

Statement in Support of Montgomery County Parks Funding

Nancy Magurn

Montgomery County, Maryland Council Hearings

FY 23-28 Capital Improvements Program and FY 23 Capital Budget

February 8-9, 2022

Online Testimony

Dear Montgomery County Council Members:

I am happy to take this opportunity to support our wonderful County parks system by advocating for the full funding of the CIP Program and FY 23 Capital Budget for the Parks Department--rather than take the \$19.6 million in reductions that have been recommended by the County Executive.

The recommended reductions will result in delayed renovations, repairs, construction, trail building, and maintenance in parks including Brookside Gardens, The Capital Crescent Trail, the Northwest Branch Recreational Park, the Ovid Wells Hazen Recreational Park, the South Germantown Recreational Park, and Wheaton Regional Park. This would also reduce Legacy Open Space funding and much-needed park roads and playground improvements.

As a lifelong County resident who has greatly enjoyed our park system, including the equestrian and hiker/biker trails, I fully appreciate the great value of our parks as they provide much-needed recreation and respite, and athletic and social opportunities for our communities, making for healthier lives for all.

Therefore, I believe the full funding for our parks should be restored.

Many thanks for your attention to these concerns.

Nancy Magurn