

William Boehm

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Written Testimony for FY23 Capital Budget and FY23-28 CIP

Hello, my name is William Boehm. I am a local high school student, and I help lead a school club that volunteers for the local parks. The natural surface trails available in Montgomery County are outstanding, and that's thanks to all the hard work put into them by trail builders and volunteers. Year after year, the trails continue to get better and offer more opportunities for various skill levels. For my club and myself, the local trails provide a wide variety of recreational activities that improve both our physical and mental health. Getting more students outside is a huge priority for my club, and the local trails are the perfect way to do so. Not only do they provide recreation for a variety of age groups, they also provide excellent opportunities for young people to volunteer and give back to their community. There is still plenty of work to be done to put trails and bike parks in more parts of the county and provide opportunities to even more people. A 19 million dollar budget cut would block progress and have significant effects on the local trails. This cut would certainly sacrifice a pillar of our community that our physical and mental well-being depends on. Such a disservice to our community must be avoided, so I ask that you support the Parks Department's full budget request for natural surface trails. Thank you for your time.