



# Vision 2030

Montgomery County  
**RECREATION**  
DEPARTMENT

## Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Vision 2030 and Strategic Plan

### Asian Focus Group

Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity

June 2, 2010

- 1. What are the key strengths of the parks and recreation facilities, programs and services in Montgomery County?**
  - Gilchrist is great. Offers good services.
  - Parks and recreation handle diversity well. Target organizations and create a welcoming environment.
  - Wheaton CC—basketball, art, and gym are good for students. Daytime partnership with the Chinese seniors group really maximizes the facility.
  - Pools
  - Many places to bike, hike, swim, fish
  - Gardens
  
- 2. What do you believe to be the most essential (of critical importance) public parks and recreation services in the community? Why do you see it/them as essential?**
  - Access—transportation, affordability, language
  - Language causes a great barrier. Strong partnerships with community organizations help address the language barriers. Offers interpretive services through personal communication and fliers.
  - Activities for youth, especially after school
  - Access to locations to have community events
  
- 3. What community issues or problems can the services of parks and recreation address?**
  - The gap between after school and when parents get home
  - Isolation, especially of older citizens
  - Not a lot of mixing of cultures which causes misunderstanding
  - Kids want to learn beyond school to gain more exposure and have new experiences, ie—film production and dance, especially it is when treated as a sport.
  - Problem behaviors of young people. Develop mentoring programs to give kids more role models.
  - People make poor health choices. Offer health programs that teach about nutrition, how to visit doctors, and how to incorporate more physical activities into their lives. Partner with schools, senior and family oriented organizations to get participation.
  
- 4. What improvements/changes would you make to the parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services in Montgomery County today?**
  - 20 years: make transportation important. Accessibility to transportation. The public bus allows free access for kids only until 7pm.
  - 10 years: expand on number of pools and outdoor parks with pavilions. Would like to see them maintained.
  - Expand youth options to include wrestling and debate
  - Better pedestrian connections to parks, pools, and centers

- 5. How do you think the Departments can work to responsibly address these improvements/changes given its resources? What opportunities exist?**
  - Reaching out to the communities before making decisions.
  - Building strong community partnerships.
  - Continue to target the diverse cultures.
  - Access often depends on who you know.
  - Partnerships with community organizations
  
- 6. Do you believe there are populations/geographic areas that do not have access or who have limited access to parks and recreation services? If yes, please explain. What are solutions to address?**
  - Many first generation immigrants and elderly experience a lot of isolation. Church is a good place to reach this population. Often people attend to get immediate connection. Families are first relationships.
  - Young people without transportation

#### **Optional Questions**

- 1. How do you think County residents prefer to pay for the parks and recreation improvements or enhancements they wish to have?**
  - Priority determines the willingness to pay.
  - Rent space
  
- 2. Are there potential partners that the Department of Parks or Department of Recreation should consider working with in the future?**
  - Advertisement group
  - Asian American LEAD
  - Asian Pacific Islander groups