



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

MCPB Roundtable Item
January 21, 2010

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 21, 2010

TO: Montgomery County Parks Commission

VIA: Mary Bradford, Director of Parks *[Signature]*
Mike Riley, Deputy Director of Parks *[Signature]*
Mitra Pedoeem, Division Chief, Park Development Division (PDD) *[Signature]* 1121

FROM: Shuchi Vera, CIP Manager, Park Development Division *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Summary of County Executive's Recommendation for the FY11-16 Parks Capital Improvements Program

On January 15, The County Executive released his recommendation for the FY11-16 Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The current state of the economy has made it difficult for the Executive to support most of the new projects and increases that the Board proposed.

The Planning Board's Proposed CIP was \$203.4 million, or a 2.3 percent increase from the FY09-14 amended CIP of \$198.9 million. The County Executive has recommended the Parks CIP at \$161.5 million, which represents a decrease of \$37.5 million or nearly 19 percent compared to the amended FY09-14 CIP. The difference between the Board's proposed CIP and the County Executive's recommended CIP is \$41.9 million, a significant decrease compared to past CIP recommendations. Most of these decreases are due to the Executive not recommending the replacement of POS funding with GO bonds, continued current revenue cuts to help support the operating budget, and funding needed for other priority projects.

The attached chart compares the Board's proposed CIP with the County Executive's recommendations and provides an explanation of the impacts to the affected projects. Staff categorized the Executive's recommendations into three groups, and indicated its priorities within each group based on recommended reductions and other important criteria. In order of importance to retain proposed funding, the groups are as follows: *New Stand-alone Projects, Existing Level-of-Effort Projects, and Existing Stand-alone Projects*. Staff's top priority is to fund the Rock Creek Maintenance Facility project, followed by the Warner Circle Special Park project. Both the Acquisition Non-Local and

Legacy Open Space Projects are top priorities to retain some of the level-of-effort funding that the Executive did not support.

Conclusion

In preparation for the upcoming Council and Committee meetings, staff would like to discuss the County Executive's Recommended Park CIP with the Board. These meetings are scheduled as follows:

1. **February 9, 10, & 11** County Council CIP Public Hearings at 7 pm
2. **February 22, March 8** PHED Committee Meetings for Parks CIP

N:\CIP\11-16 CIP\PB Sessions\MCPB Roundtable CE Recommended Park CIP Attachment

Comparison of MCPB Proposed Parks CIP and County Executive's Recommended FY11-16 CIP

