



**Appendix V: Public Engagement**  
**Sub-appendix B, Part 4**  
**Oregon Ridge Park Master Plan**

*June 2023*

# Plan Organization

## The Plan + Five Appendices



- Appendix I. Cultural Context
- Appendix II. Natural Resources (with 4 Subappendices)
- Appendix III. Built Conditions
- Appendix IV. Recreation Demand
- Appendix V. Public Engagement (with 3 Subappendices)

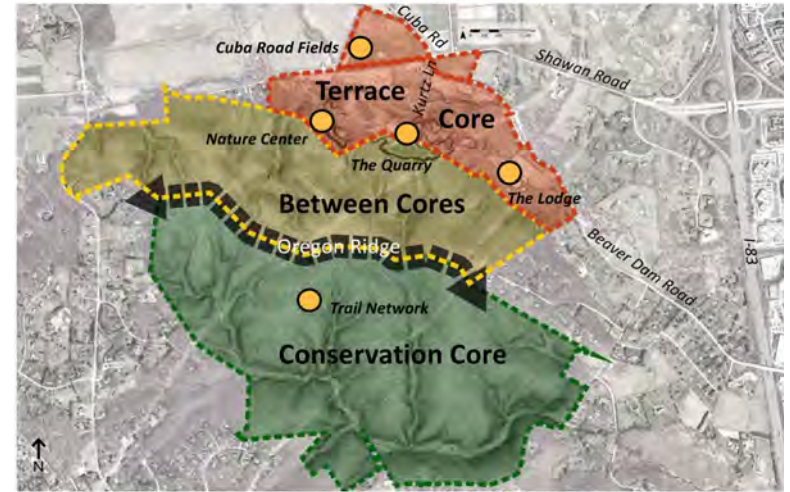
# Overview

## Vision Statement

*Protect, Restore, Enhance, and Educate*

## Guiding Principles

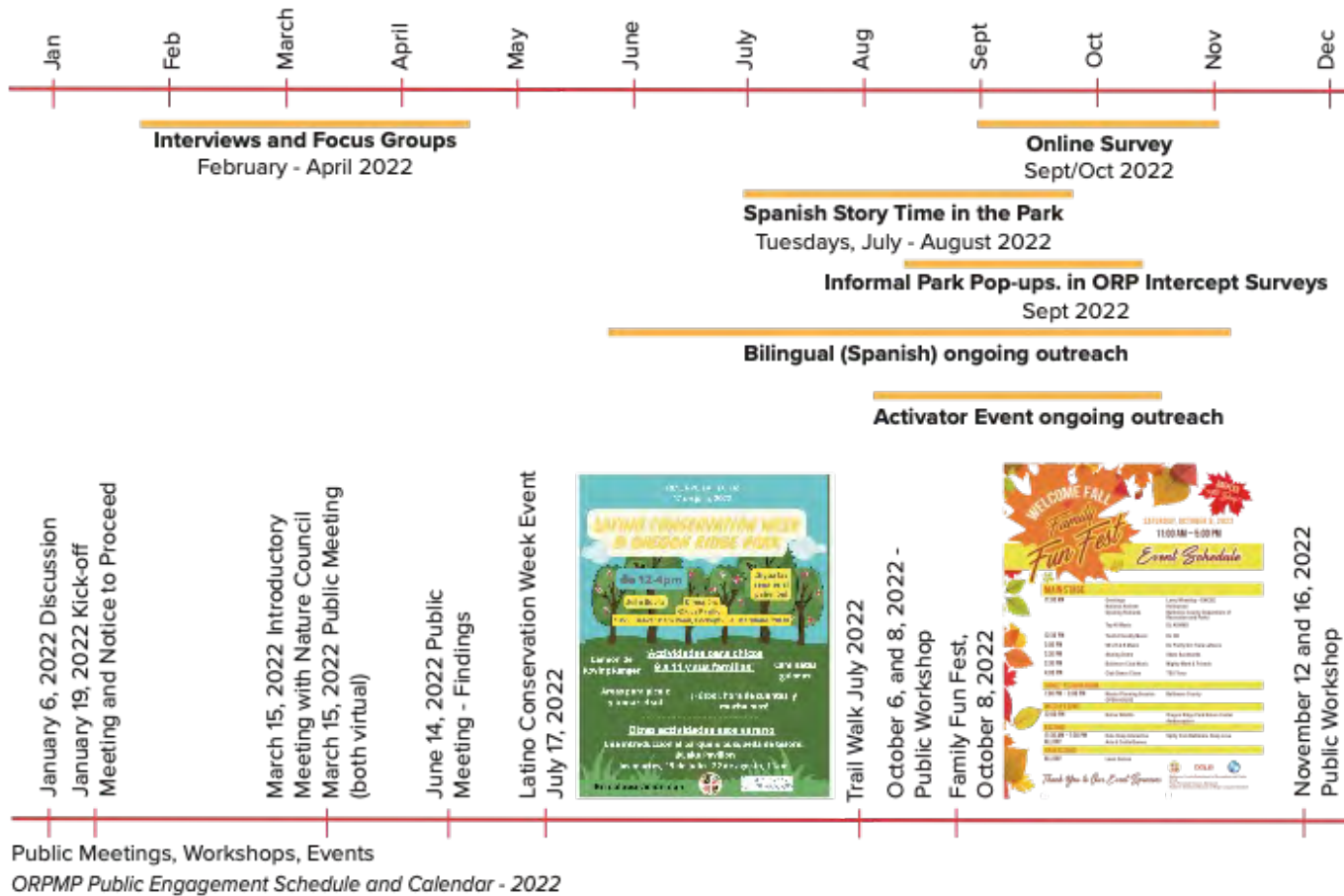
- Ensure all are welcome
- Practice Stewardship
- Enhance nature-based discovery, education, and play
- Maximize economic viability and access
- Host the performing arts and social events
- Enhance access
- Improve infrastructure



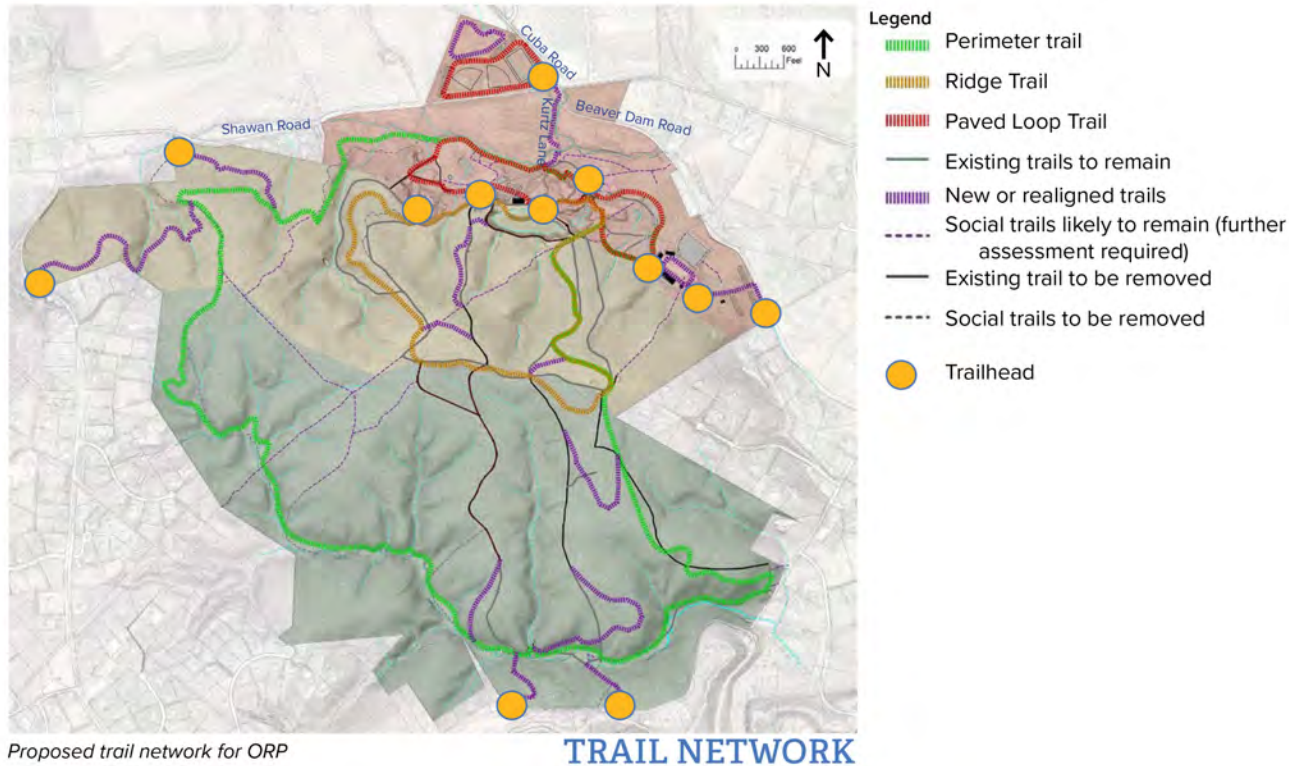
## Park Organization

- Active, built zone – **The Terrace Core** is where most all the current buildings and parking are located
- Lightly touched zone – **The Conservation Core** is the southern half of the park in the Baisman Run watershed
- In between the two, **The Between Zones**

