

# Cromwell Valley Park

## Spring 2023 Newsletter

[www.cromwellvalleypark.org](http://www.cromwellvalleypark.org)

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2002 Cromwell Bridge Road, Parkville, MD 21234



**Educational Programs – Seasonal Programs – Community Service Projects – Bird Watching  
Habitat Restoration – Hiking Trails – Summer Day Camp**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear CVP Members,

In 2023 we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of Cromwell Valley Park! The purchase of the 220-acre Satyr Hill Farm (now Willow Grove Farm) by the State of Maryland in 1993 was the culmination of 7 years of effort by the Campaign to Save Cromwell Valley. The remaining parcels that now comprise the park were acquired throughout the years since, some as recently as 2008.

Despite these accomplishments, our work is never complete. The continued success of the park relies greatly on many dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and passionate members. From the board to the trail crew to everyone that helps at our events, our beloved park would not be what it is without all of you! Thank you!

To mark this milestone and express our gratitude to everyone involved, we will be holding a special event on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. All Council members (and their immediate family members) are invited to the Sherwood Farm for family friendly food, music, and fun! Registration is required for this free-for-members event on CampBrain. I can't wait to see all of you!

This event is appropriately scheduled on Earth Day! What a perfect opportunity to come together and celebrate this magnificent piece of the planet that means so much to us. Started in 1970 and recognized as the birth of the modern environmental movement, Earth Day now mobilizes over one billion people around the world focused on transformative actions on behalf of the environment. As lovers of nature, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that our children, grandchildren, and generations beyond have the same opportunities to enjoy the outdoors as we do.



Join us for the 2023 Member Appreciation Picnic and Campfire

on April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4-7pm

REGISTRATION REQUIRED at

<https://cromwellvalleypark.campbrainregistration.com/>



Cromwell Valley Park may see some long-awaited capital improvements. Participate in the soon-to-be-announced public information to learn more about what we can expect!

2022 saw the return of the Towson Arts Council's Art in the Park event. We are excited to join forces with them and combine their fantastic art vendors with our Migration Celebration this September.

Finally, we are still waiting for details on the county's plans for several capital improvements at the park, which will include widening of the Willow Grove entrance, parking expansion at Willow Grove and the Sherwood House, and a new pavilion and path east of the Willow Grove Nature Center. A public information session will be held to share the concept design and schedule, so please stay tuned for that.

It is cliché because it's true, but Spring is around the corner, and it is bringing change as always. The composition of our board has been remarkably consistent over the past few years, but several leadership changes are being proposed for the upcoming term. I would like to acknowledge the many years of dedication to the Council by our outgoing Treasurer Kristin McFaul, outgoing Vice President Kim Shapiro, and outgoing Director John Canoles. They have been great assets and friends to the organization.

**Abe Yoffe, President, Cromwell Valley Park Council**

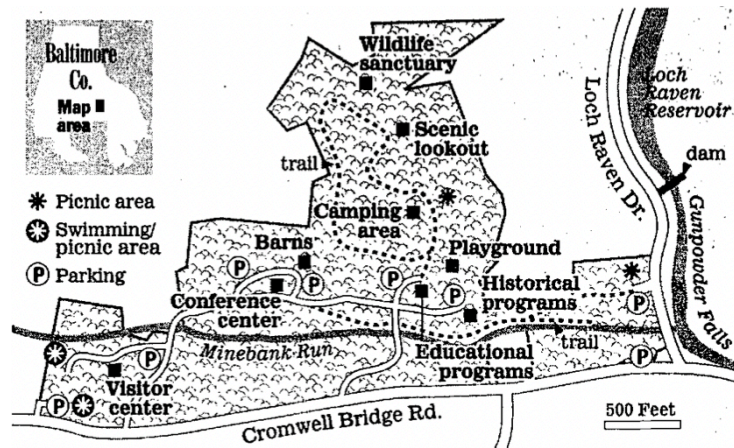
[president@cromwellvalleypark.org](mailto:president@cromwellvalleypark.org)

# CROMWELL VALLEY PARK OVER THE YEARS

Cromwell Valley Park was founded 30 years ago, when the State of Maryland purchased Willow Grove Farm and an adjacent 38-acre plot from the Robert Merrick Estate. Sherwood Farm and undeveloped portions of Good Fellowship Farm were added soon after. Finally, two plots near Providence Road, Barran's Property and Betty's Gardens, were acquired to extend the Park to the footprint that we know today.

