

Park Divisions



SUPERINTENDENT OF PARK OFFICE

Lester L. Straw, Superintendent

SMARTPARKS

SmartParks is a new program, using innovative GIS and Database technologies, which has the primary goal of providing management information to park managers and administrators in a manner that will improve management decision-making, provide opportunities for more efficient and economical operation of our park system, and improve the stewardship efforts and ethic of our workforce.

Our Northern Region, Southern Region, Central Maintenance, and Information Technology as well as the Horticulture and Arboriculture sections are using Work Order Management for all daily tasks. The Park Inventory is loaded and available to users, and the park facility data is being collected, validated, and entered. The Park Maintenance Service Center is operating, and taking calls from residents and employees, and processing work requests and customer comments.

We are currently testing the data collection methods and work processes within each work location to ensure data integrity. The GIS component is being tested and the remote data entry using cell phone technology is being developed. Staff is also working on benchmarking a core set of park maintenance standards as part of the SmartPark Program. Staff has conducted a survey nationally with 68 comparably sized agencies requesting their assessment of the Department's park maintenance standards. The results of this survey will be available later this month and folded into the SmartPark Program as a key performance measurement factor. The Central Management Division has the responsibility of staffing and managing the Service Center for the Department.

PARKPASS

Research and Technology staff are helping the ice rinks/arenas and indoor tennis facilities prepare to join ParkPASS. Existing customer information and business processes will be migrated to the new system that now includes Brookside Gardens and the four nature centers. The anticipated online and telephone registration launch date is August 2005.

CARRY-IN, CARRY-OUT (CICO)

After more than one year of implementing the Carry-In, Carry-Out program countywide, the Department is preparing an evaluation report for discussion purposes with the County Council. The results of the program thus far have been mixed, with some parks experiencing very few litter problems while others are the source of numerous citizen complaints.

PARK PERMITTING PROCESS

The increased usage of local parks for a variety of sports and social activities has led to some conflicts with neighboring residents. To seek solutions, staff held three public forums throughout the County in November and December, which were attended by park users, residents and staff. Solutions seemed to fall in five basic categories: Enforcement, Park Maintenance, Park Design, Permitting and Outreach. Because the discussions also showed that the problems were not just park-related, staff shared the forums' results with representatives of the County Executive, the Office of Community Use of Public Facilities, regional service centers, the Montgomery County Recreation Department, and aides to County Council members. Collectively, these government agencies along with input from area residents and park users, are developing workable strategies to make local park usage accessible to all while reducing the conflicts that currently exist. A presentation to the Planning Board is anticipated in April.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

The Volunteer Services Office works directly with staff to organize programs and events in which volunteers play a significant role. Our office was involved in the following during October 2004 through January 2005:

- Community Service Day involved 304 volunteers performing 701 hours of service at 11 project sites throughout parks at the end of October.
- Harvest Festival used 192 volunteers for a total of 1300 hours.
- A first all-day Non-Native Invasive Removal Project along Kensington Parkway was coordinated with Park Maintenance Staff, the Forest Ecologist, and Volunteer Services Office on October 29.
- Volunteer Services Office staff went to the annual Association of Volunteer Administrators (AVA) Conference, Portland, Oregon, in October.
- A Recognition Event was held for 50 volunteers of the Historic Preservation Unit in November.
- The Volunteer Services Office met with Naturalists during October 2004 through January 2005 to discuss reinvigorating their volunteer programs.
- The Volunteer Services Office brought in a specialist in December 2004 to present to volunteer supervisors an innovative approach to training volunteers through the use of the Internet.
- A grant was researched and received for volunteers to build picnic tables for Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in honor of Dr. King's birthday in January.
- Volunteers provided over 18,925 hours of service in the Department from July 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004.
- Over 65 projects involving 1,200 episodic volunteers were coordinated during this period including community service workdays, scout projects, and civic group workdays.

It is important to note that the currency of volunteerism is typically expressed in hours. But that figure does not reflect the impact volunteerism has on our ability to provide services. Our most popular and well attended events and programs could not occur without this vital support.

The non-profit organization, Private Sector, provides an hourly equivalency for quantifying the dollar value of volunteer labor. At the current rate, Montgomery County Park and Planning has received over \$325,000 in volunteer labor from October 2004 through January 2005.

