#### MASTER PLAN REPORT

OF

#### COLLINGWOOD PARK

#### PREPARED FOR:

## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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ADOPTED APRIL 3, 1979

# COLLINGWOOD PARK ADOPTED MASTER PLAN REPORT

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The existing and proposed system of Fairfax County parks attempts to establish full opportunity for all residents and visitors to make constructive use of their leisure time through the provision of recreational and cultural programs within safe, accessible and enjoyable parks. Additionally, the park system serves as the primary public mechanism for the preservation of environmentally sensitive land and water resources and areas of historic significance. Parklands to be acquired shall usually be classified in one of the categories listed below. However, the list is not restrictive since citizen needs, both present and furture, may require acquisition of combination park types or ones that differ from all of the categories listed below. It is also true that the typical types of facilities listed under each category are neither allinclusive nor mandatory. All of these park categories and recreational facilities are important in a wellrounded park system and must be provided if Fairfax County is to continue to provide a desireable living environment for its citizens.

A community park, the most frequently occurring park category, is designed to provide for daily relief within an urban setting. Community parks are therefore oriented towards a few hours of activity for passive or active purposes. They are designed to emphasize short term visits and are convenient and often accessible by foot or bicycle for after school, after work or weekend activities with limited or no parking. Community parks are the smaller ones serving the County's numerous neighborhoods and generally range in size up to twentyfive acres. Facilities often provided in fully developed community parks may include playgrounds, tot lots, athletic fields, open play areas, basketball courts, benches, walks, gardens, picnic areas, tennis courts, shelters with restroom/concession facilities, parking, trails and lighting where necessary. They can be wooded, suitable for passive uses. Development of the facilities on the master plan may take place over an extended period of time (five, ten or more years) depending on the extent of the park development.

This master plan report is designed to supplement the master plan in explaining the methodology and rationale which went into the design of this park. It should be noted that an adopted master plan presently exists. The purpose of this report is to revise the master plan through approved Park Authority proceedures.

## II. OBJECTIVES

The major goals of this plan are:

- A. To develop the site into a useable, community recreation space.
- B. To provide a community focal point.
- C. To produce a plan for the development of a community park.

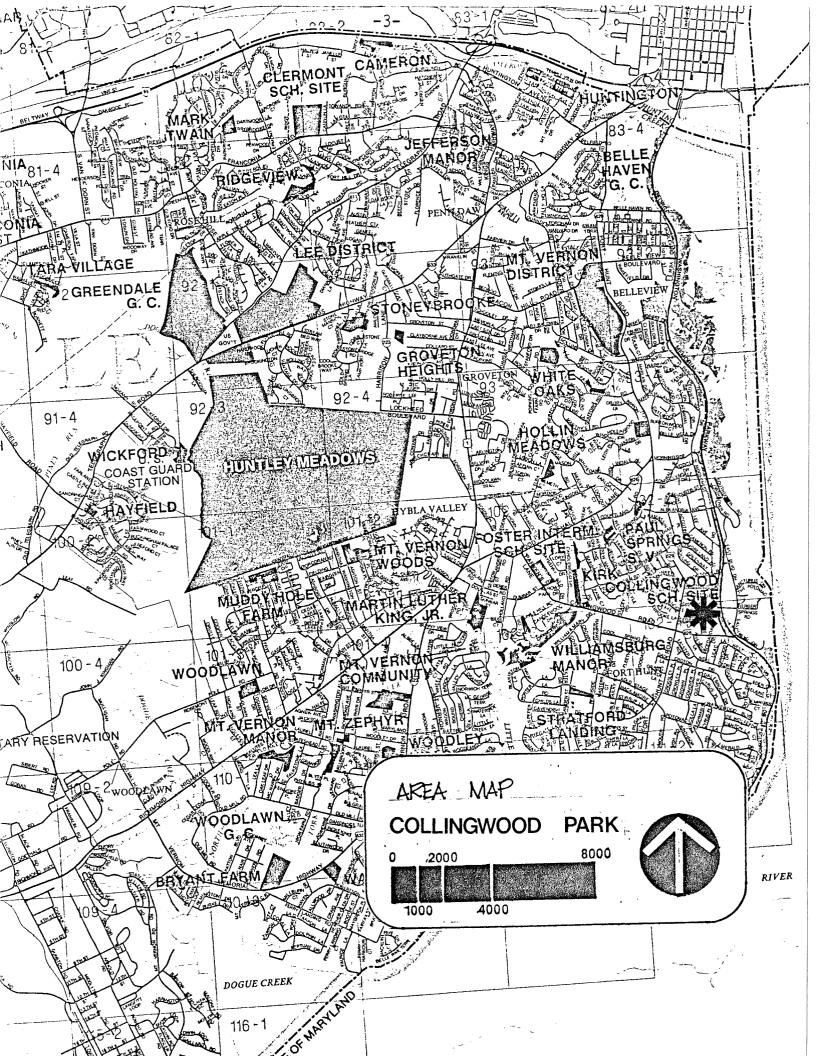
It is with these basic premises that the Fairfax County Park Authority has undetaken to master plan Collingwood Park.

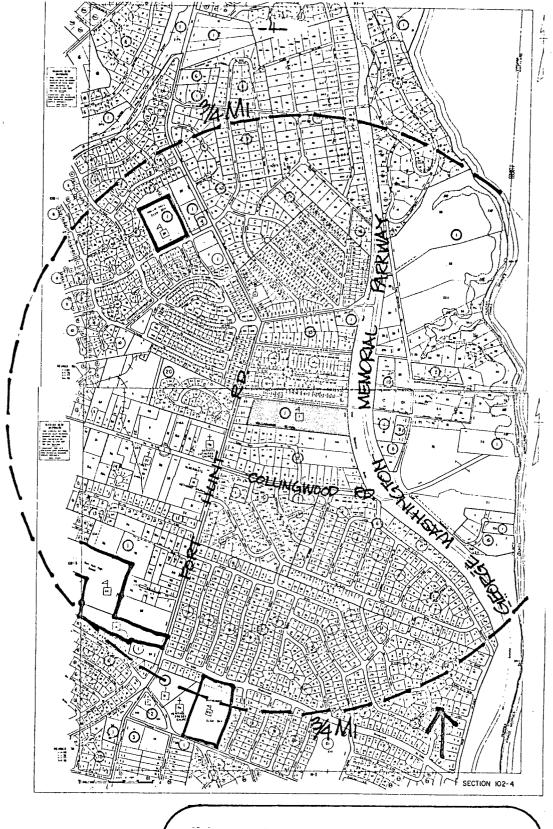
## III. LOCATION (Tax Map 102-4)

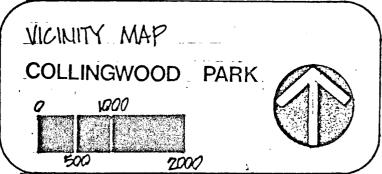
Collingwood Park is a 12 acre parcel located in the Mt. Vernon Magisterial District at 1101 Chadwick Avenue in Mt. Vernon, VA.

