

**Colvin Run Mill Historic Site
Master Plan Revision
Questions from the Public Information Meeting (2/5/08)**

1. Q: *What will be the short-term impact of widening Rt. 7?*
A: The Park Authority has assurances from VDOT that the county will have some say in the proposed road changes. The Park Authority will work with VDOT to mitigate impacts to park land and ideally include needed improvements to park property, including a pedestrian crossing at Colvin Run Road and Rt. 7.
2. Q: *Will there be, or has there been, any impact on Colvin Run Mill from the sewage pumping plant?*
A: The plant is outside the historic district and not on Park Authority property. No impacts on the site have been seen.
3. Q: *What is planned for the south side of Rt. 7?*
A: At this point in the process, the Park Authority is acquiring information on that area of the site. Staff is hoping to get more information and determine if better interpretive connections for visitors with the mill, mill race, and historic mill pond could be created. Other changes under consideration include; a natural management plan, trail improvements, and a pedestrian crossing for Rt. 7.
4. Q: *Could a tunnel or bridge be constructed to get pedestrians across Rt. 7?*
A: These options would probably be too expensive, but the Park Authority will explore that option with VDOT.
5. Q: *Right now it is difficult to describe the water connections between the south and north sides of the park to visitors. What would it take to recreate the mill pond on the south side? The pond would enhance the trail. Maybe the pond would help save the area from Rt. 7 widening.*
A: The pump which provides water to power the Colvin run Mill water wheel exists on the southern side.
In order to create a new mill pond, archaeological and engineering studies would be needed followed construction of a dam(s) a new raceway.
6. Q: *What area was taken up by the former mill pond?*
A: The site of the original pond was on the far west section of the portion of Colvin Run Mill Historic Site on the south side of Rt. 7. Some of the previous mill pond site is now on private land.
7. Q: *Is it low ground?*
A: Yes, but the topography of the land is different now than it was.
8. Q: *Could you move the pond and have it funded as part of the Rt. 7 widening project, possibly to help with storm water management?*
A: This could be an option to discuss with VDOT through project discussions.
9. Q: *Is the pond in the historic district?*
A: Most of it is not, though the eastern end of the former pond is within the historic district.

10. Q: *How was the historic district created?*

A: The historic districts were typically drawn by targeting a resource (Colvin Run Mill) and drawing a ¼ mile circle around it. However, people could opt out of being included in the district. At the time of the districts creation in 1972, the pond no longer existed and its exact location was unknown.

11. Q: *How does the historic district affect planning?*

A: Changes in the historic district have to be approved by the [Architectural Review Board](#) (ARB). [General information on historic districts](#) is addressed on the ARB website. Specific information on the Colvin Run Mill Historic District can be found in [Part 6 \(p A1-13\) of Appendix 1](#) to the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance.

12. Q: *What is the purpose of the Public Information Meeting?*

A: The purpose of the Public Information Meeting is to describe the master plan process and present to the public information on existing conditions which impact the decisions for the site's future.

More information about the master planning process can be found on the [Park Authority Planning & Development home page](#).

13. Q: *What do visitors to Colvin Run Mill Historic Site say they want?*

A: They are looking for more hands-on experiences that challenge them on more sensory levels. Mt. Vernon has just opened a new \$80 million visitor center to address those kinds of needs and our visitors have similar needs.

14. Q: *Is a visitor center for Colvin Run Mill Historic Site a primary goal of the Master Plan Revision?*

A: Staff is exploring ways to provide way finding, site orientation, and additional hands on experiences that visitors have requested. A visitor center is one option that has been suggested to address those requests.

In addition, staff and volunteer spaces are currently located in the miller's house. The miller's house could be restored and opened a greater extent to the public if staff and volunteer space were provided in an alternative location.

15. Q: *How will updates be available for this master plan process?*

A: Updates to the process will be posted on the [Colvin Run Mill Historic Site Master Plan Revision](#) webpage at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/colvinrunmill.htm>.

Those who have signed up for the project email list will be emailed when web updates are made. Neighbors will receive mailing updates prior to the next public meeting, when a draft master plan revision will be available for public review.

16. Q: *How will the public be able to provide comments or ask questions?*

A: FCPA is receiving questions, comments, and suggestions for this project via the following methods:

e-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

Paper Mail: Andy Galusha, Project Manager

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