



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: Jai Cole, Executive Director

FROM: Mike Peter, Division Director
Business Administration Division

DATE: September 22, 2023

Agenda

**Budget Committee
(Committee of the Whole)
Wednesday, September 27, 2023 – 6:30 pm
Boardroom, Herrity Building
Chairman: Ken Quincy
Vice Chair: Tim Hackman**

1. FY 2025 General Fund Budget Process (with presentation) – Information*

*Enclosures



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563. TTY (703) 803-3354

INFORMATION

FY 2025 General Fund Budget Process

Staff will present on the second phase of the Park Authority Board's General Fund Budget Request Development Process. Per the September 13, 2023 meeting, staff posted the initial summary of potential General Fund budget priority items and opened public comment through September 22, 2023.

Staff received comments and prioritized the budget requests for Park Authority Board consideration. Staff also received comments prior to this period regarding the non-recommended budget reduction package. A summary of all comments is outlined below and a collection of all comments received is attached.

Specific Focus of Comments	Area of Concern	Number of Comments
Non-Recommended Budget Reductions	Environmental Concerns	23
Non-Recommended Budget Reductions	General Parks and Amenities	13
Non-Recommended Budget Reductions	Sports Focus	1

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Public Budget Comments Received Through September 22, 2023

STAFF:

Jai Cole, Executive Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Michael Peter, Director, Administration Division

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:08 PM
To: [J. Farmer](#)
Subject: RE: Please don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

From: J. Farmer <vonnegut313@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 11:07 AM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Please don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Given the impacts of air pollution, climate change, and the benefits of green & open spaces in our country, I'm writing in support of increased funding for Fairfax County Parks and oppose any of the cuts the Park Authority Board has suggested as a way to meet a 7% reduction requested by the County Executive. Parks are underfunded given their positive impact & the important role they place in our communities.

We need additional support for forestry and bamboo mitigation that have not yet been filled, maintaining adequate park facilities including restrooms, improving trail maintenance, and decreasing or eliminating fees for children's summer programs.

I volunteer to pull invasive weeds and bamboo in my neighborhood's county parkland & help to report on illegal dumping, issues with stormwater maintenance

issues to prevent more expensive fixes.

Thank you,
Jasen Farmer

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 3:15 PM
To: [Jen B. Connors](#)
Subject: RE: Proposed Budget Cuts for Parks

Hello Jennifer Connors,

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Jen B. Connors <jenbconnors@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 10:14 AM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Proposed Budget Cuts for Parks

Dear Fairfax County Board Members and Officials,

It is my understanding that the Fairfax County Executive is asking county agencies, including the Park Authority, to reduce their budget proposals. As a lifelong Fairfax County resident, I believe the county should increase park funding, not reduce it.

Public parks are historically the targets of decreased funding or ceased funding. Parks are so vitally important to not only the health of the ecosystems, but adds to local offerings where residents and families can spend quality time engaged in activities in a healthy, safe environment.

Among the suggested cuts are not funding new positions in forestry and bamboo mitigation that have not been filled, closing park restrooms, reducing trail maintenance, and increasing fees for children's summer programs while reducing their availability. These cuts are all unnecessary and would be a mistake.

Fairfax County is overrun with nonnative, invasive plant species such as bamboo. Management and/or eradication of these species is critical. Park restroom numbers are low as is. Closing them is threat to public health should visitors use the woods as a rest area. Keeping these open is important to the health of the park and convenience for visitors.

Fairfax County parks already receive less than 1% of the county budget. Reducing spending for our parks sends the message that these areas are not a priority. Please do not let the parks slip through the cracks and become another statistic. They are vital for residents and wild species alike.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Jennifer Connors

Fairfax Station, VA 22039

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 11:50 AM
To: [Mickey Woll](#)
Subject: RE: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

-----Original Message-----

From: Mickey Woll <mickey.woll312@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 9:10 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Consider to at least keep the spending cut the same. Fairfax needs to continue being beautiful for our wildlife admirers and wildlife itself.

Thank you.

Mickey

Sent from my iPhone

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 11:50 AM
To: [Henry Blinder](#)
Subject: RE: Proposed budget

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Henry Blinder <henryblinder1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2023 6:38 AM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Proposed budget

There is a huge need for additional Pickleball courts in Fairfax County, especially in the area near Vienna. In contrast, many of the current tennis courts are significantly underutilized and could be very inexpensively converted over to shared use courts or dedicated Pickleball courts. This is especially true at Nottoway Park.

Respectfully,
Henry Blinder
919-724-2089

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 11:51 AM
To: [Shelley Adler](#)
Subject: RE: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

-----Original Message-----

From: Shelley Adler <sadler22@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2023 7:48 AM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Hello,

I love birding at many of your wonderful parks. Please increase the funding as opposed to cutting it.
Thanks, Shelley

Sent from my iPhone

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 11:52 AM
To: [Powell Hutton](#)
Subject: RE: OPPOSE General Fund Budget Reductions for Fairfax County Parks
Attachments: [Ltr to Fairfax re parks.doc](#)

Hello Powell Hutton,

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Powell Hutton <powell.hutton@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2023 10:36 AM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Cc: Clerk to the BOS <ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: OPPOSE General Fund Budget Reductions for Fairfax County Parks

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I write to encourage you to reject a proposal to cut funding for our parks, even though I am a resident of Arlington. Unlike most urban centers, parks have an influence that can extend far beyond normal jurisdictional boundaries, as they are home to multiple species of wildlife and provide critical stopover sites for migratory travelers. This is particularly true of a site such as Huntley Meadows,

a park where a number of us have continued to visit weekly for some three decades to conduct wildlife censuses.

In a period of dramatic climate change and creeping urban sprawl, reducing support for natural spaces is a shortsighted move that will affect our and future generations. The long view is important here. All of us need to care for our natural spaces, whether we are individual citizens or elected representatives. We owe it to our grandchildren and theirs to live up to our responsibilities as stewards of our shared environment.

Do the right thing and keep funding support for our vitally important parks.

Thank you,

Powell Hutton
Friend of Huntley Meadows Park

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 11:53 AM
To: [Barbara Cade Pringle](#)
Subject: RE: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Dear Barbara and Robert Pringle,

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

-----Original Message-----

From: Barbara Cade Pringle <bpringle9@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2023 12:35 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Dear Members of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board,

As longtime members of the Huntley Meadows Monday Morning Birding Group, we would like to attest to the role this park plays not only in the preservation of wild species in our area but in the pleasure it gives to all sorts of citizens in northern Virginia. As we search for birds with our binoculars and cameras, young mothers (and often fathers) bring out toddlers or older children being home-schooled or on vacation to hunt for frogs and turtles and butterflies and dragonflies. Occasionally the little ones are thrilled by the sight of a great blue heron or white egret if they are lucky.

Besides Huntley Meadows' important role in conservation, it is a major source of exercise and enjoyment for the residents of the surrounding area, and for that reason deserves every penny of the funding it now receives from the county.

Sincerely,

Barbara and Robert Pringle

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 11:53 AM
To: [cyndi Perry](#)
Subject: RE: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Dear Cyndi Perry,

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: cyndi Perry <cmperry-pp@cox.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2023 5:44 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

September 16, 2023

Fairfax County Park Authority Board, Via email: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

RE: OPPOSE General Fund Budget Reductions for Fairfax County Parks

As a resident of Oakton, VA and a Fairfax Master Naturalists, I oppose the budget reductions for Fairfax County parks!

My family continues to support an increase budget for Fairfax County parks, particularly as that budget supports efforts to maintain healthy ecosystems that protect and conserve natural resources. We were disappointed to see possible cuts of general fund monies for the FY 2025 budget amounting to approximately \$2.4 million.

Instead of cuts, we ask you to urge the Board of Supervisors to increase funds for county parks, to bolster efforts to acquire more land, restore degraded lands and create more natural resource-focused parks. These steps can help implement the county's climate action, resiliency, and natural

landscaping plans; increase trees and other natural vegetation that absorb carbon and other pollution and stem stormwater runoff and help reverse declines in birds and insects.

The parks are already poor cousins in the Fairfax County budget, receiving less than 1% of the County funds. There is no fat to cut. We understand that the Park Authority has suggested, in response to a request from the County Executive for a 7% reduction of monies from the general fund for 2025, eliminating new personnel positions, specifically two forestry positions and a bamboo mitigation position. Given the accelerating effects from climate change, the parks cannot afford to put off hiring personnel whose job is to maintain a healthy park ecosystem through attention to tree health and combating invasive plants. Trees and a healthy forest environment mitigate the effects of climate change and provide much needed relief from urban heat islands for the growing Fairfax County population.

The parks are more essential than ever to wildlife AND community health. Closing restrooms could send park users into wooded areas to the detriment of the environment. Reducing trail maintenance can reduce opportunities for appreciation of the parks' natural resources. Increasing the cost of and reducing availability of Rec-Pac youth programs is particularly problematic for low-income families. I encourage you to oppose requests to cut the parks budget. The parks need more funding, not less.
cyndi perry, long time Oakton resident

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 11:54 AM
To: [Ana Smythe](#)
Subject: RE: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Dear Ana Smythe,

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Ana Smythe <anarsmythe@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2023 10:26 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

To whom it may concern;

It is so important that we don't cut funding to our parks again. The cuts have already hurt our environment, devastating native plants and wildlife. It is critical that we increase funding and correct the damage that has been done. We can't afford one more day where we neglect the environment and destroy our children's future. Previous generations have enjoyed a robust park system and we owe it to future generations to preserve nature's beauty and health. I can't imagine further cuts. How can I convince you of the devastating outcomes that result when we stop or decrease funding for our parks.

