



WHEATON URBAN DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

Ana L. van Balen  
*Director*

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

County Council President Nancy Navarro  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Council President Navarro:

The Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee (WUDAC) requests the Council's assistance in bringing two matters to the attention of the Montgomery County Department of Parks. The first is the need to make improvements to Veterans Park at 11200 Amherst Ave so that this public space can be of greater use to the Wheaton community. The second is to improve the connectivity between the Wheaton Urban District and the Brookside Gardens at Wheaton Regional Park.

As you may recall, the June Walking Tour of Wheaton identified Veterans Park as a green space that is not living up to its potential because of inadequate and outdated lighting and a landscape design that is not conducive to public gatherings. Veterans Park would be an excellent location for outdoor performances, festivals, art exhibits, and events. In addition to improvements to lighting to make the park safer after sunset, WUDAC believes the landscape, layout, and design of the park could be improved to be more conducive to public assembly and to comply with the County's Urban Park Guidelines. WUDAC requests that Veterans Park be included among those county parks being upgraded by the Department of Parks with available funds.

Wheaton Regional Park and its Brookside Gardens is a regional destination that remains disconnected from the Wheaton Urban District and Metro access. WUDAC recommends that public transportation be improved between Wheaton Metro Station and Brookside Gardens and that the Park consider alternatives to its current policy of only allowing access by automobile for special events like the Garden of Lights. WUDAC requests Council's assistance to establish a shuttle bus service between the Wheaton Metro station and Brookside Gardens. This will reduce automobile congestion on the local streets near the park during the holidays and allow more predictable access for visitors. But most importantly, it would establish connectivity between the Urban District and the Park. Visitors using the shuttle bus would have the opportunity to shop at stores and eat in restaurants in the Urban District before or after their trip to the park.

Sincerely,

Henriot St. Gerard, Chair  
Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee