



MONTGOMERY PARKS
FOUNDATION

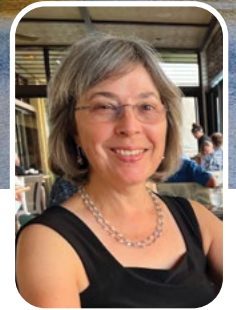
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FALL • 2023



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Meet Francoise Carrier



Meet Francoise Carrier. She and her family have called Montgomery County home since 1997. Francoise was employed with the Montgomery County government for ten years and served as the Montgomery County Planning Board Chair from 2010 to 2014. Currently, she works in Bethesda, Maryland.

Growing up in New Jersey, Francoise lived next to a regional county park and quickly became a park enthusiast. She now spends countless hours enjoying MoCo's local parks. Francoise's family and dog love to visit Luxmanor Local Park which is close to her home. She has other favorite parks too: Cabin John Regional, where she strolls the trails; Meadowside; Locust Grove; and Brookside Gardens, where she enjoys seeing the Wings of Fancy Live Butterfly & Caterpillar exhibit in all its splendor. She genuinely loves the parks.

Francoise's second passion is the *Marye Wells-Harley Dream Camp Scholarship Fund*. She has been a committed supporter since 2018. She donates to the Scholarship Fund because she believes in the vision of children going to camp, taking on new challenges, and engaging in nature-based play. She hopes that future generations "use the parks to connect to nature, take walks through the trails, listen to the birds, observe the trees, and have a quiet moment—because it is very restorative."

The Montgomery Parks Foundation thanks Francoise for her commitment to helping her community and the *Marye Wells-Harley Dream Camp Scholarship Fund*. Her continuous support has helped send many children to camp—helping to create a positive difference in their lives by making summer camp dreams a reality.

FOUNDATION GRANT

Montgomery County has a vast park system! To keep our parks in tip-top shape, the Volunteer Service Office (VSO) relies on dedicated volunteers to ensure parks remain clean and safe, but there's always much more to do. That's where the Foundation comes into play.

In December, the Foundation's Board of Trustees reviewed grant applications and chose six outstanding park projects to support. We proudly announce that the Foundation awarded VSO's Step-Up Clean-Up project a sizeable grant in January 2023 to enhance their efforts.



Step-Up Clean-Up Project

The Step-Up Clean-Up project aims to increase the number of clean-ups in thirty-four equity focus areas (EFAs). In May, VSO hired Dawson Pennypacker as the Volunteer Programs Assistant for parks located in EFAs. Within his first three months of employment, he helped manage **36 clean-ups** and led **290 volunteers**, removing **153 bags of trash** and **43 bags of recycling**. The Foundation is thrilled to support impactful projects like this that help create healthy and vibrant parks for all!



Christine McNerney, Seedling Society Member

“Serene, beautiful, and makes me feel good!” That is how long-time visitor and volunteer of Brookside Gardens, Christine McNerney describes Brookside Gardens. After moving to Montgomery County from New York in the mid-1980s, Christine discovered beauty in the local neighborhood park she could walk to with her friends and family. Brookside Gardens, with its diverse green spaces, family-friendly programming, and special events, quickly became one of her favorite places to spend her free-time.

Christine saw the value that Brookside Gardens provided the larger Montgomery County community, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, the number of visitors to the park increased substantially. Community members were looking for fun, safe places to get outside, play and explore – Brookside Gardens was a clear answer to meet these needs.

However, with this increase in visitors, Christine noticed that her beloved Brookside was experiencing more wear-and-tear than normal. She recognized that *Brookside had a greater need than what they received from government funding* and decided to become a monthly donor through the Montgomery Parks Foundation’s Seedling Society. Christine appreciates that she can choose to register as a monthly donor so she can “set it and forget it.” Having her donations auto-donate each month makes it easier for her and allows Brookside the additional flexibility to provide for unexpected needs when they arise!

