

## Item 11 - Correspondence

**From:** [Henry Lebard](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Parks and alcohol  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020 5:44:30 PM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Hi there,

As a montgomery county resident for 30+ years ( I am thirty years old), I have been grateful for our lovely, calm parks that offer tranquility and peace from life that can otherwise be stressful.

This is why I am opposed to allowing alcohol in parks and ask that you please do not allow alcohol consumption in public parks under any circumstances. This could lead to widespread littering (my wife and I recently cleaned 150 gallons of bottles and garbage out of Rock Creek this Labor Day weekend because we value clean parks and the animals need zero/low pollution to survive).

Inebriated people often do not have the wherewithal to:

clean up after themselves, maintain social distancing, show a good example to children who use these parks, and could lead to fights among civilians that otherwise wouldn't occur.

Additionally, this could lead to the homeless population (very high rates of substance abuse) finding parks as a place of solitude to consume alcohol freely and use that as an excuse to stay (and sleep there) that would run the sanctity of Montgomery Parks.

In conclusion, please never allow consumption of alcohol in our parks. Thank you for your time.

Henry Lebard  
4620 Langdrum Ln  
Chevy Chase, MD  
20815  
240.444.2383

**From:** [Ric's email](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** In support of: temporarily revoking a ban on alcohol consumption at some local parks  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020 6:58:05 PM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

To whom it may concern. I would like to express my support for this proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Kind regards,  
Ric

**From:** [Amber Tofilon](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Alcohol in Parks  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020 7:47:51 PM

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Hello —

We are writing to urge you to NOT allow alcohol in our local parks. We live near Norwood Park and are concerned about increased trash, like discarded beer cans, and potentially broken or discarded glass bottles that likely would accompany any move to allow alcohol in the parks.

We understand the desire to support local restaurants through the Picnic in the Park program, but this step is short-sighted. We are sure the proponents envision responsible adults drinking a glass of wine with a meal purchased from a local restaurant. But the reality likely will be large groups of young people, possibly underage, gathering to drink, getting rowdy, and throwing beer bottles and cans. The result will be increased risk to children, dogs, and others who use the parks for their intended purpose — recreation. We suspect you will also see an increase in calls for the police to come to the parks.

We urge the board to recognize that the risks here far outweigh the potential benefit. Please do not authorize alcohol in the parks.

Thank you,

Patrick and Amber Tofilon

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Maya and Ian Burns](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Alcohol inParks  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020 11:02:00 PM

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Hello,

I think it would be good to temporarily lift the ban on alcohol in Norwood Park. This would support local restaurants, and provide an additional safe outdoor space where people could meet while staying socially distant.

Maya Larson  
4804 Morgan Dr  
Chevy Chase MD 20815

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Michelle James](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Are you kidding me?  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 9, 2020 6:59:20 AM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Allowing ALCOHOL in our parks????????? RIDICULOUS!!!! There's already so much illegal sh-- going on in our parks/county already!!  
Do you actually think this will HELP MOCO???? It will HARM MOCO greater than it will help businesses. Now how many people will be killed as the crowd goes wild with permitted alcohol?? Do you actually think that Park Police can handle all that? With MOCO Police being defunded, do you think you will get back up??? Not to mention, as they get intoxicated, how much more DISEASE will be spread when they peel off their masks with abandon.

**From:** [Lloyd Guerci](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#); [Fani-Gonzalez, Natali](#); [Cichy, Gerald](#); [Patterson, Tina](#); [Verma, Partap](#)  
**Subject:** Request for removal of "Temporary Suspension of Alcohol Prohibition in Designated Parks" from Board consent agenda of September 17  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 9, 2020 1:14:00 PM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Chair Anderson and Commissioners:

The Planning Board consent agenda for September 17 contains an item involving Temporary Suspension of Alcohol Prohibition in Designated Parks. I live within about a half mile of one of the parks - Norwood Park.

While I object to this, as I understand the rules ([http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/documents/consent\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/documents/consent_agenda.pdf)) the preliminary matter is that it would have to be withdrawn from the consent agenda. I request withdrawal from the consent agenda because this proposal would be controversial.

