



MEDIA CONTACT:
Friends of Maryland State Parks
Chuck Hecker
Cell: 410-353-1093
chuck@friendsofmdparks.org

For Immediate Release

Maryland State Parks Foundation Kicks Off the 2025 Happy Little Trees 5K Event

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND (December, 2024) The Friends of Maryland State Parks Foundation (FOMSP) is excited to announce its participation in the Run for the Trees - Happy Little Trees 5K, inspired by the beloved artist Bob Ross. This virtual event invites participants to complete a 5K outdoors anytime between April 19-27, 2025, coinciding with Earth Day and Arbor Day. No matter how you reach the finish line - walk, run or roll - you pick the pace and the place, anywhere outdoors! Everyone who participates gets a Happy Little T-shirt, a commemorative bib number and finisher's medal. In time for the holidays, gift certificates for participation are also available on the event website.

Proceeds from the registration help fund tree planting in Maryland statewide. Registration is just \$36 for this unique event that combines environmental stewardship and artistic appreciation. Participants will receive a Happy Little t-shirt, commemorative bib number, sticker, and finisher's medal. "In addition to planting trees and improving the environment, this event encourages healthy living, which is a part of our mission focus," said Chuck Hecker, Board President for the FOMSP Foundation. "Our small grants program has provided thousands of dollars to replenish trees in state parks across Maryland."

The Happy Little 5K originated in Michigan ten years ago as part of the "Happy Little Trees" program, a collaboration between Bob Ross Inc. and volunteers to combat invasive pests and tree diseases. Its popularity has led to its expansion into several other states, including Maryland. Joan Kowalski, President of Bob Ross Company, expressed enthusiasm for the event, stating, "The official Bob Ross 5K perfectly encapsulates everything Bob held dear—nature, environmental care, and, of course, happy trees."

To learn more about the Friends of Maryland State Parks grant program and register for this event, go to www.friendsofmdparks.org.

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ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF MARYLAND STATE PARKS

The Friends of Maryland State Parks is an all volunteer organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, improving and expanding our Maryland State Parks. Established in 1997, the Friends of Maryland State Parks raises private funds to support healthy lifestyles, environmental education and conservation, historical and cultural preservation and restoration, and to advocate for the sustainability of our state park system. Find out more and become a part of

the state park community at [Friends of Maryland State Parks](#); Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/FOMSP>