

## **Park and Trail Supporters:** **The Lake Frank Trail needs your urgent support!**

An **important planned trail** that will connect the Rock Creek Trail to **Lake Frank** is in jeopardy due to nearby homeowner opposition. This paved trail will be a superb amenity that will greatly improve access to the lake, provide family recreational opportunities and serve as a high quality bikeway. The trail will also be an important piece of the future *North Olney Trail* that will link the Rock Creek Trail to Olney five miles away, helping the environment by supporting bike transportation instead of driving. But a group of neighbors who live adjacent to Lake Frank is vociferously opposing the trail based on its proximity to their homes, a problem we face all too often when new trails are built. To stop the trail they are attempting to take away its state funding. For more information, see <http://www.internetigloo.com/mobike/lakefrank>

### **What You Can Do**

**Testify or attend and be seen** at the June 10<sup>th</sup> Planning Board hearing starting at 7:30 pm at 8787 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring. Sign up to speak by calling 301-495-4605. See the Planning Board web page at <http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/> for links to contacts and hearing agendas, with project details at <http://tinyurl.com/25smacl>.

If you can't testify, please **send e-mails** supporting the Lake Frank Trail to:

- The Montgomery County Planning Board - [mcp-chair@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:mcp-chair@mncppc-mc.org)
- Neil Pedersen, chief administrator of the State Highway Administration - [npedersen@sha.state.md.us](mailto:npedersen@sha.state.md.us)
- The Montgomery County Council – [county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov)

### **Key Points**

- Tell them you support the Lake Frank connector trail (or Lake Frank Trail)
- Tell them the trail should be paid for as planned, using ICC Environmental Stewardship funds
- Tell them why you enjoy trails or give any other personal thoughts

### **Sample Letter**

*(It's helpful to add your own comments and personal perspective, such as why you use trails...)*

To Mr. Neil Pedersen [or other recipient]:

I **strongly support** construction of the hard-surface Lake Frank Trail connecting the Rock Creek Trail to Lake Frank. I ask that it be built as soon as possible, and that it use state ICC stewardship funds as currently planned. I am a park user and will certainly benefit from this trail. The trail will be an important part of the countywide bikeway network and will support more trips by bike instead of by car. Please move the project forward. Thank you.

[signed, your name and city/community]

### **Additional Background**

Opponents of the Lake Frank Trail first tried to reroute the trail to a much inferior location that would be farther from their homes. Having failed at that, they are now seeking to take away state funding already allocated for the trail. The state funds are provided by the ICC environmental stewardship program that's paying for many projects including trails. Opponents are pushing to implement a parking lot removal project with the same funds so that no funds will be left for the trail. The parking lot project is worthwhile but is already slated to be done later and is not at risk. The trail is very much at risk due to neighborhood opposition. See <http://www.internetigloo.com/mobike/lakefrank> .



Map showing the planned trail to Lake Frank, marked as route "B". This route is opposed by neighbors. But the alternate route, marked "A", was found to be too environmentally destructive and much more expensive with several switchbacks. Many opponents also want to stop the plan to extend the trail north towards Olney.

*Neighbors opposing the trail are using the slogan "Take Back Our Lake". But we believe county parks belong to everyone and not just one community.*