The site is bounded on the north by Chadwick Avenue on the east by West Boulevard and The George Washington Memorial Parkway and on the south and west by Boulevard acres subdivision of single family homes.

The site was originally leased from the Fairfax County School Board and more recently purchased by the Park Authority. The purchase occured on September 12, 1977.







## IV. SITE ANALYSIS

#### A. Access

Collingwood Park can be reached from Fort Drive by turning east onto Chadwick Avenue or from George Washington Memorial Parkway by turning west onto Chadwick Avenue and proceeding to the entrance road on the left.

#### B. MAN-MADE ELEMENTS

#### 1. Structures

The site is primarily open field with a tree line on the north boundry along Chadwick Avenue. Presently existing on the site is an entrance road and gravel parking area, two baseball fields with backstops and two football fields with backstops.

## 2. Utilities

Water, electricity and sewage are all available in the neighborhood surrounding the park. These utilities are available to the park site at Chadwick Avenue.

## C. NATURAL ELEMENTS

#### 1. Topography

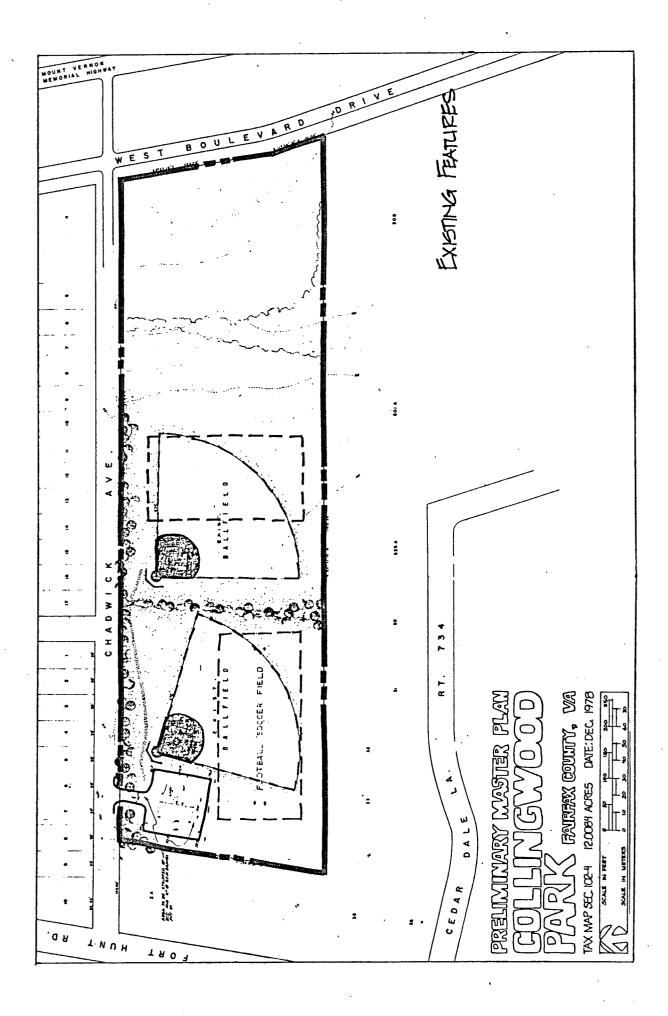
A slope study of the park indicated that the park has rolling topography with slopes ranging from less than 5% to greater than 15% on the Eastern side. Approximately 85% of the site has slopes of less than 5%. About 2% of the site has slopes greater than 15% and the remainder of the site has slopes of 5-15%.

