
PAB Review: Public Comments and Responses, by Planning District

Friday, May 06, 2011

Action: Include strategy under Service Delivery to construct planned information center (with restrooms) at Laurel Hill.

ID# 25	<i>Theme:</i> Natural Resource Stewardship	<i>Park:</i> Mason Neck	Appropriate for <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Topic:</i> Park classification	<i>Planning District:</i> Lower Potomac	GPGC Action? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comment: I note that the Mason Neck West park in the Lower Potomac District is indicated on the parks map solely as a District Park (orange), implying that is destined to be an "activity" (baseball, tennis, etc.) park. The portion of the parkland adjacent to the Giles Run Creek is considered by historians and the NPS to be one of the Washington Rochambeau encampment sites during the 1781 allied march to and from Yorktown. Thus, that portion of the parkland would be better classified as a resource-based park (dark green). with appropriate protections from ground and shoreline disturbance.

Response: Within the introductory comments regarding Cultural Resources in the Lower Potomac Planning District, Mason Neck West is mentioned as an important historic resource. Ultimately, the use and classification of Mason Neck West Park will be determined through the Master Plan process which seeks to balance recreation needs, resources and community input with existing site conditions. Mason Neck West Park is noted in the listing of parks as needing Master Plan action.

Consider including strategies under both Service Delivery and Cultural Resource Stewardship that identifies need for Master Plan action.

Action: Add the following language to the existing Service Delivery strategy regarding a Master Plan action for Mason Neck West Park, "During the master planning process both important cultural resources near this park as well as recreation resources, as appropriate, would be considered."

ID# 125	<i>Theme:</i> Land Acquisition	<i>Park:</i>	Appropriate for <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Topic:</i> LP Chap edit	<i>Planning District:</i> Lower Potomac	GPGC Action? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comment: 1.Land Acquisition Theme Section, Third Issue – re “property acquisition”:

In Strategies part:

Action required – re modifying/expanding First and/or Third Bullets:

Need to better recognize in a more definitive/exacting way what you really intend as an outcome in this particular Strategies part, so that there is an especially greater likelihood of private/non-profit-sectors firms or groups to first understand and then to become encouraged to provide FC with appropriate land parcels, no matter what vehicle for such an acquisition (i.e., donation, proffer, easement, etc.) is decided to be used.

As a result, I believe that you will gain a lot more in accomplishing your goals by revising/expanding at least your Third Bullet by adding something like the following verbiage to the end of that (or possibly) the First Bullet’s phraseology: “... , such as has been/is being negotiated with Enviro-Solutions, Inc. of Lorton for its future/planned “Overlook Ridge Park” project, overlooking the I-95/Richmond Highway/Occoquan River Corridor in the far-southern part of Fairfax County.”

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Response: The GPGC recommendations speak to acquiring land for preservation and buffer of natural and cultural resources as well as for the provision of new recreational opportunities. The language could be modified to more specifically address the value of seeking non-traditional methods of obtaining public access to private land through easements, public/private partnerships and use agreements.

Action: Add general strategy, "In addition to traditional purchase or dedication of parkland to the Park Authority, investigate innovative methods and opportunities to increase availability of publicly accessible open space."
Add specific strategy, "Track progress of the Overlook Ridge project, opening new phases to public access as soon as feasible."

ID# 126 *Theme:* Cultural Resource Stewardship

Park: Laurel Hill

Appropriate for GPGC Action?

Topic: Laurel Hill Restoration, CRM

Planning District: Lower Potomac

Comment: 2.Resource Stewardship Theme Section, Cultural Resources – First Issue – re “Historic structures should be ... for public viewing and interpretation.”

In Strategies part:

Action Required – re modifying/expanding Third Bullet:

Need to somehow reflect in this Bullet that it is not JUST the approximately one-acre-sized historic gardens (directly associated with the even much more historic Laurel Hill House) at Laurel Hill Park that requires appropriate restoration and/or preservation and other related improvements, but that so does the actual combination Laurel Hill Plantation and Prison Superintendent’s House itself which of course has been/is being planned (by FCBOS) for transfer to the FCPA due to its special expertise in and exceptional experience with cultural resources stewardship in Fairfax County.

Response: Add new strategy within Cultural Resources, "Continue to seek partnerships for the restoration of historic structures and features at Laurel Hill Park as they are transferred into park ownership"
Share with CRM.

Action: Add strategy

ID# 170 *Theme:* Connectivity

Park:

Appropriate for GPGC Action?

Topic: Equestrian

Planning District: Lower Potomac

Comment: 1.Improve connectivity from equestrian barns and boarding facilities to parks at Sully Woodlands and Laurel Hill.

Response: An equestrian facility with boarding at Laurel Hill Park is currently in design with construction pending establishment of public/private funding through a partnership with Fairfax4Horses.
Trail plans for Laurel Hill and Sully Woodlands are in development that will align with this comment.
Share with Trails and PPD-Special Projects for consideration in implementation/future equestrian linkages.

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Action: No further action required.

ID# 185 *Theme:* Facility Reinvestment

Park: McNaughton fields

Appropriate for
GPGC Action?

Topic: Fields, youth

Planning District: Lower Potomac

Comment: 2.Thank you for assistance with McNaughton fields. Interested in getting involved, to help improve and master plan.
Would like to invite Park Authority to next Woodlawn Little League Board Meeting.

Response: Comment acknowledged.

PDD subsequently met with users to discuss field improvements. Field improvements may require a master plan action, if, for example re-orientation of fields or additional lights are proposed.

[POD] There is bond funding available to determine the best layout for the fields and order of development.

Action: No change. Leave check mark in Master Plan column in list of parks.
