

# Needs Assessment Study: Qualitative Input Summary Report



November 2015

*Table of Contents*

Introduction ..... 1

    Means of Input..... 1

    How to Use This Document ..... 1

Key Takeaways ..... 2

Summary of Comments by Topic..... 2

    Facilities and Programs ..... 2

        Recreation ..... 3

        Natural and Cultural Resources ..... 5

    Parks Management ..... 5

        Fiscal Responsibility ..... 5

        Operations/Staffing..... 6

        Planning/Long-Term Vision..... 7

Appendix: Input Compilations by Source..... 9

    In-Person Input ..... 9

        Interviews..... 9

        Open House Meeting ..... 10

        Focus Groups..... 15

    Online and E-Meetings..... 28

        Meetings in a Box..... 28

        Crowdsourcing Website Summary (as of 9/29/2015 date) ..... 39

        Email Summary ..... 60

## **Introduction**

The Needs Assessment study helps guide planning and provision of park and recreation facilities for five to ten years. Findings inform policy decisions and help create a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). A variety of data is used in the Needs Assessment. Qualitative data is collected primarily through public outreach.

The first phase of public outreach launched in September 2014 and ran through early 2015. Public engagement informed the public of the “what” and “why” of the Needs Assessment and provided qualitative context for use alongside later, quantitative input. The study’s quantitative data will come from the statistically-valid survey conducted in the spring of 2015.

## **Means of Input**

There were various ways and opportunities to provide input. Park users and non-users were invited to participate both in person and virtually using the project website as a one-stop shop.

An October 2014 Open House kicked off in-person input. Park Authority staff also held five small group discussions with selected user group types. Consultant staff conducted interviews of Park Authority Board members, Planning Commissioners, and County Supervisors.

In addition to traditional means of calling, writing letters, and sending e-mails, members of the public could join in an on-line conversation using an IdeaScale website. The website allows users to author new or add to existing ideas and to additionally vote for those they support. Use of this type of website is new with this Needs Assessment process.

A “Meeting in a Box,” do-it-yourself meeting kit was also used to get input. The kit allowed users to hold a Needs Assessment meeting on their own, during a regularly scheduled meeting or whenever most convenient to them. This was the first time this tool type was used in Fairfax County and interest in applying it to other County initiatives has been expressed.

## **How to Use This Document**

This document contains a summary of comments received by topic, followed by an appendix of comments by source. The first portion of this document offers an overview of what was heard. The second and longer portion of the document is provided should the reader want to learn more about any particular input type.

Again, this qualitative input is one of several important factors that will be considered during this Needs Assessment process. Thank you to all who have participated to date.

## Key Takeaways

Input received covers all aspects of the Park Authority’s mission. The specificity of comments made, however, did vary slightly. Input collected from elected and appointed officials focused on high level vision and governance matters. Park users often spoke in detail about specific facilities or programs at specific parks, how they use parks, what they like and dislike, and their hopes for the future of their parks.

Users spoke about their appreciation for parks, for all the programs, activities, and events that the Park Authority makes possible. They emphasized their favorite activities and park features and asked for more of those. They also voiced concerns about the longevity of parks and facilities, about condition and maintenance. While users frequently reported wanting new facilities, they more often spoke to wanting to take better care of what already exists. Almost all comments were constructive and helpful even in critique.

Elected and appointed officials offered high level comments regarding the desired outcomes of the Needs Assessment. They spoke of focusing on the diverse needs of Fairfax County and its residents, finding creative solutions to funding and resource challenges, and balancing fulfillment of the Park Authority’s mission.

## Summary of Comments by Topic

### FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Overall, people use and enjoy the variety of facilities, programs, and activities that FCPA provides and maintains. Though there was a greater emphasis on recreational facilities and programs than natural and cultural resources, people value FCPA’s conservation efforts and educational programs. They expressed a desire to see expansion of existing successful programs, more programming related to historic/cultural resources, and enhancement of natural resources programs.

Every element of the park system was mentioned at least once; some constituencies organized around a single issue and mentioned that facility type hundreds of times. Some of the hundreds of facilities, activities and programs cited include:

- General use of parks, parkland
- Trails as connectivity between areas and for recreation, commuting, exercise
- Equestrian facilities, horseback riding
- Dog walking, fenced dog parks

- Golf, mini-golf, disc golf
- Fishing, kayaking
- Skate parks
- Walking, jogging, running, hiking
- Biking
- Watching nature, wildlife watching
- Parktakes classes and programs, for adults, children, families, intergenerational
- Trips and Tours program
- Athletic fields, league sports
- Basketball courts
- Pickleball
- Spray grounds, waterparks
- Playgrounds
- Picnics
- Indoor gyms
- Urban parks
- Volunteering, partnerships with youth organizations, stream clean-up
- 'Living Classrooms', educational resources
- Concerts; movie nights; festivals
- RECenters (fitness & socializing) and fitness classes, strength coaching, aquatic exercise and lessons
- Public gardens, 4-H Club Master Gardeners Program, community gardens
- "Arts in Parks"
- Archaeological/historic programming and resources
- Historic sites, historic preservation

Specific parks cited include:

- Audrey Moore/Wakefield
- Azalea Park
- Belvedere Park
- Bull Run (Nova Parks)
- Burke Lake
- Clemyjontri
- Colvin Run
- Cross County Trail
- Ellanor C. Lawrence Park
- Fountainhead (Nova Parks)
- Frying Pan Farm Park
- Green Springs
- Gunston Hall
- Hidden Oaks,
- Hidden Pond
- Huntley Meadows
- Lake Accotink
- Lake Fairfax/Water Mine
- Langley Oaks
- Lee District Park
- Manassas National Battlefield (NPS?)
- Mason District
- Mason Neck
- Meadowlark Gardens (Nova Parks)
- Oak Marr
- Occoquan (Nova Parks)
- Ossian Hall
- Pamplin Park
- Providence
- Riverbend
- Rutherford
- South Run
- Sully Plantation
- Thaiss Park
- Van Dyke (City of Fairfax)
- Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail (Nova Parks)
- Wolftrap (NPS)

## Recreation

According to the input received, there are many recreational facilities and programs that people value and use frequently. People believe that FCPA's facilities and programs add value to the quality of life in their community. Still, public input indicates the need for both improvements to

existing facilities, and for new facilities. A handful of examples of specific strengths, weaknesses/barriers, and needs/opportunities included in the input are described below.

### **Strengths**

- FCPA provides clean, diverse, and safe community parks, fields, and facilities
- Parks and other facilities improve residents' quality of life: provide peaceful places, access to green space, gathering places, places to be active and spend time with families and friends
- Increasing use of facilities: adult sport participation, trail use for multiple activities, (including commuting) and by a variety of people (including more retired people)
- Maps/signage are useful, where these exist
- Parktakes and RECenters are popular
- Parks are accessible

### **Weaknesses/Barriers**

- Challenges with access to, scheduling, and condition of athletic fields and outdoor sport facilities
- Cost of using parks/facilities can be a barrier, in addition to the cost for transportation to facilities
- Trails: continuity, condition (weather, age), not always accessible for those with limited mobility
- RECenters: Get crowded at certain times of day (esp. morning), some in need of renovation/rehab

### **Needs/Opportunities**

- Better connections and accessibility to and within parks and facilities; walking, biking, transit, and even better parking availability
- Opportunity to create more connectivity options, educate about biking, walking, using transit
- Enhanced trail connectivity and wayfinding (especially in larger parks), increased trail accessibility
- Opportunities to improve and upgrade elements of existing facilities (indoor and outdoor), adding amenities and features (e.g., restrooms, seating)
- Greater maintenance and more ways to report elements in need of attention (e.g., downed trees on trails)
- Opportunities for new facilities, including equestrian facilities, off-leash dog areas, indoor gym space, indoor tracks, indoor swimming pools, skate parks, facilities for emerging sports (e.g., zip lines, rock climbing, pickleball)
- Need for more synthetic turf athletic fields of all types, for tournament space
- More cross country and variable terrain mountain bike trails
- Better disc golf courses
- More urban parks
- More age-appropriate facilities (e.g., different playgrounds for different ages; facilities for senior citizens)
- Boating and canoe/kayak launch sites

- Additional programs and classes, accessible and also targeting groups with unique needs (e.g., in-home caregivers)
- Senior-focused programs (“we need programs to work on our minds”), senior sports leagues
- Educational materials (plant guides, park-specific guides, etc.) to provide teachers with information about how parks correlate with lessons

### ***Natural and Cultural Resources***

Natural and cultural resources were also the subject of input received. Preservation, conservation, and also education were emphasized. Many topics were shared. A sample of comments collected is described below.

#### **Strengths**

- FCPA’s conservation of natural resources is highly valued
- Living classroom program and other science programs
- A range of nature and stewardship activities are provided by FCPA

#### **Weaknesses/Barriers**

- Invasive species maintenance
- Inadequate number of natural resources staff, given size and scope of resources
- Imbalance between natural areas and developed recreational areas

#### **Needs/Opportunities**

- Enhance biodiversity and flyways
- Restore native plants
- Increase connections between natural areas
- Greater recognition of historic and cultural resources, including more programming, signage, and interpretive trails
- Expand resident curator program
- Build nature and educational centers
- Increase access to natural areas near to elementary schools, have more park-to-school events, offer in-school field trips

## **PARK MANAGEMENT**

### ***Fiscal Responsibility***

Participants commented on the importance of fiscal responsibility, the benefit of partnerships, and identifying new ways of funding services. Input suggests people believe that FCPA is working well with the limited resources that they have. Concerns regarding fees as well as ideas on

how funding shortages could be addressed were shared. Selected strengths, weaknesses/barriers, and needs/opportunities are described below.

### **Strengths**

- Partnership programs provide mutual benefits to county and residents (e.g., mostly no rental fees)
- Efficient operations despite lack of funds
- Strong partnerships
- Creative grant leveraging

### **Weaknesses/Barriers**

- Money allocated for certain parks/centers has been reallocated to other facilities (e.g., Clemyjontri) and has not been replaced
- Cost of FCPA facilities vs. private facilities (e.g., RECenters vs. local fitness centers) might drive some away
- Lack of transparency with fees

### **Needs/Opportunities**

- Use volunteers (e.g., for planning; train and certify volunteers for park maintenance); provide training so that projects can be efficiently completed within parks
- Allocate more funds to maintenance
- Build more partnerships with other organizations (e.g., scouting, offer programs that are reimbursable by insurance – such as SilverSneakers)
- Provide better information on fees, share information on how fees are used
- Look at equity of fees across uses, consider reduces fees for student use
- Create endowment for reinvesting in facilities
- Diversify sources of funding (e.g., consider cell towers as a source of revenue, install donation boxes at parks)

### **Operations/Staffing**

People generally spoke highly of staff as knowledgeable and proficient with outreach. However, among areas they would like to see improved, marketing and outreach stand out, especially in terms of the desire for an expanded use of technology. Selected strengths, weaknesses/barriers, and needs/opportunities are described below.

### **Strengths**

- Outreach is effective
- Staff is knowledgeable

### **Weaknesses/Barriers**

- Response to emails and phone calls is not always timely

### **Needs/Opportunities**

- Place more staff in parks
- Increase outreach to senior populations, including targeted access to information
- Publicize volunteer opportunities, use volunteers to help address staffing needs
- Offer outreach to schools related to nearby parks, programs, and events
- Improve use of technology
- Improve customer feedback mechanisms
- Reevaluate staffing/governance structure
- Evaluate outsourced services

### **Planning/Long-Term Vision**

People believe that FCPA has the trust of the public, which is important as they move ahead with long-term plans. There were some concerns about the scope of planning that FCPA must take on, as well as the time frames for implementation of plans. People expressed many needs and opportunities that they would like FCPA to address or incorporate as they move forward with defining and executing a long-term vision.

### **Strengths**

- Has the trust of the public
- Strong consideration of environmental stewardship

### **Weaknesses/Barriers**

- Large scope: Mandate for services/facilities may be too broad
- The 10-year time frame for the needs assessment process may be too long – too many changes can happen while implementing the recommendations
- May not be sustainable to own as much land as it does

### **Needs/Opportunities**

- Improve outreach for planning initiatives
- Plan for park improvements and maintenance, including replacements and renewal / Reevaluate maintenance program
- Comprehensive plan for using non-county facilities to supplement county facilities
- Remember importance of green space and history when planning

- Need to focus on Urban Parks concept / expand on use of urban parks model
- Incorporate new technology (e.g., GPS, QR codes)
- Consider trails as part of transportation network when planning
- Local (short distance away) parks are easier for residents to use/enjoy – make sure that all have access
- Provide consulting services for how homeowners/HOAs can best use green spaces that they own
- Gather, store, and utilize data more efficiently
- Integrated system of performance metrics
- Incorporate better access/transportation to parks and facilities
- Comprehensive trail plan

## Appendix: Input Compilations by Source

As described in the body of this report, a variety of input means were used. This Appendix provides detailed summaries of all input received. This section provides additional information, should the reader want it.

