

## **Kingstowne Park Master Plan**

Public Input Meeting January 18, 2012

Helene Wilson Community Room at the Franconia Government Center,  
6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA

### **Meeting Summary**

A Public Comment Meeting was held on the evening of January 18 for the purpose of presenting the draft Kingstowne Park master Plan Revision to the community and accepting public comment toward the park's future design. Approximately 33 attendees signed into the meeting.

### **Introductions and Opening Remarks**

Judy Pedersen, Park Authority Public Information Officer, opened the meeting and introduced Mr. Jeff McKay, Lee District Supervisor, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. After thanks and acknowledgement of staff and attendance, he spoke briefly on the process for the Master Plan and the public input which will be taken into consideration. Public Information Officer Judy Pedersen introduced Paul Shirey, Chief, Stormwater planning who gave an update on dam repair and stormwater ponds. Judy then provided some welcoming remarks and introduced several people in attendance including:

#### **Staff**

John Dargle, FCPA Director;

David Bowden, Director Planning & Development;

Sandy Stallman, Manager, Park Planning Branch;

Paul Shirey, DPWES; Mohamed Madih, DPWES;

Charles Smith, Resource Management Division;

Joe Nielson, Area 3 Manager;

Pat Rosend, Project Manager;

Liz Cronauer, Trails Program Manager

Dianna Fuentes, Public Information Office staff assistant

Marcus Wadsworth, Supervisor McKay's staff assistant;

### **Opening Remarks**

Judy Pedersen gave a brief overview of the history and mission of the Park Authority. She also spoke about the park master plan process

### **Staff Presentation**

Pat Rosend, project manager for the Kingstowne Park Master Plan Revision, provided a brief history of the property, site conditions, surrounding context and an overview of the major elements of the draft master plan. Paul Shirey provided an update on the proposal for the dam repairs and pond enhancements.

## Public Comments

Following the staff presentation, an open comment period was provided to permit those in attendance to share their impressions of the draft master plan. The following is a summary of each speaker's comments expressed during this session.

Comments:

Kyle Lampella – President of the Kendrick HOA

- Thanks to staff for extensive work on MP
- Appreciate the effort to preserve the park as much as possible, maintain & upgrade the trail and dam
- Plan balances different factors; requirements from EPA & Stormwater Management and public access as well as preservation of wildlife
- Likes the historical information on the property being given; appreciate the effort to recreate the conditions before the dam broke
- Don't believe that you can just let the park go back to natural state
- In favor of restoring the park and the natural habitat. The community values the restoration of wildlife habitats.
- Approves of the new trail segment and location

Questions from the audience:

Q - Why is the pond repair scheduled for 2013? Why not earlier?

A- Design and permitting take a certain amount of time. Plan may be ready for submission and review by the County Land Development Services in fall of 2012

Q - What is the final design of the dam?

A-Design options are down to two – the riser option or the chute spillway. DPWES is doing the final analysis and expects to have a final decision by spring of 2012.

Q – Are any other park facilities to be installed than what is shown on the draft master plan revision?

A– No, The master plan revision proposes only the new trail segment. The existing picnic area and trail will remain.

Q – What is meant by controlling the deer population?

A –Herd management involves reducing the herds in problem areas and occurs in some parks. The Park Authority participates in the County's deer management program which uses three methods – archery hunting, shotgun hunting and sharpshooting – to control white-tailed deer. Kingstowne Park is not on the plans for herd management at this time and there is no intent to add it to the list of county deer management sites in the near future. The park is not suitable for shotgun hunts, so if deer control efforts were undertaken there in the future; it would be with archery

hunting and/or police sharpshooters. If Kingstowne Park is added to the list of deer management sites in the future, it will be advertised with the list of proposed deer control locations and notice will be sent to adjoining property owners and civic associations.

Q – Would the new trail section require any trees to be taken out?

A – The new trail would be field located to minimize environmental impact and reduce the need for tree removal.

Q – Would the ponds be larger?

A – The ponds themselves would not be larger. The height of the embankments would be greater to allow for additional water storage. Water levels in the ponds would fluctuate more than they do currently.

Q – Why can't the maintained trail network be expanded?

A- The existing social trail network is expansive and many of the trails are located along and around the dams. The existing social trails are narrow and do not meet trail design or park safety standards. Most of these social trails are located in the Stormwater Zone. This area will be managed by the County and will need regular dam maintenance and repair that impacts the ability to support safe trails in this zone.

Q- Is there a guarantee that the new dam will be better than the one that failed?

A – The new dam will be designed according to the current design standards. Additionally, the maintenance schedule for these facilities will be adjusted to provide more frequent site inspections and repairs. The existing storm structures will also be repaired as needed and will allow for a better balance of water management.

Q- How often is the park maintained?

A – Generally once a week and as needed