



MONTGOMERY PARKS

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
2425 Reedie Drive | Wheaton, MD 20902
MontgomeryParks.org

MCPB Date: 10/23/25
Agenda Item #11

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 17, 2025

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Miti Figueredo, Director of Parks *mf*
Darren Flusche, Deputy Director of Administration *DF*
Gary Burnett, Deputy Director of Operations *Gary Burnett*
Shuchi Vera, Chief, Management Services Division *Shuchi Vera*

FROM: Kate Bentley, Budget Manager, Management Services Division *Kate Bentley*
John Hamman, Deputy Budget Manager, Management Services Division *John Hamman*

SUBJECT: Department of Parks FY27 Proposed Operating Budget for the Park Fund

Staff Recommendation

Approval to prepare the FY27 Park Fund operating budget at the Base Budget level.

Background

On September 25th, the Planning Board received a presentation from Central Administrative Services (CAS) staff outlining the FY27 budget process. This presentation included an overview of key trends affecting the Department of Parks, as well as the budget outlook, strategic approach, and projected timeline for budget preparation. CAS provided preliminary estimates for increases associated with the Park Fund for salaries, benefits, retirement, Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB), and debt service on general obligation bonds. Since then, staff have been refining these estimates.

Budget Preparation

To prepare for the October 23rd Planning Board meeting, Parks staff have worked over the past several months to submit and vet requests. Divisional requests were considered by the Budget Team, Director, and Deputy Directors and narrowed down to the most important ones that address the top priorities of the Department.

Instead of requesting funding for new initiatives or positions, the Parks Department has chosen to move forward with only base budget and known commitment requests with a focus on reducing our required salary lapse percentage and ensuring sufficient base budgets.

Budget Summary

The total increase for our department (excluding the compensation markers) for FY27 is \$7,845,038, or a 5.5% increase over the FY26 budget. With the addition of the compensation markers, the overall increase (excluding OPEB) comes to \$11,982,236, an 8.4% increase over the FY26 total.

FY26 Adopted Budget (not incl OPEB or Reserves) \$ 141,869,128

FY27 BASE BUDGET INCREASES		% Change	# of Positions
Position Changes/Annualizations and Benefit Changes (excluding salary markers)	\$ 2,380,201	1.7%	
Pension	\$ 822,852	0.6%	
Lapse Reduction	\$ 1,409,239	1.0%	
OBI	\$ 274,810	0.2%	
Contractual Increases	\$ 502,999	0.4%	
Inflationary Increases for Supplies and Materials, Services and Capital Outlay	\$ 388,151	0.3%	
Utilities/Telecommunications Costs	\$ 108,442	0.1%	
Debt Service for Internal Service Fund Capital Equipment	\$ 340,000	0.2%	
Risk Management	\$ 812,100	0.6%	
WHQ Parks Rent Increase	\$ 151,714	0.1%	
CAS Charges (Chargebacks/CIO/CWIT, etc.)	\$ 32,204	0.0%	
Chargebacks (CIP/Enterprise/Special Revenue Funds/Wheaton HQ)	\$ 270,208	0.2%	
Transfer to Debt Service (CIP)	\$ 27,378	0.0%	
Water Quality Fund	\$ 324,740	0.2%	
Subtotal Increase - Base Budget Request	\$ 7,845,038	5.5%	0.0

PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS			
Subtotal Program Enhancements	\$ -	0.0%	0.0

Total Increase FY26 Proposed Budget Request \$ 7,845,038 5.5% 0.0

Non-Departmental - Salary (Merit/COLA) and Reclassification Markers \$ 4,137,198

Total Increase Excluding OPEB \$ 11,982,236 8.4%

KNOWN OPERATING COMMITMENTS

The chart below outlines the increases for known operating commitments (excluding debt service for CIP) with detailed information about each line item provided in the following narrative.

