

EXHIBIT NO. 1
City of Alexandria, Virginia

2
6-27-05

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 22, 2005
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 
SUBJECT: REQUESTED "YATES GARDENS/OLD TOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMPROMISE PLAN" AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ON JONES POINT PARK FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Attached as requested is the "Yates Gardens/Old Town Civic Association Compromise Plan" for City Council review and consideration at Council's June 27 Public Hearing on Jones Point Park Alternative Concept Plans.

A number of questions were raised by City Council Members about Jones Point Park issues and are outlined below for review:

- FIELD USES/INVENTORY
- FIELD LOCATIONS-JPP
- HYDROLOGY
- WETLANDS
- ST. MARY'S SCHOOL TURNAROUND
- CITY EMPLOYEE COMMUTER PARKING
- FIELD MAINTENANCE AND EXPENSE
- SECURITY ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH BRIDGE AND PARK USERS
- SYNTHETIC SURFACING
- FIELD LIGHTING
- SCHEDULING OF EVENTS
- SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT/ADDITIONAL DOLLARS AVAILABLE FROM FEDERAL/STATE FOR CITY

1. Field Uses/ Inventory: Availability of alternative field space within the City.

There are several parks that were large enough in size to possibly accommodate an additional field, and these were reviewed for potential alternative field locations. These include Ben Brenman Park, Stevenson Square Park and All Veteran's Park.

Ben Brenman Park

There exists a large open green area at Ben Brenman Park that historically has been reserved for a possible Multi-generational Recreation Center. At this time, this area is still reserved, pending the Chinquapin Recreation Center Renovation, planned for completion in 2010-2011. Placing a multi-purpose playing field at Ben Brenman would require a Special Use Permit.

Stevenson Square Park

Stevenson Square Park, located off Stevenson Avenue in the west end of Alexandria, contains a playground and a ball field. This park is surrounded by woods. A large 110x60 yd field could be accommodated at the park as an "overlay" to the ball field, which would restrict the field use during the overlap of the baseball and soccer/lacrosse seasons. Construction of the field would require approximately 25-30 trees to be removed. A Special Use Permit would be required.

All Veterans Park

All Veterans Park is a possible alternative site. This park is located off N. Pickett Street, down the street from the CVS on Duke Street. This location could only accommodate a smaller field, due to the proximity of the Resource Protection Area. A Special Use Permit would be required.

2. Field Locations within Jones Point Park: Alternative field layouts

As noted in the February 22, 2005, Jones Point Park City Council Work Session, alternative field locations within JPP were reviewed that included fields under the bridge. A small field (40x80 yd) would physically fit under the bridge, but due to noise from the bridge directly above the field, staff did not recommend this alternative. A field located under the appropriate span height would impede maintenance of the bridge as well as impact the field as the maintenance occurred. Additional layouts were considered during the Jones Point Work Group process which included two 60x110 yd fields side by side north of the bridge, (ultimately labeled Scheme B), one 60x110 yd field north of the bridge and one 40x80 yd field south of the bridge (ultimately labeled Scheme C), and one field south of the bridge (originally labeled Scheme D). The schemes forwarded to City Council were Scheme A, field layout that is the most similar to the Approved Concept Plan, and Scheme E, a no field option. All five options can be found in Attachment 7 of the Work Group Report. City Council requested staff to bring the "Yates Garden/Old Town Civic Compromise Plan" forward and it is attached to this memo (Attachment 1). This scheme shows a small 45x75 yd field south of the bridge.

3. Hydrology: The Hydrology of the area and proposed field impact on the neighborhood

Attached is the Hydrology report that was requested by the Jones Point Park Work Group to address the Hydrology issues (Attachment 2). As noted in the February 22 Work Session, and the report, "The results of the analysis indicate that the playing fields will have no impact on the Potomac River flood plain in the area of Jones Point. Any future flood events will not be exacerbated by these playing fields." Staff recognizes that additional study is necessary prior to final design, however, staff concurs with the conclusion of the report.

4. Wetlands: The impact of the fields or parking on the wetlands

It is the intent of the project to have the least impact on the wetlands as possible. All field locations are shown outside the delineated wetlands. The parking option for 110 spaces crosses the wetland area with a bridge as does the layout for 80 spaces. The newest parking layout shown on the "Yates Gardens/Old Town Civic Compromise Plan" shows a culvert over the wetland area as well. Staff and the community have acknowledged the need to update the delineated wetland areas during the design process, but staff recognizes that any design must be accomplished in a manner that does not adversely impact the wetland area.

5. St. Mary's School Turnaround: The impact of a new park entrance and parking on Royal Street

At this time, all schemes show parking inside the park, allowing for free movement along Royal Street. No parking is proposed on Royal Street, other than what currently exists as a public street. There is a proposed turnaround or cul-de-sac at the end of Royal which will enable St. Mary's School to coordinate their afternoon pick up without interference from park parking.

6. City Employee Commuter Parking: Alternative locations for City employee parking

At the February 22 Work Session, several sites were reviewed for alternative employee parking arrangements. Those sites included: the Lee Center, Business Center Drive, and Hunting Towers. At this point, due to the rush hour traffic situation both morning and afternoons, the Lee Center and Business Center Drive are not feasible locations for this parking. Shuttles would be caught in the morning and evening rush hours, making transitions from the sites to City Hall difficult. The Hunting Towers site was recommended, but is not likely to be available due to the owner's desire to sell the property. At this time, this site is not feasible. Staff will continue researching possible sites, preferably north of City Hall, for alternative parking arrangements, but it is highly unlikely that a site will be found where we can provide very low cost parking. It should be noted that the parking available for employees serves an important need for individuals within the lower and mid pay scale levels.

7. Maintenance and Expense: Field related

The field maintenance at the proposed design level would cost \$15,000-\$20,000 per field per year. A smaller field would require less in annual maintenance. The estimated construction cost for the fields is \$1 million - \$1.5 million, depending on field size and is funded under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Settlement Agreement.

8. Security Issues Associated with Bridge and Park Users

Security thresholds are set by the Transportation Security Agency (TSA). The City has to gain approval from Maryland SHA, VDOT, and TSA in order to have any plan which includes parking under the bridge or within the security setbacks.

9. Synthetic surfacing

Currently, the field usage using regular turf standards is 9 months out of the year. Creating one field in a high end new synthetic turf would allow using the field 12 months a year. The utility for one field in this synthetic turf would capture 1 ½ to 2 times greater playing time, but would not cover the usage for two games in concurrent play.

10. Field Lighting

Field lighting is not proposed for the fields at Jones Point Park.

11. Scheduling of Events

Events, such as the City's birthday celebration, may be scheduled in the future at Jones Point Park if the appropriate security measures can be achieved and once construction is completed.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1. "Yates Gardens/Old Town Civic Association Compromise Plan"

Attachment 2. Hydraulic Review Study

STAFF:

Kirk Kincannon, Director, RP&CA

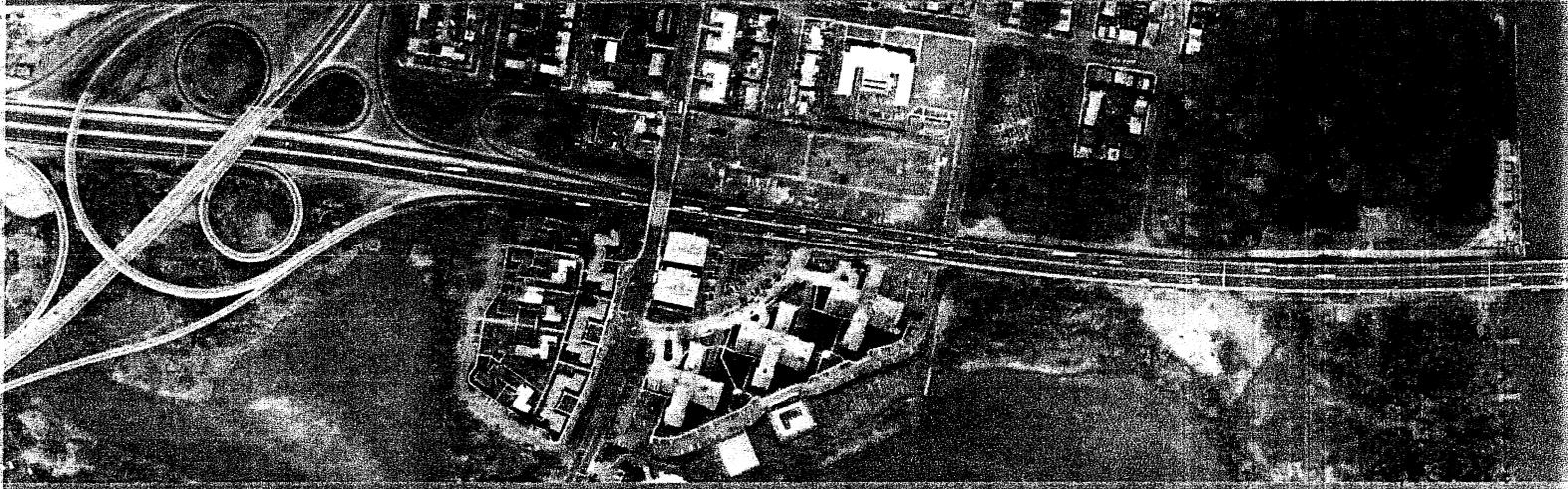
Rich Baier, Director, TE&S

Jean Federico, Director, OHA

Roger Blakeley, Deputy Director, RP&CA

Aimee Vosper, Landscape Architect Supervisor, RP&CA

Jones Point Park



Hydraulic Review Study

April 2005

 **EarthTech**

A **tyco** International Ltd. Company



TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: The City of Alexandria, Department of Environmental Services
From: Earth Tech, Inc., 675 N. Washington Street, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314
Subject: Jones Point Park Hydraulic Review Study
Date: April 12, 2005
Conducted by: Scott Delgado, PE and Joe Huesmann, PE

INTRODUCTION

This memorandum conveys the findings of a Hydrology Review for the construction of two multi-purpose recreational fields as part of the Jones Point Park improvements. The review is based on the August 2001 plans provided by the City of Alexandria (65% plans from VDOT). The proposed multi-use fields consist of one 180' x 330' field oriented east-west and one 180' x 330' field oriented north-south. The multi-use fields will be constructed on fill over portions of the existing access road and within an existing wooded area approximately four (4) feet above the existing grade.

