DRAFT

Langley Fork Park

Master Plan

June 2013

Fairfax County Park Authority

Langley Fork Park

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I) INTRODUCTION

A) PURPOSE AND PLAN DESCRIPTION

Fairfax County is a thriving community that is home to more than one million residents and the base for over two hundred million square feet of commercial, industrial and retail space. The county's residents and work force all uniquely benefit from the more than 23,000 acres of parkland and the myriad of recreational opportunities provided throughout the county. In 1950, the Fairfax County Park Authority was established with the charge of maintaining the viability and sustainability of this expansive system of parks and facilities. In providing quality facilities and services while protecting the county's cultural and natural resources, the Park Authority seeks to improve the quality of life for the county's residents today and well into the future.

In order to achieve its long-range goals and objectives, the Park Authority has established a process for the planning of park property and facilities, intended to be consistent and equitable. A key part of this process includes development of Park Master Plans, specific to each park and intended to establish a long-range vision towards future site development. During the planning process, the site is evaluated to assess its context within the surrounding neighborhood as well as within the framework of the entire Fairfax County Park Authority park system. Potential and desired uses are considered with regard to the ability to establish them thoughtfully and sustainably on the subject property with public input as a key component in the decision-making process. When completed, the individual Park Master Plan will serve as a long-term, decision-making tool to guide all

aspects of the development related to planning, design, construction, resource management, and programming within that given park. To maintain the value of the Park Master Plan as an effective tool, periodic updates may occur so that the plan accurately reflects the park and its surroundings, addressing changes that occur over time. Physical site development ultimately will require additional study and detailed engineering that exceeds the scope of the Park Master Plan. It is the framework established through the Park Master Plan process, however, that assures cohesive, efficient and balanced development and usage of Park Authority assets.

B) PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Hearing the voice of public opinion is a key element in the Park Authority's approach to developing a park master plan. As such, a Public Information Meeting was held for Langley Fork Park on October 13, 2011. This meeting provided an opportunity for Park Authority staff to share background information about the property and to explain the park master planning process to the local community. Additionally, this meeting offered a forum for the community to share its vision for the park, express concerns and ask questions of Park Authority staff. The meeting was well attended, including approximately 50 community members representing nearby homeowners, sports leagues, community associations, and local press. Comments largely focused on the area's need for additional, quality active recreation although tempered with concern for potential impacts to adjacent homeowners and the environment as well as the recreation needs of those not active in group sports.

II) PARK BACKGROUND

A) LOCATION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Langley Fork Park is located at 6250 - Georgetown Pike in McLean, Virginia. - This location places the park within - the McLean Planning District and the - Dranesville Supervisory District. The - property is identified on Fairfax - County Tax Maps as Parcel 22-3 ((1)) - 40 (partial) and is approximately 54 - acres in size. The property is zoned R-1 which allows for public uses, such as - parks, as a permitted use. -

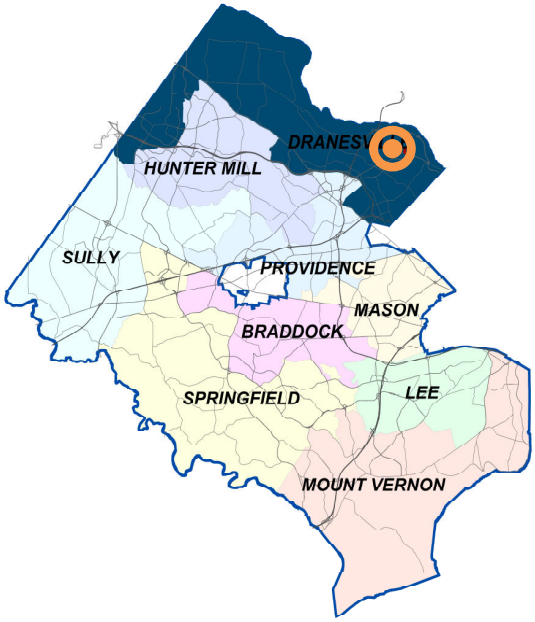


Figure 1: Site Location Map with Districts

The park site has public street - frontage on Georgetown Pike (Route - 193), along the southern property line, - as well as access onto Colonial Farm - Road, a private street on federal - property with public access. -

Langley Fork Park is a popular destination for local residents and sport teams who make use of the two rectangle fields, two diamond fields, basketball courts, trails and fitness trail that exist in the park. In addition to the developed recreational facilities, approximately 35 acres, more than one-half of the park site, remains as forested area.

B) ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Fairfax County Park Authority first became involved with Langley Fork Park in 1980. The property was then owned by the federal government, having been managed by the National Park Service since 1971. Athletic fields had been developed on the property; however, the mission of the National Park Service is focused on land preservation rather than on the provision of athletic facilities. In 1980, the National Park Service asked the Park Authority to manage and maintain the park site while the federal government retained ownership of the land. With this request in mind, the Park Authority developed a master plan for Langley Fork Park that was approved by the Park Authority Board in 1980 and entered into a 25-year Special Use Permit agreement with the National Park Service. This Special Use Permit authorized county management of the park and scheduling of the facilities and expired in 2005.

Figure 2: Aerial Vicinity Map

Changes in permitting policies within the National Park Service by 2005 necessitated a re-evaluation of the mechanism by which the property was managed. Significant changes in demographics and demand for athletic fields within Fairfax County affected the Park Authority's perspective on how the site might more efficiently address community demand, envisioning improvements not permitted under the terms of the original Special Use Permit. It was conceived that an exchange of land ownership might be most beneficial to each

party in achieving their individual missions. As the necessary coordination to affect the land exchange proceeded over the next several years, the Special Use Permit was renewed annually by the National Park Service, allowing for Fairfax County Park Authority to continue maintenance and usage of the athletic fields in the interim.

With any proposed change to federally-owned land, including the possibility of a land exchange, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires evaluation of the potential impacts of federal action to the natural and human environment. In the case of Langley Fork Park, this process was supported through the performance of an Environmental Assessment. Field research, combined with public input, provided the basis on which to evaluate the impacts of the land transfer and potential future development as proposed with this master plan revision.

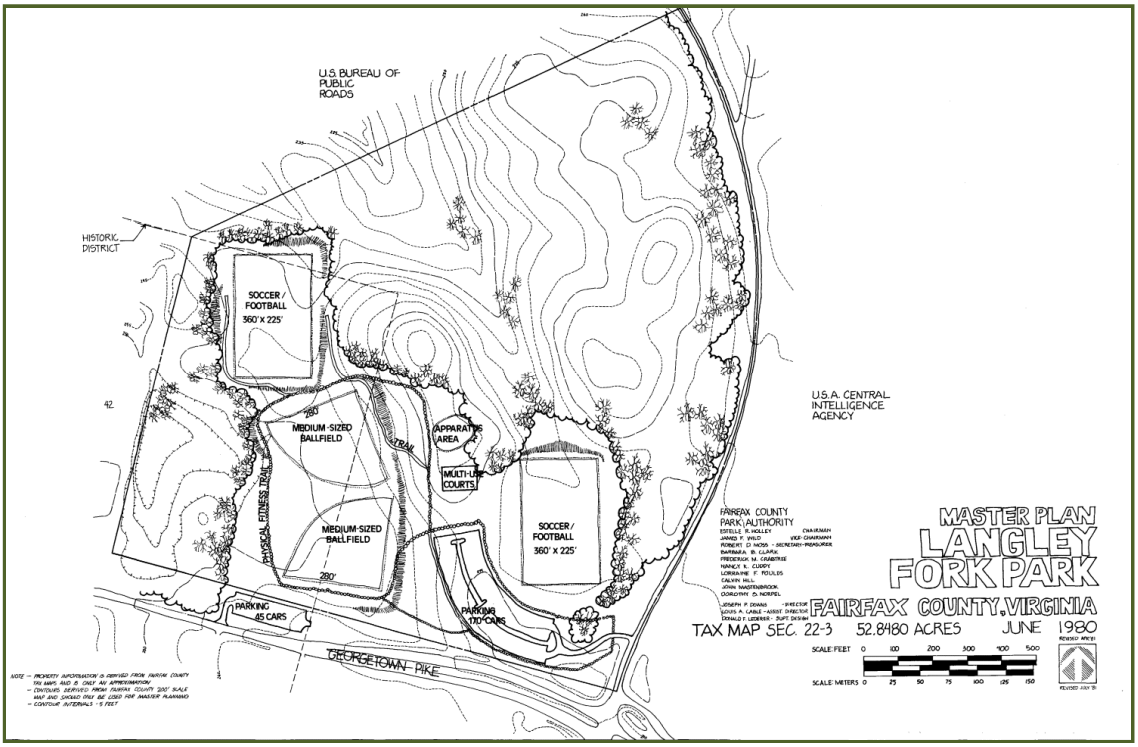


Figure 3: 1980 Approved Master Plan

With the Environmental Assessment's evaluation of the potential impacts of future development, it was vital that the Park Authority include a re-evaluation of the existing master plan as part of the process. Additionally, the population within the McLean Planning District had tripled between 1980 and 2010 with a general increase in community involvement in organized sports. Spurred by the population growth, increased land development in the McLean area left very few properties able to accommodate large-footprint recreational facilities. These factors influenced the Park Authority's decision to re-evaluate the facilities

within Langley Fork Park for ways to maximize usage of the site while preserving the natural and cultural resources.

The development plan approved by the Park Authority Board with this master plan revision was evaluated through the Environmental Assessment. The finding of "no significant impact" will clear the way to finalize the envisioned land exchange between the federal government and Fairfax County Park Authority. An equally-valued portion of Langley Oaks Park, owned by Fairfax County Park Authority, will be given to the federal government in exchange for the 54-acre Langley Fork Park. From this date, the Park Authority will solely own and manage the property, as governed by the conditions of the exchange agreement.

C) PARK CLASSIFICATION

The Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan establishes a framework intended to guide long-term planning for the county, with respect to both the built and natural environments. As a component of the Comprehensive Plan, the Policy Plan addresses goals and objectives for various planning elements, including parks and recreation. The Policy Plan includes the framework for a Park Classification System which is intended to guide the planning of open space and facilities.

Within the Park Classification System, Langley Fork Park is classified as a District Park. District Parks tend to serve a larger geographic area than the immediate surrounding community. With a service area that ranges from three to six miles, District Parks are typically accessed by a major arterial road as well as the Countywide Trail System to encourage pedestrian and bicycle access. The size of a District Park typically ranges from 50 to 150 acres.

District Parks provide opportunities for a range of user activities, including both passive and active recreation. Active recreation elements are typically well suited to District Parks by nature of the park's size, with deference to site conditions such as topography, resources, and access. Lighted facilities and extended hours of operation are common elements. The typical park user may be an individual or a group. Park visits may last up to half a day and attract many participants or spectators. Where site conditions indicate, areas of cultural or natural resource value may be managed and protected.

D) PLANNING CONTEXT

The McLean Planning District is generally well served by 56 public parks and over 2,600 acres of parkland. There is the need, however, as discussed earlier, to continue to respond to changing demographics and needs of the area. The Comprehensive Plan identifies a major park and recreation guideline for the McLean Planning District in that:

> "existing active recreation facilities should be upgraded and expanded, where possible, to meet projected needs. Major new development should provide additional recreation facilities commensurate with increased demand."

Within the recommendations for the Potomac Palisades Community Planning Sector, in which Langley Fork Park is located, the Comprehensive Plan states specifically of Langley Fork Park that:

> "since this park is the only site in the northeastern quadrant of the planning district developed with athletic fields, these facilities should be upgraded and expanded to maximize their utilization. Should the western portion of the CIA property ever become available, priority should be placed on acquiring a portion of that site to connect Langley Fork with Langley Oaks Natural Resource Park. This addition to Langley Fork Park would also preserve open space to buffer the significant ecological resources of the Countywide Park and facilitate continuity of trail development along the boundary of Turkey Run Park."

The land area surrounding Langley Fork Park is currently zoned as R-1 and R-3. Other than CIA headquarters and Clemyjontri Park, this area is predominantly developed with single-family homes. The entirety of the Potomac Palisades Community Planning Sector east of the Capital Beltway is planned for compatible infill, not to exceed a density of one-unit per acre. Commercial development is not permitted within the entire planning sector. In light of the Comprehensive Plan guidance and the nature of the existing development near Langley Fork Park, it is not anticipated that any significant changes in land use will occur in the vicinity of Langley Fork Park. Estimates by the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services reflect that the population within the McLean Planning District overall, however, is expected to continue to grow at a similar, if not slightly higher rate, than was experienced between 1980 and 2010.

1) LANGLEY FORK HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICT

As provided by the Code of Virginia, Historic Overlay Districts are created for the purpose of promoting the general welfare, education, and recreational pleasure of the public through the perpetuation of those general areas or individual structures and premises that have been officially designated as having historic, architectural, or cultural significance. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has currently designated thirteen Historic Overlay Districts in the county, including the Langley Fork Historic Overlay District.

The Langley Fork Historic Overlay District covers nearly 70 acres in McLean, including approximately 13.5 acres at the southwest corner of Langley Fork Park. This district was established in 1980 and placed on the National

Register of Historic Places. The district reflects the village of Langley that formed near the junction of Georgetown-Leesburg Turnpike and Chain Bridge Road. These routes were important in linking local, colonial-era farmers to merchants in Georgetown.

The Langley Fork Historic Overlay District reflects one of the most intact reminders of similar 19th-century settlements, including six of the original buildings.

Figure 4: Langley Fork Historic Overlay District Boundary

The guidelines for this overlay district seek to protect the rural character of the area with respect to the development pattern, landscape form, and architectural character. Within the Langley Fork Historic Overlay District, proposed development should:

- maintain the - character of - Georgetown Pike - as a two-lane - curving road, -
- blend driveways - and access roads - with the character - of the road, -
- screen all parking - areas, -

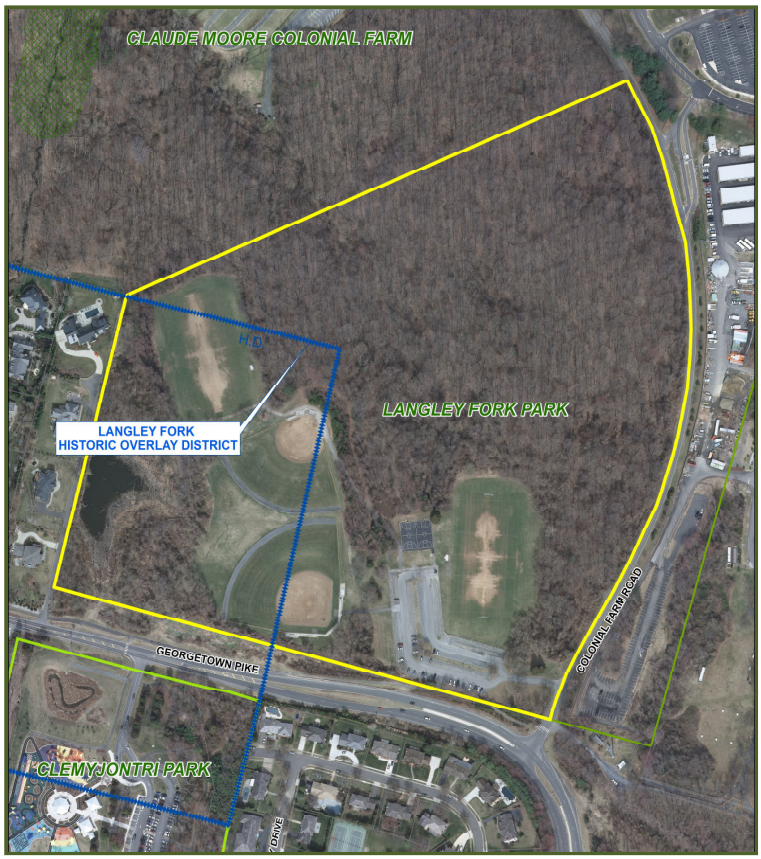


Figure 5: Langley Fork Historic Overlay District within Langley Fork Park

- maintain natural land contours,
- encourage informal, natural - landscaping with preference for - deciduous trees, -
- preserve open space at the eastern - end of the district, -
- consider the potential for - archaeological resources early in the - development process, -
- avoid dominant, vertical elements,
- entrance gates and posts should be - simple, -
- signage should be discrete and not - internally lighted, -
- exterior light fixtures should be - simple, -
- avoid free-standing light posts.

Figure 6: Virginia Byway Sign near Entrance to Langley Fork Park

Portions of Langley Fork Park that lie - beyond the limits of the historic overlay - district are not subject to the above noted - restrictions. -

2) VIRGINIA BYWAY

In addition to the visual protection of Georgetown Pike provided by the Historic Overlay District, Georgetown Pike is also identified as a Scenic Byway. As established by the Virginia Code, Scenic Byways exist through the state to note and protect road corridors of significant aesthetic or cultural value. The program encourages travel and stimulation of local business by attracting visitors to the area. The Virginia Scenic Byways program does not apply additional restrictions to development within Langley Fork Park other than to encourage a sense of contributing to the overall enjoyment of a drive along Georgetown Pike.

