

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**



**Public Space
Management Plan
Voting Session**

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What is “Public Space”?

- Owned by the City of Takoma Park
- Accessible to everyone who lives, works, plays, studies and prays in the city

Examples include:

- City parks
- Sidewalks
- Curbside dining
- Roadways
- Parking spaces
- Playgrounds
- ...and more!



What is the Public Space Management Plan?

The Public Space Management Plan **provides integrated guidance** on how public space will be used and maintained in Takoma Park.

It **creates a decision-making process** for how, when, and where the City devotes funding and resources to public spaces.

It creates a **framework** with actionable recommendations.



How did we get to the City Council Draft?

The City Council Draft reflects a years-long effort to create this comprehensive plan:

- **Five years** of project development
- **Over 30 community engagement touch points**
- **Contracted work** with the firm **CHPlanning**
- **Hours of City staff work across multiple departments & divisions**
- **Comments and feedback from City Council members**



City Council Draft Summary

- Between the publishing of the Public Review Draft in July 2023 and the City Council Draft in November 2023, staff:
 - **Reviewed all comments and feedback** submitted by the public and members of the City Council.
 - 78 comments from the public
 - 129 comments from the City Council
 - **Recommended changes** that have been incorporated into the City Council draft.



City Council Draft Summary (con't)

Changes that were not recommended for inclusion by Staff fell into three primary categories:

- **Outside the scope** of the Plan;
- The **specificity** lends itself to a project separate from the Plan;
- **Already included** in existing sections of the Plan document.



City Council Draft Summary (con't)

- All substantive changes are marked up in **red text**, with a red star in the margin.
- Small formatting, typos, and grammar changes were incorporated without markup.



Review of Proposed Changes

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.**

 The Public Space Management Plan (PSMP) was developed to support the city in its efforts to be proactive in the planning, development, and management of its public space inventory. **The Plan provides a long-term framework to manage the City's public spaces and amenities over the next twenty years or more.** Public spaces, including, but not limited to, park land and the public streets network (including elements like sidewalks, trails,



Review of Proposed Changes (cont'd)

Staff recommends adding **additional clarifying language** to the following sections:

- **"Public Streets and Roadways"** (p. 33) that expands on the County and State analyses of crash patterns in the City.
- **"Sidewalks"** (p. 39) discussing stormwater co-benefits and the Streetscape Manual.
- **"Paper Streets"** (p. 43)
- **"Signage & Wayfinding"** (p. 45) *New Section*
- **"Greening Public Space"** (p. 47) regarding stormwater management practices and urban forest management practices, including the new Stormwater Resiliency Study and Urban Forest Master Plan from the Public Works Department.



Review of Proposed Changes (cont'd)

Staff recommends making adjustments to identified tables, maps, and graphics, including:

- **Tables 5 & 6** (pp. 26-27) - green space inventories
- **Figure 7** (p. 29) - park distribution equity analysis
- **Figure 11** (p. 40) - sidewalk network map
- **Figure 14** (p. 48) - new stormwater infrastructure map



Review of Proposed Changes (cont'd)

Staff recommends **changing or clarifying language** within select recommendations, including:

- **1.1** (p. 70) - Project Evaluation Scorecard
- **1.2** (p. 70) - public space investment tracking
- **1.5** (p. 72) - public event staff time and resources
- **2.5** (p. 75) - urban food growing opportunities
- **2.6** (p. 75) - opportunities to activate paper streets
- **3.4** (p. 77) - Streetscape Manual update schedule
- **3.5** (p. 78) - universal design principles
- **4.2** (p. 80) - playground and park equipment evaluation process and replacement schedule



Review of Proposed Changes (cont'd)

Staff recommends **adjustments to the Project Evaluation Scorecard**, including:

- **New scoring mechanism** that uses a “-1, 0, 1” scale for each category criteria;
- New language to better explain **how scores are generated**
- **Expanded scorecard format** across two pages, instead of one
- Addition of a **Project Justification Narrative**, with a template



Next Steps

Upon City Council adoption, staff will:

- begin project evaluation scorecard implementation for new projects;
- return to the Council for approval of any required code, regulation, and policy changes;
- return to the Council for projects that require budgetary approval;
- return to council for project evaluation scorecard review in 12 months;
- take the recommendations of this plan as direction to pursue public space improvements, within the constraints of available budget, staffing, and identified priorities.



THANK YOU

TAKOMAPARKMD.GOV

Learn more about the Public Space Management Plan at <https://bit.ly/publicspacemanagementplan>

or

search for 'Public Space Management Plan' in the City website's search bar.