



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

MCPB Agenda Item 2
September 8, 2011

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 1, 2011

TO: Montgomery County Park Commission

VIA: Mary Bradford, Director, Department of Parks
Mike Riley, Deputy Director, Department of Parks
Mitra Pedoeem, Chief, Park Development Division (PDD)

FROM: Shuchi Vera, CIP Manager, PDD *S.V.*

SUBJECT: Work Session #1 for Preparing the FY13-18 Park Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

Staff Recommendation

1. Conditional approval of strategy for reducing County General Obligation Bonds in response to County Executive's request
2. Approve Park and Planning Bond Spending Affordability Guidelines (SAG) for FY13-18 CIP

Background

To date, the Board has had three sessions to discuss the criteria, process, and schedule for preparing the FY13-18 CIP. Additionally, the Board and Montgomery County Recreation Advisory Boards held a joint public forum on April 7, 2011 to hear testimony from citizens and advocacy groups.

In this first of two work sessions, staff will present information on the CIP implementation rate, summarize the Board's comments from the prior strategy session, seek Board's conditional approval on a strategy for reducing County General Obligation Bonds in response to County Executive's request, and seek Board's approval of Park and Planning Bond Spending Affordability Guidelines (SAG).

The final work session, scheduled for September 22, will focus on park and planning bond funded projects. At the adoption session scheduled for October 13, staff will present recommendations for the remainder of the new projects and any other projects not covered in the first two sessions. The Board will receive a complete set of project description forms (PDFs), including operating budget impacts (OBI), for final approval. The recommended FY13-18 CIP will be forwarded to the County Executive and County Council by November 1, as required by State Law, with a favorable recommendation.

The County Executive will recommend a proposed FY13-18 CIP by January 15, 2012. The County Council will hold public hearings on the proposed CIP for the entire County, inclusive of the Parks CIP, in early

February and conduct work sessions in February and March. The CIP is scheduled for adoption by Council in late May.

CIP Implementation Rate

From time to time, the Council requests agencies and departments to calculate what is known as the CIP implementation rate. This rate determines how close a department is to meeting its programmed expenditures in any given year of the adopted CIP. It is calculated by comparing actual expenditures against programmed expenditures in the currently approved CIP. A consistently low implementation rate for one department could impact another department's ability to program funds in the CIP. It could also impact a department's ability to request increases in currently approved projects or obtain funding for new projects. A consistently high implementation rate shows that a department is meeting its expenditure goals from year to year. **The Department of Parks' CIP implementation rates were relatively low for the past few years, but jumped from 63 percent in FY10 to 93 percent in FY11.** This increase is not coincidental and can be attributed to a major push to implement projects supported by the re-vamping of the procurement process, improved project scheduling and tracking, and improved project coordination across park divisions.

Board's Comments from Prior CIP Strategy Session

1. The Board requested the status of trails included in the ICC Limited Functional Master Plan Amendment. Park Planning and Stewardship staff will address this issue as part of the briefing on the Countywide Park Trails Plan Amendment to the Board in October. The Board also asked about creating more trail connections to existing parks. At the same briefing, staff will address trail gaps and the larger policy and legal issues related to park trails. CIP staff will also present a summary of current trail projects in development, including developer trails, at the next CIP worksession scheduled for September 22.
2. The Chair's request to revise the language for one of the facility planning criterion was noted and changed. "Project fulfills a public request," was changed to "Project fulfills a public need," clarifying that a single public request may not create a priority project.
3. The Board supported staff's recommendation to continue to focus on renovation projects for the FY13-18 CIP and to implement a condition assessment of existing parks to determine future facility planning priorities. The Board also emphasized the importance of safety, accessibility, and connectivity in determining CIP priorities.

County Executive's Request for Reductions in County General Obligation (GO) Bonds

At the prior CIP strategy session on July 7, staff informed the Board that the County Executive has called for a GO Bond reduction strategy in order to align the County's CIP with forecasted revenues, control rising debt service costs, and assure sustainable operating impacts. The County Executive is requesting that each Department and Agency reduce its programmed GO Bonds by 5.5 percent between FY13-16. For the Commission, that means a reduction of \$3.345 million. This reduction in funding will affect the Department's ability to program new projects funded by GO Bonds. Since the July 7 strategy session, the County Office of Management and Budget held a meeting with CIP representatives emphasizing the need for this reduction. In addition, the Planning Board Chair received a letter from the County Executive dated August 10 further reiterating the need for these reductions (**Attachment A**). The Planning Board Chair responded to the letter on August 18 (**Attachment B**) assuring the Executive that the Commission will make every effort in analyzing its CIP to identify GO Bond reductions.

Staff has created three scenarios depicting GO Bond needs and reductions. Before going into depth on each scenario, below are brief descriptions of each CIP project funded fully or partially with GO Bonds. CIP Projects are generally categorized as level-of-effort or stand-alone. Level-of-effort projects have a consistent and continuous level of funding from year to year and fund smaller sub-projects that do not require facility planning. Stand-alone projects are distinct individual projects that were reviewed and approved by the Board as facility plans before County Council was asked to approve design and construction funds.

