

Nottoway Park Park Master Plan Amendment

Public Comment Meeting, 10/17/2012
Hunter House, Nottoway Park, Vienna, VA

Meeting Summary

A Public Comment Meeting was held on the evening of October 17, 2012 to present draft park master plan amendments for public review as well as to invite public comment.

In Attendance:

Linda Smyth	Supervisor, Providence District
Ken Quincy	Park Authority Board, Providence District Representative

Park Authority Staff

Sandy Stallman	Manager, Park Planning Branch, PDD
Jay Rauschenbach	Project Manager, Park Planning Branch, PDD

Support Staff

Travis Middleton	Park and Recreation Specialist, Neighborhood and Community Services
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Introductions and Opening Remarks

Supervisor Smyth kicked off the meeting by thanking everyone for coming out and joining in the master plan amendment process. Supervisor Smyth provided some history of the issues that cultivated the proposed amendments, including community concern over needed tree removal and existing stormwater issues for some planned but unbuilt facilities.

Ken Quincy, the Park Authority Board's Providence District Representative, also thanked everyone for their participation and reaffirmed Supervisor Smyth's sentiments that the proposed amendments aimed to address community concerns.

Staff Presentation (see link on the Nottoway Park Master Plan Amendment project website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/nottoway.htm>)

Overview

Sandy began the staff presentation by providing an outline of the evening's agenda as well as an overview of the Fairfax County Park Authority and Park Master Plan Amendment process.

Site Conditions and Background

Next, Jay provided a brief history of the site, a description of existing site conditions, and a list of planned but unbuilt facilities according to the 2004 approved master plan.

Proposed Amendments

Finally, Jay presented the proposed master plan amendments and offered reasons why they are needed and any effects they may have on other park uses. A summary of the proposed amendments is provided below.

Proposed Amendment #1 – Remove the planned but unbuilt rectangle field #7

- The area designated for rectangle field #7 is heavily wooded and has existing stormwater issues. The amendment will preserve the trees and prevent stormwater problems to exacerbate caused from disturbance. Additionally, it will allow the introduction of stormwater management to the area if pursued by Public Works, and preserve a portion of the existing trail and picnic area.

Proposed Amendment #2 – Re-orient, enlarge, and improve rectangle field #4

- The amendment will convert the undersized field into a standard full size field, which will increase playing capacity and add flexibility in programming and scheduling. The existing trail between the field and open play area will be realigned; additionally the open play area will be reduced in size.

Proposed Amendment #3 – Remove the planned but unbuilt expanded outfield for diamond field #3

- The diamond outfield is currently built to the tree line. The amendment will preserve the trees needed to expand the outfield by 20 feet.

Proposed Amendment #4 – Update features to reflect existing conditions

- The amendment will show the existing trail and sidewalk network as well as any planned trails; adjust the location and size of the open play area caused by the re-oriented, enlarged, and improved rectangle field #4; adjust the location of the playground and picnic area as they were built in different locations indicated on the 2004 master plan; show the reorganized parking lot adjacent the basketball courts as completed; and remove both “potential pedestrian access from Sutton Road” labels as these connections have been established.

Moderated Discussion

Sandy moderated a discussion to allow those in attendance to share their thoughts and suggestions regarding the proposed master plan amendments and other park issues. Following the moderated discussion, Sandy briefly reminded the audience of the next steps in the master plan amendment process. A summary of the speakers is provided below; staff apologizes if any names are misspelled and request spelling corrections be provided if needed.

Speaker #1 – Vivian Morgan-Mendez

- Approves of the proposed amendments with the belief they are an appropriate land use tactic and management of resources, specifically how the amendments will save trees

and improve stormwater conditions in the area around the proposed removed rectangle field #7.

- Would like to see the park's invasive management program expanded into the area around the proposed removed rectangle field #7.
- Asks about bike racks in a later question; Sandy responds that the Plan text encourages the use of bike racks around the park and can be addressed through park operations.

Speaker #2 – Ian Glen

- Supports the proposed amendments as he wants to save trees.
- However, concerned about noise generated from the proposed re-oriented, enlarged, and improved rectangle field #4. In addition, opposes late night activities that require lighting. Believes he is entitled to peace and quiet in the evening and that field lights should be turned off at 9pm during the winter and 10pm in the summer.

Speaker #3 – Fernando Mendez

- Supports the proposed amendments.
- Is a volunteer in the park and lives in the adjacent Country Creek development, and in the 21 years of residence has never heard any complaints from neighbors about noise and lights from the fields.
- Asks about the possibility of using the diamond field outfields for other uses, like soccer; Sandy responds that while rectangle fields can have multiple uses, diamond fields are typically single purpose. Fields use is permitted through Neighborhood and Community Services in accordance with Fairfax County policy.

Speaker #4 – Gary Moore

- Asks for clarification about the park being zoned R-1; Sandy responds that the R-1 zone allows park and recreation uses and should not be a concern as public park is the intended permanent use.
- Asks if there are plans to expand the playground; Sandy responds that playground replacements are determined by a schedule and funding, and that staff will check the replacement schedule for the playground.
- Suggests that any stormwater management improvements be directed away from the playground and other areas often used by children; Sandy responds we often work with Department of Public Works & Environmental Services as they implement stormwater improvements and will make sure they are aware of this issue.

Speaker #5 – Not Identified

- Suggests adding a trail connector between field #1 and #6.

Speaker #6 – Hays Gorey

- Supports the proposed amendments as they will save trees and improve stormwater management.
- Believes expanding rectangle field #4 is an appropriate use of the park and a good idea as it is currently undersized.

Speaker #7 – Not Identified

- Asks about the possibility of fixing the fitness trail signs as she frequently uses them and states they are deteriorating; Sandy responds they are old and that new and better options have been developed, though this is a park operations issue.
- Sandy asks if she notices other people using the fitness stations; responds yes.
- States that she doesn't have any complaints about noise and light from the fields; Sandy follows up that light technology has really advanced and that new lights would severely be better than the existing lights, which are some of the oldest in the park system.

Speaker #8 – Not Identified

- Supports the proposed amendments as they will save trees.
- Concerned about potential tree impact from the planned road between the entrance road and garden plot service road as this area is often used for its shade. Suggests an alternative connection between the existing Hunter House parking lot and driveway; Sandy responds this is a great suggestion and staff would investigate it.

Speaker #9 – Not Identified

- Asks if there are plans to fix the stormwater issues around the bathroom as the men's entrance is often flooded during heavy rains; John Hopkins, former Area Manager for Nottoway and current park volunteer, speaks about this issue and believes stormwater improvements will alleviate the problem.

Speaker #10 – Phil Latasa

- Supports the proposed amendments as they save trees and improve stormwater.

Speaker #11 – Not Identified

- Supports the proposed amendments.
- Suggests distributing any stormwater management improvements around the park rather than focusing on single points.
- Concerned the planned parking in front of the Hunter House may be too small in size to function properly.

Speaker #12 – Not Identified

- Supports the proposed amendments as they will save trees.

Speaker #13 – Not Identified

- Supports the proposed amendments as they will save trees, which is good.
- Also believes it's a good idea to use rectangle #4 more efficiently.