



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

MCPB Item # 5

September 21, 2023

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 14, 2023

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Michael F. Riley, Director of Parks^{MR}
Miti Figueredo, Deputy Director, Administration^{MF}
Andrew Frank, Division Chief, Park Development Division^{AF}

FROM: Ron Peele, CIP Manager, PDD^{RP}

SUBJECT: Work Session for the Development of The Parks FY25-30 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- Approve recommendation to County Council to maintain Spending Affordability Guidelines (SAG) for M-NCPPC Bonds at the current \$8 million/yr. level and transmit to the County Council for their review of SAG for the FY25-30 CIP.
- Provide guidance on project funding scenario for inclusion in the Parks Department's FY25-30 Capital Improvements Program.

APPROACH AND OBJECTIVES

In this work session the Parks Department will review funding scenarios for the FY25-30 Capital Improvements Program in preparation for adoption of a final request on October 19, 2023. This includes a recommendation regarding the Spending Affordability Guidelines (SAG) for M-NCPPC bonds that the Council will begin to discuss this month and enact on October 3, 2023. Staff will transmit the Planning Board's recommendation for SAG immediately following this session and will incorporate feedback from the board into the final CIP request for its consideration in October.

BACKGROUND

State law requires that the Montgomery County Council approve the CIP for the Montgomery County side of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). It also requires that the Montgomery County Planning Board submit a new 6-year CIP to the County Government every odd-numbered year by November 1st, which is about six months before the Council adopts the countywide FY25-30 CIP in May 2024. Over the last several months the Department has worked with staff, the Planning Board, and the public to gather project needs, prioritize them, and program them into a working CIP. Once adopted, the CIP serves as the Park Development Plan for funding park acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and restoration over the next six years.

During the July 6, 2023 briefing, staff described the framework for our approach and provided background on the process and initial ideas and priorities for consideration. Since that time, staff has done the following:

- Received additional input via the PB’s public forum and open town hall.
- Continued to assess and prioritize needs accordingly.
- Received notification of two large grant awards that will require local matching funds.
- Worked on project timing that would influence funding needs.

The general budgeting approach continues to build upon the progress we have made by targeting those projects and programs that serve the overarching themes in the Parks Department FY23-28 CIP, including “maintaining what we own.” The priorities we highlighted stem from planning efforts, including PROS, that address the recreation and open space needs of our residents as well as condition assessments of existing amenities and infrastructure.

Equity Focus

The quality and accessibility of parks is a basic component of equity in the delivery of public services. Parks are so integral to what makes a community desirable and healthy that ensuring equity in developing capital budgets for park and recreation facilities is essential to achieving our goals. Parks has made major strides in recent years in identifying Equity Focus Areas (EFAs) and prioritizing capital budget recommendations accordingly, and we’re committed to continuing to ensure that parks and recreation opportunities are accessible and equitably distributed. We are continuing to analyze all our parks with an equity lens by utilizing the EFA tool combined with our Energizing Public Spaces (EPS) analysis and direct analysis of our parks. For example, Parks has begun development of a Long Branch Parks Initiative to improve and add amenities to parks in this EFA area in coming years.

Parks Roads

Parks is continuing to work with Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to potentially transfer the Parks Roads PDF (P500720) from MCDOT’s budget back into the Parks CIP. Parks believes that parkways function differently than other MCDOT-maintained roadways, we have access to similar engineering and construction services, and there could be a significant savings of staff resources for both agencies if this transfer occurs. Parks staff would continue to coordinate with MCDOT on best practices and on bridge renovation projects that would remain within the MCDOT CIP. This transfer would not require any additional costs in the overall FY25-30 CIP.

SAG for M-NCPPC Bonds

Staff recommends maintaining the current SAG limit for Park Bonds and maintaining the same level approved in the FY23-28 CIP. The SAG for Park Bonds was raised from \$6M to \$8M for the FY23-28 CIP to meet funding needs so that the Department could focus efforts on capital projects that are needed to maintain the park system. Staff has worked to implement multiple Local Park projects funded with Parks Bonds and use these funds to match Program Open Space (POS) funding and other grants.

