

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** David Buck, SHA (410) 545-0303  
Fran Counihan, Office of the ICC (301) 586-9296

**MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
BUILDS DOG PARK IN OLNEY MANOR PARK,  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

***Project is part of Intercounty Connector Community Stewardship***

(September 1, 2009) – The Maryland Department of Transportation’s (MDOT) State Highway Administration (SHA) recently approved Orfanos Contractors, Inc., of Baltimore, MD, to begin construction of a dog park in the existing Olney Manor Park, located on Georgia Avenue (MD 97) in Montgomery County. The Intercounty Connector (ICC) is partnering with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in constructing the nearly \$135,000 facility, which is part of the ICC’s Community Stewardship program.

Crews began work in early September on the approximately one-acre facility located within the Olney Manor Park, which will include separate areas for both large and small dogs. A perimeter fence, equipped with a double gate, will secure the two areas and prevent pets from accidentally escaping. A 40-foot high net will separate the dog park from the adjacent ball field to protect visitors. Other features of the dog park include two informational kiosks, benches, trash receptacles and plastic bag dispensers for waste. The dog park is ADA compliant and is expected to be completed in late October, or early November 2009.

“SHA is pleased to partner with M-NCPPC in providing area citizens a scenic and safe area to enjoy and exercise their pets,” said ICC Project Director Melinda Peters. “Montgomery County expressed its desire to have the facility here, and it has been warmly welcomed by the community.”

Ms. Marilyn Fox of Leisure World and her female Shih Tzu Shayna Maidel Fox are both looking forward to the fall opening of the Olney Dog Park. “Five years ago, when Shayna was a puppy, I was told that a dog park would soon be built in the area,” Ms. Fox noted. “We have many dog lovers in my community and I can tell you that they are very excited that it won’t be long until the park opens. My Shayna has been patiently waiting for a good run, off her leash, in the new park.”

The dog park is the first ICC Community Stewardship program to begin construction and the first dog park to be built by SHA in Maryland. The ICC is one of

America's greenest highways. Protecting the natural environment is a first-order priority for SHA and it intends to set a new standard by going beyond compensating for the ICC's unavoidable impacts. SHA is investing \$370 million, more than 15 percent of the project's cost, not just to mitigate environmental impact, but also to protect and enhance the natural and human environments.

The first seven-mile segment of the ICC, Contract A, is scheduled to be complete late 2010/early 2011, while the remaining ICC segments east of Georgia Avenue are slated to open late 2011/early 2012. For more information on the Intercounty Connector, please call toll free at 866-462-0020, or visit [www.iccproject.com](http://www.iccproject.com).

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