

Hillandale Citizens Association

Silver Spring, Maryland

Testimony for M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Park and Planning Commission **Hillandale Local Park Renovation Project** **July 9, 2015**

The Hillandale Citizens Association is eager to have the plans for the Hillandale Local Park Renovation to be approved and scheduled for completion during the FY 2017-2022 CIP. Please move the project, as presented by staff, forward and include this worthwhile project in your pending biennial CIP submission to the County Executive.

Thanks to Linda Komes and the Parks' planning team for listening to community suggestions for our "new" park and the many criticisms of the current park conditions during multiple community meetings. Many different ideas were offered, but given the constraints of the property, the team had to make decisions and compromises. They did a good job to create a plan that will serve area users along with the adjacent community.

The plan addresses the current inadequacies of the park and includes priorities desired by Hillandale residents:

- Very much desired sanitary facilities and water to make the park more sports team, kid and family friendly;
- A visible, engaging play area for children;
- Hard surface walking/exercise path and natural trails, including a connector to the old Hillandale neighborhood;
- Additional parking spaces to reduce the parking on the park's grass surfaces and the nearby neighborhood streets.
- Improved stormwater management to safeguard the woods and stream;
- Retention of basketball and tennis courts;
- A renovated, quality field along with an open play area.

Furthermore, this renovation plan brings the park to street level, allows for handicapped access for CHI clients and realigns the park's northern entrance to provide an improved intersection at New Hampshire and Chalmers Road. In anticipating the future, the plan provides all the additional right-of-way needed in this section of New Hampshire for the median transitway while improving bicycle and pedestrian travel.

Please approve the plan and begin to work to include this in the Biennial CIP. We want this park to become reality this decade. Thank you.

Presented by Margie Goergen-Rood
for the Hillandale Citizen Association