



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 • Fairfax, VA 22035-1118
703-324-8700 • Fax: 703-324-3974 • www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

For Immediate Release

Judy Pedersen, PIO

E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

Press Inquiries: 703-324-8662

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Dam Repairs to Cause Temporary Closure of Park Trail

A portion of the 3.8-mile loop trail at Lake Accotink Park in Springfield, VA will be temporarily closed in the coming weeks as a project to repair the park's aging dam begins. Due to safety concerns, the fair-weather crossing near the dam at trail marker three will be closed to thru traffic for several days up to three times between late-August and December. To lessen the impact on visitors to the park, the trail will remain open on Fridays and weekends. The exact dates of the trail closures will be posted on signs along the trail. The Cross County Trail (CCT) will not be affected.

The dam, built in 1943, features a concrete spillway measuring approximately 360 feet long and 22 feet tall. In order to operate the dam, the Fairfax County Park Authority is responsible for maintaining the safety standards established by the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation. To this end, a list of repairs and improvements was identified.

Forty percent of the dam spillway face will be repaired where cracks have formed in the concrete surface. The wooden flashboards along the top of the dam, added to increase the depth of the lake, will also be replaced. Existing riprap (large stones used to prevent erosion) will be replaced and a gravel drainage feature will be installed to help move percolating water away from the earthen embankment's base. A new water monitoring system will track the amount of water flowing through the dam. Finally, about 200 feet of new concrete trail will be built. Visitors may notice the contractor has begun to mobilize equipment to the site. The project is expected to be completed by March 2010.

Coastal Gunite Construction Company, of Cambridge, MD, was awarded a construction contract in the amount of \$497,705 by the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services earlier this year. The contract was approved in June by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Funding for this project will be provided by the 2004 Park Bond program.

In order to replace the wooden flashboards, the water level of the lake will be lowered several feet. This work will be delayed until after Labor Day (September 7) to avoid negatively impacting the lake's peak boating season.

Lake Accotink Park is located at 7500 Accotink Park Road in Springfield, VA. For more information about this project, please contact the Park Authority Public Information Office at 703-324-8702.

Visitors who plan on using the loop trail on a weekday should call ahead to be sure it's open. Lake Accotink Park can be reached by calling 703-569-0285.



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.