Montgomery Parks Community Gardens

Hana Bulow, Carly Cascio, Justin Shapiro, Thalia Eigen, Megan Williams, Theron Mercadel II

Project

- ✦ Goal: Help the Montgomery Parks Community Gardens Program expand
- ✦ Provide a report that includes:
  - ○ A list of top 10 community garden locations in Montgomery County
  - ○ Demographics information
  - ○ Best practices for ADA compliance
  - ○ Recommendations for fundraising

Outline

- **Methodology of Site Selection**
  - Map creation
  - Factors taken into account
- **Analysis of our top sites**
  - 8 parks
  - 3 churches
- **Analysis of demographics**
- **ADA**
- **Fundraising strategy**
- **Further Research**

Methodology

Creating the Parameters

Working with ArcMap

- Within 1 mile of red line metro
- Montgomery County Park Land
- Religious Institutions

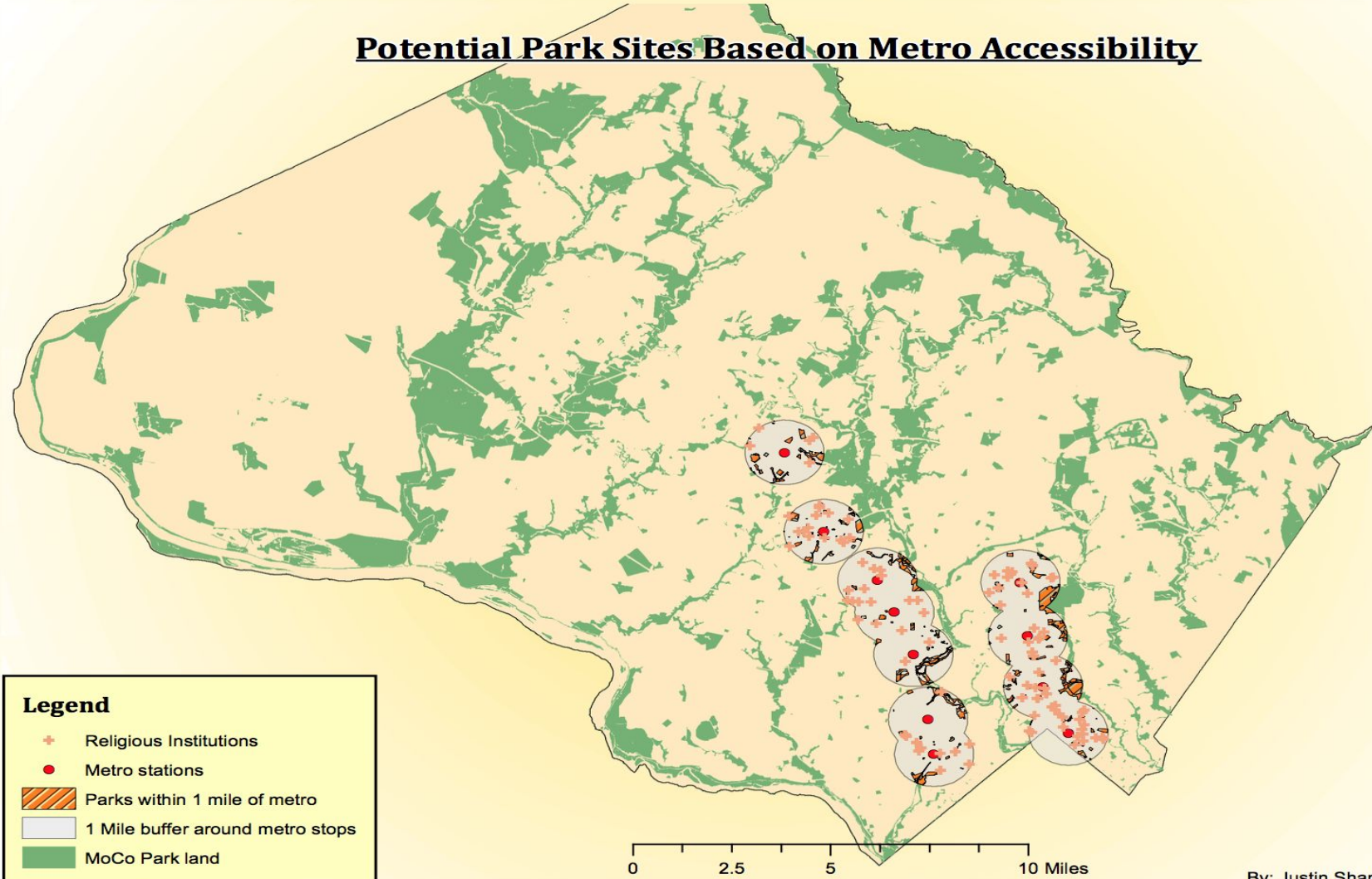## Working with Google Earth

- Does the area have sun?
- What is the land being used for?
- Use ruler tool to ensure square footage
- Are there nearby roads, sidewalks, bus stops, metros

Our Selected Sites

Potential Park Sites Based on Metro Accessibility

Legend

+ Religious Institutions

● Metro stations

▨ Parks within 1 mile of metro

▢ 1 Mile buffer around metro stops

▊ MoCo Park land

0   2.5   5   10 Miles

By: Justin Shapiro and Thalia Eigen

Potential Community Garden Sites Based on Metro Accessibility

Shady Grove

Rockville

Twinbrook

White Flint

Glenmont

Grosvenor-Strathmore

Wheaton

Forest Glen

Medical Center

Silver Spring

Bethesda

Legend

Religious Institutions

Metro stations

One mile buffer of metro

Parks within 1 mile of metro

0   1.25   2.5   5 Miles

By: Justin Shapiro and Thalia Eigen

Potential Sites Near Shady Grove Metro

Blueberry Hill Local Park

Shady Grove

Mattie J Stepanek Park

Kings Farm Park

Legend

✚ Religious Institutions

● Metro stations

▢ One mile buffer of metro

▮ Parks within 1 mile of metro

0   0.25   0.5   1 Miles

By: Justin Shapiro and Thalia Eiger

Potential Sites Near Forest Glen Metro (Silver Spring)

N
W E
S

Wheaton

Carroll Knolls Evans Parkway NP

Sligo Dennis LP

General Getty Neighborhood Park

Forest Glen

Legend

✚ Religious Institutions

● Metro stations

☐ One mile buffer of metro

▉ Parks within 1 mile of metro

0   0.2   0.4   0.8 Miles

By: Justin Shapiro and Thalia Eigen

Site Selection

- 8 potential Montgomery County Parks
  - Evans Neighborhood Park
  - King Farm Park
  - Carroll Knolls local Park
  - Mattie JT Stepanek Park
  - Civic Center Park
  - Blueberry Hill Local Park
  - General Getty Neighborhood Park
  - Sligo Dennis Local Park

- 3 religious institutions worth contacting
  - First Korean Presbyterian Church
  - Christian Science Church
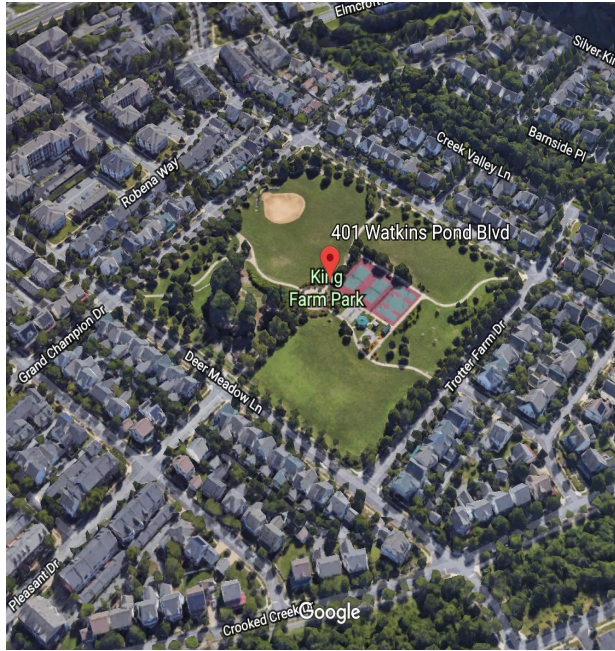 - Silver Spring Assembly

