

3/27/2025

Montgomery County Council Written Testimony

To the Council:

I am writing to encourage the reconsideration of the currently proposed FY26 budget and decreases to the prior approved FY25-30 Capital Improvements Program for the Montgomery County Parks Department. I was informed that they will be severely underfunded compared to other county departments and will now potentially be unable to continue with some planned improvements.

I believe that the Parks Department's parks and services are one of the county's best assets and were a big draw for my family moving here. Having so many beautiful green spaces, playgrounds, and county sponsored programs available to the public improves quality of life for all residents. Before having children, my husband and I would frequent the many well-maintained trails in the county and now, as a mother of 2, we still frequent county parks and trails most weekends. If areas supported by the Parks Department were to become poorly maintained due to lack of funding and staff, it would be such a shame.

The parks department staff has been very helpful and responsive to my requests to improve our local park/playground to be made more accessible for my disabled daughter. There is a lack of truly accessible playgrounds in the county, so I am so grateful to them for taking my request seriously and implementing a change that will greatly improve my daughter's (and other local disabled residents') quality of life. The processes for these park updates have taken a lot of time and effort and are still ongoing since the Fall of 2023. It stands to reason that the lack of an appropriate budget will slow down improvement for this and other parks.

In summary, I hope you reconsider the upcoming Parks Department budget so as all county residents may continue to benefit from all the wonderful work that they do and spaces that they maintain so beautifully. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Laura Failla

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