

Comments Received – Bacontown Russett Park

- There are proven health benefits for being outside in nature. The few remaining natural areas in urban areas are really valuable for people & wildlife.
- Leave the trees. The birds need them.
- We need to rewild this park more, or , at least, leave it in its state to protect the habitat and the wildlife that lives there. Thank you.
- Please leave the relatively-intact forest in place. We need space for wild life; we need space for quiet contemplation and observation of nature. We can't replace these qualities anywhere else ... it takes TIME for nature to create a forest.
- It will provide a nice location for children to meet with their friends in seclusion to do illegal drugs.
- It is important to leave this area as natural habitat for wildlife and a place for people to relax and enjoy nature for physical and mental well-being. The trees are also sequestering carbon and helping to combat climate change. Maryland needs to preserve its existing open space.
- Proposed concept #2 is closest to my liking. A BIG playground area set up for established age safety/skills, similar to Blandair Park in Columbia, would be nice (I'm a babysitting grandparent€; all AACO residents). Indoor areas/track would be nice for weather impacts, but that assumes employee/staffing requirement/funding. Our property taxes keep going up and for no increase in services or parks. It's about time we get a nice park in this area and don't have to drive 20 minutes to get to one.
- Please don't clear the trees from this gem.
- While I'm an active person and want facilities for muscle powered sports and exercise, Bacontown is NOT the location. This plan will remove a place of tranquility amidst the noise of day to day life. More importantly, we will lose important forest cover...thus the risk of extra runoff into Oxbow Lake will be a disastrous. I want AA County to leave the park in it's current state. Thank you.
- Protecting wildlife habitat is vitally important. We have lost so much of it already.
- HUGE negative effect on wildlife.
- This forest cannot be replaced. Much can be gained and appreciated by allowing the trees to remain and put in trails.
- Important habitat will be compromised and lost if you develop the park. Please leave it as it is so people can enjoy the outdoors and birds can live. We do not want to lose the barred owl pair or the water birds. Please leave as is.
- The mature forest provides critical services in reducing planet-warming carbon dioxide and cooling the surrounding areas. Communities need to be planting more trees, not cutting them down. Bacontown Russett Park is an island of natural beauty and wonders. It should be preserved as a place where people can connect and reconnect with nature and where children can learn the joys and responsibilities of the web of life.
- Please keep this area natural
- This is an old forest of over 40 acres. As Such, it is a very valuable forest to maintain as it is, intact, to retain its value for the many species of wildlife that call it home, and ultimately the human life in AA county.

- NO - do not put a park in our neighborhood. Way too much traffic already - DO NOT INTRODUCE MORE TRAFFIC & CONGESTION IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
- Do NOT clear the lot for sports recreation purposes. Leave it as a natural area. Natural areas benefit humans and wildlife alike.
- I think it would be sad to lose one of the few places with woods around here, however they aren't easy to enjoy. Building out a trail system and having some limited smaller facilities and pavilions would be great!
- Please leave the forest alone, Maryland is losing too much forest cover as it is. Our birds and wildlife need habitat.
- Zip lining would be so cool to have in the area
- Walking trails would be good.
- NO - do not put a park in our neighborhood. Put it at another location where it won't sit next to somebody's house!
- We are cutting down too much forestation and it needs to be left alone!!!!
- Trails only- we need more forest, not less.
- Please leave this forest habitat as is, for the birds and wildlife living there, and for birders and hikers to walk the quiet wooded trails.
- We don't need more forests cut down--they need to be preserved for current and future generations!
- Affordable indoor tennis courts are greatest need
- Indoor facilities
- Stop deforesting our county!!
- Although I live in Frederick county far from the park, as a member of the Maryland Ornithological Society, I may in any case have a point of view of some value. Undeveloped areas while not uncommon in Frederick are becoming harder to find every year. How much more uncommon are such places in your area. Sparing this area from development as proposed would be my recommendation.
- Jim Speicher
- Jefferson MD
- We need to save forests now! Any of the above facilities can be built in areas where there is already development. Please search for the abandoned Malls, etc.
- I have grandchildren and know that all ages need places for sports, etc. But, they also need Nature which is quickly disappearing.
- Kinari Webb, M.D. says in "Guardians of the Trees":
- "Deforestation releases as much carbon as the entire transportation sector for the whole world."
- Heed her warning!
- Preserve natural habitat for established wildlife.
- Na
- Please do not develop this property. Keep the land as-is.
- Too close to our community. Most of the options above will cause more traffic and noise.
- Please, we've already lost so much forested space ...
- Please keep this woods intact so we can meet our county land preservation goal.

- My son played baseball in county parks but we need to use ALREADY cleared land. NOT cause more habitat loss.
- I am a birder. We need to keep our natural land alone.
- Please leave the park as is a wonderful, tranquil retreat surrounded by so much development and noise. It's a special place to view wildlife also and will not be if development occurs there.
- Why tear down precious forests when there is so much open land already available? Don't take the easy way out on this one; preserve that forest AND find an appropriate spot for the athletic fields.
- I would only be supportive of keeping the land as is, with only the possible additions of trails.
- Dog park please! With separate sections for small dogs and big dogs. We really like the dog park in the Hollywood neighborhood area near college park as an example.
- Find a cleared area for the proposed park!
- Important habitat for wildlife
- None
- Land should be kept undisturbed, possibly nature trails. Better to expand Bacontown park facilities on Whiskey Bottom Rd.
- We need more affordable and easily accessible indoor facilities in AACO. There is a strong tennis community that has been asking to be heard and acknowledged. Please help support the tennis community and all the benefits, both physically and mentally that it brings to our county!
- Would be better to build a school. A park of this scale should not be built behind an existing subdivision. Please find another location.
- Skate Park!!!!
- Preserving woodland should be the county's and state's highest priority.
- Leave the land as it is for the benefit of the native wildlife and the bay watershed.
- Natural areas with tree cover are desperately needed in this area to protect native wildlife and provide peaceful enjoyment of nature.
- Removing forest cover from any part of Maryland, including AA County, makes absolutely no sense in 2024. Our state has lost far too many trees. Sports facilities, undoubtedly needed by the public, should be built in decrepit and outdated developed areas that have few if any trees and shrubs. Let's build smartly, not stupidly.
- As a Russett Resident, I'm concerned about traffic on Woodland Hills Way. The intersection turning onto Russett Green West is busy, especially turning left onto Russett Green West. Cars turn from the wrong lane, speed by, and take risks to turn. This will add more outside traffic to the Russett Neighborhood. Many cars don't stop for pedestrians. Last, there is a problem with trash etc. in park area, how will this be managed and be a safe place free of drugs/ loud noise in the evening?
- Disc golf would be greatly appreciated.
- Leave park in current state
- Save the forest. It is an important filter to the streams. Birds and other animals need this habitat among disappearing forest habitats.
- This is unique habitat. We can't replace forests in our lifetimes once it is cut. We need to just be with nature and a few trails and other accessibility improvements are all that's needed!!
- Please leave park at current state.

- Runoff from the cleared land could be devastating to the ecology of Oxbow.
- Leave it alone
- I am concerned about polluting runoff if the trees are removed.
- None
- Concept 1
- The neighborhood needs more tennis courts, which can be used as Pickle ball courts also.
- A great birding habitat. Should not be destroyed
- This is a large area of mature forest that is contiguous with Oxbow Lake. To clear this area would be detrimental to the many birds and other wildlife that use this property throughout the year. Many bird species require patches of habitat of a certain size, and would no longer be able to use the property if this area was cleared. Almost one-third of North American birds have been lost in the last 50 years and we need to retain trees for carbon sequestration - this property is far better as is.
- This is a fairly large parcel of land bordering a nature reserve. While I understand the desire to offer a plan, the three potential templates seem like too much for the communities of Bacontown and Russet. If we are chosen for this upgrade I would recommend the following: maximizing the nature trails and protected areas; fewer facilities at the onset; a buffer (100-200 ft) between any parking and homes, for both communities; NO basketball courts; and a solid curfew on the amenities.
- These woods are a place where one can enjoy tranquility away from the madding crowds and traffic. They support numerous different woodland bird species, including Barred Owls. The trees also help to combat climate change. Clearing the area of most or all of its trees would result in additional runoff which would be disastrous for the Oxbow Lake.
- Leave it alone!
- Please don't build anything. We need nature and the trees
- Tennis
- If you could please leave this land as forest, it would provide home for the wildlife who have made this gem their home. Planning boards seem to need more structures, more grass, more parking lots that continuously push out natural areas and the wildlife who live there. We are richer when we share our neighborhoods with nature.
- Leave them as they are with perhaps a better development of the existing trail system on the property that is already in use.
- Skatepark needed.
- I don't want the woods destroyed for the Bacontown issues to be in my back yard.
- Community walking areas serve all the people no matter their sex or age.
- We love our nature preserve
- Please leave the area in its current condition
- No need for more fields when we don't have enough trees and hiking trails in the county. Animals need homes too.
- Indoor pool or ice skating would be amazing (preference on the pool). This side of AA county is lacking in such facilities and we spend extra money at Fairland as nonresidents because it is more convenient, location-wise.
- Archery and climbing wall would also be nice.

- Russett resident. Indoor track would be valuable for this area. The park needs improved.
- Leave the park site as is. It is crucial to the wildlife and overall ecosystem in the area. Destroying it would be destroying the habitat of many species.
- Sensory areas for children would be wonderful! Pickleball courts are needed and can be used by many people!
- 1) Prefer a single entrance to the park from Whiskey Bottom Road that connects the two parking areas. The entrance from Russett Green West should be eliminated.
- 2) Athletic Fields - Prefer multipurpose fields, NOT baseball fields.
- 3) Court Sports - Suggest pickleball courts away from homes.
- 4) Course Sports - Disc Golf would be nice for this area.
- 5) Indoor Sports - Would like more information about who has access, and if there will be fees to use the indoor facilities.
- We need to keep as much of our local forests intact as much as possible. They are what clean our air, protect the soil from erosion, give habitat to our native wildlife. Please stop destroying the last bit of natural space our area has. The over development shows me that money is a priority over everything else. Please fix or use other parcels that are currently cleared. A nature trail is okay so people can enjoy the natural area. Other than that please leave it be!
- Nature areas are getting developed at an alarming rate in AA County
- Please leave as is to maintain the natural habitat.
- Indoor tennis courts
- Keep the park as woodlands!
- Trails and natural areas are the best
- The entire area around Oxbow Lake is like walking into Narnia. I discovered it a couple of years ago on a tip from a friend and couldn't believe the variety of migratory and native birds I encountered on that brisk December day. I visit the site often with my friend who lives in nearby Russett. If anything, I would like to see the trail system improved to make it easier for anyone to experience this site.
- Please leave in current state
- Leave the property as is, use open space already developed
- Please leave the area forested and natural.
- No development!!!
- Leave area undeveloped!
- The carbon in the trees which would be released by new development cannot be effectively replaced by planting new trees, nor can the wild ecosystem that has been preserved there as part of the Oxbow Lake watershed. Please leave this area alone, so that its peacefulness can be enjoyed forever by neighbors, photographers, and birders.
- The nearby lake and the wildlife, especially birds, will benefit greatly if another heavy use park of playing and ball fields is NOT added as there are plenty in the county. Please heed the needs of those without human voices.
- We have so few natural areas. Please preserve this property.
- Regardless of the county's intent, any development or changes away from natural Woods will in the long term damage or reduce the value of the oxbow lake area itself relative to it being a

wonderful place for wildlife and especially waterfowl to thrive. Oxbow is a natural treasure for central Maryland.