FY27 Park Fund Base Budget Known Operating Commitments	Personnel	Positions/ Workyears	Funding	% Increase from FY26 Adopted
Departmental Lapse Reduction			1,409,239	1.0%
Operating Budget Impact (OBI) (Excluding WQPF)	Seasonal	3.5 Wkys	274,810	0.2%
Contractual Increases	N/A	N/A	502,999	0.4%
Inflationary Increases	N/A	N/A	388,151	0.3%
Utilities/Telecommunications Costs	N/A	N/A	108,442	0.1%
Debt Service for Capital Equipment ISF	N/A	N/A	340,000	0.2%
WHQ Parks Rent Increase	N/A	N/A	151,714	0.1%
Risk Management	N/A	N/A	812,100	0.6%
CAS Charges (Chargebacks, CIO/CWIT Base)	N/A	N/A	32,204	0.0%
Parks Chargebacks (CIP/Enterprise/SRFs and Wheaton HQ)	N/A	N/A	270,208	0.2%
Water Quality Protection Fund (WQPF)(cost offset by revenue if adopted)	Seasonal	1.6 Wkys	324,740	0.2%
	TOTAL		4,614,607	3.3%

***WQPF total includes OBI associated with stormwater management projects.**

Salary Lapse Reduction - \$1,409,239

The Department of Parks (the Department) has prioritized its FY27 budget request to ensure base budget needs, both non-personnel and personnel, are addressed. To this end, the Department is not requesting funding for any new positions or initiatives and instead proposes reducing its lapse rate to 8%.

The Department currently has a budgeted lapse requirement set at 10%. For the FY26 Adopted Budget, this lapse translates to \$9,382,506. The concept of lapse is incorporated into departmental budgets to account for ongoing staff vacancies and natural attrition, helping ensure that overall spending remains within program-level appropriations. While the use of lapse is a standard practice in public sector budgeting, the current 10% rate has started to create significant challenges. The Department is finding it increasingly difficult to hire for critical positions and deliver needed services to Montgomery County residents while adhering to the 10% salary lapse requirement.

Prior to FY19, the budgeted lapse rate ranged between 6.5% and 7.1%, depending on staffing levels and hiring fluctuations. From FY20 to FY23, the budgeted rate was gradually raised to 7.5% to reflect increased vacancies related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the Proposed FY24 Budget, the lapse rate was set to increase to 9% due to exceptionally high vacancy rates seen in FY22 and FY23. During the budget defense and reconciliation process, the rate was further raised to the current 10%.

