KINGS PARK PARK
MASTER PLAN REVISION

Fairfax County Park Authority

APPROVED
March 25, 2009

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INTRODUCTION

I. PURPOSE & PLAN DESCRIPTION

The purpose of a Master Plan is to create a long-range vision for the park. During the planning process, the site is considered in the context of the surrounding neighborhood and as one park of many within the Fairfax County Park Authority system. When approved, this document will serve as a long-term decision making tool to be referred to before any planning, design/construction projects, resource management activities, or programming is initiated. Every Master Plan should be updated periodically to reflect changes that have occurred both in and around the park site.

The master plan document consists of three sections: the Background and Existing Conditions Report, the General Management Plan (GMP), and the Conceptual Development Plan (CDP). The first section lays a foundation for the Master Plan, including establishing the park purpose and classification. It assesses park and recreation need in the service area of the park, describes existing conditions, and provides other background information. This information serves as the basis for decision-making and creating the GMP.

The GMP serves as a guide for future park development, describing how to best protect park resources while providing quality visitor experiences through identifying "management zones." A GMP is intended to be flexible to accommodate the changing needs of park visitors and to fulfill the mission of the Park Authority to protect resources. The Conceptual Development Plan (CDP) describes the planned park elements, identifies design concerns, and illustrates the general location of the recommended facilities based on the guidance of the GMP.

A Master Plan Revision (MPR) is the development of a new Master Plan using the existing approved Master Plan as a starting point for reviewing the planned or built facilities, park purpose and goals, and community needs. Some existing Master Plans that were created many years ago consist solely of a conceptual plan graphic without accompanying text, which is the case for Kings Park Park. In these instances, more extensive site analysis is required and documented in the MPR. Public participation in the MPR process is also required to gain citizen input.

The revision process is designed to make changes to master planned uses and/or facilities without reconsideration and revision of the entire plan. The purpose of the Kings Park Park Master Plan Revision is to update the plan that was approved in 1967 (See Figure 1) to reflect the current recreational needs and desires of the community and determine the management of the new park parcel that was added in 2006. This revision incorporates the additional property that has been acquired and added to the park. Text with graphics help guide future park development, management, and use. In doing this, the park's management and visitor experience is improved and the sustained protection of significant resources is ensured.

Once approved by the Park Authority Board, this document will replace the existing Master Plan and will serve as a guide for future planning on the site. It should be referred to before any design, development, or management projects are initiated.

Figure 1: 1967 Master Plan for Kings Park Park

II. PLANNING PROCESS & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Park Authority kicked off the Master Plan Revision process on March 13, 2008 at a public information meeting that was attended by over 60 community members. During a question and answer session, comments centered on improving existing park facilities, managing the tree canopy, addressing safety concerns, and adding new facilities to the former pool site. A hands-on public planning workshop followed on July 17, 2008, with about 35 community members in attendance. Participants worked in small groups to discuss development opportunity sites and several types of park facilities and improvements. In general, workshop attendees were supportive of adding new playground equipment for a wide range of ages, a medium-size picnic pavilion, a practice wall at the tennis courts, buffer vegetation at the old pool site and expanding the existing trail loop. They also supported adding interpretive signs that teach the history of the site as a Native American stone quarry and tool workshop. The public input received at the workshop and via email was considered along with existing site conditions, natural and cultural resource considerations, site management, and design issues. A draft master plan was developed based on site analysis and public input provided. This draft was presented at a public comment meeting on January 15, 2009. The plan was revised based upon the public input and was approved by the Park Authority Board in the spring of 2009.

PART 1: BACKGROUND & EXISTING CONDITIONS

I. PARK DESCRIPTION & SIGNIFICANCE

A. LOCATION & GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Kings Park Park is located at 8717 Trafalgar Court in Springfield and is surrounded on all four sides by single-family homes that were built in the early 1960s. The 9.2-acre park is located in the Annandale Planning District and the Braddock Supervisory District. The surrounding Kings Park Subdivision, bounded by Braddock Road, Rolling Road and the Dominion Virginia Power easement, consists of approximately 1,160 homes. Kings Park Elementary School is located within this neighborhood, less than half a mile from the park. The school provides two playgrounds, a basketball court, a small rectangle field, and an open play area.

The park is accessible both on foot and by car from three locations within the neighborhood. One vehicle entrance is located on the western side of the park at the end of Trafalgar Court, off Kings Park Drive, and another is located on the southern side of the park at the end of Parkway Place, off Parliament Drive. A pedestrian walkway leads from Cromwell Drive on the east to the park.

The built features within the park include two parking lots, two lit tennis courts, two basketball courts, a tot playground, a small diamond ball field, and a loop trail. A recently added one-acre rectangular tract, located in the southwest corner of the park, is comprised of approximately one half acre of grassy open space surrounded

by trees. The remaining area of the park is forested with a stream crossing through the wooded northern edge of the park.

Figure 2: General Vicinity (Neighborhood) Map

B. ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The development plan for the Kings Park subdivision included an 8.2 acre parcel (Tax map 70-3 ((1)) 27) which was dedicated to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in 1961 to be developed as a public park, and a one-acre adjacent parcel (Tax map 70-3 ((1)) 27A) that was reserved for a non-profit corporation to develop a community swimming pool. A Master Plan for the 8.2-acre park was created by the Park Authority in 1967, from which the Park Authority developed a range of recreational facilities to serve the Kings Park neighborhood and surrounding communities.

In 1962, the developer conveyed the one-acre tract adjoining the parkland to the Royal Pool Association for pool construction, operation, and maintenance. Both the park and the pool served as community amenities for over 40 years. When the pool was closed in 2006, the Park Authority purchased the one-acre parcel from the Royal Pool Association. In 2007, the Park Authority removed all above ground structures, filled in the pool, and planted grass seed. With the additional parcel, the park's size increased to 9.2 acres.

Figure 3: Open Grassy Area (former Royal Pool site)

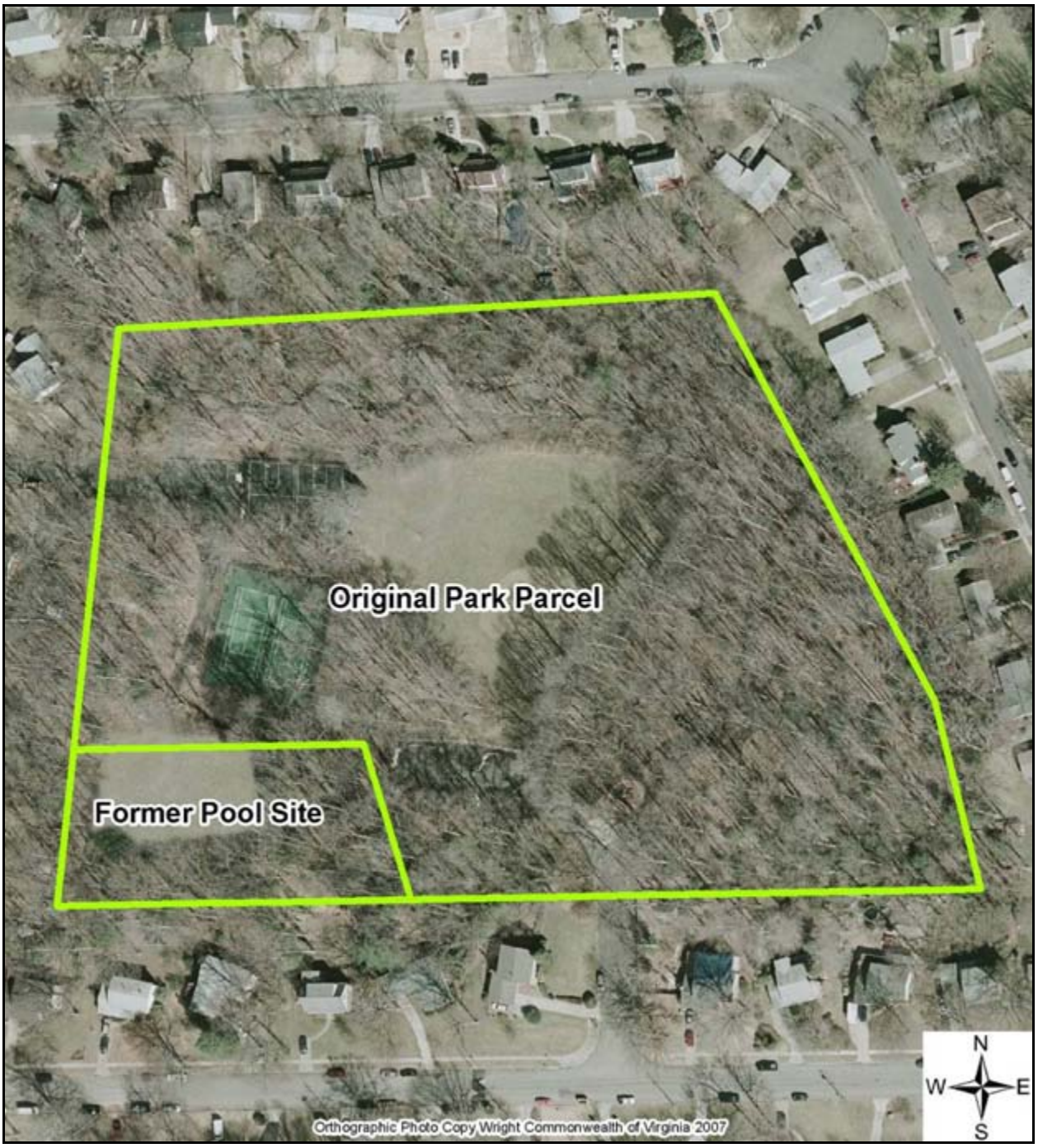

Figure 4: Parcel History Map

C. PARK CLASSIFICATION

Kings Park Park is designated as a Local Park in the Park Authority's classification system. Local parks primarily provide facilities for active and/or passive recreation, which may include areas for scheduled or unscheduled recreation activities or social gatherings, to serve local residential and employment centers. Areas designated for

natural and/or cultural resource protection may also be included. In suburban settings, such as the Kings Park neighborhood, park size will typically be between 2.5 and 50 acres. Typical local park facilities may include picnic areas, open play areas, playgrounds, trails, athletic fields, and courts. In a suburban setting, the local park service area may be up to 3 miles. The typical duration of visits to local parks will be two hours or less.

D. PLANNING CONTEXT

Kings Park Park is listed in the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, under the Accotink Community Planning Sector (A6) of the Annandale Planning District. The Comprehensive Plan does not recommend any changes in this planning sector for local parks but does recommend that athletic fields at elementary schools be upgraded as necessary to meet the need for active recreation facilities in this sector.

The Kings Park neighborhood surrounding the park is designated in the Comprehensive Plan as a "Suburban Neighborhood." According to the Comprehensive Plan, this area is planned for residential development at a density of 2-3 dwelling units per acre. The neighborhood's R-3 zoning is consistent with the Plan recommendations.

Non-residential uses in the Accotink Community Planning Sector include a local-serving strip shopping center at the intersection of Braddock and Rolling Roads. An industrially zoned area to the south of the King's Park neighborhood is the site of the Washington Gas Light Company and the Ravensworth Electrical Substation. The 438-acre Lake Accotink Park is located to the east.

E. PARK & RECREATION NEEDS

The need for park and recreation facilities is determined through long range planning efforts. The Park Authority tracks inventory of facilities, looks at industry trends, surveys County citizen recreation demand, and compares itself with peer jurisdictions to determine park facilities needs. The most recent Needs Assessment was completed in 2004.

As part of the Needs Assessment process, the Park Authority Board adopted countywide service level standards for parkland and park facilities. Facility standards for typical local park facilities include those for playgrounds (1 per 2,800 people), multi-use courts (1 per 2,100 people), neighborhood skate parks (1 per 106,000 people), dog parks (1 per 86,000 people), rectangle fields (1 per 2,700 people), youth baseball fields (1 per 7,200 people), and reservable picnic areas (1 site per 12,000 people).

The Park Authority conducted a more localized examination of needs around Kings Park Park using the planning district demographics and geography from the County Comprehensive Plan. Based on the adopted service level standards, the Annandale Planning District where Kings Park Park is located is well served with athletic fields and playgrounds but has a current deficiency of basketball courts and tennis courts.

Figure 5: Kings Park Park Two-Mile Service Area Map

F. PARK PURPOSE

Park purpose statements provide an umbrella for planning and decision-making. If a proposed use conflicts with any one of the purposes listed, it is considered an

incompatible use. By establishing a park purpose, future plans remain flexible as legislative requirements and visitor preferences change. The purpose of Kings Park Park is three-fold:

- To provide active and passive recreation opportunities for a range of interests and ages;
- To preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources within the park; and
- To provide facilities for family gatherings and small-scale neighborhood events.

G. PARK SIGNIFICANCE

Since the establishment of the Kings Park neighborhood in the early 1960s, Kings Park Park has served as an important component of the community and the Fairfax County Park system. The park has served as a neighborhood focal point by providing open space for both active and passive recreation, while at the same time protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources. The park will continue to serve an important function in the park system and has the potential to play an important community-building role in the Kings Park area.

H. RELATIONSHIP TO PARK AUTHORITY MISSION

The Park Authority mission is to protect and enhance natural and cultural resources while providing quality recreational services and facilities. The Park Authority Strategic Plan is the guiding document to focus resources on achieving the Park Authority's mission. The recommendations established in the Kings Park Park Master Plan will align with the Park Authority's mission and further the Strategic Plan.

III. SITE ANALYSIS

A. PARK CONTEXT

The land for Kings Park Park was dedicated to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) by the developer who built the Kings Park subdivision to provide a public park for the residents in the community. A covenant in the deed required the county to build the recreational facilities that are currently in the park. The Park Authority built these facilities and has maintained them for approximately 40 years.

1. Adjacent Properties

The park is surrounded by the 35 single-family homes along its boundary. The park and surrounding neighborhood is zoned R-3 (Residential 3 dwelling units per acre). Public land uses, such as parks, are permitted in the R-3 zoning district.

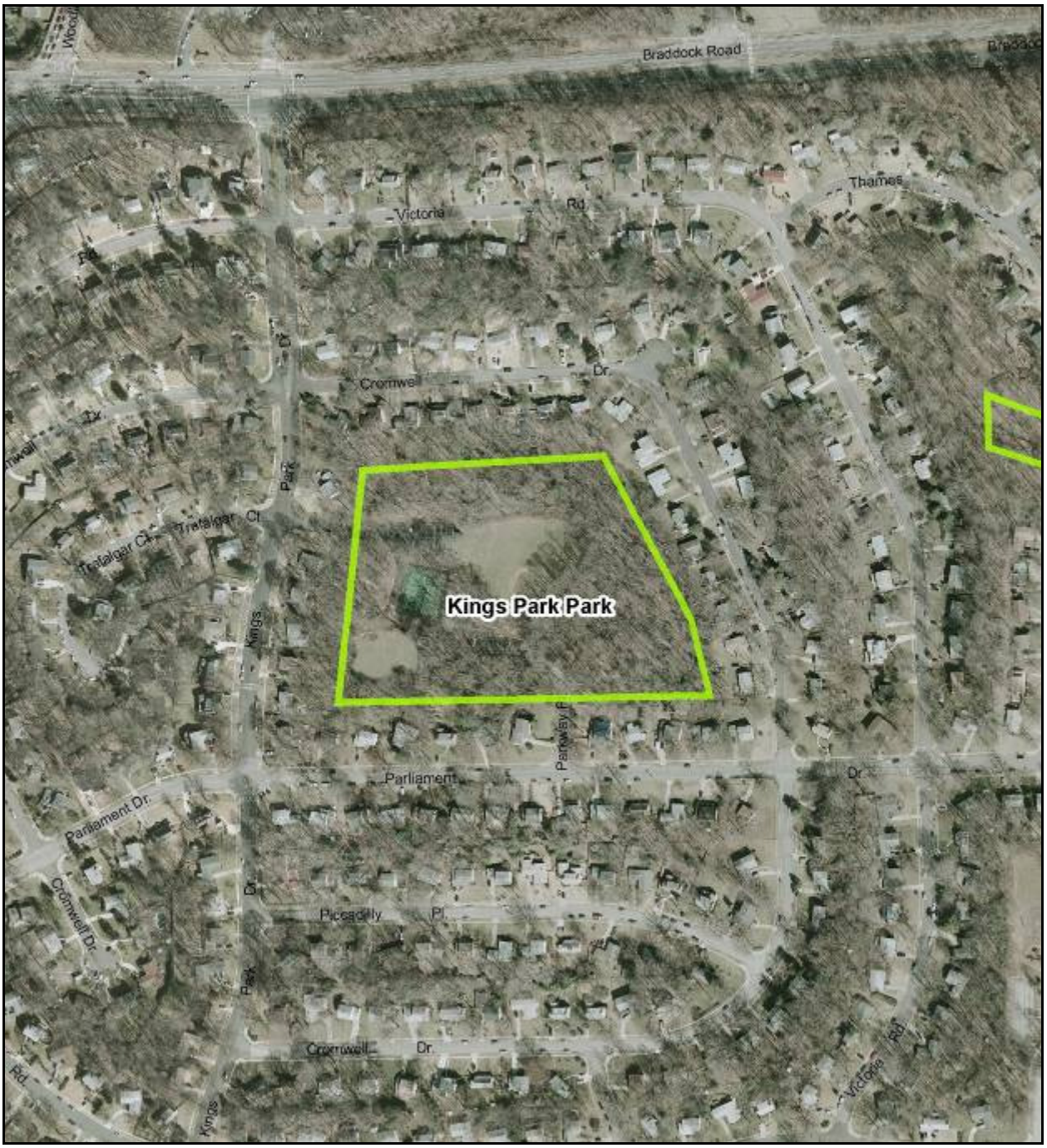

Figure 6: Aerial Photo of Park and Surrounding Area

2. Nearby Parks and Schools

Within three miles of Kings Park Park are 36 schools, including Kings Park Elementary School, less than half a mile from the park. Typically, elementary schools have athletic fields and playgrounds that are available to the public during non-school hours. Kings Park Elementary School provides two playgrounds, a basketball court, a small rectangle field, and an open play area. In addition, there

are 34 park sites within a two-mile service area, 26 of which provide similar recreational facilities. Some offer unique facilities such as Wakefield Park with a skate park, synthetic rectangular field, mountain bike trails, and RECenter with aquatic facilities. Nearby Lake Accotink Park provides trails, picnic areas, mini golf, a merry-go-round, fishing, and boat rentals. The 42-mile Cross County Trail (CCT) passes through both Lake Accotink and Wakefield Parks. Figure 7 shows the parks and facilities that are located within Kings Park Park's 2-mile service area.

PARK NAME	MINI GOLF	MULTI USE TRAILS	CAROUSEL	HORSESHOE PIT	OPEN PLAY AREA	PICNIC AREAS	SCHOOL AGE PLAYGROUND	TOT LOT	ARTIFICIAL TURF	RECTANGLE FIELDS	DIAMOND FIELDS	SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS	TENNIS COURTS	TENNIS PRACTICE WALL	BASKETBALL COURTS	DANCE ROOM	FITNESS CENTER	GYMNASIUM	INDOOR POOLS AND DIVING	MULTI PURPOSE ROOM	PHOTOGRAPHY LAB	POTTERY LAB	RACQUETBALL HANDBALL WALLYBALL	SAUNA	SQUASH	SUN DECK	RECENTER	GARDEN PLOTS	HISTORIC FEATURE	HISTORIC RENTAL FACILITY	SKATE PARK	BOAT RENTALS	BOAT LAUNCH
ACCOTINK SV		1																											1				
AMERICANA											1																						
ASHFORD EAST																																	
BURKE STATION		1					1						2		1																		
CANTERBURY WOODS		1			1								1		1																		
CARDINAL FOREST		1			1		1	1							1																		
CARRLEIGH PARKWAY		1																															
FAIRFAX HILLS																																	
FAIRFAX PARK SS																																	
FITZHUGH		1					1								1														1				
FLAG RUN					1																												
GEORGE MASON		1			1																							1	1				
GREENFIELD																																	
HERZELL WOODS					1																												
HOWERY FIELD		1								1	3																						
KINGS PARK		1			1	1	1	1			1		2		2																		
LAKE ACCOTINK	1	1	1		1	2	1					1																	1			1	1
LAKE BRADDOCK SS					1					2																							
LONG BRANCH FALLS					1																												
LONG BRANCH SV		1																															
MONTICELLO					1																												
OAK HILL		1																															
OLDE FORGE																																	
POHICK SV		1			1	1									1														1				
RED FOX FOREST					1																												
ROLLING WOODS ESTATES																																	
ROYAL RIDGE		1				1																							1				
RUTHERFORD		1			1	1	1				2		3		1																		
SILAS BURKE					1	1	1								1																		
SURREY SQUARE		1					1								1																		
THE WAKEFIELD CHAPEL																													1	1			
TWINBROOK ROAD																																	
WAKEFIELD		1		1	1	1		1	1	2	6		13	6	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		
WAKEFIELD CHAPEL					1																												
WILLOW WOODS		1			1																												

Figure 7: Table of Parks within Kings Park Park Service Area

B. EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

The existing site conditions are studied to determine the opportunities and challenges located on the site. Using the existing conditions data allows for more focused planning and development.

1. Natural Resources

Kings Park Park is a small suburban park, relatively ecologically isolated from other parkland. The park is within the Accotink Creek watershed; the watershed is classified by the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services as a Watershed Restoration Level II Area. These areas are characterized by having many opportunities for localized improvements. Watershed Restoration Level II Areas have as their primary goal to "Maintain areas to prevent further degradation and implement measures to improve water quality to support or comply with Chesapeake Bay Initiatives, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) [a measurement of the amount of sediment in the water column; more sediment is associated with poorer water quality] regulations and other water quality initiatives and standards."

Kings Park Park is well defined, since it is bounded on all sides by private residences. This situation combined with the park's compact, rectangular shape, means that it is much less impacted by offsite activities than most parks of this size. In general, the plant community at this park is healthy, the wildlife community appears typical for the region and the stream condition is ranked as "good" (*Stream Physical Assessment*, 2002).

a) Soils and Topography

Kings Park Park has four natural soil types: Glenville, Meadowville, Elioak, and Glenelg. These soils are typical of Fairfax County with Glenelg being the most common in the county.

Glenville and Meadowville soils occur in drainage ways as well as the base of slopes, consisting of clays or silts over decomposed rock. Depth to seasonal high water table ranges from one to four feet with moderate permeability. Structural support may be marginal because of seasonal saturation perpetuating the soft soil. Grading is required to eliminate wet yards.

Glenelg soils are moderately deep, well-drained soils formed in materials weathered from quartz mica rocks often found below the surface. This soil occurs on the upper slopes and hilltops. Permeability is moderate with a moderate to high bearing capacity. However, the high mica content causes this soil to "fluff" up when disturbed, making it difficult to compact, requiring engineering stabilization for use as structural fill.

Elioak soils are generally upland, moderately well drained soils, associated with good infiltration. This soil requires engineering designs for fill or structural uses. This soil occurs on hilltops and side slopes underlain by micaceous schist. Silts and clays overlie silty and sandy decomposed rock. Depth to hard bedrock ranges from five to 100 feet. Permeability is moderate to moderately rapid. Foundation support for small buildings (three stories or less) is typically suitable. Because of high mica content, the soil tends to "fluff" up when disturbed and is difficult to compact, requiring engineering designs for use as structural fill.

In the area where the old pool structure was demolished, soil was added, and the site graded. This constructed soil is classified as fill, with characteristics associated with disturbed soils. Until the soil is compacted over time, it will not support any structures. An alternative would be to replace, re-grade and compact the soil, which would add to the cost of any new facilities.

The site gently slopes from south to north with the highest point in the southwest corner and lowest point in the stream bottom near the northeast corner. For the most part, the area has gentle slopes; however, the portion of the site between the former pool site and the existing tennis courts is very steep. During pool ownership, this area was stabilized with retaining walls and non-native vegetation. Erosion of the slope near the tennis courts is not currently an issue.

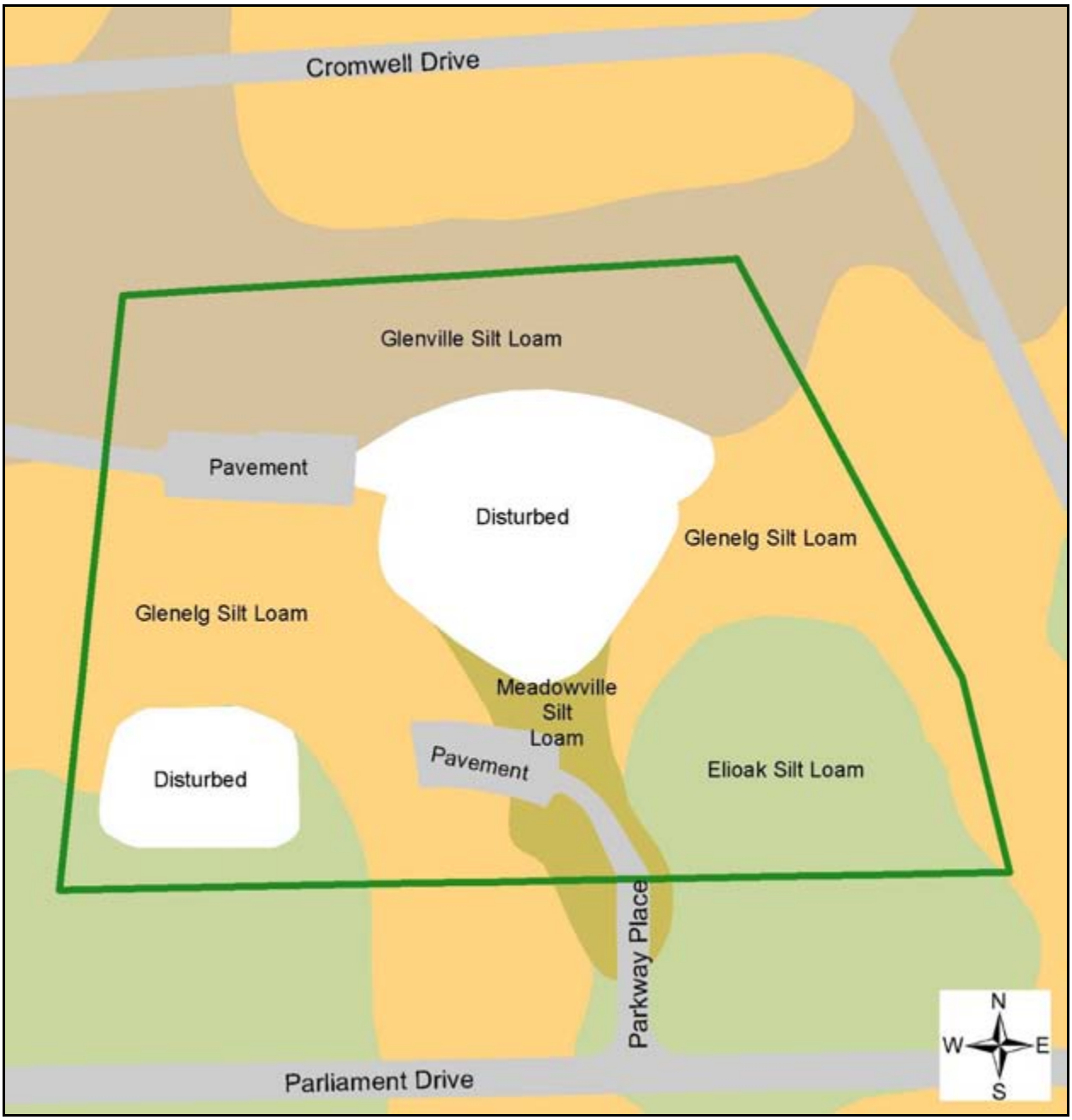

Figure 8: Soils Map

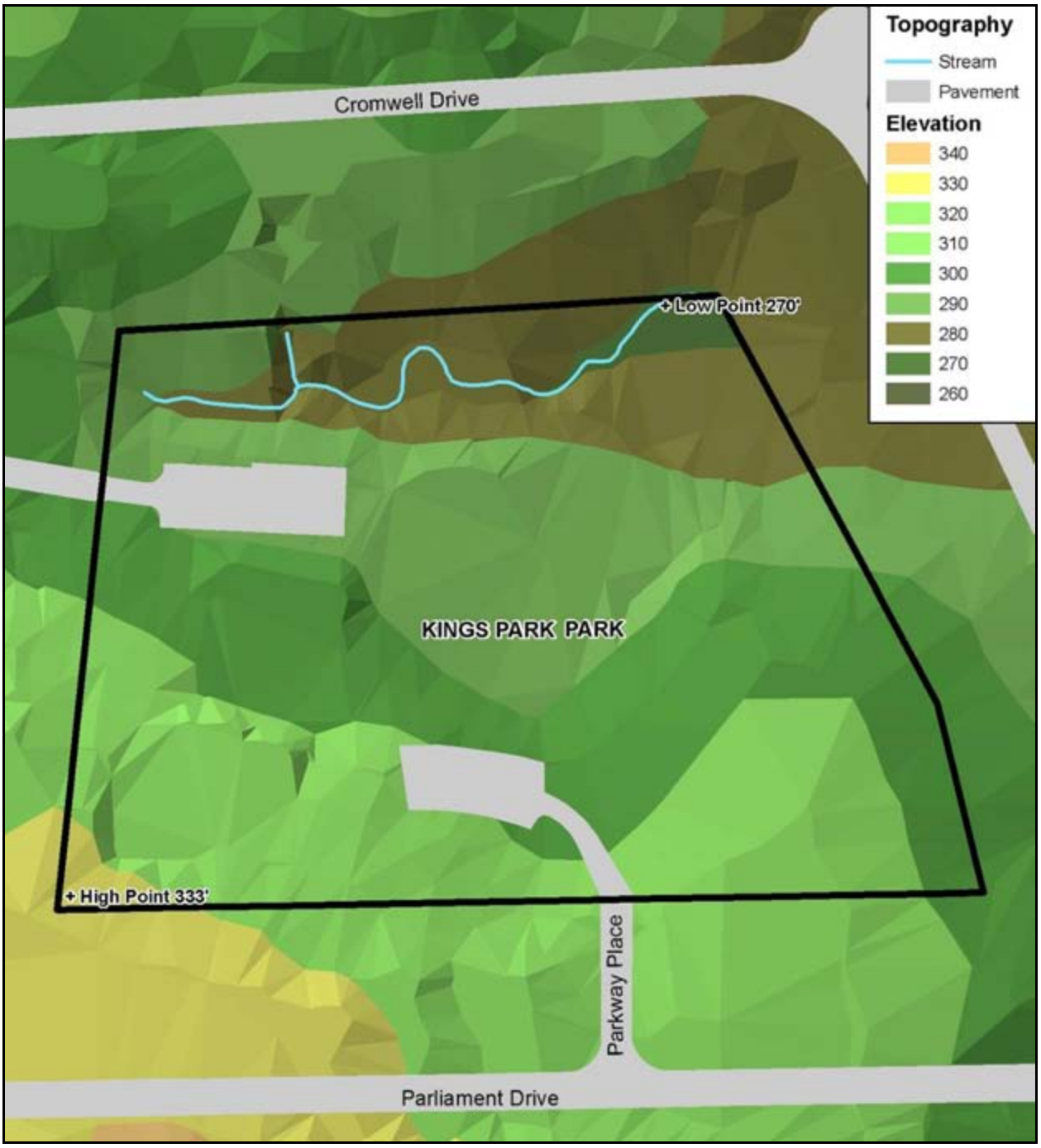

Figure 9: Topography Map

b) Hydrology

An unnamed tributary of Accotink Creek flows from west to east across the northern portion of the site. This is a perennial stream, and as such has a designated Resource Protection Area (Chesapeake Bay Ordinance) of 100 feet from both banks of the stream. Just downstream of parkland the stream enters an underground conduit system to travel under roads and houses until it daylights again in Lake Accotink Park.