- Really don't see the need or benefit of developing the land at this time. Would rather the county put the fund towards increased policing and decreasing crime. In the current environment creating park space on this land would only lead to an increase in criminal activities. Development of the 198 corridor to more closely resemble Columbia or Annapolis town center along with decreasing crime would be the best use of funds.
- We need to preserve habitat for wildlife.
- Why must there always be development? Old forest is almost non-existent by comparison to developed land. There are plenty of places for people to go and exercise their interests in sports, etc. Far too few otherwise. Please leave this in a natural state, perhaps with only narrow trails for people to enjoy the woods for a change.
- Clearing the forest would produce disastrous run-off for Oxbow Lake as well as degrade habitat for birds and woodland creatures and would take away an area of tranquility for all. And we need to plant more trees to combat climate change, not cut down those we have!
- Maryland has lost so much of its forest already. We need to maintain as much forest cover as possible to combat climate change and maintain habitat for birds and other animals. Runoff from de forestation would also negatively impact Oxbow Lake. Please leave it as is.
- Preserving forests as a way to fight climate change, as well as preserve biodiversity needs to be the top priority if we want future generations to be able to enjoy outdoor recreation.
- Disc golf
- We do not need to lose anymore forest cover in this county which has lost so much already over the years. If the county is serious about water quality, habitat preservation, and responsible development, then leave this beautiful tract of land as a natural resource for people to passively enjoy with maybe a trail or two, and save the courts, impervious area, and indoor recreation for areas that are already developed and need updates. It would be irresponsible to clear it at the expense of payers.
- Indoor tennis courts please.
- I like proposal #1
- Such facilities already exist. Natural areas are under constant assault. This will result in polluted run off into Oxbow Lake, Maryland's ONLY naturally occurring lake. I visit Oxbow to admire its bird life. This project will poison Oxbow.
- No to forest clearings. Very critical to save the forests to curb climate changes.
- I think maybe a nature center and trails would be the least intrusive concept. We are losing forested land at an alarming rate in this county why destroy more.
- N/a
- N/A
- Plenty of other areas in the county where forests have already been removed and not being utilized.
- AA County does not have enough native forest areas. Do not destroy this small bit of forest.
- please don't take down the trees!
- Preserve the forested area - it's an important habitat for birds.

- We are losing so much natural forest, and it's essential to support local birds and other wildlife as well as to preserve the health of Oxbow Lake.
- The State of Maryland is investing in the restoration of the Little Patuxent River -- clearing this forest is a contradictory landscape action to present public funding already spent and plans for future water quality projects in the watershed. The forest should be protected with minimal use such as allowing just Natural Areas as defined in the survey.
- We need indoor tennis courts!
- Indoor courts
- Please keep the park in its current state.
- Is this a joke?! Anne Arundel County consistently ranks as number 1 in rate of forest lost in Maryland. Why would we clear forest for this! The county should be preserving these areas!
- Ridiculous - build a school!
- This area is close to seventy-seven private homes and is unsuitable for such a plan. The traffic implications for Whiskey Bottom Road- the only possible entrance- would be very negative for an already congested area. Significant wildlife now inhabit this area. Many of the amenities envisioned already exist in Russet and Bacontown.
- Given its location abutting a solely residential community of single family homes the Oxbow nature preserve and modification of the current environment would be detrimental to the quality of life in the adjacent community and to the nature preserve Of Oxbow. Increased automobile traffic on already too narrow roads would increase the danger to children, hikers and generally massively disturb the community.
- Wooded areas in the county are not increasing but decreasing. They are vital in many ways.
- Leave it natural.
- The Oxbow Lake area is important habitat for birds and other wildlife, and it should not be developed further.
- LEAVE IN CURRENT STATE!
- Need more affordable indoor tennis
- Not an are for recreation, this is taking away from the wild life and the natural preservation of the area. Aswell as increase crime rate and loitering to homes and noise in area.
- Minimize noise & pollution: no ATVs. Preserve intact forest on at least the northern half of the property for wildlife.
- Outside basketball courts will attract wrong crowds and they should be indoor.
- If outside courts are installed, drinking and smoking marijuana will become normal, because of location. Folks who live near the park will experience breakins and theft. A buffer area is needed for those who reside close to the park with installed fencing. Based on the 3 provided diagrams, the Bakerstown/Russett Park is not being designed or thought out very well.
- We are losing our natural resourcesâ€”and we aren't creating more. Save the natural resources that we have!
- Ripping our yet another ecosystem. We will end up holding up a mirror to nature and seeing nothing but ourselves.
- Unless there is an indoor pool and indoor track planned, there's no need to change the park. The crime rate is high and rising over here and unless you plan to increase the funding on the police force, there is no need to plan for additional activities and people in this area.

- anything outdoors - sheds, parks, trails, etc leads to crime - what is going to be put up between the park and the homes?
- Let natural areas be!
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- I believe that in our heavily developed part of the state remaining wooded and agricultural areas should be left as conservation zones rather than converted to commercial development, single family housing, or more athletic fields. Change zoning rules to allow intensification of human activities in areas already developed. Allow efficient, organized community use of athletic facilities already in existence.
- Leave site as is. Many of the amenities envisioned already exist in Russett and in Bacontown. If not left in current state, do build a barrier between the proposed park and abutting homes / community at Russett. And no direct traffic into Russett.
- We need a middle and high school closer than Meade!!
- That park is already surrounded by housing. Leave some nature alone. There are parks and sports fields that are underutilized as is.
- Nature and birds and wildlife already inhabit that area. Leave it be
- Please leave the park as is for wildlife there is already too much development in the area
- Maintain trails, but no development as development would be very detrimental to oxbow preserve!
- Do not clear any forest for gardens or a nature center. Just trails.
- Loss of this habitat will have a negative impact on the bird and natural life in the area.
- Thank you.
- I hope we can leave the park as it is!
- None
- As an avid birder, I am opposed to any development of this increasingly rare habitat, mature woodland. The resulting runoff more importantly would be extremely detrimental to Oxbow Lake. My suggestion is plan this development altogether elsewhere.
- Disc golf!
- The demographics in the area are that our population is aging. With that in mind, the need for improved ball recreation fields is waning. Our children are not playing outside as much and the number of children participating in sports is falling as well. With that said, lets leave this jewel of natural beauty, replete with plants and animals found no where else in Maryland natural. Instead of more cleared land and athletic fields that are utilized a few weeks out of the year.
- The park should be left as is or hiking trails should be built. This mature forest should not be destroyed.
- Please do not develop this area. The area has already lost much of its forest cover, making any additional loss that much more serious. The resident pair of Barred Owls and other woodland birds would lose valuable habitat. Developing this park would result in the loss of an area of woods where one can enjoy tranquility away from the crowds and traffic.
- Leave it as much as possible to nature.
- Habitat loss is a big concern.
- We do NOT need more playgrounds and ball fields. Let families enjoy nature in a natural setting instead!!!!

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- This is one of the few places near Russett to walk in the woods. People use it as a dumping ground and a place to get up to no good. It should be cleaned and maintained as a trail system that protects the marsh and the wildlife that rely on it, such as beavers, otters, bald eagles, and migrating birds. Those living nearby can confirm that additional facilities will be abused and bring unwanted violence and drug use to the area.
- Dog park would be nice
- There should be no net loss of forest in AA Co. This should be a law and should be enforced. We do not need to cut down any trees for more ball fields -- repurpose brown fields and other already impacted (developed) areas. We do not need any more impervious cover in this county especially in such an already degraded watershed. We also don't need to fragment any more forests. You can not just plant small trees somewhere else and pretend it functions the same as a mature tract of forest.
- Should not clear more woodlands. Should remain a passive recreation park with wooded trails and places to connect with the outdoors.
- Dog park, Running Track , Trails, Disc Golf, Archery, Some thing similar in nature to Quiet Waters in Annapolis.
- Enough with the land devolpment .
- Keep the nature as is now
- Please leave this in its current state!!!
- Leave the nature how it is! We have too many developed parks
- Preserving wood lots for the continued survival of birds and wildlife in urban areas is a vital importance. Stands of mature trees are a rarity and are a God-send to migrating birds, giving them a place to stop, feed, and rest on their long migration route. Please keep this as is.
- Please do not disturb this parcel of woods!
- We desperately need affordable indoor tennis court facilities within AAC. Please make this happen!
- Some more maintained trails would be great
- Leaving it wooded is the best choice for all of the non-human residents and that is a great benefit for the human residents.
- We need affordable INDOOR tennis facilities.
- A nature center and trails that disturb the least of the forest is most desired!
- Please select the option that requires the removal of the least number of trees, and least amount of new pavement. Runoff and sedimentation is killing our aquatic natural resources. Clearcutting trees is one of the reasons we are losing so many native and migratory birds. Getting outside in somewhat natural area, away from traffic and pavement, is getting harder and harder, driving our children to sit inside or stand on pavement. Enough!! This is how our natural world is lost, a bit at a time.
- Please leave the park in its current state.
- Disc golf
- Natural woodlands are the scarce habitat and the most needed in our region.
- Not the best place to be developed.

- No! Anne Arundel County has the most tree clearing/canopy loss of any county in the DC and Baltimore metro region. The public access to Greenbury Point has been significantly restricted, and it will go away once the second golf course is built. Patuxent North Track's 8,100 acres are only accessible on Sundays. The extensive forest in the Western part of the county, along the route 32 and 198 corridors is now decimated, as is Pasadena and Odenton. LEAVE THE NATURAL AREAS!
- I would prefer the land be developed into a paved walking trail. With a potential view of something man made for walker/joggers to look at as they use the path. Currently the walking paths the Russett Community has are mainly along busy streets where drivers frequently speed.
- Pickleball courts !!!
- N/A
- Any development needs to address management of the entire watershed.
- Please do not develop this area. This area of Laurel has had an enormous amount of development in recent years with a huge loss of native trees. These trees provide a large amount of absorption of carbon dioxide, the creation of oxygen and a cooling affect which are all positive items.
- As a resident of the affected community, I don't believe the space can accommodate any of the increased traffic associated with the proposed plans.
- TREES ARE NECESSARY
- If the park is cleared of most or all of its trees, the resulting additional runoff would be disastrous for the Oxbow Lake. The area has already lost much of its forest cover, making any additional loss that much more serious. The resident pair of Barred Owls would probably be driven out and other woodland birds would lose valuable habitat.
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- Additionally, developing this park would result in the loss of an area of woods where one can enjoy tranquility away from the maddening crowds and traff
- If you can't leave it, then use it for natural areas
- Russett resident. I believe a new park will improve the esthetics of the neighborhood in that area. The current park looks disheveled.
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- Leave it alone. Natural areas are hard to come by.
- Mountain Biking Trails, Hiking Trails. Makes the land accessible to people but does not push out the flora and fauna living there.
- Great ideas!
- Please leave the Oxbow's watershed in its current natural state.
- Russett doesn't need another place for shenanigans and hooliganism. Development will increase traffic to the marsh and disturb the wildlife. How many people will die when the otters decide enough is enough?
- As a resident of Russett, the development of this land was always supposed to be another school. So installation of non-school items. i.e. a skate park or dog park, might receive resistance by the residents that are adjacent to the property. Keeping the proposed modifications to those most likely in a school environment should help to mitigate this concern.
- Leave it natural- if development is needed- trails, pollinator, butterfly and birds!

- Tennis please.
- Trails to enjoy the natural beauty would be amazing!!!
- Keep natural space
- Preserving this special ecosystem will ensure that generations of people will be inspired by and enjoy the wonder of the natural world. Dozens of species will be severely impacted by development as there are precious few habitats for them.
- We are in a climate crisis. We must change our bias toward cutting down forest and building everywhere. Save all forest now! Every deforestation contributes to global warming. Build only in areas that are already developed. I'm sure you can find places that are already built for every amenity mentioned here. No more impervious structures/parking spaces or tree-cutting in public parks. I have to answer to my Gen Z daughter. If we keep building, what forest will be left in 50 years?
- The county should be making every effort to conserve forests. Every year we lose significant forests to development. I don't want my tax dollars spent on destroying forests. The county should be using POS \$ to purchase open land for active recreation development.
- Preserving natural woodland habitat should take precedence over "more" athletic fields.
- There's a bajillion ball parks for people to use. Leave the forest intact!
- Please preserve our dwindling green spaces
- Responding to a request by Anne Arundel County member of the Maryland Ornithological Society who noted that many forest dependent birds would lose habitat if the park is developed into ball fields. These forest areas are more valuable as the Baltimore Washington corridor is becoming more developed.
- None
- Please leave the site untouched.
- The county needs affordable indoor Tennis Courts. This should be our priority,
- This parcel is ideally suited for natural surface trails using both Bacontown and Oxbow properties to protect the natural environment (Plan 2040 goal). This could include bike & skate parks
- Parking proposals will lead to congestion along Whiskey Bottom & Ridgemere, making it more difficult for residents.
- Any proposal should consider existing local sport fields, including the NSA Ball Fields, 198, & Whiskey Bottom. A public/private partnership could make those facilities more widely available
- We need indoor tennis courts badly, our county tennis association has over 3000 members, which doesn't include all the kids that play, yet tennis only has one indoor option in the county, at the Navy Brigade which requires military personnel on the court. Tennis unlike soccer, football, lacrosse and baseball cannot be played in the rain. We love pickleball as well, but it should be noted that there are now several indoor pickleball facilities provided by the private sector in our county."
- Please consider the importance of quiet open space and its benefits to both human and non-human species. Perhaps provide more comprehensive public transportation to existing outdoor sports facilities rather than continually destroying open spaces with hardscaping, light pollution, parking lot water issues.
- Thank you