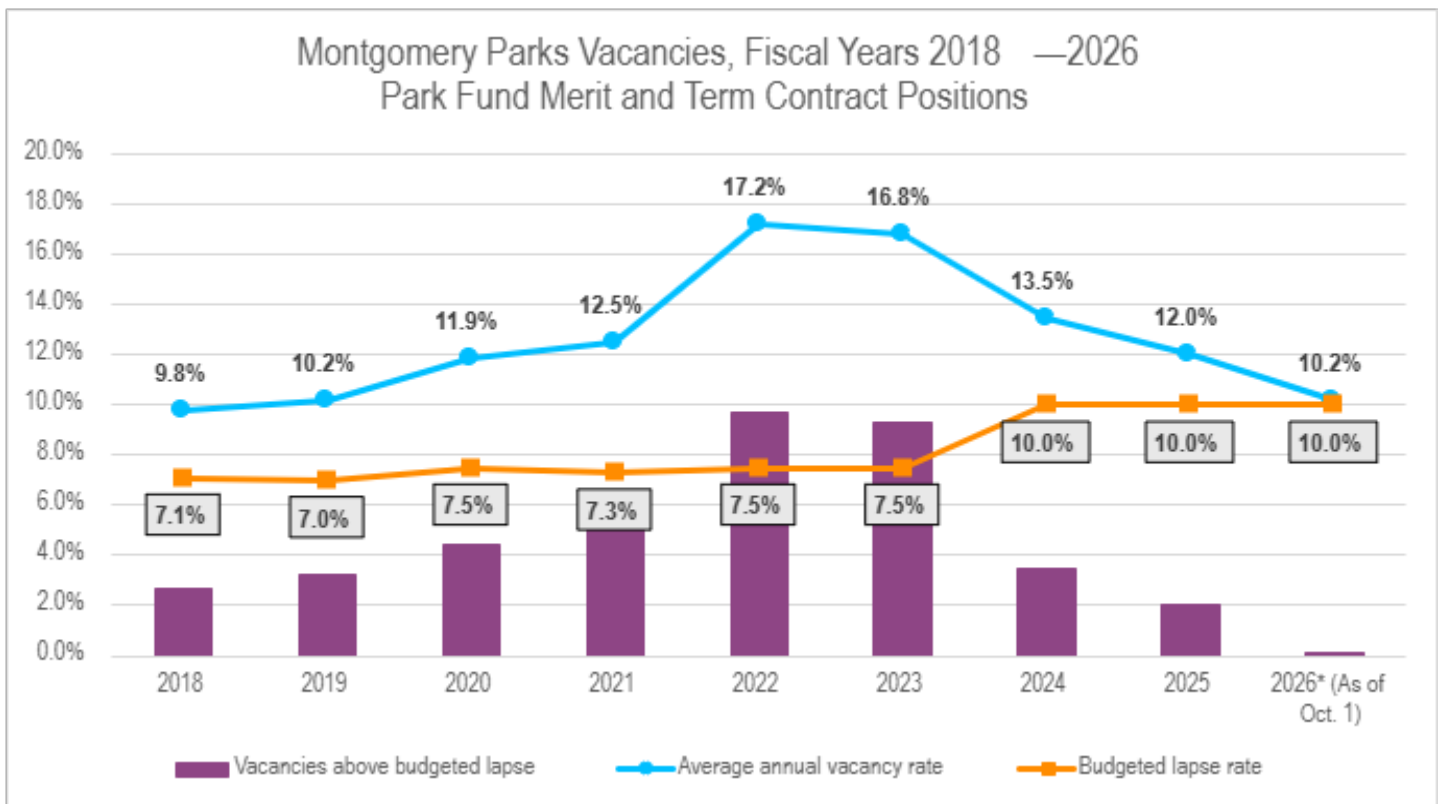


Figure 1 - MC Parks Vacancy Rate vs Lapse Rate and Vacancy Percentage Above Lapse

In FY26 terms, the 10% lapse rate equates to 85.8 workyears that cannot be filled across the Department. Since FY24, there has been notable progress in filling vacancies. At the time of this writing, the Park Fund vacancy count stands at 86 positions, giving a vacancy rate of 10.16%. This leaves just 0.2 workyears separating the Department from its personnel budget limits. The magnitude of vacancies that cannot be hired has created strain on the division's ability to operate. The minimal gap between the current vacancy rate and the lapse rate also means that, despite a strong local job market and an influx of well-qualified former federal employee candidates, the Department has been forced to delay hiring for critical and hard-to-fill roles.

Given these challenges, the Department proposes reducing the lapse rate to 8%. This change would lower the number of lapsed workyears to 69.6, enabling divisions to hire an additional 14 positions. The expectation is that, by lowering the lapse rate and allowing for appropriate hiring, the vacancy rate will stabilize closer to the lapse rate, enabling more routine hiring and preventing large year-end spending balances.

The total fiscal impact of this request is \$1,409,239, which would be allocated across all 10 Park Fund divisions. It is important to note that the lapse rate adjustment would not affect positions funded by Enterprise or Property Management.

Operating Budget Impacts (OBI)

Operating Budget Impact (OBI) refers to the costs required for the operation, maintenance, and policing of newly constructed or expanded parks. The process of acquiring and developing parkland is primarily conducted through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). In addition, some properties and amenities are obtained through partnerships and through parks or amenities dedicated to Parks by developers. As new facilities are added, it is essential to secure additional resources each year. Without these resources, existing staff and funding must be stretched across a growing number of facilities, resulting in an incremental reduction in service levels and new parks and amenities cannot be adequately maintained.

