



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – November 29, 2023 Agenda Item 3

Voting Session

Adoption of the Public Space Management Plan

Recommended Council Action

Adopt the City Council Draft of the Public Space Management Plan.

Context with Key Issues

On October 18, 2023, the City Council held a work session on the Public Review Draft of the Public Space Management Plan. The draft represented the culmination of nearly five years of community engagement, staff and consultant analysis, and policy review in order to create a comprehensive approach to the management of the City's public space resources. 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.

During the City Council voting session, the City Council will review the City Council Draft of the Public Space Management Plan. This draft took the Public Review Draft and amended it with the feedback, comments, and suggestions made by the public and by members of the City Council that the City staff recommended to be included. The edits are highlighted in red text, with red stars in the margins to emphasize where substantive changes were made. Smaller spelling, grammar and formatting are not highlighted.

The City staff seek a vote on the adoption of the plan, including full City Council votes on any additional changes that the Council would like to see. Upon adoption of the plan, City staff will immediately begin implementation of the Project Evaluation Scorecard and use the Plan as a direction for setting new work plan priorities. Any other policy, regulatory, or budgetary issues recommended by the Plan would necessarily come back before the City Council at a future date.

Council Priority

Advancing a Community of Belonging
Fiscally Sustainable Government
Environmentally Sustainable Community
Engaged, Responsive, Service-Oriented Government
Community Development for an Improved & Equitable Quality of Life

Environmental Considerations

Adoption of the plan itself does not have a direct environmental impact. 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 community resilience. Any improvements or initiative that may occur as a result of the Public Space Management Plan will be evaluated on their environmental impacts and opportunities to address climate change. The impacts of the plan are limited to which recommendations are implemented and when. Considerations for climate resilience, stormwater, urban heat island issues, local biodiversity, equitable access to green space, and other environmental concerns were included in the development

of the recommendations. Any policy, regulatory, or budgetary issues pursued within the Plan would necessarily come back before the City Council.

Fiscal Considerations

There are no immediate costs associated with the adoption of this plan. Although many of the plan's recommendations require additional funds, the budget implications of the Public Space Management Plan are not yet known. The FY24 budget does not include dedicated funds to support the implementation of many of the recommendations within the report that would require additional funds, staff time, and/or technical assistance from external consultants. As City Council initiatives and budget priorities change over time, different components of this plan could be implemented. Any policy, regulatory, or budgetary issues pursued within the Plan would necessarily come back before the City Council.

Racial Equity Considerations

A core purpose of the Public Space Management Plan is to create a process that centers racial equity, as supported by analysis and data, in municipal decision-making processes regarding public space. The firm, CHPlanning, proposed a project that recognizes importance of these values and centered them in their process and product. City staff have continued to test and adapt the firm's draft plan into the format being reviewed today. When adopted, the 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. Any policy, regulatory, or budgetary issues pursued within the Plan would necessarily come back before the City Council.

Attachments and Links

- Public Space Management Plan – City Council Draft (11/15/2023)
- Public Comment Summary spreadsheet
- Council Comment Summary spreadsheet
- Draft Public Space Management Plan Resolution
- Public Space Management Plan web page: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/planning-and-community-development/public-space-management-plan/>

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2023-

**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 November 29, 2023; and

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 November, 2023.

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk

SUMMARY OF COUNCILMEMBER SUGGESTED CHANGES AND COMMENTS					
The following suggestions were received in response to the Public Review Draft of the Public Space Management Plan both during and after it was publicly shared at the City Council presentation on July 19, 2023. Staff accepted recommendations appear in White boxes; recommendations that staff do not accept appear in Grey boxes.					
#	Section	Period Collected	Suggested Addition/Change	Staff Response	Section
1	Mayor Searcy, CM Dyballa	October CC Meeting	Add a finite timeframe for the scope of the project.	Staff recommends adding additional clarifying language to the "Executive Summary" section on p. 10 and the "Vision, Goals, and Methodology" section on pp. 12-15 that sets a long-term vision for this plan of 20 years.	Introductory Sections
2	Mayor Searcy	October CC Meeting	Edit the instructions on the Scorecard to clarify the mechanism for generating a score	Staff recommends adding additional clarifying language to the Scorecard instructions on pp. 91-93 that more clearly explains the mechanism for generating a score.	Project Evaluation Scorecard
3	CM Gibson	Comment Period	Add an existing context conditions section relating to stormwater systems	Staff recommends adding additional clarifying language to the "Greening Public Space" section on p. 45 that expands on current stormwater management practices, including the new Stormwater Resiliency Study from the Public Works Department.	Existing Conditions
4	CM Gibson	Comment Period	Add an existing context conditions section relating to tree canopy	Staff recommends adding additional clarifying language to the "Greening Public Space" section on p. 45 that expands on current urban forest management practices, including the new Urban Forest Master Plan from the Public Works Department.	Existing Conditions
5	CM Gibson	Comment Period	Add an existing context conditions section relating to traffic patterns	Staff recommends adding additional clarifying language to the "Public Streets and Roadways" section on p. 33 that expands on the County and State analyses of crash patterns in the City.	Existing Conditions
6	CM Gibson	Comment Period	Add an existing context conditions section relating to education/signage (history, environment)	Staff recommends adding an additional section to the Existing Conditions titled "Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage" to provide background context on the existing signage policies and practices in public space, in support of Recommendation 3.3.	Existing Conditions
7	Mayor Searcy, CM Dyballa, CM Fulcher, CM Gibson, CH Honzak	Comment Period	A number of recommendations were made to adjust the draft scorecard, which are difficult to break out into individual suggestions.	In response to the collective comments received about the Project Evaluation Scorecard, an amended version of the scorecard has been included in the materials for the City Council work session. Adjustments primarily reflect a wish to be able to account for circumstances that might work against a project's weighted score, adjustments to some of the sub-criteria for different categories, and the needs for a justification document.	Project Evaluation Scorecard
8	CM Gibson	Comment Period, October CC Meeting	Add clarification about what is meant to be included in the Justification Narrative	Staff recommends adding additional clarifying language to the Scorecard instructions on pp. 91-93 that more clearly explains what is included in the Justification Narrative that will accompany each scorecard.	Project Evaluation Scorecard
9	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	1.1 I'm not clear where we talk about how to create the underlying benchmarking data that's missing.	Staff recommends adding additional clarifying language to the the detailed description of Recommendation 1.1 on p. 69 regarding proposed benchmarking.	Recommendations