BALLFIELD INITIATIVES

The Ballfield Initiatives Program was developed to implement the recommendations of the Ballfield Work Group, which consisted of users, agency staff and Recreation Advisory Board members. The primary thrust of the program targeted the fields located at the middle and elementary schools, but improvements have been made at some park facilities as well. Recommendations included renovations and upgrades of infields, turf areas, lighting, backstops, and fencing, along with ongoing consistent maintenance of middle and elementary school fields. Current projects include:

- Completed renovation work at Flower Hill Elementary School, Strawberry Knolls Elementary School, Westland Middle School, and Eastern Middle School. All fields will be open for play for the Spring 2005 season.
- Preparing to develop a cricket field at Ridge Road Recreational Park. This will be a cooperative agreement whereby the department will construct the cricket “pitch” and the user group will maintain the field.
- A “Phase Two” Initiative has been proposed in the FY06 Budget, targeting the improvement of park fields. “Phase Two” includes infield and turf renovations, the development of as many as five artificial turf fields and 26 partial artificial turf fields.

PARK DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Michael Riley, Chief

The Park Development Division was reorganized last spring by replacing the two technical sections of Engineering and Project Management and Design into three technical sections for the purpose of creating a structure more conducive to the effective implementation of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The Division is now working on various teams to improve the following:

- the procurement process
- the homeowner's notification process for participation in the park development process
- streamlining playground renovation improvements
- developing procedures for grants and donations affecting the CIP and operating budget.

During this reporting period, the Division completed two CIP administration efficiency measures: (1) the Planning, Design, Construction, and Operations Handbook (PDCO) refined and clarified the park development process, and (2) several CIP project status reporting databases record the status and progress of development projects.

STATUS OF ONGOING PROJECTS

Park Acquisition Program

Through the first half of FY05, the Department spent a total of \$13.2 million to acquire more than 200 acres through the Acquisition: Non-Local Project Description Form (PDF) (\$1.4 million), Legacy Open Space (\$6.6 million), and the Advance Land Acquisition Revolving Fund (\$5.2 million). In addition, during this time frame, approximately 90 acres were added to the park system as dedications through the development review process.

Presently, the Land Acquisition Specialist is negotiating the purchase of additional properties for future public use, including but not limited to, Hyattstown Forest, an addition to Watts Branch Stream Valley Park - Unit 2, Waters Gift Special Park, River Road Shale Barrens, Hoyles Mill Conservation Park, Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley Park, Rachel Carson Conservation Park, and the Carroll Place Heritage Resource in Kensington. In December, the Planning Board approved a contract to acquire an addition to Evans Parkway Neighborhood Park, but settlement on this acquisition will not occur until FY06. Also, the Land Acquisition Specialist is in the midst of negotiations to acquire the Layman property as right-of-way for the Mid-County Highway. The Layman property is to be acquired using the Commission's Advanced Land Acquisition Revolving Fund (ALARF).

Park Development Program

The Park Development Division has over 200 active CIP Development projects. This section highlights only a sample of those projects.

Facility planning is underway for the following projects:

- Germantown Center Town Local Park (LP)
- North Four Corners LP
- Greenbriar LP
- Takoma-Piney Branch LP
- Evans Parkway LP
- Magruder Branch Trail

The following projects are in the design phase:

- Concord LP Renovation
- Winding Creek LP Reconstruction
- Playground Renovations (7 local parks)
- Matthew Henson Trail - Phase 3 (construction expected to begin in summer 2005)
- Broad Acres LP
- Rock Creek Trail bridge
- Gunners Branch/Paint Branch/Little Falls stream protection

The following projects will be under construction soon:

- Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park (RP), Phase 1B
- Olney Manor Skateboard Park
- Woodstock Equestrian Park Parking Lot
- Matthew Henson Trail- Phases 1 and 2
- Olney Manor Ballfield Lighting, fields 2-5
- Susanna Lane Pedestrian Bridge

The following projects are under construction:

- Total park renovations: Jesup Blair LP, Montgomery Village LP
- Playground Renovations: Fleming LP, Glen Echo Neighborhood Park (NP), Glenfield LP, Pleasant View LP, Cloverly LP, and Cabin John Regional Park
- Miscellaneous renovations: water and sewer work at Woodlawn Park, new lights on field #1 at Olney Manor Recreational Park, bridge replacement over Little Falls Parkway, and restoration of the Woodlawn Barn
- Hoyles Mill Village Park
- Tennis Court Renovations: Columbia LP, Clarksburg LP, Sangamore LP, Dewey LP, English Manor NP, Georgian Forest LP, Maplewood-Alta Vista LP, Redland LP, Peachwood NP, Westmoreland Hills LP