Program Open Space

Based on guidance from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), we are anticipating \$9.5M of POS funding for FY25, but only allocating \$9.0M to leave \$500k for potential projects for municipalities. Montgomery Parks is the lead for all POS funding in Montgomery County including municipalities. PDFs that are scheduled for POS funding in the proposed FY25-30 for FY25 are:

- \$3.5M to Legacy Urban Space (P872104)
- \$1.0M to Park Acquisitions (P872301)
- \$3.0M to Park Refreshers (P871902)
- \$1.5M to South Germantown Recreational Park: Cricket Field (P871746)

Federal Aid

The Parks Department anticipates executing a grant agreement for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant this fall, so we are requesting appropriation to receive those funds in FY25 allocated to the following PDFs:

- \$2.0M to Hard Surface Trails Design & Construction (P768673)
- \$3.5M to Hard Surface Trails Renovation (P888754)
- \$2.0M to Vision Zero (P871905)

Staff Scenario for FY25-30 CIP Funding

Consistent with the framework identified in the PB briefing on July 6, 2023, input from the public forum and open town hall, and Planning Board guidance, staff recommends a scenario for funding capital investments in parks. The Staff recommendation is currently \$307,864,000, which is a 4% increase above the FY23-28 adopted CIP. A break down by fund is as follows:

- Go Bonds: \$99,612,000
- Current Revenue \$51,305,000
- M-NCPPC Bonds \$46,647,000
- Program Open Space \$54,000,000
- OTHER \$56,300,000
- Total: \$307,864,000

***OTHER includes contributions, long term financing, state and federal aid**

Below, you will find summary lists of all CIP projects and funding amounts the Department is recommending for the FY25-30 CIP. The recommendation is divided into projects that are funded at the same level as the FY23-28 CIP, one new stand-alone project, and projects recommended for increased funding. As noted above, staff also recommends the transfer of the Park Roads PDF from MCDOT back into the Parks Department's CIP.

The following projects are proposed at same level of funding as current CIP (i.e. applying FY28 level to FY29 and FY30) in the FY25-30 CIP request:

PDF#	Project	Funding Source	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	6Year T1
P128701	ADA Compliance: Local Parks	M-NCPPC Bonds	\$ 880	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 4,730
P128702	ADA Compliance: Non-Local Parks	Current Revenue: General	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 300
		G.O. Bonds	\$ 950	\$ 950	\$ 950	\$ 950	\$ 950	\$ 950	\$ 5,700
P008720	Ballfield Initiatives	G.O. Bonds	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 13,800
P872302	Bethesda Park Impact	Contributions: Bethesda Park Impact Payments	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 700	\$ 1,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,300
P977748	Cost Sharing: Local Parks	M-NCPPC Bonds	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 450
P761682	Cost Sharing: Non-Local Parks	G.O. Bonds	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 300
P998710	Energy Conservation - Local Parks	M-NCPPC Bonds	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 800
P998773	Enterprise Facilities' Improvements	Current Revenue: Enterprise (M-NCPPC)	\$ 750	\$ 2,465	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,215
P957775	Facility Planning: Local Parks	Current Revenue: M-NCPPC	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 2,400
P958776	Facility Planning: Non-Local Parks	Current Revenue: General	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 1,800
		Current Revenue: General	\$ 115	\$ 115	\$ 115	\$ 115	\$ 115	\$ 115	\$ 690
P018710	Legacy Open Space	G.O. Bonds	\$ 559	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 6,059
		M-NCPPC Bonds	\$ 300	\$ 285	\$ 111	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 696
P872104	Legacy Urban Space	Program Open Space	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 21,000
P998799	Minor New Construction - Local Parks	M-NCPPC Bonds	\$ 450	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 2,950
P998763	Minor New Construction - Non-Local Parks	G.O. Bonds	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 5,400
P871745	Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park	G.O. Bonds	\$ 794	\$ 680	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,474
P872301	Park Acquisitions	M-NCPPC Bonds	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 1,000
		Program Open Space	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 6,000
P871902	Park Refreshers	M-NCPPC Bonds	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,422	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,435	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 8,807
		Program Open Space	\$ 2,970	\$ 3,783	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 20,753
		Current Revenue: General	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 3,000
P967754	PLAR: LP	M-NCPPC Bonds	\$ 3,970	\$ 4,143	\$ 3,948	\$ 3,973	\$ 4,090	\$ 4,090	\$ 24,214
		Current Revenue: General	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 1,800
P078701	Pollution Prevention and Repairs to Ponds & Lakes	Long-Term Financing	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 5,400
		State Aid	\$ 2,150	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
P872202	Power Line Trail	Current Revenue: General	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 3,600
P808494	Restoration Of Historic Structures	G.O. Bonds	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 300
P871746	S. Gemantown Recreational Park: Cricket Field	G.O. Bonds	\$ 350	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350
		Program Open Space	\$ 1,530	\$ 357	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
P058755	Small Grant/Donor-Assisted Capital Improvements	Contributions	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 6,000
		Current Revenue: General	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 300
		Current Revenue: M-NCPPC	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 300
P871540	Urban Park Elements	G.O. Bonds	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 1,500
		M-NCPPC Bonds	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 3,000

