



Top 10 Accomplishments in 10 Years

1. Conservation Montgomery led the *Trees Matter* coalition which resulted in the passage of two landmark Montgomery County tree laws in 2013. The successful county Tree Montgomery planting program is a result of the urban canopy bill. The county street tree program has also grown as a direct result of the 2013 street tree legislation.
2. Conservation Montgomery played a key role in the *Coalition to Save 10 Mile Creek*, significantly decreasing development in the Clarksburg Master Plan. We continue to advocate for sensitive watersheds that feed Little Seneca Reservoir. We advocated for Watts Branch, and other streams and watersheds, including working with the *Coalition to Stop Sewer Sprawl*, that achieved an updated countywide Water and Sewer Plan. The plan keeps sewer pipes - major drivers of sprawl - out of rural watersheds in and near the Agricultural Reserve.
3. We created a Young Environmental Writers program for teenagers, to get them unplugged and outdoors to write about nature. We published their poetry and essays on our website.
4. We created the *Home Tree Care 101* program to teach homeowners in Montgomery County how to care for trees on their private property and keep mature trees living longer, healthier lives. We have taught hundreds of residents throughout the county how to maintain trees on their home lots.
5. Conservation Montgomery planted 70 trees in sections of the county where tree canopy percentage was the lowest in the entire county, involving youth and adult volunteers in these community efforts.
6. We heightened awareness of champion trees by leading annual Big Tree Tours led by Montgomery County Big Tree Registry founder Joe Howard. We created an award named for Joe – the *Joe Howard Environmental Award* -- to honor other outstanding environmental leaders.
7. We convened meetings of county environmental leaders, the County Executive and branch agencies, County Council members and the Parks Department to advocate for issues of environmental importance.
8. In collaboration with environmental and watershed groups, we initiated "Parks Stewardship" bimonthly sessions with natural resource staff of the Parks Department to increase awareness of stewardship issues within the larger environmental community.
9. Along with other community outreach events, Conservation Montgomery held *Green Forums* during two county election cycles to allow residents to hear directly from candidates on natural resource issues. We were the only organization in the county to hold large public forums focused solely on the environment.
10. Conservation Montgomery participated in a multi-year Trails Working Group, established to create the Countywide Parks Trail Plan. Conservation Montgomery has continuously advocated for natural resource protection in the Parks budget, as well as supporting acquisition of additional lands to extend and connect our superb 33,000-acre parks system.

