

Planning District: Countywide

ID# 1 *Theme:* Service Delivery *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Facilities - Golf *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: The Plan purports to find that FCPA has too many golf courses, citing the "standard" of 1 hole for each 3,200 people, which yields a "surplus" of 47% in 2010 and 32% in 2010 (Plan pages 22 & 23). The basis of this 1/3,200 "standard" is unstated. (The plan also states that number of golf rounds played has been essentially flat over the past several years and that the national number of golfers also is flat.) This "surplus" conclusion is totally untrue, as shown by the frequent difficulty in getting a tee time during peak play hours at County courses. I suspect the flat number of rounds is due to courses hitting their maximum capacities during these times. The Plan's conclusion also ignores the following: 1) many golfers on FCPA courses are non-residents, particularly persons from golf-starved Arlington and Alexandria who yield \$\$\$ to the County; 2) most FCPA courses are 9-holers suitable for beginners, juniors and women, a key market segment underserved by private course operators; 3) national golf statistics have little bearing when golf is being embraced by County residential segments such as our growing Korean-American community. In view of my above comments, FCPA should reconsider the Plan's fallacious conclusions about the "surplus" of golf courses.

Response: Acknowledged and forwarded to PSD.
Standards are used as a starting point for comparing across varying conditions; FCPA always looks beyond the numbers. Standards will be reviewed as part of the 2012/2013 Needs Assessment.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 2 *Theme:* Community Building *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Dance facilities *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: I realize this isn't a strategy but I would like to comment on the lack of places to go ballroom and swing dancing in the county. I started dancing on the weekends for exercise after having too many near misses on the local bike trails. The county offers dance lessons in the recreation centers but doesn't sponsor many dances. Fairfax City, McLean Community Center, Arlington County (new art center opening in October), and Glen Echo offer such events. A successful dance requires a large wood floor and live music. Dances are not usually profitable for public bars and restaurants because recreational dancers don't usually drink and a dance floor takes space. Thank you.

Response: [PSD] Due to the private dance studios and clubs in the area, a live dance facility would not be a core service within our existing system. Non-core service facilities within the County park system are required to be self-sustaining through revenue generation. Large spaces, such as gymnasiums, require several use types, on varying days/times and by activity type to sustain them. For a niche activity such as live dancing, other venues may be more suitable (churches, fire halls, and similar).

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Action: No further action required.

ID# 3	<i>Theme:</i> Not specified	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for <input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Topic:</i> Funding, constraints	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: Fairfax County's first priority is to roll back real estate taxes to 2008 levels and then choose what it should spend money on and not before. Fairfax County has more government than it can afford! Fairfax County should be divesting its parks and land to commercial interests who have to maintain the land as parks. If there is no commercial interest, the parks should be supported by user fees and paid parking. All future parks should be encouraged through zoning for commercial interests. We don't need the government to make skating parks, golf courses, equestrian facilities, fields of artificial grass, etc. All of those activities are wants and not needs. The government should help people to fill needs that they cannot fulfill themselves. Wants are infinite and unaffordable. I don't want to lose my house to taxes to build another park. Get REAL! The residents are already over taxed. If the users want projects, the users should pay for them. Golf is a billion dollar business. Commercial interests can provide golf courses. Governments should not and the government has already over built golf courses. What were you thinking? Equestrian facilities are for the elite. Ordinary people should never pay for this. Give me a tax credit for my lawn and landscape maintenance before you build another park. That would enhance my life style. How dare you set plans to rob the residents of Fairfax County. If a man forces me to give him my money without my permission, we call that man a thief. The Board was never elected to rob the people. Let commercial interests provide what users want to pay for governed by good zoning. That way, we will never have too many idle facilities. The government is going overboard. Stop the insane spending. We can't have a more government than we can afford and we already have more than we can afford now! You've overlooked how to pay for all of this and you've included action items that the government was not installed to provide. If there is demand and with good zoning, commercial providers will provide these things without the tax payers having to pay for them. Stop this nonsense! The government is already overspending and spending for things governments should not be providing!

Response: Acknowledged. Proportionately, less than 1% of the general fund is allocated to parks. Park benefits and natural areas are generally highly valued and desired by most Fairfax County residents.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 6	<i>Theme:</i> Connectivity	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for <input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Topic:</i> Trails, bike	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: MORE is a great organization for helping the county both plan, build and maintain mountain bike trails.

Response: Acknowledged. FCPA partners frequently with MORE

Action: No further action required.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

ID# 9 *Theme:* Service Delivery *Park:* *Appropriate for*
Topic: Equestrian, Archery *Planning District:* Countywide *GPGC Action?*

Comment: I fail to understand where there are 7 public equestrian facilities. I have to assume that you must mean areas where those who are lucky enough to own horses may ride them--I have failed to find any park facilities where someone who does NOT own a horse may find lessons or trail rides. There are a rapidly decreasing number of private stables in Fairfax County--surely you are not counting these. We are also interested in archery, my son is an avid archer, but he must go to the Izaak Walton League or Bull Run Park in order to shoot. I also am sure that since these are direct comments I will never hear anything constructive back from you.

Response: Acknowledged. Text to be clarified to distinguish between full-service equestrian facilities (several facilities co-located) and individual elements/facilities. Please also look for recommendations (late 2011/early 2012) coming out of the Equestrian Task Force created by the Board of Supervisors. In addition, new offerings for Advanced Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced classes are now found in ParkTakes. Finally, find specific connectivity (trails) and other strategies in Bull Run, Upper Potomac, and other District Chapters.
Archery may be appropriate to add as an example of new activities to be considered in service delivery.

See also ID#67, 68, 70

Action: Edit equestrian facility count language, CW chapter, pg 22 (needs discussion). Re: archery, please see CW Service Delivery strategy re supporting emerging sports.

ID# 11 *Theme:* Connectivity *Park:* *Appropriate for*
Topic: Equestrian, trails *Planning District:* Countywide *GPGC Action?*

Comment: There are many horse enthusiasts in Fairfax Co. that are having the riding trails pushed out of existing neighborhoods and parks. The horse has been a part of Fairfax Co. for hundreds of years. Please don't exclude horses from the planning of trails. I use the WO&D trail regularly, and it would be great to have the Cross Co. Trail system have stone dust along side the asphalt trail so we can utilize more of that trail.

Response: FCPA seeks to provide trails usable by multiple trail user groups, as space, funding, and community support permit. Over one-third of the CCT has surfaces usable by horses, that is, surfaces that are not paved. The northern section of the trail, from the Potomac to Oak Marr is natural surface and surfaces south of Silverbrook are accessible/not paved. A non-paved side trail is planned for the portion of the CCT that crosses through Laurel Hill.

Action: No further action required.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

ID# 12 *Theme:* Service Delivery *Park:* Appropriate for GPGC Action?
Topic: ADA, accessibility at athletic fie *Planning District:* Countywide

Comment: I see nothing here about making the parks more accessible to people with disabilities. For example, it is impossible for me to watch my family play softball on many fields because a wheelchair won't navigate many pathways. Also, not all restrooms are accessible, and for some of us, having to find another bathroom in the same park isn't possible. Given that you've made an effort in some of the facilities to welcome people like me (e.g., fishing at Burke Lake), why not take a step further while making grand plans.

Response: [PSD] The Park Authority Policy Manual includes a policy on Accessibility (Policy 103.3). The policy describes the need to ensure that resources are accessible for all populations. The retrofitting of facilities that are not currently accessible (identified as non-compliant) is a priority for the Park Authority and is funded. Major facilities (RECenters, Nature Centers, major parks), parks with multiple ballfields and high rates of public usage will be given some priority, but other facilities will also be considered on a case by case basis. Retrofitting is currently on-going and will continue.

Action: Add Countywide Service Delivery strategy, "Continue to increase the number of park facilities that are accessible to all populations through new construction and retrofitting, as appropriate."

ID# 14 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship *Park:* Appropriate for GPGC Action?
Topic: Sustainability *Planning District:* Countywide

Comment: Yes- All these open spaces could be more enviro friendly. I suggested lights in the park, why not power them with solar and wind? It will look great, kids love windmills and it's responsible and cheap for the county.

Response: Parks close at dark, unless there are lit facilities - conserves energy. New lighting controls are energy efficient, beginning to use LED lights.
Incorporate alternative energy use in CW Natural Resource strategies.

Action: Add alternative energy use to last bullet of CW Natural Resources, pg 37

ID# 15 *Theme:* Not specified *Park:* Appropriate for GPGC Action?
Topic: Needs assessment *Planning District:* Countywide

Comment: Dear Park Board I am pleased to offer comments on the Great Parks, Great Communities 2010-2020 Comprehensive Park System Plan. Facility Types are not analyzed for location, size, or usability. A facility that is extremely small, a group of facilities in one area of the county, a facility that is unusable because of lack of basic facilities, cannot be credited with serving needs they cannot meet. These analyses should be done, and the Plan revised accordingly. The Adopted Countywide Service Levels do not reflect commonly accepted standards, for example the National Park and Recreation

Association standards; or other researched and reliable standards. Commonly accepted standards should be used – or reliable, understandable, reasons should be provided for using the numbers used. The Park System Plan does not recognize park-germane current needs and trends of society – for instance: 1. Walkability Park facilities should be within reasonable walking distance of all residents; 2. Obesity Over-weightedness and obesity have become significant threats to public health – see e.g., the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity; and 3. Nature-Deficit-Disorder Alienation with nature, failure of children growing-up with an appreciation of the processes of nature available in parks, and wide and frequent use and dependence of internet and mechanical devices, are recognized problems facing society. The Comprehensive Park System Plan should include provisions to meet these needs and evolving trends. There are more county parks than there are public schools. There is remarkable interrelationship between the various Standards of Learning (SOLs) for the various subjects for the various grades with the natural and cultural resources in parks. Parks offer a readily-available laboratory to expand human appreciation of many of the SOLs. Parks are available throughout the school year and even on days students are not in school. With web-cams parks can be hooked-up to classrooms all the time. And as global climate change takes center stage in the social and business lives of the next generation, a grasp, and understanding, a realization of our inter-dependence with our natural world, will be an invaluable contribution to the education of our students. Management of public schools and county parks are both the responsibility of the county government. The Comprehensive Park System Plan should recognize that county parks can and should be used, and how they will be used, to aid in teaching all subjects in all grades.

Response: Acknowledged. Basis for analysis is in 2004 NA. Scheduled to be updated in 2012. Distance of parks to residents is a tricky analysis but a worthwhile one that should be considered/added to the next Needs Assessment. Existing standards reflect NRPA guidelines and are customized to Fairfax County needs. FCPA partners with schools on SOL topics. Consider strategy regarding working with schools.

Action: Add CW Community Building strategy (pg 31) to work with schools and the public to further enhance educational opportunities.

ID# 19	<i>Theme:</i> Service Delivery <i>Topic:</i> Fields, athletic	<i>Park:</i> <i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	Appropriate for GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comment: Extend the hours of existing ball field by adding directional lighting to all existing unlighted ball fields and incorporate the expense into the field permits.

Response: Acknowledged. Lighting fields highly effective at extending hours of play. Need Master Plan approval for lights and where appropriate, FCPA approves.

Action: No further action required.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

ID# 20 *Theme:* Land Acquisition

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Quantity

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Greater emphasis is needed on land acquisition for parks, since prices will not get any better as open land gets more scarce and our population and need for recreational areas grows. One of the Strategic Objectives should be changed to add new "public spaces" as follows: Identify New Public Spaces, Facilities and Services: To identify opportunities for new public spaces, facilities and services to meet public need due to population growth, changing demographics and leisure preferences.

Response: Acknowledged. Emphasis is important and is included in CW Land Acquisition introduction (pg 34). Consider strategy to encourage provision of recreation through the development process to acknowledge possible contributions of other public, private groups.

Action: Add CW Land Acq strategy to encourage provision of recreation through the development process, acknowledge shared responsibility to compile land, public spaces.

ID# 23 *Theme:* Service Delivery

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Golf facilities

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: I read with interest the GREAT PARKS, GREAT COMMUNITIES 2010-2020 COMPREHENSIVE PARK SYSTEM PLAN and offer the following observations and comments: I use a number of the parks and facilities and appreciate living in a community with the wonderful assets available but will limit my comments to the golf courses portion of the plan. I am a senior golfer who plays about twenty times a year. I have played on a number of county courses but now limit play to the Greendale facility most of the time. That there are too many holes for the population of the county is a given, but that is not a completely bad thing as the green space by itself grants relief from over-development and provides habitat to many creatures that might otherwise be absent from out county. I've spotted many species of mammals, birds and snakes and am pleased that they may be observed under conditions in which they exhibit little fear of man. Just because there are too many holes should not mean that any of the courses should be closed or neglected. But it is unfortunate that with the known recommended number of holes per hundred thousand residents that development of the magnificent but costly Laurel Hill facility was approved and went forward. I hope that this course is repaying the investment but doubt it. But again, that's not all bad. According to the draft plan, the number of rounds played on county courses is down. That squares with my own limited observations. Unfortunately, the information in the plan is not sufficiently detailed to do an in depth analysis of the situation and corrective action that might be taken. For example, one cannot determine the trend of prime time rounds v. those played on weekdays and other less popular days and hours. Neither can one determine how many non-prime time rounds are played by full, senior or junior rate players. Generally, I would say the state of the economy has had an impact on the number of rounds played, but I think a decision made a few years ago with regard to senior golfers is a major contributor to the loss of rounds and perhaps revenue. Not too many years ago, county residents became eligible for senior

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

pricing for golf at fifty-five years of age. At that time a conscious decision was made to seek more revenue by increasing the age of seniority to sixty-two. This, in my judgment, has cut the both the number of seniors and the number of paid senior rounds substantially. Naturally, without additional information, this is only an observation and opinion. While public policy would dictate older retirement, such policy has not yet worked its way out on the ground in the country or even here in Fairfax. People continue to retire well below the age of sixty-two and would be the basis for significant weekday (non-prime) play. But this large swath of the formerly senior population must pay full rate for rounds played during non-prime hours. And they now don't play on county courses. Private daily fee courses in and in proximity to the county have a far better understanding of market forces and actively seek out this pool of players now lost to the county because of an arbitrary public decision to seek additional revenue based on poor market analysis. The private daily fee courses make great efforts to seek out and attract these junior seniors (and senior, seniors like me) with pricing cuts, specials on carts and even meals as part of non-prime time senior specials. Frankly, It looks like the county has gone out of its way to serve me and a very limited number of older seniors by shutting out a major body of potential off peak players and to raise the rates on those older players who cannot afford the higher rates charged at the same time the change in age policy was made. While not a very serious golfer, I'm treated to a county wide choice of courses from Monday through Thursday or Friday with little competition for tee times because of a very poor policy choice made just a few years ago. If the Park Authority really wants more rounds played – and I think more revenue – reverse the present senior age policy and revert the standard to fifty-five. Also make sure that with your excess supply and that of your private competitors that you really try to understand the market forces that are at play. You've got too many holes and not enough players, so check your age policy and your pricing. GET WITH THE PROGRAM!