Take action today, please.

Sincerely,

Ana Smythe
9025 Charles Augustine Dr
Alexandria VA 22308

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 6:38 PM
To: [Diva Crows](#)
Subject: RE: Funding for Fairfax County Parks

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Diva Crows <divacrows1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 4:08 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Cc: Mason <Mason@FairfaxCounty.gov>; FCPA Board.Mason <FCPABoard.Mason@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Funding for Fairfax County Parks

I am writing to urge you not to cut funds from the Fairfax County Parks. I am a registered voter who has lived in the Mason District for nearly 30 years. The park system was one of the reasons we moved into the county. Over the years, we took our children to Fairfax County parks nearly every weekend, sent them to summer camps, and took advantage of the wide offering of after-school classes. As the world faces unprecedented challenges to the environment, our children must learn how to respect and co-exist with nature. Fairfax county parks create a love and respect for the outdoors that is fundamental to creating the political will to face climate change.

As the director of [Diva Crows](#), a non-profit that rehabilitates injured and orphaned songbirds, I have partnered with the park service for several years to conduct educational programs to teach children (and adults) to be good avian neighbors. I have introduced non-releasable songbirds to audiences at Lake Accotink, Burke Lake Park, Ellanor Lawrence, Long Branch, and Hidden Oaks. I do not charge anything for the programs and audiences get to see birds up close and learn about the species who live in their backyards. It is a partnership that benefits all parties; cutting back on park staff and programs would

undermine the work that we are doing. I'm sure the same is true for many other groups who use the parks as a platform for their public service messages.

In short, Fairfax parks are essential to the quality of life in the county. If one needs to save money, cutting a program that represents 1% of the budget will not solve the problem. Better-funded programs should be the place to start budget cuts.

Sincerely,
Catherine Sevckenko

--

Catherine Sevckenko
Executive Director
Diva Crows

Divacrows1@gmail.com

@DivaCrows

571-402-5702

[Donate Here](#)

Purchase [Apollo Finds a Home](#)

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 6:38 PM
To: [Marilyn Parks](#)
Subject: RE: Fairfax County Park funding
Attachments: [FCPA Board.docx](#)

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Marilyn Parks <marilynneparks@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 4:11 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Cc: Sully District Kathy L. Smith <SullyDistrictKathyLSmith@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Fairfax County Park funding

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:47 PM
To: [Kay Bushman](#)
Subject: RE: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Kay Bushman <KAY.BUSHMAN@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 12:51 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

I live in the Mt Vernon area close to Huntley Meadows. I enjoy all the Fairfax County parks. They are crucial to conservation of native plants and wildlife. Please fund these parks. If you must make cuts you should sell off the McCutcheon property which is under utilized not used by most of the county. But don't make wholesale cuts across the board.

Kay Bushman
1908 Swan Terrace, Alexandria, VA 22307

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:47 PM
To: [Stephanie Stahr](#)
Subject: RE: Please don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Stephanie Stahr <stahr.stephanie@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 12:23 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Cc: FCPA Board.HunterMill <FCPABoard.HunterMill@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Hunter Mill BOS <HunterMillBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Please don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Hello everyone —

We live in Vienna. Our family has often enjoyed our county parks during the 34 years we've lived here. And we've donated to Fairfax County Parks several times.

Please don't cut parks funding. The parks are among the reasons we, and countless friends of ours, live here. We know budget decisions are extremely difficult, but in our opinion the parks budget should be increased, not decreased.

Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stahr and

Jeffrey Metzger

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:47 PM
To: [Bonny Pasowicz](#)
Subject: RE: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Bonny Pasowicz <bonny.pasowicz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 12:12 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Good morning,

I am writing to ask you to do everything you can to avoid budget cuts to our parks and beautiful park trails.

I am a senior and enjoy the recreation center programs and frequent walks on the Difficult Run trails. I always thank county employees that help maintain them. In the past 5 years invasive plants have increased and fallen trees have taken longer to be removed, making it hard to navigate around them.

The recent drought has caused more trees to rot and fall. A large Tulip Poplar on our street (Tattersall Trail, Oakton) fell just after elementary school children had walked by. Had the timing been a few minutes earlier, the parents and children would have been seriously hurt. The tree was on county property but scared our neighbors enough to have all our trees evacuated.

Please don't allow this to happen on our well used and loved country trails.

Thank you.

Bonny Pasowicz

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:46 PM
To: [mark glaser](#)
Subject: RE: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

-----Original Message-----

From: mark glaser <mark.glaser48@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 12:02 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Do not cut funding.

Mark
22079

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:44 PM
To: [Barbara Mugaas](#)
Subject: RE: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Barbara Mugaas <grandmamugaas@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 11:30 AM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Please please please don't cut Fairfax County Park funding! Increase it!

We need to take care of our parks! I've been here since 1952 and the parks came much later but were fabulous and are still fabulous!

They support so much of our nature and wildlife and pollinators etc etc.

Every time I see developers tear down trees like at the end of McWhorter place in Annandale and watch all the birds come to my fence on McWhorter every day for food because they have no food because there are no trees Etc. It's just plain wrong!

Mother Nature isn't going to be there for us if we keep doing this! She can only do so much because we are destroying so much!!

We need our parks to be supported and expanded and protected. That's your job! Please be reverent to protecting these beautiful lands.

If you can't support this, who will?

Sincerely,
Barbara Mugaas

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:44 PM
To: [Barry Hemmerdinger](#)
Subject: RE: FY2025 Park Budget Cuts !?!

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Barry Hemmerdinger <behemmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 11:25 AM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Mason <Mason@FairfaxCounty.gov>; FCPA Board.Mason <FCPABoard.Mason@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: FY2025 Park Budget Cuts !?!

I understand cuts of as much as 7% are being proposed for Fairfax County Parks. This would be a big mistake as the county parks are already showing signs of decreased maintenance when compared to parks in Alexandria and Arlington, not to mention ones in nearby states as West Virginia and Ohio. My interest in parks changes over time as I am sure is typical. First children focused, then a bit of adventure, and now I'm an avid birder. This is a common story of Fairfax county residents and the park system is one reason that people decide to stay in the area despite the high cost of living. The value add for a well park system justifies the cost of living. Cutting the budget of the parks is a very visible hit against the cost/benefits of living in Fairfax County. Please reconsider these cuts.

Barry Hemmerdinger
Annandale

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:42 PM
To: [Joan Gillard](#)
Subject: RE: Herndon resident opposes proposed park budget cuts

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Joan Gillard <gillardjoan1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 4:29 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Herndon resident opposes proposed park budget cuts

Dear members of the Park Authority Board

My name is Joan Gillard and I live in Herndon.
I am writing to express my support for the park budget and its priorities of equity and management of natural resources for healthy ecosystems.

I oppose cuts to the Park Authority's budget.

I moved to Herndon in 1995 , raised 2 sons with my husband and now have granddaughters.
We have all had countless hours of fun walking, bird watching, learning to identify wildlife, skipping stones, walking on logs, etc.
Our own experiences and an increasing amount of research demonstrate that time in nature is beneficial physically, developmentally for children and emotionally for all.

Make FCPA whole!!

Thank you for your consideration
Joan Gillard

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:43 PM
To: [Jeannie Leson](#)
Subject: RE: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Jeannie Leson <jcleson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 11:12 AM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Cutting funding for our parks is a sad situation. I live in Fairfax Station. The wooded areas are so important. We have destroyed the habitats of so many animals and birds. So often I see another small wooded area being decimated to build more houses. Our governments at every level continue to ignore the American people. I'm sure that contractors and money are the cause of many situations.

I will vote against anything that destroys parks and wildlife habitat.

Jeannie Leson
9609 Oakington Dr.
Fairfax Station, VA 22029

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 8:52 AM
To: lindenoakton
Subject: RE: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Hello Linden Renner,

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Linden Oakton <lindenoakton@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 1:12 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

I am writing to ask you to increase parks funding and to please not cut spending.

I live in the Wheatland Farms/Miller Heights neighborhood. My husband and I continue to live in this area and Fairfax County because of the outdoor resources available to us. We walk the Gerry Connolly Cross Country Trail 5 days per week, not to mention other Fairfax County parks and trails that we also use. The trails need to be kept safe and maintained for the hikers, bikers, walkers, etc. Also, it is important to have a healthy tree canopy that supports the environment overall including the local wildlife.

I also see county employees and volunteer groups dealing with the invasive plants in the trail area. Many of these plants have already made it to my yard. I know that we have to be diligent to remove these plants to maintain a healthy environment in our woods. Please continue to support this important work.

Also, please do not close the restrooms at the outdoor facilities during open hours. All ages need to have available restrooms.

Thank you,
Linden Renner
3205 Wheatland Farms Dr, Oakton, VA 22124

From: [Rankin, Allison](#)
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 5:40 PM
To: [FCPA Board.Braddock](#); [FCPA Board.MtVernon](#); [FCPA Board.Mason](#); [FCPA Board.Dranesville](#); [FCPA Board.Springfield](#); [FCPA Board.Providence](#); [FCPA Board.Franconia](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge1](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge2](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge3](#); [FCPA Board.Sully](#); [FCPA Board.HunterMill](#)
Cc: [Cole, Jai](#); [Vosper, Aimee L](#); [Baldwin, Sara K.](#); [Peter, Michael](#)
Subject: FW: in support of park investment and equitable programming

Good evening everyone – This email came in via ParkMail and we are sharing accordingly with you all. Staff is currently working on a response as well.