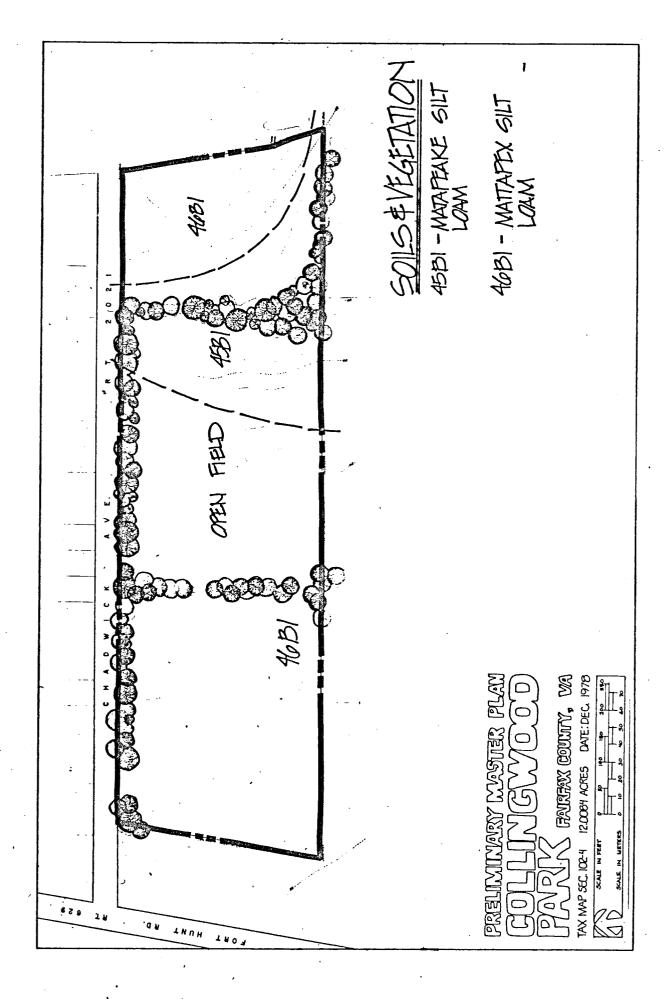
#### 2. Elevations

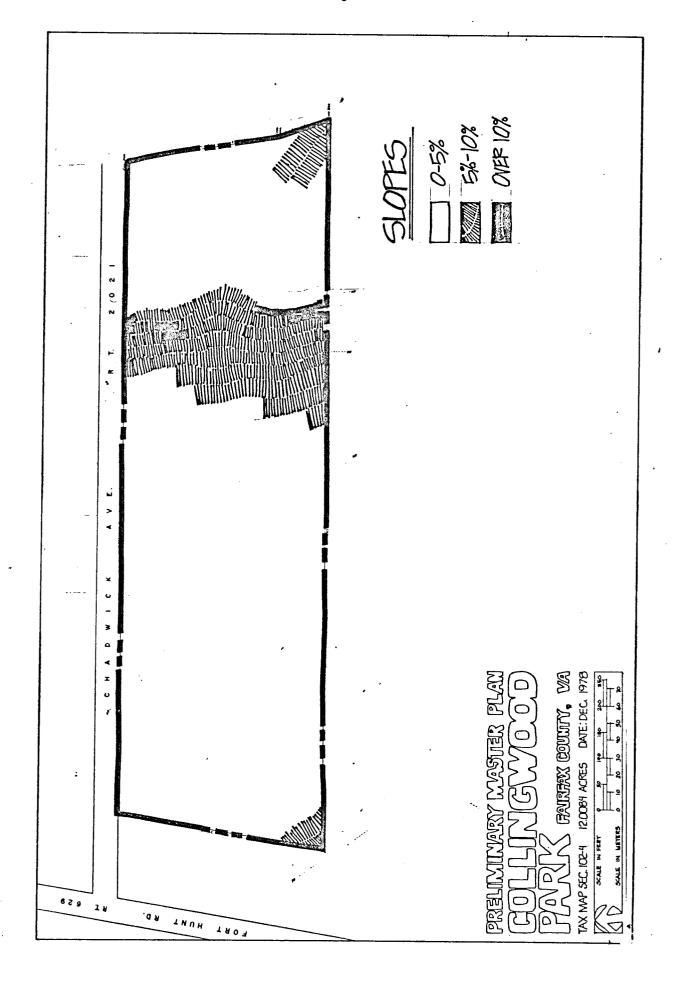
A difference in elevation of only about thirty feet occurs on the site.

#### 3. Soils

Matapeake silt loam is a deep, well drained, prductive soil which is formed from sands, silts and clays of the Coastal Plain. It has brown to dark brown silt loam surface soils, and strong brown to yellowish silty clay loam subsoils about 36 inches thick. Underlying strata consist of clay loam, sandy clay loams and fine sandy loams. It







is productive of many crops, and low to medium in natural fertility and organic matter content. Workability and conservability are good to excellent. The soil reaction is strongly acid. (pH 5.0 - 5.5)

## SUITABILITY:

This soil is well suited for all crops produced in the county, including vegetables and alfalfa. It is good for septic tank drainage fields and road subgrade materials.

Mattapex silt loam, nearly level phase is a moderately well drained, deep light colored soil with a yellowish brown to brown surface soil 6 to 10 inches thick. It has a yellowish brown to strong brown silty clay loam subsoil which is mottled below 18 inches. It is underlain by sands, silts and clays of marine origin and occurs mainly in the Gunston Neck area of the county. Natural fertility and organic content are low, and workability and productivity are fair to good. Strata of heavy slightly compact clay underlie most areas at about 26 inches, but sandy loam and sand strata are usually at depths below 60 inches. This soil is very strongly to strongly acid. (pH 4.5 - 5.5)

## SUITABILITY:

This soil is well suited for corn, vegetables, soybeans and hay crops except alfalfa. It is poor for septic tank drainage fields, and fair for road subgrade materials. Forests grow well and include good species.

#### #. Vegetation

The site is mostly open field with a tree row along the northern park boundry on Chadwick Avenue and two tree rows which divide the site into thirds. The trees are for the most part mixed Hardwoods. For a more complete vegetative analysis see appendix "A".

#### D. OFF SITE INVENTORY

## 1. Area Land-Use Patterns

The area surrounding the park is R-2 and R-3 single family as shown on the zoning map on page

## 2. User Input

The Park Authority Board Member from Mt. Vernon District and staff attended a Wellington Heights Civic Associtation meeting on October 27, 1978, they voted to keep the existing parking and move the horseshoe courts (2) and multi-use court to the east or in the area where the parking is shown

on the master plan which was adopted in 1974. They felt that we should definitly have at least 34 parking spaces. They wanted to proceed with the development of the park and did not wish to delay it any longer.

After this meeting a recommendation was made to the Park Authority Board to revise the Master Plan adopted in 1974 accordingly (see appendix "B").

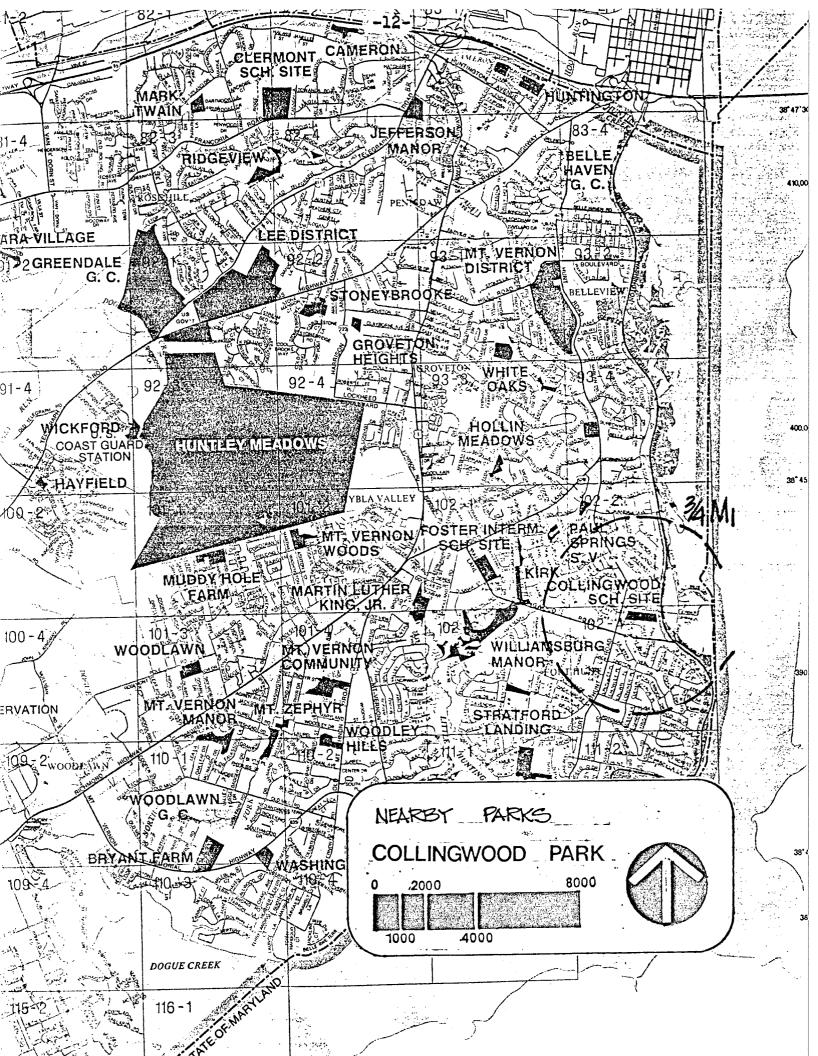
The Park Authority Board voted to take a revised plan to public hearing prior to adoption (see appendix "C").

