

Testimony supporting the restoration of funding to the Parks CIP

Barbara Waite-Jaques

Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

As a forty-five-year resident of Silver Spring, I have been a frequent visitor to Brookside Gardens, which is five minutes from my home. This has been a place of exercise, entertainment, and solace for me and for my late husband. As newlyweds, we took romantic strolls through the azalea and rose gardens. Whenever we had to impress out of town visitors, Brookside was the place to take them, whether it be for the butterfly show, the chrysanthemum show or the Garden of Lights. When my husband was being treated for terminal cancer, the tranquil morning walks at Brookside helped keep up his spirits. And as a new widow, volunteering at Brookside helped me give back to this wonderful space.

Over the years, there have been many improvements to make Brookside an even better space, but some of its spaces are not accessible to people with mobility issues. The Capitol Improvement Program contains a request for renovating the Rose Garden; updating and repairing the Formal Gardens and making them ADA compliant; and planning for a new Conservatory.

I urge the County Council to fully fund the Montgomery Parks CIP request, including the request for Brookside Gardens to preserve and improve this jewel of the parks of Montgomery County.

Thank you.