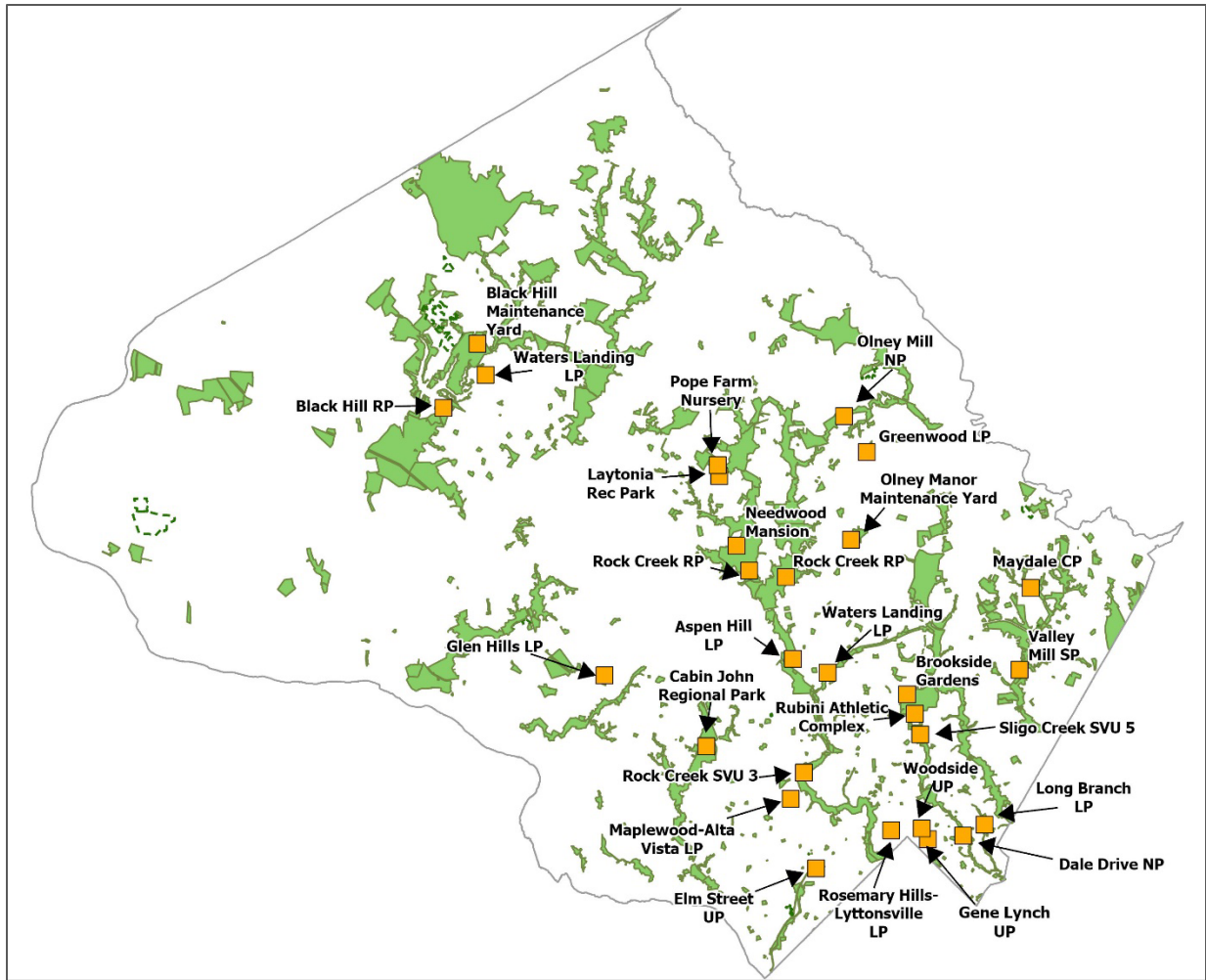


Figure 2 - Map of FY27 OBI Projects

For projects scheduled for completion in or before FY27, the total staffing and non-personnel impacts amount to \$474,739. This funding is generally considered approved in conjunction with the approval of the capital budget.

Project Name	FY27 OBI Expenditures	FY27 Career Workyears	FY27 Seasonal Workyears
CIP PROJECTS			
Black Hill Regional Park - Water utility to the Dog Park	\$1,179	0.0	0.0
Brookside Gardens - Gude Garden terrace and stone weir rehabilitation	\$8,690	0.0	0.2
Brookside Gardens - New Lath House	\$5,722	0.0	0.1
Cabin John Regional Park - Power Line Trail - Phase 1	\$16,718	0.0	0.3
Dalewood Drive Local Park - New playground and amenities on county land	\$21,600	0.0	0.2
Elm Street Urban Park - Park improvements as part of DOT Surface Route	\$9,087	0.0	0.2
Gene Lynch Urban Park - Artwork project in new park	\$203	0.0	0.0
Greenwood Local Park - Park Refresher	\$37,010	0.0	0.3
Laytonia Recreational Park - New Athletic Field Team Maintenance Building	\$5,952	0.0	0.1
Long Branch Local Park - Park Refresher	\$29,748	0.0	0.4

Maplewood-Alta Vista Local Park - Mini-Refresher	\$7,646	0.0	0.1
Matthew Henson State Park Unit #1 - Matthew Henson Trail Underpass	\$1,200	0.0	0.0
Maydale Conservation Park - New accessible path	\$8,167	0.0	0.2
Olney Manor Maintenance Yard - New Storage Building Addition	\$13,138	0.0	0.1
Pope Farm Nursery - Electrical Heavy Up - New greenwaste electrical service	\$1,679	0.0	0.0
Rock Creek Regional Park - New North Branch Trail	\$7,561	0.0	0.1
Rock Creek Regional Park - Picnic Area #2	\$22,678	0.0	0.4
Rock Creek Regional Park - Historic Needwood Mansion	\$2,549	0.0	0.1
Rock Creek Stream Valley Unit #3 - New parking lot and trail rehab	\$200	0.0	0.0
Rosemary Hills-Lyttonsville Local Park - Mini-Refresher	\$14,966	0.0	0.2
Valley Mill Special Park - Mini-Refresher	\$17,226	0.0	0.2
Waters Landing Local Park - Picnic Shelter and Terrace Renovation	\$4,193	0.0	0.1
Wheaton Atheltic Area - Rubini Complex	\$1,600	0.0	0.0
Woodside Urban Park - Park Refresher	\$36,098	0.0	0.2
SUB-TOTAL	\$274,810	0.0	3.5

Included in the total is \$199,929 for OBI related to stormwater management projects under the Water Quality Protection Fund (WQPF). If approved, these costs will be offset by revenue. Since the WQPF projects are funded through a separate taxing source, the related OBI costs are accounted for independently.

Project Name	FY27 OBI Expenditures	FY27 Career Workyears	FY27 Seasonal Workyears
CIP - WQPF PROJECTS (Stormwater Management)			
Aspen Hill Local Park - Impervious Removal and SWM Retrofit	\$5,019	0.0	0.1
Black Hill Regional Park - Old Maintenance Yard SWM Retrofit	\$5,228	0.0	0.1
Dalewood Drive Local Park - New playground and amenities on county land	\$5,019	0.0	0.1
Elm Street Urban Park - Park improvements as part of DOT Surface Route	\$5,019	0.0	0.0
Gene Lynch Urban Park - Artwork project in new park	\$5,019	0.0	0.1
Glen Hills Local Park - SWM Retrofit	\$2,510	0.0	0.0
Greenwood Local Park - Park Refresher	\$11,950	0.0	0.2
Long Branch Local Park - Park Refresher	\$7,529	0.0	0.1
Maplewood-Alta Vista Local Park - Mini-Refresher	\$7,529	0.0	0.1
Olney Manor Maintenance Yard - New Storage Building Addition	\$1,700	0.0	0.0
Olney Mill Neighborhood Park - Playground renovation	\$3,561	0.0	0.1
Rock Creek Regional Park - New North Branch Trail	\$79,428	0.0	0.0
Rock Creek Regional Park - Picnic Area #2	\$22,775	0.0	0.0

Rosemary Hills-Lyttonsville Local Park - Mini-Refresher	\$5,019	0.0	0.1
Sligo Creek Stream Valley Unit #5 - Trail Relocation	\$2,510	0.0	0.0
Valley Mill Special Park - Mini-Refresher	\$7,529	0.0	0.1
Wheaton Athletic Area - Rubini Complex	\$12,547	0.0	0.2
Woodside Urban Park - Park Refresher	\$10,038	0.0	0.2
SUB-TOTAL	\$199,929	0.0	1.5
GRAND TOTAL	\$474,739	0.0	5.0

The Department has worked over the last few fiscal years to refine our approach to calculating OBI. This has included standardizing maintenance costs for numerous amenity classes such as playgrounds, courts, fields, and utilities. We will continue to streamline these processes, increase the accuracy of our calculations, and correct the timing of funding requests.

Inflationary Increases for Contractual Obligations - \$502,999

The Department manages a range of contracts that include predetermined escalation clauses. These contracts encompass services such as maintenance, tree removal, custodial duties, office support, and software maintenance and licensing. A significant number of these agreements are structured with escalation clauses that adjust rates according to movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Despite a local decline in inflation over the past two years, the Department continues to experience notable increases in expenses related to both contractual obligations and the procurement of goods. Vendors supplying these services and products have raised their prices in response to higher operational costs, some of which are driven by tariffs. As a result, the Department must allocate additional resources to meet these rising financial commitments and maintain essential services.

