

April 3, 2025

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 27, 2025

To: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Miti Figueredo, Director of Parks *MF*
Darren Flusche, Deputy Director of Administration *DF*
Andrew Frank, Chief of Parks Development Division *AF*

FROM: Ron Peele, CIP Budget Manager, Parks Development Division *RP*

SUBJECT: Parks Response to County Executive's Recommended Reductions to Biennial FY25-30 Capital Improvements Program and FY26 Capital Budget

Planning Board Recommendation

Approve non-recommended delay of \$2M in General Obligation Bonds to Beyond Six Years (BSY) for PDF (P871904) Wheaton Regional Park Improvements to meet the County Executive's revised Affordability Reconciliation PDF.

Background and County Executive Recommendation

- On May 24, 2024 the Council adopted the Montgomery Parks FY25-30 CIP with a total 6-year budget of \$313,196,000.
- On January 15, 2025, the County Executive released the recommended Biennial FY25-30 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and FY26 Capital Budget which included an Affordability PDF that decreased Parks Bonds by \$24K, which the Planning Board and Parks Department accepted as a necessary inflation adjustment.
- On March 14, the County Executive issued a revised Affordability Reconciliation PDF with the release of the recommended FY26 Operating Budget that reduces GO Bonds by \$2M, including \$1.5M in FY26. Both cuts to Park Bonds and GO Bonds are reflected in the attached revised M-NCPPC Affordability Reconciliation PDF (P871747).

Staff Response to County Executive's Updated Recommendation

The unexpected reduction in GO Bonds will significantly affect active projects intended for construction in FY26. However, in response to the County Executive's cuts, we have identified non-recommended reductions of \$2M in GO Bond funding to the Wheaton Regional Park PDF (P871904), which would delay those funds to BSY. Unfortunately, this will have a direct impact on Parks' ability to build the Action Sports Park and other important projects in the approved Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan.

What is next?

Council will receive public input on the County Executive's recommendations beginning in April. The Planning Housing and Parks (PHP) Committee will consider this reduction and provide a recommendation to the full Council. The Council will work this spring to reconcile all committee recommendations and is expected to adopt the FY26 Capital Budget and amended FY25-30 CIP in late May, and FY26 funding will become available on July 1, 2025.

The Parks Department has also been working with the County's state delegation to request additional funding through the Legislative Bond Initiative (LBI) programs. We also expect a significant reduction in the FY26 allocation of Program Open Space funding, which will require reductions in FY26 appropriations of affected PDFs. We expect to receive funding information upon the conclusion of the General Assembly in April, and will provide additional recommendations to the Planning Board for adjustment to the FY25-30 CIP prior to Council adoption.

Attachments

- M-NCPPC Affordability Reconciliation PDF (P871747)
- Redlined Parks Acquisitions PDF (P872301)
- Redlined Wheaton Regional Park PDF (P871904)



M-NCPPC Affordability Reconciliation (P871747)

Category	M-NCPPC	Date Last Modified	03/02/25
SubCategory	Development	Administering Agency	M-NCPPC
Planning Area	Countywide	Status	Ongoing

Total	Thru FY24	Rem FY24	Total 6 Years	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	Beyond 6 Years
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EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Other	(2,024)	-	-	(2,024)	-	(1,500)	-	-	(515)	(9)	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	(2,024)	-	-	(2,024)	-	(1,500)	-	-	(515)	(9)	-

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000s)

G.O. Bonds	(2,000)	-	-	(2,000)	-	(1,500)	-	-	(500)	-	-
M-NCPPC Bonds	(24)	-	-	(24)	-	-	-	-	(15)	(9)	-
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	(2,024)	-	-	(2,024)	-	(1,500)	-	-	(515)	(9)	-

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (\$000s)

Appropriation FY 26 Request	(1,500)	Year First Appropriation	FY16
Cumulative Appropriation	-	Last FY's Cost Estimate	-
Expenditure / Encumbrances	-		
Unencumbered Balance	-		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project reconciles the Maryland National- Capital Park and Planning Commission's CIP request with the County Executive's recommendation based on affordability considerations.

COST CHANGE

Adjustments shown in this PDF are based on the annual availability of funds within the County Executive's recommended Spending Affordability Guidelines for General Obligation (G.O.) bonds, adjustments to aggregate resources available to support the CIP, and the Council Approved Spending Affordability Guidelines for M-NCPPC bonds.



Park Acquisitions (P872301)

Category	M-NCPPC	Date Last Modified	10/22/24
SubCategory	Acquisition	Administering Agency	M-NCPPC
Planning Area	Countywide	Status	Ongoing

	Total	Thru FY24	Rem FY24	Total 6 Years	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	Beyond 6 Years
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EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Planning, Design and Supervision	1,016	129	197	690	65	125	125	125	125	125	-
Land	11,635	2,249	3,436	5,950	725	1,075	1,075	1,075	1,000	1,000	-
Other	1,708 1,732	207	315	1,186 1,210	110	200	200	200	235 250	241 250	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	14,359 14,383	2,585	3,948	7,826 7,850	900	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,360 1,375	1,366 1,375	-

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Current Revenue: General	2,000	-	500	1,500	250	250	250	250	250	250	-
M-NCPPC Bonds	1,126 1,150	-	300	826 850	150	150	150	150	110 125	116 125	-
Program Open Space	11,233	2,585	3,148	5,500	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	14,359 14,383	2,585	3,948	7,826 7,850	900	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,360 1,375	1,366 1,375	-

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (\$000s)

Appropriation FY 26 Request	1,400	Year First Appropriation	FY23
Cumulative Appropriation	7,433	Last FY's Cost Estimate	14,383
Expenditure / Encumbrances	2,705		
Unencumbered Balance	4,728		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project funds parkland acquisitions that serve residents in all areas of the County and in all park types. This project covers the cost of land plus acquisition expenses such as land surveys, appraisals, settlement expenses, and other acquisition-related costs. The project also funds expenses to make new parkland safe and secure upon acquisition, e.g. removing attractive nuisances, demolitions, interim improvements, posting properties, securing structures, cleaning up sites, etc. Acquisitions can include new parks or additions to existing parks. To the extent possible, the Commission acquires parkland through dedication at the time of subdivision; however, to meet all parkland needs in a growing and changing County, this method must be supplemented by a direct land purchase program.

COST CHANGE

Increase due to the addition of two fiscal years to this ongoing project, partially offset by a reduction in Program Open Space funding.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

2022 Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan, approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board, adopted area master plans, and functional master plans guide the parkland acquisition program. This PDF provides latitude to acquire properties consistent with master plans and Commission policies.

FISCAL NOTE

\$853K provided from Program Open Space in FY24. Reduced Program Open Space funding in FY25 by \$500k to account for the lower POS Allocation received from State.

DISCLOSURES

Expenditures will continue indefinitely. M-NCPPC asserts that this project conforms to the requirement of relevant local plans, as required by the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act.

COORDINATION

Legacy Open Space PDF 018710, Legacy Urban Space PDF 872104, ALARF: M-NCPPC PDF 727007, Bethesda Park Impact Payment PDF 872002, Mid-County Park Benefit Payments PDF872201.



Wheaton Regional Park Improvements (P871904)

Category	M-NCPPC	Date Last Modified	10/23/24
SubCategory	Development	Administering Agency	M-NCPPC
Planning Area	Kensington-Wheaton	Status	Planning Stage

	Total	Thru FY24	Rem FY24	Total 6 Years	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	Beyond 6 Years
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000s)											
Planning, Design and Supervision	5,063	19	865	3,058	490	416	560	560	472	560	1,121
				3,410		680			560		769
Site Improvements and Utilities	30,806	123	6,230	13,302	2,010	1,944	2,440	2,440	2,028	2,440	11,151
				14,950		3,180			2,440		9,503
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	35,869	142	7,095	16,360	2,500	2,360	3,000	3,000	2,500	3,000	12,272
				18,360		3,860			3,000		10,272

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000s)											
G.O. Bonds	25,509	142	1,095	12,000	2,500	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,500	2,000	12,272
				14,000		3,500			2,000		10,272
Program Open Space	7,860	-	3,500	4,360	-	360	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
State Aid	2,500	-	2,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	35,869	142	7,095	16,360	2,500	2,360	3,000	3,000	2,500	3,000	12,272
				18,360		3,860			3,000		10,272

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (\$000s)			
Appropriation FY 26 Request	3,860	Year First Appropriation	
Cumulative Appropriation	9,737	Last FY's Cost Estimate	
Expenditure / Encumbrances	145	FY23	
Unencumbered Balance	9,592	35,869	

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project provides planning, design and construction for the renovation, conversion, modernization, and/or replacement of aging, unsafe, or obsolete park amenities and infrastructure throughout Wheaton Regional Park, including new facilities. Projects include the Adventure Sports Park, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, entrance enhancements, wayfinding, parking lot renovations/expansions, community gardens, dog park facilities, court renovations and conversions, restroom building improvements, active recreational facilities, picnic shelter areas, site and recreational amenities, activation of the Shorefield House and Henderson Avenue areas, environmental restorations, maintenance facilities, natural and cultural interpretation facilities and signage, hardscapes, landscapes, structures, lighting, trails, bridges, etc. Improvements may include, but are not limited to, renovating and/or converting existing amenities, restoring and/or modernizing facilities, improving infrastructure, etc. and may be combined with other projects. Projects will be added based on the Wheaton Master Plan update and ongoing needs assessments.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

Design FY23. Construction to begin in FY24.

COST CHANGE

Cost increase is due the addition of FY29 and FY30, as well as the estimated costs of the ongoing work to implement the various projects associated with the Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

This project is within the recommendations of the Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan, VISION 2030: Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation in Montgomery County, Maryland, 2017 Park, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan as well as ADA Transition Plan that was submitted to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

FISCAL NOTE

\$2.5 million of Program Open Space funding was provided in FY24. \$1.7 millions of GO Bond was also provided in FY25.

DISCLOSURES

A pedestrian impact analysis will be performed during design or is in progress. M-NCPPC asserts that this project conforms to the requirement of relevant local plans, as required by the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act.

COORDINATION

Montgomery County Departments of Transportation, Permitting Services, Environmental Protection;

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Staff Report - Response to CE Revised Aforbaility Reconcilialtion 3-27-2025 Final

Final Audit Report

2025-03-28

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