Analysis of Sites

Evans Neighborhood Park

(Google Earth)

- Silver Spring, MD
- Up to 8,000 square feet
- ¾ mile from Forest Glen Metro Station
- Within ½ mile of about 30 bus stops
- Street parking in surrounding neighborhoods
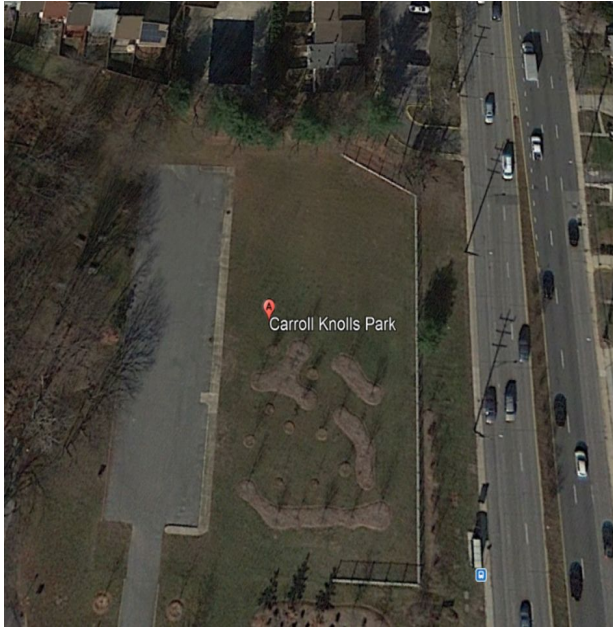- No tree coverage

King Farm Park

(Google Earth)

- Rockville, MD
- More than 30,000 square feet to work with
- ½ mile away from Shady Grove Metro
- Within ½ mile of approximately 30 bus stops
- Street parking in surrounding neighborhoods
- No tree coverage
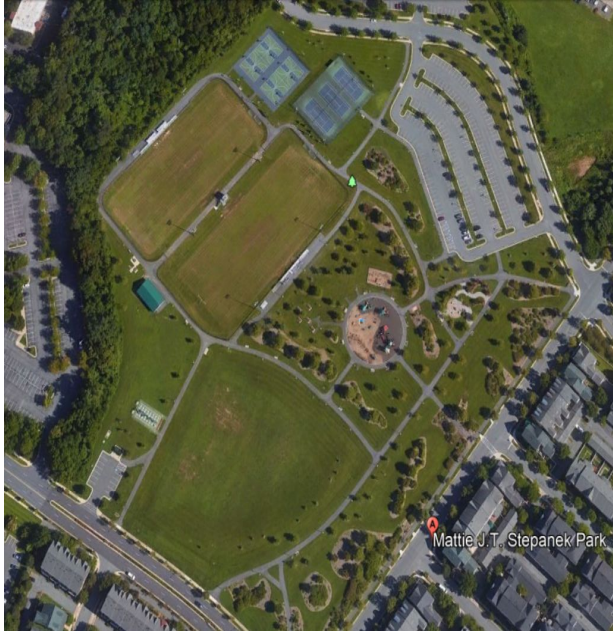
Carroll Knolls Local Park

(Google Earth)

