

# Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

## The Office of Historic Alexandria

Fort Ward Park Issues  
Community Meeting  
February 18 , 2009  
7:00 PM

St. Stephens / St. Agnes School



# News Release

## Future Meetings:

▶ March 4, 2009

7pm; Lee Center

▶ March 18, 2009

7pm; TC Williams HS



City of Alexandria, VA

City Hall, 301 King St. Room 3500, Alexandria, VA 22314

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 9, 2009  
PIO#043-09/mcs

**For More Information, Contact:**  
Michael Sherman, Communications Officer  
703.706.3987 or [michael.sherman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:michael.sherman@alexandriava.gov)

### City of Alexandria Schedules Community Meetings on Fort Ward Park and Facility Improvements

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and the Office of Historic Alexandria invite the public to attend community meetings to provide input on the current facilities and operations at Fort Ward Park, located at 4301 West Braddock Rd. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18 at 7 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, 4401 West Braddock Rd., and the second is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4 at 7 p.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Each meeting will follow the same agenda and format.

The purpose of the meetings is to provide City staff with ideas and suggestions which will help define improvements needed at Fort Ward Park. City staff will use the ideas generated from these two meetings to review community and user concerns, and to prioritize a draft action plan for park improvements.

A third community meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of T. C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. This meeting's purpose is to present the findings and take comments on the draft action plan.

Residents unable to attend the meetings can send written comments to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Attention: Laura Durham, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314, or [laura.durham@alexandriava.gov](mailto:laura.durham@alexandriava.gov) through Friday, March 13.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the City's Human Rights Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation or to request materials in an alternative format, please call Laura Durham, Open Space Coordinator, at 703.838.5095, ext. 412 (TTY 703.838.4902), or e-mail [laura.durham@alexandriava.gov](mailto:laura.durham@alexandriava.gov).

[www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov)

# Purpose

- ▶ Seek input from community on issues, ideas and suggestions that will help determine future park improvements.
- ▶ Use ideas generated from meetings to review community and user concerns, and to prioritize a draft action plan for park improvements.
- ▶ Send written comments until March 13:  
Dept. of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities,  
Attention: Laura Durham  
1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Email: [laura.durham@alexandriava.gov](mailto:laura.durham@alexandriava.gov)

# FORT WARD PARK TODAY



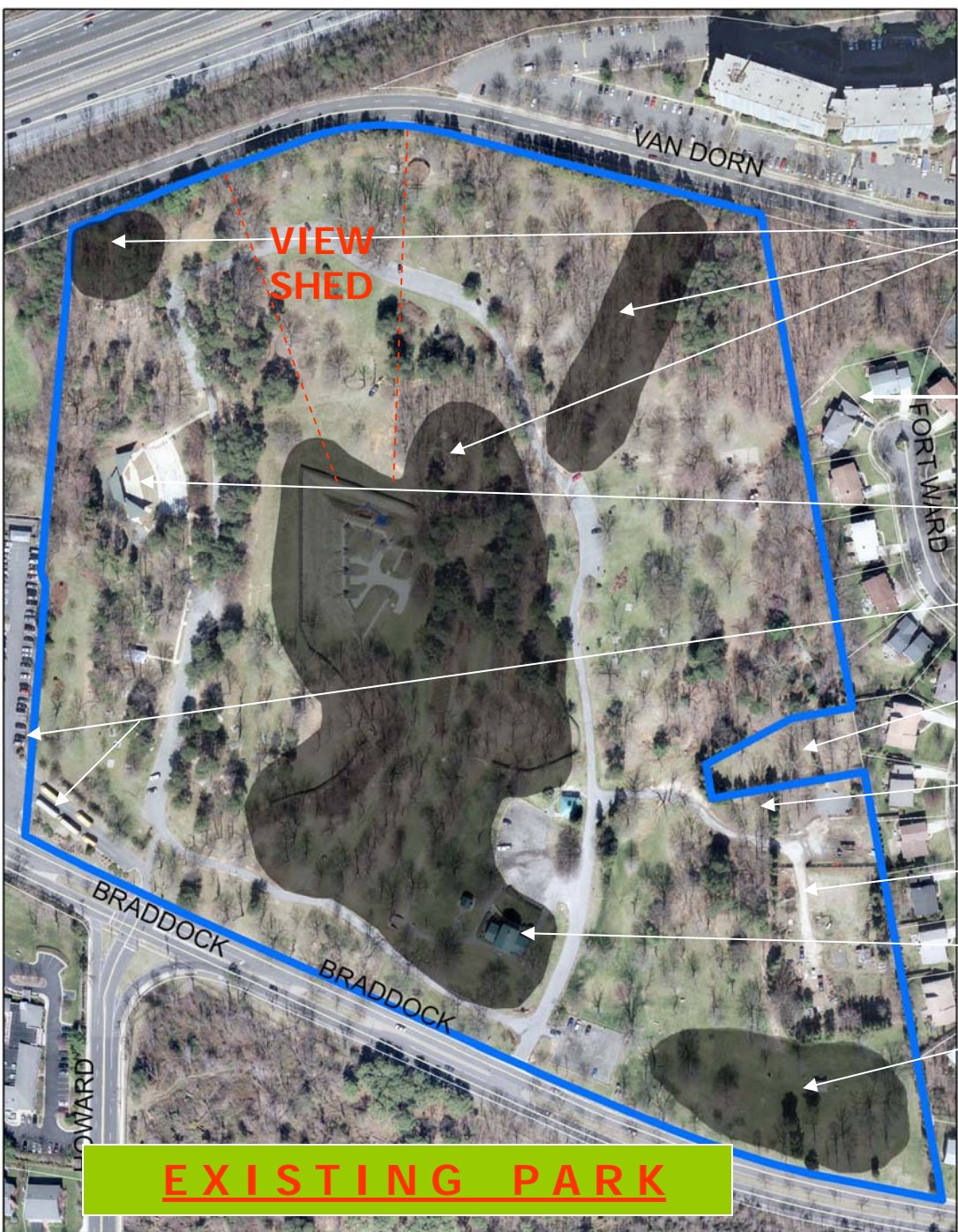
Sports Field  
and Tennis  
Courts

St. Stephens / St.  
Agnes School

VAN DORN STREET

WEST BRADDOCK ROAD

# Existing Conditions



Historically Significant Areas

Residential Adjacencies

Amphitheatre

St. Stephens queuing

Private Cemetery

Grave sites

RPCA Horticulture Center

Fort Ward Museum

Historically Significant Area

EXISTING PARK

# Existing Conditions



Reserved Pavilion

Playground

Restroom 2

Reserved Picnic Areas

Restroom/Office/Storage

Parking Area 2

Parking Area 1

Reserved Pavilion

EXISTING PARK

# PARK USES

- ▶ **Casual Uses**
- ▶ **School Uses**
- ▶ **Athletics**
- ▶ **Special Events**
- ▶ **City Programming**
- ▶ **Historic Interests**

# DAILY PARK OPERATIONS

- ▶ Mowing
- ▶ Leaf Removal
- ▶ Tree Trimming and Removal
- ▶ Horticulture and Nursery Center
- ▶ Watering and Irrigation
- ▶ Erosion Control and Grading
- ▶ Trash Pickup
- ▶ Cleaning and Restocking of Restrooms
- ▶ Scheduling and Monitoring of Sports events
- ▶ Rental Arrangements
- ▶ Security
- ▶ Building Maintenance
- ▶ Opening and Closing of Roadway Loop



# LARGE CROWDS DURING HISTORIC EVENTS AND RE-ENACTMENTS



# Balancing User Needs



# Issues Identified 2007-2008

- ▶ **Overcrowding / Crowd Control**
- ▶ **Noise**
- ▶ **Trash Removal**
- ▶ **Restroom Facilities**
- ▶ **ADA Compliance**
- ▶ **Maintenance**
- ▶ **Beautification**
- ▶ **Historic Preservation**
- ▶ **Safety and Security**
- ▶ **Site Access**
- ▶ **Storm Water / Infrastructure Management**

# Interim Resolutions 2007-2008

- ▶ Flora
- ▶ Revised Pavilion Rental Policy
- ▶ Reduction of Reservation Areas
- ▶ Security Booth
- ▶ Speed Bumps and Signs
- ▶ Information Kiosks
- ▶ Trash Enclosure
- ▶ Horticulture /Nursery Improvements
- ▶ Historic Preservation and Museum building

# Fort Ward Improvements Process

## Short Term Goals

- ▶ **Define Park Uses**
- ▶ **Identify Challenges**
- ▶ **Initiate Interim Resolutions**

## Long Term Goals

- ▶ **Balance User Needs**
- ▶ **Future Master Planning Consideration**

▶ Send written comments until March 13 to:

Dept. of Recreation, Parks & Cultural  
Activities

Attention: Laura Durham

1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314

E-mail: [laura.durham@alexandriava.gov](mailto:laura.durham@alexandriava.gov)