



Kings Park Park Master Plan Revision

Park Planning Workshop
July 17, 2008





Meeting Agenda



1. Kings Park Community Association Announcements
2. Park Authority Welcoming Remarks
3. Park Information Presentation
4. Small Group Exercise
5. Group Reports
6. Wrap-up/Next Steps



Park Background



1961 Park Established

2006 1-Acre Pool Site
added to Park

Total Size =
9.2 acres



The park was originally 8.2 acres and adjoined the site belonging to the Royal Pool Association.

After the pool closed, the Park Authority purchased the 1-acre pool parcel and removed the pool structures. The park acreage now totals 9.2 acres.

The desire of the community to plan for the future use of the additional acre of parkland and to improve the facilities in the park led to the initiation of the Master Plan Revision process.



Existing Conditions



Natural and Cultural Features

- Tributary of Accotink Creek
- Chesapeake Bay Resource Protection Area
- Invasive Plant Management Area
- Quartz Quarry Workshop Sites



The natural and cultural resources in the park are elements that add to the park's attractiveness and value.

A tributary of Accotink Creek flows through the northern portion of the park from west to east.

Surrounding the stream is a resource protection area which extends 100 feet from the stream banks. The County's 1993 Chesapeake Bay Protection Ordinance requires the designation of resource protection areas around all perennial streams.

The rectangular area outlined in red is where invasive species are being managed by park volunteers, under the guidance of Park Authority staff.

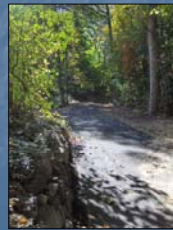
The orange overlay indicates areas in the park where quartz quarry workshop sites have been found that were once used by prehistoric inhabitants.



Existing Conditions

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

- 1 Practice Diamond Field
- 2 Basketball Courts
- 2 Lit Tennis Courts
- Paved Trail Loop with trail connection to neighborhood



The park has a variety of recreational facilities that are enjoyed by the community.



Existing Conditions

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

- Picnic Area
- Playground/Tot Lot
- Open Grassy Area (former pool site)





Existing Conditions

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Electricity, Water, and Sewer
- 2 Access Roads
- 2 Parking Lots (18 spaces in the west lot and 34 spaces in the south lot)



The park is easily accessible and there is plenty of parking since the pool closed. On an average day if all the recreational facilities are being used at the same time we estimate that 30 parking spaces would be needed.

In planning the placement of new facilities in the park we can consider using a small portion of the existing parking area to avoid disturbing other areas of the park.



Desire for Improved Facilities

- Improve playground
- Expand trail loop
- Restore natural habitat
- Upgrade ball field



We heard the following comments and suggestions at the March 2008 public meeting and afterwards via mail, email and phone calls:

The community would like a playground with better visibility, a more compact layout, and a play structure for older children added.

Add a longer and continuous trail loop around the park.

Reclaim previously developed portions of the park back to natural habitat and enhance the natural environment.

Upgrade the ball field including expansion to a full-sized field, improve drainage and convert to synthetic turf.



Desire for New Facilities

- Tennis practice wall
- Frisbee golf course
- Band stand
- Racquetball courts
- Picnic Pavilion
- Restrooms

The community also suggested adding a variety of recreational facilities to the park.



Suggestions for Former Pool Site

- Open space for unstructured play
- Picnic Pavilion
- Micro-soccer fields
- Off-leash Dog park
- Reforest Area



We also heard a number of ideas on possible uses for the former pool site, including the following:

Leave it as open space so that it can be used for a variety of activities.

Build a picnic pavilion at the site.