- As advocacy chair for the Audubon Society of Central Maryland, I urge you to protect this important remnant of bird habitat. The US has lost 40% of its bird populations in recent decades, and most species are declining fast, largely due to habitat loss. People, as seen in the pandemic shutdowns, need contact with nature especially during stressful times. This land is and will be most valuable in its current state protecting rare nature in Anne Arundel County.
- We need to leave it as is. Nature is wonderful for the mind and soul!
- As a retired outdoor recreational planner I can honestly say none of these facilities are needed. Current facilities in the area adequately meet current/future rec demands. Facility use is moderate to date. Proposed site supports Federal/state endangered species and topography and soils do not support reasonable construction/maintenance cost to support facilities. Noise generated will be detrimental to adjacent community, create security/liability issues for county and decrease property value
- Upgrade the public high school facilities to accommodate these desired activities and fund the schools better.
- No Park!
- This is one of few protected natural areas around and should not be developed.
- Concept 2
- There already is more than enough development in the general area without developing this valuable plot of forest! Please leave this remnant of forest alone - no development!!!
- Find other cleared land.
- Please preserve this woodland! The value of undeveloped, natural areas must not be overlooked. The benefits of trees and understory plants are many, from producing oxygen, sequestering carbon and reducing erosion to providing people a tranquil respite from traffic and noise.
- We need to keep what few forests we have left!
- It would be nice to not take up the entire space, as there are currently many animals living in the woods. Rock climbing would be neat (i think the closest option is earth treks), but I don't much care for the other adventure sports options.
- Please do not disturb this area and leave it undeveloped as it is.
- We need the green space for the environment and for run off. Leave it as it is.
- No development preferred.
- Please no loud ATV type of sports right behind our homes.
- Really would love an indoor tennis facility
- We need to keep our forests. Please don't chop all these trees down for fields.
- No rec area! This will be a magnet for drugs.
- excellent proposals !
- Stop ripping down trees.
- We have over the past 20 or more years visited this area frequently. In the Spring, the croaking of the frogs is an auditory SPECTACLE! (not to mention the sight and smell of the native laurel bushes in bloom) In the winter, to see all the waterfowl is magical: all seasons have something WONDERFUL to offer (not to mention the opportunity for SOLITUDE) as long as the area is LEFT THE WAY IT IS: which means UNDEVELOPED

- Forest land is in serious decline. Please keep as much as possible. The Pair of Barred Owls that call it home will appreciate it.
- We need more indoor tennis facilities
- We need walking trails please
- We would really enjoy leaving this area untouched for now as there are a lot of nature trails in the woods that we use multiple times a week. It is awesome to have natural trails right by our house that we do not have to drive far to so we can enjoy spending time outdoors with our dog.
- If these venues are supported, please provide enough parking to manage visitor load. Also make sure it is easy to enter and exit the park from the street.
- This area is for a school, not a park. It appears that this was again done in secret just like the water tower and we know how that turned out. The area needs new schools, not bunch of basketball courts in an area that has a lot of Latinos who probably play soccer. This appears to have been in a vacuum.
- We desperately need these natural spaces not to be paved over and rendered impossible to replace. Please leave the area as natural and undisturbed as possible.
- Do not change the park!!!!
- Need more tennis courts. Similar to Howard County facilities.
- Preserve the space!
- If it's about to cost Russett residents more leave it alone. This inflation is out of hand
- A unique and ecologically important piece of land home to various animal and bird species, this property should remain as public open space for all to enjoy the natural world in the greater DC area.
- Thank you for your attention to my concerns.
- Why so many soccer fields? Is soccer that popular here?
- I'm for the Nature Areas and the Community Facilities with limited vehicle access.
- All proposed concepts are terribly bad, will destroy even more forest and wildlife habitat to give space to even more concrete and asphalt, and this proposal comes from a county that says to be environmental friendly! Be ashamed! There is a soccer goal and space in Russett community, it is hardly used. Why is it necessary to build 4-5 soccer fields in 5 hundred yards? There will be mostly people from other counties who will drive and enjoy the facilities build at the expense of Russett residents
- Make disc golf courses
- There is so little untouched acreage where one can wander. This is habitat for nesting barred owls. Living beings make their home here. Please leave it be.
- Essential for habitat and to mitigate impacts of climate change. Better option for short term and long term consequences.
- Leaving the area as a natural wildlife area would be most preferred. There are too few spaces left in our county like this for us to destroy it.
- Not sure from the plans but the playground looks like an after thought in these plans. It could just be the label. A fenced in playground with a pavilion and shade on the playground or a playground under mature trees for shade.
- Leave as it. If we see ongoing growth in children population another school would be best option.

- This should be done on land that is already open. We have lost so much forest in the county and continue to lose more every year.
- An area of undeveloped forest in this highly developed and overpopulated county provides critical habitat for birds and other species.
- My preference is to leave this area in its natural state. There is no better way to protect Oxbow lake. Continued loss of habitat is leading to loss of spaces for birds and other wildlife. Creating more edges leads to greater deer and also disrupts territory used by creatures that need contiguous spaces. I would prefer to leave this space undisturbed. But if that is not possible then I would prefer nature trails only. I do not want parking lots or a nature center which will require loss of trees
- Please keep the park how it is. It hosts large flocks of Wilson's Snipe over the winter and is a great birding spot throughout the year.
- Anne Arundel County needs more tennis and pickleball courts. These should be separate courts. Tennis and pickleball are different sports with different size surfaces. Tennis requires more space and it is dangerous when it is played next to a smaller pickleball court. Parks and recreation should stop converting existing tennis courts to multi sport tennis/pickleball courts. There are no longer enough courts for both sports due to the popularity of pickleball. Any new courts should also have lights.
- Yes, the upgrade will be better for the community. I often go there and walk around but not quite safe.
- You need to protect the watershed that feeds the lake/marsh.
- Indoor soccer/ outdoor soccer, dog park
- Indoor and outdoor Pickleball
- Bacontown is a historical site and should be treated with respect. Bacontown abuts the Little Patuxent River Oxbow Lake Nature Preserve. Absolutely no ATV Course should be planned as those ATVs will eventually travel into the woods. It already has tennis and basketball courts and a playground. The playground could be improved (think Howard County playgrounds) for kids of all ages to enjoy. A dog park would probably benefit the entire 20724 zip code. Most of all, the county must maintain it.
- We understand there may be plans to add a park in the vicinity. While we acknowledge the importance of parks, we request reconsideration. Preserving the natural environment is crucial to our community's identity.
- The existing nature preserve enhances the aesthetic appeal of the neighborhood but also serves as a sanctuary for local flora and fauna. We believe maintaining this untouched space aligns with our collective vision for a balanced community.
- This is an area of mature woodlands and it needs to be protected for its importance to the local ecology. Having this stand of mature woods and the diverse wildlife within it is critically important to the area and together with other such areas, can help prevent more global warming.
- Skate parks and dog parks are desperately needed in this area. The skateboarders have been very resourceful and resilient in building their own parks, despite the county having a large budget and blatantly, ignoring the population for the last 20 years. Meanwhile, ballfields, sit empty and unused.
- I would like to see the park left as is. Nature must be protected from development.

- Provide a perimeter trail that links with the existing trails at the Oxbow park.
- With increasing population we need to maintain areas where one can rejuvenate in natural settings enjoying the wildlife such as barred owls and other birds and natural vegetation. Removal of trees to install athletic fields and facilities would result in increased runoff further negatively impacting Oxbow Lake. We need to preserve areas such as this where people of all ages can seek tranquility away from crowds and traffic noise.
- to experience tranquility away from traffic and crowds.
- There is no shortage of developed, public recreational facilities in the area. Please leave this natural space untouched. It is critical habitat for a wide variety of migrating and resident bird species, as well as other animals and plants. It is also a rare mature forest habitat in Laurel that provides people with a tranquil and untouched place to visit and get away from the urban and suburban sprawl we live in. Please keep this special piece of natural land in tact.
- Please do not bring more traffic through our community, my kids and I are almost mowed down daily with the level of uncaring and aggressive community traffic already. We already hear police helicopters flying over us weekly due to crime in the area, this would just ease their getaway and bring more crime, especially car crime, to our neighborhood. If Russett can't handle activity at one basketball court how do they think adding more will help? if this park went forward we would leave Russett.
- Smaller complexes in other established area would be better
- Stop clearing forested land! We need trees to provide wildlife habitat and to absorb runoff and the carbon dioxide that contributes to climate change.
- This is a wonderful wetland and habitat for wildlife. Please don't destroy or diminish it. Improved trails might be good, but don't compromise the wetlands or wooded buffer.
- It is going to be important to preserve this incredible natural area. The health of the watershed is my primary concern and preserving the forest to the greatest extent possible is the only way to do that. I come from pretty far away to visit friends that live in Laurel (where I also used to live) and visiting the Nature Preserve is always a part of my visit.
- This forested area is important for the wildlife habitat it provides and the climate warming mitigation it provides, for FREE. Please leave this forest in its current state. Tennis courts and other recreational opportunities should be provided in already destroyed/developed areas. WE NEED OUR FORESTS. PLEASE RESPECT THEM AND STOP SEEING THEM AS UNDEVELOPED HUMAN PLAYGROUNDS. Thank you, Jil
- Having lived in Laurel for 25 years, access to nearby natural habitat is something to be appreciated. The ecological benefits are large. Maintenance on developed areas would be costly.
- Please leave the Park in its current state! Developing it would be clearing 45 acres of mature woodland and create disastrous runoff for Oxbow Lake. It would also destroy habitat that birds and other woodland creatures, including a pair of Barred Owls, rely on.
- I am a resident of Russett, and I looked at all of the potential locations, and the concepts for each. The impact of noise pollution, light pollution, and traffic would be very detrimental to daily life for all residents. At the site, residential homes line 3 sides of the border of land, and there are multiple other sites under consideration that would impact fewer homes. This site is too close to residences for this purpose. There are better sites for this project.
- Please do not develop this patch of forest. It is very important for the health of oxbow lake.

- Leave the trees! Deforestation in AA Co is a serious problem. Add walking trails only.
- Please leave the area in it's natural state!
- Concept 2! Lacrosse, soccer, football fields. Would be great if they were turf and there was sufficient parking for hosting events, leagues there etc.
- This area should not be disturbed. There are migrating birds that need this land. We have different birds here than at North Track or south track.
- There is no shortage of athletic fields and facilities in AA County now.
- Let's leave room for wildlife.
- no
- The county needs for space for physical activities
- Please safe intact forests in this rapidly developing county. Plus, runoff from the multiple hard surfaces in this area could devastate Oxbow Lake.
- NO - do not put a park in our neighborhood. We like our woods.
- Why level more green space?? Surely there is an empty shopping center you can level instead.
- Leave raw land
- As a former member of the Laurel Park Impact Fund Committee, my only response is NOT ENOUGH ROOM at this location. Best locations would be Maryland City Park and/or Maryland City Elementary School area.
- Russett resident against development close to property line:
 1. No Ridgemere Crossing extension; Whiskey Bottom entrance only
 2. No parking areas\fields close to Russett property line
 3. Only dawn-dusk use; no field lighting; need area security
 4. Noise abatement for bordering homes;
- This rapidly developing area needs the green space--do not take away this natural area.
- Not Applicable
- Maryland needs more virgin green space.
- It is difficult to find tranquility in an urban area. This park in its natural state provides an escape from the madding crowds. Please leave as is.
- N/a
- My top priority would be a dog park. I live in Russett and have a tiny yard, so it would be amazing to walk to a dog park.
- Leaving this park in it's natural state benefits the watershed, plants, animals, birds and people. We need these areas to buffer the consequences of development. We don't need more man-made structures in our crowded suburban areas.
- I would hate to have Maryland lose any more natural areas.
- We are in a climate crisis. We must change our bias toward cutting down forest and building everywhere. Save all forest now! Every deforestation contributes to global warming. Build only in areas that are already developed. I'm sure you can find places that are already built for every amenity mentioned here. People don't need more impervious structures and tree-cuttting in public parks. I have to answer to my Gen Z daughter. If we keep building, what forest will be left in 50 years?
- Please also include plenty of trash cans and dog bag stations along the walkways and paths. A nice park can easily be ruined by trash and filled dog bags laying on the ground.

