

Parks and Open Space Plan - Summary of Comments on the Draft Text **(Updated as of 11/29/2006)**

Intent

- Clarify the 40% of the county is parks and open space statement, why does it include golf courses, which are developed?
- Many of the numbers and statistics are confusing. Clarify them. The 40% number in particular is misleading, because much of that number includes land that is not open to public access.
- Develop a better definition of open space.
- Much of the land that is counted as parks/open space is private land and not accessible for the public. Why is this land counted in the 40% number?
- Why was all the language on public accessibility removed?
- More Action Strategies based on public comments and surveys.
- Plan needs to take into account the quality of life of PWC residents. Especially those in proximity to the Davis Ford sewage treatment plant.
- Reference public surveys in the Plan more.
- Create a legacy of open space in the County. Develop long-range goals in how the County will maintain a certain level of open space.
- Take aggressive steps towards preserving open space now, before all of it is developed.
- For parks and open space that are owned by HOA's, count in statistics only land that either contains a conservation easement, or is designated open space in the Comp Plan.
- Include the summary page of the survey in the CPA
- Use P&OS plan to generate money for future P&OS
- Plan contains too much soft language; must include stronger language
- Include in the plan a method for acquiring open space
- Wildlife should be a consideration
- Formulate better definitions of open space and passive and active recreation
- Plan should not allow developers to double-count
- Need a good definition of the P&OS long-range land use designation
- Make the document tougher and more enforceable
- Link terms to other documents

Parks

- Look at the Davis Ford sewage treatment plant site as a future open space parcel
- Identify areas that are underserved by parks and identify strategies to mitigate
- Look at the use and function of parks related to their surroundings
- Are HOA's appropriate guardians of open space?
- Should HOA land be counted as neighborhood parks?
- Park Authority should be allocated more resources in order to maintain neighborhood parks. If neighborhood parks aren't cost effective to maintain, then the Park Authority needs more \$.

- Develop a mechanism to designate future parkland and allow for its use.
Example: Fairfax County's trails.
- Increase beauty of smaller parks
- Target where the County needs recreation

Facilities

- Examine the feasibility of "Central Park/Olmstead" design for certain park facilities
- Show how we are doing in relation to facility goals
- Put more emphasis on cultural resources facilities, especially Native American sites.
- Manage smaller parks for wildlife.
- Reduce vandalism in smaller parks

Open Space

- Develop a strategy for acquisition of open space.
- How will open space be protected?
- What measures and goals are there for open space so we can see our progress?
How will we track open space over time?
- Ensure open space is protected in perpetuity.
- Develop a means by which new open space can be acquired once prior open space is developed, so that the County doesn't "lose" open space.
- Find a way to preserve private land as open space.
- Develop stronger measures for developers to preserve open space. Come up with clear guidelines for preserving and proffering open space.
- More emphasis on preserving RPA/wetland resources.
- Get quality land from developers; clarify what we want from developers when it comes to open space
- Require land from developers

Connections

- Provide more connections on the Corridor map.
- Coordinate with other jurisdictions about trails and connections, not just about LOS.
- Put a larger emphasis on trails, hiking, and walking.
- There is only 1 public access point in the Occoquan blueway
- Connectivity is key to improving Plan
- Natural surface trails should be a priority

Coordination

- Consider the parks and open space amendments concurrent with the rural area, transportation plan, Potomac Communities Plan, Environment Plan, and Mass Transit Plan

- How are the Plan policies being enforced? Who enforces protection against environmental damage? Should there be an enforcement arm of the Park Authority?
- Coordinate with COG and other jurisdictions about benchmarks.
- There is no charter or institution within the Park Authority to work with passive recreation or open space, or connectivity. This needs to be institutionalized.
- Better coordination between separate County agencies in planning for and maintaining parks and open space.
- County needs to look into partnering with the private sector.
- Better coordination with the Service Authority in the wake of the Davis Ford Road Middle School application.
- Develop incentives for private property owners to convey land for parks and open space.
- Coordinate \$ and resources for parks and open space better between separate County agencies, and between the County and regional agencies.
- There should be a higher amount of County-owned and maintained parks and open space. Procure this from developers.
- Compete and compare progress on parks and open space to Fairfax County, for example.
- Improve connectivity in corridors plan.

Level of Service

- 13.8 acres/1000 is too low; Fairfax is 23 acres/1000
- It may be more useful to classify the LOS needs in terms of % of land, as opposed to % of population.
- Come up with action strategies to implement a higher level of service.
- County must purchase lands to meet future LOS