



MONTGOMERY PARKS  
FOUNDATION

# FOCUS

# FOUNDATION

FALL • 2026



## Small Investments. Big Impact.

Sometimes, the most meaningful park improvements aren't large-scale renovations—they're targeted investments that transform the places people use every day.

This summer, Glen Mar Neighborhood Park received a significant facelift thanks to a generous philanthropic investment made through the Montgomery Parks Foundation. While the donor has chosen to remain anonymous, their commitment to strengthening neighborhood parks will have a lasting impact on families for years to come.

The improvements include refreshed tennis and basketball courts, new playground equipment designed for children of multiple age groups, and other enhancements that will make the park more welcoming, accessible, and enjoyable for everyone. These updates breathe new life into a beloved community space while extending the lifespan of existing park infrastructure.

Projects like Glen Mar demonstrate the power of the Montgomery Parks' Facelift Program. By focusing on strategic improvements to aging neighborhood parks, the program delivers visible, meaningful results quickly and cost-effectively. Rather than waiting years for major capital projects, facelift investments allow Montgomery Parks to address pressing needs, improve safety, and enhance visitor experiences where they matter most.

As public budgets become increasingly constrained, partnerships with the community will play an even greater role in ensuring our parks continue to thrive. Philanthropic support gives Montgomery Parks the flexibility to move important projects forward, respond to local priorities, and invest in the neighborhood parks that residents rely on every day.

The Glen Mar project is an inspiring example of what is possible when public stewardship and private generosity come together. Building on its success, the Montgomery Parks Foundation is committed to expanding support for future Facelift projects across the county—bringing meaningful improvements to more neighborhood parks and helping ensure every community has access to safe, vibrant, and welcoming outdoor spaces.



**The Glen Mar Neighborhood Park basketball court before (above) and after (top).**

## Growing Impact:

### FOUNDATION SECURES \$100,000 GRANT TO STRENGTHEN MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S TREE CANOPY

We are proud to share that the Foundation has been awarded a **\$100,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Mid-Atlantic Community Forestry Fund** to launch a new Volunteer Tree Care Program that will protect and strengthen Montgomery County's urban forest.

While planting trees is essential, ensuring they thrive is equally important. This grant will establish a coordinated volunteer program dedicated to caring for young trees through mulching, weed removal, deer protection, and other early maintenance practices that significantly improve long-term tree health and survival.



The initiative will focus on Montgomery Parks' Southern Operations Region, home to many of the county's Equity Focus Areas, where healthy tree canopy provides critical environmental, health, and quality-of-life benefits. Over the course of the grant, the program will:

- Engage and train more than **900 volunteers** in proper tree care techniques.
- Provide critical care for **over 6,000 young park trees**.
- Plant an additional **100 trees** through the Urban Forest Patch Program.
- Create new opportunities for residents and students to become lifelong stewards of their local parks.

This award is especially meaningful because it represents far more than a single grant—it demonstrates how philanthropic support helps unlock additional investment in our park system. Competitive grants like this allow the Foundation to leverage private giving into new funding streams that directly benefit Montgomery County residents.

Every donor who supports the Foundation strengthens our ability to pursue opportunities like this one. Your generosity allows us to develop innovative projects, build strong community partnerships, and compete successfully for funding that might otherwise go elsewhere.

Together, we're not simply planting trees—we're cultivating healthier parks, more resilient communities, and a lasting legacy of environmental stewardship. Thank you for helping us bring new resources, new opportunities, and lasting impact to Montgomery County Parks.

## Welcome Wayne Jacas!

We are thrilled to welcome **Wayne Jacas** to the Montgomery Parks Foundation Board of Trustees! A Boyds resident and longtime Montgomery County volunteer, Wayne brings more than 25 years of experience in engineering, construction, regulatory affairs, and program management, along with a deep commitment to community service.

Wayne returned to Maryland 13 years ago and settled in Montgomery County with his wife and three children. Outside of work, he enjoys cycling and coaching baseball. His favorite park is **Black Hill Regional Park**, where he enjoys walking and biking the trails, fishing on the lake, and spending time with his family at the Nature Center.

As Director of Construction Program Strategy and Management at Washington Gas, Wayne provides strategic leadership for approximately \$2 billion in pipeline replacement programs across Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. His work brings together engineering, construction, regulatory compliance, permitting, and community considerations. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University, a Master Certificate in Project Management from Villanova University, and is a certified Project Management Professional.



**Wayne Jacas**

Wayne's commitment to Montgomery County extends well beyond his professional career. He is a former Chair of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board and previously served on the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services Advisory Committee. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross Montgomery, Howard and Frederick Counties Chapter and as Vice President of Programs for the 100 Black Men of Maryland.

As a member of the Foundation's Outreach Committee, Wayne looks forward to bringing his professional expertise, community connections, and passion for service to help advance the Foundation's mission and strengthen its connection to the communities it serves.

# Remembering John M. Robinson:

## A LEGACY THAT WILL CONTINUE TO GROW

The Montgomery Parks Foundation mourns the passing of our dear friend, longtime trustee, and steadfast champion of Montgomery County Parks, **John M. Robinson**.



**John M. Robinson**

For more than a decade, John helped shape the Foundation into the organization it is today. Serving first as Treasurer, then as Board President, and most recently returning to the role of Treasurer, he provided the steady leadership, thoughtful counsel, and unwavering commitment that guided the Foundation through years of growth and transformation. His dedication to our mission never wavered, and his influence can be

found in countless initiatives that continue to enrich our parks and the communities they serve.

John believed deeply in the power of parks to improve lives. He understood that parks are more than beautiful landscapes—they are places where children discover nature, families create traditions, neighbors build community, and future generations learn to value conservation. His vision helped strengthen the Foundation's ability to partner with Montgomery Parks in preserving these treasured spaces for everyone.

Beyond the Foundation, John devoted his career to public service, earning the respect of colleagues and community leaders alike. He approached every challenge with integrity, humility, and an unwavering focus on the public good. Those qualities made him not only an exceptional leader, but also a trusted mentor and friend.

Those of us fortunate enough to serve alongside John will miss his calm demeanor, thoughtful perspective, and quiet generosity. He celebrated the successes of others, offered guidance without seeking recognition, and consistently reminded us that meaningful progress is built through collaboration and service.

John's legacy lives on in every park improvement, conservation effort, and community investment that the Foundation has helped make possible. The organization he helped steward is stronger because of his leadership, and future generations of Montgomery County residents will continue to benefit from his vision.



ILLUSTRATION BY NATNAT/ADOBE STOCK PHOTOS

# Leave a Legacy That Lasts



Montgomery Parks are where memories are made—family picnics, first bike rides, peaceful walks, championship games, and moments of quiet reflection in nature. Through legacy giving, you can help ensure these special places continue to inspire and serve our community for generations to come.

A legacy gift, also known as a planned gift, allows you to support the parks you love while meeting your personal and financial goals. Many planned gifts are made as part of an estate plan and can offer significant tax advantages, making them an impactful way to leave a lasting mark on Montgomery County.

There are many ways to include Montgomery Parks in your legacy, including:

- **A bequest in your will or trust**, naming the Montgomery Parks Foundation to support the parks or a specific park or program that is meaningful to you.
- **Retirement assets**, such as an IRA or 401(k), which can be a tax-efficient way to make a charitable gift.
- **Qualified charitable distributions from your IRA**, which may help satisfy your required minimum distribution while supporting the parks today.
- **Life insurance policies**, by naming the Montgomery Parks Foundation as a beneficiary.
- **Life income gifts**, such as charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts, which can provide income during your lifetime while benefiting Montgomery Parks in the future.

The Montgomery Parks Foundation is honored to steward legacy gifts that preserve and enhance our parks, trails, playgrounds, gardens, natural areas, and recreational spaces.

To learn more about creating a lasting legacy in Montgomery Parks, contact the Montgomery Parks Foundation at [parksfoundation@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:parksfoundation@montgomeryparks.org) or 301-495-2490. We would be honored to help you make a gift that reflects your values and your love of parks.

PHOTO BY MONKEY BUSINESS/ADOBE STOCK PHOTOS



**MONTGOMERY PARKS**  
FOUNDATION

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# FOUNDATION FOCUS

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## Meet Liz Rogers

### A CHAMPION FOR COMMUNITY AND GREEN SPACE

We are thrilled to welcome Liz Rogers to our Board of Trustees! A Montgomery County-based land use attorney with a background in community planning, Liz brings a deep understanding of how thoughtfully designed spaces shape daily life, along with a genuine love of the outdoors.



**Liz Rogers**

An Arizona native, Liz has always appreciated the outdoors. A runner, hiker, and avid gardener, she often visits her favorite park, the Agricultural History Farm Park, to get inspiration for her own gardens. Moving to the area and becoming a parent gave her a new appreciation for Montgomery County's park system. Exploring the parks with her family, she came to appreciate the ample opportunities to get outdoors together, from playgrounds to trails to open fields, and her family can often be found at Cabin John Regional Park.

Liz is excited to contribute her professional experience to her work at the Foundation. As a principal at Lerch, Early & Brewer in Bethesda, her land use practice regularly intersects with the public spaces that bring communities together. She is especially proud of her work on Lerner's Black Hill project in Germantown, a development that has dedicated 64 acres to Black Hill Regional Park, where her work helped secure a new trail connection linking the surrounding neighborhood to the park's Crystal Rock Trail.

As a member of the Outreach Committee, Liz looks forward to bringing her professional experience and her passion for the outdoors together in service of the Foundation's mission, helping strengthen our connections with the communities our parks serve.



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

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