- Good ideas
- If not indoor swimming pools, leave it alone for nature or add nature trails to hike through
- Leave it green. You'll be glad you did in the future !!
- I spend a lot of my summers in this area any improvements would be welcomed.
- Please do not destroy this habitat for birds !
- I am a Russett resident. The idea of an adventure park would be great.
- There are plenty of other properties that could be redeveloped for this use. This land should be preserved. It's an impressive tract of land with lots of species that reside there.
- Concept 2 was the best design even though I didn't see any Tennis/Pickleball courts
- Indoor tennis and pickle ball courts!
- I support leaving this park as it is or adding nature trails. We need to keep our undisturbed wild areas since we have already allowed enough development. Wildlife are endangered and are dying out and the best way to save them is to save wild lands.
- Please add indoor tennis courts and outdoor tennis courts with lights. We need indoor tennis courts, so tennis players can continue to practice during winter months and rainy days. High school tennis teams have no place to practice during winter and spring to prepare for the tryout in early March. Parents have to clear snow, mop, bring our own leave blowers and dry the outdoor tennis courts with towels in order to regularly have team practice in March-May.
- None at this time
- N/a
- There are SO many toddlers and children in this area that would flock to an engaging, updated playground. Let's make something spectacular to rival the big fancy playgrounds in adjacent counties or further out in AA county. We can do it!
- Don't have remove trees and exile wildlife from the area. People and nature need this park as it is
- Neighbors who live close to this property do not want parks. Russett has had to hire a private Security Company because of the crime in our community parks. Will the county build a wall that people cannot get over?
- Would love 2 outdoor tennis courts and a nature trail
- A horrible idea to build a park on unused AACPS property. I'd rather see the nature trails extended & better managed. It's a complete waste of funds, because there's plenty of nearby parks in that area. Check out the North Laurel Community Center located in Howard county, I'm in AA & go to this facility. I suggest use the extras funds to build a facility to provide care for people experiencing mental issues! A better location for the new "West AA Community Center" is 8410-8426 Brock Bridge Rd.
- Oxbow lake which is a 1/3 mile from this site would suffer immensely if this park was developed. Nesting and other birds would lose their breeding site. The runoff from developing this park would severely impact the lack. The wooded area around the lake supports migratory, resident and wintering birds. This habitat is vital to them in this ever increasing developing area.
- Disc golf
- Is such a wonderful sport. It also keeps a
- Constant cycle of players coming to the park with Olen of room to grow the sport.

- Most all players are environmentally conscious, and keep parks with disc golf courses very clean and safe!!!!
- Leave that patch of forest as is! AA Co is too developed.
- Don't need another "team use only" Park. While most residents can't use it.
- Keep the native habitat or add trails!
- Make sure its accessible year round. indoor facilities increase use.
- There is so little woodland left. Please preserve this land, and prevent the run-off which would affect the nearby Oxbow Lake.
- This a large natural area that should be left undeveloped. Development will seriously impact the watershed for the Little Patuxent River and Oxbow Lake.
- Most desired, Russett needs a dog park and a community garden. These two things are everywhere except here. We are way behind the times!
- Leave park in current state.
- Please don't destroy this important wildlife habitat and area for enjoying nature!
- Concept 2 provides a vast majority of options for all from outdoor athletic fields to indoor sports and activities. The indoor options are great for the cold weather. For concept 2, instead of 5 multi-purpose fields, perhaps a proposal for 4 and include at least 1 baseball field would be better. It would be nice to incorporate bike and walking trails as well around the facilities.
- We need it in Annapolis
- This proposal is absolutely NOT NEEDED in the Bacontown/Russett area. There is already a very nice park in tiny Bacontown, and the other proposed amenities already exist in Russett, and are available to area residents (e.g. tennis courts, tot lots, basketball courts, hiking trails, picnic areas, etc.). DO NOT DESTROY THE FOREST to create duplicate amenities!
- Leave park in natural state to provide valuable habitat for insects, birds, fish, herps, and mammals.
- Indoor tennis please
- We already have playing fields and developed parks ALL OVER AA COUNTY. We need this undeveloped natural area for birds and quiet space around Oxnow Lake. If it is developed, oxbow will be lost forever.
- areas around the county would be nice to visit and enjoy outdoor facilities and various types of sports facilities
- We need to preserve what little forest areas we have in the area. Keeping natural for people to enjoy nature and the wildlife within should be considered.
- This area is a natural small forest, easily accessible, with many creatures including birds, amphibians, and mammals. Continue permitting the public to enjoy this experience.
- Please leave the site as it is.
- none
- There are numerous studies now citing the importance of having wilderness areas nearby as a booster of mental heath. Once developed, the land is permanently changed to a heat-absorbing natural wasteland that contributes adversely to global warming. Preservation of natural wilderness areas is vitally important to both the wildlife that exists there as well as the long-term welfare of the people that live nearby
- leave undisturbed

- Please do not clear the forest!
- We need to preserve more woodlands and the surrounding area around Oxbow lake to combat climate change.
- dddd
- Stop building please !!!! We are destroying our land and our Bay . Have we not learned anything from previous civilizations that destroyed themselves .
- Please stop building! Trees are life and the runoff of developments will destroy The Bay
- Stop cutting down trees
- We need to maintain as many native forests as possible. Too much housing/commercial development has already occurred in this area. As well as all over the state. Please leave it alone.
- These studies have shown that time in nature "as long as people feel safe" is an antidote for stress: It can lower blood pressure and stress hormone levels, reduce nervous system arousal, enhance immune system function, increase self-esteem, reduce anxiety, and improve mood
- N/a
- No more development
- The runoff resulting from clearing the woods would be a disaster for our environment. Leave some habitat in AACO for our woodland friends like the Baird owl.
- I oppose the destruction of open land for development of any kind.
- Leave it as it is, there are so few places like it.
- This park currently provides critical habitat for wildlife, water quality protection for Oxbow Lake and a tranquil woodland respite for those who wish to take a break from traffic and other man-made activities. Wildlife includes many birds, including a pair of Barred Owls. Please leave this park as is!
- Street Hockey and BMX, ATV
- Softball fields not just baseball
- The area is already overdeveloped. The crime and vandalism was so out of control just on the premises of the small Russett basketball court that it had to be closed down. There are already bad elements from the four local motels in the area. Crime has to be gotten under control before creating another opportunity for more crimes and more victims.
- What a tragedy it would be to destroy the forest along with all of its wildlife for more notionally "outdoor" activities at which people pay no attention to their environment. In addition to destroying habitat, the additional noise and light pollution will degrade human quality of life in the area. If it must be developed, formalize the trail system, connect it to an Oxbow overlook, and add a small parking lot for non-Russett residents to access the park for birding or hiking.
- Not sure it would be a good idea to relocate. Seems like it may cause more traffic and possibly crime in an area where it is already bad.
- None

- There are far too few natural areas. To take another for recreation that can be obtained elsewhere is unwise. The only thing worth adding here is some unobtrusive trails to allow the public to enjoy the natural beauty found right in their backyards.
- Disc golf is a popular and growing sport!
- It would be best to retain woods and that would help the health of the lake as there would be less runoff. This is an excellent birding area and can be a place for forest bathing.
- The forested area is critical habitat and watershed protection. Please leave the forest cover as it is.
- While it would be super nice to have the amenities proposed, we would also like to see as many of the trees be left untouched as possible. A forested park would be a lovely change from a lot of the parks in the area that were clear cut and are barren fields.
- Leave park as is.
- We need to keep this natural undeveloped land in its current state for the wild residents of Anne Arundel County.
- Leave as undeveloped as possible
- There are not enough trees now. Destroying 45 acres is a terrible idea. People as well as wildlife need natural areas. Please use for trails and a nature center or leave as is. It is next to Oxbow Lake Preserve and combining the two areas will benefit Mother Nature and all of the species she supports.
- Indoor swimming facilities
- My highest recommendation is for the inclusion of tennis courts. There are few public courts in the county, especially in the northern part, except high school tennis courts, which have their own restrictions. It would be especially nice to have lighted courts, as there are so few of those in the county as well. When planning for tennis courts and pickleball courts, please make them separate, not for both purposes, which causes conflicts between individuals playing one or the other.
- This mature woodland is a critical habitat for nesting barred owls and other wildlife as well as a tranquil, undisturbed sanctuary for nature lovers such as birders, amateur naturalists, and ordinary people who love walking in the woods. Clearing the woods would also result in stormwater and pollution runoff that would be disastrous for Oxbow Lake. Please leave the park as is.
- Best to leave as is.
- There is already too much loss of valuable natural habitat. Too much development. Many birds and creatures depend on this area for survival.
- Soccer Fields
- We did not desire any changes
- The neighborhoods surrounding the park will be very unhappy if pickleball courts are put in as it is a VERY noisy sport.
- Developing facilities that encourage year-round use is most desirable. Also interested in not developing all the way to the Oxbow preserve boundary unless it is to add nature trails to increase enjoyment of that natural area. Regarding pickleball, care needs to be taken to abate/ameliorate the noise impact of that activity.
- Leave the park in its current state. Our community is currently having many problems with crime and illicit drug use. We have had to hire a private security company to patrol our

community, especially the basketball court. We do not want a park that will provide a place for criminals to hang out.

- We don't need more ball fields and playgrounds etc. Nature is a playground in itself. This is a wooded area with a resident pair of Barred Owls. Please don't destroy this natural habitat. Our kids need nature and to walk in the woods and listen to birds and not be plugged in.
- Protect bird life!
- The area should remain a natural area for hiking and similar activities. We have enough sports areas around but not enough land with access to take my kids and dog to.
- I like the idea of something low-key, like a nature park. My fear is that more people in/around the neighborhood will likely bring more crime.
- Tennis courts
- Please don't cut it down. You can never get it back
- This is an important wildlife habitat most notably birds. Please leave the park as is undeveloped.
- Like disc golf and skateboarding but not BMX or ATV.
- In this current era of rapid climate change, anyone *seriously* considering clearing mature woodland and replacing it with barren turf and hard surface heat islands is certifiable. To add to this, runoff (including any pesticides/fertilizer used to maintain the playing fields) from the developed land will seriously impact Oxbow Lake, which is a major draw for nature lovers in the region.
- Certainly the county has other parcels of land that are already degraded, and can site sport fields there
- We need all the mature trees and natural areas.
- Please, do not clear this important woodlands.
- Leave at alone
- I think this area should be kept forested given the enormous habitat loss that wildlife has faced in the central MD region.
- None at this time
- woodland birds would lose valuable habitat.
- We can't afford to lose more tree cover and natural areas in AA County.
- Looks like the county leaders sure are not conservationist. I have seen more construction in neighborhoods where you were not able to build according to the existing codes so why would they worry about forested lands. Seems they are more interested in tax base construction then conservation.
- The Oxbow lake and its surrounding environment is a unique and special environmental area which should be preserved as closely as possible. The surrounding woods are an integral part of the special ecology there. The park now is a rare kind of habitat not only in the county but the state. It already offers great recreation for birdwatchers and hikers. A great opportunity here would be to open this area to more passive visitation like hiking trails to better appreciate this special place.
- Leave the woods as is
- We've already lost so much of what made this area special... More development is not a healthy path. Destroying another of our few longstanding natural areas is horribly shortsighted.