Jones Point Park is located within the City of Alexandria at the waterfront of the Potomac River, adjacent to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge (See Figure 1). The bridge bisects the park, approximately 23 acres to the north of the bridge and 25 acres to the south. The topography of the proposed site is flat, with specific areas previously identified (by others) as designated wetlands to the north of the site.

The site is bounded on the north and west by residential housing. Due to the proximity of the Potomac River, and the low-lying nature of Jones Point, this memorandum addresses the impacts of raising the grade by placing fill for developing the playing fields, and its affect on drainage.

PROJECT SITE

Jones Point is flat, with some low areas that pond with water during rainfall events. Wet-weather ditches carry most of the runoff from the portion of Jones Point south of the Wilson Bridge directly to the Potomac River. Runoff in the northwestern portion of Jones Point is collected in a ditch that drains into a culvert that crosses beneath I-95. The culvert outfalls into a wetland area to the south of the existing bridge. The northeastern part of the site where the recreational fields are proposed is also fairly flat, and drains to the east into a swale which itself drains into the Potomac (See Figure 2).

Many of the residential streets surrounding Jones Point grade towards the park without inlets or storm drains. As a result, runoff from these streets drain directly into the park.

ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

Earth Tech performed a cursory hydraulic analysis of the Jones Point area, using as a partial base the hydraulic analysis performed by the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), entitled "Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project, Hydrology and Hydraulic Report for Purpose of Scour Evaluation, Replacement Structure for the I-95/495 Crossing of the Potomac River." The SHA

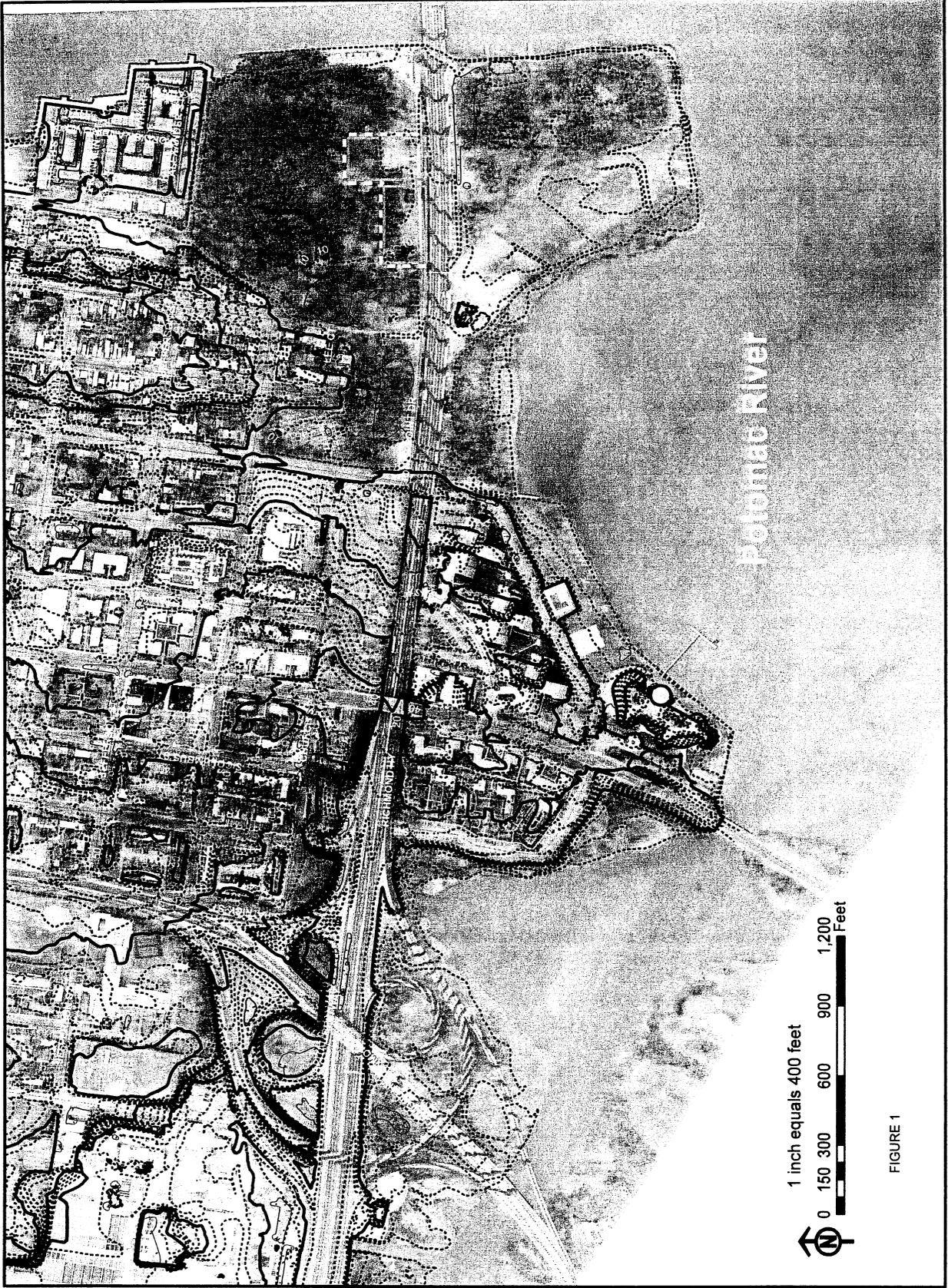


FIGURE 1

Jones Point Park

FEATURE	SYMBOL
Bridge	—
Bridge Surface Contour	—
Inner Contour	—
Inner Depression Contour	—
Intermediate Contour	—
Intermediate Depression Contour	—
Road	—
Water Pond	—
15 Foot Minimum Flood Buffer	—



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
 Transportation & Environmental Services
 P. O. Box 178
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313

PREPARED BY:
EARTH TECH
 675 N. WASHINGTON STREET, STE. 300
 ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314
 (703) 549-8728, FAX (703) 549-9134

Scale: 1"=200' Project No. _____
 DESIGN ENGINEER: _____ Date: _____
 CAD ENGINEER: _____ Date: _____
 DIVISION CHIEF: _____ Date: _____
 CITY ENGINEER: _____ Date: _____
 DIRECTOR TRKS: _____ Date: _____

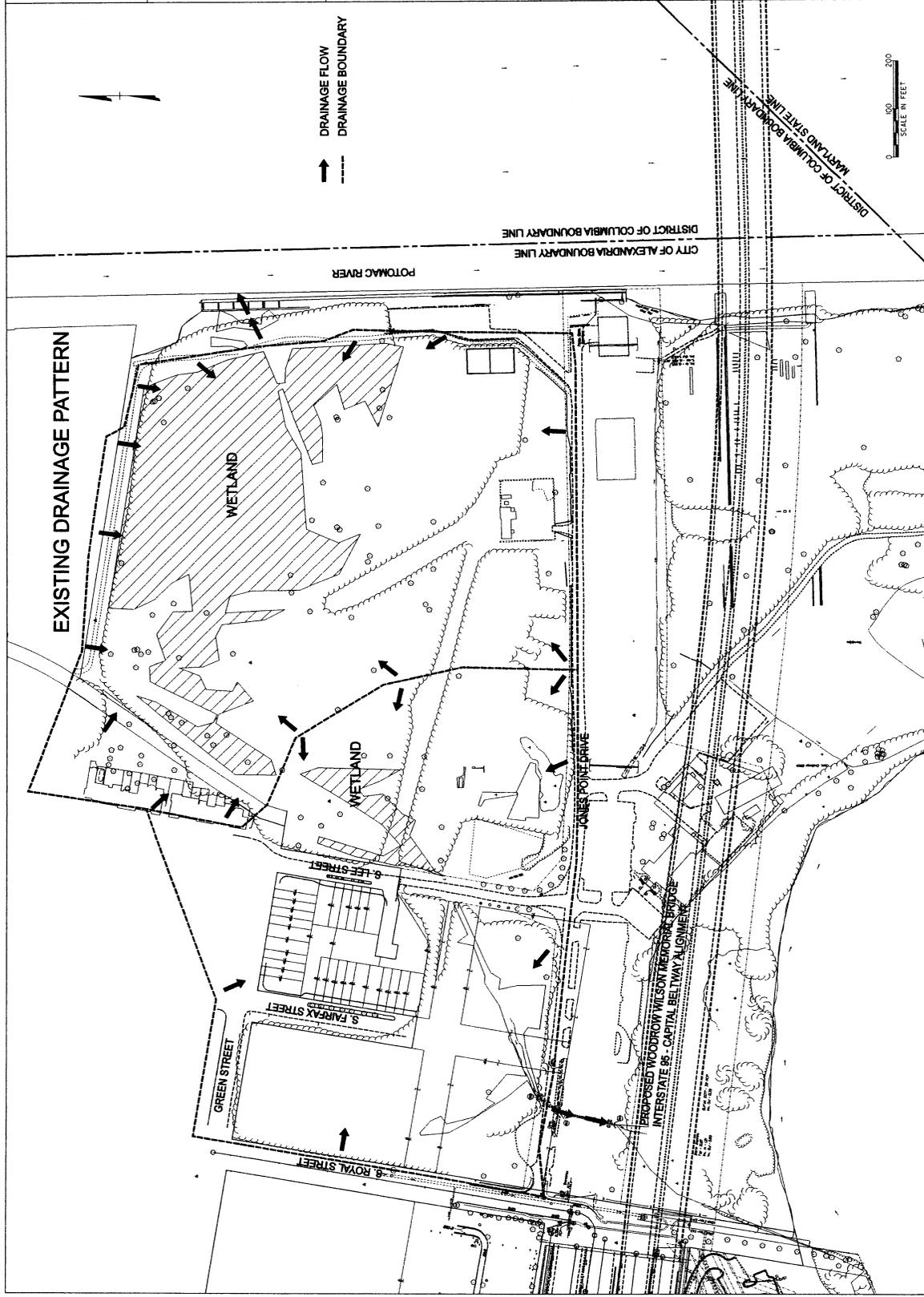


FIGURE 2

REVISIONS
 COMMENTS
 DATE INITIALS



analysis was performed in HEC-RAS for the purpose of scour evaluation for the proposed bridge, not for establishment of flood elevations.

The Wilson Bridge project surveyed a number of cross sections of the Potomac River for use in the scour analysis. One of the cross sections (#91095) is located approximately 100' upstream of the existing bridge, in the immediate vicinity of the proposed recreational fields. This cross section was used as the basis for our hydraulic analysis.

