Lake Needwood Trails and Facilities

Lake Frank and Meadowside Trails

Rock Creek Regional Park

MontgomeryParks.org

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Preserve our trails. Using trails when wet does damage. Please refrain from hiking, riding or biking within 24 hours after significant rain, especially between November and April.

Lake Needwood Trails and Facilities

- Park & Trail Features
- Rock Creek Mill Trail
- Lake Needwood Trail (10)
- Meadowside Trail (12)
- Lake Frank Trail (10)
- Pioneer Farmstead & Study Pond (11)
- Smith Environmental Center (14)
- Valient Covered Bridge (9)
- Meadowside Nature Center and Live Raptor Exhibit (15)

Lake Frank and Meadowside Trails

- Park Features
- Meadowside Nature Center and Live Raptor Exhibit
- Smith Environmental Center
- Valient Covered Bridge

Directions

From I-270

Take I-370 exit toward Metro station. Proceed approximately 2 miles, exit onto Shady Grove Rd. east. Go 1.4 miles, turn right onto Muncaster Mill Rd, stay on Muncaster Mill Road for approximately 2 more miles. Turn right onto Avery Rd. Approximately .5 mile to park entrance on the right.

From I-70

From the Frederick area and points west, travel east on I-70 to Rt. 27, exit south. Travel to Damascus and turn left/east onto Rt. 108. Follow Rt. 108 into Laytonsville, from the flashing fire house/school light continue 2.3 miles to a right onto Muncaster Rd. Stay on Muncaster Rd past the Ag. Farm. At the 7-11, turn left onto Muncaster Mill Rd. Go approximately 2 miles west to park entrance on the right.

Length: 7+ miles of natural surface trails

Accessible: Steep Slope

Drinking Water: Wheelchair Information

Parking: Bathrooms

Picnic Area: Use caution crossing road

Phone: 301.258.4030

Closed Sunday & Monday. Open Tues thru Sat 9am - 5pm

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Rock Creek Regional Park is one of the crown jewels of Montgomery County. The Park covers nearly 1800 acres and includes the 75-acre Lake Needwood and 54-acre Lake Frank. Visitors can enjoy the Park by meandering along 18 miles of beautiful trails through woodlands and along the lake shores. It’s a perfect place for picnicking, biking, boating, hiking, or just enjoying the outdoors.

LAKE NEEDWOOD AREA

BOATING

The full-service Lake Needwood Boat House rents pedal boats, kayaks, row boats and canoes to people over 16 years of age with a valid ID. Light tackle and pre-packaged snacks are available. Private boats may be launched with a daily or seasonal launch permit. Rents include the use of canvas cover, oars, and fuel. Fuel is available by the gallon. The park police must be notified of your departure. No know to the shore of Lake Needwood. Fishing is permitted only from the shore for anyone over 16 years of age with a valid Maryland State Fishing License.

NEEDWOOD QUEEN TOUR BOAT

The Needwood Queen, a flat-bottom pontoon boat, is available for 30-minute cruises around the lake from May to September. Group excursions (maximum 20 passengers) may be booked in advance. For reservations call 301-948-0501.

NEEDWOOD BOAT HOUSE HOURS

For operating hours visit our website or call ahead. 301-762-9500.

LakeNeedwoodBoats.com

FISHING

Anglers can fish year-round for many species, including largemouth bass, catfish, bluegill, crappie, and trout, which are stocked in Lake Needwood and naturally reproducing in Lake Frank (Lake Frank has shoreline fishing only). Rent a boat, launch your own, use your own electric trolling motors on the rental boats, or just fish from the shoreline. Live worms and fishing rods can be purchased at the Needwood Boat House. Valid Maryland State Fishing Licenses are required for anglers 16 years or older on both lakes.

NEEDWOOD GOLF COURSE

Needwood Golf Course, operated by the Montgomery County Revenue Authority, offers a driving range, pro shop, a practice putting green, and picnic area. For more information, call 301-948-1075.

NEEDWOOD BOAT HOUSE

Picnicking and Playgrounds

There are 18 picnic shelters, each accommodating up to 40 people. Picnic Areas 1, 2 (wheelchair accessible), and 3 are located along the east side of Lake Needwood. Each picnic area has tables, grills, horseshoe pits, and access to playgrounds. There is a regulation sand volleyball court located adjacent to Picnic Area 2. Restrooms and drinking fountains are in operation from April through October; electricity is available at some of the picnic shelters for an additional fee. The shelters can be reserved from April through October through the Park Permit Office.