

Montgomery County's FY27 Budget Proposals

My name is Anne Vorce. I am testifying as an individual, although I am very active on environmental issues in several organizations (Friends of Sligo Creek's Water Quality Committee, Water WatchDogs and Salt Team; and the civic association Seven Oaks-Evanswood's Environment Committee).

I work very closely with the County's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Montgomery Parks on addressing various environmental issues in my watershed, the Sligo Creek Watershed.

Without the skilled and thoughtful actions of DEP and Parks, our watershed would not have a chance. We need to go further.

Many, many people in our densely populated areas rely on a healthy Sligo Creek Stream Valley for a welcome respite from the more urbanized part of the watershed. It can be an important matter of physical and mental health.

Climate challenges are increasing. We need the County to increase its focus here and to provide DEP and Parks with the resources they need to help us be ready.

Please increase DEP's climate resilience budget from what is being proposed by the County Executive and make sure that Montgomery Parks gets its full funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Anne Vorce
Silver Spring**

