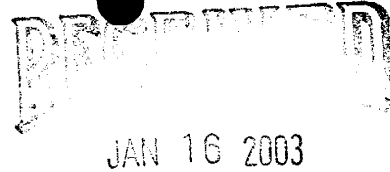


January 14, 2003

Mr. Les Straw - Superintendent  
Department of Parks  
9500 Brunett Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20901



DIRECTOR OF PARKS

Dear Mr. Straw:

At one of the Olney Skate Park Advocate Committee meetings held last fall, an eleven year old local skateboarder asked, *How many signatures does it take to get a skate park in Olney?* It seems it was the right question for him to ask, and it is one which our community will diligently continue to pose to Montgomery County officials until it is decisively answered and addressed. The Olney Skate Park Advocate Committee needs your support, and I am writing to ask you to help our kids.

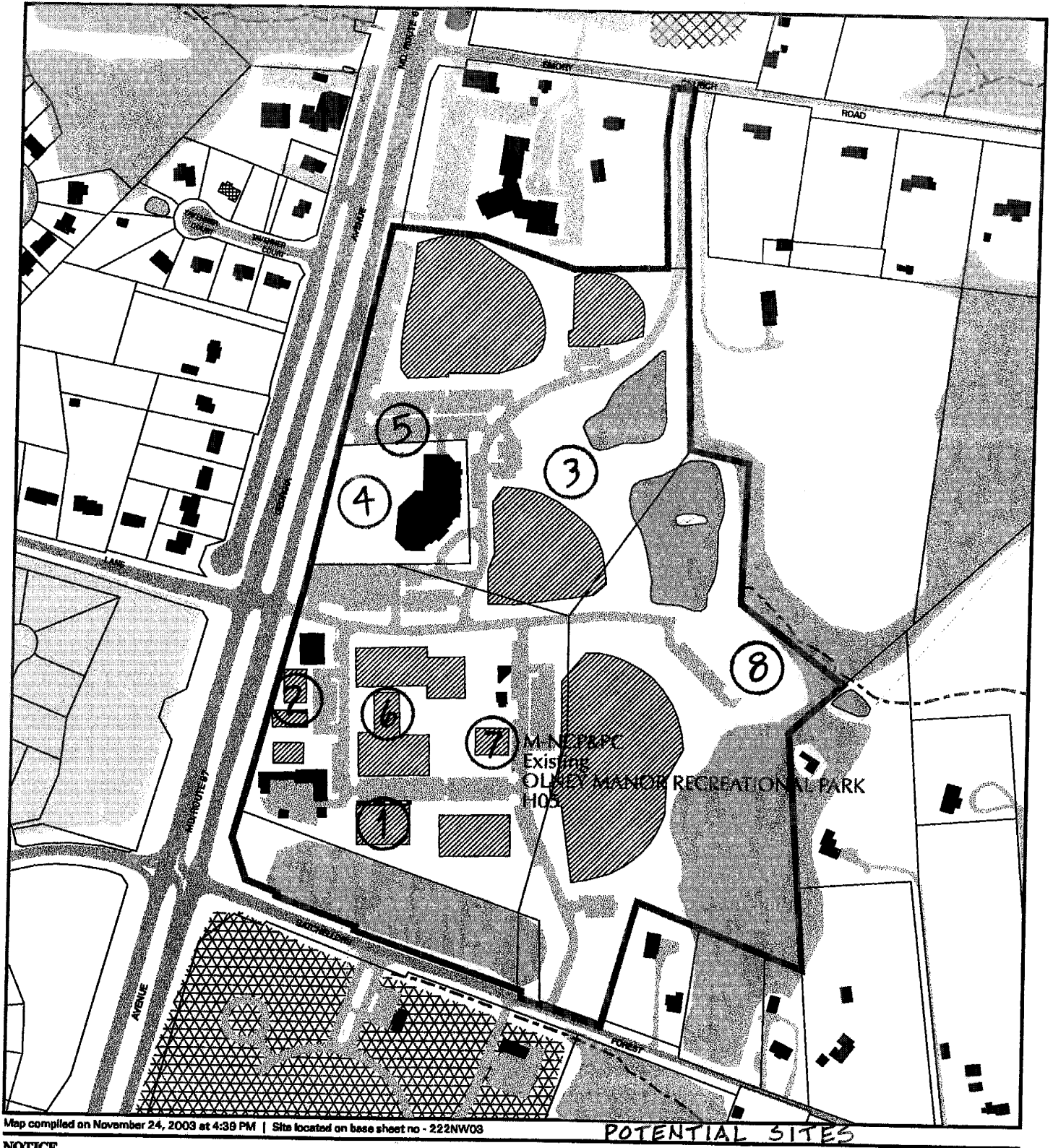
Until a skate park, however basic, is provided for our local youth, the skate boarding problem in our community is not going to go away. Busing our youth to other community skate park facilities is not a viable solution – just as asking our kids to play basketball, soccer or baseball somewhere else would not be either. Last year, the Olney Skate Park Advocate Committee was formed in order to provide education about skate park development, develop and propose potential solutions, and to facilitate a public/private partnership. Numerous local skate park meetings have been held and well attended, media attention by the Gazette has been ongoing, and numerous private/public skate park initiative proposals have been submitted to County Council and Park & Planning. We have unequivocally demonstrated that the Olney community is eager to support a local skate park. More than 1745 local citizen petition signatures, in support of a skate park, were presented to Steve Silverman, local businesses and individuals have expressed a willingness to financially support and sponsor a local skate park once a site is designated, and several proposals have been submitted. What else must this community do to move this project forward? *Indeed, how many signatures does it take?*

