



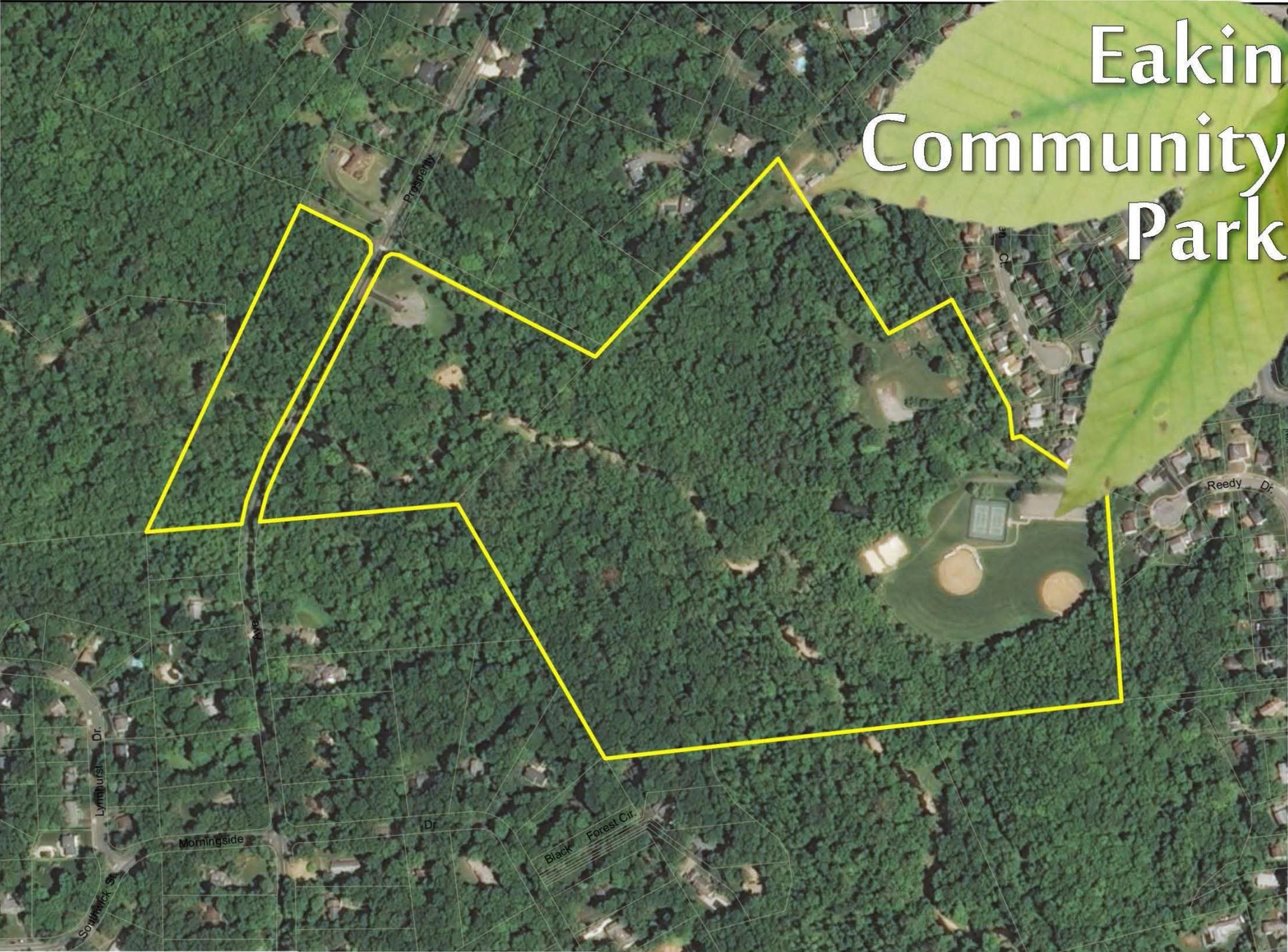
Eakin
Community
Park



Agenda

- ✿ Welcome and Introductions
- ✿ Project Description
- ✿ Moderated Discussion

Eakin Community Park



Prosperity

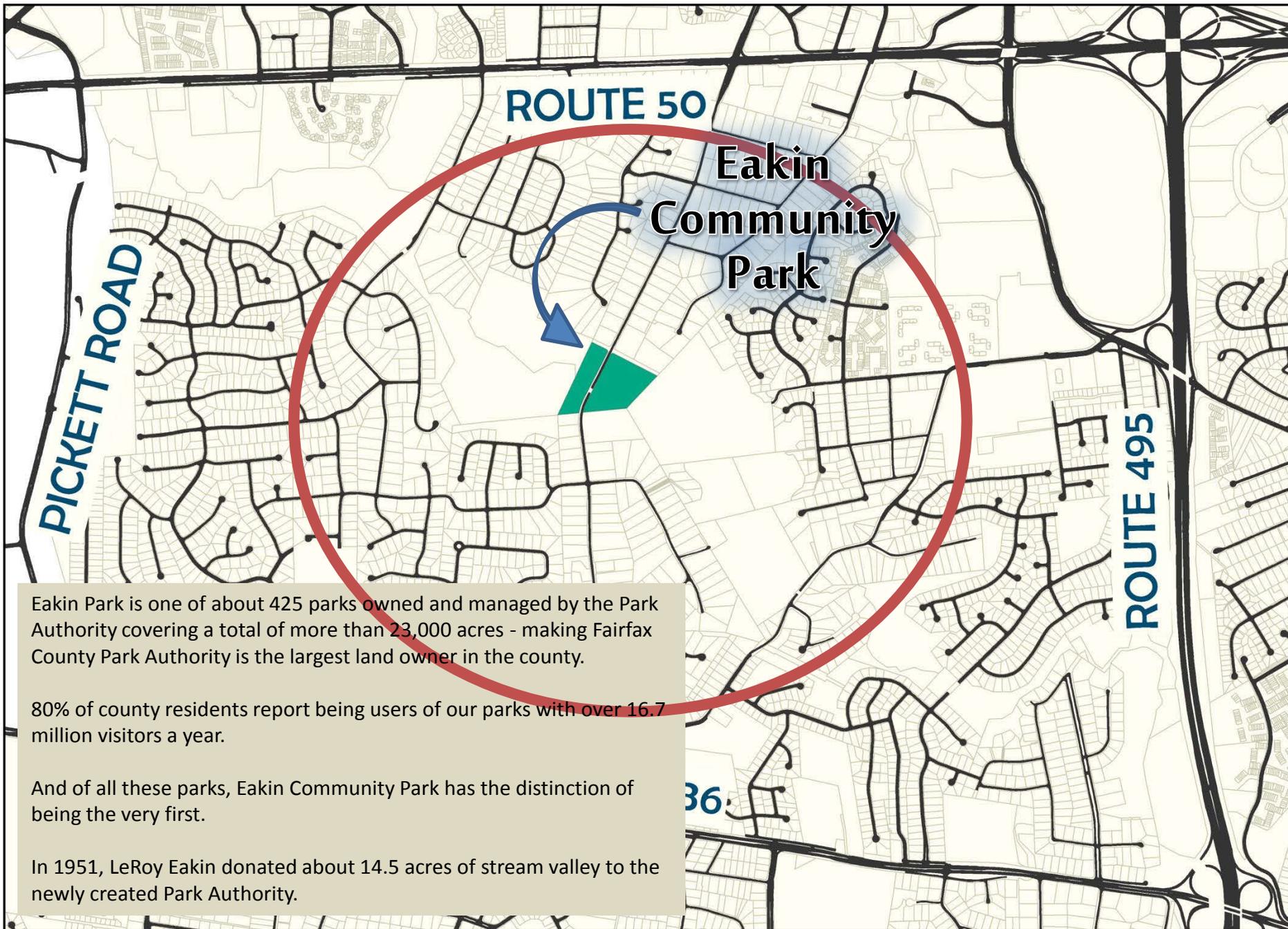
Reedy Dr

Black Forest Cir

Morningside