Boundary conditions (starting water surface elevations) for our analysis were taken from the study performed by the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) for confirmation to FEMA that the proposed bridge will not exacerbate flood elevations upstream of the bridge—the Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) process. The FEMA flood flows used in the SHA CLOMR study were used in our analysis (10-, 50-, 100- and 500-yr recurrence intervals). See Table 1 for details.

(The recurrence interval is a measure of the probability of a storm of a given magnitude occurring during any particular year. For instance, a 25-year storm has a 100%/25, or 4% probability of occurring, while a 5-year storm has a 100%/5, or a 20% chance of occurring.)

Version 3.1.2 of HEC-RAS was utilized for our analysis. HEC-RAS is the most current one-dimensional hydraulic analysis application, often used for floodplain analysis and delineation, and approved by USACE for this purpose.

As our analysis was not a detailed analysis, and not intended to be used for regulatory purposes (e.g. establishing flood elevations), we created a simple model by duplicating the #91095 cross section at various distances.

TABLE 1	Recurrence Interval			
	10-yr	50-yr	100-yr	500-yr
FEMA Flood Insurance Study Water Surface Elevation (feet) NGVD29	6.7	9.5	11.4	14.7
MD SHA CLOMR Water Surface Elevations (feet) NGVD29	6.8	9.2	10.5	13.8
Flows (cfs)	236,000	381,000	457,000	658,000

The proposed playing fields were modeled on the cross sections by raising the ground profile by the 4' that the fields are intended to be raised, with dimensions appropriate to the layout of the fields.

Computational runs were made of the existing conditions model with no playing fields, and the proposed conditions model with playing fields in place, in order to determine the effects of construction of the playing fields on flood elevations.

ANALYSIS RESULTS

Comparison of the existing conditions model with no playing fields, and the proposed conditions model with playing fields, showed no measurable increase in the flood elevations of the Potomac River resulting from construction of these playing fields along the segment of waterway modeled.



FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although careful consideration will need to be given to the drainage system, typical general engineering and construction practices will be sufficient for construction of the fields as currently designed in the 65% plans. The results of the analysis indicate that the playing fields will have no impact on the Potomac River floodplain in the area of Jones Point. Any future flood events will not be exacerbated by these playing fields.

However, recognizing that the site falls within an existing flood plain along the Potomac River, and certain large storm events will undoubtedly result in flooding in the future, several special requirements may help minimize the impacts of such an occurrence and facilitate the maintenance requirements after such an event. One consideration (included in the current design) includes constructing the fields at an approximate elevation of 11.0, which is approximately 0.85 ft higher than the 100-yr flood plain elevation of 10.15 (NAVD88) established by FEMA (FEMA floodplain mapping shows a 100-yr elevation of 11.0, however, FEMA elevations are given in the NGVD29 datum, which in the area of Alexandria is approximately 0.85 ft higher than the current NAVD88 datum. Thus, elevation 11.0 in NGVD29 is equivalent to 10.15 in NAVD88.)

Additionally, other hazard mitigation techniques include:

- installation of a granular material within the top 12 inches of the fill to drain the surface properly;
- utilization of select fill to ensure proper compaction and drainage;
- installation of an underdrain system to facilitate drainage of the fields. Possibly larger diameter underdrains (6- or 8-inch in lieu of the typical 4-inch diameter) to eliminate silting problems;
- additional clean-out stubs for underdrain maintenance;
- construction of a sediment trap to be used after flood events when flushing deposited sediment from the field surface;
- installation of removable structures (i.e. goal posts, benches, bleachers) and development of a plan for their relocation

The drainage design for the 65% plans has not been finalized. However, the 65% plans indicate a series of stormwater management ponds to the immediate south of the proposed playing fields, draining towards the Potomac River to the east. In addition, the 65% plans show that approximately half of the playing field area is proposed to be redirected to drain to the SWM ponds to the south, whereas, currently the entire area drains to the flat area to the north. See Figure 3.

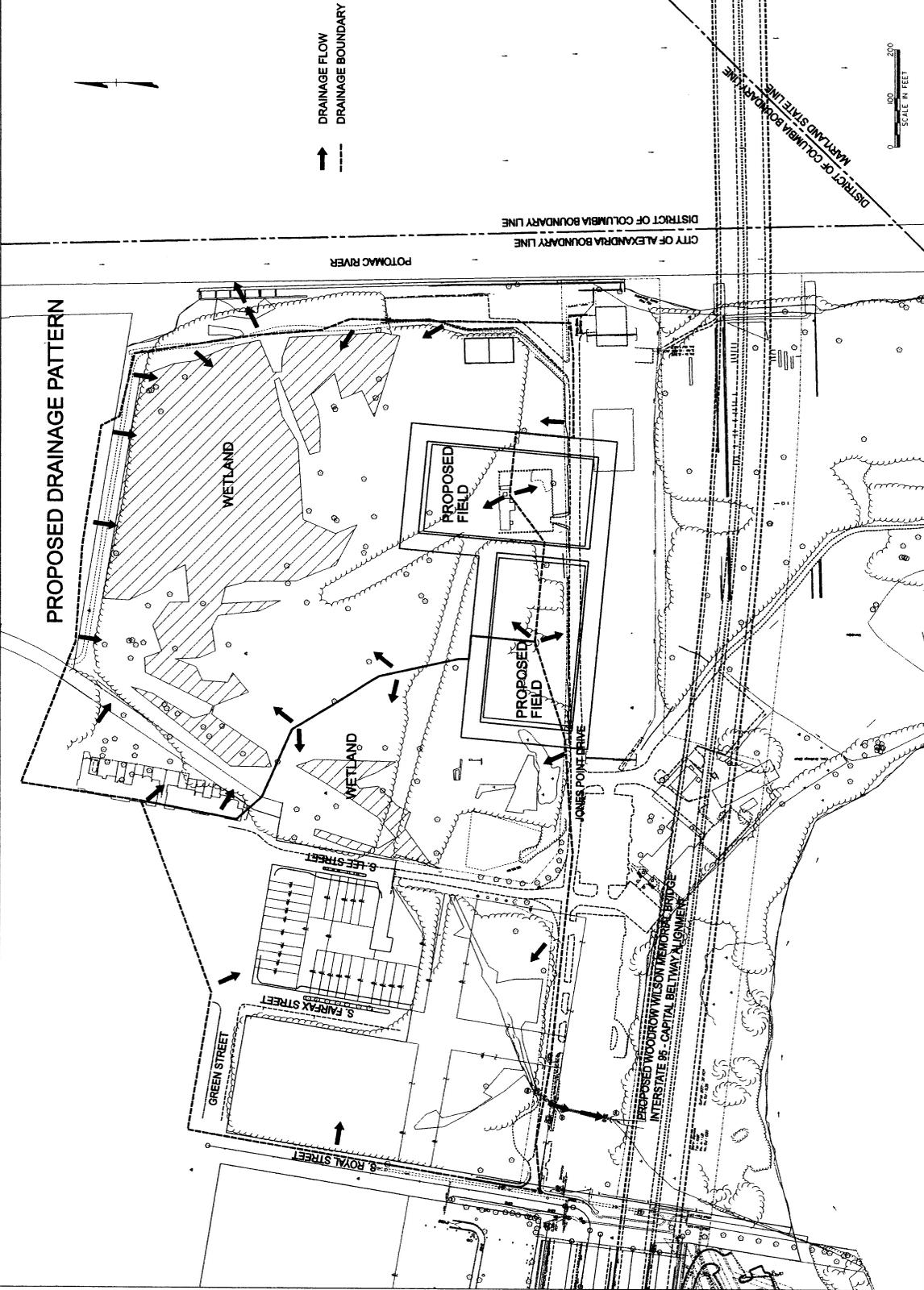
Only hydraulic issues related to the construction of the proposed multi-purpose fields are addressed in this report, additional elements of the design have been addressed by others and are not part of this report.



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 CITY ENGINEER: _____ Date: _____
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 REVISIONS: _____
 COMMENTS: _____
 INITIALS: _____



SPEAKER'S FORM

DOCKET ITEM NO. 2

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND GIVE IT TO THE CITY CLERK
BEFORE YOU SPEAK ON A DOCKET ITEM

PLEASE ANNOUNCE THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED BELOW PRIOR TO SPEAKING.

1. NAME: Engin Artemel

2. ADDRESS: 218 N. Lee Street 22314

TELEPHONE NO. 703 683 3838 E-MAIL ADDRESS: engin@artemel.com

3. WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT, IF OTHER THAN YOURSELF? St. Mary's School

4. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ITEM?
FOR: _____ AGAINST: _____ OTHER: concern re parking & traffic on S. Royal St

5. NATURE OF YOUR INTEREST IN ITEM (PROPERTY OWNER, ATTORNEY, LOBBYIST, CIVIC INTEREST, ETC.):
designated representative of St Mary's School & Cemetery

6. ARE YOU RECEIVING COMPENSATION FOR THIS APPEARANCE BEFORE COUNCIL?
YES NO

This form shall be kept as a part of the permanent record in those instances where financial interest or compensation is indicated by the speaker.

A maximum of three minutes will be allowed for your presentation, except that one officer or other designated member speaking on behalf of each *bona fide* neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association desiring to be heard on a docket item shall be allowed five minutes. In order to obtain five minutes, you must identify yourself as a designated speaker, and identify the neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association you represent, at the start of your presentation. If you have a prepared statement, please leave a copy with the Clerk.

Additional time not to exceed 15 minutes may be obtained with the consent of the majority of the council present; provided notice requesting additional time with reasons stated is filed with the City Clerk in writing before 5:00 p.m. of the day preceding the meeting.

The public normally may speak on docket items only at public hearing meetings, and not at regular legislative meetings. Public hearing meetings are usually held on the Saturday following the second Tuesday in each month; regular legislative meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month. The rule with respect to when a person may speak to a docket item at a legislative meeting can be waived by a majority vote of council members present but such a waiver is not normal practice. When a speaker is recognized, the rules of procedures for speakers at public hearing meetings shall apply. If an item is docketed *for public hearing* at a regular legislative meeting, the public may speak to that item, and the rules of procedures for speakers at public hearing meetings shall apply.

In addition, the public may speak on matters which are not on the docket during the Public Discussion Period at public hearing meetings. The mayor may grant permission to a person, who is unable to participate in public discussion at a public hearing meeting for medical, religious, family emergency or other similarly substantial reasons, to speak at a regular legislative meeting. When such permission is granted, the rules of procedures for public discussion at public hearing meetings shall apply.