### IN-PERSON INPUT

#### Interviews

The Consultant Team interviewed members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS), Planning Commission (PC), and Park Authority Board (PAB). Interviews took place during June and July 2014. A list of those interviewed follows.

Interviewees	Affiliation/Title	Interviewees	Affiliation/Title
Ed Batten	PAB, Lee	Kenneth A. Lawrence	PC, Providence
Bill Bouie	PAB (Chair), Hunter Mill	John L. Litzenger, Jr.	PC, Sully
Sharon Bulova	BOS (Chair)	Jeff C. McKay	BOS, Lee
John C. Cook	BOS, Braddock	James Migliaccio	PC, Lee
Mary Cortina	PAB, At-large	Pete Murphy	PC, Springfield
Earl Flanagan	PC, Mount Vernon	Ken Quincy	PAB (Vice Chair), Providence
John W. Foust	BOS, Dranesville	Kala Quintana	PAB, At-large
Michael R. Frey	BOS, Sully	Linda Q. Smyth	BOS, Providence
Linwood Gorham	PAB, Mount Vernon	Hal Strickland	PAB, Sully
Penelope A. Gross	BOS (Vice Chair), Mason	Rip Sullivan	PAB, Dranesville
Pat Herrity	BOS, Springfield	Mike Thompson	PAB, Springfield
Catherine M. Hudgins	BOS, Hunter Mill	Frank Vajda	PAB, Mason
Gerald W. Hyland	BOS, Mount Vernon	Tony Vellucci	PAB, Braddock
Faisal Khan	PAB, At-large		

Central comments included:

- Use of a strategy that doesn't assume that "one size fits all", but instead focuses on the unique and diverse needs of Fairfax County and its residents
- Consideration of new cost recovery mechanisms
- A strategy that balances recreation and environmental stewardship, as well as the funding of new purchases and funding for maintenance
- A plan that recognizes needs of the diversifying community, and the needs of the aging population
- A strategy for repurposing underutilized amenities
- A plan that will maximize the use of public-private partnerships
- A strategy that includes creative and flexible solutions
- A plan that embraces technology as a way to improve input-gathering around planning as well as dissemination of information about facilities, programs, and volunteer opportunities
- A strategy that will include new funding opportunities

### **Open House Meeting**

Fairfax County Park Authority held an open house on October 2, 2014, to inform the Needs Assessment. Input was gathered via comment cards, sticky notes, dot exercises, and other notes responding to questions from display boards. The meeting was also used to advertise the website and to encourage use of the County's "meeting in a box" outreach tool. Input from the comment cards, sticky notes, and dot exercises is provided below.

### **Sticky Note Exercise**

#### **What do you dislike about the parks, facilities, and services provided by the FCPA?**

- Lack of equestrian opportunities especially in Alexandria, Lorton, Fairfax, and Vienna. Public riding lesson barn would be a great asset in a community rapidly losing facilities and gaining none. Current barns can't keep up with demand. Would love public cross county too.
- When the bus doesn't go there.
- Wayfinding in larger park areas.
- Lack of equestrian opportunities; parking.
- When the sidewalks don't connect.
- Volunteers could do more if allowed, e.g. chain saw on trails.
- Overgrown brush, no main entrance of gravel/walkways.
- Horrible overgrowth of invasive vines!
- Would be willing to assist park staff more in planning.
- Too small parking at Laurel Hill for equestrians.
- Lack of youth equestrian activity - 4H, U.S. Pony Club, NEL, VDA, high school teams.

#### **In general, in what ways do you use the parks, facilities, and services provided by the FCPA?**

- Riding, running, picnic, concert
- Horseback riding, dog walking

- Walking, Parktakes Classes
- 3-4 times a week horseback riding, hiking, summer concerts
- Trails, more trails and those trails they connect to in parks and natural areas
- Horseback riding, while the facilities provide are nice, it would be great to see more, including cross country and a public indoor ring and riding school. The desire is there in

the community, especially in the Fairfax, Lorton, Alexandria areas

- Where private barns with public lessons are rapidly decreasing. The barns left cannot keep up with demand.
- Horseback riding in parks
- Daily exercise walking and running with my wife

**Are there any facilities, programs, and/or services you would like to see the FCPA provide that are not currently provided?**

- Horseback riding lessons - Alexandria, Lorton, indoor public riding arena
- Equine events - riding lessons; horse boarding facilities
- Horseback riding lessons
- Identity as a system which enhances biodiversity and flyways

- Dog agility course
- Use Lahey Lost Valley
- Edible landscaping
- More staff in parks
- Horse riding lessons in a feasible distance like at Laurel Hill.

**What do you like most about the parks, facilities, and services provided by the FCPA?**

- Peaceful
- Availability (# of parks); variety of uses
- Availability of green space, trails, horseback riding facilities
- Good county efforts to involve citizens
- I like the fact that the county sees how important parks are.
- All of the parks are great

- Accessibility
- Love the availability and easy access
- Horse trails, walking trails, scenic vistas, horse riding ring and course
- Public access, well maintained, Frying Pan (wish it was closer)

**Are there existing facilities, programs, and/or services that you would like to see the FCPA improve or enhance?**

- Brentwood Park (Braddock District)
- Plant natives and aggressively remove invasives.
- Make a trail of history between Lahey Lost Valley and Meadowlark
- Plan adequate trailer parking at equestrian facilities and trail heads
- Need more money for trail maintenance (not for paving, just maintenance)
- More equestrian facilities and places to take riding lessons
- Expand horse trailer parking at Laurel Hill

- Off leash dog trails
- Park programs must address a) nature deficit disorder, b) obesity
- Develop Lahey Lost Valley as an arts-writing center
- Need more gym space - 1<sup>st</sup> priority
- Signage at major intersections in large stream valley parks, like Difficult Run. To/From , W&OD, CCT, etc. Also loops for running.
- More interpretive trails

- Money had been set aside for Gabrielson Gardens improvement. Need to find \$ and use.
- Affordable horseback riding lessons
- Environmental stewardship programs
- Expand horse trailer parking at Turner Farm and Laurel Hill
- Expand riding events everywhere

**Dot Exercise**

**How would you allocate the additional funding?**

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Dots</i>
Acquisition of new parkland and open space	17
Park facility replacements and renewal	9
Improvements to and maintenance of existing parks	14
Development of new recreation & park fac. (e.g. trails, sports, playground equipment)	10
Natural and cultural stewardship	10
Other: Please add equestrian to development above	33
Other: Environmental restoration	3

**Which of the FCPA programs provide the greatest value or benefit to you?**

<i>Programs</i>	<i>Dots</i>
Youth Recreation (sports, camps, aquatics, biking, hiking, unstructured play)	5
Adult Recreation (sports, fitness, aquatics, hiking, biking, walking, unstructured play)	8
Natural Resource Conservation	5
Historic Resource Preservation	2
Healthy Living Support (access to recreation, nature, fitness/wellness services, etc.)	2
Education (interpretation, nature, history classes, SOPs)	2
Community Events (summer concerts, farmer markets, special events)	3
Economic Value (tourism, quality of life, destinations)	1
Other: Equestrian Facilities	5
Other: Classes for Kids (not rec classes - robotics, slime time)	2

**How often do you use the parks, facilities, and services provided by the FCPA?**

<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Dots</i>
Daily	2

At least once per week but not daily	5
At least once per month but not weekly	1
At least once per year but not monthly	1
Never	0

**What, if anything, prevents you from using FCPA parks, facilities, and programs?**

<i>Potential Barriers</i>	<i>Dots</i>
I don't have enough time/I have other obligations (Comment Sticky: Not enough hours in the day) (Comment Sticky: Existing equestrian facilities too far away to be useful & no public lesson barn)	4
Recreation is not a high priority for me	0
I don't have a way to get there (Comment Sticky: Need walk, bike & bus access)	1
There are no parks near my home (Comment Sticky: Classes held in facilities too far from home)	0
The cost is too high (Comment Sticky: Some facility fees seem high considering that we also pay taxes to support FCPA)	1
The FCPA doesn't offer programs that interest me	0
I don't know what is available	0
Facilities elsewhere are better than those offered by FCPA	0
Other: Riding Lessons programs, trailer parking at Turner and Laurel Hill	4
Other: Inadequate trailer parking at Laurel Hill Equestrian Center	1
Other: Inadequate parking at Laurel Hill for equestrians	1

**Comment Cards**

1. I have been a horseback riding instructor in Fairfax County for the past seven years - both in lesson barns and as a private instructor. I have watched Fairfax County lose three different lesson barns in my short seven years here. When I go to a barn I have a “herd” of students who follow. Currently (and luckily) Meadow Wood in Lorton is still open and providing lessons. Due to limitations with BLM, Meadow Wood is unable to meet demand. I teach five days a week at Meadow Wood and it's rare a day goes by that I do not greet at least one family interested in lessons. The need in Fairfax exists. I hate turning families away, and there is no reason Fairfax County shouldn't be able to have lesson barns - maintenance of the “park” could be paid partially by the barn's lessons. Youth and adults in the equestrian community here are also crying out for a barn that provides lessons, shows, and showing opportunities, learn horsemanship,

as well as have 4H Pony Club participation. Not providing an equestrian facility that is in an area where Fairfax County equestrians can actually use (Lorton/Alexandria) would be missing out on ensuring horses the opportunity to learn, be outdoors, and exercise will continue for generations of children and adults to come. Clinics could be held at the barns too - run by lesson barns providers.

2. Need to put effort into look at park system as a whole. The parkland can be used for certain goals: leader in builder of biodiversity a) increase tree cover, reduce lawns, which are a monoculture and waste gasoline on mowing, b) native species host, c) invasive species eradicator and educator, d) use of spare lawn space for gardens for your food services. Need walk, bike, bus connectivity as a policy at every facility. Also consider a bike share program in certain areas. To educate kids in your RECPAC programs about transportation (safe walking, biking, using transit) buy a wagon of bikes that go from RECPAC to RECPAC. Have more bike rodeos for bike/pedestrian education. Offer an adult “how to ride the bus” program.
3. With reduced park staff, why not use volunteers more in the planning stage of projects? We would love to get more involved early on. And, why not train and certify volunteers for things like chain games to reduce the work load on Park Operations.
4. Gabrielson Gardens on Leeds Road, Sully District, needs work. A significant amount of money (\$50,000) was taken from this park to use to purchase Clemyjontri. Can the Park Authority please return those dollars to Gabrielson Gardens so the community can enjoy the park?
5. Laurel Hill is a great area and has a great future. To have equestrian events here you need a huge parking lot for many trucks/trailers. There has to be space between the trucks/trailers for horses to be tied to the trailer while being readied to be ridden. Thus, there has to be a huge parking lot to allow the number of horse trailers to be parked. The ring, trails are great.
6. I would like to see an equestrian facility that has trail riding and horseback riding lessons offered to the community. Specifically, a facility that offers these experiences to non-horse owners! Would also love to see horse riding trails expanded at all parks. Also would love to see an off leash dog trail/agility course available to the public. Dog agility is the fastest growing dog sport in this country.
7. I think that the county Needs Assessment online form website is a wonderful tool to gather community input. Thus said, I think that it is extremely difficult to navigate. It is not very user friendly. Several folks that I have spoken to agree with this. For instance: Engage is not a typical term to use to enter a site; Campaigns is an odd term to use for someone to look at, to record an idea; Prior to today, clicking on “all ideas” did nothing; Many “ideas” listed are not really ideas at all but question! Just suggestions. Thanks!
8. Don’t take a single one-size fits all recreational standard as being appropriate for Fairfax. What might work for Chicago is probably not appropriate for Fairfax. For example, Fairfax has a rich history of horses; however, Montgomery County with fewer people has more equestrian facility than Fairfax.
9. Parks - our natural world - are critical for survival of our planet - climate change. Parks have a critical role to play. We - Society - must deal with nature deficit disorder. Parks and schools working together can - must - deal with this. Parks have to address - satisfy - help abate obesity. Parks have to enter the age of the future - really the age of today. To use the internet and realize that park users are hooked up to the internet. Robo cameras can bring the natural world into the classroom and provide stuff to help teachers teach specifics in the curricula.

## Focus Groups

Targeted discussions were held with specific groups. The intent was to initiate conversations with certain interest and/or demographic groups in advance of our large-scale outreach. Brief descriptions of the discussions held are provided below, each followed by detailed notes from the gathering.

### Athletic Users

A conversation with athletic field users was held September 17, 2014. Attendees were asked about field usage, changes in the sports played, demographics of users, field conditions, partnerships, field improvements. Several ideas emerged, including: concerns about location, access to, and condition of playing fields; emerging formats of play that require different field sizes or configurations; accommodation of indoor play; role of partnerships in usage; importance of amenities (e.g., restrooms). Detailed notes are provided below.