- An indoor basketball court would be amazing or an outdoor track, it's so hard to run on all these hills up and down so would be cool to have a track, indoor basketball for when it gets dark so early or if it's raining, which happens often
- Find an already cleared field for any sports playfields. This is an old woodland --older than 90% of county residents, at least. You cannot simply plant a bunch of little trees and have the same forest without having to wait 50 or 100 years! Nothing against playfields....just not at the expense of old trees and woodland creatures--we have less forests in the county than we had 50 years ago, and they are not increasing. SAVE THE TREES!
- We need more indoor and outdoor tennis courts throughout the county. It is impossible to play tennis in this county.
- We live in parcel 5 and hike in that area frequently. There are hiking paths in the woods that are maintained and used by the community.
- We have basket courts in the community that are on oxbow. The hoops have been taken down before because of the noise and misuse of them such as littering and setting off firecrackers.
- not sure if this park works to be open areas. the russett neighborhood that is surveillanced by police/security isn't able to keep the basketball courts from being used for drugs. if this park is opened and all areas are completely open, the concern i have would be how safe it is for young kids to use. knowing it backs up to our russett community, will trails be kept separate, or will people go off trail, and end up in my neighbors back yards?
- I saw no plans for any tennis courts in the 10 plans. Why not? Same for pickleball.
- The different concepts come with significantly different costs, yet, no dollar estimates were included. Hmm.
- You can anticipate that the adjoining neighborhoods are not going to support such an overdeveloped site for concepts 1 and 2 (I wouldn't).
- What is the need in the local community?
- Keep it natural with walking trails.
- Remove invasive species but leave this area as habitat for insects, birds and animals. There is so little habitat left.
- COVID taught us that having forests and natural environments to hike in, are crucial for mental health. Also, these forests are important part of the watershed and homes to various birds and animals. Please do not remove!
- Indoor tennis
- Mainly want to see playgrounds, Pickleball courts, and nature trails
- Something out of the norm would be nice
- Stop deforestation
- This site has extensive wetlands, rare plants, and sphagnum peat bog areas. This area should be considered for preservation only, not development. This site also drains to the sensitive Oxbow area, which is an ecological refuge for migratory birds. There are other sites in this Laurel/Russett area that have less ecologically significant features that could be developed into park space.
- please leave it as is
- Any development work will adversely affect Oxbow Lake.

- Please STOP clear cutting the only remaining wild, natural areas in the county. Improve access to this land maybe, but leave it intact for the wildlife and for humans that enjoy nature.
- There are plenty of ball-fields in the area but the places that we can observe nature are disappearing.
- I am not in agreement that our already nice green space with beautiful trees that I enjoy everyday should be disturbed for the before mentioned amenities.
- I like concept 3.
- This should not be in the middle of our residential community. There are PLENTY of other places this could be done.
- I would recommend trail/walking path access from both Bacontown and Russett.
- Wilderness, natural asset much needed in the county near the bay!
- Love the concepts. Looking forward to seeing it move forward with minimal disruption to the adjacent community.
- Keep the land as is for 5he wildlife. Too few natural areas are left in the area.
- What I most want is Pickleball courts and playgrounds
- Our most desired amenities is the walking trails as there is none in the area. We vote for concept #02. The park is in a pretty poor state and really needs some development. Thank you.
- none
- I am in support of leaving the park in its current state or at most adding natural trails (no impervious surfaces, minimal tree clearing). The site is identified as a forest interior dwelling species habitat and half of the site is also in an area identified by Maryland DNR as potentially supporting a state-listed species. This forested area is also identified in DNR's Biodiversity Conservation Network, more than half of which is extremely significant for biodiversity conservation.
- It is one of the undeveloped tracts in AA Co. Sports fields abound while quiet spaces do not.
- If the park is cleared of most or all of its trees, the resulting additional runoff would be disastrous for the Oxbow Lake. The area has already lost much of its forest cover, making any additional loss that much more serious. The resident pair of Barred Owls would probably be driven out and other woodland birds would lose valuable habitat. Additionally, developing this park for sporting purposes would result in the loss of an area of woods where one can enjoy tranquility away from the city.
- How will this be secured to ensure this is safe for families with no gangs / groups in the area?
- Keeping natural would be best.
- Just leave it alone, MD needs more green spaces, not empty athletic complexes.
- Concept 2: We would love to have indoor court sport options to allow residents to enjoy the amenities without having to go to Howard County. Additionally, it would be helpful to have somewhere to go on the days when the weather prevents residents from enjoying outdoors. Concept 2 allows for indoor and outdoor opportunities to stay active and engage activities that will maximize the health, engagement and collaboration of community members.
- Traffic will be a nightmare and the woods need to stay up disturbed. Kids need natural playgrounds and Bacontown issues need to stay on the other side of the woods. We don't want them here.

- Important bird habitat will be lost FOREVER. Unconscionable in this day and age of save the planet.
- If you're going to build a park, add an indoor pool. Also, maybe move Monarch Global Academy to the property.
- If the woodland was lost it would be disastrous for Oxbow Lake; runoff would pollute the lake and cause loss of habitat for the wildlife residents.
- Many parks have converted all or part of their land from natural habitat to sports related activities. Kinder Farm is one that continues to take away natural habitat (the latest was installing the frisbee area). Another example is Greenbury Point Nature Center which is going to be turned into a SECOND golf course. Although I do not currently live in Anne Arundel county I do go there to bird, as many of my friends. Bird population has and continues to decline, a large part due to habitat loss.
- Trees and quiet space are more essential to people's health these days than more facilities. Increasing the facilities where they already exist would be more beneficial.
- This park, approx. 45 acres of mature woodland, lies 1/3 m. south of Oxbow Preserve. Options (all bad) include clearing the forest to build playing fields & other sporting facilities.
-
- If the park is cleared of most or all of its trees, resulting additional runoff would be disastrous for Oxbow Lake. The area has already lost much of its forest cover, making any additional loss that much more serious.
- Developing this park would result in the loss of important habitat for woodland animals.
- None at this time.
- Please preserve this forest as it's important habitat for wildlife.
- I would advocate for maintaining the natural features of the forest as much as possible, to protect the limited supply of forest land in Maryland as well as the wildlife that lives there.
- Any development will increase runoff into this pristine lake. Please stop development. This is an important bird area- we don't need to lose any more forest in Maryland.
- This is a unique habitat with forest that supports many birds such as barred owls. As it stands now, it's an oasis surrounded by suburbs that can be enjoyed both by animals and community residents who treasure some peace and solitude
- If the park is cleared of most or all of its trees, the resulting additional runoff would be disastrous for the Oxbow Lake.
- For the sake of the Bay, we need more trees in this county, not fewer. Also, there is a pair of barred owls in this area. Be considerate!
- Please leave
- We need to maintain our forests. We are not creating more, and our wildlife faces a decreasing amount of habitat. Please leave this as natural as possible so the birds and other wildlife have some place to be. Thank you!
- We love the trees, natural habitat and wildlife. Over developing disrespects mother nature's plan for our planet.
- A multi facility modeled after the brand new Severn Center which is for all community members. It features a Boys & Girls Club, Community Room, and Senior Activity Center. The Senior Activity Center to provide activities for older adults in this side of Anne Arundel County.

- Please do not destroy diminishing habitat of the other species.
- Please leave what is left of natural areas alone. Too much development!
- Let's keep the trees please!!!
- I visit parks all over the area for birding and for walks. We should save what we have left of old growth woodlands so we have places to get away from our endless urban sprawl
- Please leave it undeveloped for the wildlife to have a home too. We need to share our planet and value mother nature.
- Please leave the park. That area has enough sports facilities. -Columbia etc) Other areas don't. (Annapolis. Arnold, Severna Park.). But wildlife also needs habitat.
- concept 3 is good . If there is tax money for ongoing security for indoor building.
- Disc golf please!!
- Natural area would be wonderful with child centric considerations, as well as e ecological considerations like pollination gardens and natural habitats â€¦ huge opportunity to make a lot of great things happen all the way around!!!
- Two to five outdoor basket courts are not desirable. It will only lead to more drugs and other illicit activities. Russett Community has and still experiencing the drugs and other illicit activities with its outdoor basketball courts. Indoor Sports are the best solutions to control the drugs and other illicit activities. .
- Leave nature alone so it is able to rewild, it benefits all that happens around us
- Clearing forests for ballfields is ridiculous. No clearing but passive trails. No building or parking lot.
- Since the pandemic people want passive trails for physical and mental health.
- Use land that is already cleared for uses listed above, but ideally more natural parks. I coached in the County for 15 years and yes at times was tricky to find practice fields BUT there is more of a shortage of trails.
- None
- Traffic in Russett is already terrible- lots of fatal accidents and people not following speed limits. Adding an entrance to any of these concepts within Russett is going to make the traffic worse in our neighborhood. All of these concepts are too close to the backyards of current single home owners, and the noise levels could get annoying over time, esp if big facilities like ball parks or basketball courts have late games. There are no security guarantees for current residents.
- Are you at all concern about residents' property value. Why are your recommended designs have to be so close to the property of residents of Russett. What kind of recommendations will be made to provide for our security.
- We are against the modification of the natural reserve area. The addition of the proposed amenities will bring undesirable amount of traffic through our community.
- Russett is saturated with the number of commercial sites surrounding the community. It is a big burden as it is now to drive around 198 on a daily basis.
- Would there be any fees associated with the indoor facilities?
- Rick climbing, disc golf, dog park and trails.
- We need open natural space
- What is wrong with leaving some land in its natural state? There are many ways we can all enjoy the wooded area. We have overdeveloped this area and others way too much. Let nature

be. The woodland creatures need a home, too. If we keep developing what and how will we enjoy the woodland creatures? Leave their habitats as is, please!

- A good size playground would be amazing! my young kids and I would definitely come multiple times a week. A short trail for walking would be great too, something leveled enough that you could push a stroller along the path. If there is money for indoor courts (like volleyball) that would be great too. We're very excited about this project :)
- Please leave this natural area as is. Our mature trees are being lost to ever increasing development. This is a wonderful chance to save a critical natural area including woodlands and wetlands. I have walked this area several times to especially observe spring arriving birds.
- As a resident for over 30+ years, this area is very special for residents of The Russett. It is one of the last areas of Laurel that has not been put under the Developer's construction. It gives this community a true place for reflection, appreciation and silence, which is very rare in this day and age. There has to be other areas around Laurel (The two abandon Baseball fields near the Patuxent Research Refuge North off of 198 before Tipton Airport) that can accommodate this project.
- The more trees we cut down the more we contribute to global warming and runoff that impacts the Bay
- Preserving natural areas is as important to people as it is to nature.
- Much of the land you intend to use was deeded by the original develop/owner of Russett SOLELY for the purpose of building Schools. Therefore, in my opinion, unless that land will remain pristine wetlands and Woodlands, the plans are not legal. Further, adding an access road from Russett Green West to these parks will further exacerbate crime, traffic, noise and lack of police monitoring of speed limits, safety, provide access to non Russett residents to the community, private homes and fields.
- Anne Arundel County really needs to set aside more natural, undeveloped spaces. I've watched so many natural areas be paved over and developed that it just makes me sad. Let folks keep a natural area, perhaps add some trails and go for a walk. And the wildlife will appreciate it too.
- This park is a lovely refuge of mature forest. Developing this park removes quiet green space, habitat for wildlife and a chance for people to reconnect with nature. One thing we learned in the pandemic was how much people need access to nature and green space to recover from stress, isolation and emotional states. It is essential for me!
- We don't need another park with minimal supervision. We need SCHOOLS. If recreational facilities are needed, those problem motels on Route 1 would be great buildings to repurpose into recreational facilities. A school would also have a field/outdoor facilities that could be used by the community. The infrastructure would make it safer to use as well. This would be a great spot for a high school as Meade is grossly over populated and unsatisfactory.
- I'm a current Russett resident on LindenRidge Road and I would not like the noise from skateboarding, basketball and other sports activities behind my house.
- This park needs no more development. Let the Oxbow Preserve remain tranquil, and free of the destructive runoff that would ensue from construction.
- Please leave this park as is. Can't something be left for the birds and other animals or do we have to build over every single piece of land? Nature is already suffering enough.

