

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a 30-year resident of Germantown, Maryland, and I spend a great deal of time at my local parks including Black Hill Regional Park. I attend park programs and am always appreciative of the nature centers, pollinator gardens, and other offerings that I can find at the parks. I also attend several events at the parks each year.

One of the reasons I have stayed in Montgomery County is because of the high quality of its parks and the ability I have to enjoy the outdoors and do nature photography so close to home. As Montgomery County grows with new housing developments going up each year – including massive growth right outside Black Hill Regional Park – I can't imagine the county cutting funding at a time when more people are visiting parks and putting more demands on the resources.

With the possibility that the federal government will start closing local federal lands or reducing visitor services there due to budget and staffing cuts, it's even more crucial that we support our parks at home in Maryland.

Please give Montgomery County parks a 7.2% budget increase so they can maintain the quality of service and keep pace with inflation.

Thank you for your time.

Lisa Mayo