As to controversy, I cite the failed Parks carry -in (food etc) - carry-out (trash) program of about 16 years ago that involved removal of trash cans in certain county parks. There was public opposition to this program (a mess had ensued), at least one demonstration in Meadowbrook Park that included then Council Members Tom Perez and George Leventhal and residents including myself (see generally, Snyder, David; Perlstein, Linda (Mar 4, 2004). ["Perez Fed Up With 'Carry-In, Carry-Out'"](#). *The Washington Post*. p. T2.) The County Council ultimately directly or indirectly eliminated the program.

Among the reasons this would be controversial are trash, possible broken glass, public drunkenness, possible fights and possible police intervention that becomes highly problematic, to say the least. This country needs to avoid any more police confrontations.

Thank you for considering this request.

Lloyd Guerci  
Hunt Ave  
a Montgomery County resident

**From:** [cpgreen@verizon.net](mailto:cpgreen@verizon.net)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#); [Fani-Gonzalez, Natali](#); [Cichy, Gerald](#); [Patterson, Tina](#); [Verma, Partap](#)  
**Subject:** Request for removal of "Temporary Suspension of Alcohol Prohibition in Designated Parks" from Board consent agenda of September 17  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 9, 2020 9:52:27 PM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Chair Anderson and Commissioners:

The Planning Board consent agenda for September 17 contains an item involving **Temporary Suspension of Alcohol Prohibition in Designated Parks**. As I understand the rules ([http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/documents/consent\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/documents/consent_agenda.pdf)), the preliminary matter is that it would have to be withdrawn from the consent agenda.

I request withdrawal from the consent agenda because this proposal is likely to lead to more cases of covix-19. Just when the number of covix-19 cases is coming down in our county, allowing alcohol drinking in public parks is likely to lead to a spike in covix-19 infections. As we have seen in several states when bars were allowed to open, there has been a surge of cases, especially among young adults. Even though the use of alcohol would be outdoors, it is difficult to maintain social distancing as people mingle and perhaps remove their masks.

Now is not the time to lower our guard and risk a new spike in covid-19 infections. Given the fact that our testing sites and tracking of infected people are still not as robust and extensive as are needed, we cannot risk having a new wave of covix-19 infections. This is a deadly virus. Even those who survive may have lifelong disabilities. Treatment costs for covix-19 can run into thousands of dollars, posing hardship for patients and their families to pay medical bills, especially those who do not have health insurance. As you know, people of color and those in essential jobs are more likely to be infected by covix-19. Our officials should do everything in their power to prevent further spread of covix-19.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Green  
Bethesda, MD

**From:** [MMJ](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Data?  
**Date:** Thursday, September 10, 2020 1:39:59 PM

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

There are 2 explosive NEXTDOOR strings on the alcohol in the parks proposal to be discussed on 27 September. Here's a comment from someone to my suggestion about looking at data on the proposal  
"Margaret Jylkka.... you are joking, yes? They don't use data. They don't do research? They don't do impact analyses. They don't look at other justifications to see if they have had success or not. They just guess and implement ideas they think will work without checking."

Can you comment?

V/R,  
Margaret Jylkka

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [David Baxter](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Temporary Suspension of Alcohol Prohibition...  
**Date:** Thursday, September 10, 2020 1:46:34 PM  
**Importance:** High

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

I realize this is supposed to be written the day before, but I just learned about this today from a post on Nextdoor.

I live in Montgomery County, and I want to express my **support** for this proposal. I support it because:

- (1). It seems like a sensible way to allow folks to order from restaurants and bars and permit social distancing.
- (2). It also seems like this is a good way to further Montgomery County's parks utilization. People aren't able to travel far, and this is a way for them to get out and enjoy themselves without putting themselves at risk.
- (3). I already feel like the County is too restrictive on alcohol use. I mean, how is this any different from people smoking in parks? People do that all the time.
- (4). The notion that children seeing adults drink responsibly is somehow damaging to children is patently absurd.

Thank you for hearing me out. Again, I know this may be too late for the actual hearing, but I wanted to counter the (in my opinion) unreasonable voices I saw on Nextdoor.