**What types of fields do you use – have there been changes in your programs, in your use patterns, that have caused changes in field usage? Is the capacity offered by existing fields enough, or is more or less needed? When, where and what type of shortages are experienced? For example, weekdays, weekends, lighted time, later/earlier available hours, practice or game slots, etc.? Turf/natural surface, east, west, north south, Central County?**

- was lacrosse - now rugby, field hockey - more sport types
- flag football
- small all sided soccer (3/4 of the users are U 12)
- change synthetic turf fields and changes in use blocks
- overlay fields - may cause conflicts between user groups
- more lit weeknights needed (especially fall)
- difficulty getting players to fields by 5
- impact of HS activities on HS facilities (diamonds and rectangles)
- fewer southern county fields (all types of fields)
- field availability / field times for adult leagues
- growth of fields (50/70 baseball for example)
- adult participation from diamonds to rectangular - growth from availability of turf
- some shifting amongst sports
- turf fields have helped
- impact to FCPS diamonds (90)
- need more multi-purpose diamonds (turf)
- school expansion impacted fields (trailers)
- still not enough rectangles - no available tournament space
- diverse groups challenged and small groups for rectangular space
- adult space limited early weeknights
- more synthetic turf fields needed

**Are there any new or different sports, field types or facility types that you see being needed due to changing demographics or trends? For example, what shifts are occurring related to Millennials, Baby Boomers, or an increasingly diverse population? How are field dimensions,**

**practice/game standards and usage changing? An example might be the emerging need for 50-70' diamonds, cricket, ultimate Frisbee football, small sided fields, futsal.**

- fly football, rugby, field hockey
- ice hockey - lack of youth, substandard private, no public, single sheet
- complexes - diamond, rectangular
- baseball - programmer of fields/base lengths
- 50/70 baseball is a growing need
- “open” non-sport specific fields
- flexibility needed for new or nontraditional sports
- growth in field hockey, lacrosse, flag football, cricket
- track needed, cross-country
- FCPS tracks used by local sports organizations
- walk on track conflicts with field use
- more swimming pools (indoors)
- need more hockey / ice time
- lack of tournament complex

**How would you, in general terms, describe field conditions that you most frequently use? Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor? What are some examples of how you would maintain the fields differently if given authority? Improved turf management, Lower grass height, more frequent grooming, more irrigation systems, etc.**

- natural grass - grow = poor (rectangles)
- grass selection - could improve community use vs higher quality /profile
- overuse
- concerns about wet field use
- increased maintenance needed
- field amenities, including warning tracks, restrooms, lights, better routine maintenance
- clarification / better system of maintenance and consistency in WHO does maintenance
- grass cut shorter, especially diamonds
- older facilities
- synthetic fields showing use
- impact to fields by improper equipment
- less attention to natural grass

**Do you participate in County athletic field partnership programs such as FCPA-adopt-a-field or FCPS friend-a-field? If so, what do you find to be the primary benefits of the programs? If not, what are the barriers or reasons that you do not participate in those programs?**

- mostly no rental fees
- early use #1
- control - being able to let field condition improve
- precautionary
- open doors on scholastic front
- barrier - inconsistent cancellations / policies by schools (e.g. time change)
- PORTABLE GOALS or permanent goals need to be further off field (VSMA)

- non partner users with no personal interest in field quality/condition is difficult for partner users
- too many differences in park programs vs FCPS
- need increased flexibility on partner fields
- availability, or lack of availability, of resources at different school facilities
- more benefits always better
- turf partners great
- great partner fundraising

**Since the last Needs Assessment, significant effort has been placed on converting fields to synthetic turf and adding lights to athletic fields to add capacity. How have these improvements changed how you use fields? Are there other elements that would add capacity to natural turf fields, or to synthetic turf fields?**

- games on synthetic turf clear priority for many reasons
- inlay line for short sighted play - love it
- non HS facilities who could benefit from synthetics through partnerships between county, FCPA (This would decrease issues with HS closures.), towns, etc.
- synthetics allow use with rain, more time for adults
- lights on grass fields as well as turf
- turfing non lit fields vs lighting grass
- later start time, more on fields
- more practice, more use
- more predictable, no rain outs

**Do you use any other athletic fields that are not located on FCPA/FCPS property? If so, what field or park amenities are provided there that you would like to see added to FCPA athletic field parks (e.g., tournament complexes)? FCPA provides certain athletic field amenities (e.g., portable restrooms), for certain facilities. Do you find this useful? Why or why not?**

- restrooms
- electric / outlets - for portable scoreboards etc.
- Herndon CC (Brady Park), are these private/ town/cities fields considered for collaborations and partnerships? These towns/cities benefit county and town residents
- need multi field complexes
- bathrooms, concessions, shelters, parking
- need to address “parking formulas”
- building vertically to preserve surface area
- fields / parking on top of buildings
- private facilities provide flexibility and lower rates of cancellations
- needs restrooms (both FCPA and FCPS)

**For what sports and activities are indoor gyms used and which indoor gyms are being used (e.g., FCPS, private providers)? If private providers are being used, what can you tell us about services provided, amenities, and fees being charged? Is gym use all year, all weather?**

- competitive cheer (partnered w/private gym); space and math, etc.
- indoor practices, winter
- private indoor fields

- huge growth in volleyball, basketball, and there are many restrictions of FCPS gyms
- Futsal
- Tryouts for spring sports
- Indoor soccer
- all sports must go indoors
- groups must pay large fees to use private facilities, which are the same as FCPS gyms
- large percentages of groups and use at private facilities, financial burden
- new sports are increasing demand on indoor facilities
- age (as kids get older) options for suitable gyms decrease
- difficult with school closures indoors, difficulty with school teams moving indoors in the event of rain or bad weather
- multiple court volleyball sites need “two court minimum”
- more volleyball, multi sports
- indoor space very lacking

### Low to Middle Income Users, Group 1

A meeting with residents of a Fairfax County low income housing community was held October 29, 2014. Attendees were asked about park usage, favorite parks, any barriers preventing use, ideas for improvements and investments in the park system. Many comments were shared, including: parks are used for exercise, spending time with family outdoors, swimming, favorite parks are close/accessible, offer sports areas, spaces for family gatherings, and water play; barriers include cost and location; ideas for improvement range from increasing water play areas, additional youth/teen programming, condition improvements, senior classes, and better amenities (e.g., restrooms). Detailed notes are provided below.

#### What do you like about parks?

- Activities with others, time together
- Fishing
- Movie nights, amusement parks/elements
- Kids take swimming classes
- Water features - spray
- Exercise, sport
- Exercise classes, indoor
- Golf
- Kids basketball (indoor)
- Spend all day with family
- Need big space for family
- Distance to favorite activities
- Proximity - schedule makes it difficult
- Likes Clemyjontri - more parks like that
- Adding more to existing local parks
- Picnic outside
- Community swimming pool (many)
- All kids play sports - scholarships FPYC but have to go in person

#### What are your favorite parks?

- Van Dyke, it used to have movie nights; like the location, playground for kids, all day barbeque
- Lake Fairfax and the Watermine, good for family reunions, celebrations
- Bull Run Regional, provides an outdoor water park, is affordable
- Wakefield, kids use the basketball courts, parents would exercise while kids played games
- South Run, classes for kids - wanted a combined parent and kid martial arts class here but had to go elsewhere
- Providence, there's an unused state of art softball field

#### **What are the barriers keeping you from the parks?**

- Cost
- Location - how close/far
- Education/awareness about reduced class fee options (Parktakes) - which classes, how much reduced, e.g. tech classes-no reduced cost
- Time

#### **What ideas do you have?**

- Water park or outdoor pool at Burke Lake
- Youth/teens - movie night at parks otherwise movies at mall
- Roller skating
- Parks provide low cost entertainment options - would use fountains, like Fairfax Corner - at e.g. Water Mine
- Peaceful listening to water
- Parks contribute to quality of life, ability to enjoy with family - as young kids age, health, ability to get outside
- Geographically targeting advertisements
- Trails, add lights for safety
- Promote better, advertising, education, passes or flyers for things other than RECenters
- More restrooms, provide hand sanitizers
- Mixed conditions -some good, some need improvement
- Effect of geese on condition, cleanliness
- Need larger outdoor space for community/religious/family reunions/gatherings (approx. 200 people) twice a year, ½ day use; Van Dyke was tight/too small, Lake Fairfax used - but far away - ½ day use
- Indoor pool for women only – or, schedule a block of time for women only use
- More senior classes - more locations
- Transportation to activities, programs
- Self-defense classes (example 12+ age)
- Multi-generational programs

#### **Trail Users**

A discussion with trail users was held November 12, 2014. Attendees were asked about park usage, any barriers preventing use, trail conditions, changes in how trails are used. Comments shared included: a wide range of park uses, active and passive, indoor and outdoor; barriers include location, trail condition, lack of connections; trails are used for commuting, exercise, nature watching, recreation; conditions are uneven, mixed; increased and varied use of trails. Detailed notes are provided below.

### How do you use parks?

- connectivity - routes to other areas
- golf
- Burke Lake train
- recreation - hiking and biking
- kayaking
- in parks at least every two weeks, once a month, weekly, daily
- walking, hiking
- mountain biking
- historical/archeological sites
- nature identification
- sit and knit or read
- dog walking
- playgrounds
- swimming pools
- athletic fields, softball
- tennis courts
- entertain grandchildren at playgrounds, Burke train, nature walks
- Parktakes classes
- mini golf
- disc golf
- Equestrian, equestrian trails
- neighborhood gathering spot
- association meeting
- holds neighborhood Easter egg hunt
- Arts in Parks
- Azalea park
- Langley Oaks
- Clemyjontri
- RECenters - Oak Marr, Springhill (which needs decent bike racks)
- Burke Lake

### What are the barriers to use?

- trail connections “safe routes to parks”
- surface of trails and maintenance
- locations - connect to other locations
- fees, e.g. launching a kayak is the same price as motor boat
- bike parking in the parks
- need more locations / launch sites to use kayaks
- would like to see trail surface for the entire Huntley Meadows from one side to other
- fair weather crossings
- garden plot fees too high

### How are you using trails?

- commuting
- recreational

- exercising
- nature watching
- like that traffic noise in middle of Huntley Meadows is non-existent

**What are the conditions of the trails you use most often?**

- uneven
- older trails grading varies
- people avoid the older trails
- nicer trails do not connect to older trails
- fallen trees is a problem - put signs with phone number to call
- more signage - use as educational, mileage markers
- use QR codes
- GPS connectivity
- look at Arlington County (Martha Curtis) for example
- use striping for trails that go across streets
- trails will become increasingly used - keep up maintenance
- metal maps in FCPA parks are useful
- put in maps for out of town visitors or new residents for educational purposes (Indians, name of trees, history of area or park, etc.)

**Comments on multi-use trails**

- would like to see special purpose trails - one for mountain bikes and the other equestrian
- would like variable terrain (maybe at Lee District) for mountain bikes
- more shorter, pretty trails that are accessible (Lee District Supervisor)
- separate horses / bikes / walkers
- trails in good condition are used the most

**Comments on trail surfaces**

- fair weather
- asphalt may be better than gravel
- keep some trails natural
- keep trail maintained
- better engineered trails needed

**Comments on changes/trends**

- more commuting instead of use of cars
- more bikes and pedestrians
- more trails connecting neighborhoods - “loop trails”
- more retired people
- have bus stops connect to trails
- calibrate trails for walkers / mileage markers
- mark steps from Huntley Meadows S. King to the overlook
- race training - start, turn here, etc. signs

- increasing young parents with their children in 3-wheel exercise carts - wider trails

#### Other comments

- pay an app firm for a better trails app - get away from ARC map
- maintenance will increase
- walking - reward--long transverse - maybe use benches are markers
- Smithsonian “case of the month”
- increase signs for information (wildlife, etc. Change seasonally. Maybe use QR codes)
- tree markers

- technology increasing

- off the beaten path in parks like Huntley you see old, decaying blocks, etc. - mark as archeological if possible.
- Nottoway Park - what is history - more educational signs in parks
- problem with playgrounds too near walking/running trails
- designate playgrounds by age
- need more shade in playgrounds
- need a better website for Needs Assessment

#### Low to Middle Income Users, Group 2

A meeting with residents of a second Fairfax County low income housing community was held November 19, 2014. Attendees were asked about park usage, favorite parks, any barriers preventing use, ideas for improvements and investments in the park system. Among the comments shared were: use includes walking, jogging, nature watching, using play equipment and amusements (e.g., carousel); several favorite parks were cited; improvements suggested include provide more shade and benches in parks, add a skate area to Ossian Park, provide a zip line, offer non-traditional play equipment; parks add positively to quality of life. Detailed notes are provided below.

- The children in the community consist mostly of 8-15 year olds. Ossian Park is nearby and frequently used, suggested addition of a skate area, benches, and shade near swings.
- The adults like the following parks: Hidden Oaks, Mason District, Frying Pan Farm Park, Lee District Park, Ossian Hall, Burke Lake, Occoquan, Wakefield, Providence.
- Their favorite activity in the parks is to walk, jog, and watch nature. The sprayground at Lee District was also a favorite.
- One of the children loves to swing. The other would like to have a zip line.
- In the past, they have fished, used REC PAC, Carousel, and Ghost Train.
- Parks do add positively to their quality of life.
- Parks should have more benches and shade.
- Youth suggested addition of the following to parks: more swings, zip line, skate areas, soccer fields, tire swing, climbing wall, play equipment that is a little less traditional.
- Conditions at the parks are good except for Burke Lake. It needs updating. As well as Hidden Oaks outside doesn't have a good “continuity”.

- The meeting continued with discussion of various parks, including Audrey Moore and Green Springs.

### 50+ Age Group

A discussion was held with older adults on November 19, 2014. Attendees were asked about park usage, favorite parks, importance of parks, ideas for improvement. Input shared included: far-reaching range of uses, outdoor/indoor, active/passive; concerns about cost and location, importance of partnering to offer services, programs; role in education and mental fitness. Detailed notes are provided below.

#### How do you use parks?

- walks with and without dogs on trails and in nature parks
- volunteer in summer camps
- Parktakes programs: really like as source of water aerobics, summer programs with kids, garden, Zumba
- RECenters: classes, weight machines (long wait sometimes), socializing, increase awareness of Fit Linxx
- golf courses, Burke Lake
- don't use much, concerned about trail condition for mobility issues
- when kids were young - sports coaching
- boating
- wildlife watching
- strength and fitness coaching at Providence, demand up from seniors as a free service, trainers who have expertise with seniors (i.e. knees, etc.)
- RECenter in Reston - don't have and would like to have - especially the fitness
- shuffleboard - where are the facilities?
- competitive sports for seniors
- specialty programs - archery, civil war (Braddock Civil War earthwork? Where? Volunteers? Increase awareness)
- walking trails, very important to seniors
- equestrian, Frying Pan Farm Park
- garden plots at Nottoway (concerns - increase in fee; access for seniors)
- Green Spring programs
- issue of transportation to parks
- aquatic exercise
- cost of parks
- fishing at Burke Lake and Lake Fairfax
- focus on parks in urban areas, focus on urban park concept
- hiking, biking
- camps, everything - with kids, family
- importance of fitness for women, seniors
- offer classes/fitness in community, closer to homes, i.e. traveling exercise classes

#### How do parks add to quality of life?

- need to offer classes in communities
- parks are very important and makes me want to stay in Fairfax County
- socialization very important - place to socialize - senior café
- helps keep mind alert, programs to work on minds
- need place to offer classes/discussions/lectures
- publicity - need a robust marketing plan
- remember importance of history and green space

- building relationships with other organizations
- green spaces
- silver sneakers program or similar program that insurance reimburses
- private/public partnerships
- consulting service on how HOA should use green space

**What’s most important?**

- publicize more - increase awareness
- remember history (quality of site staff, greenness, keep its reputation)
- opportunities to work with agencies, build off of entities
- silver sneakers program - health insurance, reimburses facility (e.g. RECenters) for members, attendance as long as facility has spec fitness/exercise types)
- partner with insurance providers

**What parks do you go to?**

- Oak Marr (RECenter, dog, demonstration for kids, exhibits)
- Burke Lake (golf)
- South Run (Pilates class)
- Fountainhead

- maintain Trips & Tours program
- teach vocational skills to teens (snow plowing, planting)
- cost of RECenters vs Xsport - keeping seniors away
- programs for home schoolers and caregivers

- FCPA consulting (free) to HOAs if HOAs want to develop/alter their common areas
- day trips - maintain, doesn’t have to be far
- programs to encourage youths to assist light yard work
- cost - Oak Marr vs private
- programs for caregivers to get out with their patient
- programs for home school

- Huntley Meadows
- Audrey Moore
- Frying Pan Farm Park
- Burke Lake (walking loop)

**Teachers**

A cohort of teachers attending training was asked about types of parks/activities they incorporate into lesson plans, barriers to park use, and ideas for improvement. Parks visited/used included: Colvin Run, Frying Pan Farm Park, Green Springs Garden, Hidden Oaks, Hidden Pond, Huntley Meadows, Lake Accotink, and Riverbend. Barriers to use included availability of transportation, cost/time, not aligned with the specific grade’s curriculum; suggested improvements included more information on what is available, bring experts into the classrooms, more specific content information. Detailed notes are provided below.

**What types of parks and park-sponsored activities if any, do you use and incorporate into your lessons plans over the course of a year?**

- Frying Pan Farm Park, correlated to first unit of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, great for kindergarten, part of animals and babies unit, have a garden there and harvest to serve in the cafeteria
- Publish materials (plant guides, etc.)
- Trips for extracurricular activities
- Riverbend - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Wolf Trap - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade uses Living Classrooms to integrate history and science at Great Falls
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade → Bull Run → Native Americans
- We have tried other parks with specific activities matching our objectives (ants), but found them not worth our while.
- We do nature “stream walks” at the park adjacent to the school
- Our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students participate in yearly stream clean-ups
- We have had the Forest Park Authority provide after school sessions for 4-6 weeks
- We have gone to Mason Neck Park
- Concerts and water parks
- Riverbend Park, nature walks, comes to our school - Powhatan Indians, Science/Social Studies-Indians of the Potomac Program, 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- I would really like to use your Backyard Classroom (Va. State Parks) at Mason Neck
- Nature fest at Herndon
- Field trips to Green Springs Gardens
- Lake Accotink has increased roles in matching standards and now provides greater opportunities. Pre-K does a walk (nature). The upper grades are beginning to utilize this resource. We have a ranger come present over the summer to our students in the summer program.
- We use the Manassas National Battlefield for a social studies field trip. Lower grades use Colvin Run, Lake Accotink and a few other natural spots.
- Hidden Pond
- Hidden Oaks, Lifecycles of Animals
- We talked about nature park last year. Year before that we went to Green Springs Garden. We also talk about different plants/trees and where we might see them.
- Meadowlark Gardens field trip/tour
- Colvin Run Mill - Simple Machines
- Mount Vernon, National Zoo, Pamplin Park
- Sully Plantation - Native Americans, Economics, Gardening, Animal Activities
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade at our school does a day long service project at Wolf Trap Performing Arts, and our music program works with them as well. No direct science links.
- Yes - often! Huntley Meadows, Riverbend, Colvin Run Mill
- We use Lake Fairfax for the landforms unit. It was the first year of the program.
- Chesapeake Bay programs, Gettysburg
- Belvedere Park-control invasives, Hidden Oaks-1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades, Mason District Park-clean-up and stream monitoring, Riverbend Park - matched with Fields of Science
- 4-H Club Master Gardeners Program
- I have used Colvin Run Mill for Simple Machines and Huntley Meadows for wetlands. I’m thinking of using Green Springs Garden Park for animals and habitats.
- Sully Plantation, Gunston Hall
- Huntley Meadows - project - Plant It - Bonnie Cabbages
- We have gone to Lake Accotink for the earth lesson and use the field guides in the spring
- Lawrence Park - Native American; Green Springs Park- Native Habitats and Butterflies

**Is there anything the Park Authority could do differently, or offer more or less of, that would help you with your work?**

- More PR so we know of more parks close to school
- More hands on
- More hands on, more animals/oceans, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade science review
- Flyers with descriptions
- Clear information about parks and how it correlates with lessons
- We would love to develop/gain access to the meadow area just behind our school
- Park Authority come to the school and have presentation on different topics
- Make links to these plans on Blackboard
- Programs directly related to curriculum - hands-on experiences
- Come to schools
- Tell me how!
- Give FREE or greatly reduced fees for Title I Schools and help pay for cost of buses
- Free
- It would be nice if they offered in-school field trips
- Outreach, guest speakers
- Answer email/phone calls in a timely manner. Offer more science programs; they are terrific!
- I am speaking specifically for Kindergarten. We would love grade-level appropriate, active lessons that helped students learn. Hands-on activities that are varied and given by people who know how to talk to young children. There's so much that could be done!
- Send experts from the field to share their knowledge of the outdoors
- Programs coming to our school
- They came to us, but only because we had extra PTA funding
- More publicity/awareness of events; more park-to-school events?
- Come to school to do programs instead of going to them
- The Living Classrooms Station set-up is really great - inquiry based, hands-on
- Parks could work on some upper grade (6<sup>th</sup>) programs (weather, space, matter, energy)
- More information to schools on the resources available. Especially if they are really close to that particular school. If information was passed out more efficiently, information will be easier to access - then use.
- Offer a discount for Title I populations
- Offer an in-service day dedicated to park activities, on-site, and with examples of typical grade-specific programs
- More rotations that offered more content specific information
- I know to look for the clean-up days. A notice by the Park Authority to FCPS especially 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and up would be helpful
- Some of the parts of the programs have become dated. They are still telling felt-board stories and our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders had to make clay pots that were for K-students.
- We have it great
- I guess having different activities for the students so it's focused on our standards
- Both parks were very good
- We have these programs
- Nope!

- Offering more programs - especially in the spring - would be awesome!
- I haven't explored in detail what is available re: animals and habitats. That's what I need, but it may already be in place.

**If you do not use parks or park-sponsored activities, why not?**

- Some classes have gone to Green Springs Garden in the past. They have shared with us that Green Spring Gardens is boring for the kids.
- Not in our grade
- Not aligned to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade curriculum
- Not sure
- Kindergarten does a field trip to Frying Pan Park every year
- I have never experienced first-hand any of the parks/sponsored activities to gauge their worth/value
- We would like to use them more often, but they are usually too expensive
- Just realized the opportunity and what was available
- The county parks programs do not overlap well with 6<sup>th</sup> Grade curriculum. Our biggest drawback is not the parks, but access to buses. Since we are a late start school, we only get two-hour trips.
- They are often hard to register in time
- Not aware of opportunities; logistics of field trips very complicated for short notice.
- Because we go to Jamestown, we don't have the funding
- Transportation time, limited class time
- With the reduction in number of trips we are permitted to take, it makes it difficult to add these kinds of activities to the year
- The activities failed to keep our students' interest

- Nothing. Belvedere Elementary loves the Park Authority!
- Curriculum involves astronomy, weather, H<sub>2</sub>O/energy. I haven't seen a whole lot of emphasis on these topics.
- Had tried to arrange a field trip for a park program, but it was very difficult to coordinate due to no one getting back to me
- No transportation funds from school
- Time - not enough
- Barriers with field trips
- Money for buses, lack of
- I don't know my options
- No time/money
- Difficult for students to cover field trip expenses
- There are many activities in the science kits - time related
- We only have one field trip a year. It is used to visit Washington, DC.
- Math and reading scores were made a priority. Science and social studies was routinely "cut" to push in mandated intervention blocks for students.
- We have two field trips we like
- Have used in the past: a walk around tour (can't remember where) for erosion, etc. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Not very hands on.
- Did two years ago. Last year we had all new teachers and long term sub.
- We should utilize more
- Principal won't go with it

## ONLINE AND E-MEETINGS

### *Meetings in a Box*

Seven Meetings in a Box were received during the first phase of the Needs Assessment. Groups were affiliated around natural resource issues, equestrian issues, athletic issues, and one was a cohort (college students). Examples of responses provided by each group are below.

Transcriptions of the seven “Group Priorities” sheets follow.

### Sample Responses

#### How do you use?

1. Dog walking, soccer, riding horses, horse shows, cross country
2. Athletic field usage
3. Bird watch, hike, immerse themselves in nature
4. Trail walking, horseback riding, cycling, running, equestrian events/lessons, festivals/concerts, playgrounds
5. Nature based recreation, use for environmental education/outreach, recognize stewardship of natural resources
6. Athletic facilities/fields (Patriot Park), trails, RECenters/indoor facilities (South Run), Burke Lake Park, Parktakes classes, golf, volleyball, boating, basketball, picnics, tennis, biking
7. Hiking, trail walking, exercise, fishing, art classes

#### What would you like to see parks provide, improve, or enhance?

1. Develop Turner for Equestrian activities, covered arena dedicated to horses, parking lot, temporary stalls; More acreage for equestrian trails, configured for trails; Frying Pan - improve outdoor ring footing, drag more often.
2. Yes more 70 and 90 foot diamond lighted fields and more flexibility in which sports can use which type of fields (e.g. outdoor grass volleyball should be able to use rectangular grass fields). Continue to work with the major sports organizations to create more working relationships that help both the park authority and the organizations.
3. Creation of more natural resource park areas is mentioned most frequently. Native plant landscaping, stream valley revitalization and additional nature-oriented programming are also frequently mentioned.
4. Expansion of equestrian facilities, improved parking for horse trailers, need more opportunities for riding lessons, promoting benefits of interaction with nature/outreach to young residents.
5. Environmental education; organized nature hikes, especially on CCT; watershed restoration initiatives, e.g. stormwater control.
6. More field space, quality grass and turf, indoor and outdoor; field houses; more parking, improved amenities, improved maintenance; field complex; finish master plan at Patriot Park and South Run RECenter.
7. Bathrooms (more/better/cleaner), off-road vehicle area, better signage, maintain historic sites, free children’s programs.