Figure 7: Langley Fork Historic Marker along Georgetown Pike

To facilitate opportunities to enjoy and understand this scenic byway, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) constructed a small, 22-parking space, scenic pull-off along Georgetown Pike in conjunction with a historic marker. The pull-off is located within the Georgetown Pike right-of-way, along the frontage of Langley Fork Park. Construction of this parking area was completed in 2012, during the planning phase of this master plan revision.

E) PARK AND RECREATION NEEDS

The Park Authority assesses the need for parkland and recreation facilities through its long-range planning efforts. Needs are established through a variety of measures including community outreach, surveys to assess county citizen recreation demand and benchmarking with peer jurisdictions both locally and nationwide. Demand is then compared to a detailed inventory of available facilities and projected population growth to identify the current and projected need for parkland and facilities. 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 park facility include:

- Rectangle Fields (1 per 2,700 people),
- Adult Baseball Fields (1 per 24,000 people),
- Adult Softball Fields (1 per 22,000 people),
- Youth Baseball Fields (1 per 7,200 people),
- Youth Softball Fields (1 per 8,800 people),
- Basketball Courts (1 per 2,100 people),
- Playgrounds (1 per 2,800 people),
- Neighborhood Dog Parks (1 per 86,000 people),
- Neighborhood Skate Parks (1 per 106,000 people),
- Reservable Picnic Areas (1 site per 12,000 people).

These countywide standards may change with updates to the Needs Assessment.

The Park Authority conducted a more localized examination of needs around Langley Fork Park within the McLean Planning District using the planning district

demographics and geography from the County Comprehensive Plan. Based on the adopted service level standards and the estimated population growth, projections indicate that by 2020 the demand will be greatest within the McLean Planning District for rectangle fields, adult and youth softball fields, basketball courts as well as neighborhood dog parks and skate parks.

The same study indicated that the McLean District appears to be well served by smaller, local parks. McLean is also well served by several nearby District or countywide parks that provide sport facilities, fitness, aquatics, and garden plots as well as indoor and outdoor program areas. The McLean Community Center, public schools, and private facilities also supplement the provision of recreation facilities to McLean residents.

Table 1: Notable Parks serving the Langley Fork Park Vicinity

PARK NAME & CLASS	DISTANCE FROM LANGLEY FORK PARK	FACILITIES/FEATURES
Clemyjontri Park (Countywide Park)	250 feet	All-inclusive playground Carousel, Pavilion
Lewinsville Park (District Park)	3.5 miles	Sport courts Athletic fields Biking trails Garden plots
Marie Butler Leven Preserve (Resource-Based)	2.5 miles	Native plantings Demonstration gardens
Scotts Run Nature Preserve (Resource-Based)	2.5 miles	Miles of trails over 384 acres Major nature preserve
McLean Central Park (Local Park)	2 miles	Trails Disc Golf Gazebo Tennis, Basketball

III) EXISTING CONDITIONS

A) PARK CONTEXT

In addition to assessing area-wide needs, park planning efforts must also evaluate proposed park development within the context of the existing community. An understanding of the surrounding community, supported by citizen input, helps to provide a framework to visualize potential development within the park.

Figure 8: Aerial Image of Clemyjontri Park

1) ADJACENT DEVELOPMENT

The park is bounded on the east and north by federally-owned land within the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) headquarters are located within the George Washington Memorial Parkway land, immediately east of the park property. Currently, Claude Moore Colonial Farm is in operation north of Langley Fork Park as permitted by the National Park Service. The Claude Moore Colonial Farm is a privately operated national park that portrays family life on a small, low-income farm prior to the Revolutionary War. Single family homes are located to the west of the property as well to the south, across Georgetown Pike. Clemyjontri Park, a highly popular, barrier-free playground, owned by Fairfax County Park Authority is also located across Georgetown Pike from Langley Fork Park.

2) NEARBY PARKS AND SCHOOLS

In addition to Langley Fork Park, a portion of the local community's open space and recreational needs are served by several other parks in the area. An understanding of the nearby park facilities is helpful in evaluating which potential facilities might best serve the community at Langley Fork Park. Parks and facilities within a three-mile radius of Langley Fork Park are noted in the Table 2 below and identified in Figure 9.

Thirteen public schools are also located within three miles of Langley Fork Park, including eight in Fairfax County and five in Arlington County. In addition to nearby park facilities, local school facilities serve a portion of the area's recreational needs. Typically, elementary schools have athletic fields and playgrounds that are available to the public during non-school hours. Middle schools often provide a broader range of active athletic facilities including

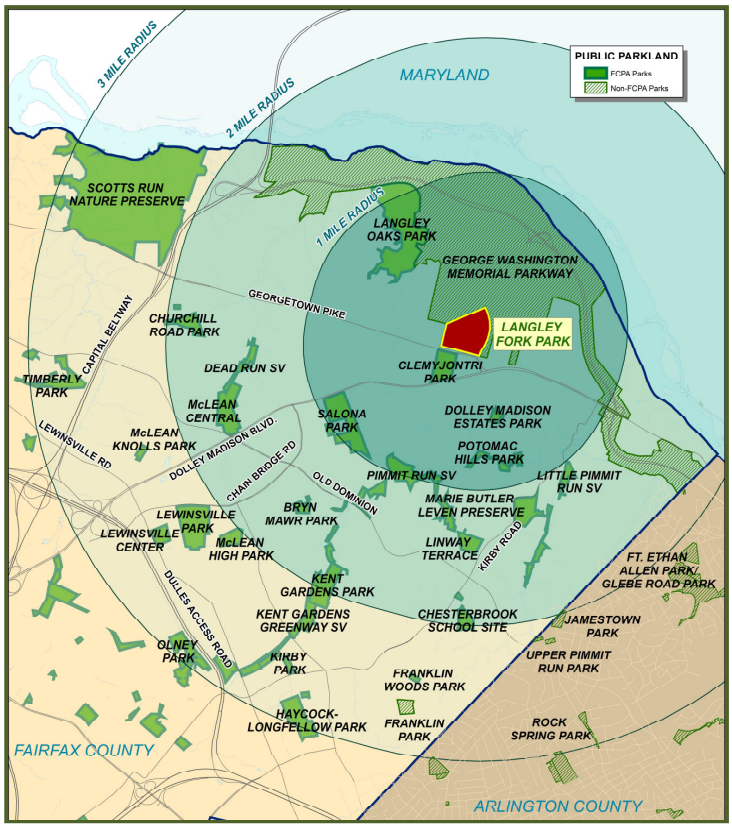


Figure 9: Parks in the Vicinity of Langley Fork Park

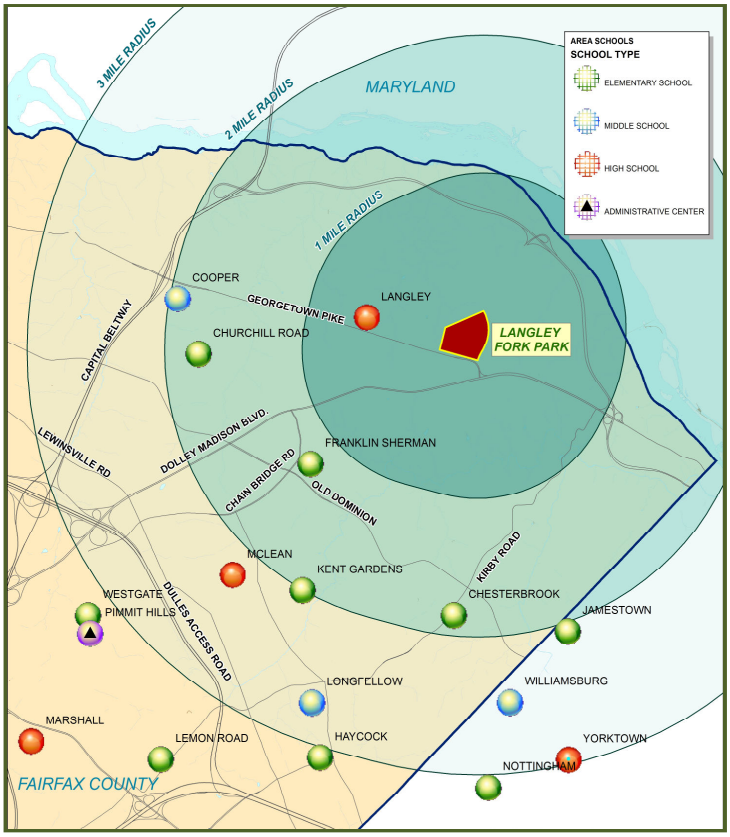


Figure 10: Public Schools in the Vicinity of Langley Fork Park

tennis courts and diamond fields. High school fields and facilities, typically more extensive than those at elementary or middle schools, are often reserved mainly for the use of the high school. For planning purposes, high school facilities are not considered available to the public. Nearby school sites are identified in Figure 10 while Table 3 below reflects the facilities available at these schools.

Table 2: Parks and Facilities in the Vicinity of Langley Fork Park

Indicates existing uses	Park Acreage	Multi-Use Trails	Open Play Area	Playground	Picnic Tables	Picnic Shelter	Tennis Courts	Tennis Practice Wall	Basketball / Multi-Use Courts	Baseball/Softball Fields	Rectangle Fields / grass	Rectangle Field /synthetic	Other Features
FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKS													
Bryn Mawr Park	5.17												
Chesterbrook School Site	9.50												
Churchill Road Park	12.37												
Clemyjontri Park	18.63												Carousel
Cooper Inter.School Site	7.00						4						
Dead Run SV Park	10.32												
Dolley Madison Estates Park	3.84												
Franklin Woods Park	1.48												
Haycock-Longfellow Park	24.19												Outdoor Classroom
Kent Gardens Greenway SV	20.93												
Kent Gardens Park	27.37												
Kirby Park	3.00												
Langley Fork Park	52.85								2	2	2		
Langley Oaks Park	101.61												
Lewinsville Center	8.67									1	1		
Lewinsville Park	37.37						6	2	2	1	1	2	Garden Plots
Linway Terrace Park	10.89						2	2	2	1		1	
Little Pimmit Run SV Park	16.63												
Longfellow School Site	1.10												
Marie Butler Leven Preserve	20.36												Demo. Gardens
McLean Central Park	27.59						3	2	1				Disc Golf
McLean High Park	9.63												
McLean Knolls Park	3.00												
Olney Park	11.93						2	2	1	2			
Pimmit Run SV Park	79.93												

Indicates existing uses	Park Acreage	Multi-Use Trails	Open Play Area	Playground	Picnic Tables	Picnic Shelter	Tennis Courts	Tennis Practice Wall	Basketball / Multi-Use Courts	Baseball/Softball Fields	Rectangle Fields / grass	Rectangle Field /synthetic	Other Features
FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKS													
Potomac Hills Park	9.49												
Salona Park	41.00												Master Plan in development
Scotts Run Nature Preserve	384.28												
Timberly Park	23.08												
Tollbrook Ridge Park	4.62												
ARLINGTON COUNTY PARKS													
Fort Ethan Allen Park									1		1		Dog Park
Glebe Road Park							3		1				
Jamestown Park							2			2			
Rock Spring Park													Orn. garden
Upper Pimmit Run Park													Fishing access

Table 3: Public Schools and Facilities in the Vicinity of Langley Fork Park

	Playground	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Multi-use Courts	Baseball/Softball Fields	Rectangle Fields / grass	Rectangle Field / synthetic
FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOLS							
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS							
Chesterbrook Elementary 1753 Kirby Road McLean, VA 22101	1		1	1	2	1	
Churchill Road Elementary 7100 Churchill Road McLean, VA 22010	1		2	1	1	1	
Franklin Sherman Elementary 6630 Brawner Street McLean, VA 22101	1		2	2	1	1	
Kent Gardens Elementary 1717 Melbourne Drive McLean, VA 22101	1			1		1	
MIDDLE SCHOOLS							
Cooper Middle School 977 Balls Hill Road McLean, VA 22101		4			1	1	
Longfellow Intermediate School 2000 Westmoreland Street Falls Church, VA 22043		4	2		1	1	
HIGH SCHOOLS							
Langley High School 6520 Georgetown Pike McLean, VA 22101		7	4		2	2	
McLean High School 1633 Davidson Road McLean, VA 22101		5	2		3	2	
* High school athletic fields are typically not available for public scheduling							

	Playground	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Multi-use Courts	Baseball/Softball Fields	Rectangle Fields / grass	Rectangle Field / synthetic
ARLINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS							
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS							
Jamestown Elementary 3700 N Delaware Street Arlington, VA 22207	2	2			1	1	
Nottingham Elementary 5900 Little Falls Road Arlington, VA 22207	2		1	1	2		
Taylor Elementary 2600 N Stuart Street Arlington, VA 22207	2		2	1	1	1	
MIDDLE SCHOOLS							
Williamsburg Middle School 3600 N Harrison Street Arlington, VA 22207		2	1		1	2	
HIGH SCHOOLS							
Yorktown High School 5201 N 28th Street Arlington, VA 22207		6			3		1

B) EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

The Park Master Plan process includes an evaluation of the existing site conditions, seeking to identify both the opportunities and challenges to the development of new park facilities. Data gathered during site analysis helps define which uses might be best suited to the site. Such information is also beneficial in understanding how the desired uses might be most sustainably adapted to the site.

1) EXISTING SITE DEVELOPMENT

Langley Fork Park has been fully developed per the guidance of the 1980 master plan. There are two natural surface, rectangle fields, two diamond fields with skinned infields, two basketball courts, a fitness trail, and parking to serve the site. None of the athletic fields are lighted.

Figure 11: Images of Athletic Facilities at Langley Fork Park
Images clockwise from top left: Fitness Trail, Basketball Courts, Diamond Field, Rectangle Field

2) NATURAL RESOURCES

Although the area surrounding Langley Fork Park has notably changed since the approval of the original master plan, Langley Fork Park continues to provide ecological benefits to the area. Preservation of wooded areas supports wildlife habitat, biodiversity, biosequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide, as well as reduction of runoff and erosion. In balance to the development of active recreation uses on the site, more than half of the property remains as forested land. The value of the wooded land in Langley Fork Park is enhanced by its connectivity to the much larger forested area within the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The continuity of these

spaces enhances the ecological benefits to wildlife and protection of the Potomac River system.

(a) TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

The topography at Langley Fork Park provides a variety of landforms which have influenced the site's past and present usage. The southern portion of the site exists as a more gently rolling landform which benefited earlier agricultural usage as well as the more recent installation of the existing athletic fields. Ridges and valleys become more prevalent moving northward through the site, channeling and directing water flow in return to the Potomac River. Slopes greater than 15% are noted along the central ridge of the site.

Figure 12: Topographic and Relief Map

Six different soil map units are identified in Langley Fork Park based on the 2011 Fairfax County Soils Maps. Soil map units are assigned a numeric designation, as can be noted in Figure 13.

- 39B: Glenelg silt loam, 2 to 7% slopes
- 39C: Glenelg silt loam, 7 to 15% slopes
- 39D: Glenelg silt loam, 15 to 25% slopes
- 78B: Meadowville loam, 2 to 7% slopes
- 95: Urban Land
- 102: Wheaton loam, 2 to 25% slopes
- 105B: Wheaton-Glenelg complex, 2 to 7% slopes
- 107B: Wheaton-Meadowville complex, 2 to 7% slopes

These soils are typical of Fairfax County. The mapped Glenelg soils at Langley Fork are all moderately erosive and occur on slopes from 2 – 25%. Glenelg Silt Loam has been characterized as being a well-drained soil with a high mica content, which limits compaction. Two areas along the western park boundary are classified "Wet" in the 1990 Soil Survey of Fairfax County (not included in the above list). These wet areas occupy approximately one acre and are either seasonally or permanently wet.

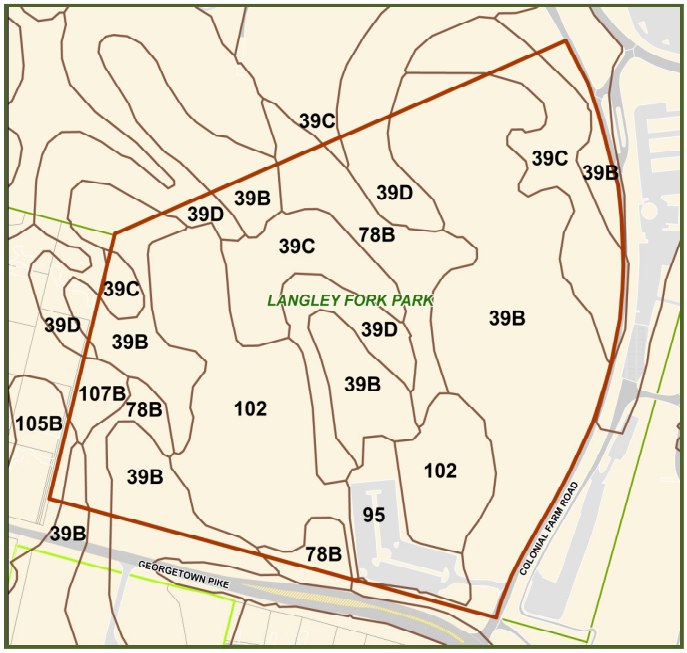


Figure 13: Soils Classification Map

A listing of the soil types found in Langley Fork Park and the soil unit characteristics can be found in Appendix A.

