

Public Workshop Thursday, May 2, 2013 Providence Elementary School

FACILITATED PORTION

Katie Grove and Patrick Hoagland facilitated a portion of the workshop where the participants were all together. The following is a summary of their comments:

1. Where do you go for park, recreation, trails, open space, cultural arts and events and what do you do?
 - Walk the dog at Van Dyck and Daniels Run
 - Playground
 - Fields
 - Sledding at Van Dyck, Radcliff
 - Tennis at Providence, Van Dyck, and Kutner
 - Hike and walk at Daniels Run
 - Trails
 - Bike on sidewalks and trails
 - Shade trees in Ratcliffe
 - Picnic
 - Sand Volleyball
 - Farmers Market
 - Trail at Kutner
 - Dog Park on Jermantown Road
 - Meadowlane
 - WateMine and Mini-golf
 - Trail at Burke Lake
 - Skatepark
 - Christmas-Festival of Lights and Carols
2. What do you like about park, recreation, trails, open space, cultural arts and events in Fairfax?
 - Easy access-can walk to parks
 - Daniels Run in summer, feels like you are in the woods
 - Park cuts through neighborhood – Ted Grefe
 - Well maintained, safe, clean
 - Lots of classes offered (Zumba, Pilates)
 - Skatepark at VanDyck – Accessible, local
 - Green Acres – bocce
 - Lots of pick-up activities at Radcliffe
 - Mix of parks, blend (size and type)
 - Movies
 - Holiday lights
 - Fireworks an parade at July 4th
 - Turf fields
 - Open space
 - Fall Festival
 - All events
 - Spotlight on the Arts

- 4th of July
 - Chocolate Lovers Festival
 - After school programs
 - Irish Festival
 - Sherwood Center
 - Old Town Hall activities
 - Green Acres Senior Center
 - Summer camps
 - Blenheim
 - Playgrounds
 - Lectures
3. What don't you like or what is missing in Fairfax?
- Working restrooms
 - Drinking fountains
 - Spray grounds
 - Dog park
 - Skatepark (unless she's good she's not going to go in"
 - Quality of upkeep of ball fields
 - Public transit access to facilities
 - Edible landscaping
 - Invasive Species/plants/poison ivy
 - Public art
 - Line skating
 - Labeling of trees
 - More bike trails; connected to school, shopping centers, throughout the City
 - Public gardens – is it working? Seems like they are being used; price is too high
 - 1992 Long Range Plan – Cooperate with GMU on: Use of facilities; bring their programs here; create a master calendar; also information from high schools
 - More accessibility to green spaces (eg. Along Route 50)
 - More signage and interconnectivity of trails, bike trail signage.
 - More tennis courts
 - Traffic – If I have to go past town I will not go by bike or car
 - More small, efficient buses for use of public transportation
 - Facilities like Carmel Indiana with a children's museum, indoor Olympic pool, etc. They made it happen. Leaders need to get out and see how it is done elsewhere
 - Downtown-Make it pedestrian only
 - Downtown large central park concept
 - Another asphalt track (in addition to Fairfax HS)
 - Finish downtown park – Take Fairfax Corner idea
 - More charging stations in the City
 - Travel time the group was willing to drive to facilities and programs – Mostly 10-15 minutes with some willing to go longer.
4. Pretend it is the year 2023 and you are very pleased how Fairfax has improved its parks, recreation, open space, trails, cultural arts and events. What has happened in the ten years to make them so successful?
- Sherwood has a recreation center with pool, weight room and it is free.

- Thursday, Friday and Saturdays packed downtown
- Dancing
- As many bicycles as Madison, Wisconsin
- Get traffic out around the city
- All different ages in the parks
- Valley Health, Hospital has a therapy pool for seniors in partnership with the City.
- More cooperation with GMU
- Splash park – BIG
- More interconnected trails – they need to go somewhere
- Everyone is riding bikes
- Children can ride their bikes around the block safely
- Pedestrian overpass over 66
- Bike share
- City identity – art center. When you think of Fairfax, you think of arts. GMU has huge arts offerings. Arts brings them over here
- Edible landscapes
- Street performers
- Cross Camp Washington intersection
- City Police Station is moved to make room and converted to a community center
- Funded through user fees

COMMENT CARDS AT STATIONS

Parks

1. Have you visited any City of Fairfax parks?
 - Yes (5)
 - No (0)
2. Which parks have you visited?
 - Kutner*
 - Cobbdale*
 - Fairchester Woods
 - VanDyck*****
 - Ratcliffe
 - Daniels Run
3. What do you like about our parks?
 - In neighborhoods
 - Live, clean and safe
 - Nice trails and trees, upkeep and playgrounds
 - Something within walking distance to most residences
 - Variety offered
 - Can enter park from University or Rt. 237
 - The number available
4. What suggestions do you have to enhance our parks? (What's missing? What needs to be improved?)
 - Bike trail connectivity
 - Restrooms
 - Upgrade pavilions

- Better walking access
 - Better sidewalks – for example along Burrows next to Cobbdale Park – narrow road with no sidewalk for pedestrians
 - Enlarge Sherwood Center for seniors or use the other existing building
 - Providence Park gets little use mid-week – it is dark, hidden, and does not feel safe
 - A safer feeling in Providence Park
5. Flip chart comments
- New skate park
 - Dog Park
 - Fitness trail at Westmore Elementary
 - Modern Skate Park
 - Improve the baseball fields
 - Synthetic baseball field
 - More bike lanes and trails for getting to parks

