



drive by this park daily, I can attest to its almost non-existent usage. This is a direct result of the constraining equestrian and observatory "themes" of this park. With the exception of a tiny play structure (thankfully donated by the Lion's Club) and a couple of picnic tables, there are no community facilities in the entire 52 acre park. Although the initial plans for this park indicated some "community" features, no plans to provide any are mentioned in the "Great Parks, Great Communities" presentations. In fact, Turner Farm Park is not mentioned at all - but ironically, the special interest "equestrian community" is vaguely noted. I have witnessed first-hand the physical characteristics of this park reflect this exclusive demeanor rather than the open, accessible and enjoyable atmosphere expected at a county owned park. For years, the 11 acre section of cleared land in the center of the Turner Farm Park - designated for use by the "observatory" special interest group - was fenced and locked, prohibiting access to all except those with the key. In addition, despite indications that the perimeter horse fence would provide openings readily accessible by pedestrian and bicyclists but designed to adequately contain the horses and riders - the fence actually installed includes metal gates - again padlocked. This forces neighborhood hikers and bicyclists to climb a fence if they want to access the land that their taxes bought and maintain. Does this sound accessible and inviting? These undocumented exclusive "features" were not noted in the master plan and in fact contradict that document. I hold out hope as I see awareness and wisdom in the guidelines noted in the "Great Parks, Great Communities" document noting: "Residents desire recreational facilities and opportunities at parks near where they live and for all age groups and socio-economic populations." I challenge the assumption that this exclusive approach is best for this facility. I present this perspective on behalf of the many children and families of Great Falls who are not organized into group or funded by wealthy sources seeking special treatment or exclusive access to public land for use in pursuing their hobbies. As noted in the language of the "Great Parks, Great Communities" document, I implore the county to seek "ways to increase the role of local parks in neighborhoods" and to exercise the option noted to: "re-examine specific park master plans and initiate others to determine the best uses and facilities to best serve the needs of Fairfax County residents."

*Response:* The Turner Farm Park Master Plan was approved in 1999; additional land has been acquired since. These land acquisitions may suggest a need for a master plan amendment. The current master plan recommended enhancing community park uses, but little development of this nature has been implemented. Current use patterns do not support the stated MP goal as a neighborhood resource for all ages. Consider recommending an MP action.

*Action:* Recommend master plan action needed, update Table 1.

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<b>ID# 100</b>	<i>Theme:</i> Service Delivery	<i>Park:</i> Turner Farm	Appropriate for
	<i>Topic:</i> Nike site	<i>Planning District:</i> Upper Potomac	GPGC Action? <input type="checkbox"/>

*Comment:* The Analemma Society has an agreement with FCPA for the development of Observatory Park at the Turner Farm. I am submitting material to be considered for the Great Parks, Great Communities document. For use on page 20 under Cultural Resources, I am sending an attachment, Upper Potomac Planning District. (from attachment:) "Upper Potomac contains many important archaeological sites related to the Civil war. Important 20th century post-War cultural sites like Great Falls Nike Park and The Turner Farm are remnants of the Cold War when Nike Missile

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silos, part of America's first operational anti-aircraft missile system, were deployed to protect Washington, D.C. Observatory Park at The Turner Farm was an early Space Age satellite tracking site of the Army Map Service/Defense Mapping Agency. These sites add to the rich history of the region. Use of the existing observatory and planned roll-top observatory building at Observatory Park at The Turner Farm recognizes the scientific and technological link of history to the present. Frying Pan Farm Park contains many structures and interpretive features that represent Fairfax County's agricultural history." Under the Theme: Community Building on page 11, Strategies: a suggested addition:

"Work with public facility providers, such as schools and libraries, to create park spaces when renovations and improvements are made to existing public structures within the district such as the automation of the dome of the observatory at Observatory Park, The Turner Farm to provide remote access of the telescope to schools "

Under the Theme: Community Building on page 11, Strategies: a suggested addition:

"Work with public facility providers, such as schools and libraries, to create park spaces when renovations and improvements are made to existing public structures within the district such as the automation of the dome of the observatory at Observatory Park, The Turner Farm to provide remote access of the telescope to schools "

*Response:* Recommended text changes seem to indicate a desire to clarify allowing school and library usage of Park Authority facilities. These partnerships exist to a large extent and are also cited in the new introduction/implementation text. See also ID#60.

*Action:* No further action required. See also new introduction/implementation text regarding partnerships.

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**ID# 120** *Theme:* Service Delivery

*Park:* Shaker Woods

Appropriate for  
GPGC Action?

*Topic:* Master plan

*Planning District:* Upper Potomac

*Comment:* I represent the Shaker Woods Homeowners Association which is adjacent to the Shaker Woods Park in the Upper Potomac Planning District. While examining the Park System Plan, the absence of a park master plan and the need for Master Plan Action for Shaker Woods Park has been noted. This park has limited or no access to any individuals due to the dense tree/bush growth and to my knowledge, no one has ever been seen in the park area in years. Thus, the park represents a barrier to recreational walkers/runners who might otherwise attempt to connect to Fairfax County Parkway via the Fairfax County Water Treatment Plant trails. In terms of planned connections in the Upper Potomac Region, we feel the Shaker Woods Park might represent an opportunity for better utilization of an existing park. In this regard, we are interested in developing a master plan for Shaker Woods Park. Please let us know how we can participate in the planning process.

*Response:* Park is located in Reston and is not master planned. It contains 13.5 acres of forested land. Some RPA, generally flat.

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Aerial confirms no park facilities, no trails. Potential vehicle access from main road. Existing pedestrian access points from surrounding neighborhood.

*Action:* Recommend adding Master Plan to the workplan. Retain master plan action needed check in Table 1.

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**ID# 127** *Theme:* Not specified

*Park:* Colvin Run

Appropriate for  
GPGC Action?

*Topic:* Colvin Run

*Planning District:* Upper Potomac

*Comment:* The Friends of Colvin Run Mill (FOCRM) is pleased to provide our comments on the Great Parks Great Communities draft plan. Our focus is on the Upper Potomac Chapter. We have made the documentation at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/greatparks.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/greatparks.htm) available to our Board members.

First we want to acknowledge the outstanding planning system administered by the Planning and Development Division. This system provides an orderly and transparent process for establishing a broad public vision and for setting the goals and priorities for the FCPA Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The public is well served by this process. Capital improvements founded in this process can be implemented with broad public support.

The Park Bond Program is the major budgeting tool for implementation. The planning system provides a context for both the Park Bond Program and for support funding by the private sector through the Park Foundation, Friends Groups, and other partnerships. FOCRM has participated in this process since 2003 and have learned firsthand the value of this disciplined process for improving our parks. The Colvin Run Mill Visitor Center has been designated as a Partnership in Place within the CIP. FOCRM looks forward to working with the Park Foundation in implementing the vision for the Visitor Center that is being developed. This vision will be documented in the ultimate Site Plan.

We want to single out one of the many exciting and promising features of the Great Parks, Great Communities draft plan. This significant feature is the set of 8 Themes through which each Chapter of the draft plan is developed. These Themes are:

Connectivity

Community Building  
Service Delivery  
Facility Reinvestment  
Land Acquisition  
Resource Interpretation  
Cultural Resource Stewardship  
Natural Resource Stewardship

FOCRM is of course delighted to see the emphasis on stewardship of cultural and natural resources. But the commitment to Community Building and Connectivity is in our mind the most significant theme for guiding the development of our parks in the coming years. Connecting trails, community, and parks is a powerful driving consideration and indeed should be a high priority. How do we do this? How do we make this new plan and its powerful themes a real part of the CIP process. How do we assure fidelity between these planning considerations and the ultimate budget for the real improvements? The answers to these questions are many but one thing is essential and that is the broad and continuous advertisement of the Themes of the plan. Advertisement through newspapers, park signs, web sites and an identifying public logo are a few approaches that come to mind.

Your current draft plan references the 2004 Needs Assessment survey. This survey provided a solid baseline of concepts and valuation data for the continuing development of the CIP. In 2005, FOCRM made comments to the Planning Commission as part of the Fairfax County planning process. Our letter stated:

“Finally, the new policy should address the issue of “creative funding”. Current documented park needs fall far short of available budget authority. Appendix IX of the Needs Assessment Study provides a long list of creative funding options and recommendations. The policy amendment should take Appendix IX seriously and propose creative options for funding the many long overdue needs.”

The Needs Assessment Study is a rich source of useful data and promising approaches for the development of guidance for the planning process. The draft Great Parks, Great Communities report draws upon this sound professional Study. This fact, the imagination in the concept of the report, and the unifying themes makes the report a useful basis for guiding the CIP and establishing the needed funding.

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*Response:* Comment acknowledged.

*Action:* No further action required.

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**ID# 160** *Theme:* Cultural Resource Stewardship

*Park:* Colvin Run

Appropriate for  
GPGC Action?

*Topic:* Funding

*Planning District:* Upper Potomac

*Comment:* 2.Glad to see a Colvin Run Mill Visitor's Center in the plan. Some concern regarding implementation due to shrinking resources, encourage FCPA to look to funding and partnering alternatives. Provided example of partnerships and non-profit organization behind the renovation of Yates Mill in North Carolina.

*Response:* Acknowledged. Partnerships will be further addressed in Implementation Plan and are included in the new introduction/implementation text in the Countywide chapter.

*Action:* No further action required.

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**ID# 206** *Theme:* Connectivity

*Park:* Lake Fairfax

Appropriate for  
GPGC Action?

*Topic:* Trails, mntn bike

*Planning District:* Upper Potomac

*Comment:* As I live near Lake Fairfax Park, I'm in favor of developing additional mountain bike trails in this park. I see an increase in the number of mountain bikers accessing the park by car, road and connecting trails. There is a great opportunity to accommodate the growth. I encourage working with MORE to maximize the trails that can be created in the park with little or no impact to the Park's budget.

*Response:* Trail segments have been constructed and several more are planned. The Lake Fairfax Trail Plan is underway and FCPA is working with MORE. See also ID#54.  
Share with Trails Coordinator.

*Action:* No further action required.

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