The Department's request includes a variety of small adjustments to existing departmental contracts. Also included in this total is an allocation of \$50,000 dedicated to the expansion of GPS fleet tracking capabilities. The Department is investing in additional GPS transponders for fleet vehicles to streamline the process of tracking vehicle usage and mileage. This initiative is ongoing, with the objective of eventually equipping all fleet vehicles with tracking technology for improved operational oversight. An additional \$7,000 has been allocated to cover contractual expenses related to historical and cultural interpretation services, as well as \$18,000 for outreach and website management contract increases. This funding will support continued efforts to provide accurate and engaging interpretation of the Department's historical and cultural assets and to engage with the public. The contractual total also reflects \$139,596 in costs related to fluctuations and phasing of various IT, data management, and software licensing contracts. This includes the renewal and adjustment of cybersecurity contracts, which are necessary to maintain the Department's technology infrastructure and safeguard sensitive information.

The principal driver of the contractual increase cost is the allocation of \$212,500 for the implementation of a new Computer-Aided Dispatch and Records Management System (CAD/RMS). This system is essential for aligning the Montgomery Park Police dispatch response and records management with the systems used by Prince George's Park Police and the County 911 networks. During the initial implementation phase, the new CAD/RMS will operate concurrently with the legacy system, meaning cost savings from the eventual transition will not be realized until the older system is phased out.

Inflationary Increases for Supplies and Materials, Services and Capital Outlay - \$388,151

The Department is requesting an increase of \$388,151 in funding for supplies and materials, non-contractual services, and capital outlay to address the impacts of inflation and rising costs across essential operational categories. This request is necessary to ensure the Department can continue to support its programs and services without disruption.

The increased funding will cover a broad range of needs, including vehicle parts, custodial supplies, security cameras, maintenance equipment and supplies, computer and communications supplies, uniforms, office equipment and supplies, horticultural supplies, and various other miscellaneous supply items. Many suppliers have raised their prices in response to the effects of tariffs, which has contributed to higher procurement costs for the Department.

The Department is requesting several targeted increases across key expense categories in response to inflation and rising market costs. An additional \$40,000 is needed to offset higher landfill tipping fees, which have risen due to increased disposal rates. Fuel costs have also been impacted by market fluctuations, requiring an additional \$30,000 to meet current requirements. Uniforms and safety shoes for trades and maintenance staff have seen both a rise in cost and demand, prompting a request for \$60,500 to maintain proper safety standards and attire.

Small equipment purchases have become more expensive, resulting in a need for \$42,744 in additional capital outlay to keep pace with inflationary pressures. Staff training and certification remain vital for compliance and operational effectiveness, and \$17,500 is allocated to support these ongoing professional development needs. Finally, the Department faces significant cost pressures for computer supplies and equipment, with an allocation of \$101,400 required. Tariffs have contributed significantly to these higher costs, and with year-end funds becoming less available, a base budget increase is essential to maintain both operational capacity and IT security requirements.

Collectively, these funding requests are designed to ensure the Department can continue to provide quality services and uphold safety standards amid changing economic conditions.

Utilities and Telecommunication Costs - \$108,442

The Department is also experiencing sustained increases in utility expenses, including \$17,462 specifically earmarked for solar photovoltaic (PV) charges and \$95,204 for water and sewer costs, reflecting the broader trend of rising utility rates.

Debt Service for Internal Service Fund (ISF) Capital Equipment - \$340,000 (Park Fund)

The Department of Parks finances vehicles and equipment through an Internal Service Fund (ISF). The Department's ISF funding covers vehicles and large pieces of equipment costing more than \$10,000 and with a life expectancy of greater than six years, which include work trucks, construction equipment, large mowers, and computer and information technology system upgrades. The Planning Board approves these purchases by approving the debt service payment each fiscal year.

For FY27, the Department of Parks requested funding level is \$2,200,000 for replacement of older fleet vehicles and IT infrastructure improvements.

This FY27 ISF funding of \$2.2M will provide for the following items:

- \$200,000 for Information Technology (IT) cabling and infrastructure improvements and networking and communication switch replacements.
- \$2,000,000 for replacement of older vehicles and equipment that have exceeded their useful life cycle.

The Department also purchases equipment through capital outlay funds that are used for equipment costing more than \$10,000 or with a life expectancy of fewer than six years. This equipment is purchased through the Park Fund. The capital outlay funding request for FY27 is increasing by \$42,744, which is included with the Inflationary Increases.