Thanks,
Allison

Allison Rankin, MPA
Management Analyst II
Director's Office
Fairfax County Park Authority
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



From: Ting Waymouth <ting.waymouth@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 3:28 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: in support of park investment and equitable programming

Dear Fairfax County Park Authority Board,

I am writing to express my support for funding our parks, and in particular in support of programs for equity and natural resource management. In an era where we are all experiencing some degree of social disconnection and already are seeing the impacts of climate change, we need to invest more in our parks, not less. This week's heat wave is a reminder of the importance of accessible shady, green spaces for all communities in the county. Even with the recent increased contributions of the general fund to FCPA, FCPA still receives less than 1% of the county budget, a

paltry amount for such an important part of our County's programming, beauty, biodiversity, and community.

When my family and I moved to Virginia in 2021, we bought a house right next to a path leading into Hidden Pond, one of Fairfax County's many wonderful parks. The trails in the woods behind our house were our favorite thing about our new home. We consider ourselves tremendously lucky to be able to walk into our park just a few feet from our door, and we take advantage of it every single day. My children, ages 3 and 6, are privileged enough to be able to explore nature just beyond our backyard, to be able to walk to a playground and a nature center. We have the funds to be able to sign my older daughter up for summer camp programs through the FCPA as well.

Unfortunately, not everyone is as privileged as we are to be able to access beautiful parkland and afford educational programming within walking distance of their homes. On average, wealthier and whiter neighborhoods like mine have much more access to green space than communities of color and poorer communities. Increasing county funding for parks will help transition to a more equitable model of funding where all Fairfax County residents have equal access to high-quality parks and recreational services. Additional funding for staff and for increased ecological stewardship is so important if we want to provide equitable access and educate a new generation of Fairfax residents who care for the earth and its many inhabitants (flora and fauna).

I'll also add that the overwhelming presence of invasive species in our woods cannot help but make an impression on me every single time I walk in the woods (every day). The parks need more staffing and assistance to discourage these invasives and encourage biodiversity. The invasives are becoming out of control; not only harms the beauty of our parkland but also contributes to problems with erosion and native species loss.

In addition, I am extremely concerned about the climate crisis and am aware of the importance of taking care of our green spaces not just for our enjoyment, but for the sequestration of carbon, the maintenance of biodiversity, and the increase of resilience against flooding. Parkland is on the front line for future climate resilience. Keeping the county's 24,000 park acres healthy serves us all with cleaner air and water, flood control and higher property values. If funding is cut, the Park Authority cannot adequately steward our forests, implement equity initiatives, and so much more. Budget cuts to FCPA completely undermine important strides the BOS has made to adequately fund programs such as the park ranger pilot program and dealing with invasive species. Please reconsider.

Thank you for your time,
Ting Waymouth (West Springfield, VA)

From: [Rankin, Allison](#)
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:09 PM
To: [FCPA Board.AtLarge1](#); [FCPA Board.HunterMill](#); [FCPA Board.Franconia](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge2](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge3](#); [FCPA Board.Providence](#); [FCPA Board.Braddock](#); [FCPA Board.MtVernon](#); [FCPA Board.Sully](#); [FCPA Board.Springfield](#); [FCPA Board.Mason](#); [FCPA Board.Dranesville](#); [ron kendall](#); [Linwood Gorham](#)
Cc: [Cole, Jai](#); [Baldwin, Sara K.](#); [Vosper, Aimee L](#); [Peter, Michael](#)
Subject: FW: Please Don't Cut Parks Budget

FYI

Allison Rankin, MPA
Management Analyst II
Director's Office
Fairfax County Park Authority
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



From: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 10:36 AM
To: Baldwin, Sara K. <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rankin, Allison <Allison.Rankin@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Fw: Please Don't Cut Parks Budget

For PAB

From: Alison Walters <akwalters31@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 7:36 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Please Don't Cut Parks Budget

Dear members of the Park Authority Board,

My name is Alison Walters and I live in Alexandria, but I grew up in Fairfax County. I am writing to express my support for the park budget that prioritizes equity and healthy

ecosystems. I oppose cuts to the Park Authority's budget – we do not have excess spending to cut.

I lived in Fairfax County for over a decade and my parents, sister and niece still live there. Burke Lake is my home park. I love the trails there and have trained for many half marathons on that loop. Even though I have moved, I frequently return to the park with friends and family to enjoy the views and escape to nature from busy life. Maintaining trail maintenance is vital to the Fairfax County Parks system. These actions keep the park safe and walkable for people with a variety of ages and abilities.

Enjoying my time at Burke Lake Park taught me the importance of connecting and appreciating nature with loved ones. I want these parks to remain accessible and maintained so that I can bring my one year old niece to these parks for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alison Walters

From: [Rankin, Allison](#)
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:09 PM
To: [FCPA Board.AtLarge1](#); [FCPA Board.HunterMill](#); [FCPA Board.Franconia](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge2](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge3](#); [FCPA Board.Providence](#); [FCPA Board.Braddock](#); [FCPA Board.MtVernon](#); [FCPA Board.Sully](#); [FCPA Board.Springfield](#); [FCPA Board.Mason](#); [FCPA Board.Dranesville](#); [ron kendall](#); [Linwood Gorham](#)
Cc: [Cole, Jai](#); [Baldwin, Sara K.](#); [Vosper, Aimee L](#); [Peter, Michael](#)
Subject: FW: Do Not Cut Park Funding

For PAB

Allison Rankin, MPA
Management Analyst II
Director's Office
Fairfax County Park Authority
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



From: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 2:26 PM
To: Rankin, Allison <Allison.Rankin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Baldwin, Sara K. <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Fw: Do Not Cut Park Funding

For PAB

From: jagasiadevy@gmail.com <jagasiadevy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 1:31 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Do Not Cut Park Funding

Dear members of the Park Authority Board,

My name is Devyani Cox and I live in Alexandria, VA. I am writing to express my support for the park budget that prioritizes equity and healthy ecosystems. I oppose cuts to the Park Authority's budget – we do not have excess spending to cut.

I have lived in Fairfax County since 1991. Bren Mar Park is my home park. I love the trails and nature break the park provides. I have grown up going to Accotink Lake Park and it has taught me the importance of natural resource management. We already do not put enough resources into our parks- I am requesting no budget cuts to our county parks.

Thank you for your consideration,
Devyani Cox

From: [Rankin, Allison](#)
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:10 PM
To: [FCPA Board.AtLarge1](#); [FCPA Board.HunterMill](#); [FCPA Board.Franconia](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge2](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge3](#); [FCPA Board.Providence](#); [FCPA Board.Braddock](#); [FCPA Board.MtVernon](#); [FCPA Board.Sully](#); [FCPA Board.Springfield](#); [FCPA Board.Mason](#); [FCPA Board.Dranesville](#); [ron kendall](#); [Linwood Gorham](#)
Cc: [Cole, Jai](#); [Vosper, Aimee L](#); [Baldwin, Sara K.](#); [Peter, Michael](#)
Subject: FW: Park Authority Budget

Allison Rankin, MPA
Management Analyst II
Director's Office
Fairfax County Park Authority
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



From: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Rankin, Allison <Allison.Rankin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Baldwin, Sara K. <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Fw: Park Authority Budget

For PAB

From: Katherine Bednarek <katbednarek88@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 1:46 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Park Authority Budget

To whom it may concern,

My family likes to tease me because I always say that the Park Authority is my favorite branch of local government. I truly believe having access to the numerous Fairfax County parks is one of the most enriching aspects of living in this area. I have so many fond memories of my daughter growing up in the Fairfax County Park system. My daughter had a developmental delay as a

toddler, and she began developing her speech at the Lee District Playground during interactive therapy sessions. “Starfish” and “ship” were some of her first discernible words. We have had the pleasure of enjoying an ice cream at Burke Lake. We learned about making cornmeal like the Native Americans at Huntley Meadows and we made reptile keychains and s'mores at Ellanor C. Lawrence park.

I could list more of the numerous park related activities I have been lucky enough to engage in, but, in an effort to avoid being redundant, I will try to make my case as to why I feel our parks are so integral. We are so lucky to learn in such a beautiful county. The wetlands at Huntley Meadows are renown for being home to so many migratory birds, wetland reptiles, and native plant species; so much so that it entertains visitors from all over Virginia and even other states. Riverbend Park has one of the most magnificent display of Virginia Bluebells I have ever seen. Green Springs offers free classes teaching people how to grow their own vegetables. These parks and programs encapsulate much of what makes life enjoyable and worthwhile. In short, we absolutely cannot afford to cut funding to such a fundamental and community-building branch of our government.

Thank you for your time,

Katherine J. Bednarek

From: [Rankin, Allison](#)
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:18 PM
To: [FCPA Board.AtLarge1](#); [FCPA Board.HunterMill](#); [FCPA Board.Franconia](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge2](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge3](#); [FCPA Board.Providence](#); [FCPA Board.Braddock](#); [FCPA Board.MtVernon](#); [FCPA Board.Sully](#); [FCPA Board.Springfield](#); [FCPA Board.Mason](#); [FCPA Board.Dranesville](#); [ron kendall](#); [Linwood Gorham](#)
Cc: [Cole, Jai](#); [Vosper, Aimee L](#); [Baldwin, Sara K.](#); [Peter, Michael](#)
Subject: FW: Prioritize Healthy Parks and Healthy Communities

Allison Rankin, MPA
Management Analyst II
Director's Office
Fairfax County Park Authority
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



From: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 5:23 PM
To: Baldwin, Sara K. <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rankin, Allison <Allison.Rankin@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Fw: Prioritize Healthy Parks and Healthy Communities

For PAB

From: Claudia Rojas <claudiarojas94@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 4:59 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Prioritize Healthy Parks and Healthy Communities

Dear members of the Park Authority Board,

My name is Claudia Rojas and I am a long-time resident of Fairfax County, having arrived in Falls Church at age 7 from El Salvador. I am writing to express my support for a park budget that prioritizes equity and healthy ecosystems. I oppose cuts to the Park Authority's budget when the budget is already underfunded.

Growing up in the Culmore area as a child, I was limited to the elementary school playground which is within walking distance. I was fortunate to enjoy days at the library, though many kids prefer more active hobbies. As I've grown older, I've noticed how limited park space is for this area. There is a small park next to the Woodrow Wilson Library with some green space and benches. Next, there is Justice Park which is currently undergoing habit restoration.

I joined the volunteer-led effort at Justice Park this past summer after volunteering in my neighborhood and understanding that so many of our children and youth fall into bad habits--quit school, cope with drugs--not because they want to, but because the green spaces, the healthy outlets are limited. One of the biggest tragedies for me is that Latinx and immigrant children live right next to Lake Barcroft, a private lake property, which they are likely never to be invited to, and are far more likely to join a gang than to enjoy a summer day with water activities right around the corner. I hope you consider the impact of cutting the park budget.

Thank you for your consideration,
Claudia Rojas

Claudia Rojas (she/ella)

www.Claudiapoet.com



From: [Rankin, Allison](#)
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:18 PM
To: [FCPA Board.AtLarge1](#); [FCPA Board.HunterMill](#); [FCPA Board.Franconia](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge2](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge3](#); [FCPA Board.Providence](#); [FCPA Board.Braddock](#); [FCPA Board.MtVernon](#); [FCPA Board.Sully](#); [FCPA Board.Springfield](#); [FCPA Board.Mason](#); [FCPA Board.Dranesville](#); [ron kendall](#); [Linwood Gorham](#)
Cc: [Cole, Jai](#); [Vosper, Aimee L](#); [Baldwin, Sara K.](#); [Peter, Michael](#)
Subject: FW: Do not cut parks budget please! Our local parks are our treasures!

Allison Rankin, MPA
Management Analyst II
Director's Office
Fairfax County Park Authority
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



From: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 9:24 AM
To: Baldwin, Sara K. <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rankin, Allison <Allison.Rankin@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Do not cut parks budget please! Our local parks are our treasures!

For PAB

From: Barbara Hallman <bhallman1@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 6:06 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Do not cut parks budget please! Our local parks are our treasures!

Dear members of the Park Authority Board,

I am Barbara Hallman and for over 30 years have lived in Alexandria and now Annandale right next to my home park, the beautiful Mason District Park and close to Greenspring Garden, another gem in our park system. People use these parks night and day for all manner of healthy recreation from sports games (Mason District), to walking trails, dog walking, birding, nature loving, picnics and concerts. Our parks are truly valuable resources. I walk frequently in these and many other of our local parks, like Accotinck.

I am writing to express my concern about potential budget cuts. I fully support a park budget that prioritizes equity and healthy ecosystems. I oppose cuts to the Park Authority's budget – our parks do not have excess spending to cut. We need them funded adequately to protect and maintain our valuable and irreplaceable park resources.

I understand that Arlington park funding is almost double Fairfax county funding even though Fairfax is much larger in size and population. If this is true, it's most unfortunate for the people of Fairfax County.

Please fund our parks at adequate levels. No cuts! Adequate funding is an investment in our future, our children's future and the futures of those who will come after us. Our parks are our treasures.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Hallman
4118 Whispering Lane
Annandale, VA 22003

From Barbara's iPhone

From: [Rankin, Allison](#)
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:19 PM
To: [FCPA Board.AtLarge1](#); [FCPA Board.HunterMill](#); [FCPA Board.Franconia](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge2](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge3](#); [FCPA Board.Providence](#); [FCPA Board.Braddock](#); [FCPA Board.MtVernon](#); [FCPA Board.Sully](#); [FCPA Board.Springfield](#); [FCPA Board.Mason](#); [FCPA Board.Dranesville](#); [ron kendall](#); [Linwood Gorham](#)
Cc: [Cole, Jai](#); [Vosper, Aimee L](#); [Baldwin, Sara K.](#); [Peter, Michael](#)
Subject: FW: Park funding

Allison Rankin, MPA
Management Analyst II
Director's Office
Fairfax County Park Authority
<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fairfaxcounty.gov%2Fparks&data=05%7C01%7CMichael.Peter%40fairfaxcounty.gov%7Cf613980058a2490723c008dbb0a06a1e%7Ca26156cb5d6f41729d7d934eb0a7b275%7C0%7C0%7C638297975239871704%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XfveQ2%2Bv7Bo%2FIy%2B2NztXAnM5bJXa2b378o wnQX7Yc5o%3D&reserved=0>

-----Original Message-----
From: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 9:24 AM
To: Baldwin, Sara K. <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rankin, Allison <Allison.Rankin@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Park funding

For PAB

-----Original Message-----
From: Mimi Yorks <mtyorks@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 6:20 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Park funding

Dear members of the Park Authority Board, My name is Mimi Yorks and I live in Ravenwood Park (22044). I am writing to express my support for the a park budget that prioritizes equity and healthy ecosystems. I oppose cuts to the Park Authority's budget – we do not have excess spending to cut. I have lived in Falls Church since 1976. Justice Park and Mason District Parks are my home parks. I love the the outside green space, trails, playground area and the forest feel. As a child, I hiked all over Mason District Park. We sled down its hills, climbed all over the playgrounds, explored the pond, and played basketball and

tennis on the courts. My mother, from France, taught me the importance of maintaining our natural resources and preserving what little green space we have in this county. Especially inside the beltway, we have little easy access to park space. The ability to enjoy and appreciate open park spaces has been a learning experience for my daughters and I hope they too will pass these experiences down to their children.

Thank you for your consideration,
Mimi Yorks

From: [Rankin, Allison](#)
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:19 PM
To: [FCPA Board.AtLarge1](#); [FCPA Board.HunterMill](#); [FCPA Board.Franconia](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge2](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge3](#); [FCPA Board.Providence](#); [FCPA Board.Braddock](#); [FCPA Board.MtVernon](#); [FCPA Board.Sully](#); [FCPA Board.Springfield](#); [FCPA Board.Mason](#); [FCPA Board.Dranesville](#); [ron kendall](#); [Linwood Gorham](#)
Cc: [Cole, Jai](#); [Vosper, Aimee L](#); [Baldwin, Sara K.](#); [Peter, Michael](#)
Subject: FW: Please do not cut funding to the parks

Allison Rankin, MPA
Management Analyst II
Director's Office
Fairfax County Park Authority
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



From: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 9:25 AM
To: Baldwin, Sara K. <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rankin, Allison <Allison.Rankin@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Please do not cut funding to the parks

For PAB

From: Noreene Janus <norejanus@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 10:15 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Please do not cut funding to the parks

Dear members of the Park Authority Board,

My name is Noreene Janus. My husband and I have lived in the Mason District area of Fairfax County for more than 20 years. The Mason District

park is so important to me that I'm writing to you to request that you not cut funding to the parks. I'm a true frequent park user. I am in the Mason District park several times a week walking/hiking along the trails. I have spent many months in Japan where I learned about the concept of "forest bathing". I deeply believe being among the trees is important for one's physical and mental health. In addition to the natural ecosystem, I truly appreciate the summer evening music events in the amphitheater. I can't imagine what I would do without this park. It's a major reason why I love living in Fairfax County.

Sincerely,

Noreene Janus
6333 Cavalier Corridor, Falls Church

From: [Rankin, Allison](#)
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:20 PM
To: [FCPA Board.AtLarge1](#); [FCPA Board.HunterMill](#); [FCPA Board.Franconia](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge2](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge3](#); [FCPA Board.Providence](#); [FCPA Board.Braddock](#); [FCPA Board.MtVernon](#); [FCPA Board.Sully](#); [FCPA Board.Springfield](#); [FCPA Board.Mason](#); [FCPA Board.Dranesville](#); [ron kendall](#); [Linwood Gorham](#)
Cc: [Cole, Jai](#); [Vosper, Aimee L](#); [Baldwin, Sara K.](#); [Peter, Michael](#)
Subject: FW: Do No Cut Park Funding

Allison Rankin, MPA
Management Analyst II
Director's Office
Fairfax County Park Authority
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



From: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 9:28 AM
To: Baldwin, Sara K. <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rankin, Allison <Allison.Rankin@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Do No Cut Park Funding

PAB

From: Kathy Walters <kathywalters86@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 1:45 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Do No Cut Park Funding

Dear members of the Park Authority Board,

My name is Kathleen Walters and I live in Springfield. I am writing to express my support for a park budget that prioritizes equity and healthy ecosystems. I oppose cuts to the Park Authority's budget – we do not have excess spending to cut.

I have lived in Springfield for over a decade and Burke Lake is my home park. I have been bringing my kids there since they were in elementary school and now I bring my granddaughter there. I love the trail around the lake and the opportunity it has provided me to learn about native versus invasive species. Continuing the removal of invasive plants is critical to maintaining the biodiversity of our native ecosystem.