As spokesperson for the Olney Skate Park Advocate Committee, I am disheartened by the lack of County resolve to address this problem. The Olney Master Plan has formally recognized the profound need for a local skate park, Park & Planning officials have indicated that potential local public skate park sites have been identified, a public forum meeting was proposed four months ago by Ellen Masciocchi of MNCPPC, and yet another skate season approaches with no definitive game plan in place. Without proper planning time and initiative to expedite a solution, we will soon have businesses, parents, and police again expressing frustration about the lack of safe, skate park facilities, as local youth continue to practice their sport in commercial areas and parking lots. The time is now to bring to fruition a plan to resolve this concerning issue. Our community and our kids should not be asked to wait another year. Please help us. I look forward to your response and can be reached at home at 301-570-2387 or by email at [jryan@greateventsinc.com](mailto:jryan@greateventsinc.com).

Sincerely,

Jimena Ryan

# OLNEY MANOR REC'L.



Map compiled on November 24, 2003 at 4:38 PM | Site located on base sheet no - 222NW03

**NOTICE**

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Key Map



Research & Technology Center



1 : 4800

Oliney Manor Recreation Park  
**Skateboard Site Evaluation Matrix**

Site Evaluation Meeting -- July 25, 2003

Site	Cost of Construction	Skateability/Size	How quickly can the facility be opened	Visibility of the facility	Operations/ Access (ADA), Spectator areas	Impacts On Existing Facilities	Conflicts with other park uses	Proximity to Parking and Drop Off	Proximity to existing restrooms	Proximity to necessary utility connections	Public Reaction	Environmental Impact	SWM Potential	SCORE
1) Open area Adjacent to Ball Field and Ponds	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	+
2) Handball and Volleyball Courts	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+
3) "Center Court" Tennis Area	0	+	0	+	+	0	-	+	+	0	-	0	0	0
4) Triple Tennis Court	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	-	+	0	+
5) Double Basketball Court Area	0	+	0	+	+	-	+	+	+	0	-	+	0	0
6) Picnic Area	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0
7) Mound Between Georgia Ave. and Swim Center	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
8) Site #5 Parking Lot SITE*	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+

\*Note: #8 "Parking Lot Site" was added to the list of alternative sites after the initial analysis. It is included in this chart for reference.

+	= Positive Rating
0	= Neutral Rating
-	= Negative Rating



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
Office of the Chairman, Montgomery County Planning Board

October 28, 2003

Mr. Charles I. Carter  
Olney Manor Park Tennis Patrons  
P.O. Box 75  
Brookeville, Maryland 20833

Dear Mr. Carter:

Thank you for your comments regarding the Olney Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Plan. I understand that you are in touch with Mr. Khalid Afzal of the Community Based Planning staff. He has included your letter as part of the packet for the upcoming worksessions on the Olney Master Plan. Ms. Tanya Schmieler of the Countywide Planning staff has agreed to meet with you regarding staff recommendation #7. She has e-mailed you to that effect. Ms. Ellen Masciocchi of the Park Development Division has taken into consideration your concerns regarding the location of the proposed skateboard park within Olney Manor Park.

