



Note: Staff reports can be accessed at www.mncppc.org/pgco/planning/plan.htm.

Detailed Site Plan

DSP-95063/05

Application	General Data	
Project Name: St. John Baptist de La Salle Location: Northwest of the intersection of Sargent Road and Chillum Road Applicant/Address: The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington 5700 Sargent Road Hyattsville, MD 20782	Staff Report Date:	07/22/2009
	Date Accepted:	06/02/2009
	Planning Board Action Limit:	09/11/2009
	Plan Acreage:	9.26
	Zone:	R-55
	Dwelling Units:	N/A
	Gross Floor Area:	78,644 sq. ft.
	Planning Area:	65
	Tier:	Developed
	Council District:	02
	Election District	17
	Municipality:	None
	200-Scale Base Map:	207NE02

Purpose of Application	Notice Dates	
Addition of a 1,880-square-foot modular classroom building for the existing church and an 8,050-square-foot multipurpose building for the existing school.	Informational Mailing:	01/23/2009
	Acceptance Mailing:	05/28/2009
	Sign Posting Deadline:	06/30/2009

Staff Recommendation		Staff Reviewer: Chris Lindsay	
APPROVAL	APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS	DISAPPROVAL	DISCUSSION
	X		

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Detailed Site Plan DSP-95063/05
Alternative Compliance AC-09008
St. John Baptist de La Salle

Urban Design staff has reviewed the detailed site plan for the subject property and presents the following evaluation and findings leading to a recommendation of APPROVAL with conditions, as described in the recommendation section of this report.

EVALUATION

The detailed site plan was reviewed and evaluated for conformance with the following criteria:

- a. The requirements of the Zoning Ordinance for the R-55 (One-Family Detached Residential) Zone;
- b. The requirements of previously approved Detailed Site Plan DSP-95063 and its approved revisions;
- c. The requirements of Alternative Compliance AC-09008;
- d. The requirements of the *Prince George's County Landscape Manual*;
- e. Referral comments.

FINDINGS

Based upon the analysis of the subject application, Urban Design staff recommends the following findings:

1. **Request:** This application proposes to add two additional buildings to an existing complex of church and school buildings. An 8,050-square-foot multipurpose building is proposed for the use of the school and a 1,880-square-foot portable classroom building for the use of the church. The school does not propose to expand its enrollment which is currently 140 students.

2. **Development Data Summary:**

	EXISTING	PROPOSED
Zone(s)	R-55	R-55
Use(s)	Church, Rectory, Convent and Private School	Church, Rectory, Convent and Private School
Acreage	9.263	9.263
Gross floor area	68,714 square feet	78,644 square feet

Parking Data

	REQUIRED	PROVIDED
Standard spaces	125	184
Handicapped spaces	6	8
Van-accessible spaces	2	6
Loading spaces	1	1

The great majority of the proposed parking spaces are located in the existing parking lot east of the church building. Six parking spaces are located in a pod at the eastern end of the school/rectory building, while another two parking spaces (for handicapped use) and one loading space are located in the asphalt area at the western end of the school/rectory building. It should be noted that the parking areas are currently not striped for this configuration of parking and will need to be restriped to match the arrangements on the site plan.

3. **Location:** The site is an L-shaped through parcel with frontage on both Sargent Road and Chillum Road. The site is located approximately 625 feet west of the intersection with Sargent Road along Chillum Road, and 380 feet north of the intersection with Chillum Road along Sargent Road. The vehicular access onto Chillum Road is by Twin Oak Drive.
4. **Surrounding Uses:** To the south and west, the subject property borders single-family detached residential neighborhoods in the R-55 Zone. To the northeast, the subject property borders a parcel in the R-55 Zone that is developed with a multifamily residential building.
5. **Previous Approvals:** The church and school buildings were constructed in the 1950s. The first zoning application in the Planning Department’s records for this site was DSP-95063, which was approved in 1995 to validate the existing uses of the church, rectory, convent, and school on the site. Since that time, three revisions to the site plan have been approved by the Planning Director as designee of the Planning Board. Detailed Site Plan DSP-95063/01 was never approved. Detailed Site Plan DSP-95063/02 was approved on January 15, 2003 for the purpose of constructing a temporary classroom building that remains on the site today. Detailed Site Plan DSP-95063/03 was approved on May 28, 2004 for the purpose of adding a greenhouse and an entrance canopy to the school building. Detailed Site Plan DSP-95063/04 was approved on February 9, 2007 for the purpose of adding a 330-square-foot addition to the church building.
6. **Design Features:** The existing church occupies the southern portion of the site, along Sargent Road. The church building itself is a 14,568-square-foot brick building with a gable roof, set back approximately 270 feet from Sargent Road across a wide lawn. To the east of the church is a large asphalt parking lot, a small portion of which extends onto the adjacent property with a legal easement.

