



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



## M E M O R A N D U M

**TO:** Chairman and Members  
Park Authority Board

**VIA:** Jai Cole, Executive Director

**FROM:** Kurt Louis, Division Director  
Park Operations Division

**DATE:** June 22, 2022

### *Agenda*

**Park Operations Committee  
(Committee of the Whole)  
Wednesday, June 22, 2022 – 6:30 pm  
Virtual  
Chairman: Linwood Gorham  
Vice Chair: Mike Thompson**

1. Approval – Naming of Rectangular Field 6 at Pine Ridge Park Honoring Wanda Rixon (with presentation) – Action\*

\*Enclosures



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563. TTY (703) 803-3354

Committee Agenda Item  
June 22, 2022

## **ACTION**

Approval – Naming of Rectangular Field 6 at Pine Ridge Park Honoring Wanda Rixon (Mason).

### ISSUE:

Naming of rectangular field 6 at Pine Ridge Park with signage in honor of Wanda Rixon.

### RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Executive Director recommends approval of the naming of rectangular field 6 at Pine Ridge Park, Wanda Rixon Field.

### TIMING:

Board action is requested on July 13, 2022.

### BACKGROUND:

Penny Schulstad and other members of the Fairfax Women's Soccer Association (FWSA) are proposing to name rectangular field 6 at Pine Ridge Park for Wanda Rixon. Wanda has been involved with the development and administration of FWSA since 1978 and has served in many capacities, including multiple times as Head Commissioner on the Executive Board. During this time, FWSA has had a very cooperative and positive relationship with the Park Authority, the County Board of Supervisors, and the Athletic Council in promoting the growth of women's soccer in Fairfax County and the development and improvement of the playing fields FWSA uses. Pine Ridge Park, with its multiple rectangle fields and ball diamonds, as well as garden plots, was developed with concerted effort and cooperation from FWSA starting in 1981 and was dedicated on Opening Day in October 1989. However, the future of the site was debated by the Fairfax County School Board and the Park Authority from 1995 until 2001. During this time, Wanda was instrumental in the effort to "Save Pine Ridge." She was co-chairwoman of the "Green Team" who lobbied for retaining the site as permanent parkland. In fact, the Green Team was presented with the Elly Doyle Park Service Award for Organizational Leadership in 1998 for its contribution. Pine Ridge Park was dedicated as permanent park land in April 2001. In the years since Pine Ridge Park was developed, FWSA has played an important role in improving and maintaining the fields, contributing over \$350,000 in funds and countless administrative hours contracting and overseeing the work done on the fields.

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In subsequent years under Wanda's leadership, FWSA partnered with both Fairfax County, the Park Authority and Fairfax County Public Schools to help finance the installation of artificial turf on fields at Wakefield Park and Woodson High School. Wanda has been especially influential in creating soccer opportunities for seniors as the membership has aged, creating divisions for the over-50 and over-58 members. More recently in 2020, Wanda was awarded the Iconic Woman Award by the Women And Girls in Soccer organization (WAGS) for her tireless promotion of soccer for women and girls.

Wanda Rixon's efforts and contributions are certainly worthy of renaming a rectangle field after. Specifically, rectangle field 6 at Pine Ridge Park would be named "Wanda Rixon Field" in honor of Wanda's many contributions to the parks and the community.

