



PO Box 2662  
Fairfax, VA 22031

April 2, 2021

Montgomery County Parks Department,

Councilmembers,

Please consider increasing the capital and operating budgets over the next few weeks. Our current pandemic brings additional usage and stress on our natural surface trails and I urge you to address trails in our Parks Department budget.

I understand fiscal constraints and competing priorities, however please consider trails have provided solitude, recreational opportunities and the ability to enhance physical and mental health. Parks are valued and appreciated for their equitable access to address mental, physical and emotional well-being of our residents. Parks provide a safe and healthy escape during difficult times, and it is more important than ever that the Parks Department has adequate staff and resources. This vital funding will go a long way towards creation of public resources for all county residents to enjoy like South Germantown Bike Park, Northwest Branch Trail, Fairland Recreational Park and a new paved pump track in the county. These facilities provide vital infrastructure for our youth and can be leveraged to develop programming to help get kids outside enjoying nature and learning about stewardship of our natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ernest Rodriguez  
MORE - President

MORE (the Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts, Inc.) is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization.

**TAX ID: 54-1691373**