Dear Friends,

The last couple of years have certainly had their ups and downs, but through it all, the power of community shone brightly here in Montgomery County. Our vibrant park system flourished with the day-to-day activities of our friends, family, and neighbors. Activities like a rousing pickleball game, the first time on the big slide or even a relaxing nap under your favorite tree, continued to fuel the beauty of our neighborhood parks.

Friends and neighbors came together this year to ensure everyone could access and enjoy the parks. A newly installed communication board guaranteed that kids with limited verbal abilities could still actively participate on the playground. Fully accessible picnic benches reassured families of all abilities that they could enjoy a picnic at their favorite park. The generous donation of funds to purchase a new K-9 police dog will help keep our park patrons safe and sound. It is because of neighbors, like you, who care enough about their parks and their neighborhoods that make this park system the best in the country.

This year, the Foundation welcomed five new dynamic community leaders to our Board of Trustees. Their insight and guidance have been invaluable in ensuring that we continue to support projects that preserve, promote, and enhance our incredible park system. This report will highlight some of the many projects the Foundation championed alongside the Montgomery County community.

In the pages ahead, you’ll hear story after story of people who dared to make a difference. You’ll learn about the power of love and the impact of beauty in our lives. You’ll read about overcoming trials and honoring our past. I hope above all you walk away from this report feeling proud of the part you played in protecting our parks. Whether you are a donor, an advocate, or a park patron – you are the special ingredient that makes our parks great!

Together, we join in the mission of preserving these precious green spaces for generations to come. I’m just grateful to be along for the ride!

Gratefully,

Katie Rictor
Executive Director
FULFILLING OUR PARKS’ NEEDS

Simply… Giving Back
Builds a Better Community

John C. Hanson’s generous gift to the K-9 unit of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division, is helping to increase the safety of community members, patrol dogs and police officers alike.

Raised on Mt. Prospect Farms in Montgomery County, John C. Hanson was surrounded by many different animals, including German Shepherd dogs who protected their calves from coyotes. At an early age, he realized how intelligent these dogs are, and understood they thrived with purposeful activity.

With this in mind, in 2021, John contacted Montgomery Parks Foundation to inquire about the Maryland-National Capital Park Police K-9 unit’s needs. Like his parents before him, John and his wife welcomed the opportunity to give back to the community. Providing funding to secure ballistic vests and another K-9 patrol dog was a natural fit – and for more than one reason.

“Members of the Hanson family have served and have had to wear these vests,” states Mr. Hanson, who fully understands how crucial these vests are at reducing vulnerability. “A vest gives a police K-9 member a better chance of surviving and coming back to work if injured.”

In October 2021, Wick, a one-year-old Dutch Shepherd, joined the Park Police K-9 unit. Wick and John met at Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park during Wick’s 16-week training program. “When I met Wick, I was very impressed by his enthusiasm… his joy in doing things…and how much he had learned already,” John said. A framed photo of Wick sits on John’s desk. He looks at it daily.

John likens making community contributions to the farmer with the best corn crop who shares his seeds with neighboring farmers. “We all benefit from the same,” explains John, adding, “We can never be impoverished by helping others.”

“I’ve been around dogs my entire life. I’m amazed at what they’re willing to learn…and can learn.”
—JOHN HANSON

Maryland-National Capital Park Police K-9 unit’s newest member, Wick
A beautiful new sundial in Brookside Garden’s Rose Garden at Wheaton Regional Park reminds us that love and friendship are timeless.

IN ANCIENT TIMES, a sundial simply reflected the passing of time. Today, the Rose Garden at Brookside Gardens is home to a beautiful and unique Berosus sundial that reflects the deep love so many felt for Tricia Crilley Wigmore.

Tricia’s closely-knit family and friends knew the Rose Garden was her favorite place to get away. With her untimely passing in 2019, those who loved her knew instantly the place to treasure her memory, but the question was how?

“Tricia was so wonderful and dear to all of us. We loved her our whole lives...as long as we can remember. There was no question that we wouldn’t honor her in some beautiful, lasting way that we would enjoy for the rest of our lives too,” Anne Boyden explains, one of Tricia’s many life-long friends.

