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April 26, 2024

RE: Millersville Community Meeting  
Millersville Elem School  
November 16, 2023  
Started at 6:15 PM

To whom this may concern:

On November 16, 2023 DPW and DRP conducted a public meeting to present the new plans for the future Millersville Park located off Millersville Rd.

At the end of the presentation DPW provided guidance to submit question / comment by December 15, 2023 that would be used to develop updated drawings that would best fit the community needs. Please review question / comments and answers below:

#### Traffic

1. Traffic Study-sidewalks from Cathy Ann to the Park
  - a. **This will be investigated in coordination with the Office of Transportation**
2. Why not leave things as they are and let the traffic come in from I-97?
  - a. **This was reviewed with SHA, and they denied us the opportunity to take this approach.**
3. Sidewalk Connection @ Millersville Rd.? What is the limit of the sidewalks?
  - a. **Sidewalks from Cathy Ann to the park are outside of the park development's scope. However, sidewalk extension will be investigated with the Office of Transportation as well as under the Trail Spurs capital project**
4. Two lanes head west on Millersville Rd.
  - a. **Funds for the design and construction of a second through lane at the MD 3 intersection are included in the FY25 budget to address the failing conditions at that intersection identified in the Park's traffic impact study.**
5. Frontage in front of the school. There is a sidewalk there. Can the road be expanded on the school side?
  - a. **Currently, there are BGE utilities on that side of the road that would make the installation of the sidewalk along this side of Millersville Rd, more challenging and expensive.**
6. Is Melvin going to be able to get out of his driveway?

- a. Yes, all neighbors will be able to continue to have full use of their driveways and access to their properties during construction and post-construction.**
7. Lack of integration of local traffic and DPW. Calming has been approved, and to date, nothing has been done. Daily speeding accidents on Millersville Rd. Limited capacity at Rt 3. Both Cecil Ave and Millersville are known to have high-speed traffic. Millersville Park will only increase the traffic.
  - a. Noted. This information will be shared with DPW Traffic Engineering for review and follow-up.**
8. Millersville Rd and Waterbury Rd. have no load limits. General's Highway has a 5-ton limit. Can a 5-ton limit be added to the road?
  - a. The comment has been noted and will be shared with DPW Traffic Engineering for review and follow-up.**
9. The turning lane should be limited to the County owned property or moved East. There is no need to seize private property especially not our entire frontage. This unfair burden would be unsightly, would involve the destruction of specimen trees and would be dangerous to us and people entering and exiting Millersville Elementary School across the street. Moving the turning lane East would be a better design.
  - a. The turn lane has been shifted as far east as possible while still meeting all other geometric requirements for the entrance design including sight distance requirements.**
10. Consideration should be given to adding a lane on the Millersville Elementary School side instead of taking private property. The traffic waiting to enter the school fully blocks the eastbound lane for a considerable distance. This is hazardous and will be worsened by the added park traffic.
  - a. This concern is noted and we will be sharing with DPW Traffic Engineering to discuss recommendations. But note that the school traffic and park traffic are not expected to overlap based on the Millersville Elementary School's 2:25 PM dismissal time and the Millersville Park's 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM peak hour.**
11. The park should not be constructed until improvements are made to the turning lanes and light timing at the intersection of Millersville Rd. and Rt. 3.
  - a. This comment has been noted.**
12. Last winter, during one trip to the mailbox, I was almost hit, not just once, but twice, by employees coming to work at Millersville Elementary. I can only imagine the added peril there will be by having a turning lane in front of my house all the way up to my driveway. Please contain the turning lane to the county owned properties, consider widening on the other side of the proposed park, or, least desirable because still dangerous but at least not disruptive to my property and the many native specimens I've selectively planted, take up Millersville Elementary property rather than ours. All of these scenarios are still dangerous for me and all of us who have mailboxes on the opposite side of the street, which is why this is a ridiculous location for a park.
  - a. This comment has been noted.**
13. The road and traffic light changes, which our County is presently proposing, won't be significant enough to keep traffic congestion from increasing horribly, speeding from rising, accidents from occurring, or to keep pedestrians (including children) and ever-increasing evening bicyclists from getting hurt.
  - a. The TIA notes that 65% of park trips are projected to/from the MD 3/MD 175/Millersville Road intersections. The added trips make up approximately 3% of the projected volume through the intersections during the peak**

**hours. The proposed roadway and signal timing and phasing modifications will mitigate the delays created from the added Millersville Park volumes.**

14. Millersville Road is a pleasant country connector for our County's rural neighborhood residents to reach shopping centers on and past Route 3. Could Millersville Road use some safety improvements? Definitely. However, Millersville Road must not be "citized" nor clogged.
  - a. **Noted**
15. It was mentioned that the churches on Millersville Road have been taken into account for when ball field traffic might be allowed. However, it seems traffic caused by the 5:00pm Mass times on both Saturdays (Vigil Mass) and Sundays to and from "Our Lady of the Fields" Roman Catholic Church hasn't been considered as part of the current traffic on our rural roads. The "Our Lady of the Fields" Church is located at 1070 Cecil Avenue, just off of Millersville Road. Catholic people from various towns in our county, including Crofton, presently like the convenience of those evening Mass times. That means many Church attendees are driving on Millersville Road, as well as on its adjacent roads, at the following times on both Saturdays and Sundays: 4:30-5:15 pm and 5:45-6:30 pm (basically, Saturdays and Sundays, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm).
  - a. **The traffic study did include days during mass for all churches in the general area.**
16. Unfortunately, "Saturday and Sunday Evening Church Traffic" is yet another example of why Millersville Road (even with the proposed addition of park entrance turn lanes) absolutely cannot withstand the extreme traffic which would be created by team practices and games at the proposed large ball fields.
  - a. **Churches adjacent to the study area were contacted for the TIA to verify standard in-person services were being held. The Saturday and Sunday evening church traffic was captured during the TIA's traffic data collection and were included in the TIA's traffic analyses.**
17. The County did not address any of the traffic concerns that were raised over a year ago (see attached OMNA position paper for details). The traffic study underestimated pre-park traffic levels, the trips added by park development (fields and amenities), and the contributions to post-park traffic from other planned developments. A search of the TIS will show that the future traffic estimates did not include the Knollwood Eating Disorder Facility, Fox Haven Farm housing development, the MD3 Industrial Park (west side of MD RT3 North) or the upgrades to Bacon Ridge at the Forney property on Severn Chapel Road – 92 parking places and 22 trailer and bus spaces. The study also seriously underestimated trips added by the park development, reporting a number far less than the average predicted by the proposed number of parking places. As one of the stakeholders pointed out the at the last stakeholder committee meeting, the traffic from the amenities besides sports fields was also not included in the traffic study.
  - a. **Approved background developments at the time the TIA was developed were included; the developments noted above were not approved or presented at the time that the TIA was developed. The site trip generation is not based on the number of parking spaces but rather the proposed field use. The TIA examined forecasted traffic generation based on historical data from similar facilities and coordination with the County. Modeling and data provided by the County is located in Appendix J of the TIA. It was determined that fall sports (football) would generate the most traffic during the peak hours; therefore, the PM, Saturday and Sunday peak hour trips were based on the projected fall sports schedule. AM peak hour volumes were developed from the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) *Trip Generation* book and were less than 5 trips.**

- b. The engineer from this project did propose a mitigation option to the intersection of Rt 3/Millersville Road that would improve the overall rating and functionality of that intersection. That project is being proposed for funding in the County's FY25 and FY26 capital budgets.**
18. The number of fields should have been based more on site and traffic capacities and less on a public survey and poll of the stakeholder committee.
- a. Noted. Meeting the field demand is a primary goal of this project. The County has included road improvements to offset the impact of this project.**
19. The county has promised to make some improvements at the intersection of Route 3 and Millersville Road to handle the traffic that will be added by Millersville Park. These improvements are dependent on Maryland Department of Transportation approval and funding. Last I heard, MDOT had not approved or funded these improvements. In fact, recent news reports that MDOT's budget may be severely reduced.
- a. The County has committed to designing this project and SHA has committed to reviewing that design for approval. That project is being proposed for funding in the County's FY25 and FY26 capital budgets.**
20. Given that the Route 3-Millersville Road intersection improvements will likely not be in place when the park is opened, the plans for the park should include monitoring the resulting traffic and being prepared to close or limit use of one or more of the athletic fields until the promised road improvements can catch up to handle the added traffic.
- a. Noted**
21. Millersville Road, currently a collector road functioning at full capacity, faces the prospect of substantial traffic escalation with the proposed addition of four playing fields to Millersville Park, particularly during peak hours.
- a. Noted**
22. The Traffic Impact Study falls short in comprehensively evaluating existing conditions, as it omits crucial data on traffic counts for the Jehovah Witnesses and the Maryland Central Korean Baptist Church. Furthermore, future traffic estimates lack a thorough assessment, excluding key contributors such as the Knollwood Eating Disorder Facility, Fox Haven Farm, MD3 Industrial Park on the west side of MD RT3 North, and the enhancements to Bacon Ridge off Severn Chapel, which entails 92 parking spaces and 22 trailer and bus spots.
- a. Approved background developments at the time the TIA was developed were included; the developments noted above were not approved or presented at the time that the TIA was developed. Multiple discussions were held with the Jehovah's Witness Assembly Hall to determine the number of attendees and to obtain specifics on the origins and destinations of attendees and the typical schedule. Locations of other regional assembly halls were also considered in the trip distribution. A conservative vehicle occupancy of one attendee per vehicle was used in the traffic analysis. Jehovah's Witness volumes were heavy enough to alter the peak hours along a few intersections which was accounted for in the analysis. Maryland Central Korean Baptist Church was contacted several times, unsuccessfully, during the TIA development to determine if they were meeting in-person or virtual. See also information in response to #17 above.**
23. This incomplete evaluation raises concerns about the accuracy and reliability of the study's findings. Developing major projects without a comprehensive understanding of their potential traffic impacts is inherently inappropriate.
- a. A complete traffic study has been completed and was presented at the public meeting on November 16, 2023.**

24. The absence of a clear understanding of the traffic implications poses a significant risk to the project's success and can lead to unforeseen challenges and disruptions.
  - a. **A complete traffic study has been completed and was presented at the public meeting on November 16, 2023.**
  - b.
25. It is imperative that any substantial development by the County for a County project undergoes a thorough and meticulous traffic impact assessment to ensure responsible planning, minimize adverse effects on the community, and uphold the overall integrity of the project. Such a critical evaluation not only fosters transparency but also serves as a foundational element in promoting sustainable and well-informed planning and development.
  - a. **A complete traffic study has been completed and was presented at the public meeting on November 16, 2023.**
26. I respectfully ask that a full and adequate Traffic Impact Study be conducted before the Millersville park development proceeds any further.
  - a. **A complete traffic study has been completed and was presented at the public meeting on November 16, 2023.**
27. Those of us residing in "Old" Millersville, purchased and/or built our homes here because it is a rural, beautiful area. If we wanted to reside in a less rural area, we would have purchased homes in Old Mill. Furthermore, there is no way Millersville Road could handle such an onslaught of additional vehicular traffic. Even more important is the increased safety risk for the students of Millersville Elementary School.
  - a. **Noted**
28. A major concern for the proposed Park is the traffic that it will produce. This area already has intrusive traffic from the Renaissance Festival and the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds. Also looking to the future what will the Hospital grounds become and what traffic will that bring. A large fire station is about to open and that will bring its own traffic concerns. There is also a school right there with buses going down Millersville Road.
  - a. **The Renaissance Festival was accounted for in the Traffic Impact Analysis - please refer to the TIA Pages 7 and 11.**
29. I wanted to reach out regarding the County's plans for Millersville Park. While I am not opposed to having dedicated park space in the county, I do have serious concerns about the traffic and safety of the size park/facilities proposed. It is my understanding that no traffic studies have been done/completed and it appears that there will be a significant increase based upon the proposal of multiple athletic fields and the requirement to cut down trees to support such development. I request that no further work/plans are advanced until clear documentation can be provided related to previously mentioned traffic concerns, impacts to the surrounding forest as well as impacts to the Jabez Branch. I wish to protect and preserve the diminishing woods and land.
  - a. **A Traffic Study has been completed. The County will continue to work on ensuring that the park's design will not cause a negative impact on the traffic conditions on Millersville Road.**
30. It was mentioned that the churches on Millersville Road have been taken into account for when ball field traffic might be allowed. However, it seems traffic caused by the 5:00pm Mass times on both Saturdays (Vigil Mass) and Sundays to and from "Our Lady of the Fields" Roman Catholic Church hasn't been considered as part of the current traffic on our rural roads. The "Our Lady of the Fields" Church is located at 1070 Cecil Avenue, just off of Millersville Road. Catholic people from various towns in our county, including Crofton, presently like the convenience of those evening Mass times. That means many Church attendees are driving on Millersville Road, as well as on its adjacent roads, at the following times on both Saturdays and Sundays: 4:30-5:15 pm and 5:45-6:30 pm (basically, Saturdays and Sundays, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm).

