



Fort Smallwood Park Phase II

Project No.: P535900

Contract No.: P535907

Panelists:

John Brunnett, AIA Gant Brunnett Architects

Joe Graves, Gant Brunnett Architects

Joe Fisher, Boyd & Dowgiallo, P.A.

Robert Fernandez, DPW

Kevin Keller, DRP

Bill Offutt, DRP

Mark Garrity, DRP

Erica J. Matthews, DRP

Attendees: 27, including Councilman Volke and his aide Sara Gannon

Virtual Community Meeting Minutes

Held: December 10, 2020 @ 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Location: Zoom Webinar

Fort Smallwood Park Phase II Improvements Design Presentation

The proposed Fort Smallwood Park Phase II Improvements was presented by John Brunnett of Gant Brunnett Architects, following their PowerPoint presentation (copy attached)

The following are the questions and answers during the meeting. Responses are listed in *Italics*.

1. Why are you putting in impervious surface area parking spaces?

In this case, impervious parking areas are preferable for design because this site is close to surface water. In concept, a pervious surface at this location would allow runoff from vehicles to go almost straight into the bay. In the technical design, the water table in the beach area is also too close to the surface to meet the requirements specified for pervious pavement. Pervious pavement is about 18" thick at a minimum. The bottom of the pavement has to be 48" clear of the water table, and it would only be about 30". The outfall available, which is to the pond, is also too close to the surface grade to guarantee reliable drainage of the pavement in all seasons. Pervious pavement is easily damaged by frost, and even if we did meet the other criteria, we would probably not be able to recommend pervious at this location because of the drainage conditions. Pervious pavement was used for some of the Phase 1 parking, but that was about two feet higher and had a more reliable direct tidal outfall.

2. Where will the septic system/fields for the new restrooms/concession be located?

The septic field for the new restrooms will be located to the left of the drive, near the first bend. The septic will be pumped to that point (there is already a pump required for the existing field).

3. What will happen to the old gravel parking lot near the eastern beach area?

The Department of Recreation and Parks (hereafter referred to as "The Department") is reviewing options to remove this lot and create more grass for leisure activities and picnic areas.

gant • brunnett
ARCHITECTS

4. I'm stunned! Our small community park is turned into a commercial water park. How do you propose that Ft Smallwood road sprinkled with communities handle the influx of visitors. ? Any survey on this??? We live here and clean up the trash and debris throw out on our roads.

Your concerns have been noted. The plan to renovate Fort Smallwood began in 2008-2009. A masterplan for the park was completed in October 2009. Since that time, the Department has worked to implement this plan. This work is listed under Phase 2 of the masterplan. There have been some slight changes to the masterplan as the park use has changed in the last 11 years, with this beach becoming a public swimming beach. The Weinberg improvements have been delayed.

5. Are all these projects already approved? I do not agree with the scope or magnitude of this project.

Yes, the overall project to improve Fort Smallwood is approved. The plan to renovate Fort Smallwood began in 2008-2009. A masterplan for the park was completed in October 2009. Since that time, the Department has worked to implement this plan. This work is listed under Phase 2 of the masterplan. There have been some slight changes to the masterplan as the park use has changed in the last 11 years, with this beach becoming a public swimming beach. The Weinberg improvements have been delayed.

6. Even with the additional projects you have identified, it is still not necessary to close the park completely. Please let us know why you are prioritizing contractor budget/efficiency over public use/access.

The Department does not like to close parks or shut down areas unless we absolutely have to for the park visitors' safety and allow the contractors to work as efficiently as possible. The proposed improvements would expand the park's capacity to serve more residents and provide a better park experience. During this same shutdown period, the Department anticipates completing the remainder of the two shoreline projects, which have a state-mandated construction window. The Department believes one shut down to accomplish three significant projects at one time is the best approach. One shutdown allows greater flexibility in construction means and methods and results in funding the repair of access roads once. As the projects get closer to construction, the Department will coordinate the construction schedules to minimize disruption to park operations and usage. This will include a review of the amenities in the park, including the boat ramp and walking paths. The Department will also provide a list of alternate locations for various recreational needs during the construction period.

7. There is already a concession building near the boat ramp that hasn't been used. Why another concession stand?

The current concession stand by the boat ramp serves that end of the park. This facility does not include restrooms or the ability to provide cooked food. The new comfort station will provide all-weather restrooms, additional seating, family changing areas, and support the park's east end.

