



March 1, 2024

Delegate Marc Korman
ENVIRONMENTAL & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
marc.korman@house.state.md.us

House Bill 1358: Natural Resources – Establishment of Gwynns Falls State Park (State Park Partnership)

Dear Delegate Korman,

The Friends of The Jones Falls (FJTF) is a 350+ member, volunteer-based organization incorporated in 2018, to support and sustain the quality of life and long-term stewardship of the central Jones Falls Stream Valley in Baltimore City and County. **HB 1358** would preserve the key role for the City to manage Baltimore's 1,200-acre western stream valley park, while sustaining this magnificent natural and recreational resource with dedicated State Open Space funds, as an authorized State Partnership Park.

In the 1950s, Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, formed as one of the largest urban forest parks on the East Coast, and for many decades has suffered severe underinvestment and neglect with a forbidding reputation and woeful underutilization. Establishing a State Park Partnership offers the great opportunity for the Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park to emerge as a major local and regional destination.

The Friends of The Jones Falls urges your strong support for **HB 1358**.

Sincerely,

Sandy Sparks, President
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Friends of Gwynn Falls/Leakin Park