



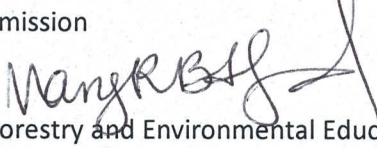
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS**  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCPB  
July 7, 2011  
Agenda Item:

June 30, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Montgomery County Parks Commission

VIA: Mary R. Bradford, Director of Parks   
David Vismara, Chief, Horticulture, Forestry and Environmental Education

FROM: Stephanie Oberle, Brookside Gardens and Montgomery Parks Nature Centers

SUBJECT: Briefing on Montgomery Parks Nature Centers

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Montgomery County Parks operates four Nature Centers: Black Hill, Brookside, Locust Grove and Meadowside. Due to reorganization, the management of the Centers was centralized in the Horticulture, Forestry and Environmental Education Division, with the goal to make the Nature Centers more relevant to their communities, to increase attendance and revenue, and to encourage stewardship values among County residents. Staff will review current operations, including facilities, staffing, exhibits, and programming, as well as new initiatives designed to attract diverse audiences and to make each Nature Center a unique destination for the region. Nature Centers will be repositioned to help public schools fulfill the new and progressive environmental literacy graduation requirements recently enacted by the State of Maryland.

SO:so