



**Meeting
Notes**

Attendees: Public
Henrico County Staff
VHB

Date/Time: April 29, 2013

Project No.: 33670.00

Place: Pocahontas Middle School

Re: Short Pump Park Public Meeting

Notes by: Nancy Rodrique

FLIP CHART NOTES

1. Do we need all the proposed parking?

Response: We will review the number of parking spaces required to support the current sports programs and proposed program areas of the park.

2. Can we add a pedestrian crossing signal at Pump Road near the proposed park vehicular entrance?

Response: Public Works responded that traffic counts would be required after the park was open to verify the need for a traffic signal.

3. Water feature- why are we proposing fountain jets- could there be a natural water feature?

Response: We have the natural features of the Stony Run Creek in the wetland. The storm drainage ponds can be designed as natural water features. The proposed fountain jets were included to provide an interactive accessible water feature for family use convenient to the picnic and play area.

4. How will we prevent dogs using fountain jets?

Response: We have not had issues with dogs and dog owners miss-using other park features in the parks that currently have dog parks. While we do not have dog parks in combination with spray water features now, we will use signage and other means of preventing this. The water in the fountain jets will be chlorinated.

5. Why two dog parks separating big and little dogs? Should one area be larger than the other?

Response: We typically separate the larger and smaller dogs into two fenced areas. We let the dog owners make the decision as to which area their dog should use. Typically the larger dogs need more running room and are larger. We noted the inconsistency in the two schemes and will address this. We will get into more detailed design with the next design phase.

6. How many parking spaces does the park have now?

Response: We have parking for approximately 90 cars now in the lot shared by the school and park users.

7. What will the shelters look like?

Response: The selection of materials and specific design of the elements like shelters will be part of the next phase of design after the schematic layout of the park is approved.

8. The students currently meet in an outdoor lab setting where we are proposing to add parking- can the outdoor lab be preserved in it's current location?

Response: We will take this into consideration but there may be more accessible locations to the school to program as an outdoor lab for students. The current location of the outdoor lab is one of the few upland areas that is conducive to being programmed with new passive development uses that will be close to the proposed drive entrance and parking.

9. How will we protect cars parking around the perimeter of the softball field?

Response: We will provide taller fencing and ball netting to keep the balls within the field and protect cars.

10. Why can't we use the existing parking on the other side of Pump Road? If crossing Pump Road is too dangerous for pedestrian crossing why does this not generate the need for a traffic signal at this location?

Response: We are trying to achieve a balance of meeting parking needs and safety within the park by providing a sufficient number of spaces to accommodate the daily need for parking. We do not want to encourage park visitors to park on the opposite side of Pump Road and cross the street. Public Works responded about traffic signal warrants being required to support the need for a traffic signal.

11. Why are we adding shade structures – why is this needed if we currently have trees?

Response: there are some areas of the park that will be disturbed with grading and construction and will need to be replanted with shade trees. Some of these areas will benefit from constructed shade structures to provide shade more quickly.

12. Why are we adding Wi-Fi with a cell tower if the survey indicated that most park users are not interested?

Response: We are not adding Wi-Fi. The cell tower is existing and is not related to providing Wi-Fi service.

13. Why are we removing any of the existing woods?

Response: In order to accommodate the needs of all park users there will need to be some clearing and grading to accommodate the development. We are preserving the wooded wetland with proposed development of natural surface trails only. The wetland alone represents about 40% of the site that will be preserved. In addition some areas of upland are also being preserved. Overall more than half of the site will remain as woods.

14. What is the purpose of the park development?

Response: The park is being designed for the benefit of all county users with program elements including trails, picnic, play, dog park and the existing ball fields. There will be a balance of preservation, existing active recreation, and new passive recreation features to meet the county needs.

15. Safety at 3 Chopt and Pump is an issue as the traffic signal does not accommodate safe pedestrian crossing at that intersection.

Response: We will refer this request to Public Works to review the need for a pedestrian signal.

16. Economy – should we fund Park?

Response: The decision to fund the park was done with a bond referendum. We will make best use of the funds to create a park that meets the needs of this area of the county now and in the future.

17. Can you consider other safety measures for pedestrians with walks to the park and lower speed limit adjacent to the park?

Response: We will pass this request on to Public Works.

18. Is a perimeter trail possible?

Response: We will look at options for expanding the trail outside the wetland limits. We are limited to being under an acre of disturbance within the wetlands due to environmental regulations.

19. Why is the county proposing to expand the existing playground?

Response: The existing playground is very small and does not meet current county standards for a park of this size.

20. If the majority of park users are proposing to walk to the park in lieu of driving why do we need this amount of parking?

Response: Although the questionnaire tabulation indicated a good number of people planning to walk to the park it was not a conclusive sample of the portion of the county it is serving. A number of park users will continue to drive.