PDF #	PDF Name	MCPB Proposed (\$000)	CE Recommended (\$000)	Difference	Summary of CE Recommendations	Project Impact
NEW STAND-ALONE PROJECTS						
1	1118702 Rock Creek Maintenance Facility	8,958	0	8,958	Did not recommend this project due to other priorities	This 40-year old maintenance facility will continue to deteriorate. It is severely inadequate to support park operations in the surrounding parks that it serves. In our submission, we made this top priority among new projects because it poses several safety and environmental concerns. The facility will be designed to achieve LEED Silver certification.
2	1118703 Warner Circle Special Park	5,000	1,350	3,650	Did not accept request to partially fund with GO bonds, but approved State and Federal funding	The delay of the Warner Circle project will jeopardize the long-term preservation of this important historic site with county-wide significance. Deferred funding will also delay the establishment of a park with local and county-wide benefits for Montgomery County residents, including a large, landscaped open space, public meeting spaces, historic interpretive spaces, and office and laboratory spaces to support the entire Parks stewardship program. In addition, the operating budget impacts of relocating Park staff to a park-owned facility from leased space provide long-term financial benefit from the project. It is also essential to appropriate County funds at an adequate level to match approved and proposed State bonds to take advantage of this significant non-County funding source. Significant community and political support for the project have resulted in \$250,000 of State bonds to date, and we are optimistic that significant additional bonds will be allocated in future legislative sessions.
3	078702 Brookside Gardens Master Plan Implementation	4,784	4,554	230	Reduced slightly the amount of funding requested; revised the expenditure schedule, but project will begin in FY11 and end in FY13, as proposed	We should be able to fund the design and construction within the Executive's recommended funding.
EXISTING LEVEL-OF-EFFORT PROJECTS						
1	998798 Acquisition: Non-Local Parks	22,010	15,775	6,235	Did not accept request to substitute POS with GO bonds in FY11 and FY12, which potentially leaves us without any funding in these two years if we do not receive any POS allocations; eliminated \$135K in current revenue in FY11; did not accept request to increase current revenue by \$200K per year to cover one-time costs to secure and stabilize properties	In FY11, it is imperative that we restore the \$135K to continue funding the salaries of our two acquisition positions. Also in FY11, we are contractually obligated to purchase the fourth installment of the Barmakian property , which would become part of the South Germantown Recreational Park. If we don't receive any GO Bonds and our FY11 Program Open Space (POS) allocation is not sufficient to cover the approximately \$1 mil that is needed to purchase the property, we will not be able to purchase this property. Moreover, we need to take advantage of the current economic situation, in which acquisition costs are much lower than they were in during the recent boom economy.
2	018710 Legacy Open Space	36,038	27,788	8,250	Cut \$250K in current revenue in FY11, but retained it in FY12-16; reduced GO bonds by \$2 mil in FY11, by \$3 mil in FY12, by \$2 mil in FY13, and by \$1 mil in FY14	A consistent funding stream is critical to maintaining an effective acquisition program, especially for the sometimes large park acquisitions that are implemented by the Legacy Open Space program. The program has successfully expended an average of approximately \$5 million in appropriations each year. It has been in existence. It is also important to maintain funding in acquisition programs because it is an ideal time to pursue acquisitions. The current economic climate is an excellent opportunity for acquisitions, both for opportunities that were not available previously and because acquisition dollars go farther now than in a boom economy.
3	808494 Restoration of Historic Structures	3,350	2,150	1,200	Did not accept request to increase annual funding from \$350K to \$550K	The Executive's recommendation is split between \$50K in Current Revenue and \$300K in GO Bonds. Many of the projects in the Cultural Resources portfolio require partnerships for viability. Only \$50K in current revenue will thwart the following partnership projects: Jesup Blair House, Red Door Store, Darby Store, Norwood Recreation Building . Planned design fees necessary to take the Warner Circle Special Park project from 35-100% will be affected, threatening the viability of restoring and programming the building. The Josiah Henson Site (Uncle Tom's Cabin) project will be at risk because \$100K is needed to match a federal grant, and the facility plan has already been advertised.
4	008720 Ballfields Initiatives	9,900	4,920	4,980	Did not accept request to increase annual funding level from \$820K to \$1,650K	POS funds in past years have bolstered funding for this project, but now that POS has diminished, we will not be able to continue the progress that we've made in ballfield renovations, i.e., replacement lighting and synthetic turf.
5	968755 Planned Lifecycle Asset Replacement: NL Parks	10,800	8,880	1,920	Did not accept request to increase annual funding from \$1,500K to \$1,800K; reduced FY11 funding by \$120K to \$1,380K	The current back-log of projects will continue to grow at a faster rate. This project funds infrastructure projects, so inadequate funding will delay projects such as replacement of underground fuel tanks and replacement of pedestrian bridges, among other projects that address environmental and safety concerns.
6	818571 Stream Protection	3,900	3,198	702	Did not accept request to increase annual funding from \$533K to \$650K	We will not be able to expedite stream restoration efforts, but will continue with the original work program, which includes the restoration of tributaries within the Paint Branch and Rock Creek watersheds , and other water quality improvement projects.

