



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCPB Agenda Item 3
April 16, 2020

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 7, 2020

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Michael F. Riley, Director of Parks *MR*
Miti Figueredo, Deputy Director, Administration *mf*
John Nissel, Deputy Director, Operations
Andrew Frank, Chief, Park Development Division *KAP*

FROM: Carl Morgan, CIP Manager, Park Development Division *CM*

SUBJECT: FY21 Capital Budget and FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program, State Funding: Bond Bills and Program Open Space, Contributions

Staff Recommendation

Approve amendments to the proposed FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and transmit to the County Executive and County Council.

- **Bond Bills FY21** – Add appropriation for \$1,050,000 of State Aid funding in the following capital projects:
 - \$200,000, Panned Lifecycle Asset Replacement: Local Parks--Play Equipment (P998703)
 - \$100,000, Trails: Natural Surface & Resource-based Recreation (P858710)
 - \$400,000, Acquisition: Local Parks (P767828)
 - \$350,000, Planned Lifecycle Asset Replacement: Local Parks--Minor Renovation (P998702)
- **Program Open Space FY21** – Staff may present an additional recommendation at the Planning Board Meeting on April 16, 2020. At the time of printing this report, final numbers have not yet been verified by the Department of Natural Resources.
- **Contributions FY21** – Add appropriation for \$800,000 of Contributions funding into the following capital projects:
 - \$600,000 Stream Protection (P818571)
 - \$200,000 Trails: Natural Surface & Resource-based Recreation (P858710)
- **Current Revenue, FY21** –Reduce the appropriation request by \$485,000 of Current Revenue: General funding in FY21 in the Planned Lifecycle Asset Replacement: Non-Local Parks, Minor

Renovations (P998708) capital project and request that the Council add this to the Tier 1 group of funding restorations identified by the County Council on March 10, 2020.

Background

Since the County Council last reviewed the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program for Parks on March 10, 2020:

- The General Assembly adjourned Sine Die on March 18, 2020. Included in their work were awards of State Aid through bond bills totaling \$1.05 million and an allocation (tentative) of \$9.52 million¹ in Program Open Space (POS) funding
- The Parks Department has determined readiness to spend \$800k in Contributions funding it recently received from the Congressional Country Club for water quality related projects in the vicinity of the site
- The Montgomery County Executive released additional recommendations to the FY21-26 CIP with his transmittal of the FY21 Recommended Operating Budget on March 16, 2020 that included additional reductions of \$485,000 to Current Revenue: General.

In order to receive and spend State revenues and contributions, the CIP will need to be amended to include appropriations for the funding. Additionally, before the Council considers the County Executive's recommendations to the CIP, they would like a response from the Planning Board regarding the amendments.

Staff will discuss the above in two sections

- Additional Appropriations
- Response to the County Executive's Additional Recommendations

Additional Appropriations

The Current CIP as proposed and tentatively approved by the County Council requires additional appropriation for

- Bond Bills awarded by the State in FY21
- FY21 Program Open Space allocation for Montgomery County
- Contributions received from the Congressional Country Club as per Final Forest Conservation Plan Amendment No. CBA-1206

Bond Bills

In order to receive and spend these additional revenues, the proposed CIP must be amended to include appropriation for "State Aid" in the following CIP Projects:

¹ This is the amount that was included in the Governor's budget. At the time of printing this report for the Planning Board, staff is still conferring with the Department of Natural Resources on the final allocation as it is determined by a complex formula and a series of re-payments from prior years where the state diverted revenues to fund other parts of the State budget. Staff will return to the Board with final numbers.

CIP Project/PDF	Project		Amount
Panned Lifecycle Asset Replacement: Local Parks--Play Equipment (P998703)	Olney Family Neighborhood Park	To provide an additional playground facility to meet active recreation needs for the community	\$200,000
Trails: Natural Surface & Resource-based Recreation (P858710)	Fairland Recreational Park	To establish a natural surface bike trail skills track to serve a wide range of users with varying skill levels.	\$100,000
Acquisition: Local Parks (P767828)	Willet Branch Greenway	To acquire land to create the planned Willett Branch Greenway in the Westbard community.	\$400,000
Planned Lifecycle Asset Replacement: Local Parks--Minor Renovation (P998702)	Long Branch-Garland Neighborhood Park	To replace the playground and provide additional neighborhood amenities within the park, including improved paved trail connections and green space.	\$350,000
		Total	\$1,050,000

More detailed information can be found on these Bond Bills starting on **page ©1**

Program Open Space

As of the date of publishing this memo, the Department of Natural Resources has not yet verified the final numbers for Program Open Space for Montgomery County². Once that is available, the Department will review whether the CIP has sufficient appropriation to spend the funds or whether we need to request additional appropriation.

Should POS revenue exceed appropriation, staff will return to the Planning Board with a recommendation to amend the proposed CIP.

Contributions

On September 26, 2019, Congressional Country Club, Inc. made a payment to M-NCPPC of \$800,000 in connection with the July approval of Final Forest Conservation Plan (FCP) Amendment No. CBA-1206³. The funding fulfills the following condition of the FCP amendment:

Prior to the start of any clearing, grading, or demolition on the Property, the Applicant must identify and provide funding for the costs associated with a watershed enhancement project within the Cabin John Creek Watershed. The project location and scope must be coordinated with M-NCPPC Parks Department Staff. The amount of funding by the Applicant for the watershed enhancement project must not exceed \$800,000.

² In January 2020 Governor Hogan included Program Open Space funding in the state budget that would allocate \$9.52 million to Montgomery County.

³ The FCP Amendment No. CBA-1206 allowed for a redesign of the Blue Course to improve playability and to bring the course up to Professional Golf Association standards for hosting tournaments.

The funds will be used for both trail improvement and environmental enhancement projects. The trail improvements may include features such as a crosswalk with a flashing beacon, re-routing of existing natural surface trails, trail bridge replacements, etc. The environmental enhancements may include stream restoration, slope stabilization, floodplain restoration and enhancements, riparian plantings, NNI removal, outfall stabilization, microtopography, impervious surface removal, and other similar improvements.

For the Department to spend these funds, the proposed CIP must be amended to include appropriation for “Contributions” in the Stream Protection (P818571) capital project and the Trails: Natural Surface & Resource-based Recreation (P858710) capital project as broken out in the Staff recommendation at the beginning of the report.

Response to the County Executive’s Additional Recommendations

On March 16, 2020, the Montgomery County Executive released additional recommendations to the FY21-26 CIP with his transmittal of the FY21 Recommended Operating Budget. The recommendations include

- **Funding for school athletic fields** - Adding \$1.2 million in Current Revenue: CUPF for athletic field renovations at school sites, \$600,000 in FY21 and FY22 respectively in the Ballfield Initiatives (P008720) capital project
- **Funding switch for water quality projects** – Replacing some State loan funding to Current Revenue: Water Quality Protection Fund in the Stream Protection: SVP (P818571) capital project to move forward FY20 and 21 projects that have been on hold while the while the Department continues to coordinate with the State of Maryland through the loan process
 - FY20 (FY19-24 CIP): \$800,000
 - FY21: \$1,500,000
- **Additional reductions in FY21** - Reducing Current Revenue: General funding \$485,000 in FY21 (no specific project was identified by the County Executive)

The first two recommendations are positive news for the Department. As such, staff recommends these two CIP amendments to the Board for approval.

The last recommendation is a challenge. On January 23, 2020 and after Planning Board review, the Department responded to the first request of the County Executive to reduce current revenue funding in all six years of the CIP in the following projects:

- Restoration of Historic Structures (P808494), \$830,000
- PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations (P998708), \$1,512,000

These reductions represent the current revenue increases that the Department requested in the new CIP to address a backlog of projects. However, the reductions at least maintain funding levels in the currently approved CIP.

When considering the County Executive’s second request of March 16, 2020 to reduce current revenue further in FY21, the Department has at least two options; reduce PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations further or reduce funding in two or more other projects that include

- ADA Compliance: Non-Local Parks
- Facility Planning: Non-Local Parks
- PLAR: NL - Park Building Renovations
- Pollution Prevention
- Restoration of Historic Structures
- Small Grant/Donor-Assisted Capital Improvements
- Trails: Natural Surface & Resource-based Recreation

While any reduction is unfortunate, if applied to the PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations capital project, it could still maintain a slight increase of \$160,000 between FY20 and FY21⁴. Alternatively, if the reductions are applied to any other projects funded with current revenue, it would reduce them below levels currently approved levels in the adopted FY19-24 CIP.

If the Council requires this reduction, staff recommends that it be applied to the PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations. However, staff would also recommend that when transmitting this to the County Council as a non-recommended reduction that the Board request the Council add this to the Tier 1 group of funding restorations they identified on March 10, 2020. The Council's other Tier 1 restorations include funding increases in the following capital projects:

- Trails: Hard Surface Renovation (P888754) - \$350,000 (FY21-23)
- Trails: Natural Surface & Resource-based Recreation (P858710) - \$800,000 (FY21-26)
- Vision Zero (P871905) - \$400,000 (FY21-22)

For reference, a summary of the FY21-26 CIP as tentatively approved and amended by the County Council on March 10, 2020 is provided on **page ©4**.

Conclusion

Staff seeks approval of recommendations outlined in this report that would amend the Department's submission of the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

⁴ In the approved FY19-24 CIP, Current Revenue: General funding in this Capital Project for FY20 is \$1.703 million. The County Executive's recommendation would fund Current Revenue General in FY21 at \$1.863 million. The approved FY 19-24 CIP funds FY21 at \$2.348 million. The Department's request in November 2019 was \$2.6 million



The General Assembly adjourned Sine Die on March 18, 2020. Their work included awards of State Aid through bond bills totaling \$1.05 million:

Olney Family Neighborhood Park

Award \$200,000

Description To provide an additional playground facility to meet active recreation needs for the community.

Olney Family Neighborhood Park is a 27-acre park located in Olney, Maryland, acquired by Montgomery Parks in 1970. Its recreational features include two playgrounds, a ballfield, multi-use field, and a picnic area. The purpose of the project is to introduce a playground in Olney Family Neighborhood Park within proximity to one that was removed in 2018 due to it being located in a secluded, perennially wet natural area with no access to maintain the dated equipment. Montgomery Parks will install a new playground and improve the access to the Park, providing a much requested new amenity for the members of the surrounding community to enjoy.

Matching Funds Source Panned Lifecycle Asset Replacement: Local Parks--Play Equipment (P998703)

District 14

Sponsors Del. Craig Zucker

Fairland Recreational Park

Award \$100,000

Description To establish a natural surface bike trail skills track to serve a wide range of users with varying skill levels.

Fairland Recreational Park is a 322-acre park located in District 14 in Montgomery County. The purpose of this project is to establish a natural-surface bike trail skills park to serve a wide range of users with varying skill levels. Trails, both paved and natural surface, are the top ranked Park amenities in the County and promote healthy communities. This project will provide a premiere outdoor recreation facility that will serve

neighbors in a part of the County with a need for additional trails and will draw visitors from the entire county and beyond.

Matching Funds Source Trails: Natural Surface & Resource-based Recreation (P858710)

District 14

Sponsors Del. Eric Luedtke, Del. Craig Zucker

Willet Branch Greenway

Award \$400,000

Description To acquire land to create the planned Willett Branch Greenway in the Westbard community.

Montgomery Parks plans to acquire land to create the future Willett Branch Greenway in the Westbard community. The purpose of the Greenway is to transform a degraded, channelized stream into a community amenity. The Greenway will improve the ecological functioning of the Willett Branch stream, and thus the connected Little Falls watershed, the Potomac, and the Chesapeake Bay. The Greenway will also provide greatly needed pedestrian and bicycle linkages across the Westbard area and between the two existing linear parks in the area (the Little Falls Stream Valley and Capital Crescent Trail). The Greenway will feature a naturalized stream, trails, forested areas, interpretive signage, public art and seating.

Matching Funds Source Acquisition: Local Parks (P767828), Legacy Open Space (P018710)

District 16

Sponsors Sen. Susan Lee, Del. Marc Korman, Del. Mark Chang

Long Branch-Garland Neighborhood Park

Award \$350,000

Description To replace the playground and provide additional neighborhood amenities within the park, including improved paved trail connections and green space.

