

Summary of Testimony for the FY25-30 Capital Improvements Program

2023 - Open Town Hall/Public Forum/Planning Board

Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
1	Ann Oliver, VP West Friendship Association	
Forests, Green space	<p>Redouble efforts to preserve and protect existing greens spaces and tree canopies. Suggests possible new kinds of public-private partnerships that place skateparks in commercial development zones, replacing surface parking, for example, or moving pickleball courts and dog parks indoors, out of the weather, in redevelopment projects. The result is retention of green space and forests while providing year round access to indoor pickleball courts and dog parks</p>	<p>Thank you for your ideas and support for forests and green space in parks. Parks operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide improved green spaces and more native plants to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
2	Lynn Lichtenstein, Individual	
Playgrounds, Park Amenities	<p>Specifically, I ask that the Montgomery County Parks FY25-30 Capital Improvement Program and Montgomery County budgets include plans and funds to :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Put toddler jungle gyms (which include slides and climbing features) in the Lawton Center outdoor playground. 2) Recognize the needs of residents of the area and treat Elm Street Park and the Bethesda Market Park as neighborhood parks with spaces for residents to use including playgrounds for toddlers. Put a new toddler playground in Elm Street Park away from the Purple Line right-of-way. Coordinate with the Bethesda Market Park planners and developers so that at least one of these parks contains a new toddler playground with four or five jungle gyms, a splash pad, six or seven toddler swings, and benches for caregivers. 3) Replace the surface and equipment of the existing lower playground for toddlers at Norwood Park with a new surface and new playground equipment for toddlers. 	<p>Thank you for your support for playgrounds. Parks is actively working on multiple playground renovation projects, and we will look into the feasibility of including more amenities for younger users. The majority of playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.</p>
3	Jerry Withers, Individual	
Infrastructure, Stream Valley Parks, Amenities	<p>Sligo Creek: Bridge maintenance and repair, water quality, improved trail accessibility. Fenton Street in downtown Silver Spring lacks shade, places to sit, pocket parks for people or pets. Few tennis courts in down county and the few that exist should be converted into sports courts that support pickleball, basketball as well as tennis.</p>	<p>Thanks for your concerns about infrastructure, water quality in our Stream Valley Parks, trails, and other park amenities. Parks is working on multiple trail renovation and water quality projects, along with other park improvements throughout the County, but we have limited resources for this work. Parks is requesting funding increases for Stream Protection, Trails, and Infrastructure in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds projects like the ones suggested, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
4	Roger Paden, Individual	
Lyttonsville	<p>Strongly supports the New Lyttonsville Park. Design considerations: (1 I think that the skate spot is out of place. Not only will the spot introduce additional sporadic noise into the park, but I think that, if it attracts users there may be conflicts between spot users and trail users, who will be moving at different speeds. I urge you to save some money and eliminate the skate spot.</p> <p>2) There is a telephone pole adjacent to the memorial. This is unfortunate. It would be good if it could be moved so as to avoid this jarring juxtaposition. Money saved on the skate spot could be used to move the pole.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.</p>

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5		Dorothy Broadman, Individual	
	Native Plants	Make native plants your top priority. planting native gardens and using signage to educate on this important topic. There are many possible locations within our parks that would provide prominent locations for native gardening	Thanks for your support for native plants. Parks operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more native plants in our parks, and we appreciate any community support.
6		Dennis Hunter, Individual	
	Trails, Nature Centers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accessible and natural surface pathway(s) to increase accessibility to the park. 2. Update bird and raptor enclosures. They need it. The raptors, vultures, etc., add a cool factor to the park, are sought out by visitors and easily accessible. 3 Invest in technology to bring us, as observers and partakers of nature, closer to the wildlife and fauna that we want to see and experience, whether that be widespread camera and sound systems to bring images and sounds back into the nature center or to create more highly integrated and immersive experiences with wildlife and surroundings. 	Thank you for your ideas and your support for trails and nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in BHRP. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like updating trails and nature centers, and we appreciated any community support.
7		Zachary R, Individual	
	Cabin John Regional Park	Cabin John Park: Upgrade playground equipment (degraded). Suggests looking at Germantown Adventure Park/Wheaton Regional as examples.	Thank you for your interest in the Cabin John Regional Park playground. The majority of playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. As you noted, Parks is currently working on a design for South Germantown RP Adventure Playground, and we are interested in improving CJRP when funding becomes available. Please note that Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds projects like this, and we appreciated any community support.
8		Amanda Kjeldergaard, Individual	
	Bridges	Walking bridge across the Northwest Branch Anacostia River uniting the NW branch trail with the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail at the bottom of Laberton Drive and Quaint Acres Drive.	Thanks for your suggestion and we will investigate this for a possible future project.
9		Mickie Breitstein, Individual	
	Hard Surface Trails	More bench installation in Local Parks/on trails - similar to Sligo.	Thank you for your interest in trails. Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation projects that include installation of additional benches, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.
10		Christine/Fredric Knauer, Individuals	
	N/A	Willard Avenue Park: 1.) Removal of whole trees, large tree branches and other large debris that have fallen into Little Falls Creek which are blocking the flow of water through the park. One of these blockages is next to the River Road overpass and the other is adjacent to the children's playground also near River Road. 2.) Removal of a very large and growing swath of invasive bamboo plants in this park, which if left unattended will destroy other vegetation and create a dead zone for all other plants.	Thank you for alerting us to these issues. We will pass this along to our maintenance team for follow up. Please keep in mind that we have a serious problem with non-native invasives across our 37,000 acres of parkland, and limited resources for managing them.

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11		Larry Glatt, Individual	
	Trails, Native Plants	All plantings should be native plants only, not naturalized but the originating 'stock' should also be from native plants (including the trees). Second request is the the trails be a little more ADA helpful.	Thanks for your support for accessible trails and native plants. Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation projects that include ADA improvements. Parks also operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more accessibility and native plants in our parks, and we appreciate any community support.
12		Irene Rutter, Individual	
	Playground Renovation	Install more seating at playgrounds.	Thank you for your support for playgrounds. Parks is actively working on multiple playground renovation projects, and we will look into the providing more seating with these renovations. The majority of playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.
13		Lynn Dusinberre, Individual	
	Park Fees	In November 2022 the Norbeck East MC Park was wonderfully accessible to a wheelchair. Recommendation: Do not raise the fee for reserving a picnic shelter above the 2022 level.	Thank you for your kind words about parks and your suggestion about fees.
14		Andrew Rhodes, Individual	
	Trails	Support for funding of natural surface trails . Please give careful consideration to the Parks budget and the natural surface trails program in particular for the CIP budget and year to year funding.	Thank you for your interest in trails. Parks is working on multiple natural and hard surface trail renovation and extension projects, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.
15		Kathy Mihm, Individual	
	Wheaton Regional Park	Support for the CIP to include full funding to implement the Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan. I urge you to fully fund this excellent plan for an improved Wheaton Regional Park.	Thanks for sharing your support for Wheaton Regional Park. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is working on implementing the WRP Master Plan, which includes an Adventure Sports Parks, courts, bike skills, wayfinding signage, etc. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Wheaton Regional Park, in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds the Master Plan implementation, and we appreciate any community support.
16		Joanthan Aghion, Individual	
	Stream Valley Parks	Prioritize the restoration of these Stream Valley Parks in your upcoming capital improvement budget (particularly my local Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park and Sligo Creek Park). I kindly request that Montgomery Parks allocate a significant portion of the capital improvement budget towards initiatives aimed at restoring the Stream Valley Parks affected by untreated impervious areas.	Thank you for your support for environmental restoration of our Stream Valley Parks. As you noted, the majority of the downcounty watersheds were developed prior to stormwater management requirements. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Streams and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.

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17		Tevi Troy, Individual	
	Wheaton Regional Park	<p>The Wheaton outdoor tennis courts are an essential resource and I urge you not to eliminate any of them. The 6 outdoor courts there are in heavy use, at all hours of the day. The parks department has recently drawn pickleball lines on two of the existing outdoor tennis courts, but I can attest by being out there 6 days a week that they are rarely used for pickleball.</p> <p>The outdoor tennis courts at Wheaton are an essential and heavily used resource, and any master plan should not eliminate any of them.</p>	<p>Thanks for sharing your support for Wheaton Regional Park. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is working on implementing the WRP Master Plan, which includes an Adventure Sports Parks, courts, bike skills, wayfinding signage, etc. Please note that we are working on design plans that would retain the outdoor tennis courts and provide dedicated pickle ball courts where the basketball court is now. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Wheaton Regional Park, in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds the Master Plan implementation, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
18		Barbara Faust, Individual	
	Brookside Gardens	<p>Recommend that Brookside Gardens' request for additional funding to implement their Master Plan be included in the Montgomery County Planning Board's FY25-30 Capital Improvements Program. Please consider making this project a priority in the planning for Capital Improvements in FY25-30</p>	<p>Thank you for your support of Brookside Gardens. Parks has multiple projects in design to improve facilities within the Gardens, and we are initiating a Facility Plan for redeveloping the Conservatory and Formal Gardens areas, which will be considered as part of a future CIP.</p>
19		Tamara Clifford, Individual	
	Nature Centers	<p>We would ask that Montgomery Parks take seriously the continued funding for ongoing support and improvement of educational/nature centers.</p>	<p>Thank you for your ideas and your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in BHRP. The majority of our nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like updating nature centers, and we appreciated any community support.</p>
20		Deborah Sarabia, Individual	
	Trails	<p>Seneca Creek Greenway: Integrity of the Greenway is threatened by Mid-County Highway Extended. Please encourage MCDOT to terminate all plans for this road. Trail Connectivity: The trail connection at MD 355 from the County trailhead parking to Seneca Creek State Park is problematic and hard to locate. Invasive Plant Management and Native Plant Restoration: Allocation of resources is insufficient to combat this issue effectively.</p>	<p>We will pass your comment regarding M-83 along to planning staff and MCDOT, and our trails team will investigate the trail connection and Seneca Creek State Park. Unfortunately, we have a serious NNI problem across our 37,000 acres of parkland and limited resources for managing them. We focus our management efforts in Best Natural Areas, and also rely on our Weed Warrior volunteers to help us remove NNIs from parks.</p>
21		Michelle Frankfurter, Individual	
	Park Refreshers	<p>Balance increased urban density with the proposed pedestrian-only Green Promenade and other open green spaces. I'm referring to a parking lot on Greenwood Ave. across from the soccer field where a beautiful small park with an ancient tree previously existed. My priorities are sustainability, functionality, affordability,</p>	<p>Thank you for your ideas and support for parks and green spaces in urban areas. Parks has multiple Park Refresher projects in urban areas that include green spaces. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide improved green spaces in our parks, and we appreciate any community support.</p>

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22		Dawn Calabia, Individual	
	Stream Valley Parks, Climate, Native Plants	The agency needs to take into account population growth under Thrive 30, as well as expanded efforts to address the growing adverse impacts of climate change. These include preserving and expansion of our tree canopy, reduced pollution of stream beds, and retaining forested and open spaces. Friendship Heights DC and Montgomery County, and the Friendship Heights Urban Design Study offer for both governments to work together to identify land for a needed active urban boundary park.	Thank you for your support for native trees, addressing climate change, and environmental restoration of our Stream Valley Parks. The majority of the downcounty watersheds were developed prior to stormwater management requirements. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Streams and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.
23		Marcie Stickle, Silver Spring Historical Society Advocacy Chair, & George French, SSHA Board Member	
	Jesup Blair House	Jesup Blair Community House needs CIP funding NOW to bring it back to the life it once resounded with, including as S.S. Library, 1934-1957, and into 21st Century! House was a regular part of the CIP Funding for many years; including with support of 4-Year-Term Mo Co Executive Isiah Leggett; now CIP Funding must continue!! House & Park are significant at national, state, county, & local levels! Including as an Underground Railroad and active Civil War site.	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenent for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.
24		Kevin Misener, Individual	
	Native Plants, Stream Valley Parks, Stormwater	Supports prioritizing/funding of the following; Stream Bank Repair Under Frederick Rd/35, Invasive Plant Management and Native Plant Restoration, Enhanced Public Access to Seneca Creek Greenway, Nature Center at Black Hill Park, Shade for Playgrounds, Native Gardens with Information/Signange, E. Coli Monitoring for Creek Safety	Thank you for your support for native plants, community connections, and environmental restoration of our Stream Valley Parks. The majority of the downcounty watersheds were developed prior to stormwater management requirements. Also, the majority of park facilities were built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails, Streams, and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.
25		Cara Honzak, City Councilmember, Ward 5	
	Infrastructure, Water Quality, Stream Valley Parks	Support for/Prioritization of the followng; Improved pedestrian access/crossings where Domer Avenue and Wabash meet Sligo Creek Parkway, providing more direct access to Sligo Creek path and to Piney Branch Road in alignment with Long Branch Sector Plan, A shade structure for the newly renovated playground at Houston-Sligo Creek Park, A water fountain in this stretch of park, perhaps next to the Houston-Sligo Creek Park that is heavily used (in the face of increasing temperatures), Improved Picnic Tables/BBQ Grill Amenities/More of them, Repair railings along Sligo Creek Parkway, Open green space, A community bulletin board at the Kennebec Houston Sligo Creek Park, Consideration of a community art project under Carroll Bridge, Bird/Native Plant Education along path near Maple bridge, Discrete signage (such as a QR code) near Sligo Creek Park beaches (such as the one at thennebec Houston Sligo Creek Park) providing information about the safety of the water.	Thanks for your concerns about infrastructure, water quality in our Stream Valley Parks, trails, and other park amenities. Parks is working on multiple trail renovation, Park Refreshers, and water quality projects, along with other park improvements throughout the County, but we have limited resources for this work. Parks is requesting funding increases for Stream Protection, Trails, and Infrastructure in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds projects like the ones suggested, and we appreciate any community support.

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26		Dean Tousesley, Individual	
	Infrastructure, Trails	Supports Hard Surface trail improvements/maintenance across the park system (esp - stream valley trails - Sligo/Northwest Branch Trail/Southeastern County). Infrastructure repairs realted to safety: The boardwalk/bridge that runs right along the eastern edge of New Hampshire Ave. on the Sligo Creek Trail has severe corrosion on parts of the steel frame under the boards.	Thanks for your concerns about infrastructure and trails. Parks is working on multiple trail renovation and infrastructure improvements throughout the County, but we have limited resources for this work. Parks is requesting funding increases for Trails and Infrastructure in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds projects like the ones suggested, and we appreciate any community support.
27		Sally Taber, Individual	
	Infrastructure, Trails	Supports needed improvements to Sligo Creek Park (replace the guardrails along Sligo Creek Parkway, repave hiker/biker trail, renovate the bridge on the east side of New Hampshire Avenue). Supports trail maintenance efforts in the park system. Thank you for the renovations to the Hillwood Manor playground and the Houston/Kennebec playgrounds this summer.	Thanks for your support of playgrounds and your concerns about infrastructure and trails. Parks is working on multiple trail renovation, playground, and infrastructure improvements throughout the County, but we have limited resources for this work. Parks is requesting funding increases for Trails and Infrastructure in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds projects like the ones suggested, and we appreciate any community support.
28		Barabara Correia, Individual	
	N/A	Submission related to zoning MMPA - Minor Master Plan Amendment	Sorry, but there is not enough information to provide response.
29		Anne Roland, President - Friends of Brookside Gardens	
	Brookside Gardens	I urge you to make improvements to Brookside Gardens a priority in the FY25-30 Capital Improvement Program: wear and tear on the indoor and outdoor facilities is significant and noticeable. To address deteriorating conditions, Brookside needs a new Conservatory and renovation of the formal gardens for ADA compliance.	Thank you for you support of Brookside Gardens. Parks has multiple projects in design to improve facilities within the Gardens, and we are initiating a Facility Plan for redveloping the Conservatory and Formal Gardens areas, which will be considered as part of a future CIP.
30		Sally Gagne, Individual	
	Takoma Park	Special needs of the Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park; deer fence installed on the perimeter of the Park, continued stream restoration, planting and seeding of park space with minimal current growth, Kudzu removal - suggests herbicide program.	Thank you for your comment about Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park. We will add it to our list of parks to investigate activating with appropriate amenities and improvements. Your support for the Parks CIP allows us to take on projects like this.
31		Barbara Faust, Individual	
	Brookside Gardens	Recommend that Brookside Gardens' request for additional funding to implement their Master Plan be included in the Montgomery County Planning Board's FY25-30 Capital Improvements Program. Please consider making the Brooside Gardens Conservatory revitalization project a priority in the planning for Capital Improvements in FY25-30	Thank you for you support of Brookside Gardens. Parks has multiple projects in design to improve facilities within the Gardens, and we are initiating a Facility Plan for redveloping the Conservatory and Formal Gardens areas, which will be considered as part of a future CIP.
32		Ben Sandler/Micahela Reich, Individuals	
	Park Planning	Urge the Planning Board to take maximum measures to ensure residential privacy and security in around Mains HOA; plant and maintain a maximum amount of large trees along the property line adjacent to the Mains HOA, Sound Retention Barrier along the property line adjacent to the Mains HOA, replacing and upgrading the existing chain-link fence to provide greater security protection for the adjacent residential properties, remove the rear-gate along the fence-line adjacent to the Mains HOA, Remove the proposed trail entrance between the Timberlawn Park and the Woodward High School property.	Park Planning: Noted Mains HOA concerns are on school property not parkland.

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33		Bryan McCann, Individual	
	Lyttonsville	Support for the construction of the Neighborhood Park in Lyttonsville, at Kansas Ave.	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
34		Moira Hopkins, Individual	
	Lyttonsville	Support of the planned construction of the Neighborhood Park that will commemorate the Talbot Bridge.	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
35		Bill Hawkins, Individual	
	Lyttonsville	Support the development of the Lyttonsville neighborhood park. Approve the parks plan and fund the construction of the Lyttonsville Neighborhood Park	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
36		Matt Logan, Executive Director- Montgomery History	
	Lyttonsville	Support of the design and budget of the future Lyttonsville neighborhood park. Particularly pleased by the plans for the Talbot Avenue Bridge Memorial	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
37		Jay Mallin, Individual	
	Lyttonsville	Enthusiastically endorse the plan for a Lyttonsville Neighborhood Park (Talbot Avenue Bridge Memorial)	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
38		Alan Bowser, President Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.	
	Lyttonsville	Support of the Park Facility Plan - Future Neighborhood Park in Lyttonsville (Talbot Avenue Bridge Memorial)	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
39		Joel Teitelbaum, Individual	
	Lyttonsville	Strong support for final draft design/content prepared by Montgomery Parks Planners of the innovative, history-preserving "Future Lyttonsville Neighborhood Park" (Talbot Avenue Bridge Memorial)	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
40		Abe Schuchman, Individual	
	Lyttonsville	Support for the design and full funding of all elements of Lyttonsville Neighborhood Green (Talbot Avenue Bridge Memorial)	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
41		Anne Sumner, Individual	
	Lyttonsville	Wholeheartedly endorse the plan for the Future Neighborhood Park in Lyttonsville developed by M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks Staff. For the sake of both present and future generations, I urge the Montgomery County Planning Board to say YES to the park design and then allocate the funding which will make the new park possible. Consistent with the promises made in the Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan which calls for the creation of a public space network.	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.

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42		Jennifer Hess, Individual	
	Lyttonsville	Support for the proposed design of the Lyttonsville Neighborhood Park. I encourage the Planning Board to fully fund the park in the 2025-30 CIP Budget. I particularly like the inclusion of the former Talbot Bridge in the design.	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
43		Eva Santorini, Talbot Avenue Bridge Committee/Lyttonsville Museum Committee	
	Lyttonsville	I fully support the facility plan and full funding of the park Lyttonsville Neighborhood Park (Talbot Avenue Bridge Memorial) .	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
44		Webb Smedley, Green Committee Woodside Civic Association	
	Lyttonsville, Native Plants	Support for Lyttonsville Neighborhood Park . Project consideration: After the loss of so many trees for the construction of this major infrastructure project, it is important that the park be designed to allow the unencumbered growth of major native tree species as well as native pollinator plants. Please avoid overuse of any one species or non-native plants.	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
45		Valarie Barr, Individual	
	Lyttonsville	enthusiastically support the plan for the Future Neighborhood Park in Lyttonsville developed by M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks Staff. I urge the Planning Board to approve the park design and to allocate funding to create this new park. am particularly excited about the Talbot Avenue Bridge Memorial and Heritage Terrace, as the Bridge played an extraordinary role in Lyttonsville history. consistent with the promises made in the Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
46		Tony Marra, Chair of the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail	
	Lyttonsville	Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail enthusiastically supports the facility plan for the construction of the proposed new neighborhood park in Lyttonsville. Concern: placement of the "skate spot" directly adjacent to the Capital Crescent Trail. We are concerned that it could result in an unsafe and hazardous situation for pedestrians and bikers on the trail, as well as for skaters.	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We will reevaluate the skateboard feature along the CCT to avoid impacts to trail users. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
47		Clark Larson, Individual	
	Lyttonsville	Strong support for the New Lyttonsville Neighborhood Park Facility Plan to establish a new neighborhood park in the Lyttonsville community and along the future Capital Crescent Trail. Particularly in favor of the innovation and sustainable designs proposed by park planners, as well as the incorporation of elements of the Talbot Avenue bridge as part of the park's design.	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
48		Ginny Barnes, Vice Chair - Conservation Montgomery Board	
	Lyttonsville	Lyttonsville deserves a park. It has a long history and a desire to preserve remnants that have importance to the community. Anytime we can link a community history to proposed parkland, everyone wins. We add our organization to the many others who wish to see this park to completion.	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.

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49		River Pineta White, Individual	
	Lyttonsville	Support for Lyttonsville project. Is pleased with the bridge memorial design. Suggestion for Plants and playground area.	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
50		Jeremy Wells, Principal, Lived Heritage Studies, LLC	
	Lyttonsville	Support of the facility plan to create a neighborhood park in Lyttonsville. I strongly encourage the Planning Board to approve this plan, including assuring funding is allocated for its construction. I strongly support the Talbot Avenue Bridge Committee's recommendation that the girders from the bridge should be kept together and used to reconstruct, as much as is feasible, the original form of the bridge.	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
51		Anna White, Individual	
	Lyttonsville	Strong support for the facility plan for the future new Lyttonsville Neighborhood Park and for full funding of the park in the 2025-30 CIP Budget (Talbot Avenue Bridge)	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville. Please note that we are requesting a new project in the FY25-30 CIP to design and construct this park. We appreciate any community support for this project and the overall FY25-30 CIP.
52		Joyce Nalwajk, Individual	
	Jesup Blair House	Support request CIP funding for the restoration of Jesup Blair House and also for the Park	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.
53		Cassandra Fields, Individual	
	Nature Centers	Please support Montgomery County Nature Centers	Thank you for your ideas and your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in BHRP. The majority of our nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like updating nature centers, and we appreciated any community support.
54		Jeff, Jana, and Amelia Price, Family	
	Nature Centers	Please support Montgomery County Nature Centers	Thank you for your ideas and your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in BHRP. The majority of our nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like updating nature centers, and we appreciated any community support.
55		Carolyn Lampila, Individual	
	Vision Zero, Wheaton Regional Park, Park amenities	1). Vision Zero Funds - Safety & Reliable Access (Walking, Cycling, Transit, Sidewalks w/Bike Lanes & crosswalks, traffic calming) - Connections to/from WRP. Sligo creek closures 2). Maintaing and Enhancing Parks (trail enhancement, protect flora & fauna, skateparks, mountain bike trails pickleball courts, adaptive playground equipment.	Thanks for your support of various park amenities. The majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails, Streams, Wheaton Regional Park, and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to implement more improvements like the ones mentioned, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
56		David Scull, Individual, M.O.R.E	
	Natural Surface Trails, Wheaton Regional Park	Build and Maintain unpaved/natural service trails (Mountainbiking), trail maintenance in over 60 parks in region. Referenced PROS plan re: natural service trails. Double budget to \$1M for natural service trails (East County - shortage). Walkable trail, support for Wheaton Adventure Park support and PEPCO Trail. Pump Tracks & Bike tracks (Carson Farm & Carroll Knowles). Written Testimony also submitted.	Thank you for your interest in trails, Wheaton Regional Park, various park amenities. Parks is working on multiple natural and hard surface trail renovation projects, implementation of the Powerline Trail, and the WRP Adventure Sports Park, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails, WRP, and the PLAR-NL PDF in FY25-30 CIP, which help us implement more of the ideas like the ones raised, and we appreciate any community support.
57		Raymond Heinsman, Individual	
	CCT, Lyttonsville, Electrification, Trails, Vision Zero	Support for increasing funding for the following CIP items: Constructing Capital Crescent trails - Lyttonsville, Electrification and Solar Power Generation, Rehabilitate and Modernize aging Infrastructure and Park Amenities, Restoration of Stream Valley Parks, Vision Zero, Trails and Community connections, WRP Master Plan (Access).	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville, Energy Conservation, infrastructure rehabilitation, environmental restoration, Wheaton Regional Park, Trails, and other park amenities. Parks is working on multiple projects in these areas, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails, Energy Conservation, Streams, WRP, and the PLAR-NL PDF in FY25-30 CIP, which help us implement more of the ideas like the ones raised, and we appreciate any community support.
58		Alison Gillespie, Trail Liason M.O.R.E, Individual	
	Wheaton Regional Park, Trails, Vision Zero	Wheaton Regional Park. Needs to meet needs of community - Growing & Evolving. Equity Issues. Fully Fund WRP - Specifically mention, New Adventure Sports Complex, Skate Park, bouldering wall, Pump Track. No fees or registration. Basketball and soccer courts, bike skills, park wayfinding/signage. Vision Zero Funding, All funding for trails throughout the County. Written testimony also submitted.	Thank you for your support for trails, Wheaton Regional Park, and equity throughout the County. Parks is working on multiple trail renovation and expansion projects, Vision Zero improvements, and implementation of the WRP Adventure Sports Park, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails, WRP, and the PLAR-NL PDF in FY25-30 CIP, which help us implement more of the ideas like the ones raised, and we appreciate any community support.
59		Joe Kraut, Individual	
	Brookside Gardens	Support Funding rehabilitation/renovation at Brookside Gardens conservatory. Community Ownership. Support for additional programmatic enhancements (specialty/educational/train show) - Seasonal plant displays, event venue, additional amenities. Energy Savings. Written Testimony also provided.	Thank you for your support of Brookside Gardens. Parks has multiple projects in design to improve facilities within the Gardens, and we are initiating a Facility Plan for redeveloping the Conservatory and Formal Gardens areas, which will be considered as part of a future CIP.
60		Jack Ewart, Montgomery County Food Council	
	Infrastructure, Native Plants	Connection between park system and food system. Food system considerations/integration in partnership with park planning and infrastructure CIP projects (Community gardens, Urban Farms, Composting, Environmental Sustainability, rain water harvesting, native plants). Written testimony also submitted.	Thank you for your interest in parks infrastructure, native plants, and community gardens. Parks has multiple Park Refresher projects that include Community Gardens and also operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more infrastructure improvements and more native trees to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
61		Michael Manteuffel, Individual	
	Wheaton Regional Park	Wheaton Regional Park - Support and fully fund all projects (bike skills track, adventure park). Serves as a place to build familial connections. A place for community/cultural/DEI interactions - public space/park amenities help to foster. Written testimony also submitted.	Thanks for sharing your support for Wheaton Regional Park. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is working on implementing the WRP Master Plan, which includes an Adventure Sports Parks, courts, bike skills, wayfinding signage, etc. Parks is also working on multiple projects to incorporate Vision Zero and trail renovations. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Wheaton Regional Park the FY25-30 CIP, which funds the Master Plan improvements, and we appreciate any community support.
62		Kit Gage, Friends of Sligo Creek	
	Stream Valley Parks, Native Plants, Electrification	Emphasized importance of watershed activities (weed warrior, litter collection). Particular focus on: more contiguous forest space - acquisitions, stormwater management efforts, signage, native plants, no plastics, remove all rubberized playing fields, electrification of equipment, recycling, trash collection and education. Climate change considerations related to CIP projects. Supports overall funding increase requests for CIP. Written testimony also submitted.	Thanks for your concerns about water quality in our Stream Valley Parks, addressing climate change, and other park amenities. Parks is working on multiple projects to improve electrification and water quality through stormwater management and stream restoration, but we have limited resources for restoring environmentally sensitive areas. Parks is requesting funding increases for Energy Conservation and Streams in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds projects to address climate change and restore our streams, and we appreciate any community support.
63		Michael Duma, Individual	
	Trails, Vision Zero	Support for Long Branch Stream Valley Park: Long Branch stream trail extension to Sligo Creek/Northwest Branch- Population make-up/Equity Area, Improve trails- Property Acquisition). Supports funding for Stream Valley Trails.	Thank you for your interest in trails, community connectivity, and Vision Zero. Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation and extension projects, that incorporate community connections, and Vision Zero improvements, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.
64		Eva Santorini, Individual	
	Lyttonsville, Park Amenities	Supports increased CIP funding; Diversity/inclusion Benefits related to: Mental Health, exercise, food systems - community gardens. Additional written testimony submitted in support of Lyttonsville.	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville, Community Gardens, and other park amenities. Parks is working on multiple projects in these areas, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting a new project for Lyttonsville and increased funding for the PLAR-NL PDF in FY25-30 CIP, which help us implement more of the ideas like the ones raised, and we appreciate any community support.
65		Talisha Searcy, Mayor - City of Takoma Park	
	Trails, Vision Zero, Park Amenities	Support for Infrastructure improvements in Sligo Valley Stream Park and Sligo Parkway. Enhance park/pedestrian access/trail connections. Increased Vision Zero funding - improve intersections, traffic calming, restoration, erosion/outfall maintenance, desing/restoration - Maple avenue bridge/replacement - ADA. Bethel Lilly Neighborhood Park - Improved wayfinding/infrastructure and amenities. Long Branch Valley Stream Park - rehabilitate/modernize amenities. Takoma Piney Branch Park - Upgrade staircase handrails/Pedestrian Access. Purchase/Acquisition of WSSC Disposal properties. Takoma Park Minor Master Plan references. Additional written testimony submitted.	Thank you for your interest in trails, community connectivity, Vision Zero, and other park amenities. Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation and extension projects, that incorporate community connections, and Vision Zero improvements, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails and for the PLAR-NL PDF in FY25-30 CIP, which will allow us to implement projects like this, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
66		Jonathan Posner, Maryland Interscholastic cycling league (MIDL)	
	Natural Surface Trails, Vision Zero	Support for increased funding for natural surface trails - \$1M per year - specific trail requests related to trail mileage/design. Mutli-use trails (esp - East County). Amenities; Pump tracks, pocket bike parks, trailside - tool stands. More people/kids in parks - mountain biking. Equal opportunity/community nature access and physical activity through cycling. Membership is increasing - 3 Montgomery County teams in League.	Thank you for your interest in trails, community connectivity, Vision Zero, and other park amenities. Parks is working on multiple natural and hard surface trail renovation and extension projects, that incorporate community connections, and Vision Zero improvements, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, which will allow us to implement projects like this, and we appreciate any community support.
67		Seth Grimes, WABA	
	Vision Zero, Lyttonsville, Trails	Support for increased Vision Zero funding: traffic claming, safety improvements for parkway/trail intersections. Support for Lyttonsville/CCT. Increase rehabilitation of hard surface trail network in park system. Support for expansion of both hard surface and natural surface trail systems. Focus on East County and connections of ICC trails. Support for Parks Road PDF transfer. Written testimony also submitted.	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville, and Trails, and other park amenities. Parks is working on multiple projects in these areas, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails PDF in FY25-30 CIP, which help us implement more of the ideas like the ones raised, and we appreciate any community support.
68		Kalli Krumpos, Capital Trails Coalition	
	Trails, Vision Zero, Infrastructure, Lyttonsville	Support for hard surface trail system renovation/rehabilitation/instructure improvements. Support for CIP projects related to multi-surface trail system - build outs for ICC/CCT trail. Support for increased Vision Zero Funding and Lyttonsville.	Thank you for your interest in trails, community connectivity, Vision Zero, and other park amenities. Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation and extension projects, that incorporate community connections, and Vision Zero improvements, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails and for the PLAR-NL PDF in FY25-30 CIP, which will allow us to implement projects like this, and we appreciate any community support.
69		Jeremy Schwartz, Individual	
	Takoma Branch	Funding support for two parks; Sligo Mill Neighborhood Conservation Area (Extensive cleanup - trash, tires, construction debris/soil quality, trail access, signange). Takoma Park south neighborhood park (no amenities, signange, benches, trails). Written testimony also submitted.	Parks is working on a project with the City of Takoma Park to help restore Takoma Branch and address some of the historic dumping at Sligo Mill NCA. We will communicate your concerns to the City and continue to support their efforts.
70		Amy Federman, Individual	
	Lyttonsville, Wheton Regional Park, Park Amenities, Trails	Support for increased funding for Sligo Creek Parkway; historic elements, traffic claming, maintenance and expansion of mutli-use trail network. Support for Lyttonsville, Wheaton Regional Park, Brookside Conservatory, and nature centers across park system.	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville, and Trails, and other park amenities. Parks is working on multiple projects in these areas, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails, WRP, and the PLAR-NL PDF in FY25-30 CIP, which help us implement more of the ideas like the ones raised, and we appreciate any community support.
71		Ernest Rodriguez, M.O.R.E	
	Trails, Vision Zero, Infrastructure	Support for increased funding for CIP projects realted to: natural surface/mutli-use trails (suggested \$1M). Support Vision Zero: Connectivity/alternative transportation options, trail infrastructure, safety, and walkability. Support for expansion of stewardship and programming oportunites within park system.	Thanks for your various park amenities, infrastructue, trails, and environmental restoration. The majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Also, most of the County watersheds were developed prior to stormwater management requirements. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails, Streams, and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more ideas like the ones mentioned, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
72		Jill Ortman-Fouse, Individual	
	Vision Zero, Park Amenities	Supports aligning CIP with PROS plan. More funding for trails and Vision Zero projects. Importance of PROS: Investment in People and parts of county (equity focus areas) and aligning projects to meet community preferences (Ex, cricket fields). Support for Long Branch projects and the equity focus approach. Transition to a more urban system: community building focus related to park amenities - Skate parks, football courts, sand volleyball courts. picnic facilities, dog parks. Written testimony also submitted.	Thank you for your interest in trails, community connectivity, Vision Zero, and other park amenities. Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation and Park Refresher projects, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails and for the PLAR-NL PDF in FY25-30 CIP, which will allow us to implement projects like this, and we appreciate any community support.
73		Amanda Farber, East Bethesda Citizens Assoc (EBCA)	
	Lyttonsville, Park Amenities	Alignment of Master & Sector Plans related to Bethesda downtown plan - specifically 2022 PROS Plan: Acquisition priorities/properties (short-term 2021-2025) priorities - status/cost . Support for Lyttonsville neighborhood green projects - delivery of park upon completion of purple line. Request for Planning Board assistance in working with County to allow for "turn-on" of Local Park water features.	Thank you for your support of the new park in Lyttonsville and other park amenities. Parks is working on multiple projects in these areas, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for PLAR-NL PDF in FY25-30 CIP, which help us implement more of the ideas like the ones raised, and we appreciate any community support.
74		Robin Lasky, Individual	
	Art, Park Amenities	MNCPPC request - Free art giveaways. Importance of art in public spaces. Support for increased inclusion of art in parks system (sculptures). Combine wayfinding improvements/signage with art elements. Programming in parks: parties, open mics/poetry slams.	Thank you for your support of art in parks and other park amenities. Parks is working on new art installation at Gene Lynch UP, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for PLAR-NL PDF in FY25-30 CIP, which help us implement more of the ideas like the ones raised, and we appreciate any community support.
75		Allegra Cangelosi, Individual	
	Stormwater	Please take measures to protect the mature trees within Ed Wilhelm/PBES park and fields. The slopes they are on are eroding and will continue to do so without interventions. Before the trees show damage from soil erosion, please repair the slope and protect their growth.	Thanks for raising this concern. Parks is actively working with the City of Takoma Park arborist to implement measures to protect the trees at this location. We expect to have improvements implemented this fall.
76		Amy Tran, Individual	
	Olney, ADA, Trails	Please include various inclusivity options. This can range anything from a stroller/wheelchair ramp accessing a playground area to using soft turf instead of mulch Also playground features that all children can enjoy but provide more play opportunities for children who are hearing or vision impaired WATER FOUNTAINS , water fountains ,water fountains all along park trails and playgrounds please. There is a severe lack of water fountain options in MoBo. A great model to look at would be in VA along with the W&OD Trail, and the parks that connect it through Virginia, but especially in Arlington in Fairfax county is. It seems like every playground has a fountain and the runners appreciate it!	Parks is actively working on several park improvement projects in the Olney area, including playground upgrades with ADA improvements. and we will look to incorporate benches and court repairs. Also, our Trail Planners are evaluating feasible locations for drinking fountains and will take this input into consideration. The majority of parks were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.
77		Anita Burkam, Individual	
	Native Planting	I'm interested in fighting invasives and planting natives! I'd like to be kept informed about initiatives in that direction! I live near Spring Park.	Thank you! If you are not already involved, please look into our Weed Warriors program: https://montgomeryparks.org/support/volunteer/weed-warriors/ .

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
78		Anne Pfitzer, Individual	
	Trails, Invasive removal	<p>I am glad Sligo Creek Parkways is a priority for the next CIP. I would love it if there were new maps, especially in the Wheaton area as I got hopelessly lost while biking along the trail: there are many forks without indication of where they go.</p> <p>I also would love it if the Department of Parks would prioritize eradicating so many of the invasive species that have taken over large swatches of parkland. English ivy, lesser celandine, Japanese honeysuckle are prominent examples.</p>	<p>Thank you for your interest in trails. Parks is actively working on a multiple trail renovations throughout the County. The majority of our trails were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and or include wayfinding signage, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for trails in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support. Unfortunately, Parks has limited resources for managing NNIs across its 37,000 acres of parkland, and generally focuses its NNI removal efforts in Best Natural Areas. We also rely on volunteers to help with efforts elsewhere through our Weed Warriors program.</p>
79		Ashish Gupta, Individual	
	Hard Surface Trails	<p>More restrooms, especially on trails such as Rock Creek hiker biker trail, Sligo Creek trail, Seneca Ridge trail, Capital Crescent.</p>	<p>Thank you for your interest in trails. Parks is working on multiple natural and hard surface trail renovation projects, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
80		Barry Brokaw, Individual	
	Park Amenities	<p>I love Montgomery Parks and I would really love to see more educational opportunities and community engagement at them.</p> <p>Educating the public about ecology is something that Montgomery Parks is uniquely situated to provide. Native gardens throughout the parks, that include educational and interactive displays about the plants and insects that are supported by them, would have such a positive and lasting impact on our community.</p> <p>One idea to bring more people to the parks would be to have an amphitheater where free concerts and shows could be offered to the community. This idea is based on going to free shows at the Overton Park Shell, in Memphis TN.</p> <p>Slightly less ambitious events like farmer's markets or arts and crafts shows would be good ways to get new people to the parks.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing where Montgomery Parks go in the coming years.</p>	<p>Thanks for your support of various park amenities. The majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails, Streams, and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more improvements like the ones mentioned, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
81		Ben Hines, Individual	
	Playground, Amenities	<p>A new playground at "Laytonville Park" on Brink Rd. The playground is broken and outdated. The field is nice but it would be great to have a place for siblings to play during practices. It would also increase the likelihood of the park getting rented out more.</p> <p>Unity Park on 650 is also pretty worn out. Everything still functions but there is a lot of unused playground space. It could accommodate a much larger play structure.</p> <p>Sundown Rd Park got a delightful renovation. However when the grading/drainage was redone they took out some really nice shade trees near the playground. Now all the benches are in the direct sun. It would be nice to get some shade trees back.</p>	<p>Parks is actively working on a multiple playground upgrades throughout the County, and we are currently initiating a playground renovation project at Laytonville Park, we believe it will be well received by park users. The majority of our playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support. We appreciate your comments on Sundown LP, and we are working with our nursery to see if more shade trees could be planted there.</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
82		Busy Graham, Individual	
	Nature Centers	<p>A number of our nature centers could use some updating. In particular, the Locust Grove Nature Center needs additional indoor classroom space and updates to exhibits that don't seem like they've been updated in decades.</p> <p>I'm a big fan of Montgomery Parks programming and feel quite spoiled to live in a county that can offer the breadth and frequency of classes that Montgomery Parks does and most often at low or no cost. The nature centers especially are a tremendous resource for both me and my child to learn more about and appreciate nature. I've taken a few classes and especially appreciate that there are some targeting women and nonbinary folks. Thank you, Montgomery Parks!</p>	<p>Thank you for your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciated any community support.</p>
83		Chris Bruch, Individual	
	Bat Houses	<p>Consider installing bat houses in parks, including urban parks, as a mosquito mitigation strategy.</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment.</p>
84		Chris Irwin, Individual	
	Wheaton Regional Park	<p>I believe that Montgomery County should fully fund the Capital Improvements Program. The residents of Montgomery county deserve high quality parks with educational and recreation opportunities. Central to this is the current investment in Wheaton Regional Park. Please make sure that everything identified and approved in the Wheaton Master Plan is funded, including new multi-use trails, the adventure park including bike jumps, a skatepark for all wheels, and a parkour area.</p>	<p>Thanks for sharing your support for Wheaton Regional Park. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is working on implementing the WRP Master Plan, which includes an Adventure Sports Parks, courts, bike skills, wayfinding signage, etc. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for trails, Wheaton Regional Park, and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
85		Christine and Fredric Knauer, Individuals	
	Tree inspection, Tree Maintenance	<p>We live next to Willard Avenue Park in Chevy Chase and would like to request funds for long deferred maintenance and improvements in your budget for this park including the items below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removal of whole trees, large tree branches and other large debris that have fallen into Little Falls Creek which are blocking the flow of water through the park. One of these blockages is next to the River Road overpass and the other is adjacent to the children's playground also near River Road. These hazards will likely result in flooding of this park in a multi-day heavy rainfall because there is nowhere else for this water to go. 2. Removal of a very large and growing swath of invasive bamboo plants in this park, which if left unattended will destroy other vegetation and create a dead zone for all other plants. 	<p>Thank you for sharing your concerns. Montgomery Parks manages a comprehensive tree care program that includes tree inspection, tree maintenance and hazardous tree removal on parkland. Members of the public can submit a work order for the aboriculture to visit the affected site by visiting montgomeryparks.org.</p> <p>The Parks Department has limited resources for managing NNIs like bamboo, but we will look into the issue at Willard Avenue LP.</p>
86		Christine Morgan, Individual	
	Jesup Blair	<p>The CIP should include converting the Jessup Blair Park house (now empty) into an Arts & Local History hub, as proposed by the Silver Spring Historical Society & Carpe Diem Arts</p>	<p>Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
87		David Barr, Individual	
	Nature Centers	Please consider building an actual Nature Center at Black Hill Park. BHP has seen phenomenal growth over the past few years and while the park has a very nice visitor center, it would really, really be a benefit to have a nature center as well.	Thank you for your support for the Black Hill Nature Center, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in BHRP. The majority of our nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like updating nature centers, and we appreciated any community support.
88		Dennis Huffman, Individual	
	Maintenance, Trails	I'd love to seem the Sligo Mill NCA cleaned up and stabilized. It feels abandoned -- full of trash and overrun by invasives. There are also serious erosion problems.	Parks is working on a project with the City of Takoma Park, which is responsible for maintenance of the Sligo Mill NCA, to help restore Takoma Branch and address some of the dumping issues there. We will communicate your concerns to the City and continue to support their efforts.
89		Doreen Reilly, Individual	
	Recycling	I have one suggestion that I would like to see implemented across all of Montgomery Parks and that is to please provide recycling bins. I am not sure why there are only trash cans and no recycling bins, at least at the parks I frequent in DTSS. They are parks with fields for sports and playgrounds so there is a lot of plastic that is generated and it all gets thrown in the regular trash bins. It would seem to be a fairly simple thing to add given that trash pick-up comes to the parks, adding the recycling pick-ups wouldn't seem to be too difficult to implement. Thank you for considering as one small way to manage the ever increasing plastic waste in the world.	Thank you for sharing your concerns about recycling in our parks. We recognize that not all of our parks have recycling receptacles. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks.
90		Edgar Rivas, Individual	
	Trails, Nature Centers	In general, Montgomery Park's Nature Centers are in serious need of support. Locus Grove Nature Center needs a building for better learning/classroom space; they need supplies for the Nature on Wheels vehicle in order to facilitate better citizen science and educational activities in underserved communities, e.g. senior centers, public libraries, public housing, etc.; Brookside NC needs support for more pond-related activities, better outreach into the surrounding communities and enhanced educational offerings; Meadowside NC needs support for their raptors to assure their health & welfare and to assure safe public access. Too many resources are committed to ball fields and courts, which serve predominantly a younger age cohort. Mont. Parks should commit more resources to the Nature Centers which provide educational and recreational opportunities to young and old alike! Many of the County's older adults are lonely and/or experience social isolation, especially in their older age. Our Nature Centers provide locations to go for quiet reflection and activities; we need to enhance such programming for the benefit of our elders across all of our Nature Centers. Intergenerational programming is of particular interest to many older adults so that they can participate with their younger relatives or friends. Planners should assure that trails (natural and human-planned) are made as accessible as possible for all Montgomery County residents -- old, young, with physical limitations/other abled, etc. And please keep language issues top of mind as well -- relevant language translations demand adequate resources to assure accuracy and relevance! Moreover, rural sections of the County need Nature Center facilities as well, deserving attention!	Thank you for your support for trails and nature centers. The majority of our park buildings and nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like the ones mentioned, and we appreciated any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
		Lastly, ensure that the Park's Nature Centers are able to develop and nurture collaborative relationships with both public and private entities within the County, both for the benefit of the Nature Centers' community outreach/recognition and to facilitate greater reach into all of MC's diverse communities -- of color, of age, of geography, LGBTQI+, etc.	
91		Eileen McGuckian, Individual	
	Jesup Blair	Although Jesup Blair house has been publicly owned for nearly a century and recognized as a historic landmark, it has been vacant for 15 years and is vulnerable to vandalism and more deterioration. Funds for renovation have been directed to other Montgomery Parks projects. MP staff is aware of a nonprofit coalition prepared to step up to raise funds, partner with MP, and provide appropriate uses and willing tenants in the building. Adopted Plans support "full renovation" so there is no reason to delay this project any longer. Move this project to a higher priority in the CIP and permit the private nonprofit sector to step up and collaborate with Montgomery Parks.	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.
92		Eleanor Porter, Individual	
	Shade structures, Playgrounds, Amenities	Man made shade would be helpful. There is a lot of sun at the new Kennebec Playground. The slides in particular are too hot for the children. The baby swing is unusable it is so hot there. Caretakers (me included) are suffering in the sun. More picnic tables! The Nature Forward wildlife preserve in Chevy Chase (a playground is currently being built) has an amazing COMPOSTING TOILET on the property. Is there a way to do that in Sligo Creek Park? Children are using the tree area near the playground to relieve themselves. Please don't ask a little kid to wait, doesn't ever end well.	Thanks for the input about shading playgrounds and support for native shade trees. Parks has multiple playground projects in design, and we will work to incorporate both structural and natural shading where feasible. Parks also operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more shading for playgrounds and more native trees to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.
93		ELIZABETH CROCKER, Individual	
	Nature Centers	Locust Grove needs improved and updated facilities to continue serving visitors and campers especially given the growing impacts of climate change. As we look forward to increased days of extreme heat, wildfire smoke creating unsafe outdoor conditions, and other environmental issues they need more resources to support visitors who cannot safely stay outside for extended periods but still deserve to learn about and appreciate nature. Locust Grove Nature Center's summer camps are my daughter's absolute favorite part of the summer. She rotates between Montgomery County camps but looks forward to these the most and talks about them all year round. Please help support their facilities so that they can continue doing great public engagement about nature and science.	Thank you for your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciated any community support.
94		Erica Gardner, Individual	
	Olney Manor Rec Park, Park Refreshers	Tear down playground by Olney Manor and build something similar to Blandair West in Howard Co or Savannah Playground in Myrtle Beach - accessible to all and all ages	Parks is actively working on a playground upgrade at Olney Manor Rec Park. While not as extensive as Blandair West, we believe it will be well received by park users. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support. Please note that Parks recently acquired land adjacent to Olney Manor Rec Park, which will provide a future park expansion that could include a larger regional playground like the one you are suggesting.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
95		Harriett Crosby, Individual	
	Native Plants, Water Resources, Infrastructure	Regenerative management - invest in more native plants, removing nonnatives invasives, recycling water resources, and education and events for the public. We also need a camp ground and museum out at whites ferry to preserve whites ferry history and help folks enjoy the beauty. Also there are many historic black communities in the Ag Reserve area and their buildings that we will lose to history if the park service doesn't invest in their maintenance.	Thanks for your support for native plants, water resources, equity, and park infrastructure. Parks operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Streams and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more environmental restoration and more native plants to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.
96		Holly Syrrakos, Individual	
	Jesup Blair	<p>The Jesup Blair House could provide a home for several nonprofit arts and humanities organizations, artists-in-residence--to include a period room with some of the SS Historical Society's archives. It could also include an art gallery, coffee shop, community gardens, a stage for major festivals, and more.</p> <p>The vision that Carpe Diem Arts and the Silver Spring Historical Society have put forth is described at JesupBlairHouse.org--and includes remarkable architectural drawings and plans c/o Stanley Hallet and Richard Loosle, endorsed by Washington Post longtime columnist Roger Lewis.</p> <p>We envision opportunities for many other community groups and organizations to participate as programming partners in scheduling special events, performance series, concerts, dances, art exhibits, lectures and film series, after-school programs, arts and language immersion summer camps, cross-cultural and intergenerational activities, and outdoor festivals on the 14.5 acre property.</p>	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.
97		Jennifer Goodman, Individual	
	Wheaton Regional Park	I would like Montgomery Parks to focus on improvements to Pine Lake. My son and I have been coming here for many years because he loves to fish and I like to walk around the lake. Over the years, it has become clogged with weeds and algae that are killing the fish and turtles and hurting the plants. The lake has become an eyesore this summer when it should actually be a beautiful place for people from the county to come and enjoy nature.	Thanks for interest in Pine Lake and Wheaton Regional Park. Parks is working on implementing the WRP Master Plan, which includes environmental restoration projects that would reduce sedimentation and improve water quality in Pine Lake. We are requesting significant increases in funding the WRP PDF, to allow us to implement this project, and we appreciate any community support.
98		Jeremy Schwartz, Individual	
	Sligo Mill Neighborhood	<p>The Sligo Mill Neighborhood Conservation Area has the potential to become a true nature preserve without invasive plants and dumping of trash. This requires removal of invasive plants, extensive trash cleanup, welcoming signage, and a plan for monitoring and enforcement. Please prioritize this area that has the potential to become a gem in the community "and that has been ignored for too long.</p> <p>Nearby, the Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park requires amenities to support its use. Please install welcoming signage, picnic tables, benches, and playground equipment. These amenities will complement its convenient location in a residential neighborhood and allow the community to benefit from the space. In addition, removal of invasive ivy will support native plants and trees and create a habitat for local wildlife.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment about Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park. We will add it to our list of parks to investigate activating with appropriate amenities and improvements. Your support for the Parks CIP allows us to take on projects like this.</p> <p>Parks is working on a project with the City of Takoma Park, which is responsible for maintenance of the Sligo Mill NCA, to help restore Takoma Branch and address some of the dumping issues there. We will communicate your concerns to the City and continue to support their efforts.</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
99		John Giorgis, Individual	
	Trail clearing	The footpath from Denley Rd to Glenmont Local Park is becoming almost unusable, and is in urgent need of trail clearing and repairs.	We will look into this. Thank you.
100		Joseph Horgan, Individual	
	Jesup Blair	<p>I have three main recommendations for CIP 2025-2030 consideration: Jesup Blair house and park; public restrooms in south county parks; and Northwest Branch's WSSC building renovation into a Rachel Carson environmental education/visitors center.</p> <p>1. Jesup-Blair house renovation. It is time to rethink the RFP idea, and look at public investment instead. After 15 years, it seems unlikely there is some deep-pockets entity that will respond to an RFP with a proposal that will renovate the house while retaining public use of the building. It is time to put the renovation into the CIP budget, and consider nonprofit entities to program both the interior and exterior space. I would suggest CIP funding in three stages:</p> <p>A. Public restrooms in Jesup Blair park to support outdoor concerts and performances, and to enhance all uses of the park, especially by families with children, the disabled, and the elderly. A public restroom could be combined with better access to power and water for supporting outdoor activities in the park.</p> <p>B. Renovation of the basement into exhibit and storage space for Silver Spring history.</p> <p>C. Renovation of the main floor and second floor into performance space and education space, including a coffee bar and catering kitchen.</p> <p>2. Permanent Public restrooms at the Parks Dept fields at Blair High School, and at Jesup-Blair Park. The Parks Dept has spent \$2 mil. on lights for their fields/track at Blair High School, and yet there is no public access to restroom facilities there. And as noted above regarding Jesup-Blair, there is a 15 acre park, easily accessible to tens of thousands of Silver Spring residents, that has no public restrooms. Restrooms not only provide critical service to citizens, but it is also a prerequisite for programming any outdoor spaces for festivals or other events. Portapotties are inadequate and a poor reflection on the Parks Dept and our County. Considerable technological advance has occurred to enable public restrooms to be self-cleaning, secure, and vandalism resistant. Montgomery could be a leader in this area.</p>	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
		3. Rachel Carson and Northwest Branch: An excellent proposal was put forward a few years ago, to convert the WSSC building on Colesville Road at Northwest Branch park into an environmental museum to advance environmental education in the spirit of Rachel Carson, while enhancing access and use of the Northwest Branch Trail--especially the trail to her home. It could also be used as a demonstration site for hydropower (by reviving the turbine there) and other green energy. This idea should be incorporated into the CIP, to provide funding for the renovation of the building, in conjunction with nonprofit concerns who could program and operate it. Environmental education seems even more critical to the next generation of Montgomery County, and this site could be a national class place to do it, and to celebrate the contribution of Rachel Carson.	
101		Joyce (Joy) Nalewajk, Individual	
	N/A	This is a fabulous property that needs to be brought back to life! It would be money well-spent!	Sorry, but there is not enough information to provide response.
102		Julie Rovner, Individual	
	Dog Parks	Montgomery County parks has done a good job creating dog parks, but there are thousands of dog owners in the county who compete with their dogs in various organized sports including obedience, agility, rally, and FAST cat (a timed 100 yard dash), and currently must travel significant distances to do so. These activities need a significant amount of space; more than the nonprofit clubs that sponsor and hold them can generally afford. As of 2023 the closest places that Montgomery County residents can compete in these sports with their dogs are at least an hour away - in Baltimore, Westminster, and Point of Rocks. Local competitors (many of whom compete almost every weekend) also frequently travel to Pennsylvania or central Virginia. If even one Montgomery County park could provide a suitable space (including parking and restroom facilities), dog clubs in the area would be quick to rent those facilities. Dog competitions in the DC area generally fill in less than a day; there is no question this would be a very popular and much-used recreation activity. Representatives of local dog clubs would be happy to consult on this. --Julie Rovner, Secretary, Capital Dog Training Club of Washington D.C.	Thank you for this suggestion, we will evaluate this.
103		Kara Sherk, Individual	
	Invasive Removal	Set up an official organization within the park system that will address invasive removal on a comprehensive scale and hire employees to remove nonnative plant species which are destroying trees and forests on public lands. This is necessary to combat climate change, overdevelopment and loss of habitat for wildlife. Weed warriors are not enough!	Thank you for your interest in our NNI program. We are currently hiring two professional ecology staff (and a support staff for our Weed Warrior program). We agree with your assessment that even this will not meet the full challenge of this issue. Your support for the Parks CIP is critical in providing the growth in our NNI removal program.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
104		Kim Zelo, Individual	
	Park Refreshers, Amenities	<p>1. The vacant property where the old William Farquhar MS used to be should be considered for a BMX park or dirt pump track facility for our youth. There is nothing like that in the area and families have to drive to Germantown, Jessup or Hagerstown. There are very few activities for youths in our area that kids can walk or ride to on their own.</p> <p>2. More multi-age and multi-ability parks are needed in the upper country area.</p> <p>3. There are several opportunities to develop or improve walking, biking or ATV trails in the upper country area. It could dramatically enhance outdoor corridors between neighborhoods and connect to open space park areas, making it less necessary to drive everywhere.</p>	Thank you for these ideas. We are always looking for more bike skills park locations and multi-generational parks were a theme of our 2022 PROS plan.
105		Larry Glatt, Individual	
	Native Plants, ADA	<p>My requests are as follows: All plantings should be native plants only, not naturalized but the originating 'stock' should also be from native plants (including the trees which of course are plants).</p> <p>My second request is the trails be a little more ADA helpful. Trails with roots or rough gravel are not friendly to my walker/rollator.</p>	Thanks for the input about trails and support for native trees. Parks has multiple trail renovation projects in design, and we will work to incorporate ADA compliance into these facilities, which also helps with strollers/rollators. Parks also operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that you have suggested, and we appreciate any community support.
106		Laura Hassett, Individual	
	PROS	would love to see more fenced in parks! I have three boys and I avoid lots of parks because it's impossible to keep an eye on all of them at some places. bathrooms are helpful! we like the squishy mats over the mulch. we LOVE shade!	We are so happy you and your sons enjoy our parks, and understand that keeping an eye on them can be a challenge! The PROS 2022 plan identified bathrooms as a priority issue, and Parks is exploring how to add bathrooms in locations where they are most needed.
107		Laurel McFarland, Individual	
	Jesup Blair	<p>I would like to see a priority placed on the rehabilitation of the historic Jesup Blair House which has remained vacant for over 15 years now, despite many promises made and efforts undertaken to rectify the situation. It is a waste of a precious asset. The site has major historic significance related both to the Civil War and the Underground Railroad. It was the home of the first Silver Spring Library, the Chelsea School, Silver Spring Draft Board, and single-parent housing c/o HOC.</p> <p>Carpe Diem Arts had been approached by Montgomery Parks in November 2019 with an invitation to be a co-tenant with the Silver Spring Historical Society (SSHS). We took the invitation seriously and invested an immense amount of effort in developing a plan for something akin to a nonprofit village, providing space for several organizations that would take responsibility for programming a broad range of cultural and educational offerings, including major festivals in partnership with other arts presenters in the region.</p>	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
		<p>Carpe Diem Arts and the SSHS worked with award-winning architects Stanley Hallet and Richard Loosle-Ortega (KUBE Architects) who provided renderings of designs for the restoration of the building as a cultural resource center with an eye to serving diverse communities, artists and nonprofits---while also housing the incredible archives of the Silver Spring Historical Society on the lower level in a way that would provide for public access. It could also include an art gallery, coffee shop, community gardens, a stage for major festivals, and more. As a result of the Jesup Blair House becoming a hub of activity, the park itself would also be revitalized and used for public gatherings, sports, and other activities.</p> <p>Another potential co-tenant who has expressed interest in the Jesup Blair House as a home for both offices and programming of classes, workshops, concerts and other special events---and who would be simpatico with Carpe Diem Arts and SSHS---is EducArte c/o Pablo Regis de Oliveira.</p> <p>www.educarteinc.org</p> <p>The vision that Carpe Diem Arts and the Silver Spring Historical Society have put forth is described at www.JesupBlairHouse.org--and includes the remarkable architectural drawings and plans c/o Stanley Hallet and Richard Loosle-Ortega, endorsed by Washington Post longtime columnist Roger Lewis.</p> <p>We envision opportunities for many other community groups and organizations to participate as programming partners in scheduling special events, performance series, concerts, dances, art exhibits, lectures and film series, after-school programs, arts and language immersion summer camps, cross-cultural and intergenerational activities, and outdoor festivals on the 14.5 acre property.</p> <p>One first step in the process of revitalizing the park itself would be to build a pavilion with restroom facilities---so that groups could gather outdoors and have shelter in the event of rain at sports events, family gatherings, and other group meetings.</p> <p>NOTE: Our assumption is that there are other groups interested in occupying the Jesup</p>	
108		Lindsey Turnbull, Individual	
	Wheaton Dog Park	The Wheaton Dog Park in Wheaton regional park is quite lacking for such a large space. I think it could be divided into small and large dog sections AND have a few dog runs for dogs that need to be solo but would enjoy a good run. This could be relatively low cost and would be a big improvement to the park.	Parks just updated the Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan, which recommends improvements to the Dog Park. Parks is requesting significant increases in funding for WRP in the FY25-30 CIP to implement this and other recommendations, and we appreciate any community support.
109		Luann Korona, Individual	
	Dog Park	As a member of the board of the Capital Dog Training Club, located in Silver Spring, I can attest to the growing need for the county to underwrite or help facilitate a dog competition complex so residents do not have to travel long distances for obedience or agility trials. With the pandemic, dog ownership has increased and so have the numbers of residents who want to train and compete in dog sports. Howard County has Schooley Mill Park for equestrian events; Montgomery County could easily facilitate a dog sports complex.	Thank you sharing this idea; we will consider this.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
110		Marcia Stickle, Individual	
	Native Plants, Park Amenities, Playgrounds, ADA	Use autism friendly colors on any new buildings (e.g. not like the ugly library in Wheaton). Stages and performance areas that allow for live music events. Lots of native plants in ways that encourage people to plant natives at home! Places for adults to sit with motion (rocker swings etc.). Playground equipment that is safe for adults to use!	
111		Marla Hendriksson, Individual	
	Native Plants, Climate	<p>I am a lifelong resident of Montgomery County and a strong supporter of environmental conservation and protection. We can all do our part to dampen the effects of climate change and preserve our lands for generations to come.</p> <p>Please prioritize the planting of native Maryland plants for your conservation, education and beautification projects. Especially prioritize the native plants that attract pollinators, preserve local habitats, and curb soil erosion.</p> <p>Effective July 1, 2024, Maryland law requires that each entity that receives State funding and each State agency prioritize, whenever possible, the use of plants native to the State for every planting project.</p> <p>https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/Native-Plants.aspx</p> <p>A. The Department of Agriculture is now the program lead, with coordination from the UMD Extension, reversing the roles. UMD Extension remains the lead on educational outreach;</p> <p>B. Cultivars and hybrids can be considered native plants when they fill a niche that a native plant cannot otherwise fill due to disease or insects;</p> <p>C. The Department of Agriculture, with input from the UMD Extension, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Maryland Native Plant Society, will create a list, and update it every 3 years, of native plants</p> <p>D. Growers and retailers can certify as growers or retailers of Maryland native plants</p> <p>E. Maryland will launch a marketing campaign to encourage native plant gardening.</p> <p>https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/HB0950</p>	Thanks for your support for native plants and addressing climate change. Parks operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Energy Conservation and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more renewable energy and more native plants to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
112		Max Mohr, Individual	
	Trails, Playgrounds, Vision Zero	There should be a playground built somewhere in the Franklin Knolls or Montgomery Knolls neighborhood (the area bordered by University Blvd, 495, the Northeast Branch, and Piney Branch Road). This set of neighborhoods does not have access to a playground that doesn't require crossing a major road (e.g., University Blvd or Piney Branch Road). It would also be good to have a trailhead down to the Northeast Branch trail within the neighborhood. While these neighborhoods border the trail, there are no trailheads and official paths to get down to the trail without having to drive up past the freeway or to the complete other side of the trail. An excellent site for the playground would be at the intersection of Vance Place and McAlpine Road, which would also serve as a good location for the trailhead.	Thank you for your interest in playgrounds, trails, and community connections. The majority of our nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like the ones mentioned, and we appreciated any community support.
113		Michael Surgalla, Individual	
	Nature Centers, Trails	<p>I am writing in support of the Montgomery County Nature Centers. As a county resident, I have visited at least one Montgomery County park on an almost daily basis for the past 13 years. In November 2021, I became certified as a Maryland Master Naturalist volunteer, thanks to the dedicated staff at Brookside Nature Center (BNC) and Locust Grove Nature Center (LGNC). BNC and LGNC acted jointly as a Host Site for Master Naturalist training, under the auspices of the University of Maryland's Extension Program. As a result, I am on track to complete approximately 200 volunteer service hours this year at Montgomery Parks, either as a Master Naturalist at Nature Centers or in various parks as a certified Weed Warrior. I believe that a conservative estimate of the cumulative volunteer service hours by my small, 2021 cohort of Master Naturalist colleagues alone will exceed 2,000 hours this year.</p> <p>Over the past several years, I have witnessed first-hand the importance and value of Nature Centers to the residents of Montgomery County. Whether it is a home-schooling parent who brings a child for an interactive science lesson, a professional musician seeking inspiration as she watches bird feeders, retired seniors who stop in for hiking trail maps and advice, or young summer campers on scavenger hunts, Nature Centers enhance the quality of life for a wide range of people. Montgomery County's Nature Centers play a valuable role in helping people become better informed, well-rounded, civic-minded individuals. As both a nature lover and a retired prosecutor, I find it especially gratifying when visitors to our Nature Centers learn to respect animals instead of fearing and killing them, or realize that indiscriminate, illegal use of pesticides has far-reaching, adverse effects. Our Nature Centers teach environmental stewardship, contribute to physical and psychological wellness, and promote social connection and inclusivity.</p>	Thank you for your support for trails and nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciated any community support.
114		Morgan Brill, Individual	
	Dog Park	Please add a dog park!	Sorry, but there is not enough information to provide response.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
115		Neil Riemer, Individual	
	Sligo Mill Neighborhood	Please consider restoring the Sligo Mill Neighborhood Conservation Area, by creating a sanctuary for native riparian habitat (for native plants and animals), removing invasive vines and invasive trees, cleaning out trash, taking measures to reduce dumping (perhaps signage, cameras, enforcement), and engaging the community in regular clean-up and restoration activities and private riparian plantings and stormwater management. Diminish the negative effects of the coming stormwater management program planned for this stream, that will destroy the streambed and banks.	Parks is working on a project with the City of Takoma Park, which is responsible for maintenance of the Sligo Mill NCA, to help restore Takoma Branch and address some of the dumping issues there. We will communicate your concerns to the City and continue to support their efforts.
116		Nicholas Proszkow, Individual	
	Solar parking canopies	I would love to see more solar parking canopies with net metering capabilities as well as level 2 charging. This can also allow for better (or any) lighting to be installed. Some of our parks are located close to the ICC and other highways that are good candidates for DC fast charging. The Biden infrastructure bill has a TON of funds available for this. More easy sloping bike trails would also be greatly received by my family since my neighborhood doesn't have any the slopes on the streets makes it very difficult to bike without many gears - something many kids don't have.	Parks is working towards electrification of our fleet, on-site power production, and increased availability of charging stations for park users. Please on that we are requesting increased funding for Energy Conservation in the FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate the public support. We are also working on multiple trail renovations to reduce slopes and meet ADA compliance, which we find to have additional benefits for young/new riders.
117		Pam Williams, Individual	
	Vision Zero	pavilion ,pots john and more tables at Kennebec Park. bridge or path for residents from Cherry/Colby to access the trail. Crosswalk or lights to cross Parkway at Hayward CT.	Thank you for your interest in trails, community connectivity, and Vision Zero. Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation projects, including along Sligo Creek Trail, that incorporate community connections, and Vision Zero improvements, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.
118		Pat Rumbaugh, Individual	
	Playgrounds, Signage	I would love to see a bulletin board at every Montgomery County park where flyers and other information can be posted. Also I would like to see hopscotch boards, four square and inspirational quotes painted on blacktop at playgrounds. As the co-founder and executive director of the nonprofit Let's Play America we were approved to paint hopscotch boards in Takoma Park and the response was so positive. Also in Takoma Park I would like one of the park to have an expression swing where a young child faces and adult.	The majority of playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. We have multiple playground/court renovations in design and we'll look to incorporate games where feasible. Please note that Parks is requesting significant funding increases for trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
119		Richard Loosle, Individual	
	Jesup Blair	Situated on open parkland, with a history that includes connections to the Underground Railroad and the Civil War, the spacious Jesup Blair House is a unique resource for lower Montgomery County. I had an opportunity to visit the site in 2021, and was excited by the work being done to restore the building and its potential role as an important public resource for Silver Spring and nearby communities, as both a headquarters for local cultural and civic organizations and particularly as a center for engaging public programs, including concerts, performances, exhibitions, presentations, and hands-on workshops. The prospect that the property could be the home to organizations including Carpe Diem, Montgomery Preservation, the Silver Spring Historical Society, and Civic Circle suggests a synergy that could be fantastic. I very much hope that the County will make the completion of the site's restoration a priority, and move toward making it possible for these organizations to bring their respective goals and missions, their track records and their audiences together to realize the potential of the Jesup Blair House as a vibrant resource that will enrich and energize community life for residents of Silver Spring, Takoma Park, and other nearby communities.	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.
120		Saul Schneiderman, Individual	
	Playgrounds, Amenities	Keep the hands-on playful moveable tools/toys for little children. I am not a parent but I watch with awe how a small child will ride a play-horse or drive a play-car or operate a play-engine, etc. Very colorful and thoughtfully purchased playground amenities for children. Congrats!	Thank you for your support for playgrounds. Parks is actively working on a multiple playground upgrades throughout the County. The majority of our playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.
121		Sean Crago, Individual	
	Trails, Vision Zero	Above all else, our parks are too difficult to reach safely on foot or by bike, especially major trail systems like Sligo and Rock Creek or the closed streets along both on weekends. What good are they when the county persists in directing folks to both on dangerous roads with no safe sidewalks or bike lanes? In particular please work with the county to expand safe access along the University and Connecticut corridors through Wheaton and Kensington. In the absence of safe paths along or around both, my children refuse to walk or bike to these trails, and I can't blame them.	Thank you for your interest in trails, community connectivity, and Vision Zero. Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation projects, including along Sligo Creek Trail, that incorporate community connections, and Vision Zero improvements, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.
122		Sofya Orlosky, Individual	
	Playgrounds, Shade Structure, Trees	Please add fast growing, large canopy trees to all newer playgrounds. The sun is unbearable in summer months and renders fire-hot playgrounds useless. Specifically in Clairmont park and Black Hill Regional Park, the large playgrounds are not shaded at all. And when trees are planted, please make sure they are watered regularly and don't die in the first year.	Thanks for the input about shading playgrounds and support for native shade trees. Parks has multiple playground projects in design, and we will work to incorporate both structural and natural shading where feasible. Parks also operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more shading for playgrounds and more native trees to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
123		Stephanie Matarazzo, Individual	
	Trails	I recommend a connector trail at Quince Orchard road, north of the Potomac Horse Center between Muddy Branch Trail and Powerline Trail. As it stands, there is only a stretch of road connecting the two that does not have a sidewalk and is very dangerous for pedestrians. A trail that goes over the main Muddy Branch creek would be great for hikers, bikers, and everyday walkers to get between neighborhoods in the Travilah area and QO public library and high school. Thank you!	Thank you for the suggestion. Our trail team will look into it.
124		Sue Mann, Individual	
	Native Plants, Gardens	Install native gardens with information on the importance of native plants AND information on where to buy them.	Thank you for your interest in native plants. Montgomery Park's Pope Farm facility has a Native Plant program that focuses on growing, planting, and selling native plants. Parks hosts two native plant sales a year that give the public the opportunity to purchase native plants to plant in their home gardens while learning about the benefits that come along with native plants. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more native trees to our parks
125		Susan Schreiber, Individual	
	Jesup Blair	The historic Jesup Blair House is a beautiful old building, and it has been empty for fifteen years! It's time to prioritize its restoration. It would be perfect as a community resource and cultural arts center, for Silver Spring and the entire Montgomery County. Think of all the educational, cultural, linguistic, athletic, and other programs that could be housed in the historical space. Perhaps it could also include senior and inter-generational activities for folks like me!	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.
126		Susan Skomal, Individual	
	Sligo, PG County	As the county prepares to make capital improvements to its parks, and as a resident of Takoma Park living very close to Sligo Park, I would like the plan to include two very important considerations: 1) there is an unfortunate infestation of poison ivy growing along the entire length of Sligo Creek as it passes between Route 1 and New Hampshire Avenue. Dogs, children, and many unwitting adults are susceptible to the poison. 2) Although the trash situation has improved somewhat since Covid restrictions were lifted, the addition of more trash cans near intersections with streets would benefit all by providing dog walkers, those who use the picnic areas, caretakers with baby strollers, and walkers/bikers in general with places to put their trash.	Thank you for your suggestion regarding the addition of trash cans; we will consider it.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
127		Tamar Greenspan, Individual	
	Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park	<p>I would like to ask for prioritization of the Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park for improvements. As part of the improvements, I would prioritize creating a pedestrian/bike route through the park that would reconnect Westmoreland, and, as a result, the two sections of the neighborhood that are currently cut off from each other. A bike path through this area would create important connection to the bike lanes on Kansas Ave, which are the main bike gateway from Southern Takoma Park to downtown DC and also the Metropolitan Branch Trail as it currently exists.</p> <p>Separately, I would ask that you prioritize providing lighting for Spring Park. Children need to be able to play beyond 5 o'clock in winter, and lighting is critical to make the park safe.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment about Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park. We will add it to our list of parks to investigate activating with appropriate amenities and improvements. Your support for the Parks CIP allows us to take on projects like this.</p> <p>Spring Park belongs to the City of Takoma Park, Montgomery Parks.</p>
128		Tom Armstrong, Individual	
	Jesup Blair	I would like to see renovated and in use the http://jesupblairhouse.org/	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.
129		Vivian Fong, Individual	
	Court Renovations	Please line all existing tennis courts with pickleball lines. Pickleball is played 12 months out of the year whereas tennis is not played during winter months. The Sligo Creek courts are way under-utilized and pickleball is the fastest growing sport played by all ages. Southern Montgomery Co has much fewer PB courts than Rockville & Gaithersburg & Bethesda!	Parks has multiple projects to provide more Pickleball Courts. As part of the WRP Master Plan implementation, we are requesting significant increases in funding the WRP PDF, which will include creation of dedicated Pickleball Courts, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
130		William Mallari, Individual	
	Park Amenities, Infrastructure, Trails, Environmental Restoration	<p>I am a TKPK City home-owner since 1986 and since 1977, an adjacent area resident, as a renter (Greenwood Ave, Silver Spring and 5th St. NW Takoma DC). My family and children played, now my grandchildren (along w/ those of friends and neighbors) play and experience the many benefits of Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park, especially the old-replaced and new Children's Playground in Ward 5 (at Sligo & Kennebec). By long experience and observations my priority recommendations for public need, safety and recreational improvements; environmental conservation, species habitat and stream & woodland buffer maintenance are as follows:</p> <p>Human Needs (primarily for children & care-givers, but also for all): 1) Water Fountain and Bottle-Fill Station; 2) Porta-Potty (circumvent peeing behind trees and shrubs); 3) Tree Planting and Shade Structure (placed to provide some relief from direct sun & heat- playground equipment can burn tender skin); 4) Improve safety features at Pedestrian Road Crossings; i.e., warning signage / ped-xings, speed bumps, etc.; 5) repair/replace vehicular damaged guardrails along the full stretch of Sligo Creek Parkway; 6) Provision of a few more Picnic Tables (clustered for Care-givers and children, others for snacks and lunches near playground), also Benches/Seating variously spaced along path and creek-viewing, meditative settings.</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments about various park amenities, infrastructure, trails, and environmental restoration. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and need improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Also, most of the Sligo Creek watershed was developed prior to stormwater management requirements. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails, Streams, and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more ideas like the ones mentioned, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
		<p>Recreation: Provide one Bike Rack accommodating at least six bikes and a Bike-Repair Station, off-path near existing Vehicle Parking (this could serve the stretch from Piney Branch to just past the Maple Ave. Bridge).</p> <p>Environmental / Habitat & Interest: 1) Acquire Washington Adventist University (WAU) edge property or enter into a M.O. A. with Washington Adventist University to preserve and maintain: a) the sloped-grass field bounded north of Sligo Creek Bridge, bounded by Maple Ave and Maplewood Ave. This is an open, field w/ all-season flexibility and variety of use, unencumbered by facilities and equipment; and, b) the steep-slope woodland buffer along the eastern stretch of Sligo Creek. Both areas add to the stream and parkland buffer; 2) Stream Maintenance: Remove downed trees and, branches and debris; sediment mounds to improve proper stream flow; 3) at Stream Buffers, provide Native Plant/Invasive Species Information and seasonally / annually (Earth Day/Week?) conduct Invasive Plant Removal (could be education and staff supervision for TKPK City, Mont. Co. & other volunteer groups); 4) Provide various species info and birdhouses along this and other stretches of Sligo Creek.</p> <p>Other needs expressed by friends and neighbors should also be considered and prioritized.</p> <p>Many thanks for your consideration, funding and implementation!</p>	

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
131		Zach, Individual	
	Cabin John, Playgrounds	Cabin John park used to be a highlight of Montgomery County MD (80s - 90s); however, over the last 20 years the playground equipment has degraded and been replaced with significantly less robust playground equipment. There used to be a giant playground in one section and the other sections thematically aligned, overall, it was impressive. Fast forward to today, anyone visiting Cabin John playground who remembers what it was, is disappointed to say the least. Why are we not restoring Cabin John playground back to an iconic and impressive playground (similar to Germantown Adventure park, or Wheaton Regional), and making it a highlight for people to visit like it once was?	Thank you for your interest in the Cabin John Regional Park playground. The majority of playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. As you noted, Parks is currently working on a design for South Germantown RP Adventure Playground, and we are interested in improving CJRP when funding becomes available. Please note that Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds projects like this, and we appreciated any community support.
132		Name not provided	
	Trails	I live near Cannon Road local park. I would love a paved running trail at the park or within walking distance. Currently, I have to drive to the nearest paved trail that is suitable for walking/running.	Parks will take this into consideration as a potential future project. We are currently working to rehabilitate multiple trail rehabilitation projects and constructing new hard surface trails and community connectors. Please note that we are requesting increased funding to support new and existing trails, and we appreciate any community support.
133		Name not provided	
	Trails	Pave a path in Burnt Mills park to allow safe bike commuting across Colesville Rd to employers like the FDA, ARL, and SSA, e.g. from the end of Lockridge Dr to Edelblut Dr and Devere Dr.	Thank you for your comment. We will look into this connection. We are currently coordinating with SHA on a possible sidewalk project along 29.
134		Name not provided	
	Signage	I would like to see simple tree identification added to local neighborhood parks. Studies have shown that people are more engaged and want to preserve plants that they can identify. A sign for the kids: "Can you find an oak tree, poplar tree and maple tree in this park?" With photos of what leaf and bark look like.	This is an interesting idea. Thanks!
135		Name not provided	
	Park Refreshers, Amenities	Community Food Forest; bird/native plant education along path; improved pathway; improved/more picnic tables and grill areas; water play area for children; shade structure for Kennebec-Houston-Sligo Playground; adult exercise equipment	Thanks for sharing these ideas. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is working on multiple projects to improve our playgrounds and hard surface trail system. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciate any community support.
136		Name not provided	
	Courts	pickleball courts and volleyball courts	Thanks for sharing these ideas. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is working on multiple projects to improve our sports courts system. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
137		Name not provided	
	Infrastructure	Update Older parks	Thanks for sharing these ideas. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is working on multiple projects to improve our facilities throughout the system. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciate any community support.
138		Name not provided	
	Dog Park, Playgrounds, Trails	<p>FENTON STREET URBAN PARK: Please consider a plan to improve the Fenton Street Urban Park. The public park area is rarely used despite its location in a dense area. This is an ideal location for a dog park, a small playground or both. The Swampoodle dog park and playground and the S Street Park in DC are great examples of maximizing a small urban lot. While the community garden area looks to be thriving, it is locked and only accessible to a few members of the community.</p> <p>EXTENDING BIKING AND WALKING TRAILS: I love our county's trails and would love to see them extended and further connected to encourage greater use and get cars off the road.</p>	Thank you for your interest in Urban Parks and Trails. Parks is currently working with MCDOT on a bicycle facility adjacent to Fenton Street UP, which will expand the park property. Once that project is complete. We will begin planning for improvements to this great urban space. Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation projects, including community connections to Parks, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.
139		Name not provided	
	Playgrounds	I believe that all playgrounds should be fenced in or at least the ones in close vicinity to a road. I'm sure I'm not the only parent/caregiver with this issue where if you are watching more than one toddler, it becomes difficult as one may run off into the road while the other is going in another direction. I think fences would be helpful and should be added to existing and future playgrounds.	Thank you for your comment, and we understand that watching kids can be a challenge! We will consider your suggestion.
140		Name not provided	
	Nature Centers	<p>However, each Nature Center needs capital improvements. Some have aging exhibits or insufficient classroom space. Others need greater accessibility on trails. In some instances, prior plans to improve Nature Centers have not been implemented. A moratorium on the acquisition of historic sites for use by Nature Centers has hampered educational programming.</p> <p>I realize that there are many competing interests for funding, whether for recreational or infrastructure purposes. However, I firmly believe that the Nature Centers throughout Montgomery Parks have been neglected and deserve more resources to continue carrying out the important work that they do daily.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Michael Surgalla</p> <p>Colesville</p>	Thank you for your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciated any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
141		Name not provided	
	Chemicals	No toxic chemicals should be used on any park land for any reason	Montgomery Parks complies with the county's pesticide law, and uses IPM practices to control weeds and pests. Parks uses pesticides only when necessary to protect park assets and users and control NNIs, and never for cosmetic purposes. All 276 playgrounds are pesticide-free and we have a growing pesticide-free park program, which has grown to 55 pesticide-free parks.
142		Name not provided	
	Repave trails	Some of the County's asphalt trails have dangerous cracks in them. People can trip and fall. It would be great to make the trails as safe as possible by repaving. Also, consider adding more water fountains along the trails - especially Rock Creek Trail. Our summers are hot. We could use more opportunities for hydration. How about a water fountain at Puller Park?	Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation projects, including along Rock Creek Trail. Trail Planners are evaluating feasible locations for drinking fountains and will take this input into consideration. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate the public support.
143		Name not provided	
	Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park	We'd love picnic tables and a playground at the Takoma park south neighborhood park on Allegheny. It's a great space that could be used!	Thank you for your comment about Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park. We will add it to our list of parks to investigate activating with appropriate amenities and improvements. Your support for the Parks CIP allows us to take on projects like this.
144		Name not provided	
	Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park	I live in Takoma Park, where we are fortunate to have several parks and green areas. However, two of these areas have been consistently neglected: the Sligo Mill Neighborhood Conservation Area at the dead end of Sligo Mill Road just north of Sheridan, and the Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park at 6500 Allegheny Avenue. The latter park is up a steep hill from the street, and at the top, there are fallen trees and invasive ivy, with no place to sit. The Sligo Mill Conservation Area has long been a dumping ground for everyday trash as well as furniture, old appliances, etc. If Montgomery County wants to use the Capital Improvements Program to improve the environment and usable green space, these two areas should be at the top of the list.	<p>Thank you for your comment about Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park. We will add it to our list of parks to investigate activating with appropriate amenities and improvements. Your support for the Parks CIP allows us to take on projects like this.</p> <p>Parks is working on a project with the City of Takoma Park, which is responsible for maintenance of the Sligo Mill NCA, to help restore Takoma Branch and address some of the dumping issues there. We will communicate your concerns to the City and continue to support their efforts.</p>
145		Name not provided	
	Adult exercise areas, Amenities	More adult exercise areas. There is one in the loop around North Four Corners. Having some areas that integrate child play and adult movement opportunities would be great for caregivers. Keep the trees! The play structures are unusable from mid-May to mid-August when they are in direct sun light. Kids get burned on the slides.	Parks is working on multiple playground and fitness equipment projects, and we fully support the integration of amenities for children of all ages and understand the need for shade and trees. We are requesting additional funding to renovate and improve these types of amenities through our PLAR program, and we appreciate any community support.
146		Name not provided	
	Archery range	An Archery range with different feet. A kid's park for kids with physical disabilities as well.	Thank for your comment. We will keep archery in mind as a desired amenity as we plan our park system. Parks works to make our amenities fully accessible to people of all ability ranges, and we have multiple projects that will upgrade existing facilities to become more accessible. Please note that we are requesting additional funding to renovate and improve these types of amenities through our PLAR program, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
147		Name not provided	
	Disc golf course	We would love to have a disc golf course at Wheaton Regional park. And a safe walking biking path from the park to downtown Wheaton.	Thank you for your comment. In response to a community request, we explored the possibility of disk golf as part of the 2022 Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan and found it infeasible. However, as a result of this request, we initiated a project to develop disk golf in Northwest Branch Rec Park (adjacent to the Tolley Museum). You can find more about this project on our website: https://montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/discgolf-nwbranch-rec-park/
148		Name not provided	
	Hard Surface Trails	I live near Cannon Road local park. I would love a paved running trail at the park or within walking distance. Currently, I have to drive to the nearest paved trail that is suitable for walking/running.	Parks will take this into consideration as a potential future project. We are currently working to rehabilitate multiple trail rehabilitation projects and constructing new hard surface trails and community connectors. Please note that we are requesting increased funding to support new and existing trails, and we appreciate any community support.
149		Name not provided	
	Amenities	I think it would be a good use of space. More places to sit and be around trees and nature.	Sorry, but there is not enough information to provide response.
150		Name not provided	
	Ballfields, Park Amenities	The baseball fields in Olney Manor, South Germantown, Ridge Road and Damascus Regional could use batting cages and the county should consider converting fields to turf. Howard County and Fairfax have already done this. Can Germantown Town Center park become a botanical garden? The Upper Montgomery area needs an ice rink. More gymnasiums are needed in the Upcountry area. County residents can use gyms for free but the eastern and lower party of Montgomery County have more gyms. These are amenities enjoyed by eastern and lower county residents that Upper Montgomery County residents do not have.	Thank you for all of these suggestions. We will look for opportunities for batting cages in the northern part of the county. Parks has a planned ice rink in Ridge Road Park. (Please note that Rec Department would be the lead on a gymnasium.)
151		Name not provided	
	Park maintenance, Park refreshers	Many of Montgomery Parks facilities in Takoma Park are in poor condition and need renovating.	Thanks for raising this concern. The majority of parks were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.
152		Name not provided	
	Playgrounds, Shade Structures	Please add shade structures for any new or renovated playgrounds that are not situated under tall trees for natural shade. Please add more fenced-in playgrounds for the safety of children who are runners such as my autistic toddler. Please add shade structures to picnic benches not under natural shade.	Thanks for raising this concern. The majority of parks were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
153		Name not provided	
	Playground Amenities	We need a large destination playground with equipment, pavilions etc.	Sorry, but there is not enough information to provide response.
154		Name not provided	
	Olney Mill Family park, Park Refreshers, Amenities	Olney Mill Family Park on willow grove rd. Definitely needs new basketball hoops and a better playground. The baseball field infield is a mess. It is visited frequently by all members of the community because there is a path there. Improving the playground, hoop and field would make this significantly better.	Parks is actively working on renovating the playground and basketball court at Olney Family Neighborhood Park off Willow Grove Road, including accessibility and parking improvements. We will evaluate the condition of the field to see whether we can incorporate this work into our project. The majority of parks were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.
155		Name not provided	
	Park Refreshers, Playground Amenities, Olney Family Neighborhood Park	I live in Olney and it seems that the county park facilities are very limited compared to other parts of the county (Gaithersburg, Germantown)	Olney has a greater concentration of parks than many other areas of the county. Parks is actively working on several park improvement projects in the Olney area, including renovations to Greenwood Local Park, Olney Family Neighborhood Park, Olney Mill Neighborhood Park and Olney Manor Recreational Park. The majority of parks were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support. Please note that Parks recently acquired land adjacent to Olney Manor Rec Park, which will provide a future park expansion that could help meet the need for more park amenities in this area as you are suggesting.
156		Name not provided	
	Olney Manor Rec Park, Park Refreshers, Playgrounds	Olney manor park at the Olney Swim Center is in need of updating. It would be great to see a larger playground here since it is at a very active spot and maybe fenced since it is near parking and a driveway? My family and I have been traveling to Howard County for their playgrounds for years and all of them are amazing examples highly accessible, creative, fun and fenced. Blandair park is a spectacular example, but also Schooley Mill Park, which is smaller, are just fantastic and I would love to see MoCo take ideas from those.	Parks is actively working on a playground upgrade at Olney Manor Rec Park. While not as extensive as Blandair West, we believe it will be well received by park users. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support. Please note that Parks recently acquired land adjacent to Olney Manor Rec Park, which will provide a future park expansion that could include a larger regional playground like the one you are suggesting.
157		Name not provided	
	Playgrounds, Shade Structures	A park like Blandair Park. Foamy ground and shade coverings	Parks is actively working on a multiple playground upgrades throughout the County, including the redevelopment of the South Germantown Rec Park Adventure Playground, we believe it will be well received by park users. The majority of our playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
158		Name not provided	
	PROS	<p>The existing parks need more infant/toddler swings€” Falls Rd only has one and there is always a line for it. They also need more fenced in areas so kids cannot run away, important if a parent has more than one small child to watch.</p> <p>Finally most parks are in the sun without shade so they get too hot in summer. More splash pads and water features/fountains should be added</p>	<p>We are so happy you and your sons enjoy our parks, and understand that keeping an eye on them can be a challenge! The PROS 2022 plan identified bathrooms as a priority issue, and Parks is exploring how to add bathrooms in locations where they are most needed. In addition, we understand that shade and water are important in parks especially with warning temperatures, and we are seeking to add them in new and renovated parks where possible.</p>
159		Name not provided	
	Playground	<p>A public playground near Aspen Hill library or within the Aspen Hill community is needed. There are many kids but No community park with full playground including swing sets centrally located in the Aspen Hill.</p>	<p>Montgomery County Department of Recreation is the lead agency for libraries and there is no adjacent parkland at Aspen Hill Library. Please let them know your interest in playgrounds as they plan for their CIP.</p>
160		Name not provided	
	Playground, Amenities	<p>Swings added to the Bauer Rec center playground</p> <p>Playground with swings at Aspen Hill library</p>	<p>The Aspen Hill Library and Bauer Recreation Center Playground are facilities managed by Montgomery County and not Montgomery Parks. Please note that Montgomery County Department of Recreation is the lead agency for libraries and recreation centers and there is no adjacent parkland at Aspen Hill Library. Please let them know your interest in playgrounds as they plan for their CIP.</p>
161		Name not provided	
	Playground, Amenities	<p>We are requesting a playground with swings be built at the Aspen Hill Library or within the English manor community.</p> <p>https://communityfeedback.opengov.com/portals/portal260/issue_13084?fbclid=IwAR3R0EE8CKWCO9BlaCVpSqJrN3YYNVliwIUMOZemecytx8KQofkoJViwwjA_aem_AaOu6BuKYXl8yte6aRcqjrtRT1dKzSKCyYgwRkkRxunJQzdl_yLJk7F9Nb1uauFf9o</p> <p>Thank you</p>	<p>Parks is actively working on a multiple playground upgrades throughout the County. The majority of our playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support. We will review the condition of the English Manor playground and evaluate whether there is space to incorporate swings when it is up for renovation. Please note that Montgomery County Department of Recreation is the lead agency for libraries and there is no adjacent parkland at Aspen Hill Library. Please let them know your interest in playgrounds as they plan for their CIP.</p>
162		Name not provided	
	Park Refreshers, Amenities, ADA	<p>The playground at Argyle Park near Holy Cross needs serious upgrades. Overall, parents would love to see playgrounds with shade/shade structures. We would also like playgrounds that are more fenced in for safety. It would be cool to have a few themed playgrounds like PG county has (like the wizard of oz playground). The Sligo trail crossings at Dennis and at Forest Glen still feel like they could be safer. The crossing on Forest Glen is on a hill and cars go too fast. The light is helpful but has too much of a delay before it starts. People do not tend to wait for it to start flashing and by the time it is flashing, there are no longer any pedestrians so cars tend to ignore the light. It should start flashing right when it is pushed to alert drivers. I think it would be helpful to place speed bumps along Dennis Ave near the trail crossing to slow traffic, especially since there is a middle school nearby as well. I would also like to see some upgrades to the Wheaton train so it can run more reliably even when there is light moisture on the tracks.</p>	<p>Thanks for raising these concerns. The majority of playgrounds and trails were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. The playground at Argyle Park is programmed for renovation within the next five years. Also, Vision Zero improvements are a major focus for Parks trail programs. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
163		Name not provided	
	Dog Parks	Indoor Dog sports! Dog parks are all very well but those of us who compete have to travel to other counties, or to VA or PA to do so. You could even connect it to the Animal Shelter (not physically) as a place to generate revenue for the shelter and a place to offer training.	Montgomery County Department of Recreation is the lead agency for indoor recreational facilities like to one you are suggesting. Please let them know your interest in indoor dog sports as they plan for their CIP.
164		Name not provided	
	Native Plants	Dedicate trained staff to removing nonnative invasive plants and replanting with native species throughout parks. Organize volunteer work crews to assist. Offer middle school and high school field trips for SSL to help with the effort, particularly in parks near schools.	Thank you for your support of our ecology and Weed Warriors volunteer programs. We are currently hiring two professional ecology staff and a support staff for our Weed Warrior program. Your support for the Parks CIP is critical in providing the growth in these programs.
165		Name not provided	
	Park Refreshers, Amenities, ADA	<p>1. The majority of parks, including the gazebo, in Takoma Park are poorly maintained. Trash is usually present, the leaves that fall on the gazebo sit there all winter. Trees are poorly pruned. The County could do a MUCH BETTER job of maintaining facilities in Takoma Park than in the past.</p> <p>2. Idea: Create a track for radio-controlled cars.</p> <p>3. Idea: create a physical fitness park with outdoor exercise equipment like is present in other parts of the county. Stop ignoring Takoma Park and give the City some useful options at parks that people of all ages will actually use.</p>	Thanks for sharing these ideas. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for trails, Wheaton Regional Park, and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like these, and we appreciate any community support.
166		Name not provided	
	Trails, Vision Zero	We need benches on the walking trails. I go walking much more comfortably if trails had benches. Sligo has, and it's very crowded. If other trails had benches it would both help people who need/want to stop and rest there, plus would relieve some of the crowding on trails like Sligo since people would have more user friendly choices. I live in Kemp Mill. I'd like to see benches on the trail near the Shannon School, and on the NW Branch trail down Lambertson, the NW branch trail off Kemp Mill Rd across from the stables, to name a few	Thank you for your interest in trails. Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation projects, including along Sligo Creek Trail. We are actively incorporating benches into these project, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.
167		Name not provided	
	Stream Valley Parks	The streams flowing through MoCo parks have lots of water pollution, including some pollution like e. coli level that are dangerous to residents who might want to splash on the streams as they use the parks. There are a few watershed nonprofits (Anacostia Riverkeeper, Potomac Riverkeeper, Little Falls Watershed Alliance, Cabin John Watershed Alliance) that monitor these levels- I think you should connect with them to create signage that includes up-to-date data to help people make informed decisions. The nonprofits have the data- they just need signage!	Thanks for your concerns about water quality in our Stream Valley Parks. Parks is working on multiple projects to improve water quality through stormwater management and stream restoration, but we have limited resources for restoring environmentally sensitive areas. Parks is requesting funding increases for Stream Protection in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds projects to restore our streams, and we appreciate any community support. (what do we say about signage?)
168		Name not provided	
	Playground Amenities	Add more swings. Aspen Hill West of Georgia has few playgrounds and none with swings.	Thanks for sharing this idea. Parks is actively working on a multiple playground upgrades throughout the County, and we will be looking to incorporate swings where we can. The majority of our playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
169		Name not provided	
	Athletic Fields	Down county has a paucity of sports fields compared to our up county neighbors. Please build more athletic facilities in silver spring and Takoma park!	Thanks for raising these concerns. The majority of athletic facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.
170		Name not provided	
	Playground Amenities	playground with swings be built at the Aspen Hill Library or within the English/Manor community	Parks is actively working on a multiple playground upgrades throughout the County. The majority of our playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support. We will review the condition of the English Manor playground and evaluate whether there is space to incorporate swings when it is up for renovation. Please note that Montgomery County Department of Recreation is the lead agency for libraries and there is no adjacent parkland at Aspen Hill Library. Please let them know your interest in playgrounds as they plan for their CIP.
171		Name not provided	
	Invasive Removal, Sligo	We need more maintenance to deal with invasive vines and plants that are slowly choking trees and will eventually kill them - this is true for many parks in our area. Also, I'd recommend updating Sligo Ave Neighborhood Park with new playground equipment and amenities. In its current form, it is underutilized.	Thanks you for your feedback about Sligo Ave NP playground. Parks is actively working on a multiple playground upgrades throughout the County. The majority of our playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support. We will review the condition of the Sligo Ave NP playground and evaluate when it is up for renovation. Unfortunately, Parks has limited resources for managing NNIs across its 37,000 acres of parkland, and generally focuses its NNI removal efforts in Best Natural Areas. We rely on volunteers to help with efforts elsewhere through our Weed Warriors program.
172		Name not provided	
	Plants, Amenities	It'd be great to include edible plants (food forests) in our parks like PG County has done.	Thank you. We agree. We are looking into a possible locations.
173		Name not provided	
	Shade Structures, Amenities	It would really benefit kids from all ages if: -there are shaded spaces in the playground as well as around the playground. -many sensory stations in the park. -baby, toddler and kid sections!	Thanks for the input about shading playgrounds, sensory stations, and support for native shade trees. Parks has multiple playground projects in design, and we will work to incorporate both structural and natural shading where feasible. Parks also operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more shading for playgrounds, sensory stations, and more native trees to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
174		Name not provided	
	Amenities	Bathrooms with plumbing, not all bathrooms with air dryers (the sound terrifies our child), a paved walking path, more swings, splash pads and playground (we love that this is offered at several parks), and we love the nature playgrounds with the larger fields for flying kites.	Thank you for your support for various park amenities. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.
175		Name not provided	
	Park Amenities, Environmental restoration	We have nothing for adults except walking. Other places have adult playgrounds and fitness equipment for everyone's use. I'd like to see fitness stations and an adult playground. I don't think we need more displays of "inclusion" because that's code for African descent and my observation is that the rest of us are becoming marginalized--which means Asian, Pacific Islander, White, Hispanic, and Native Americans are barely represented in anything that talks about inclusion--sorry, but that's the truth. Our parks should celebrate nature and the environment, so I'd like to see more art devoted to that. Leave politics out of the parks. Parks should include things everyone can do, i.e., covered benches for older adults, more water stations, more flowers, chess and checker stations, more picnic tables.	Thank you for your support for various park amenities and environmental restoration. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Also, much of the Sligo Creek watershed was developed prior to stormwater management requirements. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Streams and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.
176		Name not provided	
	Park Refreshers, Amenities	Adult exercise equipment, please!	Thank you for your support for playgrounds. Parks is actively working on a multiple Park Refresher projects throughout the County, which incorporate fitness equipment. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.
177		Name not provided	
	Playgrounds	Please stop using rubber mulch on playgrounds. It's is a carcinogen.	Our typical surfacing for playgrounds is engineered wood fiber, and more than 90% of our 276 playgrounds utilize wood fiber surfacing.
178		Name not provided	
	Shade Structures, Playgrounds, Amenities	Shade for new playground - Kennebec/Sligo Creek Park.... New park was created, but the shade is a complete miss. Slides become unusable in the sun. Fairly simple canopy shade over long slide should be trivial. New splashpad in Takoma Park.... Takoma Park, Montgomery County residents need to cross border into DC or travel far out to get to water feature. Upgrade more kid-friendly and family-friendly amenities in downtown Takoma Park... Takoma Park is now a draw for the area with the Farmers Market, new restaurants, etc.... the playground in town is dated and not maintained (trash is always over flowing).	Thanks for the input about shading playgrounds and support for native shade trees. Parks has multiple playground projects in design, and we will work to incorporate both structural and natural shading where feasible. Parks also operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more shading for playgrounds and more native trees to our parks, and we appreciate any community support. The Cit of Takoma Park would be the lead agency for a splash park in their jurisdiction. Please let them know your interest as they plan for their CIP.
179		Name not provided	
	Skate Parks, Trails	More skate parks and mountain bike trails	Thank you for your interest in Skate Parks and Trails. Parks is working on multiple Skate Parks projects and hard surface trail renovations, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
180		Name not provided	
	Wheaton Regional Park, Vision Zero, Trails	<p>My primary "amenity" would be increasing walkability to the parks. Living near Wheaton Regional, I'm very aware that I am not comfortable sending my 10 year old across GA Ave to the park without an adult.</p> <p>Removing the weird smell from the Dennis Ave/Sligo Creek building.</p> <p>Outdoor basketball courts in the Wheaton area</p> <p>Earlier opening at rec centers</p> <p>I liked the plan that was put forward previously for Wheaton Regional, and in general I think the parks system is excellent. I have vague suggestions, but I'm pretty pleased with the options in MoCo. Our parks system is a stand-out strength of our community.</p>	<p>Thanks for sharing your support for Wheaton Regional Park and Vision Zero. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is working on implementing the WRP Master Plan, which includes an Adventure Sports Parks, courts, bike skills, wayfinding signage, etc. Parks is also working on multiple projects to incorporate Vision Zero and trail renovations. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for trails, Wheaton Regional Park, and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
181		Name not provided	
	Playgrounds, Shade Structures	<p>More shade for kids playgrounds please!!!</p>	<p>Thank you for your support for playgrounds. Parks is actively working on a multiple playground upgrades throughout the County. The majority of our playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like providing shade for playgrounds, and we appreciated any community support.</p>
182		Name not provided	
	Trails	<p>More mountain bike trails in Rock Creek park in Needwood, Bernard Frank, and DC border areas.</p> <p>This is not parks per se, but zoning should be tightened up to reduce the amount of high-density housing going up; and new housing zoning should include a tree requirement.</p>	<p>Thank you for your interest in trails. Parks is working on multiple natural and hard surface trail renovation projects, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
183		Name not provided	
	Invasive weeds, Trails	<p>Invasive weed removal in parks. Bike trails. Pave trails near creeks. Graffiti removal</p>	<p>Thank you for your interest in trails. Parks is working on multiple natural and hard surface trail renovation projects, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support. The same is true of NNI removal. We recognize that the problem overwhelms our existing resources and appreciate your support for the Parks CIP. We appreciate your comment about graffiti removal.</p>
184		Name not provided	
	Native Plants, Trees	<p>Work toward having only native plants/trees and environmentally friendly parks that survive and thrive with minimal upkeep, watering, etc. Avoid high-intensity lighting near residences. Provide for easy trash disposal by users (and frequent collection before overflows).</p>	<p>Thanks for your support for native shade trees. Parks operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more shading for playgrounds and more native trees to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
185		Name not provided	
	Trails	Please keep motorized scooters and e-bikes off walking trails, such as the trail through Sligo Creek Park. These vehicles can reach speeds in excess of 20 mph and pose a danger to walkers, who include children and seniors.	Thank you for your comment.
186		Name not provided	
	Amenities	It's important to have more splash marks in different communities to give water play opportunities to those who cannot access pools.	Thank you. We share this goal. We are working through complexities in state and county regulations that have provided a variety of challenges to implementation to date. These are indeed resource-intensive amenities and support for the Parks CIP will help us to get to the finish lines on some of these, including possibly in Wheaton Regional Park.
187		Name not provided	
	Amenities, Playgrounds	Water park! Also, please update preexisting playgrounds. Many of these playgrounds are old, outdated, unpleasant to visit and not kept up.	Thank you for your support for playgrounds. Parks is actively working on a multiple playground upgrades throughout the County. The majority of our playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like playgrounds, and we appreciate any community support.
188		Name not provided	
	Nature Centers	The nature centers are a great amenity. More funding should be made available for their maintenance and extension of their educational programs for the public.	Thank you for your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in BHRP. The majority of our nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like updating nature centers, and we appreciate any community support.
189		Name not provided	
	Trails, Park Amenities	Montgomery county parks are great! It would be great if there were more walking paths and trails. Some parks are mainly fields, if there were walking paths around the perimeter for people to use, that would be great. It would also be great to have more splash pads for kids to play in summer and more benches and picnic tables.	Thank you for your interest in trails. Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation projects and incorporating walking loops into Park Refresher projects, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.
190		Name not provided	
	Nature Centers, Trails, Native Plants	Although I reside in Frederick; I volunteer and visit Montgomery County Parks. I volunteer as a weed warrior on a weekly basis. I think that the Park system should update Nature Centers and park buildings that are aging. It would be great to add new trails and improve upkeep on existing trails. Gardens such as Pollinator Gardens and Native Gardens should be added to more parks. More Nature programs for all ages should be added.	Thank you for your support for park buildings and nature centers. The majority of our park buildings and nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Energy Conservation, and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like the ones mentioned, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
191		Name not provided	
	Vision Zero	I'd love to see the Sligo Creek Trail renovations continue. I also want a tunnel for the Georgetown Branch Trail in Bethesda.	Thank you for your interest in trails, community connectivity, and Vision Zero. Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation projects, including along Sligo Creek Trail, that incorporate community connections, and Vision Zero improvements, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.
192		Name not provided	
	Invasive removal, Dog Park	Please do something about the poison ivy that is everywhere around the edges of our parks - particularly Nolte. Thank you for the new trees planted in Nolte, and thanks for cutting back the mulberry tree along the path. Is there any chance you would consider creating a dog park in the sloped part of Nolte that is near the woods? That area is too sloped and tree-covered to be useful for sports, but it would make a delightful area for dogs to socialize. It would have to be fenced off, though, to keep the dogs out of the rest of Nolte Park. Also belated thanks for upgrading the basketball court at Nolte. It is beautiful now.	Thank you for your support for various park amenities and native trees. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.
193		Name not provided	
	Native Trees, Park Refreshers, Amenities	The track and park adjacent to Silver Spring Middle School is in dire need of a refresh/rehaul, considering how use from the community, including SSIMS students. The perimeter needs shade trees. Poison ivy has been spotted. It would be really nice if nice landscaping could be added-- the site has so much potential	Thank you for your support for various park amenities and native trees at SSIMS. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support. The track at SSIMS is maintained by MCPS, so please share your concerns with them as they prepare their CIP budget request.
194		Name not provided	
	Native Plants	It is incredibly important to keep the parks well-funded. The native plant sale in particular is the main program that I personally use the most as a MoCo resident. Providing these plants allows residents to purchase environmentally-important native plants at a reasonable price. It is very difficult to access native plants and MoCo plays an important role in continuing this service. As more people are learning, these plants are essential for native species, and reducing the use of water, fertilizer, and pesticides. If MoCo is serious about reducing climate change and improving the environment, it will increase funding for these parks and nurseries.	Thanks for your support for native shade trees and addressing climate change. Parks operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Energy Conservation and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide renewable energy and more native trees to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.
195		Name not provided	
	Native plants, Trails, Wayfinding	I'm most interested in accessible and informative natural spaces. Native plants and trees, easy paths, and educational information (maybe pamphlets and maps, or guided walks) about what we are seeing and how it's being maintained. I do greatly value the county's native plant sales.	Thanks for your support for trails and native trees. Parks operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more trails accessible and more native trees to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
196		Name not provided	
	Nature Centers	<p>It may not seem like a major thing, but getting this done has been impossible:</p> <p>The observation hive at Brookside Nature Center needs much better light.</p> <p>Visitors cannot see the bees.</p> <p>it needs to be two bright controllable lights that illuminate the hive so that visitors can see what the bees are doing.</p>	Question with Suzanne Bode and Grace Yick (HFEE)
197		Name not provided	
	Nature Centers	Please include more funding for nature centers, camps and programs. My children have benefitted from these nature programs and I would like to see more support for programs such as these. I support creating larger facilities at Nature centers, as well as funding for expanded programing such as more summer camps, schools-out day camps or after school nature programs.	Thank you for your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciated any community support.
198		Name not provided	
	Nature Centers	Larger indoor facility at the Locust Grove Nature Center	Thank you for your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciated any community support.
199		Name not provided	
	Electrification	The addition of car charging would be nice.	Thanks for your support for electrification and addressing climate change. The majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Energy Conservation and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide renewable energy and more electrification to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.
200		Name not provided	
	Vision Zero	Better and safer crosswalks and sidewalks along Sligo Creek Parkway to access the trail and creek.	Thank you for your interest in trails, community connectivity, and Vision Zero. Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation projects, including along Sligo Creek Trail, that incorporate community connections, and Vision Zero improvements, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
201		Name not provided	
	Nature Center	Expand indoor area of Locust Grove park so they can continue to grow their camps offerings	Thank you for your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciated any community support.
202		Name not provided	
	Playgrounds, Native Plants	Please continue to invest in Montgomery Parks! We are grateful for new playgrounds in our neighborhood, and suggest continued investment! I'm delighted to purchase plants from the Native Plant sales and would love to see more native plantings in local parks.	Thanks for your support of playgrounds and native plants. Parks has multiple playground projects in design, and we also operate the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more playground renovations and more native plants to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.
203		Name not provided	
	Native Plants, Rachel Carson	<p>Please implement more native plants and edibles-especially edible natives. Educated the public about these.</p> <p>We should especially have functional food forests (like seen in Philadelphia, Hyattsville, Atlanta) that help our community be resilient and strengthen food security. Place these near impoverished areas, like Langley Park, and not near wealthy zip codes with lots of land. We could work with Forested in Bowie or the folks who are working on one in Takoma Park. This should not be like the community gardens.</p> <p>Work with schools to set up partnerships.</p> <p>Please make the Rachel Carson museum a priority (Springsong). It could be the crown jewel of our incredible park system.</p>	Thanks for your support for native plants and the Rachel Carson museum. Parks operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more native plants to our parks, and we appreciate any community support. We are also working on a public-private partnership to implement the Springsong Museum.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
204		Name not provided	
	Trails, Park Amenities	<p>I have mainly turned to outdoor activity and parks once I had my son and it's really surprising that so few parks have bathrooms near playgrounds. Many kids end up peeing in bushes or near trees and that's not really sanitary in an urban context and can be dangerous in areas that may contain poisonous plants. Bathrooms next to each playground and at park entrances would be great to have.</p> <p>The other thing which feels like its missing is to have benches along trails. Many people who use the trail are elderly like my father in law and having a place to sit and take a break would make walks more enjoyable. It would allow them to continue further instead of having to turn back. Even if you're not elderly having a place to sit would be great.</p> <p>Functional water fountains also seem rare.</p> <p>In our area many cyclists share the path with pedestrians and sometimes it feels unsafe especially with little children. Having separate bike paths and pedestrian paths where possible would be great.</p> <p>Finally it would be nice to have more plates with information about the fauna and flora of the area. And also great to collaborate with local artists to create in situ art work that would highlight the natural world and create a sense of wonder and bring the whimsical into nature adventures.</p>	<p>Thank you for your interest in trails and bathroom facilities. Parks is working on multiple infrastructure and trail renovation projects, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails and PLAR-NL in FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like the ones mentioned, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
205		Name not provided	
	Trails, Environmental Restoration	<p>Improvements to Lake Frank trails and address the water quality.</p>	<p>Thanks for your trails and environmental restoration. The majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Also, most of the County watersheds were developed prior to stormwater management requirements. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails, Streams, and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more ideas like the ones mentioned, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
206		Name not provided	
	Trails, Amenities	<p>Please continue to expand bike access, bike lanes, and add more bike repair stations.</p>	<p>Thanks for your interest in trails and biking. Parks has multiple trail renovation and expansion projects in design. The majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more ideas like the ones mentioned, and we appreciate any community support.</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
207		Name not provided	
	Amenities	Install weight training units along Sligo trail	Thanks for your interest in fitness equipment and trails. Parks has multiple Park Refresher projects that include fitness equipment and trail renovation projects in design. The majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to implement more ideas like the ones mentioned, and we appreciate any community support.
208		Name not provided	
	Jesup Blair	I support the plan for Jessup Blair house to become and community arts hub. We need more of that in Silver Spring area. We need more gallery space.	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.
209		Name not provided	
	Jesup Blair	Jesup Blair House should be used as a community resource to attract art shows, performances and other activities to Silver Spring. The west part of the county has many such historical houses available for rent but DDSS does not.	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.
210		Name not provided	
	Jesup Blair	Please restore the Jesup Blair House in Jesup Blair Park and bring it back into use. I support the proposed restoration/development envisioned at JesupBlairHouse.org.	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.
211		Name not provided	
	Historic, Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ideally parks are places where the local as well as the extended community can gather for a variety of activities: cultural as well as recreational - Areas of the park should be designated for flexible use both interior as well as exterior - Adapting historic structures so the past is preserved but also allowing the current needs of the community to co-exist w/o restrictions. - Allow non-profit organizations to assist and take advantage of unique conditions as long as the community benefits 	Thank you for your input and support of Parks.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
212		Name not provided	
	Jesup Blair	<p>This is to express support for restoring the historic Jesup Blair House in Silver Spring, as advocated by a variety of community-focused nonprofits led by Carpe Diem Arts.</p> <p>The Jesup Blair House has a storied history and could be used as a site to house nonprofits, bring the community together, and host performances and workshops. Types of programming envisioned for the space include concerts, art exhibits, lectures, out-of-school time programs, summer camps, and outdoor festivals on the 14.5 acres of parkland where the house is located.</p> <p>There are architectural drawings at the ready, and the vision spearheaded by the proposed project's two lead partners, Carpe Diem Arts and the Silver Spring Historical Society, has been endorsed by The Washington Post.</p> <p>This restoration project would meet many urgent needs in our region, including for community-serving nonprofits that seek a home, students who need access to high-quality after-school programs and camps, and community members who would benefit from a gathering space that includes a planned coffee shop, art gallery, community garden and spaces for performance and learning. It is an inspiring vision, and one whose realization would benefit the whole community.</p>	<p>Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.</p>
213		Name not provided	
	Arts, Amenities	arts related programing and space for the arts to thrive in our county is very needed	<p>Thank you for your support of art in parks and other park amenities. Parks is working on new art installation at Gene Lynch UP, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for PLAR-NL PDF in FY25-30 CIP, which help us implement more of the ideas like the ones raised, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
214		Name not provided	
	Jesup Blair	I support implementation of the plan for the restoration of the historic Jesup Blair House	<p>Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.</p>
215		Name not provided	
	Nature Center	Locust Grove Nature Center needs additional indoor classroom space and updates to aging exhibits (they were installed in the 70s and haven't been updated since!).	<p>Thank you for your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciated any community support.</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
216		Name not provided	
	Invasive Removal	Please remove the invasive bamboo and Japanese Knotweed from Longbranch Park. Please put a roadway dividing line on the paved paths so people and bikes can travel on the right and pass on the left. Port-a-potties and water fountains please!	Montgomery Parks has a serious NNI problem, and generally focuses its limited resources on removing invasives from best natural areas. With over 37,000 acres of parkland, Parks also relies on support from our Weed Warriors, a program that trains parks volunteers on how to identify and remove invasives. We appreciate your support for these efforts. We will look into the site at Longbrach Park. We encourage park users to submit concerns on our website: https://montgomeryparks.org/report-a-problem/
217		Name not provided	
	Nature Center	Locust Grove Nature Center is in a great location right off of 270/495. I think the facility itself needs to be updated. If there was a way to add more facility space, I think it would be well worth the effort. The programs are great and we love the location.	Thank you for your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciated any community support.
218		Name not provided	
	Community Centers, Pools, Amenities	Vibrant multicultural community center, performance space, library. Family friendly programming for indoors and outdoors.	Montgomery County Department of General Services is the lead agency for creating community centers and libraries. Please let them know your interest in pools as they plan for their CIP.
219		Name not provided	
	Jesup Blair	The Jesup Blair House could provide a home for several nonprofit arts and humanities organizations, artists-in-residence--to include a period room with some of the SS Historical Society's archives. It could also include an art gallery, coffee shop, community gardens, a stage for major festivals, and more. The vision that Carpe Diem Arts and the Silver Spring Historical Society have put forth is described at JesupBlairHouse.org --and includes remarkable architectural drawings and plans c/o Stanley Hallet and Richard Loosle, endorsed by Washington Post longtime columnist Roger Lewis. We envision opportunities for many other community groups and organizations to participate as programming partners in scheduling special events, performance series, concerts, dances, art exhibits, lectures and film series, after-school programs, arts and language immersion summer camps, cross-cultural and intergenerational activities, and outdoor festivals on the 14.5 acre property.	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.
220		Name not provided	
	CCT	The Capital Crescent Civic Green should be a high priority, and include an interactive water feature like a splash pad and a monumental piece of art. Lots of shade trees and seating are also important.	Parks will begin a Facility Plan for Capital Crescent Civic Green in FY25, so we can be ready to construct once the Purple Line is complete and MCDOT has built the Bike Parking for the Bethesda Station.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
221		Name not provided	
	Drainage issues	Montgomery Hills Neighborhood Park needs improvements to drainage. Localized standing water breeds mosquitoes leaving muddied areas near residential buildings. Location towards Riley Road and Riley Place. Recommend new rain gardens be installed to capture runoff and reduce insect and mud damage to park area.	Parks will investigate this concern and potential for SWM retrofit.
222		Name not provided	
	Maintenance, Trails	The most important reminder is for Parks and Montgomery County staff to listen carefully to suggestions made by residents. We tend to know our communities very well and provide input with the well-being and service we think might be best suited to our neighbors. As someone who is involved in the planning of two neighborhood parks, I would like to see maintenance of our parks and trails being taken seriously. Thank you to all involved! PS Seeing the responses to this survey, we should be mortified at the (current) response in terms of demographics. Outreach to minorities is crucial!	Public outreach and engagement is a critical component in setting Parks Department priorities, designing, renovating, and developing parks and trails, and responding to residents needs and concerns. Parks is committed to engaging residents across the county from all backgrounds and uses tools including surveys, door to door canvassing, tabling at public events, website information and open town halls, and social media to inform and engage community members of every background and interest.
223		Name not provided	
	Skate park	Indoor skatepark	Thank you for the comment. Parks will keep this request in mind as we develop additional skate parks.
224		Name not provided	
	Trails	Please maintain the miles of walking trails that you have, and enhance accessibility into parks for people in the surrounding communities by removing barriers, paving walking paths into the park (as well as for circulation around the parks) and improve wayfinding.	Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation projects throughout the County, including constructing new community connectors. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in the FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate the public support.
225		Name not provided	
	Trails	I hope to see more MTB trails, more separate walking trails, and more informal dog parks. My hope is that the dog parks would give dogs a place to run and maybe that would help encourage people to leash their dogs on the trails. I am really impressed with the trails that MORE and MCPPC create and maintain.	Thank you for the comment. Parks rules require dogs to be on leash except in fenced dog parks. We are working to identify locations for new dog parks.
226		Name not provided	
	Swimming pools	I am very pleased with MOCO's focus on parks. It is one of the best reasons to live in MOCO. I do get concerned about the lack of swimming pools for residents. We have over a million residents and just a handful of county pools. A number of community pools have closed in the Aspen Hill area with no replacements. Knowing how to swim is a life skill that promotes fitness and community. I could wax at length about the value of knowing how to swim, being on a swim team, swimming for exercise, but I think my request is just phrased more simply. Can the county look at more community pools to build community, promote recreation and overall health? Similar to libraries it can bring all ages together.	Montgomery County Department of Recreation is the lead agency for creating public pools. Please let them know your interest in pools as they plan for their CIP.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
227		Name not provided	
	Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park	The Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park on Allegheny is completely overrun with invasive ivy. It's a great space that could be used by the community! It would be great to see a playground and maybe vita trail equipment. We also desperately need a plan (and maybe some signage) to address the dumping of trash in the Sligo Mill Neighborhood Conservation Area.	<p>Thank you for your comment about Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park. We will add it to our list of parks to investigate activating with appropriate amenities and improvements. Your support for the Parks CIP allows us to take on projects like this.</p> <p>Parks is working on a project with the City of Takoma Park, which is responsible for maintenance of the Sligo Mill NCA, to help restore Takoma Branch and address some of the dumping issues there. We will communicate your concerns to the City and continue to support their efforts.</p>
228		Name not provided	
	Playgrounds	Behind the Spring Mill Field Office (11721 Kemp Mill Road) is a lot of field space and an old amphitheater. It is largely unused and. The area is densely populated with families with young children and would greatly benefit from a fenced in playground in a shaded area.	The Spring Mill Field Office is owned by MC Public Schools, and there is no adjacent parkland. Please let them know your interests as they plan for their CIP.
229		Name not provided	
	Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park	<p>I would see some signs and better access maybe a table and/or playground equipment at the Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park</p> <p>Similar signs and cleanup of the Sligo Mill Neighborhood Conservation Area in Takoma Park.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment about Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park. We will add it to our list of parks to investigate activating with appropriate amenities and improvements. Your support for the Parks CIP allows us to take on projects like this.</p> <p>Parks is working on a project with the City of Takoma Park, which is responsible for maintenance of the Sligo Mill NCA, to help restore Takoma Branch and address some of the dumping issues there. We will communicate your concerns to the City and continue to support their efforts.</p>
230		Name not provided	
	Tree canopy, Urban Parks, Bike Lanes	<p>A diverse tree canopy is essential--Montgomery Parks department is really knowledgeable and I want to affirm their efforts</p> <p>Plant native pollinators wherever possible on county lands. Provide expertise to homeowners and commercial property owners so they can plant native pollinators on their property and receive information on how to do so.</p> <p>With extreme heat increasing, I encourage all efforts to add misters and eco-friendly water features that cool public places and enable everybody, including children, to spend time outside.</p> <p>While I love walks in our larger parks, the current trend of smaller urban parks is very welcome to add to a better quality of life for all.</p> <p>Protected bike lanes! I would ride a bike more often but I don't feel safe on urban streets.</p>	We appreciate your support for this work! Parks works hard to preserve and increase our tree canopy, try to cool our parks, and enhance our parks' biodiversity. We are also committed to road safety and multi-modal access to parks. Your support for the parks budget will help us match federal grant funds to make Safe Routes to Parks a reality.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
231		Name not provided	
	Conservation	Montgomery County leadership, in conjunction with Montgomery Parks, Montgomery planners and the zoning/code compliance department to target land with potentially high-value as a future park area for protective conservation easements. By identifying interesting parcels, like, say, the woodland ravine and 1/4 mile trail in the triangle between Ethan Allen Ave, Woodland Ave, and Elm Ave/Prince Georges Ave., and targeting these properties for future, albeit partial conservation, Montgomery county can both support wider conservation/environmental initiatives while developing a framework for future park acquisition.	Sorry, but there is not enough information to provide response.
232		Name not provided	
	ADA, Amenities	<p>1. Opal Daniels Park in Takoma Park - needs a handicap entrance off of Carroll Avenue. As of now, there are only a long series steps which are difficult from anyone on that side of the map to enter the park.</p> <p>2 (a). B.Y. Morrison Park in Takoma Park - at the intersection of Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenues, needs a water fountain or some type of water spray as it is at the heart of a major bus route, bike route, and walking area and in the heat there is nowhere for people to get water; 2(b) needed - covered bus stops for those waiting in the heat and the cold.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	Parks will investigate accessibility in Opal Daniels Park and determine what improvements can be made with a future project. Please note that the majority of parks were built decades ago and do not meet current standards, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Please note that we are requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support. Please note that B.Y. Morrison Park is owned and maintained by the City of Takoma Park, so please let them know your concerns as they plan for their future CIP.
233		Name not provided	
	Park Refreshers, Amenities	Updating playgrounds that are very old, adding more play structures/areas that are toddler-appropriate, and making many play areas covered so there's some shade during the hotter months.	Thanks for raising this concern. The majority of parks were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR program in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.
234		Name not provided	
	Park Refreshers, Amenities	I would love to see some kind of simple water feature in our parks, like a mister or the water fountain with a mister to cool off in the summer. Would love to see it at Homewood- Capitol View Park, Kensington Heights Park or Getty Park! Also, having more shade at the parks with playgrounds would be great too. Thanks!	Thanks for raising this concern. The majority of parks were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support. Shade is a priority for Parks.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
235		Name not provided	
	Playgrounds, Shade Structures, PROS	<p>Please include shady spots in future parks, whether that be trees or structures especially around playgrounds. Kids want to play year round, but in the summer it's very hot and sunny to be out in the bright sun the whole time. If you build a pavilion or structure next to a playground, make it close enough to the playground so parents can see their kids from it.</p> <p>Please include splash areas in more parks in future that are free in the summer.</p> <p>And ensure nearby public bathrooms in the parks/near playgrounds.</p> <p>Another fun thing to include across trails in parks is a way to add a story walk where pages of books of a story a more out along stops on a trail for families to read along the walk. I used to live in Massachusetts and that was something our parks had and every month they would change out the story.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. These are all priorities in the 2022 PROS plan and we appreciate your support for all of them.</p> <p>https://montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/powered-by-parks-2022-park-recreation-and-open-space-plan/</p>
236		Name not provided	
	Olney Manor Rec Park, Park Refreshers, Playgrounds	<p>The Olney manor park needs to be rebuilt. There are always kids on the playground and it is a wooden structure that is starting to give splinters</p> <p>I also really wish rock walls and climbing areas did not lead to a slide platform, it is a fall hazard if kids are waiting for a slide and back up too far.</p>	<p>Parks is actively working on a playground upgrade at Olney Manor Rec Park. While not as extensive as Blandair West, we believe it will be well received by park users. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support. Please note that Parks recently acquired land adjacent to Olney Manor Rec Park, which will provide a future park expansion that could include a larger regional playground like the one you are suggesting.</p>
237		Name not provided	
	Native Plants	<p>Let's prioritize planting native plants in abundance all over.</p>	<p>Thanks for the input and support for native plants. Parks operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of parks, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more native trees to our parks</p>
238		Name not provided	
	Playground	<p>A playground with swings be at the Aspen Hill Library or within the English/Manor community</p>	<p>Parks is actively working on a multiple playground upgrades throughout the County. The majority of our playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support. We will review the condition of the English Manor playground and evaluate whether there is space to incorporate swings when it is up for renovation. Please note that Montgomery County Department of Recreation is the lead agency for libraries and there is no adjacent parkland at Aspen Hill Library. Please let them know your interest in playgrounds as they plan for their CIP.</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
239	ADA, Park Amenities, Wayfinding	<p>Name not provided</p> <p>Lyme is out of control where we live. Please, please help! Managed deer hunts, or preferably birth control (more humane and safer since densely populated) and tick rollers are needed.</p> <p>Some more ADA park amenities could be helpful for parents with special needs€;</p> <p>And some musical stations at parks could help kids interact with one another</p> <p>And nonverbal communication boards could help people that do not speak AND for those who did not speak English</p> <p>We live in Damascus and love Upper Magruder Branch Park and the connecting dirt trails / paths.</p> <p>We also enjoy the community park next to Clearspring ES. (Love the tennis courts and tennis wall at that location!!!)</p> <p>My daughter is now in college, but that small park was great - especially right after school. I still walk around it everyday day and it always has kids on the playground and often on the basketball courts.</p> <p>My husband and I also love walking the trails and often do 10-12 miles and are always amazed that we can do this by walking out our front door!!!</p> <p>We also enjoy Little Bennett. But some of the trails get overgrown in the summer thus we only hike in the cooler months. (So better maintenance on meadow paths would be appreciated)</p> <p>Keep up the great job! The well-maintained parks and trails really makes me appreciate where I live.</p>	<p>Thanks for raising these concerns. The majority of parks and trails were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.</p>
240	Park Refreshers, Amenities	<p>Name not provided</p> <p>The redevelopment of Caroline Freeland Urban Park should really include a section for dogs - there are no dog parks within walking distance of Bethesda, and dog owners who congregate on the field of Bethesda Elementary during the Sunday Farmer's Market occasionally get accosted by locals complaining that dogs shouldn't be allowed. Since the park is already being redeveloped, now would be an excellent time to help the dog owners of Bethesda have a place they and their pets feel welcome.</p>	<p>Thanks for this input. Caroline Freeland Urban Park Refresher project is currently under construction and doesn't include a dog park, but Parks working on multiple dog park projects, including one that would be build adjacent to the Women's Farm Market redevelopment project.</p>
241	Playground Amenities, Courts	<p>Name not provided</p> <p>I would love to see improvements for Chevy Chase Local Park. It is highly used and the playground equipment could greatly benefit from updates to make it safer and more inclusive. The tennis court is also getting dangerous because of erosion and needs to be resurfaced. In general, the more shade the better, especially as our summers get warmer. Other amenities I would like to see include different activities for people of all ages - mini golf, splash pads, pickleball!</p>	<p>Parks is actively working on a multiple playground and court upgrades throughout the County. The majority of our playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
242		Name not provided	
	Park Refreshers, Amenities	<p>Obstacle course for kids</p> <p>Gym or workout area</p> <p>Biking path</p> <p>Walking/running path</p> <p>A good example is Dewey Local Park. It a perfect for both parents and children to enjoy.</p> <p>Also fishing/hiking/kayaking areas are great ways to enjoy the outdoors.</p>	<p>Thanks for sharing these ideas. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is working on implementing the WRP Master Plan, which includes an Adventure Sports Parks that would create a challenging course geared for kids. Parks is also working on multiple projects to improve our hard surface trail system. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for trails, Wheaton Regional Park, and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
243		Name not provided	
	CCT, Stream Valley Parks	<p>1)Implement parks recommendations set out in the 2016 Westbard sector plan:</p> <p>a)Westbard Greenway (north side of Westbard Avenue)</p> <p>b)Westbard Park (south side of Westbard Avenue)</p> <p>2)Maintain/improve Capital Crescent Trail and Little Falls Stream Valley Park (remove invasive plants; separate trail areas for walkers and bikers.)</p>	<p>Thanks for your support of the Westbard Greenway, Capital Crescent Trail, and the Little Falls Stream Valley Park. Parks is actively pursuing land acquisitions that would allow future development of the Westbard Greenway. Parks will be beginning Facility Planning for upgrades to the CCT in the next year. We are also actively working on environmental restoration and trail renovations in the Little Falls Stream Valley Park. We have limited resources for these improvements and Parks is requesting increased funding for trails and stream restoration in the FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
244		Name not provided	
	Trails, Playgrounds, Park Amenities	<p>Long Branch Stream Valley Park and Trail Extension: Extend and connect the existing trail throughout the entire Long Branch side towards Sligo. A crucial step for this project is acquiring the Agro family property P172 at 7813 Carroll Avenue (currently listed in the FY23 Acquisition Program). This property, located south of Carroll Avenue and west of the Long Branch Stream, will finalize Long Branch SVU 1A.</p> <p>Playground Shade: Introduce shade solutions near playgrounds to shield children and caregivers from the harsh summer sun. By planting trees or constructing pavilions strategically, parks can offer natural shade, ensuring playgrounds remain functional even during intense heat.</p> <p>Water Access at Playgrounds: Incorporate water features such as drinking fountains, splash pads, or misters adjacent to playgrounds. This provides children and adults with hydration, handwashing facilities, and cooling options. Positioning these facilities close to play areas ensures children can clean their hands post-play and stay hydrated.</p> <p>Reimagining the Old Adventist Hospital Site: As part of the ongoing zoning deliberation for Takoma Park's Minor Master Plan, I recommend transforming the area by Flower Ave, previously occupied by Adventist Hospital. Collaborative efforts between the parks and MCPS could lead to the establishment of a comprehensive aquatic center and a new school. Both amenities are conspicuously missing from the vicinity. The existing Silver Spring aquatic center, while commendable, is nearly 20 minutes away from certain parts of Takoma Park. Moreover, the Long Branch pool is seasonal, and the Takoma Pool's capacity and appeal is restrictive.</p>	<p>Thanks for the input about trails, playgrounds and support for native shade trees. Parks has multiple playground projects in design, and we will work to incorporate both structural and natural shading where feasible. Parks also operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is also working on multiple trail renovation and extension projects. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more trails, shading for playgrounds, and more native trees to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
245		Name not provided	
	Park Refreshers, Playgrounds	<p>Martin Luther King Jr Park off of Jackson Road in Silver spring is an amazing park where I take my daughter and I see other kids there as well. Being near the pool and other facilities, this park gets a lot of guests coming and going. The basketball court has been re done, however, the playground equipment is very old and rusted. It is very faded and the ground is hard if kids fall. There should be updated, rust free equipment with a soft landing for children to play on. This park really needs some attention.</p>	<p>Thank you for your interest in the Martin Luther King Jr Rec Park playground. The majority of playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Please note that Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds projects like this, and we appreciated any community support.</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
246		Name not provided	
	Shade structures, Playgrounds, Amenities	<p>Please add more swimming pools/Splash pads in the down county area. The county is huge and we do not have sufficient pools for the population. Please consider free days for swimming for those who are low income. The minor master plan for the Old Adventist Hospital site offers an opportunity.</p> <p>Please make sure all playgrounds have shade.</p> <p>Amenities like little Bennett are much appreciated and very popular. Please acquire more land for similar campgrounds.</p> <p>Please add more picnic pavilions for parks.</p>	<p>Thanks for the input about shading playgrounds, picnic pavilions, and support for native shade trees. Parks has multiple playground and shelter projects in design, and we will work to incorporate both structural and natural shading where feasible. Parks also operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more shading for playgrounds, picnic pavilions, and more native trees to our parks, and we appreciate any community support. Montgomery County Department of Recreation is the lead agency for public pools. Please let them know your interest as they plan for their CIP.</p>
247		Name not provided	
	Nature Centers, Vision Zero	<p>Meadowside Nature Center - the stream crossing is insufficient & dangerous. The rocks are slippery, people fall in & hurt themselves. I injured an ankle. It is frequently covered in water. Instead of the rocks, people use a few trees, but, those too, are dangerous. Please install a bridge somewhere so that people can safely park & walk all the way around Lake Frank. Or - make the bridge at Muncaster Mill Road wide enough for a designated walking path.</p> <p>Finish the new trail on Muncaster Mill Road. The new bike path goes into a fence at the woods edge. You have to cross the grass & continue on a shoulder.</p>	<p>Thank you for these two comments. We will look at the- Meadowside Nature Center. We are working with MCDOT on the Muncaster Mill connection.</p>
248		Name not provided	
	Invasive Plant Control, Trails	<p>Please prioritize funding to enhance the following programs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please devote more effort and funding to invasive plant control. The volunteer Weed Warrior program is powerful /effective and has much more potential -- need more staffing and outreach to expand the program. There are problems the volunteer weed warriors are unable to solve and these require careful use of herbicides by knowledgeable staff and contractors -- please increase funding. As non-native invasive plants are removed, more planting of native perennials is needed. These steps will sustain the forest ecology that so many users enjoy, and the shade that many people are requesting (invasive vines kill trees at the border of the forest!). 2. Trail Rangers clear vegetation from natural surface trails to keep them open/accessible for hikers, trail bikers and equestrians. Too few people are aware of this volunteer opportunity to get out in the woods and give back to our fellow citizens. Please increase funding for staff and outreach to expand this valuable volunteer program. 	<p>Thank you for your support for both of these programs!</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
249		Name not provided	
	Wheaton Regional Park, Trails	<p>For Wheaton Regional I would like to see the things that were in the Master Plan get full funding. I would like you to please fund:</p> <p>A new adventure sports complex</p> <p>New basketball and soccer courts</p> <p>A bike skills area</p> <p>A comprehensive parkwide wayfinding sign plan</p> <p>Anything that will make it easier to get to the park by bike or by walking.</p> <p>Vision Zero funding in order to provide safer trail intersections and traffic calming in several locations near Wheaton – specifically Matthew Henson Trail, Sligo Creek Trail, and connections to Wheaton Regional Park.</p>	<p>Thanks for sharing your support for Wheaton Regional Park and trails. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is working on implementing the WRP Master Plan, which includes an Adventure Sports Parks, courts, bike skills, wayfinding signage, etc. Parks is also working on multiple projects to improve our hard surface trail system. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for trails, Wheaton Regional Park, and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
250		Name not provided	
	Amenities, Courts, Dog Parks, Wayfinding	<p>Sligo Creek Park and Trail east of Piney Branch needs repair and maintenance.</p> <p>Remediation of water pollution in Sligo Creek.</p> <p>Park tennis courts should be modified to accommodate pickleball.</p> <p>More green space and pocket parks in the urban areas of the county.</p> <p>Older and younger county residents have merging common needs for outdoor recreation.</p> <p>Increased dog parks.</p> <p>Plant and native species identification signage.</p> <p>Create permanent biking trail from Silver Spring to Metropolitan Branch Trail to DC</p>	<p>Thank you for your support for various park amenities and environmental restoration. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Also, much of the Sligo Creek watershed was developed prior to stormwater management requirements. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Streams and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.</p>
251		Name not provided	
	Amenities	<p>Please work with whoever now controls DTSS to bring back the Ellsworth splash fountain. Our summers are longer and hotter each year. That fountain was a beautiful, free, community-centered source of joy and connectedness that allowed so many people, especially children, to have fun while cooling off. Shutting it down was a terrible loss. If, for whatever reason, the original splash fountain can't be brought back, please install one under the canopy where the skating rink is in the winter.</p>	<p>The fountain in downtown Silver Spring was created as part of a private development project. This space and Veteran's Plaza with the skating rink are not located on parkland controlled by Montgomery Parks. Montgomery County Department of General Services would be the lead agency for future improvements to Veteran's Plaza.</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
252		Name not provided	
	Playgrounds	The new playground in Sligo Creek park at Kennebec Ave.'s intersection with Sligo Creek Parkway has caused more parking congestion and illegally parked cars that block our driveway, especially on the weekends. We need "No Parking" signs at the road closure gate & in front of the stop sign on Houston at Sligo Creek Pkway. Also, a few shade structures (small pavilions) for people to sit under in the park, especially near the new playground, would be helpful.	Thank you for your support for playgrounds. Parks is actively working on a multiple playground upgrades throughout the County. The majority of our playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like providing shade for playgrounds, and we appreciated any community support. Please contact Park Police for illegally parked cars.
253		Name not provided	
	Amenities, Environmental Restoration, Park Refreshers	1) Significant green space (I'm defining significant as being able to be in at least one part of a park and not see cars in at least 3 directions) is so valuable and is lacking in my part of the county - downtown Silver Spring, in particular, between Georgia and Dale, and Colesville and Sligo. It is even more if an issue because of all of the mature trees that have been cut down, especially along Wayne Avenue, to make way for the Purple Line (which I otherwise support). It is soul-depleting, not to mention unhealthy in physical ways - it is a "nature desert". And on top of that, it is an EJ zone for air quality as defined by EPA. We need help! I understand that there is not space to actually build new parks - but please take better care of the ones we have. There is space for many more trees in Bullis Park, for example. Bullis is actually extremely run-down for other reasons as well - very old and age-worn playground equipment (not entirely, but mostly), sand pits with toxic sand (I know you put signs up - not everyone can or does read them), and a frequently-used soccer field with little shade for onlookers (compared to what is needed). Our kids visit other fields & the difference is pretty stark. Please fix these inequities and make our county pretty and healthy for all!	Thank you for your support for various park amenities and environmental restoration. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Also, much of the downcounty watersheds were developed prior to stormwater management requirements. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Streams and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciated any community support.
253		Name not provided	
	Playgrounds	It would be wonderful to have some natural landscape playgrounds similar to some of the features at Sandy Spring friend school where the natural landscape is the backbone of the equipment.	Thank you for your support for playgrounds, and we hope you can visit some of our more recent projects that incorporate Nature Play. Parks is actively working on a multiple playground upgrades throughout the County. The majority of our playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like incorporating natural elements into playgrounds, and we appreciated any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
254		Name not provided	
	Nature Centers, Energy Conservation, Environmental Restoration	MC Parks needs to move more visibly and aggressively into the 21st century, not simply by enhancing exhibits and going bi-lingual, but by going solar, by going geothermal, by renovating buildings to set an example of energy efficiency. The news is continually announcing the Anthropocene and how we are hastening its climate change. We face extreme weather, increasing temperatures, ground water depletion, and sea level rising. Parks has to be a model of conservation and can do so through building practices: fewer impervious parking lots, fewer older buildings that are not used profitably (this applies to some of the nature centers), fewer lawns...Wouldn't it make sense to have one or two nature centers (instead of 4, including Black Hill Visitor Center) that demonstrate sustainable innovations instead of continually renovating buildings that are at least 50 years old? Reclaim materials from buildings that will be demolished and reclaimed by nature to reduce our carbon footprint.	Thank you for your support for nature centers, energy conservation, and environmental restoration, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our parks facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Energy Conservation, Streams, and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like the ones mentioned, and we appreciated any community support.
255		Name not provided	
	Nature Centers	Please plan for and fund needed renovations to the nature centers. especially Locust Grove. Locust Grove is especially important because it is within walking and biking distance of population centers near Montgomery Mall. The center building is old and needs renovation. Also please plan for and fund a nature center in upper Montgomery County, including land acquisition if needed. The centers provide education and connection with nature for all ages, a unique function above and beyond recreation, playing fields, etc. They help people appreciate the natural world and safeguard the environment.	Thank you for your support for biking and nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our parks facilities and trails were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like the ones mentioned, and we appreciated any community support.
256		Name not provided	
	Native trees, Playgrounds, Energy Conservation	Dear MCPS Parks - I strongly suggest the Parks Department look closely at tree cover. As our climate heats up, tree cover is essential to enable citizens to safely enjoy parks, particularly in the summer. Large, shade trees should be planted consistently around playground structures, and more picnic areas should have consistent reliable shade as well. We greatly appreciate the country recreational facilities, and have recognized how many fewer the Silver Spring area has than the more northern areas of the county, particularly on a per capita basis. I look forward to learning how you will better equalize the parks facilities and offerings downcounty.	Thank you for your support for native trees, playgrounds, energy conservation, and park facilities. The majority of our nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Energy Conservation and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like the ones mentioned, and we appreciated any community support.
257		Name not provided	
	Playgrounds, Trails	I would like for a playground to be built somewhere in the Franklin Knolls or Montgomery Knolls neighborhood (the area bordered by University Blvd, 495, the Northwest Branch, and Piney Branch Road). This set of neighborhoods does not have access to a playground that doesn't require crossing a major road (e.g., University Blvd or Piney Branch Road). It would also be good to have a trailhead down to the Northwest Branch trail within the neighborhood. While these neighborhoods border the trail, there are no trailheads and official paths to get down to the trail without having to drive up past the freeway or to the complete other side of the trail. An excellent site for the playground would be at the intersection of Vance Place and McAlpine Road, which would also serve as a good location for the trailhead.	Thank you for your interest in playgrounds, trails, and community connections. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like the ones mentioned, and we appreciated any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
258		Name not provided	
	Nature Centers	The Locust Grove Nature Center is in a beautiful location but unfortunately the building itself and exhibits are outdated and too small. While the programs are great, the facilities can't accommodate classes both individuals or groups. It would be wonderful to see an updated and larger facility in this lovely park setting.	Thank you for your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciated any community support.
259		Name not provided	
	Signs, Wayfinding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand public access to Seneca Creek Greenway with additional parking facilities to allow for more visitor access 2. Clarify trails along blockhouse point, add a few map posts where trails meet 3. Expand Orchard Knolls Park as a connector between the historic Pleasant View Church and its native habitat and the Muddy Branch Trail. Also connect the MBT and Aberdeen park, using powerline trail to solidify connection between Seneca Greenway and MBT 	Thanks for your support for trails, trailheads, and wayfinding. The majority of park facilities, were built decades ago and need improvements, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more improvements like the ones mentioned, and we appreciate any community support.
260		Name not provided	
	Park Amenities	I would like to see the existing amenities better maintained, i.e., trails, play areas, courts, open land, trees, flooding, and trash collection. For the most part, maintenance is very good, but sometimes there are a few lapses in the smaller parts.	Thanks for your various park amenities. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and need improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails, Streams, and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more improvements like the ones mentioned, and we appreciate any community support.
261		Name not provided	
	Native Plants, Energy Conservation	<p>I would love to see Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County plant more native flowers and fruit trees (I know they are messy).</p> <p>Planting flowers adds color and visual interest to any landscape while providing food to much-needed pollinators. Flowers impact people's moods positively and can improve our overall well-being.</p> <p>Fruit trees have many benefits: free food, clean oxygen, lower carbon footprint, food, and shelter for wildlife.</p> <p>Fruit trees can live for a very long time with minimal care. A dwarf apple tree can produce over 500 apples in one season.</p> <p>As a County, we can do more to help pollinators, lower our carbon footprint, and enjoy nature's beauty with flowers and fruit trees.</p>	Thanks for your support for native plants and energy conservation. Parks operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Energy Conservation and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more electrification and more native plants to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
262		Name not provided	
	Park Planning	<p>Given the planned increase in the center of population density gravity at the nexus of Friendship Heights Maryland and Friendship Heights DC, I'd like to recommend the development of a dog park and human recreation areas at the northwestern corner of Western Avenue and Friendship Boulevard. Similarly, as the southeastern corner of this intersection is developed, County Parks could work jointly with DC Parks and Rec for similar enhancement and preservation of open space.</p> <p>With densification open space needs to be given priority and preserved.</p>	Thank you. We will work with the Planning Department with their upcoming Friendship Heights Public Space study to identify opportunities like this.
263		Name not provided	
	Cabin John	<p>It was great to see some changes to cabin John this year. However, the maze was taken out and only replaced with 2 or 3 ride on structures. It would have been great if something involving a wider variety of skills and supporting more kids was added. The train in the littlest kid area in front is very run down with many old, about-to-break planks and pieces. It really is starting to seem dangerous. Please update! Kids LOVE the play train though, so just a new, safe one would be great. There is also a huge space now up where a tiered area was leveled. Putting in a new climbing apparatus would be great.</p>	Thank you for your interest in the Cabin John Regional Park playground. The majority of playgrounds were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Please note that Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds projects like this, and we appreciated any community support.
264		Name not provided	
	Park Maintenance, Invasive Removal	<p>The Takoma-Piney Branch Park needs maintenance. The grass is cut and trash removed but vines are growing over the beautiful plantings that were done a few years ago. Wild grapes are starting to cover the river birch on the Grant Ave entrance. The holly trees planted as a buffer with neighbors along the Grant are being strangled by vines. The oak leaf hydrangeas near the Darwin entrance are almost completely covered. Posin ivy abounds on the walkway. The picnic pavilion is very popular and there need to be more garbage cans as food scraps are overflowing most weekends, which attracts creatures. Many river stones at both entrances, as well as near the pavilion, are missing. Hooks should be installed on the pavilion to allow people to attach balloons and signs for their gatherings as the support posts are covered with tape from such activities. The park had a nice redo but it has not been maintained. Maintain existing parks before adding new ones!</p>	Thank you for sharing this feedback. We will look into this.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
265		Name not provided	
	Native Plants, Invasive Removal	<p>Please adopt a native plants only policy, and vigorously remove the invasive plants in Montgomery Parks. And work to source local type straight native plants that are native to MD, and have not been treated with neonic or other herbicides. Nonprofit organization Earth Sangha can help you identify good growers. They partner with public parks in Virginia, coordinating multiple volunteer days to remove invasive and plant native plants and trees. You could seek out a similar partnership for Montgomery county parks.</p> <p>There are so many opportunities to replace invasive plants with native plants to restore the ecosystem and biodiversity. Please also establish areas where you plant native gardens with signage about native plants and their importance to butterflies, birds and other pollinators and wildlife. Pocket parks are ideal but so are larger parks, especially when you can add native gardens to the most used areas as a demonstration of what people can do in their own gardens.</p> <p>Please remove invasive vines and trees. For example, there is a large Princess tree behind the fence next to the reservoir in Little Falls Park. That tree is spreading thousands upon thousands of seeds every year.</p>	<p>Thanks for your support for native plants. Parks operates the Pope Farm Nursery specializing in native plants. Like the majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide more native plants to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
266		Name not provided	
	Electrification, Climate	<p>CIP for the parks should document plans for reducing the carbon footprint of the operations and maintenance for all facilities. Impacts on the carbon footprint should be considered when prioritizing. For instance, Brookside Gardens seems to think we are still living in the 1950s. The vast expanses of country-club lawns are meticulously mowed and aerated by gasoline-powered machines. Hard to believe botanical gardens have not come up with landscaping and operations more in tune with the times, and climate, that's changing. How about reserving the golf course lawns for a few strategically chosen sites and letting the areas rarely strolled upon by any visitors become no-mow areas. Brookside also runs a gasoline-powered blow dryer for its paved trails and uses riding mowers not only to mow but to continuously blow leaves off the trails and even off the immaculate lawns that are totally unnecessary. The county encourages homeowners to leave the leaves as mulch on their lawns. Why can't Brookside do the same? On the positive side, Brookside has adopted better practices governing its application of pesticides and insecticides, and it has switched to electric leaf blowers. But there's so much more it could do to innovate and champion landscaping and gardening practices that reduce the use of carbon-based energy.</p>	<p>Thanks for your support for electrification and addressing climate change. The majority of park facilities, it was built decades ago and needs improvements to meet our growing needs, but we have limited resources for modernizing our park facilities. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Energy Conservation and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements that would allow us to provide renewable energy and more electrification to our parks, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
267		Name not provided	
	Jesup Blair	<p>I would like to see the Jesup Blair House renovated and in use by Carpe Diem Arts and partners and the Silver Spring Historical Society for music, art, artists, history, and public programs. Silver Spring Historical Society was promised space in the Jesup Blair House a number of years ago to house and display special records and artifacts of Silver Spring's history, but the house has been in stasis sitting empty without interior walls for more than a dozen years. I would be happy to testify and support the regeneration of this area and especially the house and park.</p>	<p>Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
268		Name not provided	
	Nature Centers	My family loves Locust Grove Nature Center - my older son has attended camps there two summers in a row, plus had his birthday party there. We would love to see funding allocated to upgrading and expanding the space there, to allow for larger camp sizes and community programs.	Thank you for your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciated any community support.
269		Name not provided	
	Jesup Blair	Use Jessup Blair House	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.
270		Name not provided	
	Jesup Blair	End the shameful 15 year vacancy of the valuable community resource, Jesup Blair House, and allow it to be brought back to life as an arts & cultural center.	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.
271		Name not provided	
	Jesup Blair	Jesup Blair Park, with its historic Jesup Blair House, is an irreplaceable gem, an oasis of green & potential cultural activities as essential to Silver Spring's urban future as Central Park is to NYC. The CIP should contain funding to restore Jesup Blair House to serve as a center for diverse non-profits focusing on the arts, who would present concerts, festivals, movies, lectures & other activities to animate the park. Besides non-profit offices, the historic building should contain an historic period/museum room (the Jesup Blair House is the only remaining country estate of the 3 built in the 19th Century by Silver Spring's founding family, the Blairs, who wintered at historic Blair House in DC); space for historical archives & public lectures/talks/classes; galleries for contemporary art; and an intimate performance space for multi-genre, multicultural musical events that, when needed, opens in the rear of Jesup Blair House to an outdoor amphitheater. A basic kitchen facility should be included, for use by the non-profit offices or for special catered events. Park grounds near the house should be preserved as green space: botanical gardens sponsored by Silver Spring's/Takoma Park's numerous garden clubs; teaching gardens to show children & adults how to grow vegetables & fruits; shade trees for picnics; space for exhibits of outdoor sculpture & art; walking paths & benches for socializing in fresh air and quiet contemplation.	Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
		<p>Someday, downtown Silver Spring may become a warren of sterile high rise apartments and commercial buildings, a landscape of concrete and asphalt with traffic being the ambient sound. In contrast, Jesup Blair Park should be a physically restorative space, filled with greenery and nature (bird song, quiet conversation and laughter being the ambient sound), as well as a culturally stimulating place, with the priceless Jesup Blair House as an inclusive center for arts & culture. There is no resource comparable to Jesup Blair Park and House in downtown Silver Spring; it is an irreplaceable gem, a potential healing space meant to serve EVERYONE, of all walks of life and races, of all ages from babies in strollers to teens on scooters to elderly in walkers, comparable to NYC's Central Park and Philadelphia's Rittenhouse Square. CIP funding for the House's restoration & landscaping is needed ASAP before this tremendous resource is foolishly lost. We must protect, restore & cultivate this resource for future generations. It would be irresponsible and unforgivable to not do so.</p>	
272		Name not provided	
	Jesup Blair	<p>Please restore Jesup Blair Park into a resource all of us in Montgomery County can be proud of.</p> <p>Recent suggestions include opportunities for many community groups and organizations to participate as programming partners in scheduling special events, performance series, concerts, dances, art exhibits, lectures and film series, after-school programs, arts and language immersion summer camps, cross-cultural and intergenerational activities, and outdoor festivals on the 14.5 acre property.</p>	<p>Thank you. Parks is developing a strategy to identify a tenant for the Jesup Blair House. Community support for the upcoming Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan will be important.</p>
273		Name not provided	
	Trails, Nature Centers, Athletic Fields	<p>I would like to see more focus on nature centers, natural surface trails (bike-free), and open, un-modified spaces for interaction with nature, bird-watching, meditating, reflection, observation, science study etc. It seems the amount of funds spent on athletic fields has been too heavy in recent years. Please spend money on more types of residents than kids who play on sports teams. Parks should be about conserving and enjoying nature too.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support for trails and nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. Natural resources stewardship is a key component of our mission, and more than two-thirds of parkland is held in conservation. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciate community support.</p>
274		Name not provided	