GO Bond-Funded Level-of-Effort Projects

Project Name	Project Description
1. Legacy Open Space	Purchase of land identified as having exceptional natural or cultural value per the Legacy Open Space Master Plan
2. ADA Compliance: Non-Local Parks	Comprehensive effort to ensure that all non-local parks and park facilities are built and maintained in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) standards
3. Ballfield Initiatives	Improvements include ballfield lighting, turf and infield renovations, synthetic turf installations, or other initiatives.
4. Cost Sharing: Non-Local Parks	Joint park projects with private sector or public agencies
5. Energy Conservation: Non-Local Parks	Facility modifications to control fuel and utilities consumption
6. Minor New Construction: Non-Local Parks	Construction of projects under \$300,000 that do not require facility planning
7. Planned Life Asset Replacement (PLAR): Non-Local Parks	Renovation or replacement of aging, unsafe, or obsolete local park facilities or components of park facilities
8. Pollution Prevention and Repairs to Ponds and Lakes	Enhance environmental conditions across park system as mandated by the EPA's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit
9. Restoration of Historic Structures	Planning, restoring, and rehabilitation of historic structures in the Parks Department's inventory
10. Resurfacing Parking Lots & Paths: Non-Local Parks	Asphalt repairs at non-local park facilities
11. Roof Replacement Non-Local	Roof repairs on non-local park facilities
12. Stream Protection: Stream Valley Parks	Corrective improvements to damaged stream channels, floodplains, and tributaries in stream valley parks and construction of new SWM facilities and associated riparian enhancements to improve watershed conditions
13. Trails: Hard Surface Design & Construction	Provides new hard surface trails, including connectors, kiosks, and signage
14. Trails: Hard Surface Renovation	Major repair and renovation of existing hard surface trails
15. Trails: Natural Surface Design & Construction	Renovation of existing natural surface trails

GO Bond-Funded Stand-Alone Projects

16. Black Hill Trail Renovation and Extension

This project funds two separate trail projects in Black Hill Regional Park, 20030 Lake Ridge Road, Boyds. The trail renovation project upgrades an existing 2.38 mile hard surface trail along the eastern shore of Little Seneca Lake from Wisteria Drive north to Spinning Wheel Drive. The existing six-foot wide trail does not meet park standards and is seriously deteriorated. The trail renovation and upgrade provides an eight-foot wide trail that meets park construction standards and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) except in one area where full ADA compliance is not possible without extensive tree-clearing. This project will be completed in FY12.

The second project extends an existing trail 1.2 miles from the terminus near Spinning Wheel Drive to parking lot 6, near the picnic area. The new eight-foot wide trail will connect two existing trail segments and provides the only hard surface connection from the Water's Landing community to the developed area of Black Hill Regional Park. This project is complete.

17. Brookside Gardens Master Plan Implementation

This project implements Phases I and II of the Brookside Gardens Master Plan at 1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton. Both phases will begin detailed design in FY12. The phased implementation in the CIP is as follows:

Phase I: Facility planning, design and construction of the visitors center entrance. The facility plan for the entrance is complete and includes improved vehicle and pedestrian access and circulation, a gatehouse, walls, artwork, signage, plantings and deer control measures. Green design elements are incorporated, such as permeable paving, reduction of paved surfaces, use of recycled materials, green roof on gatehouse, and rain gardens for bioretention.

Phase II: Facility planning, design and construction of the parking lot expansion, storm water management and South Service Drive. The facility plan includes expansion of the parking lot by 85 spaces. The project will also improve parking lot circulation, drop off area and create an inviting entrance space in front of the building for plant sales and other outdoor events.

18. Lake Needwood Modifications

Lake Needwood is a valued hydrological resource and recreational amenity located within Rock Creek Regional Park, 15700 Needwood Road, Rockville. Preservation of this resource is dependent on dredging the lake to remove existing sediment and addressing further siltation. This project will remove approximately 150,000 cubic yards of sediment from the forebay and upper reaches of the main lake, install structural improvements within the forebay to facilitate sediment collection, establish new shoreline protection along the upper lake, and deposit the sediment off-site. In addition to restoring the lake for recreational use, the project assesses the present and future function and management of the lake for flood control, stormwater management, sediment and erosion control, and downstream water quality. This project is substantially complete.

19. Laytonia Recreational Park

Laytonia Recreational Park is located at the northeast quadrant of the intersection of Muncaster Mill Road and Airpark Road in the Derwood area of Rockville. Access to this new park will be from Airpark Road. The park consists of three parcels totaling nearly 51 acres: an undeveloped surplus school site, a parcel dedicated through the subdivision process, and adjacent church property purchased by M-NCPPC. The new County Animal Shelter will be located on a seven-acre portion of the property.

The Montgomery County Planning Board approved a Facility Plan for Laytonia Recreational Park on July 30, 2001. The implementation of the approved plan was delayed while the Commission considered development of the site through a public private partnership, which was ultimately rejected. On July 22, 2010, the Planning Board approved a Facility Plan which had been updated to address the Special Protection Area Regulations, change in proposed use from library to animal shelter, and changing recreational needs. The approved plan includes one full size lit, irrigated baseball field; one lit rectangular synthetic turf field; two rectangular, irrigated turf fields; 240 parking spaces, with the potential for 50 additional spaces in the future if needed; playground; basketball court; combination restroom picnic shelter; and trails.

