

**Department of Parks
Director's Report
Thursday, April 28, 2011**

Highlights:

- **Redesigned ParkProjects.org website launched**
 - **Park re-openings**
 - **Montgomery Parks wins several MRPA Awards**
 - **Project status reports**
 - **FY13-18 CIP and amendments to the FY11-16 CIP**
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Events

- APRIL 30, Saturday – Arbor Day at Locust Grove Nature Center, 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm, featuring a native plant sale, tree climbing, bucket climbing and more. Please attend if you can! www.LocustGrove.org
- APRIL 30 – Annual Run-a-Muck race at Lake Needwood – thousands of people experiencing dirty, messy fun! <http://runamuckfestival.com/locations/dc/>
- APRIL 30 – SEPTEMBER 18 – Wings of Fancy Butterfly Exhibit opens at Brookside Gardens South Conservatory, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm daily.
- MAY 4 – Restoring the Once-Mighty American Chestnut Tree Lecture at Meadowside Nature Center, 7:00 pm.
- MAY 14 – Archaeology Day at Needwood Mansion, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, www.ParksArchaeology.org.
- June 12—South Germantown Driving Range ParTee, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm, www.SGDrivingRange.com

Highlights

- The Olney Manor Skate Park event, Saturday, April 23 was a success despite rainy weather with nearly 75 skateboarding enthusiasts visiting the park.
- Montgomery Parks launched a newly redesigned website – www.ParkProjects.org –featuring park development projects in Montgomery Parks. The website is a tool to keep the community informed about the status of park development projects and about projects needing public input. Features include a search function, information about the MNCPPC Capital Improvements Program and a step-by-step outline on how parks are built.
- The South Germantown Driving Range opening and Spring Party were put on hold due to delays in permitting and utility issues. The par-tee has been moved to June 12 and will feature representatives and specials from Nike Golf.
- The Department won two prestigious Maryland Recreation and Parks Association design awards for Park Development Division projects as follows: The Landscape Site/ASLA

Design Award for Dowden's Ordinary Special Park; and The PARC Branch Award for "Planning & Design with Environmental Protection in Mind" for the Matthew Henson Trail.

- Brookside Gardens Rain Garden won the MRPA Branch Creative Maintenance Award. They were also awarded Best Facility Brochure for Brookside Gardens Xperience.
- In MRPA's media showcase category, Montgomery Parks, MNCPPC Parks Search website won the award for Best Website; and Olney Manor Skate Park won for Best Program Logo.
- A kick-off meeting was held on April 14 to start the detailed design phase for Greenbriar Local Park.
- A kick-off meeting was held on March 10 to start facility planning for Josiah Henson Special Park.
- Construction is beginning for East Norbeck Local Park.
- The new Adventure Playground at Wheaton Regional Park is being installed, and you are encouraged to drop by the construction site off Shorefield Road.
- Construction is beginning for the long-awaited playground renovation at Maplewood Alta Vista Local Park.
- The FY13-18 CIP Public Forum jointly sponsored by the Planning Board and the Recreation Advisory Boards was held on April 7. Several residents testified for projects that they would like to see included in the upcoming FY13-18 CIP, ranging from new facilities such as cricket fields and volleyball courts to renovation of existing park facilities. In June, staff will return to the Board with responses to all of the public testimonies that were submitted.
- The PHED Committee held a session on amendments to the currently approved FY11-16 CIP on April 11. All of the committee members supported the amendments, including adding an appropriation for a State Bond Bill for the Warner Circle Special Park project and current revenue cuts in various CIP projects.
- On April 7, the Planning Board approved an amendment of the FY11-16 CIP and a supplemental appropriation to the FY11 Capital Budget to add \$1,620,000 to the Pollution Prevention and Repairs to Ponds & Lakes PDF. This request has since been forwarded to the County Executive and Council for review and approval.
- The Directorate, Division Chiefs, and budget staff have been involved in or testified at several County Council public hearings and worksessions on the FY12 Budget, with more to come.

Mary R. Bradford

Director

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