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
	Nature Center	<p>I would like to see improvements to the nature centers, particularly Locust Grove, which is both old and small. These nature centers are invaluable to the community. I regularly took my children to programs when they were little and I now frequently attend programs myself. I learn a lot, I have fun and I meet others.</p> <p>Locust Grove needs to have a new building with space to sponsor programs and allow visitors into the center at the same time.</p> <p>And please maintain lots of woods and natural areas when considering adding more fields, sports venues and paved paths. We only have a limited amount of nature available to us.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our nature centers were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciated any community support.</p>
275		Name not provided	
	Park Refreshers	<p>Downtown Silver Spring could use more grassy public gathering spaces. Almost all of the public space in downtown Spring is hardscaped. The Gene Lynch Urban Park is a great start in reversing this trend -- we could use one or two more.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support for parks in Silver Spring, and Parks is actively building the new South Silver Spring Park in DTSS and working on a Facility Plan for the redevelopment of Jesep Blair Park. Please note that the majority of our park facilities in Silver Spring and throughout the County were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to park facilities including green spaces, and we appreciated any community support.</p>
276		Name not provided	
	Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park, Amenities	<p>The Sligo Mill Neighborhood Conservation Area is covered in trash. Resources are needed to clean up this park.</p> <p>Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park could be a loved community space with a little bit of clean up and public accommodations. Adding some signs and cleaning up the trails will go a long way.</p> <p>Please prioritize both the Sligo Mill Neighborhood Conservation Area and the Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park in the Capital Improvements Program. Thank you.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment about Takoma Park South Neighborhood Park. We will add it to our list of parks to investigate activating with appropriate amenities and improvements. Your support for the Parks CIP allows us to take on projects like this.</p> <p>Parks is working on a project with the City of Takoma Park to help restore Takoma Branch and address some of the historic dumping at Sligo Mill NCA. We will communicate your concerns to the City and continue to support their efforts.</p>

