



# **Fort Ward Park Playground Accessibility Community Meeting #3**

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
Office of Historic Alexandria  
June 22, 2022



# 2015 Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan

## Planning and Implementation Goals for Park Enhancements

- Protect cultural resource areas
- Protect natural resources
- Limit ground disturbance
- Meet ADA requirements
- Coordinate and collaborate with archaeology during all project phases
- Community engagement



# Fort Ward Park Accessibility Improvements

- Management Plan Strategy 1.3.2: Enhance's Park accessibility and meet ADA requirements
- Comply with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates and 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- Resolve complaints received by the Office of Human Rights
- Prioritize park facilities that do not meet requirements:
  - Vehicular parking areas
  - Picnic shelter
  - Playground**



# January 22 Community Meeting Feedback

- Concerns about burials and impacts to cultural resources
- What options have been looked at previously?
- Have other areas of the park have been considered?
- What are other planned/future projects at Fort Ward?



# Site Assessment Criteria

- Cultural Resources—Civil War
- Cultural Resources—African American Fort Community
- Natural Resources
- Existing Topography
- Existing Stormwater/Drainage
- Accessible Route
- Accessible Parking
- Grading
- Constructability
- Playground considerations
- Other amenities/uses



# Site Assessment Criteria

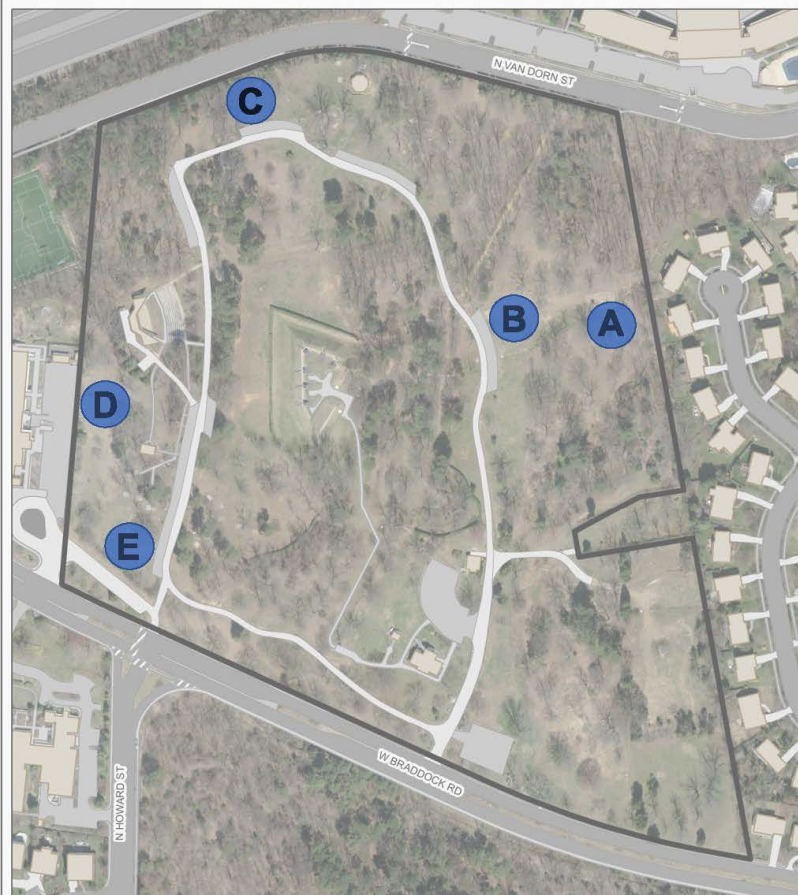
Fort Ward Park Playground Accessibility  
 Site Assessment Matrix  
 5/21/2022

