



EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

September 29, 2023

The Honorable Marc Elrich
Montgomery County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Elrich,

The East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB) would like to opine and provide you our view and thoughts on the skate parks announcement made by the Montgomery County Parks department, M-NCPPC.

It has come to our attention that the parks department is planning to build five (5) skate parks in the county, yet none of those planned for East County. There are parks in East County that have public transportation access and high-density housing, two criteria the parks department uses for planning of skate park placement. We know that youth of all demographics in East County would like to have a top-notch level skate park as much as youth in other parts of the county. We would welcome the opportunity to be involved in the site selection process of a new skate park in east county.

After reviewing the Parks plans to construct five new skate parks, we find that these planned parks would add an additional skate park to two skate parks that already exist in the area below the Beltway, with the other proposed four additional skate parks added to the central and western portions of the county. A visual distribution of full function skate parks in the county clearly shows the lack of any skate parks (see map), in other words a skate park recreation desert, in the northeaster portion of the county, principally East County – this in an area designated as an Equity Focus Area.

Advocates of skateboard parks, view them as a wonderful gathering place for young people. They see these parks as providing a sense of community and belonging. Moreover, skateboard Parks are considered by many to be a safe space for young people, a place to experience success.

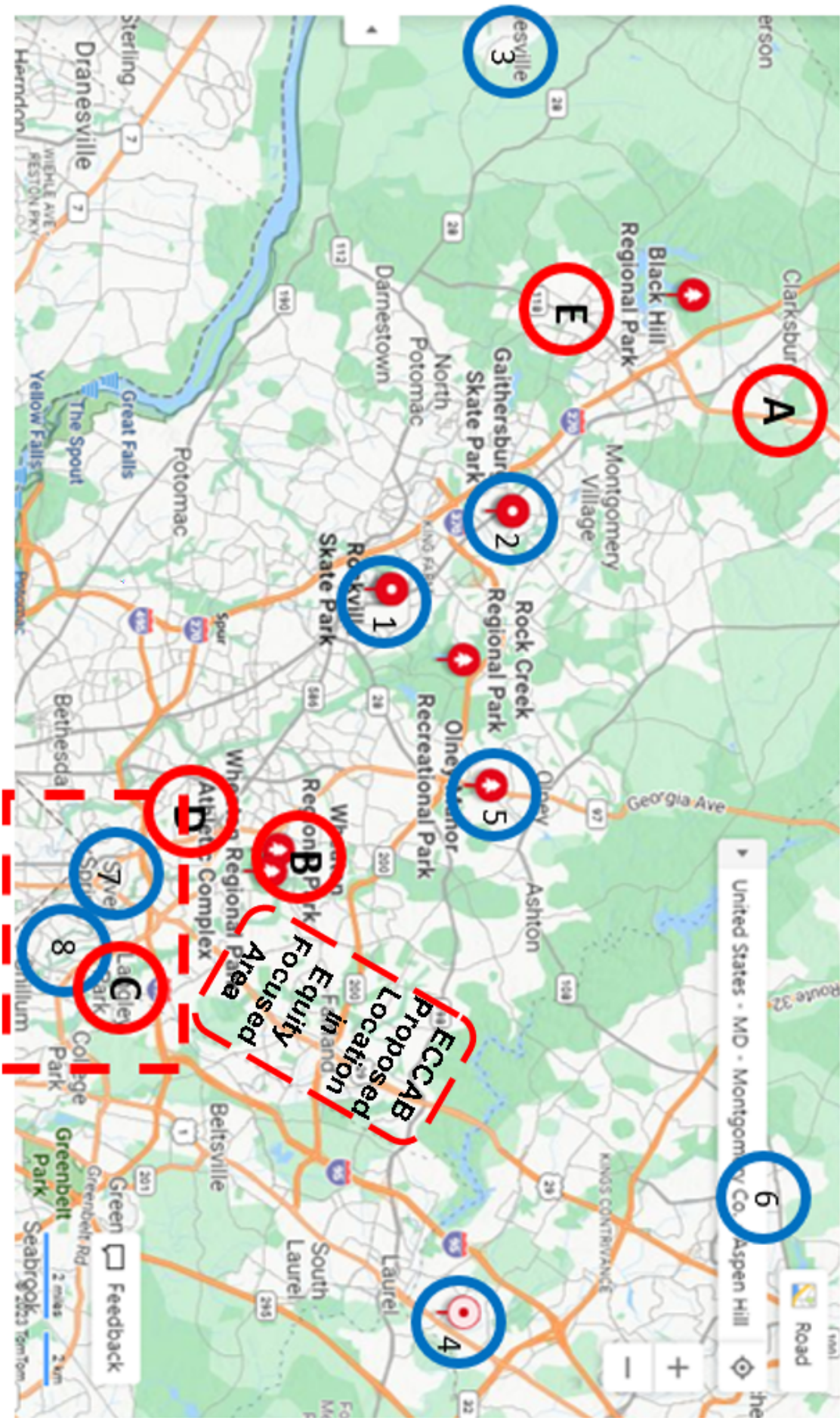
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We would like for Parks to rethink their placement of their proposed skate parks plan and suggest that the skate park planned for Long Branch Local Park be relocated to a local park in East County, possibly in the Equity Focused Area for Fairland/White Oak area. We of the ECCAB fully support this proposed site location and along with community input – also supporting this skate park siting change – urge you and the County Council, to work with the Parks department to site a new youths' recreational feature in East County – a skate park.

Skate Park Locations Map – Current (#) and Proposed (letters)



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Myo Khin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Peter Myo Khin
Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

Cc: Evan Glass, County Council President
D5 County Council Member Kristin Mink
Artie Harris, Montgomery Planning Board Chair
Jewru Bandeh, Director, ECRSC