- The property was given to the Board of Education for a school. Education in this part of the county should be prioritized over recreation. Perhaps some of these amenities could be added, if room is available after a school is built.
- None
- We have enough sports fields and buildings. Let's keep it natural and allow people to enjoy it as is
- This would be devastating to the neighborhood. It would drive up traffic and decrease the surrounding property values over time. No one wants to live next to a noisy park.
- Would love more indoor options!
- We need more forest!
- This land should stay a forest. The midatlantic area has too few areas for wildlife. Changing this property will deprive wildlife that live there and migrate through and could also have an impact on surrounding natural areas through runoff from construction. Please preserve this land as a forest.
- None
- What traffic study has been done?
- I do NOT want any of these features to take the place of the trees that are in that location now!!
- The proximity of this land to Oxbow Lake means that the installation of athletic fields, tennis courts and the like would dramatically increase runoff into the lake, thereby endangering the wildlife that depend on this body of water. Similarly, the removal of trees for such construction would displace birds and other wildlife. Undisturbed natural areas such as this one should be left alone whenever possible as there are so few left and once gone, they cannot be recovered.
- Don't do this. It's not necessary as we already have parks that are being taken over and used for unintended purposes.
- None
- Anne Arundel residence amenities badge should be required to access park.
- This is an important Green Space that I would strongly prefer to stay natural and undisrupted. Development would have a serious adverse environmental effect upon Oxbow Lake, a wonderful natural area my family and friends frequent as a quiet refuge from city stress.
- There is SOOOOO little park land truly available - lets allow our grandkids to have at least as much non-concrete areas as possible for all the reasons that have been enumerated multiple times.
- A unique habitat that should not be compromised to build more athletic fields. Instead, teach children the value of land preservation, natural landscapes and wildlife. Why destroy something so valuable for the recreational enjoyment of a small subset of the community, when parks and trails can be enjoyed by all ages? It's extremely shortsighted when we're all dependent on the environmental benefits of undeveloped land.
- More sports use serves the community the best
- N/a
- Woodland is precious in this part of Maryland. It is too easy to just clear the trees. Please don't do it.
- None

- Natural area are needed by wildlife and humans. Development on this land will result in sediment runoff going into Oxbow Lake
- Do Not Develop this park!!!
- We need parks with safe equipment and umbrella coverings for shade from the hot sun during the summer months. Thank you so much!
- We absolutely positively need tennis courts, ideally indoor tennis courts in this county. Everyone Hass to travel to Prince George is Baltimore city Howard Montgomery County to be able to play indoor tennis. It's a shame.
- Leave the park as it is.
- I do not want amenities that will attract people who engage in illegal activities.
- This site currently has high quality wetland resources on it that don't appear to be identified in the site maps.
- We need affordable INDOOR tennis and/or pickleball facilities please!
- Undeveloped land is preferred.
- We need more affordable tennis indoor facilities.
- Do not change anything. It'll be disruptive to the current state and the entire reason we decided to purchase.
- We need the forest for peace and tranquility, a place for birds to rest, for trees to convert Co2 to Oxygen and thus more clean air which is sorely needed in congested areas full of cars and air pollution
- This is not a good place for a park. It will have a negative impact on the adjacent residential area.
- n/a
- What type of security will be offered. The basketball court in our community had to be closed due to destructive behavior. We need additional security if this land is developed!
- Disc golf is my first preference followed by running/biking trails, then pickleball and soccer.
- I live in Russet and would love to see more dog park space in our area.
- Too much traffic on Whiskey Bottom. Very difficult to get in or out of the park now.
- The Maryland Ornithological Society sent me an email about this. Their email states: "If the park is cleared of most or all of its trees, the resulting additional runoff would be disastrous for the Oxbow Lake. The area has already lost much of its forest cover, making any additional loss that much more serious. The resident pair of Barred Owls would probably be driven out and other woodland birds would lose valuable habitat." I agree with this assessment.
- Please for the love of god add a disc golf course
- None
- Please leave this wonderful natural area as is. Any of these option would have an enormous destructive impact on the lake and the wildlife, birds, and waterfowl that live there.
- None
- Increase security in the area.
- Please NO park here!
- Basketball courts on Whiskey Bottom Rd. More land there for park? Or near Patuxent Wildlife Refuge; Rt. 198.
- Thoughts:

- 1. Small parking lot about 40' from my house? Too close! My strongest objection. County will build adequate privacy fencing between park & adjacent homes?
- 2. Sensory garden & dog park Great ideas!
- 3. Restrooms where?
- 4. Archaeological digs before build? Russett developers had to.
- 5. No visitor center? Display arch. finds & history of area.
- NO - do not put a park in our neighborhood.
- MATURE FORESTS ARE BADLY NEEDED IN OVERBUILT PG COUNTY. ALSO DAMAGE TO OXBOW LAKE WOULD BE EXTENSIVE
- Yes
- If dog parks are part of the concept, I think it is extremely important to create separate auto-closing entrances and very high fencing surrounding that area to prevent dogs from entering other non-dog friendly areas of the park. I would personally prefer they not even be part of the overall park design, and be a separate park altogether so that careless dog owners don't create a liability situation.
- AACO needs as much natural space as possible, especially when the surrounding spaces and habitats (as is the case here) have been flattened for housing development. We must be responsible stewards to the land, and keep space for the animals we share it with.
- Trails are fine. Anything more than that will kill Maryland's only freshwater lake. In addition, Maryland is the most deforested major state in the Chesapeake region. Any additional deforestation is deplorable, and massive deforestation in an ostensibly conserved area is particularly abhorrent.
- Community Facilities and Natural Areas please!
- NA
- Leave as nature park
- All concepts will need more parking!
- A Russett resident against development close to property line:
 - 1. No Ridgemere Crossing extension; Whiskey Bottom entrance only
 - 2. No parking areas\fields close to Russett property line
 - 3. Only dawn-dusk use; no field lighting; area security after dark
 - 4. Noise abatement for bordering homes; dirt berms; significant tree buffer
- Existing Bacontown Park not in concepts for improvements
- Support nature\fitness trails\dog park; support extending Russett paths to new trails
- Have more to say; no room
- Outdoor courts and parks draw homeless, drugs, crime; you should not put baseball, golf, etc near houses because it could lead to damage to homes.
- Every year we lose many acres of forests in the county. It makes no sense for our local government to destroy another patch of forest.
- Competition pool/aquatics facility
- This forest in the Oxbow Lake watershed should remain undeveloped and should be permanently protected as a conservation area.
- A change is much appreciated
- Be as respectful to the natural wildlife migrating from Oxbow and the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge.

- Need outdoor party space.
- Leave nature be. Animals like deer are constantly being pushed out of their habitat for human development. They have no where to go.
- There are plenty of areas that already are cleared out where these types of facilities can be built. Destroying forest, vegetation and wildlife for athletic fields shows our skewed priorities
- Great birding area, trails would be best
- I don't think any of the concepts are perfect. The best is Concept 1 but with more nature trails like #3. I like nature trails. Baseball diamond would be cool. I don't really like a bunch of basketball courts. I already don't love the Russett Green & Ridgemere Crossing intersection as people turn left from Ridgemere Crossing onto Russett Green, which can be dangerous. To add a road to west at that intersection would add to the danger. Make into traffic circle.
- NA
- Ideally we would leave the area preserved, we need nature! But, a couple of hiking trails would be nice.
- The environmental impact is too great.
- Tennis courts
- We don't need more of these, let the natural park be a natural park
- Roadway connecting parking on both sides will be very convenient
- Open space and forests are disappearing at alarming speed. You can't recreate forests. Please leave open for habitat and maintain the watershed that so many animals and waterfowl depend on. Actually no nature center could replace the beautiful natural land present there today. I've been there and it's priceless the way it is.
- Most of these options include lose of habitat and other environmental degradation to this and nearby areas. There are many parks, which are already built, with ball fields and other community facilities that are under used. Do we really need another one?
- Oxbow Lake is such a unique area. It must be preserved for future generations. We can't blacktop over and turn every bit of available land into a park, paved or not.
- Goodness gracious! Is Anne Arundel County a pro-environment county? I thought yes. But these plans are equally terrible! Save the forests we have. Please!
- Please leave as much as possible in a natural state to provide habitat for the many birds, turtles, insects, wildflowers and other species that are rapidly declining due to habitat loss and fragmentation, among numerous other problems they face.
- Leave the trees and stop cutting them down. Work with an area that is already developed and not being used.
- We are developing too much land. Please leave forests and wetlands alone, and try to get people to better understand the importance of these environments for providing ecological services that are critical for our future and for the planet's health.
- Make park a destination for multi sport community usage.
- We need more forested areas, not fewer. Helps in global warming, helps protect our wildlife, especially our dwindling bird species population
- N/A
- Nature trail with indoor facility is good

- I support leaving the space as it currently exists, as there is little open space for wildlife in the area. An oasis like this property is valuable to all sorts of living creatures, and also provides a respite from the constant barrage of activity. If it must change, the only use I would support is that of the last choice, Trails or the like. Thank you for your consideration.
- Please leave this natural area as is. There are not that many old forests left in the US, and forests cannot be replaced that easily in 50 or so years.
- I am close, off Brock Bridge road and in favor of a dog park. I have a dog I walk 2-3 times/day. I see dog owners in the local townhomes who would benefit from a dog park. The park can be combined with a nature trail for dogs to walk with their owners.
- I suggest you build 1 or 2 multipurpose fields before adding more like you have pictured. See how much they're used first.
- And I'd prefer building something that isn't already available at schools, etc.
- Also consider traffic to/from.
- Small area for skateboarding and limited trails. Otherwise leave as is. Do not develop.
- Please don't destroy the habitat of all the animals by the lake!
- We have so few good habitats for birds and nature. Please preserve the wonder of nature!
- This is a critical area for wildlife in a region where we have few of those left. You have keystone species and amazing biodiversity in this spot. It's important that we do what it takes to protect it.
- The land was originally marked for education and not recreation. Moreover the plan disrupts and intrudes on the privacy of current residents. I am totally against this plan. There is not enough of a buffer to the homes of the residents. This drive down property values.
- Oxbow Lake is an important bird area - the largest naturally occurring lake in Maryland. Any construction, especially with extensive hard surfaces will seriously impact the runoff into this lake and degrade the habitat.
- I live directly behind the treeline in Fieldstone and appreciate having the trees as a barrier with the park and hope this stays. I would most prefer a walking trail or dog park area.
- I don't know how to address my last concern but every year, there are illegal fireworks shooting off right over our house putting us in danger. I don't know how this could be avoided in the future there.
- Habitats can not be quickly replaced and there aren't enough of them. Natural areas such as a trail system benefit both humans and critters and should be a priority. There are plenty of places that support sporting activities. Areas without trees increase heat, bad air quality, water run off, etc. Please preserve this space. I have enjoyed visiting there for birding activities.
- Anne Arundel county needs INDOOR, AFFORDABLE tennis courts!
- Love the the new plan to update the park!
- I like concept 2 the most.
- Why is there always this impulse to develop? We need to preserve and protect undeveloped natural areas, not develop them.
- I like all these ideas. I do think skateboarding parks need to be incorporated into all county parks. Considering its an Olympic sport now kids need to have these facilities to practice in there local communities. I do recommend a larger sized park possibly indoor and outdoor to be able to

still practice in inclement weather. Its a great release and sport for kids who aren't interested in team sports. Its a great way to develop life skills and make friends outside of team's sport.

- Development would not be good for Oxbow Lake and the wildlife currently found in the park.
- Would like an indoor tennis facility!
- Runoff will kill the lake. This is another unthoughtful removal of habitat. "Let's just cut down all the trees. What do we need them for?" As if there are not enough of playing fields within short driving distance.
- I live in the Russett community.
- Thank you
- Look at the housing development that surrounds this natural area. Why would you want to pave over even more forestland? Leave the tract alone. It's a place of natural beauty where people of all ages can walk to enjoy being outdoors. Nesting owls live there, The trees absorb carbon and their roots take in water, preventing flooding and runoff. The biggest benefit comes from leaving this place alone.
- Wildlife need a place to live also. Woods and fields are needed for watershed management.
- Please leave the woods and fields as they are. ballfields etc can be placed on land which is already disturbed but underutilized ex how about the parking lots at shopping centers which no longer have much usage?
- .
- There are so few natural areas. Please leave it undisturbed.
- This is a terrible idea to develop this space for so many reasons. One, the ingress of non-native species would be detrimental to the protected Oxbow lake and removal of an area currently used for recreation. It will also increase exposure to harmful runoff from oils and other petroleum products from road surfacing. The development will DECREASE existing house values, increase traffic, and lead to more vandalism, etc. in the area. It will also require increase in traffic control raising HOA due
- please protect our forests!
- Why develop a forest? Makes zero sense. There must be alternative sites for ball fields that are not forested the county can purchase with stateside POS funds if another more appropriate site is not already owned.
- find a site that has already been cleared.
- There are already adequate facilities and potential sites for the varied sports and recreation activities without disrupting this critical natural area. Please preserve what little natural property we have in this area.
- Indoor and outdoors activities for all ages to enjoyed
- There are many species that currently flourish on this property and I think there are plenty of other properties that could be redeveloped for this use. Choose a site that is already open. Too many forests have already been lost to development in the county and it just keeps increasing. Find another location that's already viable and leave this one to nature. Do not develop
- need to preserve valuable woodland that provides valuable environmental services
- Leave mature trees. Maintain existing trails. Nature Center not needed "The outdoors is the nature!