20. Magruder Branch Trail Extension

This project adds 3/4 mile of hard surface trail in Magruder Branch Stream Valley Park Unit #2 from Valley Park Drive to the Damascus Town Center. This segment meets with the existing 3.1 mile trail that runs from Damascus Recreational Park north, thereby providing an eight foot wide hard surface trail through wooded stream valley that connects Damascus Recreational Park to the Damascus Town Center. This new trail segment includes one bridge and 1,300 feet of boardwalk through sensitive areas, as well as road crossing improvements at Bethesda Church Road.

21. Rock Creek Maintenance Facility

The existing Rock Creek Park Maintenance Yard is located within Rock Creek Regional Park at 15881 Beach Drive in Derwood, MD 20855. It is east of the intersection of Needwood Road and Beach Drive. The site is approximately five acres. The existing buildings were built during the 1960's and 1970's when the park was first developed. The main objective for this project is to bring the existing outdated, inadequate and deteriorated facility up to industry standard and comparable to other newer facilities such as the Black Hill, Cabin John, and Wheaton Maintenance Yards.

The major components of the project include: an administration building, vehicle maintenance shop, workshops for two crews, equipment storage building, material storage building, staff parking, vehicle parking, and fuel island. The consultant has designed the new maintenance facility with the objective of achieving a green building level of at least LEED Silver rating without any major additional cost to the project.

22. Rock Creek Sewer System Improvements

Rock Creek Regional Park is a 1,510-acre park with a variety of recreational opportunities, located at Muncaster Mill and Avery roads in Rockville. This project funds the renovation of the sewer line serving the facilities between Avery Road and Lake Needwood. These facilities include the Lake Needwood boathouse and visitors center, and three restroom buildings. The existing on-site sewer system, built in the 1960s, has failed frequently in recent years, requiring some facilities to be placed on temporary septic systems.

The renovated sewer line will provide an economical and environmentally sensitive system. The approved plan replaces the existing system which runs through forest and along the Lake Needwood shoreline, with a new alignment away from the lake and along the park road. It also extends service to the Rock Creek Maintenance Facility which is currently on a septic system.

23. Woodlawn Barn Visitors Center

The Woodlawn Special Park, located at 16501 Norwood Road at the intersection of Norwood and Ednor Roads in Sandy Spring, Maryland, was purchased in the mid-1970s and is designated as a Montgomery County historic site. The three story stone bank barn, circa 1832, is a significant feature in the 100-acre environmental setting and shares the property with the 1815 Manor House,

the Montgomery County Police helicopter facility, and the Park Police Kristin M. Pataki Special Operations Training Facility. It possesses high artistic value and in the 1930's was selected for the elite Historic American Building Survey by the Department of the Interior. This project converts the historic barn and adjacent carriage house for use as a visitors center focusing on the themes of the Underground Railroad and the Quaker experience in Montgomery County and the barn as a feature of the county's agricultural landscape. The project includes costs to produce multi-media audio-visual stories to be projected across interior stone washed walls and spaces to create a unique visitor experience. This project has been selected for ICC Mitigation funding, an Environmental Stewardship Project to enhance cultural resources on park properties.

GO Bond-Funded Potential New Stand-Alone Projects and Existing Projects Requiring Additional Funds

24. Little Bennett Regional Park Day-Use Area

The Little Bennett Regional Park Day Use Area, located on the east side of MD Route 355 north of Comus Road, is a 65-acre existing meadow adjacent to wooded areas of the park and Soper's Branch stream. The day use area is designed to provide nature-based recreation and protects and interprets the existing meadow and adjacent forest habitat. The program of requirements from the master plan is accomplished in a uniquely sustainable manner that interprets the natural and cultural landscapes of the area. The project includes a multi-purpose outdoor classroom building, outdoor educational space and amphitheater, group picnic areas and shelter, play complex, sledding hill, hay play, group fire ring, teaching alcoves, two entrances and an access road, parking, bike path, hard and natural surface interpretive trails, bridges and boardwalks with overlooks, meadow enhancement and management, control of invasive species, managed forest succession, and stream restoration.

25. Northwest Branch Recreational Park

The athletic area at Northwest Branch Recreational Park is located on Norbeck Road, between Layhill and Norwood Roads. The site is approximately 41 acres in area, of which Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) owns 23 acres, and M-NCPPC owns 18 acres. This project consists of two phases. Phase I will be constructed by SHA and will include the following: adult baseball field, three adult sized multi-purpose rectangular fields, football field, 225-space parking lot, and trails for field access and connection to the existing trail on Norwood Road. The remainder of the park will be constructed by M-NCPPC in two phases, IIa and IIb. Phase IIa will include expansion of the eight-foot wide hard surface trail, playground, landscaping, picnic shelter, and maintenance building and storage bin area. Phase IIb will include additional parking, synthetic turf field, lighting, irrigation, and a restroom building.

26. Warner Circle Special Park

Warner Circle Special Park is a 4.5-acre property located in the Kensington Historic District. It was originally the home of Brainard Warner, the founder of the town. The property includes an 1890s house and a 1910s carriage house with non-historic additions that was used as a nursing home from the mid 1950s through 2005.

