future discussion,
Elaine Akst

We are a concerned group of citizens writing to you regarding the proposal for construction of a dog park in the center of Norwood Local Park. We are providing a copy of this correspondence to Michael Riley, Director of Parks, and at the request of his office, to Council Member Andrew Friedson. For the reasons stated below, we are requesting that the current December 31 deadline for participating in the relevant survey or to otherwise comment on the proposal be extended.

The current deadline does not provide adequate time for the community and affected businesses to become informed of, analyze and comment on the multiple serious issues raised by the dog park proposal. The first occasion for the community to become informed about the specific identification of Norwood Local Park as the site of a dog park was on November 11 during a virtual town hall with Parks staff. At that event, Parks staff presented the proposal as if it was a fait accompli and provided little or no information regarding many critical issues, including the following:

- preservation of the only open large space for recreational activities in Norwood;
- impact on the existing uses of the open space in Norwood, including current use by the two local schools, which themselves have very limited outdoor space;
- maintenance and parking problems resulting from current and future overuse of the Park as a whole; and
- possible alternative sites that could avoid the problems that placement of a dog park in Norwood would create.

The need for an extension is made even more compelling by the combination of the limitations imposed by the Covid pandemic and our being in the midst of the holiday season. On the other hand, we are unaware of any necessity for treating the dog park proposal for Norwood Local Park a time sensitive or urgent matter. We need to better understand the process for making a decision and reviewing the decision on this proposal. As members of a community directly affected by this proposal, we have special insights on the use of the Park that would provide a valuable input into that process.

Assuming that this reasonable request for an extension is granted, we would like to take advantage of the additional time to establish a substantive dialogue with Parks staff regarding the problems raised by the proposed placement of the dog park at Norwood Local Park.

Thank you for your consideration. We respectfully request that you provide us with your response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely, The Keep Norwood Green Group

Elaine Akst, 4609 Norwood Drive
Reed Dewey, 4618 DeRussey Pkwy
Barbara Fredericks, 4606 Chevy Chase Blvd
Sylvia Fubini, 4708 Chevy Chase Blvd

Ellen Grant, 6506 Stratford Rd
Jim Petricks, 4606 Chevy Chase Blvd
Alan Seifert, 4700 Hunt Ave

From: [Josh Sterling](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Park - Dog Parks and Equity
Date: Friday, December 18, 2020 8:41:36 AM

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

Christie,

Good morning. I meant to write earlier but had been holding out hope for a response from you. I work in government myself, and I'm a firm believer that those who serve the public are accountable to it.

Especially so at the local level.

The fact that you've not responded to this note — even to acknowledge receipt — is distressing. It makes me feel like the public outreach on this dog park proposal is a charade, that you've made up your mind, and that you're going to do it because you can. That's not government; that's thuggery.

I am so distressed, in fact, that I plan to take my concerns directly to the County Council, the County Executive, my state delegation in Annapolis, and Governor Hogan. The subject line will likely be, "Local Park Official Pursues Discriminatory Projects, Ignores Public Concerns".

I regret it has come to this, but your blatant disregard for public comment is an utter derogation of your duties.

Best,

Joshua Sterling

+1.202.841.6384 (M)

+1.202.418.6056 (O)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 10, 2020, at 7:15 PM, Josh Sterling <jbsterling@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Ciabotti,

Good evening. I am a proud resident of the Chevy Chase West neighborhood, which abuts Norwood Park. To be candid with you, I was quite alarmed to learn of plans for exploring a potential dog park at Norwood Park.

The reason is quite simple: I think it is important for all of us in such a privileged

community to live our values. So, I am gravely concerned that the introduction of a dog park would do much to upset the social and racial equity of a public space that should be available to all.

To this point, it is my understanding from available literature that dog parks are most often frequented by more wealthy community members who have access to their own vehicles and can travel to congregate at them en masse. Doing so can crowd out other, less privileged community members — both by a reduction in “people space” and by restricting use of facilities such as benches, tables, and parking spaces. So reserving a space that, to my understanding, will most likely be dominated by fellow one-percenters seems likely to undermine gravely the important equity characteristics of a wide open space for all.

As you are no doubt aware, Norwood Park borders not only my tony neighborhood but also a number of condominium and apartment buildings that sit just off Bradley Boulevard. Residents of those buildings — many of whom are recent immigrants to the United States, including from Africa and Latin America — only have the Park for immediate access to green space. Reducing that space to favor the canine proclivities of rich white people would no doubt be off-putting to them, and understandably so.

(Also: While not my main point, I understand that the image of “dogs running loose” can be discomfiting to certain minority groups that have been subjected to authoritarian regimes that deploy dogs as instruments of intimidation. Not a good message for a public park, however unintended!)

The short of it is this: Very wealthy people like myself don’t need dedicated spaces to hobnob with our pooches. And certainly not at the expense of undermining what should be a safe, welcoming, and equitable space for all.

Thank you for your attention to this note. Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss any points.

Best,

Joshua Sterling

+1.202.841.6384 (M)

+1.202.418.6056 (O)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [LIZZIO BREN](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Voice Mail (48 seconds)
Date: Friday, December 18, 2020 4:50:11 PM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

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

Hi Christie, this is Bren Lizzio calling. I'm sorry we haven't. We haven't spoken. I really liked the presentation for the dog Park in Norwood Park. I'm little concerned that. I think the problem is is that people don't know the difference between you know jurisdictions and people who owns what land the different public lands and the municipalities. Anyway, call me. I'll be around this weekend or any time. Oh oh to 669-4999. Thank you.

You received a voice mail from [LIZZIO BREN](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

From: [Bren Lizzio](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Dog Park Progress
Date: Saturday, December 19, 2020 12:22:34 AM

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

Hi Christie,

Sorry I did not contact you after the Nov 10 presentation. I hope things are progressing with Norwood Park. Please call me any time at 202-669-4999. I will plan to call you Monday morning.

Best regards,

Bren

BREN LIZZIO
Realtor® GRI SRES
Licensed in DC & MD
202-669-4999 or text
Evers & Co Real Estate
A Long & Foster Company
202 364 1700
20 Chevy Chase Circle
Washington DC 20015

From: [barbara fredericks](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov; [Elaine Akst](#); [Riley, Mike](#)
Subject: Norwood Park
Date: Monday, December 21, 2020 1:02:41 PM

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

I am a member of a group of citizens, mostly living adjacent to Norwood Park, who have sent you a number of specific questions regarding the proposed dog park. Elaine Akst has shared your response to our last email, dated December 15, in which you stated that you have been receiving a large amount of correspondence on the proposal, but your response failed to address our questions. Although we appreciate the fact that you did acknowledge the receipt of our recent letter, we are very disappointed that your acknowledgment of our letter contained no response to any of our very specific questions and concerns, even the very simple questions about our request for an extension for the survey, a description of the decision making process, and a request for a meeting. We submitted these requests some time ago and were told you would be the person to whom we should address our questions and concerns, but frankly none of us has received any substantive information in response to our valid questions. Also, at the virtual meeting in November, you indicated that you would in fact supply more information upon request. If for some reason you are not able to respond to our group, we would appreciate hearing to whom we should address our requests. We continue to believe that the neighborhood has valuable information which would contribute to the decision making process and cannot understand why there has been no effort to respond to our repeated requests to supply that input. We feel that those of us who are most affected by this decision have not had the opportunity to have any input into the potential serious impacts of this project.