- Please save this forest, which is part of the Oxbow lake watershed; runoff from the cleared land could be devastating to the ecology of this gem. Forests in the county are not increasing and are simply irreplaceable in less than 5-8 decades.
- This is needed!
- Please consider other non forest land that is already cleared and open for this.
- This area is a treasure which is irreplaceable. That you would clear any of the area for playgrounds is just not acceptable. Once you destroy this wonderful area there is NO going back. Please, please do not destroy the land around Oxbow Lake.
- Leavetge park as is
- Plenty of lighting for safety in the evenings/early mornings.
- As a resident of the Russett community, all of the proposed plans do not bring value to my community/neighborhood. All proposed plans will create severe traffic issues throughout the neighborhood. The streets and roads of Russett cannot support more traffic, nor can Whiskey Bottom. No consideration is given to the homes that is near the proposed area, whether it is security or privacy, none of these major concerns has been considered for the existing homeowners. NO TO BEACONTOWN RUSSETT!!
- I have several young children and would love a playground set with climbing equipment and swings! Nature trails would be wonderful also.
- Concepts 2 and 1 are most preferred
- NO - do not put a park in our neighborhood. Don't build something that we DON'T want, and then charge us (taxes) for something we didn't want in the first place!
- A large dog park would be ideal.
- Please create as much disc golf as possible to relieve our crowded courses and give us a place to play glow.
- With the current decline in wildlife and bird populations and scarcity of mature forests combined with the challenges to species due to climate change, keeping this forest as is is the best option.
- The proposed park abuts my backyard. I believe an enlarged park would invite less than desirable and illegal activities. A road connecting to Russett property would invite unwanted traffic. Russett has suffered so much vandalism and drug trafficking already that we have had to hire private security for the neighborhoods. I recommend that no enlarged park be built. PLEASE LEAVE THE PARK AS IS.
- Need indoor tennis facilities
- I like the ability for track and field but I also like the adventure option and some indoor options during the colder weather
- Na
- NO - do not put a park in our neighborhood. Preserve our woods!
- My house will be affected by these plans. When I moved here from Bel Air the most desirable and best characteristic of the house was that it backed to a Bird Sanctuary and building of any form would not be allowed or considered. Please do not change that and leave the park in the current state.
- I live in russet. I do not like the idea of a road connection behind the homes in that area. Definitely not option number 2. I don't care for any of the suggested park options either. What

we need most is a school. Some of these ideas can be built in conjunction with a school. I heard that there were promises 20 years ago that a school would be built closer to Russett. A school would provide security and more community watch. Crime is on the rise. An unsupervised park is not needed.

- The wooded area should remain undisturbed. This is a unique area for hiking and enjoying nature. I use it several times a week to walk someplace that doesn't have a sidewalk. I also have the concern that any permanent structures built on the land would be an excuse for not building the much needed school there. This was the purpose of this property when the Russett developers donated it to the county 35 years ago.
- I think it is great you are exploring ideas. We really need something in west county
- Add indoor tennis
- NO - do not put a park in our neighborhood. We've already closed 1 park here, so another is not desirable!
- I would like to keep the natural area proposed untouched. The current proposals offer some nice things but much of which is all ready easily accessible. For instance, there is a skate park, Nature trails, basketball courts, baseball fields and several gyms within a short distance of Russett.
- N/a
- None
- Skate
- I am a 31 year Russett resident. When we moved in we were promised a local school. What a disappointment this is! This proposed park abuts 2 neighborhoods and invites the rest of the county into our community resulting in noise, traffic, and lighting issues. County parks do not belong in established communities. The woods should be preserved for the wildlife if no local school is built. Concept 3 is best of the worst. Russett is not the county dumping ground for ill conceived "development".
- I would prefer to leave as many trees as possible.
- I'm concerned that if the park is cleared of most or all of its trees, the resulting additional runoff would be disastrous for the Oxbow Lake. The Oxbow Lake area has already lost much of its forest cover, making any additional loss that much more serious. The woodland birds would lose valuable habitat, so I would prefer that the park isn't changed.
- Developing the park by clearing the forest would drastically increase sediment run off to nearby Oxbow Lake. It would reduce the available habitat for woodland birds. The resident barred owls would probably vacate the park. Development would also deprive the public of a place to have tranquil walk, away from the hourly burly of 21st century suburban life. We have lost so much of the forest cover that losing Bacontown Park would be terrible.
- The number one reason bird species are in decline is habitat loss due to development. This area has a diverse natural environment for birds and other wildlife to thrive and that should be taken into consideration. There are other areas that have already been developed that can be used for human activities. Please take into consideration the wildlife that will be affected and consider leaving it in a natural state so that future generations can appreciate and respect our natural areas. Thank you.
- Leave natural woods. Maybe add a few trails but this part of Laurel needs more natural areas.

- What a waste if we remove even more mature trees. There is no justification to develop prime forest.
- Take areas of urban blight and repurpose them.
- <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/oxbow-nature-preserve/>
- None
- Any development of the area beyond its natural state would impact the residents already on site- wildlife. They would be driven out, including breeding owls. The development would also create runoff which would impact adjacent Oxbow Lake, an important bird site which not only supports resident birds, but is an essential migratory stopover. Even though my current zip code is military overseas, I was a resident of Columbia for 4 years prior to this placement, and retain my memberships in MD orgs.
- Please do not develop
- We need more Tennis courts.
- Leave the land as is. Do not disrupt the habitat that lives there!
- Love the idea of having outdoor and indoor options. I'm excited that all proposals have dog parks.
- Russett resident, this park will be great to have nearby!
- Thank you for your consideration! It would be wonderful to see this land developed.
- Please keep the trees intact/plant more
- Hoping for affordable indoor tennis courts in the area.
- If the park is cleared of most or all of its trees, the resulting additional runoff would be disastrous for the Oxbow Lake. The area has already lost much of its forest cover, making any additional loss that much more serious. The resident pair of Barred Owls would probably be driven out and other woodland birds would lose valuable habitat.
- Do not bulldoze this forest! It is part of the Oxbow lake watershed; runoff from the cleared land could be devastating to the ecology of this gem. Forests in the county are not increasing...and are simply not replaceable in less than 5-8 decades.
- NO - do not put a park in our neighborhood. Retain our woods!
- This area is prime bird habitat which should be left undisturbed. If it must be developed it should be done in the least intrusive manner!
- We have already lost enough wild areas
- At a time when the counties, the state of Maryland and the country needs more (not less) natural area, the priority should be to enhance the nature value of the site, by adding additional trees, native plants, removing non-native species of plants, and encouraging area residents to enjoy the beauty of the site, and resident wildlife. Thank you for your consideration.
- Stop chopping down trees to make money for you and your backers. Haven't you heard - ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING IS TO LEAVE THE EXISTING TREES ALONE, AND PLANT NEW ONES!
- The current wooded habitat prevents runoff into Oxbow Lake and slows down erosion. The wooded acres provided valuable habitat to a pair of Barred owls and to many other woodland species such as Pileated, Hairy, Downy, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. It is essential to preserve these acres as they are.

- Would love a public pool. We have no close indoor Anne Arundel pool options.
- We need to retain the few acres of woodland left in the county.
- Please preserve the natural habitat!
- Let's preserve what we have. Once an area is developed, there is no going back. We need the woods and of course all the critters need it too.
- Russett community homeowner. Not looking to increase traffic on small access roads with large fields. Can we just leave the woods alone and stop tearing down our environmental green space.
- No change. Focus on this park last.
- We need more forests, not less. The bay needs more watershed protection, not more hardscape. Other than managing invasives and perhaps planting additional trees in areas with loss, I strongly request that this park area be left in its natural state. Thank you for requesting input.
- Keep as many trees as possible.
- Let's leave the trees! There has been enough natural habitat demolished due to subdivisions galore.
- Walking trails would be best suited for this property.
- There are already plenty of athletic fields, palygrounds, etc. Everywhere you look trees are being cut down to make room for new housing developments,, etc. let's leave some beautiful natural resources as they are.
- In our county there is a heavy overemphasis on organized sports, and a serious neglect of public spaces available for free play and nature exploration. Please, please leave this woodland alone and do not raze it. At best, consider a few good trails and maybe a small nature-based play area for the youngest kids. Disc golf through the woods might be OK. But overall, please just leave it as a space for access to nature.
- Don't destroy what you can't replace in your lifetime. How long would it take to regrow that forest?
- Do not cut this forest!
- Leave as is for birds and other wildlife and avoid storm runoff into the lake
- Leave as a wooded area.
- How will these changes affect the HOA dues for Russett Owners? What type of security, maintenance, long term upkeep, will be managing these facilities? Have the safety aspects been taken into account?
- Develop 10 sand volleyball courts with lights, concessions
- Concept 2
- This area is long overdue for this development. It's richly filled with multi generational and diverse population.
- N
- Leave the forest and meadows in place, and if you MUST put something there, just add trails to the existing wild area with conservation signage that educates the public about the diversity of flora and fauna found there.
- We need to conserve our remaing forests! Put ballparks, etc. in old corn fields, not in an old forest.

- Since when was this land called a park. Use the land as it was intended for when it was donated to the county " a school. If you want to build a sports complex, use the land at the corner of Brock Bridge and Whiskey Bottom across from the race track.
- Leave as is for wildlife and area for quiet and solitude. A few trails would be ok.
- Disc Golf is one of the fastest growing sports
- Please don't tear down more forest.
- As a birder I am asking that it remains as is!
- I want to preserve as much of the park as possible to keep the water clean and to protect wildlife.
- Wooded areas where one can walk in solitude are diminishing but are critically important for human health and mental well being. This area is also not served but is critical habitat for several animals including resident Barred Owls. Controlling runoff that will lead into natural Oxbow lake is another concern. I hope you can preserve this piece of land and habitat and not develop it for sports or recreational activity.
- Tennis courts
- Leave the park alone is good for the community, and the nature preserve is good for the environment.
- Pickleball
- I strongly believe the park should be left as it is
- If the park is cleared of most or all of its trees, the resulting additional runoff would be disastrous for the Oxbow Lake. The area has already lost much of its forest cover, making any additional loss that much more serious. The resident pair of Barred Owls would probably be driven out and other woodland birds would lose valuable habitat.
- The effects of development, especially taking down trees, would create disastrous runoff into neighboring Oxbow Lake
- If the park is cleared of most or all of its trees, the resulting additional runoff would be disastrous for the Oxbow Lake. The area has already lost much of its forest cover, making any additional loss that much more serious. The resident pair of Barred Owls would probably be driven out and other woodland birds would lose valuable habitat ...
- Leave as is to preserve Oxbow Lake
- We need indoor tennis courts badly, our county tennis association has over 3000 members, which doesn't include all the kids that play, yet tennis only has one indoor option in the county, at the Navy Brigade which requires military personnel on the court. Tennis unlike soccer, football, lacrosse and baseball cannot be played in the rain. We love pickleball as well, but it should be noted that there are now several indoor pickleball facilities provided by the private sector in our county."
- We need to keep the woods and the animals need to have least disruption possible. Leave in current state or put in a few trails.
- My strongest recommendation is for the inclusion of indoor public tennis courts. There are no public tennis courts in the county, few public courts in the county, especially in the northern part, except high school tennis courts, which have restrictions. It would also be nice to have lighted courts, as there are so few of those in the county as well. Please plan for separate tennis courts and pickleball courts, not for both purposes, which causes conflicts between players of each sport.

