

Cultivate

Bloom with
Brookside Gardens!

Spring &
Summer
2026



MontgomeryParks.org
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Brookside Gardens

1800 Glenallan Avenue
Wheaton, Maryland 20902
BrooksideGardens.org

Hours

Gardens: Sunrise–Sunset

Conservatory:

Mar. 1–Oct. 31: 10:00 am–5:00 pm
Nov. 1–Feb. 28: 10:00 am–4:00 pm

Visitor Center:

Mar. 1–Oct. 31: 9:00 am–5:00 pm
Nov. 1–Feb. 28: 9:00 am–4:00 pm

Accessibility

MoCoParks.org/BG-Accessibility

Master Gardeners –

Plant Clinics at Brookside Gardens

April–Oct.:

Wednesdays: 10:00 am–1:00 pm
Saturdays: 10:00 am–1:00 pm
Sundays: 1:00–4:00 pm

The Shop at Brookside Gardens

Mar. 1 to Oct. 31: 10:00 am – 4:30 pm
Nov. 1 to Feb. 28: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm*

*Hours are seasonal. Visit

www.BrooksideGardens.org for closure dates.

McCullis Gardens

6910 Greentree Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

Friends of Brookside Gardens

1800 Glenallan Avenue
Wheaton, Maryland 20902
FriendsofBrooksideGardens.org

Cover: *Clethra alnifolia 'Ruby Spice'*



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Letter from the Director:

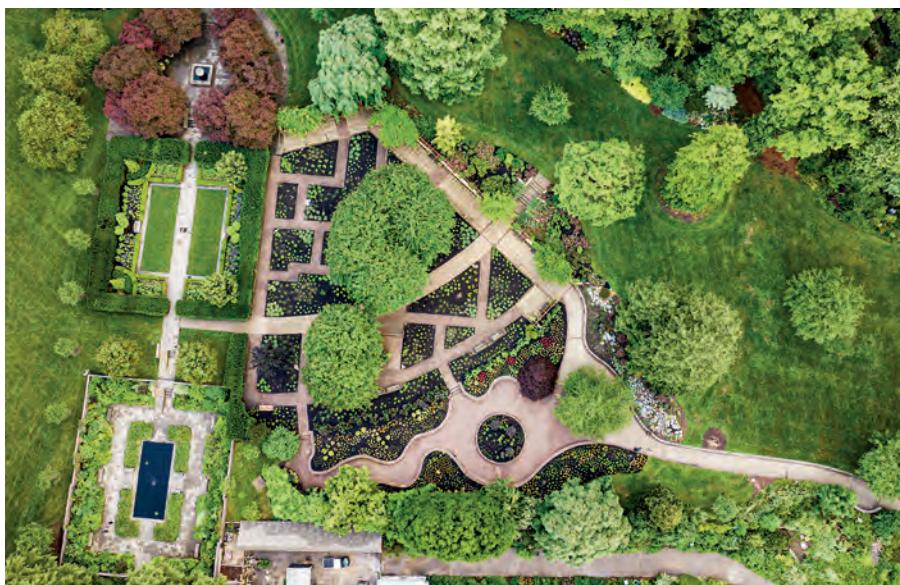


The new year often inspires resolutions for self-improvement, and this year, Brookside Gardens staff is embracing that spirit. We are actively engaging in a self-assessment process to unite as a team with shared values and goals, aiming for a more collaborative approach to planning our gardens, programs, and events. With funding at the local, state, and federal levels becoming increasingly limited, we recognize our responsibility to use the tax-funded operating budget, earned revenues, and donations as efficiently and effectively as possible.

We are reaffirming our dedication to horticultural excellence, environmental stewardship, and well-being for all, while strengthening the sense of belonging and inclusion that makes Brookside Gardens a special place for visitors, volunteers, and staff. For example, we are developing a new plant collections policy to guide plant purchases and garden displays, emphasizing native species and environmentally friendly landscape management practices. Additionally, we are drafting an interpretive plan to better coordinate our education program offerings and special events, ensuring they align closely with our mission. We also plan to collaborate more with local organizations that share our values and can help us reach new audiences, especially those who may not be regular public garden visitors.

Together, we look forward to a year of growth, innovation, and deeper connections, making Brookside Gardens an even more welcoming and inspiring place for everyone.

Stephanie Oberle
Director, Brookside Gardens



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REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 17



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Cultivating Community: Building a More Inclusive and Engaged Environmental Future Through Partnership



Brookside Gardens continued to deepen its commitment to community-centered environmental education by partnering with nonprofits, schools, authors, and cultural organizations throughout 2025. These collaborations strengthened our program offerings while uplifting the work of groups across the region dedicated to environmental stewardship, youth engagement, and inclusive public learning.

Working with organizations like EcoLatinos expanded our ability to serve Spanish-speaking audiences. EcoLatinos empowers Latino communities in the Chesapeake Bay region to become champions of environmental justice. For Earth Day at Brookside Gardens, EcoLatinos hosted a Climate Pledge Tree activity that invited visitors to commit to personal sustainability actions. Later in the summer, they returned for bilingual pop-up exploration programs, including a hands-on enviroscapes watershed model, which simulates water pollution in the landscape.

Our partnerships extended into literacy and the arts. During Children's Day in September, we collaborated with Politics & Prose to connect visitors with author Ann McCallum Staats and her book *Fantastic Flora: The World's Biggest, Baddest, and Smelliest Plants*. Her booth featured a lively Two Truths and a Lie plant facts game and seed-planting activities, giving children the chance to interact directly with a plant-focused author.

Beyond public events, Brookside Gardens supported local schools in their sustainability efforts. As a Green Center certified by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), we partnered with Bel Pre and Oak View Elementary Schools as they worked toward MAEOE Green School Certification. We helped these schools document environmental curricula and navigate the application process while

strengthening environmental education across Montgomery County.

Our adult education initiatives flourished as well. For Earth Month, we partnered with the DC Environmental Film Festival to screen *Family Tree*, a documentary highlighting two Black families fighting to preserve their land while balancing economic potential with environmental protection. The screening was followed by a panel discussion exploring forest conservation and climate challenges, sparking meaningful dialogue about the intersections of land stewardship, equity, and climate action—conversations essential to building a more just and sustainable future.

We also celebrated Black Birders Week in May through a collaboration with the DC Bird Alliance, which led guided tours highlighting the rich birdlife at Brookside Gardens while supporting visibility for Black nature enthusiasts. This partnership reflects our commitment to creating spaces where all visitors feel welcome and where Montgomery County's diversity is celebrated.

In a particularly meaningful collaboration, we worked with the Menare Foundation and Beech Works to host the creators of *Rooted Wisdom*, a podcast exploring Underground Railroad sites and their lasting impact. The program featured Faith Harper, a descendant of the Harper family, who explored what the 1870s Harper Cabin—now at Brookside Nature Center—has witnessed, from the free Black community of Jonesville to its role today as an educational landmark. Through discussion and podcast excerpts, the program investigated how self-liberators used their knowledge of the natural landscape to forge a path to freedom, connecting historical acts of courage to current environmental understanding.

To support the professional landscape community, we partnered with the Ecological



Staff Updates

Landscape Alliance in December to offer an intensive in-person training for landscape designers and architects. Led by ecological designer Claudia West of Phyto Studio, the workshop provided strategies for creating resilient, low-maintenance plant systems that support biodiversity—expertise these professionals will bring to parks, gardens, and public spaces across our region.

Looking ahead to spring, Brookside Gardens is excited to continue its partnership with EcoLatinos by hosting the second cohort of the Green Infrastructure Training for Latino Landscape Professionals. Using the Gardens as a living classroom, our staff will assist with Spanish-language training focused on sustainable landscape practices. This collaboration reflects our ongoing commitment to workforce development, environmental stewardship, and inclusive learning.

Each collaboration brought new voices, perspectives, and expertise to our gardens, transforming them into more than just a beautiful public space. They became a place where caring for the environment takes root not only in the soil, but in the hearts and minds of everyone who visits. As we look ahead, we remain committed to cultivating these relationships, knowing that the strongest gardens—and communities—grow through shared knowledge, mutual support, and collective care for the natural world.

