

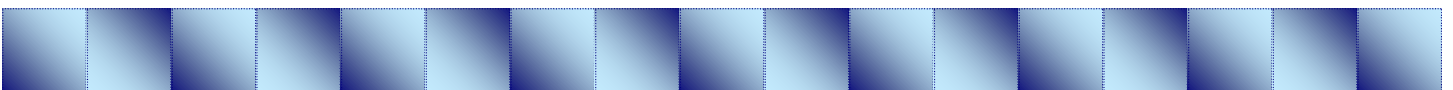
# Frying Pan Park

**Approved 9/25/02**



## ***Master Plan Revision*** **General Management Plan** **Conceptual Development Plan**

**Fairfax County Park Authority**



## ***Acknowledgements***

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The Fairfax County Park Authority acknowledges the special efforts of the Frying Pan Task Force members in developing a recommendation for this plan.

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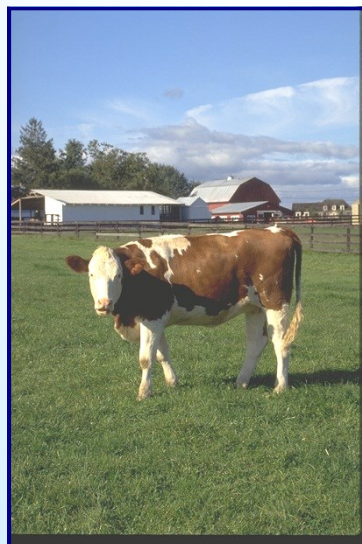
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## MASTER PLAN REVISION GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. Purpose & Description of the Plan

This plan will update the 1980 park master plan and will guide the implementation of pending park revisions including park expansion, incorporation of additional facilities and development of park programs for visitor use and resource protection.

#### B. Park Description

Frying Pan Park is located at 2717 West Ox Road in Herndon, Virginia in the Hunter Mill Supervisory District. The park is 108 acres in size and lies 1.5 miles south of the Town of Herndon. The acquisition of the Chantilly Bible Church property on March 1, 2001 added 4.59 acres to the park. In addition, this master plan revision recommends incorporating the Floris Community Park adjacent to the west property boundary and Board of Supervisors' property to the north of Frying Pan into the holdings known as Frying Pan Park. The total acreage after all aforementioned property is transferred to Frying Pan Park would be 130 acres.



The park is managed by the Resource Management Division of the Fairfax County

Park Authority. Frying Pan Park consists of the following facilities: Activities Center, outdoor riding facilities, Floris Schoolhouse, country store, Moffet Blacksmith Shop, Kidwell Farm (including: farm house, barns, livestock, equipment, and crop and pasture fields), the Frying Pan Springs Meeting House (currently at Floris Community Park) and other structures including outdoor rest rooms, the 4-H building that is used for maintenance and equipment storage and four pole barns with permanent horse stalls.

#### C. Park History

1649: "Northern Neck" land chartered by King Charles II to Culpeper family (Frying Pan is a part of the land charter).

1700's: Farmers, planters and miners move to this community.

1791: Baptists establish permanent community and build the meeting house.

All of the above property can be traced to Thomas, 6th Lord Fairfax. His land agent, Robert Carter of Nomini Hall (Westmoreland County) eventually owned the parcel that includes the present day park. Carter believed that copper could be mined from the land and set up the Frying Pan Company to tap and profit from this resource. Although no high-grade ore was found, mining and its related activities did open the area to settlement.

1801: Four log huts and a meeting house are established at the crossroads of West Ox and Centreville Road.

1800's: The area is expanded to serve dairy and mixed crop farms.

After

1891: The Frying Pan settlement name changes to Floris.

1930: Blacksmith shop, post office/general store, boarding house, 3 churches, 2 schools, residences and farms are established in Floris.

Late

1950's: Massive suburban development, due to Dulles Airport development comes to the community.

1960: Frying Pan Park land is deeded to Fairfax County Park Authority. Joseph Beard lobbies Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to preserve the county's agricultural heritage through the site.

Later: Park Authority purchased adjacent properties including Kidwell Farm and Ellmore farmland, giving Frying Pan its current 108+ acres.

For full park history narrative, refer to Appendix.