The property was acquired by the Commission in 2005-2006 through the Legacy Open Space program for the purpose of preserving the cultural resource. The facility plan was presented to the Planning Board on July 28, 2011 as a three-phased project. The Board approved the first phase, which calls for the demolition of nursing home wings, restoration of loop driveway and public areas of the park previously occupied by the nursing home, reconstructing historic exterior walls at demolition, stabilizing rear terrace, and improving utilities. The first phase is fully funded with State Bond Bills. However, the Planning Board has requested that staff return to the Board with a

revised plan for the remaining scope of work, which staff is scheduled to present on September 15, 2011. No GO Bonds have yet been approved for construction; however, depending on the scope of work that the Planning Board ultimately approves, GO Bonds may be needed to complete the project.

Park staff has identified three scenarios that show GO Bond needs and reductions. The scenarios use the approved FY11-16 CIP (**Attachment C**) as the baseline against which shifts, additions, and reductions are made. None of the scenarios take into consideration any GO Bonds for the Warner Circle Special Park as the Board has asked that staff return with a modified facility plan before approving any additional funding. Also, all of the scenarios assume the Board's approval of the facility plan and funding for the Little Bennett Day-Use Area. Because the Board has yet to approve both of these facility plans, staff is seeking conditional approval of the GO Bond reduction strategy that the Board ultimately selects. Finally, staff is not recommending any funding decreases in level-of-projects in any of the scenarios as the Department recognizes the importance of infrastructure maintenance of existing facilities. The County Executive has also made it clear that level-of-effort projects are high priority projects for the FY13-18 CIP. For all scenarios, staff has recommended shifts, additions, and reductions based on extensive criteria used in prioritizing CIP projects that were adopted by the Board in prior strategy sessions. Criteria considered for these scenarios include:

- Project is included in a Park and/or Area Master Plan
- Project is located in the South or North Central Level-of-Service Areas per the Vision 2030 Plan
- Project satisfies Planning Board Evaluation Criteria (addresses mandates and safety; provides services to large populations, etc.)
- Project fulfills a public need
- Project is a renovation of an existing park/facility

Scenario #1 ("Ideal Scenario"). This scenario can be best described as the ideal, but practical scenario. It shifts certain projects to free up capacity in FY13-16 to accommodate new projects. It adds \$3.407 million in FY13-16. It is not a reduction scenario, but rather the "ideal" scenario if major reductions were not necessary. Below is a breakdown of this scenario along with justification and impacts. Any changes from the Adopted FY11-16 CIP are highlighted in yellow in **Attachment D**.

Modification	Affected Project	Justification and Impact(s)
Increase funds	ADA Compliance: Non-Local Parks	Increase of \$1.05 million in FY13-16 due to addition of funds for mandated transition plan and minimal retrofits to meet the new Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
Increase funds	Trails: Hard Surface Renovation	Increase funding level by \$132,000 to catch up on huge back-log of projects; trails were identified as the most popular amenities per Vision 2030 study.
Shift funds	Brookside Gardens Master Plan Implementation	Start of design is delayed from FY11 to FY12; insufficient staff resources to begin design as scheduled
Shift funds	Laytonia Recreational Park	Open park in FY16 instead of FY15; design has been prolonged due to various changes in the design of the ballfields.
Shift funds	Magruder Branch Trail	Shift design from FY13 to FY15; not an urgent need as Damascus Town Center has not been built
Addition of project	Little Bennett Day-Use Area	Begin detailed design in FY15 with construction in FY17 and FY18. Staff will seek Board approval for facility plan in October; the plan has been scaled back to decrease capital

		and maintenance costs. The original master plan called for visitor center, which will not be included in the proposed facility plan. This project will create a unique natural and interpretive area in the County's largest park as well as provide a much needed visitors' entrance to the park's existing and future amenities.
Addition of project	Northwest Branch, Phase IIA	SHA is anticipated to complete the construction of Phase I of the park in FY12 as part of the ICC mitigation process. Phase I includes mostly ballfields with no supporting amenities. Staff has created a concept plan for another phase to add amenities to make this a complete park. The Commission would have to fund any additional amenities. Because of budget constraints, staff has phased the remaining project. Phase IIA will include playground, shelter, landscaping, maintenance shed, and expansion of internal pathway. Funding for Phase IIB will be requested in a subsequent CIP. Ideally, phase IIA could occur in FY13, immediately following the completion of Phase I.

Scenario #2 (Meets County Executive Reduction Target). This scenario meets the County Executive's proposal to cut \$3.345 million in FY13-16. This scenario would have major impacts to the current CIP. Below is a breakdown of this scenario along with justification and impacts. Any changes from the Adopted FY11-16 CIP are highlighted in yellow in **Attachment E**.