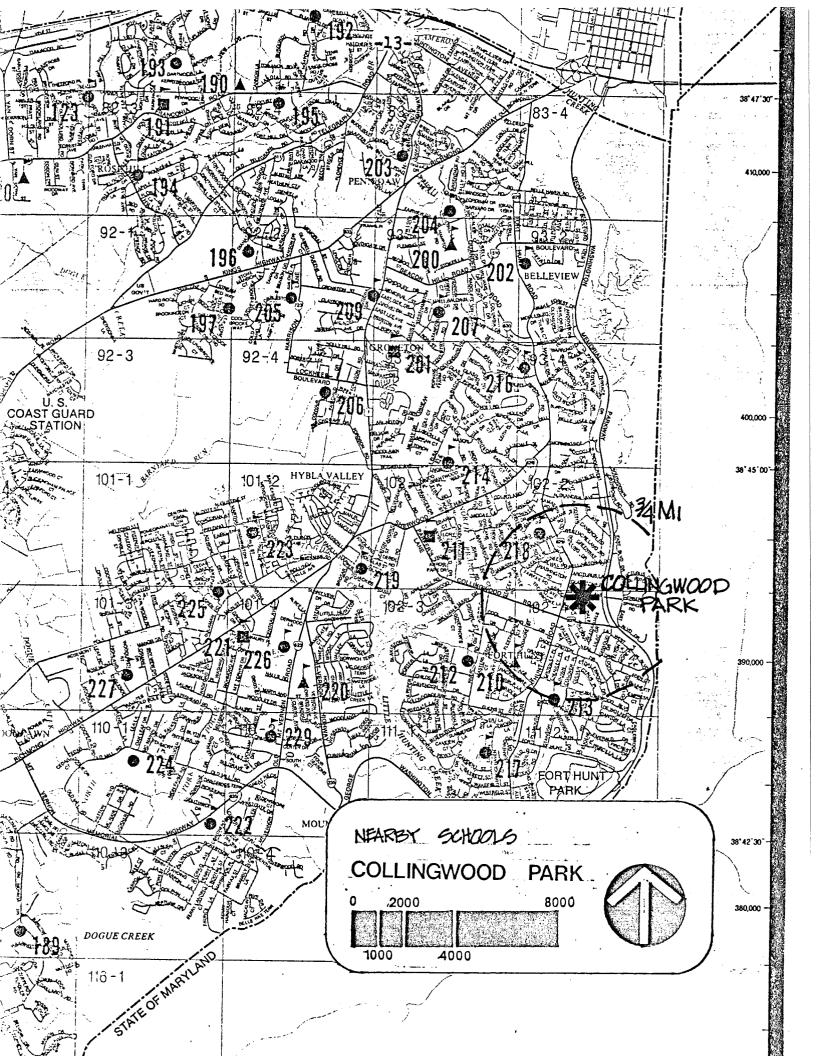
## 3. Area Recreational Activities

There are no public parks within the 3/4 mile radius.

Within a 3/4 mile radius of Collingwood Park are three schools which contain various active recreational facilities as follows:

FACILITY	SCHOOL	HOLLIN HALL ELEM. (218)	WAYNEWOOD ELEM. (213)	FORT HUNT HIGH (210)
Baseball Field		2	2	3
Basketball Court		1	2	3
Playground		1	1	
Basketball Goals		3	4	6
Soccer Field		1	1	1
Blacktop Area		2	1	1
Football Field				1
Tennis Courts				8
Track				1





## 4. County Comprehensive Plan

Recommendations from the comprehensive plan relative to the Collingwood site have already been implemented.

The Collingwood site has been acquired and is being developed for active recreation purposes.

## 5. County Trail Plan

The approved County-Wide Trail Plan shows proposed trails running north/south on both Fort Hunt Road and the George Washington Parkway in the vicinity of the park.

## 6. Reports on Planned Development

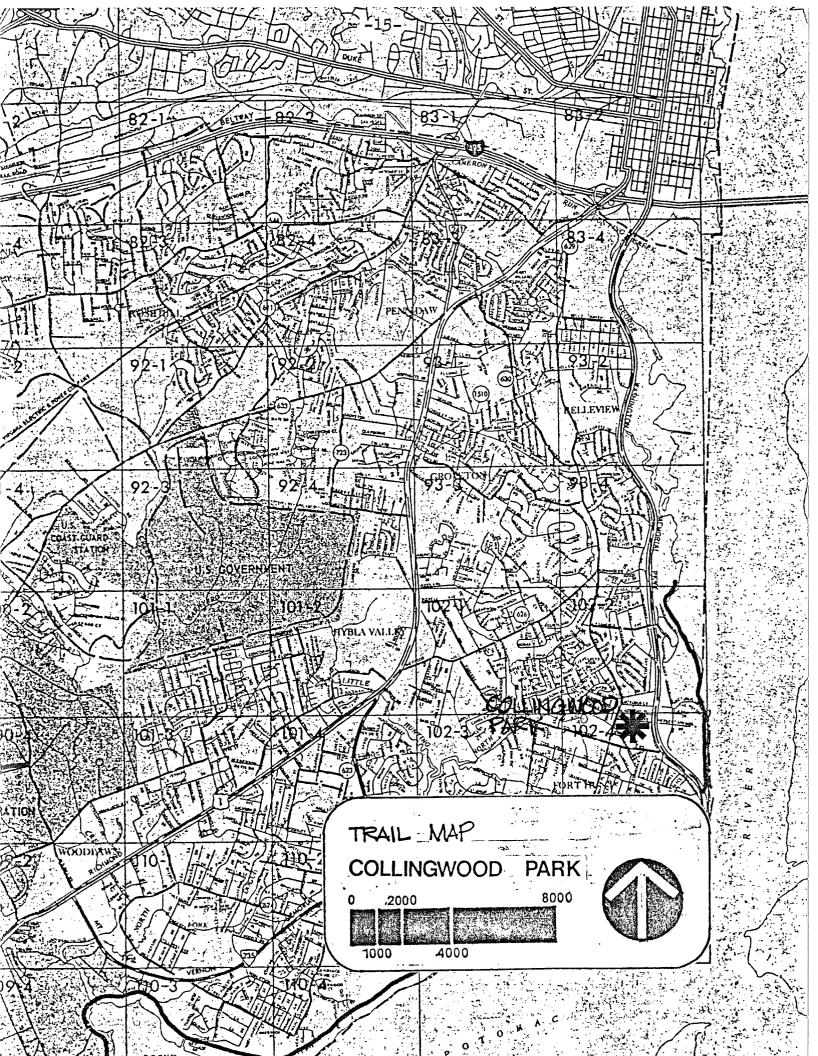
The following agencies were contacted and asked to provide input on development of the preliminary master plan:

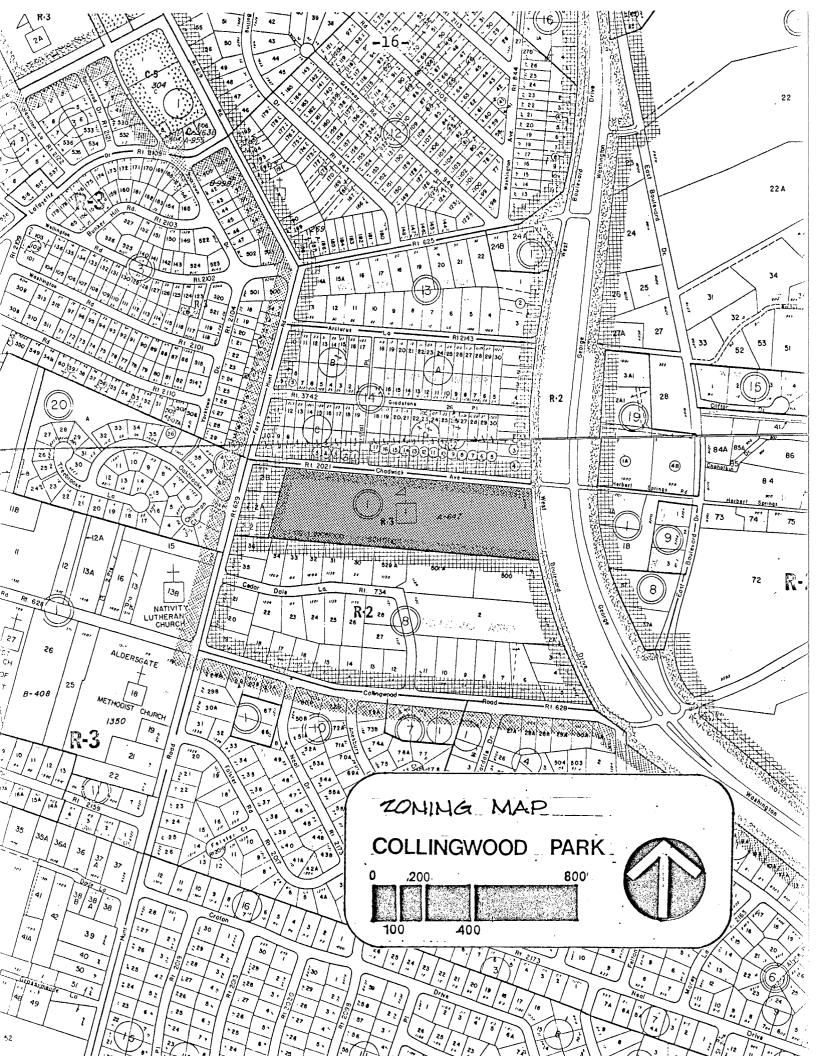
## PARK AUTHORITY

## COUNTY

- Conservation History
- Park Operations
- Police
  Fire and Rescue
  - Recreation
     Office of Comprehensive
     Planning

Input from these agencies was provided in the form of a "Brain Storming" session, the result of which is the preliminary master plan included in this report. Additional written comments are provided in appendix "D".





## V. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Program development was based upon the following items:

#### A. SITE ANALYSIS

Based upon a detailed analysis of off-site as well as on-site factors, including man-made elements, natural elements, area land-use patterns, and input from various county agencies, the conclusion is that this site should function as a central community focal point with relatively active recreational facilities.

#### B. USER INPUT

As indicated on page 9, item D.2 input from the Wellington Heights Civic Association indicated a desire to proceed with construction of the facilities which are on the adopted plan but with some re-location of the facilities.

#### C. DEMOGRAPHICS OF SERVICE AREA

The following demographic data taken from the county comprehensive plan is for Area IV of which this park is a part. More specifically, it is located in the Mt. Vernon Planning Sector of Area IV.

Most of the demographic characteristics of Area IV are fairly representative of the entire County.

The area is an older area of settlement, and thus is somewhat more densely populated than the rest of the County.

The major differences between this area and the remainder of the County arise from the stability of this area and its very slow rate of growth.

#### Population and Density

Area IV, as a whole, has been growing more slowly than the entire County for the last decade and a half. In the period 1970 to 1975, that differential increased. While the County grew over 4% a year, Area IV grew at only slightly more than 1% per year.

However, the growth pattern within Area IV is quite variable. In the Lower Potomac Planning District, the population has actually decreased slightly since 1970. This reduction of persons has resulted from the countywide trend of declining household size. In Lower Potomac, the smaller number of persons in each housing unit has not been counteracted (as it has in most other parts of the County) by an increased number of units.

On the other extreme is the Springfield Planning District which has grown nearly 8% a year since 1970. This is a much faster rate than that for the County as a whole.

The population density varies substantially within Area IV. Mount Vernon, the most densely populated district, is three times as densely populated as the County as a whole. On the other hand, Lower Potomac is less than half as densely populated as all of the County.

## Household Size

Area IV is also representative of the entire County with respect to household size. Both had an average household size in occupied units of 3.5 persons per household in 1970 and by 1974, 3.1 persons per unit. In Area IV, household size declined the same amount in that period.

House hold size, however, varies substantially within the area, with Mount Vernon Planning District having by far the smallest average size. This reflects the large percentage of rental units in this district.

## Racial Composition

Area IV had over 6,5000 blacks living in it in 1970, forming 4% of th total population. This proportion is slightly higher than the countywide average of 3.5% black.

Whereas the total population of Area IV was growing at an average annual rate of 5% from 1960 to 1970, the black population was growing only 2% a year. Thus, while Area IV had a large black population, it grew more slowly than did the entire County's black population, which grew 3% a year in that period.

In fact, if Lower Potomac Planning District were not considered, the black population grew at about 3% a year in the remaining districts of Area IV. This consideration is useful because of the distorting effect of the institutional populations of Fort Belvoir and Lorton in the Lower Potomac District. It appears that blacks were moving into Area IV, although at a relatively slow rate.

## Age-Sex Distribution

The median age of Area IV increased slightly from 1960 to 1970.

In Lower Potomac and Springfield, the median age actually decreased slightly. Although both these districts had a smaller proportion of very young children in 1970 than in 1960, the lower median age was caused by relative increases in young persons: Those aged 15 to 24 in Lower Potmac and 10 to 19 in Springfield.

The large differential between the median ages of men and women did not change much in this period, even increasing slightly in Springfield.

## Marital Status

The distribution of adults according to their marital status in Area IV is significantly distorted by the large proportion of single males in the Lower Potomac Planning District. The data in the following table show the proportion of adults in each marital category; figures in parentheses leave out the Lower Potomac Planning District.

There is only slight variation in marital status within this planning area, with the exception of the one district. On the whole, the single and married persons are fairly evenly distributed in this area.

## Socio-economic Characteristics

With a median family income of \$14,400 in 1969, Area IV fell significantly below the county wide level of \$15,707. The income levels within the area were dissimilar; only Springfield Planning District had a higher median income level than the County as a whole. The same relationships held with educational levels as with income levels. Adults living in Springfield District had, on the average, completed the most years of school, and those in Lower Potomac had completed the fewest.

