

**FY 25 Budget Testimony  
Leslie Miles, Bethesda**

April 9, 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the below testimony. I live in Glen Echo Heights, along the Potomac River, off MacArthur Boulevard near Glen Echo Park. Many substantial trees along our major roads in the area have been killed by infestations of English ivy and kudzu.

Volunteers, working collaboratively with local government and nonprofits, have been working to remove these vines and enable the trees to thrive. This is a win-win, leveraging volunteer labor and a small public investment, to preserve our tree canopy along the palisade.

**I urge the County Council to increase, not decrease, funding to save our trees and native ecosystems.** Without decisive action, the invasives and the problems will grow, requiring more costly remediation. Please consider the following steps:

**Provide DOT's requested increase of \$500,000 in its Tree Removal and Planting program** to include removal of invasive vines from trees bordering our roads;

**Give Montgomery Parks additional funding** to save the 415 parks they manage;

**Fund a public outreach campaign** to raise public awareness and participation to save our trees and parklands.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Leslie Miles