Modification	Affected Project	Justification and Impact(s)
Decrease funds	Legacy Open Space	Cut \$500K per year in FY14, FY15 & FY16; will sustain a steady funding level; program has been cut in the past and there are currently no Program Opens Space (POS) funds to support other acquisition programs. May use installment purchases when necessary if current year funds are insufficient.
Increase funds	ADA Compliance: Non-Local Parks	Increase of \$1.05 million in FY13-16 due to addition of funds for mandated transition plan and minimal retrofits to meet the new Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
Shift funds	Brookside Gardens Master Plan Implementation	Start of design is delayed from FY11 to FY12; insufficient staff resources to begin design as scheduled
Shift funds	Laytonia Recreational Park	Continue design, but delay construction until FY15, a delay of two years; may result in cost increases and permits will expire; staff considered phasing construction but it is not practical especially because project is in a Special Protection Area (SPA). Also, because the park design includes three rectangular ballfields, Council has requested that all three fields use different turf material (grass, sand and synthetic turf) to study the effects of each. Delaying the construction by two years would delay this study.
Shift funds	Magruder Branch Trail	Shift design from FY13 to FY15; not an urgent need as Damascus Town Center has not been built.
Addition of project	Little Bennett Day-Use	Begin detailed design in FY15 with construction in FY17 and

	Area	FY18. Staff will seek Board approval for facility plan in October; the plan has been scaled back to decrease capital and maintenance costs. The original master plan called for visitor center, which will not be included in the proposed facility plan. This project will create a unique natural and interpretive area in the County's largest park as well as provide a much needed visitors' entrance to the park's existing and future amenities.
Addition of project	Northwest Branch, Phase IIA	SHA is anticipated to complete the construction of Phase I of the park in FY12 as part of the ICC mitigation process. Phase I includes mostly ballfields with no supporting amenities. Staff has created a concept plan for another phase to add amenities to make this a complete park. The Commission would have to fund any additional amenities. Because of budget constraints, staff has phased the remaining project. Phase IIA will include playground, shelter, landscaping, maintenance shed, and expansion of internal pathway. Funding for Phase IIB will be requested in a subsequent CIP. Ideally, Phase IIA could occur in FY13 and FY14, immediately following the completion of Phase I; however, this scenario funds Phase IIA in FY17 and FY18, creating some risk that the park may be underutilized for the several years that it does not contain supporting amenities.

Scenario #3 ("Middle of the Road" Scenario). Staff recommends this scenario. This scenario reduces GO Bonds in FY13-16 by \$1.650 million, meeting approximately half of the County Executive's target reduction. It also significantly reduces GO Bonds in the first two years (FY13 and FY14) normally deemed as the most critical years in terms of funding capacity. Compared with the County Executive's scenario, this scenario includes the increase in Trails: Hard Surface Renovation as reflected in Scenario #1, and begins sooner the design for Northwest Branch Recreational Park and construction for Laytonia Recreational Park. Below is a breakdown of this scenario along with justification and impacts. Any changes from the Adopted FY11-16 CIP are highlighted in yellow in **Attachment F**.

Staff recommends that the Board approve this scenario. While it does not meet the County Executive's target reduction of \$3.345 million in FY13-16, it does strategically make reductions that minimize as much as possible the impact to the current CIP program and still accommodates funding for new projects requiring design and construction funding.

Modification	Affected Project	Justification and Impact(s)
Decrease funds	Legacy Open Space	Cut \$500K per year in FY14, FY15 & FY16; will sustain a steady funding level; program has been cut in the past and there are currently no Program Opens Space (POS) funds to support other acquisition programs. May use installment purchases when necessary if current year funds are insufficient.
Increase funds	ADA Compliance: Non-Local Parks	Increase of \$1.05 million in FY13-16 due to addition of funds for mandated transition plan and minimal retrofits to meet the new Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
Increase funds	Trails: Hard Surface	Increase funding level by \$132,000 to catch up on huge

	Renovation	back-log of projects; trails were identified as the most popular amenities per Vision 2030 study.
Shift funds	Brookside Gardens Master Plan Implementation	Start of design is delayed from FY11 to FY12; insufficient staff resources to begin design as scheduled
Shift funds	Laytonia Recreational Park	Continue design, but delay construction until FY14, a delay of one year; may result in cost increases; staff considered phasing construction but it is not practical especially because project is in a Special Protection Area (SPA).
Shift funds	Magruder Branch Trail	Shift design from FY13 to FY15; not an urgent need as Damascus Town Center has not been built.
Addition of project	Little Bennett Day-Use Area	Begin detailed design in FY15 with construction in FY17 and FY18. Staff will seek Board approval for facility plan in October; the plan has been scaled back to decrease capital and maintenance costs. The original master plan called for visitor center, which will not be included in the proposed facility plan. This project will create a unique natural and interpretive area in the County's largest park as well as provide a much needed visitors' entrance to the park's existing and future amenities.
Addition of project	Northwest Branch, Phase IIA	SHA is anticipated to complete the construction of Phase I of the park in FY12 as part of the ICC mitigation process. Phase I includes mostly ballfields with no supporting amenities. Staff has created a concept plan for another phase to add amenities to make this a complete park. The Commission would have to fund any additional amenities. Because of budget constraints, staff has phased the remaining project. Phase IIA will include playground, shelter, landscaping, maintenance shed, and expansion of internal pathway. Funding for Phase IIB will be requested in a subsequent CIP. Ideally, Phase IIA could occur in FY13 and FY14, immediately following the completion of Phase I; however, this scenario has Phase IIA in FY14 and FY15, creating some risk that the park may be underutilized for the couple of years that it does not contain supporting amenities.

Spending Affordability Guidelines (SAG) for FY13-18 CIP

The Park and Planning SAG limits the total amount of Park and Planning bonds the Commission can budget per fiscal year. These bonds fund local park projects. Pursuant to the County Charter, the Council must approve the SAG twice a year for Park and Planning Bonds as well as County General Obligation Bonds, which fund capital projects across the County, including non-local park projects. The next time that the Council is required to approve SAG is by October 4, which would set the spending limits for the FY13-18 CIP. Two years ago, staff requested and Planning Board and Council approved an increase in Park and Planning SAG, mainly to accommodate the Germantown Town Center project in the FY11-16 CIP. However, staff does not recommend an increase in SAG for the FY13-18 CIP. While an increase would help fulfill the funding gap left by the lack of Program Open Space (POS) funding, it would also increase the Parks' debt service that is funded in the Parks' operating budget. Therefore, the funding for design and construction of new local park projects would need to be accommodated within

the current SAG level of \$6 million per year. These new local park projects will be presented to the Board over the next couple of months when staff seeks approval for their facility plans.

Given the uncertainty of the Parks' operating budget for the foreseeable future, staff recommends against any increases in Park and Planning SAG for the FY13-18 CIP and recommends keeping it at \$6 million per year.

Conclusion

In summary, staff seeks Board's conditional approval on a strategy for reducing County General Obligation Bonds in response to County Executive's request, and Board's approval of Park and Planning Bond Spending Affordability Guidelines (SAG).

Attachments

ATTACHMENT A



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

RECEIVED
0680
AUG 10 2011

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

August 10, 2011

Ms. Françoise Carrier
Planning Board Chair
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Carrier: *Françoise*

The last several operating budget cycles have been very challenging, requiring sacrifices from employees and County service recipients. During this time, the capital budgets have grown or received few reductions, leading to an increasing debt service budget. These debt service increases, coupled with stagnant revenues, now mean that the County must reduce debt service expenditures to stay within debt capacity guidelines and to maintain fiscal flexibility. Both of these factors are critical to maintaining our AAA bond rating, which helps ensure the future affordability of our capital program. While we are hopeful that the effects of this recession will begin to dissipate, the common wisdom is that the recovery will continue to be slow and uneven. We cannot count on significant increases in revenue in the future.

As a first step to accomplishing this goal, I am asking all County departments and agencies to find ways to reduce their general obligation (GO) bond allocations as they prepare their FY13-18 CIP submissions. I am proposing a \$25 million annual reduction in GO bonds for each year in the six year period, representing a \$100 million reduction in previously programmed expenditures in the first four years, FY13-16. I am asking each agency to reduce their submissions by a prorated share. For the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, this would entail a \$3,345,000 reduction in GO bonds for FY13-16.

Without true cost reductions – either through cost savings or scope changes, we will not be able to make room to address important infrastructure needs or other high priority new projects. We would like your help in supporting a CIP budget that is sustainable given our revenue, debt service, and operating budget impact forecasts while still accomplishing your core mission.

My staff notified your staff of this plan several weeks ago, but I wanted to formally communicate this request to you and ask for your partnership in achieving the goal of restructuring our CIP to a more sustainable level of programming. Thank you for working with me in partnership towards a goal that is in our mutual interest.

Sincerely,

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

c: Valerie Ervin, President, County Council
Nancy Navarro, Chair, Government Operations and Fiscal Policy



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

August 18, 2011

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

Thank you for your letter dated August 10 regarding the necessity to reduce general obligation (GO) bond allocations in the FY13-18 CIP. I understand the need to make these reductions as a way to alleviate debt service budget needs. The Park and Planning Commission will make every effort in analyzing its CIP to identify GO bond reductions. Parks staff is currently working on various strategies to meet the Commission's target reduction and plans to present them to the Planning Board in September. As you are well aware, it will be very challenging to make reductions to the Commission's CIP as we are faced with largely unfunded mandates, such as the new 2010 Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA) and new stormwater regulations. We also face a growing backlog of infrastructure maintenance projects, and the need for design and construction funding for projects that are just completing the lengthy facility planning process and have been extensively vetted through the public, raising expectations about bringing those projects to fruition.

As you may recall, the Commission has had to absorb close to \$3 million in current revenue cuts in the last couple of years to the detriment of a growing backlog of infrastructure maintenance projects. Additional cuts will have noticeable consequences on our ability to provide safe parks and recreational opportunities for the County's growing population. Despite these challenges, I understand the need to create a fiscally-sound and sustainable CIP and look forward to working with you and your staff in meeting this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Françoise M. Carrier".

Françoise M. Carrier
Chair

Also distributed to: Valerie Ervin, President, County Council
Nancy Navarro, Chair, Government Operations and Fiscal Policy

N:\CIP\13-18 CIP\CE\LetterToCEReCIPcuts

ATTACHMENT C

FY11-16 CIP, ADOPTED May 2011

GO-Bond Funded Projects, Funding in \$000s

PDF #	PDF Title	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	BSY ¹
018710	Legacy Open Space	3,250	2,250	2,750	3,750	4,250	4,250	17,316
128701	ADA Compliance: Non-Local Parks	0	50	200	300	400	500	0
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	820	820	820	820	820	820	0
058701	Black Hill Trail Renovation and Extension	252	1,049	0	0	0	0	0
078702	Brookside Gardens Master Plan Implementation	252	335	3,618	0	0	0	0
761682	Cost Sharing: Non-Local Parks	50	50	50	50	50	50	0
998711	Energy Conservation - Non-Local Parks	40	40	40	40	40	40	0
098708	Lake Needwood Modifications	2,164	2,000	0	0	0	0	0
038703	Laytonia Recreational Park	604	165	3,681	4,630	1,466	0	0
098706	Magruder Branch Trail Extension	0	0	165	213	0	0	0
998763	Minor New Construction - Non-Local Parks	150	150	150	150	150	150	0
038707	Montrose Trail	82	625	0	0	0	0	0
998707	PLAR: NL - Boundary Marking Sub-Project	30	30	30	30	30	30	0
998708	PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations	61	61	61	61	61	61	0
998709	PLAR: NL - Play Equipment	124	124	124	124	124	124	0
998715	PLAR: NL - Tennis/MUC Renovation	85	85	85	85	85	85	0
078701	Pollution Prevention and Repairs to Ponds & Lakes	325	325	325	325	325	325	0
808494	Restoration Of Historic Structures	50	50	50	50	50	50	0
998764	Resurfacing Parking Lots & Paths: Non-Local Parks	300	300	300	300	300	300	0
118702	Rock Creek Maintenance Facility	0	75	330	614	1,860	3,000	0
098701	Rock Creek Sewer System Improvements	614	654	0	0	0	0	0
838882	Roof Replacement: Non-Local Pk	200	200	200	200	200	200	0
818571	Stream Protection: SVP	533	533	533	533	533	533	0
768673	Trails: Hard Surface Design & Construction	300	300	300	300	300	300	0
888754	Trails: Hard Surface Renovation	168	168	168	168	168	168	0
858710	Trails: Natural Surface Design, Constr. & Renov.	50	50	50	50	50	50	0
118703	Warner Circle Special Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
098703	Woodlawn Barn Visitors Center	150	600	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL GOB	10,654	11,089	14,030	12,793	11,262	11,036	17,316

¹Beyond Six Years

ATTACHMENT D

SCENARIO #1 - "IDEAL SCENARIO" (ADDITION OF \$3.407 MILLION IN FY13-16)

GO-Bond Funded Projects, Funding in \$000s

PDF #	PDF Title	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	BSY ¹
018710	Legacy Open Space	2,750	3,750	4,250	4,250	4,250	4,250	17,316
128701	ADA Compliance: Non-Local Parks	550	650	700	750	800	850	0
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	820	820	820	820	820	820	0
078702	Brookside Gardens Master Plan Implementation	481	2,505	621	0	0	0	0
761682	Cost Sharing: Non-Local Parks	50	50	50	50	50	50	0
998711	Energy Conservation - Non-Local Parks	40	40	40	40	40	40	0
038703	Laytonia Recreational Park	650	3,817	5,166	465	0	0	0
098706	Magruder Branch Trail Extension	0	0	110	253	1,557	509	0
998763	Minor New Construction - Non-Local Parks	150	150	150	150	150	150	0
998707	PLAR: NL - Boundary Marking Sub-Project	30	30	30	30	30	30	0
998708	PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations	61	61	61	61	61	61	0
998709	PLAR: NL - Play Equipment	124	124	124	124	124	124	0
998715	PLAR: NL - Tennis/MUC Renovation	85	85	85	85	85	85	0
078701	Pollution Prevention and Repairs to Ponds & Lakes	325	325	325	325	325	325	0
808494	Restoration Of Historic Structures	50	50	50	50	50	50	0
998764	Resurfacing Parking Lots & Paths: Non-Local Parks	300	300	300	300	300	300	0
118702	Rock Creek Maintenance Facility	330	614	1,860	3,000	3,079	0	0
838882	Roof Replacement: Non-Local Pk	200	200	200	200	200	200	0
818571	Stream Protection: SVP	533	533	533	533	533	533	0
768673	Trails: Hard Surface Design & Construction	300	300	300	300	300	300	0
888754	Trails: Hard Surface Renovation	300	300	300	300	300	300	0
858710	Trails: Natural Surface Design, Constr. & Renov.	50	50	50	50	50	50	0
118703	Warner Circle Special Park ²	0	0	0	0	400	3,000	1,100
NEW	Little Bennett Day-Use Area ³	0	0	236	748	5,599	4,417	0
NEW	Northwest Branch Phase IIA	200	150	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL GOB	8,379	14,904	16,361	12,884	19,103	16,444	18,416
	APPROVED	14,030	12,793	11,262	11,036			
	Difference	-5,651	2,111	5,099	1,848			
	Total increase FY13-16				3,407			

¹Beyond Six Years²Staff will return to the Board with a revised facility plan and cost estimate on September 15, 2011; staff will likely not request GO Bonds for this project until after FY16³Final cost estimate will be determined when staff seeks Board approval for facility plan on October 6, 2011

