



## MONTGOMERY PARKS

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

2425 Reedie Drive | Wheaton, MD 20902

# Montgomery Parks Updates- November 2024

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

## Strathmore Local Park Ribbon Cutting

- Montgomery Parks celebrated reopening the recently renovated Strathmore Local Park in Aspen Hill. More than one hundred residents gathered at the park on Saturday, October 19, 2024, as we cut the ribbon, officially opening the renovated park.
- Strathmore Local Park is located at 3210 Beaverwood Lane in Aspen Hill. The renovation includes an improved soccer field, a basketball and soccer court, and a new playground with play structures for children ages 2-12. There is also a loop walking path, a picnic pavilion with tables, benches, and barbecue grills.
- The park renovation was funded by Montgomery Parks, Program Open Space, and a bond bill passed by the Maryland General Assembly.



## Montgomery Parks Pope Farm 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- Montgomery Parks celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pope Farm Nursery. Brian Dahl, the facility manager, shared insights into the nursery's history and its remarkable journey since the Commission acquired it from the Pope Farm in 1968. The nursery has been operational since 1974, making this significant milestone.
- Pope Farm offers six key programs
  - Nursery Tree Procton
  - Container Grown Program
  - Native Plant Program
  - Green Waste Recycling Program
  - Grown @ Pope (Community Garden Program)
  - Horticulture Services



## NPDES Permit

- On October 17, 2024, staff presented their progress in meeting goals established by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This initiative includes a focus on reducing stormwater pollution and enhancing water quality. The permit submission represents a significant, cross-divisional collaborative effort that pulls in teams from almost every division across the entire department. This year marks the anticipated final phase of the current permit term, with MDE set to issue a new permit in December 2024; this presentation was a crucial milestone for Montgomery Parks.





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### Carolyn Freeland Urban Park reopens

- Montgomery Parks reopened Caroline Freeland Urban Park in downtown Bethesda on Saturday, November 9, 2024, following an extensive renovation. Montgomery Parks Director Miti Figueredo and Montgomery Planning Board Chair Artie Harris were joined by special guests Maryland State Delegates (D-16) Marc Korman and Sarah Wolek, Montgomery County Council President Andrew Friedson, and Megan Raymond, granddaughter of Caroline Freeland.
- Families and community members joined the celebration, enjoying games, refreshments, and activities. The \$3.3 million renovation introduced a spacious central lawn, a large seating terrace, and accessible pathways that connect to a larger playground, relaxing bench swings, and bike parking. The new entry plaza on Hampden Lane welcomes pedestrians and provides emergency vehicle access when needed.
- A panel commemorating Caroline Freeland's accomplishments will be installed in the park later this year.



### New pickleball courts open at East Norbeck Local Park

Montgomery Parks is expanding pickleball opportunities by adding six dedicated courts at East Norbeck Local Park. A ribbon-cutting celebration took place on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, from 6 to 8 p.m. to highlight the new courts and welcome nighttime play under the lights.



### Montgomery Parks' Urban Wood Sale

Montgomery Parks held its annual Urban Wood Sale on the weekend of November 9-10, 2024, at the Green Farm Maintenance Facility. The wood sold at this event came from dead or dying trees that were removed from Montgomery Parks land. Each year, park arborists cull hundreds of trees as part of a program aimed at promoting a healthy tree canopy. Some of the downed trees are suitable for the wood sale, while others are recycled into wood chips, mulch, and firewood through the Montgomery Parks Green Waste Recycling Program..



The wood species sold included walnut, cherry, poplar, oak, mulberry, cypress, and ash. The wood is kiln-dried, planed, and air-dried. Slabs were available in different lengths and thicknesses, ranging from three-quarters of an inch to three inches.



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### Fall Semi-Annual Presentation

On Tuesday, November 12, 2024, Planning Board Chair Artie Harris, Montgomery Parks Director Miti Figueredo, and Montgomery County Planning Director Jason Sartori presented the Fall 2024 Semiannual Report to the Montgomery County Council. The presentation highlighted key projects, initiatives, and activities from the past six months and those planned for the upcoming six months and beyond.

### Upcoming Events

Montgomery Parks Cabin John Winter Ice Show | Dec.14| 6:30 pm to 9 pm

Celebrate the holidays with a free performance by our figure skaters. Performing to a variety of music, the skaters will twirl, leap, and dance their way around the rink to entertain you!

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 choreographed to music and 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.



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BROOKSIDE GARDENS'

# Garden of Lights

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