Response: [PSD] The Park Authority tracks information on gross revenues generated by senior passes sold on a year to year basis. There is currently no means of capturing the number of senior-eligible players that pay-as-they-play without the pass. With the increase in age from 60 to 65, over the time of the senior fee adjustment, there will naturally be a reduction in seniors that qualified by age. We have no way of knowing if those players between the ages of 60-64 paid the non-senior fee or chose to play elsewhere. Regardless, the Park Authority plans to work diligently this spring and summer to offer further promotions to help drive more play to our slower times.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 24 *Theme:* Facility Reinvestment
Topic: Funding

Park:
Planning District: Countywide

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Comment: I believe that Fairfax Co. should consider too just maintain what has been established at the present time and not plan any future acquisitions, community building, facility reinvestment, etc. We are economically in a bad recession and possibly a double-dip recession or going in to a depression or a complete financial collapse. I would cut your budget.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Response: Acknowledged.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 26 *Theme:* Service Delivery

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Fields, athletic

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: This is as much of an implementation issue as it a strategic issue, but I observe that some county parks with mixed uses that include ball-fields tend to contain locked (fenced) ballfields, thus reserved exclusively for use by scheduled league activities. I believe that by strategic intention and definition, County park ball-field facilities should be accessible to all residents.

Response: The athletic field policy and allocation policy (BOS) is available on the NCS website. Share comment with POD, NCS.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 28 *Theme:* Service Delivery

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Active uses

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Yes, I think the plan overlooks the strategy of making our parks places that promotes the health and physical activity of our population. A park, by definition, is a natural place intended for human physical activity and enjoyment of nature. Too many FCPA parks lack the necessary amenities for citizens to engage in strenuous outdoor physical activities. To combat childhood obesity and improve the health of our citizenry, FCPA should be spearheading initiatives to foster more physical activity in our parks. Too many of our parks seem to be geared to the needs and interests of senior citizens. FCPA parks disproportionately allow for only very passive and sedentary "activities", i.e., outdoor concerts, amphitheaters, nature viewing, bird watching, gazebos, signage and interpretive exhibits, archaeology, fishing, farmers markets, garden plots, trails that only permit walking, picnic fields and tables, etc. All of these are great things to do in a park but we are not all 80 years old or in a wheelchair! Where is the opportunity for robust physical exercise? Look at what other communities' parks have to offer. Look at counties in Maryland and places like San Francisco. How come we don't have more parks like those areas? Why do you think Burke Lake and Lake Accottink parks are so popular? It's because there are things you can DO there. We need more parks that allow biking, non-motorized scooters, inline skating, skateboarding, rock climbing, playground equipment, canoe and kayak boat rental, running tracks, zip lines, exercise/challenge stations, dog parks, etc. There should be water features like model boat ponds, wading ponds and fountains, concession stands, bathrooms with plumbing and diaper changing facilities, and other things that will attract young families and give kids a reason to go outside and be active. In reviewing the comments of the public to the draft plan, this is what people want our parks to have. If you put in these improvements, you will accomplish connectivity, community building and service delivery all at once. We have all this land in the FCPA, and it's just boring wide open grass with nothing on it but a picnic table or gazebo here and there. Either develop the land or return it to its natural habitat so at least the plants and animals can use it. As it is now, the parkland is

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

being wasted.

Response: Acknowledged. Plans strive to provide both active use opportunities, specific athletic facilities, and passive recreation. Fitness programs offered in parks, especially RECenters, are extensive. NA of 2012 will update need levels.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 30 *Theme:* Connectivity

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Trails, safety

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Trails: Wherever possible, there should be clear separation between bicycle traffic and other types of traffic (walkers, etc.). This is a safety measure. Imagine a highway where some autos go 30mph and others 2mph. Dual trails (as on parts of the W&OD) should be a long-term goal, and implemented in pieces as opportunities present themselves and as funding becomes available.

Response: The FCPA trail network is intended primarily for recreational use, rather than a primarily transportation use. The number of trail users is large and growing at the same time that resources become more limited. FCPA promotes "sharing the trail" to meet the most needs.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 31 *Theme:* Connectivity

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Equestrian, trails

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: We are a large group of equestrians who very much enjoy the tranquility of trail riding in the parklands. Could you please help us out with specific horse-friendly multi-use trails? Thanks!! Connecting existing parcels of parkland to make a trail system.

Response: A listing of equestrian trails is available on the FCPA website. From the FCPA home page, click on Find an Activity, select Trails Information, then follow the link for Equestrian Trails. FCPA continues to develop trails of various surface types in an effort to meet the needs of multiple users.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 32 *Theme:* Service Delivery

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Archery

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: I am very interested in having a target archery program within the county parks program, like other counties in the area have. I belong to a target archery group and we are all quite hopeful that the parks can find a place where we could have a

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

shooting range. (Re: new strategies) A target archery program.

Response: Acknowledged. New facility types, emerging activities will be considered in service delivery, through the MP process. Please see CW Service Delivery strategy re supporting emerging sports
See also ID#48.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 34 *Theme:* Not specified *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Implementation, finances *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: The country as well as Fairfax County is going through a recession. There are people who are losing their homes, in part due to the high property taxes that fund the County and the revenue bonds the Parks Authority uses to fund its projects. All of the Authority's goals are not essential. Therefore, the Parks Authority should declare a moratorium on all but the most critical needs until the country gets back on its feet. (Re: new strategies) None. If anything these strategies must be scaled back considerably.

Response: Acknowledged.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 39 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Sustainability, funding of *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: (Re: new strategy) Public-private partnerships for funding environmentally sustainable practices, such as organic gardening, rain gardens, and wildflower meadows.

Response: Need to ensure broad public benefit with any partnership arrangement and that proposed program is affordable and sustainable. Acknowledge need to promote eco-savvy gardening practices, stewardship education efforts and resource management.

Action: Add new strategy to CW Natural Resource Stewardship (pg 37) regarding LID techniques, eco-friendly gardening practices. Also add strategy to support public/private partnerships; reference new CW introductory/implementation discussion.

ID# 41 *Theme:* Service Delivery *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Park siting, playgrounds *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: I'm not sure which category this request fits into, but I'd love to see Fairfax County maintain a natural environment around its playgrounds. The model seems to be to raze all trees and remove all vegetation within a certain perimeter of the

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

playground. This fails on both practical and aesthetic levels -- the playground equipment heats up in the sun and exposes the children and adults to the sun, and it doesn't feel relaxing. The playground feels urban. I know that Clemyjontri has won numerous awards, but it looks like something McDonald's built: artificial colors, nothing natural within it, minimal shade (and none of it from a natural source). We will not go to Clemyjontri between April and October or later b/c it's so unpleasant in warm weather. We live in Mason District and are happy with the variety at Mason District Park (thank you for adding the climbing wall!); Annandale Park probably offers the best natural setting. But when we really want to spend a chunk of time at a park, my kids generally pick playgrounds in Arlington: Madison Manor, Lacey Woods, Chestnut Hills or one of the two spraygrounds. These parks are all in natural settings with trees near the edges of the playground, and have a great variety of equipment and things to do.

Response: Acknowledged. FCPA develops playgrounds with input from community so park settings vary from park to park.

Action: Share comment with POD. No further action required.

ID# 44	<i>Theme:</i> Natural Resource Stewardship	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for GPGC Action? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Topic:</i> Recycling	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	

Comment: Please initiate a system-wide recycling program. It's so sad to see plastic water bottles going to the landfill instead of to recycling centers.

Response: Comment acknowledged.

[POD] The Agency is presently unable to recycle except at selected sites. We work with the County and individual leagues and organizations that can manage recycling programs for specific sites.

Recommend adding strategy to CW NR (p37), "Maintain and increase partnerships with individual athletic leagues and other groups that provide management of recycling programs at specific sites."

See also ID#49

Action: Add CW Natural Resources strategy as described above.

ID# 46	<i>Theme:</i> Land Acquisition	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Topic:</i> Watersheds	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	

Comment: Fairfax needs to add far more land to either its parks or other protected green space. The county is urbanizing at a breakneck pace and little is being done to protect its rich natural resources. The county simply cannot afford to replace the services now provided by the natural environment. We are already seeing extreme heat island effects throughout the county--the costs in cooling bills alone (to overcome the temperature difference between areas with mature trees and areas

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

that have been turned into a sea of asphalt) are astronomical. Protection of watershed areas is particularly critical and purchases should be targeted that can combine the best combination of geographic distribution, diversity of plant and animal species, watershed protection, and other conservation needs. As far as building on park lands, Fairfax needs to stop paving over its parks. Recreational space is highly desirable but not at the expense of destroying what little undamaged land the county owns. It is a far better strategy to build new recreational facilities on land that is no longer viable as a green space. Old parking lots or abandoned commercial space could be reclaimed, for example.

Response: Many regulations that protect environmentally sensitive lands exist. FCPA balances build vs unbuilt land and tries to minimize impacts to resources. Commercial property values are generally too high for park redevelopment, but integration of urban parks in redevelopment areas is a key strategy that aligns with this comment. Please see CW Land Acquisition strategy, 3rd bullet.

Action: Share sentiment to include more analysis of resource areas and their resource values with RMD.

ID# 47	<i>Theme:</i> Natural Resource Stewardship	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for GPGC Action? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Topic:</i> Wildlife corridors	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	

Comment: Wildlife corridors are badly needed now in Fairfax County and will only become more important as the remaining undeveloped land becomes more fragmented. Studies have shown that due to "edge effects" small unconnected pieces of land offer far less refuge to wildlife than their total area would imply. Nevertheless, heavily populated areas are those most in need of parks, even if they are small.

Response: Corridors and linkages are discussed in both CW Connectivity and Natural Resource sections. Acknowledge importance. Include "wildlife" in 1st bullet in CW Natural Resources (pg 37). Include similar strategy in CW Connectivity (pg 30) or reference CW pg 37.
Share with RMD.

Action: Update CW Natural Resources (pg 37) and CW Connectivity (pg 30) as described above.

ID# 48	<i>Theme:</i> Service Delivery	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Topic:</i> Fields, cricket	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	

Comment: We would like to see a park with a cricket field, We have thousands of residence from south asia living in fairfax county and they love to play cricket and should have dedicated cricket field for their use like soccer and other sports

Response: Dedicated cricket fields exist in Lake Fairfax Park. A growth in demand for cricket facilities would be considered a service delivery issue. It could also be addressed through field allocation managed by NCS and FCAC. New facility types, emerging activities will be considered in service delivery, through the MP process. Please see CW Service Delivery strategy re supporting emerging sports.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

See also ID#32.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 49	<i>Theme:</i> Natural Resource Stewardship	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for GPGC Action? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Topic:</i> Recycling	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	

Comment: It is critical that the county park authority start recycling in the parks, at all levels. Community parks are used extensively and should have recycle containers in them. Set the example for user of the parks especially neighborhood community parks where there are currently no recycle bins. ADD them please. Recycle is good for the environment. Add recycling as a service.

Response: Comment acknowledged.

[POD] The Agency is presently unable to recycle except at selected sites. We work with the County and individual leagues and organizations that can manage recycling programs for specific sites.

Recommend adding strategy to CW NR (p37), "Maintain and increase partnerships with individual athletic leagues and other groups that provide management of recycling programs at specific sites."

See also ID#44.

Action: Add CW Natural Resources strategy as described above.

ID# 50	<i>Theme:</i> Service Delivery	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for GPGC Action? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Topic:</i> Dog facilities, indoor	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	

Comment: We need more places for dog training that is inside. All training has to stop in the winter and if the weather is bad in the spring, summer and fall, classes get canceled. At least a third of the population has dogs and we need better facilities to train and work with our dogs. Dog parks are important for some people/dogs, but improving the classes and training is just as important.

Response: [PSD] The arena of pet classes have provided strong revenue growth over time and its growth is hampered by the seasonality of the classes. Indoor dog training facilities would permit year round usage and encourage more dog events. Activities accommodated might include agility course work, obedience classes, protection classes, programs for individuals who are visually impaired/blind to become more adept with their service animals, more camps for children and their dogs, first aid classes (for pets), classes for aggressive dogs, indoor dog parks (reserved times), and potentially a indoor pool for pets.

Action: Add new Countywide Service Delivery strategy, "Explore opportunities to provide and/or partner to provide an indoor facility

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

for dog training and other pet activities."

ID# 53 *Theme:* Not specified *Park:* Appropriate for GPGC Action?
Topic: Volunteers *Planning District:* Countywide

Comment: perhaps it's included in one of the above but it seems to be that volunteerism should be its own category since its so vital to the success of our parks.

Response: Volunteers are critical to success. Include discussion of importance in CW introductory/implementation discussion, cite partnerships and volunteers. See also ID#15.

Action: Add text to CW introductory/implementation section as described above.

ID# 54 *Theme:* Connectivity *Park:* Appropriate for GPGC Action?
Topic: Bike data *Planning District:* Countywide

Comment: In looking at the Meeting Summaries, it stated that MORE questioned the riding (bicycle & mountain biking) trends were not accurate. I understood this to mean that MORE suggests rider activity has increased. I am an avid road and mountain biker. Living in Reston for 20 years, the riding activity has grown exponentially, especially over the last several years. Biking is seeing historic trends. You can see this everyday by the number of cyclists you see on the roads each day, the increase in participation and number of events including Wednesday's at Wakefield, the Cranky Monkey race series, etc. I encourage the creation and maintenance of mountain bike trails.

Response: Trails particularly suited for mountain biking are being both planned and constructed now. Laurel Hill has 10 miles of single track trails, 2 miles of trail have just been completed at Lake Fairfax and Wakefield also has trails. FCPA recognizes the importance of and relies on partnerships with trail user groups such as MORE. These partnerships are particularly important in terms of trail maintenance.

See bike numbers cited CW 20, 2nd paragraph. May need to include supportive data, key partnership.

Consider new strategy, Continue to partner with MORE and other trail user groups.

See also ID#165

Action: Add CW Connectivity (pg 30) strategy as described above.

ID# 56 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship *Park:* Appropriate for GPGC Action?
Topic: Land acq *Planning District:* Countywide

Comment: Hello - I am very happy with the achievements of the FCPA in our area. My chief concern is the preservation of wildlife and land and providing these areas for the education and enjoyment of the public. Therefore I would like to see them well

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

staffed and maintained. It would be GREAT to acquire more land if we can provide the staff to take care of it. Thank you

Response: Acknowledged. See CW Land Acquisition (pg 34) strategies to protect and preserve.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 58 *Theme:* Not specified

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Gen, appreciation

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Your plans look fantastic and have obviously included great forethought. We are happy to live in a County that takes the recreation of its inhabitants seriously while also maintaining and preserving the beautiful land.