Sincerely,

David Baxter  
4005 Spruell Drive  
Kensington, MD. 20895  
[davesmaint@mac.com](mailto:davesmaint@mac.com)  
410-963-3342 (texting best)

**From:** [MMJ](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Data?  
**Date:** Thursday, September 10, 2020 3:27:49 PM

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Thanks!and typo: 17 September not 28 Sept

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 10, 2020, at 3:08 PM, MCP-Chair <mcp-chair@mncppc-mc.org> wrote:

>

> Good afternoon,

>

> I am confirming receipt of your comments and inquiry and will distribute to the Planning Board and staff to review and address.

>

> Thank you,

>

> Catherine Coello, Administrative Assistant

> The Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission

> Montgomery County Chair's Office

> 2425 Reddie Drive, Wheaton, MD 20902

> Main: 301-495-4605 | Direct: 301-495-4608 | Fax: 301-495-1320

> <https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.montgomeryplanningboard.org%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cmcp-chair%40mncppc-mc.org%7C4937262e78e14b5a24f208d855b98f5%7Ca9061e0c24ca4c1cbeff039bb8c05816%7C0%7C0%7C637353628681425236&sddata=S4MH%2BW9VC2hYGGEPysbZOL3ZTrR7kwlciwWITzDKS18%3D&reserved=0>

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: MMJ <mmjylkka@aol.com>

> Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 1:40 PM

> To: MCP-Chair <mcp-chair@mncppc-mc.org>

> Subject: Data?

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> [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

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> There are 2 explosive NEXTDOOR strings on the alcohol in the parks proposal to be discussed on 27 September.

> Here's a comment from someone to my suggestion about looking at data on the proposal "Margaret Jylkka.... you are joking, yes? They don't use data. They don't do research? They don't do impact analyses. They don't look at other justifications to see if they have had success or not. They just guess and implement ideas they think will work without checking."

>

> Can you comment?

>

> V/R,

> Margaret Jylkka

>

> Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Coello, Catherine](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Alcohol in the parks? CRM:0237372  
**Date:** Friday, September 11, 2020 9:15:05 AM  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Bowers, Shelby <shelby.bowers@montgomeryparks.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 11, 2020 7:24 AM  
**To:** Coello, Catherine <catherine.coello@mncppc-mc.org>  
**Cc:** MCP-CustomerService <customerservice@montgomeryparks.org>  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Alcohol in the parks? CRM:0237372  
**Importance:** High

Morning Catherine,

Can you make sure that the patron's comments below also make it into the record for the Planning Board? This email came through the M-NCPPC general email and was forwarded directly to us at Parks. I will confirm receipt with the customer.

Thank you,

**Shelby Bowers (Geraci) | Public Information & Customer Service Manager**  
Montgomery Parks | The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
Mobile: 240.315.6964 | Office: 301.670.8013  
2425 Reedie Drive | Wheaton, MD 20902  
[MontgomeryParks.org](http://MontgomeryParks.org)

----- Original Message -----

**From:** InfoMncppc;  
**Received:** Wed Sep 09 2020 15:06:14 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)  
**To:** MCP-Parks;  
**Subject:** FW: Alcohol in the parks?

Please assist.

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**From:** Joe Wroblewski <[jwrobl@verizon.net](mailto:jwrobl@verizon.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 9, 2020 9:56 AM  
**To:** InfoMncppc <[info@mncppc.org](mailto:info@mncppc.org)>  
**Subject:** Alcohol in the parks?  
**Importance:** High

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Is the planning commission considering allowing alcohol usage and delivery to the parks? I am strongly apposed to this if true. Noise and trash are currently a nuisance to park users and nearby residents. These will only get worse with the legitimate use of alcohol. I hope this rumor is just that,

a rumor.

Please advise and thanks for your consideration of my opinion.

J. Wroblewski

**From:** [Coello, Catherine](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Alcohol in Parks  
**Date:** Friday, September 11, 2020 1:31:17 PM

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**From:** Bowers, Shelby <[shelby.bowers@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:shelby.bowers@montgomeryparks.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 11, 2020 1:22 PM  
**To:** Coello, Catherine <[catherine.coello@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:catherine.coello@mncppc-mc.org)>  
**Cc:** MCP-CustomerService <[customerservice@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:customerservice@montgomeryparks.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Alcohol in Parks

Hi Catherine,

Here's another email to add to the record for the proposed alcohol directive. I've issued receipt to the customer.

Thank you,

**Shelby Bowers (Geraci), M.S. | Public Information & Customer Service Manager**

Montgomery Parks | The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Mobile: 240.315.6964 | Office: 301.670.8013

2425 Reedie Drive | Wheaton, MD 20902

[MontgomeryParks.org](http://MontgomeryParks.org)



@MontgomeryParks

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**From:** Michelle James <[michellejames0409@gmail.com](mailto:michellejames0409@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 11, 2020 1:08 PM  
**To:** Bowers, Shelby <[shelby.bowers@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:shelby.bowers@montgomeryparks.org)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Alcohol in Parks

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Thank you. I also had read this and still did not feel it was enough in that 1. Park Police have virtually no real ability to handle extreme situations, and MOCO Police will not prioritize any emerging incidents. 2. Also, I am worried that a small incident could turn very bad, very quickly, like in some of the publicized incidents in recent months. 3. This is not a good example to set for children. 4. Not at all pleased that one of the selected areas IS Wheaton, which already has an increased issue with crimes. 5. I fear an increase in drunk driving; not everyone walks to the park, which can cause more harm to persons and property. 6. I have contacted MADD about this to take action for those of us who have lost loved ones through drunk driving.

The above was what I wrote to my neighbor in response to the details you wrote her regarding the pilot program of allowing alcohol in parks. What small amount of good you all believe this may do for some businesses, it will do more harm than good. Also, many neighbors have already said that if it is allowed, they will simply bring in their own alcohol, rather than pay extra to have food/alcohol delivered.

**From:** [Laura Hambleton](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Alcohol in Parks  
**Date:** Sunday, September 13, 2020 3:45:31 PM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Chair,

Parks are shared community spaces—for children, young people, adults and dogs. Let's keep them welcoming. Dogs on leashes. Alcohol at home.

Please do not allow alcohol in parks, even temporarily.

Thank you,  
Laura Hambleton  
Hunt Avenue  
Chevy Chase

**From:** [Paula Merryman](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Public Drinking in Montgomery County Parks  
**Date:** Sunday, September 13, 2020 8:38:46 PM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear MCP Chairman,

What does it mean when it says that the Proposal for Public Drinking in Montgomery County Parks is moved from consent in the agenda for the September 17th, 2020 Planning Board meeting? As a 35 year resident of Montgomery County, I strongly object to drinking alcoholic beverages in any park. Parks are for children and families. How can the Park Police monitor that the public will not be at risk to contact with drunk citizens in the park areas or drunk drivers in the parks' parking lots?

Respectively yours,  
Paula Merryman  
2824 Hardy Avenue  
Wheaton, Md. 20902



**From:** [Seth Goldman](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** opposition to alcohol in the park  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 9:47:30 AM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

We are strongly opposed to allowing alcohol in the park (even temporarily). The parks are community gathering spots where families can gather, and should be able to do so safely and without concern. Introducing alcohol into a family setting creates risk and the potential for reckless behavior. This would be an especially bad change to make during a time when parents are worried about keeping everyone safe. Thank you, Seth Goldman

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Seth Goldman

**Founder, [Eat the Change](#)<sup>TM</sup> | [PLNT Burger](#) | Learn about [ETC Impact](#)**  
4827 Bethesda Ave.  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Twitter: [@HonestSeth](#) | [Climate change is real. So is our power to act.](#)

**From:** [MMJ](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Submission of Comments for 17 SEPT Planning Board - Topic: Alcohol Proposal-Picnic In The Parks  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 2:15:06 PM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "a.gov" <mmjylkka@aol.com>  
**Date:** September 14, 2020 at 1:45:02 PM EDT  
**To:** "Shelby.Bowers@MontgomeryParks.org" <Shelby.Bowers@MontgomeryParks.org>  
**Subject:** Submission of Comments for 17 SEPT Planning Board - Topic: Alcohol Proposal-Picnic In The Parks  
**Reply-To:** "a.gov" <mmjylkka@aol.com>

