

Fort Ward Park Priorities and Issues Identified by Community

HISTORIC/CULTURAL USES	#	PARK OPERATIONS	#	ACTIVE RECREATIONAL USES	#	PASSIVE/CASUAL USES	#	ENVIRONMENTAL/NATURAL RESOURCES	#	OTHER	#
1. African American History		1. Maintenance Facility		1. Picnics		1. Pedestrian Uses		1. Arboretum		1. Park Planning	
a) Signage of historical African American community, historic markers	19	a) Move maintenance yard, but do not replace w/ additional picnic or public access area	8	a) Noise- Noise problems with picnics, parties. Prohibit/ban amplified sound.	41	a) Maintain walking/running paths	6	a) Re-establish arboretum at Fort Ward as part of master plan	16	a) Develop Mission Statement	10
b) Restoration of community graves and artifacts	15	b) Regular cleaning and upkeep. Additional screening and buffer.	4	b) Alcohol- prohibit/ban alcohol /ABC permits	17	b) Walking Park is a plus	3	b) Master plan for Arboretum--include education and plant collections	12	b) Empower Working Group/Committee: ID short /long term goals, managed growth/stewardship	9
c) Exhibit for museum	15	c) Gravesites located inside yard, overlaps w/ yard, does facility need to be moved?	3	c) Overcrowding--control, reduce picnics, reservations, group size-no large groups.	15	c) Pedestrian/vehicular are shared-- safety concerns. Have a pedestrian only 'loop'	3			c) Postpone facilities plan until master plan complete	6
d) African American History--Input and Research	11	d) Programming for Nursery--Now and when its gone	2	d) Limit/eliminate picnics in areas adjacent to residents	5	d) Identify walking and driving road	2	2. Trees and Landscaping		d) Rebalance use, ID how Park is used;under/ over utilized areas, prioritize use- passive/active	6
		e) Nursery used as staging than for growing.	1	e) Noise abatement w/ adequate staffing on weekends	4	e) Sidewalks	1	a) Replant trees lost to attrition	6	e) Communications w/ Public- Open Comm. w/ neigh.	5
2. Identification of Historic Areas				f) Temporarily stop/reduce picnics to assess needs and to allow areas to regenerate	2			b) Trees/arboretum are non-existent	5	f) No changes in Park without public process or input, esp. adjacent neighborhoods	4
a) Grave sites, Pre-post Civil War, African American History, Regional significance, others	17	2. Rehabilitate Restrooms	14	g) Increase reservation fees	1	2. Parking availability for casual use	6	c) Azalea beds, festival	6		
b) Identify w/ signage- visible and clear.	11			h) Requirements for reservations-Alexandria residents/non-residents	1			d) Tree work, maintain existing azaleas, plants	3	2. Volunteer Ideas	
c) Identify areas/gravesites through research, GPS	8	3. Security				3. Other		e) Document trees/historic trees	1	a) Users take home their own trash - "leave no trace"	5
		a) Security for Park	5	2. Parking/Vehicles		a) More Historical emphasis	3			b) Coordinate volunteer corp. for park	2
3. Market/ Promote "Park Story"/ History		b) Closing times/Gates	3	a) Parking issues--spillover into adjacent neighborhoods from events/picnics	7	b) More passive use	2	3. Drainage		c) Community Service Plan	1
a) Recognize historic significance of site. Valuable levels within park.	10	c) Police	1	b) Vehicular traffic--eliminate vehicles or relocate?	4			a) Drainage along east property line/ throughout park	4	d) Adopt a Garden to beautify	1
b) Tours: African American Community, Oral History, Walking Tour, Cell Phone technology	8			c) Control access into park	4			b) No more paving, impervious surfaces	4	e) Users donate time	1
c) Begin planning, preparations for 150th Anniversary of the Civil War.	2	4. Communications/Assistance		d) No additional parking	2			c) Utilize stormwater as irrigation around loop	1		
d) Appoint a committee to begin short/long term interpretive plan for 150th Civil War Anniv.	3	a) Who do you go to? What is the process for contacting authorities?	4							3. Misc.	
e) History needs to be more accessible	1	b) Staff not on duty to help with concerns/ needs.	2	3. Special Events						a) Drug Use/ Crime, Rats/Vermin, Parking (and speeding) for St. S./St. A.	3
f) Interpretive program	1			a) Large events, such as Jazz Festival- not historic, negative impact, unrelated to history	4					b) Pay Phone on Westside	3
4. Interpretive Trail-- of cultural, natural, Af. American resources	16	5. Cemeteries/Gravesites								c) Park is a regional attraction and community asset	1
		a) Damage to grave sites	3	4. Facilities						d) Utility survey needed	1
5. Resource Management		b) Better maintenance of Cemetery	2	a) No additional pavillions	5						
a) Preserve history in museum. Concerns about flooding in basement.	3	c) Vegetative Screening	1	b) Lighting--lights are on and park is empty	3						
b) Message to "respect park and its' resources" (Picnic users)	3			c) Rehab/Upgrade Amphitheatre	1						
c) Assess if historic and cultural resources are compatible w/recreation use	2	6. Park Amenities		d) Electrical Outlets for Special Events (controlled)	1						
d) Mission Statement to define Parks historical purpose/importance.	2	a) Site amenities/furnishings should be appropriate for a historic area.	4								
e) Go back to the original concept of park-historic with azalea beds, passive uses.	2	b) No Loud signage, etc..	3	5. Management							
				a) Determine max. limit to balance use and historic resources	3						
		7. Other Maintenance/Operations									
		a) Leaf blower noise--why are leaves picked up?	1								
		b) Incorporate green practices in maintenance	1								
		c) City vehicles take up visitor parking spaces	1								
		d) Do not increase parking.	1								

= #of responses from priority exercise

Dated 3/18/09