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10	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	1.5 I am not a fan of this one, community events bring us together and are worth the extra cost. Maybe not recover, maybe defray some of the costs....	Staff recommends changing the text of this recommendation to "Identify processes, strategies and budgetary requirements for public events that requires staff time and resources, including potential cost recovery." There is currently no process or allocated budget for selecting which public events to support or not, annually. Consequently, Public Works, the Police Department, and HCD have no mechanism to effectively plan programming and annual budgets to support the staff, supplies, and administrative time required for these events. Staff feel that the recommendation as written leaves enough flexibility for the City Council and staff to explore a range of options for making the process of dedicating city resources toward privately organized public events more equitable and financially sustainable for the City.	Recommendations
11	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	2.5 and 2.6 are missing text	Staff recommend adjusting the text to include full descriptions for Recommendations 2.5 and 2.6.	Recommendations
12	CM Dyballa, Commenter E	Comment Period	"3.4 – Annual review of the Streetscape Manual seems too frequent."	Staff recommend adjusting the text of Recommendation 3.4 to the following: "Create regular schedule to update the data and design standards within the Takoma Park Streetscape Manual." Within the explanatory text, reference to a specific timeframe for review would be removed to allow flexibility for staff to determine the scope and frequency of updates in a manner that reflects data availability, industry best practices, etc.	Recommendations
13	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	1.2 geographic distribution and ward distribution, ward alone doesn't tell the story.	Staff recommends adjusting the language of Recommendation 1.2 to "Monitor the allocation of public space investments and existing assets across the spatial distribution of the city to help ensure that resources are directed to promote equity of access to quality public realm for all residents." This adjustment removes the specifications of wards as the measure of geographic distributions under the assumption than an equity analysis based on general geographic distribution would still align with any inequitable distribution across wards, but would have a more specific focus based on need.	Recommendations
14	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	2.1. Perhaps not the word "minorities" in a majority black and brown city.	Staff recommends changing the language through the report to better reflect the demographic reality of the Takoma Park community. In six locations, staff propose that the term minority, and its accompanying modifiers, is changed to "historically marginalized communities, including by race and income."	General Clarification/Comment
15	CM Dyballa	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Public Comment "Will you respond to each comment as you have to city council comments? If not, consider deleting "comment received" column, as they all are received."	Staff recommends accepting this proposal , because there is not a plan to provide lengthy rationale to every comment shared.	General Clarification/Comment
16	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Parks "Correct Circle Woods acreage, it is not 5.68. (this changes Park Area by Ward table)"	Staff recommends correcting the acreage calculation and making adjustments to Tables 5 & 6.	Existing Conditions
17	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Parks "Relabel "Takoma Junction Parking Lot" as also wooded area (vital to stormwater mgmt.)"	Staff recommends adding the wooded area of the Takoma Junction parking to Tables 5 & 6 , which is consistent with the way that the landscape and wooded areas of the Community Center and Recreation Center are recognized in the plan.	Existing Conditions
18	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Equity Analysis "Consider adding Seniors share of population in Active Parks/Population chart"	Staff recommends making adjustments to Figure 7 to include Seniors as a share of the population.	Existing Conditions

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19	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Equity Analysis "Describe methodology behind "Sidewalk Network Quality""	Staff recommends renaming the category to "Sidewalk Network Connectivity" to better reflect the data that it summarizes.	Existing Conditions
20	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Sidewalks "Add language noting the co-benefits of sidewalks and stormwater management"	Staff recommends adding additional clarifying language to the "Sidewalks" section on p. 38 that notes the intersection of sidewalks and stormwater management infrastructure.	Existing Conditions
21	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Greening Public Space "Add Stormwater infrastructure Map"	Staff recommends the addition of a map that displays the locations of green stormwater infrastructure across the City.	Existing Conditions
22	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 3.4 Uncertain: This focus doesn't seem to respond to any identified problem. Why does the streetscape need to be standardized?	Staff recommends adding clarifying language about the intention for the manual to be updated to reflect the locations and styles of streetscape furniture on a regular basis, as way to share information with the public and between departments.	Recommendations
23	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 3.5 Agreed, a good idea but this is not responding to any major identified problem.	Staff recommends adding clarifying language to explain the importance of this as a consideration for the City's public space assets.	Recommendations
24	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 4.2 Uncertain. A need-based approach would almost by definition not be on a predictable schedule. The recommendation should be calling for protocols and tools for assessing the condition of playground and park equipment on an annual or biannual basis.	Staff recommends changing the text of this recommendation to "Establish and fund a need-based playground and park equipment replacement evaluation process and schedule based on existing conditions and equity."	Recommendations

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25	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	<p>"I would rather see the Rockville approach but I can support use and testing of your revision with one strong recommendation. It should be supplemented with a narrative summary. In my opinion, the narrative format used in the standard staff cover memo ("Context with Key Issues") may not provide the needed analysis or nuance. I think a standardized PSMP Scorecard needs a more rigorous standardized analysis. And I am concerned that the public-facing Scorecard may give a false impression of objectivity and conclusiveness. My proposed draft format below for a narrative gives staff the opportunity to summarize their analysis beyond numbers. It is intended to serve as a kind of executive summary for a Placemaking Project. I am very happy to discuss with you both this suggestion or some modification. Thanks for your consideration.</p> <p>PSMP Scorecard Executive Summary</p> <p>I. Overview of project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project developer (Council, Staff or resident group) - Need and/or Opportunity Addressed - Location - Potential beneficiaries <p>II. Benefits Summary (from Scorecard)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key Benefit Categories and Evidence Cited - Trade Offs and any Data Gaps - Alignment with Council Priorities and Plans <p>III. Implementation Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methodology - Cost Estimates - Resources: Technical, financial, partnerships - Readiness and Timeline <p>IV. Monitoring and Evaluation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance measure(s) 	<p>Staff recommends adding some components of this request as a recommendation. The updated Project Evaluation Scorecard includes a template for the Justification Narrative, and staff already accepted the earlier request for more clarifying language as to what is included in the narrative. Staff view the proposed outline of narrative topics as overly prescriptive for the scope of this plan. As written now, staff leave flexibility for the format to evolve as the tool is used, without returning to the City Council for approval each time an adjustment is made. Some elements outlined would be useful to add to the proposed template, including who initiated the project, project location, and estimated timeline (if known).</p>	Scorecard
26	Commenter A	Comment Period	<p>Create clearer connections to the three guiding principles within the following sections: Paper Streets, Streetlights, Public Art, Greening Public Space, and Permits/Processes.</p>	<p>Staff recommends adding additional clarifying language to the "Paper Streets", "Streetlights", "Public Art", and "Greening Public Space" section on p. 45 that adds some additional connective context.</p>	Existing Conditions

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27	Commenter A	Comment Period	"Rec 3.7: Any "Inventory existing desire line paths and trails" should be limited to public property. Areas with paths and trails on private property should be loosely identified by area, and then, in areas where those paths overlap with the City's natural resources, more discussion about existing paths and trails can take place."	Staff recommend adjusting the text of Recommendation 3.7 to the following: "Inventory existing desire line paths and trails on public land."	Recommendations
28	Commenter A	Comment Period	"The Community Engagement, SWOT Analysis, Strategies and Case Studies sections are...are confusing, often duplicative, and simply add little value. They should be eliminated."	Staff does NOT recommend removing the listed sections, with the exception of the "Strategies" section . These sections summarize the work conducted by the consulting team. They exist in the plan document body and appendices as supplemental resources for readers who are interested to learn more about those processes and ideas. However, the Strategies section represents examples from previous drafts of the Plan, which decreases the utility of the section.	Existing Conditions
29	Commenter A	Comment Period	"Rec 6.5[5.5]: This recommendation should be rejected. This was presented without discussion anywhere in the document. It's full of holes and needs a lot more justification in a thoughtful analytical section."	Staff recommend the removal of Recommendation 5.5 , because there is not enough analysis of this issue within the Existing Conditions.	Recommendations
30	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	2.6, paper streets. Activate for what? An opportunity here, that is not clear to me.	"Activation" refers to the way an unused or underused spaces is re-designed and/or programmed to encourage new or expanded uses. Many paper streets now are barely discernible in their overgrowth, some are used as informal trails or walkways, and some of them are being used as extensions of personal property. An investigation into opportunities for activation would explore both options for how the City might want to reprogram or redesign those spaces for better or higher public use, or whether the City even wants to hold onto them as public property anymore.	General Clarification/Comment
31	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	3.1 how do we define public space gaps? Perhaps this is the place to discuss setting aside funding (see 6.1)	"Public space gaps" is used generally to describe breaks in access or connection between people and public space amenities, such as a missing block of sidewalk, a pocket park in a neighborhood without nearby parks, a bike lane that connects two important areas or completes a link between other bike networks, etc.	General Clarification/Comment
32	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	4.2 I thought that public works already has a playground replacement schedule	The current playground replacement schedule is based solely on length of time from when the playground was last updated. This system, while equal, is not equitable, because it does not account for how playgrounds in different locations (sun or shade, wet or dry) or with different kinds of uses may wear down or require updates more frequently than the existing system would call for. For example, the next park for renovation by the current standard is Belle Ziegler; however, the conditions of its equipment are much better than some of the equipment at Toatley-Fraser Park or Spring Park. The current system wouldn't allow queue jumping based on that identified need.	General Clarification/Comment
33	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	5.3 I'm not clear how residential parking zones affect equity goals, do you mean just the ones near commercial areas?	The recommendation asks staff to evaluate the impact on equity. There are a number of reasons to employ residential parking zones for strategic traffic management reasons. However, parking zones, when not applied without a fuller analysis, can also create ad hoc private on-street parking zones for limited numbers of residents. In the case of Takoma Park, all of the residential parking zones are located in single-family home neighborhoods.	General Clarification/Comment

