

John C. & Margaret K. White Gardens Community Meeting



JUNE 2, 2016

White Horticultural Park

Fairfax County Park Authority

- ▶ Consistent with the Master Plan and Conceptual Development Plan for the White Gardens, Inform the community about planned park improvements :
 - ▶ Focus on Improved park management
 - ▶ Protection of natural, cultural, and horticultural resources
 - ▶ Improvements to enhance the walkability to and through the park
 - ▶ Enhance user experience provided at the park



Fairfax County Park Authority

▶ Park Background:

- ▶ John and Margaret White purchased 13 acres in 1939 to build a home and raise their family of 5 children
- ▶ After Mr. White's passing, Mrs. White sold her property to FCPA and retained a life estate
- ▶ Mrs. White passed away in 2008, ending the life estate and the possession of the property passed to FCPA



▶ Master Plan Process:

- ▶ Prior to Mrs. White's passing, she asked that a master plan for the park be established
- ▶ Using a horticultural landscape and treatment plan as a basis, the master plan was developed through an extensive public process and approved by the Park Authority Board in 2006

Conceptual Development Plan



Fairfax County Park Authority

▶ Current Park Management Approach:

- ▶ Focus on preserving the collection of known rhododendron, azalea, and camellia specimens
- ▶ Countless hours contributed from volunteers, FCPA staff, and interns to help maintain and protect the natural and cultural resources at the park
- ▶ Over 200 specimens labeled and a great deal of debris removed from the site
- ▶ \$500,000 included in the 2012 Park Bond for management and planned improvements



Fairfax County Park Authority

- ▶ **Natural Resource Management:**

- ▶ **Meadow Restoration:**

- ▶ Located in Meadow Management Zone identified in Park Master Plan
 - ▶ Design Element will follow recommendation in Park Landscape Management Plan
 - ▶ “...mixture of warm-season grasses and native wildflowers, which could provide wildlife habitat, color, and visual texture...”
 - ▶ Volunteer involvement will focus on post-construction maintenance



Fairfax County Park Authority

- ▶ **Natural Resource Management:**
 - ▶ **Invasive Plant Management Program:**
 - ▶ Management will follow “Treatment Recommendations for Invasive Plant Species” in the Park Landscape Management Plan
 - ▶ Identify and monitor degree of infestation
 - ▶ Treatment plan evaluation & implementation
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Management will also follow general FCPA invasive plant guidelines
 - ▶ Prioritize limited resources
 - ▶ Protect the best first
 - ▶ Tailor treatment to species



Fairfax County Park Authority

▶ Cultural Resource Management:

- ▶ **Limited Archaeology will be conducted to evaluate the archaeological resources within the park.**
- ▶ **Studies including a Historic Structures Report on both the standing structures will be conducted in order to assess their historic character and current condition.**
- ▶ **Resident Curator Program Evaluation which could allow long-term leases with private citizens or organizations in exchange for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the historic house.**



Fairfax County Park Authority

- ▶ **Proposed Limited Site Improvements:**
 - ▶ Horticultural management to include irrigation installation to support long term maintenance of gardens
 - ▶ Repair of existing maintenance access road
 - ▶ Re-establishment of natural surface trails throughout park
 - ▶ Installation of interpretive way finding signage to support a self-directed park experience



Planned Improvements

White Horticultural Park

Fairfax County Park Authority

- ▶ Funding for these improvements were included in the 2012 Park Bond in the amount of \$500,000
- ▶ Recap of Proposed Improvements & Schedule:

