

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission
Draft

Summary of January 28, 2019 Meeting
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Conference Room 715

Members Present: Mike Hanna, Claire O’Dea, Xuan Nguyen, Mike Mesmer, Jessica Skerritt, Gabriel Thoumi, Kimberly Fedinatz, Carol Rakatansky, John Bloom, John Seymour, Sarah Meservey, Colleen Orr

Members Absent: Charles Girard,

Guests: Joan McIntyre, Connie Ericson, Teresa Leonardo, Ian Harvey, Vince Plaxico, Tara Failey, Bernard Berne, Shawn Norton, Jonathan Morgenstein

Staff Present: Adam Segel-Moss (DES), Demetra McBride (DES), Jeanette Ankoma-Sey (DPR)

1. Public Comment

Connie Ericson from the Audubon Society provided comments regarding trail concerns related to the Master Transportation Plan Bicycle Element. Ms. Ericson noted that Audubon is very much in favor of bicycle transportation generally, however she noted concern about trail impacts to magnolia bogs and other sensitive environmental areas that may be impacted by trails. Impacts could include possible widening and lighting of Bluemont, Four Mile Run, W&OD, and others. Ms. Ericson’s complete written comments are attached at the end of the minutes.

Bernie Berne provided public comment about the Benjamin Banneker Park. Mr. Berne noted that he feels the Environmental Assessment (EA) is significantly deficient. He iterated deep concern about the EA incompleteness from a metrics perspective, overall impervious area impacts, tree impacts, and other items. Mr. Berne expressed that he felt wider trails are not better from a safety perspective. Mr. Berne feels that side-by-side riding and more riders can make it less safe. He is also concerned about trail widening in RPA areas and the associated environmental impacts. Mr. Berne’s written comments are attached at the end of the minutes.

2. Benjamin Banneker Park EA

Jeanette Ankoma-Sey provided a briefing on the EA and mitigation strategies.

The project site history includes:

- 2015 CIP Maintenance Plan
- Residential parcels acquired to convert to parkland (1994-2016)
- Increase parks infiltration ability and decrease real estate damage
- Last parcel demolition (2018)
- 90+% amenities within waterways*
- Floodplain

- Floodway
- Riparian Protection Area
- Framework plan process 2016-2017
- Design & Permitting- 2018-current
- Construction – Spring 2019

Ms. Ankoma-Sey noted that the facility improvements & goals include:

- General- improve circulation and access to all amenities
- Relocate playground outside RPA, partial removal from floodplain
- Existing playground area, return to turf /trees
- Reconfigure and widen multi-use trails, W&OD & Four Mile Run trails for improved safety
- Improve internal circulation and accessible access within park
- Extend athletic field; upgrade control box
- Upgrade parking lot configuration, layout, parking access
- Upgrade dog park entry configurations and internal amenities
- Furnishings and landscape enhancements

Jeanette noted that the project will include construction site management, erosion and sediment control, tree protection & proposed landscaping, stormwater management, site lighting & energy.

SITE OVERVIEW

Environmental Features

1. Floodway
2. Floodplain
3. Riparian Protection Area (RPA)
4. Four Mile Run
5. Significant Canopy
6. Managed Meadow

Amenity Features

1. SW9 Historical Boundary Stone
2. Picnic Area
3. Athletic Field
4. Playground
5. Dog Park
6. Parking Lot
7. Multi-Use Trails

BENJAMIN BANNEKER PARK ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESEMENT

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Facility Improvements & Goals

- General- improve circulation and access to all amenities
- Relocate playground outside RPA, partial removal from floodplain
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BENJAMIN BANNEKER PARK ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESEMENT

MITIGATION STRATEGIES & SOLUTIONS

Construction site management

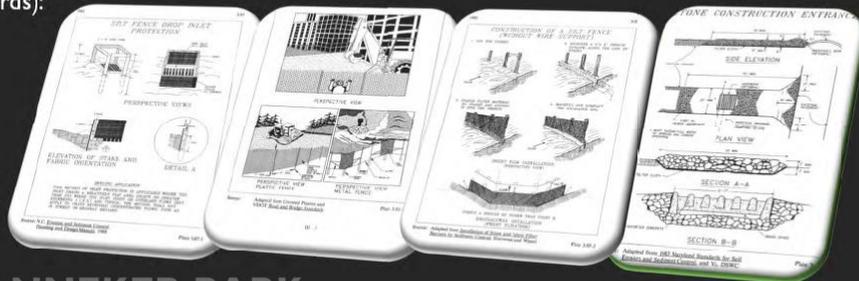
1. LOD concentrated to key areas of improvements and construction, not the entire park
2. Two (2) construction entrances- response to site constraints into park and environmental sensitive zones.



Erosion and Sediment Control Measures

(Arlington County Standards):

1. Silt fence
2. Tree protection
3. Inlet protections



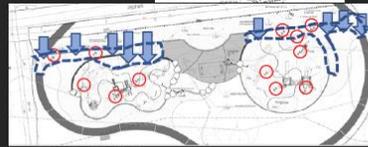
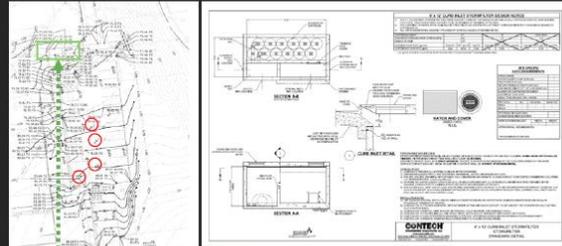
BENJAMIN BANNEKER PARK ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESEMENT

MITIGATION STRATEGIES & SOLUTIONS

Stormwater Management Measures

1. Detailed cross section studies/waterway impact
2. *Pervious concrete/ Contributing Drainage Area
3. SWM filter structure- Contech Storm Structure
4. Calculated managed turf areas

**Contributing Drainage Areas – in order for pervious paving surfaces to be effective the adjacent contributing drainage areas should be close to 100% impervious. Vegetative and turf areas increase sediment migration that can cause clogging and failure to pervious materials.*



BENJAMIN BANNEKER PARK ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESEMENT

Due to the high-water table, BMPs were nonfunctional. Pervious paving would be preferential but infeasible due to sediment and high-water table.

Jeanette noted that no County light upgrades were occurring at this time, but staff is looking to upgrade the fixtures to down lighting on existing poles. Dominion is upgrading some lights but they are on a different timeline and may start sooner.

Carol asked if anything was going to be done to increase perviousness in the greatly compacted dog park area. Jeanette noted that there isn't too much that can be done. They are going to look at vegetation around the site to hold the water at that area. Regrading the site is also part of the scope. Carol also asked about the storm cell BMP. Jeanette noted that there is a contract to clean it out. It is below-grade and needs to be maintained to function properly.

Claire noted that the EA details phosphorus and banked credits. She asked what level of these reductions happen on site and what are banked credits used. Approximately 60-70% of mitigation happens on site – the rest is being addressed through banked credits. DES Stormwater staff have worked at a very granular level on this project to implement mitigation.

John Seymour asked where the banked credits were derived. Jeanette confirmed that the credits come from other DPR projects. John noted concern about how this is going to be handled long term if it isn't being done on site. John noted concern about exhausting banked credits as phosphorus levels increase over the next decade.

John Seymour didn't see vegetation in the parking lot. Jeanette noted that there is very little area in the parking site to plant due to site constraints. To the west there may be some areas to plant as well as the north. This is going to be evaluated once built.

Carol asked if unpaved trails are being paved. No, they are not.

Mike asked if there is a net increase in imperviousness on the site. Specifically inquired about the demoed houses on the site. Were those used in the imperviousness calculations? They were included in the calculations. The increase in imperviousness is from the bike path, internal path, and parking areas.

Gabriel asked about extreme weather. How are increasing storm strength and frequency being included in the calculations? What happens in an extreme flooding event? The site was designed to have deep footers to make sure nothing on site moves. Also, the site was designed not to create walls or traps for material or water.

Kimberly asked about tree impacts and parking. Jeanette noted that the trees are not doing well around the parking area due to compaction. As part of improving and connecting new sidewalks, the trees need to be removed.

Mike Hanna asked about the bike path rerouting. Jeanette noted that it isn't part of the conversation or possibility now. It is dependent on NOVA Parks and they have not indicated a desire to discuss a feasibility study or immediate changes.

The commission asked about noise impacts. Jeanette noted that the only impacts to be expected after construction will be the sound of happy children playing.

John Seymour noted the desire to have color temp, fixtures, down light ratings, BUG ratings, and other lighting specs to see the proposed lighting retrofits. Jeanette noted that they are only specifying the same type of lights, except the new lights shall be LED. These will be colonial fixtures with LED lights.

John noted that the Commission doesn't see many EAs. He also noted that the County's report notes that this project is exempt. He asked why it is coming in if staff don't feel it merits an EA. Their team felt that the natural resources and voices they were hearing about trail widening and other impacts were large and loud enough to detail impacts and mitigation.

3. POPS Letter Review and Approval

The Commission reviewed, amended, and approved the POPS Letter. It will be sent to the Board on 1/30/19.

4. Streetlight Management Plan Letter Review and Approval

The Commission reviewed, amended, and approved the Streetlight Management Plan Letter. It will be sent to the Board on 1/30/19.

5. Work Plan

The Commission discussed, amended, and approved the Work Plan. The 2019 E2C2 will be sent to the Board.

6. 2018 Annual Report

The Commission discussed, amended, and approved the 2018 Annual Report.

7. Meeting Summary Review – November

Approved unanimously.

8. Old / New Business

Michael Mesmer attended the Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting and is meeting with potential E2C2 candidates. Several folks are interested in both the EC as well as E2C2. Mike also noted that he has been in contact with Erik Gutshall regarding the possible carbon tax and dividend letter resolution. The timing or next steps are not yet defined.

Sarah noted that the OD-26th Street meetings have been happening frequently. They have mostly been hearing updates and presentation. They are now starting the process of design for the site.

Sarah also raised the issue of EA questions and answers. What specificity should the Commission expect and how should the Commission weigh in. The Commission hopes that the new EA process addresses these questions.

John Bloom provided an update from the EC which meet on 1/21. One of the most interesting items is the ongoing discussions to the CEP. How and what the EC and E2C2 recommend for the CEP target are top of mind. Carbon neutrality by 2050 is the goal noted by the IPCC. Mike asked that the EC make specific and pointed recommendations for the Commission to consider. Additional background and regional context would be helpful. The Commission discussed a letter for review and approval by the Commission in February. The EC will draft language for further discussion.

Kimberly gave an update on the Solid Waste Committee. SW is requesting E2C2 support for budget decisions regarding tipping fees (glass recycling vs. trash). The committee is meeting again in March to discuss budget formulation. They are also looking for E2C2 support for budget purposes.

Mike Hanna will be drafting the Bike Element letter. The Commission may need to thread the needle between what is a key bike connection and is too impactful for environmental reasons. The other issue to be addressed is possible trail lighting. Mike also noted that Matt de Ferranti is the new liaison to E2C2.