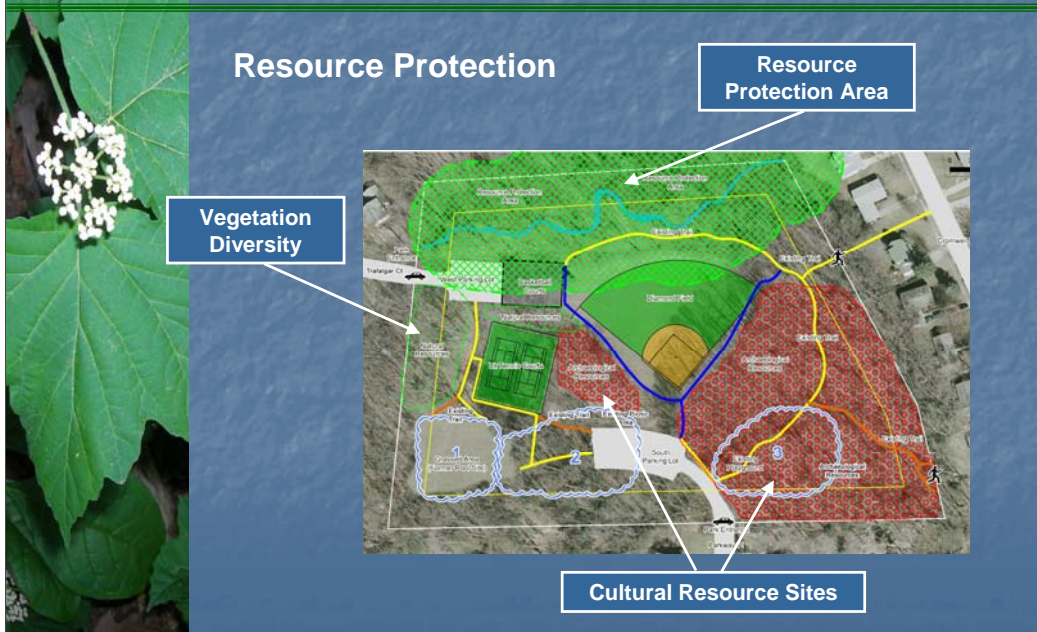
Create a “micro” soccer field for younger teams to use.

Dog owners would love an off-leash dog park for their dogs to play in.

Another suggestion was to re-forest the area.



Park Design Constraints



We appreciate your ideas! For the past few months park staff has been researching the site and considering each suggestion to determine what will fit in the park.

We have several areas in the park that require resource protection:

The forested area on the west side of the site as well as in the resource protection area where the forest provides a riparian buffer to the stream.

Cultural resource sites associated with prehistoric settlements are located throughout areas of the park as indicated in red. Before these areas can be disturbed, additional archaeology studies will be needed. This will more fully determine the significance of these archaeological resources and how they should be treated.

The impact of the studies will mean additional time and expense for new facilities that may be planned in these areas.

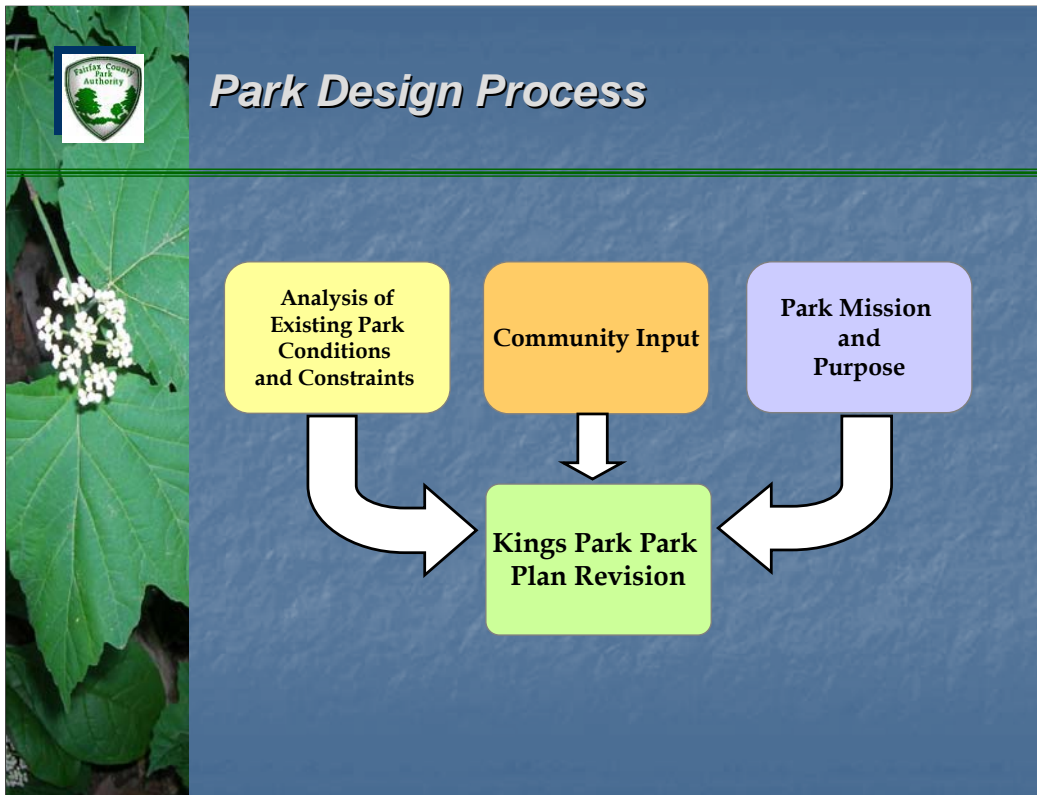


Former Pool Site Constraints



We have had the former pool site examined by our staff structural engineer to determine its suitability for some of the suggested uses. It is his determination that until the soil is compacted over time it will not support any structures. An alternative would be to replace and re-grade and compact the soil, which would add to the cost of any new facilities.

In addition, the northeast corner of the site is steeply sloped and poses safety and erosion issues.



In considering future facilities and uses of the park we conducted an analysis of the existing park conditions and constraints which I described earlier in the presentation.

We also considered suggestions from the community. I shared those comments that we heard from you.

We also incorporate into our planning the Park Authority mission of protecting and preserving significant and sensitive natural and cultural resources while creating and sustaining quality recreation facilities and services.



Existing Park Facilities Improvements



Several park improvements could be included in the plan such as adding a tennis practice wall in the existing courts, adding new trail segments to expand the trail loop and applying protection measures for the existing natural and cultural resources.



Three Opportunity Areas for New Facilities



Site 1 (Former Pool Site)

Site 2 (South Parking Lot and Former Pool Driveway)

Site 3 (Playground Area)

We identified three opportunity areas where new park facilities could be located.

Site 1 is the former pool site.

Site 2 includes the lower part of the pool entrance and a portion of the south parking lot.

Site 3 is site of the existing playground.



Potential New Facilities

- Picnic pavilion in a range of sizes
- Off-leash dog park
- Small rectangle field
- Additional playground structures

We have narrowed down the suggestions to the following potential new facilities:

A picnic pavilion that can hold 6 tables or a larger size that can hold 8 tables.

A small sized off-leash dog park (10,000 square feet).

Small rectangle field that can be used by younger-aged sports teams.

An additional play structure for older kids.



Suggested Facilities Not Included

- Band stand
- Restrooms
- Racquetball courts
- Frisbee golf course

We removed a number of facilities from consideration based on park constraints and an analysis of community needs.

A bandstand has noise and traffic impacts that are not appropriate for a local park in a residential neighborhood, so we removed that suggestion.

The Park Authority does not typically build restrooms in parks that are not staffed. These facilities are high maintenance and also must be monitored for safety.

Racquetball courts are available at the Audrey Moore RECenter and we did not feel we could build additional courts in a park of this size. The tennis courts with a practice wall may also provide a similar facility for racquetball players to practice with.

We also determined that a disc golf course could not fit in this park because of size requirements and because we cannot build within the natural resource protection areas.



Small Group Exercise

Facilitated Small Group Discussions

- Preferences for facilities and locations
- Possible other facilities/uses in park

Ground Rules:

- Equal voice and status.
- Be concise and considerate.
- Practice active listening.
- Speak one at a time.
- Respect each others views (it is ok to disagree).
- Stay on topic.
- Please turn off cell phones/blackberries.

Have fun!

We will now break into small groups and spend the next half hour at our tables discussing the opportunity sites and possible new facilities. We will regroup and hear reports from each table at the end.



Next Steps



August through October - prepare draft master plan revision based on comments from workshop

November – Park Authority Board reviews draft plan

January 2009 - Public Comment Meeting and Open Comment Period

March 2009 - Park Authority Board Approval

This is the project schedule. Your comments are welcome throughout the time during which we are developing the plan and until 30 days after the January public comment meeting.

Comments and suggestions may be sent to parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.