



February 3, 2023

Delano Hunter, Director
DC Department of Parks and Recreation
1275 First Street NE 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20002

**RE: Mount Vernon Triangle CID Comments on Draft DPR *Ready2Play* Master Plan 2022
(transmitted via email to Ready2Play@dc.gov)**

Dear Director Hunter:

Congratulations on the draft release of DC Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) *Ready2Play* Master Plan 2022 update to guide the city's parks and recreational planning, design, programming, operations, and investments for the next 20 years.

As one of DC's 11 Business Improvement Districts (BID), the Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District (MVT CID) applauds DPR for leading – during a pandemic, no less! – the open and transparent public engagement process resulting in the goals and corresponding strategies and actions reflected in the draft plan update. We were particularly encouraged by the explicit mention of BIDs and CIDs in the list of DPR community, tactical/"pop-up," and destination park maintenance and programming partners on pages 16, 28, and 35 of the draft report.

It is in that spirit of partnership that we reviewed the draft plan with a great deal of enthusiasm and excitement, particularly considering the longstanding and still ongoing efforts to achieve our community's bold new vision for a "re-imagined" Cobb Park to serve as an iconic open and artistic space, destination, and gateway into Mount Vernon Triangle and downtown DC. We were excited to see Cobb Park listed as a "destination park" (page 167) alongside the six other well-known parks that carry this distinction that aligns with our long-term vision for that space. It also came as little surprise that Cobb Park ranked in the top 10 for two **Community Score** metrics – Growth Index & Community Need – and one **Site Score** metric – Site Need – that comprise the **Equity Framework** shown on page 179. Specific actions we recommend to strengthen the draft master plan update as it relates to Cobb Park are to:

1. include it as a **Site-Based Investment** as part of the **Implementation Plan** that begins on page 146¹;
2. update the amount on page 197 to reflect the actual total investment allotted to the park by the District government; and
3. include Cobb Park in the list of **Major Park Opportunities Underway or Upcoming** on page 107 in recognition of both its need and elevated status.

Separately, we appreciate the inclusion of National Park Service (NPS) parcels at 5th & I Street NW (Milian Park, Reservation 74) and Chinatown (Seaton ("Chinatown") Park, Reservation 72) in the list of

¹ This also is conceptually similar and internally consistent with how other sites such as Kennedy Recreational Center are represented in the document.

Partnership Recommendations. As part of the network of four “bow-tie” parks that lead into Mount Vernon Square, Reservations 72 & 74 are critical to our smaller-scale, community-based activations. However, they stand to benefit from additional upgrades such as lighting and landscaping to further enhance their appeal to our community. Specific to this investment, we envision a partnership among MVT CID, the DowntownDC BID, DPR, and NPS that leverages the Cooperative Management Agreement authority (like those utilized for the renovation of federal assets in other BID areas) to effectuate these improvements.

Two final minor clean-up recommendations for the report include:

1. Change **Sray Parks LOS Need** to **Spray Parks LOS Need** on page 127.
2. Define the meaning of the asterisks shown on the list of **Site-Based Recommendations** on pages 215-220.

Thank you again for providing us this opportunity for comment. Should you have questions regarding the contents of this letter or would like to discuss further, please don't hesitate to contact me by office phone at (202) 216-0511, mobile phone at (202) 321-0102, or email at kr@mvtcid.org.

With very best regards,



Kenyattah A. Robinson, President & CEO
Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District

cc: MVT CID Board of Directors
Dulce Naime, DPR
Nick Kushner, DPR