The following projects were completed during the reporting period:

- Playground Renovations: Northgate LP, Little Falls SVU#1, Forest Glen/Dallas LP, Cannon Road LP, English Manor Elementary School
- Miscellaneous renovations: paving of Sligo Creek Parkway from Colesville Road to Dennis Avenue
- The arena building renovation at the Rickman Farm Horse Park
- Black Hill Maintenance Facility

NORTHERN REGION
Gordon Rosenthal, Chief

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- A new mountain bike trail was installed from Schaeffer Farms (Seneca Creek State Park) through South Germantown to Hoyles Mill Conservation Park and on to Black Hill Regional Park. Region staff along with staff from the Park Planning and Resource Analysis Section and volunteer groups accomplished the installation of the trail scheduled to officially open in the spring.
- 126 playgrounds were inspected each month for a total of 756 inspections for the period.
- Staff supported the annual Harvest Festival, held at the Agricultural History Farm Park with 2,356 people in attendance.
- Meadowside Nature Center began offering birthday parties on Saturdays. Approximately 720 people have participated thus far, many of whom are first time visitors to the Center. Additionally, they have begun a series of programs geared toward scouts looking to earn merit badges. Both programs have met with outstanding success.
- Approximately 1,200 scouts, parents, and visitors attended the Klondike Derby held at Little Bennett Campground on two weekends in January.
- Rock Creek Area staff performed the huge task of repairing and reconstructing sections of the split-rail fence at the Agricultural History Farm Park.
- The landscape crew planted 10,625 pansies and 348 perennials and overall crews across the region planted in excess of 700 trees.
- The Rock Creek area staff installed five additional mooring sites at Lake Needwood because of overwhelming demand.
- Ridge Road Recreational Park was the site of the very successful Germantown Oktoberfest and the Bark-a-Thon.
- At the Black Hill Visitor Center, over 300 people attended the Monarch Fiesta Day and over 50 people attended the Valentine's Day Chocolate Lovers' Festival featuring a demonstration by a master chocolatier and lectures on the medicinal properties of chocolate and the natural history of the cocoa tree.

ONGOING PROJECTS

The nature centers are continuing their work on the strategic planning process and meet about once a month to work on our current three focus strategies. These include:

- Revamping the programming, scheduling, and documentation of nature center activities to support quality interpretive programming offerings and increase income.
- Building strong working relationships among the nature center staff and collectively providing leadership within the Department.
- Designing and implementing a school strategy that increases our services to schools and increases our revenue base.

SOUTHERN REGION

Ronnie Gathers, Chief

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- The Meadowbrook area initiated a large-scale Non-Native Invasive plant removal project in Rock Creek Park along Kensington Parkway. Staff worked with volunteers to remove invasive plants at other sites within the region.
- The Martin Luther King, Jr. Maintenance Area sponsored a presentation of environmentally friendly erosion-control products to reduce sedimentation.
- Southern Region staff planted over 220 trees at Local Parks, Regional Parks, Athletic Areas, Meadowbrook Stables, and Stream Valley Parks.
- Wheaton Staff participated in a Vernal Pool Construction Demonstration Workshop; a vernal pool was constructed in Wheaton Regional Park.
- The parking lots at Veirs Mill Local Park and Cabin John Regional Park were resurfaced.
- Field staff distributed informational business cards to citizens, providing contact numbers (Park Police, SmartParks, Service Center) for citizen concerns or comments.
- Wheaton Regional Park staff responded to a customer emergency by assisting with the emergency rescue of a golden retriever that had wandered onto Pine Lake and fallen into the icy water.
- Staff supported Community Park Clean-ups, volunteer events, scouting projects, and community social events.
- Staff provided coordination, preparation, and/or maintenance services for the following:
 - The City of Hope Walk for Hope
 - Montgomery County Marathon in the Parks
 - Avenel Soccer Club's Tournament and Soccer Club Day
 - Booze Allen Hamilton Foundation's "Golf Classic"
 - VFW's Veterans Day Ceremony at Wheaton Veterans' Memorial
 - Montgomery County Roadrunners' Candy Cane City Foot Race
 - The Cardinal Foundation's Road Race in Rock Creek Park
 - Rotary Charitable Foundation's Rock Creek Trail Bike Tour
 - The Rachel Carson Greenway Trail Corridor Hike events

SUMMARY OF ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Eight new playgrounds were/are being installed at: Cabin John Regional, College View, Pleasant View, Cannon Road, Stoneybrook, Forest Glen-Dallas, and Glenfield Parks. The new Kennedy/Dorset play lot was completed with public/private funds.
- Staff began remodeling the Cabin John Train Station Snack Bar. Partnerships with local train groups are being explored for future projects.
- A turf renovation project was begun at Westmoreland Hills. Sod renovations were completed at Blair's infield and stadium fields.
- Ballfield maintenance included lime application, fertilization, aeration, seeding, regarding, and drainage improvements.

NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Carl D. Falcone, Chief

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Public Gardens

- The Holiday Light Show attracted over 40,000 visitors this year, setting a new attendance record. Sponsors included the Gazette Newspaper, Sunbelt Rentals, A-1 Uniforms, 97.1 WASH-FM, and the Silver Spring Garden Club.
- The Green Matters Symposium, in its second year, sold out once again. The theme this year was “Earth Friendly, People Friendly Landscapes.” Sponsors included Beltsville Garden Club, Brookside Chapter of the Azalea Society of America, Annie May DeFrank, Friends of Brookside Gardens, Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association, Sierra Club – Montgomery County Group, Silver Spring Garden Club, Marilyn and David Vismara, Winding Orchard Citizens Association, Johnson’s Florist, and Pogo Organics.
- The Board of Directors of the Friends of Brookside Gardens reviewed and approved Brookside’s funding requests for 2005 for the following: Internship (\$30,400), Children’s Day (\$10,000), Green Matters Symposium (\$1,000), chairs for the Adult Classroom (\$6,500), Horticultural Lecture Series (\$5,800), and Summer Music Series (\$2,500).
- Brookside’s Master Plan was revised and approved by the Planning Board. Revisions included the addition of a native aquatic garden, a small café, tented area for outdoor events, and renovation of the Visitor’s Center to accommodate events, classes, and visitor services. The Events House, which was proposed in the earlier draft of the plan, was eliminated.
- The Children’s Garden Path was replaced with a concrete paver walkway. Installation, valued at \$22,564 including labor and materials, was donated by J & G Landscape Design, Inc.
- The Association of Professional Landscape Designers conducted a design charette to create a conceptual plan for the 1800 Glenallan Avenue entrance to the Gardens.

Natural Resources Management

- Natural Resources Management (NRM) conducted managed hunts and sharpshooting operations in 14 park areas covering a total of over 11,000 acres. All operations were conducted in a safe manner and achieved their goals. Over 7 tons of meat was donated to local charities. A new initiative was developed for FY06 to increase the budget for this program by \$62,000. Working with the Department of Economic Development several initiatives have been launched, aimed at assisting the agricultural community to better cope with crops lost due to deer. A Farmer/Hunter Workshop was conducted on February 17. NRM conducted meetings of the Deer Management Work Group to begin preparation of the Deer Report and Recommendations for FY06.
- Six volunteer reforestation projects were completed, planting 418 trees in 6 park locations to enhance stream buffers, protect water quality, and provide wildlife habitat.

NRM coordinated work with the regions and horticulture staffs to plant an additional 415 large-sized trees at 9 additional riparian sites.

- Non-Native Invasive (NNI) projects were managed in over 10 park locations with NRM staff, region staff, private contractors, several Friends groups, and the Weed Warrior volunteer program. We have applied for several grants and partnered with several organizations including the Council of Governments to further increase our efforts. Staff initiated a GIS based inventory and monitoring program to track NNI infestations and treatment results in our most important natural areas. Work has continued with Countywide Planning, the Park Development Division (PDD), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) to incorporate NNI management on projects that involve impacts to parkland from non-park projects (i.e., utilities, road construction, stormwater pond maintenance, etc.). NRM staff continues to find innovative ways of addressing NNI problems, but ultimately, if the Department is to achieve its goal of environmental stewardship, dedicated funding and staff must be made available. NRM prepared a new initiative as part of the FY06 budget for an additional \$77,000 to expand the efforts to address the critical emerging threat of NNI plants to the parkland ecosystem.
- NRM staff continued to attend meetings, provide data, make recommendations on park resources, and review environmental reports related to the Intercounty Connector (ICC) and M83 - the extension of mid-county highway. NRM staff reviewed and provided comments on numerous park development projects for CIP and developer-built projects.
- Work began on the Natural Resource Management Plan for Little Bennett Regional Park, which will be developed in parallel with the Park Master Plan. The final NR Management Plan for Rachel Carson Conservation Park was completed.
- Annual inspections and updating of Pollution Prevention Plans for all maintenance facilities were completed. Staff conducted a thorough review of the program to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations in a cost efficient manner and has prepared CIP proposals as needed.