Guidelines for the Public Discussion Period

(a) All speaker request forms for the public discussion period must be submitted by the time the item is called by the city clerk.

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(c) If more speakers are signed up than would be allotted for in 30 minutes, the mayor will organize speaker requests by subject or position, and allocated appropriate times, trying to ensure that speakers on unrelated subjects will also be allowed to speak during the 30 minute public discussion period.

(d) If speakers seeking to address council on the same subject cannot agree on a particular order or method that they would like the speakers to be called on, the speakers shall be called in the chronological order of their request forms' submission.

(e) Any speakers not called during the public discussion period will have the option to speak at the conclusion of the meeting, after all docketed items have been heard.

SPEAKER'S FORM

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PLEASE ANNOUNCE THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED BELOW PRIOR TO SPEAKING.

- 1. NAME: Audrey F. Calhoun
- 2. ADDRESS: Geo. Wash. Mem. Pkwy % Turkey Run Park, McLean, VA 22101
TELEPHONE NO. 703-289-2500 E-MAIL ADDRESS: Audrey-Calhoun@nps.gov
- 3. WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT, IF OTHER THAN YOURSELF? National Park Service
- 4. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ITEM?
FOR: _____ AGAINST: _____ OTHER: Provide info
- 5. NATURE OF YOUR INTEREST IN ITEM (PROPERTY OWNER, ATTORNEY, LOBBYIST, CIVIC INTEREST, ETC.):
owner of property
- 6. ARE YOU RECEIVING COMPENSATION FOR THIS APPEARANCE BEFORE COUNCIL?
YES NO

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2
8-27-05

Mr. Mayor and Members of City Council, thank you for this opportunity to speak to you this evening. My name is Priscilla Goodwin and I am here to ask that you maintain the two athletic fields at Jones Point. You might think that eliminating a soccer field or two on the edge of the city is a fairly minor event, but in reality this action would have repercussions across Alexandria.

Over the past 9 years I have become an inadvertent expert on the state of the athletic fields in Alexandria. My husband and I have three children who, between them, have played football, soccer, lacrosse, baseball and field hockey on city fields. We've been to every field. There is a critical need for MORE fields, not less, in the city. If we permanently take away fields this puts even more pressure on the remaining ones.

Because we have so few fields the fields that we have are in constant use and poor condition. Many drain poorly and we have rainouts on sunny days.

When Alexandria teams compete against neighboring teams you really see a disparity between their field conditions and ours.

I'll never forget hearing boys on a visiting all star baseball team say to each other: "They play *here*?"

I am sure you know why sports are important for our kids. In addition, having our children and teenagers involved in sports helps ALL of the citizens of Alexandria. It's in everyone's best interests if our youth have healthy and safe outlets for their free time.

Given all this, I was *really* surprised to hear you were even considering removing these two fields. These are not new fields being dropped into an established neighborhood. Jones Point has had soccer fields for decades. I know this because, and I hate to admit this in public, I played soccer on the Jones Point fields with the Alexandria Soccer Association almost 35 years ago.

You would have to have a *really* good reason to take away kids' fields. It can't simply be a traffic issue, because the majority of Alexandria fields have neighbors living close by. It can't be a parking issue because many of our fields have smaller parking lots than the one planned at Jones Point. Soccer fields do not hurt the

environment. Kids and their families are graciously welcomed to play in neighborhoods all over Alexandria so I don't see how the Jones Point neighborhood is any different.

We live behind a school with an athletic field. In fact, one of you has children there. Living near an athletic field is not like living next to a pig farm – it's just kids having fun and being healthy.

There is room for two fields, boaters, birders, gardens and parking at Jones Point. It's important that large fields suitable for older kids be considered. It's important that the fields be constructed so that they are well-drained and playable the day after it rains.

A vote for two big fields at Jones Point is a vote for children, their families, and the civic-minded City of Alexandria that I'm proud to call home. Thank you very much for your time.

Priscilla Goodwin

306 Mansion Drive, Alexandria, 22302, 703-549-6139

mpgbc@comcast.net

2
6-27-05

Statement of Michael E. Hobbs
on behalf of the
Old Town Civic Association
City Council
June 27, 2005

Jones Point Park

Thank you, Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, and members of Council. I am Michael Hobbs, speaking on behalf of the Old Town Civic Association.

We welcome this opportunity to submit comments for your consideration as you deliberate the future of Jones Point Park. This park has been a cherished recreational, historical and natural resource for its neighbors and for our fellow citizens throughout the city for more than two generations. Its future is of utmost importance to our members and to all the Alexandrians who use and love it.

At an OTCA members meeting earlier this year, we had a comprehensive presentation on the present condition and future options for the park by the City, state and federal officials most directly involved in its planning, and a full discussion of the opportunities by our members. Several of our directors have served as members of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Neighborhood Task Force, and our board has addressed the issues at several meetings. We attended your February work sessions, and the subsequent meetings of the Jones Point Park Work Group, submitting written and oral statements when permitted. We are pleased to submit these views growing out of all of those discussions.

A Fundamental Change: The Impact of September 11

We recognize that the plan for the park adopted in 2000 is no longer feasible, given the conclusion that our security in the post-September 11 environment precludes the location of parking under the bridge span. The original plan contemplated approximately 240 spaces under the bridge, to support all of the planned uses of the park. If there is to be no parking under the bridge, then either those parking spaces will need to be moved elsewhere, or the planned uses of the park reconfigured to correspond to available parking, or some combination thereof. The planned uses and the planned provision for parking are integrally related: neither can be effectively addressed in isolation from the other.

Relationship of Parking and Park Uses

In recognition of this fundamental point, the post-September 11 proposals that have been put forward by VDOT and others have all significantly reduced the parking provision, most to approximately 110 spaces. But moving even 110 spaces into areas that had earlier been planned for the recreational, natural and historical uses of the park inevitably—and we believe unnecessarily—diminishes those benefits.

We believe it is imperative:

- (1) that the uses of the park and the parking provided for those uses be coordinated so that their essential balance is maintained; and

- (2) that the park be configured so as to minimize any damage to the natural, recreational and historical uses of the park and the surrounding neighborhoods due to relocation of the parking.

Objectives of the Park Design

The original plan for the park recognized and sought to serve several key values in its design:

- (1) Provision was made for active recreation, principally by adding two multi-purpose athletic fields.
- (2) Provision was made for more passive recreation—walking, fishing, picnicking, and the like—of the sort which has long been a hallmark of this park.
- (3) Care was taken to preserve and protect the natural environment of the park: its large wooded areas, open fields, waterfront, and wetlands, in a combination unique in Alexandria, and indeed in Northern Virginia.
- (4) Plans were developed to protect and celebrate the unique historic resources of the park in a way that has not previously been done: the original Jones Point Lighthouse, the historic peninsula, the District cornerstone and boundary, and the like.
- (5) All of the above was accomplished with ample provision for parking for park users, with virtually no risk of “spillover” parking onto residential streets in the nearby neighborhood.

We believe that the new, post-September 11 design for the park should and can retain all of those values, so far as possible, in a reasonable balance that respects the needs and interests of all park users and the neighborhood. It need not, and should not, elevate any one of those valid interests to the level of an “absolute priority” to be achieved at the cost of significant damage or impairment to any or all of the others.

Criteria for Evaluating Alternative Concept Designs

Toward that end, we suggest that any plan for the park be measured against the following criteria.

1. The uses in the park and the amount of parking provided must remain in balance. If parking is significantly reduced to meet security concerns, but park uses are not changed correspondingly, the result will be spillover parking on nearby residential streets, or frustration to people trying to come to use the park but unable to find parking, or both. Park users and residents alike would be the losers.
2. Damage to the essential values of the park due to the relocation of parking from under the bridge should be minimized. It may be unavoidable that the relocation of parking will result in the loss of some open space, encroachment on some wetlands, or the destruction of some trees—or at the very least the loss of some space which had been intended for park uses, not for parking.

But such damage should be kept to the absolute minimum. Substantial damage to the natural environment of the park in order to accommodate all of the parking required for an unaltered array of park uses could call to mind the unfortunate assertion from an earlier era that it would be “necessary to destroy the village in order to save it.”

3. Damaging impacts to the nearby neighborhoods, especially to their existing natural and recreational values, should be minimized. Disruption or destruction of the community gardens that neighbors have cherished for a generation, destruction of open spaces and forested wetlands for the construction of new access roads, relocating the recycling center into the residential area, or siting recreational facilities and parking where they would have the most noise and lighting impacts on the adjacent neighborhood, are not necessary and should be avoided.

It is the nearby neighborhoods that have already suffered the brunt of the damage done by building the world’s widest bridge through the middle of Jones Point Park. The City has negotiated federal funds to help mitigate that damage. Those funds should be used to mitigate the damage to the neighborhood, not exacerbate it.

4. Recreational facilities proposed for this park or elsewhere should be sited where most convenient and appropriate for their intended users. The location of this park is one of the least accessible in the city. It is at the very edge of the city; it is surrounded on two sides by water; and it can be accessed only by narrow streets through residential neighborhoods. It is far from an ideal location for facilities which are intended or expected to draw users from all over the City of Alexandria and beyond. It was recently recommended that the planned new police department headquarters should be centrally located, rather than on the periphery, because it is intended to serve the entire city; the same principle should apply here.

Because of its location, Jones Point is in some respects not the best, and certainly not the only, place where additional full-sized athletic fields could be planned. A reconfiguration of the layout at Witter Road might well accommodate an additional field. The areas in Potomac Yard heretofore designated for parkland are to some extent constrained by the concept plans already adopted—but that concept should not be considered immutable: there is no physical reason why we would not still locate as many fields at Potomac Yard as we thought were needed. The VDOT construction marshalling site for the Springfield Interchange and Wilson Bridge should revert to the City and would be another potential site.

In short, there are several other sites in the city where one or more additional full-size fields might be more centrally and usefully located, if it were concluded that the access and parking infrastructure and environment at Jones Point would not support two full-sized fields.

5. Council should be prudently cognizant of the capital and operating costs of alternative configurations of facilities and supporting infrastructure in this park and elsewhere. Much as we might wish it were otherwise, the funds available for parks and recreation are not and will not be sufficient to do all that we would like to do, or that there is a demonstrated need for. Council has just adopted a “lean and mean” budget, and warned us that next year and beyond will be even leaner and meaner. If uses and facilities in this park are not configured so as to minimize their cost, there will be less than is needed for equally important recreation facilities and services elsewhere in the City.

If the loss of Alexandria wetlands to the bridge can be “mitigated” by enhancement of other wetlands halfway down the Potomac, then mitigation monies available to Alexandria as a result of the Wilson Bridge settlement should certainly be available for expenditure on recreational facilities anywhere within our own boundaries to compensate for the damage done by the bridge to the recreational and environmental values of Jones Point. And in any case, money is fungible, and funds available to meet recreational needs from one source relieve the demand for funds for the same purpose from other sources. We should not assume that Wilson Bridge mitigation monies available for recreational facilities can be spent only in Jones Point Park.

6. The active and passive recreational, historical, natural and environmental values of the park should be preserved to the optimum degree. Any active or passive use of the park requires a supportive infrastructure: space for the use, and, particularly, for parking. The original plan for the park, prior to September 11, sought to serve all of these uses. All should be retained, so far as reasonably possible. But no particular use should be considered exempt from review or modification if the cost of retention is unnecessary and avoidable damage to the park’s wetlands, its unspoiled open spaces, its tree canopy, or its other planned uses.

Parking Required In Relation to Number of Fields

The number of athletic fields is the decisive factor in determining how much parking is needed. The Recreation Department’s expectation is that each field would require 40 parking spaces, while 30 would be needed for the general, more passive uses of the park. Thus, a two-field option would require 110 parking spaces; one field would require 70 spaces; and no fields, 30 spaces.

The assumptions about parking that can be accommodated in the park may already be overly optimistic, however, putting the neighborhood at risk. Fairfax County assumes a need for 50 (not 40) spaces per field; and our department cautions that, when two games are scheduled in close sequence, the peak demand can double to accommodate arriving and departing vehicles. Two athletic fields, fully scheduled, might thus create a peak demand for as many as 200 parking spaces (plus the 30 spaces for general park visitors): manageable under the bridge in the original design, but well beyond what is provided now under any of the alternative concept designs.

Whatever risk there may be should not be magnified by attempting to “load” more uses into the park than we can reasonably and realistically expect to accommodate with on-site parking.

City Employee Parking

At the final meeting of the Work Group, it was indicated that, regardless of the number of fields, a minimum of 80 parking spaces would be constructed, to provide for city employee parking during the day (instead of 70 park-use-related spaces, for the one-field option, or 30 for the no-field option).

Jones Point Park is probably not the best, and hopefully not the only, provision that could be made for employee parking. The parking study in the recent King Street Retail Strategy indicated that there is a substantial number of unused parking spaces in garages on or near King Street—actually much closer to most City offices—that could be available for this purpose. (To

be sure, there might be some cost involved; but that cost should be weighed against the cost of further loss of the natural environment at Jones Point.) Similarly, when private sector employers seek Special Use Permits from the City for their operations, the City now regularly seeks or requires (depending on the nature of the applicant and the location) provision for employer- or developer-provided on-site parking, subsidization of off-street parking in commercial garages, encouragement of the use of public transit, or similar measures. The City should hold itself and its employees to no lesser standard.

Inescapably, if parking spaces at the park are being occupied by city employee parkers on weekdays, those spaces are not available for soccer players, hikers, or other park users, and the risk of spillover parking onto the residential streets is increased. It may be that park-related demands would be at a minimum during weekdays when employees would be parking (few soccer games, particularly for younger players, are scheduled during school hours); that is a judgment which Council might make in the balance. But any schedule for employee parking should not be permitted to interfere with the accessibility and use of the park by sports teams and other public users; and in no event should the number of parking spaces that is constructed be increased (consuming more open space or cutting more trees) beyond what would be required for the park uses per se, simply in order to provide for employee parking.

Single-Field Option

Some have argued passionately for two full-sized athletic fields in this park. That would help meet the goal of adding to the inventory of such fields city-wide, but would maximize the damage to the open and natural environment here, to the neighborhood, and to the other more passive uses of the park. Others argue with equal passion for no formal athletic fields here. That would minimize any damage to the environment and to passive uses, but would not help to meet our needs for active recreation, and would arguably be a step back from the historical usage of this park.

Old Town Civic Association believes that a single, smaller soccer field south of the bridge (sized especially for younger players, according to the standards of the Fédération Internationale de Football) would best balance the objective of optimizing the active recreational use of this park while minimizing damage to passive recreation and other uses of the park or to the adjacent neighborhood.

Scaling back the general uses of the park to obviate the need for those 30 spaces would be a drastic remedy and should not be considered.

Siting one of the two planned soccer fields at a different location, however, would meet all of the recommended criteria for design of the park:

1. It would reduce the parking required at Jones Point Park by almost 40%, from 110 to 70 spaces, and minimize the risk of spillover parking on nearby residential streets.
2. It would minimize the damage to wetlands, trees, and open space in the park.
3. It would avoid disruption or destruction of the nearby community gardens, and minimize present or future noise or lighting impacts on the adjacent residential neighborhood.

4. It would permit location of the full-sized, “regulation” fields that would be more useful and appealing to adult players in organized leagues at more central locations more easily accessible to the expected users.
5. It might significantly reduce the cost for construction and operation of the fields by minimizing any problems with elevation, hydrology, erosion and the like, and by locating a larger number of fields in closer proximity in a central location, for the most cost-efficient maintenance.
6. It would preserve all of the previously planned uses of the park *in kind*, though reducing one of those uses (athletic fields) in scale *at this site*. A smaller-scale soccer field at Jones Point Park might, in fact, be more neighborhood- and family-friendly than two large “professional” size multi-purpose athletic fields, and more in keeping with the fields that a generation of soccer-playing youngsters from Old Town and elsewhere in the city have enjoyed at this site.

Moving 110 parking spaces out from under the bridge into the park consumes what was planned as open, natural, or passive recreation space, and reduces the passive recreation and neighborhood park values which were ranked as our citizens’ two highest priorities in the Strategic Master Plan for Open Space, Parks and Recreation adopted just two years ago. But a “no-field” option might be perceived as giving no priority to active recreation, at least at this site.

It is for this reason that the Old Town Civic Association, joined by our neighbors in the Yates Garden Citizens Association, urges consideration of this compromise single-field option. We believe it represents the best balance that can be achieved at this site between active and passive recreation, historical and natural values, and stewardship for the environment. We commend it to the consideration of our fellow citizens, to all prospective users of this treasured park, and to the City Council.

2
6-27-05



Kerry Donley
<kerry.donley@acps.k12.va.us>

06/28/2005 10:07 AM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <MacdonaldCouncil@msn.com>, <PaulCSmedberg@aol.com>, <council@joycewoodson.net>
cc <jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us>, Judy Noritake <jnoritake@starpower.net>

bcc

Subject Jones Point

Mr. Mayor and Members of City Council:

I intended to speak at last night's public hearing, but I arrived after 7:30 and due to a new arcane rule denying public speakers from signing up to speak after the hearing began, I was not able to testify. Below is a summary of my remarks.

Jones Point Athletic Fields

Testimony before City Council

June 27, 2005

I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you on the need for athletic fields at Jones Point Park. I realize you have heard a number of arguments this evening, and I wish to lend my strong support for the retention of the fields at Jones Point.

- Soccer fields have been part of Jones for many years. I have coached teams that have played at Jones Point, and the arrangement has worked well, even during the bridge construction. These playing fields have long-been part of the plans for post-construction Jones Point, and I have yet to hear sufficient justification to change course.
- To eliminate or reduce the number of fields at Jones Point would represent a net reduction of playing fields in the City at a time when demand for field space is increasing at both the youth and adult level. This demand puts added strain on existing fields in terms of maintenance, making it harder for our Parks and Recreation staff to maintain safe playing conditions.
- Some might say that new fields at Roth-Witter will be adequate replacements for fields at Jones Point. I would argue that these fields are needed as well due to the demand we place on our playing fields in the City. Remember, these fields were negotiated when fields could not be supported on the planned Urban Deck on Washington Street. With these fields being relocated, one can posit that **we have already reduced the number of fields in the Jones Point vicinity**. Additionally, the fields at Roth-Witter are really the only opportunity we have to increase the number of quality playing fields to meet public demand.

- Jones Point represents a large tract of land in the eastern portion of the City. The geographic distribution of fields is important as children and adult sports enthusiasts should have a convenient field for competition and practice. And a large tract of land like Jones Point is the sensible place for two fields rather than trying to shoe-horn fields in smaller, less convenient locations.
- Additionally, Jones Point represents a cost-effective opportunity for the City to obtain playing fields. The implementation of these fields will be paid by Federal Funds through Woodrow Wilson Bridge mitigation dollars. Transferring funds to another site in the city is problematic as the location must be in reasonable proximity to the WWB project. Given the demands on your capital budget and the increasing calls to reduce tax burdens, the use of federal funds in lieu local tax dollars for recreational improvements makes sound fiscal sense.
- Finally, we all value athletic programs as part of educational programming, and this is especially true at the high school level. Athletic competition teaches young people the value of teamwork and discipline, lessons important in the classroom and the workplace. We also want our athletic teams to be successful, and much of their success at the high school level depends of the feeder system which teaches basic skills to our youngsters. Whether through the Alexandria Soccer Association, the Alexandria Lacrosse Association, the Alexandria Little League or through our Recreation Department programs, our young people need places to play. The fields at Jones Point enable these programs to exist and thrive which in turn help our children to become successful athletes at our public and private high schools throughout the City.

I might add that the vast majority of athletes at T. C. Williams reside in the east end of town, and they have profited from fields for both practice and game competition. While we need to improve our outreach to the West End, field locations in the East End are important to support the athletic development of our youngsters as they progress through youth sports and look to compete at the high school level. I hope you give due consideration to the overall need for active recreation opportunities to children and adults in settings which are convenient and geographically balanced throughout the City

Thus, your support of the fields at Jones Point Park will have ripple effects throughout the City for years to come. I urge you to continue your support of playing fields at Jones Point.

Thank you for your attention.

Kerry J. Donley

2
6/27/05

PHONE-O-GRAM[®]

for: CC

From Ellen Yabl Company _____
City _____ Area Code 703 Phone 549-0466

- Telephoned Please return the call Returned your call Will call again Came in See me

Message She likes Councilman Macdonald's
idea to leave the area as open space &
do nothing until other options are explored
also does not like the idea of employee
parking.

