

Hyattsville Throne Public Bathrooms- Contract Extension Equity Impact Analysis

Equity Considerations and Recommendations Regarding Throne Public Bathrooms - Contract Extension

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The Government Alliance on Racial Equity's (GARE) [Tool Kit](#) is a simple set of questions that consider equity in the implementation of programs in local government. The REO will use this tool to assess the proposed Throne Public Bathrooms Contract Extension.

Step #1

Proposal: What is the policy, program, practice, or budget decision under consideration? What are the desired results and outcomes?

The proposed budgetary decision under consideration is the renewal of Throne Labs rental services for five public restrooms for 1- year under their existing contract with the City. This expenditure, not to exceed \$230,000.00 will be funded using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as part of the Public Restrooms and Shower Facility Projects. This project was awarded a score of '8' under the equity scoring rubric used to inform the Council's discussion of the initial expenditure.

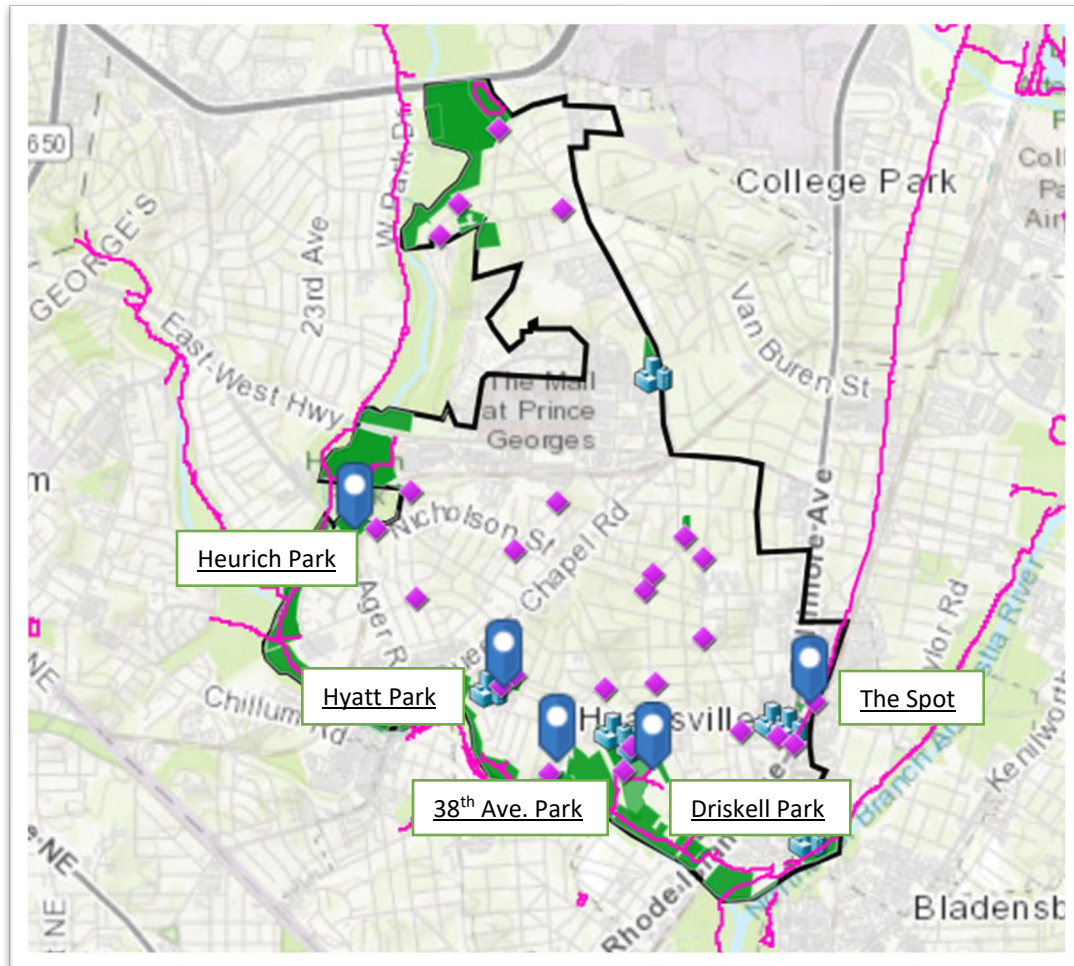
The desired result of this change is to support the public health and well-being of residents and users of City parks through the usage of Throne restrooms in the interim, as the city explores cost-effective permanent restroom facilities for these areas

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Step #2

Data: *What's the data? What does it tell us? Are there any gaps?*

[City Parks and Recreational Facilities Map \(arcgis.com\)](#)