Lynnburst Dr

Southwick St



ROUTE 50

PICKETT ROAD

Eakin
Community
Park

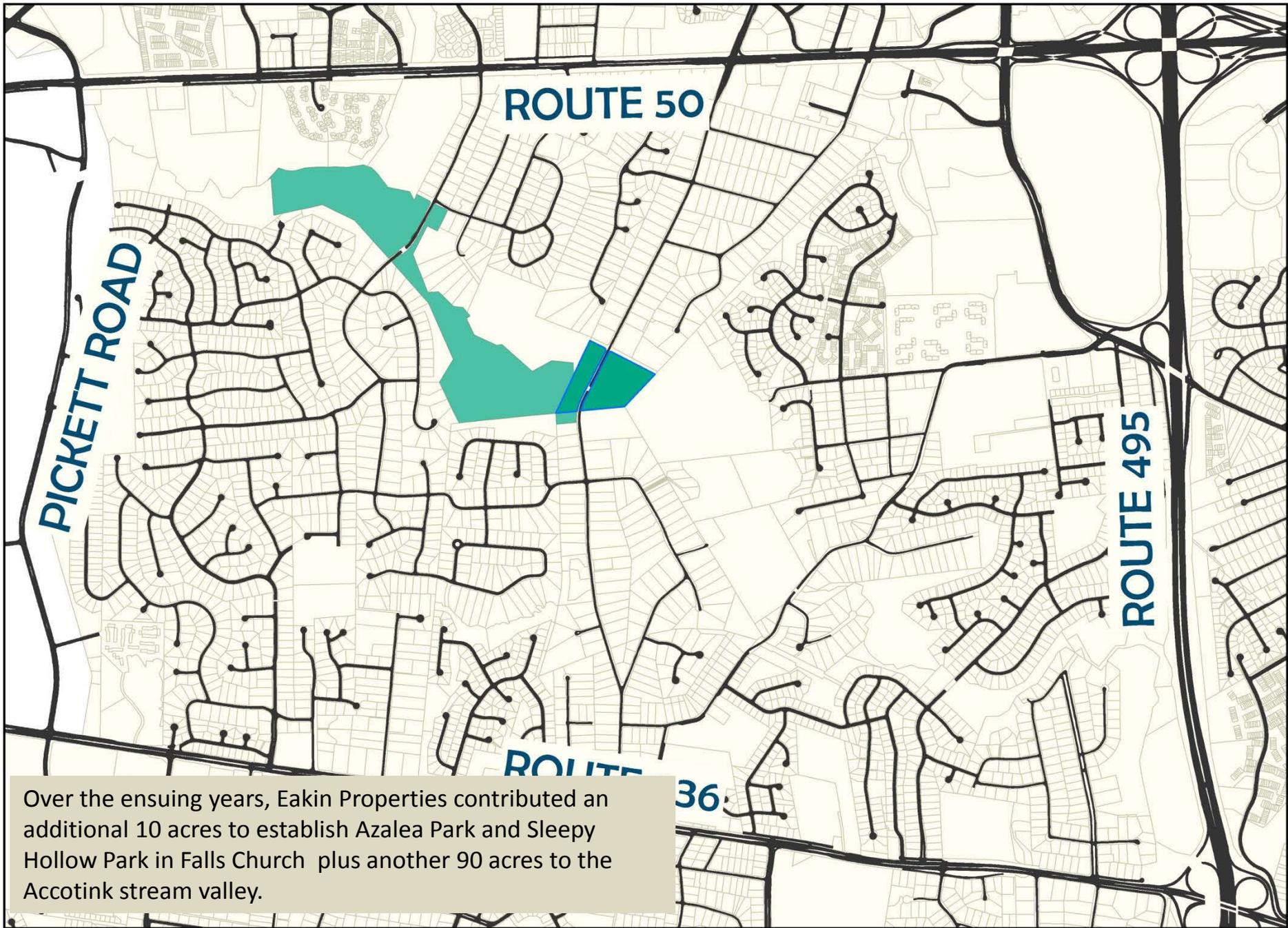
ROUTE 495

Eakin Park is one of about 425 parks owned and managed by the Park Authority covering a total of more than 23,000 acres - making Fairfax County Park