

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	4. Communications/Assistance		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	a) Who do you go to? What is the process for contacting authorities?	4	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	b) Staff not on duty to help with concerns/ needs.	2	3. Special Events						3. Misc.	
e) History needs to be more accessible	1			a) Large events, such as Jazz Festival- not historic, negative impact, unrelated to history	4					a) Drug Use/ Crime, Rats/Vermin, Parking (and speeding) for St. S./St. A.	3
f) Interpretive program	1	5. Cemeteries/Gravesites								b) Pay Phone on Westside	3
		a) Damage to grave sites	3	4. Facilities						c) Park is a regional attraction and community asset	1
4. Interpretive Trail-- of cultural, natural, Af. American resources	16	b) Better maintenance of Cemetery	2	a) No additional pavillions	5					d) Utility survey needed	1
		c) Vegetative Screening	1	b) Lighting--lights are on and park is empty	3						
5. Resource Management				c) Rehab/Upgrade Amphitheatre	1						
a) Preserve history in museum. Concerns about flooding in basement.	3	6. Park Amenities		d) Electrical Outlets for Special Events (controlled)	1						
b) Message to "respect park and its' resources" (Picnic users)	3	a) Site amenities/furnishings should be appropriate for a historic area.	4	5. Management							
c) Assess if historic and cultural resources are compatible w/recreation use	2	b) No Loud signage, etc..	3	a) Determine max. limit to balance use and historic resources	3						
d) Mission Statement to define Parks historical purpose/importance.	2										
e) Go back to the original concept of park-historic with azalea beds, passive uses.	2	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

Fort Ward Park Priorities and Issues Identified by Community via Emails and Letters January-March 2009

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 and Passive Uses		1. Arboretum		1. Park Planning	
a) Signage of historical African American community, historic markers	2	Move maintenance yard	16	Noise and alcohol signage needed with ban of amplified sound.	5	Maintain walking/running paths and add distance markers	2	Re-establish arboretum at Fort Ward as part of master plan	2	Work with the community to develop a mission statement and park plan	2
b) Protection and restoration of community graves and artifacts	16	Move horticultural area	3	Better management and oversight of reservation and permit system	3	Improve overall passive pedestrian use	1	Add more trees	2	Remove October 2008 Facilities Presentation from website	3
c) Exhibit for museum	3	Regular cleaning and upkeep. Additional screening and buffer.	4	Alcohol- prohibit/ban alcohol /ABC permits	1	Walking Park is a plus				Create Advisory Group/Committee: ID short /long term goals, managed growth/stewardship	3
d) African American History--Input and Research	6	Restore maintenance area to sod	2	Overcrowding and overuse--control, reduce picnics, reservations, group size-no large groups.	2	Pedestrian/vehicular are shared-- safety concerns. Cars go too fast in the morning	1			Postpone improvements and spending until master plan complete	1
		Improvements are evident - satisfied	2	Noise abatement w/ adequate enforcement on weekends	1	Improve speed bumps -now they are ugly and impede pedestrians and are an ADA issue	3	Inventory all trees	1	Balance use,compatible uses important	2
2. Identification of Historic Areas				Change rental policies and increase reservation fees	1	Likes pedestrian area	1			Written Commitment from Staff - MOU with community	2
a) Preservation of all historical areas, including pre and post Civil War	5			Need for larger picnic site with moveable tables	1	More Historical emphasis with decreased recreational use	1			Park planning should be funded by City Council and have a transparent public process	5
b) Identify w/ signage- visible and clear.	7	2. Security				Protect open space	1				
c) Fund archeological survey and study of area	7	More security for park	1					3. Drainage			
								a) Drainage along east property line/ throughout park	1		
								Erosion control throughout park is needed	1		
3. Recognize and protect Civil War history	3	3. Communications/Assistance		2. Dog Park						2. Volunteer Ideas	
4. Research all significant areas/archeology	1	Who do you go to? What is the process for contacting authorities?	1	Better signage with rules for users with dogs	1					Public/private partnerships and grants needed	1
				Move dog park	1					Coordinate volunteer/neighborhood corp. for park clean up	2
5. Market/ Promote "Park Story"/ History		4. Park Amenities		Add area for "small dogs"	1						
Tours: African American Community, Oral History, Walking Tour, Cell Phone technology	4	Site amenities/furnishings should be appropriate for a historic area.	1	Dog park needs to be enclosed	1					3. Misc.	
Begin planning, preparations for 150th Anniversary of the Civil War.	1	Remove entrance booth	1							a)Overall improvement needed	1
Add archeological recreation/education programs	1			3. Parking/Vehicles						Signage in Spanish	1
		5. Other Maintenance/Operations		a) Parking issues--continue to provide on street parking for special events	4					Get land from Episcopal High School	1
6. Interpretive Trail-- of cultural, natural, Af. American resources	1	Move dumpster	1	d) No additional parking	1						
		Incorporate green practices in maintenance	1								
		Train staff to maintain historic areas	1	4. Special Events							
7. Resource Management				a) This site is good for large events and regularly used by the community. Keep special events here	2						
OHA should manage the park	2			b) Improve the amphitheater and picnic shelters	1						
				a) Large events have negative impact and should be moved or reduced	4						
				5. Facilities							
				a) No additional pavillions	1						
				b) Repair existing facilities, including restrooms	1						
				c) Rehab/Upgrade Amphitheatre	1						
				6. Soccer Field							
				Keep Lit Soccer Field	34						
				Turn lights off when not in use	1						