

TO: Montgomery County Council

FROM: Glenn Kreger and Lisa Portnoy, DVM  
[REDACTED], Aspen Hill

SUBJECT: Operating Budget

DATE: March 14, 2026

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It is certainly difficult to make the tough choices involved in approving a budget during these difficult times. Education and public safety will always be at the top of the list. There are various entities in County government that we appreciate as taxpayers and longtime residents-- 65 years in Glenn's case-- ranging from the people who fix the potholes on our local streets to those who run the MPDU Program. However, the thing that we appreciate most frequently is our park system. (Full disclosure: Glenn worked for M-NCPPC until his retirement nine years ago, but in the Planning Department not the Parks Department.) We utilize local parks several times every single week, as do many of our neighbors. The Montgomery Parks Department staff has done an outstanding job of providing opportunities for people throughout the County to enjoy the park system. We have also found them to be responsive when repairs to facilities are needed. However, all of this requires resources; nothing is free.

Parks contribute a lot to the quality of life in Montgomery County. (Our dogs enjoy the parks as much as we do!) Parks have a well-documented positive effect on property values and even make the area more attractive to potential employers. It is important to us that the County support our park system by providing the Parks Department with the resources needed to maintain existing facilities, replace aging facilities and provide the new facilities needed by our evolving population. Please fund their budget request for the coming year.