8. What roads, trails of the Park will be off-limits to Park patrons during the construction?

The section of the perimeter trail from the gatehouse to the Swimming Beach will be closed. The road around the point will be closed to vehicle and foot traffic as well.

9. If the park does close at any point for construction, would the boat launch remain open for public use? It looks like it would be unaffected.

Refer to the response for Question 6. The Boat Ramp at Solley Cove should be open in Spring 2021 and will provide an alternative location for launching trailered boats and car-top vessels.

10. Why then does the state and Chesapeake Bay Foundation encourage private landowners to install permeable parking?

The site has been reviewed and does meet the requirements for permeable pavement in this location.

11. So there will be another meeting before the decision is made whether or not to close the entire park or not, correct?

Yes, the Department will have another meeting with the Community prior to construction beginning on all three projects.

12. What happens to the existing concession stand that is seldom used.

The existing concession stand by the boat ramp will remain and continue to be utilized.

13. If we are keeping the gravel parking lot open, won't we then still have oil and car fluids running into the bay? Why not install stormwater management THERE?

This parking lot is outside of the limit of disturbance for this project. The proposed stormwater management is to treat the areas of the Park that are being redeveloped as part of this work. The runoff from these improvements do not reach this parking lot. It should also be noted that the Department is considering removing this lot.

14. Has anyone contacted the Audubon society since this will impact migratory bird studies?

Yes, Park Superintendent Keller has spoken with representatives from the migratory bird count studies and will make arrangements to accommodate their count in 2021 and 2022.

15. Will the walking trail located along the Eastern Beach be improved/paved?

Yes, after the completion of Phase II improvements and Shoreline Restoration projects have all been completed.

16. What about the nesting eagles? Any thought to that? Federal govt protects them even if you don't care. This is ludicrous.

The park currently does not have Eagles nesting within its boundaries. All Federal Migratory Treaty Bird Act policies and mandates will be observed through construction.

17. Is the road around the pond going to be repaved. It was closed to walkers for more than 6 months and never repaired.

Yes, the roads will be repaired after the completion of Phase II improvements and Shoreline Restoration projects have all been completed.

18. Has Anne Arundel County Parks & Rec ever totally shut down a regional park for 1 year during renovation projects?

Refer to the response for Question 6. While an entire regional park has not been shut down, the Department has shut down smaller parks for an extended period during lengthy construction activities. The Department does not like to close parks or shut down areas unless we absolutely have to for the park visitors' safety and allow the contractors to work as efficiently as possible. One shutdown allows greater flexibility in construction means and methods and results in funding the repair of access roads once.

19. Are there only &

N/A

20. Who are we catering to local residents or visitors???

The Parks serves to provide a diverse recreational experience to all the residents of the County.

21. Please discuss traffic survey on our one lane road.

Please refer to the attached memo prepared by the DPW- Traffic Engineering Division for more information about traffic on Fort Smallwood Rd.

22. 7 toilets total in the new bathhouse? That doesn't seem like enough.

The toilet count requirement was determined during discussions with the park facilities based upon the existing and proposed additional park visitors quantities. There are additional restrooms and portable toilets throughout the park.

23. Will there still be a walkway near the maintenance building to gain access to the beach?

After completing these improvements, park patrons will be able to walk from the location of the current maintenance building(proposed concession complex) to the beach area.

24. Is there are any plans to rehab the historic fort that is located at the point?

The battery is identified in Phase 3 of the masterplan for improvements. That phase has not begun.

25. Has anyone here cleaned up the trash after the crowds depart? I have as the rangers. It's a mess trust me. Traffic survey please on Ft Smallwood. Join me anytime. This park is not meant to be turned into an amusement park.

Trash clean-up along Fort Smallwood Road is the responsibility of the Maryland State Highways Administration. However, Park staff does occasionally clean up along Ft. Smallwood Rd in proximity to the Park.

26. it is important to those of us that use the park that a perimeter loop is available for walking. Will a temporary perimeter loop be available during construction?

Refer to the Response for Question 6.

27. Will current walkway "loop" still be in place around the whole park?

Refer to the response to Questions 15 and 16.

28. If you create 120 more parking places near the beach, don't you expect to have more beach goers using the restrooms than in the past?

The toilet count requirement was determined during discussions with the park facilities based upon the existing and proposed additional park visitors quantities. There are additional restrooms and portable toilets throughout the park.

29. Traffic survey on ft Smallwood road??

Please refer to the attached memo prepared by the DPW- Traffic Engineering Division for more information about traffic on Fort Smallwood Rd.

