Encompassing over 36,000 acres of land, the Montgomery Parks protects our verdant open spaces rich cultural history, and vital ecosystems. These invaluable resources provide countless opportunities for park visitors to engage in everything from a leisurely bike ride along Sligo Creek to hiking the rugged trails at Black Hill Regional Park to finding serenity alongside a babbling stream at Brookside Gardens.

The Montgomery Parks Foundation proudly wears the mantle of official non-profit of Montgomery Parks — dedicated to championing the values and benefits of the park system. Through private and public philanthropy, we facilitate the enhancement and expansion of projects, programs, and advocacy for the parks.

By creating special places and experiences at a county level, the Montgomery Parks Foundation aims to build meaningful connections between neighbors, businesses, and government. Your local park, is, and will always be, the conduit uniting the community in which you live.
Message from the President

To our fine donors and supporters,

The Montgomery Parks Foundation thanks you for your continued loyalty and support during calendar year 2018. The Montgomery County parks system is one of the County’s critical community assets and its resources are available without regard to income, health, or educational opportunity.

Families and individuals can meet there for fun, relaxation and to reinforce their familial and community ties. As explained in its 2018 Annual Report, the Parks Foundation seeks to sustain and enhance such opportunities by funding improvements to the park system beyond those supported by the County’s annual appropriations.

In this time of fiscal constraint and uncertainty, your support for specific facilities and projects, or for the Foundation’s general fund, made an essential contribution to nurturing the County’s sense of community and the well being of its residents.

I hope you will join the Foundation’s staff and board’s ongoing efforts to enrich the sense of community at the heart of the Montgomery County’s wellbeing.

Sincerely,

John M. Robinson
President
Montgomery Parks Foundation
Scholarship Fund

MARYE WELLS-HARLEY DREAM CAMP

Opportunity, enrichment and first time experiences are at the heart of the newly launched Marye Wells-Harley Dream Camp Scholarship Fund. In collaboration with Montgomery Parks, the Foundation established the scholarship program to provide children from underserved communities the chance to enjoy the classic summer experience.

“If we provide children with opportunities, we can give them a chance,” said Marye Wells-Harley, former Montgomery County Planning Board Commissioner.

Thanks to your generous contributions during the fund’s inaugural year, you sent 15 children to camp and gave each child memories that will last a lifetime.

“Summer camp offers children an opportunity to immerse themselves in an activity that interests them, while spending time with their peers,” said Beth Hile, Montgomery Parks Area Recreation Program Manager. “Camps contribute to the healthy development of children by allowing them to make meaningful connections.”

Scholarships Awarded

Types of Camps

- Tennis
- Nature
- Archaeology
- Field Sports
- Week in the Park
- Golf
- Outdoor Adventure
On August 10th, the Montgomery Parks Foundation presented the local premiere of “Josiah” at the AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center in Silver Spring, MD. The documentary film traces Josiah Henson’s journey from slave to freedom to a man of international renown.

For many, this event was particularly poignant. The Foundation welcomed 70 Henson descendants to the screening as the kick-off of their family reunion. The following day, the Henson family convened at the Josiah Henson Museum and Park for a day of food, festivities and fun. This was the first time descendants gathered on these hallowed grounds where their remarkable ancestor, Josiah Henson, was enslaved.
Empowering Our Partners

THE NEAL POTTER PLAZA
ON THE CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL

Often, our work relies on the support of our partners in the community who are committed to improving and expanding the parks for the greater good.

The newly built Neal Potter Plaza, located on the Capital Crescent Trail in Bethesda, exemplifies the results of a working partnership between the Foundation and the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail (CCCT).

“We are pleased and excited to see this enhancement to both the community and the Capital Crescent Trail finally completed. And, we offer our gratitude to the hundreds of donors throughout the area who helped make the Plaza possible,” said Ron Tripp, Chair of the CCCT.

We are so grateful to the passionate citizens and board members of the CCCT for adding functionality and beauty to this portion of the Capital Crescent Trail. It will bring enjoyment to all trail users for years to come.
Preserving Our History

KENSINGTON CABIN

On a beautiful October day, neighbors proudly celebrated the reopening and dedication ceremony of the newly rehabilitated Kensington Cabin, now known as the Mayor Jayne H. Plank Kensington Cabin. The project was made possible in part due to a $150,000 donation secured by the Foundation in 2015 from the Cupid Foundation, Inc.

“I am so pleased that the Kensington Cabin has been brought back to life,” said Jayne H. Plank. “It was the center of activities for my boys and their friends—a place to meet, play, learn and grow!”

The restoration was made possible because of you, the residents of Kensington, recognizing the cabin as a valued local hub in the community. “Even though the cabin had such humble beginnings, these are the kinds of buildings that can be the greatest symbols and unifiers in the community,” said Jennifer Gurney, a native Kensingtonian.
Patron of the Plants

**Joan & John O’Rourke Greenhouse**

Brookside Gardens teacher, volunteer, and founder of the Friends of Brookside Gardens, Mrs. Joan O’Rourke, entrusted $1 million to the Foundation in 2014. Her gift was earmarked to help fund the construction of a new 10,000 square foot greenhouse to support the diverse, year-round planting needs of Brookside Gardens.

Mrs. O’Rourke had built strong and lasting relationships with Brookside Gardens staff; and, in fact, this was the impetus behind her donation. “It is a rare donor who understands the need, and is willing to fund, the construction of a behind-the-scenes facility that supports the most fundamental task at Brookside Gardens: growing plants,” said Stephanie Oberle, Director of Brookside Gardens. “As a volunteer familiar with many aspects of our operations, Joan knew the huge impact her gift would have to help staff carry out our work to serve the public. We are so grateful to Joan for her generous gift and look forward to growing the most amazing plants!”

In 2018, a ribbon cutting ceremony announced the completion of the Joan and John O’Rourke Greenhouse. The state-of-the-art greenhouse has been an amazing contribution to Brookside Gardens — one that will be of immeasurable value for years to come.
The Montgomery Parks Foundation is grateful to all of our donors who made a contribution in support of better parks and programming in our community. Every effort was made to properly and appropriately identify donors who made a gift of $50 or more in 2018. If an error or omission was made in these listings, please notify the Foundation at parksfoundation@montgomeryparks.org.
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**Total Support & Revenue**

$1,233,016
- Contributions $278,302
- In-Kind donations $441,407
- Investment Income $13,149
- Released Restricted Assets $500,158

**Expenses**

$1,566,154
- Program $944,455
- Management and General $462,008
- Fundraising $159,691

**Project Detail**

$766,945
- Capital Crescent Trail $383,216
- Brookside Gardens $193,416
- Josiah Henson $133,826
- Other Projects $56,487
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