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
277		Name not provided	
	Nature Centers	It would be helpful to update the nature center facilities, particularly at Locust Grove. The exhibits are quite old and the building is often closed on weekends because of programs/lack of space.	Thank you for your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciated any community support.
278		Name not provided	
	Trails	I live near Cannon Road local park. I would love a paved running trail at the park or within walking distance. Currently, I have to drive to the nearest paved trail that is suitable for walking/running.	Parks will take this into consideration as a potential future project. We are currently working to rehabilitate multiple trail rehabilitation projects and constructing new hard surface trails and community connectors. Please note that we are requesting increased funding to support new and existing trails, and we appreciate any community support.
279		Name not provided	
	Trails	Pave a path in Burnt Mills park to allow safe bike commuting across Colesville Rd to employers like the FDA, ARL, and SSA, e.g. from the end of Lockridge Dr to Edelblut Dr and Devere Dr.	Thank you for your comment. We will look into this connection. We are currently coordinating with SHA on a possible sidewalk project along 29.
280		Name not provided	
	Signage	I would like to see simple tree identification added to local neighborhood parks. Studies have shown that people are more engaged and want to preserve plants that they can identify. A sign for the kids: "Can you find an oak tree, poplar tree and maple tree in this park? "With photos of what leaf and bark look like.	This is an interesting idea. Thanks!
281		Name not provided	
	Park Refreshers, Amenities	Community Food Forest; bird/native plant education along path; improved pathway; improved/more picnic tables and grill areas; water play area for children; shade structure for Kennebec-Houston-Sligo Playground; adult exercise equipment	Thanks for sharing these ideas. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is working on multiple projects to improve our playgrounds and hard surface trail system. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciate any community support.
282		Name not provided	
	Courts	pickleball courts and volleyball courts	Thanks for sharing these ideas. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is working on multiple projects to improve our sports courts system. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciate any community support.
283		Name not provided	
	Infrastructure	Update Older parks	Thanks for sharing these ideas. The majority of park facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our facilities. Parks is working on multiple projects to improve our facilities throughout the system. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements like this, and we appreciate any community support.

