

Montgomery Parks + Planning

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Spring 2026 Montgomery Parks + Planning Semiannual Outline

Planning Board Chair remarks

Montgomery Planning

- Planning Staff Highlight
- Strategic Plan Actions Implementation
- Development Activity Updates
 - Stats on regulatory projects
 - Highlights on key development projects
 - Demo: Development Tracker Dashboard
- Community Planning Academy
- Master Plan updates
 - Tracking on FY26 funds
 - Eastern Silver Spring Communities Plan
 - Friendship Heights Sector Plan
 - Germantown Sector Plan
 - The Wheaton Plan
 - Burtonsville Minor Master Plan Amendment
 - Kensington Sector Plan
 - Master Plan Work Program Updates

Montgomery Parks

- **Introduction:** Focus will be on our community engagement efforts.
- **Restroom Survey** - To better understand community needs, the department is conducting a county-wide online survey on restroom facilities in parks which closes on April 20, 2026.
- **Johnson's Park** – New interpretive materials at the park and the role of the community members in creating the materials - oral histories, drafting text, providing images (all but a couple), and their generosity in engaging in this process with us.
- **Black Baseball and Softball** – A public meeting was hosted on February 2, formally launching the project and casting a wide net seeking participation and input. Community input will shape how the project evolves.

- **Athletic Field Policy Updates** – Public outreach was a central component of updating the policy. Montgomery Parks solicited input from athletic field user groups between winter 2024 and the fall of 2025 to help guide changes.
- **Social Media and Community Outreach** – Our Deer Vehicle Collision campaigns are standout examples of how our content has grown and evolved over time. Every year we work to inform our audience about the increase in deer activity during the mating season, but a monthly reminder is not only boring to read but also boring to produce.
- **Montgomery Parks Foundation** – The Foundation has seen significant community participation with its giving campaigns.
- **Program Access' Meaningful Day Program** – In 2025, the Meaningful Day program, a partnership with Special Olympics Maryland, was launched. The programs offer adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to stay active and connect with the community while enjoying the great outdoors.
- **Cleanup Events** – In 2025, 7,045 volunteers contributed 12,514 hours to park cleanups. A \$444,072 monetary volunteer contribution or the equivalent of six full-time employees.
- **Weed Warriors** – This past year, 2,278 volunteers contributed 13,943 hours to the program – a \$487,894 monetary volunteer contribution or the equivalent of six full-time employees.

Project Updates:

- **Little Falls Parkway Update** – anticipated completion March 2026
- **Northwest Branch Disc Golf Course** – Plaza is under construction and opening summer 2026
- **Signage Facelifts** – New entry and wayfinding signs at our parks and along the Capital Crescent Trail.
- **Bocce Concept Planning** – Site evaluation for Martin Luther King Jr., Recreation Park is complete.
- **Potomac Horse Center** – Removing unsafe structures, improve the natural surface trailhead, and construct a new loop.
- **Ednor Soapstone Quarry Park** – New interpretive park to celebrate the indigenous history of Montgomery County.

- **Ribbon-cuttings**
 - Ovid Hazen Wells Recreation Park
 - Bottleworks Lane Park
 - Northwest Branch Disc Golf

- **Upcoming Events**
 - Butterfly Experience
 - Sligo Creek Fest
 - Mudfest
 - Parks Ale Trails
 - Native Plant Sales