Date 6/27 Time 2:05 Taken by Ky

Action Wanted _____

Action Taken _____

2
6/27/05

June 27, 2005

Mayor William D. Euille
Vice Mayor Redella Pepper
Councilman Ludwig Gaines
Councilman K. Rob Krupicka
Councilman Andrew Macdonald
Councilman Paul Smedberg
Councilwoman Joyce Woodson

Dear Mayor and City Council:

Re: Jones Point Re-design

We, the undersigned, have served over the past few months on the task force you assembled to examine new parking requirements and other issues as a part of the Jones Point redesign. The report of our work was forwarded to you for your consideration as you now take up this matter. We represent a broad range of the commission and community interests which come together in this one place, and we have come together now and feel that we need to underscore one last time our view of what we heard over the four meetings on this subject and tell you in our own words why we all support what is known as Scheme A.

It has been noted that the original topic of discussion, the relocation of the parking after the events of September 11, 2001, was not a difficult decision for this task force to debate or reach consensus on. We were all in agreement that the parking, whatever the number of spaces may turn out to be, should be located near the entrance of the park and extending to near Lee Street. In the final design some might be located just outside along the east side of Royal Street, but most of it would be located inside the park boundary. We were in agreement that it should be constructed as "green" or pervious parking and that it be, as it is designed in greater detail, sited to fit among the natural features. These notions were contained in a set of principles for the detail design brought for our consideration by the staff and consultants. Our task force agreed on the general schematic location and the principles to guide detailed design and we have forwarded them on to you.

The only other design element in the park discussed by the task force was the multi-purpose athletic fields. And here we would underscore that it was clearly demonstrated that the primary use of these fields into the future would be to accommodate a broad range of field sports - not just soccer - played on full sized fields, with a small portion of the programmed use being for children under age 10 playing on small fields. The number of fields, their size and location was the topic about which there was the most public testimony at our hearing. After hearing the testimony, examining the engineering report that was prepared and understanding the underpinnings of the previously approved baseline plan (the so-call "65% design", as it was at a stage of 65% completion of the design development) we all individually stated that in the end, we supported the first decision made by City Council known now as the 65% plan. That is best reflected by Scheme A and everyone on the task force except the neighborhood representative and the Jones Point Stakeholders representative (who was precluded by weighing in by procedural issues) were in agreement. We felt it represented the balance that should be achieved in this park both prior to September 11th and again now.

We recently learned that in the time since our group's report was forwarded you have elected to add Scheme D to the alternatives that will be considered at the upcoming public hearing on this matter, and we understand well it is your prerogative to do so. Since this is the case, we would like to also offer an additional thought into your process and that is if the task force itself had elected to forward Scheme D for consideration along with A and E, those of us represented here agree that Scheme B, with two fields abutted running east to west, would likely have been included as an alternate by our group as well. We hope that you will now consider this Scheme B, inasmuch as you are considering Scheme D, as we agree that we would have included B if the group had voted for more than one preferred scheme per representative.

The truth of the matter is that over the course of the meetings and the hearing it became quite clear that the location of the parking was not what was at issue for the neighborhood representative. Fields, any fields in this park, was the issue. We felt there was no middle ground to be had. We also feel that the reasons for this reticence were never really stated openly, though many reasons were given. We all are facing changes and challenges in our own neighborhoods, which we must find a way to live with. In this case we were charged with bringing the broader view of our whole city to the bear on the parking and field issues at Jones Point and the five of us together believe that the original 65% plan first passed by City Council, with modified parking, still represents the balance of uses that best serves the needs of the whole of our community. We also believe that it

gives an appropriate amount of deference, inasmuch as there is room, to accommodate the concerns of the neighborhood. The fields are well away from their homes and the parking will be designed as best it can be. We are a city that continues to change and grow. Parks across the city will change to meet those demands over time. We all have to give a little and move toward a common future and a common good.

In addition, we are attaching a section from the Jones Point Environmental Assessment (EA) dated September 2001. The issue of the contents of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS), its Record of Decision (ROD) and the subsequent Jones Point EA was raised by task force members during the meetings but little information was forthcoming about how much latitude those documents afforded our group and the City in revisiting the field options. In the attached material you will see that a field (or fields) located south of the bridge was precluded in the Jones Point EA because of the value of the historic resources in that area during the previous consideration of the design. Though this EA was not finalized owing to the events of September 11th this section will likely remain as a part of the final EA, which is the process your decision now will be inserted into. This EA is tiered back to the FSEIS and ROD. We think that locating a field south of the bridge could well be conflict with these two documents. In addition, National Park Service Superintendent Audrey Calhoun stated at one of our meetings that if two full sized fields were not included in the City Council approved plan it would cause procedural problems. These two fields have been a part of the project since the original Scoping Notice was printed in the Federal Register, and are a part of the FSEIS, it's ROD and the original Jones Point EA. The procedural questions related to these documents were never fully answered in our meetings.

We would draw your attention to one particular section from that EA which says in part:

Compared with the other alternatives, Alternative 2 (second field south of the bridge) has the following impacts:

- *The proposed multi-purpose field on the south side could adversely affect potentially National Register-eligible prehistoric and historic archaeological resources. The presence of these resources is known based on previous archaeological investigations within the current recreation field to the south of the bridge, and in a recent archaeological-geomorphological investigation of Jones Point. These studies demonstrate that both prehistoric and historic period archaeological sites are located beneath the fill soil that covers the fast land portions of the Jones Point. The western portion of the recreation fields located on the south side of the bridge, would extend over this area of fast land.*

In summary, we stand together in agreement and in support of Scheme A after what was a difficult assignment. We believe that the Scheme D you have added into consideration is inconsistent with findings about the value of the archeological resources located in the southern section of the park, as well as the recreational needs of the City. We understand the passion of the neighborhood, but we also believe we have come to understand the broader needs of Alexandria. We wanted to make sure there was no confusion about why we gave you the recommendation we did.

Sincerely,

Jones Point Hybrid Task Force Members:

Jill Bennis, representing the Environmental Policy Commission

Jim Gibson, representing the Youth Sports Advisory Board

Judy Noritake, representing the Park and Recreation Commission

Kathleen Pepper, representing the Alexandria Archaeological Commission

Ellen Stanton, representing the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission

CC: Jim Hartmann, Rich Baier, Kirk Kincannon, Jean Federico

C. JPP Build Alternative 2

With Alternative 2, the existing multi-use/soccer fields would be converted to multi-purpose fields and one field would be relocated north of the existing bridge while the second field would remain on the south side of the park. The north side field would be oriented in an east-west direction and the south side field would be oriented in a north-south direction. Placement of one of the fields on the south side of the park would eliminate the inclusion of an events lawn. However, all other park design improvements would be the same as those proposed for Alternative 1.

A single multi-purpose field on the north side of the park would require the clearing of approximately one acre of forest, including four trees with a diameter of 24 inches or greater. This represents a reduction in forest impacts due to the multi-purpose fields under Alternative 1. No wetland impacts or impacts to other natural resources is anticipated from the location of the multi-purpose fields under Alternative 2. Impacts from other planned park improvements would be the same under Alternatives 1, 2, and 3.

Compared with the other alternatives, Alternative 2 has the following impacts:

- The proposed multi-purpose field on the south side could adversely affect potentially National Register-eligible prehistoric and historic archaeological resources. The presence of these resources is known based on previous archaeological investigations within the current recreation field to the south of the bridge, and on a recent archaeological - geomorphological investigation of Jones Point. These studies demonstrate that both prehistoric and historic period archaeological sites are located beneath the fill soils that cover the fast land portions of the Jones Point. The western portion of the recreation field located on the south side of the bridge, would extend over this area of fast land.
- This alternative does not comply with design goals to keep all active activity areas (i.e. multi-purpose fields) on the north side of the new bridge and maintaining the area south of the bridge for passive activities, including cultural and historic interpretation. Placing a multi-purpose field in the southern part of the park would conflict with design goals and diminish the quality of the passive uses planned for the area.
- Placing a multi-purpose field in the southern part of JPP will increase maintenance costs (two adjacent fields are less costly to maintain than two separate fields). The proposed field in the southern part of JPP would: (a) require the use of a different type of grass than that used immediately adjacent to the field, (b) cause the events lawn in this part of the park to be uneven (due to the crown of the field); and (c) cause more wear and tear in this area.
- The proposed (80 x 40 yard) field is too small for its intended use.



<eugenie@wolz.org>

06/23/2005 05:19 PM

Please respond to
<eugenie@wolz.org>

2
6-27-05

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,

cc

bcc

City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,

Subject councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)**

Time: [Thu Jun 23, 2005 17:19:36] IP Address: [66.92.160.22]

Response requested:

First Name: Eugenie
Last Name: Ballering
Street Address: 1021 Allison Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-683-1635
Email Address: eugenie@wolz.org

I stongly urge the city council to keep the 2
promised soccer fields at Jones Point. As a
mother of 3 soccer players (12, 10 and 6) I have
experienced first hand how hard it is to get a
soccer field for practices and games. When
games are cancelled and need to be rescheduled
ASA has a very hard time rescheduling due to a
lack of fields.

Also, we have never had a soccer tournament in
Alexandria and I'm sure that that is partly due
because of not having enough soccer fields.

Comments: I also would like to mention that we need the

fields for many adults soccer players. They like to use the fields when they are not in use by youth teams.

Soccer is becoming a very popular sport in the US. It's a great way to fight child hood obesity. For immigrants families playing soccer is often one of the few recreational outlets they have.

I'm very disturbed that Alexandria is cutting down on promised sport facilities and I hope you'll keep the 2 soccer fields at Jones Point.

2
6-21-05



<miket17752@aol.com>

06/23/2005 06:13 PM

Please respond to
<miket17752@aol.com>

<alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
To <council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
cc

bcc

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Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,
Subject councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)

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macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)**

Time: [Thu Jun 23, 2005 18:13:38] IP Address: [163.192.21.45]

Response requested:

First Name: Michael
Last Name: Tackett
Street Address: 3500 Norris Place
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 7036842971
Email Address: miket17752@aol.com

We have a wonderful problem in Alexandria:
abudant participation in youth sports. But we
arent serving our children well in terms of
facilities, especially when compared to
neighboring cities.

There simply is not enough space for kids to play.

Reducing an already inadequate number of
fields--as has been proposed at Jones
Point--would make a bad problem worse.

Here's why:

Comments:

With just soccer, Alexandria has never had a proper number of fields to accommodate the range of school, city and travel teams. But we also now have a flourishing youth lacrosse program, something that has been a phenomenon on just the last few years. That puts extraordinary pressure on field resources.