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34	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	6.1 Do you mean a separate acquisition fund like the housing fund? I do not support that, as acquisition of new properties is not very likely.	The recommendation is worded broadly enough to allow for a variety of funding opportunities to be explored, whether in the form of federal, state, or county grants, a dedicated municipal fund, or something else.	General Clarification/Comment
35	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	1.2 and 1.3, the bold language is identical.	Comment received. Staff already identified this correction and have incorporated it into the new draft.	General Clarification/Comment
36	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	2.5 and 2.6 are missing text	Comment received. Staff already identified this correction and have incorporated it into the new draft.	Recommendations
37	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	Sections 5 and 5, the text does not match the list of recs in front	Comment received. Staff already identified this correction and have incorporated it into the new draft.	Recommendations
38	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	6.2 agree the process needs updating, it is not 2 days for Dorothy's Woods, that would be great! P95 Action plan yes, annual update too ambitious.	Comment received.	General Clarification/Comment
39	CM Dyballa	October CC Meeting	On reflection, I still think this is a great and ambitious list of possible actions, but either we need to be clear this is a long-range plan or offer some short-term priority steps out of the list for the next year or two.	<i>See the Staff Response to #1.</i>	Introductory Sections
40	CM Dyballa	October CC Meeting	I also notice that there's really not much in terms of active recreation and sports, was that intentional?	Yes - this plan focuses on the broader management of public space, rather than the the specific programming. The scope of this project sought to avoid becoming a Recreation Plan that requires the dissection and analysis of our recreational building facilities and programs.	General Clarification/Comment
41	CM Dyballa	October CC Meeting	Given the need to reorder the recommendations list and the text that describes these, I would want to see a revised version of this before a council vote.	Comment received.	General Clarification/Comment
42	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 2.2 Agreed.	Comment received.	Recommendations
43	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 1.3 Completely Agree	Comment received.	Recommendations
44	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 2.4 Agreed: Makes sense not only to coordinate and standardize outreach processes, but also to cluster them at periodic intervals, even if this introduces minor delays. Encourage Depts/Divisions to work together.	Comment received.	Recommendations
45	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 3.1 Agreed.	Comment received.	Recommendations
46	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 3.2 Agreed, a more on evidence-based review makes sense (focusing on safety, mobility, and access).	Comment received.	Recommendations
47	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 3.7 Agreed.	Comment received.	Recommendations
48	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 5.3 Agreed. See, the Parking Management Task Force (2019-2021) draft recommendations.	Comment received. The Parking Management Task Force (2019-2021) draft recommendations are a great resource and represent many hours of work from resident committee members, but the draft was never approved or adopted by the City Council, so its contents are only advisory.	Recommendations

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49	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 5.4 Agreed. And, the Parking Management Task Force investigated this question and generated draft recommendations to be shared with the public.	Comment received.	Recommendations
50	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 5.5 Agreed. And, the Parking Management Task Force investigated this question and generated draft recommendations to be shared with the public.	Comment received. See Staff Reponse to #48	Recommendations
51	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 5.7 Agreed, but what does it mean? Activation can mean a lot and should be preceded by identification of needs and opportunities and then a process for activation. Some ideas might include a process for standing, ongoing (e.g. weekly or monthly) street closures for recreation or gathering or commerce. The City could close off intersections and repurpose space as 24-7 recreational space. The City could keep an ongoing record of the locations of official annual events (e.g. the Pumpkin Bash) and establish a rotating schedule for where those events are held, moving through spaces in all six wards. The City could promote fun events such as fun runs, yoga ball rolls, or scavenger hunts that lead participants across the City through a constellation of public spaces and thereby acquaint residents and visitors with the variety of spaces (and with each other).	Comment received. "Activation" refers to the way an unused or underused spaces is re-designed and/or programmed to encourage new or expanded uses. The suggestions made in this comment are all examples of types of activation and fall within the purview of the recommendation.	Recommendations
52	CM Dyballa	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Staff Comment #8 from 10/4/23 "revised scorecard, another revision or the one we already saw?"	Yes, the version of the scorecard included in the City Council draft is the same as presented at the 10/4/23 City Council meeting.	General Clarification/Comment
53	CM Dyballa	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Staff Comment #19 from 10/4/23 "Do you mean you will delete the section on strategies (as an outdated set of recommendations)?"	Yes, the City Council Draft removes the entire Strategies section.	General Clarification/Comment
54	CM Dyballa	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Staff Comment #21 from 10/4/23 "My comment was not clear—3.1.--saying that we will close public space gaps suggests to me an analysis and list of which gaps we will close; where is that explained?"	Some public space gap analysis has already been conducted, such as for the bike network in the Montgomery County Bicycle Master Plan, for ADA compliant sidewalks in internal PW documentation, for park access via the analysis visualized in Figure 6, etc. Some gap analysis is yet to be undertaken, and would be conducted on a project-by-project basis, unless otherwise directed by the City Council.	General Clarification/Comment
55	CM Dyballa	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Staff Comment #46 from 10/4/23 "volunteers. What I meant is that the plan should support using volunteers to help maintain public parks and natural areas, as the vegetation team does now, not just for public art projects. No language change needed, I think.	Comment received.	General Clarification/Comment
56	CM Dyballa	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Staff Comment #20 from 10/4/23 "I still do not support prioritizing a full natural resources inventory, until a strong reason to do so is given. Yes I realize this is a council decision."	Staff would agree that the decision to keep or remove this recommendation would be best decided by the whole City Council.	General Clarification/Comment

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57	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Parks "Correct Memorial Park table showing it adjacent to Ward 3."	Comment received. Staff already identified this correction and have incorporated it into the new draft.	Existing Conditions
58	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	"The chart attached shows considerable variation in the treatment of Existing Conditions across topic areas. Some topic areas provide a very basic description or inventory but little in the way of analysis of the quality or status of the asset or resource being described."	Comment received.	Existing Conditions
59	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	"Several topic areas identify needs or gaps but do not go on to make a formal Recommendation, at least not in this section of the PSMP."	Recommendations from this report are only found within the Recommendations section. The actions marked by blue circles with white check-boxes illustrate actions and initiatives that the City is already working on. They were identified by stakeholders and the consulting team as important enough to call out, but as they are existing, ongoing actions, they do not rise to the level of new Recommendations.	Existing Conditions
60	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 1.1 Uncertain: Scorecard can be useful but I cannot support unless a companion narrative assessment accompanies the scorecard. I fear the numerical Scorecard gives a false sense of objectivity and finality. I will send detailed comments separately.	Comment Received. See the Staff Response to #2 and #8.	Recommendations
61	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 1.5 Uncertain: This seems quite vague. What is the specific problem needing resolution?	Comment Received. See the Staff Response to #10.	Recommendations
62	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 6.2 Absolutely Agreed. However, given limited staff resources, an established network of volunteer "stewards" would be necessary to help look after some of these natural resources. The City needs to recognize that we are in a Climate & Biodiversity Crisis that the City cannot handle alone. It requires partnerships with residents.	Comment Received. See Staff Response to #128.	Recommendations
63	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 7.1 Agreed, But. This makes sense but volunteers should be enlisted from the existing network of well-informed and experienced local residents and organizations.	Comment Received. See Staff Response to #128.	Recommendations
64	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 7.3 Absolutely Agree. And prioritize steep slopes and overdeveloped bottomlands, in coordination with installations and best practices on private property, taking a systems approach rather than a single-point approach. Leverage site visits and analysis from the Stormwater Resiliency Study. This recommendation also begs the fostering of a robust volunteer umbrella organization and protocols for coordination with City staff, including in data collection and longitudinal tracking and mapping.	Comment Received. See Staff Response to #128.	Recommendations