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Census Tract Map Adapted from 2022 Hyattsville Redistricting Commission Report

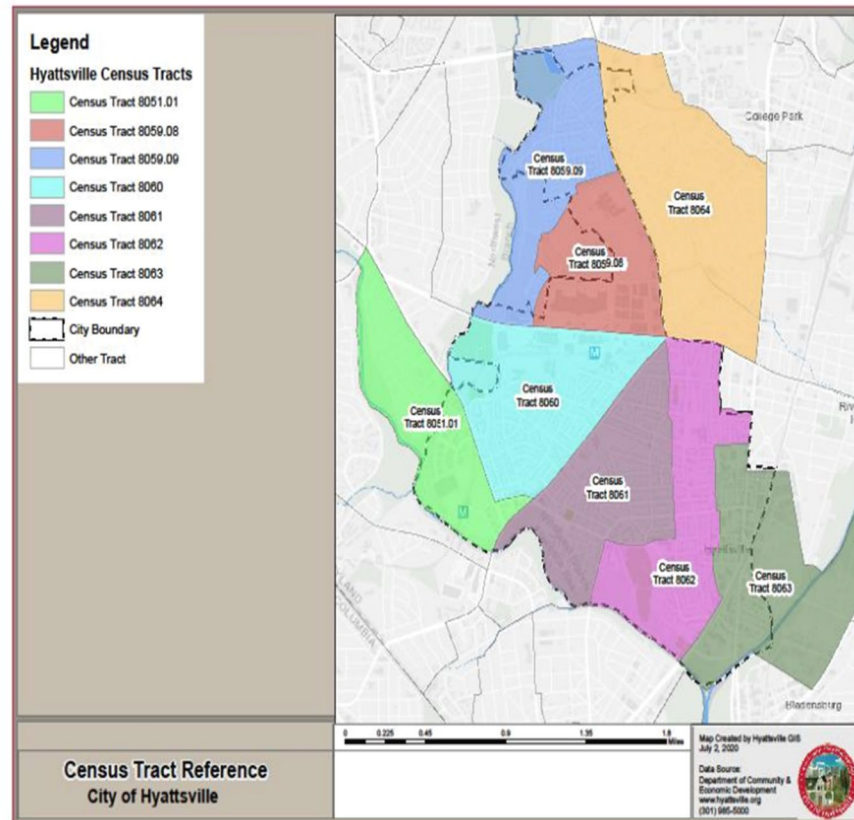


Figure 3. Census tracts including portions of Hyattsville in the 2017 ACS. Reproduced from the Appendix of the 2020 Vulnerable Populations Analysis Report.

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Racial Demographics Map Adapted from 2022 Hyattsville Redistricting Commission Report