The same is true for baseball. We have only two full sized diamonds for a team population that includes at least two high school varsity and JV programs, a Junior Little League program, an emerging travel baseball program, and a Men's League program.

We strongly urge you to preserve the Jones Point fields for the kids and hope that serves as a marker that the City Council will use for other sports facilities as well.

Thank you

Michael Tackett

2
6-27-05



<aberdeen@peoplepc.com>

06/23/2005 09:05 PM

Please respond to
<aberdeen@peoplepc.com>

<alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
To <council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
cc

bcc

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Subject councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,
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councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)**

Time: [Thu Jun 23, 2005 21:05:59] IP Address: [4.249.129.252]

Response requested:

First Name: ellen
Last Name: stanton
Street Address: 2600 king street
City: alexandria
State: va
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703 838.1610
Email Address: aberdeen@peoplepc.com

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members,

I was a member of the Jones Point Park Work Group representing the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission. I believe that any group structure should include the opportunity for group members to provide feedback on the group process intself so that positive experiences can be replicated and constructive suggestions implemented in the future. In the spirit of this statement, I would like to offer feedback to you on my tenure on this work group.

***All members of a work group should receive,

prior to the first meeting, a written letter explaining the expectations as individual participants and as group members with any details, such as number and dates of meetings, provided. There should be a clear mission statement of the goals to be attained.

***Prior to any public meeting, there should be an opportunity for the members to meet and get to know one another. The purpose would be not to talk about the mission but to provide some information about themselves and the group that they represent. This could occur one hour prior to the first public meeting, for example. Without the meeting, the group will not form a group in the true sense of the word. I am a licensed clinical social worker with many years experience in working with groups, and strongly suggest that this step needs to occur. For instance, at the last meeting of our work group, one member thought that I represented the Environmental Policy Commission and had to be corrected by me. And, there were only 9 members of our group. A working group is unlikely to produce positive results if trust and collegiality have not been established.

Comments:

***If any members or speaker at the hearing exhibit inappropriate behavior, such as yelling and abusive language, they should be immediately escorted from the hearing and / or the hearing should be terminated at that time. I fear that the precedent has been set that allows this behavior as it occurred on several occasions during our hearings. Thus, the conclusion which other may draw is that the loudest voices gain attention and their position is strengthened.

***As a member of a working group, we must rely on data provided by the city on the technical issues. This should be clearly understood and not debated unless there is some evidence that it is flawed. As an example, I certainly cannot speak to the hydrology report as to its accuracy and would not expect to participate in a debate on that report.

***There is a great deal of potential inherent in forming such a group in that the members of commissions or planning districts have an opportunity to work together and to know one another. While we may read about other groups, real knowledge comes from joint efforts and thus the positive effects of having served on this kind of work group is enormous. Not only is feedback provided to Council, but also working alliances

are formed. Civility and respect for other's opinion should be the emphasis, as it is possible to come to mutually agreeable conclusions when the process is in place to do so.

I thank you for your consideration of my suggestions and hope to serve in the future on other work groups.

Ellen Stanton

2
6-27-05



<cynthia.a.long@verizon.net>

06/23/2005 09:59 AM

Please respond to
<cynthia.a.long@verizon.net>

<alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
To <council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
cc

bcc

City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,
Subject councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)

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councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)**

Time: [Thu Jun 23, 2005 09:59:36] IP Address: [67.100.186.179]

Response requested:

First Name: Cynthia
Last Name: Long
Street Address: 3816 Fort Worth Ave
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-751-8133
Email Address: cynthia.a.long@verizon.net

I am writing to strongly encourage your support for a Jones Point plan that includes two full size playing fields. Considering that field space is already very limited in the City, I am simply shocked that the Council would even consider any option that further reduces field space.

Youth sports provides an invaluable service for the community. In this age of concern about the lack of exercise and outdoor time that children have, organized youth sports are a critical method for getting kids away from the TV and out exercising. Sports also provides a way for kids and their families to connect with those from other

schools and neighborhoods and form community bonds that would not exist otherwise.

Comments:

I understand that there are some members of the community who would prefer open space to ball fields, but I have to believe that this is a vocal minority rather than an accurate representation of the community at large. Again, I think it is important to consider that Alexandria already lags behind other communities in the availability of fields and that demand is already outstripping supply. I will be greatly disappointed in the Council if it disregards this clear need and sacrifices the needs of the youth of Alexandria due to pressure from a well organized minority.

Please support the two field plan at Jones Point.

2
6-27-05



<karencoda@yahoo.com>

06/23/2005 02:33 PM

Please respond to
<karencoda@yahoo.com>

<alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
To <council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
cc

bcc

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delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,
Subject councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)

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councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)**

Time: [Thu Jun 23, 2005 14:33:23] IP Address: [70.17.93.113]

Response requested:

First Name: Karen
Last Name: Coda
Street Address: 29 W. Myrtle Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-548-6726
Email Address: karencoda@yahoo.com

Comments: I'm writing in regard to the upcoming vote on
Jones Point. As the parent of a 14- and a
13-year-old soccer player, I strongly support
Scheme A, which provides for two soccer fields.
Alexandria desperately needs more and better
athletic fields!

Karen Coda

2
6-27-05



<mike@tartanproperties.com>

06/28/2005 12:09 PM

Please respond to
<mike@tartanproperties.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,

cc

bcc

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macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)

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macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)**

Time: [Tue Jun 28, 2005 12:09:06] IP Address: [69.140.65.65]

Response requested:

First Name: Michael
Last Name: Porterfield
Street Address: 16 W. Bellefonte Ave.
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-836-6555
Email Address: mike@tartanproperties.com
Mayor & Council:

I am a city resident, small business owner, father of three ACPS students, and after attending last nights public hearing I urge you to vote for Scheme A for the following reasons.

1. RETURNING the fields to JPP will not increase the density or intensity of the use of the park.

2. When all of the city's large projects are completed (TCW, Wilson Bridge, Potomac Yards) the city cannot stand to have a net loss of fields. This is irrefutable.

3. Organized sport and recreation creates opportunities for the young and the old to engage in healthy lifestyles. To not replace the fields is to eliminate opportunity.

3. In reality the multi-purpose playing fields will benefit a greater portion of the citizenry both youth and adults. Eliminating all fields or building only one "small" field will certainly be open to all but in reality will be utilized by many fewer people.

Comments:

4. If we need more parking space why don't we consider using the garden area that is used by only a small private number of people. It is my understanding that the city owns that land adjacent to the park. Is space "on the table" for discussion?

Losing wooded areas and possible wetlands should be a concern. So, why don't we make a commitment that when the city begins to spend its Open Space Fund it will enhance new spaces that are acquired and add "tree for tree" back to the city's inventory for any significant trees that are removed in future city run development projects? We should attempt to prevent a net lose of trees as we should for the fields.

I grew up playing soccer on the JJP fields. I probably never won a game on those fields but I learned about competition and fair play that eventually led me to the Olympics. As a child I also swam in the river from The Point, enjoyed picnics with my family and to this day I ride bikes or run with my daughters and son through there. Why should this multi-use park change because of few self interested neighbors.

Coaches and city councils must make decisions that benefit the greater good of its team and citizens not the interest of a few.

One City. One Team. Two Fields

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Porterfield

2
6-27-05



<libschmidt@hotmail.com>

06/08/2005 05:53 PM

Please respond to
<libschmidt@hotmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,

cc

bcc

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Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,
Subject councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)

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macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)**

Time: [Wed Jun 08, 2005 17:53:50] IP Address: [68.50.201.159]

Response requested:

First Name: Elizabeth
Last Name: Schmidt
Street Address: 110 Duke Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-519-1785
Email Address: libschmidt@hotmail.com
June 8, 2005

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will be out-of-town at the time you have the public hearing for the future of Jones Point Park. If I were able to attend, these are the comments I would voice.

Jones Point Park is practically the only large undeveloped park/piece of land in the City and certainly the only one in Old Town. It gets a great deal of use by people who bike, walk, fish and exercise their dogs ,with the added advantage of

being bordered on three sides by the Potomac River. I am one of these people.

Comments:

Sometimes when city governments see undeveloped land, they think something must be done with it. I do not understand this thinking. There is, indeed, a lot to be said for just leaving it as it is. Open land with no purpose does serve a purpose. This park is used constantly and I can't see that the addition of soccer fields, basketball courts and parking will improve on what is now considered by most to be perfect. I don't believe that people who come to soccer games or to play basketball or to park their cars to do these things care much that there is wildlife in the thickets, birds in the trees (including the bald eagles) or that the Potomac River is just a few steps away. These people will be there simply to watch or play a game. This is not true of the people who use the park now. All of them are nature lovers and appreciate the park for the beauties of nature and wildlife that it has to offer.

It seems a shame to alter such a perfectly beautiful and natural spot for organized sports. Is there not some other place where soccer can be played other than Jones Point? It seems to me that soccer is being played elsewhere now--can't it stay where it is? In addition, the field down there is often under water and unplayable. The ducks love it just the way it is when the large ponds appear under the trees that they use for their hatched ducklings.

I ask you, Mr. Mayor, and Council Members, to think on a larger scale and resist the temptation to "improve" Jones Point Park. Nothing that has been proposed so far seems like an improvement to me. I think that you should take a page from Theodore Roosevelt's book and leave unspoiled places unspoiled. He did what was necessary to preserve land across the country. Will you do the same for Alexandria? I hope that you will.

Elizabeth R. Schmidt

2
6-27-05



<SusanBKellom@aol.com>

06/27/2005 05:02 PM

Please respond to
<SusanBKellom@aol.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,

cc

bcc

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Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)

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macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)**

Time: [Mon Jun 27, 2005 17:02:09] IP Address: [205.188.116.202]

Response requested:

First Name: Susan
Last Name: Kellom
Street Address: 719 South Fairfax Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-548-9273
Email Address: SusanBKellom@aol.com

Dear Persons of Councilness:

Comments: When you are deliberating Jones Point tonight,
Ben and I hope that you vote for the Yates
Garden Compormise Plan. We think that it is well
thought out and will well serve both our
neighborhood and the entire City.

We would have come and told you ourselves, but
today is Ben's Birthday and we have better things
to do ;-)

Susan and Ben Kellom

2
6-27-05



<kevbros@aol.com>

06/23/2005 08:15 AM

Please respond to
<kevbros@aol.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,

cc

bcc

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Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)

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delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)**

Time: [Thu Jun 23, 2005 08:15:49] IP Address: [172.133.192.44]

Response requested: []

First Name: Kevin
Last Name: Brothers
Street Address: 808 S. Royal Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703.548.8592
Email Address: kevbros@aol.com

The Jones Point Park Saga needs to be resolved and it needs to be done right. City Council is now faced with two bad choices and unless it gets creative, will make a poor decision. Here are five considerations that Council should mull, before acting.