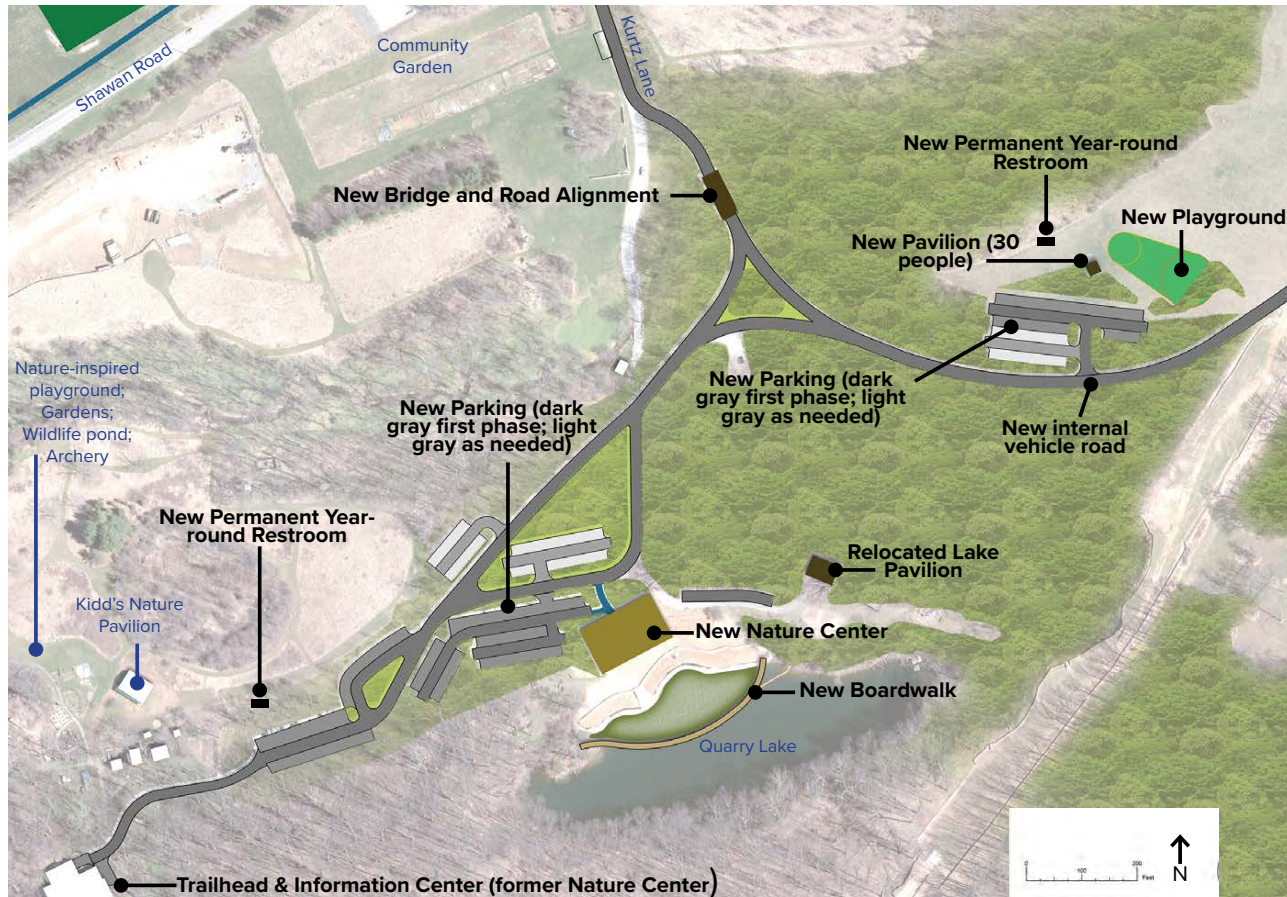
# We Listened



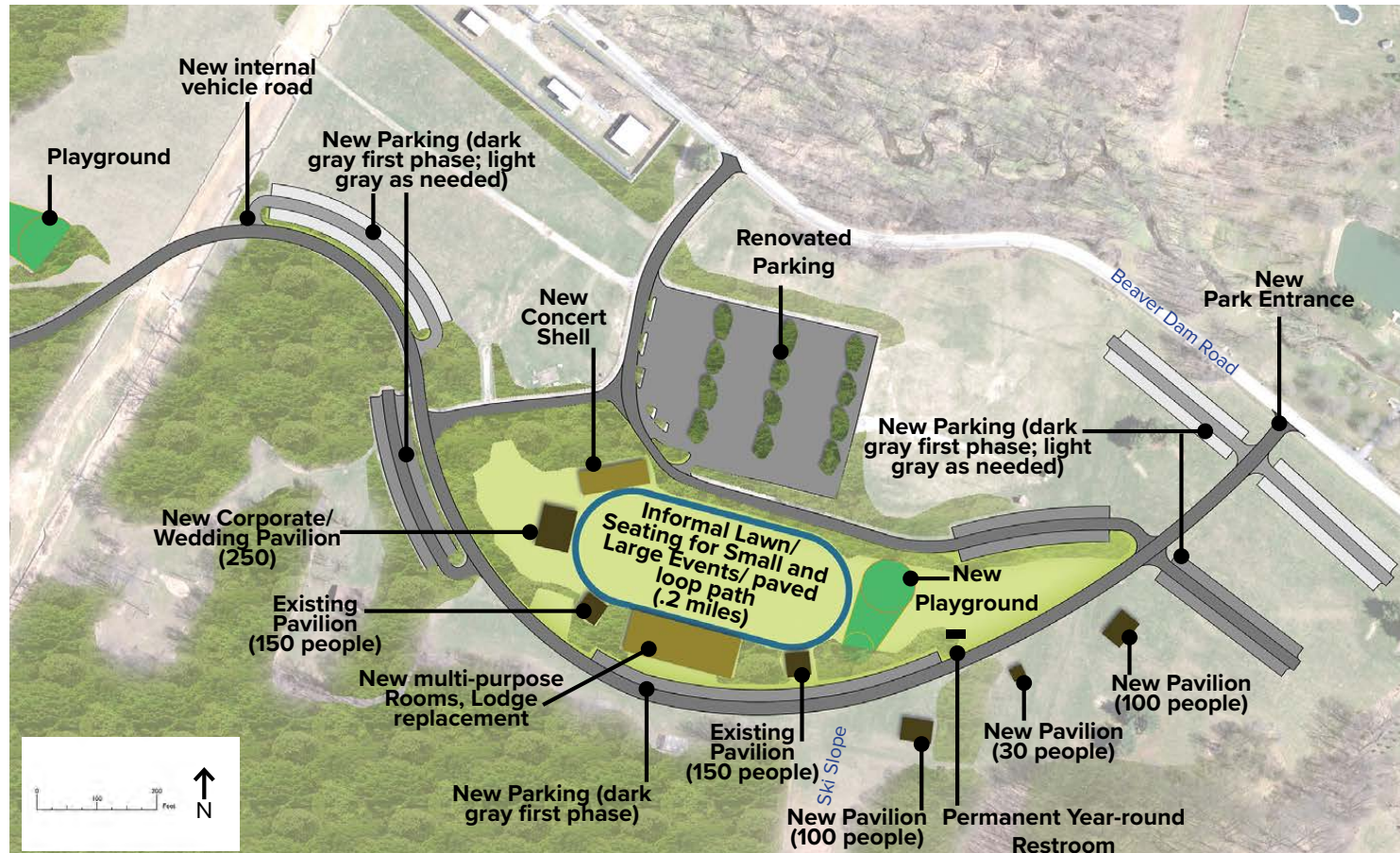
# Recommendations – Enhanced Trail Network



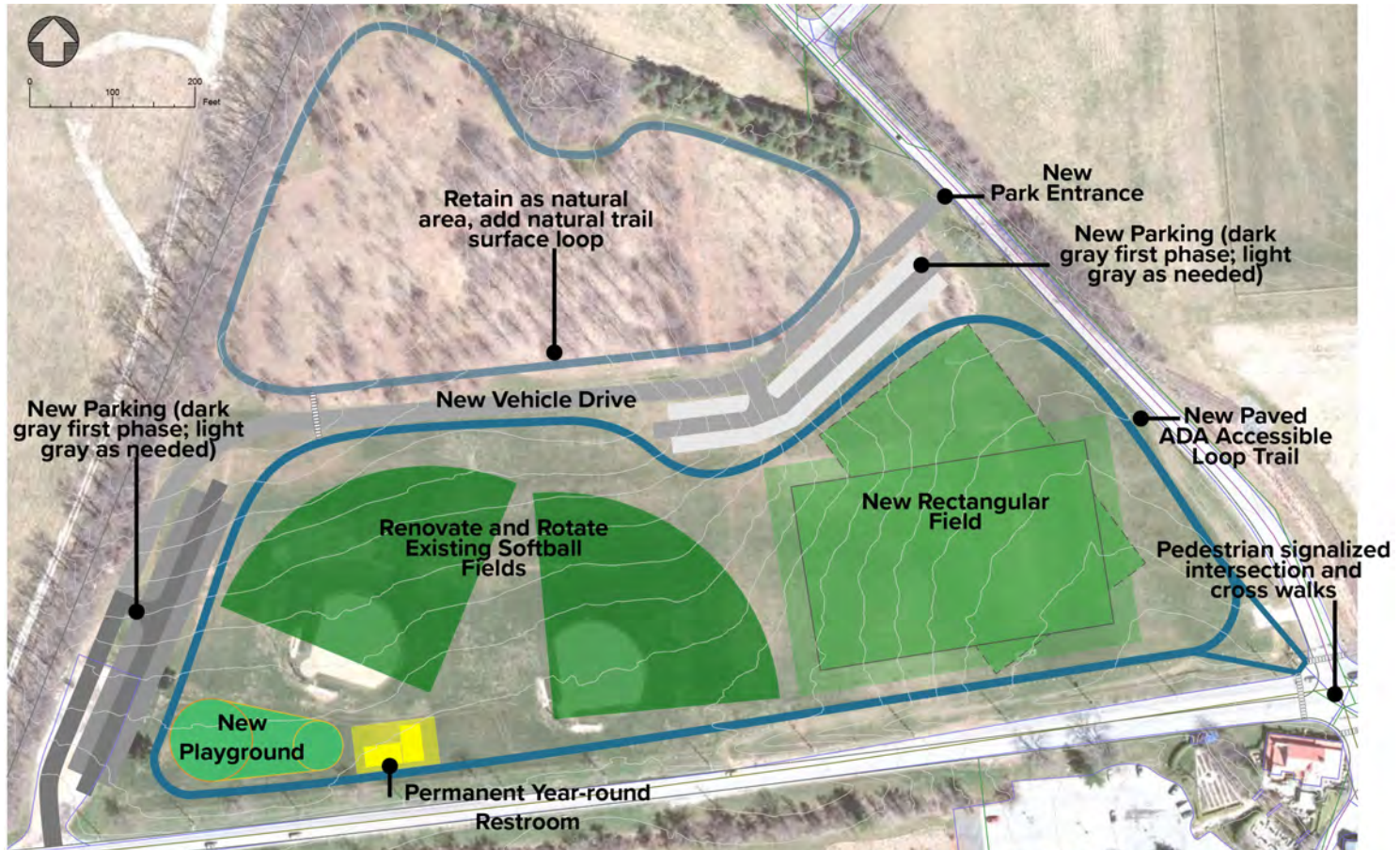
# Recommendations – Education Zone



# Recommendations – Performance/ Event Zone



# Recommendations – Cuba Road Fields





# Implementation

## Phase 1: Focus on Trails and Park Infrastructure

## Phase 2: Rebuild the Terrace Core

## Phase 3: Improve Cuba Road Fields

Table 12. Years 1-6 Priorities		
Location	Subject	Magnitude of Cost
<b>Studies and A/E Work</b>		
<b>Trails</b>		
Parkwide	Design trail improvements, stream crossing footbridges (construction anticipated in Years 1-6)	\$\$
Terrace Core	Design one-mile plus ADA accessible paved loop in Terrace Core area (construction anticipated in Years 1-6)	\$
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
Terrace Core	Perform septic and well capacity and operational tests to determine viability of existing systems for current and proposed capacity needs; Perform septic perc and well testing at identified sites for future drain fields and well needs	\$\$
<b>Vehicular Circulation</b>		
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E design work for internal park drive between Kurtz Lane and the Lodge; realignment of Kurtz Lane to include a new bridge over Oregon Branch; additional permanent parking spaces east of Kurtz Lane (construction anticipated in Years 1-6)	\$\$\$
<b>Buildings and Park Facilities</b>		
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to develop a new Nature Center at the Quarry Lake (construction anticipated in Years 7-15); include feasibility study as to value of retaining some or all of the existing building as public restroom, research station, staff and research offices, trailhead, and information center or demolish	\$\$\$
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to reconfigure and redevelop Lodge area - new multi-purpose rooms; corporate picnic pavilion; concert shell; playground (construction anticipated in Years 7-15)	\$\$\$\$
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to develop new year round permanent restroom in Lodge area; two separate compost (no sewer/ water/ power) restrooms for use at Nature Center and new playground east of Kurtz Lane (construction anticipated in Years 1 - 6)	\$\$
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to develop small picnic pavilion and playground east of Kurtz Lane (construction anticipated in Years 1-6)	
Parkwide	Develop a Wayfinding System (construction anticipated for Trail component in Years 1-6; for parkwide and entry signs in Years 7 - 15)	\$
<b>Natural Resources</b>		
Parkwide	Develop a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) to include the adoption of a Natural Resources Mission Statement (implementation anticipated in Years 1-6 and ongoing)	\$
<b>Physical Park Improvements</b>		

**Order of Magnitude Cost (OMC):** \$ – under \$250,000; \$\$ - \$250,000-\$500,000; \$\$\$ - \$500,000-\$1,000,000; \$\$\$\$ - over \$1,000,000 (OMC do NOT include contingencies, design and permitting, or escalation)

128

# Where to Find the Plan

QR code?

weblink

Other issues, items to note?

# How to Provide Comments

- **Respond to the Questionnaire** posted on the Baltimore County website
- **Attend the Public Meeting** on May XXXX AT YYYYYY
- **Send an email:** oregonridgemasterplan@baltimorecountymd.gov

QR code?



## Oregon Ridge Park Master Plan Questionnaire

Please provide feedback on the Oregon Ridge Park Master Plan!

Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks is investing significant Capital Funds to refresh and enhance Oregon Ridge Park in the near future. To guide this investment and others, Lardner/Klein Landscape Architect's planning team prepared a draft park master plan that provides recommendations for park improvements over the next two decades. The document offers guidance on shaping the future Lodge and Nature Center areas, natural resources, circulation and trails, infrastructure, wayfinding, and implementation. Included with the plan are assessments of current conditions and an inventory of natural resources and existing recreation and educational offerings.

Baltimore County and the planning team need your help to get this plan across the finish line! Help shape the final master plan by completing this questionnaire, or send your thoughts via email to [oregonridgemasterplan@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:oregonridgemasterplan@baltimorecountymd.gov)

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts on the draft Master Plan!

weblink

2.

Proposed trail network for ORP

**TRAIL NETWORK**

Does the plan for an enhanced trail network appeal to you?

Yes

No

Comments

Thank you.

**For more information:**

**Visit the Project webpage**

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/recreation/countyparks/most-popular/oregonridgelodge/master-plan.html>

**Contact:**

[oregonridgemasterplan@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:oregonridgemasterplan@baltimorecountymd.gov)



*Former quarry, canoe launch, and small playground at Oregon Ridge Park*

# Agenda

- 6:00 PM**      **Welcome and Introductions**  
*Cortney Weinstock, Deputy Director, Baltimore County Recreation and Parks*
- 6:10 PM**      **Presentation on Comments and Responses Received**  
*Elisabeth Lardner, L/KLA, Planning Team Director*
- 6:30 PM**      **Questions**
- 7:00 PM**      **Next Steps – Open Displays for Additional Review,  
Comment Collection**
- 7:55 PM**      **Closing Remarks and Adjourn**  
*Cortney Weinstock*

# Questionnaire Responses and Comments

## Organized similar to questionnaire structure

### Comment(s) made:

**Please, no vehicles on trails! and make sure hiking trails are sustainable**

### Comment(s) response:

- Access roads are NOT proposed as a part of the trail network; parking lots, if suggested, are specific and designed to serve a trailhead

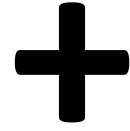
### Questionnaire Response Percentages:

*This presentation includes comments, received via email and questionnaire, through noon on May 22, 2023*

72% of Questionnaire Respondents support the plan for an enhanced trail network

# Plan Organization

## The Plan



## Five Appendices



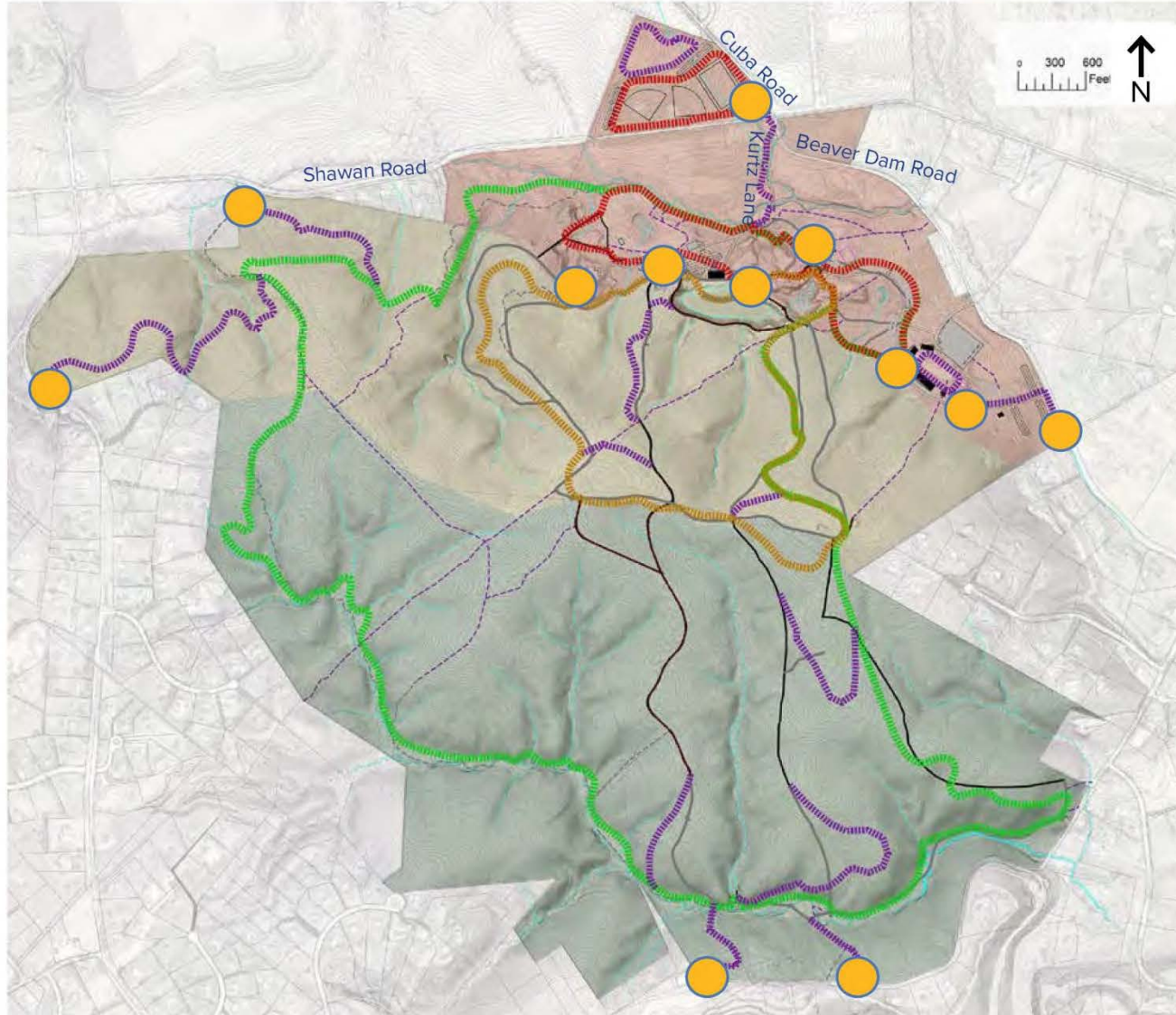
*PUBLIC DRAFT*  
**Oregon Ridge Park Master Plan**  
*April 2023*

- Appendix I. Cultural Context
- Appendix II. Natural Resources (with 4 Subappendices)
- Appendix III. Built Conditions
- Appendix IV. Recreation Demand
- Appendix V. Public Engagement (with 3 Subappendices)

## Great News!

91% of Questionnaire Respondents agree that these Appendices adequately document the park's resources

# Enhanced Trail Network



- Legend**
- Perimeter trail
  - Ridge Trail
  - Paved Loop Trail
  - Existing trails to remain
  - New or realigned trails
  - Social trails likely to remain (further assessment required)
  - Existing trail to be removed
  - Social trails to be removed
  - Trailhead

72% of Questionnaire Respondents support the plan for an enhanced trail network



# Enhanced Trail Network - Comments/ Responses <sup>1/3</sup>

## **Please, no vehicles on trails! and make sure hiking trails are sustainable**

- Use of trails for public vehicles is NOT proposed
  - 8-foot-wide **paved loop trail** will be designed to allow for **park maintenance trucks and ATV's**
  - Some **natural surface trails MAY be traversed by ATV's** (as they are today) for park maintenance and emergency purposes only
- All new and realigned trails in the Conservation Core will be designed as sustainable natural surface trails

## **Trails in the western portion of the park; impact on Baisman Run, Falls Road trailhead**

- Intent is to reduce/ remove informal trails and incorporate existing formal trails within a sustainable natural surface trail network in the Conservation Core and Between Cores
- Plan calls for additional connector trails between the Perimeter and Ridge Trails - limited to one trail connection per tributary valley
- Intent is to pull the trail a bit away from Baisman Run to respect the stream buffer and protect the stream
- Trailhead recommendation at Falls Road provides access from park's western perimeter, requires further exploration (similar to recommendations for future trailheads along Ivy Hill Road)

# Enhanced Trail Network - Comments/ Responses <sup>2/3</sup>

**We do not want any more paved trails or additional trails – there are too many trails and trails cause serious programs for forest thinning**

- There is a need for ADA accessible trails in a public park, open and accessible to all

**Concern that more trails will harm the forest**

- Biggest current challenge to the forest today is the number of ‘social’ or informal trails throughout the park, primarily in the Conservation Core; intent is to recognize where people wish to walk, what destinations make sense to connect and to enhance the current trail network to respond to this

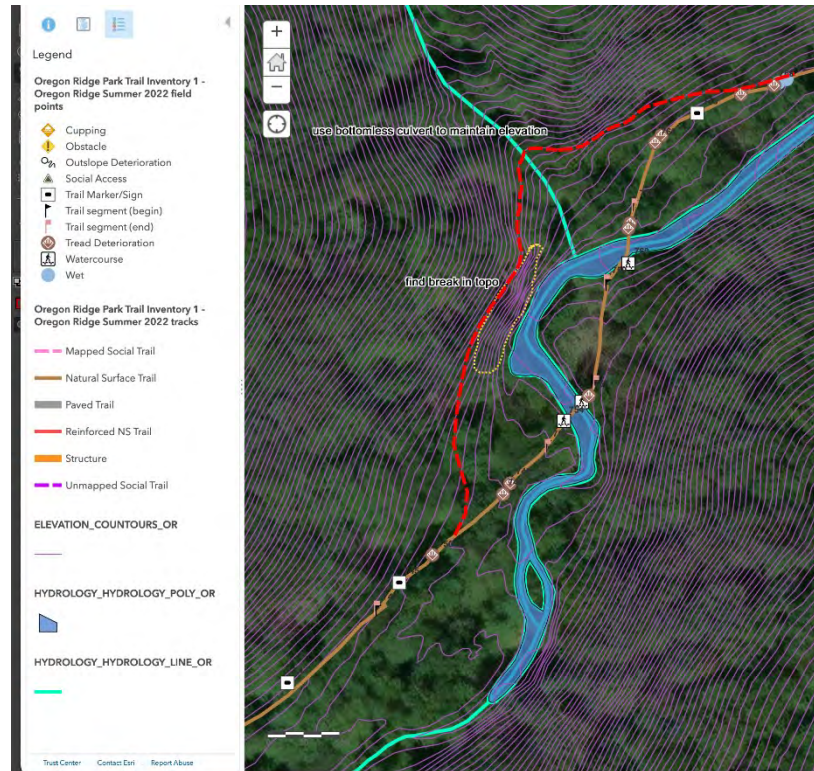
**Pipeline use for informal trails**

- Plan recommends working with pipeline utilities to better manage their use and vegetation; additional work on formalizing informal trails where appropriate

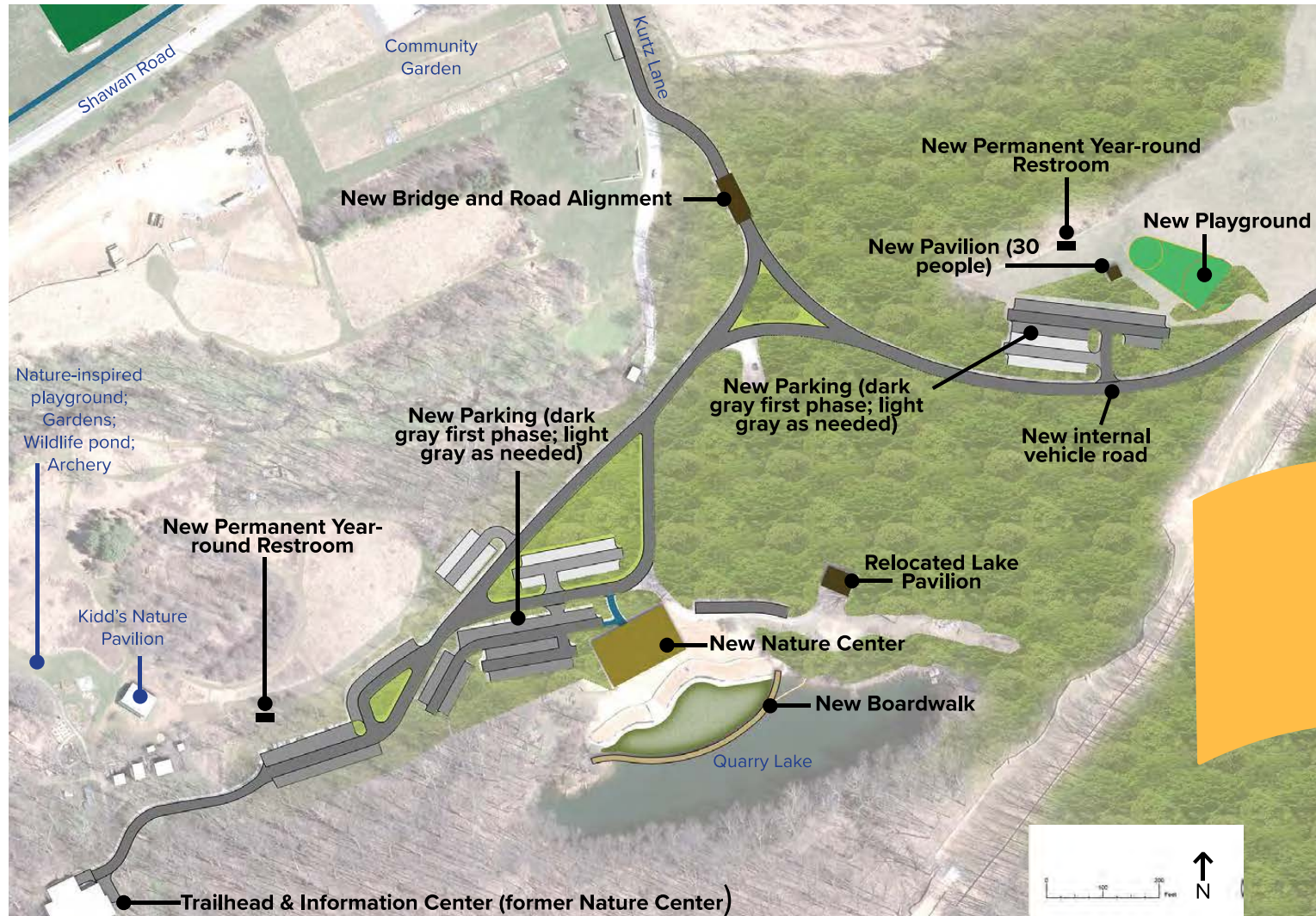
# Enhanced Trail Network - Comments/ Responses 3/3

## Bridges and stream crossings – what is the plan proposing and why?

- Protecting Baisman Run, by minimizing or eliminating stream crossings and protecting its 100-foot-deep vegetative buffer; additional design work may result in recommending bridge(s) in some spots
- Make use of side hill trails in lieu of bridging, uphill of the stream itself (will require additional field work)



# Relocation of the Nature Center to the Quarry Lake



75% of Questionnaire Respondents support the plan for relocation of the Nature Center to the Quarry Lake area

# Relocation of the Nature Center to the Quarry Lake - Comments / Responses <sup>1/3</sup>

## **Opening Day is too far into the future – Phase 2 (Years 7-15)**

- Architecture / Engineering (A/E) design services need to be solicited, developed, and permitted (Years 1 - 5)
- Enough money needs to be identified to support its construction (bond funds, CIP funds, grants)
- Construction period could extend from 20 to 36 months (Years 4-7)

## **No, we do not need a new Nature Center, current location is ideal, if more room is needed, build a shed**

- Existing facility will be costly to upgrade, without much gain in additional interior space – there is a need for more classroom and programming space

## **Reconsider the proposed location for the new Nature Center, build it in the reconfigured Lodge area; don't cut down trees to build the center**

- This was considered in the planning process; placing that much program at the Lodge area will physically overwhelm that portion of the park (parking, buildings, access roads, etc.)

# Relocation of the Nature Center to the Quarry Lake - Comments / Responses <sup>2/3</sup>

## **Building form recommendations – do not make it too tall or intrusive; emphasize woods and streams in design (Maryland does not have natural lakes)**

- The ORPMP includes early program, schematics, and examples – far more exploration and design work is required before the final building form is determined
- Quarry/ pit (mining nomenclature) is an historic feature of the site, provides unusual setting for center

## **Boardwalk contradictions – will scare away ducks; will enhance and protect the wetland; a lovely learning experience**

- Intent is to build a boardwalk off the shore of the quarry, and repopulate some of the beach side area with wetland species for use as a learning lab

## **Meadows – provide a genuine meadow, not a manicured version**

- Agreed

# Relocation of the Nature Center to the Quarry Lake - Comments / Responses <sup>3/3</sup>

## **Internal drive, potential destruction of habitat; limited egress points conflict with increased use**

- Drive is primarily located on current turf areas
- Additional ingress/ egress point provided south of the Lodge, allowing events to create a one-way loop access using the current Lodge entry and new egress, while not impacting the remainder of the park
- Provides a secondary ingress/ egress for both sides of the park

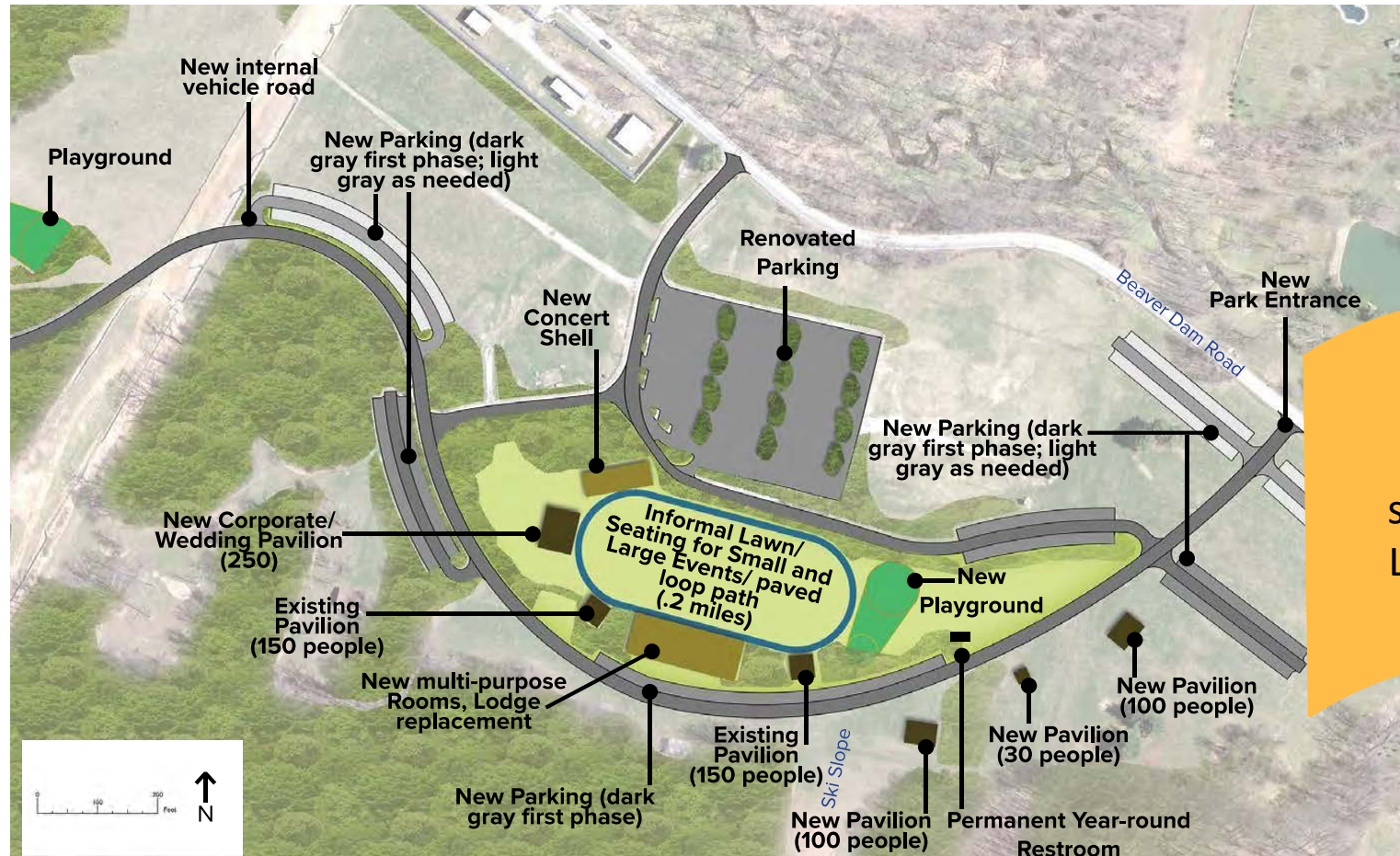
## **Parking should be permeable, use natural plantings, rain gardens to mitigate run-off**

- Agreed

## **Expanded programming at the Nature Center will require more staff, recruit young people or year-round interns, a diversity of young people**

- Agreed

# Reconfiguration of the Lodge Area



36% of Questionnaire Respondents support the plan for reconfiguration of the Lodge area; 12% do NOT support the plan; and 52% have comments



# Reconfiguration of the Lodge Area – Comments / Responses <sup>1/3</sup>

## **Opening Day is too far into the future – Phase 2 (Years 7-15)**

- Architecture / Engineering (A/E) design services need to be solicited, developed, and permitted (Years 1 - 5)
- Enough money needs to be identified to support its construction (bond funds, CIP funds, grants)
- Construction period could extend from 20 to 36 months (Years 4-7)

## **A needed venue – a well planned and attractive space would be a tremendous asset**

- Agreed, and unscrambling the current layout in the Lodge area will make for more versatile event use while keeping much of the park open to the public during large events

## **An unneeded venue – no one wants a lodge or wedding venue; a simple outdoor amphitheater and restrooms suffice; this plan is way too ambitious and money-making**

- The current use of the Lodge area demonstrates a strong demand for this venue, from hosting family reunions and weddings, to meeting spaces, to supporting several large events every summer

# Reconfiguration of the Lodge Area – Comments / Responses <sup>2/3</sup>

Does not look like the plan replaces the current seating size; does not include plan for larger events, remove the ‘track’

- Many tweaks will come before final design – see diagram to the right for the first round!
  - Space is similar in size to current available event space
  - The green has a paved sidewalk around its perimeter to provide ADA accessible access to the full site, the walk is not a vertical barrier
  - Very large events (atypical due to parking limitations) can spill across the drive and encircle the new pavilions to the south
  - Many of the buildings shown in the plan surrounding the open lawn are pervious, with views through them towards the slope behind – picnic shelters
  - Ski slope seating option remains



# Reconfiguration of the Lodge Area – Comments / Responses<sup>3/3</sup>

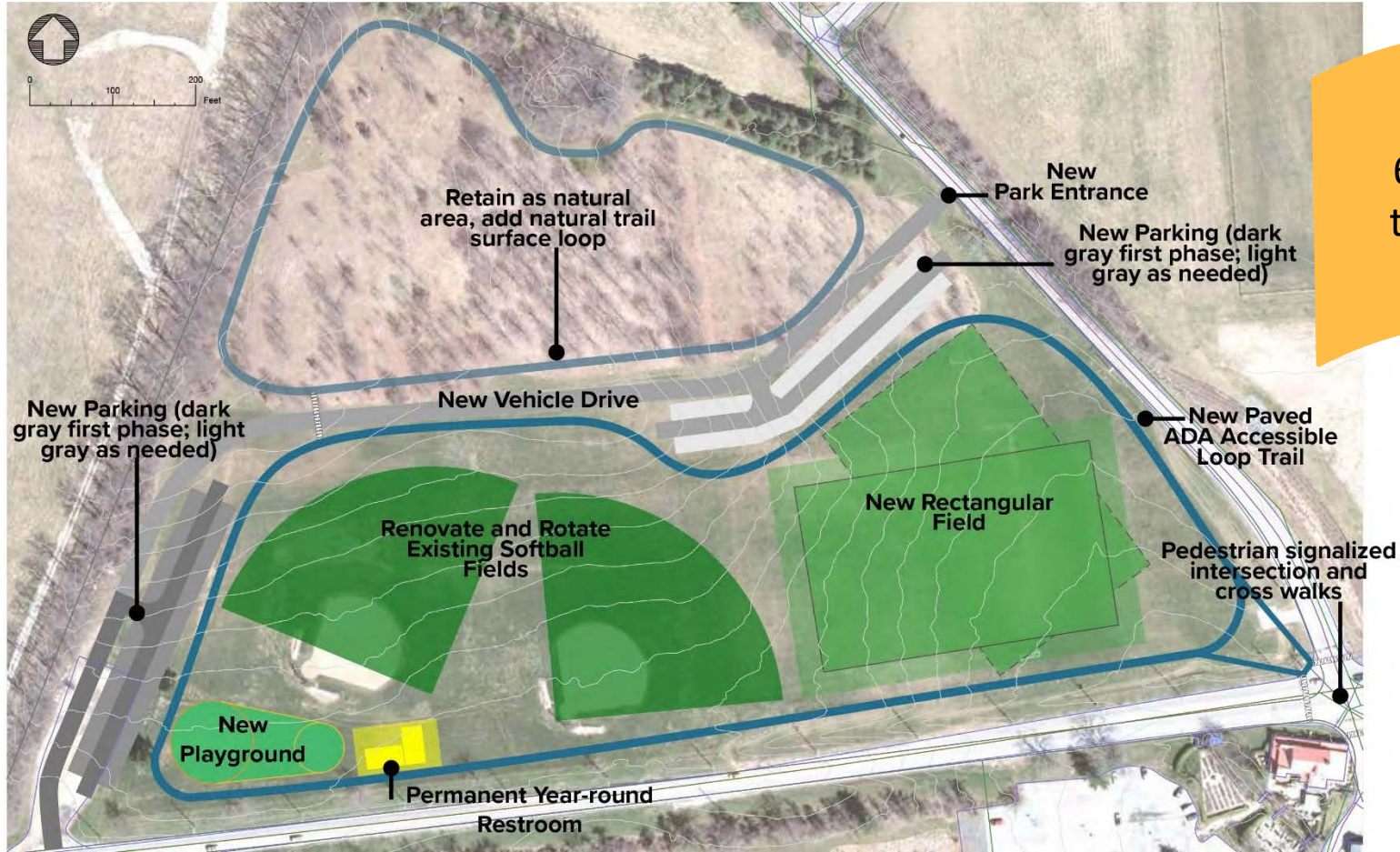
## **Playground is fine where it is**

- The general public's access to the playground is currently eliminated during special events at the Lodge area
- Plan direction is to build two, smaller, playgrounds, one south of the Lodge and one near Kurtz Lane so a playground is always available to the general public
- Remove playground from its current location between driveways

## **Vehicles - too much road – people should WALK; do not have roads cut through wildlife habitat**

- Some visitors can't walk well, or far; many opportunities for walking are enhanced in this plan
- Most of the proposed road alignment is across current turf areas

# Enhancement of the Cuba Road Fields



64% of Questionnaire Respondents support the plan for enhancement of the Cuba Road Fields; 36% do NOT support the plan

# Enhancement of the Cuba Road Fields – Comments / Responses <sup>1/2</sup>

## **Opening Day is too far into the future – Phase 3 (Years 16-20)**

- Architecture / Engineering (A/E) design services need to be solicited, developed, and permitted (Years 16-18)
- Enough money needs to be identified to support its construction (bond funds, CIP funds, grants)
- Construction period could extend from 12 to 24 months (Years 18-20)
- Could be built sooner if additional funds for ballfields were identified

**Keep ORP a hiking, nature park; no lights!; do not cut more trees, leave the forests alone, period. Having a park is about saving land for wildlife, not destroying it for people to enjoy nature. Most of your plans are destroying it.**

- The Cuba Road Fields portion of ORP has long provided softball fields and informal recreational fields; there is active use and demand for these fields
- Fields have been operated without lights for many years

# Enhancement of the Cuba Road Fields – Comments / Responses <sup>2/2</sup>

**Meadows are needed in this area to absorb storm water, provide wildlife habitat, and avoid pesticides and herbicides draining into Oregon Branch and into the park**

- The northern portion remains undeveloped with the exception of a natural surface perimeter hiking trail

**Proposed drive is unnecessary and will become a cut-through to avoid the traffic signal; limit parking to one parking lot instead of two**

- Valid concern regarding potential cut-through; further study will be required before implementing
- Smaller parking lots are proposed; parking can be phased in so if not needed, not built

**Shawan Road is busy – will pedestrians cross even with a pedestrian signal?**

- A pedestrian signal and crosswalks may well increase pedestrian crossing, far busier roads have successful pedestrian crossings

**Will adding a pedestrian crossing allow access to the Ag Center?**

- Yes

# Support for the Phase 1 (Years 1-6) Priorities

Table 12. Years 1-6 Priorities		
Location	Subject	Magnitude of Cost
<b>Studies and A/E Work</b>		
<b>Trails</b>		
Parkwide	Design trail improvements, stream crossing footbridges (construction anticipated in Years 1-6)	\$\$
Terrace Core	Design one-mile plus ADA accessible paved loop in Terrace Core area (construction anticipated in Years 1-6)	\$
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
Terrace Core	Perform septic and well capacity and operational tests to determine viability of existing systems for current and proposed capacity needs; Perform septic perc and well testing at identified sites for future drain fields and well needs	\$\$
<b>Vehicular Circulation</b>		
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E design work for internal park drive between Kurtz Lane and the Lodge; realignment of Kurtz Lane to include a new bridge over Oregon Branch; additional permanent parking spaces east of Kurtz Lane (construction anticipated in Years 1-6)	\$\$\$
<b>Buildings and Park Facilities</b>		
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to develop a new Nature Center at the Quarry Lake (construction anticipated in Years 7-15); include feasibility study as to value of retaining some or all of the existing building as public restroom, research station, staff and research offices, trailhead, and information center or demolish	\$\$\$
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to reconfigure and redevelop Lodge area - new multi-purpose rooms; corporate picnic pavilion; concert shell; playground (construction anticipated in Years 7-15)	\$\$\$\$
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to develop new year round permanent restroom in Lodge area; two separate compost (no sewer/ water/ power) restrooms for use at Nature Center and new playground east of Kurtz Lane (construction anticipated in Years 1 - 6)	\$\$
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to develop small picnic pavilion and playground east of Kurtz Lane (construction anticipated in Years 1-6)	
Parkwide	Develop a Wayfinding System (construction anticipated for Trail component in Years 1-6; for parkwide and entry signs in Years 7 - 15)	\$
<b>Natural Resources</b>		
Parkwide	Develop a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) to include the adoption of a Natural Resources Mission Statement (implementation anticipated in Years 1-6 and ongoing)	\$
<b>Physical Park Improvements</b>		

69% of Questionnaire Respondents support the priorities for Phase 1 implementation; 31% do NOT support the plan's Priorities for Phase 1

Order of Magnitude Cost (OMC): \$ – under \$250,000; \$\$ - \$250,000-\$500,000; \$\$\$ - \$500,000-\$1,000,000; \$\$\$\$ - over \$1,000,000 (OMC do NOT include contingencies, design and permitting, or escalation)

# Phase 1 Priorities – Comments / Responses <sup>1/3</sup>

## **Opening Day is too far away – Build the Nature Center in Phase 1, NOW!**

- The process will start NOW, it is long; as answered in the Nature Center discussion, it takes time to identify and raise the necessary funds, procure a design team, develop the plans, receive permits, and then construct the facility

## **Retain trails in Phase 1 – build sustainable, single-track footpaths, NOT vehicular accessible trails**

- This is what the plan proposes

## **Why is the trail between the Lodge and Nature Center not a natural surface trail?**

- Intent is to provide an ADA accessible loop trail, which requires a firm and stable surface year-round

## **NO paved trail, natural resource management is prime consideration**

- Most trails proposed are natural surface trails – there is a real need for a small segment of paved trail



# Phase 1 Priorities – Comments / Responses <sup>2/3</sup>

## **Add word ‘Preservation’ to first phrase of first bullet under Phase 1 Priorities**

- Will rephrase to read: Preserve, improve, and upgrade natural surface trail network, paved ADA accessible path, add trailheads/ signs, upgrade blazes

## **Most Important priority is Natural Resources Management, not just a plan, but permanent on-site staff person**

- The plan calls for this; future funding will be the determinant

## **Staffing and Budget Needs: who will maintain the restrooms, who is responsible for the on-going care of trees and trails; what budget will pay for the care of trees and trails at ORP**

- Increased budget and staffing needs will be factored into future operations plans

# Phase 1 Priorities – Comments / Responses <sup>3/3</sup>

## **Most pressing park need are 4 stream crossing bridges**

- Plan is proposing to minimize needed number of stream crossing trail bridges
- Kurtz Lane DOES need a new bridge due to periodic flooding

## **Limit ORP access to Baltimore County residents only; keep resources (natural and financial) focused on county taxpayers**

- ORP is open to everyone from sunrise to sunset, as are all Baltimore County parks

## **Make the park attractive to a broader cross-section of residents**

- The plan's proposed and refreshed park features are intended to accomplish this

## **Not happy about all the parking spaces and new pavement – no new pavement!**

- The park needs more formal parking areas; the number of parking spaces shown are derived from the park program; small bays of parking can be constructed overtime as needed

# Support for the Natural Resource Focus Areas in Phase I (Years 1-6)

Oregon Ridge Park Master Plan **Implementation**

PUBLIC DRAFT April 2023

Table 12. Years 1-6 Priorities		
Location	Subject	Magnitude of Cost
<b>Studies and A/E Work</b>		
<b>Trails</b>		
Parkwide	Design trail improvements, stream crossing footbridges (construction anticipated in Years 1-6)	\$\$
Terrace Core	Design one-mile plus ADA accessible paved loop in Terrace Core area (construction anticipated in Years 1-6)	\$
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
Terrace Core	Perform septic and well capacity and operational tests to determine viability of existing systems for current and proposed capacity needs; Perform septic perc and well testing at identified sites for future drain fields and well needs	\$\$
<b>Vehicular Circulation</b>		
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E design work for internal park drive between Kurtz Lane and the Lodge; realignment of Kurtz Lane to include a new bridge over Oregon Branch; additional permanent parking spaces east of Kurtz Lane (construction anticipated in Years 1-6)	\$\$\$
<b>Buildings and Park Facilities</b>		
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to develop a new Nature Center at the Quarry Lake (construction anticipated in Years 7-15); include feasibility study as to value of retaining some or all of the existing building as public restroom, research station, staff and research offices, trailhead, and information center or demolish	\$\$\$
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to reconfigure and redevelop Lodge area - new multi-purpose rooms; corporate picnic pavilion; concert shell; playground (construction anticipated in Years 7-15)	\$\$\$\$
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to develop new year round permanent restroom in Lodge area; two separate compost (no sewer/ water/ power) restrooms for use at Nature Center and new playground east of Kurtz Lane (construction anticipated in Years 1 - 6)	\$\$
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to develop small picnic pavilion and playground east of Kurtz Lane (construction anticipated in Years 1-6)	
Parkwide	Develop a Wayfinding System (construction anticipated for Trail component in Years 1-6; for parkwide and entry signs in Years 7 - 15)	\$
<b>Natural Resources</b>		
Parkwide	Develop a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) to include the adoption of a Natural Resources Mission Statement (implementation anticipated in Years 1-6 and ongoing)	\$
<b>Physical Park Improvements</b>		

92% of Questionnaire Respondents support the priorities for Phase 1 implementation focus on Natural Resources; 8% do NOT support the plan's Phase 1 priorities for natural resources

# Phase 1 Priorities for Natural Resources – Comments / Responses

**Hire and fully fund permanent natural resource manager dedicated exclusively to ORP in Year 1, reported to Director of Recreation and Parks with full support from the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability; funding should not be subject to ‘availability’, must be number one priority**

- This is noted as a priority for Phase 1 in the plan

**Invasive Plants are a major issue and getting worse; nothing seems to effectively stop the ‘new natives’**

- Plan recommendations call for a coordinated campaign to manage and/ or eradicate invasive plant species

**Forests - ORP forests need a lot of help**

- Plan recommendations recognize this need

# Support for the Phase 2 Priorities (Years 7-15)

Table 13. Years 7 - 15 Parkwide Priorities		
Location	Subject	Magnitude of Cost
<b>Studies and A/E Work</b>		
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to reconfigure existing softball fields, add playground and compost restroom, extend parking and improve existing access drive from Shawan Road to Cuba Road	\$\$
<b>Vehicular Circulation</b>		
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to add parking and extend existing access drive to connect Shawan Road with Cuba Road	\$\$
<b>Buildings and Park Facilities</b>		
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to review status and develop necessary preservation actions needed to sustain and interpret the cultural resources found on site (mining structures, ore pits, etc.)	\$
Terrace Core	Initiate A/E work to reconfigure existing softball fields; add rectangular field, playground and compost restroom to Cuba Road fields, paved loop trail and natural surface trail	\$
<b>Physical Park Improvements</b>		
<b>Vehicular Circulation</b>		
Terrace Core	Extend internal vehicular drive to new southern entry south of current drive, construct additional parking bays; reconfigure existing 300-space parking lot to accommodate stormwater management and landscape plantings	\$\$\$
Terrace Core	Develop additional parking bays at new Nature Center	\$\$
<b>Buildings and Park Facilities</b>		
Terrace Core	Construct new Nature Center at Quarry Lake: boardwalk/ wetland plantings; relocate Lake Pavilion; remodel or demolish existing Nature Center	\$\$\$\$
Terrace Core	Construct new event center with related elements: multi-purpose building; central green; concert stage; corporate picnic pavilion; one small picnic pavilion; playground	\$\$\$\$
Parkwide	Install a comprehensive wayfinding, entry and directional sign system	\$\$

67% of Questionnaire Respondents support the priorities for Phase 2 implementation priorities; 33% do NOT support the plan's Phase 2 priorities

# Phase 2 Priorities – Comments / Responses <sup>1/2</sup>

## **Opening Day is too far away – Build the Nature Center in Phase 1, NOW!**

- The process will start NOW, it is long; as answered in the Nature Center discussion, it takes time to identify and raise the necessary funds, procure a design team, develop the plans, receive permits, and then construct the facility

## **Nature Center location and character – put all the buildings at the Lodge area**

- This was considered in the planning process; placing that much program at the Lodge area will physically overwhelm that portion of the park (parking, buildings, access roads, etc.)

## **Nature Center form and style – cannot be a ‘show-stopper’ as some legacy to the architect; it can’t be tall and it must fit seamlessly into the environment; will be some unknown person’s project; plan lacks focus**

- These concerns can and will be addressed as the design process for the new Nature Center gets underway

## **Lodge / Event Complex is located appropriately**

- Agreed

# Phase 2 Priorities – Comments / Responses<sup>2/2</sup>

## **Yes, build Nature Center now, don't like the event center**

- Understand that some respondents do not support the Lodge area renovation; both actions are in the 7-15 year period

## **No new buildings are needed**

- That is not the assessment of the planning team

## **Take care of our piece of the planet before we build new buildings**

- To function, the site needs new facilities (restrooms!), buildings that support year-round use, adequate space for programming and classes that introduce the visitor to the wonders of our world

# Support for the Phase 3 Priorities (Years 16-20)

Table 14. Years 16 - 20 Parkwide Priorities		
Location	Subject	Magnitude of Cost
<b>Physical Park Improvements</b>		
<b>Trails</b>		
Terrace Core	Construct paved ADA accessible loop perimeter trail at Cuba Road fields around athletic fields; develop natural surface trail loop on terrace north of the new access drive	\$\$
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
Terrace Core	Add compost restroom to Cuba Road fields	\$\$
<b>Vehicular Circulation</b>		
Terrace Core	Extend internal vehicular drive to connect Shawan Road with Cuba Road, add parking bays	\$\$\$
<b>Buildings and Park Facilities</b>		
Terrace Core	Realign softball fields so both fields are playable at the same time; add playground and rectangular field at Cuba Road field	\$\$\$

59% of Questionnaire Respondents support the priorities for Phase 2 implementation priorities; 41% do NOT support the plan's Phase 2 priorities



# Phase 3 Priorities – Comments / Responses

**Opening Day for the renovated ballfields and additional recreational field is too far into the future – Phase 3 (Years 16-20), ridiculous, it will never get done**

- The design process will start during Phase 2, it is long and takes time to identify and raise the necessary funds, procure a design team, develop the plans, receive permits, and then construct the facility; the process could jump to an early implementation time if additional funds specific for ballfield and recreational fields is identified

**Recreational fields belong somewhere else; no lights**

- Cuba Road Fields have a long history in this location
- The fields are not currently lit and can continue to operate without field lights

**Traffic will increase – people and auto – and adjacent traffic makes Cuba Road Fields not a good place for children to play**

- The fields are separated from Shawan and Cuba Roads and have operated successfully in this location for many years

# Better Name? 'Between Cores'

## Suggestions include

- **Plateau Core** – Baltimore is between the Blue Ridge and Coastal Plain
- Make it **ALL Conservation Core** - Oregon Ridge as the best destination nature park in Maryland
- Include the **Between Cores within the Conservation Core** – everyone sees the forest as one thing
- Conservation Core – **merge Conservation and Between Cores** with two or more components; **identify the areas by watershed or historic names**
- **Wildlife Preserve**
- **North Face Core**
- Don't like Terrace name
- **Forest Buffer Core** or **Buffer Core**
- The **Middle Forest** and the **Deep Forest** (for the Conservation Core)
- Appreciate need to name three areas for purposes of planning, hope the intent is not to use these names permanently and falsely imply that we are only conserving one area of the park; intent is to unify the nature and the lodge sides of the park

# Additional Observations (via email)

## **Reopen the quarry for swimming**

- Complexity of the facility and staffing needs makes it not possible in the near term

## **Expand the trails throughout the park, maintain single track hiking trails, and practice better maintenance on the fire roads off Falls Road – often too overgrown for running**

- That is the intent for the natural surface trail network (vehicles limited to park maintenance and emergency ATVs only)
- These requests are incorporated within the proposed Trail Network Plan

## **Include 8-12 permanent pickleball courts**

- A new request; better-suited at other Baltimore County parks

## **Provide a paved walking trail for stroller walks, learning to ride bikes, etc.**

- This is incorporated within the proposed Trail Network Plan near the Lodge/Nature Center and at Cuba Road Fields

# Additional Observations (via questionnaire)<sup>1/3</sup>

## **Lodge Area is not in keeping with nature park; waste of money and time**

- Data shows the Lodge area attracts a similar number of park users as does the Nature Center

## **Limit vehicle access in the park; do not develop internal roads that would destroy integrity of the Conservation Core**

- No roads or vehicle access drives are proposed in the Conservation Core or the Between Cores

## **Timing - this all needs to happen much faster**

- As mentioned, identifying funds, developing construction documents, obtaining permits, and construction all take time; benefit of the master plan is the orchestration of these moving parts

## **Please continue to let park patrons make the decisions**

- Agreed

## **Simplicity and nature work well together**

# Additional Observations (via questionnaire)<sup>2/3</sup>

**Master plan gives lip service to the natural environment and focuses instead on roads, parking lots, buildings – who will go to the Lodge or attend a Nature Center workshop if the environment is degraded?**

- Nature of a park master plan is understanding future needs, including resource management; the plan calls for the next step towards successfully doing this – developing a Natural Resources Management Plan and hiring a Natural Resource Manager

**Why does this park, a 900+ acre woodland, have no Rangers? Other Baltimore County parks do have rangers, people responsible for the care of habitat**

- Baltimore County currently only has rangers at Lake Roland
- Looking at system-wide future ranger program and staffing responsibilities: ranger vs. resource manager vs. park manager

**Need a properly trained land manager, leave out ‘if funding is available’**

- Will delete phrase, as ALL recommendations of the plan are contingent upon ‘if funding is available’

# Additional Observations (via questionnaire)<sup>3/3</sup>

## **Fields should not be expanded**

- Two current fields are being renewed; space is allocated for rectangular field to the east, as has been used in the past

## **Recreation Facility investment is appropriate in Phase 3, ORP is foremost a nature park**

- Cuba Road Fields improvement is in Phase 3

## **Leave as is, no lights!, keep as a natural country road, supporting the wildlife in the park**

- Modest improvements are recommended to make better use of existing facilities

## **Appreciate the County listening to the public on this – lets keep the commitments and promises made!**

## **Plan documents are extremely well-done, public engagement opportunity is appreciated**

# Reminder: Where is the Plan?

The Plan is available on the Baltimore County project website for download. Use the link below or the QR code to the right to access the documents.

[tinyurl.com/ORPMP](https://tinyurl.com/ORPMP)



QR Code to access the Baltimore County Oregon Ridge Park Master Plan website

The questionnaire will remain open through  
May 31, 2023

Email comments to:

[oregonridgemasterplan@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:oregonridgemasterplan@baltimorecountymd.gov)



QR CODE for access to the [online questionnaire](#)

# What Next?

- **Please respond to the questionnaire or email comments by May 31, 2023**
- **The final updates to the document will be made in June; final plan issued mid-summer 2023**
- **Baltimore County will use the ORP Master Plan as a guide plan for future decisions affecting Oregon Ridge Park's operations and improvements**
- **This planning process will serve as a model for future Baltimore County park efforts – robust public engagement, methodical research and decision-making, and long-range thinking for future funding and enhancements**



A photograph of a park area. In the foreground, a person with long dark hair, wearing a pink shirt, is sitting on a wooden bench, looking towards a pond. The pond is in the middle ground, with a small archway structure in the water. To the right of the pond is a playground area with a brown mulch surface, featuring a yellow slide, a large rock, and a log bench. In the background, there are green trees and a picnic table. The text "Thank you." is overlaid in white on the top left of the image.

Thank you.

**For more information:**

**Visit the Project webpage**

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/recreation/countyparks/most-popular/oregonridgelodge/master-plan.html>

**Contact:**

[oregonridgemasterplan@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:oregonridgemasterplan@baltimorecountymd.gov)

*Former quarry, canoe launch, and small playground at Oregon Ridge Park*



Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, P.C.