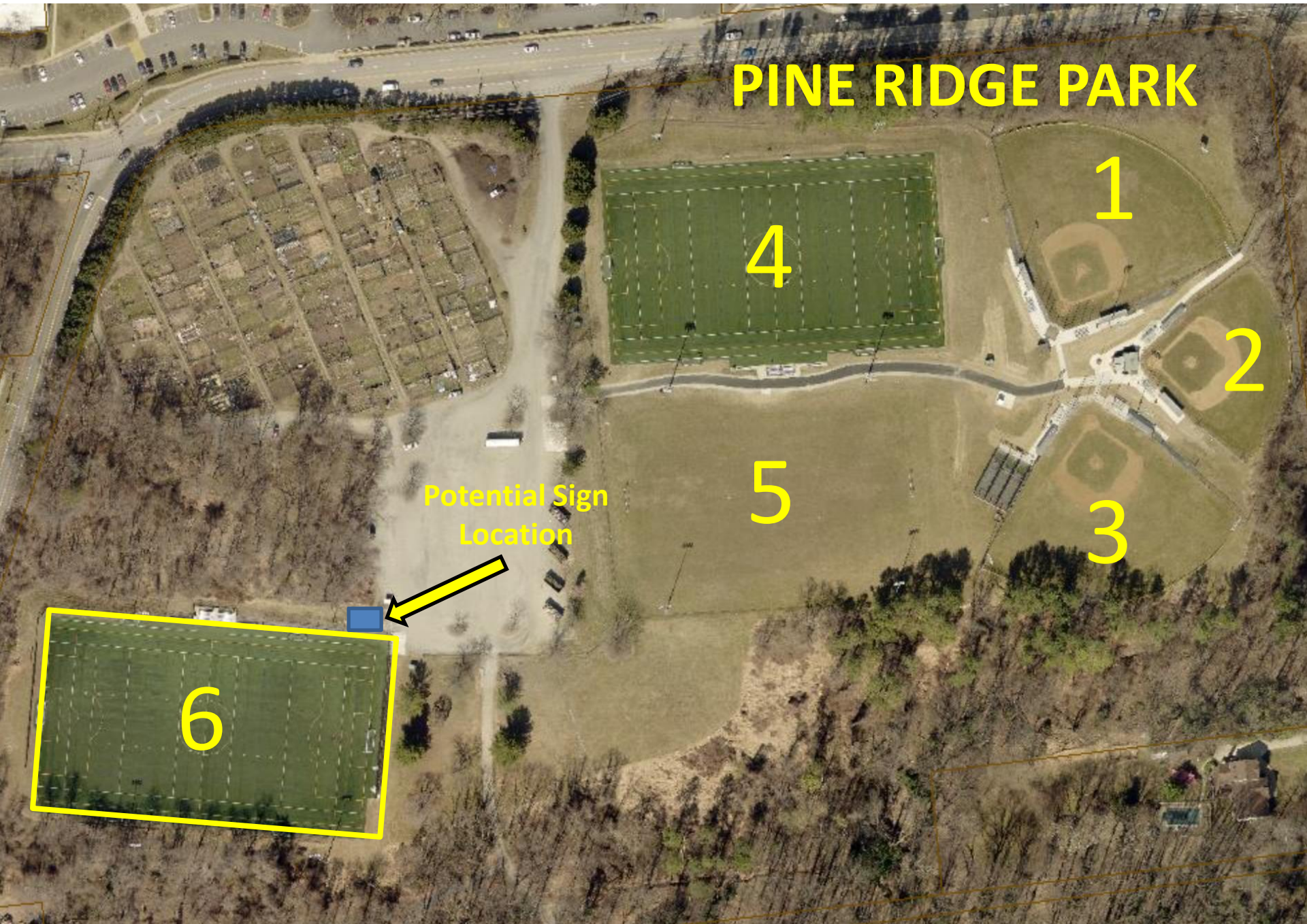
The Board Member for the Mason District supports the proposed naming.

FISCAL IMPACT:  
None

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:  
Attachment 1 – Aerial map showing Pine Ridge Park  
Attachment 2 – Wanda Rixon naming request

STAFF:  
Jai Cole, Executive Director  
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO  
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD  
Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer

# PINE RIDGE PARK



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Potential Sign Location

6

Ronald Kendall  
Fairfax County Park Authority Board, Mason District  
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927  
Fairfax, VA 22035

15 December 2021

Dear Mr. Kendall,

I'm contacting you to propose naming a Fairfax County Park Authority facility in the Mason District in honor of a highly deserving resident of Fairfax County and, more importantly, to solicit your support in this effort.

Let me explain. I've been involved with the Fairfax Women's Soccer Association (FWSA) since 1984 and have always been impressed with the leadership that steps up every year to make this a very successful league for hundreds of women soccer players of all ages. The league has expanded and thrived because of the dedication of many volunteers, but I would like to call a particular woman, Wanda Rixon, to your attention. Wanda has been involved with the development and administration of FWSA since 1978 and has served in many capacities, including Head Commissioner on the Executive Board for five different two year terms from 1995 to the present. During this time, our league has had a very cooperative and positive relationship with the Park Authority, the County Board of Supervisors and the Athletic Council in promoting the growth of women's soccer in Fairfax and the development and improvement of the playing fields we use. Through these many years Wanda has worked diligently to ensure that women's soccer is not overlooked.

