



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – July 29, 2020 Agenda Item 2

Presentation

Assessment of Park Quality, Accessibility, and Race

Recommended Council Action

Review assessment and provide feedback.

Context with Key Issues

As part of the on-going work on public space and race equity, the Planning staff is developing tools to guide decisions about access and improvements in public space. These tools include a park amenity data collection process, a park grading scale, and an analytic distance matrix process with racial demographics to look at accessibility.

The Assessment of Park Quality, Accessibility, and Race will help to identify gaps where the city can improve on public space quality and accessibility with respect to racial demographics. When combined with Census block group racial demographic data, the Mapbox Matrix API portion of this project provides data on park accessibility within the city on different racial groups and what kinds of parks and amenities are most accessible to these same demographics (active parks or passive parks). These preliminary findings may help the city prioritize the development of more public space amenities for underserved people and areas in the City.

Council Priority

A Livable Community For All; Environmentally Sustainable Community

Environmental Considerations

This study develops tools that may guide the improvement of existing parks or the development of new park space. The environmental consideration of new activity would be examined as specific site plans develop.

Fiscal Considerations

The City contracted with Mapbox for data analysis tools for this project for approximately \$3,000. The fiscal consideration of projects to improve or develop specific sites in the future will be examined individually.

Racial Equity Considerations

Takoma Park does not have many tools to understand race equity issues in the City. This project is developing data to understand existing differentiated impacts and to use, as applicable, to estimate the impacts of changes in parks and other public space.

Attachments and Links

- Public Space Management Plan webpage
<https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/public-space-management-plan/>