Parks Share of Wheaton HQ Rent - \$151,714

The Department of Parks is not only responsible for overseeing the Wheaton Headquarters (WHQ) building and its budget but is also one of its three principal tenants. As such, the Department is required to pay its proportionate share of the additional rents needed to cover the increasing costs associated with operating the building. In the context of the lease agreement for WHQ, "additional rents" are based on building operations costs split out for each tenant based on the square footage of the building the tenant occupies.

Historically, the rent for Wheaton Headquarters has seen minimal increases, with a modest 4% rise in FY22 and a 2% uptick in FY23. Since the building's opening, rents have otherwise remained unchanged. Furthermore, annual credits have been provided to the County, Parks, and Planning when operational costs have come in under budget. As the

building approaches its sixth year of operation, more significant lifecycle replacements are becoming necessary. These replacements are proving to be more expensive than initially anticipated, primarily due to rising costs over recent years. In addition, the current lease agreement between the Commission and the County restricts the amount of money that can be reserved for capital improvement projects, limiting opportunities to reduce ongoing maintenance and repair expenses.

Looking ahead to FY27, two major changes will affect the management and security of the Wheaton Headquarters building. First, the Department will shift more services from being performed by Parks staff to being contracted out to the building management company. Second, there will be a transition to contracted 24-hour security for the facility. Security has been a growing concern for both tenants and visitors, prompting the decision to implement round-the-clock security coverage. As part of this transition, the chargeback for Park Police—who have previously supported the security of the Wheaton Headquarters building—will be phased out. This chargeback will be fully removed in a future fiscal year, contingent on successfully securing a contract with a qualified vendor. The adjustment to contracted security also has implications for the MC Park Police budget and is reflected in other Park Fund chargeback changes.

Additional details regarding these changes will be provided during the review of the Enterprise budgets at the November session.

Risk Management and CAS Charges - \$844,304

Risk management, CAS chargebacks, and adjustments to the projected base cost for the Office of the CIO and Commission-Wide IT Initiatives (CWIT) are adjusted each year based on actual expenses on behalf of the Department of Parks. Please note that these totals are still being finalized and may change when we return in November. Changes included in this total include:

- Risk management – increase of \$812,100

The Risk Management account is managed by CAS. The primary purpose of this fund is to provide coverage for two distinct categories of costs – insurance claims that are less than \$250,000 and Workers' Compensation claims.

The funding level for Risk Management is determined using a five-year average of costs. Historically, the need for increased funding has been largely driven by significant insurance claims, such as those resulting from the Greenbriar Local Park playground arson incident and tree damage at the Cabin John Maintenance Yard. However, there has also been a steady rise in Workers' Compensation claims. Of particular note is the increase in indemnity claims, which climbed from 37% to 47% of all claims in FY25. Indemnity claims are more costly due to the need for wage replacement and higher medical expenses. Furthermore, the growth in wage levels and ongoing medical cost inflation have contributed to the overall increase in costs for the fund.

- CAS chargebacks – increase of \$130,920

CAS Chargebacks allow for CAS staff costs to be spread across the operational Departments and Funds in the Commission. Costs included are charges for services and other costs associated with our ERP systems, data center charges, union contract negotiation and implementation, legal services including contract management of outside council and lobbying contracts, and Park Police promotional testing. These fluctuations are based on CAS staff complement and services provided for the previous fiscal year. For this reason, you will not see an impact of FY27 requested CAS positions in the FY27 Proposed budget for the Department of Parks. Any approved CAS position costs will hit Parks in FY28.

- CIO/CWIT – decrease of \$98,716

Similar to CAS chargebacks, the CIO and CWIT charges spread the cost of Commission-wide costs for IT services. The CIO allocation typically covers the Parks Department's share of Commission-wide IT maintenance, license, and subscription fees. These costs are decreasing by \$98,716 for FY27. CWIT includes the Department share for major IT initiatives like the new ERP system. There is no change for FY27 to Parks CWIT share.

Parks Chargebacks – \$270,208

Chargebacks between the Park Fund and the Enterprise Fund, Special Revenue Fund, Capital Improvement Program, and the Wheaton HQ Service Fund are reviewed and adjusted each year based on projected expenses. This increase is attributable to the following:

- Reduction of the chargeback for Park Police who provide support for the Wheaton Headquarters building. This chargeback is being phased out in FY27 in favor of contracted 24hr security. Park Police will maintain a presence in the building during the transition.
- Compensation adjustments for the staff maintenance support for the MCPS ballfields. This chargeback moves that cost from the Park Fund to the Special Revenue Fund.
- An increase in the Enterprise chargeback for the shared cost of a position in the Enterprise Fund supporting Brookside Gardens.
- Changes in the chargebacks for the support provided by divisional Park Fund staff to the Enterprise Fund staff and facilities, as well as ActiveMONTGOMERY support.