PDF #	PDF Name	MCPB Proposed (\$000)	CE Recommended (\$000)	Difference	Summary of CE Recommendations	Project Impact
7	998763 Minor New Construction: Non-Local Parks	1,500	900	600	Did not accept request to increase annual funding level from \$150K to \$250K	The current back-log of projects will continue to grow at a faster rate. Upcoming projects such as the construction of trail head parking and picnic shelters at Little Bennett Regional Park per Park Master Plan, and a small maintenance building Agricultural History Farm Park per Park Master Plan may be delayed.
8	998773 Enterprise Facilities' Improvements	1,295	695	600	Did not accept request to substitute \$100K in POS with GO bonds in annual funding	We will have to delay infrastructure maintenance projects at our Enterprise facilities, such as the installation/replacement of building envelope systems at the Pauline Betz Addie Tennis Center and Wheaton Ice Arena .
9	888754 Trails: Hard Surface Renovation	1,500	1,008	492	Did not accept request to increase annual funding from \$168K to \$250K	The current back-log of projects will continue to grow at a faster rate. Trail renovation projects will have to continue at the same pace, sometimes taking two years to accumulate enough funding to design and renovate just one trail.
10	998711 Energy Conservation: Non-Local Parks	480	240	240	Did not accept request to increase annual funding level from \$40K to \$80K	We will not be able to fund additional energy conservation projects at our non-local park buildings and facilities. Energy conservation projects include installation of LED lighting, energy efficient windows, and energy efficient heating and cooling systems.
11	958776 Facility Planning: Non-Local Parks	1,800	1,770	30	Reduced FY11 funding from \$300K to \$270K	We should be able to fund our next facility plan, Muddy Branch Trail or Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park
12	858710 Trails: Natural Surface Design, Constr. & Renov.	1,200	1,185	15	Reduced FY11 funding from \$200K to \$185K	Minimal impact.
13	078701 Pollution Prevention and Repairs to Ponds & Lakes	3,750	3,750	0	Accepted request to increase annual funding level from \$500K to \$625K	The increase in funds in this project will help the Commission to meet new stormwater management requirements as mandated by MDE.
EXISTING STAND-ALONE PROJECTS						
1	098706 Magruder Branch Trail Extension	2,429	378	2,051	Did not accept request to add funding for construction; As part of his FY09-14 CIP recommendations, the Executive had eliminated this project; however, Council approved funding for design funds and now construction funds are needed beginning in FY14 to keep this project on schedule.	Construction should be funded to take advantage of low construction costs. During the facility planning process, community was very much in favor of this project. The trail connects to schools and residential communities and is well used by nearby residents. It is recommended in the Countywide Trails Master Plan and the recently updated Damascus Master Plan, and would extend the existing Magruder Branch Trail to the Damascus Town Center.
2	078708 Wheaton Tennis Bubble Renovation	2,009	574	1,435	Did not accept request to substitute POS with GO bonds	The construction of the ancillary building will be delayed until POS funding or GO bond funding is available.
3	098703 Woodlawn Barn Visitors Center	2,745	2,675	70	Did not accept increase of \$70K due to inflation	Additional funding for inflation was not approved, so we will have to absorb any increases due to inflation and make sure that we stay within the original budget.
4	098708 Lake Needwood Modifications	4,164	4,164	0	No change in total project cost; revised the expenditure schedule, but project will begin in FY11 and end in FY12 as proposed	Minimal impact in the project schedule, but we should be able to complete it within the time frame of proposed schedule.
5	038703 Laytonia Recreational Park	10,546	10,546	0	No change in total project cost; slightly revised expenditure schedule	Minimal impact.
6	098701 Rock Creek Sewer System Improvements	1,268	1,268	0	No change in total project cost; revised the expenditure schedule, but project will begin in FY11 and end in FY12 as proposed	Minimal impact in the project schedule, but we should be able to complete it within the time frame of proposed schedule.
7	038707 Montrose Trail	770	707	63	Did not accept request to increase for escalation costs per DOT; however, DOT revised its total cost by reducing inflation and construction costs	No impact to Parks
TOTAL REDUCTION (excludes SilverPlace)				41,721		