



Board urges MC Council to leave bag fee rule in place

**Email Sent on Nov 3, 2013 by Bruce Sidwell
Advocacy chair, Friends of Sligo Creek**

Dear Members of the Montgomery County Council;

On behalf of the Board of the Friends of Sligo Creek, I urge you to not allow the erosion of the bag fee law by exempting a group of special interests. From our experience the bag fee law is beginning to work and become a regular part of the behavior of the residents of our county. For more than 12 years, our group of volunteers has spent literally thousands of hours in picking up bags and other litter in and near the Sligo Creek Watershed.

Although the bag fee regulation has only been in place for a short time, we are seeing a reduction in bags littering our parks. We have regular "SWEEP the Creek" events in the spring and fall. This year in April and again in September, our group recorded more than a thousand hours in filling more than 600 large trash bags with litter of all sorts. At these and the previous year's events, there was a decline in the number of plastic bags picked up. Plastic bags are no longer the most recorded piece of trash (plastic bottles now has that inglorious distinction).

We think it would be a shame to dilute the bag regulations by letting certain businesses duck their obligation to help in cleaning up the County. The bag fee regulations are an uncomplicated and fair way to spread a small inconvenience across our residents and most businesses. We all need to help keep trash out of our waterways.

Thank you for your hard work on keeping the County a great place to live.