Water Quality Protection Fund (WQPF) - \$324,740

The Department of Parks operates under two National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits: an industrial permit for the twelve maintenance yards, and a Phase II general permit for urban areas, issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) under the Federal Clean Water Act. These permits regulate stormwater discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) to improve water quality in the receiving waters. An MS4 consists of publicly owned conveyances such as curbs, gutters, ditches, and storm drains that collect or transport stormwater runoff and discharge directly to local streams and waterways.

The Phase II general permit requires the Department to manage stormwater and reduce pollution within the Chesapeake Bay watershed through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). These BMPs include stormwater treatment facilities that manage runoff from impervious surfaces, reforestation projects, stream restoration and outfall stabilization projects, and more. The permit also requires the implementation of six Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) which include: Education and Outreach, Involvement and Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE), Construction Site Runoff Control, Post Construction Stormwater Management, and Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping. Although compliance is mandatory, no federal or state funds were made available to offset this mandate.

In FY12, the Department received funding from the Montgomery County Water Quality Protection Fund (WQPF) to help offset costs associated with implementing the NPDES permits and other water quality initiatives across the M-NCPPC's 37,386-acre park system. These funds support compliance with both NPDES permits, including stream restoration and stewardship activities, stormwater management facility maintenance, and volunteer stream clean-up programs. As permit requirements have expanded over time, funding has steadily increased from the initial FY12 allocation to a budgeted amount of \$4,637,840 in FY26.

Despite significant progress under the permit, the Post-Construction Stormwater Management program continues to face challenges as new stormwater management facilities are added each year. These facilities must be routinely inspected and maintained to ensure continued function. Ongoing maintenance is also required for the existing inventory of more than 1,000 stormwater facilities, carried out through a combination of career staff, seasonal workers, partnerships, and contracted services.

Additionally, the volunteer stream clean-up program continues to grow, resulting in more trash being removed from parkland streams. However, this expansion also increases costs for supplies such as gloves and bags, as well as expenses for trash collection, transportation, and disposal.

These on-going requirements are the basis for the budget requests listed below:

- **Contractual increases:** \$48,346
- **SWM Project OBI:** \$199,929 (details provided in the section on OBI).
- **Impact of Personnel Increases from FY26 (Merit/COLA pay):** \$72,965 for staff funded through WQPF
- **Additional Supplies for volunteer cleanups:** \$3,500

Further breakdown of the proposed funding is shown in the chart below.

New FY27 WQPF Funding Request	Personnel	Supplies and Materials	Other Services and Charges	Total
Stormwater Management - Contractual Increases			\$48,346	\$48,346
OBI for Stormwater Management Amenities	\$80,343	\$17,492	\$102,094	\$199,929
Supplies Increase for Volunteer Cleanups		\$3,500		\$3,500
Merit/COLA Impact - Increases from FY26	\$72,965			\$72,965
TOTAL	\$153,308	\$20,992	\$150,440	\$324,740

Summary

The Department of Parks is continuing to refine the FY27 Proposed Budget. Being mindful of the cost pressures facing the Park Fund from salaries, benefits, retirement, and mandated obligations, the FY27 budget request shows our commitment to continue to provide the best services possible to our customers with a 5.5% operating increase (excluding compensation markers) over the FY26 budget. With the addition of the compensation markers, the total increase (excluding OPEB) comes to 8.4%.

Staff are requesting approval from the Planning Board to proceed to prepare the FY27 Park Fund operating budget at the Base Budget level.

Staff will be available at the work session to provide any additional information on the budget request.

The Department is scheduled for a final work session on the operating budget on November 13 to seek approval of specific funding levels for the FY27 Proposed Budgets for the Park Fund, Enterprise Fund, Property Management Fund, Special Revenue Fund, and Internal Services Equipment Fund.

MCPB 10-23-25 - MC Parks FY27 Proposed Budget - Park Fund - Final Reviewed

Final Audit Report

2025-10-19

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