

# OLD COLCHESTER PARK AND PRESERVE AND MASON NECK WEST PARK

MARCH 19, 2014 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING  
COMMENTS

## COMMENTS RELATED TO OLD COLCHESTER PARK

- The derelict barge should be removed from Belmont Bay.
- There are several old trash dumps on park property that need to be removed.
- Trespassing is a problem - dirt bikes/ATVs/poachers (deer, waterfowl) are illegally using the park property. Improve the barriers at several access points to discourage trespassing, illegal dumping, and poaching.
- There are several houses and a cluster of outbuildings that should be removed if not utilized. One house was extensively renovated by Fairfax County but is now vacant.
- The 26th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, will be on Saturday, April 5th. Community volunteers, members of the Mason Neck Lions Club in partnership with the Fairfax Yacht Club can do a shoreline litter cleanup of the OCR Park - Do you approve of this project?
- Keep Reardon House and use it to have an archaeologist on site to provide security (The home was built by Joe Reardon, army engineer who developed architectural curricula used nationwide for fall-out-shelters in the 50's. He built a shelter into the home).
- Soft trails, interpretive signage, QR coded to cell phones.
- Continue archaeology over time, as in port town research centers around the Chesapeake basin.
- Interpret archaeology for the public. Have eventual interpretive center in non-intrusive location.
- Do you plan to allow for natural succession of the trees in the preserve?
- What is being done to enhance natural resource management by leveraging the staff and resources of neighboring parks (Mason Neck State Park, Pohick Bay Regional Park and the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge)?
- Develop a treeless hill some place with parking nearby that kids could use for safe sledding when it snows.
- Don't know how you'd manage access and traffic but utilize the waterfront for a new public boat launching ramp.



- Concerned about use of Hyde Road by park visitors - increased foot traffic/increased volume of traffic/any planned parking areas. Will increased access lead to trespass onto adjacent areas/properties? Fairfax Yacht Club depends on access via Hyde Road, therefore, concerned about impact on access to our facility and its security.
- Your recommendation regarding promoting canopy over Hyde Street can present a hazard to its use. Past snow storms have resulted in many branches falling onto the street. FYC bore the cost of removal. If FCPA is promoting additional growth, will the county take responsibility for removal of debris after storms?
- Will your plan address fire suppression? The notion of introducing fire into the park should be considered very carefully. It is extremely unlikely that fire suppression will have any effect/impact on the current configuration of trees and habitat.
- What is the FCPA position on constructing fences between private property and the park? Any problem?
- I enjoyed the program and support all you are doing with the parks - trails, natural and cultural resources. I will keep in touch.
- Prefer not to have sport activities that increases noise levels and traffic on Old Colchester Road.



#### COMMENTS RELATED TO MASON NECK WEST PARK

- A playground for the children
- A farm/petting zoo (Like Frying Pan Park)
- We would like to have the old farm house to stay in the current condition.
- Adding a playground to the park near the tennis courts or the old brick house area would be nice, a good place for children to play.
- Minnick home appropriate for resident curatorship
- Consider connecting park with equestrian trails of BLM
- Develop tot lot/playground on Mason Neck West Park near ball field.
- Please resurface the tennis courts and let us hike the property across the street
- Do not tear down the Minnick House.