

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO BEGIN AT BLACK HILL REGIONAL PARK IN JULY

The Montgomery County Department of Parks advises park visitors and neighbors that a Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) construction project began in Black Hill Regional Park in July 2006. The project is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2007.

During construction, all facilities in the park will remain open for the public's recreational and educational use, including Little Seneca Lake's boating operations, fishing, hiking trails, the Black Hill Visitor Center and nature programs and picnic shelters. Contractors are required to follow best management practices to minimize disruption and protect the environment, and inspectors from several agencies will visit the site virtually every day to assure strict compliance with all applicable rules, regulations and guidelines.

Traffic along West Old Baltimore Road may be closed for brief periods to allow construction vehicle access to the site. Large informational signs alerting park visitors and area drivers have been installed at the park entrance on West Old Baltimore Road and will remain until the project is completed.

When completed in 2007, WSSC will reforest the construction site to exceed the strict requirements of Montgomery County's Forest Conservation Law, including deer protection for newly-planted trees and prompt replacement of any trees that do not thrive within the first five years of planting. In addition, there will be an aggressive management program to eliminate and prohibit invasive and noxious plant materials in the impacted area.

Located on Lake Ridge Drive in Boyds, the 1,342-acre Black Hill Regional Park offers boating, kayaking, fishing, hiking trails, picnic shelters, conservation areas and the Black Hill Visitors Center overlooking scenic Little Seneca Lake.