The following projects are new, transferred, or recommended for increases in the FY25-30 CIP request:

PDF#	Project	Funding Source	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	6Year T1
NEW	Lyttonville Civic Green	G.O. Bonds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 1,000	\$ 600	\$ -	\$ 1,900
P998711	Energy Conservation - Non-Local Parks	G.O. Bonds	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 1,800
		G.O. Bonds	\$ 2,930	\$ 2,830	\$ 2,630	\$ 2,630	\$ 2,780	\$ 2,780	\$ 16,580
P968755	PLAR: NL	Current Revenue: General	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 27,000
		Current Revenue: Water Quality Protection	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 2,100
P818571	Stream Protection: SVP	Long-Term Financing	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,700	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 19,700
		G.O. Bonds	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,500
P768673	Trails: Hard Surface Design & Construction	G.O. Bonds	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 12,000
P888754	Trails: Hard Surface Renovation	G.O. Bonds	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 4,800
P858710	Trails: Natural Surface & Resource-based Recreation	Current Revenue: General	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 1,200
		G.O. Bonds	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,500
P871905	Vision Zero	G.O. Bonds	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 20,000
P871904	Wheaton Regional Park Improvements	G.O. Bonds	\$ -	\$ 360	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,360
		Program Open Space	\$ -	\$ 360	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,360
P500720	Parks Road PDG (Transfer from MCDOT)	G.O. Bonds	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 3,600

Scenario Summary by Funding Source

This proposed scenario for the FY25-30 CIP requests increased funding from various available sources that were described in the September 7, 2023 PB memo.

The following funding sources recommended for increases in the FY25-30 CIP request:

GO Bonds									
CIP	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Total
23-28	\$ 12,747	\$ 15,524	\$ 12,289	\$ 13,526	\$ 12,795	\$ 12,956			\$ 79,837
25-30			\$ 16,633	\$ 17,610	\$ 16,030	\$ 16,980	\$ 16,480	\$ 15,879	\$ 99,612
	Increase		\$ 4,344	\$ 4,084	\$ 3,235	\$ 4,024	\$ 3,774	\$ 3,174	\$ 22,635

Current Revenue: General									
CIP	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Total
23-28	\$ 4,751	\$ 5,029	\$ 5,085	\$ 5,241	\$ 5,229	\$ 5,148			\$ 30,483
25-30			\$ 7,050	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,035	\$ 6,865	\$ 7,215	\$ 7,215	\$ 42,430
	Increase		\$ 1,965	\$ 1,809	\$ 1,806	\$ 1,787	\$ 1,787	\$ 1,787	\$ 10,941

Current Revenue: Water Quality Protection									
CIP	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Total
23-28	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250			\$ 1,500
25-30			\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 2,100
	Increase		\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 600

CONCLUSION

Over the past several months, the Parks Department has received significant input from staff and the public regarding the condition of and needs for our existing parks, as well as demand for new parks and amenities. This effort has led to the identification of individual PDFs that would require new/increased funding to address the growing needs of the parks system. The Department recognizes that increasing these priority PDFs will compete with goals of other agencies, also funded through the overall County CIP. However, we believe that Parks’ request for a greater share of countywide funding is warranted, given the importance of active recreation, social engagement, and environmental stewardship that Parks uniquely provides to the community. In addition, Parks recognizes that the Planning Board may have additional priorities beyond the projects represented in this scenario.

Parks believes the scenario proposed helps meet goals outlined in PROS and as well as the needs established through condition assessments that require increased equity-based investments in the physical and natural resources that make up Montgomery Parks. We look forward to the Planning Board’s review and feedback of this information, so we can finalize a defensible comprehensive FY25-30 CIP request. Please note that Staff will also be making minor text edits to the PDFs to improve consistency and flexibility among projects. The final scenario, based upon Planning Board guidance and input, will be presented to the board on October 19, 2023, for adoption. It will then be transmitted to the County Executive and Council on November 1, 2023.

ATTACHMENT: Summary of Testimony for the FY25-30 Capital Improvements Program

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Final Audit Report


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