



Shepherd Parkway Development Concept Plan

December 2020



The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared a concept plan that seeks to enhance Shepherd Parkway as a natural, recreational, and historic resource in southeast and southwest Washington, DC. The approximately 205-acre park is a long, narrow portion of NPS land which is part of and administered by the National Capital Parks-East unit of the NPS. The concept plan overall describes the project background, current conditions, environmental constraints, potential improvements, and steps needed to move toward implementation.

Shepherd Parkway is a predominately wooded landscape extending approximately between the St. Elizabeths campus to the north and Bald Eagle Hill to the south. The park is bound by I-295 to the west and the Congress Heights and Bellevue neighborhoods to the east. Open space and views to the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers punctuate the park corridor. Shepherd Parkway also includes the highly-frequented area known as Parkland and the remains of Civil War-era Fort Carroll and Fort Greble.

Project Goals

GOAL 1: Enrich existing and explore new uses and programming opportunities

GOAL 2: Improve the health of Shepherd Parkway, ecologically and for the surrounding community

GOAL 3: Address safety and maintenance concerns

Public and Stakeholder Engagement Process

The NPS provided opportunities for public and stakeholder participation in the development of the concept plan during the following public comment periods:

- **Comment Period 1 (June 26, 2019 - July 26, 2019):** The NPS held a 30-day public comment period, including one public meeting and one stakeholder meeting, for the public and stakeholders to share their vision for the park's future and identify any issues or concerns they might have with the project.
- **Comment Period 2 (November 7, 2019 - December 21, 2019):** The NPS held a second 46-day public comment period, including one public meeting and one stakeholder meeting, to present initial concept plan options for the park that considered comments received during the first comment period. The NPS considered the comments received during the second comment period in preparation of the revised concept plans included in the concept plan.