- a. The Our Lady of the Fields Catholic Church was contacted for the TIA – they were holding their standard in-person services, so the Saturday and Sunday Mass traffic volumes were captured during the TIA’s traffic data collection.**
31. Unfortunately, "Saturday and Sunday Evening Church Traffic" is yet another example of why Millersville Road (even with the proposed addition of park entrance turn lanes) absolutely cannot withstand the extreme traffic which would be created by team practices and games at the proposed large ball fields.
  - a. Noted, Refer to #17 for more information.**
32. Please delete the "three large, lighted ball fields" from the proposed Millersville Park development. The large ball fields would ultimately cause way too much extra traffic on the favored rural connector of Millersville Road.
  - a. In accordance with the approved CIP scope, the park is being designed to meet active and passive recreational needs for this area of the County. In order to meet the active needs the inclusion of ball fields is a primary component to meet the current field demand.**
33. I have serious concerns about the proposal to develop large, lighted ballfields on Millersville Road. As it stands the road backs up given school traffic, and people diverting from Route 3. There is also excessive speeding on this road that endangers the many bikers that use this as a thoroughfare.
  - a. Noted, It should be noted that the scheduled sports activities would occur after school traffic has diminished and would have not increase the traffic generated from the school.**
34. Traffic continues to be of great concern and unfortunately most do not trust the county’s traffic study. Since the pandemic traffic has swelled even more on route 3 and 97 and spills over onto Millersville Rd and other side roads as drivers look for alternate routes. Traffic is not going to decrease and the added traffic of a multi field park will only add to the traffic problems. I have observed most recently that buses and transportation vehicles returning to Wilson Bus yard and traffic at Waterbury Rd and Millersville Rd is especially heavy in the time frame of 4:00 pm-6:00 pm.
  - a. Noted**
35. The number of fields should have been based more on site and traffic capacities and less on a public survey and poll of the stakeholder committee.
  - a. Noted.**
36. The road and traffic light changes, which our County is presently proposing, won't be significant enough to keep traffic congestion from increasing horribly, speeding from rising, accidents from occurring, or to keep pedestrians (including children) and ever-increasing bicyclists from getting hurt.
  - a. Noted.**

### **Storm Water Management**

37. Severn River Assn is concerned about the runoff from the dog park. There is also a spring to be considered during the design.
  - a. All County, State, and Federal requirements for Stormwater Management will be met. This includes providing water quality and quantity control. In addition runoff from the grass areas in the dog park will be directed to storm drain inlets containing filters for additional water quality**

**pretreatment prior to ultimately draining to on-site stormwater management facilities.**

38. It was suggested to put in the roads and drainage and commence with the park construction when complete.
- a. **Noted, as part of the development process storm water and storm drainage systems will be constructed as part of the parks construction, and are typically installed in the initial phases of the site construction.**
39. My biggest concern since the beginning of my involvement has been storm water management. About half the storm water on this site flows to Jabez 3, which is currently being restored after a 10 year fight for permits and an increased cost over \$1 million dollars. We don't need this park to destroy this stream again. I am surprised not to see SWM on slide 21 in the area marked as "Non-tidal wetlands low point" on slide 8. Are the wetlands going to be removed?
- a. **The wetlands are not being removed. There is no proposed construction within the wetlands or its associated buffer. The stormwater management has been designed to provide water quality in accordance with the current county, state and federal guidelines. The area designated as wetlands in the corner near parcels 70 and 240 is a natural low point. Runoff to this area will create a temporary ponding area until overflowing in a southwesterly direction toward Mallet Hill Ln and eventually a State Highway Administration SWM Pond that then discharges into Jabez Branch.**
40. What happens to storm water in this area – this would naturally flow to Jabez 3?
- a. **The area designated as wetlands in the corner near parcels 70 and 240 is a natural low point. Runoff to this area will create a temporary ponding until overflowing in a southwesterly direction toward Mallet Hill Ln and eventually a State Highway Administration SWM Pond that then discharges into Jabez Branch. The other half of the site drains to a culvert beneath I-97 that outfalls into a drainage swale along I-97 that goes through other SHA ponds, which eventually discharges to Jabez Branch.**
41. The other half of the park flows into Indian Creek Branch, which is currently seeing sediment build-up at the mouth. I hope that the storm water management installed at this park is extra high quality to preserve these two streams, especially controlling nutrients from the dog park.
- a. **Only a small section of the front portion of the site drains to Indian Creek Branch – east of the entrance. The project is being designed in accordance with all County, State, and Federal regulations regarding storm water management to limit nutrients and sediment leaving the site.**
42. On slide 8, there is an arrow pointing to "SHA drainage culvert". Not having seen this culvert up close and it doesn't show up on the county GIS map that I use, I would assume that culvert goes under I-97 into that line of trees above it. Depending on the length of the culvert and where it actually begins and ends, that could flow into the Sewell Spring Branch. It could also be dumping storm water into Millersville Park if it drains the other way. Neither of these is good in my opinion. I'm particularly concerned about flow into Sewell Creek Branch because that is supposed to be the stream that the county uses as a baseline for measuring other streams. If that stream gets worse then it could make other streams look better than they really are. If this culvert flows into Millersville Park from the highway then I hope your north border SWM can handle this and perhaps improve Indian Creek Branch by trapping nutrients and sediment.
- a. **The SHA culvert drains under I-97 in a northwesterly direction. On the North side of I-97, water flows along the side of I-97 to the north and eventually into Jabez Creek. This site does not drain to Sewell Spring**

- Branch. Only a small section of the front portion of the site drains to Indian Creek Branch east of the entrance. Storm water facilities, including storm water facilities, are being designed to capture nutrients and sediment.**
43. For the 275 parking spaces and the road in the park, will the surfaces allow water to slowly seep through (I forgot the fancy name for it) or will the surface be impervious? I am concerned due to the current issues with water drainage on the property and the Jabez nearby.
- a. **This parking lot will not accommodate permeable parking lots or spaces. Permeable paving areas greater than 10,000 sq. ft. are required to be designed as infiltration facilities. Soil investigations and testing on this site indicated that in certain portions of the site the storm water infiltration is not considered feasible based upon groundwater levels, laboratory testing, and infiltration testing. Therefore permeable paving in the parking lot is not proposed. These areas will drain to bio retention facilities for treatment of water quality which allow for natural seepage back into the ground.**
44. Incorporate superior storm water management to protect Jabez Branch and other local streams from the impacts of storm water runoff (quality and quantity) from the park and particularly from the dog park. We are particularly concerned about the impacts of storm water runoff (quality and quantity) from the park, especially from the dog park.
- a. **Refer to comment 39**
45. The parking lot will be an environmental issue given the impermeable surface.
- a. **Refer to comment 43.**

### Park Amenities

46. Location of the Dog Park...can this be relocated? It will be the most used activity and will create the most disturbance.
- a. **The dog park at Millersville Park has been moved to the rear of the park and will be sized at approximately 87,000 square feet based on the new design.**
47. People who voted for a park in Millersville are not from the community. Will there be tournaments in the park?
- a. **Excluding the County's larger recreation complexes, like Bachman Stadium, Cannon Stadium, and Bell Branch and Kinder Farm Parks, the Department of Recreation and Parks hosts about five tournaments per year in community parks. There may be occasional clinics and camps that would require additional permits and approval that could be allowed here. At this time, the Department of Recreation does not plan to host tournaments at this location.**
48. A full privacy fence minimally 8' tall should be built around the park property which is entirely opaque, and climb resistant.
- a. **The DRP does not install privacy fences around park perimeters. The parks are to be open for all to visit. Typical fencing within parks is a four- foot high chain- link fence.**
49. Public access was the main driver for development. Why is there a need for ball fields, let alone lit ball fields? Without fields, there would be less traffic and less disturbance. Why do they need to be here? What about a park with no fields?
- a. **The park is needed to address the unmet field needs in this region of the County. This use is consistent with the original application submitted to**



**the state for funding to purchase the land. The approved Capital Improvement Project that mandates how the project will move forward reads: This project is for the design and construction of a park that would include Bermuda and natural turf multiple-purpose fields, irrigation, field lighting, concession stand, bathrooms, utilities, storm water management, trails, road improvements, and other park-related amenities. The resulting project is consistent with the approved capital project that combines community use with organized recreational use.**

50. What is the interface between the SHA priority letter and this proposed park?
- a. **The County submits a yearly letter to MD Department of Transportation to highlight the County's overall transportation needs that are dependent on the State's transit, road network, airport, trails, and bridges. Millersville Rd is a County Road and would not be listed in the consolidated transportation request. However, the May 2023 letter does include Maryland 3 (Crain Highway from Stain Stephen Church Rd to MD 32/I-97. The County has begun working with SHA to discuss improvements at the intersection of MD 3 and Millersville Road. The current proposal includes the addition of a lane to increase capacity at the intersection. This would allow more cars to cross the intersection each cycle and reduce the backups on Millersville Rd east of MD 3.**
51. What will the three fields be used for?
- a. **Multipurpose Fields are most commonly used for football, soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey. These fields will be open to the public when not permitted for use.**
52. The dog park should be located near the rear of the property, not at the narrow front of the property which is near our patio area. A dog kennel on this property would be a zoning violation. Please respect the intent of zoning laws. This property was zoned RLD.
- a. **A dog park is not a use that is similar to a kennel. A kennel is where dogs, cats or animals are bred, raised, boarded, or trained. A dog park is a designated off-lease area in the park. The animals do not remain overnight at this location. Refer to comment 46**
53. The pickle ball courts should also be located near the rear of the property. The sound from pickle ball is widely recognized as being very annoying. A commercial pickle ball facility on this property would also be a zoning violation.
- a. **None of the facilities proposed within the park would be classified as commercial, as there is no financial gain associated with using the park. This amenity is common to the County's park system and other local community parks worldwide. There is no zoning violation resulting from this use within a County Park.**
54. We recognize that lighting will be necessary. Any lights need to be positioned and directed to not shine on our properties. Commercial recreation with lights on this property would also be a zoning violation.
- a. **The lighting technology that the County will be installing is called Total Light Control (TLC) Technology, which uses LED lights to carve out the area to be lighted with pinpoint precision, dramatically cutting off any impact on the surrounding area. These lights create controlled light and are not flood lights. None of the facilities proposed within the park would be classified as commercial, as there is no financial gain associated with using the park. This amenity is common to the County's park system and other local community parks worldwide. No zoning violation results from this type of use within a County Park.**

