



# GLEN ECHO PARK

Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture

**Contact:** Jenni Cloud  
703-819-9936 (m) / [jcloud@glenechopark.org](mailto:jcloud@glenechopark.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 6, 2025

**\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY \*\***

## **Glen Echo Park Brings Historic Carousel Animals Back to the Park After Repairs**

**WHAT: CAROUSEL ANIMALS RETURN TO GLEN ECHO PARK AFTER UNDERGOING REPAIRS**

Five of Glen Echo Park's historic carved and painted carousel animals will be returned to the Park after undergoing repairs, and they will be re-installed on the Park's 103-year-old [Dentzel carousel](#). The animals were damaged during a major storm in the Washington, DC area in July 2023. They sustained water damage when an extended power outage led to a sprinkler failure that flooded parts of the historic carousel. Contracted and paid for by the National Park Service, which owns the carousel, the repairs were completed by [Carousels and Carvings](#) of Marion, Ohio, which was founded by 2024 National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow Todd W. Goings.

Known as a "menagerie carousel" due to the variety of its animals, the Glen Echo Park carousel includes 52 animals: 40 horses, 4 rabbits, 4 ostriches, 1 giraffe, 1 deer, 1 lion and 1 tiger. **It is on the National Register of Historic Places and is considered a Washington, DC "treasure."**

The carousel is open to the public May through September each year. It will **open to the public for the new season on Saturday, May 3, 2025**, as part of [Carousel Day](#), a major annual festival at the Park that attracts close to 4,000 visitors to enjoy arts & crafts, performances, and carousel rides.

There is one opportunity to view the restored animals before the carousel opens for regular operations on May 3: The National Park Service conducts **Glen Echo Park Civil Rights and History Tours** on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. **The next tour, which includes viewing the carousel, will be held on April 5.**

*The arrival at the park and installation of the carousel animals will not be open to the public; however, media are welcome to take photos and film as long as it does not interfere with the activities.*

**WHEN: Tuesday, March 11, approximately 8am to TBD – contact Jenni Cloud to arrange coverage**

**WHERE:** Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd, Glen Echo, Maryland

**WHO:** Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture

**INFO:** Contact (301) 634-2222 or visit [glenechopark.org/carouselday](http://glenechopark.org/carouselday)

###

## MORE ABOUT THE DENTZEL CAROUSEL

Installed in 1921 by the Dentzel Carousel Company of Germantown, Pennsylvania, the Glen Echo Park carousel is one of only 135 functioning antique carousels in the country and one of the few still in its original location. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the carousel is truly a Washington area treasure! Known as a “menagerie carousel” due to the variety of its animals, the Glen Echo Park carousel includes 52 animals: 40 horses, 4 rabbits, 4 ostriches, 1 giraffe, 1 deer, 1 lion and 1 tiger. It also features two circus chariots. With its playful animals and striking ornamentation, the carousel has been an iconic symbol of the Park throughout the site’s amusement park years and into its current phase for the last half-century as an arts and cultural center.

In the summer of 1960, Howard University students led protests at the Park along with local residents. The students rode the carousel and were arrested for doing so in violation of the privately-owned amusement park’s segregation policies. The case went all the way to the United States Supreme Court. Continued protests under the heat of the summer sun – and the active engagement of community members in the fight – led to the amusement park’s desegregation, opening the venue to everyone for its 1961 season and every year thereafter until the amusement park closed after the 1968 season.

Today, the carousel is the only remaining historic ride from the amusement park era at the Glen Echo Park site. It is ridden by more close to 50,000 people each year – including multi-generations of families visiting the Park. In 2021, the carousel celebrated its 100th Anniversary in the Park. Find information on the Carousel 100th Anniversary Celebration at [glenechopark.org/carousel100](http://glenechopark.org/carousel100).

## MORE ABOUT THE STORM DAMAGE

On July 29th, Glen Echo Park was battered with intense storms which took down more than 15 large deciduous trees and damaged historic structures. In addition, the Park lost power for three days, forcing a Park-wide closure and cancellation of all scheduled events and activities. The result: \$50,000 in damages and lost income.

When the storm finally passed, days were spent clearing debris and assessing the impact to the Spanish Ballroom, Bumper Car Pavilion, yurts, parking lot, playground, walkways, and other buildings. Staff cleared water from a fire sprinkler system malfunction inside the historic Dentzel carousel caused by the lengthy power outage; the almost-century-old Wurlitzer band organ also sustained water damage. A tree removal service was hired, and facilities staff worked overtime to ensure the Park was safe for returning visitors.

Although the Park is located within a National Park, the National Park Service was overwhelmed with repairs across the Washington DC region, so the Partnership moved quickly with its own financial and human resources – and some assistance from the Montgomery County government – to ensure the Park could reopen without an extended delay. The Park reopened the evening of Friday, August 4th, almost a week after the storm.

Unfortunately, as a result of the damage caused by both the storm and the closure, the Partnership experienced a significant loss of income from the cancellation of summer camps, classes, exhibitions, a summer concert, theater performances, and dances, as well as pausing carousel operations. Being a treasured community resource, the closure affected the community at large – from camp families, to instructors, to music lovers excited for the weekly summer concert. The Partnership also incurred significant costs to remove trees, clean up debris, and repair structures; some remediation and repairs are ongoing and will likely continue into 2024.

To defray **more than \$50,000 in losses** resulting from the storm, the Partnership created a new fundraising campaign for its recovery effort: “**Lift Us Up.**” Ama Mills-Robertson, Chief Program Officer, noted, “While the numerous arts and cultural programs offered at the Park remain strong and the beloved Dentzel carousel is in operation again, the public’s help in recouping losses is essential.” Ultimately, the campaign brought in more than \$100,000.

## ABOUT THE GLEN ECHO PARK PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, a non-profit organization, manages the arts programs and historic buildings Glen Echo Park, a vibrant arts and cultural center that is part of the National Park Service. The Park offers classes and camps in visual and performing arts, art exhibitions, children’s theater performances, environmental education, special events and festivals, and a lively social dance program. Glen Echo Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo, Maryland, six miles northwest of Georgetown along the scenic Potomac River palisades.

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Inc. is funded by an operating grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive, and also by funding from the Montgomery County government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County. All programs are produced in cooperation with the National Park Service and Montgomery County, Maryland.