If you have any further concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Derick P. Berlage  
Chairman

DPB:EM

Olney Manor Park Tennis Patrons  
P.O. Box 75  
Brookeville, MD 20833  
September 26, 2003

RECEIVED  
1303  
SEP 26 2003

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

Mr. Derick Berlage  
Chairman  
Montgomery County Planning Board  
Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning  
The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Berlage:

This is in reference to the Olney Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Plan. The signatories of the enclosed Montgomery County Tennis Association (MCTA) petition disagree in principle with staff recommendations No. 2 and 7 as it relates to conversion of tennis facilities.

Please consider these petitions as strong citizen opposition to the staff recommendations. We are continuing to gather signatures. Based on our conversations with citizens, including tennis players and other active park users, we find there are many unanswered questions that need to be addressed by planning staff.

We would like to suggest that planning staff meet with the citizens that are most adversely affected by the staff recommendations to answer questions. We want to engage in a constructive dialogue on plans for Olney Manor Park and conversion of tennis facilities.

We propose that planning staff meet with the tennis community and active park users at Olney Manor Park in the Swim Center meeting room on a mutually convenient date in early October to present the staff recommendations.

Please ask your staff to contact Mr. Charles I. Carter at 301-924-2249 or 301-452-8498 to discuss how we can proceed to ensure that affected citizens have an opportunity to participate in the process.

Sincerely,

  
Charles I. Carter

cc: United States Tennis Association/Maryland District, Montgomery County Tennis Association, Leisure World Tennis Club, Foxy Ladies Tennis League, Parents without

**Partners Tennis Club, Philippine/American Tennis Club, Active Park Users, Good  
Counsel Tennis Team/Coaches**

**Enclosures**

SOUTH EAST RURAL OLNEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
(SEROCA)

TO: Ellen Masciocchi  
MNCPPC

FROM: John H. Lyons  
President, SEROCA

DATE: September 2, 2003

SUBJECT: Proposed Skateboard Facility within Olney Manor Park

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My name is John Lyons. I reside at 16301 Batchellors Forest Road in Olney. I am President of the South East Rural Olney Civic Association ("SEROCA"), as well as Executive Vice President of the Greater Olney Civic Association. I submit these comments on behalf of SEROCA, which represents the Olney Manor Park's neighborhood on Batchellors Forest Road and Emory Church Road.

In general, SEROCA supports the creation of a skateboard facility within Olney Manor Park, provided that:

1. The facility will be properly monitored and supervised both to ensure the safety of users and to ensure that unlawful or other inappropriate behavior does not occur in or around the facility and is therefore less likely to spill over into neighboring communities.
2. The facility is not constructed on proposed site 3.

SEROCA would support constructing the facility on proposed site 4 because the proximity of that site to the swim center building would facilitate proper monitoring and supervision of the facility. At the same time, SEROCA would not oppose building the facility on the pre-existing impervious surfaces of proposed site 1 or proposed site 2 in order to avoid increasing the amount of run-off that flows out of the park and into the headwaters of Batchellors Run and ultimately the Northwest Branch. As between proposed sites 1 and 2, SEROCA would prefer proposed site 2 because proposed site 1 is farther from the swim center and more hidden from view, and would therefore be more difficult to monitor and supervise than proposed site 2.

In any event, SEROCA strongly opposes constructing the skateboard facility on proposed site 3, a tranquil area near two ponds that provides quieter recreational opportunities as far from busy, noisy Georgia Avenue as possible for users of the park. That area is also part of the habitat for a variety of birds and animals. It would be wholly inappropriate to add an impervious surface to that part of the park and to disrupt its relative tranquility by locating the skateboard facility there when alternative sites within the park are available.

Thank you for your consideration.