## II. PURPOSE, SIGNIFICANCE, THEMES & VISITOR EXPERIENCE CONCEPTS

### A. Park Purpose & Significance: What is the purpose of the park and why is this park important?

The purpose of Frying Pan Park is to preserve and interpret a 1920's through 1950's farm and rural community setting in a suburban environment for the educational, cultural and recreational enrichment of citizens and visitors of Fairfax County.

Frying Pan Park preserves a remnant of Fairfax County's rural heritage in a community setting. The planned 130 acre site holds important pieces of the county's agricultural, natural, educational and cultural history for future generations. The equestrian community is

served with the park's extensive riding facilities. Opportunities for visitor enjoyment and education are provided by a full schedule of classes, programs, special events and many points of interest.

The purpose of Frying Pan Park is to:



1. Educate the public about how the park's natural resources, geology and human activities influenced the

transformation of the natural landscape into an agricultural landscape.

2. Inform the public on the changes, over time, in livestock and crop management, equipment use, development and other farming practices.

3. Educate the public about how farm life and roles of individuals in the running of a family farm is a cumulative effort.

4. Demonstrate the interdependent connection that exists between the community and the farm such as equestrian activities, 4-H clubs activities, educational group opportunities and scout functions.

### B. Park Classification

Frying Pan Park is currently classified as a Multiple Resource Park (Class 4.4) within the Park Classification System. The master plan revision recommendation is to change the park classification to a new designation of Cultural Resource Park (Class 4.3) with an overlay classification of Special Purpose Park (Class 4.5). Please refer to the Appendix for

descriptions of each classification.

The Cultural Resource Park classification will address the site historic significance and the Special Purpose Park classification will address the equestrian facilities found at the park. Although compatible and complimentary, the two functions draw clientele with specific needs and expectations.

As a Cultural Resource Park, patrons interested in history, agriculture and farm animals enjoy formal and informal learning opportunities. Their expectations are met with well developed interpretive programs.

The Special Purpose Park classification relates to the extensive equestrian facilities and the diverse programs offered for and by equestrian interests. These will be enhanced under this plan by providing improved orientation and use facilities. Since equestrian groups and individuals bring their own horses, expertise, trainers and coaches, Frying Pan Park's role is to provide safe, quality facilities to help them enjoy and expand their programs.

### **C. Visitor Experience: Who is the visitor & what will they experience at the park?**

Visitors come from local, regional state and national communities. Programming is directed to general park visitors, equestrian groups, 4-H clubs, educational and family groups and scout organizations.

At this park, visitors will:

- Learn the history and lifestyles of the family farm community and the 18th, 19th and 20th century site area history. Learn how the park's natural/cultural resources influenced

the transformation of the natural landscape into an agricultural landscape.

- Learn about farm life and the relationship between individuals and the community.
- Share general park activities such as hayrides, picnics, classes, camps, dog walks, walking/jogging, purchase of produce and country store shopping.
- Experience and participate in equestrian and 4-H activities.
- Participate in educational opportunities aimed at school, scout and family groups.

## **III. PARK INFORMATION**

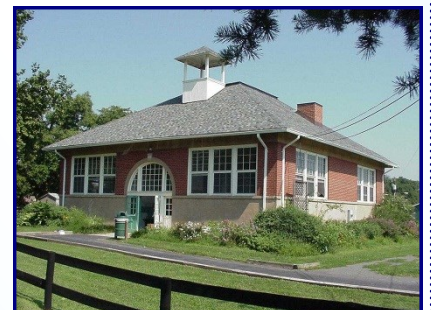
### **A. Existing Resources**

#### **1. Cultural Resources**

Frying Pan Park and certain nearby properties have been determined, by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, to be eligible for listing on the National Register. The Floris Historic District was established for the area in order to promote education and recreational pleasure for the public.

Major cultural resource structures include:

Floris Schoolhouse: This four room school was constructed in 1911 and renovated in 1983.



The Frying Pan Country Store: This building served as a shop and classroom for the Vocational Agriculture classes at the Floris School from 1919 to 1930.



Moffet Blacksmith Shop: Originally located in Herndon, the shop operated from 1904 until 1955. The building, with much of its original equipment, was moved to the park in 1975.

The Kidwell Farm House: Built in the late 1890's, the house was stabilized and restored from 1999 to 2001 to its 1930's appearance.

Kidwell Farm: The farm makes up approximately 35% of the site's total acreage and represents a working farm from the 1920's through 1950's.



