



HUCKLEBERRY TRAIL VANDALISM TO BE TARGETED

MontgomeryCountyVA.gov

Oct. 14, 2011

Montgomery County, Virginia – Montgomery County is stepping up efforts to prevent vandalism and catch the person or people involved in spray painting graffiti on pedestrian bridges, benches and the restroom along the Huckleberry Trail.

In just the past two weeks, vandals have struck four times, defacing property along the County portion of the trail and costing thousands of dollars to remove, according to Parks and Recreation Director Mitchell Haugh. In addition, rocks have been written on with markers and spray paint. Plaques placed along the trail by individuals and groups also have been stolen.

Each time the property is defaced, the County removes, replaces or paints over the offensive words and symbols. “It’s a shame we spend so much time and taxpayer dollars removing the work of a few people who want to ruin the trail for everyone,” Haugh said. “These incidents are not the first time the trail has been hit with graffiti. We hope to catch the individual or individuals involved and will seek to press criminal charges.”

Graffiti is considered a Class 1 misdemeanor. The penalty for conviction can be up to 12 months in jail and/or a \$2,500 fine, according to Lt. James Bowyer. The most recent graffiti incidents have taken place Sept. 29, and Oct. 11, 13 and 14.

Anyone who observes suspicious activity or criminal behavior or who has information about this case is urged to contact the Sheriff’s Office at 540-382-6906 or 9-1-1 and asked to be transferred to a non-emergency number.

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