

Odenton Library Community Park			
Anne Arundel County Capital Project No. P584401			
Office of Planning & Zoning Community Meeting for Presentation of 30% Schematic Design			
Public Input Period: 3/1/23 - 3/15/23			
Date Rec'd	Name	Comment/Question	Response
3/1/23	Shyquandria Reynolds	I would like to see shade structures over the playground equipment and sitting areas to protect from the heat of the day.	Thank you for your suggestion. Various shaded seating and shade structure options are being considered for the Odenton Community Park.
3/1/23	Shyquandria Reynolds	It is frustrating when facilities don't provide a baby changing station in the restrooms or only in the women's restroom. Please equip both the men and women's restrooms with a baby changing station.	Anne Arundel Recreation and Parks typically provides changing stations in restrooms at our facilities, however restroom facilities are not currently planned for the Odenton Community Park.
3/1/23	Shyquandria Reynolds	It is difficult for parents to hold a child up to wash their hands. Please equip the restrooms with sinks that are child height accessible, preferably with a built in step stool for the younger ones.	Thank you for your suggestion. Restroom facilities are not currently planned for the Odenton Community Park.
3/1/23	Shyquandria Reynolds	Please consider having a mix of playground equipment that is appropriate for children younger than 5 and older children. So maybe one part of the playground has equipment for those younger than 5 and the other part of the playground has equipment for kids 6 and older.	The playground equipment will be for mixed ages between 2 and 12.
3/1/23	Shyquandria Reynolds	What is the timeline of completion for this project?	We plan to start in the Spring of 2024, so completion will occur approximately around Winter 2024/Spring 2025
3/1/23	Mindy Carey	I was very pleased to have attended last night's meeting at the Odenton Library re: "Odenton Library Park." Ms. Pfefferkorn, Mr. Bruchey, Mr. Gipe and Mr. Lodamo did an excellent job presenting the design plans for the property adjacent to the library. It was obvious to me that considerable thought and time have gone into designing a park that incorporates both environmental sensitivity and amenities that match community interest. I am very supportive of the plan that was presented and I'm looking forward to following the project through its next phases. As a retired park planner who worked in another local jurisdiction, I was extremely impressed by the park's design elements, by the clear, concise and thorough presentation, and by the large turnout of interested residents. Kudos to all involved with the project, and thank you for working to provide what should be a great, new venue in Odenton.	We appreciate your kind words and enthusiasm for the park!
3/2/23	Erin Bacasnot	Sorry, I wasn't able to attend the meeting this past week. My husband did attend. We are so excited for the new pickle ball courts, would love to see 4 considered if there is any chance for expansion. At the moment, there are so few courts in this area and Annapolis is often times too far for a quick game. Thank you so much for your consideration and again we are so excited for the courts looking forward to helping this is fantastic sport grow! What a great way to foster community connection, friendships and healthy activity!	Thank you for your comments.
3/7/23	Janet Schlosser	I would like to receive handouts or reports about the park slated for behind the Odenton Public Library. I do have the link you sent me, and I thank you for that and will submit comments. I'm all for parks and green spaces	We added Ms. Schlosser to the mailing list and appreciate her interest in the project.
3/9/23	Christi Marie	Prioritize the park as a nature area and relocate the pickleball courts elsewhere (GORC). I am a pickleball player AND a naturalist. I support and enjoy both activities. But a park concept of pickleball AND nature is at odds with itself. Pickleball games are high energy, loud, and very busy. Nature paths invite rest, serenity, and calm.	Pickleball courts are one of the most desired amenities in public recreation parks today and there is a high level of desire for them at the Odenton Library Park. Our intent with this park is to provide amenities typical for a small park, not a regional park like GORC. Only (2) pickleball courts are planned for this park accordingly.
3/9/23	Christi Marie	The high energy of pickleball is intrusive to wildlife-turtles, birds, & small animals. The library patch of trees remains one of the last such areas in Odenton proper. It is painful to see the destruction of nature when other development options exist. Please protect the amazing natural elements of this unique greenspace, and plan for additional pickleball courts in another area like GORC. Two pickleball courts with eight players every 1-2 hours equates to possibly eight cars an hour of traffic volume turnover. The GORC/Odenton Park facility is already equipped for high-volume traffic, hourly attendance turnover, expansive parking, and high-energy activities. Adding courts at GORC would be a win for pickleball players and a win for keeping the library park natural.	Thank you for your concern.

3/9/23	Christi Marie	Relocate the pavilion closer to the restrooms and parking area to improve access ease for all park attendees. The current planned pavilion location is far along the path away from the parking area and bathrooms. This removed location makes pavilion access challenging for elderly, families with young children, or for people with impaired mobility. Placing the pavilion closer to the parking lot improves access for all. (Especially if someone needs to use a restroom or to retrieve food/personal items from a car.)	Restrooms are not planned for this project, only portable toilets. We will explore if a second portable toilet location closer to the pavilion is possible.
3/9/23	Christi Marie	Prioritize sidewalk safety. Consider placing a safety barrier between the sidewalk and Winnmeyer Avenue. A sidewalk rail or barrier would improve safety for pedestrians (and especially families with young children) who traverse along the sidewalk on Winnmeyer Avenue (between Annapolis Road and the library parking lot).	Winnmeyer Avenue has the characteristics of a neighborhood road with a low speed limit and the sidewalks are raised above the roadway. We feel this is a safe configuration. Thank you for your input.
3/9/23	Christi Marie	Optimize any opportunity to improve walkability access into/out of the library park. It is painful to think the only access to this park will be by car. Horrible for the environment, horrible for traffic. Improving pedestrian and bike access to the proposed library park would be in alignment with the ideal urban planning concepts of "complete streets" and a 15-minute city. Any improvement in SAFE trail or sidewalk access to this park from other parts of Odenton is a huge win for the community.	Many parks are primarily accessed by vehicles. Extending commuter hikere/biker trails is not included as part of this project.
3/9/23	Christi Marie	Consider making the pavilion an elevated platform. Elevating the pavilion (vice placing a concrete slab directly on the ground surface) is less disturbing to nature.	Elevating a pavilion results in additional costs and considerations for people with disabilities which are not a problem with slabs on grade. Thank you for your suggestion.
3/9/23	Christi Marie	Get ahead of traffic flow issues. The park has only one car entrance from Annapolis Road. This is already a gummed up, ugly traffic intersection. Is a traffic circle a possibility for the intersection of Annapolis Road and Winnmeyer Avenue? A traffic circle would ensure safer pedestrian crossing, support consistent traffic flow, improve traffic safety, and reduce energy consumption. A win for all!	Traffic improvements are not included as part of this project. Thank you for your input.
3/13/23	"D"	Hello, I have seen turtles in this area. It would be great to ensure any curbs built are sloping rather than squared, since this makes it easier for wildlife to move among the roads. Please consider putting in place wildlife crossings to reduce the impact of development (link below). Finally, when considering places for future development (e.g. for amphitheaters etc.) please utilize already cleared land or land where there is abandoned buildings instead of cutting down more trees. Odenton has lost many mature trees recently due to development and I'm concerned about air quality. Thanks! https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/wildlife-crossings/	Thank you for your input. We will take your suggestions into consideration.
3/14/22	Mike Pellittiere	I am excited to see a public playground in Odenton, especially adjacent to the library. I appreciate the efforts to make as little impact to the woods as possible, while making them something that the public can use and enjoy. I would like to make two suggestions: 1) Recommend installing one or more emergency call boxes in the new park. 2) Invest in placing hedgerow/privacy plantings on the property line with the occupied property (1386 Odenton Rd) - this may help with the lawsuit that was all but promised during the information meeting.	Thank you for your input. We will take your suggestions into consideration. We are also considering the neighbor's privacy issues at this time.
3/14/22	Mike Pellittiere	I am concerned about the amount of woods that would need to be torn down for phase 2. I would like to be notified when you start accepting comments for phase 2.	When phase 2 happens, it will entail a similar community meeting as required by the Office of Planning and Zoning.
3/14/22	Lisa Pellittiere	What will be used to create a sight line barrier between the park property and the private property/homes that are adjacent to the property? Trees? Hedgerow? Opaque fence? As a patron in the park, I don't wish to see private homes any more than I imagine the homeowners want to see public park goers.	We are considering the neighboring proerty's privacy concerns at this time. Thank you for your input.
3/14/22	Lisa Pellittiere	Are outdoor classrooms/meeting areas being planned in conjunction with the story trail? Outdoor meeting spaces could enhance the ability for the library to program outdoor community classes, expanding their current offerings. Outdoor meeting spaces could also be used by other groups.	These are not currently included in the park's phase I programming, but there will be a union of sorts between the library and the park. We are encouraging educational opportunities through the story trail discussed at the meeting.
3/14/22	Lisa Pellittiere	Please consider adding pickle ball courts to the existing Odenton (GORC) park-- a park that already house sports fields. It would be wonderful for this library park to focus on serving children/families with the playground, story trail, outdoor classrooms/meeting spaces, etc.	Pickleball courts are one of the most desired amenities in public recreation parks today and there is a high level of desire for them at the Odenton Library Park. Our intent with this park is to provide amenities typical for a small park, not a regional park like GORC. Only (2) pickleball courts are planned for this park accordingly.
3/14/22	Lisa Pellittiere	How do we find more information about phase 2? We learned about phase 1 only by chance-- and clearly well into the planning process. Would like to be able to learn about phase 2 earlier in the planning process.	When phase 2 happens, it will entail a similar community meeting as required by the Office of Planning and Zoning.

3/15/23	Ken Zavos	<p>The Odenton Library Community park could help fund construction with a buy-a-brick campaign, just as the Annapolis library did: https://patch.com/maryland/annapolis/community-can-show-support-library-purchasing-brick Brick paths are an attractive surface which can be porous to rainwater if installed correctly: https://sbrickcorporation.com/are-bricks-permeable/ We can see relevant language on page 168 of the 2009 Odenton Master plan and page 142 of the 2016 Master plan: "All pedestrian walkways shall be distinguished from driving surfaces through the use of durable, low maintenance surface materials such as pavers, bricks, or scored concrete to enhance pedestrian safety and comfort, as well as the attractiveness of the walkways."</p>	Thank you for your suggestion. We will take it into consideration.
3/15/23	Ken Zavos	<p>On page 14 of the 2016 Odenton master plan, we see that "A potential element of the TOD concept plan will involve future acquisition of the railroad spur line that runs along the southern end of the library site. If acquired, this right-of-way would allow construction of a new road extending from MD 175 at Winmeyer Avenue, through the library site, and to the parking structures on the East lot site, alleviating some of the traffic demand along Odenton Road in the historic sub-area." At the meeting, the difficulty of contacting the owner of the railroad spur was identified as an impediment to acquisition. I would encourage planners and committee members to consider contacting political representatives in the appropriate county, state or federal jurisdictions to assist with this effort. This could be also be accomplished in coordination with a write-in campaign by residents. If the planners and/or committee members can identify and provide contact information for representatives who may be able to help, the community would have an opportunity to influence the outcome. Another approach which may be more likely to succeed involves the eminent domain statutes, which provide that private property can be legally obtained for public use: https://eminentdomain.uslegal.com/state-laws-on-eminent-domain/maryland/ https://ij.org/issues/private-property/eminent-domain/maryland-eminent-domain-laws/ Given the lack of owner response, this may be the next logical step, and could be taken in parallel with political efforts to facilitate dialog with the owner. Political support might also help smooth the way for eminent domain proceedings, if the owner continues to be unresponsive.</p>	Thank you for the suggestion. We will take it into consideration.
3/15/23	Ken Zavos	<p>The proposed pickleball courts do not fit with the quiet atmosphere of the library. The installation of nearby courts would understandably affect those who have come to rely on the library to provide a space free from distracting noise. Pickleball fits much better with atmosphere of GORC (aka Francis Station) Park, and it is my request that the pickleball courts be located there instead. If the community overwhelmingly wants pickleball courts at the library, a sentiment that was not evident at the February 2023 meeting, there are still more options to consider: Relocate the courts farther from the library and residential areas, closer to Odenton Road. This would place more trees and shrubs between the library and the courts to screen the associated noise. It would also increase distance from residences most likely to be affected. The currently planned location is next to a large, flat parking lot which will reflect, rather than diminish, the noise. In addition to relocating the courts farther away, also install a fence and acoustic noise wrap such as these: https://www.fencescreen.com/Sports-and-Events/Facilities/Pickleball-Privacy-Sound-Solutions/Pickleball-Courts-Acoustic-Wraps.aspx https://usapickleball.org/member-news/quash-pickleball-noise-with-acoustifence/</p>	Pickleball courts are one of the most desired amenities in public recreation parks today and there is a high level of desire for them at the Odenton Library Park. Our intent with this park is to provide amenities typical for a small park, not a regional park like GORC. Only (2) pickleball courts are planned for this park accordingly. We are exploring options to minimize the impact to neighboring properties.