## D. 1977 BOND PROSPECTUS

The 1977 Bond Prospectus indicated the following: Development per approved plan includes ballfield relocation, parking, basketball court, tennis courts, open play picnic and playground area, plus walks and landscaping.

## VI. PLANNING DESIGN DESCRIPTION

#### A. PARKING

An entrance road and parking lot with a capacity of 55 cars is shown off of West Boulevard Drive.

#### B. TENNIS COURTS/TENNIS PRACTICE AREA

Two tennis courts and one tennis practice area are shown near the parking lot. These courts will be fenced and include a small seating area.

#### C. PLAY APPARATUS AREA

This area will contain a few pieces of play equipment for active play. It will have a few pieces of tot equipment as well as some for older children.

#### D. BASKETBALL/MULTI-USE COURT

A half size court for basketball is shown adjacent to the tennis courts and tennis practice area.

#### E. BASEBALL FIELDS

The existing baseball fields will remain in their present location.

#### F. SOCCER/FOOTBALL FIELDS

The existing soccer/football fields will remain in their present location but the western field will be enlarged to 195 ft. x 360 ft. The soccer field in the central portion of the site will be reoriented downsized to 130 ft. x 280 ft. and called a practice soccer/football field.

#### G. TRAILS

Trails and walkways will be developed as shown on the plan in order to tie all facilities together as well as to form a link with the surrounding community.

## H. GATE

A standard park gate will be provided at the entrance road for closing the park at dusk.

## I. LANDSCAPING

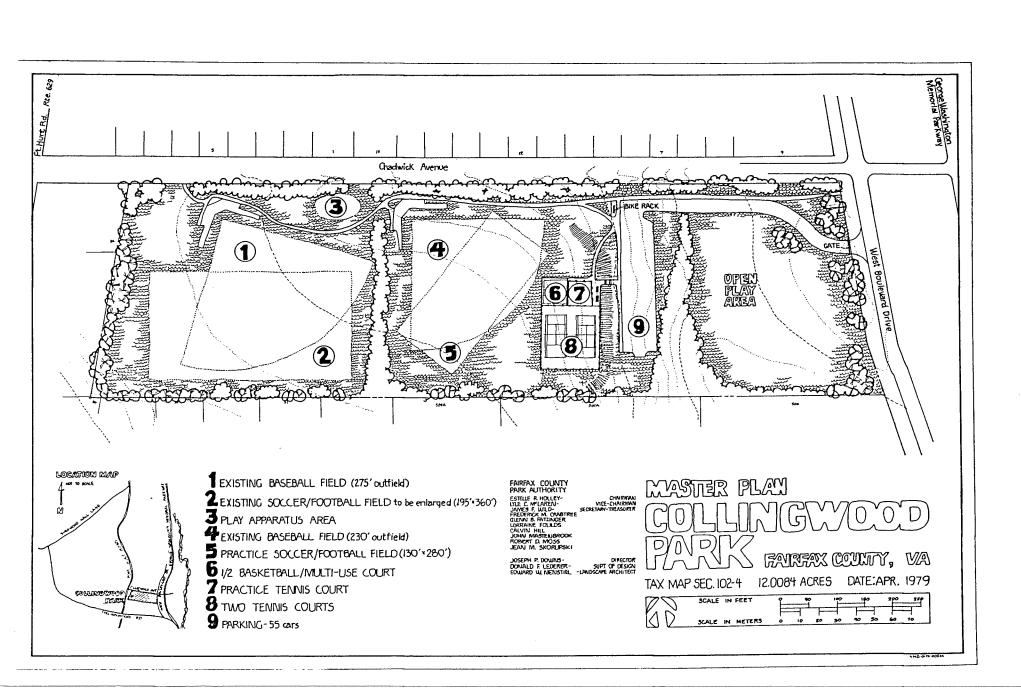
Landscaping and screening will be provided where appropriate but especially on the east and west sides of the park.

## J. BIKE RACK

A bike rack will be provided near the parking lot.

## K. OPEN PLAY AREA

The field on the east side of the park will remain in its present condition.



#### VII. USER LEVELS

The number of users is based on an examination of similar facilities in the region and from past experiences in planning recreational facilities.

The estimation of the number of activity days of park use (where a user day is one person taking part in one activity on a particular day; peak time is usually considered to be a summer Sunday at 2 p.m.) is purely an assumption.

Activity	No. User Days/Year		
A. Tennis Courts B. Baseball C. Play Apparatus Area D. Multi-Use/Basketball Court E. Soccer/Football	7,500 7,840 1,000 2,520 9,600		
Total potential use	28,460		

Potential person/year = 18,973 (One persons equals 1.5 users)

## A. TENNIS COURTS

Based on 20 players per court per day for 175 day season, the average number of players per court per day is higher than those figures found in the 1976 Tennis Court User Survey, (prepared for the FCPA in Aug. 1976), because of the use of lights enabling night play.

20 plays x 175 days x 2 courts = 7,000 user days 500 players for practice wall = 500 Total = 7,500

## B. BASEBALL

Primary use of the baseball field will probably be from organized recreation leagues. This assumes a four month season with the field being used two times per day, seven days per week, and 35 persons per game, not including spectators.

## C. PLAY APPARATUS AREA

While it is difficult to determine the frequency of use of the play apparatus area, it may be safe to estimate 1000 children/year.

#### D. BASKETBALL/MULTI-USE

The multi-use court is one half of a basketball court for unorganized play. A nine month season and 10 persons per day.

## E. SOCCER/FOOTBALL

The anticipated primary use of the soccer/football fields is for organized play. This assumes a four month season, with the field being used twelve times each week for games or practice sessions, and 50 persons per game not including spectators.

A.	PARKING LOT & ENTRANCE ROAD		
	22' wide asphalt road, 450' @ \$54/LF 55 spaces @ \$1100 ea. Earthwork LS	\$24,300 \$60,500 \$10,000	
	Subtotal		\$ 94,800
B.	TENNIS COURTS		
	Two courts LS Lighting LS Earthwork LS	\$36,000 \$13,000 \$ 5,000	
	Subtotal		\$ 54,000
c.	TENNIS PRACTICE AREA/½ MULTI-USE/ BASKETBALL COURT		
	Two courts LS Lighting LS Earthwork LS	\$ 7,350 \$ 4,200 \$ 2,500	
	Subtotal		\$ 14,050
D.	PLAY APPARATUS AREA		
	Six pieces play equipment @ \$1500 EA Woodchip surface LS	\$ 9,000 \$ 2,000	
	Subtotal		\$ 11,000
E.	BASEBALL FIELDS - SOCCER/FOOTBALL FIELDS		
	Minor earthwork LS Seeding LS	\$ 2,500 \$ 2,500	
	Subtotal		\$ 5,000
F.	TRAILS		
	6' wide asphalt 1900 @ \$9./LF		\$ 17,100
G.	LANDSCAPE PLANTING		
	Evergreen trees, 70 @ \$100 EA Deciduous trees, 20 @ \$200 EA	\$ 7,000 \$ 4,000	

Subtotal	\$ 11,000
Total 20% Contingency	\$206,950 \$ 41,390
GRAND TOTAL	\$248,340

#### IX. COST VS. BENEFIT

The total estimated cost for the park is about 248,000 There are about 6,000 people living in a 3/4 mile radius. Using these figures, the expenditure per person equals about \$41.30.

benefits generated depend on many factors. There is one observation relevant to park development today. Increasing densities in neighborhoods, emphasis on the reduced consumption of energy and the increasing costs of recreational travel and determinants that tend to force people to stay at home or use recreational facilities that are close to home. This will obviously become more prevelant in the future. It seems that the park planners responsibility is to provide the populations with attractive and quality-oriented parks that stimulate improved lifestyles which are close and convenient to sue. From this viewpoint, the costs of implementation vs. the benefits are more than justified.