*Oakdale Emory*  
*United Methodist Church*

Roger J. Carlson, *Senior Pastor*  
 Byron E. Brought, *Associate Pastor*

Georgia Avenue & Emory Church Road • 3425 Emory Church Road • Olney, Maryland 20832  
 Office: 301-774-4666 • Fax: 301-774-3157 • E-mail: [oeumc@oeumc.org](mailto:oeumc@oeumc.org) • Web Page: [www.oeumc.org](http://www.oeumc.org)

November 4, 2003

Ms. Ellen Masciocchi  
 Montgomery County Dept. of Park and Planning  
 Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning  
 9500 Brunett Ave  
 Silver Spring, MD 20901  
 (Ph# 301-650-2867)

Dear Ms. Masciocchi:

Attached is a petition signed by the members of Oakdale Emory United Methodist Church in Olney, Maryland in reference to the proposed skateboard park at Olney Manor Park. Our church is located adjacent to this park. The park borders our church campus on the south and west. We became aware of the proposed plan after a member read the September article in the Gazette newspaper.

Oakdale Emory United Methodist Church is a congregation over 200 years old. Our congregation has over 1,500 members. Our church is an active member and contributor to the quality of life in our community. Our church sponsors 8 Boy Scout Troops, hosts one of the largest chapters of Alcoholics Anonymous in the County, contributes to and works with Olney Help, Shepherds Table, Winter Growth and many other civic organizations assisting the residents of our county.

The youth of our community are very important to us. Our Middle High/Senior High youth choir has over 120 members. Our Youth Sunday School has over 350 in attendance each Sunday. The Ark Preschool is located at our church with over 167 children enrolled.

As a church, we would like to endorse the idea of a skateboard park for youth. However, we do have some considerations about the proposed sites. We would like to share these considerations with you in the hope they will be included in your decision-making process for the location of the proposed skateboard park at Olney Manor Park.

**Site #5 identified as the parking lot by Georgia Avenue near the upper baseball field**

This parking lot borders the southern boundary of the church's property. Several years ago we contacted MNPCPPC about opening up a driveway between that parking lot and the new parking lot the church was installing on the Georgia Ave. side of the church property. This query was made because many of our members used this public parking area when our parking lots were at capacity. At that time, we were told this would not be permitted. However, a friendly agreement was reached that Olney Manor Park patrons would be allowed to use our parking lots and our members would be permitted to use the public parking area when our lots were at capacity. Since that time we have felt very blessed to have this public facility so close to our church. Each Sunday, members and visitors park in this lot. Our property is bounded on one side by Georgia Avenue, one side by Emory Church Road and on two sides by Olney Manor Park. Our parking lot on Georgia Avenue was the last area on our church campus available for a parking lot. There are no other open spaces on our church campus

Our Mission is

*"To Make and Empower Disciples for Jesus Christ"*



for additional parking lots. The upper parking lot at Olney Manor Park is and will continue to be a vital resource for our congregation and all the people it serves. For this reason, we hope you will choose not to build the proposed skateboard park at site #5.

**Site #3 identified as the open area between softball field #3 and pond**

Each year, the Olney church community hosts an Easter sunrise service at this site. This year seven churches sponsored it. This service is open to the entire community. In 2003, over 400 people attended. Year after year, for many residents, this service is a poignant beginning to their Easter worship experience. The sunrise over the pond, the mist above the water and the flight of the geese are breathtaking. Bleachers are moved down to this area. But, each year those in attendance exceed that capacity. The additional worshippers line the service road and grassy area. Many bring their own chairs and sit in the grassy area. Others stand throughout the service. It would be a loss to the community at large if this site were no longer available.

For this reason, we hope you will choose not to build the proposed skateboard park at site #3.

We are aware of the concerns of the tennis community from the Gazette article. Of the five proposed sites, it appears site #4 identified as the mound between Georgia Avenue and the swim center is the only site that would not impact existing sport groups or civic groups that use the facilities at Olney Manor Park. For this reason, our congregation would like to endorse site #4 for the proposed skateboard park at Olney Manor Park. On October 21, 2003 our Church Council passed such a motion. The attached petitions signed by our members and friends also endorse the same position.

We hope that your body will favorably consider our request. We look forward to continuing the friendly relationship our church has had with Olney Manor Park and those who use the facilities located there. Oakdale Emory United Methodist Church and Olney Manor Park are each valuable resources for the residents of Montgomery County, Maryland. Each adds to the quality of life of members, visitors and residents of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Sincerely,



Roger Carlson  
Sr. Pastor



Martha Lipscomb  
Chair, OEUMC Church Council