Response: Acknowledged.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 60 *Theme:* Land Acquisition

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Funding, alternative

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: I am particularly concerned about the loss of biodiversity as the county urbanizes. We can't continue to think that someone else (Loudon County? Fauquier County?) will take care of it. Additional land acquisition is critical, but we'll never have enough money to buy all the land that should be bought. So we need to expand partnerships and increase the use of conservation easements. Public land trusts should be encouraged. Undeveloped land with natural cover that is not covered by a conservation easement should be taxed at very low levels to lessen the pressure to sell the land for development. Developers should be required to leave more land undeveloped, especially when the undeveloped land would function as a corridor between other natural areas. Invasive plants is a HUGE issue.

Response: FCPA has two conservation easements currently in its holdings, Oak Hill and Salona. Both are conservation areas with some level of public access, as defined in the easement. FCPA does use these strategies where they can be supported. Non profit groups such as the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust operate land trusts in the area.

[LAMB] FCPA uses several means to acquire land, which tool/method of acquisition is best is dependent upon conditions at that time. For example, in recent times outright acquisition (whether purchased or donated) has proven particularly effective in meeting goals; this is directly attributable to economic conditions and the resulting shifts in land values.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 62 *Theme:* Not specified

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: MP review

Planning District: Countywide

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Comment: Regular frequent evaluation of park master plans

Response: Acknowledged. Park planning policy that addresses park master plan process will be updated following adoption of the GPGC.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 64 *Theme:* Connectivity *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Equestrian, trails *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: As an avid horse rider who lives in a community with equestrian trails on private and county park land, I would like to ensure that those trails are not forgotten and are accessible and passable on horseback. As a member of Clifton Horse Society, I am active in volunteering my time to fix trails. Between the National Battlefield, NVPA parks and Fairfax County parks, we have many beautiful trails for hiking and riding. But we also need to ensure that these trails connect and that the natural resources in the area are preserved. When trails are impassable, hikers and riders will try to find a way around the obstacle that may damage resources, hence the importance of maintaining them.

Response: Natural surface trails preferred by equestrians are difficult to maintain unless they are wide enough for a truck to access and drive along. As you note, in many of these cases FCPA relies on the assistance of volunteers and equestrian groups. Thank you for your contribution. Recommend sharing with Park Operations and Trails.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 65 *Theme:* Connectivity *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Land acq, trails *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: I would love to see all the parcels of parkland connected together. Right now it seems hard to find a long contiguous trail without streets involved.

Response: Acknowledged. Connectivity is a key goal. Contiguous trails can be found on the CCT, WOD, or GW Parkway.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 67 *Theme:* Service Delivery *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Equestrian, needs assessment *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: Page 18 and 19 of the 2004 Needs Assessment Report stated that: On a percentage basis, facility types exhibiting the greatest unmet need included: skateboarding (76%), dog parks (69%), *equestrian facilities and trails (70%),* outdoor volleyball courts (60%), indoor gyms (55%), outdoor multi-use courts (52%), and unpaved trails for hiking and mountain

biking (51%). In the recent document, equestrian facilities are not included in the unmet needs list, yet there is a huge unmet need for affordable, convenient riding lessons for both children and adults. In “Great Parks, Great Communities” Tables 2 and 3 on pages 22 and 23 state that there are seven equestrian facilities. I am not sure how you define a facility. In our environment, we consider an equestrian facility one which includes amenities such as riding rings, stables, and services such as riding lessons. The six equestrian facilities in Montgomery County all meet this definition. It seems that in the report, your staff may have counted some of the rings and/or trails individually as separate "facilities"; most people would not designate a multi-use trail as an equestrian facility. I would appreciate understanding how the Park Authority defines a facility so that we might understand your count of seven.. As far as actual full equestrian facilities, we see only one, Frying Pan, that qualifies. Turner Farm has no staffing, no services, and offers no riding lessons, so we believe it should not really be considered a “full service” facility. We suggest that a count of one to two facilities more accurately reflects the actual number of equestrian facilities we have in the County. Would you please adjust your count of facilities to one, or two (Frying Pan Park and Turner Farm) at the most, although Turner Farm provides neither stables nor lessons)?. In addition, we believe that the Adopted Service Standard for equestrian facilities is not appropriate for Fairfax County and ask that you please change the Adopted Service Standard Level to one facility per 150,000 -200,000 people. This would be comparable to the service level provided in Montgomery County, which offers six facilities for 950,000 residents or one per 160,000 residents. Such a standard would more accurately represent the needs of Fairfax County residents. Under service delivery, consider distinguishing between the provision of equestrian facilities in general and providing the much needed service of affordable, convenient riding lessons to county residents

Response: Acknowledged. Text to be clarified to distinguish between full-service equestrian facilities (several facilities co-located) and individual elements/facilities. Please also look for recommendations (late 2011/early 2012) coming out of the Equestrian Task Force created by the Board of Supervisors. In addition, new offerings for Advanced Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced classes are now found in ParkTakes. Finally, find specific connectivity (trails) and other strategies in Bull Run, Upper Potomac, and other District Chapters.

See also ID#9, 68, 70.

Action: Edit equestrian facility count language, CW chapter, pg 22 (needs discussion).

ID# 68	<i>Theme:</i> Service Delivery	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Equestrian, needs assessment	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: Page 18 and 19 of the 2004 Needs Assessment Report stated that: On a percentage basis, facility types exhibiting the greatest unmet need included: skateboarding (76%), dog parks (69%), *equestrian facilities and trails (70%)*, outdoor volleyball courts (60%), indoor gyms (55%), outdoor multi-use courts (52%), and unpaved trails for hiking and mountain biking (51%). In the recent document, equestrian facilities are not included in the unmet needs list, yet there is a huge unmet need for affordable, convenient riding lessons for both children and adults. In “Great Parks, Great Communities”

Tables 2 and 3 on pages 22 and 23 state that there are seven equestrian facilities. I am not sure how you define a facility. In our environment, we consider an equestrian facility one which includes amenities such as riding rings, stables, and services such as riding lessons. The six equestrian facilities in Montgomery County all meet this definition. It seems that in the report, your staff may have counted some of the rings and/or trails individually as separate "facilities"; most people would not designate a multi-use trail as an equestrian facility. I would appreciate understanding how the Park Authority defines a facility so that we might understand your count of seven.. As far as actual full equestrian facilities, we see only one, Frying Pan, that qualifies. Turner Farm has no staffing, no services, and offers no riding lessons, so we believe it should not really be considered a "full service" facility. We suggest that a count of one to two facilities more accurately reflects the actual number of equestrian facilities we have in the County. Would you please adjust your count of facilities to one, or two (Frying Pan Park and Turner Farm) at the most, although Turner Farm provides neither stables nor lessons)?. In addition, we believe that the Adopted Service Standard for equestrian facilities is not appropriate for Fairfax County and ask that you please change the Adopted Service Standard Level to one facility per 150,000 -200,000 people. This would be comparable to the service level provided in Montgomery County, which offers six facilities for 950,000 residents or one per 160,000 residents. Such a standard would more accurately represent the needs of Fairfax County residents. Under service delivery, consider distinguishing between the provision of equestrian facilities in general and providing the much needed service of affordable, convenient riding lessons to county residents.

Response: Acknowledged. Text to be clarified to distinguish between full-service equestrian facilities (several facilities co-located) and individual elements/facilities. Please also look for recommendations (late 2011/early 2012) coming out of the Equestrian Task Force created by the Board of Supervisors. In addition, new offerings for Advanced Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced classes are now found in ParkTakes. Finally, find specific connectivity (trails) and other strategies in Bull Run, Upper Potomac, and other District Chapters. See also ID#9, 67, 70.

Action: Edit equestrian facility count language, CW chapter, pg 22 (needs discussion).

ID# 70	<i>Theme:</i> Service Delivery	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Equestrian, needs assessment	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: Page 18 and 19 of the 2004 Needs Assessment Report stated that: On a percentage basis, facility types exhibiting the greatest unmet need included: equestrian facilities and trails (70%). In the recent document, equestrian facilities are not included in the unmet needs list, yet there is a huge unmet need for affordable, convenient riding lessons for both children and adults in Fairfax County. In "Great Parks, Great Communities" Tables 2 and 3 on pages 22 and 23 state that there are seven equestrian facilities listed. An equestrian facility is one which includes amenities such as riding rings, stables, and services such as riding lessons. It seems that in the report, your staff may have counted some of the rings and/or trails individually as separate "facilities"; a multi-use trail is not designated as an equestrian facility. Please clarify how the Park Authority defines a facility. As far as actual full equestrian facilities, there is only one, Frying Pan Park, that qualifies.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Turner Farm has no staffing, no services, and offers no riding lessons, therefore, it should not be considered a “full service” facility. A count of one facility more accurately reflects the actual number of equestrian facilities in the County. Would you please adjust your count of facilities to one, (Frying Pan Park), as Turner Farm provides neither stables nor lesson and should not be deemed an equestrian facility. In addition, the Adopted Service Standard for equestrian facilities is not appropriate for Fairfax County . Please change the Adopted Service Standard Level to one facility per 150,000 -200,000 people. This would be comparable to the service level provided in Montgomery County, which offers six facilities for 950,000 residents or one per 160,000 residents. Such a standard would more accurately represent the needs of Fairfax County residents. Under service delivery, consider distinguishing between the provision of equestrian facilities in general and providing the much needed service of affordable, convenient riding lessons to county residents.

Response: Acknowledged. Text to be clarified to distinguish between full-service equestrian facilities (several facilities co-located) and individual elements/facilities. Please also look for recommendations (late 2011/early 2012) coming out of the Equestrian Task Force created by the Board of Supervisors. In addition, new offerings for Advanced Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced classes are now found in ParkTakes. Finally, find specific connectivity (trails) and other strategies in Bull Run, Upper Potomac, and other District Chapters.
See also ID#9, 67, 68.

Action: Edit equestrian facility count language, CW chapter, pg 22 (needs discussion).

ID# 71	<i>Theme:</i> Connectivity	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Topic:</i> Trails, land acq	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	

Comment: Parks are wonderful places but it would be so nice if they were connected by trails so the residents can walk to them. Existing right of ways should be re- discovered and connected to new development. Every opportunity should be made to purchase land so as to expand parks and connect them by trails.

Response: Acknowledged. Please see CW Land Acquisition and Connectivity strategies regarding improving non-motorized access.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 72	<i>Theme:</i> Service Delivery	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for GPGC Action? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Topic:</i> Access	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	

Comment: 1. Walkability - i.e. being able to walk to a park - & promoting/enabling walking when one gets to the park - is an essential role of parks - to address obesity and needs for physical fitness.

Response: Acknowledged. Add introductory text to CW Service Delivery (pg 32) discussing link between parks/recreation and health.

Action: Add text to CW Service Delivery as described above.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

ID# 74 *Theme:* Service Delivery *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Equestrian *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: Sirs: I have been trying to find riding lessons in the Fairfax County area and lessons are only given at one facility (Frying Pan Park) and then only for beginners and in limited number. (And, yes, I did take three sets of lessons at FPP and they were super, but I am now ready to go to Advanced Beginner.) Fairfax County provides no facilities, whatsoever, for non-horse owning riders. There are no county facilities where I can go on a trail ride or take riding lessons. Were Fairfax County to provide such facilities, I would immediately take advantage of them--as would several of my friends. Please consider providing trail rides and riding lessons at Fairfax County Parks. Your Great Parks plans say there are 6 such facilities in Fairfax County--please tell me where they are located. Without access to horses to lease/rent/take lessons on, most of the facilities are useless to horseless riders. Just in case, you think that all riders are horse crazy teenagers, please note that I've just attained senior citizen status and have been interested in horseback riding my entire adult life. Thank you for your consideration.

Response: Advanced Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced lessons are now new offerings found in ParkTakes. Share comment regarding need for trail riders, advanced lessons with Park Services.

See also ID#9, 67, 68, 70.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 78 *Theme:* Service Delivery *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Equestrian, programs *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: I live in Great Falls, and breed ponies. I would love to see the need for public equestrian programs addressed and met, in providing horseback riding lessons, and stabling for horses (for events such as horse shows, and the lesson program). The only park providing such services is Frying Pan Park, and the demand is huge. I feel additional resources and programs should be developed at Turner Farm Park, and other underused parks in the county.

Response: Acknowledged.
Please also see ID#9, 67, 68, 70, 74.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 84 *Theme:* Service Delivery *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Equestrian *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: As land in Fairfax county becomes sparse and cost prohibitive to the individual land owner I would like to recommend the

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

continuation of horse-based facilities within the park boundaries. It is an opportunity to embrace the community with riding lessons as well as boarding facilities. It should also be in partnership with integrating the special needs riders. Trails need to be made available for riding as well as driving horses. Different riders require different types of riding..... Research shows bonding of animals to be a very positive outcome for all ages of life..... thanks for recognizing my voice in the parkland sustaining horse facilities for all types of related activities..... thanks for being mindful of these project needs.....

Response: Acknowledged.

Please see also ID##9, 67, 68, 70, 74, 78.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 86 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Passive rec, recycling

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: As Fairfax County grows our parks need to help preserve our natural environment. We should go green as much as possible. To this end, I support more natural passive parks, real grass on playing fields, and recycling containers and trash cans. While I know the Federal system encourages pack it in, pack it out, our neighborhood parks are heavily used and tend to be littered. In areas such as ours with many creeks and our proximity to the Potomac River, this debris is not only unsightly but adds to polluted waterways.

Response: Acknowledged. Litter maintenance and recycling are important to success. Share with Operations, see also ID#44.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 88 *Theme:* Service Delivery

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Equestrian, needs assessment

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: [This may be a duplicate as the 1st attempt disappeared from the screen.] The equestrian facilities mentioned in the report do not match the actual facilities in the county. There is only 1 full service facility - Frying Pan. The southern half of the county is unserved due to distance, time, & the fact that Frying Pan is frequently unavailable due to the high rate of use. One facility does not meet the community needs or the advertised population ratio. There is a great need for a full service facility with rings, barns, indoor arena, paddocks, lesson program, therapeutic riding, etc, that can also host events/shows. Funding for the Laurel Hill Equestrian Center needs to be included in a bond referendum. The promised ring at Laurel Hill needs to be completed ASAP. It has been promised for several years.