	Topic	Summary of Testimony	Staff Response
284		Name not provided	
	Dog Park, Playgrounds, Trails	<p>FENTON STREET URBAN PARK: Please consider a plan to improve the Fenton Street Urban Park. The public park area is rarely used despite its location in a dense area. This is an ideal location for a dog park, a small playground or both. The Swampoodle dog park and playground and the S Street Park in DC are great examples of maximizing a small urban lot. While the community garden area looks to be thriving, it is locked and only accessible to a few members of the community.</p> <p>EXTENDING BIKING AND WALKING TRAILS: I love our county's trails and would love to see them extended and further connected to encourage greater use and get cars off the road.</p>	<p>Thank you for your interest in Urban Parks and Trails. Parks is currently working with MCDOT on a bicycle facility adjacent to Fenton Street UP, which will expand the park property. Once that project is complete. We will begin planning for improvements to this great urban space. Parks is working on multiple hard surface trail renovation projects, including community connections to Parks, but our resources are limited. Please note that we are requesting increased funding for Trails in FY25-30 CIP, and we appreciate any community support.</p>
285		Name not provided	
	Playgrounds	<p>I believe that all playgrounds should be fenced in or at least the ones in close vicinity to a road. I'm sure I'm not the only parent/caregiver with this issue where if you are watching more than one toddler, it becomes difficult as one may run off into the road while the other is going in another direction. I think fences would be helpful and should be added to existing and future playgrounds.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment, and we understand that watching kids can be a challenge! We will consider your suggestion.</p>
286		Name not provided	
	Nature Centers	<p>However, each Nature Center needs capital improvements. Some have aging exhibits or insufficient classroom space. Others need greater accessibility on trails. In some instances, prior plans to improve Nature Centers have not been implemented. A moratorium on the acquisition of historic sites for use by Nature Centers has hampered educational programming.</p> <p>I realize that there are many competing interests for funding, whether for recreational or infrastructure purposes. However, I firmly believe that the Nature Centers throughout Montgomery Parks have been neglected and deserve more resources to continue carrying out the important work that they do daily.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Michael Surgalla</p> <p>Colesville</p>	<p>Thank you for your support for nature centers, and we hope you have a chance to visit the new SEED Classroom being opened in Black Hill Regional Park, which demonstrates sustainable building practices. The majority of our facilities were built decades ago and do not meet current standards and emerging needs, and we have limited resources for modernizing our parks. Parks is requesting significant funding increases for Trails and the PLAR-NL PDF in the FY25-30 CIP, which funds improvements to nature centers and other park facilities, and we appreciated any community support.</p>