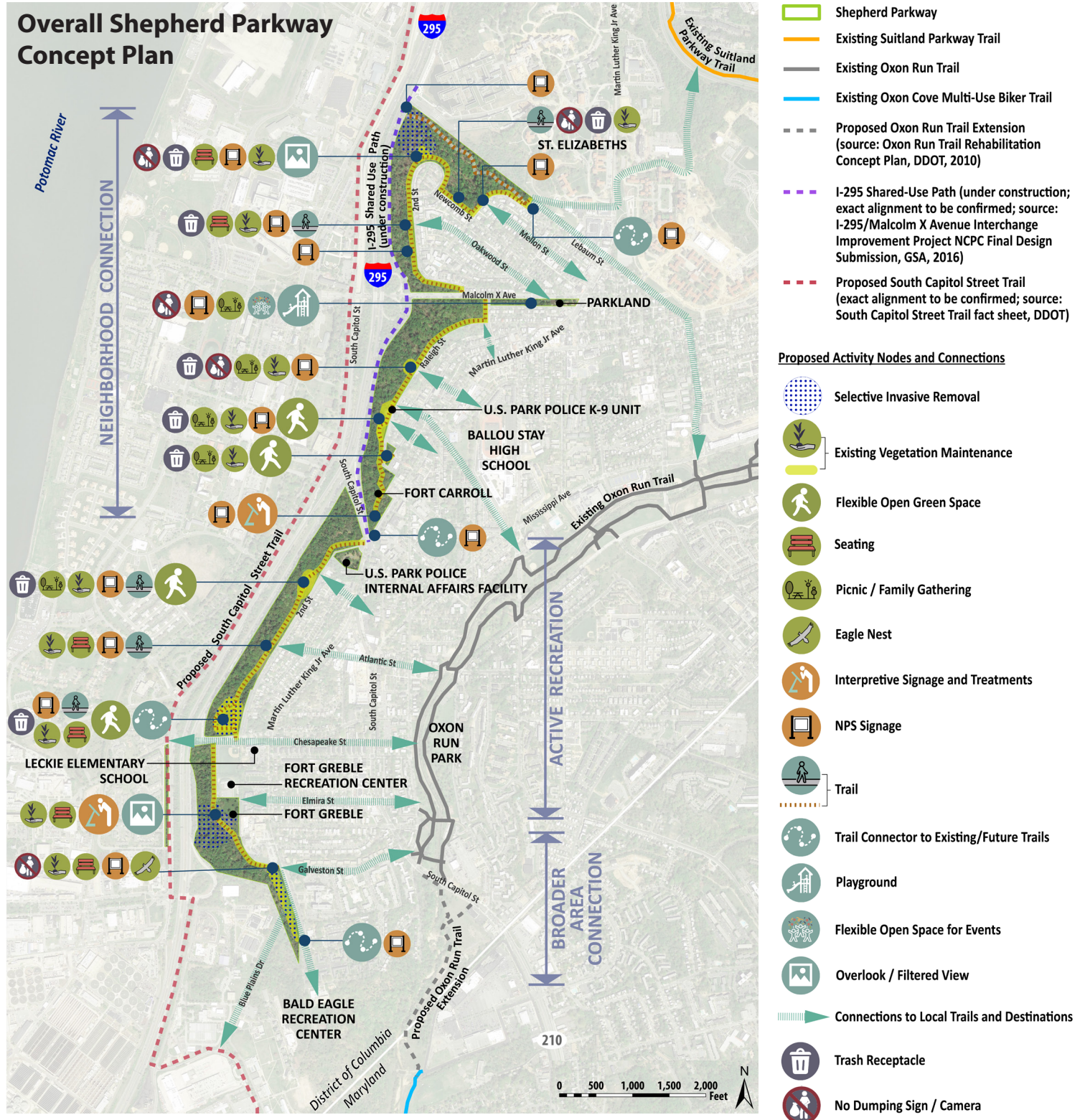
Concept Plan Recommendations

The concept plan would introduce new ways for visitors to access and experience Shepherd Parkway while improving safety and park conditions and protecting the park's sensitive and unique natural resources. The concept plan would involve building upon existing park resources and installing new recreational amenities. No new buildings would be constructed.

Concept Plan Recommendations (*continued*)

Overall, the concept plan presents a linear trail system along the park with nodes of activities, ranging from enjoying views of rivers and eagles to learning about the history of the neighborhood. Specific concept plan elements include the following:

- A series of trails, with options for a natural or more urban trail experience
- A blazed trail within the park's wooded area connecting to the under-construction I-295 shared-use path
- Improved signage, communication, and security measures to prevent dumping
- Enhanced scenic views
- Enhanced interpretation of Civil War forts, emphasized by improved trail connections
- Flexible open green space for community gatherings, picnics, and play

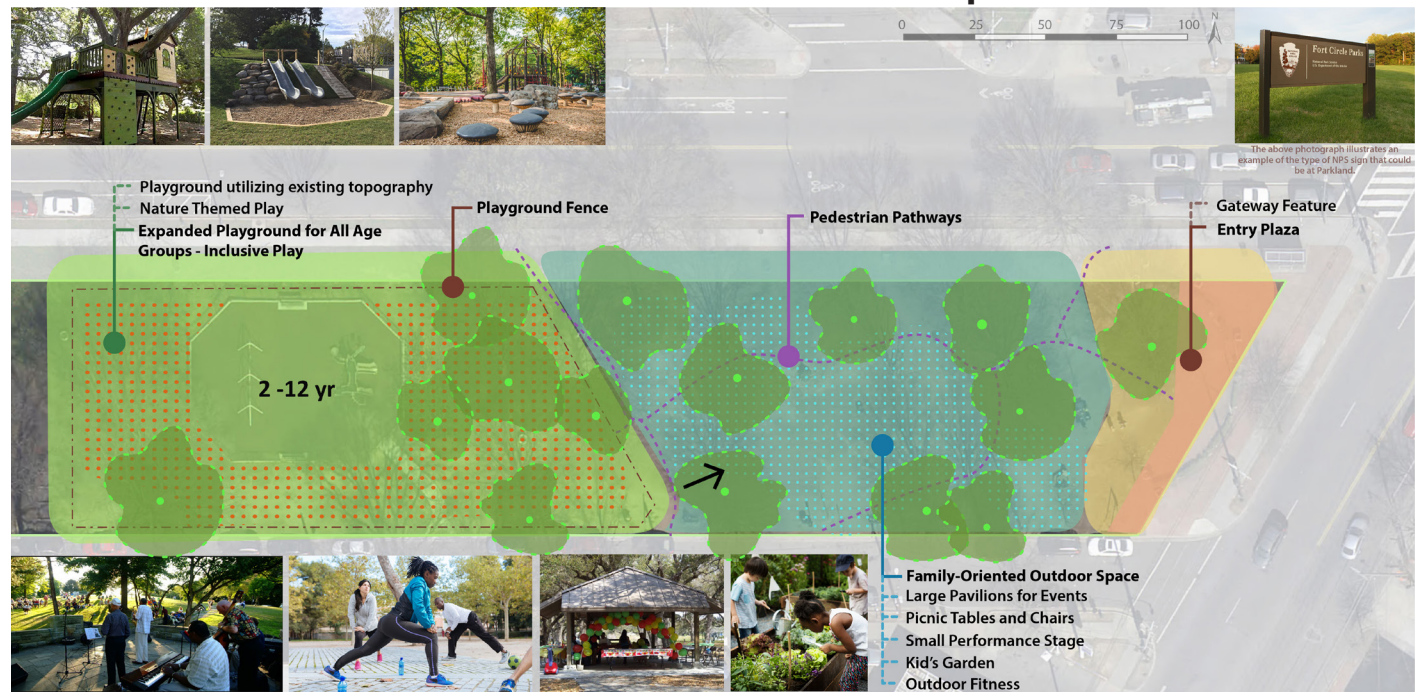


Concept Plan Recommendations (continued)

