PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Little Bennett Regional Park Day Use Area, located on the east side of MD Route 355 north of Comus Road, is a 65-acre existing meadow adjacent to wooded areas of the park and Soper's Branch stream. The day use area is designed to provide nature-based recreation and protects and interprets the existing meadow and adjacent forest habitat. The program of requirements from the master plan is accomplished in a uniquely sustainable manner that interprets the natural and cultural landscapes of the area. The project includes a multi-purpose outdoor classroom building, outdoor educational space and amphitheater, group picnic areas and shelter, play complex, sledding hill, hay play, group fire ring, teaching alcoves, two entrances and an access road, parking, bike path, hard and natural surface interpretive trails, bridges and boardwalks with overlooks, meadow enhancement and management, control of invasive species, managed forest succession, and stream restoration.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The Montgomery County Planning Board approved the park facility plan on October 6, 2011; Countywide Park Trails Plan (2008); Little Bennett Regional Park Master Plan (2007); 2005 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP); Countywide Bikeways Functional Master Plan (2005); Clarksburg Master Plan and Hyattstown Special Study Area (1994); Vision 2030: The Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan (2011); 2012 Park, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan.

FISCAL NOTE

FY23 funding switch from G.O. Bonds to Program Open Space totaling $1 million.

DISCLOSURES

A pedestrian impact analysis has been completed for this project. M-NCPCC asserts that this project conforms to the requirement of relevant local plans, as required by the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act.

COORDINATION

Montgomery County DOT, SHA, Montgomery County DEP, Little Bennett Regional Park Trail Connector (P871744)