The proposed modular classroom building is a 1,880-square-foot structure to be located in the northern corner of the parking lot. The proposed structure is a standard modular building with hardipanel vertical siding walls and a rubber-coated roof that will sit on footers, accessed by two ramps on either side of the building leading to a central covered corridor and six individual classrooms.

The existing school building sits on the northern portion of the site. The entire school grounds are fenced with chain-link fencing with gates that can be closed when the school is not operating. This building includes a rectory for the church, but is primarily devoted to the operations of The Children's Guild, a school for emotionally-disturbed children. A play area is located to the northwest of the school building.

On the east side of the site, between the main school building and Chillum Road, is a large expanse of asphalt. Although not striped for parking and designated on the site plan as a play court, portions of it are used informally for parking. The existing modular classroom building is situated in this area, north of Twin Oak Drive. A fenced tennis and basketball court is located on the northeastern edge of the asphalt area.

The multipurpose building for the school is proposed to be located within the asphalt area between the existing modular classroom and the tennis/basketball court. The building is to be constructed on a new concrete pad. The proposed multipurpose building is a tent-shaped structure constructed of white PVC panels assembled around a metal frame, with decorative glass panels situated above the main entrance door.

The applicant proposes to remove the existing asphalt north and west of the multipurpose building and replace it with topsoil, seed, and mulch to create new green space on the site.

COMPLIANCE WITH EVALUATION CRITERIA

7. **Zoning Ordinance:** In the R-55 Zone, a church is a permitted use provided that the lot is at least one acre, a condition which is met by this property. A convent is also a permitted use.

A private school is a permitted use subject to the requirements of Section 27-443 of the Zoning Ordinance. These include the following requirements that apply to the subject application:

Section 27-443(a)(1)

- (A) **The school shall be located on property of at least five (5) acres, in size on which the maximum enrollment shall be four hundred (400) students, unless the school is located on property which was previously used as a public school by the Board of Education, in which case, the minimum acreage requirement shall be four and one-half (4 1/2) acres. For each acre over five (5), the total enrollment may be increased by one hundred (100) students. State and local health, education, or fire regulations may reduce the number of students permitted to be enrolled. The school may be located on a parcel of at least two and one-half (2 1/2) acres provided that:**
- (i) **The property had obtained an approved Special Exception use as an eleemosynary or philanthropic institution;**
 - (ii) **The property abuts parkland owned by the Commission containing at least two and one-half (2 1/2) acres; and**

- (iii) The maximum enrollment shall not exceed one hundred thirty (130) students.**

(For the purposes of this Section, enrollment shall mean the total number of students enrolled in the institution at any one (1) time. If there are separate morning, afternoon, and evening sessions, each of which is attended by different students, enrollment shall mean the number of students enrolled in the session having the largest number of students.)

The site is 9.1764 acres in area and the enrollment of the school is 140 students, which is within the allowable number for this site area.

- (B) The property shall have frontage on, and direct vehicular access to, a street having a paved surface at least thirty-six (36) feet wide. This width shall not apply where the property is located in sparsely settled or farm areas, or where the Planning Board determines that adequate passenger debarkation areas are provided.**

The property has frontage and direct vehicular access to Sargent Road and Chillum Road, both of which exceed 36 feet in paved width.