	Site A: Retain playground in current location; provide accessible path	Site B: Relocate playground to top of hill	Site C: Relocate playground to area west of the picnic shelter	Site D: Relocate playground to area south of the amphitheatre	Site E: Relocate playground to area south of area 5 picnic area
<b>Cultural Resources--Civil War Resources</b>	Archaeological survey testing and historical research indicate that the potential for significant Civil War cultural resources at this location is low.	The rifle trench is within proximity. The playground will be visible from the loop road. A formal metal detecting survey of this area and archaeological survey testing and historical research indicate that the potential for significant Civil War cultural resources at this location is low.	This location is in proximity to the far east perimeter of a Civil War battery. The site is in the sound path of occasional historical artillery programs. The rifle trench is within proximity. The playground will be visible from the loop road. A formal metal detecting survey of this area, archaeological survey testing, and historical research indicate that the potential for significant Civil War cultural resources at this location is low.	Archaeological survey testing and historical research indicate that the potential for significant Civil War cultural resources at this location is low. The location is less visible from the loop road.	Archaeological survey testing and historical research indicate that the potential for significant Civil War cultural resources at this location is low. The location is visible from the loop road.
<b>Cultural Resources--African American Fort Community</b>	Archaeological survey testing and historical research indicate that the potential for significant cultural resources related to The Fort community at this location is low.	Archaeological survey testing and historical research indicate that the potential for significant cultural resources related to The Fort community at this location is low.	This site is within a parcel owned by the Javins family between 1921 and 1934. The location of the Javins homestead was located approximately 100 ft. to the east.	This location is within the bounds of land owned by the James Jackson family from 1894-1925, and immediately north from a lot owned by the John Peters family from 1913 to 1960.	This location is within the bounds of land owned by the James Jackson family from 1894-1913, and within a lot owned by the John Peters family from 1913 to 1960, and the Frank Lewis family from 1922-1935. The footprints of the Peters and Lewis homesteads no longer exist, having been destroyed by the bus loop road for the adjacent school in the 1960s.
<b>Natural Resources</b>	Mature trees surround the current playground site. Species include Red Oak, tulip tree, hickory, maple, persimmon, service berry, dogwood.	The top of hill has sparser trees that include a white oak, dogwood, black cherry, and hickory.	The grove of trees located to the west contains black gum, hickory, red oak, chestnut oak, and persimmon. Vegetation lines the north side of the park along Van Dorn Street.	A grove of trees is located to the east containing pine, willow oak, white oak, persimmon, and black cherry trees. Two kousa dogwood trees are located in the middle of the grass area. Several black cherry trees are located to the west and north.	A 28" cal. willow oak tree is located to the east. Shrubs line the south side. Tree grove located north of area.
<b>Existing Topography</b>	Existing slopes are greater than 10%. Some areas are steeper, 22% slope. Elevational change from the parking lot to playground is approximately +/- 28 feet	Existing slopes range from 10 to 14 %.	Existing slopes are approximately 7.5 - 9.0%	Existing slopes range from 6.0 to 8.0 %	Existing slopes range from 6.0 to 8.0 %
<b>Existing Stormwater/Drainage</b>	A culvert/swale runs down the hill, north of the existing playground site. The 2-5 year old play equipment area conflicts with this swale. Another major drainage way is located east of the playground.	The culvert/swale that runs down the hill should be avoided when siting the playground footprint.	There are no major drainage structures or swales in the vicinity.	There are no major drainage structures or swales in the vicinity.	There are no major drainage structures or swales in the vicinity.
<b>Accessible Route (must not exceed 8.33% in slope)</b>	Requires significant grading to build a pathway that slopes between 1.0 - 8.3%. Grading will impact existing tree and drainage. Pathway could be 600+ feet in length based on study in 2015	Due to proximity to parking, a shorter accessible route would be needed.	Due to proximity to parking, a shorter accessible route would be needed.	Due to distance from parking, a longer accessible route would be needed. The route should connect to the restrooms.	Due to proximity to parking, a shorter accessible route would be needed.
<b>Accessible Parking</b>	Existing parking is available.	Existing parking is available.	Existing parking is available.	Existing parking is farther away.	Existing parking is available.
<b>Grading</b>	Significant grading is required to provide an accessible route.	The slopes at the top of the hill, are less steep than the middle of the hill. Low retaining walls can create a terrace for the playground.	The slopes in this area are generally flatter. Grading of 1-4 feet would be anticipated to create a more level area for the play area.	Grading of 1-4 feet would be anticipated to create a more level area for the play areas.	Grading would be anticipated to create a more level area for the play area. The grade would be raised 3-4 feet with fill soils.
<b>Constructability</b>	The existing parking lot may serve as staging area and construction entrance.	The existing parking lot may serve as staging area and construction entrance.	The existing parking lot may serve as staging area and construction entrance.	Construction access and staging would need to be considered due to the distance away from the loop road.	The existing parking lot may serve as staging area and construction entrance.
<b>Playground Footprint/considerations</b>	The 2-5 year old play equipment area should be removed or modified. The school age equipment receives good shade from the existing trees.	A new accessible playground could be built at the top of the hill, with a smaller footprint, while retaining a portion of the existing playground at the bottom of the hill.	The playground could incorporate nature play due to adjacency to the grove. Van Dorn Street is close by. There is fencing located along Van Dorn sidewalk. Adjacent open grass area.	The playground is located further back from the loop road. The grove of trees may obstruct sightlines/visibility. Playground use may help to activate area.	In proximity to West Braddock Road. Adjacent grass area to the west.
<b>Other Amenities</b>	Picnic areas are located at the top of hill. Restrooms are not too far away.	Existing water is available. Several picnic areas are located here.	Existing water is available. The picnic shelter is in close proximity. Restrooms are farther away compared to the other sites.	Restrooms, picnic areas and amphitheatre are in close proximity. St. Stephens/St. Agnes School is adjacent.	Close to St. Stephens/St. Agnes School. Water spigot is available.