Stephanie Oberle
Director of Brookside Gardens

and

Jason Gedeik
Adult Education Manager



Colleen Dolak (she/they) is the new Assistant Director for Advancement. Colleen brings over a decade of experience in fundraising, communications, community engagement and "friend-raising," supporting nonprofits specializing in education and social justice. Colleen served in various roles in advancement at Montgomery College where they worked for over a decade. They hold a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's in science in nonprofit and association management. With husband Matt, two teenagers and two rescue dogs, Colleen loves exploring good hikes, parks, new restaurants and local breweries in the community.



Strolling Into Well-Being: How Nature Deepens Connection and Resilience at Brookside Gardens

Stop. Take a deep breath, inhaling fully, and exhaling slowly and completely. Let your body relax while you notice the sights, sounds and smells around you. This practice of slowing down and being present is what Brookside Garden's wellness programs are all about. From mindfulness walks and retreats to forest bathing and tai chi classes, our wellness programming is uniquely designed to deepen your sense of connection and awe in the gardens.

As our resident Wellness Specialist, I am always working to enhance and improve that programming. Last year marked an exciting milestone: Brookside Gardens was selected for the inaugural cohort of the Nature, Health and Well-being Program Evaluation Training hosted by the Collective for Nature Immersion Science and Practice (C-NISP) at Colorado State University. This pioneering program brought together researchers and practitioners from across the country to connect, learn from one another and collaborate on scientific research about nature-based wellness. This included an immersive training at Colorado State University and the creation of a tailored evaluation plan for one of our wellness programs.

I decided to evaluate the long-term impacts of Strolls for Well-Being through focus groups with past participants. Strolls for Well-Being is an eight-week mindful walking program at Brookside Gardens featuring twelve garden walks exploring topics like Transition and Fulfillment, and three facilitated meetings for participants to share insights. The focus groups asked participants about the lasting impact of Strolls for Well-Being on their lives one to two years after completing the program. We conducted two virtual focus groups.

One major result participants reported was a shift in their behavior and a deepened relationship with nature. Many participants already spent some time in nature, walking dogs, tending to gardens or houseplants



and occasionally visiting Brookside Gardens. However, the program's structured experience allowed them to see the natural world with new eyes! The practice of mindfully strolling, led by our prompts and paired with journaling their reflections, inspired them to become more observant, spend more time immersed in nature, and even explore new hobbies like birding, journaling, hiking and photography.

The other major result was improved mental and emotional wellness. Many people are drawn to Strolls for Well-Being because of a difficult life transition, loss, or a desire for new perspective. Positive outcomes included reduced stress, eased grief, making self-care a higher priority, a more optimistic outlook, and a deeper sense of connection—with one participant even developing a close friendship. Additionally, participants reported feeling more resilient, inspired by the resilience of nature, and more equipped to handle challenges with the new tools in their mental health toolbox.

When asked what they would change or add, participants suggested more meetings and

opportunities to stay connected with others. This was the confirmation we needed for an addition to the Strolls for Well-Being program piloted last summer, *Strolls Social!* Strolls Social is an opportunity for past participants to build community by taking strolls together in green spaces throughout Montgomery County and beyond.

Brookside Gardens' wellness programs invite everyone to slow down, reconnect with nature, and nurture both mind and body. Whether you're seeking to build community or journey deep within, there's a path here for you to explore—and countless ways for nature to enrich your well-being.

Gabrielle "Gigi" Gilliam
Wellness & Advancement Program Specialist

A Garden Reborn: How Brookside Gardens is Restoring Nature, One Plant at a Time

The summer of 2024 marked a turning point for Brookside Gardens as full-time efforts began to combat non-native invasive (NNI) species and restore native plantings throughout its natural areas—those untamed edges beyond the formal beds. With team members Jacqueline Moraes-Varjao and Nicholas Hall, I lead a growing army of Natural Areas Assistant volunteers in the battle against invasive plants—including Linden Viburnum, Snowball Viburnum, privet species, and kudzu (among others). The volunteer program has already grown to 15 members, many of them Certified Weed Warriors.

The removal strategy varies with soil conditions, species, and plant age. Smaller woody invaders are extracted using weed wrenches, which pull the entire root system while minimizing soil disturbance, critical for preventing dormant seeds from germinating. Larger specimens are flush-cut and treated with highly targeted, low-residual herbicide applied directly to stumps. This method controls the invasive species effectively while keeping herbicide use to a minimum. Montgomery Parks implements an integrated pest management (IPM) strategy countywide. Non-chemical methods are prioritized wherever feasible, however, when professional staff determine these methods to be insufficient, targeted herbicide applications may be conducted in strict compliance with federal, state, and local regulations to protect public health and the environment. This invasive species control program represents the first comprehensive, long-term natural area management effort since Brookside Gardens opened in 1969, making the use of herbicides currently essential. The goal is to dramatically cut chemical use within five years, aiming for a future where reliance on herbicides in these spaces is no longer necessary.

The team's approach is methodical. First, they clear invasive trees and shrubs blocking access to the volunteers. Once pathways

open, attention shifts to the ground layer to remove English Ivy and Japanese Honeysuckle, creating a clean slate. This prepares the area for the next phase: planting native succession species, which are native plants that naturally emerge at different stages of ecosystem recovery, helping the habitat restore itself over time. Extensive research drives strategic plant selection, prioritizing species that support native wildlife and pollinators while providing essential ecosystem services like carbon sequestration and stormwater management. Plants are supplied by Pope Farm Nursery, Montgomery Parks' in-house growing operation, which specializes in producing local ecotypes through its Native Plant Program.

Summer 2025 saw the first succession plantings take root: native trees like American Sycamore; shrubs including American Witch-Hazel, Winterberry Holly, and Red Chokeberry; and herbaceous perennials such as Great Blue Lobelia, False Solomon's-Seal, and White Turtlehead. This is just a sampling of the restoration species being established.

Current efforts concentrate around the Visitor Center parking garden, where natural

areas suffered severe disturbance during construction that took place between 2014 and 2016. That disruption awakened dormant invasive seeds while increased sunlight from forest clearing triggered explosive NNI growth, creating the Gardens' most infested zone. Yet remarkable progress is underway: approximately 2.5 acres have been cleared and over 475 plants installed along the parking garden's edge and throughout sections of the Gude Garden forest, with many more to come.

The restoration at Brookside Gardens has just begun, but the impact is already visible. Each cleared acre and native plant brings the Garden closer to a resilient, thriving ecosystem. As invasive species recede and succession plantings take hold, the forests and edges are beginning to tell a new story—one of greater diversity, ecological balance, vibrant wildlife, and a lasting legacy for the community. Witness the transformation on your next visit!

Joshua Demers
Environmental Horticulturist



Thank You Donors!

The Montgomery Parks Foundation and the Friends of Brookside Gardens would like to thank all the generous donors to Brookside Gardens from December 15, 2024 – June 1, 2025. Your gifts have been invaluable in providing resources, programming, and additional support to the Gardens. To learn more about making a donation to support Brookside Gardens, please visit MontgomeryParksFoundation.org/donate-now/ or FriendsofBrooksideGardens.org

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DC Environmental Film Festival – Screening & Panel Discussion

Thursday | April 9 | 6:30 – 8:15 pm

FREE; but registration required

#PBG0134 100001

Visitor Center Auditorium

Brookside Gardens and the DC Environmental Film Festival present a screening of *Gardening for the Planet*, a documentary showcasing the power of native plant gardening to combat biodiversity loss and climate change. Stay for a panel of regional experts discussing native plant choices, sustainability, and conservation, and learn how you can make a difference right in your own backyard.

Brookside Gardens and FOBG Plant Sale

Sunday | April 19 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Visitor Center South Terrace

Get a head start on spring gardening! You'll appreciate the high-quality perennials, shrubs, and small trees grown at Montgomery Parks' Pope Farm and local nurseries. Enjoy a wide selection of plants, including native ecotypes, and get expert advice from staff horticulturists. Proceeds support ongoing efforts to beautify Brookside Gardens.