Please do not cut park funding. I plan to joyfully take my granddaughter to Fairfax parks and teach her about our native ecosystem for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kathleen Walters

From: [Rankin, Allison](#)
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:20 PM
To: [FCPA Board.AtLarge1](#); [FCPA Board.HunterMill](#); [FCPA Board.Franconia](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge2](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge3](#); [FCPA Board.Providence](#); [FCPA Board.Braddock](#); [FCPA Board.MtVernon](#); [FCPA Board.Sully](#); [FCPA Board.Springfield](#); [FCPA Board.Mason](#); [FCPA Board.Dranesville](#); [ron kendall](#); [Linwood Gorham](#)
Cc: [Cole, Jai](#); [Vosper, Aimee L](#); [Baldwin, Sara K.](#); [Peter, Michael](#)
Subject: FW: Funding for parks

Allison Rankin, MPA
Management Analyst II
Director's Office
Fairfax County Park Authority
<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fairfaxcounty.gov%2Fparks&data=05%7C01%7CMichael.Peter%40fairfaxcounty.gov%7Ce3301a7785054aa014b208dbb0a098e6%7Ca26156cb5d6f41729d7d934eb0a7b275%7C0%7C0%7C638297976021144124%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pGPeyxo8DJ1zpFqoRukEgM6irsATdUSWuqy4N1qX%2BBI%3D&reserved=0>

-----Original Message-----
From: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 12:17 PM
To: Baldwin, Sara K. <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rankin, Allison <Allison.Rankin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Cole, Jai <Jai.Cole@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Funding for parks

For P.A.B.

Thanks,

Diana

-Parkmail Team

-----Original Message-----
From: Rosanna Okada <emailokada@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 12:03 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Funding for parks

My name is Rosanna Okada and I live in Lake Barcroft. I am writing to express my support for a park budget that prioritizes equity and healthy ecosystems. I oppose cuts to the Park Authority's budget. We should be investing MORE money in our shared green spaces, not less.

I have lived in Fairfax County since 2008. Mason District Park, Holmes Run Stream Valley Park, Scott's Run and Turkey Run, and Justice Park are my go-to parks. I love the trails and green spaces. I am grateful that we have outdoor spaces for everyone to enjoy. I am thankful for facilities like the playgrounds, tennis courts and fields; as well as the bathrooms.

1. We need funding to keep these facilities clean and well maintained for enjoyment and recreational opportunities. Many people rely on our parks for our door recreation. Please retain enough staffing to maintain parks and trails, keep them clean, trash picked up, and grass mowed.
2. Parks are increasingly important, with all the development and construction these days, in helping to maintain a healthy ecosystem. They help to manage run-off, cool our neighborhoods, provide habitats to animals. We have a responsibility to maintain the parks for environmental reasons.
3. We need the educational park programs to help people learn the importance of nature.
4. Invasive plant species are taking over many areas in Fairfax County. We need funds to combat these invasive plants to stop them from killing mature native trees and plants, and throwing off the eco-system's balance. This will take a lot of work and funding.

Thank you for your consideration,
Rosanna Okada
Sent from my iPad

From: [Rankin, Allison](#)
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:21 PM
To: [Peter, Michael](#)
Cc: [Cole, Jai](#); [Vosper, Aimee L](#); [Baldwin, Sara K.](#)
Subject: RE: Please do not cut funding to the parks



Michael R. Peter, MPA
Fairfax County Park Authority
Director of Business Administration
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 922
Fairfax, VA 22035
O: 703-324-9583 | C: 571-460-7317 | www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

From: Rankin, Allison <Allison.Rankin@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:19 PM
To: FCPA Board.AtLarge1 <FCPABoard.AtLarge1@fairfaxcounty.gov>; FCPA Board.HunterMill <FCPABoard.HunterMill@fairfaxcounty.gov>; FCPA Board.Franconia <FCPABoard.Franconia@fairfaxcounty.gov>; FCPA Board.AtLarge2

<FCPABoard.AtLarge2@fairfaxcounty.gov>; FCPA Board.AtLarge3
<FCPABoard.AtLarge3@fairfaxcounty.gov>; FCPA Board.Providence
<FCPABoard.Providence@fairfaxcounty.gov>; FCPA Board.Braddock
<FCPABoard.Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov>; FCPA Board.MtVernon
<FCPABoard.MtVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov>; FCPA Board.Sully
<FCPABoard.Sully@fairfaxcounty.gov>; FCPA Board.Springfield
<FCPABoard.Springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov>; FCPA Board.Mason
<FCPABoard.Mason@fairfaxcounty.gov>; FCPA Board.Dranesville
<FCPABoard.Dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov>; ron kendall <ronkendall7@gmail.com>; Linwood
Gorham <jg@linwoodg.com>
Cc: Cole, Jai <Jai.Cole@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Vosper, Aimee L <Aimee.Vosper@fairfaxcounty.gov>;
Baldwin, Sara K. <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Peter, Michael
<Michael.Peter@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Please do not cut funding to the parks

Allison Rankin, MPA
Management Analyst II
Director's Office
Fairfax County Park Authority
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



From: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 9:25 AM
To: Baldwin, Sara K. <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rankin, Allison
<Allison.Rankin@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Please do not cut funding to the parks

For PAB

From: Noreene Janus <norejanus@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 10:15 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Please do not cut funding to the parks

Dear members of the Park Authority Board,

My name is Noreene Janus. My husband and I have lived in the Mason District area of Fairfax County for more than 20 years. The Mason District park is so important to me that I'm writing to you to request that you not cut funding to the parks. I'm a true frequent park user. I am in the Mason District park several times a week walking/hiking along the trails. I have spent many months in Japan where I learned about the concept of "forest bathing". I deeply believe being among the trees is important for one's physical and mental health. In addition to the natural ecosystem, I truly appreciate the summer evening music events in the amphitheater. I can't imagine what I would do without this park. It's a major reason why I love living in Fairfax County.

Sincerely,

Noreene Janus
6333 Cavalier Corridor, Falls Church

From: [Rankin, Allison](#)
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:21 PM
To: [FCPA Board.AtLarge1](#); [FCPA Board.HunterMill](#); [FCPA Board.Franconia](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge2](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge3](#); [FCPA Board.Providence](#); [FCPA Board.Braddock](#); [FCPA Board.MtVernon](#); [FCPA Board.Sully](#); [FCPA Board.Springfield](#); [FCPA Board.Mason](#); [FCPA Board.Dranesville](#); [ron kendall](#); [Linwood Gorham](#)
Cc: [Cole, Jai](#); [Vosper, Aimee L](#); [Baldwin, Sara K.](#); [Peter, Michael](#)
Subject: FW: DO NOT CUT PARK FUNDING

Allison Rankin, MPA
Management Analyst II
Director's Office
Fairfax County Park Authority
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



From: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:16 PM
To: Cole, Jai <Jai.Cole@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Baldwin, Sara K. <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rankin, Allison <Allison.Rankin@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Fwd: DO NOT CUT PARK FUNDING

Forwarding message intended for PAB.

- Parkmail Team

From: Glenna Tinney <glenna817@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 1:22:07 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: DO NOT CUT PARK FUNDING!

Dear Members of the Park Authority,

My name is Glenna Tinney, and I live in Kingstowne. I am writing to express my support for a park budget in Fairfax County that prioritizes equity and healthy ecosystems. I oppose cuts to the Park Authority's budget – there is no excess spending to cut. I am asking you to support a budget that allows for healthy and well-maintained parks throughout the county.

I have lived in Fairfax County since 1990. I have visited many of the parks in the county. It is important to my physical and mental health, as it is for all of us, to have green places that are healthy and well maintained where we can be out in nature. I also think it is important for the Park Authority to be good stewards of the ecosystem that houses so many diverse species, both animal and plant. There need to be safe and healthy places for all species to live and thrive given that we are developing every inch of their habitat. We have a responsibility to consider the welfare of every part of our ecosystem.

Thank you for your consideration.

Glenna Tinney
6487 Waterfield Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22315

From: [Rankin, Allison](#)
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2023 8:13 AM
To: [FCPA Board.AtLarge1](#); [FCPA Board.HunterMill](#); [FCPA Board.Franconia](#);
[FCPA Board.AtLarge2](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge3](#); [FCPA Board.Providence](#);
[FCPA Board.Braddock](#); [FCPA Board.MtVernon](#); [FCPA Board.Sully](#); [FCPA Board.Springfield](#); [FCPA Board.Mason](#); [FCPA Board.Dranesville](#);
[Linwood Gorham](#); [ron kendall](#)
Cc: [Cole, Jai](#); [Baldwin, Sara K.](#); [Vosper, Aimee L](#); [Peter, Michael](#)
Subject: FW: Support Healthy Parks and Healthy Communities

Allison Rankin, MPA
Management Analyst II
Director's Office
Fairfax County Park Authority
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



From: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 4:16 PM
To: Cole, Jai <Jai.Cole@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Baldwin, Sara K. <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rankin, Allison <Allison.Rankin@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Support Healthy Parks and Healthy Communities

For PAB

Cheers,
Yasmin

From: Chen, Lana Y <Lana.Chen@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:24 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Cc: ana.y.chen@gmail.com
Subject: Support Healthy Parks and Healthy Communities

Dear members of the Park Authority Board,

I live in Annandale, VA and have lived in Fairfax County since 1996. Almost every day I visit a FCPA park, either to enjoy the rec center or to enjoy the nature in the park. In particular, my family, friends and I have enjoyed Green Spring Gardens for the beautiful gardens, lovely art shows, interesting tours and historical programs. It's indeed a neighborhood jewel that we all treasure.