(b) HYDROLOGY

Langley Fork Park lies within the Turkey Run Watershed. Langley Fork Park contributes about 4% of the drainage area within this 1,248-acre watershed. Langley Fork Park is located toward the headwaters of the Turkey Run Watershed. Approximately 1,000 linear feet of intermittent and ephemeral streams are present in Langley Fork Park, all of which flow northwest to an unnamed perennial tributary of Turkey Run; Turkey Run flows north-northeast to the Potomac River. There is one main channel flowing from the center of the park northward, and another shorter channel parallel to the main channel to the southeast. There are no Chesapeake Bay Resource Protection Areas (RPA) identified within Langley Fork Park.

In 2001, the Fairfax County Stream Protection Strategy (SPS) Baseline Study, which includes evaluations of streams throughout the county, reflected an "excellent" rating of Turkey Run. This rating identified Turkey Run as a Watershed Protection Area due to the high quality of biological integrity and habitat quality. Coverage by impervious surface is relatively low in this watershed, approximately 15% of the land area, with the expectation of limited expansion due to Comprehensive Plan guidance.

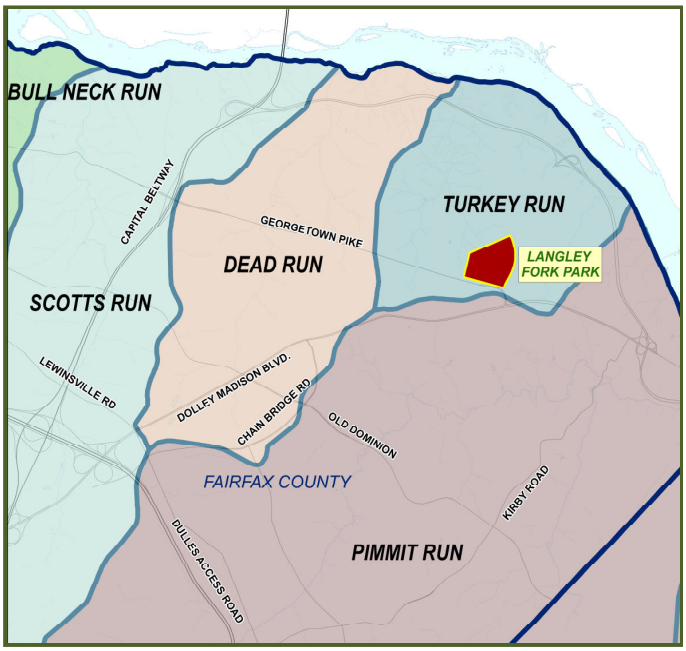


Figure 14: Watershed Map

On May 5, 2008, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted the Middle Potomac Watershed Management Plan which addresses the Turkey Run Watershed as well as the Bull Neck Run, Dead Run, Pimmit Run, and Scotts Run Watersheds. The management plan includes a description of each watershed's characteristics, identifying areas of concern, and proposing general and specific recommendations to improve the county's water quality. No specific recommendations are made in the Middle Potomac Watershed Management Plan with regard to the Langley Fork Park site. General recommendations focus on reducing stormwater impacts by reducing runoff velocity and volume. Low Impact Development (LID) strategies contribute to this goal. Another goal is to improve habitat and water quality to sustain native animals and plants. Again, LID strategies contribute to this goal as well as protection and restoration of wetland areas. Another objective is to provide for the long term stewardship of the Middle Potomac Watersheds by building awareness of the importance of watershed protection. Education, outreach and interpretation all can further the goal of long term stewardship.

(c) WETLANDS

Located at the top of the Turkey Run Watershed, Langley Fork Park contains approximately 1.05 acres of wetlands. Field reconnaissance performed by the Louis Berger Group in the fall of 2011 identified six areas that displayed wetland hydrology, as noted in Figure 15. Wetlands provide numerous benefits to the watershed including storage of water, recharge of ground water, and water purification. Wetlands provide habitat not only for wetland dependent species but upland mammals as well.

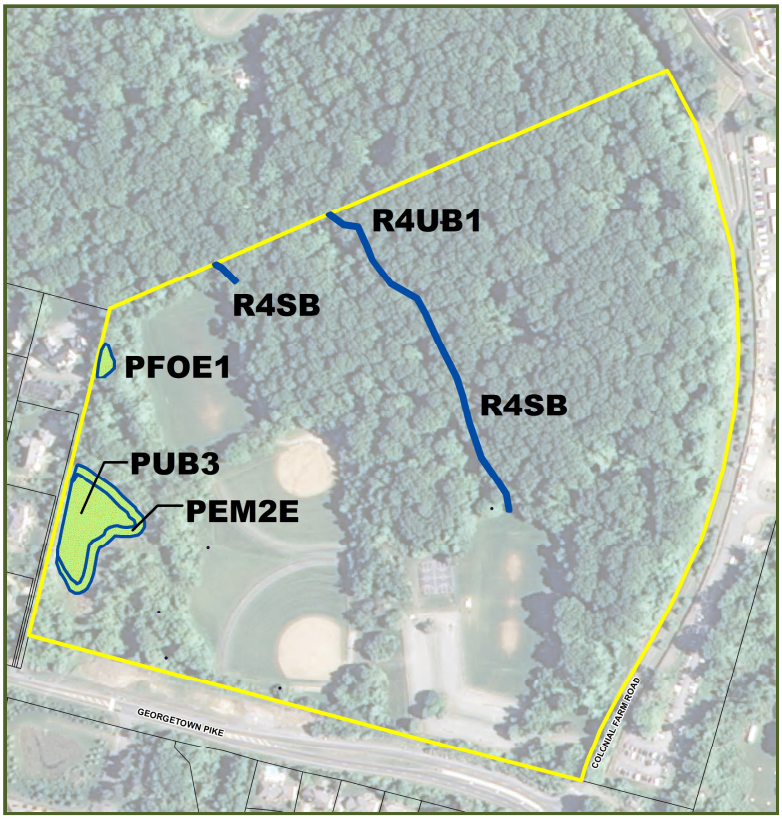


Figure 15: Areas Exhibiting Wetland Hydrology in Langley Fork Park

The wetland types are described in general below.

Palustrine Forested Wetland (PFO1E) Palustrine wetland systems are non-tidal wetlands, typically dominated by trees and shrubs. Vegetation is predominantly broad-leaved deciduous as characterized by the red maple (*Acer rubrum*), box elder (*Acer negundo*), and American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) found on site. Surface water is present for extended periods, reflecting seasonal flooding.

Palustrine Emergent Wetland (PEM2E) The palustrine emergent wetland cover type is characterized by erect, rooted, herbaceous hydrophytes, excluding mosses and lichens. Perennial plants tend to dominate. At Langley Fork Park, black willow (*Salix niger*),

woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), and three-way sedge (*Dulichium arundinaceum*) are prevalent. Seasonal flooding creates extended periods of inundation.

Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom (PUB3) Palustrine unconsolidated bottom wetlands are non-tidal, permanently to semi-permanently flooded areas with less than 30% vegetative cover. The limited vegetation cover is often due to the relatively deep, turbid water that deters coverage by emergent or submerged plants.

Riverine Intermittent Stream (R4UB1) and Ephemeral Stream (R4SB) Riverine wetlands are generally those contained within a channel, exhibiting some continuous flow in parts of its stream bed during the year. Intermittent streams will cease their normal flow for several weeks or months each year. Ephemeral streams tend to exhibit flow for several hours or days after a rain event, remaining dry otherwise.

(d) VEGETATION

From a vegetative standpoint, Langley Fork Park has experienced a broad range of changes through the years. Through much of the county's early history, agriculture was a key pursuit, leading to the clearing of many acres for farmland. As evidenced by historic aerial photography (see Figure 22, Page 27), the area that is now Langley Fork Park was fully cleared into the 1930s. Today, however, approximately 35 acres of Langley Fork Park exists as successional forest with a mix of deciduous trees. Tulip poplar (*Lirodendron tulipifera*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and box elder (*Acer negundo*) are common. American elm (*Ulmus americana*) and eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) are also present in the sub-canopy.

Figure 16: Forest Cover in Langley Fork Park

Much of the shrub layer at Langley Fork Park consists of non-native species such as Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*),

and Indian strawberry (*Duchesnia indica*). A survey of the impacts of non-native, invasive species within Langley Fork Park was performed by the Louis Berger Group in the fall of 2011, utilizing the Park Authority's Non-native Invasive Plant Prioritization system. The dominance of non-native species and high levels of disturbance indicate that Langley Fork Park would be considered a low priority for invasive species management under a scenario of limited resources.

(e) WILDLIFE

Numerous species of wildlife have been observed by park staff on site visits, most notably solitary sandpiper (uncommon in Fairfax County), red-shouldered hawk, orchard oriole, wood duck, white-tailed deer and gray tree frogs. A comprehensive wildlife survey has not been conducted. Deer populations have not been measured in this park but are expected to be high, with correspondingly high vegetation browse levels. Vegetation at nearby Scotts Run Nature Preserve was found to be moderately to severely browsed, and deer browse is also notably high within the George Washington Memorial Parkway (NPS), adjacent to the north.

Figure 17: Orchard Oriole

Figure 18: Red-Shouldered Hawk

(f) RARE SPECIES

A rare plant survey was conducted at Langley Fork Park in preparation of the Environmental Assessment. Historical records from the D.C. Herbarium indicate the presence of the one-sided wintergreen (*Orthilia secunda*) within the area of Langley Fork Park in 1902 and 1915, so the basis of the investigation focused on verifying the presence or absence of this particular species. Field investigations in June and August of 2012 were coordinated to align with the potential bloom season of the species which generally occurs from June through August. The presence of flowers is necessary for definitive identification of the species. The results of the survey found no evidence of the one-sided wintergreen in Langley Fork Park. No other rare species are expected to occur.

Figure 19: Stock Image of the One-Sided Wintergreen

3) CULTURAL RESOURCES

In preparation of the Environmental Assessment required for consideration of the land exchange between the Park Authority and the National Park Service, a Phase I archaeological survey was completed over the entire park area in the fall of 2011 by the Louis Berger Group. Several sites were identified that merited additional study to assess their eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

A Phase II level investigation was made in the winter of 2012 on three sites identified as meriting further study. Shovel test pits presented dense deposits of quartz debitage – waste material produced during the production of chipped stone tools. In some locations, the roots of downed trees presented these artifacts in plain sight. The location and density of debitage indicate the likelihood of these sites being prehistoric quartz workshops. One site yielded a Halifax point, indicating activity during the Middle Archaic Period, roughly from 6,000 to 2,500 B.C. Remnants of a hearth site were found, dating to approximately 300 B.C. based on radiocarbon dating. No other significant features were found.

Of a more recent timeframe, research associated with establishment of the historic overlay district indicates the community developing at the intersection known as Langley Fork in the early nineteenth century. The Langley Toll House, included within the historic district but not on the park site, was built circa 1820.

By 1861, though, the Civil War impacted much of Fairfax County. Evidence of Union and Confederate troops are not uncommon, reminders of the numerous surges and defenses of both sides. Initial background research had raised the question of whether Camp Pierpont had existed within the site area of Langley Fork Park. Camp Pierpont was not a single unified camp but rather a series of encampments organized around thirteen regimental units of the Pennsylvania Reserves. Documentary evidence, including letters from soldiers, indicate that Camp Pierpont was somewhere within the vicinity of the park site in the fall of 1861. An initial research question of the 2011 fieldwork was to identify any evidence that would support the supposition that Camp Pierpont, or other military fortification, had been established on what is now parkland. Throughout the field work, which included 571 shovel tests at 50' and 25' spacings and metal detection, no artifacts from the Civil War era were found. Although the troops from Camp Pierpont were stationed

Figure 20: Stone Chips revealed by Tree Throw

Figure 21: Stone Hearth Formation

throughout the McLean area, no evidence was found to indicate that such occupation had occurred within the park site.

Beyond the Civil War, evidence is found for how agricultural pursuits helped to heal the scars of war. A deed from 1864 reflects ownership of a farmstead on the property by a Mr. or Mrs. Green, then later in the 1800s by R. Reid. Historic maps from 1864 reflect buildings on the property, likely a main farmhouse and one or two tenant houses. Archival aerial photograph of the property reflects these buildings standing in 1937. Field research by the Louis Berger Group identified evidence within Langley Fork Park that support the historic tenancy indicated by the documentation, reflective of the lifestyle on a eighteenth century farmstead.

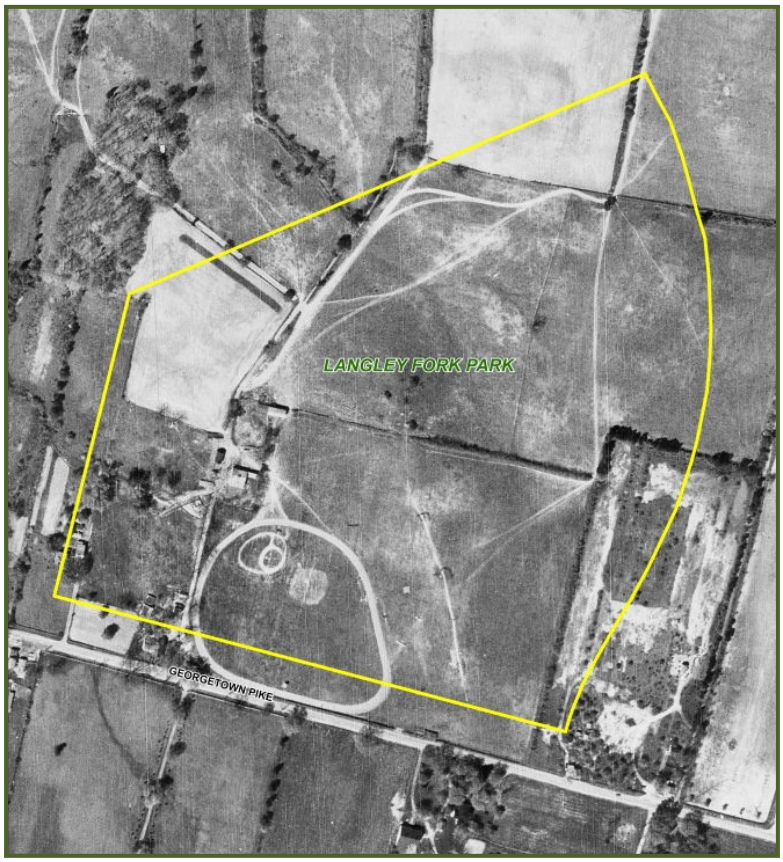


Figure 22: 1937 Aerial Photograph

A more detailed history of the site and the area can be found in Appendix B.

4) EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

(a) UTILITIES

Currently, there is no water or electric service provided within Langley Fork Park. Due to the proximity of surrounding development, however, these utilities could be extended to serve the property with relative ease.

(b) ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

Although Langley Fork Park has approximately 1,500 feet of frontage on Georgetown Pike, access has traditionally been provided from Colonial Farm Road to the east of the park site. Colonial Farm Road is a private street within the George Washington Memorial Parkway which also provides access to the CIA, the Federal Highway Association, and the Claude Moore Colonial Farm. In conjunction with the land transfer, an access easement will be established over Colonial Farm Road along the eastern boundary of Langley Fork Park, assuring the continued availability of public access to the park over this private street.

Pedestrian and bicycle access to Langley Fork Park is facilitated by the presence of an eight foot wide asphalt trail along Georgetown Pike. A small network of trails exists within the park, primarily establishing connection from the parking area to the individual athletic fields. Some exercise features exist along these trails, although showing age and disrepair. Langley Fork Park also serves as a point of entry into a network of social trails that have formed within the broader context of the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

IV) PARK MANAGEMENT

A) PARK PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

1) PURPOSE

Park purpose statements are intended to provide an umbrella for planning and decision-making. If a proposed use conflicts with any one of the purposes listed, it will be considered an incompatible use. By establishing park purposes, future plans can remain flexible as legislative requirements and visitor preferences change.

The purpose for Langley Fork Park is to:

- Provide active and passive recreation for citizens of Fairfax County
- Protect and enhance natural resources
- Preserve and protect cultural resources

The purpose statements are not intended to be mutually exclusive and some of these statements may appear to be in conflict. They are intended to be integrated into a common purpose of providing recreational opportunities and protecting existing resources.

2) SIGNIFICANCE

There is high demand for athletic fields in the Dranesville District as well as across Fairfax County. As the population continues to grow, so does the demand for athletic fields. The eastern portions of Fairfax County developed quickly after the post-World War II boom. The pattern of development and subsequent growth has left few properties that can accommodate large footprint athletic facilities. Langley Fork Park provides a significant opportunity to increase the athletic field inventory and increase capacity through lighting and synthetic turf.

At the same time, Langley Fork Park possesses a significant amount of tree cover. The ecological benefit of the forest cover is enhanced by its continuity with Langley Oaks Park and the George Washington Memorial Parkway. While the park most obviously focuses on the provision of active recreation, the value of preserving the ecology of the site should not be overlooked.

B) DESIRED VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Based on historic usage as well as current public comment, Langley Fork Park actively serves the area's athletic community with a variety of athletic fields and courts. The park provides well-placed access to quality facilities supporting users for up to half a day or longer if this site becomes a location for tournament play. Accessory facilities become important to enhance the quality of the park experience, such as shade, restrooms, and water.

