



February 10, 2016

Dear Montgomery County Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Board of the Friends of Sligo Creek, we request full restoration of the Parks Dept CIP so it can improve the health of County Streams and fulfill Clean Water permit commitments.

As you may know, the Friends of Sligo Creek (fosc.org) is an all volunteer organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing, and enjoying Sligo Creek Park and the wider watershed. For more than 14 years, we have spent thousands of hours on litter clean-up, invasive plant control, and stream health, among other watershed problems.

Despite long-term damage from urbanization, the Creek and other down-county watersheds have begun to slowly rebound over the past 20 years thanks to informed, time-consuming, and expensive efforts by the County and the Park and Planning Commission, and citizen groups. So, naturally, we were extremely disappointed by the Executive's proposed budget that slashes these efforts.

We know that in formulating budgets, tough choices need to be made among competing needs. In this case, we citizens are sure that the right choice will be to restore the Park's request of \$1.6 million so that progress in water quality can continue and that past investments will not have been in vain.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you and other County leaders to ensure that our Parks and County water quality continue to be something we can be proud of.

Regards,

Kit Gage, President of Friends of Sligo
Bruce Sidwell, Advocacy Coordinator