Although the stream suffers from undercut banks, overhanging roots and areas of erosion, the overall condition of the stream is stabilizing, with a good habitat health rating. There is no pressing need to correct the damage from excess stormwater flow by in-stream modification. Decreases in stormwater runoff to the stream via upstream property owners and / or low impact development (LID) retrofits by the adjacent landowners could help the stream stabilize more quickly.

The area where the old pool has been filled has drainage issues due to the unsettled nature of the fill soil.

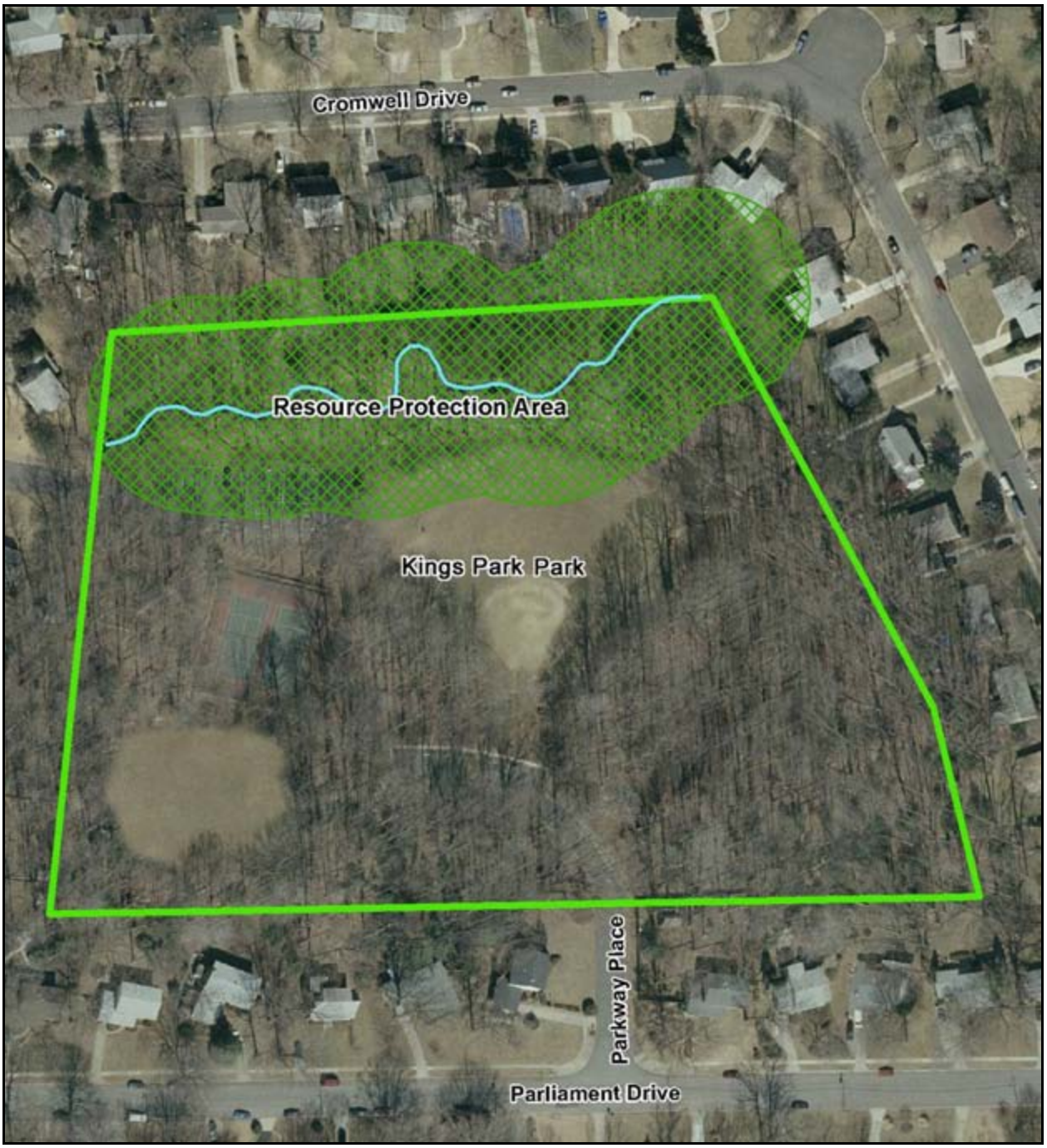

Figure 10: Hydrology Map

c) Vegetation

A formal natural resource inventory has not been completed for this park. There is an Invasives Management Area site at Kings Park Park, however, and as a result, a partial plant list has been completed for the park. Typical components of the eastern Temperate Deciduous Forest are found in the park, including multiple species of oaks (*Quercus* spp.), hickory (*Carya* spp.), maple (*Acer spp.*), and American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*).

The shrub understory is unusually healthy and diverse for Fairfax County, containing many viburnums (*Viburnum* spp.) and the native strawberry bush (*Euonymus americanus*). The groundcover is also diverse, including spring ephemerals such as May apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) and herbaceous plants. Non-native, invasive plants are a significant part of the plant community. The dominant non-native plant present is the highly invasive English ivy (*Hedera helix*) and periwinkle (*Vinca minor*).

Trumpetcreeper honeysuckle is a native honeysuckle that is uncommon on Fairfax County parkland.

Maple-leafed viburnum is part of the healthy native shrub community in Kings Park.

English ivy is the most damaging of non-native invasive plants in the park. It is climbing trees which could cause long-term tree hazards.

Kings Park Plant List - April 2007

Agrimonia sp.	Agrimony
Ilex opaca	American Holly
Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood
Fraxinus sp.	Ash
Phyllostachys sp.	Bamboo
Fagus grandifolia	American Beech
Uvularia sp.	Bellwort
Prunus serotina	Black Cherry
Viburnum prunifolium	Black Haw
Poystichum acrostichoides	Christmas Fern
Smilax rotundifolia	Common Greenbrier
Narcissus sp.	Daffodil
Ulmus sp.	Elm
Hedera helix	English Ivy
Smilacina racemosa	False Solomon's Seal
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood
Vitis sp.	Grape
Cardamine hirsuta	Hairy Bittercress
Carya sp.	Hickory
Vaccinium corymbosum	Highbush Blueberry
Carpinus carolinia	Ironwood
Arisaema triphyllum	Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Lonicera japonica	Japanese Honeysuckle
Ranunculus abortivus	Kidney Leaf Buttercup
Athyrium asplenoides	Lady Fern
Ranunculus ficaria	Lesser Celandine
Lonicera diervilla	Low Bush Honeysuckle
Euonymus kiautschovicus	Manhattan Euonymus
Podophyllum peltatum	May Apple
Rosa multiflora	Multiflora Rose
Mitchella repens	Patridgeberry
Asimina triloba	Pawpaw
Rhus toxicodendron	Poison Ivy
Ligustrum sinense	Privet
Acer rubrum	Red Maple
Euonymus americanus	Strawberry Bush
Lonicera sempervirens	Trumpetcreeper Honeysuckle
Viola sp.	Violet
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Virginia Creeper
Geum canadense	White Avens
Quercus alba	White Oak
Allium vineale	Wild Garlic
Euonymus fortunei	Wintercreeper Euonoymus
Oxalis sp.	Wood Sorrel

Figure 11: Invasive Species Management Area Map

d) Wildlife

A wildlife survey has not been conducted for this park, but Park Authority records indicate that neighbors have reported seeing foxes. Coyote, rabbit, red-tailed hawks, and white-tailed deer have been reported by park staff in or around the park. These species are all typical of the region and would be expected to tolerate park use by visitors. Deer are voracious herbivores, eating

much of the plant understory in wooded areas and the results of deer herbivory is a familiar sight in Fairfax County. Too much deer browsing can have a detrimental impact on plant communities. The healthy state of the shrub layer at Kings Park Park, combined with minimal evidence of deer presence, suggests that deer are infrequent visitors to this park. This makes Kings Park Park one of the few parks in the county that does not have a deer problem.

e) Rare Species

According to Natural Resources Management and Protection Section staff, there are no known reports of endangered, threatened, or rare species occurring at Kings Park Park. A nearby report of Rough Avens (*Geum laciniatum*) supports the likelihood that this species could also occur at Kings Park Park, but it has not been found due to lack of survey. This state rare species is relatively non-descript, but the similar and more common White Avens (*Geum canadense*) has been reported at Kings Park Park.

f) Resource Management

The Resource Protection Area (RPA) on the northern third of the park is designated by the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance. This area can have certain designated activities such as trails, but new, non-critical facilities are discouraged from being placed within the RPA. An exception permit would be required to build facilities within this area.

Active resource management has occurred in a limited fashion in this park. In 2006, a volunteer group worked to designate a one-half acre portion of parkland as an Invasive Management Area in the northern most portion of the site. Invasive Management Areas are designated by the Fairfax County Park Authority for active control of non-native invasive plants by their removal and replacement with native species with the ongoing support of volunteers from the community.

2. Cultural Resources

Historically, the human occupation of the land upon which Kings Park Park lies has been heavily influenced by its geology and topography. The park lies on ancient bedrock that has produced quartz outcrops on the slopes south of the adjacent stream. This silica-rich quartz is the hardest stone occurring in the local bedrock, remaining long after the surrounding bedrock erodes away. The presence of large quartz boulders in the soil plus the sloping topography mean that the property has never been plowed and is unsuitable for historic homesteads. Prior to its current recreational uses, the park may have only been timbered since European settlement of Fairfax County.

Whereas quartz is not a commonly used stone during historic times, it was the primary stone used by many Native American groups throughout the 13,000 years

of prehistory in the Washington, D.C. area. The quartz on Kings Park Park is of moderate to high quality. County archaeology staff has identified numerous small quartz quarry workshop areas in the park. These areas represent places where people, thousands of years ago, made stone tools. Native Americans used the tools throughout the region. The quartz quarries at Kings Park Park could be referred to as a "prehistoric hardware store."

3. Existing Facilities

a) Recreational Facilities

Kings Park Park provides the following recreational facilities:

- Small practice diamond field
- 2 lighted tennis courts
- 2 basketball courts
- Playground
- Picnic area
- Open grassy area (former pool site)

i. Diamond Field

The diamond field is a small practice field with a chain link fence backstop and a couple of wooden team benches. There are no dugouts, bleachers or concrete bleacher pads. Much of the outfield is located within the Chesapeake Bay Resource Protection Area (RPA). The Annandale North Springfield Little League (ANSLL) uses the field for baseball practice from March through June. The Braddock Road Youth Club (BRYC) uses the field for football practice from August through October. Use permits for the fields are allocated to local sports organizations and the community by the Department of Community and Recreation Services (CRS) in accordance with the County's adopted field allocation policy. The field is also available for informal neighborhood games when not scheduled for use by the leagues.

ii. Tennis Courts

Two lit tennis courts are located between the west parking lot and the former pool site. The courts were upgraded in 2006 and are in excellent condition. The lighting was not updated at that time and needs to be replaced. While the rest of the park is closed at dusk, the tennis court is open until 11 p.m., when the lights turn off. The courts are available for use on a first-come, first-served basis.

iii. Basketball Courts

Two basketball courts are located at the end of the west parking lot, providing opportunities for informal play. The courts were upgraded in 2006 and are in excellent condition.

iv. Playground

The playground includes two climbing structures and two sets of swings. One structure, designed for tots ages 2-5, and the swings were replaced in the spring of 2007. One older structure, for school-aged children, is nearing the end of its usability. The playground is located in a wooded area, making it well shaded and cool.

v. Picnic Area

The picnic area, with a few tables, grills and trash cans, is located between the diamond field and the south parking lot in a small wooded area.

vi. Open Grassy Area

With the addition of the former pool site, the park now has an open grassy area of about one half acre for informal use. Due to the nature of the fill, the site will take several years to settle. This area will require additional filling and grading work in order to be able to support any structures.

b) Utilities

The park has access to public water, sewer, and electric services. Electricity is used to light the tennis courts and south parking lot. Water and sewer formerly served the Royal Pool but are not in use at the park at this time.

c) Access and Circulation

i. Vehicular Access and Parking

There are two vehicular entrances to the park. One, on the west side of the park, is on Trafalgar Court, off Kings Park Drive. The other is on the south side of the park, off Parliament Drive. The southern entrance previously also provided access to the former Royal Pool. Both park entrances provide parking, with 18 spaces in the west lot and 34 in the south lot, including two recently added accessible spaces. With the removal of the swimming pool, the number of parking spaces provided may be higher than needed for a typical local neighborhood-serving park.

ii. Pedestrian Access and Trails

A paved trail provides pedestrian and bicycle access to the park from Cromwell Drive on the east. The trail continues along the stream valley to the west parking lot near the basketball courts. Another section goes south to the playground. This section of trail has been well used and some sections are in poor condition. Another trail leads up the hill from the west parking lot, past the tennis courts to the grassy former pool site. A new, short segment of paved trail also leads from the accessible parking in the south lot through the playground.

