

WHO GOES TO THE PARK?

- All age groups use the tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts, as well as shelters, open lawns and trails.
- Children under 12 and parents/guardians use playgrounds and sledding hill.
- Teens/young adults use the skate park and sledding hill.
- Adults use the fitness stations and walking trails.

Improvements should support family-oriented multigenerational community.

SPATIAL CONSIDERATIONS

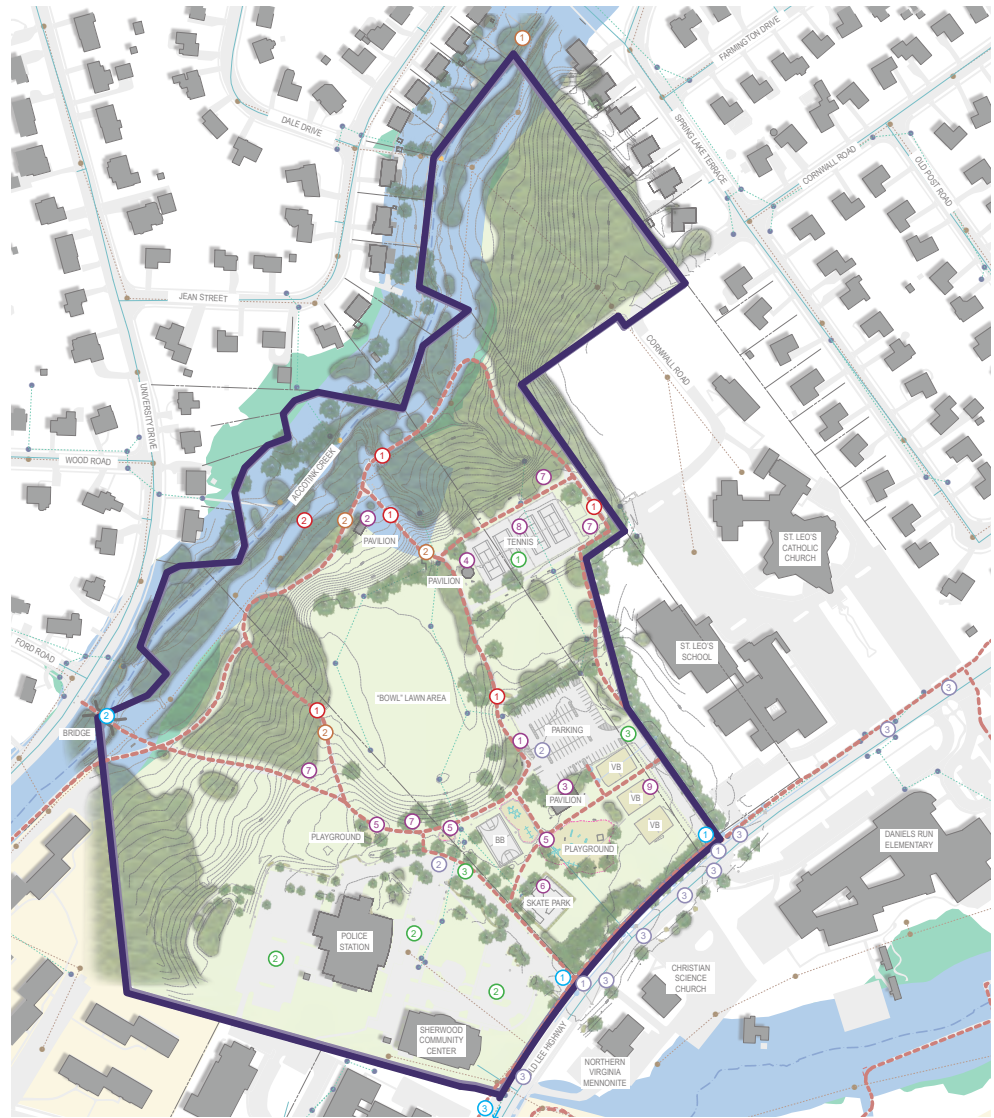
- Maintain minimum of 40% of park as undeveloped open space (Strategic Plan)
- Maximize open space/flexible use spaces, such as the Armistice Tortura Bowl and sledding hill
- Review relationship of activities—reinforce each other or create friction?
- How should the park frontage on Old Lee Highway be treated?
- Recognize park has three primary areas—developed upper area, mid-zone with slope and turf, and woods at bottom of slope

WHAT IS MISSING?

- Permanent, accessible restrooms
- Better lighting for existing facilities
- Central gathering space for all ages such as a plaza or sitting area (smaller than the bowl)
- Image pop of the park—when you think Van Dyck Park, what comes to mind?
- Outdoor space for activities associated with the Community Center to enhance adult and senior programming within the park
- Distinct, attractive park frontage on Old Lee Highway that introduces park to viewer
- Clear pedestrian entrances

MORE QUESTIONS

- Should new programming be added to the park? If so, what should be considered?
- Should any activities or programming be removed from the park?
- If the proposed Community Center were to be located within Van Dyck Park (currently under consideration), where is the best site for it that will enhance the park?



ISSUES

Traffic / Circulation

- Challenge of exiting the Park on Old Lee Highway (A busy thoroughfare connecting historic Old Town to Routes 66, 50 and 29)
- Connectivity between park parking lot and Sherwood Center/Police Station
- Traffic congestion turning into and from destinations on Old Lee Highway (school traffic patrol at crosswalk during the week, but still a challenge to exit the park)

Parking

- Parking lot is worn, does not have a pedestrian pathway, landscaping, or stormwater treatment integrated within the lot (only one storm drain for entire lot). Currently there are 87 spaces (4 ADA). At peak use times, parking availability is insufficient.
- Event parking is minimal. Patrons can use parking at the Police Station and Sherwood Center.
- Parking accessible only from park drive along St. Leo's boundary. Connection to Park parking is unclear when using Sherwood Center access drive.

Access

- Confusion with double park entrances - One at the Sherwood Center/Police Station and one adjacent to St. Leo's
- Only one bridge crossing Accotink Creek along the entire western perimeter of the park
- No access to Layton Hall Drive at the signal at the intersection with Old Lee Highway

Trails

- Missing trail connections to neighborhoods north and west of St. Leo's Church
- Trail surface treatments (gravel, stone, asphalt) and slopes may not be appropriate given locations, erosion issues, and ADA requirements. Of the 1.25 miles of trails in the park, most meet accessibility/ADA standards, but running and cross slopes should be reviewed.

Stormwater/Erosion

- Ponding and erosion on trails.
- Stream bank erosion is severe. (See Accotink Creek Stream Stability Assessment and Prioritization Plan Supplemental Report for Daniels Run.)

Facilities/Park Features

- No permanent restrooms (3 portable restrooms serve the park). When buildings are open, there is access to restrooms at Sherwood Center and the Police Station. No public sewer serves the park. Public water does serve the park and there is one drinking fountain. Need ADA accessible facilities. The small shelter (50 capacity) is disconnected from other park facilities and is poorly visible. Tables and benches may not be ADA compliant. Need to improve attractiveness as rental property and revenue producer.
- The large shelter (210 capacity) does not have electricity. Tables and benches may not be ADA compliant. Need to improve attractiveness as a rental property and a revenue producer.
- The gazebo is not available as a rental facility.
- The large playground needs to be renovated and meet ADA accessibility requirements. Barrier-free equipment and sensory rich environment is desired.
- The skatepark is dated, noisy, and needs replacement. It has reached the end of its useful lifespan and consumes a large piece of park frontage.
- Existing fitness equipment is aging and could be made ADA accessible and be better integrated into the park.
- Tennis courts (4) are heavily used and trend analysis shows an increased demand for tennis facilities. Tennis courts are lighted.
- Volleyball courts (3) are used seasonally and prominently located at the frontage of the park. Volleyball courts are not lighted.

OPPORTUNITIES

Traffic / Congestion

- Redesign park circulation/roads, parking, and park entrances.
- Review current circulation patterns and determine if a secondary entrance is warranted, perhaps with some of future traffic calming feature at that intersection.

Parking

- Redesign or relocate parking with sufficient spaces and accessible routes and walkways connecting to key park facilities. Integrate stormwater management measures to mitigate the impact of impermeable surfaces through, for example, pervious pavements, bioinfiltration facilities (rain gardens), and vegetated swales. Identify potential overflow or off-site parking opportunities for special events.
- Event parking is minimal. Patrons can use parking at the police station and Sherwood Center.
- Parking accessible only from park drive along St. Leo's boundary. Connection to Park parking is unclear when using Sherwood Center access drive.

Access

- Implement well sited wayfinding signage for all park entrances. Coordinate with park neighbors on access points and park use.
- Create a trail connection (10' wide) to neighborhoods north of the park using the existing footpath crossing Accotink Creek and as recommended in the Fairfax Boulevard Approved Master Plan.
- Consider access to Layton Hall Drive at the intersection of Old Lee Highway, if traffic study supports such.

Trails

- See item #2 above in "Access."
- Redesign and regrade trail circulation for pedestrian and bike access. Install resilient surface materials and use pervious pavements (i.e. permeable pavers), where appropriate. Meet ADA accessible standards where possible, maintaining running slopes at 5% max. and cross slopes at 2% max. Ensure a variety of walking experiences and include signage, painted mile markers, refreshed exercise equipment, and interpretive features. Consider a bike loop/trike track for use in warm months and convert it to an ice skate track in cold weather months.

Stormwater/Erosion

- See item #2 above in "Trails."
- The Accotink Creek Stream Stability Assessment & Prioritization Plan Supplemental Report indicates that restoration of the creek segment (Jean Street) at the park is a high priority, as the bank erosion hazard index (BEHI) is rated "extreme." Immediate action should be taken to restore the creek. Stormwater management measures recommended in the Master Plan will mitigate impact of runoff and avoid exacerbation of erosion.

Facilities/Park Features

- Install permanent, accessible restrooms with plumbing in a well-sited location in the park (ease of access for children, disabled, and elderly).
- Determine the demand for shelters and reconstruct new shelters, as needed. Site shelters in appropriate locations, taking into consideration access to parking, restrooms, and other park facilities. Include electrical units where needed. Include only ADA compliant tables and benches.
- Renovate the large playground. Design should be barrier-free, shaded, and focused on sensory rich components. It should be inclusive ADA accessible. Consider a water spray/fountain play area. Link natural resources, such as the creek and forest, with educational components/program.
- Replace the skate park with components that challenge skaters, are aesthetically pleasing (sculptural), and multifunctional (blends with the landscape).
- Install new, ADA accessible fitness equipment better integrated into the park.
- Consider additional tennis courts and improvements to existing tennis courts.
- Consider lighting the existing volleyball courts and/or relocating the courts, as appropriate.

Legend

- Van Dyck Park Boundary
- Trail
- Storm Connectivity Line
- Waterline
- Sewer Line
- Storm Structure
- Storm Outlet
- Sewer Point
- Water Point
- Old Town Fairfax Transition District
- Impervious Surface
- Stream Centerline
- RPA
- AE - flood zone
- Building
- Property Boundary



Van Dyck Park Master Plan

City of Fairfax
Issues and Opportunities



DRAFT MARCH 2017

Source: City of Fairfax GIS data
Dominion Surveyors, Inc. (2017 park survey)