

Introduced by: Councilmember Male

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2017-25

**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR MCPS CIP BUDGET AMENDMENT
“OUTDOOR PLAY SPACE MAINTENANCE PROJECT” FY2018**

- WHEREAS, Dr. Jack Smith, Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), requested \$750,000 for an Outdoor Play Space Maintenance Project to address the maintenance needs of several elementary school fields that do not provide appropriate or consistent space for students to play;
- WHEREAS, Takoma Park Elementary School (TPES) has one of the smallest outdoor play spaces of any MCPS school;
- WHEREAS, despite being sodded twice since 2010 the TPES field is bare, cracked, compacted, eroding extensively, and often unusable;
- WHEREAS, despite the 2010 renovation, TPES has exceeded capacity since 2013;
- WHEREAS, after the field was sodded by MCPS in spring 2014, it was solely maintained by the TPES PTA through fall 2016;
- WHEREAS, the only existing maintenance of elementary school fields provided by MCPS is mowing;
- WHEREAS, heavy foot traffic created by the school’s small footprint and overcapacity have made maintenance of the field a time-consuming, expensive, and unsustainable challenge for the TPES PTA, which dedicated at least \$4,500 and 300 volunteer hours to routine field maintenance within the last two years;
- WHEREAS, TPES students are not able to experience the full benefits of recess when the field is closed because there is only 42 square feet of space per child, which is well below state and national standards;
- WHEREAS, the TPES field is located in the heart of Takoma Park and is an important public space adjacent to other public spaces (including the Takoma Park Community Center, the Takoma Park Library, Piney Branch Elementary School, Takoma Park Middle School, and Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park); and
- WHEREAS, a flexible, transparent county-wide system for maintaining elementary school fields is critical to ensuring that all students have equal and consistent access to outdoor play spaces.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park formally affirms support for Superintendent Smith's CIP Budget for the Outdoor Play Space Maintenance Project.

Adopted this 22nd day of March, 2017.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk