



## Memorandum

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Alfred Lott, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Letter to Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Reference to their FY 2023 Proposed Budget/CIP

**DATE:** 04/28/2022

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**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. 20220502 - MNCPPC Budget Letter - FY 2023

May 2, 2022

The Honorable Calvin S. Hawkins, II, Chair  
Prince George's County Council  
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

RE: M-NCPPC FY 2023 Proposed Budget/CIP

Dear Chair Hawkins:

The Bowie City Council respectfully offers the following comments regarding the FY 2023 Proposed Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Budget and FY 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Program. Thank you for your review and consideration of these issues of importance to the City of Bowie and its residents.

### **TRAILS**

The City supports funding for trail construction for the following specific projects, some of which are located beyond the City limits:

**Bowie Heritage Trail** – The Bowie Heritage Trail (BHT) is a 5-mile half circle that creates a complete loop from the WB&A Trail at Highbridge Road to the site of the Patuxent River Trail Bridge. The BHT has been divided into multiple segments. The current County CIP project is for three segments of the BHT comprised of the link between the Bowie MARC station on the west end of the Bowie State University (BSU) campus, through the campus on the Loop Road, through forested BSU land on a dirt road, and across Maryland Department of Natural Resources lands (dirt road) to the Patuxent River Bridge site, a total distance of 1.3 miles. The M-NCPPC project cost remains \$468,000, and funding is contained in Year 3 of the proposed CIP. It is important that funding continues for this project, as cooperation with these entities will lead to the eventual completion of this segment.

Funding within the CIP is also requested for construction of a pedestrian underpass under MD 197 (outside the City limits) to connect Lemon's Bridge Road to the MARC station. In 2014, the City completed 30% design plans which included a preliminary construction cost estimate of \$950,000. This project is also part of the Bowie Heritage Trail, and it will provide off-road access from City parkland and Old Town Bowie to the rail station and the proposed mixed-use, transit-oriented development there. The City's Jericho Park Trail is a new, 2,200-foot-long hiker-biker trail that includes a segment across M-NCPPC parkland. Construction of this \$370,000 project is approximately 60% complete, with closeout expected this year.

**Collington Branch Stream Valley Park/Hall Road Sidewalk** – The project includes construction of pedestrian facilities in front of M-NCPPC park property along the north side of Hall Road between the CSX railroad tracks and Pointer Ridge Drive. The pedestrian improvement will provide safe access for residents going to the County Library at Hall Station. It is critical that the \$396,000 commitment currently shown in Year 2 of the proposed CIP be maintained to help encourage the Maryland State

Highway Administration (SHA) to fund the construction of the much-needed pedestrian link between the CSX railroad tracks and Pointer Ridge Drive, and eventually to MD 214.

**New Park Entrance to Huntington South Park** – While no funding exists in the M-NCPPC portion of the current year CIP, it appears that a new park entrance at the end of 12<sup>th</sup> Street into Huntington South Park would be straightforward, because there is only City right-of-way and County parkland involved. The City believes this idea is worthy of examination, as it would open up direct access to the park from the adjacent residential neighborhoods and would keep residents from walking along the pavement of MD 564, where there are no sidewalks, to get to the park. The City Council asks that you provide funding to proceed with the necessary investigation and construction at the earliest opportunity.

## **PLANNING MATTERS**

**Update of Bowie and Vicinity Area Master Plan** – Now that the Area Master Plan for Bowie-Mitchellville and Vicinity is completed, the next very important step is completion of a Sectional Map Amendment to implement the Master Plan’s zoning recommendations. The City requests continued funding in the M-NCPPC budget for a Sectional Map Amendment.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION SITES**

The City supports funding for park improvements and construction for the following specific projects, some of which are located beyond the City limits:

**Multi-Generational Community Recreation Center** – The City recommends construction of the next Multi-Generational Community Recreation Center in Area 3. This regional facility could be constructed on the Commission owned Green Branch Athletic Complex property, located between Ball Park Drive and Mill Branch Road. The City conducted an indoor facility analysis in 2013. The results concluded that indoor aquatics as the greatest need, with a need for additional athletic courts as well. The City requests that indoor competitive lanes as well as a recreational splash pad are included in design and construction. Basketball courts should also be included in the final design and construction.

**Green Branch Athletic Complex** – As stated above, the City requests that the next Multi-generational Community Recreation Center be constructed at this site, including both aquatics and court-based services.

The original master plan process began before 2010. The City supports the \$8.7M construction funding moved up from Year 5 to Year 3 as outlined in the budget, and understands that site access remains a challenge as it is tied directly to Mill Branch Crossing development. It is our desires to see this athletic complex constructed and opened by 2025, as it will provide needed athletic fields for our residents.

**Sandy Hill Park** – The City continues to support the improvements to the baseball field, addition of field irrigation system, picnic shelters, playground structure, and parking spaces. This project has gone through an initial design, and redesign due to projected costs. This improvement will greatly enhance park and athletic field enhancements in the Old Bowie neighborhoods. The City recommends that construction be completed and reopened by the end of FY23.

**Foxhill Park** – The City continues to support conversion of Fields 1, 2, and 4 to a baseball diamond with a field with a base path distance of 70'. This improved field should have permanent fencing as well as field lights. This park has field lights on baseball field #3 as well as the tennis court.

**Outdoor Water Related Recreation** – The City is interested in seeing the Commission install splash pads or spray pads on some parklands located within the City. These amenities exist at other Commission facilities, such as the Largo Town Center. Using these types of water features to activate public spaces, which is a goal in the City's Sustainability Plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to share the City of Bowie's perspective on these issues and thank you for your thoughtful consideration of them.

Sincerely,

Bowie City Council  
Timothy J. Adams  
Mayor

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