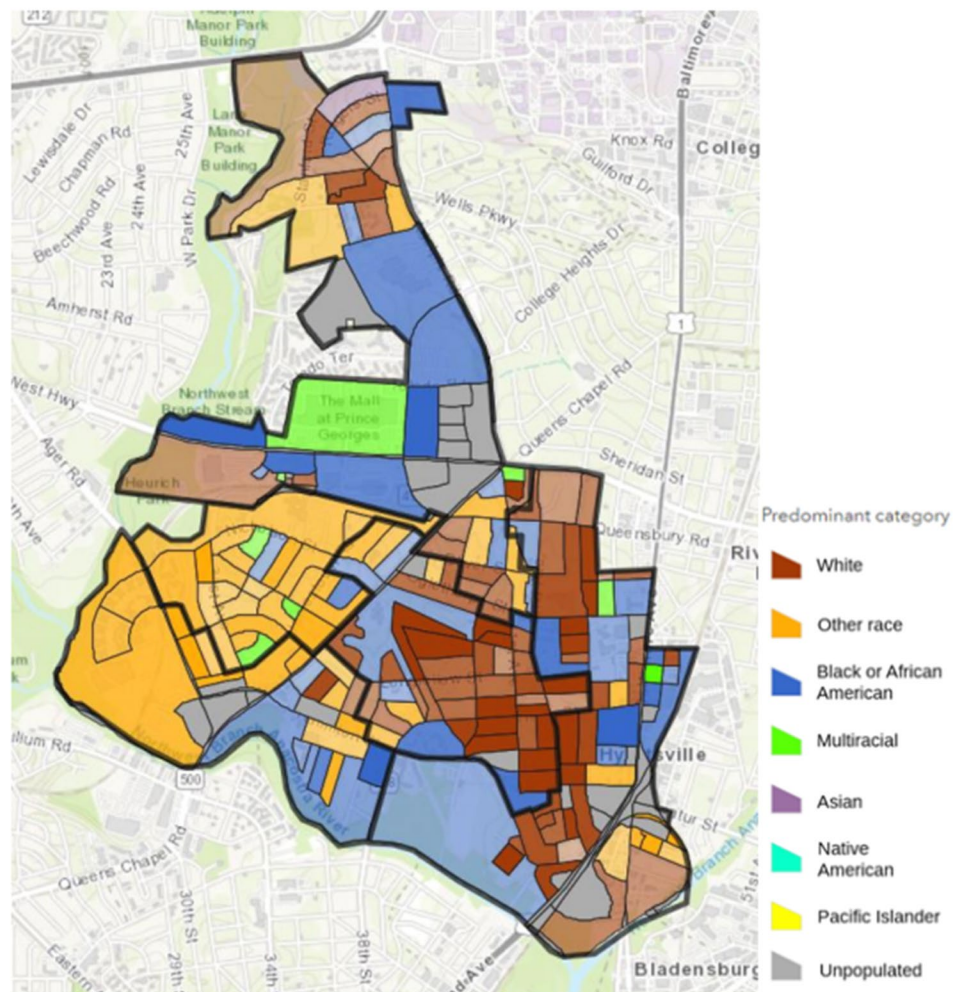


Figure 2. Map of Hyattsville showing Ward boundaries (thick black lines) and census block boundaries (thin black lines). Colors indicate the predominant response to the Census' question about respondents' self-described race within each census Block. The relative intensity of the color indicates the strength of that predominant response.

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Vulnerbale Populations by Hyattsville Census Tract Report Adapted from 2022 Hyattsville Redistricting Commission Report

Table 1. Percentage in each census tract of key indicators of vulnerability. Reproduced from Table 3 of the 2020 Vulnerable Populations Analysis Report, except rounded to the nearest 1%. Tract 8064 (Figure 3) was not considered due to limited overlap with Hyattsville.

Population (Age 65+)	Population (Age 65+)	Proportion of dependent adults (Age 65+)	Non-White population	Population with High School as highest educational achievement	Poverty (Age <18)	Poverty (Age 65+)	Households with no Vehicle
Mall at Prince George's / University Town Center (8059.09)	6%	8%	86%	22%	18%	12%	24%
Hyattsville Hills (8061)	11%	15%	61%	19%	30%	9%	8%
Hyattsville Crossing / PG Plaza Metro (8060)	7%	9%	83%	28%	8%	<1%	8%
Hyattsville Historic District (8062)	14%	22%	55%	18%	9%	16%	13%
West Hyattsville Metro / Kirkwood (8051.01)	5%	7%	84%	17%	21%	<1%	16%
Downtown Hyattsville/ Route One Corridor (8063)	7%	9%	61%	16%	7%	11%	4%
University Hills (8059.09)	8%	10%	83%	23%	20%	19%	21%

Source: [Redistricting | Hyattsville, MD - Official Website](#)

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38th Avenue Park

5004 MD-208, Hyattsville, MD 20781

Located in Ward 5 which is located within Census tract # 8061

Total Throne usage at this location: 3794 total users and the most frequently used Throne location

Digital Throne usage data: TBD

Tap Card usage data: TBD

Driskell Park

3911 Hamilton St, Hyattsville, MD 20781

Located in Ward 2 which is located within Census tract #8062.

Total Throne usage at this location: 3270 total users and the 3rd most frequently used Throne location

Digital Throne usage data: TBD

Tap Card usage data: TBD

Heurich Park

2800 Nicholson Ave. Hyattsville, MD 20782

Located in Ward 4 which is located within Census tract #8060

Total Throne usage at this location: 3323 total users and the 2nd most frequently used location

Digital Throne usage data: TBD

Tap Card usage data: TBD

The Spot

4505 Hamilton St. Hyattsville MD, 20781

Located in Ward 1 which is located within Census tract # 8063

Total Throne usage at this location: 279 total users (September- October)

Digital Throne usage data: TBD

Tap Card usage data: TBD

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Hyatt Park

3500 Hamilton St, Hyattsville, MD 20782

Located in Ward 5 which is located within Census tract # 8061.

Total Throne usage at this location: 279 total users (August-October)

Digital Throne usage data: TBD

Tap Card usage data: TBD

Equity Officer Considerations: This data shows that generally, Throne bathroom placement is distributed throughout the City, reflecting the needs of residents across varying races and ethnicities, income levels, and states of 'vulnerability' as defined by the Hyattsville Vulnerable Populations Analysis Report. There are however, gaps in placement areas like the Mall at Prince George's and University Town Center, West Hyattsville Metro area, which are examples of specific areas where residents have expressed a desire for increased access to public restrooms for visitors in these business districts as well as for people who may be experiencing homelessness. Considering the placement of Thrones in these areas could also serve as a deterrent for reported instances of public urination and/ or defecation.