Authority is the largest land owner in the county.

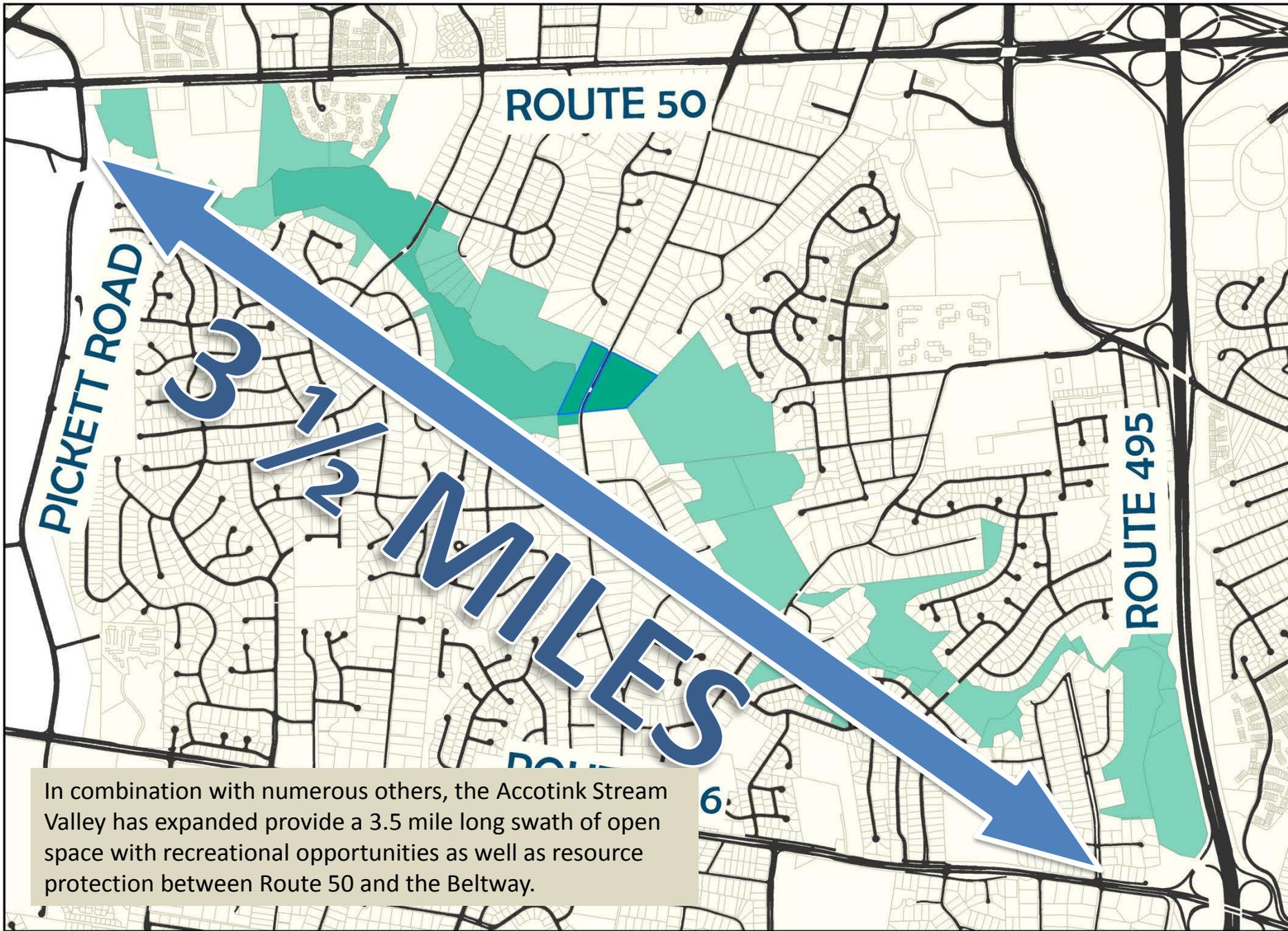
80% of county residents report being users of our parks with over 16.7 million visitors a year.

And of all these parks, Eakin Community Park has the distinction of being the very first.

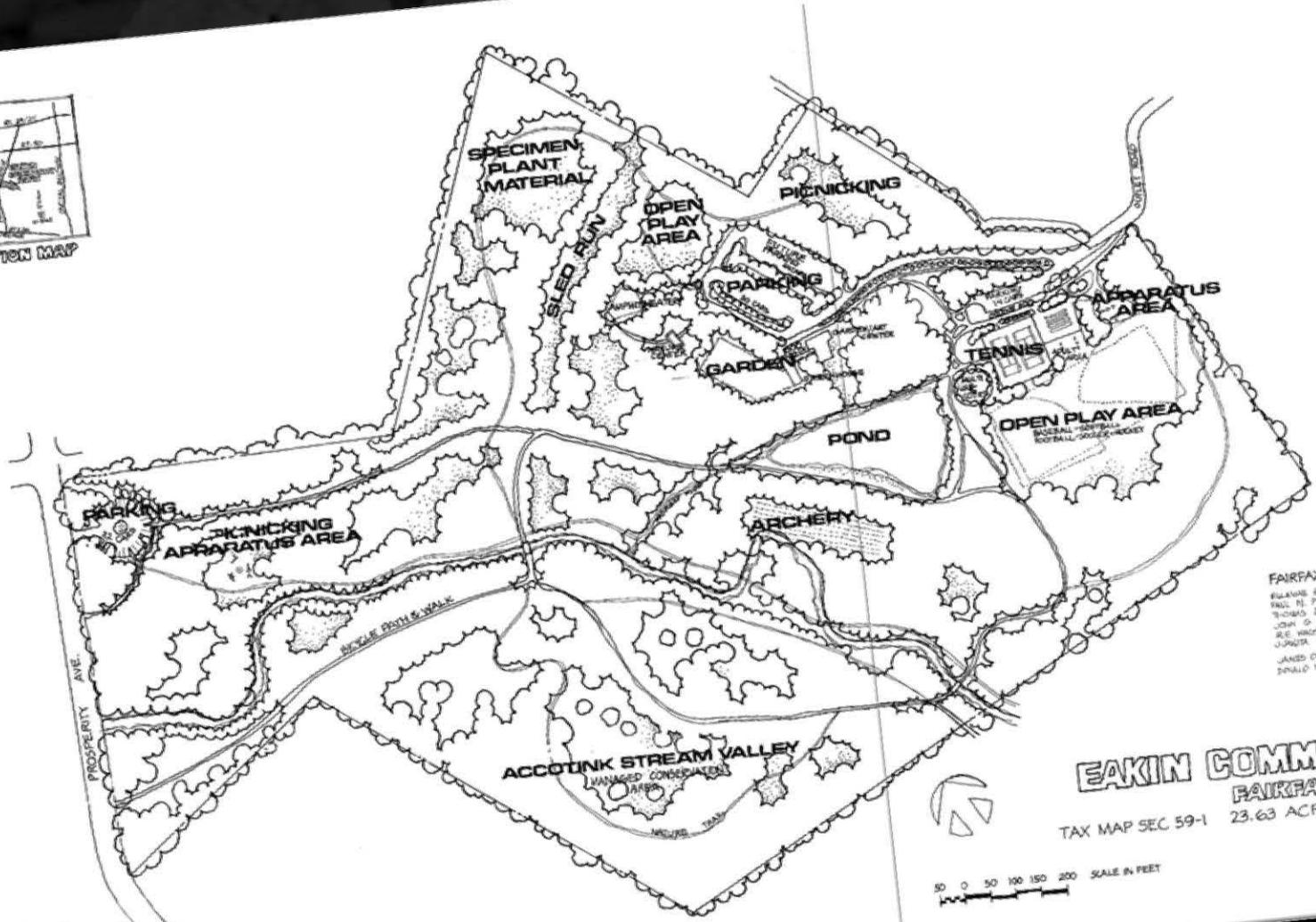
In 1951, LeRoy Eakin donated about 14.5 acres of stream valley to the newly created Park Authority.



Over the ensuing years, Eakin Properties contributed an additional 10 acres to establish Azalea Park and Sleepy Hollow Park in Falls Church plus another 90 acres to the Accotink stream valley.



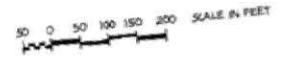
In combination with numerous others, the Accotink Stream Valley has expanded provide a 3.5 mile long swath of open space with recreational opportunities as well as resource protection between Route 50 and the Beltway.



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

FRANK S. DOLE	CHAIRMAN
PAUL H. PEPPER	VICE CHAIRMAN
RICHARD B. WRIGHT	SECRETARY-TREASURER
JOHN G. COOPER	
IRE WOODS	
J. PATRICK K. ROE	
JAMES O. BELL	DIRECTOR
DONALD F. LEUTNER	SOFT. OF PLANNING

MASTER PLAN
EAKIN COMMUNITY PARK
 FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA
 TAX MAP SEC 59-1 23.63 ACRES DATE: JANUARY, 1967



1967

Once the Park Authority acquired the Eakin's gift and the 40 acre Webb dedication, a plan was developed in 1967 to guide how this park space should be addressed.

1994



In 1994, a broader study of the entire stream valley, including Eakin Park, provided recommendations on how the stream valley should be managed.

Many years have come and gone since Eakin Park was first established and the park is showing its age.

Various park patrons and community associations, including the adjacent Pine Ridge community, have voiced a desire to see the facilities updated, particularly

- Beautifying the Prosperity Road entrance
- Renovating the pond And adding a picnic shelter near the Tobin Road entrance.

Although funding is often limited, the Park Authority does try to respond to community concern and requests.

One way that the Park Authority works to meet citizen demand is through the ongoing Parks Count! study. Parks Count! is a directed study of the entire park system – identifying our park assets and citizen preferences. The Parks Count! website offers a variety of forums to have your thoughts heard in the long-range planning for the future of Fairfax County parks.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parkscount/



Parks

better parks

better living

Count!

The first of the two projects we're looking at is the installation of a picnic shelter at the Tobin Road entrance.

This makes a nice complement to the athletic focus of this area, providing an opportunity for shade and rest for athletes and their families.

The shelter would be available to the community for rental as well – for a family reunion, scouting event, birthday party and the like.