Earth Day

Sunday | April 26 | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

FREE | #PBG0128 100003

Celebrate Earth Day at Brookside Gardens with activities geared toward children and their families. Explore the science and art of sustainability through child-driven projects, plantings, and crafts. Registration is encouraged but not required.

Shakespeare in the Garden – As You Like It

Tuesday | June 30 | 7:00 – 8:45 pm

*Rain date: Wednesday, July 1 | 7:00 – 8:45 pm

FREE; no registration required

Delight in the Gude Garden's transformation into an open-air theatre for an outdoor performance of *As You Like It*. Follow Rosalind, Orlando, and their fellow wanderers into the Forest of Arden, a world of hidden identities, newfound freedoms, and love stirred by spirited mischief. Bring a picnic or enjoy the on-site food truck.

Plant Society Shows & Sales

Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley Camellia Show & Sale

Show: Saturday | March 28 | 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Sale: Saturday | March 28 | 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Silver Spring Garden Club Garden Mart

Saturday | May 9 | 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Northern Virginia Daylily Society Daylily Show

Saturday | July 11 | 1:00 – 4:00 pm

National Capital Cactus and Succulent Society Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale

Saturday | August 1 | 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Art Exhibits and Sale*

Brookside Gardens Visitor Center

See inside front cover for hours.

Mike Cohen | Bird Photographer

Philip Deshong | Landscape Photographer

Melisa Karma | Nature Photographer

January 26 – March 23

Julienne Clevenger | Oils Painter

Alexis Dominique Limpiado | Watercolor

Margaret Rose Hahn | Botanical

Illustration

March 23 - May 4

Montgomery Artists Association

Mixed Media

May 4 – June 15

Botanica | Botanical Illustrations

Botanical Art Society of the National Capital Region

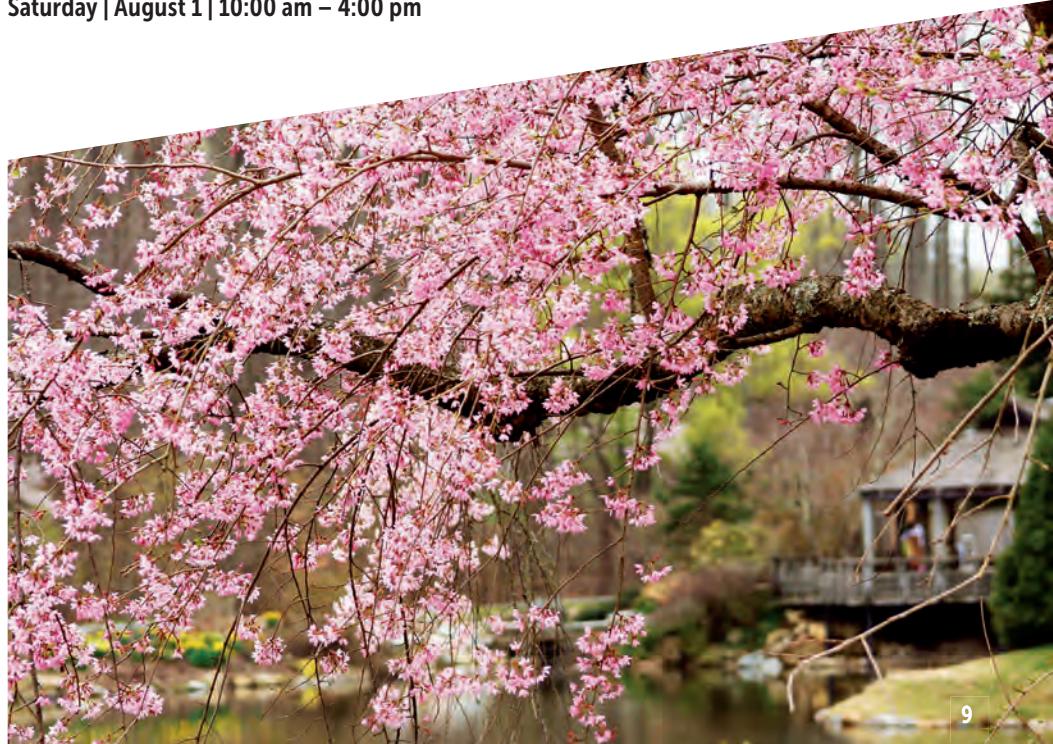
June 15 – July 27

Philip Levee | Oils Painter & Photographer

Joanie Grosfeld | Painter (au plein air)

July 27 – September 14

*Visit BrooksideGardens.org under Special Events for updates on art receptions!





Summer Twilight Concert Series

Sponsored by Friends of Brookside Gardens

Tuesdays in June | 6:30 – 8:00 pm

FREE; no registration required

Visitor Center Lawn

Dance the night away with this series of musical performances set in the beauty of the Gardens! Bring your friends and family, and don't forget your chairs, blankets, and picnics (allowed in the Gardens on concert evenings only). Food trucks will also be available for your dining pleasure. Alcohol is prohibited.

Olney Big Band

Traditional Big Band Jazz, Swing & Dance

Tuesday | June 2 | 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Visitor Center Lawn

Hey 1979

1970s & 80s Cover Band

Tuesday | June 9 | 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Visitor Center Lawn

René Ibañez & Cubano Groove

Latin / Cuban

Tuesday | June 16 | 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Visitor Center Lawn



The Sidleys

Indie Rock / Soul

Tuesday | June 23 | 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Visitor Center Lawn

The Butterfly Experience

Daily | April 1 – Sept 7 | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Under age 3: Free

Ages 3 to 12: \$10.99

(ticket fee \$9 plus \$1.99 service fee)

Ages 13+: \$15.99

(ticket fee \$14 plus \$1.99 service fee)

Visitors to the seasonal exhibit will get an intimate, up-close look at hundreds of brilliant live butterflies from North America, Central America, South America, Africa, and Asia as they flutter among colorful flowers throughout Brookside Gardens' South Conservatory.

Trained staff and volunteers will highlight the fascinating world of lepidoptera, the stages of metamorphosis, the important role butterflies play in healthy ecosystems, and how to ensure these beautiful insects thrive in our own gardens. To learn more and purchase tickets online, please visit: www.MontgomeryParks.org/Butterfly

Tickets available starting February 17



Sensory Friendly Butterfly Experience

Enjoy a gentle morning at The Butterfly Experience at Brookside Gardens with limited capacity and natural lighting for visitors with sensory sensitivities. Designed to be less overwhelming by reducing the number of visitors in the experience, sensory-friendly mornings provide an opportunity for children and their families to visit with the butterflies at their own pace. Fidgets will be provided, and staff will be on hand to facilitate the experience.

Ticket prices same as general admission.

Wednesday, April 15

Tuesday, May 12

Thursday, June 18

Sunday, July 12

Saturday, August 29

TIME: 9:00 – 10:00 am

Focus on Butterflies at Brookside Gardens

Bring your tripod and enjoy 90 minutes of uninterrupted photography in The Butterfly Experience before it opens to the public. Take your time to compose the perfect shot and capture hundreds of vibrant, live butterflies as they flutter among a rich array of colorful flowers, all in a serene, spacious setting designed for careful, creative photography.

\$48.99 | ticket fee \$45 plus \$3.99 service fee

Saturday, April 25

Thursday, May 21

Thursday, June 11

Saturday, July 18

Thursday, July 23

Saturday, August 1

Thursday, August 13

Friday, September 4

TIME: 7:30 – 9:00 am



REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 17

ONLINE PROGRAMS

▀ This symbol indicates programs offered as live, online Zoom webinars with audience Q&A. After registering, a link will be emailed to you 24 hours prior to the live webinar. Recordings will be made available to students.

Phone registrants must submit a signed waiver online prior to participating in Brookside Gardens' programs.