Step #3:

Community engagement: How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

Community Engagement:

The City has engaged residents and stakeholders in the following ways:

- 2023-2024 ARPA Spending Council discussion and public comment periods
- 2023 Summer Jam engagement where Throne Labs representatives engaged with the public on the uses and desirability of Throne bathrooms
- City Social media outreach dedicated to information on Throne bathrooms
- 2023-2024 GARE community engagement sessions on the issue of increased homelessness and quality of life issues in the City

Opportunities for Expansion of Engagement:

- Continue to develop a robust and multilingual public information campaign outlining ways to access Thrones for residents throughout the city, with a focus on residents who may lack technological access or literacy.
- Launch mobile 'pop-up shops' as a technique for information sharing, targeting specific communities and populations for tap-card distribution and account set-up.
- On the International Association for Public Participation ([IAP2](#)) [scale of public participation](#), continue to move beyond informing the public of proposed Throne

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placements, toward involving, collaborating, and empowering residents to be involved in future potential locations and amenities for placements.

Step #4:

Analysis and strategies: Who will benefit from or be burdened by your proposal? What are your strategies for advancing racial equity or mitigating unintended consequences?

Those who will benefit from increased funding toward Throne bathrooms include all who utilize public spaces in the City of Hyattsville, residents who have a disability and may have a more frequent need for accessible bathrooms, and those in need of access to menstrual products. It will be a general benefit to public health and well-being. Further investment in Thrones supports *Basic Needs for Health and Safety*, as one of the U.S Department of Health and Human Services 'Seven Vital Conditions for Wellbeing' for communities.

For more information on this see below:

- 'Seven Cital Conditions for Wellbeing' [Framework | health.gov](#)
- [The struggle to find a public toilet | Smart Cities Dive](#)
- [Improving access to public toilets can reduce health hazards in cities - UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health](#)
- [Access & Equity — Throne \(thronelabs.co\)](#)

Those who may be burdened through unintended consequences of the current Throne placements and practices include:

- Residents who do not have access to mobile phones and/ or lack technological literacy
- Residents with homes in proximity to current or proposed placement sites
 - There are plans for DPW to alter the location of the Hyatt Park Throne site that is near a residence

Below are recommendations of strategies for mitigating possible unintended consequences of this policy:

REO recommends:

- Expand neighborhood representation across proposed throne placement sites as needed and appropriate. Considering that locations can be adjusted based on fluctuations of use, this is an opportunity to place one of the thrones which are at a lower use site, like the Spot, in areas of the city where there may be a higher need; for example in proximity to the Ager Alley or in the UTC/ Mall at Prince George's area.
- Consider placing restrictions and guidelines regarding the placement of Thrones in proximity to resident homes and other high-visibility private areas.

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- Ensure that there is adequate communication of the process for obtaining a tap-card, particularly for those who have limited tech access, aging residents, immigrant residents, and those with limited English proficiency.
- Ensure safeguards for resident's data privacy.
- Thrones is committed to ensuring tech-enabled user accountability .When issues arise that indicate the rules of Thrones use has been broken, the company will send a warning to that ID and with repeated misuse Throne will restrict access – The City should ensure that associated policies and procedures are crafted for enforcement in a fair and consistent manner.
- The city should strengthen the public oversight and transparency of these changes, by publicly reporting on the program's outcomes, and impacts to residents.

Step #5:

Implementation: What is your plan for implementation?

REO Recommendation:

Throne placements have generally already been implemented. However, as DPW considers placements for future sites community outreach and engagement should be a part of the decision-making to ensure equitable outcomes and robust community engagement.

Step #6:

Accountability and communication: How will you ensure accountability, communicate, and evaluate results?

REO Recommendation:

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of any changes to Throne placement.
- Communicate the success of this program to residents once implementation is complete.

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Supplemental Data and References:

- [2022 Hyattsville Redistricting Commission Report](#)
- [2020 Vulnerable Population Analysis Report](#)
- [2024 Survey of Homelessness in City of Hyattsville](#)
- [Access & Equity — Throne \(thronelabs.co\)](#)
- [Framework | health.gov](#)
- [\(IAP2\) scale of public participation](#)
- [Improving access to public toilets can reduce health hazards in cities - UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health](#)
- [The struggle to find a public toilet | Smart Cities Dive](#)