

“South Park” at Potomac Yards

Meeting #4 Summary

July 19, 2017 (Wednesday)

Aurora Hills Community & Senior Center, 7:00-9:00PM

Purpose of the Meeting: The purpose of this meeting is to learn more about the project and to review one draft park concepts. The draft concept was presented at public meeting #3 and developed based on community feedback, guidance from the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan and Design Guidelines, careful consideration of the site constraints and sensitive environmental areas, need for improved pedestrian/bicycle circulation, and the projected budget.

The room was set up for a presentation and informational boards where erected for participants to express and record their ideas. Attendees spent time at each of the informational boards and were able to speak with the project team members before and after the presentation. There were many opportunities to provide feedback, including feedback forms and display board mark ups. All input is summarized below.

Staff Attendees:

- Bethany Heim, Associate Planner, Arlington County, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)
- Irena Lazic, Principal Planner, Arlington County, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

Consultant Attendees: Rhodeside & Harwell

- Kevin Fisher, Principal Landscape Architect
- Qiaojue Yue, Senior Associate
- Rachel Schneider, Landscape Designer
- Sam Shreder, Urban Planner

Public Attendees: 15 people attended the meeting.

Questions and Answer, Community Discussion:

The staff and consultant team delivered a presentation, which is posted on the project website. Attendees asked questions during and after the presentation.

Q: When will the Department of Environmental Services (DES) multi-use trail, Phase 1, be constructed?

A: Phase 1 will begin construction in late 2018. Constructing the rest of the park improvements, or Phase 2, is anticipated in 2023 and is dependent on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Phase 2 is expected to take approximately 12 months.

Q: How many dogs will be allowed in the park?

A: There are no national standards for the number of dogs allowed in a dog park/run. However, if there are problem associated with the use of the dog run then the public can contact Park Rangers and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DRP) for assistance. Once the dog run is constructed, County staff will work with nearby residents, or ideally, a self-organized group that will assist with reporting issues to County staff.

Q: Will there be methods used to slow the bikers down?

A: Yes, there will be areas where pedestrians can step off the path and there is a jog in the path to reduced bicycle speeds.

Q: Will the park include lighting?

A: Yes, the park is currently lighted and Phase 2 will include lights.

Q: Will there be bike racks? Where will they be?

A: Yes, bike racks will be included and they are typically located near the park entrances.

Q: Will this presentation be available on the website?

A: Yes.

Q: The park does not include a parking lot. Where will people park when they visit?

A: Park users will have to find on-street parking. This may require park visitors to find parking a little further and then walking to access the park. Also, many people choose to access parks via walking or biking.

Summary of Surveys Received

A survey was distributed after the presentation and participants were encouraged to complete and return. Eight surveys were received.

What do you like about this plan?

- Connection to water (3)
- Overall layout of park (2)
- Access to water

- Separation of pedestrians and bikes
- The various dog park features and amenities
- Bioretention area
- Open lawn
- Tree shade
- Mixed-use
- Green space with play areas
- Incorporation of trees and natural space

What do you dislike about this plan?

- Concerned about bike and pedestrian intersection. Don't want to be run over by cyclists. (2)
- Location of dog run (2)
- Lack of parking could cause cars to park along park illegally
- Auto traffic could cause noise issue
- Concrete on paths

Which of the following park name suggestions for the park do you like the best?

- Overlook Park (3)
- Luna Park (1)
- Short Bridge Park (1)
- South Park (1)
- Waterside Park

Next Steps: The project website will be updated to include the presentation and a meeting summary. Please visit the project page for more information and to sign up for notifications. The draft Park Master Plan will be presented to various Arlington County and City of Alexandria Commissions and then to the Arlington County Board in November 2017.