SCENARIO #2 - COUNTY EXECUTIVE REDUCTION OF \$3.345 MILLION IN FY13-16

GO-Bond Funded Projects, Funding in \$000s

PDF #	PDF Title	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	BSY ¹
018710	Legacy Open Space	2,750	3,250	3,750	3,750	4,250	4,250	17,316
128701	ADA Compliance: Non-Local Parks	550	650	700	750	800	850	0
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	820	820	820	820	820	820	0
078702	Brookside Gardens Master Plan Implementation	481	2,505	621	0	0	0	0
761682	Cost Sharing: Non-Local Parks	50	50	50	50	50	50	0
998711	Energy Conservation - Non-Local Parks	40	40	40	40	40	40	0
038703	Laytonia Recreational Park	0	0	2,056	3,668	4,374	0	0
098706	Magruder Branch Trail Extension	0	0	110	253	1,557	509	0
998763	Minor New Construction - Non-Local Parks	150	150	150	150	150	150	0
998707	PLAR: NL - Boundary Marking Sub-Project	30	30	30	30	30	30	0
998708	PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations	61	61	61	61	61	61	0
998709	PLAR: NL - Play Equipment	124	124	124	124	124	124	0
998715	PLAR: NL - Tennis/MUC Renovation	85	85	85	85	85	85	0
078701	Pollution Prevention and Repairs to Ponds & Lakes	325	325	325	325	325	325	0
808494	Restoration Of Historic Structures	50	50	50	50	50	50	0
998764	Resurfacing Parking Lots & Paths: Non-Local Parks	300	300	300	300	300	300	0
118702	Rock Creek Maintenance Facility	330	614	1,860	3,000	3,079	0	0
838882	Roof Replacement: Non-Local Pk	200	200	200	200	200	200	0
818571	Stream Protection: SVP	533	533	533	533	533	533	0
768673	Trails: Hard Surface Design & Construction	300	300	300	300	300	300	0
888754	Trails: Hard Surface Renovation	168	168	168	168	168	168	0
858710	Trails: Natural Surface Design, Constr. & Renov.	50	50	50	50	50	50	0
118703	Warner Circle Special Park ²	0	0	0	0	400	3,000	1,100
NEW	Little Bennett Day-Use Area ³	0	0	236	748	5,599	4,417	0
NEW	Northwest Branch Phase IIA	0	0	0	0	200	150	0
	TOTAL GOB	7,397	10,305	12,619	15,455	23,545	16,462	18,416
	APPROVED	14,030	12,793	11,262	11,036			
	Difference	-6,633	-2,488	1,357	4,419			
	Total decrease FY13-16					3,345		

¹Beyond Six Years²Staff will return to the Board with a revised facility plan and cost estimate on September 15, 2011; staff will likely not request GO Bonds for this project until after FY16³Final cost estimate will be determined when staff seeks Board approval for facility plan on October 6, 2011

ATTACHMENT F

SCENARIO #3 - "MIDDLE OF THE ROAD" SCENARIO (REDUCTION OF \$1.650 MILLION IN FY13-16)

GO-Bond Funded Projects, Funding in \$000s

PDF #	PDF Title	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	BSY ¹
018710	Legacy Open Space	2,750	3,250	3,750	3,750	4,250	4,250	17,316
128701	ADA Compliance: Non-Local Parks	550	650	700	750	800	850	0
008720	Ballfield Initiatives	820	820	820	820	820	820	0
078702	Brookside Gardens Master Plan Implementation	481	2,505	621	0	0	0	0
761682	Cost Sharing: Non-Local Parks	50	50	50	50	50	50	0
998711	Energy Conservation - Non-Local Parks	40	40	40	40	40	40	0
038703	Laytonia Recreational Park	0	817	2,056	3,668	3,557	0	0
098706	Magruder Branch Trail Extension	0	0	110	253	1,557	509	0
998763	Minor New Construction - Non-Local Parks	150	150	150	150	150	150	0
998707	PLAR: NL - Boundary Marking Sub-Project	30	30	30	30	30	30	0
998708	PLAR: NL - Minor Renovations	61	61	61	61	61	61	0
998709	PLAR: NL - Play Equipment	124	124	124	124	124	124	0
998715	PLAR: NL - Tennis/MUC Renovation	85	85	85	85	85	85	0
078701	Pollution Prevention and Repairs to Ponds & Lakes	325	325	325	325	325	325	0
808494	Restoration Of Historic Structures	50	50	50	50	50	50	0
998764	Resurfacing Parking Lots & Paths: Non-Local Parks	300	300	300	300	300	300	0
118702	Rock Creek Maintenance Facility	330	614	1,860	3,000	3,079	0	0
838882	Roof Replacement: Non-Local Pk	200	200	200	200	200	200	0
818571	Stream Protection: SVP	533	533	533	533	533	533	0
768673	Trails: Hard Surface Design & Construction	300	300	300	300	300	300	0
888754	Trails: Hard Surface Renovation	300	300	300	300	300	300	0
858710	Trails: Natural Surface Design, Constr. & Renov.	50	50	50	50	50	50	0
118703	Warner Circle Special Park ²	0	0	0	0	400	3,000	1,100
NEW	Little Bennett Day-Use Area ³	0	0	236	748	5,599	4417	
NEW	Northwest Branch Phase IIA	0	200	150	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL GOB	7,529	11,454	12,901	15,587	22,660	16,444	18,416
	APPROVED	14,030	12,793	11,262	11,036			
	Difference	-6,501	-1,339	1,639	4,551			
	Total decrease FY13-16				1,650			

¹Beyond Six Years²Staff will return to the Board with a revised facility plan and cost estimate on September 15, 2011; staff will likely not request GO Bonds for this project until after FY16³Final cost estimate will be determined when staff seeks Board approval for facility plan on October 6, 2011