

April 13, 2023

Dear Montgomery County Council,

Hello. I am writing to encourage full funding of the Montgomery County Parks Department. I am a teacher at Arcola ES. One of my students is moderately-severely autistic. During the pandemic, the Colt Terrace Neighborhood Park was upgraded. One of the upgrades is a swing that can be latched to keep a child secure. My student expresses his joy by flapping his hands, a common occurrence for people with autism. When he is in the swing, he can fully experience and express, at the same time, for the first time in a playground setting. In a regular swing he would not be secure enough to flap his hands. This picture is shared with his mother's permission. We make this walking field trip several times a year and it is a pleasure to observe how much this change helps my student. I invite you to join us anytime.



This is just one small example of the myriad ways the Parks Department makes life better for citizens of Montgomery County. One thing people frequently lament is that children spend so much time on electronic devices. The Parks Department provides the places, equipment, and universal design that we need to encourage more people, of all ages, to get outside and enjoy the beauty of Montgomery County.

Thank you,

Margaret Norris

