

LAKE ACCOTINK PARK MASTER PLAN REVISION

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

MARCH 14, 2016



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

WELCOME

- INTRODUCTIONS
- PARK PLANNING PROCESS
- PARK BACKGROUND
- COMMENT PERIOD
- INFORMATION STATIONS



PARK AUTHORITY

PARK AUTHORITY BOARD

- TWELVE-MEMBER BOARD
- APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
- INCLUDES A REPRESENTATIVE FOR EACH OF THE NINE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS PLUS THREE AT-LARGE MEMBERS



PARK AUTHORITY

PARKS
426

TRAILS
324
miles

LAND
23,346
acres

TOTAL VISITATION
17,754,788



THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS



WHAT IS A PARK MASTER PLAN?

OUTLINE OF THE PARK PLANNING PROCESS

BACKGROUND ABOUT LAKE ACCOTINK PARK



THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS

FAIRFAX COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

PARK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Provides a general framework intended to guide open space and park planning

On the broadest scale, the process for planning our parks is framed by the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan which includes a Park Classification System as a general framework to guide open space and park planning.

Each park classification includes a description of uses appropriate to the park type, the general park size, typical facility types, and the general park experience to be provided.

Of the four park classifications, Lake Accotink is identified as a Countywide Park. Countywide Parks offer diverse experiences and activities that typically involve an individual or group for a time period of up to a day and which may attract large numbers of spectators or participants. Generally, these parks provide some intensively developed activity areas, and may, as Lake Accotink Park, include extensive natural areas and cultural resources.

PARK CLASSIFICATION PROVIDES AN INDICATION OF:

- Appropriate uses
- General park size range
- Typical facility types
- General park experience

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS:

- Local Parks
- District Parks
- **Countywide Parks**
- Resource-Based Parks



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS

THE PURPOSE OF A PARK MASTER PLAN IS TO:

- CREATE A SITE-SPECIFIC, LONG-RANGE VISION FOR THE PARK
- IDENTIFY RESOURCES WORTHY OF PROTECTION
- ASSESS SITE CONDITIONS AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS
- PROVIDE A GENERAL GUIDE FOR APPROPRIATE PARK USES
- ESTABLISH THE GENERAL LOCATION FOR PROPOSED USES

