

**Department of Parks
Director's Report
Thursday, July 21, 2011**

Highlights:

- **2 Grant Awards for Poole's Store and Oakley Cabin**
 - **52 New Weed Warrior Volunteers**
 - **Lake Needwood Dredging Complete**
 - **Lake Frank Trail Construction Set to Begin**
 - **Black Hill Trail Renovation Set to Begin**
 - **MDE Inspections of Lake Needwood and Lake Frank -- Good**
 - **New "Beat the Heat" Evening Hours at Olney Manor Skate Park**
 - **Children in Nature/Environmental Literacy**
 - **MCPS School Sites Update**
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Events

- JULY 23—Grand Opening Celebration for the Rock Creek Trail Bridge, Aspen Hill Local Park, 5013 Baltic Avenue, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon, www.MontgomeryParks.org
- JULY 25 – PHED/ED, County Council, MCPS Site Selection process, 7CHR, 2:00 p.m.
- JULY 25—Community Meeting: Facility Planning for Woodside Urban Park and the Department of Health and Human Services Building, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., MRO Auditorium
www.montgomeryparks.org/calendar/events/index.php?com=detail&eID=1177&year=2011&month=07
- JULY 26 – County Council scheduled proclamation in honor of National Parks and Recreation Month, approx. 9:30 a.m., Council Office Building, Rockville
- JULY 27 – Montgomery Parks Foundation board meeting (TBD)
- AUGUST 1—Ribbon Cutting for the Washington Nationals Miracle Field, South Germantown Recreational Park, 17950 Germantown Park Drive, 10:15 am.
<http://mncppc.typepad.com/news/2011/03/washington-nationals-join-civic-community-organizations-to-build-miracle-field-at-south-germantown-r.html>
- NOW – SEPTEMBER 18—Wings of Fancy Life Butterfly & Caterpillar Exhibit, Brookside Gardens, South Conservatory, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm daily, www.BrooksideGardens.org

Highlights

- We received two grants from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority for cultural resources in the parks: \$47,000 capital grant to provide heritage-related amenities at Poole's Store in Seneca and a \$9,000 non-capital grant for archaeological analysis of artifacts found at Oakley Cabin in Brookeville.
- Park planning and stewardship staff conducted three Weed Warrior training classes in the spring quarter, certifying 52 new volunteers -- a higher than usual turnout and very encouraging.
- The Lake Needwood dredging project is completed. Over 160,000 cubic yards of sediment were removed from the upper lake and forebay. Some work remains grading and seeding in the disposal area, approximately ¼ mile east of the lake, and will likely continue for the next couple

of months. As part of the habitat enhancement goal of this project, wetland plants and trees will be planted during the next fall planting season.

- The contractor constructing the ICC community stewardship project, Lake Frank connector trail to the Rock Creek hiker biker trail, received their Notice to Proceed this week, with 120 working days to complete the project. The surrounding community has been notified of the start date for the project.
- Our contractors will begin renovation of the hard surface hiking trail on the eastern side of Black Hill Regional Park to improve trail conditions and accessibility for visitors, maintenance staff, and Park Police. We anticipate construction will last approximately one year. In addition, a stream restoration project along a small tributary has begun and will be completed in September.
- The 5-year video inspections of the risers and principal spillways at Lake Needwood and Lake Frank high hazard dams were recently completed. The inspections included a robotic camera survey within the risers and pipes as well as an underwater video inspection of the risers by divers. The inspections found all to be in good condition given the age of facilities and nature of these impoundments. These inspections are required by the Maryland Department of Environment.
- Parks staff has extended evening hours at the Olney Manor Skate Park to better serve our customers. Olney Manor Skate Park is now open as follows: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00 pm – 10:00 pm; Wednesday, 1:00 pm – 11:00 pm (9:00 pm – 11:00 pm on Wednesdays are for adults only—very popular); Friday, 4:00 pm – 11:00 pm; Saturday, 12:30 pm – 11:00 pm; and Sunday, 12:30 pm – 9:00 pm.
- The Montgomery County Senior Softball Association Held a softball tournament on July 16-17, and the U. S. Tennis Association hosted a tennis tournament at the Olney Manor Recreational Park on July 15-16.
- The first of several planning sessions regarding opportunities for corporate sponsorships in parks was held with key park staff and our consultant, including preliminary asset mapping.
- Parks staff is participating in several events and meetings this month on the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature and the new push for No Child Left Inside legislation at the national level, emulating the recent Maryland environmental literacy requirement.
- Park staff continued meeting with Montgomery County Public Schools regarding ways to collaborate on siting public schools while minimizing impacts to parkland. MCPS also will hold six meetings and a community presentation as part of a feasibility study for a new proposed middle school at Rock Creek Hills Park, intended to determine spatial relationships within the school, pedestrian and traffic flow, and the school's integration into the community. The next two are at B-CC High School choral room on 7 p.m. on July 28 and 2 p.m. on August 10. The community presentation will be 7 p.m. on Sept. 8 at Westland Middle School.

Mary R. Bradford

Director

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