

Huntington Park Master Plan
Citizen Comments from Public Meeting June 8, 2006

1. **Is it possible to move the existing paved court to other locations in the park?**
Yes, as long as the total impervious surface within the park does not increase.
2. **We are interested in adding a small fenced dog park (Mt. Vernon Area Dog Opportunity Group). Is public/private funding possible to increase FCPA funding? Are fences OK under the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance?**
The Park Authority's policy for off-leash dog areas states that there must be a local adopting group to adopt the off-leash dog area. These groups often provide a portion of the funding for construction of the facility as well. Yes, fences are allowed.
3. **Regarding the Cameron Watershed Management Study Group/Plan. Has there been interaction with the FCPA for long range plans? Are there tangible results?**
Yes, the Park Authority has participated in the development of the watershed plans. The Park Authority's Natural Resource Management Section is a member of the Huntington Park Master Plan staff team and will advise how to coordinate with the watershed plan.
4. **The town homes and High Rises proffered money towards trails. Where are those funds now?**
It depends upon how the proffer was written in regards to when the contribution was required. Many of the proffered funds may not yet have been received because the trigger mechanism requiring dedication of funds has not yet been met. For those proffer funds that have been received are held until the Park Authority Board allocates them to a qualifying project in accordance with the proffer language.
5. **An area in section #3 of the park isn't mowed often enough. Walking with dogs produces ticks and fleas. High grass makes it difficult for police to control campers. More mowing would discourage people from staying. Do we have a voice in that in the future as a meadow?**
Yes, the Park Authority will consider community desires for this area as part of this park master planning process. Currently, that area of the park is on the bush-hog schedule to be mowed twice a year in accordance with the objective of managing this area as a meadow habitat.
6. **Regarding the planned trail as indicated on the Countywide Trails Plan, will it be located on FCPA land or Cameron Run land?**
The Countywide Trail Map is a general guide that allows for varied location but locating the trail within the park is one of the priorities of this park master planning process.

7. **Does the Chesapeake Bay Act prevent paved trails?** *No. All trail types are allowed.*
8. **Where is the money coming from? How do we know where it is? Is it for the improvement of the whole park?** *Money for park development is typically provided through Park Bond Referendums. Occasionally, proffered money is available for park improvements as well.*
9. **Will the park be closed at night? Would there still be electricity or toilets?** **There seems to be more problems with people at night since the lights went out a year ago.** *Huntington Park is open from dawn to dusk. The Park is closed at night. There is electricity available onsite. Toilets are typically not provided in local parks and are not envisioned for this park. The Park Authority's experience has been that lighting parks at night invites people into the park when it is in fact closed.*
10. **Regarding the VDOT strip of land at the end of Fenwick, can FCPA coordinate with them? Can VDOT deed the land to the park?** *The VDOT strip from Fenwick has an existing driveway access that prevents abandonment.*
11. **Can the Park Authority ask VDOT to transfer ownership of the strip of land along Cameron Run to the Park Authority?** *The Park Authority has investigated this possibility and found that VDOT is not willing.*
12. **A lot of people currently use Huntley Meadows because the trails are long and level. A loop trail would be a good addition to the park.** *The Park Authority envisions a through trail as well as a loop option within this park.*
13. **Are Boy Scout service projects allowed for clean-ups?** *Yes, please coordinate with the Park Authority's area manager Joe Nilson (703) 765-6020.*
14. **Demographics in the Huntington neighborhood are small houses and condos. The community is adult more than youth oriented. The residents have to leave for tennis, bicycling. Can these be added?** *Trails are permitted and will be added. Tennis courts are a possibility as a trade-off for an existing impervious use if the total impervious surface is not increased within the park.*
15. **FCPA should be telling the neighborhood how much traffic is going on the roads. Where are the people going to park if there is no more parking provided?** *Traffic count information for local roads is available from the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (see their website at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/> . Local parks are designed for access by alternative means of transportation such as walking or biking. If facilities for organized sports are provided, additional parking in the park should be developed.*