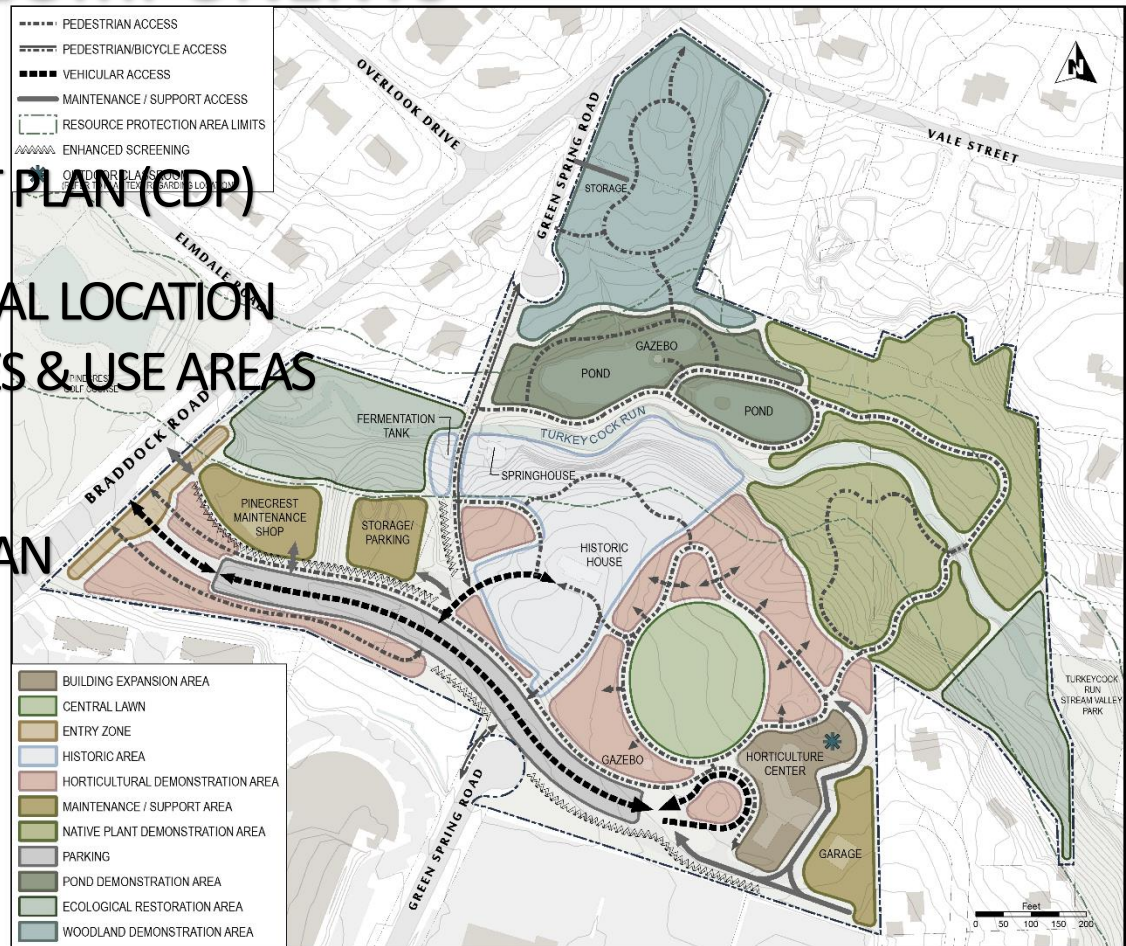


THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS

PARK MASTER PLAN COMPONENTS

GRAPHICS

- CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP)
- GRAPHICALLY SHOWS GENERAL LOCATION OF RECOMMENDED FACILITIES & USE AREAS
- CONCEPTUAL SITE DESIGN, NOT AN ENGINEERED SITE PLAN

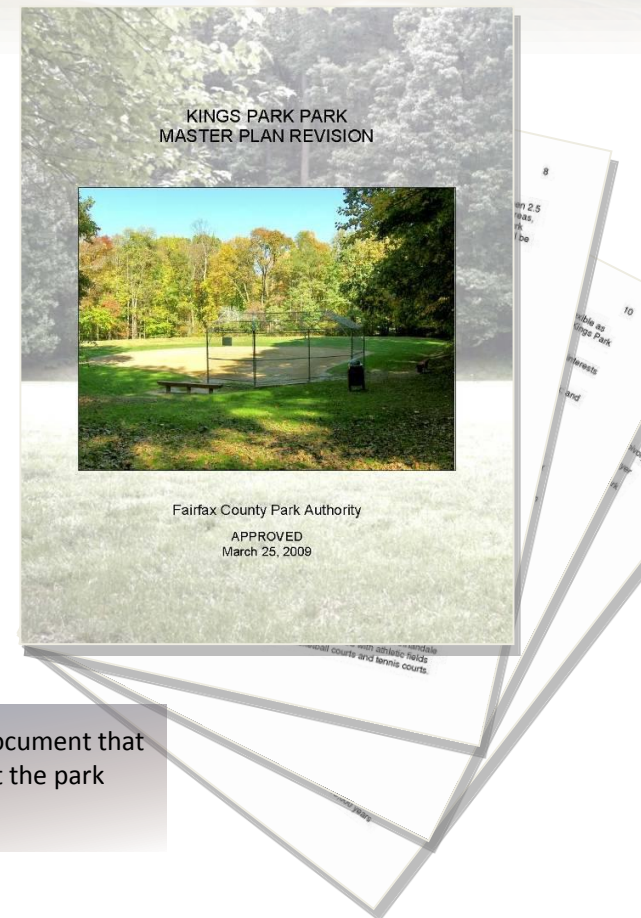


THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS

PARK MASTER PLAN COMPONENTS

WRITTEN REPORT

- ESTABLISHES PARK PURPOSE AND CLASSIFICATION
- DESCRIBES EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CONSTRAINTS
- DESCRIBES THE DESIRED VISITOR EXPERIENCE
- DESCRIBES THE PARK FEATURES
- IDENTIFIES DESIGN CONCERNS TO BE ADDRESSED AT DEVELOPMENT STAGE



The master plan report includes a fairly extensive document that pulls together a variety information resources about the park and documents the decision making process.



THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS

PARK MASTER PLAN TEAM

- ARCHAEOLOGISTS
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
- PLANNERS
- NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS
- OPERATIONAL SPECIALISTS
- RECREATION SPECIALISTS
- PARK DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS
- SITE STAFF



the Park Authority devotes the efforts of staff from a wide variety of backgrounds to develop a plan with a balanced perspective. At Lake Accotink Park, we also have the benefit of site staff to offer a broader perspective on the park. As most park sites are unstaffed, their participation in the Lake Accotink Park master plan process is a very beneficial.



THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS

LAKE ACCOTINK PARK MASTER PLAN REVISION TEAM

PARK AUTHORITY STAFF

GAYLE HOOPER ▪ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT III

SANDY STALLMAN ▪ PARK PLANNING, MANAGER

JULIE TAHAN ▪ LAKE ACCOTINK PARK MANAGER

CHRIS GOLDBECKER ▪ LAKEFRONT PARK MANAGER

ED RICHARDSON ▪ AREA 4 MANAGER

LIZ CRONAUER ▪ PROJECT MANAGER II

KRISTEN SINCLAIR ▪ ECOLOGIST III

JOHN RUTHERFORD ▪ HERITAGE RESOURCE SPECIALIST

PAUL NGO ▪ PLANNER II

STORMWATER PLANNING

SAJAN POKHAREL ▪ SENIOR ENGINEER III

DANIELLE WYNNE ▪ ECOLOGIST III

SOIL WATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DANIEL SCHWARTZ ▪ SOIL SCIENTIST



THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS

MASTER PLAN PROCESS & SCHEDULE

The Park Authority follows a process with our master plans that is designed to be consistent and equitable.