September 14, 2020

To: Montgomery County Planning Board

Re: Alcohol Delivery - Picnic In The Parks Program

The proposal to allow alcohol delivery as part of MOCO *Picnic In The Park* Program has stimulated lively discussion on the NEXTDOOR Tool. I am submitting comments for your review in making the best decision for our community, hoping that you base your final decision on the 2nd and 3rd order effects that will be created by allowing alcohol in the parks.

This chart is an abbreviated summary of the 275 plus comments on the 2 main strings on NEXTDOOR.

**For Initiative Reason**

1. You can already drink in parks w/ permit driving/public safety, particularly for children
2. Other countries allow alcohol in public
3. People are already drinking in the parks benefit to businesses
4. It's only temporary
5. There is no threat to child welfare. /Traffic problems in local neighborhoods

**Against Initiative Reason**

1. Drunk
2. Trash/ glass
3. Doubt real
4. ?able selection of beta sites: why Wheaton and not Bethesda/ Potomac. Cabin John?
5. Parking
6. COVID: disregarding

science of gatherings in Stage Two

7. Cold weather/ early sunsets (parks closures) make benefit temporary limited benefit.

My personal comments against the initiative:

- Once people see alcohol delivery they are going to assume that they can bring their own.
- Policing legal ages of delivery personnel and customers is problematic.
- The burden of added policing to our Police Force is placing resources poorly.
- Jurisdiction of policing (MOCO Police vs Park Police) has been confusing in the past. i.e. Policing along Windham Lane ( another prime trash site and gathering spot since 2017 murder of Jon-Christian Kemachet-Webster- that was a 6-8 week alcohol party)): if the offenders are on the sidewalk- call MOCO Police: if the offenders are on the grass call Park Police...Who's on first?ARGHHH!!!
- Trash: MOCO already gets an "F " in trash control. There is a NEXTDOOR post from yesterday( and several prior) on the mess in Wheaton Veteran's Park, Glenhaven Park and Sligo. The Planning Board might want to take a stroll from their new offices to Veteran's Park and continue along Amherst and Glenhaven Parkway to witness the beer/liquor bottles, fast food containers, condoms and rubber gloves that are left after customers purchase from Georgia Avenue/University Blvd, vendors.

Your citizens do more park cleaning than your crews will ever do. It is getting dangerous to climb down into those creeks to retrieve trash. Dirt walls will be caving in soon. Plopping a trash bin down in a park is not trash control. How about working on plastic free MOCO?

METRICS:

- Where is the data for cost/benefit to businesses vs .costs of added trash collection and policing?
- Where is the data on success/ failure of food delivery program so far?

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Jylkka  
for 42 years at 1720 Republic Road Silver Spring 20902  
mmjylkka@aol.com  
301-461-4374

**From:** [Arlene Rosenbusch](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Say no to alcohol in the parks  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 9:57:46 AM

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Committee:

Please reconsider allowing alcohol in any parks in Montgomery County. People get to the parks primarily by driving. Drunk driving is a major concern in Maryland. Even a little alcohol in a drivers system can be deadly. In addition there are numerous pedestrians, bicycle riders and others who are at special risk in the parks from drunk drivers. I know from personal experience, unfortunately my sister and her husband were killed by a drunk driver while riding their bike in Maryland in broad daylight. Since then I have become aware of the amount of drunk drivers on the roads, the lax laws and sentencing and the suffering that many have needlessly gone through because of alcohol use while driving. Please don't contribute to this! I know it will bring in more money for restaurants but at too large a cost. How much is a human life worth to you? Please be responsible and keep alcohol out of our parks. Parks are a refuge from the stress from this pandemic and I cherish our parks very much. I don't want to have to worry about drunk drivers in the parks on top of the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Ms. Arlene Rosenbusch  
14400 Gaines Ave.  
Rockville, MD 20853  
240-888-0645