

Fort Ward Park Community Meeting
February 18, 2009, 7:00 pm, St. Stephens and St. Agnes School

Small Group Discussions

GROUP 1

- Parking Availability for casual use
- Security for Park
- African American History Input
- Improved communication with community (regarding events)
- Process for contacting Park Authorities
- Drainage
- Postpone facilities plan until master plan completed
- Pay Phone on Westside
- Alcohol and noise permits should be re-evaluated and possibly banned.
- Re-establish arboretum at Fort Ward
- Interpretive trail—cultural and natural resources (including African American Heritage)

GROUP 2

Historical.Cultural Uses

- Compatible with other recreational uses
- Large special events, not historic, negative impact on historic site and unrelated to history
- Marketing “park story” through events.

Park Operational uses

- Damage to gravesites
- DO NOT increase parking
- Clean/upkeep of maintenance facility on a regular basis
- Storage of leaves (piles)
- Leaf blower noise—why do we pick up all leaves?

Active Recreational Uses

- Reasonable capacity of pavilions
- Keep playground
- Noise control—music—amplified noise
- Parking—spillover into neighborhood
- Location of pavilions—close to neighbors
- Compatible uses w/ historic character

Passive/Casual Use

- Walking/Running Paths maintained
- Keep restrooms available

Environmental/Natural Resources

- Why is the irrigation system needed?

Other

- Drug Use/ Crime
- Rats/Vermin
- Parking (and speeding) for St. S./St. A.

GROUP 3

Historical/Cultural Uses

- Clearly identify Historic Areas
- Mission Statement –Historical
- Signage
- Interpretive Programs
- Expand Historical attributes
- Fort's context-Before, During, After, Civil War
- Clearly Identify Parks Historical Purpose
- African American History—Restoration of community graves and artifacts—historic markers—exhibit for museum

Park Operations/Maintenance

- Azalea Beds
- Maintenance Yard-Debris Storage
- Trees-City Arboretum-non-existence
- Turf Damage
- Mowing Activities damaging Gravesite/Historic Property
- Embankment Issues
- Org. Structure—Who do you go to?
- Fewer Pavillions and where—Do we need them
- Doc. of Trees/Historic

Active Uses

- Traffic—Eliminate vehicles?---Relocate Vehicles
- Safety & Security
- Parking on grass
- Mix of Walkers w/ traffic

- Crowd Size/Permits (control)—Limit Use Size
- Excessive Trash
- General Use vs. Historic preservation
- Walking Park is a plus
- Access to park—controlled
- Lighting Issues: lights on-no bodies
- More controlled active use-rentals
- Max. usage Park to balance use vs. historic
- Pavillions: How many—Size—Do we need them?
- Communications w/ Public –Mission Statement—Open Comm. w/ neigh.

Passive/Casual Use

- Fewer parking lots
- Tree Work
- Less Traffic
- No ABC Permits
- More Historical emphasis
- More passive use

Environmental/Natural Resources

- Environmental Plan—Roads, Parking, Tree Ident., etc.
- Arboretum
- Azalea Beds-Festival
- Eco City-How does this fit in the plan?
- Develop Mission Statement
- Recognize Historic Significance; Few lots, Shelters, More passive use
- Community Service Plans

Other

- Trash Containers/More Dog receptacles
- Flower Beds
- Seasonal Plantings
- Staff Parking using Visitor Space

GROUP 4

- Landscape concept of park- 'historical' w/ azalea beds—lower usage—simple controlled use
- Trash Dumpster-location/fencing
- New speed bumps don't 'blend' into environment
- 'Historic' park amenities should reflect 'historic use'
- Recent uses insensitive to historic aspect of park
- Pedestrian/vehicular are shared-have a pedestrian only 'loop' (safety issue)
- Utilize stormwater as irrigation location around loop
- Stop/close picnic reservations for a period to give park 'rest' regenerate
- Picnic Reservations: Users coming from outside of Alexandria—area reserved w/ 1 member from Alex.
- Staff not on duty to address problems/needs. Users go to museum.
- 'Loud' signage-inappropriate for historic park
- 'Uniform' signage needed
- Reservation timed 1 hr. before park closes. Reservations extend past park closing hours.
- Speed bumps-ADA compliant? (Shared use road—ped + vehicles)
- Limit picnic uses along residential uses
- Assess picnic usage by temporarily reducing picnic usage
- Early 80's-park extremely attractive
- Ex. "nursery" not being used as such, used more as staging area
- City vehicles parked @ museum lot. Give wrong impression (trucks,employees)
- Park under OHA?
- City operations located @ park is a major issue.