## X. OPERATING & MAINTENANCE COSTS

The following figures are derived from a productivity report "Cost and Work guidelines for Park Maintenance and Operation" prepared by the Community Development Branch, Office of Research and Statistics and the Fairfax County Park Authority, dated October 1975 and revised June 1977 for a one year period.

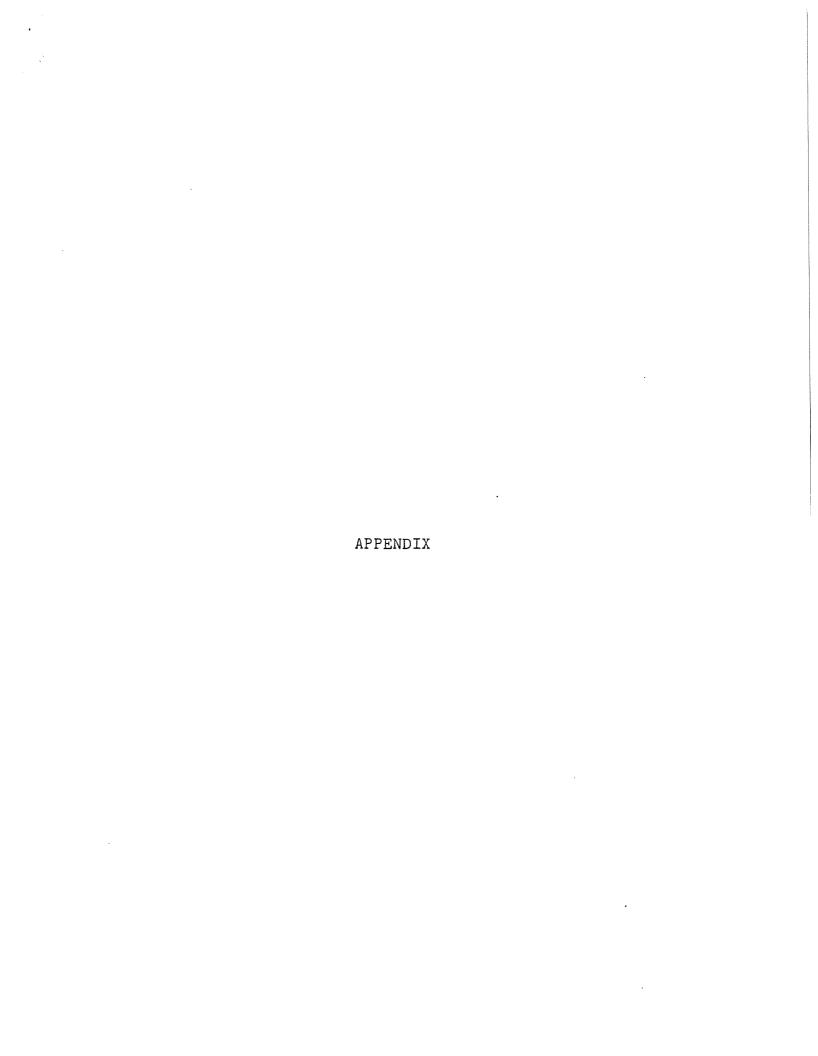
A.	Parking lot (55 cars)	\$ 458
B.	Tennis courts	\$ 1,900
C.	Practice tennis	\$ 700
D.	Play apparatus area	\$ 1,282
F.	Multi-Use Court	\$ 373
G.	Baseball field	\$11,600
H.	Trails	\$ 193
I.	Soccer football	\$ 1,560
	Total	\$18,066/year

## XI. PHASING

There is approximately \$75,000 for development and implementation of the master plan. This money is available immediately. Since the overall cost of implementing the master plan is about \$248,000, it is obvious that not all facilities can be developed at this time. Therefore, a ranking of development priorities follows:

## Phase I

·	
Parking lot and entrance road (gravel) Play apparatus area Baseball field Portion of screen planting	\$ 39,000 \$ 11,000 \$ 5,000 \$ 7,000
Total Phase I	\$ 62,000
Phase II	
Asphalt parking lot and entrance road Tennis courts	\$ 55,800 \$ 54,000
Tennis practice and ½ basketball/ multi-use court Trails Remaining screen planting	\$ 14,050 \$ 17,100 \$ 4,000
Total Phase II	\$144,950





# M E M O R A N D U M

To: Ed Nenstiel, Landscape Architect

Date: 1/19/79

From: Gary Roisum, Conservation Division

Subject: Collingwood Park (tax map 102-4)

Per your memorandum of December 15, 1978, the following comments are forwarded for inclusion in the final preparation of Collingwood Park master plan.

## Vegetative Description

Narrow vegetative borders (less than 20' width) were observed on the northern and southern boundaries of the park. These borders consisted of eastern red cedar, mulberry, japanese honeysuckle, and black cherry with average DBH at sapling and pole stage (less than 8" DBH). These borders provide excellent buffers between the park and residents immediately contiguous to the park.

Two north-south hedgerows were found in the park. The first hedgerow which bisects the central portion of the park consists of black cherry (8"-12" DBH), one eastern red cedar, japanese honeysuckle and one witch hazel. The second hedgerow was found on the eastern portion of the park and consists of two honey locust, one black cherry, one juniper (all pole stage size) with dots of japanese honeysuckle, goldenrod (variety) and pokeberry. Sparrows (species) and cardinals were observed in this area. The two hedgerows welcome urban wildlife to the park but their importance is relatively minimal in this regard.

No vegetative buffer was observed on the western border of the park. The rest of the park is generally maintained as open turf.

#### Preliminary Master Plan Comments

I concur with the plan formulated during the November 28, 1978 brainstorming session. It is environmentally sound and provides a variety of recreational opportunities in a relatively small area without damage to the existing cedar buffers on the north and south boundaries of the park.

