



GREAT PARKS, GREAT COMMUNITIES

DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

Fairfax County Park Authority

Summary FAQ/Information Sheet

What is the Parks and Recreation System Master Plan (master plan)?

- A 10-year master plan includes goals and recommendations that set the policy framework for all FCPA plans, programs and initiatives.
- The master plan is not a detailed park- or resource-specific plan. Instead, the master plan is big picture and encompasses the entire park system (the first of its kind for the Park Authority!). The master plan is guided by the Parks Count! Needs Assessment findings and provides a long-term vision for the park system.

What does that mean?

- The Park Authority will focus its efforts and resources in alignment with the guiding principles, goals and recommendations included in the master plan.
- This means we'll revisit what we're doing across the park system, including in terms of programming, capital improvements, partnerships, communications, stewardship activities, business operations, and land management, among others.

Why are we creating the master plan?

- Striving for alignment across the Park Authority and with partners.
- Requirement for agency accreditation (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA)).
- New data, information and technology available (including the results of the Parks Count! Needs Assessment).

What does the master plan include?

- Seven (7) guiding principles, six (6) goals and 32 recommendations that set the policy framework for all FCPA plans, programs and initiatives.
- *The seven guiding principles are the Park Authority's core ideals, beliefs and convey the long-term vision for the park system.* They are threaded all throughout the master plan. They include: inspire a passion for parks; meet changing recreation needs; advance park system excellence;

strengthen and foster partnerships; be equitable and inclusive; be great stewards; promote healthy lifestyles.

- *The six goals are the desired results that the Park Authority plans for and commits to achieve.* These provide focus for agency efforts and include: Improve and promote natural resource protection and management; Ensure protection, conservation, preservation and interpretation of cultural resources; Improve access and opportunities for healthy and active lifestyles; Enhance and maintain park system quality and condition; Advance as an innovative, responsive and adaptable organization; Provide sustainable financial management to advance the Park Authority mission.
- *The 32 recommendations are the priority activities and actions necessary to achieve the goals.* See **pages 16 – 26** of the master plan for the recommendations identified for each goal.

How can the public provide input and comments?

- **The Park Authority will be accepting comments until September 22, 2017. You can submit comments a few different ways: (1) via e-mail at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov; (2) via the comment box on the project website (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/fcpa-mp.htm>); and (3) at the public input meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens in the Multi-Purpose Room. Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria, Virginia.**

Where are the details?

- The Park Authority has many, many plans and initiatives underway. Rather than duplicate these other plans, the master plan focuses on setting the direction for the agency. Some of these other plans include the Natural Resources Management Plan, Trails Development Strategy Plan, Strategic Plan and Capital Improvement Plan. See **page 4** of the master plan for a complete list.

How will we know if we've accomplished or made progress towards the goals and recommendations?

- The FY2019-FY2023 Park Authority Strategic Plan (strategic plan) will be a key tool for implementing the goals and recommendations of the master plan. As part of the strategic plan, S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Results-Focused, and Time-bound) objectives will be developed along with specific action steps for implementation.
- Annual action plans and annual reporting will be a key part of the strategic plan. These will ensure we're remaining accountable to the goals and recommendations, while also providing flexibility to course-correct as needed.

What is the process for the strategic plan?

- The process for the strategic plan is being developed and will involve staff and community input. It will kick-off this fall and will be completed by the end of the fiscal year (June 2018).

Who do I contact for more information about the master plan and strategic plan?

- For more information contact Samantha Hudson, project manager, at samantha.hudson@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-8726. You can also reach us via e-mail at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.