- Silver Spring, MD
- Approximately 8,500 square feet of space
- ¾ mile from Forest Glen metro station
- Within ½ mile of approximately 30 bus stops
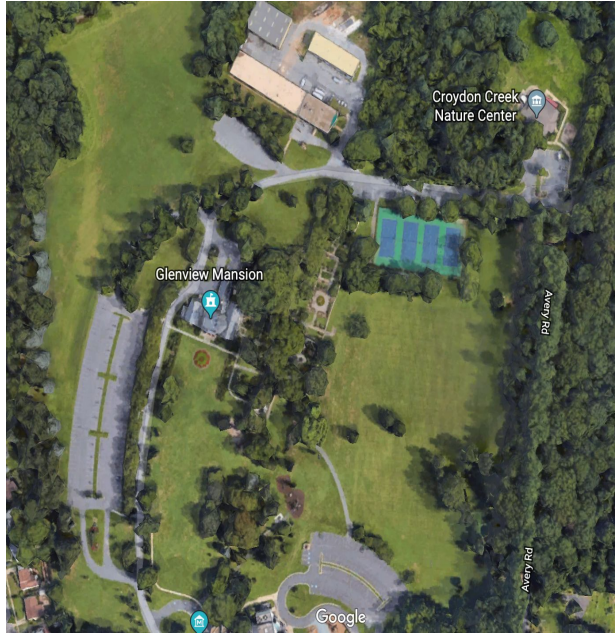- Adjacent parking lot
- No tree coverage

Mattie JT Stepanek Park

(Google Earth)

- Rockville, MD
- ¾ miles away from Shady Grove metro
- Within ½ mile of at least 30 bus stops
- No tree coverage
- Adjacent parking lot

Civic Center Park

(Google Earth)

- Rockville, MD
- Over 75,000 square feet
- Trees, but also plenty of open fields
- Walkways
- At least 5 bus stops within .3 miles of site
- Closest metro: Rockville (about 1 mile)

Blueberry Hill Local Park

(Google Earth)

- Derwood, MD
- 6,000 Square feet
- Full sun, no tree cover
- Walkways
- Not as many bus stops because not on main road
- Closest metro: Shady Grove (Almost 1 mile)

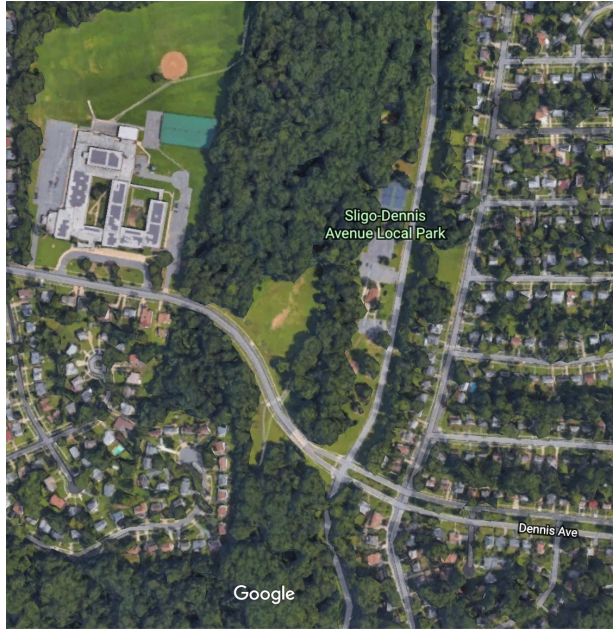# General Getty Neighborhood Park

(Google Earth)

- Silver Spring, MD
- 8,000 square feet
- Residential neighborhood
- Walkways
- Full sun
- Within .3 miles of at least 10 bus stops
- Closest metro: Forest Glen
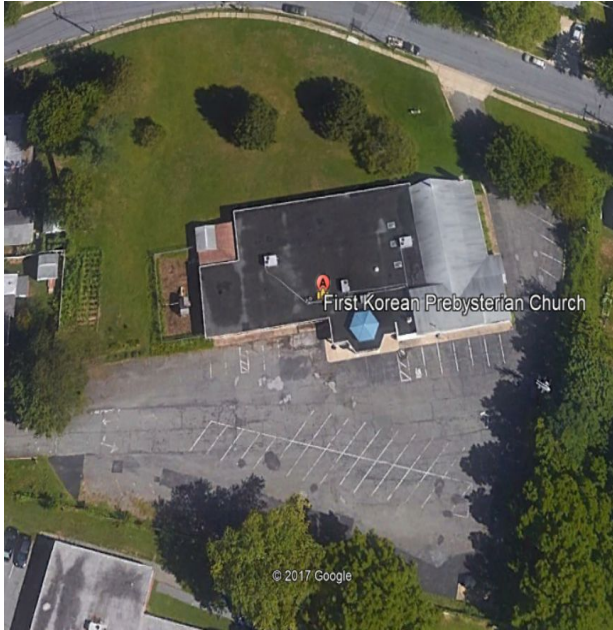
Sligo-Dennis Local Park

(Google Earth)

- Silver Spring, MD
- More than 20,000 square feet
- Part shade
- Near main road
- Within .5 miles of at least 10 bus stops
- Closest metro: Forest Glen

First Korean Presbyterian Church

(Google Earth)

- Rockville, MD
- More than 5,200 square feet
- Part shade
- Adequate parking
- Within .9 miles of metro and at least 3 bus stops
- Closest metro: Rockville

First Church of Christ, Scientist

(Google Earth)

- Chevy Chase, MD
- 5,200 square feet
- Part shade
- Near main road
- Within close proximity to at least 7 bus stops
- Closest metro: Bethesda

Silver Spring Assembly

(Google Earth)

- Silver Spring, MD
- More than 10,000 square feet
- Full Sun
- Near main road
- Within .3 miles of metro and at least 11 bus stops
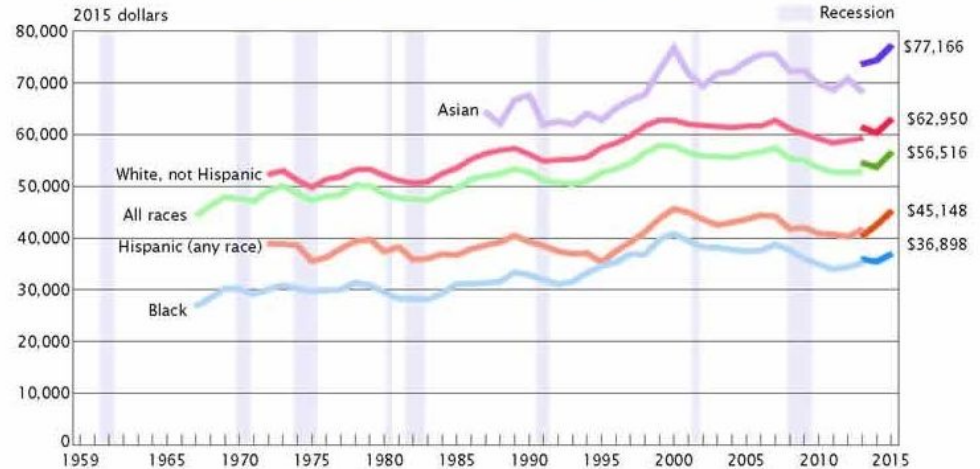- Closest metro: Glenmont

Demographics

How can demographic analysis help make a community garden successful?

- Disadvantaged populations are the most likely to utilize and benefit from community gardens.

- This includes low-income and minority populations

Figure 1.
Real Median Household Income by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1967 to 2015

Note: The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years. Median household income data are not available prior to 1967. For more information on recessions, see Appendix A. For more information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar16.pdf>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1968 to 2016 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Parks

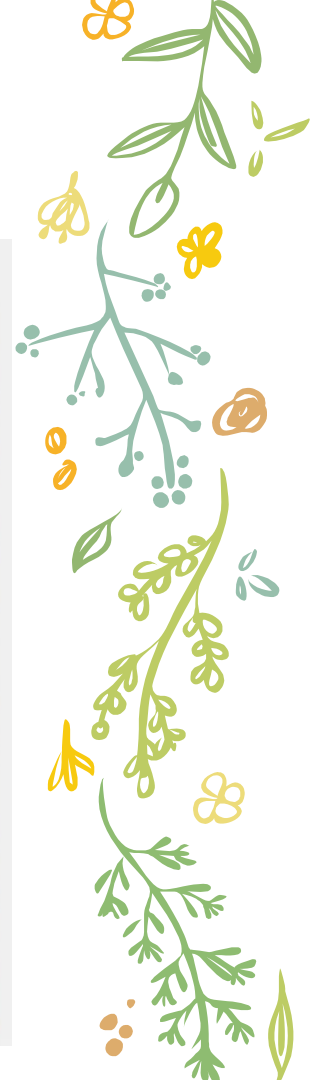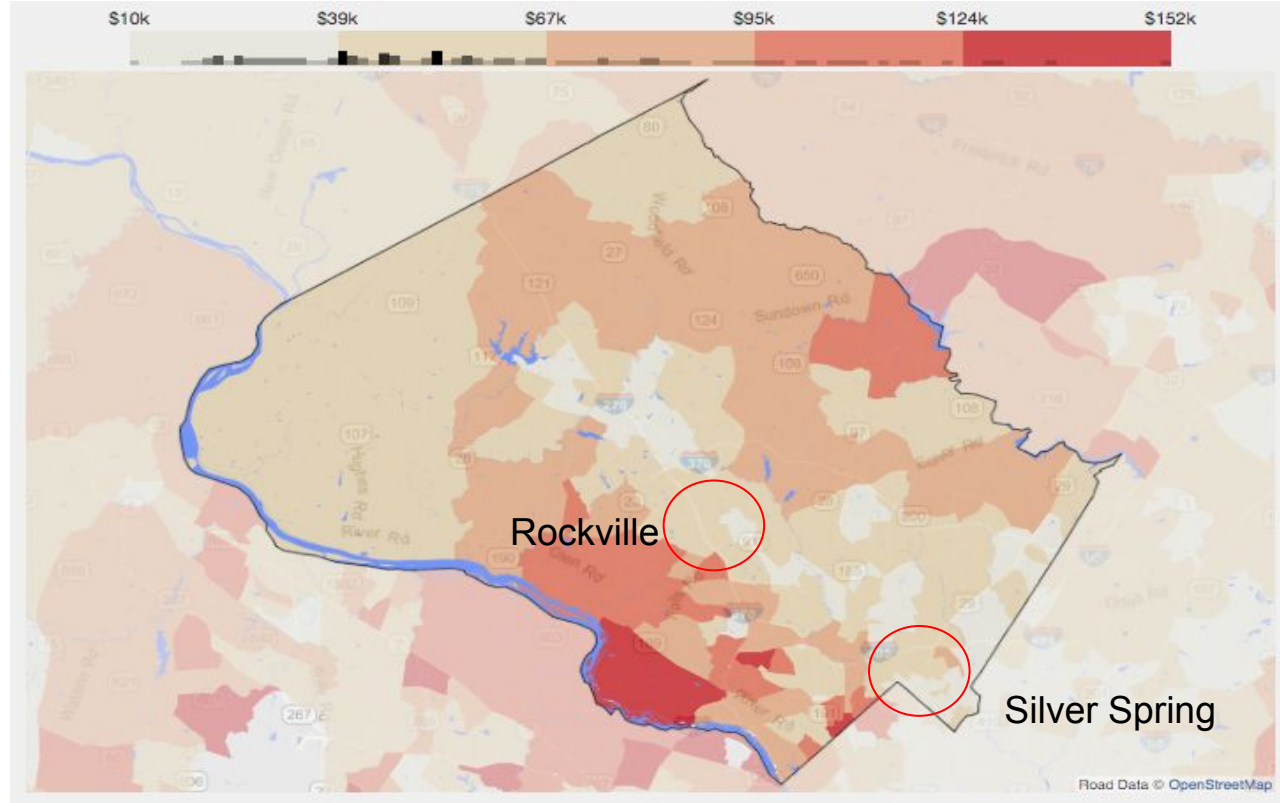| Name	Location	Average Income/Year	Race and Ethnicity
Evans Neighborhood Park	Silver Spring, 20902 Tract: 703902	76.6k	Hispanic: 33.8% Black: 17.9%
General Getty Neighborhood Park	Silver Spring, 20902 Tract: 703901	76.6k	Hispanic: 33.8% Black: 17.9%
Carroll Knolls Local Park	Silver Spring, 20902 Tract: 704000	76.6k	Hispanic: 33.8% Black: 17.9%
Civic Center Park	Rockville, 20851 Tract: 700903	82.2k	Hispanic: 28% Black: 9.5%
Sligo Dennis Local Park	Silver Spring, 20902 Tract: 703901	93k	Hispanic: 24.4% Black: 22.3%
King Farm Park	Rockville, 20850 Tract: 701211	101.5k	Hispanic: 9.2% Black: 11%
Mattie JT Stepanek Park	Rockville, 20850 Tract: 700718	101.5k	Hispanic: 9.2% Black: 11%
Blueberry Hill Local Park	Derwood, 20855 Tract: 700711	120.6k	Hispanic: 9.8% Black: 12.5%

