	The following suggestions were received in response to the Public Review Draft of the Public Space Management Plan after it was publicly shared at the City Council presentation on July 19, 2023.		
#	**Suggested Addition/Change**	**Staff Response**	**Section**
1	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
2	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
3	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
4	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
5	Create clearer connections to the three guiding principles within the following sections: Paper Streets, Streetlights, Public Art, Greening Public Space, and Permits/Processes.	Staff **recommends adding additional clarifying language** to the "Paper Streets", "Streetlights", "Public Art", and "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
6	"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
7	"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
8	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

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9	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
10	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
11	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.	Existing Conditions
12	Add recommendation: "Increase native plants through incentivizing homeowners to plant native gardens in ROW strips"	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. Native and/or climate-adapted plants are already prioritized in the City's planting practices. The green buffers/tree lawn space is defined as being a utility space (e.g. people getting in and out of cars, clear sight lines, and sidewalk clearance etc.) It is also a more challenging space to grow in because of road salt/sediment, compacted soil, dog urination, and reflected heat. It is not clear to staff that new emphasis placed on these areas would have any additional ecological benefit from growing natives on the house side of the sidewalk. The City Council may choose to set up a program and allocate funding to provide incentives to homeowners for native plantings if they choose.	Recommendations
13	Add 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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. Native and/or climate-adapted plants are already prioritized in the City's planting practices. This includes new plantings in city parks and greenspaces.	Recommendations
14	Add 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"	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**.The Plan already proposes to identify funds to expand public spaces through the lens of equitable distribution of public park and green spaces (6.1). In the absence of substantial amounts of vacant or undeveloped land, setting goals for the acquisition of specific amounts of land by a certain date is unfeasible.	Recommendations

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#	Suggested Addition/Change	Staff Response	Section
15	Add recommendation: "Identify areas in the City pavement can be replaced with native trees and other native plants."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. An analysis of impervious surfaces around the City that would be well-suited to de-paving is outside the scope of the plan. The City Council may choose to set up a program, allocate funding and direct staff to conduct a study of eligible locations to replace pervious surfaces with plantings at their discretion.	Recommendations
16	Add recommendation: "Organize its own volunteer staffed "weed warrior" program mirroring Montgomery County's program."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The administrative and staffing burden for a local version of the County's Weed Warrior Program would create redundancy with the Plan's recommendation to update the City's Right of Entry process for staff-directed community volunteers (5.2).	Recommendations
17	Add recommendation: "Consider implementing volunteer programs based on the "adopt a park" program of Clark County, WA."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The City already runs an "Adopt-a-Spot" program through the City's Code Enforcement Division.	Recommendations
18	Add 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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. Staff already have access to data that covers local demographic information and disparities in access to park spaces. Additional data collection and processes are already covered in Recommendations 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, and 4.3.	Recommendations
19	Add recommendation: "Create indices for how "success," based on the recommendations in the PSMP, can be measured by the City. See the suggestion under acquisition."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. See the Staff Response to #14.	Recommendations
20	Add 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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The logistics of this kind of inventory and reporting are extremely burdensome on staff time and resources, especially because it is unclear what such a recommendation would be studying.	Recommendations
21	Add recommendation: Repair the Gazebo at Takoma Urban Park	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. It is outside the jurisdiction of the City of Takoma Park. The Gazebo is the responsibility of the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).	Recommendations
22	Add recommendation: Prioritize the speed limit reduction to 20mph on identified high-need streets.	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The City already has the ability to lower to speed limits where need is identified, and speed limits reductions would be included as a tool that could be used as part of an updated traffic calming request process (3.2).	Recommendations
23	Add recommendation: Improve staff GIS analysis capabilities.	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. This point of feedback is already covered by Recommendation 4.3.	Recommendations
24	"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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The descriptive text that elaborates on this recommendation clarifies the intent and scope of it.	Recommendations

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25	"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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The city already maintains a volunteer Grants Committee to manage a number of the City's grantmaking and grant writing needs. The Housing & Community Development Department has a new full-time grants coordinator position, which will aid in fulfilling this recommendation. The obligations for most grant administration and management rely on staff time, resources, expertise and tenure in ways that make outsourcing to community volunteers unfeasible.	Recommendations
26	"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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. This request falls outside of the jurisdiction of the City.	Recommendations
27	"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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The scope of the recommendation is not prescribed in the text of the recommendation. The City Council may choose to allocate funding and direct staff to conduct a natural resource inventory of any scale at their discretion. .	Recommendations
28	"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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. All three neighboring jurisdictions to Takoma Park publicize their own public space amenities and programs on websites of their own. The administrative burden for Takoma Park staff to monitor and publicize all of the neighboring park and recreational updates, events, and announcements is infeasible.	Recommendations
29	"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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. It is not clear to which recommendation this comment refers; the writer is possibly drawing upon an outdated draft of the plan.	Recommendations

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30	"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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The Department of Public Works's ongoing Stormwater Resiliency Study addresses the concerns raised in this comment, including on private properties.	Recommendations
31	"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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The suggested additional context does not add to or change the quality of the recommendation as written.	Recommendations
32	"The ARPA-funded Navigators program should be prominent here (assuming the City still plans to move forward with it)."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The "ARPA-funded Navigators program" does not exist as of the publication of this report. If this program does become reality, then it would be identified as a strategy in support of Recommendation 2.1.	Recommendations
33	"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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The proposed recommendation is more specific than the scope of the Plan.	Recommendations
34	"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)."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The Plan already emphasizes a need for a focus on Equity. The proposed adjustment to Recommendation 7.2 is accounted for in the use of the Project Evaluation Scorecard.	Recommendations
35	"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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The Plan addresses the broader issue raised by the suggestion, but the proposed recommendation is more specific than the scope of the Plan. It would be identified as a strategy in support of Recommendations 3.3 and 3.4. The City Council may choose to allocate funding and direct staff to update and standardize all signage around the City that is outside the conformity of the existing Streetscape Manual at their discretion.	Recommendations

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36	"And again I would emphasize the need for an active park/playground along Sligo Creek."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The Sligo Creek Stream Valley is owned and managed by the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), and the City does not have jurisdiction. The Plan already identifies multiple active parks and playgrounds located within the Sligo Creek Stream Valley, including Hillwood Manor Neighborhood Park, Sligo Creek North Neighborhood Park, and Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park Unit 1/Houston-Sligo Creek Park.	
37	"Anticipated park maintenance schedules should be easily accessible and perhaps posted at the parks."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The proposed recommendation is more specific than the scope of the Plan. Furthermore, the maintenance schedule for each park varies over the course of the year.	Recommendations
38	"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."	*See the Staff Response for Suggestion #16.*	Recommendations
39	"...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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The Plan addresses the broader issue raised by the suggestion, but the proposed recommendation is more specific than the scope of the Plan. It would be identified as a strategy in support of Recommendations 6.3 and 6.4. The City Council may choose to allocate funding and direct staff to conduct a parking analysis at their discretion.	Recommendations
40	"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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The proposed recommendation is more specific than the scope of the Plan, and SHA right-of-way is outside of the City's jurisdiction. The City Council may choose to direct staff to ask SHA for a ROW survey at their discretion; however it is not clear to staff what the benefit would be, and there is not guarantee that SHA would agree to it beyond the project-by-project surveys it already conducts.	Recommendations
41	"...there should be a policy relating to removal of signs or other items on public land which may have historical value."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The Plan addresses the broader issue raised by the suggestion, but the proposed recommendation is more specific than the scope of the Plan. The City Council may choose to allocate funding and direct staff to create a policy about sign removal procedures at their discretion.	Recommendations
42	"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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The Plan addresses the broader issue raised by the suggestion, but the proposed recommendation is more specific than the scope of the Plan. The City Council may choose to allocate funding and direct staff to update signage at parks with adjusted language about operation hours at their discretion.	Recommendations
43	"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."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The City already maintains policies about excessive noise, nuisances created by waste receptacles, and the placement of small-cell antennas and towers in the public right-of-way.	Recommendations

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44	"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 that Wards."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. City staff already use publicly available demographic data from the US Census, which provides data that is somewhat more granular than the City Ward boundaries. Efforts to make US Census data align with ward boundaries was opposed by the City Council during the decennial redistricting process, which increases the margin of error for demographic analysis, especially in Wards 1 and 4. The City will have the opportunity to correct this during the next Census. Data collected as any smaller-scale level would need to be generated from City-initiated surveys or other data collection efforts.	Recommendations
45	"3.4 – Annual review of the Streetscape Manual seems too frequent."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. Staff feel that an annual update of the mapping and data summaries of City streetscape features is important to the public understanding of where resources are allocated across the City. As written, the recommendation does not mandate that all elements are changed with each annual updates.	Recommendations
46	"3.8 – At a minimum there should be a maintenance plan for paper streets which includes addressing invasive or harmful vegetation (like poison ivy)."	Staff **does NOT recommend adding this request as a recommendation**. The Plan addresses the broader issue raised by the suggestion, but the proposed recommendation is more specific than the scope of the Plan. It would be identified as a strategy in support of Recommendation 3.8. The City Council may choose to allocate funding and direct staff to create a maintenance plan for paper streets at their discretion.	Recommendations