Over the years, the County, local historic preservation groups, and many volunteers have worked to restore the 19<sup>th</sup> century Willow Grove farmhouse and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Sherwood House, along with the Lime Kilns that were hidden by brush when the Park was first established. They cleared trails, restored large portions of Minebank Run, and began to document the flora and fauna of the Valley.

What changes do you want to see over the next 30 years? Volunteer today to help shape the Park's future.



This map depicts the original plan for development of Cromwell Valley Park. What differences can you spot? Can you identify some of the landmarks and trails that still exist today?

## A SELECTION OF PROGRAMS FROM OUR WINTER CALENDAR

FIND THE FULL CVP EVENTS CALENDAR AT: [https://cromwellvalleypark.org/event\\_calendar/](https://cromwellvalleypark.org/event_calendar/)

Register online via Camp Brain at: <https://cromwellvalleypark.campbrainregistration.com>

**Sunday, March 26 at 1 PM to 2:30 PM – Feathers: Not Just for Flying – Ages 8+.** Learn all the ways feathers help birds survive. We will view different kinds of birds in the park and make a feather craft. FREE! Registration required BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN MUST REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT. Willow Grove Nature Center.

**Saturday, April 1 at 1 PM to 2 PM – Animal Fools' Day – All Ages.** How do prey animals trick their predators? Join a Naturalist to make sense of these clever defenses. FREE! Registration required. BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN MUST REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT. Willow Grove Nature Center.

**Friday, April 21 at 7 PM to 8:30 PM – Earth Day Campfire – Ages 8+.** Join us around a campfire to learn about the history of Earth Day and ways to celebrate this important holiday. Then stick around to toast marshmallows and make s'mores! \$4 members/ \$6 non-members. Registration required. BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN MUST REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT. Sherwood House Lawn.

**Saturday, April 22 at 4 PM to 7 PM – Members' Appreciation Picnic and Campfire – All Ages.** Are you a member of Cromwell Valley Park? If so, we would like to show our appreciation with a celebration! Join us for a fun-filled evening of lawn games, music, catered food, and campfire. Not a member yet? Go to: <https://cromwellvalleypark.org/membership/> to find out how to join. Open to members ONLY. Picnic is FREE for members. Registration required. Sherwood House Lawn.

**Sunday, April 30 at 1 PM to 2:30 PM – Fairies and Elves of the Forest – Ages 3+.** Welcome to the realm of Fairies! Come dressed in your fairy finest. We will make a wand and a crown, then head into the forest to share in the magic. \$4 members/ \$6 non-members. Registration required. BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN MUST REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT. Willow Grove Nature Center.

**Saturday, May 13 at 1 PM to 3 PM – Mother's Day Tea – Ages 8+.** Celebrate the mom in your life by sharing Mother Earth's tea. Learn the health benefits of natural teas and gather local plants. Enjoy a fresh-brewed cup, then take the cup home with you! \$4 members/ \$6 non-members. Registration required. BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN MUST REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT. Willow Grove Nature Center.

**Sunday, May 14 at 10 AM to 3 PM – Visit Our Nature Center Day! – All Ages.** Visit the Nature Center, enjoy the exhibits, visit with our animals, and have a cup of tea or coffee on us. Drop-in program. FREE! Registration NOT required.

**TO ACCESS THE FULL PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**





We're  
**HIRING**



## Summer Seasonal Naturalist

Cromwell Valley Park is seeking a responsible, motivated, and organized individual to lead, plan, and coordinate environmental summer nature camps.

Camps are held outside and include topics about mammals, insects, reptiles & amphibians, and more!

Paid Seasonal Naturalist training will be provided the first two weeks of June.

**Salary starting at \$15.00, thirty hours a week**

**Monday through Friday- June 1st through August 16th**

### Qualifications:

Two years of college completed

Enjoy working with children, experience preferred

An interest in the environment, natural history, science,  
outdoor recreation or related field

Excellent communication skills, positive energy, patience and creativity

Willingness to learn , multitask, and perform in various outdoor conditions.



### **To apply:**

Send a cover letter, your resume, and 3 references to:

**Cromwell Valley Park**

**Summer Seasonal Naturalist**

2002 Cromwell Bridge Road, Parkville, MD 21234

or email- [info@cromwellvalleypark.org](mailto:info@cromwellvalleypark.org)

**Cromwell Valley Park**  
**2002 Cromwell Bridge Rd.**  
**Baltimore, MD 21234**



DEPARTMENT OF  
RECREATION AND PARKS

**Pre-Sorted Standard**  
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**Permit #7639**

Cromwell Valley Park  
has a wide variety of spring  
programs. Check out the full  
schedule online!



**Park hours:**  
**Sunrise to sunset**

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