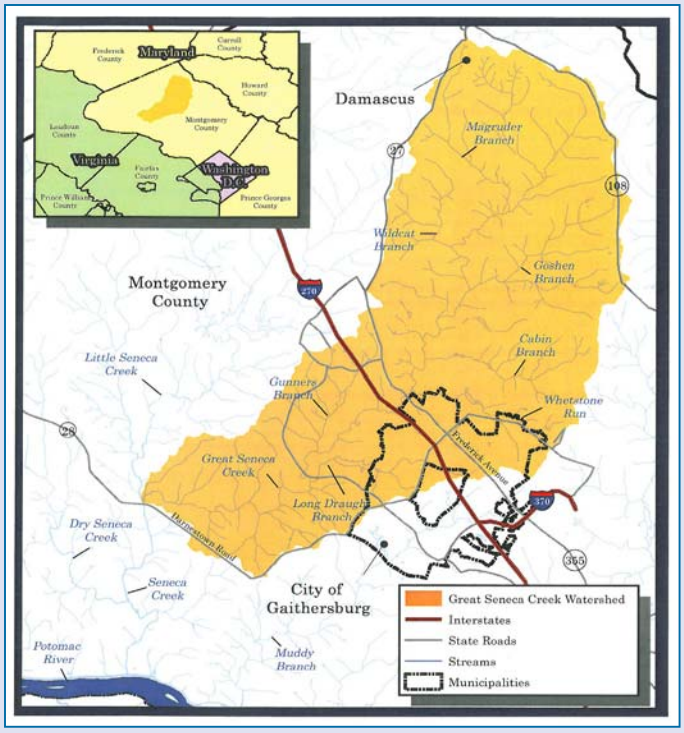
Major Maintenance Projects Factsheet: **Lake Whetstone Dredging Project**



The Great Seneca Watershed, with a drainage area of 62.5 square miles, flows into Seneca Creek, a tributary to the Potomac River.

Background:

Lake Whetstone was originally designed to be a recreational lake, however, Montgomery County determined that the Lake provided stormwater management benefits and changed its designation in the 1970's to a stormwater management pond. Sediment has been removed from the Lake two times since it was first built in 1966. The original owner removed some sediment from the lake and then Montgomery Village Foundation removed sediment in 1985. Lake Whetstone is part of the Great Seneca Creek Watershed. Whetstone run tributary flows into the southern end of Lake Whetstone. Lake Whetstone has drainage area of 3.34 square miles or 2,137 acres, which is equivalent to one-third the size of the City of Gaithersburg or 1,618 football fields.

Project Selection:

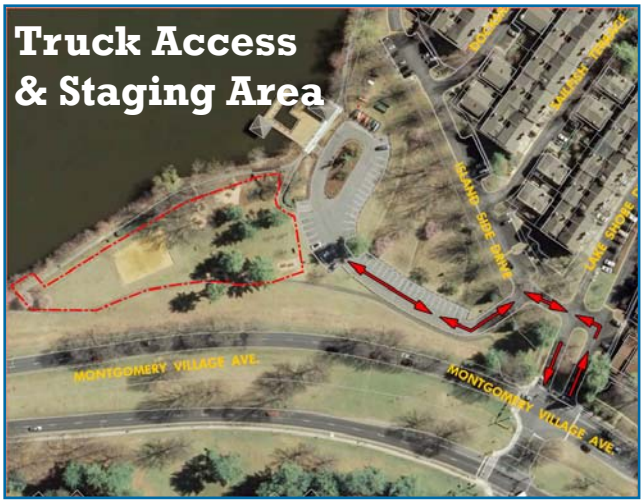
Lake Whetstone is a stormwater management pond and was designed to capture and hold sediment, trash, and other pollutants from the streams and storm drains draining to the Lake. In April 2013 DEP, at the request of the Montgomery Village Foundation and Community studied sediment levels and determined that portions of the lake would benefit from removing the sediment that has accumulated over the years. The study revealed that sediment is accumulating at both the northern and southern end (Whetstone run) of the Lake. Deposits of sediment are typical where the streams and storm drains enter stormwater management ponds.

Project Facts:

The County will remove approximately 20,000 cubic yards (approximately 2,000 truckloads) of sediment from Lake Whetstone. The sediment from Lake Whetstone will be removed using a hydraulic dredge. The dredge will pump the removed sediment to shore where a dewatering plant will separate the sediment from the water. Clean water will be returned to the Lake. The sediment removed from the Lake will be taken by truck to a facility that can accept the sediment. Two areas of the Lake are selected for dredge, Area 1 at the north end and Area 2 at the south end.

The construction activities will take place in the Lake and on the shoreline by the boat house and in the area of the volley ball court. During this project, the parking lot, picnic and volleyball area, dock and boathouse, and portions of the walking path will be closed, and recreational boating within the Lake will be prohibited. The trucks removing the sediment will use Lake Shore Drive to haul away the sediment. The project should take approximately 8 months. The County will make every effort to minimize the impact of the construction activities on the residents living around Lake Whetstone.

In 2011 and then again in 2013, the County tested the sediment in the Lake. The 2011 testing was to determine what contaminants might be present in the Lake. The testing found elevated levels of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons and metals in the sediment. Because of these results the County determined the sediment must be taken away to a suitable facility that can accept contaminated sediment. In 2013, the County again tested the sediment in the Lake to determine the type, and make-up of the sediment in the bottom of the Lake. The results showed that the sediment is mostly silts and clays with some sand and gravel which suggests the source is eroding stream channels, and grit from roadways.



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Contact Information:

Julia Liu : 240.777.7762 or Julia.Liu@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov
Division of Watershed Management
255 Rockville Pike, Suite 120, Rockville, MD 20850

DEPARTMENT OF
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