Tobin Road Entrance

The pavilions shown here are typical of what would likely be installed. The location of the pavilion is outside of any floodplain or resource protection area. This would be a fairly simple, straight forward project to complete.



Turner Farm Park



Lake Fairfax Park

Eakin Community Park
Pavilion Concept Images

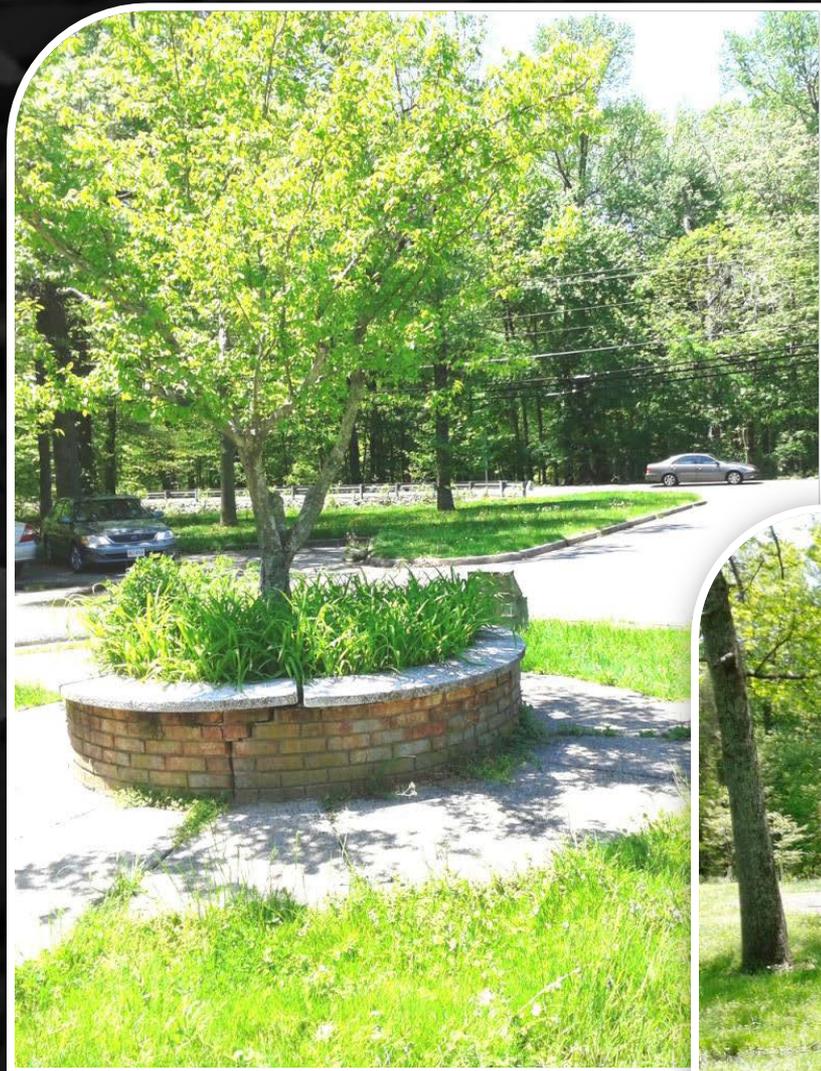
The second project envisioned is to enhance the entrance to the park from Prosperity Avenue, making it more inviting to visitors, enjoyable and informative for users, and enhance the environment.

ACCOTINK CREEK

PROSPERITY AVENUE

Prosperity Avenue Entrance





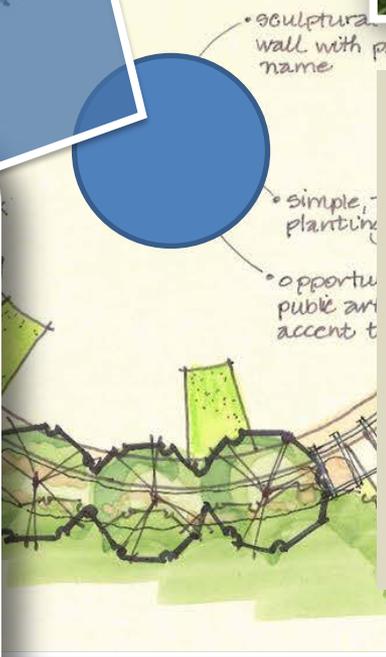
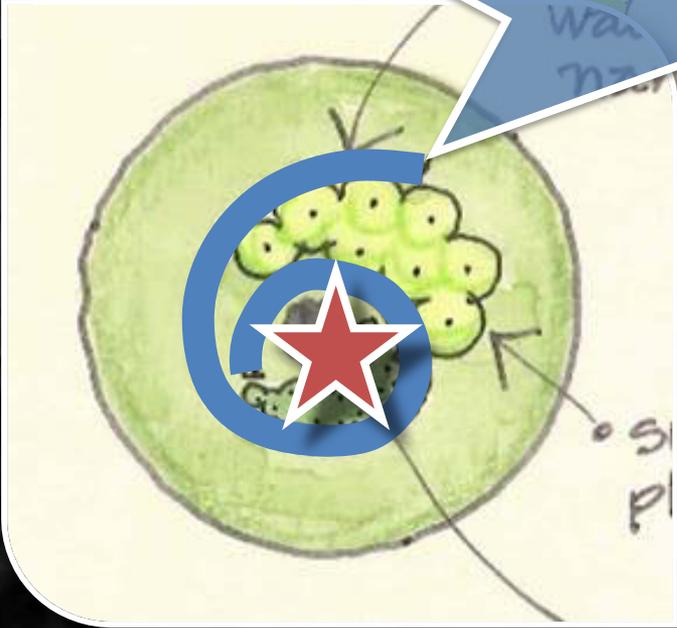
Images of the existing park

PROSPERITY AVENUE



EAKIN COMMUNITY PARK

CONCEPT PLAN
JUNE 27, 2014

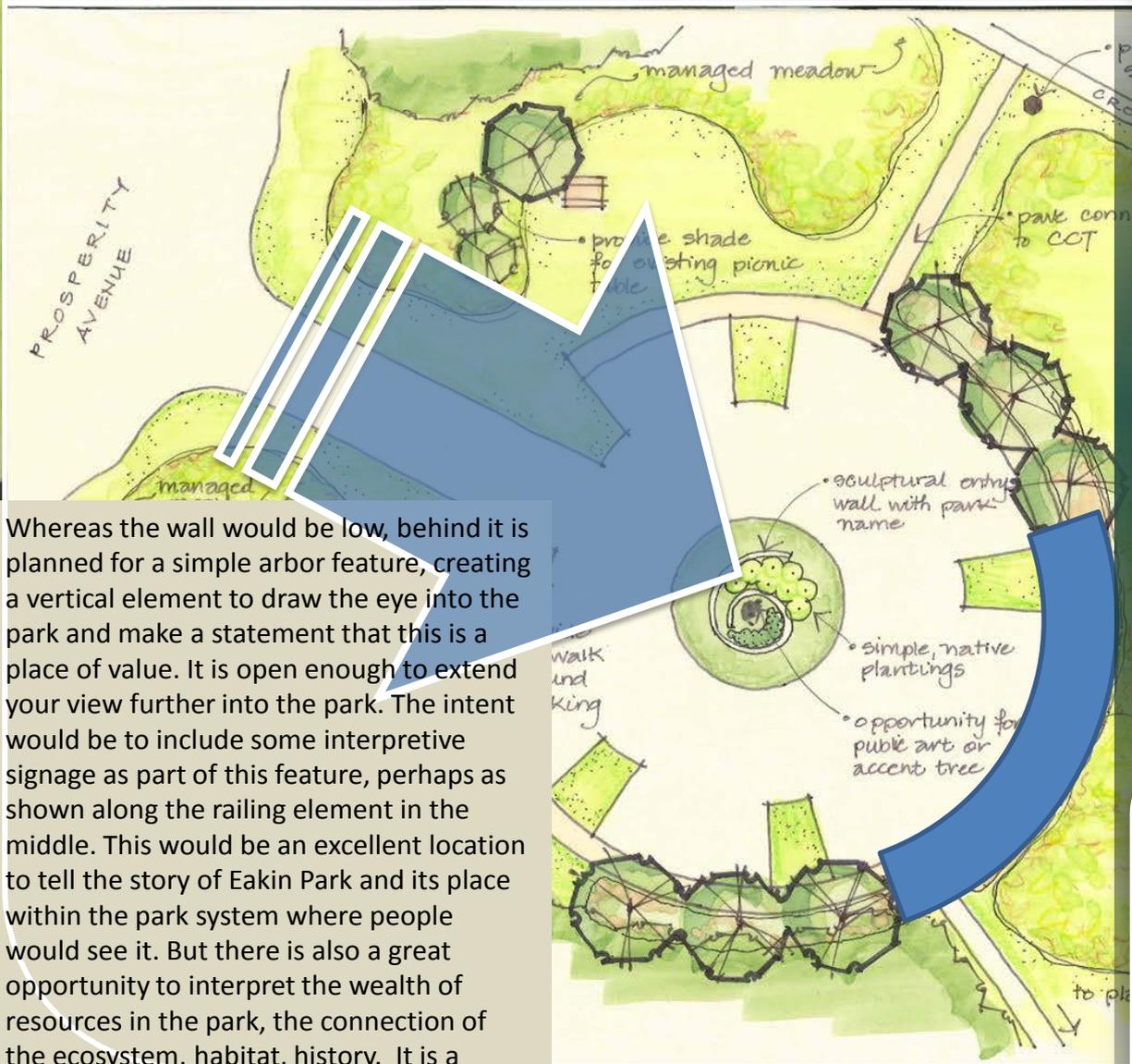


In rethinking how the entrance “reads” the central island is a clear point of focus.

Currently, the planter in the middle is in need of repair. There is also a plaque commemorating LeRoy Eakin Sr, but its location doesn’t really offer the best vantage point.

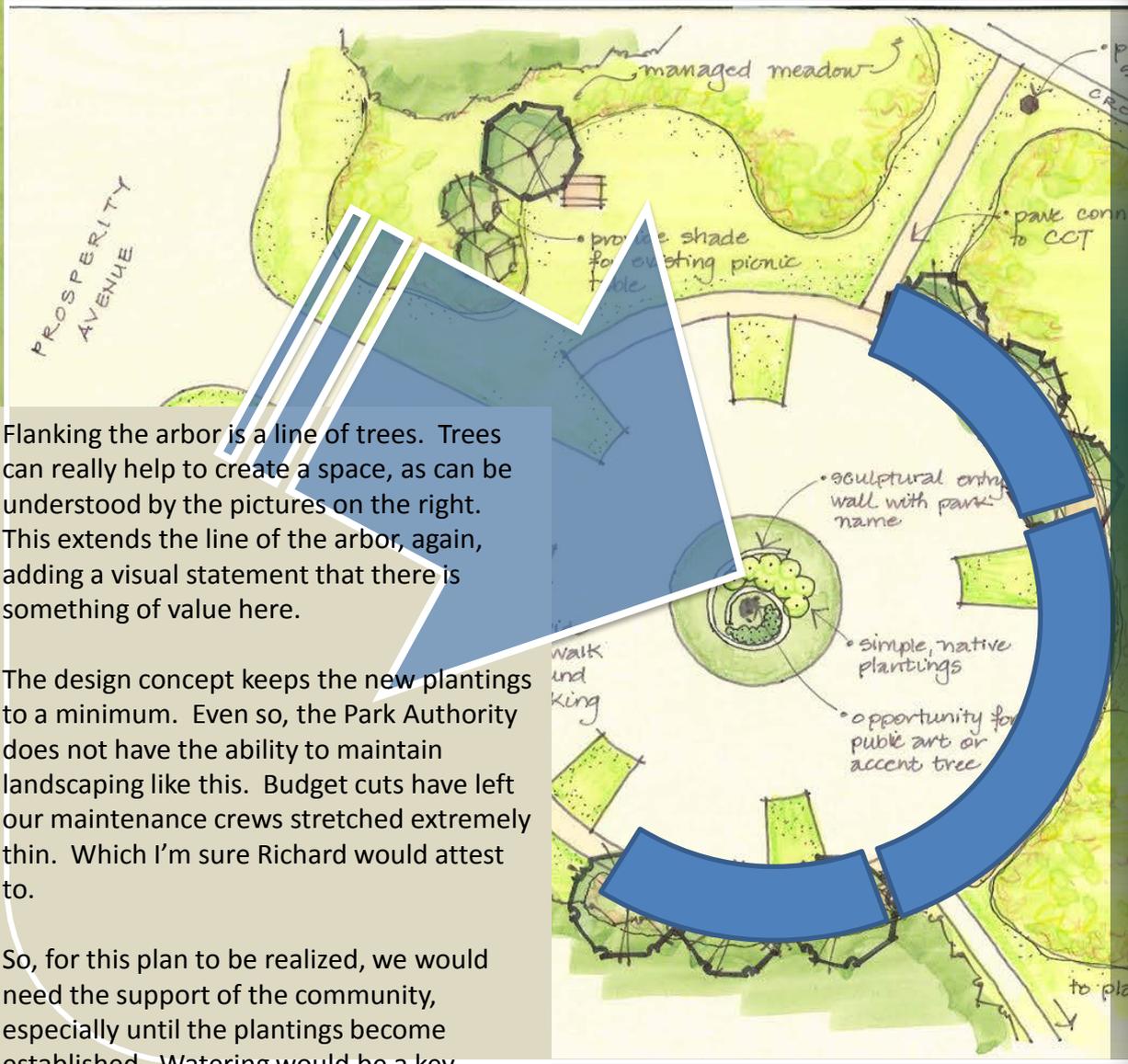
The thought is to clean this space up, remove the concrete sidewalk that is of little benefit, and replace the brick planter with something a little more expansive, sculptural , on which the name of the park could be displayed.

Simple native plantings would accent the wall with an opportunity for an accent tree or public art.



Whereas the wall would be low, behind it is planned for a simple arbor feature, creating a vertical element to draw the eye into the park and make a statement that this is a place of value. It is open enough to extend your view further into the park. The intent would be to include some interpretive signage as part of this feature, perhaps as shown along the railing element in the middle. This would be an excellent location to tell the story of Eakin Park and its place within the park system where people would see it. But there is also a great opportunity to interpret the wealth of resources in the park, the connection of the ecosystem, habitat, history. It is a chance to make people aware of the broader value of their parks.

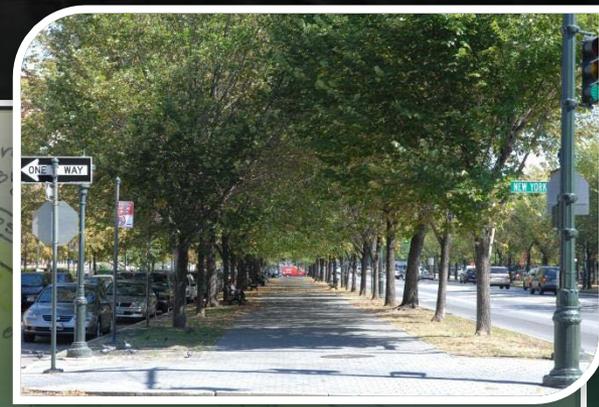




Flanking the arbor is a line of trees. Trees can really help to create a space, as can be understood by the pictures on the right. This extends the line of the arbor, again, adding a visual statement that there is something of value here.

The design concept keeps the new plantings to a minimum. Even so, the Park Authority does not have the ability to maintain landscaping like this. Budget cuts have left our maintenance crews stretched extremely thin. Which I'm sure Richard would attest to.

So, for this plan to be realized, we would need the support of the community, especially until the plantings become established. Watering would be a key element but general maintenance as well – weeding, spreading mulch.



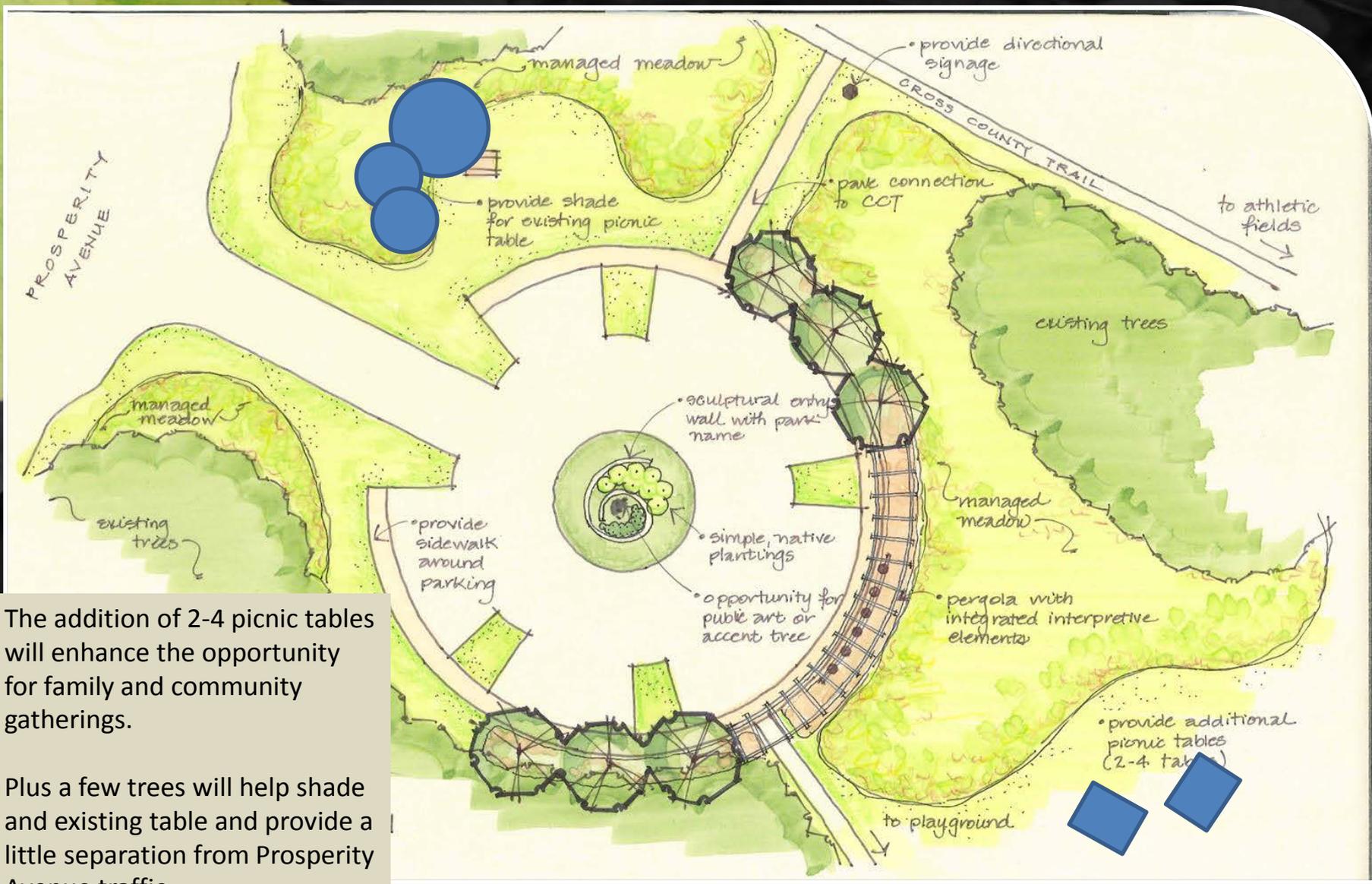


EAKIN
COMMUNITY PARK

CONCEPT PLAN
JUNE 27, 2014

To make the area neater and more accessible, a sidewalk would run along the perimeter of the parking lot.

Eakin Park provides a great location to connect in with the Cross County Trail. Paving the connection between the parking and the trail will enhance this access.



The addition of 2-4 picnic tables will enhance the opportunity for family and community gatherings.

Plus a few trees will help shade and existing table and provide a little separation from Prosperity Avenue traffic.



Another recommendation is to convert some of the area maintained as lawn to a managed meadow from which there would be several benefits. From an environmental standpoint, a managed meadow provides a much greater range of biodiversity than a lawn. It expands the range of habitats. It enhances water filtration. And with the right mix, supports native bird and insect populations. As a managed meadow is cut back generally once or twice a year, there would be a reduction of emissions from lawn mowers. And Less mowing means less man hours and fuel cost.



MAKING IT ALL HAPPEN YOU CAN HELP!

RESOURCES

EAKIN TRUST FUND

MASTENBROOK GRANT

Obviously, a critical aspect is funding. While no County funding is available to be allocated to these projects, we have two matching funds that will support the proposed improvements. Adequate funding for construction and a commitment to maintenance of the proposed improvements will need to be established before proceeding. Two potential funding sources are available.

The contribution of LeRoy Eakin is still present, though, through the unusual benefit of a trust fund established with the original park dedication. These funds are available for improvements to Eakin Park. This trust includes provisions that require a certain level of matching funds or support. Additional community support will be needed to meet the matching requirements.

The second potential source of funding is through a Mastenbrook Grant that provides matching funds for projects in Fairfax County parks. The program's aim is to fill a gap between limited public funding and the community's desire for new neighborhood facilities. This is a flexible program which allows volunteers to match funds or provide in-kind services. The target maximum amount of grant funding is \$20,000 per project. Neighborhood and housing associations, environmental groups, sports leagues, Boy Scouts, churches and individuals have received Mastenbrook funds for projects.



MAKING IT ALL HAPPEN YOU CAN HELP!

RESOURCES

EAKIN TRUST FUND

MASTENBROOK GRANT

ACTION

ADOPT-A-PARK PROGRAM

ESTABLISH A FRIENDS GROUP

SHARE YOUR INSIGHT

Finances are not the only way to help out. Another option is to physically get involved!

A commitment to maintaining the features that are not typical park features such as the landscaping can occur through the adopt-a-park program or forming a friends group to support continuing maintenance needs in the park. Such a partnership providing community building opportunities and sources to strengthen your neighborhood park beyond one immediate project.



Next Steps:

- Identify community concerns about the proposed improvements
- Refine proposals as needed
- Align funding and partnerships
- Schedule improvements on work plan