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# Turner Farm Park Master Plan Revision

PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING

October 30, 2017, 7:00 P.M. At Great Falls Grange

## Meeting Summary:

A Public Comment Meeting was held on the evening of October 30, 2017 to present the Draft Master Plan Revision for Turner Farm Park. Public comments on the draft master plan were provided by the approximately 36 attendees signed in at the meeting.

The meeting began with introductions by Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer, Fairfax County Park Authority. Opening remarks were provided by Tim Hackman, Park Authority Board Member, Dranesville District Representative and John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor

## Other Officials and Staff in Attendance:

Cindy Walsh, Acting Deputy Director, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Dave Bowden, Director, Park Planning and Development Division, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Barbara Nugent, Director, Park Services Division, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Todd Brown, Director, Park Operations Division, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Andy Galusha, Landscape Architect/Planner and Project Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Yovonne Johnson, Manager, Frying Pan Farm Park, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Wayne Brissey, Area 6 Manager, Park Operations, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Andy Miller, Manager, Project Management Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority  
David Buchta, Manager, Historic Preservation Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Margaret Puglisi, Assistant Project Manager, Historic Preservation Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Juan Du, Park Planner, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Adam Wynn, Landscape Architect, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Ryan Stewart, Park Planner, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Chris Goldbecker, Lakefront Parks Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Tom McFarland, Engineer, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Cristin Bratt, Deputy Public Information Officer, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Chrissy Mead, Public Information Office, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Jane Edmondson, Chief of Staff, Dranesville District Supervisors Office  
John Wolf, Dranesville District Planning Commissioner

## Staff Presentation

Judy Pedersen provided a brief overview of the Park Authority.

Andy Galusha, project manager for the Park Master Plan, provided a brief history of the site, site conditions, and surrounding context, master plan process, timeline, and described the draft plan.

## Discussion Session:

Following the presentation, Judy Pederson moderated an open public comment period so those in attendance provide input on the draft plan. The following is a summary of each speaker's comments expressed during this session, after which, the meeting adjourned.

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## Speaker Number

## Group/Organization:

01

Resident of Great Falls, Advocate for running track. Support running track, involved in running since 2009. Park should serve the best interest of all in the community. Not everyone has a horse. Tracks are and activity accessible to anyone. Need tracks to train.

Speaker Number	Group/Organization:
02	<b>McLean Youth Track &amp; Field</b>
	Not advocate for full-size track, but still want a running track. Tracks are useful and useable by anyone. Safe, ball-free place to exercise. Please reinstate plan for running track. Youth track program director. Need for track is very real. Entire community could benefit from inclusion of track at Turner Farm
03	<b>Great Falls Citizens Association</b>
	Supports addition of Turner Farm RCP program. Horses by day, stars by night. Addition of resident curator program - history 24/7. Supported inclusion of Farmhouse in Park Plan. Internal trail system is good idea, seperates people and horses. Should be a Natural trail w/ PAR course (fitness). Would like to see Trail buildout (paved trails) program on perimeter. Include farming/gardening component. Youth garden - sustainable agriculture.
04	
	Support running track. No place for older folks to walk in Great Falls. Suggest Analemma Society w/ darkness at night. Turn off lights/motion detecting lights.
05	<b>Anelomma Society</b>
	Celebrating FCPA's 1 year anniversary of rolltop observatory. Great response of using mounted telescopes. Thanks to citizens for bond to build observatory. Parktakes courses (\$1100 in course fees). Volunteer limited but great opportunity & facility. Proposed small radio telescope at south end rolltop and a facility at the North end. Remote observing to allow photography.
06	
	Appreciate observatory, equestrian & RCP. General park appreciated. Picnic pavilion is the usual facility we use with our Classic/antique car group. Keep Turner Farm for general use. Don't restrict, but enhance use for all people of Great Falls & Fairfax county to equally share.
07	
	Slides featured equestrain activity - yay. Plan doesn't accommodate safety requirements for equestrian space. Concerned about having an open play space. Flying objects in area with horses is hazardous.
08	
	Equestrian proximity at open play zone not safe for equestrians. 400+ parks in FCPA, only 3 for equestrians. Lorton & Turner farm fought for. The space is not that big for a horse. Horse reacts to flying objects and is hazardous to equestrians. Put playground near the neighborhood. Main entrance to riding area to be pedestrian access, would like to see that go away.
09	<b>Lift Me Up Therapeutic Riding</b>
	Very few places in county for riders, especially disabled riders. Open play area hazardous for disabled riders. Highly invested in Turner Farm. Strongly think it should stay an equestrian facility for the therapeutic riders to have an opportunity to ride.
10	<b>Lift Me Up Therapeutic Riding</b>
	Son disabled and in wheelchair. Benefitted from Lift Me Up Program. This plan leaves behind most vulnerable population in Northern Virginia.
11	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) trails around equestrian core - relation to existing fences?</li> <li>2) Status of observatory repairs w/orange fences around it?</li> </ol>

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<b>Speaker Number</b>	<b>Group/Organization:</b>
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<b>12</b>	
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Entrance zones, cutting in to equestrian zone, is that a parking area? Hazard w/open zone. 22 acre park (Andy 56 acre park-50 acres dedicated to equestrian). \$20K donated to park from Turner Farm Events.

<b>13</b>	
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Concerns of open play zone - she won't be able to use park anymore. What precautions are you taking around open play area?

<b>14</b>	
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Need working group of analemma, equestrians & RCP. Fears were justified. Several things in narrative that don't understand - add 3 parcels to park? Was 52 acre park, adding 3.5 acres. All parks in GF 2 are flood plane parks. Dairy Farm not a General farm used for dairy productivity. Report sounds like a decision has already been made without answering questions that have not been asked yet. Will there be onsite management? Will there be staff? Is firepit used? Fireworks not mentioned. Bring together the groups that know the park to make decisions.

<b>15</b>	<b>Great Falls Trailblazers</b>
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Excited about trails in parks. Maybe one day it will be paved. Thrilled with plan.

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Money for park raised by community, not just the groups that are running it now. Would like to be able to use some of the park. Play area originally planned in the original plan. Community would like to share park w/ horse people. Great Falls citizens should be in group at table.

<b>17</b>	
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This park was not intended as a regional park. Not intended as Regional Park for Reston. All parks serve citizens of Fairfax County. What is regional vs neighborhood?

<b>18</b>	
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Turner Farm events, Horse shows, Hunter Shows, \$30K profit designated for park use. Nobody talked to us. Purchased ramp for disability use (lift me up). Phenomenal Facility - well maintained. Issues with walking path & play zone. Huge liability - Frying Pan does not have a play zone close to cross county course. Walking path is a issue, not defined...will it be stonedust? Can't live with a paved path in that park, can't live with walkers & strollers.

<b>19</b>	<b>Celebrate Great Falls Foundation</b>
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Fireworks are done every year. Open play zone not area for us. Extra entrances will necessitate more volunteers for event. Nobody talked to HOA. Walking trail is great for this event. Husband & father of a rider. There is a family zone w/ playground. Turner Farm intended it to be a farm. Are we serving people of Great Falls or the County?

<b>20</b>	<b>Falls Manor HOA</b>
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Trails from entrance to horse area will be a pedestrian entrance? Are park users/horse trailers parking on our street? Is it illegal to park on streets? There is only a tiny parking lot for trailers. Where are 30 horse trailers going?

<b>21</b>	
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FPCA is only board that doesn't televise or tape meetings. Are other organizations having televised meetings? Why not FPCA?

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**Speaker Number**

**Group/Organization:**

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**22**

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Add positive note, hope by next summer to have horses, chickens & painted fence