

MONTGOMERY PARKS

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission 2425 Reedie Drive | Wheaton, MD 20902

Montgomery Parks Updates- February 2025

www.montgomeryparks.org

\$10,000 Montgomery Chapel Cemetary Grant

The Cultural Resources Stewardship Section was awarded \$10,000 to aid in the stewardship and preservation of the Montgomery Chapel in Little Bennet Park. The funds will be used to conduct a ground-penetrating radar survey to identify unmarked graves to ensure their protection during future cemetery management. Any remaining funds will go towards tombstone repair, preservation, or interpretive signage installation. The cemetery is one of the last remaining sites of the African American community that



once existed in the area, and its continued presence is critical to understanding that local history.

22nd Annual Greenscapes Symposium – February 14, 2025

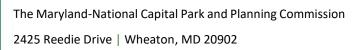
The ever-popular event offers presentations on the latest topics related to landscape sustainability and the environment. This virtual gathering includes various presentations on current challenges and innovations in these fields.

This year's presentations feature:

- Resilient Rainscapes: Designs that Thrive in Climate Extremes
- Species, Cultivars and Selections: Design Matrixes for Making Smarter Choices in your Landscapes
- Practicing New Naturalism: Site-Specific Plantings in Public and Private Places
- Responding to a Rapidly Changing Climate: The Case of Diversity & Plant Palette Expansion in Urban Landscape



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Montgomery/PG Naturalist Combined Training

On January 13th, the HFEE Division of Montgomery Parks organized a joint training session with naturalists from Montgomery County and Prince George's County, which 55 staff members attended. The breakout sessions offered valuable opportunities to foster relationships and improve communication and collaboration among staff from both departments within the Commission. The training also included tours of Meadowside Nature Center and Brookside Nature Center.



Black History Month Events

- Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden
 - Wednesday February 5, 7:00-8:30 pm, Online
 - Author Camile Dungy discusses her memoir of gardening, motherhood and her seven-year odyssey to diversify her garden. This online presentation is sponsored by Brookside Gardens and Friends of Brookside Gardens. Free.
- Black History Family Day at Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park
 - Saturday, February 8, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
 - Families are invited to drop-in at Woodlawn Manor House to enjoy hands-on activities including compass making, mapping your family tree, and sharing what freedom means to you and more. Recommended for ages 6 to 17. There will be story times at 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Free. No advance registration required.
- History Hour at Josiah Henson Museum and Park
 - Thursday, February 20, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
 - Historian Ralph Buglass presents an illustrated talk on how civil rights attorney Thurgood Marshall delivered an early blow to segregation in Montgomery County. The little-known case is often seen as the first step in Marshall's drive to have segregated schools outlawed. Recommended for ages 12+. Admission is \$5. Tickets are available online and onsite. Guests may arrive early and tour the Josiah Henson Museum. Doors open at 5 p.m. Parking is available 1.5 blocks from the museum at Wall Park, 5900 Executive Blvd, North Bethesda.
- Black History Month Family Day at Josiah Henson Museum and Park
 - Saturday, February 22, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 - Visit the Josiah Henson Museum and Park for educational, hands-on activities that demonstrate what a child's life was like in Dawn, the settlement Rev. Josiah Henson created after self-emancipating to Canada via the Underground Railroad. Henson was a life-long fighter for freedom and education. All ages. Free with paid admission to museum. \$5 for adults. \$4 for children and seniors. Tickets are available for purchase onsite. Parking is available 1.5 blocks away from the museum at Wall Park, 5900 Executive Blvd, North Bethesda.



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Oakley Cabin Augmented Reality Experience

- o Daily, Sunrise-Sunset
- Grab your smartphone and take a self-guided tour around Oakley Cabin African American Museum and Park. Visitors can scan eight QR codes located on kiosks around the property to learn more about the history and archaeology of the site using augmented reality modules. The augmented reality experience is available in seven languages and was recently named the best immersive local history experience by *Bethesda Magazine*. The park sits on land that was once the home of a thriving African American roadside community. Free. Note that the cabin is not open now. It will reopen for tours in April.

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Upcoming Events



Upcoming Program Registration Dates:

- February 7 Spring Guide published online.
- February 14, 6:30 am Winter Term II Ice/Tennis Registration Opens
- February 18, 6:30 am– Spring Guide Registration Opens

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