



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.