



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS ...

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 | 703-352-5900 | Fax: 703-273-0905 | www.nvrpa.org

November 17, 2009

Nicole Hamilton
Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
P.O. Box 2088
Purcellville, Virginia 20134

Re: White's Ford Park

Dear Nicole:

Thank you for your email concerning White's Ford Park. I agree we had a very good meeting the other night and I think that we will be able to satisfy almost all of LWC's concerns. One of the key points of the discussion was that our plans are preliminary and conceptual in nature. As we develop detailed plans, NVRPA will involve the public and various stakeholders for input. We welcome the opportunity to work with LWC in this future detailed planning process.

We have responded to each item you referenced in your email. LWC's comment is listed first, followed by NVRPA's response in italics.

1. We are agreeable to a boat ramp on the property but that it should be limited to non-motorized boats and boats with electrical trolling engines

At this time, our application includes a request to allow motorized boats with 10hp or less engines. For the reasons we discussed in our meeting, we believe the impacts of these boats will be negligible.

2. We are concerned with the trash the boaters may leave along the river, especially at the boat ramp, and because of that there should be a trash bin and restroom facilities there

It is in our best interest to offer convenient restrooms and trash receptacles for our patrons and we will add a condition agreeing to provide trash containers near the launch area. However, the VOF easement precludes us from providing any building, including a permanent restroom facility, within 600 feet of the Potomac River.

City of Alexandria
David M. Pritzker
William C. Dickinson

Arlington County
Michael A. Nardolilli
Paul Ferguson

Fairfax County
Jean R. Packard
Judy Braus

City of Fairfax
Arthur F. Little
Brian D. Knapp

City of Falls Church
Barry D. Buschow
Jeffrey Tarbert

Loudoun County
Joan G. Rokus
Su Webb

3. The number of formal campsites should be limited to 60 and that the cabins should be limited to 10 small structures. They should be clustered, and tucked into the landscape so they do not intrude on the property. Furthermore, stays in the campsites and cabins should be limited to one week

NVRPA has already conditioned its application to develop no more than 100 campsites, which include group camping, tent/pop-up camping and cabins. The number of cabins is already stipulated to be not more than 10. We will add a condition limiting formal campsites to 60, leaving the remainder for group camping and up to 10 cabins.

NVRPA intends to locate the cabins and landscape them such that they do not intrude on the viewshed. Detailed studies need to be completed before we can determine their exact locations; however, we will be sensitive to their visual impact.

NVRPA will add a condition limiting stays on the property to not more than 2 weeks at one time, which is consistent with the campground rules at NVRPA's other existing campgrounds and has been effective in deterring residential use of the campgrounds.

4. RVs should be prohibited and pop-ups should be limited to 22 feet in length or smaller

Our application includes this condition.

5. Limited primitive camping is acceptable as long as it is in non-sensitive areas and controlled

All of the camping at White's Ford Park will be strategically located to avoid sensitive areas such as the resource protection area and no-build zones.

6. Campers should be required to observe quiet hours between 9 pm and 8 am (no generators, etc.)

NVRPA has proposed a condition with its campsite application that establishes quiet hours between 10 pm and 7 am at the campsites. All other park activities are limited to dawn to dusk hours. These are the hours used at our other campsites. There will be a buffer of at least 200 feet between any campsite and the nearest property boundary. NVRPA will landscape many of these buffers and/or will allow them to reforest.

7. No major events, including camping, should be allowed when Temple Hall has the Maize or any other special event

NVRPA will add a condition prohibiting special events at White's Ford during the Temple Hall Maize season.

8. No weddings should be allowed in the park

NVRPA does not intend to develop wedding facilities or encourage weddings at the park.

9. Black locust is a valuable native tree that is highly beneficial to wildlife and should not be removed from the park

NVRPA agrees that black locust is beneficial to wildlife. We will not remove any black locust unless they are diseased or dying, or in the rare event a tree is located in an area of development, such as the location of the boat ramp.

10. That the riparian buffer should extend 300 feet from the shoreline

NVRPA will add a condition that a riparian buffer of 200 feet from the shoreline will be maintained. However, trails, launch ramp, access road and small structures on skids will be allowed within the buffer.

11. The riverside trail should be on the top of the upper slope

NVRPA will add a condition that the riverside trail will not be placed on the lower shelf of land immediately adjacent to the Potomac River.

12. Neither Hibler Road nor Limestone school Road should be paved

NVRPA agrees that the roads leading to the park should remain unpaved, rural roads. However, the decision to pave roads depends on the conditions set forth by Loudoun County and the improvement standards of the Virginia Department of Transportation. I encourage you to make your concerns about road paving known directly to the Planning Commission.

13. Some of the fields should be converted to natural grasslands/meadows

As we discussed at our meeting, the conversion of farmland into forests and meadows will be a major improvement to wildlife habitat. NVRPA will add a condition that it will allow at least 100 acres of the farmland on the property to reforest or be managed as grasslands/meadows. NVRPA intends to work with the public and LWC during the detailed design process to determine the types and location of these improved habitats.

14. The grassland should not be bisected with horse trails or walking trails

NVRPA intends to work with the public and LWC during the detailed design process to determine the exact location of trails on the property.

15. One pond should remain isolated for wildlife (i.e. not stocked with fish or used for fishing)

NVRPA intends to work with the public and LWC during the detailed design process to determine the use and disposition of existing ponds.

16. Whites Ford should be a dark sky facility and lighting should be designed and constructed to preclude light trespass onto adjoining properties, glare to passersby, skyglow, and deterioration of the nighttime environment. The use of exterior lighting in all areas should be limited to fully horizontally shielded lighting fixtures. The light element (lamp or globe) of a fixture should not extend below the cut off shield.

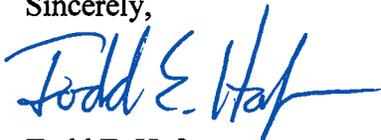
NVRPA is a proponent of dark skies and has already agreed to a condition to limit the type and quantity of lights at the park. We will work with staff to incorporate your suggested language into the condition.

We hope that you will recognize NVRPA shares many of the same goals and values of LWC pertaining to the protection and creation of wildlife habitat. Please also keep in mind that NVRPA serves a vast number of constituents such as youth scouts, boaters, fisherman, equestrians, cyclists, athletic organizations etc., as well as birders and wildlife watchers. Our mission is to both protect sensitive resources and to provide recreational opportunities. Groups representing these other constituents almost certainly would have a much different list of objectives and concerns, and it is impossible for us to accommodate every one of them, although we do try to balance them.

Thank you for your input, and we hope that you will support White's Ford Park for both the protection and creation of outstanding wildlife habitat and as a great source of passive recreation for citizens of Loudoun County.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Todd E. Hafner
Director of Planning and Development