Arboriculture and Horticulture Services

- The Arboriculture section reviewed 20 park development plans and the Horticulture section reviewed 17 park development plans to assure that best practices were employed in park design and to determine and minimize potential impacts of park projects, protecting the natural resources. Additionally, 15 permit requests were reviewed for potential park impacts. Follow-up and oversight support was provided at pre-, during, and post-construction inspections at park and off-site construction jobs to ensure that project plans and specifications were followed. Staff has been involved in numerous meetings regarding the pedestrian bridge at Veirs Mill Road and for the Intercounty Connector.
- During this time period, crews responded to 570 service requests. The Arboriculture staff has been working to reduce the backlog of service requests that accumulated while staff focused on the cleanup and repair of trees damaged by numerous severe storms. This backup included requests for removal of hazard trees, clearing of numerous log jams, and support of Department projects.

- This year was another successful Arbor Day event with the attendance of approximately 1,500 people at the Agricultural History Farm Park for a day of celebrating trees. Educational booth, exhibits, demonstrations, free tree giveaways, entertainment, equipment demonstrations, and more were featured.
- Horticulture staff dug 950 trees at Pope Farm, planted 100 trees in parks county wide, and routinely watered 2,252 trees for establishment into the landscape. Staff de-staked, pruned, and mulched trees in 40 parks.

Pope Farm Nursery

- The greenhouse staff produced 22,500 summer annuals for parks countywide, including 2,500 marigolds used for the Harvest Festival at the Agricultural History Farm Park. A staff of 5-6 volunteers contributed 150 hours of service at the farm. In the nursery, fall harvesting is underway and there are 1,130 reservations in the system for landscape-sized trees. Improvements were made in the ordering system to streamline the process and provide better customer service.
- Staff has undertaken several custom growing programs for the production of landscape-sized trees for specific parks using CIP monies. These trees will be planted in the next and subsequent planting years.
- The Pope Farm has updated the inventory to conform to American Association of Nurseryman Standards. The nursery staff is working closely with the SmartParks team to develop and implement uses and features specific to the reporting of an accurate inventory.

Stormwater Management

- Oversight and administration of the maintenance contract for stormwater facilities assures Departmental compliance. A new annual contract was developed, bid out, and awarded with multi-year renewal options. Staff provided direct services to clear outfall obstructions at Olney Family Park stormwater pond.

CENTRAL MAINTENANCE DIVISION

Alvaro Astorga, Chief

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- Central Maintenance has the responsibility of staffing and managing the Smart Parks Service Center for the Department.
- The Division has also taken the lead in working with Montgomery County on the possible relocation of the Montgomery County Service Park. A study of the Park's needs at the Shady Grove Maintenance Facility has been completed.
- Three additional properties were added to the maintenance list: the Red Door Store in Norwood, the Koneman property at Brookside Gardens, and the Darby Store in Beallsville.

STATUS OF ONGOING PROJECTS

Major Maintenance

- Becca Lilly Park – repaired due to flood.
- Ken-Gar Local Park – painted exterior of recreation building.
- Glenmont Local Park – painted exterior of recreation building.
- Nolte Local Park – painted exterior of recreation building.
- Randolph Hills Local Park – painted exterior of recreation building.
- Rickman Farm Park – repaired entrance driveway.
- Sligo and Wayne Avenue Park – repaired playground due to flood.
- Little Falls Parkway – repaired culverts washed out by flood.