I am writing to express my support for the a park budget that prioritizes equity and healthy ecosystems. I oppose cuts to the Park Authority's budget; we do not have excess spending to cut. Please note that nearby, the much smaller Arlington County has a budget of 57 million which far exceeds the FCPA budge of less than 35 million. Fairfax County would do well to take note of this disparity and prioritize parks accordingly.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lana Chen

By the way, my husband found out today that Arlington budgets 57 million for Parks and Recs - with a much smaller population - while our parks get less than 35 million - with cuts proposed! Yikes!

|

From: [Rankin, Allison](#)
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2023 8:14 AM
To: [FCPA Board.AtLarge1](#); [FCPA Board.HunterMill](#); [FCPA Board.Franconia](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge2](#); [FCPA Board.AtLarge3](#); [FCPA Board.Providence](#); [FCPA Board.Braddock](#); [FCPA Board.MtVernon](#); [FCPA Board.Sully](#); [FCPA Board.Springfield](#); [FCPA Board.Mason](#); [FCPA Board.Dranesville](#); [ron kendall](#); [Linwood Gorham](#)
Cc: [Cole, Jai](#); [Baldwin, Sara K.](#); [Vosper, Aimee L](#); [Peter, Michael](#)
Subject: FW: do not cut park funding

Allison Rankin, MPA
Management Analyst II
Director's Office
Fairfax County Park Authority
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



From: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 4:17 PM
To: Cole, Jai <Jai.Cole@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Baldwin, Sara K. <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rankin, Allison <Allison.Rankin@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: FW: do not cut park funding

For PAB

Cheers,
Yasmin

From: Jamie Bacon <jbacon1031@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 4:11 PM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: do not cut park funding

6641 Wakefield Drive
Alexandria, VA 22307

September 8, 2023

Dear members of the Park Authority Board,

My name is Jamie Bacon and I live in Alexandria. I want to express my opposition to significant cuts to the Park Authority's budget for a number of reasons.

I only moved to Alexandria this past June but I have decades of experience with how important maintaining parks and nature reserves is for a community. I'm a biologist who studied the effects of pollution on Bermuda's wetlands and wildlife and who also witnessed the plague of invasive species in Bermuda's forests. I was also Education Officer for the Bermuda Aquarium Museum and Zoo for 10 years where we would run 5-6 natural history camps per week during the summer for children from preschool to high school in age.

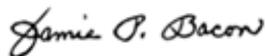
I am quite concerned that you are suggesting eliminating the new forestry positions and the bamboo mitigation position. Forestry management, such as controlled burns, is now more important than ever as evidenced by the numerous forest fires seen in North America and elsewhere. Without management, diseases and invasive species can also create havoc within an ecosystem in a short period of time.

I am also concerned that you are proposing reducing your Rec-Pac sites by 25%. I know how important summer camps can be to both the children and their working parents and I think this reduction could have quite a negative impact for local families.

Finally, I really believe that eliminating bathrooms can negatively impact visitors to the point that they will not visit an area where there isn't a bathroom. If you are eliminating them at athletic field sites, what are the people utilizing that site supposed to do?

In sum, I know how important parks can be for a community, particularly those members who are not fortunate enough to have a yard of their own. This was very evident in Bermuda. My friends are telling me that I will love visiting Huntley Meadows Park and I'm very much looking forward to that as well as exploring other parks within Fairfax County with my grandchildren. In my opinion, leaving a legacy of well-maintained, ecologically healthy parks for future generations should remain a priority for the county.

Respectfully yours,



Jamie Bacon, PhD

--

Dr. Jamie Bacon
Alexandria, Virginia

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 8:51 AM
To: [VAA](#)
Subject: RE: Increase Funding for Fairfax County Parks

Hello Vineeta Anand,

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: VAA <vineetaa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 11:33 AM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Increase Funding for Fairfax County Parks

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that Fairfax County Parks need more money, and any attempts by the Park Authority Board to cut funding are short-sighted and exactly the opposite of what the parks need.

I live in Alexandria, four miles north of Huntley Meadows, and before the pandemic, I used to go there every Sunday morning. During the pandemic, Huntley Meadows and all other parks in the area were packed with people looking for a respite from the lockdown. Having discovered the area parks, many more people are now visiting the parks.

Huntley Meadows is just one of the many Fairfax County parks I visit regularly as a birder and someone who enjoys spending time in nature.

I am also a FROG--a Friend of Green Spring--and a regular visitor there for several decades. These are only two of my favorite

Although that is a good thing, more visitors also require additional funding for restrooms, trail maintenance, and new programs.

I recently went on butterfly count at Dyke Marsh, also a Fairfax County gem.

Parks help people enjoy the value of native plants and wildlife, and understand firsthand the impact of climate change.

I hope you will do the right thing and increase funding for these precious gems in our area, and not cut back the vital support they need.

Thank you for your consideration,

Vineeta Anand

Alexandria, VA

"Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we *believe* that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today." Thich Nhat Hanh, 1926-2022.

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 8:50 AM
To: [Hope4theEarth](#)
Subject: RE: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Hello Hope Woodward,

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Hope4theEarth <puraque@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 8:46 AM
To: FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Dear Park Authority Board Members,

As a Loudoun County resident, wildlife biologist, and member of the Virginia Native Plant Society watching western Loudoun population grow with limited park space for all uses and users (including "passive use"), I see the need for continued increases in park funding for all residents of Fairfax County. This is needed not only to create new parks but to maintain and, as needed, expand existing parks.

I therefore support increased funding for Fairfax County Parks and oppose cuts the Park Authority Board has suggested as a way to meet a 7% reduction requested by the County Executive. The parks already receive less than 1% of the county budget.

Thank you for considering my concerns and request.

Sincerely,

Hope Woodward
Purcellville, VA
540.623.3677

From: [FCPA Parkmail](#)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 8:50 AM
To: [Emily Muth](#)
Subject: RE: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Hello Emily Gravolet,

Thank you for taking the time to offer comments on the Fairfax County Park Authority's proposed budget. Your comments are a valuable part of this process and will be shared with the Park Authority Board. We invite you to continue to follow the Park Authority's budgetary process by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to hear more presentations on Sept. 27, and vote to ratify a FY2025 budget proposal on Oct. 25. After that, the budget will be submitted to Fairfax County for consideration during the countywide process.

All budget decisions regarding the County's General Fund to support Park Authority rest with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, not with the Park Authority Board. Currently, the Park Authority receives about 35% of its operating budget from the County's General Fund. The General Fund consists of funds generated through the collection of real estate tax.

Thank you again for your feedback.

-Parkmail Team

From: Emily Muth <emily.e.muth@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 10:14 PM
To: FCPA Board.HunterMill <FCPABoard.HunterMill@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Hunter Mill BOS <HunterMillBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov>; FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Don't cut spending for Fairfax County parks!

Hello,

I am a resident of Hunter Mill District. I support increased funding for Fairfax County Parks and oppose cuts the Park Authority Board has suggested as a way to meet a 7% reduction requested by the County Executive. The parks already receive less than 1% of the county budget.

Our parks are essential to preserve our local ecosystem as well as foster healthy communities to engage with the outdoors. Please do not cut the budget.

Emily Gravolet



FY 2025 Budget Development

Park Authority Board Meeting
September 27, 2023



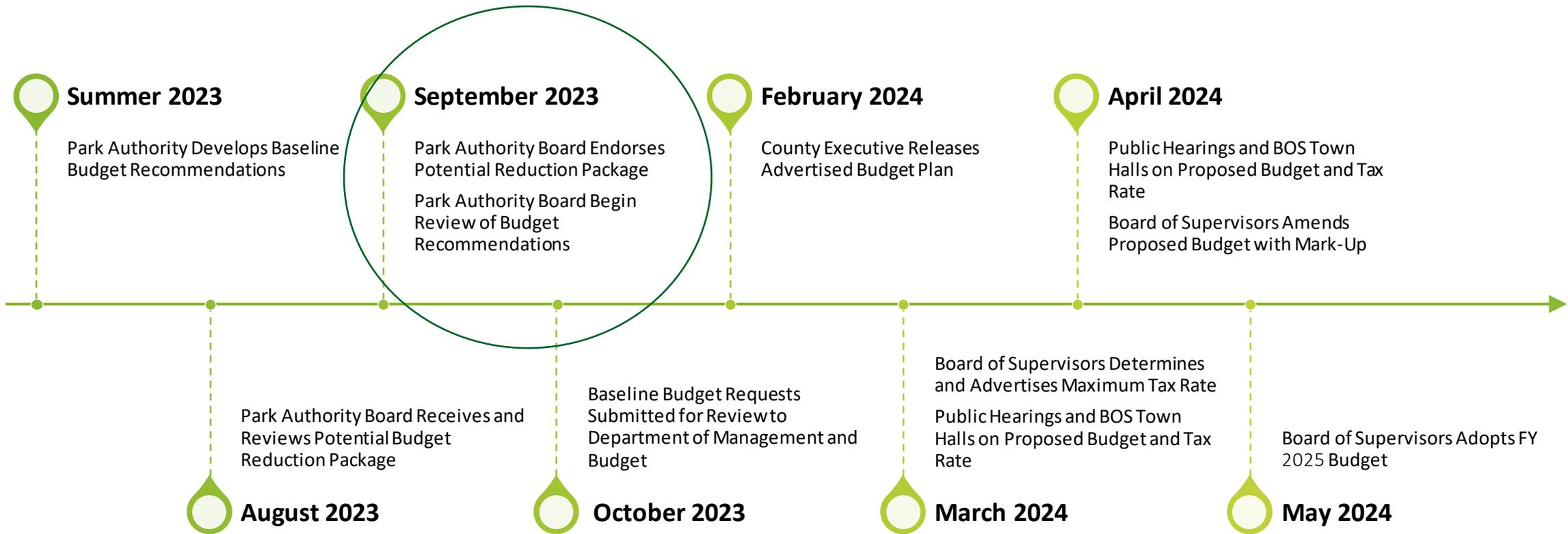
Information Item 1

FY 2025 Budget Development

Fund 10001 – General Fund



FY 2025 Proposed Budget Development Summary



Public Comments Phase 1

- We received 37 comments through ParkMail
- All focused on the Non-Recommended Budget Reductions, with specific concerns in the following areas:
 - Environmental Concerns: 23
 - General Parks and Amenities: 13
 - Specific Sports Focus: 1



FCPA-Specific Operating Budget Guidance

1. Members of the Park Authority Board are encouraged to coordinate with their District Supervisor in fall 2023 to discuss budget issues in advance of the preparation of the FY 2025 Advertised Budget Plan.
2. Make FCPA operationally whole in future budgets for Forestry and IMA-bamboo mitigation.
3. Work with FCPD to initiate a review of options to expand the presence of law enforcement within our park system, including the proposed park ranger program, and return to the Board with recommendations.