Athletic field users are not the only patrons of this park, however. The concept of the desired visitor experience extends to more passive use of the park – neighbors who wish simply to stroll the grounds, nature observers who come to view wildlife, or outdoor enthusiasts seeking access to the network of trails in Langley Fork Park and beyond. Casual users should find convenient access to the park as well as the athletic groups. Opportunities to address the desires of the more passive users should be sited thoughtfully in relation to the athletic fields.

C) MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

In order to guide the continued management of Langley Fork Park within the context of this master plan revision, the following management objectives have been identified:

- Active recreation should continue to be a cornerstone of the Langley Fork Park experience. As one of the few properties in the McLean area available to support an active recreation complex, Langley Fork Park will continue to serve a vital role in meeting the growing recreation needs of the community.

- The preservation and protection of natural resources should be balanced with the provision of active recreation. Development should be consolidated to protect the forested areas and wetlands within the park. Protection of these features provides significant ecological benefits as well as opportunities for passive enjoyment.

- The preservation of archaeological resources within Langley Fork Park contributes to the understanding of Fairfax County's heritage. Plans for future development or management efforts should be planned thoughtfully to protect elements of county history.

- The presence of natural and cultural resources in a park that will have high patronage provides numerous prospects for interpretive opportunities. The opportunity to increase knowledge and expand awareness should be an element that ties together the various features of the park.

- The proximity and association with Clemyjontri Park should be strengthened, enhancing awareness of both parks, improving pedestrian connections and coordinating management efforts.

- Langley Fork Park should remain an integral part of the McLean community. Uses should seek to minimize impacts on park neighbors while serving the broader community.

D) RESOURCE AND SITE MANAGEMENT

1) NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

(a) WATER RESOURCES

The geographic position of Langley Fork is in the headwaters of the Turkey Run Watershed. Protecting the headwaters is a high priority for protecting the long-term water quality of this watershed, rated to be in excellent condition by the Fairfax County Stream Physical Assessment. Overall, the Turkey Run Watershed is rated as one of the highest quality watersheds in the county. Every effort should be made to ensure that future development does not negatively impact downstream water quality. Future development should attempt to reduce stormwater flows over the existing condition, and ensure that no additional water is routed to the stream channels onsite which cannot accept additional water and remain un-degraded. There may already be erosive impacts to these receiving channels based on previous development at the park. Future development should attempt to reduce stormwater flows over the existing condition, protect existing stable stream channels, and restore degraded stream channels onsite. Stormwater should also not be diverted to the wetlands on the west side of the park unless it can be done in a manner that sustains the wetland hydrology but does not negatively impact water quality. The ongoing watershed management plan process suggests that Langley Fork Park may be an appropriate location for Low Impact Design water quality devices.

Figure 23: Turkey Run Stream

(b) VEGETATION

Despite the marginal quality of the overall forest communities at Langley Fork Park, these forests provide habitat for common

species, significant water-quality benefits over a developed condition, and tree canopy benefits to include temperature modification and carbon sequestration. Impacts to mature tree canopy should be carefully considered in the further development of this park with planting plans developed to compensate and mitigate tree losses.

The scores obtained through the non-native invasive plant assessment survey in Langley Fork Park (Louis Berger Group, 2013) ranged from 5-8 out of a possible 16 points. This can be interpreted to indicate that impacts from non-native invasive plants range from moderate to severe throughout the park, and in many cases the expense of treatment would be significant with limited ecological return. However, because non-native invasive plants are a significant issue at Langley Fork Park, they should be considered at the outset of any construction and development projects. Appropriate mitigation for all land disturbing construction should be built into the project scope to reduce the further spread and establishment of non-native invasive plants at the park, and establish best management practices.

(c) DEER MANAGEMENT

Deer populations are likely overabundant in Langley Fork, as they are in all of Fairfax County. This is indicated by visible browse on native vegetation between six inches and six feet, and a generally sparse shrub and herb layer within forested areas. Without taking measures to address the deer browse pressure, the successional forest will not transition to a higher quality natural community because all native tree seedlings will be consumed.

Deer management should focus on reducing the abundance of deer to the ecological carrying capacity of 15 deer per square mile or less. Methods to be considered should include managed hunts, sharpshooting, and urban archery. Urban archery, in particular, is compatible with recreational park use and can be a very safe and effective method for harvesting deer on public land. Birth control has not proven to be a feasible or cost-effective method for large, open populations, and should be considered of limited use. All methods employed should be coupled with deer browse and population surveys to determine the effectiveness of the management strategy on forest regeneration.

2) CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The development of this master plan has benefitted from the archaeological survey work performed as part of the Environmental Assessment. It is somewhat rare to have this level of detail available at the time of master planning. Final engineering of any proposed facilities should carefully coordinate with the results of the archaeological surveys. The master plan has been designed to avoid areas with known or potential notable archaeological features.

The information acquired through the archaeological surveys also offers the opportunity for resource interpretation at various points within the park. These opportunities should be capitalized upon to increase knowledge and awareness of our county's past. Interpretation elements may reference other parks in the area, such as Salona Park, to offer a broader context to the history.

As mentioned previously, Langley Fork Park is adjacent to Georgetown Pike which has been identified as a scenic byway. Proposed development should seek to minimize visual impacts to this road. In some locations, the buffer along Georgetown Pike has been expanded. Refined site grading and supplemental landscaping in this area should be carefully developed to protect views along this byway.

3) SITE CONSIDERATIONS

The Park Authority's area maintenance crew will provide periodic maintenance and repairs to park facilities. The most notable responsibility will be towards the maintenance of the athletic fields to adhere to all Park Authority field standards. Additional responsibilities include periodic mowing of the open areas, removing leaves from developed areas, trimming underbrush, emptying trash, and other similar tasks. Inspection of facilities and equipment; cleanup; limbing-up of trees; tree removal; and repairing pavement will be performed as needed. The maintenance crew also responds to park maintenance issues brought to their attention by citizens or staff.

Langley Fork Park will remain as an unstaffed facility. Possibilities should be evaluated for the extension of Clemyjontri Park staff to assist in some site management of Langley Fork Park, including maintenance of the pavilion or reporting site needs to the area manager.

V) CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A) INTRODUCTION

The Conceptual Development Plan (CDP) provides recommendations for future park uses and facilities. The CDP contains descriptions of the proposed plan elements and design concerns and is accompanied by a graphic that shows the general location of the recommended project elements. The CDP graphic is included as Figure 24.

Development of the CDP is based on an assessment of area-wide needs and stakeholder preferences in balance with the existing site conditions as described in the Section III of this master plan. The scope of the master plan process does not include detailed site engineering; therefore, it should be understood that the CDP is conceptual in nature. Although reasonable engineering practices have contributed to the basis of the design, final facility location for the recommended elements will be determined through more detailed site analysis and engineering design that will be conducted when funding becomes available for the proposed development within this park. Final design will be influenced by site conditions such as topography, natural resources, tree preservation efforts, and stormwater and drainage concerns as well as the requirement to adhere to all pertinent state and county codes and permitting requirements.

B) PLAN ELEMENTS

1) ATHLETIC FIELD EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS

The primary focus of this master plan is to maximize the delivery of athletic fields to serve the increasing demand in the McLean Planning District. This is achieved through a combination of adding synthetic turf and reorientation of the existing fields as well as the addition of new athletic fields. For the fields located outside of the historic overlay district, the addition of field lighting will further expand the ability to serve the athletic community. A variety of field types and sizes meet the

Figure 24: Langley Fork Park Conceptual Development Plan

needs of a broader community. Tight orientation of the fields helps to maximize utilization of the site while seeking to limit the impacts to natural resources to the greatest extent possible.

2) PAVILION

The addition of the pavilions directly complements the athletic focus of this park. The pavilions will provide a source of shade and water for the many athletes and their families that will visit the park. The inclusion of restrooms will benefit those attending long games and practices. Picnic tables in and near the pavilion can host a family get-together or a team meeting. Pavilions should be sized so they could be included in the pavilion rental program.

3) OFF-LEASH DOG AREA

Residents of the Dranesville District have long awaited an opportunity to establish a neighborhood off-leash dog area. Langley Fork Park provides an opportunity to create a one-acre dog park. Development and perpetuation of the dog park will require community sponsorship per the Park Authority's dog park model.

4) ENHANCED SITE ACCESS

With the increase in athletic fields and a corresponding increase in site usage, two additional points of access are provided onto Colonial Farm

Road. This will simplify the flow of traffic, as there would be no dead ends, and facilitate ingress and egress of park patrons during busy times.

5) FITNESS ZONE

A fitness zone is included near the pavilion to provide additional active recreation features to serve the community. Similar to equipment that might be found in a gym, these features have proven to increase physical activity in park visitors as well as encouraging more frequent park visits. The fitness zone serves as an update to the previous fitness trail. The grouping of facilities in one, visible location enhances safety and accessibility to parking. These elements are often used by teams to warm up before play or by family members during practice. A fitness zone requires only a small development footprint and, therefore, minimal ground disturbance.

6) ENHANCED ACCESS TO CLEMYJONTRI PARK

Clemyjontri Park is located directly across Georgetown Pike from Langley Fork Park. The community response to this barrier-free playground has been resounding and parking frequently overflows to Langley Fork Park, especially on a nice spring day. This plan seeks to enhance the relationship between these two parks in several ways. One is to plan for sufficient parking for the planned athletic fields plus additional spaces that can serve Clemyjontri Park to support parking needs at both

Figure 25: Clemyjontri Park Entrance Sign

parks. The second element is the provision of a clear pedestrian connection from the Langley Fork Park parking area to the existing crosswalk on Georgetown Pike, emphasizing the safest location to cross to Clemyjontri Park.

7) HISTORIC FEATURE AND INTERPRETATION

During the course of the archaeological surveys, hundreds of stone chips were recovered, indicating the presence of prehistoric quartz quarry workshops. Additionally, a hearth site was uncovered which was radiocarbon dated to approximately 300 BC. Not only does the proposed development plan preserve and protect the hearth area, it offers an opportunity for interpretation of the site's long past.

8) TRAIL CONNECTIONS

With the modifications to field orientation and site grading, portions of existing trails will need to be reestablished to provide connection to all athletic fields. An additional natural surface trail provides an opportunity to stroll through the wooded area, incorporating a more passive recreational use into the park. In the future, a trail may be extended to connect with existing trail network within the George Washington Parkway at a point when the National Park Service is prepared to formally adopt this system of social trails.

9) SIGNAGE/ENTRY FEATURE

Langley Fork Park has approximately 1,500 feet of frontage along Georgetown Pike; however, a screen of existing trees obscures views into the park, particularly near the entrance. The current location of park signage is not visible from Georgetown Pike. Park visitors must know to turn onto Colonial Farm Road before seeing any indication of the park – past the signs for the FHWA Turner Fairbank Highway Research Center and the CIA Material Inspection Facility, which can appear intimidating. Establishing an entry feature near the intersection of Georgetown Pike

and Colonial Farm Road will enhance visibility and recognition of the park.

C) DESIGN CONCERNS

1) STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

With the establishment of synthetic turf athletic fields, there is an opportunity to provide additional stormwater detention under the fields. As the installation of multiple athletic fields requires significant site disturbance, simply due to their nature and configuration, it is recommended that stormwater management for the site be addressed with underground facilities. This can be an efficient method of addressing stormwater requirements while minimizing further disturbance to achieve control. In keeping with the recommendations of the Watershed Management Plan, low impact development strategies should be incorporated into the overall stormwater management plan where feasible.

2) DESIGN OF PROPOSED SIGNAGE

Although not located within the Historic Overlay District, it is recommended that the park signage along Georgetown Pike be designed to complement the character of the Langley Fork Historic District. This would help to create a more unified appearance along the scenic byway.

3) ADDITIONAL REVIEW WITHIN THE HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICT

Development of the athletic fields without field lighting within the Historic Overlay District is permissible. Plans to accomplish these site changes are required to be reviewed by the Architectural Review Board to verify compliance with the guidance for the overlay district. Additional design consideration and time should be factored into the plan development process to accomplish this requirement.

4) PHASED DEVELOPMENT

The site changes proposed in the Langley Fork Park Master Plan entail reorientation of existing site features to make more efficient use of the land. Relocating fields, however, entails disruption of scheduled field usage. There are opportunities to construct the proposed changes in phases, limiting the disruption of fields at any one time as well as spreading out the cost of construction.

5) FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Economic realities require that funding for public parks be supplemented by revenue generated by park offerings, sponsorships, donations, and volunteerism. The increase in the number of fields as well as extended play due to synthetic turf and lighting enhances the opportunity for revenue generation through user fees from additional teams and tournament revenue. Inclusion of the two pavilions in the rental program would contribute to this parks viability as well. Fiscal sustainability, as outlined in the agency Fiscal Sustainability Plan, is essential to be incorporated into the implementation of the master plan. Successful implementation of the Fiscal Sustainability Plan and master plan will allow the agency to address community needs, as well as critical maintenance, operational and stewardship programs by providing latitude in funding options and decision making. Together these plans will serve the public, park partners and the Park Authority by providing a greater opportunity for fiscal sustainability while managing the inevitable needs for capitalized repairs and replacements.

6) DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION WITH RESOURCE STUDIES

The level of site study provided by the coincident Environmental Assessment has been extensive. Any and all design development should be done in consultation with this research to assure appropriate protection of site resources.

VI) APPENDIX A – DESCRIPTION OF SOIL MAP UNITS FOUND IN LANGLEY FORK PARK

(39) Glenelg -This Piedmont soil occurs extensively on hilltops and sideslopes underlain by micaceous schist and phyllite. Silts and clays overlie silty and sandy decomposed rock. Depth to hard bedrock ranges from 5 to 100 feet. Permeability is generally adequate for all purposes. Foundation support for small buildings (three stories or less) is typically suitable. Because of a high mica content, the soil tends to "fluff" up when disturbed and is difficult to compact, requiring engineering designs for use as structural fill. This soil is suitable for septic drainfields and infiltration trenches. Glenelg is highly susceptible to erosion.

(78) Meadowville - This soil occurs in drainageways and the bottom of slopes of the Piedmont over micaceous schist and phyllite bedrock. Silt and clay loam alluvium overlies silty and sandy decomposed rock. Depth to the seasonal high water table ranges from 3.5 to 6.5 feet. Depth to hard bedrock is greater than 6 feet. Foundation support is fair because of soft soil and seasonal saturation. Foundation drains (exterior and interior) and waterproofing are necessary to prevent wet basements. Grading is required to eliminate wet yards. Suitability for septic drainfields and infiltration trenches is marginal because of the high water table.

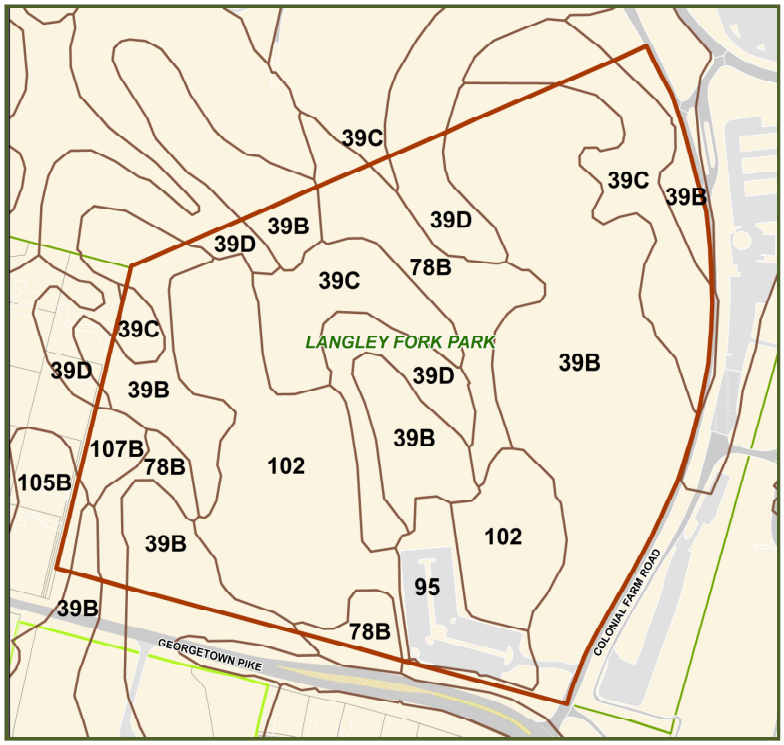
(95) Urban Land – This unit consists entirely of man-made surfaces such as pavement, concrete or rooftop. Urban land is impervious and will not infiltrate stormwater. All precipitation landing on Urban Land will be converted to runoff. Urban Land units lie atop development disturbed soils. Ratings for this unit are not provided.

(102) Wheaton -This loamy soil consists of sand, silt and clay weathered from granite bedrock that has been mixed, graded and compacted during development and construction. Characteristics of the soil can be quite variable depending on what materials were mixed in during construction. The subsoil is generally loam but can range from sandy loam to clay loam. The soil has been compacted, resulting in high strength and slow permeability. The soil is well drained and depth to bedrock is greater than 5 ft. In nearly all cases, foundation support is good, assuming that the soil is well compacted and contains few clays. Because of the slow permeability, suitability for septic drainfields is poor and for infiltration trenches is marginal. Grading and subsurface drains may be needed

to eliminate wet yards caused by the slow permeability. This soil is found in developed areas of the Piedmont with micaceous schist and phyillite bedrock.

(105) Wheaton-Glenelg Complex -This complex is a mixture of the development-disturbed Wheaton soil and the natural Glenelg soil. The complex occurs in upland areas of the Piedmont with micaceous schist and phyllite bedrock that have been developed but retain a good portion of undisturbed soil. Wheaton soil will be clustered around foundations, streets, sidewalks, playing fields and other graded areas. Glenelg soil will be found under older vegetation in ungraded back and front yards and common areas. For a description of the two soils that make up this map unit, please see (102) Wheaton and (39) Glenelg.

(107) Wheaton-Meadowville - This complex is a mixture of the development-disturbed Wheaton soil and the natural Meadowville soil. The complex occurs near floodplains in the areas of the Piedmont with micaceous schist and phyllite bedrock that have been developed but retain a good portion of undisturbed soil. Wheaton soil will be clustered around foundations, streets, sidewalks, playing fields and other graded areas. Meadowville soil will be found along undisturbed areas within and just outside of the floodplain. For a description of the two soils that make up this map unit, please see (102) Wheaton and (78) Meadowville.



VII) APPENDIX B – EXCERPT FROM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND EVALUATION OF LANGLEY FORK PARK, GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY, FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA – FEBRUARY 2013 DRAFT REPORT

PREPARED BY THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

B. Prehistoric Context

The prehistory of the Middle Atlantic region is commonly divided into three chronological periods: Paleoindian (ca. 18,000 to 9500 BC); Archaic (9500 to 1000 BC); and Woodland (1000 BC to AD 1600). These periods are also commonly subdivided into Early, Middle, and Late sub-periods: Early Archaic (9500 to 7500 BC); Middle Archaic (7500 to 3000 BC); Late Archaic (3000 to 1000 BC); Early Woodland (1000 to 600 BC); Middle Woodland (600 BC to AD 1000); and Late Woodland (AD 1000 to 1607) periods. The periods mark cultural development from largely nomadic hunter-gatherers during the Paleoindian period to fairly sedentary villagers in the Late Woodland period.

The prehistory of the Piedmont of northern Virginia (including Fairfax County) generally conforms to the cultural sequence of the larger region, with some divergent local developments in later prehistory. Focusing on shared cultural patterns, Johnson (1986) has proposed an alternative scheme for approaching the prehistory of northern Virginia that divides the pre-agricultural sequence into four periods: Hunter-Gatherer I (equivalent to Paleoindian); Hunter-Gatherer II (Early Archaic and early Middle Archaic, bifurcate point complex); Hunter-Gatherer III (late Middle Archaic and early Late Archaic, characterized by Big Sandy, Otter Creek, Brewerton, and Halifax points); Hunter-Gatherer IV (Late Archaic through Middle Woodland); and Early Agriculturalist (Late Woodland).

1. Paleoindian (Hunter-Gatherer I) (ca. 18,000 to 9500 BC)

The earliest occupation of Virginia was by Paleoindian groups who may have entered the region around 18,000 BC. The earliest occupation of the area,

known as Pre-Clovis, is not well known but has been documented in Virginia at the Cactus Hill Site in Sussex County (Johnson 1997; McAvoy et al. 1997). The site has evidence of the production of blade-like flakes dated to 16,000 to 18,000 BC (Wagner and McAvoy 2004). Evidence from other sites in the Americas suggests that the Pre-Clovis culture featured small group encampments and a diverse diet (Dillehay 1989, 1997). Later occupants of the region, known as the Clovis culture, date to around 11,000 BC and are represented by numerous finds in the state (Dent 1995; Gardner 1974).

Paleoindians arrived at a time of abrupt climate change toward the end of the last ice age. With the onset of the Holocene, spruce-dominated boreal vegetation was replaced by the northward expansion of deciduous forests, and large mammals migrated to new ranges or were driven to extinction. The diagnostic artifact of Clovis culture is the basally fluted, lanceolate Clovis point; typically associated tools include scrapers and gravers for working hides and bones (Gardner 1974, 1989). Clovis diet may have included Pleistocene megafauna, such as mastodon and mammoth, but the hunting emphasis was likely on deer, elk, and perhaps caribou. Fish, berries, and fruits were also parts of the Paleoindian diet.

More than 1,000 Clovis points have been recovered in Virginia, mostly as isolated finds (Hranicky 2004). Sites with Clovis components have been more commonly identified in the southern portion of the state, although a noteworthy site complex has been identified in the Shenandoah Valley in Warren County. This complex, known as the Thunderbird Archaeological District, includes the Thunderbird Site, the Fifty Site, and the Fifty Bog (Gardner 1974). The sites provide excellent information on Clovis culture quarry-related camps and hunting-processing camps.

With very minimal information currently available on Pre-Clovis sites, it is impossible to discuss likely site locations or site settings. Clovis sites appear to have been focused on well-drained landforms near inland swamps and other highly productive habitats, including sources of high-quality stone for tool-making (Gardner 1989).

2. Early Archaic (Hunter-Gatherer II) (9500 to 7500 BC)

After 9500 BC the lifeways of native people underwent minor changes from the Paleoindian period (Custer 1989). Clovis points disappear from site assemblages at that time and are replaced by a diverse set of corner-notched and side-notched point types. Early Archaic sites frequently occur on large river terraces, similar to Paleoindian sites, although Early Archaic sites are more

numerous than Paleoindian sites (Johnson 1986). Although high-quality lithic materials were preferred for points and other tools, Early Archaic groups also began to exploit local stones, such as quartz and quartzite. Diagnostic points of the period include corner-notched Palmer points, which are thought to date to circa 9500 to 9000 BC, as well as corner-notched Charleston, Kirk, and Amos types, dating to about 9000 to 8000 BC.

3. Middle Archaic (Hunter Gatherer II and III) (7500 to 3000 BC)

The Middle Archaic cultural period roughly corresponds to the Hypsithermal, a climatic episode marked by rising temperatures, decreasing precipitation, and the development of more seasonally variable climate. The warmest temperatures of the entire Holocene actually occurred at the beginning of this period, around 7500 BC. An oak-hemlock-hickory forest dominated the region, and deer became the dominant large mammal.

The growing population changed its subsistence-settlement patterns. Sites are larger and more numerous, and a more diverse toolkit implies a broader range of subsistence activities than in the Early Archaic. During the Middle Archaic sites begin to appear in locations that had been previously ignored, such as upland swamps and interior ridgetops (Gardner 1978); however, base camps were still located primarily in the floodplains of major drainages. The appearance of new tool types specifically designed for wood-working, seed-grinding, and nut-cracking (e.g., axes and adzes, mauls, grinding slabs, and nutting stones) and the location of sites in previously unutilized areas indicate an increasing reliance on gathered plants for food and construction materials.

Diagnostic points of the period include bifurcate-base point types (LeCroy, St. Albans, Kanawha), which are from the earlier portion of the period; Brewerton; Guilford; Halifax; Kirk Stemmed and Kirk Serrated points; Morrow Mountain; Otter Creek; and Stanly. Non-diagnostic triangular points have also been recovered from Middle Archaic contexts. During the Middle Archaic period procurement of high-quality lithic material was no longer an important component of the settlement pattern, as most artifacts were manufactured from locally available lithic materials (Dent 1995:176).

4. Late Archaic (Hunter Gatherer III and IV) (3000 to 1000 BC)

During the Late Archaic period indigenous groups continued the trend from the earlier period of a strong focus on gathered plants, particularly tree mast, for food and construction materials. Fish and shellfish were heavily exploited

during the later portion of the period. The number of sites and settings for sites continued to expand.

The initial portion of the Late Archaic period (3000 to 1500 BC) was marked by a suite of narrow-bladed projectile points (Bare Island/Lackawaxen, Clagett, Dry Brook, Holmes, Orient, Vernon, and possibly Piscataway types) that accompanied adaptations for exploiting hardwood trees and sylvan resources. Assemblages include a high frequency of grooved axes, adzes, celts, gouges, and grinding stones. According to one analysis, Late Archaic period sites in the central Piedmont of Virginia are strongly associated with soils that are best suited to support nut-bearing hardwood trees (Mouer 1991). Sites during this portion of the Late Archaic period tend to be smaller and more diffuse than the sites that came later in the Late Archaic.

A cultural manifestation associated with broad-bladed projectile points appeared during the later portion of the Late Archaic period (2200 to 1000 BC). The broad-bladed point types include Savannah River and Susquehanna types. A major change in settlement pattern is associated with the appearance of these points, with sites focusing on the floodplains of higher-order streams (Mouer 1991). Site size can be quite large, particularly in the Coastal Plain. These large, broad-bladed stemmed points are typically made of quartzite or rhyolite. It is not certain if they were used as projectile points or as specialized knives for fish-processing or some other task (McLearen 1991). Although broadspear points are sometimes found in ritual mortuary contexts, they were apparently utilitarian objects, as shown by occasional breakage and edge attrition (Custer 1991).

A noteworthy development in the later portion of the Late Archaic period is the use of carved soapstone (steatite) bowls. Soapstone was quarried during this period in the Piedmont of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. W.H. Holmes (1897) recorded a number of quarries within present Washington, D.C., and in Fairfax County, Virginia. A soapstone quarry has been identified at the Turkey Run Recreation Area (44FX0027), near where Turkey Run empties into the Potomac River. A smaller outcrop of steatite was quarried at nearby Site 44FX0310. Vessels were apparently carved at the quarries and typically removed from the quarries in finished form (Dent 1995:182-184). Ornamental objects were also fashioned of soapstone (Holmes 1897). Soapstone pots were clearly used for cooking, but it is not yet known what foods they were used to process (fish, meat, seeds, tubers, or nuts).

5. Early Woodland (Hunter-Gatherer IV) (1000 to 600 BC)

The Early Woodland period began around 1000 BC with the adoption of ceramic technology. The earliest vessels, known as Marcey Creek ware, imitated the shapes of flat-bottomed soapstone pots, including lug handles, and were tempered with bits of soapstone (Egloff and Potter 1982). Researchers believe that indigenous groups became more sedentary during the Early Woodland, inhabiting sites for longer periods of the year. Larger sites are commonly on floodplains, with smaller resource extraction sites in a wide variety of environmental settings. Diets were focused on fish, shellfish, and nuts, although deer, turkey, and plant seeds were also important parts of the native diet (Mouer 1991).

Diagnostic ceramic wares include Marcy Creek, mentioned above; Bushnell Plain; Selden Island; and Accokeek. Bushnell Plain wares are flat-bottomed vessels resembling Marcey Creek but tempered with grit or sand instead of soapstone. Selden Island vessels, although steatite-tempered like Marcey Creek ware, were conoidal (cone-shaped) and were constructed by coiling rather than slabs. Accokeek pottery is a thin-walled, cordmarked, sand- or grit-tempered, conical or round-bottomed ware.

Point types associated with the Early Woodland include Calvert, Rossville, and teardrop or ovoid points (Dent 1995).

6. Middle Woodland (Hunter-Gatherer IV) (600 BC to AD 1000)

During the Middle Woodland period the regional population grew as bands became more sedentary and participated in regional exchange networks. There is continuity in site locations between the Early and Middle Woodland periods, implying that earlier subsistence-settlement systems persisted. Middle Woodland groups in the northern Virginia Piedmont appear to have been mobile, exploiting diverse and dispersed resources but focusing on riverine environments. The eastern Piedmont may have been utilized seasonally as part of the settlement round of groups based in the Coastal Plain (Stewart 1992).

Based primarily on ceramic chronology, two phases of the Middle Woodland period have been recognized. The earlier is characterized by Popes Creek and related ceramics (600 BC to AD 300), and the later by Mockley ware (AD 300 to 1000) (Stewart 1992). Popes Creek is a thick-bodied ware with sand temper that is usually net-impressed. Mockley ware is shell-tempered and has a variety of surface treatments. Albemarle ware was contemporaneous with Popes Creek but has crushed rock temper.

Diagnostic Middle Woodland point types include Fox Creek-Selby Bay points, which are often associated with Mockley pottery. Diagnostic points also include Jack's Reef corner-notched. Rossville and Calvert points, which appeared during the Early Woodland period, may have carried over to the Middle Woodland and have been found on sites with Popes Creek ware. Lithic materials shifted to higher-quality and non-local sources during the Middle Woodland period, including rhyolite. These patterns of stone use are seen as evidence of the development of regional trade networks.

Exchange networks and social interaction spheres extended out of the Middle Atlantic region during the Middle Woodland period. In the Ohio Valley the Adena complex (regarded by archeologists in that area as Early Woodland) flourished between circa 600 and 100 BC. The construction of burial mounds, characteristic of this complex, did not spread to the peoples of the Atlantic coast. Nevertheless, sustained cultural contact with the Adena complex is demonstrated by massive caches of typical Adena artifacts (lobate-stemmed points, tubular pipes made of Ohio fireclay, shale and slate gorgets, etc.) found in cremation burials on the Delmarva peninsula and on Maryland's Western Shore. The closest of these finds to the capital area is the West River Site (18AN18) in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Multiple radiocarbon assays date this burial cache to about AD 1 (Ford 1976). A cremation burial dated to about AD 750 was discovered a few years ago beside the Whitehurst Freeway in Washington, D.C.; it contained a comb made of moose or elk antler, fossil sharks' teeth, and a polished stone gorget (Knepper et al. 2006). A high percentage of exotic lithic materials, especially Maryland and Pennsylvania rhyolite, are typically found in Middle Woodland assemblages.

7. Late Woodland (Early Agriculturalist) (AD 1000 to 1607)

At around AD 1000 maize horticulture was adopted by many indigenous groups in the Middle Atlantic region. Reliance on maize varied from group to group while indigenous diets continued to include fish, game, and gathered plants. There is a dramatic increase in the number of sites that coincides with the onset of agriculture. Late Woodland sites include small permanent hamlets, and villages of varying sizes, and are typically located in floodplains of higher-order streams and adjacent to high-yield agricultural soils. Prior to AD 1200/1300, settlements were not stockaded, suggesting that there were minimal inter- and intra-group hostilities (Stewart 1992). At around AD 1200 to 1300, throughout the Middle Atlantic region, population density increased, nucleated settlements and stockaded villages were established, and there is evidence of population movement and displacement (Stewart 1992). During the Late Woodland period ranked societies emerged, which developed into the

complex tribes and chiefdoms encountered by the Europeans in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries (Potter 1993).

Diagnostic artifacts of the Late Woodland period in northern Virginia include Levanna and Madison/Clarksville triangular projectile points. Ceramics along the Potomac basin include Townsend (or Rappahannock) ware (AD 1000 to 1600), Shepard (AD 1000 to 1450), Page (AD 1000 to 1450), Moyaone (AD 1300 to 1600), Potomac Creek (AD 1300 to 1600), Keyser (AD 1400 to 1550), and Yeocomico (AD 1500 to 1700) ware.

In the Piedmont portion of the Potomac basin, Shepard ware is part of a cultural manifestation known as the Montgomery Complex (Potter 1993; Slattery and Woodward 1992). Associated artifacts include Shepard ceramics, Levanna triangular projectile points, and obtuse-angle clay smoking pipes with dentate or incised designs (Potter 1993:126; Slattery and Woodward 1992). The population that produced these ceramics was dispersed over the landscape in small hamlets or villages, and sites were situated on floodplains and terraces of higher-order streams (Potter 1993:126-127; Stewart 1992). At around AD 1350 in the Piedmont Potomac, ceramics of the Montgomery Complex were replaced by limestone-tempered Page Cordmarked ware of the Mason Island Complex (Slattery and Woodward 1992:158). This cultural complex, which may be related to the Monongahela culture of western Pennsylvania, was spread down the Shenandoah Valley and into the Piedmont Potomac. By AD 1500 a new culture known as the Luray focus, which made shell-tempered Keyser ceramics, appeared in this portion of the Potomac drainage.

Sites containing Potomac Creek ware have been identified in both the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions of the Potomac basin and along the Rappahannock drainage. Moyaone was fairly restricted to sites on the Coastal Plain, as was the later Yeocomico. The indigenous groups producing these pots were ancestral to the Piscataway Indians and, probably, the Tauxenent (also called Taux and Doegs) (Potter 1993), tribes who were encountered by English explorer John Smith along the lower Potomac in 1608. It is noteworthy that finds of Potomac Creek pottery in Fairfax County are concentrated at the mouth of the Occoquan and to the northeast on the north bank of the Potomac (Johnson 1991).

C. Historic Context

Spanish sailors may have discovered the Potomac River in the 1520s or 1530s. In 1560 a Spanish exploring party in the Chesapeake Bay kidnapped a high-

status Indian youth they called Don Luis. Ostensibly converted to Catholicism, he returned to his homeland, called Ajacan, as the guide for a small party of Spanish Jesuits in 1570. The location of the short-lived Jesuit mission is unknown. Although some have speculated that it might have been in the vicinity of Aquia Creek, a location near the mouth of the James or Chickahominy is also a strong possibility. In any case, Don Luis soon reverted to his original native identity and arranged the murder of the Jesuits, which ended Spanish colonization efforts in this area. In the 1580s an English attempt to plant a colony at Roanoke, on the North Carolina coast, failed. Their colony at Jamestown, established in 1607, proved more successful.

