

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation
Maryland House of Delegates
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation
Maryland House of Delegates
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Written testimony for HB 503 Greenspace Equity Program - Favorable

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the committee,

The recognition of Equity in Greenspace development within our urban centers and communities is as important in rebuilding our urban community as the creation of architecture designed to serve as a basic instinctive need for human kind. It sets the tone as to how we relate to our ever-present environmental conditions as well as how we relate to each other.

Well maintained green spaces contributes to a host of positive reinforced factors. In Historic Marble Hill in Baltimore, Maryland, our designated open space parks and gardens have been known by its community residents as healing and peaceful open spaces seldom experiencing chaotic activity. The natural environments of green trees, flowers and well-maintained spaces contribute to our community's relief from urban stresses creating trauma which contributes to the many triggers related to crime. The young in the community look forward to a day in the parks. The older residents look forward to just sitting in the park enjoying "NATURE".

In a changing world of technology mass media, digital platforms, compiled with more bricks and mortar construction, our green spaces have proven over the years to be a refuge that have brought delight to all. These spaces contribute significantly to our mental health, physical health, air quality, noise control, and encourages interactive connections with our neighbors in a natural environment on a day-to-day world of digital communication.

Encouraging Human positive engagement are what our spaces have contributed to our community via established events. Human interaction in a natural environment is critical to the rebuilding of community. We are in need of such spaces in all of our established blocks within the Historic Marble Hill District.

We support House Bill 503 - The Greenspace Equity Program

Sincerely,

Marion Blackwell
Greening Committee
Historic Marble Hill Community Association