Churches

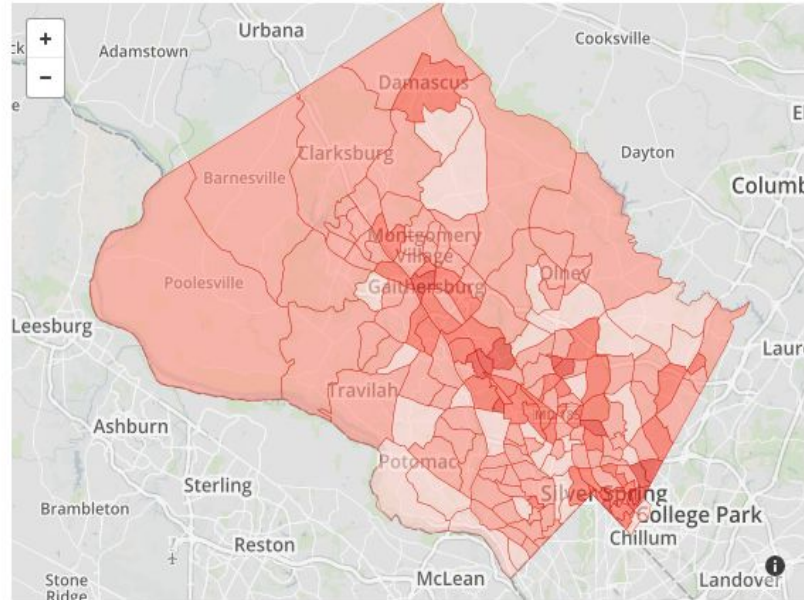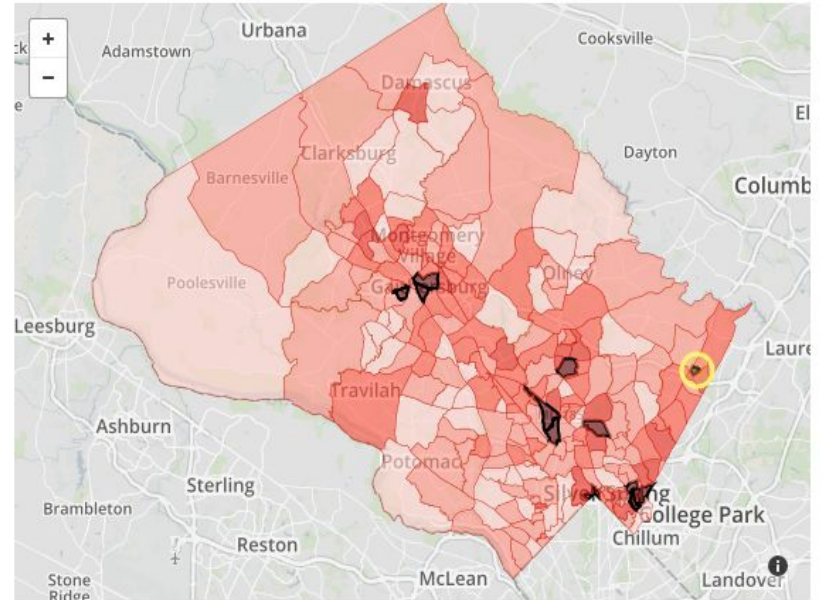| Name	Location	Average Income/Year	Race and Ethnicity
Silver Spring Assembly	Silver Spring, 20906 Tract: 703403	72.4k	Hispanic: 29.5% Black: 27.6%
First Korean Presbyterian Church	Rockville, 20851 Tract: 701101	82.2k	Hispanic: 28% Black: 9.5%
Christian Science Church	Chevy Chase, 20815 Tract: 705100	132.2k	Hispanic: 8.9% Black: 2.9%