The English arrived in Virginia in 1607, when Capt. John Smith and the Virginia Company arrived in the Jamestown area and established a permanent English settlement. Exploration of the Potomac started in 1608, also led by Captain Smith. Smith's exploration extended to the Falls of the Potomac. The area of the Potomac north of the falls was first explored by Henry Fleet in 1632. Interior portions of Fairfax County, such as the Langley area, were likely explored later in the late seventeenth century as settlement of the county expanded from positions along major streams.

The northern portion of Fairfax County has a long and complex history. After initial settlement the area experienced significant in-migration in the late eighteenth century, in the mid-nineteenth century, and again in the late twentieth century. Large-scale changes in local agricultural practice took place in the early to mid-nineteenth century, and also in the late nineteenth century. The northern portion of the county was a seat of war during the Civil War. The years since World War II have seen a thorough transformation of the cultural landscape and patterns of daily life, as the area has become dominated by suburban residential developments and commercial and industrial parks.

Contact Period (1607 to 1646)

In 1608 Captain John Smith explored the Potomac, as far as the falls. His map showed the Indian town of Nacotchtanck, on the east side of the Anacostia. That river's name is actually an English corruption of the town's Algonquian name. Beyond Nacotchtanck Smith observed and later depicted the river bank, including an inlet that is probably the mouth of Rock Creek; however, he saw no further native settlements. Archeological testing has yielded no evidence that Late Woodland villages along the Potomac, west of the falls, were occupied after about 1500. The region seems to have been abandoned; whether this was caused by European diseases, pressure from aggressive Iroquoian tribes, or climate changes remains to be determined.

Captain Smith mapped a number of native villages on the southwestern (Virginia) bank between the mouths of Aquia Creek and the Anacostia River. From south to north, they were Pamacocack, Tauxenent, Namassingakent, Assaomeck, and Namoraughquend. Tauxenent was the only one of these settlements that Smith denoted with the longhouse symbol that he reserved for "kings'" residences. Tauxenent was located on the north bank of the Occoquan River, near its mouth, in the vicinity of today's Colchester.

The colonists encountered Indian tribes that were part of the Powhatan Confederacy, a political amalgamation of Algonquian-speaking native people who inhabited the Coastal Plain/Tidewater of Virginia and Maryland (Potter 1993). The Powhatan had a single leader who oversaw the chiefs of individual tribes. The Tauxenent (or Taux, or Doegs) were one of the tribes in the confederacy and were the northernmost group. The Piedmont of Virginia was the home of Powhatans' rivals, the Monacans, Manahoacs, and Massawomeck, who were Siouan speakers and had limited interactions with colonists in the first half of the seventeenth century. The inner portion of the Coastal Plain and adjoining portion of the Piedmont formed somewhat of a no-man's land, although there is evidence of trade goods, if not people, moving back and forth between these regions (Turner 2004:16). Judging from its setting, the Langley Forks Park study area would have likely been peripheral to either the Powhatan/Tauxenent or Massawomeck/Monacans/Manahoacs culture areas.

The indigenous communities were completely disrupted and uprooted in most of Virginia during the Contact period. Diseases brought by the Europeans ravaged Indian settlements. Warfare and eviction from lands destroyed many other Indian communities. Diaspora communities of Indians formed along the frontiers, particularly along the major waterways. The diaspora communities were typically short-lived (Bedell et al. 2008).

Interactions between the Powhatan and the British colonists were very complex during the Contact period. Both sides initially worked the relationship for their perceived benefit. The colonists were working on one side to gain foodstuffs, knowledge, wealth, and control of lands, while the Powhatan worked to increase their influence and gain high-status trade goods (Potter 1973). The relationship ebbed and flowed, with periods of intermittent conflict and episodic warfare. There were major Indian uprisings in 1622 and 1644. The colonists emerged from the uprisings with closer control of the Indian communities.

In 1632 Englishman Henry Fleet sailed to the falls of the Potomac and sent a party upriver in search of furs, but the party reported no Indian villages within 140 miles of the falls. This report indicates that what was once an area replete with Indian settlements and Indian trade was largely desolate (or well hidden) in the later portion of the Contact period. It is possible that disease and/or tribal warfare had destroyed settlements along the Piedmont portion of the Potomac by 1632. It is also possible that the natives in the area relocated north or west, seeking refuge from the Indian-Colonial warfare that was striking the Coastal Plain.

In 1646 a peace treaty was developed between the Powhatan and Virginia. In the treaty the Powhatan agreed stay outside the colonial areas and to pay an annual tribute to the colonial government. This treaty marked a major shift in power from Virginia's Indians to the colonial government, and was a watershed moment in Virginia's Indian-colonist relations (Potter 1973).

2. Settlement to Society (1646 to 1750)

In 1649 Northern Virginia was part of the Northern Neck Proprietary, which the exiled King Charles II granted to seven loyal supporters, including John Culpeper. The proprietary consisted of 5,282,000 acres located between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers. After King Charles was restored to the British throne in 1660, the original patentees renewed efforts to claim the land. By 1681 Thomas, Lord Culpeper, had acquired all rights to the land, and in 1688 the land was confirmed to him by patent. A year later Thomas died, and his interest passed to his daughter, Catherine, who married Thomas, Lord Fairfax. The Council confirmed their rights in 1694, and the proprietary remained in the hands of the Fairfax family for another 90 years (Weisiger 2002).

In the first part of the seventeenth century, the Northern Neck constituted one large county named Northumberland. Over the succeeding decades tobacco farming emerged as the major impetus for development in the region. In 1653 the county was divided, with the northern section renamed Westmoreland County. Over the next 80 years Northumberland County continued to be subdivided into various smaller counties, including Stafford, King George, and Prince William.

Fairfax County was formed in 1742 from the northern part of Prince William County. The county was named in honor of Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax. Originally, Fairfax County included the land extending from the Potomac and

Occoquan rivers to the Blue Ridge Mountains, encompassing present-day Loudon and Arlington counties.

The first Europeans to settle Fairfax County established semi-autonomous plantations. Other than the improvements made on the plantations, little in the way of improved infrastructure was made to the surrounding county. Early transportation in the county focused on navigable waterways, with the Potomac River and its major tributaries serving as arteries for moving people, goods, and information (Netherton et al. 1978). Land routes followed Indian trails, including a major trail that followed the west bank of the Potomac. Some of these trails eventually evolved into rolling roads as merchants used them to transport tobacco from their plantations to warehouses along the Potomac River. One major road during this period was the Vestal Gap Road, also known as the Upper Church Road. This road became the primary route to Leesburg and across the Blue Ridge Mountains to Winchester (NPS 1994), and eventually evolved into the present-day State Route 7. Two lesser mid-eighteenth-century roads developed from a tobacco warehouse established by Thomas Lee at the mouth of Pimmit Run. The Falls Rolling Road ascended the ravine north of Pimmit Run before doubling back to join the Vestel Gap Road at Falls Church. The other road was the Sugarlands Rolling Road, which extended from Pimmit Run north to Daniel McCarty's Sugar Land plantation. The Sugarlands Rolling Road merged with the Vestal Gap Road at Difficult Run. In the early nineteenth century Sugarlands Rolling Road became part of Georgetown Pike.

Although settlers coming to the county from the Chesapeake Tidewater region were less numerous than the Scots-Irish and Quakers, land ownership was dominated during the early years by wealthy Tidewater planters. These latter individuals purchased large tracts, either patenting them from the provincial land office or purchasing them from Lord Fairfax, the principal landowner in the area, after his dispute with the colony was settled in his favor in 1745. During the remainder of the eighteenth century, the local landscape displayed a mixed pattern, including smaller tracts owned by local inhabitants who had purchased them from larger-scale speculators, smaller tracts rented by local inhabitants on a long-term basis from larger-scale owners (generally absentees), and larger tracts actually occupied by well-off locals of Tidewater heritage. The first two classes of farms were each considerably more numerous than the last category (Chittenden et al. 1988; Netherton et al. 1978).

3. Colony to Nation (1750 to 1789)

Agriculture was the center of economic life in western Fairfax County from the area's settlement until the late twentieth century (Chittenden et al. 1988;

Netherton et al. 1978). Industry, other than that directly involved in the processing of agricultural commodities, such as gristmills, sawmills, and tanyards, was fairly negligible. In the latter half of the eighteenth century, although the cultivation of tobacco appears to have been a minor presence, the local agricultural system matched the one that then prevailed throughout the Middle Atlantic Piedmont. This system was based on the production of large quantities of wheat for export (mostly as flour), with the raising of other grains, orchard and garden produce, and livestock for subsistence. Settlers from the Tidewater, although planting some tobacco, appear to have soon adopted this mode of agriculture (Chittenden et al. 1988; Nickell and Randolph 1924).

The crops cultivated by local inhabitants did not deplete soil fertility as rapidly as tobacco, but generally poor farming methods in the county led to the gradual deterioration of the area's soils. The loss of soil quality was of such magnitude by the close of the Revolutionary War in 1783 that it provoked an out-migration of considerable scale, with the region's settlers departing for Kentucky and other western regions (Chittenden et al. 1988; Netherton et al. 1978). To some extent those departing were replaced by a new (though relatively small) group of incoming migrants, genteel young landowners from the Tidewater region. These people consolidated large tracts owned by their families and formerly taken up by several long-term tenant farms into unified plantations devoted largely to the traditional export grain cultivation. The planters did not at first thrive, however, owing to the depleted condition of the soil. But over the decades between 1790 and 1860, despite continued problems of out-migration by natives (the county's population decreased by a third between 1800 and 1840) and localized economic depression, a sustained introduction and refinement of progressive methods of husbandry gradually rebuilt the fertility of Fairfax County's farmland. Instrumental in the later stages of this local agricultural improvement was yet another group of new inhabitants, young farmers from New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey who came to Fairfax between 1837 and 1860 in response to the low asking price for depressed farmsteads and the national reputation of Northern Virginia as a center of progressive agriculture (Chittenden et al. 1988; Netherton et al. 1978).

4. Early National Period (1789 to 1830)

By the end of the eighteenth century, Alexandria and Fairfax County were both booming. In 1790 the county remained largely rural. By 1800 the population of Fairfax County was 13,317, with a large percentage of the growth located in and around the city of Alexandria. The prosperity of Fairfax County came at a

cost, however, as Fairfax County's economic boom as a largely rural, agrarian society meant that its fortunes were owed in large part to the slave labor working in the fields. By 1800, 41 percent of Fairfax County's white population owned slaves, compared to the 28 percent in 1748. Of the 13,317 residents of Fairfax County, just over 6,000 were enslaved.

In the late eighteenth century wheat supplanted tobacco as the major cash crop of Northern Virginia, and Alexandria became the third largest exporter of flour in the burgeoning nation. The rapid economic development demanded the creation and improvement of overland transportation routes to efficiently move products from the interior of the county to the ports along the Potomac. The first turnpike charter was granted in 1796, but the road was not actually built until after the turn of the century. The first bridge to span the Potomac River was opened in 1797 at Little Falls. The bridge was first known as Falls Bridge and later by its current name, Chain Bridge (Sweig 1992).

The development of the Fairfax County was hastened by transportation improvements made in the late eighteenth century and early to mid-nineteenth century. Counties initially had the primary responsibility for building new roads and road maintenance. The Georgetown Pike is one such road. Originally known as the Sugarlands Rolling Road when it was first established in 1728 (see Section 2, above), the Leesburg and Georgetown Pike Company improved and paved the road starting in 1813. After improvements were finished in the 1820s, the road and toll houses extended 17 miles from Dranesville to the Chain Bridge.

This climate of economic expansion in Fairfax County, however, declined after the first decades of the nineteenth century. Between 1800 and 1820, Virginia planters endured a crippling economic depression, the result of soil depletion and low market prices for tobacco and wheat. The decline was further exacerbated by Alexandria's inability to compete with the growing industrial ports of Richmond and Baltimore.

5. Antebellum Period (1830 to 1860)

Agriculture continued to play a large role in the development of Fairfax County during the nineteenth century. An economic depression occurred during the period from 1800 to 1840. This led to the division of large plantations into smaller landholdings (Netherton et al. 1978). By 1840 much of the land in Fairfax County was no longer cultivated (Netherton et al. 1978).

During the two decades preceding the Civil War, the economy of Fairfax County made a strong recovery. This was partly because of improved agricultural practices, economic diversification, and improved transportation methods (Netherton et al. 1978). Fishing also became a major enterprise with the use of large seines along the Potomac River. The construction of two major railroads in the 1850s greatly reduced the cost and time of getting goods and raw materials to market and also brought an influx of new residents into the county. Small communities developed along the railroad lines while established communities continued to grow.

6. The Civil War (1861 to 1865)

The Civil War was a traumatic period for Fairfax County. The residents of the county had diverse backgrounds and were divided in their sympathies. The area became notorious as a battleground between locally reared Union and Confederate partisans. In addition, the Union Army of the Potomac, the Union Army of Virginia, and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia repeatedly marched through the county, with some skirmishes and pitched battles. The troop presence had a severe effect on the agricultural economy (Netherton et al. 1978).

During the first year of the Civil War, the study area was close to the front line separating Union from Confederate forces in northern Virginia. A map by Robert Sneeden dated September 1861 places a “cavalry outpost” at Langley Crossroads, and other units may have been posted or camped in the area that summer (Figure 4).

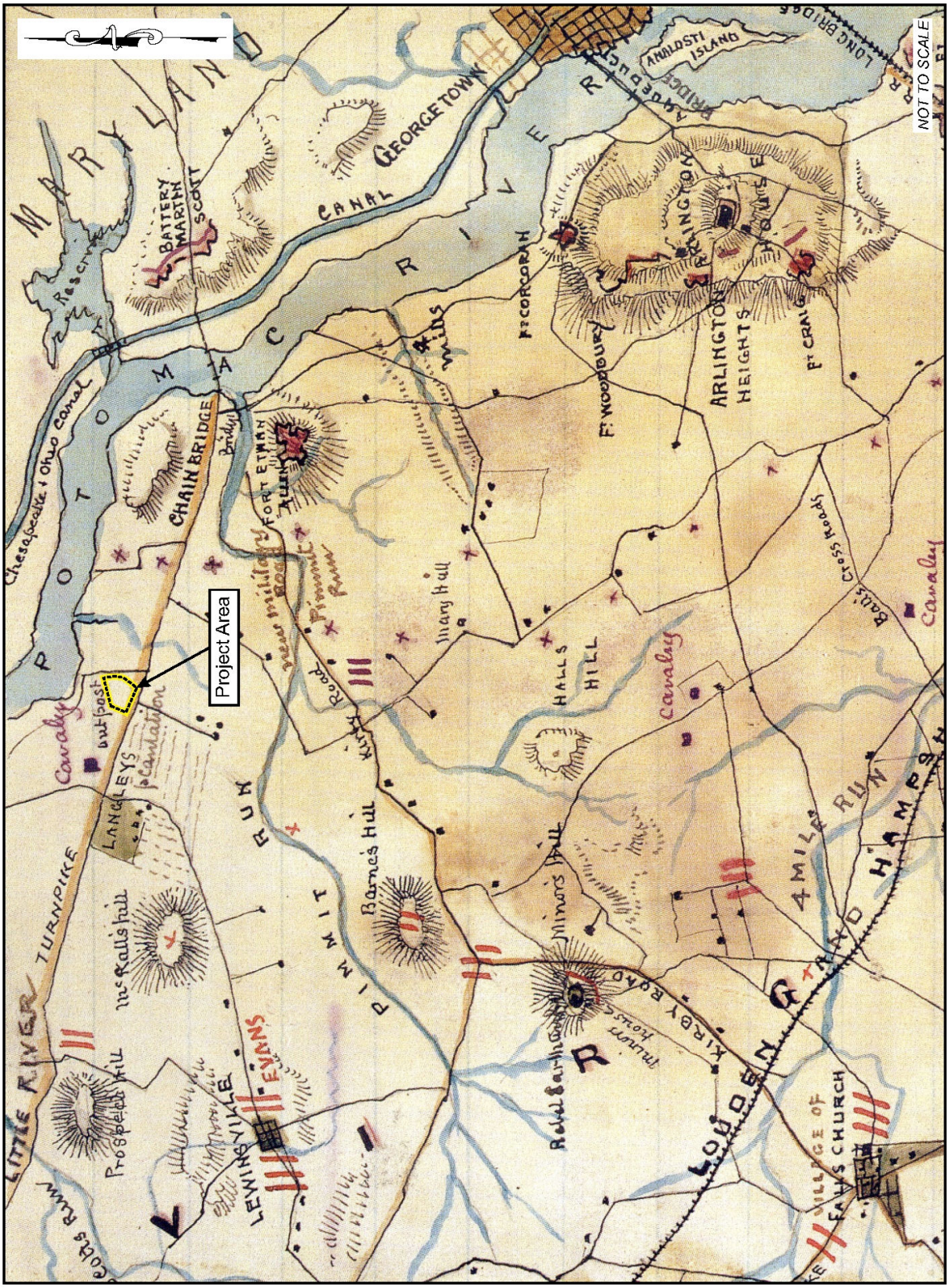
a. Camp Pierpont

In the fall of 1861 and winter of 1862, the Langley area was the location of Camp Pierpont. Camp Pierpont served as the winter quarters for Union Maj. Gen. George A. McCall and the 10,000 men of the Pennsylvania Reserves. They arrived on October 9, 1861, and departed the following March. The camp was named in honor of the Loyal Governor of Virginia. General McCall made his headquarters at the Langley Ordinary, located at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Lewinsville Road (Figure 5). Although their exact locations are not known, it appears that most of the regimental camps that made up Camp Pierpont were to the west and southwest of Langley Crossroads. The Langley Fork Historical District is also centered on this crossroads. The NRHP form for Langley Fork cites its significance as the site of Camp Pierpont (David 1980).