**What is the most important investment to make in the park system?**

1. More land with horse trails; lesson program at Turner; equipment at Turner to maintain the ring better.
2. Find a funding source to maintain the turf fields and create a central county tournament complex.
3. Purchase more undeveloped lands and should preserve and restore park areas in their natural states.
4. Indoor arena at Laurel Hill Equestrian Center; maintenance of existing facilities/properties; improving infrastructure.
5. Maintain, protect and enhance natural areas and corridors; treat parks as watershed preservation demonstration areas; control deer population.
6. More parkland, more field space, a sports complex, maintenance of facilities.
7. Better maintenance, more playgrounds, trails, bathrooms, RECenters, increase longevity of parks, conservation of land.

**Group Priorities Sheets**

Each participating group submitted a single summary sheet, containing top priorities and most discussed topics. The summary of those is provided below.

**GROUP 1**

- Meeting Date: 10/14/2014
- Number of Participants: 10

**1. In what ways and how often do you use the parks, facilities and services provided by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)?**

Athletic facilities/fields - (Patriot Park), trails, recreation centers - indoor facilities - (South Run RECenter Field House), Burke Lake Park, Parktakes, Frisbee golf, mini golf, volley ball, boating, basketball, picnics, tennis, biking, golf. Use of field ranges from one time per week to every day to a couple times a month.

**2. What do you like most and least about the parks?**

- + Turf fields, access and availability, variety of activities
- Parking, condition of grass fields, safety issues, bathrooms, maintenance of facilities

**3. What, if anything, prevents you from using the parks, facilities and programs offered by FCPA?**

Safety, Parking/traffic/in and out of facility, cost of use of facilities, access for non-standing permit holders limited

**4. Are there any facilities, programs and services that you would like to see FCPA provide, improve, or enhance?**

More field space - quality grass and turf - indoor and outdoor, field houses, more parking/improved amenities/improved park maintenance, field complex, finish master plan at Patriot Park and South Run RECenter

**5. What is the most important investment FCPA should make in the park system?**

Invest in more: parkland, field space, sports complex, maintenance of facilities

**6. Is there anything else that we have not asked you about how you use parks that you would like to tell us?**

*No response*

**GROUP 2**

- Meeting Date: 10/15/2014
- Number of Participants: 10

**1. In what ways and how often do you use the parks, facilities and services provided by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)?**

Daily use of trails for walking, horseback riding, cycling, running, equestrian events for clinics, lessons, auctions, horse shows, etc., festivals, concerts, playgrounds

**2. What do you like most and least about the parks?**

- + Availability, natural settings, equestrian facilities
- Parking horse trailers at facilities and trail heads, need for more trail maintenance, barriers to volunteer support

**3. What, if anything, prevents you from using the parks, facilities and programs offered by FCPA?**

Connectivity for trails including access to facilities

**4. Are there any facilities, programs and services that you would like to see FCPA provide, improve, or enhance?**

Expansion of equestrian facilities (rings, barns, indoor arenas) across county; improved parking for horse trailers - Turner Farm and Laurel Hill; need more opportunities for riding lessons; promoting benefits of interaction with nature; outreach to young residents

**5. What is the most important investment FCPA should make in the park system?**

Indoor arena at Laurel Hill Equestrian Center; maintenance of existing facilities and properties; improving infrastructure

**6. Is there anything else that we have not asked you about how you use parks that you would like to tell us?**

Would like even better communications with community or events, activities, opportunities; make barns and facilities available for emergency evacuation in crisis and natural disasters; incorporate volunteers at a deeper level of planning; make it easier for volunteers to do maintenance (e.g. using power tools); difficult to understand Park organizational structure and procedures. User friendly? Staff directory?

### **GROUP 3**

- Meeting Date: 10/22/2014
- Number of Participants: 5

#### **1. In what ways and how often do you use the parks, facilities and services provided by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)?**

Riding horses, weekly to several times a week, Turner, Frying Pan Dog walking - several times/week Turner, Riverbend, Seneca Horse shows - twice a month Turner, Frying Pan Cross Country - weekly, Turner, Frying Pan Soccer - once a month, Baron Cameron

#### **2. What do you like most and least about the parks?**

+ Turner Park, ring, xcountry, Frying Pan, ring, xcountry, soccer - nice fields, ability to walk dogs in nature trails

- Lack of adequate trailer parking at Turner, poor parking Lack of availability of Frying Pan for horse activities - overbooking, multiple uses Lack of facilities at Turner, indoor, stalls. Not enough trails, need more acreage

#### **3. What, if anything, prevents you from using the parks, facilities and programs offered by FCPA?**

Overcapacity, poor trailer parking, multiple uses at Frying Pan lack of quality program for riding lessons, at Frying Pan and none at Turner unleashed dogs, motor bikes

#### **4. Are there any facilities, programs and services that you would like to see FCPA provide, improve, or enhance?**

Develop Turner for Equestrian activities, covered arena dedicated to horses, parking lot, temporary stalls. More acreage for equestrian trails, configured for trails. Frying Pan - improve outdoor ring footing, drag more often.

#### **5. What is the most important investment FCPA should make in the park system?**

Support equestrian sports, more land with horse trails, lesson program at Turner, equipment at Turner to maintain the ring better

#### **6. Is there anything else that we have not asked you about how you use parks that you would like to tell us?**

Don't let soccer fields take over the parks. Look to Maryland Parks for ideas, Montgomery and Howard Counties have extensive trail systems, good parking.

**GROUP 4**

- Meeting Date: 10/19/2014
- Number of Participants: 16

**1. In what ways and how often do you use the parks, facilities and services provided by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)?**

- Often visit parks for fishing/hunting
- I go to Burke Lake/Hemlock parks more frequently for hiking, walking, and using the trails mostly
- I probably go to the park a few times a month to go on walks and explore
- Many times
- Once or twice a month
- Trails for walking/running
- I use a site about once a month
- Fishing/hiking/camping, hanging out outside; I use the parks 2-3 times a week
- I go to Burke Lake during Ghost Train
- Walking, fishing 4-5 times a month
- Art classes
- Often hiking, climbing
- I currently work at Oak Marr RECenter so I am in a FCPA facility most of the week
- Every time I go to work, so I work for the Park Authority
- Not very much if I get the chance than I will use it
- Little to no use
- 5-10 times a year
- Exercise monthly
- Less than 5 years
- Due to my current address, I do not usually use the FCPA location although make frequent trips to bears den/bill goats, coopers/and areas in Pennsylvania

**2. What do you like most and least about the parks?**

*MOST*

- Fishing
- Accessibility
- Pretty
- Trees and natural areas
- Natural beauty
- Free place to exercise
- It is nice how many sites are around for me to recreate as needed
- The freedom being outside
- I like the park staff
- I wish there were more things to do during winter
- Parks are well taken care of and free

- Generally clean facilities, scenic, horticulture education, sometimes varying terrain, good place to relieve stress, birds, and wildlife, historic preservation at some locations
- Woods
- I like how much land each park and recenter have; it's great for hiking, bird watching, and exploring. There are many different things I can do on the various properties.
- I like the energy and the outdoors

*LEAST*

- Bathrooms
- Bathrooms are nasty
- Crowds on popular weekends
- Some parks/trails are dirty/littered
- Bathrooms are a bit scattered
- Packs of wild runners
- The amount of people around sometimes

- In a place like Fairfax County, it's nice to only drive a short distance and get away from it all. Nature!
- I like that there are many parks around
- Easy access
- Conservation of land
- Well maintained and mostly clean

- I would love to see people clean-up after their dogs and themselves. Trash bags of dog poo are the worst on the trails.
- Everything else
- It isn't very clean
- Not free
- There is nothing I really dislike about the parks
- Limited resources

**3. What, if anything, prevents you from using the parks, facilities and programs offered by FCPA?**

- Nothing
- Transportation, bathrooms, and poison ivy
- Transportation
- Weather, crowds
- Cold weather
- If anything, the only thing that would keep me from going to a park is the staff at certain facilities
- I don't have people to go with
- Fees

- Distance
- School hours, my job, and traffic
- I don't live near enough to walk, so I have to drive
- It is not very clean and well maintained
- I'm busy
- Time
- Weather
- Lack of time
- I live in Middleburg, VA

**4. Are there any facilities, programs and services that you would like to see FCPA provide, improve, or enhance?**

- Cleaner facilities
- Better directions
- Bathrooms
- I feel there are many use type sites around
- Enhance and improve the lakes, add more fish
- I would love to find an off-roading vehicle site in the area. Some place jeeps can get muddy without trespassing or vandalizing land. Also more localized playgrounds in neighborhoods.
- I would like to see the various historical sites be maintained and taking care of
- Cleaner bathrooms
- More outdoor shooting ranges
- Recreational facilities
- Free children’s programs
- Kayaking, canoe/climbing
- It would be awesome if FCPA had a climbing gym

**5. What is the most important investment FCPA should make in the park system?**

- More hiking trails
- Newer technologies
- Keep it clean, nice, and pretty
- Maintenance
- More trees and playgrounds
- Keep it clean
- Bathrooms! and park litter
- I feel recreation centers are the sites that require the most
- More protected land
- Trail maintenance
- Environmental education, stressing importance of caring for surroundings and natural environment
- Playgrounds, hiking trails, and young adult friendly outdoor facilities
- Maintenance and taking care of the facilities
- It would be like basketball courts or tennis courts
- Increase longevity of parks
- Conservation
- Park maintenance
- Keeping the land not developing it

**6. Is there anything else that we have not asked you about how you use parks that you would like to tell us?**

Not how I use, but here should be more clean-up efforts in the parks.

**GROUP 5**

- Meeting Date: 11/17/2014
- Number of Participants: 4

**1. In what ways and how often do you use the parks, facilities and services provided by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)?**

How Often - multiple weekly

In What Ways - nature based recreation, stewardship of natural resources, environmental education/outreach

**2. What do you like most and least about the parks?**

+ Habitat preservation, environmental education, especially nature centers, environmental services provided by natural areas

- Impervious surfaces, too much emphasis on athletics, disturbed/unbalanced ecosystems

**3. What, if anything, prevents you from using the parks, facilities and programs offered by FCPA?**

Lack of time; blockage of park entrances; degraded habitats, especially areas so overtaken by invasive plants - movement is impeded

**4. Are there any facilities, programs and services that you would like to see FCPA provide, improve, or enhance?**

Environmental education; organized nature hikes, especially CCT; watershed restoration initiatives, e.g. stormwater control

**5. What is the most important investment FCPA should make in the park system?**

Maintain, protect, and enhance natural areas and corridors; treat parks as watershed preservation demonstration areas; control deer population

**6. Is there anything else that we have not asked you about how you use parks that you would like to tell us?**

Upgrade of facilities: While we are largely neutral on facilities, we ask that planning be guided by the principles of no net increase in impervious surfaces and no increase in runoff. Further, any renovations or construction that may be undertaken would offer opportunities to incorporate advanced environmental and watershed-friendly features.

Invasives removal/prevention: Invasive alien plant species are pervasive within our parks, diminishing both environmental and recreational value of natural areas. While the Park Authority's Invasive Management Area volunteer program addresses a few small areas, park-wide invasive prevention and control should be integrated into all maintenance and planning.

Defend natural resources over recreation: The demand for active recreational and sports use of parks is infinite, but our remaining natural areas are finite. Destruction of irreplaceable habitat to satisfy demands for active recreation is an unwise course. Likewise, encouraging types of recreation in natural areas that degrade those areas is also destined to be regretted.

Stream restoration or protection projects: Fairfax County is undertaking, at great expense to taxpayers, a series of remediation plans to restore the health of all streams in the county. As steward of so many of our streams and natural areas, the Park Authority has a key role to play in the success of this endeavor. Park Authority actions cannot be conceived in isolation from this larger goal or work at cross purposes. The master plan should incorporate elements of the county's Watershed Plans affecting parks and integrate the goal of watershed protection.

The park as a watershed-friendly demonstration area: County facilities in general, and parks in particular, are in the public eye and should serve as showcases for watershed-friendly practices, providing inspiring examples for property owners to follow, thus serving as a multiplier for county watershed restoration expenditures.

Pavement: Pavement is the primary cause of impairment of stream health in our county, by causing streambed erosion through excessive runoff. The Park Authority could set the example of reversing this trend by avoidance of creation of impervious surfaces, by replanting, by depaving, by replacing conventional pavement with pervious pavement, and by mitigation of new construction.

