

Invitation to Audience (online submissions) 6-20-2023

Timestamp	Full Name	City	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	Attachment
06/14/2023 20:53:41	CLAUDIA A BARBER	LAUREL	20724	Yes	Claudia Barber, Attorney at Law	The potholes on the service road behind Route 198 and Russett Green West near Knight's Inn, Popeye's McDonald's, Exxon, Golden Eagle and PNC Bank are getting unbearable and a serious road hazard. Too many near head on collision incidents occur daily for people trying to avoid major potholes. County DPW does not want to be bothered. This is the politics of everything. We need an advocate to enforce the commercial entities to fix the potholes or be fined. Where is enforcement action from the county government. Clearly missing since these potholes have been present for years. Why not change the county code to make it county roads so the potholes can be fixed. Please sponsor this legislation ASAP. This should be emergency sponsored legislation.	YES
06/19/2023 22:45:22	Anastasia Hopkinson	Annapolis	21403	No	Annapolis Neck Peninsula Federation	In response to community concern and interest in future development and use of the 19-acre Retreat property in Quiet Waters Park, the Annapolis Neck Peninsula Federation held a Visioning working session. See the attached report. The statement that summarizes citizens' vision and guiding principle for the Retreat area of QW Park is: "Keep it natural. Make it native."	YES
06/20/2023 10:07:54	Ray Sullivan	Annapolis	21403	Yes		Below you will see an email sent by the County Executive in reply to citizens request to cancel the lease in Quiet Waters Park. This is dated 2/4/23. Since that time despite repeated requests as to the status of the lease termination we have not had answer. The citizens are being ignored. I call this to your attention in the hopes that our representatives on the County Council will have better results than the citizens than the people they represent. Re: Moving Forward-Quiet Waters Park Steuart Pittman <expitt99@aacounty.org> Andrew Loftus You;Joel Dunn;Richard Batiuk;Erica Jackson Thanks for your email, Andrew. I do believe that we all share a desire to do something special on the land that we call Quiet Waters Retreat, something that attracts users to the extraordinary experience of the location while increasing biodiversity and reducing erosion. I and our team at Rec and Parks look forward to engaging Friends of Quiet Waters, neighborhood organizations, user groups, the Chesapeake Conservancy, and our other partners involved in the acquisition in that process. Our office of law is handling the Chesapeake Conservancy lease termination. The Best Place For All Steuart Pittman County Executive (410) 222-1821 www.aacounty.org On Mon, Jan 30, 2023 at 6:47 PM Andrew Loftus <andy@friendsofquietwaterspark.org> wrote: Dear Mr. Dunn and County Executive Pittman, We write to thank Joel Dunn and the Chesapeake Conservancy for withdrawing plans to build an office building in Quiet Waters Park that was to be called the Earl Conservation Center. We also commend Joel, the Earls, and the County for their leadership in the acquisition of the 19.4-acre addition to Quiet Waters Park. This addition to the 340-acre park will provide generations of County residents more land to access the beauty and serenity of nature, especially water views of Loden Pond and the South River. This is especially important given the rapid development to accommodate a growing and sprawling population in this County which is consuming open space as the demand increases for parks. Anne County population has doubled since 1970 to nearly 600,000 residents and, according to PLAN2040, will increase by another 94,000 by 2035. These demographic statistics document the critical need for more open space lands to be acquired and protected for passive recreation as park visitation has greatly increased since the advent of COVID 19. Quiet Waters Park alone drew more than 860,000 visitors last year. We ask the County and Conservancy to collectively formally cancel/terminate the lease agreed upon to allow the Conservancy to construct the office building (Earl Conservation Center) and related structures/roads This would be the end of plans to construct the office building in Quiet Waters Park and allow planning to properly integrate the property into the park to move forward. We also ask that the 19.4 acre addition be named The James and Sylvia Earl Conservation Overlook (or a name of the Earl's choosing) and that signs be posted noting this name and plaques be placed to commemorate the generosity of the Earl family in their philanthropic support for the permanent conservation of this acreage. The efforts of the Chesapeake Conservancy in the acquisition of the 19.4 acres also could be cited. Finally, we ask that in lieu of the planned February 13 public meeting that County Rec and Parks begin the necessary collaboration with the Friends of Quiet Waters Park and the public to take a fresh look at the application of the planned \$4-\$5 million in capital improvements for the 19.4 acre new acquisition and elsewhere in the park. We suggest that at 6:30 p.m. on February 13 at the QWP Blue Heron Room, Rec and Parks meet with the Friends of Quiet Waters Park to begin this process. Then, after this meeting, a County rec and Parks public meeting should be held with a broader group of residents where any planned capital improvements for Quiet Waters Parks could be presented for comments by residents. We feel this will lead to a smoother outcome with greater public involvement in the early stages. Thank you for your efforts and we trust we can move forward collegially to accomplish the goals set forth above. Respectfully Submitted, Andrew Loftus, President of Friends of Quiet Waters Park. Anastasia Hopkinson, Vice President of the Annapolis Neck Peninsula Federation Ray Sullivan, Hillsmere Resident Gerald Winegrad, Recovering Politician	





























## **Report of Citizens' Vision Meeting for the Retreat Area at Quiet Waters Park**

### **"Keep it natural. Make it native"**

The Meeting. Thirty-eight citizens met in a professionally-facilitated working meeting on April 3, 2023 for 2.5 hours at the Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library to express their vision for the future use, development and maintenance of the Quiet Waters Park (QWP) Retreat Area. Citizens came from various areas of Anne Arundel County.

Vision. The primary, almost overwhelmingly dominant vision is to keep the Retreat Area a natural environment, with passive use, without built-structures or the appearance of development. The retreat area is envisioned as a meadow surrounded by forest, "same as it is today but with more native plants". It would truly be a retreat for the urbanized residents of an increasingly congested peninsula and region, of Anne Arundel County. In summary, the citizens' vision is: "Keep it natural. Make it native".

Design Goal for Suggested Mood/Feeling for Retreat Area. The Area would be different in design and mood from the main QWP by retaining its current "other worldly", serene and spiritual qualities, while giving visitors a sense of connection to the earth, feelings of groundedness, yet also mystery. The Retreat Area is a get away from the busy, noisy world of human activity. It is a place for quiet pleasures of the soul, tranquility and connection to the earth and water, which may engender curiosity about the land's history (native American Indians and others). The Retreat should be a park to refresh the spirit with the joys of life and nature, as Christopher Robin experienced in Winnie-the-Pooh.

Become a Model of Environmental Sustainability. The Retreat Area would be a model of environmentally sustainable native plants and trees, attractive to pollinators, insects, birds and mammals. Invasive plants and trees would eventually be replaced by natives.

Learn by Example. The Retreat Area would help Visitors to learn by example how to maintain their own native landscapes or gardens. Different from other educational areas and efforts in QWP, the Retreat's educational qualities are realized by seeing, observing and experiencing, and perhaps modest signage; and not telling, lecturing, or instructing.

"Design with Nature". The design will be an ecofriendly area, which is actually just an old fashion natural meadow and forest, with native plants (some pollinators) spread throughout. No buildings; although some saw a need for some structures (e.g., benches, small shelter, ADA paths) the majority valued the "unbuilt environment". Participants want to be included in decision-making for the Retreat Area.



Participants felt the 'other' 320-acre main QWP park area has sufficient amenities for diverse interests; the Retreat Area should be different in that its attraction is that it is "natural", meaning serving nature and untouched by structures for human activity. The Area should not have uses and facilities that are redundant of the main park (e.g., large picnic pavilions).

Summary. Overall, the strongest sentiment was expressed as "I love you just the way you are." Participants want a retreat from the modern world, where they can experience a place untouched by human interventions.

Actual Comments from Participants. There were a mix of opinions and all were welcome. But there was a trend of "less is more". Below are suggestions of what participants did and did not want.

**Table 1. Some Participants did want:**

- Participants strongly support citizens and county staff updating the QWP Master Plan to incorporate the plan for the Retreat Area
- ADA paths, for people with limited mobility, including the elderly
- Benches, to sit and enjoy the view, read, reflect
- Shelter or small pavilion
- Pollinator pathways and connecting habitats
- Beneficial plants for pollinators
- Plants that are tolerant to climate change
- Water access to Loden Pond (and South River) for shallow-water watercraft, e.g., kayaks
- Maintenance building not in Retreat Area or even near entry
- A Porta Potty toilet, if a toilet is necessary, before the entry, near where the Maintenance building is planned, but not inside the Retreat Area
- Do not disturb tranquility with water and/or electric utilities; no lights at night.
- Educational opportunities and programs for school-aged kids, e.g., hikes
- Modest educational signage (e.g., tree names, and brief history of area at entry)
- Fence at cliff (some suggested split-rail to look natural)
- Work to stabilize the shoreline's cliffs
- Protect the fox and cliff-dwelling species
- No trashcans; carry out whatever you bring in
- Pets allowed
- Water access to Loden Pond (and the South River) only for kayaks or similar very shallow, paddle water sports, if at all.

**Table 2. Some Participants did not want:**

- Built structures or public buildings
- Parking lot
- Road
- Impervious walkways or paths
- Pavilions, large
- BBQ
- Benches
- Kiddie play areas
- Built or elaborate plots of exhibits of plantings, e.g. at composting area
- Fence at cliff (some suggested split-rail to look natural)
- Dog park
- Pets Not Allowed restriction
- A park attraction in the consumer or retail sense
- Comfort/toilet buildings
- A Porta Potty toilet would be convenient before the entry, near where the Maintenance building is planned, not inside the Retreat Area.

Meeting Organization

Participants were invited by email by the Annapolis Neck Peninsula Federation and by word-of-mouth. All participants were very frequent visitors to QWP, some for many decades, and know the Retreat property quite well. Three-quarters were women. All but one African American (a county Constituent Services employee on assignment) were white, from 25 to 80 years of age. All are residents of Anne Arundel County or the City of Annapolis

The thirty-eight participants were seated at seven tables of approximately six persons. Each table had engineering drawings and graphical images of the 19 acre Retreat property (from County DRP sources, 2'x 3' size) and writing and drawing materials.

Amy Steindler, Annapolis MD, a professional facilitator, led participants thru a 3-step process:

1. Privately note individual feelings, and then share with table mates and then share with all;
2. Discuss with table mates themes derived from such feelings, and then share with all;
3. Express visions, as a group, that arose from themes.

Participants were given minimal guidance or direction about park designs or amenities. They were asked to be open to ideas and to not judge any notion, expression or statement.

Anastasia Hopkinson, VP, Annapolis Neck Peninsula Federation, anpfederation@gmail.com.