Parks and Recreation Facilities

1. Have you visited any City of Fairfax park and recreation facilities?
 - Yes (6)
 - No (0)
2. Which facilities you visit most often?
 - Baseball parks used by Little League
 - Sherwood **
 - Green Acres **
 - Green Acres – Spanish class
 - Old Town Hall
3. What do you like about our facilities?
 - Close to home
 - Good space for a lot of activities
 - Glad the City has a senior center
 - Variety of offerings
 - The folks who use them
 - Sherwood is gorgeous
 - Old Town Hall is historical
4. What suggestions do you have to enhance our facilities (what’s missing, what needs to be improved?)
 - Facilities are well below what other communities offer
 - A good springy wood dance floor
 - Better exercise equipment at Green Acres
 - Better kitchen and bathroom facilities at Green Acres
 - Adult bathrooms, hot water, improved exercise at Green Acres
 - More activities/Cultural/Performing Arts and Visual Arts
5. Flip chart comments
 - Nature Center
 - Expand Sherwood – Take over Police Station

Recreation

1. Have you participated in any City of Fairfax recreation programs?

- Yes (5)
 - No (0)
2. Which recreation programs do you participate in most often?
 - Swimming lessons at Oak Marr
 - Senior classes
 - Senior Center exercise classes
 - Line dancing, bridge games, exercise classes
 3. What do you like about our recreation programs?
 - Darlene - the best instructor ever*
 - Early morning timing, free workout at Green Acres, equipment and workout rooms
 - I do think the kids summer camps, as well as all the kid and adult class offerings, are great!
 4. What suggestions do you have to enhance our recreation programs?
 - We really do need a dedicated recreation center with pool and gym facilities
 - Senior library at Fairfax Senior Center, lectures and advice for healthier life, safe and tax advice
 - More equipment for classes
 - Keep Darlene happy.
 - More teen oriented and more family oriented programs
 5. Flip chart comments
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Open Space

1. Are you aware of any City of Fairfax owned open spaces in Fairfax
 - Yes (6)
 - No (0)
2. Which ones are you aware of?
 - VanDyck
 - Ted Grefe
 - By Providence Park*
 - Another in historic area
 - Ashby Pond
 - Most of them
3. What do you like about these open spaces?
 - Walking trails
 - Public future park uses
 - Helps maintain green spaces and recreation
4. Are there any properties that you feel the City should acquire and preserve as open space?
 - Yes!! Small area next to Arthur Treachers Fish and Chips that I'd like the City to buy!! Some good trees.
 - Two parcels at the end of Winston Place that could be natural wetland woods – potential to help with storm water too.
5. Flip chart comments
 - Utilize open space to create opportunities for “edible landscapes”
 - Find a purpose for the property south of Mosby Woods Pool
 - Look at streets as open spaces and more walkable

Trails

1. Have you used any City of Fairfax trails?
 - Yes (3)
 - No (2)
2. Which trails do you use most often?
 - Bike friendly
 - Kutner
 - Fairchester/El Hogan neighborhood
3. How do use the trails (bike, walk, etc.)?
 - Mostly bike, sometimes walk
 - Bike and run
 - Walk, would like to bike...but they are too choppy and have too much road sharing!
4. What do you like about our trails?
 - They are separate from roads and take you to shopping centers and parks.
 - Wooded trails, peaceful and safe
5. What suggestions do you have to enhance our trails?
 - More trails; connectivity
 - Need longer more connected trail system so we don't have to ride on Rt. 123 or 50.
 - Coordinate with VDOT on an overpass for I-66 (bike/pedestrian)
6. Flip chart comments
 - Connect rail from Rt. 123 to Mosby Woods
 - Cross over Rt. 123 north of Fairfax Boulevard
 - Safer trail from Norman Ave. across Rt. 123. Need a path not just a shared traffic lane for bikes, pedestrians and cars.
 - Restrooms
 - Wood benches
 - Bike paths parallel to major roads – a bikeable/walkable City
 - Make sure North FAX design includes bike/pedestrian facilities consistent with the trail plan so don't have to tear out and rebuild
 - Mason-Metro Route – University better than George Mason Drive and Daniels Run better than Old Lee Highway

Events

1. Have you attended any City of Fairfax events?
 - Yes (8)
 - No (0)
2. Which events have you attended?
 - Fall festival*****
 - Lights and Carols**
 - 4th of July****
 - Fireworks
 - Street festivals
 - Chocolate Lovers***
 - Irish St. Patrick's Day
 - Memorial Day Parade
 - Craft Fair*
3. What do you like about our events?

- Sense of community*
 - The closeness of the community
 - Small town oriented
 - People watching, seeing all the crafters
 - Community involvement at large
 - Brings everyone together
 - Easy to get to the CUE bus shuttles
4. What suggestions do you have to enhance our events? (What new events would you like to see? How can we improve existing events?)
 - Open other locations for watching fireworks – satellite locations
 - Fireworks visible from far away
 - No sirens at parades – too crowded at CLF
 - Need better signage at Chocolate Lovers Festival for 2nd floor
 - Add live 60's music like the Beatles
 - Have performances during festivals (ex. H Street Festival in D.C.)
 - Bring the movies back
 - View 4th of July fireworks from more places
 5. Flip chart comments
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Cultural Activities

1. Have you participated in any City of Fairfax Cultural activities?
 - Yes (4)
 - No (0)
2. Which cultural activities have you attended?
 - Festival of Lights and Carols at Kitty Poser*
 - Irish Festival when it was at VanDyck Park
 - Spotlight on the Arts
 - Concerts
 - Art Galleries
 - Concerts at the Amphitheater
3. What do you like most about our cultural activities?
 - Accessible
 - Reasonable price
 - Support of local artists
 - The diversity
 - Variety
4. What suggestions do you have to enhance our cultural activities?
 - More dance
 - Have more
5. Flip chart comments
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