



## MONTGOMERY PARKS

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

2425 Reedie Drive | Wheaton, MD 20902

# Montgomery Parks Updates- April 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION: [MONTGOMERY PARKS' WEBSITE](#)

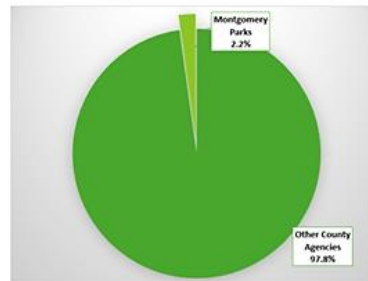
### Montgomery Parks Operating Budget FY25

- On March 14th, Montgomery County Executive Elrich released his recommended budget that contained a 6% increase for the Montgomery County portion of the Commission. As a result, the Commission must reduce the proposed budget for both the Administration and Park Funds. A total reduction of \$6,684,713, or 3.7% was recommended.
- Non-recommend Cuts to Meet County Executive's Budget / Park Fund
  - Parks asked for \$11.5 (9.3%) increase over FY24.
  - The gap is \$4.2 M (adjusted)
  - Parks will meet the gap:
    - Tier 1 - \$1.06M – Fully funding a Same Service Budget: Operating Budget Impacts (OBI, Inflationary, Contractual)
    - Tier 2 - \$599K – Program Enhancement: Activation Signature Event (Park General Maintenance Worker), Assistant Barn Manager, Data Analyst and Data Services, PROS Implementation, Customer Service Assistant, Grants Administrator and Lease of High-Volume Mowers
    - Tier 3 - \$686K – GIS Specialist, Outreach Specialist, Nature and Outdoor Program for Senior Community, Graphic Design, and Herbicide Free Weed Control Initiative
    - Total of 3 tiers; \$2.4M
    - Reductions \$1.8M
- In Comparison: Montgomery Parks makes up only 2.2% of the County's total Operating Budget

### In Comparison



Montgomery Parks makes up only 2.2% of the County's total Operating Budget



**Testimony before the Montgomery County Council**



Thank you, Hannah Hutton and Michael Ricci, and thank you to the board for supporting the proposed funding of the Department of Recreation and Parks. Mike Riley, former Director of Parks, showed his support and testified as a resident of Kensington.



**Orion: Bald Eagle Animal Ambassador – 25 Years of Service with Montgomery Parks**



Orion’s Story Map: As you might have seen in the press release, Orion, Meadowside’s American Bald Eagle Ambassador, was humanely euthanized on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The StoryMap highlights his training success, programmatic achievements, and provides a collection of memories from his Raptor Care Team. [Orion: Bald Eagle Animal Ambassador \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

**Upcoming Events**

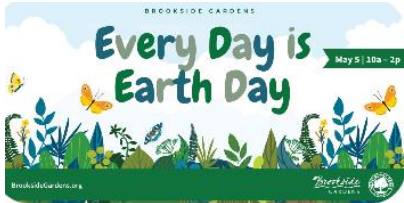
- April 13: Celebrating African Rhythms through Dance & Song at Oakley Cabin African American Museum and Park
- April 16: Spring Program Registration
- April 18: History Hour at Josiah Henson Museum and Park

