Langley Fork Park

Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome / Introductions
- Fairfax County Park Authority Overview
- Park Authority Planning Process
- History of the Site
- Current Site Conditions
- Open Discussion

Fairfax County Park Authority
Langley Fork Park

Park Authority Mission

Enhance citizen’s quality of life through:
- Natural & Cultural Resource Stewardship
- Quality Facilities & Services
- Recreational Opportunities

“To set aside public spaces for and assist citizens in the protection and enhancement of environmental values, diversity of natural habitats and cultural heritage to guarantee that these resources will be available to both present and future generations.

To create and sustain quality facilities and services which offer citizens opportunities for recreation, improvement of their physical and mental well being, and enhancement of their quality of life.”

Fairfax County Park Authority
Langley Fork Park

Park Authority Board

- Twelve-member Board
- Appointed by the Board of Supervisors
- Includes a representative for each of the nine magisterial districts plus three at-large members

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Langley Fork Park

Park Authority Land Holdings

- 22,700+ acres of land
- 419 parks

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Langley Fork Park

Park Authority

2010 National Gold Medal Award
Excellence in Park and Recreation Management

Excellence in:
- Long-Range Planning
- Resource Management
- Volunteerism
- Environmental Stewardship
- Program Development
- Professional Development
- Agency Recognition

Fairfax County Park Authority
The purpose of a park master plan is to:

- Develop a site-specific, long-range vision for the park
- Identify resources worthy of protection
- Assess site conditions and community concerns
- Provide a general guide for appropriate park uses
- Establish the general location for proposed facilities
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Park Master Plan Components

**Written Report**

- Establishes park purpose and classification
- Describes existing conditions and constraints
- Describes the desired visitor experience
- Describes the park features
- Identifies design concerns to be addressed at development stage
Langley Fork Park

Park Master Plan Components

Graphics

- Conceptual Development Plan (CDP)
- Graphically shows general location of recommended facilities & use areas
- Conceptual site design, not an engineered site plan
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Master Plan Team

- Archaeologists
- Landscape Architects
- Planners
- Natural Resource Specialists
- Operational Specialists
- Recreation Specialists
- Park Development Specialists

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PUBLIC INPUT IS A KEY ELEMENT OF THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS
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Project Background

2009 Aerial Image

Fairfax County Park Authority
Langley Fork Park

Vicinity Map

Fairfax County Park Authority
Fairfax County Park Authority

Langley Fork Park

Vicinity Map

Dranesville Supervisory District
Langley Fork Park

Vicinity Map

Fairfax County Park Authority
Langley Fork Park, however, is actually part of the larger George Washington Memorial Parkway, owned by the federal government and administered through the National Park Service.

Fairfax County Park Authority maintains the park and schedules the usage of the fields through the provision of a Special Use Permit with the National Park Service.
Property Background

1937 Aerial Image

Historically, much of the property’s usage through the 1800’s and early 1900’s centered around the region’s agriculture, as is typified by this 1937 aerial image of the property. The patchwork pattern of local farms is clearly visible.

Much of our research and survey work will be to identify archaeological resources on the property and, if found, seek the best means to protect or preserve such features.
Looking at this 1953 aerial image, the rural/agricultural use of the land is still evident, although there is noticeable infill of tree cover infilling previous field areas.
In the 1900s the Federal Bureau of Roads owned the land on which Langley Fork Park is situated. The National Park Service acquired the land in 1971. Ball fields were developed on the site.

