

Re: Montgomery Parks Operating Budget

Dear Council President Albornoz and members of the County Council:

I am testifying in support of full funding for the Parks Department's FY'23 Operating Budget. The Parks Department maintains 421 parks across 37,000 acres of parkland, including community gardens and dog parks, museums and historic buildings, hundreds of miles of natural and hard surface trails, and provides programs and services that appeal to every interest and ability, like nature centers, concerts and exercise classes, and natural resources conservation.

With our community continuing to work from home, residents are using the parks more than ever. We rely on the parks for social gathering, recreational facilities, family gathering and sports activities for our physical and mental wellbeing.

Lastly, I am concerned that without full funding residents may injure themselves with failing infrastructure and deteriorating facilities allowing Montgomery County to become vulnerable to lawsuits due to injuries. I personally would rather my tax dollars be used to prevent issues and upgrade our parks.

Please vote to fully restore all funding that is needed to maintain and sustain our park system during a time of unprecedented usage and demand.

Sincerely,
Paul Rachetta
Norbeck Meadows Civic Association – Treasurer