Monthly donors join a group of passionate advocates who understand that by providing a little at a time each month, it can add up to a huge impact for the future! Monthly gifts ensure that nature centers can continue to introduce the next generation of naturalists to the world around them. They ensure that we can combat invasive plants that threaten to choke out our landscapes. And they ensure that precious wetlands can be preserved for the health of our entire ecosystem.

Our Seedling Society members not only gain the reward of supporting your parks system with their gifts, but they also have access to special events, complimentary passes, lectures, and so much more throughout the year – just a small way to say thank you!

If you are interested in joining the Seedling Society, please contact Anna Joyce at anna.joyce@montgomeryparks.org or 301-495-2511.

Legacy Paver Program

Looking for a way to celebrate or memorialize a loved one? A paver along the “Footsteps to Freedom” pathway at Josiah Henson Museum & Park is a wonderful option! These pavers come in different sizes and price ranges, making it an excellent opportunity for everyone. Purchasing a paver along the pathway celebrates your loved one and helps the Montgomery Parks Foundation educate visitors about the enslavement of African Americans in Maryland while teaching us 21st-century lessons about freedom, character, and values.

Interested in learning more about purchasing a paver for the Footsteps to Freedom pathway? Please contact our Donor Relations Associate, Anna Joyce, at anna.joyce@montgomeryparks.org or 301-495-2511.





ASK AN EXPERT!

A Living Classroom

While driving down the main road into Black Hill Regional Park, you may have noticed two modular structures sitting in an old maintenance yard. If you have ever wondered what is being built there, our resident expert, Jennifer Scully explains.

What is a SEED Classroom? SEED stands for Sustainable Education Every Day. Our SEED Classroom is a modular building that will be powered by solar panels and collect rainwater to water a living wall and flush our composting toilet. Some building components will be exposed to help students learn about green architecture and technologies!

Why is it being built at Black Hill Regional Park? Black Hill Visitor Center and Nature Programs has approximately 45,000 visitors per year, which includes over 1,600 students who come to the visitor center to have meaningful experiences in nature. The visitor center is not set up to host large groups, so we have been lobbying and fundraising for ten years to have a private space to better serve schools, community groups, and local organizations interested in environmental programming.

How will naturalists use the SEED Classroom? The park naturalists will run our forest preschool program out of the SEED Classroom 2 to 3 times per week. We will also host our summer camps there when it is operational. We are most excited about offering STEM and climate change-focused programming for students because they will be able to use real-time data that is generated by the classroom!

Why is it important to have a SEED Classroom in our community? The SEED Classroom will offer several green solutions to living in a changing climate. It is our hope that visitors will be inspired by the classroom and want to incorporate some of these green technologies in their own homes. The classroom will provide a one-of-a-kind space for learning, gathering, and exploring creative solutions for the future.

Jennifer Scully | *Nature Center Manager, Horticulture, Forestry, Environmental Education*



At Montgomery Parks—We Love Dogs!

We know dogs love to run and play with their human and canine friends. The one thing they may love more is running and playing **OFF-leash!**

Montgomery Parks has six locations where your dog can run freely with other dogs.

No matter where you live or where you're traveling in Montgomery County, you can always find a dog park nearby. These parks are designed specifically as recreational areas for pets and are usually enclosed by a fence. They even offer pet-friendly fountains to hydrate your dog, especially in the hot summer! Your dog will love getting exercise and meeting new furry friends!

Show your dog love by treating them to a day at the park - visit one today!

DOG PARKS LOCATIONS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Black Hill Regional Dog Park | 20930 Lake Ridge Drive, Boyds
Cabin John Dog Park | 10900 Westlake Drive, Bethesda
Dewey Local Dog Park | 11720 Dewey Road, Silver Spring
Ellsworth Urban Dog Park | 621 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring
Olney Manor Dog Park | 16601 Georgia Avenue, Olney
Wheaton Dog Park | 11710 Orebaugh Avenue, Silver Spring



MONTGOMERY PARKS
FOUNDATION



montgomeryparksfoundation.org

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