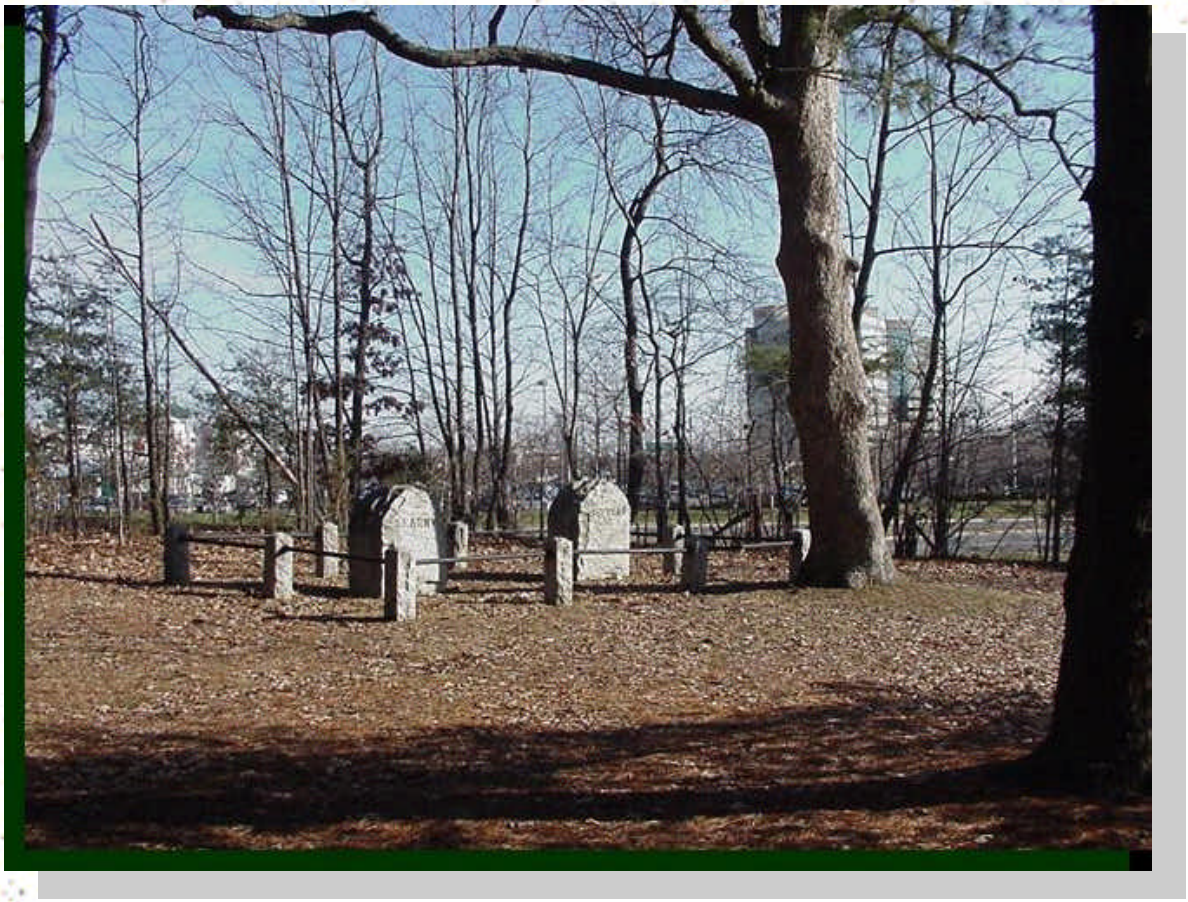
Ox Hill Battlefield Park
General Management Plan
and
Conceptual Development Plan



Fairfax County Park Authority

Approved

January 2005

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The Park Authority wants to thank The Chantilly Battlefield Association and Edward T. Wenzel for their tireless dedication to documenting and preserving the history of the Battle of Ox Hill (aka "Battle of Chantilly"). Mr. Wenzel spearheaded the citizen effort to have land preserved and funds designated for the park as this area developed over the past twenty years. The citizens of Fairfax County have benefited from Mr. Wenzel's enthusiasm, steadfast manner, and constant rallying of support for Ox Hill Battlefield Park. On behalf of the Park Authority, County residents, and the historic preservation community, we offer our thanks to Ed Wenzel and the Chantilly Battlefield Association.

Ox Hill Battlefield Park
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GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose and Description of the Plan

The purpose of this General Management Plan (GMP) is to serve as a guide for all future planning and programming. The GMP establishes park purpose and classification, describes existing conditions and constraints, details the desired visitor experience and identifies "management zones." Uses are described in general terms, so that as visitor needs change, the uses provided can change. This document should be referred to before future planning and design projects are started. General Management Plans are meant to be flexible to accommodate the changing needs of park visitors.

B. Public Process

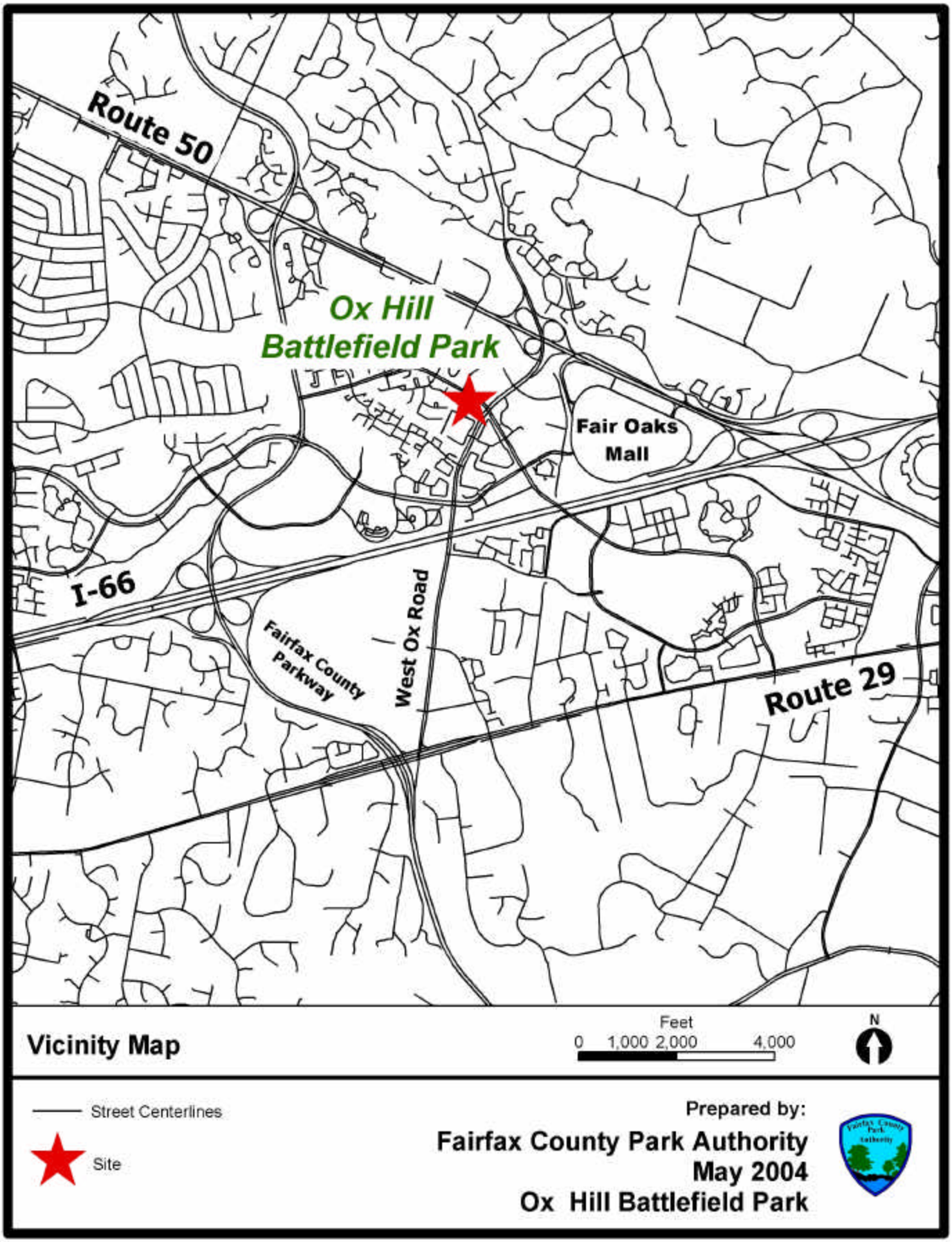
In December 2003, The Park Authority established the Ox Hill Battlefield and Union Mills Historic Site Task Force. The Task Force's dual role was both visionary and adviser. The Task Force guided Park Authority staff in developing a vision for the park describing the park visitor's experience and a conceptual arrangement of uses on the site.