FY 2025 Budget Requests: \$8,052,299

Items	\$ Request
Continuing Services:	
CPI/Baseline Operating Increases (Admin and Operations)	\$658,018
Compliance:	
Bamboo Removal on Parkland	\$400,000
Zero Waste Trash Removal and Recycling	\$3,391,979*
Operating Budget Impact:	
OBI Funding - Maintenance/ Stabilization/ Staffing	\$1,502,302
Park Operations Restoration Funding	\$2,100,000
Equity Funding Request	\$TBD

*Can be achieved utilizing a combination of one-time (OEEC, Carryover, Third Quarter) and General Fund for positions.

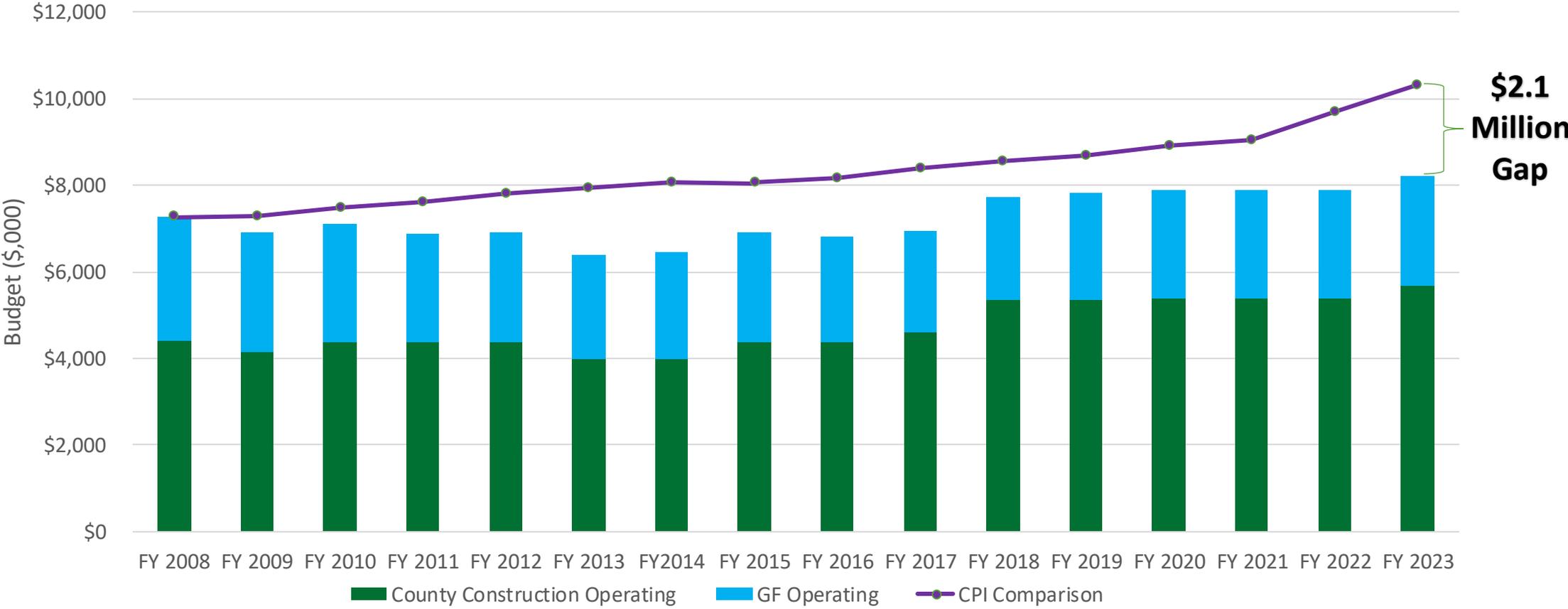


Consumer Price Index (CPI)/Baseline Increases: \$658,018

- Overall CPI for most goods and services has stabilized post-COVID, although catch-up funding for past unfunded increases is still required.
- To continue providing our baseline services as they are, additional funds are required.
- Major maintenance contracts are driving large increases in staffing specifically.
- All requests are to continue providing services at the current levels provided.



Maintenance Budgets vs CPI



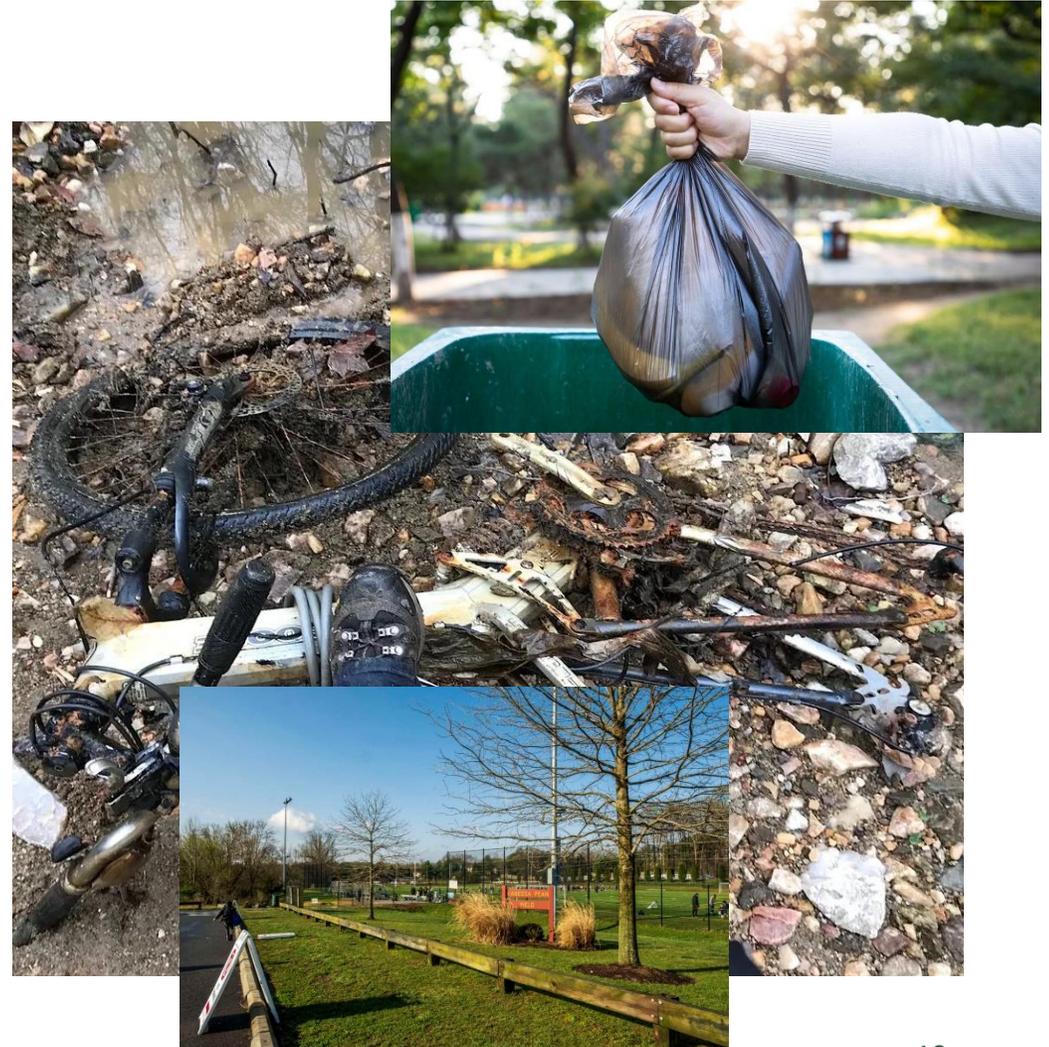
Bamboo Removal on Parkland: \$400,000

- We estimate that there is currently ~200 acres of running bamboo countywide on FCPA property and receive multiple resident complaints per month.
- In response to Fairfax County Code §119-3-2, passed in March 2022 (with enforcement which started January 2023), funding is needed to proactively mitigate bamboo infestation.
- Assuming coordinator position is saved, this ongoing funding would cover the annual needs for mitigation.