GROUP 5

- Electrical Outlets for Special Events (controlled)
- Master plan for Arboretum
 - Education
 - Plant Collections
- Security
 - Closing times
 - Police in Parks
 - Gates
- Drainage along east Property Line
- Rehab Restrooms
- Rehab/Upgrade Amphitheatre
- Sidewalks
- Electronics Power Control

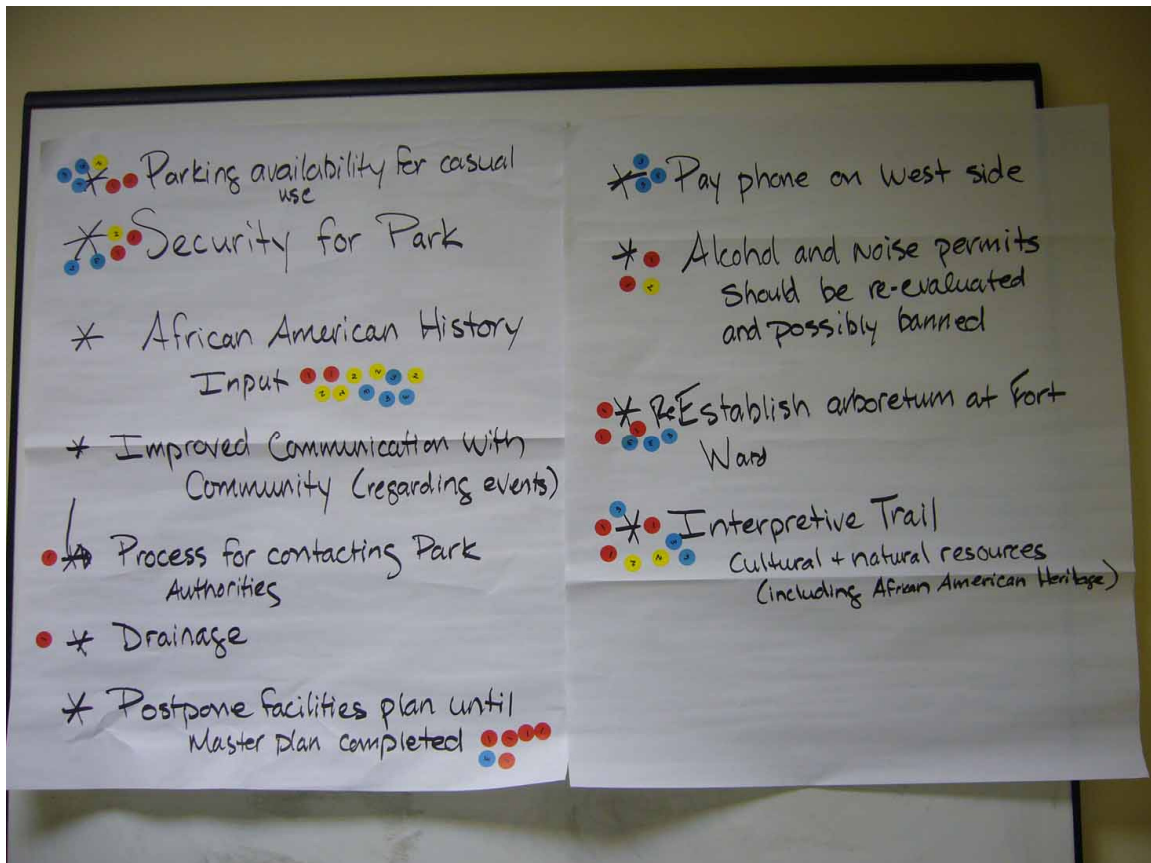
- Identify how Park is used; How under/over utilized areas
- Rebalance use
- Less Disco More Park
 - Prohibit alcohol
 - Prohibit amplified Sound
- Programming for Nursery--Now and when its gone
- Passive Arboretum
- Better Maintenance of Cemetery
- No More pavilions
- No Additional Parking

Fort Ward Park Community Meeting
February 18, 2009, 7:00 pm, St. Stephens and St. Agnes School

Priority Exercise

After the group discussions, all the notes were displayed on a wall. The participants reviewed the notes and were given colored dots to place next to items they thought to be of importance and priority. The dots were given the following ratings:

Red= HIGH level of priority
Yellow= MEDIUM level of priority
Blue= LOW level of priority



Historic/Cultural Uses

- * Compatible w/ other (recreational uses)
- * Large special events ^{not historic} negative impact on historic site and unrelated to history
- * Marketing park "story" through events

Park Operational Uses

- * Damage to gravesites
- * Do NOT increase parking
- * Clean / upkeep of maintenance facility on a regular basis
- * Storage of leaves (piles)
- * Leaf blower noise - why do we pick up ^{all} leaves?

