



## **Takoma Park City Council Meeting – September 14, 2022**

### **Agenda Item 6**

#### **Work Session**

Briefing on the First Draft Recommendations for the Public Space Management Plan, presented by the CHPlanning consulting team.

#### **Recommended Council Action**

Listen to the presentation, review the draft recommendations, and provide feedback.

#### **Context with Key Issues**

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, the City Council authorized City staff to execute a contract with the firm CHPlanning to complete the Public Space Management Plan.

The purpose of the Public Space Management Plan is to develop a data-driven and equity-infused framework for managing public spaces around the City of Takoma Park. The need for a new plan to more comprehensively approach the management of public spaces first arose in a City Council discussion in 2015. After an update to the City's Streetscape Manual and some internal staff analysis, in Fall 2018 the City Council reviewed the draft scope what has become known as the Public Space Management Plan. This kick-started an inventory of public parks around the City, and a more defined scope of work came before the Council in January 2020. Despite forward movement by City staff on internal analyses, including a community-wide online survey and a park proximity study, the plan development process stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and staff turnover. In Fall 2021, after a round of public outreach, Planning Division staff determined that a request for proposals for support to complete the Plan would yield the highest quality product.

The First Draft Recommendations represent a preliminary review of existing conditions, initial policy analyses, and recommendations generated from community feedback and staff discussions. Community feedback has been captured over the last two years via surveys, community workshops, and public meetings.

#### **Council Priority**

A Livable Community for All  
Fiscally Sustainable Government  
Environmentally Sustainable Community  
Engaged, Responsive, Service-Oriented Government  
Community Development for an Improved & Equitable Quality of Life

#### **Environmental Considerations**

The Public Space Management Plan, and its policy recommendations will have tangible impacts on how the City manages and prioritizes its public spaces, most of which are directly connected to environmental quality and resilience of the community. The immediate impacts of the Plan are limited to which recommendations are included in the Final Draft of the Plan and which are subsequently acted upon. Considerations for climate resilience, stormwater, urban heat island issues, local biodiversity, equitable access to green space, and other environmental concerns were all included in the development of the Plan's recommendations.

**Fiscal Considerations**

The proposed cost of this project, as agreed in the contract, is not to exceed \$75,000. Funds for the project have been allocated in the FY22 and FY23 ARPA budget. There are no direct, ongoing costs beyond the completion of the project.

**Racial Equity Considerations**

A core purpose of the Public Space Management Plan is to create a process that centers racial equity, as supported by rigorous analysis and data, in municipal decision-making processes regarding public space. The firm, CHPlanning, proposed a project that recognizes importance of these values and centers them in their proposed process and product. The final Public Space Management Plan will influence how the City of Takoma Park operationalizes its racial justice priorities when presented with decisions about public space. These decisions will have yet-to-be-known racial justice impacts.

**Attachments and Links**

Public Space Management Plan web page:

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/planning-and-community-development/public-space-management-plan/>

First Draft Recommendations – To be posted