To: Members of the Montgomery County Council
From: Steven Salaj
Date: 3/23/2026
Subject: Support of FY2027 Funding for Montgomery Parks

Dear Council President and members of the County Council,

My name is Steve Salaj, and I am a resident of Potomac, Maryland. I am writing this letter to urge you to **fully fund the Montgomery Parks Department's FY2027 budget request**.

Montgomery Parks manages over 37,000 acres and 400+ parks that serve as a vital refuge for our physical and mental health. Our county's parks are more than just green space; they are essential infrastructure for our community's health and well-being. In recent years, park usage has reached unprecedented levels, putting a significant strain on our existing infrastructure. Adequate funding is absolutely necessary to keep up with this growing demand.

Montgomery Parks has a direct impact on our quality of life and the environmental resilience of our County. As a Scout leader I have seen firsthand how these spaces provide a vital refuge for exercise and social connection. We hold our annual District camporee every year at Little Bennett Campground, and have done so for 30 years. For some Scouts this is their first introduction to camping and the great outdoors. This unique resource helps to foster community and instill in our youth an appreciation for the environment and our natural resources.

The Parks department needs sufficient funding for things like facility maintenance and staffing to maintain parks such as Little Bennett. Without full funding we risk the degradation of these facilities that are relied upon by the residents of Montgomery County. I ask that you fully fund the department's budget request to preserve these invaluable assets for future generations.

Thank you for your time and for your leadership in keeping Montgomery County green and active.

Sincerely,

Steven Salaj
[redacted] Potomac, MD 20854
Phone: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]