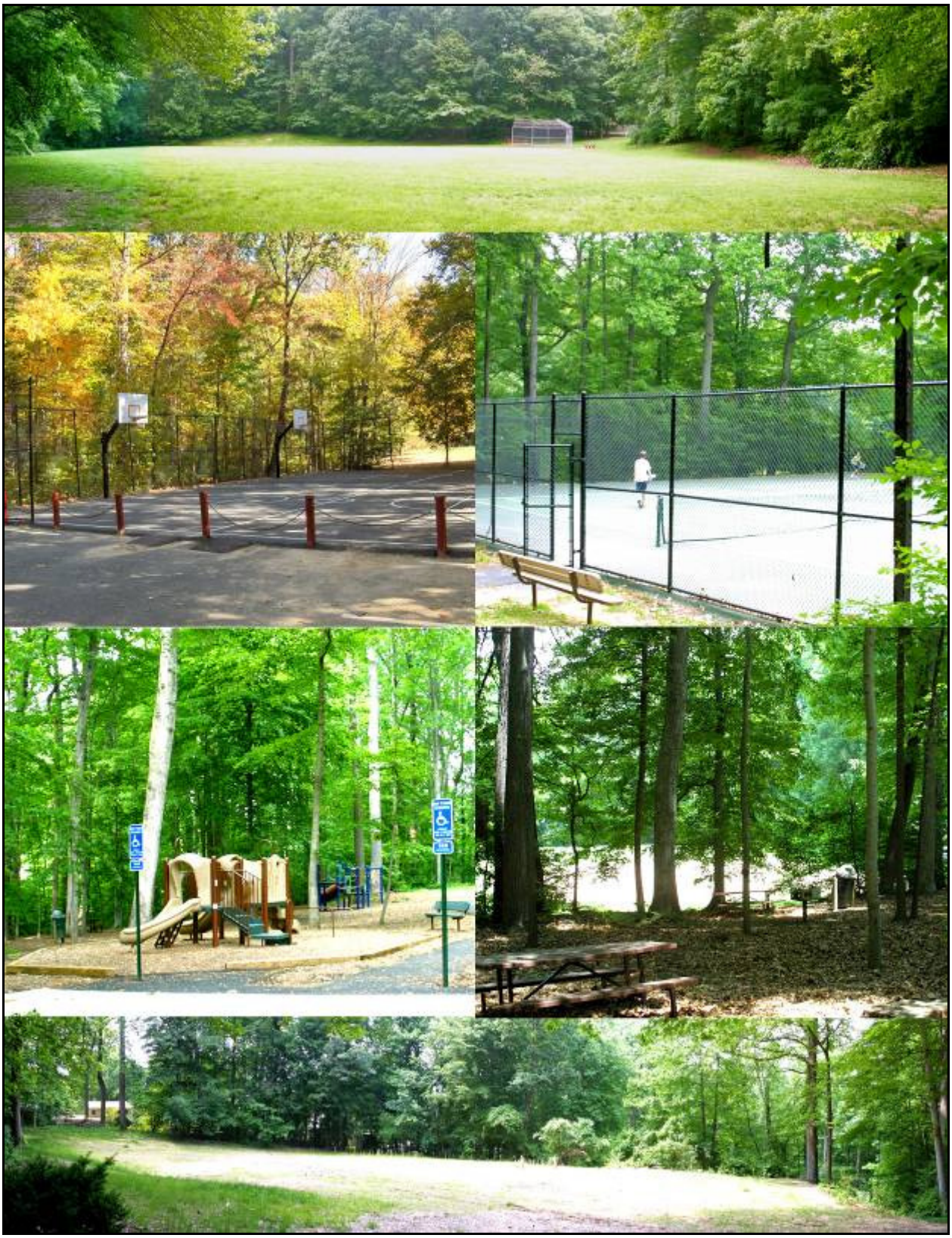

Figure 12: Kings Park Park Facilities

Figure 13: Park Entrances and Parking Lots (South & West Respectively)

Figure 14: Paved Trail

PART 2: GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

The General Management Plan (GMP) shown on page 29 provides a management framework that serves as a guide to long-term management and planning at Kings Park Park. Building on the background and existing site conditions in Part 1, the GMP for Kings Park Park identifies site opportunities and constraints; outlines management objectives for park development; and provides a broad, basic division of space within the park. The GMP will also provide an overview of the desired user experience as well as "management zones" or focal points for specific types of development.

II. MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

A. DESIRED VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Kings Park Park is envisioned to draw users from the adjacent neighborhoods and the larger community within the service area (roughly defined as a two-mile radius). The intention is to continue to provide a park that offers a balance between active and passive recreation opportunities attracting a wide-range of users including youth sports teams, children, and families who want to enjoy the playground and picnic areas, and individuals interested in a walk through the woods. Through interpretive displays, visitors may learn about the prehistoric use of the site by native inhabitants and the site's environmental features. Typical user visits would last from thirty minutes to two-hours.

B. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve the park's purpose, the following objectives have been developed to guide specific actions and strategies for dealing with management issues:

- Kings Park Park should remain a focal point of the Kings Park neighborhood and be a space for community-building activities.

- Park users should have full access to any facility to which access is possible and feasible. This includes improved accessibility to existing facilities, access to new features, and improved connections between different areas of the park.

- Preservation, protection, interpretation, and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources are integral to the Kings Park Park experience. Every effort should be made to balance the stewardship of these resources with active recreation needs.

C. SITE AMENITIES & VISITOR SERVICES

This is an unstaffed local park where typical visits are self directed and expected to last up to two hours. As such, the park will be unstaffed and will not include any

major service facilities. An orientation area with a small kiosk could be sited at one of the park entrances to provide general information about park and recreational opportunities at the site as well as other park sites nearby (such as Wakefield and Lake Accotink Parks). Other visitor amenities may include benches, trash cans, picnic tables, and interpretative signage for natural and cultural resource education.

D. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1. Natural Resource Management

Natural resource management at Kings Park Park is intended to maintain ecosystem services and improve the health of the natural community. The property will serve multiple recreation uses as a local park, but about half of the property will remain in a natural (minimally developed) state. As long as the natural areas remain healthy, the undeveloped portions of the property can be expected to provide valuable wildlife benefits and nature experiences for local residents. There are no known sensitive natural resources in the park, however, if discovered, natural resource management may need to take into account specific needs or requirements of the sensitive resource. The vegetation is somewhat impacted from human disturbance, particularly from disposal of yard waste (leaves, branches) on parkland and extensive coverage and competition from non-native invasive plant species. Non-native, invasive species management in the park should be continued and expanded as resources allow. Disposal of yard waste and other debris should be eliminated.

2. Cultural Resource Management

County staff has identified numerous small quartz quarry workshop areas in the existing playground and picnic areas of the park. Phase II archaeological testing should be undertaken prior to any development in these areas to ascertain the significance of the cultural resources. If any sites are determined to be significant, then either they should be avoided or Phase III data recovery should be performed. Any Phase III scopes will provide for public interpretation of the results. If additional research or information is found that may indicate the presence of other cultural resources, additional archaeological work may be required.

E. SITE CONSIDERATIONS

The Park Authority's area maintenance crew will provide periodic maintenance and repairs to the site. This includes mowing the grassy areas, removing leaves from the courts, trimming underbrush, emptying trash, and other similar tasks. Other maintenance tasks include inspection of facilities, lighting, and equipment; athletic field preparation; cleanup; limbing-up of trees; tree removal; repairing pavement; and filling and grading the former pool site as it settles as needed. The maintenance crew also responds to any park issues brought to their attention by citizens or staff. The tennis court lights are over thirty years old and are a maintenance issue due to difficult access. These should be replaced with poles that can be lowered for ease of maintenance and to ensure that the Resource Protection Zone is not impacted.

III. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The management framework is developed using the background data gathered through research, site analysis, public input, and the plan goal stated earlier in this document. The framework is used to describe character areas and themes to develop broad management zones within the park. These management zones serve as a guide for future planning efforts by identifying areas within the park where certain improvements should help achieve the desired user experience, reduce the impact of development on natural systems and surrounding users, and provide the best services possible. This framework provides broad flexibility within a range of potential uses for each management zone. Figure 16, the General Management Plan depicts the management zones.

Figure 15: General Management Plan Map

A. ENTRANCE ZONE

Kings Park Park has three entrance zones. The two entrances from Trafalgar Court and Parliament Drive provide vehicular access. The third, from Cromwell Drive, provides pedestrian and non-motorized access only. Potential uses for the entrance zone includes parking, entry signage, road frontage improvements, pedestrian connections, and buffer plantings.