At the start of the war, when Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to defend the Union, far more Pennsylvanians volunteered than were needed to fill the state's quota. Unwilling to send these eager men home, the governor organized them into 13 regiments of the Pennsylvania Reserves. After the Union defeat at Bull Run, when Lincoln called for 200,000 more men, the Pennsylvania Reserves were activated as part of the Union army and sent to Washington. The Pennsylvania Reserves produced several of the Union's most famous officers, including George Gordon Meade, Winfield Scott Hancock, and John F. Reynolds.

In August 1861 the Reserves moved from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to Washington, camping around Tenallytown in Maryland. This was a citizen army, and all NCOs and officers up to the regimental commanders were elected from the ranks. A history of the reserves written just after the war gives a feel for what life was like in the first year of the war for these volunteer soldiers:

At Tenallytown, General McCall established his command in pleasant camps, and instructed the field officers to use all possible diligence in familiarizing their regiments with the battalion drill, and to teach the men the manual and the use of arms. The officers organized classes for mutual instruction in military tactics and army regulations. In these, all questions pertaining to military science were freely discussed, and points in doubt were referred to the officers who had graduated in the military academy at West Point, or to the commanding general. The zeal to acquire a knowledge of military duties and movements manifested by the officers, was equalled only by their efforts to instruct their men in the drills, the duties and the conduct of a soldier. Never, perhaps, was there so general a diffusion of intelligence, extending through all the companies of a division of an army, as was the case in the Reserve Corps. A large number of students from colleges, academics, normal and high schools, many teachers in the public schools and in the higher institutions of learning, professional student, physicians, lawyers and preachers, were found, not only as officers, but in the ranks, associated with young men of equal intelligence. There were sergeants who, but for their uniforms, might have been mistaken for generals, and privates fit to command brigades. To make soldiers of citizens like these was not a difficult task. To command companies, regiments, brigades and divisions composed of men of so much intelligence, required officers possessing much executive ability and a thorough knowledge of the rights, privileges and duties of both officers and privates [Sypher 1865:107].



SOURCE: Sneeden 2001

FIGURE 4: Sneeden Map of 1861

FIGURE 5: Langley Fork Park Area in 1864

SOURCE: United States War Department 1864

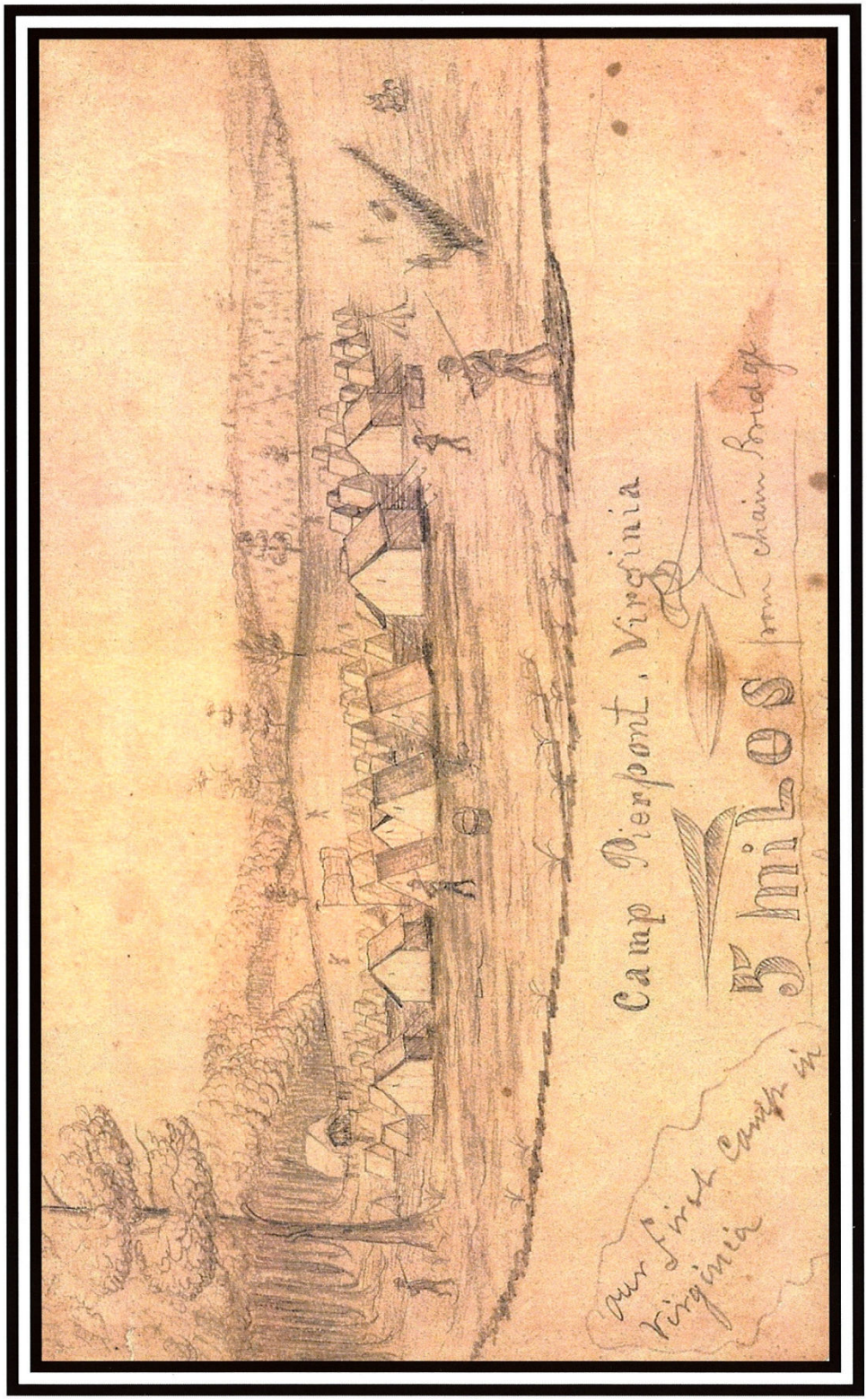
In October the Reserves crossed the Potomac via the Chain Bridge to the vicinity of Langley. Pvt. Lyman Hamlin (1861) of the 3rd Regiment described their new situation:

We are in the midst of a fine region. White farm houses are seated upon the hills, and fields of ripened corn, in part, bound the view, but this is all that reminds us of peaceful pursuits. Thousands of armed men, camp after camp of canvass huts, multitudes of white covered army wagons, and horses, cavalry galloping past with clanking sabers, the booming of cannon, and sound of drums constantly force upon us the all-parading idea of grim-visaged war. It seems quite natural after gradual schooling, but it is odd to imagine how such a scene would have struck one a few months since, had it suddenly burst upon him [Hamlin 1861].

There is one known image of Camp Pierpont, a sketch showing tents in an open field, with a road in the foreground (Figure 6). Leaves on the trees suggest that this was drawn fairly early in the fall. The sketch of the camp is currently in a private collection and cannot be authenticated.

While at Camp Pierpont, the Pennsylvania Reserves saw action on numerous occasions. On October 11, 1861, members of the Reserves engaged Confederate soldiers under the command of General Beauregard, who was attempting to determine the extent of the new lines occupied by the Army of the Potomac. On October 18 the Reserves were ordered to Dranesville to conduct reconnaissance and map the roads and topography of the area. McCall was assured that the Confederate Army had left Leesburg and should not fear attack from that end; however, McCall was warned of the Confederate presence in Centreville and the need for vigilance in that direction. The Reserves did not engage any Confederate positions during the reconnaissance and completed their mission.

On December 20, 1861, the 10,000 men of the Pennsylvania Reserves returned to Dranesville under the command of Edward Otho Cresap Ord. There they engaged pickets of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry. Over the next three hours the two armies fought a small battle that was at times quite hot, resulting in the withdrawal by Stuart and the capture of Confederate wagons by the Pennsylvania Reserve. The following day, Stuart returned with reinforcements but found that the Reserves had returned to Camp Pierpont in the night.



Drawing by an anonymous Union soldier

SOURCE: Mroczka 2009

FIGURE 6: Sketch of Camp Pierpont

Following the Battle of Dranesville, the Pennsylvania reserves set up winter quarters at Camp Pierpont. They constructed cabins of log and earth and covered them with army tents. The success at Dranesville made the Pennsylvania Reserves celebrities of a sort, since their victory was a rare success for Union forces in the east. Politicians, dignitaries, and Washington elites all crossed the Chain Bridge to meet the soldiers of the Pennsylvania Reserves.

The remainder of the time spent at Camp Pierpont was mostly uneventful for the soldiers of the Pennsylvania Reserve. During the winter there, 89 soldiers died at the camp, mostly from sickness and the cold, although "accidents" were listed as the cause of death for a few.

In March the Pennsylvania Reserves abandoned Camp Pierpont and joined with the rest of the Army of the Potomac. From 1862 until the end of the war in 1865, the Pennsylvania Reserves went on to participate in many of the war's most famous and bloody battles, including Antietam and Gettysburg.

b. Life in Camp

A large amount of material related to the Pennsylvania Reserves has been collected and posted online by the PRVC Historical Society. The posted material includes numerous letters from soldiers and officers, allowing many insights into their wartime lives. This letter from Samuel T. Cassatt, dated February 4, 1862, focuses on things important to the soldiers' daily lives: weather, the mud, and packages from home.

I take my pen in hand to answer your Last letter which I recieved Jan 17th I have been sick for about two weeks but I am able to Report fit for duty this morning again it looks a little winter like here this morning there was a nice little snow fell last night but it is more acceptable than the mud this is what they call the Sacred Soil of Virginia but I should call it nothing but a perfect mud Hole we have not had much cold wether here yet but a great (d)eal of wet we keep pretty close quarters for the last month we have not drilled for some time on account of the wether not allowing it the camp as a general matter is healthy and our boys are in good Spirits John Hamilton was Sick about two months shortly after he came to war but he is engoying good health now I recieved them articles from the ordyly Sargent I got 2 shirts one pair of drawers and some thred and pins I did not get any Stockings he said he did not remember any of them for me if there was any please describe them in your next letter and if you forgot them you need not send any as I do not stand much in need of them now [Cassatt 1862].

At least two descriptions of the soldiers' accommodations survive from Camp Pierpont. One was penned by Robert Strickby in a letter home dated November 28, 1861:

We have our tent built up 31/2 feet with poles and then dug down 11/2 feet in the ground and our tent set on poles and banked up around the poles with dirt and then a fire place in the bank and one bunk in the floor for 2 to sleep and one above for 2 more to sleep [Strickby 1861].

The other comes from a book published after the war by reporter George Townsend (1866):

[I] examined the huts in which the Reserves had passed the winter. They were built of logs, plastered with mud, and the roofs of some were thatched with straw. Each cabin was pierced for two or more windows; the beds were simply shelves or berths; a rough fireplace of stones and clay communicated with the wooden chimney; and the floors were in most cases damp and bare. Streets, fancifully designated, divided the settlement irregularly; but the tenements were now all deserted save one, where I found a whole family of "contrabands" or fugitive slaves.

The Reserves spent Christmas 1861 at Camp Pierpont, and several letters mention their attempts at festivities:

I had a very nice dinner on Christmas day. One of my friends had a box sent to him by express containing 4 large Shanghi roosters stuffed, a number of pound cakes, and pies, pickles and apples. You may be sure I did them all justice (Bright 1861).

Some of the boys . . . had Santa Claus, with a full-rigged suit of Secesh Clothes, stuck up in a tree. One of the guards, being put on post, and not knowing of the aforesaid gentleman being in the neighborhood, while walking his lonely beat, cast his eye that way, and, seeing Mr. Man, came to the conclusion that it was one of the men of J. Davis & Co. . . . He determined to make a hero of himself and fired, putting a ball through our Christmas friend, when the rest of the boys jumped up, exclaiming "Guard house, Guard House" [Newsboy 1861].

c. Where Were the Regimental Camps?

Letters and other documents provide some information as to the locations of the 13 regimental camps that made up Camp Pierpont. At least some of the regiments were camped in a rough defensive arc blocking any Confederate

advance down the Georgetown Pike. This "line" extended from the Potomac River near Great Falls southward to Prospect Hill, the estate of Commodore Jones, and then southeast toward Lewinsville. A soldier of the 1st Regiment wrote home that "We are now encamped about one mile beyond Langley's, and six miles from Chain Bridge, near the Leesburg pike, in what was a wheat field. The ground is moist and gently sloping" (Breneman 1861).

Letters from soldiers in the 3rd, 11th, and 13th Regiments (all in the 2nd Brigade) mention being camped close to Commodore Jones's house (Anonymous A 1861; Hamlin 1861; Volunteer 1861), and one from a soldier of the 7th says he spent a few days helping to build fortifications on that height (Lapscomb 1861). The 4th Regiment was atop a steep, wooded hill, near the Potomac within a mile of Great Falls, and one of their duties was to cut trees and block a possible route for a Confederate advance along the river bank (Anonymous B 1861). A soldier of the 7th Regiment wrote:

About three miles from the bridge is the small village of Langley where Gen. McCall and Staff now have their headquarters. We proceeded about two miles beyond the village at ten o'clock at night, and bivouacked in a thicket. Next morning we erected our tents, and are now tolerably comfortably situated in Fairfax county, Va., five miles from the Chain Bridge, and about one mile from Lewinsville, the scene of quite a skirmish some two weeks ago [Quantico 1861].

The brigade commanders of the reserves occupied houses that had been abandoned by Confederate sympathizers. In a letter home dated October 22, Maj. Gen. John Reynolds (1861) said that his camp was "to the front of Langley Tavern near Lewisville." Another report places Major General Hancock of the 3rd Brigade at McCall's house (New York Times 1861), which is about a mile southwest of Langley along the Lewinsville Road. Sypher's History of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, published just after the war, says that the headquarters of the 1st Brigade was at the Langley Schoolhouse, and that the 2nd Regiment was camped "on a low and badly drained piece of ground, at the base of a wooded hill, near the Langley School House" (Sypher 1865:66). Another report placed them near "Cook's" (New York Times 1861), and there was a Cooke's Mill right at the base of the hill where postwar maps show the Langley Schoolhouse, half a mile southeast of the crossroads.

The only unit known to have been at Langley Crossroads was General McCall's headquarters. A regimental camp would not be expected in the study area; however, all of the camps cannot be pinpointed using the available documents. It is therefore possible that, since the camps were set up in a rough defensive

arc, one or more regiments were deployed behind the "front lines" as a notional reserve. Also, it was apparently usual in this period for a few soldiers to camp around the houses occupied by senior generals. The drawings of Robert Sneeden that depict generals' headquarters all show groups of tents near or around the general's house (Sneeden 2001:16, 40, 67, 187-189). These were probably members of his staff and his headquarters guard, a force of men, typically a company for a senior commander like McCall, assigned to guard the general and police the area. Such tents might have been placed in the southwestern corner of the study area.

7. Reconstruction and Growth (1865 to 1917) and World War I to World War II (1917 to 1945)

Following the Civil War Fairfax County remained mostly agricultural in character. Reconstruction in Fairfax County was swift as compared to other parts of the state. By 1870 the economy had substantially recovered from the effects of the war. Dairy, livestock, and poultry farming, flour milling, and the cultivation of fruit, vegetables, and flowers became the economic backbone of the region. Some manufacturing enterprises also developed, often associated with agriculture (e.g., tomato canning factories). There was also an influx of new settlers, mainly from the north. Fairfax County was considered an attractive locale for several reasons, including cheap land prices, proximity to Washington, D.C., and a relatively mild climate (Netherton and Netherton 1992).

The African-American community in Fairfax County also changed dramatically following the Civil War. In 1860 blacks constituted about 32 percent of the county's total population. After the war the number grew proportionately with the increase in the white population (Chittenden et al. 1988). The growth in population was largely caused by the influx of refugees from the areas farther south, who were also drawn to the county's proximity to Washington, D.C.

Several fairly large African-American settlements developed in Fairfax County. They generally grew up around areas with job opportunities, large tracts of land owned by blacks, or as subcommunities of established white settlements. Census data indicate that the majority of black residents continued working as farm laborers, sometimes on the same plantations where they had been slaves (Wolf 1975).

Between 1900 and 1910 the county's population increased to 20,536. During the first part of the twentieth century, the number of farms increased dramatically, with the largest increase occurring in small farms of less than 50

acres (Netherton and Netherton 1992). The 1910 census shows that 71.6 percent of the land in the county was farmland, with an average acreage of 82.3 acres per farm (Netherton et al. 1978). There were 2,320 farms in the county at that time. White farmers operated 1,894 of these, and black farmers operated only 317 farms.