A PARTY A

ME MOLO RANDUM

To: Louis Cable

Data: 11-1-78

Donald F. Lederer

Subject: Collingwood Park Details

## Recommendation:

Revise the master plan as follows:

- 1. Move the parking area to the present location in the north east portion of the park and provide about 34 car parking.
- 2. Move the horseshoe courts (2) and multi-use tasketball court to the east in the area where the parking is now shown.
- 3. Change the name from Collingwood School site to Collingwood Park.

## Statement:

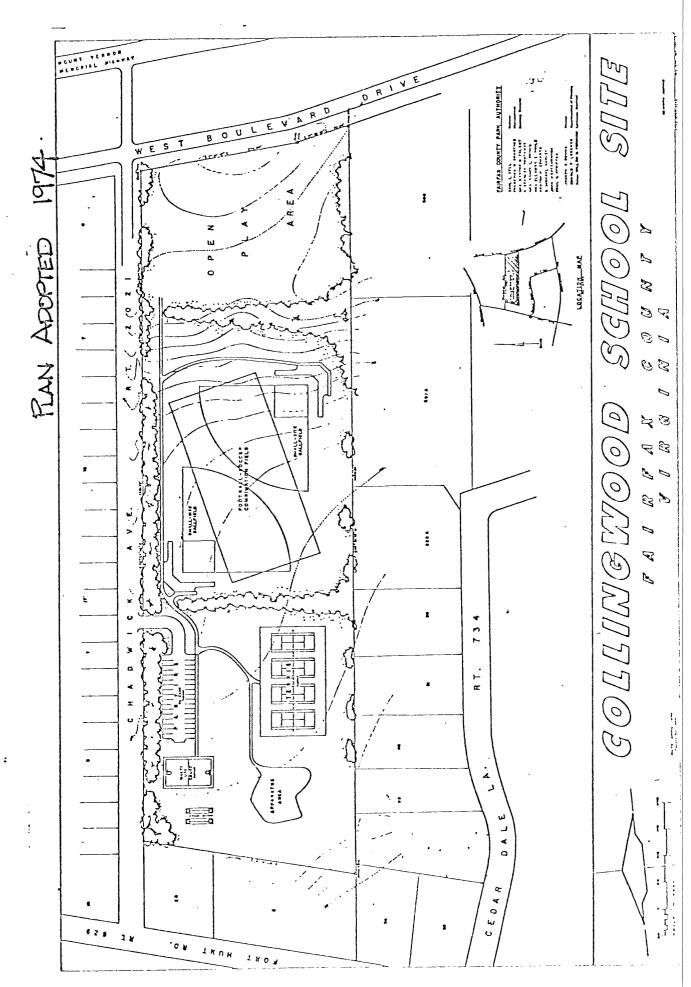
Mr. Fatzinger and I attended a Wellington Heights Civic Associtation meeting on October 27, 1978, they voted to keep the existing parking and move the horseshoe courts (2) and multi-use court to the east or in the area where the parking is shown on the master plan. They felt that we should definitly have at least 34 parking spaces. They wanted to proceed with the development of the park and did not wish to delay it any longer.

Staff feels that this move is not major and that it most likely will save development costs. We have an existing paved parking entrance; therefore will save quite a bit of time and money on this item. The concept of the plan will change very little.

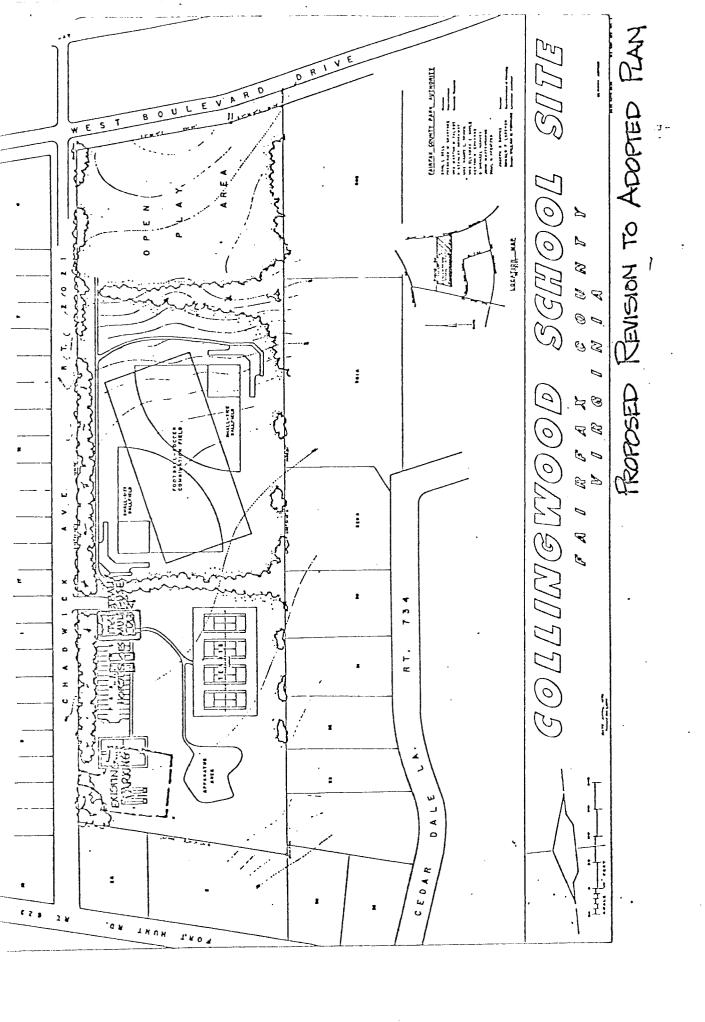
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cc: Ed Nenstiel

Attachments



7-



# Collingwood Park - Details

Mr. Nenstiel reviewed the park master plan which was adopted in 1974 and the location of the present facilities. He stated that citizens are interested in keeping the existing parking lot where it is and shifting the horseshoe pits and multi-use courts to the east in the area where the parking lot is shown. He recommended that the master plan be revised to move the parking area to the present location and provide about 34-car parking; move the horseshoe courts and multi-use court to the east in the area where the parking is now shown; and change the name from Collingwood School School Site to Collingwood Park.

Mr. Fatzinger explained the changes in the community surrounding the park has changed priorities desired within the park. He requested that Ray Best and Charlie Gupton be allowed to speak on the needs of the soccer teams and Fort Hunt Youth Association.

Mr. Gupton stated they have had four years' experience since the temporary facilities were put in the park. He asked for reconsideration of the size of the parking lot as it is not large enough; why did everything have to be redone, the Park Authority should fit in the additional facilities around the present ones; and he requested one of the ballfields be lighted.

Mr. Best stated one of the problems had been with the local community and this has changed. The basic concept of the plan is all right but the parking is a problem. He felt that the facilities should be utilized as they are now.

Mr. Fatzinger MOVED that the Park Authority hold a public hearing on an amended plan; seconded by Mr. Wild; UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.