CIP Projects

- Black Hill Regional Park – resurfaced entrance road to maintenance yard.
- Cabin John Regional Park – repaired and re-surfaced parking lots by Tuckerman Lane and parking lot by Democracy Boulevard.
- Ednor Local Park – repaired and re-surfaced parking lot.
- English Manor Local Park – renovated play lot area and installed new play equipment.
- Greenwich Local Park – renovated play lot area and installed new play equipment.
- Kensington Heights Local Park – renovated play area and installed new play equipment.
- Little Bennett Maintenance Yard – replaced roofs on three buildings.
- Maydale Local Park – repaired entrance road and drainage system.
- Olney Manor Recreation Park – repaired and re-surfaced two parking lots.
- Rock Creek Hills Local Park – repaired and re-surfaced parking lot.
- Rock Creek Stream Valley Unit 2 – renovated play area and installed new play equipment.
- Trails – built and installed kiosks in the following areas: Woodlawn Cultural Special Park, Damascus Regional Stream Valley Unit, Oak Ridge Conservation Park, Fairland Recreational Park, and Great Seneca Stream Valley Units 1 and 2.

PARK POLICE

Commander Nathaniel J. Barber, Chief

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- The Montgomery County Division received the Chief's Challenge Award from the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, the Maryland Committee for Safety Belt Use, and the Maryland Highway Safety Office for its increase in public awareness of the importance of seat belt and child safety seat belt use.
- The Park Police concluded a comprehensive review by a team of law enforcement professionals representing the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). The three assessors spent five days completing an on-site assessment reviewing evidence of compliance with 467 CALEA standards. This was the Division's 2nd re-accreditation. The team found the Division to be in compliance with all applicable CALEA standards including all Non-Mandatory standards. The Assessment Team's final report will be reviewed by the CALEA Commissioners and a final decision delivered in March.

SUMMARY OF ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Four new park police officers graduated from the Montgomery County Police Training Academy and have been assigned to complete a 12-week field-training program under the supervision of certified Park Police Field Training Officers. Successful completion of the 12-week field-training program is required before the new officers will be allowed to patrol as solo patrol units. Additionally, two new park police officers entered the training academy in January.
- The Park Police joined the Montgomery County Police Department in establishing a Gang Task Force to coordinate a response to gang activity throughout Montgomery County. The Park officer assigned to the Task Force focused on gang related incidents involving park property. Using the resources available through the Task Force, the Park Police officer identified several individuals responsible for vandalism (graffiti) in the Long Branch Park area and was able to place charges, closing several cases of destruction in Seek Lane and Long Branch Local Park. During the past several months, the Park Police officer assigned to the Gang Task Force has made 17 arrests, served 2 bench warrants, and written 66 Field Interview Reports.
- Ten Park Police Officers were selected to participate on Montgomery County Police Department's Special Events Response Team (SERT) and completed a grueling 40-hour training course to learn current tactics in crowd control, working in conjunction with the Park Police Horsemounted Unit, and responding to biological and chemical terrorist incidents. The SERT team was deployed to Washington DC to assist with the Presidential Inauguration.
- Park Police personnel and Air Services employees teamed up to conduct the annual Christmas visit to the Jesup Blair House to deliver gifts to the children and mothers living at the transitional housing facility. Park Police employees and Air Services employees contributed gifts, food, and a Santa Claus to create a festive evening.
- The third Annual Keith Joseph Memorial Basketball Tournament was held at the Gwendolyn Coffield Community Center and organized by Division officers. The event is held in memory of

Officer Keith Joseph, who created the Y2K Basketball Challenge in January 2000. The tournament consisted of six basketball teams from various community centers around Montgomery County. This year ten teams participated and ten sponsors helped provide support.

- Park Police citizen volunteers provide a very valuable service helping to keep our parks safe and secure. The Investigative Services Section has used the Park Police Volunteers in a Surveillance Patrol capacity in response to crimes of opportunity, such as thefts from auto, thefts from lockers, etc., at specific park locations. Volunteers also performed speed surveys on various park roadways, resulting in 103 letters sent to vehicle owners. Additionally, a donation from a dedicated volunteer enabled the Division to purchase additional equipment for the program.
- Park Police officers certified in Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) conducted self-defense RAD training for 15 women at the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Shelter for Women. This program is widely sought after by community groups and our instructors were invited to conduct a class in Virginia, which they did on their own time.
- The Division continues to retrofit police vehicles with the mobile 800 Mhz radios as funding permits. Thirty vehicles have been completed to date with an average of 10 to 15 vehicles completed per year.
- Staff is in the process of replacing the current Verizon technology with the 1XRTT system. This system is a Verizon wireless communications network that is replacing the current cellular network that Park Police have used for approximately seven years. The 1XRTT network is critical to the continued operation of the Park Police Mobile Data system. The current system, Verizon's CDPD cellular network, will be discontinued by Verizon in December 2005.