

Metropolitan Park Public Space Project FAQ

Updated: 6/26/2020

QUESTION	ANSWER
The landscaping is beautiful. Who will be maintaining it/ paying for it maintenance?	The developer (Amazon) will be maintaining and paying for maintenance of the park in perpetuity.
How will public art be addressed for this park?	The public art process is separate from this public space project. That process will be determined at a later date.
I assume shifting the streets will be expensive. Who is picking up the cost? Will the park still meet its timeline?	<p>In the event that this project results in a street reconfiguration of that nature, the developer (Amazon) will provide the funding. At this time, we are still aiming for the project to finish on time with the design process ending in the 3rd quarter of 2020.</p> <p>This potential shift would require a site plan amendment (timeframe TBD).</p>
Can you describe a bit more the fitness garden for teens and adults (never heard of a fitness garden)	While these are only design drafts, the fitness garden is an exciting opportunity inspired by comments from the first community meeting expressing a desire for space that allows for recreational activities. This is an outdoor fitness area set within its own garden room configuration within the larger series of landscape areas.
What are the lighting plans for the park? Especially in terms of safety, security, and still incorporating the design of the park?	Lighting strategies described with a diagrammatic plan and renderings can be found in the presentation and slides from the third engagement.
Will the playground be open to all during weekdays or is the use only limited to the daycare facility?	The Discovery Playground will be for use by the general public and will have hours consistent with other playgrounds throughout Arlington County. There is an additional outdoor play area (the Children's Garden) adjacent to Metropolitan Park 6 that

	<p>will be for the exclusive use of the daycare facility.</p>
<p>In the presentation on Met Park, it appears there is an assumption that the park should be designed around a primary pathway of 14th st and then north to E. Elm. That doesn't seem to reflect current use, where Fern street appears to be the primary entrance, which would likely continue considering both Pentagon City Metro being the closest station + the eventual development of Pentagon Centre. In fact, as 14th St does not connect to the greater street grid going east from the park, it may end up being the least used entrance, especially once past the lobbies to the Amazon office buildings.</p> <p>What reasoning was used to get to this pathway assumption?</p>	<p>The proposed Gateways do not reflect current use; they take into account proposed changes to the street network and transit system. The extension of 14th Street South is brand new and will provide a critical connection between S. Eads Street and the park. This entrance will be flanked by active retail and is closest to the Crystal City Metro. The entrance onto S. Elm Street from 12th Street South is equidistant to the Pentagon City Metro and will also be adjacent to a major new bus stop. For these reasons, we believe these to entrances will be the primary gateways in the future.</p>
<p>How will biophilic urban planning be incorporated into the design of this park?</p>	<p>The draft park design is rooted in biophilic principals and includes numerous elements that reflect this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An edible garden with the potential for interactive and educational programs; • Meandering paths and organically shaped planting beds and lawns; • Spaces for quiet and contemplation as well as spaces for socialization; • Spaces that support wellness—both for physical activity as well as mental restoration; • New topography and highlighted views and vistas; • Significant new planting including trees and plants that reflect surrounding native plant communities;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extraordinary plants and lush streetscapes that make the presence of “nature” emphatic; • Meadow and forest habitats that encourage urban wildlife—birds, pollinators, etc. • Consideration of sun and shadow to maximize human comfort within the park in all seasons.
<p>How much overall square footage of the park is impervious walkway vs. actual ground?</p>	<p>Planted Areas: 64,000sf (55%) Other Permeable Surfaces: 5,500sf (5%) Impermeable Walkways: 47,000sf (40%) Approximate Open Space: 116,500sf (Excluding Streets and Sidewalks)</p> <p>These details will be explored further as the Park Master Plan and Design Guidelines are developed.</p>
<p>Is it really possible to create and maintain the various Coastal and Piedmont habitats in a single area?</p>	<p>The Piedmont and Coastal Plain plant communities are the inspiration for the planting design. Native and adapted species from each of these communities will be used in the planting palette for Met Park with specific consideration to the site's environmental conditions and urban context.</p>