FRIENDS OF BROOKSIDE GARDENS (FOBG) DISCOUNTS

Look for special FOBG program pricing on many adult programs for members of the Friends of Brookside Gardens, a nonprofit organization established to support the mission of the Gardens. For information about joining the Friends of Brookside Gardens, visit www.FriendsofBrooksideGardens.org.

FEES REDUCTION PROGRAM

Reduced fee options are offered to Montgomery County Residents who qualify. For more information and to apply online, please visit: <https://montgomeryparks.org/about/fee-reduction/>

SPECIAL FOCUS TRACKS

Look for the following symbols highlighting specific tracks designed to offer more in-depth educational opportunities:

- ▀ **Sustainability Programs** – a focus on making our homes and gardens "greener."
- ✿ **Gardener's Focus** – for experienced gardeners who want to increase their knowledge through advanced cultivation and management techniques.
- ◆ **Landscape Design** – for those wishing to develop skills to compose beautiful and functional garden spaces through the artful juxtaposition of plants and hardscape elements.
- ✿ **Earth Month Programming** – Celebrate Earth Month with Brookside Gardens and learn ways to protect our environment.

Speaker Series

Sponsored by Friends of Brookside Gardens

Programs free; registration required

Each year Brookside Gardens welcomes nationally and internationally well-known horticulturists, botanists, authors, and speakers to explore a wide range of topics.

▀ Immigrants and the Creation of American Gardening

Wednesday | March 25 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

FREE | #PBG0228 100001

Wambui Ippolito, Horticulturist and Landscape Designer

Immigrants have profoundly shaped American gardening traditions. From introducing new plants to transforming design practices, their influence on our landscapes is lasting and complex. In this lecture, Wambui Ippolito explores immigrant landscape histories and their impact on land management and

gardening, offering fresh insights into how cultural exchange continues to redefine the American garden.

▀ Cultivation & Canvases: Gardening and American Impressionism

Thursday | June 18 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

FREE | #PBG0232 200001

Marta McDowell, Author, New York Botanical Garden Instructor and Historian

Join New York Botanical Garden instructor and historian Marta McDowell for this engaging lecture. At the turn of the 20th century, cultivating flowers came into fashion. Enter a group of painters who stepped into the garden for inspiration and subject matter. Join us in this engaging lecture as we explore how landscape history, horticulture, and art converged in the vibrant movement we now call American Impressionism.

Local Field Trips

▀ Royce Hanson Conservation Park at Broad Run

Wednesday | April 15 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

\$30 | FOBG \$27 | #PBG0219 100001

Ryan Colliton, Vegetation Ecology & Management Unit Leader, Montgomery Parks

Explore the newly opened Royce Hanson Conservation Park at Broad Run, a 477-acre preserve protecting wetlands, meadows, and reforested woodlands. Discover unique native plants like putty root orchid, yellow corydalis, jack-in-the-pulpit, and Virginia penwort, and walk through some of the oldest intact forests in our park system. Learn how conservation efforts sustain wildlife and biodiversity.

Rachel Carson Conservation Park – Summer Tour

Tuesday | July 14 | 9:00 – 11:00 am

\$30 | FOBG \$27 | #PBG0086 200001

Meet at Rachel Carson Conservation Park

Ryan Colliton, Vegetation Ecology & Management Unit Leader, Montgomery Parks

Rachel Carson was a pioneering environmentalist who called Montgomery County home. Explore her namesake park to learn how Montgomery Parks' restoration projects protect these natural habitats.

Journey through colorful meadows housing native perennials like bee balm and black-eyed Susan while discovering a prime example of a chestnut oak forest. Prepare for this active hike with sturdy shoes and a water bottle!

Garden Tours

Registration required for all tours.

Conservatory Tour: Conservation and Collection Curation

Wednesday | March 4 | 10:00 – 11:15 am

\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0229 100001

Meet at Conservatory entrance

Raymond Carter, Conservatory Manager, Brookside Gardens

Escape the winter chill and explore thoughtfully redesigned spaces showcasing rare tropical and subtropical plants. Discover conservation stories of incredible species and learn how collaborations with leading



botanical institutions support education, plant health, and the protection of critically endangered plants—all amid the beauty of gardens under glass.

Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tour

Tuesday | April 14 | 2:00 – 3:15 pm

\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0003 100001

OR

Thursday | April 16 | 10:30 – 11:45 am

\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0003 100002

Address and parking logistics will be sent after registration.

Angelus Bullock, Greenhouse Manager, Brookside Gardens

Opened in 2018, the O'Rourke Greenhouse spans four growing areas totaling 10,000 square feet under glass. Participants will explore the state-of-the-art technology that allows staff to grow a variety of plants year-round and get a sneak peek at thousands destined for garden displays.

McCillis Gardens Spring Tour

Tuesday | April 21 | 1:00 – 2:30 pm

\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0020 100001

OR

Saturday | April 25 | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0020 100002

Karl Quimby, Horticulturist, Brookside Gardens

Enjoy a tour of McCillis Gardens, a naturalistic five-acre estate tucked into a Bethesda neighborhood. Donated to Montgomery Parks in 1978 and managed by Brookside Gardens, it features a multitude of blooming azaleas, rhododendrons, magnolias, stewartia, redbuds and spring ephemerals. Experience the rich tapestry of spring hues and textures woven throughout this historic garden.

Azalea & Rhododendron Tour

Thursday | April 23 | 1:00 – 2:15 pm

\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0001 10001

Meet at Visitor Center entrance

Keely Shaughnessy, Horticulturist, Brookside Gardens

Join us for a walking tour of Brookside Gardens' late spring blooming shrubs and deciduous plants. Explore our colorful collection of azaleas and rhododendrons while learning how to incorporate them into your own home garden.

Guided Bird Walk at Brookside Gardens

Saturday | May 2 | 8:00 – 9:30 am

\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0133 100001

OR

Wednesday | May 6 | 7:30 – 9:00 am

\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0133 100002

Meet at Visitor Center entrance

Emily Williams, Avian Ecologist

Did you know that 168 bird species have been sighted at Brookside Gardens? Marvel at the spring migration and bring your binoculars to look for warblers, Baltimore orioles and orchard orioles, red-winged blackbirds, and many more!

Guided Bird Walk - Celebrating Black Birders Week

Wednesday | May 27 | 8:00 – 9:30 am

FREE | #PBG0186 100001

Meet at Visitor Center entrance

Maria-Elena Montero, Vice President, Programming, DC Bird Alliance

Join Brookside Gardens and the DC Bird Alliance as we celebrate Black Birders Week, supporting and increasing the visibility of black birders. Learn about the amazing variety of birds that make their homes in these gardens while helping to build a welcoming community.

★ Rose Garden Tour – Redesign Updates

Thursday | June 11 | 10:00 – 11:15 am

\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0182 200001

Meet at Conservatory entrance

Kristin Davey, Horticulturist, Brookside Gardens

This tour highlights the Rose Garden's evolution. Explore an organic approach to managing disease- and insect-prone plants, design strategies blending native and traditional perennials, and learn how ongoing refinements to the plant palette support a healthy, visually striking, and sustainable garden.

Horticulture Classes

Registration required

Note: Virtual lectures will be recorded and available for later viewing. In-person lectures will not be recorded. After registering, a link will be emailed 24 hours before the live webinar. Please ensure your Active Montgomery account has your correct email address.

V ♦ Introduction to Landscape Design

I & II

Jason Gedeik, Senior Horticulturist, Brookside Gardens

Whether upgrading your existing garden or developing a new area, you'll learn the fundamentals of landscape design to create functional, enjoyable, and beautiful outdoor spaces.

Session I

Thursday | March 5 | 7:00 – 9:00 pm

\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0012 100001

Learn practical steps in the design process, including site analysis, concept development, and defining functional goals for your space. Explore how environmental conditions influence plant health, minimize maintenance, and reduce costs. Real-world case studies will demonstrate these concepts in action and inspire your own design.

Session II

Thursday | March 19 | 7:00 – 9:00 pm

\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0013 100001

Learn to implement core design elements like color, texture, form, line, and scale to create a beautiful and functional landscape. Design concepts like seasonality and layering will also be explored. Plant combinations and lists will be examined that address site-specific challenges like sun vs. shade and dry vs. wet conditions.

