

Resolution No.: 20-1049
Introduced: February 10, 2026
Adopted: February 24, 2026

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Amendment to the FY25-30 Capital Improvements Program and Special Appropriation to the FY26 Capital Budget Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission - Department of Parks North Branch Trail (P871541), \$2.9 million (Source of Funds: \$900,000 in GO Bonds and \$2,000,000 in Federal Aid)

Background

1. Section 308 of the County Charter provides that a special appropriation: (a) may be made at any time after public notice by news release; (b) must state that the special appropriation is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency or to act without delay in the public interest; (c) must specify the revenues necessary to finance it; and (d) must be approved by no fewer than seven members of the Council.
2. Section 302 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that the Council may amend an approved capital improvements program at any time by an affirmative vote of no fewer than six members of the Council.
3. Section 18-116 of the Maryland Land Use Code provides that after adoption of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) budget by the Council, the budget may be amended by resolution by the Council on their initiative or at the request of the Commission. Before adopting a budget amendment, the Council must receive recommendations from the County Executive and hold a public hearing on reasonable notice to the public.
4. Section 18-115, Section 18-116, and Section 18-117 of the Maryland Land Use Code provide that the Council may amend, revise, or modify the M-NCPPC 6-year capital improvements program by an affirmative vote of six of its members. An amendment, revision, or modification made to the capital improvements program may not become final until at least 30 days after it is submitted to the Commission for written comment.
5. On January 26, 2026, the Planning Board transmitted the following a request for the Department of Parks for an additional \$2.9 million for the North Branch Trail project:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Cost Element</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
North Branch Trail	# P871541	Construction bid costs and construction management for implementation	\$900,000	GO Bonds
			\$2,000,000	Federal Aid
Total			\$2,900,000	

6. The need for this increase is twofold. One is to address project cost increases due primarily to design changes made to meet community input, updated design requirements from multiple agencies, grant administration, and overall inflation in the construction market. The other is related. To ensure access to the Federal Aid through a State Highway Administration Grant, local matching funds and construction costs, estimated at \$900,000, are required. This revenue exceeds the available appropriation for the project. The recommended amendment is consistent with the criteria for amending the CIP because the project leverages significant non-County funding and it offers a significant opportunity which will be lost if not taken at this time.
7. The County Council declares this request is in the public interest, to be acted upon without delay, as provided for under special appropriation requirements described in Article 3, Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter.
8. Notice of public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The FY25-30 Capital Improvements Program of the M-NCPPC Department of Parks is amended as reflected on the attached project description form and a special appropriation is approved as follows:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Cost Element</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
North Branch Trail	# P871541	Construction bid costs and construction management for implementation	\$900,000	GO Bonds

	\$2,000,000	Federal Aid
Total	\$2,900,000	

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Sara R. Tenenbaum
Clerk of the Council



North Branch Trail (P871541)

Category	M-NCPPC	Date Last Modified	11/20/24
SubCategory	Development	Administering Agency	M-NCPPC
Planning Area	Rockville	Status	Under Construction

Total	Thru FY24	Rem FY24	Total 6 Years	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	Beyond 6 Years
-------	-----------	----------	------------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------------------

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Planning, Design and Supervision	761	494	133	358	270	-	-	270	-	-	-	-	-	-
Construction	7,411	4,784	768	4,013	2,630	-	-	2,630	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,172	5,272	901	4,371	2,900	-	-	2,900	-	-	-	-	-	-

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Contributions	282	282	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Federal Aid	4,000	2,000	79	1,921	2,000	-	-	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
G.O. Bonds	3,290	2,399	540	1,850	900	-	-	900	-	-	-	-	-	-
Program Open Space	600	-	-	600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	8,172	5,272	901	4,371	2,900	-	-	2,900	-	-	-	-	-	-

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (\$000s)

Maintenance				156	26	26	26	26	26	26
Program-Staff				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET IMPACT				156	26	26	26	26	26	26
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)										

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (\$000s)

Appropriation FY 26 Request	2,900	Year First Appropriation	FY17
Cumulative Appropriation	8,172	Last FY's Cost Estimate	5,272
Expenditure / Encumbrances	1,419		
Unencumbered Balance	3,853		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Branch Hiker-Biker Trail will be a new trail located within Rock Creek Regional Park and the North Branch Stream Valley Park Unit 4 and is approximately 2.2 miles in length including connector trails. There are two segments of this trail. The first will connect the Lake Frank Lakeside Trail to the Emory Lane Bikeway at the intersection of Muncaster Mill Road. A 20-space parking lot will be built off of Muncaster Mill Road for trailhead parking. Improvements to the intersection of Muncaster Mill Road and Emory Lane are proposed and coordinated jointly between MC-DOT, SHA and M-NCPPC. The second segment connects the Route 200 Bikeway to the future trail being built by the developer at the Preserve at Rock Creek.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

Pending Closeout

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The Facility Plan was approved by the MCPB on June 27, 2013. The trail has been recommended in multiple master plans including the 2005 Olney Master Plan, 2004 Upper Rock Creek Area Master Plan, the 2008 Countywide Park Trails Plan, the 2000 Rock Creek Regional Park Master Plan and the 2008 Upper Rock Creek Trail Corridor Plan.

FISCAL NOTE

M-NCPPC was awarded a federal pass-through Transportation Alternatives Program Grant for the amount of \$2,000,000 from the Maryland State Highway Administration in July 2015. \$282k WSSC reimbursement for disturbances in the North Branch Area.

DISCLOSURES

A pedestrian impact analysis has been completed for this project. M-NCPPC asserts that this project conforms to the requirement of relevant local plans, as required by the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act.

COORDINATION

Montgomery County Department of Transportation, Maryland State Highway Administration, Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services, M-NCPPC Department of Planning and Maryland Transportation Authority, Project #768673 Trails Hard Surface Design & Construction.