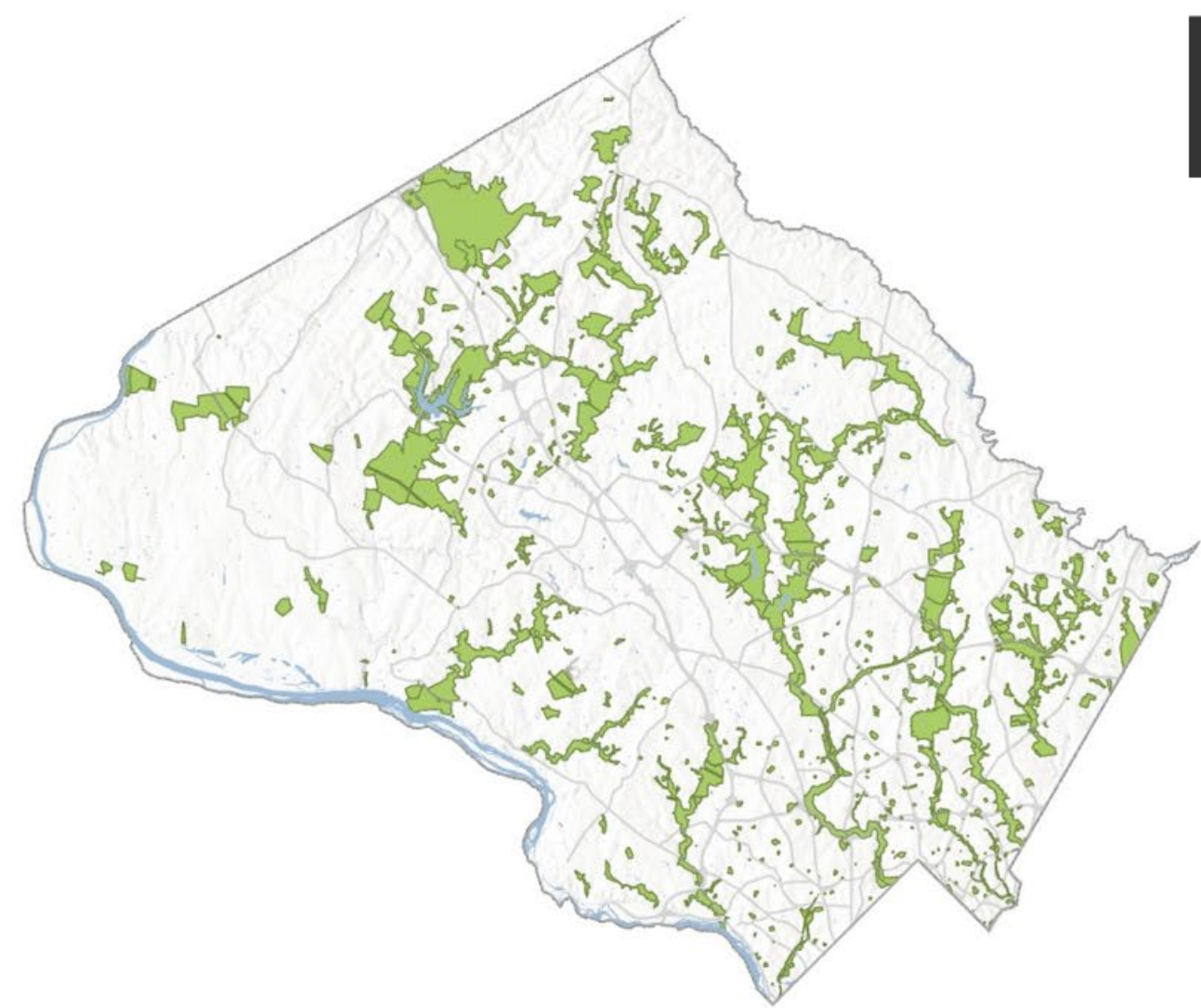


Park System Scope

- 419 parks
- 37,000 acres (70% in conservation)
- 11.5% of the land in MoCo
- 490 miles of streams
- 968 miles of property boundaries!!!!
- 43 historic sites
- 114 historic structures
- 284 athletic fields, 227 basketball courts, and 297 tennis courts
- Over 250 miles of trails



Parks, Recreation, Open Spaces Plan (PROS) 2022



THIS PROS PLAN ARTICULATES
THE KEY PURPOSES OF PARKS
AS ENCOURAGING PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY, FACILITATING
SOCIAL INTERACTION,
AND PROTECTING THE
ENVIRONMENT.

2022
PROS PLAN
Montgomery County
Parks, Recreation, and
Open Space Plan

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Department of Parks, Montgomery County

“Through cultural programming and interpretation, events, and physical design, park space and programs can and should be used to foster a sense of community identity in Montgomery County.

Parks must stay abreast of trends in – and lead the way in developing – engaging programs that foster community, civic engagement, and social cohesion.

Parks must also use parks to tell the story of Montgomery County’s history, culture, and natural resources.”

What is Remarkable Montgomery: Untold Stories?



**UNTOLD
STORIES**

a program that collaborates with communities throughout the county to produce physical and digital visitor experiences that share inclusive historical and cultural narratives with the public and invite the public to share their own stories

- Formally launched in 2023
- Parks' scope is parkland without existing interpretive facilities
- Intended to be multi-platform
- Run by the Cultural Resources Stewardship Section
- In collaboration with Montgomery Planning's Historic Preservation Office

Goals



Middle Ground, outdoor public space exhibition produced by the Exploratorium, San Francisco

- Foster a sense of belonging
- Encourage social cohesion and connectivity
- Bring forward, examine, and celebrate experiences of historically underrepresented groups
- Connect the places where people live, play, and explore with content that helps them see themselves, their neighbors, and the places around them in new ways

Outcomes



- Increased representation in parks
- Increased levels of engagement with history and culture from those who already seek it out, as well as from “accidental learners”

Values



- Highly collaborative
- Community-inspired and informed
- Audience aware

Who is it for?

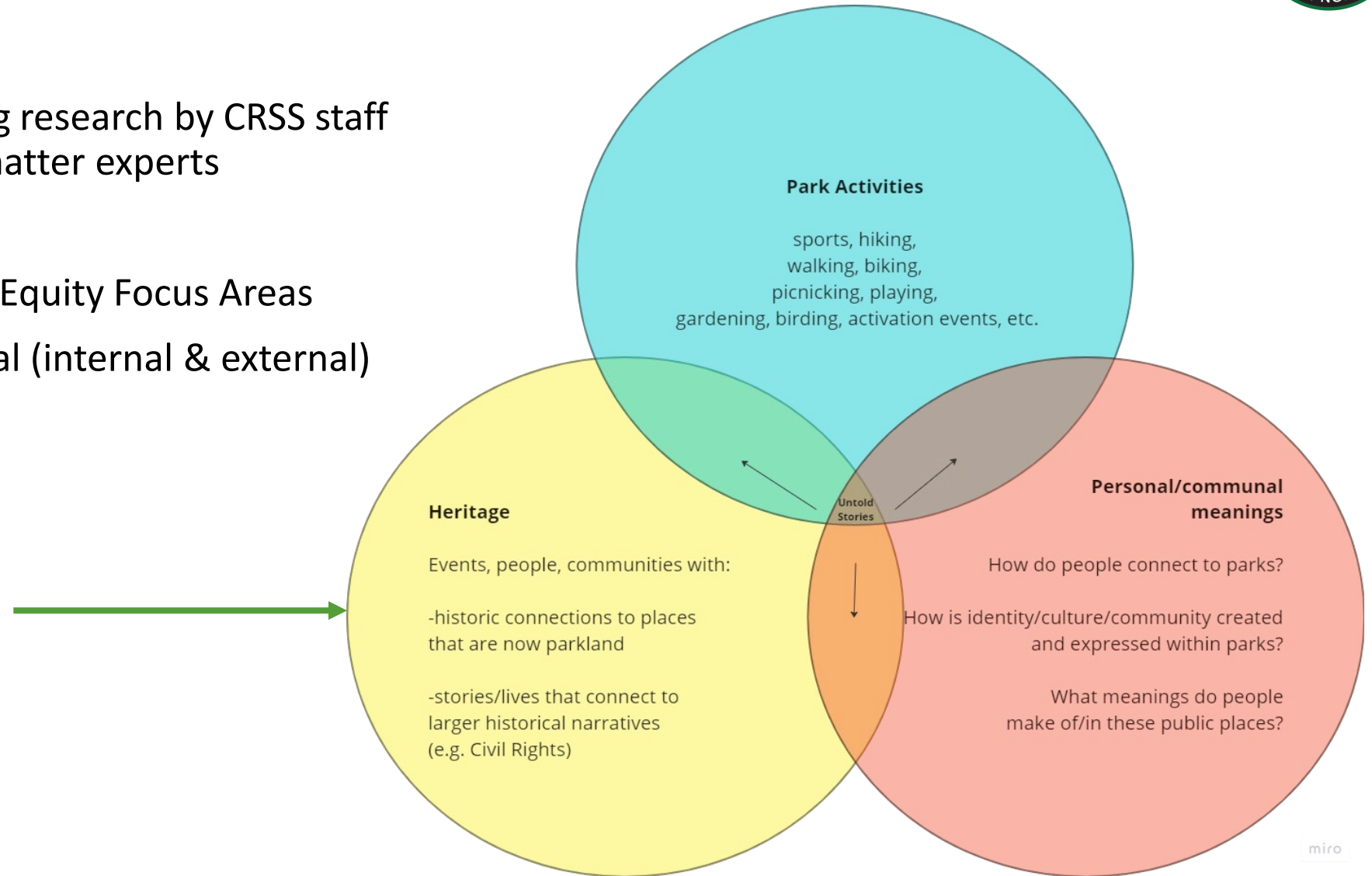
- residents
- community stakeholders
- park users
- PROS priority demographics – teens, seniors, younger adults of working age



How are stories/sites selected?



- Existing and ongoing research by CRSS staff and other subject matter experts
- Community input
- PROS priorities and Equity Focus Areas
- Partnership potential (internal & external)



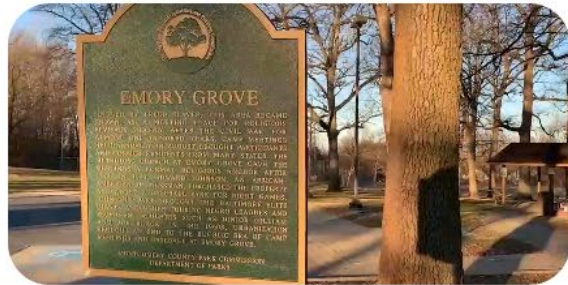
miro

Overview of sites



Browse Stories

Meet people who have spoken up for their beliefs, fought for change, and served their communities. Explore stories of resilience and strong community bonds amid discrimination.



The Center of Emory Grove

Johnson's Local Park



When Girl Scouts Sued

Rockwood Special Park



Indigenous Relationships with Waterways

Blockhouse Point Conservation Park

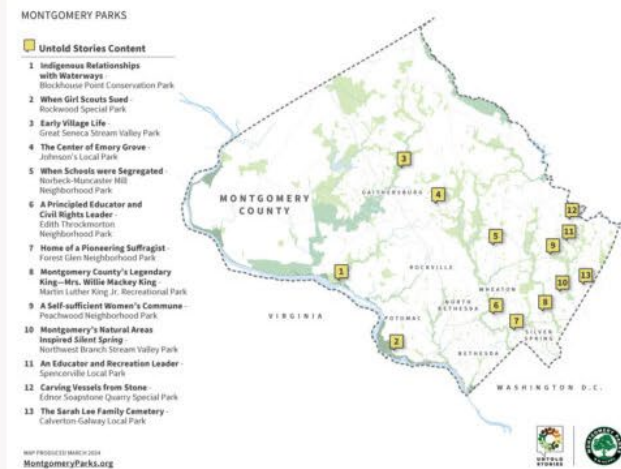


An Educator and Recreation Leader

Spencerville Local Park

Guarinello, Elena (Elena.Guarinello@montgomeryparks.org) is signed in

Download Untold Stories Map



Descargar el mapa de Historias no contadas



Untold Stories interpretive signage



Capital Crescent Trail
Bethesda



Rock Creek Trail
Bethesda



Peachwood Neighborhood Park
Cloverly

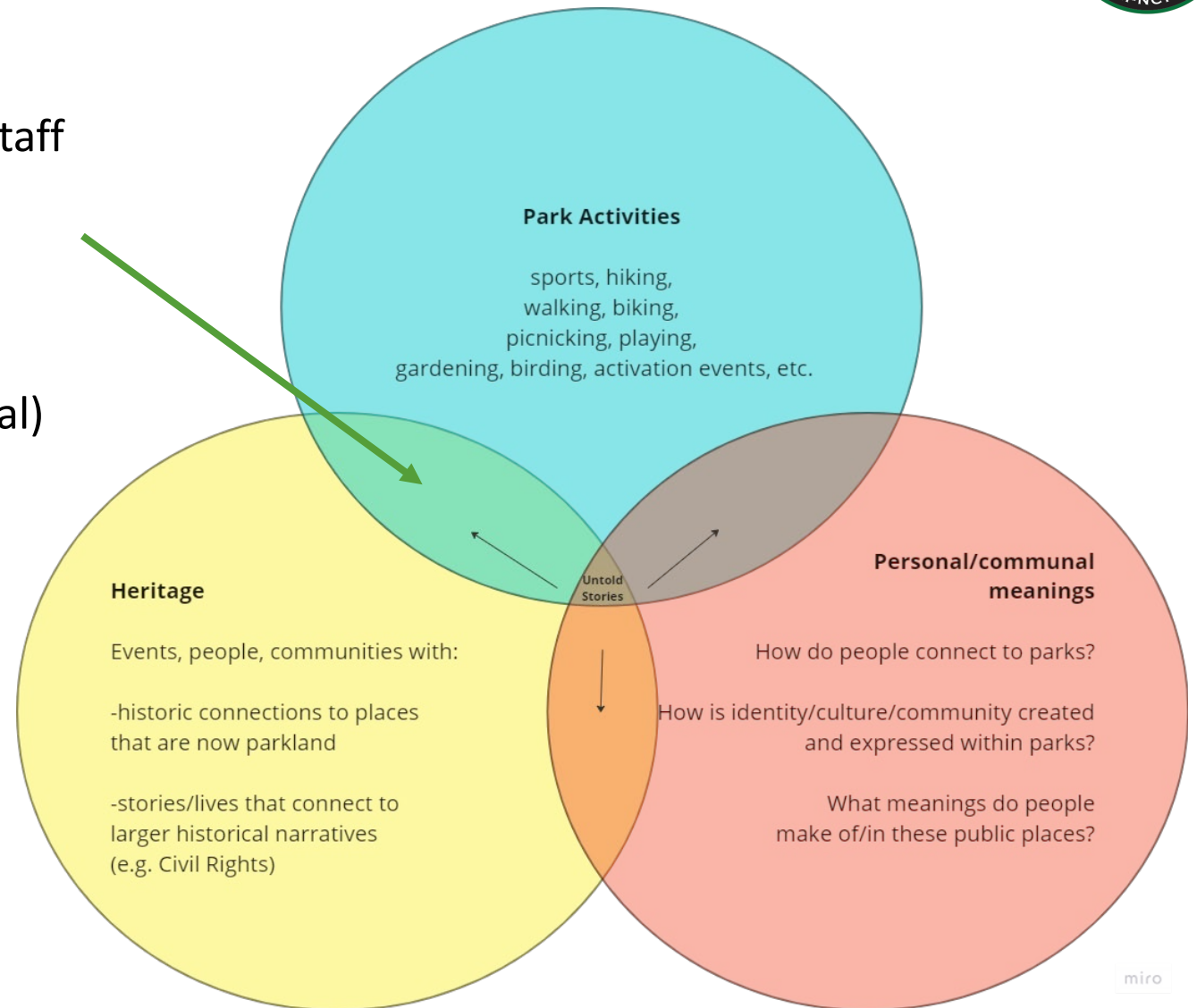


Forest Glen Neighborhood Park
Silver Spring

How are stories/sites selected?



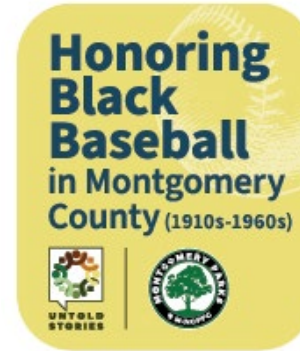
- Existing and ongoing research by CRSS staff and other subject matter experts
- Community input
- PROS priorities and Equity Focus Areas
- Partnership potential (internal & external)



miro

Black Baseball pilot

- Park locations that overlap with former sandlot fields
- Temporary sign
- Sticker giveaway
- Call for input
- Launch for a larger initiative



5/11/24

I loved playing softball back in my earlier years as a young girl. It helped to form my love of the game to this day. I loved going to Saratoga's games until they left for Texas.

It's all about opportunities for kids no matter what we look like.

Thank you for this display. I love hearing about the untold stories of African ~~American~~ Americans in sport in Montgomery County where I grew up + continue to live.

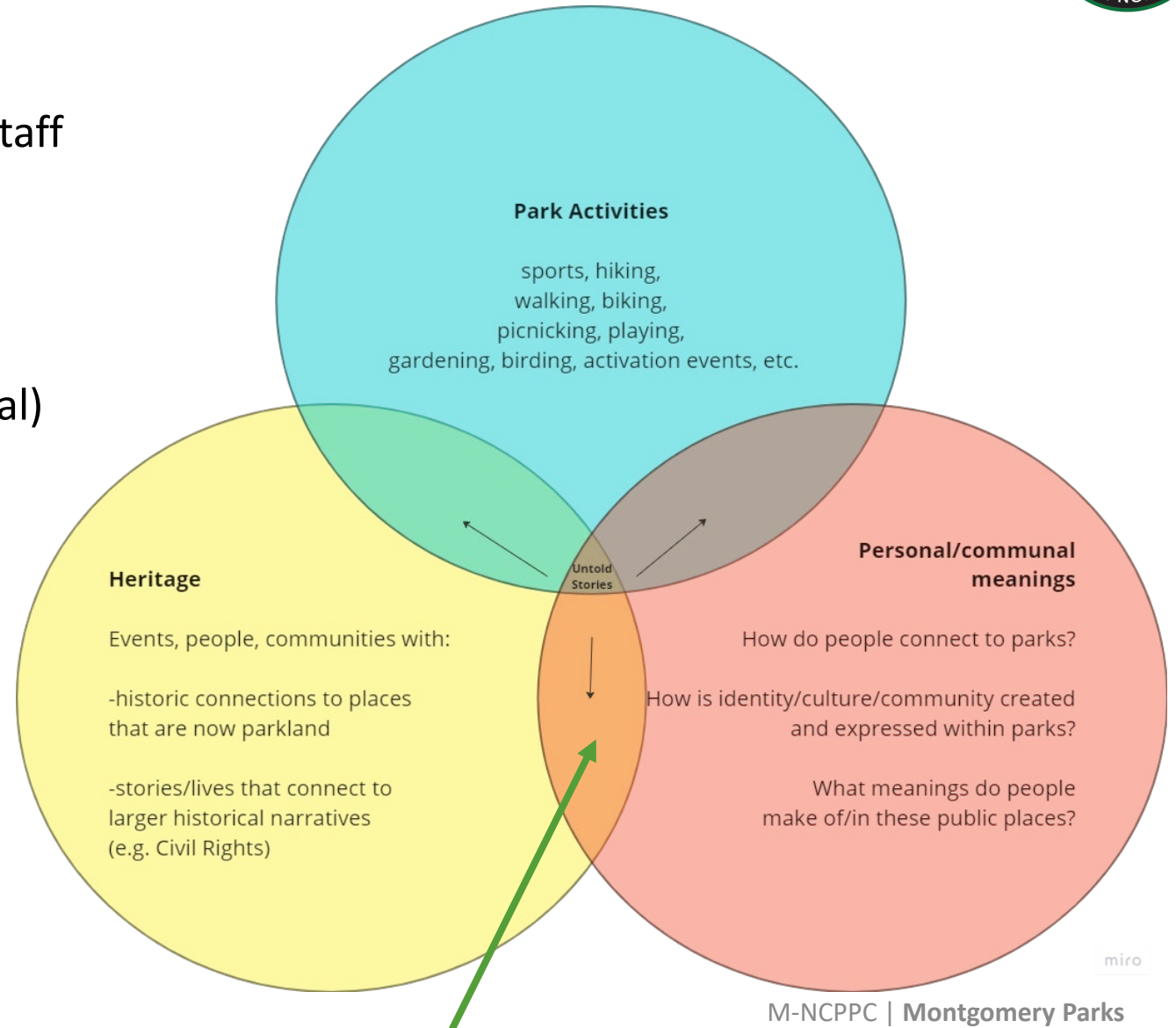
Cecilia Hamilton

P.S. Thanks for the stickers

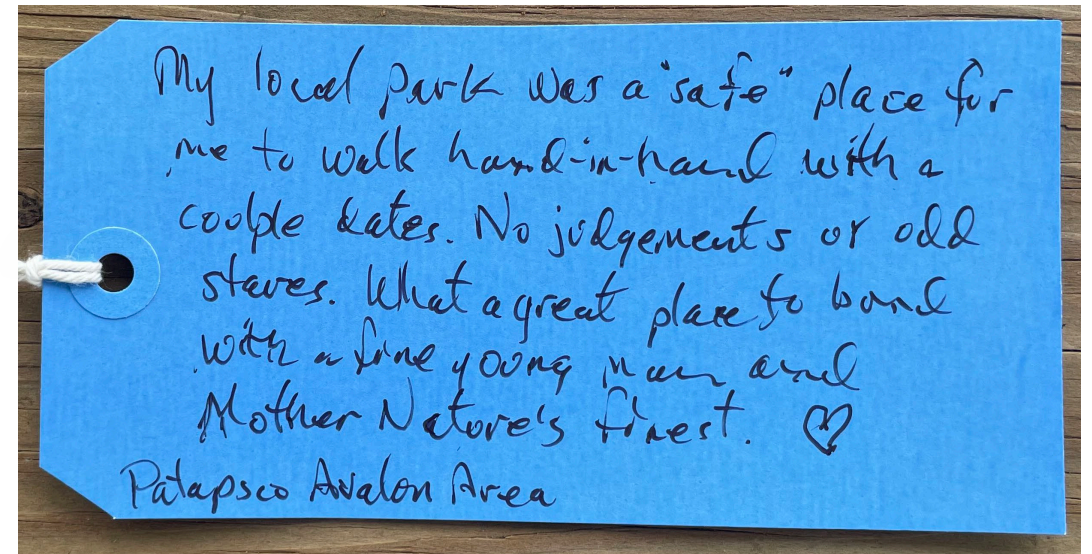
How are stories/sites selected?



- Existing and ongoing research by CRSS staff and other subject matter experts
- Community input
- PROS priorities and Equity Focus Areas
- Partnership potential (internal & external)



LGBTQ+ & Public Parks - Personal Meaning



“Queering the Map is a community generated counter-mapping platform for digitally archiving LGBTQ2IA+ experience in relation to physical space.”

LGBTQ+ & Public Parks – Programmed Events



Recent Parks events

(not a complete list)

- Pride Walk (2021)
- Pride in the Park Comedy Show (2022-present)
- Drag Story Hour (2022-present)
- Pride Night Hike (2024)



LGBTQ+ & Public Parks – History & Public Visibility



The first county-wide Pride events were held in public parks.

- 1993 – Parklawn Local Park
- 1994 – Hillandale Local Park
- 1995 – Valley Mill Special Park
- 1996 – Lake Needwood, Rock Creek Regional Park

Montgomery Pride Day
Sunday, June 2nd, 12-6 p.m.
Lake Needwood Park, Rockville
(near Shady Grove Metro station)

sponsored by
Gay and Lesbian
Interests Consor-
tium of Montgomery
County

Theme:
"Pride without
Borders"

Join us for a great festival
with music, food, and
vendors selling cool stuff!