✿ Azalea & Sapling Transplanting Workshop

Thursday | March 12 | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

\$25 | FOBG \$22 | #PBG0220 100001

McCillis Gardens

Karl Quimby, Horticulturist, Brookside Gardens
Join an experienced horticulturist for a hands-on demonstration of transplanting azaleas and woody seedlings. Learn how to increase your transplant success rate to improve growing conditions, enhance blooms, and reduce competition. Gain tools to determine when and where to transplant, reposition plants, and preserve cherished heirlooms.

✿ Branching Out: Dead Hedges for Beauty and Function in the Garden

Saturday | March 14 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

\$25 | FOBG \$22 | #PBG0222 100001

Adult Classroom

*Beto Diaz Galvan & Thomas Crawley,
Horticulturists, Brookside Gardens*

Discover how natural branches and plant materials can become beautiful dead hedges, garden borders, and sculptural features. This program will feature an indoor lecture on practical techniques and design ideas, followed by outdoor exploration of these rustic, eco-friendly structures that enhance gardens and provide wildlife habitat.

▀ ✽ ♦ Cultivating Ecology: A Practical Guide to Sustainable Garden Design

Wednesday | April 1 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0226 100001

Drew Asbury, Horticulturist, Brookside Gardens

Discover practical ways to transform your yard into a thriving, sustainable landscape. Drawing from the presenter's own garden, this talk explores phased planning, habitat-rich garden bed design, and how to choose native plants suited to your conditions. Learn actionable strategies that increase ecological value, support wildlife, and help you move confidently toward eco-friendly gardening practices.

✿ Soluciones para aguas pluviales y diseño sostenible para jardines domésticos

Sábado | 11 de abril | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

GRATIS | #PBG0230 100001

Adult Classroom

Personal de Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

Aprenda cómo los entornos naturales de conservación y los jardines pluviales pueden ayudar a gestionar las aguas pluviales en propiedades residenciales. Explore estrategias para dimensionar proyectos, estimar plantas y crear planes de plantación eficaces. Descubra plantas autóctonas que reducen la escorrentía y favorecen a los polinizadores y la fauna silvestre. Descubra cómo optar al programa RainScapes Rewards Rebate y solicite árboles de sombra gratuitos a través de Tree Montgomery. Plantas autóctonas gratuitas disponibles para los participantes.

▀ ✽ The Wildlife Value of Natives and Native Cultivars in Mt. Cuba Center's Trial Garden

Thursday | April 16 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0221 100001

Sam Hoadley, Manager of Horticultural Research, Mt. Cuba Center

Explore native plant species and cultivars from Mt. Cuba's trials that add beauty and ecological value to your garden. Review pollinator observations from concluded evaluations of monarda, phlox, echinacea, hydrangea, vernonia, and solidago, and preview ongoing trials including oakleaf hydrangeas and pycnanthemum. Preview the Asclepias trial, evaluated for pollinator value and as a monarch caterpillar larval host.

▀ RainScape Your Yard: Sessions I & II

Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection staff

A RainScape is a landscape technique that reduces stormwater runoff using rain gardens, conservation landscapes, green roofs, and permeable pavements. Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection offers rebates for approved projects. These sessions guide participants in creating a RainScape design plan. Classes are open to all, regardless of rebate participation.

▀ Session I: Evaluating Stormwater Solutions for Home Landscapes

Thursday | April 30 | 7:00 – 9:00 pm

\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0015 100001

Learn how environmentally friendly landscapes, such as conservation sites and rain gardens, can help manage stormwater issues on residential properties. We'll review steps to planning a RainScape including site evaluation and determining the type and scale of project that best suits your needs.

Session II: Plants & Landscape Design for RainScapes Gardens

Sunday | May 17 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

\$25 | FOBG \$22 | #PBG0015 100002

Adult Classroom

Explore strategies to properly size a garden project, estimate plant quantities, and create an effective planting plan. Study the range of native plants for managing water runoff

and supporting pollinators and wildlife. Learn the steps to develop and submit a plan that qualifies for the RainScapes Rewards Rebate. Registrants will receive a selection of free native plants to take home.

▀ ✽ Container Gardening with Native Plants

Thursday | May 7 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0225 100001

Elaine Mills, Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener

Even with patios, decks, or balconies, gardeners can create miniature habitats for pollinators and birds using native plants. Learn which species thrive in containers while supporting wildlife, with tips on soil, plant care, and attractive combinations featuring ferns, grasses, sedges, perennials, and small shrubs.

✿ Butterfly Gardening Made Easy: How to Support All Life Stages

Thursday | May 14 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

\$25 | FOBG \$22 | #PBG0223 100001

Adult Classroom

Carlos Rodriguez, Horticulturist, Brookside Gardens

Butterflies are declining worldwide, but gardeners can help. This lecture introduces key strategies for supporting Mid-Atlantic species, including understanding butterfly life cycles, recognizing species of concern, choosing appropriate host and nectar plants, integrating natives into existing gardens, and using design elements that create effective habitat. Learn practical steps to sustain butterflies at every life stage.

▀ ♦ Perfect Fit: Trees & Shrubs for Compact Gardens

Thursday | May 28 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0224 100001

*Kathy Jentz, Author of *The Urban Garden*, Editor and Publisher of *Washington Gardener Magazine**

Discover the possibilities of planting small trees and large shrubs in compact urban or suburban spaces. Tailored for the Mid-Atlantic, this selection includes natives, edibles, and hardy ornamentals that thrive in heat, pollution, and urban stress—from full sun to deep shade. Even patios and containers can host trees that transform your landscape.



V ♦ Native Plant Solutions: Perennials That Work in Deer Territory

Wednesday | June 10 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0236 200001

Shannon Currey, *Izel Native Plants*

This session covers deer-resistant perennials and strategies for gardening under deer pressure. Understanding plants' phytochemicals and structures will help you choose species that minimize browsing. While no plant is completely safe, discover native perennials that provide beauty and ecological benefits while helping you coexist with deer in your garden

Hands-on Workshops

Registration required

Note: All hands-on workshops are held in-person at the Visitor Center and are not eligible for the fee reduction program.

White Line Woodcut: Turning Carved Lines into Colorful Prints

Wednesday | March 18 | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

\$60 | FOBG \$54 | #PBG0217 100001

Adult Classroom

Sue Fierston, Teaching Artist and President of the International Nature Printing Society
White line woodcuts, or Provincetown prints, use a unique early 20th century technique creating multi-color images from a single wood block. In this workshop you'll trace a 6 x 8-inch drawing onto a block, carve the lines, paint the spaces with watercolor, and hand-print the image. Take home at least one unique print, your hand-carved block, and supplies to keep creating.

Introduction to Botanical Art: Painting Spring Ephemerals with Watercolors

Saturday | April 25 | 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

\$95 | FOBG \$86 | #PBG0218 100001

Adult Classroom

Joan Ducore, Botanical Illustrator and Instructor

Discover the art and science of botanical illustration in this hands-on workshop. Learn drawing and watercolor techniques tailored to plants, including brush handling, flat and graded washes, and wet-in-wet methods. Benefit from expert demonstrations and a variety of interactive class exercises. Prepared flower images and finished painting provide a

reference as you create your own watercolor.

Level: Beginner

Summer Perennial Container Workshop

Tuesday | May 19 | 10:00 - 11:30 am

\$55 | FOBG \$50 | #PBG0227 100001

Adult Classroom

Ashia Bunkley, Greenhouse Technician, Brookside Gardens

Create a vibrant perennial container that thrives in sun and partly sunny conditions, bursting with year-round color. Craft a kaleidoscope of blooms and foliage using compact, hardy plants—salvia, dianthus, echinacea, heuchera, and more—chosen for heat tolerance, winter toughness, and potential deer resistance. You'll love this planter, returning each year with radiant color.