1. Blue Ribbon Panel. The design process and public relations aspect of this decision has been a complete disaster. Why not appoint a panel of five or so disinterested wise people who can consider all the equities involved here. The current task

force, commissions, and studies are all filled with too much emotion and a “win-loss” attitude about the decision. Indeed, being forced to choose between Option A and Option E reveals how polarized the sides have become. You should find a way to compromise on this issue and a panel would be the way to go.

2. Too much park for the parking. The loss of the 242-parking space option changed the whole nature of the enterprise. Unfortunately, some continue to deny this fundamental problem and continue to advocate for two adult-size soccer fields.

3. Location Location Location. Jones Point Park lies on the Potomac. With the reduced available parking, the City should focus on the site’s unique access to the river. River access it what makes the site special and should be the priority. Soccer fields can be sited anywhere and have become a huge distraction. The adult soccer-playing population in Alexandria, could not live farther from Jones Point. Why not put soccer fields somewhere that can be easily accessed by the adult-soccer playing population to reduce city traffic and parking concerns? Of course, the adult soccer-playing population on the Route 1 corridor will be the big winners should you approve Option A. Route 1 non-residents will be able to access the site much more easily than City residents from Landmark or Arlandria.

Comments:

4. Respect the voters. The residents of Old Town, as far as I can tell, are overwhelmingly opposed to Option A. I understand that other forces have mobilized soccer leagues composed of residents and non-residents to support Option A, but when it comes time to vote, the passion on this issue lies with the voters of Old Town.

5. Consider the Source of those pushing for Option A. Support for this Option seems to come from the Parks Department who have been unwilling to alter their grandiose plan or compromise on this issue. When staff tells you one thing, and the citizens tell you another, responsive government should side with the citizens.

Sincerely,

Kevin Brothers
808 S. Royal St.
Alexandria

2
6-27-05



<gmanza@mentoring.org>

06/28/2005 10:58 AM

Please respond to
<gmanza@mentoring.org>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, <council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>

cc

bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com, delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net, councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com, macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com, rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov, tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)

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Time: [Tue Jun 28, 2005 10:58:46] IP Address: [67.100.157.93]

Response requested: []

First Name: Gail
Last Name: Manza
Street Address: 310 Princess Street
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-683-8889
Email Address: gmanza@mentoring.org

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper and Members of the City Council:

My husband and I have not been following the plans for Jones Point Park, so we decided to attend last night's public hearing to learn more about the options now under consideration. After listening closely to the thoughtful comments of those on every side of the issue, we would like to register our strong support for the options that preserve the most greenspace (i.e., either option E or the "compromise option").

We very much hope you will take this opportunity

to make Alexandria more like those cities (both large, like Chicago, and small, like Charleston) that actively appreciate the value of greenspace ... for environmental reasons, for public amenity reasons, and because greenspace offers the communities' children the chance to engage in what is all too quickly disappearing from their lives -- the opportunity for UNorganized, independent play and exploration.

Comments: Recreational facilities for organized play are, without doubt, important to children as well. But surely a full exploration of current sites would yield opportunities to either improve or grow the number of fields available for both soccer and other organized sports.

We know you have a hard decision to make and were tremendously impressed by your commitment to balancing competing interests. We hope you will find a way to just that by accomodating disparate interest on the foundation provided by all the resources of Alexandria, rather than on the more narrow foundation provided by Jones Point Park.

Many thanks for considering our views. We very much appreciate it.

With best regards,

Gail Manza
310 Princess Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

2
6-27-05



<emerald_dragon@hotmail.com>
>

06/24/2005 03:05 PM

Please respond to
<emerald_dragon@hotmail.com>

<alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
To <council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
cc

bcc

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macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)**

Time: [Fri Jun 24, 2005 15:05:32] IP Address: [69.140.66.236]

Response requested:

First Name: John Howard
Last Name: Eisenhour
Street Address: 630 South Pitt Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703 836 0430
Email Address: emerald_dragon@hotmail.com
Subject: Jones Point Assumption

According to the Managers memorandum of June 27 (page 2, #2, first two sentences), the city staff does not consider it appropriate to site multi-purpose fields under the bridge because of noise and potential maintenance problems. I believe that this is an error in judgment in the case of the two very, very high spans that will be located under the inner and outer loop closest to the river. Neither staff objection makes much sense unless the city wants to apply professional standards concerning overhead clearance to these fields.

Comments:

Wide fields of unlimited length could be placed under the bridge perpendicular to the flow of traffic (parallel to the river) in both of these locations. I suggest that each of you make your own judgment about this by taking a walk thru the recently realigned trail between the parking lot and the park proper. Enough of the outer loop has been completed so it is now possible to visualize how this would work in all three dimensions under the penultimate span. And, the span closest to the river is going to be even higher and wider than the one where the trail is right now.

Obviously, a fields under the bridge approach would relieve a lot of community angst and might diffuse the very divisive argument that has developed. Therefore, I recommend that you satisfy yourselves as to the wisdom (or lack of same) of the staff assumption about the inappropriateness of under the bridge fields prior to the impending public hearing and before making a final decision on this matter.

27 June 2005 City of Alexandria Public Hearing regarding Jones Point Park

Captioning for photographs

Photograph 1

Shows the location north of the WWB with the construction materials fenced on the left. Look to the right of the electrical pole and see the cattails that are found in pools, ditches, etc., a wetland plant. Note that there is no pool nor ditch which would indicate a water source underground. The area behind the construction materials site and the electrical pole is where a soccer field would be placed. This area has some large trees for example, sycamore and oak.

Photograph 2

This is a closer look at the cattail area. The white marker pole in the background is the northeast corner of the north-south soccer field. These cattails are 45 ft. from that marker pole. There are two species of cattail, the common cattail and narrow-leaved cattail. The narrow-leaved cattail seems to have migrated from its usual eastern location, Kentucky and prefers alkaline soils. Why is it here? Is this unusual? (Is this a learning tool?)

Photograph 3

This again shows the cattails near the northeast corner marker pole. While the area just to the left of the marker pole is covered with vines it is likely that this area too would hold wetlands plants such as the cattails had it been properly kept clear. Again notice the large trees that continue west where a soccer field would be placed.

Photograph 4

This photograph moves away from the cattail area in the direction that is depicted in Photograph 1. Soils that have water for wetland plants are soft and do not pack well. While these could be engineered, the cost and maintenance are often prohibitive and most jurisdictions would opt for other more suitable areas conducive to a more cost-effective and less problematic area. Also note the large trees that are to the left of the marker pole that are within the soccer field area.

There is greater opportunity for the area north of the WWB than soccer fields. The natural area provides a nature laboratory, a science laboratory, supplemental learning or discovery. Persons who have excelled in the sciences, medicine, research throughout history and today have had places like this park for observation, for science clubs, for scouting badges, for study. The connectivity with the archaeological, historical and the nature here is both interesting and important. This location is not the same ecosystem as that elsewhere in the City.

How many soccer fields does Alexandria already have? How many natural laboratories does Alexandria have? Most Alexandria children are science poor. Loosing this natural area to more soccer fields just makes them poorer. There is more to trees and wetlands than you can imagine. Learning can be cultivated here.

4



1



3



2





2 (aaa)

6-27-05

Julie Crenshaw:

What I'd like to talk about is the process. The intentions of the Council I think were very admirable. But what happened with this particular process was less than desirable. It was not consistent all the way through. The reason that you have some of the items in your report is because I FOIA'd information that was not given to anyone. The May 4 matrix that I put together was an example to the staff of how to do this. The public comments from all the earlier ones were given at the May 26 meeting. They were never reviewed. There are some very serious problems with the way this was done. It was not consistent from the beginning statements at a meeting and what took place within the meeting itself. As I mentioned at one of the work sessions, I intend to do a complete evaluation and submit it as if you had hired me as a consultant. The facilitator could have done this without it boiling down to a fight over soccer fields or not, and that's really what it's come to. Now, I'm sure that you have this particular item, there's enough copies for everyone up there. It's not necessarily something that I'm going read to you. But what it shows is that there are some changes in the vegetation up there. How many children who were here tonight and even how many adults know that this is a wildflower? What are the grades of the children who have been here tonight in science? What are we really looking at for what these children need? There are a lot of soccer fields. A lot of fields in the City. How many natural laboratories do you have in the City? The gentlemen mentioned Winkler. Okay, that's over there. It's one ecosystem. There are two or three different ecosystems in this park. This is gathered from the north end of the bridge. It was lying on the ground, I did not pull it up, which you cannot do in a national park. I will take it back. But, it was an example of something. This particular cattail is a species that typically doesn't grow in this particular area. It is only supposed to grow as far south as Kentucky. There are two different kinds of cattails there. There is the common cattail, which we usually see, and there is the narrow leaf (inaudible) cattail. There are two different flowers on here – there is a male flower and a female flower. How many of you knew that? The point that I'm trying to make is what your doing in the north end of the park is for something that doesn't have the same value as this natural laboratory has. How do you think people learned about botany, about biology, about chemistry, research, medicine. A lot of the people were in these kinds of areas and they studied them. What is the cell structure of this compared to the cell structure of that? There is so much information in this ecosystem or the ecosystems in this park. They are not repeated anywhere else in this City. Where are your science clubs? Most of the schools I'm familiar with have science club, biology club, chemistry club, ecology club, environmental science. You are destroying something for soccer fields that will probably sink. This is the area that I was showing you in the photographs. It is 45 feet from the northeast edge of the northern soccer field. It is not in a ditch. If there is enough water for this to be here, that water source is underneath that ground. And I know when I have walked that ground I sink and I'm not a very heavy person. The hydrology report was not done to determine the impact on the wetlands and the neighborhood. The results of that hydrology report say that there will be no additional flood rise in the Potomac River. Okay. I think people wanted to know about the wetlands and they wanted to know about the neighborhood. I think the money is better spent soccer fields someplace else. But give these kids a laboratory. There was a little

boy featured in the *Washington Post* who lives near the National Arboretum. He lives with his grandmother. He was about 12 years old. Under-privileged kid. That was his science laboratory. This is everybody's science laboratory. And you don't get it just anywhere. What can the children in the schools get from this place. Thank you.