Pine Ridge Park in the Mason District, with its soccer fields, baseball diamonds and garden plots, was developed with concerted effort and cooperation from FWSA starting in 1981 and was dedicated on Opening Day in October 1989. However, the future of the site was debated by the Fairfax County School Board and the Park Authority from 1995 until 2001. During this time, Wanda was instrumental in the effort to "Save Pine Ridge". She was co-chairwoman of the "Green Team" who lobbied for retaining the site as permanent parkland. In fact, the Green Team was presented with the Elly Doyle Park Service Award for Organizational Leadership in 1998 for its contribution. Pine Ridge Park was dedicated as permanent park land in April 2001 in a ceremony attended by Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross, Mason District Park Authority Board member Frank Vajda, several other county officials, and representatives from FWSA. In subsequent years under Wanda's leadership, FWSA partnered with both Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools to help finance the installation of artificial turf on fields at Wakefield Park and Woodson High School. In the years since Pine Ridge Park was developed, FWSA has played an important role in improving and maintaining the fields, contributing over \$350,000 in funds and countless administrative hours contracting and overseeing the work done on the fields.

Under the leadership of Wanda Rixon, FWSA has thrived as a soccer league, promoting the love of the game, fitness, friendship and good sportsmanship. Wanda has been especially influential in creating soccer opportunities for seniors as the membership has aged, creating divisions for the over-50 and over-58 members. In the past twenty months, Wanda has handled the challenges of continuing to promote safe and fun soccer throughout the Covid 19 pandemic.

In addition to serving the soccer community in Fairfax County, Wanda served in numerous positions in the Arlington Women's Soccer League and was recognized as Arlington County's Volunteer Sports Executive of the Year in 1990 for her personal commitment to leadership and her managerial excellence. More recently in 2020, Wanda was awarded the Iconic Woman Award by the Women And Girls in Soccer organization (WAGS) for her tireless promotion of soccer for women and girls.

As I visit various parks around the county, I see that many facilities, trails and playing fields have been named in honor of deserving citizens who have distinguished themselves by working tirelessly for the benefit of other county residents. In fact, field four at Pine Ridge is named for former FWSA Head Commissioner Ruth Walton, without whom the fields might never have been developed in the early 1980's.

I am proposing naming a facility to honor Wanda Rixon. The facility I have in mind is field six at Pine Ridge Park where we practice and play many of our games. It is a terrific soccer field, with artificial turf and lighting that was installed about ten years ago with the financial support of FWSA. As far as I can tell, the field has not been named, and I suggest that we fix that by calling it the "Wanda Rixon Field". Although Wanda is unaware of this effort on my part, I've spoken to many other members of FWSA who know Wanda and are enthusiastic about the prospect of honoring her in this way.

I've read the FCPA Policy Manual, Policy 304, Naming of Parks and Facilities, and am confident that Wanda Rixon's contributions would easily fall under conditions number two, four, five and six.

Thank you for considering this request and for the help you can provide in moving this effort forward. Can you please advise me if this is the correct starting point, if I should also contact another office or official, if I would need to present this case to the FCPA Board or what steps I should take next? I'm also copying this letter to Ms. Penny Gross, Supervisor for the Mason District, who has worked with Wanda over the years on the Pine Ridge Park issues.

Best regards,

Penny Schulstad

4707 Banting Court  
Fairfax, VA 22032  
703 244-1833  
pschulstad@hotmail.com

# **Wanda Rixon Naming Request**

**Rectangular Field 6**

**Pine Ridge Park**

**July 13, 2022**

## BACKGROUND:

- Request being made by Penny Schulstad and Fairfax Women's Soccer Association (FWSA).
- Wanda has been with FWSA since 1978.
- Partnered with FCPA, BOS, and FCAC to promote women's soccer.
- Partnered to help develop and improve Pine Ridge Park and multiple other rectangle fields.
- Helped "Save Pine Ridge". Co-chair of Green Team who lobbied to save park.



## **BACKGROUND (continued):**

- The Team received an Elly Doyle award in 1998.
- Park dedicated in 2001.
- Partnered to convert rectangle fields to synthetic at Wakefield Park and Woodson HS.
- Influential in creating soccer opportunities for seniors; creating divisions for over-50 and over-58 players.
- Awarded with the Iconic Woman Award by Women and Girls in Soccer organization for tireless promotion of soccer for women and girls.