Design Your Own Tropical Terrarium

Saturday | June 6 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

\$65 | FOBG \$59 | #PBG0235 200001

Adult Classroom

Kristen Sears, Greenhouse Manager, Plants Alive!
Create your own lush tropical terrarium! Design a vibrant living piece with tropical plants, moss, stones, and natural materials. Whether new to plant care or seeking a creative outlet, you'll leave with a custom terrarium, guidance on styling, and tips to help it thrive.

Leaves Three Ways: Drawing, Painting, and Printing Leaves at Brookside Gardens

Thursday | June 18 | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

\$50 | FOBG \$45 | #PBG0234 200001

Adult Classroom

Sue Fierston, Teaching Artist and President of the International Nature Printing Society
Capture summer by exploring leaves three ways! Begin with meditative contour drawing, then use watercolor to practice color mixing and painting techniques. Finish by hand-printing your leaves onto calligraphy paper. You'll leave with three to four leaf prints and one or two paintings—a naturalist's record of the day.

Edible Flowers for Flavor and Health

Wednesday | July 22 | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

\$50 | FOBG \$45 | #PBG0239 200001

Adult Classroom

*Kathy Jentz, Author of *The Urban Garden*,*

Editor and Publisher of Washington Gardener Magazine

Discover the delicious world of edible flowers!

Learn how common garden blooms and herbs can enhance recipes—from rose petal cocktails to calendula cream cheese—while offering health benefits and antioxidants. Explore over 20 varieties you may already grow, plus exotic options for next season. Dried flowers and herbs will be provided for participants to take home.

Capturing The Essence of Herbs

Saturday | August 1 | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

\$55 | FOBG \$50 | #PBG0237 200001

Adult Classroom

Susan Belsinger, Herbalist and Author

Learn how to harvest, dry, and preserve culinary herbs for maximum flavor. Susan will demonstrate practical recipes—from herbal pastes and butters to infused syrups, honey, and vinegars—using tips from her book *Grow Your Own Herbs*. Sample her creations and leave inspired, making and taking home your own herbal vinegar and herb-infused honey to enjoy at home.

Health and Wellness

Registration required.

Tai Chi at Brookside Gardens

Wednesdays | March 4 – August 26 | 9:15 – 10:30 am

\$14 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0029

Visitor Center (March – April)

Japanese Tea House (May – August)

Charles Votaw

Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese exercise ideal for adults seeking stress reduction, stronger muscles, improved balance, and increased flexibility. The Forms are repetitive patterns that emphasize slow, flowing motions and controlled movements. Classes help beginners learn the Forms and provide regular practitioners guidance from an experienced instructor.

Gentle Yoga at Brookside Gardens

Thursdays | March 5 – August 20 | 10:00 – 11:00 am

\$14 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0030

Visitor Center (March – April)

Japanese Tea House (May – August)

Sherry Weber

These series of classes feature foundational yoga poses that are designed to support better breathing, walking, and space orientation. Yoga movements help build muscle, bone density and core strength while improving balance, posture, and flexibility. Bring your own mat.

Yoga at Brookside Gardens

Saturdays | March 7 – August 15 | 9:30 – 10:30 am

\$14 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0031

Visitor Center (March – April)

Japanese Tea House (May – August)

Tanory Ateek

Designed to increase flexibility and physical strength and to cultivate mental focus, these classes are a beautiful and relaxing way to begin your weekend. Bring your own mat.

Guided Mindfulness Walks

\$28 | FOBG \$25 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at South Terrace

Tania Lanning, Integrative Wellness Therapist, MS LCPC

Enjoy a series of special walks and talks on mindfulness in nature. Each participant receives a small journal. Dress for the weather to fully enjoy the experience.

Sign up for one or all four sessions!

Walk 1: Connections in Nature

Sunday | March 22 | #PBG0108 100001

Explore connections with yourself, others, and the natural world on a guided walk through the Gude Garden, using gentle movement, discussion, journaling, and meditation.

Walk 2: Self Care in Nature

Sunday | March 29 | #PBG0109 100001

Join us among the blossoms, maples, and colorful flowers of the Formal Gardens. Awaken your senses, notice your inner voice, and reflect on extending awareness and compassion to yourself.

Walk 3: Mindfulness and Family in Nature

Friday | April 3 | #PBG0168 100001

Strengthen family bonds and emotional well-being in this immersive mindfulness and nature workshop. Enjoy activities that deepen connection, communication, and presence.

Children of all ages are welcome to join with their families.

Walk 4: Mindfulness and Motherhood in Nature

Friday | May 22 | #PBG0125 100001

Reconnect with yourself and the natural world in this workshop for mothers, cultivating awareness, self-compassion, and resilience. Through guided movement and mindfulness practices, nature connection, and shared reflection, discover tools to nurture both yourself and your role as a mother. Babies in strollers are welcome.

Let Nature Be Your Superpower: Cultivating Resilience and Wisdom in Everyday Life

Sunday | April 12 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

\$36 | FOBG \$32 | #PBG0233 100001

Adult Classroom

Melanie Choukas-Bradley, Author, Naturalist and Certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide
In uncertain times, Nature offers wisdom, resilience, and renewal. You'll learn practices to deepen your connection with the natural world, drawing on the instructor's experience and the latest research on Nature's mental and physical benefits. After discussion, we'll head outdoors for guided exploration and hands-on exercises. Melanie's books will be available for purchase and signing.

Strolls for Well-Being

\$75

Tuesdays | April 14, May 12, June 9

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

#PBG0033 100001

Wednesdays | April 15, May 13, June 10

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

#PBG0033 100002

Saturdays | April 18, May 16, June 13

10:00 – 11:30 am

#PBG0033 100003

Adult Classroom

Brookside Gardens Staff

Soak up nature's healing wisdom in this evidence-based mindful walking program. Over eight weeks, take twelve self-guided garden walks using a custom guidebook with themed readings, poetry, and journaling prompts. Three group meetings provide

materials and a chance to share insights.

Especially helpful for those navigating stress, grief, or life transitions. Learn more: BrooksideGardens.org/wellness.

Shinrin-yoku: The Art of Forest Bathing

Sunday | May 3 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

\$35 | FOBG \$30 | #PBG0022 100001

OR

Saturday | May 16 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am

\$35 | FOBG \$30 | #PBG0022 100002

OR

Thursday | June 25 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

\$35 | FOBG \$30 | #PBG0022 200001

Meet at Visitor Center entrance

Ana Ka'ahanui, certified Forest Therapy Guide
Connect with nature through a Forest Bathing walk among blossoms, remarkable trees, and rich fragrances. Stroll the grounds and nearby forest at a gentle pace, noticing the small miracles of nature. Inspired by the Japanese practice of shinrin-yoku, this walk invites you to slow down and engage your senses fully.

Shinrin-yoku: Mobility Friendly Forest Bathing

Tuesday | May 12 | 10:00 - 11:30 am

\$35 | FOBG \$30 | #PBG0231 100001

Meet at Visitor Center entrance

Ana Ka'ahanui, certified Forest Therapy Guide
Experience the restorative power of nature on a gentle, shorter Forest Bathing walk designed for those with mobility support needs. Enjoy beautiful blossoms, remarkable trees, and rich fragrances at a comfortable pace with minimal walking.

Half-day Mindfulness Retreat at Brookside Gardens

Sunday | May 17 | 9:15 am – 1:15 pm

\$70 | FOBG \$63 | #PBG0018 100001

Meet at Visitor Center entrance

Tanory Ateek

With her signature curiosity and playful approach, Tanory guides a half-day of stress-relieving practices, including gentle yoga, walking and seated meditation, and the meditative labyrinth. Whether new to meditation or experienced, this retreat offers a chance to slow down, connect with nature, and rekindle a deeper sense of peace and wonder.



Birding in the Garden

\$7 | Ages 8 – 16 | #PBG0173

Meet at Visitor Center entrance

Take a bird walk with an expert instructor and learn the basics of using binoculars, listening for bird calls, and using field guides and digital tools. Visit garden hotspots for local birds and learn more about them. Borrow binoculars or bring your own (optional).