Barbara Fredericks

From: [Elaine Akst](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#); [Riley, Mike](#); councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov
Cc: [barbara fredericks](#); [Bowers, Shelby](#); [Reed Dewey](#); [Alan Seifert](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Park
Date: Monday, December 21, 2020 3:10:11 PM

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

Hi Christie,

I know that Shelby has been in contact with another neighbor, Erica Antonelli, to ensure that the dog park planners are aware of the work that has been to designate Norwood Park as an arboretum.

Given the slow nature of the work and all of the people involved, can you explain why you have set a communications deadline for December 31? We understand that many people may be taking time off for the holidays, or perhaps are quarantining and unable to work. We are under the exact same restraints, and feel that the Parks Department is trying to rush through a decision when the people they are serving are least able to be a part of the process. It seems highly unfair to not answer any questions and then shut the discussion down 10 days from now. You must understand that from our perspective, it looks as though you do not want us to be involved and that you do not value the opinion of the people and local businesses that use the park on a regular basis.

Since the Parks Department itself set the rushed schedule, it seems that the Parks Department should have collected the necessary data to answer basic questions from residents. If you have not done the use studies, are unaware of conservation efforts, and have not spoken to the schools, businesses and residents that use that space, then the timeline that you set makes absolutely no sense.

I look forward to a continued, and meaningful discussion on your plans.

Elaine Akst

From: [fromarcticnode](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [Amanda Farber](#)
Subject: Re small dog park at Lynbrook Park?
Date: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 8:19:58 PM

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

Hi,

There are quite a few dogs that get together to play at Lynbrook in the mornings, and it would be just fantastic if we could develop a fenced in area on the side where dogs could play without having the owners worry about their dog run out in the nearby streets. To have dogs fenced would also make some other park visitors more comfortable.

It could maybe/ probably be a public- private partnership if it would be easier to get this project accepted by the county?

I think most dog owners prefer to walk their dogs in the neighborhood, and to take them for some play and for a run in the park . Very few would be interested in driving to a dog park in another neighborhood, as it takes time, and the traffic is too busy already around Bethesda. To be able to walk to your park with the dog, and meet up with neighbors is nice and fosters a feeling of a community.

Lynbrook park is quite big, and most of it is just open space with not many visitors besides the Playground that often is filled with kids, and the tennis courts that also tend to be very busy. I think the area between the tennis court and the cul-de-sac on Maple ave would be perfect. It has many trees, and it is to the side. In addition, I never see any people walk there.

In addition, due to the COVID situation, there are now so many more dogs now in the neighborhood.

All the best,
and hope for a positive response

doris toolanen

4507 W. Virginia ave,
Bethesda
Lewistoolanen@gmail.com
mobile 301-806-4598

From: [Elaine Akst](#)
To: [Bowers, Shelby](#); [Ciabotti, Christie](#); [Riley, Mike](#)
Cc: [barbara.fredericks](#); [Reed Dewey](#); [Alan Seifert](#); [MCP-CustomerService](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Park
Date: Monday, December 21, 2020 4:08:53 PM
Attachments: [dog_park_survey_comments.docx](#)

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

Thank you, Shelby, for your quick response. I do appreciate it.

While I know that the Parks Department did some kind of survey in 2019, that can hardly be considered notification of the current dog park plans. If I recall, the question of a dog park was not specific and mixed in with questions of skate parks and other Bethesda plans. The signage in September gave no information on the prime location or cost of the dog park, so again, that did not elicit comments. It appears that the vast majority of people waited until after the public meeting to make their comments, because that is the only point at which we had enough information. However, giving the timing and the fact that many schools and businesses are virtual this year, we have been unable to get in touch with some of the people that use that space.

What we really need to understand is the process on your end. There are hundreds of comments on the Parks website (70% against the park) and we have no idea if that Parks Department put that up to check a required "community input" box, or if someone is actually going to read and take those concerns into consideration.

The most thoughtful, well-researched comments (and I do not know the author) checks the sources cited for all of the Parks' cherry-picked claims on dog parks and references the Parks' own documents. Some of these claims appear to be from veterinarians but are from a special interest group, other claims are directly refuted by the US Census Bureau, some violate principals of Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning commission and others contradict Montgomery Parks' own statements on stewardship of natural and historic resources. I am attaching that letter here, for your convenience. The lack of formatting is due to the survey comment box structure.

These are comments that we wish to be addressed - we really want to know that the Parks Department has considered these factors and has listened to the community rather than set up a survey during a winter of pandemic, ignored emails and then went ahead with their previous plans.

Thanks again for taking the time to get back to me. I really do appreciate it.

Take care,
Elaine

From: [William Center](#)
To: [Anderson, Casey](#); [Riley, Mike](#); [Ciabotti, Christie](#); marc.korman@house.state.md.us;
councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject: "No" to a dog park in the Norwood Local Park
Date: Thursday, December 31, 2020 4:57:46 PM

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

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

The overwhelming number of participants on that call did not want this dog park and numerous issues about it have been raised. I wish to highlight that many of the objections come from dog owners themselves, who are not only against the proposal but if it went ahead would not use the facility. If this project proceeds, it will ruin a precious resource and would only satisfy the needs of a distinct minority.

What draws people to Norwood Local Park are the uninterrupted views and the possibilities that open spaces provide. The proposed dog park would have a chilling effect on this attraction. It would be for a single purpose, used intermittently, and it would nullify the opportunities this space provides for any other activity.

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

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

Respectfully,

William Center

4623 Morgan Drive

Chevy Chase, Md 20815

From: [Jacqueline Crawley](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#); [Riley, Mike](#); [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: 100% opposed to a dog park in Norwood Park
Date: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 9:59:00 PM

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

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

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

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

With sincere appreciation,

Jacqueline Crawley
6203 Stratford Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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

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

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

We support the Montgomery County strategic priority of establishing green space in the lower county. Much successful effort has been invested by Montgomery County in preserving open space in the upper county. Down county, there is significantly less green space and therefore, it becomes more important to preserve what little is left. Given the density of the lower county, significant green space is now and will be for the foreseeable future, at a premium. Norwood Park's open green space is a unique and

treasured asset benefiting the entire Bethesda-Chevy Chase and lower-county region. The community benefit of this green space would be forever altered by the construction of a fenced-in, mulch-surfaced space for dogs nearly one-third the size of a football field, right at its heart. This construction would permanently disrupt and diminish the present natural beauty and multi-use functionality of this cherished space, and would contradict the very purpose of Parks' mission "to improve the quality of life for all citizens."

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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

From: [Celesta Jurkovich](#)
To: [Riley, Mike](#)
Cc: [MCP-Chair: Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Comment on proposed Norwood Park Dog Park
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:26:04 PM

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

Dear Mr. Riley:

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

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

The 17- acre park is already very popular because it has many amenities (2 playgrounds, 5 tennis courts, a lighted basketball court, 2 softball fields, a historic multi-purpose building which the Parks Department rents for birthday parties, family gatherings and other events. It also houses a pre-school and has walking/biking trails. In addition, permits are available for scheduled field use by well-organized soccer and football leagues.) Besides permitted uses, space between the sites requiring permits was regularly used by teams who "squatted" on available space for practices, increasing the park usage many times. The open space is also well used for non-organized activity such as frisbee, kite flying, picnicking, and summer camps, and even overnight campouts which were an annual end of school event for our CCWNA community (and which are available to other communities).

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.

Celesta Jurkovich

From: [MCP-DogParks](#)
To: [james gagnier](#); [MCP-DogParks](#)
Cc: [MCP-CustomerService](#); [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: RE: Funding for dog parks
Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 4:30:12 PM

Hello, James,

Thank you for your email. We appreciate you sharing these thoughts with us. I have cc'd our Customer Service office and the project manager for the proposed Norwood Dog Park. They can help answer additional questions about when and how our budgets are created and allocated.

The Suitability Study for Dog Parks project wrapped up in June 2019 and you can find more information about it [here](#).

Thank you for reaching out and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Susanne
Park Planning and Stewardship Division

From: james gagnier <jmichaelgagnier@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 5:51 PM
To: MCP-DogParks <dogparks@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Funding for dog parks

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

We seriously object to the funding of any dog parks in Montgomery County, especially as planned in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area. We have many people in need, made considerably worse by the pandemic. Let us take care of our people.

We also love dogs, but the responsibility for their welfare (which is considerable) is with the owners, not the county. Maybe a dog tax on individual owners could be levied to pay for this type of project.

Thanks for your consideration of our opinion,

J. Michael Gagnier and Theresa Sherrod
4104 Warner Street
Kensington, MD 20895

From: [barbara fredericks](#)
To: [MCP-CustomerService](#); [Riley, Mike](#)
Cc: [Ciabotti, Christie](#); [MCP-Parks](#); [Elaine Akst](#)
Subject: Re: Proposed Dog Park at Norwood Local Park CRM:0237139
Date: Monday, January 11, 2021 11:11:33 AM

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

Dear Mr. Riley,

Thank you for your December 22 response to our earlier request made on behalf of ourselves and other concerned neighbors for information and input concerning the proposal for a dog park at Norwood Local Park. As we think you are aware, many of us have been seeking more information and input concerning the plan since the November 11th meeting in which the plans for the park were first shown to the community. After our requests for an extension, we heard that the public survey would be extended for two weeks, and we applaud that decision.

However, our many other questions and our requests for information and a meeting have gone unanswered. In your December 22 response, you state that our “feedback” has been shared with the “project team” for their “review and consideration.” While we appreciate that action, what we really would like is answers to our many questions and a chance to have a meaningful dialogue about our concerns. Based on your response, it appears that we may not be afforded an opportunity to present valuable information to you about our concerns, to receive responses to our requests for information, or to in any way have a dialogue with the Parks Department before you present your proposal to the Planning Board. We urge you to reconsider that position, as we believe a dialogue could be fruitful and avoid the need to present these issues for the first time before the Planning Board.

As you acknowledge in your December 22 email, the

community was not notified of the Norwood Dog Park concept plan until September of 2020, and the specifics of the dog park proposal were not presented to the community until the November meeting. The November meeting was not conducted in a way where actual citizen input was solicited or where most of the specific questions asked by citizens were answered. Although questions were posed in the Chat Box, most of these were never addressed, and the few that were addressed were either answered vaguely or cherry-picked to support the proposal. Many of the questions on critical issues such as current overall park usage and maintenance problems were addressed by stating that this was not part of the presenters' mandate and would have to be addressed by others, without specifying who could actually answer those questions or the procedure for obtaining those answers. There was a general statement that the specific questions would be answered in the future, but this never occurred. Therefore, in the hope that an exchange of information might yet occur, we are again asking that you respond to the following questions and concerns:

- 1. Have there been any studies of the current or past overall usage amounts and usage patterns of Norwood Park, particularly in the area now designated for the dog park? If so, can we obtain a copy of those studies? (We think any examination of the park usage will show that this is already an overused park and that current facilities and maintenance are suffering.)**
- 2. If there have been no studies on the current usage of the park, has there been any attempt to determine where those displaced from the dog park area will be able to go to continue their activities? (The representatives appeared not to know about the other uses of that area by the local elementary school, which is in walking distance to the Park and has the least amount of outdoor space of any school in**

the County, or the local high school, whose teams need the extra space for practices, or that the local Community has frequent neighborhood events in that very space, not to mention informal pick-up games of all kinds whenever the weather is good.)

3. Does the proposed location of the dog park actually meet the county standards for distance from residences and from the tot playground? Or have those already been compromised? According to the Site Suitability Study for Dog Parks which included the criteria used to select dog park sites in southern Montgomery County, dog parks should be at least 65' or greater from playgrounds to minimize potential conflicts. In addition, dog parks should ideally be 200' from homes to minimize noise transfer. The open town hall discussion of the planned parameters of the dog park at Norwood Park presented at the November 11 meeting puts the large dog area only 50' from the tot playground and the small dog area only 130' from the closest contiguous house.

4. Have there been studies of the already overcrowded parking situation at Norwood Park and in the surrounding neighborhoods and/or recommendations for addressing the parking situation? Have there been estimates of the effect of the dog park on the parking situation? If so, can we obtain this information?

5. Has there been an analysis of the current maintenance situation at Norwood or of efforts to address current maintenance issues? Has there been an analysis of the affect of the dog park on maintenance at Norwood? Is the current maintenance budget for Norwood considered adequate? Would it be increased to address a dog park? Will there be a separate dog park maintenance budget or schedule?

6. Have the current severe drainage problems in the park been addressed and has the effect of a dog park with large additional hard surfaces, dirt or gravel areas on those

drainage issues been considered?

