



# MVT Open Space Study Fact Sheet

## Community Demand for Additional Parks & Open Space Amenities

*Park and open space metrics for the Mount Vernon Triangle area (including downtown, Chinatown and Penn Quarter) per DPR's "Play DC" Master Plan (published 2015)*

Out of 45 areas in the District, Mount Vernon Triangle is the:

- 9th-most populated, but has the
- 4th-lowest provision of open space, and has
- 3 times the number of residents per playground as the District average.

*Feedback from the most recent MVT CID Neighborhood Perception Survey (722 responses)*

- Just **one in four respondents indicated there is sufficient quality and availability of open space** in and around the Mount Vernon Triangle community,
- The **lack of green space was cited as a top five reason residents plan to leave** Mount Vernon Triangle within the next three years, and
- **Park, green and open space activation was cited as the third-highest strategic priority** for the MVT CID (after the mission-based clean and safe services that DC's 11 business improvement district, such as the MVT CID, were created to provide).

## About Cobb Park

- Open space parcel created 40 years ago as a result of the I-395 Center Leg Freeway extension.
- Temporarily being used as a construction staging area for the Capitol Crossing project.
- Enlarged to 52,000 SF (1.2 acres) as a result of the Capitol Crossing and 3rd Street Tunnel project with safer, improved pedestrian access including additional crosswalks, a larger traffic median, and more streamlined traffic patterns.
- Officially recognized by the District Department of Parks and Recreation as a "small park."
- Currently identified in DC Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map as "Parks, Recreation, and Open Space."
- Pledged by District officials as an improved park in February 2016 with \$500,000 currently allocated in the District budget for commencement of community planning and design of an improved Cobb Park.

## Cobb Park Naming

The source of a name for Cobb Park (sometimes referred to as "Cobb's Park") remains unclear, although various historical figures contemporaneous with the park's creation may have been associated with its naming:

- **Gail Cobb.** DC police officer shot and killed while on patrol in 1974. Officer Cobb's death marked the first time a female American police officer had been killed in the line of duty. Her funeral was highly publicized and drew thousands of mourners and police officers from across the country.
- **Dr. William Montague Cobb.** Attended Dunbar High School and became the first African American to earn a PhD in anthropology in 1932. During his nearly four decades teaching at Howard University Medical School, Dr. Cobb utilized his professional platform to serve as a civic leader and social and political activist, including serving for seven years as the president of the NAACP.
- **Judge James A. Cobb.** Was Vice-Dean of Howard University Law School prior to his appointment as a judge in 1926. Was also a private practice attorney in partnership with George E.C. Hayes, with whom he's associated with local cases challenging racially restrictive deed covenants.