



**Gambrills Odenton Recreation Council**

P.O. Box 292, Odenton, MD 21113

[www.gorc.org](http://www.gorc.org)

May 6, 2016

The Honorable Steve Schuh  
County Executive, Anne Arundel County  
Arundel Center  
44 Calvert Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Schuh:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Gambrills Odenton Recreation Council with our nearly 1,500 families and 3,000 participants. In January, we submitted a request to Mr. Rick Anthony, Director of Recreation and Parks, to fund a feasibility study for possible improvements at GORC Park including parking, water, field utilization and facility usage (attached). Based on conversations with Rick, we were under the impression this would be included in the fiscal year 2017 budget. When you released the budget earlier this week, we learned the request was not included.

Odenton has been the fastest growing community in our county over the past decade. Frustration is growing amongst our community that the county has not kept up with adequate recreational facilities to meet that growth. In addition, we have witnessed improvements in other neighboring communities such as Severna Park, Pasadena and next in Crofton. Some of this was the result of other capital projects, but in the end, they received or will receive improved facilities. In addition, the county is funding work for an indoor tennis facility in neighboring Millersville while many private companies are converting their existing tennis facilities for use by other activities as a result of low demand.

Our community has stood on the sideline long enough as quiet observers hopeful the county government would recognize our needs and help to address them. We have come to see that we must become vocal advocates to ensure our needs are addressed. I am encouraging our members to contact you in support of the study.

It is my hope that you will consider re-allocating funds or supplementing the budget to include the study. Should you have any questions or concerns, I am available to meet and would be happy to do so.

Regards,

Mike Pozdol

President

Attachment

cc: GORC Board of Directors

Mr. Andrew Pruski

Mr. Rick Anthony



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January 19, 2016

The Honorable Andrew Pruski  
District 4  
44 Calvert Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Mr. Rick Anthony  
Director, Anne Arundel County Recreation & Parks  
1 Harry S Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Andrew and Rick:

This letter shall serve as a formal request to fund a feasibility study during the upcoming county budget cycle at GORC Park (Odenton Park) to study possible improvements including parking, water, field utilization and facility usage. The last major expenditure at the park was its expansion in the early 1990's.

Gambrills-Odenton Recreation Council (GORC) was established in 1964 and has served the community of Gambrills and Odenton for over 50 years. GORC encourages youth development by providing opportunities for personal and athletic growth while focusing on sportsmanship, self-esteem, development of life skills, the fundamentals of sports, and respect for the game. We do not have sufficient facilities to handle the population growth seen in Odenton (over 80% population growth from 2000 to 2010 census) and Gambrills (35% population growth).

Over just the past three years, GORC has seen our participation rise from 2,365 participants in 2012-2013 (fall, winter, and spring) to 2,700 participants in 2014-2015, a 14% growth. 2015-2016 appears to be on pace for even more growth. This statistics are actually understated as we have had to establish registration caps on several different activities because we don't have the facilities to accommodate any more participants.

As an organization, we feel there is an opportunity to better optimize the space planning at GORC Park (Odenton Park) including parking, water, field utilization and facility usage. Currently, the facility regularly experiences utilization at (or beyond) its current capacities which impacts our participants as well as the surrounding neighborhoods.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,

Mike Pozdol  
President

cc: GORC Board of Directors