7. How does the proposed location of the dog park affect other Parks' initiatives to preserve and expand green space, particularly in congested urban areas like Bethesda/Chevy Chase? For example, has this proposal been evaluated for its affect on the Little Falls Watershed Project? Are the Parks department representatives aware of the recent planting of new trees in the area proposed for the dog park as part of the effort to designate Norwood an urban arboretum?

8. Given the apparent current overuse of the park, why was Norwood Park chosen over a proposal to include a dog park with the redevelopment of parking lots 24 and 10 adjacent to the Elm Street park, an area that is not currently used, where there would be no displacement of activities and which is much more centrally located to downtown Bethesda?

9. If Norwood Park was determined to be the only location that can accommodate this project, was there any attempt to place it in another area of the park as opposed to its very center, displacing those who use this area daily?

In conclusion, we believe that the community of regular Norwood Park users and those who observe the Park on a daily basis have important information to contribute to the selection process. To reiterate, given the serious and substantive nature of our concerns, we think it would be a waste of everyone's time and effort to be required to explore each of these issues for the first time before the Planning Board, when many of them could be resolved through good faith dialogue before that hearing. Therefore, we are making another request that the Parks Department provide this information. We will of course share the information with our neighborhood association.

Very truly yours,

Barbara Fredericks
Jim Petrick
Elaine Akst

On Tue, Dec 22, 2020 at 5:37 PM MCP-CustomerService
<customerservice@montgomeryparks.org> wrote:

Sent on behalf of:
Mike Riley, Director of Parks
Mike.Riley@MontgomeryParks.org
(301)495-2500

Dear Barbara,

Thank you for contacting Montgomery Parks, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, regarding the proposed dog park at Norwood Local Park. We appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns with us and we value your participation in the public input process. Your feedback has been shared with the project team for their review and consideration.

As you may know, Norwood Local Park was identified as a potential dog park location in the [Dog Park Site Suitability Study](#), which involved extensive public outreach as well as data collection, and was approved by the Planning Board in June 2019.

Parks staff first notified the community about the Norwood Dog Park concept plan via email and post card notification in September and then held a virtual meeting in November. To provide additional opportunities for public input, Parks also created an Open Town Hall survey which was scheduled to run until December 31, for a total of 8 weeks. Since its initiation, we have received over 500 Open Town Hall survey responses, and in response to the high level of interest in the project we will extend this period for another two weeks until January 14, 2021. We anticipate presenting the project to the Montgomery County Planning Board for review sometime later this winter or in early spring of 2021. This would provide additional opportunity for public input and testimony.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If you have any additional park-related questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Public Information & Customer Service Office at: 301-495-2595, Info@MontgomeryParks.org, or www.MontgomeryParks.org/Customer.

Sincerely,
Mike Riley

From: [Celesta Jurkovich](#)
To: [Riley, Mike](#)
Cc: [MCP-Chair](#); [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: FW: Comment on proposed Norwood Park Dog Park
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 4:50:19 PM

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

Apologies for a computer glitch in a message I sent today. Below is the email I tried to send at 2:26 pm today. For some reason, when I checked my sent file, it appears my message did not go to all of the intended recipients. I believe Christie Ciabotti is the only person it was actually mailed to. Not sure why it happened since as shown below, I intended a broader distribution. Hopefully all the intended addressees will receive it with this try.

Celesta Jurkovich

Celesta Jurkovich
4601 North Park Av. #1211
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
301-657-8134 (home)
301-325-1865 (cell)

From: Celesta Jurkovich <cjurkovich@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:26 PM
To: 'To:' <mike.riley@montgomeryparks.org>
Cc: 'Cc:' <MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org>; 'christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org' <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Comment on proposed Norwood Park Dog Park

Dear Mr. Riley:

I have a request to please include this comment in the record of citizen reaction to the proposed dog park to be constructed in Montgomery County's Norwood Park. I believe the information about the closing date for comments on the was confusing. It implied the survey was available and comments would

be accepted through Jan. 14. As a result, I missed the Jan. 13 cutoff. However, I hope that it would be included in the record.

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

The 17- acre park is already very popular because it has many amenities (2 playgrounds, 5 tennis courts, a lighted basketball court, 2 softball fields, a historic multi-purpose building which the Parks Department rents for birthday parties, family gatherings and other events. It also houses a pre-school and has walking/biking trails. In addition, permits are available for scheduled field use by well-organized soccer and football leagues.) Besides permitted uses, space between the sites requiring permits was regularly used by teams who "squatted" on available space for practices, increasing the park usage many times. The open space is also well used for non-organized activity such as frisbee, kite flying, picnicking, and summer camps, and even overnight campouts which were an annual end of school event for our CCWNA community (and which are available to other communities).

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

danger to children darting out from behind illegally parked cars was a real concern that CCW neighbors addressed in the past by calling Park and County police to ticket violators.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.

Celesta Jurkovich

Celesta Jurkovich
4601 North Park Av. #1211
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
301-657-8134 (home)
301-325-1865 (cell)

From: cjurkovich@verizon.net
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: RE: Comment on proposed Norwood Park Dog Park
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 9:17:33 AM

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

Thanks for the confirmation of a complete letter. Sorry for the extra time/trouble it put you through.

Celesta Jurkovich

From: [KAYDEN STEPHANI](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Voice Mail (21 seconds)
Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021 1:38:55 PM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

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

Yes, my name is STEPHANI KAYDEN and my telephone number is 202-450-1263 an I was just calling to find out if there were any updates on The plan for the Norwood Dog Park. Thank you.

You received a voice mail from [KAYDEN STEPHANI](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

From: [MCP-DogParks](#)
To: [MCP-Service.Center](#); [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: FW: Downtown Bethesda area
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:04:04 AM

From: Fletcher Caulk <rfcaulk@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 11:46 AM
To: MCP-DogParks <dogparks@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Downtown Bethesda area

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

Good morning,

I heard about the dog park survey and it looks like it's closed. I'd like to add that the Bethesda elementary school park is getting a lot of use but we aren't allowed to let the dogs off leashes and the hours are limited. I know a park close to downtown would be heavily used.

From: [AKumar](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: RE: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021 9:40:03 PM

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

Thank you Christie

While I am glad to hear I feel that with a six week turnaround time it may not be possible to speak up effectively, unless this lag can be reduced.

If there is any way to track the progress / status of the project and perhaps interject again, in a timely way, I would like to do so. Please direct me to any such link.

Regards, Angie.

From: AKumar <akumar1600@outlook.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 4:28 PM

To: Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org>

Subject: Norwood Dog Park

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

Dear Christie,

As a resident of Chevy Chase, in the Town of Somerset, and as an owner of a dog, I would like to express my concern about the proposed project. Its negative impact on the community and the neighborhood is of deep concern. Even as a dog owner, I am not in favor of the project.

