

Barbara Falcigno
President
OLNEY OAKS

June 12, 2013

John Webster
Executive Vice President
MANOR OAKS

Marian Elsasser
Park Development Division
Montgomery County Department of Parks
9500 Brunett Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Howard Greif
First Vice President
NORBECK GROVE

Kathy Curtis
Second Vice President
LAKE HALLOWELL

Mark Hill
Recording Secretary
CAMELBACK VILLAGE

Dear Ms Elsasser:

Greg Intoccia
Corresponding Secretary
ASHLEY HOLLOW

The Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) met on June 11, 2013 and unanimously approved the following motion:

Ruth Laughner
Treasurer
WILLIAMSBURG VILLAGE

GOCA supports the original master plan alignment for the North Branch Trail between the Preserve at Rock Creek Trail and Bowie Mill Road. There was a proposal to cross the stream further south and connect directly to either Kirk Lane or Ridge Road. GOCA does not support this proposed route for several reasons. First, there is no cost savings due to the steep topography of the stream area which will require a large bridge. The extensive wetlands in the area will also require much of the trail to be elevated. In addition, GOCA feels the trail route should stay off of area roads which do not have a shoulder or sidewalk making it unsafe for users.

Connecting the trail is important to the Olney community as it is a missing piece of a larger network. GOCA feels the master plan alignment that keeps the trail within the natural area is preferred over directing users onto roads. Although a connection to Kirk or Ridge Road is shorter, it is not less expensive and therefore there is no advantage of this proposed route.

Sincerely,

Barbara Falcigno

Barbara Falcigno
President
Greater Olney Civic Association