- (C) An outdoor playground or activity area shall be provided. It shall contain at least one hundred (100) square feet of usable space per student. The area shall be located at least twenty-five (25) feet from any dwelling on an adjoining lot and buffered from adjoining uses in accordance with the provisions of the Landscape Manual. The play area shall be enclosed by a substantial wall or fence at least three (3) feet high for grades six (6) and below, and at least five (5) feet high for other grades, with the following exception:**

- (i) A private school which has been in continuous operation since January 1, 1970, may satisfy these fencing requirements by providing another type of barrier that is subject to approval by the State Department of Human Resources.**

According to the plan notes, the total proposed play area on the site is 77,075 square feet in size. This includes the existing playground, the tennis/basketball court, the existing paved surface south of the tennis court, and the new green area that will be created by the removal of existing asphalt. As noted above, the entire school ground including the play areas is fenced with a substantial chain-link fence exceeding five feet in height.

However, because the fence does not enclose the exact confines of the play area, it is not clear exactly what portion of the site is proposed to be used as play area. As there is no particular need to provide additional fencing around the playground, green area, or asphalt surface, the site plan should graphically designate what areas will constitute play area.

The plan notes state that the nearest residence on the adjacent lots is within approximately 13 feet of the play area, but that the play areas predate the requirement for a 25-foot separation. The site must be brought into compliance with today's regulations. As it is unclear where the play areas currently end, the plan should be revised to show a minimum 25-foot separation between the play area and all of the adjacent residences.

Section 27-443(b)(1)

- (E) All perimeter setback areas on the site shall be buffered or screened in accordance with Landscape Manual requirements. The applicant shall demonstrate that the required buffer yards will provide reasonable sight and sound barriers.**

The application has been reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the Landscape Manual. However, existing structures and paving that cannot easily be removed intrude into required bufferyards along two property lines. The applicant has applied for alternative compliance along these property lines, as discussed below.

- (F) At least forty percent (40%) of the net tract area of the site, or as revised by the District Council, shall be devoted to open space.**

This requirement is met as the majority of the site consists of open space. The plans show the total proposed lot coverage of the site as 182,193 square feet, which is 45.58 percent of the total site area. The remaining 54.42 percent of the site is open space. This is a substantial increase in open space from the currently existing conditions due to the removal of existing asphalt in the school area.

The plan meets all of the standard requirements of the R-55 Zone for building height, lot area, and setbacks.

8. **Prior Approvals:** Minor revisions to the plan notes are required to bring it into conformance with the preliminary plan of subdivision and final plat, as explained in the Subdivision section below. The plan is in conformance with the previous detailed site plans approved for the property. None of the previous site plans were subject to conditions of approval, and most were minor revisions reviewed by staff as the designee of the Planning Board.
9. **Prince George's County Landscape Manual:** The site is subject to Sections 4.2 and 4.7 of the *Prince George's County Landscape Manual*.

Section 4.2 requires the property to provide a landscaped strip along its frontage on Chillum Road. This area is currently completely paved with asphalt, but the plan proposes removal of asphalt which will allow for a ten-foot-wide landscape strip along the frontage as required by Section 4.2.

The Section 4.2 landscape strip along Sargent Road is provided by the existing open space between the church and the right-of-way.

Although the applicant proposes restriping of the parking lot adjacent to the church to accommodate the modular classroom, the plan will follow the pre-1970 standards for parking space size, and it will not create additional paved area or parking spaces. The site is therefore exempt from Section 4.3 of the Landscape Manual and the existing parking lot is not required to provide internal green plantings or a landscape strip.

Section 4.7 requires that the site, as a medium-impact use, should be buffered from the adjoining single-family house lots to the north and southwest sides with a Type C bufferyard. This requires a 40-foot building setback and a 30-foot-wide landscaped yard. The required buffer is provided along the southwestern property line (adjacent to the houses on Oakdale Drive). Along the northern property line (adjacent to the houses on 10th Place), existing structures intrude into the required bufferyard.

A bufferyard is also required along the northeastern property line, where the site adjoins the land of a multifamily residential development. A Type B bufferyard is required (30-foot building setback and 20-foot landscaped yard). The required bufferyard is provided along the western side of this property line, where the existing woodlands behind the school building occupy the required bufferyard area. However, the existing surface parking lot for the church extends up to and over the property line, where the eastern side of the bufferyard is required.