30. I am concerned about the outfall pipes, are they going into the pond or did I misunderstand that. We have beavers living in that pond.

There will be two outfalls that drain to the outer margin of the wetland around the pond: one 15" and one 12". These should dissipate in the flat terrain. Stormwater management has been provided in this area to remove pollutants prior to being discharged. Beavers also will not be disturbed by this activity

31. Considering COVID-19, wouldn't it make more sense to wait until the pandemic is over?

The Department understands your concerns and coupled with the present circumstances, access to parks is important. However, due to a limited construction window, it was decided that one shutdown window would be less disruptive. Once all three phases are completed, the improvements would provide an improved experience for park-goers.

32. Trash on our roads outside of the park!!

Trash clean-up along Fort Smallwood Road is the responsibility of the Maryland State Highways Administration. However, Park staff does occasionally clean-up along Ft. Smallwood Rd in proximity to the Park.

33. Will the slides be available after this meeting?

Yes. Information can be found on the Department's construction page.

<https://www.aacounty.org/departments/recreation-parks/capital-projects/Projects/fort-smallwood-park-shoreline-stabilization-phase-ii-and-iii> We also post meeting notifications and updates to this site.

34. Sure Kevin I'll invite you to walk Ft Smallwood (our Community) road with me anytime and pick up trash. How many baby diapers and half eaten bags of food wd you like to pick up on Monday morning?

Your concerns have been noted.

35. How many more parking spaces are being added to this park?

One hundred twenty spaces were presented during the meeting. Since the meeting, the Department is considering removing the gravel parking lot, which included 93 spaces. The net gain in parking spaces would be 27.

36. What happens to the historic building on the hill?

The Barracks on top of the hill are currently under design. The Barracks will be renovated after the completion of the eastern beach area.

37. Will there be any meeting rooms for the public so that we can form a friends of the park?

Yes, there will be a Community Meeting Room located in the renovated Barracks Building, which will be completed in the future

38. Has anyone looked into the extra traffic that will flow on Fort Smallwood Rd to and from the Park?

Please refer to the attached memo prepared by the DPW- Traffic Engineering Division for more information about traffic on Fort Smallwood Rd.

39. When do you plan to sell annual boat ramp passes for 2021?

We don't currently plan to sell annual boat ramp passes in 2021.

40. Is this a done deal or does the public have a say in if and how to expand this small community park?

The Community has and continues to be included in the process. There was a masterplan completed in October 2009. This process included members of the Community. Since that time, the Department has worked to implement this plan. This work is listed under Phase 2 of the masterplan. A previous community meeting was May 20,2019, when this project was introduced to the Community for feedback.

41. The weekday annual boat ramp pass is an awesome idea for community members. Why not push this for CY 2021?

The introduction of new fees to citizens has to be incorporated into the next year's Fiscal Budget. As the FY22 budget has already been drafted, the earliest we can introduce the new fee would be calendar year 2022.

42. Couldn't a traffic sign be used on route 100 and or Ft Smallwood Rd near beltway to alert people the park is full?

Please refer to the attached memo prepared by the DPW- Traffic Engineering Division for more information about traffic on Fort Smallwood Rd.

43. Traffic sign notification on highway?

Please refer to the attached memo prepared by the DPW- Traffic Engineering Division for more information about traffic on Fort Smallwood Rd.

44. Do we have a say in this?

The Community has and continues to be included in the process. There was a masterplan completed in October 2009. This process included members of the Community. Since that time, the Department has worked to implement this plan. This work is listed under Phase 2 of the masterplan. A previous community meeting was on May 20,2019 when this project was introduced to the Community for feedback.

45. Will today's slides be provided to us?

*Yes. Information can be found on the Department's construction page.
<https://www.aacounty.org/departments/recreation-parks/capital-projects/Projects/fort-smallwood-park-shoreline-stabilization-phase-ii-and-iii> We also post meeting notifications and updates to this site.*

46. How do we find out about the community meetings?

*Those who received letters will continue to receive mailed notifications. For those outside of the radius additional information can be found on the Department's construction page.
<https://www.aacounty.org/departments/recreation-parks/capital-projects/Projects/fort-smallwood-park-shoreline-stabilization-phase-ii-and-iii> We also post meeting notifications and updates to this site.*

Recorded By

Joseph A. Graves

Cc: all attending by e-mail
Project # 20576 minutes