

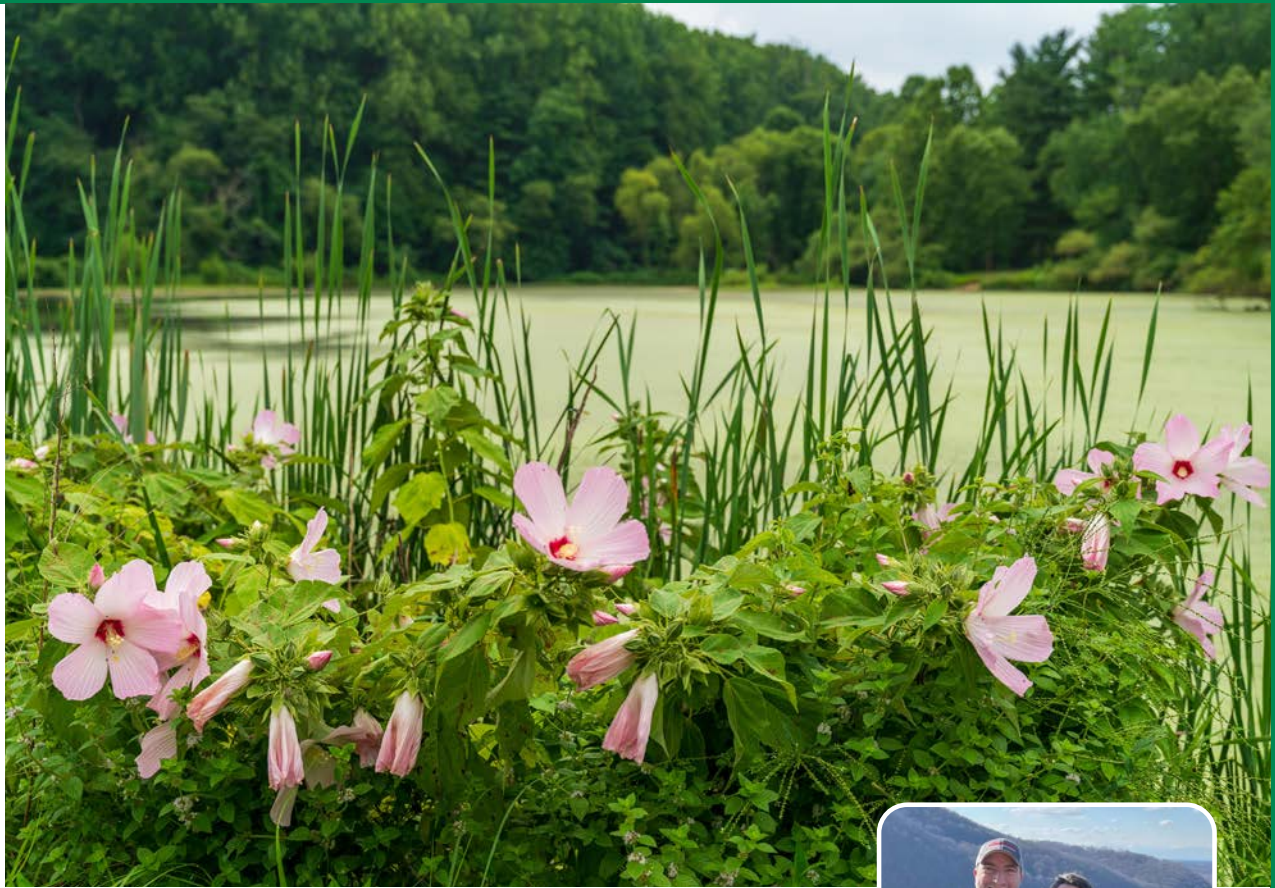


MONTGOMERY PARKS  
FOUNDATION

FOCUS

FALL • 2024

FOUNDATION



#### DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## Meet Scott Goldberg

“You don’t know what you have until its gone.” Not just catchy lyrics, but how the Montgomery Parks Foundation’s newest addition to its Board of Trustees and long-time Seedling Society member, Scott Goldberg, feels about his parks. A resident for over twenty years, Scott is an established member of the local business community and a father raising two young kids in Montgomery County. When the pandemic hit in 2020 and the local parks were closed, Scott saw how deeply affected his children were by losing their safe space to play, explore, and build new friendships.

Parks had always played a major role in the life of Scott’s family—they regularly spent time at Wheaton Regional Park riding the train and playing on the giant slide. They would often walk from their home to enjoy the amenities at South Four Corners Local Park. Scott saw the immense value these parks brought to the community “they are great social gathering places and help kids fight against isolation—it gives them a place to get off the screens and learn how to interact with society in a safe and healthy way.” Scott was determined to get involved and make these parks the best they could be to “give the lost time back to our children.”

Scott initially got involved with the Montgomery Parks Foundation by becoming a member of the Seedling Society—a recurring monthly donor—as he deeply believes that everyone has the responsibility to give back, whether time or money. When an opportunity presented itself to join the Foundation’s Board of Trustees, Scott jumped at the chance to continue to give back to his community. Scott especially wanted to join, not only to fill an open seat, but to bring the perspective of someone with younger children to the Board—something the Board was lacking.

Reflecting on his hopes for the Foundation moving forward, Scott wants to help his neighbors understand that the Foundation provides opportunities to make their parks even better. “People should get involved with the parks and support the Foundation because we were given this incredible gift. Our parks system is one of the best, if not the best in the country, and that takes work, and we have a responsibility to Montgomery County residents that will be here long after we are gone. Someone made the parks better for us and it is our responsibility to make it better for future generations.” Scott’s Seedling Society membership and seat on the Board of Trustees reflects his passion for enhancing all that the parks can offer the community’s children and all future generations of Montgomery County.

**GRAVITY MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK OPENING:**

## Defying Gravity!

On July 21, the Montgomery Parks Foundation was thrilled to join Montgomery Parks in celebrating the opening of Gravity Mountain Bike Park located within Wheaton Regional Park.

The Gravity Mountain Bike Park is geared toward mountain bikers and BMX riders looking for adventure. It has two courses with distinct levels of difficulty. The green course features dirt berms, dirt table-tops and rollers. The more advanced blue course has a start platform, jump sections, and wooden berm turns. With a combined length of nearly a mile, both routes are designed for moderately experienced bike riders.

Gravity Mountain bike parks traditionally follow directional downhill trails that require little to no pedaling and take riders through a series of rollers, turns, and jumps. At the lowest point, the trails connect to the return line, where riders must pedal uphill to return to the beginning.

“This new bike park is a great spot for adventure riders to build their skills on challenging terrain. Once riders start the course, it’s all downhill with multiple challenges to navigate,” said Bob Turnbull, Montgomery Parks’ natural surface trails program manager. “We encourage riders to start with the green course and work their way up to blue.”

Montgomery Parks Trail Ambassadors, funded by the Foundation, played a role in helping bring this bike park to life. Trail Ambassadors (kids aged 13-18) enjoy a two-week program where they learn all about trail maintenance and then learn how to mountain bike. At the end of the program, participants are awarded a mountain bike of their own to continue developing their skills. This year, participants in the Trail Ambassador Program spent most of their time helping build and reinforce the many bumps, hills, and jumps in this exciting new bike park. The Montgomery Parks Foundation is thrilled to support this program and its stellar participants!

The Gravity Mountain Bike Park was first envisioned in the 2022 Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan update, which establishes priorities for park improvements over the next 15-20 years. The plan lays out a vision of improved service to Wheaton Regional Park users and the surrounding community.

In addition to the Gravity Mountain Bike Park, park planners are in the beginning phases of designing an Action Sports Park for the Wheaton Regional Park’s Rubini Complex. The complex will include amenities like a skate park, pump track, climbing wall, obstacle course, seating areas, and more. Due to reductions in the parks department’s capital request, this project and others in Wheaton Regional Park may be delayed until additional funding becomes available.

“This bike skills park is one of the first new projects in Wheaton Regional Park coming out of the recent master plan update,” said Miti Figueredo, director of Montgomery Parks. “We hope people will have a lot of fun using it with their friends, and that we can secure funding over the next few years to move forward with more of these improvements, including the Action Sports Park.”



If you're interested in supporting the work at Wheaton Regional Park, please visit [www.montgomeryparksfoundation.org](http://www.montgomeryparksfoundation.org) to easily make a gift online!

# Black Hill Regional Park Unveils a New Building!

On May 18, 2024, the Montgomery Parks Foundation partnered with Montgomery Parks to celebrate the long-awaited opening of the Sustainable Education Every Day (SEED) Classroom at Black Hill Regional Park.

Officials from Montgomery County government, community members, philanthropic funders, and other partners gathered for the official ribbon-cutting of this innovative modular learning space for students of all ages.

The event showcased the classroom's sustainable features such as the rooftop solar array, rainwater cistern, composting toilet, and living plant wall. A SEED classroom's interior construction and design are intentionally unfinished, providing students with a close-up view of the many systems that support the classroom and how they work, including the exposed electrical and plumbing systems and the monitor displaying the electrical savings these green energy systems provide.

"The addition of the 6.5 kWh solar array and rainwater capture system allows the SEED Classroom to meet net-zero goals and serve as a hands-on teaching tool for children," said Johnny Richardson, program manager of Green Mountain Energy Sun Club, one of the SEED classroom's major financial supporters.

The Montgomery Parks Foundation has been committed to supporting the SEED classroom to ensure students today and in the future have access to environmental education in a healthy and safe space. "The SEED classroom is an innovative amenity that we can use as a learning tool," said Miti Figueredo, director of Montgomery Parks. "Students can come see how the renewable energy systems work and imagine a future where sustainable buildings are the norm." This was only made possible because of financial contributions from local friend groups, generous donors, government and corporate grants, and businesses that saw the importance of investing in a "living" lab where green technology and nature-based education shape the next generation of environmental stewards!



## 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.

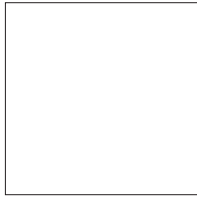
Interested in learning more about purchasing a paver for the Footsteps to Freedom pathway? Please contact our Donor Relations Associate, Anna Joyce, at [anna.joyce@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:anna.joyce@montgomeryparks.org) or 301-495-2511.





**MONTGOMERY PARKS**  
FOUNDATION

2425 Reedie Drive  
12th Floor  
Wheaton, MD 20902



**FOUNDATION FOCUS**  
FALL 2024

## A Peak Behind the Scenes

On a warm day in May, loyal donors of the Montgomery Parks Foundation gathered for a special behind the scenes tour of Pope Farm Nursery. This magical backbone of the park system is not normally open to the public. It was a rare and special opportunity to take a tractor ride tour through this sprawling complex.

On the tractor tour, guests learned about the incredible amount of work that Pope Farm Nursery does to keep Montgomery County parks growing and thriving. From planting and replacing trees throughout the park system to recycling broken wood and branches to make mulch, fence posts, and even benches, Pope Farm Nursery is an ecosystem all in itself!



caption

Pope Farm Nursery provides a cost-effective program dedicated to producing high-quality trees, shrubs, perennials, native, and annual plants. Each of these plants are then used to support the development, maintenance, beautification, and conservation of over 37,000 acres of parkland.

Pope Farm has 75 acres of growing facilities that include greenhouses, overwintering houses, containerized trees and shrubs, and irrigated field plots. They grow most of the trees, shrubs, and ornamental plants featured within the parks. The nursery also grows herbaceous plants for stormwater facilities located on parkland.

In short, we can thank Pope Farm for many of the plants, shrubs, and trees we see in our favorite parks. The Montgomery Parks Foundation was grateful to give our donors a glimpse into this phenomenal facility and learn more about the men and women who make it all happen.

Thank you, Pope Farm Nursery!



**MONTGOMERY PARKS**  
FOUNDATION



[montgomeryparksfoundation.org](http://montgomeryparksfoundation.org)

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### OFFICERS

Devin Ellis, *President*  
Marye Wells-Harley, *Vice President*  
John Robinson, *Treasurer*  
Clara Lovett, *Secretary*

#### AT LARGE

Rhonda Cunningham-Holmes  
Scott Goldberg  
Trish Heffelfinger  
Jane Houlihan  
Catherine Matthews

#### EX-OFFICIO

Miti Figueredo, *Director, Montgomery Parks*  
Artie Harris, *Planning Board Chair*

#### FOUNDATION STAFF

Katie Rictor, *Executive Director*  
Anna Joyce, *Development Manager*  
Jaclyn Riedel, *Marketing and Corporate Sponsorship Manager*