The applicant has applied for alternative compliance for these two bufferyards. The Alternative Compliance application, AC-09008, was reviewed and approved by the Planning Director on July 21, 2009. The Planning Director’s recommendation to the Planning Board is as follows:

Along the northwest property line of the subject site, for a distance of approximately 75 feet, an existing tennis/basketball court encroaches into the building setback and landscape yard reducing them to a minimum of 16 feet from 40 and 30 feet, respectively. For a distance of approximately 80 feet, an existing play area contained by timber retaining walls also encroaches into the building setback and landscape yard reducing them to a minimum of nine feet from 40 and 30 feet, respectively. Approximately 23 percent of the northwest buffer is wooded.

Along the northeast property line of the subject site, for a distance of approximately 425 feet, an existing parking lot encroaches onto the adjacent Parcel A, and tapers to the required building setback and landscape yard. Approximately 18 percent of the northeast property line is wooded and includes one 48-inch diameter at chest height specimen oak tree.

REQUIRED: 4.7 Buffering Incompatible Uses, along the northwestern property line

Length of bufferyard	675 feet
Building setback	40 feet
Landscape yard	30 feet
Fence or wall	Yes (for 405 feet)
Percentage of required bufferyard occupied by existing woodland	23%
Plant units (120 per 100 linear feet)	381 plant units

PROVIDED: 4.7 Buffering Incompatible Uses, northwestern property line

Length of bufferyard	675 feet
Building setback	Ranges from 9 to more than 40 feet
Landscape yard	Ranges from 9 to more than 30 feet
Fence	Yes (405 feet)
Percentage of required bufferyard occupied by existing woodland	23%
Plant units	485 plant units

In order to justify the reduction in the width of the Section 4.7 bufferyard adjacent to the single-family detached homes to the northwest, the applicant is pursuing a five-pronged approach. First, the applicant is proposing to replace the majority of the existing chain-link fence with a six-foot-high wood screen fence for a distance of 405 feet in the unwooded portion of the buffer. Approximately 100 feet of the chain-link fence will be retained in the far northeast corner of the

buffer which will protect the existing attractive wood-screen fence located on the adjoining property. Second, approximately 155 feet of the northwest buffer, or 23 percent, will remain wooded. Third, to more effectively screen the tennis/basketball court, the applicant is proposing to plant a hedge of evergreen trees, eight feet on center, between the court and the property line. Fourth, the applicant will relocate six holly trees to supplement the existing screening in this area provided by changes in topography and timber retaining walls. Fifth, the applicant is proposing to install 485 plant units, which is 104 plant units, or 27 percent, in excess of the requirement of Section 4.7.

The proposed combination of the fencing, plant units, and preservation of existing woodland along the northwest property line will result in a screen that is equal to or better than normal compliance with the *Prince George's County Landscape Manual*.

REQUIRED: 4.7 Buffering Incompatible Uses, along the northeastern property line

Length of bufferyard	792 feet
Building setback	30 feet
Landscape yard	20 feet
Fence or wall	No
Percentage of required bufferyard occupied by existing woodland	18%
Plant units (80 per 100 linear feet)	519 plant units

PROVIDED: 4.7 Buffering Incompatible Uses, northeastern property line

Length of bufferyard	792 feet
Building setback	Ranges from 0 to more than 30 feet
Landscape yard	Ranges from 0 to 20 feet
Fence	No
Percentage of required bufferyard occupied by existing woodland	18%
Plant units	620 plant units

In order to justify the reduction in the width of the Section 4.7 bufferyard adjacent to the garden-style multifamily buildings to the northeast, the applicant is pursuing a four-pronged approach. First, the applicant is proposing to extend the width of the landscape yard beyond the 20-foot minimum requirement in some areas. Second, the applicant will retain approximately 18 percent of the northwest buffer as woodland. Third, the applicant is proposing to remove approximately 3,651 square feet of parking lot pavement to create three separate planting islands to be planted with eight shade trees and 70 shrubs. The trees and shrubs will form a hedge down the length of the parking lot, will provide partial screening of the parking lot and will provide visual respite from the otherwise uninterrupted expanse of asphalt. Fourth, the applicant is proposing to install 620 plant units, which is 101 plant units, or 19 percent, in excess of the requirement of Section 4.7.

