

**VOLUNTEER PARK PLANNING TASK FORCE
MEETING #1 – SEPTEMBER 19, 2022
WALDORF SENIOR CENTER**

Kelli Beavers, Director, and Sam Drury, Deputy Director, Departments of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism (RPT) welcomed the 30+ attendees. RPT is starting a new process for planning and developing new parks and recreation facilities across the County. Each new park/recreation facility will go through an intentional process of developing concepts that meet local and countywide needs and engaging residents from across the county. This approach builds from the community input and technical assessment conducted during the Land Preservation, Recreation, and Parks planning process in 2021-2022.

Megan Maffeo of Floura Teeter Landscape Architects (FTLA) described a typical park planning process that includes establishing a vision, theme, and guiding principles for the park, based on both community and countywide values, needs and priorities; concepts are developed and shared with the Task Force and refined, then shared with the local community for further feedback; a master plan for the park is developed that can be built with flexibility over time.

Megan and Zolna Russell of FTLA then provided a preliminary overview of the sites at La Plata Farm and Pope's Creek and Richard Polk of Vista Design provided the same for Waldorf Park. Preliminary design themes:

La Plata Farm Park – Agricultural Heritage, Community Front Porch, Discovery (Demonstration & Learn-to Events).

Pope's Creek – Tidal & Ecosystems Education; Adventure in Nature; Celebration Park; Aquatic Recreation

Waldorf Park – Active Recreation, Family Friendly, Environmental Preservation.

After the overview of preliminary themes, task force members held a brainstorm session to discuss their priorities for recreation and programming at each proposed park. A catalogue of responses is attached.

To close the meeting, Megan thanked everyone for attending, encouraged participants to share the project ideas with neighbors and friends, and to attend the next task force meeting on November 14th at Waldorf Senior Center.

Popes Creek Waterfront Park Table 1-

1. Beach/ Water access with other options nearby. Basketball Court, Volleyball, etc.
2. Fishing Pier or promenade. Ensure visitors can't be stranded.
3. Universal design. Access and amenities for all ages and abilities. Handicap and low mobility access. Signage in multiple languages.
4. Active play at forested area. Playground, nature interpretation (audio, visual)
5. Hiking Trail to link both areas.
6. Treetop walk, zipline.
7. Camping Area.
8. Events at the park to draw people in. Buddy walk?
9. Art Installations
10. Splash Pad
11. Wildlife professionals at events who can talk about endangered animals
12. Waterfront promenade or boardwalk pathways
13. Slide and Diving Board
14. Basketball hoops/court, bike racks, swing sets
15. Beach volleyball
16. Community table, lost and found, toys, garden/flowers
17. Playground / nature play
18. Sunflowers and native plant fields
19. Bathrooms and concessions
20. Rafting or kayaking
21. Boardwalk, high up like the walk at Indian Head
22. Natural walking trails like Port Tobacco
23. Concert Stage or celebration stage
24. Location for fireworks
25. Zipline
26. Campgrounds and hiking trails
27. Beach chair and umbrella rentals
28. Beach area for swimming and docking for boats
29. Splashpad and waterplay area
30. Nature play with ground level ropes course
31. Nature Center like Clearwater at Cosca
32. Fishing Pier
33. Trailer building with restrooms
34. Nature classes with CCPS, re: environmental science
35. ADA and Senior accessible spaces and equipment
36. Treehouse or wooden castle
37. Wellbeing with equestrian trainers
38. Kayak rentals
39. Signs with nature education

Waldorf Park

1. Indoor sport bubble for tennis and more
2. Cloverleaf softball field with R/R building in middle
3. Canopy shade for field
4. Field misters
5. Multi-use sports fields and track
6. Ample parking with lighting
7. Nature trail and interpretive signs
8. Pavilions
9. Aquatics
10. Playgrounds
11. Pickleball
12. Community tables for sports teams
13. Hiking Trails
14. Lit Basketball courts
15. Bird Watching Platform
16. Reference of Howard County Troy Park
17. Splash Park
18. Food truck parking
19. Zip Line in forest
20. Concession and bathroom
21. Disc Golf
22. Pickleball/tennis court
23. Outdoor track
24. Splash pad or water park like Cove Point or Our Special Harbor
25. Family Picnic Area
26. Low Impact Senior friendly park activities
27. Health and Wellness open grass area
28. Bike trail around park
29. Mini golf
30. Walking/hiking trail
31. Community garden
32. Agricultural history center
33. Indoor tennis dome
34. Turf fields for multi-sport use
35. Lights throughout park, especially in sports fields
36. Involve the local carousel committee
37. Bike and skateboard park, BMX park
38. Classroom field trips for environmental education
39. Zipline in tree area towards wetlands, ropes course
40. Events and family friendly festivals like kite flying
41. Pavilions for picnics and events
42. Age-levelled playgrounds
43. Picnic table with built in highchair, see Walkers Mill Park
44. Ninja Warrior course like Blandair Regional Park Columbia
45. Educational trails with storyboards along stream

La Plata Farm Park 1

1. 5k / 10k walking and running trails
2. Activities and facilities for all seasons
3. Dog park
4. Rental event venue
5. Nature activity center
6. Open grass / picnic area
7. Picnic table with baby seats
8. Tractor and imaginative play elements
9. Therapeutic gardens
10. Open amphitheater for concerts
11. Sunflower or vegetable/fruit fields
12. Petting zoo
13. Year-round soccer field
14. Community garden
15. Music garden like Wiek Park in Leonardtown
16. Farm themed splash pad
17. Rock climbing walls
18. New site for the farmers' market
19. Zip lines or bike course like Horse Pen Park in PG County
20. Disc Golf
21. Tandem swings for parent/child
22. Outdoor skating rink
23. Dog park
24. Rental event venues or facilities
25. Connection to adjacent Wills Memorial Park
26. Note existing animals, birds, and habitat on site; observed foxes and snapping turtles in the park area.
27. Ropes Course
28. Activities at night – bikes, hayrides, bonfires, movie night
29. Looping pathways and running trail
30. Art installations of local artists, sculpture etc.
31. Elevated boardwalk
32. Zip line
33. Natural Playground or tire playground
34. Feature Bridge over the ravine
35. More passive than active, quiet for surrounding neighborhood
36. Shade
37. Greenhouse with farming and gardening learning opportunities
38. Community garden and classes
39. Parking
40. Bathrooms
41. Working barn / farm display
42. Focal areas for 4H and boy/girl scouts
43. Dog Park
44. Open Air Theater – see Tilghman Lake for example