



Neighborhood Parks Plan

Montgomery Park

Community Feedback, Fall 2014



The Division of Park Planning, Design, and Capital Development is currently planning for the City's existing Neighborhood Parks, which we characterize as being 0.5 - 10 acres with a service area of up to 0.5 miles. The results of this plan will help determine budgeting priorities and recommendations for both short and long-term incremental improvements, ensuring that neighborhood parks serve Alexandria's needs now and into the future.

In Fall 2014, Staff collected community feedback to understand how the Park is used and how it could be improved in the future. The following information summarizes what we heard through an online survey, community workshop, and "graffiti board" in the park. Over 275 people responded to the survey in total, 42 of which were specific to Montgomery Park.

In 10 years I would like this Park to...

(top 3 rankings shown; based on a weighted score)

1. Be safe place for children to explore
2. Be a place to create social connections with neighbors
3. Be a place to relax

What would you like done with the dog park?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	28	80%
Enhance it	4	11%
Transform it	3	9%

Explain

Add trees.
 Bigger and better
 Ensure dogs cannot bite children; I've seen unleashed dogs chasing kids
 The recent renovations are impressive.
 Too big. Cuts out grass space
 Unnecessarily enlarged and expanded.

What would you like done with the open lawn?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	22	61%
Enhance it	12	33%
Transform it	2	6%

Explain

Claim some of this area for an expanded playground.
 More frequently perform maintenance (e.g., mow).
 More trees, etc. would be nice
 No one uses it. Make it a flower garden maybe.
 Open lawn space is great, please enhance.
 Reduce the dog park!
 The neighborhood benefits from wide open space for kids to run.
 Open lawn is fine as is

What would you like done with the park shelter?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	21	60%
Enhance it	10	29%
Transform it	4	11%

Explain

I would like to use the park shelter, but it is almost always occupied by a group of (possibly homeless/transient) men. They leave a lot of trash and curse in front of kids. I do not feel safe there. (x4)
 Add a public bathroom

I never see anyone using this space. Could be transformed into a water feature/spray ground.
 Serviceable water fountains
 Would be nice to expand or have more tables

What would you like done with the parking?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	22	69%
Enhance it	5	16%
Transform it	5	16%

Explain

Parking can be challenging at times since Fairfax has old style meters.
 Paid parking is horrible; need more free parking.
 Unpaid/free spots next to courts
 The parking spaces seem to be underutilized and could be transformed to provide additional amenities to park goers.
 No problem with parking but it is extremely hazardous to cross First St adjacent to N Royal since the Royal St traffic does not have a stop sign. Please work with Transportation to slow down or have a T intersection for cars to stop. Very dangerous as lots of people with dogs and kids walk to this park.

What would you like done with the playground?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	5	14%
Enhance it	26	70%
Transform it	6	16%

Explain

Add more elements
 Greatly expand this area. Use rubber flooring. More challenging climbing structures.
 More features (e.g. climbing structures and swings) for kids younger than 2 (x3)
 More modern playground equipment. Lots outdated (x6)
 My recollection is that the playground is fairly exposed to the sun. Add more shade/trees around playground (x2)
 Would be great to have a shaded play and sitting area
 It'd be good to see a swing added that can accommodate children with disabilities such as the one at Lyles-Crouch.
 Kids love the playground; most important part! It's great for families; keep the fence for safety.
 It would be great if you could replace the woodchips with the special turf used at other parks. (The kind that has some give in it and feels a bit bouncy).
 The playground is very well-loved but offers little to do for the smaller kids so a separate area without mulch and more toddler level equipment would be great. Also more innovative equipment for the bigger kids. Maybe add a maze like the one at the new Potomac Yard park.
 Replace mulch with rubber flooring, add a sandbox and more benches!!
 It is heavily used and it would be great to see it enlarged and with additional play structures.
 Also would like to see improved soft ground surface.

What would you like done with the seating?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	15	44%
Enhance it	18	53%
Transform it	1	3%

Explain

Add more benches within fenced playground area.
 Add picnic tables and benches in shady areas where trees are.
 Additional seating would be nice.
 More benches at the playground and along the perimeter of the grass

What would you like done with the tennis courts?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	30	94%
Enhance it	0	0%
Transform it	2	6%

Explain

It's great to have them on the occasions my kids want to play. I think they're in good shape.
 More grass!
 not always being used

