

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to urge you to support funding for the Montgomery County Parks Department that will allow BCC Nursery School in Norwood Park to continue operating in its current location. For more than 80 years, this school has been a cornerstone of our community, and its loss would be deeply felt by families across the area.

BCC Nursery School in Norwood Park is far more than a preschool—it is a vital community institution. It provides a warm, inclusive environment where children and families from diverse economic and social backgrounds come together. The cooperative model fosters meaningful relationships among parents and caregivers, creating a network of support that extends well beyond the classroom.

The school also plays a critical role in supporting economic diversity. Its affordability and structure make high-quality early childhood education accessible to families who might otherwise be priced out of preschool options in this area. At its current price point and location, it would be extremely difficult—if not impossible—for many families to find a comparable program that offers the same level of engagement, inclusion, and community-building.

In addition, BCC Nursery School in Norwood Park brings life and purpose to the park itself. The presence of children and families creates a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere and reinforces the park's role as a gathering place for the community. Without the school, there is a real risk that this space could become underutilized—or even sit empty and boarded up—rather than continuing to serve families.

On a personal note, I attended BCC Nursery School in Norwood Park as a child, and now my own children attend. That continuity across generations reflects how meaningful and lasting this school is for families like mine.

I respectfully ask the Council to ensure that the Parks Department has the resources needed to review and renew the school's lease so that BCC Nursery School in Norwood Park can continue serving families for generations to come. Preserving this school is an investment in our children, our community, and the vitality of our shared public spaces.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Solan

Resident of Kenwood Forest 2