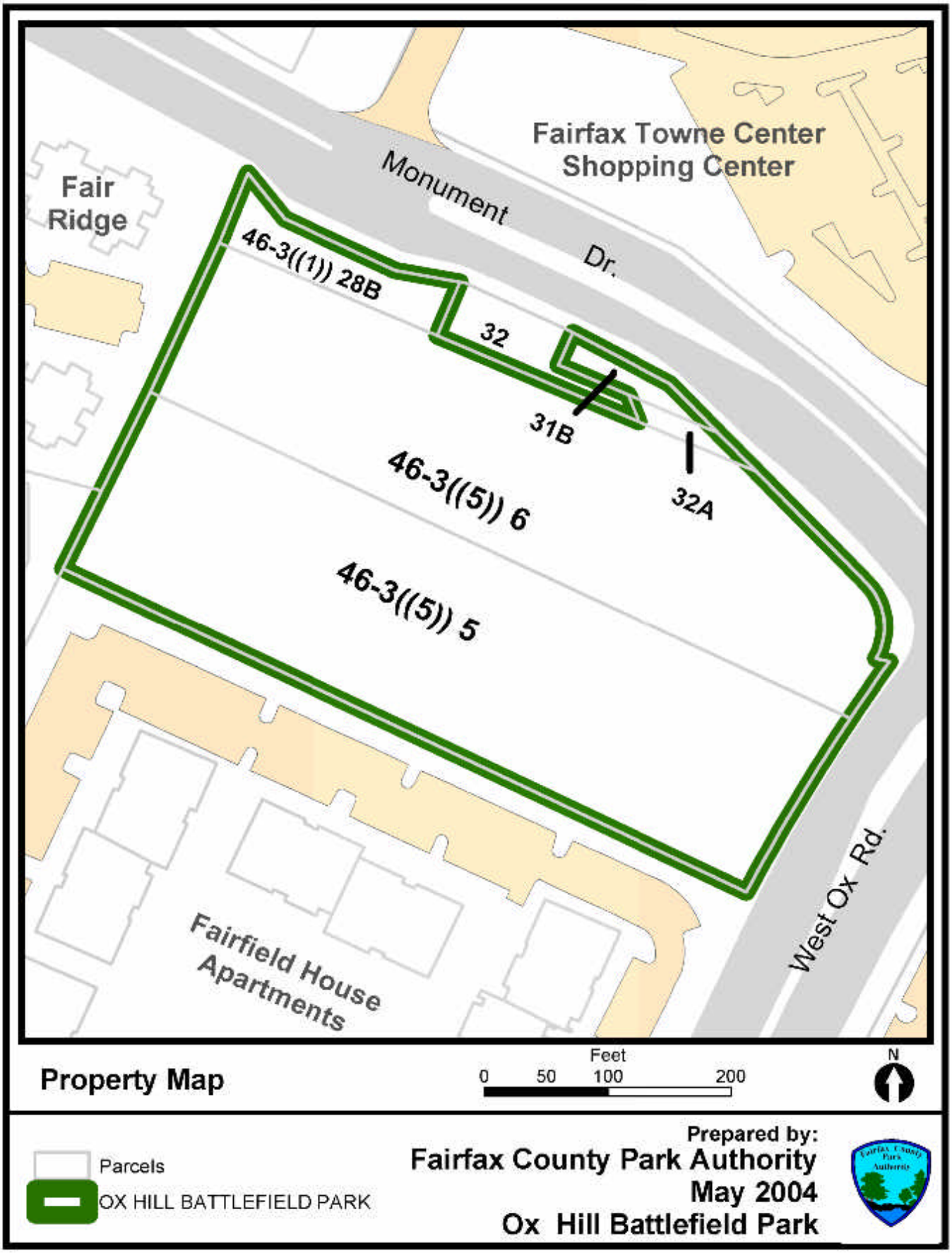
The Task Force was composed of a broad-based group with representation from neighbors, civic groups, park users, and the historical preservation community. The Task Force met six times between January and June 2004 and advised Park Authority staff on the development of this document.

Further public involvement included a Public Hearing held on September 13, 2004 on the master plans for both Ox Hill Battlefield Park and Union Mills Historic site. Twenty-one people spoke at the hearing. Generally, there was strong support for the Ox Hill Battlefield Park master plan.

C. Park Description

Ox Hill Battlefield Park is an historic site designated as a Cultural Resource Park. The site is located in the Springfield Supervisory District in the southwestern corner of the intersection of West Ox Road and Monument Drive (see vicinity map, page 6). The portion of the battlefield and memorial ground preserved in the park are important to the Civil War heritage of the region. The Battle of Ox Hill (also know as the Battle of Chantilly) was the only major Civil War battle fought in Fairfax County. The core of the site is the approximately 5,000 square foot lot that contains two large granite monuments erected in 1915 in honor of fallen Union Generals Philip Kearny and Isaac Ingalls Stevens. The monuments are located on Parcel 32 of Tax Map 46-3((1)).


Route 50
Ox Hill
Battlefield Park
Fair Oaks
Mall
I-66
Fairfax County
Parkway
West Ox Road
Route 29
Vicinity Map
Feet
0 1,000 2,000 4,000
N
Street Centerlines
Site
Prepared by:
Fairfax County Park Authority
May 2004
Ox Hill Battlefield Park


Fairfax Towne Center
Shopping Center
Fair
Ridge
Monument
Dr.
46-3((1)) 28B
32
31B
32A
46-3((5)) 6
46-3((5)) 5
West Ox Rd.
Fairfield House
Apartments
Property Map
Feet
0
50
100
200
N
Parcels
OX HILL BATTLEFIELD PARK
Prepared by:
Fairfax County Park Authority
May 2004
Ox Hill Battlefield Park

Ox Hill Battlefield Park is located on Tax Map 46-3((1)) 28B, 31B, 32, and 32A and Tax Map 46-3((5)) 5, and 6 (see property map on page 7). The total acreage of the park site is 4.8 acres. All of the parcels except Tax Map 46-3((1)) Parcel 32 belong to the Fairfax County Park Authority. Survey plats from 1927 and 1945 show that parcel 32 is approximately 5,000 square feet in size although Fairfax County tax records currently list the lot as 3,397 square feet. Lot 32 is owned by Trustees of the Kearny-Stevens monument lot.

The principal site features are the two granite monuments surrounded by a low iron rail with granite posts, one granite marker shaped in the form of a tree stump, a quartzite boulder marking the approximate location of General Steven's death, two cast aluminum Virginia historical markers on iron posts adjacent to Monument Drive, one composite interpretative sign, and a stone-dust trail traversing the park from southeast to northwest. The granite monuments are not gravestones and there is no evidence of any burials onsite.

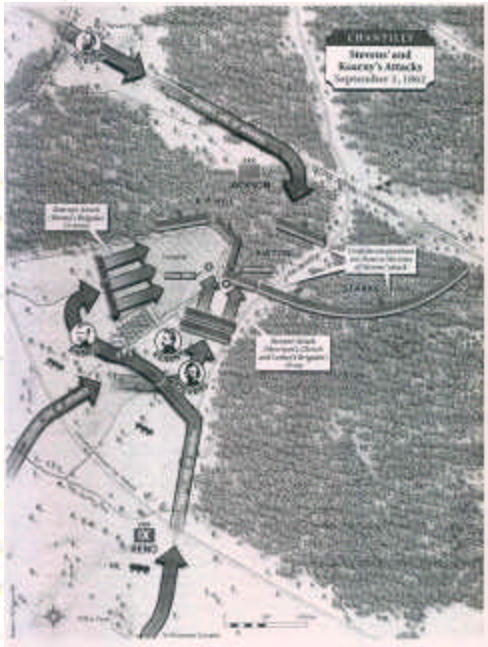
Historical Background

By the summer of 1862, Americans realized that the Civil War would not be a short, bloodless conflict. Major battles were fought in the spring on the Virginia Peninsula and in Tennessee. Abraham Lincoln was in search of a fighting general who could defeat the Confederate armies. He brought Major General John Pope, a political and personal friend from Illinois to Washington, D.C. Pope had performed well in operations along the Mississippi River. He took command of the newly formed Union Army of Virginia and soon faced General Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia on the Rappahannock River. Lee outmaneuvered Pope, severed his supply line and communications at Manassas and Gainesville, and routed his army at the Battle of Second Manassas on August 28-30.

After Pope's defeated army withdrew to the high ground at Centreville, Lee again planned to outmaneuver Pope's army and destroy it. Accordingly, Lee sent his left wing under the command of Major General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson to move around Pope's right flank, march to the Little River Turnpike and cut Pope's line of retreat near Fairfax. Pope learned of this movement and ordered troops from Reno's IX Corps, Army of the Potomac, including Brigadier General Isaac Steven's Division to block Jackson on the turnpike. At about 4:00 p.m. on September 1, 1862, Jackson's troops, having advance as far as Ox Hill, encountered three Brigades of Stevens' 1st Division and one brigade of the 2nd Division of Reno's IX Corps at Ox Hill just south of the intersection of the Ox Road and the Little River Turnpike (modern West Ox Road and Route 50). Stevens' troops had advanced northward to surprise Jackson and intercept the Confederate flanking column.

As skirmishes occurred, Stevens' deployed his division in an open field and Jackson rushed forward his troops through the woods to meet them. Around 4:30 p.m., as storm clouds gathered, Stevens attacked, his infantry supported by artillery.

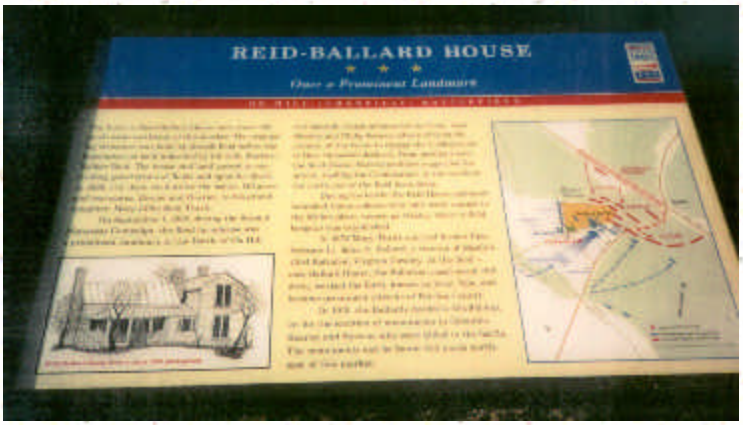
Stevens' troops were met by intense fire from the larger Confederate forces concealed in the edge of a wood line and from across a cornfield. The attack stalled, but Steven's rallied his troops, extended his line and renewed the assault. It was now about 5:00 pm, and Stevens' 79th Highlanders had lost five color bearers. Stevens himself picked up the colors and rushed forward leading his troops but as he advanced, he was shot in the head, dying instantly. Meanwhile, the threatening rain began to pour and soon intensified into a severe thunderstorm with high winds and driving rain. The thunder and lightening was so intense that it sometimes drowned out the sound of battle.



As Stevens troops fell back, Union Major General Philip Kearny advanced with troops from his 1st Division of Heintzelman's III Corps, Army of the Potomac. At about 5:30 p.m., five regiments of Kearny's troops were engaged in combat in a cornfield west of where General Stevens fell. Their right flank was unprotected. Kearny rallied the battered 21st Massachusetts Regiment of Steven's Division and pushed them into the cornfield. When they encountered resistance, Kearny, not believing reports that Georgia troops were immediately in their front, rode forward to determine the identity of the troops himself. He realized his mistake too late and as he turned his horse to escape he was shot and killed. Fighting in and around the cornfield continued in the rain and gloom until about 6:15 p.m. when both sides began to withdraw. Darkness halted further fighting. The next morning, Kearney's body was returned to Union troops by order of General Lee.

All told, about 15,000 Confederate and 5,500 Union troops were engaged in the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly). The Confederates suffered 516 casualties, and the Union casualties are estimated between 700 and 1000. Pope withdrew in the early morning darkness of September 2 moving through Fairfax Court House to Alexandria and the defenses of Washington. On September 3, Lee moved his army toward Leesburg and the Potomac River fords, to begin his invasion of the north which ended at the Battle of Antietam.

The Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly) was fought on the old Reid farm which had been inherited by a young granddaughter named Mary Reid Thrift. In 1874, Lt. John N. Ballard, a former Confederate cavalryman and Mary Thrift were married and took



up residence at the farm they now called Fruit Vale Farm.

E. Administrative History of the Park

This site is a park today because of a gracious gift of Lieutenant John N. Ballard and his wife Mary Thrift Ballard. On July 7, 1915, John and Mary Ballard deeded a small plot (approximately .115 acres) for the purpose of commemorating the battle. In the deed the Ballards stipulated that the conveyance was made for the specific purpose of "allowing any person or persons the privilege of erecting appropriate monuments or markers commemorating the death of any Confederate or Federal Soldier who fell in the battle fought on the Fruit Vale Farm, this battle was fought on the 1st day of September 1862, being known as the Battle of Ox Hill or Chantilly" (Fairfax County Deed Book x-7, Folio 570). The parcel is designated as "Cemetery" on tax maps, but in fact is a memorial plot with stone markers.

The land was originally conveyed to six trustees: three from New Jersey, Charles F. Hopkins, Theodore Allston and John W. Bodine and three from Virginia, James W. Ballard, Thomas B. Love and F.D. Richardson. By the late 1930s, all of the original trustees were deceased, leaving the trusteeship vacant. In 1961, for the Civil War centennial observance, six new trustees were appointed by court order to assume the legal guardianship of the monuments. Three subsequent vacancies were recently filled and at this date, there are six court appointed trustees acting on behalf of the memorial trust.

Although the Kearny-Stevens Memorial plot is not currently owned by the Park Authority, it is fair to surmise that its preservation led to the establishment of the surrounding park site. The Park Authority's Ox Hill Battlefield Park is comprised of five parcels of land totaling approximately 4.8 acres. In 1986, newspaper reports about proposed development of the battlefield and intent to relocate the monuments to another site generated intense public interest and opposition. The public sentiment persuaded the Centennial Development Corporation to proffer the two parcels immediately adjacent to the monuments (parcels 6 and 32A,) to the Board of Supervisors for use as a memorial park. Between 1987 and 1994, the Chantilly Battlefield Association lobbied the BOS to acquire an adjacent parcel (46-3((5)) 5, 2.4 acres) which was the last portion of the battlefield adjacent to the monuments that was not already owned by developers.

The first two parcels, Tax Map 46-3((1)) Parcel 32A and Tax Map 46-3 ((5)) Parcel 6 were conveyed to the Park Authority on August 6, 1991 from the Board of Supervisors (BOS). The BOS had previously acquired these parcels in December 1989. The deed to these parcels contains a reversionary clause that stipulates that the two parcels may only be used "for the use and purpose of establishing and maintaining a public park" and "In the event that the property is used for any purpose other than as a public park…or if transferred to any person… then it reverts to the County."

A third 2.4 acre parcel located at Tax Map 46-3 ((5)) Parcel 5, was acquired by the BOS in 1994 and conveyed from the BOS to the Park Authority on March 10, 1997. The BOS conveyed this, and ten other lots, to the Park Authority in exchange for parcels related to the Park Authority's conveyance of Reston Park to the BOS. At the time of the conveyance, a one-story house with a basement and outbuildings was extant on the property. After being boarded-up and vandalized, the structures were demolished in March 1998.

Two additional parcels identified as Tax Map 46-3 ((1)) Parcels 28B and 31B previously dedicated to the BOS by Centennial Development Corporation were conveyed to the Park Authority as an addition to Ox Hill Battlefield Park on October 26, 2001. These two lots total 0.29 acres.

II. Park Classification and Purpose, Significance, Visitor Profile, Strategic Initiatives

A. Park Classification and Purpose

Ox Hill Battlefield Park is designated as a Cultural Resource Park. Cultural Resource Parks protect and preserve archaeological sites and historic properties that meet the criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places or the Public Significance criteria as designated by the Fairfax County (Virginia) Heritage Resource Management Plan. Historic sites and archaeological parks may be located wherever evidence of human occupation exists on or beneath the land and waters. Acquisition, identification and preservation of cultural resources are for purposes of stewardship; use of the site is defined within stewardship parameters. Development of these parks should include opportunities for public education and enjoyment. To the extent that they do not adversely impact the cultural resources themselves, portions of the site may be developed with demonstration areas, and support facilities such as restrooms and parking.

Park purpose statements are intended to provide an umbrella for planning and decision making. If a proposed use conflicts with any one of the purposes listed, it will be considered an incompatible use. By establishing park purposes, future plans can remain flexible, as legislative requirements and visitor preferences change.

The purpose of Ox Hill Battlefield Park is to:

- Preserve, protect and enhance the significant historic, cultural and natural resources of this portion of the Ox Hill Battlefield and associated features.
- Commemorate the struggle and sacrifice of the Union and Confederate soldiers who fought there.
- Provide the setting and tangible resources to educate a broad and diverse public constituency on the historic Civil War battle that occurred onsite and in the vicinity.

B. Park Significance

Ox Hill Battlefield Park is both historic and commemorative. This property represents all that remains undeveloped of the Ox Hill (Chantilly) Battlefield and lies at the core of the battlefield. This battle was significant in that over 20,000 troops engaged and it was the only major Civil War Battle that occurred in Fairfax County.

Although brief, the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly) was costly with significant casualties for both the Confederate and Union armies. The Union forces lost up to 1,000 men killed and wounded, including two of its best generals. The Confederates were left in control of the battlefield but lost 516 men killed and wounded, did not destroy the Union Army and could not threaten Washington which had extensive fortifications supported by strong reinforcements. The Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly) marked the end of the Second Manassas campaign and the beginning of the Maryland campaign that would end with the Civil War's bloodiest day at the Battle of Antietam sixteen days later.

The park serves a commemorative purpose both to remember the troops who fought in the battle and the men who fell there. Two prominent Union generals were killed during this engagement and have been commemorated with the memorials that were erected in the monument lot. The preservation of the memorial aspect of the park ensures that the public will have the opportunity to learn about, remember, and honor the lives of the soldiers who fought during the battle.

C. Visitor Profile

The park is listed as one of the sites on the Civil War Trails of Northern Virginia. As such, it attracts Civil War enthusiasts, scholars, and occasionally, school groups. Due to its location adjacent to significant residential and commercial development, the park also serves a wide variety of local residents and workers. One result is that the park has a duel function; both as a significant historical commemorative site and as a neighborhood park.

D. Relationship to Park Authority Strategic Plan Initiatives

The Park Authority Strategic Plan is the guiding document to focus resources on the most critical work of the agency. As identified in the Strategic Plan, the dual goals of the Park Authority mission are to protect and enhance natural and cultural resources and to provide quality recreational services and facilities.

The Ox Hill Battlefield Park Master Plan protects and enhances the significant historical resources on site. In accordance with Strategy 1.1 of the Stewardship Opportunities section of the Park Authority Strategic Plan (p. 4), this master plan

gives guidance for preservation of culturally significant land at the park. By laying the groundwork for a coordinated interpretation of many area Civil War sites, the master plan also furthers Stewardship Opportunities Strategies 2.3 and 2.4 that call for creating expanded awareness of resource stewardship issues within the Park Authority and among Fairfax County residents.

III. EXISTING CONDITIONS

A. Existing and Planned Land Use, Zoning

The site is located in the Stringfellow Community Planning Sector of the Braddock Planning District of the County's Comprehensive Plan. This portion of the Stringfellow Community Planning Sector is located within Sub-Unit I-2 of the Fairfax Center Special Planning Area. The Sub-Unit is planned for residential uses at a density of 20 dwelling units per acre (multi-family units).

The existing land use is in accordance with the County Comprehensive Plan. While the park site remains undeveloped, the properties to the east, south and west are developed with multi-family residential units. The land to the north is developed with the Fairfax Towne Center shopping center.

Most of the site is zoned R-1 which allows residential uses at a density of one unit per acre. Two smaller parcels located along the northern portion of the park are zoned PDC (Planned Development Commercial).

The Countywide Trails Plans shows a minor paved trail (less than eight feet wide) on the north side of Monument Drive and a major paved trail (eight foot width or greater) on the west side of West Ox Road. Both of these trails have been constructed as planned.

Virginia land use law requires that public and utility uses demonstrate compliance with the local comprehensive land use plan. The process is typically referred to as a "2232-Permit" because of the section number of Commonwealth law that legislates the process. Parks are one public use that typically has to secure a 2232-Permit. Following adoption of this park master plan, the Park Authority will apply for 2232-Permit approval from the County Planning Commission if it is determined to be necessary.

B. Cultural Resources

There have been no previous archaeological investigations conducted at this park. Archaeological evidence may remain within the park that would assist in the interpretation of the battle and the landscape of the battlefield. Future investigations may be warranted.

1. Battlefield Landscape – Remaining Components

The site is currently a combination of wooded area and open lawn with scattered trees and other vegetation. Historic accounts of the battle and period maps of Fruit Vale Farm indicate that most of the fighting occurred in the fields both east and west of the former Reid farmhouse including the area of Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Confederate forces commanded positions in the heavily wooded lands to the north of the fields, while Union troops attacked from the south. A rail fence marking the boundary between a corn field and a grassy field ran northeast from the Reid house to the woods and crossed the northwest corner of what is now Ox Hill Battlefield Park. A second rail fence marking the boundary between the woods and a grassy field to the south also traversed the present day park. It was at this fence line that Stevens was fatally shot, as he led a charge. The park then is located where the cornfield, the woods, and the grassy field met. The northern edge of the park historically was wooded, the northwest corner was planted in corn, and the balance of the land was cleared grassy field. Some of these components can be reestablished or enhanced.

2. Memorial Area – Monuments and Iron Fence.

On October 2, 1915, the First New Jersey Brigade Society dedicated monuments to two Union generals who fell at Ox Hill, Brigadier General Isaac I. Stevens and Major General Philip Kearny. The commemorative marker for Stevens reads:

Here Fell
Major General
Isaac Ingalls Stevens
With the Flag of the Republic
In His Dying Grasp
September 1, 1862

(Note: Stevens was a Brigadier General at the time of the battle and was promoted to major general posthumously).

The Kearny monument reads:

Major General
Philip Kearny
Killed on This Spot
September 1, 1862
The Tribute of Kearny's
First New Jersey Brigade and Friends

3. Kearny's Stump Marker

A small granite marker adjacent to the commemorative parcel reads "Kearny's Stump." This marker replicates a tree stump known as the "stump of the Kearny tree" where the General supposedly fell. However, it is known that General Kearney actually fell approximately 150 yards southwest of this current location so the connection is questionable. The former wooden (now granite) stump is important because it became the origin point for the survey and legal description of the monument lot deeded by the Ballards. The old rotting stump was then replaced by this marker stone.

4. Fieldstone Rock Pile and Quartzite Boulder

The fieldstone rock pile and quartzite boulder were placed in its current location by John Ballard to mark the site at which General Stevens supposedly fell.

5. Fence Row

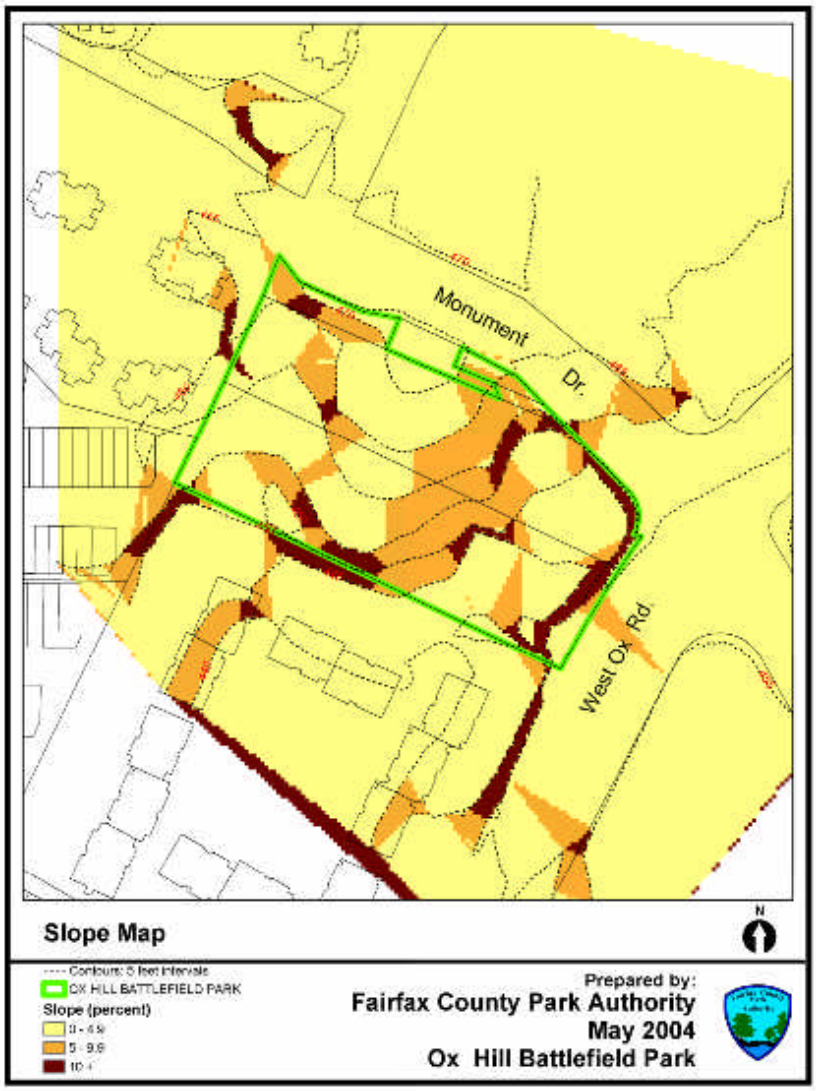
Potentially, there may be archaeological remains of the fence rows that separated the cornfield from the pasture and this property from adjacent lands. These features, if present, could show the location of the fence line.

C. Natural Resources

1. Topography and Slopes

Topography ranges from gently sloping to rolling onsite. A small north-south ridge located in the middle of the property directs drainage toward the southeast and the southwest corners of the park. No streams or wetlands are present on the property.

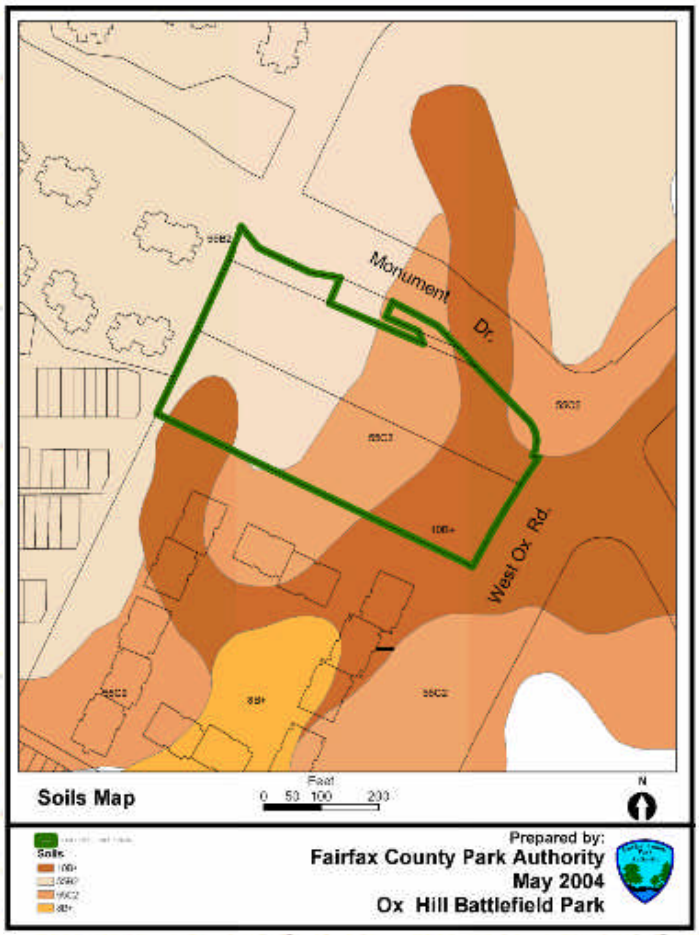
Slopes range generally from 2% to approximately 15% grade. The steepest slopes of 10% to 15% grade are found along the perimeter of the site and are generally the result of grading for Monument Drive, West Ox Road, and former residential uses onsite. The highest point of the site is just over 470 feet elevation and is located near the existing monuments to Generals Kearny and Stevens. The lowest point of the site is approximately 435 feet elevation and is located at the southeastern edge of the site. As shown on the slope analysis map (below), several areas within the site show moderately steep slopes (as represented by the narrow bands of the various colors).



2. Soils and Geology

The soil in the lower elevations of the site (the eastern quadrant and a small portion of the southwestern quadrant) is mapped as 10B+, Glenville Silt Loam, 2-7% slope (see the soils map). Glenville Silt Loam generally occurs in drainageways and at the foot of slopes and is derived from schists, granites and alluvium. Permeability is slow to moderately slow in the fragipan and there is often a high seasonal groundwater table in drainage ways and low lying areas. Erosion potential of this soil type is moderate.

The remainder of the site is mapped as Glenelg Silt Loam (55B2 and 55C2, Undulating and Rolling Phase, respectively). This soil occurs on hilltops and side slopes underlain by micaceous schist. Silts and clays overlie silty and sandy decomposed rock. Permeability is moderate to moderately rapid. Erosion potential for this soil type is high.

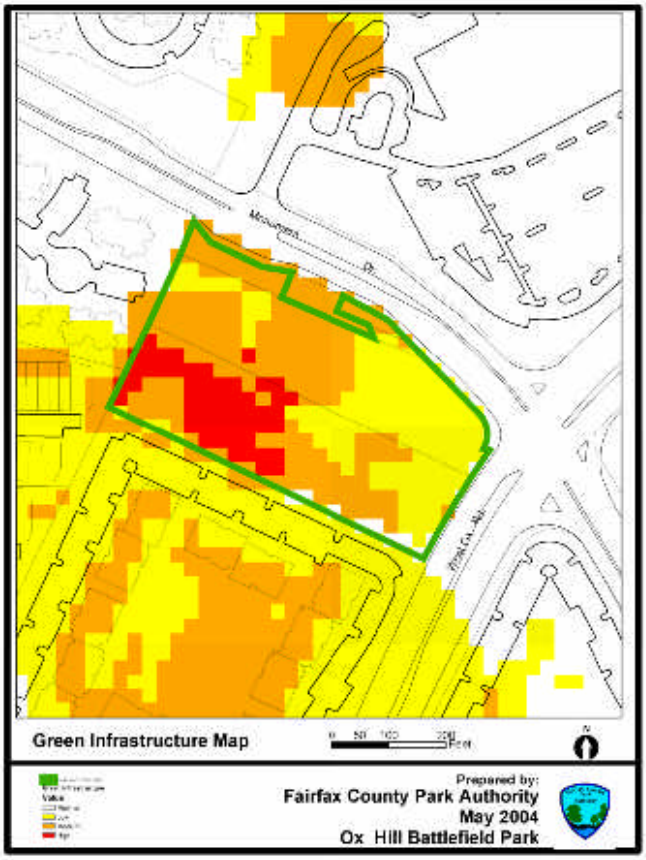


3. Green Infrastructure Statement

The Fairfax County Park Authority has developed a modeling tool to help identify significant natural and cultural resources in the County. Using the County's geographic information system (GIS), the Park Authority has produced a countywide "Green Infrastructure" model and resultant map based on a weighted analysis of significant environmental and historic features.

The weighted analysis produces a general resource value that recognizes the combination in value of various resources within the three general categories of environmental, cultural, and open space areas, but does not rank importance between categories. The model is limited by the extent, accuracy, and resolution of the source data used. Several important resources, such as rare, threatened, and endangered species and Environmental Quality Corridors (EQCs) are not considered in the analysis due to the unavailability or incompatibility of the data.

The Green Infrastructure Map (see map below) indicates that compared to other parcels in the County, the Ox Hill Battlefield Park has a moderate to high combination of natural and cultural resource values. Since the purpose of the Green Infrastructure Model is largely to rank properties based on a combination of different resources, one can not assume the absence of a single specific resource based on a "minimum," "low," or "medium" Green Infrastructure rating. In fact, this site is already known to have significant historic resources.



4. Flora

There are five distinct forest stands in the park, all of which are dominated by either Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*) or tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera)*. Each of the stands is less than 1 acre in size and forest stand health conditions vary.

There are three separate areas dominated by Virginia pine. The first stand is on the southwestern section of the property and is a mature Virginia pine stand in good condition. This stand will soon climax and be overtaken by the hardwoods present: red maple (*Acer rubrum*), tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera)* and oaks (*Quercus sp*.). A fairly large community (more than 30 individuals, with approximately 5 in flower at time of field work) of pink lady slippers (*Cypripedium acaule*) is present on the highest part of the ridge in this stand. The second stand is a long strip dominated by Virginia pine with Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) throughout. While the stand is in good condition, it is presently being invaded by exotic invasive plants such as Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) and English ivy (*Hedera helix*). The third Virginia pine stand is a small area on the North side of the property with a number of young Virginia pine trees.

There are two areas dominated by tulip poplar. The first is located in the western section of the site and contains a mixture of the dominant tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) with Virginia pine *(Pinus virginiana)* and black cherry *(Prunus serotina)*. The southern section of this area has a dense understory of *Ilex opaca* (American holly) and is generally in good health. The northern section is more disturbed, with a high percentage of invasive Japanese honeysuckle that is overtaking the herbaceous layer. The second tulip poplar stand is a small former apple orchard and has a mixture of pine and tulip poplar in addition to some straggling apples and many dead apple seedlings. This second tulip poplar area is also overtaken and choked by Japanese honeysuckle *(Lonicera japonica*). The Forest structure is

generally poor with little or no light reaching the forest floor. This is a young stand and without removal of the invasive honeysuckle it will continue to degrade.

There are also four smaller areas of trees, with a total acreage of approximately 0.4 acres present on the site. They contain large white oaks (*Quercus alba*), pin oaks (*Quercus palustris*) and northern red oaks (*Quercus rubra*) as well as chestnut oaks

(*Quercus prinus*). In addition, large white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and American holly (*Ilex opaca*) are present. Other species within the tree cover areas include, but are not limited to redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*), and eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). The remainder of the site is a maintained and mowed grassy field.

5. Fauna

While there have been no inventories of wildlife at Ox Hill, many of the County's urban park sites still have a rich diversity of wildlife in their parks, including fox, deer, beaver, reptiles, amphibians and birds. The Park Authority's mission and adopted policies require preservation and protection of this legacy. This protection currently takes many forms including having paid and volunteer staff monitor populations of birds, beaver, deer and other wildlife. Some of this data is now available on the Park Authority's web site. There are other programs and activities such as nest boxes to encourage bluebird nesting, managing meadows to support wildlife dependent on that habitat and establishing brush piles to provide wildlife cover for small mammals and amphibians.

D. Park Access

There are two primary points of park access – one along Monument Drive and the other along West Ox Road. The entrance to the park along Monument Drive consists of a paved pull-off area that is designed as an integral part of Monument Drive itself. This area may become a designated stop for local bus service at some point in the future. For now, it functions as a parking area for the park.

The second entrance is located at West Ox Road. Entry to the park site here is currently limited to park service vehicles by a chain and lock that stretches across the asphalt drive.

Pedestrian access is currently provided at the primary two access points described above. There are at least two additional, informal natural surface paths leading from the adjacent condominium development directly to the south and west of the park onto the park site.

E. Existing Facilities

Along with the monuments listed earlier, other facilities at the site consist of a gravel-dust trail running from the paved, pull-off area along Monument Drive, southeast to the remnants of an asphalt driveway. This "driveway" now serves as a maintenance entrance for the park. There are two site identification signs located at the park. One is located at the paved pull-off at Monument Drive, facing northeast.

The other is at corner of Monument Drive and West Ox Road. This sign faces in an easterly direction and is accompanied by a standard, four plaque, "park-rules" sign. There is also one sign providing a brief interpretation of the Battle of Chantilly. This sign is located at the Monument Drive entrance to the gravel-dust trail.

Located along the northeast edge of the site are two trash drums of standard Park Authority design. To discourage unauthorized, vehicular traffic into the site, there is a removable bollard at the Monument Drive entrance to the gravel-dust trail. While a cable gate across the old driveway, controls vehicles from entering off of West Ox Road.

F. Utilities

The surrounding area is completely developed. As a result, utilities are available. A sewer line runs in front of the property along West Ox Road. Water lines are located along both West Ox Road and Monument Drive. Electricity and telephone service are readily available also.

G. Special Events

Periodically, there are memorial, commemorative, and historic reenactment special events at Ox Hill Battlefield Park. On average, groups gather two to three times per year at Ox Hill Battlefield to commemorate the events that took place there on September 1, 1862. Dates of commemoration include Memorial Day, Veterans' Day and the anniversary of the battle.

One example of a recurring special event at the site is a yearly commemoration by the 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Company B. The commemoration includes a living history presentation of Civil War re-enactors and presentation by local historical authors. Also included are demonstrations of both infantry and medical activities with military and musket firing, static displays of tents and gear, and cooking by the soldiers. This event draws approximately 24 re-enactors, and 300 spectators. The Park Authority requires the organizers of such events to coordinate with police and fire department, construct any camp fires above ground, and provide a portable bathroom at the site. A second event occurs on Memorial Day when the Ancient Order of the Hibernians sponsor a wreath laying ceremony.

H. Description of Adjacent Properties

The site is located at the southwest corner of West Ox Road and Monument Drive (see area map on page 17). Directly adjacent to the south of the property is the Fairfield House condominium residential development. The use of the portion of the development that abuts the park is for parking. There is a fairly substantial grade difference between the two sites with the result being that the Fairfield House parking lot is generally between four and ten feet lower than the park site. The site is fairly well screened by existing vegetation on the park property.

Directly adjacent to the southwest is a small portion of the townhouse residential development of Fair Ridge Section 3. Directly adjacent to the west northwest is the multifamily residential development of Linden at Fair Ridge. Both of these sites are well screened from the park by vegetation on both the park and the community's property.

North of the park, across Monument Drive is the Fairfax Towne Center shopping center. The portion of the shopping center property directly adjacent to Monument Drive consists of a linear park. The linear park is owned and managed as part of the shopping center by Developers Diversified Realty. Currently, the linear park consists of two circular plazas approximately fifteen feet in diameter. The plazas are each planted with a central tree surrounded by sod. There is an eight-foot wide asphalt trail that runs through the park and connects the two plazas to each other and to the adjacent sidewalk on Monument Drive.

To the northeast is office development. Opposite West Ox Road to the southeast is the multifamily residential development of The Hermitage. Both of these developments are fairly well visible from the southern portion of the park.

IV. Management and Development

A. Desired Visitor Experience

Visitors will continue to come from both the local neighborhood and from the larger community. Programming will be designed to meet the diversity of these two audiences.

The desired visitor experience at this park is for visitors to:

- Learn the history of this major Civil War battle and understand how and why it occurred.
- Walk the grounds of this last remnant of the Ox Hill battlefield and understand the nature of the battle related to the landscape today.
- Observe and respect the monuments for Union and Confederate soldiers and for the fallen Union Generals Kearny and Stevens.
- Learn about the tactical strategy of the battle.
- Understand the role of John and Mary Ballard in commemorating the soldiers who fought at this site.
- Be able to withdraw from modern distractions and contemplate history and nature.
- Experience occasional special living history and/or historical re-enactments events and ceremonies.

B. Resource Management

1. Cultural Resource Management

Ox Hill Battlefield retains a small portion of the original battlefield, but includes recognizable features, land where intense fighting occurred, view sheds outward from the park to areas where much of the battle took place and easy access by motor vehicle. Current interpretation on site is provided by a Virginia Civil War Trails sign and two Virginia State historic markers. Periodic programs and ceremonies occur in the park largely sponsored by the Chantilly Battlefield Association, the Ancient Order of the Hibernians, and local Civil War reenactment groups.

The details for site management should be developed in a separate Cultural Resource Management and Interpretation Plan. The Plan should address site management issues related to erosion control, repair of man-made disturbances, monitoring for relic hunting activities, restoration of the view shed (to include removal of selective trees, partial re-establish of the agricultural fields present at the time of the battle) and site enhancement.

Future interpretation and visitor services will also be included in the Cultural Resource Management and Interpretation Plan. Primary features of future visitor services will include parking, trails, an informational kiosk, orientation maps, and possibly seating areas. Site interpretation will be provided on site and on adjacent properties by a combination of memorials commemorating those who fought and died there, interpretive signs, panels and markers, reconstructed field fencing to orient visitors, and programs and ceremonies designed to commemorate events and educate the public and special interest groups. The Ox Hill/Union Mills Task Force (or some subset thereof) should be consulted during development of the Cultural Resource Management and Interpretation Plan.

The Park Authority should seek transfer of ownership of the Kearny-Stevens monument lot from the trustees so that the entire park site will be jointly owned and managed by the Park Authority. Discussions with the trustees should be initiated following adoption of this master plan.

2. Natural Resource Management

The natural resources at Ox Hill Battlefield Park consist of several small forest stands. Some of these stands will be treated to removing dangerous trees and to allow for interpretation of the cultural resources. The Virginia pine stand in the southwestern portion of the property should be preserved as much as possible, in the context of cultural resource interpretation being the priority for this site. Control of invasive plant species should be addressed. Because invasive plants are such a large problem throughout the County, the Park Authority does not have adequate resources to address the issue in all the parks. An invasive plants removal project at Ox Hill might be carried out through volunteers or as an Eagle Scout project.

There are no known wildlife concerns in the park. The Park Authority does

participate in a deer management program, but given the size and location of this park, herd reduction activities will not occur here. Citizens often volunteer to keep lists of wildlife sightings in parks and such activities would be welcomed at Ox Hill.

C. Interpretation and Visitor Services

1. Information and Interpretative Media

Interpretation at the site should include a series of interpretative signs designed to educate the public as to the historical events that occurred during the Civil War. One of the interpretative signs should address how this park ties in with other Civil War sites in the County and region. This signage should be consistent with other signage in the County and address appropriate Civil War themes. Interpretative materials would include information available on the Park Authority website, as well as brochures and other media.

2. Integration with Other Civil War Sites

A goal of the Park Authority is to create a coordinated interpretation of Civil War activities on separate but related sites that ultimately results in a unified interpretative experience of Civil War sites and events that took place throughout Fairfax County. While the primary focus of this master plan is to establish appropriate uses for the Ox Hill Battlefield Park, it is a goal of this master plan to lay the initial groundwork for an integrated interpretation of the numerous Civil War resources present on other Park Authority property as well. The desired outcome is to provide the visitor with a more complete idea of where those specific resources fit within a larger historical context.

In 2002, the Fairfax County Park Authority developed an inventory of Civil War events, locations and sites and evaluated those that survive. The purpose of this inventory is to facilitate better management of Fairfax County's Civil War cultural resources and to inform decisions about preservation planning and development. The project consisted of data collection and data management. The data collection phase included the review of primary and secondary source material and the conduct of informational interviews. The data management Phase included the confirmation of the information collected through reconnaissance, the development of an inventory of sites, and the mapping of these sites using GIS.