MONTGOMERY PARKS April-May 2024 Events		
<p><b>Acoustics and Ales and Tails</b> Elm Street Urban Park Saturday, Apr 6   11a-2p MoCoParks.org/ AcousticsAndTails</p>	<p><b>Sunday Serenade</b> Cabin John Regional Park Apr 7, 14, 21, 28   10a-11:30a MoCoParks.org/ SundaySerenade</p>	<p><b>Shine Brighter Together</b> Autism Acceptance Month Event Wheaton Regional Park Apr 6   11a-2p (Rain Date Apr 13) MoCoParks.org/ShineBrighter</p>
<p><b>Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park</b> Woodlawn Museum Fri-Sat   10am-4pm, Sun   12-4p Guided Hikes on the Underground Railroad Experience Trail - Apr 6, 13, 20, 27; May 4, 18, 25   10a WoodlawnManor.org</p>	<p><b>55+ Programs</b> Hikes to Parks Unknown   Apr 12, 26; May 24 Nature Book Club   Apr 26, May 21 MoCoParks.org/55andBetter</p>	<p><b>Spring Program Registration Now Open</b> Ice/Tennis Spring Registration Opens Apr 16 MontgomeryParks.org/Classes</p>
<p><b>Tour our historic sites!</b> Kingstley Schoolhouse - Apr 7, May 5   1-4p Oakley Cabin African American Museum &amp; Park - Apr 13, 27; May 11, 25   12-4p HistoryInTheParks.org</p>	<p><b>History Hour</b> Josiah Henson Museum and Park Apr 18, May 16   6-7p MoCoParks.org/HistoryHour</p>	<p><b>Earth Month Volunteer Opportunities</b> ParksVolunteers.org</p>
<p><b>Maydale Nature Classroom Spring Plant Sale</b> Online sale only begins Apr 8 MaydaleNature.org</p>	<p><b>Spring Eye Spy Trains</b> Saturdays and Sundays in Apr   9:30a-4:30p MontgomeryParks.org/Trains</p>	<p><b>Co-Sponsored Events</b> ReceptFest - Apr 7 Rang Apr Parang - Apr 21 Olney Days - Apr 27</p>
<p><b>Brookside Gardens Celebrates Earth Month</b> DC Environmental Film Festival Screening and Discussion Apr 10 Brookside Gardens Plant Sale - Apr 20 Electric Landscape Equipment Exhibit - Apr 20 MoCoParks.org/BGEarthMonth</p>	<p><b>Intro to POUND Fitness</b> Sat, April 27   10-10:45a   Free, Registration Required <b>POUND Fitness</b> 8-week class   May 2-June 26 Norbeck-Muncaster Mill Neighborhood Park MoCoParks.org/POUND</p>	<p><b>With Parks in Mind: Mental Health Awareness</b> Germanstown Town Center Urban Park Sun, May 5   11a-12p MoCoParks.org/ParkinMind</p>
<p><b>Family Archaeology Day</b> Needwood Mansion May 4   10a-3p MoCoParks.org/ArchaeologyDay</p>	<p><b>Historic Preservation Month Family Day</b> Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park May 11   11a-3p MoCoParks.org/WoodlawnFamilyDay</p>	<p><b>Summer Guide</b> Registration begins May 13 MontgomeryParks.org/Classes</p>
<p><b>Woodlawn Manor House Tours</b> Re-opening May 4, 2024! Tours are available Saturdays   11a and 2p; Sundays   1p WoodlawnManor.org</p>	<p><b>Locust Grove Nature Center Native Plant Sale</b> Shop in person May 18, 25   10a-2p   Pope Farm Nursery 7400 Airpark Road   Gaithersburg, MD 20895 MoCoParks.org/LGPlantNative</p>	<p><b>WaterFest</b> Maydale Nature Classroom May 18   11a-2p MoCoParks.org/WaterFest</p>
<p><b>Intro to Nordic Walking</b> Sat, May 4   11a-12p   Free, Registration Required</p>	<p><b>Nordic Walking</b> Four-week class   May 7-28   6-7pm Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park MoCoParks.org/NordicWalk</p>	
<p>For more information, scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit: <a href="https://MoCoParks.org/Events">MoCoParks.org/Events</a></p>	<p>For more information, scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit: <a href="https://MoCoParks.org/Events">MoCoParks.org/Events</a></p>	<p>For more information, scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit: <a href="https://MoCoParks.org/Events">MoCoParks.org/Events</a></p>

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<p><b>Sligo Creek Fest</b> Sligo Creek Parkway May 4   11a-3p MoCoParks.org/SligoCreekFest</p>	<p><b>Roller Disco</b> Ridge Road Recreational Park May 27   6-8p MoCoParks.org/RollerDisco</p>	<p><b>Every Day is Earth Day</b> Brookside Gardens Sunday, May 5   10a-2p MoCoParks.org/ BGEarthMonth</p>
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On Saturday, **May 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, at Sligo Creek Open Parkway, situated between Dennis Avenue and University Boulevard, Montgomery Parks will be hosting Sligo Creek Fest. This event will highlight the well-loved Open Parkways Program, initiated in 2020, to provide additional outdoor and recreational spaces for the community. Sligo Creek Parkway will be transformed into a street festival for residents of all ages to enjoy.



On Saturday, **May 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, at Brookside Gardens, come and Celebrate Earth Month as youth take center stage, and the celebration is geared towards ages 2-14. Explore the science and art of sustainability through child-driven projects, plantings, and activities.



On Saturday, May 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Germantown Town Center Urban Park, please join us for our annual **With Parks in Mind: Mental Health Awareness** Event, a public outdoor celebration of wellness and nature, brought to you by Montgomery Parks in collaboration with [EveryMind](#).