- If the park is cleared of most or all of its trees, the resulting additional runoff would be disastrous for the Oxbow Lake. The area has already lost much of its forest cover, making any additional loss that much more serious. The resident pair of Barred Owls would probably be driven out and other woodland birds would lose valuable habitat.
- This area is a haven for birds and other wildlife which are already in steep decline due to loss of habitat. Development would destroy this habitat and cause irreparable harm. Oxbow Lake is a gem and would be lost as well. Please place a People Park elsewhere!
- I love the idea. A combination of 1 and 2 would be amazing. Indoor and outdoor fields would be huge for the area.
- I also find it imperative that the impact to the surrounding communities is considered and disturbance is minimized.
- Please save these woods-do not cut down any more trees!
- The Bacontown Park is only 6.5 acres. The "Unused Parks Draft Report Sept 2023" shows the inclusion of AACPS property bordering the Russett Community. The only access to the park is on Whiskey Bottom Road, a narrow 2-lane road with a ton of traffic. You want to cut down trees to add impervious surfaces in the Little Patuxent Watershed. Think about air quality, water quality, and quality of life before cutting down forests and destroying the environment for wildlife.
- We need more forested land, not less for wildlife habitat. Planting trees in a median strip does not restore territory needed by birds and animals. Human recreation does not take precedence over other species survival. We bird Oxbow Lake and clearing this land will pollute this ecosystem now teeming with life.
- As a member of the Maryland Ornithological Society, preservation of critical habitat for birds and other wildlife is utmost.
- Destruction of established, wide tracts of natural areas force wildlife out of the area, diminishing their populations.
- Plant life is also affected by loss of habitat. Human pressures to develop areas for our recreational use result in loss of Natural areas, giving us relief and solace from the pressures of daily living. Please consider least development.
- As an owner and taxpayer adjoining the AACPS land proposed for a park development, I am entirely opposed to it. I believe it will disrupt the natural beauty of the area and it will disrupt the wildlife. The wildlife includes deer, foxes, raccoons, groundhogs, possums, hawks, owls, and dozens upon dozens of species of birds. Furthermore, I fear such a proposed park will encourage crime, e.g., drug dealers, drug users, and other illegal activity.
- This area already has many parks, soccer fields, dog parks, etc.! NO park is needed!
- If the park is cleared of most or all of its trees, the resulting additional runoff would be disastrous for the Oxbow Lake. *The area has already lost much of its forest cover, making any additional loss that much more serious.* The resident pair of Barred Owls would probably be driven out and other woodland birds would lose valuable habitat.
- I will visit the site on Thursday and may have additional comments later. I can say this forest area is close to Patuxent Refuge which makes additional greenway space and the property is important for migratory birds.
- Concept 2 is just what this community needs. I grew up in this area and still have family living there. This far western part of the county is always over looked for improvements and services.

- The more offerings the better because the children, especially teens don't have any place to go if they live outside of Russett
- I'm against the proposal:1) The land abuts the Oxbow and serves as nature's buffer from other developed land. The proposal doesn't guarantee that Oxbow won't be negatively impacted from removing many trees/habitats.2) This space is not mentioned in the County's comprehensive planning & for good reason. Our community already has access to many park/rec areas. Mass development would diminish the purposes of nearby parks (that need upgrading) and would have unintended consequences for our community.
- A Dog Park with small & large dog sections is needed in Russett which is home to lots of dogs. I also believe an indoor swimming pool in any indoor sports facility would be very popular with Russett residents who can only enjoy swimming for 3 months each year. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
- Would like to see county use land that's already cleared instead of removing trees
- Do not remove any more mature trees. Find an already-disturbed area to develop.
- Please, we need to preserve what trees we have. Buy a farm that could be developed into homes! I would rather our sport complexes be placed in any areas NOT requiring the removal of forest.
- Leave park the way it is now.
- We desperately need more natural areas so that we can preserve habitat for other species. Development of this parcel would very adversely affect nearby areas and, in particular, Oxbow Lake.
- As a Russett Resident for over 22 years, I've been waiting for years for this land to be developed for community focused activities
- Please keep the land as it is. There is very little untouched forest land for our remaining wildlife...
- Pickleball and Disc Golf are the two fastest growing sports and all county planning should reflect that fact. These two in combination with traditional golf are the ONLY sports that are growing in youth participants. Courts and courses and natural green spaces are the future!
- Currently there is no play area for kids from 5-14. Nothing in the neighborhood.
- Please add refillable water stations inside and outside.
- Provide native plants and shrubs and a peaceful walking area.
- Provide shade trees near the basketball and tennis courts for cooling spots.
- At least 4 level 2 Charging stations for EVs.
- No syn-turf!!!
- Pervious paving if possible.
- Accessibility for disabled and sensory area is a must.
- Due to climate change, indoor area for playing will be most welcomed.
- Why would we add more traffic to this area? Beyond ridiculous!!
- It is critical to preserve the remaining forests and animals as much as possible or we won't have a place to live.
- The 2022 Land Preservation plan talks about getting people more into nature, and I think a bunch of athletic fields is missing the mark. It doesn't preserve the carbon sequestration in

trees. Nature trails with a small mowed surface for a dog park and sensory park preserves trees and welcomes people.

- How much do the plans keep permeable surfaces? What has the least enviro. impact?
- Do not demolish this forest! It is irreplaceable habitat.
- You can't get the old growth forest back. Leave it alone
- N/a
- These resources are needed in this region but the selected area is not desirable. It is logistically too close to the Russett community homes. We fear increased traffic, crime and pollution. Please consider moving forward in a different location such as removing the crime ridden local hotels on route 198 and replacing them with these great resources.
- We need lands like this as do the barred owls that live on this land. The runoff and native plants here help control the water.
- Need more affordable indoor tennis courts
- If an indoor gym is built, it should include place for exercise activities, with exercise equipment, yoga/zumba area, and weights. Need balance of activities that will appeal to broad sector of the community.
- Prefer creation of a park similar to Brookside Gardens in Wheaton MD
- I love the idea of developing a park here. This is needed in Russett
- A new skatepark would be great.
- We need more indoor tennis courts that are affordable
- N/A
- None
- Please Do not clear more forested areas. Use open land if additional recreation fields, etc. are needed. We need forested areas for our birds & wildlife.
- We need more natural areas, not less! Although, if it is genuinely thought that our community youths would utilize sports facilities and they wouldn't just be abandoned like other ones in the area I'm all for what would be most helpful for the people in our community :)
- Build it and they will come.
- More equestrian-accessible trails!
- Please provide indoor tennis courts! We are the only county in Maryland that has only one indoor facility!
- The community had to close basketball courts due to vandalism. More crime will be coming into the neighborhood with the expansion of an unsupervised park backing up to the homes in the area.
- Survey questions are sufficient
- Please keep as much of the current trees as possible.
- We are in a crisis of habitat loss. I see a marked decrease in bird and animal species in the area, due to habitat loss.
- Sports facilities can be built in many other areas. Mature trees take many years to grow and provide erosion control as well as habitat for wildlife. It would be a tragedy to destroy this area that is protecting Oxbow Lake to install facilities that will cause potentially polluted runoff to flow into the lake.
- please leave this site for wildlife!

- This parcel is close to the Little Patuxent River & provides important ecosystem services such as filtering stormwater & sequestering carbon & nitrogen. Putting in buildings or paved surfaces (parking lots & courts) would significantly decrease water quality of the Little Patuxent, not to mention the toxic effects of fertilizers & pesticides used to maintain sports fields. People depend on the Patuxent Watershed for drinking water. The water quality must be protected by preserving forest cover.
- Indoor tennis
- Disc golf course!
- Build in space that is already open! Maybe utilize some of the vacant strip malls in the area.
- All the money and. Time Anne arundel county puts into keeping our natural resources why take down all the habitat in this area. Find somewhere that is already treeless. Or make it a nature park and don't tear down the habitat
- Please don't develop this beautiful area!
- Don't like the concept of combining Bacontown with Russett. It blurs the line on amenities we pay for in HOA fees. Already have had problems with people from outside Russett bumping residents from our amenities.
- The park borders Oxbow Lake which is a wonderful environmental area.
- This important habitat in an area that is already heavily developed. The forest also helps with runoff and can absorb potential floodwaters during heavy rain events.
- The park is utilized by a lot of residents and allows them a suitable environment and opportunity to relax accordingly. It is my one concern that this area will be up rooted for several years. Is there anyway to not destroy the current layout totally during this process.
- The area should be preserved and/or protected as open space at a minimum via conservation easement. Limited trail development for public access is the only type of development I support. Maryland DNR Program Open Space would be the perfect partner for this, and the site seems very suitable to be a candidate for funding.
- Been coming to this park ever since I moved to Russett in 2004. Mainly to play basketball on the outdoor courts. Our portion of the county has this mini-park and nothing else--an upgrade/expansion is overdue. Adding indoor facilities (Concept 2) would be fantastic. Please consider: Restrooms, paved parking area.
- I visit oxbow frequently to see seasonal birds. The woods around it provide protection and habitat.
- A trail would be nice for the joggers and bike riders.
- development would adversely affect the wildlife in the area and also Oxbow Lake
- This is an important natural resource which should be maintained to support wildlife in our area.
- I like walking trails and fitness courses.
- Disc golf
- Leave the forest as is
- Oh my goodness, where to start. PLEASE leave these beautiful natural spaces alone! There is so much wildlife in this precious area, and these kinds of forested lands are very difficult to recreate, and can take nearly 100 years to be re-forested. Where on earth would the existing animal and bird species go? People have parks enough already. If we must do construction of

any kind, put in a few trails to encourage people to appreciate and learn more about our invaluable remaining natural spaces.

- Protect the Oxbow area by leaving the woods largely intact. All of the plans shown would be a disaster for the area ecologically. Residents in the area already have nearby access to playgrounds, a dog park, playing fields etc. The one indoor facility that I would support on the property would be an indoor pool, as the nearest AA County facility is in Annapolis.
- beautiful, natural park.
- NO - do not put a park in our neighborhood. Put the park somewhere else, where they will appreciate it.
- none
- Do a little of all, but definitely keep the trails.
- None
- Leave the park in current state.
- Please save the forest. With all the emphasis on climate change and REforestation, it is totally counterintuitive and irresponsible to consider the removal of ANY trees on this property. Please consider any work on this Park with your County Department of the Environment and Sustainability.
- Please consider impact of developing this area on adjacent Oxbow Preserve. Oxbow is significant wildlife habitat and is also enjoyed by hikers, birdwatchers, etc. It probably already is affected by existing development. Further development nearby would increase run-off and reduction of habitat area, making it unattractive to certain species needing large tracts for breeding and foraging.
- Save the wildlife.
- The runoff caused by development will harm the lake and all of the current residents of the park. We don't need anything built there.
- Our limited remaining forested green space is vital to the well-being of the residents. Health professionals see natural areas essential to emotional health and healthful brain stimulation, inspiring creative insights as well as calm wellness. Simply planting seedlings in no way replaces the Creator-designed ecosystem of decades' duration. Please allow this vital natural area to remain. Thank you! .
- No "development" of any kind.
- As a wildlife ecology professor, I am concerned that wildlife and wild spaces are increasingly scarce in Maryland. Here's an opportunity to protect a parcel of woodlands for people of all ages to enjoy and learn from, permanently. Turning it into any kind of trendy athletic grounds would cost millions and be outmoded in a decade. Instead, invest in the future by providing space for children to meet nature, older people to learn from and de-stress in. We need more not less woods & birds! Please.
- This piece of property abuts the Oxbow Lake Nature Preserve. Oxbow Lake is the State's largest natural lake. It is home to plant and animal species that are found no where else in Maryland. The property is bound on three sides by residential homes. All of these homeowners bought these properties because of the proximity to the natural space. Western Anne Arundel County is growing very quickly and a need preserve natural space is a necessity and in short supply.
- Disk Golf, Dog park, Indoor/Outdoor Running track, and water fountains for people and dogs. Bike rack station. Benches for spectators.

- Howard county only has 1 disc golf course, a disc golf course here would make up for what Howard County fails to provide
- No trees should be cut in this sensitive area and the forested area should be protected. No more development should occur here as Oxbow Lake and adjacent areas need to be protected. Any runoff from development would be very harmful here.
- Keep it as natural as possible. Stop building!
- Protection of the wildlife and environment is best and the development is not necessary.
- We need MORE mature forests, not less. Take some grossly over-asphalted-over parking lots and make THEM into sports areas. An example of asphalt overkill is the parking lot for the shopping center on Waltham Woods in Parkville. Never more and 1/4-1/3 used:(.
- This woodland is 60 years old at a minimum. To replicate, we need 60-75 years at a minimum. Find some open fields for a sports complex and park. Am all in favor of sports complexes, but not at the sacrifice of an old woodland. Forests used to be the dominant landscape 400 years ago. Now they are very uncommon in this size and connected to more public forests--Oxbow Preserve..
- Please preserve this forest, which is vital for our local ecology. This is a gem of a park for hiking and appreciating the wildlife that depend on it for habitat. There are many other parks available for the other recreational activities proposed.