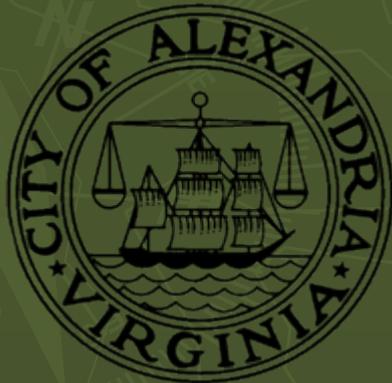


Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural
Activities
and
The Office of Historic Alexandria

Fort Ward Park Update



City Council Work Session
May 26, 2009



Fort Ward Park – “Now”



Fort Ward Park – “Then”



Fort Ward – Pictures from the Past



Fort Ward Park



FORT WARD PARK



Sports Field
and Tennis
Courts

St. Stephens / St.
Agnes School

VAN DORN STREET

WEST BRADDOCK ROAD

Fort Ward Park

- ▶ 37 Acre Park
- ▶ Museum and Fort
- ▶ Adjacent 5 Acre Athletic Field/Tennis Court Area
- ▶ 115 Parking Spaces
- ▶ 64 Picnic Tables, 1 Shelter, 9 Seating Benches, 34 Trash Cans
- ▶ Dog Exercise Area
- ▶ Walking Path
- ▶ Amphitheater
- ▶ Restrooms

Community Meetings 2009



City of Alexandria, VA

City Hall, 301 King St. Room 3500, Alexandria, VA 22314

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2009
PIO#078-09/jlh

For More Information, Contact:

Jennifer Harris, Communications Officer
703.838.5078 or Jennifer.harris@alexandriava.gov

City of Alexandria Schedules Community Meeting to Present Draft Action Plan on Fort Ward Park

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and the Office of Historic Alexandria invite the public to attend the third community meeting regarding a draft action plan to address community concerns about current facilities and operations at Fort Ward Park, located at 4301 West Braddock Road. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of T. C. Williams High School, 3330 King St.

City staff will present findings generated from the two previous meetings, and the public will have the opportunity to comment on the draft action plan. Residents unable to attend the meeting can view the presentation online beginning Thursday, March 19, and may submit written comments to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Attention: Laura Durham, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314, or by e-mailing laura.durham@alexandriava.gov. The deadline for written comments is Friday, March 27.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the City's Human Rights Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation or to request materials in an alternative format, please call Laura Durham, Open Space Coordinator, at 703.838.5095, ext. 350 (TTY 703.838.4902), or e-mail laura.durham@alexandriava.gov.

www.alexandriava.gov

February 18, 2009

March 4, 2009

March 18, 2009

Community Meetings 2009

- ▶ Group Discussions
- ▶ Priority Exercise



Community Findings - Key Issue Areas

- ▶ Historic and Cultural
- ▶ Park Operations and Maintenance
- ▶ Active Recreation
- ▶ Passive/Casual Use
- ▶ Environmental/Natural Uses

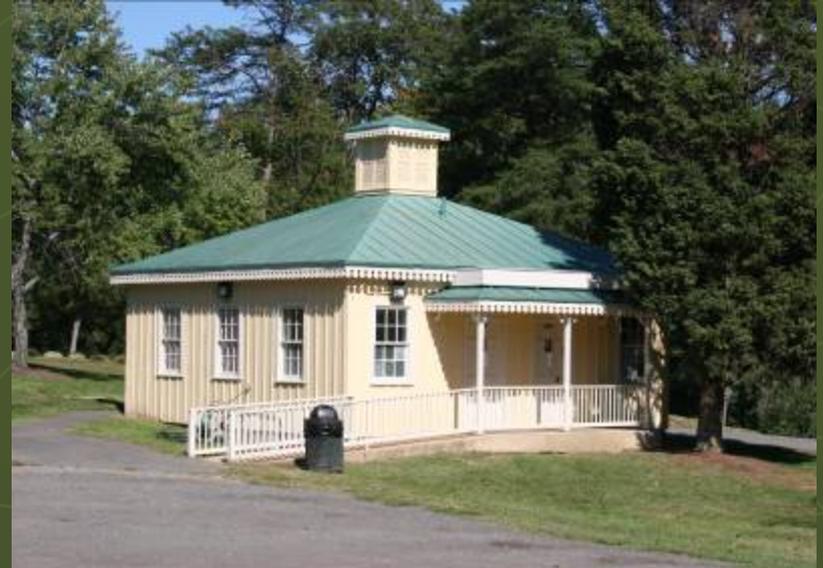
Historical/Cultural Uses

- ▶ African American History of Park
- ▶ Identification of Historic Areas
- ▶ Promotion of Park History
- ▶ Interpretive Trail
- ▶ Resource Management



Park Operations and Maintenance

- ▶ Maintenance Facility
- ▶ Rehabilitate Restrooms
- ▶ Communications/Assistance
- ▶ Security
- ▶ Cemeteries/Gravesites
- ▶ Park Amenities



Active Recreational Uses

- ▶ Picnics
- ▶ Parking/Vehicles
- ▶ Special Events
- ▶ Available Facilities
- ▶ Site Management



Passive/Casual Uses

- ▶ Pedestrian Paths
- ▶ Parking Availability for Casual Use



Environmental/Natural Resources

- ▶ Arboretum
- ▶ Trees and Landscaping
- ▶ Drainage



Other Issues

- ▶ Park Planning
- ▶ Volunteer Ideas
- ▶ Miscellaneous Concerns: Drug Use, Crime, Rats, Pay Phones, Utilities

Balancing User Needs



Balancing User Needs

- ▶ Interim actions and plan for Spring/Summer 2009 season
- ▶ RPCA and OHA coordinated future park planning efforts

Spring 2009 Actions

Park Management

- Park manager on duty (weekends and holidays)
- Picnic reservation system
 - - 4 hour block rentals with deposit
 - - defined interim park capacity, 350 maximum
- Improved signage for alcohol and noise
- Removal of picnic area 1 shelter and rental use

Spring 2009 Actions

▶ Park Operations and Maintenance:

- Relocation of some of the horticultural and maintenance operations,
- Clean-up of maintenance yard,
- Seasonal weekend assistant park manager added,
- Defined maintenance hut use,
- New trash can and pick-up program for museum use
- Amphitheater area used for maintenance operations,
- Planned protection of known grave sites and stones,
- Drafting MOU between ROCA and OHA – working group meeting now, interim “no ground disturbance” policy,
- Defined interim general mowing, maintenance and repair program

Spring 2009 Gravesite Protection



Gravesites April 2009



Gravesites May 2009 – roped off

Spring 2009 Reservation Map



Park Entrance

Spring 2009



Park Entrance

Spring 2009



Parking/Traffic Improvements



Maintenance Yard



January 2009



May 2009

Maintenance Yard



January 2009



May 2009

Maintenance Yard



January 2009



May 2009

Picnic Area 1



Spring 2008



Spring 2009

Picnic Area 4



April 2008



May 2009

Picnic Area 5



April 2008



May 2009

Fort Ward Athletic Field



April 2008



Spring 2009

Conclusion

Next steps

- ▶ Fort Ward Park and Museum work group – OHA
- ▶ OHA cultural resource investigation – summer graduate research intern
- ▶ Archeological phase one survey to begin FY2010
- ▶ RPCA gather data on park use throughout 2009 season
- ▶ Potential establishment of a stakeholders' advisory group
- ▶ Future master planning effort for the park

Thank you