The stars aligned and the answer to “how” came to light. Years prior, Montgomery Parks had selected a stunning piece for the Rose Garden. Installation was a dream; necessary funding could make it a reality.

Bob Wigmore, Tricia’s husband of 31 years, launched a fundraising plan, with the help of Tricia’s two closest childhood friends, Anne Boyden and Teresa Veith. With

“FOREVER IN BLOOM, GAZING SKYWARD, TO THE WARM LIGHT, TRICIA CRILLEY WIGMORE” — Sundial inscription written by Bob Wigmore

“That day I just felt such happiness. I thought, we did it! It was just everything we hoped it would be. It’s in a beautiful spot ... a reminder of everything good she meant to us.” – ANNE BOYDEN.

STRONG BONDS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

A Timeless Symbol of Love for All to Enjoy
Tricia’s loving siblings and friends from various circles, there was great support. Every step of the way, the effort was supported by Brookside Gardens staff, led by Ellen Bennett and Stephanie Oberle, and the Montgomery Parks Foundation.

“The end result exceeds what we had planned. At every turn, it was better ...” explains Bob Wigmore. “In eight days, we exceeded our goal,” said Bob. “When I saw the donor list, I realized that there were people I haven’t heard from in 30 years. I was in tears.”

Bob then learned the artist creating the sundial planned to personalize the piece by inscribing the beautiful and poignant words Bob had written in tribute to his late wife.

On August 15, 2021, the anticipation was over. In 90-degree heat, with hundreds of donors, friends and family members in attendance, the “gorgeous shiny, cheerful, uplifting piece” was dedicated to Tricia Crilley Wigmore. Everyone’s efforts came to a culmination.

**Strong Bonds of Family and Friends**

Tricia’s cherished children -- Sean and Sarah, her husband and her friends visit the garden often. “Now, that garden brings us peace, and there’s a little bit of her when we go there,” said Anne Boyd. “We are benefitting from our own donation.”

“The word I would like to use is ‘understated.’ It fits right in. And then you notice it a little bit, and then you realize how beautiful it is. And that’s Trish...she was naturally beautiful...inside and out.”

— BOB WIGMORE
IN 2021, art and youth served as vessels for change in three locations, each with storm drains: Long Branch Stream Valley Park, Rosemary-Hills Lyttonsville Park and Rock Creek Trail.

“Most of the litter that ends up in streams comes from storm drains,” explains Valeria Espinoza, Montgomery Parks Volunteer Services and Community Partnerships Coordinator. So, she launched a Clean Waterways Art Contest, a creative way to engage artists and volunteers — and increase public awareness that careless actions negatively impact waterways and park lands.

“It was so fun to see Ruby [an octopus that recycles] emerge as the guardian of the storm drain,” says artist Pamela Gordimer, the first-place winner in the “Stop Litter” category. “Hopefully many people will see her and think about how litter would pollute her home.”

Held in June, the contest was funded by a “Keep Maryland Beautiful” grant, secured by the Montgomery Parks Foundation. Artists of all ages were invited to submit original pieces of art focused on protecting wildlife, stopping litter or keeping Maryland beautiful. Three winners were chosen — one for each environmental theme.

While high-school-aged and younger volunteers helped the artists paint the murals, Valeria explained the important messages behind them. “In the end, we were all so proud of the creations we made with everyone’s input and effort. They [volunteers and artists] came away with an experience they will never forget,” said Valeria.
Treasured Sister...Treasured Garden

The continuous generosity of Barbara Davis enables Locust Grove Nature Center visitors, year after year, to learn about native plants while relaxing in the peaceful beauty of the garden that honors her sister’s memory—the Betsy Dotson Memorial Garden.

WITH ALL THE VOLUNTEERS who help the garden thrive and all the visitors who deepen their knowledge of native plants, the extraordinary spirit of Betsy Dotson is being kept alive. Her sister, Barbara Davis, makes certain of this every year... and has for the last 21 years.

With the sudden passing of Betsy in 2000, the Dotson family sought a tranquil, garden setting to honor Betsy’s love of gardens, education and community. They found the perfect spot next to the Locust Grove Nature Center in Cabin John Regional Park, and on September 22, 2001 the Betsy Dotson Memorial Garden was dedicated.

Throughout the years, the donations of Barbara Davis and Dotson family friends, facilitated by the Parks Foundation, have supported garden maintenance and plant education.

“We are grateful for Barbara’s ongoing support which makes it possible for staff to maintain the beautiful Betsy Dotson Garden. It’s a phenomenal example of native plant landscaping that provides enjoyment and reflection, as well as ongoing education, for all our visitors,” said Locust Grove Nature Program and Facility Manager, Angela Yau.

“Betsy could make everything grow!” exclaims Barbara. To keep that skill alive in others, gardeners can register for one of the native plant educational seminars held in the garden. Learning in the garden is exactly what Betsy would have wanted.

Garden visitors simply park their cars, cross the pedestrian bridge and find themselves in another world... made possible by those who loved Betsy Dotson.

“As a young child, Betsy would pick the flowers off the clover. She always loved flowers.”

– BARBARA DAVIS

Reminiscent of Betsy and her sister playing outdoors as children, this bronze statue is nestled amongst native plants.
THE KLIPPER family sought a special gift to honor Lisa Jin Chen in Brookside Gardens—where she savored nature for decades. On December 5, 2021, this aspiration became a reality. With Lisa’s family members, colleagues and friends gathered, she listened as her daughter’s husband, Robert Klipper, and his mother, Rosemarie Klipper, lovingly dedicated the earth-inspired Mantle II sculpture in her honor.

“I knew we had found the perfect piece of art in the perfect place...the shape of the sculpture reflects not only the many places she’s been, but her open-mindedness to new experiences and excitement to get to know people,” Robert explained to reception guests.

And today, the sculpture echoes a life well-lived by a woman who exuded positivity and deeply loved her family, art and nature. As Lisa’s daughter Rachel (Chen) Klipper says, “It’s the perfect representation of who she was. The sculpture has become a place to honor her memory.”

Since Lisa’s passing, friends and family often visit the Maple Terrace as a source of comfort. “For me, it’s a very beautiful place. I talk to her...She loved this garden so much,” says her husband of more than 30 years, Shihua Chen.

A Beacon of Warmth and Welcome... Long After Sunset

Glowing even on overcast days, a stunning new sculpture in Brookside Garden’s Maple Terrace perfectly mirrors the strength, magnetism and light of a beloved family member.

Lisa Jin Chen
Supported by the Montgomery Parks Foundation, Stephanie Oberle and Ellen Bennett of Brookside Gardens assisted Mitchell and Rosemarie Klipper and their son in their quest to honor Lisa. Stephanie comments, “This was very personal to the family, but the benefit is for everyone who visits the garden. That altruism is so amazing...that they want to share this gift with everyone.”

Mitchell and Rosemarie Klipper reflected, “We will always cherish the times we shared with Lisa and appreciate how she instilled her love of art and nature in our grandchildren. Lisa inspired us every day, and we hope that this beautiful sculpture will inspire visitors to Brookside Gardens for generations to come.”
LEADING the multi-year project to provide an all-inclusive site, Bob Green, Senior ADA Compliance Coordinator for Montgomery Parks calls this project completion a "win-win" for all. "Now this is an experience -- not just exercise," Bob says with pride. Very easily, everyone coming to the park can enjoy socializing, picnicking, boating and paddling. With an adaptive non-motorized boat launch, adaptive parking and bathrooms, a paved walkway, and wheelchair accessible picnic tables made possible by grant funds from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, it is an entirely new experience for all.

"This is an adaptive opportunity for anyone with mobility issues," explains Joe Mornini, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Team River Runner (TRR), a non-profit organization that provides adventure and adaptive paddle sports to veterans and their families. In 2021, Joe and his team hosted a weekly kayak program at Seneca Landing for community veterans and patients of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, leveraging the adaptive non-motorized boat launch.

Reactions to the launch? "All positive reactions," said Joe. His paddlers felt appreciative, respected, and relieved that they had this new opportunity to independently, and safely, launch their kayaks, despite physical challenges.