# Five Options for Consideration

- Site A: Retain playground in current location and provide accessible pathway
- Site B: Relocate playground to top of hill
- Site C: Relocate playground to area west of the picnic shelter
- Site D: Relocate playground to area south of the amphitheater
- Site E: Relocate playground south of picnic area 5

# Fort Ward Park Playground Accessibility



## Site Key

- A** Retain playground in current location; provide accessible path
- B** Relocate playground to top of hill
- C** Relocate playground to area west of the picnic shelter
- D** Relocate playground to area south of amphitheatre
- E** Relocate playground to area south of area 5

# Fort Ward Park Playground Accessibility



**Legend**

**Ground Disturbance Permitted Level**

- Minimal Ground Disturbance Activity Allowed
- OHA Review Required
- No Disturbance except interpretive elements
- No Aeration Permitted

Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site  
Cultural Resource Management Areas

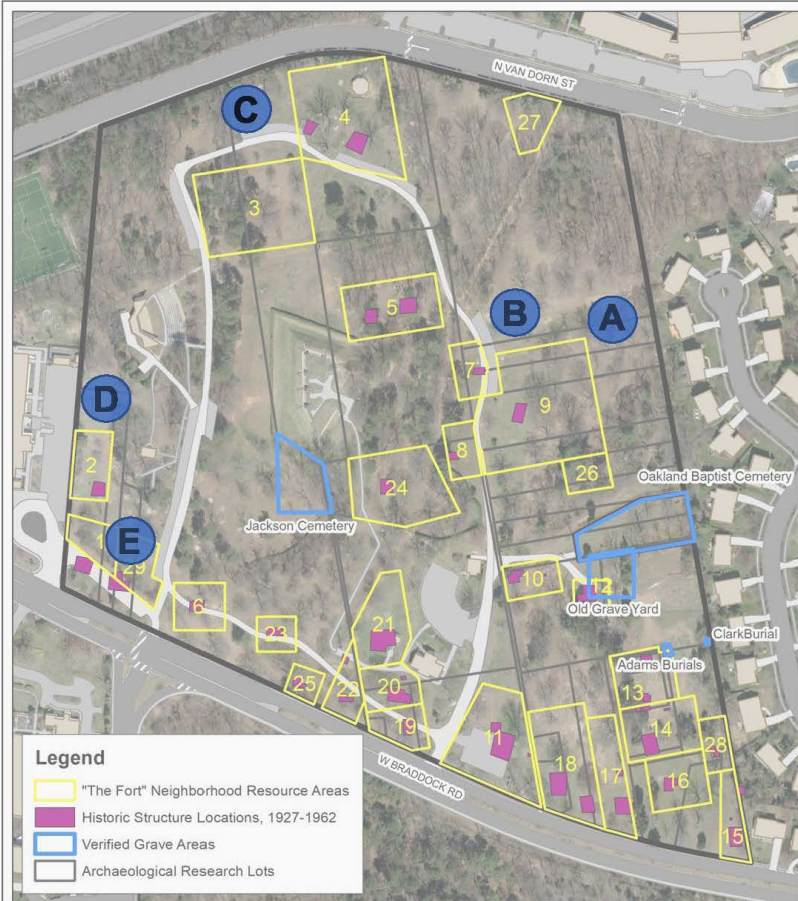
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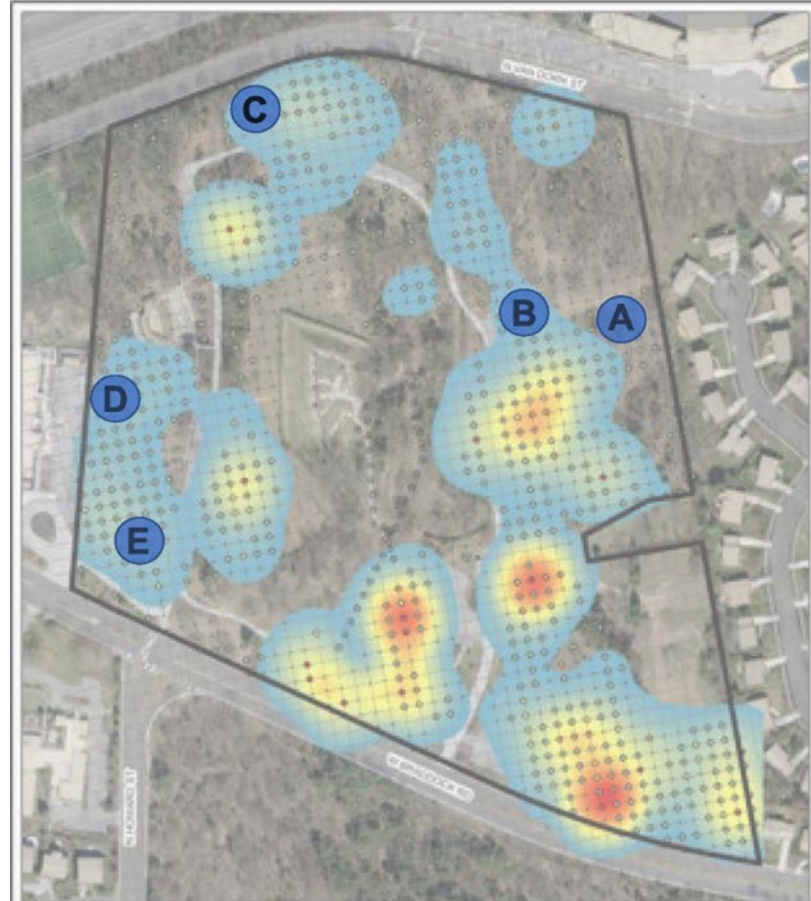


- Legend**
- "The Fort" Neighborhood Resource Areas
  - Historic Structure Locations, 1927-1962
  - Verified Grave Areas
  - Archaeological Research Lots

## Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site "The Fort" Community



# Fort Ward Park Playground Accessibility



## Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site Shovel Test Pit Survey Artifact Density