NPS approached FCPA about maintaining the fields. FCPA prepared the original Langley Fork Park Master Plan in 1980. In 1981, NPS issued a 25-year Special Use Permit to allow FCPA the right to maintain the park and schedule use of the athletic fields. Since the Special Use Permit expired in 2006, NPS has continued to issue yearly permits to FCPA.
The population and demographics within the McLean Planning District have changed considerably since 1980, indicating the value of re-evaluating the Langley Fork Park Master Plan.
Part of the discussion around renewal of the Special Use Permit centered around how both the National Park Service and the Park Authority could, ultimately, best achieve their individual missions, including a potential land swap between the two groups.
With the consideration for the potential land exchange and direction from NEPA, NPS is responsible to evaluate the possible impacts of federal actions related to parkland on the natural and human environment. In this case, that evaluation process is supported through performing an Environmental Assessment, or EA. The EA will provide a detailed analysis of the Langley Fork site to identify natural, water, and cultural resources. Evaluation of the Langley Oaks site will be done as well. The information gathered in preparation of the EA, however, will also be of great benefit to the Park Authority in developing the master plan for Langley Fork Park. That research, combined with public input, will establish a guide for how Langley Fork Park could be developed in the future. The plan that is determined by Park Authority and the community to be the most appropriate usage of Langley Fork Park will then be evaluated as part of the Environmental Assessment process and, ultimately, feed back into the decision by NPS whether the land exchange is in their best interest.
The Park Authority’s master plan process timeline will be modified somewhat to work in coordination with the EA process. Another meeting will be held to present the draft master plan and to more fully inform you about the Environmental Assessment process in a timely manner for you to be involved in the process.
It can be seen that the existing park has been developed in conformance with the original master plan.
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Langley Fork Park

Property Background

2009 Aerial Image

Residential R-1

Residential R-3

Claude Moore Colonial Farm

Clemmyjontri Park

CIA
Langley Fork Park

Area Parks

Within 3 miles of park:
- 32 Parks
- Trails
- Picnic areas
- Playgrounds
- Historic features

- 8 rectangle fields
- 2 are synthetic turf
- 3 have lighting
- 8 diamond fields
- 21 tennis courts
- 10 basketball courts

NOTE:
Synthetic turf fields are located at Lewinsville and Linway Terrace Parks
Lit rectangle fields are located at Lewinsville Park (1 lit synthetic turf, 1 lit natural turf) and at Linway Terrace Park (1 lit, synthetic turf)
Langley Fork Park

Area Schools

Schools within 1 mile
- Langley High

Schools within 2 miles
- Cooper Middle
- Churchill Road Elem
- Franklin Sherman Elem
- Chesterbrook Elem

Schools within 3 miles
- McLean High
- Kent Gardens Elem
- Longfellow Middle

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Langley Fork Park

Site Conditions

Access

- Current point of access is from Colonial Farm Road
- May need to evaluate other or additional points of access if any significant expansion is proposed
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Site Conditions

Topography & Drainage
Langley Fork Park

Site Photographs

Fairfax County Park Authority
Langley Fork Park

Site Photographs

Fairfax County Park Authority
Langley Fork Park

Site Photographs

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Park Classification System

- Provides a general framework
- Intended to guide open space and public facilities planning

Park Classification provides an indication of:

- Appropriate uses
- General park size range
- Typical facility types
- General park experience
Langley Fork Park

Park Classification System

Within this system, the Langley Fork Park is classified as a DISTRICT PARK

DISTRICT PARK CHARACTERISTICS

- Serve a geographic area of 3-6 miles
- Service area is determined by park facilities, context, and location
- Provides passive and active recreation facilities
- Generally larger than 50 acres in size
- Typically accommodate visits of up to a half day
- Often include extensive natural areas
## Langley Fork Park

### Typical District Park Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Type</th>
<th>Parking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athletic Fields</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Sports</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds - all ages</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Play Areas</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Furnishings such as benches or bike racks</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Establishment of Specialty Uses requires sponsorship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Type</th>
<th>Parking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thematic gardens (require expert maintenance and care)</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden plots (needs water and proper sun)</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-leash dog area</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood skate spot</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Langley Fork Park

Public Comment Period

What is your vision for Langley Fork Park?

What issues should be considered?

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Merrilee Park

The Master Plan Process

Where do we go from here?

Fairfax County Park Authority
Langley Fork Park

Conduct Research Site Analysis

October 2011

Public Info Meeting

Develop Draft Master Plan

January 2012

Present Draft MP to PAB

February 2012

Public Comment Meeting

March 2012

30-Day Public Comment Period

Draft MP Revisions

PAB Approval

Fairfax County Park Authority

The Master Plan Timeline
Langley Fork Park

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Please visit the project website:
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/langleyfork.htm

This information is provided on the handout!