

Hillandale Play Area February 25, 2026



Composite of three pics, showing the park's popularity. This is not an organized group, just random, local parents with their children.

Please fund the Parks Department Operating and Capital Budget requests!

During the recent Parks Semi-Annual to Council, the Parks Director was asked “Who is using the parks?” I can tell you that at the Hillandale Local Park, there is a huge number of diverse park users, all ages, all nationalities/languages, with a wide range of reasons to enjoy the park. I would venture to say that an on-line survey will not begin to show the quantity of park visitors, or their reasons for using Hillandale Local Park.

This park has a (still-closed) natural surface rectangular field, a large pavilion with bathrooms (thank you!), another small pavilion, a play area for young children, two basketball courts, two tennis courts and hard surface and natural surface trails. Careful maintenance of the sports field is required since it is a heavily permitted field with soccer cleats taking a toll on the grass. Since this field is a focal point of the park, residents are eager to have the field open for all soon. The MLK staff has been very attentive and the park reflects their good work! However, keeping this field, park amenities, the ornamental trees and stormwater plantings in excellent condition takes funding for maintenance. Please ensure adequate funding of maintenance.



Please also consider that the Hillandale Park, should not be frozen in time. Small improvements must be made to keep the park fresh! For example, the play area needs a child-size trash receptacle—not anything as involved as Cabin John’s Porky, but maybe a commercial frog to encourage children to not litter. Adding a few of the promised “Heart Smart” stations would be appreciated. Signs for over-flow parking and distance marks on trails should be added. Attached is a listing of small improvements I presented during MNCPPC’s budget hearings last fall. These additions would enhance the visitor experience and make the park appeal to more users—especially older children and adults.

I trust that Council will agree to fund the requests of the Parks Department to keep Montgomery Parks facilities in excellent condition for the future. Thank you. Eileen Finnegan

Hillandale Local Park



Modest Improvements Requested

1. Improve spaces for simple "Dad & Son" soccer learning
2. Add more standard-size swings
3. Add monkey-bar/climbing structure for older children to save our trees
4. Add, or repurpose, three benches under shade tree for parents watching children
5. Add volley ball sand court
6. Add a skate board/bike area or soccer skill area with fence
7. Add shade canopies to playground equipment area
8. Add child-size trash containers near playground/pavilion
9. Add checker/chess game tables
10. Provide distance marking around the field, and park walkways
11. Add a few "Heart Smart" stations, especially a chin bar
12. Better signage: For over-flow parking; Encourage B-ball players to use trash containers; Entrance to the trail with loop information.

Finnegan 9/8/25