Kidwell Barn: The farm includes a reconstructed (1980's) post and beam barn with an attached single story dairy barn.

Dairy Building: The c. 1920's dairy building was reconstructed in 1997 and displays local period dairy equipment.

Chicken Coop: A period chicken coop was reconstructed in 2001 from a 1930's United States Department of Agriculture design. Other farm features include a corncrib (19th century), smokehouse, machine shed, crop and pasture fields, family garden plot and support buildings.

The Frying Pan Springs Meeting House: Built in 1791, this building, and its accompanying

cemetery, is located on a two acre site on Centreville Road. The meeting house and associated land was a gift to the Park Authority and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Registry.

Ellmore Farm: Adjoining Kidwell Farm on the east, the 50 acre Ellmore Farm operated as a dairy farm during the historic period until 1955.

Ellmore Farmhouse: Contemporary to the Kidwell farm house, the Ellmore farmhouse has been modernized and converted to classroom and administrative space.



The house was first updated in the 1960's with subsequent renovations in the 70's & early 80's.

Ellmore Barn: Renovated to serve as a church sanctuary, the 1900 dairy barn framing and external appearance remains.



Collections: A varied historic collection includes unique local, period and modern farm implements ranging from threshing machines to hand tools, historic documents and images, audio and video oral history recordings, household furnishings, dairy equipment and blacksmith and wheelwright equipment and materials.

## 2. Land Use

Cropland: About 20 acres is currently used for growing traditional crops. Corn, wheat, hay, oats and soybeans have interpretive value for visitors and provide valuable feed for farm animals.

Pasture and paddocks: Over 20 acres of park land is fenced for permanent pastures with orchard grass, clover, bluegrass and fescue as the main grasses.

Galloping Lanes: Horse trails are established throughout the park. They go through the woods, back pastures and around the crop fields.



## 3. Natural Resources

### A. General

The park's natural areas will be managed for resource conservation and interpretation. A field survey of the site conducted in order to determine forest cover types revealed the following information on vegetative communities.

Approximately half of the site is considered agricultural land. This area is devoted entirely to use as pasture land and production of crops. The two dominant crops harvested at the site are hay and corn.

Approximately 20% of the area is considered developed land which consists of historic structures, recreational facilities, the Kidwell and Ellmore Farm complexes, parking and

managed turf areas.

Most of the remainder of the property is an upland hardwood forest, which covers the slopes down to Frying Pan Branch. This area acts as an important buffer between the developed land and Frying Pan Branch. The Chesapeake Bay Protection Act, recently adopted by Fairfax County (1994), requires a minimum of 100 feet of vegetative buffer along streams in agricultural land. This upland forest area provides more than the minimum required by the law. Some sections of the forest are quite mature with large white oaks dominating.

Frying Pan Branch flows along the north and northeast boundaries of the park. Although the flood plain is relatively small, the area contains significant aesthetic and geologic features. It has great wildlife and botanical value. There are interesting rock outcroppings and a small waterfall. The oak hickory forest that covers the drier sites blends into the floodplain. Red maple thrives in the more wet areas.

Wetland area: These areas collect surface water and provide valuable habitat for wildlife.

Woods: About 30 acres contain a collection of flora, fauna and geology that have irreplaceable interpretive value for programs, hayrides and trails for general visitors.

### B. Wildlife

The most visible wildlife in the park is along the open fields. Voles, moles, rabbits, groundhogs and mice support a variety of larger predators such as hawks, owls and foxes.

Raccoons, skunks, opossums and weasels have been active at the site and have at times caused



problems for the farm animals. Bird life is relatively abundant. Bluebirds are present and the area would provide a great location for bluebird nest boxes. Black rat snakes can be found around the farm along with several introduced species such as Norway rats, English sparrows, pigeons and starlings. The white-tailed deer are the largest wild animals found in the park.

#### 4. Facilities

Activities Center: The activities center is a 42,500-square-foot steel frame pre-engineered building with corrugated metal siding and roofing. This building contains a 110' x 235' dirt floor riding arena with halogen lamp illumination and restroom facilities.

Other Equestrian Facilities: Four wooden pole barns (A-D) contain 141 stalls for use during horse shows and other special events. The park maintains two fenced outdoor riding arenas (one lighted), two warm up rings and a schooling area. A three-mile cross-country course is maintained by area pony clubs. A wide range of jumps and equipment are available for equestrian use.



Kidwell Farm Facilities - See page 8, Section III. Park Information, 1. Cultural Resources

Ellmore Farm Facilities: Farm House: ±3,168 sf. 2-story house built in circa 1900 and converted to office space when acquired by the church in 1985.

Main Church (Converted Barn): ±5,674 sf. sanctuary seating for 250.

4H Building/ Maintenance Facility: Used for temporary horse stalls, equipment repair and maintenance, and special events, the 4H building is a 6,860 square-foot wood frame building with corrugated metal siding, standing seam metal roof and asphalt flooring.



#### B. Description of Adjacent Properties

While there are no commercial properties adjoining the park boundary, there will be 76 contiguous residential properties adjoining the northeast and eastern boundary of the park. Properties across Monroe Street, West Ox Road, Centreville Road and Frying Pan Road are residential. One property across Centreville Road (Bowman's Store) has been designated as eligible for the Floris Historic District along with most of Frying Pan Park. Two Fairfax County Park Authority properties upstream and downstream in the Frying Pan Branch Stream Valley will adjoin the park boundary as proposed. A major improvement of Centreville Road along the northern boundary of the park can be expected. The Virginia Department of

Transportation improvement will not adversely impact any historic properties in the Floris Historic Overlay District.

## IV. MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

### A. Resource Management

#### 1. Farm Resource Management

Kidwell Farm's livestock, crop and antique equipment are owned and managed by the Frying Pan Park and Youth Center Supervisory Board in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fairfax County Park Authority.

A. Animals: Traditional breeds that are marketable today are selected for the farm. Livestock breeds and conformation match current industry standards but breed selection is based on the history of what breeds were



known to be in this area in the early to mid twentieth century.

B. Equipment: The park owns a mixture of irreplaceable historic pieces, usable antiques and modern equipment. Tractors, hay equipment, tillage, corn and small grain planting and harvesting equipment, some horse-drawn, some tractor-drawn, are in the collection. There is an ongoing program to protect and or improve the storage and appropriateness of antique

pieces and the effectiveness of usable pieces. Period and used modern equipment is available from a variety of sources including other farm museums, farmers, farm auctions or donations.



C. Crops: Farm animals are fed with corn and hay grown on site with any surplus sold. Some crops are grown for their interpretive value or for entertainment such as a corn maze.

D. Gardens: Vegetable and flower gardens are planted and maintained by staff and volunteers to show how farm families did different chores and add to the park's atmosphere.

#### 2. Equestrian Center Management

The indoor ring of the Activities Center is sand-based and is used for all types of events including horse shows, soccer, dog shows and flea markets. The indoor ring is also available for evening riding. The outdoor rings are almost always open for riding. The 3 1/2 mile cross-country course has jumps for beginners through Pre-Lim. It was built and is maintained by the Difficult Run Pony Club. Equestrian facilities are available for rental and are booked most weekends.

When equestrian facilities are not being rented, the park hosts other events. Frying Pan Park typically hosts over a dozen one-day horse shows, which draw competitors from Virginia and Maryland and serve as good stepping-stones

for beginners. Two large Quarter Horse shows are also presented. One is a two-day event and the other a three-day event. These draw participants from up and down the East Coast.

The administrative office located in the Activity Center serves as the hub for key services including class and program registration and general administrative operations.



### 3. Cultural Resource Management

As major components of the eligible Floris Historic District, Frying Pan Park and the adjoining and adjacent properties are historically significant under the “broad pattern of events” criterion. The district represents the development of specialized agrarian practices as witnessed in the eventual rise, specialization and domination of dairy farming in the Commonwealth in the early to mid 20th century.



Frying Pan Park contains the most salient features of a tight-knit farming village represented by man-made resources such as schools, churches, farmhouses, agricultural buildings, and plowed fields and natural features including, woods, and green spaces.

Along with the contributing structures listed

above and protected open space, Frying Pan Park has a significant artifact collection with the potential for extraordinary growth as citizens choose to donate family items for exhibit and preservation.

## B. Interpretation & Visitor Services

### 1. Introduction

Frying Pan Park’s interpretive and visitor services serve a large and diverse population that continues to expand. Services include the facilities listed previously, personal and non-personal interpretation, camp and preschool programs, hayrides, and volunteer opportunities. Services are designed to enrich the visitors park experience and protect the park’s resources for future visitors. This section of the plan provides an overview of existing and future interpretation and visitor services.

### 2. Partnerships With Others

In traditional farm communities like Floris, farmers and farm families succeeded by depending on themselves, their families and their neighbors. Farm communities supported all the farms and farm families. Frying Pan Park flourishes in this continued tradition.

#### A. Volunteer Programs:

Frying Pan Park has over 60 volunteers that assist in a wide range of activities. There is the chore crew that cares for the animals, and 4-H members that help train and show animals at fairs. Adult volunteers restore equipment, drive hayrides and help with park events.

## B. Public-private partnerships

Local commercial establishments provide opportunities for public-private partnerships to fund projects and programs.

## C. Grants

A focused site mission and the site's proven programs put Frying Pan Park in a favorable position for grant applications and revenue.

## D. Support Groups

The Frying Pan Park and Youth Center Supervisory Board: Established in 1961, the Supervisory Board cooperatively conducts park programs under a memorandum of agreement with Fairfax County Park Authority.

Founders, Benefactors, Supervisors and Friends of Frying Pan Park, Inc.: Established in 2001, this group provides support similar as the Supervisory Board described above.

# V. GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The management framework integrates research, site analysis and basic data presented in this document. Management zones have been defined to provide a framework for decision making. Existing conditions and recommendations from a Frying Pan Park Task Force were considered in the development of the management zones. The framework provides broad flexibility within a range of potential uses for each management zone. The "Potential Uses" stated for the zone describes what uses are acceptable for each zone. If a use is not listed for a zone, by its omission, it is

considered an incompatible use for that zone. The potential uses are intentionally general to allow flexibility when making future decisions.

## A. Entrance Zone

The primary vehicular ingress/egress point into Frying Pan Park should occur at the visitor orientation center located at the Ellmore Farm (Chantilly Bible Church) site just off West Ox Road. A large visitor parking area is recommended at the visitor orientation center to accommodate normal traffic into the park.

Entrance zones should also be formally established to accommodate emergency and service vehicle access into the park directly from Centreville Road on the western boundary, from Monroe Street located on the eastern boundary of the park and from the existing entrance on West Ox Road. These entrances could also accommodate traffic associated with special events that take place periodically at the park. The entrances should be gated to prevent access at other than prescribed times.

### Potential Uses:

- Roads & Road Improvements
- Parking Facilities
- Trails & Utilities

## B. Historic Resources Zone

This zone includes parkland located within the eligible Floris Historic District. The period of historical significance of the district is 1791 and 1890 to 1951. Its significance is based on a 'broad pattern of events' and architecture. *"The district represents the development of specialized agrarian practices as witnessed in the eventual rise, specialization and domination*

*of dairy farming production in the Commonwealth in the early to mid-20th century. The historic boundaries include the most salient features that convey the agrarian characteristics of the Floris community. The tight-knit farming village of Floris is represented by man-made resources such as schools, churches, farmhouses and agricultural buildings and the last working farm in Fairfax County, the Frying Pan Park which includes the agrarian buildings as well natural elements of woods, plowed fields, green spaces, and Frying Pan Branch.”*

Potential Uses:

- Short Term Recreation
- Research, Interpretation & Education
- Trails & Trail Support Facilities
- Special Event Parking

### **C. Visitor Orientation Zone**

The visitor center is the primary visitor contact point to provide the basic resource for site interpretation and education.

Potential Uses:

- Visitor Services (site orientation, exhibits, library, classrooms, restrooms)
- Research, Interpretation & Education
- Auditorium
- Picnic Facilities
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Trails

### **D. Resource Protection Zone**

The area of the intermittent stream located in the northern edge of the parcel is currently

owned by the Board of Supervisors and should be protected in a future Resource Protection Zone (RPZ) if and when the land is deeded to the Park Authority. The RPZ should also include a buffer area adjacent to residential properties surrounding the parcel. Buffers between the recreational areas of the park will remain undeveloped and may additionally be planted with appropriate vegetation to further limit sound travel and lines of sight. Human impact in this zone will be kept to a minimum. Management of the natural resources will be allowed, however, new structures or environmental degradation of this zone shall be prohibited.

Potential Uses:

- Trails and Trail Support Facilities (except in buffer area)
- Wildlife & Habitat Management Research,
- Interpretation & Education

### **E. Recreation Zone**

The remaining area of the park will be designated a Recreation Zone. The primary purpose of this zone is to provide visitors with active and passive recreational experiences with an emphasis on equestrian use and activities.

