

# Public School Facility Needs

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# Schools in Takoma Park Area

- Takoma Park Elementary (K-2)
- Piney Branch Elementary (3-5)
- Rolling Terrace Elementary (PreK-5)
- Takoma Park Middle School (6-8)  
(Currently in planning process for expansion on site)



# Schools in Takoma Park Area

Focus of this presentation is on public elementary schools in or very close to Takoma Park.

According to the American Community Survey, the number of school-aged children in Takoma Park has increased dramatically in recent years.

	ACS 2006-2010	ACS 2012-2016
Under 5	1095	1300
Age 5-9	994	1142
Age 10-14	876	1072
	1870	2214



# TPES and PBES

- Takoma Park Elementary School (TPES)
  - 2016-2017 Enrollment: 647 - Capacity: 629
  - Site Size: 4.7 acres
- Piney Branch Elementary School (PBES)
  - 2016-2017 Enrollment: 612 - Capacity: 611 (Future: 726)
  - Site Size: 2.0 acres
- Total Number of Students: 1,259; Total projected for 2018-2019: 1,297



# Rolling Terrace ES

- Rolling Terrace Elementary School (RTES)
  - 2016-2017 Enrollment: 903 - Capacity: 747
  - Site Size: 4.3 acres
- Has Partial Immersion Program
- Has School Based Health Center



# Desired Criteria: Elementary School

- Site of 7.5 acres
- Goal of 740 students
- Location, Topography and Environment, Access, Utilities, Physical Condition
- Availability and Timing
- Cost

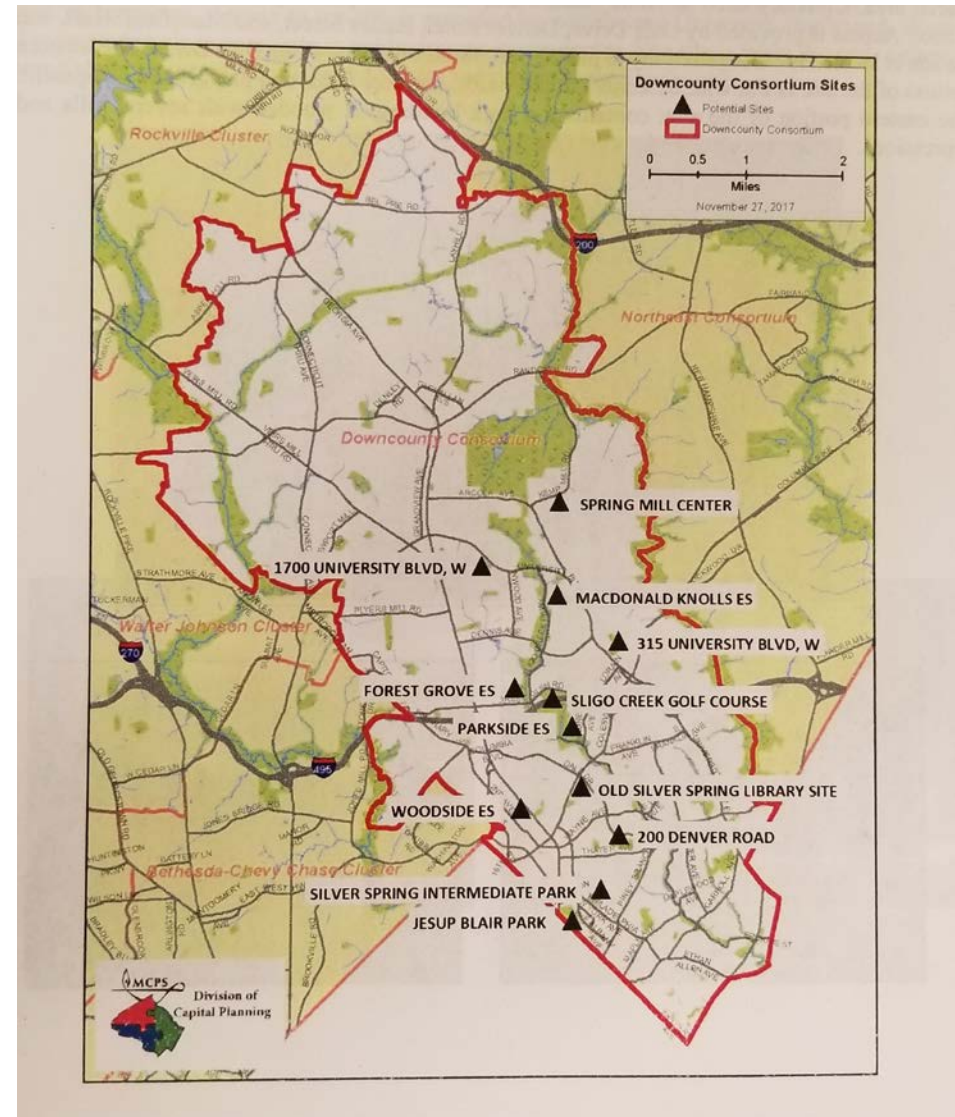


# Downcounty Elementary SSAC

- Formed in November 2017 to look at sites for possible new elementary school in the **lower** Downcounty Consortium area
- Three meetings held: Nov 15, Dec 12 and Jan 3
- 34 members representing agencies, PTAs, and some neighborhood associations
- Community Development Manager Rosalind Grigsby represented the City of Takoma Park



# Downcounty Elementary SSAC: Public Sites Studied





# Downcounty Elementary SSAC

- MCPS has a difficult challenge here
- Need to accommodate a large number of students in a short period of time; larger enrollment likely to continue over time
- School sites in Takoma Park area are small; expansion on site is limited
- Area in general is densely developed, so few sites available
- Costs for sites are likely to be high, either in terms of purchase price and development costs, or in terms of cost to the community through loss of parkland

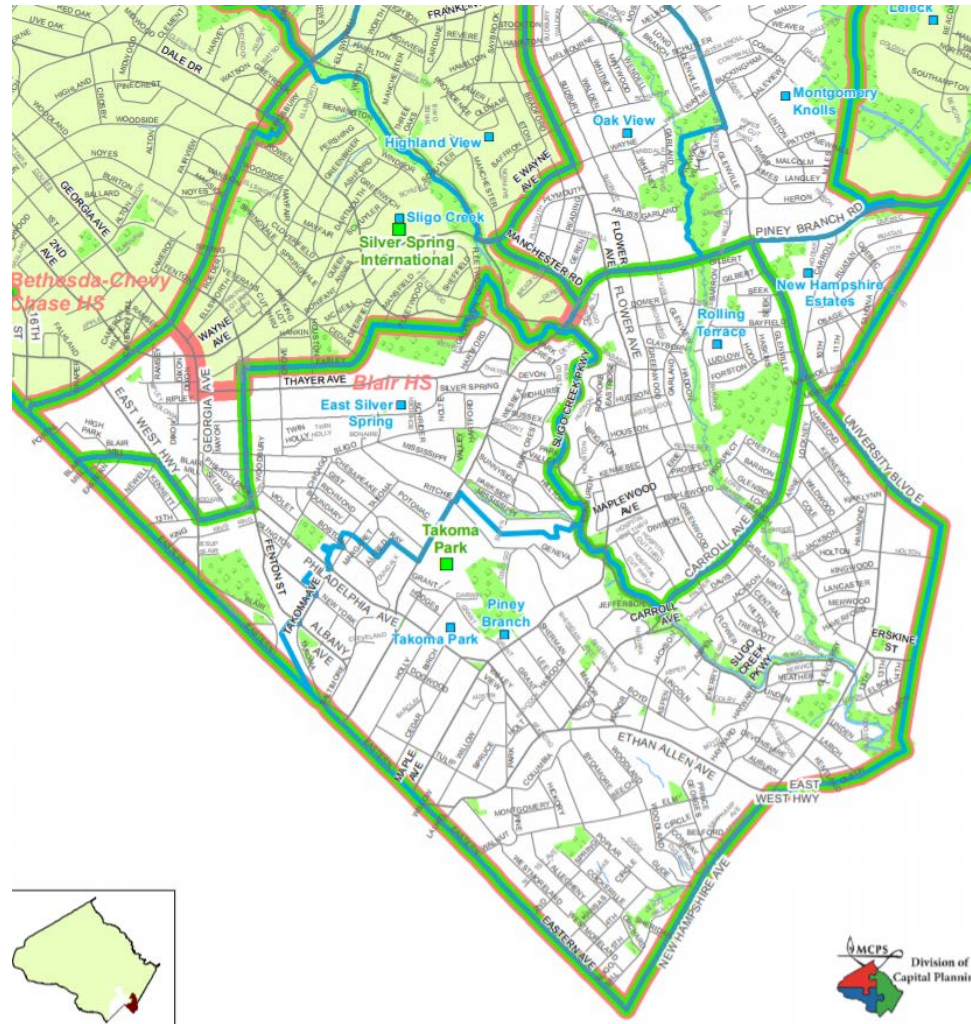


# SSAC Recommendation

- Recommended site, based on the process and criteria used, is the former Forest Grove Elementary School, 9805 Dameron Drive, north of I-495, approx. 4 miles from the southern tip of Takoma Park and Montgomery County; the site is currently leased by Holy Cross Hospital
- An alternate site is the former MacDonald Knolls Elementary School, 10611 Tenbrook Dr, north of I-495, approx. 5 miles from the southern tip of Takoma Park and Montgomery County; site leased by ARC of MC



# Public Schools in and Near Takoma Park



# City Staff Comments

SSAC needed more specific information regarding MCPS needs and sites

- MCPS staff provided current and projected enrollment numbers by current boundary lines, but additional information is needed:
  - Where do students live vis a vis location of sites
  - Environmental impacts of construction
  - Costs for replacement of parks, recreation and open space, if used
  - Impact on planned CIP projects and related costs
  - Acquisition process and cost information



# City Staff Comments

Criteria and ranking system should align with County goals and allow weighted scores

- 8 criteria: location, acreage, topography, access, utilities, physical condition/adjacent uses, availability and timing, and cost
- Each criteria was ranked with a +1, 0, -1
  - No consideration of County, equity or other community goals
  - Only initial costs considered, no long term or operating costs
  - Point system precludes using weighted criteria for significantly positive or negative factors.



# City Staff Comments

Initial evaluation of possible public and private sites should have occurred before Committee first met

- SSAC looked at 12 public and 5 private sites
- Advance consultation with governmental agencies:
  - Would have identified those definitely not available for development
  - Could have helped clarify the extent to which use of each of the sites might help or hinder area planning efforts or other goals
  - Could have identified cost or planning benefits to use of private sites



# City Staff Comments

MCPS should develop a policy, in consultation with park agencies and municipalities, about when and how to consider parkland for potential school sites

- 9 of the 12 public sites considered by the SSAC were in the category of parks, recreation and open space
- In densely-developed areas, these sites are essential for healthy living
- Policies or criteria adopted in advance could guide MCPS in the future about when parkland could be considered for a school site



# City Staff Comments

On a larger scale, there should be a planning process similar to a Sector Plan triggered when MCPS realizes that demand for school space is increasing in an area without a Master Plan-designated school site.

- Would allow for comprehensive public process and agency dialog
- Would minimize need for hasty decisions on assessing immediately-available sites
- Would help balance competing County and community goals and allow for outcomes that meet multiple needs





# City Staff Comments

## Special issues related to Takoma Park in a school site selection process

- On the border of Washington, DC and Prince George's County, Maryland; our students cannot go to schools south or east of us
- Adding a new schools north of the Beltway without adequate capacity in Takoma Park will require busing and undercut our health and environmental health goals for walkable schools,
- Non-white students represent 73% of the 2,162 children at the three Takoma Park area elementary schools



# City Staff Comments

## Special issues related to Takoma Park in a school site selection process

- Takoma Park is working to increase development along New Hampshire Avenue Corridor, with an interest in mixed-use (commercial and residential) development
- If schools become too overcrowded, new development projects that include residential components will not be able to be approved by County due to Adequate Public Facilities law



# Opportunities

- Announcement of Washington Adventist Hospital essentially vacating their property in 2019; meets most criteria for a new school site
- Takoma Park has familiarity with split schools (TPES and PBES) and smaller school sites and may welcome other non-traditional arrangements
- City staff willing to sit down with MCPS and County officials to talk out options



# Timing

- City Council may wish to weigh in on SSAC recommendations; report is open for public comment until it is presented to the Board of Education on March 22
- Superintendent Jack Smith will provide his recommendations on February 20
- Recommendations will feed into the Capital Improvement Program and budget for MCPS



# Questions ?

City's project page related to search for new elementary school site:  
<https://takomaparkmd.gov/downcounty-school-site-selection/>

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