

Deep Creek Park Public Information Meeting, August 20, 2009: Response to Citizens Questions & Concerns

A public information meeting was held August 20, 2009 from 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Hugo Owens Middle School for the purpose of presenting the master plan for the Deep Creek Park and receiving community input. Over 50 citizens attended with most participating in the question and answer period. In addition, nineteen comment forms were received by the August 26th deadline.

The meeting had several immediate benefits: providing an opportunity for the City to listen and share information; connecting residents to their local government; giving residents the opportunity to express their concerns and ideas for improvement; illustrating how local government is working to provide equitable services across the city; and receiving citizen input for finding new and creative ways to leverage existing resources.

Generally, topics presented at the meeting were construction schedule, baseball vs. soccer fields, traffic and environmental impact, lighting, and access paths to the Dismal Swamp and the Culpepper Landing subdivision.

Construction Schedule

The schedule for 2009 is to conduct the bid opening during October, award the contract in November, and begin construction in December. The projected completion date of Phase I is November 2010.

Traffic

The Public Works Department conducted a traffic impact study to consider the impact on George Washington Highway (Route 17 South). The study determined the traffic increase to be acceptable, as most use would be on evenings and weekends during off peak periods. Related, it was noted that any increased traffic volume should have a minimal impact on the Sawyer's Mill subdivision. Plans are to install a traffic signal at the intersection of George Washington Highway and Moses Grandy Trail.

Environmental Impact

This project is not federally-funded and does not require an environmental assessment and Environmental Impact Statement. However, the City conducted a site assessment and wetlands delineation in accordance with City of Chesapeake's policies. Environmental impacts are adequately mitigated through the park master plan.