



MEMORANDUM

Executive Director

September 11, 2007

TO: Prince William County Planning Commission

FROM: E. Jay Ellington, Park Authority Executive Director

SUBJECT: Parks, Open Space and Trails Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan

The Park Authority Board met on Thursday September 6, 2007 to discuss the Parks, Open Space and Trails Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. The Park Authority Board received the two proposed documents when they arrived at the meeting that evening, resulting in these very preliminary comments:

- There was general consensus that the Park Authority supports the development of a Trails Advisory Group (rather than a Trails Commission) and would like to see the Park Authority as the lead agency for trails, as a majority of all trails usage is recreational. The Park Authority prefers that the Trails Advisory Group is developed to support the Park Authority's effort in trail development and that it fall under the Park Authority umbrella.
- Further discussion will be needed regarding the goal of 39% of the County's total land mass being preserved in open space and the goal of 15 acres of parkland per thousand citizens. Some members felt that these numbers may be too conservative and our goals should be a reach.
- There was general consensus that the Park Authority supports moving forward the Parks, Open Space and Trails Chapter originally prepared by the citizens group, and amended by Park Authority and Planning staff for public hearing.

The Park Authority recognizes the Parks, Open Space and Trails Chapter of Prince William County's Comprehensive Plan is an important document in helping to create the roadmap for future development in the County. The Park Authority staff spent many hours working with the citizens group to develop their draft document, and then again with the County Planning Staff to ensure that the document ensures the growth and development of Parks, Open Space and Trails in Prince William County.