The balance needed between preservation vs. increased demands for park revenue: Ever growing requirements for parks to produce revenue are inconsistent with the concept of parks as a public benefit. Pursuing revenue producing activities will render our public parks indistinguishable from shopping centers or private amusement parks.

Cost avoidance value of preserving natural areas: Rather than asking our parks to produce revenue, let us consider the cost avoidance value to our community of maintaining and enhancing natural areas for flood control and water quality.

## **GROUP 6**

- Meeting Date: 11/29/2014
- Number of Participants: 23

### **1. In what ways and how often do you use the parks, facilities and services provided by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)?**

Our nonprofit group, which is dedicated to advancing nature conservation, education and advocacy programs throughout the region, has 5,000 members in the Northern Virginia area. Many of our members visit the park's natural areas to bird-watch, hike and to immerse themselves in nature.

### **2. What do you like most and least about the parks?**

Our members enjoy areas preserved for wildlife, trails that traverse natural areas and nature centers. They dislike the large amount of land turned into athletic fields, invasive plants, stream degradation/runoff and deer overpopulation.

**3. What, if anything, prevents you from using the parks, facilities and programs offered by FCPA?**

Our members cite personal time constraints, but also mention traffic, lack of parking and lack of natural areas within easy travel times.

**4. Are there any facilities, programs and services that you would like to see FCPA provide, improve, or enhance?**

Creation of more natural resource park areas is mentioned most frequently. Native plant landscaping, stream valley revitalization and additional nature-oriented programming are also frequently mentioned.

**5. What is the most important investment FCPA should make in the park system?**

Our members overwhelmingly state that FCPA should purchase more undeveloped lands and should preserve and restore park areas in their natural states.

**6. Is there anything else that we have not asked you about how you use parks that you would like to tell us?**

ASNV members are vocal supporters of our region's parks. They use them frequently and want to make sure that their voices in support of wildlife and nature are heard.

***GROUP 7***

- Meeting Date: 12/4/2015
- Number of Participants: Not disclosed

**1. In what ways and how often do you use the parks, facilities and services provided by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)?**

Every day by use of Park Authority fields.

**2. What do you like most and least about the parks?**

Would like to see more 70 and 90 foot diamond fields and possibly a trail turf diamond field in our area of the county (Centreville). Would like to see a central tournament complex for all sports in the county and an indoor track/multi-use courts facility.

**3. What, if anything, prevents you from using the parks, facilities and programs offered by FCPA?**

The limited number of fields and the associated parking limits at certain parks and field complexes.

**4. Are there any facilities, programs and services that you would like to see FCPA provide, improve, or enhance?**

Yes, more 70 and 90 foot diamond lighted fields and more flexibility in which sports can use which type of fields (e.g. outdoor grass volleyball should be able to use rectangular grass fields). Continue to work with the major sports organizations to create more working relationships that help both the Park Authority and the organizations.

**5. What is the most important investment FCPA should make in the park system?**

Find a funding source to maintain the turf fields and create a central county tournament complex.

**6. Is there anything else that we have not asked you about how you use parks that you would like to tell us?**

Continue this open community input process and coordinate it with the proposed projects when you do have the funding to build new projects and/or maintain existing one.

**Crowdsourcing Website Summary (as of 9/29/2015 date)**

Over 700 users entered 300 comments on 60 different topics. Those same users voted over 2,300 times. The 60 topics are included in the table below. Users could vote for or against the topics (“ideas”); the resulting combined net vote count is provided below. A summary of comments made (if any) for each topic is also included.

Body	Votes	Summary of Comments (if any)
<p>Whether you use many parks and programs, or only a few, you probably have a favorite - something that you like most. You may also have something that you like least about parks or programs. Tell us, what do you like most and least about the parks?</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>free summer events; Pohick Park, horse trails along scenic vistas; soccer fields and dog parks, suggest add water to dog parks; CCT running and biking, re-open tunnel section near Thaiss Park; more tennis courts; trails, CCT for fun and commuting, fix up RECenters interiors and landscaping around; biking trails, better maintenance, dislike that ParkTakes child/toddler classes geared twd stay at home parents, pls make weekend classes; multi use trails; dislikes ParkTakes registration, has to wait for classes to be half full to register due to cancellations; more natural areas less development sports fields; inconsistency in coaching in kids ParkTakes soccer and basketball classes; like least RECenter passes unaffordable for family; like least blocked or under construction trails, wants more bridges for creek crossings; like least cost</p>

According to local and national use statistics, trails are the most used recreational facility we provide. How do you use trails? Do you have a favorite trail? 6

walking exercise, enjoying nature, rugged trails, CCT in Oakton/Vale is favorite; horseback riding; dog walking; biking; walking, running, nature photography; walking, bird watching; bike to work via CCT, CCT for walking and taking in nature; biking on Lake FFX trails, enjoy nature, exercise; like CCT but areas w/in first 7 miles are wet and need work; mountain bike trails, like Meadowood; hike at Huntley Meadows several times a week; several times a week for hiking, horseback riding, also volunteers on CCT; mountain bike and racing at Wakefield, Accotink, Fountainhead, run and walk at Lake Royal, use 9-10 months a year every week; dog walking, South Run, Huntley Meadows; exercise and walking for transportation in/near Reston; horseback riding; dog walking, getting close to nature, keep natural areas, maintain, support trail connections for transp, better and clearer markings; trails around Royal Lake, walking and bird watching

Park facilities, programs, and services offer a lot. But, there may be facilities, programs and services that you would like to see FCPA provide, improve, or enhance. What's missing, what could be added or made better? 7

maintenance, trail signage, guided hikes; control invasive plants, wider trails; put in donation boxes; new tennis courts and repave cracking ones; video cameras on parking lot posts to prevent crime; TLC, take care of what we have before building new; Accotink Creek restoration, enhance walk or bike to school; involve community in upgrade plans before start; too much development, natural areas get smaller as sports areas added; agree, green space is disappearing; kayaking classes; enforce littering fines, don't let people use parks for gatherings after dark; add disc golf to Accotink Lake or somewhere else near Beltway; invite participation in Safe Routes to Schools; better manage invasive plants, deer; set up a Nature Play space; creat an Eagle Scout/Gold Award project wish list; disc golf course; advanced horseback riding lessons at FFPF, regs to allow small farms to provide lessons; improve tot lots; RECenter for Dulles area

What, if anything, prevents you from using the parks, facilities and programs offered by the Park Authority? Is there something that you would change, that would help you use parks more? 1

lack of time; lack of ped access; lack of recreational boating on Burke Lake; lack of easy bike access; wet muddy trail segments

Many of us walk trails, play sports, visit nature centers, take a class (for example) - and sometimes all in the same week! But, what do you use most often? And, why? It might not be your favorite thing, but it is the thing you spend the most time doing. Tell us what that one thing is and how often you use it.

10

trails by house; trails and REC centers, likes Trail Buddy; Green Springs, visits, volunteers, walks there; soccer; more baseball diamonds; horseback riding trails; dog walking, exercising on trails; hiking, horseback riding on trails; trails; trails, Burke Lake, CCT, Wakefield, Occoquan; trails, Wakefield; tennis; trails, RECenters; trails by bike and walking, golf; method of measuring, soccer; Huntley Meadows; horseback riding, trails; trails, walking biking; biking, walking, tennis, Eid, picnics; trails, RECenter for classes, pool; mountain biking on trails, LH, Lorton area, Burke Lake; Lake Fairfax trail system, baseball, soccer, maintenance important; trail walking for health; trail walking, nature programs; South Run RECenter, Green Springs, golf; trails between house and Metro station; volunteers at Hidden Oaks, RECenter, trails; Huntley Meadows, Riverbend, importance of natural environment; trails, stream side park; trails, playgrounds; tot lots; indoor pool for lessons, swim team, exercise

Parks provide an obvious and important opportunity to improve all individuals' health. FCPA should raise awareness and partner with health organizations and medical community to encourage individuals to use parks for healthy living.

3

Wants smoke-free parks; agrees parks and health, feels membership cost at RECenter too high

Fairfax County needs more concrete skate parks. Skaters, both young and old, would benefit from having smaller bowls and plazas located in parks closer to where they live.

0

Agrees, wants parks where BMXers can ride, also some closer to center of FFX, e.g. FFX City, Annandale

This is a heavily used trail but every time it rains, there are numerous sections of the trail that stay muddy for days due to poor drainage and soil. There are also sections of the trail that have been covered with large stones that are not conducive to biking, stroller, or wheelchairs. Even hard dirt would be better than these stones. There must be a better type of stone that could be used that would not wash away but be compactable enough for biking etc. While an improvement is planned for the crossing below the dam, there need to be improvements in the entire trail around the lake and stream.

I would like to see off leash, fenced in areas for dog exercise. Perhaps something more natural than a dog park, more like a dog trail.

- 28 Stone section betw Wakefield and FFX Co Pkway in bad condition/hazardous, would like bridges across streams betw Pkwy and Occoquan; flooding may destroy pavement improvements planned; prefers smooth gravel and stone dust surface, also suggests moving trail further from creek in area south of Braddock; muddy crossings going south of 286 and going north from Pohick, suggests landscaping around mile marker 34; need for drainage under the path for improvements to last, need maintenance north of Braddock Rd on CCT - several large puddles; favorite section is Oak Marr North, wishes trail could be more natural and paved, suggests two lanes on trail to allow horse/hiking footing and then baby stroller/etc footing
- 27 Agreement; dog agility areas/equipment/course; natural trails; Meadowood as a location; does not enjoy dog parks

<p>I would like to enjoy more trails for horseback riding. I would also like to have horseback riding lessons available to the public so that children and adults can experience the pleasure in learning to ride and care for horses.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>equestrian generates revenue, maintain trails; maintain and improve trails; trails and riding facilities; more equestrian facilities in all the disciplines; keep spending in county; don't see users at Laurel Hill complex; money spent on Laurel Hill, don't see users, destroyed mntn bike trails; there are Laurel Hill users, mntn bikers and equestrians can share trails; use Laurel Hill and trails, public riding facility; horses part of history, would like to see land set aside for use; agrees, part of agriculture; LH trails used by horses, bikes, hikers; glad to hear LH trails being used, public private partnership to construct stable there so no taxpayer money will be used; yes to stable at LH; equestrian as recreational activity, open to all county residents; don't spend taxpayer funds; not funding, offering rec op similar to golf, soccer, etc.; look to user fees; boarding, lessons, show facilities; public riding lessons; affordable lesson programs; rides on trails, trail maintenance needed; multi use trails used, wants to see more, include bridges over difficult stream crossings; trail funding, no taxpayers; trails are multi use; more trails, parks that allow horses; closing of Morven Park in Leesburg may offer market opportunity for ffx; importance of horse-human connection</p>
<p>There are frequent complaints by other users and by me about the cold temperature at which the fitness rooms are kept.</p>	<p>-1</p>	<p>Commenter finds temps warm in Audrey Moore, no fans near ellipticals</p>
<p>It would be great if we had more parks like Clemyjontri throughout the county for younger children and children with special needs.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>Loves Clemy but difficult to get to; lives in Lorton wants similar in South County</p>
<p>Mark some tennis courts so that pickleball can be played on them. Set up inside areas for same. Pickleball is similar to tennis but does not require as much running. It is the fastest growing sport of people 50 and above.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Discussion of if tennis courts can be used; why different lines needed; couldn't FFX pickle ball change their rules to fit in tennis courts</p>
<p>Set up a recognition for any one person or group that has visited at least 75% of the Parks.</p>	<p>-1</p>	<p>Loves idea, suggests electronic check in via app</p>

<p>Work with youth organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Awana, etc. to develop badges or add to existing badges or awards for interaction with Parks including visiting, surveying, clean-up, etc.</p>	9	<p>Need better volunteer coordination w scout groups; scouts have worked well at nature center want to see work on CCT, maybe have staff contact for scouts</p>
<p>Just lamenting the slow progress in getting the Fairfax County Parkway trail operational again (it's been nearly five years of construction) and wondering if the maintenance will improve once the waterline is complete. I ride my bike on this trail at least five days per week, year-round. The construction debacle of this waterline has been frustrating: it's an eyesore, it's dangerous for both bikes and cars (no shoulder), and it really makes one wonder how something could be so sorely mismanaged. I contrast this with the condition of the W&amp;OD Trail (yes, I realize that's the No. Virginia Regional Park Authority - different resources, different budgets, etc.), which I also ride daily. No potholes, no grass clippings covering the trail every time the grass is mowed, no treacherous piles of sand and dirt (check out the bridge spanning the Dulles Toll Road). If you need volunteers to clean up our namesake trail, please let us know. Otherwise, can we expect any improvements to make our trail more usable and safer?</p>	6	<p>notes trail in question is VDOT, suggest user contact them</p>
<p>Instead of adding to the parks and rec centers why not focus on upkeep. The Audrey Moore Rec Center has air qualities in the pool area and pieces of ceiling falling in the stair well.</p>	13	<p>N/A</p>
<p>I would love to see a park in the Merrifield area(preferably with tennis courts too). I think with all the apartments coming up due to the new Harris Teeter and the Target, there is a lot more population density between the Mosaic district and the Dunn Loring Metro. I would like to see a walkable park between that area. I know Jefferson is very close by but it's still not easy to walk to especially given how car friendly Lee Highway is.</p>	2	<p>N/A</p>

