



MONTGOMERY PARKS

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

2425 Reedie Drive | Wheaton, MD 20902

Montgomery Parks Updates - November 2025

www.montgomeryparks.org

Royce Hanson Ribbon Cutting

We officially celebrated the ribbon cutting at Royce Hanson Regional Park on November 1—and it's already a popular destination! Our team built 5 miles of trails, created a 50-acre meadow, conducted archaeological reviews, and confirmed exciting wildlife sightings like a bobcat. The park honors Dr. Royce Hanson, former chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board and a lifelong advocate for environmental stewardship and smart growth—a vision that continues to inspire us.

Eye Spy Train

The Halloween Eye Spy Trains event wrapped up at Cabin John and Wheaton Regional Parks after running on weekends throughout October. The themes were Día de los Trenes at Cabin John Train and Trainsylvania at Wheaton Train. Wheaton welcomed nearly 10,000 attendees, while Cabin John had over 6,000.

Birdability Week: October 20 to October 29

Montgomery Parks celebrated Birdability Week (Oct. 20–27), promoting accessible and inclusive birding through programs at all four Nature Centers, led by Ashlyn Thompson and a committee of Park Naturalists and local birding groups. Highlights included Beginning Birding for Every Body! at Brookside, Bird Nerd Night at Locust Grove, and an Early Morning Pontoon Cruise at Black Hill, with exhibitors such as Nature Forward, DC Bird Alliance, Montgomery Bird Club, Feminist Bird Club, and Readability. Activities featured hands-on sessions like Flat Birds, helping participants practice using field guides and binoculars with paper birds that don't fly away.

Acoustics and Ales Witch Paddle

We hosted the final Acoustics and Ales of the season at Black Hill Regional Park on Saturday, October 25. This one-of-a-kind event featured Black Hill Discovery's Witchy Paddle as part of the program. Nearly 100 paddlers took to Little Seneca Lake in their best witchy attire for the costumed paddle. Afterward, guests enjoyed local beer and mead, food trucks, a campfire with s'mores, and live bluegrass music from Sweet Yonder. The combined event drew an estimated 850 attendees. Special thanks to the Northern Region and PACP for supporting and promoting the event, and to Park Police for keeping everyone safe on the lake and on shore.



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Park Facelift at Takoma Urban Park

Thanks to an FY26 operating budget request, Montgomery Parks now has dedicated funding for the new Park Facelift Program, starting with Takoma Urban Park. Phase I, completed Oct. 17, included pressure washing playground equipment, walls, and walkways; replacing benches, picnic tables, wood borders, and fencing; removing a kiosk and trash can; and adding an equipment pad and fresh wood fiber. Phase II will focus on the upper park area with tree pruning, stump removal, sidewalk repairs, pressure washing, bench and table replacements, and paint touch-ups.

Urban Wood Sale – Save the Date – November 15

The popular Urban Wood Sale returns to Green Farm on November 15! As part of the Green Waste Recycling Program, logs from hazard trees are milled into usable wood products for park projects, producing about 60,000 board feet annually for lumber, truck boards, stakes, benches, planters, and specialty items. What we don't use, we sell—air-dried, planed pine, poplar, oak, beech, and more—with proceeds reinvested into the program.

NPDES Permit

Earlier this month, we submitted our Annual Progress Report to MDE detailing how we keep stormwater pollution-free under the NPDES program, a federal Clean Water Act initiative regulating water pollution. Montgomery Parks is regulated through an MS4 permit requiring treatment of 20% of untreated impervious surfaces by 2025—and we exceeded the goal by 5.39 acres! Out of 413 acres of impervious surface, 332.43 were untreated, meaning we needed 66.5 acres treated; we achieved over 71.9 acres. The permit also mandates public education, pollution prevention, and construction oversight.

Upcoming Events

Garden of Lights| November 21 to January 4 | 5:00 –9:30 p.m. |Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton-Glenmont, MD 20902 [Garden of Lights at Brookside Gardens - Montgomery Parks](#)

From mid-November through early January, Garden of Lights transforms Brookside Gardens into a magical winter wonderland with a half-mile walk-through of twinkling lights and unique displays across the 50-acre horticultural gem in Wheaton. The Gift Shop will be open for inspired gifts and cozy essentials. Tickets are required for ages five and older, with timed entry for a specific day and arrival time; they are non-refundable but transferable until 4 pm on the ticketed date. This outdoor, rain-or-shine event runs regardless of weather, so dress accordingly.

Holiday Share Fair at Black Hill | November 22| 10 - 2 pm | Black Hill Discovery Center| 20926 Lake Ridge Drive, Boyd, MD: [Holiday Share Fair at Black Hill - Montgomery Parks](#)

Clear out your closets and give your items a second life at the Share Fair at Black Hill Discovery Center! Bring coats, games, or other once-loved items and display them trunk-or-treat style—be as creative as you like! Attendees can browse and claim amazing finds, and everyone votes for the best setup and most unique items. Free event—no sales or bartering. Registration required for “Givers” (one per group) and guarantees two parking spaces. Items must be clean, complete, and in usable condition. Anything unclaimed goes home with the registrant. Shoppers not bringing items do not need to register.