signed for the
hearing-impaired

Beer, wine, and liquor
are prohibited in the
park.

For more information
about Pride contact
GLIC at 301-231-3550
(e-mail glic@his.com).

Month of Pride activities:

June 7 — 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
Funniest Home Video Night at
Books, co-sponsored by One in
Prizes will be awarded for the!

June 3-23
art show at Savory Cafe, Tako
works of local artist Sarah Pa
Opening reception Wednesday,
8:30 p.m.

June 13 and 17 — 7:30 p.m.
book readings at Borders Boo
White Flint, 11301 Rockville Plk
June 13 — author Fenton Joh

LGBTQ+ & Public Parks – History & Public Visibility



NEWS

Montgomery Gays warily eye Pride Day opposition

by Kristina Campbell

Organizers of this month's first-ever Montgomery County Gay pride day are keeping tabs on the activities of a Rockville woman who has called for a petition opposing the event.

Bonnie J. Berger, co-chair of the Gay and Lesbian Interests Consortium of Montgomery County, forwarded to the *Blade* a copy of a letter written by Linda Case which asks for participation in a prayer vigil and other actions in response to the pride event. Montgomery County's LesBiGay Pride Day, scheduled for Saturday, June 26, from noon to 6 p.m., will be at Parklawn Park in Rockville, Berger said.

Case declined to be interviewed for this story and would not say on the record how many people she had sent her letter to. Berger said she obtained a copy after Park Police notified her that Case had been calling them with concerns about the pride event.

In her letter, Case indicated that Park Police and Rockville City Police support her position.

She wrote that Lt. Timothy Boyle of the Park Police — with whom Berger has been working in organizing the event — told Case that he met with GLIC and "laid down the law."

"He will NOT tolerate any drugs, nudity, traffic obstruction, bizarre costumes, bondage-type entertainment, etc.," the letter said. "... [Boyle and Rockville police] both assured me that the event would be canceled and people dispersed immediately if any of this behavior is manifested."

Berger said the permit for the pride event was obtained by GLIC at least a month ago, and it specifies that no more

than 200 people can attend because of occupancy requirements at the park. If anti-Gay protesters were to picket the site, she said, they would have to do so along Viers Mill Road, which is about half a mile from the picnic site and out of view.

She said Boyle has told her that if any protesters entered the park during the permitted time, they could be arrested. In response to Case's letter about the activities for which the event would be canceled, Berger said that Boyle told her "he didn't have any idea where she got that information."

Berger said that Boyle called her yesterday, June 3, to say he'd been contacted by Case, and that after looking at the pride event site, she no longer had concerns about the event. But Berger said they will stay in touch with Boyle about any further activities Case may be planning.

Boyle did not return a reporter's call by *Blade* deadline.

Case's letter is addressed "Dear God-fearing citizen of the U.S.A." Along with asking recipients to join in a 40-day prayer vigil, it gives the time and location of a showing of *The Gay Agenda*, an anti-Gay video that shows clips of some of the more radical activity at Gay Pride events. It also asks recipients to write letters to the editor of the Rockville newspaper and call the Park Police with any questions about how the event will be handled.

Although Case would not say on the record what exactly the petition she is calling for requests, she said in her letter that it is "a petition of opposition" that will be submitted to Guy Bauman, chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board. ▼

10 - THE WASHINGTON BLADE - June 17, 1994

Local News

Hundreds brave rain for Montgomery County Pride

by Darice Clark

A few hundred people braved the rain to attend Montgomery County's second annual LesBiGay Pride celebration on Saturday, June 11.

Despite the gray clouds and light showers, people relaxed, politicians networked, and entertainers performed. About 400 people attended, said Lloyd Leifer, a festival co-chair.

Some folks shared umbrellas and conversed while others played Frisbee or catch during the light rain showers. Most agreed it was a fun and worthwhile time despite the rain.

"This event is important to me," said Joanne Stano. "I've lived in Takoma Park for six years. I'm real excited about it."

"To be with my friends and see what Montgomery County has to offer Gays and Lesbians living in Montgomery County," is why Dave Jastrub of Bethesda, Md., said he went to the celebration.

"I like that it is less intense than D.C. Pride and Black Pride. It is more like family," said Fred Mason of Takoma Park, Md.



Charlie Tucker entertains the crowd.

"I think it's kind of fun. I'm pleased there are a lot of candidates here," said Elissa Turner of Silver Spring, Md. "I feel for the first time I might have a candidate that might really represent my views."

Several local politicians spoke at the festival, had booths set up, or socialized with the crowd.

Montgomery County Councilmember Isiah Leggett (D-At Large) and Maryland State Sen. Mary Boegers addressed the audience from the stage.

"This is an annual event and we will work to ensure it gets better and bigger each year," said Leggett, who is running for re-election to the council.

"To make sure that Maryland is moving forward, [Marylanders] need to make sure we have an administration that reflects the diversity of Maryland," said Boegers, who is running for governor.

Councilmember Bruce Adams (D-At Large) and former Rockville Mayor Doug Duncan (D) also were present at the festival. Both are running for county executive.



Denise Hunt and Donna Hodge keep an eye on daughter Sarah.

John Hannay, an openly Gay man who is running for the Maryland House of Delegates, staffed his own booth at the celebration.

Prince George's County Executive Parris Glendening (D) didn't attend the festival because his staff "gave him the day off" for his birthday, said David Seldin, press secretary for Glendening's gubernatorial campaign. Glendening turned 52.

County Councilmember Derrick Berlage (D-District 5) presented a proclamation declaring June 11 Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay Pride Day in the county. The cities of Rockville and Takoma Park also granted similar proclamations.

Community service awards were given to four individuals for their instrumental roles in

passing an amendment to the county's human relations code protecting people against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The recipients were Robert Coggin, former co-chair of the Suburban Maryland Lesbian and Gay Alliance; Susset Harvey, a longtime county activist; Peri Jude Radecic, former Lesbian rights coordinator of the county's National Organization for Women and now executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; and Susan Silber, a Takoma Park, Md. city attorney.

Open Door Metropolitan Community Church in Boyds, Md., received the community service award for a group.

Open Door MCC was recognized for building "their own worship facility as well as a Gay

and Lesbian community center in Boyds, [thus] filling a need for the Gay community in the upper county and rural Maryland area," noted a GLIC press release.

The entertainment for the day included local musicians, live bands, and drag performers. Comedian/performer Dorothy A. Hirsch was the emcee.

Gifts for raffle tickets included CDs donated by Kemp Mill Music; gift certificates from Tower Records and the Leather Rack; and a free dinner at Spinaker's Restaurant.

"We broke numbers from last year, tripled exhibitors from last year, had politicians and wannabe politicians, and spirits were high," said GLIC Co-chair Bonnie J. Berger. The festival "met all of our hopes and desires. It was a total success."

Gay and Lesbian Interests Consortium (GLIC) presents

MONTGOMERY PRIDE

From Silence to Celebration

Celebrate Pride with a party in the park.
Sunday, June 4, 1995 from noon to 6 p.m.

Valley Mill Park
1620 Randolph Rd., Colesville, MD

Volunteer! We'll need plenty of help on the day of the event.

Advertise in our 1995 Montgomery Pride Program. This program will contain resource information for our community and will be distributed to all who attend Montgomery Pride. The program will also be given to members of local community organizations. (The deadline for advertisers is May 10.)

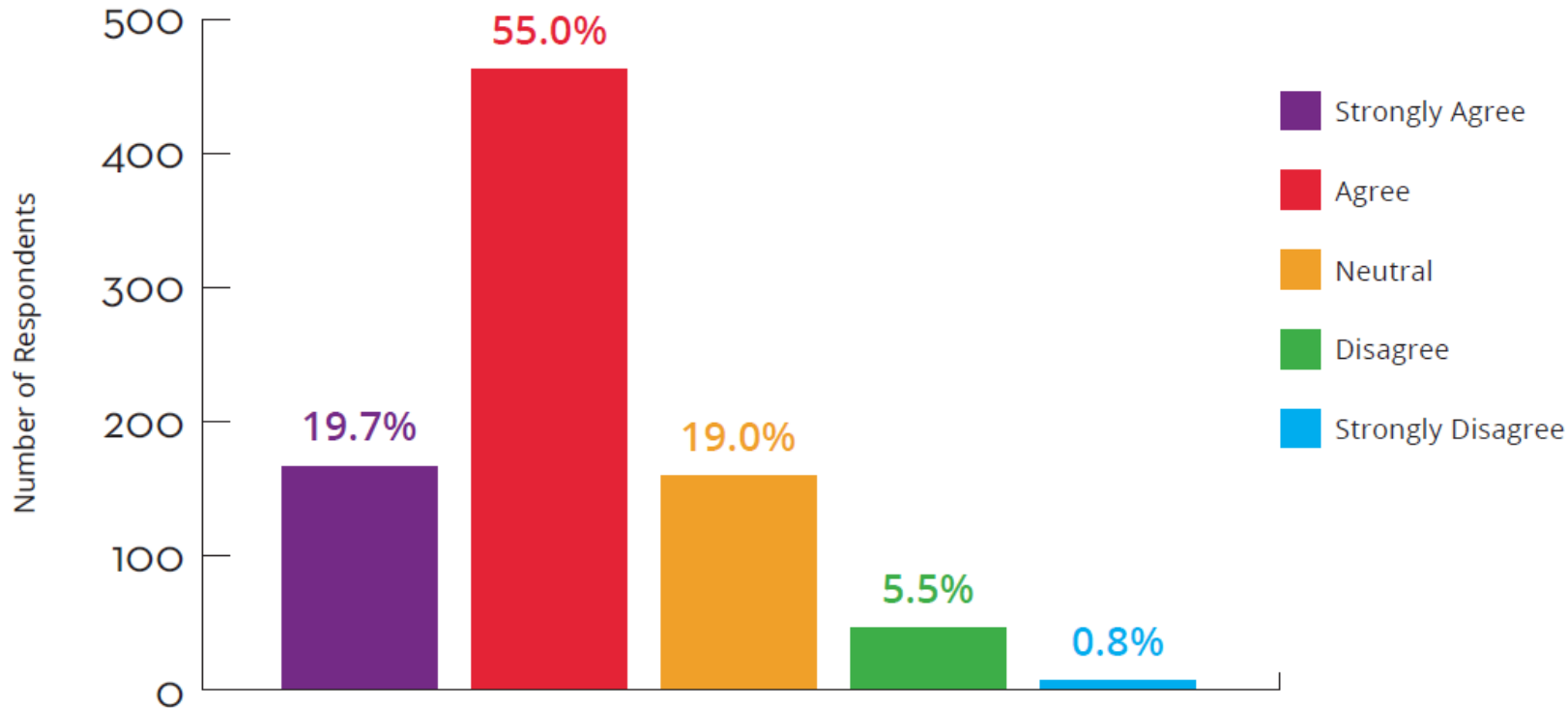
Sell your wares or **display** your information.



LGBTQ+ – 2023 Community Survey

OVERALL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY IS WELCOMING TO LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES.

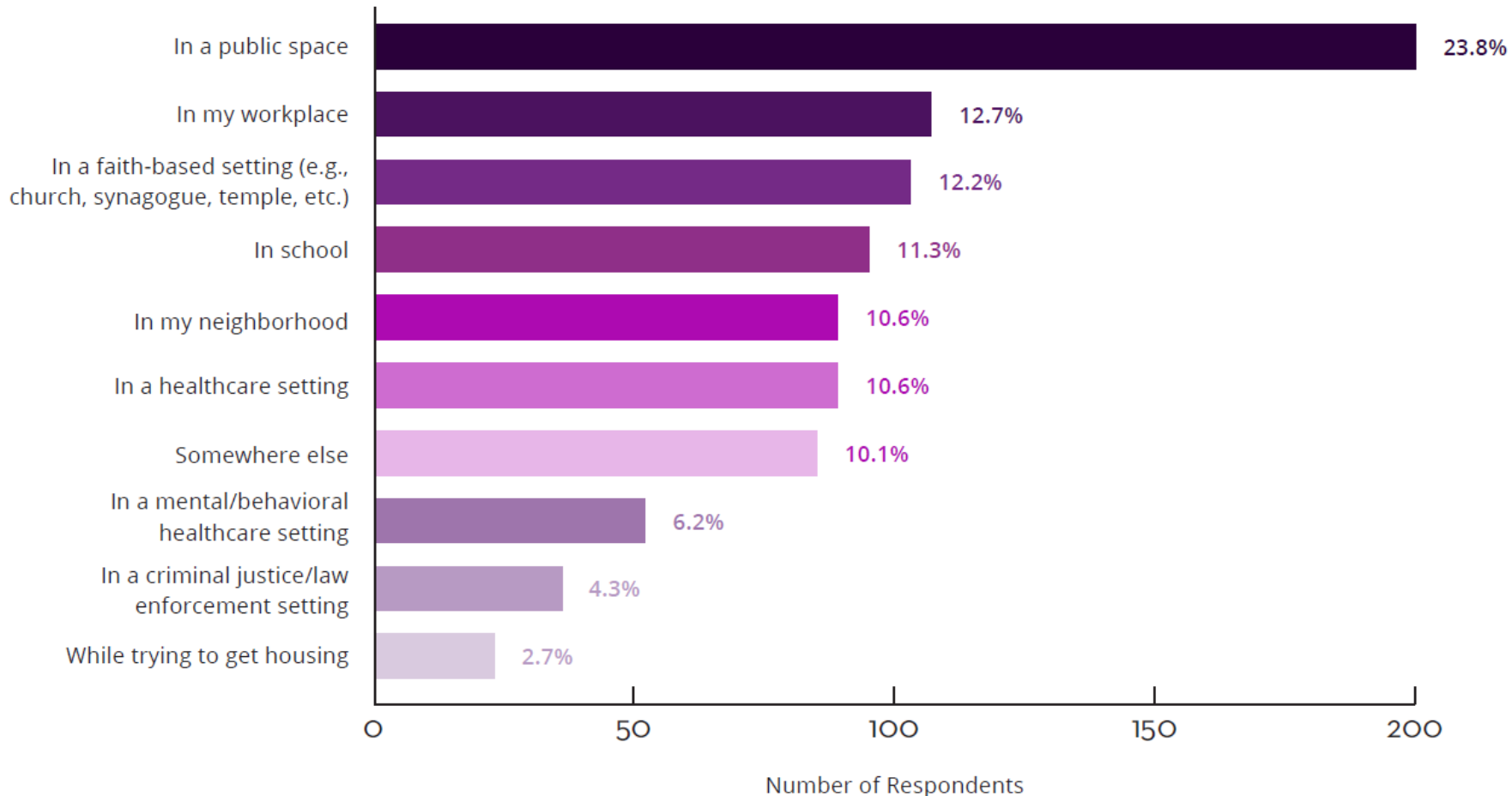
Most respondents agreed Montgomery County is a safe place to live openly as a member of the LGBTQ+ community, with 74.7% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing and 6.3% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with the statement, “Overall, Montgomery County is welcoming to LGBTQ+ communities.”



LGTBQ+ – 2023 Community Survey



Over the past year, were you treated differently and/or discriminated against because of your sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression in any of the following areas? Check all that apply.



IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT WOULD MAKE MONTGOMERY COUNTY SAFER AND MORE WELCOMING TO LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES?



MORE VISIBILITY

1. COMMUNICATE INCLUSION

- Public Facing LGBTQ+ Resource/Business Directory
- Flags and other affirming symbols/signs
- Explicit Statements of Support from Leadership
- LGBTQ+ inclusion in programs and materials
- Campaigns
- Pronoun use and other inclusive language
- Information & Resource Sharing

2. PRIDE AND OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

3. LGBTQ+ REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT

- Programing Beyond Pride
- Pride Month Recognition



Questions we're asking:

- How might we share the park-specific 90s story in ways that connect with and are meaningful to park patrons and LGBTQ+ residents today?
- How might a public intervention not only provide visibility but create opportunities for new modes of expression?

Some first steps:

- Additional research
- Outreach
- Collect first-person accounts
- Audience evaluation
- Sites and brainstorming



Rebeccah Ballo
Montgomery Planning
Historic Preservation Supervisor
Rebeccah.Ballo@montgomeryplanning.org
301.563.3404

Elena Guarinello
Montgomery Parks
Cultural Heritage Specialist
Elena.Guarinello@montgomeryparks.org
301.563.7533