<p>I appreciate everything the county does to promote more use of native plants, which stay healthier, require less maintenance and provide essential habitat for animals including bees and butterflies. Also less pavement in the county would help our water runoff situation. Please reduce paved surfaces and make existing surfaces porous. Thank you.</p>	53	<p>water runoff major issue, more green space; protect restore parkland, engage public; use parks as examples of innovative cost-effective swm methods, green roofs, demonstration gardens, etc; parks for getting lost in nature, enhance health and well being, use of native plants a top priority; family visits parks for nature, keep wild places wild; cherish wild spaces</p>
<p>Most of us live within a short distance of nearby parks, and yet accessing our parks by bike is often not easy. We need safe, direct bike access into the parks, and good bike parking when we get there.</p>	62	<p>Wider paths esp in busy SV parks like near Spring Hill; repair existing paths; provide place to secure bikes at Frying Pan FP; bike paths and lanes on roads; want safe way to ECL, Cub Run, W&amp;OD from parks and neighborhoods; bike lanes to parks and ways to secure bikes there, separate ped and bike trails; post Countywide Bike Master Plan, good time to strategize with cycling advocacy community, ideal is all park access by bike</p>
<p>We need better trails connecting residential areas to transit and commercial areas. Maryland and DC have great trails connecting residential areas to DC, Silver Spring, Bethesda, Chevy Chase, etc. How do we create walkable/bikeable communities in Fairfax?</p>	25	<p>Should be a function of FCDOT</p>
<p>The current field is grass and in poor shape ( rocks, holes, worn grass, uneven surface etc). Replacing the current grass surface with turf will provide a year-round playable surface, reduce yearly maintenance costs, reduce the amount and severity of concussion injuries, while at the same time help the environment by eliminating the need to mow the grass.</p>	-3	<p>Environmental hazards of synthetic turf fields; do not support; enough soccer fields</p>
<p>Would like to see one person overseeing all the Park Trails. this would be a nice one stop call to get something fixed or improved.</p>	19	<p>Person could be contact for Stream Trails initiative</p>
<p>The park authority needs to create a large 2,000 to 10,000 outdoor public performance venue so better know entertainers have a place to perform and gatherings can be accommodated.</p>	-1	<p>N/A</p>

Usage statistics have to take into account how much time is spent per week or month. Lots of people say they use trails - and I do too. But how often do they use a trail? And how much time do they spend on it? I have used 3 trails in the past 2 months. But my kids and I have used 4 soccer fields in the past week - and we do that every week during soccer season. Does that mean that my soccer field usage just counts as "4", while my trail usage counts as "3"? Because that's not an accurate picture of how we use FCPA facilities. I think if the amount of time spent by people using facilities were added by hours spent per week, then the soccer fields would be accurately seen as much more used than any other facility.

0 N/A

Would be great to have more sand volleyball courts with lights. Currently drive to the courts in Crystal City (near Crystal and 23rd). Access to water to rinse off after playing would be an added bonus.

1 N/A

The park near my home (Rutherford Park) is only mowed ONCE a month in the summer and some on the trails in the area are overgrown. I am sure other parks are in similar condition. Also the park dept. need to focus on water run-off issues to decrease the amount of flooding in our neighborhoods.

14

would prefer to see better park landscape design to improve drainage and require less mowing, better for water quality, plants, soil, etc; more vegetation, reduce runoff, less mowing more meadows

I avoid many park trails because they are always muddy. Those wet areas should be filled with gravel or wood chips. I understand that creeks can flood parts of some trails, so it's difficult to keep them dry. However, I can think of numerous trails that don't get flooded, but often have muddy spots. There needs to be more maintenance and resurfacing of the trails.

9

Thanks to Boy Scout troops that have helped trails, FCPA happy to work with any organization that wants to help

On 26 Oct 2014 I visited Burke Lake and noted that there is a \$10 fee for out of State and out of County plated automobiles (active duty military exempted). If this policy works for Burke Lake it certainly would for Lake Accotink (LAP) despite the differences in their characteristics, e.g., LAP has more foot access and has two automobile entry points vice one for Burke Lake. LAP has been my neighborhood Park for 20 years. The number of non-Fairfax County plated automobiles using the Park on a regular basis, especially on summer weekends, is considerable. It is good to see non-Fairfax County residents pay up to use Burke Lake. I do not begrudge other counties from charging fees should I wish to use them; I want Fairfax County to tighten our policies and procedures out of respect for those who pay for them. Being a doormat gets old after years of exploitation. Let's be fair to ourselves and put Fairfax County Taxpayers first.

0 am active duty and pay entrance fee; (staff) that's correct, no discount

Fairfax County desperately needs multi-field baseball facilities in order to support local tournaments and ease the burden on school fields. There is no location in the county capable of handling more than a single 90' baseball game at any time.

289 lack of 90ft, more lit and a complex; agree; Fairfax Co has money and land to build complex, models in Loudoun and outside Richmond (Virginia Sports Complex); build 90ft tournament facility; fields should be for public not HS use; concerns about field conditions caused by HS vs public use; more fields could address HS vs public concerns; balance spending, has been rectangle should be diamond; build 90 ft; turf light baseball fields, 90ft complex; agree; agree, want closer; baseball for upper ages, ie 90ft; agree, support youth; build complex at Providence or Rodeo post Paul VI moveout, econ impacts; agree, when can start; agree; agree; agree; agree, turf; agree, reduce weekends spent outside county; agree, econ impacts; trouble getting time on existing 90ft; agree, Ffx will be left behind Henrico Stafford if don't build; agree, look to Prince William; agree; agree; agree, upgrade Eakin complex; agree; agree, build for adults; agree with itemized list, also improve smaller diamonds; agree, econ impacts; agree; agree; safe well-lit fields for youth with appropriate parking; agree, build multipurpose turf that would serve youth soccer, football, baseball on one footprint; opportunity for public/private partnership, also make outdoor track facility, maybe get a minor league team, see Orlando; agree, for womens baseball; agree; agree; convert Wakefield softball to baseball fields; agree; agree; agree, econ impacts; agree; agree; agree; agree, more fields equals earlier game times for 13-18 players better for students; agree; agree; agree; agree; agree, at Patriot Park, relieve pressure on HS fields; agree; agree, use of fields by non County users; agree; agree; agree; consider turf for new fields; agree, economic and social impacts of complexes; agree, poor allocation in Ffx Co, sees fields not in use because owned by specific organizations, eg South Run, Hooes Rd, HS; agree, with lights; econ and community benefit; put complex near Metro station for better access and to reduce traffic

<p>The manufacture of flour was the leading export industry in our region in the 19th century. Fairfax County is blessed with a magnificent example of one of the thousands of commercial mills that lead this industry for over 100 years. The story of this industry in early America is an important part of the educational opportunity for our children in Fairfax County. George Washington was one of the many leaders in the growth of this industry. This story, including the development of the essential power and agriculture technologies, is not available to our students. A new educational center, featuring this local history, could seize this opportunity to enrich the school experience of our students in a way close to their homes.</p>	2	Need to tell story of flour manufacture, importance of this facility
<p>The "Needs Assessment" of 2004 was an excellent report with a careful analysis of the policy and capital needs as seen at that time. Not all of the recommendations could be completed over the intervening 10 years. The search for the desirable balance across all competing needs has not been achieved. It may be profitable and would add substantially to the credibility of the 2014 Needs Assessment if the recommendations from 2004 could be reviewed at the front end of the current study.</p>	1	N/A
<p>Fairfax County Parks are wonderful but under-utilized. In part this is because the public is unaware of their existence. They are tucked away with a sign on a wall or other identification at the entrance, but there is rarely any directional sign on the street, much less in the immediate area. They are also difficult to find at night.</p>	7	N/A

<p>It would be interesting to have more trail signs on a variety of science and historical subjects. For instance, Thiass Park has some old growth forest. What are the ages of those trees? Another example would be that there was a "bone mill" along Accotink Creek that is listed on an 1860's map. What is a bone mill? The trail signs could answer questions such as, what kinds of fossils have been found in Fairfax County and was it ever under the sea. Or, when did Indians first settle this area? I think more trail signs would enhance the outdoor experience and complement the historic nature of our county.</p>	22	<p>Many benefits of durable signage, as educational tool; create app to describe park history</p>
<p>There's been about a 50 foot section of the CCT north of Braddock that has nearly constant puddles. How can this be fixed- about ten minutes with a basic tractor would do it . With a maintenance yard right there at the entrance to Wakefield, they could drive over, fix it, and drive back in about ten minutes. Why don't county workers see this area and recognize that it needs a little work to make it right AND take the time to fix it? It should not take me to have to call and write numerous times and places to get such basic work done.</p>	5	<p>FCPA good at fixing, just call them</p>
<p>Add a wide, multiuse paved path all along Braddock Road west of 495. There exists a lousy one along parts of it, that needs widening, flattening, and then also lengthening to connect all the way to the new 495 overpass. At a minimum, a wide bike lane outside of the guard rail should be a priority for the stretch from Braddock and Wakefield Park all the way to Wakefield Chapel.</p>	4	<p>N/A</p>
<p>By adding a trail crossing over 495 near Gallows Rd , then a path in the power line clearcut along 495, through Fairview Park area, it would be possible to Connect the Cross county trail from the Annandale area to the W&amp;OD trail near Falls Church.</p>	31	<p>N/A</p>

This is a beautiful 18-acre wooded park, with a stately home. House would be perfect for weddings, parties, and conferences. It needs a catering kitchen and new driveway. FCPA has owned the property since 2000. It's time to put the house to use.

2 N/A

I have stopped donating to FCPA because so many people use the parks as off-leash free-for-all parks, and the dogs run around, chasing wildlife, defecating where the owner doesn't see. No one who works for the parks is taking this seriously. I have noticed an increase of free-roaming dogs in the last few years.

3 bacteria into creeks and streams, public health hazard; corollary is to have more dedicated dog parks designed to minimize runoff; agree, dog poop contaminates, do not agree more dog parks; more dog parks needed

Create a Park Passport program so individuals and families can keep track of which parks they have visited and used. The passport could be electronic to save money, but it could feature all of the features available at each park, so a person could set out to go to all the parks with biking trails, all the parks with playgrounds, all the parks with tennis courts, etc. It would be a great way to publicize some of the underutilized gems around the county. In particular, I'd love to see more publicity for parks with historical elements.

1 Make smartphone app with badges that can be shared on social media

Parks are a very important part of a healthy community. A nice weekend can bring out lots of families etc. As part of the healthy community we need to ensure access via bicycles is kept high on the list. In addition, a great many parks have interior trails for use. These are great trails that allow for many families to get to parts of a park that aren't heavily used. These trails must be kept open and in great shape for all kinds of users. Several parks are also used for organized bike rides, races and events. The more these take place the more people will venture to a park on a bike.

10 yes to bike access to parks, no to bike access within parks, separation of ped and bike; same as above; park trails are multi use, mountain bikers help create and maintain parks find them courteous; not enough places for bikes to ride, promote separate mntn bike trails

Would like to see the Park use Google Calendar for listing fitness classes at the rec centers, Pool closings, Nature Center classes and other related stuff. They could be set up per park so you can link to the Parks you use. The Fairfax School System uses Google, it may be a good way to keep up to date events and save on the Park Takes.

0 N/A

As Fairfax County continues to urbanize, especially along the Silver Line corridor (Tysons, Reston) and the Springfield area, it needs to provide parks within easy walking distance (1/4 mi) of the tens of thousands of new residents who will live there and the 100s of thousands who will work there. So far, the County has not taken this need on, preferring in most cases to identify "nearby" (1-5 miles) parks as sufficient to meet most residents and workers needs. We need parks for our urban areas.