Sunday | April 12 | 9:00 – 9:45 am

#PBG0173 100002

Sunday | May 17 | 9:00 – 9:45 am

#PBG0173 100003

Sunday | June 14 | 9:00 – 9:45 am

#PBG0173 200001

Youth Nature Photography

\$7 | Ages 11 – 16 | #PBG0174

Meet at Visitor Center entrance

Take a closer look at the natural world through the lens of a camera in this beginner-friendly program. Learn tips and strategies for getting the most out of your outdoor photos and learn about nature along the way. Bring your camera (phone cameras count) or borrow one of ours.

Sunday | March 29 | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

#PBG0174 100002

Sunday | May 31 | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

#PBG0174 100003

meet in the Outdoor Classroom located in the Children's Garden area (weather permitting). Adults must accompany children but do not need to register.

Sunday | March 29 | 10:00 – 10:45 am

#PBG0111 100014

Sunday | April 12 | 10:00 – 10:45 am

#PBG0111 100015

Monday | April 13 | 10:00 – 10:45 am

#PBG0111 100016

Monday | April 20 | 10:00 – 10:45 am

#PBG0111 100017

Monday | May 11 | 10:00 – 10:45 am

#PBG0111 100018

Sunday | May 17 | 10:00 – 10:45 am

#PBG0111 100019

Monday | May 18 | 10:00 – 10:45 am

#PBG0111 100020

Sunday | June 14 | 10:00 – 10:45 am

#PBG0111 200001

Butterflies of Brookside – Outdoors

Saturday | August 29 | 10:00 – 11:00 am

\$7 | Ages 8 – 14 | #PBG0127 200004

Meet at Visitor Center entrance

In the heat of the summer, monarchs, swallowtails, and other butterflies are busy outdoors in the gardens. Stop at the "hot spots" along the trail to identify different butterfly species, snap a few photos, and record observations in the nature journal provided. Tickets to the Butterfly Experience are not included.

Pop-Up Exploration Cart – National Pollinator Week

June 15 – 18 | 11:00 am – 1:00 pm | Free

#PBG0195 200001

Celebrate National Pollinator Week with us and learn more about pollinators, their importance, and the plants they love. Enrich your garden visit with a fun pollinator scavenger hunt. Stop by the Exploration Cart near the Children's Garden; no registration is required.

Pop-Up Exploration Cart – Insects

August 27 – 28 | 11:00 am – 1:00 pm | Free

#PBG0195 200002

Celebrate the six-legged superheroes of summer in the gardens they call home. Join us outdoors to learn about insects like butterflies and bees and the ecosystems they support.

Youth can use identification and measurement tools throughout the program near the Children's Garden. No registration required.

V Educator Workshop: Data and Art Together in the Classroom

Wednesday | March 18 | 7:00 – 8:00 pm

All Adult Ages (18+)

Free | #PBG0215 100001

Jill Pelto, Artist and Science Communicator

This free virtual workshop helps middle and high school teachers integrate art and visualization into data-driven science curricula. Participants will explore how data-based artwork can engage broad audiences, support rigorous scientific standards, and empower students to tell compelling "data stories." The session provides practical tools, resources, and project ideas. Session counts towards the professional development requirement for the MAEOE Green School Application.

V Green Careers Panel Discussion

Wednesday | March 4 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Ages 10 and up

Free | #PBG0214 100001

Join us for a virtual panel discussion featuring professionals advancing environmental sustainability through their careers. Designed for middle and high school students—but valuable for all—the session highlights career pathways in climate solutions, conservation, and environmental science. A free prize drawing will be held at the end of the program.

Summer Camps

All summer camps meet in the Youth Classroom at 9:00 am for sign-in by a parent/guardian. Prior to camp, a detailed email will be sent with required sign-in procedures and forms for each participant. Children cannot attend camp without submitting all required forms, even if they are registered.

Garden Investigators Camp

June 22 – 26 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

\$375 | Ages 6 – 8 | #PBG0082 – 500001

and

July 20 – 24 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

\$375 | Ages 6 – 8 | #PBG0082 – 500002

Curious campers will investigate and explore Brookside Gardens to discover the fascinating plants and animals that make their homes here. Arts and crafts, games, and gardening are all in a day's fun as we spend time indoors and outdoors connecting with nature.

Summer Science Camp

July 6 – 10 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

\$375 | Ages 9 – 11 | #PBG0084 – 500001

Your children's interest in the natural sciences will be cultivated through hands-on, inquiry-based experiments and activities in a beautiful garden setting! Each day, campers will unlock the scientific mysteries found in the gardens through experiments, observations, games and more.

Climate Action Camp

August 3 – 7 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

\$375 | Ages 11 – 14 | #PBG0085 – 500001

Take action and explore our impact on the climate and environment in this week-long camp. Campers will examine environmental issues through indoor and outdoor activities, with a focus on making positive change. Participants earn 10 SSL hours through daily service-based activities.

Art Adventures Camp

August 17 – 21 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

\$375 | Ages 9 – 11 | #PBG0083 – 500001

Calling all creative children who love to make art and don't mind getting dirty! Explore the garden from an artist's perspective through different artistic techniques and various media each day. From painting to gardening, campers will unleash their imaginations, and craft works of art inspired by horticulture and nature.

