



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

FROM: David Bowden, Director
Planning and Development Division

DATE: June 8, 2017

Agenda

Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, June 14, 2017 – 5:45 p.m.
Boardroom – Herrity Building
Chairman: William G. Bouie
Vice Chair: Mary Cortina

1. Park System Master Plan Update – Information*

*Enclosures



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563. TTY (703) 803-3354

Committee Agenda Item
June 14, 2017

INFORMATION

Park System Master Plan Update (with presentation)

As part of the Park Authority Park System Master Plan (master plan) process, staff continues to engage the Fairfax County Park Authority Board. The Board endorsed the draft goals for the master plan at the May 24, 2017, meeting. As a next step, staff is preparing a preliminary draft set of recommendations for each of the goals. Staff intends to provide these to Board members in advance of the June 14, 2017, meeting. The purpose of this meeting with the Board is to review and discuss the revised preliminary draft recommendations for inclusion in the master plan.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

None

STAFF:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Cindy Walsh, Director, Resource Management Division
Todd Brown, Director, Park Operations Division
Barbara Nugent, Director, Park Services Division
David Bowden, Director, Planning & Development Division
Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer
Janet Burns, Fiscal Administrator
Andrea Dorlester, Manager, Planning Branch

Goal: Improve and promote natural resource protection and management

Protection, management, and the expansion of natural areas within the park system is essential to preserving the county's natural capital in biodiversity, natural communities, and ecosystems. The Park Authority strives to be a great steward and to cultivate stewards in the community to help preserve these resources for present and future generations.

Recommendations

The Park Authority commits to the following priority activities and actions necessary to achieve this goal:

1. Actively restore, manage, and protect natural resources.
 2. Expand natural habitat and biodiversity, linking larger resource conservation areas within the County in Environmental Quality Corridors and Stream Valley Parks.
 3. Cultivate stewards through the expansion of stewardship education, interpretation, community engagement, and the use of technology.
 4. Enhance environmental sustainability practices within the Park Authority.
 5. Expand and enhance partnerships with other public agencies and private entities that have aligned goals.
 6. Ensure natural resource policies and plans align with countywide guidance and meet or surpass expectations outlined in the Board of Supervisors Environmental Vision.
- Strategic use of financial resources recommendation moved to financial goal

Goal: Ensure continued protection, conservation, preservation and interpretation of cultural resources

*Protection and management of Fairfax County's cultural and historic resources is essential in order to make them available to a diverse community, help to educate the public and rejuvenate interest in historic buildings and cultural resource collections. The Park Authority strives to **be a great steward** and to cultivate stewards in the community to help preserve these resources for present and future generations.*

Recommendations

The Park Authority commits to the following priority activities and actions necessary to achieve this goal:

1. Establish a **state-of-the-art** facility to preserve, expand, **conserve** and share county-wide collections.
 2. Actively protect, manage, and preserve the county's cultural **and historic** resources.
 3. Cultivate stewards through the expansion of stewardship education, interpretation, community engagement, and the use of technology.
 4. Continue to implement and improve the resident curator program.
- **Strategic use of financial resources recommendation moved to financial goal**

Goal: Improve access and opportunities for healthy and active lifestyles

The park system serves a diverse public and provides high-quality recreational opportunities to all county residents. In doing so, the Park Authority aims to empower residents to improve their health and wellness by equitably providing access to parks, facilities, and programs.

Recommendations

In response to this, the Park Authority commits to the following priority activities and actions necessary to achieve this goal:

1. Improve park access and expand trail system connections, in partnership with other county agencies, developers, and other private entities, to make it easier for more residents to use parks.
2. Enhance scholarship programs through dedicated funding sources and partnerships to provide equitable, high-quality opportunities for individuals and families to engage in fitness activities.
3. Prioritize capital investments and recreation programming for areas of greatest need for improved or expanded facilities or programs.
4. Continue to advance the goals of the county's Live Healthy Fairfax initiative including the emphasis on health in Park Authority plans and initiatives, and efforts to increase access for physical activities.
5. Collaborate with FCPS, sports organizations and others to support a range of athletic activities

Goal: Enhance and maintain park system quality and condition

A high-quality, well-maintained park system is important to supporting a vibrant and thriving community. In order to sustain the high-quality park system that residents expect, the Park Authority must continuously renovate and upgrade open spaces, parks, trails, and recreational facilities. These improvements are essential for the Park Authority to continue a legacy of providing an excellent and relevant park system.

Recommendations

The Park Authority commits to the following priority activities and actions necessary to achieve this goal:

1. Establish a long-term strategy for acquisition and management, including maintenance, of all lands and assets.
2. Take steps to assess and ensure park use balances recreation and stewardship objectives, and ensure parks are not over-used.
3. Improve resident satisfaction with quality of park system.
4. Review and enhance park maintenance practices and priorities.
5. Work to increase the amount of dedicated and alternative funding that provides for greater reinvestment in facilities, parkland, natural capital, and cultural resource assets.
6. Increase the amount of maintenance that is funded or completed by others (e.g., partners, other agencies).
7. Increase yearly bond cash flow and bond allocation to meet current and future needs.

Goal: Advance as an innovative, responsive and adaptable organization

The Park Authority is committed to meeting community needs and being the leader in the county, region, and parks and recreation industry. To continue as an excellent park system requires the focus of a high-performing, dedicated organization, and the support of an empowered community.

Recommendations

The Park Authority commits to the following priority activities and actions necessary to achieve this goal:

1. Expand and improve use of data and technology to support and enhance organizational performance, and decision-making.
2. Develop and attain measurable outcomes to ensure high-performance and accountability in the organization.
3. Invest in employee development and provide growth opportunities that empower staff to be innovative, responsive, and adaptable, while remaining customer-focused.
4. Respond and adapt strategically to changes in how residents use and what residents want in the park system.
5. Improve transparency and inclusion by providing greater opportunities for public input and collaboration with the community through the use of all communication venues, including social media.

Goal: Provide sustainable financial management to advance the Park Authority mission

It is critical to determine strategic priorities in a way that balances the Park Authority mission and fiduciary responsibility. Despite increasing demands and constrained resources, the Park Authority must continue to meet the needs of the community and support countywide initiatives.

Recommendations

The Park Authority commits to the following priority activities and actions necessary to achieve this goal:

1. Implement Total Cost of Ownership model for managing, developing, and acquiring all existing and future land, assets, and resources.
2. Seek and increase funding from dedicated and alternative sources.
3. Maintain sustainable revenue operations.
4. Reinvest in the RECenter system, golf, and other market-based facilities to ensure continued viability and competitiveness.
5. Increase opportunities for revenue-generating activities and events.
6. Allocate financial resources strategically in order to create the greatest benefit to park system and countywide natural and cultural resources.