Active Recreational Uses

- * Reasonable Capacity of pavillions
- * Keep playground
- * Noise control
 - ↳ music + amplified noise
- * Parking - spillover into neighborhood
- * Location of pavillion
 - ↳ close to neighbors
- * Compatible Uses w/ Historic Character

Passive/Casual Use

- * Walking / Running paths maintained
- * Keep restrooms available

Environmental / Natural Resources

- * WHY ^{is} the irrigation system needed?

Other

Drug / Crime
Rats / Vermin
Parking (and speeding) for St. S/St. A

Environment/Natural Resources

- Environmental Plan
 - Run, Biking, Tree Plant, etc
- Interpretation
- Historic Bells - Festival
- Landscaping - Monitor this not in the plan?

- Develop Median Street
- Green Area Historic Significance
- Community Space Plans
- Runway, Street, Park, etc

Other

- Trash Containers/Placing Bins
- Flower Beds
- Seating/Plantings
- Staff Parking using Water Space

Historic/Cultural Uses

- Clearly Identify Historic Areas
- Mission Statement - Historical
- Signage
- Interpretive Programs
- Expand Historical Activities
- Get to Know - Before Doing Action Checklist
- Clearly Identify Risk Historical Property

Park Operations/Maintenance

- Assess All Parts
- Maintenance Work - Debris Storage
- Trees - City Arborist, Maintenance
- Turf Damage
- Moving Activities, Demolishing Garages/Historic Property
- Entertainment Issues
- City Structure - Who do you go to?
- Fewer Historic Parkways - Drive more there
- Doc of Data/Historic

Communication

- Mission Statement
- Open Comm. w/ Public

Active Uses

- Traffic
- Safety & Security
- Parking on Streets
- Mow, Water w/ Table
- Ground Size/Permits (Cater)
- Grassie Trash
- General Use vs Historic Preservation
- Walking Park is a plus
- Access to park - Routes
- Lighting Issues: light on No Bikes
- More Controlled Active Use - Routes
- Eliminate Vehicles?
- Relocate Vehicles
- Parking: how many size, how much time?
- Park using Red to indicate use vs historic
- Limit use size

Passive/Carroll Use

- Fewer Parking Lots
- Less Water
- NO ABC Permit
- More Historic Emphasis
- Tree Work
- People parking

1. Assessment
 2. Management
 3. Monitoring & Evaluation
- Picnic reservations: users coming from outside of Alexandria - area preserved w/ 1 member of group from Alex.
 - Staff not on duty to address problems/needs. users go to Museum
 - 'Loud' signage - inappropriate for historic park
 - 'Uniform' signage needed
 - Reservation timed 1 hr. before park closes. Reservations extend past park closing hours.
 - Speed bumps - ADA compliant? (shared use road - ped + vehicles)
 - Limit picnic uses along residential uses
 - Assess picnic usage by temporarily reducing picnic usage
 - Early 80's - park extremely attractive
 - Landscape concept of park 'historical' w/ actual beds - lower usage, simple controlled use
 - Trash dumpster - location/fencing
 - New speed bumps don't "blend" into environment
 - Historic park amenities reflect 'historic use'
 - Inensitive to historic aspect of park
 - Pedestrian/vehicular are shared - have a pedestrian only 'loop' (Safety issue)
 - Utilize ~~trash~~ stormwater as irrigation location around 'loop'
 - Stop picnic reservation for a period close to give park 'rest' regenerate

- Ex "nurseries" not being used as such. used more as staging area
- City vehicles parked @ museum lot. give wrong impression (struts, employees)
- Park under OHA?
- City operations/located @ park is a major issue.

• Electrical Outlets For
Special Events (Controlled)

• Master Plan for Arboretum
Education • •
Plant Collections

• • • Security
Closing times
• Police in Park
Gates

• • • Drainage Along East Property Line

• • • Rehab Restrooms • • •
• Rehab/Upgrade Amphitheatre
• Sidewalks
Electronics Power
Controls

• • Identify How Park is Used How
Under/Over Utilized Areas

• • Rebalance Use
Less Disco More Park
• • • • • Prohibit Alcohol
• • • • • Prohibit Amplified Sound

• • Programming for Nursery
Now and when its gone
Passive Arboretum

• • Better Maintenance of Cemetery

• • No More Pavilions

• • No Additional Parking