



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927  
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118



## Sully Woodlands Regional Master Plan RECREATION PUBLIC WORKSHOP July 19, 2004—Rocky Run Middle School

### ATTENDANCE

FCPA Board Members: Hal Strickland, Chairman, Sully District; Harry Glasgow, At-Large

FCPA Staff: Kirk Holley, Manager, Park Planning Branch; Angie Allen, Project Manager; Charles Smith, Natural Resources Management and Protection Section; Andi Dorlester, Park Planning; Irish Grandfield, Park Planning; Sandy Stallman, Park Planning; Kelly Davis, Special Projects; Ed Richardson, Area 5 Manager; Dan Sutherland, Manager, Grounds Management Branch

Citizens: 116 citizens

### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What activities do you envision at the site?
  - Develop a 'wish list', then prioritize/rank the activities
  - Identify the user profiles, needed facilities, and real-life examples of existing comparable facilities for the priority activities
  - Identify management needs
2. Looking at the 'wish list' of activities, which uses are most compatible? Which are incompatible?
3. Compare the priority activities to the project goals of stewardship, connectivity, and education. Do any activities conflict with these goals?

### SUMMARY OF SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

#### Angie's Group

##### Question 1

##### Wish List

- Radio controlled airplanes—also opportunities for RC boats and cars (noted that these facilities are not provided anywhere in the County)
- Equestrian trails and facilities
- Baseball
- Activities attracting kids—skateboarding
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Disc golf/Frisbee golf
- Outdoor amphitheater (like Wolftrap)
- Picnic areas with small pavilions

- Playground/swings
- Fields to accommodate adult leagues
- Open space for unscheduled activities like flying a kite
- Orienteering—like at Burke Lake
- Tennis courts
- Nature-focused activities and preservation of resources
- Stream protection
- Community connections
- Access to public transit
- Cooperation with schools
- Meeting space for groups like Boy Scouts, volunteer groups
- Range of athletic fields
- Equestrian facility
- Physical fitness stations
- Coordination with schools

### Priorities

- Radio controlled airplanes (facilities for cars and boats as well)
- Public equestrian facility and trails
- Preservation focused activities—protection of animals, trees, streams, nature
- Family oriented activities—playgrounds, picnic areas; all trail accessible
- Unscheduled, open areas

### Needed Facilities

- RC cars—outdoor oval track, would prefer to have both dirt and paved
- RC airplanes—Parking for 40 cars, runway that is 300' x 50', portable restroom, shelter for weather protection, have to fly away from people

### Management Needs

- Preventing motorized vehicles on parkland is a management issue
- Ensuring trash is picked up

## **Question 2**

### Compatible Uses

- Preservation and family oriented activities
- Radio controlled airplanes compatible with nearly all uses
- Athletic uses clustered around roads, utilities, existing parking
- Intense uses and development focused near RECenter and Westfield High School

### Incompatible Uses

- Horses and radio controlled airplanes—buffer needed
- Radio controlled airplanes cannot fly over any people

## **Question 3**

- Determine no conflicts to project goals
- Desire for preservation, trails, and cooperation with local schools strongly supports goals

## **Kelly's Group**

### **Question 1**

#### Wish List

- Equestrian uses
- Biking
- Trails
- Athletic fields
- Radio controlled airplane field
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Disc golf
- Skeet/trap
- Mountain biking
- Lighted athletic fields

#### Priorities

- Equestrian uses
- Athletic fields
- Radio controlled airplane field

#### Needed Facilities

- *Equestrian Center* of 50 to 100 acres—stables (school horses, boarders), dressage area, riding and jumping rings, round pen, indoor riding area, cross-country courses, paddocks, turn-out areas, grazing areas, public areas (food service, observation areas), parking, offices, utilities, restrooms
- *Model Airplanes*—400' runway, smooth surface, 60-80' for fly zone (can be undisturbed)

#### Examples

- Model airplanes—Markham Park in Miami, Tucson Radio Control Park, Chatsfield CO State Park (Highlands Ranch, CO, (2) 1200' paved runways), Cherry Creek State Park (Denver, CO, 2 paved runways)
- Equestrian—Potomac Horse Center
- Athletic fields—Germantown Sportsplex
- Poplar Tree
- Baron Cameron
- Great Meadows
- Meadowlark Gardens—trails

### **Question 2**

Compatible Uses—Equestrian, biking, trails, disc golf

### **Question 3**

#### Conflicts with goals

- Model airplanes—noise
- Equestrian—manure management

### Support of goals

- Model airplanes—preserves environment/environmentally friendly, self-supporting, own insurance
- Equestrian—nature friendly
- Athletic groups—youth groups, can co-exist with other uses

## **Sandy's Group**

### **Question 1**

#### Wish List

- Equestrian lesson facility
- Museum of Horse History for Fairfax County
- Therapeutic riding facility
- Model airplane field
- Rectangle fields
- Radio controlled boats and cars
- Multi-use trails
- Model rocketry
- Softball—adult and youth
- Little League fields
- Adult baseball fields
- Indoor Sportsplex (gym, volleyball, etc...)
- Tennis courts
- Track field
- Horse shoes

#### Priorities & Needed Facilities

- Radio controlled airplanes—5 acres including parking, 20 acres open and unimproved for flying, portable restroom facilities, runway, 3-4 hour stay
- Rectangle fields—3 acres, 1.5 hours per period, able to host across county tournaments, Adopt-a-field partnerships
- Softball/baseball fields—3 acres, able to host across county tournaments
- Equestrian Center—100-150 acres needed, 2-3 hour stay, after capital expenditure it is self-sustaining, attracts adults and children

\*\*All need restrooms

### **Question 2**

Compatible Uses—Equestrian, biking, trails, disc golf

### **Question 3**

- Equestrian uses support project goals—ride through resources developing an appreciation for those resources, grazing in meadows
- Radio controlled airplanes support project goals—low impact to environment resources, within natural context and added natural landscape
- Sports supports goals by co-locating facilities, physical education

## **Andi's Group**

### **Question 1**

#### **Wish List**

- Equestrian Facility (including therapeutic riding, programs for at-risk youth)
- Public riding facility
- Equestrian trails
- All types of athletic fields (rectangles and diamonds)
- Playgrounds situated near athletic fields
- Skateboarding facility
- Paved trails for multiple uses (walking, running, biking, ADA accessible)
- Field/Facility for Radio Controlled model airplanes, helicopters, and boats
- Field/Facility for model rocket launching
- Indoor sports facility
  
- We DON'T want more hard-surface courts (basketball, tennis)
- Also not useful to build isolated playgrounds – need to be near other uses

#### **Priorities**

- Athletic fields to meet unmet and growing demands
- Facilities for uses that don't exist or are limited in Fairfax County (model airplanes & rockets, equestrian, skateboard park, dog park)

#### **Examples**

- Potomac Horse Center
- Willowbend Farm (across from Horne property) – now defunct
- Laurel Hill equestrian facility
- NVRC model airplane field in Arcola
- NV Control Line Club – Meadow Wood (Mason Neck)
- NOVAAR Rocket facility in The Plains, VA
- Maryland Soccer Plex in Gaithersburg
- Athletic complex in Bristow, VA
- Van Dyke Skate Park in Fairfax City
- Model Boats at Burke Lake Park

#### **Management Needs**

- Equestrian Uses –
  - Private buildings on public land – concession
  - Trails could be maintained by volunteer groups
  - Stables, paddocks, arenas, pasture
  - Cross-country course with jumps
  - Road improvements to accommodate horse trailers
  
- Model Airplanes & Rockets, etc. –
  - Open field, 4-5 acres – mowed
  - Paved runway (nice, but not necessary)
  - Fence around the property
  - Gravel parking, natural surface trails
  - No lighting, electricity, water, or other utilities needed

User club would maintain the site  
Insurance for use would be provided through national membership in clubs

## **Question 2**

### Compatible Uses

- Model airplanes and natural areas/wildlife
- Equestrian uses/trails and wildlife and open space
- Equestrian uses and athletic fields (with a buffer)

### Incompatible Uses

- Horses and model rockets

## **Question 3**

### Support Goals

- Equestrian uses
- Trails
- Athletic fields
- Model airplanes and rockets

### Uses that May Conflict with Project Goals

- Hunting (except for controlled hunts for herd-thinning)
- ATVs (all terrain vehicles)
- Motorcycles
- Large campgrounds

## **Charles's Group**

### **Question 1**

#### Priority Uses & Needed Facilities

- Trails—run, bike, and passive recreation/nature observation
- Campsite—isolated, restrooms, parking
- Recreation fields – back-to-back softball fields (particularly girls) and rectangular fields for all uses
- Equestrian—10 acres with parking, stables, rings; 100 acres of pasture
- Natural uses and preservation—Signage, naturalist, conservation easements, preserve most of this area without human access
- Radio controlled aircrafts & cars—isolated, need area for airstrip, parking and 20 to 60 acres for overflight area that is relative clear of trees
- Dog park—isolated, fences, parking

#### Examples

- Fountainhead—Trails
- Recreation Fields—E.C. Lawrence, Bull Run
- Equestrian—Maryland parks
- Radio controlled aircraft – Montgomery County, MD; not as good next to Dulles Airport

## **Question 2**

### Compatible Uses

- Multiple field uses along with tot lots and trail heads for others
- Equestrian could be compatible with active field areas and hiking in terms of shared infrastructure and trails around the periphery of the ballfield areas.
- Some model airplane supporters stated that radio controlled aircraft is compatible with natural areas/wildlife, but natural area supporters disagreed.
- Equestrian uses/trails and wildlife and open space

### Incompatible Uses

- Horses and radio controlled aircraft
- Radio controlled aircraft and active recreation areas (can't use same areas at the same time but could be scheduled not to overlap)

## **Irish's Group**

### **Question 1**

#### Wish List

- Trails—run, bike, walk; natural surface
- Soccer fields
- Diamond fields
- Horse trailer parking
- Picnic tables/picnic areas
- Rectangle fields
- Gym space
- Radio controlled aircrafts
- Gymnasium space
- Preservation and protection
- Camping
- Riding lesson facility
- Dog park
- Civil War interpretation

#### Priorities & Needed Facilities

- Camping
- Trails
- Athletic fields—30 soccer fields, 10 diamonds, restrooms
- Riding lesson facility
- Preservation & protection focused activities—natural surface trails, on-site naturalist, civil war interpretation, no clearing at SE corner of Braddock& Pleasant Valley

## **Kirk's Group**

### **Question 1**

#### Wish List & Needed facilities

- Equestrian facility—riding facility, indoor/outdoor, stables, rental, ponies
- Model airplane facility—50 acres maintained by NVRC (45 acres uncleared and undeveloped), 100' x 50' runway, unique facility, educational purposes, will have 15-20

events, noise level is 90 dB at 25'—can restrict noise; AMA has safety, noise, and field layout standards; connect area with trails; NVRC—incorporated, insured non-profit

- Habitat area set aside
- Hiking and biking trails—activities that do not require vehicular access
- Indoor recreation facility—basketball, volleyball
- Hands-on learning center for children
- Equestrian trails—connections to Manassas Battlefield and Bull Run

Other comments

- Every facility should be 'world class,' 'premier'
- Environmentally friendly facilities—stormwater management, buildings, turf type, trail surface, energy efficiency
- Concentrate activity around existing roads

END OF NOTES