16 agree, need to set aside parks and rec amenities, parks can walk to and used by sports league; extend need to Baileys Crossroads area, limited parks and playgrounds, contrasted to Arlington down the street

Lake Royal is overgrown with dense foliage and vines obscuring the lake view in the summer. Fallen trees litter the woods, some in half-fallen positions, leaning on other trees. Paths aren't maintained with gravel paving and turn into mud in the rain. Erosion from storms has claimed many of the banks and the paths grow closer to the water's edge. The paths near the playground adjacent to the softball and soccer fields are best though maintenance crews dump gravel in piles and do not spread it on the path. One can see evidence of a neglected gravel pile adjacent to the softball field, grasses overtaking it, turning it into uneven terrain. I've seen parents move gravel with cups, filling watery holes in the path next to the playground. Money was spent creating berms for overflow in the event of dam failure. A proposal for lake dredging was made but action hasn't occurred. The lake is noticeably shallow by the bridges from the shift of mud and sludge. The exercise signs and equipment, a project from the 70s, has become detritus. I have lived here 10 years and the lake is less than what it was when I first moved here. I walk my dog at the lake every day, twice a day, and I am pained to see how the lake has fallen into disrepair. Rather than have a leaf blower remove leaves, let's have some gravel spread instead. Remove the old signage and equipment from the path. Cut down fallen trees and heavily trim and remove extraneous foliage. Add trees on the dam for needed shade on the blacktop (too hot for dog paws in summer). Uniformly replace bridges which have also suffered from use and erosion. Remove stumps and large stones from the paths without dumping it into the lake. Some paths need to be rerouted away from the banks. The banks need to have substantial support to prevent erosion every time it storms. Stop sending crewman to spray weed killer on the rocky banks of the lake, which adds toxins to the waterfowl, fish, and wildlife environment. Lake Royal could use a makeover to help stem flooding, which shunts large swaths of path making it impassable after storms, and causes continuous erosion to the paths, bridges, trees, and banks of the lake.

-2

Acknowledged, please take individual action; individual retort

How about extending Capital Bikeshare (or a similar program) to some Fairfax parks? There are a lot of casual/low-commitment bikers that would take advantage of a program like that if it were easily accessible and near currently existing bike trails.	0	N/A
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-1

Could be eagle/girl scout/high school community project, maybe even Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Fairfax county currently has zero public indoor track facilities. All FCPS schools compete in the sport yet there is no facility for competition. Many of the competitions are held in Prince George's County, Maryland because there is no facility in Fairfax. A large field house that could host indoor track meets would also be able to hold many other indoor sports as well as provide space for outdoor sports to practice inside during inclement weather.

Browns Chapel has two underutilized 90' fields. Is it the Reston Association that is keeping them from being used and kept up?

The CCT is a great trail (except for the eroding parts!); however, there are no decent maps of it. The maps show a general overview but are absolutely useless for following on the ground. Plus, some of the on-the-ground signage is confusing or in some places, non-existent. Is there money in the budget for a proper trail map to use as an actual wayfinder while on the trail?

Many adults and children would like to take horseback riding lessons and the opportunities in the county are very limited. County residents need to have opportunities for alternative individual activities such as riding.

We need an arts park to have a sculpture garden, interior art collection, outdoor and indoor performing arts venue. There should be more to our parks than sports and recreation

30 Use large warehouse spaces; work into reuse of ExxonMobil facility like complex in PG county; more swimming pools, also look to ExxonMobil; remove building at back of South Run (Field House) and make indoor track field; need for winter track athletes, many sites/buildings can be used to create facility; how to get access to GMU facility, used to host Mobil invitational and brought in banked track, good for athletes, bad for spectators

-1 (staff) Browns Chapel park is owned and operated by Reston Association. The use and scheduling of their athletic fields is currently handled directly through the Reston Association, separate and distinct from Fairfax County Park Authority athletic fields. A map of all Reston Association amenities including fields can be found here:

<http://www.reston.org/Parks,RecreationEvents/Facilities,MapsRentals/RestonAssociationMap/tabid/854/Default.aspx>. Reston Association's main phone number is 703-435-6530

17 maps are online, also Trail Buddy; improve Trail Buddy, doesn't include all trails; (staff) Trail Buddy includes all Co trails, improvements are planned; Scout Trailkeepers program, signage; non Co trails are not shown in TB; signage, better maps esp for Lorton ara; better trail markings esp in Lorton area, used TB to ride trails by horse, still made wrong turns

10 horses part of rural heritage, support venues and therapeutic programs, need more facilities, trails, keep equestrian spending in county

2 Workhouse arts center in Lorton is this, but could be improved, Co should take more active role; Glen Echo MD is another example, support provided through private foundation

Few recreational activities offer the high benefit-to-cost ratio of disc golf, both for recreation departments and citizens of all ages and backgrounds. Disc golf has low capital and maintenance costs, has minimal liability issues, is environmentally sound, is played year-round in all climates and is enjoyed immediately even by beginners of all ages. In studies measuring annual recreational activities, "throwing a Frisbee" has consistently been a Top Ten activity. A disc golf course serves a broader portion of your community than many narrower interest activities with higher cost, skill or fitness levels required to participate. Disc golf has one of the most diverse demographics of any sport. Even though everyone can play, the active players have been primarily males from age 15-50. Active women players have typically been spouses or girlfriends of male players but now groups of women, especially those who play another disc sport called ultimate, have been trying it. Families with young children are also regular users depending on how rugged the course terrain is. Some flatter courses serve the disabled. Some courses have an active group of seniors who prefer to play disc golf rather than just take a walk. I am proposing a course be developed in or near Reston. I think it fits that Reston have one that benefits local residents, visitors, guests, and out-of-towners. The surrounding courses include the following: Fairfax Station (Burke Lake Park), Lorton prison now has one (called Giles Course), Leesburg has a course (Franklin Park), Gaithersburg, MD (Seneca Creek), but other than those that call for a major commute there are none close by to us in Reston to enjoy. Does anyone agree? Please leave your comments and suggestions :) Thank you kindly!!!

46 Franklin Park is in Purcellville, course in McLean but not used and old; Turkey Hill Park in Charles Co MD has new course that can be used as model; also one in Arlington but far from Sterling/Herndon/Reston; large disc golf community in Ffx, add a course; want one close to Herndon; women play, low cost and maintenance sport, want one in Reston or Lake Fairfax (duplicate comment, three times); low cost, family friendly; want course, maybe at Beaver Dam Reservoir, Fountainhead, Hemlock, Clifton; thanks for support, approaching RA with idea; 15 reasons to install course; want at Lake Fairfax, member of Apple Valley Disc Golf club and would volunteer design/fundraising time, Seneca Creek as model, varying levels of difficulty on course; more at Burke Lake; want at Lake Fairfax; don't want disc golf course prefer more trails; rebuttal, benefits of, etc; illegal to drink on courses; more heated rebuttal

The current Park Authority policy places stream trails in a non-operational category where footbridges and horse bridges built by homeowners associations, cycling clubs, riding clubs and owners, Scouts, and others are considered "encroachments" subject to destruction and removal at taxpayer expense. The situation is complicated by confusion over where public and private property intersect, what easements have been granted over time, and in some cases, "public" trails crossing private lands, and there being further concerns over who is liable for insurance, legal claims, and safety. Fairfax County has some truly excellent online maps that allow any project to be developed with with geospatial precision and fully consultation with all possible stakeholders. While this policy has been ignored by many, and there are some excellent footbridges and even a few horsebridges in place across the County, Chairman Bulova, bless her soul, has recognized that this approach to stream trails needs to be re-examined. The key to a successful change is going to be a combination of citizen labor (e.g. Scouts, HOAs, clubs, churches), off-budget funding (e.g. HOAs adjacent to stream trails), and respect for Park Authority's role in insurance, legal, and safety oversight. A new non-profit program has been created, StreamTrails.org, where HOAs, cycling clubs, riders, and others can nominate new footbridges and report fallen trees that need clearing. A new program is being tested within the Powhatan District of the Boy Scouts of America. Called the Trailkeepers Program, it does two things: 1) connects specific Packs, Troops, and Crews with specific stream trails that can then be cared for to include removal of litter including old tires and other debris, while also identifying, registering, inspecting for safety, and repairing as needed the many existing bridges; and 2) solicits nominations for new footbridges as Eagle Scout projects subject to Park Authority approval. A typical footbridge costs around \$250 in materials and takes less than four hours to build and install. The first nomination by Miller Heights Neighborhood under this new plan (they already have three footbridges in place), and the Eagle Scout plan in six slides, can be viewed at StreamTrails.org. Under this concept horse bridges would be presented to County for insurance, legal, and safety approval, and built professionally. There is every reason for other civil society

25 good idea, scouting organization has excellent reputation; FCPA has been partnering with orgs for years, could take better advantage of volunteers; stream trails shown in green dotted lines not added, not talking about formal trails; include horses as trail users; eagle scout project completed, vote more; nephew did eagle scout trail project, better policies needed

<p>Have a hour or two of open gym on the weekend mornings at schools and community centers for tots, preschoolers, young children. Often at the hottest and coldest times of the year kids need a space to run around. Balls and soft toys and riding toys are a hit. Parents are there to supervise and little staffing is required. These could be free or low fee opportunities for recreation.</p>	3	-
<p>The county has many very small run down "in-fill" parks. For instance Vernon Heights Park in Mt. Vernon. Now they are little more than over grown, littered empty lots. The county counts them in its park land total but they are virtually unusable. There should be a plan with funding for renewal and up keep of these parks. This would include trash and invasive removal as well as tree and brush trimming and care.</p>	6	invasive removal relies on volunteers, Co should invest more in keeping forests intact
<p>More trails should be connected to form large trail loops or circles, so people can have an interesting walk or bike ride for excise. Near my house, a trail was added along Vaden Drive that connects to another trail forming a 1 1/2 mile loop and many people are walking it every day. Also, at Draper Park, I see lots of people doing laps around the track that circles the two soccer fields there. Trail loops of at least one to two miles are best for walking and larger loops are needed for biking. Please connect trails where ever you can.</p>	4	N/A
<p>It would be great if suit dryers could be added in pool locker rooms.</p>	3	good idea; had them before and they kept getting broken
<p>I think that adding more playgrounds would really add to the quality of life for today's youth. Now more than ever, kids need to get outside and play. Playgrounds help promote both health and a sense of community. Unfortunately, our neighborhood does not provide a playground for my children. We live in the Somerset neighborhood. If a playground were to be placed in Smokewood Park near Whitacre Rd. (south of Laurel St.), then both the Chestnut Knolls and Somerset neighborhoods would have a place to take their children.</p>	1	

<p>At Lee District, there are not as many showers in the women's locker room as in the men's locker room, and the men's locker room has a larger changing area as well. On the weekends and in the evenings, there is a wait to use the showers since little ones shower more frequently with their mothers and all of the benches are taken up with baby changing. The locker rooms should be more comparable. There should also be a baby changing station installed in the men's locker room.</p>	1	N/A
<p>The park needs a comprehensive plan before going forward on a new parking lot and pavillion. The park needs new tennis courts or something in the area that can be multi-usable. They also have an Old Wooden Playground that is rotting and was donated back in 97. It is in disrepair. The fix is just to tear down parts that are not working. We love the park, and would like to see improvements that enhance visitation.</p>	3	

**Email Summary**

Some residents chose to share ideas by direct email sent to the Park Authority. Those emails covered a variety of topics including active recreation (baseball, tennis, skate parks), natural resource conservation, trails, funding, and concerns with the process outreach. A bulleted list of summarized comments received by email is provided below.

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question re due date for fall 2014 comments</li> <li>• Riverbend needs additional on-site staff and implementation of the master plan</li> <li>• Concerns re lack of mowing, overgrowth, maintenance</li> <li>• Need a playground in Smokewood Park</li> <li>• Use of Beulah Park, concerns re maintenance</li> <li>• Better fund and staff natural resources, give greater emphasis to</li> <li>• How will IdeaScale be used; baseball is more needed than disc golf</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swim team use is prioritized over individual use, should not be; also concerns re safety when sharing lanes</li> <li>• Mt Vernon RECenter needs renovation, additional room for fitness equipment</li> <li>• Need for indoor tennis in Reston</li> <li>• Difficulty using IdeaScale (two emails)</li> <li>• Difficulty using IdeaScale, concerns re privacy</li> <li>• More evening exercise/yoga classes for Senior Citizens; classes offered N and W county should also be offered in S County</li> </ul> |
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- Need extensive areas of natural vegetation; plant native plants
- Did not receive survey, but wants to complete one
- Run, bike, photograph in parks; would like outdoor fitness classes and nature classes; concerned about safety of deer hunting/management program
- Question re due date for fall 2014 comments
- Recommends painting arrows on the pavement at intersections on the CCT to aid wayfinding; would be better than current signage
- Uneven terrain and safety on Burke Lake Park trails, consider clearing some rocks and roots or perhaps spraypaint more dangerous areas red
- Want areas the size of a soccer field that authorize flying radio control planes
- Question re open house meeting location
- Consider mobility of individuals in siting sports fields; ensure information is available in languages other than English
- Want more parks for strolling, relaxing, with enhanced landscaping
- Provide more science and history trail signs, several opportunities, enhances public awareness of resources
- Do not like living here
- Great Falls Senior Center use of FCPA Grange and School House for meetings
- Bring more bike skills parks to Northern Virginia, can funding and permission be found
- Insufficient notice for open house
- Need a skate park near where they live in Falls Church
- Acquire floodplains and watersheds in Upper Difficult Run