Zero Waste Trash and Recycling: \$3,391,979

- Fairfax County Code § 109.1-2-3(a)(4) - Recycling at Non-Residential Properties requires that waste cans must be accompanied by recycling cans.
- In the current model, maintenance staff spend 2-3 days per week on trash, impacting their ability to focus on other park maintenance projects.
- Provide additional trash and recycling services in our parks on the weekends.
- Ensure that trash and recycling separation is occurring at our parks and transported according to associated standards.



Zero Waste Trash and Recycling: \$3,391,979

Item	Amount	Potential Funding Source
One-Time Items		
8 Trucks	\$790,504	OEEC Funding, Carryover, Third Quarter
8 Compactors/Site Prep	\$680,000	
750 Waste/Recycling Receptacles	\$500,000	
TOTAL ONE-TIME	\$1,970,504	
Ongoing Items		
6 Maintenance Crew Chiefs (S17)	\$381,311	General Fund Appropriation
6 Senior Maintenance Workers (S15)	\$347,982	
12 Non-Merit Maintenance Workers (S12)	\$452,955	
Maintenance, General Operating	\$239,227	
TOTAL ONGOING	\$1,421,475	



Maintenance/Stabilization/Staffing: \$1,502,302

- FY23 - \$201,000 for 214 acres/13 Renovated Sites
- All new and majorly renovated properties require additional maintenance, utility, and operating costs that are not in the current budget
- # of Positions Needed: 6 Merit; 2 Non-Merit; 3 Temporary

Unfunded FY24 Request – for FY22 and FY23 Sites (\$350,000)	New FY25 Request – for FY23 and FY24 Sites (\$1,152,302)
Arrowbrook Park – Ratcliffe	Accotink Stream Valley Park Expansion
Arrowhead Park	Blake Lane Park
Bren Mar Property Stabilization	Elklick Preserve Expansion
Chandon – Playground/ADA Improvements	Mount Vernon Woods Park
Fairfax Arms Property	Woodlands Education and Stewardship Center
Holladay- Synthetic Turf Conversion	
Laurel Hill - Central Green	
Oak Marr Rec Center- Cricket Netting	
Pohick Stream Valley Trail	
Riverbend - Maintenance Facility	
Scotts Run - Station 44 Athletic Field	



Right-Size Park Operations: \$2,100,000

	Budgeted Amount	Projected Need	Difference	Result
Forestry Contract Operations	\$383,000	\$1,273,000	\$890,000	This would allow us to fully fund contract operations for HIGH-RISK tree removal
Athletic Field Mowing	\$555,000	\$900,000	\$345,000	This expenditure is directly funded through 9 maintenance positions specifically frozen for this purpose
Park Open Space Mowing	\$442,000	\$562,000	\$120,000	Three maintenance positions are frozen to fund the open space mowing contract
Athletic Court Maintenance	\$290,000	\$490,000	\$200,000	With an inventory of more than 400 athletic courts throughout the County, there is a backlog of 75 athletic courts rated at D or F, along with increases required minimum maintenance.
Trail Maintenance Funding	\$350,000	\$500,000	\$150,000	Annual needs for trail maintenance have been outpacing the baseline allocation, which addresses up to 1 mile of annual trail maintenance
General Park and Facility Maintenance	\$2,358,000	\$2,753,000	\$395,000	Redirected funding has been used to allow for broader opportunities to provide routine maintenance before issues become major concerns
TOTALS	\$4,378,000	\$6,478,000	\$2,100,000	



Forestry Funding: \$890,000

- The current contract budget of \$383,000 only covers about 30% of the annual costs of removing high-risk trees
- Average # of trees removed has increased by 100% (1,005) compared to ten years ago
- Cost overruns are taken from other high priority maintenance projects. With no additional funds, we must scale back to only high-risk trees
- Additional funding will allow FCPA to move from reactive service delivery to proactive and preventative care needs



Forestry Operations: Potential Consequences of Inadequate Resources



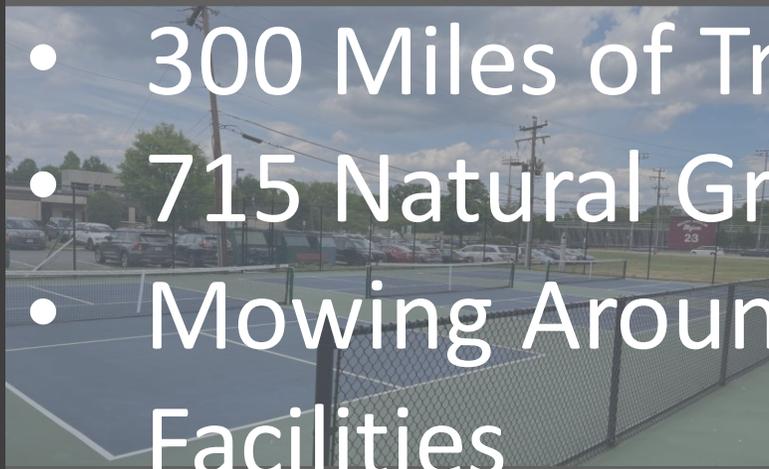
Forestry Operations Trees & Expenditures

Fiscal Year	Budgeted Amount	Actuals	Deficit	Sources of Deficit Coverage			
				Carryover/ 3d Quarter	Park Maintenance	General Fund	Athletic Fields
2013	\$212,924	\$237,000	\$24,076		\$24,076		
2019	\$276,000	\$784,000	\$508,000	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$58,000	\$50,000
2020	\$276,000	\$530,000	\$254,000			\$254,000	
2021	\$276,000	\$635,000	\$359,000		\$81,000	\$218,000	\$60,000
2022	\$276,000	\$961,000	\$685,000		\$295,000	\$390,000	
2023	\$326,000	\$1,240,000	\$914,000	\$500,000	\$64,000	\$300,000	\$50,000
2024 (Forecast)	\$383,000	\$1,273,000	\$890,000	\$500,000		+ \$TBD	



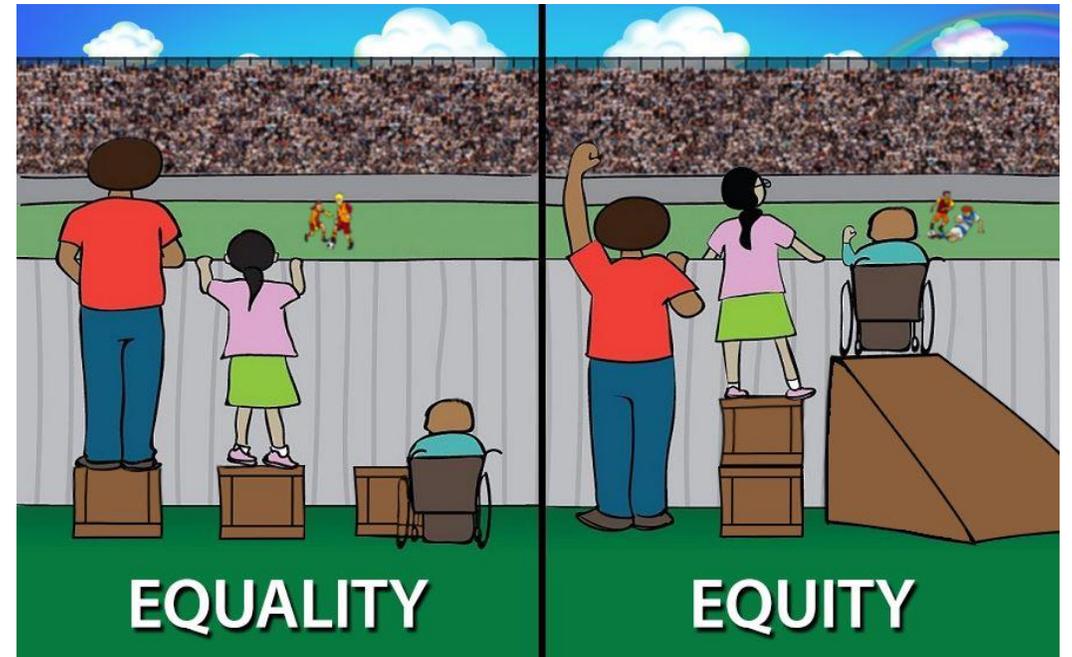
Other Impacts of Maintenance Budget Deficit

- 409 Athletic Courts
- 300 Miles of Trails
- 715 Natural Grass Athletic Fields
- Mowing Around 61 Occupied Facilities



Equity: \$TBD

- Still working with consultant and DMB, etc.
- Focus was always past the budget cycle
- Options will be presented in the Winter
- We will come back to the PAB with an equity request for endorsement.



FY 2025 Proposed Budget Development



Opportunities for Input

- **September 13, 2023 (6:30PM)**
 - Watch Presentation on Budget Priorities at Park Authority Board Budget Committee Meeting
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings>
- **September 15-22, 2023**
 - Public Comment Period on Initial FCPA Budget Proposals
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/publications-plans-budget>
- **September 22, 2023**
 - Final Staff Proposed Budget Package Released to Park Authority Board and Available to Public
- **September 27, 2023 (6:30PM)**
 - Presentation on Revised Budget Priorities at Park Authority Board Budget Committee Meeting
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings>
- **October 25, 2023 (7:00PM)**
 - Park Authority Board Reviews Revised Budget Priorities, Discusses Public Comments, and Endorses Final Budget Proposal

Public Comment can be sent to Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

Opportunities for Input

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/board/meetings>

Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/publications-plans-budget>

Questions





FY 2025 Budget Development

Park Authority Board Meeting
September 27, 2023