Long Branch-Garland Neighborhood Park serves a densely populated, lower-income and ethnically diverse community. The 32-year old playground is in poor condition and needs to be renovated. The purpose of the project is to replace the playground and provide additional neighborhood amenities within the park, including improved paved trail connections and green space. The funding from the State will upgrade the park for families within the neighborhood several years earlier than would otherwise occur with traditional funding.

Matching Funds Source Planned Lifecycle Asset Replacement: Local Parks--Minor Renovation (P998702)

District 20

Sponsors Sen. Will Smith, Del. David Moon, Del. Charkoudian



Status of the FY12-26 CIP for Parks

As the County Council continues to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak the budget situation will likely continue to change before the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) is adopted in May. The Council's most recent review of the CIP for Parks took place on March 10, 2020. Council approved amendments to the Department's CIP submission include:

- Creating a Legacy Urban Space (P872104) capital project, \$150 million with \$18 million in FY21-26 funded with Program Open Space transferred from the Acquisition: Local Parks (P767828) and Acquisition: Non-Local Parks (P998798)
- Increasing Funding for Trails
 - Trails: Hard Surface Renovation (P888754) - \$350k (FY21-23)
 - Trails: Natural Surface & Resource-based Recreation (P858710) - \$800k (FY21-26)
- Increasing funding for the Vision Zero (P871905) capital project - \$400k (FY21-22)
- Adding a new CIP project Blair HS Field Renovations and Lights (P872105) to renovate Blair HS Fields, \$2.9 million (FY22-23)
- Restoring funding for Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park (P871745) - \$3 million that would have been reduced to meet County Executive reductions requested on January 15, 2020¹
- Restoring FY22 funding of \$250k to Brookside Gardens Master Plan Implementation (P078702) that would have been delayed to FY23 to meet County Executive reductions requested on January 15, 2020
- Restoring FY26 Funding of \$620k to Northwest Branch Recreational Park-Athletic Area (P118704) that would have been delayed due to reductions to meet County Executive reductions requested on January 15, 2020
- Acquisition: Local Parks (P767828) – transferring \$1 million Program Open Space to FY22 from the delay of Little Bennett Day Use Area to FY27 or beyond to meet County Executive reductions requested on January 15, 2020
- Black Hill Regional Park: SEED Classroom (P872101)
 - Approving the Department's reduced scope and budget of the project, \$450k reduction
 - Transferring in \$250k of FY20 State Aid appropriation from the Minor New Construction - Non-Local Parks (P998763) capital project
- Approving a funding switch of \$2.137 million in the S. Germantown Recreational Park: Cricket Field (P871746) from GO Bonds to Program Open Space to meet County Executive reductions requested on January 15, 2020 to meet County Executive reductions requested on January 15, 2020
- Wheaton Regional Park Improvements (P871904) - Funding Switch FY26, \$360k, from GO Bonds to POS and Accelerated \$250k GO Bonds into FY24
- Delaying all funding beyond FY26 for the Little Bennett Regional Park Day Use Area (P138703) capital project, \$8.176 million to meet County Executive reductions requested on January 15, 2020

¹ In addition, this includes switching \$2.9 million of GO Bond funding with Program Open Space that was made available by the delay of the Little Bennett Regional Park Day Use Area (P138703) capital project beyond FY26

- Delaying funding of Athletic Field Renovations at public school sites until Operating Budget discussions in April in the Ballfield Initiatives (P008720) capital project, \$3.6 million²
- Reducing Legacy Open Space (P018710) by \$1.636 million (FY21-22) responding to CIP reductions requested by the County Executive on January 15, 2020
- Reducing Planned Lifecycle Asset Replacements: NL - Minor Renovations (P998708) by \$1.512 million responding to CIP reductions requested by the County Executive on January 15, 2020
- Reducing Restoration of Historic Structures (P808494) by \$830k responding to CIP reductions requested by the County Executive on January 15, 2020

This brings the Department's original request of \$253.3 million in November 2019 to \$242.5 million.³

² However, on March 16, 2020, the County Executive recommended funding the project in FY21 and FY22 with Current Revenue: Community Use of Public Facilities funding, \$600k each year. This is still to be discussed by the County Council.

³ The currently approved FY19-24 CIP is \$243.7 million.