

Hillandale Citizens Association, Inc.
Silver Spring, Maryland

To: Council President Floreen, Council Vice President Berliner, **sent via e-mail**
Councilmembers Elrich, Hucker, Katz, Leventhal, Navarro, Rice, and Riemer

Date: February 19, 2016

Subject: **FY17-22 CIP: Hillandale Local Park Funding & Schedule**

The Hillandale Citizens Association urges Council to approve the FY17-21 funding schedule for the Hillandale Park renovation project included in the County Executive's CIP request. This project has been discussed for several years at many community meetings with Park staff and has support from the residents of Hillandale. We are eager to have our local park, currently known for bi-county basketball and greater-Silver Spring/Takoma Park field use, better serve current and future residents of the area — young, old, disabled, active and passive park users.

The reconfigured park corrects the many problems of the current facility. Here are a few highlights of the improvements as shown in the attached graphic:

- **NEW LAYOUT DESIGN:** Currently the basketball court and parts of the play field are in environmentally sensitive areas. There is NO stormwater management causing runoff problems in the wooded area of the park. The old play equipment is tucked away from public view and parents consider the location unsafe. The new design brings the play area “front and center” and makes the park inviting to a wide range of users by including trails, seating, landscaping and adequate parking. Basketball, tennis and rectangular field uses continue.
- **MORE PARKING:** During high-use hours, there is insufficient parking for the field and basketball users. Parking on grass and across New Hampshire in the neighborhood is common. The redesign provides parking for the multiplicity of uses anticipated.
- **NEW, SAFE DRIVE ENTRANCES:** A new, wide entrance using the traffic signal at Chalmers Road will greatly reduce the accidents and near misses for those traveling to the park from south bound New Hampshire. (As recently as Saturday, Feb 13, a vehicle was struck trying to enter the park at the current mid-block entrance.) A second entrance from northbound New Hampshire will be reconfigured to be right-in/right-out only.
- **ADA ENTRANCE FROM CHI:** Currently CHI's developmentally disabled clients and their caregivers have limited ability and difficulty using the park. A wheelchair friendly path will replace the 60-year old cement staircases. Parks staff has offered to work with CHI on additional features.
- **PICNIC PAVILIONS, TRAILS, SEATING, AND RESTROOMS:** With the decommissioning/demolition of Hillandale's Park Activity Buildings, picnic pavilions will provide modest locations for group gatherings and children's parties. Paths, restrooms and seating will attract a wide range of park users, making this park a true community resource.
- **IMPROVED NEW HAMPSHIRE FRONTAGE & R-O-W FOR FUTURE BRT:** The sad, eroding park frontage that is incapable of growing vegetation will be reworked. The plan is also forward looking and accommodates the r-o-w needed for any future New Hampshire BRT.

A renovated Hillandale Park was one of the programmed community improvements itemized in the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan. This new park will be an amenity for all. Please fulfill this promise; please fund the project to be completed in FY21. Thank you.



FIGURE 24: FINAL FACILITY PLAN

Hillandale Local Park (P871742)

Category
Sub Category
Administering Agency
Planning Area

Date Last Modified
Required Adequate Public Facility
Relocation Impact
Status

11/17/14
Preliminary Design Stage

	Total	Thru FY15	Est FY16	Total 6 Years	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	Beyond 6 Yrs
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000s)											
Planning, Design and Supervision	640	0	0	640	130	355	81	27	47	0	0
Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Site Improvements and Utilities	6,910	0	0	6,910	0	0	1,919	2,213	2,778	0	0
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7,550	0	0	7,550	130	355	2,000	2,240	2,825	0	0

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000s)											
Park and Planning Bonds	4,550	0	0	4,550	130	355	0	1,240	2,825	0	0
Program Open Space	3,000	0	0	3,000	0	0	2,000	1,000	0	0	0
Total	7,550	0	0	7,550	130	355	2,000	2,240	2,825	0	0

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (000s)

Appropriation Request	FY 17	700
Appropriation Request Est.	FY 18	0
Supplemental Appropriation Request		0
Transfer		0
Cumulative Appropriation		0
Expenditure / Encumbrances		0
Unencumbered Balance		0

Date First Appropriation	
First Cost Estimate	
Current Scope	FY 16 7,550
Last FY's Cost Estimate	7,550

Description

THIS PROJECT RENOVATES AN EXISTING 25.35 ACRE LOCAL PARK LOCATED AT 10615 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE IN SILVER SPRING, THE PARK IS SITUATED ADJACENT TO THE HILLANDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, THE FEDERAL RESEARCH CENTER COMPLEX, AND THE CHI CENTER. THE FACILITY PLAN REMOVES OR RENOVATES DETERIORATING FACILITIES AND RECONFIGURES THE PARK TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND CIRCULATION. THE PLAN INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: DEMOLITION OF THE HILLANDALE OFFICE BUILDING IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AN IMPROVED, SAFE VEHICULAR PARK ENTRANCE, RECONFIGURED ROADWAY AND PARKING AREAS (125 PARKING SPACES), SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS ON NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, HARD SURFACE INTERNAL TRAIL LOOP WITH EXERCISE EQUIPMENT AND HEART-SMART TRAIL MARKERS, RESTROOM FACILITY, FULL SIZE SOCCER FIELD WITH IRRIGATION AND FENCING, THEMED MULTI-AGE PLAYGROUND WITH PUBLIC ART, TWO PICNIC SHELTERS, TWO TENNIS COURTS WITH LIGHTING, TWO BASKETBALL COURTS WITH LIGHTING, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES AND LANDSCAPING.

Estimated Schedule

DESIGN FY17, CONSTRUCTION FY19-21

Justification

THE PARK FACILITY PLAN WAS APPROVED BY THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD ON JULY 9, 2015. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RENOVATION OF THIS PARK ARE INCLUDED IN THE WHITE OAK SCIENCE GATEWAY MASTER PLAN, APPROVED AND ADOPTED JULY 2014. ADDITIONAL APPLICABLE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE COUNTYWIDE BIKEWAYS FUNCTIONAL MASTER PLAN (2005), VISION 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR PARKS AND RECREATION, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND (2011), AND THE 2012 PARK RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN.

Other

A PEDESTRIAN IMPACT ANALYSIS HAS BEEN COMPLETED FOR THIS PROJECT.

Disclosures

A pedestrian impact analysis has been completed for this project.

Coordination

THE PROJECT REQUIRES COORDINATION WITH THE HILLANDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE STATION TO ENSURE THAT ACCESS AND ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FIRE STATION ARE MET. THE REMOVAL OF THE HILLANDALE OFFICE BUILDING REQUIRES COORDINATION WITH THE TIMING OF STAFF RELOCATION TO THE WHEATON HEADQUARTERS BUILDING.