

# Fort Hunt Park Site Development Plan Environmental Assessment

Fairfax County, Virginia - Alternative Concepts Public Review February 2015



# Welcome

**The purpose of tonight's open house is to re-engage the public and present new alternative concepts developed based on three rounds of public comments and additional analysis.**



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## Purpose and Need

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- The purpose of the Site Development Plan is to improve the visitor experience and define specific resource conditions to provide direction for park management.

### Need

- Peak visitation periods exceed the park's carrying capacity, which creates a need to balance the different types of visitor use (recreation, permitted picnicking, interpretation) with resource protection.
- Recent discovery of the site's rich history has created expanded opportunities and a demand by the public for additional interpretation.
- Changes in current park uses and expanded interpretation have created a need for changes to existing facilities and/or the addition of new facilities.

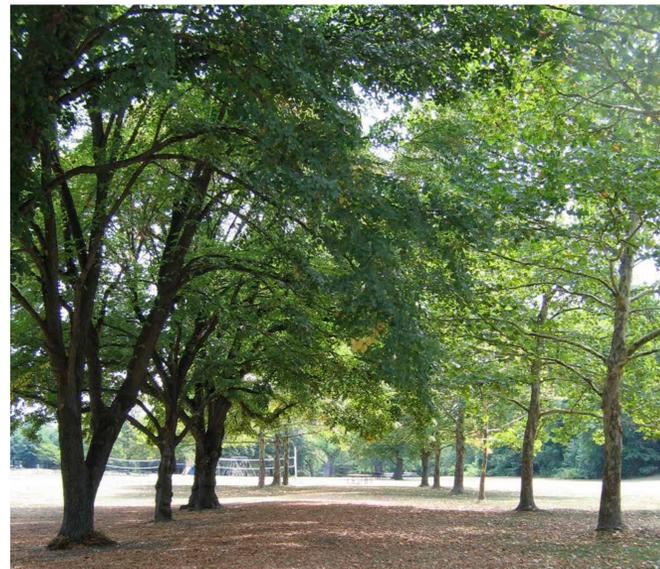




# Recreation and Natural Resources

## Recreation Uses

- Picnicking
- Playground
- Ball fields
- Volleyball
- Bicycling
- Jogging
- Bird watching
- Nature trails



## Natural Resources

- Bald eagle habitat
- Forest cover
- Forested wetlands
- Migratory forest birds

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## Site History

<p>Archaeological investigations in the vicinity of Fort Hunt have identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PaleoIndian and Archaic period occupations (7500-1000 BC)</li> <li>Middle Woodland camps and villages (300 BC – AD1000)</li> <li>A Late Woodland component (AD1000-contact)</li> <li>Unidentified Woodland occupations</li> <li>An unidentified pre-contact Native American site</li> </ul>						
<p><b>Prehistoric and early site occupation</b></p>	<p><b>Washington's River Farm</b></p>	<p><b>Spanish American War / Coastal Defense</b></p>	<p><b>African American ROTC Training Camp</b></p>	<p><b>Bonus March Camp</b></p>	<p><b>Civilian Conservation Corps Camp Era</b></p>	<p><b>WW II PO Box 1142</b></p>
<p>7500 BC - AD1600s</p>	<p>1760s to 1790s</p>	<p>1880s to 1900s</p>	<p>1930s</p>	<p>1933 to 1942</p>	<p>1933 to 1942</p>	<p>1942 to 1946</p>

### Other Historic Uses

- Coastal Defense Fort
- Army finance school
- Supply depot
- Brigade headquarters
- Monitoring station for the Army Signal Corps

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### Legend

- Ballfield
- Vehicular Circulation
- Historically Significant Tree Row
- Park Facilities
- Historic Structures
- Park Boundary

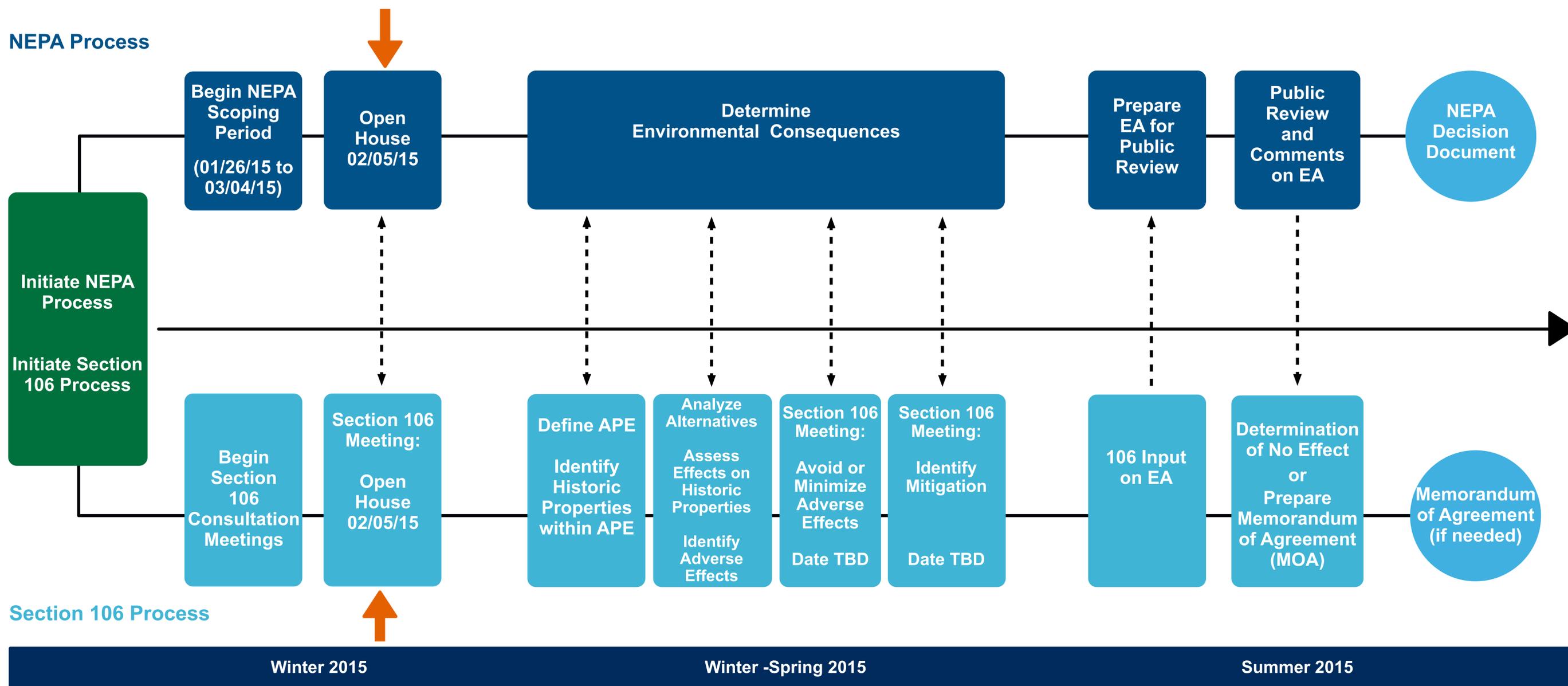
### Existing Conditions

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**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

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## NEPA and Section 106 Processes



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## How to Comment

- The public is invited to identify any alternatives, issues, or concerns they might have with the proposed project so the NPS can appropriately consider them in the EA.
- Comments or questions can be provided tonight on the comment form.
- You may submit comments or questions electronically at the NPS's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/forthunt>).

- Written comments may be mailed to:

Attn: Fort Hunt Park EA  
National Park Service  
George Washington Memorial Parkway  
c/o Turkey Run Park  
McLean, VA 22101

- Mailed comments must be postmarked by **March 4, 2015** to receive consideration.

**Please Note:** Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, 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.

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## Alternative Concept 4: Interior Visitor Services

- Establish an enhanced visitor services zone; Visitor services could range from a wayside, interactive information kiosk, and/or a visitor services facility within Area C
- Reservations in one of Area C picnic areas may be reduced; removal of a picnic area would be contingent on further archeological study as well as determination of compatibility of uses
- Revegetate Ballfield D to create a multi-purpose, open recreational space
- Consider construction of a new restroom in Area C



### Legend

Vehicular Circulation	Historic Structures	Visitor Services Zone
Chronological Interpretive Trail	Ballfield	Park Boundary
Historically Significant Tree Row	Park Facilities	Road Realignment
Restored view to river	Historic Land Use Restoration Area	

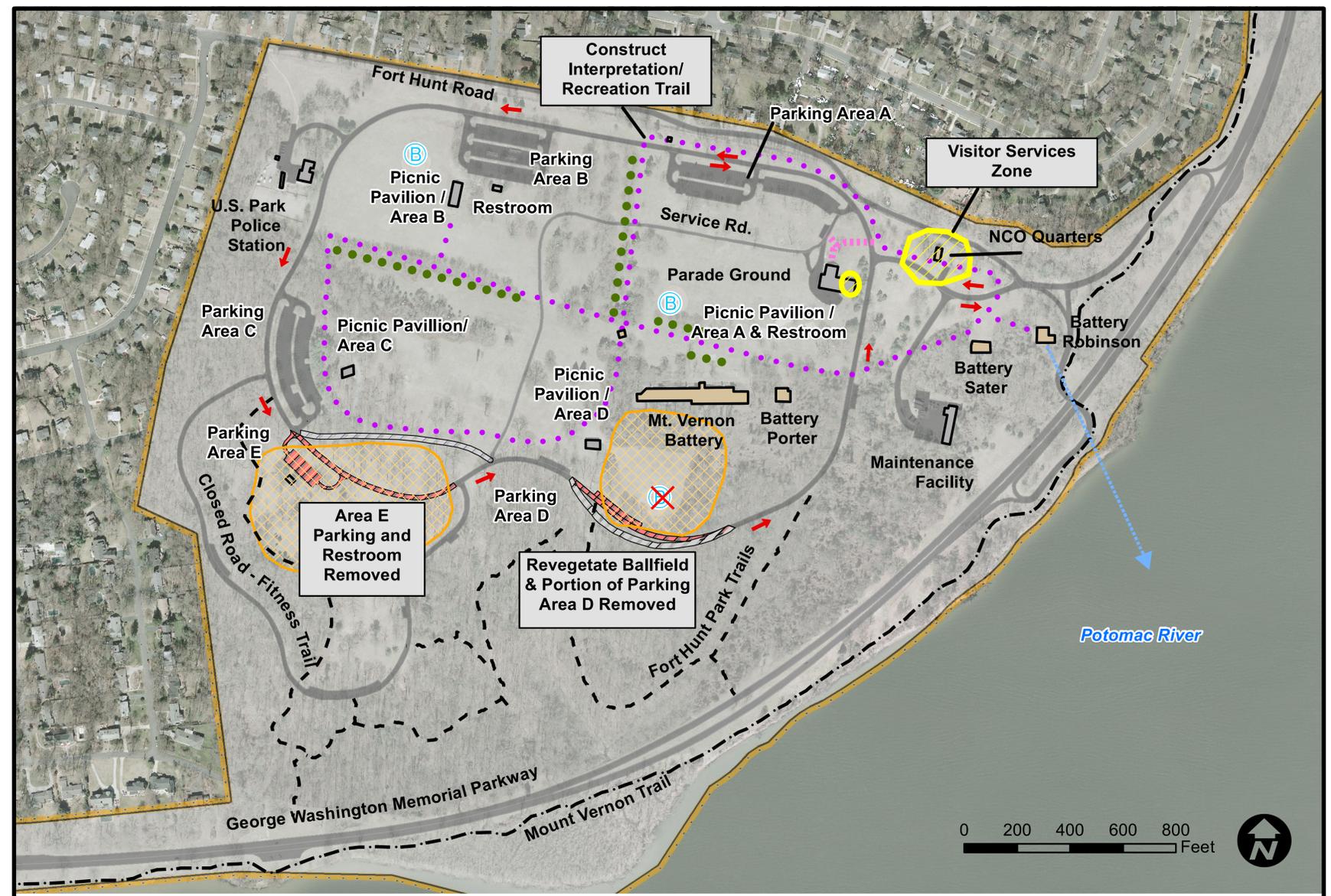
### Alternative Concept 4

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



## Alternative Concept 5: Gateway Visitor Services

- Establish a visitor services zone near the entrance to Fort Hunt that could include the historic NCO Quarters and/or current office space in Pavilion A to support a visitor services function
- Provide accessible pedestrian path to visitor services zone
  - Create a small parking area near the NCO Quarters and an accessible path; and/or
  - Construct an accessible path from parking area A to current office space in Pavilion A
- Revegetate Ballfield D to create a multi-purpose, open recreational space



**Alternative Concept 5**

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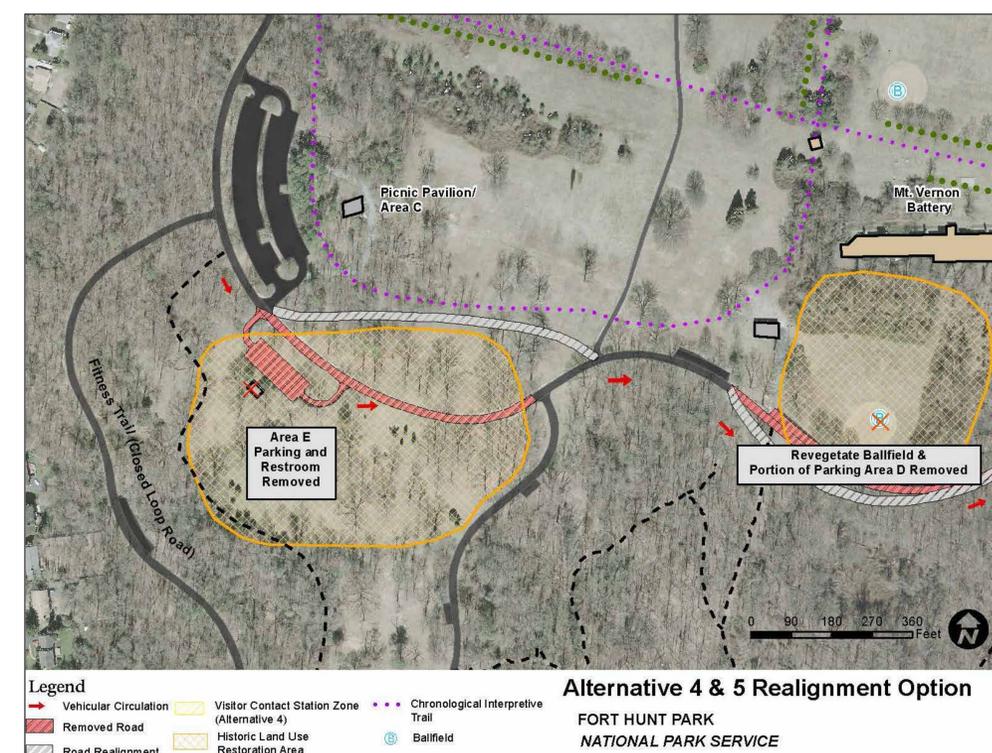
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## Common to All Action Alternatives

- Remove Picnic Area E parking and restrooms and a portion of Area D parking; revegetate as appropriate
- Remove sections of the loop road and realign to avoid Historic Land Use Restoration Areas, maintaining one-way circulation and lane dedicated to bicyclists and pedestrians
- Consider ways to replace a portion of the lost parking by utilizing previously disturbed areas
- Reprogram Area D ballfield to accommodate multi-purpose recreation in Historic Land Use Restoration Area
- Construct interpretative trail
- Restore historic sight line to Potomac River from Battery Robinson
- Enhance access and recreational amenities on lower shared use trail (closed lower road)
- Upgrade safety and accessibility of Area A playground equipment
- Maintain existing roadway configuration with option for road removal and realignment



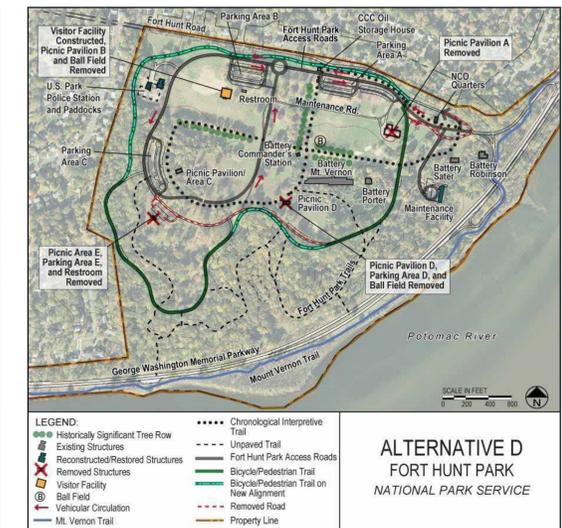
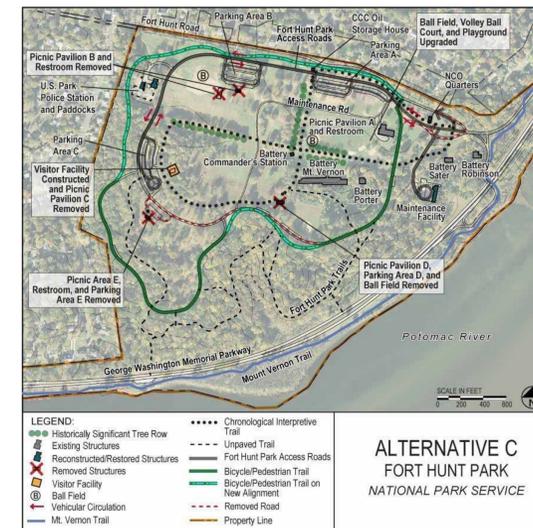
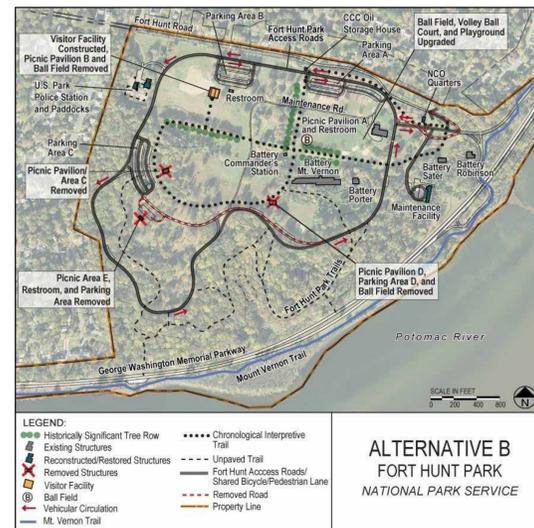


