

# Conservation Montgomery

*Working together to enhance our quality of life*

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## Announcing Conservation Montgomery

SILVER SPRING, MD (July 27, 2010) - Ten Montgomery County community leaders have announced the formation of **Conservation Montgomery**, a coalition of civic and environmental organizations and individual residents who will work to address a broad spectrum of environmental and quality of life challenges facing Montgomery County over the next decade as the county approaches a population of one million. The first nongovernmental organization (NGO) of its kind in the county, Conservation Montgomery is being set up as a nonprofit that will serve as a forum and educational tool for county residents who want to live in communities with:

- Effective watershed protection and stormwater management
- Tree-lined streets -- and a tree and forest canopy that will provide environmental, economic and aesthetic benefits
- Workable solutions dealing with the impacts of climate change
- Energy-efficient homes, offices and businesses
- Sustainable transportation
- Walkable and bike-friendly neighborhoods
- Green public space and lush parks
- Responsive governance with land use decisions based on input all community stakeholders

Too often, we lose sight of the fact that livable communities depend on environmental stewardship. Conservation Montgomery looks to bridge the efforts of existing environmental NGOs and the work of a multitude of civic and community groups. By joining forces and working with elected officials who are genuinely interested in making a difference, Conservation Montgomery will work toward preservation of many positive elements of our current quality of life and will urge county officials to make improvements that are needed in our communities.

"The terms 'conserve' or 'conservation' mean more than working with green groups and environmentalism in the name *Conservation Montgomery*," said Evan Glass, a representative of the Presidents' Council of Silver Spring Civic Organizations (Prezco) on the Conservation Montgomery Board of Directors. "We are very excited about a coalition that brings the entire civic community and all of the different county environmental organizations together under one banner. By protecting the environment within and beyond our homes and lot lines in Montgomery County, we are conserving our community quality of life in a holistic way."

The Conservation Montgomery founding board of directors includes civic and environmental community leaders from various sections of the county and from different professional backgrounds. The

board includes Ginny Barnes of West Potomac, Diane Cameron of Kensington, Helen Wood and Arlene Bruhn of Bethesda, David Hauck of Takoma Park, Mike Rubin of Boyds, and Mark Buscaino, Caren Madsen, Jennifer Chambers and Evan Glass, of Silver Spring.

As part of the launch of the new organization, candidates running for County Council will be asked to respond to a questionnaire outlining positions and calling for a commitment to community quality of life legislation over their next four years in office. In addition, over 1,000 county residents will be invited to fill out a brief survey to gauge countywide interest in civic and environmental issues. A summary of responses to both questionnaires will be posted online in September at [www.ConservationMontgomery.org](http://www.ConservationMontgomery.org).

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