# Fort Ward Park Playground Accessibility

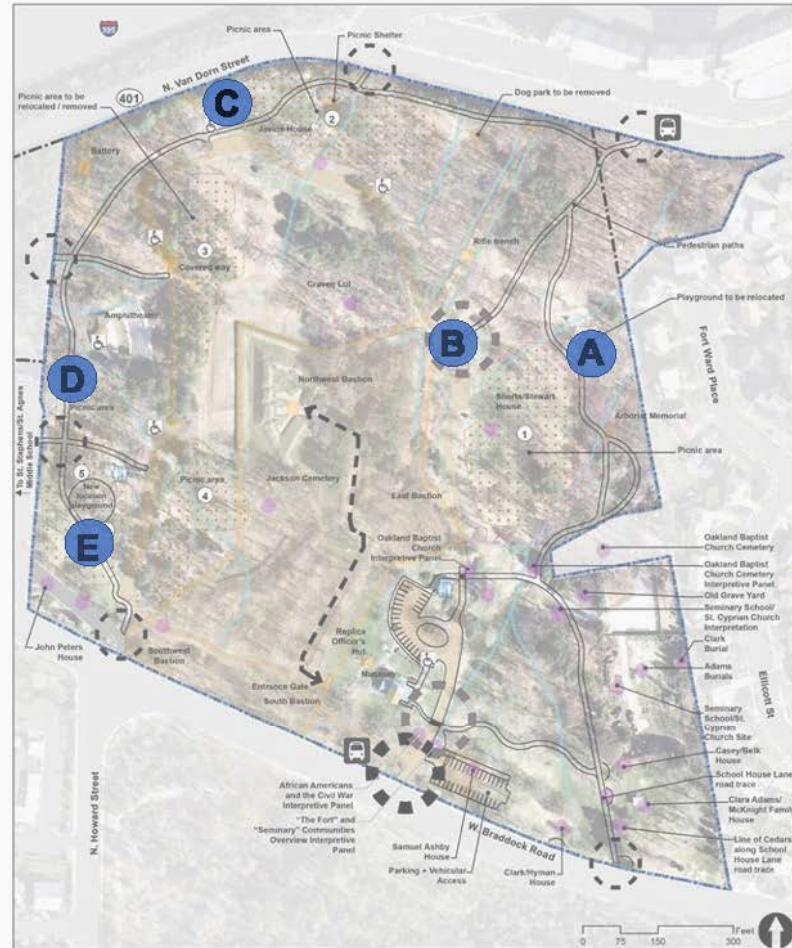


**Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan**  
City of Alexandria, Virginia

Management Plan Boundary	Percent Slope (per ORAR guidelines)
Road or pavement	0% - 5%
Drainage flowlines	5.00000001% - 8.3%
Park Feature	8.30000001% - 10%
Picnic Area	10.00000001% - 80%
Contour 2'	

**ORAR\* Slope Intervals**  
\* According to the Access Board Outdoor Recreation Access Route (ORAR) Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas (Oct. 19, 2009), "1016.7.1 Running Slope: The running slope of any segment of an outdoor recreation access route shall not be steeper than 1:10. Where the running slope of a segment of an outdoor recreation access route is steeper than 1:20, the maximum length of the segment shall be in accordance with Table 1016.7.1, and a resting interval complying with 1016.8 shall be provided at each end of the segment."  
Slope intervals shown on this map correspond with the slope guidelines for Outdoor Recreation Access Routes indicated above. Slopes steeper than 1:20 (5%) but not steeper than 1:12 (8.3%) can have a maximum segment length of 50 feet. Slopes steeper than 1:12 (8.3%) but not steeper than 1:10 (10%) can have a maximum segment length of 30 feet. Slopes greater than 1:10 (10%) are too steep for outdoor recreation access routes.

# Fort Ward Park Playground Accessibility



**Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan**  
Potential Soft Path System and Enhancement Opportunities

# Site A: Retain Playground in Current Location and Provide Accessible Route



# Site B: Relocate Playground to Top of Hill



# Site C: Relocate Playground to Area West of the Picnic Shelter



# Site D: Relocate Playground to Area South of the Amphitheatre



# Site E: Relocate Playground to Area South of Picnic Area 5





# Community Engagement

- **January 22:** Community Meeting Fort Ward Projects (virtual)
- **May 21:** Playground Community Meeting Site Walk
- **June 22:** Playground Community Meeting (virtual)
- **October/November:** Community Meeting Fort Ward Projects
- **December/January:** Begin Design Phase





# Thank you!

## Questions and Discussion

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Division of Park Planning and Capital Projects

Project Manager: Judy Lo

[judy.lo@alexandriava.gov](mailto:judy.lo@alexandriava.gov)

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-park-and-museum-area-management-plan>