Thank you

Angie,

Dorset Avenue

Chevy Chase

From: [Gary Fahle](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Request for information re Norwood dog park
Date: Friday, January 22, 2021 3:32:25 PM

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

Ms. Ciabotti,

I live in the downtown Bethesda area and have been eagerly following the potential development of a dog park in Norwood Local Park. I strongly support the efforts of Montgomery Parks in this effort and if a Montgomery Planning Board meeting is convened to consider this issue, I plan to testify in favor of the project. In preparation of my comments, I was hoping you could provide some information on the following issues or offer a point of contact for someone who might be able to help.

- Have there been any notable problems related to human or dog injuries at the other dog parks that Montgomery Parks manages?
- Are there statistics available comparing various incidences (injuries, noise complaints, crime, police reports, etc.) that occurred in a Montgomery Parks dog park as compared to non-dog park locations?
- Have there been any confirmed **parasitic** or infectious diseases (human or dog) with the origin or spread traced to a Montgomery Parks dog park?
- Are data available of average daily usage of Montgomery Parks dog park facilities that verify community need and provides justification for additional dog park locations?
- Have there been any lawsuits filed as a result of an occurrence at a Montgomery Parks dog park?
- Has the addition of a dog park to an established park resulted in any significant changes to the overall park usage (increase or decrease) affecting traffic or parking?
- How does the approval process for the proposed Norwood dog park compare to other 9 dog parks in the Montgomery Parks jurisdiction that are either completed or have been approved? For example, was there a community meeting and a tallied survey? If the survey "vote" was negative, was the proposal withdrawn?
- Has the Montgomery Planning Board always been the final arbitrator or does the Montgomery Parks have the authority to make the decision to proceed with the project if a determination has been made that the location and community need is sufficiently justified?

I appreciate any information or assistance you can provide and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues in more detail.

Best regards,

Gary Fahle

4207 East West Hwy

Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From: [Joan Barron](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [Shelley Yeutter](#)
Subject: Norwood Dog Park?
Date: Friday, February 5, 2021 3:04:10 PM

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

Good Afternoon,

As you may recall Shelley Yeutter and I are Co- Presidents of the Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Asooc.. Chevy Chase West abuts Norwood on the south side of the park. Now that the comment period is over we have a few questions for you regarding next steps. They concern communication, players involved and timing for the most part. Would you have any time next week to speak with us over the phone? We would appreciate it.

Enjoy the weekend.

Best,

Joan Barron and Shelley Yeutter
CCWNA

Joan Barron
301-529-5593

From: [LIZZIO BREN](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Voice Mail (1 minute and 21 seconds)
Date: Friday, February 5, 2021 5:48:49 PM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

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

Hi good afternoon Christie. This is BREN LIZZIO calling. We spoke briefly about Norwood Local Park and the dog Potential Dog Park. I just wanted to tell you that there was a huge campaign that started a way before the November 10th. I just project Zoom in presentation and. So anyway, it just really skewed. I just kind of want to tell you a little bit about that and how it really skewed of the responses. Anyway, was wondering if he can call me at some point whenever you're available either this weekend. I don't know if you're probably not working this weekend, but next week I'll be kind of and out of some classes, but if you just give me a good time to call if you leave a message anyway, again, my name is Bren Lizzio. Phone number is 226694999. Thank you.

You received a voice mail from [LIZZIO BREN](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

From: [Reed Dewey](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Picture - Norwood Park and the proposed Dog Park
Date: Friday, February 19, 2021 1:36:46 PM

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

Hi Christie -

I hope you're doing OK during these strange COVID times. I live in Chevy Chase West, right next to Norwood Park and it is a place that brings fulfillment and peace for me as I look out on the open space probably - every other day on my walks. [This is a picture of where the dog park would be](#). Neighbors came out last weekend to show just how large the dog park would be and how it will dominate the vista looking West. It should be pretty close to the actual size because I paced it out.

I know you are doing what you may think is for the greater good, but I feel sadness that the one space left in our densely populated area might have a large dog park right in the center of the Park which will impact the enjoyment of many more park users than dog owners (who also enjoy the open space).

I'm sure you are highly trained in planning and design. I wonder if sometimes planners step back and look at the big picture... aside from dog parks per 100,000 or whatever is recommended.

I feel sad that over all these years the Park has been preserved and now could lose what makes it so special. As a staff member, I'd guess that you hold more power than people know. I hope you and your team will consider going back to the drawing board and looking for different locations.

Take care and thanks for your consideration.

Reed

Reed Dewey
reedconnect@gmail.com (240) 454-1992

Picture Link of Norwood Park: <https://lrgportraits.pixieset.com/norwoodnodogparkimagery/>

From: [Joan Barron](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [Bowers, Shelby](#); [Shelley Yeutter](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park?
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 12:55:14 PM

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

Good Afternoon,

Again thank you for helping us out on the process going forward. We, meaning myself and other neighbors, who are much savvier in this department, were trying to find in the Parks' budget where the Dog Park allocation is located. I see other projects but nothing at all about dog parks. Can you help?

Thanks much Enjoy the spring day.

Joan
CCWNA

From: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [MCP-CustomerService](#)
Subject: Norwood Dog Park Project Update
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:51:02 PM

Thank you for reaching out to Montgomery Parks!

Thank you for your input about Montgomery Parks' proposed [Norwood Dog Park plan](#). We appreciate the many thoughtful correspondences we have received. Staff is reviewing Open Town Hall survey responses, community meeting comments, and comments submitted directly to the Department of Parks. This feedback is an important component of our project evaluation process. At this time, we are recommending that the project move forward.

Next Steps:

Next, we will present the proposed dog park plan to the Montgomery County Planning Board on May 6th for a decision about whether to proceed with the project. The community will have an opportunity to provide additional input and testimony before and during the Planning Board meeting. We will keep you updated with any new or additional information through the project website, mailings, and direct emails.

In the meantime, please check our project website for new content including [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about the project and the [transcript](#) and Parks staff [responses to community meeting comments](#).

The results of the Open Town Hall survey are also available for public review. <https://mcp-events.org/norwooddogparktownhall> Click on the green text "View Responses" at the bottom of the Norwood Open Town Hall Page. To see all responses, click "Both" at the top of the following page.

Please check the Norwood dog park project web site for the most up-to-date information: <http://mcp-events.org/norwooddogpark>

Thank you for your interest.

Christie Ciabotti

Christie Ciabotti

Landscape Architect

Park Development Division - Montgomery Parks

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)

Christie.Ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org

Office Phone: (301)650-4365

We've moved! Our new address is:

2425 Reedie Drive

th

From: [Butera, Barbara J](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Norwood Dog Park Project Update
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 3:11:38 PM

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

So here is my question.