55. A concrete sound barrier fence at the highway should be built either by the State or County. This will not affect us much but the highway will be annoyingly loud for users of the park and perhaps a barrier wall would help.
  - a. **A concrete barrier will not be installed at this property as it has been determined that a concrete sound barrier is not warranted at this location. There is no sound barrier from I-97 to the Generals Highway Corridor Park, South Shore Trail, and there have been no complaints of noise interfering with play or use of the park amenity. The new Millersville Park will be screened from I-97 with current and additional trees and plantings. It should be noted that there are churches and homes adjacent to I-97.**
56. Gates on the playing fields?
  - a. **Gates will be incorporated on each field.**
57. How many pavilions?
  - a. **There will be three pavilions on site.**
58. Fences for neighbors?
  - a. **Refer to the comment 48**
59. Will there be a gate to open or close the park?
  - a. **No, there will not be a gate installed to manage operating hours.**
60. Does the entire park need to be paved? What about alternative surfaces?
  - a. **Refer to comment #43**
61. Why no bathroom buildings?
  - a. **Most community parks do not have bathroom buildings. Bathroom buildings are installed where there is a community group to maintain them. Chemical toilets will be provided in the parks during peak usage- August to November and April to June.**
62. Will there be field lighting or other lighting?
  - a. **Yes, all multipurpose fields will be lit with "total light control" technology. Parking lots will be equipped with low-light level parking lot lights. All lighting will be set on timers.**
63. Community amenities (walking trails, Dog Park, etc.) should be located as far from the highway as possible. Not only would this be out of respect to the locals, but the proposed sports (ball fields, pickle ball, etc.) are loud and least likely to care about the highway noise.
  - a. **Noted; the portion of the park closest to I-97 is being used for parking.**
64. I would like to see the walking/nature trail as more than a "ring around the park". It could be so much more, with an arboretum style to it. I would like to volunteer to be involved in the design,
  - a. **Trails have been included in the project's design.**
65. Plantings should be natives and, as a long enthusiast for native plantings, I would like to help to make sure that it happens in a thoughtful and beautifying way.
  - a. **Noted, the Department of Recreation and Parks only plants native plantings in the park system.**
66. Also, as a home-improvements contracting company, we would be thrilled to have a location for our critical-area clients to have a park at which they could see their choices of natives that are required to offset their construction, and enjoy the trail while doing so.
  - a. **This park is slated for recreational uses and will incorporate natural features as part of the landscaping plan.**
67. Since our County is fairly "water-centric,"\* a medium-sized Public Indoor Swimming County Facility seems better suited to being located next to the noisy and pollution-filled "Highway 97," instead of an outdoor park at the proposed Millersville Park Area. Furthermore, a medium-sized Public Indoor Swimming County Facility would create far less traffic, less need to connect to the "South Shore Trail" across the dangerous

Millersville Road, less noise, lower parking lot needs, less light pollution, fewer outdoor safety issues, less resultant crime, more opportunities for people with disabilities, and have a smaller "paved footprint, overall," with much less chaos

- a. A pool is not part of the park's approved Capital budget description, and this property is designated for outdoor recreation.**
68. It was mentioned at the November 16th public meeting that the last online survey\*\* about any wishes from county residents for the development of the Millersville Park Area didn't offer an option for "No Fields," which meant that many survey takers didn't even consider writing-in the notion they would prefer "no large ball fields," let alone "no lighted fields." Moreover, they didn't realize that they could have written-in a desire for an Indoor Swimming Facility, instead.
  - a. Comment noted; refer to comment 67.**
69. Swimmers Want to Swim Year-Round: Many residents in the proposed Millersville Park Area of our County have access to community outdoor swimming pools, have their own outdoor pools, and/or belong to outdoor swim clubs. Such residents would cherish the opportunity to swim during the cold fall and Winter Months at a County Indoor Pool. They would even pay a fee to do so (my husband and I included.)
  - a. Refer to comment 67; opportunities for swimming are being evaluated under a different capital project.**
70. A Note about the Survey's Low Response Rate: The 2023 online survey, which had a due date that was right before the July 4th Holiday Weekend, had a total reception of 415 survey responses, which equates to the survey's total response rate having been less than 2% of even the total number of subscribers to the Department of Recreation and Parks' newsletter (21K total subscribers as of July 10, 2023).
  - a. Noted.**
71. It has become obvious a "Public Access Offering" to the "Millersville Park Area" is the main stipulation that has caused the "Millersville Park Area" of land to "need" to be developed. Such a "Public Access Offering" to the area may be accomplished without any "Large or Lighted Ball Fields," at all.
  - a. Refer to comments 32, 51 and 56 for more information.**
72. The above concept is key, because the removal of the "Large or Lighted Ball Fields" from our County's latest development proposal would then allow for a park to be designed that actually fits into the current rural environment and infrastructure capacities, in harmony, without over-stressing the area's fragile watershed environment, as well as without causing a great increase in vehicular traffic and safety concerns.
  - a. Refer to comments 32, 51 and 56 and the sections labeled traffic and storm water for more information.**
73. Our County's rural area of Millersville Road simply cannot accommodate the vehicular traffic and "Light Pollution" that would be created by "Large or Lighted Ball Fields" and their associated large team practices and games.
  - a. The traffic study notes that reserve capacity for park traffic is available along Millersville Road to the east of MD 3.**
74. Point 1: "Large Ball Fields" cause lots of extra vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic from large team practices and games at specific, concentrated times of day/night.
  - a. The previously mentioned improvement being provided at MD 3 will address the lone failure of the surrounding road network to meet County code standards. Weekday field use would be after the Millersville Road PM peak traffic periods.**
75. Point 2: "Lighted Fields" cause a great deal of unwanted "Light Pollution" for residents and wildlife in a rural neighborhood.
  - a. Refer to comment 56**

76. Point 3: "Large and Lighted Ball Fields" cause a need for "Lighted, Large, Paved Parking Lots," which are, overall, bad for our fragile watershed neighborhood environment.
- a. **Refer to comments 32, 51 and 56 and the sections labeled traffic and storm water for more information.**
77. Can you and your colleagues please return the "Millersville Park Area Project" to its drafting phase and design a "Public Access Offering" to the "Millersville Park Area," which offers the following: "Daytime-Only," "Smaller-Scaled" Outdoor Play Opportunities for All (where large teams of people aren't encouraged to gather, but rather the "play opportunities" are utilized by smaller groups at spread-out times of the day, thus requiring less pavement and lighting, thereby being more friendly to area traffic and our natural environment, and thereby promoting the health, enjoyment, and overall safety of our County residents)
- a. **The Department restarted the design process once it was determined that the Tennis Center was not moving forward at this location. The County convened a stakeholder committee that was made up of local community leaders members, community youth organizations and others. The County considered the independent survey prepared by the community residents and its own survey to gather feedback during the stakeholder process. This meeting was to present the project to the larger community for feedback based on the program that was discussed during the stakeholder process. The park has been designed in accordance with the approved Capital project and will provide active and recreational use. The project, as designed, also meets the top five desires listed in the community-based survey. For these reasons, the project is moving forward with a combination of ball fields, trails, natural areas, community gardens, playgrounds, seating areas, court games, and open play space.**
78. A few downward-directed "Parking Lot Lights," which don't affect the rural neighborhood or its wildlife — not bright "Game/Stadium/Field Lighting" — would be okay if a modest "Indoor Play Facility" were to be built, instead of an "Outdoor Park." For instance, a small-to-medium-sized "Indoor Swimming County Facility," where "Swim Meets" and other swimming competitions aren't allowed (due to their related traffic congestion and safety concerns) could work well.
- a. **Refer to comments 56 and 69 for more information.**
79. No matter what, please remove the highly disruptive "Large and/or Lighted Ball Fields" from our County's latest development proposal.
- a. **Refer to comment 32 and 56 for more information.**
80. With the dog park at the front of the property, will there be a fence surrounding it?
- a. **Refer to comment 48. The dog park will be in the rear of the property and surrounded by fencing.**
81. A 50 ft wide buffers should be established around the park perimeter. It is difficult from the drawing in the presentation to assess the width of the planned buffer. Based on a commitment made by Ms. Leys in her Nov 6, 2022 email and discussions during the stakeholder meetings, a wide buffer (50 ft or greater) was to be included in the park design.
- a. **The majority of the site includes a 50' vegetated landscape buffer; however, along the RT 97 property line, the walking path does breach the buffer but is still heavily landscaped as per landscape requirements.**
82. The three-field design requires 2.9 acres of forest to be removed for parking, and only 1.3 acres of new forest will be planted. This is not consistent with the Forest Conservation Act or the County's own policy to protect existing forest. In addition, at least one specimen tree will need to be removed. The size of the sports fields should be adjusted to avoid forest removal.

- a. The property's predominant development has been designed to be in the center, utilizing the open space, while minimizing tree loss. State forest conservation requirements are being met for this site. This institutional site has a 20% conservation threshold of 7.1 acres and 3.0 acres above the threshold. The amount of forest that must be retained with no mitigation is 8.1 acres. Forest clearing permitted without mitigation is 10.1 ac - 8.1 breakeven number = 2.0 ac of forest clearing permitted. The project retains 7.1 ac and clears 2.9 ac of forest. The conservation threshold is 3.0 giving the project a 0.1 ac credit. The total reforestation required is 1.5 acres above the threshold minus the 0.1 ac credit or 1.4 acres of reforestation planted on site, in the northeast corner of the site.**
83. The size of the dog park could be reduced from nearly 100,000 square feet to 70,000 square feet, allowing for a larger playground and additional landscaping. Additional landscaping throughout the park would visually separate areas and improve park ambiance. Based on a review of the literature, the size of dog parks ranges from 68,000 to 100,000 square feet.
  - a. The dog park is currently shown as 87,120 sf. Refer to comment 46**
84. Include sound barriers around pickle ball courts. There has been extensive coverage in the media about conflicts between pickle ball users and residents arising from very loud and repetitive noise. The installation of sound reducing barriers would prevent conflicts with the neighbors and make the park quieter for other park users.
  - a. Sound barriers will not be provided at this location as they are not provided in other community parks throughout the County.**
85. Consider sound reduction fencing around the dog park also.
  - a. Sound barriers are not provided in other county parks around dog parks.**
86. "Large Ball Fields" cause lots of extra vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic from large team practices and games at specific, concentrated times of day/night. "Lighted Fields" cause a great deal of unwanted "Light Pollution" for residents and wildlife in a rural neighborhood. "Large and Lighted Ball Fields" cause a need for "Lighted, Large, Paved Parking Lots," which are, overall, bad for our fragile watershed neighborhood environment.
  - a. Refer to comments 32, 51 and 54 and the sections labeled traffic and storm water for more information.**
87. We respectfully request that DRP work with the local communities of the Millersville Park area to plan a less invasive, "low-impact, daytime-only park," that is appropriate to our rural residential location.
  - a. Refer to comment 79.**
88. Project planning principles require that a development be appropriate to the site, to include respect for native wildlife, its resident watersheds, storm water issues; adequate well and septic, and how it will affect the residents' wells and septic; effect on the co-located school; increases traffic on a rural road that is currently overburdened by the failing Rt3 intersection and rampant development; and the approved DRP South Shore trail connector.
  - a. Noted**
89. Increase the size of the playground to provide separate playground equipment for tots, older children, and disabled children (without reducing the open field). Providing equipment for disabled children would be consistent with the County's policies and disabilities guidelines.
  - a. The playground area is 20,000 sf and will include a mix of playground equipment to serve multiple ages and those with varying physical abilities.**
90. There is significant concern over the placement of the dog park, storm water and the presence of a spring on the southeast corner of the park and Millersville Rd. Moving the

dog park to the back will provide for a better first impression and a more welcoming environment when one enters the park. Dog parks tend to be unsightly since they are pretty barren and worn down. There is concern from property owners on Arundel Station Rd about how storm water flows across their yards from this property. Animal waste and contamination is a huge concern.

**a. Refer to comment 46.**

91. Millersville Park should have a playground that makes a statement. It should serve the needs of all children of varying ages and capabilities. An auditory component would be great! Currently Millersville does not have easy access to the school playground since it is fenced and behind the school. The Arden and Waterbury playgrounds are relatively small. Make this playground a destination and not an afterthought or an amenity to just check off.

**a. Noted.**

### Schedule

92. What is the timeframe for the entire capital project?
- a. The current schedule is to obtain bids by August of 2024 and start construction by December of 2024. The project will take approximately 6-8 months to construct.**

### Noise/Lighting

93. Will there be a noise pollution and air quality study of the impact of Interstate 97?
- a. No**
94. While sound barriers were mentioned at the November 16th public meeting, nobody discussed any sound walls/barriers on the Coleus Drive side (east side) of Highway 97 and Route 32. There were only comments about a possibility of sound walls/barriers on the proposed Millersville Park Area's side (west side) of Highway 97 and Route 32.
- a. Refer to comment 57 for more information.**
95. If any sound walls/barriers are only placed on the proposed Millersville Park Area's side (west side) of Highway 97 and Route 32, then the highway's unhealthy, already irritating, and often deafening sounds will certainly bounce (reflect) off of the western walls, causing the sound waves to be re-directed eastward toward our historic Indian Landing neighborhood. Therefore, if the proposed development includes sound walls/barriers, then it follows that sound walls would absolutely be needed to be erected on both the west and east sides of Highway 97 and Route 32, please, from the very inception of any construction. It would be imperative to include this health-conscious need in any project budgets and plans.
- a. Refer to comment 55 for more information.**
96. Currently, my husband and I need to wear earplugs to sleep at night, due to the intense highway noise making its way straight to our master bedroom. We cannot imagine living in our home if the noise were "doubled."
- a. Noted. The primary park will close at dusk unless there is a permitted event.**
97. Beyond this there are environmental factors to consider, with light pollution already being an issue that impacts the residents and wildlife.

- a. Noted, refer to comment 54 for more information about lighting.**
98. My husband and I moved here during the pandemic to help our daughter and son-in-law juggle newborn childcare and newly minted NASA jobs. We had lived most of our lives in the Hudson Valley of New York, the last thirty-five of those in New Paltz. We are frankly discouraged to see the same type of "development" being inflicted in an area that touts itself as progressive environmentally, and hope you will not repeat the mistakes we lived through in New York.
- a. Noted.**
99. The large fields and lighting will introduce two additional forms of pollution not often acknowledged (until too late): light and noise pollution. Along with the other valid and obvious concerns about traffic, increasing pollution from more vehicles in congested patterns, storm water management, etc., this area will lose its rural atmosphere and undoubtedly some of its wildlife diversity with the introduction of nighttime lighting and the increased noise that will accompany these plans.
- a. Noted. Refer to comments 32 and 55 and the sections labeled traffic and storm water for more information.**
100. Insurance and security concerns will mandate that lighting be kept on even when the park is officially closed, as in New York State, I suspect. In the evenings before that, the formerly quiet neighborhoods and fields will be brightly illuminated by more light than is natural. We have more than enough research now pointing to the negative effects of light pollution on humans and other animals exposed to it. I have worked with Dark Sky lighting requirements and implementation. It still means more light where you had natural light before, and the eradication of dark. This is unhealthy.
- a. Refer to comment 54 for more information about lighting.**
101. This area is surrounded with individual homes that will be impacted by the proposed lighting and the noise. A 50 ft. buffer should be guaranteed around the entire park. Removing almost 3 acres of trees is inconsistent with the Forest Conservation Act or the County's policy therefore; the fields should be adjusted to prevent the forest removal. The size of the playground should be increased to allow for the younger, older and handicapped children. Soundproofing needs to be added around the dog park and the pickle ball area to protect the residents who are in the immediate community. Lastly, a superior storm water management need to be incorporated to protect Jabez Branch and other local streams.
- a. Noted. Refer to comments 32 and 55 and the sections labeled traffic and storm water for more information.**
102. A 50 ft. wide buffers should be established around the park perimeter. It is difficult from the drawing in the presentation to assess the width of the planned buffer. Based on a commitment made by Ms. Leys in her Nov 6, 2022 email and discussions during the stakeholder meetings, a wide buffer (50 ft. or greater) was to be included in the park design.
- a. Refer to comments 81 and 82 for more information.**
103. Noise pollution has also been strongly implicated in health problems ranging from hypertension to insomnia. Each new study strengthens the correlation between increased noise levels and increased health issues in populations. Progressive planners in Europe have been incorporating noise mitigation practices and restrictions into their planning for years now. If this area claims to be sensitive to the environment and progressive in its policies, it cannot endorse plans that cause deterioration of life for the residents and resident wildlife.
- a. Noted**
104. In New Paltz, a large piece of land owned by the County was used by all as a local nature spot. The hills were full of deer, turtles, fox, and many marsh birds. Our children played in the meadows, learned to watch wildlife families grow over the seasons,

learned the local trees and plants, and became birdwatchers naturally. The skies were dark, perfect for star parties--our daughter and many others learned to love the night sky, and to look up from a computer screen to see the Real World. Dogs were welcome, families flew kites--much like my memories of childhood. The decision was made to accommodate new residents who had plenty of ballfields available, but who felt having to share scheduling with other teams was too much trouble. The fields were denuded, wildlife destroyed, and the grounds covered by ballfields, asphalt, and stadium lighting. Not only did we lose a beautiful spot harboring our local wildlife, but we lost one of the only remaining dark sky locations sky gazers could use. You can see the glow from miles away, but you will never see the stars there again. Years ago, our rural areas were places inner-city children were sent to so that they could see the sky at night. Why would you sacrifice that? We can be semi-rural here, with a quality of life that is healthy and natural, or we can throw that away. Once you've destroyed it, you won't get it back easily. Definitions of the character of a place can only stretch so far; these park plans can be a fatal blow to that.

**a. Noted**

### Misc. Questions / Comments

105. What were the selection criteria for the stakeholders?
- a. The stakeholders were a diverse group that could discuss the needs of each group it represented, be able to identify what they viewed as operational challenges and share information with their groups. The criteria for the selection of the community stakeholders were that they had to express an interest in participating in the group, and had an interest in the project as it related to the approved use of the facility. In this case, members included four community leaders and representatives and four members of the local community youth organizations. These groups provide recreational programming to the children in this part of the County. The stakeholders included a member of the Department's Recreation Advisory Board. A member of the County's Executive CECS team was present to help facilitate, mediate, and observe the proceedings. County Staff and consultants were not allowed to vote. The goal was to have equal voices in support of community recreational activities and organized recreational activities.**
106. Senior Softball Field? Senior Sports?
- a. Softball fields will not be included in the design of this park. The DRP offers senior and adult leagues. Information can be found online at <https://www.aacounty.org/recreation-parks/sports>**
107. May we have a well-publicized, follow-up survey to incorporate the following options for the proposed Millersville Park Area? In the survey I would add (A "Medium-Sized" Public Indoor Swimming County Facility, Zero "Large" Ball Fields, Zero "Lighted" Ball Fields)
- a. Refer to comments 77.**
108. If this is to be a Community Park (as mentioned in many presentations), why are the GORC and Crofton Rec Councils getting to vote on the design? I would be willing to bet families in those Rec Councils do not even know where Millersville Road is let alone the proposed park.
- a. Refer to comment 105. All members of the stakeholder groups were given equal voting rights, as their individual knowledge, experiences, and backgrounds, regardless of affiliation, were valuable to the process.**
- b. • Final stakeholder votes:**



- i. **Phased approach - 1 vote for a phased approach that started at two but ended at 4 a phased approach that would build out the entire park infrastructure but only create 2 fields. If after operational for 1-2 years the other 2 fields could be brought online after a traffic study or some other analysis. (Citizen at Large #1)**
  - ii. **2 Fields -2 votes (OMNA and Friends of Millersville Park)**
  - iii. **3 Fields- 4- (Citizens at Large #2, Arden HOA, Rec Advisory Board, GORC)**
  - iv. **Fields- 2- Arden Athletics and CAs**
  - v. **Based on these votes, three fields are the majority.**
  - vi. **This was also the least controversial option in the survey.**
109. If I remember the slide correctly, it seems more outsiders have a vote as a percentage of total votes compared to those in the immediate area. Why is it structured this way?  
**a. Refer to comments 108.**
110. I believe it would be far more cost effective, convenient and less intrusive to the area in general to enhance the GORC fields and expand the GORC area as necessary. I am also EXTREMELY concerned for the detrimental effect building a "Park" off Millersville Road would have on the wildlife since the extensive and continuous encroachment of their land will be deadly. Also, since the GORC fields are within such close proximity, I question the need for such dire disruption to the wildlife and those of us residing in what is, and should remain, a very rural Millersville  
**a. GORC Park was recently renovated to accommodate the growing sports needs in Gambrills and Millersville and is fully using the land available.**
111. Instead of creating a massive traffic jam on Millersville Road, traffic would virtually not be affected by enhancing the GORC field since it is located next to Routes 97 and 301 and no additional traffic patterns or roads would be necessary - therefore, again - more cost effective.  
**a. Refer to comment 110.**

### **Forest Conservation**

112. As an environmentalist, I would certainly be much happier if the forest on this site was left alone. Certainly removing 2.9 acres should require replanting the same on site, if possible. This development should be consistent with the Forest Conservation Act and the County's own policy to protect existing forest. Can the number of parking spaces be reduced and/or the dog park size reduced?  
**a. Reference comment #82 for forest conservation numbers.**
113. In addition to the 3 concerns above I am disappointed that there is actually a loss of forest and no gain. It is stated that 2.9 acres of forest will be removed and only 1.3 acres will be replaced/planted. This leads me to question landscaping. Will there be trees planted that will mature and provide shade for park visitors? Will there be a natural buffer around the perimeter of the park?  
**a. Reference comment #82 for forest conservation numbers. All state FC requirements are being met.**  
**b. There are over 200 proposed shade trees over the entire site creating shade, habitat, and buffers.**
114. The three-field design requires 2.9 acres of forest to be removed for parking, and only 1.3 acres of new forest will be planted. This is not consistent with the Forest Conservation Act or the County's own policy to protect existing forest. In addition, at

least one specimen tree will need to be removed. The size of the sports fields should be adjusted to avoid forest removal.


**a. Reference comment #82 for Forest Conservation numbers. All state requirements are being met.**

115. The environmental impact of the proposed park is troubling to many members of the community. The removal of trees for park construction is a cause for concern, especially considering the vital role they play in maintaining ecological balance and contributing to overall environmental well-being. Preserving green spaces is crucial for our community's environmental sustainability, and we believe alternative solutions should be explored to avoid unnecessary tree removal.

**a. Reference comment #82 for Forest Conservation numbers. All state requirements are being met.**

DPW and DRP appreciate all the feedback and look forward to working with the surrounding residents and future users of the park

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Kyle Autry  
Sr. Engineer  
DPW Bureau of Engineering

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