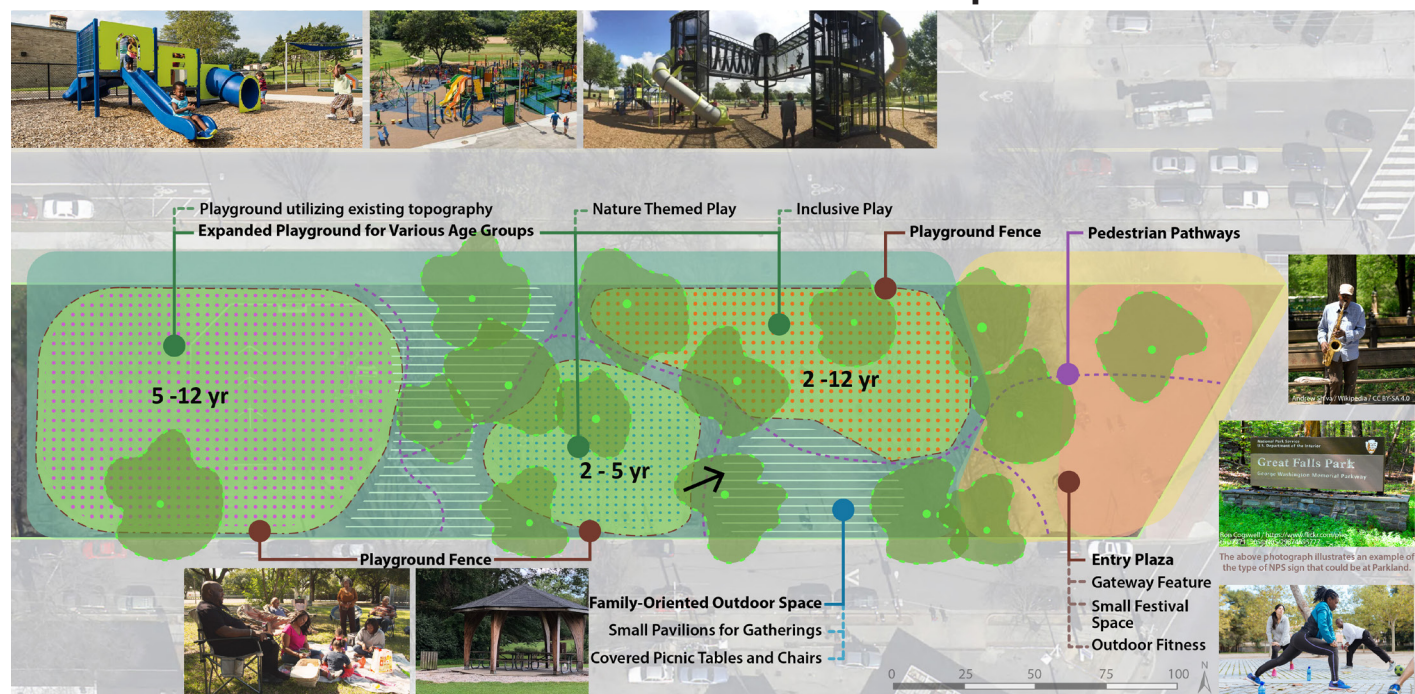
For Parkland, two concept plan options create zones for different activities, including an expanded children's play area for a range of ages, a flexible event space, pavilions of varying sizes, and a defined gateway to the park. Both options would:

- Accommodate a wide range of events and programming
- Offer space for active and passive recreation for local communities
- Build upon the existing mature tree canopy
- Adapt the existing bare, hardpacked soil to a surface better suited for high-traffic areas

Parkland - Flexible Recreation Areas Option A



Parkland - Focused Recreation Areas Option B



- Existing Tree
- Expanded Playground
- Family-Oriented Outdoor Space
- Entry Plaza
- Pedestrian Pathway
- Playground Fence
- Transition Area



The Shepherd Parkway Concept Plan is available at:
https://parkplanning.nps.gov/shepherdpkwy_dcp

Concept Plan Recommendations (*continued*)

The following perspectives illustrate how existing areas of Shepherd Parkway could be re-imagined in the concept plan.



Flexible Recreation Areas Option A



Natural Trail Experience Option A



Focused Recreation Areas Option B

Re-imagined Parkland



City Trail Experience Option B

Re-imagined trail and flexible open green space at 2nd St. SW

Next Steps

Moving towards implementation, the concept plan also identifies:

- Priority steps, including operations and maintenance strategies, the NPS would take to realize the concept plan
- Potential funding sources and partners for implementing improvements included in the concept plan
- Regulatory framework for implementation

The concept plan is the first step in the overall decision-making process for the future of Shepherd Parkway. Certain proposed actions in the concept plan would require additional environmental and historical preservation compliance prior to implementation. Furthermore, implementation may occur over time as funds become available.