



**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** David A. Mekarski, AICP, Town Manager  
[dmekarski@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:dmekarski@purcellvilleva.gov); 540-338-7421

**CLARIFICATION ON LETTER TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FROM PURCELLVILLE'S  
MANAGER ON PROPOSED FRANKLIN PARK TO PURCELLVILLE TRAIL**

**PURCELLVILLE, Va., February 23, 2022** — A proposed trail by the County to connect Franklin Park to Purcellville, which will allow the connection to the W&OD Trail, is scheduled to be presented this evening, February 23, 2022 at 6:00- PM in a virtual special public information meeting. The intent of the meeting is to allow citizens to provide comments on the project.

To facilitate expedited funding by the County, the CAO's of the Town of Round Hill and the Town of Purcellville drafted a joint letter (attached) for the Franklin Park to Purcellville Trail. This letter does not represent the Town of Purcellville's endorsement of the proposed path, but represents the support for funding a trail between Franklin Park and Purcellville, pending community input and guidance. Such a trail supports our Comprehensive Plan, and we look forward to community engagement and input to determine the preferred and optimal location for such a path.

As stated in our Comprehensive Plan as adopted by the Town Council on June 30, 2020, this project will align with the goals to consider an off-road bike/pedestrian trail instead of sidewalks to connect the W&OD Trail to Franklin Park to the West, and coordinate with Loudoun County on the connection of bike and pedestrian trails west towards Franklin Park to complete links in the county-wide trail network. A trail will provide a new and safe pedestrian friendly connection from the W&OD Trail in Purcellville to the Town of Round Hill.

For meeting participation information, please visit [Loudoun County's website](#) for documents and the Webex link.

**The Town of Purcellville, Virginia**

"Purcellville-your small Town, where history and progress intersect and people prosper," is an award-winning town of approximately 10,000 residents located in Loudoun County, approximately 50 miles west of Washington, DC. Having received the 2021 Virginia Municipal League Innovation Award for Environmental Sustainability and in years past, the prestigious Siemens Sustainability Award for Small Communities, Purcellville continues to be honored for innovation and green initiatives. The Town most recently received the Tree City USA Award for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The Town was reaffirmed as a AAA rated community by S&P Global Ratings, the highest credit rating possible, and was ranked "Safest City" in Virginia in 2020. Once a stop along the W&OD rail line, which has been converted to a multi-use trail from Alexandria, VA to Purcellville, the Town has maintained its historic old-town feel through the restoration and maintenance of its many downtown structures, reflecting the Victorian architecture popular during the early 1900s. Today, Purcellville is the economic hub of western Loudoun County and a popular weekend destination for antiquing, equestrian activities, farmer's markets, wineries, breweries, distilleries and restaurants. More info at [www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov).

###



February 15, 2022

Board of Supervisors  
County of Loudoun  
1 Harrison Street  
Leesburg, VA 20175

**RE: Town of Round Hill & Town of Purcellville  
Letter of Support for the Franklin Park to Purcellville Trail**

Dear Loudoun County Board of Supervisors,

This letter is written to express our support for Supervisor Buffington's request for construction funding acceleration of Franklin Park to Purcellville Trail project from Future Fiscal Years of the CIP into the six-year CIP funding period. The Town of Round Hill and the Town of Purcellville desire to see Loudoun County continue to drive forward the completion of the proposed trail linking both Towns.

This project is of great importance to residents of both towns as it will create a seamless connection across the region. Currently, the Round Hill to Franklin Park Trail is nearing completion and residents are eagerly awaiting the kickoff of the Franklin Park to Purcellville Trail. This connection will support the countywide goal to create an interconnected system of parks and trails. This will be a centerpiece of that complete and seamless trail network and will allow bicyclists, runners, walkers, hikers, nature enthusiasts, bird watchers, and others to safely connect to communities and natural areas across Western Loudoun County. The potential for this trail to connect Round Hill residents to the W&OD Trail and Downtown Purcellville, and at the same time connect Purcellville residents to Sleeter Lake Park and the Appalachian Trail, creates great potential for tourism and economic development in our region. The connection between Franklin Park and the Town of Purcellville is the key to allowing this joint Purcellville-Round Hill Trail & Park System to develop. With over 2 million bikers, hikers, boarders, joggers and walkers utilizing the W&OD Trail annually, the completion of this critical section will provide tremendous tourism, economic development, and public health benefits to both communities and Loudoun County as a whole.

We support the Franklin Park Trail connection between Round Hill and Purcellville and look forward to the economic, natural, and health benefits it will bring to our region. We respectfully urge the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, and other interested parties to move with all due haste in completing the Franklin Park Trail from town boundary to town boundary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Hynes".

Melissa Hynes, CZA  
Town Administrator  
Town of Round Hill

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Mekarski".

David A. Mekarski, AICP  
Town Manager  
Town of Purcellville