Response: Acknowledged. Text to be clarified to distinguish between full-service equestrian facilities (several facilities co-located) and individual elements/facilities. Please also look for recommendations (late 2011/early 2012) coming out of the Equestrian Task Force created by the Board of Supervisors. In addition, new offerings for Advanced Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced classes are now found in ParkTakes. Finally, find specific connectivity (trails) and other strategies in Bull Run,

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Autocross is a sport where cars of every description run through a course of rubber pylons set up in various configurations for time. The primary objective of autocross besides fun, is to make the participants better drivers and for them to get to better know how their cars handle. The ideal size for an autocross park would be roughly 180,000 square feet, either in a square or rectangular configuration--square would be better. It should be an asphalt surface which could withstand lots of turns and hard braking. Included within the park would be a 300 foot diameter concrete skid pad. The pad would be used for training drivers how to control their cars in a skid. The minimum requirements would be for a 90,000 square foot park without a skid pad. The park should have no lighting within it. There should be at least two ingress and egress points, four is desirable. These would be gated. There should be a chain link fence surrounding the park with parking for as many as 100 vehicles outside and adjacent to the park for staging and participant parking. The outside area does not have to have lighting if the park is not utilized at night. There should be no residential areas within a quarter mile of the park. Automobile clubs in the area would be the users of the facility, but they would open the facility for part of the time to do hands on defensive driving for high school students. I and other members of my club and other clubs would be available to sit down with you and/or others to discuss questions and issues you may have. I want to emphasize that club members consider safety of those driving and those watching the participants of paramount importance. Our club's last autocross event this year is Sunday, November 6th, beginning at 9.A.M. at James Woods High School in Winchester, Virginia. I invite you to watch how we put these events on at that time.

Response: Would be considered as new activity, under CW Service Delivery. Needs large paved area, may be appropriate for HS location. See also ID#32, 48.

Action: Please see CW Service Delivery strategy re supporting emerging sports

ID# 95 *Theme:* Service Delivery

Park:

Appropriate for GPGC Action?

Topic: Fields, ball

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: To the Parks Authority, Fairfax County has plenty of parkland. Further acquisitions, except in special circumstances, would be counterproductive. What we need are more ballfields and playgrounds, and no more 'passive parks'. The increasingly diverse population to which the report refers will be better served by an increase in the number of soccer fields available for scheduled and casual play. The entire community would benefit from more neighborhood athletic fields.

Response: Acknowledged. Service level standards help measure need and deficiency and guide PAB decision making concerning land acquisition and land use. FCPA can only build facilities in locations that it possesses that are planned in accordance to adopted master plans and supported by the community.

Action: No further action required.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

ID# 105 Theme: Connectivity

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Equestrian

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Hello as a Fairfax County resident and horse owner, I have some input on the Great Parks initiative: I feel we need more equestrian friendly "connected" trails and natural surface trails that do not involve crossing or walking on roads. Here are some other ideas:

- more connectivity from parkland parcel to parkland (shared bike or multi-use trails are great!)
- more equestrian-friendly trails (all natural or bluestone). No pavement needed!
- horse trailer parking lots with a place to turn around a large trailer
- more horse friendly trail and parking in the Bull Run area, which is access to Manassas Battlefield
- BONUS - equestrians can also become certified to assist Police with K-9 search and rescue

The only place Fairfax County has put a real emphasis on horses is Frying Pan Park. Although that is a great venue, we need to spread the wealth so that we may all enjoy the peace and beauty of a tranquil horse ride through parkland.

Response: Acknowledged.

Please see also ID#9, 11, 67, 68, 70, 74, 78, 84, 88, 105, 171

Action: No further action required.

ID# 106 Theme: Connectivity

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Equestrian

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Hello, I am writing to give input on the Great Parks initiative. As a county resident, I suggest greater connectivity between park parcels (and labeled multi-use trails to share with hikers, horses and bikers), land acquisition so that we don't have to cross streets. Better access to Manassas Battlefield in the Sully/ Horne Property area, parking for horse trailers (with a gravel turnaround area) near trails.

Area equestrian clubs will gladly care for and label trails if we can get official permission to use them. As of right now, I'm not really sure what the county equestrian trails are in Sully Woodlands. There is so much history and beauty here, it would be nice to connect parcels for a peaceful park ride. Thanks!!!!!!!!!!

Response: Please refer to the County Trails Map, available on the County web site. Please also see ID#9, 11, and 171.

Action: See ID#9, 11, and 171.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

ID# 113 *Theme:* Community Building
Topic: Bee keeping

Park:
Planning District: Countywide

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Comment: Need a teaching apiary to aid in teaching beekeeping. Any site in Fairfax County would be helpful.

Response: Acknowledged. Issue is largely operational. Cross agency team is evaluating this request and will respond with its findings. See also ID#173

Action: No further action required.

ID# 114 *Theme:* Not specified
Topic: Thanks, gen

Park:
Planning District: Countywide

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Comment: I want to thank you for taking the time to let the members of the community give our opinion. I know from experience that the more opinions you get the more challenging it becomes to satisfy all parties, as everyone seems to want something different. Sometimes this causes the project to go off course. However, from what I heard at the meeting on Thursday it seems that the focus is remaining true and I congratulate everyone involved in their efforts to make a better park system for the County, the people, and the animals/plants.

Response: Acknowledged.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 115 *Theme:* Community Building
Topic: Trails

Park:
Planning District: Countywide

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Comment: Connectivity to all parks (county, city, federal) for humans and animals. With a map showing the trails

Response: Acknowledged. Please see County's trails maps available on the County web site.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 116 *Theme:* Service Delivery
Topic: Parks, near commercial

Park:
Planning District: Countywide

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Comment: Increase public spaces (even if just a few benches under a few trees) where possible near office/shopping centers

Response: Acknowledged. Recommend add new/additional text to CW (pg 23) regarding urban parks and the importance of parks in revitalization areas.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Action: Add new text as described above.

ID# 117 *Theme:* Facility Reinvestment *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Sustainability *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle. Let's try to use what we have before creating new and let us make all renovations in the greenest manor possible

Response: Acknowledged. Please see Facility Reinvestment strategies (e.g., 3rd bullet), and Natural Resource strategies (last bullet).

Action: No further action required.

ID# 118 *Theme:* Community Building *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Dog parks *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: More off leash parks near communities

Response: Acknowledged. Please see CW Community Building introductory text.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 119 *Theme:* Not specified *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Advertising, social media *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: Though the one item that is at the foremost of my mind, ADVERTISING.

I currently volunteer at Huntley Meadows Park. I started in 2008 a few months after moving to the area and after literally running into the park having taken a wrong turn. As a volunteer I often hear about the great programs the park offers months prior. However, when I speak to friends and coworkers about "my great park" they do not know where it is or that it even exists!

Also, I am ashamed to say that many, ok just about all, of the parks listed in the GREAT PARKS, GREAT COMMUNITIES plan are not on my radar. I didn't realize that so many wonderful green spaces are so close to my home!

This comes to my soap box moment...advertise, advertise, advertise. Yes we love Huntley Meadows because when we go it is not crowded with people. However, not only do all the parks need to increase revenue but I'm sure Huntley is not the only park in which activities are either canceled or not fully functioning because of lack of attendance?

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Advertising does not need to take up the entire budget. Yes, print costs money and some great print opportunities are the Alexandria Times, Alexandria Gazette or Mount Vernon Gazette. I know each community has their own. Another advertising opportunity is a booth at community and school events along with bike events or marathons (the kind of people who are going to use the parks). And my BIGGEST suggestion, use Facebook, Twitter, etc. I know this stereotypically reaches a particular generation (or two) but this is your audience for dollars and volunteer time. I have "liked" Alexandria City on Facebook and I receive my updates about town events via my news feed on Facebook. A page for Fairfax County Parks specifically could focus your audience. You can also advertise volunteer opportunities and best of all...it's free! You just need the man power. You could also allow the Friends of...groups (i.e. Friends of Huntley Meadows) set one up for their park and regulate what they can put on the page. But then it would not only be free but the man hours to maintain it would be donated as well. I believe I have expressed my self now and look forward to seeing the final plan and implementation (perhaps possible volunteer opportunities as well?).

Response: Acknowledged, please also see ID:22.

Add reference to the FCPA Countywide Marketing and Communication Plan, currently under development.

Action: Add reference in CW chapter as described above.

ID# 121 *Theme:* Not specified

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Encroachment on parkland

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Our community newsletter, Pleasant Valley Times, for October was undelivered to our household until after 10/15. This October newsletter used one full page to describe in detail the Citizen Meetings that were scheduled in Early October : 10/4-Colvin Run Mill Barn, 10/5-Herrity Building, and 10/12-Audrey Moore Recreation Center. Unfortunately I was not informed and unable to attend. That is why I have enclosed my comments below.

Handling encroachment in our parks and on our park lands requires a politician with back bone to uphold the existing laws on the books and use the police and courts system to put a stop to it.

I live in the Pleasant Valley Subdivision that is surrounded by the Cub Run Stream Valley Park and surrounded by people who are encroaching on park property and have been doing so since before we moved here in August 1999. Repeated calls to the Park Authority office go unresolved. The Park Authority staff I spoke to said it is the Park Board who has to determine if this is something that they want to enforce. WHAT! How can the Citizen Board of the Park Authority determine if they want to enforce the law.

Why can't this encroachment be stopped immediately?

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Why is the taking of park land allowed to continue unchecked? When you do nothing, it lets the encroachment of park property continue.

One of my neighbors has been mowing park property all the way from their property line to the creek/tree line, has a shed on park property and has a trampoline on park property. We have reported this to the Park Authority.

Another of my neighbors has been mowing park property all the way to the tree line, has planted non-native species on park property, has a shed and animal cage on park property. We have reported this to the Park Authority.

Another neighbor has been mowing park property all the way to the tree line, has play equipment and an electric dog fence on park property. We have recently escalated this to the Fairfax County Police. The Police and Park Authority were called to have their landscaper stop work on the park property with a chain saw cutting limbs off of trees on park property. The homeowners were not at home and left the landscaper to be told to stop by the Park Authority and Police. The damage was done. We reported to the Police this neighbor was mowing park land after dark. She then told the officer who came to her home that she was not on park land was on her own property. That was not true. She was on park land mowing with her lawn tractor head lights on, after dark when it's illegal to be on Park Property. The Police need to know what the rules are and where the boundaries are in order to enforce the law. Since we have no Park Police then we have to educate the County Police Officers so that they can enforce this law.

I am very frustrated that my neighbors continued to use the half acre to acre of park property as if it were their own yard.

This private use of park land is damaging the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and is preventing this land from reclaiming itself to the climax deciduous forest that is present elsewhere in the park. This is illegal and needs to be stopped.

This problem of encroachment seen in Fairfax County Parks occurs World Wide. The encroacher's justification is that we're only talking about a little bit of park land. If every person just took a little bit, the world wide damage would be huge. Please take care of our piece of the world's protected areas.

Thank you in advance for responding to this threat to our Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Response: Acknowledged. Improvements to the FCPA Encroachment Process were adopted by the Park Authority Board in 2010. Efforts to streamline the process, strengthen legal enforcement of violations were adopted. This is an operational issue that is outside the scope of this Plan.

Action: Share with POD. No further action required.

ID# 122 *Theme:* Not specified

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Implementation, Funding

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: This is a great plan and I – and I believe my fellow NFCA residents and most if not all of their neighbors in the surrounding South Run Valley communities – support it both in its concept and in its purposes rather wholeheartedly. However, talking the “Great Parks, Great Opportunities Program Plan” is one thing, but producing actual results ... via a strongly-evidenced

funding support system, along with a transparently viable and trackable long-term implementation-action program is quite another.

Examples abound of Fairfax County's executive/political leaderships' errors/failures of omission/commission and transparency over the years concerning their being unfortunately all too unwilling/unable to walk-the-talk vis-à-vis appropriate cultural, recreational and natural resources' planning, management and, probably most importantly, adequate attention to their action-plans' implementation and follow-through.

In just the South Run/Pohick Valleys alone, there are the following long-standing sore points:

- Unsafe/ill-maintained and incomplete trails and sidewalks;
- Poorly-designated/un- or under-serviced storm-water management and erosion-control systems;
- Unsafe/ill-maintained parks- and schools-associated athletic fields; and,
- Incomplete/poorly-resourced master plans and inadequate or spotty stewardship-oversight and –enforcement support for the South Run District, Laurel Hill, Lake Mercer, Newington Heights, Joseph Plaskett, South Run Stream Valley, Pohick Creek Stream Valley and Middle Run Stream Valley Parks and for the other SC-Area FC-owned/controlled land on which exists a wide variety of long-promised but yet-to-be-fulfilled recreational, educational, natural, environmental and especially cultural and heritage facilities.

The bottom-line is that there has been in the past - and apparently from reading this “Great Parks, Great Opportunities Program” draft plan there will still be in the future – nowhere near enough staff- and/or contractor-support resources to even partially implement and then properly maintain over the long haul this or any other FC-proposed and citizenry-use targeted plan in a timely and effective manner, as should be expected in this ... the inarguably most-affluent and allegedly the best-managed major governmental jurisdiction in the entire Nation, if not the World!

Therefore, I recommend that some kind of up-front conditional statement needs to be made somewhere in your final document that shows the true extra costs that will be required for not only fulfilling the mandates being established by all this “Great Stewardship” or “Great Parks, Great Opportunities Program” talk, but also that a caveated statement needs to be added to the effect that, “All bets are off if Fairfax County Leaderships (Executive and Political alike) and their taxpaying citizens fail or refuse to authorize and then appropriate the necessary resources for this otherwise very energetic and exciting Program”.

In short, to quote those two iconic citizen/corporate-type philosophers from the Wendy's Burger Chain and the Jerry Maguire Movie, respectively:

“Where's the Beef?!?” and “Show Me the Money!”

Response: Acknowledged that funding and leadership are essential for successful implementation. Additional implementation

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

information to be included in the Implementation Plan.

Strategy regarding repair and reconstruction of trails in Pohick and Lower Potomac to be added to Facility Reinvestment.

Share with Trails.

Action: Add trail improvement strategy to Facility Reinvestment in Pohick and Lower Potomac district chapters, "Repair and reinvest in trails within the district".

Refer to Implementation Plan when available regarding funding and leadership.

ID# 124 *Theme:* Facility Reinvestment

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Pohick Chap

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: 2.Facility Reinvestment Theme Section, First Issue - re "Repair, replacement, and upgrading of existing park facilities":

In Strategies part:

Action Required – Re adding new bullets:

A.As I've noted in my Action-Required comment in #1. above, there seems to be no reference in this Issue's Strategies-response program to the need to pay more attention to the proper maintenance, repair, replacement, reconstruction and/or upgrading of the vast network of PA trails ... at least as much as is given to the seven listed ones in your draft, all of which apparently focus on only the more substantive kind of above-ground infrastructure in your "larger/more-active-recreationally-oriented" facilities.

As a result, I suggest that you add a new bullet to this Strategies part that either adds the kind of verbiage I've outlined above or possibly just a simple sentence similar to the following: "Repair/reconstruct/upgrade existing trails throughout the County."

B. Somewhat similar to my above-noted suggestion (in 2.a.) - re more emphasis to be given to the proper M&R and upgrading of existing trails - there is at least as much a requirement to more carefully, appropriately and regularly maintaining and repairing (and in some cases, replacing, reconstructing and/or upgrading) the plethora of the PA's existing athletic fields located in its smaller parks, with probably the more community/neighborhood ones (e.g., Newington Heights, Newington Commons) being the most important. However, FCPA must also not neglect the even-more problematical fields located at various public schools in the area (e.g., Newington Forest, Silverbrook, Halley, Saratoga, etc.) for which the PA "voluntarily" took on the important responsibility for M&R as a result of the years-ago realization by the FCBOS that the FCSB was NOT doing a proper job at those facilities. [Note: I assume that the PA is aware of how often local youth-sports teams will so cynically/sarcastically declare that their victory or loss (or worse yet, a player's injury) was really due to an errant/unexpected goal, hit, touchdown, fall, trip, etc. "By-Reason-Of-FCPA's Absent/Inadequate Maintenance Activities".]

As a result, I suggest that a new bullet be added using verbiage similar to the following:

"Repair, reconstruct athletic fields on a more regular basis, with extra-special attention paid to the smaller more localized facilities used by younger players, such as at Newington Heights, Pohick Estates and Newington Commons Parks and at FCPA/CRS-managed and –maintained fields at all neighborhood elementary and middle schools."

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

[Note: I presume and expect that the above-noted recommendations will be somehow introduced and replicated into most if not all of the several other FCPA Planning Districts' Themes and Strategies, since I personally know for a fact that both the trails' and the athletic fields' facility infrastructure are similarly deficient elsewhere in the FCPA's land holdings as well (via my and others in my family making regular visits to and use of these kinds of facilities via my/our accompanying my children and/or grandchildren in their wide variety of sports, entertainment and cultural activities' involvement all over the area).]

Response: Acknowledged. Add to CW Facility Reinvestment (pg 33), 1st bullet, new sentence, "Facilities include all FCPA and recreational facilities, including trails, RECenters, athletic fields" or similar.

Action: Add text as described above.

ID# 128 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Thanks, gen

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: On behalf of the more than 4,000 members of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, I commend the Fairfax County Park Authority for preparing the Great Parks, Great Communities plan and for inviting public involvement. Having opportunities to influence public policy, especially the direction of our parks, is critical to a democracy and we are grateful for the opportunities FCPA has provided.

We look to the Park Authority to be a leader, an example and a good steward of the environment and to preserve and restore the natural resources on which we all depend.

In light of the serious degradation of the county's air, water, tree canopy, biodiversity and other natural resources, this role becomes even more compelling for FCPA.

The National Audubon Society and our chapter have a special interest in birds. Birds are the "canary in the coal mine" for our environment. Their health, abundance and distribution can signal trends in the health of the larger environment. Eleven percent or 1,111 of the world's species of birds are at risk; 200 could disappear within 20 years (Bird Life International). The primary threat to birds is habitat loss and fragmentation. Northern Virginia is a prime example, a "poster child" of how development can fragment and degrade natural resources.

ASNV's report, Birds in Northern Virginia, documents the regional situation and substantiates negative trends in abundance and distribution of many birds, particularly those that depend on quality natural habitat. Northern Virginia's native birds are most impacted by the alteration or elimination of natural areas.

In addition, "Since 1967, there's been a 70 percent decline in common backyard birds because of habitat fragmentation" or development, said Lynn Scarlett, former Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior. . . Scarlett said species including grackles, meadowlarks and sparrows are on the decline." (Washington Post, January 20, 2008) The latest State of the Birds report by the National Audubon Society further documents disturbing declines.

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia has a long history of documenting bird life in our community and promoting

conservation actions to conserve birds and other wildlife.
Without habitat, we would have no birds.

Response: Acknowledged. FCPA must balance its stewardship and recreation roles to address the diverse needs of the environment, historic preservation and provision of safe and quality places to recreate. FCPA is a recognized leading parks agency. Loss of habitat, diversity and fragmented natural areas are identified as issues in the GPGC plan. Stewardship education is a growing FCPA program that is enhanced through volunteer participation. Additional FCPA stewardship responsibility will require adequate funding.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 129 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for GPGC Action?

Topic: Natural areas, gen

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: We strongly urge FCPA to create more natural resource parks, to acquire more land for parks, to restore degraded areas and to create more connectivity among natural areas. FCPA should be a leader in acquiring, restoring and managing natural areas, both to provide outdoor opportunities and to improve the overall health of the environment.

The county has placed a high priority on creating recreational areas and facilities. While they are no doubt needed and appreciated, we urge FCPA to put an equal priority on creating natural resource parks like Huntley Meadows, including setting a standard or other metric for having more natural resource parks. As the population ages, more ball fields may be unnecessary. Furthermore, ballfields are usually monocultures and do little to nurture biodiversity or restore healthy habitat. We urge the county to set a higher goal than 10 percent for county parks. While 10 percent is a worthy goal, it is low, especially in light of the poor quality of our streams, rivers, tree canopy, biodiversity and air. Ten percent covers all types of parks, so natural resource parks are a very small part of that.

Several studies have found that many children have “nature deficit disorder.” Children spend 38 hours a week watching television, movies and videos and playing on the computer (Kaiser Family Foundation). Children spend four hours a day watching television. (American Academy of Pediatrics). Kids today can identify a zebra because of their storybooks but not a squirrel or cardinal in their backyard.

Becoming good stewards of our natural resources should start early. The key is to develop a sense of ownership, whether it's with a small patch of woods or a maple tree in a suburban front yard, a spider web or a gaggle of geese. FCPA has many excellent programs for youngsters and we urge their expansion. We urge FCPA to create more nature centers and educational programs for children and adults, to engender an appreciation of natural resources and their importance. We hope FCPA will consider creating a Youth Conservation Corps for adolescents and teens, who could volunteer in the parks, help control invasive species and undertake other park activities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments. We look forward to working with you.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Response: Acknowledged. FCPA partners with schools, re youth. FCPA also strives to seek balance in the park system. Please see CW Natural Resource Stewardship and Land Acquisition text.

Action: Update CW introductory/implementation text to include partnerships.

ID# 130 *Theme:* Connectivity

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Trail acq

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: I am delighted with the portions of the plan that call for increased connectivity and stewardship of FCPA's natural resources. I've been exploring the Little Hunting Creek trail and it is satisfying to read that it is included. Please focus land acquisition on sites that can improve connectivity, on land that is already owned by the County, stream valleys, and upland/headwaters sites to improve stream quality if they were restored to their natural state.

Response: Acknowledged. Please see CW Connectivity and Natural Resource Stewardship sections.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 132 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Trees

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: More natural areas and the psychosocial benefits of trees: Fairfax County has many athletic fields and few natural resource parks like Huntley Meadows. While athletic fields are needed, we may need fewer as our population ages. Recent research shows that children and adults benefit from exposure to nature and researchers are beginning to understand the psychosocial value of tree cover, including:
Spending time among trees and green spaces reduces our stress by lowering levels of fear and lessening violent and aggressive behavior.
Children have reduced ADHD symptoms and retain more of information taught in schools if they spend time outdoors in green spaces.
Tree lined streets have a traffic calming effect and traffic moves more slowly and safely.
Trees improve neighbor relationships.
Presence of large city trees may help lower property and violent crime rates.

Sadly, at the very time that evidence is growing about the importance of plants to our quality of life and to our emotional and physical health, our open, natural places are disappearing. Since 1980, 750,000 acres of forests have been lost to urban sprawl in the Potomac region. Please add more natural resource parks and put conservation easements on Park Authority lands, particularly those that are still natural.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

When development on FCPA land is needed, please confine the development it to areas that have already been disturbed. Increase the County's goal of having 10% of the land as county parks. Parkland and particularly natural resource parks help reduce environmental degradation by improving water quality and air quality.

Response: Acknowledged. Only about 20% of FCPA land is developed; approximately 70% is undeveloped and greater than 1/3 of our park system is stream valley. Our nature, history, and stewardship programs offered across the County support the sentiments in this comment.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 133 *Theme:* Connectivity

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Service standards

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Service Standards: Residents report an unmet need for walking, hiking, and biking trails, yet there are no service standards to measure how well these needs are being met. Please develop service standards for natural resource parks, trails, and local parks.

Response: Acknowledged. Natural resources are located where resources exist and cannot be created. Trail Strategy Plan addresses trail standards, and local park standards exist and are used. Needs Assessment (2012) can evaluate measurement of trails. Consider addressing the topic - a new way to measure trails during next NA in 2012 - in new CW introductory/implementation text.

Action: Address topic in new CW introductory/implementation text.

ID# 134 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Turf grass

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Reduce turf grass: Turf grass is the single largest crop in the Potomac watershed. Replace it wherever possible with natural landscaping.

Response: [RMD] FCPA has been reducing mowed park acreage systematically over the last six years.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 135 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Invasives

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Invasive plants: County parkland is terribly degraded by invasive plants. FCPA should develop management plans for all natural resource parkland that it owns, including a systematic approach to the removal of invasives.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Response: Acknowledged, managing invasives is important. This is addressed in the Plan. Funding is outside the scope of GPGC, but will be part of the Implementation Plan, to be developed. Will address through Implementation Plan, volunteer advocacy, and RMD work plan. Share with RMD. See also ID#231.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 136 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for GPGC Action?

Topic: Trees

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Trees: Many of our wooded areas are deteriorating. Please consider the following:

- Plant under-represented species of trees to meet and preferably exceed County's tree canopy goals.
- Initiate "Building Green in Fairfax County," a certification program requiring basic training in tree preservation and continuing education (CEU's) for those doing contract work on trees, landscape installation, and maintenance in County parks. Ensure that the list of certified companies is used when awarding contracts. Make the certification process available online.
- Require two-year maintenance contacts and full warranties on all purchased and installed plant materials.
- Create a program to assess the adequacy or shortcomings of existing landscaping and recommend improvements.
- Manage deer to ensure tree cover for future generations.
- Include environmental protections into initial designs when development is needed in a park. Continue to include an advocate for trees and vegetation in the earliest stages of park planning and design.
- Acceptance of replacement of trees over preservation of trees has contributed to overall tree loss. Help change this mindset by requiring that if one acre of trees is removed, a donation of comparable land must be made.
- Replace trees lost due to the stresses of construction or lack of maintenance.

Response: [RMD] FCPA is working closely with partners and other agencies to implement many of these suggestions on parkland and supports efforts to do so on lands throughout the county. We follow and support suggestions by the Tree Commission and Urban Forest Management to improve tree canopy and the health of our forest stands. We require two year warranties for utility and other projects to improve the chance for survival of restoration plantings. We have been working closely with the County Wildlife Biologist for thirteen years to assess and reduce the impacts of severe browsing by over-abundant white-tailed deer. FCPA has also adopted guidelines promoting the use of native plants and prohibiting the use of non-native invasive plants in Park Authority projects.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 137 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for GPGC Action?

Topic: Tree loss, SWM

Planning District: Countywide

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Comment: Storm water management and sediment controls: It appears that the rigor of these requirements may result in unnecessary tree loss. Environmental engineers know that alternatives exist that could save trees and provide better results. Time is required to secure permits for innovative solutions and narrow thinking and politics may result in expediency over excellence.

Please use only permeable pavers and practice the highest standards of environmental stewardship when park development is needed. Use of soil cell will facilitate water retention and the planting of replacement trees along roads and throughout parking lots.

Response: Acknowledged. Several recent construction projects have used innovations. FCPA construction activities must be completed in accordance with County regulations.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 138 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for GPGC Action?

Topic: Tree loss, trails

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Legal liabilities: Trails and sidewalks require clear zones and these zones take out many trees. Initiate dialogue with legal staff so that they understand the benefits of green infrastructure and work with FCPA staff to minimize tree loss while maintaining safety.

Response: Acknowledged. FCPA seeks to minimize tree loss while ensuring safe public use of parks and park facilities.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 145 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for GPGC Action?

Topic: Gen, acknowledgment

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Fairfax County Parks

Fairfax County has one of the best local park systems in the country, providing a range of recreational opportunities to Northern Virginians and preserving some of the county's natural and historic heritage.

Parks are precious natural islands, especially in a suburban, urbanizing environment. We need more parks. We especially need more natural areas, more natural resource parks.

The Context: Natural Resources under Stress

The county's growing population, land use decisions and other factors have brought serious degradation to our

environment. More natural resource parks and restoring degraded areas can help the county address some of these problems. No other agency in the county has the conservation mission of the Park Authority.

These statistics are sending strong signals about the health of the environment:

The Potomac River: The Potomac received a "C" grade in 2010, denoting moderate ecosystem health, by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences. The Potomac River has consistently gotten grades of D and C by the Potomac Conservancy. Parts of the river are on the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's impaired rivers list. The river is under a PCB fish consumption advisory. The Potomac Conservancy has called the river "toxic," because of the presence of endocrine disrupting compounds, perhaps linked to intersex fish (fish with male and female reproductive organs.)

Unhealthy Streams: Eighty percent of the county's streams are in fair to poor condition. In the Mount Vernon area, most creeks are categorized as "impaired waters" by DEQ. The following are under fish PCB consumption advisories: Hunting Creek, Little Hunting Creek, Pohick Creek, Accotink Creek, Occoquan River. The following are impaired because of *Escherichia coli*: Hunting Creek, Pohick Creek, Paul Spring Branch, Dogue Creek and Little Hunting Creek.

Little Hunting Creek: The Little Hunting Creek Watershed Plan states that the streams flowing into it have poor habitat quality with 10 miles of degraded buffers and eroded stream banks. The creek has heavy sedimentation and 95 to 99 percent of the organisms in Paul Spring Branch are pollution-tolerant species. Of 7,000 acres in the watershed, 25 percent is impervious. The Center for Watershed Protection says that stream quality is threatened when watershed development exceeds 10-15 percent of impervious cover or one house every one to two acres.

Belle Haven Watershed: "Based on habitat score, the Belle Haven Watershed is the poorest quality watershed in the County." (Belle Haven Watershed Management Plan, July 2010). The Belle Haven Watershed Plan consultants report the following stream habitat conditions in this watershed: fair, 26%; poor, 46%; and very poor, 28%. The watershed is 32 percent impervious.

Unhealthy Air: Fairfax County does not meet federal ozone standards for air quality. The American Lung Association in April 2009 gave the Washington, D.C. area an F grade for smog, the 14th worst area in the U.S. for smog. Ozone measurements at the now-terminated Mount Vernon air monitor have recorded some of the worst ozone levels in the county in the past decade.

Trees: The county's tree cover has declined from 75 percent in the 1970s to around 46 percent today, according to the Fairfax County Urban Forestry Division. If we do nothing, the tree cover will drop to 37 percent. To reach 50 percent by 2030, the county needs 1.9 million trees or 80,000 a year. The county's current trees cleanse 4,670 tons of gaseous and

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

particulate pollution from the air each year; this service is worth \$22 million. They sequester 3.9 million tons of carbon. Their carbon removal services would cost \$4.5 million to provide by other means. (Jessica Strother, Fairfax County Urban Forestry Division, 9/8/10)

Invasives: Many parks and nature preserves in Virginia typically consist of between 25 and 34 percent of non-native plants (U. S. National Park Service). Much of the county's biodiversity has been lost to development, non-native trees and plants and to monocultures like grassy lawns.

Impervious Surfaces: Impervious surfaces send pollutants and other contaminants into our waterways. The extent of impervious surfaces in many watersheds of the county exceeds the standards recommended by the Center for Watershed Protection.

Population Increasing: The county now has over one million people, larger than some states. By 2020, there will be 200,000 new people living in 80,000 new households putting more stresses on our natural resources.

Response: Acknowledged.

FCPA works with many county agencies, environmental groups and citizens to address many of the issues identified.

Resources are limited to address all the identified issues and decisions about private land use and development are beyond FCPA authority.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 146 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: NR, parks

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Correct the Imbalance: Fairfax County has many athletic fields and few natural resource parks like Huntley Meadows. While athletic fields are no doubt needed, as the population ages, we may need fewer. With few undisturbed areas left, of all county agencies FCPA is best positioned to focus on conservation of land. Other agencies focus on land use. All land does not have to be used.

Appoint members to the Park Authority Board who support and will advocate for acquisition and restoration of areas for natural resource parks.

Response: Acknowledged. FCPA must balance its stewardship and recreation provision roles. Better understanding its assets was a goal of this planning process and will continue as the plan is implemented. Natural areas comprise the bulk of County parkland while developed areas comprise about 20% of all County parkland. Land acquisition strategies for each district focus on balancing recreation and stewardship needs. Regulatory protections also serve to protect remaining undisturbed

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

areas in addition to public ownership. Board appointments are made by the Board of Supervisors and outside the scope of GPGC.

Action: Share with RMD. No further action required.

ID# 147 *Theme:* Not specified *Park:* *Appropriate for*
Topic: NR metrics *Planning District:* Countywide *GPGC Action?*

Comment: Set Standards: The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) has population-based standards for determining the need for athletic fields, but not for natural areas. Can FCPA explore setting a standard or other metric for having more natural resource parks?

Response: Acknowledged. Natural resources are located where resources exist and cannot be created. Trail Strategy Plan addresses trail standards, and local park standards exist and are used.
See also ID#133, 222

Action: No further action required.

ID# 148 *Theme:* Land Acquisition *Park:* *Appropriate for*
Topic: Quantity *Planning District:* Countywide *GPGC Action?*

Comment: Higher Goal: The county has set a goal of having 10 percent of the land as county parks and it now stands around 9.4 percent. While 10 percent is a worthy goal, it is low, especially in light of the poor quality of our streams, rivers, tree canopy, biodiversity and air. Ten percent covers all types of parks, so natural resource parks are a very small part of that. (Note: Under the county's terminology, "open space" does not necessarily mean parks or natural resources parks.)

Response: Acknowledged. The quality and sustainability of parkland must be considered in addition to the quantity. Natural resource parks actually make up a very large part of the park system - One third of parkland consists of stream valleys; our largest parks are natural resource parks and many developed parks include large areas of natural resource areas that remain undeveloped. More than three-quarters of County owned parkland remains undeveloped. This amount is supplemented by the many large regional, state and national parkland that is also located in the County.

Action: Add sentence to CW Land Ownership, "One-third of parkland consists of stream valleys and more than three-quarters, or 75% of County-owned parkland remains undeveloped, as open space."
Also add phrase "in fact, our largest parks are resource-based parks." in an appropriate place

ID# 149 *Theme:* Land Acquisition *Park:* *Appropriate for*
Topic: Quantity of parks *Planning District:* Countywide *GPGC Action?*

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Comment: Act Now, Time Is Running Out: As the county reaches buildout, less land is available. FCPA should acquire as much land as possible, before it is developed and lost forever. As undeveloped areas vanish, we lose the opportunity to create more parks and risk more degradation of our environment.

Response: Acknowledged. Please see CW Land Acquisition.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 150 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: NR, restoration

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Restore Degraded Areas: FCPA should also focus on restoring degraded areas, using natural landscaping, eliminating monocultures and putting more small or pocket parks in developments since there is so little undeveloped land.

Response: [RMD] Add new restoration strategy to CW Natural Resources

Action: Add strategy, "Restore degraded natural areas by supporting recommendations of the County's Natural Landscaping Committee, the Tree Commission and others to restore degraded urban lands and improve natural resource services (air, water, soils, carbon sequestration, etc.), improving buffers around remaining high quality natural areas, and promoting restoration on private lands in a similar fashion."

ID# 151 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: NR, inventories

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Inventory Natural Resources: FCPA should conduct an inventory of all natural, biological resources in the county, to in part determine the extent of rare, threatened and endangered species, to better understand what we have and what should be preserved. Before selling or transferring land to another agency, FCPA should conduct a biological inventory.

Response: [RMD] It is not feasible for FCPA to inventory all natural resources in the County with current resources. Ideally, areas with high likelihood of sensitive resource occurrence or with proposed development activity should be inventoried to document and protect high quality species, natural communities and ecosystems. FCPA consults the state database of rare, threatened and endangered species on a regular basis when reviewing development plans or infrastructure projects to identify where threats may exist. In addition, the Resource Management Division and site staff have self evaluated many park sites and tracks the existence of species and resources on parkland. In a few cases where funding has been provided, FCPA has contracted for more extensive inventories and uses them to support park operations and resource management efforts. FCPA welcomes opportunities to partner with organizations that can assist with resource preservation and management, and we continue to seek additional funding and staff to better manage our resources.

Action: No further action required.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

ID# 152 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: NR, restoration

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Better Manage Our Resources: FCPA should preserve and restore biodiversity; plant more native trees and native vegetation; control non-native, invasive species, such as English ivy, Japanese stiltgrass, porcelain berry, kudzu; use more low-impact development techniques in parks, especially to decrease and minimize impervious surfaces; work with adjacent property owners to create natural buffers next to parks; stop using pesticides, herbicides in parks; manage parks to support and provide habitat for species on the federal threatened and endangered species list and other lists of birds of concern, such as the National Audubon Society's State of the Birds WatchList; reduce grassy lawns and other areas with little wildlife value; discourage people from driving vehicles to parks; maintain wide undeveloped buffers adjacent to stream flows; recycle waste. FCPA could and should be a model of sustainability, environmental stewardship.

Response: Acknowledged. Please see CW Natural Resource Stewardship section, and CW Connectivity strategies regarding non-motorized access.

Recycling: [POD] The Agency is presently unable to recycle except at selected sites. We work with the County and individual leagues and organizations that can manage recycling programs for specific sites. See also ID#44.

Recommend CW Natural Resource text (pg 37) be updated, adding "in order to preserve and restore biodiversity" to "Trends" text.

Share with RMD.

Action: Update CW Natural Resource text as described above.

ID# 153 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: NR, reporting

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Report to the Public: FCPA should determine and provide to the public trend data on plants, animals and other natural resources in the county, information that could encourage the public to be better stewards. FCPA should report annually on the state of county parks, progress and problems, continue to hold public meetings and invite public participation in the planning process.

Response: FCPA staff at resource based sites keep current with stewardship topics and incorporate them into publications, programs, education and outreach. Public participation is a key component of ongoing planning processes that include public meetings.

[RMD] The FCPA does not collect countywide systemic data on natural resources in the same manner that countywide data is collected for streams. However, we do report annually on progress implementing the Natural Resource Management Plan. We also provide feedback for the Environmental Quality Advisory Committee Annual Report and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Annual Report on water quality.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Action: No further action required.

ID# 154 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: NR, refuges *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: Create Refuges: FCPA should make some areas off-limits to human disturbance, so that natural systems can thrive and regenerate.

Response: Acknowledged. Recommend sharing comment with RMD.

Action: Share comment with RMD. No further action required.

ID# 155 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: NR, adjacent property coordinati *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: Protect the Boundaries: FCPA should work with owners of adjacent properties to support uses that are compatible with preservation of natural resources

Response: Acknowledged. We review all development proposals near parkland to identify and mitigate impacts. Recommend this be included in new CW introductory/implementation text. Emphasize importance of partnering with adjacent property owners to protect resources.

Action: Add new CW NR strategy, "Continue to work with owners of properties adjacent to County-owned parkland to support uses that are compatible with preservation of natural resources and to mitigate impacts."

ID# 156 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: NR, more nr only parks *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: Why More Natural Resource Parks

In urban and suburban areas, natural resource parks are often the only reservoirs of nature's biodiversity because the land has been severely altered and developed. Scientists have partially investigated only a small fraction of the world's species and understand their chemical secrets. Each living thing has a unique reservoir of genetic material that has evolved over eons of time and cannot be retrieved or duplicated if lost. Once lost, it is lost forever.

Natural areas provide environmental services. Trees and vegetation, for example, provide environmental services, like cleaning the air and controlling stormwater runoff. Example: One large tree annually removes more than a pound of ozone and two pounds of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and other airborne pollutants (U. S. Forest Service). Wetlands are nature's "sponges," absorbing and slowing floodwaters.

Land conservation is less expensive to the public than development and all the infrastructure and maintenance it requires.

Parks enhance our quality of life.

Why do we need natural areas? Everything is linked and is interdependent, biodiversity is the variety of life and all processes that keep life functioning.

Response: Acknowledged.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 157 *Theme:* Connectivity

Park:

Appropriate for GPGC Action?

Topic: Wildlife corridors, connectivity

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Connectivity of Wildlife Habitats in Fairfax County

The Fairfax County published parks plan includes this worthy objective: “Protect and improve existing corridors, linkages and watersheds; provide new linkages between remaining public and private natural areas; and designate permanent resource protection zones on parkland that define appropriate uses and development.”

Wildlife is not only the larger animals like deer and raccoons and herons, but the turtles, snakes, frogs, mice, insects and spiders and worms, and even the algae, fungi, and bacteria. They all depend on each other, and we depend on them. We all understand that we depend on the chain of nature for our own existence.

Creatures should be able to move from one natural area to another with minimum hindrance. Hindrance in Fairfax County is usually in the form of developed land, especially roads. The principle behind the need for connected natural areas is that small populations of any species are likely to crash for lack of breeding mates and for lack of sufficient habitat. Habitat may mean trees or grasses or brush or mud or holes in the ground or standing water or running water, and often a combination of these.

When populations in small areas can connect to other populations, they have access to sufficient diversity in their DNA to maintain species health. They have access to a selection of breeding partners. They also have access to sufficient diversity in habitat to support their normal seasonal and life cycles. They have access to a sufficient diversity in plants that they can find food through the seasons of the year. Where a species has become locally extinct in a small natural area, connectivity provides for recolonization.

For those creatures that cannot fly, connectivity means crossing the road. Some areas have built large under-road culverts

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

and elevated roadways adjacent to natural areas to permit the passage of animals.

The most natural of connections between natural areas are watercourses. Where not encroached on by buildings and pavement, streams provide safe passage and food for moving animals. Fairfax County has many of these; they should be maintained and enhanced. Degraded streams and stream buffers should be restored.

Response: Please see CW Natural Resource and Connectivity text. See also ID#47.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 164	<i>Theme:</i> Land Acquisition	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Trails	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: 2.Land acquisition for trails is important and a great opportunity.

Response: Acknowledged. Please see CW Connectivity section.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 165	<i>Theme:</i> Connectivity	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Trails, mntn bike	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: 3.Weather resilient trails are needed for mountain biking.

Response: Acknowledged.

Trails particularly suited for mountain biking are being both planned and constructed now. Laurel Hill has 10 miles of single track trails, 2 miles of trail have just been completed at Lake Fairfax and Wakefield also has trails. FCPA recognizes the importance of and relies on partnerships with trail user groups such as MORE. These partnerships are particularly important in terms of trail maintenance.

See bike numbers cited CW 20, 2nd paragraph. May need to include supportive data, key partnership.

Consider new strategy, Continue to partner with MORE and other trail user groups.

Please see also ID#54.

Action: Add CW Connectivity (pg 30) strategy as described above.

ID# 166	<i>Theme:</i> Community Building	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Community gardens	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: 1.Provide additional community gardens; there seems to be unmet demand and there could be an opportunity to raise

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

revenue for park uses.

Response: Acknowledged. Share with RMD.
See also ID#32, 39.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 167 *Theme:* Not specified *Park:* Appropriate for GPGC Action?
Topic: Implementation *Planning District:* Countywide

Comment: 2.When prioritizing and organizing the plan's projects and strategies, consider using something other than political districts, such as watersheds. Want to be able to influence project prioritization.

Response: Acknowledged. While this plan uses planning districts, other County plans use other means, e.g. Watershed Management Plans which uses watersheds. FCPA reviews and comments on other County plans and coordinates with other agencies on plan implementation.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 168 *Theme:* Not specified *Park:* Appropriate for GPGC Action?
Topic: Bike data *Planning District:* Countywide

Comment: 3.Some of the bike numbers and ridership trends noted in the plan are incorrect; they should be checked and updated.

Response: Trends cited regarding bike ridership and other activities are based on national trends from 2001-2006. Local and more recent trends, visible now, may vary. The upcoming Needs Assessment will include a Countywide survey and other locally-based data analysis to update information on residents' park and recreation needs. Please see CW Implementation text for more information on the Needs Assessment.
See also ID#54

Action: Add sentence noting 2012 Needs Assessment and reminding reader of national/2001-2006 nature of stats cited.

ID# 171 *Theme:* Connectivity *Park:* Appropriate for GPGC Action?
Topic: Equestrian *Planning District:* Countywide

Comment: 2.Provide horse trailer parking areas in parks with horse trails, such as Burke Lake.

Response: Acknowledged. Park elements are provided in accordance with MP, coming out of public process.
Add text to CW Connectivity (pg 30) introduction stating that to increase connectivity for some user groups, additional facilities such as trailer parking or bike racks may be needed.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Action: Add new strategy re connectivity and facilities.

ID# 172 Theme: Connectivity Topic: Equestrian	Park: Planning District: Countywide	Appropriate for GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comment: 3.Provide an equestrian trails list.

Response: A listing of equestrian trails is available on the FCPA website. From the FCPA home page, click on Find an Activity, select Trails Information, then follow the link for Equestrian Trails. FCPA continues to develop trails of various surface types in an effort to meet the needs of multiple users. See also #31.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 173 Theme: Service Delivery Topic: Bee keeping	Park: Planning District: Countywide	Appropriate for GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comment: 1.Find a suitable park location for a teaching apiary to educate and promote beekeeping. It would accommodate 50 to 100 students per year, contain 20 hives, and could be located on a small piece of property in any part of the County.

Response: Acknowledged. Issue is largely operational. Cross agency team is evaluating this request and will respond with its findings. See also ID#113

Action: No further action required.

ID# 177 Theme: Connectivity Topic: Trails	Park: Planning District: Countywide	Appropriate for GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comment: 2.Fully support trail connectivity and want to connect destination parks.

Response: Acknowledged. It is a central connectivity goal to connect parks, destination and otherwise. Please see CW Connectivity (pg 30) text and in particular, first strategy.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 178 Theme: Connectivity Topic: Signage	Park: Planning District: Countywide	Appropriate for GPGC Action? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Comment: 3.Need to improve trail signs, directional guides.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Response: Acknowledged. Signage, trail and otherwise is important to park success.
Share with POD. Also, include in new CW introductory/implementation text.

Action: Include in new CW introductory/implementation text

ID# 179 *Theme:* Not specified

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Deer

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: 1.Safety issues with bow hunting and deer management policy. Look to other jurisdictions for other options.

Response: Acknowledged. Topic addressed in plan. FCPA partners with FCPD to manage deer on parkland.
See also ID#203

Action: No further action required.

ID# 181 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Wildlife connectivity

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: 1.Improve connectivity for wildlife; ensure that wildlife can move from one natural environment to the next with minimum hindrance, e.g., provide crossing structures. Provide more natural areas, improve lack of sufficient habitat, use connections of natural areas as a decision-making factor, wide buffers along stream flows, and provide education on wildlife connectivity.

Response: Corridors and linkages are discussed in both CW Connectivity and Natural Resource sections. Acknowledge importance. Include "wildlife" in 1st bullet in CW Natural Resources (pg 37). Include similar strategy in CW Connectivity (pg 30) or reference CW pg 37.
Share with RMD.
See also ID#47

Action: Update CW Natural Resources (pg 37) and CW Connectivity (pg 30) as described above.

ID# 182 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Implementation, Funding

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: 2.The Natural Resource Management Plan has not been implemented. Imbalance between recreation investment and natural resource preservation. Place emphasis on green infrastructure, fund programs such as the Invasive Management Program, and improve trail maintenance (e.g., Kingstowne).

Response: Acknowledged. Full implementation is constrained by budget, but commitment to programs such as IMA and trail maintenance remains. Share with RMD.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Action: No further action required.

ID# 183	<i>Theme:</i> Land Acquisition	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Connections	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: 3.When acquiring land, look to connect natural areas and make links between existing parks.

Response: Acknowledged. Please see CW Connectivity strategies (pg 30) and ID#47.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 184	<i>Theme:</i> Not specified	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Publicity	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: 1.Need to publicize the County's great park facilities better and more. Should increase signage on roadways to make more visible, provide information in local newspapers (e.g., Mt Vernon Voice).

Response: Acknowledged. This is primarily and operational issue. Share with POD.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 187	<i>Theme:</i> Service Delivery	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Autocross	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: 4.Consider autocross sports in recreation planning; explore possible locations for the sport in Fairfax County.

Response: New facility types, emerging activities will be considered in service delivery, through the MP process. Please see CW Service Delivery strategy re supporting emerging sport.s

Action: No further action required.

ID# 189	<i>Theme:</i> Connectivity	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Trails liason	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: 1.Identify a trails maintenance liaison at the Park Authority.

Response: In 2010, the park operations division designated an individual to be a trails maintenance liaison to work with the public and trail development staff to coordinate on trail issues.

Action: Share with POD. No further action required.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

ID# 190 Theme: Facility Reinvestment

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Trails

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: 2.Emphasize maintenance and repair of existing trails.

Response: Acknowledged. This is included in the Plan, in both Facility Reinvestment and Connectivity. Share with Trails.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 191 Theme: Connectivity

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Trails

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: 3.Improve connectivity for trail sections owned by non Park Authority entities.

Response: Acknowledged. County works with other trail providers to support connectivity. See also new CW introductory/implementation text that discusses partnerships and cooperation as key to achieving goals.

Action: Update CW introductory/implementation text as described above.

ID# 192 Theme: Facility Reinvestment

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Volunteers

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: 1.Improve community outreach program to facilitate improvements and maintenance, e.g., Boy Scout troops interested in trail maintenance, invasive species management, minor construction projects.

Response: Acknowledged. New CW introductory/implementation text will discuss partnerships.
See also ID#53.

Action: See also new CW introductory/implementation text that discusses partnerships

ID# 193 Theme: Service Delivery

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Camp sites

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: 2.Consider providing primitive camping sites.

Response: Acknowledged. New facility types and emerging activities will be considered in service delivery, through the MP process.
Please see CW Service Delivery strategy re supporting emerging sports and activities.

Also share with POD and RMD.

See ID#32 regarding CW Service Delivery and new facilities.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Action: No further action required.

ID# 194 *Theme:* Community Building
Topic: Community gardens

Park:
Planning District: Countywide

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Comment: 3.Provide more community gardens.

Response: Acknowledged. Share with RMD.
See also ID#32, 39, 166.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 195 *Theme:* Not specified
Topic: Implementation

Park:
Planning District: Countywide

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Comment: 4.Funding and implementation information is critical to success of Great Parks Plan. Should be emphasized that implementation requires sufficient funding. Provide information to the public on the process of implementation, what happens after the Park Authority Board adopts the plan?

Response: Acknowledged. Additional information on project web site and will be included in Implementation Plan.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 197 *Theme:* Not specified
Topic: Implementation

Park:
Planning District: Countywide

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Comment: 6.Want to understand criteria for funding/implementation decision-making.

Response: Acknowledged. Need to clarify implementation in the Countywide section and in the subsequent Implementation Plan.

Action: Please see CW introductory/implementation text. Also look for additional information in the Implementation Plan when produced later this year.

ID# 198 *Theme:* Not specified
Topic: Web site

Park:
Planning District: Countywide

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Comment: 7.Need better instructions on how to print plans from project web site.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Response: Acknowledged. Project web site was updated.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 199 *Theme:* Not specified

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Needs assessment

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: 8.Consider the time elapsed between development of needs metrics, preparation of this plan, and when implementation will begin; be cognizant of the delay and know that needs change faster than plans are developed.

Response: Acknowledged. FCPA always looks beyond the numbers.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 201 *Theme:* Service Delivery

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Urban parks

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: 10.Like the reclassification of parks in the plan, but want to see classifications for urban parks.

Response: Acknowledged. Recommend updating CW language to include incorporation of urban parks framework, developed and adopted by PAB in 2009.

Action: Update text as described above.

ID# 202 *Theme:* Service Delivery

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Equestrian, programs

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on "Great Parks, Great Communities" which represents a major staff effort. We agree with Ms. Dickerson's (President of Fairfax 4 Horses) points and also suggest the following for your consideration in support of increased FCPA equestrian and horse-related facilities.:

- Tradition of riding in Virginia and in Fairfax County for over 3 centuries- President Washington an eminent horseman- horses are a key and iconic part of our County heritage in peace and war
- Need to provide additional convenient and affordable opportunities for our citizens to ride even if they do not have horses of their own (i.e. not just lessons but riding - arena, trail, indoors/outdoorsetc- on a regular or occasional basis)
- Equestrian safety and horse care are both taught and reinforced in a County Park Authority environment (wear of proper gear and helmets, horse care, trail rules, arena rules, proper procedures on multi-use trails, how to handle encounters with: roads, motor vehicles, bicycles, mountain bikes, power equipment, power saws, deer, dogs, hikers,etc)

- Horse-care is very educational for young people and builds responsibility, sportsmanship and respect for animals and persons
 - The BLM facility at Meadowwood may greatly restrict its activity availability to the public so should not be counted upon nor included in the inventory unless there is a clear asterisk and footnote describing the possible restrictions (such as a possible No Boarding policy.)
 - Fairfax County is quite large in area as well as population and needs multiple riding facilities due to travel distances and times- thus the Adopted Service Standard should be in the area of one facility for 150,000-160,000 population.
 - Additional FCPA equestrian facilities would enable better and more usage of the various trails in the County
 - Therapeutic and Wounded Warrior riding requirements and needs must be met
 - Youth Groups such as 4-H, Girl and Boy Scouts, etc can participate to fulfill some of their Merit Badge and similar requirements
 - Horse events and competitions are popular with the non-riding public
 - There may be a need for horses and riders in lost person searches and during disasters as messengers.
 - There are ample veterinary resources in and near the County to take care of additional horses at County parks
 - Horse-related activities are ideal for many retirees and Senior Citizens as well as other non-riders.
 - The 2004 Needs Assessment Report noted "equestrian facilities and trails" as one of the highest (70 %) of unmet needs. Some of the other unmet needs (skateboarding, dog parks) can be met in smaller spaces such as pocket-parks but equestrian activities do require more space.
 - There is tremendous land-use pressure in Fairfax and it is necessary NOW to at least acquire and prepare land for FCPA equestrian (and other FCPA purposes) as most citizens do not have the resources to provide riding facilities on their own
 - Farms and farm-like enterprises are fast disappearing from the County as the land is converted to housing and commercial usage. FCPA equestrian facilities help retain some environmentally- and wildlife-friendly balance in land usage in the County. Perhaps several farms should be purchased by the FCPA and land-banked for future park development and usage including equestrian facilities. If we wait until all future needs develop we will be too late to acquire land.
- Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration of the foregoing points in favor of equestrian and related activities.

Response: Acknowledged.

Acknowledged. Text to be clarified to distinguish between full-service equestrian facilities (several facilities co-located) and individual elements/facilities. Please also look for recommendations (late 2011/early 2012) coming out of the Equestrian Task Force created by the Board of Supervisors. In addition, new offerings for Advanced Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced classes are now found in ParkTakes. Finally, find specific connectivity (trails) and other strategies in Bull Run, Upper Potomac, and other District Chapters.
See also ID#9, 67, 68, 70, 74, 78, 84, 88, 105, 171.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Action: Edit equestrian facility count language, CW chapter

ID# 203	<i>Theme:</i> Service Delivery	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Deer	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: Deer population in the Accotink Creek watershed is a problem. Deer wander into residential areas to feed.

Response: Acknowledged. Topic addressed in plan. FCPA partners with FCPD to manage deer on parkland.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 204	<i>Theme:</i> Not specified	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Map edits	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comment: The maps in the draft are great, showing important information at a glance. Map 2 Fairfax County Employment Growth is a really conveys a lot of information in an beautiful way. However, Figure 7. Households Visiting Park Authority Parks during the Year is a terrible graph - it misrepresents the data and it undersells park usage by not starting the y axis at 0 and not showing where 100% is. When I look at it 2004's value looks like 40% to me rather than 76%. In the draft's PLAN SCOPE & HORIZON section, a Venn diagram is used- badly. While you may be trying to emphasis the overlapping nature of the themes, it looks like the themes were broken out by word count rather than overlapping roles. Well at least you didn't use a little cloud...

Response: Acknowledged. Maps and graphic images referenced will be reviewed for changes.

Action: Update graph (pg 19), add new data as appropriate, create new overlapping theme graphic (pg 29)

ID# 205	<i>Theme:</i> Natural Resource Stewardship	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Trees	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comment: Too many school properties in Fairfax are maintained with few or no trees. Many schools include large swaths of land that are barren of any plant life other than grass. These properties represent the opportunity to develop small (or even large) parks that could increase student appreciation of the natural environment and visually enhance, rather than detract, from the neighborhoods in which the school is situated. (And most residents to whom I have spoken feel that the School Board member, who argued that children might run into a tree if it was planted on school property, is completely out of touch with reality.)

Response: Acknowledged. FCPA coordinates with FCPS, shares facilities. Recommend that coordination and partnership with schools be cited in new CW introductory/implementation text. See also CW Community Building strategies regarding collocation of

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

parks with other civic uses.

Action: Include FCPS partnerships in new CW introductory/implementation text.

ID# 207 *Theme:* Connectivity

Park: WOD

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Trails

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: In addition, I believe the WO&D trail needs several bridge over-passes on major intersections eg. Wheile Avenue and potential widening in several areas to accommodate the heavy usage. Just come on out on a nice weekend and see the number of people using the trail. I suggest the number people who use the WO&D surpasses any existing park.

Response: Comment acknowledged. Forwarded to NVRPA W&OD manager for their reference and use, as appropriate.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 208 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Invasives

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: I am an IMA volunteer at Huntley Meadows Park. It pains me to see how the park (and many others in the county) have become overrun with exotic plants over the time I've lived in the County (over 20 years). The County should partner with the schools so that environmental clubs, honor societies, and other service clubs have no excuse for not knowing about opportunities to remove invasives from county parks (and their own yards!!). The County should work with the state to ban the importation and sale of invasive species of plants and animals. Go all out to publicize the amount of tax dollars that go towards (and would need to go towards) invasive species control to build support for bans. Or else reward businesses that don't import and sell invasive species. Prohibit developers from planting anything but native species when they re-vegetate areas that they've clearcut.

Response: Share with RMD. Non-native invasive species (NNI) are a key issue identified in the plan.

[RMD] We appreciate the efforts of our IMA and other volunteers to help remove non-native invasive (NNI) species from parkland and educate others about this issue. It will take broad-based awareness and efforts on private and public lands to reduce the coverage and impact of NNIs. The county is working to reduce the planting of NNIs on new development projects, and the FCPA requests that no NNIs be planted near parkland. The suggestions about raising awareness and limiting the sale of NNIs match suggestions and efforts by other groups in the state to address this problem.

Action: No further action required.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

ID# 210 Theme: Community Building

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Education

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: 2. Parks can be and should be education laboratories for schools. The natural processes that occur in parks are excellent tools for learning - learning about biology, psychology (the life of crows e.g.), a multitude of topics, and the most critical issue facing us - global climate change. Parks can address a critical problem facing us- Nature Deficit Disorder. Parks can be hooked-up to schools classrooms via robo-cams, via modern means fo measurement - things with which all schools are equipped.

Response: Acknowledged. FCPA partners with schools on several items. See also ID#72 for a related recreation/health issue. Also, see new CW introductory/implementation text regarding partnerships. Share with RMD.

Action: See #15, #72

ID# 211 Theme: Not specified

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Needs assessment

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: 3. Your contracted-for needs assessment is fundamentally flawed. An over-abundance of recreation facilities in one end of the County, a multitude of "facilities" concentrated in one park, cannot adequately serve citizens in the other far-away sections of the County - and cannot be the basis for deciding where new facilities are needed. This is a violation of: * Income Fairness. Citizens at all income levels will not be properly served. Citizens that do not own a car, or are not licensed to drive a car, cannot use facilities that are far away. * Energy efficiency. If people have to drive to get to a facility they will unnecessarily contribute to greenhouse gas production. Facilities, to be properly considered adequate to serve citizens, should be within walking distance of those citizens * Tax-payer Fairness. If an over-abundance of government services are provided in a location- and are not usable to taxpayers at an inconvenient distance from those services - this is not fair. A lack of facilities in one magisterial district cannot be excused-away by stating that there are plenty of facilities in another magisterial district. This is like saying a big library in one part of the county makes up for no library to serve the residents of the county.

Response: The Needs Assessment provides a snapshot of how the distribution of facilities is unequal across County and the plan seeks to demonstrate where need/deficiencies are highest to aid decision making and encourage greater equity. Needs have grown faster than our ability to meet them. Looking beyond the numbers, strategies focus on adjusting service levels through added capacity and appropriate land acquisition.

Action: No further action required.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

ID# 214 *Theme:* Community Building

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Community gardens

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: FCPA should examine all its parks for sunny, open land which could be used as community gardens. This could be a revenue source and adds to the health and happiness of nearby residents. FCPA could also raise its own fruits and vegetables to give to county programs which serve needy county residents, such as by planting fruit trees along drives and sidewalks instead of decorative species.

Response: Acknowledged. Share with RMD.
See also ID#32, 39, 166, 194.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 215 *Theme:* Land Acquisition

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Needs assessment

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: Standards-- the standards presented often have little bearing to reality, and do not seem to have been adapted for individual districts. (Although the Mt Vernon section notes the abundance of Federal and private parks and refers to BOS-owned land, it does not appear to take those into account when it discusses standards; and a review of the plans for the area shows that many of the largest existing park areas that taxpayers are maintaining aren't even on the Plan's radar for the planning period. I can't find it now, but saw somewhere that the Pk auth wants to add another 1000 acres in this district, which makes zero sense-even 100 acres would be a waste of resources.),

The Plan should also identify (and indicate when there might be planning for) the existing BOS-owned (non-developable) land as well as any existing agreements with local civic associations, especially if any of this land is maintained at taxpayer expense. This is especially important in light of the Plan's goal of acquiring even more parkland. The residents of the County have the right to know the facts.

Response: Standards are used as a starting point for comparing across varying conditions; FCPA always looks beyond the numbers. Federal, state, and private space (golf courses) are accounted for in the federal, state, and regional parkland numbers cited. The table likely referenced, Table 3 in Mt Vernon District Chapter, states that according to population projections, 1318 acres of District and County-wide land would be required. Due to the service area of district (3-6 miles) and CW (anywhere within the county) parkland, the 1318 acres would not necessarily have to be provided within the Mt Vernon District. But, the population would need to have access (inside or beyond the district) to that amount of parkland of those types. FCPA manages only property owned by FCPA or property owned by another agency within whom FCPA has a maintenance and/or use agreement. An example of such an agreement is one between FCPA and FCPS by which FCPA maintains school playing fields. Other agencies manage and maintain their own lands; BOS land is maintained by FMD (Facilities

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Management). Other public park land, not owned by FCPA, is maintained by those respective bodies, e.g., NVRPA, NPS, Town of Heron.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 218 *Theme:* Facility Reinvestment *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Maintenance, funding *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: Land Acquisition. I hope the Park Authority paid close attention to the comments at the meeting about the illogic of attempting to acquire more land when it or cannot afford to maintain (or chooses not to) , what it already owns. The argument that budget constraints prevent adequate maintenance and development is not an excuse for acquiring more land- especially in Mount Vernon District.

Response: Acknowledged. FCPA seeks to both maintain existing facilities and add new facilities to meet a growing population's needs. The GPGC Plan will add a new level of guidance to PAB decision making regarding land acquisition, land use, and facility reinvestment.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 219 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: NR, deer *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: Protection of Natural Resources. (and acquisition of more parkland that will be protected from use by humans). Has the Park Authority considered asking the nature advocates to pay for fencing riparian areas they want to protect ; neutering programs and vaccinations for the deer and other wildlife that they believe have priority over domesticated animals; or an insurance fund to pay costs of people who can't avoid crashing into these proliferating animals?) . In an ideal world tunnels for deer and turtles would be welcome; but reality is that this is an urbanizing area where planners have to meet real human needs (with a sensitivity to , but not total acquiescence to, environmental concerns).

Response: Acknowledged. Deer management is included in the CW chapter within Natural Resource Stewardship; please see fourth bullet.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 221 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: NR vs fields *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: 3. The plan neglects natural resource parks relative to other needs; this imbalance should be corrected. a. Fairfax Co. has many athletic fields and few natural resource parks like Huntley Meadows. While athletic fields are no doubt needed, we

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

may need fewer as the population ages. As well, recent research shows that children as well as adults benefit from more exposure to nature. Fairfax County should correct the imbalance by adding more natural resource parks.

Response: Acknowledged. Only 20% of FPCA land is developed, over 1/3 of the park system is stream valley; no imbalance. Many parks include large percentages of natural areas even though they may not be classified as resource based parks. Sports participation numbers continue to rise among youth and adults. Should participation decline in the future, sport facilities can be repurposed to meet current needs. Natural resource parks are based on natural resources rather than created. Please see also ID#132.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 222 *Theme:* Not specified *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Needs assessment *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: b. There is a disconnect between the 2004 needs assessment and the metrics that FCPA has adopted as service-level standards. The needs assessment indicated the greatest needs are for walking, hiking, or biking trails (paved or unpaved), yet the FCPA has developed no service standard to measure how well this need is met. (Rather, its metrics focus on various kinds of athletic fields and specialty parks; see Table 2 in the plan.) FCPA should develop service standards for natural resource parks and trails, as well as local parks. For example, it might be useful to develop a service standard for the number of miles of trail per x people (where x would be determined based on further analysis or benchmarking). An additional useful metric might be the fraction of households in each planning district who live within walking distance of a park, since the need for small, local parks is also among the greatest unmet needs. c. It would be useful to add metrics to measure the environmental services provided by the county park system. FCPA should receive credit for (and funding support from the county) for the environmental services its lands provide.

Response: Acknowledged. The Park Authority adopted a goal to add 75 miles of trail as part of the NA. A Trail Strategy Plan addresses trail needs and includes an extensive list of prioritized trail projects. Trail development occurs with bond funding, proffers, and extensive volunteer efforts. The nature of trails does not easily lend itself to metrics; they are instead location-based. Please see also ID#15, 211.

Action: Address topic in new CW introductory/implementation text.

ID# 223 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Master plans *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: d. Master plans should be developed for stream valley parks, to plan the location of trails and bridges for stream crossings, and to identify private parcels needed to connect trail segments and parks, and to provide for management of these important environmental resources. Not having plans is a way of ignoring natural resource parks.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Response: The Trail Strategy Plan does exactly this. Lack of funding to address natural resource management is the issue, rather than a lack of planning or desire to implement.
Share with Trails.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 224 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Resource inventories *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: e. FCPA should conduct an inventory of all natural resources on its land, in part to determine the extent of rare, threatened, and endangered species, but also to map and determine areas of invasion by exotic plants. f. FCPA should inventory all historical and cultural resources on its land.

Response: [RMD] Please see response to #151.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 225 *Theme:* Service Delivery *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Accessibility *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: 4. Improve access to land already owned by FCPA, but inaccessible to the public.

Response: All FCPA parkland is publicly accessible.
Need more specifics on example of inaccessible park to evaluate and make recommendation. May be due to funding constraints, other.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 226 *Theme:* Connectivity *Park:* Appropriate for
Topic: Land acq *Planning District:* Countywide GPGC Action?

Comment: 6. Land acquisition should be strategically focused on sites that can improve connectivity (i.e., trails) and reduce fragmentation.

Response: Acknowledged. Please see CW Connectivity and Land Acquisition text and strategies.

Action: No further action required.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

ID# 227 Theme: Service Delivery

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Stormwater park

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: 7. FCPA, in collaboration with DPWES, should consider creating a new category of park called a "stormwater park" to buffer and protect streams. FCPA should target headwaters areas of degraded streams for development of new parks to protect streams from the effects of runoff. This new type of park would replace pavement with open space and install BMPs. Its BMP might be designed as an attractive landscape feature (e.g., a constructed wetland or pond landscaped with native plants) jointly maintained by FCPA and DPWES, with the park serving both as a neighborhood park and as stormwater control. It would be desirable acquire land to locate a stormwater park in the Beacon Hill area to reduce damage to Paul Springs Branch, which currently rises in parking lots.

Response: Stormwater management is not a core park function and should occur on the site of developmen. Chesapeake Bay regulations address protecting and buffering of perennial streams; County policy adopted in 2009 addresses protection of head waters.

[RMD] The FCPA does work with the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Stormwater Division to assess and, where feasible and appropriate, mitigate stormwater impacts on parkland. The stream valley park system does provide valuable stream buffers and wildlife corridors, but the comment is well made that it would be preferable to preserve and restore uplands wherever possible to reduce the amount of impervious surface area and increase the potential for infiltration and groundwater recharge. The FCPA will continue to work with DPWES Stormwater and others to implement the watershed management plans and seek opportunities to reduce stormwater flows and the associated impacts.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 228 Theme: Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: NR Mgmt Plan

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: 8. FCPA land acquisition, park design, and maintenance should be brought into alignment with and support Fairfax County's environmental goals and best practices. The plan's emphasis on stewardship of natural and cultural resource areas is welcome. Stewardship and support for environmental improvements should be further beefed up in the plan.

Response: Acknowledged. Recommend text be added to CW Natural Resource Stewardship section (pg 37) regarding implementation of the Natural Resource Management Plan.
Share with RMD.

Action: Add implementation of NRMP to "Trends" discussion of CW Natural Resource Stewardship section (pg 37).

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

ID# 230 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Sustainability, landscaping

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: b. FCPA should adopt environmental best practices in the maintenance and landscaping of all its golf courses and other park facilities. c. FCPA should reduce the amount of impervious surfaces in its parks, e.g., by using pervious paving for trails, parking areas, etc. d. Reduce the amount of grassed lawn. Where possible, replace it with native plants and manage parks to provide habitat. e. Minimize use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides in parks (however, herbicides may be needed for invasives control).

Response: [RMD] Staff from NRMP and PDD developed Park Authority planting guidelines that specify that no invasive species should be planted, and that native plant species should be planted unless there is no native species that can fulfill a desired landscaping goal. In addition, Park Authority staff served on the county Natural Landscaping Committee which recommended assessment of all sites to improve stormwater controls, reduce mowed areas where possible and increase native plantings. NRMP staff has also recommended landscape modification particularly on golf courses to reduce water quality impacts and to decrease the attractiveness of the landscape for Canada geese. See also Natural Resource Management Plans.

Action: No further GPGC action required.

ID# 231 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Invasives

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: f. County parkland is terribly degraded by invasive plants. FCPA should develop management plans for all natural resource parkland that it owns, including a systematic approach to the removal of invasives. g. The county should expand funding and coverage of the IMA program.

Response: Acknowledged, managing invasives is important. This is addressed in the Plan. Funding is outside the scope of GPGC, but will be part of the Implementation Plan, to be developed. Will address through Implementation Plan, volunteer advocacy, and RMD work plan. Share with RMD. See also ID#135.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 232 *Theme:* Natural Resource Stewardship

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Trees

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: h. The FCPA should plant trees to meet or exceed the tree canopy goal in its parks.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Response: Acknowledged. While a laudable goal, this is currently not practical. Share with RMD.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 233	<i>Theme:</i> Natural Resource Stewardship	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Recycling	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: i. FCPA should support and promote recycling. Lack of convenient recycling facilities contributes to litter problems in Collingwood Park, Mount Vernon RECenter, Martin Luther King Park. j. The litter problem in county parks needs to be addressed. FCPA is going to try a new policy—"pack it in, pack it out." The success of this policy should be evaluated.

Response: [POD] The Agency is presently unable to recycle except at selected sites. We work with the County and individual leagues and organizations that can manage recycling programs for specific sites.

Recommend adding strategy to CW NR (p37), "Maintain and increase partnerships with individual athletic leagues and other groups that provide management of recycling programs at specific sites."

See also ID#44, 49.

Action: Add CW Natural Resources strategy as described above.

ID# 234	<i>Theme:</i> Community Building	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Dog parks	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: k. Locate dog parks and other developed facilities in already disturbed areas, not in (relatively) undisturbed natural areas or environmentally sensitive areas.

Response: Acknowledged. FCPA evaluates site specific proposals through the master plan process and seeks to balance various needs.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 240	<i>Theme:</i> Service Delivery	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Quantity of parks	<i>Planning District:</i> Countywide	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: 5. The county should increase its goal of having 10 percent of the land as county parks. Open space, parks, and recreational facilities improve the quality of life and mental and physical health of Fairfax County residents and provide them with a respite and relief from stress. Parkland (esp. natural resource parks) also helps reduce environmental problems by improving water quality and air quality (reduced ozone), and reducing carbon emissions.

PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Response: Acknowledged. FCPA recognizes the environmental value of county parks and is committed to its mission.

Action: No further action required.

ID# 241 *Theme:* Service Delivery

Park:

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Dog park

Planning District: Countywide

Comment: AN ESSAY ON DYKE MARSH

(With a tip of the hat to Alexander Pope)

I

The wheeling flock of migrant birds sets down
in the greening wetland turned from brown,
and songbirds sing their ardent breeding songs,
inviting us to join spring's buoyant sing-alongs.
But all is not at ease between the two.
The human partners do not always choose to woo.
Man's exploitation has been long and harsh
of the Potomac wetland called Dyke Marsh.
Formed by nature in the long-ago,
its sword-like plants of narrow cattails grow
and hold the marsh wrens' real and bogus nests
to fool the predators who've wrongly guessed
which woven homes clutch tasty birds in shells.
The red-wing blackbirds perch like sentinels
above the teeming plants and crawling life
with which this fecund nursery is rife.

II

The first abuse by men inflicting harm
were schemes to dyke the marsh for land to farm.
(The storms and spring floods soon took care of that.
A lust for land prompts nature's caveat.)
But men then thought of profits to be made
by dredging sand and gravel ages laid

in layers under other sediment.
They scalped the marsh for riches roughly rent
and hauled away till half the marsh was gone.
Some congressmen were energized by scorn
for blatant raids on the environment.
Their legislation saved the marsh remnant
and promised to restore the damage done,
a pledge ignored although the principle was won.
The time has come to honor what was pledged,
restore the gouged out areas dredged
and save this tiny wetland of the past
when Potomac-rimming marshes were so vast.
As erosion gnaws away at what is left,
marsh guardians fear that a river bereft
of an environmental treasure could result.
But hold! There should be reason to exult.
Technology now can find the way, the how, and when
to restore at least a portion of what had been.
Stewardship is now put to the test,
and "Hope springs eternal in the human breast,"

III

The problem of misuse won't go away
although the very name is clear as day:
"The Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve."
Its purpose is precisely to conserve,
its name and function accurately styled,
reflecting concentration on the wild.
The people's role is passive. That is clear.
Observe the wildlife and do not interfere.
Yet sometimes there are strange proposals made--
the wildlife purpose conveniently mislaid--
for expanding sports activities and the like
in the area of the marshland that we call Dyke.

Now there is a new request we should dread.
Zounds! Put a dogpark in Dyke's watershed?

Response: Acknowledged. FCPA seeks to balance various needs.

Action: No further action required.