# Revised Alternative Concepts

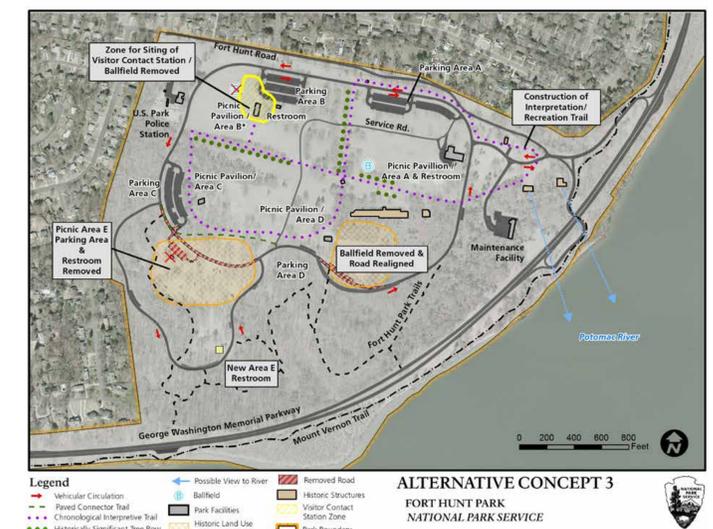
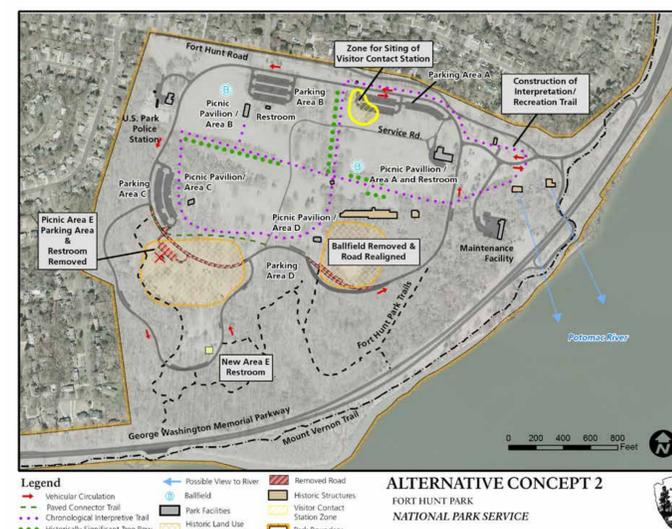
## Following Public Input and New Analysis

	2011	2012	2015
Picnic Pavilions / Visitor Services	Removed picnic pavilions B and D; some alternatives included removal of pavilion C; one alternative included removal of pavilion A	A visitor contact station was sited in and around parking areas A or B and possibly have created conflict with Pavilion A and B users	Picnic pavilions A, B and D would remain. One of 3 picnic areas in Area C may be removed if Alternative Concept 4 is selected and a visitor facility is selected as an option, at which point additional review would be undertaken.  A visitor services zone would be established in and around Area A or within Area C.
Ballfields	Removed ballfields in area B and D	Removed ballfields in Area B and D	Ballfield in Area B would remain; ballfield in Area D would be revegetated and repurposed as a multi-purpose open space.
Loop Road	Removed part of current loop road between Areas E and D; one alternative created a smaller loop road for vehicular traffic	—	Road would not be removed; both action alternative concepts include an option to realign the road to protect resources.
Lower Loop Road	One alternative reopened lower loop road to vehicular traffic; other alternatives narrowed the road	—	Lower loop road would remain closed to vehicular traffic. The current width would be retained and fitness amenities would be added to paved areas previously used for parking.
Restrooms	—	Concern that a new restroom in Area E would be dangerous	The restroom in Area E would be removed. A new restroom in Area C would be considered as an option in Alternative Concept 4.

## 2011 Alternatives



## 2012 Alternatives



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## Project Location