Potential Uses:

- Active & Passive Recreation
- Utilities & Storm Water Management

## **MASTER PLAN REVISION CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

### **A. Introduction**

The Conceptual Development Plan (CDP) for Frying Pan Park describes recommendations for future park development. The CDP contains descriptions of the concept plan elements, design concerns and plans (maps) that show the general locations of recommended projects.

### **B. Description of Plan Elements**

#### **1. Horse Center and Stables**

New stables have been proposed in the area where the existing pole barns are now located. The stables should be designed to accommodate the following features:

- 180 10'x12' horse stalls opening to inside aisles
- Restrooms to accommodate 500 visitors per day
- Two shower stalls each for men and women
- 400 sq ft of interior office/administrative space
- Automatic sprinklers
- Ventilation system
- Horse trailer parking for 50 trailers
- Exterior electric service for 15 overnight units
- Covered accessible manure bin
- Covered feed storage

#### **2. Maintenance Building**

The proposed maintenance building and area is located next to the activities center on the east

side of the Activity Center building. The maintenance building should be designed to allow for indoor storage of the maintenance equipment and supplies and have adequate space to complete various projects inside the building. An office area and restroom facilities should be provided as well. This building should also be environmentally controlled.

### **3. Parking Areas**

Currently there is a large gravel parking lot located between the Kidwell Farm Area and the Activity Center. The existing entrance road and approximately ½ of the existing parking area should revert back to grass, thus eliminating the entrance and parking areas in that location. However, this entrance will be gated and remain as an access point for special events, emergency and service vehicles. Also, the current parking configuration at the park does not allow for adequate parking of horse trailers during large events. As a result, new parking areas are proposed to allow for more organized parking in the park. These areas are located at the Ellmore Farm, the Activities Center and the new stable area. There should be trailer hook-ups available in one of the proposed lots for overnight stays during multi-day equestrian events.

### **4. Visitor Center**

Frying Pan Park's interpretive and visitor services serve a large and diverse population that continues to expand. Services include personal and non-personal interpretation, camp and preschool programs, hayrides, and volunteer opportunities. A new visitor center and offices should be located in the Chantilly Bible Church buildings (Ellmore Farm). The building should be upgraded after appropriate structural and systems analysis and building code reviews.

## 5. Farm Outbuildings

Some of the proposed outbuildings would include a dairy building, hen house, machine shed, bull shed, well house, corn house, silo, garage, hog house, and tool shed. These buildings would not necessarily be located next to the Visitor Center. Farmland and horse trail fencing should be installed where appropriate.

## 6. Access Road

The existing entrance road that is located on West Ox Road can be a traffic hazard as the sight distance from the park is hidden by a dip in West Ox Road. It is also unsafe for parents with children to cross the road from the barn over to the playground. A new entrance and internal access road is proposed to be located at the existing Ellmore Farm entrance. The sight distance from the existing entrance road is better as that section of West Ox Road is relatively flat and allows for a better view into the road.

## 7. Walks & Trails

In accordance with the County Comprehensive Trails Plan, a six-foot surfaced bike/walking trail should be constructed between Monroe Street and Frying Pan Road as well as a trail located along West Ox Road. Also, the existing service road between the Kidwell farmyard and the proposed visitor center must be surfaced to accommodate baby carriages. A crosswalk for pedestrians and horses should be constructed at or near the current park entrance.

## C. Development / Design Concerns

The following should be considered during the Project Implementation Phase as each project is

established.

1. Control run-off drainage from fields, parking lots and roads. The current methods are grass ditches that serve as barriers for surface water that flows from West Ox Road to Frying Pan Branch. The water, from crop fields, buildings, pastures and parking lots, travels on the ground surface to wetland areas behind the Activity Center. There are several grass areas that serve filtration devices. With additional parking and roads, a more extensive and comprehensive drainage plan will be necessary.
2. Entrance Road - All entrance alternatives should be studied fully before committing to adding the main entrance to the park at the Ellmore Farm entrance. Also, alternative entrances should be considered for "horse trailer only" access to the park.
3. Galloping Lanes - Ample space should be given to the width of the galloping lanes, 60-100 feet if they are to be fenced.