In the 1930s the rural character of Fairfax County began to change. In 20 years the number of farms dropped to 1,244 in the county, with an average size of 99 acres. In 1940 only 22 percent of all dwellings in Fairfax County were categorized as farm dwellings. Part of the reason for the change was that by the early twentieth century the federal government in Washington, D.C., experienced tremendous growth that provided new employment opportunities to residents of the surrounding counties, including Fairfax. That growth continued as America entered World War II. Government employment increased as the federal bureaucracy expanded during the war effort. This led to an increase in population for Fairfax County as new employees sought affordable housing close to Washington, D.C. Essentially, the rural character of Fairfax County was replaced by the emerging development of suburbs. Various trolley lines were constructed in the first part of the twentieth century, and as the car became a more popular mode of transport, the county's system of roads also expanded (Netherton et al. 1978).

The Capper-Cramton Act of May 29, 1930, provided for the acquisition, establishment, and development of the GWMP along the Potomac River from Mount Vernon and Fort Washington to the Great Falls (NPS 1992). The act called for the acquisition of lands on both the Maryland and Virginia shores of the Potomac River to ensure the protection and preservation of the natural scenery, and the preservation of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal in Maryland. Acquisition of lands and construction of the parkway began almost immediately. Soon the parkway became a popular destination for out-of-town and local visitors wishing to enjoy nature close to the nation's capital.

A view of the Langley Fork Park area in 1937 is shown in Figure 7. The park area is largely farmland, and the central parcel (the Simpson property) appears to be largely in pasture. Horse tracks and jumps are apparent on the aerial, along with a complex network of farm roads and trails. The property in the southeast appears to be a mixture of yard areas, farmland, and perhaps an orchard. The properties in the southwest of the future park had a mixture of agricultural and residential uses at that time.

8. The New Dominion (1945 to present)

Suburban expansion continued in Fairfax County after World War II. During the 1940s and 1950s, the county's population grew from 40,900 to 98,500 residents. By the mid-1960s Fairfax County had grown to a population of over 450,000 residents, and by 1970 the county stood at nearly half a million people. Between 1987 and 1997 the number of farms in Fairfax County dropped from 198 to 121. Today Fairfax County is the most populous and one of the most affluent counties in Virginia (Netherton et al. 1978).

A view of the Langley Fork Park area in 1953 is shown in Figure 8. The land was sold to the federal government in 1940, but the property does not appear to have been in active use in 1953. An unpaved road is visible on the east side of the park at the future location of Colonial Farm Road. Former field edges can be clearly seen in the aerial as lines of trees.

D. Property History

Langley Forks Park was created from four separate parcels sold to the federal government in 1940. All four lots were originally part of a large 2,862-acre land grant originally given to Thomas Lee in 1719. The grant, named Langley, extended along the Potomac River and included all of the Langley Fork Park, the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, the CIA Headquarters, and a large portion of the GWMP west of the Chain Bridge.

When Thomas Lee acquired the Langley grant on August 4, 1719, he was serving as the resident manager of the Northern Neck Proprietary for Lady Catherine Fairfax, a position he had held since 1710. The Langley Patent was just one of several large tracts owned and managed by the Lee estate in Fairfax County during the eighteenth century (Northern Neck Land Grants 1719).

The Lee family retained ownership of the four parcels containing Langley Fork Park until the early nineteenth century. Over those 100 years, the property was likely leased to tenant farmers. By 1812 Langley belonged to Richard Bland Lee, a great-nephew of Thomas Lee.

On March 10 of that year, Richard leased the property to his brother, Edmund Jennings Lee. The deed for the transaction stipulates the property was for the use of Richard Coleman. It is uncertain who Richard Coleman was or what connection he had with the Lee family. On February 29, 1817, Coleman and Richard Bland Lee sold the largest of the four parcels, a 137-acre lot, to Daniel Bussard of Georgetown (Table 2).

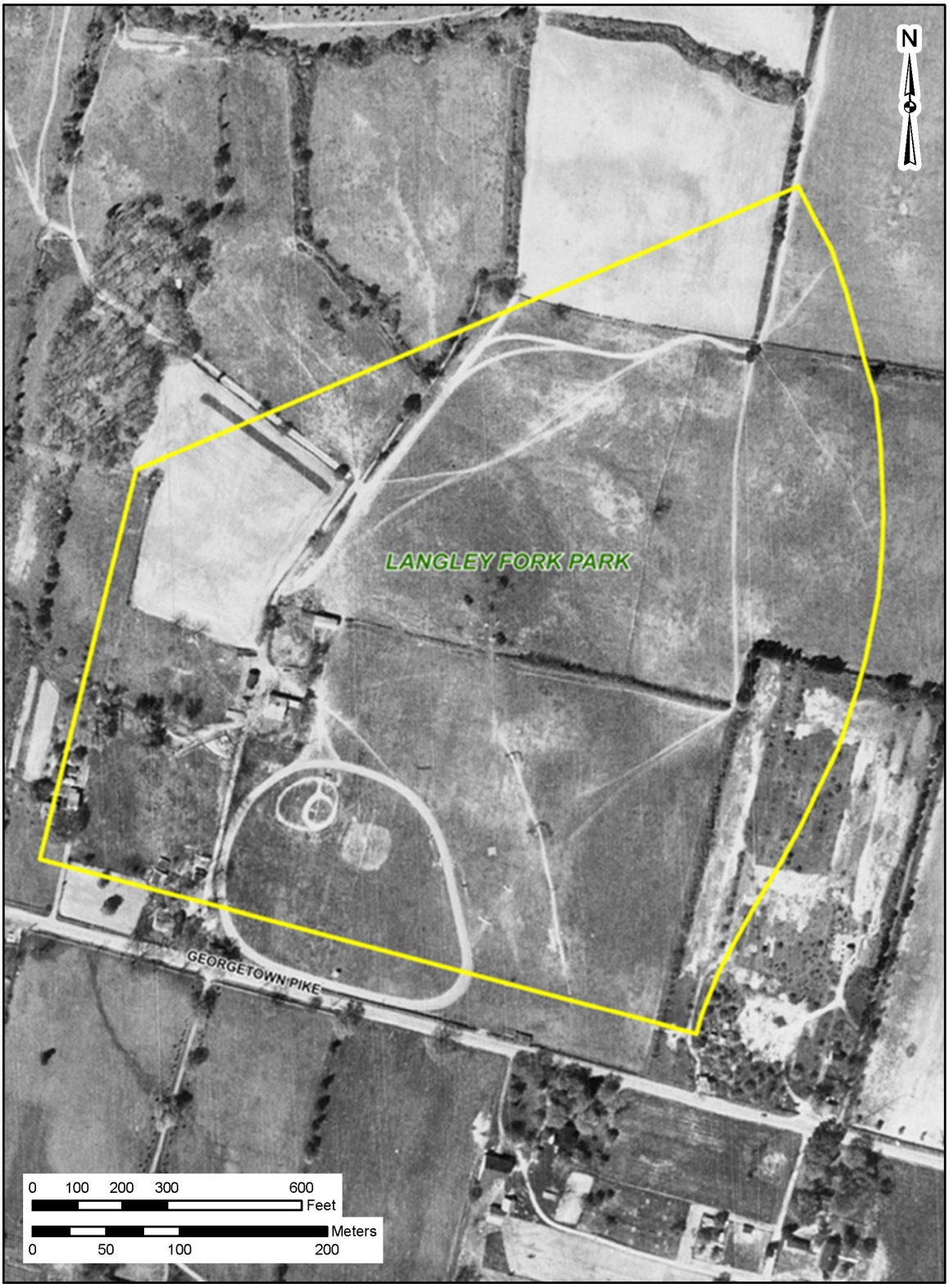


FIGURE 7: Aerial View of Park, 1937

SOURCE: USDA-SCS 1937

FIGURE 8: Aerial View of Park, 1953

SOURCE: USDA-SCS 1953

He sold the 137- acre property in Langley to his son, William Bussard. Five years later, William sold the property to the President, Directors, and Company Bank of the United States of America, located in Philadelphia.

Table 2: Bussard-McNerhany Parcel Chain-of-Title

DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACRES	LIBER/FOLIO *	NOTES
Aug. 4, 1719	Proprietor's Office	Thomas Lee	2862	NN5/240** -	
Mar. 10, 1812	Richard Bland Lee Elizabeth Lee	Edmund J. Lee	385	L2/345 -	For use by Richard Coleman
Feb. 29, 1817	Richard Bland Lee Elizabeth Lee Richard Coleman	Daniel Bussard	137	S2/114 -	
May 19, 1827	Daniel Bussard	William Bussard	137	X2/123 -	
Jan. 2, 1832	William Bussard	President Directors and Company of the United States of America	137	A3/36 -	
Apr. 2, 1838	President Directors and Company of the United States of America	Joseph Comperthwait	137	SJF - 18/625*** -	
Oct. 16, 1838	Joseph Comperthwait	Edward McNerhany	137	E3/99 -	
June 27, 1876	Francis McNerhany	William Whalen	150	U4/82 -	
Apr. 18, 1877	William Whalen	John Whalen	150	V4/14 -	
Feb. 27, 1882	John Whalen	Samuel Linn	150	B5/552 -	
Aug. 2, 1889	Catherine Linn	Elizabeth A. Simpson	150	I5/595 -	
Nov. 23, 1940	John R. Simpson et al.	U.S. Government	150	L14/548 -	

* Fairfax County Land Record Books; ** Northern Neck Land Grants; *** Land Records of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

In 1838 the parcel was transferred to Joseph Comperthwait, who later sold it to Edward McNerhany for $1,225. Edward McNerhany was born in Ireland in 1795. By the early 1820s he had come to the United States, and on January 3, 1824, he married Bridget Ferrell of Washington, D.C. Shortly after obtaining the 137-acre parcel in 1838, the McNerhany family relocated to Langley, where they operated a small farm. According to the 1860 agricultural census, the McNerhanys improved 60 acres of their estate and grew several different crops, including wheat, rye, Indian corn, and oats. They also had eight dairy cows, eight horses, and 24 hogs. In addition to the farm, Edward operated a tavern on the Georgetown Pike as early as 1856 (Sprouse 1996).

On May 30, 1871, Edward McNerhany died. Less than three months later, his wife, Bridget, also passed away. Both died from dysentery (Sprouse 1996). The farm passed to the couple's five children, and in 1876 Francis McNerhany sold the parcel to William Whalen, a resident of Washington, D.C. In 1877 William sold the parcel to John Whalen, also a resident of Washington.

John Whalen kept the Langley property until 1882, when he sold it to Samuel Linn. Linn was born in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. By 1860 he had moved to Washington. He and his family remained in the city for at least 20 years and they operated a hotel in Georgetown. By the time Samuel purchased the McNerhany farm in 1882, he and his wife, Catherine, were residing in Howard County, Maryland. According to the 1880 census, Samuel is listed as a farmer living with his wife, Catherine, their daughter, Lillie, and two grandchildren, Charles and Samuel. In addition to his family, the Linns had 10 others living with them on their property working as either farmhands or household staff.

On July 13, 1889, Samuel Linn died on his Howard County farm. The following month his widow, Catherine, sold the Langley property to her daughter, Elizabeth A. Simpson. At the age of 46, Elizabeth was already a widow and in 1890 she remarried, this time to John F. Reid. The couple settled at Langley on the former McNerhany farm. Elizabeth remained on the property until her death in 1919. In her will she divided her estate among her children and grandchildren. Five of her grandchildren received interests in the Langley farm. In 1940 they sold the property to the federal government to become part of the GWMP.

The other three parcels included in the sale from Simpson family to the government were located adjacent to the 137-acre Bussard-McNerhany lot along the Georgetown Pike. They included a 6.5-acre lot sold to Robert Gunnell, 4 acres sold to Thomas Wilson, and a 9-acre parcel sold to Robert S.

Reid. Like the 137-acre Bussard-McNerhany lot, all three were sold by the Lee family to pay outstanding debits.

The 6.5-acre parcel was sold to Robert Gunnell prior to 1849. A deed and survey dated July 26, 1864, by surveyor R.D. Carpenter indicates that Robert Gunnell acquired the land from the heirs of Elizabeth Lee (FCLR E4:164). The document further describes that Gunnell resided on the land for at least 15 years prior to the drafting of the deed. Robert Gunnell appears in the 1850 U.S. Census as a farmer living in his house on Georgetown Pike along with his wife, Eliza, daughters, Lucy, Francis, and Mary. The house was also home to a boarder and farmhand, Hiram Hardy. The slave schedule from that same year shows that the Gunnell family owned a 14-year-old female slave who resided with them.

Robert Gunnell remained in his home on Georgetown Pike for over 30 years. By the census of 1880, Gunnell had retired from farming. His wife had died a few years earlier, and Gunnell moved into his daughter and son-in-law's nearby home. Gunnell likely leased his house and lot to a tenant during that period. After Gunnell's death in 1893, the property was eventually sold to the Simpsons, who incorporated the lot into their larger 137-acre parcel.

Between the Gunnell and Bussard-McNerhany parcels stood a house on a 4-acre lot. This parcel was owned by the Wilson family for a number of years in the mid-nineteenth century. Little is known about the Wilsons aside from the sparse information provided in the 1858 sale of the property (FCLR B4:104). According to the deed transfer records, the parcel was originally sold to Thomas Wilson by Richard Bland Lee. The date of this sale is not specified, but it would have been prior to Richard Bland Lee's death in 1827. Thomas Wilson, in turn, left the property to his heirs, Henry and Edmund Wilson. In 1858 Edmund Wilson sold the house and lot to George F.M. Walters.

George F.M. Walters lived on a large farm he purchased on the south side of Georgetown Pike in 1846. The 4-acre parcel he obtained from Wilson was, at least initially, a source of extra income, as he leased the property to various tenants. George Walters is also noteworthy for establishing the Langley Ordinary in 1850. In 1890 George Walters died and his property was given to his wife, Mary A. Walters, with the provision that his children be allowed to remain in the houses they occupied at the time of his death. According to the 1894 G.M. Hopkins Map of the Vicinity of Washington, D.C., the 4-acre parcel and house were occupied by Walter's son, James W. Walters. Eventually, the property was sold to the Simpson family and incorporated into their other holding in the area.

The last small parcel that forms a part of Langley Forks Park is located on the southeastern corner of the property. The 9-acre lot was originally purchased from Richard Bland Lee by Robert S. Reid. Robert S. Reid was an established farmer and landowner in the Langley area. In addition to the 9-acre parcel, Reid made his home on a 278-acre farm and orchard he purchased from Lee. The parcel was located between the Bussard-McNerhany property and the Potomac River, at the current site of the Claude Moore Colonial Farm.

Robert S. Reid died in 1842. In his will Reid divided his home farm into two 139-acre parcels and gave them to his sons, Horatio and Richard. Another farm, located along Sugarland Run, was given to his third son, Robert S. Reid, Jr. The 9-acre parcel located at the southeast corner of Langley Fork Park was willed by Robert to the children of his deceased son, David. In the will Reid described the property as a house and lot located along the Georgetown and Leesburg Road (FCLR Wills U1:33). The will does not indicate who was living in the house at the time, although it was likely a tenant.

In 1852 Richard S. Reid purchased the 9-acre lot and house from the children of his brother, David Reid. Prior to the purchase, the house and lot were occupied by tenants, James and Eliza Green. According to the 1850 census, James Green was a 31-year-old carpenter and Eliza was “keeping home.” Although the couple had no children, they did have plenty of company: also living in the house were a 55-year-old Nancy Berry, 21-year-old Virginia Daniel, and a nine-year-old free black child named Henry Waines. Of the five residents, only James Green is listed with an occupation.

The Greens remained on the property even after Richard Reid became the new owner. In 1860 the census shows that only James and Eliza Green were living on the property. James was no longer a carpenter, taking a new occupation as storekeeper, which he likely operated out of the property. In 1860 the family’s personal property was assessed for $1,200, up from the $0.00 they were assessed 10 years prior. Living next to James and Eliza Green was Mr. William Faulkner, a blacksmith. He is listed as living on the same property as the Greens but in a different household, suggesting that Richard S. Reid constructed a second tenant house on the property prior to 1860.

By 1870 James Green had died, although Eliza still remained at the house. According to the census of that year, the now 57-year-old Eliza had retired from running the store she kept with her husband. In order to pay rent to Reid, Eliza took on two boarders: Ann Howland, a 70-year-old housekeeper, and Lewis Bell, a 45-year-old farmhand. By 1870 Reid’s other tenant, William

Faulkner, had been replaced by a 28-year-old farmhand, Thomas Elliot. Living with Elliot was his wife, Elizabeth, their three children, and his mother.

Richard S. Reid died in 1871. In his will, probated in November of that year, Richard allowed for Eliza Green to remain on the property with the condition that rent be paid to his wife, Elizabeth, during her lifetime (FCLR Wills B2:209). The will also mentioned a new tenant living on the property, a blacksmith named John W. Baker, along with his family. The will indicates that Baker was a relatively new tenant, having recently taken up residence at the property vacated by Thomas Elliot.

It is unclear how long Eliza Green and John Baker remained on the property after Reid's death. By the 1880 census, Eliza had died and John Baker and family had taken up residence on another property in Langley. According to the 1894 Hopkins map, the Richard Reid estate still owned the 9 acres and the two houses on Georgetown Pike, although their occupants are unknown. Eventually the property was sold to Elizabeth Simpson, who incorporated the property and houses into her other adjacent holdings.

The Simpsons sold all of their 150-acre property, an amalgam of the four tracts reviewed above, to the federal government in 1940.