Visit our website to explore more Parks programs and events. [Park Activities - Montgomery Parks](#)

MONTGOMERY PARKS

November-December 2025 Events

Holiday Share Fair
Black Hill Regional Park
Nov 22 | 10am to 12pm
MoCoParks.org/ShareFair

Garden Railway Exhibit
Broidoke Gardens Conservatory
Nov 29 to Jan 4
(Closed Dec 24, 25, Jan 1)
BroidokeGardens.org

Yuletide Celebration
Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park
Dec 13 | 5 to 6pm or 6 to 7pm
WoodlawnManor.org

Upcoming Nature Center Programs

- **Thanksgiving Cleanup** | Nov 24 | 1 to 4pm
- **Black Hill Bookworms** | Dec 11 | 4 to 7:30pm
- **Eco Teen Challenge** | Dec 20 | 10 to 11:30am
Black Hill Discovery Center | BlackHillDiscovery.org
- **Little Explorers** | Dec 10; 13 | 10:30 to 11:15am
- **Evergreen Tree ID Hike** | Dec 13 | 2:30 to 4pm
- **Campfire 101** | Dec 27 | 1 to 3pm
Brookside Nature Center | BrooksideNature.org
- **Full Moon Fridays** | Dec 5 | 5:30 to 7pm
- **Project Federwatch** | Various dates | 11am to 12pm
- **Cory Nature Book Chat** | Dec 14 | 4:30 to 5:30pm
Locust Grove Nature Center | LocustGroveNature.org
- **Evening Stroll (Dogs Welcome)** | Dec 5 | 4:30 to 5:15pm
- **Looking Back, Moving Forward** | Dec 13
10:30am to 12pm
- **Playtime in the Park** | Dec 17 | 11am to 12pm
Waydale Nature Classroom | WaydaleNature.org
- **Taste and Test the Skies Trivia** | Dec 6 | 4 to 6:30pm
- **Storytime with the Animals** | Dec 10 | 10:30 to 11am
- **Master Shadow Puppet Show** | Dec 13 | 4 to 5pm
Meadowside Nature Center | MeadowsideNature.org

SS+ Programs

- **Socials for SS+**: Holiday Herb and Citrus Ornaments - Dec 5
- **Nature Book Club** - Nov 10, Dec 16
- **iPhone 911: Settings for Personal Safety & Protection** - Dec 10
MoCoParks.org/StandBetter

Park Academy Series

- Multi-week fitness classes start in December
- **Pilates Mat**
- **Toddler and You Yoga**
- **Rise & Shine Flow Yoga**
- **Yoga for Strength and Vitality**
MoCoParks.org/ParkAcademy

Wood and Wine at Oakley Cabin

- Dec 4 | 5-8pm
Oakley Cabin African American Museum and Park
MoCoParks.org/woodandwine

Winter Ice Shows

- Dec 13 | 6:15pm | **Cabin John Ice Rink**
CabinJohnIce.org
- Dec 21 | 2:15pm | **Wheaton Ice Arena**
WheatonIceArena.org

Montgomery Parks Special Events

For a complete list of special events, scan the QR code or visit
MoCoParks.org/events

MONTGOMERY PARKS		
November-December 2025 Events		
	Maryland Emancipation Days Various Locations Nov 1 & 2 McCol Parks.org/historicmontgomery	
	Urban Wood Sale Green Farm Maintenance Facility Nov 15 8am to 4pm McColParks.org/urbanwoodsale	
	Garden of Lights Brookside Gardens Nov 21 to Jan 4 (closed Nov 24 to 27, Dec 24, 25, Jan 1) GardensofLights.org	
Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum Open - Fri-Sat 10am to 4pm; Sun 12 to 4pm • Manor House Tours - Sat 11am and 2pm; Sun 1pm Museum and Manor Hour open regular hours through November 23		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided Underground Railroad Experience Trail Hikes - Nov 1, 15 10 to 11:30am WoodlawnManor.org		
Josiah Henson Museum and Park		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum Open - Fri-Sat 10am to 4pm; Sun 12 to 4pm • Archaeology Tour - Nov 8 1 to 2:30pm • Remembrance and Reconciliation Free Admission Weekend - Nov 8 and 9 JosiahHenson.org		
Adaptive Mountain Biking Clinic		
Nov 8 10:30am to 2:30pm Black Hill Regional Park McColParks.org/InclusivePrograms		
Indoor Tennis and Pickleball		
Pauline Betz Addie Tennis Center PSATennis.org Wheaton Indoor Tennis WheatonTennis.org		
Brookside Gardens Fall Wedding Vendor Showcase		
Brookside Gardens Nov 16 11am to 2pm McColParks.org/VendorShowcase		
Veterans Day Salute		
Free admission for veterans or active military Nov 9 12 to 2pm Cabin John Ice Rink CabinJohnIceRink.org Nov 9 11am to 2pm Wheaton Ice Arena WheatonIceArena.org		
Agricultural History Farm Park		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeschool Farm - Nov 6, 20; Dec 4 2 to 4pm AgHistoryFarm.org		
Sponsored Events		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owl Moon Raptor Festival - Nov 8 Black Hill Regional Park • Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade - Nov 22 Downtown Silver Spring • Long Branch Holiday Market - Dec 13 Flower Avenue Urban Park 		
 Montgomery Parks' Upcoming Program Registration Dates Winter program registration opens Nov 17 Ice/Tennis Winter Term I registration opens Dec 22 View the complete Program Guide at MontgomeryParks.org/Classes		
		