- 16. Arlington Terrace has a lot of small children with bikes and playing. Need some protection for the kids from traffic.** *This issue should be coordinated with the local Community Association, Supervisor Hyland's office, and VDOT.*
- 17. The park has only 1 entrance, but people use an additional non- entrance to the park at Fenwick Drive. Kids, Campers etc.** *The "entrance" at Fenwick Drive is in fact VDOT right-of-way and not controlled by the Park Authority.*
- 18. Regarding the chart from the presentation showing active recreational facilities and needs, is it based on current or future population?** *The analysis includes information based on both existing and future population figures.*
- 19. It may be desirable to have outdoor classrooms for local schools at Huntington Park.** *This is possible but does not need to wait for completion of the Park Master Plan since this issue is more programmatic than structural.*
- 20. I am concerned about possible park expansion due to existing parking problems within the neighborhood. Will any new parking spaces be provided? Currently, people park in the gravel and on the grass.** *If facilities for organized sports are provided, additional parking in the park will be planned.*
- 21. What about the existing structures in the water company parcel? Can they be re-developed?** *Yes, provided that the total area of impervious surface within the park does not increase.*
- 22. Who is responsible for the construction of the bike/paved trail?** *The Park Authority is responsible for the trail build-out on park land.*
- 23. Who are the other agencies that take care of trail construction?** *Trail construction is typically done as part of road improvements or land development projects on private property. The Fairfax County Departments of Transportation, Planning and Zoning, and Public Works and Environmental Services all have some oversight responsibilities.*
- 24. Since the playground is geared towards younger kids, could we have a fence to prevent dogs from getting in?** *The Park Authority has observed that dog owners sometimes use enclosed playgrounds as a de facto off-leash dog area. Development of an off-leash dog area may be a better solution to keeping dogs out of playground areas.*
- 25. Once comments come in, how do we rank the priorities? How do you rank comments/questions?** *This is just the first meeting in a long process. We invite the community to help us rank priorities at an upcoming Huntington Park Planning workshop in October.*

- 26. Tennis Courts and other adult recreation facilities; are they OK within a Resource Protection Area? What is permissible?** *New development is limited to open areas and is dependent on no increase in total impervious surface within the park.*
- 27. What is the center parcel, former Water Authority site, going to become? Will it be returned to natural state or active recreation?** *One of the purposes of this park planning process is to decide that issue.*
- 28. There are safety issues related to the existing wooded area of the park. As well, there are lots of former dump areas. What are the possibilities for habitat improvements?** *The Park Authority works with a lot of community groups on habitat improvement and park clean-up projects. To work with the Park Authority on habitat improvement within the park, please contact the Park Authority's Resource Management Division.*
- 29. Can there be a Hiking trail loop in the park?** *Yes.*
- 30. Water authority ground is essentially paved. There are areas with fill material, but this material may be more permeable than paving.**
- 31. A cricket league is interested in coordinating use of Huntington Park.**
- 32. People dump dirt, trash in the park; party in the turnaround and spill out into the streets. The neighborhood needs some types of additional parking. If it is really a park, you need to let the community use it.**
- 33. Look at Huntington Park and the surrounding community map. It's like a "walled city" with very little connectivity to other areas. Farrington Avenue is the only way in and out. It's very restrictive because of Cameron Run, Montebello and the Metro. Many streets don't have access except Huntington, which has become an I-95 alternate. Consider traffic flow in planning.**
- 34. We would really like to see a park that is beautiful and natural in a planned way. I would also like it to be "in-accessible" meaning no parking, electricity, non-motorized, no restrooms.**
- 35. I own the home adjacent to the park at the corner of Liberty Street and Arlington Terrace. People drive into the park and sometimes hit corner of fence. There is no place for many in the community to park because people block driveways and take up on-street parking.**
- 36. Regarding potential re-development near Riverside Apartments, the community would like better trail connections to the park as part of re-development. It's difficult to get into and out of the park via bike.**

- 37. AIMCO (The neighboring apartment management company) liked the idea of a trail along Cameron Run and would support it.**
- 38. Walking from Biscayne to playground with a 3-year old is difficult. Requires driving. Huntington Drive is very dangerous for pedestrians.**
- 39. Huntington is not a safe road to cross by foot.**
- 40. Some police officers stay in the car and look out the window when they are called. They need to drive down to the back area.**
- 41. Some Community members are starting a neighborhood watch. The first meeting will be in 2 weeks (June 24) at 6:30 in the community center.**