## APPENDIX

### History of the Park

The name "Frying Pan" has no traceable origin. Maps as early as 1725 show the Frying Pan Branch, the local watershed that drains the area. According to one tradition, either Indians or early miners who camped in the vicinity mislaid a frying pan and named the creek after their loss. Another tradition is that the circular shape of a round pool in the branch influenced its appellation.

Frying Pan Park was part of Virginia's "Northern Neck", land chartered in 1649 by King Charles II to the Culpeper family. All of this property descended to Thomas, 6th Lord Fairfax. His land agent, Robert Carter of Nomini Hall (Westmoreland County), eventually owned the parcel that includes the present day park. Carter believed that copper could be mined from the land and set up the Frying Pan Company to tap and profit from this resource. Although no high-grade ore was found, mining and its related activities did open the area to settlement. West Ox Road, which forms the southern border of the park, was built as a mining road. During the 1700's farmers and planters followed the miners, but a permanent community was established by Baptists who, with the Carter's' permission, built the meeting house there in 1791.

Described as just four log huts and a meeting house in 1801, the village at the crossroads of West Ox Road and Centreville Road (in Centreville known as Frying Pan Road) slowly expanded through the 19th century to serve the numerous dairy and mixed crop farms. Agriculture was the backbone of the local economy, the neighboring town of Herndon

became a commercial rail stop from which the produce was sent to Washington, D.C. Until the late 19th century, the community was called Frying Pan. Sometime after 1891, the name changed from Frying Pan to "Floris".

By the early 1900's, the village had a blacksmith shop, a post office/general store, a boarding house, three churches, two schools, and several residences and surrounding farms. However, expanded mechanization, and the exodus of younger generations to the cities marked the demise of Floris and many other farm communities in Fairfax County. On April 30, 1907, post office consolidation combined Floris with Herndon, while communities like Forestville, Colvin Run, and Wiehle became part of Reston, Vienna and Great Falls.

With the Federal Government's purchase of local community farmland for Dulles Airport in 1958, and the suburban development that took place to house the Federal work force in Fairfax County, massive suburban development came to the Frying Pan area in the 1980's & 1990's.

Alarm over these changes spurred several reactions. One of these resulted in the establishment of Frying Pan Park.

Fairfax County agricultural agent Joseph Beard, who grew up in Floris, lobbied the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to preserve the county's agricultural heritage by using the old vocational school site as a youth center for Future Farmers of America, 4-H Clubs, and other agricultural organizations. In 1960 the land was deeded to the Fairfax County Park Authority, and an independent citizen supervisory board was appointed to co-manage the property. The Authority later purchased adjacent properties including the Kidwell Farm, Ellmore farmland and other properties, giving Frying Pan Park its

current 108+ acres.

### **Park Classification Descriptions**

#### **CLASS 4.3: Cultural Resource Park**

Cultural Resource Parks protect and preserve archaeological sites and historic properties that meet the eligibility requirements for the National Register of Historic Places Criteria or the Public Significance Criteria as designated by the Fairfax County (Virginia) Heritage Resource Management Plan. Historic Sites and Archaeological Parks may be located wherever evidence of human occupation exists on or beneath the land or waters. Depending on the extent of the resources, the Cultural Resource Park site may be designated as a Countywide Park or as sub-unit of another park classification. Acquisition, identification and preservation of cultural resources are for purposes of stewardship; use of the site is defined within stewardship parameters. Development of these parks should include opportunities for public education and enjoyment. To the extent that they do not adversely impact the cultural resources themselves, portions of the site may be developed with demonstration areas, and support facilities such as restrooms and parking.