**Oregon Ridge Park Public In-Person Meeting May 24, 2023, 6-8pm**

**DRAFT MEETING NOTES - please respond with corrections by June 6, 2023**

**Attendees:**

Baltimore County Staff: Cortney Weinstock, Ben Porter, David O'Dell, Annie Sanchez, Jessica Jeannetta, Elizabeth Chessler

L/KLA Team: Elisabeth Lardner, Rebecca Sibinga, Lisa Siri

General public: see meeting sign-in sheet

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Cortney Weinstock, Deputy Director, Baltimore County Recreation and Parks

**Presentation Discussing Comments Received on Draft Oregon Ridge Park Master Plan (ORPMP)**

- Presentation attached

**Discussion**

- Concern as to why it has taken so long to get a master plan for the park; concern regarding timing for implementation and continued support for follow through on plan implementation
- Senator Shelly Hettleman, MD District 11 reminded attendees of state funds for trail improvements provided by the State Legislature; can be a future resource as well
- Ensure that an expert with the appropriate training and skills is found to serve as a permanent Natural Resources manager, provide them with a long-term scope and follow-through. Please make the ORPMP language stronger in this regard.
  - Ensure that the plan's language elevates, and highlights need for natural resource management
  - Good recommendations will not be implemented unless there is somebody who is on-the-ground to follow through. Don't want piecemeal, hodgepodge plan.
  - Response:
    - Baltimore County is working to develop a countywide scope with support for these services to include support and involvement from multiple departments
    - Baltimore County Recreation and Parks is seeking CAPRA accreditation (<https://www.nrpa.org/certification/accreditation/CAPRA/>) from the National Recreation and Park Association which recognizes an agencies comprehensive management system of operational best practices. Achieving this recognition is difficult, a required component for recognition is a satisfactory natural resource management program and its successful and continued implementation
- Use the 2007 plan as the natural resource management plan, it has detailed maps and content that would allow for on-the-groundwork to commence - monitoring native plants, invasive removal, etc.

- Response:
    - The combination of the 2007 plan and the field work completed in 2022 for the ORPMP presents a solid baseline for this work
- Strengthen the language within the ORPMP calling for next steps with regards to natural resources
- Provide a guide for how a natural resource plan could be implemented or coordinated with volunteers
  - Response:
    - Some of this is covered in the Appendix II: Natural Resources
- Ralph Brown, the President of the Oregon Ridge Nature Council, presented a statement encouraging attendees to continue fighting for nature, ORP's status as a precious jewel, and appreciated the inclusion of the 'Protect. Restore. Enhance. Education.' tagline. Spoke to the long history of the land/preservation, prioritized the woods, and positioned the need for preservation to 'act as a covenant' of/with Baltimore county.
- Request that the 'if funding is available' language be rescinded from the hiring a land manager, in favor of 'mandatory'
  - Response:
    - As noted in the presentation, that language specifically tied to natural resource management will be eliminated, as the entire plan is contingent upon funding being available; a more general statement to this effect will be included in the final plan
- Concern that the plan does not address light pollution within the park; park is currently used for star gazing, particularly in the bowl around the Quarry Lake due to its physical shielding of offsite lights; trees block light pollution; can see meteor showers within the park; ensure the plan calls for Dark Sky lighting requirements for new fixtures and retrofitting for existing; ensure existing timing is being used to cut lights when not needed and additional timing features are added
  - Response:
    - ORPMP speaks to Dark Sky requirements for artificial lighting
    - Plan can strengthen language on need for retrofitting existing lighting and incorporate timers that are used appropriately to minimize or eliminate unneeded lighting
- Keep the park natural, create a welcoming nature to encourage the kids, build a LEED certified building, use native plants, recognize the value of natural areas for mental health and physical well-being; appreciates the work that went into the plan
  - Response:
    - ORPMP includes Baltimore County standard to design to LEED Silver
- Ensure that the plan encourages the incorporation of educational seminars and opportunities for volunteer work
- Inclusion and commitment to making ADA spaces should be emphasized within the plan
- Concern that the large open lawn areas used for overflow parking for large events such as Hot August remain for that use in the ORPMP
  - Response:
    - Intentional to retain those areas for use as overflow parking and flexible open lawn area - will better annotate such use on the plan diagrams and in the text

- Was any consideration given to placing the new road below the Lodge rather than above (uphill side) of the current restrooms?
  - Response:
    - Recommendations for the current alignment support better ADA access to new and existing picnic shelters and park features, create better opportunities to 'slip' small parking areas in between new shelters
- Any consideration given to stormwater management? Grass is not highly permeable.
  - Response:
    - Yes, stormwater management will be necessary for any new impervious surfaces and will be incorporated within the next design stage for any park features
    - Agreed, grass has a different coefficient factor for runoff that say natural forest land; these coefficients are taken into consideration for determination of the stormwater management practices
- Strengthen language regarding meadow management and ephemeral wet area maintenance, make priority for early action
- Make working with utilities (Maryland's new legislation on pollinator meadow /utility corridor maintenance practices and agreements) on better vegetation management a priority for early action
- How to get involved more?
  - Plenty of ways to engage – through engagement meetings/events, in connection with the nature counsel or other organizations, etc.
- Requesting natural materials for proposed playgrounds. Not interested in 'destination' playground.
  - Response:
    - Baltimore County is using playground design as a way to reinforce each park's identity - high probability that the new playgrounds will reflect ORP; urge community to remain involved as there will be a robust process for the actual playground design
- What are the next steps? How can folks be informed and stay involved? Communication for landmarks/milestones?
  - Response:
    - Follow the project via the County's website, county-driven engagement (monthly or quarterly updates), more public meetings, email, social medias
    - Send specific requests for information directly to Cortney Weinstock, Deputy Director
- Trail bridge concerns - other parks are putting in bridges on trails for \$10,000, why does this plan speak to costs as high as \$250,000, concern that nothing will be done as it is too expensive; was told by DNR no permits (environmental or other) were required to put a bridge on Baisman Run (road access IS available, how trash is removed from stream); Baisman only floods by one or two feet anymore, no concern on stability of a bridge due to flooding issues
  - Response:
    - Bridge design is an unknown and requires further investigation and confirmation regarding potential flooding/ environmental concerns/

permitting; given the unknowns, it is better to be cautious and use a higher potential estimate of costs until more is known

- How can private businesses become involved in ORP?
  - Response:
    - Many opportunities for partnering, through the County or with the Oregon Ridge Nature Council (speak to Cortney Weinstock or Ralph Brown)

#### **Sticker Notes Place on Display Boards**

- Implementation Tables Display Board
  - “NRMP must be completed in Year 1. 2023-2024. This fiscal year.”
- Proposed Trail Network Display Board
  - [Black-coded Green Virginia Pine trail] “trails to remain” – graphic clarification
  - Drawn line between the Yellow and Green Trail above the “kink” in the yellow trail, connecting out to the revised yellow trail portion of the proposed perimeter trail placement
  - X’ed out yellow trail alignment
  - Additional drawn line connecting perimeter trail and the Virginia Pine Trail in ridge above the tributary stream.
  - Circle in eastern basin of Baisman Run – note?
  - Circle around removed trail space and purple ‘Access road’ with arrow leader
  - Extension and ‘keep’ mark on western social trail; a ‘seep’ area noted with a large circle.
  - Leader & ‘trails to be removed’ to grey removed trails – graphic clarification
- Nature Center at Quarry Lake Display Board
  - “Falls Rd. Parking and Trailhead Access - problem of security of park with distant access points.”
- Reconfiguration of Lodge Area Display Board
  - Bring entry road farther east to include pavilion located on east
  - Please put in plants/trees around the concert area to obscure the road

00

Oregon Ridge - Master Plan Public Input

Wednesday May 24, 2023

Oregon Ridge Lodge - Sequoia Room

	Name	E-Mail Address
1	Carol Schreter	C.Schreter@comcast.net
2	Kathy Lambrow	K.Lambrow@comcast.net
3	Sally Stanhope	ssstanhope@gmail.com
4	Bob Stanhope	stanhopes@verizon.com
5	Michael EVERSMIR	MEVERSMIR@verizon.com
6	MAUREEN EVERSMIR	"
7	MIKE RUBY	MIKEROBY@comcast.net
8	CHARLES ALEXANDER	CHA-ALEX@HOTMAIL.COM
9	CAROL HENSCHER	
10	Jeanne Symonds	ksymonds@yahoo.com
11	Kathie Homan	
12	George Belmont	
13	Gary Anderson	morrilland@comcast.net
14	Marie Laporte	marie.laporte@verizon.net
15	Ralph Brown	ralphbrownmcl@gmail.com
16	Sally Callihan	saladsp@comcast.net
17	Don Callike	dcall@gnpsouthern.org
18	Mark Gingerich	markg60@yahoo.com
19	Beth Keyser	bethkeyser@gmail.com
20	Charles Davis	charlie.davis1@verizon.net
21	Carm Smith	carindsmith@verizon.net
22	Indy Zissitt	
23	John R. Alexander	Alex11MCL@verizon.net
24	Brittany Anszkiewicz	balphabeta@gmail.com

Oregon Ridge - Master Plan Public Input

Wednesday May 24, 2023

Oregon Ridge Lodge - Sequoia Room



	Name	E-Mail Address
1	Ryan Glaeser	rglaeser01@gmail.com
2	KEITH ROBERTS	KEITH.ROBERTS@COMCAST.NET
3	RICK KNIGHT	RICKKNIGHTD35@AOL.COM
4	Tom Farrell	33tomfarrell@gmail.com
5	<del>JEFF KAPLAN</del>	<del>JKWWWPT7@GMAIL.COM</del>
6	Maureen D'Angelo	mdangelo@verizon.net
7	Elaine Kasmer	elainekasmer@gmail.com
8	Martha Johnston	marthajohnston@gmail.com
9	Michelle Boyle	boyle@yahoo.com
10	Tom Boyz	
11	Paula Mackey	paulamac99@yahoo.com
12	Linda Davis	LM.davis@verizon.net
13	Brian Lockwood	riverbirchrun11e@gmail.com
14	Judy Breitenbach	jembreiten@gmail.com
15	Marta McLaughlin	mcmstermclaughlin@gmail.com
16	Nancy Berger	trail4miles@gmail.com
17	Marty Bama	M.ROSMAN@NETZER.NET
18	Dennis Cline	denniscline@gmail.com
19	Shelly Hatteman	shelly@shellyhatteman.com
20	Trit Farley	tfarley@comcast.net
21	Matthew Mark Horn	mhorn@house.state.md.us
22	Rep. Jon S. CARDIN	
23	Molly Glassman	glassmanmd@gmail.com
24		