The proposed combination of the increased landscape yard, plant units, interior planting in the parking lot, and preservation of existing woodland along the northeast property line will result in a screen that is equal to or better than normal compliance with the *Prince George's County Landscape Manual*.

Based on the above analysis, the Planning Director recommended approval of the request for Alternative Compliance. It should be noted that the Alternative Compliance application did not

match the latest plans received as part of the detailed site plan application, as the AC plans also included alternative plantings along the northwestern property line and the landscaped islands within the church parking lot. Prior to certificate approval of the DSP, the DSP landscape plan must be revised to match the approved Alternative Compliance plan. The Alternative Compliance Committee also identified an error in the landscape schedule for the northeastern property line, where the amount of existing woodland in the bufferyard was incorrectly identified as 26 percent rather than 18 percent as shown in the table above, which should be corrected prior to certification.

10. **Woodland Conservation and Tree Preservation Ordinance:** The site is exempt from the requirements of the Woodland Conservation and Tree Preservation Ordinance because it is more than 40,000 square feet in area, has less than 10,000 square feet of woodlands, and does not have a previously approved tree conservation plan. The site has a numbered letter of exemption.
11. The Urban Design Section has some concerns about the visual appearance of the modular buildings and their impact on the site. The applicant has stated that more permanent buildings are not a feasible option due to uncertainty regarding the church's future plans for the site. Similarly, more attractive modular buildings have not been proposed because of cost concerns.

The applicant has pointed out that there are some environmental benefits to the use of modular structures. The buildings can be quickly assembled and disassembled for use on other sites should the church or the school decide to replace them with more permanent buildings or use the site for other purposes. The white surface of the proposed multipurpose building has a high solar reflectivity index, which will help keep summer cooling costs low.

It should be noted that although the proposed buildings can be easily removed or replaced, they can also be used on the site for years. The existing temporary classroom building on the site was approved in 2003 by Detailed Site Plan DSP-95063/02. At the time of that approval, the applicant stated that the school planned to use the temporary classroom for no more than two years. Although the school's intentions evidently changed, and there were no conditions limiting the buildings to a two year occupancy, the existing modular building demonstrates the possible longevity of these structures.

Improving the appearance of the proposed buildings is problematic. Although modular buildings are generally customizable to suit the particular needs of a site, the available modifications for these buildings would not significantly improve their appearance or disguise their temporary nature. A modular design that would give the appearance of a permanent building would likely not be feasible given the applicant's budget limitations and the uncertainty of future plans for the church and school.

The Urban Design Section recommends that a certain amount of additional landscaping around the proposed multipurpose building would be an improvement in the appearance of the site near Chillum Road. A row of plantings along the edges of the building would provide a small amount of visual relief, and contribute to greening the asphalt area where the building is proposed. A similar row of plantings should be added along the edge of the existing temporary classroom building. The intent would not be to conceal the buildings, but to deemphasize them and create a more pleasant site environment. Furthermore, the addition of the landscaping in the asphalt area would potentially be a long-term investment that could be integrated into the future use of the site, even if the modular buildings were to be disassembled and removed.

The plan should create a planting bed along the edge of the proposed curb between the concrete sidewalk along the multipurpose building's southeastern side and the curb. The planting bed

should be at least 6 feet in width and continue along the edge of the proposed grass area to link to the landscape strip along Chillum Road. A similar planting bed should be created along the southern wall of the existing temporary classroom building. The beds should be planted with ornamental trees, spaced 20 feet on center.

As part of the Alternative Compliance proposal, the applicant has proposed to create three planting islands within the existing church parking lot east of the proposed modular classroom building. These planting islands will serve a similar purpose to the planting beds recommended above, deemphasizing the modular structure and improving the appearance of the asphalt parking lot.

REFERRALS

12. **Subdivision Section:** In a referral dated June 30, 2009 (Nguyen to Lindsay), the Subdivision Section offered the following comments:

The site plan indicates that the property is Parcel B, Tax Map 41 in Grid B-3, and is 9.26 acres. A final subdivision plat (5-88394) for the property was approved on December 22, 1988 subsequent to the approval of preliminary plan 4-88156 and recorded in Plat Book NLP143@97. The applicant, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington, is proposing to add a 1,880 square foot modular classroom and a 8,050 square foot multi-purpose building to the existing school.