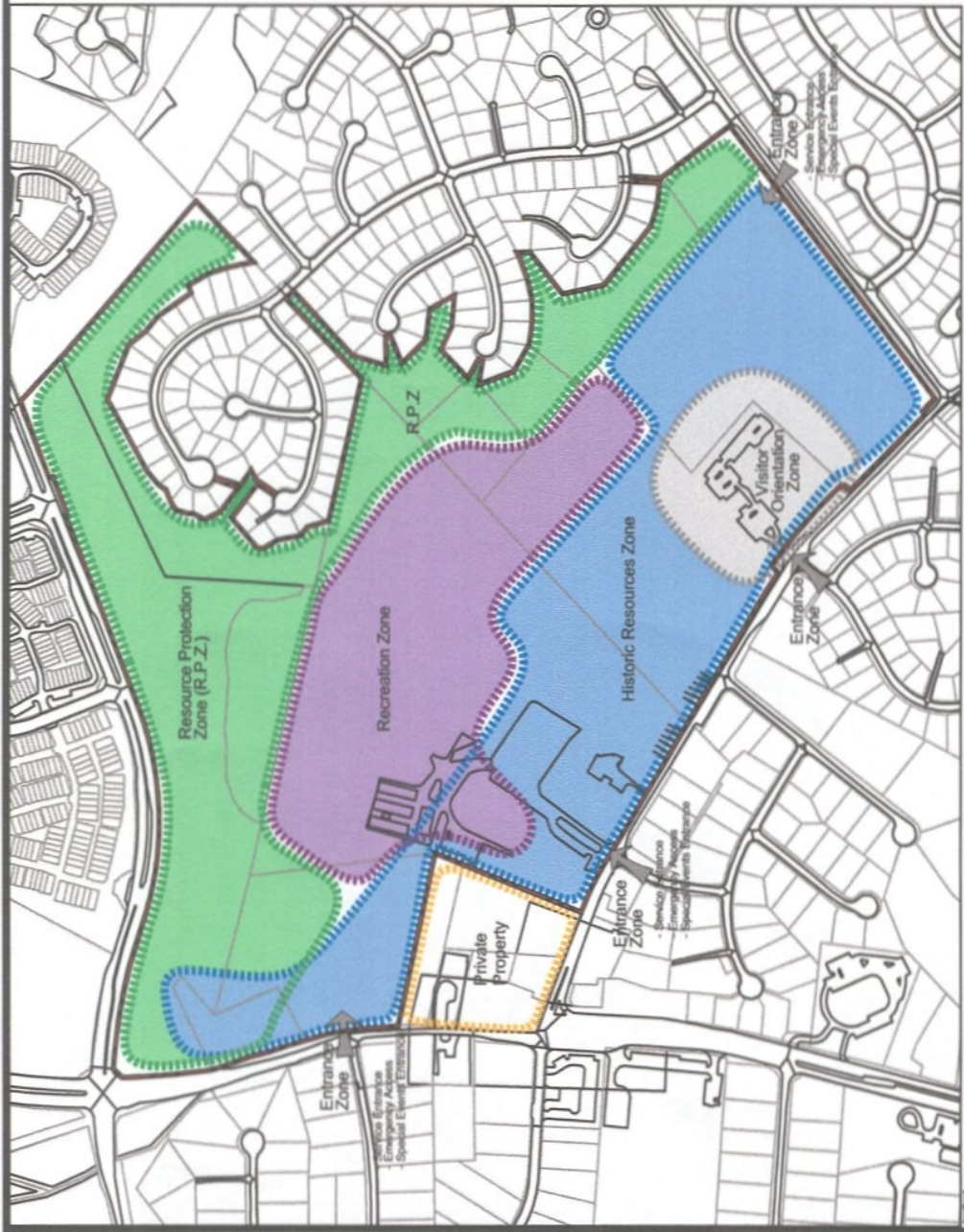
#### **CLASS 4.4: Multiple Resource Park**

Multiple Resource Parks provide a diversity of recreational opportunities. These parks can have natural settings and have intensely developed indoor or outdoor facilities which can accommodate large numbers of people without significant deterioration of the recreation experience. Proximity to major highways or arterial roads is highly desirable. This category of park is oriented to activities that involve an individual or group for a time period ranging from most of the day to a week. Related activities may attract large numbers of spectators and participants. Facilities may

include complexes of 10-12 lighted tournament level athletic fields, special features such as miniature trains, carousels, water parks and miniature golf. Sensitive environmental areas and cultural resource sites will be managed as Natural or Cultural Resource sub-units of these parks.

#### **CLASS 4.5: Special Purpose Parks**

Special Purpose Parks provide recreation activities that require specialized equipment or independent facilities. Facilities may be indoor or outdoor and may require structural improvements in either case. These parks may be located as separate sites or as sub-units within other types of parklands. Parking should be provided for the majority of users. Facilities which could be developed as Special Purpose Areas may include golf courses, driving ranges, horticulture centers and gardens, ice rinks, marinas, archery and shooting ranges, field houses, athletic field/spectator stadiums and equestrian facilities.



General Management Plan - Draft



Prepared By:  
Fairfax County Park Authority  
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**Frying Pan Park**

Scale: 1"=200'

