

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2023-

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK
PUBLIC SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park recognizes that public spaces are an essential component of the community fabric and should be designed and managed to support the well-being, safety, and enjoyment of all residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, public space refers to any real property or structures thereon that are owned, leased, or controlled by City of Takoma Park, inclusive of:

- City-owned parks
- Roadways and Public Rights-of-Way including amenities located in these public rights-of-way like sidewalks, shade trees, benches and bus stops; and

WHEREAS, the overlapping jurisdictions that own or manage community public space resources create challenges for comprehensive management of these resources, including spaces owned by non-City entities such as:

- Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration maintained roadways
- Montgomery County Department of Transportation maintained roadways
- Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission maintained parklands; and

WHEREAS, the policies that currently govern municipal public space management exist in an inconsistent patchwork across different departments and governmental systems; and

WHEREAS, the existing policies and practices allow for inequitable distributions of resources across the community; and

WHEREAS, the only long-range strategies for public space management exist in the City-adopted Takoma Park Public Open Space Plan (1994) and subsequent amendment (2000); and

WHEREAS, City staff and City Council started discussion of the need for a more comprehensive approach to decision-making related to public spaces during a City Council work session on March 3, 2015; and

WHEREAS, City staff conducted a range of internal analyses and public engagement activities between 2018 and 2021 to begin work on the Public Space Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, City Council approved the contract to hire, via a competitive bidding process, the urban planning firm CHPlanning, Inc. to coordinate and complete the remaining components of the Public Space Management Plan as a way of bringing additional expertise into the process; and

WHEREAS, the scope of the Public Space Management Plan excludes analysis and recommendations related to municipally owned facilities and their programming therein, namely:

- The Takoma Park Community Center/Sam Abbott Citizens' Center
- Takoma Park Recreation Center
- Takoma Park Maryland Library
- Heffner Community Center; and

WHEREAS, the process of collecting community input for this plan involved the voices of hundreds of residents spread over the course of the following community outreach touchpoints. The public outreach conducted by CHPlanning and the more recent community engagement activities of City staff included:

- 6 small-format community workshops
- 2 large-format community meetings
- 4 focus groups
- 2 online surveys
- 4 City Council presentations/meetings
- 1 yard sign campaign; and

WHEREAS, the included recommendations and analyses within the Public Space Management Plan support multiple citywide and countywide planning initiatives including:

- Takoma Park Racial Equity Initiative (2017)
- Takoma Park Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (2019)
- Takoma Park Streetscape Manual (2021)
- Montgomery County Pedestrian Master Plan (2023)
- Montgomery County Bicycle Master Plan (2018)
- Montgomery County Vision Zero Initiative (2018)

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park hereby adopts the City of Takoma Park Public Space Management Plan as presented by City staff on October 18, 2023, with the following changes:

Conditions:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Project Evaluation Scorecard will be reviewed for possible revision by the City Council 12 months after adoption, and every three years subsequently.

Adopted this ____ day of October, 2023.

AYE:

NAY:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

DRAFT