

Thank you for the opportunity to express my interest to serve on the Howard County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board. I am a 30 year resident of Howard County and before retiring last summer from State service I was the lead Trail and Community Enhancement Manager at the Maryland Department of Transportation for over 12 years. During that time I managed numerous trail and community enhancement projects on a statewide basis. I secured funding for multi-million dollar trail projects such as The Great Allegheny Passage that connects Pittsburg, PA to Georgetown. We constructed, at a cost of \$13 million dollars, 21 miles of trails connecting Frostburg to Cumberland. The trail has been an economic boom to this region. I also worked with Baltimore City on their extensive, multi-phased Gywnns Falls and Jones Falls trail projects and assisted Howard County Recreation and Parks Department in securing funds for the Middle Patuxent Trail and various trail connectors in the County. My work was also my personal passion as an outdoor, environmental advocate. I feel strongly about providing recreational opportunities for our citizens because surveys show that trails and parks give us resources to lead happier, healthier and longer lives. I also was fortunate to have been selected to serve on the Blandair Planning Committee a few years ago. These types of projects protect our environment, preserve wildlife and strengthen local economies.

I feel strongly that I would be an asset to the Recreation and Park Board due to my experience and because I personally believe that Howard County could be an even a better place to live, learn, work and play.

I hope you will consider me for the upcoming appointment to the Board.

Thank you.
Sylvia Ramsey
Columbia, MD.