Thanks to Montgomery Parks, Team River Runner (TRR) and a 2019 Waterway Improvement grant facilitated by the Montgomery Parks Foundation in 2021, a wide variety of visitors began fully enjoying their time at Seneca Landing Special Park.
Donors

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 $100 or more in 2021. If an error or omission was made in these listings, please notify the Montgomery Parks Foundation at parksfoundation@montgomeryparks.org.

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- Greater Washington Community Foundation

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- Green Mountain Energy Sun Club
- Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation

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DID YOU KNOW the Capital Crescent Trail (CCT) is one of the most popular trails within the park system? In downtown Bethesda alone, nearly 2,500 people use the trail every day.

With the goal of enabling Montgomery Parks to effectively gather data along this portion of the trail, the Montgomery Parks Foundation proudly funded the purchase of a new amenity: An Eco-Display Classic. The new 7.5-foot totem, located along the CCT next to Ourisman Plaza in Bethesda, was quietly unveiled on April 9, 2021.

This permanent kiosk features a real-time display showcasing the number of cyclists and pedestrians using the trail on both an annual and daily basis. The valuable data collected from the counter assists Parks staff with the general management and operations of the trail and aids them in formulating long-term plans for improvements on the CCT.

Thanks to the charitable giving of our donors, the Montgomery Parks Foundation can continue to invest in projects that improve and enhance Montgomery Parks’ beloved trails, greens spaces and community gathering places.
In memory of

Lauro, Marta, Naty, Cesar, and Guillermo Bayan
Nenita E. Bayan

Mildred Bonner
Meta Bonner

Carol S. Bowersett
Catherine Bowersett-Streahle

Jared A. Cannon
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Financials

Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2021

**Assets**
- Cash and cash equivalents $1,796,042
- Pledges Receivable $79,071
- Prepaid Expenses $1,036
- Total Assets $1,876,149

**Liabilities and Net Assets**
- Liabilities $27,099
- Without donor restriction $181,509
- With donor restriction $1,667,541
- Total Net Assets $1,849,050
- Total Liabilities and Net Asset $1,876,149

**Support and Revenue**
- Contributions $212,173
- In-kind donations $413,699
- Investment income $1,716
- Net Assets released from restrictions $266,902
- Total Support and Revenue $894,490

**Expenses**
- Program $480,940
- Management and General $193,193
- Fundraising $155,781
- Total Expenses $829,914

**By the Numbers**

$212,173 Contributions Received

$346,000 Support provided to Parks

$775,000 State bond bills secured for Parks

**Major Funding Sources**
- Sponsors
- Funders
- Individual donors
- Peer-to-peer

Total Net Assets

![Graph showing total net assets increase from $1,459,452 in 2020 to $1,849,050 in 2021, with a 27% increase.]
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Ardea-studio/Adobe Stock Photos
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Inside front cover: UnCorporate Headshots
Pages 1-4: Montgomery Parks
Page 5: Montgomery Parks Foundation
Pages 6-7: The Klipper Family
Page 8: Joe Mornini, Betsy Tolbert Luecking and Montgomery Parks
Page 9: Montgomery Parks
Page 11: Montgomery Parks
Page 13: Montgomery Parks
This page: Montgomery Parks
Pages 16–17: Montgomery Parks

ICONS: Page 14: courtesy of the Noun Project:
Donation by MRK, Maryland by Lluisa Iborra, Handshake by Adrien Guessaaimi, People Group by Oksana Latisheva, Donation by ABDUL LATIF, Peer To Peer by Ayub Irawan
Our parks are essential public resources where memories are created, skills are learned, and environmental stewards are born. Spread across more than **37,000 acres of land**, Montgomery Parks provides visitors with transformative life experiences, that help build meaningful connections within the surrounding landscapes, wildlife, and flourishing community.

As the official non-profit of Montgomery Parks, the **Montgomery Parks Foundation** is dedicated to championing the value that our park system brings to the community. 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 is committed to protecting our county’s precious ecosystems, celebrating our cultural treasures, and fostering community connections. The Foundation is proud to partner with supporters like you to ensure our **local parks continue to grow and thrive**.
WAYS TO GIVE

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Wheaton, MD 20902

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