



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 • Fairfax, VA 22035-5500
703-324-8700 • Fax: 703-324-3974 • www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

For Immediate Release

Judy Pedersen, PIO

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E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

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Press Inquiries: 703-324-8662

Meeting Set to Discuss Lake Accotink Trail Improvements

In response to recommendations and suggestions offered by community members and trail users, the Fairfax County Park Authority is planning trail improvements at Lake Accotink in Springfield, Va. A public meeting to discuss the project will be held at 7 p.m. on January 27, 2014 at Braddock Hall, which is located at 9002 Burke Lake Road in Burke, Va.

The Lake Accotink Loop Trail is one of the most heavily used trails in the park system, serving communities around the park as well as visitors from throughout the region. The existing pedestrian crossing at the dam outfall is prone to sudden and frequent flooding, often stranding trail users and tempting them to wade through swiftly flowing water. Furthermore, the trail approaching the crossing from the west is excessively steep.

The Park Authority has concluded a preliminary engineering study to evaluate potential solutions to the current trail issues. The study focused on reducing the grade of the steep slopes and providing a safe pedestrian crossing at the dam outfall while allowing most flood stage waters to safely pass without stranding them. The preferred solution consists of an elevated walkway over the outfall. Other improvements would be incorporated into the spillway below the elevated walkway to help regulate future flood stage levels. This project will be partially funded from residual funding from the recently completed Lake Accotink dredging project. Design and permitting for the project is anticipated to be complete in early 2015 with construction commencing shortly thereafter.

The proposed route will follow the existing asphalt trail and crossing and will be designed to minimize the impact to important resources contained within the park. The Park Authority's project team includes environmental and historic resource professionals who will be closely involved in the design process and will work to ensure that any impacts are limited.

For comments or questions about the project, please call Project Manager Bill Boston at 703-324-2710 or send email to William.boston@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.