Today, the tangible evidence of Fairfax County's Civil War heritage is masked by the growth of the county. At the same time, interest in the Civil War has grown into a national tourism industry. Fairfax County has unrealized potential in Civil War heritage tourism. Although many locations of Civil War activity have been destroyed by development, a large number of Civil War sites have survived and can be used to interpret the county's history. These locations include impressive fortifications in parks; winter hut depressions in residential yards; and soldiers' graffiti in churches, among numerous other examples. The Civil War Sites inventory can be used by planners to ensure that the county's rich Civil War history will survive to inspire future county residents.

The Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory contains 850 locations and events within Fairfax County. This number represents a fraction of the actual number of locations and events that occurred in the county. It is estimated that the project team examined about 25% of the county, concentrating on areas where the most intensive Civil War occupations occurred. The inventory is a work in progress, with site information being added to the database as projects containing Civil War resources are conducted.

Programs such as Virginia Civil War Trails have shown that providing standardized recognizable signage and linking sites through programs, web sites, brochures and other media improves public knowledge of local history, increases awareness and support for preservation and maintenance of the sites, and boosts the local economy due to increased tourism. Using the Virginia Civil War Trails as a model, it is recommended that a comprehensive approach be developed for interpretive signage and programming of Civil War resources within the park system. Integration with other Federal, state, local, and private Civil War sites should be considered also. The Park Authority sites to be integrated include:

Sully	Annandale Community Park
Freedom Hill Fort	Dranesville Tavern
Ellanor C. Lawrence Park	Lewinsville
Lanes Mill	Historic Huntley
Sully Woodlands	Mount Air
Fort Willard	Frying Pan Meeting House
Recreation Lake	Lake Accotink
Wakefield	Manassas Gap Railroad Historic Site
Union Mills Historic Site	Military Railroad Park
Cub Run Stream Valley-Railroad Abutments	

The planning and development of all parks with associated Civil War interpretative opportunities should address this issue of linkage. Through appropriate planning of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park with other appropriate sites, the public will be able to trace significant events through a series of parks (both local and national) across the region to facilitate a more global understanding of the actions of that turbulent time in the history of the United States

D. Site Considerations

Use of Ox Hill Battlefield Park will be impacted by the busy built environment that surrounds the site. Of particular concern is traffic noise and visual impacts associated with West Ox Road. Because West Ox Road is topographically higher than the eastern portion of the park, traffic noise is a consistent issue for that area. A few trees and shrubs help to soften the view from the park toward the road, especially at the location of the former house sites that fronted West Ox Road. Other areas in this part of the park are currently exposed to the visual and noise impacts of the traffic. Additional plantings to help screen the park are desired.

A second issue of concern is unauthorized paths that provide direct access from the adjacent residential developments to the south and west. The paths have resulted in damage to the existing vegetation as well as provided a point of access for illegal dumping. To date, there is evidence of one minor area that has been used for disposal of tree limbs, grass cuttings, and/or discarded landscaping materials.

Another site consideration will be potential visual impacts of the adjacent residential development. Since the purpose of this park is to commemorate the Civil War battle that occurred here, it is important to buffer and screen the site form the neighboring uses. The park should be an area of relative calm and solace with limited interferences from offsite noise, light, or visual impacts.

The Park Authority should consider appropriate treatment of the retaining wall along Monument Drive. Currently, the concrete wall has water stains and is not particularly attractive. Consideration should be given to staining the wall a neutral color so it better blends with its setting.

V. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The management framework integrates research, site analysis, and basic data presented in this document. Management zones have been defined to provide a framework for decision-making. Existing uses, existing conditions and recommendations from Park Authority staff were considered in the development of the management zones. The framework provides broad flexibility within a range of potential uses for each management zone. The General Management Plan Map on page 20 depicts the management zones.

The "Potential Uses" stated for the zone describe what uses are acceptable for each zone. If a use is not listed for a zone, by its omission it is considered an incompatible use for that zone. The potential uses are intentionally general to allow flexibility when making decisions.

A. Historic Resource Protection Zone

The entire park, with the exception of the Entrance Zone, will be included as areas of valuable cultural resources and be protected as a Resource Protection Zone (RPZ) (see map on page 20). The park will be managed to protect the existing cultural and natural resources.

POTENTIAL USES:

- Preservation of Cultural and Natural Resources
- Memorials and Monuments
- Research, Interpretation, and Education

- Trails

B. Entrance Zones

There are two Entrance Zones, one on West Ox Road and one on Monument Drive. The entrance along West Ox Road is the primary access to the park and will provide off-street parking for one bus and several cars. Until such time as the Monument Drive pull-off area is designated as for local bus stop service, the pull-off area should also continue to be used as a secondary point of access.

In the future, a single point of direct access for pedestrians may be designated from the multi-family development in lieu of the two ad-hoc paths that currently exist. An additional pedestrian access may also be developed along Monument Drive.

Any trails to be located on site will be considered in light of the goal to preserve and protect the onsite cultural resources.

POTENTIAL USES:

- Parking
- Entrance Trail
- Interpretative Kiosk
- Appropriate Signage
- Flagpole
- Visitor amenities such as seating, a trash can, and/or drinking fountain.

C. Areas Nearby to the Ox Hill Battlefield Park

1. Kearny-Stevens Monument Lot

Ownership of the Kearny-Stevens monument lot should be transferred from the current Trustee ownership to the Park Authority. The Park Authority should actively pursue the necessary agreements with the Trustees to acquire the parcel upon adoption of this park master plan.

2. Fairfax Towne Center Shopping Center

The Park Authority should work closely with Developers Diversified Realty (or future management group) to collaboratively plan and develop memorial and interpretative experiences at the private, linear park located on the north side of Monument Drive at the Fairfax Towne Center Shopping Center. Expanding the interpretation area to the linear

park can help present a more comprehensive view of the events at the battle and promote Ox Hill Battlefield Park.

The eastern-most circular plaza in the linear park should be considered as a site for a potential memorial related to the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly). The western-most circular plaza has a clear site-line to the Stevens and Kearny Monuments subject to some selective clearing of understory growth near the monuments. This site offers a great interpretative opportunity to give a historical perspective from behind the Confederate lines looking through the woods toward the Union lines. Some battle-related monument or relic may be appropriate in this circular area as well.

Any interpretative signage at the linear park should be consistent with the type and style present at Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Monuments or relics should be of a complimentary style to those in Ox Hill Battlefield Park. The Park Authority should actively seek appropriate easements and/or agreements with Developers Diversified Realty to locate interpretative signage and/or monuments/relics in the shopping center's linear park. It is envisioned that the shopping center management would continue to maintain and manage the site including trail maintenance, landscaping, and lighting while the Park Authority would assume responsibility solely for interpretative signage and/or monuments/relics.

Because the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly) included hundreds of acres surrounding the park, the Park Authority should also explore opportunities to create enhanced education and interpretation opportunities at other appropriate sites nearby. The Park Authority should encourage landowners of other sites where the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly) occurred to provide appropriate signage and refer interested parties to the Ox Hill Battlefield Park.

General Management Plan

Prepared By:
Fairfax County Park Authority
December 2004

DRAFT

OX HILL BATTLEFIELD PARK

CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

I. Introduction

The Conceptual Development Plan (CDP) describes the planned park elements; identifies design concerns; and illustrates the general location of the recommended facilities (see Conceptual Development Plan Map, figure 5) based on the guidance of the General Management Plan. In general, the site should be developed in a manner to facilitate understanding the battle; commemorate the soldiers who fought there; and provide a respite from the busy, surrounding commercial and residential development.

II. Park Elements

A. Vehicle Access and Parking

The primary vehicle access and parking area will be located off of West Ox Road at the site of the current driveway entrance. The entrance should be developed for "right-in/right-out" access since the proximity to the West Ox Road/Monument Drive intersection will prohibit left-hand turns to and from the site.

The parking area should be designed to accommodate a bus (including a turnaround area) and approximately six to ten cars. A "maintenance-free" guard rail system (of wood or other suitable design) should be installed around the parking lot to prevent cars from driving into other areas of the park. Provisions should be made to allow maintenance and/or emergency vehicles to access the other areas of the park from the parking area.

Since this is a stop on the Civil War Trails, it is important to provide visitor amenities such as seating, a trash can, and an interpretative kiosk at the parking area. A secure bicycle rack (possibly covered) may also be provided in this area.

The current pull-off lane on Monument Drive should continue to be used to provide access to the site for as long as possible. Pursuant to the proffers for the Fairfax Towne Center development, this pull-off area was established to provide for a local bus stop. Although not currently used for bus service, the pull-off may be designated for such use in the future. If an opportunity ever arises to change this designation, the Park Authority should seek re-designation of the pull-off lane for park use instead.

There is a possibility of establishing battlefield-related monuments and/or interpretative signs at the Fairfax Towne Shopping Center across Monument Drive from Ox Hill Battlefield Park. If the shopping center site is developed with such features, the Park Authority should seek an agreement with the shopping center management to designate approximately four permanent parking spaces there for park/battlefield visitors.

B. Pedestrian Access

Pedestrian access will continue to be provided at the existing two access points (one at Monument Drive in the northwestern portion of the park and the other off of West Ox Road in the southeastern portion of the park) as well as a new, third point of access. The new pedestrian access will be provided via a trail connecting the proposed parking area to the Monument Drive sidewalk east of the retaining wall.

An existing signalized crosswalk at West Ox Road and Monument Drive provides access to the park across these busy streets. Consideration was given to establishing a second cross walk across Monument Drive near the bus pull-off area. At this time, the Park Authority believes that a crossing here would be too dangerous. However, if at any point in the future the entrance to the shopping center site from Monument Drive is signalized, the Park Authority should seek development of a safe signalized crosswalk concurrently.

A curb cut should be provided at the bus pull-off site adjacent at Monument Drive. This would allow for wheelchair access to this portion of the park.

C. Kiosk

An information kiosk should be developed near the trailhead by the primary parking area. The kiosk should provide information regarding the park site, the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly), and other related Civil War sites. The details of the specific nature and types of interpretative materials to be displayed in the kiosk should be developed as part of the interpretative plan for the site. The kiosk should function as an initial gathering place for visitors and might provide shelter from a passing thunderstorm if it has a roof. Consideration should be given to a design that might provide a low brick or stone wall that could function as seating in the area of the kiosk.

D. Interpretative signs

An Interpretative Plan should be developed for the site to establish the exact location, design and content of interpretative signage at the park and at Fairfax Towne Shopping Center across Monument Drive from the site. The number of signs and text and graphics to be included on these signs will be determined in the

interpretative plan. Certain specific signs have been recommended as part of the CDP. The CDP anticipates that one interpretive sign would be placed near the quartzite boulder or rock pile and would detail the contributions of John and Mary Ballard.

One of the interpretative signs should include an artist's rendering of the battle scene so that visitors can visualize what happened during the battle. The landscaped plaza circle located on the southwestern portion of the Fairfax Towne Shopping Center site is a high point where it might be advantageous to have a series of interpretative signs describing the battle. From here, a clear line of sight could be established to the Kearny and Stevens monuments by selectively clearing some understory plants at the park site.

E. Monuments and Memorials

The existing monuments at the park only recognize and honor the two fallen Union Generals (Kearny and Stevens). The park should be developed with two additional monuments to recognize the contribution of all of the soldiers involved in the battle (one Union and one Confederate). Details of the design for the monuments should be addressed in the Interpretative Plan.

It is recommended that the new monuments be located in the areas near where the Union and Confederate troops were at the time of battle when General Stevens' troops advanced on Confederate troops located in the woods and cornfield. The general location is shown on the CDP map. It is desirable to have a clear line of sight between the two monuments to aid in interpretation of the battle.

Each of the monuments should include a list of the Union and Confederate military units that fought in the battle. The design of each monument might be in the form of an obelisk or a statue of a soldier mounted on a pedestal that would be inscribed with the names of the military units involved in the battle. The specific design and inscriptions on these monuments would be addressed in the interpretative plan.

There may be opportunity to place an additional monument at the northwest corner of West Ox Road and Monument Drive on the Fairfax Towne Shopping Center site. The landscaped plaza at this location has high visibility. An eye-catching element (such as crossed regimental flags or a statue of an infantryman) would attract the attention of passers-by and draw visitors to the park.

F. Trails

A key part of the experience at the park is to be able to walk the grounds of this historic Civil War battlefield. As much as possible, trails should guide visitors along a course that respects the historic landscape of the park and provides a meaningful interpretative experience. The existing stonedust trail traverses the battlefield. This trail should be removed. It should be replaced with a trail that leads westward from the kiosk and then northward generally along the line of the old corn field fence toward the quartzite boulder pile (see CDP map). The trail surface should be durable to accommodate regular use and provide accessibility to persons with disabilities, have a rustic appearance using natural tone colors so that it blends with the landscape, and be compatible with the Civil War theme of the park.

A new trail should be built by connecting existing sidewalk on the perimeter of the park along Monument Drive to the parking area/kiosk inside the park. This will provide for a circuit walk through and around the park.

G. Landscape Treatments

The historic landscape/land cover should be represented onsite. Details of the landscape design should be addressed in the Interpretative Plan. The CDP anticipates that the landscape will include a representation of where the cornfield-pasture boundary was, including reconstruction of an appropriate rail fence along the boundary. The location of the original fence line may be able to be discerned as the result of archaeological testing, if the area has not been disturbed by any ground-disturbing activities. The former cornfield should be represented as an agricultural field although it is possible that corn may not be replanted there yearly. Specific recommendations for the treatment of the cornfield will be addressed in the Interpretative Plan. Representation of the former pasture area should be

Battlefield of "Chantilly."

accomplished by removing most of the trees in the pasture area and planting pasture-type grasses. It is envisioned that several shade trees would be retained in the pasture.

Fences should be set in their approximate historical locations of 1862. In addition to the cornfield/pasture fence, a second fence should be provided that runs from the cornfield/pasture fence northeastward in front of the two existing monuments towards Monument Drive.

H. Adjoining Sites

In the southern portion of the Fairfax Towne Center shopping center property, there is a strip of open space adjacent to Monument Drive. In order to properly tell the story of the Battle of Ox Hill, the Park Authority would like to work with the shopping center owner (Developers Diversified Realty (DDR)) to develop a series of interpretative signs and possibly two monuments within this open space. It is envisioned that the monuments would be located in the two existing landscaped circles within the open space. The interpretative signs would likely be clustered near the two landscaped circles. A short section of decorative brick or stone walkway may also be used directly in front of the cluster of interpretative signs. To provide access to these amenities, it is desirable for DDR to demarcate "For Ox Hill Battlefield Park Use" between four and six parking spots within the shopping center parking lot (adjacent to the open space area). Park Authority staff spoke with DDR during development of this plan and received a favorable response to the described interpretative and monument uses.

The Park Authority should request an appropriate easement for the construction and maintenance of the discussed signs and monuments in and around the two landscaped circles. DDR would continue to own the land and maintain the lawn, landscaping, and trails. It is recommended that some vegetation be trimmed in the vicinity of the western most landscaped circle in order to create a line of site to the Kearny and Stevens monuments at Ox Hill Park. Also, a sign should be placed at the northwestern intersection of Monument Drive and West Ox Road to direct people to Ox Hill Battlefield Park across the street and to provide some history of the battle.

Since the battlefield originally covered hundreds of acres surrounding the current park site, the Park Authority should work with other local landowners at appropriate spots to develop additional interpretative experiences. Some of those sites would include the vicinity of the Reid House and in the western portion of the Fair Oaks Mall property.

III. Design Concerns

A. Security and Safety Issues

Ox Hill Battlefield Park will not be staffed. The Park Authority's Area maintenance crew will continue to provide periodic maintenance to the site. Appropriate measures should be taken to protect the artifacts, monuments, and infrastructure of

the site. The interpretative plan for the site should address design of the monuments and interpretative signs in a manner to discourage and/or protect from defacement. The quartzite boulder should be re-established in its original upright position. The quartzite boulder and rock pile should be secured to prevent removal or damage.

It is recommended that a wooden fence (or other appropriate barrier) be provided at the top of the retaining wall behind the Kearny and Stevens' monuments for the purpose of visitor safety. In addition, a fence or barrier is needed near the parking lot to separate vehicular traffic from pedestrians. Fences and barriers should be designed and constructed to be as "maintenance free" as possible.

There is an old well cover in an open area near the northeastern corner of the park. The well should be appropriately abandoned and secured to prevent disturbance by park visitors.

No lighting, except what may be necessary for security purposes, should be installed at the park since it will be closed at night.

B. Buffering and Screening

Existing vegetative buffers along the southern and western perimeters of the park should be maintained to screen adjacent residential developments. A vegetative buffer is also recommended adjacent to the proposed parking lot to screen it from the park. Some vegetation should be removed to re-create the historic pasture.

New plantings should be placed along the eastern and northeastern portions of the park to further buffer the site from the visual and noise impacts of West Ox Road and Monument Drive.

C. Retaining Wall

The retaining wall on the north side of the park adjacent to Memorial Drive should be treated in a manner to blend with the landscape. Painting the wall in an earth tone color might make it less visible.

D. Archaeological Concerns

Prior to any ground disturbing activities at the site, the area should be assessed by an archaeologist from the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section of the Park Authority. Phase I survey may be recommended to determine the presence or absence of archaeological resources in some areas. Archaeology can be used both to ensure that there is no disturbance to significant archaeological remains and to assist in the interpretation of the site.

Conceptual Development Plan

Prepared By:
Fairfax County Park Authority
December 2004

DRAFT

OX HILL BATTLEFIELD PARK