

# Fort Hunt Park Site Development Plan Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect George Washington Memorial Parkway



## Update Newsletter - New Alternative Concepts

# *You're Invited!*

The National Park Service (NPS) is requesting your input in developing new alternative concepts for the Fort Hunt Park Site Development Plan Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect (EA/AoE). There are a number of ways to be involved, including submitting written or electronic comments (see last page for more information about how to submit comments), or by attending the public meeting. The public comment period will be open from June 13th through July 28th, 2012.

The public meeting will be held from 6:30pm- 8:30pm on June 27th, 2012 at Fort Hunt Elementary School, 8832 Linton Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308. The meeting will consist of an open house from 6:30pm- 7:00pm, a presentation from 7:00pm- 7:20pm, and another open house period from 7:20pm- 8:30pm. The meeting is being held so interested public can speak to NPS staff, learn more about the new alternative concepts and submit written comments. All are encouraged to attend.

## Background

George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP), a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), is seeking public comment on three new alternative concepts for the Fort Hunt Park Site Development Plan Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect (EA/AoE). GWMP staff has prepared this newsletter to illustrate and describe the new alternative concepts intended to enhance visitor interpretation and protect resources while sustaining many of the existing recreational facilities of Fort Hunt Park.

This project was initiated in late 2010, with public scoping conducted in early 2011 and an EA/AoE released for review in September 2011. Based on comments received during public review, GWMP determined that none of the previously considered alternatives will move forward as originally proposed. Public concerns and suggestions brought particular attention to seeking opportunities to enhance interpretation at the site with minimal alterations to existing recreational amenities valued by the public. New alternative concepts have been drafted to reflect public comment received (see more detail of key revisions on page 4).

Public scoping will close on July 28, 2012, after which the new EA/AoE will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), and other applicable laws, regulations and policies. The planned completion date for the new EA/AoE will be determined later this year. More details about the project, including the 2011 EA/AoE and a public comment summary report, are available online at:  
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/forthunt>.

## Purpose of and Need for the Plan

The purpose of this EA/AoE is to identify an overall direction for park management while defining specific resource conditions and improvements to visitor experience. The plan seeks to:

- Enhance visitor experiences and connections with park resources
- Protect the park's resources
- Create an optimized balance of park use that optimizes recreation and resource protection

Based on public demand and NPS resource management priorities, there is a need to:

- Address the inadequacy of interpretative opportunities that promote the park's rich history, particularly regarding the recent discovery of site's national significance as a World War II secret interrogation center.
- Enhance and restore cultural landscapes and historic viewsheds
- Sustain the park's valued recreational amenities to the extent feasible

## Work Completed To Date

- Public scoping meeting and comment period—January/February 2011
- Internal scoping with NPS planning charette and value analysis workshop —early 2011
- Drafting of alternatives and original EA/AoE—May-August 2011
- Release of original EA/AoE and public review —September-November 2011
- NPS review of public comments and drafting of new alternatives—December-May 2012

## Future Work

- Continue to refine the alternatives, taking public input into account
- Prepare and release new Fort Hunt Site Development Plan EA/AoE for public review—expected Fall 2012
- Prepare and publish decision document
- Use Site Development Plan as a guide for further planning and resource studies, including more detailed site designs that would go through additional public review before completion



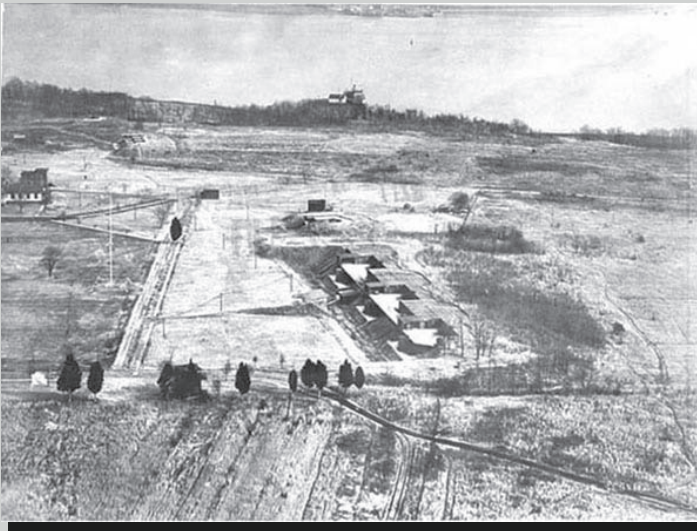
Historic park features currently with limited interpretation (clockwise from top) - Battery Mount Vernon,  
Historically Significant Tree Row, NCO Quarters



## Balancing Increased Education with Current Use

Fort Hunt Park is a 105-acre site administered by GWMP, located along the Potomac River in Fairfax County, Virginia. Fort Hunt has a diverse history due in part to its close proximity to Washington, DC. The park currently serves as a popular destination for picnicking and recreation, as well as birding and local events such as a summer concert series.

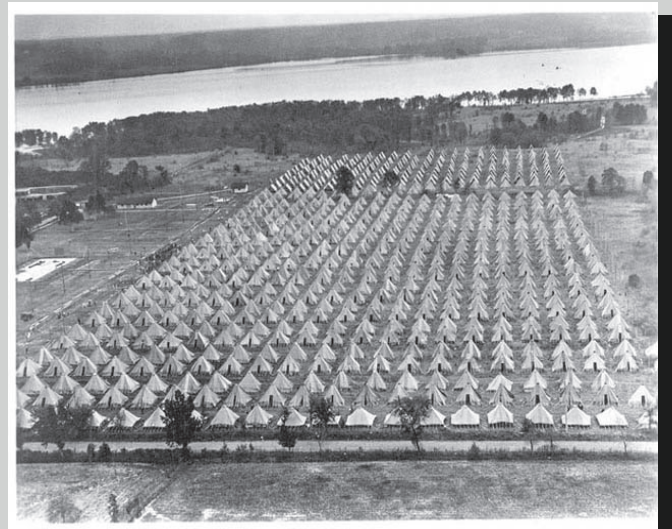
A major goal of this project is to enhance education of Fort Hunt's rich history in a way that is compatible with current visitor use and recreational facilities.



Aerial view of batteries circa 1923

## Revealing a Rich and Diverse History

The park, sited on a portion of land once part of George Washington's River Farm, has seen service as a coastal defense fort; an Army Finance school; a supply depot; a brigade headquarters, an ROTC training camp; a temporary encampment for WWI veteran 'Bonus Marchers'; a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp; a National Park Service exhibits lab; a monitoring station for the Army Signal Corps; a top secret military intelligence center known as P.O. Box 1142 that featured an interrogation program for WWII German prisoners of war; and a film storage vault for the National Archives. Recent discoveries of the significance of the site's WWII history has created expanded opportunities and demand for additional interpretation and/or the addition of new facilities.



1933 Bonus Marcher encampment



P.O. Box 1142 prisoner compound (left) and military personnel on parade ground (right)



## Alternative Concepts

The following pages overview proposed conceptual alternatives that will be further refined following public comment.

- Please note the following key revisions based on public comments on previous EA/AoE (reflected in all Action Alternatives):
- Maintains loop road configuration, with majority of loop one-way with a lane dedicated to cyclists and pedestrians.
  - Designates “Historic Land Use Restoration Areas” communicating need for removal of facilities and changes to circulation.
  - Denotes proposed zones for siting of visitor contact station to better communicate that potential building footprint will be subject to further resource studies, facility design processes and determination of compatibility of uses .
  - Minimizes removal of picnic pavilions and other changes to existing recreational use.
  - Additional options considered, including connector trail at Area E to maintain existing circulation loop for cyclists and pedestrians outside of restoration area and restoration of sight line from Battery Robinson or Battery Sater to the river.

## Alternative Concept 1: No Action

Under this alternative, no changes would take place. Management of the park would continue as it is currently, including providing basic maintenance and routine preservation treatments to historic structures.





## Alternative Concept 2: Area A Contact Station

This alternative would include the following:

- Site visitor contact station within zone depicted in Area A
- Construct Interpretation/Recreation Trail
- Remove Picnic Area E parking and restrooms; revegetate as appropriate
- Construct restroom in new location in Area E
- Remove sections of the loop road and Area D ballfield that are within the Historic Land Use Restoration Area; revegetate as appropriate
- Reroute loop road through reopened lower road

Additional options:

- Construct paved connector trail to maintain existing circulation loop for cyclists and pedestrians outside of restoration area
- Restore a sight line to Potomac River of historic vista from Battery Robinson or Battery Sater



### Legend

- |                                      |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| → Vehicular Circulation              | ← Possible View to River             | Removed Road                 |
| — Paved Connector Trail              | ⓑ Ballfield                          | Historic Structures          |
| ... Chronological Interpretive Trail | ■ Park Facilities                    | Visitor Contact Station Zone |
| ● Historically Significant Tree Row  | ■ Historic Land Use Restoration Area | ■ Park Boundary              |

### ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT 2

FORT HUNT PARK  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE





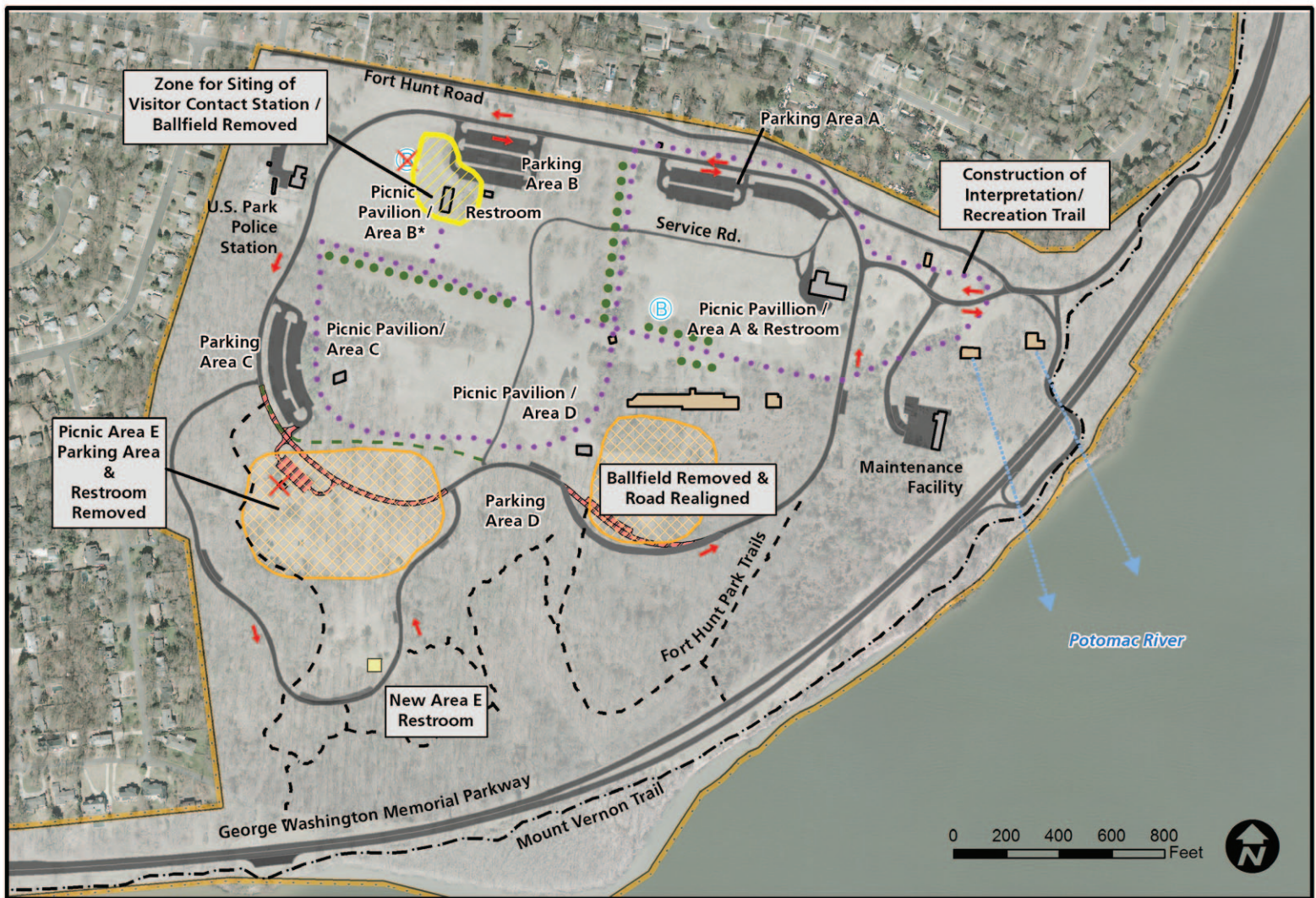
## Alternative Concept 3: Area B Contact Station

This alternative would include the following:

- Site visitor contact station within zone depicted in Area B, including removal of ballfield\*
- Construct Interpretation/Recreation Trail
- Remove Picnic Area E parking and restrooms; revegetate as appropriate
- Construct restroom in new location in Area E
- Remove sections of the loop road and Area D ballfield that are within the Historic Land Use Restoration Area; revegetate as appropriate
- Reroute loop road through reopened lower road

Additional options:

- Construct paved connector trail to maintain existing circulation loop for cyclists and pedestrians outside of restoration area
- Restore a sight line to Potomac River of historic vista from Battery Robinson or Battery Sater



### Legend

- |                                   |                                    |                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Vehicular Circulation             | Possible View to River             | Removed Road                 |
| Paved Connector Trail             | Ballfield                          | Historic Structures          |
| Chronological Interpretive Trail  | Park Facilities                    | Visitor Contact Station Zone |
| Historically Significant Tree Row | Historic Land Use Restoration Area | Park Boundary                |

### ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT 3

FORT HUNT PARK  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



\*Reservations for Picnic Pavilion B will likely be discontinued. Removal of pavilion will be contingent on further archeological study as well as determination of compatibility of uses.



## Alternative Concept 4: Area C Contact Station

This alternative would include the following:

- Site visitor contact station and restroom within zone depicted in Area C\*
- Construct Interpretation/Recreation Trail
- Remove Picnic Area E parking and restrooms; revegetate as appropriate
- Remove sections of the loop road and Area D ballfield that are within the Historic Land Use Restoration Area; revegetate as appropriate
- Reroute loop road through reopened lower road

Additional options:

- Construct paved connector trail to maintain existing circulation loop for cyclists and pedestrians outside of restoration area
- Restore a sight line to Potomac River of historic vista from Battery Robinson or Battery Sater



### Legend

- |                                   |                                    |                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Vehicular Circulation             | Possible View to River             | Removed Road                 |
| Paved Connector Trail             | Ballfield                          | Historic Structures          |
| Chronological Interpretive Trail  | Park Facilities                    | Visitor Contact Station Zone |
| Historically Significant Tree Row | Historic Land Use Restoration Area | Park Boundary                |

### ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT 4

FORT HUNT PARK  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



\*Reservations for Picnic Pavilion C will likely be discontinued. Removal of pavilion will be contingent on further archeological study as well as determination of compatibility of uses.

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

George Washington Memorial Parkway  
700 George Washington Memorial Parkway  
Turkey Run Park Headquarters  
McLean, Virginia 22101

This project is on the Web!  
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/forthunt>

*Please let us know what you think!*

## How to Comment

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NPS is seeking comments on the conceptual alternatives or other aspects of the EA/AoE. Specifically, NPS would like your input on the following questions:

- 1) Are there other alternatives or elements that should be considered?
- 2) Do you have any concerns regarding the conceptual alternatives or elements presented?
- 3) What additional information or other comments do you have?

Please submit comments through the project website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/forthunt>, or send your comments to:

Superintendent  
Attn: Fort Hunt Park EA/AoE  
George Washington Memorial Parkway  
700 George Washington Memorial Parkway  
Turkey Run Park Headquarters  
McLean, Virginia 22101

**The comment period will close July 28, 2012.**

Please include your full name and e-mail/address with your comments so we may add you to our mailing list for future notices about this process. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, however, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.