Parcel B is the subject of Preliminary Plan 4-88156. The resolution of approval was adopted by the Planning Board on September 8, 1988 (PGCPB Resolution No. 88-433) and contains two conditions, which are as follows:

1. **Subject to the conditions listed in the memoranda from Carolyn Carter of the Department of Parks and Recreation both dated September 6, 1988.**

Comment: Staff reviewed the referenced memoranda and the six conditions are related to Parcel A, which is adjacent to Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) property, and not to Parcel B, and are therefore not applicable to the review of this application.

2. **Prior to signature approval of the preliminary plat, the boundary between Parcel A and Parcel B shall be adjusted to allow for all the existing church parking to be located on Parcel B. In the event this condition would conflict with the approval special exception or is not acceptable to the Catholic Church and cannot be implemented, a sufficient ingress egress easement shall be granted to Parcel A from the owner of Parcel B.**

Comments: Staff reviewed Record Plat NLP 143 @ 97 and the boundary of Parcel B does not include all of the existing church parking, however, a vehicular ingress/egress easement was granted to Parcel B for the parking on Parcel A.

Plan Comments

The site plan and Record Plat NLP 143 @ 97 are not consistent. The general notes indicate that the total site area is 9.26 acres; however, the record plat indicates that Parcel B is 9.17 acres. The additional 3,920 square feet may be due to the acreage located in the southwest portion of the site at the corner of Chillum Road and Twin Oak Drive (Liber 1556 Folio 339). The site plan shows the remainder of Liber 1556 Folio 339 as being part of Parcel B; however, the record plat shows that it is not part of Parcel B. The boundary and bearings of Parcel B should be provided on the

site plan to be consistent with Record Plat NLP 143 @ 97. The general notes should be corrected to reflect that the site is Parcel B and the remainder from Oakdale Terrace Subdivision (Record Plat BB 6 @ 52).

In the findings section of PGCPB Resolution No. 88-433 for Preliminary Plan 4-88156, there is a discussion about anticipated traffic for the site. The finding states that the amount of traffic anticipated by development of the subject property was determined not to reduce the existing level-of-service (LOS) below an acceptable level. A memorandum from the Transportation Planning Section for the review of Preliminary Plan 4-88156 states that no significant traffic impact was anticipated because the proposed use would generate 56 PM peak-hour trips and this would not affect the LOS on Sargent Road. After reviewing Preliminary Plan 4-88156 and the transportation memorandum, staff concluded that PGCPB Resolution No. 88-433 did not have a trip cap for the site.

Pursuant to Section 24-111(C) of the Subdivision Regulations, the development of this property is exempt from the requirement to file a new preliminary plan because the original record plat was recorded after October 27, 1970.

There are no other subdivision issues at this time.

13. **Trails Coordinator:** In a referral dated June 26, 2009 (Janousek to Lindsay), the trails coordinator offered the following comments:

This subject property is part of the Approved and Adopted Master Plan for Langley Park, College Park and Greenbelt (1989). There are no master planned trails that affect the property.

Analysis

Although there are no master-planned trails that affect the property, technical staff thinks that the applicant should provide a striped crosswalk at the location of the proposed portable classroom.

Recommendations

1. Provide a striped crosswalk between the proposed portable classroom and the existing concrete sidewalk that is in front of the church, unless modified by the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T).
 2. Provide an accessible ramp in front of the church at the location of the sidewalk ramp per DPW&T standards and specifications, unless modified by DPW&T.
14. **Community Planning Division:** In a memorandum dated July 9, 2009 (Douglas to Lindsay), the Community Planning Division made the following determinations:

This detailed site plan application is consistent with the 2002 *Prince George's County Approved General Plan* Development Pattern policies for the Developing Tier.

The detailed site plan is within the boundary of and consistent with the 1989 *Approved Master Plan for Langley Park- College Park- Greenbelt and Vicinity and Adopted Sectional Map Amendment for Planning Areas 65, 66 and 67* which recommends public/quasi-public use for this property. An update to this master plan is currently in process.

