



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – November 6, 2019 Agenda Item 4

Voting Session

Silver Spring Intermediate Park Land Transfer and Park Improvements

Recommended Council Action

Adopt the resolution.

Context with Key Issues

Silver Spring Intermediate Neighborhood Park, at 7801 Chicago Avenue, is owned by Montgomery County Public Schools and slated to be transferred to Montgomery Parks and renovated. The park is bordered by Philadelphia Avenue to the south and Boston Avenue to the north. It is surrounded on three sides by single family homes and on the fourth side by Montgomery College's Takoma Park campus. Disposition of the property is expected to take place in the next few months; the County Executive will issue a decision memo.

The 3.6-acre park is the former site of the Silver Spring Intermediate School. Following demolition of the school buildings in the 1970s and 1980s, amenities such as the parking lot, basketball court, tennis court, ballfields and playground were gradually installed on the property in the 1980s and upgraded in 2000s. Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning manages the park and has developed plans to renovate it. The Silver Spring Intermediate Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan identifies the goals of this project: to enhance access to the park and connections between park amenities, to improve the existing athletic fields, and to address ongoing drainage issues. Potential new amenities include a shade structure, viewing area for the fields, and additional walkway connections.

Montgomery Parks held a series of community meetings to discuss the renovation plan with three opportunities for online comments in an Open Town Hall Forum. The Storm Water Management (SWM) Concept Plan was approved by City of Takoma Park Department of Public Works on March 11, 2019. The site Natural Resources Inventory/Forest Stand Delineation (NRI/FSD) and Forest Conservation Exemption were approved by the M-NCPPC Department of Planning on May 17, 2019. The plans and funding were approved by the Montgomery Planning Board on September 5, 2019.

The project will be paid for through Montgomery Parks CIP and Program Open Space (POS) funding by the State Department of Natural Resources. Construction is expected to begin in summer of 2020.

Council Priorities

A Livable Community for All

Environmentally Sustainable Community

Community Development for an Improved & Equitable Quality of Life

Environmental Considerations

Park renovations include improvements to drainage and stormwater management, as well as additional trees.

Fiscal Considerations

There is no financial impact on the City for either the land transfer from Montgomery County Public Schools to M-NCPPC, or for the park renovation, which will be funded by Montgomery Parks.

Racial Equity Considerations

According to 2010 Census information, the immediate neighborhood is 11.5-23.5% people of color; the Silver Spring neighborhood to the west of Chicago Avenue is 46% people of color, and to the north is 23.5-45% people of color. Improvements of this park will enhance the recreational options for the community.

Attachments and Links

- Silver Spring Intermediate Neighborhood Park Project page:
<https://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/silver-spring-intermediate-neighborhood-park-improvement-plan/>
- Draft Council Resolution

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

Resolution 2019-

**Resolution Recommending the Approval of the
Silver Spring Intermediate Park Land Transfer and Improvements**

WHEREAS, Silver Spring Intermediate Park, at 7801 Chicago Avenue, is the former site of the Silver Spring Intermediate School, owned by Montgomery County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the school buildings were demolished in the 1970s and 1980s, and amenities such as the parking lot, basketball court, tennis court, ballfields and playground were gradually installed in the park in the 1980s and upgraded in 2000s; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Executive is expected to issue a decision memo regarding the disposition of the school property in a transfer to M-NCPPC to continue to operate as a park; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery Planning Board approved the plans and funding for the Silver Spring Intermediate Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan on September 5, 2019 to enhance access to the park and connections between park amenities, to improve the existing athletic fields, and to address ongoing drainage issues.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Takoma Park supports the land transfer of Silver Spring Intermediate Park from Montgomery County Public Schools to M-NCPPC to continue to operate as a park and supports proceeding with the planned renovation.

Adopted this ____ day of November, 2019.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter
City Clerk