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#	Section	Period Collected	Suggested Addition/Change	Staff Response	Section
65	CM Honzak	July CC Meeting	Add recommendation: City focus on activating County-managed and privately-owned properties for public enjoyment	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. County- and privately-owned properties are important spaces, but they fall outside the jurisdiction of City staff. Since the City has no control over of success of such a recommendation, staff do not believe that it makes sense to codify this proposal into the Plan. Staff continue to explore opportunities for collaboration where possible with private and peer agency partners.	Recommendations
66	Mayor Searcy, CM Fulcher	July CC Meeting	Add recommendation: Explore partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions to create connections and activated spaces for residents that may find easier greenspace or public space options just outside the city boundary.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. County- and privately-owned properties are important spaces, but they fall outside the jurisdiction of City staff. Since the City does not have control over of success of such a recommendation, staff do not believe that it makes sense to codify this proposal into the Plan. Staff currently and continue to explore opportunities for collaboration where possible with private and peer agency partners.	Recommendations
67	Mayor Searcy	July CC Meeting	Add recommendation: Identify and clarify the jurisdictions of informal public space that are currently unrecognized or underutilized, but might be opportunities for new public spaces where space is limited.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. Staff feel that this point of feedback is already covered by Recommendations 2.6, 3.7, 3.8 and 5.6.	Recommendations
68	Mayor Searcy	July CC Meeting	Add recommendation: Explore options for the City to develop guidance policies related to public space amenities for new private development projects.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The Montgomery Planning Development Review process identifies requirements for amenities, including public spaces and green spaces. Any project substantial enough to go through the Development Review process would be subject to these requirements. Any project too small to be considered for Development Review may find additional public amenity requirements logistically and/or financially burdensome or inappropriate, such as for the by-right construction of a single-family home.	Recommendations
69	CM Gibson	July CC Meeting	Create a clearer distinction in the maps between active/passive and actively maintained/undeveloped park spaces on the maps in the Plan	Staff does NOT recommend adding a new mapping analysis to display which parks are actively maintained versus undeveloped. Staff agree that this would be an interesting set of data to see, but it would not fill any gaps in analytical substance of the Plan. The existing Figure 6 on p. 28 already displays Active vs. Passive parks, and Figure 5 on p. 24, paired with Tables 4 and 5 on pp. 25-26, clearly identifies the types of amenities within each park, including whether each is actively maintained or undeveloped greenspace.	Existing Conditions
70	CM Gibson	Comment Period, October CC Meeting	Add an existing context conditions section relating to watershed and drainage areas	Staff does NOT recommend adding a separate section about watershed dynamics and conservation. Although the City's watershed is both a part of and impacts public spaces, the addition of background information does not enhance the analysis of any of the existing recommendations in the plan. Additional analysis of the watershed and drainage areas is already a component of the Stormwater Resiliency Study underway by the Department of Public Works.	Existing Conditions
71	CM Gibson	July CC Meeting, Comment Period, October CC Meeting	existing context conditions section relating to CBO infrastructure (social resilience)	Staff does NOT recommend adding a separate section about civic infrastructure, civil society, or community-based organization infrastructure. The scale of the task to quantify and describe the wide range of community groups, organizations, and initiatives that intersect with public space expands beyond the staffing and funding capacity of this study. The proposed addition of such a section does not provide direct support to any recommendations that is not covered in other parts of the Plan documents.	Existing Conditions

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72	CM Honzak, Resident/Stakeholder A	Comment Period, October CC Meeting	Include mapping and analysis that includes nearby Non-Takoma Park Public Space.	Staff does NOT recommend adding a new mapping analysis of public spaces outside of the City's boundary. Staff agree that this would be an interesting set of data to see; however, this was not included in the analysis conducted by the City in the past or by the consulting firm during the course of this project. Its inclusion would require funding for external GIS technical assistance. Staff feel that the cost and time delay associated with the addition would outweigh the benefit of having that analysis as a reference point.	Recommendations
73	CM Honzak	October CC Meeting	Add recommendation: Include provisions about bicycle education and residential infrastructure	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation . The proposed recommendation is more specific than the scope of the Plan. The City Council may choose to allocate funding and direct staff to develop additional bike education or residential infrastructure incentive structures at their discretion.	Recommendations
74	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	Sustainability p. 13: Consider adding council's tree resolution as related city policy	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation . References to the City's tree policies are included in the Existing conditions section of the Plan document.	Introductory Sections
75	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	P. 14, 1st paragraph, consider tree canopy instead of greenery.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation . The choice of the term greenery refers not only to the city's tree canopy, but also its formal and informal landscaping that feature a range of native and introduced plant species.	Existing Conditions
76	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	"These seem important, tie them more closely to the recommendations. Also, "memorable"?"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation . See <i>the Staff Response to #28</i> .	Strategies
77	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	"Case studies. Interesting but I'm not sure why they should be in the plan itself, maybe an appendix?"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation . Staff feel that the inclusion of the Case Studies section helps offer additional context for the following Recommendations section.	Case Studies
78	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	1.6 I think the Takoma Foundation has undertaken a pilot project in this area, do you mean to do more or to first see that one through?	This recommendation focuses on options for a city-led participatory budgeting process, which may be well-suited to public space projects, which often have a defined scale and easily-seen impact. At the time of Plan development, the City is rolling a new public budgeting program called Balancing Act, which begins to pursue this recommendation. The City Council may choose to allocate funding and direct staff to develop a pilot or full-scale participatory budget program at their discretion.	General Clarification/Comment
79	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	2.1-3, focuses volunteers on public art. P60, volunteers, takes a broader approach. Feels like something is missing here.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation . See <i>the Staff Response to #13</i> .	Strategies
80	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	2.4 I am not sure this is such a heavy lift, rather a matter of making it a priority.	Staff does NOT recommend adjusting the designation of Recommendation 2.4 as a 'Heavier Lift' . To set a policy for baseline outreach may not be such a heavy lift, but depending on the strength of the policy, staff feel that the implementation of such a policy could require extensive financial commitment in the annual budget, new levels and structures for staff training and coordination, and perhaps new staff roles to accommodate additional tasks or responsibilities associated with the strategy.	Recommendations
81	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	3.7 "desire line"? how about "informal"?	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation . "Desire line" is a commonly used term in reference to these kinds of informal trails, and the term is further described in the expanded description on p. 77.	Recommendations

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82	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	6.1 this doesn't sound like a new inventory but compiling existing information; rephrase? How is this different from 5.1? combine them?	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. This recommendation refers to publicly available information about which parks have what amenities, etc. Recommendation 5.1 refers to the acquisition of new physical parks and/or other public spaces.	Recommendations
83	CM Dyballa	October CC Meeting	Rec 2.2 and 3.2 You might update these since now there is council guidance on reforming sidewalk and traffic calming requests.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. It is possible that the PSMP will be adopted before these policies are updated. Since these policies are only under development, and staff cannot know how long the process will take for their formal update, it is recommended that Recommendations 2.2 and 2.3 remain as written.	Recommendations
84	CM Dyballa	Comment Period	6.2 I do not agree that a citywide natural resource inventory is useful; mature trees, perhaps. What will the inventory tell us?	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request to remove the recommendation. A citywide natural resource inventory came up numerous times from different residents and community groups throughout the community feedback stages of the process. The City Council may choose to allocate funding and direct staff to develop any level of scope and hire the requisite external consultants needed for such a study at their discretion.	Recommendations
85	CM Dyballa	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Staff Comment #1 from 10/4/23 - "And on the cover? "long-range" plan"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. Language was added to the Executive Summary and Methodology section setting a timeframe for the implementation of the plan, and staff feel that that is sufficient for the implementation of this document. Across the field, most "long-range" plans are supported by modeling and projections that predict future impacts and conditions. Since this plan does not include that, staff are hesitant to lean too heavily on that specific terminology.	General Clarification/Comment
86	CM Dyballa	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Staff Comment #20 from 10/4/23 "I suggest a rephrase, "activate paper streets for a variety of uses" at 2.6"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The recommendation as written does not preclude a range of options or variety of uses. More analysis would be required before specific types of activations would be pursued.	General Clarification/Comment
87	CM Dyballa	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Staff Comment #32, 33, 34, 39 from 10/4/23 "Re: Staff Comment #20 from 10/4/23 "Since rec 5.1 addresses non-city spaces, you could point that out."	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. City staff are unclear about the request in this proposal. The text for Recommendation 5.1 already specifies the inclusion of County properties. This recommendation includes County properties as part of the recommendation, because it does not require any additional analysis or deliverables from neighboring county partners, beyond what's immediately available on their websites, and it requires infrequent updating.	General Clarification/Comment
88	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	"My request is to create an even more rigorous and internally consistent document by filling in any gaps in information, analysis and recommendations of the Condition topic areas"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The Existing Conditions section of this document was designed to represent a snapshot of the policies, practices, and on-the-ground realities to inform the high-level recommendations of this Plan. It was not designed to be all-encompassing or designed to be an ongoing reference document to track progress. Progress made on different recommendations can and should be shared via the relevant departmental platforms that illustrate other projects and initiatives as they advance. The City Council may request progress updates on the Plan's recommendations at their discretion, which could be accompanied by select updated data visualizations.	Existing Conditions

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89	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	"Each [Existing] Condition topic should provide answers to: 1) Description of the Condition, its size/scope and responsible entities? 2) What is the quality or status of the Condition and how is it measured/monitored?, 3) What gaps or needs exist for the Condition to be optimal? and 4) What recommendations are proposed?"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. This level of analysis is outside the scope of this report and internal capacity of city staff. In reference to point #4, recommendations are proposed in the Recommendations section.	Existing Conditions
90	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	"Existing Conditions be treated as a living document that is used by staff and the public to capture up to date information on our public spaces, resources and systems. To that end, I recommend that updates be reflected in the document as frequently as possible but at least annually."	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. See <i>Staff Response #88</i> .	Existing Conditions
91	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Income Analysis "Consider trend analysis and projections"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. This level of analysis is outside the scope of this report and internal capacity of city staff. It is not clear to staff what this would add to the report; any new analyses added to the PSMP should add substantive new information that strengthens rationale for a Recommendation.	Existing Conditions
92	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Parks "Add recommendations for the need to begin an assessment of park quality/conditions."	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. This proposal already appears in Recommendation 6.2.	Existing Conditions
93	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Parks "Add Ward Boundaries to map."	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The distribution of different park resources is already detailed in Tables 5 & 6. The addition of ward boundaries to an already visually busy map reduces its effectiveness.	Existing Conditions
94	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Parks "Expand "Amenities" to include natural features such as: shaded walkway, native trees, springs, wildlife habitat, raingardens, etc."	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. This level of analysis falls outside the scope of this project, and the proposal already appears as a possible component to Recommendation 6.2. The City Council may choose to allocate funding and direct staff to create a natural resource inventory at their discretion.	Existing Conditions
95	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Parks "Add recommendation to expand cooperation with MNCPPC."	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. City staff already cooperate with MNCPPC on many projects, both proactively and as required by law. It is not clear to staff what this proposal would add to the Plan as a Recommendation.	Existing Conditions
96	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Parks "Add recommendation to encourage resident/neighborhood park engagement in coordination with City."	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. This proposal is already covered by Recommendations 2.1 & 2.4.	Existing Conditions
97	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Equity Analysis "Add Ward boundaries to map"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The map in Figure 2 was created by a previous Takoma Park intern, and the original files are not available to update.	Existing Conditions
98	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Equity Analysis "Add New Recommendation: Consider enhancing features of Passive Parks, such as nature paths/sitting spaces, native plantings and educational signage to support health and wellbeing."	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The proposed addition is already covered by Recommendations 3.7 & 3.9	Existing Conditions
99	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Public Streets and Roadways "Add Ward boundaries to map"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. It is not clear to staff what adding ward boundaries would add to an already visually busy map.	Existing Conditions

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100	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Public Streets and Roadways "Consider adding data on key roadways' "carrying capacity""	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. It is not clear what is meant by "carrying capacity." If it is a reference to measures of adequate motor vehicles, pedestrian, bus, or bike carrying capacity on roads based on nearby land uses, a measure found in many technical roadways analyses with the County and the State, then that level of analysis is outside the scope of the Plan.	Existing Conditions
101	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Public Streets and Roadways "Add Recommendation to expand cooperation with SHA"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. City staff already cooperate with SHA on many projects, both proactively and as required by law. It is not clear to staff what this proposal would add to the Plan as a Recommendation.	Existing Conditions
102	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Bikeways/Trails "Describe the range involved in "low traffic volumes" on many residential streets"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The City does not have traffic volume data for every street in the City, so a more specific metric cannot be included. Definitions of low-traffic volume vary jurisdiction to jurisdiction, depending on the type of road in question and the different land and roadway uses surrounding it.	Existing Conditions
103	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Bikeways/Trails "Add Ward boundaries to map"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The map is already a data-dense and visually busy map. Adding Ward boundaries will make it less effective in conveying information.	Existing Conditions
104	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Sidewalks "Add Ward boundaries to map"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. It is not clear what adding ward boundaries would add to an already visually busy map.	Existing Conditions
105	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Bus Stops"Add Ward boundaries to map"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. It is not clear what adding ward boundaries would add to an already visually busy map.	Existing Conditions
106	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Paper Streets "Add Ward boundaries to map"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The map in Figure 13 was created for a University of Maryland student research project. Staff do not have access to the original files.	Existing Conditions
107	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Sidewalks "Add Recommendation to create a policy on paper streets management"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. This proposal already appears in Recommendation 2.6.	Existing Conditions
108	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Public Art"Add Recommendation to develop policy definition of allowable Public Art"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. This proposal already appears in Recommendation 2.3.	Existing Conditions
109	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Greening Public Space "Add Ward Boundaries to map."	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. There is no map in this section.	Existing Conditions
110	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Greening Public Space "Add Drainage area Watershed map"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. It is not clear to staff what this would add to the Plan or how it would support new or exiting recommendations.	Existing Conditions
111	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Greening Public Space "Add Recommendation to implement a Stormwater Resilience Pilot on private properties"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The Public Works Department is already conducting a Stormwater Resiliency Study that focuses on private property impacts of stromwater management practices.	Existing Conditions
112	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Greening Public Space "Add Recommendation to encourage resident/neighborhood park and ROW engagement in coordination with City."	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. This proposal is already covered by Recommendations 2.1 & 2.4.	Existing Conditions

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113	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Greening Public Space "Add Recommendation to develop and promote resident-staff coordination and partnerships around Parks and Public Space Greening"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. It is not clear what the request is asking for. If it is a proposal for more comprehensive community engagement related to Park and Public Greening projects, then the proposal is already covered by Recommendations 2.1 & 2.4.	Existing Conditions
114	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Greening Public Space "Add Recommendation to improve and standardize customer interface with permit process"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. This proposal already appears in Recommendation 5.6.	Existing Conditions
115	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Re: Greening Public Space "Add Recommendation to develop policies and procedures to"	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. This proposal was presented in an incomplete format.	Existing Conditions
116	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 1.2 Agreed, although additional focus should be placed on promoting the identification of needs and opportunities in each Ward. Also need to monitor the amount of staff time needed.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. It is not clear what the requested additional recommendation(s) would be from the comment as written.	Recommendations
117	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 1.4 Uncertain. Good idea but acquisition goals are needed, perhaps including an ongoing lookout for possible sites.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The proposal seems unrelated to the recommendation, which is related to internal staff capacity for the acquisition and administration of grant funding, not properties to create new or improved public spaces.	Recommendations
118	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 1.6 Uncertain. Good goal, and the entire budget process should be more participatory. Needs more clarity on the process.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The City Council may choose to allocate funding and direct staff to develop a participatory budgeting process at their discretion. At that time details about the process would be developed.	Recommendations
119	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 2.1 Agreed, and need for place-based engagement strategies by neighborhood or Ward.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. Staff feel that the "place-based engagement strategies" are implied as possible components of the recommendation, and that expanding the focus to general geographies, rather than need-based populations, diminishes the focus on equitable outcomes.	Recommendations
120	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 2.3 Uncertain: Need to consider whether the effort to establish such a policy is warranted, or whether a live-and-let live culture can work most of the time.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. As is consistent with the rest of the Plan, the aim is to create clarity for residents, staff, and the City Council where policy gaps exist. The city does not currently maintain a "live-and-let-live" policy; unauthorized public art installations are subject to the city's graffiti ordinance. The City also becomes responsible for the cost, staff time, and public relations associated with maintenance and/or removal of unauthorized art installations that are reported as graffiti.	Recommendations
121	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 2.5 Agreed. Also consider dedicating one or more locations in public space as CSA delivery sites, potentially with secure food storage for CSA members. These sites could function as informal market spaces as well.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. This proposal is more specific than the scope of this plan. The City Council may choose to allocate funding and direct staff to options for semi-permanent CSA infrastructure in public spaces at their discretion.	Recommendations

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122	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 2.6 Uncertain: This recommendation is too vague to be useful. It doesn't offer any process for the recommended investigation. Need to figure out what a neighborhood needs and what the City as a whole needs. Then where useful consider activating paper streets to achieve the desired objective. Ecosystem services provided by the paper streets are not mentioned.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The City Council may choose to allocate funding and direct staff to investigate opportunities to activate or dispose of paper streets at their discretion. At that time details about the process would be developed.	Recommendations
123	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 3.3 Agreed, but keep signage obtrusive and ubiquitous. Include site specific history and environmental benefits.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. This proposal asks for "obtrusive" signage, which is defined as "noticeable or prominent in an unwelcome or intrusive way," which is contrary to the purpose of the recommended improvements. Inclusion of site history or environmental benefits falls under the scope of the recommendation, as written.	Recommendations
124	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 3.6 Agreed, but: Completing the sidewalk network/ADA does not have to be the one-size-fits-all solution on cul-de-sac and one-block streets. Look for street designs that signal the roadway is a shared space for pedestrians and cars. Define "sensitive uses".	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The need for accessibility is not specific to the type of roadway it abuts, including a cul-de-sac; people with mobility needs can live anywhere and should be able to access everywhere. Examples of sensitive uses can be found in the expanded description of the recommendation.	Recommendations
125	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 3.8 Agreed, but first find out what people want in their recreation spaces.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. This proposal falls within the purview of the recommendation, as written.	Recommendations
126	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 4.1 Uncertain: This is primarily an internal acknowledgement of deficiencies in interdepartmental communication related to public space. Consider exploration of restructuring or consolidation of departments. Also missing are any recommendations for coordination between departments and community volunteer organizations, which could potentially generate cost savings and improved maintenance and care of public spaces.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. One of the purposes of the plan is to strengthen structural mechanisms by which staff intersect in public space work.	Recommendations
127	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 4.3 Uncertain. See comments above with 4.2. This recommendation identifies but does not address underlying institutional problems such as staff turnover that lead to inconsistent updating and use of the GIS database. Perhaps, the City should focus on the goal (keeping track of where things are and what condition they are in) and keep an open mind about how to address it. Volunteers, e.g. park stewards, could be helpful, and their involvement could build community.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. Staff do not feel that outsourcing internal data collection and analysis to intermittent, unpaid volunteers would improve the continuity of data management across multiple City departments and divisions. Development of mapping layers from raw data and observations is a different, if sometimes overlapping, skillset from manipulating, analyzing, or visualizing that data. Project staff identified the proposed recommendation as necessary to effectively create public-facing maps and geospatial analyses with current information.	Recommendations
128	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 4.4 Agreed, but: Yes, the City's ability to handle invasive species control is not adequate, but further clarity is needed on the gaps in service and possible resources needed both financial and labor. Trained volunteers with a sense of care for the local landscape should be considered.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The identifications in gaps of service expand beyond the scope of the Plan. Regarding volunteer weed management, the administrative and staffing burden for a volunteer program is substantial and comes with uncertainty about the tenure and availability of volunteers. The Plan's recommendation to update the City's Right of Entry process for staff-directed community volunteers (5.2) attempts to open selective pathways to volunteer support.	Recommendations

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129	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 5.1 Agreed. However, greater specificity is needed on which media to use for this publicizing effort. Consider, way-finding signs rather than depending on the City website or brochures. Have the information in way-finding signs places it where users need it.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The proposal already exists within the purview of Recommendation 3.3. Determination about the style of publication of this information would be developed as part of the project.	Recommendations
130	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 5.2 Agreed. And, not only allow but promote.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The proposal already exists with the purview of Recommendation 5.6.	Recommendations
131	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 5.6 Absolutely Agreed. Also consider a single point-of-contact, e.g. the cashier's window, for all public space program, permit, and service requests.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. The addition of a recommendation for a single, in-person point of contact for all public space-related permits and processes would require a staff person to manage the processes and permits of the Public Works, HCD, Clerk, Recreation, and Police departments. Staff view this to be administratively unfeasible, although effort to consolidate those processes into more central online formats could fall within the purview of this recommendation.	Recommendations
132	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 6.1 Agreed, But. This is a cart-before-the-horse recommendation. Before acquisition, an internal list of potential properties that could identified by Staff and Council. Later, it could be considered for meeting overarching public space objectives if they become available for acquisition. That list should be pre-existing so that pressure in the moment doesn't lead to the City making unnecessary acquisitions, and also so that delays in evaluation of opportunities don't lead to the City losing those opportunities.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. Opportunities for City aquisition of new property are rarely available, because the City is almost entirely built-up. When opportunities do arise, they often have short time horizons to make a decision, such as with the acquisition of Dorothy's Woods or WSSC's recent disposal of their properties at 300 Circle Avenue. In the event that a property is deemed desirable for aquisition, it becomes more financially sustainable to have an existing pot of money to draw from, rather than pulling money from existing budget lines. Existing funds made available in advance of a purchase also help the City Council and staff better weigh the financial costs of such an aquisition.	Recommendations
133	CM Gibson	Post-October CC Meeting	Recommendation 7.2 Agreed. And, describe examples of sustainable design elements.	Staff does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation. Examples of sustainable design elements are already included in the detailed description of the recommendation.	Recommendations

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT

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#	Commenter	Comment/Testimony	Plan Section
1	Commenter A	Recommendation: "The Community Engagement, SWOT Analysis, Strategies and Case Studies sections are...are confusing, often duplicative, and simply add little value. They should be eliminated."	Existing Conditions
2		Recommendation: Create clearer connections to the three guiding principles within the following sections: Paper Streets, Streetlights, Public Art, Greening Public Space, and Permits/Processes.	Existing Conditions
3		Recommendation: Include mapping and analysis that includes nearby Non-Takoma Park Public Space.	Recommendations
4		Concern: "As presented, this Plan is a sloppy, generalization-packed document, with major data issues and inaccuracies." The overall plan need more focused language.	General Comment
5		Concern: "Seeing the Recommendations map back to the City Council's short-term priority list was...confusing."	Recommendations
6		Concern: The commenter identifies a number of observed mapping, visualization, and data errors.	Existing Conditions
7		Concern: The document shares unsupported recommendations in the Existing Conditions sections.	Existing Conditions
8		Concern: GIS analysis is incomplete and/or contains errors	Existing Conditions
9		Recommendation: Improve staff GIS analysis capabilities.	Recommendations
10		Recommendation: "Rec 1.2: The phrase "Monitor the allocation of public space investments and existing assets across the geographic distribution of the six city wards to help ensure that resources are directed to promote equity of access to quality public realm for all residents" is meaningless. Please recraft this."	Recommendations
11		Recommendation: "Rec 1.2:... De-emphasize the suggested efforts to collect past data unless it is easily compiled for analysis. Recognize ward maps have changed recently and will change over time."	Recommendations
12		Concern: "Rec 1.2 and Rec 1.3: The mission statement for 1:3 is identical to 1.2. It doesn't align to the project description."	Recommendations
13		Recommendation: "Rec 1.4: We all recognize that it takes money to make money in this business. Suggest that the city try and tap into the substantive amount of grants-making and writing expertise in this city by creating a City Support Corps of volunteers for large grant projects."	Recommendations

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#	Commenter	Comment/Testimony	Plan Section
14		Recommendation: "Rec 3.7: Any "Inventory existing desire line paths and trails" should be limited to public property. Areas with paths and trails on private property should be loosely identified by area, and then, in areas where those paths overlap with the City's natural resources, more discussion about existing paths and trails can take place."	Recommendations
15		Support: "Rec 4.3: This should be prioritized."	Recommendations
16		Recommendation: "Rec 5.1: The city should look beyond just funds generation and explore the creative use of other tools to help set aside and preserve land that might have natural resource or future recreational value. Specifically, the city should develop a strategy to handle and accept conservation easements in areas of potential future conservation/land acquisition interest. Right now, aside from getting into a fight with Montgomery County over a development, there's no way for homeowners to set aside portions of their property for conservation—let alone any incentive."	Recommendations
17		Recommendation: "Rec 5.2: I agree that a city-wide assessment is needed; a deep-dive into the natural resources encompassing all city-owned property is appropriate, but the city should also assess the city's natural resources as a whole, using existing data to identify, at a high-level, high-value assets—like, say, areas of high/low tree canopy coverage, broken/unbroken woodland areas, and existing streambed easements. That said, the precedent cited here as an example is WAY too ambitious. A lighter-lift, lower-resolution estimate—which can be done quickly, using data I know the city and county has on hand--can suffice to generate a high-level city-wide screen for areas of potential higher importance with regards to natural resources."	Recommendations
18		Recommendation: "Rec 6.1: This PR effort should include a listing and descriptions of local parks and recreational opportunities in other municipalities that are within easy walking distance of city residents. Consider it as a PR courtesy for neighboring public space managers."	Recommendations
19		Recommendation: "Rec 6.5: This recommendation should be rejected. This was presented without discussion anywhere in the document. It's full of holes and needs a lot more justification in a thoughtful analytical section."	Recommendations
20		Concern: "Rec 7.2: This downgrading of farm plots seems very strange. Why is exploring urban food growing opportunities listed as a pricey amenity? How much city work goes into the two existing public plot gardens if they are maintained by volunteers? This just seems like somebody in the city doesn't like the idea. Also, the city, via the mulch and compost program, does a lot to promote the effort already."	Recommendations

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#	Commenter	Comment/Testimony	Plan Section
21		Recommendation: "Rec 7.4: A focus on stormwater makes sense, but the city should also commit—potentially in conjunction with the natural resource assessment in Rec 5.2—to aligning with the county stream restoration efforts/funds to help restore streambeds. The highly-eroded creekbed between Ethan Allen and Woodland, for example, is an area that might be a good target for restoration and, via the restoration, it might resolve stormwater problems for residents on Elm Avenue who periodically face flooding challenges."	Recommendations
22	Commenter B	Concern: The Plan doesn't explain well-enough how it supports the Overarching Goals and Principles for Tree Canopy and Urban Forest Policies.	Recommendations
23		Recommendation: "emphasize that native plants be chosen by the City based on this definition and that exceptions be justified by showing, with evidence, that a native Maryland plant is not available to satisfy a specific design or environmental requirement."	Recommendations
24		Recommendation: "Increase native plants through incentivizing homeowners to plant native gardens in ROW strips"	Recommendations
25		Recommendation: "Call for native plant gardens to be featured in as many public spaces as is feasible for the reasons given above. These kinds of gardens would show residents how small spaces can be used for maximum impact on improving quality of life and increasing biodiversity."	Recommendations
26		Support: "As recommended at a more general level in the PSMP, place the highest priority on acquiring new green space that is preferentially located in areas that are deficient in green space."	Recommendations
27		Recommendation: "An inventory of existing green spaces should be used to determine equity focus areas for new green space acquisition."	Recommendations
28		Recommendation: "Set a reasonable and measurable goal for acquisition, such as "X acres by 20XX", with an equity focus such as "...with at least X% in areas with lower access to public space"	Recommendations
29		Recommendation: "Identify areas in the City pavement can be replaced with native trees and other native plants."	Recommendations
30		Concern: "Create a culture of stewardship by expanding volunteer opportunities to help with maintenance. While item 6.2 in the PSMP calls upon the Public Works Department to provide opportunities for volunteers and update the Right of Entry policy to extend to more public properties, there are more possibilities than what the report mentions."	Recommendations

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#	Commenter	Comment/Testimony	Plan Section
31		Recommendation: "The PSMP should provide recommendations on how the City's maintenance policies and programs could change to better support regenerative design."	Recommendations
32		Recommendation: "Organize its own volunteer staffed "weed warrior" program mirroring Montgomery County's program."	Recommendations
33		Recommendation: "Consider implementing volunteer programs based on the "adopt a park" program of Clark County, WA."	Recommendations
34		Recommendation: "Collect equity data on access to green spaces. While the PSMP emphasizes equitable access to public green spaces, the City lacks quantifiable data to establish a green space equity index in order to prioritize specific areas of the City for this intervention."	Recommendations
35		Recommendation: "Create indices for how "success," based on the recommendations in the PSMP, can be measured by the City. See the suggestion under acquisition."	Recommendations
36		Recommendation: "mention a specific goal in the percentage of Maryland natives that need to be achieved in public green spaces and then develop a system for collecting these data on a regular basis."	Recommendations
37		Support: "Prioritize item 7.3 in the PSMP to "Implement more green stormwater practices in public spaces." We would also emphasize that "green" in this case should primarily consist of native plants, including trees."	General Comment
38	Commenter C	Recommendation: Repair the Gazebo at Takoma Urban Park	Recommendations
39	Commenter D	Recommendation: Prioritize the speed limit reduction to 20mph on identified high-need streets.	Recommendations
40	Commenter E	Recommendation: "3.4 – Annual review of the Streetscape Manual seems too frequent."	Recommendations
41		Recommendation: "The language on ensuring more frequent meetings between the City and SHA should be (gently) edited to reflect the reality that the less than ideal frequency for the meetings has been due primarily to SHA's slowness and/or frequent staff turnover, and not anything done or not done by the City. COVID has also been a factor."	Recommendations
42		Recommendation: "The ARPA-funded Navigators program should be prominent here (assuming the City still plans to move forward with it)."	Recommendations

