

Dear Councilmember,

As you consider the capital and operating budgets over the next few weeks, I urge you to support the Parks Department budget.

I understand that there are many competing priorities and that the County is facing fiscal challenges. However, this past year has demonstrated the importance of parks to the 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 relatively small amount of funding will go a long way towards maintaining our amazing county trails and parks that have become even more important during the pandemic.

My family has always enjoyed the vast hiking trails and bike paths but this year these have been our sanity and sanctuary. We feel so blessed to live in a county that has such vast and beautiful protected outdoor spaces and it's one of the things that initially drew us to living in the county and staying here for over 30 years.

Please support the Parks Department!

Sincerely,

Pam Leifer, Silver Spring, MD