SUBJECT: Temporary Suspension of Alcohol Prohibition in Designated Parks

AUTHORITY: M-NCPPC Park Rules and Regulations, Chapter I, Section 3

RELATED: M-NCPPC Park Rules and Regulations, Chapter III, Section 4.A(4), Chapter IV, Section 3.A.

EFFECTIVE: September 24, 2020

EXPIRATION: May 31, 2021, with the option to extend for up to twelve additional months

Pursuant to Chapter I, Section 3, of the M-NCPPC Park Rules & Regulations (2017) (the “Parks Rules”), the Director of the Montgomery County Department of Parks (“Montgomery Parks”) issues the following Park Directive:

1. Pursuant to the Parks Rules, Chapter III, Section 4.A(4), a permit is required to authorize the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on Park Property or in a Facility in a place where it is not authorized by Park Directive. Furthermore, pursuant to Chapter IV, Section 3.A. no Person shall possess, use or distribute beverages containing alcohol on Park Property, except as authorized by Permit or Park Directive.

2. For the purposes of this Park Directive, alcoholic beverages are defined as beer, wine, mixed drinks, and/or spirits.

3. As Montgomery County continues its COVID-19 phased reopening plan, Montgomery Parks is currently supporting the restaurant industry by encouraging park visitors to order delivery or take-out and enjoy a “Picnic in the Park.” The “Picnic in the Park” initiative launched on Friday, August 7, 2020, and is currently being piloted in nine parks:
   - Jesup Blair Local Park
   - Acorn Urban Park
   - Germantown Town Center Urban Park
   - Norwood Local Park
   - Olney Manor Recreational Park
   - Takoma Urban Park
   - Wall Local Park
   - Wheaton Local Park
4. This Park Directive temporarily suspends the current prohibition on alcohol, but only in the parks associated with the “Picnic in the Parks” initiative, as designated above. Furthermore, the Park Directive allows park visitors to possess and consume alcoholic beverages in designated spaces located within the park, provided park visitors are at least 21 years of age and responsibly consuming alcohol in accordance with all applicable law.

5. The possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages for this Park Directive is allowed from 11:00 a.m. to dusk, and park visitors must adhere to all signage and directions for this Park Directive appearing at designated parks.

6. Except as described in this Park Directive, all other restrictions on the possession and consumption of alcohol on Montgomery Parks Property remain in effect.

Authorized and approved as provided under the Park Rules adopted on September 17, 2020 by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission:

SIGNATURE: ______________________________ 
Michael F. Riley, Director
Montgomery County Department of Parks

DATE: September 14, 2020

This Park Directive was published with the agenda of the Montgomery County Planning Board for its regular meeting held on September 17, 2020. Initials and Date: 09/14/2020

This Park Directive was published on the website of the Montgomery County Department of Parks on September 4, 2020.

*** [Underlined] added in the amended Park Directive. This amended Park Directive replaces the prior version with the Effective Date of September 17, 2020.