Income Across the County

Montgomery County poverty rates in 2000

Montgomery County poverty rates 2012

2%   6%   12%   18%   SOURCE: Brookings Institute. Note: There were 175 census tracts in 2000

compared to 213 tracts in 2012.

ADA compliance

Universal Design

- ✢ Size and Space for Approach and Use
- ✢ Equitable Use
  - ○ Equal opportunity to grow and access the community garden

Design Characteristics

- ✤ Work with Existing places (likely already in ADA compliance to begin with)
- ✤ No "leftover" land (flat)
- ✤ A ratio of Raised beds to standard plots
- ✤ Open space
  - ○ Maximize surface area adjacent to aisles
- ✤ Add structures within the garden

Examples

Raised Beds and Garden Tables

Locks

- ✢ "Needs less than 5 pounds of force to open"
- ✢ Flared lock
- ✢ Key guide
- ✢ Blanks are also cheap and can be cut at any locksmith

http://www.masterlocks.com/product/3488/no-2650-ada-locks-pushkey-

Pressure-Treated Wood Ramps

(Lean Farming)

✛ Weatherproof
✛ Pressure-treated wood is cheaper than concrete
✛ Can be made slip resistant using grip tape and paints

Trellises

✦ Maximize use of vertical space

✦ Cheap to build/buy

✦ Easier to install than a raised bed

Fundraising

Fundraising Strategy

General Findings:

✢ Strong relationship with the Montgomery Parks Foundation

✢ Funding is site-specific

✢ Public - private partnerships

  ○ open up opportunities for fundraising, grants, information sharing, etc.

✢ A land trust to conserve areas for future gardens

Grants

✤ Project Orange Thumb
  ○ Application: January 1st
  ○ Yearly, $3,500

✤ USDA's Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program
  ○ Federal Grant, Complex
  ○ Maximum of $125,000 per Community Food Project

✤ GRO1000 Grassroots Grants
  ○ Application: January 2nd
  ○ Up to $1,500 per greenspace/ garden

Private- Public Partnerships

✦ Montgomery County Public Schools
  ○ Edible Gardens
  ○ Adventure Club

✦ University of Maryland Extension
  ○ 4-H and Youth
    ○ Nation-wide hands-on youth development program

Private- Public Partnerships

✦ Nonprofits
  ○ A Wider Circle
    ○ Provides resources to help people out of poverty
  ○ Everybody Grows
    ○ Supports local garden creation, including on church property

✦ Faith-based
  ○ Presbyterian Self Development of People Grant furthered through Church Partnership
    ○ First Korean Presbyterian Church

Land Trust

- Why a land trust?
  - Faster action, legal rights, access to GIS specialists and other information, management of land for future
- Urban Ecosystems Restoration
  - Already in Montgomery County
  - Conservatory purposes in regards to species/habitats
  - Eco-Functioning Spaces
- Creation of a Montgomery Parks/Gardens Land Trust

Recommendations for Further Research

✢ Collect data on productivity

✢ Talk to experienced gardeners

✢ Collect information on challenges from gardeners
  ○ Soil problems
  ○ Cover crop problems
  ○ Climate change

(Washington Post)

Recommendations for Further Research

- Further information on faith-based partnerships
- Other private entities for land
  - Assisted living and nursing homes
  - Community centers
- Land trust for gardens & more
  - Creation of a trust specifically for Montgomery Parks Service as a whole

Thank you!

References

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Figure 1 Wooden Ramp. From "Ramp Calculator and 2012 IRC Building Codes," by David King, 2014
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