B. RECREATION ZONE

Recreation zones are generally located in areas of existing diamond fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and the former pool area. The recreation zone is intended to support the development of recreation facilities with amenities to provide a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities. Development in this zone should minimize impact to natural and cultural resources, but may include some resource impact, such as tree removal or Phase III archaeology. Potential uses for this zone include athletic fields, open play area, sport courts, playground, picnic area with pavilion, and trails.

C. RESOURCE PROTECTION ZONE

Due to the cultural and natural resources that exist in this park, several areas of the park are designated as a Resource Protection Zones. Typically, these areas are limited to low impact facilities such as natural surface trails, educational signs, and other low impact uses with a defined footprint that provides recreational and / or educational benefit. In Kings Park Park, this area is managed with the primary purpose of interpreting, protecting, and preserving the cultural and natural resources of the site. With the exception of interpretation and preservation activities, human impact in this zone should be kept to a minimum. Permissible activities include archaeological research and management of cultural features, wildlife habitat, and forest health. Trails and interpretive features are permitted in this zone.

The trails in the northern and eastern portions provide a natural setting for passive recreational activities, including walking/jogging or bicycling, relaxation, and bird watching, as well as educational experiences. Some trails will need to be relocated to protect sensitive resources, including the prevention of erosion by removing trails from steep slopes. New trail segments should be stone surfaced. Amenities, such as benches, directional / way finding signs, and interpretative features describing important resources may be placed at specific locations throughout the zone. The number of signs and walkways are to be kept to a minimum to preserve the setting while preventing impacts to resources.

D. BUFFER ZONE

A buffer zone should be provided along the periphery of the park to minimize impacts to neighboring residents. In conformance with zoning requirements, a 35-foot wide transitional screening yard is required, but because Kings Park Park is located within

a residential neighborhood, a 50-foot buffer is provided to ensure a measure of privacy and to minimize adverse effects on both the park and adjacent residences. The Park Authority normally tries to preserve any existing vegetation (except for invasive species management) within the 50-foot buffer area and to supplement that existing buffer material as may be needed or appropriate.

PART 3: CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

The Conceptual Development Plan (CDP) describes recommendations for future park uses and facilities using the management framework established in the GMP. The CDP contains descriptions of the concept plan elements, design concerns, and plans that show the general location of the recommended projects (Figure 17 - Conceptual Development Plan). Once approved, the new CDP replaces the original CDP developed in 1967.

Figure 16: Conceptual Development Plan Map

II. CHANGES TO PREVIOUSLY APPROVED MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS

A. PLAYGROUND / WOODED AREA

The existing playground is in an area with tall trees and some underbrush at the edges. Archaeological investigations have identified much of the playground area as a cultural resource site. Before any future development could occur at the site, additional archaeological studies would be needed. If resources are found to be significant, further development in these areas should be avoided. Rather than attempting to replace or expand the playground at this site, any new or replacement play equipment should be located in less sensitive areas of the park. As the play equipment ages, it should be removed from the wooded area. Since some of the existing play equipment was recently installed, it could be at least ten years before those pieces are removed. Once all of the play equipment has been removed from this site, re-vegetation with native plant material should occur.

B. SOUTH PARKING LOT

The south parking lot was built, in part, to support the Royal Pool use. Now that the pool no longer exists, the number of parking spaces is greater than the amount needed to support the existing and planned uses at Kings Park Park. A small area of the south parking lot should be redeveloped for other uses, eliminating up to six parking spaces.

C. TENNIS COURTS

A practice wall should be added to the south end of the tennis courts. All work related to maintenance and replacement of the tennis court lights should be performed from the tennis courts so as not to affect the Resource Protection Zone.

D. TRAILS

A damaged trail section with retaining wall on the slope between the tennis court fence and open play area should be removed. This area should then be re-vegetated to help with stormwater control while preventing erosion of the disturbed slope between the tennis courts and the former pool area.

IV. NEW PLAN ELEMENTS

A. FAMILY PICNIC AND PLAY AREA

A small area at the western end of the south parking lot should be redeveloped, along with the current picnic area and former pool driveway area, to create a new family picnic and play area that should be a focal point for the park. This area will be convenient to parking, the diamond ball field, tennis courts, and the former pool area. A new playground is planned for this area. Some of the play equipment should be designed to meet the needs of school-age children ages 5-12, including climbing and physical fitness elements. A medium-sized picnic pavilion (that can hold four to six picnic tables) is also recommended for the site. A pavilion at this site can provide a central location for parents to monitor children on the play equipment or ball field,

while also providing weather protection. The pavilion should be of a size and scale appropriate for a local park to accommodate family-oriented activities. Examples of potential features are shown in Figures 17 through 19.

Figure 17: Climbing Rocks

Figure 18: Mobius Climbing Structure

Figure 19: Picnic Shelters

B. OPEN PLAY AREA

Without major filling and re-grading work, the former pool site is not suitable for new structures. It should be used for informal play or as a small rectangle field for practice use by younger-aged sports teams. A fence or barrier should be erected at the northeastern corner of the grassy area, due to the steep slopes at this corner.

C. NEW TRAIL SEGMENTS

Add new trail segments to form a continuous loop trail throughout the park. One segment should be provided from the former pool site through the wooded area south of the south parking lot. Another segment should connect the stream valley trail to the sidewalk along Trafalgar Court. Finally, the pathway between the south parking lot and the diamond field should be formalized for better accessibility and maintenance. ADA accessibility and maintenance access should be provided wherever possible and feasible. New trail sections should not be paved. These sections shall be placed to minimize impacts to significant cultural and natural resources. The number of walkways are to be kept to a minimum to preserve the setting while preventing impacts to resources.

D. INTERPRETIVE SIGN(S)

Orientation kiosks could be placed at the park entrances and interpretive signs should be placed along the trail loop. The interpretive signs should be designed within the framework of Resource Management Division and Park Operations guidelines for interpretive trail signs. At least one interpretive sign should focus on the prehistoric use of the site by Native Americans as a quartz quarry workshop. Other signs could provide educational information about the natural resources in the park and invasive species management efforts.

V. DESIGN CONCERNS

A. LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND SITE FURNISHINGS

The picnic/play area should be an integrated, visually pleasing whole. Attractive, coordinated colors and durable materials should be used for picnic tables, play equipment, and site furnishings. This will tie the elements of the park's structured activity area together. There should be seating at the edge of the playground or open area to help define the space while providing places to observe and rest. Shade trees should be located strategically to provide shade to visitors on benches.

B. ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible park elements and facilities should be provided wherever possible and feasible.

VI. PUBLIC USE PERMIT

Virginia law, Section 15.2-2232, requires local Planning Commissions to review public facility uses to determine if their general location, character, and extent are substantially in accord with the County Comprehensive Plan. Following adoption of this master plan revision the Park Authority will submit an Application for a "2232 Review" to the Planning Commission for a finding of conformance with the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission may hold its own public hearing prior to acting on the application. This process includes detailed review by County staff and could be determined a "feature shown" through an administrative process and be approved without a public hearing before the Planning Commission.

1967 Master Plan Elements
Diamond Field
Tennis Courts
Picnic Area
Tot Lot
Trail
Parking

Added Since 1967 Master Plan Elements
Basketball Courts

2009 Master Plan Revision Elements
Defined Management Zones
Incorporation of Former Pool Site
Natural Resource Management
Cultural Resource Management
Playground (Tot Lot) Relocation
Diamond Field
Lit Tennis Courts
Tennis Practice Wall
Basketball Courts
Family Picnic & Play Area
Picnic Pavilion
School Age Playground
Climbing Structure
Continuous Loop Trail
Open Play Area
Interpretive Signs
Parking