- Background and detailed research is done by the master plan team.
- A public meeting is held to introduce the planning process to the community and to hear the community's vision for the park.
- The master plan team integrates the community's needs, the carrying capacity of the park, and protection of natural/cultural resources to develop a draft master plan.
- The draft plan is posted on the project web page for review.
- Another public meeting allows staff to present the draft plan to the community and listen to their response.
- The period for public comment on the draft plan remains open for at least 30 days following the public meeting.
- The master plan team reviews all comments received and modifies the plan as necessary.
- The updated draft plan is presented to the Park Authority Board for approval.

This outlines the typical process although additional elements might be added as best adapted to the individual park.



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY





WE LOVE LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

We hear all the time how much people love the many aspects of Lake Accotink Park. There are so many things to see and do!

peace

*carousel
rides*

*Events &
concerts*

picnics

wildlife

pet events

classes & camps

fishing

*enjoying
nature*

trails

boating

mini-golf



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

WE LOVE LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

And we want to continue to provide these kinds of benefits for our children and our children's children.

Planning now for the future of Lake Accotink Park is a key part of assuring that the park can remain as a meaningful part of the lives of generations to come.



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

KEY (ALL FEATURES ARE EXISTING UNLESS NOTED)

1. MARINA, MINI GOLF, CAROUSEL, AND TICKET BLDG.
2. BALL FIELD
3. MINIATURE GOLF (PROPOSED)
4. FAMILY PICNIC AREA
5. NATURE TRAILS
6. GROUP PICNIC AREA (PROPOSED)
7. GROUP PICNIC AREA (PROPOSED)
8. PARK ENTRANCE -HEMING AVENUE
9. PARKING -100 CARS (60 EX. 40 PROP.)
10. OPEN PLAY AREA
11. GROUP PICNIC AND DAY USE AREA
12. PLAY APPARATUS

KEY CONTINUED

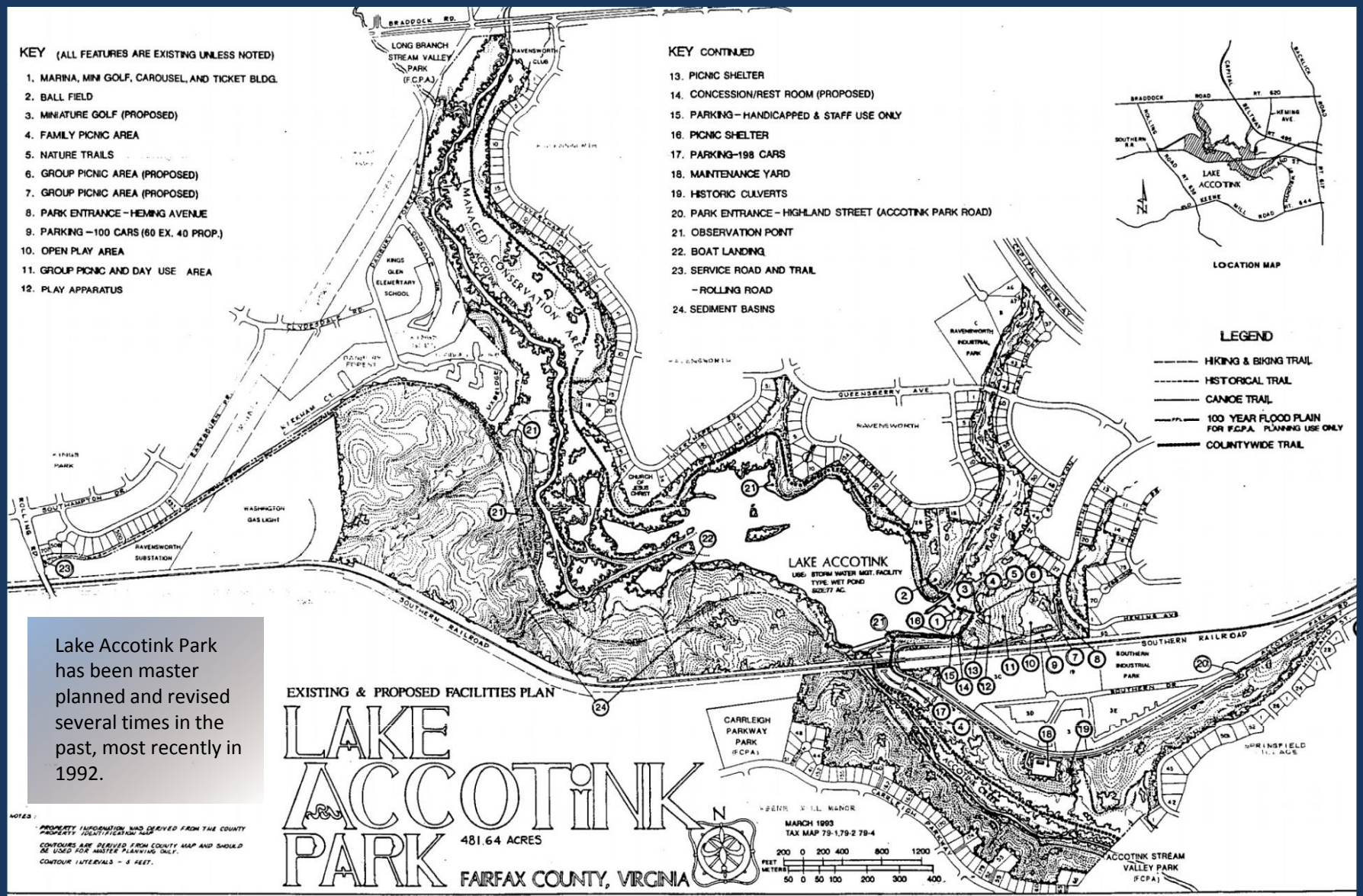
13. PICNIC SHELTER
14. CONCESSION/REST ROOM (PROPOSED)
15. PARKING -HANDICAPPED & STAFF USE ONLY
16. PICNIC SHELTER
17. PARKING-198 CARS
18. MAINTENANCE YARD
19. HISTORIC CULVERTS
20. PARK ENTRANCE - HIGHLAND STREET (ACCOTINK PARK ROAD)
21. OBSERVATION POINT
22. BOAT LANDING
23. SERVICE ROAD AND TRAIL
-ROLLING ROAD
24. SEDIMENT BASINS



LOCATION MAP

LEGEND

- HIKING & BIKING TRAIL
- HISTORICAL TRAIL
- CANOE TRAIL
- 100 YEAR FLOOD PLAN FOR F.C.P.A. PLANNING USE ONLY
- COUNTYWIDE TRAIL

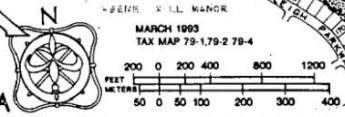


EXISTING & PROPOSED FACILITIES PLAN

LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

481.64 ACRES

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA



Lake Accotink Park has been master planned and revised several times in the past, most recently in 1992.

NOTES:
PROPERTY INFORMATION WAS DERIVED FROM THE COUNTY PROPERTY TAX MAPS AND SHOULD BE USED FOR MASTER PLANNING ONLY.
CONTOURS ARE DERIVED FROM COUNTY MAP AND SHOULD BE USED FOR MASTER PLANNING ONLY.
CONTOUR INTERVALS - 5 FEET.



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

If Lake Accotink Park is so well loved, why would the Park Authority consider revising the master plan?

Parks are not static places. Parks change over time largely because the communities around them change.

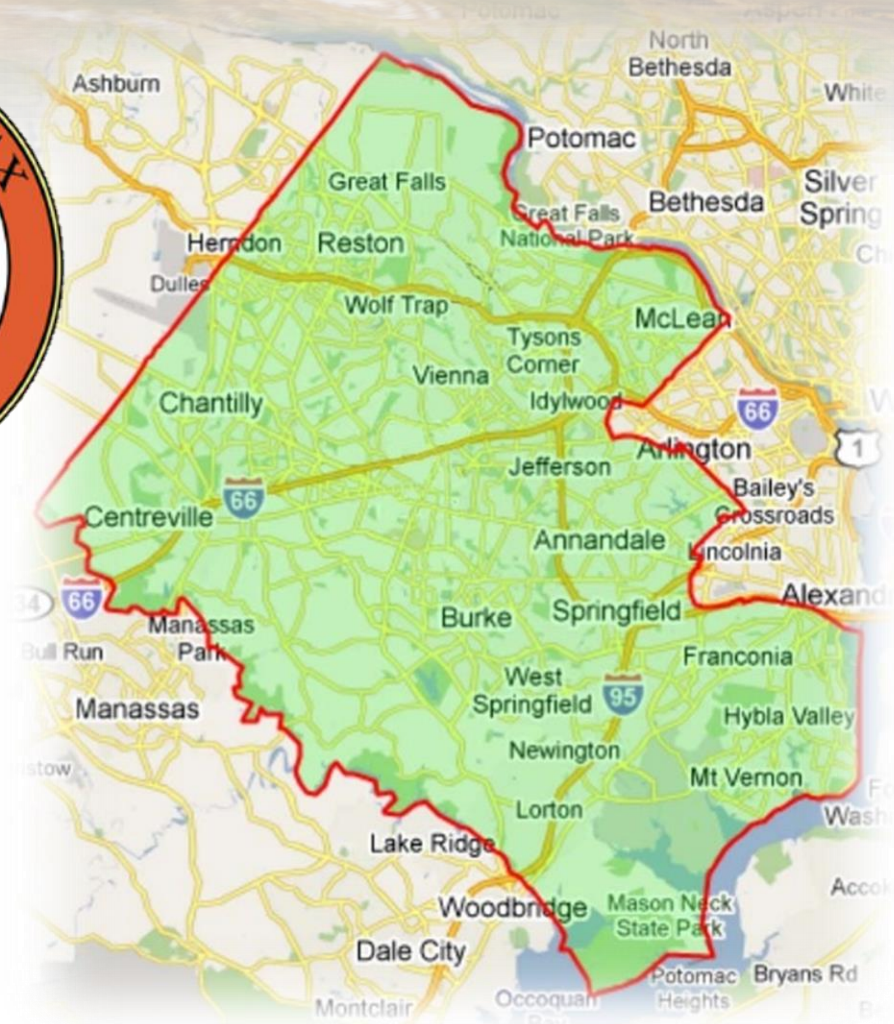
Certainly Springfield has changed over the years.



OUR CHANGING COUNTY

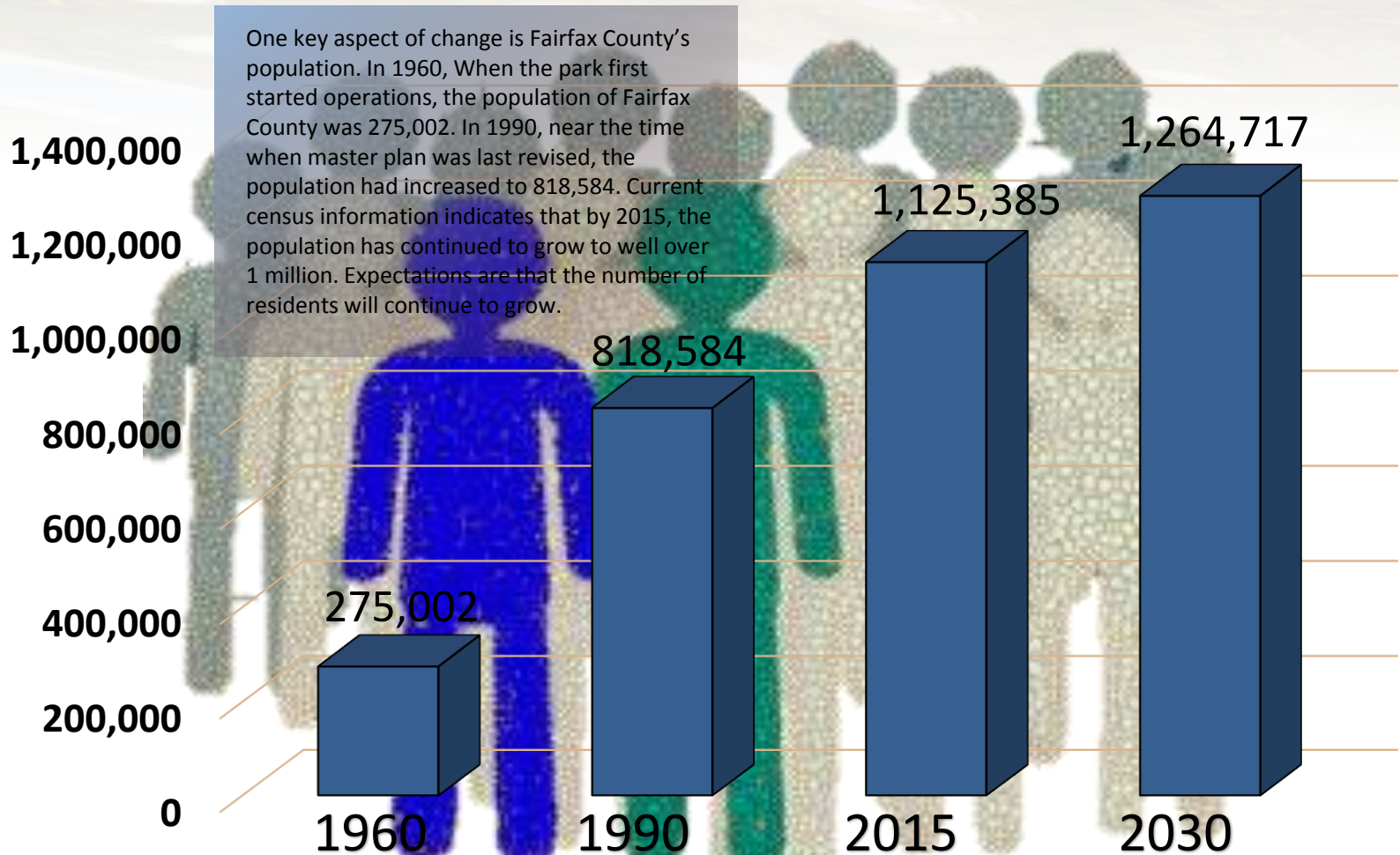


That change is evident across the county as a whole.



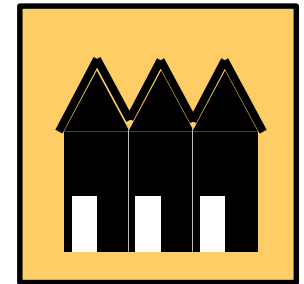
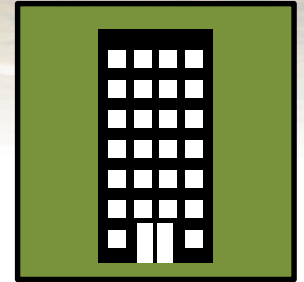
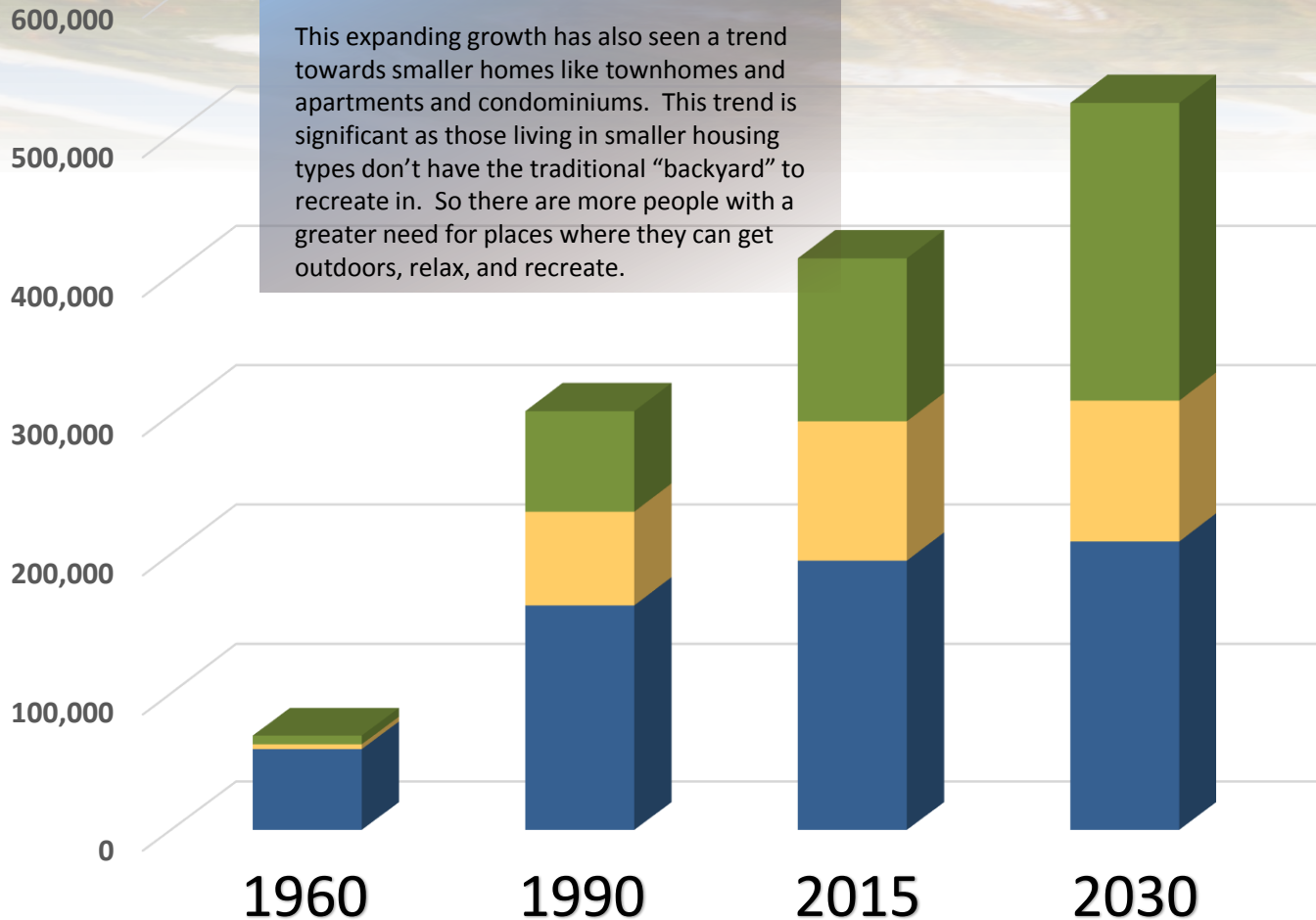
OUR CHANGING COUNTY

POPULATION



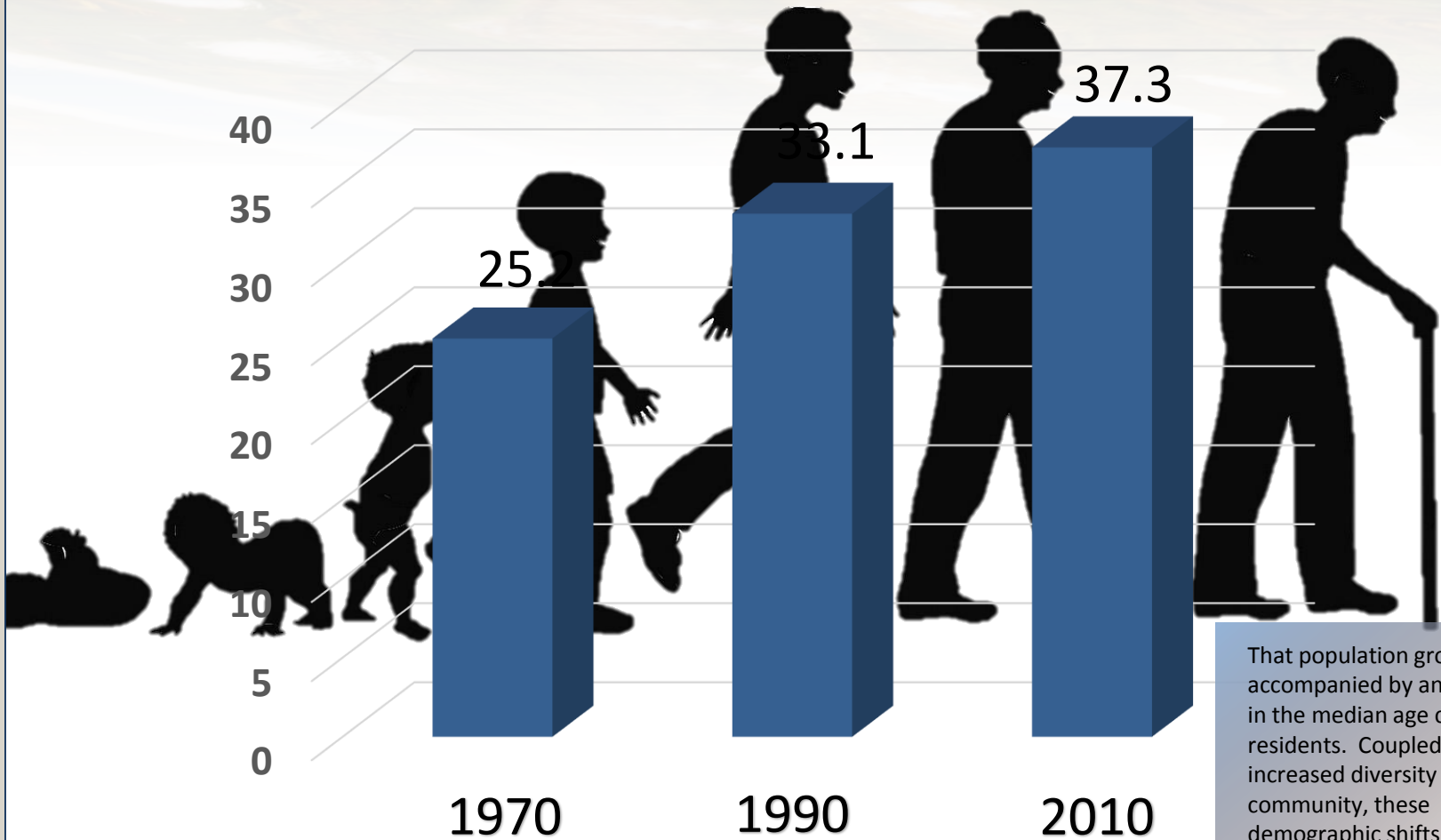
OUR CHANGING COUNTY

HOUSING UNITS



OUR CHANGING COUNTY

MEDIAN AGE



That population growth is accompanied by an increase in the median age county residents. Coupled with the increased diversity of our community, these demographic shifts often lead to changes in interests and priorities.

ACHIEVING BALANCE

RIGHT
FACILITIES TO
SERVE THE
COMMUNITY



PROTECT OUR
NATURAL AND
CULTURAL
RESOURCES

Part of this planning process will be to evaluate how well the Lake Accotink Park is meeting the needs and desires of today's community and plan for future needs.

We want to have the right facilities to serve the community – but do so in a way that protects our precious natural and cultural resources. We want to welcome people into the park – we have to balance that with the need to protect the land.



LAKE SUSTAINABILITY



As a natural resource and as a recreational feature of the park, another key reason for revisiting the master plan for Lake Accotink Park has to do with the lake itself.



LAKE SUSTAINABILITY

The existing dam that formed the lake was constructed by the Corps of Engineers in 1943, prior to the Park Authority's ownership.

The 1950s and 1960s were years of rapid expansion in Fairfax County in the post WWII housing boom, particularly across the eastern part of the county. Unfortunately, this early development occurred prior to the establishment of significant stormwater management regulations. Then, the approach was to collect rain runoff in a piped system and send it somewhere else.



LAKE SUSTAINABILITY

As development grew, so did the amount of runoff – which has negatively impacted the health of our streams.

Stream banks become eroded and incised. Trees are lost along the stream banks as the soil is washed out from under them. Small particles of dirt, or silt, are washed downstream and settle into crevices on the stream bottom that are necessary for numerous creatures to live and breed. Silt also carries pollutants with it, impacting all the wildlife.

Being in the area of much of the county's earliest development, the Accotink Creek Watershed is one of the most heavily impacted of the county's 30 watersheds.



LAKE SUSTAINABILITY

When Lake Accotink was first created, it was 23 feet deep. Currently, the lake is approximately 4' deep, having continued to fill with silt washing down from upstream. This condition doesn't allow for a healthy balance of species and limits the recreation value of the lake.



LAKE SUSTAINABILITY

In the early 1960s, 1984, and 2005, the lake has been dredged – which is a long, disruptive, and extremely costly way to remove silt from the lake. In 2005, 204,000 cubic yards of debris was removed from the lake at a cost of \$9,325,000.

But dredging the lake is only a temporary solution . . . And the lake is silting in again. If we take no action, the lake will ultimately fill in. But the cost of dredging, on a continual basis, needs to be evaluated.

When there are some many needs in the county, it is important to evaluate how to most wisely utilize limited funds.



LAKE SUSTAINABILITY

B&N

BURGESS & NIPLÉ
Engineers ■ Architects ■ Planners



Wetland
Studies and Solutions, Inc.®



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

May 16, 2016
7:00 until 8:30 pm
Kings Glen
Elementary School
Meeting to
discuss possibilities to
improve lake sustainability

The Park Authority has been working with Burgess & Nipple engineering and Wetland Studies and Solutions over the past year to carefully study the current condition of the lake and to develop a variety of approaches to enhance the sustainability of the lake – both from an ecological and financial standpoint.

A meeting date is set for May 16th, when we can present the findings of the lake study to you and have a conversation about what options may exist. I expect this will be a topic on which people will have a broad variety of opinions. We will need to work together to wrestle with some difficult decisions.

INFORMATION STATIONS

Tonight, though, we'd like to focus on hearing some of your initial thoughts, concerns, hopes for Lake Accotink Park.



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

INFORMATION STATIONS

NATURAL RESOURCES



CULTURAL RESOURCES

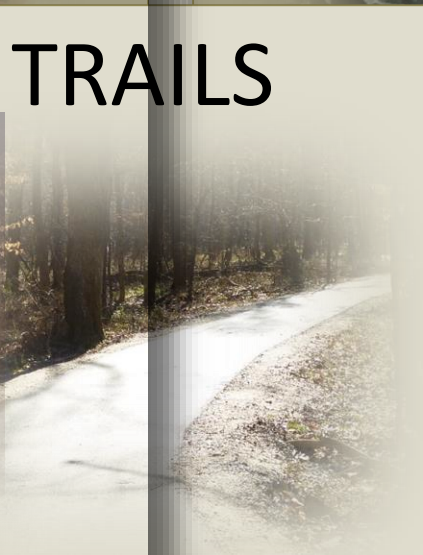


RECREATION

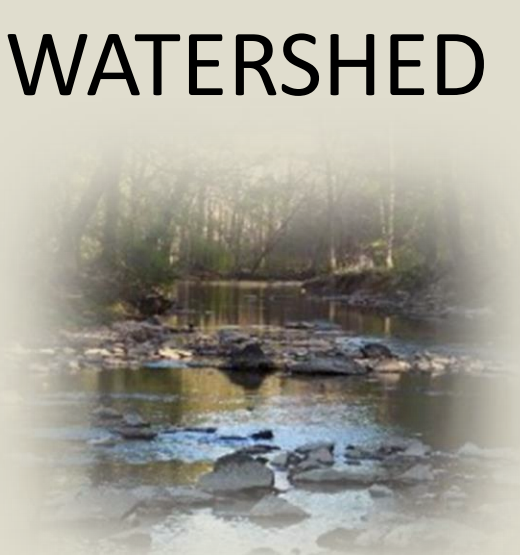


TRAILS

After a time to share some of your thoughts, we have stations representing various areas of interest about the park. The team members know the area well and should be able to answer any questions you may have – or, if you throw us a stumper, at least know where to find the answer.



WATERSHED



WE'D LIKE YOUR INPUT

At each of the stations There are comment cards for you to write down your thoughts. There is also a brief questionnaire to help us know what it is you like most about the park, and what might make your visits to the park more enjoyable.

LAKE ACCOTINK PARK MASTER PLAN REVISION COMMENT CARD

Please share with us what
you enjoy most about
Lake Accotink Park

- Water-related Activities**
- Non-motorized boating
 - Paddle boats
 - Canoes
 - Kayaks
 - Tour boat cruises
 - Fishing

Recreation Activities

- Miniature Golf
- Carousel
- Playground
- Basketball/Paved Court
- Volleyball/Sand Court
- Open Play Area

Trails

Picnic Facilities

- Reservable area for groups
- Reservable picnic area
- Picnic spaces
- Picnic spaces

Events

- Park Festival, Photos w/ Santa)
- Social/Community Days (such as Springfield Days)
- Cultural Events

- Observing water/scenery
- Connecting with nature
- Bird watching
- Interpretive programs and features
- Volunteering

Other

(See other side for...)

**PLEASE SHARE
YOUR THOUGHTS!**



CONTACT INFORMATION



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Fairfax, Virginia 22035



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*This information
is provided on the
handout!*

Please visit the project website:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/lakeaccotink.htm>

In addition to the comment cards, there is always a variety of ways to get in touch with us.



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

**“Great things are not done by impulse,
but by a series of small things brought together.”**

Vincent van Gogh



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY