



MONTGOMERY PARKS

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

2425 Reedie Drive | Wheaton, MD 20902

Montgomery Parks Updates- October 2024

www.montgomeryparks.org

Montgomery Parks Awarded \$900,000 Federal Transportation Alternative and Recreational Use FY25 Grant to Improve and Extend Damascus Trail

- Montgomery Parks has been awarded a \$900,000 grant from the Federal Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) to design the extension of the Margruder Branch Trail into downtown Damascus.
- The Margruder Branch Trail is a multi-use trail with 4.2 miles of asphalt and boardwalk and 3.3 miles of natural surface.
- The grant funding will be used to design a one-mile trails extension and replacements for sections of the existing boardwalk needing repair.



Adaptive Mountain Biking

Montgomery Parks is dedicated to providing unique recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The Montgomery Parks Program Access team recently hosted its first Adaptive Mountain Biking Event at Wheaton Regional Park. This event welcomed individuals with various physical and developmental disabilities to explore the park's trail on adaptive mountain bikes.



Montgomery Parks Harvest Festival

On October 5, 2024, the Montgomery Parks Harvest Festival was a fun-filled fall day at the Agriculture History Farm Park. The 30th annual Harvest Festival welcomed over 1,900 visitors and featured traditional crafts, activities, music, and food. Activities included hands-on farm activities like candle dipping, tin-smithing, pumpkin painting, and scarecrow building. Live music performances included jazz artist Alison Crockett from Story Tapestries, the bluegrass stylings of the Hickory Grove Band, and storytelling by master puppeteer Schroeder Cherry and Maryland's official Griot, Janice Curtis Greene. The event received support from various community partners including Friends of the Farm Park, UME Master Gardeners, National Dahlia Society, Montgomery County Assoc. for Family & Community Education, Moonlight Bobbin Lace Makers, Back in Time 4-H Club, Scouts BSA Troop 457, Laytonsville Volunteer Fire Department, Story Tapestries, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation.





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Strathmore Local Park Re-Opening Ceremony

Join Montgomery Parks for the ribbon-cutting celebration for the reopening of Strathmore Local Park. Check out the new, improved soccer field, basketball and soccer court, new playground, and loop path. There will be a speaking program, pumpkin decorating, and treats. Costumes are encouraged. The event is on Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., and the Rain date is Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 2 to 3:30 pm. Strathmore Local Park is at 3210 Beaverwood Lane, Aspen Hill, MD 20906.



Upcoming Events

Birdability Week |October 21 through October 27| Montgomery Parks

Birdability Week is an annual occasion to exchange valuable resources and innovative ideas, aiming to foster an inclusive and accommodating environment within the birding community. By encouraging accessibility, embracing diversity, and promoting a warm and open atmosphere. It's also aims to ensure that birding is an enjoyable experience for everybody. Celebrate the beauty of birds and enjoy welcoming and inclusive birding experiences October 21 through October 27, 2024, in Montgomery Parks.

Montgomery Parks Urban Wood Sale |Saturday & Sunday| Nov. 9 & 10| 8 am to 12 pm

Shop for your next woodworking, home building, furniture repair or craft project. The sale features cedar, pine, poplar, oak, beech, ash, and more. This year, customers can find kiln-dried, planed, and air-dried wood. Slabs are available in assorted sizes, thicknesses (ranging from 3/4" to 3"), and prices (ranging from \$5-\$400). All sales benefit Montgomery Parks' Urban Wood Waste Recycling Program and Green Waste Recycling Program. Credit card only. No advanced sales. Sale runs Saturday and Sunday, 8a-12p (while supplies last). This event takes place at Montgomery Parks' Green Farm Maintenance Facility: 8301 Turkey Thicket Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20879.

Acoustics and Ales | November 2 | 11- 2 p.m. | 20930 Lake Ridge Drive, Boyds, MD

Join us for an outdoor happy hour from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Black Hill Regional Park. Cool down with a cold beverage while enjoying a local Irish band La Unica performance. Food, locally made craft beers, and non-alcoholic drink options will be available for purchase from Liquidity Aleworks, Clear Skies Meadery, Catalyst Hot Dogs, and Churros Inc. All ages. Free.



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Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade| November 16 |10-12 p.m.| Silver Spring, MD

On Saturday, November 16th, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, mascot Otus the Owl will once again join the Parks Department to anchor the 2024 Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade in Silver Spring. The parade steps off Ellsworth Drive and Fenton Street and proceeds south on Georgia Avenue, ending at Silver Spring Avenue.

Montgomery Parks' Garden of Lights at Brookside Gardens| Starting November 2 – January 5| 5 – 9 pm |Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD

The Garden of Lights exhibit features dazzling light displays showcasing flowers, animals, and nature-inspired scenes. This year's exhibit includes a new lighted archway that is choreographed to music, as well as lighted jumping pads. The half-mile pathway is transformed into a glowing winter wonderland, offering a perfect outing for friends, families, and couples. Guests can warm up with hot chocolate and grab a snack or a holiday gift at the gift shop.

Upcoming Program Registration Dates to Note:

October 21 – Registration for Fall Term II opens. **Please note:** The Summer Camp Registration date is confirmed as January 21. We kindly request all summer camp programs to be entered into Active Montgomery by November 12.