Why do you even want to hear from citizens if you never (repeat) never listen to our input.

You are ruining absolutely ruining the most beautiful neighborhood park I have ever seen.

But you do not seem to care about the quality of life of citizens in Montgomery County. You have shown it over and over--with the crossing at Little Falls Parkway, just to name another.

In this time, when people feel uncared for and unheard by the government, it would have been nice if you had shown that Montgomery County cares by finding another location for the park.

I, and others, are heartbroken.

Thank you for showing us that you really do not care about the quality of life in Montgomery COunty.

I do not know why we even try. It's hopeless.

In the future please do not use my work email.

My email is : bjb4825@aol.com.

Barbara Butera
4825 Willett Parkway
Chevy Chase

202-215-6167

From: [Lynn](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park Project Update
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 3:31:56 PM

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

Christie,

I think this is a real horror and will be a big scar on a beautiful park.

My husband and I are seriously considering moving after living here for over 20 years as we find this and the other development that seems to just get a green light from the planning board to be unacceptable.

As a landscape architect, if this goes forward, I would hope you could use your skills to make the dog park nicer and better than what is currently proposed.

We value open space, and I would hope as a landscape architect you could see the beautiful open space in Norwood Park, and resist the notion of plopping this horror in the middle of it.

Best,

Lynn Weinstein
4720 Chevy Chase Dr, Bethesda, MD 20815
240-483-6283

From: [Scott S](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [MCP-CustomerService](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park Project Update
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 3:13:56 PM

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

Sad. Sad. Sad.

It appears this is another instance of the Park service deciding to do something, usually a massive project (because it looks good on a CV), but never factoring in if they are solving an actual problem and in a manner that most of the community approve.

Btw...found it interesting that a list of community orgs were approached by Kenwood Forest II, which borders the park wasn't on the list.

From: [Reed Dewey](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Thank you for Norwood Dog Park Project Update...
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 4:12:48 PM

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

Thanks Christie for getting back to me.

I'm glad you're open to looking at other options for a dog park besides Norwood Park. It's a beautiful park - a priceless gem that so many people enjoy throughout the year.

I don't know planning lingo but perhaps you'd put it this way - "Let's not over-program this rare open space that's already used by so many people in different ways."

Best,

Reed

Reed Dewey
WWW.WHATS-NEXT.ORG
Certified Midlife/Retirement Coach
reedconnect@gmail.com (240) 454-1992

From: [Josh Sterling](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [MCP-CustomerService](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park Project Update
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 5:01:23 PM

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

Christie,

A majority of respondents were against the park. What factors then weigh in favor of the park?
And how will you address the parking shortage, which already exists?

Thank you.

Best,

Josh

Joshua Sterling
+1.202.879.3769 (O)
+1.202.841.6384 (M)

From: [Richard House](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park Project Update
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 5:10:14 PM

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

How utterly disappointing. It appears that despite strong opposition, the project is moving forward. Seeking community input is nothing but lip service. I invite you and your colleagues to visit the park this spring to see how much green space is used (that would be taken away) for the health and well-being of children and adults in our community. While you are here, also witness the overflowing parking lot and jam-packed street parking by park patrons (that leaves no street parking for many with shared driveways, and then tell us whether you think the park can accommodate a huge dog park with the added car, foot, and dog traffic. Those who have decided to move forward are tone-deaf.

On Mar 4, 2021, at 2:50 PM, Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org> wrote:

Thank you for reaching out to Montgomery Parks!

Thank you for your input about Montgomery Parks' proposed [Norwood Dog Park plan](#). We appreciate the many thoughtful correspondences we have received. Staff is reviewing Open Town Hall survey responses, community meeting comments, and comments submitted directly to the Department of Parks. This feedback is an important component of our project evaluation process. At this time, we are recommending that the project move forward.

From: [Erica Brown](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park Project Update
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 7:23:12 PM

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

Dear Ms. Ciabotti,

From your letter below, it sounds like you have already decided to proceed with the project *before* you've reviewed the responses and feedback. This is why many people are upset with Parks and Planning's process.

Erica Brown
Chevy Chase, MD

On Mar 4, 2021, at 2:50 PM, Ciabotti, Christie
<christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org> wrote:

Thank you for reaching out to Montgomery Parks!

Thank you for your input about Montgomery Parks' proposed [Norwood Dog Park plan](#). We appreciate the many thoughtful correspondences we have received. Staff is reviewing Open Town Hall survey responses, community meeting comments, and comments submitted directly to the Department of Parks. This feedback is an important component of our project evaluation process. At this time, we are recommending that the project move forward.

Next Steps:

Next, we will present the proposed dog park plan to the Montgomery County Planning Board on May 6th for a decision about whether to proceed with the project. The community will have an opportunity to provide additional input and testimony before and during the Planning Board meeting. We will keep you updated with any new or additional information through the project website, mailings, and direct emails.

In the meantime, please check our project website for new content including [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about the project and the [transcript](#) and Parks staff [responses to community meeting comments](#).

The results of the Open Town Hall survey are also available for public review. <https://mcp-events.org/norwooddogparktownhall> Click on the green text "View Responses" at the bottom of the Norwood Open Town Hall Page. To see all responses, click "Both" at the top of the following page.

From: [Carl T. Thomsen](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [MCP-CustomerService](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park Project Update
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 5:41:50 PM

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

Dear Ms. Ciabotti:

This lengthy rambling report is another example of Montgomery Park's "Bureaucracy in Action"

The Proposed Norwood Dog Park: What a waste of tax payer money!! Moreover, it will ruin a large portion of Norwood Park

If Parks has \$\$ to burn, spend it on a useful facility in the eastern part of MoCo where residents have needs much greater than those of us in the more affluent western area of MoCo

Spend your scarce \$ on Park improvements in areas where the residents have the greatest need. Stop spending our taxpayer \$\$ on "dogs"

Carl Thomsen
4614 DeRussey Pkwy

-----Original Message-----

From: Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org>
To: Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org>
Cc: MCP-CustomerService <customerservice@montgomeryparks.org>
Sent: Thu, Mar 4, 2021 2:50 pm
Subject: Norwood Dog Park Project Update

Thank you for reaching out to Montgomery Parks!

Thank you for your input about Montgomery Parks' proposed [Norwood Dog Park plan](#). We appreciate the many thoughtful correspondences we have received. Staff is reviewing Open Town Hall survey responses, community meeting comments, and comments submitted directly to the Department of Parks. This feedback is an important component of our project evaluation process. At this time, we are recommending that the project move forward.

From: [Miriam Simon](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park Project Update
Date: Friday, March 5, 2021 8:22:52 AM

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

Hi Christie,

Thanks for keeping me in the loop. I'm so disappointed that despite 60% disapproval, this is moving forward.

The timing and optics are terrible. County employees -- first responders and educators, etc-- have been told no pay increases and possible furloughs due to the pandemic, people are un and underemployed and Bethesda/Chevy Chase is already perceived as entitled and out of touch with other people in the county. A dog park will not look good.

Even if the money has already been allocated, this is not the time or place to spend it on a dog park for people who are perceived to get special attention and county money.

My two cents for what they're worth.

Best,

Miriam Simon

From: [John Savoy](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Thank You
Date: Friday, March 5, 2021 8:26:36 AM

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

Good morning Christie,

Just wanted to send a quick note saying thanks for the amazing work you are doing on the Norwood Local Dog Park Plan. This plan would have such a positive impact on our family and, based on reading all the FAQs, we appreciate the trial and tribulation you are going through to develop and move forward such a great proposal. If there is absolutely anything we can do to help as you move forward please let us know.

Best,
The Savoy Family

From: [Joshua Sterling](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [MCP-CustomerService](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park Project Update
Date: Friday, March 5, 2021 11:38:06 AM

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

Thank you for this prompt response, Christie.

I fear the County will have some stakeholder management to do with the Chevy Chase West neighborhood, particularly those residents who live near the park on Nottingham Drive, Norwood Drive, Davidson Drive, and lower Chevy Chase Boulevard. They will likely bear the brunt of non-resident parking. Same for the condo / apartment dwellers on the north / northwest sides of the park, who voiced concerns about parking as part of the public polling process.

If you have information on expected usage and increase in park-adjacent parking, you may wish to have it available for the upcoming public meeting, so that they concerns can be addressed in real time.

Best,

Josh

Josh Sterling
+1.202.841.6384

Sent from my iPad

From: [Reed Dewey](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Thank you for Norwood Dog Park Project Update...
Date: Friday, March 5, 2021 11:29:52 AM

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

Thanks Christie.

Reed

On Fri, Mar 5, 2021 at 11:14 AM Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org> wrote:

Hi Mr. Dewey,

Thanks. As mentioned in my last email, the next step is for the project to be presented to the Planning Board. This is another opportunity for community input. If you would like to submit testimony before the meeting, you can find information on how to do that here:

<https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/meetings/signup-to-testify/>

Best wishes,
Christie

From: [Richard House](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#); mcps-chair@mncpp-mc.org; [Riley, Mike](#); marc.elrich@public.gov; marc.korman@house.state.md.us
Subject: NO DOG PARK in Norwood Park
Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 1:22:51 PM

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

Good Afternoon,

I would like to see you present the numbers for and against this idea during your upcoming board meeting. The decision to proceed with this idea is tone-deaf to the community feedback you have solicited.

If you would not like your backyard destroyed by such a monstrous, unnecessary enclosure don't put it in ours.

I agree with Jane Dealy and Richard Whittle. No dog park in Norwood Park!

Here's the link to Jane's article:

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

On Dec 29, 2020, at 2:07 PM, Richard Whittle
<richard.whittle@outlook.com> wrote:

Dear Casey Anderson and Mike Riley:

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

Children of all ages use and enjoy our park to capacity as it is, and as Jane Dealy wrote in her excellent article about this in the Washington Post on Dec. 27, Norwood Park is a treasure to our neighborhood.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/local-opinions/a-500000-dog-park-in-bethesda-chevy-chase-is-a-waste-of-money-in-a-pandemic/2020/12/24/4fe16972->

[3a49-11eb-9276-ae0ca72729be_story.html](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/3a49-11eb-9276-ae0ca72729be_story.html)

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

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

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

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

From: [Gary Fahle](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [Gary](#)
Subject: Re: Request for information re Norwood dog park
Date: Sunday, March 7, 2021 9:04:39 AM

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

Christine,
I wanted to touch base to check on the status of responses to my questions outlined below.

Thank you,
Gary

On Jan 25, 2021, at 1:15 PM, Gary Fahle <gfahle@verizon.net> wrote:

Thank you for your quick response and I look forward to future communication regarding my questions.

Best regards,
Gary

On Jan 25, 2021, at 10:53 AM, Ciabotti, Christie
<christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org> wrote:

Hi Mr. Fahle,

Thank you for reaching out and for your support of the dog park proposal. I am logging your support in our database and will have to get back to you about your questions below.

We will most likely be presenting this project to the Planning Board in coming months, but we don't have a date set yet.
Thank you again for your message. I will be back in touch.

Best wishes,
Christie

From: Gary Fahle <gfahle@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 3:32 PM

To: Ciabotti, Christie <christie.ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org>

Subject: Request for information re Norwood dog park

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

Ms. Ciabotti,

I live in the downtown Bethesda area and have been eagerly following the potential development of a dog park in Norwood Local Park. I strongly support the efforts of Montgomery Parks in this effort and if a Montgomery Planning Board meeting is convened to consider this issue, I plan to testify in favor of the project. In preparation of my comments, I was hoping you could provide some information on the following issues or offer a point of contact for someone who might be able to help.

- Have there been any notable problems related to human or dog injuries at the other dog parks that Montgomery Parks manages?
- Are there statistics available comparing various incidences (injuries, noise complaints, crime, police reports, etc.) that occurred in a Montgomery Parks dog park as compared to non-dog park locations?
- Have there been any confirmed parasitic or infectious diseases (human or dog) with the origin or spread traced to a Montgomery Parks dog park?
- Are data available of average daily usage of Montgomery Parks dog park facilities that verify community need and provides justification for additional dog park locations?
- Have there been any lawsuits filed as a result of an occurrence at a Montgomery Parks dog park?
- Has the addition of a dog park to an established park resulted in any significant changes to the overall park usage (increase or decrease) affecting traffic or parking?
- How does the approval process for the proposed Norwood dog park compare to other 9 dog parks in the Montgomery Parks jurisdiction that are either completed or have been approved? For example, was there a community meeting and a tallied survey? If the survey "vote" was negative, was the proposal withdrawn?
- Has the Montgomery Planning Board always been the final arbitrator or does the Montgomery Parks have the authority to make the decision to proceed with the project if a determination has been made that the location and community need is sufficiently justified?

I appreciate any information or assistance you can provide and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues in more detail.

Best regards,

Gary Fahle

4207 East West Hwy
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
240-475-4338

From: [Richard K Ashford](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park Project Update
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 1:35:10 PM

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

Thanks for the notice, Christie.

Wondering if the project has changed any since the October presentation?

Richard Ashford

From: [Scott S](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Norwood Dog Park Project Update
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 9:39:16 AM

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

A visitor from DC commented to me about how bad Norwood Park is maintained.