This application conforms to the land use recommendation of the 1989 *Approved Master Plan for Langley Park- College Park- Greenbelt and Vicinity and Adopted Sectional Map Amendment for*

Planning Areas 65, 66 and 67 for public/quasi-public land use.

The 1989 *Approved Master Plan for Langley Park- College Park- Greenbelt and Vicinity and Adopted Sectional Map Amendment for Planning Areas 65, 66 and 67* establishes guidelines pertaining to the quality of all living areas in the plan. These guidelines are located on pages 61–74 of the master plan.

Planning Comments

The subject property retained R-55 zoning in the 1989 *Approved Master Plan for Langley Park- College Park- Greenbelt and Vicinity and Adopted Sectional Map Amendment for Planning Areas 65, 66 and 67*. The master plan designates this area for public facilities/religious institution and recognizes the existing church complex.

The proposed development conforms to the land use recommendations of the 1989 master plan.

Living Area Sub-Community Recommendations

The following is a list of the pertinent guidelines from the master plan on page 72 that apply to the subject proposal:

- **Wherever possible, living areas should be linked to community facilities, transportation facilities, employment areas and other living areas by a continuous system of pedestrian walkways and bike trails utilizing the open space and conservation network.**

Comment: The existing property has sidewalks that connect from Chillum Road into the property to provide adequate connection to facilities for pedestrians.

- **Buffering in the form of landscaping, open space, attractive fencing, and/or other creative site planning techniques should be utilized to protect residential areas from commercial, industrial, and other incompatible uses.**

Comment: The site plan shows where the applicant is removing asphalt pavement around the existing tennis court and proposed multipurpose building and replacing it with topsoil, seed, and mulch.

- **Recreation areas, school facilities, and activity centers should be designed, or redesigned upon future expansion or renovation, to serve as social focal points in residential areas.**

Comment: The site plan elevation illustrates that the proposed building will include artistic signage and a “storefront door.”

15. **Transportation Planning Section:** In a referral dated June 3, 2009, the Transportation Planning Section found that no prior subdivision conditions limit development on the site. Both Chillum Road and Sargent Road are planned collector roads, and adequate right-of-way exists. Access and circulation are acceptable, and are largely unchanged from the existing situation.
16. As required by Section 27-285(b) of the Zoning Ordinance, the detailed site plan represents a reasonable alternative for satisfying the site design guidelines of Subtitle 27, Part 3, Division 9 of the Prince George’s County Code without requiring unreasonable cost and without detracting substantially from the utility of the proposed development for its intended use.

RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the foregoing evaluation and analysis, the Urban Design staff recommends that the Planning Board adopt the findings of this report and APPROVE Detailed Site Plan DSP-95063/05 and Alternative Compliance AC-09008 with the following conditions:

1. Prior to certification, the detailed site plan shall be revised as follows:
 - a. Graphically show the extent of the play areas on the site.
 - b. Demonstrate that all play areas are at least 25 feet from the residences on adjoining lots.
 - c. Revise the boundary and bearings of Parcel B to be consistent with Record Plat NLP 143 @ 97.
 - d. Correct the general notes to state that the site is Parcel B and the remainder from Oakdale Terrace Subdivision.
 - e. Provide a striped crosswalk between the proposed modular classroom and the existing concrete sidewalk that is in front of the church, unless modified by DPW&T.
 - f. Provide an accessible ramp in front of the church at the location of the sidewalk ramp per DPW&T standards and specifications, unless modified by DPW&T.
 - g. Revise the plan to show the same planting quantity, planting arrangement, and fencing as approved in Alternative Compliance AC-09008.
 - h. Revise the landscape schedule for the northeastern property line (Bufferyard 3) to indicate that 18 percent of the bufferyard is occupied by existing woodland and that 519 plant units are required.
 - i. Add a planting bed running from the eastern corner of the proposed multipurpose building along the edge of the proposed concrete sidewalk to join the landscape strip along Chillum Road (approximately 190 feet). The planting bed shall be at least six feet in width and planted with ornamental trees spaced 20 feet on center.
 - j. Add a planting bed running along the southern edge of the existing temporary classroom building (approximately 60 feet). The planting bed shall be at least six feet in width and planted with ornamental trees spaced 20 feet on center.