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#	Commenter	Comment/Testimony	Plan Section
43		Recommendation: "Translation services are crucial and expanding them should be a budget and programming priority generally, and we should restore the front page box on the monthly Newsletter directing readers who speak languages other than English to the translation website."	Recommendations
44		Support: "I would emphasize that any urban food initiatives need to be done with equity in mind (as opposed to considering proposals as they may come forward from well-connected resident groups)."	Recommendations
45		Recommendation: "Signage should be standardized across all City parks regardless of size. Ideally the signs could include information on which office maintains the park and who to call for questions concerning maintenance or safety."	Recommendations
46		Support: "And again I would emphasize the need for an active park/playground along Sligo Creek."	Recommendations
47		Recommendation: "Anticipated park maintenance schedules should be easily accessible and perhaps posted at the parks."	Recommendations
48		Recommendation: "For invasive species, we should take advantage of volunteer labor as has been the case with the CCAN-led effort to remove invasive vines in the City or the trail maintenance work in DC in Rock Creek Park."	Recommendations
49		Recommendation: "...this plan should focus more than it currently does in my opinion on the factors that draw would-be parkers to various parts of the City."	Recommendations
50		Recommendation: "It may be too large and costly to take this on, but perhaps we could get an estimate on the cost of getting updated surveys of all the SHA ROWs that haven't been checked recently."	Recommendations
51		Recommendation: "...there should be a policy relating to removal of signs or other items on public land which may have historical value."	Recommendations
52		Recommendation: "I've read a lot about how park signs which say "Park Open Until Dusk" as opposed to "Park Closes at Dusk" create much more positive impacts within neighborhoods. If research supports this notion, we should proceed accordingly."	Recommendations
53		Recommendation: "There ought to be something on how we handle noise, garbage and even perhaps cell towers in public areas, especially when they are close to private areas or public areas heavily used for recreation."	Recommendations
54		Recommendation: "1.2 – Ward measurements may not be sufficient as a key way of measuring equity, as there are other differences within Wards (in such areas as the percentage of single family vs. multi- family housing, age differences, languages that are spoken, etc.), which should also be taken into account. Meaning we need something more finely grained than Wards."	Recommendations

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#	Commenter	Comment/Testimony	Plan Section
55		Recommendation: "3.8 – At a minimum there should be a maintenance plan for paper streets which includes addressing invasive or harmful vegetation (like poison ivy)."	Recommendations
56		Concern: Characterization of the City on p. 18.	Recommendations
57		Concern: Identified management structure of Centennial Park	Recommendations
58		Recommendation: Hire a single grant writer to manage cross-departmental grant management and acquisition.	Recommendations
59		Concern: "2.3 – We need to emphasize that Councilmembers shouldn't be involved in assessing the art, only setting policy and establishing budgets. As in other jurisdictions at any level that have gotten into this, when Takoma Park Councilmembers got involved it didn't turn out well."	Recommendations
60		Recommendation: 7.1 – The references to “primarily” or “when possible” in terms of using native or climate adaptive species should be removed. The City’s policies are stronger than that.	Recommendations
61		Concern: "in the past outside organizations which were well-connected politically in the City have advocated for access to public lands for probably worthy projects relating to local food production. I support that goal, but any initiatives along these lines must be based on an application process that is widely publicized, easy to use, well translated, etc."	Recommendations
62		Support: "In general I like the concept of the scorecard and I think it's mostly well constructed."	Scorecard
63		Concern: A need for environmental clean-up at a site seems to negatively impact the scoring for a project using the scorecard.	Scorecard
64		Concern: No project should move forward that doesn't fall within City Council Priorities.	Scorecard
65		Recommendation: Add more explicit language prioritizing proximity to multi-family housing and population concentrations of young and non-english-speaking community members.	Scorecard
66		Concern: "It's not entirely clear what “supports private property values in the City” means."	Recommendations
67		Concern: There is no mention of a role for the Recreation Committee.	General Comment
68		Question: "How often should this plan be updated? Certain items in it (e.g. the schedule for maintaining or re-sodding fields) should be adjusted annually. But the entire document? No."	General Comment
69		Concern: Not enough discussion about lowering speed limits and use of traffic cameras for traffic enforcement.	Existing Conditions

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#	Commenter	Comment/Testimony	Plan Section
70		Support/Concern: Plan is fine. Would like to see special emphasis on deployment in underdeveloped parts of the city. This would also require maintenance, for example, existing benches and public spaces around “Hampshire Langley Shopping Center” have unfortunately become open air bars for non-residents.	General Comment
71	Commenter F	Support: Don't let perfect be the enemy of good. YIMBY, not NIMBY.	General Comment
72	Commenter G	Concern: We should provide bike infrastructure that makes the city safe enough for our children to ride bicycles here. The existing system is not safe even for adults.	General Comment
73	Commenter H	Support: Would love to see more streetlights, sidewalks, and green spaces	General Comment
74	Commenter I	Concern: I would like to see additional protected bike lanes throughout the city.	General Comment
75	Commenter J	Support/Concern: The City should: (1) acquire additional green spaces, (2) invest substantial resources into maintaining these green spaces, and (3) partner closely with M-NCPPC/Montgomery Parks to ensure effective maintenance of County-owned green spaces in the City. Given the lack of green spaces in some wards, acquiring additional space is necessary to allow all Takoma Park residents the benefits of a native tree canopy and access to exercise and play. However, acquiring additional green spaces is not enough. Left unmaintained, these green spaces fail to achieve their purpose. Maintaining green spaces – both those owned by the City and in partnership with M-NCPPC/Montgomery Parks for those owned by the County – is essential. Taking Ward 3 as an example, there is ample green space but it does not receive adequate maintenance to remove invasive plants as well as litter and bulk trash. These spaces reflect untapped opportunities for increasing the presence of Maryland native plants and trees and for engaging residents. County-owned green space properties in Ward 3 include the Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park (“Waldo’s Wilds”) and the Sligo Mill Neighborhood Conservation Area. The Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park lacks amenities and has become overrun with non-native invasive plants. As a result, it receives little use despite its convenient location in a residential area. Removing invasive plants, planting native Maryland plants and trees, and adding amenities such as benches and play equipment will allow residents to benefit from the space and enjoy the native flora. This requires an active partnership with M-NCPPC/Montgomery Parks to ensure that this space meets the needs of Takoma Park residents. Similarly, the Sligo Mill Neighborhood Conservation Area is a notorious dumping ground for tires, roofing materials, broken glass, and other litter. Recent volunteer cleanups have revealed trash items that appear decades old, reflecting the lack of maintenance in this area. This prevents public enjoyment of the space and thereby impedes public appreciation of green space in the area. The City of Takoma Park must complete the management plan for Sligo Mill as required by the memorandum of understanding with M-NCPPC, and must follow through on its commitment to improving and maintaining the Sligo Mill property. Signage identifying the Sligo Mill open space, welcoming visitors, and acknowledging the City's role would be an important first step.	General Comment

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#	Commenter	Comment/Testimony	Plan Section
76	Commenter K	Concern: The report notes some neighborhoods don't have sidewalks. The report notes the process for getting new sidewalks is politically difficult and complex and puts the onus on resident activists. The report puts safety as the number one priority in its planning tool. The report doesn't seem to acknowledge MC's vision zero (but maybe I missed it reading on my phone). Putting all this together, should a priority be given for declaring all neighborhoods without sidewalks 20 mph zones (without a need extensive public consultation) and making them priority areas for traffic calming? Also, there are a number of neighborhood associations, such as Long Branch Sligo Community Association, which have elected boards, listservs and newsletters that don't seem to have been consulted. Those organizations consulted are overwhelmingly white, old, groups of retired people and are not representative of TKPK.	Existing Conditions
77	Commenter L	Concern: I don't understand many of the recommendations; I'd also like to understand the scorecard and its implementation In more detail	General Comment
78	Commenter M	Concern: I live one house outside TP. I have no vote, but I have patronized TP establishments for 20+ years. This plan will likely keep me away. Plus, I fear the negative impacts on Sligo Creek Park and the creek itself. Too bad.	General Comment