

Conservation Montgomery 10th Anniversary | 2020

10 Accomplishments in 10 Years

- 1** The Trees Matter coalition, led by Conservation Montgomery, resulted in the passage of two landmark Montgomery County tree laws. The 2013 legislation is evidenced by our county's growing urban canopy and street tree programs.
- 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.
- 3** As advocates for Watts Branch and other streams and watersheds, we worked with the coalition to Stop Sewer Sprawl, resulting in 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.
- 4** Our Young Environmental Writers program for teens gets them unplugged and outdoors to experience and write about nature. (See their poetry and essays on our website.)
- 5** Our Home Tree Care 101 program has taught hundreds of area homeowners how to care for newly planted and mature trees on their property.
- 6** We enhanced areas of the county with the lowest tree canopies by enlisting the help of youth and adult volunteers in planting 70 trees known to thrive in our region.
- 7** We heightened awareness of champion trees by spearheading the annual Big Tree Tours. The tours are led by Montgomery's Big Tree Registry founder Joe Howard, for whom we created the Joe Howard Environmental Award to honor outstanding environmentalists.
- 8** 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. 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.
- 9** Along with other community outreach events, Conservation Montgomery held Green Forums during two county election cycles so residents could 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 to create the Countywide Parks Trail Plan. We continuously advocate for natural resource protection in the Parks budget, and support acquisition of additional lands to extend and connect our superb 33,000-acre parks system.