**REGISTRATION OPENS
FEBRUARY 17**



PROGRAMS BY DATE

Date	Program	Course #	Fee	FOBG	Page No.
3/4/2026	Conservatory Tour: Conservation and Collection Curation	PBG0229 100001	\$12	\$10	11
3/4/2026	Green Careers Panel Discussion	PBG0214 100001	FREE	FREE	17
3/5/2026	Introduction to Landscape Design I	PBG0012 100001	\$15	\$12	12
3/12/2026	Azalea & Sapling Transplanting Workshop	PBG0220 100001	\$25	\$22	12
3/14/2026	Branching Out: Dead Hedges for Beauty and Function in the Garden	PBG0222 100001	\$25	\$22	13
3/18/2026	White Line Woodcut: Turning Carved Lines into Colorful Prints	PBG0217 100001	\$60	\$54	14
3/18/2026	Educator Workshop: Data and Art Together in the Classroom	PBG0215 100001	FREE	FREE	17
3/19/2026	Introduction to Landscape Design II	PBG0013 100001	\$15	\$12	12
3/22/2026	Guided Mindfulness Walk - Connections in Nature	PBG0108 100001	\$28	\$25	15
3/25/2026	Immigrants and the Creation of American Gardening	PBG0228 100001	FREE	FREE	11
3/29/2026	Youth Nature Photography**	PBG0174 100002	\$7	\$7	16
3/29/2026	Guided Mindfulness Walk - Self Care in Nature	PBG0109 100001	\$28	\$25	15
3/30/2026	Art Outside for Teens**	PBG0194 100001	\$45	\$45	16
4/1/2026	Cultivating Ecology: A Practical Guide to Sustainable Garden Design	PBG0226 100001	\$15	\$12	13
4/3/2026	Guided Mindfulness Walk - Mindfulness and Family in Nature	PBG0168 100001	\$28	\$25	15
4/9/2026	DC Environmental Film Festival - Screening & Panel Discussion	PBG0134 100001	FREE	FREE	9
4/11/2026	Soluciones para aguas pluviales y diseño sostenible para jardines	PBG0230 100001	FREE	FREE	13
4/12/2026	Let Nature Be Your Superpower	PBG0233 100001	\$36	\$32	15
4/12/2026	Birding in the Garden**	PBG0173 100002	\$7	\$7	16
4/14/2026	Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tour**	PBG0003 100001	\$12	\$10	12
4/15/2026	Royce Hanson Conservation Park at Broad Run	PBG0219 100001	\$30	\$27	11
4/16/2026	Natives and Native Cultivars in Mt. Cuba Center's Trial Garden	PBG0221 100001	\$15	\$12	13
4/19/2026	Brookside Gardens and FOBG Plant Sale		No registration	FREE	9
4/21/2026	McCrillis Gardens Spring Tour**	PBG0020 100001	\$12	\$10	12
4/23/2026	Azalea & Rhododendron Tour	PBG0001 100001	\$12	\$10	12
4/25/2026	Introduction to Botanical Art	PBG0218 100001	\$95	\$86	14
4/26/2026	Earth Day	PBG0128 100003	FREE	FREE	9
4/30/2026	RainScape Your Yard Session I	PBG0015 100001	\$15	\$12	13
5/2/2026	Guided Bird Walk at Brookside Gardens**	PBG0133 100001	\$12	\$10	12
5/3/2026	Shinrin-yoku: The Art of Forest Bathing**	PBG0022 100001	\$35	\$30	15
5/7/2026	Container Gardening with Native Plants	PBG0225 100001	\$15	\$12	13
5/12/2026	Shinrin-yoku: Mobility Friendly Forest Bathing	PBG0231 100001	\$35	\$30	15
5/14/2026	Butterfly Gardening Made Easy: How to Support All Life Stages	PBG0223 100001	\$25	\$22	13
5/17/2026	Rainscape Your Yard Session II	PBG0015 100002	\$25	\$22	13
5/17/2026	Half-Day Mindfulness Retreat at Brookside Gardens	PBG0018 100001	\$70	\$63	15
5/19/2026	Summer Perennial Container Workshop	PBG0227 100001	\$55	\$50	14
5/22/2026	Guided Mindfulness Walk - Mindfulness and Motherhood in Nature	PBG0125 100001	\$28	\$25	15
5/27/2026	Guided Bird Walk - Celebrating Black Birders Week	PBG0186 100001	\$12	\$10	12
5/28/2026	Perfect Fit: Trees & Shrubs for Compact Gardens	PBG0224 100001	\$15	\$12	13
6/2/2026	Summer Twilight Concert Series**		No registration	FREE	10
6/6/2026	Design Your Own Tropical Terrarium	PBG0235 200001	\$65	\$59	14
6/10/2026	Native Plant Solutions: Perennials That Work in Deer Territory	PBG0236 200001	\$15	\$12	14
6/11/2026	Rose Garden Tour - Redesign Updates	PBG0182 200001	\$12	\$10	12
6/18/2026	Cultivation & Canvases: Gardening and American Impressionism	PBG0232 200001	FREE	FREE	11
6/18/2026	Leaves Three Ways: Drawing, Painting, and Printing Leaves	PBG0234 200001	\$50	\$45	14
6/30/2026	Shakespeare in the Garden - As You Like It		No registration	FREE	9
7/14/2026	Rachel Carson Conservation Park - Summer Tour	PBG0086 200001	\$30	\$27	11
7/22/2026	Edible Flowers for Flavor and Health	PBG0239 200001	\$50	\$45	14
8/1/2026	Capturing the Essence of Herbs	PBG0237 200001	\$55	\$50	14
8/29/2026	Butterflies of Brookside	PBG0127 200004	\$7	\$7	16
3/29 - 6/14	Storytime in the Garden**	PBG0111 100014	\$5	\$5	16
3/4 - 8/26	Tai Chi at Brookside Gardens**	PBG0029 100001	\$14	\$12	14
3/6 - 8/20	Gentle Yoga at Brookside Gardens**	PBG0030 100001	\$14	\$12	14
3/7 - 8/15	Yoga at Brookside Gardens**	PBG0031 100001	\$14	\$12	15
4/1 - 9/7	The Butterfly Experience**		See website	10	
4/14 - 6/13	Strolls for Well-Being*/**	PBG0033 100001	\$75	\$75	15
4/15 - 8/29	Sensory Friendly Butterfly Experience**		See website	10	
4/18 - 6/6	Yoga Sprouts!**	PBG0078 100001	\$7	\$7	16
4/25 - 8/13	Focus on Butterflies at Brookside Gardens**		\$45	\$45	10
6/15 - 6/18	Exploration Cart - National Pollinator Week*		No registration	FREE	16
6/22 - 6/26	Garden Investigators Camp*/**	PBG0082 500001	\$375	\$375	17
7/6 - 7/10	Summer Science Camp*	PBG0084 500001	\$375	\$375	17
8/3 - 8/7	Climate Action Camp*	PBG0085 500001	\$375	\$375	17
8/17 - 8/21	Art Adventures Camp*	PBG0083 500001	\$375	\$375	17
8/27 - 8/28	Exploration Cart - Insects*		No registration	FREE	16

* Program Meets Multiple Days ** Multiple Sessions Offered

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 17

Register Online: ActiveMontgomery.org.
Register by Mail: Mail or drop off this form and check to ActiveMontgomery, 1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902



Important Registration Information

1. You must open an ActiveMONTGOMERY account in order to register for any program.
2. For assistance with your ActiveMontgomery account, please email ActiveMONTGOMERYHelp@montgomeryparks.org or call 301-495-2580.
3. For questions related to Brookside Gardens' programs, please call 301-962-1451.

4. FOBG members should enter the discounted FOBG rate in the Fee column. For more information about joining FOBG, visit FriendsofBrooksideGardens.org.
5. Confirmation of your registration will be sent by email. If you are on the waiting list for a full event, you will be notified if a spot becomes available.

Refund Policy: For details regarding the refund policy, please visit <https://MontgomeryParks.org/classes-camps/activity-withdrawals-and-refunds/>

* Required Info

REGISTRATION FORM

Check here if this is a new address, phone number or email address since your last registration. Please print or type. This form may be copied.

PARENT/GUARDIAN

Last Name*	First Name*	Email*		
Address*		City*	State*	ZIP*
Home Phone *	Work Phone	Cell Phone	Birthday (mm/dd/yy)*	

EMERGENCY CONTACT For participants under 18

Name	Relationship	Phone
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Participant's Name (Last, First)	Birthday (mm/dd/yy)	Gender	Activity Name	Activity Number	Fees*
Total Program Fees:					

To which race do you identify most?

- Asian
- Black
- Caucasian
- Native American
- Pacific Island Alaskan
- Other

Are you Hispanic or Latino? Yes No

PAYMENT OPTIONS*

Total Programs Fees \$ _____

Non-Resident/Other Fees \$ _____ Check# _____ \$ _____

Total Fees Due \$ _____

Make checks payable to: ActiveMONTGOMERY. No cash payments.

Will you need an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) disability accommodation (trained support staff, sign language interpreters, companion, Braille/large print, adaptive equipment, assistive listening/auxiliary devices, and/or audio description?)

Yes No

If YES, please see below:

ADA Requests for Montgomery Parks

To request an accommodation for M-NCPPC, Montgomery Parks programs you must contact the Program Access Office at 301-495-2581 or email ProgramAccess@montgomeryparks.org

IMPORTANT: Request should be made before the program begins.

SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED

Participant or Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

The participant assumes all risks associated with participation in the program; Montgomery Parks/M-NCPPC does not assume any liability for injury or damages arising from participation in the program. Due to the strenuous nature of some activities, each participant is encouraged to consult his or her physician concerning fitness to participate in the program. The participant consents to emergency treatment. The participant also consents to Montgomery Parks/M-NCPPC's use of the participant's image and likeness as shown in any photographs, videotapes, motion picture film, or electronic images, and any audio recordings made of the participant's voice in whatever way Montgomery Parks/M-NCPPC desires, including television, print and Internet websites. Furthermore, the participant consents that such photographs, films, recordings, electronic images shall be the sole property of Montgomery Parks/M-NCPPC. If the participant is a minor, the parent or guardian approves his or her participation in the program. Neither the instructor nor any staff are responsible for children prior to or after scheduled program.



1800 Glenallan Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902
BrooksideGardens.org

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 17



April 1–September 7
9:00 am – 3:00 pm daily*
Brookside Gardens South Conservatory

PLAN IN ADVANCE! Online tickets available starting February 17.
Same day tickets available on a limited basis.

*Visit the website for current daily hours and possible closures.

Ages 13+ \$15.99

(includes \$1.99 service fee)

Ages 3-12 \$10.99

(includes \$1.99 service fee)

Ages 0-2 Free

Scan the QR code below or visit
www.MontgomeryParks.org/Butterfly
for more information and
to purchase tickets.