# PINE RIDGE PARK

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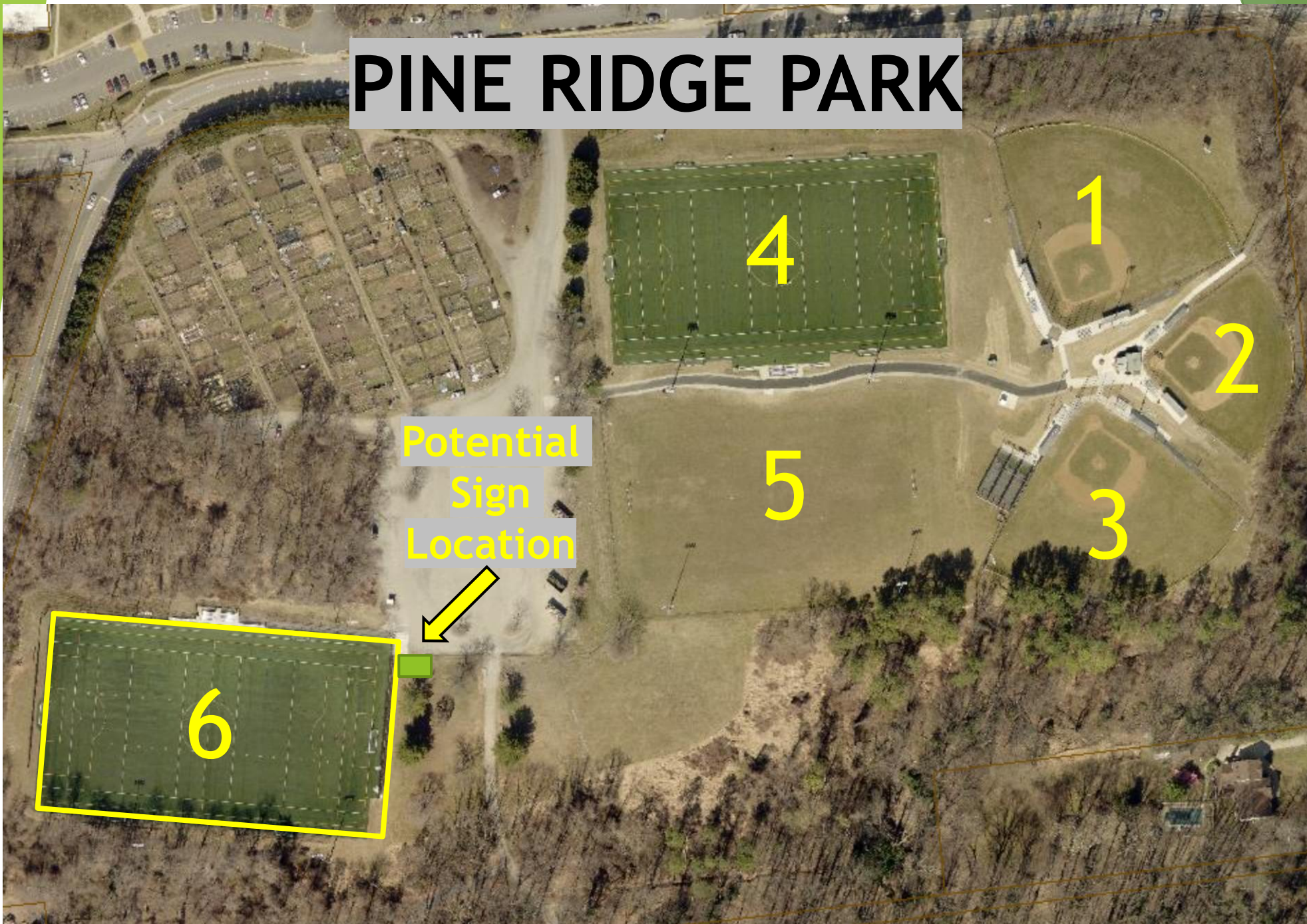
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Potential  
Sign  
Location



6



# RECTANGULAR FIELD 6

WANDA RIXON  
FIELD



# EXISTING FACILITY NAMES

**BO WHITE**  
(garden plots)

**RUTH T. WALTON**

**LEE PFAFF**

**BOB  
ALLGAIER**

**BILL LAMB**

**DARRYL KEHRER**  
(ball diamond  
complex)

**RICK ELLIOTT**  
(batting cages)

