Upper Paint Branch Limited Area Trail Plan
Overview

This presentation provides an overview for a new limited area, natural surface trail plan for the Upper Paint Branch. This new plan will be led by Chuck Kines, Park and Trail Planner in the Park Planning and Stewardship Division of Montgomery Parks.
Upper Paint Branch Limited Area Trail Plan

The plan area is located in eastern Montgomery County, near Burtonsville, Fairland, Cloverly, and White Oak.
Plan Objectives

1) Provide natural surface trail access to the Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley Park

2) Link new park trails to community destinations and also to the larger countywide park/trail system

3) Offer loop experiences where possible

4) Strike the right balance between public access and resource stewardship
Limited Area Trail Plan Boundary

The plan boundary generally includes all parkland with the following area:

- South of MD 198
- East of New Hampshire Avenue
- North of Fairland Road
- West of Old Columbia Pike
Master Plan Areas

The limited area trail plan includes parts of the following Master Plan areas:

- Cloverly
- White Oak
- Fairland
The Special Protection Area (SPA) for the Upper Paint Branch nearly covers the entire plan area.

- The SPA caps the amount of pavement or impervious cover to 8%.
- This plan does not intend to affect this policy, but the SPA is important to know for context.
Best Natural Areas (BNA)

Nearly all the parkland in the Upper Paint Branch is designated as Best Natural Areas.

- Best Natural Areas feature the best habitats for biodiversity on parkland in the County.
Park Trails

The Cloverly, White Oak and Fairland Master Plans include recommendations for new or proposed trails in the Upper Paint Branch.

- A paved trail between Fairland Road and the ICC
- A natural surface trail along the Right Fork from Briggs Chaney Road to the Patuxent River
- A natural surface trail along the left fork between the right fork and New Hampshire Avenue
Off-street bikeways along a number of roads are proposed / recommended in functional and area master plans. These connections are a highly desirable part of this plan.

- ICC Bike Path
- Shared Use Path along MD 198
- Shared Use Path along US 29
This map shows the relationship between currently master planned park trails and currently master planned off-street bikeways.
Plan Area Facilities and Potential Destinations

Destinations to which connections are highly desirable as part of this limited area trail plan:

- Columbia Local Park has extensive park amenities including the Marilyn Praisner Community Center and Library.

- Other destinations
  - Maydale Nature Center, Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School, Cloverly Elementary School, Briggs Chaney Middle School, Benjamin Banneker Middle School, Fairland Elementary School, and Paint Branch High School.
Three Broad Questions Tonight

- How and where do you currently recreate on parkland in the Upper Paint Branch?
- Which natural surface trail connections would you like to see?
- What are the most important destinations (community facilities)?
Plan Schedule

- Community Meeting #1 – June 22, 2017
- Community Meeting #2 – Fall 2017
- Present Draft Plan to the Planning Board – Fall/Winter 2017
- Planning Board Public Hearing – Winter 2017/18
Thank you.

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