...piles of leaves everywhere that weren't picked up in the fall and prevent the spring grass from growing

...brown patches everywhere instead of healthy grass

...old outdated playground equipment for the kids

... mats underneath the kids play area that provide no actual safety for kids playing

She was amazed that a dog park was going in before fixing all these actual problems.

Thought I'd relay what some unsolicited comments made to me on a recent walk.

From: [Gary Fahle](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Request for information re Norwood dog park
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 10:23:46 AM

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

Thanks for getting back to me, Christie. And no problem re specific responses to my questions. I can certainly appreciate how busy you must be.

I must have missed the email notification you referenced about the upcoming Planning Board meeting. Just to confirm, the Norwood dog park presentation to the PB and public testimony will take place on Thursday, May 6, correct? I definitely plan to testify at this meeting and I will pass along this information to others who I know would also like to participate.

Thanks,
Gary

From: helensaxenian@gmail.com
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: RE: Norwood park question
Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 9:05:31 AM

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

Hi Christie,

I know the proposed Norwood Dog Park is going in front of the planning board (?) in May. How might I register my support, again? I know some of the neighbors have mobilized a very vocal and organized push back and I'm concerned the people supporting the park have not been as organized or vocal.

Thank you

Helen Saxenian (a neighbor too)

From: [DEWEY REED](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Voice Mail (57 seconds)
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 10:16:56 AM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

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

Christie, hi this is Reed Dewey on to chase West and I tried calling the main number to find out how to connect with a V people who will help with testimony, the numbers dead and does not answer 'so. If you could give me a callback also sent you an email and let me know who those people would be so that we can be ready to provide PowerPoint presentations etc to them for the testimony. So my phone number is 24454 nineteen ninety to 240-454-1992. Thanks so much for getting back to me. I will also set an email maybe that's the best way to go if you could just give me the emails to the people who do that. I'm having a real hard time getting through to staff by.

You received a voice mail from [DEWEY REED](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

From: [Reed Dewey](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Help needed for testifying
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 10:20:22 AM

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

Hi Christie -

Can you provide me with the staff who will be handling the tech for putting up visuals and Powerpoint slides when we testify in the coming weeks? The number given on the website is dead.

With appreciation,

Reed

Reed Dewey, CRC, CPRC, CPC

WWW.WHATS-NEXT.ORG

Certified Transitions/Retirement Coach

reedconnect@gmail.com (240) 454-1992

Reed at [LinkedIn](#)

www,whats-next.org



From: [Reed Dewey](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Re: Help needed for testifying
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 11:16:27 AM

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

Thank you. I have a call into public information. We want to be ready but are not doing anything prior to the time the testimony is requested.

Best,

Reed

Reed Dewey, CRC, CPRC, CPC

WWW.WHATS-NEXT.ORG

Certified Transitions/Retirement Coach

reedconnect@gmail.com (240) 454-1992

Reed at [LinkedIn](#)

www,whats-next.org



From: [Stephan Carrier](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Norwood Dog Park
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 3:46:25 PM

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

Ms. Ciabotti,

I live near the Norwood Local Park and have two questions, set out below, about the planned dog park. Thank you for any information you can provide.

Steve

- How many dog owners will arrive in cars, and where do you expect them to park?
- To what extent will the dog park limit use of the park by children? The following from wikipedia: "some dog parks allow children inside if they are properly chaperoned by an adult, while others exclude children. The Houston Dog Park Association, a non-governmental club, said that adults should be cautious about bringing children inside a dog park and be aware that it is hard to keep a careful eye on both the dog and a child."

From: [Donald Tobin](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [Donald Tobin](#)
Subject: Proposed Dog Park at Norwood Local Park
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 4:42:13 PM

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

Dear Ms. Ciabotti -

I received a Public Notice yesterday, advising that Parks “will present the recommended location and concept plan for a new dog park at Norwood Local Park for Planning Board review” on May 6, 2021. The Notice invites the public to submit comments in advance or during the meeting.

Several of my neighbors and I are interested in submitting comments.

Please send (via email) a copy of the concept plan (and any other data) that you intend to present to the Planning Board, so that we can prepare and submit comments.

Thank you in advance.

Donald Tobin

6403 Offutt Road

Chevy Chase, Md. 20815

From: [Cruz Fernando](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Subject: Voice Mail (33 seconds)
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 4:06:21 PM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

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

This is Fernando Cruz. Calling was looking at Norwood Park and I see that you are the project manager and I was wondering if you could kindly. never be able to produce a three D projection of a part dog part that you have proposed for norwood that would be appreciated my number 's three or one 3251218 Thank you.

You received a voice mail from [Cruz Fernando](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

From: [Edward Butler](#)
To: [Ciabotti, Christie](#)
Cc: [Robert Weinstein](#); [Peter Singelmann](#); [Jorge Mariscal](#); [Michael Zajac](#); [Roger Hitchner](#); [Ivonne Butler](#); [Esposito Giuseppe](#)
Subject: Proposed Dog Park in Norwood Park
Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 5:04:38 PM

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

Dear Christie Ciabotti,

The purpose of this letter is to register my strong opposition to the proposed dog park. I live at 4720 Chevy Chase Drive, a condo building adjacent to the Park. I have used the park extensively for over 25 years and enjoyed its facilities for sports, recreation, and general socialization such as family picnics. It is truly a peaceful oasis and landscape for all to enjoy in the County. It also should be noted that the Park provides a welcome diversion for hundreds of families living in the low to medium cost rental units found in the many apartment buildings located on Chevy Chase Drive.

On weekends in particular, I have observed numerous families and others occupying most every available space in the park for sports, walking, picnicking. Also notable has been the ethnic and racial diversity of those who enjoy the park on a regular basis.

I believe the proposed dog park will change the ambiance of the park and interfere with the activities enjoyed by those who use the park as a welcome addition to the confines of apartment living. The dog park is large and is centrally located in Norwood Park. Its structure will interrupt the pleasant landscape now enjoyed by all. It will occupy or otherwise inhibit the space now used for picnics and ad hoc games and sport activities for young kids. It will increase already significant auto traffic to and from the Park and overtax the very limited parking available in the Park and on nearby residential streets.

In sum, I believe that the park is now used at full capacity and provides a welcome urban oasis for a diverse population in Montgomery County. The proposed dog park will break-up the harmonious atmosphere of the Park and crowd-out many of the activities that users now enjoy.

I will be out of town and unable to virtually attend the Hearing on May 06. But would you please circulate this letter to others in the Parks Dept. and have it remain in the project files for future reference.

Thank you for this opportunity to pass along my views on the proposed Norwood Dog Park.

Sincerely..... Edward Butler