

FY 27-32 Capital Improvements Projects Hearing

February 9th, 2026

Park's natural surface and paved trails provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities as well as access to the natural world around us. Trails provide the opportunity to explore nature while providing exercise, and the much-needed chance to recharge and rejuvenate. For this reason, it is important to ensure full funding for land acquisition programs.

- Legacy Open Space (P018710)
- Acquisition of Local Parks (P767828)
- Acquisition of Non-Local Parks (P998798)
- Advanced Land Acquisition Revolving Fund (P727007)

At the same time, we need to ensure that the trails we have are in good condition, bridges are where they should be, trails are marked, mapped, and cleared of debris after storms. For this to be done the following trail programs must be fully funded.

- Trails, Natural Surface Resource Based Recreation (P858710)
- Trails, Hard Surface Design Construction and Renovation (P768673)
- Trails, Hard Surface Renovation (P888754)

Trail connections are of a major importance. Every time a gap is closed in the County's trail network, more citizens are provided with better access to trails and the many benefits they provide.

Olney is very close, yet currently cut off from the Rock Creek Trail system. The North Branch Trail project will close that gap. When this project is complete, Olney will finally have road free ADA compliant access to miles of trails in Montgomery County and beyond.

The Bowie Mill Bikeway will connect Olney to Sequoyah Elementary school, Magruder High School, the ICC trail and the Needwood Road trail. This will finally provide safe bicycle connection to Shady Grove Metro station.

The Sandy Spring Bikeway will not only provide recreation and commuting opportunities but also vital safe routes to schools, including Sherwood High school and elementary school.

- North Branch Trail (P871541)
- Bowie Mill Bikeway (P502108)
- Sandy Spring Bikeway (P502306)

All this rolls nicely into the support of Vision Zero. While this has been a priority in the down county area, up county has been left behind. The goals of Vision Zero will only be achieved when we have safe roads and trails for cyclists and pedestrians throughout the County.

- Vision Zero (P871905)

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