October 14, 2021

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

PENINSULA PARK EXPANSION – Project# P509000

Comments were received from 7 citizens during the 14 day Open Question/Comment period of the September 7, 2021 6:30pm Zoom platform meeting for the above mentioned project.

The public comment period ended September 21, 2021. This serves as a summary of those comments. The comments are also posted on the Planning and Zoning website at: https://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/development/community-meetings/past-meetings/. A recorded copy of the September 7, 2021 Zoom Public Meeting is also available to view throught the link above.

1. Grading: No grading is shown. How a site is graded is critical to many aesthetic, environmental, stormwater management, soil degradation and tree and vegetation preservation considerations. It is impossible to make an evaluation of the plan without this information.

   A. *DRP will post a full set of drawings on its website. Please use link: https://www.aacounty.org/departments/recreation-parks/capital-projects/Projects/peninsula-park for all current and future project updates.*

2. Tree and Vegetation preservation: There is an important and healthy band of existing vegetation that runs through the center of the site. This vegetation is well on its way to becoming a forested habitat pathway in the future. Trees and vegetation to be removed or retained are not indicated. Evaluation of the impact on this feature is not possible without knowing the impact of the plan on this feature.

A. *Tree removal will be minimized to the extent possible for this area of vegetation and for the entire site. No specimen trees will be removed. Approximately 3,500 square feet of tree canopy will be removed for construction of the bioretention facility and landscape planting will be provided throughout the site and within the parking lot and around the bioretention facility to mitigate for the removal.*

3. Parking: The sites existing 6 athletic fields are served by about 70 parking spaces. The plan proposes 230 spaces for the additional three fields. Provide justification for this apparent imbalance in parking to field ratio.

A. *Refer to the response to Questions 5 in Section 1 of this document.*

4. Stormwater management pond: This site is idea to eliminate the outdated "pond" mentality and provide smaller and divers vegetated treatment basins with overland flows vs pipes.

A. *Various alternatives were considered including micro-bioretention and bio-swales and other infiltration devices early in the design process. However, it was determined that a single bioretention facility was best suited to meet the SWM requirements and also control the runoff of the entire site. The bioretention facility will have a forebay to allow sediment to settle before flow enters the facility and the facility is designed for ease of maintenance.*

5. Existing soil disturbance: The plan does not indicate the types of soil disturbance and soil restoration proposed after construction. Understanding soil disturbance is critical to understanding the plans impact.

A. *Comment noted, refer to question 1 in this section for more information.*

6. The Storm Water management systems should be designed to treat nitrogen from the athletic fields.

A. *The University of Maryland recommendations are used as guidelines to determine the timing and the quantity of product that is used to fertilize the fields The fields are fertilized when grass is actively growing after dormancy. Typically this is done monthly in June, July, August.and depending on the year perhaps in September. As this is a seasonal application and in accordance with guidelines there is little risk of over fertilization, therefore SWM above what is required is not being provided.*

7. As Chair of the Anne Arundel Group Sierra Club, I would like to express our support for the construction of additional athletic fields to address the demands for more athletic facilities.

A. *Comment Noted*