



Montgomery Parks Outdoor Safety Tips

Wildlife Safety: Snakes

Who doesn't love being outside and visiting parks in the summer? Exactly – but it's important to keep safety in mind. Observing [wildlife](#) is one of many ways to enjoy nature. Frogs, chipmunks, colorful birds are often welcome sites; [snakes](#) may seem scary to some. However, most snakes are happy to avoid conflict and choose to retreat if the option exists.



The Copperhead snake is the only venomous snake in Montgomery County, MD.

In Montgomery County, the Copperhead is the only venomous snake that park visitors may encounter. Copperhead bites are very rarely fatal, but do require treatment.

The more common, and aggressive, Northern Watersnake is often misidentified as the venomous copperhead, often leading to unnecessary panic.

Most snake bites result from snakes that have been unintentionally stepped-on or harassed. The best ways to avoid snakes—stay on trails, keep pets on leash, and keep hands and feet out of places snakes are likely to visit, such as rocky areas and near stone walls.



The non-venomous Northern Watersnake is sometimes mistaken for the venomous Copperhead.